

Dumb Kids

Directed by Digby Pettit

Written by Jacob Parker

PLAY DESCRIPTION:

Dumb Kids is a modern response to Wederkind's Spring Awakening, telling the story of ten Year 11 students navigating their way through identity and sexuality. Set in a contemporary Australian playground, the students meet to plan the best Year Eleven Social (Y.E.S). From ten completely different walks of life, they awkwardly discover what it means to grow up in a world where everyone knows exactly what they're doing. They want love and passion, they want to be friends for life, but they need answers, and they need to be the most authentic versions of themselves. Above all else, they need this Y.E.S to be the best Y.E.S ever. Raucously funny and unflinching, the play celebrates, community, identity and friendship, asking why we always tell queer kids it will get better, but never that it will get good.

The play is 115 minutes long, with a 15-minute intermission (TBD).

All show information can be found at: <https://paanda.asn.au/dumbkids>

CHARACTER LIST:

10 characters. The piece is ensemble-based, making each role as seen and as included as the other. Please note that each character will have moments of intimacy with another character, namely of the same gender or identity (any issues or queries please email the director or supervisor). Listed in no particular order:

MARIA:

- Intelligent, anxious, curious, questioning
- Female, playing age 16-17

LAMMEIR:

- Romantic, humorous, enthusiastic
- Non-binary identifying, playing age 16-17

SCARLETT:

- Caring, tender, cautious, curious
- Female, playing age 16-17

*For questions or concerns regarding auditions, please contact
paandafremantle@outlook.com or our director on digbycp@icloud.com*

EDDIE:

- Humane, knowledgeable, 'one of the boys'
- Male, playing age 16-17

TANYA:

- Slightly neurotic, compassionate, observant
- Female, playing age 16-17

TRISH:

- Expressionless, reserved, nonchalant
- Female, playing age 16-17.

OTIS:

- Stuck in their teens, humorous, empath, innocent
- Male (MUST be played by a female), playing age 16-17

GABE:

- Open, flirty, socially aware
- Male, playing age 16-17

WILL:

- Sweet, naive, 'new to it all'
- Trans-masculine, playing age 16-17

HARRY:

- Closeted, internalised fear, pressured
- Male, playing age 16-17

NOTE FOR ACTORS:

If successfully cast, you must be available for a read through (virtual option available) for the 13th August at 5pm at Prindiville Hall.

Shows for this production will be running on the nights set of the 10th-14th and 19th-21st November. (show dates subject to change based on ticket sales). Actors MUST be available over these two weekends to be considered for a role.

Rehearsals will take place once-three times a week determined on regular cast availability (NOTE: some roles may not be needed for every rehearsal). Actor's availability will be prioritised in determining the time for rehearsals.

Close to show dates all cast will be required to attend Sunday rehearsal blocks (unless discussed with director and production supervisor).

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AUDITION INFORMATION:

In person:

Thursday 6th August:

4:30pm – 7pm

AND

Monday 10th August:

4:30pm – 6:45pm

Auditioning actors will be given a 15-minute time slot allocated based on availability. You will be contacted with a combination of your time slot and any necessary information for your audition.

To receive an audition time slot, please fill out the 'In Person Audition Form' on our website at: <https://www.paanda.asn.au/auditions>

Self-tape: To be submitted by Monday 10th August

Please film a self-tape audition from one of the excerpts provided using either a phone or digital camera (not computer).

Note that actors auditioning via self-tape will require someone to read lines out of frame if the scene is not a monologue.

Self-tapes must be submitted via <https://www.paanda.asn.au/auditions> under the 'Self Tape Audition Form' ***no later than 11:59pm on August 10th***.

Please note you DO NOT need to have your audition excerpt memorised.

- The roles listed below can be auditioned for using the excerpts in this document.
- If you have preference for another role, please write this on your audition form where prompted to.

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If auditioning for a male-identifying character, read from either of these excerpts:

(1) - Please read for Will

WILL:

But he's a man. And I'm a boy. I mean he didn't look what I thought he'd look like but that's part of it all right? And he asked a lot of questions, like a quiz, you know raw, on prep and I don't know so I just said yes and that seemed to make him happy.

And I told myself, It's gonna be shit. It's always gonna be shit so get it over with. And he took me to his bedroom. He placed his hand on the small of my back and it was so soft and gentle and so fucking close to right if I just imagined it hard enough.

And he kissed me and- And he was a smoker I reckon. Like his mouth stank like cigarettes and he's like forcing it down my throat. And so I don't want to kiss him anymore and so then I'm on my knees, trying to make it look like I've done this before.

And I'm trying not to dry heave as he pulls my uniform apart and I'm naked in his apartment and he's pulling my legs apart and there's no fireworks or anything to mark the occasion just him telling me to relax, to trust him, that we've all been there but I hadn't. I hadn't been there.

And there's no love. I knew that. It wasn't... it wasn't gonna be love at first sight, that'd be stupid. But there's not even lust. It's like a well polished routine for him. He um... he licked me. Like down the side of my face. Is that normal? And there's part of me that wants to tell him to stop but I can't say that, right? Not when I've come all this way.

(2) - Please read for HARRY or GABE

HARRY sidles up next to GABE.

HARRY You have a good first week then?

GABE Better than you I bet. Just looking after Maria and Will, they're messes.

HARRY And you're helping them?

GABE Consider me the patron saint of lost gays. Got those two and you -

HARRY Keep it down.

GABE (Ala Mae West) Oh Harry why don't you come on over and fuck me in the ass sometime.

GABE (cont.) You're such a cliché, you know that right?

HARRY I think you like that.

GABE We still on for tonight? Come on, you promised. We don't need to do anything, just lie around, kiss.

HARRY Otis wants to play games.

GABE Well I want to make out so

(PAUSE)

GABE Come on.

HARRY ...You're too convincing for your own good.

GABE And cute. You forgot cute. I'll make it worth your while.

HARRY I'll let Otis know.

HARRY and GABE get progressively closer, GABE takes a selfie

HARRY Are you fucking insane? You can't post that pic of us-

GABE We look good. Come on-

HARRY You look great, I look like a muppet-

GABE A cute muppet-

HARRY But don't need people seeing that right? I mean I'm flattered - but we don't have to like share everything -

GABE Not everything. Just... anything.

HARRY In a bit. Just not now, right?

GABE Yeah no at your own pace.

So like tonight? Tomorrow? Next week? I'm happy to wait, but you know it's hard to see everyone else get to walk around and we're stuck meeting like it's the 1950s.

HARRY It's not the 1950s. We've got internet.

GABE Shut up.

HARRY Make me.

If auditioning for LAMMEIR or a female-identifying role, read from either of these two excerpts:

(1) - Please read for either MARIA or LAMMEIR

MARIA It's nice to spend time together out of school.

 Why a soccer field? Because if you want me to play, I'm not prepared. I need shin guards and studs-

LAMMEIR My little brother's playing.

 (Pointing) See, the cute one on defence.

MARIA Oh he is cute.

LAMMEIR KILL THEM ROY.

MARIA ...GO FOR THE SHINS ROY! KICK THE SHINS!

 Okay I can get into this. I like sports.

LAMMEIR Maria.

MARIA Yeah?

LAMMEIR Sorry I didn't talk to you after, you know...

MARIA Kissgate.

LAMMEIR Biggest scandal the school has ever seen.

MARIA It was a good kiss.

LAMMEIR Oh? Worth it?

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MARIA Memory is a bit foggy, may need to try it again.

LAMMEIR Is that right?

GET IT IN THE GOAL! IN THE GOAL!

MARIA KILLER ROY! KILL!

What? Don't laugh at me-

LAMMEIR After everything though is it bad I'm sort of glad?

MARIA You're terrible.

LAMMEIR Evil. Horrible.

But if you changing your whole style and getting outed means we get to hang

out more.

MARIA Thought I should dress the part.

LAMMEIR Right. Yeah. And Gabe had nothing to do with it?

Don't get me wrong, I love Gabe. He's fun.

But this is a big shift. It's fine if you need help, like adult help.

MARIA Well you can always help me out.

LAMMEIR Help you out with your clothes? Or help you out of them.

MARIA Terrible! You're terrible.

LAMMEIR Can't believe I said that.

(2) - Please read for SCARLETT

TRISH *(To herself)* It's time... it's time.
Just talk to her.
Scarlett! Hey.
So I've been thinking a lot about that conversation we had last term.

SCARLETT About the boats?

TRISH No about-

SCARLETT Because I did some research and it's all about density.

TRISH About how... you see me, so I thought you should know how I see you.

SCARLETT Wait I've been thinking about that as well.

TRISH You have?

SCARLETT And I think I know what you're going to say.

TRISH Ha ha. I'm not sure.

SCARLETT Harry.

TRISH ...Whaaaat?

SCARLETT You and Harry together, it's perfect. Then we'll all have dates. Eddie,
Otis and now Harry.

TANYA I love your shoes Maria-

SCARLETT So good. The style-

MARIA Thanks they're thrifted.

TRISH Sustainable-

MARIA They stink.

TRISH You didn't wash them?-

TANYA You can wash shoes?

MARIA People sell like underwear, swimmers and like earrings at thrift stores

TRISH You gotta wash those-

SCARLETT GUYS I HAD SEX WITH EDDIE. LIKE WHAT. IS THAT NOT CLEAR.

 JESUS CHRIST WHY IS NOBODY ASKING ME ABOUT THIS. JUST.

(Screams) Like we had sex.

TANYA Oh my god you are glowing now that I look at you.

SCARLETT I am! Thank you. It was so nice. He called me nice and that's like the first time a guy has said something about me that's not about my looks.

MARIA Let's maybe circle back to that low bar.

TANYA Where?

SCARLETT He came around to mine 'cause my parents were away and like I sort of knew it was going to happen because we'd talked about it first but-

TRISH I think the bell just rang?

SCARLETT No it didn't.

TRISH Also about the earrings, I buy a lot of thrift earrings and you just put them in salt water.

SCARLETT I'm not done just yet. Why aren't you guys more excited. Why is nobody like this?

(SCARLETT waves her hands around.)