

## Various Artists

### "La Vie Boheme Life Cafe"

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Downstage right, the PRINCIPALS have lined up and are waiting to be seated. A large table is situated down center. Down and to the right, BENNY and MR. GREY are seated at a smaller table. The RESTAURANT MAN tries to shoo our friends out.)

RESTAURANT MAN  
No please no  
Not tonight please no  
Mister -- can't you go --  
Not tonight -- can't have a scene

ROGER  
What?

RESTAURANT MAN  
Go, please go;  
You -- Hello, sir --  
I said, "No"  
Important customer

MARK  
What am I -- just a blur?

RESTAURANT MAN  
You sit all night -- you never buy!

MARK  
That's a lie -- that's a lie  
I had a tea the other day

RESTAURANT MAN  
You couldn't pay

MARK  
Oh yeah

COLLINS  
Benjamin Coffin III -- here?

RESTAURANT MAN

Oh no!

ALL

Wine and beer!

MAUREEN

The enemy of Avenue A

We'll stay

(They sit.)

RESTAURANT MAN

Oy vey!

COLLINS

What brings the mogul in his own mind to the Life  
Cafe?

BENNY

I would like to propose a toast  
To Maureen's noble try  
It went well

MAUREEN

Go to hell

BENNY

Was the yuppie scum stomped  
Not counting the homeless  
How many tickets weren't comped

ROGER

Why did Muffy --

BENNY

Alison

ROGER

Miss the show?

BENNY

There was a death in the family  
If you must know

ANGEL

Who died?

BENNY

Our Akita

BENNY, MARK, ANGEL, COLLINS

Evita

BENNY

Mimi -- I'm surprised  
A bright and charming girl like you  
Hangs out with these slackers  
(Who don't adhere to deals)  
They make fun -- yet I'm the one  
Attempting to do some good  
Or do you really want a neighborhood  
Where people piss on your stoop every night?  
Bohemia, Bohemia's  
A fallacy in your head  
This is Calcutta  
Bohemia is dead

(The BOHEMIANS immediately begin to enact a mock  
funeral, with  
MARK delivering the "eulogy.")

MARK

Dearly beloved we gather here to say our goodbyes

COLLINS & ROGER

Dies irae -- dies illa  
Kyrie eleison  
Yitgadal v' yitkadash, etc.

MARK

Here she lies  
No one knew her worth  
The late great daughter of mother earth  
On this night when we celebrate the birth  
In that little town of Bethlehem  
We raise our glass -- you bet your ass to --  
(MAUREEN flashes hers.)  
La vie Boheme

ALL

La vie Boheme  
La vie Boheme  
La vie Boheme  
La vie Boheme

MARK

To days of inspiration  
Playing hookie, making something out of nothing  
The need to express --  
To communicate,

To going against the grain,  
Going insane  
Going mad

To loving tension, no pension  
To more than one dimension,  
To starving for attention,  
Hating convention, hating pretension  
Not to mention of course,  
Hating dear old mom and dad

To riding your bike,  
Midday past the three piece suits  
To fruits -- to no absolutes --  
To Absolut -- to choice --  
To the Village Voice --  
To any passing fad

ALL  
La vie Boheme  
La vie Boheme

(JOANNE enters.)

MAUREEN  
Is the equipment in a pyramid?

JOANNE  
It is, Maureen

MAUREEN  
The mixer doesn't have a case  
Don't give me that face

(MAUREEN smacks JOANNE's ass as she exits. MR.  
GREY reacts.)

MR. GREY  
Ahhemm

MAUREEN  
Hey Mister -- she's my sister

RESTAURANT MAN  
So that's five miso soup, four seaweed salad  
Three soy burger dinner, two tofu dog platter  
And one pasta with meatless balls

A BOY  
Ugh

COLLINS  
It tastes the same

MIMI  
If you close your eyes

RESTAURANT MAN  
And thirteen orders of fries  
Is that it here?

ALL  
Wine and beer!

MIMI & ANGEL  
To hand-crafted beers made in local breweries  
To yoga, to yogurt, to rice and beans and cheese  
To leather, to dildos, to curry vindaloo  
To huevos rancheros and Maya Angelou

MAUREEN & COLLINS  
Emotion, devotion, to causing a commotion  
Creation, vacation

MARK  
Mucho masturbation

MAUREEN & COLLINS  
Compassion, to fashion, to passion when it's new

COLLINS  
To Sontag

ANGEL  
To Sondheim

FOUR PEOPLE  
To anything taboo

COLLINS & ROGER  
Ginsberg, Dylan, Cunningham and Cage

COLLINS  
Lenny Bruce

ROGER  
Langston Hughes

MAUREEN  
To the stage

PERSON #1

To Uta

PERSON #2

To Buddha

PERSON #3

Pablo Neruda, too

MARK & MIMI

Why Dorothy and Toto went over the rainbow

To blow off Auntie Em

ALL

La vie Boheme

(JOANNE returns.)

MAUREEN

And wipe the speakers off before you pack

JOANNE

Yes, Maureen

MAUREEN

Well -- hurry back

(MAUREEN and JOANNE kiss.)

MR. GREY

Sisters?

MAUREEN

We're close

(ANGEL jumps on of COLLINS, who's on the table. They  
kiss.)

ANGEL, COLLINS, MAUREEN, MARK, MR. GREY

Brothers!

MARK, ANGEL, MIMI & THREE OTHERS

Bisexuals, trisexuals, homo sapiens,

Carcinogens, hallucinogens, men, Pee Wee Herman

German wine, turpentine, Gertrude Stein

Antonioni, Bertolucci, Kurosawa

Carmina Burana

ALL

To apathy, to entropy, to empathy, ecstasy

Vaclav Havel -- The Sex Pistols, 8BC,

To no shame -- never playing the Fame Game

COLLINS  
To marijuana

ALL  
To sodomy,  
It's between God and me  
To S & M

(MR. GREY walks out.)

BENNY  
Waiter...Waiter...Waiter

ALL  
La vie Boheme

COLLINS  
In honor of the death of Bohemia an impromptu salon  
will commence  
immediately following dinner...Mimi Marquez, clad only  
in bubble wrap,  
will perform her famous lawn chair-handcuff dance to  
the sounds of  
iced tea being stirred.

ROGER  
Mark Cohen will preview his new documentary about his  
inability to  
hold an erection on high holy days.

(ROGER picks up an electric guitar and starts to tune it.)

MARK  
Maureen Johnson, back from her spectacular one-night  
engagement  
at the eleventh street lot, will sing native american  
tribal chants  
backwards through her vocoder, while accompanying  
herself on the  
electric cello -- which she has never studied.

(At this point, JOANNE has entered and seen MAUREEN  
playfully kiss  
MARK. JOANNE exits. BENNY pulls MIMI aside.)

BENNY  
Your new boyfriend doesn't know about us?

MIMI

There's nothing to know

BENNY

Don't you think that we should discuss --

MIMI

It was three months ago

BENNY

He doesn't act like he's with you

MIMI

We're taking it slow

BENNY

Where is he now?

MIMI

He's right -- hmm

BENNY

Uh huh

MIMI

Where'd he go?

MARK

Roger will attempt to write a bittersweet, evocative song.

(ROGER picks up a guitar and plays Musetta's Theme.)

That doesn't remind us of "Musetta's Waltz"

COLLINS

Angel Dumott Schunard will now model the latest fall fashions from Paris , while accompanying herself on the 10 gallon plastic pickle tub.

ANGEL

And Collins will recount his exploits as an anarchist -- including the successful reprogramming of the M.I.T. virtual reality equipment to self-destruct, as it broadcast the words:

ALL

"Actual reality -- Act Up -- Fight AIDS"

BENNY

Check!!



(BENNY exits. Lights on MIMI and ROGER.)

MIMI

Excuse me -- did I do something wrong?  
I get invited -- then ignored -- all night long

ROGER

I've been trying -- I'm not lying  
No one's perfect. I've got baggage

MIMI

Life's too short, babe, time is flying  
I'm looking for baggage that goes with mine

ROGER

I should tell, you --

MIMI

I've got baggage too

ROGER

I should tell you --

MIMI

I got baggage, too

ROGER

I should tell you --

BOTH

Baggage - wine --

OTHERS

And beer!

(Several beepers sound. Each turns off his or her beeper.)

MIMI

AZT break

(MIMI, ROGER, ANGEL, and COLLINS take pills.)

ROGER

You?

MIMI

Me. You?

ROGER

Mimi

(They hold hands and stare into each other's eyes  
lovingly. The rest of  
the company freezes

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