In-Class Exercise: Composition

Divide into groups of 3-5.
Each group will create a 5 minute piece which is an expression of a Sam Shepard/ Fool for Love world.
The piece will be in three parts, each with a clear beginning, middle, and end, and each separated by a theatrical DEVICE such as a blackout, a voice-over, a bell, etc.

The 3 parts are titled:
1. The way things look in this world.
2. The way things sound in this world.
3. The people are in this world.

You MUST include:
1. A setting which is the perfect architectural environment for your piece.
2. A clear role for the audience. Are we voyeurs? Judges? Historical archaeologists?
3. A Revelation of Space. Example: The curtain rises and we see the stage, OR a door opens and we see endless corridors behind it.
4. A Revelation of Object. Example: Someone opens a box and there is a gun inside it (or a head…)
5. A surprise entrance
6. Music from an unexpected source. Example: The doctor opens his medical bad and the aria of an operatic soprano emanates from inside it.
7. 15 seconds of simultaneous unison action.
8. A broken expectation.

The objects:
A red dress
A rocking chair
A suitcase
A shotgun
A bottle of whiskey
A rope
A shoe
A musical instrument

The sounds:
Door slam—exaggerated
Head beating against a wall
Car tires squealing on pavement
A gun shot
Whispering
A scream

The actions:
Clutching a leg
A slap
A kiss
A door slam
Head banging against wall.

The only text you can use:
I got a piece of ground in Wyoming.
Your neck.
I’m a nice guy.
You can take it, right?
I don’t understand how I could hate you so much.
I promise.
Don’t go.
That’s the woman of my dreams.
He’s gone.

You have 30 minutes to make your piece. Go.