

91st & Powell Blvd

By Rachael Carnes

Five performers, of any age, gender or ethnicity, have isolated, defined and characterized the multitude of voices in the script (19 in all), indicated here with changes in font, and demonstrate these shifts with clear changes in physicality and vocal tone, sharing the responsibility of shuttling the characters' intent between them. Words are spoken simultaneously where indicated, or in quiet, too.

We have a moral obligation to make our leaders listen.

And people are outside, homeless, freezing to death.

This is not the 5th victim the weather has claimed.

This woman should have given birth in a delivery room, not a homeless camp.

Understand shelter volunteers are overworked.

Please take action for God sake.

The streets are clean but the bridges hide Hooverilles.

The medical examiner's autopsy revealed that the cause of death was 'stillborn'.

Baby was stillborn which is terrible under any circumstance.

But temporary shelters closed too early.

Empty homes and buildings everywhere -

As long as you stay in your car, or your stylish condo, trendy neighborhood or fusion eatery you never see the real Portland.

Rather than the cold, this speaks more to the homeless issue in general.

Mom is mentally ill and is homeless. If you're outraged, help find a solution for homeless pregnant women to find quality prenatal care.

People are in the streets tonight.

Greedy landlords –

Immoral raises in rent –

This infant didn't die of exposure.

We've done this to ourselves as a city; our greed masks the crying voices.

We need help Now.

Stop further rezoning, enact a rent strike to take back control of this city.

Housing is a right. NO More Deaths.

That's unacceptable.

Portland should have hired people to work around the clock to help homeless people to get off the streets.

That's what major cities do.

Portland has more homeless than any city I have ever seen.

When I go back home, I am shocked at the number of homeless people.

Portland acts like a city that refuses to reach out to other cities that know how to deal with the situation they find themselves in.

Portland has not been above freezing since December 29th.

You guys picked some sorry City leaders. I think that's 5 dead now.

This what happens when residents force politicians to divert resources away from necessary welfare projects to bike paths, microbrew festivals, and public art.

Mentally ill woman gives birth in homeless camp, baby dies...

Listed as stillborn...

Stop trying to find the blame.

We are all to blame!

OMG!! What is our world coming to?

This is horrifying!!

Is no one awake out there?

The homeless problem was never brought up in the election that I recall.

How could it have been stillborn?

Race to the bottom, third world country are we.

This is just awful, horrible, heartbreaking.

I don't understand.

Sometimes available assistance is harder to accept than people realize.

The first responder sent a text stating the baby was breathing.

Shame, fear of the baby being taken away, acknowledgement of an addiction, mental health all play into this horrific tragedy.

I feel that we are so lucky to be surrounded by some gracious people and organizations to hopefully eliminate these losses.

Grace is a powerful gift we all carry within.

Open your own warm doors up.

Be the change you want to see.

You have a warm living room not being used tonight.

Quit blaming the government for not doing what you want and do it yourself.

This is awful, but I have to ask where CPS was in this?

With all due respect to the homeless woman, she clearly could not take care of her child.

What the fuk'n fuc!!!

Look, I'm all about 'stand on your own'

While we definitely need to help the homeless and do something about this issue.

But sometimes WTF!!!

Are we even a human race anymore?!

This also highlights CPS not doing its job and a baby dying because of it.

The Fuk!!!!

While this event is tragic, it happens everyday across the towns of America.

Mental illness and homelessness tend to go hand in hand.

The health care system is overburdened with those that are mentally ill.

And are sent to the hospital for up to 72 hours.

There are only a few ways these folks receive health care is when they threaten suicide.

They are then seen by a hospital psychologist.

Or are confronted by law enforcement doing a welfare check on them.

And most likely only given a referral for a follow up with an independent psychologist.

At that point they are put on a legal hold.

Only the most severe cases are ever transferred to a mental facility.

Due to feeling failed by the system.

...and people that their families have forgotten for reasons we could never understand.

A Baby is Dead After Being Found With His Homeless Mother at a Portland Bus Stop.

The infant, found Jan. 9, marks the fifth death on Portland's streets during the cold weather this year.

At this point it is up to the individual - To seek further treatment.

The child lived less than 24 hours and never had a name.

And do not take the prescribed medication due to the side effects.

If you have a loved one experiencing a mental illness, please help them.

Most of these folks have health insurance.

A Portland baby is dead after being found last week in freezing temperatures with his homeless mother in a bus stop along Southeast Powell Boulevard.

Four homeless people died of exposure in the first 10 days of 2017.

They choose not to seek treatment -

What is sad is that these folks are our veterans.

You may be their only advocate.

A week after the baby was found, it's still unclear whether he died of exposure hours after being born outdoors or was stillborn.

But the circumstances of the child's death illustrate that much of the tragedy on Portland's streets involves untreated mental illness.

The details of the infant's death are found in a Portland police report.

Story update: Mayor calls baby's death "a damnation of our response" to mental illness.

Shortly before 6 am on Jan. 9, officers from the Portland Police Bureau responded to an alarming scene at a TriMet bus stop at Southeast 91st Avenue and Powell Boulevard.

A homeless woman pushing a shopping cart had opened her coat to show a man on his way to work that she held a newborn baby.

He then called 911.

Seeing that the woman was barefoot and only partly clothed, the man told her to cover the baby.

The 911 operator texted details to officers who were on their way to help.

The birth occurred hours earlier, officers learned, and the baby had remained outside in weather that hovered around freezing.

"Baby is conscious and breathing okay, but has been outside this entire time," read a second text from the 911 operator. "Baby is ice cold."

At the hospital, officers interviewed the baby's mother:

The texts indicated the baby was alive.

"Baby was born in a transient camp near Chuck E. Cheese," the text message said.

An ambulance rushed the child to Oregon Health & Science University hospital, escorted by a squad car with its siren blaring.

As two emergency room doctors worked to resuscitate the baby, records show, the woman told police a disjointed story.

She said she'd
gotten pregnant -

*"by the miracle of
immaculate
conception."*

And she struggled
to answer basic
questions about her
address, ethnicity or
where the baby
was born.

"It was very clear to
me she was very
mentally ill," the
policeman on duty
wrote in his report.

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Hypothermia Was
Evicted for Being
Late on \$338 in
Rent.**

While the police
spoke to the
mother, hospital
staff continued to
perform CPR, part
of a 25-minute
effort to save the
child.

Police tried to find out more about the circumstances of the baby's death but immediately encountered a discrepancy.

The Oregon State Medical Examiner's office said the baby—then still at OHSU—was stillborn.

Two pediatric emergency room physicians who'd tried to save the child, disputed that conclusion.

The child was born at about 32 weeks.

The child appeared to 'be viable.'"

If the baby died of exposure or of other causes, police would investigate.

The state medical later disagreed with the OHSU doctors' assessment of the baby's condition. After an autopsy, we determined that the baby was stillborn.

Portland Police Bureau spokesman says the police bureau did not report the baby's death to the public because the agency was still waiting for clarity on the cause of death.

The medical examiner ultimately is the one who tells us, whether the determination was 'stillborn' or 'homicide'.

"Around this time, OHSU personnel notified me that they were going to cease life saving efforts on the newborn."

"The newborn was pronounced dead at 0641 hours."

