

BUMP

BY

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DRAMATISTS
PLAY SERVICE
INC.

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BUMP received its world premiere at the Ensemble Studio Theatre (William Carden, Artistic Director; Sarah McLellan, Executive Director) in New York City. It was directed by Claudia Weill, the set design was by Kristin Robinson, the lighting design was by Gina Scherr, the costume design was by Suzanne Chesney, the sound design was by M.L. Dogg, and the choreography was by Katie Rose McLaughlin. The cast was as follows:

CLAUDIA	Ana Nogueira
LUIS	Gilbert Cruz
MARIA	Adriana Sananes
MARY	Lucy DeVito
MIDWIFE	Jenny O'Hara
APPLE	Kelly Anne Burns
WALNUT	Susan Hyon
GRAPEFRUIT	Kelli Lynn Harrison
AVOCADO	Laura Ramadei
LEMON	Erica Lutz
PLUM	Kristen Adele
YOUTUBE GUY	Jonathan Randell Silver

BUMP was originally commissioned by the Ensemble Studio Theatre/Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Science & Technology Project.

BUMP was inspired by the true story of Jorge Odón.

Special thanks from the author to Graeme Gillis and Linsay Firman.

CHARACTERS

CLAUDIA, a young woman pregnant with her first baby

LUIS, her father, an auto mechanic

MARIA, her mother

MARY, an expectant mother in New England, 1790

MIDWIFE, a very experienced midwife

YOUTUBE GUY, a DIY guy with precise comedic timing

The Message Board

(These characters are written with the anonymity of an online message board in mind, therefore we don't know their names, ages, or even locations, other than what comes up in the dialogue. The fruit monikers—a nod to the practice of comparing a fetus's development to the size of a fruit—are meant to allow elasticity in both the casting and interpretation of these parts. Please cast diverse!)

APPLE

WALNUT

GRAPEFRUIT

PLUM

AVOCADO

LEMON

Other Roles

(The following roles make brief appearances, and should be double cast from The Message Board.)

MAMA

DOULA

DIFFERENT MAMA

WAITING MOTHER

SECOND WOMAN

THIRD WOMAN

RECEPTIONIST

A NOTE ABOUT PROPS

Jorge Odón, upon whom this play is based, made his first prototype out of found materials, including a glass jar, a baby doll, and a plastic inflatable bag. In making your versions of the prototype, I recommend doing the same! There are many YouTube videos of the real device which can help guide you. The devices in the original New York production actually worked—we had a hand pump to inflate, a baby doll, a glass jar, a rolled up bag of thick plastic, and a pair of salad tongs. For the cork trick, we used a real bottle, a real plastic bag, and a real cork for YouTube guy to actually perform the trick—but then on subsequent iterations (when he has to repeat the trick), we had him fake it using a second cork for expediency.

BUMP

1.

Luis, 60s, a mechanic, and his wife, Maria, are sitting side by side. Maria is holding a wrapped present. Their daughter, Claudia, 30, sits across from them, fumbling with her cell phone.

LUIS. But what is this for?

CLAUDIA. It's a present!

MARIA. It's a present for us!

LUIS. For both of us?

CLAUDIA. Yeah!

LUIS. But why? For what?

CLAUDIA. Dad, it's a present, it's just a present.

MARIA. Can we open it?

CLAUDIA. One sec, one sec.

She starts to film with her phone.

Okay. You can open it!

MARIA. You wanna open it?

LUIS. No, you go.

Maria shakes the box.

MARIA. It's not a book.

CLAUDIA. Nope.

MARIA. Maybe it's earrings?

CLAUDIA. Mom, don't guess, just open it.

LUIS. Why would she get us earrings?

Maria opens the box, but we don't see what's inside. She stares at Claudia, who starts giggle-crying.

MARIA. WHAT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

GRAPEFRUIT. Yes, hi. I've got three boys already. Hoping for a girl this time. This will *definitely* be my last pregnancy. Here's to a smooth nine months!

PLUM. Got a positive today. Total surprise, we weren't trying at all, but I think it's meant to be. Estimated due date 12/14!

AVOCADO. I'm five weeks in. Doing this on my own, so I'd love to hear from other single moms. This is my first time posting on a message board.

LEMON. FINALLY got a big fat positive today. Due on New Year's Eve, so I'm straddling the January board too.

PLUM. Can't wait to spend the next nine months with you all.

APPLE. Congrats, everyone!

WALNUT. Here's hoping for pregnancies that stick!

AVOCADO. So excited to be here!

GRAPEFRUIT. Here's to the next nine months!

APPLE. At six weeks, your baby is the size of a *lentil*.

LEMON. Is anyone feeling symptoms yet?

APPLE. I have morning sickness like 24/7. I seriously can't keep anything down.

PLUM. The only things I can stomach right now are like pasta, and cheese, and carbs. I can't keep vegetables down.

AVOCADO. Same here with the vegetable aversion. I am a postal worker. You don't even want to know how many people's bushes I've thrown up in. Apologies if you live in the Denver area.

GRAPEFRUIT. Have you all tried ginger?

LEMON. Get those little Trader Joe's ginger candies, they help!

PLUM. Are anyone else's boobs sore?

LEMON. Mine.

AVOCADO. YES, mine are!

APPLE. My boobs are SO sore I told my husband they're off-limits for the next nine months.

LEMON. My gums keep bleeding! They've always been a little sensitive but they're. They're really bleeding whenever I brush my

teeth! My boyfriend says it could be unrelated, but. It just seems like too much of a coincidence, don't you think? The bloodiest gums!

AVOCADO. I know it sounds crazy, but sometimes I feel like I can feel movement! Like little flutterings? It's tripping me out!

LEMON.

PLUM.

APPLE.

Way too early

You can't feel movement at five weeks.

Indigestion, maybe?

WALNUT. I'm not really feeling any symptoms? I'm hoping it's normal, and not a sign of something worse...

GRAPEFRUIT. Consider yourself lucky.

LEMON. My sister never got morning sickness with her pregnancies.

WALNUT. I just feel exactly like I did when I wasn't pregnant. I think I'll feel better after my six-week scan on Wednesday.

PLUM. Keeping you in my prayers!

APPLE. Sending positive vibes!

GRAPEFRUIT. FARTS FARTS FARTS. Uncontrollable farts, all the time. Anyone else?

3.

The Vasquez living room. Claudia is visiting Luis and Maria, showing them something on her phone.

CLAUDIA. What do you think?

MARIA. It's a pool.

CLAUDIA. Yeah! Exactly.

LUIS. I don't get it.

CLAUDIA. It's a *birthing* pool. It's what I'll use when I go into labor.

MARIA. Why can't you just use the tub?

CLAUDIA. Because a tub isn't big or deep enough.

LUIS. (*Worried.*) Why does it have to be *deep*?

CLAUDIA. My belly has to be completely underwater so that the baby can be born fully *submerged*. It's actually a much less stressful

experience for the baby. It holds 170 gallons of water. And it has a seat. And a cup holder!

MARIA. What's the cup holder for?

CLAUDIA. For a drink!

LUIS. Does it come with a cabana boy?

MARIA. Where are you going to put it?

CLAUDIA. We're trying to figure it out. I think it'll only fit in the living room.

MARIA. You're just gonna give birth next to the couch?

CLAUDIA. We're gonna put down a tarp!

MARIA. That's so messy! All that gunk.

CLAUDIA. That gunk is natural, it's a natural part of life.

MARIA. It's natural, but that doesn't mean you want a placenta on the coffee table!

CLAUDIA. Why would it be on the coffee table? What are you talking about—

MARIA. And then what, you just have a bloody tarp in your living room?

CLAUDIA. (*Pressing on.*) The nice thing about the birthing pool is that it has *two* seats, so Alex can actually get in with me and really participate in the process.

LUIS. He's going to get *into the water* with you??

CLAUDIA. Yeah! He's going to catch the baby.

LUIS. Shouldn't a doctor do that?

CLAUDIA. And as soon as the baby's born I'm going to go skin-to-skin. We both are.

LUIS. Who both?

CLAUDIA. Me and Alex!

MARIA. I just can't quite wrap my head around it being born underwater.

CLAUDIA. Mom, just watch the YouTube videos I sent you, you'll understand!

LUIS. I'm having a hard time understanding any of this.

BUMP

by Chiara Atik

2 men, 10 women

A car mechanic on the verge of becoming a grandfather, a community of expectant mothers on a pregnancy message board, and a pregnant woman in colonial New England each question the mechanics of childbirth. Based on the true story of Jorge Odón and the birthing device he invented in his garage, BUMP spans time and space in an effort to grapple with the mystery and the miracle of maternity.

"...if you are pregnant, if you have been pregnant, if you have resulted from a pregnancy, you will probably find [BUMP] very funny."

—The New York Times

"What makes this play hum is its realism, as well as the infectious humor and vibrant characters. ...BUMP will hit home with women who are or have been expectant mothers, as well as science buffs who would like to learn the quirky story behind the Odón Device."

—CurtainUp.com

"BUMP...deals well...with the science side of things, making an accessible and entertaining story out of a medical innovation."

—TheaterMania.com

"...as entertaining as it is informative. ...funny and fascinating..."

—NewYorkTheater.Me

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