SAY GAY! LOUDER! TELLING OUR STORIES WITH MUSIC FROM LGBTQ+ ARTISTS, ALLIES, & ICONS

Written by

Rick Garman

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CAST OF CHARACTERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

SCAM (ANTI-DRAG LAWS): A drag queen seeing a protest. SHAY (COMING OUT): A teacher talking to a student. LOGAN (BULLYING): A bullied student.

LENNOX (BODY IMAGE): A person getting ready for a date. JUSTIN (UNCONDITIONAL LOVE): A personal journey.

KIRBY (DRUGS): An addict at an NA meeting.

ELLIS (PRONOUNS): A poet standing up for gender identity. RICK (AIDS): A personal journey.

CODY (DATING): A bartender at a wedding who hates dating. SKYLER (CHOSEN FAMILY): A person at a queer social event. GREER (NO!): A person looking at a dating app.

SIDNEY (BI/PAN ERASURE): A lawyer arguing a custody case. BILLIE (ANTI-TRANS LAWS): A parent speaking to congress. BRETT (WORDS): A person at an open-mic talking about words. DAKOTA (HATE CRIMES): A person at their own funeral.

ROWAN (HATE CRIMES): A guide for Dakota.

LANE (LOSS): A personal journey.

AVERY (RELIGION): A preacher giving a fiery sermon. MADISON (DON'T SAY GAY): A teacher sharing tragic news. TATE (DON'T SAY GAY): A school principal hearing the news. SET:

Stage left is a simple table and two chairs.

Stage right is an easel with a series of large cue-card style signs that are not visible to the audience until indicated.

ACT 1 SCENE 1: FUCK YOU

EXT. STREET - DAY

LIGHT CUE A - LIGHTS FULL

As the lights come up, SCAM enters and looks out, stops, and gets a look on their face like they've eaten a bug.

SCAM

Oh, look. Protestors. People who have nothing better to do on a Sunday morning than stand outside a drag brunch wearing, cheap polycotton blend American flag t-shirts that were almost certainly made in China. Oh, and the signs. Let's see... "Drag gueens are not for kids." Oh, honey, kids love us! We're like cartoon characters. Do you know how much drag they see in cartoons? Bugs Bunny wore more slutty dresses than all the Kardashians combined. What else we got over there? Oh this is a classic. "Drag is not family friendly." Baby, families are fine, it's people like you that we aren't gonna be friendly to. Ιt just amazes me that they don't get this. Some movies are okay for kids and some aren't. Some music is okay for kids and some isn't. TV, animation, puppet shows! Some of it is appropriate and some of it isn't. The same applies to drag. At night, in the club, when the booze is flowing and the men are hot, I'm a big old ho. I will twerk this, I will jerk this, I will yank this, I will spank this. But at a drag brunch, with kids around? Girl, I am preacher's wife who brought the mac and cheese to the church social. No, this has nothing to do with protecting kids, it has to do with them not liking men in dresses. It's homophobia. It's hatred. So, I am going to go inside and entertain these families and we're all going to have the most fabulous time ever ...

SCAM (CONT'D)

because it's our last one. They're going to pass a law here, like they have in a lot of places, banning drag shows in public. And even though this is a private establishment, there are these big windows and ... well, they're afraid. And I don't blame them. So far it's just been misspelled signs and MAGA hats, but other places have had neo-nazis and AR-15s. And trust me when I tell you that you don't want to see my DMs on social media. I've been called everything from a pervert to a pedophile. And the death threats? (shakes head)

Am I scared? Absolutely. If you're not, you're not paying attention to what's going on out there. This is a fucking scary goddamn time to be a color on our rainbow. But that's not going to stop me. In fact, it emboldens me. If it's fight or flight, I'm going to fight every goddamn time.

(yells as if to protestor) Hey you! Yeah, you. The one with the sign that says "Stop grooming our children." The only thing I groom are my eyebrows, something you might want to consider since you only have the one.

- (starts to exit; turns back)
- Oh, and one more thing.

LIGHT CUE B - UPBEAT SONG

SOUND CUE 01-01-01: "FUCK YOU" BY LILY ALLEN

At some point during the song, the entire cast comes out with "Fuck You" balloons and dances along to the song.

Toward the end of the song, Scam holds up a sign that reads: "WE ARE NOT GOING TO LET HATE WIN"

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

ACT 1 SCENE 2: FIREWORK

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

LIGHT CUE A - LIGHTS FULL

As the lights come up SHAY takes a seat at the table.

SHAY Okay, the door's closed. What did you want to talk to about, Alex? (beat) Alex? Are you okay? (beat) I'll tell you what. Why don't I just talk for a minute? You know, when I started teaching here ... ten years ago, wow... I had no idea what I was doing. Seriously, I was terrified that I was going to mess it all up. I was going to be the 11th grade English teacher that was going to be responsible for an entire generation of illiterate juvenile delinguents. Ten years later I can say that not one of my students left here illiterate. The juvenile delinguent part... look, there's only so much "Wuthering Heights" can do, okay? (laughs) But, the one thing I know I did right? From the start, from day one, I wanted to make sure that this was more than just a classroom. I wanted it to be a haven. High school is hard. So much of what happens under this roof puts so much pressure on kids, you know? Pressure to get good grades, pressure to act a certain way, pressure to fit in. But this haven, this... sanctuary... I wanted it to be different. I mean, I still want you to learn and get good grades. That's why they pay me the big bucks. But the rest of it. That stops at that door. Here you can be whoever you want to be. Whoever you need to be. (beat) This badge? (MORE)

SHAY (CONT'D)

Yes, it's for a program called Out for Safe Schools. It means that you can feel safe talking to me about any questions you may be having about your sexuality or your gender identity or anything. The Los Angeles LGBT Center started it but it's all over the country... well... not all over. There are a lot of places where teachers can't wear things like this. I wouldn't even be able to have a conversation with anyone about it. But in this state, we can. You can talk to me. (beat - stands)

Yeah, no, that's okay, Alex. Τf you want to leave, it's cool, but I'm not going anywhere. I'll be here and you can talk to me. Ιt doesn't have to be today or tomorrow or next week or next year or the next five years. Nobody gets to tell you when you should have that conversation with me or your friends or your parents or anyone. You may never want to talk about it. Some people want to keep that part of their lives private and that's okay, too. That is your decision to make. You are not on anyone else's schedule no matter what they may say. But if you decide you do want to talk about it, I will be here. And I know it's scary and it can be overwhelming, but it's also I'm in awe of you for beautiful. even walking through that door.

LIGHT CUE D - FIREWORK EFFECT

SOUND CUE 01-02-01: "FIREWORK (ACOUSTIC)" BY KATY PERRY

Shay holds up a sign that reads: "WE ARE HERE WHEN YOU'RE READY"

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

ACT 1 SCENE 3: TITANIUM

EXT. CLOSET - DAY

LIGHT CUE G - LIGHTS LOW

As the lights come up we find LOGAN sitting on the floor, knees up to their chest. Their phone is on the floor.

LOGAN Mom... I need you to just listen... Please... I knew I was different when I was three. It's one of my first memories, actually. I saw how the boys acted. And I saw how the girls acted. And I didn't fit. It's not that I didn't fit in, it's that I didn't... fit. (beat) The bullying started not long after that. And yeah, I know, lots of kids get bullied and it's like whatever. It makes you tougher. Gets you ready for life. Kids are resilient. They survive, right? At least most of them do. But it's not whatever. (beat) It's not whatever, Mom. (beat) They said things every day. Every single day of my life someone has said something specifically designed to make me feel bad about myself... or maybe to feel better about themselves. I don't know. Maybe they're having their own questions about who they are, who they're attracted to, how their outside doesn't match their inside. But regardless of the motivation, it... it destroyed me. Or at least a part of me. A part I'm never going to get back. (beat) I spent my entire childhood waiting to turn 18. I thought once I did it would be ... different. Kids bully other kids, right? Adults don't bully adults. (beat) Right? (MORE)

LOGAN (CONT'D)

(beat) It was my birthday today. You made me pancakes. And I went to school this morning thinking, well this is it ... everything is going to change. And I walked in the front door and Danny Peters was standing there with his crew. And he said "Happy Birthday, Freak." (beat) And I thought, "No... this can't I'm an adult now. I can vote. be. I can join the army. I can get married." (beat) "I can buy a gun." (beat) I actually had that thought this morning. And then I thought, no ... I'm stronger than that. That piece of me they destroyed? It made me stronger. That part of me they took with their words and their looks and their fists... it's the part that believed in fairytales and Santa Claus and unicorns. It's the part that cared what they thought. What's left is... Bulletproof. (beat) Which is ironic, don't you think, I'm huddled in a janitor's Mom?. closet because someone came in and started shooting up our school. But I'm sure when this is all over there will be thoughts and prayers and vigils and it'll take time to heal. (beat) But kids are resilient. They survive, right? Right, Mom?

LIGHT CUE E - EMOTIONAL SONG

SOUND CUE 01-03-01: "TITANIUM (ACOUSTIC)" BY SIA

Logan holds up a sign that reads: "WE ARE NOT BULLETPROOF"

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

ACT 1 SCENE 4: SOULMATE

INT. BEDROOM - EVENING

LIGHT CUE A - LIGHTS FULL

As the lights come up, LENNOX is looking at themselves in a full-length mirror (unseen). They try to see how they look from every angle, then Lennox makes a face of distaste.

LENNOX

Nope.

Lennox exits and we hear them from off, as if going through their closet.

LENNOX (O.S.) (CONT'D) No. No. Fuck no. No. What the hell was I thinking? Nobody looks good in corduroy. Dear God, no. No. No. No.

Logan comes back out and stands there dejected for a moment and then pulls out their phone; dials.

> LENNOX (CONT'D) I'm not going. No, I'm not. No, I'm not. No, I'm not! Because I have nothing to wear. No, I don't. No, I don't! I have been through my entire closet three times. Ι have tried on sixteen different outfits and I look like shit in every single one of them. I even put on the silver pants. Yes, the shiny ones that make my ass look like a disco ball. You'd think that would be plural, but no. Those pants make my ass look like a singular disco ball, which I don't even know how but... (beat) I know you hate those pants. Т hate those pants. Everybody on earth hates those pants - they can be seen from a great distance - but that's how desperate I am! (beat) It's not just a date! It's a first date! It could literally set the course for the rest of my life.

LENNOX (CONT'D) A life filled with love and happiness and joy thanks to the affection of the person I'm meant to spend the rest of my life with... or a life as a hoarder who gets eaten by their own cats and all because I look like shit in every single article of clothing I own. (beat)

We are not having this discussion. I don't have time for this! (beat - sigh - to mirror) I am not ugly. I have an incorrect image of my own body in my head. What I see when I look in the mirror is not what others see. Т have an unrealistic standard of beauty. This a problem in society but it is amplified in the LGBT community by our desire to not feel "other." I am not too or not enough of anything. I am brainwashed by a culture that cherishes physical attributes over emotional, spiritual, or intellectual ones. (beat) I am not ugly. I am not defective because I am not perfect.

Lennox takes a beat and looks at their outfit again - this time approving of it.

LENNOX (CONT'D) (beat - smiles) I hate that that works.

LIGHT CUE B - UPBEAT SONG

SOUND CUE 01-04-01: "SOULMATE" BY LIZZO

Lennox holds up a sign that reads: "WE ARE ALL BEAUTIFUL"

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

INT. MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

LIGHT CUE A - LIGHTS FULL

As the lights come up, Kirby is standing center to address the room.

KIRBY Hi, I'm Kirby, and I'm an addict. (beat) When they asked me to get up here and tell my story, I was worried to be honest. Not that you'd judge me or anything, but that you'd be bored. My tale of addiction woe is incredibly pedestrian and without very much drama. I didn't end up in a gutter, proverbial or otherwise. I didn't lose my life savings or my house or my dog. Not only did I not get arrested, I didn't do anything that could have gotten me arrested. Well, except for the doing drugs part. Because I did a laaaaa-ha-ha-hot of drugs. If I could swallow it, smoke it, snort it, drop it, or shove it up my ass for a quick booty bump, I did it. (beat) It even started boring. Someone at a bar told me I was cute and asked me if I wanted to party. I thought they meant two-for-one boneless wings at Dave and Busters. But no. They meant... (whispers) Drugs! (qasps) Molly. It was... I've spent years trying to find the exact right word to describe it and it doesn't exist, but the closest I can come up with is invincibility. Some people say it's euphoria, but that suggests that there isn't a care in I understood there were the world. cares - things to be afraid of. Ι just... wasn't. I wasn't afraid of anything.

KIRBY (CONT'D) Maybe for the first time in my life. (beat) I'll spare you the details of the next several years. The short version is that I did every drug known to man and I got away with It really didn't impact my it. life. I had a job, I had friends, I had family, a car. I paid my bills, I showed up on time. The list of people to whom I have to make amends is very short because I didn't really hurt or even disappoint anyone. (beat) Except for myself. Look, I'm not here to judge, God knows. Partying is a part of the LGBT culture. And not just at circuit parties and gay cruises. I can't tell you how many times someone chats me on an app and opens with "PNP?" A lot of people can only have sex if they're high. I was one of those people. I thought I was really only worth knowing when I was partying. Т thought it made me more connected, more uninhibited, but really it just made me... alone. Even when I was with someone. I was alone. (beat)

I needed more. I needed to connect to someone. Anyone.

LIGHT CUE E - EMOTIONAL SONG

SOUND CUE 01-06-01: "ANYONE" BY DEMI LOVATO

Kirby holds up a sign that reads: "WE ARE WORTH KNOWING"

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

EXT. STAGE - NIGHT

LIGHT CUE A - LIGHTS FULL

As the lights come up, Ellis takes the stage. The following is delivered as a spoken word soliloquy.

ELLIS I, we, you, he, she, it, they Does it matter When I say the way I stress my Form of address?

Do you wonder Why I speechify?

Is a pronoun That profound?

You shake your head Dead to the notion That motion and e-motion Are not the same claim

Me, us, you, her, him, it, them You roll your eyes And condemn my identity The very thing to which I cling for my serenity

It's an obscenity

Mine, our, your, her, his, their Yes, there are those Who share they care On a scale so frail That their want is rendered In a six point font At the bottom of an email

Is your signature significant? Or is it signaling?

True or virtue Have you spent any time On the sublime investigation Of the foundational implication Of wanting to be heard?

ELLIS (CONT'D)

But it's just a word

Myself, yourself, herself Himself, itself, ourselves Yourselves, themselves Too often words are placed low On the shelves of thought We're taught that we ought to Speak carefully, but do we?

Of this I'm convinced Instead, a Prince said "Words are like shoes They're something to stand on And isn't life better With a really good pair of shoes?"

I matter You matter He matters She matters We matter They matter It matters

Don't complain Don't disdain Don't constrain And certainly... don't rain

LIGHT CUE B - UPBEAT SONG

SOUND CUE 01-07-01: "DON'T RAIN ON MY PARADE" FROM FUNNY GIRL

Ellis holds up a sign that reads: "WE ARE LISTENING"

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

ACT 1 SCENE 7: TRUE COLORS

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

LIGHT CUE A - LIGHTS FULL

Rick walks out with a tea light candle and holds it up.

RICK Everyone has their tea lights?. Don't turn them on now. You can turn them on when I turn mine on. I moved to LA when I was 18 in For all of you who are doing 1985. the math in your head to figure out how old I am, stop it. I started working in the gay bars in West Hollywood. This was the mid-tolate 1980s when AIDS was ravaging our community. Every day I'd go into the bar and someone would say, "Oh, did you hear Dan died. Mike died. Justin died." There were funerals every week. Funerals... plural. I lost probably a dozen friends but I knew hundreds that died. By 1995, 1 in every 9 gay men had been diagnosed with AIDS and 1 in 15 had died, most of them between the ages of 25 and 44. Τn that age group alone, it was about 160,000 people in just over a decade. That's more than the entire population the city of Savannah. Members of our community. Members of our family... practically an entire generation ... my generation ... gone.

LIGHT CUE E - EMOTIONAL SONG

SOUND CUE 01-08-01: "TRUE COLORS" BY BOYCE AVENUE

Rick holds up a sign that reads: "WE ARE NOT GOING TO FORGET"

END ACT 1 SCENE 7

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

ACT 1 SCENE 8: SOMEBODY TO LOVE

INT. CHAPEL - DAY

LIGHT CUE A - LIGHTS FULL

As the lights come up, CODY is standing center, looking out.

CODY I hate weddings. All the... stuff. The flowers and dress and the bridesmaids and the cake and the rings and the... there's so much Even so-called "simple" stuff. weddings. I'm a catering company bartender and I have been to your "simple" weddings. Nuclear physics are simpler. And don't get me started on gay weddings. The LGBTQIA+ community *loves* being extra. Why do you think there are so many letters in LGBTQIA+. It's not to be inclusive, it's because we have to have all the letters and punctuation. Is a plus sign punctuation? You get my point. But really the bigger thing for me is that weddings always just feel so... manufactured. Like here is this idyllic, "perfect love" version of us that we're never able to achieve again. It's like the wedding is the high point and everything else is downhill. (beat) I think the only thing worse than a wedding is the stuff you have to go

through to get to one. Dating. Relationships. Ugh. Talk about manufactured. You hide all your imperfections and quirks and, you know, truly awful things about yourself until you're so deep in that by the time you reveal who you really are, the other person is like, "I hate all of that but I'd hate having to start over more, so yeah, go ahead and pee in the shower." And again, it's even worse in our little rainbow corner of the world. Yeah, they are stereotypes.

CODY (CONT'D) Gay men don't do monogamy. Lesbians are monogamous by the third date. Never date a pansexual because they clearly won't commit to anything. That's all bullshit, of course... well... mostly bullshit. I mean, we've all had our moments, right? (beat) So, yeah, I hate dating and I hate weddings and I hate the stereotypes and I hate the things we do that reinforce those stereotypes and I hate that people think they have the right to pass judgment on other people's relationships like it's not good enough or won't last or doesn't make sense and most of all I hate that in the LGBTQIA+ world it is harder to find somebody to love and somebody to keep loving. I hate all that... but I love you. And I know these probably weren't the vows you were hoping for when you suggested we write our own, but there are two things I want to vow to you... First, I vow to do my best to love you every day with everything I have because everything I have is for you. And second... I vow to stop peeing in That's how much I love the shower. you. I vow these things because yeah it's harder to find somebody to love... but I did.

LIGHT CUE B - UPBEAT SONG

SOUND CUE 01-09-01: "SOMEBODY TO LOVE" BY QUEEN

Cody holds up a sign that reads: "WE ARE NOT STEREOTYPES"

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

ACT 1 SCENE 9: LOVE WHO YOU LOVE

INT. COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT

LIGHT CUE A - LIGHTS FULL

As the lights come up, we find Justin at a microphone as if doing a stand-up routine.

JUSTIN Even before my wife told me to.

SOUND CUE 01-05-01: SFX LAUGHTER

JUSTIN (CONT'D) No, my wife, she's great. Even after all these years she still thinks I have a body built for sin. It's sloth, but...

SOUND CUE 01-05-02: SFX LAUGHTER

JUSTIN (CONT'D) But seriously, my wife is amazing. She loves me unconditionally. See, I grew up in rural Indiana, which is like the opposite of unconditional. Everything there comes with conditions. Weather. Traffic. Parole. And to make matters worse, we're talking 1980s rural. Nancy was telling everyone "just say no." And Ronnie was saying ... well, anything except for the word AIDS apparently. Oh, yeah that was terrifying. I mean the TV commercials about it. "If you do drugs or are a man that has sex with another man or has sex near another man or even thinks about touching your dick with another man in a five mile radius, you're going to die!!!" I mean at that point, forget unconditional love, you just wanted to hope that whatever kind you had didn't kill you. (beat) And those commercials worked, I guess. I was scared to use drugs, and I was terrified of gays. Actually we didn't call them gays. We called them the F-word.

JUSTIN (CONT'D) No, not fairy. No, not fruit. Not fudgepacker. Wow, there are a lot of derogatory words for gay people that start with F. Somebody should look into that. Yeah, we called them that word, but in our defense everybody was using that word. Michael J. Fox used that word in Teen Wolf, so it must be okay, right? (beat) Where was I? Oh, right, my wife. I'm getting there, I promise. So, my family wasn't terribly religious but one day I met a good Christian girl and we had a good Christian wedding and a group of good Christian friends and a good Christian baby baptized in a good Christian church and we lived a good Christian life blessed by the unconditional love of God and a good Christian divorce ... wait. (beat) Yeah, my good little Christian family was broken. I was broken. It made me question everything and one of the answers that I realized is that the unconditional love of God... or at least the version that had been presented to me... well, fuck... it had a lot of conditions. (beat) And a few years go by and I met another woman. A funny, talented, kind, funny, beautiful woman who... (qasp) ...had gay friends. And did theater in a gay club. We are not in rural Indiana, Toto. She changed my entire world view. She taught me that true unconditional love - whether you're talking about between two people or between God and the little ant colony he runs down here - true unconditional love is not conditional. That blew my mind wide open and allowed me the freedom to admit to myself that I'm pan-sexual. How did that affect my day to day? It didn't. I'm happily married to my wife, and don't want anything, or anyone

(MORE)

else.

JUSTIN (CONT'D) But I sit easier with who I am. Like I said, my wife is amazing because the hand she extended to me as I emerged from the bunker that was my shielded, sheltered existence was this... if you love someone, whoever they are, let them grow and be who they really are. Let your love be the thing that helps them see themselves as good, and worthwhile, and whole, no matter what. Gender is irrelevant. So just... love who you love... unconditionally.

LIGHT CUE E - EMOTIONAL SONG

SOUND CUE 01-05-03: "LOVE WHO YOU LOVE" FROM A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE

Justin holds up a sign that reads: "WE ARE LOVED"

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

ACT 1 SCENE 10: YOU HAVE MORE FRIENDS THAN YOU KNOW

EXT. FIELD - DAY

LIGHT CUE A - LIGHTS FULL

As the lights come up, SKYLER, SCAM, JUSTIN, and SHAY are standing stage right engaged in a silent conversation.

SKYLER looks center, excuses themselves from the conversation, and goes to sit on a chair stage center facing out. They speak to an unseen person.

SKYLER Hi. Do you mind if I sit here? (sits) I'm Skyler. Nice to meet you. First time at one of these? Yeah, I figured. I can always spot the newbies at these queer mixers. This is the bench where they always sit. It's a great place to see the action but not get involved in it. It's the Switzerland of benches. How do I know? The first few times I came here, this is where I sat. I had seen the posts about it online - Pride Center social event. Meet new people. Get involved. (beat - shiver) It made my skin crawl. I'm not good at... people. Everyone always thinks I'm aloof and standoffish. I have what I call "resting leave me the fuck alone" face. And that was fine with me for a long time. I was used to flying solo. Т didn't have a lot of friends growing up... or... ever, if I'm being honest. When I moved here I didn't know anybody and I work from home, so I just... I got good at being alone. I'd work all day and spend every night binge watching. My Netflix queue asked me if I was okay. I mean, I'd go out every now and then. I hate bars but, there's usually a Switzerland stool, so at least I could tell myself I wasn't

drinking alone.

(beat)

SKYLER (CONT'D) I'd go to the Pride events of course, but it's easy to get lost in the crowd at those. It's weird... our community is supposed to be this inclusive rainbow coalition, right? Everyone is welcome. We're one big family. But really it's just like a big gay version of high school. You've got the popular kids, the cool ones, the theater queens, the jocks, the couples that seem to only hang with other couples. It's all tribes within the tribe. Gay men hang with gay men. Lesbians hang with lesbians. Then you've got the gender identities, the racial divisions, the age hang-ups. It's like a pie we keep slicing smaller and smaller until there's nothing left but crumbs. (beat) The question you're dying to ask is if I'm this loner, anti-social type, why did I start coming to social events? Because I realized that my life had become... limited. No one can be completely unlimited without winding up jailed, committed, or dead but if you live a limited life you might as well be all of the above. So, I came here. And I sat on the Switzerland bench. And I didn't talk to anybody the first few times. And then one day, someone came over and sat next to me and said, "Hi. Do you mind if I sit here?" (beat) Don't settle for crumbs. Take the whole pie. Your family is out there. They're waiting for you.

LIGHT CUE E - EMOTIONAL SONG

SOUND CUE 01-10-01: "YOU HAVE MORE FRIENDS THAN YOU KNOW" FROM GLEE

Skyler holds up a sign that reads: "WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU"

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

END ACT 1

INT. CAFE - DAY

LIGHT CUE A - LIGHTS FULL

As the lights come up, GREER stands center stage looking at their phone.

GREER No fat. No femme. No Black. No Asian. No old. No young. No pic, no chat. Local only. Clean only. Muscle only. No hook-ups. No strings. No bottoms. No tops. No No average. kissing. No... bus drivers? No farmers. Must have a job. Must read. No Fox News watchers... well... okay... Must love dogs. No vegetarians. No pescatarians. No Episcopalians. No Christians. No Arab. No Jews. No Canadians. No kinks. No fetishes. No cis-men. No White. No Mexicans. No one with kids. Coffee drinkers only. Must love pizza. Must love movies. No game players. Yeah, that makes sense ... oh... like Monopoly or gin rummy. Yeah, that's different. No different. No crazy. No needy. No co-dependent. No drugs. No alcohol. No carbs. Gluten-free only. No one over 40. No one under 30. No short. No tall. No ugly. (looks up - beat) Who's left? (beat) And how does it make you feel when you're one of the No's?

LIGHT CUE B - UPBEAT SONG

SOUND CUE 02-01-01: "FUCKING PERFECT" BY P!NK

Greer holds up a sign that reads: "WE ARE FUCKIN' PERFECT"

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

LIGHT CUE A - LIGHTS FULL

As the lights come up SIDNEY is at the table, stands, walks center and speaks as if addressing a judge.

SIDNEY Sidney Lewis for the Your Honor. mother in this case, Marcia Dunn. (beat) I want to start by stating that, like my client, I am bisexual. It's not exactly relevant in the strictest legal terms, but I wanted you to know that so you understand that this case is more than just a paycheck to me. I'm not just a lawyer who is going to spout a bunch of BS about stuff they don't actually know anything about. This is personal to me. (beat) We've heard all the snarky comments. A bisexual is just a person with commitment issues. The only reason to be bisexual is to increase the size of your dating pool. You're only pansexual until you start dating someone, then it's out the frying pan and into the gay or straight fire. My favorite is when someone asks me if I'm gay and

I say no. Then they ask me if I'm straight and I say no. And you can actually see the gears turning in their head.

(beat)

But this case proves that it is about more than just a label. The father wants to deny my client custody of her children *because* she's bisexual. His lawyer is going to get up here and tell you that being bisexual proves that Marcia is unstable. If she can "change her mind" about which gender she wants to be with, she could change her mind about wanting to be a mother. 22.

SIDNEY (CONT'D)

(beat) And while we're focused on this very specific case, the larger issue must be addressed. Bisexuality is viewed as a second or even third class by heterosexuals and gays and lesbians We are erased from the alike. conversation. Even in the Supreme Court case that codified same-sex marriage, they explicitly excluded bisexuals from the standing, focusing on gay men and lesbians. The irony is that one of the first people to get married after that ruling was bisexual. This affects everything. It has impacts in immigration, where judges have denied asylum in their home countries to people who identify as bisexual because they believe the same-sex relationships they are in are shams just to get into US. They send them back to countries where they will be killed. This is more than just a label. This is life and death. (beat) Gay men fought hard for their identity. Lesbians. Transgender people. And so did bisexuals. So did I. So did Marcia Dunn. It's the LGBT community but sometimes we feel like we're not invited in.

LIGHT CUE F - DARK SONG

SOUND CUE 02-02-01: "UNINVITED" BY ALANIS MORISSETTE

Sidney holds up a sign that reads: "WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE ERASED"

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

INT. CONGRESS - DAY

LIGHT CUE A - LIGHTS FULL

As the lights come up, BILLIE is standing stage right, looking for someone - spots them, rushes over center.

BILLIE

Oh, excuse me? Are you Senator Murray? Hi, I'm Billie Northrup -I'm one of your constituents. I voted for you. Hurry to the Polls for Murray! I know you're busy, but was hoping I could get just like two minutes of your time. (shows phone)

That's my daughter Annie. I know. She's so pretty. I can't believe she's going to be in junior high in the fall She wants to do the musicals. She loves singing and dancing and putting on a show. Her and her friends, they learn all the choreography to the music videos.

(sings - attempts dance) All the single ladies, all the single ladies...

(laughs - it fades) But I haven't told her that she's not gonna be able to be in the musicals with her friends seein' as we have to move. And I really don't want to because I grew up here. All my family is here. My momma and daddy and my brothers and They all voted for you, sisters. Except for my brother Al. too! He doesn't vote. I told him that we can't complain about what the government does if we don't have a say in it, but he don't listen. (beat)

But here's the thing, Senator. I did have a say in it. I helped you get elected. And now you're the one who's making it so that I have to move away. You sponsored the bill that bans gender-affirming care for anyone under 18.

(beat)

BILLIE (CONT'D) Your bill puts my daughter's life in danger because it means she can't be who she was meant to be. And we can argue all day long about whether kids really know about stuff like that, but I knew... I knew it from the time she was two years old. And it was hard, I'm not gonna lie. But that's just about expectations, you know? The reality was my son was... a ghost. It's like he didn't exist. But when I let her be her? She was She is alive. And the only alive. way she's going to stay that way is with the help of a doctor... a doctor that is following the guidance of the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics and every other respected doctor group out there that says gender-affirming care is a necessity and, more importantly, a decision that should be between a health-care provider and their patient or their parents. But you're not only taking my child's rights away, you're taking away mine. Your bill makes me a criminal if I seek out this care for my daughter. It says I'm guilty of child abuse! (beat)

So, we gotta move away. We have to flee our home... like refugees seeking asylum. And it's gonna break Annie's heart because she's gonna think it's her fault. But it's not. It's yours. And here's the thing, Senator Murray, when you mess with my family, you mess with me... and that's something you better think about.

LIGHT CUE B - UPBEAT SONG

SOUND CUE 02-03-01: "THINK" BY ARETHA FRANKLIN

Billie holds up a sign: "WE ARE DEMANDING TO BE SEEN"

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

ACT 2 SCENE 4: BEAUTIFUL

EXT. STREET - DAY

LIGHT CUE A - LIGHTS FULL

As the lights come up, BRETT takes center stage.

BRETT Queer Do you hear what I hear? If I reclaim the power Do you blame the sound of our Past pain Or do you rejoice in the choice To use our voice And take away the stain What do we regain?

Dyke A slur meant to degrade It cuts like a blade to the Heart for some Who remember where we come from They can't be numb to it But is the defiance of the hate Worth the reliance on our history That's the mystery

Tranny Today a line Tomorrow is it fine to use A word meant to abuse If you're not the quarry Is the story of the hunt Yours to confront? Or is our objection a protection Of an antiquated rejection Whose time, at last, is past?

Fag For some it's okay to say We rise in the face Of the hateful cries Putting space Between us And those that despise Who we are But does it go too far?

BRETT (CONT'D) The question, I guess In our forms of address When we take back what we say What do we give away?

If you casually say That's so gay We're here and we're queer Cheer the dykes on bikes Hit a friend with a drag of fag That's your right But others might remember The word being heard As they were punched in the face In that case There is no resolution The absolution of the sin To get where we're going Comes at the expense Of where we've been

Yes, words have weight When they are used in hate And mean no harm When said arm-in-arm But remember not all Are ready to call An ugly word beautiful No matter what they say Maybe someday

LIGHT CUE E - EMOTIONAL SONG

SOUND CUE 02-04-01: "BEAUTIFUL" BY CHRISTINA AGUILERA

Brett holds up a sign that reads: "WE ARE NOT ASHAMED OF OUR PAST"

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

LIGHT CUE A - LIGHTS FULL

As the lights come up DAKOTA and ROWAN walk up center and stop. A look of distaste crosses Dakota's face.

DAKOTA

Oh, God. Did I really look like that? No! Come on. I didn't really look like that. What is up with my hair? It's all... Didn't they have a brush?

ROWAN

You should've seen me at my funeral. I had so much make up on, I looked like a drag queen. (to Dakota - not sincere) But you look good.

DAKOTA

I look like shit. I mean, to be fair they didn't have a lot to work with. A baseball bat to the back of the head isn't something you can fix with a blow-out.

ROWAN Baseball bat? Such a cliché.

DAKOTA

All I heard was someone say "fucking fag" and then it was lights out. I never saw it coming. Coward hit me from behind. (to Rowan and Agatha)

How'd they get you?

ROWAN

Good old fashioned punches and kicks. But listen... They're all cowards. Whether they sneak up on you or come at you head on.

DAKOTA

I'm so pissed off. I know that now that I'm dead I should let go of the anger, but...

ROWAN

No, you shouldn't. Because No! you're not lying there alone. I'm right there beside you. You're lying there next to Matthew Shepard. You're lying next to Blaze Bernstein and Paul Broussard and Selena Reyes-Hernandez and Islan Nettles. You're next to Derrick Rump and Daniel Aston and Kelly Loving and the other people murdered at the Q Nightclub. You're next to Antonio Brown and Tevin Crosby and Eddie Justice and the 46 other people murdered at the Pulse Nightclub. No, you hold onto that anger. You deserve it.

DAKOTA

But what good is going to do? We're dead.

ROWAN

But we're not forgotten. People Listen, we have know our names. been teased and taunted and bullied and terrorized and killed for generations. In the 1960s we fought back at Stonewall and we made people pay attention. In the 1980s we fought back against the silence that was killing too many of our friends and family and we made people pay attention. In the 2000s we fought for the right to love and marry who we want and to serve our country proudly and we made people pay attention. We have earned our rights through decades of pain and loss and heartache and grief and at the top of that list of rights is the one to our lives. And if people aren't angry about what's happening, they need to get angry. Right now. Every time they take away another one of our rights with some hateful piece of legislation, everyone in the LGBTQIA+ community and their allies should be pissed off. Every time they commit acts of violence against store workers for displaying Pride merchandise, everyone should shake with anger. (MORE)

ROWAN (CONT'D) Every time someone from our family is hurt... everyone should be rioting in the streets. We need to keep making them pay attention or it's just going to keep happening. We need to stay pissed off. Because here's the deal... (looks at audience) You think you're scary with your hateful words and your legislation and your baseball bats? (beat) Bitch, you don't know scary until you run up against a group of Pissed Off Queers.

LIGHT CUE B - UPBEAT SONG

SOUND CUE 02-05-01: "FIGHT SONG" BY RACHEL PLATTEN

Dakota and Rowan hold up a sign that reads: "WE ARE FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES"

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

LIGHT CUE G - LIGHTS LOW

As the lights come up, Lane is sitting, frail.

LANE Hey... You came to get me. Have you met my other friends? They're all here now. I see them... like snapshots ... my favorite photos. (beat) There's one of my friend wearing a big sun hat and a tube top ... that's John. He loved to put on that outfit and go to high tea at the Huntington Gardens. All the snooty women would whisper to each other and he'd look at them and say, "These finger sandwiches are just divine aren't they?" He was an artist - he painted that. Every year he would do these crazy, elaborate photo shoots for his Christmas cards. One year he was wearing a black and white polka dot dress, a black wig with a white stripe in it, and smeared makeup and he was on the floor picking pills out of a shag carpet and it said "Merry Christmas from Cruella de Valley of the Dolls." He died in **'**97. AIDS. He was 47.

(beat - different photo) That's my friend Mary. Best friend. It didn't matter that she was married and I'm gay, we were soul mates. It was like we shared the same brain and we would argue all the time about whose turn it was to use it. Yeah, that's us at the Friendship Oak in Gulfport, Mississippi. We used to take these incredible, 2000 mile long road trips to see crazy roadside attractions like the biggest ball of twine and the Britney Spears Museum. Yes, there's a Britney Spears museum.

LANE (CONT'D)

That tree is like 500 years old and you can't see the plaque, but it says... "I am called the Friendship Oak. Those who enter my shadow will remain friends through all their lifetime." Mary died of breast cancer in 2010. She was 45 years old. I scattered some of her ashes at the base of the tree.

(beat)

That's my friend Chris. We'd known each other for a couple of years and then we started dating in early 2020. We just went out a few times... nothing serious, but I sort of felt like there was... I don't know... "possibility" with him. I was looking forward to seeing what happened next. He was a singer - he had been famous when he was a kid. He was on Broadway and in a boy band and he was always... how do I explain it? He was always surrounded by music... singing, playing, listening. It was like he lived inside music. We went to a few shows and whenever the singer would do some fantastic run or whatever, he would close his eyes and make this noise, like, "Mmmmmm..." It was like he was eating a really good meal and had tasted something delicious. He died of COVID. He was 34. (beat) I think that's one of the hardest things about our community ... because a lot of us have to build our own family, we often have a lot of amazing friends - life long, life altering friends... but we

LIGHT CUE E - EMOTIONAL SONG

SOUND CUE 02-06-01: "FOR FOREVER" FROM DEAR EVAN HANSEN

also seem to lose too many of them.

Lane holds up a sign that reads: "WE ARE YOUR FRIENDS"

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

INT. CHURCH - DAY

LIGHT CUE A - LIGHTS FULL

As the lights come up, Avery takes center stage and addresses the audience as if they are the congregation.

Two people stand off to the side - referred to as "the choir" - and nod, raise their hands toward the heavens, and generally encourage Avery throughout.

AVERY

Brothers and sisters, I come to you today with hope in my heart. That's right, I said hope! Hope that this country is finally turning away from its wicked ways and back to God where it started and where it belongs. Can I get an amen from the choir?

The "choir" shouts an amen.

AVERY (CONT'D) Amen. The work our man of God, Donald Trump... the true President of these United States no matter what the evil acolytes of "Sleepy Joe and the Ho" say... the work he did to bring back the Supreme Court to its roots, making decisions based on the law of God and not made up laws of man, has finally paid off and the obscenity known as "Roe v. Wade" has been overturned. Can I get a hallelujah from the choir?

The "choir" shouts hallelujah.

AVERY (CONT'D)

It is truly a blessed day, but we are not stopping there, are we? No. We are going to continue our march toward the promised land by taking on the sinners, the criminals, the fornicators, the most evil of them all... you know who I'm talking about. The homosexuals.

We will not rest until our sacred institution of marriage is restored to its glory. We will not rest until our bathrooms are safe from the she-men who want to groom our children. We will not rest until we get them out of the military, out of the government, and out of our country if I have anything to say about it. Can I get two amens?

The choir responds with two amens. Through the following, Avery gets more and more worked up, but not in a godly way.

> AVERY (CONT'D) You know I have seen their wicked ways up close. I have gone into their dens of iniquity. In the name of God, I went to see the sin firsthand in their bars and their bathhouses. That's right. God told me to see it with my own eyes... three or four times. He told me to go to those places where men... all bulging with their muscles and their sweaty torsos... they cavort and frolic with each other in unnatural ways. Kissing each other. Touching each other. Putting things in places that you would never think would fit until you try it yourself. And then they get worked up into a frenzy of lust and desire that overtakes their entire bodies until they're ready to explode ...

> (beat - recovers)
> In an unholy way, of course.
> (takes another beat)
> Those places seduce the innocent.
> And if God says I have to go back
> there again, well... I know exactly
> what I will say to him.

LIGHT CUE B - UPBEAT SONG

SOUND CUE 02-07-01: "LOVE SHACK" BY THE B-52S

Avery holds up a sign that reads: "WE ARE ALL GOD'S CHILDREN"

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

LIGHT CUE A - LIGHTS FULL

As the lights come up, TATE is sitting at the table looking off stage left as if out a window. A piece of paper is on the table.

MADISON enters with another piece of paper and puts it on the table. Tate turns - looks at the paper, then up at Madison.

MADISON

I was in my classroom last week after school. I was supposed to be grading papers but I was really just staring out the window. Tt. was such a beautiful day. I know we get a lot of them here in Florida, but this was... it was perfect. The kind of day where you'd rather be lying in a hammock than stuck in a classroom grading papers. But I was doing it because my job here is about more than just passing out grades. It's about being a person that the kids can depend on. A person they know will live up to their word. Someone they can trust.

(beat)

I heard a noise. Cory Peters was standing at the door. He was one of my favorite students last year. I know it's a stereotype but you don't expect the jocks to be the smartest kids in class. Or even if they are, they don't always apply themselves enough to show it. But Cory, man... so fucking smart. And funny. Oh my God. He wrote a paper comparing "The Great Gatsby" to an episode of "The Simpsons" and not only did I laugh my ass off reading, he was right. (shakes head)

He always had a smile on his face. But he didn't that day. In fact, it looked like he had been crying. And I asked him what was wrong and he didn't say anything at first.

MADISON (CONT'D) He didn't have to, really, because I knew. I had known it from the first day he walked into class. (beat) He looked at the floor and he said, "You were always my favorite teacher. You made me feel safe." And then he looked at me and said, "I think I might be gay." (beat) And my heart just ... it broke into a million pieces. Because all I wanted to do was tell him that everything was going to be okay. That I was just as scared as he was when I was his age and telling people... it's one of the hardest things in the world, even if you think they're going to be supportive. Even if they're your favorite teacher. (beat) But what I said instead was, "Cory... you know they passed a I can't talk to you about law. this. I could get fired. I could lose my teaching certification. could get sued." He didn't say anything but the look on his face... the look of betrayal... of... abandonment... I'm never going to forget that for the rest of my life. (beat) Coach Murphy stopped by my classroom a little while ago. Cory hanged himself. (beat - points at paper) That's my resignation. I'm going to go out and fight this stupid law and I'm not going to stop until it's talked about in history classes with the kind of horror and shame that we usually reserve for the worst of atrocities. I'm going to make sure that no kid ever feels abandoned again.

Tate takes a beat, then pushes the piece of paper that was there to start over to Madison.

TATE That's my resignation. Where do we start? LIGHT CUE E - EMOTIONAL SONG

SOUND CUE 02-08-01: "FOUND/TONIGHT" BY LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA & BEN PLATT

Madison holds up a sign that reads: "WE ARE NOT BACKING DOWN"

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

ACT 2 SCENE 9: PROUD

INT. STAGE - DAY

LIGHT CUE A - LIGHTS FULL

As the lights come up, the ensemble takes the stage.

CAST MEMBER #1 In 1924, Henry Gerber, a Bavarian immigrant, US army veteran, and US postal worker created the Society for Human Rights in Chicago. Officially charted by the state of Illinois, it was the first gay rights organization in the United States. It only lasted a few months because several of its members were arrested, fined, lost their jobs, and their life savings. (beat)

My name is (INSERT NAME), I am (INSERT IDENTITY AND PRONOUNS IF COMFORTABLE DOING SO), and what pride means to me is (INSERT VERY BRIEF STATEMENT ON PRIDE).

CAST MEMBER #2

In 1950, Harry Hay, a labor advocate in Los Angeles, founded the Mattachine Society, widely recognized as one of the most influential early gay rights organizations in the United States. At it's peak in the mid-1950s, it had thousands of members in dozens of chapters around the country despite harassment, threats, and intimidation from police and government officials.

(beat)

My name is (INSERT NAME), I am (INSERT IDENTITY AND PRONOUNS IF COMFORTABLE DOING SO), and what pride means to me is (INSERT VERY BRIEF STATEMENT ON PRIDE).

CAST MEMBER #3

In 1954, the US Post Office refused to deliver a publication entitled ONE: The Homosexual Magazine. (MORE) CAST MEMBER #3 (CONT'D) The publishers sued and their case eventually reached the Supreme Court in 1958 where they won... the first time they had ruled in favor of gay rights.

(beat) My name is (INSERT NAME), I am (INSERT IDENTITY AND PRONOUNS IF COMFORTABLE DOING SO), and what pride means to me is (INSERT VERY BRIEF STATEMENT ON PRIDE).

CAST MEMBER #4

In 1955, Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, a lesbian couple in San Francisco, created the Daughters of Bilitis, the first civil rights and political organization for lesbians in the United States. It started with 8 members and within a few years had their first national convention that drew hundreds of women and supporters.

(beat)

My name is (INSERT NAME), I am (INSERT IDENTITY AND PRONOUNS IF COMFORTABLE DOING SO), and what pride means to me is (INSERT VERY BRIEF STATEMENT ON PRIDE).

CAST MEMBER #5

In 1966, being gay in a bar was considered disorderly conduct and you could be refused service and even arrested. Inspired by the civil rights sit-ins, members of the Mattachine Society staged what they called a "sip in." The entered Julius', a New York City bar that had a sign in the window that said "if you're gay, please go away." They politely ordered drinks while informing the bartender that they were gay and were refused service. They sued and in 1967 the courts ruled that gays could legally drink in a bar.

(beat)

My name is (INSERT NAME), I am (INSERT IDENTITY AND PRONOUNS IF COMFORTABLE DOING SO), and what pride means to me is (INSERT VERY BRIEF STATEMENT ON PRIDE).

CAST MEMBER #6

In 1967, police raided the Black Cat Tavern in Los Angeles on New Year's Eve, began beating patrons, and arrested over a dozen for public lewdness. A demonstration was organized that drew over 200 people, making it one of the first and largest LGBTQ protests in the nation.

(beat)

My name is (INSERT NAME), I am (INSERT IDENTITY AND PRONOUNS IF COMFORTABLE DOING SO), and what pride means to me is (INSERT VERY BRIEF STATEMENT ON PRIDE).

CAST MEMBER #7

In 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn in New York City. Several people were arrested for indecent behavior including what was then known as "cross-dressing," a crime at that time. Led by drag queens, trans people, women, and people of color, the crowd fought back leading to days of an uprising that are recognized as the birth of the modern LGTBQIA+ civil rights movement.

(beat)

My name is (INSERT NAME), I am (INSERT IDENTITY AND PRONOUNS IF COMFORTABLE DOING SO), and what pride means to me is (INSERT VERY BRIEF STATEMENT ON PRIDE).

CAST MEMBER #8

In 1970, in commemoration of the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, protests and parades were held in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. They are considered to be America's first gay pride parades. Today there are over 200 of them annually in cities and towns all over the world.

(beat) My name is (INSERT NAME), I am (INSERT IDENTITY AND PRONOUNS IF COMFORTABLE DOING SO), and what pride means to me is (INSERT VERY BRIEF STATEMENT ON PRIDE). CAST MEMBER #9 Our history started before Stonewall. Pride is about more than a parade. We stand on the shoulders of giants... brave gay men and lesbians and bisexuals and transgender people and queer and questioning people and intersex people and asexual people and allies and everyone else who stood up and said "we are." We are human, we are equal, we are proud.

LIGHT CUE B - UPBEAT SONG

SOUND CUE 02-09-01: "PROUD (CHORAL VERSION)" BY HEATHER SMALL

TBD holds up a sign that reads: "WE ARE PROUD"

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

ACT 2 SCENE 10: WE ARE FAMILY

INT. STAGE - DAY

LIGHT CUE B - UPBEAT SONG

SOUND CUE 02-10-01: "WE ARE FAMILY" BY SISTER SLEDGE

LIGHT CUE A - LIGHTS FULL

TBD holds up a sign that reads: "WE ARE FAMILY"

At the end of the song, all of the cast members hold up various signs that have been used throughout.

LIGHT CUE C - BLACKOUT

THE END