

ACT I

(The afterlife, present day. A sign displays the present year on Earth. Sitting around a beautifully carved lucite card table in a nondescript location are Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Niccolo Machievelli, Ferdinand Magellan and Copernicus. Their chairs are topped with carvings that distinctly mark each one's place. Copernicus' chair is topped with a motorized solar system. He flicks a switch and the planets go round and round. The sound of the motor annoys the others, especially Leonardo.)

LEONARDO

Copernicus? Will you turn off that toy?

COPERNICUS

This is an accurate model of the overall structure of our solar system.

MAGELLAN

Leave him alone da Vinci. The man loves rotating spheres. What can you say?

LEONARDO

It's a toy.

MICHELANGELO

Don't you have the Earth in the wrong place? Third planet from the sun? Is that right?

(The others laugh.)

COPERNICUS

Very funny.

MACHIEVELLI

(distracted)  
Something's not right. I feel like our schedule has been altered.

LEONARDO

Machievelli? Sit down.

MICHELANGELO

What schedule Mach? We play cards. We talk. And the next thing we know, we're back at the table playing cards.

MAGELLAN

And it feels like a new day.

LEONARDO

(irritated)  
Even though we don't remember going anywhere and we don't know how much time has passed. Or if time even exists here. We have been through this a thousand times! And then Machievelli says -

MACHIEVELLI

Where is here?

LEONARDO

And I say, I don't know. All we know is the year.  
(He points to the sign.)  
And then we play cards.

MICHELANGELO

Have we really gone over this a thousand times?

LEONARDO

I don't know exactly. It's not like we're in prison and we're counting the days to keep sane.

COPERNICUS

We should do that.

MACHIEVELLI

I still say we're not on our usual schedule.

MAGELLAN

I can't tell. How can you tell?

MACHIEVELLI

I don't know Ferdinand. I don't know.

MICHELANGELO

Stop trying to figure out where we are or what's going on. It's the great mystery and even after you're dead, it's a mystery. I'm sorry if you're disappointed.

MACHIEVELLI

I'm not disappointed. Well, yes in general I'm disappointed but I'm telling you, something is different.

LEONARDO

You just keep hoping for some second chance that's never going to come. We made our contributions. You included.

COPERNICUS

That was almost five hundred years ago.

LEONARDO

We made our contributions. During the age of perfection.  
Don't ever forget that.

MICHELANGELO

Leo, don't you ever get the urge to -

LEONARDO

No! And don't call me Leo.

IT WAS A TIME WHOSE TIME  
WILL NEVER COME AGAIN  
MILLIONS OF YEARS  
CONVERGING INTO ONE SHARP DOT

MICHELANGELO

HUMANITY STEPPED FORWARD  
AND THE BLOOD OF ART AND SCIENCE REEMERGED

LEONARDO/MICHELANGELO

THE AGE OF PERFECTION  
WHEN YOU HEAR IT  
IT SENDS CHILLS UP YOUR SPINE  
THE AGE OF PERFECTION  
AND TO KNOW IT WAS OUR TIME  
IN FACT THE TIME  
WAS WHAT WE MADE IT  
THE AGE OF PERFECTION

MAGELLAN/MACHIEVELLI

WE WERE THE EXCEPTION  
YOU COULDN'T FIND  
A BETTER AGE TO AGE IN

RENAISSANCE BOYS

A CULTURAL INFECTION  
THAT CHANGED MAN'S COMPLEXION

COPERNICUS

IF ONLY TIME  
WOULD AGE ENOUGH TO SEE  
ANOTHER CHANGE OF DIRECTION  
ANOTHER AGE OF PERFECTION

MICHELANGELO

Another whole age of perfection?

COPERNICUS

It could happen.

MICHELANGELO

Revolutions in Art, Astronomy and Science, Political Science,  
Exploration -

MAGELLAN

(coaxed by Leonardo)

And Mr. Renaissance himself?

MACHIEVELLI

AND THERE WERE OTHERS WHO  
MADE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TOO

MAGELLAN/MACHIEVELLI

TOO NUMEROUS FOR US TO MENTION

MICHELANGELO

Now that's an exaggeration.

LEONARDO

Well being benevolent is part of being perfect.

RENAISSANCE BOYS

THE AGE OF PERFECTION  
WHEN YOU HEAR IT  
IT SENDS CHILLS UP YOUR SPINE  
THE AGE OF PERFECTION  
AND TO KNOW IT WAS OUR TIME  
IN FACT THE TIME  
WAS WHAT WE MADE IT  
THE AGE OF PERFECTION

(At song's end, they are back at the card  
table.)

LEONARDO

Magellan? It's your deal.

COPERNICUS

It will happen again.

MICHELANGELO

Another age of perfection? When?

(A missive drops from an unknown  
dimension. It falls, hitting the ground  
with a THUD. The BOYS surround the  
missive.)

MACHIEVELLI

Has anyone ever seen this happen before?

(No one has.)

MAGELLAN

Go ahead Michelangelo. It's for you.

MICHELANGELO

You don't know that. It could be for you Magellan.

LEONARDO

My question is not who is it for but who is it from?

(They look up.)

MAGELLAN

Pick it up Michelangelo. It must be for you. It can't be for me. Not after the way I acted in the Philippines.

(THEY all agree.)

MACHIEVELLI

Yes, the Philippines, the year fifteen twenty-one. The journey around the globe that almost killed you was over. Everyone was having a nice time.

COPERNICUS

The native girls were friendly.

MACHIEVELLI

And then you spoil everything by riding in on the waves of divine intervention. And so, they killed you.

MAGELLAN

All of them. With spears.

LEONARDO/MICHELANGELO

Hear. Hear.

MACHIEVELLI

You're an explorer Magellan. Not a missionary.

MAGELLAN

I went insane.

(The others look closely at HIM.)

I'm all right now.

LEONARDO

Would someone please pick up the note? It could be from Pope Julius, for all we know.

MICHELANGELO

I don't think so. He wouldn't be here.

(HE points down.)

He would be there.

COPERNICUS

We don't know where here is. How do you know there even is a there?

MACHIEVELLI

And sir? I rode with Pope Julius and he was a very impressive fellow. A warrior.

(Michelangelo stoops to pick up the note.)

MAGELLAN

I respect a man who grabs a sword and fights with his men. Even if he is a pope.

MICHELANGELO

(Note in hand)

Boys?

(He reads.)

*I the original energy of the Universe have an assignment for you, Michelangelo, Ferdinand Magellan, Copernicus, Niccolo Machievelli and Leo da Vinci.*

LEONARDO

I told you. Don't call me Leo.

MICHELANGELO

(showing note)

That's what it says.

LEONARDO

(checking note, HE hands it back.)

All right. Continue.

MICHELANGELO

*I the original energy of the Universe have an assignment for you.*

(He skips ahead.)

*A young man on earth, Benjamin Case, is about to make a decision that is another example of a human being serving his own pride without even realizing it. This practice has reached epidemic proportions. And I'm sick of it! Go to earth and help him. And don't ask me if you're going to get your wings if things works out. Just go.*

(The Boys are stunned.)

LEONARDO

Is it signed?

MICHELANGELO

Pardon?

MAGELLAN

Is there a signature man?!

(He finds it.)  
*Sir Primal.*

MICHELANGELO

I like that.

COPERNICUS

It certainly is a better name than -

LEONARDO

(A SONIC BOOM is heard and we BLACKOUT.)