

Kaleidoscope
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Characters

Geo (she/they, female-presenting)

Indigenous.

A sarcastic fighter as a young person.

Also *Colleague / Nik*

Ervin (he/him)

The child of immigrants.

Obsessed and fastidious as an adult.

A playful misanthrope as a young person.

Cielo (he/they, male-presenting)

Black.

A would-be lover as a young person.

Additional characters

Bijan (solo), Parisa (solo), Nik (solo), Voicemail, Announcer, Guy, Father, and Someone

Scene & Setting

A lab with a desk, a chair, and a door.

Also, several locations are represented including a train station, a San Francisco street, a park gazebo, a teenager's room, a high school gymnasium, and a lookout point.

Notes

"/" represents the start of the following line.

"-" represents a sudden stop.

Music should be something nostalgic from one specific album. This version includes the discography of the band, Black Kids.

Although character ethnicities are noted above, it is more important that actors cast represent a shared otherness. Fluidity does not equal colorblind casting. Names and non-English languages can be altered.

A memory.

A train station.

A light steel blue sky.

ERVIN, GEO and CIELO enter quickly and rushed.

ERVIN has electrode-like devices on his temples.

CIELO

"Did you miss it?"

ERVIN

"No, it hasn't come yet."

GEO

"I'm glad we got here / on time."

CIELO

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry/"

ERVIN

"No. No, it's okay."

GEO

"Do you want us to wait for you?"

ERVIN

(beat)

"I don't think so."

GEO

"Okay. But come here first."

ERVIN

"Yeah well buy me a drink. Tequila?"

GEO

"No really."

ERVIN

"Why?"

GEO

"A prayer."

GEO whispers in ERVIN's ear.

GEO

"My mom used to do that for me, when I was sad."

ERVIN

"You know you're my hero, right?"

GEO

(pulls away)

"Yeah, well you can take care of yourself. Now just get on your train before you make me cry."

ERVIN turns to CIELO.

CIELO

(shakes their head)

"No."

ERVIN

"Come on."

GEO

"Really?"

CIELO

"If I hug you then it'll be, like, final."

ERVIN

(Laughs)

"You're an asshole for this. My train leaves in, like, 7 minutes."

CIELO

"This isn't something that, I don't know, a- a drive up the coast can fix, right?"

ERVIN

"/Cici."

GEO

(wiping away tears)

"Jeez."

CIELO

"Okay! Just tell me one more time."

ERVIN

"I just wanna look."

CIELO

"And where are you even gonna go?"

ERVIN

"I don't know yet/"

CIELO

"Do you really think you're gonna find your mom?"

GEO

"CIELO. PEREZ/"

ERVIN

"That's shitty to say."

CIELO

"I'm sorry, I- I don't wanna see us end like this."

GEO

"You shouldn't have taken a train. It's too romantic."

ERVIN

"I hate flying."

GEO

"Yeah, but with airports, you have to make it quick.
I'd never cry in an airport."

An awkward, knowing beat.

ERVIN

"Cielo..."

ERVIN holds out his arms.

CIELO walks over. The two hug.

ERVIN

"Brother."

ERVIN pulls away.

GEO

"Call us when you get there. Love you."

ERVIN

"Love you."

A beat.

GEO leads CIELO towards the exit.

The steel blue light flickers and fades into fluorescent light.

The memory machine turns off.

ERVIN returns from his memory.

He experiences a headache.

A laboratory.

There is a desk, a telephone, a voice recorder, and a door.

ERVIN

I wanted May 10th. May 10th!

ERVIN walks to the desk. He uses the voice recorder.

ERVIN

(strained, frustrated)

Log date: December 12. It feels so close. I'm monitoring the impact of the device on long-term brain function. As of now, there are no abnormalities. However, frontal lobe activity seems to be slightly overactive.

(beat)

But I- I felt it... it's like hyper-focused deja vu.

(overcome)

I felt the wind- it was so cold that morning. And the smell of gas from the refinery next to the station.

(strained)

I can almost- control it. Next, I'll continue looking for specific dates and specific memories. Then, I'll be ready to present.

ERVIN walks to middle of the laboratory.

ERVIN

(deep breath)
Gym. Violet. Vodka. Gym. Violet. Vodka. May. 10th.
2008.

The machine turns on.

A memory.

A gazebo at night.

A yellowish light nullifies blue color.

ERVIN

Oh shit...

He slowly pulls a birthday card from his pocket.

ERVIN

No, no, no, not / here-

GEO

(enters)
"Hey asshole!"

ERVIN

"Hey!"

*He pockets the card. CIELO enters and jumps into
ERVIN's arms.*

CIELO

"Happy birthday day!"

ERVIN

"Thanks. Now get down."

CIELO

(gets down)
"My big strong man."

GEO

"That's GAYYYYYYYYYY!"

CIELO

"Hey! You can die for this country now."

ERVIN

"If only I was fucking born here!"

The three laugh.

ERVIN

"Where are you guys coming from?"

GEO

(quick)

"Batman is a domestic terrorist."

CIELO

"Tais-toi!"

GEO

"If you make me watch that movie one more time, I will KEEP bringing up that he's a rich white guy who never went to therapy and beats up poor people and the mentally unstable."

CIELO

"Oh my god, it's like comfort food. Five months later, still the best."

GEO scoffs then takes a deep breath.

GEO

(to ERVIN)

"Are you ready?"

ERVIN

"For you to tell me how you got those scars?"

ERVIN / GEO / CIELO

(different mocking tones)

"Well, my father..."

The three laugh and sit.

GEO

"Close your eyes for your present."

ERVIN

"Is it a blowjob?"

GEO slaps ERVIN's head.

ERVIN

"Handjob?"

CIELO

"No, but open your mouth."

ERVIN

"Kinky."

GEO

"Present number 1."

GEO puts a joint in ERVIN's mouth.

ERVIN

"Thank you!"

GEO lights the joint.

CIELO

"Present number 2."

GEO

"Open your eyes."

CIELO reveals a street sign for "EVAN AVE." It is scratched out, so it reads "ERVIN AVE."

ERVIN

(opens eyes)

"Holy shit! Did you steal this?"

GEO

"Well there's no Ervin Street."

CIELO

"Do you like it?"

ERVIN

"I love it!"

GEO

"Did your dad get you anything?"

ERVIN

"He got a cake, so that was nice."

(passes the joint around)
"And I got a PS3..."

CIELO
"Nice/"

ERVIN
"But... my mom sent it."

CIELO
"Ohhhhh."

ERVIN
"With a super cryptic note."

*ERVIN pulls out the crumpled card and hands it to
GEO.*

GEO
(reading)
"'I love you. Be good. Then, be great.'"
(beat)
"What."

ERVIN
"I don't know."

GEO
"And it's been..."

ERVIN
"7, 8 years."

GEO
"Oh, nice."

CIELO
"And where is she exactly?"

ERVIN
"No return address."

CIELO
"Doesn't your dad know?"

ERVIN

"I don't think so, because when I got it, he read the card. And then he started to do that thing he always does, and asked me a list of questions."

CIELO

"Explain?"

ERVIN

(speaking like his father)

"'Are you registered for Spring classes? Which classes? Which science classes? Are you still able to work? What about your finals?' All of which, I have gone through with him."

CIELO

(chuckles)

"Jesus..."

ERVIN

"Like, is this the same discussion we're gonna have until we die?"

GEO

"My dad keeps asking me if I need birth control for some reason? Which is funny because I'm gay."

The three laugh.

CIELO

"Are you okay?"

ERVIN

"Yeah. She's the one that left, right?"

ERVIN takes the card, lights it and throws it away.

ERVIN

"I really like the sign, thank you."

The three finishes the joint.

CIELO lays their head on ERVIN.

GEO holds ERVIN's hand.

An airplane flies overhead.

ERVIN cries.

GEO
"Ervin?"

ERVIN stands.

ERVIN
(manically laughs)
"Why- why are we living in a town next to a fucking airport?!"

GEO
"We're poor/"

CIELO
(stands)
"What's / wrong?"

ERVIN
"I'm sorry! You guys- are perfect!"

GEO
(stands)
"Whoa, just breathe / for me."

ERVIN
"No, NO! I just- nothing's ever perfect, even for just like for a second."

CIELO
"Calm down"

ERVIN
"I gotta- I gotta go home."

CIELO
"Do you wanna a ride?"

ERVIN
"No!"

GEO
"I don't think you should be / alone right now-"

ERVIN

"I'm a fucking adult, right?"

GEO

"... Yeah."

ERVIN

"I'm sorry."

GEO

"It's okay."

CIELO

"I don't wanna leave you-"

ERVIN

"I'll be fine."

GEO

"Let us know when you get home?"

ERVIN

"Yeah."

GEO attempts to exit. CIELO does not move.

GEO

"Cici."

CIELO kisses ERVIN's cheek and exits with GEO.

ERVIN attempts to exit but trips over the sign.

He picks up the sign and throws it into trees.

ERVIN stands, stuck in place.

Another airplane flies overhead.

ERVIN

(potentially in non-English language)

"Where are you?"

(tired)

I don't-

The machine turns off.

The fluorescent light returns.

ERVIN takes off the electrodes.

ERVIN

(exhausted; strained)

I don't... I didn't want to...

He faints.

The lights fade.