



## SOCIAL DISTANCE DATING

By Bill Roddey

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A One Act Play

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### CHARACTERS

KULKA FRAN- 30's, bathrobe

OLLIE- 30's, pajamas

MACK- waiter in a face mask, 40's, at a restaurant

### SYNOPSIS

It begins on the last day of the pandemic lockdown, when everyone is supposed to stay at home with only emergency trips allowed. Then the next day goes green allowing some restaurants to open for indoor dining, which Ollie and Kukla Fran go for. They met on Timber, a fictional hyper version of Tinder advertised in Atwitter for the lonely and lovelorn, for their first Zoom video date. They have a saucy date where they discover a new way of social distance dating, while dining in.

## SCENE ONE

(There are two tables on opposite sides of the stage facing each other in a sideways position to the audience, tilted toward them showing their faces to the audience. There is one chair each and Ollie is sitting at one and Kulka Fran at the other. They are sitting in front of a lap top, or a simulated lap top, talking to each other on Zoom, which is used for video conferences and video meetings where you can see family, friends or meeting talking heads in real time.)

OLLIE

OK, ,Kulka Fran, I restarted Zoom again. I can see you. Can you see me?

KULKA

Yes, Ollie I can see you. (reflecting) I wish Zoom was longer though. It interrupts the ebb and flow. I'm big on ebb and flow. Especially ocean waves coming and going like taxis at a high end hotel.

OLLIE

Yeah, but without it I wouldn't see you in a crowd of face masks rushing through the supermarket...So no problem here, when it times out I'll just restart it. I first started it in the morning and now it's night already.

KULKA

Wow, almost a whole day. But if you add Tuesday night, when I first got your Timber request to hook up, as advertised on Atwitter's love at first cyber sight love line. Ah, but... but now that's a different hook up from the old days, all of eight weeks ago. You...You can almost add an overnight 'cause we texted for hours.

OLLIE

Yes, we did break, no smash the ice, between us...But no returning to the old hook ups when sexual harassment was only a finger tip slip away.

KULKA

Yes, when us girls had to fight you off with Mace in the face.

OLLIE

And us guys had to duck and cover, if we read you wrong. And then had to ask if we needed legal counseling afterwards.

KUKLA

Hey, it gives us time to know each other better.

OLLIE

I think Timber did a great job in our case matching us up. 'Cause we've been talking all day and haven't even got to the main topic. Like, I live on Limerick Lane. "I once knew a girl from Nantucket"... Ah maybe...maybe I'll finish that limerick when you get to know me better... So where do you live?

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KULKA

In Heathcliff Towers.

OLLIE

On Wuthering Heights Boulevard?

KULKA

The one and only. Just catty corner from the Bronte Bookstore.

OLLIE

OK then. And my next important question is...

KULKA

It'll take you more than half a day to tell you when I lost my virginity.

OLLIE

No, no, ah, er umm, I meant...

KULKA

Just kidding. (A dramatic pause) A morning would be enough time to tell you that.(Laughs)

OLLIE

No, no I meant about where you work or used to work.

KULKA

Where I worked...Well Ollie...

OLLIE

Kulka, Kulka Fran...Let me go first OK? Please?

KULKA

Sure. Great. Knock yourself out.

OLLIE

I'm Disco Donnie on Stratus national radio. Currently still employed. They built me a remote studio in my apartment, so I don't have to go to the studio to broadcast during this plague.

KULKA

(Excited) Wow, that is so great!...Disco...Disco Donnie! I listen to you almost every day. I love the night life. I love to boogie. I'm just one big Disco Inferno.

OLLIE

That's sure nice and all, but let me tell you, I've been Disco Donnie for thirteen years now, playing the same songs of the 70's over and over and over again. Oh, I'm Stayin' Alive, but I'm about ready to Boogie, Oggie, Oggie into a Night Fever here in Funky Town. (Recalling) Like, I've played Disco Duck by Rick Dees, (one of my DJ idols, by the way), over 5,000 times for over a decade now. And it's considered the worst disco record ever. And...and it seems like the whole country calls in to request it.

KULKA

But your joke intros about the songs are really funny, Ollie. I...I mean Disco Donnie.

OLLIE

Yeah, and they're as stale as month old sourdough. The same knee slappers over and over and over. It's like I'm living in a deja vu mono world, while everyone else is in a stereo rocket race to Mars world.

KULKA

Well, I guess you could quit and become a dance club D.J. making the crowd go faster and slower as you spin them. Now, that seems like power to me. Making people dance to your tune.

OLLIE

Yeah, that's fun. And I've done that on the weekends...That is, when we had weekends. But what I really want to do, in my heart of hearts, is to be an 80's DJ and play Duran Duran (so nice they named them twice), Prince, Whitney, Michael's Billy Jean, Wham before it became just George Michael. (Reflecting) Freddie Mercury may be long dead, but he's still alive in my heart and he is the Queen of Queens. And I'm dying to play Human League and ah-ha again. I just Don't Stop Believing on my life's Journey.

KULKA

But...but you're reviving disco almost all by yourself, Ollie.

OLLIE

But I wanna go by Big Hair Honcho as I spin the Big Hair bands of the 80's.

KULKA

Wow, you got hopes and dreams! All I...all I got is a big resume of restlessness.

OLLIE

(Ignoring her) My ultimate goal though is to eventually become a 90's DJ. At least then I'd have listeners who weren't dying off and senile. They'd be alert and dancin'. And it's more job security... So I'd better get out of the 70's soon, because us Ollie Ollie Oxenfree's don't rock and roll that long, unfortunately.

KULKA

Ollie Ollie Oxen-Free? Ollie is your middle name too and Oxenfree is your surname? You mean the Come out, Come out, Wherever You Are chant is...is your last name?

OLLIE

What? Oh yeah. The family legend is that that's the call my father made to get my mother to come out and marry him. But really that name goes back to the founding fathers, who had to yell it to get Ben Franklin out of the brothels and sober up in time to vote on the Declaration of Independence.

KUKLA

Like I said, Ollie. You got hopes and dreams. All I got is a big resume of restlessness.

OLLIE

(Contrite) Oh, hey I'm so sorry Kukla. I never told that to anyone before. I got carried away. Didn't even let you but in. You said something about hopes and restless dreams.

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KUKLA

I have a...a restless resume.

OLLIE

So you've had a lot of jobs then?

KUKLA

Actually, a lot of careers, too many to mention. I...I had a lot of Promise, but it ended up being just margarine. Promise margarine. (Laughs)

OLLIE

(Laughs) Ollie Ollie Oxen Free come on out and spill it. What kind of jobs did you have?

KUKLA

Oh OK, if you insist. I'll just give you the top ones. I...I was a crime scene cleaner for awhile.

OLLIE

Crime scene cleaner? You Spic and Spaned after murders and shit.

KUKLA

Yep, splattered blood red clothing, blood caked rugs, bloody kitchen appliances, soaked couches, blown up beds with blood and brains on it. You open someone up and the amount of blood flow is overwhelming. Our skin is just a sheath for a big blood balloon... I did it all till I found a child's tooth on the living room floor from a shot gun blast to the face. I just walked out of the crime scene then and there and never looked back.

OLLIE

And I thought cleaning up my cat's hairballs was bad. Lord! What else did you do?

(Kukla stands up from the chair and stretches her legs by walking around. Ollie stands up and does some arm stretches from this marathon first Zoom date. Then they both sit down.)

OLLIE

What...what else did you do?

KUKLA

I was a water slide tester in the spring for the summer.

OLLIE

What the hell? I never knew that was a job. Bet it was fun.

KUKLA

First off it was cold, but it had its moments. You just zoomed...if I can use that word as a verb, not a noun.

OLLIE

I'm not your English teacher. Just a disco DJ spinning Bogie Nights from 6 to midnight.