

LUKE WARM, CRIME FIGHTING MACHINE
A One-Act Play
By Brett Baxter

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(Based on characters developed by
Doctor and Mr West)

CAST:

LUKE WARM (M) – Crime Fighting Machine, the Hero

MIKE ALPHA NOVEMBER – Sidekick to Luke Warm

CANTO KNEES (M) – Stereotypical Chinese Villain

VANILLA SHEIK – Sidekick to Canto Knees, and Expert in Almost Everything

MARY BUFFET (F) – Private Dick

MAVIS – A black sidekick housekeeper (can be played by AN EXTRA)

AN EXTRA – Playing the part of various characters

(M) indicates male role

(F) indicates female role

All other cast members may be cast as either gender

SYNOPSIS

Luke Warm (Crime Fighting Machine) and his non-gender-specific sidekick (Mike Alpha November), have been tasked with thwarting the diabolical villain Canto Knees, and his non-gender-specific sidekick (Vanilla Sheik), before they destroy the southern hemisphere with a giant laser cannon. They are assisted by Little Miss Buffet (Private Dick), a black sidekick housekeeper (Mavis), and an Extra. Featuring Russians, cuckoo clocks and a speech impediment, *Luke Warm* will make your nose bleed.

SCENE 1

LUKE WARM and MIKE ALPHA NOVEMBER are lying in beach chairs SR, barefoot, wearing sunglasses, board shorts and t-shirts. Lighting is bright as if on a sunny day.

LUKE: Wow, this is the life of a Crime Fighting Machine, eh Mike? Lying here in the warm Johannesburg smog and deadly UVB rays.

MIKE: Yes, Luke. I'm amazed we don't have skin cancer yet, considering our blatant disregard for scientific evidence.

LUKE: You know, Mike, I don't trust scientists one bit. They scare me, in their white coats and knowing looks. You just can't trust them!

MIKE: Yes but still, maybe they're on to something with the whole radiation thing from the sun.

LUKE: I doubt it. Now, let's go inside and watch "Tellytubbies". There's some solid entertainment with good moral lessons.

MIKE: Agreed!

They stand up and walk over to a television and a couch SL. The Tellytubbies theme plays briefly, before ...

Enter an EXTRA, wearing a white coat and glasses. He stands behind the couch where LUKE and MIKE don't see him.

EXTRA: We interrupt this episode of "Tellytubbies" to bring you this startling discovery. Scientists at the University of Johannesburg have made a startling discovery in the field of medical waste, whilst eating hamburgers from the local canteen. They have discovered that any biodegradable material will break down over a period of time. This startling discovery will surely affect how scientists eat hamburgers in the local canteen in the future. And now, back to the "Tellytubbies".

Exit EXTRA.

LUKE: Oh my goodness, this is terrible news! Only one man would benefit in a diabolical way and subvert the natural order.

MIKE and LUKE look at each other at the same time, and shout out together.

MIKE and LUKE: Canto Knees!

LUKE: I just know he's going to abuse this information! Mr Knees is the most evil, the most diabolical, the most stereotypical Chinese villain ever to tread the boards of this stage! We must do something, Mike.

MIKE: But Luke, the “Tellytubbies” are still on. That Lala is about to pinch Tinky Winky’s purse.

LUKE: Curses, you’re right! We’ll have to wait until it’s over before we continue with thwarting the evil Canto Knees and his non-gender-specific sidekick, Vanilla Sheik.

SCENE 2

CANTO KNEES and VANILLA SHEIK are sitting on the same couch with a different cover. Lighting is moderate with yellow and red hints. They are cackling diabolically in the general direction of the television set. The same EXTRA in scientist coat and glasses is just finishing his interruption.

EXTRA: And now, back to the “Terrytubbies”.

KNEES: At rarst!

SHEIK: At last, yes! I thought that startling discovery would never end! Did Lala get the handbag from Tiny Winky?

KNEES: It’s Tinky Winky, you fool! And I meant at rarst, because the University of Johannesburg has discovered a way to harness the power of biodegradabre materiars. Onry one thing can stop me from my pran of grobar domination now, and that’s Ruke Warm! Fortunatery, we are not in Johannesburg for him to detect my diaboricar rair rocatod in the heart of Cambodia.

SHEIK: From that exposition, I deduce that we are located in a diabolical Cambodian mountain lair, situated deep in the heart of Cambodia, just below the roaring rapids of the main river that runs through Cambodia.

KNEES: Correct, my young non-gender-specific applentice.

SHEIK: Sir Knees –

KNEES: Bress you, Sheik.

SHEIK: Er, yes sir. Mr Knees, sir, with all due respect, how is this news? Biodegradable materials have been breaking down over a period of time for millennia. After all, sir, oil originally came from the dinosaurs.

KNEES: Well then, Sheik, it is abundantry crear to me, as I ponder the significance of this startring discovery, that you creary have no foresight. Of course oir came from the dinosaurs! It is now time to give it back! We can now degrade any materiars we desire!

KNEES cackles to himself diabolically.

SHEIK: Sir Knees –

KNEES: Bress you, Sheik.

SHEIK: Er, yes sir. I don't see how this is significant, or even relevant. How does this startling discovery have any bearing on modern science? How are we able to harness the power and degrade any material we desire?

KNEES: Oh, tut, tut, Sheik, you poor, poor man. It is evident that you have faired me in your interrectuar abirities. Arthough you hear the news report of this starttring discovery, you don't risten to the rear story, hidden in rayer upon rayer of hidden messages. Scientists have rearised that by combining certain chemicars with other chemicars, a chain reaction takes prace, compretery destroying the morecurar compound and thereby breaking down the materiar. It is, in effect, a diaboricar anti-matter device.

SHEIK: You got all that from the breaking news?

KNEES: Correct, my young applentice. You see, Sheik, whirst you were ristening to the scientist, I was decoding a message rayered into the transmission, put there by the scientists. It said, "Welcome Earthlings. Little has been said regarding the litigation that would ensue from licencing this technology, so we are layering it into this talking head transmission to be unleashed by learned fellows the world over."

SHEIK: Sir Knees –

KNEES: Bress you, Sheik.

SHEIK: Er, yes. Anyway sir, I think it's a trap laid by our arch-nemesis, Luke Warm, and his non-gender-specific apprentice Mike Alpha November.

KNEES: Impossibre! I very much doubt he has anything to do with this. In fact, I think he is probabry, at this very second, considering how to dear with me.

They cackle, and exit.

SCENE 3

LUKE WARM is sitting on the couch. MIKE ALPHA NOVEMBER enters, carrying a tea tray. His hands are shaking noticeably. China rattles.

LUKE: No need to panic, my faithful non-gender-specific apprentice. I'm sure Canto Knees was not able to transcribe the hidden message layered into the talking head's startling discovery. Besides, he's Chinese!

MIKE: Um, sir, you're not allowed to say that anymore.

LUKE: Well, November, this political correctness is all Greek to me. Now, where did I put my abacus?

LUKE reaches down beside the couch and pulls out an abacus. As he plays with the pretty coloured beads, he speaks.

LUKE: Ooh, look at the pretty colours. *(He moves the beads.)* So, we have Canto Knees in his diabolical Cambodian mountain lair, situated deep in the heart of Cambodia, just below the roaring rapids of the main river that runs through Cambodia. We have his non-gender-specific sidekick, Vanilla Sheik, who is well versed in the classics. I myself once played full-contact backgammon against him on a Sony PlayStation Portable many years ago. On our side, we have me, Luke Warm, Crime Fighting Machine, and you, Mike Alpha November, faithful non-gender-specific sidekick. And here, we have a boiled sweet. What does this represent, I wonder?

MIKE *(reaching over):* Sorry sir, that was mine. I was using the abacus during last night's rerun of "Friends". I was counting how many times I'd like to beat the crap out of Ross.

LUKE *(nodding wisely):* Excellent, young November. Now, let's calculate the odds of us surviving a trip on a flight to Cambodia. I haven't had my dysentery shot lately.