kitchen sink drama
emily feldman

commissioned by two river theater for play-at-home

cast:
4 humans

characters:
DOG
CHILD
MOM
DAD
Sometime after dinner, a child and a dog are hanging out on the floor near the kitchen.

DOG
How did Mom and Dad meet?

CHILD
Oh, they met on a blind date.

DOG
What’s a blind date?

CHILD
You wear a blindfold and go on a date.

DOG
I don’t think that’s right.

CHILD
Yeah.
It doesn’t seem completely right to me either.

DOG
She told me about it, but now I can’t remember.

CHILD
Remember!

DOG
I can’t remember.

CHILD
Why can’t you remember?

DOG
I have a limited episodic memory.

CHILD
What’s a limited episodic memory?

DOG
When I think of the past, it doesn’t bring back so many memories.

CHILD
That’s okay. It’s better to live in the present anyway.

DOG
That’s right.
CHILD
Do you remember meeting me for the first time?

DOG
…No.

CHILD
Do you remember catching the squirrel and then bringing the dead squirrel into the house and chewing on it because Mom thought it was the toy squirrel but it was the real squirrel?

DOG
Yep.

CHILD
You remember that, but you don’t remember meeting me?

DOG
Yep.

CHILD
I’m offended about that. But, I can’t tell if my emotions are real or if I’m just sensitive right now.

DOG
I’ll always remember you as a person, though. I think.

CHILD
Are you just saying that?

DOG
I can’t make any promises, but my associative memory is pretty good and I associate you with pretty good stuff. I can remember things if they feel really good or there’s food involved…

CHILD
Do you remember when Mom and Dad had a party for the Super Bowl even though they never watch football and didn’t even have the sound on at all and you ate a whole wheel of cheese from the coffee table and nobody stopped you because they were drunk and not paying attention?

DOG
I do. Yes. I do. And that’s when Mom told the story of how Mom and Dad met on the blind date!… you were there too!

CHILD
…Oh yeah.

DOG
You’re giving me all this grief about how I don’t remember, and why don’t I remember? And you were there the whole time with your six different types of very good memory!
CHILD
I guess I wasn’t listening…
I think I was playing on my phone.
I feel bad.
I feel like I missed important stuff because I was busy doing unimportant stuff.
I feel bad.

DOG
Ask Mom to tell it again.

CHILD
What if it’s not as good as the other time.

DOG
It’s better than nothing.

CHILD
MOM!
MOM!!!!!
MOM!

MOM from somewhere else:

MOM
WHAT?

CHILD
HOW DID YOU AND DAD MEET?

MOM
ON A BLIND DATE!

CHILD
WHAT’S A BLIND DATE?

MOM
IT’S WHEN YOU DON’T KNOW THE PERSON YOU’RE DATING!

CHILD
THEN WHY DO YOU DATE THEM?

MOM
JUST GIVE ME A SECOND I’M ON THE PHONE WITH YOUR GRANDMOTHER!

DOG
She’s coming.

MOM Arrives.
MOM
What’s up?

CHILD
How did you and Dad meet on a blind date?

MOM
Well. It was whatever year it was… and I was living in Binghamton and your Dad was living in College Park and we met at the Plaza Hotel in New York, which used to be a lot better than it is now. They had this great brunch. I don’t think they have it anymore, of course. I don’t know why we met for brunch.

DOG
No mention of any blindfolds.

MOM
I actually don’t know why we met at the Plaza Hotel. Actually I do know why. I told him to pick somewhere in New York, because it was easier than either of us schlepping to wherever, and he didn’t actually know New York at all but he knew the Plaza because… he just did.

CHILD
Maybe because of Eloise.

MOM
I don’t know if Dad read Eloise. Possibly. Yeah you’re right, possibly because of Eloise. Anyway. We decided to meet for brunch at the Oak Room at the Plaza Hotel. And I took the train in from Binghamton and I’m waiting outside the hotel…And a cab pulls up. And this absolutely stunning man gets out. He was wearing a purple polo shirt and he was tall and broad-shouldered and had the sweetest half-grin on his face. And I just knew: this is the man I’m going to marry. I just had a feeling.

DOG
That’s cute.

MOM
So I walked up to this guy and I said: Are you, Jayson? And he said: Nope. And he walked down the block and I never saw him again…Then your father showed up. Late. Of course. I remember what he ordered. Orange juice and a bagel with salmon and cream cheese…

DOG
Yum.

CHILD
He doesn’t eat cream cheese.
Dad arrives.

DAD
You skipped a part!

MOM
What part did I skip?

DAD
You switched the table.

MOM
I did?

DAD
Of course you did!

MOM
I guess I was preparing you for the rest of your life.

DAD
I was horrified then and I've been horrified every other time since.

MOM
Who wants to have a fateful blind date sitting next to the bathroom?

DAD
You were lucky I didn’t get back on the train before we sat down!

MOM
It turned out pretty okay for you, I’d say.

CHILD
Is that the end of the blind date?

MOM
Yeah. We had brunch and then we got married like three or four months later.

CHILD
But you didn’t even know each other?

DAD
We talked on the phone.
We had talked on the phone a lot before that lunch.

MOM
We probably didn’t spend more than two weekends together, right?
I think I went down to Maryland once. We were crazy.
DAD
Yeah, if I’d had time to meet my mother-in-law, *(to child)* you probably wouldn’t be here.

MOM
Hey! Lay off my mother for right now. Jesus. With everything she’s dealing with.

DAD
I was being funny!

MOM
It wasn’t funny to me!

DAD
*(to child)* Was I being funny?

DOG
We have no comment at this time!

CHILD
No comments!

MOM
Did you reach the plumber?

DAD
I think they’re really busy. But it’s not going to leak anymore.

MOM
So we don’t need the plumber?

DAD
No. You just have to use the left sink.

MOM
What do you mean?

DAD
Here, look—

MOM
There’s a leak on the right.

DAD
Look.
This is the garbage disposal. This garbage disposal goes through the U-shaped pipe down through that white pipe and down to the basement.
MOM
So? What do you want from me?

DAD
This is a separate sink. This is for this sink. This is for the right sink.

MOM
So, you’re saying, now we’re not going to have a leak?

DAD
That’s correct. You can run that all day and we’re not going to have a leak.

MOM
Because it goes down the other side.

DAD
The right sink goes here. See?

MOM
Well, there’s a leak on the right.

DAD
That’s the hot water, see, it says: Hot. Water. It’s running up into that. Okay?

MOM
If you’re such an expert, why don’t you just fix it?

DAD
How the— how could I fix it?

MOM
Why are you arguing at me about it?

DAD
I’m not! But you’re like arguing with me when I tell you that if you just use the left sink, there will be no leakage!

MOM
Well… We’ll see in the morning…

DAD
How are you going to see in the morning?

MOM
I’ll see if it gets dry.
DAD
Nobody is using the sink overnight, obviously it will get dry!

MOM
I’ll see if it gets dry…

DAD
It will get dry overnight.

MOM
It’s soaking wet right now, and the water was all over here, okay?

DAD
ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE!

MOM
IT WAS ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE AS WELL, OKAY?

DAD
THEN IT WOULD HAVE TO MEAN THAT TWO PIPES ARE LEAKING!

MOM
I DON’T KNOW! I’M NOT A PLUMBER!

DAD
You have to see which side is leaking.

MOM
I TOLD YOU! IT’S THE RIGHT SIDE!

DAD
Obviously… the water spread.

MOM
Then you’re right. You’re right! It’s the right side!

DAD
The other thing I can do here is…

MOM
Don’t touch a thing!
Don’t do anything!
Don’t touch anything!
Don’t turn anything off!
Okay? Just Leave it!

DAD
Well, I can’t turn anything off…
Wait!
Yes I can!
I can turn off the right sink…
Wait. Actually no. I can’t. Cause it goes into the one….

MOM
You’re lecturing at me about something you know very little about.

DAD
Viv.

MOM
You’re not fixing anything. So, we’re still waiting for a plumber.

DAD
I’m not saying we’re not waiting for a plumber.
I’m just saying that as long as you don’t run any water through here, you won’t get any leakage.

MOM
Just go. Please. Just go and do something else.

DAD
It would be my pleasure.
I just want to get a cracker. Am I allowed to eat a cracker?

DOG
Cookie!

MOM
WITH A PLATE!

DAD
Anybody want to watch a movie?

MOM
Yeah. Let’s all do something together!

DAD
I saw a great movie to watch!

CHILD
No kidnapping!

DAD
I saw a bunch of great movies to watch!

MOM
No John Wick 4, 5, anything.
DAD
You guys pick. Whatever you want. In the meantime, I’m just gonna turn on—

DOG
No more MSNBC today! We’ve reached the daily limit. Please!

MOM
Why don’t you call your sister? I think she’s off tonight.

DAD
That’s exactly what I’m gonna do.

MOM
Take the dog with you. He’s all riled up about something.

DAD
Call us when you’re ready!

DOG
Hey! We did this yesterday! I remember! He walked away with crackers in his pocket and I went with him and he gave me a cracker and we fell asleep and we never watched a movie! We did this! We do this!

DAD
Yeah, he is all riled up. Maybe he needs to go o-u-t.

CHILD
I’ll take him o-u-t later.

MOM
And wipe his paws when he comes in.

DOG
No way.

CHILD
I always do!

DAD
Don’t forget this time. It rained all day.

Dad and Dog leave.

CHILD
Do you wish that the man in the purple shirt, the one who you thought was your blind date, was actually dad and dad was someone else?
MOM
No way! Are you kidding me? Never!

CHILD
Then why did you tell that part?

MOM
I don’t know. I don’t know if that even happened.

CHILD
You don’t remember?

MOM
I remember everything. I just don’t know what really happened.

CHILD
Well, which part were you wearing a blindfold for?

MOM
No comment.
...JAY!
THERE’S WATER COMING OUT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SINK!

Dad and Dog come running.

DAD
(on the phone) Gloria, hang on a second.
Where’s the water?

MOM
I didn’t touch it. I didn’t do anything.

DAD
Viv…that’s not water.

DOG
I’m sorry everyone.
I got a little excited when I remembered yesterday.
And I’m excited that we’re all right here again.
And I’m excited that we’re probably going outside now even though I already peed here.
And I’m excited that now we all remember how Mom and Dad met.
And I’m excited that she didn’t go with the man in the purple shirt.
And I’m excited that all the tiny weird things that happened, happened the way they did.
And I’m excited to forget them again tomorrow.

The end.