

Everything About School Almost

CHARACTERS

(Each character is seen at four different times in their life: Elementary School, Jr. High, High School, and Graduates. Each character is played by four different actors.)

WILLIAM....*In High School, he is Jennifer's boyfriend. In Jr. High, her enemy.*

JOHN.....*David's best pal. Math whiz. Hates gym in Jr. High, but comes to like it later.*

DAVID.....*John's pal. Always anxious for school to end. Photographer.*

MICHAEL ...*Class Clown. Always ancy. Becomes a drummer.*

JENNIFER...*Becomes William's girlfriend....eventually.*

DEBBIE.....*The artist.*

NANCY.....*Loves school, but is very concerned about fitting in..*

SUSAN.....*Studying music, drama and dance. The girl who does it all.*

EVERYTHING ABOUT SCHOOL (almost) is a musical montage of memories. It takes place in a timeless time where details are blurry, but emotions are vivid. This isn't a particular school in a particular town, but rather a symbolic school that anyone of any age might feel they attended. Time is a key element in the show, as the kids count how many days they have of school, and how many minutes left of class. But time moves in an abstract manner in this show. We sometimes see two times happen at once. And in other instances years pass during a simple conversation.

Because of the abstract/symbolic nature of the show, it's necessary that the visual components are also abstracted. In reality, people wear different clothes as they grow up. Styles change. But to better reflect the timelessness needed here, I suggest that the young characters dress identically to the older people they become. This will also make it easier for the audience to identify the characters.

The Graduating Seniors can "see" their younger selves, but of course, the younger selves must remain completely unaware of their grown-up selves onstage. Perhaps lighting and separate playing areas can assist in this.

This piece is a mosaic made up of moments. Each moment is a memory that the Graduates will carry with them through their lives. Wherever possible, tableaux should be created, representing the mental pictures that will endure with the graduates. These mental images, however, are soft and nostalgic, rather than harsh and well-defined. Perhaps the colors are more muted the further away the memory is.

Thematically, **EVERYTHING ABOUT SCHOOL (almost)** is about appreciating the moment at hand. This is seen most clearly in the progression of the characters of David and John. In Elementary School and Jr. High, all they can do is count the days until they will be *out of school*. But by graduation, it should be clear that they will miss school and especially the friends they've made. It isn't until the graduates are going to have to say good-bye to their past, that they wish to embrace it.