

LUCKY'S GRILL

*an outline for a feature film
based on the sequel to the Stage-Play*

written by

Lionel Goldstein

adapted for the screen by; Eric Till

Produced by: Gene Mascardelli & Paul (Spike) Lees

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The Story Outline:

Lucky's Grill is an original story based upon the highly successful play Halpern & Johnson written by world renowned playwright, Lionel Goldstein. In 1983 HBO produced a television version production of the play which starred Lord Laurence Olivier and Jackie Gleason.

'Halpern & Johnson' tells the story of two mature men who meet at the burial of Halpern's wife Florence, of some twenty-five years.

Confused and torn by grief, the two men, who have never met before, agree to meet again some weeks hence.

Johnson, it turns out, was Florence's first love and the two have remained in touch, and unknown to Halpern, have met three or four times a year, until Florence's death. The revelations of this and other secrets form the backbone – and the explosions - of the play...

'LUCKY'S GRILL' the sequel, written by Lionel to be ultimately adapted as a screenplay for a feature film, now picks up the story some years later.

This time however the story opens with the burial of Joe Halpern who is laid to rest alongside his wife, Florence. Among the attendees at the service are Joe Halpern's two sons, Jack and Ben along with their wives, plus an older Johnson.

At the conclusion of the short service, the Mourners depart: only Jack Halpern and Dennis Johnson hang back...

Jack enquires of Johnson as to who he is... for Jack has observed on his twice-yearly visits to his Mother's grave that Johnson's name is prominently inscribed there in stone... and this has always puzzled him since Johnson is, as he was to his Father, a complete stranger.

The question brings a wry smile to Johnson's face as this was pretty much how Halpern senior had confronted him all those years ago... and so this takes us into a flashback... which takes us back to an earlier time – a version of '*Halpern & Johnson*' which form several flashbacks which are interspersed throughout the film.

Some weeks after the funeral, during which we get a glimpse of Jack Halpern's domestic life, Jack, clearing up his deceased father's home prior to its sale, finds some mementos of what he surmises are his father's secret life.

Following the trail of these items, about which he relies on Johnson's knowledge of his parent's life, takes him on a quest, away from his own frustrating and unsatisfactory marriage, into an exploration of

discovery of what really went on in the life of his own mother and father.

This odyssey leads him from the suburbs of Toronto on to the great love of Joe Halpern's life... and so on to a small village in the quiet English county of Norfolk.

But the lady has passed away... however her daughter Madeleine though is still very much alive and a statistic of the oft-divorced society. Her own children have moved away from home. She lives on her own... She and Jack begin a relationship.

But is Jack attracted to Madeleine because he wants to complete the unfinished romance of his own Father or is Madeleine to fill the void in his life...? Jack is torn between the past and the present... between two different women, two different countries and two totally different ways of life...