

ASPECT[S]

By Jace Petrutsas

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Aaron, an awkward high-schooler, is struggling to find the nerve to talk to his crush, Emily. After yet another failed attempt, three aspects of his personality, Confidence, Nervousness, and Doubt, appear to help him overcome his woes. These Aspects each demonstrate ways in which they think Aaron should woo Emily, but all end in failure (or just utter embarrassment). Just when all hope seems lost, Sam, the representation of the "true self," appears to offer some sage advice. When Aaron takes this advice, he successfully asks Emily out and exits in victory. Emily is left excited, but as she wonders how to approach the date, the Aspects realize they have their next assignment!

About 20 minutes.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

ASPECT[S] premiered in April 2025 at the Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas Student One-Act Showcase, where it won Best Original One-Act.

Original Cast (in order of appearance)

Aaron:	Andrew Leon
Emily:	Audrey Hale
Ashley:	Alex Smith
Confidence:	Max Galante
Nervousness:	Lucas Hamilton
Doubt:	Samuel Loh
Sam:	Everett Bier
Stage Manager:	Isla Hurley
Costumer:	Sophie Stewart

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2 m, 2 w, 3 flexible)

(In order of appearance.)

AARON: (M) The “straight man” of the show. His character should be sort of a blend of the three aspects.

EMILY: (W) Kind and pretty, Emily likes Aaron, but Aaron is just too dumb to realize it. She isn’t super flirty, but she wants Aaron to ask her out.

ASHLEY: (W) Very protective of Emily and a jerk to anyone who approaches her.

CONFIDENCE: (M) He is always sure of himself and convinced that he is the best. His scenarios with Emily go awry as he continually makes her uncomfortable with his... odd behavior. He enjoys being barefoot.

NERVOUSNESS: (Flexible) Meek and nerdy, Nervousness is TERRIFIED of confrontation and Emily. Nervousness deals more in theories than practical application.

DOUBT: (Flexible) Staring blankly at whoever is talking, Doubt shows little to no emotion and often lurks in the background. Almost every sentence Doubt says is imperative; in other words, nearly everything is delivered like a command, unless Doubt is being doubtful.

SAM: (Flexible) A hippie who ends every line with “friend.” Sam represents Aaron’s “true self,” or rather, his optimal balance of aspects.

Production Notes

In the original production, each time there was a new scenario with either Confidence, Nervousness, or Doubt, Emily and Ashley would have a quick change to match the color each Aspect represented. They also had unique outfits for when they are in the “real world,” that is, whenever they interact directly with Aaron. This is not required, but it does provide a unique way to help make each of the scenarios stand out.

Aspect[s]

- 4 -

Aspect[s]

(AT RISE: LIGHTS UP on some floating lockers. The stage is empty. SFX: A bell rings and AARON, holding books, enters and crosses to the lockers. He begins to put his books away when EMILY and ASHLEY enter from the opposite side of the stage.)

EMILY: Hi, Aaron!

AARON: Uh, what's up— I mean— hey uhh, h-how are you uh, doing? How's uh, your, uh..., uh... *(AARON freezes. Beat. He "checks" his watch.)* Oh, look at the time! I gotta go to my... locker.

(Beat. AARON quickly turns toward the lockers and tries to hide inside of them. EMILY and ASHLEY watch, confused.)

EMILY: Oh, maybe I'll see you later?

ASHLEY: Come on, Emily, let's go.

EMILY: Ashley...

ASHLEY: Let's go, Emily!

(EMILY looks back at AARON as she and ASHLEY exit. Aaron turns away from the lockers.)

AARON: *(To himself.)* Come on! Why am I always so awkward around her?

CONFIDENCE: *(Off.)* Because...

(FX: The LIGHTS strobe and then blackout. A moment later, CONFIDENCE, NERVOUSNESS, and DOUBT have appeared next to AARON.)

CONFIDENCE: You're afraid she'll judge you!

AARON: Who are you?!

NERVOUSNESS: We represent different personality traits.

AARON: What?

NERVOUSNESS: (*Extends hand.*) I'm Nervousness. (*Quickly retracts hand.*) You don't have any diseases, do you?

AARON: I don't think so.

NERVOUSNESS: Ok, good. (*Extends hand once more.*)

CONFIDENCE: I am Confidence. And this (*Gestures to DOUBT.*) is Doubt.

AARON: So, you are like, what, different aspects of my personality?

DOUBT: As far as you know.

CONFIDENCE: Not exactly.

NERVOUSNESS: We are the embodiments of these aspects for everybody, not just you.

DOUBT: You're not special.

AARON: Oh, uh... ok. Are there only three of you?

NERVOUSNESS: Well, there are a few more, but I don't think you want to meet them.

CONFIDENCE: Yeah, we had to tie Hunger up before we came out.

AARON: Hunger?

NERVOUSNESS: Yup.

AARON: Why is "hunger" a personality trait? What are we, cavemen?

CONFIDENCE: Well, most people are pretty simple.

AARON: Huh. (*Beat.*) Well, why couldn't Hunger come? Is he weird or something?

NERVOUSNESS: You could say that...

DOUBT: He licks. A lot.

CONFIDENCE: Yeah, the last time we let him get close to a girl it got... messy.

DOUBT: We had to tranquilize him. Three times.

AARON: Oh...

DOUBT: Yeah.

(*Beat.*)

CONFIDENCE: Anyway, back to the real reason we showed up: Emily.

NERVOUSNESS: Since the third grade you've liked her, yet you've never had the spine to actually make a move.

CONFIDENCE: And we're gonna help you change that for good.

DOUBT: I doubt it; he's still too scared. I can smell it on him. Or can I?

CONFIDENCE: Shut up. Let's do a little exercise.

(SL LIGHTS brighten to reveal EMILY and ASHLEY sitting at a table. CONFIDENCE takes his socks and shoes off.)

AARON: Whoa, whoa, whoa... what's going on?

CONFIDENCE: Don't worry! This is an illusion. That isn't actually Emily, I'm just going to show you how to woo her.

(CONFIDENCE runs his hand across AARON's cheek.)

CONFIDENCE: Watch and learn my sweet, naive Aaron.

AARON: Why did you take your shoes off?

CONFIDENCE: It's how I roll. Dogs out. The way nature intended.

NERVOUSNESS: We've been over this before, Confidence. The correlation between success with and without shoes is essentially meaningless, you—

CONFIDENCE: *(Interrupting.)* But have I not succeeded more without shoes?

NERVOUSNESS: Technically yes, but I think that girl last week had a thing for—

CONFIDENCE: *(Interrupting.)* Doesn't matter! The key is: going in like you already know she wants you.

DOUBT: But does she really?

CONFIDENCE: *(Scoffs.)* Of course she does!

(CONFIDENCE crosses to EMILY and ASHLEY. He pretends to trip and falls in Emily's lap.)

CONFIDENCE: WHOA! Oh, I'm sorry. Clumsy ol' me.

(HE smolders to the audience. EMILY is instantly uncomfortable.)

End of Freeview

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