

## **BULLETS OVER BROADWAY BEAT SHEET 6.20.09**

beated by J.C. Khoury

1. John Cusack argues with agent/producer about producing his play-- will not compromise his vision and wants to direct--he's an "artist".
2. Intro Chazz Palminteri killing people at docks.
3. Intro mob boss told good news of killing- watching singing/dancing girls.
4. Mob boss backstage trying to assuage Jennifer Tilly who wants to be an actress, not chorus girl.
5. Cusack argues with Rob Reiner and others about inability to get work produced- but we see that Cusack is in love with women and vice versa but argument is over artist versus man.
6. Agent calls and tells Cusack he has money to produce his play.
7. He meets him but the catch is that Tilly must play the key role in the play when Cusack doesn't want a novice in his play – agent suggests Helen St. Clair (Dianne Wiest) to play the lead. This makes Cusack happy.
8. Helen is furious she is offered crappy play – even if it is the lead- but she becomes happy when flowers arrive from Cusack. We learn she is a drinker and an adulterous.
9. Another mob hit- revenge for first hit.
10. Mob boss is worried about Tilly's safety- Tilly is upset that she won't have the lead role.
11. Cusack and agent arrive to meet Tilly and realize she is an idiot girlfriend of the mob boss. Mob boss just wants to make her happy and defends her. They hear the mob boss yelling on phone about killings.
12. Cusack leaves and tells agent there is no way he is putting Tilly in his play- agent tells him he must compromise.
13. Cusack wakes up from a nightmare- yells out window that he sold out and that he is a whore – but fuck it- he is going to do it if he gets the right male lead. He calls agent and tells him he wants eating problem guy- no compromises.
14. Mob boss assigns Chazz to guard Tilly.
15. Rehearsals begin – intro of the rest of the cast: dog lady, eating guy,

16. Tilly enters yelling at Chazz – Cusack wants him to leave but he grabs Cusack. He allows Chazz to sit in the back and watch.
17. Helen enters – reminisces about good old days. Tension with dog lady.
18. Table read- Tilly doesn't understand words and over acts – Chazz watches this and leaves disgusted.
19. Cusack and Helen meet for drink. He sucks up to her and she to him but she hints of disappointment with script but reverts to lauding him to manipulate him into changing some things.
20. Mob Boss tells Chazz to help Tilly memorize her lines, and then asks him to “run an errand”.
21. Chazz takes a guy to the docks and kills him.
22. Chazz and Tilly run the lines- they argue. Chazz hates the lines, as does the maid.
23. Cusack rewrites the script at home. Girlfriend says he has a lot of trouble
24. Argument between dog lady and Helen. She makes the dog lady cry.
25. Cusack tries to cut Tilly's speech and she goes nuts so Chazz stays and to intimidate him.
26. Eating Guy starts to eat secretly.
27. Cusack at Helen's home-they drink to “no compromise” and she asks him to write play for her then mentions she would like another scene changed.
28. Tilly doesn't want to say some line and argues with Cusack over it. Chazz gets involved and tells him the line stinks – madness erupts on the set.
29. Cusack walks with Helen- he is scared that maybe the writing really does stink. They have a romantic moment in the park as he tells her he is falling in love with her- she tells him to be silent.
30. Mob Boss wants sex from Tilly but she says she's tired from the rehearsal.
31. Dog Lady has problems with a line during the rehearsals- Tilly says it is bad writing and Chazz speaks up with new idea. Everyone thinks it is good and dramatic and Cusack gets defensive.
32. Tilly and Eating Guy start to become romantic when Chazz goes off to play craps.

33. Helen and Cusack talk about possible changes. She gives him birthday gift – he expresses his true feelings for her- she says “don’t speak”.
34. Birthday dinner with Cusack, girlfriend and agent. Cusack sees Chazz eating and goes over to apologize. Chazz starts to give him changes he should make in the play – Cusack recognizes Chazz’s brilliance.
35. Cusack walking with girlfriend - thinking- She loves him but his mind is somewhere else.
36. The actors love the new changes. Cusack does not disclose that Chazz helped. We see Chazz writing.
37. Cusack shows third act to Chazz – Chazz then rewrites the dialogue.
38. Helen loves the new dialogue and tells Cusack it is much better than the first draft – “less cerebral and tepid.... it has guts” – Cusack is about to confess to Helen that he didn’t write the changes and she tells him he will “take the town by storm”. He tells Helen she has been a huge influence on his work. They kiss.
39. Things going much better at rehearsals despite eating guy and dog lady.
40. Cusack meets Chazz for more rewrites. Chazz tells him about his family and Cusack tells him that he has the best literary instincts and is jealous he couldn’t crack the play himself. Chazz reassures Cusack that he just needed a little help. They talk of death and Chazz’s killings.
41. Party at Helen’s house – all of Cusack’s literary heroes are there telling Cusack that his new play is brilliant. Helen and Cusack have sex.
42. Chazz tells eating guy not to mess with Tilly. He knows she is cheating on mob boss with him.
43. Eating guy is scared – in restaurant over-eating to calm himself.
44. Play opens in Boston – Tilly corners eating guy in dressing room after the show. He tells her that Chazz threatened to kill him so he cannot continue the affair. Mob boss knocks on door – eating guy hides in closet. The dog sniffs the closet – Tilly manages to get him out and eating guy escapes on fire escape in his underwear.
45. Chazz tells Cusack that Tilly is the main problem with the play and he wants to get rid of her because she is ruining his words. Cusack defends her and tells him he cannot fire her from the play.
46. Tilly injures her hand.

47. Understudy takes over for her and the play is perfect. Cusack more excited than ever but agent tells him it is too dangerous to fire Tilly because mob boss will kill them.
48. Train back to NYC – Cusack tells Helen he will leave his girlfriend and asks her if she has fallen in love with artist or man.
49. Cusack denies having affair with Helen when confronted by girlfriend --- Reversal
50. Cusack talks to Reiner about what to do – “gotta do what you gotta do”.
51. Agent tries to tell Mob boss that Tilly is fired but Mob boss threatens to kill him if she doesn't get more lines.
52. Chazz kills Tilly.
53. Day before NYC opening of play – Cusack loves understudy. They have news that Tilly was killed in a mob hit.
54. Cusack confronts Chazz about killing Tilly – he tells him you can't kill for great play but Chazz disagrees and tells him that she was ruining a beautiful thing and that nobody can ruin his work and tells Cusack he is immoral for cheating on his girlfriend with Helen.
55. Cusack reveals to girlfriend that he is cheating with Helen – she reverses it by telling him she is having an affair with Reiner.
56. Cusack wishes Helen good luck before the show – it occurs to him that Helen is a silly old woman.
57. Play opens – eating guy is larger than ever.
58. Mob boss is sad – discusses with Chazz the people who might have killed Tilly. Chazz tells him he has to see the play because he got friendly with the stagehands. Mob boss is skeptical of Chazz's story of where he was when Tilly was killed.
59. Chazz leaves and Mob boss tells mob goons to kill Chazz.
60. Chazz turns up for opening- Cusack tells him he can never forgive him for killing Tilly - mob goons show up.
61. Backstage – Chazz is shot. His final words before he dies are changes to the last line of the play. Cusack says the change is brilliant – Chazz says, “ don't speak” – just as Helen did.

62. Reviews of the play are amazing. Joke that they thought the gunshot that killed Chazz was part of the play.

63. Cusack shouts to his girlfriend asking her if she loved him as an artist or a man. He tells her he is sorry but he loves Helen. Helen comes down and he tells her he chooses her over art. "I love you and I'm not an artist". He proposes to her and she says yes. Cusack aspires to be an artist and not compromise but needs to be a man and compromise.