



2-PERSON SCENES

This scene is from a Stage Partners play, free to read in full at yourstagepartners.com.

Identity Play; or Who You Are If You Think You Are by Jason Pizzarello and Jon Jory

2F

Drama

(Debbie's room. Typical teenager decor, but a lot things left over from childhood like stuffed animals, toys, etc. ERICA and DEBBIE are packing up items and clothes into boxes as they talk. Sometimes they stop and hold up an item of clothing to see how it looks on themselves. Sometimes without verbalizing it, they sort the stuff into piles.)

ERICA: So have you decided how to introduce yourself at the new school?

DEBBIE: I think I'm going to go with Deb.

ERICA: That's not what I—

DEBBIE: As opposed to Deborah even though I know my mom would be thrilled about that. I mean I think I literally destroyed one of her life dreams by going by Deb. She's the only one who calls me Deborah still because she says "someone has to honor my birth certificate" and I'm like "I am honoring it. I'm alive." But I don't know. It's kinda stale-sounding like mothballs or something from the back of the closet. I'm still considering because it would make my mom super happy and you know...I like my mom. I want her dreams to come true and everything. But I'll probably go with Deb because it's shorter. I'm tired of Debbie, it implies I'm perkier than I am. *(Squeaky, upbeat voice:)* Hi I'm Debbie. Debbie Debbie Debbie. ...Ugh. Definitely going with Deb. Short and to the point. Deb. Right?

ERICA: Sure yeah. But I mean like how are you going to introduce yourself, like who are you going to be?

DEBBIE: What do you mean? I'm going to be me.

ERICA: But you can be anyone.

DEBBIE: I. I don't know. I thought...I didn't think I had a choice about that. I mean, I'm me. Who am I supposed to be?

ERICA: You can be anyone.

DEBBIE: Like who?

ERICA: This is a fresh start.

DEBBIE: You mean like...I could be popular?

ERICA: Well, no.

DEBBIE: Oh.

ERICA: That's not really up to you. But you could be someone people like.

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DEBBIE: People don't like me?

ERICA: No they do! I like you, especially. Obviously. A lot of people like you. I meant like you could be someone the popular kids like. If you wanted to. You could say you were a cheerleader or whatever before you moved and you can dress a certain way, and talk with a particular...I don't know. Or you could be a super-smart loner or a gifted thespian. Or anybody. It's a fresh start. You could reinvent yourself. If you wanted to. That's all I'm saying.

DEBBIE: Do you think I should? I mean, I was already going to go with Deb instead of Debbie and that feels like a really big change.

ERICA: Up to you. Who do you want to be? Do you want to be you?

DEBBIE: I think so. I mean I did up until about five minutes ago.

ERICA: I didn't mean to give you a panic attack.

(Pause. DEBBIE holds up a shirt against herself.)

DEBBIE: Do I want to be me?

ERICA: That's what I'm asking.

(ERICA shakes her head about the dress, and DEBBIE tosses into a pile.)

DEBBIE: I don't know. Do you want me to be me?

ERICA: This isn't about me.

DEBBIE: But do you?

ERICA: Yeah sure. I like you. But I'm not moving, you are.

DEBBIE: Would you be someone else?

ERICA: Oh definitely. Without a doubt. No hesitation.

DEBBIE: Who would you be?

ERICA: Not me.

DEBBIE: You don't like yourself?

ERICA: Eh. Kinda boring.

DEBBIE: I like you.

ERICA: Thanks bud.

(ERICA puts on one of Debbie's hats.)

ERICA: Do you want this? Because if you don't want this, I want this.

(DEBBIE shrugs.)

DEBBIE: What would you change?



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ERICA: I'd just mix it up.

(She puts on her hat in a different way. DEBBIE approves. They laugh. ERICA tosses the hat aside.)

ERICA: This is a rare opportunity. How often do we totally get to reinvent ourselves without suffering the social consequences? I mean don't you ever wonder what it'd be like to have a new set of friends?

DEBBIE: I am going to have a new set of friends.

ERICA: But like a different type of friends? New social circles. No history of behavior. Or stupid things you did.

DEBBIE: Like trip in the middle of the cafeteria and spill soup all over Steven Middleton's sweater which was just perfect because you totally had a crush on him for like three years?

ERICA: Like that. Thanks.

DEBBIE: No problem.

ERICA: You don't need to change everything. Just the parts maybe you don't like so much.

DEBBIE: Maybe I'll get a radical haircut.

ERICA: No your hair's good. I would change my hair to your hair.

DEBBIE: Oh. Okay. Thanks.

ERICA: Don't change your hair.

(ERICA holds up a dress.)

ERICA: C'mon this would look way better on me.

DEBBIE: Sorry. My mom bought me that.

(ERICA reluctantly hands it over.)

DEBBIE: What would you change about me then if you were me?

ERICA: I'm not you.

DEBBIE: But if you were.

ERICA: I don't know. I like you. I like you the way you are. If I were to change something about me, I might change to be more like you.

DEBBIE: You would?

ERICA: Definitely. ...Okay, maybe I would change a couple small things about you, if I was you. Like I wouldn't bite my nails.

(DEBBIE has been biting her nails. She stops.)



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DEBBIE: What else?

ERICA: I'd pop that pimple.

(DEBBIE self-consciously touches her face where she has a pimple.)

ERICA: And more importantly I'd go ask Neil Lagrange out because he's cute and he definitely likes you and you're still in denial.

DEBBIE: No he doesn't.

ERICA: Also, sometimes...

DEBBIE: What?

ERICA: You smile too much.

DEBBIE: I do?

ERICA: People might think it means you're happy.

DEBBIE: Because I am?

ERICA: Yeah but not like all the time.

DEBBIE: No not all the time.

ERICA: But you're always smiling.

DEBBIE: Not all the time.

ERICA: I know not all the time. But a lot. Like most of the time even when I know you're not happy. You can't always be that happy. Like now how you're smiling. Are you really happy right now?

DEBBIE: I'm just...listening.

ERICA: Yeah but you're smiling. And you just look happy and I know there's more going on than just that one emotion because I know you. But these new people might not know you like I know you. And you should play your cards a little close to chest. That's all I'm saying.

DEBBIE: Okay. I'll try and not smile as much.

(She smiles. She can't help it. But she tries not to. Maybe ERICA tries to help her by pushing down the sides of her mouth. They laugh.)

ERICA: But that's it. I wouldn't change anything else.

DEBBIE: I guess that's not so many things. You had me worried.

ERICA: You're only...the best person I know. And that school better not change ANYTHING about you and I'm really really really going to miss you. Especially if you change.

(DEBBIE hugs her and almost tackles her.)



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DEBBIE: I'm going to miss you too. I hope you don't change either.

(Pause.)

ERICA: Better finish packing.

(ERICA returns to packing. DEBBIE smiles at her. They pack a bit. Beat. DEBBIE pulls out the dress again from before. She holds it out to ERICA.)

ERICA: Seriously?

DEBBIE: You're right, it would look better on you.

ERICA: Thanks, Debbie!

DEBBIE: It's Deb now.

ERICA: Right.

End of Scene.

IDENTITY PLAY; OR WHO YOU ARE IF YOU THINK YOU ARE by Jason Pizzarello and Jon Jory

Length: 35-40 minutes

Cast Size: 10-30+ actors (suggested casting: 5F, 5M, 5 any)

Genre: Dramedy

Synopsis: A series of comedic and dramatic vignettes exploring who we are and who we want to be. With endless choices and expectations, do our actions define us or do our intentions? What about our words? What about the way we dress, the friends we keep, or how we act online? Is who we think we are different than how other people see us? In such a complex, face-paced world, it's vital to slow-down, reflect...and laugh.