INSIDE OUT

A musical

Book & Lyrics by Josh Wellman · Music by Herbert Draesel

Excerpt: Act I, Scene 3

ACT I, SCENE 3

ANDY and two friends stand under a neon sign that says "THE PLOW." ANDY is very uncomfortable.

ANDY

I totally have butterflies in my stomach. I'm kinda scared.

JOEY

It's a bar. That's all - a bar.

ANDY

If my parents drove by, a bar would be bad enough. Let alone one with... homosexuals inside. No offense.

JOEY

None taken. I bet you're a little excited, anyway. The unknown frontier. Who knows what you may find?

CHRISTY

True. It's not *just* homosexuals. It's also heterosexuals and bisexuals and *trans* folks.

ANDY

What if a dude hits on me?!

JOEY

If he's cute, send him to me as a birthday present.

ANDY

All right. Take a deep breath. Going in won't make me gay. It won't send me straight to hell. I'll be fine.

CHRISTY

I won't tell your mother. I won't tell your priest, or whatever you Baptists call them. You're safe.

ANDY

You owe me one, Joey. Happy birthday!

(pause)

Okay, I need a stiff drink.

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JOEY

I need a stiff–

ANDY

(interrupting)

Never mind! Let's just get into this den of iniquity before I change my mind.

They enter . . . the interior of THE PLOW rolls on. It is a neon-chrome-kitsch spectacular, with a small raised stage and shirtless boys. There is a DRAG QUEEN on the stage dancing . . It's sort of loud.

ANDY

I think I might wait in the car.

CHRISTY

Shut up and buy Joey a drink.

JOEY

Yeah, buy me a drink.

CHRISTY

And one for me.

ANDY

One of you has to come with me.

JOEY

Ohmigod, Christy, look – it's Bryce Danvers! How do I look? Oh, you have to come be my wingwoman.

CHRISTY

(to ANDY)

You're on your own kid.

ANDY

No!

CHRISTY

(gently mocking, as JOEY drags her away)

Be brave. Be strong. Be . . . not a freak. Or a cheapsake!

ANDY

It's cheap*SKATE*.

CHRISTY

Whatever, just buy us drinks!

ANDY goes to the bar. He bumps into BEN accidentally.

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ANDY

Oh! Sorry.

They make eye contact. An instant connection is made - MUSIC starts.

BEN

It's all right.

continues around to another part of the bar... keeps his eyes on ANDY

DRAG QUEEN

(sings)

STANDIN' IN THE SHADOWS OF A DARKENED ROOM,
I PUSH TOWARD YOU ACROSS THE DANCIN' CROWD.
STANDIN' IN THE HALO OF A SILVER MOON,
I TRY TO MAKE YOU HEAR ME, BUT IT'S JUST TOO LOUD.
I SWEAR HERE AND NOW,
I'LL GET TO YOU SOMEHOW!

NOTHIN'S GONNA KEEP ME FROM YO LOVE.
NOTHIN' ON EARTH OR DOWN BELOW OR UP ABOVE.
NOTHIN', NOWHERE, WILL KEEP ME AWAY:
NOTHIN'S GONNA KEEP ME FROM YO LOVE.

ANDY keeps trying to avoid eye contact with BEN, turns suddenly to a SASSY-LOOKING GIRL beside him.

ANDY

Um... Sure is loud in here, huh?

SASSY-LOOKING GIRL

What?

ANDY

I said, "It sure is loud in here, huh?"

SASSY

I have no idea who you are.

ANDY

What?

SASSY

What?

There is a quiet patch in the music, as DRAG QUEEN dances.

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ANDY

You here with friends?

SASSY

No.

ANDY

Oh. I am. They're, uh, dancing. Over there.

SASSY

How nice.

ANDY

Yeah. So, um. It's my friend's birthday. That's why I'm here. I'm not really gay.

SASSY

Well I am, and that amazingly hot girl right over there - see her? - she won't come over to talk to me if you continue to not go away.

ANDY

(pause)

Um, ok. Sorry.

BEN goes to doors to terrace. He looks at ANDY deliberately, then exits. ANDY only catches the exit.

DRAG QUEEN

(sings)

SUDDENLY YOU TURN AND THEN YOU DISAPPEAR,
I TRY TO CATCH YOUR EYE, BUT YOU DON'T SEE.
I PRAY THAT YOU WON'T LEAVE ME STANDIN' HERE,
CAUSE YOU'LL HAVE SEEN ME LOOKING, SO YOU'LL COME TO ME.
BUT HOPE TAKES HOLD,
AND ALL AT ONCE I FEEL BOLD!

NOTHIN'S GONNA KEEP ME FROM YO LOVE.
NOTHIN' ON EARTH OR DOWN BELOW OR UP ABOVE.
NOTHIN', NOWHERE, WILL KEEP ME AWAY:
NOTHIN'S GONNA KEEP ME FROM YO LOVE.

ANDY waits just a moment, then goes outside.

BEN

Hi.

ANDY

Oh. Hi. I’m supposed to be buying drinks. I only came out here because it was so loud and crowded in there.

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BEN

Same here. I hate the bar scene. I'm convinced that there is a whole generation of homosexuals who will be leaning forward saying, “Eh? Can’t hear you!” by the age of 40.

ANDY

Ha, yeah.

BEN

Nice view, huh?

ANDY

Yeah. So, uh, you like sports?

BEN

I like football.

ANDY

Really? I used to play football. Till I graduated.

BEN

I should say, I like football *players*.

ANDY

Um. Oh.

BEN

Sorry, that was a bit forward. I'm Ben.

ANDY

I'm, um, Andy. Incidentally,
(sings)
I’M NOT REALLY GAY.

BEN

NEITHER AM I.

ANDY

(speaks)
Really?

BEN

I don't like labels.

ANDY

Oh. Well...
(sings)
I AM ACTIVELY *UN*-HOMOSEXUAL.

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BEN

THEN WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

ANDY

FRIENDS. YOU?

BEN

FRIENDS.

(speaks)

See, I don’t like to look for dates at places like this. You just get flakes and losers, typically.

ANDY

Really?

BEN

Well . . . that's all I ever seem to find. Or *straight* boys.

ANDY

Ha, that's me!

BEN

Sorry, I didn't necessarily mean you. But it's tough, since...

(sings)

I'M NOT REALLY GAY.
BY WHICH I MEAN, I DON'T RELATE TO
THE MEDIA'S
PREPACKAGED, BITE-SIZED STEREOTYPE...

(speaks)

You know, of what a “homosexual” is.

ANDY

(speaks)

Gotcha.

(pause)

I attend the First Church of God, out in Hamilton Heights. Do you go to church?

BEN

Whoa. Um... not often. Guess we’re both feelin’ a little awkward, huh?

ANDY

Thanks . . . I mean, yeah. I mean. . . .

(pause, then sings)

I'M NOT REALLY GAY.
BUT IF I WERE, I BET I'D LIKE YOU.
CAUSE YOU SEEM REALLY COOL,
AND STUFF.

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BEN

WELL, IF YOU WERE GAY,
I BET I'D KIND OF LIKE YOU,
TOO.
BUT OF COURSE, I'M NOT REALLY "GAY,"
PER SE...
NO WAY I'D EVER SEEK OUT A QUICK LAY
IN A BAR.
THOUGH YOU ARE
QUITE CUTE...
AND YOU ARE
CLEAN-CUT...
AND A FORMER-FOOTBALL-PLAYER...

WHO'S

BOTH

NOT REALLY GAY.

ANDY

AND I AM REALLY, REALLY GLAD
I'M NOT REALLY GAY!

BUT I KIND OF WISH I WERE,
SO I COULD GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER.

BEN

WELL, UM...
THANKS.
BUT SINCE YOU'RE NOT,
I GUESS YOU CAN'T.
(starts to leave.)

ANDY

WAIT!
(BEN stops)
STAY!
I MEAN,

I'M NOT *REALLY* GAY...
BUT...
I'M...
UM...
YOU'RE NICE TO TALK TO.

BEN

SO ARE YOU.
(they almost kiss, but don't)
SO WHY NOT COME AND TALK TO ME,

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SOMEWHERE ELSE?

BOTH

SOMEWHERE NOT SO...
GAY.

FADE OUT as they exit.

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