

PERUSAL SCRIPT

ALL THE WRONG MOVES

A ten minute comedy

by

Patricia Mew



Newport, Maine

© 2018 by Patricia Mew
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

CAUTION:
Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that

ALL THE WRONG MOVES

being fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States Of America, the British Empire, including the Dominion Of Canada, and the other countries of the Copyright Union, is subject to royalty. Anyone presenting the play without the express written permission of the Copyright owners and/or their authorized agent will be liable to the penalties provided by law.

Script and music copies must be purchased from the Publisher and Royalty must be paid to the publisher for each and every performance before an audience whether or not admission is charged. A performance license must first be obtained from the publisher prior to any performance(s).

Federal Copyright Law -- 17 U.S.C. section 504 -- allows for a recovery of a minimum of \$250 and a maximum of \$50,000 for each infringement, plus attorney fees.

The professional and amateur rights to the performance of this play along with the lecturing, recitation, and public reading rights, are administered exclusively through LEICESTER BAY THEATRICALS without whose permission in writing no performance of it may be made. For all other rights inquiries may be made to the authors through LEICESTER BAY THEATRICALS Any adaptation or arrangement of this work without the author's written permission is an infringement of copyright. **Unauthorized duplication by any means is also an infringement.**

FOR PUBLIC PERFORMANCE RIGHTS YOU MUST APPLY TO THE PUBLISHER OR YOU ARE BREAKING THE LAW!

The possession of this SCRIPT whether bought or rented, does not constitute permission to perform the work herein contained, in public or in private, for gain or charity. Proper prior application must be made and license granted before a performance may be given. Copies of this SCRIPT and all other rehearsal materials may be bought and/or rented from:

LEICESTER BAY THEATRICALS
P.O. Box 536 Newport, ME 04953-0536
www.leicesterbaytheatricals.com
Printed in the United States Of America

THIS NOTICE MUST APPEAR IN ALL PROGRAMS, ON ALL POSTERS AND PUBLICITY MATERIALS AND INTERNET ADVERTISING/WEBPAGES FOR THE PLAY:

'All The Wrong Moves' is presented through special arrangement with Leicester Bay Theatricals. All authorized materials are also supplied by LBT, www.leicesterbaytheatricals.com

NOTE: Your contract with Leicester Bay Theatricals limits you to making copies of this document for persons directly connected with your production. Do not distribute outside of your cast and crew. Following your performance run you must destroy all photocopies, preferably by shredding them. If we sent you the document in printed format, you must return that document to us. If we provided you with an electronic PDF file, simply trash that on your computer so that it cannot be recovered. The electronic document may only be on ONE computer -- it may NOT be duplicated. This is also a part of your contract with Leicester Bay Theatricals.

All the Wrong Moves

Characters: 2m 2f 1either

Doug, 40's, a real looker

Darcy, 40's, mousy

Liz, 40's, sophisticated

Lenny, 40's, nerdy

A waiter, late 20's

Setting: A restaurant. There are two tables set up, one downstage center left with 2 chairs, the other upstage and center right with 2 chairs. There are candles on one table and a center piece of some kind on the other.

Special Note: The characters' lines are their stage directions which they speak aloud and then act out as they are speaking the lines. Doug and Darcy begin seated at the center left table, downstage.

ALL THE WRONG MOVES by Patricia Mew 2m 2f 1either. 1 interior. Two millennial couples meeting at a restaurant for an evening out encounter difficulties communicating with one another, producing hilarious results. The physicality of this 10 minute play is reminiscent of Samuel Beckett's only slightly longer, "Act Without Words"; but this show is funny! **Order #3148**

Patricia Mew's short plays have been produced at the Maine Playwrights Festival (2012, 2013, 2014), PortFringe (2015, 2016), and King of Crows II (2014), all in Portland, ME. Her play *All the Wrong Moves* was produced at the 2018 New Works Festival, the Long and Short of It in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Her play *Cock Fight* won Best Play at the Crowbait Death Match in October 2013. *Edna and Furber* was a semi-finalist in Little Black Dress INK's 2015 Female Playwrights ONSTAGE project. She has also had her plays produced at Keene State College, Keene, NH; Smith College, Northampton, MA; and Holyoke Community College, Holyoke, MA. She lives in South Portland, ME where she is a member of Playwrights' Circle.

ALL THE WRONG MOVES

DOUG: Lights up on Darcy and Doug, a married couple seated on opposite sides of a table in a private corner of a local restaurant. There are candles on the table.

DARCY: They face away from each other, in obvious non-communication.

DOUG: Doug has his elbow on the table and is rubbing his forehead.

DARCY: Darcy has a pained expression on her face. She rubs her palms together repeatedly.

(beat)

They wait, neither one willing to break the silence.

DOUG: There are several beats of painful stillness as if an unintended explosion is about to occur.

DARCY: Darcy taps her foot.

(Count 5)

LENNY: Lenny and Liz rush in from Stage Left.

LIZ: They stop abruptly when they see how Doug and Darcy are sitting. Puzzled, they look at one another. Liz moves into the room and gives the couple a quizzical look.

LENNY: Lenny remains by the door and says apologetically: "Sorry we're so late." He laughs uncomfortably.

(laughing uncomfortably)

DARCY: Neither Doug nor Darcy acknowledges their presence.

LIZ: Liz looks from Doug to Darcy, trying to identify some cause for their obvious discomfort.

LENNY: Lenny steps into the room and looks back and forth quickly between Doug and Darcy several times. He crosses over to stand next to his wife, raising his eyebrows and shaking his head.

LIZ: Liz does not look at Lenny. She moves away from him, trying to catch Doug's eye.

LENNY: Lenny turns away from Liz, confused as to why she won't look at him. He retreats to the upstage table.

DOUG: Doug looks guiltily at Liz and bites his lip.

LIZ: Liz locks eyes with Doug and wrinkles her brow.

DOUG: Doug and Liz stare at one another. Doug shakes his head.

LENNY: Lenny notices the looks exchanged between Doug and Liz and becomes suspicious.

DARCY: Darcy turns to look at Liz. She notices the intense gaze between Doug and Liz, then turns away, vocalizing her disgust.

(vocalizes disgust)

LIZ: Liz moves to stage right contemplating her next move. Her back is to the rest of the group. She loosens her collar as if it is choking her.

LENNY: Lenny tries to connect with Doug stepping towards him hesitantly.

DOUG: Doug avoids contact with Lenny and looks from Darcy to Liz and then back to Darcy.

LENNY: Lenny, rebuffed by Doug, moves away from him. He frowns, staring intensely at Doug.

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- All the Wrong Moves by *Patricia Mew*

DARCY: Darcy remains removed and stoic. Then she lowers her head and begins to weep quietly.

(weeps quietly)

DOUG: Doug stands and crosses to Darcy. He touches her upper back to comfort her.

DARCY: Darcy feels his hand and pulls away abruptly.

DOUG: Doug returns to his seat and sits down slowly with resignation.

DOUG, LIZ, LENNY, DARCY: *(in unison)* No one moves.

(Count 3)

DOUG: Doug finally pulls out a handkerchief and wipes the sweat from his brow.

WAITER: A waiter enters with a pen and ordering pad. He stops suddenly when he senses the uneasiness in the room. He looks around at each person wondering whom to address. He clears his throat to announce his presence.

(clears his throat)

LENNY: At last, Lenny crosses to the waiter and leans in, quietly speaking into his ear. He holds up 2 fingers of one hand, then 2 fingers of the other.

(whispers to WAITER, holding up 2 fingers of one hand and 2 of the other)

WAITER: The waiter nods and exits.

Another page and a half of zany fun!