

(A row of lockers runs the width of the stage. STUDENTS cross on their ways to class. REN crosses to ARIEL who stands with RUSTY; music out.)

REN

Hey! Ariel? Right?

ARIEL

Right.

REN

Ren? McCormack? We met after church? Is this a small world or what? I'm your new classmate.
(A beat.)

ARIEL

(Mimicking him.)

Howdy.

RUSTY

Girl, leave that poor boy alone!

(They leave, joining WENDY JO and URLEEN on their way. REN, in embarrassment, turns and bumps into WILLARD HEWITT, a hayseed in a hat.)

START

WILLARD

Hey, mister! You bumped me!

REN

Sorry.

WILLARD

Don't you ever look?

REN

I said I was sorry.

WILLARD

Hey! You're that new guy from Chicago, ain'tcha?

REN

Perhaps.

WILLARD

Smart-ass, huh? Listen, fella, around here you push somebody... they push back. Next thing you know, you got two people pushing. Get it?

REN

Got it. Lemme ask you something. They sell men's clothes where you got that hat?
(Pause)

WILLARD

What is that, some kind of stupid joke?

REN

No. That's a really good joke.

WILLARD

That's it, man. I'm gonna kill you!
(He raises his fists to pound REN.)

REN

Oh, please! Kill me!
(WILLARD stops.)

WILLARD

Huh?

REN

Kill me! Kill me! That's the most exciting thing I've heard since I hit town!
(Extending his hand.)
 Ren McCormack. And you are...?

WILLARD

Willard. Willard Hewitt.

REN

Willard, what do you do around here for a good time?
(WILLARD hesitates, then makes a lewd gesture; music resumes.)
 Yeah. Besides that. You have any clubs?

WILLARD

Nope.

REN

What about movies?

WILLARD

Nope.

REN

What about malls?

WILLARD

Nope.

REN

What about...

WILLARD

Nope. Nope.

(Pause)

We got the Bowl-A-Rama down by the interstate.

END