

Vegas: The Vegas Themed Vegas Casino

A Short Play

By Mark Chrisler

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VEGAS: THE VEGAS THEMED VEGAS CASINO

A coffin block, center stage. Pascal #1 is on his knees, speaking to a crowd.

PASCAL #1

(in medias res)

And what happens at “Vegas,” truly does stay in Vegas. Inside these boundaries, judgement is a non-starter. The only person you have to answer to for your actions is yourself, who, we can imagine, will probably be pretty forgiving, right?! I kid, I kid. But, seriously: feel free to have all the fun, all the gambling, all the sex, all the murder... No. Probably not murder. Most of you will likely go without murdering. It’s just that I...

Pascal #2 rises, crosses to Pascal #1 and crushes him dead. Pascal #1 lies dead

PASCAL #2

(on crushing Pascal #1)

Murderer!

(sudden realization)

What have I done...

(suddenly cheery and presentational)

Sorry for that. Just some... house cleaning. And what a house! My name is Pascal and I’d like to welcome you to the grand opening of “Vegas:” the world’s first Vegas themed Vegas casino, right here in the center of sunny Las Vegas! “Vegas” provides the ultimate Vegas experience, right here in the comfort of downtown Vegas. For years, the Vegas experience was, necessarily, incomplete. A man comes to see the sights, watch a show, play some games, get lost in a string of violence that reaches onto infinity... er... figuratively. Anyway, there used to be so many choices: do you want your Vegas vacation to be like New York? Or Paris? Or Egypt? Or a circus? What if you wanted it to be all those things? You couldn’t! Until today! “Vegas” offers you a way to have the *complete* Vegas experience, by serving up all the sights and attractions of Las Vegas, in Las Vegas, at 1/8 the scale of the original! That’s right! The Vegas Casino and Resort is a perfect recreation of all the famous sights and sounds of Las Vegas! Down to the last detail, man, woman and child! The strip, The Taj, New York, New York... It’s all here! And, of course, what painstakingly complete 1/8 scale simulacrum of Vegas would be complete without a painstakingly complete 1/8 scale simulacrum of Vegas at its center?! Complete with 1/8 scale versions of all the attractions and colorful characters that make up Vegas itself. Characters like Celine Dion, Penn and Teller, and--until a few brief minutes ago when his tiny life was unceremoniously snuffed out--Pascal, the MC of this very grand opening! What exists at the center of Vegas’s Vegas? Yet another Vegas? Perhaps. We can’t say. Only that this is Vegas and that is merely a map of significant fidelity to Vegas.

We can say that for sure, and we can also say you're bound for the greatest time of your life here at "Vegas:" The World's first Vegas themed Vegas casino, right here in Vegas. And what happens at "Vegas," truly does stay in Vegas. Inside these boundaries, judgement is a non-starter. The only person you have to answer to for your actions is yourself. And, if you can't forgive yourself, what's to be done, right? Would the guilt merely compound, punishment upon punishment, recrimination upon recrimination? We can't know! So go ahead and absolve yourself of whatever you've done! But, seriously: feel free to have all the fun, all the gambling, all the sex, all the murder... No. Probably not murder. Most of you will likely go without murdering. It's just that I...

Pascal #3 appears on the coffin block and
crushes Pascal #2

PASCAL #3
(on crushing Pascal #2)

Murderer!

(sudden realization)

What have I done...

(suddenly cheery and presentational)

Sorry about that. Just some... pests I had to take care of. Anyway. My name is Pascal, and I'd like to welcome you to the grand opening of "Vegas:" the world's first Vegas themed Vegas casino, right here in the gorgeous center of Las Vegas! In our perfect, 1/8 scale model of Las Vegas, you can delight in all the sights and sounds that Vegas offers, without ever having to step foot outside of Vegas! Circus Circus, The Golden Nugget, Paris... all are at your disposal. And, of course, at the center of Vegas, the 1/8 scale recreation of Vegas, lies a 1/8 scale recreation of Vegas, perfect in every detail not only to Vegas, but also to Vegas itself! All that life. All that sin. All that loathing. You can wipe it out with the stomp of a foot. And then, finally, peace? Equanimity? We pray, yes. We pray. No matter: What happens at "Vegas:" The premiere Vegas-themed Vegas casino, stays in Vegas. Why is this so? Some say it is because there is no morality here--or none so absolutely, anyway--while others say that the boundaries of Vegas are so irreconcilable with the outside Vegas that all judgement would, necessarily, be rendered capricious. But I say... who cares! Enjoy yourself! Feel free to have all the fun, all the gambling, all the sex, all the murder... which... I don't mean "murder," per say. It isn't "murder." It's a cleansing sort of... arbitration. That takes a form perhaps indistinguishable to the offender as murder, but which we recognize as... It's just that I...

Pascal #4 appears in the rafters and crushes
Pascal #3

PASCAL #4
(on crushing Pascal #3)

Murderer!

(sudden realization)

What have I done...

(with strained cheeriness)

Sorry about that. Just... dealing with... sorry. Welcome. I am Pascal... One of them.

Probably the one. And... well, thanks for coming to what, I'm sure, is the final level of

"Vegas:" the world's first Vegas-themed Vegas casino. Right here in what must be Vegas.

Where all can finally be forgiven. Right? Please?

Pascal #4 cowers in fear, black out.

End of play.