

Excerpts from *Home: A Playmaking Piece*, a TYA show intended for middle school and high school audiences. Devised through improvisations with the ensemble.

### **Moment 17. Period Pants**

[The ENSEMBLE sets up the boxes for the school bus and everyone except for J, B, and M (who are in the scene) and D (who remains offstage) sits downstage. M and B enter from downstage with backpacks to sit by the boxes.]

A:

[Sliding in to the same seat, overcrowding it just a little. Mary should be in the middle.] Hey hey sorry I'm late.

M:

Thank goodness - I thought the bus was gonna leave without you. What were you doing?

A:

I forgot a book! Jesus christ... [Immediately realizes what she's done and crosses herself]

M:

[Gasps] If my mom heard you say that...

A:

I know! I know! That's why i just - [Mimes crossing self]

B:

Ok can we like talk about it?

A:

Omigosh yessss. Can you believe it?

M:

Haha, yah and how Mr. Kazowski was talking about it -

[Laughter erupts.]

B:

And, like yah ok my mom has talked to be about it. And I know it's like super natural and stuff but -

M:

Omigosh, you've talked about it with you MOM?

A:

I mean, my mom talked about it with me too. She read me a book about it.

M:

Is it that American Girl Doll book?

B:

Those books are creepy [Giggles] I just think it was gross and it should be like reported or something.

A:

Yah I agree.

M:

Reported? I mean it's like -

A:

[Crossing stage right, leaving the bus, talking over Mary.] Who even was it?

B:

[Crossing stage left, leaving the bus.] Probably Trish McFeeney.

A:

You're right.

M:

[Walking around behind the box.] Haha, yah, it was DEFINITELY her. She has like... boobs.

B:

Ugh yah. And [pukes in mouth a little] it was... on the chair.

[A squeals and squirms, M tries to play along.]

B:

Wait... she never sits on that side of the room.

[The other girls think for a second]

A:

That's true... She never does

M:

Oh, well I mean maybe today she -

B:

No. She never does... Lemme just... Ok. I sit next to you [A] and it was the seat next to me...

[Silence... they both realize it's M.]

A:

Ohhhh

B:

Oh my god

A:

Ewww!

B:

It was you...

M:

No! Nuh-uh no way!

A:

[Realizing their current proximity] We like... EEEUGH!!!

B:

Oh my god, it was SO you!!!

M:

No it wasn't!

A:

Yes it was! Come clean!

[A beat]

M:

Well... My mom said just one tampon would be ok but then it wasn't and, ugh hate her, she --

B:

Wait! ...are you still wearing the pants?

M:

... yes.

[Audible gasp from the other girls.]

B and A:  
Oh my god!

M:  
What was I supposed to do?

A:  
Can't you like go to the nurse's office and get a change of pants?

[B is gagging some]

M:  
That's like what babies do when they puke on themselves. I'm not a baby!

A:  
Why wouldn't you tell us?

M:  
Cuz I don't know... And then I tried to... [Mimes cleaning or something] Come on, it's gross! And it's my business! Why would I tell you?

A:  
[Crossing back to M] Because we're like... friends. And stuff. I...

[Long silence between the girls. B pulls herself together a little.]

B:  
[Crossing back to M.] Yah... and like. I always have a change of stuff for track practice. I could have... ya know. I mean. I think my mom would have understood.

A:  
Yah...

M:  
So you... like... you don't think it's gross?

A:  
No! No way! Well... I mean kinda yah. But I'll have mine someday too, ya know?

B:

Yah oh my god and you all better help me when that happens.

A:

Yah totally.

M:

Ok... Ok. Thanks you guys.

B:

Wanna come over and watch some Netflix later? After you go home and...

M:

Yah. Yah definitely ... Thanks, you guys.

[The bus reaches their stop]

[They exit downstage and return to watch with the rest of the ENSEMBLE. DANA enters from upstage and stands on the back center box. PRESLEE and JESSE remove the two front boxes and set up a their "car seats."]

D:

I want to read a novel and have the possibility of going and seeing the magical places I read about. I want to water our flowers with my mom on Sunday mornings and her to yell at me, gently, when I overflow the pot. I want to be connected to anything and everything.