

Swagger Like This

A full-length play

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author.

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“Swagger Like This”

Characters

- Jonah..... 8th grade boy.* He has a physical handicap, as well as a speech impediment.**
He wants to be a rapper, and will do it.
- Mark..... 30-something man. He is Jonah’s father, and is recently separated from his wife, Kathy. He is a self-admitted ‘bad father’, and tries everything that he can do to make Jonah ‘better’.
- Kathy..... 30-something woman. She is Jonah’s mother, and is recently separated from her husband, Mark. She is torn between wanting to protect Jonah, and wanting him to do what he loves.

Setting

The play takes-place in Kathy’s House, Mark’s apartment, and the talent show at Jonah’s school. The house and apartment should be simple settings, but one should be distinct from the other.

Synopsis

Jonah is an 8th grader with a speech impediment, a physical handicap, and a burning need to rap in his school’s talent show. Yet, his greatest obstacles to rap-stardom don’t come from his newly-formed ‘crew’ or from his disability, but rather from his parents who desperately want him to succeed.

Other Notes

Two-Acts.

Jonah raps all words which are in *italics*.

*Jonah is an 8th grader, but he could of course be played by an any-age actor, as Jonah’s maturity and grade-level are conveyed by the text.

** Jonah has a problem with moving the right side of his body, and a speech impediment (not a stutter, but a problem with pronouncing letters ‘correctly’). The name of ‘MARK’ is chosen with the intention of making a soft ‘r’ sound, (making ‘Mark’ sound like ‘Mahk’) but it is, of course, up to those working on the script.

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SCENE 01 : JONAH’S BEDROOM

JONAH is in his bedroom rapping gangster-lyrics over a loud beat.

JONAH

*They say God's a forgivin' man, I hope he forgive
Thirty shells I let off don't curse my kid.*

JONAH stops, turns-down the music.

JONAH

Pathetic.

JONAH turns the music back up.

JONAH (CONT'D)

*There once was some n-words that tried to murk me
I hit em up, put em in plastic surgery.
(Pause)
Sticks and stones may break bones and the shells may hurt me
But I take it like a man, you beg for mercy.*

JONAH turns-down the music.

JONAH

Good. That's hard-core-gangster.

JONAH turns the music back up.

JONAH sits down on his bed.

MARK enters, and knocks on JONAH's door.

JONAH gets-up to turn-off the music.

MARK

You don't need to get up, Jonah.

JONAH gets up anyway, limps over to the stereo, turns it off, and limps back.

