

in order to break up the rhythm of the device. But see what works best given the circumstances.

There's a lot of cross-talk in this play and some parts of the conversations are more important than others. Make sure to highlight the parts that are most crucial to the story. It might be helpful to identify the "A conversations" and "B conversations" throughout.

Sound and light cues should be kept to an absolute minimum. There's a moment of dancing that might require a song but that's about it for sound. Lighting may be used more often but see how little you can get away with and take it from there.

This is key: all of the actors should be on stage for the entire play. When not in a scene, they are probably sitting in an area where they are removed from the action but can also observe it—actively waiting for their moment to jump in.

PRE-SHOW:

← NO SPEAKING: You could speak, but all you need to do is gesture. ONLY mouth things if absolutely necessary!

15-minutes to curtain -- S brings W1+M2 to 4T #1
(slow progression)

-- S brings M1 to 4T #2
(10 mins)

-- S brings M2+B+G to Extra Table (5 mins)

-- S brings M3 to bar table
(2-3 mins)

-- W3 enters w/ broom
(after curtain speech)

Blue 47s = Nicky's workplace

The Harbor = Bar across the highway from Blue 47s

Mi Rancho = Chili's across town

Parque = Fancy anniversary restaurant

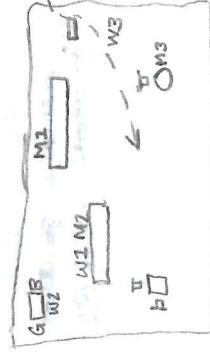
The Lodge = Community center work event

-- Four-top #1 movement

-- Four-top #2 movement

-- 2-top movement

-- Circle table movement



WOMAN #1

MAN #1

WOMAN #2

MAN #2

WOMAN #3

MAN #3

GIRL

BOY

that was awesome
what happens next?

I can tell you
but I'm gonna need to
see some more clear-
ance

W3 CHECKS HER
PHONE

MAYBE M3 IS ON
HIS PHONE THE
WHOLE TIME

Ⓢ LIGHTING
SHIFT

* Time: 2 months later *

*(SHIFT)

(SHIFT) *MAJOR energy shift *

Location: Restaurant across
the street (The Harbor)

*Also 1
week since
they last
spoke*

you want a drink?

...I sleeping
in this

so
what's up?

Honeymoon phase
is over. She sent
the last text, but
she also didn't try
to reach out either

nothing's up?
we haven't talked in a
week

so is there something
we need to talk about
now?

like
I don't know
anything
everything

(pause)
what the fuck Sam?

say it

This is
DESPERATION.
She NEEDS him
to tell her that
just say it!

This is what
she thinks he
was going to
say tonight
→ they're breaking
up. Because she
has fallen for him
and doesn't want
to be the one to
end it.

(SHIFT)

that's cool
At this point, Sam wants a real relationship
with more praise and verbal "I love you's,"
and he's sick of having to always be the
one to reach out

nothing
He is not always going to have to be the one to
start the conversation + now that she's sitting
in front of him, he just can't do it, even though
he has been practicing all week

yeah?

like what? He wants her to say what he knows
she seems to want to say

uh...
(pause) He's working up the courage to ask the questions
he has wanted to ask (i.e. trust, praise, communication)
what?

say what?

WOMAN #1

MAN #1

WOMAN #2

MAN #2

WOMAN #3

GIRL

BOY

★ THEY'VE HAD THIS CONVO EVERY OTHER WEEK

(shrugs)

"I need to do a secret plan C" this

It would actually be easier to go talk to random men in bars at this point

we're not involved but then I see you and then we are and it gets confusing

"I want to hear about YOU" about your dad
She's now trying to give him the attention he craves

you don't even like him

since when?

you don't have to like your dad

right

well you're a waste of my fucking time

forget it?

She does actually want him to say what he wants to say.

This is the final end. She's trying to protect herself

W2 Stands to check bathroom line, notices M2 has to move around to get in his line of sight



★ W3 GATHERS HER THINGS

★ W3 EXITS TO 4T#1

Time: 3 months later

Location: Restaurant across the street (The Harbor)

MAN #3

you want another (gestures)?

so then do you wanna get outta here or-?

okay

yeah well

my dad says this thing about healing how it's like

he's a smart guy

Definitely some convoluted, cryptic, strange advice

"You've gotta rub some salt in the wound" OR "If it's good, you work for it, and you figure it out."

yeah I do

He has complicated feelings, but the "hatred" is just a Nicky interpretation

I didn't say I had to

you're drunk She is 100% NOT drunk. He's probably more drunk than her.

"Watch yourself"

okay then

...forget it

yeah

...

sounds like it's what you want

If he's not the one making the choice to break up, then he didn't actually hurt her, and maybe there's a chance for them one day.

They see each other once every other week b/c they need to be held.

Time: 2-3 years later

Location: Chili's on the outside of town ← Mi Rancho

Ages: S=27, N=27

WOMAN #1 *slowly* MAN #1

WOMAN #2 (SHIFT)

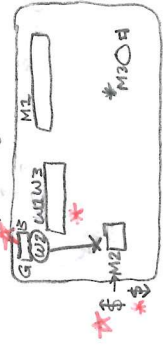
MAN #2 (SHIFT)

WOMAN #3 (SHIFT)

MAN #3 (SHIFT)

GIRL

BOY



* Slow release of the breakup AND the character

* Sam has beer, Nicky has wine

Trying to be casual -- tactical -- they both had probably already noticed each other -- She has been planning this the whole time!

It's not shocking that Nicky is in a restaurant, but that Nicky hasn't been in his life for a long time. ALSO He takes all his first dates here: has Nicky seen them?!

* uh sure

no it's okay
you uh
...you look great

thanks
you look
pretty much exactly like
yourself
which is a good thing
it's totally a good thing

a little while yeah

good I'm good
I'm uh
here with this guy

she cool?

She's looking for something long-term, but isn't finding it & isn't finding what she had with Sam. She's going through the motions of the "chase," but what she genuinely is starting to want is security & commitment

I mean I'm not here with a guy I'm uh
Internalized homophobia...? Avoid this!
"Oops, said the wrong pronoun" b/c mirroring language

yeah
she's great
she's very um
peeing
she's peeing
what about your uh

It's difficult to describe your new person to someone you once loved
Also can't figure out how to describe her (blanking)
Sam is also trying to actually date and find something long-term

good

WOMAN #1

MAN #1

WOMAN #2

MAN #2

WOMAN #3

MAN #3

GIRL

BOY

that's uh great
I'm really happy for you
(smiles)

(smiles)

(pause)

With the confidence [you wanna get out of
of "What're you doing here?
later? We should go
get drinks!"

this guy sucks

oh

it's okay
I get it

chivalry

yeah something like
that

she sucks okay? [She doesn't actually suck, she just sucks in comparison to Nicky

she sucks
but she's nice so I feel
like I should prob-
ably...

not be an asshole
which I believe is the
last thing you called me

...but um
maybe
later tonight
you and I can uh

A little bit people-pleaser, "how do
I fit you into my schedule?"

(SHIFT) * GRASS * MONIE'S
HEX THINGS

hey

no I just got here

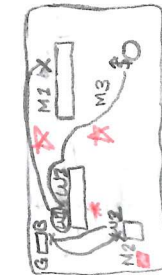
did you order?

you look um
awesome as always

Time: 1 week later
random mid-week
meet up (Tuesday)

Location: Blue 47s

11



M2 PICKS UP MENU TO
CHEAT OUT TO AUDIENCE

WOMAN #1

MAN #1

Maternity leave
& never went
back to full
time?

WOMAN #2

[let us live with her
until I can find a job]

MAN #2

no
no

WOMAN #3

Nicole
look at me

MAN #3

GIRL

BOY

I've made up my
mind, Sam

no

no

I won't

I

I'm miserable, Sam
miserable!

no

I will not-

Caused by ←
unhealthy
eating habits
and a slow
decline in
exercise (he
eats what he
wants!).

(CLANG)

(unknownst to everyone
else, M#1 (as ROBERT)
is served a big plate of
food. it's heavy. it makes
a big clang sound when
it hits the table. the clang
shakes the table. he begins
to eat his food. everyone
else at the table notices

him eating. they stop what
they're doing. they avert
each other's eyes. no one
looks at M#1. he doesn't
care. he keeps eating. he
takes his time. he leaves
the table when he's fin-
ished.)

People not at
their table
can notice
the server+
food, but they
don't know
M1 is dying

(SHIFT)

(long, long pause)

(SHIFT)

(long, long pause)

(SHIFT)

(long, long pause)

(SHIFT)

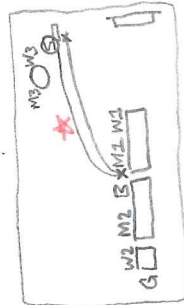
(long, long pause)

(SHIFT)

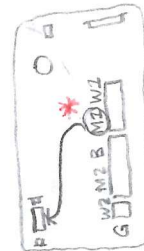
(long, long pause)

(SHIFT)

(long, long pause)



SERVER ENTERS
WITH FOOD, DROPS
IT OFF, WALKS BACK
TO HOST STAND



M1 STANDS, WALKS
TO ADDITIONAL
SEATING, SITS ALONE

THE BIG L

WOMAN #1

MAN #1

WOMAN #2

MAN #2

WOMAN #3

MAN #3

GIRL

BOY

doing something fun tonight

Jennifer's mom let her go and Robbie's lying look at him he's a liar

(victorious) thanks guys gotta go

(gathers his stuff)

this isn't about Robbie

that's a first] She has become accustomed to being second priority

is the attitude really necessary? there's one car and two of you what are we supposed to do?

W3 SLOWLY WALKS TO 21, SITS IN G's SEAT RELUCTANTLY*

I'm gonna be late later Maddie (he exits)

be careful! "Fine, whatever, you can take the car."

yeah great don't die k? cool I like you so much *

Live in this moment -- w2+m2 can relax back into dinner, w3 wants to be elsewhere

(pause) (he turns to NICOLE) hey did they raise the price on this sampler platter?

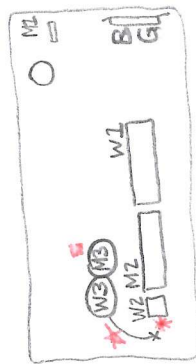
It's "stuck" now instead of just "with" -- Losing precious hours of time

Boring old people lol [huh that's a drag

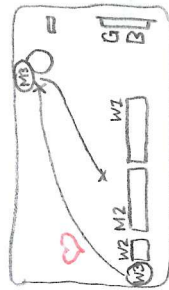
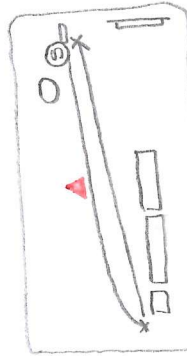
(rolls her eyes. jiggles her leg. grunts.)

SERVER BRINGS TWO MENUS, FLUSTERED, GIVES BOTH TO W3, WALKS BACK TO HOST STAND

W3 STANDS, WALKS TO BAR TABLE, DRAGS M2 BACK TO W2+M2, W3+M3 SIT SHE BRINGS THE MENUS



M3 EXITS BACK TO BAR TABLE & SUBTLY CHANGES CHARACTERS



BOY

GIRL

MAN #3

WOMAN #3

MAN #2

WOMAN #2

MAN #1

WOMAN #1

nothing wrong with it
it's just-

I love her

you-?
okay
sure

you love her
and that's
that is real
to you
right now
at this age
but

Robbie needs
to do this
for the union
& security,
not for the
temporary
reality of love
and family.

yeah
it is

no at any age
it's real
this is what I want

(SHIFT) ★
(she clicks a glass)

sure
of course sure
but

Robbie [He doesn't
want his son
to make the
same "mistake"]
excuse me!
hil
excuse me!

(SHIFT)

um hi
so
Robbie and I have a
little announcement

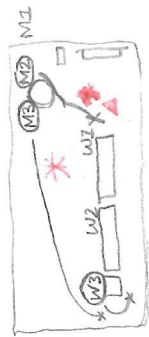
announcement?

W3 WALKS

DS OF TABLE

EVERYONE

ELSE STANDS



M3+M2 WALK BACK TO
TABLE, STAY STANDING

SERVICES ENTER, MOVE

HT #2 TO SL CHAIRS

SCATTERED

how wonderful!
how absolutely
wonderful!

oh honey!
that's great!
that's so great!

wow that is very...
wow

thanks
thank you

go ahead

okayokayokay... When you know you know
WE'RE ENGAGED!

(and the drinks start flowing...)

(34) T: Soon after

L: Parrye -- Planned by R&S

A: S=49; N=49
R=22; S=20

A=72

THE BIG

WOMAN #1	MAN #1	WOMAN #2	MAN #2	WOMAN #3	MAN #3	GIRL	BOY
a wedding! I love weddings!		(hugs her) welcome welcome to the family!		(she runs over to the ladies)		♥ ALL STAND, MOVE DS * SERVERS MOVE 4T#1 US, CHAIRS SCATTERED, PLACE W3 VEIL TABLES MOVED * * SIMULTANEOUSLY, ONE BY EACH SERVER	

mom?
wow!
I guess I kinda am
yeah go for it!

hey I uh thought we
were gonna talk about
this some more, buddy

thanks
um
mom
is that okay?
can I call you mom?

why?
I've made up my mind

He really does think he knows what love is

of course you have
I just want you to
know that I'm always
here to help you make
your own decisions

He wants nothing
but the best for his
son and expects him
to be smarter than
this and actually
listen to advice.

dad
I'm getting married

oh I love this girl
don't you love this girl,
Sami?
she's very nice

she's the love of my life

we don't know yet
but we're thinking
maybe Valentine's Day

wow!

Valentine's Day!

that is definitely a
romantic day

TABLES SHOULD HOPEFULLY
BE SET BY NOW

M1 STANDS, CROSSES TO HOST
★ STAND, RECEIVES A COUPE GLASS

BOY

GIRL

MAN #3

WOMAN #3

MAN #2

WOMAN #2

MAN #1

WOMAN #1

one of the best people
the world has ever
known
Her world was
very small

Beat/Pivot:
This isn't
about me,
this is
about you

These have also
become a form of
journaling for her

and these letters are
addressed to my hus-
band and I talk to him
and I tell him how

much I miss him I tell
him what's happening

in your lives and the
baseball scores and the
state of the yard and I
tell him how glad I'll be
to see him

and I've told him how
he has a great grand-
child on his way to
meet him there and

how though none of
us ever met him he is
a very curious person
a very kind person and
they will have lots to
talk about

oh my husband will
have lots to tell your
son

so don't be sad
He's still sad, it's not working,
he's not doing anything. Lots
of tactic shifts here.

I was sad for a long
time but if you just get
a little envelope and
talk to him it'll make
you feel so much better
why just try now just try

writing to him now
just write right here
say hello

die too
they'll
grieve or
over-re-
sponses
give them
let them
She can't
be happy
he won't be
happy

Little joke: Robert
was such a yapper

Beat: she eats her
words

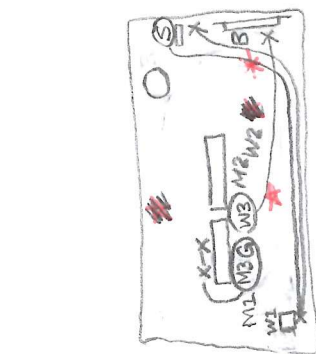
Uplifting tone: you
guys matter too

W3 EXITS TO THE BENCH

S ENTERS WITH FOOD
FOR W1, CROSSES SLOWLY

M3 + G SIT AT UT #1, so she doesn't
have to hear the
bad things about
Robert

BRING CHAIRS AROUND



WOMAN #1 MAN #1 WOMAN #2 MAN #2 WOMAN #3 MAN #3 GIRL BOY

M2 LOOSE HAND, ENGAGED FOREARM

M2 LEAN IN + STEP FORWARD + KNEEL DOWN

M3 LEAN TORSO IN

he's drunk
you're drunk
They're just embarrassed by both men at this point -- we can sling mean words at each other, but we do NOT put our hands on each other

this is unacceptable absolutely unacceptable

He's not worth the energy of a physical fight

He's boiling over & has lost his filter--he's projecting

(he lets go of SAMMY'S arm)

you know it's no wonder your father left

dad come on he's just being a brat

interesting that this is put on Sammy, not Maddie

jesus christ Rob The ONLY person offended by Rob's comment

W2 CROSSES TO

US 4T #1 NEXT

TO M3, FACES M2

Just trying to diffuse the situation, but also trying to emotionally help Maddie's (a little bit) get rid of Sammy

maybe Sammy should stay with Darius for a while Jasper

Literally all that would happen is McDonalds & violent movies & video games if Sammy lived with Jasper

no! no! I don't need you no

hey

hey

leave him alone

(to SAMMY)

don't you dare say

another word

god Maddie you have no idea how to handle anything do you?

(there are people watching)

look at what you're doing to your mother

Trying so hard to speak the truth (to entitlement)

you think this has been easy on her?

yeah leave me alone

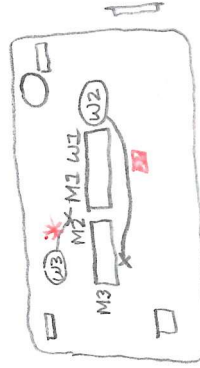
(zip the lip motion)

seriously?
is that supposed to hurt my feelings?

whoa (laughs)
people are looking I mean you are totally embarrassing yourself

W3 LOOKS TO M2
grow some tits Jackie He is a little bit jealous of her & definitely looks up to her a bit

W3 STANDS, * CROSSES TO USL OF M2



WOMAN #1

MAN #1

WOMAN #2

MAN #2

WOMAN #3

MAN #3

GIRL

BOY

we're right here

♥ W2 TURNS TO M3

look at me

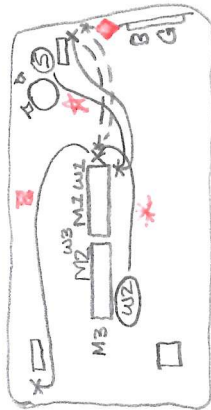
(she turns to her

son)

★ Sammy...] Only gets a
second to
think about
the big picture"Omg he's not gonna
have anybody." "Omg
I'm leaving him alone." oh!
oh!

mom?

CLANG

♦ S ENTERS TO CLEAR FOOD
AS SOON AS W2 STANDS★ MADDIE is served a
giant plate of hot
food on a heavy plate. she
eats and
eats. she exits when
finished. ♦★ S ENTERS WITH FOOD, EXITS★ W2 CROSSES BACK LT #2,
SITS TO EAT★ W2 EXITS TO EXTRA TABLE

(SHIFT)

(SHIFT)

(SHIFT)

(SHIFT)

(SHIFT)

(SHIFT)

(46)

T: 1 Year Later

L: The Void

A: S=T2, N=T2
R=42, J=18
S=16▲ ALL SLOWLY
SIT, M2 SITS
IMMEDIATELYmom?
mom?He is becoming
undone. There is
no next step. He
doesn't even know
how to take the
next breath.

(shattered)

(he takes NICOLE'S
hand.)] He has ALWAYS
been able to rely
on her after death(shattered)
Maddie...

(deeply shaken)

...no
...god
...no