



queerSpawn

BY MALLERY AVIDON



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queerSpawn was presented by A Collection of Shiny Objects (Elizabeth R. English and Jesse Geiger, Co-Artistic Directors) at HERE Arts Center in New York City, opening on May 10, 2013. It was directed by Jesse Geiger; the scenic design was by Carolyn Mraz; the lighting design was by Natalie Robin; the costume design was by Kerry Gibbons; the sound design was by Nathan Leigh; the fight choreography was by Michael Moreno; and the stage manager was Rachel Manheimer. The cast was as follows:

THE KIDDavid Rosenblatt
ANOTHER KID J. Alexander Coe
THE NERD Chris Perfetti
THE AFRICAN KID/
THE NURSE Akeem Baisden Folkes
DAN SAVAGE/FRED PHELPS/
THE SOCIAL WORKERDavid Greenspan
McSTEAMY/BRAD PITT/
THE DOCTOR.....Noel Joseph Allain

Development and research for queerSpawn was provided by Writers Omi at Ledig House; the Bay Area Playwrights Foundation Rough Reading series; and Colage, a support and advocacy group for daughters and sons of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender parents (www.colage.org).

CHARACTERS

THE KID:

14, real

ANOTHER KID:

14, real

NERD:

14, real

THE AFRICAN KID/NURSE:

imaginary/real

DAN SAVAGE/FRED PHELPS/SOCIAL WORKER:

imaginary/imaginary/real

McSTEAMY/BRAD PITT/DOCTOR:

imaginary/imaginary/real

PLACE and TIME

America.

Somewhere small.

Somewhere in the middle.

Right now.

NOTE

This play is like a pressure cooker that you need to get out of.

It should fly by.

No blackouts.

queerSpawn

*The First Day of School.
The Kid stands in front of his locker.
“FAG” is written on it in big letters.*

THE KID.

Obviously I've been thinking about running away.

But the problem with running away is that you have to go somewhere.
And I've never really been anywhere so I don't know where to go.

I try to imagine what it would be like to live places.
But it's hard.
Pictures don't tell you what it feels like.
Or what it smells like.

Also I have to go really really really far
because if I am far enough away maybe
I can write a note and say:
Dear Mom and Wendy,
I'm doing good.
I love you both so much.
But I'm in BLANK
and you don't need to come and get me.
I know you both love me more than sunshine
like you always say
but I just ...

I've been thinking Africa.
I feel like in Africa it wouldn't matter.
I would be so different anyway that all the little differences wouldn't
matter

And my moms wouldn't be there.

I would be by myself.

And it would be so hard to do anything

It would be so hard just to feed myself and find somewhere to sleep
and not catch malaria or ...

I don't really know much about it.

I know it is hot there.

I know there are deserts and lots of people

And there are lots of different countries

And I know that's where we went and stole all the slaves from

Maybe they hate white people because of that.

Maybe I can't move to Africa.

Maybe it would be just as bad.

*The Kid goes back to trying to turn the big letters F-A-G on
his locker into something else.*

*Like girls who get ugly tattoos when they're 18 and then later
they get them turned into something less hideous.*

In the Cafeteria

The Kid is eating lunch by himself.

It wasn't always like this. I had Friends once.

Another Kid walks by.

ANOTHER KID.

faggot

There are no grown-ups.

THE KID.

What I want to say to them is: I'm not gay.

But.

a. It won't do any good.

and

b. I don't know how to say that without also saying
"not that I think there's anything wrong with it.

There's nothing wrong with it. Lots of people are gay. Lots of people
all over the country and all over the world are gay and they are
happy and in love and have super awesome lives."

Which would only make them think I'm gay even more than they
already do.

You probably think I'm gay right now.

And I'm not. Really.

That isn't what this is about.

Really.

Also

I would like to tell you now.

This doesn't end with me killing myself.

I am not going to kill myself.

Another Kid walks by again.

ANOTHER KID.

You Stupid Queer Ass FAG

THE KID.

He was my best friend in kindergarten.

I didn't have two moms in kindergarten.

And I don't want.

I don't blame my mom.

Or Wendy.

I like Wendy.

And they are happy and in love and maybe their lives aren't super
awesome but ...

They love me.

They love me more than ...

well insert anything.

That's their favorite thing to say.

We love you more than X

We love you more than ...

But that doesn't.
Love isn't ...

I like Wendy more than I ever liked my dad.
But it ...

Maybe it would have been easier if I ALWAYS had two moms.
Because then I never would have had friends.

A Nerd comes and sits at the table with him.

NERD.
Is anyone sitting here.

THE KID.
Nope.
You might not want to either.

NERD.
Why?
Do you smell bad?

THE KID.
No. You just moved here didn't you?

NERD.
How did you know?

THE KID.
Small Town
You're the only new kid.
Everyone else here has known each other all their lives.

NERD.
Seriously?

THE KID.
yeah.
This isn't like a place people move to.

NERD.

I used to live in San Francisco.

THE KID.

Really?

What happened.

NERD.

My Mom lost her job.

And then my Dad lost his job.

And they couldn't find new jobs.

So we moved in with my grandparents.

THE KID.

That Sux.

I thought everyone in San Francisco was gay.

NERD.

We didn't actually live IN San Francisco.

THE KID.

Oh.

Where did you live?

NERD.

It doesn't matter.

You wouldn't have heard of it.

Just a town.

Why are you sitting by
yourself?

THE KID.

Cuz.

Cuz I.

No one likes me.

NERD.

Are you mean?

queerSpawn

by Mallery Avidon

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queerSpawn tells the story of The Kid, a fourteen-year-old starting high school in a small town. Everyone knows he has two moms, and that's just the beginning of his trouble. While dodging bullies, The Kid invents a group of imaginary friends with whom to share his troubles, including sex/relationship advice columnist Dan Savage and Dr. McSteamy from TV's *Grey's Anatomy*. But as his reality becomes more and more hazardous, their "help" becomes less and less helpful. Staring down four more friendless years, what is a Kid to do?

"[C]ompassionate and bleakly funny ... an all-too-apt expression of the interior world of a high school freshman looking at four years of the loneliness and despair that have become his everyday companions. How can you really believe that things will get better when they never seem to change?"

—The New York Times

"queerSpawn is difficult to watch, but that's part of the point ... [The play is] a sort of philosophical dialogue between The Kid and the social forces that have shaped his personal hell. Playwright Mallery Avidon's original research was supported by Colage, the only national organization for people raised in LGBTQ families, where she had the opportunity to interview teens and young adult children about their experiences at home and in the world. It's a timely, unique, and fascinating piece."

—BroadwayWorld.com

Also by Mallery Avidon

MARY-KATE OLSEN IS IN LOVE

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