

SINGERS

By Thom Weidlich

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

MEGAN

RACHEL

BOBBY

JOE

All waiters, all in their twenties

(The service area of the bar in an Applebee's restaurant. Throughout the play, MEGAN, RACHEL, BOBBY and JOE, all waiters, come and go to place drink orders, punch food orders into the computer, pick up drinks and deliver them. They call out to an unseen bartender named Kenny. MEGAN rushes to the bar)

MEGAN

(to herself)

I need singers.

(to Kenny)

Kenny, four Long Island Ice Teas. . . . Yeah, four. . . . Well, I'm sorry that you've already made twenty-nine and a half Long Island Ice Teas tonight, Kenny, but that's what they ordered. Four Long Island Ice Teas.

(RACHEL enters)

RACHEL

I would rather have every one of my eyelashes individually yanked out than be here tonight.

MEGAN

And who would pay the rent? Oh, I guess I would.

(MEGAN exits)

RACHEL

Two Buds, Kenny.

(Beat. To herself)

``Who would pay the rent?'' Shut up.

(BOBBY enters)

BOBBY

Hey, Rachel.

RACHEL

Hey, Bobby.

BOBBY

I didn't know you were working tonight.

RACHEL

I just got on. I was late.

BOBBY

As usual.

RACHEL

That's right. As usual.

(She takes her drinks)

Thanks Kenny.

(RACHEL exits. JOE enters. BOBBY is inputting a food order)

JOE

Stoli tonic, Merlot, Beck's.

(To Bobby)

Could you swish on over?

BOBBY

I'm more man than you are. And I'm working here at the moment. Three Buds, Kenny.

(MEGAN enters)

MEGAN

Two martinis, Kenny. One slightly dirty with four olives – not two, not five, not three and a half, but four olives. The other with a twist – gin.

BOBBY

Gin?

MEGAN

Yes, gin.

BOBBY

No one drinks gin martinis anymore.

MEGAN

The fossil on twenty-seven drinks gin martinis. I need singers.

BOBBY

I gotta take an order.

(BOBBY exits. JOE places drinks on tray)

MEGAN

I need singers.

JOE

I have drinks to deliver.

(JOE exits. BOBBY enters)

MEGAN

I thought you had an order to take.

BOBBY

I did already.

MEGAN

That was fast.

BOBBY

What can I tell you? I'm good.

MEGAN

I need singers.

(MEGAN and BOBBY put drinks on their trays)

BOBBY

Didn't I just sing for you?

MEGAN

No. I sang for you. Last night.

BOBBY

How one forgets when one is working two double shifts in a row.

(MEGAN rubs her thumb and index finger together)

MEGAN

Know what this is?

BOBBY

No.

MEGAN

The world's smallest violin.

(BOBBY exits in a faux huff. RACHEL enters)

MEGAN (CONT'D.)

I need singers.

RACHEL

Oh, God. Not that. Not tonight.

MEGAN

I can't help when it happens.

RACHEL

Can't you get someone else? Please?

MEGAN

Who? I need, like, six.

RACHEL

My throat's sore.

MEGAN

Because you smoke too much. I'll be right back and then you sing.

(MEGAN exits. JOE enters)

RACHEL

(To Kenny)

Two sex on the beaches.

(To herself)

God, I'd like to have sex on the beach twice.

JOE

Don't be crude.

RACHEL

Megan needs singers. Sing for Megan.

JOE

I can't do it. I'm in the weeds. You sing for Megan.

RACHEL

I just did. Last night. I think.

(JOE and RACHEL exit. After a pause MEGAN and BOBBY enter)

MEGAN

I love it when they say they're ready to order and then they want to take another twenty-five minutes to look over the menu and leave you standing there like you've got nothing better to do. And the whole time, Susie's glaring at me like I'm ignoring my other tables on purpose.

BOBBY

Tell them to take their sweet time, and walk away.

MEGAN

I did. There goes my tip. You have to sing.

BOBBY

No no no.

MEGAN

How many times have I closed out your tables when you wanted to leave early? How many times?

BOBBY

I dunno. Once?

MEGAN

Try, like, three thousand times.

BOBBY

Impossible. I've only toiled in this particular corner of hell two thousand nights.

MEGAN

Well, a lot. And you know it. Plus I sang for you last night.

BOBBY

All right. When do you need this warbling done?

MEGAN

Soon. We cleared dinner three minutes ago. And Susie's on my back for not turning my tables fast enough.

BOBBY

Okay. Jeez.

(BOBBY exits. MEGAN inputs food order. JOE enters)

MEGAN

(sing-songy)

I still need singers, Joe!

JOE

I am swamped, seriously swamped, Megan.

MEGAN

You're swamped? Last night, I complain to Susie that she's not seating my section enough and now she's making up for it by seating me all at once. And with the most

demanding idiots ever. This woman actually just asked me what's in the Chicken Broccoli Pasta Alfredo Bowl.

JOE

I'm too busy.

MEGAN

C'mon, Joe, I got one. Bobby's doing it. The clock's ticking and I need, like, six.

JOE

Bobby's doing it? You needed another soprano?

MEGAN

I'll take six tone-deaf lepers at this point.

JOE

Not if Bobby's doing it. He launches into falsetto. It's embarrassing.

MEGAN

Just say yes.

JOE

Let me drop these drinks off.

(JOE exits)

MEGAN

(to herself)

I will never help another single person for the rest of my life. I'm registering Republican.

(to Kenny)

Kenny, did I say three Diet Cokes? . . . Oh, God, three Diet Cokes. I think they're Mormons.

(BOBBY enters)

MEGAN (CONT'D.)

Two minutes, Bobby. Two minutes, I swear.

BOBBY

Okay.

(MEGAN exits)

BOBBY (CONT'D.)

Four boilermakers, Kenny. You cannot believe the Neanderthals.

(RACHEL enters)

Megan needs singers.

BOBBY (CONT'D.)

I already said no.

RACHEL

I broke down. I'm doing it.

BOBBY

You're going to heaven.

RACHEL

And you're going to –

BOBBY

I know, I know.

RACHEL

(BOBBY exits. MEGAN enters)

I need –

MEGAN

I know!

RACHEL

(RACHEL exits. JOE enters)

Say yes, Joe.

MEGAN

Okay, okay, okay. You owe me your first born.

JOE

Okay, in one minute.

MEGAN

(JOE inputs food order. MEGAN puts glasses on tray. JOE and MEGAN exit. After a pause, MEGAN and RACHEL enter)

Rachel, you gotta sing.

MEGAN

I don't want to.

RACHEL

MEGAN

I know. You gotta.

RACHEL

I'm hungover. I'll go off-key.

MEGAN

I don't care. Four. If you do it, it's four. I got Bobby and Joe. Six is better. But I can get away with four.

RACHEL

Megan, I love you but I just got another five-top. My second five-top in five minutes. Have a heart.

MEGAN

You have a heart! I have sung for you each and every time you needed singers – each and every time – without missing a single time, without missing a single note.

RACHEL

How do I know that? I don't keep track.

MEGAN

I probably came in and sang for you on my day off!

RACHEL

Didn't we just do this last night?

MEGAN

Yes, we did. We sang for Bobby. Remember? There are six billion people on the planet, Rachel. It's possible for two people to come into this particular Applebee's on consecutive nights and have it be their birthday.

RACHEL

I gotta take an order.

(RACHEL exits. BOBBY and JOE enter)

JOE

Okay, Megan, it's now or never.

MEGAN

Don't threaten me. I've only got you two. That's only three.

BOBBY

Three's fine.

Three's good.
JOE

Three's not enough. I'm working on Rachel.
MEGAN

You'll never get Rachel.
BOBBY

Rachel's in a mood.
JOE

I'll get Rachel.
MEGAN

I might as well go take an order.
JOE

I might as well go sneer at Susie.
BOBBY

(BOBBY and JOE exit. RACHEL enters)

Okay, I'll do it.
RACHEL

You will?
MEGAN

One condition.
RACHEL

What?
MEGAN

You sing for me. I just got one. It's like a virus.
RACHEL

Okay, great. I'll be back in thirty seconds. I swear. Thirty seconds.
MEGAN

(MEGAN exits)

Kenny, a Manhattan.
RACHEL

(BOBBY enters)

BOBBY

Kenny, two Harvey Wallbangers.

(JOE enters)

JOE

Kenny, three Long Island Ice Teas. . . . It's not my problem that you already made thirty-three and a half Long Island Ice Teas tonight, Kenny.

(MEGAN enters)

MEGAN

The cake. I gotta get the cake. Don't move. I swear. None of you. Don't move.

(MEGAN exits and reenters carrying an unseen cake in her palm)

Okay, start clapping. Everyone start clapping!

(RACHEL, JOE and BOBBY start clapping to keep the beat. ALL four march off-stage. A pause and then we hear –)

ALL (OFF-STAGE)

(to the rhythm of the military drill song)

I don't know but I been told!

Someone here is gettin' old!

(lights)

END OF PLAY