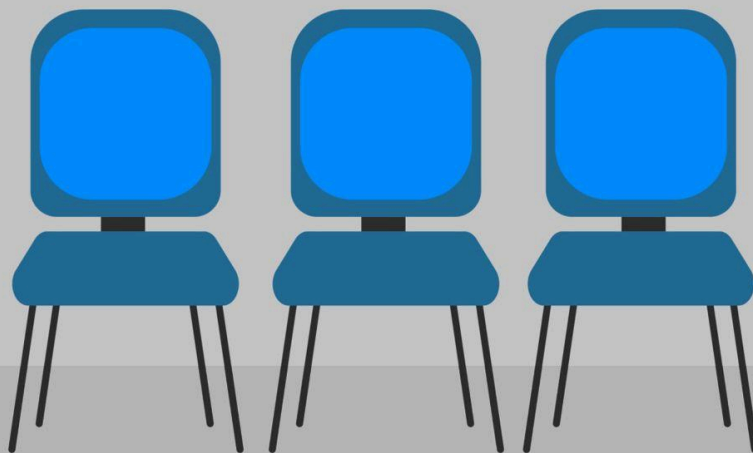


WAITINGROOM



Characters

Performed by a minimum of 3 characters in multirole or full cast production.

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Act 1

Three waiting room chairs are placed side-by-side, there is a reception desk to one side of the stage. Lights up it is a busy A&E department.

DAVID Mrs Daykin?

GREEN No problem at all Mr Hayes, give my best wishes to your wife.

RACHEL Can I take your full name and postcode?

DAVID *[louder]* Mrs Daykin?

GREEN And you, bye-bye now. *[fake smile falls away]* You bloody racist.

RACHEL What seems to be the problem with you?

DAVID If you'd like to make your way through to room number 3 for an assessment.

GREEN *[corner of mouth]* If I have to look up another man's arsehole I'm going to vomit.
4e-3

DAVID I'm sure you're used to it *[to patient]* No no, take all the time you need.

RACHEL How did you get it stuck up there? -

GREEN If you've got a toothache, are you not better going to the dentist?

RACHEL - You fell onto it? -

DAVID He's in again.

RACHEL - Without any trousers on? -

GREEN Justin the stoner.

RACHEL - Or pants? -

DAVID Just give him some Tic Tacs and say they're morphine.

RACHEL - And the glass didn't shatter? Well if you'd like to take a seat... No, I see how that would be uncomfortable for you.

GREEN *[picking up a file]* Room 5, Miss Harwood. Spasmodic contractions of the diaphragm causing difficulty breathing... Rachel, have you really accepted someone with hiccups?

RACHEL I'd be careful with her, she's spewed all over the place.

GREEN Someone get her a bucket...and get me some Xanax.

DAVID No, I'm not your doctor, I'm just a nurse... Yes, a male nurse... it happens.

RACHEL *[answering the phone]* accident and emergency, how may I help you? -

DAVID *[sighing]* Idiots.

RACHEL - What are the opening times... of A&E? -

GREEN Ms Cartwright?

RACHEL - We're always open. 24/7. In case of emergencies -

DAVID You don't have to show me right now.

RACHEL - or accidents.

DAVID I don't care if they do look like the chuckle brothers. You need to put your clothes back on.

GREEN Just take two of these and the pain should go away -

RACHEL *[To David]* Why were you so late?

GREEN - You don't agree with western medicine? -

DAVID *[To Rachel]* Did anyone notice?

GREEN - So you want a natural remedy? -

RACHEL We're snowed under, they haven't noticed anything.

GREEN - Well this medicine is actually derived from the bark of the Willow tree... It's called aspirin -

DAVID I was consulting on something with Dr Wright.

RACHEL She's a married woman David!

GREEN - *[scoffs]* Alternative medicine -

DAVID What her husband doesn't know...

RACHEL giggles in acknowledgement.

GREEN - Alternative medicine! Well, you can take my trained medical advice or alternatively you can fuck off. *[to the others]* Get a move on.

DAVID Do you want to come through, I'm just going to *[dracula]* take a quick blood sample.

DAVID exits

GREEN Hello sir, have you inserted anything in your rectum today?... Nothing? good, come on through.

GREEN exits

RACHEL *[To the audience]* How can I help you? How long has it been like that? Have you taken anything for it? Do you have any other symptoms? Right... Take a seat over there, someone will be with you shortly. Wait time? Oh it's about 400 hours at the moment. We'll try to see you sooner but we're understaffed and underpaid so you can either take a seat or shag off. I enjoy working here, it's like a real-life soap, between David's lovelife and Will trying to become a consultant. Years ago this used to be an A&E and that was wild. I used to go home so angry at all the people who wasted our time with things that weren't accidents or emergencies! But we were "too small to sustain the unit" so it moved to The General. And now we're a Primary Care unit - which is basically a GP service for people who can't get to see their GP - so that's everybody. They just come here instead and then they wait, because frankly there are only a few of us here. Same carpet, same desk, same staff.. Well, same me. And we are joined by all human life. It's either burned, burst or hanging off. Sometimes if you're lucky it's turned a funny colour, they're my favourite. I once had a man come in with a 40 watt lightbulb stuck in his mouth, he weren't the brightest

STAN [DAVID] enters, restless.

RACHEL I was born in this hospital in 1970, my daughter was born here, 17 years later, caesarean section. I started working here when she was 2 and worked here ever since - so 34 years now.. I'll probably die here as well. Death doesn't phase me. You learn that life goes on in this job. Nothing phases me anymore, people come and people go, but with me on the desk people always leave with a smile... Or bad news

RACHEL leaves.

STAN What's taking so pissing long. The doctor's looked at it. Write me a prescription so I can go back to the pub. I'm gagging for a fag, if you don't hurry up I'm going to spark one up right here.

BEV *[off stage] Stanny-*

STAN How about we slingshot that shit around the sun and get it landing in the discharge pile.

BEV [RACHEL] enters, annoyed

BEV Stanny. What are we still doing here? Your tattoo is just healing, it's no big deal.

STAN Nah, nah, nah. Mine's infected! I told you getting matching tattoos was a bad idea. It doesn't even look right. That is not a fucking giraffe.

BEV It looks more like a dog with a long neck. I can't believe you done that for me. After 3 weeks. You're crazy.

STAN Crazy for you!

BEV leans in to kiss him and squeezes STAN's arm. He winces in pain.

BEV You're such a pussy.. Mine don't hurt. Mine isn't shit. We could be back at my place right now, but instead we're here. You know if it's infected they'll just give you antibiotics.

STAN Yeah?

BEV Which means you can't drink for like... what... 3 weeks or something.

STAN Well that's not happening. Me and booze go together like port and cheese, like tequila and tacos, like... like... like Carling and Mini Cheddars.

BEV We'll see about that loverboy. What you need is to go home and get some bed rest.

STAN Naughty girl. What's taking them so long?

BEV They've got to run the tests and stuff. See what it is. I'll find out what the hold up is.

BEV looks for a doctor

BEV Reception woman! Excusing me, nurse. Oi! His arm's falling off and he's in fucking agony, get me a doctor... now... Don't you walk away from me.

BEV exits as GREEN enters.

GREEN Mr Bourbon? Like the biscuit, nice. I've got your results here, do you want to come on through?

STAN Nah, it's alright pal.

GREEN Pal. I'm not your '*Pal*' Mr Bourbon.

STAN Sorry mate.

GREEN Not '*mate*', not '*pal*'. I'm your Doctor, thank you.

STAN Bit stuck up aren't you? You're the one working on a Saturday night whilst I'm out having the time of my life with my bird. Sorry for the truth bomb *PAL*.

GREEN Mr Bourbon,

STAN It's Bourbon. With a Burrrrr.

GREEN Mr. Burrrrrbum. would you like to come through...

STAN Just get it out the way, sign the prescription and we're done. But make sure it's them antibiotics I can drink on, otherwise, we're going to have a problem.

GREEN So sure it's antibiotics, huh? Well, you're almost right. It is an infection.

STAN Right, from the needles?

BEV enters.

GREEN A sexually transmitted infection.

STAN Huh?

GREEN You have Gonorrhoea. 'PAL'.

BEV Is this true?

STAN It's all lies. This doctor is just dicking around. Look pal, You watch or I'll report you.

GREEN I'm sure they'll love reading the scrawl of a man riddled with STI's. Now do you want your prescription for your Gonorrhoea or not?

GREEN holds a piece of paper in front of STAN. STAN snatches it and tears it up. GREEN grabs another file from RECEPTION and exits.

BEV Does that mean I have... You have... You've given me the clap. You're supposed to clap for the NHS, not give people the clap

STAN Boo-bear. You got to believe me. You know me. Your pudding. Your Stanny. Papa Bear. You got to believe-

BEV You've given me an STD bellend.

STAN That doctor is lying. [*concocting a lie*] He's angry because he came over here asking if you were my little sister, asked me if you were single and I told him what for-

BEV Stan!

STAN I told him to keep his grubby paws of my one true love. I said my boo-bear isn't up for the taking, she's mine and mine forever. I love her.

BEV Hmm

STAN I told that doctor to get the hell out of here and stay away from you. Then when he saw you coming, he just- he made it all up.

BEV What a massive dick.

STAN Are you talking about the doctor, or what's in my boxers?

BEV Oh Stanny, you put the STD in Stud.

STAN No. I put the STD in YOU. How about you go find a nurse's uniform and I'll give you an injection of my own.

BEV I'll meet you in the disabled toilets in 5 minutes.

BEV exits. STAN goes back to reception.

STAN Reception woman. Could I get that prescription for my gonorrhoea?

STAN exits. FRANK (GREEN) enters

FRANK: Hello... I've got Mr Sanders in the ambulance. Cardiac arrest. It was nothing really, I just saved his life. On my own. They'd put me with the new lad. He nipped to the toilet and spent half an hour on bloody TikTok. *[pause]* The state of his living room. I was on the floor humming Nelly The Elephant for 30 minutes, when I noticed this overwhelming smell, I looked up and his Border Collie was dragging its shit-pipe along the floor.

RACHEL enters.

I went to give him the 'Kiss Of Life' and I was greeted with the most pungent streak of shit. Evening Rachel, Oo you smell nice. Give us one of your biscuits.

RACHEL Fuck off Frank.

FRANK Go on, I'm starving. All I had was a salad. Our Michelle wants me to lose some weight for her wedding. Are you coming? I'm

RACHEL No

FRANK I'll put you down as a maybe then. Losing weight is just starving yourself. I used to be fit, I had the body of a Greek god.

RACHEL Pegasus?

FRANK I was scouted for Arsenal under-18 team until I did my metatarsal. Rachel, do you know what a paramedic looks for in a woman? A pulse! Do you like that? Read it on the back of a penguin bar.

DAVID enters, catching the end of what FRANK said.

DAVID Didn't know you could read Frank.

FRANK Fuck off.

DAVID Think you ought to lay off the chocolates.

FRANK I'll have you know I have the body of a god.

DAVID Buddah wasn't a god, Frank.

FRANK I heard you got moved to A&E because you were caught giving "Dr Wright" an 'oral examination'

RACHEL Frank!

DAVID Don't you have some red lights to run?

FRANK Okay. Can tell when I'm not wanted. Saved a life and this is the thanks I get.

FRANK steals a biscuit from RACHEL then runs off.

RACHEL Cheeky bastard. Right, come and give me some gossip. Any Dr Wright news?

DAVID She told me that their relationship was going downhill, they work alternative shifts so the other one can look after the dog. They argue all the time, and she can't remember the last time they had sex!

RACHEL David. TMI

DAVID Oh yes. Sorry. She's just so lovely, I hate to see her upset.

RACHEL When can I meet her, then?

DAVID Can't have my two favourite ladies in one place. My brain wouldn't cope.

RACHEL Idiot. But you are keeping secrets because something *must* have happened for you to be moved out of her department though?

DAVID You know me. I'm a flirt, then someone put a complaint in with HR that I was being inappropriate in the workplace.

RACHEL And were you being inappropriate in the workplace?

DAVID No. Well, not then. But we have several times since.

RACHEL Gross. Look if you really mean what you've told me about this woman. If they're going to break up anyway - Strike whilst the iron is hot...

DAVID I hear you. But, would it not be better for me to play the waiting game? Bide my time, you know, if it's going to end anyway?

RACHEL And what good would that do?

DAVID If I'm honest with you. I quite like the chase. Messing around knowing her husband doesn't know. I don't know how to explain it, but I get this buzz inside me knowing that I could get caught at any moment.

RACHEL That's all well and good David, but someone is going to end up getting hurt. You need to make sure it's not you. Damage control.

DAVID So, what do I do?

RACHEL I can't tell you what to do. But if you really love this woman, you need to do something about it. You need to be close by when this bomb explodes.

DAVID Ready to pick up the pieces.

RACHEL Precisely! Damage control.