



# TOO MUCH SUN

BY NICKY SILVER



DRAMATISTS  
PLAY SERVICE  
INC.



TOO MUCH SUN  
Copyright © 2014, Nicky Silver

All Rights Reserved

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that performance of TOO MUCH SUN 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 TOO MUCH SUN 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 William Morris Endeavor Entertainment, 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. Attn: John Buzzetti.

#### **SPECIAL NOTE**

Anyone receiving permission to produce TOO MUCH SUN is required to give credit to the Author(s) as sole and exclusive Author(s) 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.

*Dedicated to Linda Lavin & Mark Brokaw  
with love, thanks, and awe.*

TOO MUCH SUN was presented by the Vineyard Theatre (Douglas Aibel, Artistic Director; Sarah Stern, Co-Artistic Director; Jennifer Garvey-Blackwell, Executive Producer), opening on May 18, 2014. It was directed by Mark Brokaw; the set design was by Donyale Werle; the costume design was by Michael Krass; the lighting design was by David Lander; the music and sound design were by David Van Tieghem; and the production stage manager was Winnie Y. Lok. The cast, in order of speaking, was as follows:

AUDREY LANGHAM..... Linda Lavin  
LUCAS ..... Matt Dickson  
KITTY..... Jennifer Westfeldt  
DENNIS..... Ken Barnett  
WINSTON ..... Richard Bekins  
GIL..... Matt Dellapina

## CHARACTERS

AUDREY LANGHAM, 60s, a celebrated and accomplished stage actress.

KITTY, 30s–40s, her daughter.

DENNIS, early to mid-40s, Kitty's husband.

LUCAS, early to mid-20s. Their next door neighbor.

WINSTON, late 50s – early 60s, Lucas' father.

GIL, late 20s – early 30s, an assistant to Audrey's agent, fast-talking and nervous (also voices DIRECTOR).

## TIME AND PLACE

### PROLOGUE

Time: A day in June.

Place: The stage of a major theater in Chicago.

### ACT ONE

Time: Two days later.

Place: The rest of the act is set on the deck of a Cape Cod summer home and a nearby dune on the beach.

### ACT TWO

Time: Two months later.

Place: The same deck and beach.

# TOO MUCH SUN

## ACT ONE

### Prologue

*A light comes up on Audrey standing center, in front of a deep red curtain. She's in full make-up and costume for a production of Medea, but her costume is also deep red, a touch too glamorous, and feels just slightly, well, off. She starts out beautifully, with conviction.*

AUDREY. *(Grand, as Medea.)*

O my sons!

My sons! Ye have a city and a house  
Where, leaving hapless me behind, without  
A mother ye forever shall reside.

But I to other realms an exile go,  
Ere any help from you I could derive,  
Or see you blest; the hymeneal pomp,

*(She pauses, unsure of what comes next.)*

Or see you blest; the hymeneal pomp —

*(Another pause as she searches. Then, out of character:)* Shit. What the hell is next?

DIRECTOR. *(On God mic.)* The bride, the genial couch, for you —

AUDREY. *(Overlapping.)*

The bride, the genial couch, for you adorn.

And in these hands —

*(Out of character:)* I still think I'd be better over there.

DIRECTOR. *(On God mic.)* What?

AUDREY. Dead center, it feels a little —

DIRECTOR. (*On God mic.*) If we could just get through it?

AUDREY. I feel like a Christmas tree, dead center, all by myself, like an idiot —

DIRECTOR. (*On God mic.*) We'll look at it later. He'll refocus during dinner.

AUDREY. But you know what I mean?

DIRECTOR. (*On God mic.*) Yes, of course. He'll refocus during dinner.

AUDREY. Fine, alright, fine. Where was I?

DIRECTOR. (*On God mic.*) The bride —

AUDREY. (*In character.*)

The bride, the genial couch, for you adorn,  
And in these hands the kindled torch sustain.

(*Out of character:*) ... And I have no idea on earth what's next.

DIRECTOR. (*On God mic.*) Do you need to take a break?

AUDREY. (*Slightly offended.*) No, I don't need a break. Unless that girl, what's her name, uh, Jennifer, could get me a tea. (*Into the house.*) Could you get me a tea please, Jennifer? And not that awful green tea this time.

DIRECTOR. (*On God mic.*) Jessica?

AUDREY. Hmm. Thank you. Can we take it from the hands? Something about my hands? I don't know.

DIRECTOR. (*On God mic.*) And in these hands the kindled —

AUDREY. (*Re: her costume.*) Excuse me, but, is it too late? I mean, really ... why red? Are we stuck with red? This red.

DIRECTOR. (*On God mic.*) You asked for red.

AUDREY. What are you — I never did. I never asked for red. He showed me white. I asked *not* white. There's a world of colors, you know. There's a million colors. I mean, there's blue, there's gray, there's — I don't know. Do I have to name all the colors in the world!? I feel like I walked out of the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. After dinner could we look at that. Is it too late?

DIRECTOR. (*On God mic.*) Audrey! If we could just —

AUDREY. Right. Sound cues. My hands — what?

DIRECTOR. (*On God mic.*) And in these hands the kindled —

AUDREY. (*Half in character.*)

And in these hands the kindled torch sustain —

(*Out of character:*) ... I'm not feeling very well. Is Jennifer back with a tea? How much longer till dinner?

DIRECTOR. (*On God mic.*) About forty-five minutes.

# TOO MUCH SUN

by Nicky Silver

4M, 2W

Audrey Langham, an actress of some repute but greater temperament, reaches her breaking point while rehearsing *Medea* in Chicago. She walks off the stage and out of the production. With no place else to go, she heads to her daughter's summer house on Cape Cod. Kitty and her husband Dennis, however, hardly greet Audrey with champagne and confetti. Audrey gets a warmer reception from the star-struck widower next door and his troubled son. A summer by the sea full of hilariously calculated romance and clandestine trysts leads to an inevitable tragedy. But from that tragedy emerge new beginnings and new bonds. Secrets are unearthed as each of these characters finds a way to shed the role they've been playing in life, a way to be who they really are when they stop "acting."

*"[Nicky Silver is] a dramatist who has such an original and thoroughly sustained tragicomic worldview. He gives the cast the generous gift of speaking beautifully, in epigrams and winged barbs and poetic soliloquies that cascade like a Schubert impromptu."*

—**The New York Times**

*"Four stars. All the Silver trademarks are here."*

—**Time Out New York**

*"Hilarious and heartbreaking."*

—**TheaterMania.com**

## Also by Nicky Silver

THE ALTRUISTS  
THE LYONS  
PTERODACTYLS  
and many others

ISBN: 978-0-8222-3211-7



**DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC.**