



# Forever the Fat Kid: How I Survived Dysfunction, Depression and Life in the Theater

*Michael Boyd*

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Michael Boyd grew up in 1960s New Jersey-an overweight, shy kid who couldn't seem to find his place. He wasn't interested in the same things as the other kids in the neighborhood. He had a hard time making friends, and he was considered unpopular at best. He felt different because he *was* different. It just took a long time to figure it out. *Forever the Fat Kid* is not a harrowing journey from fat to fantastic. It is the difficult story of a black youth wrestling with his sexual identity, while struggling to develop in the turbulent American 1960s. Boyd's story takes him from Jersey to the Broadway stage, to major European cities, and even into the depths of depression ... but in the end, he finds hope. He finds who he was meant to be. It took years for Michael Boyd to find his way from fat to thin, shy to outgoing, and unpopular to admired. But he did eventually find his way, with the help of his art. It would be hard to picture the fat kid of the 1960s ruling the stage at the Apollo Theater years later, but it did happen. Through these experiences, Boyd discovered that coming of age, coming out, and coming to terms with one's life is a never-ending process.

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