

CELEBRITIES IN HELL

— a one-act play

[This one-act was performed in NYC as part of a bill called *Homosexual Acts*, 1991. After one performance, it was withdrawn as too controversial.]

CHARACTERS:

EDDIE MURPHY, young, black, well-dressed smartass
THE POPE, robed, mitered, older, with Polish accent
GUARD, strong male

(GUARD drags in EDDIE and throws him into the center of the stage.)

GUARD Welcome to Hell! (He exits.)

EDDIE Hey, man, what's happening here? Where am I? Hey, somebody! What the fuck! Don't you know who I am? Somebody! Hey, this is fuckin' Eddie Murphy talkin'!

(GUARD drags in the POPE and throws him into the center.)

POPE Ohhhh, vot happens to me? (He bumps into EDDIE.)

EDDIE Hey, watch it, old fart! Don't bend the tweeds! They cost a lot of money. It's 'bout time you got here! Where's my limo?

POPE Limo?

EDDIE You hard of hearin'? Bring my limousine! Now! I got a big gig at the Sands Hotel tonight. (Snaps his fingers) Get on it, baby!

POPE You have mistake me. Don't know vhat you are.

EDDIE (incensed) What? You don't know Eddie Murphy, star of TV and the big screen?

POPE Who?

EDDIE My last picture grossed over \$200 million, and it hasn't even opened in Ethiopia yet! Where you been, old geezer?

POPE (incensed) Don't know who *I* am?

EDDIE (gesturing at the POPE's robe) You a fag? What kind of sissy getup is that?

POPE I am His Holiness, the Pope of Rome, John Paul II!

EDDIE John Paul? No shit?

POPE (Checks his robe pockets.) Do not seem to have my papal ID card with me today.

EDDIE I believe you, baby! The fuckin' Pope! Hey, this is too much! His Holiness drivin' my limousine!

POPE Seem to be some mistake now. Am not driving limo. Was saying High Mass in St. Peter's when sudden was transported here. Do not understand what happen.

EDDIE (looking around) We're in some kind of bad trouble, John Paul.

POPE Call me Your Holiness.

EDDIE Then you call me Mr. Murphy, dawg! I ain't no Catholic!

POPE Don't talk like that to Pope! Do not go to movies! And would not like them if I did!

EDDIE You ain't seen my movies? I'm the biggest thing around! I'm even bigger than you, Mr. Poop! I could buy the Vatican like that — and make it into a drive-in! And then I'll make 'em show nothin' but my movies all the time! *Whoeeee!*

POPE You are sinner, Eddie Murphy. Vill go to Hell! I, the Pope, am telling you this with my mouth!

EDDIE Back off! Nobody asked you, Your Prettiness!

POPE You do not ask Pope! Pope tells you! Kneel down, kiss my ring, beg forgiveness! (Holds out his ring.) Now!

EDDIE Kiss your what? You kiss my John Paul! (Points to his butt.)

POPE You are pointing to your buttski? You vant I should to kiss that? Ah ha, you are a homo! You like to have your buttski kissed!

EDDIE Say what? I ain't no homo! You're the homo! If I ever saw a homo, it's you.

POPE (angry) Am not homo! You are, and vill burn in Hell for all eternity if other men kiss your buttski!

EDDIE People kiss my buttski all the time. It don't mean I'm a homo! It means I'm a (Prens.) star!

POPE Most stars are homos! I have my spies!

EDDIE Yeah, sure are lots of 'em in my business. You can't get away from 'em!

POPE Alas, in my business also.

EDDIE Yeah? Homo priests?

POPE Nuns. Bishops. Cardinals.

EDDIE No shit! How about Mother Teresa? She one?

POPE Mother Teresa is the bride of Christ!

EDDIE She gettin' much?

POPE Such confessions I hear!(Fans self) Whew! But I should not be telling you this! Is nobody supposed to know.

EDDIE Maybe we two should team up. Get those homos out of both our worlds. You know what they've got, don't you? They got AIDS! The homo disease!

POPE I have heard. From zex. Always zex. There should be no zex!

EDDIE They're really disgusting. I'm so afraid of gettin' it, I can hardly fuck my girlfriends anymore. Oops, pardon my Polish!

POPE Girlfriends? How many have you?

EDDIE About a dozen regulars, plus my fans. My fans are real friendly!

POPE Do not approve of this zex. How are you any different from homos?

EDDIE (flustered) Hey, if you can't see that, then you're — then you're . . . Hey, what's that spot on you?

POPE (covering his hand) Vot spot?

EDDIE Yeah, on your hand.

POPE You full bullshit! Have no spot!

EDDIE You creep! Under your robe! Look there!

POPE No! No! I will not look!

EDDIE You've got it, ain't you! You've got AIDS! (Recoils.) You fuckin' filthy homo!

POPE Didn't have zex! None! I swear it! I got it from my stigmata!

EDDIE Your *what*?

POPE (showing his wounds in his hands) For many years have been wisited by blessing from God! Have bleeding vounds of Christ in my hands!

EDDIE Is that a medical condition?

POPE It is sign I am saint. Did not tell anyone. True humility. Must have picked up AIDS virus through openings! Oh, my God, is this a trial of my faith? (Falls to his knees, petitioning) Tell me, O God up above!

EDDIE I'm gettin' out of here! Where the fuckin' fuck is my fuckin' limo! (Checks for it.)

POPE (jumping up suddenly, pointing) And vot is spot on back of neck!

EDDIE (turning around quickly, clasping his hand over spot on his neck) It's nothin'!

POPE Why hiding it then?

EDDIE I'm not! My neck is stiff, that's all! (Massages neck.)

POPE You lie, Eddie Murphy! You have it too! Admit it! ADMIT IT!

EDDIE (breaking down) I'm not a homo! I'm not! I'm straight!

POPE But you have AIDS, don't you? . . . Don't you?

EDDIE Yes, yes . . . I have it and I'm gonna die! I'm gonna die and go to Hell!
(Falls to his knees.)

POPE How did you get it, Eddie? (Falls to his knees beside EDDIE.) You can tell me.

EDDIE It's not right! I'm rich and famous and young, and a member of a minority!

POPE Vant to confess? Vant to convert?

EDDIE (looking around at Hell) I thought it was too late for that.

POPE For small price, can get you special Catholic dispensation. Interested?

EDDIE No, no! I was just being normal! So I had a few flings with a few girls! Is that so terrible? That's what you're supposed to do! It was great! I loved it! I shouldn't have to die for it, should I?

POPE Vas so happy with my stigmata! Tried not to be proud! Vas only von in centuries to have it! Knew it meant I vould go right to heaven! I vas special! I showed it to novon! Is not right! Is not right this should hopen to me, the Pope!

EDDIE It's not right that it should happen to me either!

BOTH IT SHOULD ONLY HAPPEN TO HOMOS!

EDDIE They deserve it!

POPE *Ve don't!*

(They both cry in each other's arms. The GUARD saunters in, looks at the two weeping men, then looks at the audience with a bitter smirk on his face, folds his arms.)

GUARD Doesn't it just break your buttski? Hell wasn't bad enough. Now I have to spend eternity with fuckin' Eddie Murphy and the goddamn Pope!

BLACKOUT