

JONATHAN BALL / from **Clockfire**

The Play Begins

The play begins. And then the play begins. And then the play begins. And then the play begins.

And the play begins. And the play begins. And then the play begins. And the play begins.

But then. The play begins. The play begins. The play begins.

They Come Back

The actors take the stage, bow to the audience, then slit their own throats.

The audience is horrified. They shriek, call ambulances, flee. But they come back the next night. They come back.

The Future

The actors reveal, for a small audience, the significant world events of the next fifty years. The audience listens, absorbs everything. When the play ends, they return home, silent still. And now it is their turn to act.