

***Definitive* by Joey Del Santo**

This powerful, fast-paced political drama explores love, duty, ambition, and identity across borders — from the marble corridors of Washington D.C. to the underground queer spaces of Belarus. *Definitive* asks: what does it mean to do the right thing when truth itself becomes dangerous?

In this gripping, emotionally charged story, relationships are tested, governments collide, and courage takes many forms. Part domestic drama and part political thriller, *Definitive* demands bold performances, deep emotional range, and authenticity from its cast.

The suggested cast doubling is indicated below, however, the cast may be expanded as desired. Productions can be performed with casts ranging from 9 to 26 actors.

Jared Nelson

Description: A journalist for The Boston Globe whose relentless pursuit of truth leads him into moral and personal conflict. While he searches for the truth of others, he avoids his own.

- **Personality Traits:** Intelligent, idealistic, obsessive, empathetic yet often self-righteous. Balances conviction with guilt.
- **Vocal Quality:** Thoughtful and articulate; American accent, emotionally controlled but prone to bursts of passion.
- **Physicality:** Restless energy. Moves with purpose, but when anxious, folds inward; often carries tension in the shoulders and jaw.

Sara Nelson

Description: The U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and Jared's wife. Torn between ambition and morality.

- **Personality Traits:** Confident, calculating, disciplined, compassionate under her armor.
- **Vocal Quality:** Poised, deliberate, commanding; a natural orator with a professional tone that occasionally cracks under pressure.
- **Physicality:** Polished posture. Graceful movements that project authority. Rarely still—always planning her next move.

Isaac Webster

Description: Annie's son, a young gay man living in Belarus. Idealistic and hopeful amid the heart ache and oppressions he experiences daily.

- **Personality Traits:** Brave, flirtatious, introspective, compassionate; finds joy even in fear.
- **Vocal Quality:** Light but firm; warmth beneath a cynical wit.
- **Physicality:** Fluid, open body language; comfortable in his skin despite external danger. Often disarms others with casual ease. Compassion shows in his comfort with physical touch.

Melissa

Description: Sara's executive assistant turned Chief of Staff. Witty, loyal, and unfiltered.

- **Personality Traits:** Resourceful, sarcastic, passionate, emotionally intelligent, deeply loyal to Sara.
- **Vocal Quality:** Quick, bright, confident; often covers tension with humor.
- **Physicality:** Fast-moving, reactive, expressive. Uses hands when speaking; prone to pacing or gesturing emphatically.

Annie

Description: A U.S. Embassy worker in Belarus, and mother to Isaac. Seasoned, protective, emotionally complex.

- **Personality Traits:** Sharp, maternal, world-weary; hides fear under humor and poise.
- **Vocal Quality:** Mature and grounded; American accent tinged with experience abroad.
- **Physicality:** Controlled and steady; gestures with confidence, moves like someone used to command.

Tim (Doubles as Guard, Waiter & Vice President)

Description: Jared's editor at The Globe. A seasoned journalist who has traded youthful idealism for pragmatism. He pushes Jared, driven by his own professional ambition.

- **Personality Traits:** Blunt, quick-thinking, assertive, persuasive, protective of his reporters but demanding. He hides care behind sarcasm and deadlines.

- **Vocal Qualities:** Confident newsroom cadence; speaks in sharp, clipped bursts like someone always short on time. American accent.
- **Physicality:** Upright and kinetic; gestures with pens or phones. Moves like a man constantly multitasking. Rarely sits still; energy fills the space.

President (Doubles as Guard, Waiter)

Description: The President of the United States. A composed leader skilled at balancing politics and image. Represents the moral contradictions of power — noble in rhetoric, pragmatic in action.

- **Personality Traits:** Charismatic, diplomatic, calculating, commanding yet personable; can pivot between warmth and authority effortlessly.
- **Vocal Qualities:** Rich, deliberate voice; articulate with the practiced rhythm of political speech. American accent; measured and presidential.
- **Physicality:** Controlled and grounded; uses stillness to command a room. Shakes hands with practiced ease; gestures economically but powerfully

Dmitri (Doubles as Matthews)

Description: Both roles center on activism and loss—one local, one global. Dmitri is a queer Belarusian man. Matthews as an American LGBTQ+ advocate working with the Human Rights Campaign.

- **Personality Traits:**
 - Dmitri: Earnest, wounded, persistent.
 - Matthews: Confident, professional, passionate.
- **Vocal Qualities:**
 - Dmitri: Belarusian accent
 - Matthews: professional American accent
- **Physicality:**
 - Dmitri: Free and comfortable
 - Matthews: Measured confidence

Alena (Doubles as Charlie)

Description: Both Alena and Charlie are queer women living under very different circumstances. Alena hides her identity in the shadows in Belarus. Charlie lives proud as a lesbian in the U.S. working with the Human Rights Campaign.

- **Personality Traits:**
 - Alena: Broken but determined;
 - Charlie: Professional, passionate, earnest
- **Vocal Qualities:**
 - Alena: Belarusian accent; cautious tones
 - Charlie: Warm and persuasive
- **Physicality:**
 - Alena: Expressive, but at times contained
 - Charlie: Honest and present

Senator Webber

Description: A Southern Republican senator; pragmatic, occasionally comedic.

- **Personality Traits:** Charming, calculating, opportunistic.
- **Vocal Qualities:** Southern drawl
- **Physicality:** Confident, broad gestures; projects power through ease and comfort

Michael

Description: A college student with an athletic build; captain of the track team.

- **Personality Traits:** Gentle, reflective, tragic.
- **Vocal Qualities:** Youthful, clear; charming.
- **Physicality:** Confidence and suave air to each movement.

Other Roles

In the U.S.:

Secretary of State of the United States, U.S. Ambassador to Belarus, Chair of the U.S. Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, Senators at Sara's Confirmation Hearing.
Nurse

In Belarus:

Zora, Moran, Passerby, Night Club Dancers