



LAKESIDE LUNCH

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## Lakeside Lunch--A Restaurant Farce

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**Synopsis:** Would you like some lunch? A sandwich? How hard could it be? In *Lakeside Lunch--A Restaurant Farce*, a noon day meal gets served up in a fast-paced whirlwind of comic mayhem when an irate waiter, a loud and opinionated chef, and a small gang of singing servers take on a customer's innocent question and a three-ring circus explodes in a peaceful hotel dining room. Grandma's side dish of peas never arrives, the chicken has an unusual smell, and when that meat ball goes rolling out of that bun, off the plate and out on to the floor, maybe you just want to go home, skip lunch altogether, and have a big bowl of cereal. How hard could it be? We are talking lunch here; however, in *Lakeside Lunch--A Restaurant Farce*, lunch is a challenging situation and a playfully delicious slice of life!

**Casting:** 5 men, 4 women and 1 either (non-speaking). 10 total cast. *Gender flexible.*

**Author's Note on Casting:** While this show was originally written with 5 men, 4 women, and 1 either (non-speaking) in mind, there are a lot of gender flexibility and casting options for the waiters, the customers, the chef, and the dog. Please feel free to make line, word, pronoun adaptations to suit your production. The casting is flexible. Have fun with it!

### Cast of Characters:

The Waiter (m/f)  
 The Customer (m)  
 The Female Customer (f)  
 The Chef (m/f)  
 The Grandma at Another Table (f)

#### *The Other Waiters:*

A Male Singing Waiter (Bass) (m)  
 A Female Singing Waiter (Soprano) (f)  
 Pierre, a French Male Singing Waiter (Tenor) (m)  
 Another Female Singing Waiter (Alto) (f)

**Author's Note on Singing Waiters:** The waiters will stage a small, playful, boisterous, and loud phony/dramatic operatic scene in the restaurant. Boisterous, playful, exaggerated, and loud are the operative descriptive words—fine singing is optional. Bass, soprano, tenor, and alto voices, listed above, are mere suggestions, to create a pallet of sounds—highs and lows—to add to the comic mayhem. Put your waiters to work to help create the high energy, laughter, and humor of this small scene.

#### *Non-Speaking Roles:*

The Dog (m/f) (A person in a dog suit?)

See The Setting Note below for optional non-speaking roles.

**The Time:** Now.

**The Setting:** The front porch/veranda of a venerable old hotel where an award-winning restaurant serves the hotel's guests, tourists in for the day, and locals-in-the-know from its reputable menu and wine list. There will need to be at least three set tables in this upscale/historic veranda space, each with a white table cloth, cloth napkins, colorful flowers in vases or candles, silverware, dinner plate, menus, water glasses, coffee cups/saucers, and at least two chairs at each table—one table for THE CUSTOMER, one table for THE FEMALE CUSTOMER, and one table for THE GRANDMA AT ANOTHER TABLE. Waiter's stands with trays on top at each table.

At the set designer's or director's discretion, additional tables can be set and non-speaking diners (extras) can be seated and can be added to the ensemble/setting to create a full and lively lunch crowd.

**Lighting Suggestion:** A pleasant wash that evokes a really pleasant and special dining experience.

**Costume Suggestions:** All of the costume suggestions here are only recommendations and are to be used only as a guide. Feel free to find your own creative costuming solutions.

All Waiters-- White shirt, black vest, black bow tie, black pants, black shoes—Pierre will also wear a black beret.

The Chef—White Chef hat/toque, white coat, black pants

The Grandma at Another Table--Grey hair, wire-rimmed glasses, bad shoes, bangly/jangly jewelry, nasty sweater, and large and loud dress, large purse

The Dog—A person in a dog suit

The Customer—Dressy/casual

The Female Customer--Colorful dressy/casual.

**Prop List:**

Three small restaurant tables

Six chairs

Assorted restaurant props for each table: white table cloth, cloth napkins, colorful flowers in vases or candles, silverware, dinner plate, menus, water glasses, coffee cups/saucers, waiter's stands with trays on top at each table.

A coffee carafe

1 plate with: The Lakeside's Meatball Sandwich, with hand cut fries, side dish of cole slaw--THE CUSTOMER's lunch order.

Extra napkins

2 coffee creamer packages

2 sugar packages for coffee

1 meatball

4 cloth napkins for singing waiters

1 plate with: a chicken breast lunch with gravy and a bread roll--THE GRANDMA AT ANOTHER TABLE's lunch order.

Another plate with: a chicken breast lunch with gravy and a bread roll--THE FEMALE CUSTOMER's lunch order.

A small pile of bills (folding money) for THE CUSTOMER.

*At Rise: The front porch/veranda of a venerable old hotel where an award-winning restaurant serves the hotel's guests, tourists in for the day, and locals-in-the-know from its reputable menu and wine list.*

*SFX: Off-stage very large crash. Metal tray, dishes, bowls, serving plates, silverware, glassware.*

*Lighting comes up and reveals-- a wide-eyed seated patron, THE CUSTOMER, staring off-stage at the obvious cause of a restaurant catastrophe. THE GRANDMA AT ANOTHER TABLE is reading a book, oblivious to the commotion. THE FEMALE CUSTOMER is listening to a conversation on her cell phone, not phased at all.*

*THE WAITER enters. Wide-eyed, knocked off his normal routine, because he—and the meal he is about to serve--have obviously been involved in the off-stage commotion.*

THE WAITER (*Pretending confidence*).

And now there you are sir, our lunch special, The Chef's pride and joy, The Lakeside's Meatball Sandwich, with hand cut fries, side of cole slaw, as you requested, and your cup of black coffee.

THE CUSTOMER (*Hesitant/skeptical*).

Thank you, but I...

THE WAITER

And I have taken the opportunity to bring along some extra napkins, because between you and me, sir, these sandwiches, can get kind of messy...

THE CUSTOMER (*Mildly annoyed*).

Excuse me. Are you?

THE WAITER

Good messy, but messy. As a matter of fact, a lady came in here the other day, oh my goodness, and spilled all of that lovely tomato marinara sauce all of her white blouse, it was...

THE CUSTOMER

Excuse me...

THE WAITER

...a disaster, but I assure you, once we cleaned her up a bit, she thoroughly enjoyed her lunch. Now, is there anything else I can get you?

THE CUSTOMER

Well...

THE WAITER

Ketchup, ohhh, I forgot the ketchup for the fries! If you'll let me, I will be back in just one second...

THE CUSTOMER

Excuse me, I would like some ketchup, thank you, but before you go, I...

THE WAITER

Yes sir...

THE CUSTOMER

Forgive me for interrupting the busy hum and buzz of your routine, but I swore I saw you, before you arrived at the table to serve me, actually drop my sandwich on the floor,

THE WAITER (*Challenged*).

Now sir...

THE CUSTOMER

pick it up and proceeded to hastily put it back together on this plate,

THE WAITER

I assure you sir.

THE CUSTOMER

arrange the hand cut fires just so,

THE WAITER

I never!

THE CUSTOMER

place the dish of cole slaw at its assigned station on the dinner plate,

THE WAITER

Never in my life would I...

THE CUSTOMER

and retrieve the two creamers and sugar packets from beneath that table.

THE WAITER

I assure you, there is nothing wrong with this lunch.