

Written by Rita Shelton Deverell
Directed by Don Molnar

SYNOPSIS

Who you Callin Black Eh? is a coming of age play set in Canada's largest, most multicultural, multilingual city, that is not about sexuality, but is about colour.

Wherever Our Heroine goes, whatever she does, with whomever she relates, she is not Black Enough or White Enough to find her people. Shadism causes her to be shunned. Who is she? Where is she going? What is the meaning of life, her life that is? What colour is she? – a very basic question of identity and coming of age, a question for millennials.

5 Actors are needed:

Setting

In reach of the 5 actors, and easy sight of the audience, is a colour wheel of masks, which could be as simple as inexpensive fans, painted all shades of skin from lilly white to ebony black. This colour wheel can look like paint samples in Home Depot.

***Who you Callin Black eh?** is **not** a completely “masked” show. The actors also use their own skin/faces when appropriate. Putting on and taking off masks is transparent to us; nobody ever leaves the stage. The masks will allow the 5 actors to play an entire range of characters as well as Crowds, who are like a Chorus (in the classical Greek sense).*

Characters:

--**Actor 1 - OUR HEROINE**, 20-30 something, skin very slightly brown-ish.

--To play multiple characters: 4 actors, age not really important, ideally skin colours from lilly white to ebony black. Everyone contributes to **CROWDS/CHORUS**.

-2. **Actor 2** --A Youngish Man, will play Heroine's **DREAM BOYFRIEND**; a working colleague, a social justice comrade (possibly Black Lives Matter or a Syrian Refugee sponsorship group is the justice group).

-3. **Actor 3** -- An Older Woman, will play **HEROINE'S MOTHER**; a working colleague, **BLACK LULU LEMON**; Heroine's **FUTURE MOTHERINLAW**; a social justice comrade; and Our Heroine's best friend in high school.

-4. **Actor 4** - An Older Man, will play **Our HEROINE'S FATHER**; Heroine's **FUTURE FATHERINLAW**; an employer, **MR. HUGO BOSS**; and will be in a social justice opposition group.

-5. **Actor 5** --Not age/gender/race specific, **Narrator/Chorus Leader**. A resonant, multi-character voice is important, the kind used in audio books.

Scene 7

NARRATOR/CHORUS LEADER

Our Heroine is dreaming. She thinks delightful thoughts at first, her inner dream monologue. Then, it turns ugly.

OUR HEROINE

Never again.

My new guy is going to be a Dentist. A Den-tiste!
He can pull my lilly white teeth anytime.

He'll believe I'm Kate Middleton. Ha ha.
I can see it now.
He's ready to introduce me to his Anglo royal family.

We will live in a white stucco town house – at first.
Not the royal family. The two of us.

In Oakville. Let me take you on a virtual tour.
Three bedrooms, just a starter townhouse.
One bedroom can be my study.
I will be studying of course.

At the University of Toronto Mississauga.
To belet's see....an Art Historian, of maybe Middle Eastern art.
That's it!
Or, high end real estate. I could study how to sell that.

That will make those girls down East soooooo jealous, when they hear I'm married to den-tiste, and live in a white stucco townhouse, they will just die.

(voice rising in dream, talking faster and more garbled)
Black paint is being thrown on the walls of my white house!
Signs spray-painted– “go back where you came from puss puss.”

Who do you think you are?

But but but....I'm notwhat you say I am.