

Key Scene/Aria in Blanchard's *Champion: An Opera in Jazz*

Video excerpts and timestamps are pulled from the Metropolitan Opera on Demand and YouTube. Performance Date: Apr. 29, 2023

Content Warning: While the selected scene excerpts from *Champion* contain minimal inappropriate language, please be aware that the full work includes themes of adult content and language. Please review the material and provide appropriate context to ensure it aligns with the needs and maturity of students.

KEY SCENE/ARIA: Act I, Scene 21: "What Makes a Man a Man" (Excerpt)

[Met Opera on Demand](#): Track #26. ACT I: What makes a man a man?
00:00 – 01:35

OR

[Act I, Scene 21: "What Makes a Man a Man"](#)
00:00 – 1:36

When they face off at the weigh-in, Paret taunts Emile about his sexual orientation. Emile is furious, and they nearly come to blows right there. Howie pulls him away, but when Emile begins to explain why the insult hit so close to home, Howie refuses to have the conversation, telling him that the boxing world is not a place where he can be open about his sexuality. Alone, Emile wrestles with his sense of manhood and identity.

Libretto Excerpt

YOUNG EMILE

What makes a man a man
What makes a man the man he is?
Is it the flesh and bone?
Inside? Outside?
Is it the skin he wears?
The color of his voice?
The walk he walks?
The talk he talks?
Inside? Outside?
What makes this man a man?
Is it the life he's lived?
The yesterdays?
Or what he dreams for the tomorrow-days?

Libretto excerpts courtesy of Boston Lyric Opera.