

THE APPOINTMENT

By: Luigi Jannuzzi

CAST: (4) 2F, 2M

SET: Bare stage, desk, 3 chairs,
table.

CONTEMPORARY

COMEDY/DRAMA

CAST

(In Order Of Appearance)

LARRY

TOEMEALI

GRACE

MAGGIE LEWIS

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<https://www.concordtheatricals.com/p/532/th-appointment>

Lights rise on LARRY at stage left, sitting at desk with phone, pen and book, reading a newspaper. At center are three chairs, and at stage right is a table with coffee, tea, sugar, milk, cups and doughnuts.)

(Mr. TOEMEALI enters from stage right, looking around. TOEMEALI crosses to LARRY.)

TOEMEALI

Hi.

LARRY

(Looks up from newspaper.)

Oh. Good afternoon. May I help you, Sir?

TOEMEALI

Yea. I got a three o'clock appointment with God.

LARRY

(Looking in book.)

Three O'clock.

TOEMEALI

Yea.

LARRY

Uh,...yes. Mr. William Tamelli?

TOEMEALI

Toemeali. Like in Toe Meal.

LARRY

Sorry, Sir. Toemeali. Yes, you're on time, your appointment is at three O'clock.

(LARRY returns to reading the newspaper. TOEMEALI stands there.)

TOEMEALI
Hey buddy?

LARRY
Yes?

TOEMEALI
Well, where the hell is he?

LARRY
You're going to have to watch your language, Sir.

TOEMEALI
Oh. (Laughs.) Sorry.

LARRY
That sort of language is not acceptable.

TOEMEALI
I'm sorry.

LARRY
In particular, this of all places is where you're going to have to control yourself.

TOEMEALI
Okay, I said I'm sorry, ...Jesus.

LARRY
Again you swear.

TOEMEALI
(Laughs.)
Look, I'm nervous, I'm not too thrilled to be here.

LARRY
No one is thrilled.

TOEMEALI
I'm in business for myself. I don't have the time.

LARRY
No one is forcing you here.

TOEMEALI

I know no one's forcing me. I'm taking a chance if you know what I mean.

LARRY

I do.

TOEMEALI

But I'm lucky. I'll come out on top.

LARRY

I wish you the best, Sir. So take a seat, try to be patient. And there's coffee and doughnuts.

TOEMEALI

Naa,...I don't drink that crap. Coffee's no good for you. Caffeine.

(TOEMEALI lights cigarette.)

LARRY

Mr. Toemeali, what did I just tell you?

TOEMEALI

I'm sorry. That's just the way I talk.

LARRY

Then we're going to have to stop talking that way.

TOEMEALI

Crap ain't a curse word.

LARRY

It's an unpleasant English word. And please put out the cigarette.

(TOEMEALI puts out cigarette.)

TOEMEALI

It's a dice game. (Laughs.) Ain't it?

LARRY

I hope you don't continue this line of talking with God.

TOEMEALI

Na. I got it figured out what I'm telling him.

LARRY

I would suggest honesty.

TOEMEALI

I'll be honest. Sure. But I figure you got to jazz it up a little.

(The phone rings.)

LARRY

(Answers phone.)

Yes?

(To TOEMEALI.)

Mr. Toemeali, it's five to three. Your appointment is at three. Have a seat, God will be with you in a moment.

TOEMEALI

All right.

LARRY

(Into phone.)

Yes?

(TOEMEALI crosses to table, pours all the milk in a glass and drinks it.)

LARRY

(Into phone.)

Okay, thank you. Bye.

TOEMEALI

Hey buddy?

LARRY

Yes?

TOEMEALI

How long do these appointments take?

LARRY
They vary.

TOEMEALI
But usually, how long?

LARRY
It depends on the person.

TOEMEALI
One of my friends, Reverend Albert Mays? Do you know him?

LARRY
Rev. Albert Mays, no I don't.

TOEMEALI
God should know him, huh?

LARRY
I hope so.

TOEMEALI
I hope so too.

(Laughs.)

He told me to come here, said it might help. I ain't got nothing to lose. So, I figure what the hell, huh?

(Laughs.)

Sorry. I figure, what the heck. I mean, does this help? People get help here?

LARRY
Some do.

TOEMEALI
I guess we'll see, huh?

(TOEMEALI begins pacing.
GRACE enters from stage
right, crossing past TOEMEALI.)

GRACE
Good afternoon.

TOEMEALI
Hi.

(GRACE walks up to desk.)

GRACE
Good afternoon.

LARRY
Afternoon.

GRACE
I believe I have a three O'Clock appointment.

LARRY
Yes you do.

TOEMEALI
Excuse me.

(TOEMEALI walks up to desk.)

Mrs. uh, ...excuse me. I couldn't help but overhear, you have a three O'Clock appointment?

LARRY
That's correct.

TOEMEALI
She does?

LARRY
Yes.

TOEMEALI
How could she have a three O'Clock, I do?

LARRY
She does.

TOEMEALI

Let me see the book.

LARRY

This is confidential information, Sir.

TOEMEALI

But how can she have an appointment if I have an appointment?

LARRY

You both have an appointment at three O'Clock.

TOEMEALI

I don't understand.

(TO GRACE.)

Do you understand this?

(Laughs, then to LARRY.)

What's the story?

(GRACE crosses to the coffee table.)

LARRY

I'm sure God knows what's going on.

TOEMEALI

I hope somebody does. I just can't see how He can see two people at once.

LARRY

If you would just have a seat over there, God will be with you in a moment.

TOEMEALI

If you say so.

(GRACE is pouring water in cup.
LARRY is reading paper. TOEMEALI opens
wallet, takes out a ten dollar bill
and folds it.)

TOEMEALI

Uh, ...what was your name?

LARRY

Larry.

TOEMEALI

Larry, okay, ...uh look Larry, uh, ...I'm in a hurry. I mentioned that?

LARRY

Yes.

TOEMEALI

And uh, ...you know how everybody has friends they let go ahead? Well, if there's any possibility.

(TOEMEALI slips the ten on the book.)

That's for the trouble.

LARRY

I do not accept ten dollar bills.

TOEMEALI

Shh. (Pause.) Okay, how's twenty?

LARRY

I don't accept bribes.

TOEMEALI

Shh, ...Jesus Christ.

LARRY

And I don't appreciate your language.

TOEMEALI

Look, you'll never see me again. What's the worry?

LARRY

I try to be fair.

TOEMEALI

So be a little fairer to me.

LARRY

Take your green piece of paper, have a seat.

GRACE

Larry, is there any more milk for coffee?

LARRY

I just put a new container out.

GRACE

It's empty.

LARRY

(To TOEMEALI.)

What'd you do, drink all the milk?

(LARRY rises from desk.)

TOEMEALI

Take the ten, buy more milk.

LARRY

I'll get another.

(LARRY exits upstage.

GRACE crosses to center and
sits in middle chair.)

GRACE

Bill, why'd you take so long to come here?

TOEMEALI

How'd you know my name?

GRACE

I saw it in the book.

(TOEMEALI reaches for book.)

Wouldn't chance it if I were you. That's grounds for canceling
your appointment.

TOEMEALI

And you'd be the first to tell, wouldn't you?

GRACE

Wouldn't even be caught with my hand on it.

(TOEMEALI takes his hand off.)

TOEMEALI

How come he let you see the book?

GRACE

Because I know Larry. I'm here often.

TOEMEALI

Yea, well look, ...your problem is your business, mine is my business.

GRACE

All right. I thought perhaps I could help.

TOEMEALI

You can help. Mind your own business.

GRACE

All right.

TOEMEALI

I don't understand this. My appointment's at three, it's five after three, he's five minutes late. What the hell's going on?

GRACE

You're going to have to watch your language, Mr. Toemeali.

TOEMEALI

Hey, don't tell me what to do. You got problems, work on them. I can take care of myself.

GRACE

All right.

TOEMEALI

I made my appointment at noon today, when'd you make yours?

GRACE

Around the same time.

TOEMEALI

But did you make it before or after noon?

GRACE

Exactly at noon.

TOEMEALI

Mine was exactly at noon.

(MAGGIE LEWIS enters from off stage right.)

MAGGIE

Excuse me, is this where God is?

GRACE

Yes.

TOEMEALI

He ain't showed up yet.

MAGGIE

Who would I see about an appointment?

GRACE

The fellow will be right back.

MAGGIE

Thank you.

(MAGGIE crosses to desk.)

TOEMEALI

If her's is at three, I'm leaving.

GRACE

That woman. Drank too much, went through a red light, caused a four car accident.

TOEMEALI

How do you know that?

GRACE

They're still working on her in the emergency room.

(LARRY enters with milk.)

LARRY
Hello.

MAGGIE
Hello.

GRACE
The same emergency room, they're working on you.

LARRY
I'll be right with you.

(LARRY walks over to table with milk.)

MAGGIE
All right.

TOEMEALI
How'd you know what hospital I'm in?

GRACE
Because I'm interested.

TOEMEALI
Because you're nosy, never mind interested.

LARRY
The milk's over there.

GRACE
Thank you, Larry.

(GRACE rises, walks to table.)

LARRY
And may I help you?

MAGGIE
I have an appointment to see God.

LARRY
Your name?

LARRY

Maggie, there's coffee, tea and some pastries. Help yourself.

MAGGIE

Thank you.

(MAGGIE crosses and sits in chair
farthest stage right.)

TOEMEALI

What's going on, Larry?

LARRY

I am going to cancel your appointment if I hear one more foul word
out of your mouth.

TOEMEALI

Larry, I don't understand what is going on.

(GRACE walks over and sits at center stage.)

GRACE

Hello.

MAGGIE

Hello.

TOEMEALI

Larry, look, I don't want these two listening to my problems.

GRACE

I'm sorry, Maggie.

LARRY

That's not up to me, Sir.

MAGGIE

I just can't believe it.

GRACE

Well, there's nothing more you can do but rest yourself.

TOEMEALI

And I'm not into group therapy if that's what this is. Larry, is that what this is, group therapy?

LARRY

Will you sit down over there and stop bothering me?

TOEMEALI

What's your last name Larry?

LARRY

Anngellino.

TOEMEALI

Larry Anngellino?

LARRY

That's right.

TOEMEALI

I'm going to mention your attitude, Larry. You're a bit snotty.

LARRY

Whatever you say.

TOEMEALI

Do you know it's ten after three?

LARRY

I do.

TOEMEALI

He's late. God's suppose to be responsible, ain't He? I mean, if He ain't, who is?

LARRY

If you would sit over there, Mr. Toemeali, the time would be more worthwhile.

TOEMEALI

What's that one's problem in the white shirt?

LARRY

I am not at liberty to discuss their problems.

TOEMEALI

The new one's in an accident. Did you know that? But I want to know the other one's problem.

LARRY

Maybe the other one doesn't have a problem.

TOEMEALI

She got problems, who would be here if they didn't?

LARRY

God.

TOEMEALI

(Laughs.)

That's right, God. God would be here if He didn't have a problem, wouldn't He?

LARRY

(LARRY rises.)

I'll be right back, Mr. Toemeali

MAGGIE

I just remember sitting here, starting the car.

(LARRY exits stage left.)

TOEMEALI

You know, maybe this is all a joke and all those ministers are just putting us on to come here?

GRACE

You believe that, Bill?

TOEMEALI

I believe it's twelve after three.

(TOEMEALI crosses to chair at left of GRACE.)

But who said God was all-punctual.

(TOEMEALI sits down, leans forward.)

So, you ran a red light?

MAGGIE

Excuse me?

TOEMEALI

I said, "You ran a red light?"

MAGGIE

Yes.

TOEMEALI

What do you want God to do about it?

MAGGIE

I don't know.

TOEMEALI

You're guilty.

MAGGIE

I know.

TOEMEALI

That's terrible.

MAGGIE

It is.

TOEMEALI

You're in big trouble kid.

(MAGGIE puts head in hands.)

(To GRACE.)

And what's your problem?

GRACE

My problems, are the problems of others.

TOEMEALI

(Pause.) What are you on drugs?

GRACE

And perhaps I can help you, Bill. I know you hit a parked car

while drinking.

TOEMEALI

First of all, I wasn't drinking. I had two drinks.

GRACE

And you're in critical condition.

TOEMEALI

Second, the car was double parked. So it's his liability. And I hope that's in the book there.

GRACE

So, may I help you, Bill? I'd like to.

TOEMEALI

Hey, that's okay, honey.

GRACE

I've helped others.

TOEMEALI

I think I'll wait for the big guy.

GRACE

It's up to you.

TOEMEALI

Yea, I think I'll wait.

GRACE

All right. (Pause.) Maggie, would you like to take a walk, I think maybe it may help.

TOEMEALI

Yea, take her with you.

GRACE

Maggie?

MAGGIE

I'd like to take a walk.

GRACE

Fine.

(GRACE and MAGGIE rise.)

Great. TOEMEALI

Thank you for asking. MAGGIE

Let's take it slow. GRACE

Okay. MAGGIE

(GRACE leads MAGGIE toward off left.)

Why don't we go this way. GRACE

All right, two down, I'm next. (TOEMEALI stands.) Now where's Larry? TOEMEALI

(Before exiting GRACE turns.)

Uh,...Mr. Toemeali? GRACE

Oh God. TOEMEALI

Mr. Toemeali? GRACE

What? TOEMEALI

Would you like me to come back, perhaps you'd like to talk later? GRACE

That's quite all right. TOEMEALI

GRACE

You're sure? I can stop by.

TOEMEALI

Hey, I'm positive!

GRACE

All right, Mr. Toemeali.

TOEMEALI

Ciao!

GRACE

I will though, Mr. Toemeali.

(GRACE exits stage left.)

TOEMEALI

(To himself.)

Get lost. They're both going down the tubes.

(LARRY enters from stage

left and crosses to desk.)

LARRY

So Mr. Toemeali, how are you?

TOEMEALI

Well, I went through impatient and frustrated. I'm at vicious anger.

(LARRY folds newspaper, puts it in desk.)

LARRY

Your appointment didn't go well?

TOEMEALI

What appointment?

LARRY

Your appointment at three O'Clock?

TOEMEALI

I never got it.

LARRY

Why not?

TOEMEALI

I don't know. He never showed up.

LARRY

Where were you at three O'Clock?

TOEMEALI

I was right here.

LARRY

If you've been sitting here. Why didn't you see God?

TOEMEALI

I've just been sitting here listening to these two.

LARRY

Uh huh.

TOEMEALI

They were waiting too, but they took off. They just left. The lady in the white shirt is going to help the other lady.

LARRY

Did you lady in the white blouse offer to help you?

TOEMEALI

She wants to help everybody.

LARRY

I was afraid your appointment would go like this.

TOEMEALI

Now, do I get to see God or what?

LARRY

Your appointment is over, Mr. Toemeali.

TOEMEALI

My appointment's over? I haven't got it.

LARRY

Yes you have.

(LARRY picks up book.)

TOEMEALI

I knew it.

LARRY

And I'm leaving too.

TOEMEALI

I knew this was a rip off.

LARRY

You may eat the rest of the pastries and drink the rest of the milk.

TOEMEALI

Why don't you just admit there aren't appointments, or reasons for people to come here? Why put people on like this?

LARRY

You had your appointment, Mr. Toemeali.

TOEMEALI

Then how come I missed it?

LARRY

I don't know. I wasn't here.

TOEMEALI

Well I was.

LARRY

I'm sorry. I must be going.

TOEMEALI

Then can I sign up for another appointment?

LARRY

I'm sure it would go quite the same.

(LARRY begins to walk to stage left.)

TOEMEALI

Where're you going, Larry?

LARRY

I have work to do.

TOEMEALI

This is a big front. There's no appointments,...only three chairs, a desk and a book.

LARRY

I think you didn't keep the appointment, not God.

TOEMEALI

I tell you, I was here, Larry.

LARRY

So was God, Mr. Toemeali.

TOEMEALI

I must have blinked and missed Him. (Pause.) You know, I think I might be able to get out of this without Him anyway.

LARRY

Maybe you don't need anyone.

TOEMEALI

I usually don't.

LARRY

I'm shutting off the lights, Mr. Toemeali.

TOEMEALI

Oh great. What am I suppose to do, sit in the dark and wait?

LARRY

If you want to stay, you can,...but you're going to have to do without light.

TOEMEALI

I'm gonna' be here for a while. I'm gonna wait a little longer.

LARRY

I'm sorry for the darkness. I'll be shutting them off as soon as I walk out.

TOEMEALI

Yea, thanks.

(LARRY exits stage left.)

Great! Thanks Larry!

(TOEMEALI takes a cigarette lighter out
Of HIS pocket and lights it.)

(All lights go out except
for the lighter.)

Terrific.

(TOEMEALI moves to edge of stage.)

What the hell am I suppose to do, sit in the dark and wait for
God?

(TOEMEALI yells.)

What the hell am I suppose to do sit in the dark?

(TOEMEALI yells.)

Hey, what the hell am I suppose to do?

(The flame fades out.)

(Blackout.)