

FINGER FOOD

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A short play  
by  
Dean Lundquist

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CONTACT:

Dean Lundquist  
88 Sophia Road #03-01  
Singapore, 228188  
Phone +(65) 9825 0765

233 Menlo Park Ave.  
Ventura, CA, USA 93004  
(805) 647-2858  
dean@deanlundquist.com  
dean.lundquist@gmail.com

Represented in the USA by:  
Julianna Shapiro  
24411 Ramada Court  
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677  
(949) 374-3799  
julianna@pcsynergy.com

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MEMBER

Dean Lundquist is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America, Inc.

## **FINGER FOOD**

### **CHARACTERS**

MR. FORK

An optimistic eating utensil. (Male)

LITTLE MISS SPOON

A rather fatalistic eating utensil. (Female)

### **TIME**

The Present.

### **PLACE**

A diner.

NOTE: This play requires no special props or set pieces.

## FINGER FOOD

A diner. Music suggestion: *Overture* from *Oliver*. SPOON and FORK are looking at the patrons in great anticipation.

SPOON

I didn't hear. What did she order?

FORK

Chicken nuggets.

SPOON

Damn!

FORK

Lighten up, will ya. Gotta keep your shine on.

SPOON

Easy for you to say.

FORK

What?

SPOON

Remember when they used to serve ice cream in a *bowl*?

FORK

Yeah.

SPOON

We didn't even see it coming and then: BAM!

FORK

The ice cream cone!

SPOON

The ice cream cone!

SPOON

The bane of all spoons.

FORK

We just have to be patient. Besides, I think you've got better prospects than I do.

SPOON

What do you mean?

FORK

I mean you could always re-train and go into measurement!

SPOON

Oh...

FORK

It's not as if I am going to run into a miniature devil looking for a replacement for his pitch fork.

SPOON

I had a cousin who was in prison.

FORK

Really?

SPOON

Yeah. Some convict used him to try and tunnel his way out. Wore him down into a twisted metal nub. Never was the same...

FORK

Sad.

SPOON

Then there was this psychic guy. Uri Geller. We called him "The Demonic Bender". The holocaust of '73--bent over half a million spoons. Started a whole spoon-bending craze! Didn't know if we were going to survive.

FORK

Wait. Look over there.

SPOON

Which one?

FORK

The chunky guy in the blue shirt. C'mon buddy.

SPOON

Soup!

FORK

Or salad!

SPOON

Soup!

FORK

Or salad!

SPOON  
Soup!

FORK  
Or salahhdamnit!

SPOON  
I was really looking forward to bathing in a bowl of steaming hot clam chowder.

FORK  
Or sinking my tines into some lush green lettuce and a juicy tomato.

SPOON  
What did he order?

FORK  
Eggrolls. Can you believe it?

SPOON  
Well at least we aren't chopsticks.

FORK  
Yeah. Remember that sushi place that used to be next door?

SPOON  
Do I ever! One night, someone used me to scrape a plate into the garbage out back.  
That's where I saw 'em.

FORK  
In the garbage?

SPOON  
Uh-huh. Looked like hundreds of 'em. Stained with wasabi and soy sauce. All separated  
from their mates. Crisscrossed all over each other like a perverted game of pick-up sticks.

FORK  
Oh, the horror.

SPOON  
Pitiful.

FORK  
Sad. (beat) Finger food. That's the problem.

SPOON  
You said it brother.

## FORK

People used to use us all the time.

## SPOON

Now they just can't be bothered.

## FORK

As if people never heard of *etiquette*.

## SPOON

Table manners! They should print them on the place mat!

## FORK

Do not eat food with your fingers unless you are consuming food, such as bread, French fries, chicken wings, and hamburgers--

## SPOON

The fork may be used either in the American fashion:

## FORK

(in Texas accent)

Use the fork in your left hand while cutting; switch to right hand to pick up and eat a piece!

## SPOON

Or the Continental fashion:

## FORK

(in upper crust British accent)

The fork remains in the left hand at all times for dining ease and to project a refined and cultivated image.

## SPOON

Either is acceptable for conveying solid food to the mouth.

## FORK

The spoon, on the other hand, is used for conveying gelatinous or liquid food to the mouth, such as soup.

## SPOON

When you have finished eating soup, the spoon should be placed to the side of the saucer, not left in the bowl. I hate that!

## FORK

Use your silverware from the outside moving inward toward the main plate.

## SPOON

The salad fork, knife and soup spoon are further from the main plate--

## FORK

Than the main course fork, knife and spoon.

## SPOON

Dessert utensils are either placed above the main plate or served with the dessert. (they hear an angelic chorus and lift their hands to heaven)

## FORK

Well we can dream can't we?

## SPOON

Now it's as if we are an impediment to shovelling food into their mouths. (To unseen customer) I was the original shovel, buddy! Try me. You'll like me!

## FORK

Used to be that people would go out to *dine*.

## SPOON

And there were a variety of spoons to choose from: the grapefruit spoon.

## FORK

With the teeth?

## SPOON

Uh-huh. And the soup spoon, of course.

## FORK

Yep.

## SPOON

The baby spoon.

## FORK

Cootchie-cootchie-coo!

## SPOON

The honey spoon.

## FORK

Is that really a spoon?

SPOON

Well, she's kind of the black sheep of the family.

FORK

I see.

SPOON

The tablespoon, the teaspoon, the coffee spoon--

FORK

Oh, like T.S. Eliot? "I've measured out my life with coffee spoons..."

SPOON

No one does that these days. They have disposable coffee stirrers. Made from p-p-p-plastic!

FORK

Oh god! Don't start with the p-p-p-plastic!

SPOON

How do you think you'd feel if you were created knowing that you were meant to be thrown away? That you're disposable? That you're not biodegradable That you're contributing to the greenhouse effect? What kind of existence would that be? We are silverware! We are durable! We persist! We just need to be used!

FORK

Utensils unite!

SPOON

Oh! God! What are we going to do?

FORK

Hey, cheer up. Um...wanna spoon?

SPOON

You? Spoon with me? But you're not a spoon.

FORK

Okay, then. Wanna fork?

SPOON

That sounds kinky! Ok. Let's try. (SPOON stands with her back to FORK.)

FORK

This is kinda nice.



SPOON  
Oh. Yes. It is.

FORK  
You feeling better?

SPOON  
Uh huh. Rawr! Come closer spikey!

FORK  
What are you doing?

SPOON  
Nuzzle me...

FORK  
Nuzzle you?

SPOON  
That's it. Ah...

FORK  
Maybe that's enough. (He stands aside.)

SPOON  
What's wrong?

FORK  
Have you ever seen one of those half-spoon-half-forks at the chicken place? Where they use them to scoop the mashed potatoes and poke the coleslaw?

SPOON  
Oh! You mean a *spork*?

FORK  
Yes...I think that's just wrong.

SPOON  
Oh. Didn't know you felt that way about inter-cutlery relationships...

FORK  
No. No. Don't get me wrong!

SPOON

I thought when they got together the child got the best of both parents.

FORK

That's a matter of opinion—but I think it's unnatural.

SPOON

What about knives?

FORK

Knives are dangerous.

SPOON

You're one to talk.

FORK

Never trust anyone with a silent letter in their name!

SPOON

Words to live by. (Beat.) But what if a knife and a spoon got together?

FORK

I've never seen that.

SPOON

I think it's forbidden.

FORK

It's taboo for sure.

SPOON

Think of it for a sec. (They think.)

FORK

*A kni-oon?* (NAI-OON)

SPOON

*A sp-ife?*

FORK

Or a fork and a knife? (They think.)

SPOON

*A for-fe?*

FORK

A *kn-ork*? (NORK)

SPOON

Ok. Then just stay over there. Maybe we shouldn't be so close to--

FORK

Here comes one.

SPOON

Soup!

FORK

Or salad!

SPOON

Soup!

FORK

Or salad!

SPOON

Soup!

FORK

Or salad! (pause)

SPOON

Oh my god!

FORK

The waitress is coming this way!

SPOON

What did she order?

FORK

I thought I heard her say a donut?

SPOON

With coffee? Please, please, please, please....

FORK

She's getting a knife.

SPOON

A knife and fork for a donut?

FORK

Pick me! Pick me! Pick me! (The waitress picks a different fork.) She picked Freddie. Oh shucks! But see, there's hope!

SPOON

She's is using a knife and fork to eat a donut?

FORK

I've seen it before. She doesn't want to get the glaze on her fingers.

SPOON

Really?

FORK

Once I saw someone use a knife and fork to eat pizza.

SPOON

That's sacrilegious.

FORK

I think they were from Hungary.

SPOON

If they were hungry, they would've just used their fingers. (FORK glares at her)...but still.

FORK

Maybe it'll become trendy.

SPOON

We can only hope.

FORK

People who eat finger food *without* their fingers...

SPOON

That's strange.

FORK

It could be chic!

SPOON

Hmm...

FORK

It could happen!

SPOON

And then people would eat regular food *with* their fingers?

FORK

They do in some parts of the world--like India or Malaysia.

SPOON

Really? That's kind of gross.

FORK

What do you mean?

SPOON

Like if they just came back from the toilet and the water wasn't working or they ran out of soap, or if they—

FORK

Oh. They only eat with their right hand. They use the other hand for...ya know.

SPOON

Phew! That's good.

FORK

Here comes another one.

SPOON

She looks slim.

FORK

Healthy even.

SPOON

She's looking at the menu...

FORK

She's pointing to the specials board...

SPOON

Soup!

FORK

Or salad!

SPOON

Soup!

FORK

Or salad!

SPOON

Soup!

FORK

Or salad! (Pause.)

SPOON

Did she say what I thought she said?

FORK

Soup *and* salad!

SPOON

Soup *and* salad!

They do a little jig around each other.

SPOON

Here we go!

FORK

At last!

SPOON

I think I'm gonna cry.

FORK

Keep it together. Make sure you're nice and clean for the lady. No tears. No water spots. Don't want her to think you're dirty. I'll get a napkin. (He whistles off.)

SPOON

No. Sorry. Sorry. I'm just so overwhelmed. I think I'm verklempt. I thought we'd never get used again.

FORK

I told you it would happen. Let's go!

SPOON

Thanks for helping me through this.

FORK

Any time.

SPOON

See you back at the dishwasher?

FORK

Then we can take a bath together!

SPOON

Okay. But no forkin' around!

They reach up towards the heavens in anticipation of being "the chosen ones". Music: *Food, Glorious Food* from *Oliver*. Fade to black.

END.