

**#Filtered**

Young Touring Company

2016

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*The set consists of blocks and a projector screen, as the audience walk in they are confront by famous Instagram posts and twitter tweets. The mood is aspirational; everyone wants this- don't they?*

## Intro

*All four young characters are shown in a tableau that depicts their key characteristics; we see them move around the stage oblivious to each other carrying out actions that highlight their character. Loud music is played throughout.*

## Scene One

*Mia's dad is sitting at the breakfast table, he looks up and smiles as his daughter enters*

MIA: Morning dad

DAD: Morning, you want me to fix you some breakfast?

MIA: Ah no I need to get going; I have so much to do with this Art coursework- it's got to be handed in in a few weeks. Here, look what I have done so far

*He flicks through her portfolio*

DAD: Mia, is amazing, there's no stopping you is there

MIA: Well if I'm going to go to a decent Art college and need a really high grade for my Art GCSE

DAD: You'll do it, I know you will. I'm really proud of you

MIA: Thanks dad, listen I've got to go- I am walking with Paige

*Dad looks down and does not meet her eye contact*

MIA: What? I'm just walking to school with her dad; I don't know what your hang up with Paige is

DAD: I don't have a hang up, it's just she is not really focused like you. You know what you want and who you are, she always seems a little too busy trying to be something she's not.

MIA: Dad!

DAD: Ok, I'm sorry. Look I trust you, you know I do

MIA: *(she goes round and kisses him goodbye)* Love you

DAD: Love you too, have a good day

## **Scene Two**

*Mia and Paige are walking to school through the park, Paige is trying to take a selfie*

**MIA:** What are you doing?

**PAIGE:** Just trying to get a good picture, here take it for me *(she hands Mia the phone and Mia dutifully takes a picture)*

**PAIGE:** Ah no that's awful, take another one

**MIA:** *(taking another one)* What for?

**PAIGE:** I just need to post another picture, I got bare likes yesterday. Ah you don't understand, you don't even go on insta- it's about upkeep

**MIA:** Why would I need to keep posting pictures of myself looking all, weird and pouty *(she jokes with Paige and they laugh)*

**PAIGE:** No, it's a good thing you don't. It's great that you don't worry about the way you look *(Mia looks down self-consciously at herself)* No that came out wrong- I mean that as a compliment, it's get really annoying feeling like you have to put pictures up or like others just cos you'll get grief if you don't

*As the girls exit, the boys who are also walking to school stop temporarily in the park, Liam is looking at his phone*

**LIAM:** Ah look at Paige's pic she has just posted, double tap on that fam

**RYAN:** Ah yeah, me too *(Ryan is trying to fit in with Liam)*

**LIAM:** Ah look, at her *(he hands the phone over)* she is FINE, her skin is like all soft and creamy, and her curves man...

**RYAN:** Ugh, your mum's facetimeing you *(he hands back the phone)*

**LIAM:** Oh my days, mum why you facetimeing me? Why can't you just text me man? Why can't you get it? I'm on the way to school, I'm trying to learn. Alright I'll get you a watermelon *(he puts the phone down)* Jeez man. Ah I am tired, come on I got to go shop now otherwise I'll forget.

**RYAN:** But we're going be late for school

**LIAM:** Seriously, its school man, it don't matter- come on

*Ryan gives in and goes with him*

### **Scene Three**

*Ryan is looking down at his phone whilst running into to school as he does not really want to be late. Mia is rushing in carrying her art coursework. They collide into each other, Ryan's phone falls onto the floor.*

**MIA:** Oh my god, I'm so sorry. *(She picks up the phone)* It's not broken; I mean if it is I can get you a new one? Oh your Instagram is open, I didn't look, sorry.

*She looks on terrified of his reaction*

**RYAN:** Its fine, honestly- don't worry about it. No need to look so freaked out. I've got to go, seriously don't worry!

*He runs off and she is left thinking over the encounter*

### **Scene Four**

*Mia is in her bedroom making herself look nice and ready to take a selfie, dad knocks*

**DAD:** Mia, can I come in?

*Mia does not want her dad to see her with make up on and looking different*

**MIA:** Hang on a minute *(she moves over so she has her back to her dad)*

**DAD:** Are you alright?

**MIA:** Yes, dad- I'm just trying to get on with more coursework

**DAD:** Oh yeah sorry I forgot, well listen dinners ready in ten minutes

**MIA:** Ok, please dad I need to get on with my work

**DAD:** Sorry, see you in a bit

*Mia goes back to changing her image; she lies on her bed and takes selfies which we see her editing on the projector. She decides on a very distorted image and then posts it on her account*

### **Scene Five**

*Classroom/ library split scene. Ryan and Liam enter late and make their excuses to the teacher*

**RYAN:** I'm, sorry, I know I'm not usually late *(he spots Paige listening in)* Yeah like whatever I'm late. No, don't call my mum, I mean I don't care if you call my mum

*Liam is creeping in on his hands and knees*

**LIAM:** Ah allow it Miss; I've been here the whole time. Ok so I was late, what do you mean you are going to call my mum, again? What is it with you and my mum, you like best friends or something? *(He sits down defeated)* You should go get the watermelon. *(He sneaks a look at his phone and gets Ryan's attention)* Hey look, you seen this new Instagram account, check this girl- she is well pretty, look fam she is buff

*Paige is listening into this information and intrigued as to who this person is*

**RYAN:** Ah yeah, she is well fit, double tap that, in fact I'm gonna comment- fire, hot eyes

**LIAM:** No miss, I wasn't even on my phone

*We see Mia receive an alert on her phone, she excitedly opens it and sees all the comments and likes- including Ryan's*

**MIA:** Sorry sir, yes I'll put it away *(she hides her phone inside her book and continues to be lured into checking the likes on her Instagram)*

### **Scene Six**

*Paige is walking home from school as Mia catches up with her, she is on her phone*

**MIA:** What you looking at?

**PAIGE:** Liam was banging on about this new girl's Instagram account, look she is well pretty, look at her picture. She looks quite like you *(Mia laughs)* It is you isn't it?

**MIA:** Yeah, look how many likes I have got, and look what Ryan messaged me

**PAIGE:** But that photo, it doesn't even look like you

**MIA:** You just said it did look like me!

**PAIGE:** Yeah, to me because I know you. Liam and Ryan didn't know it was you. You look so different, you need to post a real picture of yourself, it just looks really fake

**MIA:** Hang on, it's no different to what you do, you post pictures of yourself

**PAIGE:** But you can see it's me; it looks like you have photoshopped this?

**MIA:** I have, you do that too

**PAIGE:** No, I don't, I might put a filter on but you can still see it's me. Mia, you need to post a real picture of yourself or take down the account

*Mia does not reply*

**PAIGE:** Seriously!

**MIA:** Ok, ok I'll do it

### **Scene Seven**

The projector shows Mia and Ryan's relationship blossoming

### **Scene Eight**

*Mia's Bedroom – Paige comes over to see Mia. Mia is on her phone when Paige arrives.*

**MIA:** I've got something to tell you

**PAIGE:** Yeah?

**MIA:** Well, you know we haven't been speaking that much recently?

**PAIGE:** Yeah.

**MIA:** Well, I've been speaking to Ryan a lot recently.

**PAIGE:** What? But how?

**MIA:** We've been messaging loads on insta.

**PAIGE:** What! On that fake profile? So you haven't even met up with him

**MIA:** No, but it doesn't matter, it's like, deeper than that. We really get each other.

**PAIGE:** What are you on about? He doesn't even know who you are.

**MIA:** Yeah, but we have a proper connection.

**PAIGE:** Oh my god babes, you have to tell him it's you.

**MIA:** What? No! I can't.

**PAIGE:** You have to! It's not fair, you're lying to him. You have to tell him.

**MIA:** Why? Like, what if it ruins it?

**PAIGE:** Well if he really likes you, and you do have such a serious connection, it shouldn't matter should it.

**MIA:** Whatever. Fine, I'll tell him. But please, please don't tell him Paige. You can't tell him. I'll do it soon I promise.

**PAIGE:** Good.

### **Scene Nine**

*Liam and Ryan are playing football, Paige is sitting on the park bench looking a bit bored and constantly checking her phone*

**LIAM:** Ah fam you seen this (insta name?) she is well buff! We been messaging each other, I am gonna link up with her, I'm linking her next week, gonna take her for a cheeky Nandos

**RYAN:** What, what, wait- you taking her to Nandos?

**LIAM:** Yeah bro

**RYAN:** What are you talking about?

**LIAM:** I'm taking her to nandos

**RYAN:** But you can't

**LIAM:** What's wrong with you fam?

**RYAN:** You can't cos, cos she's mine

**LIAM:** What? (he laughs) She's yours! Why you lying for?

**RYAN:** I'm not lying

**LIAM:** Come on then, prove it to me, how's she yours, you been talking to her?

**RYAN:** Yeah I have

**LIAM:** Prove it

**RYAN:** I don't need to...

**LIAM:** Come on show me her messages then, her texts (goading) come on free up the phone let me see what she wrote then

*Ryan shows the phone from a distance, he is embarrassed by the intimacy of the messages*

**LIAM:** Ah come on, I can't see nothing from there (*Liam moves closer*) what's that? *Liam takes the phone from Ryan and starts to read the messages*

**LIAM:** Oh my days, look at this...

**PAIGE:** ...Just give it back, that's well mean...

**LIAM:** Ah wait, wait, wait (*he reads a message*) 'I feel so connected to you' (*laughs*) 'I feel I can totally be myself when I'm talking to you' Bruv, this girl sounds EVIL

**PAIGE:** You don't even know her

**LIAM:** She just sounds bare clingy, like she is just going to irritate you!

**PAIGE:** She's not like that, you don't even know her

**LIAM:** Hold on do you know her?

**PAIGE:** No

**LIAM:** Hang on is it you messaging Ryan, haven't got enough likes on your insta recently?

**PAIGE:** No, that's just so stupid, you're just so stupid

**LIAM:** Why are you so bothered, tell me little Miss Paige, someone else getting the attention, you feeling left out, you jealous?

**PAIGE:** No, I know her she's my friend

*Paige sits, defeated that she has finally given away Mia's secret*

**RYAN:** What you know her?

*He sits next to Paige wanting to find out the true identity of this girl*

**LIAM:** Jeez

*He moves behind Ryan and Paige to ensure he does not miss out on any of this conversation*

**RYAN:** Well come on who is she then?

**PAIGE:** *(Reluctantly)* Well you know that girl you bumped into?

**RYAN:** NO, Who?

**PAIGE:** When you were late for school, you dropped your phone?

**RYAN:** That girl?

*Throughout this conversation Liam is repeating their lines and making his own comments*

**PAIGE:** Yeah

**RYAN:** The one from the year below? *Paige nods*

**RYAN:** She looks nothing like her picture

**PAIGE/ RYAN:** Shut up! *(directed at Liam)*

**RYAN:** Why didn't she mention any of this?

**PAIGE:** She's still the same person

**RYAN:** It doesn't matter, she still deceived me, lied to me

**PAIGE:** It's not like that; she still means what she says

**RYAN:** How she not have mentioned that she was in the year below and that I knew her

**LIAM:** What so you know her, what's her name, do I know her

**PAIGE:** Mia, Mia Jefferies

**LIAM:** What that awkward looking thing, all weird and arty, paint little flowers and stuff on her bag?

*Paige looks away*

**LIAM:** *(laughing)* Ah mate I knew it, told ya she'd be a weirdo- you dodged a bullet there

**RYAN:** *(to himself)* So she lied, no wonder she didn't want to meet me, all that stuff I said to her

**LIAM:** I told ya, girls aren't loyal fam!

*Ryan walks off humiliated and angry at Mia*

**PAIGE:** Ah Ryan don't go

**LIAM:** You done that

*Paige gets up and goes to storm off*

**LIAM:** Wait, wait, wait- hold on a minute (Liam has clocked Paige's friendship with Mia) you mean to tell me you're all BF's with little Miss awkward arty girl from the year below? Man your likes are going down

### **Scene Ten**

*Mia is in the Art room trying to complete her art coursework; she is completely immersed in her work until she senses someone in the room. She turns to see Ryan standing looking straight at her*

**RYAN:** Paige told me *(Mia looks down)* So it's true then? *(she nods)* Why did you lie to me, come on tell me?

**MIA:** Because I didn't think you would talk to me otherwise

*Beat*

**MIA:** I'm sorry

**RYAN:** You're a liar, and you deceive people and you are fake

**MIA:** Ryan I'm sorry

**RYAN:** Look at you, why didn't you ever mention that you were in the year below and that you go to the same school and that I bumped into you?

**MIA:** I was going to tell you

**RYAN:** No you weren't, that's just another lie. You are fake and I would never go for someone like you

**MIA:** But we have a connection

**RYAN:** We have NO connection, look at you! Don't ever talk to me again

*Ryan goes to walk off*

**MIA:** Well what about you? You're fake; you're just as fake as I am

**RYAN:** What are you talking about?

**MIA:** You don't wear clothes like that at home or talk like you do in front of Liam- remember you told me all of this

**RYAN:** Well it's my dad; you know what he expects of me

**MIA:** Yeah I do, just like you know about mine. I know you, we are just the same

**RYAN:** We are not the same; I don't trick people into liking me

**MIA:** What I said was genuine, it was the real me. We get each other don't we?

**RYAN:** I don't know anymore

*Ryan walks out of the classroom, leaving Mia completely alone. In a fit of anger at potentially losing RYAN she rips up her art work but instantly regrets it as it is her GCSE coursework. Ryan is seen walking back into the room and sees Mia's rage, he does not say anything and is not seen by her. Mia regrets her actions and is cross about what she has done. She decides to ring Paige.*

**PAIGE:** Listen I know you must be mad but please let me explain...

**MIA:** ... You promised me you wouldn't tell him, why would you do that? You are supposed to be my friend.

**PAIGE:** I am your friend, but I didn't have any choice...

**MIA:** ...You went behind my back, who does that?

**PAIGE:** It wasn't me it was Liam...

**MIA:** ...Ah I knew you would do this, try and blame it on someone else. You were the only one who knew Paige. You knew how much I liked him and it's like you have ruined it for me on purpose

**PAIGE:** Why would I do that, Mia we've been friends since primary school

**MIA:** Maybe because you're jealous? You hate the idea that maybe for once I am getting the attention and not you

**PAIGE:** You know it's not like that, why are you acting like this Mia? It's not you...

**MIA:** ...What because I am actually sticking up for myself? You completely betrayed me, who does that to their so called friend- don't call me again, you're a back- stabbing bitch

*Mia slams the phone down, we see Paige shocked at the extreme reaction she has received from Mia*

## Scene Eleven

*Liam and Ryan are in the school corridor hanging out, Ryan is looking very miserable*

**LIAM:** Seriously bruv you got to stop moping round after weirdo art girl, it's embarrassing (*Mia walks past; she spots them and tries to sneak past*) Oh speak of the devil, here she is Lewisham's next top model! Roll out the red carpet

**MIA:** Shut up Liam (*she goes to walk off*)

**LIAM:** What you telling me to shut up?! I'm the good guy here, you're the one that deceived my good friend Ryan- look at him, he is well cut up. You're a liar, I mean look at this (he takes a picture of her) that's what you really look like, not like this. Does this look anything like her? (*he shows the phone the audience who act as school pupils looking on*) You are a fake

**MIA:** (*Mia is feeling the pressure and looks to Ryan for help*) Ryan?

*Ryan looks at her and walks away*

**LIAM:** You are a joke; the whole school are laughing at you

*Paige has entered and sees Mia being cornered by Liam*

**PAIGE:** Liam, leave her alone- you've said enough

**MIA:** I don't need your help; don't pretend you're my friend now

**PAIGE:** You know what, I'm done (*Paige holds her hands up and walks out*)

**LIAM:** You've just lost your only friend, you are done here. Anyway I gotta get to class

## Scene Twelve

*Dad is sitting at home reading the paper and having a cup of tea, he is eagerly awaiting Mia's return to see her Art work. Mia walks in and does not even make eye contact with her dad*

**DAD:** Ah there's my girl! So how was it going, you finished your mater piece- I was telling them all at work about my very talented daughter

**MIA:** I'm going to my room

**DAD:** Mia, you alright? (*Calling after her*)

*Dad spots her bag and is excited to see her art work so pulls it out and discovers it in pieces. He is confused and calls up to her*

**DAD:** Mia, can you come down? (*no reply*) Mia I need you to come down

**MIA:** I just want to be on my own dad

**DAD:** Mia you need to come down right now!

*Mia walks down and sees her dad has been in her bag, she goes on the defence*

MIA: Why are you going through my bag? That's my private things

DAD: This is your painting, I don't understand you have been working on this for weeks and it counts for most of your GCSE mark

MIA: Well it's ruined now

DAD: Why are you acting like this, what's going on? You are really not yourself. I don't get it, what happened. Did you do this?

*She says nothing*

DAD: Did someone else do this? If someone has done this you need to tell me Mia. Who was it, you can tell me, you can talk to me

MIA: Paige (*more assertive*) It was Paige

DAD: I knew she was trouble, why would she do that to you? That's not a genuine friend. Did she not know how important that work was? She's not like you; she doesn't have your focus and drive. Sorry love I don't mean to get angry, I don't want you to worry about any of this, we'll sort it. I will call the school tomorrow and let them know what happened

MIA: No, dad please don't call the school

DAD: Mia of course I have to, they need to know

*Mia realises the extent of the lie but cannot go back on it. Dad exits. Mia receives a text from Ryan that reads 'Sorry for earlier I should have had your back. Want to meet before school tomorrow so we can talk? I miss you' She reads the message and instantly replies 'its fine yes lets meet. I miss you too'*

*Paige enters the stage and posts a message that reads 'This is what I get for sticking up for a snake, suspended from school. Thanks Mia Jefferies' We see Ryan and Liam enter the space and various phone alerts going off as messages are sent backwards and forwards and the story is revealed*

### **Scene Thirteen**

*Mia is waiting on the park bench for Ryan.*

**MIA:** Hi

**RYAN:** Hiya (*he is a little off with her*) So how was your night?

**MIA:** Bit boring, went to bed to be fair, it had been a bit of a shit day. How about you?

**RYAN:** Quite interesting really, with all the messages flying around

**MIA:** What messages?

**RYAN:** From Paige, seriously you haven't seen them?

**MIA:** No she defriended me, and anyway I have decided that it got me in enough trouble so maybe social media isn't for me

**RYAN:** So you don't what she has been saying about you, what everyone is talking about?

**MIA:** About me? What's everyone saying?

**RYAN:** Paige has been suspended, because she apparently destroyed your art coursework. So is that true?

**MIA:** yes, I wouldn't make something like that up would I? She was obviously angry at me for what I said in front of everyone

**RYAN:** You're a liar, you have just lied right to my face

**MIA:** What do you mean I've lied?

**RYAN:** When I came to see you in the art room yesterday, I walked out but I came back to speak to you and I saw you, I saw you rip up your work. It wasn't Paige, it was you. What sort of a person does that?

**MIA:** But what about what she did to me, she deserves it; she deliberately tried to ruin us

**RYAN:** You're wrong again, she was trying to stick up for you, to protect you.

**MIA:** But it will be fine, I'll sort it out, it's just got a bit out of hand

**RYAN:** There is nothing real about you, you're a nasty, fake liar and I'm going to make sure everyone knows it

*Ryan walks off. Mia is trying to work out what to do next, she walks in the direction of school but realises that she can no longer go in because of what she will face. She walks back in the opposite direction. She looks at her phone; she has no one to call or message so she checks her insta account. She posts a picture, at that point we see Paige and Liam get the alert, they look at the picture and ignore it. She is left centre stage, alone.*