

My Dinner with AI

By Graham W. Osborne

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DEDICATION

To my wife, Laura,
who always supports me using her AI: *Actual* Intelligence.

SYNOPSIS

Chad's got a problem. Every time he goes on a date with a girl, he gets so nervous he has no idea what to say. So, his friend Steve gives him some advice: pop in an earbud and let Dia-Logic, a great new AI app, tell him everything to say. Of course, not everything goes as planned... Awkward moments and raucous laughter abound in this one act comedy that examines what it means to really connect with someone in the 21st century.

Running Time: 30-35 minutes.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

"My Dinner with AI" received its world premiere at Downingtown (PA) West High School, performed by the Stage West Drama Club on February 5, 2026. It was directed by the playwright, Graham W. Osborne, who is exceedingly grateful to them all.

CHAD.....	Desmond Siggelkow
STEVE.....	Aaron Prakash
STEVE'S DAD.....	Adam Grossman
BARISTA/JEN.....	Abby DePietropaolo
ANNA.....	Michaela Yodis
DIA-LOGIC.....	John Paul Dobrzynski
SERVER.....	Julia Nagler
ROSE.....	Kylie Witmer
HOST.....	Will Rohner
AD VOICE.....	Mhiruny Williams
DIA-LOGIC FEMALE.....	Gabrielle Fleurimond
Cover art design.....	Olivia Leps

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 m, 4 w, 4 flexible, doubling possible)

CHAD (M)	Mid-20s; looking for a girlfriend but suffers from a crippling lack of self-confidence.
STEVE (M)	Mid-20s; went to college with Chad; confident, has many opinions and ideas.
PARENT	Mid-50s; Steve's parent (or even a grandparent).
BARISTA JEN (W)	Mid-20s; friendly and outgoing; works at the coffee shop.
ANNA (W)	Mid-20s; Chad's former college classmate and date.
DIA-LOGIC	Offstage voice of AI chatbot. This is a flexible role, however, if this voice is female, Dia-Logic #2 should be male (or vice versa).
SERVER	Age range optional; a new server at Alfredo; very helpful and friendly.
ROSE (W)	Mid-20s; Chad's blind date; outgoing and talkative; sometimes says awkward things.
HOST/HOSTESS	Age range optional; seats customers at Alfredo; has worked there longer than the server.
AD VOICE	Smooth and smarmy offstage voice of an ad about a medication for indigestion.
DIA-LOGIC #2	Offstage voice of AI chatbot. This is a flexible role, however, if this voice is male, Dia-Logic should be female (or vice versa).

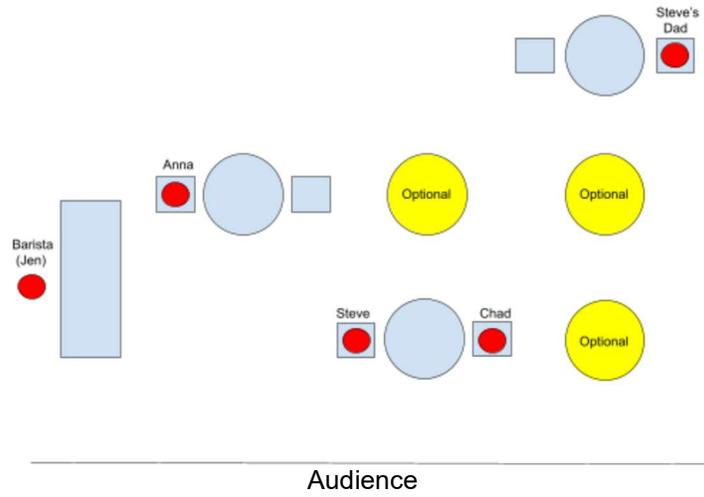
Doubling Suggestions:

Steve/ Ad-Voice
Parent/ Dia-Logic
Barista Jen/ Server
Anna/ Dia-Logic #2

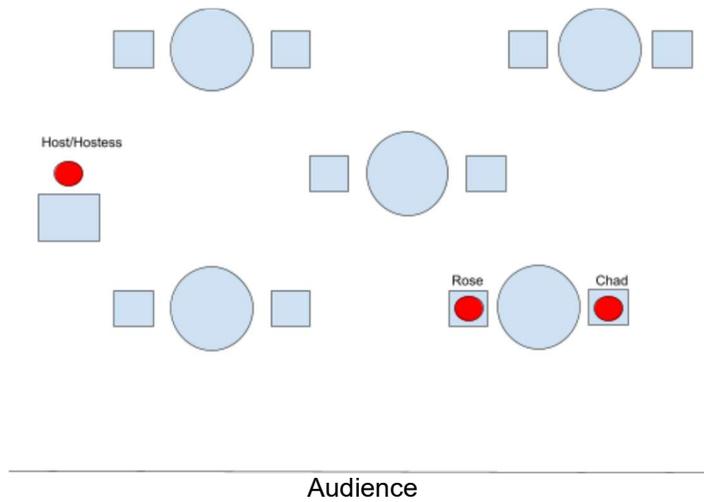
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SET LAYOUT

Scene 1



Scene 2



Scene 1

(Open on interior coffee shop. At least three tables are scattered throughout the stage. They can be filled by a handful of non-speaking roles or left empty, depending on casting needs. At one of the tables, RC, should be ANNA, dressed somewhat fancy (but not noticeably) like she's on a first date. At another table, UL, is the PARENT. CHAD and STEVE sit DC across from each other at a table. CHAD faces SR and STEVE faces SL. A BARISTA (JEN) stands behind a counter R making drinks.)

CHAD: What can I say? It's a great opportunity. I just hope the interview goes well.

STEVE: I'm sure they'll hire you. You've got a great resumé.

CHAD: Yeah, but I get really nervous in interviews. And at that point, it doesn't matter if I look good on paper.

STEVE: Why do people still say that?

CHAD: Say what?

STEVE: "On paper"? Almost nothing gets printed anymore.

CHAD: Huh. You're right. It's weird how outdated phrases hold on like that. I just say it without even thinking.

STEVE: Everything's changed since our parents were young. You remember that job I applied for last year?

CHAD: The one with that digital security firm?

STEVE: Yeah. I was telling my dad/mom about how I was gonna apply, and he's/she's like...

(PARENT, sitting at table UL picks up phone as LIGHTS come up on him/her.)

PARENT: You should print up your resume, put on a suit, drive down to the office and hand it directly to someone in HR. Shake their hand and everything. Really make an impression.

(LIGHTS go down on PARENT who puts down their phone and returns to whatever they were doing or exits SL for doubling.)

CHAD: I could never do that.

STEVE: Point is, you can't anymore. They don't accept paper resumé's, and they certainly don't let some stranger in a suit just walk into the HR department and start shaking hands. Everything's online now.

BARISTA: *(Reading the cup.)* Chad?

(CHAD gets up and walks to the counter to collect his drink.)

BARISTA: *(Cont'd.)* Here you go.

CHAD: *(Taking the coffee.)* Thanks.

BARISTA: I like your shirt. Where'd you get it?

CHAD: Oh. Um. I think I got it... online.

BARISTA: Oh. Cool.

(Beat.)

CHAD: Yours is nice. Where'd you get it?

BARISTA: *(Awkwardly.)* It's just my work shirt. They give us shirts.

CHAD: Right. *(Beat.)* Well...thanks.

(CHAD walks awkwardly back to the table and sits down.)

STEVE: *(With a smirking grin.)* What'd she say to you?

CHAD: *(Distractedly looking at his name on the cup.)* What? Oh, nothing. *(HE takes a sip and puts his cup down on the table.)*

STEVE: What're you up to this weekend?

CHAD: *(Lying.)* Um. Nothing.

STEVE: Nothing? What, you're gonna cease to exist?

CHAD: *(With a slight chuckle.)* No, I...I've got a date.

STEVE: *(Intrigued.)* And the truth comes out. A date? Do I know her?

CHAD: No. I don't even know her. Darren set us up. Someone he knows from college.

STEVE: What's her name?

BARISTA: *(Reading a cup.)* Steve?

STEVE: *(Getting up.)* Hold that thought. *(STEVE walks over to the counter and picks up his drink.)* Thanks.

BARISTA: You're welcome.

(STEVE starts to walk away pretending to look at the cup but stops and turns back to the counter.)

STEVE: Excuse me. I'm sorry. I never do this, but you spelled my name wrong.

BARISTA: *(Looking a little embarrassed.)* I did? How else can you spell "Steve"?

STEVE: I actually spell it with three E's, two in the middle and one on the end.

BARISTA: *(Incredulous, but slightly charmed.)* You do not. Nobody spells it that way.

STEVE: Swear to God.

BARISTA: I'm not buying it.

(CHAD has now taken notice of STEVE and the BARISTA and is trying to listen in on their conversation.)

STEVE: Well, how many E's are in *your* name?

BARISTA: One.

STEVE: *(Guessing.)* Kelly?

BARISTA: Nope.

STEVE: Nelly?

BARISTA: Starts with a "J."

STEVE: Jelly?

BARISTA: *(With a snicker.)* It's Jen.

STEVE: *(Extending HIS hand to HER.)* Well, nice to meet you, Jen with one E.

BARISTA: *(Shaking HIS hand.)* Likewise, Ste-eve.

STEVE: Thanks for the drink.

BARISTA: You're welcome.

(STEVE walks back to the table, sits down, and takes a victory sip of his drink.)

CHAD: *(Intrigued.)* What'd she say to you?

End of Freeview

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