



THE HAPPY SAD

BY KEN URBAN



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THE HAPPY SAD premiered as part of the Summer Play Festival (Arielle Tepper Madover, Founding Executive Producer) at the Public Theater in New York City, opening on July 21, 2009. It was directed by Trip Cullman; the set design was by Andromache Chalfant; the lighting design was by Thomas Dunn; the sound design was by Bart Fasbender; the costume design was by Emily Rebholz; and the stage manager was Becky Fleming. The cast was as follows:

ANNIEAri Graynor
STAN..... Christopher Abbott
AARON..... Maulik Pancholy
MARCUSMichael Stahl-David
MANDYHeidi Schreck
ALICESue Jean Kim
DAVIDEddie Kaye Thomas

THE HAPPY SAD was developed in New York City at The Flea Theater (Jim Simpson, Artistic Director; Carol Ostrow, Producing Director), and Playwrights Horizons (Tim Sanford, Artistic Director). Ken would like to thank Sherri Kronfeld for her work on the play at The Flea, Craig Lucas for directing the reading at Playwrights Horizons, Trip for his expert direction at SPF, and all the actors who have worked on this play during its genesis.

CHARACTERS

ANNIE

STAN

AARON

MARCUS

MANDY

ALICE

DAVID

Stan, Alice, and Aaron are in their early 20s.

Mandy and David are in their 30s.

Annie and Marcus are in their late 20s.

Marcus celebrates his 30th birthday in Scene 13.

PLACE

A city on the East Coast.

A place with subways and irony.

TIME

The present.

Act One: Fall.

Act Two: Spring.

NOTES

The world of this play is a little bigger and brighter than our own.

The casting should reflect the diversity of the play's setting.

The actors should not be singers, but actors who can sing, kind of.

The songs are (mostly) magical moments when we see the inner lives of the characters and when they share things that they can't just say to each other.

Punctuation and layout of the lines give indication of delivery.

A slash (/) indicates that the following lines begin to overlap at that point.

The audience members who speak in Scene 9 should be plants in the audience of the theatre. If this is not possible, the lines could be a sound cue.

Songs by the Avon Barksdale (Lyrics: Urban, Music: Urban/Brand/Breitling/Stern)

THE HAPPY SAD

ACT ONE

FALL

Scene 1

HAIRBRUSH

September. A café. Stan and Annie sit.

ANNIE. Stan, we need to talk.

STAN. Wait. Before, before you say anything. *(He hands her flowers.)*

ANNIE. These are beautiful. You didn't have to —

STAN. Here. *(He hands her a large envelope. She opens it. It is a piece of artwork encased in matting.)* I saw you looking at it last time you were in the studio. It's the artwork I did for the florist. I figured. Flowers. And the print would —

I could tell you liked it. Thought it would look nice in your bedroom.

ANNIE. That's, that's really nice.

STAN. Thanks.

ANNIE. I wanna take a break.

STAN. What?

I don't understand.

ANNIE. We got serious really fast.

STAN. I can't do this in public, OK?

ANNIE. I thought we were gonna talk this morning at brunch, or last week.

STAN. Work. I had a big deadline —

ANNIE. No, I know, me too, me too —
STAN. Let's go somewhere we can be alone.
ANNIE. Stan? Are you — ?
STAN. I have, I have something in my eye.
ANNIE. Look at me.
STAN. Annie, tell me. There someone else?
ANNIE. No.
STAN. We said we'd always be honest.
ANNIE. That's why I'm here. To talk.
STAN. These six months have been great.
ANNIE. I know.
STAN. That's why I don't understand.
ANNIE. Wasn't that long ago we both got out of —
STAN. That never compared to this.
ANNIE. You're so. Handsome. You know that?
STAN. You were gonna say, you're so young, weren't you?
ANNIE. But I didn't. You're handsome. You're young.
STAN. Is there someone else?
ANNIE. It's not serious.
STAN. You can see us both, maybe.
ANNIE. I don't think you can handle that. Don't know if I can handle that, Stan.
STAN. What's his name?
ANNIE. It doesn't matter.
STAN. Matters to me.
ANNIE. You're angry.
STAN. I'm not angry.
ANNIE. You're angry.
STAN. I'm hurt.
ANNIE. Stan.
STAN. His name?
ANNIE. Mandy.
STAN. Mandy?
ANNIE. Mandy.
STAN. Mandy from school?
ANNIE. Yes.
STAN. You're seeing Mandy.
ANNIE. Um. Yeah.
STAN. Mandy is nice.
ANNIE. She is.

THE HAPPY SAD

by Ken Urban

4M, 3W

Armed with art and flowers, Stan discovers his girlfriend Annie wants to take a break. Meanwhile, long-term boyfriends Aaron and Marcus struggle with the question of monogamy. In a city with too many options, the lives of these two couples (and their friends) become intertwined when Stan and Marcus meet online and hook up. *THE HAPPY SAD* is a comedy with songs that tackles open relationships, sexual confusion, and figuring out what you really want from life.

*“Ken Urban’s theatre work keeps on getting better and better. *THE HAPPY SAD* is an entertaining, provocative and thoughtful look at twenty/thirty-something angst. It’s a study of several relationships and of the accommodations people make to hold them together. There’s wisdom here and wit.”*

—**NYTheatre.com**

“Urban is brilliant, provocative and gushing with talent!”

—**OC Weekly**

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