

**SPRING FESTIVAL AT THE LIU'S**

**A PLAY by Dan Fournier**

**(Comedy)**

**ACT 1 - CHEERY ARRIVALS**

MUSIC - ADAMS FAMILY THEME SONG PLAYS (during introduction of characters on the PowerPoint)

SOUND - FIRECRACKERS pop to signify the Chinese New Year.

CURTAINS OPEN TO REVEAL STAGE

INT. LIU'S HOME - LATE AFTERNOON

Mr. Liu is reading a newspaper on a sofa chair with Li snoozing next to him, Xuemei is preparing the dinner table, and Zhang is cooking dishes in the kitchen.

SOUND - DOORBELL RINGS

Qing is the first to arrive with gifts in hand; enters the house.

QING

Happy new year. I'm home! Wo lai le!

She sets the gifts next to the table, takes off her red winter coat, cheerfully and excitedly dances around the room, walks towards Li then shakes him hard.

Grandfather. Wake up. I'm here.

Li slowly wakes up and groans.

LI

Who's that?

QING

Grandfather, it's me Qing.

LI

Oh. Happy new year.

QING

Where's mother and grandmother?

LIU

Grandmother is cooking and your mother is helping her. How was your trip honey?

QING

Great father. Only 18 hours by train. I brought you and grandfather some baijiu, it's Moutai. Let me get you some.

Qing pours baijiu into two glasses giving one to Liu and one to Li.

Liu slowly savors a little of it while Li drinks the whole glass in one shot.

LI

That's great stuff Qing. Give me another!

Qing pours him a second glass which he also downs in one shot.

XUEMEI

Qing. You're home. Are you hungry?

QING

Yes mother. A little bit. But I can wait.

SOUND - DOORBELL RINGS

Jun enters the home in a slow and relaxed way, takes his coat off and sits on the couch next to Li.

JUN

Happy New Year grandfather.

LI

Do you want a beer Jun?

JUN

Yes grandfather. That would be great.

LI

Okay then please get me one two.

Jun offers Li a slightly confused glance before getting up to get 2 beers from the kitchen. Comes back and gives one to grandfather. They both drink. Jun then takes the remote control to turn on and watch the TV.

QING

Mother, who else is coming?

XUEMEI

Your second cousin FangFang and Ayi will arrive any minute.

JUN

Sister, why do you look like a boy? You'll never get a boyfriend dressed like that!

Qing gives Jun an evil look but says nothing.

XUEMEI

Jun, don't talk to your sister like that. Leave her alone.

SOUND - DOORBELL RINGS

Ayi arrives with a huge smile, clumsily trips on the floor bags flying everywhere and oranges rolling out the bag.

AYI

Oops. Sorry. I'm too excited! Happy New Year!

SOUND - DOORBELL RINGS

FangFang arrives right after and makes a flashy entrance walking around the room in her high heels. Kisses grandfather on the head.

LI

That's a nice dress Fangfang.

FANG FANG

Thank you Li. You're so sweet.

JUN

Ma. Is dinner ready yet? I'm so hungry; wo e si le!

CURTAINS CLOSE (End of Act 1)

**ACT 2 - DINNER IS SERVED**

CURTAINS OPEN TO REVEAL STAGE

INT. LIU'S HOME - DINING ROOM TABLE - EVENING

With everyone seated, dinner is served and everyone starts eating from shared dishes in traditional Chinese style.

QING

Ba, how is the KTV business going?

LIU

Great. We are opening four more KTVs this new year. Son, you must study hard in university so you can take over when I retire in a few years.

Jun appears a bit irritated but says nothing. Jun takes his can of beer and downs the rest of it all in one shot.

XUEMEI

Jun, you shouldn't drink so much.

Grandfather follows Jun's lead, clinks his can of beer with that of Jun's, and downs his beer too.

LI

Gan bei! This beer isn't very good. Get me some baijiu!

Zhang pours and hands grandfather a fresh glass of baijiu.

A few moments of silence then follow.

XUEMEI

Qing, you're almost 25 years old. You have to find a good man soon.

QING

Ma, there are no good men. They're all the same.

LIU

Take your time sweetheart. Find the right person. Look at me and your mother. We've been married for almost 30 years now.

Xuemei becomes visually irritated and upset serving dishes while tapping the spoon hard and noisily on the china.

LI

I want more baijiu!

Zhang pours and hands grandfather another glass of baijiu. Li drinks a bit and lets out a big burp.

ZHANG

FangFang, did you find yourself a job yet?

FANG FANG

No. Why should I work when I found a nice rich man who can take care of me?

ZHANG

Well, for one you can't always rely on your good looks. Eventually you will start to look old like the rest of us.

Jun enjoys his 'chicken feet' (food) and then uses one to scratch the cheek of his sister seated next to him; she gets really annoyed.

ZHANG

Jun, stop that!

Zhang then uses the kitchen towel to slap Jun violently, yet slightly playfully, on the head.

The dinner table gets silent and they all keep eating quietly.

CURTAINS CLOSE (End of Act 2)

**ACT 3 - REVELATIONS**

CURTAINS OPEN TO REVEAL STAGE

INT. LIU'S HOME - DINING ROOM TABLE - EVENING

Everyone has finished eating. Some are picking their teeth with toothpicks while others are pouring or sipping tea.

LIU

Jun, how is university going? Are you getting good marks?

JUN

It's going fine dad.

XUEMEI

Jun is doing great. I'm so proud.

Xuemei affectionately pats Jun on the head.

He's the top student in his class.

Jun childishly sticks out his tongue at Qing to make her feel jealous.

Qing, Mrs. Chen's son got a very good job with the government, just bought a house, and is looking for a nice girl.

QING

Ma!

Jun starts laughing and Qing hits him on the shoulder almost starting a fight.

LI

More baijiu!

Li starts to get a bit drunk. He affectionately grabs Ayi who is seated next to him by the shoulder.

XUEMEI

Father! What the heck are you doing?

LI

Ayi is now my girlfriend and we love each other!

Ayi gets visibly ashamed and embarrassed.

XUEMEI

What? Mother has been dead for less than a year and you...

You cannot make a relationship with a village girl!

Ayi starts sobbing loudly while grandfather becomes angrily irritated. He affectionately grabs Ayi.

LI

Grandfather's voice becomes slightly slurred as he is a bit drunk from all the baijiu he drank.



I will do what I want! I've decided to move out of here and into Ayi's apartment!

Ayi and grandfather get up and walk out towards the door leaving the house.

ZHANG

Well. That's a relief. I want have to clean up after him anymore. Ayi can take care of him!

LIU

Laopo. Look what you've done now. He's just an old man. He's lonely. He needs love too.

JUN & QING

Ma. Why are you so hard on grandfather?

XUEMEI

Qing, you shouldn't be giving any advice on relationships. You're still single and unmarried!

QING

How do you know I'm not in a relationship? Maybe I don't want or need a man! Actually, I don't like men but prefer girls and have a girlfriend whom I love very much.

XUEMEI

What?

Xuemei becomes visibly upset and is at a complete loss for words. Jun starts laughing at the situation.

QING

Oh yeah? Jun, why don't you tell mom and dad about your plans for France?

LIU

What's this talk about France?

JUN

Father, I don't like studying business. I want to move to France and learn French instead. I'm already accepted at the French Language Institute in Paris.

LIU

Nonsense! How can learning French help you run our KTV business?

JUN

My friend is already in France; I will go join him next week to start some new classes.

LIU

Liu becomes visibly irritated, yet stays relatively calm.

I worked my whole life to get you in the top business school in China. And now, you want to throw it all away?

JUN

I'm an adult now. I can make my own decisions. It's decided! I'm not changing my mind!

Liu has nothing to say but looks very sad and upset.

XUEMEI

I support you son. If that's what your heart desires, then you have my blessing.

LIU

What? How can you say such nonsense?

XUEMEI

Xuemei starts to get worked up.

He needs to do what will make him happy. Do you think I'm happy? All I do is take care of this household while you spend all your time at work with your "late night meetings".

LIU

I have no choice, business is tough these days.

XUEMEI

I don't believe you! I think you are always out with your mistress!

LIU

I don't have a mistress. I have nothing to hide honey.

XUEMEI

Oh no you don't? Give me your phone now!

LIU

Why?

XUEMEI

Just give me your phone.

Liu hands his mobile phone to Xuemei. She opens and searches for something in it.

Here it is. Mr. Fang.

LIU

Honey. What are you talking about? That is my business partner.

XUEMEI

Oh he is 'eh'? Let me give him a call then.

A few seconds later FangFang's mobile starts ringing in her purse. She struggles to get it to shut off the ringer but can't find it. Her face gets red and she becomes extremely embarrassed about the situation.

Ah ha! I knew it. You are dating second cousin FangFang!

FANG FANG

No Mrs. Liu. Please let me explain...

XUEMEI

No need. If you want him, you can have him!

LIU

Laopo. Ni zai hu shuo ba dao. Wo ai ni.

Xuemei says nothing more, starts to cry, and leaves the room.

LIU

My God. Can this Spring Festival get any worse?

A big sound of thunder is heard and the lights (electricity) goes out.

CURTAINS CLOSE (End of Act 3)

#### **ACT 4 - GENESIS**

SOUND - FIRECRACKERS pop to signify the Chinese New Year.

CURTAINS OPEN TO REVEAL STAGE

INT. LIU'S HOME - LATE AFTERNOON

(One year later)

Mr. Liu is reading a newspaper at the kitchen table.

ZHANG

Zhang enters the living room, approaches Liu affectionately, as a mother would her son.

Don't worry son, although it's been a whole year since you've seen them, I'm sure they'll come for Spring Festival dinner. Have a drink while I go prepare a few more dishes.

Zhang goes back to the kitchen to prepare more dishes while Liu sips on his Baijiu.

SOUND - DOORBELL RINGS

QING

Qing happily enters the house hand-in-hand with a man.

Happy new year. I'm home! Wo lai le!

LIU

Sweetheart. You made it. Welcome back. Wait, who's this?  
I thought you had a girlfriend.

QING

She dumped me last summer! I met this great man. Dad, this is Jimmy Chen, my fiancé. Remember, Mrs. Chen's son mom was talking about last year? We're gonna get married!

Qing shows her father the ring on her left hand.

LIU

That's wonderful sweetie!

SOUND - DOORBELL RINGS

Jun cheerfully and confidently arrives next dressed in a nice business suit.

JUN

Father, Sister, Happy New Year!

Jun stands and faces his father.

Father, I got some great news. I'm now working for a French billionaire who wants to start a KTV chain in France. He's looking for a partner who has lots of experience. I told him about you and he's willing to pay you one million euros to help us set up KTVs in Paris.

LIU

Wow. Really? One million euros? All right! Sounds like a plan.

JUN

Father, what happened to Fang Fang?

LIU

Forget her. She's just a gold digger!

Liu looks back towards the kitchen.

Laopo, please come out. The kids are home with some great news!

Xuemei comes out.

XUEMEI

Kids I missed you so much. Let me look at you. I can't believe it's been a whole year! Is that Jimmy Chen?

QING

Yes. Mother, you were right. He's a dreamboat and we're getting married this year.

XUEMEI

Oh my God Qing. That's amazing.

Xuemei excitedly hugs both Qing and Jimmy.

JUN

Ma. Who else is coming?

XUEMEI

Your grandfather and Ayi. He finally agreed to come and see us. We haven't seen them since last year.

SOUND - DOORBELL RINGS

That must be them!

Ayi and Li enter the home. Ayi looks slightly slimmer and Li looks younger, more energetic, and happier.

LI

Women lai le. Happy New Year!

QING & JUN

Grandfather, Ayi, Happy New Year! You both look great!

AYI

Eeeeeah.

Ayi desperately looks around the room.

Where's junior?

A one year old baby comes running into the house with those shoes that light up and make squeaky sounds.

BABY

Ba ba. Ba ba.

Baby runs towards Li to embrace him. Li gives him a big hug while they turn around, the baby's backside faces the audience revealing those typical "split" pants that babies in China often wear.

Everyone smiles in both surprise and excitement.

SOUND - FIRECRACKERS pop to show the end of the play.

MUSIC - ADAMS FAMILY THEME SONG PLAYS

CURTAINS CLOSE



THE END