

BostonPalooza: A Very Special Dinner

A Comedy
by
Toby Keenan

Toby Keenan
776 Saint Charles Ave, Apt 3, Atlanta, GA, 30306
973-610-4458
Tobykeenانبusiness@gmail.com

Tobykeenan.neocities.com

CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
SHELLY	Boston trash, Mother of three, takes no shit.	36	Female
TONY	Shelly's son, suave, protective of his brother.	20	Male
CAPRECIO	Tony's brother, super sick.	14	Male
LAYNO	Anxious, spread out, not great at thinking.	25	Male
JIM-JAM	Bright, charismatic helper, spastic fluid movements.	23	Female
ARACHNA	Cheery goth, great listener, convicted arsonist.	25	Female
LUNA	Reserved, stiff, fancy.	70	Female
LENNY	Reserved, stiff, fancy.	70	Male
ALEPE	Waiter, tall and toned, poised and fancy, goes about business with eloquent competence.	35	Male

Boston Palooza takes place in one restaurant between three different tables.

All conversations and actions in *italics* are continued by the specified table until their next lines.

SCENE

Three neatly decorated tables are set across the stage, a fancy Boston restaurant. Backstage of the tables are two decorative chest high walls, with a gap in the middle for the waiter to walk through. Decorative plants are placed tastefully around. Classical music plays, fitting of the restaurant aesthetic. A candle sits in the middle of each table.

Center Table: Four-top, set, empty chairs, fancy menu's stand in V's.

Left Table: LUNA and LENNY sit opposite sides of a two-top. They're dressed very neatly, looking intently at their menu's.

Right Table: LAYNO sits alone at a four-top against the wall. He's spread out, tapping his foot. He keeps checking his phone.

Enter SHELLY, stuffed into an ill-fitting dress. She drags her teenaged son CAPRECIO by the wrist, who hunches over holding his stomach, groaning. They're followed by TONY, the older brother, who wears a loose white collared shirt, hair slicked back, hands in his pockets.

Shelly bumps into Layno's chair on their way past.

SHELLY
I'm very sorry.

Layno hardly acknowledges.

SHELLY (cont'd)
[To Caprecio] Look where ya goin' ah?

Layno keeps checking his phone, looking around the restaurant.

They sit at the empty center table, Shelly and Tony adjacent, Caprecio in the middle.

Shelly brushes herself off, Tony suavely judges the restaurant, Caprecio holds his stomach.

Enter ALEPE, the waiter, dressed in a tight tuxedo vest, with a bowtie and a handlebar mustache. Shelly and Tony eye the devilishly handsome waiter as he tends to Layno, who brushes him off.

CAPRECIO
Ouuhhh.

Alepe crosses the stage.

SHELLY
Can it. This ain't gonna happen tonight. I booked this reservation weeks ago. We ain't gettin kicked outta here cause some rube thinks ya got corona.

TONY
Aye ma, come on. Don't be-

Shelly points.

SHELLY
You too, Tony. Can it.

Shelly, Caprecio, and Tony open their menu's, deciding what to get.

Alepe arrives at Luna and Lenny's table.

ALEPE
Are we ready to order?

Luna and Lenny put their menu's down simultaneously.

LUNA
I'm going to have the egg salad, extra mayo, no cranberries, blue cheese in lieu of parmesan, pistachio on the side, with a glass of cabernet, medium bodied, aptly aired, unchilled, no younger than 1984, preferably from the Trentino Alto-Adige valley.

Alepe nods.

ALEPE
Very good madam, and for you sir?

LENNY

I'm going to have the steak au poivre, medium rare, no mushrooms, sauce on the side, asparagus charred, with a glass of sauvignon blanc, freshly opened, chilled, younger than 2010 but no older than 2000, from any region except France.

Alepe nods.

ALEPE

Very good sir.

Alepe holds his hands out, Luna and Lenny pass their menu's simultaneously. Alepe exits.

Luna and Lenny sit in silence.

Layno, getting fed up, taps on his phone.

LAYNO

Got damn it. God, damn it. One more try, then I'm out!

Layno puts the phone to his ear. After a beat, a woman's voice.

JIM-JAM

Heyyloooo?

The voice comes from onstage.

LAYNO

Jim-Jam?

Layno looks at his phone, notices the call still hasn't been picked up.

JIM-JAM

Yesir!

LAYNO

Why does it sound like you're here in real life.

JIM-JAM

It's because...

JIM-JAM pops her head out from behind a plant on the wall behind Layno's table.

JIM-JAM (cont'd)
I'm behind the plant! HaHA!

Jim-Jam's reveal is loud and noticed by everyone else. Layno motions at Jim-Jam aggressively to join him. Jim-Jam leaps over the wall parkour style. She wears bright, obvious clothes with neon suspenders.

LAYNO
[Through teeth] Jesus Jim-Jam this is a serious situation! Why are you dressed like that?

JIM-JAM
I always dress like this.

LAYNO
I called you eight times! Why the fuck were you hiding?

JIM-JAM
I was scoping out the scene! I had to make sure ya lady wasn't already here.

LAYNO
[Quiet and loud] Sit down! Sit down!

Jim-Jam plops next to Layno.

LAYNO (cont'd)
Why'd you have to wait until now to tell me about this "foolproof" plan you have?

JIM-JAM
It's fun!

LAYNO
This isn't *fun*! My livelihood is at stake here! Ok? I need this breakup to go as smooth as possible so I'm not burnt alive! This chick is crazy!

JIM-JAM
Oh you just think that cause she's goth.

LAYNO
I'm backin' out.

Layno stands but is ushered back down by Jim-Jam who gives him a shoulder rub.

JIM-JAM

Hey, hey, relax Layno. Deep breaths. Everything's ok. You're in the masters hands now. Master Jim-Jam. Don't you trust me?

Layno takes a deep breath.

LAYNO

Ok. Ok, no, you're right, I trust you.

JIM-JAM

Yeah you do. So, you really wanna make sure this gal is outta ya life for good, huh?

LAYNO

Yes. In a way that makes her not want to burn my house down.

JIM-JAM

Alright. It's not gonna be easy, but I know exactly what you've gotta say to her in order to get off scot free. You ready?

Layno nods. Jim-Jam leans in.

Jim-Jam starts explaining the plan. She whispers, but uses large movements. Layno reacts skeptically to everything she says.

Shelly puts her menu down. Caprecio groans.

SHELLY

You just need some food in ya Caprecio. Ya wanna grilled cheese or sumn'?

TONY

He's sick ma.

SHELLY

He ain't sick.

TONY

He's sick ma!

CAPRECIO

[Sickly] I ain't sick.

SHELLY

See?

TONY

He don't know what he's talkin' about ma, look at him! Kids all topsy-turvy over here!

Alepe enters, dropping off the wine at Luna and Lenny's table.

SHELLY

[To Tony] I swear to god, if you ruin this dinner it'll be the last one ya ever have.

Alepe approaches the middle table. Shelly mouths "can it" to Tony.

Alepe talks with the table about their orders, helping them with the menu, doing his best to cater to the families abrasiveness, reacting to Caprecio's obvious sickness, delicately avoiding Shelly's touchy advances, and explaining to her why they don't serve grilled cheese.

*At Layno's table, Jim-Jam is **still** going on with the plan.*

Luna and Lenny look at each other, holding their wine glasses. Luna sips.

LUNA

Just as expected.

Lenny sips.

LENNY

Indeed. Alepe's choice is felicitous as usual.

LUNA

Indeed.

They look at each other, they sip.

LUNA (cont'd)

I haven't been attracted to you for several years now.

LENNY

Indeed.

They sip.

Lenny and Luna take turns sipping their wine.

Jim-Jam leans back.

JIM-JAM
You got all that?

LAYNO
Are you fucking kidding me?

JIM-JAM
It's a foolproof plan Layno!

LAYNO
Pretending that I'm gay is not a fool proof plan Jim-Jam!

JIM-JAM
It is if you tell her exactly what I told you to say!

LAYNO
None of "what you told me to say" made any sense at all! Who would even believe a story as insane as that?

JIM-JAM
Doubt all you want Layno, it'll work.

LAYNO
I'm out for real this time.

Layno stands, Jim-Jam jolts up quicker, staring off-stage.

JIM-JAM
[Rapid] Too late here she comes good luck!

Jim-Jam dives over the wall. Everyone notices.

ARACHNA enters carrying a little black purse. She has black hair, wears black lipstick, and a little black dress that reveals an awful hello-kitty tattoo high up her thigh. She see's Layno and does a little squeal, raising her arms in the air.

ARACHNA
Oh my gosh Lay-Lay! Aaaaaah!

Everyone stares.

LAYNO
Arachnaaa...

Arachna runs up to Layno who begrudgingly accepts her hug. They sit, Arachna energetic, excited, and interested, Layno trying to keep cool. Jim-Jam observes, peaking her head above the wall. While talking, Arachna pulls out a can of hairspray and constantly sprays it into her hair.

Alepe takes the menu's from Shelly and Tony, then gently pulls a menu out from under Caprecio's head, which is face down on the table. Shelly watches as Alepe exits.

SHELLY
What a priss. How hard is it to make a grilled cheese? It's just bread n cheese.

CAPRECIO
Oooo no cheeese.

Tony leans in to Caprecio.

TONY
You don't gotta stay lil bro, I can take ya home right now. What'ya say?

SHELLY
And that chick that just walked in? What a floozy!

Shelly notices Tony whispering to Caprecio.

SHELLY (cont'd)
Hey! You conspiring over there?

TONY
He's sick ma!

SHELLY
He ain't sick!

TONY
He's sick ma!

CAPRECIO
I ain't sick. I just drank a handle o' vod n smoked two packs'a camels last night. I'm fine, I'm tough.

SHELLY

He's a tough boy, Tony!

TONY

He's 14 Ma! He shouldn't be doin' shit like that!

SHELLY

I was doin' shit like that when I was half his age!

TONY

And look at ya'self! For christ's sake Ma you named him after a car!

SHELLY

The car he was conceived in.

TONY

He's not an automobile, he's my bruddah!

CAPRECIO

Vroom Vroom.

SHELLY

Ata boy Caprecio! Miles to the gallon!

TONY

Ma!

Tony and Shelly argue. They're doing a bad job at keeping their voices down.

Lenny and Luna silently observe the argument. Alepe enters stage right with a dish in each hand, placing them in front of Lenny and Luna.

ALEPE

Bon appétit!

LUNA

Thank you Alepe, you're a joy.

LENNY

Indeed.

Alepe exits stage right.

Luna and Lenny eat their dinners, still observing the argument.

LENNY (cont'd)

Two years ago I planned to cut the breaks of your car.

LUNA

Indeed, I saw your research in the browser history.

Lenny takes a bite of his steak.

LENNY

Mmm.

LUNA

When we have sex I fantasize about Alepe.

LENNY

Me too.

They eat.

Alepe enters, bringing the food to Shelly and Tony's table, shutting their argument up.

Arachna sprays a few more squirts of hairspray, then puts the can back into her purse.

ARACHNA

So yeah, that's basically what I've been up to! I mean, it's been crazy but my lawyer says I have decent odds at reaching a settlement since it wasn't a government building.

LAYNO

Should... Should you be out, right now? Like, out of jail?

ARACHNA

Yeahhhh, I'm sure it's fine. I'm on house arrest though.

Arachna lifts her leg up in the air, revealing her ankle monitor.

LAYNO

W- I still don't think//

ARACHNA

//Anyway, what about you Lay-Lay? You've been a little ghost man haven't you?

Arachna pokes at him.

LAYNO

Haha, yeah, well, you know me.

ARACHNA

I got through to you though! You must have gotten the notes I left on your windshield?

LAYNO

Haha, yeah. All 20 of em.

ARACHNA

Eeeek I knew you couldn't resist me. So what's with this fancy dinner? Tryna wet me up? Wana get up in these guts again?

She shoves him teasingly. Layno looks around with a nervous laugh, hoping no one heard her.

LAYNO

Haha, no, no guts for me tonight.

Alepe enters by their table.

ALEPE

Ah good, she's arrived. Are you ready to order now?

LAYNO

Uh, yeah, yeah, just a water.

ARACHNA

[To Alepe] How rare are you legally allowed to cook the stake?

From behind the wall, Jim-Jam pops up, palms the top of Layno's head. Layno jumps, turns. Jim-Jam gives Layno the "do it!" eyes. Layno and Jim-Jam have a bombastic silent argument as Arachna orders. Layno finally mouths "Alright!" and turns back. Alepe bows, exits.

ARACHNA(cont'd)

[Pointing at Alepe] Big dick energy.

LAYNO

Look, Arachna, there's something I actually wanted to talk to you about, and it's not easy for me to say.... uhm...

Layno subtly motions at Jim-Jam. She leans up and whispers to him from behind the wall.

LAYNO (cont'd)

[Reciting poorly] First, let me start by saying, first, that I'm conformable. I mean, I'm comfortable! Telling you the thing, the thing I will say. Because you are such a progressive person.

Arachna scoots closer, nods.

ARACHNA

Mhm.

Layno continues to confusingly explain, trying to mimic the gestures Jim-Jam made.

Shelly, Tony, and Caprecio eat their dinners silently. Tony sneers at Shelly. Aggressive in his eating gestures.

TONY

How's the food Ma?

SHELLY

[Chewing] It's fuckin' good. It's really fuckin' good. Caprecio? How's your food?

They turn to Caprecio who groans as he lifts a huge for full of mashed potatoes to his mouth. He misses. The potatoes smack onto the floor. Shelly turns back to Tony.

SHELLY (cont'd)

He loves it.

She takes another bite.

SHELLY (cont'd)

[Chewing] How's your food Tony?

Tony stabs his fork into his steak, then shakes it at her in the air.

TONY
Overdone and dry!

Shelly slams her fist on the table. Everyone in the restaurant turns.

SHELLY
Alright you ungrateful little shit! I've heard enough outta you! You've got no respect, whatsoever! I worked my ass off to pay for this dinner and you're just doin' everything you can to spoil it!

TONY
Oh please, you biffed one of the bus boys to get this table, didn't ya! What would dad of thunk?

SHELLY
He'd'a been watchin' from the closet!

TONY
Ao! Ma! Come on! Not around Caprecio.

From the right table, Arachna pipes up.

ARACHNA
Hey! Shut up over there!

SHELLY
[To Arachna] Stay out of this, ya hussy!

Arachna flips her off.

TONY
Look who's talkin!

SHELLY
I gave birth to you, you little shit! You want me to cram you back up there? Huh?

TONY
Aye, go for it! There's more than enough room!

Shelly jolts up. She slams her silverware down on the table and storms off-stage. Tony looks around as everyone glares.

TONY (cont'd)

The fuck y'all looking at ah? Go back to ya dinners, I'm sorry.

They do. Tony turns to Caprecio who's managed to start eating properly.

TONY (cont'd)

I'd take this opportunity to nab ya home but I think she's right about you gettin some food in ya.

Tony thinks to himself. Lets out a sigh of realization.

TONY (cont'd)

Ah shit.

Tony sits in self analyzation

LUNA

The current social aura of this restaurant reminds me of Troy and Elba.

LENNY

Ah yes indeed. Savages, weren't they.

LUNA

Hmhm, yes indeed.

Theres a beat.

LUNA(cont'd)

I miss them dearly.

LENNY

Indeed. The death of a child truly is the hardest burden for a human to bear.

They go back to eating.

Layno tries to get back on track.

LAYNO

Uuuuh...

Arachna is trying to follow along.

LAYNO (cont'd)
I'm sorry, that whole thing was just, really distracting.

Layno turns to Jim-Jam.

LAYNO (cont'd)
Where were did you-

Jim-Jam shakes her head no rapidly at Layno. He jolts back to Arachna.

LAYNO (cont'd)
I mean, me. I mean, I! I mean...

ARACHNA
Something about a washing machine?

LAYNO
Oh yeah! Ok, so..

Layno looks up, making the same weird gestures Jim-Jam made when she explained the plan. Jim-Jam continues whispering to him.

LAYNO (cont'd)
I had just, unmounted, the washing machine. And I was lying on the floor.... with the nasal spray.... and *that's* when I realized...

Layno rolls his eyes. Turns around to Jim-Jam, who ducks behind the wall. He looks back at Arachna.

LAYNO (cont'd)
I'm gay.

Arachna sits back.

ARACHNA
Huh.

LAYNO
And that's why I haven't been returning your calls and texts and notes and youtube comments and stuff. Look, I know the whole thing makes no sense and sounds insane but//

ARACHNA

//No. Wow. That all makes perfect sense.

LAYNO

Really?

ARACHNA

Well yeah! I mean Layno, oh my gosh! What a deep, emotional journey you've been on.

There's a beat.

LAYNO

Yes.

ARACHNA

You know, you coulda just called me. You didn't need to go through all this trouble with the fancy dinner and the silly jester.

Arachna motions to where Jim-Jam was whispering to Layno. Jim-Jam peeks her head up.

JIM-JAM

You could see me?

ARACHNA

Yeah, the whole time.

LAYNO

So... you're not mad?

ARACHNA

No! I'm happy for you! I mean, it hurts, in it's own weird way. It woulda been nice to know beforehand but it's not like it's something ya just thought of randomly ya know? I actually feel pretty guilty for feeling bad about it. But that's my own insecurity. I appreciate your honesty, I really do. You've shown me who you truly are today. People can change themselves in certain ways, but you can't change you're nature. I'm really glad you found yours, Layno. You're a real good guy.

Jim-Jam scrunches her face. Layno frowns to himself, slouches in his chair.

LAYNO

Haha, yeah. You know me.

Alepe enters with Arachna's steak. It's bright red.

ARACHNA

Ooooo perfect thank you!

ALEPE

[To Layno] Are you ready to order now?

LAYNO

Just a water. I feel sick.

Alepe bows, then looks over at Jim-Jam.

ALEPE

Is there anything you would like Jim-Jam?

Jim-Jam blushes, flattered that he knows her name. She thinks.

JIM-JAM

Strawberry milkshake?

Alepe bows, then exits. Arachna digs into her steak. Layno stares aimlessly. Jim-Jam leans over the wall to Layno.

JIM-JAM (cont'd)

Foolproof plan.

Jim-Jam hops over the wall, sit's in-between Layno and Arachna, takes up chat with her.

Shelly enters, walking past Luna and Lenny who watch her vehemently. She does a lunging “what?” gesture at them. They don’t even flinch. She sit’s back at her seat and starts eating. She’s been crying.

Shelly and Tony eat in silence for a beat.

TONY

What’s with those stiff’s, eh? They’ve been starin’ at us all night.

SHELLY

Tell me about it. Fuckin snoots.

TONY

And I don’t even know what the fucks goin on back there.

Tony points behind him. Jim-Jam is trying to juggle cut up pieces of Arachna's steak, Arachna clapping in approval.

Shelly chews her food.

TONY (cont'd)
Look I'm sorry Ma.

Shelly swallows her bite.

SHELLY
For what?

Tony swallows his pride, leans in.

TONY
[To Shelly] For bein' a downer n all that, you were right n' stuff, I'm sorry, ah? You forgive me?

SHELLY
I already did. Just eat ya food.

They eat. In silence.

Luna and Lenny turn to face each other. Lenny finishes his steak, Luna puts half a napkin over her barely touched blu cheese egg salad.

LUNA
I enjoyed this night very much.

LENNY
Indeed, as did I.

LUNA
I do sill love you after everything.

LENNY
As do I.

Alepe enters stage right with the check.

ALEPE
Everything as expected, mister and misses Balakrishna?

LUNA

No, not at all. But I think that's what made tonight so special.

Lenny smiles.

LENNY

Indeed.

ALEPE

Wonderful.

Alepe bows, leaves the check.

Jim-Jam drops the steak chunks, tired from her awful juggling.

ARACHNA

Wow, you're really good at that!

JIM-JAM

I'm... I'm really not.

Arachna picks the steak chunks off the table, drops them in her purse, stands up.

ARACHNA

Well, this has been great, great, great, but I really should be going. It was lovely to meet you oh wandering jester.

Jim-Jam curtsies.

ARACHNA(cont'd)

Goodbye Layno! I would say we should stay friends, but the way you explained it, it seems like you're just better off without me in your life. Good luck on the rest of your journey!

He puts a hand up in a wave, still spaced out. Arachna walks away, passing Caprecio at the center table. Suddenly, she slips and falls on his spilled mashed potatoes! Everyone turns.

TONY

Oho, hey! Alepe! Hot-topic over here needs a bandy-aid!

Tony, Shelly, and Caprecio laugh to each other. Arachna gets up, brushes herself off.

ARACHNA
Oh, you think that's funny *or* original?

Tony looks over at Shelly, shrugs.

TONY
I ain't heard it before.

SHELLY
Yeah, and I thought it was funny.

ARACHNA
Oh yeah bitch? I'll give you something to laugh about.

Arachna digs through her purse. Shelly gets up, stands in an awful kung-fu stance.

SHELLY
Oh you bring it skank! I'm a yellow belt in the martial arts!

ARACHNA
Oh yeah? Well I'm a convicted felon in arson!

Arachna pulls out her can of hairspray and grabs the candle off the center table. Shelly lunges over to Luna and Lenny's table, grabs Luna's plate and tosses the egg salad at Arachna who weaves away impressively. It lands on Caprecio. Everyone turns to him. Caprecio takes one sniff of the blue cheese egg salad and vomits all over the table.

TONY
I knew he was sick! That's it! I'm taking him home!

CAPRECIO
Oooo ok.

Tony throws Caprecio over his shoulder, exits. Shelly and Arachna grab each other's hair, swinging their free arm at each other wildly.

Luna and Lenny look at each other. Luna claps twice.

LUNA
Alepe!

Alepe dashes in, next to their table.

LUNA (cont'd)
We'll be leaving now.

ALEPE
Certainly madam.

Luna jumps up, Alepe catches her in his arms. He turns, Lenny jumps up onto his back. Alepe runs offstage, carrying them both.

Jim-Jam watches Shelly and Arachna fight, rooting them on. Layno, sashes over to Jim-Jam.

LAYNO
Come on Jim-Jam let's get outta here. I need a shower or something.

Jim-Jam doesn't take her eyes off the fight.

JIM-JAM
Wait wait not yet! I wanna see who wins!

LAYNO
Oh come on I feel icky about what we did.

JIM-JAM
Pfft. You wanted the foolproof plan. I was merely the sword. *You* slayed the dragon.

LAYNO
That's bad logic.

JIM-JAM
In *your* mind Layno.

Layno sighs.

LAYNO
I'll see ya in church.

Layno exits. Shelly and Arachna let go of each other. Arachna dives for the candle on Luna and Lenny's former table. She holds the hairspray behind it, slowly advancing on Shelly to center stage.

SHELLY
Do it. You won't.

ARACHNA
Oh I will.

JIM-JAM
She will!

From backstage, Alepe casually enters carrying a fire extinguisher and a strawberry milkshake.

ARACHNA
Prepare to be burned alive!

Alepe sprays foam all over Arachna!

SHELLY
Hahahaha! Serves you right ya b-

Alepe sprays foam all over Shelly!

ALEPE
Both of you, out. You've caused quite the ruckus this evening.

SHELLY
[Pointing at Arachna] I'll take this out to the parking lot ya tranch!

ARACHNA
See you there bitch.

The two storm off in opposite directions. Jim-Jam smiles wide mouthed at what happened. Alepe hands her the strawberry milkshake.

ALEPE
Apologies for the delay madame.

Jim-Jam blushes. She takes the shake.

JIM-JAM

No problem at all mister.

She takes a sip from the straw. It tastes fantastic.

ALEPE

Is there anything else I can get you Jim-Jam? Anything at all?

Jim-Jam swings back and forth, thinking, slurping the milkshake. She looks around, then pops the straw out of her mouth. She pushes up against Alepe, grins up at him.

JIM-JAM

Would *you* happen to be included in that offer?

There's a beat.

ALEPE

I believe there's a seat available.

Jim-Jam jumps up onto Alepe, straddling him. The two make out as at the curtain falls.

FIN