

Hello. Caitlin and Isabelle here. I know you can't see or hear us, but if you could we can assure you we'd charm all your underthings off. We're here to tell our story. We've had the bittersweet luxury of pursuing our dreams here in the big city. We're actor/servers. I know you could throw a rock and... well we'd probably catch it, do a juggling routine and then ask you to hire us. But with a little luck we found a restaurant that has felt like a home away from home with characters so colorful we couldn't make them up. It has been a grounding force against the trials of our pursuits. So we'd like to introduce you...

### **Ladies-In-Waiting**

Logline:

Two frustrated ladies living in Manhattan wait for their big break while waiting tables and examine what it means to be a "lady" in both industries. The exhausting parallels between the two leave them questioning: is it worth the wait?

### **Pilot Summary**

We're introduced to Cate and Izzy. They are both servers at Stella's, a popular restaurant/bar in the lower east side, Manhattan. They're also trying to pursue a career as actors. Cate is in the musical theater world and Izzy in the independent film world. In the pilot we witness them in their respective habitats: restaurant, audition, apartment. We see how waking up and getting ready for their days reflects their different personalities. Cate's alarm barely buzzes before getting up, Izzy's blares on until her roommate bangs on the wall. We see Cate go through a great audition, except that in a hasty last minute bathroom run her dress gets caught in her underwear and nobody says anything until it's too late. We see Izzy get told by an agent that her headshot makes her look like a holocaust survivor. We see them serve obnoxious ladies and mannerless men. The first act we watch them go about their days separately. In the second act they come together to rehash their day, drive their stress away with drugs, alcohol and dancing only to be re-confronted with the weight of it all on Cate's roof as the sun comes up.

### Stella's

Stella's is the 'Cheers' of the Lower East Side, Manhattan.

Like the Olive Garden, when you're here you're family. For better or worse.

### The Servers

**Cate:** She's cautious

Cate overthinks most things which often paralyzes her. She is meticulous and prone to getting consumed by dark thoughts about the way her career has gone so far. She is 29, classically pretty and talented and everyone always told her she'd have no problem making it, which is maybe why she's had a problem. It's one part having it too easy and another part self-sabotage.

**Izzy:** She's impulsive

Izzy is a little messier but grounded and blindly moves ahead without overthinking the consequences. She feels a lot, and can get swept up in the world of her imagination in relationships but when it comes to her career she's stubbornly optimistic. She's quirky and has a knack for bringing out the wacky in people, especially Cate. Though she's younger, 25, she is more often in the position of giving advice. It's either the blind optimism of youth or she's wise beyond her years.

**Jimmy:** He's 64

Twenty years ago his life partner emptied their bank account and disappeared. He insists he simply never had a passion or the ambition to pursue anything in life. So here he is.

He possesses an admirable resilience. He is flamboyant, snarky, well-read, loves musical theater, and despite his chronic crankiness is a lovable staple of the bar.

The night manager once snuck Molly into his drink.

**Lilly:** She's "merry"

She is extremely charming and bubbly, but dangerously abuses substances to cope with some inner demons no one really knows the details of. She is smart and capable and has the special ability to make everyone feel loved and included but, after a few too many shots, can spiral into a very dark place and has on more than one occasion told them all to fuck off.

Her dream is to be on SNL but substance abuse keeps getting in the way, for now at least.

**Mo:** She's from Manhattan

A tough, stoic exterior masks a warm, loving person. She's a lover and a fighter.

She has a sense of pride and won't let customers walk all over her. People respect her for that. With her friends, she'll protect you to the end. Beware anyone who tries to fuck with the family.

She's also an incredible artist with a flare for the macabre.

### **The Bartenders**

**Matty:** He's tall

He is 6'5 with dreadlocks and is covered in tattoos. He gave up a possible soccer career out of college to pursue music as the drummer of a promising band. Right after they got signed to a major label their lead singer quit. So he threw himself into acting and won't stop until he makes it.

He's very diligent about his extreme workout routine. He eats incredibly healthy and doesn't drink or do drugs.

Except when he does.

**Stevie:** He's charming

Possibly the only person at Stella's not pursuing a performance career and yet is the most entertaining one there. Can charm the pants off anyone. And does.

Charismatic, flamboyant and outgoing. He pioneers frequent late night karaoke trips to their local spot where it's usually only them (or ends up that way).

He loves to get high and talk about the plots of books and movies he wants to write or theories about the universe. He's very smart but enjoys living too much to take that too seriously.

### The Regulars

**Joe:** He was in the Mafia

And ended up in jail during his prime, so since his release has lived to make up for all those wasted years. It's unclear what he does now exactly, but very clear that he has a lot of money. He can be very generous with everyone but a little too much so with the female employees. No matter how you feel about him he is definitely a fascinating character and staple of the bar and the whole lower east side for that matter.

He drenches himself in cologne, you can smell him before you see him.

He comes in every day, sometimes twice.

**Nate:** He's a suit

He's attractive, thirty three, and vice president at a high profile banking company. So a player. And a control freak. He owns his place across the street from Stella's and is best friends with one of the bartenders. Cate and him had something of an affair but could never be anything serious. He's also slept with Ronnie, and probably half the lower east side. He shaves all the hair on his body, has a closet full of forty different white collared shirts and a big white bed with a fur comforter. Christian Grey, watch out.

### The Managers

**Ronnie:** She's not like a regular manager, she's a cool manager

She's fiercely loyal and protective of the people she trusts, but has a tough outer shell. She swears like a sailor, and loves to sing along to hardcore rap. She's a party girl who's trying to change her ways and grow up, but is unsure as to what direction to go in next.

She never thought she'd end up at Stella's for this long, but loves the people. She's had her share of disappointing relationships and periodically swears them off but would ultimately like to find love.

**Dick:** He's the GM

When he started as a server he had dreams of his own to be an actor, but gave it up when it got too hard. He's now forty, and thinks back on the glory days when he was a ladies man and being an alcoholic was cool. He's a lazy general manager who doesn't care much for discipline and spends most of his hours in the tiny back office watching YouTube videos. He skateboards around town and smokes weed hoping to feel like he fits in with his younger employees but it doesn't quite work. He is spineless but deep down in there has a good heart.

#### **Other characters we see:**

As we get deeper into the Stella's world, we learn more about the back of house staff: The runner who speaks five languages and works part time as a translator, the busser who's putting himself through nursing school...

#### **Possible Future Episodes:**

**Procrastination-** Procrastination is the antagonist of this episode. The dark, dizzying flurry of things you choose to do before the things you're supposed to do. Izzy talks on the phone with her mom, cries to a Bon Iver song, tries on all her clothes. Cate re-organizes all the kitchen utensils, re-arranges her room, online shops for things she won't actually buy. It demonstrates the ways that they get in their own way and self sabotage, hinting at their deeper insecurities and fears of failure or success.

**Private Party-** When there's a private party at Stella's, there's also a staff party. It's an excuse to drink and eat all the food you're supposed to be passing out. This particular one is for Vogue.com and it's "Models Playing Beerpong". It makes all the servers uncomfortable so they drink more than usual. Jimmy ends up getting drunk and starts revealing his escapades with men in New York in the 70s. Izzy hates the models from afar and keeps talking about how they're all gonna be pretentious and rude but every encounter she keeps having with them they're all

really nice. Izzy finds herself in the bathroom later with one of the models and they end up having a bonding moment.

**Cat Calling-** We see Cate, Izzy, Mo and Lilly being cat called in different parts of the city. Then we see them having a conversation about it. They think they're all having a conversation from the same "woman team" but soon realize that it runs deeper for Mo and Lilly, both women of color. Having it brought to their attention in this way brings it to the front of their minds. It colors their perspectives for the rest of the episode and start to see similar scenarios that have already played out in previous episodes in a totally different light. Cate walks into another audition room, and yes it's frustrating to feel like you're one in a sea of women who look like you, trying to do the same thing, but what about the one or two women of color in the room?

**Mo's House-** This episode opens with Izzy making an impassioned argument against misogyny in modern rap culture to Matty while they're at Stella's. It's clear that it's very important to her to have discussions from a feminist perspective, especially with her male friends. Later in the episode Izzy goes to Mo's house and meets her family. Izzy struggles with a now hyper awareness of being racially conscious and sensitive. At dinner, Mo's dad says a blatantly chauvinist statement and Izzy is stuck feeling like she doesn't know how to approach the conversation in this situation. Mo and her talk about it after.

**The Couples and Us-** Tis the holiday season with countless plus one parties. Izzy and Cate both end up in groups of couples being each others plus one. They circulate through the couples navigating all the big life questions and finding themselves justifying their careers and how satisfying it has been to focus on their art and pursuing their passions. At one party Izzy is confronted with Mira, a rival from acting school. She's very put together and it come out in their conversation that she ended up getting a part Izzy auditioned for. Cate and Izzy go to drink outside. Mira passes them on her way out. She has toilet paper stuck to her shoe.

**Unexpected-** Cate has been casually sleeping with Nate and isn't totally satisfied. Since she's moved to New York no one seems to have really captured her interest. She has

been attracted to women from afar and has just never pursued it, so she decides to go to a gay bar in the West Village. She happens to meet Selene, who she is incredibly attracted to and feels butterflies for the first time in too long. Meanwhile Izzy decides to go out with a Chef from her friend's restaurant. He comes off as a douche bag and inevitably makes an insensitive comment about women which sets Izzy off. They fight about it, only to realize that it has also ignited passion and chemistry. They go home together and seem like they're going to sleep together but he gets emotional about his ex and can't.