

DEFINING MOMENTS

By Bryan McCampbell

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Defining Moments is a dramatically realistic look at teens' lives when touched by AIDS. The play forces us to examine the points in our lives when we make decisions - right or wrong, good or bad - that will define our own future as well as the lives of others. Built upon a series of monologues and scenes, the play depicts young adults dealing with the reality of HIV and AIDS. For some it's simply a threat, something not to be let out of its cave. For others, the monster has become an unwanted part of their daily existence.

This uncompromising drama uses vivid and timely dialogue to speak to each of us. A perfect competition piece, *Defining Moments* features minimal staging, a chorus for effect, and a flexible cast with doubling possible.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Large flexible cast)

STEVE: Narrator.

BRANDY: A college sophomore.

RHONDA: Friend of Brandy.

GINA: Brandy's former roommate.

PETE: Eulogizes a friend.

BILL: Members of an HIV support group.

JIM: Another.

ANNIE: Another.

RON: Another.

TIFF: Another.

MIKE: Another.

SARA: Another.

JENNA: Another.

ROGER: Leads a promiscuous lifestyle.

HEATHER: Brandy's sister.

ARNOLD: His brother is dying of AIDS.

CHRIS: High school student with a secret.

KARYL: Chris' girlfriend; wonders why he wants to break up.

SAM, SHARON AND CARLEY: Defend their virginity.

MARK: Thinking about committing suicide.

SHELLY: Mark's friend who stops him.

BOBBY: Heather's boyfriend.

MS. CARTER: Teacher who has just attended her first teen funeral.

EXTRAS as CHORUS MEMBERS

NOTE: Doubling or tripling of parts is possible.

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SET DESCRIPTION

The set changes often, so simple, representational furniture is recommended.

PROP LIST

Steve: Hand mirror, stool.

Brandy: Backpack, magazines, books, cooler, shoes.

Mourners: Red roses.

Annie: Purse.

Roger: Yearbook with a newspaper clipping inserted.

Heather: Notebook and pen, movie ticket, phone.

Chris: TV remote.

PROLOGUE

(AT RISE: SPOTLIGHT on STEVE standing CS. Beside him sits a small stool. As he begins speaking, spot should fade into other stage LIGHTS as they come up.)

STEVE: Hey. Thank you for coming to the show. We hope you enjoy it. *(Stops and looks at audience)* But, I gotta tell you, I'm really surprised to see some of you here. It takes a lot of guts to come and see a show like this...you know, about AIDS. You see, I'm looking out over the audience and I see some of my friends, some people I don't know, teachers - and I can't help thinking that if the people in this room were tested for the virus - the odds are, I mean it is a really good chance that at least one would test positive.

Look around you. Is it the person sitting next to you, the person ten feet away? Or, hey, how about this one? *(Picks up large hand mirror that rests on stool)* Is it this person? Hard to tell, huh? Now, we're not here today to puke out a bunch of facts and percentages about AIDS: this isn't a health class. But, we are going to show you some scenes dealing with the reality of AIDS and the reality is that with AIDS, there is no such thing as a happy ending. Because, in the end, IT will win. It doesn't matter who you are or how old you are, AIDS is a danger to anyone that doesn't give it consideration. So, since appearances can be deceiving *(Refers to the mirror)*, and there's no real way to tell, we're hoping that what you'll see today will make you think just a little bit before you act. We do want you to enjoy the show, but more importantly, we hope you never have to live it.

(LIGHTS fade to black. STEVE exits.)

ACT I

(AT RISE: A CHORUS MEMBER announces, "The Result—Part 1." A couch and small chair represent an apartment. A picnic cooler sits to the side. BRANDY, a college sophomore, sits on couch reading a magazine. There is a knock on the door and Brandy begins to put books into a backpack.)

BRANDY: Come on in. *(RHONDA enters.)* I'll be ready for class in a few minutes. *(SHE exits.)*

RHONDA: Listen, can I grab a piece of toast or something? I missed breakfast.

BRANDY: *(Offstage)* Go ahead. Bread's in the cooler.

RHONDA: *(Amused)* The cooler? *(Opens lid)* Jeez, Brandy, where's all the food? You and Gina need to go to the store bad. Wait a minute. *(Laughs)* Where's the fridge?

BRANDY: *(Enters)* With Gina.

RHONDA: Where's Gina?

BRANDY: Gina's not living here anymore.

RHONDA: You're kidding?

BRANDY: Nope. Moved out. She said she didn't like living with me anymore.

RHONDA: Was it because of the...is it 'cause of the HIV?

BRANDY: *(Finishing packing HER book bag)* Yep, to an extent. At least it played a major factor in her decision.

RHONDA: I can't believe it.

BRANDY: Believe it. *(SHE takes a breath then drops the tough act and sits down.)* I should have never told either of you.

RHONDA: Just because Gina bailed on you, you don't have to think I am.

BRANDY: I know. Besides, I had to tell someone or I'd go crazy. Maybe I should've told Mom.

RHONDA: My God, Brandy. You told us over nine months ago. You mean to tell me you still haven't told your parents!?

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BRANDY: Are you crazy? My mom doesn't even know I've had sex yet, let alone having AIDS.

RHONDA: Still, your parents should know.

BRANDY: If they knew, I'd be outta school, back home with both of them hanging over me night and day. (*SHE rises and begins putting on her shoes.*) I've got better things to do with what's left of my life than to just sit around and wait to die.

RHONDA: Well, I understand that, but I still think you should tell them. They'd want to know.

BRANDY: And I don't want them to know, so let's leave it alone.

RHONDA: All right. All right. Did you get the Robert Browning poetry read last night? I need to use your notes.

BRANDY: Sorry, Ron, you're gonna have to do your own homework. I had a hot date last night and got home a little late this morning to do any reading.

RHONDA: Oh.

BRANDY: What's that supposed to mean?

RHONDA: What's what supposed to mean?

BRANDY: Oh, Ron, don't give me that crap, you know what I'm talking about!

RHONDA: It just means "oh." Let's drop it.

BRANDY: No! If you have something to say, say it.

RHONDA: Brandy, please. Let's just drop it.

BRANDY: I said no. What's your problem?

RHONDA: I...I just don't think it's right.

BRANDY: Going out on a date isn't right?

RHONDA: No. Going out and sleeping around isn't right.

BRANDY: God, Rhonda! Now you sound like Gina.

RHONDA: Is that why she moved out?

BRANDY: She moved out because she thinks she knows everything and I showed her that she doesn't.

RHONDA: Well, Gina knows right from wrong. Brandy, we've wanted to say something to you for awhile.

BRANDY: Oh, you have, have you...

RHONDA: Yeah...

BRANDY: Sure is funny. Gina used to be right there with me.

End of Freeview

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