

BURST

by Philana Omorotionmwan

CHARACTERS

GIRL

SCIENCE/FACTS/TRUTH

(GIRL with a bottle of bubbles and her cell phone. SCIENCE/FACTS/TRUTH stands "powered down." GIRL looks around as if she is about to tell a secret. She beckons the audience closer to her. Closer. She moves to them.)

GIRL

My breath is magic.
It can make
tiny little planets
covered in rainbows
that spin underneath the tiptoe feet
of fairies.
You wanna see?

(She blows bubbles. She spends some time being delighted by the bubbles. Perhaps she chases after some or catches a few. Or loses herself in movement.)

Did you see them?

(A moment.)

Nuh-unh. You're lying.
The fairies are too tiny for anyone's eyes but mine.
Only I can see them.
Well, I can feel them.
That's how I know they're real.
That's how I know they're there.
Because I feel them.

(She blows a single bubble.)

And when one world ends,

(She pops a bubble.)

I can always create another.

(She blows a single bubble.)

And another.

(She blows a single bubble.)

And another.

(She blows a single bubble. She blows several bubbles and is delighted by them. She picks up her cell phone and begins to scroll through it.)

The Science of Soap Films and Soap Bubbles.

(SCIENCE/FACTS/TRUTH "powers up," but GIRL doesn't notice him.)

GIRL

A soap bubble is-

SCIENCE/FACTS/TRUTH

An extremely thin film of soapy water enclosing air that forms a hollow sphere with an iridescent surface.

GIRL

Who are you?

SCIENCE/FACTS/TRUTH

What. Not who.

GIRL

What?

SCIENCE/FACTS/TRUTH

I'm science. I'm facts. I'm truth.

(GIRL goes back to reading.)

GIRL

"When light shines onto a bubble it appears to change color. Unlike those seen in a rainbow—"
But my planets are made of rainbows.

(She blows bubbles. The music starts again.)

See?

SCIENCE/FACTS/TRUTH

"Unlike the colors seen in a rainbow, which arise from differential refraction, the colors seen in a soap bubble arise from interference of light reflecting off the front and back surfaces of the thin soap film. Depending on the thickness of the film, different colors interfere constructively and destructively."

GIRL

What does that mean? What's...

SCIENCE/FACTS/TRUTH

Differential refraction?

GIRL

Yeah that.

SCIENCE/FACTS/TRUTH

It's science. It's a fact.

GIRL

It's boring.

(GIRL returns to reading.)

"Soap bubbles are spheres because of"

GIRL
 "the complex
 mathematical problem
 of minimal surface. Bubbles
 assume the shape of
 least surface area possible
 containing a given volume."

SCIENCE/FACTS/TRUTH
 "the complex
 mathematical problem
 of minimal surface. Bubbles
 assume the shape of
 least surface area possible
 containing a given volume."

GIRL
 No, no, no.
 Don't say that.
 Take it back. Bubbles are round because they're tiny
 planets that I made. And they spin under the tiptoe feet of
 fairies. I can feel them.
(A moment.)
 My breath is magic. Isn't it?

SCIENCE/FACTS/TRUTH
 Nope.
 "When you add soap to the water molecules, it reduces the
 surface tension. Their tight grasp on each other becomes
 slippery. This allows the surface to stretch into a bubble,
 which is easily formed when air passes through."
 That's air from anywhere. Your breath isn't magic. Anyone's
 breath, any old air will do.
*(SCIENCE/FACTS/TRUTH takes the wand from
 GIRL and blows bubbles. He then waves the
 wand madly.)*

GIRL
 No! No! My breath is magic!
 I don't like you! Go away!

SCIENCE/FACTS/TRUTH
 I'm not going anywhere. Once a fact is discovered it stays.

GIRL
 Oh yeah?

SCIENCE/FACTS/TRUTH
 Yeah.

GIRL

We'll just see about that.

(GIRL holds down the power button on the phone.)

Slide to power off.

SCIENCE/FACTS/TRUTH

Careful. Careful. I wouldn't do that if I were you.

(GIRL turns off the phone.

SCIENCE/FACTS/TRUTH "powers down".)

GIRL

My breath is magic.

(She blows bubbles.)

My breath is magic.

(She blows bubbles.)

My breath is magic!

(She blows bubbles. She spends some time being delighted by the bubbles. Perhaps she chases after some or catches a few. Or loses herself in movement.)

END OF PLAY