

# **THE WISEGUY KITCHEN**

Written by

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For Performance Information, please visit  
[www.thewiseguykitchen.com](http://www.thewiseguykitchen.com)

'**The Wiseguy Kitchen**' is a dinner-theater play, which will be presented at different venues. Because of this, character stage directions are generic, and will have to be carried out by the Cast as best as possible.

The Cast should also refer to their Character Descriptions to assist them with moments of ad-libbing/improv, and to help with designing their costumes for the performance.

Please make note of ITEMS IN ALL CAPS. These are important PROPS the designated characters must have in those scenes.

Action Lines that are ***{bolded & italicized}*** are notes for the Cast and Director to assist with ad-libbing/improv or to help set up the scene.

All other moments are scripted Scenes/Dialogue/Action.

# ACT ONE

## RESTAURANT - ENTRANCE & DINNER AREA

As the audience arrives, are seated, and eat their salads...

Most of the CAST mingle.

{Uncle Carmine, Maria and Tony Knuckles should not be seen, as they are still out 'taking care of the director.'}

{SOPHIA will be very open, chatty, thank folks for coming, make them feel like family.}

{NINA will be very flirty, which clearly grates on Sophia. Tension hangs in the air between the two women. They make passive-aggressive digs at each other.}

{JOEY PICTURES will 'film' guests as they arrive, using the CAMERA FROM THE TRIPOD, which sits to the side of the main cooking station. He openly flirts with every woman. But in a nice, Joey from 'Friends' way}

{The MC for the night is 'FRANKIE THE PIG'. He'll introduce himself as the MC and tell people to have a good time. At times, he should introduce himself as Frankie The Pig. And say they call him The Pig because of his laugh - snort, snort - "not because I'm an undercover cop or nuthin'". For select guests - and the actor will have to be careful about this, so as not to offend or make anyone feel uncomfortable - Frankie will be suspicious, asking them questions, taking notes, pretending to hug them in a greeting that quickly turns to frisking. When he's done, he should say "Okay, move along, there's nothing to see here."}

{MATTHEW will be busy making sure everything is getting set up properly, talking into his headset mic like he's giving backstage orders to the crew. He'll be juggling that with his 'den mother' duties. Trying to keep tensions from flaring between Sophia and Nina - keeping Joey Pictures on task. He could also comment on some of the outfits, ala Joan Rivers on the red carpet. "I see you're husband is wearing part of the Ralph collection - Ralph Macchio that is."}

{After the crowd settles, the MC takes center stage. He'll instruct guests to settle and if they don't do it quick enough. "Hey, I'm talkin' over here!"}

{The dialogue below can be improvised by the MC, as long as the Frankie the Pig info is conveyed to the audience --- this is important!.}

FRANKIE

Hello everybody. Welcome to The  
Wiseguy Kitchen show!

*(if the audience doesn't  
start clapping)*

... This is when you clap.

*(leads them in clapping)*

That's better. My name is Frankie  
DePasquale, but everyone calls me  
Frankie the Pig.

*(snorts, chuckles)*

It's because I got a funny laugh,  
not because I'm an undercover cop  
or nuthin'.

*(snorts, chuckles again)*

Tonight, we're filming a brand new  
reality cooking show, like you see  
on TV, and you're a big part of the  
show. Now don't worry, no one is  
going to ask you to come up here  
and do any acting. But we need you  
to pay attention and be  
enthusiastic. Can you do that?

*{Frankie can then introduce Joey Pictures, the Sound Guy, and  
Matthew -- do not introduce Sophia or Nina, as this occurs  
later---}*

*{There can be some IMPROV moments here, but eventually,  
Frankie wants to say "We're gonna start the show in a couple  
of minutes, let's go check on Chef Vinny."}*

#### VINNY'S COOKING AREA

*{If there are lights, bring them up on Vinny as he paces in  
the cooking station area. Otherwise, Vinny should just enter  
from the side and...}*

VINNY PALAZZO, paces back and forth. He's a man who  
possesses the menacing countenance of Tony Soprano, except  
right now, he looks more like that guy on a can of ravioli -  
traditional CHEF WHITES and that RIDICULOUS POOFY HAT will do  
that to ya.

Vinny's the star of "The Wiseguy Kitchen," a cooking show  
that premieres tonight, and he's uncharacteristically nervous.

An EFFEMINATE VOICE jars Vinny.

MATTHEW

Five minutes, Mr. Palazzo.

That voice belongs to MATTHEW, twenties, looking "absolutely fabulous", if he does say so himself. And he does, often. Matthew's the stagehand for tonight's performance, if you couldn't guess that from the HEAD MIC and CLIPBOARD permanently attached to him.

Vinny panics, grabs him by his bony shoulders.

VINNY

Five minutes? Whaddya mean, five minutes? Where's the director? Where's Roberto?

MATTHEW

'A' - hands. You're sweating like an Armenian at an underground rave, and this is a suede Christophe Lemaire. Those two things do not mix, believe me!

Vinny releases, wipes his palms.

MATTHEW

And 'B' - I haven't seen him.

VINNY

What about my crew? Carmine, Maria... Tony?

MATTHEW

Which Tony? Fat Tony, chicken legs Tony, Tony the chin, Tony Robbins, Tone Loc--

VINNY

Alright! I get it. I know a lot of Tonys.

Vinny looks down at himself, in his full chef's attire.

VINNY

Well, what do you think?

MATTHEW

I think if you were going for Chef Boyardee, then, *nailed it!*

VINNY

See, this is why I need Roberto. My guys were supposed to keep an eye on him. Bring him here tonight. This getup was his friggin' idea.

MATTHEW

At least he didn't dress you in blue overalls and a red cap.

VINNY

What is that? A Mario reference? Don't even joke about it. That game is prejudiced.

MATTHEW

Seriously?

VINNY

A hard working Italian man? Just trying to earn a living, constantly has obstacles thrown at him. Those barrels are metaphors - government regulations, wiretaps, they even got those drones flying everywhere...

*(Vinny looks up imagining one overhead)*

Read a paper.

MATTHEW

I'm just going let you be by yourself for a bit.

As Matthew passes Vinny, he thrusts his wrist-watched-arm in front of him.

MATTHEW

Oh, just one thing... Four minutes!

Vinny waves him off, and wears a look like the police just raided his craps game.

*{If you are lighting the Cooking Area, this is the time to bring down the lights. If you don't have lights, that's okay. The MC can draw focus to the dining area as Vinny's Crew enters. "Hey everyone, it's Vinny's, uh, assistants for tonight's show." He could also introduce each of them with a little of their backstory from the character descriptions - just make them brief.}*

### DINING AREA

And that's when Vinny's CREW finally shows up.

UNCLE CARMINE, MARIA, and TONY - uh, more specifically, TONY KNUCKLES. These guys used to be Vinny's goons - subtlety and grammar aren't their forte, but they get an A-Plus in thick Jersey accents.

They make their way through the audience like they own the place and interact with the MC, per the directions above.

**VINNY'S COOKING AREA**

The Crew approach Vinny, who looks relieved and pissed-off, all at once.

VINNY  
Where the hell have you been?

Carmine, the eldest of the trio, is dressed way too young for his age. He's got on a HIP TRUCKERS CAP and a PAIR OF HEADPHONES. Bobs his head to the music.

VINNY  
Carmine? UNCLE CARMINE!

Carmine removes his headphones.

UNCLE CARMINE  
Sorry, bro. I was listening to that new Black Eyed Bees cassette. That William is one helluva rapster.

VINNY  
What's with the 'bro' talk? And take off that ridiculous hat.

UNCLE CARMINE  
Huh?

VINNY  
This...  
*(off headphones)*  
...is why you're going deaf.

UNCLE CARMINE  
WHAT?

VINNY  
THIS IS WHY YOU'RE GOING DEAF!

UNCLE CARMINE  
Who the hell is Jeff?

Vinny gives up. Turns to Maria.

VINNY  
Is Carmine, you know...  
*(whistles, indicating he's "Looney Tunes")*

MARIA

Nah, he just thinks he's a teenager again. Ever since he started hanging out with Joey and hitting the dance clubs--

Joey peeks out from behind the CAMERA, *{which is set up to the side, so it doesn't block the audience's view.}*

JOEY PICTURES

Yo, Carmiiiiine, what's up!

UNCLE CARMINE

You gettin' those digitals, Joey?

JOEY PICTURES

Digits, Carmine, digits.  
*(looks to a woman in the crowd)*  
 I'm workin' on it.

Joey gets back to "work."

VINNY

Enough of this. Where have you been?

TONY KNUCKLES

Takin' care of that thing.

Maria and Tony Knuckles snigger. She playfully punches his shoulder. He playfully punches her back... a little too hard. She winces, but plays it off.

VINNY

What 'thing'? And where's Roberto?

TONY KNUCKLES

We took care of the problem, like you asked.

VINNY

What's he talkin' about Carmine? Where's Roberto? What did you do?

UNCLE CARMINE

He thought he was a Jeopardy champ, but he was actually The Weakest Link. So we said, 'goodbye.'

*{"Goodbye" should be said just like the original female host of the game show The Weakest Link.}*

VINNY

I didn't understand a thing you just said.

MARIA

Carmine likes his game shows, Vin.

VINNY

*(throws his hands up in frustration)*

Madone! Where's Roberto?!

UNCLE CARMINE

He's gone.

VINNY

Gone?

UNCLE CARMINE

Yeah, gone.

Realization dawns on Vinny's face - *no, they didn't do that, did they?* Vinny grabs Carmine.

VINNY

I asked you to take care of him. Keep an eye on him. Make sure he makes it here okay. Not...

*(air quotes)*

... "take care of him".

MARIA

That's not how I heard it.

TONY KNUCKLES

Me neither, boss.

VINNY

I'm not the boss anymore, got it? We're legit now. You're supposed to be helping people to their seats, not escorting them to the afterlife!

Tony 'crosses' himself, Catholic style.

MARIA

That guy, if I may say, he was disrespectful.

TONY KNUCKLES

Very un-respec-tiful.

MARIA

Ordering you around like that? Good riddance.

VINNY

That's his job, Maria. That's why he's called the director - he directs. You know, like Scorsese.

UNCLE CARMINE

Did you see Hugo? Just sublime. But Shutter Island...

*(shakes his head)*

Meh, if you ask me.

MARIA

But ya gotta love Leo, no? The Departed? Fuhgetaboutit.

**{The whole Crew agrees: "FUGHETABOUTIT!"}**

TONY KNUCKLES

And Titanic. I saw dat movie like eighty times.

*(off their looks)*

Wid my niece, not by myself or nuthin'. Don't judge me.

UNCLE CARMINE

That's James Cameron, numbskull. And I hated Titanic. When that *puttana* wouldn't let Leo share the dresser and he froze? I only wish Billy Zane had shot her and kept that diamond.

MARIA

If that was me, I woulda made room for Leo. Hell, I'd have let him ride on my back like a dolphin, know what I mean?

She slaps Tony's ass.

MARIA

Like a dolphin, get it?

TONY KNUCKLES

Quit it.

Vinny's had enough.

VINNY

Hey! Siskel, Ebert, pipe down.

*(to Tony)*

And why don't you go update your FaceTweet status, or whatever it is you do.

UNCLE CARMINE

You know Vinny, I can't help but notice that you got a lot of people out there. You think they all brought their wallets?

VINNY

Don't even think about it.

UNCLE CARMINE

I'm just saying, score like that could buy a lot of, uh, oregano, capiche?

VINNY

I said no!

UNCLE CARMINE

That your final answer?

*{“Final answer” should be emphasized just like Regis Philbin on ‘Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?’}*

VINNY

GET OUT OF HERE!!

The trio leave Vinny alone.

**DINING AREA, JUST IN FRONT OF THE CROWD**

Before they disappear into the audience, Tony Knuckles pulls out his cell and the crew gathers together for a goofy group pic.

TONY KNUCKLES

Say cheese.

CARMINE &amp; MARIA

Cheese!

TONY KNUCKLES

Instagram!

SNAP!

*{The Crew disperse into the crowd. Could be a moment for the Crew and the MC, maybe Sophia, to ad-lib a bit, and give Vinny a chance to set up the next scene. Frankie's dialogue below is a sample, but can be completely improvised.}*

FRANKIE

Fair warning, everyone. If you have any valuables, you may want to stick them where the sun don't shine. These three got sticky fingers, you follow?

*{Eventually, the MC needs to get the audience and Crew to settle down, so we can focus on Vinny}*

FRANKIE

Okay, settle down folks. We need everyone to be quiet. Vinny's getting himself ready.

### VINNY'S COOKING AREA

Back with Vinny. Who stands with his eyes closed, facing the audience.

*{If you have Sound, softly play some New Age music during this scene}*

VINNY

Okay, let's see if this yoga stuff can help me relax.

Vinny stretches out his arms, takes a deeeeep breath, then looks at one of his hands with a NOTEPAPER in it.

VINNY

*(reads)*

I am a flower. The sun nurtures my stem.

*(he starts to relax)*

This is nice...

*(reads again)*

My limbs are as soft as petals, they open to the--

MATTHEW (O.S.)

TWO MINUTES!

VINNY

OH, YOU SON OF A--

SOPHIA (O.S.)

Don't you go cursing like some longshoreman!

Sophia enters. She's in her forties and still foxy, with a temper that matches her fiery red hair. And a piercing gaze that sees right through her husband.

VINNY  
 Woman, I can't deal with you right  
 now.

SOPHIA  
*(all attitude)*  
 Woman? What is this, the Taliban  
 you're running here?

VINNY  
 Sophia, please--

SOPHIA  
 No! This is America! I have  
 amendments and I will be heard!

Vinny softens, vulnerable.

VINNY  
 The show's gonna be a disaster.

SOPHIA  
 Where is this attitude coming  
 from? Is it the uh...  
*(giggles)*  
 ...outfit?

VINNY  
 You know, women should never be  
 allowed to giggle around men,  
 whether we're in clothes or naked.

SOPHIA  
 I can't help it. Just add a beret  
 and blue scarf, and you'll look  
 like--

VINNY	RAMONA
That giant marshmallow from the Ghostbusters.	That giant marshmallow from the Ghostbusters.

Their laughter turns intimate, as Sophia rubs against Vinny.

SOPHIA  
 You know... if the meditation  
 isn't working... I can nourish your  
 stem--

MATTHEW (O.S.)  
 Ninety seconds!

VINNY

I'm gonna kill that guy. I know he's just doing his job, but I'm gonna kill him.

MATTHEW (O.S.)

You don't scare me. I do pilates.

SOPHIA

*Shhhhhhh.* We've got ninety seconds. That's thirty more than we usually need.

Vinny considers, but isn't convinced.

VINNY

Whaddya say, let's get outta here babe, just you and me. Head south, maybe Central America?

Sophia stiffens. She knows her hubbie well enough that what he needs right now is some tough love.

***{As she talks below, Sophia gets him out of his chef's attire. Straightens his collar, tucks in his shirt, primps his hair - basically, turning him from this silly caricature back into Vincenzo the man.}***

SOPHIA

Vincenzo Palazzo! You listen to me. We ain't goin' nowhere. First, I saw my psychic this morning and she said the show's gonna be a hit. And you know she's never wrong. She said Jellies would make a comeback and Taylor Swift would get dumped again, poor girl.

VINNY

Is she a psychic or an entertainment reporter?

SOPHIA

And second, I could never go to some foreign country where all I can get is that Mexican bread.

VINNY

They're called tortillas, sweetheart.

SOPHIA

All I'm saying is bread shouldn't be flat and round, unless it's a pizza or being served at communion. Give me focaccia any day--

VINNY

Lightly drizzled with olive oil and coarse sea salt. Sprinkled with a little onion...

Vinny lights up as he goes on about this imagined meal.

SOPHIA

You've got a whole room full of people who came here just to see you. The Wiseguy Chef. And you aren't going to disappoint them or me or yourself. You go out there and do what you've been doing for the last thirty years... except for the racketeering and intimidation and all that stuff. That part you can leave out.

Vinny and Sophia share a laugh and an embrace, and you get why they're a couple.

Sophia's also finished Vinny's sixty second makeover. He's a new man. Now in a classy button down shirt, dress slacks, and a simple chef's apron.

SOPHIA

Look at you, so handsome, like a young Joey Buttafuoco.

Vinny shoots her a look

SOPHIA

What? He's a beautiful man. That hair? Like a sea otter.

A raised eyebrow...

SOPHIA

You know I love the ocean...

Vinny's still not happy.

SOPHIA

I'm gonna go take my seat.

She exits. Matthew pops back in.

MATTHEW

Thirty seconds Mr. Palazzo.

VINNY

Remind me to have you over if my  
oven timer ever goes out.

Matthew smiles. Vinny's ready. As he walks past Matthew...

VINNY

That clipboard. You got all the  
stage directions for tonight's show  
on there?

MATTHEW

Memorized, actually.

VINNY

Good. You're being promoted. Lead  
me out there kid.

*{Matthew escorts Vinny to an area not visible to most of the audience - venue dependent - maybe it's the back kitchen or a curtained area, anything where Vinny, Nina and Sophia can walk for a little bit to have a grand entrance.}*

Matthew comes out first.

MATTHEW

*(into headset mic)*

It's showtime!

He points towards the MC.

**END ACT ONE**

## ACT TWO

### VINNY'S COOKING AREA

The MC stands in front of the crowd.

FRANKIE

Okay folks. We're about to start the show. Put your hands together and give a big warm welcome for Brooklyn's own: Vinny Palazzo, the Wiseguy Chef!

*{If there is Sound, play an appropriate Godfather/Accordion song here until Vinny reaches the station. Otherwise, just skip this.}*

Vinny makes a grand entrance. Larger than life.

He's accompanied by NINA (20s), stripper hot - literally - as she used to be a performer at one of Vinny's clubs. Her outfit's totally inappropriate for the occasion, but we're sure the men in the audience won't mind!

*{Sophia doesn't like this one bit, and puts herself between Vinny and Nina. The two women jockey to be on Vinny's arm.}*

*{The Crew 'encourage' the Audience to be 'enthusiastic'.}*

The MC exits somewhere to the side, but stays in eyesight.

*{Vinny takes center stage behind the cooking area, with Nina nearby. He thanks everyone for coming, ad-libs about himself for a bit.}*

But not for too long, as Nina gets antsy - she's being ignored. Uh oh.

Nina likes to play it dumb, but she ain't. Excuse us, she ain't not. Okay, Nina isn't the brightest gal, but she's not as dim-witted as her brother Tony Knuckles - at least she's got some community college in her. Plus, she's street smart and knows how to hustle people to get what she wants.

NINA

*(sexy)*

Vinny, aren't you going to introduce me to the crowd?

VINNY

I'm sorry. Everybody, this is  
Nina. She's going to be assisting  
me tonight.

*{Vinny gets the crowd clapping. As the noise dies down...}*

SOPHIA

Yeah, ASS-sisting you, is more like  
it.

NINA

*(turns her butt to the  
crowd)*

What, is there something on my  
humps.

*(wiggles and giggles)*

My lovely lady lumps.

*{Uncle Carmine, Tony, Maria and Joey start dancing and  
singing a few lines from The Black Eyed Peas Song, 'My  
Humps'. If you have sound, play the song for about 20  
seconds. Otherwise, the Cast can just sing it, until...}*

SOPHIA

THAT'S ENOUGH!

It get's quiet real fast.

*{If there is music playing, it IMMEDIATELY stops!}*

Vinny tries to break the tension.

VINNY

My lovely wife, Sophia.  
*(as the crowd claps)*

My lovely, hot headed--  
*(catches a look)*

Uh, *passionate* wife.

*(blows her a kiss)*

I love you sweetheart!

Sophia settles down

VINNY

Not for nuthin,' but my wife, she  
can get a little jealous. You  
fellas know what I mean, right?  
See, Nina here used to work at one  
of my clubs, as a, uh, clothing-  
optional performer.

NINA

Awww, Vinny. Why you gotta be so fancy?

*(to audience)*

I was a stripper, there's no shame in it.

**{The Crew AGREE.}**

NINA

Leave It To Beavers was a great place to work. It had a real family atmosphere, I tell ya. And the money was real good while I was puttin' myself through school.

VINNY

I don't think that Chinese acupuncture certificate you got is a real degree, sweetie. It came with a fortune cookie.

NINA

No, Vinny, it's totally legit. That cookie contained my graduate thesis paper. I double-majored in fortune telling. Would you like to know your lucky numbers?

VINNY

No, I'm good. Now let me get back to what we're here for tonight.

*Cuocere. Cooking.*

*(wait for audience cheer)*

And have I got something wonderful for you tonight. I only make this on special occasions, like when they elect a pope or release a new Members Only jacket...

**{The Crew YELP IT UP again.}**

**{Vinny starts prepping the first course meal. Ad-libbing with the crowd and Nina, as he sees fit.}**

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VINNY PREPARES THE FIRST COURSE - PASTA

---

**{As this portion of the show is really about Vinny and the cooking, the rest of the Cast should minimize their actions.}**

*But be prepared in case he refers to them, or asks them to do something.}*

*{All IMPROV by the Cast should be focused on Vinny, acting very excited as the meal is created ("oohs" "aahs" "woot woot woot" "testify!" - that sort of thing). Just like the audience does in a real TV cooking show.}*

*{If the audience doesn't respond as enthusiastically as the Crew likes, they could 'encourage' them to be over-enthusiastic, even at inappropriate moments. Doing this once or twice is sufficient. Again, the goal is to support Vinny's cooking portion, not distract from it.}*

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[EXAMPLE - START]

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Vinny picks up a spoon.

TONY KNUCKLES

Ooooooh!

Vinny looks up, thinks it's odd, but continues with his task, as he mixes the spoon in a bowl.

MARIA

No one mixes a sauce like Chef Vinny. He's like a DJ up there.

*(makes DJ spinning noise)*

Am I right?

*(looks angry at one of the tables)*

I said, am I right! Let's give it up! Woot Woot Woot!

*{Maria gets the table to cheer.}*

VINNY

Okay, Maria, that's not necessary. Let the good people watch in peace.

MARIA

*(to table again)*

Yeah, pipe down! Why you guys gotta be so loud?

---

[EXAMPLE - END]

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{Eventually, Vinny is going to wind down this segment and the audience will be served their pasta course.

{As he gets close to finishing, Matthew comes to the cooking area.}

{--- Connie --- The timing of this needs to be worked out in rehearsal - some kind of cue should be given so Matthew knows when to come in.}

MATTHEW

Vinny, we need to take a commercial break.

{Just like cooking shows on TV, Vinny should ad-lib to commercial, telling the audience their pasta dish will be served and we'll be back from commercial break when they're done.}

{If you have Sound, play a MUSICAL CUE to take us out to commercial.}

---

COMMERCIAL BREAK (1)

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{This is a good time for the CAST to take a little break and allow the audience to eat.}

{Sophia leads the gang in a song while the audience eats.}

{As the first course dinner comes to a close, the Cast could mingle with the crowd again.}

{SOPHIA and VINNY could ask people how they are enjoying the show and meal.}

{JOEY PICTURES and UNCLE CARMINE could go around, have their picture taken with the ladies, trying to get those digitals.}

{NINA would be flirting and acting sexy, hustling for those singles.}

FRANKIE could question some audience members. Ask if they've seen the director (shows a PICTURE) and where exactly they were earlier tonight. He would take notes like a detective, ask them to speak a little louder into his CARNATION, adjust his shirt like the wire he's wearing is itching, ask them if they know what 'witness protection' is, etc.

He could even ask people where they were at certain times in history, like during the Kennedy Assassination or Jimmy Hoffa's disappearance or when the Soprano's went to that all black screen for 5 minutes. Lot's of fun to be had by Frankie here.}

{At the order of Carmine, MARIA and TONY KNUCKLES would be 'racketeering'. Asking audience members if they want to make sports bets, play the ponies, try to sell them HAND-DRAWN 'LOTTERY' TICKETS that are clearly fake, offering up protection to folks, especially from one table to another, etc.}

{One idea for a prop - A CHEAP 'ROULETTE WHEEL'. Essentially, it would just be a thick poster-board with a spinning arrow in the center. And a crudely hand-drawn circle with little pie slices. In each cutout, are the words "You Lose", with only one slot as "You Win". But there is a note at the bottom that reads "If You Win, Spin Again!" This prop would be light enough to be carried by anyone.}

{Maria and Tony Knuckles could even get into a fight over a table, both claiming it's part of their 'territory.' The argument gets heated. During the argument, Maria asks Tony if he's "as excited as she is." Tony isn't. Then Maria claims she isn't either. (Just a little moment to show that Maria is in love with Tony).}

{Uncle Carmine eventually has to come over and settle the dispute, claiming the table as his own. And if the table has any women at it, he and Joey would start hitting on them.}

{Once again, MATTHEW, given a cue, will announce we are coming back from commercial in "thirty seconds". Everyone goes back to their positions, except for Joey.}

#### VINNY'S COOKING AREA

{Vinny and Nina are back behind the cooking station.}

{As Matthew counts down to indicate we're coming back from commercial, he notices that Tony Knuckles is behind the camera instead of Joey Pictures. The camera is backwards.}

{Matthew spots Joey at a table with one of the hot chicks.}

{Vinny gets flustered as it's a mad scramble to get Joey back behind the camera.}

{Matthew could slow down his count if it gets close. "Five. Four. Three point seven five. Three point two five".}

*{Eventually, everyone makes it back to their proper places in time.}*

*{The MC announces they are back from commercial, getting everyone to clap again.}*

*{If there is Sound, MUSIC comes on for a few seconds.}*

---

VINNY PREPARES THE ENTREE

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*{Like before, this segment is focused on Vinny and the cooking. The Cast should take their cues from him. Vinny should ad-lib with the Cast and Audience as he sees fit.}*

*{Below, the scripted moments for this section.}*

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SCRIPTED SCENE 1

---

*{At an early point in the segment, Vinny should ask Nina to hand him a GLASS BOWL.}*

VINNY

Nina, can you get me the clear glass bowl.

*{Nina is initially reluctant, but Vinny insists.}*

Nina sheepishly pulls up a BOWL from below and it's FULL OF ONE DOLLAR BILLS.

NINA

What? I needed someplace to store all these. And my thong is full.

VINNY

Nina!

NINA

Don't worry, Vinny. I left them with enough money to pay the bill.

*(she points to a man in the audience)*

Especially that guy. He wouldn't give me nuthin.' He's so cheap, he still has his Baptism money.

Sophia gets up.

SOPHIA  
Okay, that's it. Pack it in,  
you're going home.

NINA  
But--

SOPHIA  
No buts, sweetheart, except this  
one.

*{Sophia turns and shakes her booty to the crowd. And just as  
Nina did before, the CAST HOOTS AND HOLLERS, and everyone  
starts singing 'My Humps.'}*

*{If there is sound, 'My Humps' could play for a few seconds.}*

Nina takes her bowl and exits.

Sophia becomes Vinny's assistant for the rest of the show.

---

SCRIPTED SCENE 2

---

*{At another point in the show, Carmine should interrupt  
Vinny's cooking. He's got a "special announcement."}*

VINNY  
What is it Carmine? I'm kinda busy  
here.

UNCLE CARMINE  
There's something important I have  
to explain to the audience, because  
they ain't gettin' it through their  
thick skulls!

*(off Vinny's frown)*  
I mean, these good people are  
getting a little confused on some,  
how do you say it, Maria?

MARIA  
Verbiage.

UNCLE CARMINE  
That's it, yeah, verbiage. Tony,  
why don't you bring up that poster.

Tony Knuckles sets up a TRIPOD STAND and sits a POSTERBOARD on it. Written on the board in large letters is--

**"V." "I." "G."**

UNCLE CARMINE

Say it with me folks. 'Vig'.

*{Maria and Tony Knuckles lead the Audience in repeating the word.}*

UNCLE CARMINE

That's very good. We're gettin' somewhere.

*(a pause, then)*

Now, what does 'Vig' mean? Tony.

*{For one brief moment, Tony Knuckles is the smartest guy in the room - no mispronunciations, perfect enunciation. When it comes to the shy business, Tony is a Mensa member.}*

TONY KNUCKLES

'Vig', or Vigorish, is from the Russian word for winnings...

*(in Russian accent)*

...Va-yi-grish...

*(back to English)*

It's the cut, the take, or, if you will, the juice charged by a bookmaker. In banker parlance, it's the interest on a loan.

UNCLE CARMINE

That's right. But all you need to know...

Carmine flips the posterboard. On the other side is written--

**"V. I. G. As in, it's VERY IMPORTANT you GIVE me da money every week!"**

*{Carmine points to each underlined word below as he speaks.}*

UNCLE CARMINE

...is that it's very important you give me da money every week, or I'm gonna have Maria and Tony pay you a special visit.

VINNY

Uncle Carmine. What have you been doing?

UNCLE CARMINE  
 I don't want to judge these people,  
 but we've got some serious  
 degenerates in the audience.

**{Maria and Tony Knuckles enthusiastically AGREE.}**

UNCLE CARMINE  
 Like...  
 (*looks down at a paper*)  
 Mr. Brennan. Mr. Michael Brennan,  
 where are you?

Maria and Tony Knuckles look into the audience. Nothing.

UNCLE CARMINE  
 He might be a little shy. Anyways,  
 he likes to bet on the ponies.

MARIA  
 Yeah, he does. The slow ones.

**{Everyone laughs.}**

UNCLE CARMINE  
 And somebody should tell his son,  
 he ain't goin' to college no more.

TONY KNUCKLES  
 Nope. Dat money went to Harry  
 Trotter in the fifth.

MARIA  
 Nothin' wrong making a livin' with  
 your hands, Mikey Brennan, Jr.

UNCLE CARMINE  
 No, makes a man out of ya.

VINNY  
 What did I tell you! We ain't  
 doing this no more, it's wrong.  
 Now give everything you took--

UNCLE CARMINE  
 Here's your cut, boss.

Carmine pulls out a WAD OF BILLS and a GOLD WATCH.

VINNY  
 Oooh, that's a nice watch.  
 (*puts it on*)  
 Well, maybe this one last time...

Vinny looks over to Sophia, who HARRUMPHS LOUDLY.

VINNY  
 What am I sayin'? Return all this  
 stuff. Now!

Vinny gives his cut back to a very displeased Uncle Carmine,  
 who stomps off like a child.

---

END ACT TWO SCRIPTED SCENES

---

*{And just like before, the rest of this section is Vinny  
 doing his chef thing, interacting with the Cast and Audience  
 as he sees fit.}*

*{Eventually, Vinny is going to wind down this segment and the  
 audience will be served their entree course.}*

*{As he gets close to finishing, Matthew comes to the cooking  
 area to announce the last commercial break.}*

*{--- Connie --- The timing of this needs to be worked out in  
 rehearsal - some kind of cue should be given so Matthew knows  
 when to come in.}*

*{Just like cooking shows on TV, Vinny should ad-lib to  
 commercial, telling the audience their entree will be served  
 and we'll be back from commercial break when they're done.}*

*{Sophia leads the gang in a song while the audience eats.}*

*{If you have Sound, start the MUSICAL CUE to take us out to  
 commercial.}*

---

COMMERCIAL BREAK (2)

---

*{This is a good time for the CAST to take a little break and  
 prep for the final scene! Yeah! And allow the audience to  
 eat their main course.}*

*{As the second course dinner comes to a close, the Cast could  
 mingle with the crowd again in an unobtrusive way. Maybe  
 Sophia or the Cast sings a song in the background.}*

*{No scripted moments here.}*

*{Once again, MATTHEW, given a cue, will announce we are coming back from commercial in "thirty seconds". Everyone goes back to their positions.}*

END ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

### VINNY'S COOKING AREA

*{This takes place after the main entree has been served, but before dessert.}*

*{The MC announces we will be coming back from commercial soon and we need everyone's attention.}*

*{When you know the audience has settled...}*

*{Matthew counts it down... 5, 4, 3, 2, 1... then points to Vinny.}*

*{Vinny welcomes the audience back. Thanks everyone for coming, hopes they enjoyed the meal, etc. Some ad-lib here just like when they close out a real TV Chef program.}*

*{Vinny brings up almost everyone to stand near him - Sophia, Maria, Carmine, Tony Knuckles, Nina. Frankie The Pig and Matthew stand just to the side, while Joey Pictures stays behind the camera.}*

VINNY

Okay, so that's that, folks. It was a little bumpy at times, but we made it through. I hope you learned something and are leaving with most of your belongings intact.

FRANKIE

Hold up a sec, Vin. I've got a surprise for ya.

Frankie walks over to Vinny and places on the table a SMALL DECORATIVE BOX.

VINNY

You shouldn't have Frankie. What is it?

FRANKIE

Something I've wanted to give you for a long time.

Vinny opens the box and out comes... A PAIR OF FUZZY POLICE CUFFS - yep, just like those from a sex store. ***{Holds them up for the audience to see.}***

VINNY

Fuzzy police cuffs? You...  
shouldn't have.

Frankie pulls out a BADGE and waves it at Vinny and the audience.

FRANKIE

I know this is going to come as a shock, but I'm a cop. I've been working undercover in your organization for years.

**{GASPS and EXAGGERATED REACTIONS from the Cast. Then SILENCE.}**

**{Finally, Vinny and the Cast BUST OUT LAUGHING. Frankie looks confused.}**

FRANKIE

What the hell is so funny?

Vinny claps Frankie on the shoulder.

VINNY

I hate to break it to you, but that was the worst kept secret ever. Who wears a carnation all the time and asks people to speak into it? I mean, clowns do that, but water usually squirts out of it.

MARIA

Who wears mirrored sunglasses indoors?

UNCLE CARMINE

And your love of morning donuts? Real Italians sip cappuccino and smoke cigarettes for breakfast.

MARIA

**(in a deep voice)**

That's true

**(coughs like a life-long smoker)**

We do.

SOPHIA

And Frankie, my dear. That mustache, *marrone!* You were either a cop or a seventies porn star. And I know that's a .38 hidden in your pants.

**{EVERYONE LAUGHS again.}**

Frankie removes his FAKE MUSTACHE.

FRANKIE  
This isn't even real. I just  
thought it was cool.

**{Several of the Cast shake their heads 'No'.}**

Matthew picks up the mustache.

MATTHEW  
It worked for me.

FRANKIE  
This entire time. You all knew.  
You knew I was a cop?

TONY KNUCKLES  
You're a what now?

Carmine smacks Tony in the back of the head. Maria smacks  
him in the butt.

FRANKIE  
If you knew, why the silence? Why'd  
you let me hang around?

VINNY  
I needed to show the Feds that I'm  
legit now. That I'm starting a new  
life here.

Sophia puts an arm around her hubbie.

VINNY  
**(in Godfather voice)**  
And as a wise man once said...  
"Keep your friends close..."

UNCLE CARMINE  
"And your enemies closer."  
Godfather two. FUGHEDDABOUTIT.

**{Everyone joins in. "FUGHEDDABOUTIT!"}**

FRANKIE  
Sorry Vinny. But I still have to  
take you in. You're under arrest.

Frankie grabs the fuzzy cuffs and goes to place them on.

VINNY

Arrest me? For what - not putting enough garlic in the marinara?

FRANKIE

Your guys murdered the director.

**{Everyone GASPS again.}**

FRANKIE

Yeah, murder! I got your crew on tape talking about whacking him.

UNCLE CARMINE

No, no, no. I never said 'whack.' I said I wanted to get him a snack.

MARIA

And I said I wanted to give him a sack... of oranges... or something.

TONY KNUCKLES

Yeah, yeah, yeah. And I said I was gonna tie him up in the lake and let da tide drown him slowly, so he could think about what he did.

Carmine and Maria smack Tony again.

FRANKIE

And it's all right here.

He pulls out a mini tape recorder. Presses play.

***{Assuming you have sound, where it indicates "on tape", the sound technician will play the pre-recording and turn it off appropriately.}***

FRANKIE (ON TAPE)

My demo for The Voice. Take four.

ON TAPE: Frankie clears his throat before tearing into "Bad Romance" by Lady Gaga. It sounds even worse than you think.

***{Several of the Cast start dancing to the music and sing together when the "Rah, rah, ah, ah, ah," part plays.}***

Frankie struggles with the recorder, but can't get it shut off. After several embarrassing moments, he stops it.

FRANKIE

Well obviously, that was the wrong recording. But it doesn't matter. I've got all the proof I need.

(MORE)

FRANKIE (CONT'D)  
*(dramatic pause)*  
 In your camera!

**{More GASPS!}**

Frankie walks to the camera and looks at it.

FRANKIE  
 Why is the screen black?

Joey Pictures' eyes grow huge. Turns to the group.

JOEY PICTURES  
 I was wondering that myself. It's  
 been that way the whole night.  
*(off their stunned looks)*  
 Now is probably not the best time  
 to tell you this, but I don't know  
 how to use that thing.

Sophia storms over to Joey.

SOPHIA  
*(angry)*  
 You're telling me. We went through  
 this whole thing. With all the  
 shenanigans. All the hoopla. And  
 you didn't record the show?

JOEY PICTURES  
*(closes his eyes in fear)*  
 Yeah.

SOPHIA  
*Stunad!*

Joey opens one eye... just in time to have Sophia plant a BIG  
 WET KISS on him.

SOPHIA  
 You wonderful, beautiful *stunad!*

**{And EVERYONE CELEBRATES!}**

**{Cue CELEBRATIONS MUSIC.}**

**{Sophia and Vinny dance the tarantella.}**

**{HIGH-FIVES all around by the Crew.}**

**{Uncle Carmine does 'The Running Man' and 'Cabbage Patch'  
 dances. Horribly.}**

*{Maria jumps into Tony Knuckle's arms and he finally gets it - she loves him.}*

Frankie waves his arms again.

FRANKIE

Wait a minute, cut the music!

The music stops. Everyone looks at him.

FRANKIE

*(to Vinny)*

Can I still be your MC?

Vinny considers for a moment and shrugs - why not? Pulls him in for a giant hug.

*{More music and celebration as we FADE OUT...}*

**THE END**