

# re'open our eyes

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A short dramedy by  
Matthew Paul Olmos

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[www.youthplays.com](http://www.youthplays.com)  
[info@youthplays.com](mailto:info@youthplays.com)  
424-703-5315

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

RAYNA

SOFIA

LUCIA

VALENTINO

CALEB

SEBASTIAN

The remainder of the classroom can be filled out as needed.

Please cast all lead roles with as many actors of color/LGBTQ as possible.

Characters may be played as any gender. Feel free to update names and pronouns accordingly.

## SETTING

the present. a room in any high school.

## PRODUCTION NOTES

for the "dialogue" within the stage directions, feel free to assign them to the named characters or to the student ensemble, as needed. improvisations encouraged.

*(lights on a classroom which looks like every classroom you've ever seen:*

*rows of chairs/desks facing forward  
a teacher's desk and chalkboard/whiteboard;  
with perhaps handwritten history lesson topics.*

*history class posters posted along the walls.  
a wall of windows.*

*however, on this particular morning,  
the light from the windows is overly bright,  
perhaps a hue of green coming from somewhere.*

*soon, various STUDENTS begin to enter;  
they seem overly sleepy;  
no one notices the bright from the windows.*

*one by one,  
the students put their heads down sleepily.*

*until, all the students are asleep.  
several moments.*

*then,  
RAYNA shoots up as though waking from an intense dream.)*

**RAYNA:** Whoa, whoa, whoa, what just happened?

*(several students wake; look around foggily.)*

Yo, did all of us just like fall asleep at the same time???

**LUCIA:** Shh, Rayna, some of us are still asleep.

**RAYNA:** We *did* tho', look:

*(they look to the room full of sleeping or barely waking students.  
Rayna begins messing with her mobile.)*

**SOFIA:** Alright, was there some party went all night an I wasn't even invited???

**LUCIA:** Uh, Sophie, you make it sound like you *ever* get invited.

**SOFIA:** You watch—one uh these days I'm gonna throw the partiest of all parties an we'll see who *I* invite.

*(Rayna walks to the window; still looking down at their mobile.)*

**RAYNA:** Yo, is anybody else's service like...not in service?

*(more students wake, check their phones.)*

**VALENTINO:** Mine must not be, cuz mine always be blowin'up.

**CALEB:** No bars, no Wi-Fi; networks must be recalibrating.

*(SOFIA shakes their phone.)*

**SOFIA:** Yea, yea, yer right, Rayna, mine's not doin'nothing. Lucia, yers working?

*(LUCIA stands, tries to scare the room.)*

**LUCIA:** Well, hold on. How do we know we're actually here? Maybe this is a dream an you're all in it, or...maybe one of you is dreaming and we're all in it. Or maybe it's a nightmare.

**SEBASTIAN:** Or, perhaps we're all having the same dream and we're *all* in it.

*(all look to SEBASTIAN.)*

**RAYNA:** How could we be havin'the same dream, Sebastian? That don't even make sense.

This isn't one of yer poems or whatever.

**SEBASTIAN:** You must be right. We all just showed up, fell asleep in unison, and none of our phones work.

That makes *so much* sense.

**SOFIA:** Um, well, can whoever has service please call the front office and let them know the sub is late *again*.

**CALEB:** Sofie, what does recalibrating mean to you?

**SOFIA:** *Yer not a scientist, Caleb*, so stop using words you don't even know.

But wait—seriously—no one, like *nobody's* phone is working???

**VALENTINO:** Good morning, Sofia, nice of you to wake up.

**LUCIA:** Okay, okay, enough playing.

**SEBASTIAN:** Thank you.

**LUCIA:** Someone needs to—

**SEBASTIAN & LUCIA:** *Walk to the front office.*

*(Lucia and Sebastian share an awkward moment.)*

**RAYNA:** They right.

Who wants to come with me?

**VALENTINO:** Who else.

*(Valentino references their own awesomeness. Sofia snorts.)*

*What?*

**LUCIA:** Wherever Rayna goes, so goes Valentino.

*(Valentino waves Lucia off and joins Rayna at the door. Rayna pulls on the knob, nothing; tries again, nothing.)*

**RAYNA:** Uh, y'all, we are locked in.

*(doubtful responses from students.)*

**VALENTINO:** What's a matter, Ray, you forget how to—

*(Valentino tries the knob, nothing; tries harder, nothing. laughter from students.)*

Yo, shut up. Es actually stuck.

*(Valentino begins banging on the door.)*

Hello, we're locked in here! Somebody wanna let us out???  
HELLO!!!!?

**RAYNA:** Why do certain individuals think the louder they say something the more likely it'll happen???

**VALENTINO:** Same reason certain individuals think the more they talk the more interesting they'll be?

*(Rayna smiles with a "let me show you how it's done" walk to the windows.*

*students hoot an holler in a "Awh she TOLD you!" way. however, just as Rayna gets to the window; she stops; all swagger gone. Rayna stares.)*

**CALEB:** Do you need to be reminded how window sash locks operate, Rayna?

*(laughter from students; Caleb assumes they're laughing at Rayna, but...are they?)*

**SOFIA:** You so stupid, Cay – she hasn't even tried them sash locks yet.

*(more laughter; Caleb now embarrasses.*

*Lucia notices how Rayna is staring; walks to Rayna.*

*Rayna points Lucia to the window; they're both staring.*

*Sebastian goes to them; joins in staring.*

*students begin to laugh nervously; uncomfortable.)*

Y'know, this not even a very good joke.

I mean how funny is staring out a window?

**VALENTINO:** Seriously, you three look like when people see me for the first time. Can't take yer eyes off.

**RAYNA:** Are you two...seein'what I'm seein'?

*(Sebastian nods.)*



**SEBASTIAN:** I believe that we are.

**LUCIA:** But why don't you tell us what you're lookin'at. And then, we'll like...

**SEBASTIAN:** confirm.

**RAYNA:** Well, what I'm *not* lookin'at is our busted'up parking lot. Es like it ain't even there no more.

*(nervous laughter from students as they look out the window; murmurs amongst them like "what's going on?" "what happened to the parking lot?"*

*Valentino walks in a "I'll settle this" bravado towards the window, then stops; stares.*

*all are looking out the window, except Sofia, who stays looking to Rayna for comfort; and Caleb, who stays dubiously.)*

Instead, there's like...earth. Soil or whatever.

**LUCIA:** And grass; the greenest grass I think I ever laid eyes on.

**SEBASTIAN:** It's beautiful.

*(students mumble in confusion.)*

**CALEB:** Beautiful as in aesthetically pleasing the mind or the senses?

*(Sophia glares at Caleb; rolls their eyes.)*

**RAYNA:** So, instead of that chain link fence barely standing...now there's these like...vines?

**SOFIA:** What you mean vines?

**LUCIA:** From plants—there's flowered plants growing all along, with vines stretching in every direction.

**CALEB:** Sebastian, is that what you see?

**SEBASTIAN:** ...it's like a growing green jungle or –

**RAYNA:** An when I look up at the sky...

*(all look upwards.)*

es like...

**SEBASTIAN:** the bluest blue my mind ever imagined.

*(a few "oohs" and "ahhs."  
Sofia and Caleb can't take it anymore,  
they go to look.)*

**SOFIA:** Omigah, I though you all was playin'some trick like yer always playin'tricks, an everyone was goin'laugh soon as I looked out, but...OMIGAH WHAT IS ALL THAT???

**VALENTINO:** A garden is what is that is.

*(all react: "A garden?!" "What you mean a garden???"  
"Lookit that, they built a garden!")*

**SOFIA:** Did they tho'? Did they really build a garden for just us?

**CALEB:** Well, it is proportionately in front of us.

**SOFIA:** But how come? Why is it...in front of us?

**LUCIA:** They couldn't have built all that since yesterday. Sofie, you an me was here till almost 5 o'clock last night – we didn't see no construction.

**SEBASTIAN:** What's we're looking at, would've taken days to build, maybe even weeks.

*(Rayna goes to the window sash lock and attempts to open;  
nothing.  
Valentino rushes over to help; still nothing.  
as they mess with the lock, Rayna notices something outside.)*

**RAYNA:** Whoa, whoa, whoa, lookit there!

*(Rayna points at something off to the side.)*

The hell is that???

*(several students rush their faces to the window, trying to get a glimpse.)*

*"What is that thing?" "Where'd it come from???"*)

**LUCIA:** ...that...is...a...brand new building.

**SEBASTIAN:** Okay, something is going on here. A garden is one thing, but building a building like that...would take years. It'd haffta have permits from the city, the school board had to have passed it, there would've been town halls about approving the spending.

**RAYNA:** But there it is anyways.

**SOFIA:** Es so pretty.

**VALENTINO:** Lookit that thing. How many stories is that???

**CALEB:** Does anyone else notice...how that building appears...more vivid than everything around it?

It looks...recently cleaned or –

**SEBASTIAN:** Like it has never been touched by human hand.  
*(pause.)* But...

**SOFIA:** But what???

**LUCIA:** *Why* is it there? Why is any of this there?

**SEBASTIAN:** Exactly.

**VALENTINO:** An how come we can't get to any of it then?

**CALEB:** It could be we're just meant to acknowledge it from afar.

**VALENTINO:** What, like teasing? Showing us something ain't even for us???

**SOFIA:** Oh, but what if we could tho'? Wouldn't that be amaze?

If outside these windows is what we saw every day.

If this is what we was surrounded with while we tried to learn all the things.

**LUCIA:** That'd be something, Sofia.

**RAYNA:** If our school looked like that, think I might even show up more often.

**VALENTINO:** I'd be here all early, stay extra late.

**SOFIA:** We could have all our classes outside even!

**SEBASTIAN:** Some schools *do* do that.

**LUCIA:** Oh yea, there are schools out there; districts all over the country, where kids get to go to schools so cleanly kept, buildings not falling apart, and green grass almost everywhere they step.

**SOFIA:** Where you seen a school like that, Luce?

**LUCIA:** Have your parents ever taken you driving, not even having any place to go, just driving wherever the car drove...an all the sudden the houses start getting bigger, with lawns all manicured or whatever?

*(several acknowledgments from students:*

*"Yea, we drove to where there's mansions!"*

*"I seen a house big as The White House!")*

Where those people live, their kids go to schools like that.

With all the fanciest equipment an classrooms all extra roomy.

I always thought, they proly get up an excited every morning cuz why wouldn't they?

Who wouldn't be all tail'wagging to attend school where ya feel lucky ta even be there?

*(agreements from students: "Yea, I wanna go to a school like that." "I'd never be late." "I'd get there early.")*

**RAYNA:** Dayum, Lucia, now you got me all longing or whatever.

**VALENTINO:** Maybe we should just bust the windows open.

*(enthusiasm from students: "Can we?" "Let's get out there!" "Somebody break the locks!" "Break the windows!")*

**CALEB:** And proliferate glass everywhere? No thank you. Not to mention how much trouble we'd –

**SEBASTIAN:** C'mon everyone, we can't just –

**LUCIA:** I'm sorry. I shouldn've –

**RAYNA:** They right. We can't be breaking anything. Chill.

*(Rayna motions everyone to calm down.)*

**LUCIA:** I shouldn't have gotten carried away. I was just saying that places like out there do exist.

**VALENTINO:** Yea, but not here.

**SOFIA:** Why not here?

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