

FREAK

Once upon a time there lived a Freak. A lonely freak, no friends, no home, a freak who lived every day on the outside looking in. From camps to cities on containers, boats, country to continent the freak wandered looking for a place to belong. Kuwait, Indonesia, Australia, over and over until everyone got so sick of the Freak they decided they had to do something. And so, they built a special place. A strange place where the jungle was thick and the sand dark yellow. A desert island in the middle of the pacific where the freak had twenty -our Internet access plus free gym membership - and for the first time no one told him to leave. Because there was no one to tell him to leave. The freak was all alone. A thousand miles of ocean whichever way he turned and no one to talk to but a cat. Sometimes... on a clear night when there's no wind and the stars are perfect... I can see the freak's sky...I can... and he can see mine. Two kindred souls sharing the same dream wide awake. Equal losers in every way except - except my cat got run over last week. Which only goes to prove one thing.

*The puppet disappears.*

If you don't belong – you're nothing.

*The tribe has gathered upstage around the edge of the rostrum. Feral school uniforms, faces a mixture of native Papua New Guinea and a black sash that runs across their eyes.*

ENSEMBLE

HEY YA HEY YA HA HEY YA  
HEY YA HA HEY  
HEY YA HEY YA HA HEY YA  
HEY YA HA HEY  
HEY...

FREAK

I WANNA BE ONE OF THE TRIBE  
I'M LEAVIN' THE PERSON I WAS BEHIND  
I'M TAKING MY PLACE IN THE PACK  
I'LL NEVER BE BACK WHEN I FIND MY WAY INSIDE  
YEAH I'M GONNA BE ONE OF THE TRIBE.  
I DON'T CARE WHAT IT TAKES  
WHATEVER IT TAKES TO BELONG  
ONE OF THE STRONG  
ONE OF THE PRIDE  
ONE OF THE TRIBE.

ENSEMBLE

HEY YA HEY YA HA HEY...ETC  
ONE OF THE TRIBE  
HEY YA HEY YA HA HEY...ETC  
ONE OF THE TRIBE  
HEY

FREAK

I DON'T WANT TO LIVE LIKE A FREAK  
NEVER KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE HEARD  
WHEN YOU SPEAK  
I WANT TO BE IN ON THE PLAN

I WANT TO BE CERTAIN OF WHO I AM TONIGHT  
YEAH I WANNA BE ONE OF THE TRIBE  
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU THINK  
WHATEVER YOU THINK YOU DON'T KNOW  
IT'S BETTER THAN BEING ALONE  
AT LEAST YOU SURVIVE  
ONE OF THE TRIBE.

ENSEMBLE

HEY YA HEY YA HA HEY...ETC  
ONE OF THE TRIBE  
HEY YA HEY YA HA HEY...ETC  
ONE OF THE TRIBE  
HEY

IF YOU WANT TO RUN WITH THE TRIBE YOU'VE GOTTA  
MAKE IT BAKE IT  
SHAKE IT LIKE YOU MEAN IT GOTTA  
KNOW YOUR PLACE YOUR FACE YOUR SPACE  
SUCK SUCK BLOW BLOW ANYWAY WE SAY SO  
EITHER WAY YOU KNOW YOU'VE GOTTA  
KEEP IT ON THE INSIDE  
IF YOU WANT TO BE ONE  
ONE WITH THE TRIBE YOU'VE GOTTA  
PLAY STAY CHILL OUT HUNT WITH THE TRIBE  
YOU'VE GOTTA  
HEY HA FREAK YOU KILL WITH THE TRIBE  
IF YOU WANT THE INSIDE  
IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE  
IN THE TRIBE.

HEY YA HEY YA HA HEY YA  
HEY YA HA HEY  
HEY YA HEY YA HA HEY YA  
HEY YA HA HEY  
HEY...

HEY YA HEY YA HA HEY...ETC  
ONE OF THE TRIBE  
HEY YA HEY YA HA HEY...ETC  
ONE OF THE TRIBE  
HEY...

*Kung Fu Tap Baby gets to centre stage surrounded by the other and gives a short aggressive burst of tap. She then addresses the audience. They all address the audience. Confrontational. Enjoying themselves.*

KUNG FU TAP BABY

What are you looking at?

Dork- MONKEY BOY  
Freak- TADPOLE  
Turd face- PRINCESS  
Four eyes- SPOOKY  
Pig breath- KUNG FU TAP BABY  
Loser- GURU  
COURTNEY  
Whichever way you look at it the problem will always remain consistently existential and simultaneously unresolvable.  
KUNG FU TAP BABY  
You want a piece of me Pus head- MONKEY BOY  
Turkey- TADPOLE  
Slut, PRINCESS  
Fatty-fat- SPOOKY  
Bimbo- GURU  
WIMP-

*Everyone but Courtney gives a short aggressive burst of tap. The men exit. The women join Tap Baby.*

COURTNEY

There's just never enough love to go around. Not everyone can be popular. We can't all be in the tribe, where's the fun in that? Love and peace are two wonderful ideal but let's face it. Love and peace don't give good ratings do they? I had to learn the hard way. I used to play fair, share, care. But there's only so many times a girl can have her heart broken before it sets hard – know what I mean?

THE GIRLS

Oh yeah we're cool

COURTNEY

Exclusiveness. Mystery solved boys and girls. Take the power and keep the power. The world only respects you if they're scared of you. And if you hate yourself at least you know you're not alone. Everyone else does too. That's the sacrifice you make to stay on top. You can't go round feeling bad about it. The whole point of life is to get ahead and stay ahead. Get a job, have a career, make money, invest, grow old and die. It's so much easier to cope with life if you learn how to think less. Otherwise you start to remember who you used to be before everyone was scared of you.

THE GIRLS

Now now girl-

COURTNEY

A sweet, adorable dag who used to sit in the front row just because she loved English Lit-

THE GIRLS

Pull it together-

COURTNEY

The girl who loved buckle shoes and crochet beanies - constantly in violation of the fashion police-

THE GIRLS

Don't go there-

COURTNEY

Before you know you'll be a pathetic mess ruining your mascara like a real person who couldn't even spell the word Chanel.

I TOSS MY PERFECT BLONDE HAIR  
POUT MY BIG MOUTH MUCH MORE THAN I SHOULD  
BUT THE TRUTH IS DEEP DOWN  
I'M JUST A SAD GIRL WHO'S MISUNDERSTOOD  
ON THE OUTSIDE I'M COOL  
WITH A TONGUE THAT IS CRUEL  
BUT INSIDE THERE'S A WHOLE OTHER ITCH.  
THEY CALL ME COURTNEY THE BITCH.

THE GIRLS

COURTNEY THE BITCH

SHE LOVES TO BE PRETENTIOUS

COURTNEY

KEEPS EVERYBODY ROUND ME ON THEIR TOES

SHE LOVES TO BE CONTENTIOUS

SO EVERYONE'S A PRISONER TO THE  
COURTNEY SHOW.

I'VE LEARNED TO WEAR MY CHANEL AND PRETEND  
THAT I'M TOTALLY HOT

THE GIRLS

SHE'S HOT SHE'S HOT.

COURTNEY

I LEARNED TO ACT LIKE A SNOB  
WHEN INSIDE I AM TOTALLY NOT.

THE GIRLS

SHE'S NOT SHE'S NOT.

COURTNEY

I WANT YOU TO THINK I'M UNTOUCHABLY PINK  
WITH A DADDY WHO'S OH SO RICH  
I'M PLAYING COURTNEY THE BITCH.

THE GIRLS

COURTNEY THE BITCH.

COURTNEY

BUT ONE FINE DAY

I'M GONNA SHED THIS SKIN AND THROW  
THAT COURTNEY AWAY

I WANNA FIND THE GUTS LET THE REAL ME OUT  
STRIP AWAY THIS FACE FOREVER SCREAM AND SHOUT  
LET THE GIRL BE FREE WHO'S LOST AND ALONE  
AND I WON'T CARE IF THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS  
COURTNEY THE BITCH

THE GIRLS  
COURTNEY THE BITCH  
COURTNEY  
I CAN CUT YOU DOWN WITH A FLASH OF MY  
ICY COOL BABY BLUE EYES  
THE GIRLS  
HER EYES HER EYES  
COURTNEY  
I CAN TURN A WHOLE CLASS AGAINST YOU WITH  
ONE TASTY WORD ON THE SLY  
THE GIRLS  
WITH JUST ONE WORD  
COURTNEY  
IT'S DOG EATING DOG IN THIS CRUEL CRUEL WORLD  
AND THIS PUPPY HAS NEVER BEEN STITCHED!  
THEY CALL ME COURTNEY THE BITCH.  
THE GIRLS  
SHE LOVES TO BE OUTRAGEOUS  
COURTNEY  
STIRRING TROUBLE EVERYWHERE I GO  
THE GIRLS  
BITCHINESS CAN BE CONTAGIOUS  
COURTNEY  
TAKE A BACK SEAT ON THE BUS AND WATCH IT GROW.  
YOU'RE ASKING DO I  
DO IT FOR FUN OR FOR VENGEANCE OR PLAIN CRUELTY  
THE GIRLS  
SHE'S CRUEL SO CRUEL  
COURTNEY  
NO NO I DO IT TO MAKE SURE THAT THERE'S NO TIME TO HANG SHIT ON ME.  
THE GIRLS  
THERE'S NO TIME NO TIME  
COURTNEY  
DIVIDE THE WHOLE SCHOOL THAT'S THE ONE GOLDEN RULE  
SO THEY NEVER KNOW WHICH WAY IS WHICH  
THEY NEVER SEE THROUGH  
COURTNEY THE BITCH.  
THE GIRLS  
COURTNEY THE BITCH.  
COURTNEY  
BUT ONE FINE DAY  
I WANT TO THROW THIS FREAKIN' STUPID GAME AWAY  
THIS SOUL DESTROYING CRAZY USELESS GAME THAT I PLAY  
I WANT TO BE A BRUNETTE  
BE A DAG PUT ON WEIGHT  
SING BRITNEY SPEARS KAREOKE STAY OUT LATE  
WEAR MY TRACKY PANTS NOT A CARE IN THE WORLD  
I WANT TO BE BE BE THAT GIRL.  
  
THERE'S ALWAYS THE PERSON YOU ARE AND THE PERSON  
YOU THINK YOU MUST BE.

THE GIRLS  
THE PERSON YOU THINK YOU MUST BE.  
COURTNEY  
I'M COURTNEY THE BITCH BUT ALL I REALLY WANT IS TO BREAK FREE.  
THE GIRLS  
SHE WANTS TO BREAK FREE SHE WANTS TO BREAK.  
COURTNEY  
IT'S DOG EATING DOG IN THIS CRUEL CRUEL WORLD  
AND THAT PUPPY WILL NEVER BE ME  
THE GIRLS  
BECAUSE SHE'S COURTNEY, COURTNEY  
COURTNEY  
THE GIRL WITH THE ITCH  
THE GIRLS  
COURTNEY, COURTNEY  
COURTNEY  
WHOSE DADDY IS RICH  
THE GIRLS  
COURTNEY  
COURTNEY  
I DON'T WANT TO BE COURTNEY THE BITCH  
FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.  
THE GIRLS  
COURTNEY, COURTNEY THE BITCH  
COURTNEY, COURTNEY THE BITCH

*The puppet reappears operated by the two men in the cast. Behind them the screens light up. The women cover their faces with masks made out of exercise book paper and surround the puppet. Teasing. School yard ruthless. **Courtney** stays downstage. **Freak** appears.*

FREAK  
If you really want to be yourself why don't you just do it?  
COURTNEY  
Go away freak - we hate you.  
FREAK  
You don't even know me.  
COURTNEY  
You wouldn't like it here anyway.  
FREAK  
I could learn.  
COURTNEY  
Belonging isn't for everyone.  
FREAK  
Why not?  
COURTNEY  
It takes sacrifice.

What kind of sacrifice? FREAK  
What have you got to offer? COURTNEY  
Lots of things. FREAK  
Name one. COURTNEY  
Friendship. FREAK  
We have lots of friends. COURTNEY  
Not like me. FREAK  
You're too skinny. COURTNEY  
I have an allergy. FREAK  
You're too sick. COURTNEY  
It's only a small allergy. FREAK  
You're too skinny you'll make me look fat. COURTNEY  
I could eat. FREAK  
Would you eat junk food? COURTNEY  
Yeah. FREAK  
I thought you had an allergy. COURTNEY  
Not to everything. FREAK  
How much would you eat? COURTNEY  
How much do you want me to eat? FREAK  
Would you eat it for breakfast lunch and dinner? COURTNEY  
Yes. FREAK  
Are you sure? COURTNEY  
I said I would didn't I? FREAK  
Till your liver turns to mush? COURTNEY  
If that's what it takes. FREAK

COURTNEY  
Lower yourself, degrade yourself?-  
FREAK

I never said-  
COURTNEY  
Why would we hang with someone who begs like a dog?-  
FREAK

You were the one-  
COURTNEY  
Where's your self esteem?  
FREAK

I have self esteem.  
COURTNEY  
You said you'd beg like a dog.  
FREAK

I said I'd eat junk food.  
COURTNEY  
You said you'd make yourself fat.  
FREAK

Can I?  
COURTNEY  
Can you what?  
FREAK

Can I come in?  
COURTNEY  
You haven't said the secret password.  
FREAK

Please.  
COURTNEY  
I was lying there is no secret password.  
FREAK

Why can't I come in?  
COURTNEY  
Because we said so.  
FREAK

That's not a reason.  
COURTNEY  
It's the only reason we need.  
FREAK

Tell me how?  
TRIBE  
Piss off!  
FREAK

How do I get in?  
TRIBE  
Piss off.  
FREAK

I want to get in.  
TRIBE  
PISS OFF!