# Starting Monday

By Anne Commire

Directed by: Claire Wilcox

**Assistant Director:** 

# **Synopsis:**

# <u>Starting Monday,</u> by Anne Commire:

Starting Monday follows best friends Ellis, and Lynne. Lynne puts her life on hold to care for Ellis, who recently learned that she has cancer. Ellis struggles to live with her disease and accept the inevitable reality of her death, while Lynne struggles with the complexity and realities of the medical system, Ellis's mother, and what it means to Ellis to die with dignity. The show explores the limits of love, need and trust in friendship, the devastating impact terminal illness has on both the afflicted and the caretaker, and the importance of living in the now and not waiting until Monday.

#### Cast Size/Possible Dubbing/ Gender:

#### Characters: (max 10 kids in a cast prefer 8): Prefer Cast:

ı). Lynne	F	2) Trish	F	ı)Lynne	F
3) Ellis	F	4) Hellen	F	2) Ellis	F
5) Benberg	M	6) Nurse	N	3)Benberg/Nurse/Jim/Man	M
7) Jim/Man	M	8) Nurse Etan	F	4) Trish/Understudy	F
9) Blood	N	10) Waitress	$\mathbf{F}$	5) Hellen/ Patient 2	F
11)Nurse	N	12)Patanet	N	5) Nurse Etan/Waitress	F
13)Understudy	F			6) Blood Nurse/Patient 1	N

#### **Character Description:**

**Ellis:** Daughter of Helen and Lynne best friend. She is a director struggling to make it big. She was diagnosed with thyroid cancer that progressively gets worse. She also suffers from depression and anxiety.

**Lynne:** The narrator of the story. She's a loner who suffers from a small case of social anxiety. Ellis is her best Friend.

**Hellen:** Ellis's Mom, from New Jersey. She is self centered, dramatic and defentlay spends to much time in the sun.

**Benberg**: The doctor at the hospital that Ellis goes to.

**Nurse Etan:** One of the higher ranking nurses at the hospital. She is matter effect and takes her job very seriously. She is standoffish, pusshy and short with people. She is very good at her job.

**Trish:** A young nurse who's the girls age. She is the lighter brighter foil to Nurse Etan. She is also the floor head, at the hospital.

#### **Ensamble:**

Patient	Man in the Shower	Jim	Blood Nurse
Waitress	Nurse 1	Nurse 2	

#### Callback Scene & Monologue Starting Monday:

**HELLEN.** I don't know how you two live like this I can't find anything! Every cupboard door is open and every cup and plate is in the dishwasher! Are you packing it to move? Wonderful, Now she's stirring paint in the living room. Are you staring paint in the living room? I'll bet you're getting it on the floor. Tell me thats not yellow. Yellow is so tacky!

**TRISH:** Do you have power of attorney? (*lynne shakes her head no*) that's trouble If they put her on life support you can't get her off. She needs your protection and right now you can't protect her. You're not a relatively You have no say! in my job i follow orders i have no choice i just obey.

**ELLIS.** (Moans) Hello ... (Sits straight up; wearing her sheet.) Oh hi, Mom, Happy Ne ... No, I'm awake... What time is it? ... I know, I'm not on it. What ti ... Uh huh ... no... Could we (wispring so the person on the phone can't hear) Jim, wake up. Jim! I didn't expect company or I'd've stocked up. Anyway...ahh. What Mother...I don't have a hangover. (Beat.) I'm manifesting a hangover to punish myself. Oh God, I drink. I eat. I miss trains. (beat) Shit! Why do I have the feeling everything that happens today, is ment to punish me.

**NURSE ETAN.** YOU ARE HERE because you've had a catheter inserted into your subclavian area. because chemotherapy weakens your veins the subclavian catheter is your best friend. to administer one must insert the IV into the Harpoon cap. I will be happy to answer all questions at the end. it is imperative that you keep the line clean and kept from clogging. Before you leave Houston your significant other must demonstrate the ability to maintain this. It is imperative I repeat imperative to rid the Harpoon solution of air bubbles if you do not air will enter via the tube into the bloodstream you don't want air bubbles in your tube.

**LYNNE.** On a warm Monday morning driving south on the Jersey Turnpike, *I t*ook Ellis home. I arrived at the entrance at 6 AM, but the barrier gate was down: "No cars allowed 'til eight." I learned it was eleven miles to the inlet, eleven miles back. (*Beat.*) *I* noticed everything on that walk: the blackbirds, the spikemoss, Why the inlet: why not any beach? No, Ellis wanted the inlet. I turned off on a narrow pathway, until I gazed out at the morning ocean. The beach was deserted, the sea calm. I Took the box of ashes. Inside was a clear plastic bag with a wire tie. (*Beat.*) I waded into the ocean, the water cold against my legs, undid the tie. the ashes swirled in the foam. Then I heard a voice from the deepest part of me, a voice that sounded very much like Ellis and it said, "Now, live." (*Beat.*) "Don't wait for Monday."

**ELLIS.** Pass the mauve magenta.

LYNNE. There's no such thing as mauve magenta.

**ELLIS.** Pity. What else ya got?

LYNNE. Maize. Thistle. Bittersweet.

**ELLIS.** Thistle. (LYNNE Hands Ellis "thistle:" colors.) We can get a car when we dock there Cheap.

**LYNNE**. How cheap?

**ELLIS.** Doesn't have reverse; doesn't have a rear-view mirror. (*LYNNE gives a terrified look*) Oh, c'mon. What are you afraid of?

**LYNNE.** People, life, parallel parking... Must be nice to be able to turn off your brain. I think about everything I ever did, and why I did it. Then, I analyze everybody else. (*Beat.*) Have you noticed depression's easier to handle than euphoria?

**ELLIS.** (Crosses a page out.) Yuck.

**LYNNE.** That's the fifth page you've started.

**ELLIS.** I'm into perfect. Pass the "burnt sienna." (LYNNE does.) It's broken.

LYNNE. Still colors.

**ELLIS**. (Hands it back.) I don't want it. It's broken. (Takes another crayon; back to coloring.) My world; I make the rules.

# **Company Materials**

Sun	Mon	Tus	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	8	9	10 SPRING SHOWS	11 SPRING SHOWS	12 SPRING SHOWS	13
14	15 All Called 4:30-6:00	16 All Called 4:30-6:00	17 NO Rehearsal	18 All Called LINES OFF 4:30-6:15	19 GOOD FRIDAY TBD Rehearsal	20 TBD workday
21	22 All Called 4:30-6:00	23 All Called Full run 4:30-6:00	24 No Rehearsal	25 Anyone who's available	26 Anyone who's available	27 TBD workday
28	29 All Called 4:30-6:30	30 All Called 4:30-6:30	1 All Called 4:30-6:30	2 All called 4:30-6:30	3 All called 4:30-7:00	4 TBD workday
	This wh	nole week is sub	ject to change o	lue to it being te	chweek	
5	6 All called 4:30-7:00	7 All called 4:30-7:30	8 All called conflicts are void 4:30-7:00	9 SHOWS	10 SHOWS	11 SHOWS
This whole week is subject to change						
12 SHOWS						

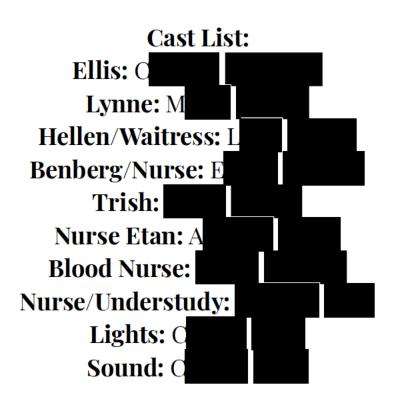
# <u>Call Sheet:</u>

<u>Date</u>	Who's Called	Doing		
4/15	All called	Read though		
4/16	All called	blocking		
4/17	No rehearsal	Blocking		
4/18	All called	Lines off, blocking		
4/19	No re	hearsal		
4/22	All called	Blocking		
4/23	All called	Review blocking and do a run through		
4/24	No rehearsal			
4/25	Anyone who's available due to dance concert	Review and work on one on one scenes		
4/26	No Rehearsal due to dance concert			
4/29	All called	Run through fix scenes		
4/30	All called	Stop and start		
5/1		One on one day		
5/2	All called	Run through with some emotional work worked in		
5/3	All called	Stop and start		
5/4	All called	Run though and fix things		
5/6	All called	Run through		
5/7	All called	Run through		
5/8-12	Shows All Called based on the days we preform			

# **Starting Monday**

**Director: Claire Wilcox** 

Assistant Director:



# **Production Materials**

#### **Starting Monday Prop List**

#### **Prop List**

- Bedside table (also listed for set)
- Large blanket for bed bedroom (color)
- Blanket light (for sitting on the floor color or pattern)
- Pillows (for bed)
- Phone 80s wireless
- Phone (with wire)
- Journal (black cover preferably looks leather bound)
- Sketch Pad
- Knapsack (Lynne)
- Suitcase (Ellis and Helen)
- Waitress Tray
- Glass drinking cups (wine glasses)
- Box of 48 Crayola's
- Drawings (make)
- Clipboards (at least 5)
- Papers (lots and lots)
- a man's shoe
- Sock
- Mens white shirt
- Minal folders
- Pamphlets (For Benberge)
- Paint Brushes
- Paint buckets
- Paint stirrer
- hospital white sheets
- robe/towel (Ellise)
- White hospital blanket
- Books (bedside table)
- Magazen (for waiting room)
- Medical report
- Mirror hand held
- Throw pillow
- Grocery bag
- Coffee mug (Hellen)
- Plastic or paper cup (for cup of ice)
- Pillow cases (for pillows)

- Toothpaste
- ice cream container
- Pencils/pens
- Kleenex box
- Medical equipment
  - Subclavian kit:
    - clear plastic bucket/bag,
    - T-tube
    - alcohol prep pad
    - Harpoon needle
    - bandages
    - pamphlets with instructions (made out of paper)
  - o Catheter
  - Medical tape
  - Medicine bottles (with medican aka candy)
  - Eye dropper
  - o Face cloth
  - Alcohol preps
  - Blood tubes
  - o Blood caddy
  - Robber gloves
  - Medical masks
  - o IV and IV pole
  - o X-ray machine
  - Oxygen tube
  - Stethoscope

# Starting Monday Prop List Reversed

- Bedside table (also listed for set)
- Large blanket for bed bedroom *(color)*
- Blanket light
- Pillows (for bed)
- Phone 8os wireless
- Phone (with wire)
- a man's shoe
- Sock
- Mens white shirt
- Minal folders
- Pamphlets (For Benberge)
- ice cream container
- Pencils/pens
- Kleenex box
- Clipboards (at least 5)
- Papers (lots and lots)
- Paint Brushes
- Paint buckets
- Paint stirrer
- hospital white sheets
- White hospital blanket
- Books
- Medical report
- Throw pillow
- Grocery bag
- Plastic or paper cup (for cup of ice)
- Pillow cases (for pillows)
- Toothpaste

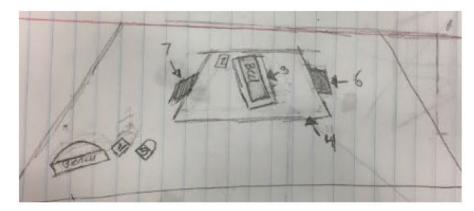
- Journal (black cover preferably looks leather bound)
- Sketch Pad
- Suitcase (Helen)
- Waitress Tray
- Glass drinking cups (wine glasses)
- Box of 48 Crayola's
- Robe (Ellise)
- Medical equipment
  - T-tube
  - o Harpoon needle
  - o bandages
  - pamphlets with instructions (made out of paper)
  - Catheter
  - o Medical tape
  - Medicine bottles (with medican aka candy)
  - o Eye dropper
  - Alcohol preps
  - Light ear thing
  - o Blood tubes
  - o Blood caddy
  - o IV bag
  - o IV pole
  - o Oxygen tube
  - Hand bag
  - sunglasses
  - o Stethoscope

### Props in Each Scene:

Scene #	<u>Actors</u>		<u>Props</u>	
Scene 1:		<ul> <li>Bucket</li> <li>Brush PS</li> <li>Hospital gown PS</li> <li>Tv controller PS</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>End table settings</li> <li>Shoe PS</li> <li>Phones</li> <li>Bed settings PS</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Shirt PS</li> <li>Tie PS</li> <li>Sock PS</li> <li>Bathrobe</li> </ul>
Scene 2:		• journal	Penical	
Scene 3:		• Journal	Sketchbook	• tray(Glasses)
Scene 4:		• Crayones	Notebook	Sketchbook
Scene 5:		• Letter	• Journal	• pencil
Scene 6:			None	
Scene 7:		Jurnal     Cout	<ul><li>Clip bored</li><li>Minal folders</li></ul>	Book     Chair
Scene 8:		<ul><li>Take off char</li><li>Minal folder</li></ul>	jurnal     Bring chair	Clipboard 2
Scene 9:		Clipboard 2	• Pencil	
Scene 10:		• Clipboard	• Journal	
Scene 11:		• Suitcase	• Sunglasses	• Journal
Scene 12:		Paint brush	Paint bucket	
Scene 13:		• Books	• Jurnal	
Scene 14:		<ul><li>Clipboard 2</li><li>Hospital gown</li></ul>	<ul><li>Pamphlet</li><li>Jurnal</li></ul>	<ul><li> Iv bag/ IV</li><li> Hospital blanket</li></ul>
Scene 15:		<ul><li> Journal</li><li> Grocery bag</li><li> Toothpaste</li></ul>	<ul><li>Blood test stuff</li><li>Tv remote</li><li>Tissues</li></ul>	<ul><li> Ice cream</li><li> Clip bored</li><li> IV</li></ul>
Scene 16:	Whole Cast		• Iv poll	
Scene 17:		• Book	Jurnal	
Scene 18:		• Tube	• Cup	
Scene 19:		• Cup	• Tissues	,
Scene 20:		Bottle of medicine	Tube	Blood test supplies
Scene 21:			None	
Scene 22:			None	
	ļ	ļ		

# Set/Build List

- Metal Bench (Angle in America)
- 2 Metal chair (Angle in America)
- 1'x1' UIL Cube
- 2 ramps UIL Set
- Bed (full size and of course with mattress)MAIN SET PIECE
- Two 4' x 8' UIL platforms (for bed.)
- Bedside table (pic bellow)
- 1 large star unite UIL



- 1. 1'x1' UIL Cube
- Bedside table
- 3. Large ramp (for bed)
- 4. Large platform (for bed)
- 5. Mettel chair
- 6. Small UIL ramp/stairs
- 7. Small UIL ramp/stairs
- 8. Metal Bench
- 9. Bed





#### **Technical Needs:**

- I need a strong lighting technician. Lights conva a lot of my show so I need a strong lighting tech.
- I also need a sound tech but lights are more important.

## Set Up Jobs:

#### Pre Sets:

- Hospital gown UNDER BED
- Iv Pole **OFF STAGE RIGHT**
- Paint bucket with paintbrush and stirrer inside UNDER BED

#### Props:

#### End Table: Bedding:

- blanket for bed bedroom
- Blanket light
- Pillows
- Throw pillow

#### Two UIL 4' x 8' Platforms:

**Stand by for Bed:** 

#### One UIL Staire Unite:

Metal Bench and Chairs:

**Bed:** 

#### **End Table Dressings:**

- Jurnal
- Books
- Sketch book

Two UIL Ramps:

# Props Actors are Responsible for:

# <u>Props Layla is Setting Up:</u>

#### Shoe Shirt tie\_\_\_

phone
crayones
robe
Nurses:
clipboards
stethoscopes

sunglasses

#### **Both Sides**

- Minal folders at least 3 on each side of the stage
- Pamphlets 2 on each side
- Papers (lots and lots)
- Books
- Medical report
- Medicine bottles
- Pencils/pens one in jurnal then some on each side

#### Right

- White hospital blanket
- T-Tubes 2 on that side
- Harpoon needle
- bandages
- Medical tape
- Eve dropper
- Blood tubes
- Blood caddy
- IV

#### <u>Left</u>

- Grocery bag
  - ice cream container
  - Kleenex box
  - Toothpaste
- Plastic or paper cup (for cup of ice)
- Suitcase
- Waitress Tray
  - Glass drinking cups

#### Order of Jobs for 5 Minute Set Up:

ETechs with V will start setting up immediately. **ON STAGE:** The Platforms must go on stage first! Well those are being pulled out props and the metal furnisher can be set. The ramps, stairs, and the bed can start to be pulled out at this time too. The stairs can be set at this time as long as they aren't in the of the platforms. However **THE PLATFORMS MUST BE PULLED OUT FIRST AND SET.** ONCE PLATFORMS ARE SET: The bed must be placed NEXT! The stairs, if not set already can be set along with the ramps. ONCE THE BED IS SET: Bedding and the presets can be set along with the end table. Throughout all of this the props can be set. Once all your jobs are done, set your props and then check any other props you use. I will be on stage helping with whatever needs to be done and checking everything gets done and is in place set wise.

- <u>:</u>
  - 1. Metal Bench and Chairs
  - 2. Pre Sets
  - 3. Anything Left\*

  - ı. Bed
  - 2. Bedding

- 1. Platforms
  - 2. Ramps
- 1. Stairs
- 2. Ramp
- <u>:</u> 1. Bed/Platforms\*
  - 2. Props

- 1. Platforms
- 2. Bed\*
- 3. Bedding
- ı. Bed
  - 2. End Table
- 3. End Table Dressings

#### **Starting Monday Costumes:**

#### Ellis

#### **Opening Scene:**

• Bathrobe or easy to take off pis (quick change). Ideally Cool colors.

#### **Hospital Outfit:**

• Hospital gown (blue)

#### **Basic Everyday:**

- Overalls (long or short preferably shorts. D and C)
- Shirt underneath overalls
  - Long sleeve solid color/simple pattern (see B)
  - Hawaiian shirt (cool colors/pattern (no strips.A))
  - Cool color preferably (pink or yellow B.)
  - Sneakers/slip ons (ideal converses white)





#### **Opening Scene:**

Bathrobe or easy to take off pis (quickchange). ideally blue, gray or green.

#### **Basic Everyday:**

- Jeans (not skinny Jeans)
- Sweater
  - Preppy and nice (see A or C)
  - Off the shoulder (see B)
  - Cool colors preferably blue
- Hair ponytail with a scrunchy
- Shoes TBD

C

D

A







#### Hellen

#### **Basic Everyday:**

- button up shirt/blouse
  - slightly obnoxious but not distracting.
- Paints go with the shirt
- Flats (white black gray)
- Sunglasses (very bold)
- Pearl necklace





#### Benberg (

#### Basic Everyday:

- White lab coat
- Stethoscope
- Purple pinkish (A) button up shirt/blouse
- Black/gray dress pants
- black flats
- Gray scrubs



#### Trish

- Scrubs (solid cool)
- White shoes (sneakers)
- Ponytail



#### Waitress

- **Button shirt** black/white
- Skirt (A line, dirndl, Skater or pencil)
- White Aprion (waste)





#### Nurses:

- Scrubs (blue or gray)
- White sneakers



#### Patient:

- Housecoat
- Flats character shoes

#### Etan

- Scrubs (solid cool color)
- White shoes (sneakers)
- Hair in tight bun (show uptightness)







# <u>Light Cue Sheet</u>

Cue #	Page #	Cue Line	<u>Lights</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1		Top of Show	House lights out go into blackout	
2		Music ends, phone 1 rings	lights up on bed looking like its morning	
3		Lynne: "They were home I got to go" Phone ring 2	cross fade to DL & DC plan blue out on rest of stage	
4		Ellis " everything that happens today is meant to punish me."	blue out signal light comes up DC	
5		Lynne: "Well thats what Im here to tell you"	crossfade bed lights full	
6		Ellis "I need to take a long cruise to kathmandu."	DownStage lights full fade out as Lynne moves past them.	rest in blackout
7		Lynne "boy was i alone"	lights up on bench area DR	
8		Ellis: "no and neither do you"	signal light on Lynne DC	rest of stage in black out
9		I never did make it to Bremerhaven	DL lights up	rest of stage in black out
10		I'll revise my resume and just start over	Bed lights up and slowly fade up lights to full stage	rest of stage in blackness till fade up
11		Signed ellis crowley	signal light on lynne DL and DC	rest of stage in blackness
12		Ellis lept form plateaued to platitude across a shallow brook until she came to deep water.	DS and center plans are full	rest of stage in blackness
13		tens just fine	blackOut signal light DC and fade into DR	
14		they'd do more tests.	normal hospital lights on DR area	rest of stage in blackness
15		there's a scream coming up my throat	Lights narrow on the bench DR	
16		you said you liked galveston.	Full on DR area	
17		miss crowley miss ellis crowley	Blue out	
18		when they are set on DL	Lights up DL area	Rest of Stage in black out
19		i'll be dead before christmas i'm going to die in there mouth and i don't even have a headache.	Crossfade DC area	Rest of Stage in black out
20		dont worry well fit her in	Down Stage lights come up	The other lights fade out as Lynne hits the bench area
21		when they were good they were good	Lights up on Bench area DR	
22		starting monday i'll be perfect	Blue Out	

# **Sound Cue Sheet:**

Scene #	Cue #	Cue Line	<u>Music</u>	Notes
Preshow	1	House lights flash	Here comes the sun	Phone Ringing after full lights
Scene 1	2	Lynne: Why do I feel awful?	Man Singing in the Shower Fades in	
Scene 1	3	Lynne: I hope they weren't home	"They were home" Man singing slowly fades out	
Middle of	4	Lynne: I gotta go. (wait 3 seconds for ugh)	Phone ring	
Scene 2	5	Lynne: Well that's what I'm here to tell you	Melancholy Music 1	Notebook music
		Extend Melancholy Music for transition STOP when lights come up		
Scene 4 to 5	6	Ellis: I'll revise my resume, and just start over	Melancholy Transition Music	
		Starting Monday I'll be perfect		
Scene 6	7	Lynne: Tens just fine	Emotional Music 1	Nightsky by tracey chattaway
Scene 13	8	Ellis: You remember every scar even the ones I gave you?	Melancholy Music 2	
Scene 14 to 15	9	Benberg: Great Stuff	Emotion Transition Music	
Scene 16	11	Lynne: We finally settled down for sleep	creepy music box music	
		Lynne: God you scared me	fade creepy music box music	
	12	I'll be right back	Intense music	Ends when cam screams
Scene 21	13	Lynne: You look so uncomfortable	Up music	
	14	Lynne: We going home chickie (wait 5 seconds PLAY FLATLINE	Flat line	
Scene 22	15	Lynne: I took Ellis home	Dream music	
	16	Both: Now live	Here comes the sun starts	

# Music

https://youtu.be/xUNqsfFUwhY

https://youtu.be/rxuiscKp8a0

https://youtu.be/8DSeZji2x-Y https://youtu.be/znsUh6vBWLI

https://youtu.be/-dTHq01dN3M

https://youtu.be/GQIk6DMcxWo

Here Comes The Sun Opening

Goodnight' Sleepy Dreamy Piano

"Nightsky" by Tracey Chattaway
Davy Jones music box loop

Davy Jones music box loop

Relaxing/Emotional Once Upon a Time Music

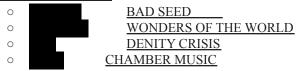
Here Comes the Sun (Piano Instrumental)

#### PERFORMANCE WEEK SCHEDULE:

#### ALL CONFLICTS THIS WEEK ARE VOID IF THERE ARE QUESTIONS PLEASE TEXT ME.

#### Wednesday 5/8 (PERFORMANCES):

- No rehearsal but you must be at Bored Reval it begins at 6:00 do not be late.
- Performances will began right after bored reveal.
  - Please stay and watch shows! This is not mandatory but you really should, we can sit as a cast and it's so much fun!
- Performance Order:



#### Thursday 11/8 (PERFORMANCES):

- COME IMMEDIATELY TO THE DRAMA HALL! WE HAVE A CUE TO CUE RIGHT AFTER SCHOOL!
  - This needs to be quick and organized. 5 minutes set up and then directly in to cue to cue when LIGHTS and SOUND are ready! This isn't your time it's the tech! No arguing I need you guy to listen and be focused.
- Performances will began at 6:00
  - Please stay and watch shows! This is not mandatory but you really should, we can sit as a cast and it's so much fun!
- Go home get a good night sleep we perform tomorrow!
- Performance Order:
  - SILVIA
     4000 MILES
     PROOF
     BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA

#### FRIDAY 11/9 (PERFORMANCES):

\*note These instructions might change later in the week or the day of based on the instructions I am given from the directors (

- Wear costumes to school it's a good way to promote the show!
- Come to DRAMA ROOM after school to eat.
  - You do not need to be first in line. We perform second to last; just wait in line where you are in line is fine, you are in no rush to eat. (At the same time this does not mean that you are slow. You're still to be eating and getting yourself ready efficiently and on time)
- After eating get into custom(although you should already be in costume;)
  - Getting Ready Instructions:
    - come see me after you get in costume so we can began on makeup and hair. The rest of you get into hair and makeup on your own. old age and crazy 80's make up along with teasing your hair. I'm giving you a tiny bit of age but nothing crazy.
    - Everyone should be practically done getting in hair and makeup by the time that cast is starting warm ups. This means that you should be doing final touches on makeup, checking all your props etc.
    - show ends you are to make sure all of your belongings are together and you are not spread out. Then get your props and anything you need to perform and get ready to move to whatever space we will be doing warm ups (TBD).
- One JA cast goes on to perform we will go to whatever space we are using for warm ups.
  - Warm ups, with V . I will meet with techs then join warmups.
    - I expect full energy and focus during warmups.
    - All prop should be set and all actors and Tech should know their assignments for once we enter the theater. (This will be written and discussed earlier in the week.)
- One J cast finishes enter the theater, get ready for the top of show!

# Dramaturgy

# Starting Monday Dramaturgy

Claire Wilcox, Senior One Act

# Summary and Character List

#### Starting Monday, by Anne Commire:

The play follows the story of best friends Ellis, and Lynne. Lynne puts her life on hold to care for Ellis, who recently learned that she has cancer. Ellis struggles to live with her disease and accept the inevitable reality of her death, while Lynne struggles with the complexity and realities of the medical system, Ellis's mother, and what it means to Ellis to die with dignity. The show explores the limits of love, need and trust in friendship, the devastating impact terminal illness has on both the afflicted and the caretaker, and the importance of living in the now and not waiting until Monday.



#### **Characters:**

Lynne Ellis Hellen
Nurse Benberg Jim/Man
Blood Nurse Trish Nurse Etan

# References From the Show

# Location and Medical References

**<u>Kathmandu</u>**: The capital of nepal.

Bremerhaven: City in Germany.

**Barnegat Bay:** Bay in New Jersey.

<u>New York City:</u> City in New York state (if you don't know this you live under a rock).

Los Angeles: Center of the film industry city in California (again if you don't know this you live under a rock).

<u>Houston:</u> City in Texas with the hospital Ellis goes to.

<u>Hysterectomy:</u> an operation to remove a woman's uterus. A woman may have a hysterectomy for different reasons, including: Uterine fibroids that cause pain, bleeding, or other problems. Uterine prolapse, which is a sliding of the uterus from its normal position into the vaginal canal.

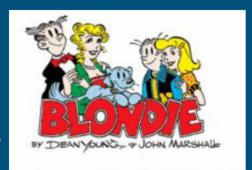
<u>Fibroids:</u> (uterine myomas) leiomyomas, or fibromas, are firm, compact tumors that are made of smooth muscle cells and fibrous connective tissue that develop in the uterus. ... In more than 99 percent of fibroid cases, the tumors are benign (non-cancerous).

<u>Lung Cancer:</u> A cancer that begins in the lungs and most often occurs in people who smoke.

# Other References



The Waldorf: Is a famous hotel in NYC featured in many films such as Catch Me If You Can, Coming to America, and The Godfather: Part III.



#### **Guy Lombardo:**

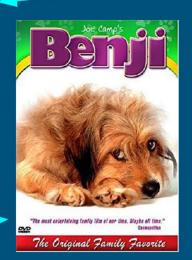
A Canadian-American bandleader and violinist of Italian descent.



Benji Movies are Stray dog Benji doesn't need an owner, preferring to roam freely all over his friendly Texas town.

#### **Dagwood and Blondie:**

Dagwood is a main character in cartoonist Chic Young's long-running comic strip Blondie. They later become a film.



# Fashion

The fashion styles from 1978 to 1983 did not differ drastically from one another, it wasn't until 1985 that northern style drastically change (hello hair spray). The show focuses on nothing past 1983 therefor that is as far back as we will look into fashion.

## Women Fashion In The Early 80's

More Picture on the next slide:

\*Due to being fairly modern there's no layer standard of dress like in period shows.

#### Top Layer:

- <u>Turtleneck</u>
- silk blouses
- graphic t shirts
- denim jacket
- Sweaters and sweatshirts

#### Bottom layer:

- Denim jeans (bleaching, dyeing & pre-made holes.)
- Dress pants (high-waisted, pleated and snug fitting).
- Skirts (pleated, aline, pencil)



\*of course standard undergarments, along with normal make up (similar to what's worn today) hair is also normal except for the teasing. Women preferred soft fabrics and neutral colors (nothing like the neon of the late 80s). Scarves were also all the way. Denim in general was very popular (as seen above) whether it's paints, jackets, overalls or skirts. In the 80s they loved their denim. Skirts were also popular and came in a variety of styles but the "prep style" of was especially popular typical of teens.







# Men's Fashion in 80's

More Picture on the next slide:

Men's clothing in the 80's was snug fitting and comfortable. Cloth weren't as loose as today's fashion but not as skin tight as the 70's. Activewear was a popular choice for men (Matching sweatpants and sweatshirts). Denim jackets were complemented by matching denim jeans was also all the rage (for teens); Along with Men's suits, flannel shirts, and Turtlenecks, especially when worn under a wild-colored thick, itchy sweater. Finally thick mustaches were also pretty common in the the early 80s but throughout the decade they grow out of style.





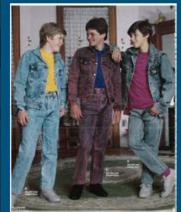


















# Historical Events

The play takes place from 1978 to 1983, due to this I will be starting my research in the year 1980. This is when the girls meet and it's the start of a new decade.

# 1980

<u>U.S. Presidential Election</u> Ronald Reagan *(Republican)* 

<u>Voyager 1 probe</u> sends the first high resolution images of Saturn back to scientists.

Us Leads boycott of Moscow

Olympics in protest at Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

<u>Iran US Hostages-Failed</u> operation by US to free hostages in Iran.



# 1982

First CD player sold in Japan

The First Commercial use of
Genetic Engineering is Launched
when human insulin produced by
bacteria is marketed

Severe recession begins in the United States

<u>John Lennon</u>: is shot outside his New York apartment.



# 1983

<u>US Space Shuttle Challenger</u> maiden flight

Microsoft Word is first released

The <u>First Person to Receive an</u>
<u>Artificial heart</u> (died after 112 days)

Sally Ride on June 18th is first American woman in space (Challenger)

<u>Terrorist attack</u> by a suicide bomber on the <u>U.S Embassy</u> in Beirut, killing 63 people .

The <u>World's Population</u> is estimated at 4.27 billion.

## Culture, Trends and Style

### Cultural Trends In the 80's

- Michael Jackson's <u>Thriller</u> came out 1982.
- The <u>First Issue of USA Today</u> is published 1982.
- <u>Disney Futuristic Park EPCOT</u> (Experimental Community of Tomorrow) opened 1982
- Doctors performed the first Implant of a permanent artificial heart designed by Robert Jarvik 1982
- <u>Final Episode of M\*A\*S\*H</u> airs record 125 million watch 1983
- Millions of viewers tune into the TV soap opera
   <u>Dallas</u> to learn who shot lead character J.R.
   Ewing.

Popular Films:
Star Wars Episode V
Superman II
Nine to Five

Culture at this time revealed around media television, film, technology, video games and music.



#### **Popular Musicians:**

- ABBA
- AC/DC
- David Bowie
- Alice Cooper
- Michael Jackson
- Oueen
- Pink Floyd
- Paul McCartney





# Geographic and Cultural Research

## Geographical Research

<u>Time of Year:</u> Spread throughout multiple years.

<u>Location:</u> New York, German Cruise, New Jersey Beach, Los Angeles, Hospital in Dallas.

**Economics**: (for the sack of economics I picked 1982 to look at) The Average Cost of new house was \$82,200 and the Average Income per year \$21,050.00. This was an era that had a true middle class. Lastly the Cost of a gallon of Gas 91 cents.

**Education:** at this point education was pretty wide spread most kids *(boy and girl)* went to school from elementary to high school and most went on to college.

## Background on Cancer

The earliest known descriptions of **cancer** appear in several papyri from Ancient Egypt.

In 1901 Roentgen received the first Nobel Prize awarded in physics. Radiation therapy began with radium and with relatively **low**-voltage diagnostic machines.

There weren't many advances during the 80s do to the focus being mostly on ADIS.

I've also attached the stages of cancer for reference.

## **Stages of Cancer**

Marshfield Clinic

#### Stage

#### Early Stage

1

- · A small, invasive mass or tumor has been found.
- · No spread to lymph nodes or other tissues.
- Sometimes called early-stage or "localized" cancer.

#### Stage

#### Localized

- 2
- Cancer has started to affect nearby tissue.
- Mass may have grown in size.
- Spread to lymph nodes near the mass.

#### Stage

#### Regional Spread



- · Cancer affects more surrounding tissue.
- · Mass may have grown in size.
- Spread to distant lymph nodes away from the mass.

#### Stage

#### Distant Spread



- Cancer has spread to other tissues or organs beyond the region where it originated.
- · Sometimes called advanced or "metastatic" cancer.

For more cancer topics and advice visit: www.shine365.marshfieldclinic.org/category/cancer-care

To learn about oncology specialty services at Marshfield Clinic: www.marshfieldclinic.org/specialties/cancer-care



## UTERINE CANCER

#### **Estimated Lifetime Risk for** 1:147\* **Uterine Cancer**

- Cancer of the uterus is also referred to endometrial or uterine cancer.
- Endometrial cancer is a disease in which malignant (cancer) cells form in the tissues of the endometrium.
- The endometrium is the lining of the uterus, the hollow, muscular organ in a woman's pelvis.
- Cancer of the endometrium is different from cancer of the muscle of the uterus, which is called sarcoma of the uterus.

#### SYMPTOMS OF UTERINE CANCER

- Abnormal Vaginal Bleeding or discharge that is not normal for you.
- Pain in pelvis or abdomen especially when passing urine or having sex



#### RISK FACTORS OF UTERINE CANCER INCLUDE

- Obesity and lack of exercise
- Smoking
- Alcohol use - Family History

- Genetics
- Inability to fall pregnant
- Infrequent menstrual cycle or starting menses before the age of 12
- Oestrogen replacement therapy without the use of progesterone

## Cancer Awareness













## Thematic Research

## About the Author

### **Anne Commire**

Anne Commire was born August 11th 1939 and died in 2012. She was an American playwright and editor. She received the Eugene O'Neill Theater Award four times between 1973 and 1988. Her plays include Shay, Put Them All Together, The Melody Sisters and Starting Monday (the play this is about). She also had several books including Yesterday's Authors of Books for Children Breaking the Silence, (with Mariette Hartley) 'Historic World Leaders, Women in World History, Dictionary of Women Worldwide: and Moorville



Finding any reviews of the show was rather difficult. I found an old newspaper article from the New York Times, and random one from google books so....

## New York Times Review April 5, 1990

In one review I found the author wrote "The grinding, day-to-day realities of terminal illness have rarely been dramatized on the stage with the exhaustive precision that Anne Commire drama "Starting Monday" brings to a subject that is almost inevitably depressing." In the same article the author remarked that the play "removes most of the sugar coating to concentrate on the physical and psychic experience of fighting illness and coming to terms with death." this creates a challenge for the actors portraying such roles. One of the strongest and most unique elements of the play is the "sense of documentary fidelity. Cancer is notoriously unpredictable, and the drama captures the terrible uncertainties and roller-coaster ups and downs of fighting the disease. Both actors "demonstrate an impressive stamina and a chemistry that is often compelling... the tough-minded portrayal of Ellis carries the character through an emotional and physical spectrum without a false step...played to the truth of a character who... is impulsive, feisty and insecure. Ms. Wiggins(Lynne) smoothly carries off the subtler... task of stepping in and out of the drama to narrate the story

The documentary quality of the play is also the source of many of its flaws. A scene of interminable delays in a hospital waiting room... intended to put the audience through the ordeal but ... is more likely to drive them out of the theater...An awkward montage of memories, during which the two actresses run back and forth on the stage fails to evoke the cementing of their affection during a vacation..."

## Finding pictures of past productions was very difficult. The only things I could find:

- A monologue from the show of a rather poor actor
- The cover of the play
- A picture of Anne Commire
- A old newspaper review
- A lot of photos that have nothing to do with it







So, I pulled Pictures from when the show was

done at Bowie....



















### Sources

These are not all my sources but some of the most helpful ones.

https://www.retrowaste.com/1980s/fashion-in-the-1980s/1980s-fashion-for-women-girls/

All the clothes links pictures are above

Link to pictures https://www.retrowaste.com/1980s/fashion-in-the-1980s/1980s-fashion-for-men-boys/

I also have a Pinterest board, link bellow:

https://www.pinterest.com/cewilcox29/starting-monday/



# **Ancillary Materials**





















## "Now Live Don't Wait for Monday"