

## Blocking Assignments

### ACT ONE SCENE THREE

#### GENERAL:

During the blackout from the previous scene, the stage crew readjust the four seats of the restaurant. The crew collects the hair salon implements from the trolley in a bag and carries them off stage. A small white tablecloth is used to cover the trolley which is now used as a water stand for glasses and a pitcher of water. The magazine rack is moved to the other side of the stage and positioned at rear stage right and stacked with menus after being covered somewhat by cloth leaving the center portion open for menus. There are now two small dining tables brought in and placed on either side of center stage. The table used for Alex has two chairs and is more centrally located toward the forward stage. The remaining table is moved slightly to the rear and stage left so that it is behind Alex's table. The cash counter table remains where it was in the salon scene and is also suitably covered with a larger table cloth. The kitchen (although the audience never views it) is designated to the right rear corner off the stage. The styling chair is removed by exit E and left along the boards off the stage. The small portion of picket fence is returned and placed horizontally in front of the remaining window frame as a decoration piece inside the restaurant.

#### ACTION:

During the blackout the set is completed and both Alex and Louise enter the stage from entrance/exit E. Alex takes a seat at his table and Louise is standing beside the menus. Louise sees Alex and takes a menu from the top shelf of breakfast menus. She walks over to Alex's table approaching it from stage right. When she forgets what the special is she hurries over to the water table and takes out her order pad to read what the specialty is and stands there rehearsing it as if trying to remember it before she returns to take the order from Alex. When she is finished her mini rehearsal she picks up a glass of water and walks over to his table and places it in the center. She then hands him a menu which she inadvertently gives him upside down while opening it for him.

Alex turns the menu around and opens it so that the audience gets a chance to recognize that he is holding a breakfast menu. When Louise goes away she visits the other table then picks up her second glass of water and returns to Alex. Alex holds up the breakfast menu with the words facing the audience, points toward it and requests a dinner menu. Louise once again goes to the other table then picks up another glass of water as Alex goes to the Menu rack and picks out one of the dinner menus and returns to his seat. Louise times her return with the next glass of water and arrives at the table shortly after Alex is seated. Louise goes back to the water table picks up another glass then makes her way across the stage to the counter where she eagerly watches for Alex to wave.

Alex sees Louise standing directly in front of him a short distance away and waves gingerly at her and she responds by coming over to his table with the fifth glass of water. The comic script continues as Louise tries to write down Alex's order. Alex demonstrates to Louise that there are cream and sugar bowls on the table for him to fix his own coffee. The comic script continues until Louise leaves once again and returns to the water stand where she pulls out a different coloured order pad and realizes her mistake. She now rehearses the soup of the day which is cheese and chicken gumbo as before, takes yet another glass of water [number six] and returns to the table. Before Alex has a chance to respond to the new choice of soup, Louise slips away again this time toward the kitchen. She stops, takes out the

second order pad, flips through it and discovers that she has no orders to place with the kitchen so she puts the order pad back in her apron pocket. Obviously, Alex's dinner order was written down in the other order pad which was a totally different colour. She now shrugs her shoulders, goes back to the water table to get the seventh glass of water and returns to the table where Alex is seated.

Alex tells his story to Louise who listens intently. Then she goes away toward the kitchen. Once again she pulls out the correct order pad and scratches her head. Before she opens it she realizes that she should be looking at the other menu pad and so she puts the one with Alex's food order back into her pocket and takes out the other pad. Once again, she looks in vain, sees no order and wonders to herself what she was doing in the first place. She shrugs it all off and goes back and forth across the stage picking up menus going to the counter and over to the other table. The people at the other table are now getting frustrated with Louise as a server and when she leaves their table they simply get up, shake their heads and exit the restaurant from ramp B stage left.

Throughout all of Louise's movements Alex follows her around the restaurant with interest and affection as she goes back and forth from the counter to the other table. She finally returns. She tries to speak but the words won't come as she takes out her two order pads. Alex asks her "is my supper ready?" Louise tries to sort out in her mind the two order pads but instead shakes her head from side to side. Alex asks "are they still preparing it in the kitchen?" Louise glances over toward the kitchen and then once again holds out her two order pads and slowly shakes her head sideways. Alex asks his third question "did you forget to put my order in?" Louise puts both of her order pads into her apron pockets and shakes her head up and down. After she finishes her little story she goes back over to the water table and fetches glass of water number eight and returns. She holds onto the glass of water until she finishes her line which goes "my shift is over and I bet that you are just starving."

Alex stands up and takes the glass of water from Louise as he says "I'd like that very much" then he picks up one of the seven water glasses on the table, gives it to Louise and a toast one another. Alex of course takes a drink but Louise instead gives her line "there's just one thing." Alex chokes a bit on his water and Louise says "I'll have to charge you for the coffee to go if that's alright with you." Alex takes her glass and places both of them on the table beside the cream and sugar, then he touches them and says "I won't take away the cream and sugar either." Alex picks up his coat from the back of his chair and caringly wraps it around her shoulders as the two of them exit the stage by ramp A. As the two walk out together the visual image on the screen goes to black and the lights across the stage except for area A goes black. The couple stops to face each other and the lighting on area A goes to black.

#### **PROPS LIST:**

There is a window frame suspended between two free standing poles to indicate that the tree is outside of the salon,

There is a small trolley (from a hair salon) to be used as a water stand when covered by a white table cloth.

There is a pitcher and 8 filled glasses of water beside it (so that Louise can keep track)

4 chairs for dining patrons and two small tables with table settings, salt and pepper, cream and sugar.

Magazine rack covered over leaving three shelves for menus clearly marked Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

A coat for Alex.

2 Order pads one Blue and one Red.

Waitress apron with order pad and pen in the pocket.

The cashier counter from the previous scene is covered over with a large table cloth as a counter top side board. It is important that it does not block the audience line of sight.

We will also need sufficient glow in the dark cam sticks or tape to mark out entrances and exit ramps in the dark.

The seasonal tree for summer.

#### **STAGE DIRECTOR NOTES:**

The makeshift window remains in place prior to the opening of the scene. The tables and chairs are positioned. The trolley is set up as a water stand. Stage crews will enter from the centre rear of the stage E. They are assembled in the penalty box area and they carry with them small LED lights to assist them in moving about during blackouts. The seasonal tree is positioned at all times on stage at the rear of the stage directly in front of exit E. There needs to be sufficient room for the movement of players and crew around the tree as they move on and off the main stage. The seasonal changes of the tree are part of the set preparation and conclusion. The tree now has a few less leaves and some that are coloured. This set piece becomes a focal point for the play and also serves to mark the opening of exit E so that it can be easily found in the dark. Once again light reflecting tape on the stage floor must be used. The final set requires the 4 chairs and 2 tables. The magazine rack goes now on the other side of the stage and is covered so that there are now only 3 shelves with menus for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. The cashier counter is along the stage right at D and continues to not block the side audience line of sight.

#### **COSTUMING:**

There is special costuming for both Louise and Alex but not for the two other restaurant patrons played by two Extras. Louise is dressed as a waitress in a cheap diner with an apron that has pockets for an order pad and pen. Alex is wearing a track suit since he just came from a soccer game. Alex must also carry with him a coat which he puts on the back of his chair when he sits down.

#### **COSTUME NOTE TO LOUISE AND ALEX:**

If you need help to remember your lines during this scene then prepare for yourself a few notes on your order pad (Louise only) and on the water table (Louise only). It is also possible to have script lines on the table made to look like place mats. You won't get to read your lines but if you get stuck then you can pause review your lines and get refocused. If this happens then Alex will also need to wait for you to deliver your line and vice versa. I am hopeful that you both will be able to memorize this scene and not require the stage props in order to prompt your lines.

#### **IMAGE SCREEN OPERATOR:**

After the blackout and before the lights come up the image of a restaurant Diner is displayed on screen and remains on the screen throughout the scene. Following the image on the screen the same areas of the stage are lit as in the previous scene B, C, D and A. In addition the water stand and the menu stand are also well lit as well as the cash counter. The sequence for lighting and image changes at the end of scenes is for the image to go to black followed by the lighting going to black.

#### **MAKEUP:**

There are no special requirements for each of the players. Each of the players in the scene will be responsible for doing their own makeup under the direction of the Makeup Artist. No special attention is required for this scene.

**LIGHTING:**

The entire stage is well lit for this scene. When Alex and Louise exit the restaurant from ramp A all of the lights are dimmed except for the lighting on ramp A.