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Andrew Greenwald

Final Project – *BURN THIS* Remake

MCA 257: Casting

5/3/10

Prof Decina

**Summary of play:**

 *Burn This*, a play by Lanford Wilson, starts off after a funeral of a boy named Robbie. Robbie was a young, gay dancer who died from drowning in a boating accident, along with his boyfriend at the time, Dominic. The play follows four individuals who are mourning the loss of their close friend Robbie. There are Robbie’s former roommates, Anna and Larry, and also Anna’s love interests Burton and Pale. At the funeral, Anna is mistaken for Robbie’s girlfriend by his family, and Robbie’s friends find out that Robbie’s family never accepted/knew that he was gay. His family also did not know that he was a great dancer.

 After the funeral, we find out that Anna is currently in a relationship with Burton, who was in Canada during the funeral and had not been able to get in touch with. Burton had been updated about the funeral and the loss of Robbie by Anna and Larry, but did not act interested. Instead, he wanted to focus on himself and his work, just as Burton is known, self-absorbed.

 We then meet Pale, Robbie’s older brother. He comes to Larry and Anna’s apartment being loud and noticeable intoxicated, to pick up Robbie’s possessions. To my knowledge, Anna and Pale never had a great relationship, but Anna ended up inviting him in to the apartment and sleeping with him that night. They wake up the next morning to Pale gathering all of Robbie’s things and leaving by telling Anna that he is with a woman and has children. Right then should have ringed a bell in Anna’s mind, but she continued without taking action.

 The play goes on and Anna still stays with Burton, even though she was just sleeping with Pale. Anna and Burton were going back to the apartment after a New Year’s party, and find Pale staggering around drunk and being obnoxious, just like before. Pale ends up starting to fight Burton, and the fight ends by Anna kicking her boyfriend, Burton, out of the apartment, inviting Pale in. The night must have been foggy for Anna and Pale, for he wakes up again in Anna’s bed and they sleep together for the second time. At this point, Larry finds the two in the morning and talks to Anna about Burton and Pale. Days go by with Burton constantly stopping by the apartment talking to Larry, finally dropping off a script that he wrote for Larry to read.

 The play concludes with Anna’s dance recital, of which she choreographed by herself, and we find out that the dancing was based on her and Pale’s relationship. Since Larry knows secretly that Anna likes Pale in her own way, he gave Pale a ticket to see the show. After the show, Anna and Pale talk in Anna’s apartment, and express their feelings to each other. They came to the final conclusion of not wanting to be together and that the fling that they had would end. The last scene is after their talk, them laying together passionately, despite their conclusion of no relationship.

**Character Breakdowns:**

**ANNA**

Anna is a 32-year-old [female] dancer, who is aspiring to be a choreographer. She is tall and beautiful and carries herself with a strong presence. Initially mistaken for her roommate Robbie’s girlfriend by his family at his funeral, she is filled with grief. Exhausted, drinks, and starts smoking. Later, becomes stronger and escapes into work and finds love.

**BURTON**

 Burton is a male in his 30’s. Attractive, tall, with an athletic build. He starts off as Anna’s boyfriend, but is very focused on his work. He is a very successful screenwriter, and loves making money. He loses something important to him and has a hard time understanding accepting it. Privileged as a child and always had what he wanted.

**LARRY**

 Larry is a 27-year-old gay male, and one of Anna’s roommates. Larry is very bright, a good friend, and confident in himself. He works in advertising. He is the funny man of the play and provides comedy. He also knows that Anna loves Pale before she does.

**PALE**

 Pale is Robbie’s older brother, 36 years old sexy, “blue collar” working class man. He manages a restaurant, and separated from his wife and kids. He is vague and is mislead about his life. He initially appears to be noisy, obnoxious, offensive, and fills his language with a lot of obscenities. He later falls for Anna and admits his feelings.

**Actors Considered for Roles:**

**ANNA:**

Jenna Dewan

* *Step-Up*. 30 years old, and has played a dancer in former movies.

Amanda Shull

* *Center Stage*. 32 years old played Jody Sawyer in Center Stage.

Adrienne Bailon

* *Cheetah Girls, 3LW*. Late 20’s and has experience with dancing, singing, choreographing.

**BURTON:**

Wentworth Miller

* *Prison Break*. In his 40’s but looks younger. Great build for Burton.

Bradley Cooper

* *The Hangover*. In his 30’s and has played a variety of roles. Played comedic roles and also roles where he focuses on work.

Eric Dane

* *Valentine’s Day/Grey’s Anatomy*. In his late 30’s. Has the right body for the role and looks serious enough to be career driven.

**LARRY:**

Randy Harrison

* *Queer As Folk*. In his early 30’s but looks young enough for role. Has played gay characters before and has a humorous feel.

Darryl Stephens

* *Noah’s Arc*. In early 30’s but looks young. Has played a gay character before and always played comedic roles. It could be a discovery because he never really played a full on frontline role.

Chris Klein

* *American Pie*. 31 years old, has played in a comedy before and has a professional/confident look.

**PALE:**

Gerard Butler

* *The Ugly Truth*. In his early 40’s but looks young. Has a rugged look that works for the working class obnoxious type.

Colin Farrell

* *Crazy Heart/Photo Booth*. In his 30’s and has a rugged look and has played angry obnoxious characters before.

Ryan Phillippe

* *Cruel Intentions*. In his 30’s with a rugged sexy look.

**New Cast for *Burn This:***

Anna – Adrienne Bailon

Burton – Eric Dane

Larry – Chris Klein

Pale – Colin Farrell