

two a new musical comedy
comes to Broadway
strangers
◀ carry a cake across New York ▶

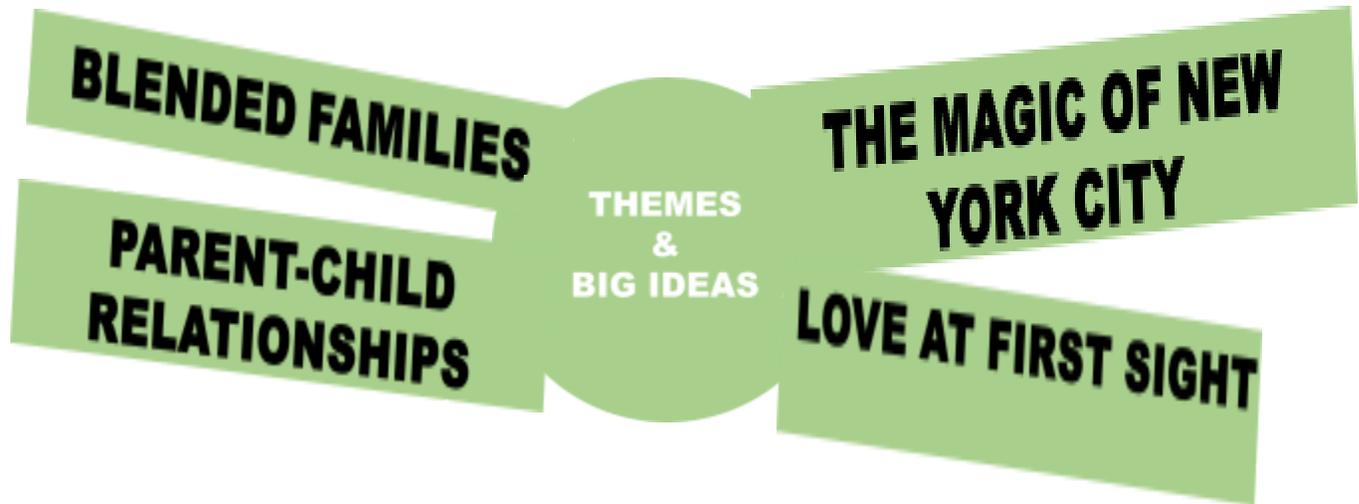
SUMMARY

It's the ultimate meet-cute! *Two Strangers (Carry a Cake Across New York)* follows two unlikely companions: Dougal, an extroverted Brit newly arrived in Manhattan, and Robin, a resilient native New Yorker who is not easily amused. Dougal has flown in from London to attend his estranged father's wedding; Robin, the bride's sister, has been tasked with transporting the wedding cake across the city. When Dougal insists on helping, this simple assignment turns into a madcap promenade through the city's greatest sites, from Flatbush in Brooklyn to Rockefeller Center to the Plaza Hotel. As the city both delights and terrifies them, Robin and Dougal are forced to confront their loneliness and heartbreak while forming a beautiful new connection.

CHARACTER GUIDE

Robin: A no-nonsense lifelong New Yorker who lives in Alphabet City and works as a barista but dreams of being so much more. As she guides Dougal through the city, some of the secrets she's hiding behind her tough exterior begin to surface.

Dougal: A middle-class Brit who still lives with his mother. Dougal is a happy-go-lucky 20-something who is quick with a joke and never afraid to dance in public. But he is also hiding vulnerability and fear behind his cheery disposition.



EXERCISES & ACTIVATIONS

Writing

The ending of *Two Strangers* is purposefully ambiguous because we don't know where the story goes after the lights come down. Imagine that it is exactly one year after the end of the show. Write a monologue in the voice of either Dougal or Robin. Have they stayed in touch? Do they still live in London and New York? How did their brief encounter shape how they move through life? Do they understand themselves differently?

Embodying

Two Strangers is an entire Broadway musical with only two characters! The actors must clearly tell their stories not only through dialogue and song but also through physicality. After seeing the show, choose between Robin or Dougal and create a series of physical postures and movements that track their emotional journey across the play. Then, working with a partner playing the other character, layer these physical choices together while facing each other. What is it like when these two physical scores come together?

Contextual

In many ways, New York City is the third character in *Two Strangers*. Pick one location from the show, like Flatbush, Chinatown, Rockefeller Center, or the Plaza Hotel. Do some research about this location to learn more about what makes it different from the rest of New York. Then imagine that you are a tour guide to New York City, specifically for Dougal. What information does he need to know about these places when he visits them? Share this information either in a paragraph or a monologue.