

EL MURO

(a hybrid performance)

by

Stephen Richter

SCENE ONE.

A concrete courtyard. HEAR the sound of heavy construction under way. Music plays. (Erik Satie - Gnossienne No.3 (Kid Kombat Remix) Projection on a found surface (perhaps on the facade of the building behind the courtyard): Static, then an image slowly becomes clear. Quadcopter footage: The camera glides over the massive silos and machinery of an abandoned cement plant.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

For more than a century, a cement plant defined a small coastal community. In fact, the town, just north of Santa Cruz was built to house its workers...

(Not a soul can be found on the grounds of the silent CEMEX plant, nor on the abandoned catwalks, towering above the treeline and Pacific coast. The drone climbs higher, revealing the scale of the forgotten facility.)

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

Now, seven years after the plant shut down, Davenport, like other former industrial communities, finds its residents once again looking to the plant to define their town.

(Donald Trump stands behind a podium at a political rally.)

DONALD TRUMP

We will build a Great Wall along the southern border.

(The crowd cheers and chants USA! USA! USA!)

DONALD TRUMP

And Mexico is going to pay for it.

(News footage of Loaders and excavators clearing massive amounts of earth. A group of people wearing hard hats enter the courtyard with a wheelbarrow full of tools. They begin to sweep the area clean in front of the found audience. Two of them stretch out a red chalk line on the ground then snap it.)

ACTION NEWS ANCHOR

James Roberts, chief executive officer of Watsonville based Granite Construction, has his eyes on building Trump's border wall.

JAMES ROBERTS

There is absolutely a role for us. Our federal group will build federal work anywhere in the country and if we're asked to build the wall, we're going to do so.

CNN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Today a decision will be made to choose the winning contractor's design for President Trump's border wall. More than 600 companies were pushing to try to get the gig, and roughly ten percent of those bidders were Hispanic.)

MEXICAN AMERICAN CONTRACTOR

(laughing)

Yeah, I got the call from one of my aunts and I couldn't get a word in for thirty minutes. She was like, "Míjolo, estas poniendo un muro fronterizo... Estás loco?" Man, she didn't take a breath, I'm telling you, for like thirty minutes.

DONALD TRUMP & CROWD

Build that wall... Build that wall! Build that wall!! Build that wall!!!

(Time lapse footage of Latino construction workers tying off rebar in preparation for a massive concrete pour. In the courtyard, the people wearing hard hats are busy at work, making a grid of guide wires with colored string. HEAR a SCHOOL BELL. Enter a Latino Mother with her ten year old daughter. Enter a Caucasian mother with her ten year old son from opposite sides of the courtyard. They are both walking their children to school. Both families stop for a moment to watch the construction as well as the projected footage on the facade of the building, above them. Enter a Mariachi band. They begin to play "Mother" by Pink Floyd. English titles are projected overhead as they SING:)

EVITA

(to mother)

Mamá, ¿por qué me quieren deportar?

EVITA

(to mother)
Mamá, ¿por qué te quieren investigar?

ADAM

(to mother)
Mommy do you think the wall will keep them out?

EVERYONE

Oooooh Ahhhh...

ADAM

Momma, what's it all about?

EVITA

Mother should I run for president?

MAMÁ

(speaking)
Sí, mi amor...

(Projection of the statue of the little girl standing in front of the bull on Wall Street.)

ADAM

Mother should I trust the government?

MOTHER

(speaking)
Yes, son, you should...

(Projection: footage of air strikes, tomahawk missiles, and artillery fire, lighting up the desert.)

CONSTRUCTION CREW

Mother will they send us to the firing line?!

EVERYONE

Oooooh Ahhhh...

ADAM

Is it all a waste of time?

MOTHER

Hush now baby baby don't you cry...

MAMÁ Y MARIACHIS

Silencio Hija mía no llores mas...

EVERYONE

Mother's gonna put all of her fears into you. Donald will make sure no "bad hombres" get through. DHS will keep you safe under their wings. They won't let you fly but they might let you sing. We're all gonna make America heathy and clean...

DONALD TRUMP

Clean coal... Clean, clean, coal...

MOTHER

Oooh... baby. Ooooooh...
baby... Ooooh baby, of course
mother's gonna help build the
wall.

MAMÁ Y MARIACHIS

Ay... baby. Ay yay yay...
baby... Ay baby, of course
mother's gonna help build the
wall.

(Evita and Adam walk to the middle of the grid, made of string. The construction workers, the mothers, one by one, they stack bricks made of foam in front of the children until only their faces are visible. The mariachis finish their accordion and violin solo as Evita's mother is escorted off the property by uniformed MEN. Adam's mother turns away.)

EVITA AND ADAM

Mother didn't me to be so...

(The construction workers place the final two bricks in the wall, concealing the children's faces. Projection on the wall: an America flag blows proudly in the wind.

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NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

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(Superimpose a series of titles:

LET GIANTS SLEEP

REMEMBER

RESIST

RECYCLE

RETURN

TO HIGHER GROUND

Exit cast and crew.)

Fin.