

Local Food Project at Airlie

Summer Skit Series 2008

Originally performed at the Year-Round Organic Garden workshop on August 7, 2008

Let's Get 'Em: A Man Hunt for Safe Food

Characters

Sally Salmonella (leader of the mob)

Ian Ingredient Reciter (defender of the farm) Farmer Florinda (humble grower)

Angry Mob (concerned and nauseous eaters)

Props

Pitchforks, etc.

Brown paper bags

Vegetables in bins

Canvas tote bag

Scene

A small organic farm near you

[Carrying a canvas bag, Ian walks up to Florinda, who stands with bins of vegetables.]

Ian: Hi Florinda! I'm here to pick up my Community Supported Agriculture share for the week.

Flo: Hey Ian. Go ahead and choose your veggies. How have you been lately?

Ian: Oh, I've been all right. My job's exhausting though, you know? I'm passionate about informing people about the real ingredients in their food, but it takes so much out of me standing on that street corner day in and day out, waving my pamphlets, reciting the long lists of genetically-modified corn-based ingredients on cereal boxes and granola bar wrappers.

Flo: It's grueling work, but I'm glad you're out there doing it.

Ian: And I'm glad you're here growing the *real* food people should be eating.

Flo: Well, shucks, Ian...I do what I can. It's the only way—

[Sally staggers in followed by the Angry Mob, brandishing pitchforks and barf bags.]

Sally: Where's that farmer? We've all been sick for a week and we want revenge!

Angry Mob: Yeah, revenge! *[Yelling throughout the scene, members of the mob shake their weapons and grip their stomachs.]*

Flo: Wait a minute, this is my farm. Just tell me what's wrong and I'd be glad to help.

Sally: The Salmonella's in the produce, that awful fresh stuff that hasn't been processed enough to make it safe! *[Sally heaves into her barf bag.]*

Angry Mob: Yeah, the fresh stuff!

Ian: What do you mean? Florinda's vegetables won't make you sick.

Sally: Ha! That's what you say, but we've heard the reports, we've read the papers. You farmers are the ones responsible for this outbreak!

Angry Mob: Yeah, let's get her! [*Members of the mob begin to charge. Ian steps in front of them.*]

Ian: Wait! Flo's veggies aren't like the ones you've seen on the news! They're grown locally, harvested in the morning and sold the same afternoon. You don't have to worry about any diseases with these tomatoes and peppers because they're not sent to a central processing plant thousands of miles away where there's risk of contamination.

Sally: But how can we be sure? You can't trust anyone! Those tomatoes on our burgers and sub sandwiches could have been to the moon and back for all we know.

Ian: That's exactly why it makes sense to get your vegetables from farmers like Flo! She sells her produce directly to families in our own community.

Flo: And I encourage my customers to stop by the farm anytime to see how things are being grown and harvested.

Sally: Wow, that actually sounds like a pretty good deal. We'd definitely feel more comfortable with that kind of a system, right Mob?

Angry Mob: Yeah!

Sally: But what about wintertime? Will we have to go back to buying tomatoes trucked in from California? Just the thought makes me...[*Sally heaves and lifts her barf bag.*]...nervous.

Ian: No, no, no! Florinda has this wonderful greenhouse that gets her through the cold months.

Flo: Season extension allows us to continue growing and selling fresh, healthy food throughout the entire year.

Sally: Oh, that's great news. But if *you're* not responsible for making us sick, then who is? The big farmers?

Angry Mob: Yeah, it must be the big farmers!

Ian: Well...it could be, but not necessarily.

Sally: The FDA?

Angry Mob: Yeah, let's get the FDA!

Flo: Well...maybe, but not necessarily.

Sally: Could it be ourselves for not being more informed about where our food comes from?

Angry Mob: Yeah, let's get ourselves! [*Members of the mob turn to one another angrily, then eye their pitchforks and laugh.*]

Ian: [*Chuckling*] Well, maybe there should just be less finger pointing and more working together with our neighbors to grow and enjoy safe, delicious vegetables.

Flo: Why don't you all pick out some veggies from today's harvest and get a taste of our Community Supported Agriculture share.

Sally: That sounds wonderful! What do you say, Mob?

Angry Mob: Yeah, let's get 'em!

The End