

Do Boys Have Uta-whatevers?

A very short play about a very big topic.

By Pamela Morgan

Synopsis:

A mom tries to figure out how to tell her trans son about the birds and the bees.

Cast of Characters

Mom - cisgender white female, mid 30s, has the answers to everything

Kid - transgender white male, 6-8, has questions about everything

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Mom speaks to Kid and to the audience, when she shares her inner thoughts.

As lights up, Mom is driving the car, she is able to see Kid from her rear view mirror. Kid sits comfortably in a car seat, often obliviously watching the road go by. A few moments pass as he looks out the window and she smiles at him in the rearview mirror.

KID

(with no warning)

Mommy, where do babies come from?

MOM

(to audience)

The dreaded question. It's not that I don't want to tell my 7 year old all about how babies are made, I really do. All the books I've read on the subject, and believe me, I've read so many books on the subject, all say to let the kid choose the time and the place. But seriously, does it have to be on the ride home from school in second grade? I thought I'd have a year or five, at least!

Unfortunately, he has other plans.

(to Kid)

Well that's a really big question. Are you sure you want some really big answers?

KID

Yeah. I think so.

MOM

Remember how I always like to start?

KID

(having heard it before)

With what we know.

MOM

That's right. So where do you think babies come from?

Kid thinks deeply for a moment.

KID

From...your belly?

MOM

Close! The uterus.

KID

The uta-what?

MOM

The uterus. It's the part of the body where babies live, before they're born.

KID

Oh. And the uta...the uta...

MOM

(helping)

The uterus.

KID

Yeah. That's in the belly?

MOM

It's close enough to the belly.

Pause. Mom relaxes a moment.

KID

Do boys have uta-whatevers?

MOM

(to Audience)

And here's the tricky part. How on earth do I explain this process without including gender?

Because the truth is, some boys, like my son, do have uta-whatevers. He was assigned female at birth and transitioned to male. And that's okay, no matter how some people feel about it. And some girls have penises and that's okay too.

And there is a very real possibility that my son might carry a baby of his own someday in his uter- whatever and become father.

But only if I somehow manage not to scar him for the rest of his life. Here goes.

(to Kid)

You remember how we talked about the different body parts that different kinds of people have?

KID

(slowly, thinking)

A bagina and a penis?

MOM

Vagina, and yes. Those parts are used in making babies.

KID

Ew!

MOM

(to Audience)

This ship is sinking fast!

(to Kid)

We call them reproductive organs and these organs produce different things. The penis, along with testicles make-

KID

Test tickles?

MOM

Yeah, testicles. It's a funny word. The penis and testicles make sperm and the vagina and uterus, along with ovaries make eggs.

KID

Eggs?! Like a chicken?

MOM

Well, yeah, kind of like a chicken egg. Only people eggs don't have hard shells and they don't come outside of our bodies, at least not like a chicken's egg and we absolutely would not fry them up for breakfast.

Kid giggles.

(to Audience)

This is getting totally off track. Come on, Mom, you can do this.

Mom takes a deep breath, tries again.

(to Kid)

A baby is made when the sperm finds the egg and fertilizes it. That's how you and your brother were made. That's how all people are made.

Kid stares for a long moment, clearly some wheels are turning.

(to Audience)

I'm a little bit afraid of what is going to come out next.

KID

(slowly)

So a mommy makes an egg and a daddy makes a sperm and they put it together in the uta-uta-

MOM

Uta-whatever.

(to Audience, dejected)

But that's not quite right!

Sometimes, mommies make sperm and sometimes daddies make eggs. Sometimes a baby has parents of nonbinary genders, or two mommies or two daddies, and that's a whole different process to make those babies. Sometimes parents can't make a baby at all and they adopt someone else's baby. Or doctors help them make a baby. Or someone else carries the baby for them in her or his or their uta-whatever.

Beat.

For being one of the oldest, most primitive functions of life, having a baby is a really complicated process!

And trying to explain it to a seven year old is even more complicated.

But I have to give this my best shot.

(to Kid)

To make a baby, you need a sperm and an egg and a place to grow it, like the uterus.
That's it.

KID

That's it?

MOM

That's it. A baby doesn't need a mommy and a daddy. A baby sometimes doesn't have any parents at all. But what a baby does need is love, unconditional love. And support.

Long pause while Kid processes. Mom holds her breath. Then he smiles.

KID

I'm really glad that you're my mommy.

MOM

(enthusiastically)

So am I, kiddo. So glad that I'm your mommy and you're my kid.

(to Audience)

What a relief! Crisis averted and without too much scarring.

Beat.

I hope.

MOM

(to Kid)

Did you have any other questions about it?

A pause.

I've got answers, I can't promise they're right, but I've got them!

Another pause, then like an avalanche.

KID

So do you have to eat the egg and sperm to get the baby into the uter...uterus? And where are you before you're born? Does God have a uterus or a penis? Can you have both?

As Kid continues the flood of questions, Mom turns to audience and mouths, "Help!"

What does God look like? Does the Universe end? How did the Universe begin? Will I get sucked into a black hole one day? Does it hurt to get sucked into a black hole or does it tickle like a test? Are there quiz tickles too?

BLACKOUT.