

**SAM AND DEDE,  
OR  
MY DINNER  
WITH ANDRÉ  
THE GIANT**

**BY GINO DI IORIO**



**DRAMATISTS  
PLAY SERVICE  
INC.**

# SAM AND DEDE, OR MY DINNER WITH ANDRÉ THE GIANT

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*This play is dedicated to Danny and Andrew*

SAM AND DEDE, OR MY DINNER WITH ANDRÉ THE GIANT premiered at the Custom Made Theatre Company (Brian Katz, Artistic Director; Leah S. Abrams, Executive Director) in San Francisco, California, on February 11, 2016. It was directed by Leah S. Abrams, the scenic design was by Erik LaDue, the lighting design was by Maxx Kurzunski, the sound design was by Ryan Lee Short, the costume design was by Brooke Jennings, the props design was by Florence McCafferty, and the stage manager was Elizabeth Hall. The cast was as follows:

SAM ..... Dave Sikula  
ANDRÉ ..... Brendan Averett

SAM AND DEDE, OR MY DINNER WITH ANDRÉ THE GIANT received its New York premiere at 59E59 Theaters (Val Day, Artistic Director; Brian Beirne, Managing Director), presented by the Custom Made Theatre Company, with executive producers William and Ruth Isenberg, on March 11, 2017, with the original cast, director, stage manager, and designers.

The play was produced with a generous gift by Peter and Andrea Klein.

## CHARACTERS

SAM—Samuel Beckett at various ages

ANDRÉ—André the Giant at various ages

## NOTES

Young André is often referred to as “Dede,” which is pronounced “day-day.”

The first scene of this play is based on an actual meeting between André the Giant and Samuel Beckett. The other scenes are fictitious.

It is, of course, difficult to imagine anyone playing Beckett and impossible to see anyone playing André the Giant (except of course André himself). His size could be illustrated in a number of ways but what is most important is the essence of both characters.

# SAM AND DEDE, OR MY DINNER WITH ANDRÉ THE GIANT

## Scene 1

*1958. Samuel Beckett stands outside his beat-up truck. After a moment, a 12-year-old André Roussimoff, a.k.a. "André the Giant," enters. At 12, he is already well past 6 feet and 240 pounds. This is their first meeting.*

SAM. André.

ANDRÉ. Hello.

SAM. I'm Sam.

*It's the first time Sam has seen the boy and he's impressed by his size, but tries not to show it.*

ANDRÉ. Hello.

SAM. All right then.

ANDRÉ. What's wrong?

SAM. Nothing. All set?

ANDRÉ. This is your truck.

SAM. Yes.

*André nods and begins looking around the truck as if he were a buyer. There is a pause as Sam tries to figure out what he's doing.*

It's a Peugeot.

*Pause. André still looks at the truck.*

I bought it used.

ANDRÉ. Peugeot.

SAM. Yes. All set?

ANDRÉ. I'm not going.

SAM. I'm sorry?

ANDRÉ. I can't fit.

SAM. Of course you can.

ANDRÉ. No. It's too small.

SAM. You'll fit just fine.

ANDRÉ. I'll have to ride in the back.

SAM. No.

ANDRÉ. I don't think I can fit in the front.

SAM. Of course you can.

ANDRÉ. I'd prefer the back.

SAM. The back.

ANDRÉ. Of the truck.

SAM. I don't think that's a good idea. I think you should get in the front.

ANDRÉ. Why?

SAM. You might fall out of the back.

ANDRÉ. I won't fall out.

SAM. If you do, you'll get hurt.

ANDRÉ. I won't fall out.

SAM. Yes, but—

ANDRÉ. I don't want people to see me.

SAM. They're more likely to see you riding in the back.

ANDRÉ. I'll look foolish in the front.

SAM. Why?

ANDRÉ. I can't fit.

SAM. Of course you can.

ANDRÉ. No.

*Pause.*

I don't like this idea.

SAM. Well...

ANDRÉ. Were you going to take me every day?

SAM. Perhaps I—

ANDRÉ. Why are you taking me?

SAM. Your father asked me to.

ANDRÉ. Why can't he take me?

SAM. He doesn't have a truck.

ANDRÉ. Why can't you lend him the truck?

*Pause. Sam doesn't really have an answer for this.*

SAM. I don't know.

ANDRÉ. I'm going to ask him.

SAM. No, I—

ANDRÉ. My father can drive.

SAM. André—

ANDRÉ. Dede.

SAM. What?

ANDRÉ. Dede. Everyone calls me Dede.

SAM. Dede, your father asked me to drive you to school.

ANDRÉ. You said that.

SAM. Yes, and—

ANDRÉ. I don't want you to.

SAM. Why not?

ANDRÉ. Because I don't like school.

SAM. Most people don't.

ANDRÉ. Did you like school?

SAM. No.

ANDRÉ. Then why did you go?

SAM. I don't know.

ANDRÉ. Did your father drive you to school?



SAM. No. I walked.

ANDRÉ. I think I'd rather walk.

SAM. It's a long way.

ANDRÉ. I can do it.

*André begins to walk off.*

SAM. Dede.

ANDRÉ. Yes?

SAM. You can't walk to school.

ANDRÉ. Why not?

SAM. Well...

*Sam is looking for a ploy but can't seem to find one. André walks on...*

Dede.

ANDRÉ. What is it?

SAM. What if...

ANDRÉ. Yes?

*Slight pause.*

I'm going to be late for school.

SAM. Yes. What if I was to take you to school today? In my truck. And we'll see if that's all right...and then we can talk it over with your father...whether or not you'd like me to do it again. Tomorrow.

ANDRÉ. I don't understand you.

SAM. Let's just try it for today.

ANDRÉ. I go to school every day.

SAM. I know you do. Let's just try it this once.

*Pause.*

ANDRÉ. As long as I can ride in the back.

SAM. Fine.

ANDRÉ. Really?

SAM. Yes.

ANDRÉ. Are you certain?

SAM. As much as I can be.

*André gets in the back. Sam gets in the front and is ready to go but then thinks better of it.*

Are you all right back there?

ANDRÉ. Yes.

*Sam is about to put the truck in gear, but he hesitates.*

SAM. I do think you'll be more comfortable up here.

ANDRÉ. In the back.

SAM. No, in the front.

ANDRÉ. I won't fit.

SAM. Fine. Please be careful.

ANDRÉ. I'm not doing anything.

SAM. Yes.

ANDRÉ. I'm going to be late.

*Sam begins to drive and then stops.*

SAM. What if I hit a bump?

ANDRÉ. I'll be fine.

SAM. Never mind, get in the front.

ANDRÉ. No, that's all right.

SAM. André, in the front.

ANDRÉ. This is fine. I'm fine here.

SAM. Are you sure?

ANDRÉ. Yes.

SAM. All right.

*Resigned, Sam begins to drive in earnest. The truck pulls out, André in the back, Sam in the front. They drive for a while. After a long pause, André bangs on the window.*

ANDRÉ. Thank you!

SAM. For what?

ANDRÉ. For letting me ride back here.

*Sam nods, smiling.*

SAM. There's plenty of room up front.

ANDRÉ. That's all right.

# SAM AND DEDE, OR MY DINNER WITH ANDRÉ THE GIANT

by Gino DiIorio

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True story: twelve-year-old André the Giant, already well over six feet tall and 240 pounds, didn't fit on the school bus. André's neighbor, feeling sorry for the boy, offered to drive him to school in his truck. The neighbor was Samuel Beckett. Out of that bit of trivia comes SAM AND DEDE, OR MY DINNER WITH ANDRÉ THE GIANT, imagining a number of scenes between a giant who cannot hide, and a writer obsessed with silence.

*"Fans of professional wrestling and absurdist drama have a show to call their own... an affectionate tribute to a stage goliath and a grappler built like a butte."*

—**The New York Times**

*"DiIorio has wisely treated the two characters more as archetypes of Intellect vs Body rather than specific historical personages. As a result, the play works beautifully as an exploration of human types and ideals."*

—**TheatreStorm.com**

*"Rarely have I been to a play where I had so much regret that the end had arrived. I so wanted Sam and Dede just to keep on meeting and talking...largely about not much at all and yet about everything. ...Gino DiIorio [has] produce[d] a winner that even in its first production, feels pretty perfect."*

—**TheatreEddys.com**

*"DiIorio's dialogue sparkles with Beckett-style remarks while these two 'giants' of the literary and wrestling worlds converse. The imaginary meetings involve conversations that are intelligent, witty, and bright."*

—**TalkinBroadway.com**

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