

My Dad is Bald
A Play

Chatham Players
Jersey Voices 2021
Audition Sides

CHARACTERS

XINHONG	Taiwanese, high school senior, reserved, but not usually.
GENJIRO	Japanese, high school senior, loud and cheerful.

SETTING

Taiwan. A tropical island with an 85°F average with air that hangs heavily with humidity. Population 23.78 million, ranked 19th in population density in the world.

A basketball court, long forgotten, no longer maintained. The floor is cracked and dusty, the net is made of old rusted chains. The rectangle on the basketball backboard is faded after many years of use.

GENJIRO

You know this girl? She says she don't know you, but I swear you guys took Alg II together last year.

XINHONG

Ummm... yea I think I've seen her around school.

GENJIRO

Yeah, you know Amy.

GENJIRO starts texting furiously.

XINHONG

I don't know any Amy.

GENJIRO stops texting.

GENJIRO

Oh. Well. Amy's this girl. Yea, we've been talking. She's totally awesome dude. I met her when I was volunteering during dress rehearsal for the spirit assembly next week. She does all the lights for the school events. Red, blue, flashing lights, all that good shit. She works up at the tech booth. You've ever been up at the tech booth dude?

XINHONG

N/o

GENJIRO

It's so cool. There's like this huge board with all these sliding things that you can fiddle to change the lights. Amy showed me how to make all the lights flash, so it looked like some... underground Berlin nightclub! It was wild.

XINHONG

I'm sure it was.

GENJIRO

Anyways... yeah. She said my hair would probably look better if it was shorter... You think dude?

XINHONG

It's not on my head.

GENJIRO

Yea but it ain't on hers either!

XINHONG dribbles the ball while sitting on the bench.

XINHONG

What does that even/ mean

GENJIRO

/Speaking of haircuts, guess who I saw walking down the street on the way here?

XINHONG

(uninterested)

Who?

GENJIRO gets up abruptly, stealing the ball from XINHONG mid dribble, and running to the hoop to do a lay-up. He retrieves the ball and turns to XINHONG.

GENJIRO

Your pops, old man Zhang himself! He's got a wicked cut dude.

XINHONG

Oh yea, yea.

GENJIRO

Dude, he looks fucking gangster. OG Zhang! Like, he was scary before – I'd go into your home and he'd just stand there looking at me while I waited for you to come out. The death glare? But dude, that bald cut? Killer now.

XINHONG

You do realize he just stares because you can't speak Chinese with him right?

GENJIRO

Yeah but he's still imposing as fuck though.

Hrmm... maybe I'll fuck with Amy and go bald too.

XINHONG

You fuck with Amy like that and Amy definitely won't fuck with you anymore.

GENJIRO

(joking)

So you think my hair is attractive? Thanks dude, I didn't know you felt that way about me.

XINHONG

Shut up. Besides, being bald isn't cool.

GENJIRO

What? Fucking um... fuck's his name – James in Ms. Miller's home form is bald and he's hella cool.

XINHONG

Yeah but James is ... black.

GENJIRO

Dude... that's racist.

XINHONG

Actually though. It's not racist, it's fact. Black people can work that bald look.

GENJIRO

... You know what, fine. What about Stan, Stan the man, in our Bio class? He's white and he's got the bald buzz cut going.

XINHONG

Man, it's just not an Asian thing.

GENJIRO

That's racist.

XINHONG

Just cus it's about a race doesn't make it racist.

GENJIRO

You racist pig.

They play. XINHONG talks as they play.

XINHONG

Think about it though. Asians don't like going bald. Yes yes, who does? But think about it. You got all these bald white men and these bald black men, but you don't see bald Asian guys just running around. I don't know. No one likes to grow old but it's something to be... sad? Ashamed? Ashamed. Being bald is like telling the world you're growing old and I guess that's something to be ashamed of. Like how many famous Asian bald men do you know? That are NOT trying to cover it with a combover. I can name others, but not Asians. Bruce Willis, Jason Statham, Kobe Bryant, Kareem Abdul, you know what, probably like half the NBA.

...

And no just because I brought up the NBA doesn't make me racist.

If you're not Asian, being bald is a statement. Like a style, or a fashion. I guess there's some sort of Asian stigma around baldness.

GENJIRO scores.

GENJIRO

Ken Watanabe

XINHONG

What?

GENJIRO

Ken Watanabe. He's bald and he's Asian. He's that really badass guy in the Last Samurai that becomes buddy-buddy with Tom Cruise.

XINHONG

I think he was only bald for that movie though.

GENJIRO

Still counts.