

Technically Love;
An Exploration of Love, Technology, and
Same-Sex Marriage.

By Nathan Eckstein
A Play in One Act.

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Technically Love
A one-act play by Nathan Eckstein
Lawrence University Department of Theatre Arts.

~For my Dad, the best theater going companion a son could ask for ~

Technically Love premiered on August 16th 2013
at Penumbra Theatre Company in St Paul Minnesota it was then granted a reading of
version seven at Lawrence University in Appleton Wisconsin on February 1st 2014. That
performance was recorded live as an Audio Drama.

Characters

Max - A 30-year-old headstrong gay man. Engaged to Danny.
Danny - A 30-year-old bisexual man who loves Max but is quietly passionate.
Amanda – Danny’s best friend. A little clueless, but always means right.
Ethan – Max’s best friend from college.
Alice – A reporter for the Star Tribune newspaper.
Mom – Max’s Mother

Time: September 2012 – August 2013

Place: The living room of Max and Danny’s home in St Paul, Minnesota.

The original Creative Team was comprised of:

Nathan Eckstein – Creative Producer, Playwright and Video Director.
Lou Bellamy – Stage Director
Stage Manager – McKenzie Merges
Technical Director – Allen Weeks
Script Manager & Supervisor – Lena Zinkl
Script Consultants – Carra Martinez & Timothy X. Troy
Design Coordinator – Nathan Tylutki
Lighting – Kathy Maxwell
Sound – Katharine Horowitz
Costume – Nathan Eckstein
Scenery – Penumbra Scene Shop
Props – Nathan Eckstein
Projection – Kathy Maxwell
Jr. Production Assistant – Micah Vernado
Actors – Nathan Gebhard, Bryan Porter, Lena Zinkl,
BriAnna McCurry & Natalia Gaston.

Audio Drama cast: Nathan Gebhard, Daniel Vinitzky, Jazmin Astwood- Padilla, Kip Hathaway, Samantha Fienberg, Claire Conard & Sarah Axtell. Sound design and recording by Steven Alexander.

Scene 1: Max and Danny Vlog. (VIDEO)

Scene one is the final product of Vlog One. It is presented as a video projected onto a surface on stage. In the video, Max and Danny are dressed in plaid button up shirts. Max wears a cardigan over his. They are seated on the couch in their living room.

Max

Hey, I'm Max.

Danny

And I'm Danny.

Max & Danny

And we're getting married!

Max

To each other...we're gay...obviously.

Danny

Welcome to our YouTube Channel.

Max

Last August I proposed to Danny, and he said...

Danny

Yes!

Max

Thank god, that really would have put a wrench in things if he hadn't. Now that we're getting married there is a ton of stuff to do, just like for any wedding.

Danny

In case you couldn't tell, we are two dudes,

Max

So unlike other weddings, there are a lot of questions people have for us. Like, who's last name are you picking? Who walks down the aisle? Are you allowed to get married in a church?

Danny

So, over the next year we will be making videos for you, yea you. Answering your questions about what it means for us to get married in 2013!

Max

So sit back, and get ready for the craziest year of our lives.

Danny

Please like our video and subscribe to our channel so you can keep up to date on all things us.

Max

Bye!

Danny

Bye!

The video screen goes dark and the lights come up on stage

The video screen goes dark and the lights come up on scene 2.

Scene 2: The Conversation.

Lights up on Max and Danny's living room. Down stage right is a sitting chair. Down stage center is a couch with a long and low wooden coffee table with books, coasters and other decorative objects on it sitting directly in front of it. The furniture should be of the same collection or match. Up stage left is a vintage coat rack with fall jackets and scarf's on it. MAX, wearing a hoodie sweatshirt and jeans is pacing in the living room. He is on speakerphone with his MOM.

Max

Mom, please try to understand...

Mom

Max, I just don't ... you and Danny are getting married?

Max

Yes Mom, married.

Mom

Maxwell, you can't get married just because you and Danny live together. You need to be in love.

Max

Mom, we do love each other, and we are getting married.

Mom

Everyone falls in love Max. I guess what you and Danny have is technically love. But that doesn't mean you have to say it.

Max

We are saying it. In fact we are saying it on YouTube.

Mom

Max, so you're going to put this on the Internet where anyone can find it? That is a bad idea, even worse than the whole wedding idea.

Max

MOM! THE WEDDING IS HAPPENING!

Mom

Maxwell, don't shout. What if someone harasses you?

Max

Like you're doing right now!? *Beat* I'm sorry, we just want to show that just because we are having a same sex wedding, it still just like any other wedding. AND we want to answer all the questions people have.

Mom

Max, the only question I have for you is this; what did we as parents do wrong? Your father, god rest his soul, and I showed you, and your sister Jenny, a beautiful example of two people who love each other, and their family, very much. How is it that you, who are so fortunate and privileged in so many ways turn around and end up planning a wedding with a man? I love you but I just don't understand. Is it even legal Max?

Max

Mom, you and Dad raised me to love. You just never told me I had to love a woman. Bye Mom.

MAX hangs up the phone and walks off stage.

Scene 3: The First Vlog

Lights up on DANNY and MAX, dressed in plaid button up shirts and jeans. They are sitting leg over leg on the couch in front of a camera down stage center on a tripod that has been added to the living room. The camera is linked to a laptop sitting on the coffee table, which is now more organized.

Max

How do we turn this thing on?

Danny

I already did, babe.

Max

Is it recording?

Danny

Hehe yea...

Max

I'm not ready! Is my hair in place?

Danny

It's on your head if that's what you wanna know.

Max

No. I mean does it look good?

Danny

Yea,

Max

Ok, so our shirts... is it offensive that we're both wearing plaid?

Danny

No.

Max

I know I know. But do we look too farmer chic? We live in St Paul, it's a city!...Kinda.

Danny

We look fine; let's get started before I change my mind.

Max

Nooo! Don't change your mind; your mom said just last week this was a good idea!

Danny

Only kinda.

Max

What do you mean?

Danny

Well... she's worried. She thinks that if we put ourselves out there and in such a well... "controversial" way that it might lead to problems.

Max

Problems? More problems than we have with my family?

Danny

Different. She is worried that we are going to be stalked and...

Max

Gay bashed?

Danny

It happens Max. There are a lot of people who are very anti gay.

Max

I know hun, but if we want to change the minds of those people we have to tell OUR story and this is how I know to tell it. I am going to get a cardigan to throw over this plaid.

Max runs off

Danny

Looking at the camera

Hi, I'm Danny. No. Hello, I'm Danny. Nah. Heya I'm Danny!

Max

Returning with a cardigan What are you doing?

Danny

Practicing, even though I don't know if this is good idea.

Max

This is a good idea...lets just start the thing, and please, remember what we agreed to say.

Danny

Ok....

MAX and DANNY turn towards the camera and lean in.

Max

Hey I'm Max.

Danny

And I'm Danny. And we're getting married!

Max

No, we say the "getting married" part together

Danny

Oh, sorry. Ok here we go. 3-2-1

Max & Danny

And we're getting married!

Blackout.

Scene 4: Amanda means well

Lights up on Danny, Amanda and Max all sitting in the living room. They all have on lounge clothes and are clearly in the middle of a conversation.

Amanda

So wait, let me get this straight, you aren't actually gay?

Danny

Yes...and no.

Amanda

Which one is it?

Danny

Labels really should be restricted to clothes and food products. Why does it matter how people label themselves or if they label themselves at all?

Max

Here we go...

Danny

Today I woke up next to my fiancé, he happens to be a guy. I'm with Max because he is an amazing person and I love him. It also helps he is super hot.

Max

Thanks babe.

Amanda

So you are gay.

Danny

Bi

Amanda

You can't just kick me out!

Max

No hun, Bi, as in Bisexual. Danny. Is. Bisexual.

Amanda

Oh. Doesn't that bother you?

Danny

Whoa! I'm right here, and no it doesn't bother him.

Amanda

Well maybe you should let your fiancé decide for himself Mr. flip flop.

Danny

Ok, Amanda. Lets get one thing clear, this is my house and my life, don't go messing with it! You know Max and I have been together for four years and this has never been an issue so don't make it one. I'm going to get more tea.

Danny storms out leaving Max and a shocked Amanda on the couch.

Amanda

Wow. That escalated quickly.

Max

Ah. Yep. It really did.

Amanda

I can tell... I just never knew and I guess I just got curious.

Max

I can't blame you...he's complicated. Took me a long time to figure out for myself.

Amanda

You don't have to explain your life. I remember how hard this was for you in the beginning I don't want to...

Max

No, It's fine, I owe it to you as my best friend.

Amanda

You don't owe me anything.

Max

Yes I do. Try and follow. Danny is technically bisexual. He had girlfriends in high school and most of the way through college. He came out senior year and only to a select group of people. He prefers to be, sexually ambiguous because it saves him a lot of uncomfortable interactions. He has never had to be unapologetically him because everyone has taken the Danny they meet at face value and he gets to choose what that is.

When we met, before we even started putting a label on “us” he was upfront about his past and how he defines himself.

Amanda

Why does he do it? Why is he so ambiguous.

Max

Protection, from all those people who could harass him. That’s why I think he is so hesitant about the videos. Danny is fiercely private and well I’m changing that.
The whistle of tea kettle is heard and Danny promptly returns. As he does Amanda stands up.

Amanda

Well guys, the day calls and I must be on my way. See you soon?

Danny

Going so quickly?

Max

Brunch on Sunday?

Amanda

Always boo boo.
Amanda hugs Max and leaves without another word.

Danny

That was not how I expected today to go.

Max

Amanda means well, she just doesn’t have the best filter.

Danny

No. I forget how off putting my anti label life can be. You aren’t mad are you? I did just kinda run your best friend out the door.

Max

It is what it is.

Danny

I’ll have to take her out to coffee so she doesn’t think I hate her now.

Max

It’s Amanda, even if you did hate her she wouldn’t notice.

Danny

Haha very true...so on to more wedding planning?

Max

Lets play how many color pallet combinations we can come up with!

Danny

I'll let you play that game. I'm going to play how many types of beer can we fit in one mini bar.

Blackout

Scene 5: Vlog 15 (VIDEO)

Like in scene one this scene exists only on video being projected. The stage is dark except for the image being projected. In the vlog Max and Danny are again sitting in the living room dressed in polo shirts.

Max

Hey, I'm Max.

Danny

And I'm Danny.

Max & Danny

And we're getting married!

Danny

Welcome to our YouTube Channel.

Max

Hey everyone! I can't believe this is already our 15th vlog!

Danny

Today we just have a super quick video we have been meaning to make for a while now. We know that our videos get their fair share of likes and comments but we also get some dislikes and some comments that are, less than pleasant.

Max

We usually only give shout outs to our fans and not our critics but all that changes today! Critics it's your day in the spotlight so enjoy it! Here we go;
Bible Belt Becca commented: "I don't believe marriage is meant for two men or two women, it's unnatural, it's not what my God says is right, so why in the world would I care what two gay, liberals think? As Jesus said on the way to his crucifixion, weep not for me but for yourselves and your children."

Danny

Minnesota loves Michelle echoed Becca and wrote: “If I write from a point of view that marriage should be between a man and a woman because of my beliefs, then I am referred to as ignorant and unloving. Therefore I write as a person of logic. Max and Danny marriage should be between a woman and a man. GET IT STRAIGHT!”

Max

To you, Becca, and you, lover of Michelle, we just want to let you know...

Danny

...moving on, we also have a wedding update! We made a big decision!

Max

We aren't using a wedding planner! We're gonna do it ourselves!

Danny

We may reconsider or regret this...but oh well.

Max

Well, that's all for today!

Danny

As usual, comment, like and subscribe! Bye!

Video goes black.

Scene 6. Ethan's Surprise.

Light up on Max and Danny's living room. On coat rack there is a briefcase tote bag and two sports coats. At lights up no one is on stage. The doorbell rings and DANNY quickly runs onstage right and crosses left. He is in a t-shirt and jeans.

Danny

I'll get it! Just keep editing the video Max!

Danny answers the door.

Danny

Hey man!

Ethan

Ethan enters wearing Sweatshirt and basketball shorts with a backwards baseball hat.
What up? Sweet pad.

Danny

Thanks.

Ethan

When was the last time we chilled?

Danny

I think it was the last time you were home.

Ethan

Dang. That was like what 3 years ago.

Danny

Something like that.

Ethan

So what's up? Everything cool with that wedding of yours?

Danny

With slight hesitation Yea....

Ethan

What? What happened?

Danny

It's not to who you think.

Ethan

How so? We've been fiends forever. Granted, we don't talk as much as we should.

Danny

True. Sit down dude, you wanna beer?

Ethan

Sure, just not a crappy Miller other than that I'll drink whatever.

Danny Exits stage right and Ethan looks around the room, puzzled by what he sees.

Danny return with two bottles of beer and hands one to Ethan and takes a rather large gulp of his own.

Danny

So there is something I haven't really told you about.

Ethan

Yea?

Danny

Do what you want with this information, is up to you, but just be chill about it. Deal?

Ethan

Ok... Deal, but you're kinda freaking me out man. The weddings still on right?

Danny

Oh Yea.

Ethan

Sooo what's up? Who's the lucky lady?

Danny

Max. His name is Max.

Ethan.

Woah, Ok.

Danny

Yep.

Ethan.

Taking a gratuitous swig of beer So you are telling me you're gay and this huge wedding announcement that you have been awkwardly secret about is to another dude?

Danny

Yea... except the gay thing. I'm technically bisexual. You know, I dig both dudes and chicks.

Ethan.

So you still dig chicks?

Danny

No. I dig Max.

Ethan

Oh, I see

Danny

So you're ok with this?

Ethan.

Danny, we've been friends forever... *(Hesitantly)* I'm cool, with it.

Danny

Thanks E. So now I can ask you the question I wanted to ask you in the first place. Will you be my best man?

Ethan

Yea of course I will.

Danny.

It's gunna be a blast.

Ethan.

So, why did you not tell me you were gay? Is it because you've had a lifelong crush on me?

Danny

No! Shut up. You wish. *Beat* Honestly though I thought you might give up on me if I did.

Ethan.

Give up on you? No. Who else knows? Does my mom know?

Danny

Yea...and your sister. and pretty much everyone else.

Ethan

Really? They all kept the secret?

Danny

Yup.

Ethan

It is you... so I guess they would.

Danny

I'm just glad you are cool with it.

Ethan

(quickly) SO, where's Max?

Danny

In the back office.

Ethan.

I knew something was up when I walked in here. You may be gay, but I know you didn't decorate this place.

Danny

Touché.

Danny exits stage left while Ethan sits in the chair. Ethan again looks around the room, clearly a little uneasy.

Max

(Entering wearing a T- shirt and jeans with Danny) Babe, the video is almost done processing. (Notices Ethan) Oh!

Danny

Ethan this is Max, Max, Ethan.

Ethan

Whatup? Nice to meet you! *(Ethan goes in for the bro handshake hug which Max epically fails at)*

Max

Hey! *(Awkwardly.)* Ah, Errr, oh, *(lowering his voice)* Hey...man!

Ethan

Haha. So, has Danny been a good...boyfriend?

Danny

I just told him.... welcome to bro-shock.

Max

(regaining his proper tone) Ah.

Danny

So Ethan has agreed to be my best man.

Max

Oh Cool! It's gunna be super fun! My friend Amanda is my "best woman."

Ethan.

Nice. It's my first gay wedding so If the rumors are true you two should throw a kick-ass party right?

Max

Theoretically. But who knows.

Ethan

So what's the video that's processing?

Danny

(quickly) Oh some YouTube thing we do.

Max

We have a YouTube channel where we post videos about our wedding planning process to. Its quite “cool man.”

Danny

Yea... so... Ethan wanna go to the bar?

Ethan

Sure. Max wanna come?

Max.

...maybe not.

Ethan.

Come on Max. Danny is like my best bro and I wanna get to know the dude he is going to... marry. It will be fun.

Danny

Ethan has a point.

Max

Ok...well, just let me just change and I'll be ready to go.

Ethan

Change?

Max

Yea, these jeans are weird, and I don't like this shirt.

Ethan.

Dude, you look better than I do when I try.

Danny

You look great hun. *(Grabbing Max's hand and leading the way)*

Ethan

(looking at their hands uncomfortably) Yea...Let's Go!

All exit stage right.

Blackout.

Scene 7. A Surprise. (VIDEO)

This scene exists only on video being projected on stage.

Max

Hey, I'm Max.

Danny

And I'm Danny.

Max & Danny

And we're getting married!

Danny

Welcome to our YouTube Channel.

Max

Hey everyone! We're here today for a quick video update on the wedding and a surprise!

Danny

So since we were getting behind on the wedding planning, Amanda got us THIS.
(holding up a huge wedding binder)

Max

It's our wedding binder that is supposed to keep us on track.

Danny

(Flipping through the binder.) Florist, done. Venue, done, Guest list...ahhh.
Catering...oohhh.

Max

Clearly... we need this binder. Thanks Amanda.

Danny

But enough of the wedding, I'm sure you wanna know what your surprise is...right?

Max

Well ...we just hit 4,000 subscribers!

Danny

AND since we are so grateful for the support you have shown us, we want to give a little something back to you.

Max

So we put together this little slide show of our engagement pics from last August. Hope you enjoy!

Danny

See you next week! Bye!

The video continues through the slideshow and ends. Blackout.

Scene 8: Getting Famous.

Lights up on MAX and DANNY sitting on the couch in the living room huddled around Max's cell phone on speaker. They both have long sleeve shirts and jeans. The coat rack now holds umbrellas and rain boots. MAX holds his cell phone up. Only the voice of ALICE the reporter is heard on Danny's speakerphone.

Alice

Hello. This is Alice Nelson from the Star Tribune. Thanks for agreeing to this two-part interview. The aim of this article is connect to our readers on a personal level to some of the big stories going on right now. We are doing this through personal profiles. Since you two make very popular YouTube videos about getting married as a same sex couple we though you two would make a great profile. Hopefully next time I'll be able to interview you in person. To start out I have few questions for you two

Max

Thank you so much for this opportunity Alice.

Danny

Yea, thanks!

Max

Ask away.

Alice

On YouTube you have just over 5,000 subscribers who tune in each week to watch your videos about your wedding planning process. The videos, while light hearted, do highlight some very real struggles. Like your video outlining your choice to get married in a church. How did you two come to YouTube and these videos?

Max

Well, I thought it would be a cool idea and a fun way to document this process and could yield a great opportunity for people to see that two dudes getting married its just like any other wedding.

Danny

We hope our YouTube channel is a fun mix of, a slice of life and the ups and downs of planning a wedding.

Max

With a twist of gay haha. We just hope to show our story and maybe someone can relate or draw inspiration from our story.

Danny

Max and I get a lot of comments and questions so we spend a lot of time going through the comments on YouTube, twitter and facebook and pick ones that catch our attention, and make videos based on that or on what we are doing for the wedding. Sometimes through, questions are inappropriate or too private.

Alice

Some people might think that your YouTube channel pushes a pro-gay agenda, especially at this time and that it's not simply just a way to share your wedding process. What do you say to those individuals?

Danny

I don't think we push any agenda; we simply have a story and our lives, to share with our viewers. People are constantly sharing their stories on line.

Max

We're sharing our story, that's it.

Danny

I hope our content is relevant and enjoyable... I think it is.

Alice

Your viewers, in the comments I saw would seem to agree. One of the recent developments in the gay rights movement is the possibility of legalization of marriage in Minnesota. Tell me about that.

Max

Well the long and short of it is that Minnesota United is gaining momentum and that with both the House and Senate being controlled by the Democrats that marriage equality might come to Minnesota.

Alice

Some people believe it is a greedy move by the gay community and Minnesota United. Your opinions?

Max

Personally, I think the move is brilliant. It capitalizes on an opportunity that is not often presented. I am very hopeful about marriage equality. Governor Dayton said if the bill makes it to his desk, he would sign it.

Danny

I'm not so sure Alice. I think we may be rushing into things with out thinking about the consequences.

Max

Oh really?

Danny

We'll talk about it later Max. Is there anything more you want to know about our videos? I thought that was the point of the interview.

Alice

Ah yes Daniel,

Danny

It's Danny

Alice

Sorry Danny, as I said earlier the aim of the profile is to make issues at hand more personal and by the sound of it, it seems you two have some things to sort out, Joe will be by tomorrow at 11 for the picture. The article will run Tuesday in Variety.

Phone goes dead. Max and Danny look at each other.

Danny

Great, now we are actually gunna have to buy the paper.

Blackout on MAX and DANNY.

Scene 9: Christmas cheer?

Lights up on MAX, sitting in the chair stage left and AMANDA sitting on the side of the couch nearest him in the living room. They both are holding mugs of hot chocolate and have on Christmas sweaters. The coat rack is piled with heavy winter jackets, hats and snow boots.

Amanda

So how was Christmas hun?

Max

It was a mess. I had this idea of having everyone here since we all are becoming family in like seven months.

Amanda

How so?

Max

My mom is less than thrilled about the current state of affairs so she arrived with a pile of articles about the sin we are committing. Naturally, Danny's mom, who fully supports us flipped out.

Amanda

Yikes! So I take it was a less than Merry Christmas.

Max

Yea. There was a lot of shouting and my mom left before dinner. Danny's mom tried her hardest to keep the mood up but it was difficult to say the least.

Amanda

I'm sorry things had to go down like that at Christmas. At least your holiday video card was cute, how many subscribers do you two have now?

Max

Just under 7,000

Amanda

Nice! How are you guys planning on celebrating that milestone?

Max

I'm not sure.

Amanda

A new years kiss on camera?

Max

That would be nice but I doubt it. Danny's best friend Ethan moved back into town in November and ever since Danny has been getting weird with the videos. He is getting more and more reluctant to make them.

Amanda

That's weird. Have you talked to him about it?

Max

What? No! I don't wanna make this a bigger deal than it needs to be. Don't mention it to him.

Amanda

Max! Don't do the whole shove the issue under the rug routine you always do. When I pissed Danny off at the end of the summer you pretended it was nothing and Danny had to tell me it actually really upset you. I'm asking him. Go get me more hot coco.

Max

I told you this is all we have.

Amanda

Exactly. Go get more. Shoo. I'm kicking you out of your house. It's for your own good. GO!

Max reluctantly puts on his coat and exits.

Amanda

Oh Danny boy! My vocal pipes are calling you!

Danny

(entering) Ha. Ha. That was terrible, what's up? Where's Max?

Amanda

He went to get more hot coco. Come sit.

Danny

Ok... What's up?

Amanda

Danny, you and Max are kinda "Minnesota famous" now with these videos, I worry about you two.

Danny

I get worried too. Max doesn't get worried. I don't know why...

Amanda

I don't know either... point is what are you making of all this?

Danny

I don't know... I am struggling.

Amanda

Aren't you excited about all your viewers and the response you've been getting?

Danny

Yea, I just feel like with all the wedding stuff and the stress of the holidays they just feel like they're hurting the relationship more than helping it.

Amanda

But you guys seem so happy in the videos, and you seem to work a lot out by making them. Like the DJ, you would never have found her if you didn't talk about music in the videos!

Danny

I also feel like they are just making everything so public. Can't a guy get a little privacy? Is that a crime?

Amanda

Admit it Danny, these videos are forcing you to be you and people like Ethan don't necessarily know who that is, nor do you really want them to.

Danny

Max put you up to this.

Amanda

Quite the opposite, he would kill me if he knew about this. All he knows is you seem reluctant about the videos. Maybe it's time to tell him why.

Danny

You sure do like to shake things up I don't wanna hurt Max.

Amanda

Trust me. Max will recover.

Danny

I know. I'll tell him.

Amanda.

Good.

AMANDA hugs DANNY as the lights fade.

Scene 10: Planning out the next one.

Lights up on DANNY and MAX wearing t-shirts and jeans are sitting in the living room surrounded by technology. iPads, phones, laptop and notepads. The camera, sans tripod, sits on the coffee table. Max is setting up the camera. The wedding binder has been added to the coffee table.

DANNY walks in notices MAX and gives him a hug

Danny

Hey! What are you doing?

Max

Setting up the camera for the video.

Danny

Is it already Thursday?

Max

I know right? So this week's video, what do we wanna do?

Danny

Sitting on the arm of the chair Hun, can we not do a video this week?

Max

(Still playing with the camera) Why?

Danny

I'm just...tired of them, I kinda want a break. Maybe we can go someplace fun instead.

Max

(Ignoring Danny) Don't be silly. We have a weekly video update.

Danny

I know but..

Max

We have like 7,000 subscribers who will want a video. We can't just skip one that's too many people counting on us. Here, I'll tweet out the call for questions and you can update the facebook page. We can talk about this while we wait.

Max picks up the ipad opens twitter and begins to type.

Max

Hey! Danny and I are making a new viewer Q&A this week! What are your Q's? Ask away! Hashtag Danny and Max vlog.

Danny

Hey! Max! Is it a crime to just want some us time? Without the videos?

Max

Danny, Why are you so hesitant about the videos?

Danny

I just want to spend some us time, go on an adventure, be spontaneous, not be tied down by the monotony of...life.

Max

The monotony of life?

Danny

I don't know I just don't think it's a crime to miss a week. Tons of YouTubers do it.

Max

Danny... I can tell something's up.

Danny

It would be nice if we could just spend one day not thinking about these videos and the wedding... never mind...it's whatever...

Max

No it's not whatever. I know it's something more. What is it? Is it work?

No
Danny

The wedding planning?
Max

No
Danny

Me?
Max

No! Absolutely not.
Danny

Then WHAT is it?
Max

How public our lives have gotten...
Danny

How so?
Max

Max , I love you.
Danny

I know that. You're avoiding the answer to my question, out with it.
Max

I'm trying, it's just...
Danny

Just say it Danny,
Max

With the news paper article and the videos and all the subscribers I just feel we are in the spotlight. I feel a ton a pressure to be...
Danny

Max

Yourself?

Danny

Actually yes.

Max

I'm confused...

Danny

It feels like I've been branded Gay Fiancé! I like sports and power tools and...

Max

Ambiguity.

Danny

Now hold on...

Max

No. Before the videos you lived a "safe" life, no one HAD to know you were gay if you didn't want them to. You could just fly under the radar with your sexually, a big ambiguous blob, giving bro- hugs and handshakes whenever you wanted. You were the all-star basketball player with a secret and now you aren't, now you are the flamers' fiancé...

Danny

Max...I

Max

No, I'm not done. YOU have a privilege I would give almost anything for. I've never come out. I've only confirmed what people have thought all along. I never get called dude, or bro. I get called girl or my gay best friend. Yea, it sucks but its life so excuse me if I don't feel sorry for my straight acting fiancé who had to tell his best bro he was marrying a dude.

Danny

I never meant to imply that I am...

Max

not comfortable being gay...

Danny

Honestly, yes, and for the first time I'm realizing that...well..

Max

That you are no longer immune.

Danny

Yea and it sucks...I agree.

Max

Someone said something didn't they? Was it Ethan?

Danny

No... it wasn't Ethan.

Max

Who was it?

Danny

It was right before Christmas...

Max

What!? and I'm just hearing about this now?

Danny

I was at Target getting food and these two guys stopped me and said: "Hey you're that fag from YouTube. My brother watches you. Watch your back buddy, some people don't want their baby brothers ending up a fag like you.

Max

Oh, Hun, I wish you had told me sooner.

Danny

Me too I just... I know you get it so often I didn't want it to turn into a pity Danny party.

Max

Just because it happens to me all the time doesn't mean you have to hide it from me and go through it alone.

Danny

Does it get easier?

Max

No, you just get thicker skin.

Danny

*(pause)*I love you, and I'm starting to realize, just how strong you are.

Max

No. How strong WE are.

Blackout.

Scene 12: The Ring.

Lights up on Danny sitting alone on the couch staring at the video camera. He is visibly nervous and is rolling something around in his hands. He glances up at the camera and nervously begins.

Danny

Hey, errr um... Hi! I'm Danny and we...I...am getting married....to Max. He's not here but that's ok, I mean he doesn't have to be, right? Crap that's a terrible way to start. *(Pause)* Take two. Hey guys it's Danny! Max isn't here today. Obviously, Shit. Ok. Take three. Hey Everyone! Danny here and today I'm making a surprise vlog for Max. It's about this.

Danny holds up a ring to the camera and immediately smiles.

Danny

This is Max's Wedding ring. Surprise Hun! So since Max is all about detail I did some research and apparently the wedding ring has its origins with the Egyptians. The circle is a symbol of eternity and the hole in the center a gateway to things and events unknown. Turns out they wore the rings on the third finger of the left hand because they believe that the vein of that finger directly traveled to the heart. I'd like to think that every time Max looks at this ring he will remember that I love more than I can even describe. I'm so excited for our unknown life adventures Hun. Can't wait for the big day. As usual comment like and subscribe! Bye guys!
Danny turns off the camera. Glances at the door hoping Max will walk through any second and then glances at the ring. He tightly grasps it as the lights fade to black.

Scene 13: Alice's Story.

Lights up on MAX, DANNY dressed in short sleeve button ups with jeans sitting on the couch center stage. ALICE wearing a nice blouse, a black pencil skirt and brightly colored flats sits in the chair stage right in the living room holding a digital tape recorder. On the coffee are three plastic water bottles that all three characters sip on. The coat rack is adorned with beach towels and two oversized beach bags.

Alice

(Holding up her digital tape recorder) I can't believe it's already the end of June.

Max

Neither can we. The wedding is so close. It's getting a bit stressful.

Danny

But we keep each other sane.

Alice

That's nice. So boys, it's time for part two of this article. Fortunately for you two, your profile in part one really ignited a conversation, especially with the legalization of same sex marriage here in Minnesota.

Max

Let me just say, we are so excited that our wedding this August will be officially recognized by the state and government.

Danny

It'll make our big day that much more meaningful, and special.

Alice

I'm sure it will. You will also be excited to know we have decided to publish part two of your profile as the main article in our pride special, which will run in the Variety section on Friday. I have a lot of questions to ask of you so lets get started right away.

Max

Ok, so what do you wanna know Alice?

Alice

Lets talk DOMA, also known as the Defense of Marriage Act. Recently the Supreme Court ruled Section 3 of DOMA unconstitutional. What does the ruling mean for you two?

Max

The ruling on section three of DOMA means that when same –sex couples get married they will have their marriage recognized on both the state and federal level.

Danny

That means that Max and I will be granted about 1,000 benefits that we previously would have been denied, even though our marriage would be legal here in Minnesota.

Alice

So does that mean that your marriage is more of an administrative matter than a personal matter at this point?

Max

Not at all. Our wedding, which has been in the works for 11 months, is a celebration of the love and commitment Danny and I have for each other.

Danny

Yea, it's about love. So, about our videos, which are really what this article is all about, right? What do you want to know about them? Our subscriber count has skyrocketed since the last article.

Alice

Yes... your videos HAVE been getting a lot of attention recently. I would assume it's because this summer has been such a huge turning point for gay rights. Did you ever think your videos would be come so popular because of this?

Max

Not at all, but I would like to say that I think our videos garnered their popularity all on their own. I don't know that the hype of this summer really had a lot to do with it.

Danny

Yea, at the end of the day, even if this summer hadn't gone the way it had, and the videos weren't as popular as they are, I know Max and I would still make them.

Alice

Oh, Ok. So back to the politics, what our readers really want to know about. What do you two have to say about couples in the LGBTQ community who have been "married" for many years because they chose to have a commitment ceremony? Do you see those unions as more of a political move now?

Max

While I can only speak for myself, and my relationship with Danny, there are some huge motivating factors for couples to have a legally recognized marriage.

Alice

Tell me more.

Max

Well...such things as hospital visitation rights, shared benefits and joint adoption are all much more available to legally married same-sex couples.

Danny

Those and many more options become possibilities now that section three is in play.

Alice

Fair enough. *Beat* Pride this year is shaping up to be a celebration unlike any we seen here in Minnesota. Does this celebration signal the end of the fight?

Max

No! Absolutely not! I believe that is the biggest misconception at this time about the equal rights movement. *(pause)* Same-sex marriage may be legal, but a lot of questions have yet to be asked about what it means and what the future holds.

Alice

I'm sorry, but off the record, you won. Clearly homophobia is on the decline.

Max

Alice! This is not a post homophobic society by any means!

Alice

Please, don't shout. We must return to the matter at hand. After the first article ran, the Tribune received a lot of feedback. Many people were quite upset about the generalizations you made about the gay community and pointed out that quote; what gives two people who have a YouTube channel the authority to speak on all our communities behalf, end quote. What do you have to say to them?

Max

Listen Alice. We are not going to play dumb, and say we don't acknowledge our current standing. We understand that we are in a unique position, and are capitalizing on it.

Alice

Ok but...

Max

I'm not done. We never claimed to speak for everyone in "our community" You wrote it that way.

Danny

We are not claiming to tell everyone's story, It's a fine line and we're walking, it the best way we know how – our way, with our story.

Max

Yea. We are telling OUR story and that's all we can do.

Alice

(curtly and abruptly) Ok boys, I'll print that. We're out of time. Thank you for opening your home to me. You can expect the article on Saturday in the Variety section; I'll show myself out.

*Alice stands, gathers her things and exits without another word. Max and Danny look at each other confused and unsure of what just happened.
Blackout.*

Scene 14: Ethan's Confession.

Lights up on the living room. Max is straightening the garments on the coat rack and Danny is sitting on the couch paging through one of the coffee table books.

Max

Hey hun?

Danny

Yea?

Max

I was just looking over the binder yesterday and I was noticing we haven't heard back from your friend.

Danny

Which one? We invited a good handful of my friends to the wedding.

Max

Ethan, your best man.

Danny

Oh, really?

Max

Can you text him and see if sent his RSVP? Maybe it just got lost in the mail. I have yeses from his family, but not him.

Danny

Sure.

Danny pulls out his cell and is about to text when the doorbell rings.

Max

That's funny. Are you expecting a pizza?

Danny

No

Max

Ok, I guess I'll get it.

Max goes off stage left to answer the door.

Max

Ethan! What a coincidence we were just talking about you. Do you have your RSVP?

Ethan

(In a cold tone) Where's Danny?

Ethan pushes by Max and makes his way to the easy chair and sits down.

Max

Excuse me? What are you doing?

Ethan

Sitting down, what does it look like?

Max

Ok, lose the attitude please, you are in my house.

Ethan

Look. I'm here to talk to Danny not you, so can you, you know, clear out man?

Max

Look, "Man". whatever it is you have to say to Danny, you can say to me.

Danny

Yea? Ethan, what's going on?

Ethan

Danny, you're my bro right?

Danny

Yea,

Ethan

Remember how we made that pact sophomore year, when you were dating that weird girl Lindsay that we would always let each other...

Danny

Don't say it E.

Ethan

I don't want you marring that... that fag, in fact I don't want you dating any guy at all. I read that article about you two in the Tribune and I know it's a bunch of shit. You don't actually believe that? Do you?

Max

Out. Get Out. NOW!

Danny

Language E. what the hell?

Ethan

I lied.

Danny

What?

Ethan

When I was said I was all-cool with you and that guy.

Max

I have a name.

Ethan

Whatever. When I said I was all-cool with you know... it was a lie, I just didn't know what to say to you.

Max

Ok. "E." You really need to go. Danny please?

Danny

Max one sec.

Max

Excuse me?!

Ethan

Listen Danny, it's either him or me. You pick me, you ditch the fag and everything goes back to normal. You pick him, and I'm out. Your choice.

Max

He chooses me. Now out!

Danny

Everyone hold on! Max. I got this. Ethan, I don't know what to say this is...really a shitty thing for you to do and the article is right. I do believe all that and I am marring max.

Danny stands and crosses to Max and puts his arm around his waist.

Danny

This is my fiancé and we have plenty of friends who support us and frankly, if you don't support me you aren't really our friend. Now please, leave, you've insulted the love of my life and broke every bro-code I never believed in, in the first place. Just go. Please.

Ethan

Fine. Have it your way man, enjoy hell. You're making a big mistake Danny. A BIG ONE.

Ethan storms out and slams the door leaving Max and Danny in shock.

Blackout.

Scene 15 The big day.

Lights come up on an empty living room. The camera is set up center stage. DANNY is offstage left. MAX is off stage right. On the coat rack two "Groom" sashes hang, left over from the bachelor parties. We hear a phone ring on the coffee table.

Danny

(offstage) Max! That's your phone!

Max

(offstage) Where is it?

Danny

(offstage) On the coffee table.

Max

Oh ok! *(running onstage in a burgundy A-frame and jeans)* Can you grab the Tux's out of the closet in the hall? Hello?

Danny

Ok!

Mom

Maxwell this is your mother.

Max

Hi Mom! I can't really talk right now. Danny and I have to leave for the wedding, but I'll see you there, ok?

Mom

That's what I'm calling about Maxwell. This is hard for me to say... really it is. I'm not going to see you there.

Max

Wait what?

Mom

I have thought long and hard about this. It's been a tough decision, but one I had to make. I won't be attending. I have tried to understand your choice and your lifestyle, but I cant.

Max

But mom, its my wedding. MY wedding.

Mom

Listen to me closely. I've seen the videos and read the articles in the Tribune and I am trying to understand, but I just can't go to the wedding.

Max

Mom...

Mom

Maxwell...

Max

Mom I need you to listen to me.

DANNY walks into the room in a black A-frame and jeans unnoticed by MAX.

Max

The whole reason I decided to make a YouTube channel devoted to answering questions, and helping people to understand, was because I wanted YOU to understand.

Mom

Max I...

Max

I risked everything for the channel! My job, my safety and most of all my relationship with the man I love. Danny never wanted to do the videos. But I'm stubborn as hell just like you, so I wouldn't let him quit. I want you to understand me. Jenny got it. I'm going to hang up this phone because I am done trying to make you listen and help you understand. I am done letting you get in the way. Bye Mom, let me know when you want to be there for my husband and for me.

Max hangs up the phone and turns around. He notices Danny sitting on the couch. He goes and snuggles up to Danny.

Max

Did you hear all that?

Danny

Yes.

Max

I meant every word of it. Thanks for not giving up on me even when I gave up on us.

Danny

In like 3 hours we are gunna be married and starting the moment we walk out the door of this apartment things are gunna get crazy.

Max

I know...

Danny

So before they do I just want to say this; back in August when you decided we should make these videos I didn't get it. But now I do. You inspire me Max. You showed me that one person can make a change and I feel so lucky to even be a part of that. I love you Max and I can't wait to marry you.

Max

I love you too. I'm sorry about Ethan and my mom

Danny

Max, don't be. Everyone encounters people in their lives that don't like them. You can't pay them any attention. Just remember to be who you are. You taught me that. Now aren't we forgetting something?

Max

What? Did we forget something on the checklist?

Danny

No silly, our wedding day vlog. We can't leave our viewers hanging with no conclusion. Turn the camera on and lets do this.

Max gets up and Turns the camera on. Blackout on stage. Max and Danny freeze in tableau backlit by the video.

The action switches to a video being projected onstage. (VIDEO)

Max

Hey I'm Max

Danny

And I'm Danny

Max & Danny

And we're getting married, TODAY!!!!!!!

Max

In honor of our big day we just want to say THANK YOU!

Danny

Thank you for joining us for the craziest year of our lives.

Max

This year we have learned so much about ourselves.

Danny

And about you.

Max

Because of you guys we have been able to share our exploration of love.

Danny

Technology

Max

And what it means for us to be getting married.

Danny

We are so grateful we have gotten to share our love with you through technology.

Max

Our tech...nically love.

Danny

Awww that's cute!

Max

Yea it is!

Danny

All that aside, I have to go marry the guy of my dreams.

Danny stares lovingly into Max's eyes. Max gazes back before realizing they are recording. He snaps back to face the camera.

Max

Bye!...For now.

Blackout. Curtain.

END.