

Noodles

A Comedy in Two Acts

By L. Don Swartz

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DEDICATION

In loving memory of John and Joan Milovich.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Met the Boodles! Boo and Stu Boodle are husband and wife whose affection for each other is still genuine after all these years. Boo is a June Cleaver type at her homiest, but Stu is clueless. Then there's Grandpa Boodle, who devotes his free time to a favorite pursuit: a cat house that he runs. At least, that's what HE calls it. Lulu is the Boodles' hypochondriac daughter who meets her match in the equally germ-o-phobic Luke, who just might be the perfect addition to this family. Also there's the ever-helpful Jack, who resides in a cardboard appliance box in the middle of the Boodle living room, and the neighbor, Mrs. Doodah-Doodah.

The only sane one around appears to be Ned, the 30-ish son of Ma and Pa Boodle. Ned's efforts to introduce girlfriends to his family don't turn out very well, but this latest one is different. Elaine sees what few others see in the family Boodle. Why? Ned was once a close part of this daffy bunch, perhaps even a little daffy himself at one time. But something has changed him. Can Elaine help? Can Ned help his family cross over into his world ... the sane one you and I see every day? With understated humor, the final scenes explain everything and will leave you feeling pretty good about some of your own weirdness ... and just might help you view your own crazed flesh and blood with a knowing smile, a kinder eye and an open heart.

Premiere Performance

"Noodles" was first presented by Starry Night Theatre Inc., at the Ghostlight Theatre in North Tonawanda, New York on May 10, 2007, with the following cast: Carolyn Woomer (Boo Boodle), Jesse Swartz (Ned), Megan Blarr (Krystal), Greg Blarr (Grandpa), Don Swartz (Jack), Debby Koszelak Swartz (Lulu), Mark Woomer (Stu), Colleen Neumann (Mrs. Doodah-Doodah), Marsha Christiano (Nora), Vanessa Stipkovits (Elaine) and Paul McGinnis ('Uke)

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(5 m, 6 w)

BOO BOODLE: Ned's mother. June Cleaver at her homiest, caring but sometimes carried away.

NED BOODLE: The 30-ish son of Boo and Stu Boodle. If you met him on the street, you might be tempted to buy a mutual fund from him. He's the "normal" one of the family.

KRYSTAL: Ned's girlfriend, 25 and dressed in high fashion.

GRANDPA BOODLE: Started the family's Boodle's Dry Cleaning and Pie Shop, is now retired and devoting his free time to a favorite pursuit: a cat house that he runs.

JACK: Homeless man who lives in a box in the Boodles' living room. He is warm and streetwise.

LULU BOODLE: The Boodles' hypochondriac daughter. Ned's younger sister.

STU BOODLE: Ned's father. He's been inhaling dry-cleaning fumes for 30 years and has the empty-headed comic cluelessness to prove it.

MRS. DOODAH-DOODAH: The next door neighbor. She is just as zany if not more so.

NORA: Another one of Ned's girlfriends.

ELAINE: Ned's latest girlfriend. She sees the best in the Boodle family.

LUKE: Lulu's love interest who is equally germ-o-phobic.

Place: The Boodles' living room in western New York.

Time: The present.

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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1: Early evening, May.

Scene 2: Two months later, early July, late afternoon.

Scene 3: Two weeks later, mid-July, early evening.

Scene 4: A month later, August, evening.

ACT II

Scene 1: A month later, mid-September, afternoon.

Scene 2: A month later, mid-October, night.

Scene 3: One week later, evening.

Scene 4: The next night.

SETTING

The Boodle living room decor is from the late 1950s. There is a round table stage right with three chairs. SL of center there is a sofa and an armchair. A large cardboard box sits on a raised platform near a landing that goes upstairs, USL. There is a swatch of green grass and a small picket fence surrounding the box as well as a mailbox and two wooden turtles. There is an archway UC that leads to the kitchen. On the wall near the archway is a bulletin board with several Polaroid snapshots of startled people. There is a door SL that leads to a small front porch. SR of center is a large window. Downstage left is an open doorway to a bedroom. There is a velvet rope strung across the opening.

PROPS

Tray of cookies	2 identical ties for Ned
Polaroid camera	Serving tray for Jack
Clown costume w/ big shoes	Snacks
Large stuffed elephant	Flower
Glass of water	Handful of pills in Nora's purse
Miniature marshmallows	Memo
Giant sub sandwich on a plate	Board game "Operation"
Portable TV	Bowl of soup and spoon
Letter	"Welcome Home, Jack!" sign
Folded tablecloth	Trombone for Jack
Axe for Lulu	Small mouse cage w/ sign
Surgical masks, rubber gloves, and scrubs for Lulu and Luke	

Note: See end of script for list of sound effects.

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ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: Early evening, May. BOO enters through the archway, carrying a tray of cookies. She wears a housewife's dress from the 1950s, covered with polka-dots, and a short string of pearls. She bustles around the room humming as she makes sure everything is perfect. She senses that she has a hair on the tip of her tongue and tries to remove it. She experiences this sensation every five minutes or so and is determined to remove the offending follicle. NED, her 30-year-old son, enters from the front door. He wears a suit and tie.)

BOO: Oh, sweetheart, you look very handsome. Just like your prom.

NED: Mother, my prom was a disaster. Let's hope this goes better.

BOO: It will. Where is Krystal? I can't wait to meet her.

NED: I asked her to meet me here in about 15 minutes. Is Dad home?

BOO: Not yet, but I expect him any minute.

NED: *(Carries a tie identical to the one he is wearing.)* I'm going to run upstairs to change ties. If she comes, just let her in and I'll be right down.

BOO: Okay.

NED: Does everyone know we're having important company today?

BOO: Yes, everyone knows. You have nothing to worry about.

NED: That's what you said last time.

BOO: Whatever happened to Shelia?

NED: She moved to Finland.

BOO: Oh, that's right. She does something with goats now.

NED: Oh, Mother, did you hear that the Donovans sold their house?

BOO: Yes, I did. We're going to miss them.

NED: That makes you and Dad the last holdouts.

BOO: I know.

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NED: The neighborhood is gone. It's been slowly eaten up by the trailer park. Pretty soon you're going to be the only house without wheels.

BOO: That's okay. We're not abandoning Grandma's house. You know how I feel.

NED: Mother, you're surrounded by trailer-park people.

BOO: You know I don't like it when you call them that. People are people. Go change your tie.

(HE disappears upstairs. BOO continues to tidy the room.)

NED: *(Re-appears.)* Mother, who is the strange man sleeping in my bed?

BOO: That's our mailman. He seemed so tired. He's sleeping.

NED: Sleeping one off, by the whiff of things.

BOO: Don't be silly. That's just his aftershave.

NED: Must be that new Wild Turkey cologne.

(NED exits upstairs, BOO through arch. SFX: A doorbell rings.)

GRANDPA: *(Enters through arch.)* Doorbell. Doorbell. Doorbell! I'll get it. Come on in.

(KRYSTAL enters dressed in high fashion.)

KRYSTAL: Thank you.

GRANDPA: What can I do for you?

KRYSTAL: I'm Krystal. I'm Ned's friend.

GRANDPA: Ned doesn't live here anymore.

KRYSTAL: I know. I'm meeting his family.

GRANDPA: Okay. Come on in and make yourself comfortable. I'm Grandpa.

KRYSTAL: Nice to meet you, Mr. Boodle.

GRANDPA: Likewise. Go ahead, sit on the couch. I'm sure Ned will be here directly. I'm on my way down to the cat house.

KRYSTAL: Did you say cat house?

End of Freeview

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