

coming out

a John Waters fantasy

By Ian Donley

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Cast of Characters

MICKEY = teenager, borderline masculine but in a young James Dean
kinda way

SONIA = 40s, Mickey's mother, the leader of the pack

ROBERT = 40s-50s, Mickey's father, wears the dress in the
relationship

TOM = 40s, their neighbor, an older twink who is unaware of it

Setting

A family dining room, in a dystopian universe for all we know

*A family dining table. The Johnson family is eating dinner. **MICKEY**, the teenaged son, is sitting at the dinner table with his parents, **SONIA** and **ROBERT**, plus their neighbor, **TOM**, Sonia is saying a prayer.*

SONIA.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

ROBERT.

Amen!

TOM.

So, Sonia, you were telling us about that poor kid's mother.

SONIA.

Yes! You should've seen what she was wearing at the funeral: she had this beige sundress with red bottoms. It did not look flattering on her.

TOM.

I could imagine she wasn't thinking about how she looked at her son's funeral.

SONIA.

That may be true, but if I died and saw someone wearing that attending my funeral, I would come back to life to slap some sense in them. *(Everyone laughs but Mickey. She looks at him)*. I promise if that were you, I wouldn't humiliate you like that.

MICKEY.

Thanks.

SONIA.

Did you know Ryan at all?

MICKEY.

Sort of. He threatened to shove a pair of scissors down my throat.

ROBERT.

I'm sure he was messing with you. He probably liked you.

MICKEY.

(sarcastically)

I'm sure he did.

SONIA.

Mickey! Sometimes death can give you a new perspective of things. Maybe you need to talk to someone. Dr. Witherspoon is available!

MICKEY.

No thanks. I don't feel sorry for him.

ROBERT.

Some people are just like that Mick. You can't hold it against them.

TOM.

(relating to Mickey)

I know that feeling. Before I came out, there was this huge line backer who picked on me. He called me slurs and slammed my head into the lockers a couple of times. People like that are jerks. They'll suck the life out of you! You can't let them do that to you.

ROBERT.

You know what they say: everyone gets their come-up pence.

The men laugh flirtatiously.

SONIA.

Unless you're a homosexual, then it's deserved.

Awkward pause.

TOM.

What does that mean?

SONIA.

(Poking at Tom)

It doesn't mean anything. Just that... some men are innately inferior. That's all!

She takes a bite of her food.

ROBERT.

This is really good Sonia.

SONIA.

Thank you. You know I try to avoid Ralph's like the plague. Trader Joe's is more pure.

MICKEY.

It's just food mom.

SONIA.

I see you weren't so eager to eat mister.

MICKEY.

I just wasn't hungry.

ROBERT.

You haven't had an appetite lately. What's the matter Mickster?

MICKEY.

Nothing. I just... have something on my mind.

SONIA.

Tell us sweetie.

MICKEY.

We have company.

TOM.

That's okay Mickey. You know I'm part of the family!

ROBERT.

Yes he is! Go ahead and tell us! What do you kids say nowadays? Spill the tea.

Tom gives him an awkward glance.

MICKEY.

Well... I just haven't been sure of myself lately.

SONIA.

Everyone your age isn't sure of themselves. I thought I was going to be a scientist, but God told me to become a devoting mother instead.

MICKEY.

That's not entirely what I mean. But, I just don't feel like I've really owned who I am.
You know what I mean?

ROBERT.

I certainly do kiddo. You think of all the possibilities you've missed out on. Right honey?

SONIA.

Yes.

Awkward pause.

ROBERT.

(gently pushing Mickey)

So have you thought about dating?

SONIA.

(catching on)

Have you been having sex? Is this what this is about?

MICKEY.

What? No.

ROBERT.

It's alright, honey! It's only natural. Boys think about sex all the time.

SONIA.

Yes; your father could tell you all about it.

Robert and Sonia glare at each other. Tom can't help but feel like it's about him.

ROBERT.

I certainly can! Where should I start!?

Tom looks at him to stop poking the bear (no pun intended).

SONIA.

That was a *joke*, Mickey. All I'm going to say is sex is only natural as long as you're married. We waited and look where we are now?

ROBERT.

Exactly ... You'll find the right person when they come along. I promise...

MICKEY.

I know but....

SONIA.

Robert do you remember when we made our marriage official?

ROBERT.

Yes...

MICKEY.

I'm not who you think I am...

SONIA.

It was... magical.

ROBERT.

Quite.

MICKEY.

I'm gay!!

Robert spits out his drink. Awkward pause. No one at the table knows exactly how to respond.

TOM.

Good for you.

Robert glances at Tom.

SONIA.

Wow... I didn't realize the situation was this dire.

MICKEY.

You still love me right?

SONIA.

I don't know. I need to think about it.

MICKEY.

I'm your son.

SONIA.

I know... Just... I feel like you're taking your anger out on me like this.

MICKEY.

Mom I'm not angry.

SONIA.

I didn't birth a son for him to be called slurs and have his head slammed into lockers!!

TOM.

(poking at Sonia)

Unless you consent.

SONIA.

Shut up!!

ROBERT.

Young man, you've disappointed your mother and now she'll never let this go.

MICKEY.

I didn't mean to.

ROBERT.

Well you did, so why don't you go to your room and think about it?

MICKEY.

Think about what?

ROBERT.

It!!!

TOM.

Can I please just interject!?

ROBERT.

Go to your room too!!

TOM.

All your son wants is to be accepted!! I know this might be hard to accept, but he's perfect just the way he is. He just needs to feel loved. Like we all do! I implore you to just let time get you to a place of acceptance!!

Pause. Sonia is moved.

SONIA.

Why do you care now all of a sudden?

TOM.

Because I've been fucking your husband.

Everyone stares at Tom as if time has just stopped.

SONIA.

Excuse me!?

TOM.

He and I are lovers.

SONIA.

Since when?!

ROBERT.

High school. I didn't feel like I belonged anywhere, but now I do.

SONIA.

I can't believe it.

ROBERT:

I'm sorry honey. My heart belongs with him.

Robert and Tom begin making out to Sonia and Mickey's horror.

MICKEY.

I finish my dinner in my room...

SONIA.

You two can't do this! It's an abomination.

TOM.

So was the dress you wore to Mickey's communion.

SONIA.

Oh I'm sorry but I didn't realize I needed a homosexual for fashion tips.

ROBERT.

Honey...

SONIA.

Don't you honey me! You've been living a double life! He's our son's godfather!!!

ROBERT.

I'm sorry you had to find out this way. I wanted to tell you in a more subtle matter.

SONIA.

I will not have this in my house! Over my dead body!!

She starts to choke. She coughs louder and louder, getting more dramatic, until she dies. The three men look at each other.

TOM.

She has great comedic timing.

MICKEY.

Mom...

ROBERT.

(To Mickey) Go to your room!!! (To Tom) And you come with me!

Robert and Tom leave to go have sex. Mickey gives up trying to cope with any of this.

MICKEY.

Our Father, who art in heave, hallowed be thy name...

END OF PLAY