



## GODDESS OF THE HUNT

by Doug DeVita

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Goddess Of The Hunt

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A light comedy about dark people leading private lives in public places

By Doug DeVita

SEMI-FINALIST  
New Comedy Festival 2020  
B Street Theatre

CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
Charlie Windsor	A naive, grieving, independently wealthy widower	53	M
Diana Black-White	A charming Interior Designer	55	F
Ed McGrath*	A Broadway performer, and Charlie's best friend	53	M
Percy Shelley Tanenbaum	A Hotel Bar Pianist/Singer	35	M
Jeff White**	Diana's current husband	70	M
Jordan	A bartender at Joe Allen, NYC	60-ish	M
Jean Louis	A bartender at The Ritz, Paris	60-ish	M
The Detective...	A Detective who looks like Ed	50-ish	M
The Flight Attendant...	A Flight Attendant who looks like Ed	50-ish	M
The Conductor...	A Conductor who looks like Ed	50-ish	M

\*Also plays The Conductor Who Looks Like Ed But Isn't, The Detective Who Looks Like Ed But Isn't, and The Flight Attendant Who Looks Like Ed But Isn't.

\*\*Also plays Jordan and Jean-Louis.

## SYNOPSIS

Just how well do you know all your "friends" on social media? In this fast-moving comedy, when the grieving Charlie Windsor meets the gregarious Diana Black-White in a New York Theater District bar, they become instant BFFs. Much to the consternation of his closest friend since childhood, Broadway actor Ed McGrath, Charlie is almost immediately hurled into an overwhelming whirl of dark secrets, questionable loyalties, and highly dysfunctional family dynamics; a world for which Charlie is completely unprepared. Especially when Diana's secret life is revealed and she goes full-on, batshit crazy. Despite the mounting body count, *GODDESS OF THE HUNT* is a gleefully silly homage to those romantic comedy thrillers of the 1960s, updated to the creepy, contemporary world of social media and information sharing.

## LOG LINE

A light comedy about dark people leading private lives in public places.

## SET REQUIREMENTS

The play's many locales can, and should be represented simply by projections, lighting and sound effects, and a few pieces of all-purpose furniture that can be moved around as needed.

## DOUG DEVITA BIO

Doug's play *Phillie's Trilogy* was recently named a Semi-Finalist in Barrington Stage Company's first ever competition for the Burman New Play Award, placing in the top 60 out of over 450 submissions. It also won Scrap Mettle Arts Inaugural Emerging Playwrights Program competition, was chosen to inaugurate Great Griffon's "Seeking The Queer Voice" reading series in January 2017, and was produced as part of the 2017 Fresh Fruit Festival, where it

received a Fresh Fruit Award of Distinction for Outstanding Production. Other work includes *The Fierce Urgency Of Now*, also produced at the 2016 Fresh Fruit festival, where it won four Fresh Fruit Awards of Distinction, including Outstanding Play and Outstanding Production; *Major Divisions*, recently named a Semi-Finalist for both B Street Theatre's New Comedies Festival and Normal Avenue's New American Play Series (under the title Upper Division); *NELL DASH, The Gruesomely Merry Adventures Of An Irrepressibly Sensible Capitalist With A Vengeance*; and *Just A Rumor* (co-written with Gary Lyons) which was a Semi-Finalist at the Eugene O'Neill Playwright's Conference and has had readings at New York's Abingdon Theatre Company and London's Menier Chocolate Factory. He has also collaborated with actress Lane Bradbury (the original Dainty June in *Gypsy*, starring Ethel Merman) on her one-woman show *Let Me Entertain You, Again*, which was performed at the Strasberg Institute in Los Angeles, as well as Feinstein's/54 Below, and Don't Tell Mama in New York.

A member of the Dramatists Guild of America, Doug was a participant in the 2019 Kennedy Center Summer Playwrights Intensive, where he worked with Mark Bly, Gary Garrison, Jackie Goldfinger, and Caleen Jennings,, and he belongs to both Rogelio's Rogues, and The 36th Street Writers Block (formerly Abingdon Theatre Playwrights Group 1) in Manhattan. Although mostly an autodidact, he has studied with Karen Hartman, Rogelio Martinez, and Eric Webb.

He has also worked as an Art director/Copywriter for such advertising agencies as Grey Global Group, J. Walter Thompson, and N.W. Ayer, and was the marketing director for Abingdon Theatre Company for four years. He was also an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Advertising Design Department at F.I.T. in New York. All of the above, along with a Catholic school education and his mother, have given him an unbelievable amount of material.

An Information Bar like the one on a computer/laptop screen runs across the top of the stage. It reads: Friday April 13, 11:05 PM EST.

A projection of Diana Black-White's Facebook page fills the back wall. She has checked-in to Joe Allen, New York City. The image is a map of the West 40s in Manhattan, a red dot indicating the location. Her comment is "Looking forward to a nice, relaxing Kir Royale after seeing "Crazy For Abe" again tonight. Always too exciting to watch Mary Todd Lincoln go nuts singing Sondheim." Throughout the play, we will hear the comments being read out-loud as they are typed.

In the soft white and brick-red light of Joe Allen's, we see Charlie and Ed. They are both 53, and seated at a table across from the bar. Ed has a glass of Red Wine, Charlie has a Gibson. Diana, 56, sits at the bar, sipping a Kir Royale. Seemingly engrossed in her iPad, in reality she is listening to Charlie and Ed's conversation. All three are attractive and well-heeled.

CHARLIE

Benny un-friended me.

ED

He un-friended you?

CHARLIE

He un-friended me.

ED

And you're upset because...

CHARLIE

HE UN-FRIENDED ME!

ED

What are you, thirteen?

CHARLIE

Excuse me?

ED

It's not like you really knew each other, Charlie.

CHARLIE

I slept with him, Ed.

ED

25 years ago.

CHARLIE

He found me on Growlr, then sent a Facebook friend request.

ED

Charlie! It's barely 6 months since Mark...

CHARLIE

I was lonely. And horny.

ED

You've been horny since you were 12.

CHARLIE

Don't judge me. Okay, so maybe I rushed into the Facebook-friending thing again. But does anyone really know *all* their Facebook friends?

ED

What's so fascinating about all the boring, insignificant details that someone you barely know shares with the world?

CHARLIE

I don't know, it's fun? Makes me feel better about the boring, insignificant details of my own pathetic life?

ED

I know it was a shock, Charlie, but spending all your time trolling Facebook and Growlr, watching old sit-coms you've seen hundreds of times, only leaving that dusty wreck of an apartment for a butt-fuck with an old flame...

CHARLIE

Mark and I were supposed to fix up that wreck together, and we never did. And now we never will... I don't know if I can go to Paris by myself. Come with me, Ed.

ED

You know I can't just take off on a whim like you can.

CHARLIE

C'mon, you haven't missed a performance in over two years. Give your stand-by a shot at Lincoln.

ED

(Mimicking a rim-shot.)

Ba dum bum.

CHARLIE

(Wheedling.)

April... in Paris...

ED

Shut up.

CHARLIE

The Eiffel Tower... The smell of the rain on the chestnut trees... The Ritz...

ED

And... you lost me.

CHARLIE

Why? What's your excuse this time?

ED

I don't want to spend that much.

CHARLIE

You're so damn cheap! I'll pay. It's only a few nights, just so I can say goodbye to Mark by visiting some of our favorite places.

ED

Yeah, see... Charlie... I really don't want to be part of "The Mark Memorial Tour."

CHARLIE

Ouch.

ED

That was harsh. I'm sorry. I would love to go to Paris with you.

CHARLIE

I wish I could believe that.

ED

No, really I would. But you need to make this trip alone.

CHARLIE

Alone. What a horrible word. I'm 53, Ed. What if I never find someone again?

Diana comes over and taps Ed on the shoulder.

DIANA

I'm so sorry for interrupting, but you're Ed McGrath, aren't you?

ED

You know who I am?

DIANA

Of course. I saw *Crazy For Abe* tonight. Eighth time.

ED

Oh. Wow. Eight times. That's... flattering?

DIANA

Nothing against you, you're wonderful of course, you totally deserved that Tony no matter what those nasty little children say on BroadwayWorld, but I wanted to see Rosie O'Donnell one more time before Roseanne Barr takes over next month.

(She chuckles and shakes her head.)

Roseanne Barr as Mary Todd Lincoln singing Stephen Sondheim. I hope she doesn't kill it.

ED

We're all hoping that. Thank you for stopping by, uhm...

DIANA

(Extending her hand.)

Diana. Diana Black-White.

Diana clearly expects some recognition. Finally:

CHARLIE

You're kidding!

DIANA

Swear to God.

CHARLIE

Have you thought of changing it to Gray?



DIANA

That would also be a great name for a designer. That's what I do: I own an interior design firm in Boston.

CHARLIE

You could have your own show on HGTV: "Diana Gray: She's Not Just Black and White." Friday nights at 9:00, right after "Billion Dollar Shit Shacks."

DIANA

I do have my own show on HGTV. "Diana Black-White: Goddess Of The Hunt." I travel around looking for stuff for my wealthiest clients. That's why I'm in New York, actually; I'm shooting intros for next season all day tomorrow.

CHARLIE

I don't really watch HGTV that much.

DIANA

(She laughs.)

No worries. They've got me in the death spot: Saturday mornings at 7:00, right after "Suzanne Somers' Perfect Abs."

CHARLIE

That sucks. Who's gonna watch HGTV at 7:00 in the morning?

ED

(To Charlie.)

That was rude.

(To Diana.)

Excuse me while I help him pull his foot out of his mouth. Again.

CHARLIE

Sorry. I just meant who's up that early on a Saturday morning? Neither one of us are.

DIANA

No worries. You two aren't a couple, are you?

CHARLIE

Who, Mr. Married-To-His-Career-Here? We've only been best friends since kindergarten.

ED

Sometimes it seems longer.

CHARLIE

I'm usually up all night, and I go to sleep around 6:00. He sleeps late every morning. He's old and needs his rest, especially during 5 show weekends.

ED

Fuck you too, Charlie.

DIANA

Oh, is that your name? Charlie?

CHARLIE

Yes. Charlie Windsor. Charles Philip Arthur George to be exact. I took George as my confirmation name at Her Majesty My Mother's request.

DIANA

Now you're kidding!

CHARLIE

Swear to God. My mother had a Queen fixation. I think she only married my father because his last name was Windsor. Her name is Elizabeth.

DIANA

Of course it is. Don't tell me: your father's name is Philip?

CHARLIE

No.

DIANA

Edward?

CHARLIE

No.

DIANA

George?

CHARLIE

No. Herman.

DIANA

Herman?

CHARLIE

Herman!

They both laugh.

DIANA

Can I buy you both a drink?

CHARLIE

Sure!

ED

One is my limit these days.

CHARLIE

Since when?

ED

Since I have two shows tomorrow and two on Sunday. I'm old, remember?

DIANA

Just one more?

(She signals the bartender.)

Jordan? Another round.

(To Charlie.)

So what do you do, Charlie?

ED

(To Diana.)

Nothing. He does nothing.

(To Charlie.)

I keep telling you: take a class. Join a gym. Volunteer!

CHARLIE

I used to work in advertising, but my 30-something supervisor had the hots for a 6-foot-4 20-something Gaysian, so... I don't really need to work now, but the job would have been someplace to go now that Mark's passed away.

DIANA

Oh, your husband died.

(Whispering.)

Cancer?

CHARLIE

Stray bullet in Bloomingdale's. The White Sale.

DIANA

Oh, my God! The Bloomingdale's Silk Sheet Shooting? I heard about that up in Boston!

CHARLIE

Mark and some bull-dyke both grabbed for the last Calvin Klein King-sized Silk Sheet Set, they got into a fight, she pushed him, there was a shot, and the dyke walked away with the sheets.

DIANA

They still don't know who did it, do they?

CHARLIE

No.

DIANA

I'm so sorry that happened. So tragic. I've lost a husband or two myself, so I understand the pain. Ed's right, you know; you really should shake up your routine a bit.

(She starts scrolling through her iPad.)

The other day I read this, hold on, let me find it, I've got it somewhere... Here it is: "If you think adventure is dangerous, try routine. It is lethal."

CHARLIE

Paulo Coelho.

DIANA

Yes! I saw it as a meme on Instagram.

ED

Paulo Coelho reduced to a social media meme? I'm going to take a whiz. Start saying your goodnights, Charlie.

CHARLIE

You're not the boss of me, Ed.

ED

(As he exits.)

Whatever. I'm leaving after I pee.

An awkward silence, while Charlie and Diana each wait for the other to say something.

CHARLIE

Don't mind him, he's always a little grumpy right before a major cast change.

DIANA

No worries, I totally get it. Changes like that are always stressful.

CHARLIE

So... Uhm... You're from Boston?

DIANA

New York originally. Well, Long Island. Huntington. But we don't talk about that.

CHARLIE

You're kidding! I'm from Deer Park!

DIANA

You're kidding!

CHARLIE

Diana. From Huntington.

DIANA

Charlie. From Deer Park.

CHARLIE

There's something almost mythic about that, like we were destined to meet.

DIANA

Serendipitous, even.

CHARLIE

But you live in Boston, now?

DIANA

For about 2 years now, yes.

CHARLIE

"Cheers."

DIANA

(Toasting Charlie.)

Cheers.

CHARLIE

I meant the show, "Cheers." I watch the reruns every morning. 4:00 – 6:00. See? Pathetic.