



Rx

BY KATE FODOR



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World Premiere produced by Primary Stages
(Casey Childs, Founder and Executive Producer; Andrew Leynse, Artistic
Director; Elliot Fox, Managing Director) in February 2012.

For my daughter Lucy, the funniest person I know.

Rx received its world premiere at 59E59 Theater, presented by Primary Stages (Casey Childs, Executive Producer; Andrew Leynse, Artistic Director; Elliot Fox, Managing Director) in New York City on February 7, 2012. It was directed by Ethan McSweeney; the set design was by Lee Savage; the costume design was by Andrea Lauer; the lighting design was by Matthew Richards; the music and sound design were by Lindsay Jones; and the production stage manager was Jennifer Rae Moore. The cast was as follows:

MEENA PIEROTTI Marin Hinkle
PHIL GRAY Stephen Kunken
ALLISON Elizabeth Rich
SIMON Michael Bakkensen
FRANCES Marylouise Burke
RICHARD/ED Paul Niebanck

CHARACTERS

MEENA PIEROTTI — Managing Editor, Piggeries, *American Cattle & Swine Magazine*

PHIL GRAY — Schmidt Pharma researcher

ALLISON HARDY — Phil's boss

SIMON — Meena's boss

FRANCES — A widow in need of new underwear

RICHARD — Marketing executive

ED — Schmidt Pharma researcher (same actor as Richard)

PLACE

A Midwestern city.

TIME

The present.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Thriveon: with a long I and a long E

SP-925: like "nine to five"

SP-214: two-fourteen, like Valentine's Day

Rx

Scene 1

Meena's office at American Cattle & Swine Magazine, represented mainly by an ugly industrial desk with some papers on it. There's an extra chair across from the desk, and maybe there's a wastepaper basket, but there's not much else. The area will also represent other offices throughout the play.

Meena enters with Phil close behind her. He is wearing a visitor's badge and holding a clipboard.

MEENA. Where would you like to — Should I sit behind my desk?

PHIL. Anywhere you're comfortable.

MEENA. I could sit behind my desk, and you could sit in that chair right there.

PHIL. Good. *(He sits.)*

MEENA. I'm going to close the door because —

PHIL. That's a good idea. *(She closes it.)*

MEENA. There.

PHIL. Should we get started?

MEENA. Yes. *(She sits.)*

PHIL. Great. *(He takes out his pen and looks at his clipboard.)* Name is Meena Pierotti. Age is.

MEENA. 37. *(He writes it down.)*

PHIL. Job title is.

MEENA. Managing Editor, Piggeries, *American Cattle & Swine Magazine*.

PHIL. Number of years in this position is.

MEENA. Four.

PHIL. Number of years with this employer is.

MEENA. Ten.

PHIL. Question one.

MEENA. Yes.

PHIL. Do you like your job?

MEENA. No.

PHIL. On a scale of one to ten, with one being the least unhappy and ten being the most unhappy, how unhappy are you during the average workday?

MEENA. I can't answer that question.

PHIL. Just do your best.

MEENA. No, I mean — it's badly worded.

PHIL. How so?

MEENA. Is ten as unhappy as a person could be in *any* circumstance, like homeless under a bridge, in which case it would be hard for me to claim more than a two —

PHIL. I think if you just, you know —

MEENA. Or is ten as unhappy as a basically healthy, employed person who isn't starving under a bridge could be, in which case I guess I would put myself at about a nine?

PHIL. How about five and a half?

MEENA. No.

PHIL. I took the average of two, from the first answer you gave —

MEENA. But they meant one thing or the other by the question —

PHIL. And nine, from the second answer —

MEENA. So the answer might be two or it might be nine, but there is no scenario in which it's five and a half. *(Phil and Meena look at each other from behind their respective eyeglasses.)*

PHIL. I'm going to put down a nine for you.

MEENA. Whatever you think is best.

PHIL. *(Recording the number.)* Should we go on?

MEENA. Yes.

PHIL. Great. Question two. Do you cry during the workday?

MEENA. Yes.

PHIL. How often?

PHIL. *(Overlapping.)*

Never, rarely, sometimes,
or frequently.

MEENA. *(Overlapping.)*

Twice. *(They stare at each other.)*

MEENA. Twice a day is...?

PHIL. Frequently?

MEENA. Frequently. OK.

Rx

by Kate Fodor

3M, 3W (doubling)

Phil is a researcher entrusted with the first major trial of Thriveon, Schmidt Pharma's experimental treatment for workplace depression. Meena is a study subject who is depressed by her workplace. Can Thriveon cure Meena? Can Meena cure Phil? A comedy about big love, big dreams and Big Pharma.

"A winning combination of light satire and romance ... [This] smart, sweet play suggests that the endorphins released by garden-variety love may be the most reliable mood-enhancing drug on the market today." —**The New York Times**

"A sharp, tenderly sardonic new comedy ... [Fodor turns] a classic boy-meets-girl romantic structure into a thornily funny image of today's screwed-up world." —**The Village Voice**

"Fodor sets up an amiably idiosyncratic world with empathy and skill ... A timely examination of the continual value of treating yourself right." —**Time Out New York**

"Ideal entertainment for neurotic people living in anxious times ... Fodor has a way with flawed characters, and her lovers here are so warmly drawn that we feel we have a stake in their fate." —**Variety**

"Just what the doctor ordered ... If laughter is the best medicine, maybe health plans should cover the ticket price." —**The New York Post**

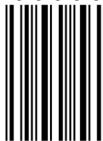
Also by Kate Fodor

100 SAINTS YOU SHOULD KNOW
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