

FACE TIME

by

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FACE TIME

CHARACTERS:

ANGELA: Thirties

KELLY: Thirties

SETTING: Department store service area

SYNOPSIS: Angela and Kelly find that too much connection has driven them apart.

Note: Pacing is everything with this play, particularly in the beginning where the women are cutting each other off constantly.

Department store. Angela stands in a long customer service line. Kelly approaches and stands in line behind her.

KELLY: Angela? Is that you?

ANGELA: Hey, Kelly!

KELLY: What a line.

ANGELA: I'm returning this sweater I got for my birthday. Why can't people just give gift cards?

KELLY: Right? Stupid online store sent me the wrong game so I have to come in person because I need it for William's birthday tomorrow.

ANGELA: If you wanted to come to the store, you wouldn't have bought it online.

KELLY: Exactly.

ANGELA: So how are you? What's new?

KELLY: I'm great. We just got back from--

ANGELA: Italy! I saw that. Great pictures. Ben's been traveling a lot. He just got back from--

KELLY: Greece, right? Didn't I comment on that? Nice work perk, I think I said.

ANGELA: Work perk. I remember that. So Melanie's waiting for college accept--

KELLY: She got turned down by--

ANGELA: Brown. Her first choice/ That's rough.

KELLY: We've still got Penn/

ANGELA: --and St. John Fisher. Good luck with those. How's the new dog?

KELLY: Oh, we had to--

ANGELA: Oh, right, right. Your poor couch. I like the new one you've got picked out./ And you got a lot of likes on it.

KELLY: Yeah, and once we put that in, we also decided to redo the--

ANGELA: Kitchen! With granite. So jealous. Ben would never.

KELLY: Really? How come?

ANGELA: Oh, I don't know. You know husbands. I had a job interview. I... I'm going back to work. You probably saw that.

KELLY: (nodding): Uh-huh. Good luck. (beat) We had my birthday-- Well. There were pictures.

ANGELA: And a video! You looked surprised. I'm sorry I couldn't make it. Ben didn't... he wasn't feeling well.

KELLY: Oh that's okay. You know how those parties are. Nobody has anything new to say.

ANGELA: Yeah...so...

KELLY: So...

ANGELA (suddenly thinking of something new): My eye has been twitching for like three weeks.

KELLY: Really? Like a tic?

ANGELA: Like a tug. And sometimes like a twitch. I think it's some nerve that's just going to twitch itself out and leave me this a droopy eye. There! Can you see it?

ANGELA leans forward so KELLY can look at her eye.

KELLY: I don't see anything.

ANGELA: It's driving me crazy.

ANGELA

KELLY: You should post on Facebook, ask if anybody ever heard of something like that lasting so long.

ANGELA: It could be stress. I've been pretty stressed.

KELLY's phone beeps, and she pulls it out. Looks at the phone, laughs. Shows the phone to Angela.

ANGELA: Is that your dog?

KELLY: No, Melanie just saw him on the street and thought he was so cute, she wanted to send me a picture. Isn't he cute?

ANGELA: Whose dog is it?

KELLY: I don't know. He's just cute. So what were you saying?

ANGELA: Nothing.

KELLY: Oh, the twitch! You really should post about it. I found a great plumber that way. I just said "Who knows a good plumber at reasonable prices?" And bam--within two minutes, I had like twenty comments.

ANGELA: Ben insists on fixing everything at our house.

KELLY: Uh-oh.

ANGELA: He says it's to save money, but most of my faucets are reversed, and my shower has been dripping for months.

KELLY: I can give you the name of the plumber.

ANGELA: Ben would kill me.

KELLY: Oh wait! You know the plumber. It's Billy, from high school. As soon as I asked, all these high school friends chimed in "Call Billy." "Billy's the best."

ANGELA: Billy Sweeney?

KELLY: Yeah, him. Do you remember-- Of course you do. You went to prom with him.

ANGELA: We dated that whole summer before college.

ANGELA

KELLY: Really? And you're not Facebook friends with him?

ANGELA: No, I guess not.

KELLY: Well, he did a great job, even if it was kind of awkward having him at my house.

ANGELA: Having Billy Sweeney in my house after all these years would definitely be awkward.

KELLY: He looks good.

ANGELA: Really?

KELLY: Okay, maybe I wouldn't post him on Man Candy Monday but— Didn't you see his pictures on Face-- Oh right, you're not friends with him.

ANGELA: Maybe I'll look him up.

KELLY: You totally should. He's a whiz.

ANGELA: He's married, right?

KELLY: Divorced, I think.

ANGELA: Did he tell you that?

KELLY: Well, his status changed, so...

ANGELA: I could call him next week while Ben's in Kentucky.

KELLY: How would you explain the faucets being switched? Oh, Ben might scald himself!

ANGELA: That would be unfortunate.

KELLY: What? You're not serious?

ANGELA: Of course not.

KELLY (laughs): Sometimes it's hard to tell without a smiley face.

KELLY's phone rings again. She looks at it and laughs.

ANGELA: Another dog?

ANGELA

KELLY: Oh, no, sorry. Darren sent me a picture of sponge candy.

ANGELA: Why?

KELLY: Because I like sponge candy. Isn't that sweet?

ANGELA: But won't that ruin the surprise?

KELLY: Oh, he's not going to *buy* it for me. So how are you? How's Ben?

ANGELA: Well, actually, Ben and I are thinking about getting a di-

KELLY's phone rings again.

KELLY: Sorry. (answers phone) Hello? Melanie! I did! He was so cute. You did? Okay, I'll retweet it. I'm catching up with a high school friend in line. Yeah, I just bumped into her; isn't that crazy? Okay, love you!

KELLY (hangs up) That was Melanie.

ANGELA: I gathered.

KELLY: She wondered why I didn't respond to her picture.

ANGELA: Maybe you were busy.

KELLY Ha! (holds up phone) She knows the only reason I wouldn't answer is I was dead. (closer) I have like eight dead friends on Facebook now. It's so weird... I don't know if it would be wrong to unfriend them...

ANGELA: So I was saying, Ben and I--

CUSTOMER SERVICE (v.o.): Next!

KELLY: That's you. It was great seeing you! We should get together soon.

ANGELA: The reunion's coming up. Are you going?

KELLY: I don't think so. I really keep in touch with all the people I want to, you know?

ANGELA: I was thinking the same thing.

CUSTOMER SERVICE (v.o.): Next!

ANGELA: Sorry, I have to go.

KELLY: Tweet at me!

ANGELA heads to counter. KELLY turns around, and spots another friend across the room.

KELLY: Daria!! Over here!

END OF PLAY

Donna Hoke's work has so far been seen in 47 states and on five continents, including at Barrington Stage, Barrow Group, Celebration Theatre, Gulfshore Theatre, Queens Theatre, The Road, Writers Theatre New Jersey, Phoenix Theatre, Atlantic Stage, Purple Rose, Skylight, Pride Films and Plays, New Jersey Rep, Hens and Chickens (London), The Galway Fringe Festival, and Actors Repertory Theatre of Luxembourg. Plays include BRILLIANT WORKS OF ART (Kilroys List), ELEVATOR GIRL (O'Neill and Princess Grace finalist), SAFE (winner of the Todd McNerney, Naatak, and Great Gay Play and Musical Contests), and TEACH (Gulfshore New Works winner among others). She has been nominated for the Primus, Blackburn, and Laura Pels prizes, and is a three-time winner of the Emanuel Fried Award for Outstanding New Play (SEEDS, SONS & LOVERS, ONCE IN MY LIFETIME). She has also received an Individual Artist Award from the New York State Council on the Arts to develop HEARTS OF STONE, and, for its final three years, *Artvoice* named her Buffalo's Best Writer—the only woman to ever receive the designation.

Donna also serves on the Dramatists Guild Council, is an ensemble playwright at Road Less Traveled Productions, blogger, moderator of the 12,000+-member Official Playwrights of Facebook, *New York Times*-published crossword puzzle constructor, children's and trivia book author, and founder/curator of *BUA Takes 10: GLBT Short Stories*. Speaking engagements include Citywrights, Kenyon Playwrights Conference, the Dramatists Guild National Conference, Chicago Dramatists, the Austin Film Festival, and a live Dramatists Guild webinar. Her commentary has been seen on #2amt, howlround, *The Dramatist*, the Official Playwrights of Facebook, *Workshopping the New Play* (Applause, 2017), and at donnahoke.com.