

IDENTITY CRISIS

By Peter Snoad

Synopsis

Alan Guthrie can't believe his good luck. The veteran slacker/stoner is about to marry a woman who inexplicably adores him, the smart and beautiful Marcia Silverstein. And he has a chance to make a legitimate living at something he's excited about. His prospective father-in-law, Max, has put Alan in charge of a new organics division of his wholesale produce business. Instead of growing organic marijuana, Alan will be making organic veggies accessible and affordable to poor people in inner-city neighborhoods.

But Alan's blissful and prosperous future is suddenly cast into doubt when Frankie White, his best man and former college roommate stops by before the rehearsal dinner. At least he claims to be Frankie White. The problem is that the guy Alan knew in college was white like him. This man is black. He convinces Alan that he really is Frankie—it's just that he's gone through a transition. As part of an unpublicized phenomenon that's sweeping the country, he's become black. And he points to the little black dots in Alan's eyes as a sure sign that he, too, will turn black—in as little as two hours.

Alan is freaked. Max would never allow his daughter to marry a black man. But Alan's whole future depends on the wedding going ahead as scheduled. The solution? Get his identical twin brother, David, who is gay, to impersonate him as the groom. A newly pregnant Marcia goes along with the scheme. And David is persuaded by his life-partner that it would be a gesture of Black/Gay/Jewish solidarity. David embarks on a crash course of how to "be" Alan. He learns the rudiments of golf (Max is a fanatic and they're due to play nine holes on the morning on the wedding) and the finer points of marketing radishes and rutabagas.

As it turns out, David holds his own in the organic veggie department—but golf is his undoing: he falls off a golf cart and twists his ankle. Sylvia, Marcia's eccentric and controlling Mom, finds David a wheelchair so he can roll up the aisle rather than hobble there on crutches. By this time, the real groom and the bride are having second thoughts about faking the wedding. Sylvia tells Marcia how she got cold feet at her own nuptials—but went ahead when she realized that, despite his many flaws, she really loved Max. The story inspires Marcia and Alan to act on what they already knew in their hearts: that they truly want to be together, no matter what color Alan is or becomes. Alan takes the place of his brother in the wheelchair, and the ceremony and festivities are happily concluded.

Before the newlyweds depart for their honeymoon, Frankie gives them a special wedding gift: a book he wrote entitled, "Becoming Black: A Survival Guide". Sylvia reveals that she knew along about the stand-in ruse. But the reason for it has only just become clear to her: Max, her husband, is now black.

CHARACTERS: (*Requires 2 women and 2 men with doubling*)

ALAN GUTHRIE, early 30's, white*

DAVID GUTHRIE, his identical twin brother*

MARCIA SILVERSTEIN, early 30's, white, Alan's fiancé

FRANKIE WHITE, early 30's, black, Alan's old college roommate**

SYLVIA SILVERSTEIN, late 50's-60's, white, Marcia's Mom

MAX SILVERSTEIN, late 50's-60's, Marcia's Dad**

**Played by the same actor ** Played by the same actor*

SET: A single set. All the action of the play takes place in the living room of Alan's apartment.