FIRST LISTEN

# Proper Care on the Road

*A staged reading of a new play by Dan Lucore and Renee Tellers*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2026 · 7:30 PM · PACA

## FROM THE WRITERS

On August 30, 1904, thirty-two men started the Olympic marathon at the St. Louis World's Fair. Fourteen finished. Tonight you're the first audience to hear our play about that race. We've read it too many times to know whether it works, so tell us on your questionnaire: where did you laugh, where did you get lost, and where did you check out?

*Dan and Renee*

## TONIGHT

- **ACT ONE**
- **INTERMISSION**
- **ACT TWO**
- **YOUR TURN**
  Fill out your questionnaire.

The reading runs about two hours. Please silence your phone.

## CHARACTERS AND DOUBLING

1. **CHARLES J. P. LUCAS** ..... **Dom Delgreco**
   Our narrator. A sportswriter, and handler to Thomas Hicks.
2. **FRANK PIERCE** ..... *No lines*
   Seneca, of the Cattaraugus Reservation.
3. **JAMES E. SULLIVAN** ..... **Vincent Murphy**
   Director of the Games. **Also plays** the injured official and Sam Mellor.
4. **FÉLIX CARVAJAL** ..... **Dan Bainbridge**
   A mailman from San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba. **Also plays** Halpin, the official.
5. **MAUDE CRANE** ..... **Karen Schelinski**
   Of the Post-Dispatch. **Also plays** William Garcia.
6. **FRED LORZ** ..... **Devin Chaney**
   A bricklayer from New York. **Also plays** the boy on the bicycle, W. J. McGee, and the doctor.
7. **ED SEIB** ..... **Jordan Gilmore**
   Of the Globe-Democrat. **Also plays** the Barker, John Lordon, Lorz's manager, Hugh McGrath, and Albert Corey.
8. **CLARA VOSS** ..... **Renee Tellers**
   Of the Republic. **Also plays** Michael Spring, Alice Roosevelt, and Arthur Newton.
9. **JAN MASHIANI** ..... **Zeke Walker**
   Tswana, from South Africa.
10. **LEN TAUNYANE** ..... **Zeke Walker**
    Tswana, from South Africa.
11. **THOMAS HICKS** ..... **James Wallace**
    A brass worker from Cambridge, Massachusetts. **Also plays** Martin Sheridan.
12. **JESSIE TARBOX BEALS** ..... **Megan Harrison**
    Photographer.

*Halpin is a composite. Crane, Seib, and Voss are invented, and stand for the three St. Louis dailies they write for. Every other named figure is real. The stage directions are read aloud.*

## A NOTE ON CONTENT

The play is set at a World's Fair that put human beings on display, and it deals directly with the racial pseudoscience of the period. It works through the historical record rather than depiction, and it does not repeat the slurs in that record.

*Thank you for listening first.*

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*Jot things down as you listen: a laugh, a line that landed, a moment you got lost.*
*This page is yours to keep. Anything you want the writers to see goes on the questionnaire.*

## ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

AUDIENCE QUESTIONNAIRE

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Thank you for being here tonight. *Proper Care on the Road* is a brand-new play, and readings like this one are how it grows. Your honest reactions, the good and the rough, go straight to the writers and will shape the next draft. **Please fill this out after the reading** and leave it with us on your way out. Every question is optional, and there's no need to sign your name.

## YOUR REACTION

1. **Overall, how did tonight's reading land for you?**
   ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 *(1 = not for me, 5 = loved it)*

2. **Describe the play in a few words:** _____

3. **What moment has stayed with you most?**

   _____

   _____

## THE STORY

4. **How easy was it to follow who was who?**
   ☐ Easy ☐ Mostly easy ☐ Sometimes lost ☐ Often lost

5. **What questions are you leaving with?** *Anything that confused you counts too.*

   _____

   _____

6. **Which character did you want more time with? Anyone you wanted less of?**

   More: _____ Less: _____

7. **How did you feel about Charles J.P. Lucas, our narrator, by the end of the night?**

   _____

   _____

8. **How did Act Two and the ending land for you?**

   _____

   _____

9. **How did the length feel?** ☐ Too long ☐ About right ☐ Too short

   If it dragged anywhere, where? _____

*Please turn over*

## THE HISTORY

**10. Before tonight, how much did you know about the 1904 Olympic marathon?**

☐ Nothing ☐ A little ☐ Quite a bit

**11. What surprised you most?**

## LOOKING AHEAD

**12. Would you come see a full production of this play?** ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

**13. Anything else you want the writers to know?**

## ABOUT YOU (OPTIONAL)

**14. How did you hear about tonight's reading?** *Check all that apply.*

☐ Facebook ☐ Instagram ☐ PACA website
☐ PACA email ☐ Poster or flyer ☐ Friend or family
☐ Time Tellers Podcast ☐ Newspaper, radio, or TV ☐ Other: _____

**15. Is this your first time at PACA?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

## STAY IN TOUCH (OPTIONAL)

**Name:** _____

**Email:** _____

☐ Keep me posted on *Proper Care on the Road*
☐ Add me to PACA's email list
☐ I have a personal, family, or community connection to this story
☐ I'm open to a follow-up conversation with the writers
☐ Tell me about auditions and volunteering at PACA

***Thanks for going the distance with us tonight.***