

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 Party! TINA

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.

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.