



THE ESCORT

BY JANE ANDERSON



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THE ESCORT
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THE ESCORT was originally commissioned and produced by
The Geffen Playhouse
(Gilbert Cates, Producing Director; Randall Arney, Artistic Director;
Susan Barton, Managing Director).

THE ESCORT received its world premiere at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, California, opening on April 6, 2011. It was directed by Lisa Peterson; the set design was by Richard Hoover; the costume design was by Laura Bauer; the lighting design was by Rand Ryan; the sound design was by Paul James Prendergast; and the production stage manager was James T. McDermott. The cast was as follows:

CHARLOTTE Maggie Siff
RHONA Polly Draper
HOWARD/JOHN/WAITER James Eckhouse
MATHEW/LEWIS Gabriel Sunday

CHARACTERS

CHARLOTTE — an escort for gentlemen of means

DR. RHONA BLOOM — a gynocologist

DR. HOWARD BLOOM — a urologist

A JOHN / A WAITER — played by the same actor
who plays Dr. Howard Bloom

LEWIS BLOOM / MATHEW — the Blooms' 13-
year-old son / a male escort for ladies of means. Also
to be played by the same actor.

TIME

The present.

PLACE

Various locations in Manhattan.

THE ESCORT

ACT ONE

Prologue

Lights up on Charlotte, standing on stage in a snowy white robe. Her makeup and hair are done up to project a sophisticated look.

CHARLOTTE. (*Addressing the audience.*) Before we begin, I'd like to explain a convention that we'll be using that will make the viewing of this play a bit more comfortable. I will be playing a sex worker. And although nudity on stage is nothing new and has been used extensively in many important and award-winning plays, the playwright feels that it takes too much work for you, the audience, to stay focused if there are exposed breasts and genitals competing with the dialogue. The playwright has attended such productions herself and will admit, for instance, that she remembers very little about the production of *Equus* except that the actors playing the leads were not natural blonds. Also, the playwright has written into the character description of Charlotte, yours truly, that she has large breasts due to implants. Therefore, if the actress playing the role had to expose her actual breasts it would severely limit the casting options. The fact is, most of the finest actresses on the American stage are small to medium bosomed, and the production team didn't want to deprive themselves of that talent pool. That said, we'll be portraying my nudity in this way: (*Charlotte takes her robe off to reveal an anatomically correct naked suit with enormous breasts and a trimmed patch of pubic hair.*) Please take a moment to acclimate yourself to this device. (*Charlotte turns her body to allow*

everyone in the audience to get a good look. Mathew/Lewis, a young man in his 20s, enters. He's also wearing a robe.) The playwright has also written a part for a thirteen-year-old boy. But because of the adult subject matter of this play, we knew it would be problematic to cast a minor in this role. The actor you see before you is over twenty-one. *(Mathew/Lewis shows us his driver's license.)* This actor will also be doubling in the role of a male sex worker. *(Mathew/Lewis takes off his robe. He's wearing an anatomically correct naked suit from the waist down that sports an enormous penis.)* Please take another moment to acclimate yourself to this device. Or not. Perhaps you'd rather be aroused. There's nothing wrong with that. Go ahead. The theater is dark. No one will know. Thank you. Enjoy the show.

Scene 1

A gynecologist's examination table is wheeled in along with Charlotte's clothes, a silk blouse and designer suit, which are neatly hung next to a pair of expensive high heels and a briefcase.

Charlotte enters wearing a cotton examination gown in a cheerful pastel print. She takes a seat on the table and opens up a Forbes magazine to read while she waits for the doctor. There's a knock on the door, and Dr. Rhona Bloom comes in. She's middle-aged, personable — a solid citizen of New York's Upper West Side.

RHONA. Hello, I'm Dr. Bloom.

CHARLOTTE. *(Extending her hand.)* Hello, Dr. Bloom, I'm Charlotte. Nice to meet you.

RHONA. Nice to meet you, too.

CHARLOTTE. Thank you so much for seeing me. I know you don't have a lot of openings for new patients but you came so highly recommended, I had to try. Everyone says you're the best in your field.

RHONA. Oh, that's nice to know. Who referred you?

THE ESCORT

by Jane Anderson

2M, 2W

Nothing is taboo in this play about a high-class call girl. Charlotte is charged with escorting us through this titillating tale as members of one seemingly liberal family test the limits of their own sexual morality. What happens when social ideals are in direct conflict with personal choices in the bedroom? This sexually charged roller-coaster ride takes us down a path of unexpected thoughtfulness and depth that asks the question: How far are you willing to go to prove your open-mindedness?

“THE ESCORT wears its social satire and insights into the class divide like a glittering jewel.”

—**LA Weekly**

“THE ESCORT will propel heated chat out of the kitchen up to the bedroom, and into the shower the next morning.”

—**Variety**

Also by Jane Anderson
LOOKING FOR NORMAL

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