



DINNER PARTY

An Original One Act

by

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Directed by Matin Movassate

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STANFORD
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Dinner party

The set is composed of a kitchen with a wall adjoining a dining room. The living room can be small and on stage, or off stage. All enter through the living room to the dining room and then the kitchen. Matt is a TV chef for the local news station, and Kim is an anchor for the local evening news.

(Moving about the kitchen and dining room table frantically trying to get everything ready for a dinner party- arranging silverware, checking the oven.)

KIM

Honey, wear your pinstripe! You look so good in that.

MATT

(already has it on as he walks into the room adjusting his tie). I know sweetie. You told me already. (Walks over kisses her on the cheek.) How's the chicken looking?

KIM

Almost done. Can you do me a favor honey and just put on your cufflinks too?

MATT

Sweetie, they're not necessary. Listen, you just need to relax a little. I know you want to make a good impression, but we're already good friends. It's just a little dinner party.

KIM

But-

MATT

Stop worrying, it will all be fine, I promise. (kisses her).

KIM

I want this to go better than fine. This is my first dinner party. (sulks a little)

MATT

It'll go great. I promise. (she perks up a little) You know Steve and Jonathan- they're great guys. Besides, they love you from what they've heard.

KIM

I guess I really shouldn't be worrying. I did do a damn nice job setting up didn't I.

MATT

I'd have to agree with that. (kisses her, then looks at watch) They should be here any minute now.

KIM

You know, if this goes well, it could mean your own show, not just a segment.

MATT

I'd rather not think about it like that. It's just a dinner party with my producers. That's all. You haven't met them yet have you?

KIM

No, not yet, though I really should. Maybe they can get me on primetime...

MATT

Let's worry about one of us at a time here. You at least have your own show. Ooh, ok, remember, their names are Steve and Jonathan. Steve is the taller one. If they get here, let them in, I have to go to the bathroom (runs offstage).

(doorbell)

MATT

(from offstage) Oh, honey, that's them, could you get it? I'll be out in a minute. (grunting) Holy shit! That's huge! Make that two!

KIM

(opens door) Oh hi! You must be Steve and Jonathan. Please, come in. (they kiss her awkwardly on the cheek)

JONATHAN

Gosh, I love what you've done with the place.

Steve

Yes, it looks spacious. It is quite enjoyable to lay my eyes upon it for an extended period of time, especially without blinking.

KIM

Why... uhm, thank you. Oh, uh, please, won't you sit down? (she leads them to the dinner table)

JONATHAN

I love what you've done with this dinner table.

STEVE

Yes, it looks spacious.

KIM

Thank you... again. So, Matt tells me you've had quite an illustrious career in production.

JONATHAN

We don't like to brag about it.

STEVE

We don't like to brag about it at all. We've produced over 10 emmy award winning shows. And 6 grammy winning music videos. We're really good.

KIM

Wow, that's very impressive.

JONATHAN

We know. In fact, we're looking to produce another news show. We're in the market for a news anchor. Preferably female. So what's for dinner?

KIM

(becomes very interested)

Really? Well, actually, I don't know if Matt has told you this or not, but actually, I'm an award winning news anchor myself...

JONATHAN

Tacos? Fish stew? Open faced grilled cheese sandwiches? Eggs?

Steve

Steve already told us, like 70 million times. He also wanted us to ask what's for dinner.

KIM

Oh, why, uhm, we have a chicken in the oven-

STEVE

Oh, so, you're knocked up?

KIM

What?

JONATHAN

How did you find out so soon? Didn't it just happen like last week?

KIM

WHAT? What are you- oh, oh wait, I get it. Ha, that's a good one. No, we don't have any buns in the oven.

(Jonathan and Steve look at each other and laugh, which makes Kim slightly uneasy)

MATT

(trotting in from offstage, zipping up his fly)

Hey Steve, Jonathan- sorry I'm late , I was just- (he sees them and stops).

STEVE

Hi Matt, we were just getting ready to eat some chicken. Do you want the breast?

MATT

Uhm, honey, could you come in here for a minute and help me with the wine?

KIM

Sweetie, the bottle's out on the counter.

MATT

Then, could you help me get the chicken out of the oven. (Steve and Jonathan look at each other and laugh)

KIM

Honey, you know how to do it-

MATT

(slightly exasperated)

Could you just help me cut the cheese for the platter!

(Steve and Jonathan laugh to each other again.)

KIM

Alright honey, here I come. (to Steve and Jonathan) excuse me. (she walks into the kitchen where Matt is waiting)

MATT

Honey, you didn't tell me you were going to have guests over too!

KIM

What on earth are you talking about?

MATT

Your guests who are sitting out there. I would have at least liked to have known they were coming. Did we even make enough food for everyone?

KIM

What are you talking about Matt? what? That's-

MATT

I mean, honestly, I'm embarrassed right now. You didn't even introduce me. You didn't even have the courtesy to tell me they were coming. Honestly.

KIM

What?

MATT

Well aren't you going to tell me who they are?

KIM

That's Steve and Jonathan

MATT

What?

KIM

What do you mean what?

MATT

That's not Steve or Jonathan

KIM

What?

MATT

I've never seen either of those two men before in my life

KIM

Oh my god

MATT

What the fuck? Why did you let in two total strangers?

KIM

Oh my god there are two total strangers in our house. Get your gun, quickly, I'll keep them busy.

MATT

We don't own a gun!

KIM

Why don't we own a gun?

MATT

Because we're not fucking Republican!

KIM

Oh my god

MATT

Calm down, just calm the fuck down!

KIM

Don't swear goddamnit! You're making me nervous!

MATT

What? I'm making you nervous? We have two complete strangers sitting at our fucking dinner table!- Ok, you know what? There's an easy answer. I'm going to go in there and ask them to leave. That's it. They will leave. Ok?

KIM

But- wait- What about dinner?

MATT

Dear god. (walks into the dining room) Alright-

JONATHAN

So what's for dinner? Cucumber salad?

MATT

What?

STEVE

Well, I just figured, because your wife definitely likes cucumbers.

MATT

What?

(Pause- with knowingish looks and winks and nods from Steve and Jonathan)

JONATHAN

My I love what you've done with yourself.

STEVE

Yes, you look so spacious.

MATT

Excuse me. (walks back into the kitchen) What the hell did you tell them.

KIM

What?

MATT

Did it just come up in casual conversation?

KIM

What?

MATT

"Oh, I just loving having anal sex with cucumbers!"

KIM

What?!

MATT

I mean why would you tell anyone that, especially these creeps! Gosh I was only in the bathroom- dear god you didn't tell them about the blumpkins did you?

KIM

That's disgusting! What are you talking about?! How could you ever accuse me of anything like that?! That's terrible. That makes me mad- legitimately mad at you. And this was supposed to be a lovely dinner party, and I was going to be a hostess, and now it's ruined, and you don't love me-

MATT

Well then how the fuck do they know about the cucumber thing?

KIM

They know about the cucumber?

MATT

Yes! That's what I've been saying! At least, that's what I'd interpret "Your wife certainly loves cucumbers," (with the winks and nods) to mean! Dear god. They're probably trying to blackmail us. Who are these people? Where did they- FUCK!

KIM

Do you think they know about the carrot?

MATT

oh god- I wasn't even thinking about the carrot! What are we going to do?!

KIM

Calm down. Just calm down. Everything's going to be fine. Dear god this could ruin my career! If that ever gets leaked,

MATT

What about my career?

KIM

Oh, who cares about a chef on TV? You can find other work.

MATT

That's terrible. Are you just thinking of yourself?

JONATHAN

Hey, where's our food? I'm very hungry. (from other room)

STEVE

His stomach is very spacious. Do you need help tossing the cucumber salad? We'd love to eat it now. It looked terribly tasty last time we saw it. (from other room)

MATT

We'll finish this later. Right now I just think we should find out what they know and what they want.

KIM

Fine. (they return back to the dining room with the chicken)

MATT

Alright, what do you want?

JONATHAN

The breast?

MATT

What?

JONATHAN

Oh, unless you want the breast. You seem like a breast man.

STEVE

I like legs.

MATT

Shut up, cut the crap. Just tell us how much you want.

JONATHAN

Do you have another chicken?

MATT

Stop it. Just-

JONATHAN

Because two breasts are better than one.

STEVE

And those legs look so spacious.

KIM

Jesus! Stop this!

JONATHAN

Jesus wasn't a vegetarian. I don't think he's going to help now. Besides, he hasn't been around for ages. You know he's dead right?

MATT

Listen, we're prepared to pay you however much you want.

KIM

Honey!

MATT

Let's just see what they want!

STEVE

Uhm, gosh, we weren't really prepared for this.

JONATHAN

Yes, actually, we thought we should probably pay you. After all, it looked so good, so sexy, so tasty... The chicken.

MATT

The chicken looks sexy?

JONATHAN

Yes, I'd like to violate it.

STEVE

I as well, if you'd like to join in, we can all violate it together. We just need a knife.

MATT

Oh dear god... (runs back into kitchen, Kim follows).

JONATHAN

If you'd like, you can carve the chicken yourself? (from other room)

MATT

They definitely know everything. Shit! Fuck! Motherfucking shit!

KIM

God, oh god.

MATT

Wait, you don't think they have the tape do you?

KIM

I thought you said you erased it.

MATT

Jesus, I thought I did, I know I did. I did. I did. But then how the fuck do they know?

KIM

That tape cannot get out. You need to fix this. It was your idea and now you need to fix it.

MATT

It was my idea to have sex in the studio? Ok, yeah, that was my idea. But who wanted to use my produce as sex toys?

KIM

But who wanted to videotape it?

MATT

Hey, that was a mutual decision. I thought we agreed that the studio cameras would make it that much more exciting?

KIM

Excuse me, I distinctly remember feeling just a little bit of pressure.

MATT

Don't give me that bullshit.

KIM

Bullshit!?! You get that tape. Or we will never have sex ever again.

(MATT dashes back into the other room with the chicken this time)

MATT

Alright, give me the fucking tape.

STEVE

What tape?

MATT

I'm really fucking serious. If you don't give me the tape I will beat you both to death with this goddamn chicken.

JONATHAN

What about dinner?

MATT

Fuck dinner!

STEVE

What about the chicken?

MATT

Fuck the chicken!

JONATHAN

What about your wife?

MATT

Fuck my wife!

JONATHAN

Yes, so are you going to beat us with your meat now?

MATT

Dear fucking god! (grabs chicken and starts beating Jonathan. Goofy fight scene ensues).

KIM

Honey! (runs into the room). Stop it! My god, stop it!

JONATHAN

Alright! Alright! We have your tape!

MATT

Then give it to me now and we can forget the whole thing. (stops hitting them)

STEVE

We want stuff in return.

MATT

You son of a bitch. You come into my house extorting and blackmailing and-

KIM

Honey, just see what they want.

MATT

Alright, fine, tell us what you want.

JONATHAN

That chicken.

MATT

What?

JONATHAN

I'm still very hungry and I want that chicken.

MATT

So, in exchange for that video, you want this chicken.

STEVE

Yes.

MATT

Give me one sec. Honey, can you come here? And bring the chicken. (they both walk into the other room).

KIM

Honey, why won't you just give them the chicken and we can just get on!

MATT

Something doesn't make any sense here. Why do they just want the chicken?

KIM

Honey, who cares, they're really goddamn weird. Maybe they have a chicken fetish. Maybe they're actually humanitarian. Who the fuck knows, but we don't need that chicken. We need the tape.

MATT

Something just isn't right. (starts ripping through the chicken, and eventually comes out with a large gemstone). Holy shit.

KIM

Is that for me?

MATT

This is what they want. How the fuck did a huge ass diamond get in our chicken?

KIM

(realization) Oh my god.

MATT

What?

KIM

I did a report this evening on that diamond. It's called the chicken diamond, it was just stolen this afternoon. That thing is worth a shitload of money.

MATT

Well wonderful, now we have it.

KIM

No! We have to get rid of it! They're staging a full-scale manhunt! We'll get jail for life! Just give it to them and get our tape back, please. I don't care about the diamond, I still have the one you gave me right here on my finger. It's the only one I'll ever need.

MATT

I'll hold you to that.

KIM

Let's just make the trade and call the police.

MATT

Should we try to stall them too? Alright, that's what I'll do. You make the phone call, and I'll handle those two. (walks back into the kitchen as KIM calls the police).

JONATHAN

Can we have our chicken now?

MATT

I want the tape first, then I'll give you the diamond.

STEVE

What about the chicken.

MATT

Sure, the chicken, whatever you want to call it.

STEVE

Good. Here's your tape. (produces a tape from behind his back which he had taken from a table sitting in the living room. This is a random tape- it can be grabbed at any point while MATT and KIM are in the kitchen together. It is unimportant).

MATT

Oh, alright, well here's your diamond.

JONATHAN

And our chicken.

STEVE

Yes, our spacious chicken.

MATT

Whatever you want to call it. Your chicken.

STEVE

We're serious. Get the chicken.

MATT

Fine! Dear god! (walks into kitchen, grabs the chicken, and walks back into the room, and slams it down on the table next to the diamond).

JONATHAN

Thank you. It's been a pleasure talking with you. It was so good to see you again Matt.

STEVE

Yes, you're very spacious. (They walk out with the diamond and the chicken, and Kim comes barging back into the room just finished on the phone, as MATT is just sitting at the table alone semi-relieved).

KIM

Did you get the tape?

MATT

Yes, there it is. (points to where it lies on the dining room table).

KIM

Did you watch it to make sure?

MATT

uhm...

KIM

Grab a video camera quick! (Matt runs to a closet and pulls out a video camera and pops in the tape).

KIM

Matt.

MATT

...

KIM

This is our wedding tape.

MATT

Don't you look as nice then as you do today...

KIM

You didn't get the tape. (doorbell rings)

MATT

I'll get it. (Rushes away as to avoid her anger and his own guilt at having failed- opens door where his two real bosses are standing) Steve! Jonathan!

KIM

What?! (yelling) I swear I'm going to kill those sons of bitches! The nerves of showing their faces here again! Give me my tape you fucking assholes!

MATT

Honey! I'd like you to meet my producers, Steve and Jonathan. Steve and Jonathan, this is my wife, Kim. (Kim sees that it's different people and stops).

KIM

Oh, why, hello, it's so nice to meet you both.

REAL STEVE

It's nice to meet you too. Funny you mention tape, I had this dropped off at my office a few hours ago with a note which said I should watch it with you two?

REAL JONATHON

Yes, I must say, it was hard to resist, but the note said we'd get a kick out of watching it with you.

MATT
(realizing that that is the tape in question) No!

REAL STEVE
Well, look, there's a video camera, let's just pop it in and watch it now.

KIM and MATT
No! (real Jonathan starts to load the tape in, and gets it in, but then through the door burst the two real jewel thieves, both masked).

THIEF 1
Alright sons of bitches! Put your hands up! (waves gun around).

MATT
(everyone puts there hands up except for Matt, apparently on the brink of losing it) Listen up you less than intelligent fuckers, I am in no mood to be fucked with, you already have what you want, so just get out of my house now.

THIEF 2
Give us our fucking jewel. (Kim motions for Real Steve to start recording this scene using the tape in the camera).

MATT
We don't have your fucking jewel, we already gave it to you. Get out now (ice cold).

THIEF 1
(obviously nervous- a first time thief/criminal) We know you have it because we saw you walk out of that store with the chicken where we stashed the goddamn jewel, so we know you have the goddamn jewel, so don't try to tell us you don't have the goddamn jewel, because, then you're just lying to us about the goddamn jewel. If you don't give us the goddamn jewel, we're gonna kill you all!

THIEF 2
(Whispering) Say motherfuckers.

THIEF 1
Motherfuckers!

MATT
(Matt is basically on the brink of insanity now, as he has just had enough for one evening - pretends to go along with them) Alright, fine, Let me just... (grabs a pepper shaker off the table and peppers the thieves eyes. A wacky fight ensues, which Matt will ultimately be the victor of, but in the meantime, the two thieves and Matt fight while Kim begins giving a news report into the camera).

KIM

Hello America, I'm Kim Salami. I'm reporting to you live from my very own home where my husband, Matt Salami is currently wrestling the two bandits who stole the Chicken Diamond. The Chicken Diamond was stolen this afternoon when two masked thieves heisted the diamond from the National Museum, where it was on display. Just minutes ago, these two masked bandits broke into my home demanding the diamond. The two are clearly delirious from guilt associated with their crimes, and as their subconsciouses work to disarm their conscious, my husband works likewise to disarm their guns and help the police apprehend these two vicious criminals. (Matt finally finishes fighting, ending up with both guns. The police simultaneously come busting in, after many knocks on the door during the fight scene go unanswered).

POLICE OFFICER

Police! Freeze! Drop your weapons! Hands on your heads now! Everyone!

KIM

And this seems to conclude our harrowing tale, as my wonderful husband becomes the hero of the Chicken. I'm Kim Salami, goodnight America.

MATT

Officer! These are the two men who stole the Chicken Diamond!

POLICE OFFICER

Whose house is this?

MATT

Mine.

POLICE OFFICER

Explain what happened here.

KIM

It's all on this tape. It clearly shows those two men (points) assaulting myself and my husband and demanding some sort of diamond.

POLICE OFFICER

Is this true? (to the thieves)

THIEF 1

Yes. I mean no! Shit, I always get that wrong.

THIEF 2

Asshole.

POLICE OFFICER

Take them into custody (to other officer). Get them into interrogation rooms. They'll talk. I'm afraid we'll also have to take you four down for questioning as well.

KIM

I understand- Thank you officer. (to Matt) Honey you were wonderful! (runs to him).

REAL STEVE
You really were son.

REAL JONATHAN
Yes, you were. In fact, we just talked it over, and we're prepared to offer you your very own show. Martial Chef. What do you think?

MATT
My god! That would be amazing! I don't know what to say! What about my wife?

REAL JONATHAN
We were just getting to that. We were very impressed with how she handled herself just now. Kim, we'd like to offer you the position of lead anchor for the 7 o'clock national news on our network.

KIM
Oh my god! Yes! (Matt and Kim embrace) Thank you so much.

MATT
Yes, really, thank you both. Oh god, dinner! I'm so sorry, but our chicken has, um, gone off.

REAL JONATHAN
Oh, don't even worry about that. We've had quite an evening all of us, in a very short time.

REAL STEVE
Yes, quite enough excitement. Besides, you put on quite a show. That was a brave thing you did.

MATT
Thank you. I honestly don't know what to say. I'm just glad everything turned out ok. Let's just get down to the station, answer their questions, and be off.

REAL STEVE
That sounds like a great idea.

MATT
Honey, grab your coat. (Real Steve and Jonathan walk out the door, Matt and Kim trail slightly). Everything did turn out ok, didn't it honey?

KIM
What?

MATT
What happened to the tape?

KIM

We taped over it, and it's now the newscast of the century, and you're the star.

MATT

Perfect. I hope we never see that diamond again, or those two weirdos. How the hell did they change clothes so fast, and why the hell did they even come back? And why were they asking for the diamond? Wait, you don't think it was two different sets of guys who had very similar physical characteristics, do you?

KIM

I don't care. I don't even want to know or think about it.

MATT

I love you Kim.

KIM

I love you too honey. (they exit. Jonathan and Steve enter a now stage holding the chicken).

JONATHAN

(walking across now empty stage while talking) Man, that one took a really long time.

STEVE

All that for a lousy chicken-just wish it had held up better than this.

JONATHAN

Next time, let's just get to the store earlier, before they're sold out of chickens. Honestly, this whole thing, it's a little embarrassing for me. But every time I say "hey let's go," It's always, "oh, just one more minute." And then they run out. Every time. I mean, and then the research we have to do. Although I mean, honestly, that tape thing, that was a great score. I haven't had that much fun with one of those in a while.

STEVE

Thanks.

JONATHAN

But that was the last time! Alright?

STEVE

Yeesh, fine. So what should we do about this diamond thing?

JONATHAN

Housewarming gift?

STEVE

Yup. (door opens offstage and a random female voice speaks).

FEMALE

Tim! Rich! What a surprise! We didn't expect you so soon!

JONATHAN

Gosh, I love what you've done with the place! (stepping off stage).

STEVE

Yes, it looks so spacious.

END

ALTERNATE SURREALIST ENDING:

JONATHAN

Ready?

STEVE

Yup. (door opens offstage and a random female voice speaks).

FEMALE

Tim! Rich! What a surprise! We didn't expect you so soon!

JONATHAN

Gosh, I love what you've done with the place! (stepping off stage).

STEVE

Yes, it looks so spacious.

END