

From an Unspeakable Triumph of Supreme Brilliance

By Don Zolidis

SAMSON, the director of the play

LETITIA, a reporter

DAVE, the hapless playwright

(SAMSON enters, followed by LETITIA, who is taking notes.)

SAMSON

And this is where the magic happens!

(He knocks on the set doors, which are fake.)

We just finished painting this yesterday. We were trying for desperation with a whiff of good old fashioned American suburban normalcy. It's glorious.

LETITIA

It looks great.

SAMSON

Don't touch it. It will probably fall over. Not the best artisans around here, if you know what I mean. Probably because we don't pay anyone. BUT – the illusion must only last through the performance, and then we'll tear it down.

(DAVE is entering with a script.)

There he is! There he is! There's our playwright!

(He grabs DAVE by the wrist and brings him back to meet LETITIA.)

This is Dave Swenson. He is the genius behind the show.

(SAMSON bows.)

DAVE

Hi.

SAMSON

Dave this is Letitia Jones, she is from the – I forget what newspaper it was –

LETITIA

The Courier.

SAMSON

The Courier! And she is here to do an expose on our little show. Overturning the wheelbarrows. Looking under the covers. Who's secretly in love with whom? Who's a diva? Who's the problem? It's going to be amazing.

LETITIA

Just a little feature really –

SAMSON

Blowing the doors off the North Central Minnesota Community Theatre underworld!

LETITIA

I don't know that I'm going to blow the doors off anything.

SAMSON

In those heels, you could blow the doors off a monastery.

LETITIA

So uh... could I talk to you a little bit about the script?

SAMSON

Yes!

LETITIA

I mean, Dave.

DAVE

Sure. Um... we're about to start rehearsing, but –

LETITIA

So the play is called Thanksgiving Dinner. Where did this idea come from?

DAVE

Well -

SAMSON

It's autobiographical.

DAVE

It's not really autobiographical.

SAMSON

He says that. But we know. We all know.

DAVE

It's basically a comedy – about a college student who comes from –

SAMSON

Do you want me to show her? Can I show her?

DAVE

Well um...

SAMSON

Done!

(He leaps up.)

There's a man, Damien –

(SAMSON dashes to one side of the stage to portray Damien.)

He's tortured. Excellent bone structure. Piercing dark eyes. Tight buns.

DAVE

There's not really anything about his buns in the script.

SAMSON

It's in the director's notes.

DAVE

It's just – it's just a fun little comedy. So he's – he's home from college for Thanksgiving.

SAMSON

'Mama, I'm home!' And his mother is like, "meet your new Dad!"

(SAMSON dashes to the other side of the stage to become the New Dad.)

Drama!

DAVE *(trying to ignore SAMSON)*

But uh... his Mom has invited his ex-girlfriend Jasmine over for Thanksgiving dinner

SAMSON

Drama again!

DAVE

And then also um... they have a foreign exchange student –

SAMSON

Gorgeous foreign exchange student.

DAVE

And she's very...

SAMSON

She's a tiger!

(He acts out her tiger-ness)

She is a ravager of men. That's what happened to me when I was younger. They pursued me. Relentlessly. I was hunted.

LETITIA

Really?

SAMSON

Oh yes. Side-note: Dave wrote the part for an Asian actress. She's from...

DAVE

Japan.

SAMSON

Japan. And um – I don't know if you've noticed, but we don't have a lot of Asians around here – apparently we're not cool enough I don't know – but anyway... she's now from Ireland. Which is sad but also wonderful. Just like Ireland.

DAVE

Anyway, so she takes a shine to Damien –

SAMSON

You can just feel the torture in his own life, can't you? This happened to Dave. Dave. Damien. Coincidence? No.

To read the rest of this play visit www.playscripts.com