

THE BIG MEAL

A STAGED READING

Audition Packet

Written By Dan LeFranc

Directed by Emma Davis and Rachel O'Brien

Perusal Script Here

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1tsk8DycdchGvBtNID5gzneqrZGMFkLhG>

General Interest Meeting: September 9th
during X-Block

Auditions: September 16th

Callbacks: September 17th

Performances: October 17th-18th

To audition, please sign up for an audition slot on the callboard outside of room 171, fill out the audition card at the end of the packet, and fill out the online form

<https://forms.gle/9nye3fboiy6AfbGk9>

**If the 16th doesn't work let us know and
we can figure out another time!**

Any Questions? Email us!

thebigmeal19@gmail.com

SYNOPSIS

It is important that before you audition you read the full script, which is available on theatreink.net

The play is set in a generic restaurant in the United States, at the same table, over a span of 50 years.

The show starts with Sam and Nicole meeting as young adults. A few scenes after the first meeting, we find Sam and Nicole married, and their children, Maddie and Robbie. Sam's parents, Alice and Robert show up soon after. Alice and Robert are highlight similarities and differences between their marriage and Sam and Nicole's marriage. Through conversations between these three generations of the family, the show examines the dysfunctions and differences present. At one point, Sam and Nicole's marriage almost dissolves because Sam has an affair with Jessica, a woman with whom he works. This devastates Nicole, and she tells Sam that she is not happy with him and wants to end their marriage, but the death of Sam's father, Robert, keeps them together. Robert's death is the first of many in the show.

As Maddie and Robbie, get older, the differences between the two of them grow more apparent. Maddie introduces many boyfriends to her parents in a comedic moment of the show, but none of these relationships are long-lasting. In contrast, Robbie introduces his girlfriend, Stephanie, whom he soon marries. The two have a daughter, Jackie, who the adults all fawn over. Shortly after, Stephanie becomes pregnant with her second child, a baby boy, but she loses the baby, which is the second death of the show. The third death comes when Alice, Sam's mother, passes away. Maddie, unmarried, gets pregnant with her son Sammy. Robbie's daughter, Jackie, and Sammy are constantly fighting. The family is skeptical of Maddie's parenting abilities, which leads to an explosive fight between Maddie and the rest of the family. Shortly after, Maddie passes away. Sammy, unable to deal with his mother's death, commits suicide. Nicole and Sam, now old, look back on their lives as Sam is dying. The play ends with Nicole sitting alone at the table.

CHARACTERS

Nicole: Wife of Sam, mother of Robbie and Maddie, grandmother of Jackie and Sammy. She is vocal about her desires but is not brave enough to take chances. She is unhappy in her marriage but feels that she cannot leave her husband and break up her family.

Sam: Husband of Nicole, son of Alice and Robert, father of Robbie and Maddie, grandfather of Jackie and Sammy. He tries to do what's right, but he doesn't know how to handle many situations. He wants to be liked and hates when people counter his ideas or suggest that he is not doing something well.

Alice: Wife of Robert, mother of Sam, grandmother of Maddie and Robbie. She is stuck in a life that she is miserable. She loves her husband even though she isn't treated well. She doesn't know how to move on after her husband's death. She cares a lot for her grandkids and truly wants everyone to be happy.

Robert: Husband of Alice, father of Sam, grandfather of Maddie and Robbie. He speaks his mind no matter what and is often offensive in doing this. He does not recognize that what he is saying is not okay, and gets defensive when people call him out. At the same time, he truly does care for his family, especially his wife, but he cannot effectively express this love to them.

Robbie: Son of Nicole and Sam, brother of Maddie, husband of Stephanie, father of Jackie. He tries to be responsible and wants his parents' approval. At the same time, he wants to be independent. He has never been able to see eye to eye with his sister, and he thinks he is the better child. He wants a conventional life with marriage and kids.

Maddie: Daughter of Nicole and Sam, sister of Robbie, mother of Sammy. She feels like she is pushed to the side, and is not as important as her brother in her family's eyes. She doesn't want to be tied down by a traditional life like her parents, grandparents, and brother. She is unsure about life, does rebellious things, and never quite finds her life path. She doesn't know how to control her life, or her son, in the way that she wants to.

Jackie: Daughter of Robbie and Stephanie, granddaughter of Nicole and Sam, mother of Matthew. She tries to be the perfect daughter, granddaughter, and mother. Similarly to Robbie (her father), she strives to be the perfect child.

Sammy: Son of Maddie, grandson of Nicole and Sam. He is constantly bursting energy. He says things that are a bit out of line, but he is not usually aware of the social implications behind his words. He has dark thoughts and feels like the world is pitted against him.

Jack: Father of Stephanie. He loves his daughter. He always tries to lighten the mood. He engages in a romantic relationship with Alice when she becomes a widow.

Stephanie: Daughter of Jack, wife of Robbie, mother of Jackie. She is extremely optimistic, cheery, and easily excited about life. At the same time, she is a very emotional person.

Jessica: She has an affair with Sam while being aware that he is married. She is offended when the affair is blamed on her. She is flirtatious, spontaneous, and not tied down by a family.

Maddie's Adolescent Boyfriends: They all blend together and are overall forgettable. They want to be liked by Maddie's parents but are not in serious, long-lasting relationships with her.

Matthew: Son of Jackie. A little boy with a big imagination. He is used as a device by the playwright to conclude the food metaphor.

ROLES

Woman 1: Nicole, Alice

Man 1: Sam, Robert, Jack

Woman 2: Nicole, Maddie, Jackie

Man 2: Sam, Robbie

Woman 3: Nicole, Maddie, Jackie, Jessica, Stephanie

Man 3: Sam, Robbie, Sammy, Adolescent Boyfriends

Girl: Maddie, Jackie

Boy: Robbie, Sammy, Matthew

Audition Information

What is a Stage Reading?

A stage reading is performance with minimal tech, but actors have their scripts on stage with them. The show process of the show is also only 4 weeks, so it is not expected for full memorization, but the actors are still expected to be very familiar with their lines. With a staged reading we will have the time to delve deep into the characters without having to stress about memorization.

Who can audition?

If you want to be in a show but want a little less commitment, then this is the show for you! If you get cast in Mousetrap or Bright Star, you will not be able to be in this production. Our auditions are after both cast lists are out, so if you plan on auditioning for either of those, we would love for you to audition for our show! People auditioning for Freshmen Cabaret are welcome to also audition for The Big Meal!

What to Prepare

Please choose one monologue attached in this packet. Since lines aren't expected to be memorized in the performances, you will not have to memorize a monologue for the audition! We still want you to be familiar with the monologue. It is important to us that you are not reading off of the paper, but the paper is more of an extension of the body.

What are we looking for?

We are looking for actors to make informed choices. In order to do this actors should understand the show's themes and the character they are trying to play. We are not looking for perfection, but we want actors to give it their all, really commit to their part, and make strong choices!

MONOLOGUES

Woman 1: So what I've started doing is I've begun to write letters, and these letters are addressed to my husband, and I talk to him. I tell him how much I miss him, I tell him what's happening in your lives, and the baseball scores and the state of the yard, and I tell him how glad I'll be to see him. I was sad for a long time, but if you just get a little envelope and talk to him, it'll make you feel so much better. Why, just try it now. Just try writing to him now. Just write right here, say hello. Just say hello. Tell him you love him right now, right this moment. Just say hello. Go on, go on, go on.

Woman 3: Well, not, uh... All right. So not to be up front, but I, uh, I'm not really looking for anything serious right now. I just wanna be clear, 'cause I just got out of this long-term thing with this total, um, clingy narcissistic asshole, and I'm looking for, you know, someone to pass the time with or whatever, but not like "a relationship." This is totally casual. So that means if this goes anywhere beyond tonight, which I'm not saying it will, we should keep this as, uh, as anonymous as

possible you know? Like, I don't really wanna know about your life and I really, really don't want you to know about mine.

Girl: Yes, he did. I was looking at the princess movie and he told me you can see the princess's boobs in this other movie where she does it with a pirate who does it with other pirates and I said, You're lying, the princes wouldn't do that, and he said, No I'm not, and so I said, How would you know? Do you do it with pirates who do it with other pirates? And then he pushed me!

Man 1: Love is not California. With love there's a lot of storms and hail and sleet. We all know something about sleet around here now don't we? But you know what? It passes. It might not seem like it, but it passes and it makes everything else a hell of a lot more beautiful for having braved the stuff. So please, whatever you do -- Steph? Robbie? You hearing this? Whatever you do ... don't move to California! It's very far away and I can't stand the place!

Man 3: We should take the time, you know, we should take the time to, like, not be assholes. You're all just a bunch of assholes! We can be better and I'm gonna show you, I'm gonna show all of you assholes. She was my mother, so stop looking at me like that. I'm going, okay? I don't care what you say, I'm gonna make a difference. 'Cause I'm sick of it, I'm so sick of it I just want it to be different. That's it. I just want it to all be different.

Audition Card

Name: _____ Phone #: _____
Email: _____ Grade: _____ HR: _____
Address: _____ Preferred Pronouns: _____
Parent/Guardian Name: _____
Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Why do you want to be a part of The Big Meal?

Are you comfortable...

Kissing an actor of the same gender on stage Yes No

Kissing an actor of a different gender on stage Yes No

Playing a male character Yes No

Playing a female character Yes No

Are there any roles in The Big Meal that you are particularly interested in? Are there any roles in The Big Meal that you won't accept?

Tell us about your previous theatre experience or attach a resume.

Favorite Baby Name?

What is your go to comfort food and why?
