

CAN I SEE SOME IGENDERFICATION?

A short comedy by
Jeff Goode

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(Ten-Minute Version)

CAST OF CHARACTERS

ROSA

ZULIO

SETTING

The school gym.

(Lights up on ROSA, the girl in charge of handing out name tags. She waits at the front of the gym with a clipboard and a box of stickers. She wears a big pink name tag that says, "GRRL" and a bunch of stickers that say things like, "Cheerleader," "Piccolo!," "Mathlete," "Go Hawks!," "Yearbook," "Ice cream!" Enter ZULIO, one of the boys, on his way to practice. Rosa stops him.)

ROSA: Boy or Girl?

ZULIO: What do you mean?

ROSA: For your name tag. Boy or Girl?

ZULIO: Can't you tell?

ROSA: Of course I can. But I have to ask anyway. We're not allowed to assume anymore.

ZULIO: Why not?

ROSA: I guess somebody complained.

ZULIO: Somebody in our class?

ROSA: No, somebody on the news. And if anybody's parents hear about it, they'll call the school again. And Coach Tanner's already in trouble for that time she told us slavery was real.

ZULIO: When was that?

ROSA: Like, the 1800s.

ZULIO: No, I mean, when did Ms. Tanner get in trouble for slavery?

ROSA: Remember when she was gone a few weeks and we all thought she was pregnant and secretly having a baby?

ZULIO: Yeah.

ROSA: That was slavery.

ZULIO: That's so stupid.

ROSA: I know. So I just have to ask you a couple questions. And if you don't want to answer, you don't have to. But it's quicker if you do, and we'll get you straightened out and back to practice.

(Zulio notices the long list of questions on her clipboard.)

ZULIO: There's like a hundred questions on here!

ROSA: We just want to cover all the bases. I might not need all of them. Are you ready to get started?

ZULIO: Sure.

ROSA: One: Do you like football?

ZULIO: Yes.

ROSA: Are you on the football team?

ZULIO: No.

ROSA: I see. Do you like basketball?

ZULIO: Not really.

ROSA: Great, here you go. You're a girl.

(She hands him a big pink Girl name tag.)

ZULIO: What? No, I'm not! I'm a boy!

ROSA: *(Rolls her eyes at him.)* You don't like basketball. Boys like basketball.

ZULIO: I like football.

ROSA: But you're not on the team. You're more like a cheerleader. So... Girl.

ZULIO: I'm not a cheerleader, either!

ROSA: No, but I am. So if you'd like to try out for the squad, I can put you down.

ZULIO: No, I don't want to try out for the squad. I want to try out for the football team. I thought that's why we're here.

ROSA: Girls can't play football.

ZULIO: I am not a girl!

ROSA: You're supposed to say, "Girls can do anything boys can do!"

ZULIO: I don't care what girls can do, I wanna play football!

ROSA: (*Annoyed:*) All right, that's it, I am taking this back.

(She snatches the pink name tag away from him.)

ZULIO: Thank you.

ROSA: You are not being very ladylike.

ZULIO: I'm not trying to be ladylike!

ROSA: Oh, well, that's okay, then. Here you go.

(She hands the pink name tag back to him.)

ZULIO: What?!?

ROSA: (*Whispers:*) Don't you hate having to be ladylike all the time?

ZULIO: No, I don't! I mean, I would if I did. But I don't, so I'm fine.

ROSA: You don't sound fine.

ZULIO: I'm fine!

ROSA: Okay, calm down. There's no need for hysterics.

ZULIO: These are not hysterics!

ROSA: That's 'cause you're not wearing any make up. Do you want to borrow my eye liner?

(She hands him a makeup pencil.)

ZULIO: I don't even know what to do with this!

ROSA: You're right, you better keep the whole thing.

ZULIO: What?

ROSA: Y'know, I can make you gay, if you think that'll help.

ZULIO: How would that help?!

ROSA: 'Cause then you could go out for football.

ZULIO: Really?

ROSA: Sure! Here you go. You're gay.

(She hands him a rainbow sticker.)

ZULIO: Great, thanks. Wait, am I a gay lady or a gay dude?

ROSA: We don't say "lady", we say, "woman." Or "young woman."

ZULIO: You just said "lady" a second ago.

ROSA: Or Grrl with no "I", like a badger: Grrrrrrl.

ZULIO: Grrrrrr! That's kinda fun.

ROSA: And we don't say "gay." We just smile and point to the little rainbow sticker and everybody knows.

ZULIO: Knows what?

ROSA: That you're a... *(Smiles and points at rainbow sticker.)*
Grrl.

ZULIO: Look, I'm not any of those things.

(He hands her back all the stickers.)

ROSA: You have to be something or I can't assign you a sticker. And if you don't have a sticker, I can't let you try out for the cheer squad.

ZULIO: Football team.

ROSA: For the football team, riiight. *(Smiles and points at the rainbow sticker.)*

ZULIO: Do you want me to say I like basketball? Fine, I like basketball!

ROSA: You like basketball?

ZULIO: So much. Now can I like football?

ROSA: Are you on the team?

ZULIO: I'm not on any teams! That's the problem!

ROSA: So you're more like a cheerleader.

ZULIO: No!

ROSA: Here you go.

(She hands him the pink and rainbow stickers. He tries to give them back.)

ZULIO: I don't want that.

ROSA: You have to take it.

ZULIO: Don't give it to me!

ROSA: Take it! Put it on!

ZULIO: Look, I don't need a sticker.

ROSA: Nobody needs a sticker. You have to have them. Do you understand the difference?

ZULIO: Do you have a sticker that says "I'm not wearing a sticker, because it's none of your business, and I just want to go play football"?

ROSA: Sure. But you have to see the school nurse for that.

ZULIO: *(Flabbergasted:)* Why?

ROSA: Because you're gonna need a complete physical. He's right over there. Go ahead and get down to your underwear.

ZULIO: Right here in the gym?

ROSA: (*Shouting across the gym:*) I need a strip search in stickers!

ZULIO: I can't do that.

ROSA: Why not? (*Whispers:*) Are you not wearing a bra?

ZULIO: I, well, no, I'm not.

ROSA: Do you want to borrow one? I think I've got an extra in my gym locker.

ZULIO: I'm not gonna take off my clothes in front of the whole school! And put on a bra.

ROSA: It's not the whole school. Just the football players and the cheerleaders. Look, that's the only way we can tell if you are what you say you are.

ZULIO: That can't be the only way.

ROSA: Do you wanna not wear a sticker or not?

ZULIO: Yes, I don't!

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