

A Play by: Mikos Milan Mitchell

Act I, sc. i. Scene: Iowa City, Iowa

Outside of Lakeside Apartments in Iowa City, Iowa.

July 1, 2011.

Molly: I see a U Haul truck coming in.

Ruthie: I noticed lately that, many people have moved from the worst part of Chicago to Iowa City Iowa.

Sally: This used to be a very nice neighborhood until people brought gangs and drugs to my hood.

Geraldine: Hello

I am Geraldine

I moved from K-Town the west side of Chicago on Springfield Ave. and Gwenshaw St.

I had to cuss my landlord out because he did not fix a damn thing.

Enter- Daniel

This is my oldest son Daniel he is nine years old, but the he has ADHD. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

Daniel: Mom. I do not know where to put all of my stuff at.

I want to play with my Xbox 360.

Jimmy: Mom. Can I please ride my bike? I am also hungry.

Henry: Moving is not fun mommy. Moving sucks.

Sally: I am Sally.

Geraldine: I am Geraldine

Georgia: And I am Georgia.

Geraldine: It was nice to meet you neighbors.

Sally: It was nice meeting you as well.

Have you thought about HACAP Hawkeye's Area Community Action Program to me homes on Highway 6 and Broadway St close to Broadway Neighborhood Center.

Georgia: It is next to the strip mall called Pepperwood Plaza.

Ruthie: Girl, please this is the projects.

Broadway St. is the projects too. Property Values in Southeast Side of Iowa City has went down in recent years.

Ramona: Mommy.

Geraldine: Yes Darling.

Ramona: Where is my Hello Kitty Scooter at? And where is my Hello Kitty pillow at?

Geraldine: Well, it is put up.

She tells Georgia and Molly that she applied for low income housing in cities in Iowa.

Well, I tried applying for low income housing in Davenport, Waterloo, Muscatine, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and the only thing they have is this

piece of shit here on the Southeast Side of Iowa City.

Enter-Max

Max: I would mess with no one in my hood by Broadway homes. It is near the Iowa City Police Department inside Pepperwood Plaza where the fitness center used to be at.

Daniel: I want to be Herkey. Iowa Hawkeyes.

Geraldine: I came to Iowa from Chicago to get a better life. A better life from gangs, shootings, drug-dealing, prostitutes, bad ass kids, and all that other shit. But Chicago has the best food.

Daniel: Mom.

Geraldine: What is it son.

Daniel: Can we see our new bedroom?

Geraldine: I wonder if Mikos will buy me a business pass from Iowa City or Coralville Transit?

Sally: You need to enroll your kids to Grantwood Elementary School. According to Daily Iowan and Iowa City Press Citizen Journalist Adam B. Sullivan, "Both Mark Twain and Grantwood Elementary School have a free lunch program."

Jimmy: I hate being poor. Is this better than Chicago?

I also do not want anyone to make fun of me.

The kids in Iowa City will make fun of me for not having designer clothes. This is a college town called the university of Iowa and Chicago transplants.

Geraldine: Son would you stay out of grown folks business?

Jimmy: But mom.

Geraldine: Go play.

I am pretty sure that your brothers and sisters would want to play with you.

Jimmy: Yes Ma'am.

Sally: Have you applied for food shelves and vouchers such as the crisis center?

Geraldine: I talked to Mr. Mikos Mitchell and Miss Heather Carlson about the boys and girls clothes at the Crowded Closet Thrift Store and the Iowa City Crisis Center.

Mr. Mitchell and miss Carlson are willing to help us out in Iowa City.

I am glad to move into Transitional Housing from the Domestic Violence Shelter.

Enter-Georgia

Georgia: I know what HACAP stands for. It stands for Hawkeye Area Community Action Program.

Jimmy: Mom. How did Auntie Georgia memorize that acronym?

I hear the doorbell ringing.

Geraldine: I'll get it. I bet it is the social workers for me and the kids.

Ruthie: I am glad that they are here.

Sally: Me too.

Enter-Mikos and Heather Carlson

Mikos: Hi.

I'm Mikos. I am a teaching assistant and a social worker from the University of Iowa.

Heather Carlson: My name is Heather. I am a volunteer at Home Ties Day Care Center, and the Crisis Center.

Mikos: Sometimes, I go inside of the Shelter House on Southgate Ave.

Heather Carlson: I will be mostly inside of the Crisis Center distributing food, toiletries, and books.

Mikos: Would you help them out by filling out food, clothing, and utility vouchers for Geraldine's family and children. Normally I would have to go in front of the crisis center but, I could write you all a food, clothing, rent, utility book, and toiletry vouchers.

Heather Carlson: And, I have bus passes for everyone except for Henry and Ramona because they are under the age of 5.

Mikos: The Iowa City bus passes are good for Iowa City, Coralville, North Liberty, University Heights, and even the University of Iowa campus. That would also include the Oakdale Campus.

Geraldine: Oh thank you very much Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Carlson. This is my roommate Georgia. We met when we were in the domestic violence shelter. We were also roommates when we lived there.

Georgia: Mikos and Heather, I am from West Des Moines Iowa but, I was in the domestic violence shelter in both Burlington and Waterloo, Iowa before I relocated to Iowa City.

Mikos: And you said that you is from the west side of Chicago? You lived in the North Lawndale neighborhood of K-Town and Garfield Park?

Heather Carlson: I am glad that I were able to help you out.

Mikos: The University of Iowa has recently built the urgent care clinic on Tenth Street and First Avenue in Coralville.

Heather Carlson: I could help get you and your children access to the free clinic on Towncrest and Muscatine Ave.

Jimmy: Is it on the east side of Iowa City?

Daniel: Yes it is.

Mikos: it seems like Daniel has ADHD Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, bi-polar disorder, and OCD Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. And as for myself, I was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome which, is a mild form of Autism. According to the DSM Diagnostic Statistical Manual fifth edition, Asperger's Syndrome will no longer be in the DSM diagnosis. Instead, it will be called ASD Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

Geraldine: How did you overcome your Asperger's Syndrome?

Mikos: It is hard- well, I guess helping people especially children, older adults, and crisis intervention. Furthermore, I keep myself busy by contributing.

Heather Carlson: I am glad that you are able to help them out.

Mikos: You have to look at the positives of living in Iowa. No more disconnect notices like in Chicago.

Geraldine: Thank you very much Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Carlson.

The end of scene i.

Act I, sc. ii.

Scene: Inside of Lakeside Apartments. Iowa City Iowa

July 12, 2011

Geraldine: Today is July 12, 2011. My name is Geraldine, and I am from Chicago, Illinois. I was born at Mount Sinai Hospital on July 16, 1989, on Chicago's Westside. I am stressed out because recently I was evicted from my old apartment because of the damn slum lords would not take my rent money; and Daniel, my son, was recently expelled from an elementary school. He has attachment disorder and ADHD which is Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. My next to my oldest son is 7 years old. His name is Jimmy. Although he is funny, he can be a little hyper active from over eating sweets and soda. Otherwise he is a bit chubby but a Chicago Cubs fan. He loves Pixar's Cars and Cars 2 movies. My youngest son, Henry is 5 years old. He is excited about kindergarten. But he wets the bed sometimes because he has night terrors and frequent nightmares. I want to call my 3 year old daughter, Ramona a princess. But in actuality, she is a spoiled brat. She hits all of her siblings and destroyed the room. Although my oldest child Daniel and my youngest child Ramona both are a pain in the neck, I love my children unconditionally. As far as for me, I used to weigh 250 pounds and I now weigh 110 pounds, yes I was a drug addict. I sold my Illinois link card which it is a food stamp time card for marijuana (weed)! crack/cocaine" heroin, and meth. I know that I am trying to be clean I am also addicted to Red Bull energy drinks, Starbucks coffee, No Noz yellow caffeine pills, caffeine powder, and caffeine jels. I talked to Mr. Mikos Milan Mitchell and Heather Lynn Carlson from the University of Iowa urgent care, and the Iowa City crisis center. By the way, back in Chicago, I filed a restraining order against my ex boyfriend Joshua and soon to be ex husband William aka Billy. My soon to ex husband and my ex boyfriend physically, verbally, and financially abused me. He tried to sell food stamps for crack/cocaine and heroin and he tried to touch my three year old little girl Ramona. I told William if you ever think about touching or hurting my little girl, I will hurt you, you son of a bitch!!! And I will go to jail!!! Anyway, I can be a psycho bitch, and I am a bitch because my mother, biological father, and stepfather physically and verbally abused me as a child

and teenager. I used to get ass whoopins from them with the belt. My mother lives with my stepfather in the Chicago suburb called Summit/Argo, Illinois, where the projects once stood across the street from the Summit Villas. My stepfather is an drug addict and alcoholic. My biological dad, the asshole, lives in West Englewood on Chicago Southwest Side. I do not like Chicago nor the south suburbs. Too much violence, drugs, gangs, Latin Kings fucking with GDs (Gangster Disciples/Growth and Development), People messing with the police or more. I was ready to move to Iowa to get away from crime drama and both the Cook County and Iowa City housing authority. I applied for several section 8 programs and low-income housing through Waterloo Housing Authority, Des Moines housing authority, Davenport housing authority, Cedar Rapids housing authority, Marshalltown housing authority and Clinton housing authority. I love Iowa City so much but please say that please stay away from Broadway Street and Cross Park Avenue? The reason is because its like a mini Chicago. It has drugs, gangs, prostitution, fights, and a few shootings. I would not want my roommate nor my kids involved in that toxic shit!!! But at least out here, there are willing to help. Besides, my three boys might be going to either Mark Twain or Grantwood Elementary School. Over 90% of the students are African American or receive free or reduced lunch program. Dr. Jefferson and Dr. Dubuque is the Iowa vocational rehabilitation counselors. It's also a great idea for Iowa City to open the Southeast Side Library so that Daniel and Jimmy could have access to a wifi and internet instead of me calling them bad ass kids!!! I love you Iowa City. God, please help me find a job in Iowa City and the University of Iowa? I will call Dr. Jefferson and Dr. Dubuque.

Scene Two Ends.

July 16, 2011

Scene: Downtown Iowa City. Inside of Iowa City Public Library in the Pedestrian Mall.

Iowa City Coralville North Liberty Book Festival.

Mikos speaks on the microphone

Mikos: Welcome to the 2011 Iowa City/ Coralville/North Liberty/and University Heights Book Festival.

Heather Carlson: And Iowa City is the city of Literature.

This is why I love to live, work, study, and play in Iowa City. I will be selling books as a sponsor to the University of Iowa, Uptown Bills Small Mall, Dance Marathon, Iowa City/Coralville Transit, HACAP *Hawkeye Area Community Action Program*, Hyvee, The Shelter House, and Mercy Hospital Iowa City.

Heather Carlson: I have been to Iowa City Jazz Festival, Art Festival, and now, the Book Festival.

Enter Geraldine and Georgia

Exit-Heather Carlson

Geraldine: Would everyone bring me some spare change?

Georgia: I just moved from the domestic violence shelter in Iowa City's southeast side and West Des Moines, Iowa.

Geraldine: I am struggling raising four bad ass kids from K-Town.

Mikos: Here you go Geraldine and Georgia.

Why are you doing this for?

Georgia: I were physically, emotionally, and sexually abused by both, my ex husband and ex boyfriend.

Geraldine: I am trying to raise money for the Iowa City Book Festival, The Shelter House, and trying to fix bad neighborhoods of Chicago south and west sides in addition to, Iowa City southeast side, Lakeside apartments aka the projects and Broadway Street Apartments/Townhomes aka the other Iowa City projects.

Mikos: Ramona and Henry. What are you doing?

Geraldine: Uncle Mikos said do you want Ice Cream?
Enter-Henry and Ramona

Henry: Mommy.

Henry and Ramona: Mommy, We want ice cream!
Geraldine, Georgia and her children sees Whitey's and Cold Stone Ice Cream vendors at the Iowa City Pedestrian Mall. They go passed the Iowa City Public Library and the Playground.

Ramona: Mommy. Uncle Mikos. Auntie Georgia.

Henry: My sister and I...

Mikos: You two are building sand castles in the middle of downtown Iowa City?
Reenter-Heather Carlson

Heather Carlson: you two are getting your swimsuits wet. And it has sand all over them.

Henry: Mommy. I want to build more sand castles with my sister.

Ramona: I have a pink Hello Kitty sand bucket, and water?

Henry: What about a plastic shovels? I will put my Iron Man and Batman toys in the wet sand water puddles.

Mikos: you kids remind me of Caleb, an eight year old boy that loves to play baseball, and the boy from Bratayley. Annie, a six year old that has a You Tube channel called Acroanna. She also does gymnastics with Hayley. She loves jewelry, make up, Barbie dolls, baby dolls, and Hello Kitty dolls. And two year old Hayley, has temper tantrums just like Henry and Ramona. She tries to copy what Annie says. Henry: I see why they named the You Tube Channel Bratayley.

Ramona: Brat and Hayley.

Henry: It was going to be Hayley's You Tube channel.

Enter- Tyler Perry

Exit- Henry and Ramona

Tyler Perry: Hello Mikos, Heather, Geraldine, Georgia, and the kids. I am Tyler Perry aka Madea Mabriel Simmons from a Diary of a Mad Black Woman, Meet the Browns, House of Payne, Madea Goes to Jail, Madea's Family Reunion, Why did I get married, Why did I get married too, and others.

Mikos: You also mention your non Madea movies such as Daddy's Little Girls?

Tyler Perry: Yes. I am also working on an adaptation of James Patterson's Alex Cross. *Enter-Daniel and Jimmy*

Exit-Tyler Perry

Daniel: Mom, auntie Georgia, uncle Mikos, aunite Heather. How are you?

Jimmy: Hello uncle Mikos and Auntie Heather.

Daniel: Well, my brother and I fight sometimes, but for the most part, we play.

Jimmy: I play baseball and soccer.

Could we play...

Daniel: Basketball. Please?

Mikos: This is supposed to be a book festival, not a bickering festival.

Heather Carlson: The Arts and Jazz Festival pretty much inspired the Book Festival.

Geraldine: Ramona what's wrong?

Reenter-Ramona

Two year old Ramona quotes Hayley from Bratayley.

Ramona: Mommy.

Geraldine: Yes darling.

Ramona: "Annie, makes me mad!!!"

I want to be a brat just like Haley mommy!!!

She pouts and starts wining and crying.

Heather Carlson: Miss Geraldine. Hayley from Bratayley is going through terrible twos. Just like Ramona. I think she meant to say that her brother Henry makes her mad.

Ramona: Mommy. I got to go pee pee.

Geraldine: You have to potty?

Ramona: Yes ma. ma.

Georgia takes Ramona potty.

Exit-Ramona and Georgia.

Geraldine: Well, maybe them bad ass Lil lids needs to stop watching Bratayley on You Tube and Annie from Acroanna. We are here to sell books,

and have fun in Iowa City.
Reenter-Tyler Perry

Tyler Perry: I will give you \$500 to help you guys out in addition to give out a free book that I have wrote.

Geraldine and Georgia: May we have your autograph?

Tyler Perry: Sure. My title of the book is called, "How to deal with Drama and Stay away from it." You can add me on MySpace, Facebook, Twitter, You Tube, Yahoo Messenger, and Google.

Mikos: As a University of Iowa graduate student, teachers assistant, a social worker, a playwright/acreenwriter, and crisis center worker, you can findnmenon my University of Iowa website and email. I have a million likes and friends on Facebook and MySpace, many followers on Twitter and 1.4 million plus subscribers on You Tube.
Reenter-Ramona

Ramona: Tyler Perry.

Henry, Jimmy, and Daniel: Tyler Perry!!!

All of the children: Can we have an autograph please?

Tyler Perry: Since, this is the Book Festival, in the City of Literature, you may purchase books, write books and plays, get them published or performed in Theaters. I inspired Mikos Milan mitchell to write plays, after I directed, produced, and acted in the Diary of a Mad Black Woman, Madea Goes to Jail, Madea's Family Reunion, and my other plays. Yes children, you may have my autograph in my book that I just gave you.

Georgia: I see the kids bickering and arguing.

Geraldine: God Damn it!!!

Daniel pulls Jimmy's hair

Stop pulling your little brother's hair?

Daniel: Never!!!

I don't give a shit what you say!!!

Jimmy: He stole my Pokémon cards!!!

Geraldine: If you don't give your brother came back this Yu Gi Oh and Pokémon cards I will be whooping some asses!!! Both of your asses!!!

Jimmy: Bro. I am sorry.
Jimmy cries.

Daniel: I accept your apology.

Jimmy: I love the Chicago Cubs. I am a fan of Sammy Sosa.

Daniel: And I love the Chicago White Sox.

Jimmy wears a Cubs uniform and Daniel wears a White Sox uniform.

Tyler Perry: I have a question for the boys, in particular, Daniel and Jimmy.

Geraldine: my oldest son has ADHD in addition to having nose bleeds. Boys, would you stop that shit please? I'm trying to raise money to help fix the southeast side for urban renewal.

Tyler Perry: Them kids need some disclipine.

Georgia: So how much money did we raised?

Geraldine: We raised about \$1,400. The should be enough to pay rent, buy groceries, and clothing. Personally, I wouldn't buy clothing from the Salvation

Army. Would rather prefer buying clothing from Coral Ridge Mall in Coralville or Sycamore Mall by Dollar Tree and Pandora Bread. By the way, Sycamore Mall is located in the ghetto.

Mikos: I think that Kirkwood Community College should move its classes to Sycamore Mall. A ghetto ass mall. In fact, a dead mall.

I see Cathy from TRIO and Katie from theatre.
Enter- Cathy Colony Bunnell and Katie Consamus.

Cathy Colony Bunnell: Hi Mikos.

You make me so proud.

Mikos: I have written two books Cathy. I am signing my two books that I have written about Iowa City.

Cathy Colony Bunnell: So what's the name of your book that you have written?

Mikos: The title of my books is called "Chicagoans and Suburbinsates consume Low Income"and "Chicagoans seek Section 8 in Iowa City."

Katie Consamus: Mr. Mikos. May I have your autograph?

Mikos: Sure.

Katie Consamus: Mikos. I remember you now. You were in my Basic Acting II class. I also hears that you have written 38 plays since 2002, as well as taking Playwriting I and II courses at the University of Iowa.

Cathy Colony Bunnell: And you have become a long way from being a TRIO student and seeking tutors in Spanish, Psychology, and Chemistry courses. You really make me proud.

Mikos: Well Cathy and Katie. After I get my Master's Degree, I will be working on my Ph D. Dissertation on problems in southeast Iowa City. I grew up in Summit/Argo, Illinois, on the Chicago outskirts. I can remember a time when Summit Senior Housing and Summit Villas were Robert J. Allison Homes aka the Projects. I miss living at my old childhood home at 7415 West 63rd Place. Am I the problem in the southeast side of Iowa City?

Cathy Colony Bunnell: No sir. Mikos.

Mikos: Lena Fors (1929-2014) used to sell my mama cigarettes. Oh Lisa Johnson. She used to drink MD 20/20 and 40 oz beer in the projects. They used to call her *Crazy Lisa* in Argo. She used to borrow money from pawn brokers such as Ike and Skates. And when I lived in Davenport, Iowa, they used to call her Mother Love.

Heather Carlson: I love you baby. I am proud of you. You is my price and I am proud of you. I admire you.

Mikos: You can find Bratayley and Acroanna on Facebook, My Space, Twitter, and You Tube. They are some talented kids.

Reenter-Daniel, Jimmy, and Henry

Daniel, Jimmy, and Henry: May we have your autograph? Please?
Enter-Bratayley's mom, Caleb, Annie, and Hayley.

Bratayley's mom: Hello Caleb, Annie, Hayley.

Hayley: Mommy. Annie writes books.

Annie: Today on Bratayley.

My name is Annie. I am 6 years old. I have my own You Tube Channel called Acroanna.

Caleb: My name is Caleb and I am 8 years old. I like to play baseball. I am also here to sign our books at the Iowa City, Coralville, and North Liberty book festival.

Hayley: I am Hayley. I am two.

Annie: Mom. I want to go to the Iowa Children's Museum in Coralville, Iowa.

Caleb: It is inside of Coral Ridge Mall where the Ice Arena is at.

Reenter-Tyler Perry

Tyler Perry: Mikos. I am glad that you are sponsoring this book festival. I read all of your plays from Sasha's Teenage Life in 2002 to Southeast Iowa City problems in 2011. I would like to be your agent Mr. Mitchell. Not only were you a post graduate student of the University of Iowa, and playwright but, you helped Geraldine and her children provide resources in the bad part of Iowa City. I will give you a contract and I want you to act in my upcoming film and productions.

Mikos: Thank you God, Jesus, and Tyler Perry.

Tyler Perry: No Problem. This is by far the best book festival I've been too!!!

Mikos: Iowa City, Iowa. The Home of the Iowa Hawkeyes, the University of Iowa, college town, college party city, and The City of Literature.

The end of scene iii.

Scene: Inside the apartment and their backyard. Lakeside Apartments. Iowa City, Iowa.

Geraldine: oh my gosh. Mikos and Tyler Perry is hot and sexy.

Georgia: You your dumbass, Mikos is taken by Heather. She was born in Edina, Minnesota and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Enter-Mikos and Heather Carlson

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