

Mister Fye

By

Aron Hernandez

Scene 1

*YOUNG GIRL enters. She floats across the stage, stopping only when she reaches the center and turns to look at the audience. She smiles. There is nothing behind her eyes. She turns away and exits opposite the way she came.*

Scene 2

*A single spotlight falls on MISTER FYE standing in the center of the stage. He looks around. The sound of a gavel being struck startles him. The disembodied voice of a JUDGE reverberates through the space.*

JUDGE

Mister Fye. You are being charged with murder in the first degree, how do you plead?

MISTER FYE

I-what?

JUDGE

Your bank of acceptable responses include only "guilty" or "not guilty". How do you plead?

MISTER FYE

Well, not guilty, but-

JUDGE

So you had no part in the homicide of this young woman?

*YOUNG GIRL enters and stands underneath a second spotlight. MISTER FYE looks at her, but doesn't answer.*

Mister Fye? Hello? Hello?

*MISTER FYE and the YOUNG GIRL stay frozen in place as the lights slowly fade in around them. They are in a kitchen. Mister Fye's MOTHER enters. Her voice replaces the Judge's.*

MOTHER

Hello? You gonna help me or not?

*MISTER FYE snaps out of his trance and looks at his mother. YOUNG GIRL exits.*

MISTER FYE

Uh, yeah. Yes. Sorry.

*MISTER FYE begins helping his MOTHER with dinner.*

MOTHER

You should say something to your father.

MISTER FYE

Then I'd have to explain everything to him, and I don't think I could get through that.

MOTHER

I'm not talking about that, I mean you should at least say *something* to him. It's been a long time. He's worried about you.

MISTER FYE

Are you?

MOTHER

I'm your mother, it's my job to worry. But at least I know why you're here.

MISTER FYE

I told you, it'd be weird-

MOTHER

No, I get it. Really, I do. But think about it from his perspective. He doesn't believe that you're just here to visit when you haven't come to see us in almost three years.

MISTER FYE

I know, I know. I just don't know how to talk about it. With anyone.

MOTHER

I know, but it'll all be over soon, alright? It'll be over, and you won't have to think about it anymore.

*Mister Fye's FATHER's voice is heard from offstage.*

FATHER (O.S.)

What's going on in there?

*Silence. MISTER FYE looks at his MOTHER.*

MOTHER

We're just working on dinner. It should be ready in a few minutes.

*Silence.*

FATHER (O.S.)

I fixed your old room up for you.

MISTER FYE

Oh, thank you.

FATHER (O.S.)

Mhm.

*Silence. Only the sounds of MOTHER and MISTER FYE making dinner.*

So, how long you thinking you'll be here for?

MISTER FYE

I don't know, maybe a couple weeks?

FATHER (O.S.)

Mm. Well, you're welcome to stay as long as you like, you know that.

*Silence.*

MOTHER

Will you set the table for me, sweetie?

MISTER FYE

Sure.

*MISTER FYE begins setting the table.*

### Scene 3

*MISTER FYE enters his old bedroom. He looks around at the walls and the items on the dresser and the freshly made bed. He spots a section of the grey wall, and approaches it. He picks at a section of the paint until it forms a small fold. He pinches the fold and drags the wallpaper off of the wall, revealing a light purple color. He rips off all of the grey wallpaper and then sits down on the floor. He puts his head in his hands as CHLOE and ZOE enter. They sit down beside him with a handful of makeup palettes and brushes.*

CHLOE

Come on, let us do your makeup! You'd look so pretty.

MISTER FYE

I don't know...

ZOE

Please, let us!

MISTER FYE

Mmm... okay. But not too much. I don't want to look like a clown.

CHLOE & ZOE

Yay!

*CHLOE and ZOE begin doing MISTER FYE's makeup.*

ZOE

Hold still.

MISTER FYE

I'm trying! You're going to poke me in the eye.

ZOE

No, I won't.

CHLOE

She won't. Zoe and I have been doing our own makeup since we were in elementary school. We're basically professionals.

ZOE

You have really nice cheekbones, you know.

MISTER FYE

Oh, thanks?

ZOE

Look at this color, Chloe.

CHLOE

Oh, that looks so good! Ryan would go crazy if he saw you like this.

MISTER FYE

Ryan?

CHLOE

Yeah. Ryan C, from homeroom. Anthony told me he has a huge crush on you.

MISTER FYE  
Really?

ZOE  
Yeah, I heard he's been wanting to ask you out for a while.

MISTER FYE  
Oh.

CHLOE  
What? Do you not like Ryan?

MISTER FYE  
No, I mean, well, I don't know.

ZOE  
Well, you have to like someone. If it's not Ryan, who is it?

MISTER FYE  
I don't know. I've never really thought about it.

CHLOE  
What do you mean you've never thought about it?  
Haven't you ever had a crush on a boy?

*MISTER FYE thinks for a moment.*

MISTER FYE  
I guess Ryan is sorta cute. He's the short one with the blond hair?

ZOE  
No, that's Ryan S. Ryan C is tall.

CHLOE  
And his hair is brown.

ZOE  
Yeah.

MISTER FYE  
Oh, right. He's cute too.

CHLOE  
So is that a yes?

MISTER FYE  
A yes to what?

CHLOE

To Ryan asking you out?

MISTER FYE

What are you talking about?

CHLOE

Ryan told Anthony that he wants to ask you out, and Anthony told me. So, do you want me to tell Anthony to tell Ryan that you'll go out with him?

MISTER FYE

Uh... sure.

CHLOE

Oh yay, this is so exciting! You're going to have a boyfriend!

*CHLOE and ZOE squeal. MISTER FYE stares off. The YOUNG GIRL enters. CHLOE and ZOE freeze. MISTER FYE notices the YOUNG GIRL and stands. As the YOUNG GIRL exits, MISTER FYE moves to go after her, but the voice of the JUDGE stops him.*

JUDGE

And now, for the first witnesses.

*At the sound of a gavel, the set disappears. CHLOE and ZOE unfreeze. They look at MISTER FYE with confused expressions.*

CHLOE

Who are you?

ZOE

What did you do with our friend?

MISTER FYE

I-I didn't-

CHLOE

Where is she? What happened to her?

MISTER FYE

I'm sorry, she-

ZOE

Did you hurt her? Are you going to hurt us too?

MISTER FYE

What? No, I-

*MISTER FYE approaches CHLOE and ZOE, but they back away.*

CHLOE

Please don't hurt us, mister!

MISTER FYE

I'm not going to hurt you, I just-

*MISTER FYE tries to approach the girls again, but they scream and run away. MISTER FYE watches them as they exit, then picks up the makeup brushes and throws them at the wall.*

#### Scene 4

*Mister Fye's MOTHER is in the kitchen. MISTER FYE enters.*

MOTHER

Morning, honey, how'd you sleep?

MISTER FYE

Alright.

MOTHER

You ready for tomorrow?

MISTER FYE

I guess.

MOTHER

You should really tell your father you're doing this.

MISTER FYE

Why? Why does it matter if I tell him?

MOTHER

Because I promised you that I wouldn't, but you know I don't like keeping secrets from him. Besides, I really don't think he'll think that much of it.

MISTER FYE

But I do. I haven't had to think about that part of me for so long, it was like it didn't even exist, but now I have to think about how bad I feel for having to put you through all that again.

MOTHER

Put us through what again, dear?

MISTER FYE

You know, the whole 'losing your daughter' thing.

*There is a moment of silence before Mister Fye's mother begins to laugh.*

MOTHER

What the hell are you talking about?

MISTER FYE

What?

MOTHER

I never once thought of it as 'losing a daughter', dear, and I guarantee your father feels the same way.

MISTER FYE

But, I just felt like, with this procedure, it was like one last reminder of her. And now I'm getting rid of that too.

MOTHER

Darling, listen to me. Before you came out, your father and I knew something was wrong. We didn't know exactly what it was, but you just weren't... you. And when you told us, well, it just kind of made sense all of a sudden. You seemed happier, and that was good enough for me. I couldn't care less about you not being 'my little girl' anymore. You're my child, and I'm always going to love you. Now, what you're feeling, about this surgery tomorrow, that's about you. I know you think you did something wrong, that you have a reason to feel guilty, but you don't. You're getting this done because it's what's best for you, but you're going to have to confront whatever it is you're wrestling with in there. Okay?

*MISTER FYE nods. His MOTHER hugs him.*

I love you, sweetie, no matter what you do.

### Scene 5

*MISTER FYE sits in a chair in a hospital room. A DOCTOR enters.*

DOCTOR

Hey there, Mister Fye, we're almost ready for you in the operating room. How are you doing?

MISTER FYE

Uh, alright. A little nervous.

DOCTOR

That's perfectly normal. But I promise we're going to take good care of you, okay?

*MISTER FYE nods.*

Okay. I'm going to have a nurse come in in a minute, but first I'm going to have you change into this gown right here.

*The DOCTOR motions to a hospital gown folded on the chair next to MISTER FYE.*

I'm going to go and let you get to it.

*The DOCTOR exits. MISTER FYE slowly begins undressing. When he takes off his underwear, his privates are completely covered in thick green moss. He puts the hospital gown on. There is a knocking sound. A NURSE enters with a rolling hospital bed.*

NURSE

You all ready in here?

*MISTER FYE nods. The NURSE motions to the bed and MISTER FYE climbs in it. He takes a deep breath. They exit.*

### Scene 6

*MISTER FYE is wearing a dress. He is sitting on his bed in his room, but it is different. The walls are distorted and covered in moss and shrubbery. RYAN C emerges from behind the bed and crawls up next to MISTER FYE.*

MISTER FYE

Ryan? How'd you get in here?

RYAN C

Through the window, I had to cut through all these stupid plants.

MISTER FYE

Sorry about that.

RYAN C  
It's okay, I'm here now, aren't I?

*RYAN C puts a hand on MISTER FYE's leg.*

MISTER FYE  
What are you doing?

RYAN C  
I heard Chloe told you about my crush on you.

MISTER FYE  
Yeah, I'm sorry.

RYAN C  
Why? I wanted her to tell you. She also told me your response.

MISTER FYE  
My response?

RYAN C  
That you have a crush on me too.

MISTER FYE  
Well, I-

*RYAN C kisses MISTER FYE. As he kisses him, his hand travels further up MISTER FYE's leg. MISTER FYE stops him.*

MISTER FYE  
Wait.

RYAN C  
Come on. You like me, don't you?

MISTER FYE  
I guess, but-

RYAN C  
Well, I like you. A lot. I think you're beautiful.

MISTER FYE  
You do?

RYAN C  
Yeah. Will you let me prove it to you?

*MISTER FYE thinks for a moment, then nods. RYAN C kisses him again, and MISTER FYE lets him.*

Scene 7

*MISTER FYE wakes up on the bed. RYAN C is gone. MISTER FYE looks around, gets up, and walks over to a mirror. As he approaches the mirror, the YOUNG GIRL appears on the other side. She mimics his movements. They smooth out their clothes and comb through their hair.*

MISTER FYE

He thought I was beautiful.

*Suddenly, the YOUNG GIRL slams her hands against the mirror. MISTER FYE jumps back as the YOUNG GIRL tries to break through the glass. Lights begin flashing as CHLOE and ZOE enter. They speak in eerie monotone voices.*

CHLOE & ZOE

Let us do your makeup.

*CHLOE and ZOE grab MISTER FYE and pin him down on the bed. The YOUNG GIRL begins to break through the mirror.*

MISTER FYE

No! Stop! Get off of me!

CHLOE & ZOE

Hold still.

*The YOUNG GIRL emerges from the mirror and climbs up onto the bed. She steps over MISTER FYE as a gun materializes in her hand.*

MISTER FYE

No, please!

*The YOUNG GIRL aims the gun at MISTER FYE's head. Right before she shoots, the voice of the JUDGE rings out.*

JUDGE

The court finds Mister Fye guilty of murder in the first degree.

MISTER FYE

No!

*The YOUNG GIRL pulls the trigger, but the sound of a gunshot is replaced by the sound of a*

*gavel. Blackout.*

Scene 8

*A hospital bed sits center stage. The monitor next to it beeps methodically. There is a body on the bed, but it is covered by a thin sheet.*

*MISTER FYE enters in a hospital gown.*

MISTER FYE  
Hello?

*MISTER FYE looks around and walks over to the bed. He eventually peels off the sheet to reveal the YOUNG GIRL laying there. He steps back.*

Fuck...

*The YOUNG GIRL begins to move. She opens her eyes, looks around, sees MISTER FYE, and sits up. MISTER FYE moves to the edge of the bed. They stare at each other.*

What do you want from me?

*After a moment, the YOUNG GIRL holds the gun out to MISTER FYE. He stares at the gun, and then at her.*

No. No, I'm not doing that. That is not what's happening. I-I don't kill you. I can't kill you. Because you're not a real person... I mean, right? You're-you're me. You're me pretending to be something else, you're... you're a mask. You're a shell of a person. A disguise. You don't really exist-I didn't really kill anyone! YOU'RE NOT REAL!

*The YOUNG GIRL lets the hand holding the gun fall to her side. MISTER FYE takes a deep breath.*

But sometimes I wish you were... and that I wasn't real. And the worst part is that some days I feel like I'm not. Like I'm still lying-still hiding from something, I don't know. But you, you always knew what you were. I don't know what I am. I know I'm not a woman, but... but I don't feel like I can call myself a man. Not with everything that's happened to me-to you... it just doesn't seem right.

*The YOUNG GIRL places a hand on MISTER FYE's shoulder.*

*I don't want to kill you. You're a part of me, I know that. And not just this part of me.*

*MISTER FYE gestures to where his reproductive organs would be.*

*Every part of me. Your memories are my memories. Your life is my life. I was born... from you. Because of you. And nothing I do will change that.*

*The two sit for a moment, until the YOUNG GIRL brings the gun to her chest.*

*No, wait-*

*The YOUNG GIRL pulls the trigger. The monitor begins beeping rapidly. MISTER FYE grabs the gun from the YOUNG GIRL and tosses it aside. He tries to stop the bleeding by pulling the YOUNG GIRL into a tight embrace. The sheets around them turn red as MISTER FYE hugs the YOUNG GIRL. The monitor flatlines. Blackout.*

#### Scene 9

*MISTER FYE wakes up in his own hospital bed. His MOTHER is talking with the DOCTOR. When she notices he's awake, she approaches the side of the bed.*

MOTHER

*Hello, dear, how're you feeling?*

*She puts her hand on top of his. MISTER FYE looks down at their hands. For a moment, he doesn't know where he is, or who he is.*

Jacob?

*In hearing his name, he remembers. He looks at his mother.*

*Blackout. END OF PLAY.*