

PERUSAL SCRIPT

PIZZA AND A MOVIE

A Short Play
(from the play “Peculiarities”)

by
Eric Samuelson



Newport, Maine

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PIZZA AND A MOVIE

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PECULIARITIES by Eric Samuelsen. 5w 3m. *Peculiarities* is an exploration of LDS attitudes toward sexuality, in particular situations in which moral rigidity and sexuality collide in Mormon culture. A collection of 4 plays **TAHOE**, **PIZZA AND A MOVIE**, **NCMO** and **TEMPS** (plus two adjunct plays developed later and available separately) **KISS**, and **BISHOP!** *Peculiarities* interweaves the 4 plays together, however, they are also available as separately, through-plotted Short Plays. **ORDER #2091**

Tahoe — Two BYU students go to Nevada to get civilly married for a weekend so they can see what sex is like. The play takes place in Ted's car while he and Kendra are traveling back to Utah from a weekend in Tahoe. **ORDER #2092**

Pizza and a Movie — Two roommates, Carlene and Courtney, spend an evening watching questionable content, wondering about men, and eating pizza in their BYU-approved housing apartment in Provo, Utah. **ORDER #2093**

NCMO — The play takes place inside a BYU-approved housing apartment in Provo, Utah where Kim and Trent ... **ORDER #2094**

Temps — Each has been dating someone else, but due to a situation where they work, they are now inside Jason's car on their way to.... **ORDER #2095**

(KISS #2096, Bishop! #2097) no longer included in *Peculiarities*.

Eric Samuelsen taught at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio before joining the faculty at Brigham Young University in 1992. He became head of the Playwriting program at BYU in 1999. He has also taught as an adjunct faculty member in the Religion department. He retired from BYU in 2012.

As a playwright, Samuelsen has had twenty-seven plays professionally produced in Utah, Indiana, Louisiana, New York, and California. Some of his plays include *Gadianton*, which has seen three professional productions across the country, *A Love Affair with Electrons*, *Family*, *The Plan*, and *The Way We're Wired*. He is resident playwright at Plan-B Theatre Company in Salt Lake City, who designated their 2013-14 season a 'Season of Eric', including productions of six of his plays.

He is a member of the Playwrights' Circle, and the Dramatists Guild. He is three-time winner of the Annual Award in Playwriting offered by the Association for Mormon Letters (AML) and he became president of AML in 2007. In 2013 the organization awarded him the Smith Pettit Award for his lifetime work as a playwright.

He has been a staff writer for the on-line satirical magazine *The Sugarbeet*. He was also featured in the book *Conversations with Mormon Authors*, edited by Chris Bigelow. He is a noted Ibsen translator, and has also published scholarly articles on 19th and 20th century Scandinavian Theatre, and more recently, on LDS drama and film. He blogged at Mormoniconoclast.com. Eric died in September of 2019 after a long battle with polymyositis. This has left a huge hole in the Theatre Community within, and outside of, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Peculiarities was first produced in 2001, in Springville, at the Springville Playhouse. Tony Gunn directed.

Kendra was played by *Sarah Ratliff*

Ted was played by *Ben Sampson*

Carlene was played by *Shelley Burton*

Courtney was played by *Sarah Nielsen*

Trent was played by *Jesse Harward*

Kim was played by *Susanna Florence*

Alexis was played by *Diane Rane*

Jason was played by *Jeremy Selim*

In 2005, *Plan B Theatre* in Salt Lake City did a production, again called *Peculiarities*, but it only included three of the stories: Tahoe, Temps, and Kiss. (not included here) The three in cars. Directed by Jerry Rapiere. Later filmed. Here it is on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3jfgsYE0IY>

CAST OF CHARACTERS

TAHOE

KENDRA (*BYU co-ed, early twenties*)

TED (*BYU student, early twenties*)

PIZZA AND A MOVIE

CARLENE (*BYU co-ed, early twenties*)

COURTNEY (*BYU co-ed, early twenties*)

NCMO*

KIM (*BYU co-ed, early twenties, single*)

TRENT (*BYU student, Returned missionary, early twenties, single*)

TEMPS

ALEXIS (*Mid-20s. married*)

JASON (*Mid-20s, single*)

*** (*non-committal make-out*)**

Each play is also available as a separate Short Play , and able to be produced independently including KISS and BISHOP!

PIZZA AND A MOVIE

SCENE ONE

(BYU Approved house apartment in Provo, Utah. Lights up on CARLENE and COURTNEY, in the kitchen, eating pizza. Laughter.)

CARLENE: Okay, so by then she's about to die. You know? I mean, she has to go so bad she's almost hopping up and down right there in the car seat.

COURTNEY: *(Laughing.)* I can just see it.

CARLENE: And see, the thing is she really likes the guy. That's what makes it so horrible; first date, so she can't, like, say 'excuse me, I have to go.' Right? But she also doesn't want to cut the evening short either. And then he goes 'let's go for a ride up the canyon.' And she's all 'okay.' Like, teeth clenched.

COURTNEY: *(Hooting.)* Oh NO!

CARLENE: So they go for the ride up the canyon, right? And the thing is, they're having this great conversation and all, that's the worst of it, because half of her is dying, and the other half is having this terrific date and all. So FINALLY, he says to her, 'listen, I'd better get you home.'

COURTNEY: Okay, so he takes her home.

CARLENE: And she's like, 'okay, can I hold it for ten more seconds.' I mean, she's bursting, she told me. And then, he goes around, opens the door for her, a real gentleman, and she's so impressed, but also wants to, like, Olympic sprint into the house.

COURTNEY: Right.

CARLENE: He walks her up to the apartment. Slowly. And he's so nice, and he's funny and he's thoughtful; that's what makes it so horrible. They get to the porch. And he wants to STAND and TALK! Okay? And she's in agony.

COURTNEY: This is so amazing.

CARLENE: So finally, finally she gets the door open, and he says goodnight, and he starts to walk back to the car, and she's like, okay, ten more seconds, ten more seconds. And then he turns around again, and he says "oh, one more thing." And she turns to him. And he kisses her. Right there on the porch. The shock, the surprise. And she loses it. I mean WHOOSH. Right there on the porch.

COURTNEY: Oh my gosh!

CARLENE: I mean, soaked. Everywhere.

COURTNEY: Oh my gosh. Oh, the poor girl.

CARLENE: True story.

COURTNEY: And this was your old roommate?

CARLENE: My old roommate's sister.

COURTNEY: So, what happened?

CARLENE: Six months later, they were engaged. I mean, if their relationship could survive that. . . .

COURTNEY: That is hysterical!

(They laugh.)

CARLENE: True story. I swear.

COURTNEY: You're right though. If their relationship could survive *that*.

CARLENE: Totally.

COURTNEY: (*Having another piece of pizza.*) Okay, one more piece.

CARLENE: You were gonna stop at the last one.

COURTNEY: So I lied.

(*They laugh. CARLENE has another piece of pizza too.*)

CARLENE: I swear, I love ham and pineapple. You can't even get it back in KC.

COURTNEY: Really? We got it.

CARLENE: Well, Seattle. I mean, that's practically west coast.

COURTNEY: It is on the west coast, doofus.

CARLENE: You know what I mean. The closer you are to Hawaii--

COURTNEY: I mean, you can see the ocean from our house.

CARLENE: You know what I mean.

COURTNEY: I guess. What time is it, anyway?

CARLENE: Eight thirty.

COURTNEY: (*Tempting her.*) You know what's on at nine?

CARLENE: What? Oh no.

COURTNEY: MTV's DisMissed.

CARLENE: No. No no no no no--

COURTNEY: Come on. You know you want to.

CARLENE: That show is so gross.

COURTNEY: We both saw the preview and we both thought that guy was hot.

CARLENE: I'm not listening.

COURTNEY: Come on. Humiliating personal rejection on national TV, what's not to like?

CARLENE: I hate that show.

COURTNEY: Don't give me that, you love it, you know you do.

CARLENE: I don't.

COURTNEY: Plus this is the one where the guy gets naked doing karaoke.

CARLENE: All these no-morals losers--

COURTNEY: Who we're supposed to laugh at.

CARLENE: No. Seriously. I don't want to watch it.

COURTNEY: Come on. It's healthy. It's, like, educational.

CARLENE: Educational.

COURTNEY: It tells us a great deal about relationships.

CARLENE: Well, you can watch it.

COURTNEY: It's more fun with someone.

CARLENE: I'm just gonna read my book.

COURTNEY: Carlene. Please.

CARLENE: No.

COURTNEY: Please?

CARLENE: Look, okay, but the first girl talks about how she's bi, we're turning it right off.

COURTNEY: Oh yeah. Ick.

(CARLENE has another piece of pizza. COURTNEY watches her, has one too.)

CARLENE: I wonder how those guys are doing.

COURTNEY: What, Brittany and Todd? Climbing all over each other, of course.

CARLENE: Two weeks to the wedding. I don't think they're gonna make it.

COURTNEY: She had to see the Bishop last Sunday.

CARLENE: No!

COURTNEY: Oh, yeah.

CARLENE: I didn't know that.

COURTNEY: Allison told me. She had an appointment and Brittany was coming out as she went in.

CARLENE: Well, that's none of our business.

COURTNEY: Hey, how much of a surprise is it? You see 'em. Right here on this sofa 'til past midnight.

CARLENE: Oh, I know.

COURTNEY: You ever see his face?

CARLENE: Who, Todd? He's dating my roommate, of course I know his—

COURTNEY: No, I mean, while they're, you know. Like they do.

CARLENE: Hi, like I watch 'em?

COURTNEY: It gets all red.

CARLENE: What are you talking about?

COURTNEY: His face. I came in the other night to get a drink of water, I mean they were really, I mean, like, tongues and stuff.

CARLENE: Gross.

COURTNEY: And he, like, looks over the top of the sofa at me. His face was, like, totally red.

CARLENE: Do you think that's . . . you know.

COURTNEY: Well—

CARLENE: Part of it. Like, blood flow or something? His face getting all red?

COURTNEY: All I know is, he was holding this pillow in front of himself. A BIG pillow.

CARLENE: *(Whapping her.)* Courtney!

(They laugh.)

No, actually, though, I meant those other guys. Erin and Lynda and those guys from 2A.

COURTNEY: Group date. It's better than nothing.

CARLENE: It's just . . . that guy, what's his name, Mitch something.

COURTNEY: Sweeney?

CARLENE: Yeah, him. He was going.

COURTNEY: There were like ten of 'em.

CARLENE: Well. Erin really likes him.

COURTNEY: It's just a group thing. Movies 8.

CARLENE: It's a start.

COURTNEY: I guess. You coulda gone.

CARLENE: I wasn't invited.

COURTNEY: It was a group thing. Informal.

CARLENE: No. Look. They came over.

COURTNEY: I know.

CARLENE: They go, 'hey, we're going to Movies 8. Erin, Lynda, you guys wanna come?'

COURTNEY: 'You guys' inclusive. 'You guys' as in, all you guys in the apartment.

CARLENE: No, 'you guys' as in Erin and Lynda.

COURTNEY: You coulda gone. No one woulda thought anything of it.

CARLENE: I didn't feel right about it.

COURTNEY: Okay.

(Pause.)

CARLENE: You coulda gone.

COURTNEY: Me? No.

CARLENE: Seriously, you could have.

COURTNEY: I saw it.

CARLENE: What?

COURTNEY: That they were going to see. With what's-his-name.

CARLENE: Oh.

COURTNEY: So instead we watch DisMissed.

CARLENE: Yeah, 'who's she gonna sleep with, big suspense.'

COURTNEY: It's educational. Think of it that way.

CARLENE: Whatever.

SCENE TWO

(COURTNEY and CARLA are watching television.)

CARLENE: I would just die.

COURTNEY: Hey, that's the way it works. They do that time out thing and that's the cue to start making out.

CARLENE: I would just *die*.

COURTNEY: She coulda stopped before he came back in. See, she *wants* him to know.

CARLENE: He looked like he was going to cry.

COURTNEY: He's fine, he's cool about it.

CARLENE: He's the only one who looks like a halfway decent . . . really, let's not watch this any more.

COURTNEY: No, I wanna see who she chooses.

CARLENE: You know who she's gonna choose. Cleft chin guy.

COURTNEY: Come on, five minutes.

CARLENE: Shallow airhead like her, you know she's gonna—

COURTNEY: Sh sh, look what they're . . . aaaaaannnnddd the tongues come out.

CARLENE: Gross.

COURTNEY: Yeah, like you'd know.

CARLENE: I don't have to watch it.

(She does for awhile.)

It's like showering in a sewer.

COURTNEY: Five more minutes and then they announce.

(A pause.)

CARLENE: You know, it's so dumb.

COURTNEY: What do you mean?

CARLENE: Well, these people, they don't need to be on this show to meet someone, right? They're all the type who can meet people if they want to.

COURTNEY: Because they sleep around.

CARLENE: It's not just that. They *can* sleep around because they've got no problem finding people to sleep around *with*.

COURTNEY: Well, duh. "Hi, I want to fool around, who wants to go out with me?"

CARLENE: I'm not talking about that.

COURTNEY: Yes you are. And I'm saying, if you want to be a slut, you'll have no problem finding someone who—

CARLENE: No, that's not what I'm saying. I mean, okay, up to a point. But it's more a confidence thing. They've got confidence.

COURTNEY: Okay.

CARLENE: That girl, look at her. She knows guys are gonna want her. She just knows it. And they do. And she's not even that cute.

COURTNEY: She's cute.

CARLENE: Cute, okay. But also kind of a big butt, and . . . you know what I mean.

(Pause.)

She's not afraid. Guys *have* wanted her, so she figures they always *will*.

COURTNEY: I'm not afraid of anything.

CARLENE: 'Fear of intimacy.' 'Self-esteem.' That's so bogus.

(Pause.)

If you're a girl guys hit on, then you know that and you can expect to be hit on, you can live your life that way. Whereas—

COURTNEY: I hate these Old Navy commercials.

CARLENE: You know what I mean?

COURTNEY: Sure.

CARLENE: *(Getting up.)* You want some more pizza?

COURTNEY: One more.

CARLENE: Okay, and there she is now with the other one! I would just die.

(Slow BLACKOUT)

SCENE THREE

CARLENE: Okay, I'm not watching this anymore.

COURTNEY: Okay. . . .

CARLENE: I mean, they're in front of a camera, they know everything they do is, like, being broadcast.

COURTNEY: Of course they know.

CARLENE: How is this different from porn? Okay, they're just making out, but really. Can we turn it off?

COURTNEY: Can I just mute it?

CARLENE: I don't want to wat—

COURTNEY: Mute and surf? They got “Dinner and a Movie” on USA.

CARLENE: If you want to.

COURTNEY: Okay.

CARLENE: I just . . . I feel like I'm rubbernecking at a car wreck or something.

COURTNEY: No, I know, it's okay. Oh, look, it's “Road House.” Patrick Swayze.

CARLENE: He was so good in “Dirty Dancing.”

COURTNEY: So this is okay?

CARLENE: I guess.

(Pause.)

Hey Courtney?

COURTNEY: Yeah?

CARLENE: Okay, the naked karaoke thing. They sorta blurred it all, right?

COURTNEY: Unfortunately.

CARLENE: I was just . . . Did you ever . . . have you ever seen a . . . a . . .

COURTNEY: What?

CARLENE: A guy's

COURTNEY: No! Well, sort of. I mean, my little brother, when I used to change him.

CARLENE: Okay, I've seen little kids. And, like, statues. But I mean. . . . you know.

COURTNEY: Plus that movie that one time. Room with a View. It had that one scene—

CARLENE: Okay, that—

COURTNEY: But a real one, live? Is that what you're asking?

CARLENE: I mean, they get bigger. Right?

COURTNEY: Well of course they get b—

CARLENE: That's what I mean.

(Pause.)

Did you?

COURTNEY: Oh, man, this is the big fight scene. Oh, that musta hurt.

CARLENE: I mean, for real.

COURTNEY: What?

CARLENE: Have you ever seen one?

COURTNEY: I told you, my little bro—

CARLENE: Never mind.

COURTNEY: Pool cue across the head. I wonder how they do that.

(COURTNEY watches. CARLENE watches her watching.)

5 MORE PAGES TO THE END