

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT
THIS PLAY IS FULLY PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT

All plays, books, music and other materials published by Heartland Plays, Inc. are fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries which the United States has reciprocal relations including, but not limited to all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, The Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention. All rights to the plays and materials on our website are strictly reserved including, and without limitation, professional and amateur performance rights; motion pictures; public reading; radio and television broadcasting; audio and video recording and reproduction of any type known or yet to be invented; information storage and retrieval systems of any type known or yet to be invented; and the rights of translation into any and all languages. No individual or organization whether amateur or stock may perform this or any play published by Heartland Plays, Inc. without first obtaining advance permission from Heartland Plays, Inc. and paying the appropriate fees including Royalties and Single-Use Copyright fees. Heartland Plays, Inc. collects royalties on behalf of the Playwrights whose plays it publishes. Unauthorized copying, transcribing or reproduction of this or any play or excerpt, or storage or transmittal in any form and by any means whether known or yet to be invented, is strictly forbidden except as provided by Agreement with Heartland Plays, Inc. Any unauthorized use is a violation of copyright laws and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

FIVE SIMPLE RULES TO REMEMBER

1. DO take advantage of the free online perusal of our plays to help you make the best choice for your particular needs or production.
2. DO enjoy the convenience of our online purchase application for performance rights and single-use copyright.
3. DO understand that this play and all plays and materials on our website are controlled by Heartland Plays, Inc. and fully protected by copyright.
4. DO NOT attempt in any way to copy, transcribe or reproduce this play by any means or perform this play or use any play or material from our website without first receiving permission from Heartland Plays, Inc. Any attempt to use this or any other work without first obtaining permission is a violation of copyright and punishable by law.
5. DO NOT rob this Author or any of the Authors we represent of their right to be paid for the use of their property. It is a crime and it is wrong!

Product Code A0240.3

All You Can Eat

**A Short One-Man Comedy by
J.C. Svec**

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
REPRODUCTION WITHOUT SPECIFIC WRITTEN PERMISSION PROHIBITED**

**Performance Rights Available Exclusively through
Heartland Plays, Inc. at heartlandplays.com
playsnow@heartlandplays.com
customer service: 406-431-7680**

**Copyright © 2010 by J.C. Svec
WGAE#I211708**

All You Can Eat

by J.C. Svec

MANNY: *a man suffering from “Buffet Performance Anxiety”*

SCENE: *A bare stage. The entire downstage width or apron should be the location of an implied, all you can eat, family buffet.*

AT RISE: *MANNY stands at either side of the stage. With both hands, he holds a large, oval, empty plate in front of him. From where he stands, MANNY ogles the extent of the buffet.*

NOTE: *His dialogue, unless otherwise specified, is spoken to himself.*

MANNY

(Impressed) Wow! By far the largest buffet I’ve ever seen. The flyer said great food at a great place.

MANNY looks around.

MANNY, *Continued*

Well, who cares about what the place looks like and we’ll just see about the great food. The flyer stated Chinese, Japanese and American cuisine.

MANNY peruses his surroundings.

MANNY, *Continued*

Four separate stations. Um-hmmm. Cold appetizers, sides and desserts. Good. Hot appetizers, soups and finger foods. Nicely done. Hot meals and sides. Obviously of the oriental variety. And, finally, American standards at station number four. Wait a minute.

MANNY pulls a flyer from his pocket.

MANNY, *Continued*

(Reads) Chinese, Japanese, and American.

MANNY stands on his toes and looks all around and over the buffet.

MANNY, *Continued*

(Satisfied) Ah, there it is. Station number five. The sushi bar. And wait... could it be? Yes it is. Soft serve ice cream with sundae fixings.

MANNY'S attention is drawn to the middle of the buffet.

MANNY, *Continued*

(Concerned) Oh, oh. We've got a mad rush towards one section of station two. That could only mean one thing...

MANNY angles himself for a better look.

MANNY, *Continued*

Just as I thought. Snow crab legs. That mad rush doesn't mean a thing. *(Looks around)* If they're any good the tables will have shell crackers...

MANNY does an exhaustive search of the tables. He nods and begins to smile broadly towards the end of his search. MANNY looks back at the gathering around the crab legs.

MANNY, *Continued*

(Determined) Get out of the way folks. I'll be getting me some of those—

MANNY'S move is stopped dead by his response to a strong smell.

MANNY, *Continued*

(Intrigued) What's that? *(Sniffs)* Garlic, a trace of ground pepper, lemon and... olive oil. That has to be the best lemon chicken I've ever smelled.

MANNY composes himself.

MANNY, *Continued*

Whoa, whoa. Get a hold of yourself Manny. You're acting like you've never been to one of these before. And we all know that couldn't be anything further from the truth. Don't let your mind get ahead of your stomach. First things first. There are rules to remember and procedures to follow. Let's not let a little lemon chicken destroy all protocol. Take a deep breath. *(Breathes deeply)* One: salads belong in restaurants, not at a buffet. Two: never eat too much of one item. Three: follow the proper eating guidelines. An appetizer sampler, snow crab legs, appetizers, appetizer seconds, meal taste-test, meal with rice or lo-mein, meal seconds, rice and lo-mein optional, an appetizer nosh, snow crab legs, if available, dessert, and dessert with ice-cream. Four: take what you want but eat what you take. Five: soda fills, water flushes. *(Bows his head)* Amen.

MANNY touches his stomach.

MANNY, Continued

Time to take care of business.

MANNY stretches his arms and shakes his legs one at a time. He looks around, makes several moves towards several different stations. MANNY reaches for a number of different foods but eventually returns to his original location. He closes his eyes and pinches the bridge of his nose.

MANNY, Continued

Oh boy. Feeling a little woozy here. *(Wipes his forehead)* I'm hungry. Yeah, that's it. A little warm in here, too. I need to eat something, that's all. *(Laughs)* Well, I'm in the right place for that. No shortage of food at this place. Now, let's rock and roll.

MANNY remains frozen. He looks down at his legs.

MANNY, Continued

C'mon legs, do your stuff. You lead and the rest of us follow. *(Remains frozen; to his legs)* Snow crab legs! GO!

MANNY is forced to address a waiter. [The waiter is unseen by the audience.]

MANNY, Continued

(Embarrassed) No, everything's fine. Just checking out the landscape before I forge ahead.

MANNY bows at the waist in respect to the waiter's culture.

MANNY, Continued

(Nervous) This is ridiculous. *(Kids)* Come on ol' boy, get with it. *(Closes eyes)* Travel back and remember... remember...

Silence.

This is Not the End of the Play
Ending Intentionally Omitted for Security Purposes