

**TRUDY
AND MAX
IN LOVE**

BY ZOE KAZAN



**DRAMATISTS
PLAY SERVICE
INC.**

TRUDY AND MAX IN LOVE
Copyright © 2016, Zoe Kazan

All Rights Reserved

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that performance of TRUDY AND MAX IN LOVE is subject to payment of a royalty. It is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America, and of all countries covered by the International Copyright Union (including the Dominion of Canada and the rest of the British Commonwealth), and of all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention, the Berne Convention, and of all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations. All rights, including without limitation professional/amateur stage rights, motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all other forms of mechanical, electronic and digital reproduction, transmission and distribution, such as CD, DVD, the Internet, private and file-sharing networks, information storage and retrieval systems, photocopying, and the rights of translation into foreign languages are strictly reserved. Particular emphasis is placed upon the matter of readings, permission for which must be secured from the Author's agent in writing.

The English language stock and amateur stage performance rights in the United States, its territories, possessions and Canada for TRUDY AND MAX IN LOVE are controlled exclusively by DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC., 440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. No professional or nonprofessional performance of the Play may be given without obtaining in advance the written permission of DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC., and paying the requisite fee.

Inquiries concerning all other rights should be addressed to United Talent Agency, 888 Seventh Avenue, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10106. Attn: Mark Subias.

SPECIAL NOTE

Anyone receiving permission to produce TRUDY AND MAX IN LOVE is required to give credit to the Author as sole and exclusive Author of the Play on the title page of all programs distributed in connection with performances of the Play and in all instances in which the title of the Play appears, including printed or digital materials for advertising, publicizing or otherwise exploiting the Play and/or a production thereof. Please see your production license for font size and typeface requirements.

Be advised that there may be additional credits required in all programs and promotional material. Such language will be listed under the "Additional Billing" section of production licenses. It is the licensee's responsibility to ensure any and all required billing is included in the requisite places, per the terms of the license.

SPECIAL NOTE ON SONGS AND RECORDINGS

For performances of copyrighted songs, arrangements or recordings mentioned in these Plays, the permission of the copyright owner(s) must be obtained. Other songs, arrangements or recordings may be substituted provided permission from the copyright owner(s) of such songs, arrangements or recordings is obtained; or songs, arrangements or recordings in the public domain may be substituted.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks to: Joyce Ketay, South Coast Repertory, The New Group, Marc Masterson, Kimberly Coburn, Lila Neugebauer, Paul Dano, the Swicord/Kazan family, and every actor who ever read or worked on this play.

TRUDY AND MAX IN LOVE was commissioned by and first performed at South Coast Repertory (Marc Masterson, Artistic Director; Paula Tomei, Managing Director), premiering on January 5, 2014. It was directed by Lila Neugebauer, the scenic design was by Laura Jellinek, the costume design was by Melanie Watnick, the lighting design was by Lap Chi Chu, the sound design was by Cricket S. Myers, the dramaturg was Kimberly Colburn, the production manager was Jackie S. Hill, and the stage manager was Kathryn Davies. The cast was as follows:

TRUDY Aya Cash
MAX Michael Weston
OTHER WOMAN Celeste Den
OTHER MAN Tate Ellington

CHARACTERS

TRUDY (late twenties)

MAX (late thirties)

OTHER WOMAN (thirties)

OTHER MAN (thirties)

PLACE

Spaces around Brooklyn and Manhattan, represented as minimally as possible. Table, chairs, a couch, various props. Two or three doors. Practical like a rehearsal space. Conceptual. Like a found space or a black box.

TIME

The Present or Recent Past.

NOTES

The germ of this play was such: that an affair is like a theater, a realm both separate from and coexistent with the “real world.” Both are spaces in which all rules of normal life and behavior are suspended, where you can become a different version of yourself. And when you leave, the things you experienced there exist only in your memory.

I would prefer that as little effort as possible be made to disguise the fact that we are in a theater. While the actors should play the scenes absolutely true to life, the audience’s imagination should work to supply everything else.

Keep it simple. Let the seams show. Tiny changes to denote space, character. Scene titles can be projected, spoken, written, or dispensed with altogether.

If you must have an intermission, please place it between Scenes 11 and 12.

TRUDY AND MAX IN LOVE

1. Prologue.

The four actors enter the space. They carry the things they need to do the play. The girl plugs in her iPod and plays a song: Michael Hurley's "Be Kind To Me" (or something equally good). The actors set up the props, costumes, etc. When they are ready:*

GIRL. Ready?

GUY. Hang on.

The guy sits and opens a laptop. The girl turns off the music, sits, and opens a notebook. The Other Man and Other Woman sit with their backs to the audience, open laptops or notebooks, put on headphones. They nod at each other. Ready. Black.

* See Special Note on Songs and Recordings on copyright page.

2. The Space.

Everyone sits and writes. Or attempts to write. After a moment, Trudy gets up, goes to the table and clicks on an electric kettle. Max looks up. Trudy smiles. He goes back to work. She picks at her fingernails. He sneaks a look at her. Finally:

MAX. (*Whisper.*) Is there coffee?

TRUDY. (*Whisper.*) Sorry?

MAX. (*Whisper.*) Is there any coffee?

TRUDY. (*Whisper.*) Um, there's grounds. No pot. It broke.

MAX. That's okay.

She smiles. He goes back to his work. After a moment:

TRUDY. (*Whisper.*) You don't have a Melitta, do you?

The Other Man looks at them, annoyed. They don't notice.

MAX. (*Whisper.*) A what?

TRUDY. A — um ...

She goes to her tote, rummages around in it. Pulls out various things. Max watches, amused. She pulls out a plastic coffee-making device.

Melitta.

MAX. Ah.

TRUDY. You can use mine if you want. I'll rinse it off. I mean it's clean. I can rinse it off.

The Other Man shushes them loudly. Trudy mimes "I'm sorry." Other Man rolls his eyes. Trudy goes to the counter and starts making coffee, measuring out the grounds.

MAX. (*Whisper.*) No, no, you don't have to do that.

TRUDY. (*Whisper.*) Come on. It's coffee.

He watches her fix the coffee.

MAX. (*Whisper.*) I'm Max, by the way.

TRUDY. (*Whisper, absorbed.*) Hi Max.

MAX. (*Whisper.*) Who are you?

TRUDY. (*Whisper.*) Trudy. You like this black?

MAX. (*Whisper.*) Cream, sugar.

TRUDY. (*Whisper.*) That's disgusting.

Max smiles.

3. Same Place, Next Week.

Trudy lounges, reading a slim book. Max comes in with a big bag. She looks up, registers him, and subtly hides the cover of her book.

MAX. (*Whisper.*) Hi.

Trudy nods and goes back to her book. Max puts down his stuff, almost says something, thinks better of it. He pulls a coffee machine out of his bag and holds it up.

(*Whisper.*) Look. Since I'm new, I thought I should ...

TRUDY. No one's here.

MAX. (*Whisper.*) That's okay, I'm happy to make some for us —

TRUDY. No, you don't have to whisper. Since no one's here.

MAX. Oh. Thanks.

TRUDY. Uh-huh.

She reads. He begins to set up the machine. After a second:

MAX. Where is everyone?

TRUDY. Probably hanging with their kids.

TRUDY AND MAX IN LOVE

by Zoe Kazan

2M, 2W (doubling)

The multi-talented Zoe Kazan gives us this very funny take on an unconventional romance. Trudy writes young adult fiction, and Max is a novelist of celebrity status. Trudy is married, Max doesn't believe in love: Their attraction is anything but convenient. On rare occasions, you meet someone and everything clicks. But is love a choice? Or does it just happen?

"TRUDY AND MAX IN LOVE showcases Kazan's facility for capturing small moments that reveal both the psychology of her characters and the tenor of the times."
—Los Angeles Times

"Kazan supplies sparkling dialogue and well-developed characters ... it's difficult to walk away without wrestling with one's own issues ... a funny and poignant play ... Kazan's script powerfully shines." —LA Weekly

"... an engaging millennial spin on the typical cute-boy-meets-cute-girl story ... A captivating play that's winsomely fresh and oh-so-current ... With intelligence, witty dialogue, and plenty of biting humor, TRUDY AND MAX IN LOVE is an appealing modern day play that pits two people struggling in a battle between two opposing forces: their hearts and their heads. Which is the best path to happiness and adult-prophecised fulfillment — giving in to undeniable, off-the-charts chemistry or making smart, thought-out choices?"
—BroadwayWorld.com

Also by Zoe Kazan

ABSALOM

WE LIVE HERE

ISBN: 978-0-8222-3201-8



DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC.