



DREAMS OF HOPE PRESENTS THE SEASON PREVIEW OF



DEPARTMENT OF HOPE

DECLASSIFIED

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2013

4:00 PM

August Wilson Center

980 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

FREE

Dreams of Hope is a creative and performing arts organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and supportive youth.

Funders: The Heinz Endowments, MUKTI Fund, John J. McDonnell Margaret T. O'Brien Foundation
PA Partners in the Arts Program of the PA Council on the Arts

(2012-13)

Department of Hope
by Dreams of Hope with Paul Kruse

Characters

Agent X Casey	Agent Y Nurse Kelly	President Baylie	Sam Doctor	Alex
------------------	------------------------	---------------------	---------------	------

ACT 1

OPENING

Inside the Oval Office. A body guard(s) stands in front of a chair. The chair faces away from the audience.

AGENT X runs into the room.

AGENT X: Madam/Mr. President. You need to see this.

AGENT X holds out a document. A hand emerges from behind the body guard(s), and accepts the piece of paper.

PRESIDENT: Hmmmmmm. Is this accurate?

AGENT X: I'm afraid it is, ma'am/sir.

PRESIDENT: It's worse than we ever imagined. *(Pause.)* Activate Operation Q.

AGENT X: But, ma'am/sir, is that necessary?

PRESIDENT: Yes, yes it is. We need . . .The Department of Hope.

Badass music cue.

AGENT X runs out of the oval office, through the audience. The stage transforms into the Department of Hope.

AGENT Y *(enters with a large list)*: Roll Call! Agent.

AGENT X: This comes straight from the top. We need to mobilize now, Operation Q is active.

AGENT Y: Operation Q? Are you sure that is necessary?

AGENT X: I'm afraid it is.

AGENT Y: We are going to need more agents.

AGENT X: Are you thinking what I am thinking?

AGENT Y: But they aren't ready yet.

AGENT X: They will have to get ready. Where are they now?

AGENT Y: Let's find out. Activate the Quantum Ultra Empathy Energy Reading Calculation Aggregate Monitor!

AGENT X: What's that?

AGENT Y: QUEERCAM.

AGENT X: Right!

The sound of a giant machine starting up and the Mac start noise. SAM appears in one space, sitting on a chair in an examination room. ALEX appears in another place, walking to CASEY's house.

AGENT Y: There they are.

AGENT X: Those are our new agents?

AGENT Y: Not yet. QUEERCAM uses a complicated series of algorithms, empathy readings, and glitter patterns to locate those few who have the potential to be agents of the Department of Hope. But they only have the potential, they need to show that they have what it takes.

AGENT X: Let's hope they do Agent Y. Let's hope they do.

THE AGENTS and ALEX fade.

SAM 1

NURSE KELLY: Samantha/Samuel?

SAM snaps back to reality.

SAM: Yeah! Sorry. Here. It's Sam.

NURSE KELLY: Sam. Oh. Sorry about that. *(She looks at her chart, then back at SAM.)* I'm so sorry to ask, Sam, but just so I say it right. What is your preferred pronoun?

SAM: He, him, his, masculine pronouns/She, her, hers, feminine pronouns. *(Beat.)* Thanks for asking.

NURSE KELLY: Of course. This is your first time with us?

SAM: Yeah.

NURSE KELLY: Well, welcome.

SAM: Thanks.

NURSE KELLY: What brings you in today?

SAM: I think I got some food poisoning. I have a really bad stomachache.

NURSE KELLY: Oh no, well, I'll have Doctor Brown in right away. Can I get you anything?

SAM: No. I'm fine.

SAM sits and waits. Stays on stage throughout the next scene.

ALEX 1

ALEX and CASEY enter from Offstage.

ALEX: No way! The first one is definitely the best.

CASEY: Seriously?! Have you seen the last one?

ALEX: Well, no.

CASEY: There you go. Which one is he/she bringing?

ALEX: The second one.

CASEY: What?

ALEX: It's the only one we have.

CASEY: Ugh!

ALEX: I know.

There's a knock at the door. CASEY goes to open it. BAYLIE enters.

CASEY: Hey, Baylie.

BAYLIE: Hey, here you go. (BAYLIE hands CASEY a DVD.)

ALEX: Best sister/brother ever! Thank you.

CASEY: Yeah, thanks.

BAYLIE: You owe me. I'm on a date.

CASEY: Oh yeah? Who is she/he?

Pause. BAYLIE looks at ALEX.

BAYLIE: See you at home, Alex.

ALEX: See you.

BAYLIE exits. CASEY and ALEX watch BAYLIE walk to the car.

CASEY: Oh, you can see her/him, there's someone in the car. Oh no. That's a guy/girl. Who brings a friend on a date?

ALEX: That is his/her date.

CASEY: What?

ALEX: Baylie dates guys/girls.

CASEY: What? Really?

ALEX: Yeah.

CASEY: Your brother/sister is a queer?

ALEX: Don't say that.

CASEY: What?

ALEX: I don't like that word.

CASEY: I hear gay people use it.

ALEX: It's different when you say it like that.

CASEY: Whatever. (Pause.) That's so messed up. He/She brought his/her date here. What if someone saw them?

ALEX: What do you mean?

CASEY: I don't want someone seeing your gay brother/lesbian sister dropping a mysterious DVD off at my house.

