

WHAT NOW (a recitative) sung by the **PRODUCERS** (**PROD 1**, **PROD 2**) **ARTIST FENCE ALL**

The jig is up. The ARTIST's ruse to pass the (white) FENCE off as a creative partner in order to get his controversial work produced has imploded. But it's so important and so good! The older generation, sibling PRODUCERS have a decision to make. Now what...?

YOU LIED

NOT EXACTLY LIED

OH COME ON, WE TRIED

YOU'RE ON MY SIDE / HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE RIDE

YOUR PARTY JUST DIED

I'M DONE

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE

YOU CAUGHT US, YOU WON

BUT-- THERE'S NO BUT

THERE IS ONE. WHAT?

LOOK AT WHAT WE'VE BEGUN

(sung) **WHAT NOW? NOW WHAT?**

YOU'RE JUST TWO FRAUDS--

WHO WERE THE BROADS?

WHO'LL TAKE OUR MONEY AND RUN

THIS PLAN WAS-- FLAWED

BUT YOU'D BE AWED

IF YOU COULD SEE WHAT WE'VE DONE

THEY'LL ALL APPLAUD

HE'S RIGHT, I SAWED

HE SAW

WITH HIS LAMEN MIND

HELPED SHAPE IN KIND

THE WORK I MINED

HE GOT ON BOARD AND COSIGNED

AND YOU WON'T WIND UP WITH A FIND

DESIGNED TO RELENS THE BLIND

THE WAY THIS WILL IF YOU LET // ME (LET // YOU?)

// YOU JUST WHINE AND MALIGN

A BIT MUCH

WE'RE OUT OF TOUCH

SAY WHAT?

THAT'S MY AX TO GRIND

WITH WHO

WITH YOU

OH SHIT WHO KNEW

WHAT IS THIS, A COUP?

(sung) **WHAT NOW? NOW WHAT?**

WE IN CAHOOTS?

US WITH THE-- SUITS?

NO THIS IS LONG OVERDUE

PLEASE EXCUSE US WHILE WE TALK BEFORE WE FINISH WITH YOU

PRODUCER 1 I've said what I need to say.

PRODUCER 2 Without considering me.

PRODUCER 1 What's there to consider?

ARTIST We're just gonna...

FENCE What?

ARTIST We'll be right outside.

FENCE This is finally getting good!

ARTIST Just go.

Music stops as they walk out...

FENCE Any chance you can still make good on the rest of that commisar? No? I'll be out here if you change your mind.

Music resumes, less relenting than before, as the PRODUCERS size one another up.

A vamp gives way to an obvious intro but neither brother dares speak first.

The intro plays a few more times until...

THIS GUY (WHAT NOW) a lament PRODUCER 1 & PRODUCER 2

V1: YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THIS GUY
A LITTLE BETTER THAN THE REST
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THIS GUY
FOR REASONS I CAN'T JUSTIFY
TO BLOW HIS HORN AND BEAT HIS CHEST
AND HAVE THINGS DONE AT HIS BEHEST
I DON'T KNOW WHY
BUT YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THIS GUY

V2: YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THIS KID
BEGGED TO BE CODDLED AND CARESSED
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THIS KID
WHO DID WHAT DAD ALWAYS FORBID
INSTEAD YOU MADE YOURSELF A PEST
CRAVING ATTENTION I DETEST
SHOULDA KNOWN YOU'D MAKE THIS BID
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THIS KID

BR: I'M A GROWN MAN NOW AND YOU CAN'T OVERTALK ME
LIKE YOU DID WITH PA WHEN WE WERE LADS
STOP YOUR WHINING NOW //
// I'M TALKING
YOU SOUND LIKE ALL THOSE DARKIES //
// DON'T INTERRUPT ME
WHO CAN'T RECOGNIZE A GOOD THING
AND COMPLAIN AS THOUGH IT'S BAD

V3: YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A JERK
YOU'RE RIDICULOUS AND NEEDY
NEVER LOOKING OUT FOR ME
AND PA THOUGHT SO TOO
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A JERK
SINCE THE DAY WE WENT TO WORK
JUGGLING IN BLACKFACE FOR A FEE
WHICH WE DID BECAUSE OF YOU
WHAT DID IT HAVE TO DO WITH ME
DON'T TAKE A BITE THAT YOU CAN'T CHEW

They take one another in.

BR: WE COULD HAVE DONE SOME HANDIWORK
SHINED SOME SHOES, LEARNED TO CLERK
I MEANT WORKING AT ALL, IT WAS ALL YOUR FAULT
WE WERE KIDS ON THE ROAD NOT BY CHOICE, BY DEFAULT
CUZ YOUR BIRTH KILLED OUR MOTHER AND OUR WHOLE GESTALT

Music stops.

WHAT NOW? NOW WHAT?