

MY FAIR BABY

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Setting:

The den of the home of Eliza and Henry Higgins, six years after the final scene of MY FAIR LADY, on the 5th Birthday of Charles Patrick Higgins, their child.

Characters

HENRY HIGGINS mid 50's, pompous and stubborn. Smokes a cigar.

ELIZA Doolittle HIGGINS mid 20's, loving and open

CHARLES HIGGINS a young boy who dreams of being a girl. Five.

N.B.: in the original production, Henry was played by a woman, and Eliza was played by a man. That was fun.

(lights up on Eliza and Charles. Eliza dusts and preps the home as Charles paints his nails, clutching his Teddy Bear, who's dressed like Michael Jackson).

ELIZA:

All I want is a screw somewhere
Inside, outside, or on that chair,
While everybody stares
Oh Wouldn't it be lovely?

Someone's head resting on my knee
Plump and supple as it could be
Just shove it inside me –

(HENRY enters)

HENRY HIGGINS:

Eliza, where the devil are my slippers?

ELIZA:

Next to the whiskey cabinet.
Now hurry hup, Henry Higgins. Hi have to have help hanging the happy birthday banner.

(she exits)

HENRY HIGGINS:

Vicious truffle couldn't even say her h's when she met me.
Charles Patrick Higgins – what are you doing?

CHARLES:

Painting my toenails. For the birthday party!

HENRY HIGGINS:

We don't paint our toenails Charles. We're a man.

CHARLES:

Mommy said I could.

HENRY HIGGINS:

Mommy said...Mommy says a lot of things Charles. But we mustn't believe them, all right? Mommy's a woman. And we are men. Here – this'll put some hair on your chest.

(he feeds whiskey to Charles. Eliza enters)

ELIZA:

Henry Higgins just what is that you're feeding our child?

HENRY HIGGINS:

Just a little birthday nip.

ELIZA:

Give that here!

(she sips)

And aren't you looking pretty my little birthday boy?

HENRY HIGGINS:

Handsome. The boy is handsome.

ELIZA:

But you haven't finished your nails!

HENRY HIGGINS:

No, and he won't. Eliza you've got to stop allowing this behavior or –

ELIZA:

Or what?

(Henry points at Charles, who is blowing his nails feyly).

ELIZA:

Henry you remember what the doctor says. A child might have separation I-S-S-U-E-S- when he has been A-D-O-P-T-E-D.

CHARLES:

Adopt. To take into one's family by legal means and raise as one's own child. Just like YOU Michael Jackson Bear!

HENRY HIGGINS:

Well his vocabulary and spelling seem to have been N-U-R-T-U-R-E-D quite well. Wonder who he gets THAT from?

CHARLES:

Neutered: to remove the genitals of. Castrate. Spray. Immasculate. Daddy wants to cut of my jellies!

ELIZA:

NURture, Charles. Not Neuter! Daddy doesn't want to hurt you!

HENRY HIGGINS:

Sack up, boy! No one's going to neuter my little man. There there. But no one's going to doll him up either!

ELIZA:

Henry, the child can be whatever the child wants. Now you WANT to paint your toenails pink, don't you my cherub? See? Go on. And you, professor Higgins, make yourself useful. This house is being invaded by toddlers in a half hour. The décor must go up! Garn!

(Henry exits)

Now listen my precious boy. Don't listen to what father says. He's a man after all and men are dull. But you won't be, my little angel, will you?

CHARLES:

No mommy!

ELIZA:

No! Because you're mommy's little gir- little special one! Now you paint those toes as pink as they can get!

CHARLES:

I hope I can be pretty like you when I grow up, mommy!

ELIZA:

Oh you sweet thing. Mommy did spend a lot of time putting on her face this morning. I'm glad someone in the house noticed.

CHARLES:

I like your lips.

ELIZA:

Would you like to wear lipstick as well? Here – try this. Now Mommy has to go check on your cake – I'll be back. Call if you need me?

(she leaves. Charles puts on lipstick. Then kisses Michael Jackson.

Henry re-enters)

HENRY HIGGINS:

Charles! Look what daddy's – Who put that on your face?

CHARLES:

I did.

HENRY HIGGINS:

All by yourself? Well done. But Charles do you see Daddy wearing lipstick?

CHARLES:

Sometimes, when mommy kisses you.

HENRY HIGGINS:

But I don't put it on and wear it around like a who-- like mommy do I?

CHARLES:

Unh uh.

HENRY HIGGINS:

And are you a man like daddy or a little wee wee girl like your mother.

CHARLES:

I want to be pretty.

HENRY HIGGINS:

No. No you don't. You want pretty things, but not to be pretty yourself. And what are you doing with Michael Jackson Bear?

CHARLES:

He's my husband.

HENRY HIGGINS:

NO! No no no. Boys don't have husbands. Does daddy have a husband?

CHARLES:

No.

HENRY HIGGINS:

No! Daddy has a wife. That's what you need.

CHARLES:

But I'm *his* wife.

(Henry slaps him).

Then I can have a girl dolly?

HENRY HIGGINS:

No! This birthday you only get man things.

CHARLES:

I want to be a girl. Tiresias became a girl, and then turned back to a man and said that woman get more pleasure.

HENRY HIGGINS:

He also went blind from touching himself.

CHARLES:

Sometimes I push my testicles up inside meself and hold my tallywacker between my legs. Then I'm a girl.

HENRY HIGGINS:

Who taught you that?

CHARLES:

Colonel Pickering.

HENRY HIGGINS:

Well stop that. Don't ever do it again. You understand me?
Now Charles. You...are my number one...guy.
I wanted to give you an early birthday present, all right? You want it?

CHARLES:

Yes please!

HENRY HIGGINS:

This is a present for boys only. I can't give it to you if you want to be a girl. Do you?

CHARLES:

No!

HENRY HIGGINS:

Boys don't wear lipstick
(Charles wipes it off)
All right then. This...is a Playboy.

CHARLES:

How does it work?

HENRY HIGGINS:

It's a fun game. Turn to page 34, put your hand in your trousers and... see what happens! All right? Now shh! Daddy's got to go decorating. Don't let your mother see that, all right?

(Henry exits. Charles turns to page 34 and puts his hands in his shorts. He waits. And waits. He looks at Michael.)

CHARLES:

Oh boy. Ohhhhh boy. Oh goodness.
(Eliza enters)

ELIZA:

Henry? All clear. Charles, mommy got you an extra special early birthday present. Charles Patrick Higgins what in blazes are you looking at?!

CHARLES:

Page 34.

ELIZA:

Oh. Oh my.

CHARLES:

Mommy that's for boys to look at.

ELIZA:

Desire is a very fluid thing, Charles. Where did you get this?!

CHARLES:

Father.

ELIZA:

And why is your hand in your pants – take it out this minute!

Charles. Sit down. You're growing up, and it's time we had a conversation about what that means. You see, when you get older, something very special happens, a change of life.

Charles, do you know who Madonna is?

(he shakes his head).

Well I think it's time to learn.

(sHe turns on Madonna. Eliza and Charles dance their booties off
Henry comes in, sees them. Then runs to the kitchen for a moment.)

ELIZA:

Smoke? Burning! The cake!

(she runs out.

Henry comes in. Turns off Madonna)

HENRY HIGGINS:

That's it! No more! Time to make a man of you!

(He wrestles with Charles.

Henry pins Charles and straddles him, with his head near Charles' genitals.
Eliza comes in).

ELIZA:

Henry J Higgins what in Christ's name are you doing! That is your son!

HENRY HIGGINS:

Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar!

ELIZA:

Get off of him! Charles – Charlie are you all right?

CHARLES:

I'm all right mummy.

HENRY HIGGINS:

Eliza this foolishness must stop! Charles there will be no cake and no presents until we make a man out of you. Say it! Who are you!

CHARLES:

I'm your daughter!

(Henry slaps him)

I'm your son!

(Henry slaps him)

I'm your daughter I'm your son.

(Henry slaps him)

HENRY HIGGINS:

Dammit boy I want the truth!

CHARLES:

You can't handle the truth!

I'm your daughter AND your son! Look!

(Charles pulls up his skirt down for his parents).

HENRY HIGGINS:

Garn! Two for one special!

ELIZA:

Oh my.

HENRY HIGGINS:

You didn't know?

ELIZA:

The governess never said anything.

HENRY HIGGINS:

Clearly she had her hands full. Well we'd better do something quick.

ELIZA:

Do something?

HENRY HIGGINS:

This confusion can't go on any longer. It's against nature.

ELIZA:

But clearly it's not.

HENRY HIGGINS:

Gender is a one-way street baby. We've reached a fork in the road and if we don't pick one way or the other this little b – gi – thing – will surely crash.

Whatever do you mean.

ELIZA:

We've got to get rid of one of them.

HENRY HIGGINS:

Not my jellies!

CHARLES:

I want a girl! Cut off the willy!

ELIZA:

You bought into that plan fairly quickly didn't you?

HENRY HIGGINS:

I never said I was a good person. I want. A girl.

ELIZA:

He can't be a girl, we've raised him as a boy already.

HENRY HIGGINS:

You have! I never have! The icing on the cake is pink!

ELIZA:

But The streamers for the party are BLUE!

HENRY HIGGINS:

He WANTS to be a girl, don't you baby?

ELIZA:

We must flip a coin! It's the only fair way.

HENRY HIGGINS:

Have you got one?
Upstairs with you – quick! We must finish this before the party starts!
(He runs upstairs.)

ELIZA:

Stay where you are, princess.
(She exits to the kitchen, returns with a knife almost immediately).

CHARLES:

Mummy?

ELIZA:

You like lipstick and shiny things, don't you Charles?

CHARLES:

Yes mummy.

ELIZA:

You want to be like mummy in every way?

CHARLES:

Yes.

ELIZA:

You want to be pretty when you grow up?

CHARLES:

Yes mummy.

ELIZA:

Beauty hurts, darling.
(HENRY enters. With an Iron)

HENRY HIGGINS:

Heads! It's a boy! Time to seal the hole, boy! Eliza back away from him!

ELIZA:

Come here Charles!

CHARLES:

No!

HENRY HIGGINS:

Nooooooooo

(Slow mo fight in which Henry and Eliza run for Charles, who ducks under each of them at the last second. Henry and Eliza collide, killing each other.)

CHARLES

(talking with Michael, who he does the voice for)

You killed them!

I didn't kill them, they killed each other!

Well if you didn't duck-

You wanna be starting something?

No

Then Beat It. They were going to Nurture me.

But they loved you. They were trying to protect you from pain in the future.

It really was my fault. S-A-D.

(he grabs the iron and the knife...)

All I want is to please my dad

Keep my mum from being sad

Yes that would be so rad

Oh wouldn't it be lovely.

(and slowly brings them near his genitals, as if about to remove both, as the lights fade out).