

'Slim Jim & the 7-11 Girl'

By: Timothy Holloway

Based off the song "Slim Jim and the Seven Eleven Girl" by Gaelic Storm

Staging:

Stage right - seven eleven counter of some kind. Cash register, stuff to buy, etc. **Travel brochures.**

Center stage (maybe favouring stage right) - Shelves for 711 products. Miscellaneous product on these. Maybe two sets or just one. But fill them with typical gas station merchandise. Food, hats, drinks, etc.

Stage left (Again, maybe favouring center based off of the shelves. Spot outside the store is important) - Maybe just establish this as convention but a door. Physical door would be great. But if that is unattainable, then convention is fine.

Other things needed: A place outside of the shop for him to talk on the phone and such

Characters:

James- Average everyday dreamer. Hopeless romantic. Oblivious. Overall kind. Awkward/klutz when nervous but attempts to feign confidence. Usually results in his misspeaking. Costume: casual. Change jacket or hoodie if you want to show changing clothes from different days

Mari- Works at 7-11, dreamer as well, but much less open about it. More practical. No nonsense. But hates how dull her life is. Constantly looking at the travel brochures at the counter. They are her prized possessions since they are her window out of her world into the rest of the world. If anything happens near the register, she may check to make sure they're okay. Sassy. Costume: Uniform shirt (polo?) and pants. No change needed.

Customer- someone who is inexplicably always at the 7-11 when James is. Innocent bystander of the wreck that is James falling for Mari. Change clothes day by day to show difference if you want

'Slim Jim & the 7-11 Girl'

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[Lights up]

[James walking in front of the store on the phone with his friend. Crossing to left stage 'in front' of store to the door]

James

Yeah. [pause] Yeah, I know. I just got to the 7-11. I'll grab the chips and be right there. [pause as if listening] well which do you want?? [pause] both. You really think you should eat two family sized bags of spicy nacho doritos and flaming hot Cheetos? You can barely handle mild salsa. [pause] Two bags of each?!?! You know what? Fine! But you owe me a pack of slim jims for this. No, not now. Later. Next movie night. And they are not disgusting, they are no worse than your average hot dog. [pause] No, I don't know how they're made. [pause] oh... That is a fair point.. whatever. I'll be there soon. [hangs up]

[enter's store where there is only Mari and one other customer. He looks up as he reaches the shelves and sees her. To him, she is the most beautiful, amazing, wonderful woman who is not giving him any sort of attention right now but is instead looking at a travel magazine of some kind] [Customer and Mari are having a conversation about the travel brochures at this time. Mari is very ecstatic about it. Customer is just trying to get back to shopping.

[he is almost always in the way of the other customer]

[After a moment when he realizes he was staring, he stops and continues to sneak glances at her while looking at products. She will occasionally look up for him to hurriedly look away. Typical cliché. At one point he crosses in front of the shelves due stage right and goes behind them as if to look at more merchandise. Pops head from side or top to see her again. Finally she catches him looking and he panics. Grabs a slim jim and some chips and goes up to the counter. Followed a moment later by the other customer so they must wait on him]

[James places chips on the counter]

Mari

Hello, will that be all today?

James

Uh huh, uh, yeah I think so. [waits a moment before realizing he was so lost in her to remember to put the slim jim on the counter] Oh! Sorry! Here.

Mari

[only slightly put off] And one slim jim. Gotcha.

James

[Trying to start conversation and remembering the one he had with his friend earlier] Ya know, that is a bad hot dog.

Mari

[pause to observe the slim jim] Yeah.. I would have guessed that much myself believe it or not..

James

Wait, no. no. I meant that it is as hot as a bad dog.

Mari

Do you have something against dogs?

James

No! I meant as bad as a hot dog! No, I love dogs! I mean I obviously can't stop talking about them can I?

Mari

Hot dogs aren't dogs, you know that right?

James

Yeah, of course I know that! But I just mean they are like them

[Mari looks very annoyed and incredulous at this point. She shoves the slim jim back at him]

James

No, wait! I mean they're called dogs because they look like a dachshund!

Mari

I have a dachshund! Is that what you think about when you eat hotdogs? That's disgusting!

James

No! I can explain, just let me-

[other customer getting extremely impatient moves him in some manner. Probably ends with him tripping or almost doing so]

Customer

Move it, dog breath. You're upsetting her and you've been checked out already.

[James, looking defeated and defensive, slowly exits the store, but not before looking back at her and smiling. He hurries off stage where he came from.

James[offstage/during lights out]

I Forgot the chips!!

[next day]

James[downstage by the door]

[on the phone] Look, I know it may be crazy, but there is something about that girl. I can't get my mind off her! [pause] look I know I only met her once, and it didn't go well when I did; But, but! I know my problem! I am the worst at first impressions! I'll show up and after today, it will be as if yesterday never happened. [pause] what do you mean a week couldn't erase that impression?! It wasn't that bad! Look, I'll go in, talk to her, and then once I'm in good graces, I'll get the chips and I'll bring them to you. See you later. Wish me luck.

[hangs up phone and goes to enter store. As he opens the door, other customer is right next to it and gets nailed with the door or hand and goes down]

Customer

Your choice of expletive

Mari [looking up at the commotion]

Oh my word are you okay?! [hurries to the customer]

James

Why are you asking me? What about them?!

Mari

I wasn't asking you! I was asking them!

James

Oh, right!

[Mari starts to help the customer up]

Mari

[looking up and seeing who it is] You! *with disdain* [backs away from him: dropping the customer] [James immediately goes to help up the customer]

James

Ooh, so you remember me? [straightening up with a smile, dropping the customer again]

Mari

Yes! Sadly, I do!

James

Okay, yesterday was not the best introduction, I get tha-

Customer [finally getting off the floor]

Wasn't the best? I've seen better introductions in a morgue! And I thought that conversation was dead.

Mari

[turning to the customer, sincere, guiding them further into the store] I'm so sorry Sir/Ma'am. Are you okay?

Customer

Oh yeah, I'm fine. As long as slim jim here doesn't try and take me out again.

James

I am so sorry for that. It was an accident, I promise. You did get my name right though!

Mari

Excuse me?

James

Jim. Well, James, technically.

Mari

Alright then Slim Jim, I trust you can open the door and see yourself out safely if we all stand back by the register?

[Opens the door, about to leave]

James

But, this was better than yesterday, right?

Customer

That is a good point. Listening to him yesterday gave me a much worse headache.

Mari

Out please!

[James leaves and starts crossing in front of the store again]

James

She remembered... Maybe I should have given it a week before coming back

[Next day]

[Mari is mopping over by the door. James enters where he did the first time. As he crosses over to the door, she leaves to go get the wet floor sign. James enters and immediately slips on the wet floor and ends up on the ground. Mari comes over and puts the wet floor sign next to him. Customer comes over to him]

Customer

Try lying over there. It's a bit more comfortable in my experience.[Customer goes back to shopping]

James [struggling to get up]

Why are you always here??

[James gets up (Mari watching) and leaves. Stops right outside the door. Deep breath. Comes right back in. *Pointedly* avoids wet floor. Grabs chips and goes to the register.]

Mari

Thank you for trying to help, but the mop worked better than your back.

James

Just trying to do my part [Tries to lean on register. Knocks off special display]

Mari

If trying to do your part is making me do my job over again then you're hired!

James

I should go-

Mari

Yeah you should!

[James Leaves, but before he does]

James

Can I at least have the name of the person I keep having to apologize to?

Mari

[in disbelief almost] It's Mari. Now if you'll excuse me [starts to pick up items, obviously upset, starts to say mostly to herself] Oh no! Now there's gum stuck to Tahiti...

James

[Hears her as he's leaving. Gets kind of excited] Ooh! Did you say Tahiti? Have you ever-?

Mari

[Interrupts him angrily whilst clutching magazines] Were you not just leaving??

[James hurries out deep in thought]

[Next day as James exits the store]

[Day starts with him walking in the door. Mari is at a shelf re-stocking items. Customer is behind the shelf]

Customer

And I was having such a good day [hides behind something]

Mari

Ah, there you are! What will it be today? Concussion? Knocking the shelves over? Or what was it last week? Somehow angering a hornet's nest enough for them to chase you in here, right?

James

I am so sorry for all of that, it was an accident I promise. [Grabs a slim jim and waits at the register]

Mari [Makes her way to the register]

And that's it for today?

James

This, and a question I've wanted to ask since I met you. Would you go on a date with me? Tonight. I can meet you on the corner and we can walk to see a movie or something.

[Customer pops head out. Mari stands in shock. James continues to look hopeful]

Mari [in obvious and understandable disbelief]

Yeah... No.

James [not getting it, only hearing the yeah, excited]

Really??

Mari

Oh I am very certain about this.

Customer

Even I can tell you she is pretty certain about this.

James

Yes of course! Um, great! I'll see you then!

[customer and Mari visibly confused as James leave and immediately calls his friend]

James

Hey! Dude, I got it! [pause] No not the chips! She said she would go out with me. We are going to meet out on the corner and-[lights dim into the next day]

[Next Day]

James

[continuing conversation from off stage] so I waited for a few hours and she never showed. I just went back to the flat and watched a movie. I hope everything is alright. [pause] that's a good point, I hope her dog is okay too.. I'll find out and I will let you know. [hang up]

[Enters store and walks to the register where Mari is]

James

Hey! How's your Dachshund?

Customer [Standing up from behind the shelves]

Well his hips are hurting a bit lately but nothing a trip to the vet can't fix.

Mari

[Just as confused as James] He was talking to me! When did you get here?

Customer

Just when you think someone is starting to care...

Mari

I wish I could say things like that still surprised me... But what do you mean?

James

Figured he might have been sick since you never showed up last night and I wanted to che-

Mari

Whoa, whoa. Last night? What do you mean?

James [kind of confused]

The date...?

Mari

The one I said No to?

James

[Realization] Oh.. you said-oh... That is not what I thought you said at all.

Mari

Yeah, I figured that was the case.

James

What about tonight?

Mari

What?

James

Tonight. You and me. Maybe a movie.

Mari

Not if every other man on earth were dead, Jimmy

James

You don't mean that

Mari

I don't know, I just might

James

What if it was only Me and... uh...(insert your choice of hated male celebrity/character/historic figure i.e. Henry VIII) left? Then?

Mari

I hate how much I have to think about this answer.

James

So it's possible! Meet on the corner tonight-

Mari

Wait, it's still a no.

James

I can pay, and I'll see you then

Mari

Wait, no! Don't leave!

Turn around and look me in the eye. Repeat what I am telling you

James

Is that a hard no?

Mari

No! No, just repeat what I said

James

No.

Mari

Good. Now you're getting it

James

No, I mean... No.

Mari

What?

James

I just want to know why first.

Mari

Why? You want to know why? Let's see here, you have endangered me and my customer 80% of the times you've been here, you have wrecked store displays, you have been a danger to yourself, you have been here every day for weeks

bringing who knows what through that door! I never thought, in my life, I would ever have to chase a koala bear out of my store. But here we are! You compared my dog to your dinner, and then you also knocked over my only window out of this shop and yes I know that is only a small thing, but those travel brochures are the only way I am getting any sort of freedom in this place! Are those enough reasons for you?

James

Look, most of those really are good reasons. Valid, and completely my fault. Uh, Except for the Koala?

Costumer [Pops up]

Yeah, um... About that. That was me. Sorry about Reginald. He gets... Lonely.

[Marie and James look at them. It's silent before the Customer eases their way out of sight once more. James and Marie turn back to one another]

James

But I promise- that's not who I am. That's just the nerves I have had trying to get to talking to you

Mari

Oh really? Sure looks like you! Big nose and all!

James

Well beauty is only skin deep! It's what's inside that counts right? So let me tell you.

Mari

Tell me what?

James

What I'm really like. Likes and dislikes. Dreams.

Mari

Fine! Tell me what you like. The faster I know, the faster I get you out of here.

James

Would saying 'You' be an adequate answer?

Mari

So help me, Slim Jim-

James

Sorry. Not the right time. But in all seriousness; walks, sunsets, motorcycles, movies, art, and finally getting to travel around the world. Then I can finally meet and learn about more places. Break away from my norm here. Create a life worth living, and-

Mari [Trying to interrupt]

Stop.

James [hardly bothered]

And you can understand some of that. Can't you? That's why you care so much about those brochures.

Mari[looking in longing understanding at the travel magazines]

I do. I really do.

James [starting to ramble]

I do still understand if you don't want to give it a shot, but I think we have a bit more in common than either of us thought and I for one am sure that I feel something really special and-

Mari

Okay, Shut up. I will meet you on the corner. [going over to check the customer out who has the last bag of spicy chips] We can go see a movie. I don't know where this will go, but I guess there is only one way to really find out. This really could be something good. What's the worst thing that could happen?

Customer

With his track record? Is that a question you really need to ask?

James

Well, before I leave, there is one thing.

Mari

After all the trouble you've caused? One more thing?

James

Do you have any spicy chips I can buy? I owe a friend of mine.

Mari

We just sold our last bags

James

Just now? But who-

[Turns to customer who crunches a forlorn chip]

James and Mari

Who are you?

[Curtain]