

# The Big Meal

Production Meeting Notes

11.8.2024 | 4:00-5:00pm



## Attendance

Z. Demers **PRESENT** , T. Dharmadji **PRESENT** , P. White **PRESENT** ,  
C. Fruscione **ABSENT** , L. Wiedenmann **PRESENT** , K. Upadhyaya **ABSENT** ,  
L. LaTorre **PRESENT** , M. Howard **ABSENT** , N. Pepper **PRESENT** ,  
S. Grabow **PRESENT** , R. O'Connor **ABSENT** , S. Weinhardt **PRESENT** ,  
H. Hart **PRESENT** , S. Muchler **PRESENT** , emShakes' Rep **PRESENT** (H. Hart)

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[The Big Meal Essential Dates](#)

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[Meeting Recording](#)

We started out our meeting with the question, what would be your baseball walkup song?

## Scenic:

- Lauren said they got the floors approved by Josh today!!
  - She said in order for it to work, we need Ram Board which is a thin piece of cardboard that will be gaffed to the stage to make for an easy tear up and breakdown.
  - Lauren would like to preapply the tiles before load in to the Ram Board so that it can be a quicker process as well.
  - Sawyer gave Lauren the dimensions of the Judee so that she could calculate costs and it all seems pretty affordable.
- Lauren wanted to email restaurants around Boston to source a baby seat and some boosters. She wants to see if we can borrow something from a local place since they are very expensive on Amazon.
- Lauren has a warehouse visit planned for this Thursday, November 14th. Bare has one of the podiums and one of the tables that they were interested in, therefore, smaller U Haul and less lifting!
- Lauren talked to Savannah yesterday and got a better idea of the environments in the play. Lauren looked more specifically at midwest tex mex and saw a lot of what Zack had envisioned, including some weird barren spaces with big food tiles.
- Lauren shared her screen and showed us some inspo that she found for poster tiles. For this she would love it if we send a print order to print and copy and just back them with cardboard, so we don't waste money.

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- Lauren asked Zack how Tex-Mex he wants the space, like if she should include a Mexican flag or would it be too Tex-Mex.
  - Zack thinks it might be too Tex-Mex since there are other locations at play and they will already have the paneling.
  - Lauren brought up using Mexican banners close to the ceiling to help indicate this as an alternative.
    - Zack asked if iconographically there were things that symbolized a bistro/the other locations?
    - Lauren said that there is a world where these banners could be triangles with bright colors to give the same vibe but be more transferable.
- Lauren is updating the purchase request document and sent it to Zack on Friday evening. She thinks that they can do a lot of sourcing overall so yay!
- Susan asked a question about coordinating the U Haul trips for load in and load out. She asked if Lauren was free between 12 and 4pm on 12.5 to take the U Haul to get furniture, and 12.12 between 12 and 4pm to get furniture back to the props warehouse?
  - Lauren said yes to both!
- Susan asked about the build plan for the show?
  - Lauren would love it if she could assemble the tiles and Ram Board in the production space, and if there isn't room, she can do that in her room.
  - Susan will check in with Josh about that!

## Props:

- Lucy is still creating her purchase request document and went through with us what she was going to purchase for the show.
  - She is going to try to find as much of this stuff as she can from 4M and the dollar store and her house for a collection.
- Lucy is looking for exact recipes so she can get exact ingredient amounts. There are not that many meals that require hardcore recipe's but she wants to make sure we aren't double buying anything.
- Zack said that if Lucy sends the recipes over to Zack as he has offered his kitchen up to the cooking process and can help sear things, etc.
- Halle is going to send Lucy an email with the list of dietary restrictions.
- Susan asked about scheduling a meeting about props and the props list.
  - Shae chimed in about having a props tracker to keep props updated on what is needed in the room.

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- Lucy said that she would be able to get things shipped here from her home such as plates so that they can be in the room ASAP and that they can work out a system for storing items between rehearsals.
- Susan doesn't think a meeting might be necessary if the collaborative document is working.
  - Shae agrees!

## Costumes:

- Nicola said that they are working on generating their list of what they need to order on Amazon based on what people have in their closets.
- She says that they will likely get most things that they need from Amazon or Goodwill.
- Nicola mentioned that Molly presented what they wanted to do with costumes in the show at rehearsal yesterday.
- **Susan mentioned that purchase requests should be sent to her by the end of the weekend (end of day Sunday 11.10).**
- Zack said that rehearsal pieces for costumes would be great to have as soon as possible but specifically glasses for rehearsal are a higher priority.
- Zack said that the quick change for Man #3 and Woman #3 around page 60 from Maddie and Boyfriend to Steph and Robbie is remarkably fast just to put that on costumes' radar.
- Shae is actively crafting costume tracking paperwork and wanted us to know that it was being cooked!

## Lighting:

- Sawyer said that they chatted with Lauren and they chatted about practicals.
  - Sawyer said that lighting will pay for the chandelier and if it goes over \$50, scenic will cover the rest.
  - Lauren has started looking at hanging lighting fixtures online and they are really expensive.
    - She thinks waiting to see what stock has before committing to online purchases and thinks that stock will bless us when we need her most.
  - Zack doesn't want the Chilli's lighting fixture to mess with anyone's vision. He said that as long as it speaks to Sawyer and Lauren, it will fit in the world.

## Stage Management:

- Halle said that rehearsals have been going really well and that they will be finishing up tablework on Monday and will get on their feet on Tuesday.
- Halle made a note that there will be no rehearsal on Sunday and instead there will be time for the directing team to work out how the tables will shift throughout the show.

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- Halle said that they have a great group of actors and that the discussions that they have been having will be incredibly informative to the process ahead.
- Halle said to read the reports and daily calls when you get them.
- **Halle requested that you include the name of the show in the subject line of emails when you send them!** It can get confusing when there are multiple shows happening at the same time.
- Shae said that she is crafting a scene chart to help us track the various scene locations defined throughout the show so that we are all on the same page.

## Production Management:

- Susan said that today (11.8) was the deadline for purchase requests and initial reimbursement requests, but she is offering a revised deadline of 11.10 at the end of the day since SEAL's hours are Monday-Friday anyways.
- Susan is working on email for the marketing team about photography and videography for the show.
- Susan is going to check in with the EVVYs about securing a judge. She asked if anyone has a suggestion for faculty members to be judges?
  - Joe Antoun's name was brought forth (keeping in mind that he is the emShakes advisor).
- Susan asked if Halle and Zack could send Susan their initials so that she can finalize contracts for folks.
- Sawyer mentioned that they have a friend who was interested in production photography.
  - Susan said that she will bring that name forward – KJ Halpern.
    - He would also be interested in getting photos of specific moments in a photocall fashion.

## emShakes:

- Halle mentioned that in terms of the chandelier that we shouldn't forget to purchase light bulbs as they don't usually come with light bulbs! emShakes doesn't have light bulbs but they do have batteries.
- Halle asked if anyone had anything to bring over to the emShakes meeting?

## Direction:

- Zack and Pam defined the locations and situations for each moment in the play:
  - We start where Nicole works – bistro and local corporate chain vibes, name is "Blue 47's."

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- Next place is across the street (4 lanes of traffic with no crosswalk) called “The Harbor.” It is the place that everyone goes to after work and used to be a dive bar but now they have a new menu and the food isn’t too bad. This place is based off of where Zack went to after work in Portsmouth called “Legends, Billiards and Tavern.”
- When Nicole and Sam meet as grown ups, they meet at a place that has a Chili’s vibe that is a 15 minute drive away, called “Me Rancho.” A majority of these family scenes are at Me Rancho.
- Sam takes Nicole to a nice place called “Parque” which has a small menu and tasting menu on the weekends and it is in the city. It is like an hour, hour and a half away and in the basement of a hotel.
- Sam and Jessica first meet at a work function, like an elks lodge meets a physics museum (work function but the kids could be there). The next time they meet is at the Harbor.
- We are still trying to figure out the environment where people die but it’s definitely not real.
- There is also a wedding venue but it is very much Parque vibes with the same base look and feel.
- Shae asked for a list of the places corresponding with scenes and the time between scenes to be sent to her by Pam?
  - Pam says that is on her list for today, and she will send that over!
- Zack brought up the promo shoot and production photography.
  - Zack asked to see people’s work before selecting a photographer so that he could see it before deciding as he knows that this work is another beast.
  - Zack said that as far as the direction of the photoshoot, he wants it to play into the marketing strategy that people should be questioning if this is a play.
  - Zack wants to see if we could do a promotional shoot of restaurant b roll footage without character roles.
    - Susan will send an email to marketing about coordinating all of these elements!

Thank you!

Susan <3