

THE ESSENCE OF TWO

“THE WACKIEST PICKED UP LINES”

(Episode 3)

WRITTEN BY JADE BRYAN

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

1) Deaf/Hard of Hearing.	Female / 30-40 Years old / Black/Afro-Latinx
Speaking Role/Fluent in American Sign Language (ASL)	ESSENCE CHAMBERLAIN-DUBOIS, age 38 , is an attractive, free-spirited, and whip-smart, self-taught freelance Day Trader who has decided to return back to the school her daughter is attending. She is also a wife and a mother of three.
2) Open to other races and Hearing/CODA actors	Male / 40-50 Years old / Black/Latino
Must be fluent in ASL.	RANFORD DUBOIS, age 40 , is Essence’s workaholic husband and is a successful lawyer. He is good-looking, comical, self-reliant and traditional. He is one of the co-owners of a law firm he shares with two other partners. He is hearing. His parents are both deaf and sometimes visit the family. Ranford met Essence when they went to the same college at Harpo University.
3) Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing	Female / 20-28 Years old / Black/Afro-Latinx/Mixed
Speaking Role or Fluent in ASL	ZOE ESSENCE DUBOIS , age 20, like mother-like daughter, Zoë Essence is trying to find her place assimilating in the hearing world. She is the oldest daughter. She’s fashion savvy, materialistic and is always trying to look good wherever she goes. She’s also fiercely independent and stubborn.

4) Deaf/Hard of Hearing	Male / 18-24 Years old / Black/Afro-Latino/Mixed
High school basketball player (Not for staged reading)	MARCELL DUBOIS, age 17 , is self-conflicted and sexually challenged, is the deaf son of Ranford and Essence. He is the star and captain of a boy's basketball team. He's only on the team to impress his father. He's a senior in high school.
5) Hearing CODA	Female / 15-19 Years old/ Black/Afro-Latino/Mixed (Open to Non-binary)
Must be fluent in ASL	JADORI DUBOIS, a 15 year old sophomore Vegan/Animal Activist in high school who is a straight-A student. She is the youngest and is a hearing Child of a Deaf Adult (CODA) who is honest, responsible and mature for her age. She is a thinker and is always challenging the family about many issues.
6) Hearing/Hard of Hearing	Male / 20-28 Years old / Black/Mixed/ Caribbean
Must know some ASL	SEPTIMUS APPLETON, 22 , is Zoë Essence's boyfriend. He sometimes goes by the nickname "Apple or App" because some of his deaf friends have a hard time pronouncing his name and he also loves Apple products. He knows a lot about technology and is tech-savvy.
7) Deaf/Hard of Hearing	Female / 20-28 Years old / Any Ethnicity
Fluent in ASL	HIKMA 'WIZDOM' ABBOTT, 21 , is Zoë Essence's best friend. She can be righteous and opinionated. At the same time, she has an amiable personality, always cheerful. She's an aspiring documentary filmmaker who is studying film production and political science. She's an artistic bohemian.

8) Deaf or Hearing	Female / 30-40 Years old / Any Ethnicity
	<p>ARI DIVINE, age 35, is a loud and boisterous beautician. She likes expensive brand name things. She's Essence's best friend from child hood. She is very blunt and is not afraid to hold her tongue. Ari is a gossiper. Ari and Essence have many conflicts, but they adore each other.</p>
9) Deaf or Hearing	Male / 30 - 50 Years old / Any Ethnicity / Drag Queens
	<p>OYEN and OYNETTA are pop op up reactionary characters who respond to all the terrible things and funny situations between Essence and the family characters.</p>
10) Deaf/Hard of Hearing	Male / 30 - 40 Years old / Black/ Caribbean
	<p>RIO PAULIE, 38, is deaf gay flamboyant man. He is a returning student. He runs the dance squad/drill team at Harpo University. He also hosts drag show competition on campus and off-campus. He and Essence are very close friends. Rio Paulie is married to Rene.</p>
11) Hearing	Female / 30ish / Mixed Race
	<p>RENE CAREY, 30, is a female to male transgender student-teacher who works at the computer lab with Apple at Harpo University. Rene is well-respected on campus. A swell dapper. Rene is married to Rio Paulie.</p>

12) Deaf/Hard of Hearing	Female / 20-25 Years old / Black/Afro-Latinx/Mixed
Fluent in American Sign Language (ASL)	NOEL FAITH, age 23 , is a soft stud lesbian, and Hikma’s girlfriend. She has an entertaining personality and makes everyone laugh. She’s also an aspiring comedian. She does stand up comedy shows at her school.
13) Deaf/Hard of Hearing	Female / 20-25 Years old / Black/Afro-Latinx
Must be fluent in ASL.	TESSA MARIE JOHNSON, 21 , is a light-skinned, self-conflicted Republican student who defends extremist views. Ciara calls her the “Diamond and Silk” school mascot of Harpo University because her mom is the Dean. She only dates white men. She is dating Cassidy Drake. She’s a soror of Privas of Omega Delta Sorority.
14) Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing	Female / 18-24 Years old/ Black/Afro-Latinx/Mixed
Speaking Role or Fluent in ASL	CIARA JONES aka CJ, 22, is a Black, deaf, loud, colorful weave-wearer who can’t live without her weaves. She must look good in them. She is super woke and conscious. Her thoughts has no filter and she gives it to you 100%, sometimes, hood-ratchet, if she has to. She and Tessa are often at odds with each other. She has an on and off relationship with Paps John. She’s a soror of the Privas of Omega Delta Sorority that Zoe Essence is a member of at Harpo University and is majoring in Marketing and Communication.

15) Deaf/Hard of Hearing	Male / 20-24 Years old / Black/Afro-Latino/Caribbean/African
Must be fluent in ASL	PAPI JOHN, 22 , is a black, deaf player. He loves his chicken wings and pizza. He would always put Tabasco sauce on his pizza. He never leaves his Tabasco sauce at home. He's the Vice President of Black Deaf Rock Social Club. He has an undecided major. Though, he's interested in Sports Journalism.
16) Deaf/Hard of Hearing	Male / 20-25 Years old / Black
Must be fluent in ASL	SAUL ANDRE is 23 year old shy and modest black geek. Definitely better looking than Steve Urkel. He writes for the school newspaper and produces on-campus TV shows with Hikma at Harpo University. He's a filmmaker. He has a crush on Zoe Essence.
17) Hearing	Male / 20-24 Years old / Caucasian
Must know some ASL	CASSIDY BENEDICT, 22 , is a hearing, All-American, white male student who dates Tessa. He's the only white student in a black fraternity at Harpo. He's always down for the black cause only because he's dating Tessa. He's one of those negrophile who seeks validations from Black people.
18) Deaf/Hard of Hearing	Female / 30 - 40 Years / Any Ethnicity
Fluent in ASL	JOIE LATTIMORE (age 40) is an irresistible, soft butch and a sweetheart. Joie is Essence's first girlfriend at Harpo University before Ranford got her pregnant with Zoe Essence while they were all students. Ranford and Joie would sometimes compete for Essence's attention.

19) Hearing	Female / 35 -45 Years old / Black
	DEAN JANELLE JOHNSON , age 39, is an Harpo University alumna. She entered the same year as Essence. She is a proud and strong-willed woman who takes pride in her work as the Dean of Harpo University. She is the mother of Tessa Marie. She's proud member of the Privas Omega Delta.
20) Hearing	Male / 30 - 40 Years old / Black / Caribbean
	RASHAD STANLEY , who is 40, is a Black lawyer and parter of Ranford's law firm. He is an alumni of Harpo. Ranford and Rashad are members of a fraternity organization at Harpo University.
21) Hearing	Female / 30 - 40 Years old / Black/ African Caribbean
	WILLOW KEBRA , an attractive, Black woman, in her late 30th, who is a hearing transfer student from Africa. She is a dancer and engineering major.
22) Hearing/Deaf/Hard of Hearing	Announcer/Server (Any ethnicities)