

GENTLY NUDGING THE SATIRIC.

HEIDI, SUSAN & JEFF

AH.

HUNTER

HEIDI, SUSAN & JEFF

WE'RE TRYING HARD NOT TO DUPLICATE	OOH
WHAT WE'VE SEEN AND HEARD BEFORE	OOH
AND IF BARTOK'S HERE HE'LL APPRECIATE	OOH
IF WE'RE INVENTIVE WITH THE SCORE.	OOH

ALL

SO WE'LL PUT IN A SYNCOPATION
 AND WE'LL ADD A QUARTER NOTE.
 AND WE'LL SOFTLY START THE CODA FROM A VERY TINY POINT.
 AND THEN WE'LL GET A LITTLE LOUDER TO FURTHER EMPHASIZE THE POINT.
 AND THEN WE'LL CROSS DOWNSTAGE TOWARD YOU

SUSAN & JEFF

AND NOW WE'RE YELLING FORTISSIMO!

HUNTER

YELLING FORTISSIMO!

HEIDI

YELLING FORTISSIMO!

ALL

OH, IT'S THE OPENING SONG.
 IT DOESN'T HAVE A TITLE.
 NO, AND IT'S NOT VERY LONG,
 BUT IT'S THE STARTING POINT OF OUR MUSICAL.
 AND HERE'S THE FIRST SCENE OF OUR MUSICAL!

(As the WOMEN exit, JEFF and HUNTER cross to opposite sides of the stage into two pools of light representing their apartments. JEFF's cell phone rings...)

START

Scene 1: Phone Call 1

JEFF

(Answering his cell phone.)

Hello?

HUNTER

So last night, a drag queen stole my shrimp.

JEFF

What? What are you talking about?

HUNTER

I was eating outside in Chelsea at Seafood Marc or Mer, however you say it, and this drugged-out drag queen staggers over and grabs the shrimp off my plate.

JEFF

Wow.

HUNTER

She was a zesty mess in a dirty dress. The manager gave me another plate, so it was fine. But, it kind of freaked me out.

JEFF

Well, drag queens need their protein too.

HUNTER

They do. They do. That's just a little cautionary tale about eating outdoors in Chelsea.

JEFF

Oh my god! Did you hear that Mary Stout got hit by a hot dog cart?

HUNTER

What? Is she okay?

JEFF

Yeah, I think so.

HUNTER

Drag queens stealing shrimp, Mary Stout hit by a hot dog cart...it's all too much sometimes.

JEFF

Only in New York kids...only in New York.

HUNTER

What are you doing?

JEFF

Working on a website for a new client and listening to *Henry, Sweet Henry*.

(He sings from the score.)

What are you doing?

HUNTER

Ummm...half looking at internet porn and half watching "Doc Hollywood" on HBO On Demand. Did you see that email I forwarded you?

JEFF

Which one?

HUNTER

About that new musical theatre festival?

I - 1 - 4

JEFF

Yeah. I think we should submit something.

HUNTER

Submissions are due in three weeks, so that would give us what...three weeks? Do we have anything ready to go?

JEFF

Ummm...no.

HUNTER

Hmmm.

JEFF

I thought we could write something new.

HUNTER

In three weeks?

JEFF

Sure. They wrote *Wonderful Town* in a month.

HUNTER

Really?

JEFF

Yeah.

HUNTER

I don't know...there's a new season of "The Bachelor" starting up.

JEFF

And I did just get the first season of "Wonder Woman" on DVD.

HUNTER

See, we're gonna be extremely busy this month.

JEFF

No, we should do it.

HUNTER

Ugh.

JEFF

Look, I'm gonna go to the park and do some bird watching. Let's both brainstorm and I'll come over later.

HUNTER

Okay. Bye.

Bye.
JEFF

(JEFF immediately drags his chair across the stage and places it next HUNTER's chair.)

HUNTER
What are you doing?

JEFF
What do you mean?

HUNTER
You said "I'm gonna go to the park and do some bird watching" but then you just dragged your chair over here. Should we have some transition music, something to indicate time passage?

JEFF
Well, it's too late now I'm over here, so let's just pretend time passed. Did you brainstorm?

HUNTER
If by brainstorm you mean masturbate and watch "Doc Hollywood," then yes I brainstormed.

JEFF
Excellent.

HUNTER
Mexcellent!

JEFF
So...what are we writing?

(A beat.)

HUNTER
You want to adapt something? Poem...short story?

JEFF
No. I know we can come up with something original.

HUNTER
But what? You and I haven't been writing at all.

JEFF
So let's use this to get us off our asses. It'll be a writing exercise. Let's just make a pact that we'll write for three weeks, right up until the deadline, and no matter what we have, we'll put it in an envelope and submit it.

HUNTER
I don't want to submit something half-baked and get rejected by the festival.

JEFF
I don't think we should worry about whether or not we get into the festival.

HUNTER
(Imitating INTO THE WOODS.)
The festival?

JEFF
The festival?

JEFF & HUNTER
The King's Festival?

JEFF
And her father had taken for his new wife...

JEFF & HUNTER
The festival!

HUNTER
But there are judges. People will be reading our stuff. I don't want to look like a total jack-off.

JEFF
Well, look at it this way; anything we write will be better than *Whorehouse Goes Public*.

HUNTER
Aw snap, I thought Dee Hoty was good in *Whorehouse*.

JEFF
Actually, I never saw it, so that's not fair.

HUNTER
I didn't see it either, but I have opinions about stuff I've never seen all the time. In fact I have a whole riff on *Ruthless: The Musical*, and guess what?

JEFF
Never saw it?

HUNTER
I never saw it. What if Dee Hoty was in our show?

JEFF
Yeah, whom can we get to be in this?

HUNTER
Might be fun to stalk some Broadway stars, see if anyone would help us out.

JEFF
Betty Buckley?

HUNTER
Isn't she supposed to be a hot box of crazy?

JEFF

Maybe she'll be crazy enough to do our show.

HUNTER

Are we crazy?

JEFF

My back hurts.

HUNTER

What if the first scene is just us talking about what to write? We could put this exact conversation in the show.

JEFF

Wait, so everything I say from now on could actually be in our show?

HUNTER

Yeah.

JEFF

Like this?

HUNTER

Like this.

JEFF

And this?

HUNTER

And this.

JEFF

(Pause.)
This too?

HUNTER

This too.

JEFF

So I could say "Wonder Woman for President", and that would get into our show?

HUNTER

Uh-huh.

JEFF

Wonder Woman for President. I'd watch a show that says that.

HUNTER

Me too. But do you think other people will wanna watch something like that?

END

HUNTER

She was in *Grease*.

JEFF

Yeah!

HUNTER & JEFF

And *Leader of the Pack*!

WE COULD ASK SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS.
WE COULD GET IMPORTANT POINTS ACROSS LIKE:
“ARE WE WRITING FOR ART?”
AND “IS ART A SPRINGBOARD FOR FAME?”
AND “WILL FAME GET US A SITCOM?”
AND “WILL A SITCOM GET US ON ‘ELLEN?’”
AND “WILL ELLEN GET FOLKS TO LIKE US?”
AND IF THEY LIKE US, WILL THEY MIC US, ME AND YOU?
TWO NOBODIES IN NEW YORK!
NOBODIES IN NEW YORK!

(Blackout.)

(In the scene transition, the following sound cue plays.)

Answering Machine Message 1

ANSWERING MACHINE (V.O.)

You have one new message.

(Beep.)

(HUNTER)

Hey Jeffy it's me...um...I got your message about Heidi, and Susan is in as well, so that's good. Oh, by the way, I've been listening to the *Brooklyn* promo CD I got in the mail, and on the inside cover it has this quote that says...wait let me read it to you... “Unlike anything you have ever heard before” ...actually, it was like everything I've ever heard before. I wish they'd just be honest and put like, “*Brooklyn*: totally derivative, but we're singing the shit out of it!” Okay, see you in a bit.

(Beep.)

Scene 2: Meet and Greet

(HEIDI enters Hunter's apartment. HUNTER is at the door to greet her while SUSAN and JEFF await her arrival.)

HUNTER

Hi, Heidi?

HEIDI

Hi.

START

Heidi, I'm Hunter.

(HUNTER shakes her hand.)

Nice to meet you.

Nice to meet you.

Hi I'm Susan.

Susan? Hi, nice to meet you.

Likewise.

(To HEIDI)
Hi!

Jeffrey!

(JEFF and HEIDI embrace. Some time has passed since they have connected.)

What are you all cute for?

Oh, I just came from an audition.

For what?

Mamma Mia.

On the Broadway?

On the Broadway.

What part?

HUNTER

HEIDI

HUNTER

SUSAN

HEIDI

SUSAN

JEFF

HEIDI

JEFF

HEIDI

JEFF

HEIDI

JEFF

HEIDI

JEFF

HEIDI

It's a replacement understudy/ensemble/off-stage singer/dance captain/assistant stage manager track.

JEFF

How'd it go?

HEIDI

I didn't get it. Wah-wah.

JEFF

Oh no.

HEIDI

Yeah... we sang...danced...read...sang again...they narrowed it down to three of us, and then they measured us. I didn't fit the existing costume so another girl got the job. And, can I say that the girl who did get the job, gorgeous, stunning, but she sang a little something like this

(HEIDI sings awkwardly.)

but she did fit that silver, spandex jumpsuit so no job for me. And now I'm embarrassed, I just met you guys and I'm way too talky.

HUNTER

Please, you keep talking and this show will write itself.

JEFF

Heidi, you're gonna get another job in like five minutes.

HEIDI

You're sweet. Susan, you look nice. Did you have an audition today?

SUSAN

I'm not really auditioning at the moment...

HEIDI

No?

SUSAN

No, because I'm actually starring in a little play called *Corporate Whore*, where I play the role of "Office Manager." It's a compelling drama, Heidi. And apparently, today's show was in Smell-O-Vision. Damn! I cleaned out a closet full of marketing materials this morning, and I smell like a combo platter of kitty litter box and hot dog water.

HUNTER

Heidi, welcome to Susan.

SUSAN

Hi Heidi.

HEIDI

So you've stopped auditioning?

Pretty much. SUSAN

Do you perform at all anymore? HEIDI

I do stuff with these wieners, and stuff I write, but I sort of stepped off the showbiz ride. SUSAN

Really? Why? HEIDI

For a lot of reasons: burn out...September 11th, which was difficult. I'm a handsome lady, which makes me a tough sell, plus, I've got the paralyzing stage fright and the insecurities. SUSAN

I think we've all got the insecurities. HEIDI

Good times ain't it. SUSAN

Do you miss it? HEIDI

Sure do ax a lot of questions, don't she? I'm just kidding. Um... I've got nothing to complain about. I make good money. It's not like I have to work in the salt mines. But enough about me...who's up for more Susan talk? I'm kidding. Heidi how do you know these nerds? SUSAN

Jeffrey and I did a show together. HEIDI

We did that production of *Tommy* in Brazil together. JEFF

Shut it! Y'all were in Brazil together. Tell me a wacky Brazilian anecdote. SUSAN

A wacky Brazilian anecdote...um...let's see... HEIDI

Did you get a Brazilian wax? SUSAN

No, but that would be wacky. HEIDI

That would be waxy Heidi! That would be waxy. SUSAN

(Pokes HUNTER.)

Pay attention to me.

HUNTER

Okay, I'd like to get started if you guys don't mind, because I don't want to keep everybody too long tonight.

JEFF

Why? What's on TV?

HUNTER

Cake baking competition on the Food Network.

(HUNTER begins to hand out copies of information on the festival.)

This is stuff I downloaded about the festival. Larry, one for you too.

(He hands one directly to LARRY sitting at the keyboard.)

Heidi, did you meet Larry?

HEIDI

Hi, Larry.

(LARRY waves from keyboard.)

SUSAN

(Reading hand-out.)

I see that John Cameron Mitchell is on the board of this festival thing. Do I get to meet him if I do your little show?

JEFF

Maybe.

HUNTER

Also did you see where Michael Crawford and Jim Dale are on the advisory board?

(HUNTER indicates the names to JEFF as they appear on the hand out.)

How cool is that? You've got your Broadway and your West End "Barnum's". "Barnum's"!

(HUNTER does an elaborate perhaps flamboyant move/homage to Barnum.)

HEIDI

Is it me or did it just get like three degrees gayer in here?

HUNTER

Awww.

(HUNTER and HEIDI connect.)

Now,

(Indicating SUSAN.)

I've talked to you. Heidi has Jeff explained to you what we're trying to do?

HEIDI

He has. So...as of now, there's no script?

Not yet. JEFF

And it would be a musical? HEIDI

Yeah. JEFF

SUSAN
I just want to jump in here and say that I support an experimental piece and you guys completely, but I have me doots about doing a musical. I get nervous about singing, finding my part, harmonies, me singing songs and songs that are sung by me in general.

JEFF
Don't worry, we'll replace you when we get to Broadway.

SUSAN
Fair enough.

JEFF
Farrah Nuff; that's a good drag queen name...

SUSAN
Haha. I like that. Text it to me.

HEIDI
What?

(HUNTER pulls out his cell phone to send SUSAN a text message with the drag name.)

SUSAN
When we come up with a good drag queen name we text it to each other. I'm gonna order a turkey burger. You guys want anything?

(SUSAN pulls out her cell phone to order.)

ALL
(Ad lib.)
I'm fine. Nah. I'm good., *(etc.)*

SUSAN
(While calling in order on cell phone.)
Yes I'll hold...

HUNTER
(Looking at his cell phone HUNTER reads off saved list of drag queen names.)
Heidi, here are some oldies but goodies, "Sara Sota"... "Minnie Van Rental"...

JEFF
Heidi, do you play any instruments?

No, why? HEIDI

I like this one: "Dorothy Chandler Pavillion." HUNTER

I play an instrument. SUSAN

No you don't! JEFF

I can play the skin flute brother...ah, no I didn't! Yes I did...
(The diner guy on the phone takes her off hold.)
uh, yes hello. Order for delivery... turkey burger deluxe, fries crispy, and a diet Sprite. Oh, and a pickle.
Address?

(HUNTER continues reading saved names.)
"Lady Footlocker"...

Address... SUSAN

...My address? It's 3... HUNTER

(Interrupting.)
It's 123 America Street...and the phone is 555-5555. The area code is also 555. Thank you.
(She hangs up.)
I said that because if this gets into your little play, I shouldn't say your address in front of an audience.

END

Then how will you get your turkey burger? JEFF

It'll get here Jeff. It'll get here. SUSAN

All right. All right. So the festival runs in September... HUNTER

...and if we get chosen, we would run six performances... JEFF

...and then we'd transfer immediately to the intimate Radio City Music Hall. HUNTER

I'm worried about it being so close to my wedding dates. SUSAN