

# IN A NEW YORK MINUTE

A TEN MINUTE PLAY

By Matt Thompson

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**IN A NEW YORK MINUTE**  
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**SYNOPSIS:** Six individuals from different backgrounds and points of origin find friendship in The Big Apple.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(3 MEN, 3 WOMEN)*

ABBOTT (m).....English actor, now living in New York.

THEODORE (m) .....Greek cook, now living in New York.

FRANK (m) .....A New York native.

JENNIFER (f) .....Born in Ohio, this newspaper editor recently moved from Florida to New York.

KYRA(f) .....Russian immigrant, now living in New York.

MARITZA (f) .....Puerto Rican girl who comes to New York.

**AT RISE:**

*Lights up. Four tables with two chairs adorn the set. A restaurant. ABBOTT, MARITZA, JENNIFER, FRANK, and KYRA are scattered about the stage. They tell their respective stories out to the audience.*

**ABBOTT:** *(With an English accent.)* I just moved to the States.

**KYRA:** *(With a Russian accent.)* I always wanted to live here!

**MARITZA:** *(With a Puerto Rican accent.)* The Big Apple!

**JENNIFER:** I moved here from Florida.

**FRANK:** *(With a New York accent.)* I've lived here all my life.

**JENNIFER:** Nobody moves to New York from Florida.

**THEODORE:** *(Enters with an apron on, speaking with a Greek accent.)* I come from Mykonos. A little island in Greece. One day, back home, I was cooking dinner for my brothers Alexander, Danaus, Sebastiano, Iphicrates, Pirro, Jirkar, Risto...

**KYRA:** I was making hachaputa for my mother in Georgia.

**THEODORE:** ...Telegonus, Egidio, Diomedes...

**FRANK:** I am an expert microwavē chef.

**KYRA:** She says I make the best hachaputa in all of the Russia!

**ABBOTT:** England may have conquered the world, but it certainly didn't conquer the kitchen.

**THEODORE:** ...Damos, Antony, and Charley...

**MARITZA:** As a little girl, I always dreamed of visiting the mainland!

**ABBOTT:** I up and left for America. I'd seen many television programs about a place called...

**KYRA:** Texas?

**MARITZA:** Texas.

**ABBOTT:** Texas!

**JENNIFER:** Largest state in the country.

**THEODORE:** All of my brothers are yelling...

**ABBOTT:** *(With a Texas accent.)* Yeeeeee ha!!!

**KYRA:** The hachaputa is burning! The hachaputa is burning!

**FRANK:** Outta the way, mac!

**THEODORE:** They keep telling me, "Theo, do this! Theo, do that!" I wanted my own life!

**ABBOTT:** Whoa hoo!

**FRANK:** *(To ABBOTT.)* More like, "WHAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA  
HOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!"

**ABBOTT:** Texas was big.

**THEODORE:** I always felt so small.

**MARITZA:** Of all my siblings, I was the youngest.

**THEODORE:** I was the youngest.

**JENNIFER:** I was the oldest with three brothers.

**KYRA:** I was an only child.

**JENNIFER:** So I knew how to take care of myself.

**THEODORE:** So I up and moved to New York! Just like that!

**MARITZA:** You never know who you are going to meet...

**ABBOTT:** Lived in Texas for a while, and then I decided to move to another city in America...

**MARITZA:** The largest city in America.

**JENNIFER:** The biggest city in America.

**FRANK:** The best city in America!

**ALL:** New York!

**FRANK:** *(To JENNIFER.)* Her and me, we met awhile back.

**JENNIFER:** He was driving a cab.

**FRANK:** As I was going down 125th Street.

**JENNIFER:** I got lost on 125th Street.

**FRANK:** I never go down 125th Street. Never.

**JENNIFER:** New to town.

**FRANK:** I figured she was lost.

**JENNIFER:** I was lost.

**FRANK:** I slowed down.

**JENNIFER:** He opened the door for me. New York cabbies never open doors for you.

**FRANK:** I did.

**JENNIFER:** He did.

**FRANK:** And she gets in my cab...

**JENNIFER:** He really flattered me. He said...

**FRANK:** Hey lady, what are you doing in this neighborhood? You're gonna get hurt!

**JENNIFER:** It was touching.

**FRANK:** I can get in touch with my feelings when I need to.

**JENNIFER:** Lucky for me, he did. So I jumped in the cab.

**FRANK:** I said, "Where ya goin', lady?"

**JENNIFER:** And I told him I wanted to go to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

**FRANK:** And I said, "You're going to the Met? What are you, nuts? That's on the other side of the city!"

**JENNIFER:** I didn't know. New York seemed so large. I mean, I grew up in a small town...

**FRANK:** In Iowa! I remember!

**JENNIFER:** Ohio, Frank.

**FRANK:** Yeah, Ohio. All those states with extra vowels. I get confused.

**JENNIFER:** *(To audience.)* Previous to moving to New York, I worked as an editor for a major periodical in Florida, but I felt that I needed to be in a city with more...

**MARITZA:** Culture!

**KYRA:** Excitement!

**FRANK:** People!

**JENNIFER:** Umph!

**ABBOTT:** Umph? This coming from a writer.

**JENNIFER:** Anyhow...

**FRANK:** So, anyhow I drove this very pretty lady all the way across town.

**JENNIFER:** He didn't charge me a penny.

**FRANK:** And we got to talkin'.

**JENNIFER:** He was very sweet.

**FRANK:** She was really nice.

**JENNIFER:** Anyhow, we were talking so much that we drove right by the Met.

**FRANK:** Right by!

**JENNIFER:** But I didn't mind. We talked for twelve more blocks.

**FRANK:** Twelve more blocks.

**JENNIFER:** And I said...

**FRANK:** *(As JENNIFER.)* "Why don't we get a bite to eat?" So I phoned the boys and told them I was out for poker that night and that I had...

**JENNIFER AND MARITZA:** A date!

**MARITZA:** I was so excited.

**ABBOTT:** I'm an actor. Shakespearean trained. R.S.C. Old Globe. I had only been in New York for three days when I got a call. They wanted me. They wanted me to work at the largest theatre in New York.

**JENNIFER:** And there he was...

**ABBOTT:** Working on Broadway!

**MARITZA:** As an usher.

**ABBOTT:** As an usher.

**JENNIFER:** As an usher.

**ABBOTT:** It keeps me humble.

**MARITZA:** I was living with my cousin in her clothing shop. We were supposed to go to the theatre that night. The show was called "Mother Brave."

**ABBOTT:** Mother Courage.

**MARITZA:** Yes, that was it. Well, at the last minute, my cousin, she had to meet her husband in Jersey. So I went to the theatre by myself.

**ABBOTT:** I was working the door and this amazing woman walks in. I couldn't stop looking at her. She was simply...

**MARITZA:** Gorgeous? Beautiful?

**ABBOTT:** (*Very English.*) Exquisite.

**FRANK:** (*Very New York.*) Exquisite? Huh!

**MARITZA:** He was flattering.

**ABBOTT:** Anyhow, after the show we got to talking and I found out that she didn't understand Brecht too much...

**MARITZA:** And so Abbott explained it to me after the show.

**ABBOTT:** And we hung around for a while talking...

**MARITZA:** He was very smart. He talked to me about Bret...

**ABBOTT AND JENNIFER:** (*Correcting her.*) Brecht.

**MARITZA:** We were talking about Brecht when it started to rain. So we quickly found this cute little restaurant.

**THEODORE:** My restaurant.

BY MATT THOMPSON

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