

The Restaurant

Scene 1 Home, in the lounge

Scene 2 A restaurant

Characters:

Two customers (A and B)

Stavros Papadopoulos, the manager of the restaurant

Scene 1

*Two people, Customer A and B are sitting on a sofa.
One of them is reading a newspaper*

Customer A: Let's go to a restaurant tonight.

Customer B: OK.

Customer A: Somewhere different.

Customer B: All right. Let me have a look in the newspaper.

She opens a newspaper

Cinemas ... theatres ... restaurants. Oh, listen to this: ***(Reading from newspaper)***: The Trattoria Romantica.

Customer A: That sounds nice.

Customer B: The best French restaurant in town.

Customer A: French?

Customer B: Yes.

Customer A: Trattoria Romantica isn't French. It's Italian.

Customer B: It says 'French' here.

Customer A: What else does it say?

Customer B: 'Open every evening —'

Customer A: Good.

Customer B: '— from 7.30 to 7.45.

Customer A: 7.30 to 7.45? Fifteen minutes?

Customer B: It must be a mistake.

Customer A: I hope so. Anything else?

Customer B: Yes. 'Music every evening — '

Customer A: Good.

Customer B: '— from our Spanish guitarist —'

Customer A: *Spanish* guitarist?!?

Customer B: '— Manfred Schmidt.'

Customer A: Manfred Schmidt?!? That's a *German* name!

Customer B: And there's a picture of the manager.

Customer A: What's his name?

Customer B: Stavros Papadopoulos.

Customer A: Stavros Papadopoulos?!

Customer B: Yes.

Customer A: That's a *Greek* name!

Customer B: Yes.

Customer A: So this is an Italian restaurant, serving French food ... the Spanish guitarist has a German name, and the manager's Greek.

Customer B: It sounds very international. Let's try it.

Customer A: All right.

***Customers exit, there is a scene change
from a lounge to a set table with tablecloth
etc***

Scene 2

At the restaurant

The customers enter the restaurant

Customer A: Here we are — the Trattoria Romantica.

Customer B: There's no one here. **(Calling)** Hello!

The manager appears. He is not very friendly.

Manager: Yes?

Customer A: Is this the Trattoria Romantica?

Manager: Yes. But we're closed for lunch.

Customer B: Closed for lunch? But it's nine o'clock.

Manager: In that case, we're closed for breakfast.

Customer B: Nine o'clock in the *evening*.

Manager: Is it? Oh, in that case, we're open. Welcome, welcome! Allow me to introduce myself — I am Stavros Papadopoulos, the manager of the Trattoria Romantica. What can I do for you?

Customer A: We'd like a table for two, please.

Manager: Have you got a reservation?

Customer A: No.

Manager: Oh dear. That's a problem.

Customer B: But the restaurant is empty!

Manager: Is it? ***(Looks round the restaurant)*** Oh yes. OK, a table for two.

The customers sit down

Manager: Is everything all right?

Customer A: Yes, thank you.

Manager: Good. That's £12.50, please.

Customer A: What?

Manager: £12.50

- Customer A: £12.50? What for?
- Manager: The chairs.
- Customer A/B: The chairs?!?
- Manager: Yes. £6.25 each.
- Customer A: There must be some mistake.
- Manager: Oh sorry! £6.30. That's £12.60 altogether. And of course £37 for the table.
- Customer B: £37 for the table?!?
- Manager: Yes. That's £49.60 altogether. Service not included.
- Customer A: Service?!?
- Manager: Would you like to play separately or together?
- Customer B: Look – we don't want the table and the chairs.
- Manager: You don't want them? Do you want to sit on the floor?
- Customer A: No! We don't want to take them away.
- Manager: That's good. We don't have a take-away service.
- Customer B: We want to sit here and *eat* something.
- Manager: Eat something?!?
- Customer A: Yes.
- Manager: Ah.
- Customer B: Can we see the menu, please?
- Manager: Yes. Here you are.
- He gives them a very small card***
- Customer A: This is a very small menu.
- Manager: It's a very small restaurant. Now what would you like?

- Customer A: Let's see. **(Reading from the menu)** Egg and chips. Double egg and chips. Double egg and double chips.
- Customer B: I thought this was a French restaurant.
- Manager: Oh sorry. **(He takes the menu, scribbles something on it and gives it back.)** There you are. A French menu.
- Customer A: **(Reading from the menu)** Oeuf et pommes frites. Deux oeufs et pommes frites. Deux oeufs et deux pommes frites.
- Customer B: What if you don't like eggs?
- Manager: Have the chips.
- Customer B: What if you don't like chips?
- Manager: Have the eggs.
- Customer A: What if you don't like eggs or chips?
- Manager: Have a sandwich.
- Customer A: A sandwich?
- Manager: Yes. I've got one here in my pocket.
He takes a sandwich from his pocket and puts it on the table.
- Customer B: What's *in* this sandwich?
- Manager: Sand.
- Customer A/B: Sand?!?
- Manager: Yes, sand. That's why it's called a sandwich.
Because of the sand which is inside it.
- Customer A: Come on. Let's go.
The customers stand up

Manager: What's the matter? You're not leaving, are you?

Customer A: Yes.

Manager: Why?

Customer B: Because this must be the worst restaurant in London.

Manager: Oh, no it isn't!

Customer A: Isn't it?

Manager: No! I've got another one round the corner. It's much worse than this.

Customer A: Goodbye.

The customers leave.

Manager: Goodbye! Do come again! Don't forget to tell your friends!

(To audience) That's the trouble with English people. They don't know a good restaurant when they see one.

Exit manager