



Herb and Lois Walker's

## SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS

# The Potato Conspiracy

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van Gesst in cooperation with  
Jen Waugh

Running time: 40-50 minutes

25 speaking roles

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## TP-7 The Potato Conspiracy!

**Cast:** 23 Characters  
(plus extras as people walking on street)

Bodyguards 1, 2, & 3  
Jazz  
Gemini 1 & 2  
Fractal  
Singe  
Verity  
Enigma  
Velma  
People walking on the street  
Quentin  
Jeopardy  
Assistant  
Barnaby  
Vogue  
Rep  
Agents 1 & 2  
Mother  
Chef  
Farmer  
Scientist

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*(Bodyguards enter and address the audience.)*

**Bodyguard # 1:** Okay, nobody move. Operation "seize dangerous devices from audience" is now in effect.

**Bodyguard # 2:** Please stay calm, and remain in your seats.

**Bodyguard # 3:** Do not be alarmed. This will only take a few minutes.

**Bodyguard # 2:** I'm sure that in today's climate, you understand the necessity of these precautions.

**Bodyguard # 3:** Above all else, we are concerned about your safety and the safety of the people that we represent.

**Bodyguard # 1:** Do you have the checklist?

**Bodyguard # 3:** *(checks the checklist)* Check.

*(Each time one of the bodyguards says, "check," bodyguard # 3 checks his/her checklist.)*

**Bodyguard # 1:** Excellent. Now we are going to ask a few very important questions. Raise your hand if you have an affirmative response. Are you ready? *(Bodyguard # 1 looks around to see if people are putting up their hands.)* I said, are you ready?

**Bodyguard # 2:** If you are ready, simply put up your hand.

*(All three bodyguards prompt the audience to raise their hands. The bodyguards should wait for the audience to comply before continuing.)*

**Bodyguard # 3:** Very good. You may now put down your hands.

**Bodyguard # 1:** Do you have any hidden microscopic recording devices? Be especially certain to inspect among your nose hairs and between your toes. Nobody? Check.

**Bodyguard # 2:** Are you in possession of belt buckle bombs, radioactive contact lenses, nail polish rifles, or any other chemical or biological weapons? Nobody? Check.

**Bodyguard # 3:** On the way here, were any of you followed by strange men in fuchsia suits driving turquoise sedans? Nobody? Check.

**Bodyguard # 1:** Are any of you carrying purses, wearing eyeglasses, using dentures, or sporting hair extensions that were manufactured in Greenland? No? Check.

**Bodyguard # 2:** Have you been exposed to any deadly strains of crocodile dung? Nobody? Wow! This is a statistical anomaly. *(The bodyguards look suspiciously at the crowd.)* Interesting. Uh, check.

**Bodyguard # 1:** Have you examined your phone and other personal belongings for wire taps and tracing devices? No? Please do so at the first opportunity. We must be very careful.

**Bodyguard # 3:** Have you, or any member of your family, been in contact with a television within the last forty-eight hours? *(Several audience members should put up their hands to affirm that they have been in contact with a television. If they do not, then prompt them to do so. Say things like, "I find it hard to believe that none of you have watched the television recently. Come on, and fess up."* When the audience members do admit that they have watched television by raising their hands, the bodyguards looked shocked.) What, so many of you?

**Bodyguard # 1:** This is very serious. We will have to do a more thorough investigation of this group.

**Bodyguard # 2:** Yes, I agree. You take the right, and I'll take the left.

*(The three bodyguards begin to investigate the audience.)*

**Bodyguard # 3:** *(pointing to an audience member's watch)* Attention! Attention! We have a code aquamarine with a purplish pink border here.

**Bodyguard # 2:** *(concerned)* What is it?

**Bodyguard # 3:** *(pointing to an audience member who is wearing a watch)* A mysterious-looking watch.

**Bodyguard # 2:** Does it smell of tangerines or baby powder?

**Bodyguard # 3:** *(smells the audience member's watch, cautiously)* No.

**Bodyguard # 2:** Then it is admissible. *(Bodyguard # 2 targets an audience member who is wearing jewelry.)* Whoa! What do we have here? Procedure two thousand five hundred sixty-two decimal nine strictly prohibits any suspicious looking jewelry on the premise.

**Bodyguard # 1:** No, we repealed that rule yesterday.

**Bodyguard # 2:** Right, I forgot. Sorry about that, ma'am. *(This reference may be changed to "sir".)* I guess I'll have to study our manual more regularly.

**Bodyguard # 1:** *(pointing to an audience member who is wearing socks)* Where did you get those socks? *(Bodyguard # 1 pauses and stares suspiciously at the audience member.)* I like them.

**Bodyguard # 3:** Oh, no. We simply can't allow anymore sock confiscations.

**Bodyguard # 1:** Shucks.

**Bodyguard # 3:** This place looks secure. Let's notify the gang.

**Bodyguard # 1:** *(speaking into a walkie-talkie)* It's clear. I repeat, it is clear.

*(The Rogue Cortex enters. The Rogue Cortex consists of Jazz, Gemini 1 & 2, Singe, Fractal, and Verity. Verity is wearing a box on his/her head with holes cut out for his/her eyes, mouth, and hands. Jazz assumes a karate stance. Gemini 1 & 2 have synchronized movements. Fractal is carrying several high-tech gadgets, and Singe is playing with a barbeque lighter.)*

**Jazz:** *(taking a protective karate stance and pointing at one of the audience members)* That one! She's going to take us all down! She'll be our doom! Just look at her. She has twitchy eyelids! I'll take care of her. Hiii-yah! Hiii-yah!

**Bodyguard # 3:** No, no. We've been paying special attention to that one, and she seems to be contained for the moment. Stay calm, Jazz.

**Jazz:** Okay, we're cool for now, but I'll remember your face until they burn it from my memory. *(Jazz seems to hear something coming from a chair.)* Hey. I think that chair is tapped. I heard it snicker! *(Jazz attacks the chair.)*

**Gemini # 1:** Jazz, restrain yourself.

**Gemini # 2:** Fractal, have your binary combustion obfuscator ready, just in case.

**Fractal:** *(checks the binary combustion obfuscator)* It's fully operational, Gemini.

**Gemini # 1:** Singe, did you adhere to the usual procedures to ensure we were not followed?

**Singe:** *(staring at the flame from the barbeque lighter)*  
Mmmmm...fire. *(Singe burns him/herself.)* Ow!

**Gemini # 1:** Singe?

**Singe:** Yep, trip wires every, like, ten meters, Gemini.

**Gemini # 1 & 2:** Verity, will you get out of that box? You can't hide from the world forever.

**Verity:** Yes, I can. It's too scary out there. Everything is a conspiracy.

**Gemini # 2:** Verity, please, you're embarrassing yourself.

**Gemini # 1:** This behaviour does not befit a member of The Rogue Cortex. We have a reputation to uphold.

**Verity:** What is The Rogue Cortex?

**Gemini # 1 & 2:** *(exasperated)* The name of our group.

**Verity:** But I thought the name of our group was The Duck of Change has Landed.

**Fractal:** You've got to get your head out of that box, and start listening at our meetings. That name has gotten too much media attention. We decided last week that it's too dangerous to be associated with it any longer.

**Verity:** But I don't understand what the other means. The Rogue Cortex?

**Singe:** It's, like, we're a part of the brain that has, like, broken away from the rest of the brain, and has, like, gone for a walk, and, like, learned the truth about the outside, and, like, has seen the light. *(Singe holds up the barbeque lighter, stares at it, and laughs crazily. Then Singe burns his/herself.)* Ow.

**Fractal:** *(excitedly)* Yes, our synaptic confines have been breached. We function as a distinct entity now.

**Gemini # 1 & 2:** Neither of you are explaining it right.

**Gemini # 1:** It's simple.

**Gemini # 1 & 2:** We represent a departure from the common mind.

**Verity:** Okay, but I miss the old name. I thought of that name.

**Jazz:** I hated it. Hiii-yah! Hiii-yah! (*Jazz starts attacking the air.*)

**Gemini # 1 & 2:** Anyway.

**Gemini # 1:** (*to bodyguards*) I must thank you for your professional inspection of this secret location.

**Gemini # 2:** (*to bodyguards*) You have done your job thoroughly, risking your own lives.

**Bodyguard # 2:** It was nothing.

**Bodyguard # 1:** All in our line of training.

**Gemini # 2:** Please continue to secure all exits as we proceed with the screening.

(*Each bodyguard goes and stands at an exit.*)

**Gemini # 1:** (*to the audience*) Audience members, we are here to show you the truth about the world as it exists today.

**Gemini # 2:** (*to the audience*) There is a hazardous, widespread conspiracy that will affect us all.

**Fractal:** Are you referring to the cereal box prizes with the mini video cameras installed?

**Gemini # 1:** No, not that.

**Verity:** You mean the mismatching sock cult's diabolical plan to take over the lemonade industry?

**Gemini # 2:** No.

**Singe:** Like, is it that thing about, like, make-up being made out of fish scales?

**Gemini # 1:** It is made out of fish scales.

**Gemini # 1 & 2:** We know that.

**Gemini # 2:** It's a published fact...

**Gemini # 1:** Not a conspiracy.

**Singe:** Like, Gross.

**Gemini # 2:** We're here to tell them about... (*drum roll*)

**Gemini # 1 & 2:** (*dramatically*) The Potato Conspiracy!

**Singe:** (*uninterested and unimpressed*) Oh, like, that.

**Gemini # 2:** (*to the audience*) You will all be witnessing momentous events that will shock you...

**Gemini # 1:** (*to the audience*) Worsen nightmares...

**Gemini # 1 & 2:** (*to the audience*) And rearrange your entire perception of the universe.

**Gemini # 2:** (*to the audience*) This is what the television dictatorship doesn't want you to see.

**Gemini # 1:** (*to the audience*) The effects of continuous television-watching are far graver than you've ever suspected.

**Singe:** Just, like, roll the tape. The sooner we, like, get out of here, the sooner we can, like, foil the cows and their annoying megalomania.

**Jazz:** Singe is right. We can't trust anyone here. This entire area is completely unstable. I hear them in the walls. Yah! Hiii-yah! (*Jazz begins to attack the wall.*)

**Gemini # 2:** Fractal, can you put in the tape, please?

**Fractal:** (*picks up the tape*) Coming right up, Gemini. Whatever you need, Fractal can provide. Fractal makes it happen. Watch Fractal subdue the video device with grace, with ease.



**Gemini # 1 & 2:** Just put in the tape.

**Fractal:** *(puts the tape in the VCR and bows, majestically)* Thank you, thank you.

**Gemini # 2:** Let us celebrate this moment of truth revealed...

**Gemini # 1:** With our secret handshake.

*(The Rogue Cortex turns and offers their hands to each other as though they are going to shake hands, but instead they pull away, simultaneously, and wave their hands wildly in the air.)*

**All Members of The Rogue Cortex:** *(as they wave their hands in the air)* For the public!

**Gemini # 2:** *(to the audience)* Will you unite with us in marking this occasion?

**Gemini # 1 & 2:** *(to the audience)* Join us in our secret handshake.

*(All members of The Rogue Cortex should encourage the audience to do the handshake.)*

**The Rogue Cortex and the audience:** *(as they wave their hands in the air)* For the public! For the public!

**Gemini # 1:** That's enough.

**Gemini # 2:** Now press...

**Gemini # 1 & 2:** Play.

*(Gemini # 2 presses play on the remote control. The members of The Rogue Cortex sit down to watch the "film". Enigma appears on stage. Enigma always talks to the audience as if he/she were talking into a video camera. Enigma is on a crowded street, and there are many people walking to work. Velma, a lady who lives on the streets, is waving her arms in the air, trying to get the passing people to take notice of the potato that she holds in her hand. The people walking on the street should wear neutral coloured hats, trench coats, and blank expressions. )*