

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress by Alan Ball, 1993

Set up:

Five Bridesmaids at a reception all end up retreating into the sister of the bride's room to escape from awkward situations at the reception below.

Plot:

At the reception, five bridesmaids grow into knowledge of who they are as people and what they can do for each other in terms of friendship.

Character Relationships:

These women find themselves in connections of female- female, stranger-stranger, female-male, enlightened-confused, dominant- submissive, bully-bullied, oppressor-oppressed, friend-frenemy, friend-enemy, inhibited-non inhibited, suspicious-guilty, sharer-listener, actor-receiver, judger- judged, judger-innocent, straight-gay, Christian- not Christian, interested-interested, and rivals.

Super-objectives and objectives: (need to look at these more, the more I look at the script I think these will constantly change for me)

Meredith:

1. Spend the least amount of time at the wedding as possible
2. Get high and drunk to forget this fiasco
3. Keep up her tough reputation

Frances:

1. Avoid awkwardness
2. Fit in with the other bridesmaids
3. Not to jeopardize her Christian morals

Trisha:

1. Find a man
2. Get drunk and have a good time
3. Get as much gossip as possible

Georganne:

1. Sleep with Tommy Valentine
2. Avoid awkwardness with Tracy
3. Make friends

Mindy:

1. Break as little as possible
2. Get to know the ladies
3. Have a good time

Tripp:

1. Get to know Trisha
2. Make good tips
3. Get laid
4. Get high

Tactics:

In order to get what they want they use joking, drunkenness, lying, accusing, defending, attacking, deflecting, judging, generalizing, guilt, hiding, overreacting, dismissing, deferring, portraying, siding, pitying, mocking, use of wit, flirting, honesty, and friending.

Images:

This play brings up many images of people such as the bride, the groom, the mother of the bride, a loser, a player, and Malcolm X who are talked about but never seen on stage. There are also images such as the bridesmaid's dresses, a drunk woman, lip stick smudged champagne glasses, a joint, bracelets, a lit cigarette, leather jackets, lingerie, and nail polish which become major parts of the action which occur. The women talk about the wedding, sex next to dumpsters, Charm school, and other vivid things that are never seen but described in detail.

Themes:

- What is the difference between **love** and **lust**?

- What is the true meaning of **friendship**?
- What does **sex** mean/ what does **sexual promiscuity** do to a person? What boundaries are there? What is **consent**?

Key Lines:

Trisha: "To be perfectly honest with you, Georgeanne, I think any woman who chooses marriage in this day and age is out of her fucking mind." Page 238

Georgeanne: "I may be a bitch and I may be a slut, but I do have some standards." Page 243

Georgeanne: "I don't believe it. Here she is, the perfect woman, the ultimate do girl. She's beautiful, she has a great body, she has a fancy career, now she's got herself a rich husband who worships the ground she walks on. But she doesn't have any friends, does she." Page 246

Trisha: "Listen Frances, I wholeheartedly support your right to live your life however you see fit. But you cannot exercise that right without extending the same courtesy to other people who might think differently than you do." Page 261

Meredith (about being sexually abused): "I could never tell anybody."
Trisha: "You told us." Page 274