

**DREAMBOAT**  
**A TRAGICOMEDY**

**Characters:**

**Sam:** Female, 25 to 40

**Mel:** Female, Sam's friend, same age

**Guy:** Male same age as the women perhaps a little older

The time period is the present.

**Setting:** The play takes place in a nightclub. A table in a club is all that's required. No special lighting is required but the director may choose a brighter/harsher light at the ending of the play when the denouement occurs.

*"All that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream."* – Edgar Allan Poe

This play was presented at the Just Acts Play Festival February 9-14, 2016, with the following cast.

Amber Rowden – Sam

Erica Ho – Mel

Jesse Ajohn – Guy

Directed by Mira Maschmeyer

*(A night club, Sam and Mel are at a table sipping drinks. They are dressed for an evening out on the town. Guy is behind Sam. Mel can see him but Sam has to turn around in order to see him.)*

**Mel:** Don't look now but there is a hottie to your right who has been checking you out.

**Sam:** Really, are you sure?

**Mel:** He's standing alone at 4 o'clock drinking a beer.

**Sam:** At 4 o'clock?

**Mel:** That's cop lingo for he's to your right and slightly behind you. God don't you know anything?

**Sam:** Obviously not. I don't get out much. You been hanging out with cops lately?

**Mel:** Only on television. That's how they talk, I think it sounds hip don't you? Are you going to check out this guy or not?

**Sam:** Is he still looking over here?

**Mel:** Yes he is.

**Sam:** What's he look like?

**Mel:** He's really cute, about our age. He looks really fit and intelligent.

**Sam:** How does he look intelligent?

**Mel:** He's got really cool glasses on.

**Sam:** Oh then he must be a genius.

**Mel:** You know what I mean; he doesn't look like the knuckle dragger type.

**Sam:** Are you sure he's looking at me? Maybe he's looking at somebody else. Hotties don't usually give me the time of day.

**Mel:** Oh cut it out Sam, you're always putting yourself down. Of course he's looking at you. You're lovely.

**Sam:** You're so sweet but if I am so lovely how come I haven't had a date in like forever and I spend every frigging Friday night watching "*Say Yes to the Dress*"?

**Mel:** That's because you don't put yourself out there to be noticed, and you give off this air of disinterest. Case in point, I told you a guy has been checking you out and you haven't even turned around to look at him.

**Sam:** You said not to look.

**Mel:** I meant don't look right away but you can look now.

**Sam:** Well if he's all that interested why doesn't he make a move?

**Mel:** Because you silly fool you've got to give him a signal. If you've got your back turned to him and you don't even smile to indicate you're interested he's not going to come over. At least take a look and see if you like him. Go on, pretend you're looking for somebody and take a peak.

**Sam:** OK, OK, *(She turns self-consciously pretending she's looking for someone as instructed.)* Oh my God is he the one who looks like a GQ model?

**Mel:** Yep.

**Sam:** Jesus he's a dreamboat!

**Mel:** I told you he was babelicious.

**Sam:** Oh Mel no way is he looking at me. Guys like that don't even know I exist.

**Mel:** Will you cut it out and stop putting yourself down. Of course he's looking at you.

**Sam:** I don't think so; uh-uh no way he's looking at me. Do you really think he's looking at me?

**Mel:** No, he's not looking at you.

**Sam:** But you just said -

**Mel:** I made a mistake.

**Sam:** Mel don't do this to me.

**Mel:** Of course he's looking at you, you nitwit, I've been telling you. You've got to show some interest. Now turn around and when you catch his eye, give him your prettiest smile then look away.

**Sam:** I can't that will chase him away for sure. I have the world's dorkiest smile.

**Mel:** Don't be stupid, you've got a great smile. You'd better do something, before someone else walks off with him. A guy who looks like that doesn't last long in a place like this.

**Sam:** God I feel nervous, isn't that stupid? I'm just not used to having men pay me attention; especially one who looks like that.

**Mel:** Listen to me Sam, you'd better act fast there's a blond over there, that's the third time she's gone to the bathroom in 15 minutes. She's either got the world's tiniest bladder or she's setting out bait for your Mr. GQ. My money is on the latter.

**Sam:** I feel awkward and silly.

**Mel:** You're going to feel even sillier when Miss. Clairol over there snatches him from under your nose.

**Sam:** OK, here goes. (*She turns around and gives him a nervous smile.*) Oh my God he smiled back. Mel he smiled back.

**Mel:** Of course he smiled back. I told you he's been checking you out all night.

**Sam:** What's he doing now?

**Mel:** He's taking a drink from his beer.

**Sam:** Is he still looking over here?

**Mel:** He's signalling for the waitress.

**Sam:** Oh.

**Mel:** He's talking to her.

**Sam:** Ah.

**Mel:** He's leaving –

**Sam:** He's leaving?

**Mel:** The bar.

**Sam:** Oh.

**Mel:** And walking –

**Sam:** Walking, walking where?

**Mel:** In this direction.

**Sam:** In this direction? He's probably, he's probably going to the bathroom.

**Mel:** Nope the bathroom is in the other direction. He's headed this way.

**Sam:** Oh God Mel what do I say? You know I'm no good at this.

**Mel:** Just flirt with him.

**Sam:** I don't know how to flirt-

**Guy:** Hi there.

**Sam:** H-hi.

**Guy:** I hope I'm not imposing on you lovely ladies my feet moved of their own volition and led me over here.

**Mel:** Your feet have a mind of their own?

**Guy:** They do indeed but they almost always make excellent choices.

**Mel:** Good it would be awful if they led you astray.

**Guy:** Once in a while they do but not tonight.

**Mel:** No?

**Guy:** Hey I'm speaking to the two most beautiful women in the place. How could I go wrong?

**Sam:** Are we expected to swallow that line?

**Guy:** You accusing me of lying?

**Mel:** No she isn't (*she kicks Sam under the table.*) I'm Mel by the way. It's short for Melissa, and this is Sam.

**Guy:** Nice to meet you, I'm Guy. Sam, is that short for Samantha?

**Sam:** No it's short for Samuel.

**Guy:** Samuel?

**Sam:** My parents were hoping for a boy.

**Guy:** They didn't notice they'd ended up with a girl?

**Sam:** They were in denial.

**Guy:** Well I for one am glad they didn't get their wish.

**Sam:** *(laughs)* Me too I wouldn't have been much of a boy.

**Guy:** No you're very much a girl. Did your name ever create confusion? Situations where someone was expecting a guy and you showed up?

**Sam:** Yeah, it happens all the time. Sometimes it works in my favour, gets me in the door so to speak. Other times it's led to embarrassing situations.

**Guy:** Like?

**Sam:** Like the time my new gynecologist asked her nurse in front of everyone in the waiting room why somebody by the name of Samuel Ennis was coming to see her about a vaginitis test.

**Guy:** Oh... ahm... uhu... well.

**Sam:** I know awkward eh? But I've learned to live with those types of situations.

**Guy:** Say... I've never seen either of you ladies here before, this your first time?

**Mel:** I've been here with my boyfriend a few times.

**Guy:** And you Sam have you been here with your boyfriend?

**Sam:** No.

**Guy:** No you haven't been here or no you haven't been here before with your boyfriend? Or no you haven't got a boyfriend?

**Sam:** No I haven't been here before with or without a boyfriend... and no I haven't got a boyfriend.

**Guy:** I like that answer.

**Sam:** Which part of it?

**Guy:** The last part.

**Sam:** Why's that?

**Guy:** Because if you said yes you've got a boyfriend I would have to start looking over my shoulder for some big fella upset because I'm chatting with his girl and frankly I'm a better lover than a fighter.



**Sam:** So if I were in a tight spot and needed a warrior I'd have to rule you out?

**Guy:** No I wouldn't say that exactly, I can rise to any occasion whenever necessary. I'd just rather rise to make love not war.

**Mel:** Hmm good information to know, never know when it may be needed.

**Guy:** Indeed. I'm really glad you two decided to come here tonight. May I buy you drinks?

**Mel:** We'd love a drink thank you.

**Guy:** What are you drinking?

**Sam:** I'm having a Manhattan.

**Mel:** Rum and coke for me.

**Guy:** I'll be right back. *(Exit Guy.)*

**Sam:** I can't believe it he's really cute and so well spoken too.

**Mel:** I told you he was no knuckle dragger. You're doing really well.

**Sam:** Am I?

**Mel:** Well apart from announcing that you had vaginitis.

**Sam:** Oh God.

**Mel:** Don't stress about it, he probably doesn't even know what that is.

**Sam:** Yeah sure.

**Mel:** I'm telling you guys are clueless about that sort of thing he probably thinks it's some type of pregnancy test.

**Sam:** Great that's all I need for him to think I'm pregnant.

**Mel:** Better that than for him to think you've got an STD.

**Sam:** It wasn't an STD.

**Mel:** Whatever.

**Sam:** It wasn't.

**Mel:** Clearly it hasn't put him off, just keep talking and asking him questions about himself. Men like talking about themselves. And laugh at his jokes even if they're not funny.

**Sam:** OK, ok. I'm a little nervous, does it show?

**Mel:** No you're doing great. Touch his arm from time to time.

**Sam:** Touch his arm?

**Mel:** Yeah and lick your lips.

**Sam:** Lick my lips?

**Mel:** It shows you're interested.

**Sam:** Won't that make me look like I'm getting ready to chow down on something?

**Mel:** It shows that you find him appetising dahling.

**Sam:** *(Sam licks and runs her tongue over her lips in an exaggerated manner.)*

**Mel:** What are you doing?

**Sam:** I'm practising licking my lips and finding him appetising. *(She licks her lips rolls her eyes and makes little smacking sounds with her mouth. They laugh.)* How am I doing?

**Mel:** You nitwit.

**Sam:** *(She touches Mel provocatively on her arm and in a sexy voice says)* Tell me, do you find this exciting?

**Mel:** *(Both women double over laughing.)* You'd better stop it before he gets back and catches you; he'll think you're bonkers. At some point I'm going to excuse myself and leave you two together okay.

**Sam:** No Mel don't leave me alone with him. I won't know what to say.

**Mel:** Just keep doing what you're doing.

**Sam:** Seriously I don't want to botch this up.

**Mel:** You're doing just fine I'm just going to step away for a little while so you can get acquainted. Here he comes.

**Guy:** *(Enter Guy.)* Here you go ladies one Manhattan and one rum and coke.

**Sam and Mel:** Thank you.

**Mel:** I just saw a friend from work I'm going over to chat, excuse me a moment. *(Mel exits. There is an awkward silence at first then they both speak at the same time.)*

**Guy:** So what do you do?

**Sam:** Do you live around here?

*(They laugh.)*

**Sam/Guy:** Sorry. You go first.

**Sam:** No you go ahead.

**Guy:** I insist.

**Sam:** I was just asking if you live nearby.

**Guy:** Not too far. I recently bought a loft off 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Sam:** Oh that's, that's nice...really nice. It's a nice area...lots to do, nice...

**Guy:** Yeah.

**Sam:** *(awkwardly)* Nice...buildings... nice...trees the sidewalks are nice too. I mean I know people don't really notice sidewalks much...

**Guy:** The real estate guy showed me the apartment and I bought it. It was the first place he showed me.

**Sam:** He must be happy; he didn't have to work hard for his commission.

**Guy:** I know, I should have asked him to show me more places right? Make him earn his money but I really like this place; it's open and airy with lots of sunshine streaming in through the huge windows and close to my new office which is great.

**Sam:** It sounds amazing. Are you new in town?

**Guy:** Been here about a month.

**Sam:** Where did you live before?

**Guy:** Vancouver.

**Sam:** Vancouver! Why'd you move here?

**Guy:** I'm expanding my design business. I'm an architect.

**Sam:** An architect

**Guy:** Yeah my brother and I have a design company in Vancouver. I left him in charge there and I just opened a branch of the company here.

**Sam:** How exciting for you.

**Guy:** Yes it is and also a little scary, it's a big step. I'm just getting to know the city. I'd love for someone to show me around you know; help me to get my bearings.

**Sam:** I, I see.

**Guy:** Tell me more about yourself. What do you like to do?

**Sam:** Well I love to bike.

**Guy:** Me too.

**Sam:** and I like to go hiking.

**Guy:** Me too.

**Sam:** I sew

**Guy:** Me too.

**Sam:** Really?

**Guy:** No I don't but we were on a roll and I didn't want to spoil it.

**Sam:** *(They laugh and she touches his arm.)* You're really funny.

**Guy:** Tell me more about yourself; do you like going to the movies?

**Sam:** I love movies.

**Guy:** So do I.

**Sam:** And going to see plays.

**Guy:** *(Wrinkles his nose.)*

**Sam:** *(She laughs.)* What... why are you making a face, don't you like the theatre?

**Guy:** It's a bunch of people prancing up and down onstage looking ridiculous for the most part, pretending to be other people and rarely succeeding?

**Sam:** Oh but that's not always the case. And isn't that true of the movies too?

**Guy:** Well at the movies the people are not right there in front of me and I don't have to clap and pretend I really like what they're doing. The number of times I've stood up and given a standing ovation just because everyone around me was doing it...

**Sam:** You just don't know about good plays.

**Guy:** Maybe. Would you like to fill that lacuna?

**Sam:** Lacuna wow!

**Guy:** Sorry I should have said fill that gap.

**Sam:** I know what lacuna means I just don't hear it used very often.

**Guy:** Sorry I didn't mean to sound pretentious.

**Sam:** No I'm always delighted when I encounter someone who loves the English language like I do, and yes I would love to fill that *lacuna*.

**Guy:** It's a deal then. You pick a play and we'll go together.

**Sam:** Deal.

**Guy:** And you promise I won't be bored and fall asleep.

**Sam:** I won't let you I'll just keep nudging you.

**Guy:** All of a sudden I'm filled with an overwhelming desire to doze off at a play in your company. How soon can we go?

**Sam:** Next week-end work for you?

**Guy:** Works perfectly. This feels very natural; talking to you I mean. I feel I've known you for a long time.

**Sam:** I feel the same. Maybe we knew each other in another life.

**Guy:** I probably shouldn't be saying this but I think you're enchanting.

**Sam:** Really? I don't, I don't know what to say, thank you.

**Guy:** I'm coming on too strong-

**Sam:** No-

**Guy:** I apologise if I am.

**Sam:** Please don't.

**Guy:** It's just that from the moment you walked in-

**Sam:** Yes?

**Guy:** From the moment you walked in I just felt something. I don't know if I can describe it. I find you very appealing.

**Sam:** I like to hear you say that.

**Guy:** You do?

**Sam:** Which girl wouldn't?

**Guy:** I want to get to know you, take you places, spend time with you.

**Sam:** This feels a little overwhelming.

**Guy:** Sorry-

**Sam:** But nice.

**Guy:** I think you're very attractive.

**Sam:** You do?

**Guy:** I love your smile.

**Sam:** My smile?

**Guy:** Yes it lights up the room. There's a lovely aura that emanates from you. It feels comfortable to talk to you.

**Sam:** I enjoy your company too Guy.

**Guy:** This is going to sound strange but I just suddenly had a vision of the two of us sitting on a rug in front of my fireplace having a glass of wine.

**Sam:** Oh.

**Guy:** Look this is not a ploy to get-

Sam: I don't care.

Guy: What?

**Sam:** I don't care, I don't care if it's a ploy I, I like that vision very much.

*Guy: (Just then his phone rings.) Sorry I have to take this, it's my mother. (He steps away to talk on the phone. Enter Mel.)*

**Mel:** How's it going?

**Sam:** He's really nice, he's from Vancouver he's sooo easy to talk to.

**Mel:** Yes I can tell I've been sitting over there watching. You two haven't stopped talking since I left.

**Sam:** Did you see me touch his arm eh, eh, eh?

**Mel:** Yes I did; good job.

**Sam:** I haven't had the opportunity to lick my lips yet but I'm working up to it.

**Mel:** You could give lessons in flirting.

**Sam:** It's all happening so naturally.

**Mel:** Uh-huh.

**Sam:** I feel, I feel as if I am walking on a cloud. I haven't felt like this in like forever, never in fact. He's so interesting to talk to and he's obviously interested in me. He makes me feel special.

**Mel:** You *are* special.

**Sam:** You know Mel, women who are beautiful and have men falling at their feet all the time think nothing of it, they take it for granted and probably come to expect it. But for someone like me... hmmm, someone like me who guys hardly ever notice, well it feels like a dream come true.

**Mel:** If men don't pay you attention it's their loss.

**Sam:** He's an architect, he loves the outdoors and we're going to see a play together next week-end.

**Mel:** You guys are moving fast. Are you sure this guy's for real?

**Sam:** I know he sounds like a fantasy but he's for real. He's everything I've ever wanted in a man.

**Mel:** Just be careful don't jump in too soon. He may not be all he seems-

**Sam:** I wonder should I take his name if we get married?

**Mel:** Sam-

**Sam:** Heavens I don't even know his last name.

**Mel:** You are getting carried away-

**Sam:** I'll have to ask him. I feel so wonderful and warm and wanted. I can't remember when a guy made me feel so, so, extraordinary. I know we've only just met but-

*(Guy returns to the table, Mel exits.)*

**Sam:** Is everything alright with your mom?

**Guy:** Yes she's fine. She wanted to know how I was settling in. I told her about you.

**Sam:** You did!

**Guy:** I didn't say much. I just said I have met a very special girl that's all.

**Sam:** I don't know what to say.

**Guy:** Shhh don't say anything. *(He puts a finger to her lips and kisses her lightly. Just then a slow song begins playing "All I Have to do is Dream," by the Everly Brothers.)* That's an oldie; do you like to dance?

**Sam:** I love to dance.

**Guy:** Shall we?

**Sam:** Yes let's.

*(He holds her in his arms and they dance cheek to cheek. After a while she rests her head on his shoulder and closes her eyes. Mel comes over and taps her on the shoulder. Guy slips out of her arms.)*

**Mel:** You ready?

**Sam:** Ready?



**Mel:** Yeah come on let's get outa here.

**Sam:** Why?

**Mel:** Isn't it obvious? You're not going to meet anyone here tonight. The men here are all a bunch a losers.

**Sam:** Mel what are you talking about, Can't you see I am dancing?

**Mel:** I wondered what you were doing. I told you I was going to the washroom and for you to get our coats so we can leave this dump and I come back to see you in the middle of the dance floor slow dancing by yourself with your eyes closed. What gives?

**Sam:** I'm not dancing by myself, I was dancing with, with Guy.

**Mel:** With who?

**Sam:** *(Beat)* Guy.

**Mel:** Who's Guy?

**Sam:** He, He's the cute one that you said couldn't keep his eyes off me and then he walked over to us and...

**Mel:** You mean the guy who went right by our table with not even so much as a glance at us and is over there now chatting up the bottle blond with the false bazookas and the fake tan; is that the guy you're referring to?

*(Sam stands there looking in the direction Mel is pointing.)*

**Mel:** Come on let's get our coats.

*Curtain*