
LOVE/SICK

A romantic and tragic comedy by John Cariani

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LOVE/SICK received its world premiere production at the Portland Stage Company, (Anita Stewart, Artistic Director; Cami Barrantes, Managing Director) in Portland, Maine, opening on March 29, 2013. It was directed by Sally Wood; the set design was by Anita Stewart; the props master was Chris Hourcle; the costume design was by Kathleen Brown; the lighting design was by Bryon Winn; the sound design was by Chris Fitze; the incidental music was by Julian Fleisher; the dramaturg and assistant director was Aislinn Frantz; the production stage manager was Shane Van Vleit; the assistant production stage manager was Kat Rother; the production manager was Andrew Harris; the technical director was Ted Gallant; the production assistants were Megan Otteson, Lila Becker, and Todd Backus. The play was comprised of ten short plays, and the cast was as follows:

OBSESSIVE IMPULSIVE.....	Abigail Killeen and David Mason
THE SINGING TELEGRAM.....	Torsten Hillhouse and Patricia Buckley
WHAT?!?.....	David Mason and Torsten Hillhouse
THE ANSWER.....	Abigail Killeen and Torsten Hillhouse
UH-OH.....	David Mason and Patricia Buckley
LUNCH AND DINNER.....	Abigail Killeen and Torsten Hillhouse
CHICKEN.....	Abigail Killeen and David Mason
WHERE WAS I?.....	Abigail Killeen and Patricia Buckley
FORGOT.....	David Mason and Patricia Buckley
DESTINY.....	Patricia Buckley and Torsten Hillhouse

Before its world premiere at Portland Stage Company, LOVE/SICK had its first developmental production at High Point University (Ed Simpson, Chair) in High Point University, opening on September 30, 2010. It was directed by Jay Putnam; the set and lighting design was by Matthew Emerson; the costume design was by Ami Shupe; the sound design was by Daniel Horney; the production stage manager was Amanda Mayes. The play was comprised of eight short play, and the cast was as follows:

OBSESSIVE IMPULSIVE.....	Anna-Parsons Charles and Dan Moldovan
THE SINGING TELEGRAM.....	Maggie Jo Saylor and Daniel Harr
THE ANSWER.....	Marie Ventrone and Nathan Ruffin
UH-OH.....	Jennifer Arnold and Cody Russell
LUNCH AND DINNER.....	Cate Lightburn and Nathan Ruffin
CHICKEN.....	Maggie Jo Saylor and Cody Russell
FORGOT.....	Marie Ventrone and Daniel Harr
DESTINY.....	Anna-Parsons Charles and Dan Moldovan

LOVE/SICK had its second developmental production at Ball State University (William Jenkins, Chair) in Mucie, Indiana, opening on November 1, 2012. It was directed by Eva Patton; the set design was by Bri Kuffell, assisted by Cait Malloy; the costume design was by Tyler Phillips, assisted by Rachel Rogers; the lighting design was by Adam Kelly, assisted by Graham Zellers; the sound design was by Bryan Martina; the props master was Chris Carter, assisted by Ashley Flowers; the assistant directors were Kyle Stoffers, Jordan Bennett-Barnes, and Bianca Di Carlo; the dramaturg was Andrea Redmount; the production stage manager was Caitie Noller, assisted by Zoe Turi and Jessica Morrison; the production assistant was Colin Hart. Advisors: Brandon Malott, Michael Schmalz, Greg Lund, Melanie Mortimore, Dave Leach, Kip Shawger, John Sadler, Hyun Sook Kim, Mickie Marie, Joe Court, and Michael O'Hara. The play was comprised of ten short plays, and the cast was as follows:

OBSESSIVE IMPULSIVE.....	Cole Abell and Nancy Hale
THE SINGING TELEGRAM.....	Katie Stofko and Edric Mitchell
WHAT?!?.....	Jon Whitney and Brad Root
THE ANSWER.....	Bradford Reilly and Kara Schoenhofer
UH-OH.....	Amber Price and Jack McFarlane
LUNCH AND DINNER.....	Macie Tonn and Jon Whitney
CHICKEN.....	Brad Root and Cynthia Nesbit
WHERE WAS I?.....	Sarah Paradise and Kara Schoenhofer
FORGOT.....	Cole Abell and Katie Stofko
DESTINY.....	Bradford Reilly and Macie Tonn
Understudies.....	Jackie Seijo and Evan Cullinan

LOVE/SICK received a professional developmental production at Shadowland Theatre (Brendan Burke, Artistic Director) in Ellenville, New York, opening on June 21, 2013. It was directed by John Cariani and Brendan Burke; the set design was by Drew Francis; the props master was Charlotte Knapp; the costume design was by Holly Budd; the lighting design was by Chris Hallenbeck; the sound design was by Jeff Knapp; the incidental music was by Julian Fleisher; the production stage manager was Brittney Green; the assistant production stage manager was Michael Castillo; the technical director was Neal Knapp; the production assistants were Lindsay Green, Dan Im, and Megan Eckert. The play was comprised of ten short plays, and the cast was as follows:

OBSESSIVE IMPULSIVE.....	Katie Hartke and David Mason
THE SINGING TELEGRAM.....	Daniel Robert Sullivan and Kathy McCafferty
WHAT?!?.....	Daniel Robert Sullivan and David Mason
THE ANSWER.....	Katie Hartke and Daniel Robert Sullivan
UH-OH.....	Kathy McCafferty and David Mason
LUNCH AND DINNER.....	Daniel Robert Sullivan and Katie Hartke
CHICKEN.....	Katie Hartke and David Mason
FORGOT.....	David Mason and Kathy McCafferty
WHERE WAS I?.....	Katie Hartke and Kathy McCafferty
DESTINY.....	Kathy McCafferty and Daniel Robert Sullivan

LOVE/SICK received a professional developmental production at The Public Theatre (Christopher Schario, Executive/Artistic Director; Janet Mitchko, Co-Artistic Director) in Lewiston, Maine, opening on October 1, 2013. It was directed by Christopher Schario; the set design was by Dan Bilodeau; the costume design was by Hannah J. Brown; the lighting design was by Bart Garvey; the sound design was by Larry French; the production stage manager was Lisa Bragdon; the assistant stage managers and dramaturgs were Jazzmin Bonner and Kacy Goodworth. The play was comprised of ten short plays, and the cast was as follows:

OBSESSIVE IMPULSIVE.....	William Peden and Heather Dilly
THE SINGING TELEGRAM.....	Sarah Corey and Torsten Hillhouse
WHAT?!?.....	William Peden and Torsten Hillhouse
THE ANSWER.....	Heather Dilly and William Peden
UH-OH.....	Sarah Corey and Torsten Hillhouse
LUNCH AND DINNER.....	Heather Dilly and Torsten Hillhouse
CHICKEN.....	Sarah Corey and William Peden
WHERE WAS I?.....	Heather Dilly and Sara Corey
FORGOT.....	William Peden and Heather Dilly
DESTINY.....	Sarah Corey and Torsten Hillhouse

LOVE/SICK was produced by Half Moon Theatre Company (Molly Katz, Executive Director; Kristy Grimes, Managing Director; Patty Wineapple, Producer) in Poughkeepsie, New York, opening on November 1, 2013. It was directed by Christopher V. Edwards; the set design and props were by Aaron Ethan Green; the costume design was by Charlotte Palmer; the lighting design was by Jared H. Goldstein; the sound design was by Jeff Knapp; the production stage manager was Michael Castillo; the assistant stage manager was Andrea VanSwearingen. The play was comprised of ten short plays, and the cast was as follows:

OBSESSIVE IMPULSIVE.....	Jennifer Skura and Jack Corcoran
THE SINGING TELEGRAM.....	Jack Corcoran and Shona Tucker
WHAT?!?.....	Jack Corcoran and Greg Skura
THE ANSWER.....	Jennifer Skura and Greg Skura
UH-OH.....	Amy Lemon and Steven Patterson
LUNCH AND DINNER.....	Jennifer Skura and Jack Corcoran
CHICKEN.....	Shona Tucker and Greg Skura
WHERE WAS I?.....	Amy Lemon and Shona Tucker
FORGOT.....	Steven Patterson and Amy Lemon
DESTINY.....	Shona Tucker and Steven Patterson

LOVE/SICK was produced by TheaterWorks Hartford (Rob Ruggiero, Artistic Director; Nicole LaFlair Nieves, General Manager) in Hartford, Connecticut, opening on May 29, 2014. It was directed by Amy Saltz; the assistant director was Eric Ort; set design was by Michael Schweickhardt; props were by Sven Henry Nelson; the props assistant was Moira O'Sullivan; the costume design was by Harry Nadal; the lighting design was by Mary Jo Dondlinger; the sound design was by Fitz Patton; the production stage manager was Kate Cudworth; the assistant stage manager was Cecelia Chapman; the production assistants were Molly Chiffer, Caitlign Foley, Crystal Liu, and Savannah Lobel. The play was comprised of ten short plays, and the cast was as follows:

OBSESSIVE IMPULSIVE.....	Laura Woodward and Bruch Reed
THE SINGING TELEGRAM.....	Chris Thorn and Pascale Armand
WHAT?!?.....	Chris Thorn and Bruch Reed
THE ANSWER.....	Laura Woodward and Chris Thorn
UH-OH.....	Pascale Armand and Bruch Reed
LUNCH AND DINNER.....	Laura Woodward and Bruch Reed
CHICKEN.....	Pascale Armand and Bruch Reed
FORGOT.....	Chris Thorn and Laura Woodward
WHERE WAS I?.....	Laura Woodward and Pascale Armand
DESTINY.....	Laura Woodward and Chris Thorn

LOVE/SICK was produced by Royal Family Productions (Evan Storey and Andy Theodorou, Producers) at the Royal Family Performing Arts Space in New York City. It was directed by Chris Henry; the movement direction was by JoAnn M. Hunter; the set design was by Shannon Rednour; the costume design was by Lux Haac; the lighting design was by Lucrecia Briceno; the sound design was by Danny Erdberg; the incidental music was by Barton Kuebler, Lars Jacobsen, and Chris Henry; the dramaturg and assistant director was Miles Orduna; the production stage manager was Adrian Peña; the assistant production stage manager was Megan Harris. The production assistant was Alicia Whavers. The play was in its current form, and the cast was as follows:

MAN, BEN, BILL, KEVIN.....	Debargo Sanyal
WOMAN, CELIA, KELLY, JILL, LIZ, EMILY.....	Dee Roscioli
SINGING TELEGRAM MAN, ANDY, KEITH, MARK, JAKE.....	Justin Hagan and John Cariani
LOUISE, SARAH, ABBIE.....	Simone Harrison
SUPERCENTER DANCERS.....	Jenn Aédo, Rachel Geisler, Stephanie Israelson, Jolina Javier, Schuyler Midgett

LOVE/SICK was produced by Arc Stages (Adam David Cohen, Artistic Director; Marlene Canapi, Managing Director; Ann Shankman, President) in Pleasantville, New York, opening on September 25, 2015. It was directed by Stephanie Kovacs Cohen. The set design and props were by Ann Shankman; the costume design was by Libby Brennescholtz; the lighting design was by Adam Cohen; the sound design was by Stephanie Kovacs Cohen; the production stage manager was Emily C. Rolston; the assistant production stage manager was Caroline Scherer. Production assistants were Sharjeel Khan and Kimmie Naus. The play was in its current form, and the cast was as follows:

MAN, ANDY, BILL, MARK.....	Collin Smith
WOMAN, CELIA, KELLY, JILL, ABBIE.....	Katie Hartke
SINGING TELEGRAM MAN, BEN, KEITH, KEVIN, JAKE.....	David Lanson
LOUISE, SARAH, LIZ, EMILY.....	Caroline Kinsolving

SYNOPSIS: LOVE/SICK is a one act, nine-play cycle about love and loss—but mostly loss. Each play has its own arc and tells the story of a couple at a crossroads in their relationship. Since each relationship is more advanced than the previous relationship, a larger arc emerges and the individual plays work together to create a satisfying whole—one that chronicles the lifecycle of a typical relationship from meeting through divorce...and afterwards.

The plays:

1. “Obsessive Impulsive”
2. “The Singing Telegram”
3. “What?!?”
4. “The Answer”
5. “Uh-Oh”
6. “Lunch and Dinner”
7. “Forgot”
8. “Where Was I?”
9. “Destiny”

LOVE/SICK works best as an 80-minute intermission-less event. If an intermission is desired, please take it after the fifth play, “Uh-Oh.”

TIME: 7:30 PM on a Friday night in late June.

PLACE: An alternate suburban reality.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: LOVE/SICK is a play for four actors (2 M, 2 W). All actors should be in their 30s/early 40s. [Note: LOVE/SICK can also be a play for as many as 18 actors (9 M, 9 W). Using a larger cast affords an opportunity to use actors of all ages. The characters in the earlier plays are quite innocent; actors playing roles in the first few plays can be in their 20s and early 30s. As the play progresses, the characters become more worldly, so actors cast in those later plays should be late-30s and could be in their 40s and—in the last play—in their 50s.]

The cast should reflect the increasing diversity in America and its suburbs.

CHARACTERS:

1. “Obsessive Impulsive”

A WOMAN and a MAN who fall in love at first sight.

2. “The Singing Telegram”

A SINGING TELEGRAM MAN who delivers a singing telegram to an enthusiastic woman, LOUISE.

3. “What?!?”

BEN, a guy who is surprised that he has fallen in love, and ANDY, the sweet guy he has fallen in love with.

4. "The Answer"

KEITH and CELIA, a groom and bride.

5. "Uh-Oh"

SARAH, an inquiring woman, and BILL, her content husband of a year and a half.

6. "Lunch and Dinner"

KELLY and MARK, a power couple, married for five years.

7. "Forgot"

JILL, a woman who wants more than she has, and KEVIN, her husband of nine years, who is happy with what he has.

8. "Where Was I?"

ABBIE, a hardworking stay at home mom, and LIZ, her hard-working wife.

9. "Destiny"

JAKE, a recently divorced man, and EMILY, a recently divorced woman.

NOTES FOR ACTORS AND DIRECTORS AND READERS:

F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote, “The sentimental person thinks things will last—the romantic person has a desperate confidence that they won’t.”

I am a romantic. And so are the characters in LOVE/SICK. They are desperately confident that things are going to go bad. But they fight like hell to make sure that they don’t.

LOVE/SICK is a romantic play. It is not a sentimental play.

LOVE/SICK is full of highs and lows. Play them fully. Soar. Crash. Repeat.

LOVE/SICK is a realistically absurd play. Play it for real. Even though it’s absurd.

LOVE/SICK is a very funny tragedy.

If you are involved in a production of LOVE/SICK, please see the ADDITIONAL NOTES at the back of this volume.

Notes on Punctuation:

You will see some unusual punctuation in the text.

“>” at the end of a line means keep talking—don’t wait for the other actor’s line.

“//” inside an actor’s line is a signal to the other actor that s/he should start speaking his/her next line.

A dash (—) at the *end* of a speech means that the next speaker cuts off the current speaker.

An ellipsis (...) at the *end* of a speech means that the character speaking trails off into thought. The next speaker should not interrupt, but should respond to the trailing off.

Commas after end punctuation are to encourage pace.

Text in brackets ([]) is not to be spoken—it is there for information.

The stage direction, “(*Receive and process.*)” means just that. Not a full beat—but take a moment (take it on the words, even) to sort through what’s going on, or what’s just been said.