WRITING SAMPLE
Syr Beker

The Endless Cleopatra Replication Terminal

About this writing sample:

The Endless Cleopatra Replication Terminal was part of an 8 night serial commissioned for the [San Francisco Olympians Theater festival](), and was performed at the Exit Theater. The theme of the festival that year was Roman Gods/ Goddesses and legendary figures.

The commission was for a eight-night serial on defining and being defined by Cleopatra. I was Co-Director and Co-head writer. I wrote the frame story that carried each of 7 other writers' work. I also wrote this piece imagining Cleopatra in the future. When my excellent co-Director went into labor during the festival, I also directed all the plays (7 different stories and groups of actors and performers).

THE ENDLESS CLEOPATRA REPLICATION TERMINAL
(Sample of a ten minute play).

CHARACTERS
Senior Roboticist (woman, 60s-70s)
Junior Roboticist (male, young)
Cleopatras 1-3: all different, any gender or age but must be able to embody "Cleopatra."
Cleopatra Bob – completely unlike Cleopatra
The playwright requests at least 50% BIPOC casting across lead roles (in this case either Senior or Junior, and at least 2 of the Cleopatras).

A room with monitors. A person tied up and hooded, struggles occasionally.

Next to the bound figure YOUNG ROBOTICIST – JUNIOR – has his head in his hands. Next to him. To the right, the three other Cleopatras are in Sarcophagus pose. SENIOR is pacing up a storm that's about to blow.

<div align="center">SENIOR</div>

What the hell have you done?

<div align="center">JUNIOR</div>

 I did everything you taught me. I just took it one step further.

<div align="center">SENIOR</div>

<div align="center">*Slow boil → volcano*</div>

I taught you to make kittie robots for children who have nothing to hold.
I taught you to make puppy robots to dig people out from avalanches and landslides.
I did not teach you to make an army of murderous exploding sexbots.

<div align="center">JUNIOR</div>

I made Cleopatra. I brought history back to life.

<div align="center">SENIOR</div>

Oh. Pardon me. You made an army of murderous exploding sexbot *Cleopatras*.

                         JUNIOR
They were never supposed to be sexbots.

                         SENIOR
Don't feed me that line. You knew what would happen. You know what
the world is. What have I taught you? An AI is only as good as…

                         JUNIOR
…. As the society that makes it. But I didn't know they'd explode. It's not
my fault.

                         SENIOR
Whose fault is it?

                         JUNIOR
Mom, please.

                         SENIOR
Don't call me Mom.

                         JUNIOR
You're the closest thing I have.

                         SENIOR
Abort the program.

                         JUNIOR
I can't abort. We can still fix it. There's time.

Sound FX: Pounding on the door.

                         SENIOR
There's no time.

                         JUNIOR
That door's built to hold. Help me fix it. Please. Mom.

                         SENIOR
Fine. Tell me what happened.

A note on the Cleopatras. They are all completely different and they are all Cleopatra. They speak quickly and in chorus, so the lines read left to right, one picking up right after the other. The Oh-Wey-Oh is the vocal riff from the chorus of Walk Like An Egyptian ("All the Ancient Tombs, Oh-Wey-Oh"). It's also the little startup jingle Junior gave them, like the one Brian Eno composed for Microsoft Word.

JUNIOR

I was playing around with the program. I used everything you taught me. And it worked! So I launched the 3D Printer.
It was working. I made a Cleopatra.

CLEOPATRA ONE	**CLEOPATRA TWO**	**CLEOPATRA THREE**
FLASHBACK!		
THE THREE CLEOPATRAS MAKE THE SOUND OF A 3D PRINTER.		

JUNIOR
To the Cleos,
Yes. Come on baby. You can do this.

SOUND FX: The sound of the first Cleopatra being born sounds exactly like you want it to. The cartoon snake charmer songs and all the fanfare. The 3D printer prints a Cleopatra.

JUNIOR

Oh my god. It's working.

CLEOPATRA ONE

Oh Wey Oh.
Hello, I am Cleopatra, queen of Egypt, seductress of emperors, destroyer of empires.

JUNIOR

You're real! You're alive!

SOUND FX: The sound of a Cleopatra being born

CLEOPATRA ONE	CLEOPATRA TWO	CLEOPATRA THREE
	Oh wey oh. Hello, I am Cleopatra, queen of Egypt, seductress of emperors, destroyer of empires.	Oh wey oh. Hello, I am Cleopatra, queen of Egypt, seductress of emperors, destroyer of empires.
Oh wey oh. Hello, I am Cleopatra, queen of Egypt, seductress of emperors, destroyer of empires.	Hello, I am Cleopatra, queen of Egypt, seductress of emperors, destroyer of empires.	Hello, I am Cleopatra, queen of Egypt, seductress of emperors, destroyer of empires.

(end of sample)