

THE BANDAGED PLACE
by Harrison David Rivers

About the play (from the playwright):

When a former lover resurfaces, re-opening a painful wound, Jonah Irby is forced to turn to his precocious daughter and his tough love grandmother for support. A brutal and lyrical play about the things we hang on to and the price of moving forward.

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SAM—Male, 20-30s

About the scene:

SAM is a ballet teacher. His eight-year-old student, ELLA, had an embarrassing accident in class, and he is trying to reassure her while waiting for her father to pick her up.

SAM

You know, when I was just a little older than you
I went to this amusement park with my brother and his friends
(My parents made him take me)
And they were all in middle school
And I was in like the fifth grade
And they were all going on the roller coasters
Have you ever been on a roller coaster?

(ELLA shakes her head no.)

Yeah, well neither had I
And I really wanted to
Mostly because I wanted to prove to my brother and his friends that I could, you
know?
To prove that I could handle a big kid ride
Anyway, I was too young
And too short
But there was this other ride called the Gravitron.

[...]

It was this ride where you stood against a wall and they strapped you in.

[...]

To the wall. And then it would spin really super fast. Like this

(gestures)

Around and around so fast that yr body would stick to the wall

ELLA

That doesn't sound very fun.

SAM

Well as it turns out
It wasn't.
Mostly
It just made me sick.
Very very sick.

And while we were spinning

Me

My brother

My brother's friends . . .

I barfed.

[...]

All over everyone.

[...]

Yeah, it was pretty gross.

It was actually the grossest thing I've ever—

(he shudders)

Anyway, my brother was pissed.

(SAM corrects himself)

Mad.

His friends were mad.

Everyone on the ride was mad

And I was mortified.

Like I wanted to crawl under a rock and disappear

I was so embarrassed

But I survived

You know?

I lived to tell the story.

I guess what I'm saying is

Embarrassing things happen.

(To some of us they happen all the time.)

(he points to himself)

And

It's ok.

It'll be ok.