

Pat, Peggy, Dorothy, Julian, Abner

1-4-25

ACT I

Scene 4

DOROTHY'S DRESSING ROOM. PAT DENNING sitting at dressing table as MAC carries PEGGY to chaise with BILLY following. Through following, KIDS exit leaving JULIAN, ANDY, BERT and OSCAR at upstage piano.

BILLY

Easy! Okay, set her down.

PAT

What happened?

MAC

One of the kids fainted. Par for the course on a Julian Marsh show. Get 'er some water, will ya?

(To BILLY)

And you'd better get back out there before the Boss starts yelling for you.

BILLY

When she comes to, tell her I'll be back as soon as I get a break! The name's Lawlor, Billy Lawlor.

MAC

(As THEY exit)

Yeah, come on, Billy.

(A moment, and PEGGY opens her eyes)

PAT

You all right?

PEGGY

I guess I fainted.

PAT

Good guess.

PEGGY

(Begins to stand)

But I guess I'm all right now....

(PAT catches PEGGY as her knees buckle)

PAT

Bad guess. Now, let me be the doctor for awhile. What you need is some rest.

Start

PEGGY

But the rehearsal isn't over.

PAT

Oh yes it is, young lady. For you, anyway. Now as your doctor, my first prescription is for you to sit on this chaise.

(PEGGY protests, HE helps her)

That's it. And as your doctor, my second prescription is for you to get those legs up.

DOROTHY

(At dressing room door as PAT lifts  
PEGGY'S legs onto chaise)

And I'll bet I know what your third prescription is!

PAT

Dorothy, I didn't expect you till....

DOROTHY

(Entering)

It's quite obvious you didn't expect me....Doctor!

PAT

Darling, she fainted and they brought her in here till she came to.

DOROTHY

And since when is my dressing room an emergency ward for every clumsy chorine who throws a little fainting act? Now get her out of here before I prescribe some medication she won't like so much!

PEGGY

Please, Miss Brock, I....

DOROTHY

(By now quite loud)

You shut up! And if my prescription upsets you, Doctor, you can just get out with her!

JULIAN

(Hearing the noise, crossing to dressing room)  
What the hell is going on here? I'm trying to conduct a rehearsal on that stage....Who are you?

PAT

My name is Pat Denning, Mr. Marsh. I was a guest of Miss Brock's.

JULIAN

Well, beat it. Miss Brock's official gentleman friend happens to be in the house and I don't want him to get any funny ideas.

(A knock at dressing room door)

ABNER

Dorothy!

DOROTHY

It's Abner! Pat, quick, behind the chaise!

JULIAN

Stay where you are!

(ABNER enters)

Come right in, Mr. Dillon! We were just having a little script conference.

ABNER

Hello, Sugarplum, I just brought these posies for you.

DOROTHY

Thank you.

ABNER

(A bit suspiciously)

I hope I wasn't interrupting anything.

JULIAN

No, no, not at all. We were just winding up. By the way, this is one of our dancers, Peggy Sawyer, and her boyfriend, Pat Denning.

DOROTHY

Now, just a moment, Julian....

JULIAN

Say, Mr. Dillon, do you realize it's your fault this conference is breaking up?

ABNER

My fault?

JULIAN

Dorothy said she didn't want to discuss the script any further because she wanted to be alone with you.

ABNER

(Delighted)

Do you mean that, Dorothy?

DOROTHY

Of course I mean it! What girl wouldn't want to be alone with you? Just look at yourself....

(Brusquely, as SHE leads him Upstage)

Come on.

6B INCIDENTAL

JULIAN  
Mr. Denning, your presence in this dressing room has caused a great deal of unnecessary turmoil and I suggest such visits to not occur again.

(Turning to door, sees PEGGY)  
And Mr. Denning, this kid's a pretty good hooper and I don't want to lose her for the price of a bowl of chili. Take her out and get her something to eat.

(DRESSING ROOM exits with PAT  
and PEGGY as we come back up  
on....