

How Do You Know?

A very short play by

William Missouri Downs

CAST OF CHARACTERS

PEGGY

&

SAMANTHA

(Two similar women with identical baby carriages)

SETTING

A Park Bench

(Lights up on PEGGY and SAMANTHA, two mothers sitting on a park bench. As they talk, they gently rock their baby carriages.)

(SAMANTHA takes out a baby bottle.)

PEGGY

You're not going to feed that bottle to your baby.

SAMANTHA

What?

PEGGY

Formula.

SAMANTHA

So?

PEGGY

It causes immune system shortfall and cell-culture contamination.

SAMANTHA

Where did you hear that?

PEGGY

Fox and Friends.

SAMANTHA

I heard that breastfeeding is the problem.

PEGGY

No. Really?

SAMANTHA

Yes, breastfeeding causes thinning in the membranes of your vagina?

PEGGY

Where did you hear that?

SAMANTHA

Google news.

PEGGY

Strange, I heard that it was pollution that causes thinning membranes.

SAMANTHA

No, that's beef hormones - It also causes men's hair to fall out and teenage girls to grow abnormally large breasts.

Where did you hear that?
PEGGY

Buzzfeed.
SAMANTHA

Is it getting cold?
PEGGY

I heard it's going to be a long winter.
SAMANTHA

Where did you hear that?
PEGGY

Channel 5.
SAMANTHA

I heard on Channel 7 that global warming will soon end winter as we know it.
PEGGY

Oh that's just fake news.
SAMANTHA

Oh. Did you watch Ellen Degeneres' "It's a New You" diet show last week?
PEGGY

Missed it. What's the secret?
SAMANTHA

Salmon. At least three times a week.
PEGGY

I heard that salmon has unacceptably high PCB contaminant levels.
SAMANTHA

Where?
PEGGY

CNN or was it MSNBC?
SAMANTHA

What difference does it make - Who can afford salmon today anyway?
PEGGY

Not to worry, I heard on ABC News that things are going to get better next year.
SAMANTHA

Really, cause I heard on Fox Business that there'll be another big down turn right after Christmas.
PEGGY

SAMANTHA

Oh, did you hear that our national debt is so out of control that we each owe almost \$60,000 to foreign countries?

PEGGY

I heard that debt isn't as important as debt-to-income ratio. Which, according to the experts, is just fine.

SAMANTHA

Where did you hear that?

PEGGY

The View.

SAMANTHA

Oh, did you watch their show about how artificial preservatives cause neck cancer?

PEGGY

And divorce.

SAMANTHA

No, really.

PEGGY

Yeah, I heard they found high levels of artificial preservatives in the brains of husbands who cheat.

SAMANTHA

I heard that pesticides cause homosexuality.

PEGGY

No. Where?

SAMANTHA

Facebook.

PEGGY

I heard that homosexuality was a sin against God.

SAMANTHA

Where?

PEGGY

Rush Limbaugh.

SAMANTHA

I heard we should be tolerant and accepting.

PEGGY

Where did you hear that?

SAMANTHA

Apple News.

PEGGY

I heard they now have scientific evidence that homosexuality is caused by a combination of genes.

SAMANTHA

I heard that was a hoax.

PEGGY

Really.

SAMANTHA

Yeah, they said there is in fact no such evidence - It was all made up by homosexual scientists who hate god.

PEGGY

I heard PBS said there was no factual evidence proving the existence of god.

SAMANTHA

Huh, cause I heard that science has now proven that god is really out there.

PEGGY

Where did you hear that?

SAMANTHA

PBS Science Friday, maybe, or was it The Big Bang Theory.

PEGGY

That's not what I read on Twitter, they said there is no way to prove it.

SAMANTHA

No, that's evolution. I watched a special the other day that said evolution was a hoax made up by homosexual scientists who hate god.

PEGGY

Tucker Carlson told me that most scientists aren't religious.

SAMANTHA

God's Country Radio Network told me that science and religion have kissed and made up. They're all now in agreement that the world is 6000 years old.

PEGGY

I heard it was billions and billions of years old.

SAMANTHA

I heard that the creation was created in only six days.

PEGGY

Where did you hear that?

SAMANTHA

The Republican National Convention.

PEGGY

Strange because I heard that it was all created in a single afternoon.

SAMANTHA

Really?

PEGGY

I heard that the great Father of All Spirits woke up the Sun Mother, who ventured into the dark caves where her internal heat melted the ice creating rivers, and streams, and the world as we know it.

SAMANTHA

Where did you hear that?

PEGGY

Not sure, might have been the Public Access Channel.

SAMANTHA

Cause I heard that we should believe in God-the-Father-almighty-creator-of-heaven-and-earth-and-in-Jesus-Christ-his-only-Son-our-Lord-who-was-conceived-by-the-Holy-Spirit-born-of-the-Virgin-Mary-suffered-under-Pontius-Pilate-was-crucified-died-and-was-buried-He-descended-into-hell-the-third-day-he-rose-again-from-the-dead-he-ascended-into-heaven-and-is-seated-at-the-right-hand-of-the-Father-from-thence-he-shall-come-to-judge-the-living-and-the-dead.

PEGGY

Where did you hear that?

SAMANTHA

Hannity.

PEGGY

I heard that the world is coming to an end.

SAMANTHA

No kidding.

PEGGY

Yeah, the number of earthquakes is up and that's a sign that the end is just around the corner.

SAMANTHA

Strange cause I heard that the number of earthquakes is way down.

PEGGY

Where did you hear that?

SAMANTHA

Glen Beck Radio.

PEGGY

No, the number of earthquakes is way up. So are tsunamis.

SAMANTHA

Where did you hear that?

PEGGY

Might have been the Dolly Parton Christmas Special.

SAMANTHA

I heard that she wasn't a very good singer.

PEGGY

I heard she was best ever.

SAMANTHA

Not according to Dr. Phil.

PEGGY

I heard that Dr. Phil's advice is harmful. People who watch his show are eight times more likely do a school shooting.

SAMANTHA

Where did you hear that?

PEGGY

Catholic Perspective Today?

SAMANTHA

Cause I heard that his Nielsen ratings are way up.

PEGGY

Entertainment Tonight said they were way down.

SAMANTHA

I heard his up and down weight problem is caused by allergies.

PEGGY

I heard it was depression.

SAMANTHA

I heard he doesn't run enough.

PEGGY

I heard on National Geographic that running causes kidney stones--.

SAMANTHA

Oh, I forgot to tell you. My little Sarah said the cutest thing. She said, Mommy did you know that a cheetah can run faster than any other animal on earth.

PEGGY

Where did she hear that?

SAMANTHA

Animal Planet.

PEGGY

Cause my sweet little Debbie told me that she heard on The Dog Whisperer that there were new doubts about the Cheetahs speed - That in fact antelopes are faster for short distances.

SAMANTHA
That's not what my little Sarah said. Cheetahs are faster.

PEGGY
That's not what Debbie heard.

SAMANTHA
Huh.

PEGGY
Huh. I wonder who's right?

SAMANTHA
Yeah, I wonder.

SAMANTHA
I suppose we could find out for ourselves?

PEGGY
How would we do that?

SAMANTHA
Don't know.

PEGGY
I guess we'd have to go to Africa.

SAMANTHA
Probably so.

PEGGY
And find a healthy cheetah.

SAMANTHA
Yeah.

SAMANTHA
And an antelope.

PEGGY
And a car.

SAMANTHA
Yeah, we'd need a fast car.

PEGGY
We'd then have to test the car's speedometer to make sure it's accurate.

SAMANTHA
Yes, that would be important.

SAMANTHA
And then we'd have to get the cheetah and the antelope running.

Really fast.

PEGGY

Yeah.

SAMANTHA

It would be best not to get them running at the same time cause the cheetah would most likely get distracted and eat the antelope.

PEGGY

You're right separate tests would be best.

SAMANTHA

And then once they're running we'd have to follow them in the car.

PEGGY

Or get us one of those speed guns the cops use.

SAMANTHA

That would work too.

PEGGY

And we'd have to test the speed gun to make sure it's accurate.

SAMANTHA

Right.

PEGGY

And we'd have to get someone else to repeat the experiment to verify our results. You know, some sort of peer-review process.

SAMANTHA

Someone we don't know, someone very different from us - Someone with no political or religious agendas.

PEGGY

Yes. No political or religious agendas would be best.

SAMANTHA

And then we'd know.

PEGGY

You're right, we'd know.

SAMANTHA

Huh.

PEGGY

Huh.

SAMANTHA

Whatdoya know.

PEGGY

Yeah, whatdoya know.

SAMANTHA

(They sit there rocking their baby carriages as the lights
fade.)

THE END