

HOLY CANNOLI

A farce in two acts

by John D. Smitherman

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STORY OF THE PLAY

What do you do to prepare for a visit from your parents? Plenty, when you're the daughter of strict Italian Catholic parents who expect to meet your female roommate, who is actually a guy. John was hoping to celebrate his and Maria's two-year anniversary as housemates by proposing to her. Instead he finds himself in a dress watching as Maria's old childhood friend tries to make his move ... on both of them. Add a trouble-making friend and a wild teenage daughter and you've got laughs on top of laughs.

Running Time

80 minutes.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 m, 3 w)

MARIA D'ANGELO: Italian woman, mid-to-late 20s.

JOHN DOUGLAS: Her housemate, late 20s.

NICOLETTE D'ANGELO: Maria's mother, mid-to-late 50s.

SAL D'ANGELO: Maria's father, late 50s, heavy.

ANGELA D'ANGELO: Maria's sister, late teens to early 20s.

ANTHONY PAVESE: A friend of John's, mid-to-late 20s.

VINCENT ROSSI: A friend of Maria's family, mid 20s.

TIME: Present day.

PLACE: Maria and John's apartment in New York City.

SETTING

An apartment in New York City. Entrance from outside, two bedroom doors, door to kitchen. Furnishings include a chair with a footstool, a sofa with a fold-out bed, a desk, a dining table and chairs, and a bar counter. None of the furniture matches, but the whole ensemble works to create a feel of lived-in comfort.

PROPS

3 gift boxes, one small (for a ring)
Watch
Coat
Cell phone
Regular telephone
Coat rack
Telephone book
Gum
Life jacket
Fake fruit (grapes - waxed) in bowl
Yogurt
Ring
Glasses and wig (John)
Liquor bottles
Table setting for dinner, including coffee cups (7 people)
Wine bottle
Candles and matches
Towel
2 bowls
Cannoli
Glasses, salt and pepper shakers
Breakfast setting (7 people)
Toast
2 photo albums

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: Curtain opens revealing MARIA frantically moving about the apartment and straightening things. Before she exits into kitchen she moves the footstool and hides a gift under the chair. As soon as she exits, JOHN enters carrying two gift boxes, one of which is a small ring box. He looks around, almost falling over the misplaced footstool. He places the larger gift down on the back of the chair, puts the other gift in his pocket, and moves the footstool back to its original position before checking Maria's bedroom and exiting into his bedroom. Maria enters, looks at watch, and moves footstool to get her gift. She looks around apartment and then exits into her bedroom. John enters, checks kitchen, and then crosses to hang up his coat near front door, tripping over the footstool. He goes to move it back and decides to hide his gift under the chair. He replaces footstool and exits into kitchen. Maria enters, still with gift, looks around once more, moves footstool and places gift under the chair. She looks at watch again.)

MARIA: Where is he? *(SHE exits out front door.)*

JOHN: *(Enters from kitchen, on cellular phone.)* No. She isn't here now ... I know it's crazy, but I have to do this ... I know me. It's either now or never. Tonight is our one-year anniversary as roommates here in this apartment and our two-year anniversary since we first met. ... I know she and I are just friends – *(Falls over stool.)* Ahh! No, I didn't have an anxiety attack. I fell over the footstool. ... What do you mean, "Oh, that crappy thing"? I gave that footstool to Maria when I moved in here on our one-year anniversary ... as friends. Anthony, I know as friends, but that is all going to change after tonight. Yes, I have the ring. *(Takes ring out of pocket.)* No. She doesn't know. That's why I have to tell her. I can't go on living like this and feeling this way about her ... I know I can always live with you and feel this way about you. Thanks, Anthony. Listen, I've got to go.

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JOHN: *(Cont'd.)* She could come in any second now ... no! You can't come by and visit with us tonight! Tonight is going to be just Maria and me, and candles, and wine, and music, *(Thinking sweet thoughts.)* and the ring. The ring! I have to hide it someplace romantic. Talk to you later as either the happiest man in the world, or I might take you up on your offer. *(Puts phone down on sofa, looks around for place to hide ring. Goes to put it in wine glass.)* Too stereotypical. *(Towards bedroom.)* Too presumptuous. *(Goes into kitchen.)*

MARIA: *(Enters, sees cell phone and moves it from sofa to desk.)* Of all the days for him to be late. *(Exits into HER bedroom.)*

JOHN: *(Enters, having left ring in kitchen.)* Of all the days for her to be late. *(CELL PHONE RINGS. HE goes to pick it up from sofa and realizes that it's not there. It RINGS again, and he goes to the living room phone and answers it.)* Hello. *(CELL PHONE RINGS a third time. HE locates it on desk and answers it while still holding the other phone.)* Hello ... no, I haven't given it to her! It's only been two minutes since I talked to you. How could I've given her the ring yet ...? That's not what you meant by given it to her ... Anthony, for a gay man, you are a pig. No! Don't come by tonight. *(Gets tangled in phone cord.)* I will call you after I ... *(More tangled and falls.)* ahh ...! No, I didn't fall over the footstool. I – never mind! I'll call you. *(Hangs up cell phone where other phone should be.)* Darn it.

(HE goes to untangle himself from phone cord, his jacket is now up over his head, covering his face when MARIA enters from the bedroom.)

MARIA: Ahh!

JOHN: Ahh!

MARIA: *(Picks up phone book from desk and hits JOHN over the head.)* Take that you, you –

JOHN: *(As HE falls to the ground.)* Maria! Wait! It's me ... *(Removes jacket from face.)* your roommate.

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MARIA: Oh, John, I'm sorry. Are you all right?

JOHN: You know how sometimes you get a song or a phone number stuck in your head? Well, I have a really loud bird and about 2000 numbers.

MARIA: (*Helping HIM up.*) I thought you were an intruder or something.

JOHN: Entangled in our phone cord?

MARIA: You might have been having phone sex. I'll get you some ice.

JOHN: (*Sitting on sofa.*) No, no. I'm fine. They always say, "Use the yellow pages."

MARIA: How was your day?

JOHN: Well, I –

MARIA: (*Looks at watch.*) John, I have to tell you something.

JOHN: All right.

MARIA: You'd better sit down for this.

JOHN: I am sitting down.

MARIA: Oh ... (*Pacing.*)

JOHN: What is it?

MARIA: How should I put this? (*Looks at watch again.*)

JOHN: Why do you keep looking at your watch?

MARIA: You know my parents?

JOHN: Yes. You speak of them often, but I've never actually met them.

MARIA: They're coming to visit.

JOHN: That's great. When?

MARIA: Tonight.

JOHN: Tonight! But tonight is our one-year anniversary as roommates and –

MARIA: Our two-year anniversary as friends. I know. (*Looks at watch.*)

JOHN: You're looking at your watch again. What time did they say they were coming?

MARIA: Six o'clock ...

JOHN: It's only ten till five.

MARIA: Which means five.

JOHN: (*Standing.*) What?

End of Freeview

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