

ENGL 215 Live Chat 4b



Zoom Meeting Information

- Zoom Meetings are about 60 minutes in length.
- Zoom Meetings are recorded.
- Recordings and PowerPoint presentations are posted on onQ (under "Activities" > "Zoom Meetings").
- Participate in the discussion by using the "Chat" window or by raising your hand in "Reactions."
- Your camera may be on or off.

ENGL 215 Zoom Meetings

Weeks 1-3	Live Chat 1a Confederation Poets	Live Chat 1b Duncan Campbell Scott	Live Chat 1c Stephen Leacock
Weeks 4-6	Live Chat 2a Modernist Poets	Live Chat 2b Mordecai Richler	Live Chat 2c Margaret Atwood
Weeks 7-9	Live Chat 3a Basil Johnston	Live Chat 3b Contemporary Poets	Live Chat 3c Ann-Marie MacDonald
Weeks 10-12	Live Chat 4a Tomson Highway	Live Chat 4b Brad Fraser	Live Chat 4c Thomas King

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Appendix D1

- **Controversy:** In the Introduction to *Poor Super Man*, Brad Fraser remarks that the play was considered "too controversial" for some companies to produce in the 1990s (1) owing to its "overt homosexual content" (2). Does the play still seem "controversial" today? Why or why not?

Brad Fraser, *Poor Super Man*



I am aware that many people are uncomfortable with ... homosexual behaviour.... This fear is clearly seen in the military debate that proves ... that straight men are afraid of natural interaction with homosexuals because of the sexual tension that might be aroused.... I also know many straight people are threatened by the gay community and the inevitable juggernaut the gay movement for equal rights has become.... Of course ... Of course they want to shut us up and hide us away (2-3).

Robert Mapplethorpe (1946-1989)



Daniel Arrhakis, CC BY 2.0, via Flickr

Brad Fraser, *Poor Super Man*



David slides Matt's shorts down from behind. They stop at Matt's knees.

David: I love you.

Matt: You'd never show those paintings would you? I mean to the public

David: Not if you didn't want me to.

Matt: I love you too.

David handles Matt's cock and balls from behind. They kiss passionately. (135-36)

Brad Fraser, *Poor Super Man*

The Cincinnati vice squad showed up along with the opening-night audience for *Poor Super Man*, the latest ultra-explicit drama by Canadian scribe Brad Fraser. Most of the buzz in Ohio has centred on the nudity and explicit sexual content in the five-character drama... [Fraser's] signature style is highly cinematic—scenes are usually short, dialogue is often clipped, and naked bodies are never far offstage. The dramatic action cross-cuts from locale to locale, typically whizzing the audience from one bedroom to another.

Jones, Chris. "Review: *Poor Super Man*." *Variety*, 16 May 1994.

Brad Fraser, *Poor Super Man*

Hamilton County sheriff's officers and city police said they have received citizen complaints about the play, which includes male nudity and themes of heterosexual and homosexual love. Police have monitored the play.... Authorities said they have consulted with prosecutors about *Poor Super Man*. Police left open the possibility that a grand jury could view the play to judge whether it might violate community obscenity standards. "We feel there may be a violation," Police Chief Michael Snowden said Tuesday. "However, that call needs to be made by a grand jury. We need to get normal citizens in there who can look at it and determine whether or not this meets community standards."

"Cincy Officials Mull Action Against Play *Poor Super Man*, Has Nudity, Erotica." *Dayton Daily News*, 5 May 1994.

Brad Fraser, *Poor Super Man*

City officials are still smarting from [the] nationwide [negative] publicity Cincinnati received in 1990 when an art gallery director was indicted on obscenity charges. Contemporary Arts Centre director Dennis Barrie was acquitted of charges stemming from a display of the late Robert Mapplethorpe's homoerotic photographs.

“Cincy Officials Mull Action Against Play *Poor Super Man*, Has Nudity, Erotica.” *Dayton Daily News*, 5 May 1994.

Brad Fraser, *Poor Super Man*

City and county prosecutors said ... they would not prosecute a play that includes frontal male nudity ... depicts a love affair between a gay artist and a heterosexual man... [and] tells the story of a transsexual dying of AIDS.... Prosecutor Joseph Deters said ... he would not pursue a case because the most likely charge, pandering obscenity, would not be a felony. Following Deters's announcement, City Solicitor Fay Dupuis said the city had reviewed evidence obtained by police and would not prosecute. “The review did not disclose evidence of obscene material in the presentation of the play and, accordingly, the city solicitor has determined that no prosecution or further legal action is warranted,” Ms Dupuis said in a prepared statement. The City Council voted 7-2 ... to approve a resolution promoting artistic freedom and urging Deters not to prosecute *Poor Super Man*.

“Cincinnati Won't Prosecute Homosexual Play.” *Dayton Daily News*, 7 May 1994.

Brad Fraser, *Poor Super Man*



I will charge homophobia. I will threaten legal action.... I will do everything within my power to be granted the same rights and considerations as anyone else. I will, as I have in the past, expend huge amounts of time and energy working to convince the very people who are supposed to be sympathetic to what I am attempting to do, not to censor and silence me. And I will fight the same battle each and every time. Because it's a battle worth fighting. (5-6)

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