

**ACT FREE**

A Free Play By Idris Goodwin

Three Kids

(1,2 &3)

Any gender may play these parts

*Please perform the lines as written. Do not add or subtract, alter or repeat. Feel free however to emphasize, speed up, slow down--to feel it from the bottom of your feet.*

1.  
Guess what?

2.  
What?

1.  
You won't believe it?

3.  
Believe what? Believe what?

1.  
I was getting a drink of water and I over heard the higher ups talking....

2.  
They didn't catch you listening to them did they?

1.  
No no

2.  
They don't like eavesdroppers

3.  
I know that's right

1.  
Listen

3.  
Seriously, this one time...

1.  
Listen listen!

So it turns out we are free!

3.

What?

2.

Free?

1.

Seriously. Free!

3.

Thats not even funny

1.

It's no joke

I heard em sayin it.

And it turns out we have been free for a while but no one told us

3.

How long of a while?

2.

Days? Month?

1.

Years.

2.

How is that?

3.

Years?! What?!

1.

Supposed to be someone who was coming to tell us but then he got lost or maybe died in some quick sand or something.

2.

They just sent one person to tell us?

1.

Well now there's a bunch of troops coming

3.

How many troops?

1.

How should I know!? All I know is that we are free which means we don't have to do this anymore.

2.

This? What this?

1.

All this.

3

So we are free?

1.

Yes

3.

So I can just walk off right now?

1.

Right now

3.

And nobody'll come after me

1.

Why would they? You're as free as they are.

2.

Have you talked to the higher ups about this?

1.

They were talking--- trying to figure out how to tell everyone

3.

How to tell us? Whats so hard about just telling us.

1.

Well I think they're worried that people, the lower than them but higher than us folks will be scared because this is has been the arrangement for so long and you know, people don't like change.

2.

Amen to that

3.

Change and Mosquitos!

1.

So when they finally tell us, look surprised because I probably wasn't supposed to say anything.

3.

But if we been free a while  
What's it matter ?

1.

What do you mean?

2.

That's a good point. If we actually been free this whole time then we could just go right now.

1.

Weeeeeellll they probably wouldn't appreciate that  
As far as they know we still think we aren't free so if you started walking around like you were free they'd think "Hey whats the big idea?"

3.

But you said it we are free

2.

You did say that

1.

Yes as soon as the higher ups tell us.

3.

That don't make no sense.

1.

Well none of this makes sense.

3.

What of we been free even longer than you heard em say we been free.

What if we are the only gaggle of fools thinking they aren't free and the whole time everybody else been sippin lemonade and going about their day jolly as a rabbit in May.

2.

I'm pretty sure that hasn't been the case.

3.

But imagine

2.

So once they tell us

What're we supposed to do?

1.

Anything we want. Me, I'm gonna get my own land and work it

3.

Work some land? That's what you do now.

2.

How are you even gonna get some land?

1.

You know...theres gotta be some land somewhere nobody is using.

What about you?

3.

Not sure. Just be free I guess  
Walk around with my free self  
Thinking free thoughts

1.

Hey do you think everyone will change how they treat us, now that we are free?

**2 & 3 just laugh**

1.

What? We free now

2.

Well not yet according to you

1.

In a few moments they'll be coming over to read the---I think he called it a charter or something.

3.

Sometimes paper ain't nothing but dead tree

1.

Who did you hear that from?

3.

A tree

1.

You all don't seem excited. I don't understand.

2.

Because for us what does free even mean?  
Free to do what?  
What good is it to be free if you don't have anything?

The higher ups, they became higher ups because their daddies were higher ups.

My mother wasn't free and her father wasn't free and his mother wasn't free  
They didn't pass down anything to me but bad memories

3.

That's a good point

2.

Get land? Grow crops? And sell 'em to who?  
You think the people who used to be in charge will do business with someone five  
minutes ago hey thought was no different than the cow

3.

You do sound like a cow when you snore

2.

That's not funny

1.

They gave you more than bad memories  
You're smart and you're strong and that's all you need to build anything  
some wits and some muscle.

3.

That's a good point

2.

Be quiet  
Just a minute ago you were agreeing with me

1.

Okay okay here they come here they come

3.

How should we act?

1

Just act natural



2.

What is natural for free people who thought they wasn't?

3.

Shhhh

2.

Here they come

1.

This is it

This is it

3.

Quiet yall

1.

After this---It'll all be over

2.

Something tells me it will not be over soon

1.

Maybe not soon---but it *will* be over

END OF PLAY