

SYNOPSIS OF *opera.com.edy*
[opera-dot-com-dot-ee, dee, why]

CAST:

Three young professional women:

Kim, lyric soprano, an engineer

Jeanine, soprano or mezzo-soprano, a computer scientist

Laia, mezzo-soprano or alto, a surgeon

One natural man:

Martin, baritone, a self made dot-com billionaire

One artificial man:

Adam, mezzo-soprano or alto, trousers role, an artificial man created by Jeanine, Laia and Kim

Women's Chorus (SSA)

Instrumental ensemble: flute, clarinet in Bb and A, bassoon, horn, string bass, piano and percussion

Jeanine, Laia and Kim are having trouble finding the perfect man, or even one who is minimally sensitive and caring. In three quick cuts we see each of the women out on a date with the same man, Martin. Martin is handsome, professional and self-assured, and he manages to be a rude, insensitive bore in three completely different ways.

Being scientists, the three women try to figure out what the design flaw in men must have been. The three joke that with all of their skills and knowledge, together they could construct a better man than nature provided. Suddenly they realize that the idea might be more than just a joke. They actually might be able to construct an Adequately Designed Artificial Man (ADAM, for short).

The creation of Adam follows. Since Adam is a creation of women, the operatic convention of the trouser role (a woman singing as a male character) makes contemporary sense. Adam is innocent, caring and bewildered; and the three women begin a course of lessons, teaching Adam how to be a proper man. Adam has no idea that he is actually a machine.

While out on a field trip with the three women, Adam meets Martin. Martin is immediately jealous. And when the women tell Martin that this new fellow Adam is the perfect man Martin challenges Adam to a contest. In the meantime Martin has searched through Jeanine's computer records and discovers the truth about Adam.

The manliness contest begins, but Martin plays his trump card and reveals to Adam that he is not a man at all but merely a machine. Devastated, Adam runs off. The women rush after Adam and Martin follows along just to gloat.

The women find Adam and try to explain their motives and to comfort him. But Adam confronts the women with their pride and the folly of making a creature who has no place in the world. Adam demands that he be deprogrammed and be disassembled back into the jumble of parts that he was before the women's experiment. The world is too painful a place, and Adam says he will never fit in.

Just when everything seems hopeless, the most unlikely character has a change of heart and everyone comes to learn what it really means to be human.