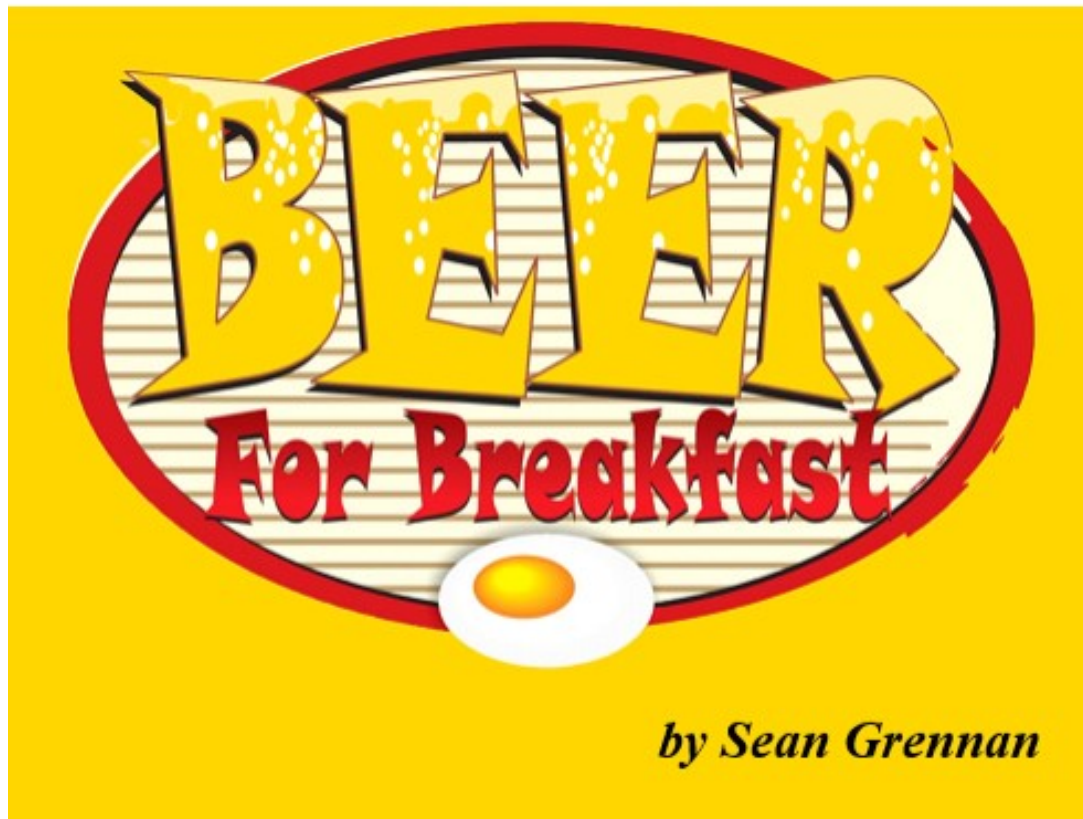


# *Beer for Breakfast - Audition Packet*

**2024-25 Season Early Audition Dates:** Saturday and Sunday, August 17 & 18,  
*(anyone unable to make these dates and still wishing to audition, contact  
the director to make alternate arrangements)*

**Show Dates:** November 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 29, 30, Dec 1 (matinee), 5, 6, 7

**Rehearsals Begin:** Monday, Sept. 23



*Directed by Diane Dashevsky  
Produced by Joanne Zimmerman*

# *Beer for Breakfast* by Sean Grennan

## SETTING

The entire play takes place in the kitchen/living room of a lakeside cabin during a very cold winter.

**CHARACTERS** - All are into their early 50's and have known each other since college.

**DIRECTOR'S NOTE:** This is an ENSEMBLE CAST. ALL 4 cast members are leading roles!! If you are a diva, this is not the show for you.

**JESSIE**, strong, smart, quick, a bit sarcastic, she can give as good as she gets and then some. A doctor and mother, she's used to being right and in charge. She is most often both. She dresses well and tries to maintain a calm and superior air. She is the beloved but absent Adrian's wife. She and TJ were briefly a thing in college but are so very different now that it seems absurd. She is at the cabin this weekend to do a tough chore and despite her strength, avoids doing it till her back is against the wall. Despite her occasional snarkiness, we should like her.

**TJ**, . the Alpha of the group. At times bigger than life, boisterous, the ringleader. The guys may chide him but they love and need him for it. Professionally, TJ is the creative head of an ad agency. He's very good at what he does but like everyone in any creative endeavor, is thought (wrongly!) to be losing it as he ages. This is because the only true genius in the world resides in those under thirty years old and everyone knows that. Therefore he's under pressure from his board of directors to step down. He drinks a lot but always seems to be in control. Divorced, he takes a dim view of relationships these days. He particularly hates Jessie, even though it becomes clear that they had a relationship "back when" that ended poorly. He's here to recapture that youthful thing he and his buddies had...and to forget his age and the outside world for a weekend.

**MARK**, a nice guy who means well and loves his friends even though he borders on a sad sack at times. He's a professional writer who had recently been let go from his newspaper and is surviving (barely) on a smattering of freelance assignments. Happily married but nervous about his life, he, like the other men, is here this weekend to forget his troubles and try to have some fun. He's also here to see if the very successful Adrian can help him get a job. He is like a "middle child" facilitator in that he tries to keep things smooth and will go along to get along. He loves his friends.

**RICHARD**, A very nice guy who up until recently was a vice-president at his company, deacon at church, learned French, took cooking classes and more, until he was hit with a stroke. The right side of his face and body are affected the most. His right arm stays mostly in an "L" position, the hand is closed, his face droops on that side, his speech is affected. While barely intelligible generally, when he talks, he has particular trouble with the "s" sound, making a "th" instead. He often needs translation from his buddy Mark. The places where he should be just clear enough to be understood by the audience are marked with an asterisk. While the translation is a source of comedy, Richard himself isn't. He's one of the guys this weekend and after an initial brief trepidation, he will act and be treated as such.

## **A Note on Richard's Affliction**

At the first production, a handful of people with strokes attended and stayed to talk afterwards. Without exception, they said it was nice to see themselves onstage as just people who are fair game and not objects of pity. The point is that people with handicaps are neither saints nor lepers and should just be in the world and accepted as they are.

## Play Synopsis

Four middle-aged buddies reunite for a "guys' weekend" --complete with old music, cheap beer and enough cholesterol to stop Superman's heart. These guys are out to prove they've still got it, so they are going to party like it's 1979! It's all going well until one of them doesn't show up...but his wife does. Snowed in overnight, an epic struggle ensues: will man be judged the superior sex or will woman prevail? Will love triumph or will the old grudges win? And finally, perhaps most importantly, if Doritos are made of corn, why can't they be considered a serving of vegetables?

***Note on Rehearsals:*** Rehearsals will begin on Monday, Sept. 23 and will be held on Mondays through Thursdays until Opening Night (8 week commitment for rehearsals). Rehearsals will be held in the upstairs Rehearsal Room until our set is built after One Weekend Only (Oct. 4th & 5th).

Unless otherwise changed by consensus of cast at the first Read -Though, rehearsals will be from 6:30 - 9 pm.

Any further questions can be directed to the Director, Diane Dashevsky at 609-501-6713 or by email at [mctdianegmail.com](mailto:mctdianegmail.com) . If contacting by email, **PLEASE PUT "BFB" IN THE SUBJECT LINE!**