

LAUGHING WILD by Christopher Durang - "I used to be a very negative person"

Male actor - any age 18 and up.

MAN: I used to be a very negative person. But then I took this personality workshop that totally turned my life around. Now when something bad or negative happens, I can see the positive. Now when I have a really bad day, or when someone I thought was a really good friend betrays me, or maybe when I've been hit by one of those damn people riding bicycles the opposite way on a one-way street, so, of course, one hadn't looked in that direction and there they are bearing down on you, about to kill or maim you — anyway, I look at any of these things and I say to myself: this glass is not half full, it's half empty.

No — I said it backwards, force of habit. This glass is not half empty, it is half *full*.

Of course, if they hit you with the stupid bicycle your glass won't be half full or half empty, it will be shattered to pieces, and you'll be dead or in the hospital.

But really I'm trying to be positive, that's what I'm doing with my life these days. I was tired of not being joyful and happy, I was sick of my personality, and I had to change it.

Half full, not half empty. I had to say to myself: you do not have cancer—at least not today. You are not blind. You are not one of the starving children in China or in Africa. Look at the sunset, look at the sunrise, why don't you enjoy them, for God's sake? And now I do. Except if it's cloudy, of course, and you can't see the sun. Or if it's cold. Or if it's too hot.

I probably need to take a few more personality workshops to complete the process. It's still not quite within my grasp, this being positive business.

But I'm making great strides my friends don't recognize me.

And it's hard for me to be positive because I'm very sensitive to the vibrations of people around me, or maybe I'm just paranoid.