

SYNOPSIS

SLAVES OF STARBUCKS: A REQUIEM FOR THE 20TH CENTURY

Slaves of Starbucks is a satirical comedy about the decline of Europe and the rise of America. The play takes the form of an airplane trip, and begins with a pilot waxing nostalgic for the “free consciousness” of the 1960s. It then takes the audience on an imaginative journey through the Golden Age of mass culture: from JFK pitching for liberty and Chevrolet, to tourists in St Peter’s wondering if they’re in Paris or Rome; from Aztec priests running Wall Street, to the Vice President of the World Association of Mini-Shampoo Collectors; and from pop stars who confuse Andrew Lloyd Weber with Hitler, to a helpless everyman confronting the true horror of shopping malls. Writer/actor Peter Aterman plays all 19 characters in an unflinchingly dark comedy that ruthlessly mines the absurdities of modern life for ironic effect. And while the piece is shot through with black humour and savage comment on popular culture, it finishes on an elegiac note, reminding the audience of the terrible darkness through which we emerged into our current freedom.