

The Holy Virgin Mary of Our Time

Lyrics by Taylor Mac

Music by Edward Ficklin

ACT I

Lights up on Carravagio's "Death of Mary". Carravagio's Mary (a man with a deep playing the role) breaks free of the canvas and addresses the audience.

CARRAVAGIO MARY
THROUGHOUT OUR TIME, HOW WE HAVE SEEN
DEPICTIONS OF THE HOLY QUEEN.
THESE ICONS OF THE GODLY BRIDE,
PORTRAYED WITH ALL THE TRUE AND TRIED.
ADORNED WITH GOLDEN CHE-E-RRIES.
SO MANY VIRGIN MA-A-RIES.

THERE'S DEATH OF MARY,
CORONATION,
SALUTATION,
CELEBRATION,
OF THE BIRTH AND
IN THE STABLE,
WITH HER CHILD AND
COFFEE TABLE.

ON THE WALL AND
IN THE SOUP AND
IN THE MALL IS

(with disdain)

GUADALUP-E.

Guadalupe Mary (also a man -- a tenor --
dressed in the form of a giant candle)
enters.

GUADALUPE MARY
(in Mexican accent)

Das me.

CARRAVAGIO MARY
A-
NNUNCIATION
AND ASCENSION,
VISITATION,

GUADALUPE MARY
AN INVENTION

CARRAVAGIO MARY
EDUCATION OF THE VIRGIN,
AT THE MARKET

GUADALUPE MARY
WITH THE STURGEON.

CARRAVAGIO MARY
BY
BOTTICELLI
AND GIOTTO,

GUADALUPE MARY
BY EL GRECO AND PIETRO

CARRAVAGIO MARY
PERUGINO AND CRIVELLI,

GUADALUPE MARY
BUONINSEGNA,

CARRAVAGIO MARY
(shortening the gio to one syllable)
LORENZETTI

BOTH
BY
RAPHAEL AND
DA MESSINA,
BOUTS THE ELDER,

GUADALUPE MARY
(spoken in rhythm)
John the Welder

CARRAVAGIO MARY
LEONARDO,

GUADALUPE MARY
(spoken in rhythm)
Yes, da Vinci,
Oh, Diego,

CARRAVAGIO MARY
(pronounced Carravajo)
CARRAVAGIO

BUT NOW WE INTRODUCE YOU TO

GUADALUPE MARY
OUR NEWEST SISTER, COME TO VIEW

BOTH
LIKE NATIVITY BY LIPPI,
PURE ANTIQUITY: O-FILI

Chris Ofili's "The Holy Virgin Mary"
enters.

GUADALUPE MARY
Ai Dios mio she has elephant dung on her booby.

OFILI MARY
FECAL
BREAST,
TREACLE IMPRESSED.

SPARKLE,
SASS,
CHERUBS OF ASS.

A Cherubim, made of asses with wings
attached, descend and surround her.

DARKER THAN COLOR,
BEADED WITH CARE,
PRESENT WITH SPIRIT,
HA,
CORPULENT FLAIR.

THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY OF OUR TIME,

CARRAVAGIO MARY
(With horror)

Nooooooooo.

OFILI MARY
THIS HOLY VIRGIN MARY IN HER PRIME.

GUADALUPE MARY
Say it isn't so.

OFILI MARY
ANGRY,
NEW,
ELEPHANT POO.

WE DON'T
BLUSH,
WE ARE UN-FLUSHED.

SISTER'S AND BROTHERS
MADE ON A DARE.
GROWING A MOVEMENT,
HA,
BETTER BEWARE.

THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY OF OUR TIME,

CARRAVAGIO MARY
(spoken)
Blasphemy.

OFILI MARY
THIS HOLY VIRGIN MARY IN HER PRIME.

GUADALUPE MARY
(spoken and counting her rosary)
Hail me, hail me, hail me.

OFILI MARY
THE PAST HUNKERS DOWN
TO DRAG AND IMplode.
OUR VIEW THEY WILL DROWN
WITH LESSONS BESTOWED.

GUADALUPE MARY
Choque para el bien del choque.

CARRAVAGIO MARY
(Translating)
Thou shockest for shock's sake.

OFILI MARY
You bet I do. You call me,
JOLTING,
BRASH,
SUCCULENT TRASH,

WILLFUL,
BOLD,
VANQUISHING OLD.

She gestures for them to leave.

CARRAVAGIO MARY
(Exiting in sorrow)

Where is the beauty?

GUADALUPE MARY
(Exiting with defeat)

Youth.

OFILI MARY
THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY OF OUR TIME,
THIS HOLY MARY VIRGIN SO SUBLIME.
SO SUBLIME.

The scene shifts.

SCENE II

Ofili Mary disappears and a red ribbon is brought across the stage. Charles Saatchi enters (played by the same actor who plays Carravagio Mary) carrying gigantic scissors.

SAATCHI

Welcome to the Brooklyn Museum of Art and the opening of SENSATION. Let the times begin!

Saatchi cuts the ribbon and exits. A parade of art pieces ensues (rather like a fashion show). Each piece walks down the aisle, poses, and exits while another enters.

The first is Jake and Dino Chapman's "Zygotic acceleration, biogenetic, de-sublimated libidinal model" (played by the actor playing Guadalupe Mary).

It does a tap dance.

Up next is Damien Hirst's "The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living" (played by the actor playing Carravagio Mary).

The shark sings a song through gurgles
(it's in a tank of phemaldehyde).

And finally Ofili's "The Holy Virgin
Mary". When Ofili Mary poses, camera's
flash.

SCENE III

A vaudevillian routine: Ofili Mary
watches in delight singing backup to the
action.

OFILI MARY

HMMMMMM LEE DEE DEE DEE DEE...

A newspaper boy (played by the actor
playing Caravaggio Mary) enters with a
giant headline that read's,

"Scat-Smeared Madonna on Display"

Another reads "Your Tax Dollars Pay for
Poop"

A third, "Ofili Missed, Mayor Pissed " --
Mayor Rudolph Giuliani (played by the
actor playing Guadalupe Mary) pokes his
head through the newspaper.

GUILIANI

"There's nothing in the First Amendment that supports
horrible and disgusting projects."

Guliliani and the newspaper boy exit.

Ofili Mary is thrilled.

Enter two security guards with machine
guns.

Suddenly Ofili is not so excited.

The security guards stand guard.

A clicking of a clock.

The security guards fall asleep.

Ofil Mary is nervous.

Paint is thrown from the audience and
hits Ofil Mary.

SCENE IV

Ofil Mary alone. Covered in paint. Much
slower than before.

OFILI MARY
(With lonely sorrow)

FECAL
BREAST,
SPLATTERED AND STRESSED.

SPARKLE,
SASS,
BULLET PROOF GLASS.

Guadalupe Mary and Carravagio Mary
enter with rags.

DARKER THAN COLOR,
BEADED WITH CARE,
PRESENT WITH SPIRIT,
HA,
A LIFE OF REPAIR.

GUADALUPE MARY
(Gently cleaning the paint off Ofil Mary)
THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY OF OUR TIME,

CARRAVAGIO MARY
(Gently cleaning the paint off Ofil Mary)
THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY SO SUBLIME.

They continue to clean her. Taking
special care to leave the Elephant breast
in tack with respect.

ALL
THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY OF OUR TIME,
SO SUBLIME
SO SUBLIME
SO SUBLIME

The three sing "So sublime" and hold
hands staring out.

Coda

Piss Christ enters (a new actor)

PISS CHRIST
(Singing while gurgling)

THE END