

#hashtag

by Jonathan Rand

Cast of Characters

(can be cast with between 2 and 25 performers; see Appendix for details)

MOM, 40s-50s

DAD, 40s-50s

JORDAN, 10-13 (non-speaking)

Mom and Dad's friends and family

KEVIN

AVA

GIA

DREW

GREG

BARB

HOPE

KYLE

PATRICIA

CORA

IRIS

JEANNIE

PAM

DORIS

ED

FLO

SEAN

ELSA

TRACY

JOY

FAYE

GRANDMA

Synopsis

#Your #parents #definitely #know #everything #about #social #media. ❤️🍑👤

Production Notes

When much of these topics inevitably become outdated, then the play's a period piece with the following voiceover introduction: "The year was 2020, and *this* was the world as we knew it. Parental discretion advised."

Feel free to be flexible with gender and change character names to best fit the actor's gender.

Acknowledgments

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(Lights up to MOM, DAD, and JORDAN. They're wrapping up some family activity, like dinner or a board game or a movie. Throughout the play, JORDAN calmly absorbs everything without obvious reaction.)

MOM. Honey, your dad and I know you're going through some changes, and we'd like to open up an honest dialogue.

DAD. This should be a safe space to discuss anything.

MOM. Truly anything.

DAD. Because at your age, certain topics can be awkward. But if you're *open* to it, we're ready to have "The Talk."

MOM. So this is hard to explain, but... Well when you *like* someone and want to... *connect*... No.

DAD. When people want to express emotions... How do I put this... We're talking about something called *sssss* — *(To MOM:)* I can't; she's too young.

MOM. *(To DAD:)* It's okay; I've got this. *(To JORDAN:)* It's time you learn about *sssss* — *(To DAD:)* Whoa, yeah that's tough.

DAD. *(To JORDAN:)* Honey, we need to talk about *sssss* —

MOM. Social media!

(A moment to exhale.)

DAD. Okay... Now... let's start with the bad news: social media is confusing and complicated and can't be taken lightly.

MOM. Which means you'll need to learn a lot before we give you this phone —

DAD. *(Fighting tears:)* Her *first* phone...

MOM. —and because "it takes a village to raise a child" we've asked our neighbors to help.

DAD. What Mom's trying to say is: our most tech-savvy friends are waiting in the laundry room to come out for a presentation.

MOM. So, without further ado...

DAD/MOM. *(Poorly/awkwardly overlapped:)* SOCIAL MEDIA!!

MOM. Lesson One: Twinterest!

DAD. No, it's Twinstagrams.

MOM. Ah, I think we're both wrong. It's The Twitinternet.

DAD. *That's it!*

MOM. So this websurfing webpage is *extremely* useful. Just visit the online Twitinternet, which is htp semicolon forward slash backslash twitinternet dot-com. Wait, is it dot-com?

DAD. No, it *sounds* like dot-com? Like dot-Guam, or Scott-Caan...?

MOM. Anyway, you boot it up, and just type *any question* into The Twitinternet.

DAD. So we know your head must be all OMG up in this business, which is why to demonstrate here's Greg and Kevin from our lukewarm yoga class.

MOM. Gentlemen?

(KEVIN and GREG appear.)

KEVIN. Hey Greg, will it rain today?

GREG. Good question, Kev. Let's check The Twitinternet. (*Thumb-typing:*) "Will it rain today?"

KEVIN. Then you tap "Twit."

GREG. (*He does:*) Twit.

KEVIN. Then just wait a few seconds, and The Twitinternet answers!

GREG. Ooh! Here's a Twit from at-sign trollytroll6: "Yes, it'll rain today. Pound-sign googlemuch?"

KEVIN. So now we know that it will rain!

GREG. Hey, *another* answer: "Today's forecast: cloudy with a chance of stupid."

KEVIN. Oh no, that last word wasn't relevant to weather.

GREG. The telephone must be broken.

KEVIN. Maybe blow on it? Or smack it?

(GREG tries that.)

GREG. Oh another Twit! We're back online! This one says, "Make real cash from home by clicking here."

KEVIN. Wait, *real cash*??

GREG. *We* like real cash!!

KEVIN. Click it! Click it!

MOM. Thanks, guys.

(KEVIN and GREG are gone.)

DAD. Next up: hashtags.

MOM. Now you may wonder: Are hashtags related to hash browns?

DAD. And the answer is yes.

MOM. That's right. When hashtags were invented, they were just a potato-based breakfast dish.

DAD. We used to hit the local diner and just devour hash browns, corned beef hash, and plates and plates of hashtags.

MOM. MMM!!

DAD. But *today*, hashtags are more about *expressing* yourself, and how you *interact* with potatoes.

MOM. For example:

DAD. Hashtag nofilter!

MOM. Hashtag nofilter's pretty self-explanatory, as you'll see from our ping pong pals Patricia and Pam.

(PATRICIA and PAM appear.)

PATRICIA. Thoughts on dinner?

PAM. (*Showing a potato:*) No seasoning, no sauce, no cooking – hashtag nofilter.

(PAM takes a loud bite of the raw potato.)

(PATRICIA and PAM are gone.)

DAD. Then there's hashtag tbt.

MOM. So first off, you *only* use this on a *Thursday*.

DAD. That *cannot* be overstated.

MOM. It's *very* important.

DAD. Your mom once used it on a *Wednesday*...

MOM. (*Dead serious:*) You bite your tongue.

DAD. Here's Joy and Sean from Nickel Poker.

(JOY and SEAN appear. SEAN is holding his back in agony.)

SEAN. Ahhhh.

JOY. Sean! What's wrong?

SEAN. I threw out my back lifting this sack of potatoes.

JOY. And on a *Thursday...*

SEAN/JOY. Hashtag Thrown-Back Thursday!

(JOY and SEAN are gone.)

MOM. In summary, Thrown-Back Thursday is when it's Thursday and you throw your back out.

DAD. Last week I pulled my lats lifting a steak fry, but no one knew 'cause it was Monday.

MOM. Now for a hashtag speed round with the ladies from Dr. Seuss Fan Fiction Book Club!

(AVA, BARB, CORA, DORIS, ELSA, FAYE, GIA, HOPE, and IRIS appear.)

DAD. Hashtag speed round, GO!

AVA. Hashtag fomo!

BARB. *(Holding up one potato:)* When you have one potato—

CORA. *(Holding four potatoes next to Barb's one:)* —and then you add fo' mo'.

DORIS. Hashtag yolo!

ELSA. Yolo stands for low-fat yogurt!

FAYE. *(Dipping a tot into some yogurt:)* A refreshing dip for tater tots.

GIA. Hashtag lit!

HOPE. *(Pointing toward an entering IRIS:)* A potato that's literally on fire.

IRIS. *(Horried, holding up a potato that's on fire:)* THIS IS SO LIT!!¹

(AVA, BARB, CORA, DORIS, ELSA, FAYE, GIA, HOPE, and IRIS are gone.)

DAD. Next up— and this one can surprise you, so be ready:

MOM. Instagram.

¹ Ideally this is a potato or something comparable (e.g. a container of McDonald's fries) that's actually ablaze, but if that's unfeasible, get creative in simulating the effect, like maybe a tiny portable fan causing some fire-colored nylon scarves to billow above a large potato. The simplest solution could be for Iris to treat a real potato like a hot potato, but flames or simulated flames would be ideal.

This is just a script sample.
For the full play, visit TRWPlays.com