

the beginning of

**DUTCH TREAT** (from **FUNNY AS A CRUTCH**)

a short comedy by Rich Orloff

*Time:* Lunchtime

*Place:* A restaurant in Amsterdam

*Characters:* OLIVIA, an American tourist, uses a wheelchair

TINA, her friend, attractive and able-bodied

WAITER, a waiter

JACQUES, a Frenchman

Two American tourists, OLIVIA and TINA, enter a restaurant in Amsterdam.

OLIVIA

Wow.

TINA

The guidebook said this was one  
of the finest restaurants in Amsterdam.

OLIVIA

I didn't know there *were* finest restaurants  
in Amsterdam.

TINA

And after lunch, into the countryside.

OLIVIA

Tulips.

TINA

Lots of tulips.

OLIVIA

A gaggle of tulips.

TINA

And tonight we –

Simultaneously:

Sleep!                      OLIVIA                      TINA  
Party!

TINA

C'mon, it's our last day of vacation.  
Where's your sense of adventure?

OLIVIA

We've had adventures in five countries.

TINA

We've seen *museums* in five countries.

OLIVIA

Getting to them was an adventure.

TINA

I'm hungry. Let's have lunch.

OLIVIA

I want a hot dog.

TINA

(being critical)

Olivia, we're in Amsterdam.

OLIVIA

A hot dog in wooden shoes.

TINA

(to an offstage waiter:)

Oh, jarsen!

OLIVIA

It's "garçon", and they don't speak  
French in Amsterdam.

TINA

I want to see if I can pass myself off.

The WAITER enters.

TINA (cont'd)

Noose est tray hungray.

WAITER

I'm from New Jersey. You might  
as well speak bad Dutch.

OLIVIA

Two menus please.

The waiter hands them two menus and begins to exit.

OLIVIA (cont'd)

Thank you.

TINA

Dahn-kee shine!

WAITER

Stick to bad French.

The waiter exits.

TINA

Well, I had fun trying.

OLIVIA

Tina, waiters have stared at us  
in five different languages.

TINA

Olivia, you know how much I enjoy  
traveling with you, but –

OLIVIA

I hear another lecture coming on.

TINA

And I know traveling has been  
challenging for –

OLIVIA

Traveling is challenging for everyone.

TINA

I know, but it's just, I mean,  
what's life about if not adventure?

OLIVIA

It can be about appreciating beautiful things.

TINA

Such as?

OLIVIA

Tulips.

The waiter returns, bringing a bottle of champagne and two glasses.

WAITER

Ladies, this is for you.

TINA

We didn't order any champagne.

WAITER

I know. The gentleman at the bar asked me to bring it to you as a gift.

The ladies look at the off-stage bar as the waiter opens the bottle.

OLIVIA

Hey, he's cute. He must like you.

TINA

How do you know he doesn't like *you*?

OLIVIA

Because you're totally hot. If I were a man or a lesbian, I'd choose you over me any day.

The waiter pours the champagne. The ladies raise their glasses.

TINA

To adventure.

OLIVIA

And tulips.

They drink.

OLIVIA (cont'd)

Those are classy grapes.

TINA

We should thank him.

OLIVIA

Maybe the waiter can get his address, and we'll mail him a nice note.

TINA

(to the waiter:)

Sir, tell the man at the bar his gift fills us with "joy de veever".

WAITER

Okay, but I may paraphrase.

The waiter exits. The ladies see the man walk towards them.

OLIVIA

Uh-oh. He's walking towards us.

TINA

Do I look okay?

OLIVIA

You always look okay. Do I look okay?

TINA

You look great.

OLIVIA

I wish I was wearing a different outfit...  
in a different city.

TINA

Shhh.

JACQUES enters. He is charming and French.

JACQUES

Bonjour, mademoiselles. J'espere  
que le champagne vous plait.

TINA

Wow, who taught *you* French?

JACQUES

Ah, you are both Americans?

TINA

Ooey. Je maple Tina, et voycee moan amy Olivia.

JACQUES

I think you learned an accent from  
a part of France I've never been to.

TINA

Sorry.

JACQUES

My name is Jacques.

OLIVIA

I went out with a Jacques in high school.

JACQUES  
French?

OLIVIA  
No, soccer team.

JACQUES  
Ohhh, you are very witty.

OLIVIA  
Not really.

JACQUES  
You are very witty and very humble.

OLIVIA  
No, I'm not.

JACQUES  
You are very witty, very humble,  
and very beautiful.

OLIVIA  
Well, you got one out of three.