

The Classroom written by Chris Silva & Ryan Christian

A half hour high school dramedy

OVERVIEW

The Classroom is a mockumentary styled dramedy series centered on a group of performing arts high school students.

A documentary crew catches the action of an extraordinary homeroom class. There is always something amiss that interferes with and prevents the students from expressing themselves. It's evident throughout their encounters with other students of Manhattan Arts High School (MAHS) that there is a lot to be desired not only with the school itself, but with the livelihood of the people.

The nuance in the characters is the center of the show – we take you on a journey through the real lives of real people in New York: your typical cool guy, class clown, popular stuck-up student, the lucky, the damsel in distress, the optimist, the school pharmacist.

The series will capture audiences with its dry humor, absurdism, realism and extremism. The life of an art student is always misunderstood from the outside looking in, but these art students use their talent, and their voices, to paint their reality for you. Nothing is entirely ugly nor entirely beautiful. This is the philosophy of The Classroom: balance, transparency, and many layers of controversy, which may not always be agreeable, let alone likable.

SYNOPSIS:

When a documentary crew comes into capture the basic student environment, they come across a class full of characters, they take a liking into Ms. Wilson's unorthodox homeroom class and follow the lives of the reluctant leader, Cole, the class clown, Lawrence, and company for the rest of their school tenure. There is never a dull moment in Manhattan Arts High School.

LEADS

Coleman Anderson – Bronx Native, everyone calls him Cole for short. Reserved, fun, jokester, suave, kind, observant, athlete, photographer, performer, suffers from PTSD, street smart, fashionable, academically intelligent, caring, overprotective and understanding.

Lawrence Reeves – Bronx Native, quirky, eccentric, funny, sweet, performer, carefree, mentally ill, saddened, academically lazy, creative, slight speech impediment, philosophical, spiritual, empathetic, insecure.

SUPPORTING

Ms. Wilson – Brooklyn Native, Tisha Wilson full name. Frantic, intelligent, loving, caring, understanding, straight forward, optimistic, open minded, trusting, strict, quick witted, perceptive, pro black and generous.

Gina Rodriguez – Washington Heights Native, vegan, well spoken, nonbinary, pansexual, crafty, spiritual, annoying, creative, dancer, high spirited, untidy, adventuresome, critical, bossy, impulsive, impressionable, intuitive, sharp witted, forgetful, and clumsy

Rhonda Clemons – Brooklyn Native, skeptical, smart, dependable, rebellious, opinionated, observant, self-conscious, radical, over cautious, emotional, argumentative, self-disciplined, well read, indifferent, progressive, tolerant, wholesome and cultured.

Emily Mateos – Queens native, Filipino background, fashionable, materialistic, cultured, aware, conforming, frivolous, impractical, sarcastic, judgmental, neat, seductive, sociable, caring, and athletic

Andrew Sanders – Jersey City Native, Same sex desires, sincere, extravagant, boisterous, loyal, eccentric, wordy, dancer, singer, anxious, short tempered, sassy, sharp, romantic, lively, obnoxious, and confident.

Sarah Huckabee – Hells Kitchen Native, well meaning, anxiety written, sweet, crafty, passive, polite, indecisive, passionate, resourceful, high strung, poised, sympathetic, well off, sensitive and slightly snobbish.

Anthony Gandolini – Little Italy Brooklyn Native, everyone calls him Tony for short, talkative, poetic, goofy, unconventional, stoner, supplier, witty, competitive, athletic, daring, crude, excitable, cinephile, flashy and obnoxious.

David Butler – Origin's unknown, Called Dave for short, problematic, lonely, good humored, critical, silent, temperamental, sarcastic, perceptive, constructive and self-reliable.

Briana Jacobs – Bronx Native, women of same sex desire, calm, truthful, fun loving, daring, resigned, self-aware, bold, determined, creative and sensible.

Joshua Perez – Riverdale Native, called Josh for short, word smith, poetic, opinionated, stern, kind, nonconforming, troubled, clever, humorous, enterprising, overconfident, old school, discreet, wishy washy, grouchy, persistent and flexible

RE-OCCURRING

Principal Brown – Jacquelin Brown, New Jersey Native, strict, intelligent, open minded, wise, reliable, unsystematic, discontented, passionate, caring, motherly, tough, well read, productive and progressive.

Ms. Cruz – Jessica Cruz, Baltimore Native, History Teacher, blunt, transparent, proactive, principled, genuine, unpolished, adaptable and dispassionate.

Ms. Knight – Tracy Knight, Guidance Counselor, Long Island Native, faithful, harmonious, liberal, moderate, orderly, pragmatic and prudent.

Mr. Wong – Stanley Wong, Asian descent, Argentinian native, Spanish teacher, benevolent, charitable, athletic, diligent, dutiful, honorable, multilingual, attentive, and stable

Ms. Myrtle – Eliza Myrtle, San Francisco Native, affectionate, performative, disorganized, anxious, aloof, pretentious, well meaning, empathetic, and romantic.

Ms. Candice – Yvette Candice, Wisconsin Native, theatrical, over dramatic, passionate, self-confident, adventurous, sensible, hardworking, positive, straight forward and protective.

Coach Jackson – Morgan Jackson, Brooklyn Native, Gym teacher, Basketball coach, athletic, charmless, silly, sincere, warm, encouraging, old school, reserved, knowledgeable, loving, intuitive, clumsy and heroic.

Officer Washington – Samuel Washington, Main school safety officer Jersey Native, abrasive, boastful, prideful, compassionate, bold, stoic, quick tempered, ignorant, tasteless, and lovable.

Thomas Graham – Brooklyn Native, Student Government Class President, leader, dependable, idealistic, mature, well rounded, passive, friendly, social, secretive, reserved, persuasive and charismatic.

Dwayne Carter – North Carolina Native, Student Government Vice President, aggressive, selfish, callous, bright, well spoken, touchy, formal, obedient, insecure, lonely, organized, over achiever, bossy and conceited.

Alicia Curry – Harlem Native, Student Government Secretary, melancholy, curious, dreamer, intelligent, singer, joyous, studious, resourceful, attentive, motivator, soulful, cultured, caring and inquisitive.

Mina Suarez – Washington Heights native, treasurer of Student Government, accessible, sociable, spiritual, creative, cultured, zany, playful, intuitive, non-authoritarian, vegan, youthful and complex.

Nicole Alaoui – Brooklyn Native, Moroccan background, fashionista, forgetful, ambitious, chummy, determined, outspoken, sentimental, confused, delicate, escapist, and procrastinator.

Amir Bashir – South Indian Native, reactionary, small thinking, dancer, shy, non-competitive, moralistic, wise, thorough, and sweet.

Hope Harley – Brooklyn Native, Cultured, aspiring, capable, daring, eloquent, firm, political, earthy, spiritual, religious, big thinking, creative, artistic, social, loving, caring, blunt and proud.

Steven Rivera – Florida Native, awkward, mellow, neutral, clumsy, business like, witty, uncomplaining, teachable, stoic, self-critical, good nature, fickle, and disorganized.

Priscilla Hernandez – Queen's native, Afro Latina, gossip, emotional, flirtatious, supportive, stylish, patient, nagging, tomboyish, and passionate.

Sanders Mansa – Riverdale native, disgruntled, stoic, and yet commanding in presence. Sarah's soon to be ex-boyfriend. Struggling with his own purpose in life.

Christina Williams – Brooklyn Native. Flirtatious, sultry, caring, and confident. Has an interest in Cole that is provoked by her friendships with Emily and Sarah. Particularly interest in fashion.

SETTING

A modern-day era Manhattan performing arts high school. Throughout the busy streets, you see people rushing in and out of buildings, hailing cabs, cursing at each other, hugging each other, small children and huge adults alike. Outside the world seems like a lot of fun regardless

of the chaotic elements that set forth to show just exactly what people get into on the streets of Manhattan every day. Inside Manhattan Arts High School is practically no different, just a bit more intimate. With students and faculty of every color, size, gender and all going about their way. Stoners, class clowns, high school sweethearts, detention hogs that always seem to find themselves being punished by the power of the great Principal Brown, and more. But within each of these cliché ways of labelling those who seem to have no discernible traits outside of what is on the surface is layers upon layers that are focused on throughout every arc. So, when you see a main character getting in trouble during gym class, there is a lot more going on. When Principal Brown sends a list of students to detention at the end of the day for whatever shenanigans they get into in the school cafeteria, there is a lot more going on. Nothing you see will be that of the typical high school comedy romances that have rendered themselves towards certain tropes and settings. New York City has been consistent in the ways of bringing unpredictability throughout daily occurrences, and The Classroom captures that perfectly. You can smell the nasty school food that was created through the education system to save on budgetary spending while risking the health of teenagers who decide not to eat because they would rather starve daily than have the mysterious pizza that is made of who knows what. See the teachers creating scenarios on the spot in every class being taught on how to inspire their students who simultaneously throw paper planes across the rooms with cryptic, immature messages inside. The hallways long and wide leaning on the eerie category for how endless they seem compared to the simplicity of the homes of our main character's that will also visit here and there. Albeit not the best in quality, MAHS is still beneficial to the average student compared to the likes of other schools with no semblance of arts related activities. And that's made evident once visiting the lives of the individuals that enter the school from whatever lives they live in the many boroughs of NY. Compared to the hustle and bustle of Manhattan, the Bronx is showcased as significantly less glamorous and a bit dangerous regardless of what life you lead that doesn't involve drugs or alcohol. Lurking on every corner whether it be the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, or even Manhattan is the feeling of dread that enters a lot of our character's lives when returning home after a long day of confiding in friends about fragility of the homelife that does not show itself as pretty in many forms. Gritty, ugly, but hopeful and optimistic in nature is what we see through the windows of each person's apartment, with no signs of slowing down in progress and detriment.

EPISODE OUTLINES

Episode 1: Pilot

The pilot of the series begins with a still shot of MAHS high school and students entering the school building. The scene cuts to Ms. Wilson's classroom with a moving shot of students gossiping and dawdling. On the side you see the film crew preparing their film equipment. Ms. Wilson enters the class with enthusiastic energy and directs the unenthusiastic performing art students with "fun" activities. The film crew begins to record the class and catch them in their natural habitat. The class period goes by and the Class clown and then some Lawrence Reeves arrives to class late. He begins his rambunctious shenanigans, and everyone goes into a frenzy. The Principal of the school Ms. Jacqueline Brown asserts her authority and threatens the class with severe consequences if their behavior doesn't change. The class bell rings signaling class has ended and the cool kid Coleman Anderson talks with the film crew and Lawrence and the screen transitions to a blackout.

The second half of the episode opens with the film crew recording Cole in the student government office awaiting the arrival of his friend Thomas the school President. He is then harassed by Dwayne, the obnoxious Vice President of student government which is typically normal. Thomas arrives, speaks with Cole and gets rudely interrupted by Dwayne. Dwayne takes Thomas into a private space away from the film crew to air his grievances. The scene cuts to Cole walking to his next class. Thomas catches up to him to make an announcement to Coles class about anyone wanting to join Student Government. Ms. Cruz the "African studies" teacher walks into her class and lets all the students know she isn't about any nonsense. She torchers the optimistic artist Sarah Huckabee for jokes and the school alarm goes off. A dark shadow figure approaches the classroom and taps the door with a pistol. Everyone is in fear for their life, Lawrence and Cole escapes the classroom by going through the window to capture the evil doer. Lawrence sets up a trap for the school shooter, he lures him into the bathroom playing his harmonica, Cole grabs the menace and Lawrence strikes him with his musical instrument. Whilst celebrating their victory, Cole unmasks the school shooter to reveal who the culprit and Lawrence recognizes him. It is Steven Rodriguez a soft more student. Officer Washington pops out of the bathroom stall not doing his job trying to assert his authority. He drops some edibles that

he received from the school pharmacist Anthony Gandolfini. Principal Brown walks into the boy's bathroom furious. She explains to Cole and Lawrence that Steven was participating in a school shooting drill. Steven's escorted to the nurses office while Lawrence and Cole are scolded for their dangerous "heroic" stunt. Principal Brown dismisses them back to Ms. Cruz's class in shame. The scene cuts back with the two walking in class and their classmates judging them. Tony walks in front of the class offers drugs to calm everyone's anxiety. The scene transitions to an interview room with Lawrence and Cole expressing their feelings on how much they hate MAHS High School. Scene blacks out with ending credits.

Episode 2: Spanish Sex

During the aftermath of the fake school shooting, Lawrence is permitted to go to counseling where counselor Ms. Knight has a conversation with him over his mental health status. Lawrence feels inferior over the idea that he may be looked on differently after his previous mental breakdown. After the counseling session, Lawrence and Gina proceed to meet Cole and Alicia during lunch time. Steven has a heart to heart during lunch with Cole and Lawrence about how he felt set up whilst signing up to be the shooter for the school drill. Not feeling comfortable at all with the results and wondering how to move on from the situation.

What brings about a sense of normalcy throughout this whole ordeal is the constant bickering between two obvious "will they, won't they" character dynamics between Lawrence and Gina who have a lot of romantic tension between them. But, in the midst of talking about the event while transitioning between periods, everyone discovers their new teacher for Spanish class is an attractive Asian man by the name of Mr. Wong. It brings an unexpected amount of tension between classmates and him seeing as he isn't actually of Hispanic descent, but Mr. Wong quickly convinces the class to not judge a book by it's cover. As class goes on and the students reveal their own gripes with not just Spanish class, but life in general, apparently Sarah finds it to be quite grating that Tony seems more than willing to copy off of her notes from her personal writings in order to articulate sayings that he thinks will make him sound smarter than he actually is.

After all of that commotion, things shift into Thomas and Mina inciting that there will be changes made to the school lunch in order to accommodate different students for vegan options that are newly available. This starts a bunch of bickering back and forth between many students with a reveal from Andrew that he is suspicious of Briana due to unresolved claims that quickly get discarded after

Briana dead's the situation. With nothing left to say or do, the final transition comes into fruition where sex ed is taught by the eccentric Ms. Myrtle. Ms. Myrtle not only is eccentric, but extremely unqualified to teach teenagers anything about sexuality whatsoever. She goes out of her way to try and unify everyone just to be met with hostility and bickering between colleagues. To the degree where she finds herself completely flustered once Rhonda and Emily fight in class and end up having Officer Washington break it up. What a time.

Episode 3: Art is Life, My Dear

The episode begins in the lunchroom with Lawrence and Cole conversing over the fight between Rhonda and Emily. Joshua intrudes in their conversation and debuts his music with a 16-bar cut as the gossip continues between both class and faculty. He inspires Cole to partake in a rap battle, but Cole tells everyone he cannot spit his freestyle without inspiration. Josh suggest the three should pay Tony a visit in his headquarters the bathroom. We spot Tony in action as he distributes his pharmaceuticals to his regular clients in the Men's bathroom. As they exit, Lawrence and Cole gets reprimanded by Coach Jackson until he tries to convince Cole to try out for the Basketball Team. Andrew and Alicia gossip about the fight between Emily and Rhonda. Andrew then begins a rant about a boy that he's seeing very loud in the hallway per usual. Cole and Lawrence enter in the conversation and Alicia lets them in on the arrival of three new students in their class. We meet Nicole, Amir and Hope by way of Student Government's VP Dwayne and treasurer Mina. Scene cuts to Miss Wilson on her lunchbreak where she discusses the state of the school with the rest of the faculty. Miss Myrtle has a panic attack and the teachers bring up a new teacher who is qualified to teach drama. Cole and Lawrence reconvene with other students post Rhonda vs. Emily's fight with a present Gina and Steven. Officer Washington discreetly approaches the boys asking them to locate Tony for his daily pick me up. Hope introduces herself in the next class. Brianna flirts with her and Dave saboteurs Brianna's advance for his own until they find out she has a boyfriend. Cut to the Black Box where Drama Class begins with the inspirational, articulate, yet melodramatic Miss Candice. She uses the relativity of a character's emotional responses to resolve the dispute of Emily and Rhonda. The girls reconcile and Tony offers his herbal remedy to them. Cole, Lawrence and Gina conclude the episode with an aside to the camera as the rings and the school day commences.

Episode 4/5: The Talent Show pt. 1 & 2

During Ms. Wilson's homeroom class, Gina speculates over a rumor she hears about there being the possibility of a talent show that the students might possibly be required to join. This causes an uproar between the students until Ms. Wilson puts said rumors to bed and confirms that there will be a talent show, but it won't be required for anyone to join. That is, unless their grade point average is a 70 or below. This prompts a set couple of characters to team up in order to prepare themselves for the talent show to strengthen their grades and prove themselves worthy of praise from their peers. Andrew and Sarah become an unlikely duo that conduct a dance performance with contemporary hip hop and ballet fused together. Briana and Josh utilize their love and skill in rap to make themselves a full-on hip-hop performance, and Lawrence finds himself trying to egg Cole on in a fruitless attempt of having Cole dance and sing alongside him. Alicia is caught amid talking about the showcase and it's possibilities by Lawrence over her interest in Cole and gets flustered by the concept of responsibility and going forward with holding so much on her plate whilst being interviewed. Lunch times comes into play as Lawrence comes springing with ideas on how to make a showstopping performance with Cole. Dancing and singing a Broadway showtune at his house with Cole watching in awe, Lawrence convinces him with breath exhaling heavily that he'd be a perfect fit for his number and puts Cole through a rigorous amount of practice that leaves him wondering the next day through the aftermath whether he'll be able to pull through for Lawrence at all.

Episode 6: Black Water

Lawrence finds himself increasingly flustered over the days in which he misses school both intentionally and unintentionally. Going throughout causing his colleagues distress and worry over his mental state, he decides to take matters into his own hands to end his week to biweekly absences from school. Lawrence contacts Paul, the head runner of the documentary series being created over MAHS and asks him to take some time to document him as a means for therapeutic practices. Paul agrees and takes a small section of his filming crew with him to meet Lawrence at a festival in Bryant Park that happens to be the same area Gina performs in for a small gig she garners over the course of Lawrence's absences. The mental state he finds himself in warrants nothing but concern from Paul as Lawrence goes into descriptions over past experiences he's had, whether it be through physical bullying or just sleeping issues to have plagued him for a good while that could more than likely be connected. Meanwhile at MAHS, Cole and the other students scout out the locale of Lawrence to find him performing with Gina, who is revealed to be an interest of his for a

while but for some reason isn't a priority to pursue. After his magnetic performance, Lawrence is greeted by several students who showcase their appreciation for him and their true feelings of identifying with what he's going through to some degree. Cole and Lawrence end up having a heart to heart at Lawrence's house over Cole not wanting Lawrence to feel like an outcast in any form and later on Lawrence reveals that he may be struggling with his sexuality to his newfound therapist.

Episode 7: Sarah's Party

Cole in the school library with the obnoxious Vice President Dwayne being a nuisance towards his school peers. As a result of his deprave actions of loneliness and disparity, a couple of Ms. Wilson's homeroom students tease him out of the area. Sarah Huckabee, the anxiety and happy go lucky student arranges a party at her place of residences. She has great success in marketing her party to each of the school students in MAHS (Manhattan Arts High School), even though a few classmates were skeptical of attending her party because of cloudy misjudgments and misunderstandings. Everyone decides to go to the party, all except Coleman Anderson who refuses. Sarah manipulates Cole into coming to her party and makes him bring Joshua Perez her secret crush. Sarah finally has her party, and it's much success. Even though, un-invited students crashed the party, too many intoxicated teens, peer pressure, broken furniture and a crazy ex-boyfriend arrives at the party and catches her dancing with another man. Overall, everything goes well despite some hiccups, we all get a glimpse into the character of Sarah Huckabee and why she is the glue that holds everyone together.