

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHREYER HONORS COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF MUSICAL THEATRE

QueerEye: A New Queer Comedy Feature Film

JACK MALONEY
SPRING 2022

A thesis
submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements
for a baccalaureate degree
in Musical Theatre
with honors in Musical Theatre

Reviewed and approved* by the following:

Raymond Sage
Associate Professor, Voice
Thesis Supervisor

Elisha Clark Halpin
Coordinator of General Education
School of Theatre

* Electronic approvals are on file.

ABSTRACT

As a Musical Theatre major and Creative Writing/Business minor with a focus on Screenwriting and the Film/Entertainment industry at large, I decided that the ideal culmination of my educational journey would be in a full-length feature film screenplay. Not only would I write the screenplay, as I have already done, but I also would have a reading of the show wherein I would play one of the main characters in the piece. As a result, this feature film is a culmination of both my skills in performance and creative writing and affords me the chance to prove myself as a serious, multi-hyphenate artist. The subject matter of the artistic work itself is a topic near and dear to my heart and fields a question that I often pondered as the only LGBTQ student at my high school: what if I could see who else around me is gay? This feeling of otherness, and the subsequent longing to know and feel community, became the catalyst for what is hopefully a laugh out loud but heartfelt take on many of the experiences I had in high school, with a slightly supernatural twist. This piece is my love letter to my seventeen-year-old self, and I am honored to submit it as my honors thesis.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....</u>	<u>IV</u>
<u>ACT I.....</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>ACT II.....</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>ACT III</u>	<u>105</u>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I'd like to thank my Thesis Advisor Raymond Sage, Associate Professor of Voice, and my professor Paul Foley at the USC School of Cinematic Arts with whom I studied this Summer and who aided me deeply in the construction of this Feature Film. I would also like to thank my friend and colleague Ayana Francois, BFA Musical Theatre '22, for taking this piece on as the director and helping me to reshape the story in modern, progressive, and comedic ways.

ACT I

FROM ENERGIZED BLACK

MUSIC and ADOLESCENT CAROUSING lead us to believe we're just outside a school dance. And we are indeed except...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. PROM - NIGHT

STUDENTS push, shove, and fight each other left and right. It's more like an unkempt WWE match. Fun is definitely not the right descriptor. Chaotic, Ferocious, Terrifying, those would be better adjectives.

A RANDOM STUDENT shoves HOTDOGS in TWO BOYS' mouths: we'll come to know them as Conner and Aaron. As the student turns to wreak havoc elsewhere, Conner picks up MASHED POTATOES with his bare hands and throws them at the boy.

FREEZE FRAME on Conner mid throw, hot dog still in mouth.

CONNER

I know what you're thinking. I came to watch a movie not bastardized food porn. Or maybe this is some weird ass ASMR. Or probably there's no way that kid hits his target with that wimpy form. And you'd be right...about all those things. Personally, I've been trying to piece together what led to the events of Prom 2022 since I dipped my hands in those mashed potatoes. Maybe it was the lying-

The Prom rewinds before our eyes until we are at-

EXT. SKYLAR/CONNER LOCKER - DAY

A GIRL'S back faces us as she SLAPS the shit out of Conner. FREEZE FRAME on his look of surprise.

CONNER (CONT.)

Or even the kissing.

Rewind again until-

EXT. PARK - DAY

FREEZE FRAME on two unidentifiable mouths locking lips.

CONNER (V.O)

But truthfully it all started way before that. So let's try this thing one more time. And this time I swear to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

(he types)

This is the story of how I ruined my Senior Prom.

INT. CONNER BEDROOM - DAY

The bedroom of a teenage aspiring filmmaker: clothes, movie posters, journals, and cameras clutter the room.

Sitting before an open word doc is CONNER (17), our affable yet endearingly clumsy protagonist. He TYPES, then deletes. Tries again. Deletes. One more time. Still not good enough.

The clock reads 7:30 AM as Conner puts his head in his hands frustrated. KNOCK KNOCK! His head comes up: 8:15 AM. Shit.

EXT. CONNER BEDROOM - DAY

Conner's exasperated but glamorously beautiful mom JACQUI (40's) has been knocking forever. Jacqui's eyes FLASH SILVER.

JACQUI

Conner! You're gonna be late...again.

EXT. CONNER'S HOUSE- DAY

Outside Conner's designer house a beat-up, 2000 Subaru Forester SPUTTERS ironically onto the cobblestone driveway.

INT. CONNER BEDROOM - DAY

Conner springs into action like the flash but trips on his backpack as he rambunctiously stands.

INT. SUBARU FORESTER - DAY

Inside the Forester sits SKYLAR (17), Conner's no bullshit, smart as a whip and unafraid to crack it best friend.

She passively chews gum watching through the upstairs window as her tardy best friend clamors around his room. She looks to the clock, tapping her hands on the wheel.

SKYLAR
It's always this.

Skylar's eyes FLASH SILVER in the rearview mirror.

EXT. CONNER BEDROOM - DAY

JACQUI
Conner!
(sotto)
They don't pay me enough for this job.

She continues knocking.

JACQUI (CONT.)
Conner! You're gonna be-

The door SWOOSHES open. Conner stands there fully dressed.

CONNER
Late! I know.

Conner walks downstairs as Jacqui notices.

JACQUI
Camera!

Without even looking Conner catches the CAMERA. In sync.

INT. CONNER'S KITCHEN - CONT.

Conner rushes in and sifts through the fridge, hopelessly.

JACQUI
Third shelf.

He's a scatter brain at best. He begins to leave.

JACQUI
LUNCH!

Conner another arm back and catches his lunch.

CONNER
Paint Swatch!

Conner unsticks a paint swatch from his lunch and throws it back at his interior designer mother.

EXT. CONNER'S FRONT YARD - DAY

A PERSON (40's) does yard work out front. It would be a dad until Conner passes by revealing, MICHELLE, his second mom. She grabs him, kisses him, and her eyes FLASH SILVER.

MICHELLE
Have a good day, sweetheart.

CONNER
Take it easy on them in court!

MICHELLE
You know I'm a teddy bear!

A pickup truck drives by as a guy yells from inside.

TRUCKER
Fuckin' dyke!

MICHELLE
Suck my dick!

She blows a kiss at Conner as he settles into...

INT. SUBARU FORESTER - DAY

Conner heaves and hoes- clearly we're not dealing with the football captain. Skylar POPS a bubble cooly.

SKYLAR
What time?

CONNER
(gasping)
8:15

SKYLAR
New record.

POV INSIDE CAR: Conner's neighbor DEREK (17) gets lectured by his FATHER. The stick up his dad's ass practically pierces his anally pleated pants. Derek's eyes FLASH SILVER.

CONNER

You think Derek Johnson's dad ever gets tired of public displays of discipline?

Skylar REVS the car and puts on her glasses like she's driving a race-car rather than gold ole' forester.

SKYLAR

Only when he privately disciplines Mrs. Johnson-

CONNER

Ew.

SKYLAR

You asked for it.

CONNER

No, she did.

They high five without making eye contact and ZOOM off.

EXT. BOOMFOOK HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Is it a castle? A Mercedes dealership? No, it's Boomfook High. STUDENTS mingle- reuniting. A PREPPY GIRL (17) aggressively kisses a REALLY HOT GUY (17). PDA at its finest.

Skylar's car comically sputters in, reminding us that she is in fact not driving one of the sleek cars parked outside the school. She parks in the back, avoiding the elite front.

INT. SUBARU FORESTER - CONT

Skylar peers coldly at her peers.

SKYLAR

Welcome back to the Octagon.

EXT. SUBARU FORESTER - CONT

Conner and Skylar exit the car in a SLOW-MO. They seem like the coolest kids at school until- DJ SCRATCH and ZOOM OUT. They're the coolest kids no one knows or cares about.

CONNER

One last year in adolescent purgatory?

They do a handshake and walk off when- OOF. Conner's satchel strap catches on the car mirror. THWUMP: he hits the ground.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLS OF BOOMFOOK HIGH - DAY

Conner and Skylar walk towards their lockers- Conner films everything.

SKYLAR

Do you ever put that thing down?

CONNER

It's my girlfriend.

SKYLAR

Right. Like you'd ever have a girlfriend.

CONNER

Shhh! Someone might hear you.

SKYLAR

You know everyone else that's gay. What's the use in hiding it?

CONNER

In our town where people would rather use the Pride Flag as a dishrag?

SKYLAR

Didn't stop me!

Conner turns his camera to Skylar as

TEXT appears in an onscreen box:

"Skylar Franklin, Badass Lesbian Bestie, Smarter than You"

A RANDOM JOCK walks by and Conner films him.

"Random Jock, Vague, Presumably Popular: Straight"

JOCK

What's up, dyke face.

SKYLAR

Not your micropenis.

(beat)

If I had your powers, I'd expose every one of those hypocrite Boomfook Closet Case mofos. Cmon! Whose got the glow?

CONNER

You know I can't tell you that. QueerEye could ruin everyone's lives. Us included.

SKYLAR

My life's already ruined. Who cares about reputation?

They pass by a group of five popular girls: they care.

"Generally Unkind, Popular Girls: One B.F.C.C"

CONNER

In the social simulation that is this high school where social currency equals survival? I do.

SKYLAR

Well one thing's for sure: you have more social currency than those guys.

They pass a group of seven nerds LARPing. The camera follows.

"Happily Socially Outcasted Super Nerds: Two B.F.C.C's"

Conner continues until- WHAM! He narrowly misses injury as Derek shoves a STUDENT. Derek's eyes FLASH SILVER again.

"Derek Johnson, Football Captain, School Bully, Walking Cliché: Boomfook Closet Case"

A DING DING DING goes off at this label!

INT. HALLS OF BOOMFOOK HIGH - CONT.

Conner and Skylar stop in front of a billboard that reads: "Accept It! College Admissions Season is Here!"

SKYLAR

Full moon tomorrow. Don't forget to manifest USC.
EXT. USC SCHOOL OF CINEMATIC ARTS - CONNER'S FANTASY

Conner's fantasy of USC features industry names like Rhimes, Spielberg, and Lucas casually socializing with students. Conner watches desperately from outside the gates. He walks towards the gates confidently and tries to open them, but they don't budge. Everyone inside LAUGHS at him until-

INT. HALLS BOOMFOOK HIGH - BACK TO REALITY

SKYLAR

CONNER! I said how is your short film and personal statement coming?

GRAPHIC: USC FILM APP- SHORT FILM & PERSONAL STATEMENT

CONNER

(lying)

Oh! I figured them out this morning.

The checklist disappears with SFX BALLOON DEFLATING.

CONNER (CONT.)

Harvard app?

SKYLAR

Submitted August 2nd.

CONNER

Wow, you waited a whole day.

SKYLAR

I can see it now...

INT. SMOKEY HARVARD CAFÉ - SKYLAR FANTASY

Skylar listens to slam poetry at a smokey Harvard café, arms around Rashida Jones and Natalie Portman. Rashida puts a cigarette in her mouth and Natalie gives her a kiss on the cheek. Skylar whips out a protest sign that says: "No Means GTFO!" Everyone CHEERS! It's perfect until-

INT. HALLS BOOMFOOK HIGH - BACK TO REALITY

RING! The bell goes off reminding them they're both still stuck at Boomfook High. Skylar leaves, but Conner stares at Derek. He's an ass but a hot ass (and has one to boot). RING!

CUT TO:

INT. PARSONS CLASS - DAY

The preppy girl we saw colonizing someone's tongue earlier stands up front. It's MIA MARKEL (17), every high school has a Mia but none of the other models compare to this bitch.

Conner arrives late. MRS. PARSONS, Conner and most everyone's favorite teacher, gives him an unsurprised yet amused glare.

PARSONS

Seat in the back, Conner.

Conner trips on the way and the STUDENTS laugh. A KIND LOOKING STUDENT (17) looks longingly at Conner.

MIA

As I was saying, Prom Queen voting is just 8 short months away.

Conner gets to his seat and turns his camera to Mia.

"Mia Markel, Model X Bonafide Rich Bitch, Maniacal Control Freak: Straight"

MIA

Whether you're new or returning to Boomfook High, I'm sure we'll be besties by next week! So when you're casting those Prom Queen ballots: remember it's all about Mia.

The class APPLAUDS half-assed Parson's rolls her eyes so hard the Earth spins faster. Mia sits with the boy from earlier.

PARSONS

Thank you, Mia, and I'm sure you'll all consider your post-Prom recreation when casting a vote for Mia.

The air is sucked out of the room: did she call out the after party?

PARSONS (CONT.)

Relax, I went to high school, too.

Oxygen returns.

PARSONS (CONT.)

Welcome, SENIORS, to your fourth, final, and best English class at Boomfook High. I'm Mrs. Parsons and for those of you who haven't had me before, good luck. For the others, you know they'll need it.

(beat)

Now, let's review this year's victims, shall we?

She takes out the roll and flips a page.

PARSONS (CONT.)

Aaron Braverman?

The really hot boy looks up. It's AARON BRAVERMAN, the slice of BFH and a well earned title at that.

AARON

Hey Mrs. P!

INT. PARSONS CLASS - FANTASY SEQUENCE

BLACKOUT. Lights up on Conner and Aaron's desks in a dark, theatre like space. Two spotlights illuminate the boys. Aaron is frozen- a frozen treat that is.

CONNER (V.O)

Aaron. Braverman. Delectable. The guitar slinging, Lacrosse playing, salutatorian combo platter everyone cannot order enough of.

"Aaron Braverman, Guitar Slinging, Lacrosse PLayer, Salutatorian- Sold Out: "

CONNER (V.O)

But there's only one thing he lacks: good ole silver eyes.

The word "Straight" is added to the end of the label where the space is.

CONNER (V.O)

I bet if someone like Aaron was gay, that'd change some things around here. Now that'd be a story worth admission. But, fortunately for me, he barely knows I exist.

Conner's chair WHOOSHES far away from Aaron and an arrow points to his own label in the distance:

"Conner Herman, Unproblematic But Invisible Nice Guy"

CONNER (V.O)

Still at least he's fun to look a-

INT. PARSONS CLASS - DAY

Dream sequence? Cancelled. Conner is nearly drooling.

PARSONS
CONNER HERMAN?!

CONNER
Oh...here.

PARSONS
You sure?
(he nods)
Mhmm. David Turner.

CUT TO:

INT. PARSONS CLASS - LATER

Parsons projects the cover of "The Great Gatsby."

PARSONS
The Great Gatsby. Someone tell me what this great American novel is about?

Derek Johnson raises his hand. Parsons nods at him.

DEREK
Partying.

He stands, waving his arms like he's riding a horse.

PARSONS
I'm glad to see you made it to page 30, Mr. Johnson. That must have been very taxing.

Roast! Students LAUGH, including Conner.

PARSONS (CONT.)
Sit.
(beat)
Anyone else? No one?

Conner timidly raises his hand. Parsons nods at him.

CONNER

I guess you could say it's about seeing things as they really are.

PARSONS

Go on.

CONNER

Nick Caraway sees the others for who they truly are, the good, bad, and in between, even when they can't see it themselves.

PARSONS

Well done, Conner. And an apt segue into your first assignment this year.

Parsons turns to the board and writes three words as the students roll their eyes and GROAN.

PARSONS (CONT.)

(sotto)

AP students my ass.

Parsons moves to reveal the words "Personal Journey Essay". She stares triumphantly at her students.

PARSONS (CONT.)

The "Personal Journey Essay": my gift to you.
(imitating)

Mrs. Parson's, how is this essay a gift?
(returns)

I'll tell you fictitious student #1.

Students LAUGH taking the bait.

PARSONS (CONT.)

This isn't just an essay: it's a launchpad. My way of helping you leap into the discovery of your most personal stories that will help you get into the college of your choice. Unlike other assignments, there is no final deadline. You'll finish when I say you're finished, whether that be the first draft or the fiftieth.

(beat)

This is more than just an assignment. The rewards can be much sweeter than just an A or a GPA boost.

GRAPHIC: The USC Checklist pops up with "Personal Statement" highlighted.

PARSONS (CONT.)

Who knows, these 700 words might be the difference between Brown and Boomfook Junior College. Dig deep and unleash your truth.

The graphic disappears as the BELL RINGS. Students who looked motivated are now just motivated to get the hell out.

PARSONS (CONT.)

(yelling after them)

First draft due in two weeks!

INT. PARSON CLASS - CONT.

Conner gathers his stuff. He goes to leave when Parsons calls him from her desk.

PARSONS

Conner, I look forward to reading your essay.

CONNER

What do you think I spent the Summer doing?

PARSONS

Vandalism, arson...the usual.

CONNER

How'd you know the topic of my essay already?

She smiles at him: her favorite. Conner turns to leave but bumps into a lingering Aaron Braverman. Their books CRASH to the floor. Conner is pale as a ghost.

AARON

Oh! Sorry, bro!

CONNER

It's my fault. My lack of spatial awareness is at the top of my resume.

They both gather their books.

AARON

You already have a resume? Damn, I guess the really smart kids are ahead of the game.

CONNER

I don't really see it as being ahead of the game, per say. Just in the game, but I mean definitely playing hard to get- I mean hard- but not too hard just the right amount of-

AARON

Oh, so you're a player then?

CONNER

If you count filmmaking as a sport, then I guess I'm MVP.

AARON

You ever done a music video?

CONNER

Never had a band to do one for.

AARON

You do now.

Aaron writes his number on a piece of paper.

AARON

Come check out the hottest, up and coming band in town. Next Thursday.

CONNER

Thanks. I will.

AARON

Oh and don't forget this.

Aaron WHISKS out Conner's journal and hands it to him. Aaron goes to leave but stops.

AARON

Hey, player.

Conner looks up from the journal quickly.

AARON

My girlfriend Mia's having this back to school party Friday night. I don't know if it's your scene, but you should come through. I bet half the school will be there anyway.

CONNER
(too quickly)
Hot! I mean, sure! Sounds like a hot time, I mean good time.

AARON
Ok...see you there, Conner Herman.

INT. PARSON CLASS - FANTASY

MUSIC CUE: Beethoven's 9th

Aaron knows his name. First AND last. Conner's slack jaw is accompanied by and the climactic moment of Beethoven's 9th Conner's label appears.

"BUT INVISIBLE" is replaced by "SLIGHTLY NOTICEABLE"

CUT TO:

INT. HALLS OF BOOMFOOK HIGH - DAY

Conner exits class, watching longingly and filming from afar as Aaron Mia interact.

INT. MIA/AARON LOCKERS - DAY

Two lockers open at exactly the same time: Mia on the right, Aaron on the left.

MIA
Who were you talking to?

AARON
I dropped my stuff on the way out.

MIA
Get it together. This is no way to demonstrate our synchronicity as a Boomfook power couple.

AARON
I didn't know today was the debutant ball.

MIA
Hello? Every moment matters. It's all part of the plan.

Mia examines a list in her locker: Mia's Perfect Senior Year- detailing every one of her goals: top five in the class, head of prom committee, prom queen, attend Yale with Aaron.

MIA (CONT.)

It starts with full commitment from us both and ends with two deposits at Yale, courtesy of yours truly.

AARON

(sotto)

Courtesy of daddy...

Mia ignores him as she applies lip gloss and gasses herself up in the mirror, super extra.

MIA

I haven't spent the past three years grooming our path to senior year perfection only to falter when the pressure's on.

AARON

You're the only one adding pressure...

MIA

(doesn't hear)

What?

AARON

I'll do better.

MIA

That's what I love to hear, Aary. Anyway, our official debut isn't until Friday at my back to school soiree.

(texts on phone)

I need to make sure Kristen and Jill are spreading the word far and wide.

EXT. AARON/MIA LOCKERS - CONT.

Mia and Aaron close their lockers simultaneously as Kristen and Jill suddenly appear. Conner turns his camera on them.

"Kristen and Jill, Mia's Minions, 2/3 of the M&M'S (Mia&Minions), Straight...up Hoes"

KRISTEN

Ok so we texted the Football and Lacrosse captains, and we'll make sure no one from West Central comes.

JILL

What's wrong with West Central?

KRISTEN

God, Jill, do you even go here?

JILL

Oh. I'm the dumb one.

Mia turns to Aaron while Kristen and Jill get into a stupid but funny tiff.

MIA

This is gonna be an amazing year for us, Aary. With you by my side, there's nothing we can't accomplish.

Aaron kisses Mia, feeling empowered that he makes her feel that way at least. They finish and Mia sees-

MIA (CONT.)

Incoming.

INT. HALLS OF BFH - CONT.

MUSIC CUE: "Bomb Intro/Pass that Dutch"

Mimicking the "meet the plastics" moment in Mean Girls, three FABULOUS PEOPLE stride in glamorous slow-mo towards Mia: it's the Golden Gays. Conner's camera turns to them.

CONNER (V.O)

The Golden Gays. The only three out-of-closet students at Boomfook high who ever dared to put a Jimmy Chooed foot into the halls of this homosexual hell. With no inhibition, no shame, and no body hair from here to Timbuktu, they've made it their mission to "Make Boomfook Gay Again," which I think sounds pretty redundant.

We get a closer view on CHANCE SAXE (17), the sweet looking student we saw earlier. Their eyes flash silver.

"Chance Saxe- Thinker, Poet, Power Bottom. (He/They/She/Savage)"

CONNER (V.O)

Chance Saxe. The thinker, the poet, the sweetum til you meetum. A savage in sheeps clothing, Chance could read a doorknob for filth.

Now BROOKS (17) a stunning boy with silver twinkling eyes.

"Brooks Tinsley- Human Rainbow (He/Him/His/Hoe)"

CONNER (V.O)

Brooks Tinsley. More of a Brooks Sister than a Brooks Brother: Brooks could make a pack of skittles taste the rainbow.

Finally, MARCUS MILLER (17), leader of the pack.

"Marcus Miller- Anti-Mia (He/They/She/Queen/Gawd/Supreme)"
New descriptors continue to appear in Marcus's label.

CONNER (V.O)

And Marcus Miller. There aren't enough letters in LGBTQ to describe, Marcus Miller. Head of the Golden Gays, the Urban Dictionary definition of queer is literally just their headshot.

The Golden Gays flip their non-existent long, flowing hair.

CONNER (V.O)

Marcus, Brooks, and Chance. Some have NBC. But at Boomfook high we have M-BC.

GRAPHIC: The NBC logo appears but is shattered by Marcus in a peacock costume with Brooks and Chance as the wings.

CONNER (V.O)

The only problem is-

RECORD SCRATCH as Derek Johnson and his cronies aggressively push the Golden Gays aside, thwarting their fabulous walk.

CONNER (V.O)

They live in Boomfook, IL.

They brush themselves off and continue.

EXT. AARON/MIA LOCKERS - CONT.

The Golden Gays pull up in formation to Mia and company. Marcus and Mia face off: two lions in the coliseum.

MARCUS

Well, well, well if it isn't the Wicked Bitch of the Midwest: Mia Markel.

Jill AHEMS.

MARCUS (CONT.)

And her flying monkeys Kristen and Jill. Tell me, when did they start making vanilla M & M's?

Somehow this satisfies Jill. Kristen gives her a look.

MIA

Marcus Miller. To what do I owe the glittering displeasure?

MARCUS

Please, dear, the displeasure is entirely mine.

MIA

What do you want?

MARCUS

Three harassment free invitations to your upcoming festivities this Friday evening.

Mia shoots Kristen and Jill a dirty look.

KRISTEN

You said spread the word.

JILL

Far and wide...

BROOKS

(sotto to Marcus)

Her party ain't the only thing spreading far and wide this Friday-

Brooks starts twerking while Marcus fans him and chants "Aye, aye, aye." Aaron smiles and claps until Mia cuts them off.

MIA

And why should I give this little Rainbow Connection a single invitation to...what did you call it? My "upcoming festivities?"

MARCUS

My my my has it has been three months already? Well, while you were busy laying the groundwork for early onset skin cancer in the Hamptons, my father was earning a spot as an adjunct professor at Yale University. Can you believe?

JILL

But we live outside Chicago...right?

MIA

Jill this is Boomfook, nothing is realistic.

MARCUS

EHEM! I trust your Bulldog ambitions remained intact while you increased your proclivity for wrinkles.

MIA

Are you blackmailing me?

MARCUS

That's cute Mimi.

MIA

Don't call me that.

MARCUS

Don't rain on my parade.

BROOKS

Ea
sy, Barbra.

MARCUS

(to Brooks)

That's Liliias to you.

(back to Mia)

I prefer to call it a smoother path to your dream university.

Derek Johnson notices the Golden Gays talking to Mia.

DEREK

These three faggots bothering you?

AARON

Do we really still use that word casually here?

Aaron is ignored. The Golden Gays are cavalier towards such comments. At BFH, it's more powerful than fighting.

MARCUS

Fags! Innovative. Learn that in the locker room showers?

BROOKS

Actions speak louder than grunts.

Marcus and Brooks are always in tandem like this.

DEREK

What are you all girls now?

MARCUS

Sure, if that's how I feel today.

CHANCE

But sometimes we don't.

MARCUS

So we're more man than you.

CHANCE

Or even neither.

MARCUS

Gender is fluid.

CHANCE

And we're swimming in it.

MARCUS

Google it.

BROOKS

(flirty)

I'm still all man, Derek.

Derek looks thrown but maybe blushes a little.

MIA

Actually these three "whatever they ares" were just leaving.

(giving up)

See you Friday.

They begin to leave as Brooks gives Derek a seductive glare.

BROOKS

Bye, Derek.

MARCUS
5-

BROOKS
6-

CHANCE
7-

WHACK! The GG's whip three fans, laugh, and strut off.

AARON
Why does this school always make me feel like I'm in an
early 2000's movie?

MIA
(spiteful)
Come on, girls, we have a party to plan.

DEREK
Pansies.

They leave but Aaron lingers looking towards the Golden Gays.
Conner lingers watching and recording Aaron.

AARON
Seriously, who still says that?

MIA (OS)
AARON!

CUT TO:

INT. CONNER'S ROOM - DAY

Conner paces before Skylar who does homework at his desk.

SKYLAR
No.

CONNER
But Skylar!!

SKYLAR

No amount of "But Skylar" will get me to spend a precious Friday night with the people I avoid all week?

CONNER

What's your problem with those people?

SKYLAR

Besides being classist, outdated walking clichés from a Tina Fey movie? If you don't strut into school repping a Gucci backpack and Golden Goose's suddenly you're the dyke classmate.

CONNER

But you are the-

SKYLAR

Conner! Not my point!

CONNER

Ironic. You seemed pretty keen on Mia in 50 Shades of Skylar-

SKYLAR

Conner, I work at El Pepe's Mexican Fiesta. My life is drowning in irony.

CONNER

And queso.

SKYLAR

Anyway, that was self-hating fan fiction. Not reality.

CONNER

But it could be...

Skylar goes back to her work and Conner flops back down on the bed exasperated. Jacqui enters with snacks.

JACQUI

Snack trolley coming through!

Conner rushes Jacqui ravenously. Skylar is suddenly subdued and stymied, staring at Jacqui like a puppy dog as she sits on the edge of Conner's bed.

JACQUI (CONT.)

So how was the first day?

CONNER

We got invited to a party.

SKYLAR

That we're not attending.

CONNER

I want to go but Skylar's too busy being the perfect college applicant to have fun for once.

JACQUI

I was the crowned keg queen in my day.

SKYLAR

Really?

JACQUI

I loved beating the boys. They thought I was flirting, but little did they know. Well, really, little did I know.

(beat)

It's a shame you'll miss a chance to be high schoolers while you can. But I'm sure you'll find something boring and intellectually appropriate to do.

Skylar watches Jacqui exit intently. Conner looks at her dopey expression and knows it's checkmate.

SKYLAR

We're back by 12.

Conner starts jumping up and down on his bed like a child.

CONNER

Party with Aaron Braverman! Party with Aaron Braverman!
BOOM! He hits his head and falls off. Skylar is unfazed.

SKYLAR

Small problem, genius. How do you expect me to get in? No one there is exactly my biggest fan either.

Conner comes up rubbing his head.

CONNER

Ah come on, it's a party! No one will even notice we're there.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. MIA MANOR - NIGHT

Skylar and Conner SLAM the door behind them and there's DEAFENING SILENCE. The entire party stares at them. Skylar shoots daggers at Conner with her eyes.

CONNER

Shut up.

SKYLAR

Didn't say anything.

WHAM! Concert style lights energize the room as Kristen steps onto second floor balcony with a MIC.

KRISTEN

Make some noise Boomfookers for your host, benefactor, and future Prom queen: Mia Markel!

A fog machine spews, preceding Mia's double door entrance. Mia waves, blows kisses, and then signals for silence.

MIA

(beat)

Let's get drunk bitches!

Everyone SCREAMS. Mia sours noticing Skylar. She grabs Aaron, kisses him, and covertly spills her drink on her foe. Conner is too engrossed in his first party to notice.

SKYLAR

AH!

Conner turns around to see his drenched best friend.

CONNER

Woah! What happened?

SKYLAR

I agreed to come.

Skylar leaves as Conner spots Aaron entering the kitchen. He musters up some courage and approaches.

INT. MIA MANOR - CONT

Conner almost reaches Aaron when WOOSH! Out of nowhere appears a very drunken Chance.

CHANCE
Heeeyyyyyy bae!!!

"Drunk Chance, Testy With Their Testis"

CONNER
Are you talking to me?

CHANCE
Do you see another fish out of water?

CONNER
Is my novice status that obvious?

CHANCE
Only to the queer eye, dear.

Chance WHIPS out a brimming drink and hands it to Conner.

CONNER
What's in this?

CHANCE
Liquid confidence, bae! And by the looks of you: it's needed. Bottoms up?

Conner downs the drink a little too fervently.

CHANCE
Woah, woah! You tryna be king of the jungle juice?

Chance picks up on Conner's glare: obviously fixed on Aaron.

CHANCE (CONT)
(suggestively)
Or someone else's king?

CONNER
I think you've had too much to drink...bae.

Chance looks thrilled that Conner used their lingo.

CHANCE
Touché!

MARCUS

Chance, must I grovel for your assistance in running my crowd?

CHANCE

Duty calls, bae.

Chance makes their way up to them. Chance continues noticing Conner staring at Aaron as they climb up to the Golden Gays.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Skylar puts her open phone on a shelf above the toilet as she uses a hairdryer to dry her pants and change her shirt. Suddenly, a KNOCK on the door.

SKYLAR

Occupied!

The knock gets louder, angrier even. Frustrated, Skylar puts on her shirt to open the door. She now faces off with Mia.

SKYLAR

Oh, joy.

MIA

I thought I got rid of you already.

SKYLAR

You're gonna have to do a little better than one spilled drink, bitch.

MIA

Trust me, dyke, that was just a warmup.

Skylar swallows her urge to punch Mia in the fucking face. She takes a different approach.

SKYLAR

You know, I'm actually really digging this whole high school party thing. I think I'm gonna "stick around" for a while.

MIA

You wouldn't.

SKYLAR

In fact, I think I'll be here all night.

Skylar leaves triumphantly, feeling she's won. Mia looks like she's about to blow a fuse until she sees- SKYLAR'S PHONE.

She picks it up and it's still open. She snoops around a little until she finds: "50 Shades of Skylar."

MIA

Jackpot.

Skylar knocks on the door, forcing Mia to quickly restore the phone to its original location. She opens the door.

MIA

Trying to be a peeping tom-boy?

SKYLAR

Forgot my phone. Wouldn't want to miss my chance to put Jill doing karaoke on the internet.

INT. MIA MANOR - CONT

Jill sings a Metallica song on karaoke in the corner.

INT. MIA MANOR - NIGHT

SERIES OF INCREASINGLY DRUNKEN SHOTS:

- Conner and Skylar taking a shot
- The Golden Gays chugging together
- Aaron scoring in Beer Pong
- Derek Johnson doing a Keg Stand

INT. MIA MANOR - LATER

Conner and Skylar finish their drinks, surprised they're done. They laugh. Even Skylar is having fun.

CONNER

I'll get us rookies some more.

Conner does a silly, drunken bit to Skylar as he backs up. Aaron is facing the other way getting drinks. They turn around simultaneously and BAM! They awkwardly and accidentally kiss. Conner's eyes grow three sizes that day.

AARON
(wasted)
Woah, Mia, you gotta shave, babe.

CONNER
(imitating Mia's voice)
Ooh, silly me!

Conner flees the scene to find Skylar.

INT. MIA MANOR - CONT

Conner finds Skylar who's actually really into the party now.

CONNER
Skylar, we need to leave.

SKYLAR
What? We haven't even been here two hours?

CONNER
What happened to home by 12?

SKYLAR
I found purpose...and the punch.

She glares at Mia and drinks some jungle juice drunkenly.

CONNER
Skylar!

SKYLAR
Ok, ok! Let's go.

Conner steals one more glance at Aaron who's literally on the pong table whipping his shirt around and making out with Mia.

INT. MIA MANOR - MUCH LATER

Mia's house is an utter wreck. Kristen and Jill protest as Mia and Aaron usher them to exit- their own agenda in mind.

KRISTEN

But it's only 3 AM.

JILL

We have to wake up for school soon.

KRISTEN

It's Saturday, girly.

JILL

I'm the dumb-

WHAM. Mia and Aaron shut the door on them cutting her off. The LOCK CLICKS as they give each other a look.

CUT TO:

INT. MIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mia and Aaron aggressively make out on her bed. They take off clothes, slap each other, and go at it. Aaron takes off Mia's pants- she looks ready. It's having trouble, though.

AARON

Ugh, wait.

Aaron tries to pleasure himself. Still not working. He continues until his sobering brain recalls in a FLASH: his kiss with Conner.

He lingers on this thought. Suddenly, his drunk brain replaces Conner's face where Mia's should be. He blinks trying to return the status quo. It doesn't work.

CONNER

(seductively)

Ooh, silly me.

But instead of trying to ignore it or change it again, Aaron goes with it and bingo was his name-oh. He fucks his girlfriend but his mind is somewhere else.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK SWINGS - DAY

Conner and Skylar's HQ: the park swings. But no swinging here—they just stand, reclining on them.

SKYLAR

One day a party, the next the swings. High schoolers or preschoolers: the world may never know.

A boy with attitude comes up to Skylar and Conner.

BOY WITH ATTITUDE

(sweetly)

Can I have a turn?

SKYLAR

Buzz off, kid, seat's taken.

The kid shoots her a fat middle finger. Skylar is shocked.

SKYLAR

Nice.

(beat)

Alright Romeo, you've been staring into the distance forlornly for long enough. Let it out.

CONNER

How could that have been my first kiss. It was hot, kinda, but...

SKYLAR

But?

CONNER

High School is almost over. And what have I got to show for it? At least if I'd have taken a virginity pledge I would have accomplished something.

SKYLAR

So what if you're a virgin? Most people we know are.

CONNER

Oh yeah in our huge friend group?

ZOOM OUT: Conner and Skylar on the swings with SFX CRICKETS.

CONNER (CONT.)

Then there's USC. I mean what's a privileged white boy with barely any struggle besides a slightly challenging sexuality to do when the #1 Film school wants a real story?

SKYLAR

Well, when you put it like that Boomfook Junior College is sounding better and better.

CONNER

Losing my virginity to Aaron is not just a pipe dream.

SKYLAR

Nice.

CONNER

Thanks. It's a story. Maybe even one worth USC's dime.

SKYLAR

So you're gonna make your application about your quest to get banged?

(beat)

Anyway you said it yourself: he doesn't have the glow.

CONNER

Yeah, I'm doomed.

The sweet little boy from before returns with his SWEET LOOKING MOTHER.

MOTHER

Excuse me, would it be possible for my son to have a turn?

SKYLAR

Sorry, lady, but we're talking here.

MOTHER

Don't be a fucking bitch about it.

SKYLAR

I can see where he gets his charm.

Conner grabs his testy friend, rolling his eyes.

CONNER

Come on, Skylar.

Skylar looks back to see the little boy sticking his tongue out at her. She returns the favor- maturity at its finest.

CUT TO:

INT. MIA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Mia and Aaron lay together asleep in an extremely messy bed. Aaron awakens, hungover and confused. With a FLASH he remembers kissing Conner, having whisky dick, then...not.

He thinks about the moment with Conner again. Nervously, he checks under the sheets. Morning wood was delayed until this moment, and his concern is written all over his face.

Aaron takes a deep breath and thinks about Conner again to confirm that he's hallucinating. He checks under the sheets one more time but he's not hallucinating. He turns his head and jumps, surprised to see Mia awake and staring at him.

MIA

I know it can be hard sleeping next to visual viagra, but lucky for you round two starts now. Ding, ding.

Mia slinks under the sheets and gets to work on her boyfriend. He looks more terrified than turned on.

CUT TO:

INT. PARSONS CLASS - DAY

Conner enters class on time for once prepping himself to see Aaron and disregard him. But Conner's failure to ignore his feelings is written all over his face upon seeing Aaron. Suddenly - again - Chance appears in front of him.

CHANCE

You get a watch, bae?

CONNER

What is it with you and the word bae? Isn't that like a 2015 thing?

CHANCE

"Everything old is new again," deary.

Chance notices Conner staring at Aaron again.

CHANCE (CONT)

And he's taken...bae.

CONNER

What? I'm not even gay...

Conner looks but Chance has already walked towards his seat after calling Conner the fuck out.

CUT TO:

INT. PARSONS CLASS - LATER

The end of Parsons class. She stands at the front lecturing.

PARSONS

First draft of your essays due Monday. And I'm not looking for the story of how your dog died.

Bell RINGS.

PARSONS

Dig deep!

Conner gathers his stuff and starts to walk out but once again bumps into none other than Aaron. Their books CRASH to the floor. They begin to pick them up.

AARON

Conner Herman you are nothing if not predictable.

CONNER

Made it on time today at least.

AARON

I noticed...new watch-

CONNER

So I was thinking about you- I mean the other night. Not about you just if it was fun, the party I mean-

AARON

I didn't see you much...you have fun?

Conner looks both disappointed but also relieved.

CONNER

You know me I'm always-

Conner casually leans on a nearby desk but his hand slips. He catches himself as if nothing happened.

CONNER (CONT.)

Enjoying.

AARON

So, we still on for Thursday?

CONNER

Thursday?

AARON

Band practice?

CONNER

Right, right. Next Thursday, which would be this Thursday, the band, the music videos. Gotcha.

Aaron laughs and grabs Conner's camera off the table.

AARON (CONT)

Don't forget this.

Aaron hands him the camera and Conner sees it: Aaron's eyes FLASH SILVER briefly but it's there. Conner's jaw goes slack.

AARON (CONT)

See you Thursday, Conner Herman.

Aaron leaves the classroom. Off on Conner, determined.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. CONNER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Conner works feverishly in his room, cutting, pasting, and crafting what looks like an elaborate conspiracy board.

CONNER (V.O)

Finally, the universal sign I needed: Aaron Braverman got his glow. And considering our little incident at Mia's party, something told me I was a little part of that realization.

Conner begins cutting a picture of Aaron out of the yearbook and puts it at the top of the board.

CONNER (V.O)

Now was my chance. The chance to orchestrate my deflowering and acceptance to USC.

Conner creates elaborate lettering that spells out "Plan A." We finally see it clearly.

CONNER (V.O)

A quick Google Search was all I needed to craft the perfect plan.

PLAN A: 1) BECOME FRIENDS 2) BECOME GOOD FRIENDS 3) BECOME MORE

CONNER (V.O)

Dear USC Film Application Committee: I got my high school's "It" boy out of the closet.

Conner hides the "Plan A" board behind another cork board in his room.

CONNER (V.O)

How's that for a story?

Conner's label reappears:

"Conner Herman, Unproblematic, Slightly Noticeable Nice Guy"
But

"Unproblematic" is crossed out and replaced with "Borderline Problematic"

END ACT ONE

ACT II

CONNER (V.O)

Let "Plan A" commence.

INT. AARON'S GARAGE - DAY

AARON'S BAND plays. Conner films. They're actually pretty insane, and Conner is absolutely digging it. Aaron shreds a guitar solo when-

EXT. HEAVEN'S GATES - FANTASY

Conner sees himself in the sky with a SEXY ROCK ANGEL AARON. FANBOY Conner floats up to Aaron and they kiss when-

INT. AARON'S GARAGE - REALITY

Aaron's band stares blankly at Conner, clearly zoned out.

AARON

Conner?! How was it?

CONNER

Oh, sorry. It was sick. I got lost in the...film.

BRAD

(stoned)

Dose of dopeness.

Aarons bandmate STAN rushes excitedly into the room.

STAN

You guys will never believe who I just got off the phone with.

BRAD

Jesus?

STAN

No pothead. That was Jared Pierman from the Lakawana Room inviting us to audition for the Battle of the Bands.

AARON

No way! Doesn't the winner get a weekly gig there?

STAN

Weekly paid gig. Our garageband days will be over.

BRAD

I like the garage.

STAN

You live in a garage.

BRAD

No! It's a basement, dumbass.

STAN

This could be huge for us. First we win, then release the album, get out of this dust bunny museum, and start playin' some real Boomfook venues.

AARON

(to Conner)

You up for the challenge?

CONNER

I'm up for it. I'm always up.

They all stare at Conner. Aaron nervously chuckles.

CUT TO:

INT. AARON'S GARAGE - LATER

Aaron's bandmates head out as Conner and Aaron linger. They check out some of the footage: Conner is clearly talented.

AARON

Wow, dude, this is dope as hell.

CONNER

You guys rock. Hard.

AARON

We're definitely gonna get into the battle. How could they say no to this?

CONNER

I could never say no to you...guys. You guys! I could never say no to you guys.

AARON
Ballsy of you.

CONNER
Huh?

AARON
Pursuing film in college? Takes guts.

CONNER
You think?

AARON
I could play this guitar every day but I'd never be a professional musician.

CONNER
Why not?

AARON
Life doesn't work that way when you have a single mom and two siblings to support. Going to an elite college, making money, repaying her. That's my dream worth pursuing.

CONNER
You could make a lot of money doing music.

AARON
Could. Doesn't mean I will. It's just not a chance I can take.

CONNER
Do both.
(beat)
You don't have to give up music just because you're at Yale. If it's your passion, you can find a way.

AARON
I knew I liked you, Conner Herman.

GRAPHIC: PLAN A "BECOME FRIENDS" IS HIGHLIGHTED

CUT TO:

INT. PARSONS CLASS - DAY

Parsons passive aggressively hands out the first drafts of everyone's essays.

PARSONS

Dig deep I said. No dead dogs I said. What did I get?
Lizards and gerbils and cats-

CHANCE

Oh my!

The class LAUGHS.

PARSONS (CONT.)

Oh this is funny? I'm sure you'll be laughing when I tell you that one student is already done. Congratulations, Chance.

The entire class shoots visual darts at Chance dressed as Heather Duke from *Heathers*. GULP.

PARSONS (CONT.)

As for the rest of you, how about something about you that doesn't conjure images of road kill or dead animals of any kind. The BELL RINGS and they all SKRRTT.

PARSONS (CONT.)

Better drafts in three weeks!

INT. PARSONS CLASS - CONT

Conner tries to leave quickly as he knows his first draft was nonsense until-

PARSONS

Conner!

Conner SKURTS in his tracks.

PARSONS

Come see me.

Conner tiptoes back and she points to his essay.

PARSONS

"My girlfriend the camera?" You're applying to film school.
"Dating" your camera is a prerequisite.

CONNER

I was trying to use a metaphor.

PARSONS

Metaphor or not all I learned from this is something they'll
learn in three words. Prospective Major: Film.

CONNER

Well, do you have a better idea?

PARSONS

Am I applying to film school?
Conner shakes his head.

PARSONS (CONT.)

Then I have nothing for you. Except...Chance!

Chance SKURTS in their tracks and tiptoes over.

PARSONS (CONT.)

I think you two should talk about the essay assignment.

CONNER

Why?

PARSONS

Because one of you is done and one of you just wrote a 700
word explanation of three words of your application.

(beat)

See what you can learn from Chance and bring me Conner
Herman in 700 words.

Conner and Chance linger waiting for the next command.

PARSONS (CONT.)

Go.

They leave so fast they get stuck in the door together. They
struggle to get out as-

PARSONS (CONT.)

(sotto)

This school is weird.

INT. HALLS OF BOOMFOOK HIGH - CONT.

Conner escapes the doorway first and speeds away, clearly avoiding Chance. CLICK CLACK: Chance catches up.

CHANCE

You never contacted me after Mia's.

CONNER

Frankly, I'm not usually inclined to hangout with people who diagnose my sexuality.

CHANCE

"Truth is truth until the end of reckoning," deary.

Chance gets in front of him.

CHANCE (CONT)

Look. I was really drunk at the party. And, I know I've been bold but I see good in you. Otherwise I'd just ignore you like the rest of these townspeople.

They gesture to the passing students.

CONNER

Thanks?

CHANCE

Take a chance on Chance, Conner.
At the very least we can find your essay together.

CONNER

(sighs)
My house. After school Wednesday.

CHANCE

YAS BAE! I mean...cool.

Chance puts their hand out but instead of shaking pulls Conner into a hug. Conner looks scared but ultimately its kind. The Golden Gays appear dressed as the other Heathers.

MARCUS

Where have you been Heather Duke?

CHANCE

Class, Heather.

MARCUS
"Shut up, Heather."

CHANCE
"Sorry, Heather."

They live in bits. Marcus and Brooks blow past Conner expecting Chance to follow when- WHACK! Marcus and Brooks deploy their fans. Chance forgets: too busy eyeing Conner.

INT. PROM PLANNING COMMITTEE - DAY

Mia stands before various mood boards, each depicting different prom themes. None of them wow the judges, though.

MIA
Something classy- bold, but not tacky.

The Golden Gays enter.

MIA (CONT.)
Speaking of tacky.

BROOKS
You finally noticed! I'd love to give you a makeover!

MIA
What are you three Care Bears doing here?

BROOKS
Bears? Honey this is Twinktown, USA.

JILL
I thought it was Boomfook?

BROOKS
Same thing.

MARCUS
We heard about your little Prom Committee and felt it was our civic duty to provide a "queer eye" for our night of teenage debauchery.

MIA
Well, as you can see I have it under control.

MARCUS

Oh, that's darling of you, but some of us would like Prom to exhibit at least a shred of taste this year.

Marcus SNAP SNAPS and reapplies lip gloss, ironically similar to Mia. Brooks and Chance get out a huge scroll.

MARCUS (CONT.)

My liege?

Brooks unfurls the scroll to reveal an absolutely stunning mood board. A crowned Marcus employing Evita arms is the central feature. Everyone besides Mia seems impressed.

MARCUS

"Glitter and Be Gay."

BROOKS

The Prom of the Century.

CHANCE

The Pride of Senior Year.

MARCUS

The ideal combination of class, sass, and a whole lot of shakin' ass.

Marcus starts to twerk and Brooks fans their ass.

MIA

Is that the crown on *your* head, Marcus?

MARCUS

Why yes, Mia, thank you for noticing.

MIA

I don't know if all the Poppers are Boomfooking your brain but this isn't San Francisco. What makes you think this won't start riots?

Everyone is already researching dresses, decorations, and other accessories that perfectly go with this theme.

MARCUS

Looks like we're fresh out of pitchforks.

((to)everyone)

Ok, so I'm thinking classy- bold, but not tacky...

Marcus continues as Mia slumps in her chair, bereft at losing power in one of her key "Perfect Senior Year" areas.

INT. MIA/AARON LOCKERS - DAY

POV: Inside Mia's locker. It opens.

MIA

That Suede Pump Snake thinks he can slither into my committee and play God?

POV: Inside Aaron's locker. It opens.

AARON

I think it's G-A-W-D. GAWD!

Ignored. He goes on his phone. Mia continues unphased by that questionable knowledge.

MIA

Not after I worked four years to get here. I should put snakes in her locker. See how they like a taste of their own medicine.

(waiting)

Aaron...Aaron...AARON BRAVERMAN?!?

AARON

Wait, what's a Suede Pump?

MIA

If you're still on Earth Friday, maybe you'll remember dinner with my dad. Don't be late.

She walks away from him coolly revealing Conner who's observed the whole exchange.

CUT TO:

EXT. MIA MANOR - NIGHT

DING DONG. Mia opens the door to a dapper Aaron. He's late, and her face says it all. She looks to the clock.

AARON

Traffic.

MIA

Whatever.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Aaron, Mia, and MR. MARKEL (50's), a serious professional, sit at the longest table you've ever seen. Aaron on one end, Mr. Markel on the other, and Mia in the middle. Mia looks more uncomfortable and unconfident than we've ever seen her.

INTERCUT:

EXT. MIA MANOR - SAME TIME

Conner and Skylar round the corner of Mia's house trying to locate their targets.

SKYLAR

Why am I helping you again?

CONNER

Because you want me to get into college.

SKYLAR

I think you should think of a Plan B for your Plan A-

CONNER

Skylar, sh!

They stop abruptly as Conner spots Mia, Aaron, and Mr. Markel from outside the massive dining room window, cracked open conveniently so they're able to hear everything. Conner spots a large tree- the perfect vantage point.

CONNER

Help me up here!

SKYLAR

Oh, sure! Let's stay hidden by scaling the tree right in front of the massive window. That sounds reasonable!

INT. DINING ROOM - SAME TIME

The three at dinner SIP SOUP in unison as STAFF stands behind them, backs to the window. As they talk, we see Skylar helping Conner up the tree, unnoticed by those inside.

MR. MARKEL

So, Aaron, have you settled on a prospective major at Yale yet?

AARON

Yes, sir. I'm planning on Economics and hope to attend Harvard Law.

MR. MARKEL

Impressive. I'm sure you'll easily garner acceptance to my alma mater. You're second in your class, yes?

AARON

Yes, sir. I'm vying for Valedictorian, but the girl in first is...intense.

EXT. MIA MANOR - SAME TIME

Skylar hearing "the girl in first" drops Conner and goes a little closer to the window. Conner hits the ground with a THUD.

CONNER

OW?!

SKYLAR

They're talking about me! SH!
INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Mr. Markel's head lifts, sensing some commotion outside.

MR. MARKEL

Frederick, close the window.

FREDERICK, one of the staff, approaches the window.

EXT. MIA MANOR - SAME TIME

Skylar and Conner hide below the window, out of eyesight. They hear the window closing.

SKYLAR

No, no, no, no!

CONNER

What were you saying about a Plan B?

INT. DINING ROOM - SAME TIME

The three inside continue their meal, unsuspecting.

MIA

I'm top four now, Daddy!

Mr. Markel utterly ignores her.

MR. MARKEL

Who's ahead of you, Aaron?

AARON

Our classmate, Skylar.

MIA

Dyke classmate.

MR. MARKEL

Oh? You should work harder to claim that number one spot, son. Those gays have the upper hand these days.

AARON

What do you mean?

MR. MARKEL

Universities are slaves to the Left's agenda. Admissions have become a morality trip where they used to be a meritocracy. If you want Yale, claim Valedictorian. Now if you'll excuse me, I have some work to do.

MIA

Do you want to hear about my applications, daddy?

MR. MARKEL

Throw the leftovers in the compost, Frederick.

Mr. Markel walks out. Mia looks crestfallen. Frederick takes SOUP and MASHED POTATOES to the window concealing Skylar and Conner.

EXT. MIA MANOR - CONT

Frederick throws the soup out the window nearly missing Conner.

CONNER

HA! Missed me!

Frederick now throws the mashed potatoes out, directly landing on Conner. Skylar runs her finger through some of the excess on his head.

SKYLAR

You know, Plan A is actually super delicious.

CONNER

No good film was ever made without a fight. Come on.

CUT TO:

INT. MIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mia is CRYING on the bed. Aaron would be quite concerned, if this was the first time something like this happened.

MIA

Even with you around, I'm perfectly invisible. I even did my makeup. For my dad! Who does that?

AARON

Everyone shows their love differently!

EXT. MIA'S BEDROOM WINDOW - SAME TIME

A dirty Conner and Skylar climb amongst the leaves of a tree, hiding themselves so they can listen (and film) Mia and Aaron's conversation.

SKYLAR

OW! Move your leg.

MIA (OS)

Well he has a really funny way of showing it.

INT. MIA'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

MIA (CONT.)

He's never asked me what I'm majoring in. He's never asked me for anything besides the bill.

AARON

Aw, come on, that's not true.

SKYLAR

Do you know how hard it is to be so rich? I mean I have to tell Camila to use less softener because it makes me itchy! Do you know how taxing that is? I bet your clothes never itch you!

EXT. MIA'S BEDROOM WINDOW - SAME TIME

SKYLAR

(sotto)

Tough life.

CONNER

Sh! Wait I want to see something.

Conner takes out his phone and types quickly.

INT. MIA'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Aaron's phone BUZZES. He reaches to check it.

MIA

Aaron. Please. Just be here with me for once.

He takes his hand away. She does need him right now. He kisses her. Then, the wind hits a branch on the open window. Aaron goes to close the window when his phone BUZZES again.

EXT. MIA'S BEDROOM WINDOW - SAME TIME

CONNER

Quick! Branch up.

INT. MIA'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Perturbed by his distraction, Mia glances at Aaron's phone.

GRAPHIC: CONNER HERMAN iMessage (5)

Mia looks extremely suspicious. She returns the phone to its previous position as Aaron slams the window shut, fighting the wind.

EXT. MIA'S BEDROOM WINDOW - SAME TIME

Conner is scared by the window's SLAM and falls.

CONNER

WOAH!

Skylar barely notices as she spies.

SKYLAR

I thought you were a queer filmmaker all I see is straight shit.

INT. MIA'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Aaron returns to the bed with Mia.

AARON

Now, where were we.

He kisses Mia but her eyes are wide open: alert and alarmed.

EXT. MIA'S BEDROOM WINDOW - SAME TIME

Skylar watches, disgusted, like it's a cheesy soap opera.

SKYLAR

UGH! EW. Cliché alert.

Conner lays on his back on the ground, gasping.

CONNER

(wheezing)

Skylar. Help.

CUT TO:

INT. CONNER BEDROOM - DAY

Conner attempts to meditate as Chance fans sage around the room. It's comical but not in a culturally insensitive way just in a Conner has no fucking idea what's occurring way.

CONNER

Ohm. Ohm. Oh my god this is ridiculous.

Conner gets up, turns on the lights, and paces- exasperated.

CONNER (CONT.)

I'm sorry but what are you doing exactly?

CHANCE

Certainly not mocking Eastern culture.

CONNER

I wasn't-

CHANCE

White.

CONNER

Right.

CHANCE

Listen there's a reason Western Soccer Mom's have been co-opting these methods in overpriced yoga classes for years. They work.

CONNER

Ugh! I'm never gonna figure this out.

Conner falls back on his bed.

CHANCE

"Cheer up, Charlie!" We'll find a better way...for you.

Shade. Conner's phone RINGS: it's Aaron.

CONNER

It's my mom! One sec.

Conner darts out. Chance sits for a moment then decides to explore Conner's room. They get to Conner's BULLETIN BOARD, the one concealing Plan A. They admire some CHILDHOOD PICTURES of Conner, running their hand down the board until-

They find the slit that changes the board from it's usual look to the hidden "PLAN A" section. Chance changes it and examines, flabbergasted but relieved to know their crush is for the boys. They take their phone out and SNAP a pic.

CUT TO:

INT. AARON'S GARAGE - NIGHT

Conner films Aaron's band again, still digging it. Aaron starts his solo as Conner slips into...

EXT. ROCK CONCERT - FANTASY

Suddenly they're at a massive, wild concert. It's Aaron's band onstage and Conner is front row. Aaron continues shredding and points to Conner, bringing him up to the stage.

He goes on stage and Aaron plays his solo to him. As he shreds, they both glow and the music magically lifts them above the stage. They approach a kiss until...

INT. AARON'S GARAGE - REALITY

Mia BURSTS through the door interrupting Conner's fantasy. She barrels towards Aaron holding some of his CLOTHES.

MIA

You left these at my house, Aary.

Mia kisses Aaron aggressively like she's claiming her land (or her man). She stares down Conner while Aaron struggles to nonchalantly escape her grip.

AARON

I always leave those at your house, babe.

MIA

I know, but I just thought you might want to...give them a wash.

AARON

Oh, thanks.

Mia sits down to watch the band. The room tightens.

MIA

Oh! Don't mind me. I just want to see my boyfriend play.

BRAD

Dude, I can't play with a chick here. She's crampin' my mojo.

Brad sniffs his pit, satisfied where others would be horrified. Aaron approaches Mia to let her down easy.

AARON

Babe, can't you just see it at the Battle like everyone else?

MIA

Oh yeah? Then why is he here.

Everyone now looks to Conner. He side shuffles behind a POTTED PLANT.

AARON

He's helping us with our music vids. So I can show you when I'm proud.

He kisses her on the cheek- this cures her jealousy.

MIA

I suppose my opinion matters most.

Mia begins to go, satisfied. But as she leaves she hears the band relieving the tension and her suspicion returns.

She peers around the corner as Conner and Aaron review footage. The way they look at each other is enough to send suspicious chills running down any spine, especially Mia's.

CUT TO:

INT. AARON'S GARAGE - LATER

Conner sets his camera up in front of Aaron.

AARON

Why do you need this again?

CONNER

Uh...I'm making a behind the scenes video...you know? For USC?

Sounds good enough to Aaron. Conner starts the camera.

CLOSEUP - CAMERA FOOTAGE - INTERVIEW

CONNER (O.S)

State your name for the camera.

AARON

Aaron Braverman.

CONNER (O.S)

Ok, Aaron. What inspires you?

AARON

What inspires me. Can you be a little more...specific?

CONNER (O.S)

What excites you about music?

Aaron is still silent, surprisingly.

CONNER (O.S)

Do you do it for the clout? The art? The girls?

AARON

Oh yeah, Mia would love that answer.

CONNER

Well, were you...uh...were you thinking of her? When you wrote-?

INT. AARON'S GARAGE - CONT.

Aaron gets up and puts his hand on the camera.

AARON

Could we try something else? I don't know if I'm so good on-camera.

CONNER

You just need to relax. Come with me.

AARON

Where?

CONNER

Just follow me, Jimmy Hendrix.

Conner leaves smiling a little too satisfied with himself, but bumps into the glass door on the way out.

CUT TO:

EXT. GOLF COURSE - NIGHT

WHIP! Conner hits a golf ball down into the dark abyss of the driving range, surprisingly in his element here.

CONNER

FORE!

AARON

Wow. Guess you really are a player.

CONNER

LPGA was a staple in my house.

AARON

Lesbian Professional Golf Association?

CONNER

Might as well be.

(beat)

Wanna take a swing?

AARON

I've never tried before.

CONNER

Ah, come on.

AARON

Why not.

Conner hands him the club. Aaron puts the ball down and takes a pitiful swing, completely missing and hitting the grass.

CONNER

He can sling a guitar, but can't swing a club.

AARON

If you're so good then show me.

Aaron requests this just suggestively enough to indicate that Conner's plan may be working. He approaches Aaron.

CONNER

Ok, choke up a little higher.

Aaron tries but it's not to Conner's liking.

CONNER (CONT.)

Here, let me help. May I?

Aaron nods. Conner stands behind him, lifting his hands up to meet Aaron's, testing the waters. Smooth sailing so far.

CONNER (CONT)

Widen your stance. Eye on the ball.

(beat)

And just make a rainbow.

They're both making rainbows as Conner takes Aaron's arms slowly, even sensually, from behind and helps him swing.

"Conner Herman, Slightly Problematic Slightly Noticeable Nice Guy" appears. "Nice Guy" is crossed out and replaced by "Creep?" the label lingers. They hit a perfect shot. They cheer and end up lost in each other's eyes. Aaron's FLASH SILVER again, stronger.

"Creep?" is crossed out and replaced by "Crush?"
If this was a porno, they'd start shagging on the putting green now. But these are a couple of Boomfook Closet Cases, so they just stare until: RING! It's Mia on the phone. Aaron let's it ring again, not breaking the staring contest.

AARON

She'll get mad if I don't pick up by the fourth ring.

Another ring. Is he gonna answer or make a move? Conner gets on his tiptoes ready for what he thinks is gonna be an easy victory to his plan until-

AARON

Hey, babe, what's up?

As Aaron walks away to handle me, Conner dies a little inside. But whether it's from Plan A's success or because he's genuinely falling for Aaron is unclear.

CUT TO:

INT. ALTER - NIGHTMARE

Mia waits alone at the altar. Her father looks at her disapprovingly. Aaron finally enters with none other than Conner. Mr. Markel pushes Mia into a pile of mud, making room for them. Conner and Aaron make out aggressively when-

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. SPA - DAY

Mia, wrapped in a very tight BODY WRAP, awakens abruptly.

MIA
Girls. Emergency.

Kristen and Jill, on either side of Mia, open their eyes in unison. Mia tries to sit up but is foiled by her wraps- a classic physical comedy bit.

KRISTEN
What's wrong?

JILL
Should we call 911?

Now, Kristen and Jill try for a few labored and hilarious minutes to sit up but continually fail. Mia is over it.

MIA
Ok, ok, it's obviously not working! Listen! It's Aaron.

JILL
Oh, you realized size matters?

MIA
What? No, are you 11-

KRISTEN
He's breaking up with you?

MIA
NO. He's been ignoring me.

KRISTEN
He's giving you the silent treatment?

MIA
Well, no.

JILL
Oh! He's not giving you equal treatment?

Jill waves her tongue around like she's lickin da puss.

MIA
Jill, when did you become a middle school boy?
(exasperated beat)

It's not the silent treatment or the sloppy treatment. He's been texting that Conner Herman kid nonstop.

JILL

Maybe it's because his PP tiny.

KRISTEN

Conner who-man?

MIA

You know him. That nearly invisible but generally harmless satchel slinging Spielberg wannabe?

JILL

A boy?

MIA

Yes, Jill, a boy.
(beat)

I saw them at Aaron's band practice. They're making some music video together, and I got a weird feeling. One day Aaron's hot on me and the next he's an iceberg but either way I feel like the Titanic.

JILL

Sinking?

MIA

Does your IQ explain a lot?

JILL

There's a new iPhone?

KRISTEN

They're filming a music video?

MIA

That's what they say they're filming.

KRISTEN

Well, it seems obvious to me. Use the cinephile to get the Aaron profile.

MIA

OMG, you're right. "Oh hey boy I barely talk to, I'm worried you're flirting with my boyfriend. Would you mind handing over your camera, so I can spy on you?" XOXO

KRISTEN

Well you're little miss eyes and ears aren't you? I'm sure you have some leverage in that IQ of yours.

Kristen nods to Mia's iPhone or IQ on Jill's planet. She scrolls until she finds...

GRAPHIC: "50 SHADES OF SKYLAR"

Jackpot indeed. She lays back, satisfied and inspired.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Kristen and Jill stand in front of the BOOMFOOK CHEERLEADING SQUAD, and ready their team.

	KRISTEN	&	JILL
Ready?	OK!		

ALL CHEERLEADERS

WE'LL SHOVE OUR BALLS UP YOUR ENDZONE WE'RE BOOMFOOK
 BULLDOGS SWALLOW OUR BONETHE BULL DOGS, YEAH, BOOMFOOK BULLDOGS
 K-I-S-S OUR HEINIES, THESE BULLS ARE HORNED BOOMFOOK BEHIND
 THE BULLDOGS, YEAH, BOOMFOOK BULLDOGS
 DOGGY-STYLE, THAT'S OUR MOTTO HOLE IN ONE BUT HEY NO HOMO
 BULLDOGS, YEAH, BOOMFOOK BULLDOGS
 GO BULLDOGS!

They end in a raunchy but cheer style button.

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

Mia TAPS her foot waiting for Conner. He approaches: late.

CONNER

Mia?

MIA

I see you got my note.

CONNER

Why did you want me to meet you here?

MIA

So rushed for someone so late.

Mia reaches into her bag pulling out some LIPGLOSS.

CONNER (CONT.)

So...?

MIA

Not so fast.

She reapplies then takes out her PERFUME and does a couple SPRITZES. She SIGHS relief.

CONNER

Ok so?

MIA

Hold on.

She takes out a BAG OF LAYS and dumps it all in her mouth in one take. Conner looks stunned.

MIA (CONT.)

What? I needed a snack. Anyway, I've summoned you here because it's come to my attention that you've been hanging around my Aaron a lot...

CONNER (V.O)

Shit. This is it.

MIA

Getting awfully close with him...

CONNER (V.O)

Goodbye cold, cruel world.

MIA

Spending all your free time with him.

CONNER (V.O)

Please invite Tarantino to my funeral.

MIA

So you're going to help me.

CONNER

Help you?

MIA

Aaron's been distant and you've been conveniently gathering intel. So you're going to turn your little band footage over to me.

CONNER

And why would I ever do that?

MIA

Deny my request and the whole school will receive this following the next issue of Boomfook Weekly.

Mia takes out her PHONE and shows Conner that she possesses "50 Shades of Skylar."

CONNER

Isn't a lesbian fantasy inherently not really Boomfook Weekly?

MIA

Eggplant or not it's gay enough to ruin her for good.

CONNER

Well, she wouldn't get ruined by an eggplant. I guess a strap on eggplant?

MIA

Nevermind.

Mia gets what looks like a GOLD FLASH DRIVE out of her purse.

MIA (CONT.)

Put the footage on this.

Conner is suspicious, but has no choice.

CONNER

Why don't I just email it like a normal person?

MIA

Are you high? I don't want a record of this.

CONNER

I have my own flash drives.

MIA

Some second rate piece of plastic you no doubt whisked off the shelves of a seedy Office Depot? Unless your flash drive has Bluetooth and a built-in speaker, we're going with mine.

CONNER

Gimme a break.

Mia presses a button on the flash drive it plays music. Conner grabs it begrudgingly. Mia smiles: her plan working.

Conner's Label Returns: "Crush?" is replaced by "Spy."

CUT TO:

INT. MIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mia smiling the same way as the M&M's huddle over Mia's computer. Kristen types away furiously.

KRISTEN

Just a couple more lines.

MIA

How do you know how to code?

KRISTEN

Just because I'm a 9.5 with a rockin' bod and perfect ass doesn't mean I'm not also fluent in C++, Python, and Java Script.

JILL

You can grow coffee?

MIA

Jill, what grade are we in?

JILL

I'm the dumb one?

Suddenly, tons of Conner's information pops up on screen.

KRISTEN

There! You now have access to his files, data, and even camera feed.

Off on Mia looking fiendishly inspired.

CUT TO:

INT. CONNER BEDROOM - DAY

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- Conner pacing his room
- Conner sitting and starting his essay and deleting it
- Conner journaling about it on the floor
- Conner throwing a ball of paper towards the ceiling
- The ball falling on his face
- Conner darting up because "he's GOT IT!"

CUT TO:

INT. PARSONS CLASS - DAY

Parsons stares at Conner's essay slack jawed and wide eyed.

PARSONS

"My seventh grade circumcision and I?"

CONNER

You said you wanted something raw.

PARSONS

Not that kind of raw.

CONNER

That bad?

PARSONS

Well, it weirdly does more than "My Girlfriend the Camera," but it's not compelling so much as repelling.

(beat)

Conner, you don't need a flashy story. What are you trying to show them?

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. CONNER BEDROOM - DAY

CHANCE

Your dick?

Chance and Conner sit together with the essay.

CONNER

It sucks.

Conner FLOPS onto the bed.

CHANCE

(sotto)

So do I.

(beat)

You just need to let go of the special effects, bae. Give us a drama not a porno. I know you have a better story.

CONNER

What do you know about me?

CHANCE

I know you're a smart, kind, caring individual who has more to offer than a slaughtered sausage.

Conner chuckles lacking belief.

CHANCE (CONT)

Gurl, get off your ass.

CONNER

What?

CHANCE

Did I open the floor for questions?

Chance walks out. Conner against his best wishes gets up and follows. He reaches one arm back in to grab his camera.

CUT TO:

EXT. VARIOUS CHICAGO LOCATIONS - DAY

Conner films Chance doing "Chicagoey" type things: eating deep dish pizza, running around the fountains, and trying on fun

clothes in a shop. But this is more than simple frolic: there are definitely flirty undertones as Conner films.

Finally, Conner beckons for Chance to follow him.

CUT TO:

INT. WILLIS TOWER - DAY

Conner and Chance step up to the perimeter of the Willis Tower "Ferris Bueller" style. They lean their heads against the window the same way.

CHANCE

You've been watching too many John Hughes movies, bae.

CONNER

You've seen Ferris Bueller?

CHANCE

I'm gay not culturally illiterate. She's a classic.

CONNER

She?

CHANCE

You have so much to learn.

Conner is impressed by Chance's unexpected film knowledge. Chance steals a glance at him- smitten.

CHANCE (CONT.)

It all looks so small from here.

CONNER

It's comforting, isn't it?

CHANCE

Here's something that could help with your essay. If the glass disappeared right now and you knew it was over: what would you have wished you said?

A leading question and Conner's silence speak volumes.

CHANCE (CONT)

Or even did?

Conner remains silent, stymied. He knows exactly what he would say and do, but he's too scared to say it. He deflects.

CONNER
What would you say?

CHANCE
I'd be bolder pursuing love.

Chance finds Conner's eyes. They smile at each other, on the precipice of either a kiss or awkwardness.

CONNER
Wait. Stay right there. I want a shot of this you're glowing.

CHANCE
(flattered)
Stop.

Conner gets down and takes out his camera and starts angling a shot of Chance.

CHANCE (CONT)

What should I do?

CONNER
Just exist. It's more than enough.

Chance is flattered. Conner is flirting and he doesn't even know it. Careful, deary.

CUT TO:

INT. SKYLAR/CONNER LOCKER - DAY

POV: Inside both lockers

Conner opens his locker first. Skylar shortly follows.

SKYLAR
Busy with Plan A this week?

CONNER
More like struggling to get into college.

SKYLAR

Are you gonna take a break from your spy work for my reading tonight?

Conner gets a text from Aaron: "See you at practice later?"

CONNER

I totally forgot I told Parsons I'd film the Basketball game tonight.

Skylar is disappointed but understands Conner is stressed.

SKYLAR

I'll get a recording.

Skylar shuts her locker curtly. Conner mouths "shit" to himself. The BELL RINGS. "SHIT!"

CUT TO:

INT. AARON'S GARAGE - FANTASY

Aaron band shreds a solo as Conner watches from the couch.

AARON

What'd you think?

CONNER

I think you're amazing.

MUSIC CUE: The Romeo and Juliet Ballet Love Theme

Conner walks up and makes out with Aaron as his bandmates slap their backs and cheer in support.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. AARON'S GARAGE - REALITY

AARON

Conner!

Back to reality, Conner is filming but the band has been done for a second. He stares blankly.

AARON (CONT.)

Brad said how was it?

CONNER

Oh!

BRAD

You're weird, bro.

CONNER

(sotto)

You have no idea.

CUT TO:

INT. AARON'S GARAGE - LATER

Conner shows Aaron footage while he cleans and puts away his guitars. He's acting more skittish than usual.

CONNER

This closeup of Brad and you is key.

AARON

Hand me that bottle.

Conner gives it to him and tries to show another shot.

CONNER

Oh and I definitely want to highlight some of your solo shots.

(beat)

Maybe when you guys win the battle I can be your main videographer or groupie or whatever just a fan if that's better, too.

AARON

Maybe.

Aaron keeps cleaning his guitars and the air in the room is a lot thicker than Conner would like.

CONNER

You good?

AARON

Just hand me the amp.

Conner brings it over to Aaron. Aaron goes to grab it and connects hands with Conner, their eyes follow suit. Aaron's glow, brighter still, scaring Conner. WHAM! He drops the AMP on Aaron's toe.

AARON
JESUS!

CONNER
Shit! I'm so sorry! Shit!

AARON
JESUS FUCKING-

AARONS MOM (OS)
You better not be taking the Lord's name in vain!

CONNER
I'll go, I'm sorry bye.

Conner starts to dart out but forgets his camera.

AARON
Wait! FUCK ME! No, not that, just there- your-

CONNER
Camera! Right! Sorry.

AARON
HOLY HELL!

AARONS MOM (OS)
The only hell that's boutta be holy is the one I'm gonna show you if you don't shut your mouth!

Conner starts to leave again but can't help but think about Aaron's eyes glowing brighter. He has to ask.

CONNER
This might be a bad time, but do you remember what happened at Mia's party?

AARON
What? Conner what are you talking about?

CONNER
Nevermind. Just sorry. Just- AGH- fucking christ.

AARONS MOM (OS)
Alright! You asked for it!

Conner darts out before he has to witness "Holy Hell."

CUT TO:

INT. CONNER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Conner struggles to redo his USC materials.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- Conner reviews his recent footage
- Conner edits the film with shots we've seen before
- Conner sits amongst piles of crumpled paper and ideas.
- Conner gets a new idea

Inspired, Conner opens his computer and begins filming himself with his computer's webcam. Right as he begins, though, there's a KNOCK at the door.

INT. CONNER DOORWAY - CONT.

Conner opens the front door to a desperate and wet Aaron, cold in the pouring rain.

AARON
Can I come in?

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

Skylar goes onstage to LIGHT APPLAUSE to read her poem. She looks where Conner should be, disappointment written all over her face. Nevertheless, she begins.

SKYLAR
This is an original.
(breath)
"I dare you to love me..."

INTERCUT:

INT. CONNER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Aaron dries off and Conner keeps his distance, avoiding further embarrassment and trying not to scare him away.

CONNER

How's your toe?

AARON

I'm not here to talk about feet.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

SKYLAR

"Even though my feet aches to run..."

INT. CONNER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Aaron can't look at him. He seems to be gathering strength or maybe even mustering some courage.

AARON

I lied.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

SKYLAR

"Even though the world calls your name..."

INT. CONNER BEDROOM - NIGHT

AARON

Granted I was in deep pain.

CONNER

Again, sorry.

AARON

But I remember.

SKYLAR (VO)

"And pulls you far away..."

Conner is frozen, oscillating between confusion and hope.

CONNER

Remember?

AARON
Mia's party.

Hope.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

SKYLAR
"Across continents and oceans..."
INT. CONNER BEROOM - NIGHT

AARON
Actually, I can't stop remembering because I just need to know...

SKYLAR (VO)
"Yet..."

Aaron finally moves towards Conner, summoning courage.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

Skylar looks up for the final line of the poem.

SKYLAR
"I dare you to love me."

INT. CONNER BEDROOM - NIGHT

AARON
What it felt like to-

Conner cuts him off, kissing Aaron passionately. Aaron is unsure for a moment but then leans into it.

They continue kissing and fall onto the bed together, looking into each other's eyes and hoping for a simple symphony to emerge from this emotional cacophony.

Conner's Label Reemerges but now is just:
"Conner Herman, Aaron Braverman's First"

Plan A may worked! But little do they see the computer, still open and recording all the evidence. Cacophony, indeed.

CUT TO:

INT. CONNER BEDROOM - MORNING

The boys are in the same position and clothes as the previous night. They wake up with a GASP, unsure if what happened was a dream or reality. They look at each other in disbelief.

AARON

I gotta go.

Conner looks like he was just dead legged.

CONNER

Wait, Aaron-

AARON

I said I have to go.

CONNER

Should we talk about it? We should definitely talk about it.

AARON

We should.

Aaron feverishly gathers his stuff, clearly making no effort to talk about it.

CONNER

So?

AARON

So I'll see you at school.

CONNER

Straight boys are so dumb.

AARON

I don't see any straight boys here.

Shit. That's a turn on. Conner goes in to kiss him again but Aaron stops it.

AARON (CONT.)

Listen, last night was...there's something I need to do before that happens again.

CONNER

Again?

AARON

Don't tell me once was enough, player?

Aaron starts to leave and Conner looks peak goofy.

CONNER

Where are you going?

AARON

To break up with my girlfriend.

Aaron SLAMS the door.

CUT TO:

INT. CONNER BEDROOM - LATER

Conner watches Aaron drive away looking newly inspired. He goes back to his computer and realizes he recorded the kiss. Jackpot. Now, the work can't come out of him fast enough.

GRAPHIC: USC CHECKLIST As Conner works feverishly each of the boxes are crossed out, including submitting his application.

CUT TO:

INT. PARSONS CLASS - DAY

The Bell rings as Conner approaches Parsons desk excitedly.

CONNER

So?

Parsons stares at him confused, so he points to his essay on her desk.

CONNER (CONT.)

What'd you think...of this?

Parsons shuffles through his essay, unsteadier than usual.

PARSONS

What were you trying to say?

CONNER

I mean it's all right there isn't it?

PARSONS

I mean if I was a stranger, what would you want me to learn about you?

CONNER

Are you saying you didn't learn anything?

PARSONS

I'm saying your sexuality isn't a story, Conner.

Conner is taken aback by her candor and it shows.

PARSONS (CONT.)

Certainly I was honored that you felt safe sharing yourself with me, but you're so much more-

CONNER

I don't understand.

PARSONS

Who you love is an important part of your experience, but it's not the only part. And the Conner Herman I know defies such simple labels.

Conner is actually feeling something he doesn't often allow himself to feel: anger.

CONNER

I'm confused. You the one who told me to reveal something deep about myself.

PARSONS

Yes, certainly, but-

CONNER

That's what I did. That's exactly what I did. And frankly I don't think you'd know vulnerability if it slapped you in the face.

PARSONS

Conner, please-

CONNER

No. That essay was powerful AND real. And it's going to get me into USC.

Parsons sighs as Conner storms out.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOOMFOOK HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The BELL RINGS and students pour out of BFH.

CONNER (V.O)

Ivy Day or better known in Boomfook as ID Day- the day you will forever identify as an Ivy Leaguer...or not.

Skylar and Conner emerge. Conner calms Skylar down as she anticipates a slew of life changing decisions.

CONNER (V.O)

For some this day carried them through high school, motivating every late study night with the hope that someday their bully would be their bookkeeper.

Aaron, Mia, Kristen, and Jill saunter out. Mia looks extremely unbothered but Aaron is nervous.

CONNER (V.O)

For others, this day is just another new library with their name on it.

CUT TO:

INT. MIA MANOR - DAY

Mia paints her nails, unbothered by the impending news. Aaron's leg is going nuts, extremely bothered.

INTERCUT:

INT. CONNER'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Conner and Skylar pace back and forth, watching the clock like hawks. It's 3:58. 4:00 couldn't come sooner. TICK TOCK. Skylar starts to bite her nails with the ticking clock.

INT. MIA MANOR - SAME TIME

CLOSE ON: the clock nearing 4, Aaron sweating, and Mia blowing on her nails, utterly unbothered.

INT. CONNER'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

4:00. Skylar is frozen.

CONNER
Skylar...Earth to Skylar!

SKYLAR
I can't do it.

CONNER
That's the first time you've ever used those words in that order.

SKYLAR
Do it for me.

She walks away. Conner opens the portal gingerly and...

CONNER
Harvard...HARVARD!

They both CHEER incessantly and hug!

SKYLAR
(pulling out)
I mean, I'm not surprised but-

CONNER
Oh, shut up.

They pause and cheer again. Both beaming with pride.

INT. MIA MANOR - SAME TIME

Meanwhile, at the ice palace. 4:00 PM strikes.

MIA
My hands are still wet, do me first.

Aaron obliges with a SIGH, opens her Yale Portal, and...

MIA (CONT.)
Oh, yay. Check yours.

Aaron goes to check his, already vexed at how casual Mia is at her acceptance to his dream school. He opens his portal, stares, says nothing, packs his stuff, and storms out.

MIA (CONT.)

Where are you...?

Mia finally looks up from her nails, realizes, and chases.

MIA (CONT.)

Aaron. Aaron wait!

He SLAMS the door in her face. She shudders, then angers.

EXT. MIA MANOR - CONT

Mia runs outside after Aaron, pissy exit in progress.

MIA

What the hell was that?

AARON

That was years of hard work getting pissed on by your privilege.

MIA

Oh ok, I'm sorry we don't all have some disadvantaged sob story, but I worked hard, too.

AARON

Did you? Or did daddy donate a new library?

MIA

I got in on my own merit.

AARON

That doesn't change shit! You've never gone to bed each night wondering if all your work did pay off and you somehow got into your dream school whether you could even afford it.

MIA

That's unfair.

AARON

What do you know about unfair?

MIA

Unfair? Unfair is me working my ass off to make high school perfect for us, no thanks to you.

AARON

Perfect for you, Mia. Always perfect for you.

(beat)

Have fun at prom.

MIA

Are you breaking up with me?

Mia looks shell-shocked as he gets into his car.

MIA (CONT.)

AARON! Are you breaking up with me?!

He writes "yup" on a post-it and sticks it to the window.

MIA (CONT.)

You do not break up with me via post-it note! Send a text like a real man!

She picks an AVOCADO off a nearby tree, launches it towards the car, missing horribly and breaking a nail in the process. She SCREAMS while feverishly texting Kristen and Jill.

CUT TO:

INT. MIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mia paces as Kristen and Jill sit at the computer working.

KRISTEN

Just a bunch of stupid band videos.

MIA

Keep looking.

KRISTEN

Wait.

Kristen types feverishly and finds Conner's short film. You know? The one that includes Aaron and him kissing...

KRISTEN

Holy shit.

Mia pushes Jill to the floor to get a closer look. But no tear was shed that eve, only fire and brimstone fuel Mia Markel.

KRISTEN (CONT.)

Mia, I-

MIA

Don't. Save your pity for them. Hurricane Mia is coming.

JILL

Really? Is school cancelled?

MIA AND KRISTEN

Jill!

JILL

Ooooooh, you're Hurricane Mia!

Mia and Kristen look at each other: defeated.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM - DAY

Marcus and Brooks fawn over a magazine, but Chance is far away, lacking their usual presence.

MARCUS

Who does Blake Lively think she is? Celebrating 10 years with Ryan Reynolds.

BROOKS

10 long, hard years.

MARCUS

Hush fool. Need not remind me what I already know.

(beat)

What does she have that I lack?

BROOKS

It's not what you lack it's what she lacks...

Brooks taps Marcus's genitals. They GASP covering them.

MARCUS

Such indecent rhetoric, fiend!

BROOKS

And what about it?

SASHA (15), Marcus's overpowered younger sister, comes in to assert her dominance.

SASHA

Marcus! Did you steal my lip gloss again?

MARCUS

Do my lips look like the clearance rack of a country mall Claire's?

SASHA

No?

MARCUS

Then I guess not.

Marcus wins this one as Sasha storms off.

MARCUS (CONT.)

You're quiet today, Chance.

CHANCE

I just don't really feel like uselessly obsessing over celebrities we'll never know.

BROOKS

Halt! Do I detect a dash of shade?

MARCUS

Better not be opening the library too early, Chance, cause I've been shining my reading glasses all week.

CHANCE

Do you queens ever talk about anything real?

MARCUS

Excuse me?

BROOKS

I only see one queen here.

MARCUS

Me too.

They size each other up.

CHANCE

I'm serious! All we ever do is gossip about cis-gendered male celebrities who would never look at the likes of us with anything but disdain.

MARCUS

And what do you suggest we discuss instead?

CHANCE

Social issues, politics, anything but our getting piped dreams.

MARCUS

Bitch, please. My body is a social issue, this face is a social issue. Outside the compounds of Camp Half-Wit where we're forced to study with Boomfook's finest clan of adolescent apes, I'd like to spend my time doing something other than reminding myself of my unforgiving base existence. If you have a problem with that I can recommend company that will certainly bring up some social issues.

Chance nods towards the magazine as they storm off.

CHANCE

Make sure to send me a save the date for the wedding.

BROOKS

What's her deal?

MARCUS

Gurl, I don't know.

Marcus looks at their phone.

MARCUS (CONT.)

OOH! Pectorals 3 o'clock!

BROOKS

3-0: Cock.

MARCUS

Fiend!

Marcus and Brooks jump back on the bed.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOOMFOOK PARK - SUNSET

Chance and Conner walk together at the park.

CHANCE

Thanks for meeting me.

CONNER

Anytime...what happened?

CHANCE

Oh, it was stupid. I just got in a fight with the girls but it's fine.

The boy with attitude from earlier runs up to them.

BOY WITH ATTITUDE

Hey! You're that weirdo that sits on the swing to not swing!

CONNER

It's not nice to call people-

The kid punches Conner in the gut. He wrenches in pain.

CONNER

(wheezing)

Weirdo.

BOY WITH ATTITUDE

Faggot!

Chance and Conner are taken aback but they're old enough to know this is a battle not worth fighting.

CHANCE

"We're the kids of Boomfook, IL! Woah-O!"

(beat)

Come here often?

CONNER

Skylar and I like to sit on those swings and-

CHANCE

-not swing. So I gathered.

CONNER
You were saying?

CHANCE
Oh, no, it's just I feel like recently I'm tiring of all the frivolity.

CONNER
You call yourselves the Golden Gays. Isn't frivolity sort of the name of the game?

CHANCE
I just...I wish I could feel like I'm more than someone's frivolous friend.

CONNER
You're not just my frivolous friend.

He means it earnestly but it sounds flirty. Still, Chance hears greenlight and kisses Conner, who quickly retracts.

CONNER
Woah. Chance, that's not what I-

CHANCE
Right. I know. You're not gay.

CONNER
No, yes- I mean, it's just-

CHANCE
Just forget it.

CONNER
Chance.

CHANCE
I said forget it, Conner.

Chance storms off and Conner feels terrible...for 0.5 seconds until his PHONE RINGS with Aaron's name on it.

AARON
What are you doing tonight?

CUT TO:

EXT. GOLF COURSE - NIGHT

WHACK! Aaron nails a shot, much better than last time.

CONNER

So he practices.

Conner grabs the club from Aaron's hands cockily. Not the stick he wishes he could manhandle but hey it's a start.

CONNER (CONT.)

But I prefer mine a little less...straightforward.

Conner fakes Aaron out and does an insane trick shot.

AARON

Bullshit.

CONNER

What? I'm "artsy" so I can't have club skills?

AARON

I didn't say that.

CONNER

You kinda did.

They sit under a tree and look out over the course's lake.

CONNER (CONT.)

But the real bullshit is that you're not a Bulldog. I'm sorry.

AARON

Don't worry about it. I'm starting to wonder whether Yale was my dream or Mia's. I barely know the difference.

CONNER

Was she upset?

AARON

She threw an avocado at my car.

CONNER

Ah.

AARON

She missed. Miserably. But it's the thought that counts, right?

Aaron grabs beers from his bag, offering one to Conner.

CONNER

It's a Wednesday.

AARON

Of March of our Senior year.

CONNER

I don't have a bottle opener.

Aaron puts the bottle between his teeth and pops the cap off with ease. Can this guy get any hotter? At this point, Conner looks like he's about to jizz his pantalones.

CONNER (CONT.)

Maybe bartending should be your dream. Then you could whip that out nightly.

AARON

Whatever my dream is it has nothing to do with people's expectations.

CONNER

But I expect you need a date to the prom now...right?

AARON

You expect correct.

CONNER

Huh...me too.

They drink their beers in unison.

AARON

Hey do you want-

CONNER

Yes!

AARON

I was gonna say another beer.

CONNER

Oh.

AARON

What?

CONNER

No, nothing.

AARON

Oh...you thought I was gonna ask-

CONNER

Yeah, kinda.

AARON

I just don't think- you know with Mia there-

CONNER

Don't worry. I get it.

(nervous beat)

How bout that other beer?

Conner musters the 1% of joy left in his brain after this exchange to grab another beer. Suddenly the SPRINKLERS turn on. He jumps back instinctively and lands on Aaron. They face each other and the world stops. Intense tension until...

CONNER (CONT.)

The sprinklers are on.

AARON

The sprinklers are on.

Their beers fall as they kiss in the moonlight, consummating this lucid night under the faux rain of the sprinklers.

CUT TO:

INT. PROM PLANNING COMMITTEE - DAY

WHACK! Marcus stands with a pointer on the calendar.

MARCUS

Two weeks, people. Crunch time.

(beat)

Trisha, where do we stand with decorations.

TRISHA
We bought them yesterday.

MARCUS
From where?

TRISHA
...Walmart.

Brooks and Chance GASP as Marcus faints. Brooks catches Marcus and begins fanning their face.

MARCUS
(sotto)
Not Walmart, not Walmart.

TRISHA
What-

Marcus jolts up as if nothing happened.

MARCUS
NOT WALMART! Does this look like the YMCA? Standards, standards, where are the standards?!? The bar is on the floor people!

Marcus WHACKS out their fan and nervously fans themself.

MARCUS (CONT.)
Mia, please tell me tell tell me something I don't know about entertainment.

She gets up from her seat and saunters to the front of the class.

MIA
The DJ is confirmed. But more importantly...

Mia SNAPS and her minions run up with a poster of Mia's own.

MIA (CONT.)
We all know our theme is Night of a Thousand Stars. So for this year's Senior Tribute I thought we'd honor the Star Crossed Lovers that make our class one of the most...unique to walk the halls of Boomfook high.

Kristen and Jill unfurl the poster: it looks like a movie promo with known couples from around the school. Mia's sales success is evidenced by the light applause that follows.

MARCUS

At least one bitch woke up on the right side today. Now, Trisha, those decorations will obviously be returned...are you taking notes??

Trisha feverishly takes notes as Marcus continues. Mia sits down, looking far too pleased with herself.

CUT TO:

EXT. LOCKERS - DAY

SUPER: The Day of Prom.

Conner gets stuff from his locker. Skylar walks up to hers.

CONNER

How was Thornton?

She says nothing.

CONNER (CONT.)

Was she in the good place today?

SKYLAR

Mhmm.

Skylar closes her locker and walks away. Conner pursues.

INT. HALLS OF BFH - CONT.

CONNER

So meet at Casa Herman at 5 for pics?

SKYLAR

Where were you during my poetry reading last week?

Conner is frozen, she clearly knows the truth.

SKYLAR

Glad your priorities are in order. Maybe Aaron will go with you tonight.

Skylar storms off and Conner notices none other than Mia Markel front row for the bestfriend shit show. She smiles and walks off with Kristen and Jill- clearly responsible.

CUT TO:

EXT. CONNER'S HOUSE - DAY

Conner arrives home to an ALERT on his phone: "USC Portal Update." Suddenly, he looks like he just pooped his pants.

INT. CONNER'S HOUSE - DAY

Jacqui sits at the kitchen table sipping coffee when Conner walks in like a specter.

JACQUI

Honey, what's wrong?

Silence.

JACQUI (CONT.)

Hello? Do I need to text you to get your attention?

Conner shuffles up to where she is sitting and simply slides her the phone with the notification displayed.

JACQUI (CONT.)

What are you waiting for? Get your computer!

Conner obliges as Jacqui FaceTimes Michelle at work.

MICHELLE

What's up?

JACQUI

We're about to have a USC decision!

Michelle CHEERS! Conner is on his computer logging into his portal. He opens it and....

CONNER

(massive beat)

I'm gay.

He shuts his computer furiously and runs upstairs. Jacqui stares blankly.

MICHELLE

I guess we jumped the gun on the cake.

GRAPHIC: A circle highlights a USC Cake in the corner.

CUT TO:

INT. CONNER'S BEDROOM/AARON'S GARAGE - DAY

Conner lays on his bed, wiping tears, unable to process what just happened. His phone rings.

AARON

Am I speaking to a USC Trojan?

CONNER

Not today.

AARON

Damn really?

Conner pretty much wants to think of anything besides this.

CONNER

I don't really want to talk about it. Doesn't Duke come out today?

Aaron stares at his own notification from Duke.

AARON

Nothing yet.

CONNER

I don't think I'll be in attendance at Prom tonight.

AARON

Cmon, don't let USC get you down!

CONNER

It's not just that.

AARON

If it's because of the other night like I said I'm really sorry-

CONNER

Skylar and I got in a fight and she won't go with me anymore.

AARON
Wait, really?

CONNER
It's my fault. Anyway have fun.
(beat)
I gotta go. I have a lot of sulking to attend to.

Conner hangs up.

INT. AARON'S GARAGE - CONT.

Aaron looks to his Duke portal again, frozen. But an idea strikes: he makes a call.

AARON
Yo, how fast can you guys get tuxes?

CUT TO:

INT. CONNER'S BEDROOM - LATER

Conner lays face down on his bed. Then, a KNOCK at his door.

CONNER
Occupied.

Michelle comes in.

MICHELLE
How you doin', buddy?

CONNER
Fucking incredible.

MICHELLE
Language!

CONNER
¡Jodidamente increíble!

MICHELLE
Good one.

CONNER

Thanks.

MICHELLE

Do you wanna talk about it?

CONNER

Is that even an option.

MICHELLE

Ah, the apple doesn't fall far. Apparently, in more ways than one.

CONNER

Oh my surprise declar-gay-tion?

MICHELLE

You're on a roll.

CONNER

I know.

(beat)

Or was it a surprise?

MICHELLE

Conner, we're your moms. Plural. We knew the second we hired Jacob to babysit for you.

CONNER

Retrospectively I think he could bring the gay out of anyone.

MICHELL

So could Denise.

CONNER

Denise?

MICHELLE

My Jacob. It was the little shorts she wore when she cleaned the pool. I thought it was her clothes I was interested in until I realized it was-

CONNER

Her ass?

Michelle smiles. Conner knows how to get to her.

MICHELLE

It took me a long time to admit those feelings. And even longer to tell your Nana, Hellraiser that she was. And when I finally did, do you know what she said to me? Convent or conversion therapy: pick one.

CONNER

So what'd you do?

MICHELLE

I told her to go fuck herself. Then after she threw your Papa's urn at me, I pulled up my bootstraps, put myself through law school, and wound up in a town full of women just like her. How's that for karma? But what I realized was that the pain I had been avoiding, the fear of rejection, was way worse than a dead guy in a silver pot flying towards my head.

CONNER

What does this have to do with USC?

MICHELLE

Once I decided to accept rejection, I realized that it wasn't a life ruiner, it was a life starter. When one closet door closes...

Michelle opens Conner's closet and gestures towards his tux.

CONNER

Thanks, but I'm not going.

MICHELLE

I never said you had to go to prom.

Michelle nods towards the window. Conner looks out and sees the sexiest surprise ever: Aaron has set up a backyard prom.

CUT TO:

EXT. CONNER'S BACKYARD - EVENING

Conner walks out in his tux and signature goofy grin. Aaron has transformed Conner's backyard with hanging lights, tables, and decorations, his band serenading the scene.

CONNER

What's this?

AARON

Since you won't go to prom, I decided to bring prom to you.

(beat)

May I have this dance?

Conner takes his hand. As they dance, he looks at Aaron's band, confused by their previous prom conversation.

CONNER

But I thought-

AARON

Don't think. It's prom night.

(beat)

Hey do you want-

CONNER

We can't drink beer here.

AARON

I was gonna say do you want your first Prom kiss?

Conner's smile is felt round the world that night as Aaron kisses him. Michelle and Jacqui watch from afar, high five, and decide to share a dance as well: a cute gay prom.

CUT TO:

INT. PROM - NIGHT

Meanwhile Mia is about to boil over. Her usuals keep watch.

MIA

It's been an hour: where are they? Who doesn't go to the senior prom?

JILL

Juniors?

MIA

UGH!

Mia angrily takes a handful of CHIPS from a nearby bowl and stuffs her face.

CUT TO:

EXT. CONNER'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Conner and Aaron sit together at a TABLE.

CONNER
A couple rejects at the reject prom.

AARON
Hey! Yale wasn't good enough for me and neither is USC.

CONNER
Maybe it's a good thing. Maybe I'm not meant to be a filmmaker. When does Duke come out?

AARON
Four hours ago...

CONNER
And you haven't checked?! Aaron, you have to check it!

AARON
I kinda just want to enjoy tonight admissions free.

Conner turns away from him.

AARON (CONT.)
Really? The silent treatment?

No response. He waits. The tension builds. Finally, Aaron takes a breath and opens his portal on his phone.

AARON
Fuck me.

CONNER
No, really??

AARON
I got in.

Conner cheers and turns around to embrace Aaron. They're both on top of the world...for now.

AARON (CONT.)
I want us to celebrate. For real. Senior style.

CONNER

Are you suggesting?

AARON

Let's do it!

Conner's moms catch only this and turn their heads nervously.

AARON

Let's go to prom.

Conner's mom's sigh relief, manually unclenching their buttcheeks. The band remains as Conner and Aaron depart.

BRAD

So do we just like vibe out here?

CUT TO:

INT. PROM - NIGHT

Prom is in full swing. Skylar stands near Parsons preferring her company, Derek Johnson and his cronies horse around, and other assorted high school rabble fill out the scene.

Mia is increasing her chip count by the second. Kristen tries to stop her until: Conner and Aaron enter. Mia sees, crushes a new handful of chips, and rushes to the onstage podium.

MIA

Thank you everyone for attending our "Night of a Thousand Stars."

APPLAUSE.

MIA (CONT.)

Before we announce our King and Queen, we thought we'd celebrate tonight's theme with a tribute to the "Star Crossed Lovers" of the Class of '22.

Aaron secretly takes Conner's hand. Mia motions to a screen that displays no tribute at all: it's Conner's film.

CLOSEUP - SCREEN - NIGHT

Footage we've seen Conner collecting throughout the movie begins, but this time it's POV Conner's camera.

CONNER (V.O)

My name is Conner Herman, expository filmmaker with a secret power.

First, the earlier moment of classmates walking by but Conner edited it so their eyes FLASH SILVER as he calls their name.

CONNER (V.O)

I can see identities on the LGBTQ spectrum. Don't believe me? David Turner, noticed him in 7th grade English. Trisha Hinds, just last year after lunch. And even all-star jock Derek Johnson, I've known about him since middle school.

INT. PROM - CONT.

The CROWD MURMURS incredulously. Derek Johnson's face goes ashen. He clenches his fist. Voices of the accused emerge.

DAVID TURNER

What is this bullshit?

TRISHA

That's not true!

CLOSEUP - SCREEN - NIGHT

The footage continues.

CONNER (V.O)

Still think I'm bluffing? Meet my biggest project...

The film switches to Aaron playing with his band.

INT. PROM - CONT.

Aaron lets go of Conner's hands abruptly. Conner looks to him with growing concern but Aaron stays glued to the screen.

CLOSEUP - SCREEN - NIGHT

Now, shots of Aaron and Conner laughing and carrying on.

CONNER (V.O)

I noticed Aaron's "glow up" at the start of this year, so I embarked on my biggest mission yet: Plan A.

Shots of Plan A scroll onto the screen.

CONNER (V.O)

I had one question: could I bring the truth someone has been avoiding for a lifetime to light?

The shot of Aaron and Conner going in for the kiss.

CONNER (V.O)

But what I found wasn't that he was being exposed. I found my own love story unfolding, my own beautiful, unexpected story.

They kiss.

INT. PROM - CONT.

Half the prom LAUGHS while the other half MURMURS incredulously. Mia looks satisfied at the growing dissension.

CLOSEUP - SCREEN - NIGHT

Shots of Aaron and Conner's recent night at the golf course.

CONNER (V.O)

And it's stories like these I hope to tell for a lifetime. Because if my story secured my identity...

Back to shots of students milling around the hallways.

CONNER (V.O)

...then maybe my films have the power to help all the Davids, Trishas, and Dereks find their power too. Help me empower identities forever, USC.

INT. PROM - NIGHT

The prom has turned into a powder keg about to explode.

DAVID TURNER

Fuck that! Ask my girlfriend if I'm gay.

THREE GIRLS from different areas all answer in unison.

GIRLFRIENDS

He's not.

They notice each other.

GIRLFRIENDS

Hey!

A boxing style DING DING goes off- they pounce on each other.

TRISHA
You're calling me a dyke?!

JENNA
Hey! Only I can say that!

TRISHA
Oh so you're a dyke?!

JENNA
And what about it?

Another DING DING as Trisha pushes Jenna. Other students escalate to fights as Brooks takes advantage of the rabble.

BROOKS
Take me, Derek.

He bends over.

DEREK
Dude, I'm not gay I'm just depressed.

BROOKS
We all saw the video...bromo.

Derek grabs Brooks by the collar, but Brooks looks more turned on than scared.

DEREK
You better watch it or.

MARCUS
Or what? Or I'll kick your ass.

Chance backs up Marcus, smiling at him.

CHANCE
We'll kick your ass.

BROOKS
You can still kick my ass.

DEREK

And what are you fairies gonna do about it?

The Golden Gays take formation and start a literal dance battle (dance moves used as fighting moves) that wrecks Derek. THREE JOCKS seize them but the GG's beat them too. Amidst the growing chaos, Aaron confronts Conner.

AARON

Your biggest project?

CONNER

It wasn't like that.

AARON

It looks exactly like that.

CONNER

Didn't you hear the end?

AARON

Yeah, let me into USC. Glad I could be of service to you.

David Turner runs by shoving HOT DOGS in their mouths.

DAVID TURNER

Take that fags.

CONNER

Fuck this.

Conner grabs PENIS SHAPED FOODS, throwing it straight into David's tuxedoed asshole. Trisha notices excitedly.

TRISHA

Alright!

(yelling)

FOOD FIGHT!

The prom breaks into a WW-EAT style food fight. PENIS SHAPED FOODS "take down" some HARRIED TEACHERS by landing right into their mouths. With everyone distracted, Mia seizes her chance to place the crown atop her head. But Jill stops her.

JILL

That belongs to me!

MIA
(shocked)
Jill?!

JILL
You're a bitch, Mia!

KRISTEN
You are! And that's MINE!

The M&M's begin their own boxing style match.

Conner is surrounded by a ANGRY STUDENTS holding PICKLES when Skylar jumps between them. They kick/punch PHALLIC FARE out of the air. Skylar throws Conner a SERVING PLATE and he uses it as a frisbee, knocking down the group.

CONNER
Thanks.

SKYLAR
You'll repay me.

PARSONS tries to quell the terror until a student shoves a CORNDOG into her pants.

PARSONS
Hell no. Teacher's salary doesn't even begin to cover this shit.

She pulls the fire alarm. Chaos ceases with sprinkler rain.

KRISTEN
Ugh! This is so Mean Girls!

PARSONS
Party's over, people!

CUT TO:

EXT. PROM - LATER

Everyone empties out of the Prom looking tired, gross, and over it. Chance meekly approaches the Golden Gays. Brooks and Marcus turn to face them.

CHANCE

Can we let bygays be bygays?

MARCUS

Honey, Bi-Gay is an oxymoron.

All three smile and walk out together. Mia and Aaron exit near each other. Mia feels justified in her actions as she strides past Aaron.

MIA

Thanks for all the fake sex, Aaron. It was totally awesome.

AARO

You know what, Mia? It wasn't the sex that was fake in our relationship, it was just everything else.

Mia is impacted by this. Aaron leaves passing Conner.

CONNER

Aaron I-

He doesn't acknowledge him. Only Conner and Skylar remain. Hopefully he still has her right? But she just looks at him, shakes her head, and leaves: Conner is alone. His label appears, but it's completely changed:

"Conner Herman, Utter Reject"

END OF ACT TWO

ACT III

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

BEGIN MONTAGE: Conner is a reject

-- Conner sitting on the park swings without Skylar

-- Conner typing and deleting an apology text to Chance

-- Conner arriving late to class and no one looking at him

-- Conner walking to Aaron after class: he evades

-- Conner eating lunch alone

MONTAGE ENDS WITH...

EXT. PARK SWINGS - DAY

Conner sits dejected and alone. Suddenly his spirits lift as he notices Skylar. But Conner he has a lot of damage to undo.

SKYLAR

Any sign of the kid?

CONNER

Not since his last slur.

Skylar gestures towards the swing. Conner nods. She sits.

CONNER (CONT.)

You here to lecture?

SKYLAR

Actually, here to listen.

Conner takes a breath. He knows Skylar: it's a test.

CONNER

I've been thinking a lot about Senior Superlatives. It's gonna be pretty tough for them to pick between Worst Friend and Most Likely to Die a Virgin...don't forget that one.

SKYLAR

You're doing it again.

CONNER

I'm pretty sure I just said I'm not doing anything.

SKYLAR

You think swiping your V-Card is your ticket to higher education?

CONNER

I was trying to package myself.

SKYLAR

Colleges don't want a package, they want a person.

CONNER

I want a package.

SKYLAR

Well here we are then...horny gay and lesbian best friend. Why?

CONNER

Why what?

SKYLAR

Why am I your "lesbian" best friend? Why can't I just be your best friend?

CONNER

It's always just been your thing, I guess.

SKYLAR

Oh, that explains the Harvard acceptance. I just wrote lesbian on a napkin and the rest is history.

CONNER

There was this one time in elementary school where my moms came to my soccer game- like that was gonna last. And afterwards they were talking about the team and Michelle said, "Wow, that Derek kids a total jock." I know it wasn't a big deal. It was just a fact. But I just remember thinking how lucky he was. He had found his "thing."

SKYLAR

So my "thing" is "smart dyke?"

CONNER

Considering I thought mine was "super-powered, gay filmmaker"...simple sounded better.

(beat)

Did you always know my "powers" were just a delusion?

SKYLAR

Did you?

CONNER

I wish.

SKYLAR

I think somewhere deep in my genius, dykey brain, I knew you were just coping, so I played along.

CONNER

So you don't hate me, then?

SKYLAR

Don't get ahead of yourself.

(beat)

You're my best friend, Conner. The person I love and hate the most. You're my most.

CONNER

You're my most, too.

The infamous kid approaches, crosses his arms, and taps his foot. Skylar gets up.

SKYLAR

All yours kid. I think we're done here.

Skylar puts her arm around him and they walk away.

CUT TO:

INT. PARSONS CLASS - DAY

The BELL RINGS and Conner approaches Parsons desk.

CONNER

So turns out by the time I finished burning my last USC shirt I realized you might have been onto something.

PARSONS

So I was right: you are an arsonist.

(beat)

Do you know the artist Georges Seurat?

CONNER

The dot guy?

PARSONS

Yes, the dot guy, pointillism. What's intriguing is look too closely and Seurat might as well just be "the dot guy." But step back and the dot guy becomes an artist. Do you want to be the dot guy or an artist?

CONNER

How am I supposed to get all of this at 17...

PARSONS

Please. When I was 17 I shaved my head and smoked a pack a day.

CONNER

Then what happened?

PARSONS

Taxes. Growing up isn't always fun.

(beat)

You know I think you've tried so hard to see yourself a certain way, you're forgetting to step back and see-

CONNER

The whole picture.

PARSONS

(satisfying beat)

So what's next?

CONNER

Shave my head. Smoke a pack a day.

PARSONS

I think you should start paying taxes. Now go find your own brand, dweeb.

Conner holds a smile close to his heart as he leaves. Mrs. P shares the sentiment.

CUT TO:

EXT. AARON'S HOUSE - DAY

Conner paces back and forth in front of Aaron's front door. He lifts his arm to knock then puts it back down. Once again, still no. Ok, this time...KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK!

He hears some ruckus from the inside, finally the door swings open: it's Aaron, stone cold and unamused.

AARONS MOM (OS)
Who is it damn it?!

AARON
A Jehovah Witness.

AARON MOM (OS)
Tell them to shove their propaganda up their-

AARON
MA, no!
(to Conner)
What do you want?

CONNER
Aaron, I know I fucked up. But please just let me explain.

AARON
You know my mom won't let me do the battle of the bands? She's been playing her conversion Pastor Phil tape on loop since Prom night.

AARON MOM (OS)
That's it! I'm getting my crucifix and doin' it myself-

AARON
Have a good life.

Aaron slams the door on Conner's face.

CUT TO:

INT. MIA MANOR - NIGHT

Mia and her dad eat their weekly dinner on opposite sides of the table, far as could be. He reads the newspaper.

MR. MARKEL

Where's Aaron this evening? I wanted to congratulate him on his full ride to Duke.

Mia bristles at this. He hasn't congratulated her for Yale.

MIA

We broke up. I told you on the phone three weeks ago.

MR. MARKEL

Oh? Why?

MIA

Why don't you ask his new boyfriend?

Mr. Markel puts his paper down and looks at Mia sternly.

MR. MARKEL

Well, good thing you've dispensed with him. I wouldn't want to be held responsible for the higher education of another homosexual.

Mia stops abruptly, unlocking something new deep inside.

MIA

That's bullshit.

MR. MARKEL

Excuse me?

MIA

That's. Bullshit.

MR. MARKEL

Watch your tongue, young lady, or Work Study has your name all over it.

MIA

You think all I care about is your money? Jesus! After years of being perfect you still haven't even congratulated me for my acceptance to an Ivy League school. An acceptance I earned. But, no. There's still plenty of time to insult my ex-boyfriend.

MR. MARKEL

You're lucky the Markel Family Biomedical wing is breaking ground this Fall otherwise you'd be cozy on the waitlist. Show some gratitude.

The floor is falling from under Mia, but she's determined to fly.

MIA

When are you going to stop buying me off and actually believe in me?

MR. MARKEL

That donation was belief. Belief in your rightful place at a school that has been in our family for generations.

MIA

That donation wasn't belief. It was embarrassment.

This pounds his ego like a hammer, nailing in the truth of it all. Mia storms off, grabbing her keys on the way out.

MR. MARKEL

You get back here! Mia!

SLAM!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. MIA'S CAR - RIGHT AFTER

VROOOOOM!

CLOSE ON: The speedometer increases swiftly as Mia speeds towards an unknown destination.

She applies lip gloss in a rage.

CUT TO:

EXT. AARON'S GARAGE - SAME TIME

Aaron plays guitar in his garage, alone, as a ravenous, crazed Mia SKRTS into the driveway. She gets out quickly and marches with purpose, landing nose to nose with Aaron.

AARON

Mia, what are you-

MIA

You said sex was the only real part of this relationship?

She inches closer and whispers in his ear.

MIA (CONT.)

Prove it.

Even with all the shit they've put each other through, libidos take over. They kiss, but this time she's in control.

INT. AARON'S GARAGE - CONT.

Mia throws him on the couch as they colonize each other's mouths. Her conquests travel down to his crotch: whiskey dick is a distant memory. Mia pulls back, open and vulnerable.

MIA

I'm sorry.

Aaron tenderly moves a piece of hair away from her face.

AARON

No. I'm sorry.

Their gazes fraternize until Mia kisses him again, passionately. They roll, fall onto the floor with a THUD, and laugh. Fucking > Fighting.

CUT TO:

INT. CHANCE LOCKER - DAY

SLAM! Chance's locker closes only to be met by Conner standing behind it.

CONNER

Can I talk to you?

Chance starts walking away quickly but Conner pursues.

CHANCE

Come to beg for my forgiveness?

CONNER

Actually I need your help.

Chance starts to walk away.

CHANCE

What makes you think I would help you?

CONNER

Because you tried to help me once, and I was too stupid to let you.

Chance stops and looks at him, harshly.

CHANCE

I don't have "crushes," Conner. That's not something I can let myself do. But I let myself do it with you. Why?

CONNER

I can't control the way I do or don't feel. But I'd like to believe the feelings we shared were of true friends.

(beat)

For what it's worth, here.

Chance gets a text with a Video titled "Chance and Conner vs. Chicago!" Chance can't help but smile as Conner walks away. Chance takes out their phone makes a call.

CHANCE

Ok girls, we have a job.

CUT TO:

INT. AARON'S GARAGE - NIGHT

Aaron polishes his guitar as another car SKRTS into the driveway. But instead of Aaron's foxy-ex emerging from the vehicle it's THREE MASKED FIGURES wearing BLACK HEELS.

AARON

Who the hell are you?

Aaron jumps up ready to fight.

MASKED FIGURE 1

You're worst nightmare.

We recognize Marcus's voice under the mask. They signal to their comrades who knock Aaron out with some unknown gas.

CUT TO:

INT. AARON'S GARAGE - LATER

The formerly masked figures are now unmasked: it's the Golden Gays come to kidnap Aaron. But Marcus sits on the couch cross legged, filing their nails, and making no attempt to help Brooks and Chance struggle lift Aaron's limp body.

CHANCE

When I said we have a job I meant all three of us.

MARCUS

You know I don't lift any object exceeding 5 lbs.

GASP! Aaron wakes up surprising our three queens.

AARON

What's going on?

MARCUS

Aaron Braverman, come with us.

AARON

Where.

MARCUS

If we wanted you to know do you think we would have knocked you out?

The Golden Gays stride to the car. Without a word, Marcus tosses Aaron the keys.

CUT TO:

EXT. CONNER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A car ROARING with SHOW TUNES pulls into Conner's driveway. Aaron clearly didn't bargain for chauffeur duty.

INT. MARCUS'S CAR - NIGHT

Aaron starts to get out of the car and Marcus pulls him back into his seat. Marcus BELTS the final notes of the song in Aaron's ear. Aaron looks like he's plotting murder.

CUT TO:

EXT. CONNER'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

The Golden Gays escort Aaron to Conner's backyard where a SCREEN has been set up in front of some OUTDOOR CHAIRS. They seat him in a chair towards the front and take seats behind.

CONNER

I know I'm the last person you want to see, but I need to show you something.

Conner goes to his computer connected to a projector and presses play.

CLOSEUP - SCREEN - NIGHT

We hear the first notes of the band's Lakawana Room audition as a finished music video appears on screen. The video features shots of Aaron's band and B-Roll that Conner collected throughout his experiences, making for a beautiful, gay narrative. It ends with a grainy shot of the kiss.

EXT. CONNER'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Marcus SOBS as the music video ends.

MARCUS

I love the gays.

Conner timidly approaches Aaron, a GOLDEN ENVELOPE in hand.

CONNER

I showed it to the Manager at the Lakawana House. And...

Conner hands Aaron the envelope: "You're Invited to the BATTLE OF THE BANDS!" His mood lifts considerably.

AARON

How did you get them to watch this?

CONNER

Oh, you know...asked nicely.

INTERCUT:

INT. LAKAWANA ROOM - NIGHT

The MANAGER of the Lakawana Room MOANS as Conner gives him head.

EXT. CONNER'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

AARON

I really can't thank you enough.

CONNER

So ask me.

AARON

Ask you what?

CONNER

To be your boyfriend? To be with you? I kind of thought we were ready to put a label on this.

AARON

I didn't- I don't have feelings for you, Conner. I'm sorry.
(sad beat)

Now, can someone please drive me home because Ma's making meatballs, and I can't miss it.

MARCUS

Well, I sure as hell ain't doing it.

Conner wipes a tear away from his cheek and nods, crushed.

CUT TO:

INT. GRADUATION - DAY

Graduation! Everyone sits in their caps and gowns in the school auditorium. The CROWD APPLAUDS.

PARSONS

Welcome to the commencement ceremony for the Boomfook High Class of 2022! Now, I'd like to invite our first speaker: Salutatorian Aaron Braverman.

Aaron approaches the PODIUM, staring at his speech. But before beginning, he catches Conner's glare, and crumbles it.

AARON

What a weird year, am I right?

The audience CHUCKLES.

AARON (CONT.)

Weird in some good ways and weird in a start a food fight at prom kind of way. But everything changed because the Class of '22 decided to challenge our Boomfook ways and break the status quo. Now I'm not gonna break into some High School Musical, Troy Bolton style speech even if this year did feel like an early 2000's movie. But our class proved that we're so much more than the boxes we put ourselves in. Whether it's three classmates brave enough to display their identities and kick ass through perfect choreography...

The Golden Gays Schuyler Sister's SNAP in unison.

AARON (CONT.)

Or others finding the courage to stick up to the people they love most...

A shot of Mia smiling at Aaron.

AARON (CONT.)

Or others who risked rejection to pursue their truths.

He looks at Conner who's still colder than Aaron would like.

AARON (CONT.)

Bravery, Courage, Truth: whatever way you slice it, it all ended with a pie in the face anyway.

(beat)

As for me, I learned the most important lesson of my life: what fun is life if we have to pick a lane and stick with it?

Now, Aaron looks straight at Conner.

AARON (CONT.)

So switch gears and explore all the roads untraveled. Cause even if you change course, at least you learned something new.

Everyone CHEERS. Conner stands, inciting a standing ovation, but instead of joining the rapture he runs off.

CUT TO:

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

Conner sits alone under the kissing tree. Aaron exits a car, approaching Conner.

AARON

How'd I know you'd be here, player?

CONNER

Don't you have some party to attend?

Mia HONKS the horn. It's literally been two seconds.

AARON

Gimme a sec.

MIA

I did!

AARON

I meant what I said in my speech.

CONNER

That you're changing course? Yeah, I kinda got that already, player.

AARON

Ouch.

(beat)

I learned a lot I needed to from you.

CONNER

Glad I could be of service.

AARON

Me too.

CONNER

Ouch.

(beat)

Looks like we kind of used each other. I'm just the fool who caught feelings.

AARON

I'm sor-

CONNER

Please- don't. I'm the one who should be sorry.

Mia HONKS again way more aggressively.

MIA
Aaron! COME ON!

CONNER
So you two are like back together?

AARON
For now. Turns out you were the best thing that ever happened to us.

CONNER
Great.

AARON
Yeah that didn't come out the way I thought it would. See ya around.

Aaron starts walking towards the car when-

CONNER
Aaron, what did you see in me?

AARON
The same thing I saw in myself: someone looking for their thing. But the secret is, you don't need one.

Aaron approaches the car again.

AARON (CONT.)
Oh yeah. Do me a favor and don't accidentally kiss anymore "straight" guys at parties. It has an effect.

CONNER
No promises.

CUT TO:

EXT./INT. VARIOUS - MONTAGE

SUMMER/BEGINNING COLLEGE/STAYING HOME MONTAGE

Conner and Skyler's Summer vs. Others. THEN, Conner's friends in college juxtaposed to Conner at home, alone.

-- Conner/Skyler watch movies vs. Others P-A-R-T-Y

-- Conner/Skylar play cards vs. Others go clubbing

-- Conner/Skylar pack her car vs. farewell parties

-- Everyone arriving at dorms vs. Conner arriving at El Pepe's for work

-- Getting the dorm keys vs. being handed an apron/uniform

-- Eating a meal with new friends vs. having dinner alone

-- Hanging in the dorms with friends vs. watching a movie alone and falling asleep in the process

END MONTAGE:

INT. CONNER BEDROOM - MORNING

Conner wakes up in a FLASH, computer still on his lap. Time to stop pouting and start working. He gets up, goes to his desk, opens a new word doc, and types:

CONNER

(sotto)

Let's try this thing one more time. And this time I swear to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth. This is the story of how I ruined my Senior Prom.

We've caught up to the beginning of the movie.

CUT TO:

INT. CONNER BEDROOM - DAY

Conner types feverishly and edits a video. He takes a breath and submits a second USC application, cautiously optimistic.

CUT TO:

INT. EL PEPE'S MEXICAN FIESTA - DAY

Conner stands at the counter near Parsons who's works the bar again. His foot is taps nervously as he stares at the clock.

PARSONS

Relax, Conner. It'll be fine.

Conner doesn't even really hear her. The clock hits 4 PM as he clocks out SWIFTLY and runs out the door.

PARSONS (CONT.)

Good luck!

CUT TO:

INT. CONNER'S HOUSE - DAY

Conner barrels into his house- his moms wait for him.

MICHELLE

Is it time?

Conner just opens his computer: Michelle and Jacqui's cue to leave and give him privacy. Conner opens his computer and goes to his USC portal. He logs on, smiles, and-

CUT TO:

INT. USC DORM - DAY

Conner and his moms move him into a USC dorm. As they excitedly unload Conner's things, there's a KNOCK at the door from some QUEER LOOKING STUDENTS.

AARON 2

Hey we're you next door neighbors.

Michelle and Jacqui clock Conner's joy: he's finally at college meeting people this cool looking.

CONNER

I'm Conner nice to meet you.

AARON 2

I'm Aaron!

Conner is struck. They shake hands: no hugs this time.

AARON 2 (CONT)

We're all going to the dining hall to grab some lunch...wanna join?

JACQUI

Go. We can finish up in here.

CONNER

I'm coming!

Conner looks to his moms who have tears in their eyes.

MICHELLE

It's so dusty in these dorms.

Conner cuts her off with a group hug. They share a tender goodbye. Then, Conner goes with his new friends. Jacqui and Michelle look at each through teary eyed smiles.

INT. DINING HALL - DAY

Conner settles in with his new friends at lunch.

CONNER (V.O)

I used to think I was invisible. Even though I had powers:
I thought it made me special.

INT. COMMON ROOM - DAY

Conner hangs out with another group of friends.

CONNER (V.O)

But eventually I realized that labels are limitations.

INT. COLLEGE DORM - DAY

Aaron lays in bed with a girl.

CONNER (V.O)

Because whether people turn out the way you expect.

Suddenly a boy also emerges from under the sheets.

CONNER (V.O)

Or they surprise you.

INT. COLLEGE THEATRE - NIGHT

Marcus performs as Sally Bowles in Cabaret.

CONNER (V.O)

You have to let people become who they are...

EXT. QUAD - DAY

Mia posts a sign on a Yale Building: "Meet Freshman Class President: Mia Markel."

CONNER (V.O)

Knowing they're more than who they love...

INT. ART STUDIO - DAY

Chance paints in an art studio in the city.

CONNER (V.O)

what they love...

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Brooks does drag makeup and goes to greet the crowd fiercely.

CONNER (V.O)

Or who they want to become.

INT. MIT COMPUTER LAB - DAY

Kristen gives a presentation on an extremely complicated looking algorithm and receives praise from her peers.

CONNER (V.O)

Because at the end of the day,

EXT. USC CAMPUS - DAY

Conner walks around campus, marveling at his awesome peers.

CONNER (V.O)

We redefine and defy our labels constantly. And what's a label anyway? I'm not a cereal box after all.

EXT. USC SCHOOL OF CINEMATIC ARTS - DAY

Conner stands before the gates of USC School of Cinematic arts, preparing himself for the start of a new journey.

CONNER (V.O)

I'm a USC Film Student who's just getting started.
He enters, beginning a new chapter.

END OF MOVIE

ACADEMIC VITA

Jack Maloney

EDUCATION

The Pennsylvania State University- University Park

Expected May 2022

College of Arts and Architecture

- ◆ Bachelor of Fine Arts in **Musical Theatre**

Schreyer's Honors College

- ◆ **Schreyer's Honors Scholar**

College of Liberal Arts

- ◆ Minor in **Creative Writing**

Smeal College of Business

- ◆ **Smeal Business Fundamentals Certificate**

CREATIVE WORK

Cabarets for a Cause

Instagram

Producer and Host

May 2020

- ◆ Produced and Hosted Instagram Live cabaret series benefitting various Non-Profits
- ◆ Assembled TV, Broadway, and National Tour Actors to perform
- ◆ Raised over \$500 for organizations through online donation

NSO Results May Very

State College, PA

Writer/Performer

Summer 2020

- ◆ Collaborated in a group of 10 writers
- ◆ Created, wrote, and performed sketches and songs for virtual performance about Penn State for Virtual New Student Orientation

Broadway Beat News

Online Publication

Contributing Writer

October 2020-Present

- ◆ Wrote satirical articles to comedic Broadway News publication
- ◆ Articles have been featured on Instagram and Broadway Beat website

Phroth Humor Magazine

State College, PA

Member & Contributing Writer

September 2020-Present

- ◆ Participate in Weekly Writing Exercises and Brainstorming
- ◆ Write Comedic Articles for Satirical Magazine & Newspaper

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Penn State Musical Theatre Social Media

State College, PA

Student Head of Social Media

Fall 2018-Present

- ◆ Design and curate content for Instagram and Facebook to promote work of alums and current students
- ◆ Produce and Host online student cabarets to promote student work during COVID
- ◆ Helped initiate world theater day campaign and PSUMT alumni tradition
- ◆ Aided in tripling the following on Instagram through new initiatives

Eclipse (Special Interest THON Organization)

State College, PA

Vice President: Marketing

May 2019-June 2020

- ◆ Oversee Communications, Merch, Donor & Alumni Relations, and Member Development
- ◆ Collaborate with board members to design and brand Organization
- ◆ Organize member events and oversee execution

- ◆ Help manage an organization of over 500 members

Camp Kesem Central PA

Teen Leadership Program Coordinator

State College, PA

September 2019-Present

- ◆ Develop and oversee Teen Leadership Program and design monthly newsletter
- ◆ Communicate with businesses and vendors to plan Fall and Spring reunions
- ◆ Participate in all board decisions

WORK EXPERIENCE

S.T.A.T.E Summer Musical Theatre Intensive

Counselor

State College, PA

Summer 2019 & 2020

- ◆ Managed 35 prospective Musical Theatre Students for 2 weeks
- ◆ Hosted Counselor and Student Cabarets

AWARDS & OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

National Merit Scholar

President's Freshman Award

The President Sparks Award

The Robert Reifsneider Award 2020

- ◆ Awarded to a B.F.A. Musical Theatre student who has contributed to the success of the program and has benefited other students in the program through positive role modeling