

YOU'RE RIGHT--I'M DEAD

by
Tom Ecobelli & Peter Marino

A full-length comedy

Summary: Despite the better efforts of his 93-year-old Italian grandmother, Anthony Deficiente, 38, lonely, gay, and chronically underachieving, tries to find love and career success. It's 1990, the Cold War is over and a culture in Upstate New York is also reaching its end. Anthony searches for his niche in life, but opportunities don't come easily in the dying industrial city of Gloversville, New York. Continually unemployed, he struggles to make ends meet. All his relatives are "dead from the cancer" and he's the only one left to take care of Grandma, who refuses to share him with anyone. Anthony's love for Linda Ronstadt sustains him; the action of the play reveals the insanity of his past and the strong, freakish bond that holds him and Grandma together. When Anthony meets Doug, a fellow Ronstadt-phile with an even more disturbing past, Grandma and Anthony must learn how to maintain their relationship while allowing Anthony a little freedom.

You're Right—I'm Dead presents a diverse yet universal story which reveals genuine, human truth, but in a humorous, absurd manner. It provides lots of stage time for skillful actors adept at accents and at playing multiple and diverse roles.

Characters:

All parts but Grandma and Anthony may be doubled, tripled, more... The play requires a cast of at least 4 playing 13 characters.

Excepting Grandma's broken English, all characters should speak with a pronounced, nasal *upstate* New York accent, not any variant of a New York City accent.

GRANDMA MARY PESCEFUNGO (Pesh-uh-fun'-go) A ninety-three-year-old Italian woman. A demanding matriarch with wild mood swings from violent hatred to intense loyalty and love. Can be played by a man or a woman.

ANTHONY DEFICIENTE (Duh-fish-ee-en'-tay) Grandma's virgin grandson and primary care giver. An overweight, success challenged, gay man. (late 30's)

WHITE TRASH MOTHER --Brash and loud.

EARL --White Trash Mother's son.

DOCTOR GOLDSTEIN --Handsome, serious, young doctor.

BERNADETTE --Impatient, bald and overworked nurse

IGNATZIO DEFICIENTE --Anthony's father. (Voice only)

MRS. CANZANOTTI --Grandma's ninety-year-old friend.

SHAZAM --A humorless woman.

DUDLEY --An effusive man.

CARROLL --Anthony's first male date. A whirlwind of insane energy.

DOUG --Mrs. Canzanotti's geeky but cute grandson.

ERNIE EDWARDS --News anchor.

WITNESS #1 --Middle-aged man.

WITNESS #2 --Middle-aged woman.

WITNESS #3 --Housewife.

WITNESS #4 --Husband of witness # 3.

JIMMY ZUBA --TV reporter.

OFFICER LOGRECO --Police officer.

PRISONER #1 --Angry, impatient.

Set:

Anthony and Grandma's house in Gloversville, upstate New York, a long-dying industrial city, once famous for glove-making. The house is working class, threadbare furniture, old appliances and tacky Catholic accessories. All other locations can be implied very simply with blocks, folding chairs, etc.

Running Time:

Approximate running time is 90 minutes.