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excerpts from Pistorius Rex

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excerpts from Pistorius Rex

Author's Note

Pistorius Rex is a libretto-in-progress that overlays the tabloid story of Oscar Pistorius's murder trial with the apparatus of Greek drama, in order to investigate questions of justice, gender, ego, power, privilege, the state, and fate. The Frog Chorus serves as the Greek chorus, jury, paparazzi, audience, and citizens of Thebes. This piece opens the opera.

FROG CHORUS:

The day is a bullseye, a burst bubo, blackt out thing
a depression where the skin punch took its sample
it's round as the Globe Theater and deep as a poisoned well
An endocrine disrupter, drilling down
this day's a smear on the shoulder this day's a sigh a
dried-out drainage ditch where
amphibia kick their desiccated limbs
frog tissue and gesture will be outlined on the blacktop
by the sun's authority, in an hour's time
a modern choreography, in which the diaphanous froggies
are Grecian Isadoras, friezed in time
A fire pit
A failed vaccine
A kicked-out window
A kicked-in shin
A hot head
That can't remove the ox-mask
or mask its bovine feelings
and the victim's shrieks escape through melodious pipes
this is called a "brazen bull"
a torture device
a truth-telling machine
birds arise that want to pick at frog legs
bulls sound that want to low in vials
and wear
white smocks
and stand
in cold labs
and synthesize

testosterone
to be smuggled over borders on milk trucks
it's dawn
in this locality
the malformed juvenile mink frog is hugging his five legs
and the malformed leopard frog dashes his extra eyes
into the pavement because his head is too heavy
because it is too light
and hot in the light
for his ichor
evaporating
like I-taste-a-lichor-never-brewed
like I-hath-fed-on-honeydew
on the other side of the world
where it's night
the drone pilot heads to the breakroom to microwave a burrito
But here on the eye-side the eye wakes to a world still wearing its
makeup
its worldly habit, its mantle of *things*
cindered material
pushed to the edges of crash site the world
still wearing
its wreckage like wedding jewelry
its rank indicia
its staved CD
its urgent care facility its
anchor desk its
insurance rep its
bottomline its
hairline its
redline its
debt its
better business bureau its bitcoin its SUV its
diadem of debris