The Dumb Waiter (1957)

- Playwright: Harold Pinter
- It’s a one-act play.
- **Characters:**
  - Gus-Gus is a submissive junior hitman who is constantly bossed around by Ben.
  - Ben-Ben is the senior hit man, the dominant foil to his submissive partner Gus.
  - Wilson-Wilson is a mysterious figure, the boss of Gus and Ben. He never shows up but the messages from the dumb waiter may be from him.
- **Summary:**
  - The two hitmen wait for Ben and Gus in the basement for their assignment. Ben is reading a newspaper and Gus tying a shoelace and asking many questions to Ben. They argue over the semantics of "light the kettle" and "put on the kettle".
  - Ben continues reading the newspaper occasionally reading the excerpts to Gus. In the back of the room is a dumbwaiter, which delivers occasional food orders.
  - At one point due to the constant orders, Ben sends a few snacks that Gus has brought. Ben explains to the people above through the "speaking tube" that there is no food. Gus leaves the room to get a drink of water in the bathroom, and the dumbwaiter's speaking tube whistles (a sign that there is a person on the other end who wishes to communicate).
  - Ben listens carefully—we gather from his replies that their victim has arrived and is on his way to the room. Ben shouts for Gus, who is still out of the room.
  - The door that the target is supposed to enter from flies open, Ben rounds on it with his gun, and Gus enters, stripped of his jacket, waistcoat, tie, and gun.
- There is a long silence as the two stares at each other before the curtain falls.