



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.

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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
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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.

ALEX: He/She did it for us. It was really nice of him/her.
CASEY: Still.
ALEX: Not still. Casey, that's my brother/sister.
CASEY: It's broad daylight. What if they were making out in the car?
ALEX: You know what. I don't need this. (*Heads for the door.*) I'll see you.
CASEY: Come on.
ALEX: Later.

ALEX exits, walks outside the house and sits somewhere. Stays on stage through the next scene. CASEY leaves the stage.

SAM 2

SAM still sits in the examination room. DOCTOR enters.

DOCTOR: Um, good evening Samantha/Samuel.
SAM: Sam.
DOCTOR: Right. So, ah. Why are you here?
SAM: I am here because I'm experiencing some abdominal pain.
DOCTOR: Okay, um. Do you have a primary physician?
SAM: No, not right now. I'm not insured.
DOCTOR: Yes, um. It says here that you recently began using testosterone/hormones.
SAM: Yes. But, that's not why I'm here.
DOCTOR: Well—I'm not sure. Hmm.
SAM: What?
DOCTOR: I'm sorry, Samantha/Samuel.
SAM: Sam.
DOCTOR: I feel I should say. When you choose to do things like this to your body, a certain amount of pain is expected. I'm sorry I'm not experienced with your specific . . . issues.
SAM: With having a stomach?
DOCTOR: With the choice to undergo sexual reassignment. I am going to refer you to another clinic.
SAM: This has nothing to do with transitioning. I'm here because I have a stomachache.
DOCTOR: You chose put your body at risk. There's no telling what that might do.
SAM: I don't need you to judge me right now. I think I have food poisoning or something. Please just do your job.
DOCTOR: I am doing my job.
SAM: You're job is to help me.
DOCTOR: I'm not sure if that is possible.
SAM: What does that mean?
DOCTOR: Excuse me.

DOCTOR exits. SAM looks around the room, and gets up to leave. NURSE KELLY comes in.

NURSE KELLY: Hey, there. I just wanted to check on you.
SAM: Great.
NURSE KELLY: Is everything alright?
SAM: No. (*Starts to leave.*)
NURSE KELLY: Where are you going?
SAM: I'm leaving.
NURSE KELLY: What happened? Is everything okay?
SAM: Don't worry about it.
NURSE KELLY: Sam—
SAM: I'll be fine. (*Exits the examination room. Stays on stage.*)

GROUP DANCE

ALEX stands. ALEX and SAM are joined by the other characters. Move into Group Dance.

ALEX 2

ALEX practices boxing. BAYLIE enters.

BAYLIE: Hey.
ALEX: Hey.
BAYLIE: You're getting good.
ALEX: How was your date?
BAYLIE: Really, really good. Is Mom back yet?
ALEX: Nope.
BAYLIE: I thought you were sleeping over at Casey's house.
ALEX: Nope.
BAYLIE: Alright. (*Starts to go.*)
ALEX: Baylie.
BAYLIE: Yeah?
ALEX: What do you say to people when they say messed up stuff to you?
BAYLIE: What do you mean? About being gay?
ALEX: Yeah.
BAYLIE: Usually, I ignore it.
ALEX: What if they're close to you.
BAYLIE: What happened?
ALEX: Nothing.
BAYLIE: Did Casey say something?
ALEX (*waits a beat*): Yeah.
BAYLIE: What did he/she say?
ALEX: It was nothing.
BAYLIE: I don't need you to stick up for me, okay? I don't need you to mess
your life up for me.
ALEX: People shouldn't be jerks.
BAYLIE: Well, people are jerks.

ALEX: I don't want them for friends. You're my brother/sister.
BAYLIE (*pauses*): Cue the Lifetime music.
ALEX: Shut up.
BAYLIE (*waits a beat*): Thanks.
ALEX: Of course.
BAYLIE (*pauses*): Alright, g'night. Don't practice too hard.
ALEX: Sure thing.

BAYLIE exits. ALEX goes back to practicing.

DANCE SOLO

ALEX continues to practice. ALEX performs the Dance Solo. He/She come to the end of the dance.

INTO THE FIELD

AGENT X: Agent Y, I don't know. They both seem so hopeless. Are we sure they have what it takes.
AGENT Y: We shouldn't give up on them yet. There's always . . .
AGENT X: Hope?
AGENT Y: I was going to say the second act, but, yeah, hope, there's always that, too.
AGENT X: Let's get into the field.
AGENT Y: Department of Hope Away!

AGENT X looks at AGENT Y.

AGENT X: Right.

AGENT X and AGENT Y exit.

ACT 2

MEETING

AGENT X and AGENT Y stand behind the counter of a Crazy Mocha. They are dressed as baristas.

AGENT X: Were the costumes really necessary?

AGENT Y: This is the convergence location that we got from QUEERCAM. This is when the two potential agents meet and prove if they have what it takes. We need to blend in to the real world, *walk* among the people, *be* of the people, to *serve* the people.

SAM enters.

AGENT Y (*a little too loudly*): Welcome to Crazy Mocha! What can I get you to drink from the Crazy Mocha where we both work here at the Crazy Mocha? (*Pause.*)

SAM: Just a minute, let me look at the menu.

AGENT Y: Perfectly alright, take all the time you need here at the Crazy Mocha where we both work.

AGENT X: Very smooth.

ALEX enters. SAM and ALEX make eye contact. SAM turns back to the menu and then back to ALEX.

SAM: Hey.

ALEX: Hey.

SAM: You're Baylie's brother/sister. I think we met at the GLCC.

ALEX: Oh yeah.

SAM: Yeah. I'm Sam. You're Al . . .

ALEX: Alex.

SAM: Yes, Alex. Good to see you. I was really glad you came with your brother/sister. That was really cool.

ALEX: Do you still go there?

SAM: Every week. We're always looking for help.

ALEX: Cool.

Pause. SAM turns back to the counter.

SAM: Can I get a medium pumpkin spice latte?

AGENT Y: Thanks for stopping by! And welcome to the Crazy Mocha! Shoot, no, that's wrong—

AGENT X cuts in.

AGENT X: Three twenty-five. (*To ALEX.*) Can we get you anything?

SAM puts money on the counter.

ALEX: Just a large coffee.
AGENT X: Any room?
ALEX: Nope.
AGENT X: Two twenty-five.
ALEX (*paying*): Thanks

AGENT X hands ALEX his coffee.

AGENT X (*to SAM*): Yours will be just a minute.
SAM: Alright, thanks.

SAM goes to sit down. AGENT Y stares at AGENT X.

AGENT Y: Where did you learn to do that?
AGENT X: I wasn't born an agent.

SAM takes a seat. ALEX walks to him.

ALEX: Can I sit with you?
SAM: Sure.
ALEX: Thanks.
SAM (*pauses*): So, how are things?
ALEX: Good. You?
SAM: Okay.
ALEX (*pauses*): Cool. Can I ask you a question?
SAM: Sure.
ALEX: You've had to deal with a lot of jerks, right?
SAM: What do you mean?
ALEX: Like people treating you bad for who you are.
SAM: Yeah.
ALEX: How can we make people better?
SAM (*pauses for a long time*): I have no idea. I don't know if we can.
ALEX: Oh.
SAM: Why?
ALEX: I have a friend who said some stuff about Baylie. Baylie said it's not my problem.
SAM: I think it's everyone's problem.
ALEX: So do I. Should I stop talking to this friend?
SAM: What do you think?
ALEX: It feels like giving up.
SAM: Is that what you want to do?
ALEX: Sometimes.
SAM: Me too.
ALEX (*waits a beat*): Are you okay?
SAM: No.
ALEX: What's wrong?
SAM: I think I might be sick.
ALEX: You should go see a doctor.

SAM: I tried that, he/she was one of those jerks.

ALEX: I'm really sorry.

SAM: It's not the first time I've had that.

ALEX: Are you going to be alright?

SAM: I don't know.

ALEX (*pauses, reaches across the table and takes SAM's hand*): Let's not give up hope, okay.

SAM: Okay.

AGENT X and AGENT Y take off their Crazy Mocha costumes and walk around the counter.

AGENT X: They are ready!

AGENT Y: I told you.

ALEX: What?

SAM: Is that latte still coming?

AGENT X: Good evening, agents.

ALEX: Agents?

AGENT Y: You are our new recruits.

AGENT X: Congratulations, you both have been selected as the newest recruits to the Department of Hope.

SAM: The what?

AGENT Y: The Department of Hope!

AGENT X: We have been watching you both for some time.

ALEX: That is really creepy.

SAM: What is the Department of Hope, and who are you?

AGENT X: I am Agent X and this is Agent Y

AGENT Y: Hello!

AGENT X: And the Department of Hope is responsible for the care, creation, and protection of hope.

AGENT Y: Hope for all!

AGENT X: You both have been selected for your very unique relationships with hope.

AGENT Y: We need your help!

AGENT X: Hope has reached an all-time low, and we need your help to bring it back. Will you join us? It's a matter of national security.

SAM: Um.

AGENT Y: And there's free food.

SAM: Um, sure?

ALEX: Alright.

AGENT X: Great! Follow us!

AGENT Y: Department of Hope, away!

AGENT X: Again?

AGENT Y: It's catchy.

They all exit.

PERCUSSION PIECE

AGENT X: Welcome to the Department of Hope!

SAM: What is going on?

AGENT Y: You'll catch on. Here.

AGENT Y hands SAM a boomwacker. AGENT X hands ALEX a boomwacker. AGENT X, AGENT Y, ALEX, and SAM enter to find all the agents training in the Department of Hope. They all do the Percussion Piece. ALEX and SAM join in.

AGENT Y: You just went through basic training.

ALEX: How did we do?

AGENT Y: You passed with flying colors!

SAM: Funny.

AGENT X: Just wait until the knock knock jokes start.

AGENT Y: I just heard a new one!

AGENT X: That's alright, we can hear it later.

SAM: So, where do we start?

AGENT X: I'm glad you asked. We start with you.

SPOKEN WORD PIECE

Cast begins the Spoken Word Piece. Everyone joins in.

i see you

by Dreams of Hope with Vanessa German

maybe you don't have anyone to talk to /
maybe you sit on the couch all the time / the same old love seat / that has
seen far too many wars
maybe you avoid mirrors
maybe you dread the shorthand on the clock
maybe you can't stop / listening
to something / or someone / a fist / inside of your head that keeps saying /
I hate you / fat / ugly / stupid & useless /
why don't you just—
and, maybe you believe it
maybe you've been / to a dark place in the deep end of your mind / & you
can't find a map back /
maybe you cut class
cut wrist / cut lists of secrets into your skin
so that you don't forget what made you feel this way / in the first place /
maybe you wake up & throw up & cry & hide in bathrooms & lie about where
you go / to try / to be just like everyone else / but it doesn't work / it just
hurts / it's like a curse / it gets worse & you gotta fight the urge to want to
die every day / you do whatever it takes / you rage & kick & talk spit & get
into fights & use your fists as hearts / just to feel something more broken
than your own
I don't know.
maybe you / don't show /
any / emotion / at / all—
I've been there.
I've been there & there & there & there
but now / I'm / right / here
with you.

You.

you love / you strong / you kind / you sweet / you fierce / you true / you
listen / you move me / you are all that & then some

you are a rousing clarinet solo / on the 50 yard line / half time / bringing
them to tears / you ga-ga / you dazzle / you awesome pants / you out wiggle
everyone in the room / you sequin shine / you silver-lining-have-no-fear-
rhythm-of-the-dance-floor-when-you-laugh / light at the end of the tunnel /
friend / you / fantastic / you / strange / you speak your own language / you
do you / you one & only you / you betta recognize / you move me

you love shack / you
fever pitch / you make me want to jump up & down in the concert of your
smile / you Beethoven's 5th me / you contagious fit of giggles / you are
sickening & I love the way you handle yourself / you weird / you rise / you
groove / you tin roof rust it & you don't have to explain that to anyone /
unless you want to

hold the shadows without the fear / do whatever you need to do / to love the
company you keep / even when you keep to yourself / put the strength of
that in your chin / dye it purple & wear it to school / do it on purpose / you
turquoise / you orange / you don't apologize if you haven't done anything
wrong / say it out loud / take it one step at a time / cuz / I love you / you
bring out the joy joy joy joy joy down in my soul /
you / are the show / the talent / the voice / the courage / the love / you
7 hugs / 14 kisses / 32 / bitty little / scars / 1 secret crush & a whole year
cut free / you / drink chai tea & sing Green Day loud as you want / you play
the sound track to your favorite video games & dance in the rain / you /
smile with all 32 teeth / in all 4 seasons / because you can & you / write it on
your arms / & wear it on your sleeve / & even though nobody wants to see
us together / it don't matter / no / cuz I got you & you got me & we all
wobble sometimes / don't we / need a choir to sing in / a shoulder to lean on
/ some safe place to land so that when we fall / the hit doesn't break us
forever /

"I Am Here"

I am here / to pick you up / I got love in my arms
& dance in my feet & I'm gonna teach you how to
keep on singing even when you don't know the words / you speak up / you
speak out / you speak pain / speak truth / speak love to you /
you accept / you / accept you accept you

See / This / Now / Us / We / Here / Help
You / Say / Hear / Us / Together / Listen
Hope / Power / Joy / Believe / You / See
Do / TIN ROOF / RUSTED

THE MISSION

AGENT X (*to SAM and ALEX*): Agents, your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to bring hope to the hopeless, and to be hope for each other. Are you in.

SAM: I'm in.

ALEX: So am I.

AGENT Y: Sweet! High fives!

AGENT Y gets high fives from everyone.

SONG

They all sing the Song.

STRUT YOUR STUFF

by Dreams of Hope with Kaitlin Hunter, arr. by Douglas Levine

Have you ever felt alone,
Stuck out on your own?
Caught in a negative space,
Feeling out of place?

Doin' more harm than good,
Can't stop though you know you should.
Feeling like you lost your way,
There's just one thing I've gotta say: Whoa—

(CHORUS)

Strut your stuff like you're walking on a runway.
Be yourself, stand out, it's okay.
Don't be afraid of who you are,
With Faith you can go far.
Stand tall and know your truth,
There's no limit on what you can do,
So believe and just be you.

When my hope was wearing thin,
And my world was crashing in,
I was caught in a negative space,
Feeling out of place.

Then a friend reached out to me,
Showed me the light that I couldn't see.
Now I know that I belong,
And with each day, I feel more strong. Whoa—

(CHORUS 4x)

Strut Your Stuff

Words by Kaitly Hunter with
 Dreams of Hope
 Music by K. Hunter
 Arr. D. Levine

Medium up

F^{Maj7} A^{m7sus} B^{bMaj7(add13)}

Have you
 When my

3 A^{m/F} G/A A^{m/F} G/A

ev - er felt a - lone, and my stuck out on your own?
 hope was wear - ing thin, and my world was crash - ing in, I was

5 A^{m/F} E^{m7} F/B^b D^{m/B} E⁷⁻⁹

Caught in a neg - a - tive space, feel - ing out of place?
 caught in a neg - a - tive space, a - bout to quit the race. Then a

7 A^{m/F} G/A A^{m/F} G/A

Do - in' more harm than good, Can't stop, though you know you should.
 friend reached out to me, Showed me the light that I could - n't see.

9 A^{m/F} E^{m7} F^{add9/B^b} F/G

Feel - ing like you've lost your way, There's just one thing I've got - ta say:
 Now I know that I be - long, and with each day, I feel more strong.

11 F^{#m7-5}

Whoa, Strut your

2

Strut Your Stuff

12 F_{Maj9} E_{m7} F_{Maj9} A_{m9}

stuff like you're walk-ing on a run-way. — Be your - self, stand — out, it's o - kay. — Don't be a-

14 F_{Maj9} E_{m7} F_{Maj9}/D $/C$ E_9/B E_{7_9}

shamed of who — you are, — With — faith you can — go far. — Stand —

16 F_{Maj7} $/G$ G_6/A F_{Maj9} G/A

tall, and know — your truth. — There's no lim-it on what you can do, — so be-

18 F/G $F_{\#m7-5}$ F_{Maj7} A_{m7sus} *D.S.*

lieve, and just — be you. —

20 F/G $F_{\#m7-5}$

lieve, and just — be you. — Whoa, — Strut your

22 F/G A_{m11} F/G A_{m11} *solo*

lieve, and just — be you. — so be - lieve, and just — be you. — so be-

24 *ritato* F/G A_{m11}

lieve, and just — be you. —

SECRET WEAPON

The song comes to a close. SAM and ALEX are left with AGENT X and AGENT Y.

AGENT Y: WAIT WAIT! I almost forgot, we still have our secret weapon!

ALEX: What's the secret weapon?

AGENT Y: It's amazing.

AGENT X: It's incredible.

AGENT Y: It's invincible.

AGENT X: It's beautiful.

SAM: What is it?!

AGENT X: It's them. *(Points at the audience.)*

The lights come up.