

Starbucks on Broadway

by

Scott Lummer

2788 Winberrie Knolls
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

415-819-7588

scottlummer@gmail.com

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Starbucks on Broadway

Cast:

BARISTA: Female, between 22 and 35. Each order that the Barista yells out is overly enunciated (or potentially sung) with a different extreme dramatic effect, as if he or she is auditioning.

MARLENA: Female, between 25 and 40

BRAD: Male, approximately the same age as Marlena

Setting: Present day. A Starbucks store. There's a counter, upstage. The audience has to be able to see written signs (with subtitles) the Barista holds up from behind the counter, or in lieu of signs, the Barista can use a clicker to put the subtitles on a video projection. It is important that the audience knows that it is the Barista that is causing the subtitles to change.

There are other customers in the store. The delivery of their orders can simply be mimed by the Barista, or extras can be used for the customers.

Playwright Biography:

Scott Lummer is an award-winning playwright and mediocre actor. Seven of his plays have been featured in 16 professional productions nationwide: Starbucks on Broadway, Cherry, The Saint, Love Her Madly, Auction Day, A Service Tail, and Miss Understanding. His play, "2045," was selected to be presented at the 2017 Inge Festival, and will premier this November. He has written nine other short plays and two full length plays.

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Scene opens with Barista standing behind the counter. Marlena and Brad are standing, waiting for their drink orders, not close to each other or the counter. They notice each other, and shyly flirt. Brad slowly starts to approach Marlena. As he does:

BARISTA

Good morning, and welcome to the Broadway Starbucks. I am Roberta and I'll be one of the baristas serving you today. As its Sunday morning, our busiest time of the week, I ask that you not crowd around the counter, so as to allow our other wonderful patrons access to what surely are the most amazing coffee orders in the world. If you're a producer or casting agent, please identify yourself so I can serve you more effectively. Ha ha – just a little joke. Of course, tips are welcome, but audition notices are preferred. Ha ha – again just a little joke.

Brad and Marlena look at each other – Marlena's look is welcoming but passive. Brad continues to walk towards her.

BRAD

Hi

MARLENA

Hi

BRAD

I'm so glad they made that announcement. I hate it when everyone gathers around the counter, and you have to push through people to get your order.

MARLENA

Yeah, it's like when they're calling groups for a flight, and all the Group F people immediately crowd around the gate. It's like ... hello? they haven't even called group B yet.

BRAD

Exactly! ... um ... I'm Brad, nice to meet you.

MARLENA

I'm Marlena. *(shakes his hand)*

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BRAD

(Pause) Ya know, I really –

BARISTA

Tall Tazo sugar free vanilla double bag chai tea latte with sourwood honey and aronic berry for James.

MARLENA

You were saying?

BRAD

Oh, I was just saying I really like the song they're playing.

MARLENA

You like the Arctic Monkeys?

BRAD

Yeah! I remember seeing them on their first tour at The Hammerstein. I liked them better back then.

MARLENA

I was at that concert!

BRAD

Wow, there were like, ONLY 500 people there.

MARLENA

They had more of a punk sound then. They're still cool, but they've lost some of their edge.

BARISTA

Grande soy half caf no whip caramel macchiato for Diana.

MARLENA

(looking at counter) I like trying to match someone's coffee order to the person. Most times they make sense, but sometimes I can't figure it out. She is soooooo not a soy half caf no whip caramel macchiato.

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BRAD

(unconvincingly) Yeah, I know what you mean.

MARLENA

When I was in Russia, my friends and I would go to a coffee house, and try to guess what people were ordering. It was a good way to learn about culture and practice our Russian.

BRAD

You were in Russia? I studied there for a year.

As they are saying the next lines, Barista holds up a sign with the words:

Subtitles

Marlena: It's a small world.
Brad: It certainly is

MARLENA

Really? *(In Russian phonetically)* "Myean meer"

BRAD

(In Russian phonetically) "Dah eto"

(They both laugh)

BRAD

Your Russian's better than mine. What area did you visit?

MARLENA

I studied at St. Petersburg University.

BRAD

I was at Moscow U.

MARLENA

(dismissively) Ohhhhh.

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BARISTA

Quad venti decaf breve with three pump peppermint mocha for Feivel and Quad venti decaf breve with THREE AND A HALF pump peppermint mocha for Jaabir.

MARLENA

One thing I loved about Europe – people were much more accepting of differences. I met couples who had way different backgrounds and beliefs. One of my friends in Russia – her mother was German, and her father was Russian. Her grandfathers fought against each other in World War II – but it didn't matter to her parents. They saw through the differences and fell in love.

BRAD

Yeah – it's like on-line dating. I get a bunch of matches from e-Harmony who are compatible, but I think, how does the computer really know?

While Brad is starting the next line, BARISTA holds up sign with the words:

Subtitles

Brad: I got rejected from
e-Harmony

BRAD

Maybe I need to meet someone who's NOT compatible.

MARLENA

And all of those questions about political beliefs and religion. I mean, sure basic beliefs are nice, but if James Carville and Mary Matalin can have a good marriage, agreement on beliefs can't be everything.

BRAD

OK – but just to make sure, um, did you vote for ...

MARLENA

Vote for who?

BRAD

You know ...

Brad makes a facial expression and body language to
mimic President Trump

While Marlena is in the middle of the next line, BARISTA holds up sign with the words:

Subtitles

Marlena: I voted for Trump – I'm sorry.

MARLENA

Oh no – god no – but I wouldn't call myself a democrat.

BRAD

Me too – it depends on the qualifications.

MARLENA

Cool – and would you say you are -

BRAD

Spiritual, but not focused on organized religion. I was raised Methodist.

MARLENA

Same for me – except I was raised Lutheran.

(Both laugh)

BARISTA

(Barista can sing this next line, and her next two lines, as if it was a show stopping cabaret tune. It should be progressively more dramatic.) Venti, half-whole milk, half non-fat, latte, with three short sprinkles of cinnamon for Caitlyn.

MARLENA

So, you must like to travel.

BRAD

My favorite thing to do.

MARLENA

Me to. Where's –

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BARISTA

(Said with the same enunciation as the previous order, but bigger) I'm sorry, that's a venti, half-whole milk, half non-fat, latte, with three short sprinkles of cinnamon for Caitlen with an "E" not a "Y."

MARLENA

Where's the most interesting place you have traveled?

BARISTA

(Said with the same enunciation as the previous two orders, but even bigger) Now; a venti, half-whole milk, half non-fat, latte, with three short sprinkles of cinnamon for Caitlyn with a "Y."

BRAD

Karachi, in Pakistan.

MARLENA

That's cool. What made you go there?

BRAD

Mainly to watch a test cricket match between Pakistan and England.

MARLENA

Oh my god! I LOVE cricket. And Omar Gul on Pakistan is my favorite player. My last boyfriend was always complaining that I hated sports, but I said that's because there's never any cricket on TV. If they had cricket on, I would so be there.

(Both sigh - while Marlena is finishing the next line, BARISTA holds up sign with the words)

MARLENA (cont)

My favorite author is Oscar Wilde – he said "Cricket is worship in the summer sun"

Subtitles

I have no clue whether Wilde said that, but it sounds good

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BRAD

I love Wilde – but I never heard that quote before. My favorite play of all time is his *The ...*

BRAD

Importance of Being Earnest

MARLENA

Importance of Being Earnest

MARLENA

Me too.

(They both smile at each other)

BARISTA

(Sing to the tune of a musical song, such as “I Dreamed a Dream”, or say as a dramatic death scene) Venti cranberry white chocolate mocha for Sheldon.

BRAD

That guy ordered right before me – our orders are probably next.

MARLENA

Yeah – it was great talking to you.

(They approach the counter)

BRAD

(Nervously) So, I know this is quick, but would you like to hang out some time – I mean, if you're interested.

MARLENA

Sure – let me give you my number.

BRAD

Give me a second; I'll just put it into my cell. O.K. Shoot.

MARLENA

It's 916-45 –

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BARISTA

A grande pumpkin spice soy foam latte for Marlena and *(in sarcastic tone)* a tall Americano for Brad.

(They quickly get their coffees)

MARLENA

You ordered an AMERICANO? Why didn't you just get a drip?

BRAD

Their drip brewer isn't working – an Americano is the closest thing. ... So ... your number?

MARLENA

You know ... you WERE right. This is ... kind of quick ... Um ... Maybe we should just chill, and if we run into each other again, we can talk. You know, ... um ... kind of like that movie -

BRAD

(resigned) Serendipity? Yeah, that's one of my favorite movies.

MARLENA

Hmmmm ... Me too ... Well maybe we'll see each other again.

(Brad pauses, a bit shocked, shakes his head – BARISTA holds up sign with the words)

Subtitles

"The real fool is he who does not know himself. The supreme vice is shallowness." Oscar Wilde

(Marlena stares at the sign, then looks at Brad. She leaves the store, muttering under her breath)

MARLENA (cont.)

I can't believe he ordered an Americano.

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BARISTA

Grande single shot 4 pumps sugar free peppermint nonfat extra hot no foam
light whip stirred white mocha ...

(Lights fade to black – END OF PLAY)