



MARY-KATE OLSEN IS IN LOVE

BY MALLERY AVIDON



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For all the Amazing Girls

MARY-KATE OLSEN IS IN LOVE was originally produced at the Flea Theater (Jim Simpson, Artistic Director; Carol Ostrow, Producing Director; Beth Dembrow, Managing Director) in New York City, opening on November 18, 2013. It was directed by Kristan Seemel; the set design was by Scott Tedmon-Jones; the lighting design was by John Eckert; the costume design was by Ásta Hostetter; the sound design was by Kevin Brouder; the fight direction was by Michael Wieser; and the production stage manager was Anne Huston. The cast was as follows:

GRACE Katherine Folk-Sullivan
TYLER Alex Grubbs
ASHLEY OLSEN Kana Hatakeyama
MARY-KATE OLSEN Christine Lee
SOLDIER..... Alex Mandell
AMAZING GIRLS..... Crystal Arnette, Rachel Lin,
Elizabeth May, Vicki Rodriguez,
Bonnie White

Additional development for MARY-KATE OLSEN IS IN LOVE was provided in a workshop at Williams College Summer Theater Lab (directed by Caitlin Sullivan) and readings at Pavement Group, Cornish College of the Arts, and the Attic Theater Company.

The Amazing Girls’ text was inspired by the real life amazing girls at Newton North High School, featured in the *New York Times* article “For Girls, It’s Be Yourself, and Be Perfect, Too,” by Sara Rimer, April 1, 2007.

CHARACTERS

MARY-KATE OLSEN

ASHLEY OLSEN

GRACE

TYLER

SOLDIER

AMAZING GIRLS

NOTES

There should be little or no attempt at verisimilitude. There should be no crying.

The Amazing Girls: This script is currently written for seven. There can be any number of Amazing Girls ... I think seven is ideal. But seven is a lot. You could have one or three or five if that makes more sense ...

NOTE ON VIDEO GAMES

No footage of actual video games should be shown onstage. The titles in the stage directions are references only.

MARY-KATE OLSEN IS IN LOVE

1.

Grace is asleep on the couch in the den. She is in her late 20s. The TV is on. The TV only plays commercials. The sound of the commercials is a presence. Tyler plays Call of Duty: Modern Warfare on his Xbox 360 and smokes pot in his part of the house. He is surrounded by piles of pizza boxes and soda cans. He is in his late 20s, but he could be 16. Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen are getting dressed to go out. They have piles of clothing. Mountains of it. They get dressed and undressed with abandon.

MARY-KATE and ASHLEY. Grace? We need your help.

MARY-KATE. Is this blue and tan okay together?

ASHLEY. Can I wear purple with lime green?

GRACE. I um —

ASHLEY. I heard the '90s were the next big thing.

MARY-KATE. No they were the last. After mustaches.

ASHLEY. What's the next big thing then? Tigers? Crocheted bikinis?

MARY-KATE. What do you think?

GRACE. Why are you asking me?

MARY-KATE. You're a woman.

GRACE. I don't know about any of that.

ASHLEY. You're a wife. You're a desirable demographic —

MARY-KATE. 18–49 —

ASHLEY. Homeowner —

MARY-KATE. Good credit rating —

ASHLEY. We're trying to expand our base —

MARY-KATE. We want to be serious artists —
 ASHLEY. We want adults to watch our movies —
 MARY-KATE. And buy our clothes —
 ASHLEY. You're our new target audience.
 MARY-KATE. You're the right kind of average —
 ASHLEY. Welcome to your new demographic.
 MARY-KATE. Do you think we could have a whole demographic
 named after us? Like the MTV Generation?
 ASHLEY. The MKA Demographic: and you're it, Grace.
 MARY-KATE. You and everyone just like you: 27-year-old college-
 educated women, with high-paid and unfulfilling careers —
 ASHLEY. — in deeply dysfunctional, unsatisfying, loveless
 marriages, who want to fill the holes in their lives by shopping!
 MARY-KATE. You don't look happy —
 ASHLEY. Don't you want to belong?
 MARY-KATE. To belong is to have the right stuff —
 ASHLEY. Show the right signs —
 MARY-KATE. Like if it was the '80s? And there were gangs?
 ASHLEY. And they all had their own colors? Yeah you have to
 sport the right colors.
 MARY-KATE. Do you have the couch someone in the MKA
 Demographic should have? The curtains?
 ASHLEY. The Vacation, The Car, The Haircut?
 MARY-KATE and ASHLEY. The wedding band and engagement
 ring? The organic-grass-fed-free-range-artisan-whole-foods?
 ASHLEY. MARY-KATE.
 Film Festivals and Skiing At least monthly mani/pedis
 \$20 scented candles Waxing
 Furniture not purchased at IKEA Four-Star resort hotels
 an herb garden First-class seats
 a favorite specialty cocktail The right espresso maker
 a secret bar and nanny
 A flat-screen TV and wine
 surround sound and eggs
 an iPhone Michael Pollan
 Louis Vuitton Pilates and South Beach
 Five-Star restaurants Yoga and boxing
 Spa weekends church at least on holidays
 The nose breasts and lips The toes abs and hips
 You're responsible to your demo- You're responsible for the economy

graphic. Your Country
your station in life
You have to prove your worth.
Grace. Grace.
Are you a patriot?
GRACE! Grace? Grace!

your place in the world
your privilege
You have to own your privilege.
Grace? Grace?
Do you care about your fellow man?
Grace? Grace? GRACE.

(This bleeds into Tyler's yelling. Mary-Kate and Ashley leave.)

TYLER. GRACE! GRACE! It's 8:30! Your alarm is so annoying!
GRACE GET UP. GRACE!

(Grace wakes up. She stands up. She's still in her clothes from the day before. She puts on her shoes and walks offstage. Sound of dogs barking and a car. Grace goes to work. Tyler plays Modern Warfare and smokes pot.)

AMAZING GIRL INSERT

The Amazing Girls are 17 and seniors in high school.

AMAZING GIRL 1. Obvi I run in PE or whatever but not very quickly, and always exhaustedly.

This is one of the things I'm most insecure about.

You meet someone, especially on a college tour, adults ask you what you do.

They say, "What sport do you play?" I don't play any sport. It's awkward.

And not that I don't. I mean I do things. But there's a big ... I'm trying to be well-rounded. And that just seems like a huge ... I just don't want there to be any gaps.

I want to be ... And also if you aren't ... being athletic is more than just ... because how you ... on a day-to-day basis how you present yourself. And it has to be. Everything has to be of equal ... because Everything is so competitive.

2.

Grace comes in; she goes into Tyler's space. Tyler plays Modern Warfare and smokes pot. Grace cleans up around him, building soda cans into pyramids and stacking pizza boxes neatly, like a fort.

GRACE. Tyler.

TYLER. —

GRACE. Tyler, I'm home. Did you take the dogs out?

TYLER. —

GRACE. I went to dinner with my parents. They asked about you. Dad said one of his friends might be able to get you an interview.

TYLER. —

GRACE. There's some Pad Thai in the fridge.

I'm gonna watch TV.

(Grace watches TV. All commercials again. Tyler plays Modern Warfare and smokes pot. The dogs bark.

Mary Kate and Ashley return. They are smoking cigarettes and drinking Four Loko.)

I'm not asleep.

MARY-KATE and ASHLEY. We're going to save you Gracie.

GRACE. I'm not crazy.

MARY-KATE. You need a new look.

ASHLEY. Once the outside looks right maybe the inside will get in line.

MARY-KATE. That's why I dyed my hair brown.

ASHLEY. Are you ready to try on clothes? We brought a lot. You should start wearing skirts.

MARY-KATE. If you don't look feminine you won't make a good wife.

ASHLEY. You do want to fix yourself right?

MARY-KATE. There are a lot of broken people Gracie, but you don't have to be one of them.

ASHLEY. There's medication now.

MARY-KATE. To make you less anxious, less depressed, less aware, less alone.

ASHLEY. There's a pill that will make you want to sleep with your husband.

MARY-KATE. There's a pill to make you brush your hair and put on makeup.

ASHLEY. Science can fix you.

MARY-KATE. It doesn't matter how you broke.

ASHLEY. If you want to be a conformist you have to conform.

MARY-KATE. You make choices and then those choices have consequences.

ASHLEY. Like if you don't buy an iPad you can't be cool. And if you're a felon you can't vote.

MARY-KATE. If you're a lesbian you can't get married some places. You took all the right steps but you ended up in Guam instead of Hawaii.

ASHLEY. Where'd you go wrong Grace?

MARY-KATE and ASHLEY. Grace? Grace?

TYLER. GRACE. GRACE. Grace. The Alarm. Grace. GRACE.

(Grace is in her clothes. She gets up and leaves. Sounds of the door and the dogs. A car pulls away.)

AMAZING GIRL INSERT

AMAZING GIRL 2. I texted Aliza. I was like, "Aliza, this is crazy, I have so much homework to do, and I won't be able to relax until I do it all. I haven't gone out in weeks!" And Aliza was like, "I'd rather get into college."

It's cool to be smart now. I take AP Latin and Bio, honors Lit (it's a philosophy class, we're reading Catullus and Kierkegaard), AP Spanish, and BC Calc, My junior thesis won me the Kirchner prize, And I take stained glass, I'm making this awesome piece with a lily pad and a frog, And I'm in the drama club. But that isn't ... it's out of style to admit it, but it is more important to be hot than smart, effortlessly hot.

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