

Excerpt – No Big Deal (Michael Kras)

No Big Deal

A Play by Michael Kras

Contact: Ian Arnold, Catalyst TCM
15 Old Primrose Lane
Toronto, ON M5A 4T1
ian@catalysttcm.com

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CHARACTERS

Ariel

Grayson

Lucy

SETTING

Excitement World, the world's worst theme park.

SYNOPSIS

To save up for college, long-time friends Ariel and Grayson are working at a horrible theme park for the summer following their high school graduation. Their plan is to be roommates and take their first steps into adulthood together. But tensions created by their increasingly different ideas of manhood - and a complicated incident involving fellow employee Lucy - might be enough to threaten the stability of their friendship. A play for high school audiences about contemporary masculinity, bro culture, and consent.

No Big Deal was supported in its earliest development by an Ontario Arts Council (OAC) Recommender Grant recommended by Carousel Players, as well as an OAC Theatre Projects creation grant. Further development was supported by Roseneath Theatre through a playwriting residency in the 2019/2020 season, funded by the Ontario Arts Council.

The play is making its world premiere in the 2022/2023 season at Toronto's Roseneath Theatre in a sit-down run in Hamilton, Ontario and a provincial high school tour with the following cast and creative team:

Ariel – Davinder Malhi

Grayson – Gregory Waters

Lucy – Julie Phan

Director – athena kaitlin trinh

Dramaturg – Andrew Lamb

Set & Costume Designer – Jackie Chau

Managing Director – Annamieke Wade

NOTES ON DIALOGUE

A forward slash (/) in the middle of a line of dialogue indicates the start of the next line, creating an overlap. Two columns of text side by side are to be spoken simultaneously. The dialogue in general moves quite quickly and rhythmically, save for some choice moments of stillness or breath.

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The sound of theme park rides: screams, laughter, roller coasters ripping down their tracks, generic upbeat music. We're at Excitement World, the world's worst theme park. It's got horrible rides, mediocre shows, it's dirty. Lights slowly up on GRAYSON and ARIEL, who are still kinda in shadow.

ARIEL looks relatively normal, ropey, kinda pale, wears clothing that's pretty hipster: tight jeans despite the summer weather, wire-rimmed glasses, floral print shirt, maybe a light cardigan. GRAYSON is dressed like a gym bro douche: tank top, shorts, Ray Bans, kinda muscular but still working on it.

There's almost a self-consciousness to the way they stand; as if neither is fully comfortable in their respective skins. While they stand and face out, the soundscape gets louder, more abrasive, more metallic and harsh and almost unbearable. Screams on rides intensify.

Suddenly, the lights snap harshly on, the soundscape stops, and GRAYSON and ARIEL are in the shabby, fluorescent break room/locker room with LUCY, who has worked there for one year. She's sipping on an iced coffee kinda noisily. She's chewing gum too. We hear nothing but her slurping for a few secs, then...

LUCY

So this is the um

Break room?

Yes it smells and no we don't know why.

The staff bathroom is back there

FYI it's usually disgusting because like

Amos is supposed to clean it and he never does so I mean

Try to hold it until you get home if you can?

Literally once I refused to pee here for a full week and I totally got a UTI.

Anyway if you guys have any questions just like

Let me know?

Like I have literally no authority

But this is my second full season here so I basically know everything.

It's Ariel right?

Like the mermaid?

ARIEL

Oh um

Ariel actually

Like the letters R E L

GRAYSON

And I'm Grayson

Like G R A Y S O N

LUCY

Are you the new music hire?

You look musical

ARIEL

Me?

No I'm literally untalented / I'm

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GRAYSON

That'd be this guy right here
Ka-chow!

GRAYSON dramatically hoists his guitar case in the air

LUCY

Oh there's like
We have a guitar here you don't have to use / your

GRAYSON

Nah that's okay

ARIEL

It's his lucky guitar
The only thing he'll play

GRAYSON

I'm kinda amazing at it to be honest

LUCY

Are you guys like
Buds?

ARIEL

Since grade 9

GRAYSON

And we're gonna be college bois in Toronto soon waaaassuuupppppppp

They high five side-by-side.

LUCY

We'll look at you with your goals and aspirations

GRAYSON

Yeah I'm actually taking music

LUCY

Fancy
Don't forget me when you're famous

GRAYSON

Nah girl you're unforgettable no cap

LUCY

Haha wow okay then / okay

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ARIEL

Easy dude

LUCY

And what about you monsieur?

ARIEL

Me?

LUCY

School

Like

ARIEL

Oh uh

Yeah I'm just gonna like

Try a bunch of different things this year?

See what happens?

I just wanna make sure it's the right thing

LUCY

No totally I get that

ARIEL

Do you go anywhere?

LUCY

Oh you mean like a person who has their life together?

No I just can't give up my love of cleaning kids' puke all the time

ARIEL

Does uh

Does that happen often?

LUCY

Daily

Multiple times

ARIEL

Oh okay dope yeah just checking

GRAYSON

Ariel is like

Phobic of stuff / like that

ARIEL

No no that's

It's fine it's whatever

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LUCY

It's cool I am too

GRAYSON

I'm not

LUCY

Uniforms

ARIEL

Huh?

LUCY

Did Randy not give you your

Wow I'm not even a manager and I'm always the one like

One sec lemme see if

LUCY leaves for a sec. GRAYSON blatantly checks her out as she walks away. GRAYSON and ARIEL speak in hushed voices.

GRAYSON

Dude

ARIEL

Dude

GRAYSON

This kinda sucks dicks

ARIEL

It'll be fine it'll be

Fine

GRAYSON

I didn't realize Excitement World was so like

Nasty on the inside

ARIEL

No I know it's literally ruining my childhood

GRAYSON

I just wish we could just

Have a summer

Last summer before college and and

ARIEL

I know but / money

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GRAYSON
Money I know but

ARIEL
Don't worry
We'll make it
Fun.

GRAYSON
Why can't tuition and apartments and stuff just be like
Free?

ARIEL
Because capitalism

GRAYSON
Yeah.
Wait you mean like eating people?

ARIEL
Yes Grayson.
I mean like eating people.

A moment. ARIEL takes out a small bottle of hand sanitizer and rubs some vigorously into his hands.

GRAYSON
Yo she's so unbelievably hot eh?

ARIEL
Don't

GRAYSON
What

ARIEL
We're at work this is work

ARIEL switches the hand sanitizer for chap stick and applies some.

GRAYSON
Calm down I'm just like
Making an observation
Did you see that ass oh my god
It was so / like

ARIEL
Hey can we not do
Whatever this is?

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GRAYSON

It's bro talk this is bro talk

ARIEL

Oh right of course

GRAYSON

I'm just making an observation

You're such a prude dude

ARIEL

No I'm not

GRAYSON

A prude with a pin prick dick

ARIEL

Um it is adequately sized and you know it

GRAYSON

A pin prick / dicky fricky tricky hicky licky sticky

ARIEL

Wow shut up wow

You're such an idiot

It is not even close to

LUCY suddenly appears holding a limp, wrinkly polo shirt with an Excitement World logo on it.

LUCY

Small?

GRAYSON/ARIEL

What?

LUCY

All we have is a small

Is that okay?

It's a big small

ARIEL

I think so

GRAYSON

No way that thing will hold these guns

LUCY

Oh this is just for Ariel

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You've got a special one
It's hanging by the bathroom go look

GRAYSON
Ooh a special one eh?
Okay okay I like a little mystery

GRAYSON goes off to check it out. ARIEL puts his polo shirt on.

ARIEL
Is uh
Is this okay?

LUCY
Dayum boi
Do a twirl do a twirl

ARIEL awkwardly turns his body 360.

LUCY
Show-stopping
You're the only person I've seen actually make these look good

ARIEL
Ha thanks it's uh
It's pretty wrinkly though
And it kinda smells like someone died in it

LUCY
Someone did

ARIEL
For real?

LUCY
I'm kidding

ARIEL
Yeah I uh
I knew that

LUCY reaches over to fix ARIEL's collar, then smooths out his shoulders.

LUCY
Trust me R E L
A wrinkly shirt is the last thing anyone is gonna be worried about here.