



Full of Wonders



You're Not TikToking Right!

A play about friendship and social media

Claus Gigler



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Character identities: While some roles are noted as male or female, any identity may be expanded. Almost all roles can be male, female, or non-binary. For reasons of easier readability, gender-specific differentiation is avoided in the play.

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Synopsis

The students Leah, Omar and Chloe want to dance along to a choreography they saw on social media. But then something embarrassing happens to Leah: her pants rip. Luke and his friends Jay and Milan secretly observe the incident and even record a video. Because he hopes for many likes, Luke finally uploads the video. It quickly circulates around the entire school. When Leah finds out the next day, she is shocked and the mean comments hit her hard. Luke, too, had expected something different from the upload, and when Leah no longer comes to school, his guilty conscience grows stronger. He wants to make it right and devises a plan – but he can only implement it with the help of his classmates...

A modern youth play about friendship, social media, and cyberbullying. Includes an interactive element in which personal experiences can flow in and be processed together in the group.

Note on performance: The play can also be performed in a shortened version and without a dance group, by ending it with Scene 7.

Characters

Narrator „AL“	6 appearances
Leah	51 appearances
Omar	26 appearances
Chloe	29 appearances
Luke	49 appearances
Milan	23 appearances
Jay	17 appearances
Student 1	5 appearances
Student 2	5 appearances
Student 3.....	6 appearances
Student 4	5 appearances
Students with speech bubbles.....	1 appearance each
Dance group (optional).....	1 appearance

Scene 1

Characters:

AL, Leah, Omar, Chloe, Luke, Milan, Jay

Stage:

The deserted schoolyard

The narrator "AL" stands in front of the curtain or in the spotlight in front of the still dark stage.

AL (charming, smart):

Dear audience, allow me to introduce myself: I am the Algorithm 1-0-X-0-P-2-X-4. But you can call me "AL", that sounds better anyway. I am an algorithm specialized in social media. That means I dive into the depths of the networks and check what you (*points at audience*) or you (*points at audience*) or you (*points at audience*) are watching: celebrities, recipes, sports, cat videos, politics, fashion, more cat videos, news – you get the idea...

And of course social media is not only about seeing, but also about being seen! Followers, likes, comments, reactions! People smile, post, dance, fake, and often also shame. How that can turn out is shown in the following story, which begins at a perfectly normal school like this one...

AL exits / Curtain opens.

We see Leah, Omar and Chloe in front of a wall in the schoolyard. They are practicing a choreography they saw on social media. It's not going perfectly yet, and the three friends get mixed up in the steps.

Leah (slightly frustrated):

Ugh, we'll never get this dance right.

Omar (annoyed):

It's always the same spot we mess up. How do they manage to do it so perfectly in the video?

Chloe takes her phone from her pocket.

Chloe:

Let's watch that part again.

(looks strictly at Omar)

But properly!

Omar (rolls eyes):

Yeah!

Chloe (more insistently at Omar):

Exactly!

Omar (exasperated):

Yeeees!

The three look at the phone together for a moment and then try the dance again.

Leah (motivated):

Okay, guys, ready? Let's nail it!

Omar:

Chloe, set up the camera?

Chloe:

On it!

While Chloe puts her phone into a tripod and positions it, Luke, Milan and Jay approach. They've clearly come from soccer practice. When they spot the dance crew, they stop at the side and watch secretly.

Jay:

Hey, is that Leah, Omar and Chloe? What are they up to?

Milan (dismissive):

Probably another one of those dumb dance challenges.

Luke (pulls out his phone and starts filming):

Let's wait. Looks like it's about to start.

Leah, Omar and Chloe take their positions and begin the dance. Music starts playing. The first moves go well, but then disaster strikes: Leah kneels as planned, but suddenly jumps up with a shrill scream and grabs her pants. The music stops.

Leah (screams):

Aaaaaaah!

Omar:

Why'd you stop? It was going so well!

Leah (frozen in shock, hands over her pants):

My pants ripped.

Chloe (slightly amused):

What?!

Leah (annoyed):

That's not funny, Chloe.

(looks around nervously)

I hope no one saw that. This is so embarrassing.

Omar (encouraging):

Don't worry, it just shows how hard you're going for it! And at this hour no one's ever in the yard.

Leah (uncertain):

Let's hope so... *(sighs)* Guys, I've had enough for today. I need some peace, a hot shower and...

Chloe (grinning):

...a new pair of pants!

Leah (sarcastic, slightly annoyed):

I was going to say "and my favorite show"...
But yes, Chloe, good point: I'll need new pants too.

Omar (to Chloe):

Clown!

Chloe (shrugs):

What? It's the truth! I don't mean it badly.

Leah (reconciling):

Fine.

Chloe:

Best friends forever?

Leah (cheerier):

Always! Now let's go. I still need to study for tomorrow's test.

Omar (unmotivated):

Me too. Ugh!

Leah, Omar and Chloe leave. Luke, Milan and Jay come out of their hiding spot, laughing about the ripped-pants incident.

Milan:

Hahaha, I can't believe it. Did you see that?

Jay:

What a choreography, hahaha. And then the scream, and how Leah jumped up.

Luke (proudly holding up his phone):

Not just saw it – I filmed it!

Milan:

Haha, that's epic! You have to post it!

Jay:

Trust me, endless likes and followers coming your way.

The three huddle around Luke's phone and watch the scene again.

Luke:

It's hilarious!

Milan:

That'll go viral!

Jay:

At least around school. Have you posted it yet? I need to share it in my gamer group.

Luke (hesitant):

Not yet. I'll do it at home. I still need a good caption and hashtag.

Milan (joking):

Maybe #rippedpants?

Jay:

Or #finalscream! Hahaha.

Milan and Jay laugh loudly.

Luke (waves them off):
I'll think of something.
(ironically)
Thanks for your valuable input.

Milan and Jay bow theatrically.

Milan & Jay:
Always happy to help!

Jay:
We're full of brilliant ideas.

Luke (amused):
Yeah, yeah, geniuses. I'm heading home.

Milan:
Not coming to Jay's? Bit of chilling and gaming?

Luke:
Can't, gotta babysit my little brother while my folks are at the theater or opera or whatever.

Jay:
Alright. See you tomorrow.

Milan (to Luke):
And text us as soon as the video's up. It'll be a blast!

Luke:
Yeah yeah, I will. Bye!

Luke leaves one way, Milan and Jay the other.

Milan (calling out, amused):
#rippedpants!

Lights out / Curtain.

PREVIEW - NO PERFORMANCE RIGHTS

Scene 2

Characters:

AL, Luke

Stage:

Luke's room

The narrator "AL" stands in front of the curtain or in the spotlight in front of the still dark stage.

AL:

Back home, Luke couldn't get the video of Leah out of his head. He watched it again and again, always on the verge of posting it. But something inside him held him back.

AL exits / Curtain opens.

We see Luke sitting on his bed in his room, staring at his phone again and again.

Luke (restless, to himself):

Phew, I'm not sure if I should really share this. It's hilarious, but will Leah think so too? But the guys are right – this video would be a hit at school and would definitely boost my account.

(thinks for a moment)

Ah, whatever, I'll post it now. Leah's usually chill, she'll get the joke.

Luke gets up, walks around, and types on his phone.

Luke:

And... done!

Luke looks at his phone as it rings.

Luke:

Unbelievable! Not even a second online and already that idiot's calling.

Luke picks up.

Luke (on the phone with Milan):

What's up, Milan?

Relax, it's already online.

(rolls his eyes, annoyed)

No, I didn't use #rippedpants. You can keep that one.

What? It's been shared how many times already? Wow!

Milan, gotta go, my little brother's screaming. Need to check.

Yeah, see you tomorrow. Bye.

Luke leaves.

Lights out / Curtain.

Scene 3

Characters:

AL, Leah, Omar, Chloe, Luke, Milan, Jay, Student 1, Student 2, Student 3, Student 4

Stage:

Morning in the schoolyard

Morning in the schoolyard: Omar and Chloe are standing with a few other students. Leah enters the schoolyard and walks to her friends. On the way she passes two students who seem to be making fun of her.

Student 1 (loudly to Student 2):

Look, "Miss Open House Day" is coming!

Student 2 (loudly to Student 1):

Well, I hope she brought sewing supplies today!

Student 1 (loudly to Student 2):

Yeah exactly, better safe than sorry!

Student 2 (loudly to Student 1):

Have you heard the new hit? Do the trouser dance!

Student 1 imitates the scene when Leah's pants rip and she jumps up screaming. Leah walks past the students without a word and continues to her friends.

Leah (nods her head back toward Student 1 & 2):

Do you know what those idiots are blathering about?

Chloe and Omar look down awkwardly and are silent.

Leah (impatient):
Come on, people. Out with it!

Student 3:
Haven't you seen the video yet?

Leah (surprised):
What video?

Student 3:
The one from your dance yesterday. Or rather, from your little mishap.

Leah (shocked):
What?! The video is online?

Student 4:
Since last night. And it's already been shared a lot.

Student 3 (looking impressed at their smartphone):
Pretty much a lot.

Leah (shocked):
What? How?
(*angrily to Chloe and Omar*)
You didn't actually put our video online, did you?

Chloe:
Of course not!

Omar:
But someone else did!

Leah:
How is that supposed to work?

Chloe:

The video isn't from my phone. We were filmed by someone else and that person apparently posted it online.

Leah (angry):

What kind of idiot would do that?

(takes Student 3's smartphone angrily out of their hand)

Show me that stupid video.

(panicked, after a short pause)

I can't believe it, really can't. The video has to go. Immediately!

Who posted it online, what's the account?

Student 4 (looks at their own smartphone):

Here it says: "Luke the lucky one."

Leah (determined):

He won't be lucky anymore when I've dealt with him!

Omar (ponders):

Luke the lucky one... Luke... Luke... wait a minute... that's the...

Chloe:

...the account of Luke!

Leah:

The soccer player?

Student 3:

Yeah, exactly, that's the guy.

Leah (disappointed):

I wouldn't have thought he'd pull something like that. I actually always got on well with Luke. Why would he do that?

Luke, Milan and Jay come strolling onto the schoolyard.

Omar (points in Luke's direction):
Ask him yourself. Here he comes.

Leah storms up to Luke.

Leah (angrily):
Are you completely crazy? What is this stupid nonsense?

Luke (taken aback, tries to calm her down):
Hey, hey! Take it easy, Leah. I...

Leah (angrily):
Take it easy? Why did you post the video online?

Luke (looks down embarrassed):
What can I say? I just found it too funny not to share. And we know each other and I know you have a sense of humour and so I thought... well... it would be okay.

Leah thrusts the phone display in his face.

Leah (annoyed):
And you thought this would be okay for me? This here? Come on, Luke! Are you kidding me?

Luke (embarrassed):
Sorry.

Leah (to Milan and Jay):
And knowing you two specialists, you probably egged him on.

Milan (innocent):
Us?

Jay (defensive):
No way!

Milan (calming, to Leah):

Honestly, Leah: I don't think the video is that bad. And you have to admit, it's really very funny.

Leah (serious):

Maybe for you. But not for me. Not at all.

Luke:

I can delete it, okay? If you want, right now.

Leah:

Of course, right away!

Student 1 looks up from their smartphone and joins the conversation.

Student 1:

That won't help much.

Student 2 (looking at their smartphone):

Not at all.

Leah (worried):

What do you mean by that?

Student 1:

It's already on almost all channels.

Student 2 (looking at their smartphone):

The video is really going viral. Even if Luke deletes it from his account, it's already everywhere.

Leah (upset):

Luke, what have you done?

Luke:

I... I didn't mean for this.

Leah runs off the schoolyard, near to tears. Chloe and Omar follow her.

Omar (accusing in passing, to Luke):

Nice job, Luke.

Chloe (hisses past Luke):

A thousand own goals to you, you soccer sausage.

Luke (calls after Omar & Chloe):

It wasn't on purpose!

Milan (pats Luke encouragingly on the shoulder):

Don't take it so hard, bro. In a few days this will be over, I'm sure.

Luke looks downcast.

The school bell rings.

Jay:

She'll get over it, Luke. And now into the hell of education!

All students leave the schoolyard to go to class.

Lights out / Curtain.

Scene 4

Characters:

AL, Leah, Omar, Chloe

Stage:

Schoolyard

AL stands in front of the curtain or in the spotlight before the still-dark stage.

AL:

The school day ended for Leah the way it had started for her: not particularly well. During every break and even in class she received nasty comments. Meanwhile the video spread online like wildfire.

AL exits / Curtain opens.

The school day is over and Leah, Omar and Chloe stroll across the deserted schoolyard.

Leah (exhausted):

I just want to go home. That was the worst school day – no, the worst day of my whole life!

Omar (sympathetic):

Oh Leah... I know it's easy for me to say, but please don't take it to heart so much.

Leah (shaken):

Have you read the comments under the video? Some of the things they write? How can you not take something like that to heart?

Chloe (distressed):

I read them too and it's disgusting what's being written. Much of it isn't even about the video itself. It's just nasty stuff and sick things. I don't get how people can be like that.

Omar:

These people just don't think. They don't understand that a nasty comment online hurts just as much as at the schoolyard. And they forget that behind every video, picture or meme there's a person.

Leah (sad):

Nicely put, Omar. But that doesn't help me now. Guys, I'm off – I want to be alone.

Chloe:

Okay, but please get in touch with us anytime you need anything.

Omar nods in agreement.

Leah (downcast):

Thanks, you two. See you.

Leah walks away from the schoolyard sadly. Chloe and Omar watch her with concern.

Chloe (affected):

Leah really isn't doing well.

Omar:

Understandable. I also think it hit her hard that of all people it was Luke who posted the video. I think she likes him.

Chloe:

...liked him.

Omar:

Yeah, more likely.

Chloe:

Maybe the fuss will die down soon and we'll have peace again.

Omar:

Let's hope so.

Chloe:

It'll be fine. Tomorrow is another day!

Omar (jokes):

You sound like my mother!

Chloe (cheeky):

That's from your mother!

Omar:

Hahaha! Speaking of mother: I'm taking the next bus home to my mom, will you come to the stop with me?

Chloe:

I'm in!

Omar and Chloe leave together.

Omar (as he leaves, thinking aloud):

Tomorrow is another day... I think that'll be my first tattoo.

Chloe lightly punches Omar on the upper arm.

Chloe (smirking):

You goof!

Lights out / Curtain.

Scene 5

Characters:

AL, Leah, Luke, Jay, Milan

Stage:

In Leah's room and in Luke's room

AL stands in front of the curtain or in the spotlight before the still-dark stage.

AL:

At home, Leah immediately withdraws to her room. She doesn't want to see or hear anything – but that doesn't quite work. Again and again she checks her display and reads the comments under the video. Every negative one hits her hard. But Luke had also expected something different from posting the video...

AL exits / Curtain opens.

The set is split into two simple scenes: on one side Leah in her bed in her room and on the other side Luke in his bed in his room.

Leah (puts the smartphone aside):

Why did that idiot...

Luke (puts the smartphone aside):

...why did I, idiot, post it?

Leah (sad):

Now nothing will...

Luke (sad):

...be like it was before.

Leah:

I liked Luke.

Luke:

I like Leah.

But she will...

Leah:

...I'll never forgive him.

Luke:

I feel...

Leah:

...terrible.

END OF READING SAMPLE



Full of Wonders

