Pizza Man is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

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Pizza Man
By Darlene Craviotto

Directed by,
Olivia Kiefer

CAST
Julie Rodgers.................................................................Grace Lawrence
Alice Meyerlink..............................................................Casey Van Dyke
Eddie (Pizza Man).............................................................Jalen Wilson-Nelem

A special thanks to David Gram for his guidance throughout the directing process!

Time & Place

California, 1983

ACT I
Friday. A long, hot, summer night.

ACT II
Scene I
Later that evening.

Scene II
Much later that same evening.

This show’s run time is 90 minutes.
Theat will be one 10 minute intermission after Act I.

*This show is meant for Adult Audiences Only*
*Contains discussions of rape, prop alcohol/cigarettes, and some violent/suggestive situations*
SPECIAL THANKS TO:
All the Professors of the OU Theatre Department
Matilda Seagraves
Jaden Leverett
Joe Kocenda
Jeremy Barnett
Phillip Christiansen
Pam & Bob Simmons
Emily Nichter
Carly Uhrig

About the Play

It’s a hot summer evening and Julie Rodgers has had a bad day. Her boss made a pass at her that she rejected, so she got a pink slip with her check. Julie’s broken and disillusioned, so she drinks and turns on the stereo full blast to make the pain go away. Then her roommate comes home in the midst of an eating frenzy; her boyfriend has gone back to his wife so Alice has turned to food to forget. Julie suggests another way to vent their man-caused frustrations: they should pick a guy, any guy... and ‘take advantage of him’. Men have been doing it for years; why can’t a woman try it? Enter a pizza delivery man who agrees to come in and share a beer with them. The evening gets crazier, wilder, angrier, and very, very funny.
BIOS

Casey (Ace) Van Dyke (ALICE)
Ace is a Junior acting major at OU, and she can not wait for you to ride the rollercoaster that is Pizza Man! Previous credits include the Daughter in Planet Ant’s The Trail to Oregon (a dream come true!), and Trish/Ensemble in St. Dunstan’s Bonnie and Clyde. On the OU stage, you may also recognize them from Nowhere as Mr Feldman/Noah, or as Rachel in Theatre Girls (Also directed by the amazing Olivia Kiefer!). Working with this group has been a blast, and Ace could not be happier with the experience and the product. So buckle in, have a slice of pizza, and travel back to the 80s with us!

Jalen Wilson-Nelem (EDDIE)
Jalen is proud to be a part of his final production at Oakland with such an engaging and hilarious show! He recently performed at the Detroit Repertory Theater in their devised 10-minute play festival, and Shakespeare Royal Oaks’ Production of Romeo & Juliet as Romeo this past summer. He would like to thank his loving and supportive friends, family, and partner for keeping him going.

Grace Lawrence (JULIE)
Grace is a sophomore Musical Theatre major at Oakland University. She was last seen on stage as Morgan Campbell in Nowhere, a project that she was also a writer on. This past summer she trained at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York with a diverse group of actors from all over the world. She’d like to thank her parents, friends, Addie and Tyler for their continued love and support.
“...they gave us fairy tales. Handed us dreams and shoved us into the streets and said keep smiling. Everything’ll be fine! Well, kiddos we’re not kiddos anymore. And the dreams don’t work!”

–Julie Rodgers

‘What a chilling but severely relatable thought’ is exactly what went through my mind when I first read this moment from Pizza Man. “The dreams don’t work” and for many growing up or facing ‘the real world’ this is exactly the case. The ‘keep smiling’ motto has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember and I think it’s a slogan that the American society has embraced for decades; portray the good, keep hidden the bad. And while it is definitely true that the entirety of our population suffers from this ideology, it’s equally true that women are taught this lesson earlier than the rest. It’s ingrained in our minds from our days in kindergarten; are those boys picking on you? Smile, it’s a compliment.

The exploration of female rage and the constant pressure to subvert that anger is what inspired me to choose this play. The fact that such themes were present close to 40 years ago (1983) AND STILL ARE TODAY shocks me. And angers me. Why should we feel the need to walk around numb and zombified? And what steps do we need to take to appreciate our anger and let it out, rather than keep it in and let it fester to violence?

However, I also have to say that another huge plus of this play is just how witty and irreverently Craviotto has written her characters. All three have such humanity to them and their rapport with each other is hilariously exceptional. You feel for each one of them.

I had a blast working on this project with my wonderful actors and advisor. I hope you all enjoy this darkly hilarious and witty show and laugh your socks off!

Enjoy!

Olivia Kiefer
Director of Pizza Man