

HAPPY NO YEAR

A Play in Two Acts

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ACT I

SCENE 1

The stage appears as if a holiday bomb exploded, each corner of the set representing a different holiday. One section honors Halloween, fashioned with a multitude of costumes and jack-o-lanterns. Another section commemorates St. Patrick's Day, complete with green shamrocks and Guinness. Still another area pays homage to Valentine's Day, and it has so much red and pink even Cupid would throw up. Last, but certainly not least, there's Christmas: decorated tree, presents, and plastic candy canes are just the tip of the tinsel on this Santa themed corner. Romantic music fills the air as VAL, a young and masculine male, enters.

VAL

I know I said I wanted to wait because we've only been dating for a few weeks and sleeping together on Valentine's Day is, like, so cliché, but I just feel so close to you right now. I mean the flowers, the chocolates, the adorable stuffed bear holding a heart saying "Be Mine." You sure know how to romance a girl. You know what? I don't care if we're going too fast. I don't care if all the girls at school say I'm a slut for putting out with half the football team. I want you to make love to me Steven Stefanopolus!

Focus shifts to PAT, a belligerent Irishman. Music changes accordingly, and we are now whisked away to an atmosphere not unlike an Irish pub.

PAT

I tell ya lads, I won't be leavin' tonight until three things have occurred. The first is that John fuckin' admits I'm the best damn darts player in all a'Dublin. The other two things is me and that pretty little waitress doin' it right here on the table! Hahaha! Next round's on me lads! The night's young and I can still feel me brain thinkin'! This St. Patty's Day will be one for the history books!

Focus now shifts to HALLY, a cute and unthreatening female, dressed as a cat and holding a trick-or-treat bag full of goodies. Music now reflects Halloween.

HALLY

Trick or treat! I'm a kitty cat! See my ears? My mom bought 'em for me at the store! She'da made 'em herself, but she's not too good at sewin' stuff. She did make my whiskers though! They're not real whiskers, they're just those twisty tie things you use to keep your bread from gettin' all moldy. But my costume's really cool! I even got a tail!

(She looks in her treat bag.)

Oh boy! A snickerdoodle! I thought we only got chocolate bars and candy corn. I didn't know we could get cookies! Halloween is awesome!

Focus shifts to AUTUMN, a weird and insecure female, wearing more brown than a roomful of mahogany chests. The music is hard to describe, but the best attempt would be "Pilgrim-y."

AUTUMN

Heavenly father, we give thanks for this bountiful meal we are about to eat, and for this wonderful day of rest we are privileged to spend with family and the people we hold most-

Autumn is interrupted by a musical blast of "Hark, the Herald Angel Sing." The being responsible for this holiday takeover CHRIS enters dressed in an elegant, over-the-top, Christmas themed ball gown. It's as if she is going to the prom with Kris Kringle.

CHRIS

Oh dahling! These ruby earrings are simply divine! Just what I wanted this Christmas. Thank you love. You know I walked by these very earrings the other day and almost bought them myself, but I didn't wish to steal someone's thunder in case they were planning on buying them for me. And you did! You are so thoughtful dahling! Open mine next! You aren't the only one with a gift for gift giving!

(Chuckles.)

Ta-da! Don't you just love it? I saw you eyeing this tie at the department store last week, and don't try to deny it! Slate is most assuredly your color! Merry Christmas dahling!

Voices from beyond begin counting down.

VOICES (O.S.)

Three... Two... One... Happy new year!

The voices cheer as Val
steps back into focus.
Romantic music returns.

VAL

Oh honey, this date's been perfect: candlelight dinner, moonlit walk on the promenade, even a soft pretzel from the vendor where we first met. You really outdid yourself this Valentine's Day. What are you doing? Oh my God, are you proposing? Ah! I never thought this day would come! Yes! Yes I will marry you! This is the happiest day of my life!

Focus back on Pat. Irish
pub music.

PAT

Aye! You're not wearing green! Somebody pinch that blue-wearin' bastard! You've got some nerve comin' in here wearin' blue on St. Patty's Day! Who do you think you are? No Bobby, he doesn't get another dressed like that. Go clean your glasses. Look pal as long as we're in the great state of Massachusetts you'd best be wearin' green on this holiest of days! And as far as I'm concerned, you can shove that prissy little daiquiri up your Smurf ass!

Focus back on Hally.
Halloween music. She is
now dressed like a slutty
pirate.

HALLY

Check out my boyfriend. He's the Captain Hook over by the stereo. I wanted to do costumes that emphasized us being a couple, and he wanted to do a costume that made me look smokin' hot. Win, win. I gotta tell ya, I never thought Captain Hook was sexy, but after seeing Colin O'Donoghue play him on Once Upon A Time I can't stop fantasizing him feeling me up with his hook.

(She bites her lip.)

Mmm, it's like my first Halloween all over again, only this time I want a different chocolate going in my goody bag. This is gonna be the best Halloween ever.

Focus on Autumn.

AUTUMN

Thank you Lord for the food you've prepared for us-

Just like before, Chris
and her soundtrack drown
out Autumn.

CHRIS

Okay We still need gifts for your Uncle Tom, your Aunt Kathy, your cousins Katy, Stacy, and Randy. Oh! And we can't forget about the Hendersons! They have been our next door neighbors since we bought the house, and we didn't get them so much as a home baked pie last year! Oh honey, did you remember to bring down the wrapping paper from the attic? It's going to take you at least an hour to dig it up and I need that time to wrap! I waited too long to get started this year. I mean for crying out loud it's the end of November and we don't even have our Christmas tree up! Now keep up dear, we've got another five stops to make before lunch!

VOICES (O.S.)

Three... Two... One... Happy new year!

Val and his music step forward.

VAL

My boyfriend is so sweet! He sent me a singing telegram to work today. The guy couldn't sing worth a damn, but it's the thought that counts.

Pat and pub music step forward.

PAT

What do you mean you're cutting me off? You can't kick me out! If this is about that scuffle earlier, the other bastard threw the first punch! Look don't get your panties in a wad, I'll pay for a new jukebox!

Hally, now dressed as Tinkerbelle, comes forward.
Halloween music.

HALLY

I may be dressed like a fairy, but don't think I can't kick your ass! You try touching my butt one more time, and I'll make you wish pixie dust were real when I throw you out that window! Second car to the right and straight on to the hospital!

Autumn steps forward.

AUTUMN

Dear heavenly father-

Chris steps forward, along with her holiday tunes.

CHRIS

Yoo-hoo! Hello Marlene! Happy holidays!

(MORE)

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I see you and your husband are hard at work puttin' up your Christmas lights. I just wanted to tell you both not to bother 'cause we'll be winnin' the lighting display contest this year thanks to our new five thousand dollar LED lights. So don't work too hard dear. I'm only thinking of you!

VOICES (O.S.)

Three... Two... One... Happy new year!

VAL

Roses? You shouldn't have!

PAT

I'm runnin' low here! Where's that damn whiskey?

Hally wears something
completely bizarre.

HALLY

I made it myself! Only took me ten hours!

Autumn attempts to speak,
but Chris doesn't let her
get one word out.

CHRIS

Kids wake up! It's Christmas! And I think Santa paid you a visit last night!

VOICES (O.S.)

Happy New Year!

VAL

I love you so much.

VOICES (O.S.)

Happy New Year!

PAT

Shots! Shots! Shots!

VOICES (O.S.)

Happy New Year!

Hally now has a pot on her
head.

HALLY

Get it? I'm a pothead. Whatever, y'all are stupid.

VOICES (O.S.)

Happy New Year!

CHRIS

Merry Christmas everyone! Merry Christmas!

FADE TO BLACK

SCENE 2

Lights fade in along with some soothing, mind-numbing Christmas music. Pat is passed out in a chair in his green corner, clearly hung over. PUCK, douchebag prankster extraordinaire, discovers Pat recovering. He slithers over, pulls a giant button from his frat boy-esque jacket, and presses it which makes a disgusting farting sound. Pat jolts awake.

PAT

Aye! Oooh...

PUCK

(Laughs.)

Yes! Haha, the look on your face...

(Sighs.)

Never gets old.

PAT

Oh it gets old lad. Older than the whiskey I drank last night, and she was a cougar.

PUCK

Check it Pat, it's a whoopie cushion in button form! I'm gonna call it "The Fart Button." Haha, man I am a genius!

PAT

I'm only going to say this once Puck, you interrupt my mornin' recovery again and that button's gonna discover where real farts come from.

PUCK

It's funny cause I don't know if you're joshin' me or if you're serious. See that's why I love being roommate's with ya Pat. You keep me guessing!

Val enters his Barbie pink room and swiftly punches a heart shaped box.

HALLY (O.S.)

Is that you Val?

VAL

It's sure as hell not the Easter bunny.

HALLY (O.S.)

Be sensitive. You know Esther's been sick all year with chocolate bunny poisoning.

VAL

Well where's *my* chocolate bunny poisoning huh? Esther gets all the breaks.

HALLY (O.S.)

You're being ridiculous.

VAL

Am I? Every year I put up with sappy Valentine's Day cards, corny displays of affection, I mean just the worst romance tactics one can come up with. I'm talking love songs here Hally! Did you know there were three hundred and seventy-two guys this year who all wrote love songs to girls named Stephanie? I swear I'm going to make it my mission that anyone who writes love songs will never get laid.

HALLY (O.S.)

Love songs are a really sweet gesture. I think you're just stressed.

VAL

I'm going to shoot a puppy Hally! I'm talking right in the face! And I'm not gonna feel bad about it!

HALLY (O.S.)

Geez, will you at least let me get dressed before you start bellyaching?

VAL

We've been through this. Esther already ate all the chocolate bunnies! She gets all the breaks.

Chris enters her glitzy
Christmas suite.

CHRIS

What a lovely post-Christmas party! Didn't you think so Autumn?

Autumn enters carrying her
weight in holiday bags and
presents.

AUTUMN

It was your most extravagant one yet, sir.

CHRIS

This party just had something the other thirty-four didn't, but I can't quite put my finger on what it is.

AUTUMN

Maybe it was the ice sculpture you ordered to be made in your image.

CHRIS

Ah yes! Of course! That's what it was! Make a note for next year that all my Christmas parties must have more ice sculptures!

AUTUMN

Yes sir.

Chris sits in her chair.
She looks at Autumn
expectantly.

CHRIS

Ahem!

Autumn perks up and pulls
a perfume bottle from one
of the Christmas bags.
She performs a brief
interpretive dance around
Chris, spritzing her with
the fragrance. Chris smiles
with pleasure.

CHRIS

Mmm, evergreen. Intoxicating.

AUTUMN

Speaking of next year, I was hoping to have the chance to fully celebrate and experience my holiday.

CHRIS

Your holiday?

AUTUMN

Yes. This year you opted to celebrate Christmas, a tremendous holiday to be sure, before Thanksgiving had concluded. And I was thinking-

CHRIS

Oh my dear sweet Autumn. I believe I know what you are asking, and let me just say that you are thoroughly mistaken.

AUTUMN

I am?

CHRIS

Of course! Don't you see? By putting out my decorations before Thanksgiving, it allows the people of the world to see what they are thankful for.

AUTUMN

I'm not sure I follow.

CHRIS

Imagine a humble, all-American family sitting down for their Thanksgiving feast. They hold hands, bow their heads and prepare for their pre-meal prayer, but lo and behold! They are unsure what to give thanks for! The family is speechless! Whatever are they to do?

AUTUMN

They could give thanks for the family they get to share-

CHRIS

But never fear, young Autumn! For because of Chris' thoughtful foresight of putting out decorations for sale in November, the family is saved from their paralysis and they are able to give thanks for beating the Christmas rush by buying all of their decorations before December! Don't you see Autumn? I'm only thinking of you!

AUTUMN

How very selfless of you sir.

CHRIS

It is selfless, isn't it?

PUCK

So what spurred on this latest drinking binge?

PAT

I drink every night Puck. You're gonna have to be a bit more specific.

PUCK

Well yeah, you drink every night but you're never hung over. You've got the alcohol tolerance of a bull elephant.

PAT

Of ten bull elephants! Don't insult me.

PUCK

Exactly. So you really must've gone to town last night, which you only do when something's got you down. C'mon bro, you can tell me.

PAT

You're right Puck. I am upset. I'm upset that out of all the holidays I could have been paired up with, I got stuck with the Ashton Kutcher wannabee for a bunkmate.

PUCK

Uh excuse me, who do you think gave that poser all that material to work with? His pranks have all been test-driven by yours truly.

PAT

Aye but there's just one bit of difference there half pint. He's a lot funnier than you.

PUCK

Oh I get it. You're practicing for my roast next April. Dude, killer job. I almost believed you.

PAT

(Groans.)

Puck I don't know how you got this room to spin, but I need you to make it stop.

PUCK

Alright Pat. Time to get you sobered up.

Puck extends his hand, but when Pat grabs it he gets zapped by Puck's hidden hand buzzer.

PUCK

Haha! Every time Pat! Every time!

PAT

Come here ya little booger!

Pat chases Puck around the room and offstage. Hally enters dressed as zombie Britney Spears and starts sneaking up behind an unsuspecting Val.

VAL

I'm losing my mind here Hally. Every time I see roses or an engagement ring or anything resembling a heart I want to rip my eyes out. I didn't want to be the holiday of love, you know. I wanted to be Independence Day and shoot fireworks. You don't have to have somebody to enjoy fireworks.

Hally ceases her advances. She crosses her arms and rolls her eyes with boredom.

She even silently mouths
some of the lines.

VAL

Even single people can appreciate colorful lights in the sky. Heck, it even gives them hope they might find someone someday. But instead, I'm stuck with the annual duty of helping others find love while I'm stuck being alone. I just don't know if I can do it anymore Hally.

(Beat.)

Hally?

Val turns around to find
Hally standing behind him.
Hally performs an admirable
zombie roar.

VAL

What are you doing?

HALLY

I'm scaring you!

She roars again.

VAL

You're not scary Hally.

HALLY

Aw come on, zombie Britney Spears is super scary!

VAL

At best she's the equivalent of a living Lady Gaga, and even then it's more weird than scary.

HALLY

I've gotten so into character with this one, I even renamed all of her songs: "I Wanna Go Eat Man Flesh" "Oops I Killed It Again," and my personal favorite "Shoot Me Baby One More Time."

VAL

Clearly you've missed your calling to be a songwriter for undead pop stars. Hally you're never going to be scary. It's just not who you are.

HALLY

Psh! Please! Scary is my middle name.

VAL

Your middle name is Evelyn.

HALLY

Remember my Halloween party three years ago? I scared the crap out of Old Vet.

VAL

Old Vet wasn't scared of you. He was upset because you ran out of Twizzlers.

HALLY

Yeah, he was scared of a Twizzler shortage. Whose fault was that?
(Points to herself.)
Point Hally.

AUTUMN

I believe this is for you, sir.

CHRIS

It's not another horrid fruit cake, is it?

AUTUMN

No, it's an invitation to Eve's New Year's party.

CHRIS

Ahh! That's worse than fruit cakes!

AUTUMN

I don't understand sir. I thought you liked going to parties.

CHRIS

Yes, when they are about me!

Puck reenters, with Pat
directly behind. Puck stops
and pulls out a pair of
glasses.

PUCK

Hold it right there Pat! You wouldn't hit a guy with glasses,
would ya?

PAT

Nah I wouldn't hit him.

He swiftly knees Puck in
the groin. Puck drops.

PAT

But I'd knee him in the balls all day long.

PUCK

(Groans.)

Good one Pat. Ball busting is always funny. Always a crowd pleaser.

While on the ground, Puck
spots a crumpled up piece
of paper under Pat's chair.

PUCK

Hey Pat, I think you dropped something.

PAT

What is it?

PUCK

Oh sweet! It's the invitation to Eve's New Year's shindig.

PAT

Oh thanks I was lookin' for that.

He takes the invitation
from Puck and tears it to
pieces.

PAT

Shoulda done that the first time.

HALLY

Cheer up Val. All those sucky feelings will go away when we get
to the party tonight.

VAL

What party?

HALLY

Tonight's New Year's Eve. Eve's End of the Year Holiday
Spectacular?

VAL

Aw crap is that tonight?

HALLY

What, you think I dress up as the undead on just any Saturday
night?

VAL

Well you don't have to worry about me being a party pooper tonight.

AUTUMN

I thought you would appreciate someone else hosting a party for a
change.

CHRIS

Well you would be wrong!

PUCK

Why'd you rip up the invitation?

PAT

Because...

PAT/CHRIS/VAL

I'm not going.

PUCK/AUTUMN/HALLY

What?!

HALLY

Are you out of your mind? Are you really that chronically depressed that you can't support one of our best friends on their big day?

AUTUMN

Sir it will look terrible if you're absent tonight, especially since Eve attended each and every one of your Christmas parties.

PUCK

Dude come on! It's not a party without St. Patty's Day!

HALLY

You are the first holiday of the New Year. You have to go!

AUTUMN

You are the last holiday before the New Year. You have to go!

PUCK

You're bringing all the booze man! You have to go!

PAT

You're right Puck. I do bring all the booze. And everywhere I go is a party. But no one remembers any of that by the time New Year's rolls around. The minute that ball drops, all anyone remembers from the whole year is how trashed they got New Year's Eve! I'm a distant memory Jack!

CHRIS

Don't you think I know I have to go? Don't you think I'm aware of what will happen if Christmas no shows at the biggest holiday gathering of the year? But I'm not ready for Christmas to be over! One lousy month is not enough time to fully appreciate everything that Christmas is! By going to Eve's party I am relinquishing my holiday duties until next November.

AUTUMN

December.

CHRIS

And I'm not ready for that to happen!

VAL

You don't need to remind me Hally! I know all too well I'm the first one up to bat every single New Year. Every Christmas is a nightmare because I know Valentine's Day is creeping up just behind, and New Year's Eve is where it all snowballs on me. Because

(MORE)

VAL (CONT'D)

when that countdown's over, Valentine's Day shows up on store shelves. And I'm not going through that again. I'm sorry, but...

PAT/CHRIS/VAL

I don't want there to be a new year.

VAL

And I'm not going to Eve's party.

HALLY

Okay Val. If you don't want to go, I'm not going to force you. But you'll miss out on seeing you know who.

VAL

Who?

HALLY

You know...

AUTUMN

Alright sir. Opting not to go this evening is certainly your decision. However I'm sure you will regret missing an opportunity to spend time with your special someone.

CHRIS

Who?

AUTUMN

Oh I think you know...

PUCK

Fine man, if you wanna drown your liver in your apartment than at a swanky penthouse, that's cool with me. But you know there'll be someone at the party who'll make you feel a hell of a lot better.

PAT

Who?

PUCK

Oh you know who I'm talking about.

PAT/CHRIS/VAL

You're right.

VAL

She will be there!

CHRIS

He will be there!

PAT

He will be there!

HALLY

You say you're tired of being alone? Well maybe it's time you fix that.

AUTUMN

You'll forget all about your problems when you see him. Maybe the two of you can sneak off and even find some "alone time."

PUCK

You're always up for a good roughhousing. This guy's really gonna miss you being on top of him this year.

VAL

I never really get to see her that often, do I?

CHRIS

It has been a while since I've seen him, hasn't it?

PAT

I do love a good wrestlin' match, don't I?

PAT/CHRIS/VAL

Alright I'll go!

PUCK

Now we're cookin' with gas, and for once I'm not talkin' about farting! Haha! Alright I gotta restock my prank bag! I used up most of my gags at Chris' last party.

PAT

Just don't bring your fake poop again. It's never been funny and it's disgusting. I don't need help in the puking department. I'm covered on that thank you.

Puck and Pat exit.

AUTUMN

That's the holiday spirit sir. In that case I'll bake a dessert. Take some pressure off of Eve.

CHRIS

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph! I can't go to the party in these tattered rags! Autumn look at my Christmas gifts and see if anyone bought me a new dress! Nothing too gausht!

AUTUMN

Yes sir...

Autumn and Chris exit.

HALLY

I'm proud of you Val. You'll see, tonight will be the night you finally change your mind about Valentine's Day.

VAL

Well I'm not going to hold my-

HALLY

Oh shoot! I have to change!

VAL

Why?

HALLY

I just remembered there's a theme tonight! Eve's New Year's Razzle Dazzle! This zombie Britney Spears has tons of razzle, but nowhere near enough dazzle! Huh. Kinda like her movie Crossroads.

Hally exits.

VAL

Don't mess this up Val.

FADE TO BLACK

SCENE 3

Lights shift and the separate apartments become Eve's superbly decorated penthouse. EVE, a high-strung mom of a party planner, scurries on stage with an assortment of decorations for every holiday. She hurries around the room like a caffeinated hummingbird, making last minute preparations before the night's events.

EVE

Good heavens! This place is a disaster! Dave, get out here please!

DAVE (O.S.)

Working on it.

EVE

Goodness! I have three hundred and sixty-four days to throw the most extravagant party of the year, and here I am waiting until the last minute! Oh what does this say about me? I don't think of myself as a procrastinator. I booked the DJ, the caterers, the magic act, the traveling circus, the London Ballet Company, I sent out the RSVP's weeks ago, I sent out save the dates months ago, and I bought enough decorations to outshine the Taj Mahal. So why do I feel like I'm forgetting something? Dave I need you!

DAVE (O.S.)

You asked me to get the table for the hors d'oeuvres. I'm getting you the table for the hors d'oeuvres.

EVE

The hors d'oeuvres! I forgot to pull the mozzarella sticks from the oven!

Eve races off to the kitchen. As she exits, DAVE enters dragging a very long table onstage. He is a pitiful sight wearing a solid teal button down and checkered navy blue pants. He is the type who would have a summer home inside a high school locker.

EVE (O.S.)

Dave I need you to get the table for the hors d'oeuvres!

DAVE

I just said I was getting it! Do you not hear a word I say?

EVE (O.S.)

What was that Dave?

DAVE

Nothing. Just that I wish vultures would descend from the sky and maim you beyond all recognition.

Eve reenters with a tray of mozzarella sticks and marinara sauce, and a cornucopia.

EVE

I heard that. Don't be morbid. I need that table more up center so it's not in the way of the dance floor.

DAVE

No one dances at your parties Eve.

EVE

I beg to differ! Ice Ice Baby is always a hit. And I believe I saw you last year bouncing off the walls to the Macarena.

DAVE

You know perfectly well that wasn't my doing. Puck spiked my club soda!

EVE

Oh stop complaining and just move the table please.

DAVE

Fine.

Dave shuffles the table up stage. Eve places the mozzarella sticks and cornucopia on the center of the table.

EVE

Autumn is just going to love this cornucopia I got for her!

DAVE

She should since it's the only Thanksgiving decoration you put out.

EVE

That's not true. I put some right over-

(She turns one way.)

Well maybe I put them over-

(She turns the other way.)

Oh fudge!

Eve rushes offstage.

DAVE

You forget her every year Eve. No need to pretend you've committed some new injustice.

EVE (O.S.)

I know I have Pilgrim figurines somewhere.

DAVE

If I were New Year's Eve, I wouldn't forget to represent any of the holidays.

EVE (O.S.)

What was that Dave?

DAVE

Nothing. Just admiring your Razzle Dazzle theme. It's very showy, and sparkly, and not unoriginal in the slightest. You know Eve, I've been doing some thinking about my party tomorrow and I thought maybe we could-

Eve reenters carrying a bride and groom figurine.

EVE

Your party? What are you talking about?