

FADE IN:

INT. WORK STUDIO - NIGHT - SET UP AS A MAKESHIFT THEATER, THE BACK WALL IS AN IDEAS BOARD THAT LOOKS EERILY CLOSE TO A MURDER BOARD WITH RED THREAD. THE STAGE IS SPARSE WITH A COUNTDOWN CLOCK ON A TABLE, BOXES OVERFLOWING WITH PAPER, SOME LAMPS, AN EASEL, CHAIRS, AND WRITING UTENSILS.

Hannah Littler comes out to the stage to theme music playing.

HANNAH

Good evening everybody. Welcome to A Late Night for Littler. How's everyone doing tonight?

She pauses, scanning the crowd.

HANNAH (CONT'D.)

Currently, we're heading towards the home stretch of senior year. And senior year has a lot of fun traditions: the senior prank, senior prom, and my personal favorite - once a year, The Ghost of College Board judges whose souls are worthy of being sacrificed to the Student Debt Gods. I personally think I'm worth \$75,000 a year, but Columbia might feel differently. We'll see.

Hannah walks over to stacks of paper.

HANNAH (CONT'D.)

To prove my worthy soul, colleges have asked me to put together some diverse writing and it's all due tomorrow. I know. I know. Stop procrastinating, Hannah. But, I just want to do everything. I'm thinking poems, plays, news, commercials, you know. Unfortunately, the only person that has seen my writing is my dad...and either way, I'm going to be tagged on the Facebook post. So I need feedback from you as the audience as we workshop my college portfolio together. Tonight, I have some amazing people supporting me in this endeavor.

Swapnika and Tagwa enter.

HANNAH

Helping me sort this all out is Swapnika, who sorted her life out months ago when she sent in applications. We also have Tagwa who was willing to help out since she didn't have any applications.

TAGWA

I'm taking a gap year to find myself.

HANNAH

But before we can get to work shopping all of these scripts -

Ghost Rangler wheels in person in a standard ghost outfit (white sheet). The ghost is bungee tied to a swivel chair and is protesting his captivity.

GHOST RANGLER

I've got him.

HANNAH

Excellent!

CB GHOST

Your college counselor strongly advises against this.

HANNAH

See, you, as the audience, are here to give me feedback. Additionally, what better way to know what colleges are looking for than to ask the ghost of College Board himself.

She puts on sunglasses and cast members run on stage, also wearing sunglasses. Gripping the back of his chair, shaking it, she leans in.

HANNAH (PSYCHOTICALLY)

We've got a familiar face here, I see. What do you want from me?

CB GHOST

A well rounded student?

Cast members shout angrily.

HANNAH

That's a lie! I got a 5 in
Advanced Placement Ghost Lying and
I am an AP Scholar with
Distinction. Nice try. Portfolios!
I'm talking about the portfolios!

CB GHOST

Some schools' supplemental
additions are optional.

HANNAH

Tell me the truth!

CB GHOST

Really, they're optional.

HANNAH

We all know when a college says
"suggested" they really mean
"required."

CB GHOST

Please, College Board will be
looking for me by now! What do you
want?

HANNAH

Information, ghost!

CB GHOST

I don't know anything. Let me go
know and I'll give you a fee
waiver for the financial aid
forms!

HANNAH

No fee waiver can set you free.

CB GHOST

I have a family!

HANNAH

Ha. Nice try. We all know your the
anthropomorphic version of college
board's corporate greed! You're
too greedy to have ghost children.

GHOST RANGLER (CHOKED UP)

I just wanted to register for the
SAT.

Ghost Rangler slaps College Board ghost. Hannah appears
concerned that it is too overboard.

HANNAH (CAUTIOUS)
 Woah...um...careful, I don't want
 him damaged for when we return
 him...

Hannah snaps back to intense mode.

HANNAH
 Tell me what I need to know and
 this will all be over!

CB GHOST
 I swear. Let me go! What do you
 want to know?

HANNAH
 You know that I know what you know
 about what I want to know! Tell
 me!

CB GHOST
 Anna submitted 50 packets of
 writing already.

HANNAH (DISGUSTED)
 Take him backstage.

Cast Members wheel CB Ghost out as he continues to protest.
 Hannah, Tagwa, and Swapnika stay on stage.

HANNAH (EYE TWITCH)
 I'm coming for you Anna.

TAGWA
 Okay. You need to calm down. This
 is going to be great!

HANNAH
 I can't. Anna is going to ruin me!

SWAPNIKA
 You can both get into college.
 Just write from the heart.

HANNAH (GESTURING TO THE
 MURDER BOARD)
 No! It's me or her. Anna Lightler.

She reveals the center photo of the murder board: a photo of
 an Asian girl

HANNAH (CONT'D.)
 17 years old. Adopted. Asian.
 Queer. Goes to BASIS Chandler. And
 she's applying to all the same
 schools I am.

SWAPNIKA
 You're not that similar...?

HANNAH
 Get this. Anna has written 50
 writing packets of very, very
 diverse writing! I am going to do
 double the amount in pages and
 diversity.

SWAPNIKA
 Let's just prioritize what we need
 to get done in the next...

Someone walks on stage and changes the time on the clock

SWAPNIKA (CONT'D.)
 ...hour.

HANNAH
 Anna could do this all in half an
 hour. Everyone, after this show is
 over I will be finishing edits and
 sending this to colleges which
 means you as the audience need to
 give me feedback. Laugh when it's
 funny, cry when it's not. I want
 everyone in this room
 participating!

SWAPNIKA
 But before we get started with all
 the lovely, poems, sketches, and
 writing Hannah has for you all, we
 need to thank some people.

HANNAH
 Oh, yes. Thank you to my parents
 for coming out here tonight.

Hannah points at two cast members in the audience, dressed
 like her parents, who are standing.

PARENTS (WEEPING)
 We're just so proud.

HANNAH

I also want to thank all of the cast and crew that worked their butts off to get here. I want to thank this theater for letting us use their space. To my dog, pigeon, cat, four turtles, and rabbit, you are amazing.

Overtime award show music plays.

HANNAH (CONT'D.)

And of course to my life long partner. Pickles. They're salty, they're crunchy, occasionally causes for indigestion. Without them, I would be nothing.

Swapnika motions to wrap up.

HANNAH (CONT'D.)

I also have to say something to inspire future generations. Never let anyone tell you you can't wear a sweater in summer. You are a strong, independent woman.

Overtime award show music plays loudly. Swapnika starts the clapping to indicate her to stop. Hannah stops thank you's.

HANNAH

We have a great show tonight! My writing portfolio is due in an hour and I am probably not going to sleep until tomorrow, so I guess it's going to be A Late Night for Littler.

FADE TO BLACK WITH THEME MUSIC

END OF OPENING

INT. WORK STUDIO - NIGHT - STAGE DIMLY LIT.

Tagwa walks on stage to the center, with a lamp that is turned off. She holds the lamp above her head like a spotlight. Other cast members crowd around eagerly, including Hannah who sits on the outskirts of the group.

TAGWA

A dramatic poem, read by yours truly, Tagwa Salih.
I was at the beach in the water of course, but not like the movies where they ride on a horse. The day was so special, that fresh salty air...because I found something that was very un-rare.

Swapnika walks on stage and turns the lamp on. Tagwa continues to read, unaffected. Swapnika motions for Hannah to the side of the stage. They talk in a whisper shout.

TAGWA (CONT'D.)

The object was a bright blue sieve, oh yes. Yes it was.

SWAPNIKA

Hannah...Hannah!

TAGWA (CONT'D.)

However it was not like an ordinary sieve because...

HANNAH

Swapnika.

TAGWA (CONT'D.)

this magical sieve, oh this magical sieve. Now tells me something: I know where you live. Do you live in the sieve, oh no, not of course.

SWAPNIKA

You just messaged me a revised list of all the scripts. We're not going to be able to get them done in time.

TAGWA (CONT'D.)

You live outside the sieve, and feel no remorse.

HANNAH

We can do it all.

TAGWA (CONT'D.)

How! What? Why do I know? Well, I know from the sieve where it's written like so.

SWAPNIKA

Tell me your top five sketches.

TAGWA (CONT'D.)

Now that I have uncovered the place you call your humble abode...

HANNAH

No.

TAGWA (CONT'D.)

I can always ensure that your car is towed.

SWAPNIKA

I swear to God, Hannah.

TAGWA (CONT'D.)
Sieves are tricky things, if
I do say so myself. Because
they deceive and de-sieve,
the strangers that pass.

HANNAH
Anna wouldn't have picked 5
sketches. She'd send them
all and they would be very
diverse. More diverse than a
liberal arts college!

TAGWA (CONT'D.)
Oh but you wander, why this
sieve to discuss.

SWAPNIKA
Stop comparing yourself.

TAGWA (CONT'D.)
Yet you will find this sieve
we must.

HANNAH
Listen, Tagwa thinks I can
do this all.

TAGWA (CONT'D.)
Oh hallowed sieve! Reveal
more information

SWAPNIKA
Tagwa is reading a poem
without a lamp turned on.

TAGWA (CONT'D.)
For a sieve is no place for
mere superstition!

HANNAH
I am trying to listen to
Tagwa, if you'll excuse me.

TAGWA (CONT'D.)
So now that I know the places you
live, the places and faces of the
sand and the sieve. I will always
look fondly to the ocean and such,
for a sieve is no sieve, if you
sieve the sand too much.

Snaps fade as Tagwa dramatically exits and the cast members
follow. Swapnika and Hannah stay on stage.

FADE IN:

HANNAH
Okay. Now I'm listening.

SWAPNIKA
You know I am so ready for tonight
and I can't wait for people to see
all of this, but I want you to
remember what this is all about.

SWAPNIKA
Staying true to yourself.

HANNAH
Getting into college.

SWAPNIKA
No, no, no.

HANNAH

See, I understand what your saying, but staying true to myself means getting into college - getting into Dartbutt!

SWAPNIKA

What? You mean Dartmouth?

HANNAH

No. Dartbutt. What are you talking about?

SWAPNIKA

Um, nothing. So...Dartbutt - I can't remember- have you been there?

HANNAH

Nope. But I don't even need to see Dartbutt to know I want Dartbutt.

SWAPNIKA

Then, how do you imagine yourself at Dartbutt?

FADE TO:

INT. HANNAH'S DREAM SCHOOL. - DAY

Dream music plays in the background. Hannah stays center and continues walking in place, facing towards the audience. Swapnika leaves. In the fantasy, Hannah should seem like she is walking through Dartbutt campus as various characters interact with her. Characters progressively hand her more Dartbutt merchandise.

HANNAH

Dartbutt is a college of miracles. Established in 1967, the college has always maintained a high sense of creativity and wit. Everyone at Dartbutt loves puns.

A student waves. Hannah waves back. They crowd around Hannah.

STUDENT 1

Hey, Hannah, I farted in an apple store...

STUDENT 2

Well it's their fault for not having windows.

Students obnoxiously laugh.

HANNAH

Wow, sounds like a pane in the glass.

Students obnoxiously laugh. Students wave goodbye to Hannah as someone puts a Dartbutt hat on her head. Hannah continues walking.

HANNAH

Besides puns, Dartbutt is so different than my old school. Get this, instead of a front office secretary, they actually have a nurse!

Hannah falls down and a nurse runs to help.

NURSE

Are you okay?

Nurse helps Hannah back to her feet.

HANNAH

Wow. Quality service.

Hannah continues walking.

HANNAH

But beyond a nurse, I can imagine that at Dartbutt, I have more than 44 kids in my grade which has allowed me to even have a girlfriend.

Girlfriend over enthusiastically runs on stage. Hannah twirls her. The two do a secret handshake.

GIRLFRIEND

Hey, don't forget to stay warm. It is freezing outside!

Girlfriend puts Dartbutt sweater on Hannah.

HANNAH (AS SHE AND GIRLFRIEND
STRAIGHTEN OUT HER SWEATER)

As you can tell, my girlfriend is pretty great. The only issue is that she's deathly afraid of horses and apples.

Person with horse head chases Girlfriend with apples. She runs off the stage screaming.

HORSE PERSON
Want an apple?!

Hannah keeps walking.

HANNAH
When I go to Dartbutt, the L train
never breaks down and the MTA
fixes the subway regularly.

Cast members form a subway formation and pretend to hold handles, bouncing up and down on toes. A subway mime performs and motions for Hannah to give him money.

HANNAH (PRETENDING TO MIME)
Sorry, I don't have any change.

MIME
Piss off!

HANNAH (PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE)
And everyone is kind to one
another on the subway.

They motion to a stop and disperse. Someone hands Hannah a number one foam finger. Hannah continues walking.

HANNAH
At Dartmouth, I know everyone. Our
quad is centered in a big park,
with --

Hannah sees man with snack cart.

HANNAH
Hey, Benjamin! Benjamin sells
really great snacks out of his
cart every third Thursday and
seventh Friday of the month!

Benjamin's snack cart is just a trashcan with rotten food. Benjamin hands Hannah a clearly disgusting piece of rotten food. Hannah takes a bite.

HANNAH
Now that is some good stuff. Say,
where do you get all this fresh
produce?

BENJAMIN
Awe common, it's trash.

HANNAH

Benjamin! Don't be hard on
yourself! This tastes delicious.

Hannah takes another piece of rotten food. It is leaking.

HANNAH

Wow. And can you believe this is
part of our meal plan here at
Dartbutt? Benjamin only sells to
Dartbutt students.

BENJAMIN

I sell to other people. This isn't
on your food plan. This is a
public park.

HANNAH

So modest!

Hannah keeps walking. Benjamin starts gathering his things.
He picks up a raccoon out of the trashcan.

BENJAMIN

Oof, I thought it smelled a little
too robust.

Hannah is unaffected. She keeps walking and Benjamin exits.

HANNAH

See, I can't even describe how
wonderful Dartbutt is. But I might
as well just sing you the Dartbutt
anthem.

Hannah sings acapella to the tune of Spice Girl's Wannabe.

HANNAH (SINGING)

So I'll tell you what I want, what
I really really want. I wanna, I
wanna, I wanna, really really
really go to Dartbutt ah!

Swapnika enters and the dream music stops.

HANNAH (CONT'D.)

If you wanna go to Dartbutt, you
got to be real diverse. Making a
portfolio that's the way it works.

Hannah is still daydreaming. Swapnika claps in her face.

SWAPNIKA

Earth to Hannah.

Hannah snaps out of daydream.

HANNAH

Ah, so yeah. That is why I want to go to Dartbutt.

SWAPNIKA

That's great and I glad you can talk about why because I just found a flyer for -

Hannah rips the paper from Swapnika's hands.

HANNAH

Morning Coffee with the Dean of my dream school!

Hannah exits.

FADE OUT WITH THEME MUSIC

INT. SMALL COFFEE SHOP - DAY

The Dean wanders around greeting people. People are quietly chatting. Hannah pushes through the people to get in front of The Dean.

HANNAH

Ralph? Ralphetious Comet Hanson III, Knighted by the Queen and the Dean of Dartbutt?

Hannah goes in for a hug. The Dean extends his hand to shake. Hannah shakes his hand. She does not let go.

HANNAH

I'm just gonna call you Ralph!

DEAN

Call me The Dean.

HANNAH

Ha. Professional too, Ralph? How charming.

Hannah is still not letting go, so The Dean removes his hand.

HANNAH

Take a seat Ralph.

DEAN

I'd prefer to stand.

HANNAH
Take a seat!

The Dean sits. Hannah sits in the opposite chair backwards.

HANNAH
Do you want coffee? I love coffee,
but I mean I love tea too. Do you
have a preference? Here's some
coffee.

Hannah leans over the table to pour the coffee. She misses
the cup and dumps it all over The Dean's lap.

HANNAH
I'm sure that stain will come
right out.

DEAN
This is the shirt that my great
grandma gifted to me in her will
when she tragically died in a
pasta making accident.

HANNAH
Oh. Well, I mean what did you
expect? Those kitchen aid
attachments can be *impastable*.

DEAN (CHOKED UP)
It was a hand crank.

HANNAH
Oh...ohhh...That's unfortunate. My
grandfather also passed away from
the hand crank on one of those
salad spinners...

Hannah laughs nervously.

HANNAH
I'm horrible with death. Ha! So...
tell me, what is Dartbutt looking
for? The instructions said that
the portfolio needs to be a
culmination of diverse writing.
What are we thinking? Five plays,
two poems, forty nine skits?

DEAN (DISTRAUGHT)
I have to use the bathroom.

HANNAH
Please, just a quick interview!

DEAN

I don't have time to entertain
this.

Stranger taps The Dean on the shoulder.

STRANGER

Oh, hello. Mr. Hanson, The Dean,
right?

THE DEAN

Yes, I --

HANNAH

No! My time.

She makes a scary face at the stranger who quickly walks
away.

HANNAH

Please Ralph tell me something.
What about the library at
Dartbutt? I've heard it's great
for research!

The Dean suddenly is captivated and stares off into the
distance.

THE DEAN

The Library! Gather round!

Everyone gathers to hear The Dean speak.

THE DEAN

The library. Founded by my great,
great, great, great, very great,
great great, super great, so great
uncle.

STRANGER

He must have been pretty old!

THE DEAN

No he wasn't. He's 60. He's just really great - like awesome. The year was 1974 and my uncle was a passionate bookworm and lover. He told the council to give him funding for a magnificent addition. Two floors of sweet sweet crisp pages and books from tip top to bottom. However, as construction was finishing, folks say he was trapped between shelves. Some say between realms now. Forever lost and haunting the hauls of Dartbutt.

HANNAH

That's really great, but do you think you could tell us more about admissions...

ALL

Booo!

THE DEAN

Listen, I don't know who you are. Just write something real and interesting. I need to clean up this coffee.

The Dean exits. People are visibly upset with Hannah. Hannah puts her head down in defeat.

FADE OUT WITH THEME MUSIC

INT. WORK STUDIO - NIGHT

TAGWA

Hannah texted me that the interview didn't go to well... while I go talk to Hannah, we're going to keep the show moving with a more heartfelt look at something Hannah is really passionate about.

Tagwa exits as four people come onto the stage, each carrying a chair. They sit down in a line and dismal music starts to play. (The following dialogue is all said with a straight face, composed, and very concerned.)

BLINKY

This is my story.

PINKY

This is my story.

INKY
This is my story.

CLYDE
This is my story.

ALL
This is our story.

BLINKY
Do I remember the first time I saw
a plant? Yes. It was the worst day
of my life.

Music shifts.

PINKY
It was like witnessing creation
itself...but scarier.

INKY
I couldn't believe my eyes.

CLYDE
What was it? I felt so lost.

BLINKY
A plant is an herb, mineral, soul,
being.

PINKY
I was going through a rough patch
with my dog. He kept eating the
hot dogs and throwing them up on
my shoes. Finally I said "enough"
and took him outside, he barked at
what I now know is a tree stump. I
screamed.

INKY
After talking to my therapist
about my strong compulsion to
brush my hair near food products,
I opened the door and I tripped on
a large piece of wood. My
therapist said it was called a
tree root. Is that where wood
comes from? In that exact second,
I knew that my therapist was
dealing gateway drugs.

CLYDE

During the parent teacher conference, my son's teacher told us that they're studying how plants breathe the CO2 we breathe out. I told her I don't understand. She pointed to the succulent on her desk and I said, "bullshit, those aliens are freeloaders."

BLINKY

I teach yoga class once a week and someone asked me why we never do the Tree Pose. I asked her what a tree was. She slapped me and pointed outside.

PINKY

I called my mom to tell her that I just discovered a tree stump. She told me I can't come home for Christmas and cut my rent money off for the month.

INKY

I used to have a bumper sticker that says "Plant Denier." Now I've had to scrape off the bumper sticker with a chopstick because it is no longer accurate. Plants forced me to have a conversation about safe choices with my cat.

CLYDE

When I picked up the phone and my library called wanting a book to be returned, I asked them "what's the difference between a plant and a tree?" They said "what?" I said "I just don't know these days." They told my a list of homeless shelters in the area. A homeless shelter is not a plant. It is a meat.

BLINKY

Now, when I go outside on walks, my family and dog have to carry defibrillators in case I have a heart attack when I see a plant.

PINKY

The Botanical Gardens won't let me visit anymore because I kept confusing the plants with the guests.

INKY

I'll never forget when I discovered that my own work desk had a plant on it. My coworker said he didn't like that it was blue. It made me realize that racism exists in this country. Did you know that?

CLYDE

Plants may be controlling us. But we can control them.

Music fades and the people pick up their chairs.

THE FOUR PEOPLE EXIT

Hannah comes back on stage clapping enthusiastically.

HANNAH

Wow. Now that was something. I'm really proud of that piece of work. I feel like I really captured something there, proved to colleges the true hardship I have endured in my oppressive life. But next we have to lift their spirits with the next part of my portfolio.

HANNAH EXITS WITH THEME MUSIC

INT. WORK SPACE - NIGHT

Cast members wheel out a mini cooking cart with various foods and appliances. Hannah comes out with a chef's hat and apron, carrying an abnormally large fish over her shoulder.

HANNAH (TO THE AUDIENCE)

Oh hey, I didn't see you there. Welcome to my large, expensive kitchen that looks nothing like the one you have at home. See, I think a college student should be well rounded, which is why in addition to my 12 other extra curriculars, I'm going to teach you how to cook today, on Hannah Banana Bready For More.

She lifts a large head shot of Gordon Ramsey.

HANNAH

So Gordon, what should we fucking cook today?

She moves the head shot around like a puppet.

HANNAH (IMITATING A BRITISH
ACCENT)

Let's cook some fucking Salmon.

HANNAH (REGULAR VOICE)

Oh Gordon! Excellent choice. Very
adult. Universities, do you hear
that? Resume. Skill set. Salmon
Savant.

Cast member tries getting Hannah's attention.

FISH COORDINATOR (WHISPER
SHOUT)

Hannah! That's not a salmon. We
couldn't afford the salmon. That's
a rainbow trout.

HANNAH

Ha! Dear, dear Fish Coordinator.
I'm pretty sure this is a salmon.

She picks up the salmon and holds/looks at it like the way
you would look at a dog.

HANNAH (TODDLER VOICE)

Who's a scaly Salmon? Yes, yes you
are!

She puts the salmon down.

To join me today, I have cookbook
author of 5,4,3,2,1 Cooking,
Veronica, with me today.

Veronica shuffles on stage.

VERONICA (ALMOST WHISPERING)

I once killed a live shark with my
bare hands.

HANNAH

Ha! Kill any Salmon for us today?

VERONICA

No. See this Salmon? This is Nemo.
This is why I'm a vegetarian.

HANNAH

Oh. Well, to tenderize the salmon,
you have to slap it like so.

VERONICA
No!

HANNAH
Yes!

VERONICA
Please don't hurt him.

HANNAH
Slap the salmon!

Veronica daintily slaps the salmon.

HANNAH
That's not good enough.

Hannah slaps salmon.

VERONICA
It has to be!

HANNAH
Slap it!

Hannah slaps salmon.

VERONICA
Please, no!

HANNAH
The public wants this! You have
to!

Veronica slaps salmon.

HANNAH
Tender salmon! Think of the tender
salmon!

Hannah slaps salmon very hard.

VERONICA
I can't do it!

HANNAH
Harder!

Veronica slaps salmon.

VERONICA
No!

Hannah slaps salmon.

HANNAH

Harder!

VERONICA

Please, no!

HANNAH

Again!

Hannah slaps the salmon.

VERONICA

I can't!

Veronica slaps the salmon.

HANNAH

Think of what a terrible kid Nemo was to run off from his school field trip!

Veronica continues to hit salmon very hard as she cries.

VERONICA

Why'd you do that Nemo? Why couldn't you just listen to your father.

Veronica cries and sinks down to the ground.

HANNAH

Now that we tenderized our salmon, I would like to make a little marinade. Take an onion and firmly dice. If it usually burns your eyes, do it while your college counselor says you aren't special. Two for one.

She shows a bowl of the finished chopped onions.

HANNAH (CONT'D.)

Next pour some soy sauce in because ooh, ethnic, and it's salty like you after your last SAT score. Afterwards, pour onto your salmon and cook it till it turns 180 degrees. Turning a 180 is also what happened when I fed a wooden spool to a seagull. He suddenly died. Want a bite, Veronica?

Hannah turns to her right, expecting to see Veronica. Veronica is on her left creepily standing up with a dead look in her eyes.

HANNAH

Whoa! You scared me for a second.
Any last minute tips for the
folks?

VERONICA (WHISPERING, UNSURE)

My father was a salmon.

Hannah motions to cast on the side that come to drag
Veronica off stage.

VERONICA (PROGRESSIVELY MORE
CRAZED)

My father was a salmon. My father
was a salmon. My father was a
salmon...

HANNAH

Next week, watch us cook with
laboratory equipment to prove to
colleges that I can do science
too. Until then, that's all.

Hannah removes cooking outfit, staying on stage, and cast
members move cooking props off stage.

HANNAH (ADDRESSING THE
AUDIENCE)

I don't know...maybe I was too
harsh on Veronica...bringing up
that Salmon trauma. But, I think
colleges get the idea that I can
be the next Guy Fieri. But, I
think we can do better. As you can
see, I have done some extensive
research and written the name,
addresses, license plates, and
childhood pets down of every
college admissions director that
will be seeing my portfolio.

Tagwa comes in with a stack of folders.

TAGWA

Auditions are starting now!

Cast members run on stage with numbered papers taped on.

HANNAH (CONT'D.)

Tagwa will be handing out a folder
to each of you.

Tagwa begins handing out a folder to each person and a few
people in the audience.

HANNAH (CONT'D.)

I want you to roll play the college admissions director whose profile is in the folder in front of you. Really get into character. And as you know, college brings together people from all over. So, I want to make sure we are really diving into those characters. #5 you're up next. Who are you supposed to be?

ACTOR 5

John Bizet. It says I moved from France when I was in high school and fell in love with America's education system - well, that's clearly a lie - so I became a college counselor and then dean of admissions.

HANNAH

Sounds great. Give me something.

ACTOR 5 (REGULAR VOICE)

One of the premier liberal arts colleges in the nation, we are a close-knit and diverse community of accomplished scholars.

HANNAH

That was fine, but I don't think I heard his accent?

ACTOR 5

What?

HANNAH

His accent.

TAGWA

Like where he's from.

HANNAH

He's French, right? You heard France? Right, Tagwa?

TAGWA

Certainly.

ACTOR 5

I don't think that...

TAGWA
More French!

ACTOR 5 (WITH A SLIGHT ACCENT)
One of the premier liberal arts colleges in the nation, we are a close-knit and diverse community of accomplished scholars.

HANNAH
Maybe you could be a little more French?

TAGWA
More French!

ACTOR 5 (ACCENT GETTING PROGRESSIVELY MORE BIZARRE)
One of the premier liberal arts colleges in the nation, we are a close-knit and diverse --

TAGWA
No, just no.

HANNAH
Just perhaps a bit more? Like really go for it! You'll do great!

ACTOR 5 (MORE BIZARRE)
One of the primer liberal arts colleges in the nation --

HANNAH
With this accent, I'm having a really hard time because how am I supposed to empathize with John and the adversity he's overcome as a French man?

ACTOR 5 (BIZARRE ACCENT)
One of the premier liberal arts colleges in the nation --

TAGWA
Get out! Get out!

Actor 5 exits, crying.

HANNAH
Number 7, you're up. Who are you?

ACTOR 7

Kaia Wilson. I love my two dogs
and reading indoors to escape from
the summer heat.

HANNAH

Summer heat? Where are they from?

ACTOR 7

Arizona.

TAGWA

Should be a walk of cakes!

ACTOR 7

You mean a cake walk?

TAGWA

No. I said what I said. Cakes are
easy to walk on, no?

HANNAH

I want to see your inner
Phoenician really shine through.

ACTOR 7 (REGULAR VOICE)

Remarkable faculty of scholars,
teachers, and mentors are at the
heart of our innovation.

HANNAH

Hey, maybe more Arizona?...like
really get into it.

TAGWA

Arizona. We are in Arizona and I
do not hear our authentic accent.

ACTOR 7

Cactus, remarkable, cactus,
faculty of scholarly, cactus,
teachers and, cactus, mentors --

TAGWA

More cactus!

ACTOR 7

Cactus, college cactus --

TAGWA

I'm not hearing innovation that
excites, Actor Number 7!

ACTOR 7
Cactus, cactus, cactus -

Swapnika runs on stage.

SWAPNIKA
Hannah! Tagwa! What are you doing?

HANNAH
The role play exercise.

SWAPNIKA
We talked about this. This is too much for the audience.

TAGWA
I don't know Swapnika, I think Hannah's right! And you know Hannah I am here to play any character you might possibly need.

SWAPNIKA
Focus! Hand me those!

Swapnika takes the folders from Tagwa.

SWAPNIKA (READING OFF A FOLDER)
Joannah Larson, Wesleyan University, 589 W. Appergate Ln.? She's from Ontario, Canada!

HANNAH (CANADIAN ACCENT)
Eh, eh, eh!

SWAPNIKA
No!

HANNAH (CANADIAN ACCENT)
Sorry. I'm thorough.

TAGWA
I think it's clever.

SWAPNIKA
How many scripts do you want us to get through tonight, Hannah?

Hannah walks over to the murder board and releases a collapsed list of sketches that rolls to the floor.

SWAPNIKA
Oh my god...

Swapnika walks off stage, upset. Tagwa collects the audience's folders.

HANNAH

Maybe she's right, Tagwa. I probably should narrow this down, but what else do colleges want from me?

TAGWA

Let's think. So far, I think we've seen a lot of variety, but what about the causes that you advocate for? Show me what you're passionate about.

HANNAH

I've got it!

Hannah and Tagwa exit.

FADE OUT WITH THEME MUSIC

INT. WORK SPACE - NIGHT

Hannah walks on, concerned.

PSA VOICE

This is a Public Service Announcement brought to you by National Farmer Association.

HANNAH (COMMERCIAL VOICE)

We see you. Yes, you. You are an Instagram model, living in a world filled with likes, shares, hashtags, and unoriginal captions. We know what you're all about? Picture this...

Hannah looks to the side. A hip Instagram model with her phone walks on, a photographer trailing behind. Two cast members holding sunflowers position themselves on the side, pretending to be a field of sunflowers.

HANNAH (CONT'D.)

After your usual \$29.75 avocado toast and organic juice, you take a road trip down to the countryside for an aesthetically pleasing photo shoot. As you wander around, you come across a field.

Instagram model and photographer see sunflowers and gasp.

HANNAH (CONT'D.)
You think, why this sunflower
field is the perfect place to stop
and you begin taking photos.

Photographer begins snapping shots of Instagram model with
sunflowers. Cast holding flowers look sad.

HANNAH (CONT'D.)
But you are wrong. So very wrong.
Pause.

Photographer and Instagram look at Hannah, confused.

HANNAH (CONT'D.)
Have you ever considered the
consequences of your actions? Do
you know who owns those flower
fields? Farmers. Farmers own these
sunflower fields.

She walks over to the easel and removes a board to reveal
news headlines.

HANNAH (CONT'D.)
Because of your illegal
trespassing, you and all the other
Instagram models are damaging
these poor farmers way of life.
Look at this poor farmer who can't
feed his family because of you.

Man with pitchfork walks on. He screams at Instagram model
and cries dramatically. He exits.

HANNAH (CONT'D.)
Luckily, the National Farmers
Association has partnered with me,
Hannah Littler, to solve this
issue. Now, farmers who have been
harmed by this devastating
epidemic can hire Sticky the
Clown. A clown...with a stick.

Sticky the Clown creeps onto the stage and waits in the
background with a stick.

HANNAH (CONT'D.)
Played by various hard working
drama major undergrads, these paid
interns wait in the fields for
Instagram models and well...let's
replay this scene.

Instagram model and photographer continue taking photos. Suddenly, Sticky the Clown begins whacking them with a stick.

INSTAGRAMMER

Please, stop!

STICKY THE CLOWN (LAUGHING)

That's what the sunflowers are saying!

Sticky the Clown continues chasing them off stage.

HANNAH (CONT'D.)

So please leave the poor flower farmers alone.

PSA VOICE

This has been a message from the National Farmers Association.

Hannah breaks from commercial voice and posture to normal. Props and people leave. Hannah further examines the murder board. Tagwa enters.

TAGWA (LAUGHING ABOUT STICKY THE CLOWN)

Sticky the Clown! Get it? He's a clown...with a stick!

HANNAH

Well I'm glad you enjoyed it, but I don't know what to show people next.

TAGWA

I think it's time to consult our official source again. Bring out the ghost!

Cast Member rolls out ghost.

HANNAH

Listen, we need more information.

COLLEGE BOARD GHOST

I don't think so.

HANNAH

You're a heartless ghost I hope you know that.

COLLEGE BOARD GHOST

What even makes you so sure that Dartbutt wants you hmmm? Do you think that you're going to even do anything worthwhile at Dartbutt?

HANNAH

Excuse me! Take him out.

Tagwa and cast member take CB Ghost away.

HANNAH (CONT'D.)

Dream music! Chop chop!

DREAM MUSIC PLAYS

HANNAH

When I go to Dartbutt, I'm going to win a variety of accolades. But most importantly at my work study, I am going to shine because I will be working at Ramba Juice.

Employees enter with aprons and a blender.

ALL (CHANTING)

We love Ramba Juice. Yes we do. We love Ramba Juice so should you. One part Ramba. One Part Juice. Made with zero parts of abuse!

Manager comes on stage with trophy. Everyone cheers.

MANAGER

Settle down! This month at Ramba Juice has been tough, but we want to recognize one outstanding member.

Hannah walks closer to the Manager. Manager walks past Hannah and hands trophy to Anna who is in the crowd of employees. Hannah turns around.

HANNAH

What are you doing here!

ANNA

What are you doing in my dream?

HANNAH

Dartbutt is my dream. I mean look at this award. Then look at me!

ANNA

Ha! Most diverse Ramba Juice
Smoothie employee of the month?

HANNAH

You bet. I am queer. I am Asian. I
am adopted. I am from Arizona. I
love puns.

ANNA

I am all of those things too.

HANNAH

Well, I think it's pretty clear
who's more diverse here...

ANNA

I don't think it is...

HANNAH

Listen, I'll give you the fact
that you check off a few boxes,
but colleges clearly want me. I'm
just gonna back out this dream
real quick after I take my Ramba
Juice award.

Hannah grabs the award from the manager.

ANNA

Excuse me?

HANNAH

You're excused.

ANNA

I am the most diverse applicant.
My portfolio is beautiful. I am
well rounded and practically
perfect in every way. Give me that
trophy.

HANNAH

Over my dead body...

ANNA

That can be arranged.

Western music plays. Cast member tumbles across the stage as
a tumbleweed. Anna and Hannah put hands to hips with finger
guns.

HANNAH

There's only one way to settle
once and for all who is the most
diverse Ramba Juice smoothie
employee of the month. Dance off.

Hannah and Anna ensue in a dance off.

MANAGER

Who thought Anna was your winner?

Employees are silent.

MANAGER

Who thought Hannah was the winner?

Employees clap and cheer. They wave goodbye. Anna is
defeated. Hannah begins a victory dance around Anna who is
ushered out by other employees.

FADE INTO:

INT. WORK SPACE - NIGHT

Hannah continues victory dance. Swapnika and Tagwa enter.

HANNAH

Huzzah! I beat you. I am diverse.
I am cool. I am everything
Dartbutt would want.

Swapnika and Tagwa look dissapointed.

HANNAH

What the hell! I'm victorious. I
am the most diverse Dartbutt Ramba
Juice employee of the month.

SWAPNIKA

Yeah in your imagination. Listen!
You need to chill.

HANNAH

Oh, come on! Tagwa, back me up
here.

TAGWA

No...that wasn't okay. Diversity
isn't a competition.

HANNAH

I can't believe you guys. I have, what? Minutes until portfolios are due. You could at least give me this win.

SWAPNIKA

Hannah. You're losing focus from your portfolio. Why are you doing all of this?

HANNAH

Because it's what colleges want! They want to see how diverse I can get!

SWAPNIKA

No. They want to see that you can write.

HANNAH

That's the same thing.

SWAPNIKA

No it isn't! You're letting all these outside factors control your portfolio.

HANNAH

You're one of those outside factors Swapnika!

Tagwa backs out, motioning she has to go.

SWAPNIKA

See, look what you just did. You scared Tagwa away! I told you to write from the heart and you did all of this. What makes you think colleges want all of this?

HANNAH

I don't know. Everyone's giving me advice on where to apply, what to write, what to prepare for, but no one's helping me.

SWAPNIKA

I am helping you!

HANNAH

I just. Ugh!

SWAPNIKA

We can't get through this entire list tonight and you know it.

HANNAH

So what am I supposed to do?

SWAPNIKA

You know what, this is enough, you're starting to smell, ever since that salmon skit.

HANNAH

But, Swapnika!

SWAPNIKA

No! I'm not having it. You have plenty of skits for your packet. It's time to get ready to submit your application!

SWAPNIKA EXITS. HANNAH LOOKS AT THE CLOCK.

INT. WORK SPACE - NIGHT.

Don't Stop Me Now plays. Hannah looks down at shoes. She reties them, but ties the laces from two different shoes. She trips. She reties them.

Hannah starts picking up all of the papers on the ground and covers up Anna's face on the murder board with an RIP sign.

Hannah looks around for something. She opens the microwave and retrieves a (fake) cat. She snuggles the cat and throws him.

She gets out her laptop and grabs a chair center stage. Don't Stop Me Now fades.

HANNAH

Okay guys, it's time!

Full cast all rush on and surround Hannah. They cheer.

FULL CAST

Submit button in 5,4,3,2,1!

Hannah on one, Hannah hands a sign that says "submit" to the person next to her. The submit button moves from person to person, in slow mo towards off stage.

HANNAH

Wait! Cancel!

Hannah gets up.

HANNAH
Hand it back over.

FULL CAST
Awe, come on! Really?

The submit button passes back to Hannah.

HANNAH
I can't.

Hannah paces around with her laptop.

HANNAH (CONT'D.)
It's not perfect yet.

TAGWA
It's never going to be perfect!

HANNAH
I need one final thing.

TAGWA
What?

HANNAH
Audience feedback!

Most of the cast members leave, annoyed. Swapnika, Tagwa, and Hannah stay on stage.

SWAPNIKA (TO AUDIENCE)
So we know you weren't paying attention the entire time because you guys were on your freaking twitter. But luckily, Tagwa and I decided we're going to use those tweets to Hannah's benefit.

HANNAH
Um. What? I didn't know that -

SWAPNIKA
We're going to read some of these tweets aloud with the help of some of our cast members!

HANNAH
I thought we just had a survey...

SWAPNIKA

You never printed out the survey.
So! Let's move on.

SWAPNIKA

Welcome to, Hannah hears
audience feedback!

TAGWA

Welcome to, Hannah hears
audience feedback!

TAGWA

Let's bring out our commentators.

Cast members line up to talk to Hannah who sits back down in
the chair center stage. First person walks up to Hannah.

HANNAH

Um...what did you think?...

COMMENTATOR 1

How dare you joke about cooking
Salmon. My mother died of
salmonella.

Commentator 1 cries. Swapnika shoos them off stage. Hannah
is stunned.

COMMENTATOR 2

Are you sure you aren't applying
to Dartmouth?

TAGWA AND SWAPNIKA

That's enough!

HANNAH

That's enough!

COMMENTATOR 3

I have an uncle that lives in
Phoenix and you didn't capture the
essence of a Phoenician. My uncle
says cactus twice the amount.

HANNAH

You're right. I inaccurately
portrayed my own people. Oh my
gosh...what am I doing...

SWAPNIKA

No!

Swapnika shakes Hannah.

SWAPNIKA

Don't listen to these comments!

HANNAH

But, Swapnika.

Swapnika slaps Hannah.

SWAPNIKA
Get yourself together.

HANNAH
But they hated the salmon.

Swapnika slaps Hannah.

SWAPNIKA (SHAKING HANNAH)
I love the salmon!

Swapnika turns to the others.

SWAPNIKA (CONT'D.)
You're ruining her, get out! We
have enough audience feedback for
one day.

Commentators leave.

HANNAH
They hate everything Swapnika!

SWAPNIKA
Don't listen to them. It's time to
submit your application.

TAGWA (QUIETLY)
Wait!

SWAPNIKA
What?

TAGWA
What do you mean submit?

SWAPNIKA
Like send in her portfolio?

TAGWA
But that already happened.

SWAPNIKA
What!

HANNAH
What!

HANNAH
What did you do, Tagwa?

TAGWA
I was in the other room, but I
thought you said it was time to
submit the portfolio.

HANNAH (FREAKING OUT)
You did what?

TAGWA (NERVOUS LAUGHTER)
I may or may not have clicked
submit...

HANNAH
No, no, no, no, no!!!

TAGWA
Hey, I think it'll be fine!

SWAPNIKA
Tagwa! What did you do?

HANNAH
We need answers! What's going to
happen with my portfolio? Can I
change something? Anything?

Hannah shakes Tagwa.

HANNAH
Tell me I can change it Tagwa!

Swapnika separates Hannah and Tagwa.

SWAPNIKA
It's time to call in
reinforcements.

Swapnika leaves and comes back, wheeling in the College
Board Ghost, still tied to a chair with bungee chords.

SWAPNIKA
Tell us, ghost, what happened to
her application!

The ghost is silent.

SWAPNIKA (CONT'D.)
We know we've got you captured, so
what's going on here!

The ghost remains silent.

HANNAH
Stop playing around with us. You
were talking earlier, so talk!
What even are you, you phony!

The ghost remains silent. Swapnika, Tagwa, and Hannah begin shaking his chair. The ghost starts crying. The other three are confused.

TAGWA

I thought college board just steals people's money...their ghost doesn't cry...

The ghost sobs louder.

SWAPNIKA

Wait a second.

Swapnika removes the sheet. It is Anna Lightler. Swapnika and Tagwa gasp. Hannah is furious.

HANNAH

Anna!

ANNA

Great, you caught me.

HANNAH

But, you can't be the college board ghost. We intentionally stalked you at the two main offices of in Virginia and New York to capture you.

ANNA

You idiot. This is a setup. I was hoping to delay your applications.

HANNAH

Clearly, it was unsuccessful.

ANNA

No need to rub it in.

HANNAH

Is there even a college board ghost?

ANNA

Of course there is, but he can't possibly be captured.

HANNAH

I wonder what Dartbutt thinks applicants who've committed identity fraud.

ANNA

Please, like you're a saint. You have my face on a murder board.

HANNAH

Touche. I like your style, Anna. I've gotta admit it.

ANNA

Maybe I would also be willing admit that as well...

HANNAH

Look, I didn't come looking for trouble.

ANNA

You came looking for trouble the minute you copied my murder board of Dartbutt.

HANNAH

Dartbutt is my - wait a second. You have a murder board too?

ANNA

How else do people get to Dartbutt?

SWAPNIKA

And you're sure it's not Dartmouth?

HANNAH

Dartbutt!

ANNA

Dartbutt!

HANNAH

I was afraid I was the only one! Aren't they the best?

ANNA

I use red artisan string.

HANNAH

I'm glad someone appreciates my taste in murder board string.

ANNA

I even have Xs crossed out on your portrait.

HANNAH

Dang. Innovation that excites.

ANNA

You would've done it better...

HANNAH

That's what I've been telling Swapnika!

ANNA

That you would've done it better than me...?

HANNAH

No! That you're going to be better than me.

ANNA

Are you kidding me? I'm the one that has to worry about you.

HANNAH

Isn't it obvious? We can both be diverse!

SWAPNIKA

You mean good writers.

HANNAH

Sure, Swapnika.

ANNA

Sure, Swapnika.

HANNAH (TO AUDIENCE)

I know the ultimate take down of Anna Lightler wasn't as fabulous as you might have hoped, but I think I'm okay with that. I think this has been a pretty successful workshop, if I do say so myself. After all, what better way to end your day than officially winning against your arch nemesis.

ANNA

I think winning is a subjective term.

HANNAH

No it isn't. So, thank you all so much for helping me tonight.

ANNA

You mean awkwardly sitting through this obsession. I should say thank you to this audience for knowing me before I become famous at Dartbutt.

HANNAH

But will you be most Ramba Juice
employee of the month?

ANNA

I ought to -

HANNAH

But that's enough of that. I'm a
little upset that a certain
someone pressed some buttons.

Hannah looks at Tagwa. Tagwa looks off like she doesn't know
what Hannah is talking about.

HANNAH

Yet, there's nothing more to do
for now. I hope this workshop at
least provided you one good laugh
tonight as you stayed up for A
Late Night for Littler.

FADE OUT