

**the ace ish:**

**an LGBTQIAce revue**

**A new play**

**By Anna Langman**

**Based on collages and The Ace Ish of the Aesthetic of Discontent Zine by**

**@glam\_grrrl**

**(who is also Anna Langman)**



## CAST:

Gazelle	body showing, face hiding
Legs	they're just here (the legs), in stockings n platform heels
Slip	she's just chillin, i swear
In white	in chains, holding white balloons
Bye	five partially obscured faces
Stone	made of stone, a mind free of flesh
Nature	the one they're all scared of, i.e. the body

They are all parts of the same person.

Maybe BYE is made up of the others, maybe it is a distinct chorus.

## CASTING:

no: cishet dudes

yes: aces and aros

femmes a plus

## COSTUMES:

The color story is rooted in black, gray, white, purple. Can branch out from there.

## PROGRAM NOTE (adapted from zine):

Welcome to the Ace Ish! This is the show where i talk about my experience of being asexual. Mine is obvi not the only experience, but its the one i got, so its the one imma express 2 u. asexuality is an umbrella. Some people r aro(mantic); im not, but thats chill if u r. I am a romantic asexual with sensual (nonsexual physical) attraction n erogenous zone dysphoria. Those r the perspectives i have. There r many more out there.

If i dont mention ur truth its only cuz i dont know how u feel. So imma go ahead n ~speak my truth~ n i hope it helps u feel less alone or more informd.

Luv, ur playwright

SCENE 1.

ALL STAND HUDDLED AND BACK-/SIDE-LIT TOGETHER, CENTER.  
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS FROM EVERYBODY, I.E.

So here's the sitch

NATURE:

I'm literally just here  
Am i?

LEGS:

Yes, I'm literally right here.

BYE:

I didn't ask for this body

STONE:

this body doesn't belong to me.

IN WHITE:

i get crushes but rarely

GAZELLE:

i fall in luv but almost never

SLIP:

N that about sums it up.

BYE:

As for the rest of it

GAZELLE:

Who needs it

STONE:

Please take it

IN WHITE:

IN WHITE & BYE:

Away from me

IN WHITE:

Off of me

LEGS:

Don't put it

LEGS & GAZELLE:

Onto me

SLIP:

I'm literally just

SLIP & BYE:

Here.

NATURE:

Any questions?

SCENE 2.

A BURLESQUE ROUTINE EXCEPT THAT SHE IS ALSO SO, SO TIRED. SHE WEARS BLACK (BUT NOT MUCH OF IT), HER SKIN GLISTENS, THE LIGHTING IS UNCONCERNED WITH HER FACE. PERHAPS SHE WEARS A BIRDCAGE VEIL.

GAZELLE:

SEXY ACE? U dont kno her?

Grrrl. It me.

U ever get designated by the citizens of earth

As a Sex Symbol™

Except sex is the one thing u ain't got?

It'z a trip.

U ever post ur cutest pic of u

N get back, "but u said u were ace"

Like bruh this is just how i look

N those 2 things r not mutually xclusive

N if u like my pic but i wont fuck u

Sounds like a u problem, doesn't it?

Us aces r as hot as anybody,

It's literally fine. I promise.

U ever get

"But ur so sensual"

"But u dance so well"

"But u dress so hot"?

Well fuck em. By which i mean

Dont.

SCENE: S&N 1.

A SCULPTURE GARDEN. NOTHING BUT GREENERY.  
 STONE POSES, A STATUE IN FULL GRAYSCALE BODY PAINT.  
 SHE IS BAREFOOT, AND WEARS DRAPEY, CLINGY GRAY GARMENTS.  
 SHE CAN MOVE, BUT ABOUT AS FAST AS A MOUNTAIN.  
 HER LIPS ARE WEIGHTED DOWN WHILE SHE SPEAKS.  
 SHE BEGINS IN A NEUTRAL STANDING POSITION.

STONE:

I'm not here.  
 I mean I'm not  
 I'm not.  
 I'm not  
 I  
 Didn't ask to be  
 Here.  
 I didn't ask to be here.

*SHE ROTATES ONE FOOT AN INCH OR TWO.*

There is nothing redeemable about a body.  
 There is everything to  
 There is every reason to be killed by  
 There is every reason to suffer by a body  
 I'm not afraid of being killed  
 I'm afraid of suffering  
 And I do.  
 Suffer.

*SHE CLENCHES THE FINGERS OF ONE HAND AND THEN PARTIALLY  
 UNCLENCHES THEM.*

I cannot say  
 I cannot  
 I  
 Do not  
 I do not want to  
 Not want to say  
 I cannot tell you

I could  
Except  
I cannot.  
I cannot tell you

*SHE BEGINS ROTATING AND TILTING HER NECK AS SHE SPEAKS.*

I  
Fine.  
Fine.  
Bodies are  
Fake  
Disgusting  
Decaying  
Sick  
Painful  
Brittle  
Fragile  
Flesh  
Flesh is an insult  
They are flesh  
They are  
Uncalled for  
Unsustainable  
Unmaintainable  
Ugly  
Cruel  
Cruel  
Cruel  
Cru  
They are  
They are cruel  
And I'll  
Have no part in it.

*HER NECK STILLS, GAZING UPWARD TO HER DIAGONAL LEFT.  
THIS POSITION DOES NOT ALLOW HER TO ACKNOWLEDGE WHEN  
NATURE ENTERS.  
NATURE IS A HUMAN.*

Think  
 Just think  
 Without flesh  
 With  
 Consciousness without  
 Flesh  
 There could be no  
 No  
 Bad.  
 There could be no bad  
 There could be  
 Immortality  
 But the kind worth living  
 There could be  
 Brilliance  
 Sight  
 Sight of everything  
 Of everything  
 Travel  
 Speed is no object  
 Nothing is  
 We could see the universe  
 We could communicate  
 Fully  
 Silently  
 Musically  
 Fully  
 We could

NATURE:

We could not / dance

STONE:

Dance  
 Without limits

NATURE & STONE:

Without bodies



NATURE:

We could not dance

STONE:

We could dance without constrictions

Without sinews

Without exhaustion

We could whirl through space

Through nebulas

Through diamond night

With our consciousness

With our sight

And never

Never

End.

NATURE:

I thought you were not afraid of ending.

*STONE TURNS TOWARD NATURE, ADJUSTING HER FULL BODY. IT TAKES YEARS.*

STONE:

Aren't you?

SCENE 3.

LEGS SITS PERCHED ON A TALL STOOL, AS IF AT A POETRY READING, THE STOCKINGED LEGS VISIBLE IN THE LIGHT, THE REST OF THE BODY RECEDING INTO SHADOW. A MIC STAND?

LEGS:

Illumin'd do I glow to gaze upon you,  
Soaring content I sigh t'approach your form;  
With masterstroke has earthly nature drawn you,  
And drawing near such art, my heart flames warm.  
I long to feel your locks beneath my fingers,  
Forever yearn for presence at your side;  
This wanting of mine, years on years it lingers,  
And yet no further want is here implied.  
I never need be closer than caressing,  
No greater purpose for me lies beyond;  
Merely to have you with me is a blessing,  
Fonder I could not be, and I am fond.  
Mistake not my desire for baser lust.  
My loving stands alone. That you may trust.

SCENE 4.

EACH FACE IS HALF IN SHADOW. THEY CAN SPEAK TOGETHER OR TRADE OFF.

A GROUP SLAM POETRY PIECE AT THE OPEN MIC.

BYE:

Whut i want u 2 kno is...  
i dont feel like a human  
which used 2 b rlly alarming  
but then i found out aces r real  
n now its, like, mildly alarming  
im told i m both human n real  
im not convincd  
but im lucky  
cuz, sexual frustration? i dunno her  
plus if i like u  
u kno its cuz i actually like u  
n u can trust me  
ill luv u if ur worth it  
n im worth it  
so u just gotta luv me  
n dats da t.

SCENE: S&N 2.

THE SCULPTURE GARDEN. STONE AND NATURE, AS BEFORE.

NATURE:

No.

STONE:

Liar.

NATURE:

NATURE:

I am everything.

STONE:

You are

Yes.

*(STONE BEGINS ROILING FROM THE INSIDE OUT.)*

You are everything

You are guts

You are

Decay

You are filth

You are dirt

You are

NATURE:

I am soil.

STONE:

You are soiled

You are spoiled

You are rotten

You are

Base.

NATURE:

Why base?

STONE:

Don't be clever with me you are  
 You are the  
 You are base  
 You are basic  
 You are the basis  
 Of life  
 Of

NATURE:

Thank you.

STONE:

No  
 You are  
 Animal  
 You are animal you are

NATURE:

And you are?

*STONE COMES TO A STANDSTILL.*

STONE:

I AM CRYSTAL  
 I AM BEAUTY  
 I AM BRILLIANCE  
 BRILLIANCE  
 BRILLIANT  
 I AM MIND  
 I AM MINE  
 I AM  
 STRONG  
 I AM MORE  
 I AM MORE THAN DIRT  
 I AM MORE THAN GUTS  
 I AM MORE THAN ANIMAL  
 I AM MORE THAN YOU

I AM MORE THAN  
I AM  
I AM MORE.

*NATURE GLANCES DOWN AND WATCHES STONE'S ANKLE PATIENTLY. STONE  
LOOKS DOWN AT HER ANKLE TOO.  
THERE IS A CRACK SHOWING.*

SCENE: THE RAVE.

A RAVE.

BRIGHTLY COLORED PULSING LIGHTS ILLUMINATE THE FIGURES IN THE VOID.

EVERYBODY IS HERE.

THEY ARE WEARING WHAT THEY WEAR, WITH THE ADDITION OF PLATFORM BOOTS FOR EVERYBODY. THINK DEMONIA. THINK YRU. MUSIC.

THEY ARE:

GAZELLE: DANCING SUPER HOT

LEGS: LOUNGING, SUBTLY LIQUID, LANGUID IN THE SHADOWS

SLIP: DANCING SUPER FUN, SUPER WEIRD, PROB VAPING

IN WHITE: DANCING WITH HER BODY, HER FEET ARE WEIGHED DOWN

STONE: UNDULATING SLOWLY

NATURE: TRYING TO DANCE WITH OTHERS

BYE (IF SEPARATE ACTORS): FEELIN DA MUSIC, FILLING IN THE SPACES BETWEEN THE OTHERS, COMING TOGETHER AND BREAKING APART ANYWAY.

IS IT HAZE OR SMOKE?

LIKE IS IT HAZE OR IS IT PURPLE HAZE

NOTE 4 DIRECTORS WHO KNO MORE ABT DRUGS THAN I DO:

WHAT ARE THEY EACH ON?

MUSIC LOWERS SO WE CAN HEAR WHEN THEY TALK.

GAZELLE:

I was born for this.

SLIP:

I would die for this.

STONE:

This isn't

This isn't base

It's art

It's art

From

From the base

It's art

It's fun

It's fun.

BYE:

This is fun.

NATURE:

Dancing is instinct.

IN WHITE:

Dancing is hard.

I like it

But

GAZELLE:

Dancing is the easiest thing in the world.

LEGS:

I'm in my element.

We all are.

IN WHITE:

I think I would belong here

LEGS:

I hope we're all in our element.

I am.

NATURE:

Music is a heartbeat.

LEGS:

Music is water

And we're sharks, bb

We're jellyfish

The rhythm is waves

And we're

Bluebottles

Sails up, bitches

Can't mess with us



Can't mess us up

SLIP:

Lol im so messed up

LEGS:

I'll mess u up

STONE:

Nobody can mess me up

I'm

I'm un

I'm untouchable

LEGS:

I'm untouchable

GAZELLE:

I'm untouchable

SLIP:

I'm untouchable

BYE:

I'm untouchable

IN WHITE:

I'm untouchable.

BYE:

Nobody can touch me.

LEGS:

The music is the tide and i'm

IN WHITE:

I can't touch me

LEGS:

I'm the eel  
 No, I'm the moon  
 No, I'm on the moon

~

Can I join u  
 SLIP:

Ofc bb  
 LEGS:

On the moon?  
 SLIP:

Ofc bbdoll  
 LEGS:

Can we go? Lets go  
 SLIP:

Wanna kno a secret?  
 LEGS:

*SLIP NODS AND LEANS IN.*

We're already here.  
 LEGS:

*THIS IS THE BEST NEWS IN THE UNIVERSE. LEGS AND SLIP VIBE TOGETHER, LOOKING AT THE PLANETS AND THE STARS.*

~

*IN WHITE WATCHES GAZELLE. GAZELLE MOVES TOWARD IN WHITE, WHOSE FEET CANNOT MOVE.*

I wanna talk to u  
 IN WHITE:

Aint nuthin 2 talk abt babe

GAZELLE:

Yes there is tho

IN WHITE:

I don't talk when there's music  
I dance when there's music  
And if there's words I sing  
Aint nuthin 'talkin' about it

GAZELLE:

I wanna b u

IN WHITE:

.

I'm not special babe

GAZELLE:

But like  
Wull  
Ur like

IN WHITE:

We're no different, u n i.

GAZELLE:

But yes we so obviously are

IN WHITE:

Everybodys different but  
Everybody here? We're the same  
We're in this to vibe  
Nuthin else babe  
Nuthin else

GAZELLE:

N ur doin it just fine.

~

*STONE IS IN IT. NATURE IS KINDA IN IT BUT KINDA IN WATCHING EVERYBODY ELSE.*

STONE:

How'd u get in

NATURE:

I don't have to get in i am in

STONE:

Dafuq does that mean

NATURE:

I'm everything, sugar, i'm

STONE:

Who dafuq

NATURE:

I'm everywhere

STONE:

Who da

Who dafuq

Who the fuck do you think

You are?

NATURE:

I thought you thought I was nobody

STONE:

I wish

I wish everybody

Was nobody

No body

No

*STONE IS SOMEWHERE ELSE. NATURE IS RIGHT HERE.*

~

BYE:

The thing abt the rave  
 Is  
 Its primal  
 In da real innocent way  
 We all got a place here  
 We all got a vibe here  
 Doesnt take effort  
 Dont haf 2 try  
 Well  
 Not here we dont  
 Not with us  
 We get it  
 No goals  
 No xxxpectations  
 We're here 2  
 We're here 4  
 Our  
 We just  
 We like it here  
 It's fun  
 It feels

It feels

NATURE:

It feels good, doesn't it?

SCENE 5.

IN WHITE ENTERS FROM UPSTAGE CORNER AND KNEELS CENTER IN A POOL OF LIGHT AND A THIN WHITE NIGHT GOWN. HEAVY CHAINS ENCIRCLE EACH ANKLE AND DRAG ON THE FLOOR. WHITE BALLOONS TRAIL FROM RIBBONS TIED TO HER WRIST.

IN WHITE:

R u there? It me, ur grrrl  
 Im just writing bcuz  
 I got this... these...  
 My body can do shit i'll never need  
 N i dont want it 2 b able 2,  
 So can u just  
 Remove  
 Some of the partz?  
 Just like  
 Take em out n smooth it over  
 N itll b like they were never there  
 Plz?  
 Just a quick procedure  
 Just tuck the nips  
 N make me look like 1 o them angels  
 That look like ken dolls  
 N ill be good 2 go.  
 If u wouldn't mind.  
 Itll only take a sec.  
 I promise.  
 Plz.  
 Plz?

SCENE 6.

SLIP LOUNGES ON A CHAISE OR BED OR SOMETHING, IN A BIG HOODIE OVER A SATIN, LACE-TRIM SLIP, LUXURIATING AND INVITING. SHE HAS TOO MANY EYES, AND THEY ARE AN UNNATURAL COLOR. I BET 50 BUCKS SHE HAS SPACE BUNS. BEHIND HER ARE WINDOWS FULL OF OUTER SPACE.

SLIP:

lets all move 2 planet acez  
 Where we get 2 keep our pretty facez  
 N nobody comes after us 4 them  
 Cuz theyre ourz.  
 Lets move away 2 planet ace  
 N nevermore b starvd 4 space  
 N lets unzip our slippery skin  
 Cuz bb, now it's space we're in.  
 So when u move 2 planet ace  
 Ur cute n ur free in da same place  
 n u can live invisibly  
 But only when u wanna b.  
 N nobody carez if ur human or not  
 Cuz whichever it is, that's the one we all got  
 so come on, move 2 planet acez  
 Where its never carnal, always embracez.

SCENE: S&N 3.

STONE AND NATURE, AS BEFORE.

Crack. NATURE:

I hate you. STONE:

Many people love me. NATURE:

I hate them too  
I hate STONE:

Why? NATURE:  
I'm so beautiful.

I am more  
I am better  
I  
I don't rot.  
I don't rot  
And so I am better  
I don't pine  
And so I am better  
I don't  
I'm not  
I am not  
Bound to my nature  
I am not bound STONE:

You are the least free person I know. NATURE:

STONE:



You are not a person you are a piece of shit  
 And tomorrow you will be gone  
 And nobody will miss you  
 And tomorrow I will be here  
 And

NATURE:

And with what pleasures will you occupy all this time?

STONE:

See that's  
 That's the issue  
 That's the problem  
 That's the rub  
 That's  
 You  
 You are no better than rats  
 Than bacteria  
 You  
 You and your pleasures

NATURE:

No.

STONE:

You and your disgusting  
 Dis-gusting  
 Involuntary  
 You are a slave to your  
 Bodies  
 Your bodies

NATURE:

You have one too.

STONE:

But I  
 I know enough  
 To hate it.

See how much I hate it  
 See how I know how much better than rot I am  
 I

NATURE:

Will rot too.

STONE:

I will

NATURE:

Rot.

STONE:

I

NATURE:

You  
 Are as trapped as the rest of us.

You cannot turn your back on your own body

STONE:

I can

NATURE:

Oh?

STONE:

I have

NATURE:

You haven't

STONE:

How would you know

NATURE:

You're still facing me.

STONE:

Leave

STONE:

Leave

STONE:

Please

*STONE IS WEeping.*

STONE:

Please

Please leave

Leave

Please

Please

Please

Please

Please

*NOW IT IS NATURE WHO IS STILL.*

*NATURE FACES AWAY FROM US, WATCHING STONE.*

*STONE CONTINUES HER REFRAIN OF PLEASE AS SHE TURNS, SLOWER THAN THE EARTH, TO FACE UPSTAGE.*

*AS HER BACK COMES INTO VIEW*

*AS HER GARMENTS SLIP DOWN*

*SLIP OFF*

*WE SEE*

*CRACKS*

*SHATTERING OUTWARD*

*FROM A FRACTURED CRATER*

*FULL OF IVY*

*FULL OF FLOWERS*

*CREEPING OUTWARD*

*FROM HER CORE.*

SCENE 7.

NATURE:

I am

GAZELLE &amp; SLIP:

Past Perfect

STONE:

The world's  
Most spectacular

IN WHITE:

pure fresh beauty just who i am

LEGS:

Stunning expressive talent available whenever

BYE:

brilliant! Precious real

NATURE:

And I'm happy to be

IN WHITE:

Ace

GAZELLE:

ace

LEGS:

asexual.

BYE:

True.

LEGS:

Tempting to veer back into the shadows;

Reimagining and decided

GAZELLE:

I didn't want to care.

LEGS & GAZELLE:

This woman is ultrafeminine

NATURE:

But powerful.

STONE:

No

SLIP:

No

LEGS:

No

IN WHITE:

give.

STONE:

Zero irritation love

BYE:

And be

NATURE:

Loved,

NATURE & BYE:

for a long time.

NATURE:

end of play

