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first dates

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FIRST DATES

written by
Tyler Leavitt

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Synopsis

A typical evening at the French Restaurant Le Moist Mouth finds five couples all out on their own first dates. For Henry and Samantha it was suppose to be a first date full of nerves and awkwardness, but the situation increases in complexity when Henry's mother decides to join them. While on a date with George, Candice is surprised to see her brother, Tom on a date. George is also surprised to see his friend Mary on a date as well. As acquaintances and siblings sit back to back misunderstanding arise as conversations get confused.

This show focuses on character and dialogue. With almost every character on stage throughout the play, each actor gets an opportunity to focus on character, stage business and witty dialogue.

Cast of Characters

KAYLA	Server and recent ex-girlfriend of Gary. High school age.
LUKE	Server who thinks himself a lady's man. High school age.
JULIE	Manager. Thirties.
GEORGE	Nerdy friend of Mary. High school age.
CANDICE	Sister of Tom. Recently broken up with Tom's best friend. High school age.
SAMANTHA	On one of her very first dates. Young high school age
HENRY	On his very first date. Young high school age.
SUSAN	On a date but also works at Le Moist Mouth. High school age.
TOM	Brother of Candice. Upset that Candice broke his best friends heart. High school age.
GARY	Insensitive boy, recently broken up with Kayla, but currently dating Lisa. High school age.
LISA	Airhead girlfriend of Gary. High school age.
STEVE	Best friend of Gary, on a date with Mary. High school age.
MARY	Friend of George, on a date with Steve. Highschool age.
MRS. JENSEN	Over protective mother of Henry. Fourties.
SHAUNA	Fortuneteller who works in the restaurant. Thirties.
OLIVIA	Heart broken sister of Susan who crashes Susan's date. High school age.

Director Notes

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Employees of Le Moist Mouth: KAYLA, LUKE and JULIE

Couples: GEORGE and CANDICE
SAMANTHA and HENRY
SUSAN and TOM
GARY and LISA
STEVE and MARY

Others: MRS. JENSEN, SHAUNA, OLIVIA

ACT I

Scene 1

Setting: Lights up. The scene is of a fancy restaurant. There are four round tables, each with two chairs.

At Rise: CANDICE and GEORGE sit at the table left of center. They eat bread. GEORGE is a bit of a nerd and is dressed in a tie and jacket. The jacket does not match his pants. CANDICE is attractive and wears a dress. She is not completely there in the moment. They are both eating their dinner. SAMANTHA and HENRY sit at the far right table. They both look at their menus. LUKE is busy clearing off the table to the right of CANDICE and GEORGE. LUKE is dressed in a white shirt and black pants. KAYLA enters. She is a waitress and wears a white shirt and black pants. She carries plates and silverware.

KAYLA

Any faster would be nice.

LUKE

I’m just letting you enjoy the view a bit longer.

KAYLA

I don’t think the health department would like me throwing up everywhere, so you might want to keep those type of disgusting comments to yourself.

LUKE

Kayla, you are my reason for living, you are the queen of my life, you need to stop fighting it.

KAYLA

You want me to fight my overwhelming urge to puke every time you talk to me?

LUKE

Ha, ha. Just like elementary school.

KAYLA

Your behavior? You are correct.

LUKE

No, your actions. It's like in elementary school when you pick on the person you like. You only insult me because you're secretly in love with me.

KAYLA

Well if that's true, I don't like to share secrets, so let's keep it on the down low.

LUKE

One day you'll realize the truth.

KAYLA

That you're really a very talented trained monkey?

LUKE

You're insults are as sweet as honey.

KAYLA

Do you know where I can get a swarm of bees?

LUKE

We are going to be so happy…

KAYLA

Only when you leave.

(LUKE exits. KAYLA finishes setting the table. JULIE enters.)

JULIE

Kayla, give the kid a break.

KAYLA

I will, right around the neck.

JULIE

I admit Luke's come-ons can be annoying and extremely insulting but you don't have to kill the guy.

KAYLA

I'm sorry, Julie—

(sits)

—I don't know what's wrong with me.

JULIE

Is it Gary?

KAYLA

I thought I told you to never mention that slimy, pig faced boy's name again!

JULIE

Sorry… is it him?

KAYLA

Yes.

JULIE

It's been two weeks, you need to get over him.

KAYLA

I know, but I can't, which makes it even worse.

JULIE

When a boy breaks up with me, I like to drown my sorrows in ice cream and maple syrup.

KAYLA

Maple syrup?

JULIE

Once after a break-up all I could find was maple syrup and I kind of got used to it.

KAYLA

Well I've drowned my sorrows, and I'm over it.

JULIE

So no more taking it out on Luke.

KAYLA

I feel it's my duty to all women everywhere to insult him as much as possible.

JULIE

Let's just not let it interfere with work, okay?

KAYLA

Sure.

(JULIE exits.)

GEORGE

And I said if there's one thing I know it's how to wrestle an alligator!

(laughs)

CANDICE

(not impressed)

That's a good one.

GEORGE

You see the humor in it? I mean I have no idea how to wrestle an alligator. In fact I wouldn't even know what to do with an alligator!

CANDICE

No, I get it.

GEORGE

Do you? 'Cause that's a funny story, and you're not laughing.

CANDICE

I'm sorry. It was very funny. I'm sure you have many funny stories.

GEORGE

Not just stories - anecdotes, observations, quips, all sorts of funny!

CANDICE

I can see why Mary set us up.

GEORGE

Oh Mary, she's the greatest… isn't she the greatest?

CANDICE

Yes, she is. Just out of curiosity… why aren't you two together?

GEORGE

Who, me and Mary?

CANDICE

Yes, you and Mary.

GEORGE

We tried, but it didn't work out.

CANDICE

You tried going out.

GEORGE

Yep… well not exactly. You see we were friends since eighth grade. Our mothers knew each other so we carpooled to school. Anyways, we became good friends, good friends. I'd always help her with her boy problems and she'd help me with my girl problems… stuff like that. Then in the tenth grade we were talking once and the subject of us came up. She just got her heart broken again and I said, 'I'd never break your heart,' so we talked about it.

CANDICE

How long was the talk?

GEORGE

Couple minutes, I guess. She didn't want to ruin our friendship. So we decided to always be friends.

CANDICE

And here we are.

GEORGE

Isn't it great?

HENRY

Do you know what you want?

SAMANTHA

What everyone wants: a relationship where we have a lot in common, easy to talk to…

HENRY

No, I mean, what do you want… to eat?

SAMANTHA

Oh, I don't know.

HENRY

Do you need any help?

SAMANTHA

With what?

HENRY

Deciding.

SAMANTHA

No.

HENRY

I've eaten here before, so if you need any suggestions, I'm right here.

SAMANTHA

When have you eaten here before?

HENRY

My mom took me here on my fifteenth birthday.

SAMANTHA

She took you here on your birthday?

HENRY

Well, we always go out on my birthday and she thought it would be a good idea, since I was getting older, to start scoping out some nice restaurants, so I'd know where the nice restaurants were when I started dating.

SAMANTHA

You sure have some mom.

HENRY

She's the best. Sorry she had to drive us. I can't believe I lost my driver's license!

SAMANTHA

Is she going to be okay out in the car? I mean, she could come back after dinner.

HENRY

Naw, she has her book. She'll be fine.

SAMANTHA

So what did you have last time?

HENRY

The chicken fingers. They were delicious.

SAMANTHA

Chicken fingers?

HENRY

I'm not much of a risk taker. I stick with what I know.

SAMANTHA

I have an idea.

HENRY

Okay.

SAMANTHA

Do you want to be a little crazy?

HENRY

As long as it's just a little.

SAMANTHA

Let's close our eyes and just point. And whatever we point to we'll order!

HENRY

Are you serious?

SAMANTHA

Doesn't it sound like fun?

HENRY

Okay… I'm so nervous.

SAMANTHA

Ready?

HENRY

Uh-huh.

(Both close their eyes.)

SAMANTHA

One, two, three!

(Both point.)

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ACT II

Scene 1

Setting: Everything as it was at the end of Act One.

At Rise: OLIVIA is crying hysterically.

SUSAN

What happened?

(As OLIVIA describes what happens she struggles through, gasping occasionally.)

OLIVIA

Everything… was… perfect. I mean we were perfect, weren't we? I mean weren't we? Fifth grade for crying out loud! And we hardly ever fought. I mean I guess I could have stopped making fun of his leather jacket… I mean who was he kidding, but we were happy, weren't we? Weren't we…?

TOM

Evidently not so happy.

SUSAN

Tom!

TOM

Sorry.

SUSAN

Listen, dear, you just let it all out.

(OLIVIA stops for a moment and then lets out a huge burst of tears.)

TOM

Maybe we should re-schedule.

OLIVIA

Don’t stop your date on account of me. I want one of us to be happy.

(cry)

SUSAN

Would you mind?

TOM

Not at all. That’s the kind of guy I am.

SUSAN

Thanks.

(JULIE enters.)

JULIE

Susan?

SUSAN

I know, it’s my fault. I’m going to take her home.

JULIE

No it’s not that. I need your help.

SUSAN

What?

JULIE

Jessica just called in sick and the place is packed. I was wondering if you wouldn’t mind working for maybe an hour or so.

SUSAN

Julie!

JULIE

I know. I'm a jerk, but I really need you.

TOM

Susan, what's going on?

SUSAN

Julie here needs me to work.

TOM

I thought you were taking your sister home.

OLIVIA

I'm fine.

(cry)

SUSAN

Tom, could you do me a big favor?

TOM

What?

SUSAN

Is there any way you could just sit with Olivia for a few minutes, until I get this worked out.

TOM

Um… sure.

SUSAN

Thanks. Now what exactly do you need?

(SUSAN and JULIE talk quietly as they exit. TOM sits with OLIVIA, who is still crying.)

TOM

You got a nice sister.

(pause)

I'm Tom by the way.

(pause)

Don't bother introducing yourself. You're Olivia, right?

(pause)

So I guess you're having relationship problems.

(OLIVIA looks up at him and stares at him.)

TOM

Do you want to talk about it?

OLIVIA

You wouldn't understand.

TOM

Maybe I would, you know I am a man. It's one of my greatest traits.

OLIVIA

You're all the same.

TOM

In some ways, yes.

OLIVIA

Do you think you're funny?

TOM

No.

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MRS. JENSEN

For someone who's not meaning to be rude you most certainly are.

SAMANTHA

I'm sorry.

HENRY

You kind of have stopped our date.

MRS. JENSEN

Have I now?

HENRY

Yes.

SHAUNA

Such passion…!

MRS. JENSEN

Well, I'd hate to keep interfering. Please continue, you won't hear a peep from me. Perfectly silent. Not like the ten hours it took me to bring you into this world mind you, all sorts of screaming then, but I'll be perfectly quiet. Won't even notice me here.

SAMANTHA

Really?

MRS. JENSEN

Not a word.

(to HENRY)

Remember to cut your food small.

HENRY

Yes, ma'am.

SAMANTHA

So, Henry, how do you like school?

HENRY

It's okay.

(MRS. JENSEN glares at him.)

HENRY

I mean I love it. There's nowhere else I'd rather be. You?

SAMANTHA

I don't know. I think I might drop out soon.

(MRS. JENSEN goes to speak but stops and controls herself.)

SHAUNA

You cannot live without the other…

SAMANTHA

I mean I have this uncle that is a circus performer, so I might try to team up with him.

HENRY

What would you do?

SAMANTHA

Tatoo lady.

HENRY

Cool.

(MRS. JENSEN kicks him under the table but acts like nothing happened.)

HENRY

Ow.

SAMANTHA

What happened?

HENRY

Nothing.

SHAUNA

Do you own a gun?

SAMANTHA

Then there's also the plan to drop out, find a great guy, get married and just start having babies.

(MRS. JENSEN reacts but is quiet.)

SAMANTHA

Tell me, Henry, do you want a big family?

HENRY

I always thought it would be fun.

SAMANTHA

Well, I do. Maybe the whole family could tour with the circus.

HENRY

Maybe ride motorcycles?

SAMANTHA

Without helmets, of course.

HENRY

They're pointless anyway. That and perfectly folded laundry.

SAMANTHA

I like to just ball it up in the corner, how about you?

HENRY

If I could I'd do nothing but that.

(MRS. JENSEN gives him the ultimate stare of death.)

HENRY

Of course an occasional ironing never killed anyone.

(JULIE brings LUKE in by the arm.)

LUKE

(calling back)

Be right back!

JULIE

What do you think you're doing?

LUKE

Just attending to my tables.

JULIE

Sweet talking a guest out on the balcony is not in your job description.

LUKE

It should be.

JULIE

You need to get back to work!

LUKE

I can't stop my heart! She's the reason I live!

JULIE

I hope you can live without a paycheck.

KAYLA *(entering)*

What's going on?

JULIE

Luke here is hitting on the guests.

KAYLA

More then normal?

LUKE

It was Kayla's idea.

JULIE

Kayla?

KAYLA

It's because I wanted to get back at my ex-boyfriend.

JULIE

He-Who-Cannot-Be-Named?

KAYLA

Yes. I'm sorry. Luke, just forget about it.

LUKE

I can't.

KAYLA

Okay, I didn't want to do this. Luke you have our permission to go hit on her.

JULIE

Kayla?

KAYLA

Trust me.

LUKE

Thank you.

(LUKE exits and a second later there is a slap heard. LUKE enters rubbing his cheek.)

LUKE

That was pretty lousy, Kayla.

KAYLA

Sorry.

(LUKE exits. SHAUNA walks up to KAYLA and JULIE.)

SHAUNA

I don't want anyone to panic, but that couple right there is about to kill themselves.

JULIE

Shauna!

SHAUNA

It's true. There is such passion between them! They cannot contain themselves.

(The three look at MARY and STEVE, who are not even talking to each other.)

JULIE

Looks like fireworks.

KAYLA

You really need to stop, Shauna.

SHAUNA

You'll be sorry when they wind up on the evening news!

JULIE

Shauna, maybe you should go back into the kitchen. We tried this whole talking to the customers and it just didn't work out.

SHAUNA

Back as dish washer?

JULIE

It looks that way.

SHAUNA

But there are no windows back there!

JULIE

I know. But I think it will be better.

SHAUNA

But what of my power?

JULIE

Maybe a little break.

SHAUNA

Can I have my dish gloves back?

JULIE

Of course.

SHAUNA

I miss my gloves. I miss them so much!

(JULIE exits with SHAUNA. LISA enters and sits down.)

LISA

I hate all men.

STEVE

Well, we're not all horrible.

LISA

I guess my dad's okay.

STEVE

Thanks.

MARY

She doesn't mean it.

LISA

Oh, yes I do.

(GARY enters and walks up to KAYLA.)

GARY

Can I talk to you?

KAYLA

No. It's over, Gary.

GARY

But-

KAYLA

I'll be a mystery for someone else.

GARY

But-

KAYLA

And no, I didn't poison your food.

GARY

Thanks.

KAYLA

It's the least I could do.

(KAYLA exits.)

GARY

Well, smoochie-pooh, are you ready for any dessert?

STEVE

Actually, I think I need to leave.

MARY

Oh, I was just about to say that too.

STEVE

Maybe we can catch the bus.

MARY

Okay.

(MARY and STEVE start to exit.)

GARY

Are you guys sure?

MARY AND STEVE

Yes.

LISA

See you at school Monday!

STEVE

(to MARY)

Listen, I don't want this to be rude or anything, but I don't think we should go out again.

MARY

I was going to say the same thing. It doesn't seem that we have much in common.

STEVE

Yeah, this was pretty terrible.

MARY

The worst.

STEVE

My worst too.

MARY AND STEVE

Well…

MARY

You go-

STEVE

No, ladies first.

MARY

I was just going to say, well, we have…

MARY AND STEVE

—that in common.

STEVE

I thought the same thing.

MARY

It's something.

STEVE

Yeah, I guess.

(pause)

You want to get some coffee?

MARY

Actually, I'd love to go get something to eat. This place is horrible.

STEVE

Let's go.

(MARY and STEVE exit.)

SAMANTHA

And then we could all get matching tattoos!

HENRY

I've always wanted my name backwards on my forehead, so I could read it in the mirror.

(MRS. JENSEN reacts, then goes to speak, stops, composes herself and quickly exits.)

SAMANTHA

Now, it's just us again.

HENRY

Yep, sure is… I am so dead.

(TOM and OLIVIA have slowly gotten closer together and are sharing the ice cream. SUSAN enters.)

SUSAN

Well, I'm ready… Olivia?

OLIVIA

It wasn't my fault!

SUSAN

It's just like last time.

TOM

I'm really sorry, Susan.

SUSAN

I'm telling mom!

OLIVIA

I didn't do anything!

(SUSAN exits and OLIVIA follows. OLIVIA pops back in.)

OLIVIA

(to TOM)

Call me!

(OLIVIA exits.)

TOM

(to himself, but loud enough so CANDICE can hear.)

Well, I guess you never know what's going to happen! I'll stay up late tonight so I can talk…

(TOM exits. GEORGE looks at him.)

GEORGE

That sure was strange.

CANDICE

Not really.

GEORGE

You sure are unusual.

CANDICE

I am?

GEORGE

Yep. I always thought I understood women, but you are confusing.

CANDICE

Really?

GEORGE

I mean I was giving you my best stuff, and nothing, but then you want a steak instead of a salad, and we're talking. I don't understand.

CANDICE

We're a mystery.

GEORGE

Can I try the alligator story on you again? Maybe I told it wrong.

CANDICE

I'd love to hear it!

(The End)



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