

LOST IN  
HOLLYWOODLAND

A New Musical

Book and Lyrics by  
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Music by  
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**"LOST IN HOLLYWOODLAND" -**  
**Character List**

**DEX WEBSTER**, an aspiring director - early 30's. Idealistic with an edge of desperation.

**DAPHNE MARIENKÄFER**, fumigator's a daughter - early 20's. A fresh faced innocent with a slight air of anxiety.

**MALITOFF DYÁBLIK**, Studio Czar and the Devil incarnate - early 60's. He speaks with a thick Slavic accent; a formidable spidery entity, spinning webs to snare souls with great glee.

**CARLOTTA DELONGPRE**, a British actress whose life is one long sozzled delusion of grandeur - early 50's.

**EDWIN McMANOFF**, An over the hill, underemployed Shakespearean Actor whose salad days have long been tossed - late 50's.

**ABRA**, a fussy secretary - Tends to Dyáblik's needs.\*

**KADABRA**, a tough teamster - Not the sharpest meatball in the stew.\*

***\*NOTE: ABRA and KADABRA can be cast as either male or female as long as they are polar opposites. As men they can be clowns like Laurel and Hardy. As women they can be temptresses eg "Marilyn Monroe" and "Betty Paige", seductive but opposite.***

## LOST IN HOLLYWOODLAND

### MUSICAL NUMBERS AND SEQUENCES BREAKDOWN

#### ACT ONE

- 1 MUSICAL NUMBER: "LOST IN HOLLYWOODLAND"
- 2 MUSICAL NUMBER: "THE JOB HUNT"
- 3 MUSICAL NUMBER: "LOST IN HOLLYWOODLAND" (Reprise)
- 4 MUSICAL NUMBER: "MOVIES, MOVIES"
- 5 MUSICAL SEQUENCE: "DEX'S RISE TO FAME"
- 6 MUSICAL NUMBER: "REOCCURRING"
- 7 MUSICAL NUMBER: "MAKE A DIFFERENCE"
- 8 MUSICAL NUMBER: "XAMBRUSIA"
- 9 MUSICAL NUMBER: "DAPHNE"
- 10 MUSICAL NUMBER: "LONG LUXURIOUS LASHES"
- 11 MUSICAL NUMBER: "I AM AN ACTOR"
- 12 MUSICAL NUMBER: "THIS IS THE PART"

#### ACT TWO

- 13 MUSICAL NUMBER: "CHICKEN CROQUETTES"
- 14 MUSICAL NUMBER: "MALATOFF DYÁBLIK"
- 15 MUSICAL NUMBER: "HOW IN THE HELL DID THIS HAPPEN?"
- 16 MUSICAL NUMBER: "BRING THEM BACK!"
- 17 MUSICAL NUMBER: "DEX'S MELTDOWN"
- 18 MUSICAL NUMBER: "SLUG WOMAN FROM URANUS"
- 19 MUSICAL NUMBER: "INCOGNITO"
- 20 MUSICAL NUMBER: "NO, NO, NOVA" (Part 1)
- 21 MUSICAL NUMBER: "LONG LUXURIOUS LASHES" (REPRISE)
- 22 MUSICAL NUMBER: "NO, NO, NOVA" (Part 2)
- 23 MUSICAL NUMBER: "THE SHOOT"
- 24 MUSICAL NUMBER: "LOST IN HOLLYWOODLAND/DAPHNE (REPRISE)"

SCENE BREAKDOWN

ACT I

- SCENE 1: HOLLYWOOD -- A SPRING DAY, ONCE UPON A TIME+ \*
- SCENE 2: VARIOUS HOLLYWOOD LOCALES \*
- THE CHARRED REMAINS OF PINNACLE STUDIOS \*
  - JOB LOCALES \*
    - Restaurant 1 \*
    - Restaurant 2 \*
    - Shoe Shine Stand \*
    - Woolworths \*
- HOLLYWOODLAND REALTY OFFICE \*
- THE HOLLYWOODLAND SIGN \*
- GRAUMAN'S CHINESE THEATER \*
- POOLSIDE AT THE BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL \*
- HOLLYWOOD ROOSEVELT HOTEL \*
- ACADEMY AWARDS CEREMONY \*
- VALET PARKING OUTSIDE THE ACADEMY \*
- THE GATES OF DYABLIK STUDIOS \*
- SCENE 3: OUTER OFFICE OF DYÁBLIK'S HEADQUARTERS -- THE FOLLOWING **MORNING** \*
- SCENE 4: THE HEADQUARTERS OF MALATOFF DYÁBLIK -- MOMENTS LATER \*
- SCENE 5: THE HOLLYWOOD SIGN -- THAT EVENING \*
- SCENE 6: DYÁBLIK'S HEADQUARTERS -- THE FOLLOWING MORNING \*
- SCENE 7: THE MAKEUP ROOM -- CONTINUOUS \*
- SCENE 8: CARLOTTA AND EDWIN'S DRESSING ROOM - LATER \*
- SCENE 9: IN AND AROUND DYÁBLIK STUDIOS - CONTINUOUS \*
- CARLOTTA AND EDWIN'S DRESSING ROOM \*
  - DEX'S OFFICE \*
  - DAPHNE'S DRESSING ROOM \*
  - DYÁBLIK'S HEADQUARTERS \*
  - SOUNDSTAGE 13 \*

ACT II

- SCENE 1: SOUND STAGE 13 -- CONTINUOUS \*
- SCENE 2: THE GATES OF DYÁBLIK STUDIOS -- OVER THE NEXT THREE DAYS \*
- SCENE 3: SOUND STAGE 13, THE "SLUG WOMAN FROM URANUS" SET -- MIDNIGHT \*
- CAPTAIN SALTY MORTON'S CABIN \*
  - CAPTAIN'S BRIDGE \*
  - CARGO DECK OF THE S.S. SALTSHAKER \*
- SCENE 4: DYÁBLIK'S HEADQUARTERS -- LATER \*
- SCENE 5: THE HOLLYWOODLAND SIGN -- THAT NIGHT \*

ACT ONE

SCENE I

**HOLLYWOOD -- A SPRING DAY, ONCE UPON A TIME**

*(A single unit set indicating, with a few strokes of a brush, the hills of Hollywood. The only specific detail is the HOLLYWOODLAND SIGN which looks over everything.)*

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Once upon a time, not such a long time ago, a real estate company put up a sign in the hills of a city surrounded by orange groves. And the sign said:

ALL

HOLLYWOODLAND.

*(Lights up on THE HOLLYWOODLAND SIGN, ever watchful, ever present.)*

NARRATOR

And the sign gleamed like a lighthouse, saying: "Come to the land where the sun always shines...." And they did.

*(One by one the ACTORS enter, hopeful and optimistic. Each carries a suitcase in one hand and in the other a large sign attached to a free standing stand. These SIGNS will be used to designate locations through out the play.)*

*(Now each sign bears an iconic Hollywood location; Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood Bowl, The Brown Derby, etc.)*

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

By the car load, by the busload. Has-beens and Never-weres, Wanna-bes and Major Half Talents who would all sell their souls in their quest for fame; all dying to make movies...

DEX

...LIKE ME.

\*  
\*

DAPHNE, DYÁBLIK, CARLOTTA, AND EDWIN

LIKE ME.

\*  
\*

ABRA, KADABRA & ENSEMBLE

OH PLEASE,

\*  
\*

ALL

LIKE ME.

\*  
\*

*(Desperate, adlibbing)*

Like me! Like me! Like Me!

\*  
\*  
\*

**[1] MUSICAL NUMBER: "LOST IN HOLLYWOODLAND"**

(FLASHPOT effect. From out of the smoke  
appears MALITOFF DYÁBLIK, producer and \*  
the Devil incarnate; a tall, older \*  
gentleman, devilishly charming, with a \*  
delightfully thick Slavic accent. HE \*  
snaps his fingers and all the Hollywood\*  
Hopefuls freeze.)

DYÁBLIK

BEWARE OF THE STARS IN THE SKIES.  
IF YOU GET THEIR DUST IN YOUR EYES...

ABRA

YOU'LL HUNGER FOR FAME!

KADABRA

NEVERMORE BE THE SAME!

ALL

YOU'LL BE LOST...  
IN HOLLYWOODLAND!

DAPHNE

THERE'S NOTHING OR  
NO ONE WHO'LL STOP...

DAPHNE

...ME WORKING MY...

CARLOTTA

CLAWING MY...

ALL

TO THE TOP!

DAPHNE AND CARLOTTA

....WAY TO THE TOP.

CARLOTTA & WOMEN

I'LL WEAR THE BEST SABLES

DEX & MEN

I'LL QUIT WAITING TABLES!

ALL

GET LOST IN HOLLYWOODLAND!

CARLOTTA

I'LL BE A STAR  
JUST LIKE HEDY LAMARR...

EDWIN

JUST LIKE LAURENCE OLIV-EE-I-AY!

CARLOTTA AND EDWIN

I'LL PUSH AND I'LL SHOVE  
TILL THAT DAY YOU'LL ALL...

ALL

...LOVE ME!

DEX

ONE LUCKY BREAK...

ALL

AND I'M ON MY WAY!

MEN

I REACH FOR THE STARS IN THE SKIES.

WOMEN

...ROCK HUDSON, DORIS DAY

MEN  
THEIR GLITTER BEDAZZLES MY EYES. . . . JANE MANSFIELD, ALDO RAY

WOMEN

MEN # 1 & #2  
I'LL TRADE IN MY DEBTS

WOMEN #1 & #2  
FOR SOME GOLD STATUETTES!

ALL  
LET'S GET LOST IN HOLLYWOODLAND!

*(DEX WEBSTER enters. HE is in his  
early thirties, brooding, quirky,  
idealistic with an edge of  
desperation.)*

DEX  
Hiya Chums!

ALL  
Hiya Dex! Where you been?

DEX  
I've been ankling round town and I finally got my first job!  
At Pinnacle Studios!

MAN #1 \*  
Pinnacle Studios! \*

MAN#2 \*  
Super duper! \*

WOMAN #1 \*  
Razz my berries! \*

DEX \*  
I'm a Production Assistant's Assistant. \*

MAN #1 \*  
A Production Assistant's Assistant? \*

WOMEN #1 \*  
Hah! \*

MAN #1 \*  
You're a little long in the tooth for that, aren't ya Dex? \*

DEX \*  
Wait and see, Pal. I'm gonna set this town on fire. I'll be  
directing big, important movies with big, important themes in no  
time!

I HAVE A DREAM THAT THE MOVIES WHICH STREAM  
FROM MY HEART WILL BE SOMETHING TO SEE!  
WHEN I'M A DIRECTOR  
FLICK ON THE PROJECTOR...

ALL  
THAT BLOCKBUSTER SMASH IS...

DEX  
...DIRECTED BY ME!

ALL  
 STARRING ME!  
 WE LIVE IN A CITY OF DREAMS 8 \*  
 WHERE NOTHING IS ALL THAT IT SEEMS. \*

MEN \*  
 BUT DON'T LET ME WAKE UP \*

WOMEN \*  
 JUST PILE ON MORE MAKEUP \*

ALL \*  
 SOME STUDIO BOSS'LL THINK I'M JUST COLOSSAL \*

DEX \*  
 UNLIKE ALL THESE SLOBS SIPPING SODAS AT SCHWAB'S.. \*

ALL  
 ...I'LL BE FOUND

DEX  
 YOU'LL FIND ME

ALL  
 IN HOLLYWOODLAND

DEX  
 IN HOLLYWOODLAND!

ALL  
 IN HOLLYWOODLAND!

(LIGHTS CROSS FADE TO...)

ACT ONE

SCENE II

## VARIOUS HOLLYWOOD LOCALS &amp; THE HOLLYWOODLAND SIGN

*(A charred, smoking sign reads  
PINNACLE STUDIOS.)*

*Fire sirens, red lights flashing,  
ash and ruin everywhere. NEWSBOY  
carrying "Variety" crosses as HEDDA  
HOPPER interviews two ACTORS covered  
in ashes dressed as Ancient  
Egyptians.)*

NEWSBOY

Extra! Extra! Pinnacle Studios burned to a crisp! Production  
Assistant's Assistant being questioned!

*(HE EXITS as HEDDA HOPPER ENTERS.)*

HEDDA HOPPER

Hedda Hopper reporting live from Pinnacle Studios where "The  
Five Books of Moses" were being filmed simultaneously and at  
the same time. Tell me, how did the fire get started?

NEFERTIRI

The Production Assistant's Assitant. Dex Webster.

RAMSES

In charge of the burning bush. \*

NEFERTIRI

Lights it too early. All of Sinai...

RAMSES

Scorched. \*

NEFERTIRI

Pharaoh's Palace...

RAMSES

Torched. \*

NEFERTIRI

I never thought a Production Assistant's Assistant could take  
down an entire studio.

RAMSES

Dex Webster is through. \*

NEFERTIRI

Finito!

RAMSES

Floppo! \*

*(LIGHTS cross fade to DEX, numbly holding a charred twig from the Burning Bush)*

DEX

I'm having a baaaad day.

*(Giving himself a pep talk)*

Come on Webster, snap out of it. There's more than one studio in this berg. Somehow, someway you're gettin' back in! *(beat)* Man, I'm so screwed. I can't even hold down a job as production assistant's assistant. I was going to make movies that leap off the screen! Movies people would come see in droves! Movies that would make my name a household word!

*(Beat)*

Damn it to hell. I need to get a job.

*(DEX begins his hunt for a new job. Everywhere he goes doors are slammed in his face.)*

**[2] MUSICAL NUMBER: "THE JOB HUNT"**

ACTOR #1

YOU CALL YOURSELF A WAITER??? YOU'RE FIRED!

DEX

WHO NEEDS THIS JOB?

ACTOR #2

WHAT A LOUSY BUSBOY!! YOU'RE FIRED!

DEX

I NEED THIS JOB!

ACTOR #3

THIS IS HOW YOU'RE SHINING SHOES?

ACTOR #4

YOU'RE FIRED, SON! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUSE?!

ALL(BUT DEX)

WHAT'S RIGHT WITH YOU? GET OUT OF HERE!

YOU'RE FIRED! FIRED!! FIRED! FIRED! FIRED!

ACTOR #1

Wait!!! Can you go like this?

*(Using both hands, at chest level, HE mimes screwing in light bulbs.)*

DEX

You mean like this?

*(HE repeats the motion.)*

ACTOR #1

Great! You're hired! Go up to the Hollywoodland Realty sign and every time a light bulb burns out, *(repeats motion)* change it. Can ya handle it?

DEX  
(DEX repeats the motion.)

'Natch.

ACTOR #1

Terrific. Here.

(HE puts a vest on DEX which reads  
"DIMBULB DEPT" on the back, slings  
a basket of lightbulbs with a  
shoulder strap on him and lastly  
hands him a folded hat.)

\*  
\*  
\*

DEX

What's this for?

ACTOR #1

You'll need it. It's hot as hell up there.

(HE exits. DEX reluctantly puts on  
the hat. It is an umbrella hat!)

DEX

This is strictly short term.

(Light bulb in hand, DEX turns to  
the HOLLYWOODLAND SIGN which begins  
to glow as he walks up to it.)

(As HE endlessly replaces the bulbs,  
THREE ACTORS glide by. ONE holds an  
electric fan to blow the pages of a  
calendar held by the SECOND while the  
THIRD holds a sign reading "TIME  
PASSES.")

DEX's arms grow heavier, still he  
toils on. HE begins drinking from a  
brown paper bag. Now one year later,  
DEX is disheveled and drunk. On the  
ACTOR'S EXIT, the SIGN sparks and  
goes dark.)

DEX (CONT'D)

God! I'm having a baaaaaad year.

(ACTOR #2 enters.)

ACTOR #2  
You're fired!

DEX  
What?!

ACTOR #2  
Hollywoodland Realty is bust so the sign's off and so are you.

DEX  
Where can I get another job replacing 4,576 light-bulbs?

ACTOR #2  
They got plenty light bulbs in Vegas.

DEX  
I can't go to Vegas! I'm a Hollywood film director!

ACTOR #2  
In that hat? You're an unemployed light bulb screwdriver.  
Go home, will ya?

DEX  
This is my home. I love movies more than anything on earth!  
I eat, drink, sleep, breathe movies.  
*(Furious, DEX takes off his hat and Light bulb  
Basket.)*  
I ain't leaving Hollywood.

ACTOR #2  
Kid, maybe you haven't hit rock bottom, but you can sure see it  
from here.

(HE EXITS.)

[3] MUSICAL NUMBER: "LOST IN HOLLYWOODLAND" (REPRISE)

DEX  
I HAD A DREAM THAT THE MOVIES WHICH STREAM  
FROM MY HEART WOULD BE SOMETHING TO SEE...  
MY HOPES ARE ALL SQUASHED UP...  
AND ALL MY DREAMS WASHED UP...

*(speaks)*  
I'd give my soul to be back in pictures!

*(From out of the darkness, MALITOFF  
DYÁBLIK, producer and the Devil incarnate  
appears; a tall, older gentleman,  
devilishly charming, with a delightfully  
thick Slavic accent..)*

DYÁBLIK  
It's never too late. Allow me to reproduce myself.  
*(HE gives DEX his card)*

DEX  
Malitoff Dyáblik... Producer?

DYÁBLIK

Correct.

DEX

Where did you come from?

DYÁBLIK

It doesn't matter.

*(HE removes his hat and smiles at DEX)*

... Little soul.

DEX

What?

DYÁBLIK

I seek new drecktor. Someone who wants to make movies that leap off screen! Movies that people will come see in droves! Movies that make his name a whorehouse word! Shall I continue?

DEX

You have my undivided attention.

**[4] MUSICAL NUMBER: "MOVIES, MOVIES"**

DYÁBLIK

Excrement! I seek someone young, hungry, unafraid of work. Some lucky young man who is willing to...

EAT, DRINK, SLEEP, BREATHE,  
MOVIES! MOVIES, NIGHT AND DAY!

DEX

EAT, DRINK, SLEEP, I  
LIVE FOR MOVIES!

DYÁBLIK

RIGHT THIS WAY. DAY AND NIGHT SUCH  
MOVIES, MOVIES YOU'D DIRECT!

DEX

SIGN ME UP! I'LL  
BE YOUR SLAVE FOR LIFE!

DYÁBLIK

CORRECT! YOU COULD KNOW WHAT LIES BEHIND THE STARS,  
AND HOW THEY'RE LIT, AND HOW THEY BURN.

DEX

I COULD KNOW WHAT LIES BEHIND THE STARS,  
AND HOW THEY'RE LIT, AND HOW THEY BURN.

DYÁBLIK

EVERYTHING IS SET IN PLACE  
TO MAKE YOU GREAT.

DEX

WHAT'S WANTED IN RETURN?

DYÁBLIK

THE CONTRACT! THE CONTRACT! THE CONTRACT! ABRA!

*(ABRA, his henchman, enters.)*

ABRA

YES SIR?

DYÁBLIK

KADABRA!

*(KADABRA, another henchman, enters.)*

KADABRA

YES, SIR?

DYÁBLIK

BRING FORTH THE CONTRACT!

CHOIR (O.S.)

AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

*(Summoned by the HENCHMEN, a RED FILING CABINET magically rolls on. DYÁBLIK lovingly caresses the cabinet.)*

DYÁBLIK

WHEN YOUNG TALENT  
SIGN THEIR NAMES UPON THE DOTS...

*(DEX touches the cabinet and seriously burns his hand. Unfazed, DYÁBLIK pulls out a smoking red contract and presents it to DEX.)*

ABRA & KADABRA

...HE GETS SO EXCITED THAT...

DYÁBLIK

I NEARLY PLOTZ!

ABRA AND KADABRA

IRONCLAD!

DYÁBLIK

WITH EVERY LOOP  
WE FILLED THE HOLE.

DEX

BUT THIS SAYS  
I'M GONNA SIGN  
AWAY MY SOUL!

DYÁBLIK

DEX

WHAT?! IT'S SO UNU-  
SUAL? IT'S JUST  
THE STANDARD PRICE  
YOU PAY FOR FAME

HECK, YEAH! IT'S REAL UNU-  
SUAL! THE PRICE IS  
WAY TOO STEEP  
TO PAY FOR FAME.

ABRA & KADABRA

IT'S NOT STEEP! DON'T BE A CREEP!  
IT'S A BARGAIN IN THE MAKING AND IT COMES DIRT CHEAP!

DYÁBLIK

THINK OF ALL THE GLORY... IMMORTALITY IS YOURS!

ABRA AND KADABRA

JUST SIGN YOUR NAME!!

DEX

Sign my name?

DYÁBLIK, ABRA & KADABRA

YES! SIGN YOUR NAME!! SIGN YOUR NAME!!

DYÁBLIK

DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT  
PLAINER OR MORE DISTINCTER...

ABRA & KADABRA  
SIGN YOUR NAME! SIGN YOUR NAME!

DYÁBLIK, ABRA & KADABRA  
YOU MAKE THE MOVIES!

DYÁBLIK  
ALL OF THE WORLD WILL WATCH!

ABRA & KADABRA  
SIGN YOUR NAME! SIGN YOUR NAME!

DYÁBLIK  
IF LIFE IS FOREVER  
KICKING YOU IN THE SPHINCTER...

ABRA & KADABRA  
SIGN YOUR NAME! HE SAID "SPHINCTER!"

DYÁBLIK, ABRA & KADABRA  
GET IN CONTROL!  
TRADE IN YOUR SOUL!

DYÁBLIK  
TRY ON THE MIDAS CROTCH!

DEX  
"The Midas Crotch?"

*(ABRA and KADABRA discreetly whisper  
in DYÁBLIK'S ear.)*

DYÁBLIK  
Oh. The Midas Touch.

DEX, DYÁBLIK, ABRA & KADABRA  
THE MIDAS TOUCH!!

DEX  
*(Considering)*  
In return for my soul?

DYÁBLIK  
Yes! Make your move, Mr. Webster  
and you can make movies that will  
bring you fame and fortune beyond  
your wildest dreamings. You poop  
and POW! It turns to solid box  
office gold!

ABRA AND KADABRA  
MOO-MOO-VIES!  
NOW MAKE YOUR MOVE-IE!  
MOO-MOO-VIES!  
NOW MAKE YOUR MOVE-IE!  
MOO-MOO-VIES!  
NOW MAKE YOUR MOVE-IE! ETC.

ALL  
EAT, DRINK, SLEEP, BREATHE  
MOVIES! MOVIES, NIGHT AND dAY!

DEX  
ME DIRECTING...

ABRA & KADABRA  
MOVIES!

DYÁBLIK  
WITH NO RESUMÉ!

ABRA & KADABRA  
MOVIES! MOVIES!

DYÁBLIK  
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SIGN!

*(HE hands DEX a pen. DEX hesitates  
and then signs the contract.)*

DEX  
THE CAMERA ROLLS

DYÁBLIK  
I'LL GET MORE SOULS

DEX & DYÁBLIK  
AND HOLLYWOOD  
WILL SOON BE MINE!

ALL  
MOO-MOO-VIES! NOW MAKE YOUR MOVE-IES!  
MOO-MOO-VIES! NOW MAKE YOUR MOVE-IES!  
MOO-MOO-VIES! NOW MAKE YOUR MOVE-IES! RAH!

*(THUNDER and LIGHTNING.)*

*(DYÁBLIK begins to chant, circling  
DEX with his index finger as ABRA  
and KADABRA circle round DEX like  
Magician's Assistants performing a  
trick.)*

DEX  
I... I'm not feeling any different.

DYÁBLIK  
Habeus Corpus... Shmehgehgee on the bench...

DEX  
This is getting very voodoosville.

ABRA  
Shhh!

DYÁBLIK  
Midas Metamorphosis eine uber duber mensch!

*("Poof": Dex's Dim Bulb vest is  
replaced with a snazzy red sports  
coat.)*

DEX  
I'm still not feeling any different.

KADABRA  
But you look fabulous!

DYÁBLIK

Now that I give on you the Midas Touch...

ABRA

Once the fame kicks in...

KADABRA

...You can never get enough.

DEX

When will I get the prizes and stuff?

DYÁBLIK

After you complete your first motion picture. Then the contract is activated!

DEX

After I complete the picture?

DYÁBLIK

... then you get the moon and the stars.

ABRA

Pink champagne!

KADABRA

A fleet of caddies.

DEX

Well... (*beat*) I always wanted to direct a movie that takes place in a galaxy far, far away about a space boy who learns to use the "Force" within him for good only to discover the evil ruler of the Death Star is his... his... his...

KADABRA

Father.

ABRA

*(to KADABRA)*

Try not to help.

DYÁBLIK

And you will! I promise! It's never too late! But first we must establish your reputation.

DEX

How?

DYÁBLIK

Kadabra, your screenplay.

*(KADABRA hands DEX a script.)*

DEX

"Vampire Stinkbugs...?"

ABRA

"...On Ice!"

*(THEY lead DEX off as lights cross fade to a sign reading "GRAUMAN'S")*\*  
\*

*(CHINESE THEATRE" Various other SIGNS  
come in with pictures of Celebrity  
foot prints in concrete to represent  
the forecourt)*

[5] MUSICAL SEQUENCE: "DEX'S RISE TO FAME"

HEDDA HOPPER

Hedda Hopper reporting live from Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood. The crowds are choking the streets trying to get into the latest Dex Webster Sci-Fi thriller "Cuckoo for Cucarachas!"

GIRL

I've been waiting in line since six this morning.

*(DEX enters.)*

\*

MAN

Look there he is! Mr. Webster! Your autograph!

GIRL

Sexy Dexy! I love you! I LOVE YOUUUU!!!!

\*

HEDDA HOPPER

How does it feel to be worshipped and adored by both women and men of the opposite sexes?

\*

\*

\*

DEX

Feels great!

\*

\*

*(HE exits)*

\*

HEDDA HOPPER

May I quote you?

\*

\*

*(LIGHTS cross fade to...)*

\*

WALTER WINCHELL

This is Walter Winchell reporting poolside from the Beverly Hills Hotel on the reclusive young man who recently burst onto the scene and in three short months has directed twice as many films! Who could imagine mutated bug movies taking the world by storm? Or should I say "swarm?"

*(DEX enters and is buttonholed by a fan.)*

MAN

"Beach Blanket Boll Weevil" was so inspiring. I saw the "Bride Wore Lice" fifty-six times. "Brain Sucking Maggots from Mars" changed my life! You're so prolific. Like a cinematic rabbit!

*(LOUELLA PARSONS sticks her microphone in front of DEX.)*

LOUELLA PARSONS

This is Louella Parsons reporting from the Hollywood Roosevelt where the young Sultan of Celluloid, Dex Webster, has been nominated for the Coveted Golden Saucer Awards an unprecedented 27 times!

*(HEDDA HOPPER, in front of a SIGN saying THE ACADEMY AWARDS, holds an Oscar Statue. SHE yanks Dex away from his fans and into her scene.)*

\*

HEDDA HOPPER

... and this year's Academy Award goes to: Dex Webster - Best Director for "My Uncle My Ant!"

\*

\*

\*

DEX

I'd like to thank the Academy and all the little people out there who helped make me what I am today. I feel like I've got the moon and the stars.

\*

\*

\*

*(LIGHTS cross fade to VALET PARKING outside of the Oscar Party marked by a sign reading VALET PARKING. Various Award Winners clutch their Oscar's an impatiently check their watches as they wait for their limos. ABBRA, KADABRA and DYÁBLIK and DEX are in conference.)*

\*

DYÁBLIK

Happy, happy, happy, Mr. Director?

DEX

I'm not, Mr. Producer. All I make is mutated bug pictures! Giant bugs destroying the city, invading the country, taking over the world! The story lines are obviously the product of a very troubled mind.

DYÁBLIK

But they're in 3D!

*(HE gestures as if in a 3D film his hands going into the camera.)*

DEX

*(disgusted)*

This really isn't going to work. I quit.

\*

ABRA

You can't quit.

DYÁBLIK

You've already made your first movie...

ABRA

And the contract is activated.

DYÁBLIK

Kadabra, your new screenplay!

*(KADABRA presents another script to  
DEX who is appalled by the title.)*

DEX

"The Slug Woman From Uranus?"

DYÁBLIK, ABRA & KADABRA

Ta-dah!

DEX

Where do you come up with this junk?!

KADABRA

It ain't junk. Every emotion, every nuance has been torn from the pages of my little pink diary.

DEX

Your little pink diary?

\*

*(LIGHTS CROSS FADE to the gates of  
Dyablik Studios. HEDDA is  
interviewing DEX and DYABLIK.)*

\*

HEDDA HOPPER

Hedda Hopper from Hollywood where the search for the Slugwoman from Uranus is in full swing. There isn't an actress in town who wouldn't sell her soul for this part. In fact, there isn't an actress in town who hasn't sold her soul! *(shoving the microphone in Dex's face)* Look at them yearning to be in your marvelous pictures.

\*

\*

DEX

*(Taking his glasses off)*

Look at 'em crawling over themselves to be in this schlock.  
Like dope fiends!

HEDDA HOPPER

Isn't that marvelous?

\*  
\*

DYÁBLIK

Of course, Mr. Webster. As with heroin, the only antidote for  
Fame is more Fame.

HEDDA HOPPER

Isn't that marvelous?

\*  
\*

DEX

And you're using my pictures to get them all hooked.

HEDDA HOPPER

Isn't that marvelous?

\*  
\*

DYÁBLIK

How could you think I could do such a thing?!

*(HE laughs malevolently)*

Come, Little Souls, sign your names!

*(LIGHTS UP on RADIO ANNOUNCER)*

\*

RADIO ANNOUNCER

And now a word from our sponsor...

\*  
\*

ABRA & KADABRA

*(singing a commercial jingle)*

IF YOU'D LIKE TO RISE TO FAME REAL QUICK  
THERE'S NO SECRET, ONCE YOU KNOW THE TRICK:  
SIGN WITH MALATOFF DY-A-BUH-LIK

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

DYÁBLIK

SIGN WITH MALATOFF DY-A-BUH-LIK

\*  
\*

ALL

SIGN WITH MALATOFF DY-A-BUH-LIK NOW!!!!

\*  
\*

DEX

What have I done?!

\*

*(LIGHTS cross fade to...)*

## SCENE III

**OUTER OFFICE OF DYÁBLIK'S HEADQUARTERS -- THE FOLLOWING  
MORNING**

(A SIGN reads OUTER OFFICE. The setting suggested by a rolling desk chair and a small rolling secretary table with a typewriter in front of a dazzling, overflowing awards case.)

\*

\*

\*

(KADABRA is typing, and ABRA files pictures and resumes. DAPHNE MARIENKÄFER enters; attractive, early twenties, wearing glasses, her hair up and a slight air of anxiety.)

\*

(DAPHNE MARIENKÄFER enters; attractive, early twenties, wearing glasses, her hair up and a slight air of anxiety.)

DAPHNE

Excuse me, Sir.

\*

ABRA

Name please?

DAPHNE

Daphne. Daphne Marienkäfer. Umlaut over the second A.

(On the word "Umlaut" SHE daintily dots the A with a two finger point.)

I have a three o'clock appointment with Mr. Dyáblik.

ABRA

...Pertaining to?

DAPHNE

Pertaining to my property which this production company has plagiarized and manufactured into motion pictures without procuring my permission.

*(DEX enters carrying scripts.)*

DEX

Kadabra, your writing is so putrid it makes my eyes bleed to read it.

KADABRA

*(touched)*

Thank you.

DEX

You can't drop salt down the Slug Woman's cleavage. Don't you know what salt does to a slug?

KADABRA

*(delighted)*

It makes their breasts dissolve.

DAPHNE

Excuse me, sir! Did you just say "Slug Woman?" As in "Femme Fatale Gastropodus ?!"

DEX

Femme Fa-Gastro-who?

DAPHNE

It's Latin for pernicious Slugwoman and, I have reason to believe, that this person did not write that story.

KADABRA

Liar! Liar! Pants very hot!

DAPHNE

Then how would I know that Nova, the Slugwoman has come to destroy all the salt in the universe?

ABRA

That's highly confidential information, Honey.

DAPHNE

I'll say. It was written in my diary which, I have reason to believe, was stolen by somebody in this studio!

DEX

Your diary?

KADABRA

What kind of crumb bum would do such a horrible thing?

*(Behind DAPHNE'S back, KADABRA slips the pink diary to ABRA who passes it back like a hot potato. KADABRA shoves it down her dress.)*

ABRA

She's just trying to break into the casting session.

DAPHNE

*(insulted)*

I'm not an actress. I am a home economist with entrepreneurial aspirations.

DEX

*(DEX removes his sunglasses. HE smiles.)*

Aren't you the girl who used to work at Woolworths?

DAPHNE

*(SHE smiles back. SHE likes his eyes.)*

Candy counter. Still do. Lemon drop?

*(She gives him one)*

DEX

I thought you looked on the familiar side. I was the soda jerk they fired for putting extra maraschinos in the cherry cokes.

DAPHNE

That was you they fired you for lack of portion control?

DEX

*(ashamed)*

Well, um... yes.

DAPHNE

Don't be embarrassed. It happens. Lack of portion control is very common among males your age...

DEX

Is it Daphne?

DAPHNE

Daphne Marienkäfer. Umlaut over the second "a." Lemon drop?

*(She gives him one)*

DEX

I wish I had a cherry to reciprocate. I'm Dex Webster.

DAPHNE

Dex for Dexter?

DEX

That's right. I'm the director here.

**[6] MUSICAL NUMBER: "REOCCURRING"**

DAPHNE

You are?  
THEN IT WAS YOU!

ABRA & KADABRA

UH-OH!

DEX

WHAT WAS ME?

DAPHNE                                  ABRA & KADABRA  
 WHO STOLE MY DI'RY.                                  UH-OH!

                                  DEX  
 I DID NOT.

                  DAPHNE                                  ABRA & KADABRA  
 SOMEONE STOLE IT.  I                                  UH-OH!  
 CAN PROVE IT.

                                  DEX, ABRA & KADABRA  
 PROVE IT? HOW?!

                                  DAPHNE  
 AS YOU'VE PROBABLY READ IN MY DIARY  
 I'VE A CRIPPLING FEAR OF VERMIN.

                                  DEX & ABRA & KADABRA  
 Vermin?

                                  DAPHNE  
 I GET HORRIBLE, HIDEOUS NIGHTMARES  
 WHICH KEEP  
 REOCCURRING AND REOCCURRING.  
 TERRIBLE TROUBLING DREAMS  
 OF SWARMS OF GIANT MUTATATED INSECTS,  
 LIKE PENTATOMIDEA VAMPYRUS...

                                  ABRA AND KADABRA  
 "PENTATOMIDEA VAMPYRUS"

                                  DAPHNE  
 WHICH IS LATIN FOR  
 VAMPIRE STINKBUGS!

                                  DEX  
 "Vampire Stinkbugs"; that's our next film!

                                  DAPHNE  
 The plots of your movies are the same as my dreams!

                                  ABRA & KADABRA  
 Coincidence!

                                  DAPHNE  
 AS YOU ALSO HAVE READ IN MY DIARY  
 I'VE OCCASIONAL DREAMS OF LEECHES

                                  DEX & ABRA & KADABRA  
 Leeches?

                                  DAPHNE  
 I'VE ATROCIOUS, UNSPEAKABLE VISIONS  
 WHICH KEEP  
 REOCCURRING AND REOCCURRING AND REOCCURRING.  
 TERRIBLE TROUBLING DREAMS  
 OF HORDES OF OOZING, SLIMY WHITE LARVAE  
 LIKE CRANIUM CARNIVORE ENFANTA MOOSCA...

                                  ABRA AND KADABRA  
 "CRANIUM CARNIVORE ENFANTA MOOSCA"

DAPHNE

WHICH IS LATIN FOR  
BRAINSUCKING MAGGOTS.  
You've got a film with "The Brain Sucking Maggot" that chases  
a blonde through the breaking waves on the beach?

DEX

Yes!!

ABRA & KADABRA

Completely circumstantial.

DAPHNE

AND AFTER PSYCHOLOGICAL INQU-I-ERY  
I WROTE DOWN ALL MY NIGHTMARES IN MY DIARY.  
WHICH GAVE ME GREAT RELIEF BECAUSE THE FINAL CURE  
IF MET WITH DEFEAT MEANT  
ELECTROSHOCK TREATMENT!  
IT'S ALL THAT CAN CALM YA WHEN FIGHTING INSOMNIA!

I KNOW SOMEBODY HERE HAS MY DIARY.  
BE HE LOUSE, LEECH OR STINKBUG - WHO TOOK IT?

ABRA AND KADABRA

NOT ME!

DAPHNE

THERE IS NARY A DAY  
WHEN A THEATER WON'T PLAY  
REOCCURRING AND REOCCURRING AND  
REOCCURRING, REOCCURRING...

ABRA AND KADABRA

...REOCCURRING, REOCCURRING...

DAPHNE, ABRA AND KADABRA

...TERRIBLE, TROUBLING,  
SHLOCKY, LOW-BUDGET  
FILM VERSIONS OF...

DAPHNE

MY NIGHTMARES!  
SO MAD I COULD SCREAM!  
I THOUGHT I WOULD DIE!  
VERMIN! INSECTS!  
TWENTY FEET HIGH!  
MY DREAMS ALL ALIVE 'N  
SHOWING IN A DRIVE IN MOVIE!

ABRA AND KADABRA

AHHHHHH!

DAPHNE

INSECTS! VERMIN! INSECTS! VERMIN!  
INSECTS! VERMIN! VERMIN! INSECTS!  
INSECTS! VERMIN! COCKROACH! AUUGH!!!!

*(SHE sees a cockroach, screams at  
the top of her lungs and stomps it  
into oblivion. Just as suddenly,  
she stops short- her lower lip  
trembling.)*

DEX

Would you like a cup of Sanka, Miss?

DAPHNE

IT'S KIND OF YOU TO OFFER  
BUT I MUST BE FRANK: YA  
CAN NOT SOLVE THIS PROBLEM  
WITH A CUP OF SANKA.

IF I DON'T GET MY DI'RY  
BY THE COUNT OF TEN;  
YOU'LL NEVER  
MAKE A MAJOR -  
MAKE THAT MINOR  
MOTION PICTURE AGAIN!  
ONE, TWO, SEVEN, NINE, TEN!

ABRA

So, honey. What are you going to do?

KADABRA

Sue?

DAPHNE

"Daphne." And yes.

KADABRA

In that case...

ABRA

Mr. Dyáblik will see you...

ABRA &amp; KADABRA

...When hell freezes over.

*(THEY bolt out of the room.)*

DEX

That would explain why instead of "FADE IN", the last four scripts began with "DEAR DIARY."

DAPHNE

*(SHE sits and begins to weep softly)*

It's such an invasion of my privacy. And it was such a b-a-a-ad movie. No offense.

DEX

None taken.

*(SHE sighs miserably and unconsciously leans on him. Despite himself, DEX enjoys her being so close.)*

DAPHNE

Well, I may be just a simple fumigator's daughter, but you'd think *(sniff)* you could do better than "Cuckoo for Cucarachas."

DEX

Yeah, you'd think that.

*(Now DEX sighs)*

DAPHNE

\*

Why do you make them?

DEX

Well, some people will do anything to be in show business.

DAPHNE

Even this?

DEX

*(ruefully)*

You know, Daphne, back when I was a kid, my old man would come home drunk every night and start remodeling my mom's kitchen...

DAPHNE

So sweet.

DEX

...with a crow bar.

DAPHNE

Oh.

DEX

And every night, while he's sleeping it off, I'd slip out and head to the Bijou Million Dollar Movie Palace. There in the dark, for a little while, life isn't so lousy. Which is how come I want to direct big important movies, with big important themes...

DAPHNE

*(looking at a script)*

Like "Radioactive Clambake?"

*(DEX just shrugs.)*

I imagine it must be very frustrating for you.

*(Comforting him)*

My father is still trying to build himself a better mouse trap. It's so disgusting. Mouse traps, not my father. He's always asking, "Is the spring strong enough? Is the glue strong enough? Is the cheese strong enough?" And he always says to me "I know there's a way. I just can't see the answer yet." (-beat) You just can't see the answer yet.

DEX

Maybe...(beat) I used to dream, that one day... I'd make movies that would touch someone's soul.

*(HE gives a little laugh.)*

DAPHNE

It's never too late, Dexter.

\*

\*

\*

\*

*(HE longs to believe her, then snaps out of it.)*

DEX

*(thinking of Dyáblík)*

Yes it is. I'm under contract. Those dreams have been shelved. Permanently.

DAPHNE

*(disappointed)*

I see.

DEX

But on the other hand, your dad does have a point... Maybe there is a way.

DAPHNE

To break your contract?

DEX

To get you your diary.

DAPHNE

*(hugging him.)*

Oh, thank you!

DEX

Your welcome. My pleasure.

*(THEIR hug lingers unexpectedly. DAPHNE pulls away.)*

DAPHNE

Here.

*(SHE gives him the whole bag of Lemon drops.)*

DEX

Thanks. I, um, love lemon drops.

DAPHNE

I could suck 'em all day... but you know what they say about too much of a good thing.

DEX

Yeah. Well, I'm going to hell, anyway.

*(DAPHNE laughs, thinking HE'S joking.)*

No, really.

*(THEIR eyes meet as SHE hands him the lemon drops. The lights cross fade to.\*.)*

## SCENE IV

## THE HEADQUARTERS OF MALATOFF DYÁBLIK -- MOMENTS LATER

*(DYÁBLIK rubs his aching head as HE concludes auditioning a pair of thespians, EDWIN MCMANOFF and his wife CARLOTTA \* DELONGPRE, mid fifties, have just finished their auditions. EDWIN, as a beleaguered old Romeo, lies "dead" on the floor.) \**

CARLOTTA

What's here? a cup, closed in my true love's hand?  
Poison, I see, hath been his timeless end: O churl! drunk  
all, and left no friendly drop To help me after? I will kiss  
thy lips; Haply some poison yet doth hang on them.

*(Kisses him)*

Thy lips are warm. Yea, noise? O happy dagger! This is thy  
sheath; there rust, and let me die.

*(SHE dies noisily on EDWIN.)*

EDWIN

Carlotta... my coccyx.

*(DYÁBLIK helps CARLOTTA up.)*

DYÁBLIK

I can't believe what I'm seeing! Such agony! Such ecstasy! I  
must sign you both! The contract goes into infect after you  
complete the picture...

CARLOTTA

After I complete the picture?

DYÁBLIK

...Then you get moon and stars.

EDWIN

This is all highly unusual...

DYÁBLIK

It's an escape clause. Not that you would want to...  
*(HE laughs)*

CARLOTTA

Edwin, we've got the parts! I told you! \*

EDWIN

But Carlotta, did you not hear the man?

CARLOTTA

He wants ME to play the Slugwoman!

EDWIN

He wants US to sell our souls.

CARLOTTA

We're not using them, Edwin. Besides we had a bargain.  
*(MORE)*

CARLOTTA (CONT'D)

We both agreed we would go home to Chichester IF we didn't get the parts. But we did get the parts and so there you are.

DYÁBLIK

And a deal is a deal.

*(ABRA and KADABRA enter.)*

ABRA

Mr. Dyáblik may we speak to you for a moment?

DYÁBLIK

No, I'm in casting!

*(Lying, for Carlotta's benefit)*

The woman's brilliant!

*(for his own)*

Bring me my headache pills.

ABRA

But it's important...

DYÁBLIK

So is mine headache pills. You didn't see her audition. She gives Shakespeare gives the shingles. \*

*(ABRA exits.)*

DYÁBLIK (CONT'D)

Kadabra, give our new stars their scripts. Mr. McManoff will play Captain "Salty" Morton of the S.S Saltshaker and Miss DeLongpre - the starring part of Nova, the Slug Woman.

CARLOTTA

It was predicted in the Tarot and the Tarot never lies.

DYÁBLIK

You will be a legend in your own lunchtime.

KADABRA

There must have been a typo in the tarot.

*(ABRA enters with the headache pills.)*

ABRA

Mr. Dyáblik we have a very big problem.

DYÁBLIK

First the pills then the problem.

*(SHE sprays her throat with an atomizer, EDWIN becomes protective.) \**

EDWIN

Carlotta!

CARLOTTA

*(Innocently, to Dyáblik)*

It's medicine.

EDWIN

You've been doped up on that stuff since you played Juliet in Milwaukee back in '37.

CARLOTTA

*(Cutting him off)*

That was research! I am a Method actress, darling!

*(DYÁBLIK rubs his head and takes his pills.)*

EDWIN

That "Method" will kill you-

CARLOTTA

Don't be so bougeois, baby. Where do we sign?

DYÁBLIK

Bring forth the Contracts!

*(The cabinet rolls on. ABRA gives CARLOTTA and EDWIN contracts to sign. THUNDER rolls. DYÁBLIK grabs his head.)*

\*  
\*  
\*

DYÁBLIK (CONT'D)

*(re THUNDER)*

Could you please turn that down?

\*  
\*  
\*

*(THUNDER rolls. DYÁBLIK grabs his head. CARLOTTA approaches.)*

CARLOTTA

Oh you poor, darling, wonderful man. It breaks my heart to see you with a migraine when we should be celebrating. I have just the thing for you.

*(SHE seductively sprays her atomizer at him. DYÁBLIK, ABRA and KADABRA sniff the air.)*

**[9] MUSICAL NUMBER: "XAMBRUSIA"**

EDWIN

Carlotta! Not before breakfast!

CARLOTTA

I've already had my breakfast.

\*

EDWIN

*(alarmed)*

Carlotta, please. It's only ten thirty in the morning.

CARLOTTA

YOUR LITTLE HEAD ACHES.  
OH, WHAT A DREADFUL FEELING.  
I'VE GOT A LITTLE SOMETHING  
YOU'LL FIND APPEALING.

ABRA

Mr. Dyáblik I really must speak to you.

CARLOTTA

STRANGELY EXOTIC HERBS  
AND SOME SPICE  
MAKE UP THE RECIPE.

DYÁBLIK

(to ABRA)

Not now. Later!

CARLOTTA

ASPIRIN PALES  
COMPARED TO THIS POTPOURRI.

*(SHE opens her atomizer.)*

DYÁBLIK

What is it?

*(CARLOTTA shpritzes him once and  
BAM! DYÁBLIK is instantly crocked.)*

DYÁBLIK (CONT'D)

WOW!

CARLOTTA

XAMBRUSIA! WHEN I'VE GONE TO SEED-  
XAMBRUSIA IS ALL THAT I NEED.

KADABRA

M.D., you got a minute...?

DYÁBLIK

No...

CARLOTTA

WHENEVER MY HEAD FEELS  
LIKE IT'S KICKED BY A COW,  
NONE ELSE BUT XAMBRUSIA  
FOR SOOTHING MY BROW.

DYÁBLIK

It smells delicious!

EDWIN

Calamity lurks in the wings.

ABRA

That's what I'm trying to tell him!

CARLOTTA

THERE'S NO ELIXER,  
QUITE LIKE THIS FIXER UPPER!

EDWIN

As your husband I must insist...

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

ABRA

I really must insist...

\*  
\*

CARLOTTA

TAKE IT FOR BREAKFAST,  
TAKE IT FOR LUNCH AND SUPPER!

EDWIN

Be reasonable, Lottie. Before I lose my temper...

CARLOTTA

TAKE IT TO CHASE THE BLUES ALL AWAY  
TAKE TO IT LIKE A CHARM

*(TO EDWIN)*

TAKE IT FROM ME  
AND I'LL HAVE TO BREAK YOUR ARM!

*(SHE takes a deep swig.)*

EDWIN AND CARLOTTA

XAMBRUSIA!

*(SHE takes a deep swig and gargles.)*

EDWIN

HAS RUINED MY LIFE.

CARLOTTA

I'M FEELING NO PAIN.

EDWIN AND CARLOTTA

XAMBRUSIA!

EDWIN

HAS STOLEN MY WIFE!

CARLOTTA

ALLEVIATES STRAIN!  
A SPOONFUL OF SUGAR'S  
WHAT MAKES IT SWEET.  
BOTTOMS UP, ANGEL.

*(HICCUP!)*

BON APPETITE!

KADABRA

M.D., We really must speak with you...

*(But DYÁBLIK isn't listening, HE  
wants more Xambrusia. EDWIN tries  
to block him from CARLOTTA.)*

EDWIN

JUST ONE SIP AND YOU LOSE CONTROL,  
YOUR CAREER PLUMMETS DOWN THE HOLE!  
WHEN YOUR LIVER TURNS BLACK AS COAL...

CARLOTTA

THEN IT'S HIGH TIME TO MEDICATE!  
NO NEED TO HESITATE!

DYÁBLIK

CAST OUT THAT HEAD ACHE TODAY!  
This could be addicting!

CARLOTTA

It's all homeopathic.

*(DYÁBLIK convulses to the beat of  
the intoxicating rumba dancing with  
CARLOTTA as she sprays ABRA and  
KADABRA. BAM! ABRA bursts into  
uncontrollable sobs, while KADABRA  
laughs hysterically.)*

ALL

XAMBRUSIA!!

CARLOTTA

I'VE USED IT FOR YEARS.

ALL

XAMBRUSIA!

CARLOTTA

FOR CALMING MY FEARS.

ALL  
CHAMPAGNE IS FOR LADIES

CARLOTTA  
AND VODKA'S FOR BROADS.

ALL  
ONE SHOT OF XAMBRUSIA...

CARLOTTA  
THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD APPLAUDS!

ALL  
XAMBRUSIA!

*(SHE passes out into EDWIN'S arms.)*

EDWIN  
*(To the unconscious Carlotta)*  
Why can't you be an alcoholic like everyone else?

*(Struck sober, DYÁBLIK is horrified.)*

DYÁBLIK  
*(to KADABRA)*  
Stop laughing, you idiot. She might be dead!

KADABRA  
And before making the picture!

EDWIN  
*(So weary of explaining)*  
She's not dead. But she'll be out cold for the next 12 hours.

DYÁBLIK  
12 hours? Oh! As long as she's on the set bright and early.

ABRA  
Mr. Dyáblik we have to talk with you about...

*(A KNOCK on the door. DEX enters with DAPHNE in tow.)*

*(ABRA & KADABRA freeze.)*

ABRA & KADABRA  
...the girl!

DEX  
Mr. Dyáblik, some light fingered Louie in this studio has heisted this young ladies diary...

DAPHNE  
...And plagiarized passages into pictures without procuring my permission...

DEX  
...for which, unless production is stopped and her hot diary returned immediately...

DAPHNE

...if not sooner...

DEX

...She intends to shut down the studios.

DAPHNE

I do.

*(DAPHNE notices EDWIN and is instantly star struck.)*

Oh, my God! Wait a minute! Aren't you? You are! Aren't you THE Edwin McManoff?

EDWIN

Well, yes I am.

DAPHNE

I knew it! You were in the first Romeo and Juliet I ever saw.

EDWIN

That's very kind of you to remember, young lady.

DAPHNE

I was just a little girl, but I'll never forget...

*(she sees CARLOTTA)*

Carlotta DeLongpre!! She was the Juliet! When she fell off that balcony! I never knew tragedy could be so funny!

EDWIN

Come, Lottie.

*(DYÁBLIK snaps his fingers and ABRA and KADABRA run to assist EDWIN with CARLOTTA.)*

DAPHNE

It was a pleasure meeting you, Mr. McManoff.

EDWIN

Hmmm.

*(TO CARLOTTA, as HE drags her out.)*

This is precisely the way you lost Scarlett O'Hara to Vivien Leigh.

\*  
\*

ABRA

She would have been perfect!

DEX

Mr. D. we have ourselves a problem here.

DYÁBLIK

There is never problems having at Dyáblik Studios. Whom is this delightful creature you are bringing?

DEX

This is Miss Daphne Marienkäfer.

DAPHNE

*(With the umlaut gesture)*

Umlaut over the second A.

DYÁBLIK

And to what do I owe this honor?

DEX

Well, incredible as it may seem, some light fingered Louie in this studio has heisted this young ladies diary...

ABRA

You already said that.

DYÁBLIK

What are you talking? Is she an actress?

DAPHNE

No.

DYÁBLIK

Everybody's an Actress. I know these things by incest!

DEX

Well, she's not.

*(ABRA and KADABRA return.)*

DAPHNE

I'm not. I am a home economist with entrepreneurial aspirations and I want my diary. My mother gave it to me and it has great sentimental, not to mention, therapeutic value.

DYÁBLIK

How can I giving back something I don't know what you are talking about?

DAPHNE

Well, my brothers certainly do. They're with Marienkäfer, Kafke and Kaufman - attorneys at law.

ABRA

Attorneys at law!? I begged you not to steal it. I cried real tears.

KADABRA

I'm innocent I tell ya. You screws can't pin it on me.

DYÁBLIK

What are you talking about?

ABRA

It wasn't me, Mr. Dyáblik. I swear on my own sweet mother's desecrated grave I had nothing to do with it.

KADABRA

I was desperate, ya hear me? I didn't know what I was doing. I can't hardly spell my own name and he wants me to write a screenplay. A screenplay!

ABRA

When you give an illiterate a literate person's job these things happen. Just let her explain...

KADABRA

Just let me explain, M.D.!

ABRA

...before you become wrathful and vengeance seeking.

DYÁBLIK

What are you talking about??

KADABRA

Please don't get wrathful, M.D. I was at the candy counter at Woolworth's, minding my own business, turning the chocolates rancid. I saw her diary and it was filled with bug stories so I thought "Perfect!" And no one was looking and it was so... so... Pink!

DYÁBLIK

*(Realizing)*

You mean those sweet, gorgeous stories with the cockroaches and the stink bugs...?

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

KADABRA

I guess I must have blacked out from all them milk duds, but when I came to, I was in front of the old Remington transcribing her diary into screenplays.

ABRA

And look... hardly any typos.

DYÁBLIK

*(looking at DAPHNE)*

So she has come!

KADABRA

Abra! Stop helping!

ABRA

All right. *(To Dyáblík)* Destroy her.

DYÁBLIK

*(Smiling to DEX and DAPHNE.)*

Excuse please. Allow me to meet with my writing staff, Miss Mariencracker.

DAPHNE

Käfer.

DYÁBLIK

Crapper.

*(HE steps away and slowly clenches his fist. ABRA and KADABRA writhe in pain. With a wave of his hand, DYÁBLIK slaps their faces even though he is six feet out of reach. Punishment dispensed, HE smiles and returns to DEX and DAPHNE.)*

DYÁBLIK (CONT'D)

*(cutting him off)*

Tomorrow at nine, my dear, we will have your diary and a solution that is sure to make up for any and all incontinence.

DAPHNE

Why, thank you... I think.

DYÁBLIK

Mr. Webster, tonight you will wind and blind this attractive young lady at the Coconut Grove. Curtsy...

*(ABRA and KADABRA curtsy)*

...Of Dyáblik Studios.

DAPHNE

Thank you so much, Mr. Dyáblik. Thank you so very much.

DYÁBLIK

Do not thank me. It is my pleasure... Little Soul.

*(LIGHTS CROSS FADE TO...)*

ACT ONE

SCENE V

**THE DATE -- THAT EVENING**

*(The dark and abandoned HOLLYWOOD SIGN looms over the hill covered in sweet smelling orange blossom. Star light mingles with the lights of the city below.)*

*(DEX crosses near the sign, leading DAPHNE with his hands covering her eyes.)*

DEX

Okay... Be careful... wait till you cast an eyeball on this. Now, open.

*(HE releases her. SHE gasps in delight at the city lights.)*

DAPHNE

Golly. What a view. Like an ocean of diamonds and rubies.

DEX

Laid out at the feet of the King of the mountain.  
*(He indicates the sign as she turns to see...)*

DAPHNE

The Hollywood sign! Dexter, it's amazing!

DEX

You know how many light bulbs were in this neon wannabe? 4,576.

DAPHNE

What, didja count 'em?

DEX

I used to work up here...um, some time ago. I was in charge of screwing in all the replacement light-bulbs.

DAPHNE

That must have kept you busy.

DEX

Yeah. I was pretty much screwing all day.

\*

DEX (CONT'D)

*(THEY gaze into each others eyes. DEX breaks away.)*

Daphne, I know we haven't known each other long and all...

DAPHNE

Yes?

DEX

Tomorrow when you're in there with Dyáblik... alone. You have to be... I want you to... Daphne, you can't go!

DAPHNE

Don't be silly, Dexter. I may be just a simple fumigator's daughter, but I know how to take care of myself.

DEX

He's a spider, Daphne. He'll trap you in his web and reel you in. You don't know the risk you're taking going in there. You don't know how risky it is just being with me... What I'm trying to say is...

*(HE wants to kiss her very much.)*

DAPHNE

Yes, Dexter?

DEX

Get out of here! Go away. Get as far away from me and this lousy business as you can get.

DAPHNE

Fine. As soon as I get my diary back you won't have to worry, Buster. You won't be seeing me ever again.

\*  
\*

DEX

Good. Because the really rotten part of this is: I think I... I think I...

DAPHNE

You think I think I what?

**[10] MUSICAL NUMBER: "DAPHNE"**

DEX

Daphne, it may look like I have the moon and the stars, but if I were to lose you...

*(sings)*

DAPHNE, DAPHNE

WRITE THIS IN YOUR DIARY:

GIRLS FROM SHOPS WITH LEMON DROPS

GET ME ALL PERSPIRY.

(MORE)

DEX (CONT'D)

YOU SMELL OF LICORICE  
AND CINNAMON  
FROM THE WOOLWORTH STORE.  
FUNNY, I NEVER  
NOTICED THESE THINGS BEFORE.

DAPHNE

DEXTER, DEXTER  
AM I OFF MY TROLLEY?  
SUDDENLY WHEN YOU'RE WITH ME  
I'M... LAUREN BACALLY.  
YOUR SMELL LIKE SUMMERTIME.  
YOU HOLD MY HAND  
AND I HIT THE FLOOR.  
FUNNY, I NEVER  
NOTICED THESE THINGS BEFORE.

DEX

DAPHNE...  
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.  
NEVER HAD A LOVE SONG  
TO SING 'TILL I MET YOU.  
DAPHNE...  
THESE FEELINGS ARE SO NEW  
I'VE ONLY COME TO REALIZE  
YOU MAKE MY HEART GROW  
TWICE IT'S SIZE  
AND IN BETWEEN MY HEARTBEATS  
I CAN HEAR MY SOUL  
IS CALLING TO YOU ....

DAPHNE

IN BETWEEN MY HEARTBEATS  
I CAN HEAR MY SOUL  
IS CALLING TO YOU.

*(THEY DANCE)*

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

DEXTER...

DEX

DAPHNE...

DAPHNE

DEXTER...

DEX

DAPHNE...  
I'M FRIGHTENED HOW NEARLY  
I COULD MISS  
TRUE LOVE'S FIRST KISS.  
BUT NOW I SEE CLEARLY:  
YOU ARE AN ANGEL AND  
THOUGH I'M A FOOL, LADY I ADORE YOU.  
FUNNY MY HEART  
NOT KNOWING THESE THINGS BEFORE.

DAPHNE

FUNNY MY HEART  
NOT KNOWING THESE THINGS BEFORE.

DEX

YOU ARE THE ONE...

DEX & DAPHNE

...I'LL LOVE FOREVERMORE.

*(Softly, tenderly THEY kiss. The light bulbs in the dark SIGN take on a gentle glow.)*

*(The lights fade and rise on the DYÁBLIK HEADQUARTERS sign and then reveal...)*

## ACT ONE

## SCENE VI

**DYÁBLIK'S HEADQUARTERS -- MOMENTS LATER**

*(DAPHNE'S pink diary sits in a pool of light on the desk. DYÁBLIK plots, while ABRA files and KADABRA stares longingly at the diary.)*

DYÁBLIK

...as soon as they get here, get rid of HIM. I want the G-U-R-L alone.

*(A knock on the door. DAPHNE enters accompanied by DEX.)*

DYÁBLIK (CONT'D)

Ah, Mr. Webster. Good mornings.

DEX

Good morning.

DYÁBLIK

Ladies...

ABRA &amp; KADABRA

Yes...

*(DYÁBLIK signals to ABRA and KADABRA who surround DEX.)*

Oh!

KADABRA

There's trouble in the make up department.

DEX

Trouble?

ABRA

We're having a little problem with the special effects makeup...

KADABRA

...all the latex has gone putrid. But don't worry...

ABRA

We're making the mask out of raw chicken skin.

DEX

Raw chicken skin?!

ABRA

Farm fresh.

KADABRA

The commissary's making chicken croquettes for lunch, so there's plenty.

ABRA &amp; KADABRA

But we need your approval!

*(THEY drag DEX out of the office.)*



DYÁBLIK (CONT'D)

For not only not only do you have wision, Miss Murryhillkungfoo, \*  
but you are a wision. And now that I see you...

*(HE stops and levels a hard stare at her.SHE  
checks your appearance.)*

DAPHNE

Now that you see me "what"? What?

DYÁBLIK

Have you ever acted?

DAPHNE

Oh, no. And I'm certainly not interested in acting for the Insect Cinema. I'm a home economist with...

DYÁBLIK

Are you interested in fame?

DAPHNE

No.

DYÁBLIK

In fortune?

DAPHNE

No.

DYÁBLIK

In working hand in foot every day with a successful, handsome director...

DAPHNE

Maybe....

DYÁBLIK

Come, come, I see how you're looking on him, how he's looking on you. Can't you see your name up on the screen linked forever with his? Directed by Dexter Webster starring Daphne Webster Marienkoogle.

DAPHNE

*(Considering the idea)*

Käfer. Umlaut...

DYÁBLIK

This is your destiny, Miss Umlaut. Fame, fortune, romance.

DAPHNE

Romance.

DYÁBLIK

When you have what you have...

DAPHNE

What do I have?

[11] **MUSICAL NUMBER: "LONG LUXURIOUS LASHES"**

DYÁBLIK

Your eyes. They are like the windmills to your soul.

SOMETIMES YOUNG WOMEN HAVE EYES LIKE A COW.

NOT YOU.

SOMETIMES YOUNG WOMEN HAVE EYES LIKE A SOW.

*(HE REMOVES HER GLASSES.)*

NOT YOU. YOU DON'T NEED GLASSES OR EYE-DROPS.

YOU DON'T HAVE EYES LIKE A CYCLOPS.

I KNOW WHAT SETS YOU PART FROM THE REST...

DAPHNE

YOU DO?

DYÁBLIK

INDOOBIE-DOOBIE-DOOBIE-TABLY.

LONG LUXURIOUS LASHES

LIKE NOBODY'S SEE-IN.

(MORE)

DYÁBLIK (CONT'D)

LONG LUXURIOUS LASHES  
THEY BELONG ON THE SCREE-IN.  
SOMETIMES YOUNG WOMEN HAVE EYES  
YOU JUST WANT TO GOUGE OUT.  
SOMETIMES THEY'RE CROSS EYED,  
OR WALL EYED OR COCKEYED,  
BUT YOURS ARE LIKE JEWELS  
LIKE TWO RANCID POOLS  
UNDER  
LONG LUXURIOUS LASHES...  
MANLY MEN ARE BEGUILED.

DAPHNE  
MANLY MEN ARE BEGUILED.

LONG LUXURIOUS LASHES  
MAKES THE PANSIES GO WILD!

MAKE THE... PANSIES?!?!

YOU COULD GIVE GARBO RASHES  
FILM DIRECTORS GET GASEOUS  
OVER  
LONG LUXURIOUS LASHES  
LIKE YURRIN.

DAPHNE

So... film directors really like them long?

DYÁBLIK

Oh, yes. And thick!  
CAMERAS CAN'T IGNORE THEM!  
FILM DIRECTORS ADORE THEM!

DAPHNE  
FILM DIRECTORS ADORE ME...

DYÁBLIK

ALL THOSE LONG LUXURIOUS  
LASHES OF YOURS...

DAPHNE  
DIRECTED BY DEXTER WEBSTER...

DYÁBLIK

ALL THOSE  
LONG LUXURIOUS LASHES...  
LONG LUXURIOUS LASHES...  
LONG LUXURIOUS LASHES...

*(HE summons the red filing cabinet  
which rolls on with a fresh contract.)*

DYÁBLIK (CONT'D)

LIKE YOURS!

*(DYÁBLIK presents the contract and  
DAPHNE joyously signs. The LIGHTS  
blackout.*

*In the dark, EDWIN'S anguished  
screams are heard...)*

## ACT ONE

## SCENE VII

**THE MAKEUP ROOM -- CONTINUOUS**

*(Lights up on a sign reading "THE MAKEUP ROOM." EDWIN is railing in disgust as he stands on the makeup chair, keeping ABRA at bay. KADABRA, has locked and is blocking the door keeping DEX and EDWIN hostage.)*

*(DEX trying to get back to DAPHNE, tries to get by KADABRA as ABRA holds a slimy flesh colored mask and is attempting to put it on EDWIN'S face.)*

EDWIN

Take it away!!! Take it away!!!

DEX

Let me out of here!

EDWIN

Ye Gods, it's revolting.

ABRA

It's chicken skin. There is nothing more wholesome or natural.

DEX

Listen, ya big Amazon, let me out of this room or I'll...

*(Nonchalantly KADABRA puts DEX in a headlock, face down in her ample bosom)*

KADABRA

You'll what? Suffocate?

*(ABRA protects KADABRA, threatening DEX with the sticky side of the mask)*

EDWIN

I won't wear it. It's completely arbitrary! The script never once mentions how Captain "Salty" Morton of the S.S. Saltshaker became disfigured.

DEX &amp; KADABRA

Too much sodium.

ABRA

You see, once you've been slimed by a Slugwoman, your skin becomes horribly slimy and hideously deformed.

KADABRA

But then on page 79 your skin is miraculously restored to it's former luster.

ABRA

Which means the toxins have done their worst.

KADABRA

And then you've only got an hour...

ABRA

Page 83

KADABRA

...before....Pfftt!

DEX

*(sarcastic)*

That's why they call her Femme Fatale Gastropidus.

ABRA

Now, I've already applied the adhesive.

*(to EDWIN)*

Now cooperate please...

EDWIN

I will not put that muck on my face!

ABRA

Mr. MacManoff, this is not the time to be temperamental

EDWIN

*(enraged)*

Temperamental?? I??

*(DEX and ABRA freeze as EDWIN  
struggles to control his temper)*

**[12] MUSICAL NUMBER: "I AM AN ACTOR"**

EDWIN (CONT'D)

I AM AN ACTOR,  
AND I HAVE TO CONFESS  
THE ROLE I WAS CAST IN,  
I TOOK UNDER DURESS.  
I'VE PLAYED "HAMLET" IN THE HAMLETS,  
MY "PEER GYNT" WAS WITHOUT PEER,  
MY IAGO IN CHICAGO  
MADE THE WHITE SOX STAND AND CHEER.  
AND I HIT SUCH HEIGHTS WITH MARLOWE  
THAT I MADE THE CRITICS SWOON  
I AM AN ACTOR,  
NOT A BUFFOON!

I'VE ADAPTED WELL THROUGH THICK AND THIN,  
BUT THIS STICKS IN MY CRAW.  
I WON'T WEAR THAT MASK OF CHICKEN SKIN,  
ESPECIALLY IF IT'S RAW!  
I'VE BEEN MADE A MONKEY'S UNCLE.  
I'VE BEEN BROUGHT TO RACK AND "ROON."  
I AM AN ACTOR, NOT A BABOON!

*(HE holds up the mask)*

If I wear that mask I couldn't look at myself in the mirror.

KADABRA

I can't look at myself in the mirror unless I'm wearing a mask.

EDWIN

I AM AN ACTOR  
 WHO WILL SUFFER FOR ART  
 BUT THERE COMES A LIMIT  
 WHAT I'LL DO FOR A PART.  
 I'M A FORWARD THINKING FELLOW  
 WHOM YOU'D NEVER CALL A PRUDE.  
 WHY IN "MOURNING BECOMES ELEKTRA"  
 I WAS ELECTRIC IN THE NUDE.  
 BUT I'M FORCED TO DRAW THE LINE  
 WHEN ASKED TO ACT WHILE WEARING FOOD!  
 AND IF YOU ASK ME "WHY?"  
 THEN I WILL SAY:  
 I AM AN ACTOR, I AM AN ACTOR, I AM AN ACTOR;  
 NOT A BUFFET!!

DEX

You should quit, Edwin.

EDWIN

Little by little, all I've ever valued has been stripped away in this shameless quest for Fame.

DEX

Quit now!

EDWIN

But when I sold my soul, humiliation was not a stipulation of the agreement.(beat) I should "Quit"?

DEX

(earnestly)

You're too good to be working in schlock, Edwin. You're right. Take a fade. Quit.

ABRA

Now just one minute, Mister..

EDWIN

I am just on the brink, I can assure you.

DEX

Do it now while you still got the chance!

KADABRA

Report him to Mr. Dyáblik.

DEX

The contract goes into affect after you make the picture.

ABRA

You'll be sorry...

*(The door opens revealing DAPHNE, transformed. Her hair falls seductively around her shoulders and her glasses are conspicuously absent.)*

*(SHE triumphantly carries her diary.  
Something is disturbingly different about  
DAPHNE; her innocence is gone.)*

ABRA (CONT'D)

YOU!!!!

DAPHNE

Dexter!

DEX

Daphne?

*(HIS smile changes to puzzlement)*

You look... different somehow.

DAPHNE

Do I?

*(SHE bats her long, luxurious lashes at him.)*

DEX

You seem... You seem... I can't put my finger on it.

*(ABRA & KADABRA burst on passing out  
scripts. They know a BIG secret.)*

KADABRA

Here they are hot off the mimeograph!

ABRA

Get your scripts here! Get your red hot scripts.

KADABRA

Here's your script, Miss Moronkäfer.

ABRA

That's Marienkäfer. Moron!

KADABRA

*(To DAPHNE)*

Better start learning your lines, "Slug Woman."

DAPHNE

What?

EDWIN

The Slug Woman is my wife!

KADABRA

Didn't you get the memo?

DEX

Memo?

EDWIN

Memo?

DEX AND EDWIN

What memo?

ABRA  
(Handing out memos)

Memos!

KADABRA  
Orders from downstairs!

ABRA  
Mr. Dyáblik's recast. Daphne's the Slug. DeLongpre's the maid.

KADABRA  
It's the best part in the picture!

ABRA  
Hah!

EDWIN  
You must be mistaken.

KADABRA  
M.D.'s turning our new contract player into...

ABRA & KADABRA  
...A star!

(THEY EXIT, laughing malevolently.)

DEX  
Daphne... You signed a contract?!?

DAPHNE  
Of course not. Why? Shouldn't I?

DEX  
(Yelling)  
You signed a contract?!

DAPHNE  
Well, you don't have to yell at me.

DEX  
Was I yelling?

DAPHNE  
(yelling)  
Just a little!

EDWIN  
The Maid?!?!

DEX  
Daphne, you don't know what this means...

DAPHNE  
Of course I do, Dexter. It means we're going to be working together, very very closely.

EDWIN  
Good ! Then put her in the chicken skin. Carlotta can't play the maid. If she finds out I have more lines than she does...  
(MORE)

EDWIN (CONT'D)

*(Gathering his dignity, HE attempts to hand  
DEX the mask,)*

Mr Webster, I will not be needing this, thank you.

*(The adhesive causes the mask to stick to his  
fingers like flypaper. After some fumbling HE  
finally shoves the mask into his pocket.)*

I am going home. Back to Chichester.

*(EDWIN EXITS in a huff. HE renters.)*

The MAID!!

(HE EXITS)

DEX

I got to get you out of here, baby. You didn't make the movie,  
so there's still a chance.

DAPHNE

Oh no, Dexter. I want to make the movie. With you. I did it  
for us, Dexter.

DEX

You sold your soul for "us?!"

DAPHNE

Don't be so literal. Mr. Dyáblik was speaking metaphorically.

DEX

It's not a metaphor.

DAPHNE

Well, granted he didn't actually use the word "metaphorically."  
I think he said "metamucilly speaking."

DEX

That contract is so ironclad it goes beyond the grave.

DAPHNE

Maybe you just don't like to see anyone succeed except yourself. \*

DEX

It's the fame. \*

DAPHNE

It's not the fame. \*

DEX

It's already kicked in. You're hooked! \*

DAPHNE

And what's so bad about fame anyway? \*

DEX

Listen to yourself. This isn't you talking. \*

DAPHNE

Why should you have it all? Why can't we both be famous? \*

DEX

You can not make this movie. \*

DAPHNE

Why don't you want to direct me?

\*  
\*  
\*

DEX

Don't you get it? We have sold our souls to make a bug movie!

DAPHNE

I may be just a simple fumigator's daughter, Dexter, but I know you can't sell something you haven't got.

*(SHE EXITS)*

DEX

Daphne, come back! Daphne!

*(HE runs after her. A smiling  
DYÁBLIK, accompanied by ABRA and  
KADABRA, appears holding DAPHNE'S  
contract.)*

DYÁBLIK, ABRA & KADABRA

DAPHNE, DAPHNE

WRITE THIS IN YOUR DIARY...

*(HE laughs and spins "THE MAKEUP  
ROOM" sign to the other side which  
reads "THE DRESSING ROOM." LIGHTS  
CROSS FADE to...)*

## ACT ONE

## SCENE VIII

**THE DRESSING ROOM -- LATER**

(EDWIN is packing his bags as CARLOTTA clutches the fateful memo.)

CARLOTTA

"The Maid?!" What's a maid doing in a Science Fiction Picture?

EDWIN

Not much. But they do tell me it's the best part.

CARLOTTA

This wasn't our agreement. I will not play the maid! I was the Slug! I was the star!

(EDWIN continues packing, CARLOTTA pulls the shirts out of his suitcase.)

CARLOTTA (CONT'D)

How can you be folding clothes at the crossroads of our careers? \*

EDWIN

I am not folding clothes, my dear. I am packing! \*

CARLOTTA

Packing!? We're about to make a film.

EDWIN

"We're" not. I'm going home.

CARLOTTA

Home?! You're a selfish, self-serving, self-centered Git! Why, on the brink of our comeback, do you choose to return to Chiches... Chich... Chicha..

EDWIN

Chichester.

CARLOTTA

I can't even pronounce the name I loathe that place so much.

EDWIN

(*gently reasoning*)

Carlotta, my dear, we've played Shakespeare. We've played Chekhov. Now you're playing a Maid and I'm meant to perform in a mask of raw chicken skin.

(HE produces the mask still stuck to his fingers.)

CARLOTTA

I am not going to play a maid, I promise you that. And I'm not going home!(*beat*) The show must go on, darling.

(EDWIN gathers his things, and throws them and the sticky mask into his suitcase.)

EDWIN

Then it goes on without me.

(HE slams the lid on the mask, prying his fingers free.)

CARLOTTA

You just can't walk out! For what? To play Petrucchio at the Chichester Community Theater? You mustn't lose this opportunity, Edwin. Your salad days have long been tossed.

EDWIN

You destroyed my career! Your lack of discipline! Your hooch guzzling..

CARLOTTA

Hooch?! I never drink on set.

EDWIN

As soon as the cameras are loaded, so are you! Dipsomaniac.

CARLOTTA

Dillitante

EDWIN

Hasbeen!

CARLOTTA

Hamhock!

(SHE goes to slap him and he catches her wrist. Outraged, HE kisses her fiercely. SHE fights and then responds to his kiss. HE caresses her face tenderly and SHE bites his hand as hard as she can. EDWIN breaks free.)

EDWIN

That's it. You've lost it all. Your husband, your mind, and your precious part!

CARLOTTA

*(horrorified)*

The part?!

EDWIN

Mr. Dyáblik, has cast the director's girlfriend as the Slug Woman!

CARLOTTA

That's absurd.

EDWIN

But it's true. Daphne Marienkafer is the lead.

CARLOTTA

They had better bloody well un-cast her. I will not play the maid!

EDWIN

*(consoling)*

Just remember, Lottie. It's not the size of the part that matters. *(Beat. To himself)* Well, actually, come to think of it... it is.

CARLOTTA

*(tearfully)*

I was the star. I was the star...

*(HER tears soften him and HE gently takes holds her shoulder.)*

EDWIN

*(compassionately)*

Carlotta, we are all stars trying to work our way back into the chorus.

*(HE takes his suitcase and EXITS.)*

CARLOTTA

What the hell is that supposed to mean?!?! *(Sadly)* Today was to be the biggest day of my life. It was predicted in the tarot. Written in me tea leaves. It was my last chance. But...

*(SHE begins to pick up steam.)*

I'll get my chance. I'm going to be big. I mean really BIG! I mean B-I-G Big! BIG!! I will stop at nothing to play this part. Mark my words! Dex Webster will have ME as the Slug Woman from Uranus!

*(SHE knocks back a slug of Xambrusia as LIGHTS CROSS FADE to SOUND STAGE 13, suggested by a bare stage with a light tree and a sign that reads "SOUND STAGE 13".*

*DEX is sitting in a red director's chair and drinks from a flask.)*

DEX

BEWARE OF THE STARS OR YOU'LL FIND  
THAT STARING TOO LONG LEAVES YOU BLIND  
OH WHY CAN'T SHE SEE  
THAT SHE'LL END UP LIKE ME.

*(LIGHTS CROSS FADE to DAPHNE writing in her diary)*

DAPHNE

Dear Diary... Today I have good news and bad news. The bad news is: I've inadvertently sold my soul to the devil.

*(LIGHTS UP on CARLOTTA)*

\*  
\*  
\*

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

The good news is: I've got a steady paying job in show business.

\*  
\*

*(Lights down on DAPHNE)*

\*

CARLOTTA

I'll put the whammy on Daphne which will knock her so flat; everyone will think she's dead!

\*

**[9] MUSICAL NUMBER: "THIS IS THE PART"**

DEX

Come on, Webster. Are you really just gonna sit there while the girl of your dreams goes to hell in a handcart?

*(HE hurls the flask offstage.)*

THIS IS THE PART  
I CHANGE MY LUCK  
ACT LIKE A MAN  
AND NOT A SHMUCK!  
THIS IS THE PART  
THE MILD MANNERED REPORTER  
PUTS ON HIS RED AND BLUE.  
THIS IS THE PART  
I FINALLY PRAY

*(to Heaven)*

AND IF YOU'LL HELP  
ME FIND THE WAY  
I'LL GRAB THE DEVIL BY THE TAIL  
FOR ONCE I AIN'T GONNA FAIL  
THIS IS THE PART  
THE HERO IS... GUESS WHO!

*(LIGHTS up on DAPHNE)*

DAPHNE

I KNOW THIS PART  
MIGHT BE A STRETCH.  
I'LL BE JUST FINE  
IF I DON'T WRETCH!  
THIS IS THE PART...  
I CONQUER MY NEUROSES;  
SLUG WOMAN'S SET ME FREE!

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

THIS IS THE PART...

DEX

THIS IS THE PART...

DAPHNE

I MAKE MY MARK!  
NO LONGER FRIGHT-  
NEED BY THE DARK!

DEX

WHERE FATE STEPS IN...

THIS IS THE PART  
I GET TO WIN!



THIS IS MY PART ABRA & KADABRA  
 I'M GOING BACK... EDWIN  
 THIS IS MY PART.. DYÁBLIK  
 DAPHNE CARLOTTA  
 LASHES ATTRACT I WILL ATTACK!  
 DIRECTORS...

AS A MATTER OF FACT... DEX

THIS IS MY OPPORTUNITY ALL  
 TO MANIFEST DESTINY!  
 THIS IS THE PART...

THE PART BELONGS TO ME! DEX

THE PART BELONGS TO ME! DAPHNE

TO ME! EDWIN

TO ME! ABRA & KADABRA

TO ME! DYÁBLIK

TO MOI! CARLOTTA

THE PART BELONGS TO ALL

DEX	DAPHNE	CARLOTTA
TO ME!	ME,ME,ME,ME,ME!	TO ME
EDWIN	DYÁBLIK	ABRA AND KADABRA
TO ME!	ME,ME,ME,ME,ME!	TO ME!

*(CREW #2 wheels on a rolling tea cart with several casserole dishes and a large tray of chicken croquettes.)*

CREW #2  
 Company Call! Soundstage 13! Principal photography begins after lunch!

END OF ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

## SOUND STAGE 13 - CONTINUOUS FROM END OF ACT I

## SCENE I

CREW #2

Company Call! Luncheon is served!

*(The CREW ENTER hungrily sniffing the air. Lights up on the empty Sound Stage. Only CARLOTTA is there, standing over the lunch table with her atomizer ready for action.)*

**[14] MUSICAL NUMBER: "CHICKEN CROQUETTES"**

CREW

WHAT'S THAT SAVORY...? *(Sniff! Sniff!)*WHAT'S THAT SIZZLING... *(Sniff! Sniff!)*WHAT'S THAT SUCCULENT...? *(Sniff! Sniff!)* SMELL?!

CREW #1

OOH! I SMELL A CHICKEN CROQUETTE!

CREW #2

I SMELL A CHICKEN CROQUETTE!

CREW #3

NOTHING I KNOW IS SO PLUMP...

CREW #4

AND JUICY!

CREW #1

A TASTE YOU'LL NEVER FORGET.

CREW #2

A TASTE YOU'LL NEVER FORGET.

ALL

I LOVE CROQUETTES MORE THAN

I LOVE LUCY! YUM!

CREW #3

I DON'T WANT CHICKEN CHOW MEIN

CREW #4

I DON'T WANT CHICKEN FLAMBE

CREW #1

PUT A HOLD ON THE CACCIATORE.

ALL

POT PIE, DEEP FRY-

CREW #2

PARK THAT POULET

CREW #3  
IT'S THE SAME OLD STORY!

ALL  
WOW!

CREW #4  
I LOVE THOSE CHICKEN CROQUETTE!

ALL  
I NEED A CHICKEN CROQUETTE!

CREW #1  
WITH LUMPY GRAVY AND DRIPPINGS TOSSED IN.

CREW #2  
A TASTE YOU'LL NEVER FORGET.

CREW #3  
TAIN'T NOTHING BETTER, YOU BET!

CREW #4  
THEY TASTE SO GOOD  
THEY'LL BE BANNED IN BOSTON!

ALL  
MMM-HMMM!! CROQUETS YOU CAN'T  
BUY IN A STORE...

CREW #1  
WITH TASTE YOU'RE  
GONNA DIE FOR!

CREW #2  
THAT'S RIGHT!

ALL  
BETTER THAN GOOD EVER GETS, JUST GIVE ME CHICKEN CRO-

*(By now the CREW is served and they sit happily eating as CARLOTTA enters and skulks down to the abandoned lunch cart; her atomizer ready for action.)*

CARLOTTA  
Oh, look. Luncheon pour tout l'ensemble.  
*(SHE crosses to the serving trays)*  
Now what to whammy? But what have we here?  
*(Takes the cover off the tray revealing chicken croquettes.)*  
Chicken Croquettes?  
*(SHE pulls out her atomizer. The MUSIC pulses "XAMBRUSIA".)*  
XAMBRUSIA... this gives them an aroma irresistibly seductive!  
*(SHE sprinkles Xambrusia on the croquettes and takes a slug.)*  
XAMBRUSIA... this gives it that certain KICK!  
(MORE)

CARLOTTA (CONT'D)

*(Another sprinkle. SHE dabs some behind her ears.)*

THE TEENIEST SOUPÇON IS ALL THAT YOU NEED...

*(SHE hiccups, accidentally dumping the entire contents. The croquettes burst into smoke!)*

Oops. That's odd.

*(At the tables, the CREW begin sniffing the air.)*

*(The intoxicating difference in the aroma of the whammied croquettes is so intense, that DEX, DAPHNE and EDWIN enter looking for the source of the inebriating, chickeny fragrance.)*

OH!	ALL	*
		*
THAT SAVORY...	DEX	*
		*
OH!	ALL	*
		*
THOSE SIZZLING...	DAPHNE	*
		*
OH!	ALL	*
		*
THAT SUCCULENT...	EDWIN	*
		*
SUDDENLY WHILE...	DEX, DAPHNE AND EDWIN	
...I AM PACKING MY VALISES...	EDWIN	
SUDDENLY WHILE...	ALL	
...I PREPARE FOR MY DEBUT...	DAPHNE	
SUDDENLY WHILE...	ALL	
...MY CONFIDENCE INCREASES...	DEX	
I GET A CRAZY CRAVING FOR... OH!	ALL	

RLOTTA  
*(to DAPHNE)*  
CARE FOR A CHICKEN CROQUETTE?

*(Crowding round CARLOTTA who holds  
the smoking serving dish aloft.)*

ALL

I NEED A CHICKEN CROQUETTE!  
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD THAT MATTERS  
EXCEPT FOR CHICKEN CROQUETTES!

DAPHNE

I CRAVE EACH CRUMB FROM  
THEIR DEEP FRIED BATTER.

CARLOTTA

*(to CREW)*

Don't shove!

ALL

I'LL TAKE A CRUNCHY CHICKEN BALL

DEX

OR I'LL TAKE NOTHING AT ALL!

ALL

TASTES GREAT!

CARLOTTA

*(to DAPHNE)*

WHY DON'T YOU TRY ONE?

ALL

YOU BET!  
GIVE ME A CHICKEN CROQUETTE!

*(SHE gives DAPHNE a croquette, EDWIN  
reaches behind her and takes one,  
DEX takes the tray from her and  
attempts to get one but, the tray  
is taken from DEX by CREW #4, who  
takes a croquette, passes it to  
CREW #3, who does the same and  
passes it to CREW #2 and CREW #1  
who passes it bsck to CARLOTTA.*

*ALL are served, sans DEX, and  
joyously ALL take a bite. One by  
one, the CREW, then EDWIN and DAPHNE  
drop seemingly lifeless to the floor!)*

DEX

Oh, my God! My God! She's dead!

\*  
\*

*(DYABLIK ENTERS surveying the scene.)*

DYÁBLIK

She's WHAT?!?!?

CARLOTTA

No, darling. She's just dozing.

DEX

*(to EDWIN)*

He's dead!

\*

\*

CARLOTTA

No, they just seem dead. (re EDWIN) Especially him. When I played Juliet in summer stock... Look I'll show you. (*Tastes*) This doesn't seem right.

*(SHE keels over.)*

DEX

Daphne! Baby! Oh no... Oh no!! They're ALL dead!

\*

\*

DYÁBLIK

...and before making the picture! This has never happened before!

DEX

*(re CREW)*

Look at the Crew!

\*

\*

\*

DYÁBLIK

They don't count. They're on a different contract.

\*

\*

DEX

Oh, no!

DYÁBLIK

Abra, call the Agents! Kadabra, call Publicity! We must make the moisture of the opportunity. We will recast, Mr. Webster. The show goes on... And on... And on!

\*

\*

DEX

DAPHNE...!

DYÁBLIK

Make the cast bigger!

DEX

DAPHNE...!

DYÁBLIK

Bring me more actors!

ALL

DAPHNE!

*(DYÁBLIK laughs delightedly as lights fade.)*

ACT TWO

SCENE II

**OUTSIDE THE GATES OF DYÁBLIK STUDIOS - OVER THE NEXT THREE DAYS LATER**

*(Lights up on HEDDA HOPPER)*

HEDDA HOPPER

Hedda Hopper in Hollywood where tragedy has struck Dyáblik Studios. Some say it was the chicken croquettes but, rumor has it, it was not the chicken croquettes but murder most fowl. Be it homicide, suicide or salmonella, one thing is certain: those actors will never eat lunch in this town again!

*(NEWSBOY, with his daily Variety hot off the press, enters with a sign reading "NEWS FLASH!")*

NEWSBOY

Extra! Extra! Actors Croak on Croquettes! Read all about it!  
*(HE exits.)*

*(ABRA enters in front of the curtain wearing a black fedora, tuxedo jacket and showing lots and lots of leg and carrying a large red contract like a cane.)*

ABRA

IF YOU'RE DONE  
WITH BEING UNDESIRE  
IF YOU'RE BLUE  
DUE TO YOU GETTING FIRED  
IF YOU'RE SICK OF BEING  
SICK AND TIRED  
SIGN WITH MALATOFF DYÁBLIK!

*(KADABRA enters in matching outfit and Contract.)*

KADABRA

IF YOUR LIFE STINKS...  
STUCK DOWN IN THE PITS?  
IF YOU CAN'T  
CLEAR UP YOUR DEBTS OR ZITS  
WHO WORKS MAGIC  
LIKE IT WAS JUJITSU?

BOTH

CALL ON MALATOFF DYÁBLIK!  
WHO CAN MAKE YOU STAND OUT IN A CROWD?

ABRA

WHO CAN MAKE YOU RICH?

KADABRA

AND WELL ENDOWED?

BOTH  
ONLY MR. MALATOFF DYÁBLIK  
MALLEY'S YOUR PALLY.  
HE CAN MAKE THE PRICKLY CUDDLE-Y.

KADABRA  
MAKE A QUASIMODO...

ABRA  
...STUD-LY!

BOTH  
SIGN WITH MALATOFF DYABUHLIK!  
SIGN WITH MALATOFF DYABUHLIK!  
SIGN WITH MALATOFF DYABUHLIK NOW!

*(NEWSBOY crosses again with the following day's addition. HE spins the sign which reads: THIS JUST IN!)*

NEWSBOY  
Extra! Extra! Open call for Actors at Dyáblik Studios!

*(HE exits as lights up on WALTER WINCHELL)*

WALTER WINCHELL  
Good evening Mr. and Mrs. North and South America and all the ships at sea. Two days after the "Croquette Massacre" hordes of Hollywood hopefuls continue to mob the studio gates clamoring to be cast in the latest Dex Webster picture. Look at them out there, trampling over each other to get in. Look at that poor woman crushed to a pulp. But she's got a contract! Oh the humanity!

*(Lights cross fade to ABRA and KADABRA returning for an encore with DYÁBLIK, also in full tuxedo and contract, strutting between them.)*

DYÁBLIK, ABRA & KADABRA  
WHO CAN FILL THE FIRMAMENT WITH HOPE?

KADABRA  
WHO CAN PUT "CAN DO"...

ABRA  
...IN CANTALOUPE?

ABRA & KADABRA  
WHO FILMS SINNERS...

DYÁBLIK  
ONLY IN SINNERMASCOPE?

DYÁBLIK, ABRA & KADABRA  
SIGN WITH MALATOFF DYÁBLIK  
WHO MAKES BREATH FRESH WITHOUT PEPSODENT?

DYÁBLIK

ME!

DYÁBLIK, ABRA & KADABRA  
WHO CAN CAN GET YOUR FEET IN WET CEMENT?

DYÁBLIK

TURN A PUTZ  
INTO A PRESIDENT!

DYÁBLIK, ABRA & KADABRA

MALLEY'S YOUR PALLY.  
ARE YOU JADED? ARE YOU JITTERY?

DYÁBLIK

YOU CAN GO FROM...

KADABRA

...GLUM...

DYÁBLIK

...TO...

ABRA

...GLITTERY!

ALL

SIGN WITH MALATOFF DYABUHLIK!  
SIGN WITH MALATOFF DYABUHLIK!

*(THEY EXIT. LIGHTS up on NEWSBOY  
with the next day's paper as LOUELLA  
PARSON'S breathlessly reports.)*

NEWSBOY

Extra! Extra! Golden Saucer Award nominee Dex Webster missing  
in Action.

LOUELLA PARSONS

This is Louella Parsons reporting live high atop the dome from  
the Griffith Observatory where the coveted Golden Saucers Award  
is about to begin. But the Pharaoh of Sci-Fi, Dex Webster,  
appears to be a no show. But has that dampened the spirits of  
his loveable producer, Malatoff Dyáblík? I should say not.

*(LIGHTS UP on DYÁBLIK, who waves to  
the audience then whistles off stage.  
The red filing cabinet zings on  
stage. ABRA and KADABRA strut back  
on followed by the NEWSBOY, HEDDA  
HOPPER and WALTER WINCHELL. LOUELLA  
PARSONS falls in line as DYÁBLIK  
hands each of them a contract.)*

HEDDA HOPPER

WHO CAN GUARANTEE BAD LUCK REVERSED?

WALTER WINCHELL

WHO BLOWS BUBBLES SO STRONG THEY'VE NEVER BURST

LOUELLA PARSONS  
WHO CAN MAKE ICE CREAM OUT OF LIVERWURST?

ALL  
WHO TAUGHT GRETA GARBO HOW TO TALK?

DYÁBLIK  
WHO MADE ALFRED HITCH-  
COCK OF THE WALK?

KADABRA  
IT WAS MALATOFF DYABUHLIK!

ABRA  
SIGN WITH MALATOFF DYABUHLIK!

ALL  
SIGN WITH MALATOFF DYABUHLIK NOW!

ACT TWO

SCENE III

**SOUND STAGE 13 - MIDNIGHT**

*(The sign's restored to "SOUND STAGE 13.")*

*The sound stage door opens, casting an eerie light. DEX enters holding a bottle in one hand and a trash basket in the other. HE has been drinking and looks terrible. HE goes to where he last held DAPHNE in his arms.)*

**[15] MUSICAL NUMBER: "WE WERE MADE FOR EACH OTHER"**

DEX

THE LAST TIME I CAME HERE  
I CAN NEVER FORGET:  
I LOST MY TRUE LOVE  
TO A CHICKEN CROQUETTE...  
DAPHNE... DAPHNE... DAPHNE...

*(HE removes from the trash can DAPHNE'S framed picture, her diary, votive candles, an aerosol can and a bag of lemon drops. HE turns the trash can over and lovingly builds a shrine.)*

A candle for your memory...

*(HE lights a candle.)*

A can of pesticide for protection.

*(HE takes out a can of pesticide and sprays the alter.)*

*(Sadly, HE eats a lemondrop and washes it down with a slug from his bottle. As he lights another CANDLE, DAPHNE'S GHOST materializes, wearing a white tulle shroud and having a very bad day. DEX can't believe his eyes.)*

**[16] MUSICAL NUMBER: "HOW IN THE HELL DID THIS HAPPEN?"**

DAPHNE

OOOOO-AHHHHHHH!

DEX

Daphne?

DAPHNE

OOOO-AHHHHHHH!

DEX

Daphne?!

DAPHNE

OOOOO-AHHHAHAHAHAH!

DEX

DAPHNE!!



DAPHNE  
I'm dead, Hun. It's nothing personal.

*(THEY sigh miserably. DEX looks over her shoulder and suddenly screams. CARLOTTA and EDWIN materialize.)*

\*  
\*  
\*

CARLOTTA AND EDWIN  
OOOOO-AHHHHHAHHH!

CARLOTTA  
THOSE ANGELS WERE WORSE THEN THAT SULFUROUS STENCH!

EDWIN  
THE RIDE DOWN TO HELL IN THAT HANDCART -

CARLOTTA  
DON'T MENTSH'N IT!!

EDWIN  
JUST LOOK AT MY HAIR!

CARLOTTA  
YOU SHOULD PARDON MY FRENCH, BUT...

CARLOTTA AND EDWIN  
SON OF A BITCH!

DAPHNE, CARLOTTA, AND EDWIN  
*(to each other)*  
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!? WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?

\*  
\*  
\*

DEX  
FATE CAN BE FICKLE AND FORTUNE IS CRUEL

DAPHNE, CARLOTTA, AND EDWIN  
AHHH! AHHH! AHHH!

\*  
\*

EDWIN  
WE'RE BACK FROM THE GRAVE...

\*  
\*

CARLOTTA  
...WEARING SOME SORT OF TULLE.

\*  
\*

DAPHNE  
I'VE CHANGED OVERNIGHT  
FROM A GIRL TO A GHOUL!

\*  
\*  
\*

ALL  
HOW IN THE HELL DID THIS HAPPEN?  
HOW IN THE HELL DID THIS HAPPEN?

\*  
\*  
\*

*(DEX screams in fright as CARLOTTA and EDWIN materialize also in tulle; THEY are livid!)*

\*  
\*  
\*

*(The GHOSTS finish up glaring at DEX accusingly.)*

DEX

Oh, Daphne...

*(HE goes to KISS her.)*

...You're so cold.

DAPHNE

I'm dead, hun! It's nothing personal.

DEX

The papers say you ate a chicken croquette that had a chemical reaction with Zamboni... Zimbabwe...

EDWIN  
Xambrusia?! Carlotta, you didn't!

CARLOTTA  
What makes you think I would...

EDWIN  
You DID!

CARLOTTA  
I didn't.

EDWIN  
You went on a bloody tear with the blinking Xambrusia and whammied us into oblivion with the flaming chicken croquettes!?!

CARLOTTA  
Nobody offered you a croquette. It was meant for her.

DAPHNE  
Me? Why me? We weren't even introduced, I only met you in passing when you were passed out.

*(CARLOTTA lunges for DAPHNE who jumps right on her. DEX and EDWIN pull the women apart.)*

DEX  
It's all my fault baby. If I hadn't signed that damned contract you wouldn't be in this position.

DAPHNE  
You tried to warn me, Dexter.

DEX  
I know, baby.

DAPHNE  
I didn't do it for the fame or fortune.

DEX  
I know, baby.

DAPHNE  
I just wanted a happy ending and a good night's sleep. What are we going to do?

DEX  
I don't know, baby.  
*(grimly determined)*  
But I'm going to do something.

EDWIN  
What could you possibly do?  
*(refers to the contract)*  
We signed the contract. It's right here in red and white: Once we complete our first motion picture, we get the moon and the stars.

CARLOTTA

But we didn't get to make the picture.

DEX

No, you didn't get to make the picture...

DAPHNE

The picture! The picture! You're all obsessed with the picture!

DEX

*(realizing)*

Wait! (Beat) You didn't make the picture...

CARLOTTA

And now we're stuck haunting a soundstage, darling!

DEX

But you didn't make the picture! You didn't make the picture!

DAPHNE

Dexter, you're repeating yourself.

DEX

Don't you see? Dyáblik can't claim your souls! You didn't make the picture! He has no power over you.

*(The Soundstage door cracks open.)*

DEX

It's Dyáblik. Dematerialize - stage right.

*(The GHOSTS recede into the shadows. DYÁBLIK, ABRA and KADABRA enter in formal dress, carrying champagne and several coveted Golden Saucer awards. The GIRLS surround DEX and start to needle him.)*

ABRA

Look who's here.

KADABRA

The boy genius!

DYÁBLIK

I told you he'd be here. Do I know my customers?

KADABRA

You've got a wheelbarrow filled with Coveted Golden Saucer Awards out there.

ABRA

It was a royal flush, honey. You swept the awards.

\*  
\*

DYÁBLIK

You're the Crumb de la Creme. We even beat "Frankenstein's Fetus."

KADABRA

*(the "critic")*

That film was an abortion.

\*

DYÁBLIK

Congratulations, Mr. Director.

ABRA

You don't look very happy, handsome.

KADABRA

*(whispering - referring to the Daphne shrine)*

He's still mourning.

BOTH

Awwwww.

*(THEY laugh.)*

DYÁBLIK

You should get some sleep, my little Coveted Award Winner. You have a big day of filming tomorrow.

DEX

You have a big day of filming tomorrow. I quit.

DYÁBLIK

*(to Abra)*

Listen on him.

KADABRA

You can't quit Fame cold turkey!

ABRA

It's not going to be pretty, Mister. The sweets, the shakes...

\*

\*

KADABRA

That's "sweats."

\*

\*

*(DYÁBLIK spies Dex's shrine to Daphne and laughs as he picks up her diary.)*

DYÁBLIK

Now I understand. It's because of that little lost soul with the reoccurring nacht traums??

\*

\*

KADABRA

*(Re the diary)*

I'm sad too. We're runing out of her entries.

\*

\*

\*

DEX

That's right. And all the others. It's got to stop.

\*

DYÁBLIK

And you're the one to stop me? You're going to hell anyway and I can get a NEW drektor like that. We're already recast...

KADABRA

We've signed up the entire San Fernando Valley.

\*

\*

ABRA  
...With a call for 6:00 a.m.

DEX  
(*He has an idea*)  
You don't say?

DYÁBLIK  
I did. So, there's plenty of time to find your replacement.  
Skid row is full of dreamers.

DEX  
It won't do you any good, Dyáblik. The thing is...

DYÁBLIK  
What thing? There is no thing! I'm the thing; you're nothing!!

DEX  
That may be true, but you got yourself a little situation here  
that will definitely put the shemozzle on your shoot tomorrow.

DYÁBLIK  
What kind of a shemozzle?

DEX  
Them.

GHOSTS  
(*appearing*)  
AHHHHHHHHHHH! AHHHHHHHHHHH! AHHHHHHHHHHH!

KADABRA  
They're spooks!

DEX  
Very, very upset spooks.

ABRA  
What the hell are they doing here?

DEX  
They're haunting your soundstage.

(*DAPHNE knocks over a camera, EDWIN  
turns over a light-stand, CARLOTTA  
chews the scenery.*)

ABRA  
They can't be here when the actors arrive!

DYÁBLIK  
Get rid of them immediately! Immediately!

ABRA  
With what? A vacuum cleaner?

DEX  
Only you can get rid of them, Mr. D.

DYÁBLIK  
What do you expectorate me to do?

[17] MUSICAL NUMBER: "BRING THEM BACK!"

DEX

BRING THEM BACK.

DYÁBLIK

I can't.

DEX

YOU CAN TOO.  
BRING THEM BACK!

DYÁBLIK

*(looking heavenward)*

HOW? I'M NOT YOU-KNOW-WHO.

DEX

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.  
I KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO.  
YOU MUST BRING THEM BACK.

DYÁBLIK

And if not?

DEX

AND IF NOT...

*(The GHOSTS begin to move objects about which seem, to the dismay of ABRA and KADABRA, to be "levitating" in mid air.)*

DAPHNE, CARLOTTA,  
AND EDWIN

BOO! BOO! BOO!  
BOO! BOO! BOO!  
BOO! BOO! BOO!

DYÁBLIK

Are they serious?

DEX

Dead serious.

DEX (CONT'D)

The last thing you want on a movie set is a bunch of moaning and chain rattling.

EDWIN

Flying furniture is the worst thing for an actor's concentration.

CARLOTTA

Displaced spirits can be very destructive.

DAPHNE

Ahhhhhhhhh!

*(DAPHNE distracts KADABRA with her diary then yanks her hair!)*

KADABRA

You'd be a dead woman if you weren't dead already, honey!

DEX

Who could work under these conditions?

DAPHNE

BRING US BACK!  
BREAK THE CURSE.  
BRING US BACK!  
IT'S NOT HARD TO REVERSE.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

EDWIN

CALL AN EXORCIST!

DAPHNE

CALL THE COPS!

CARLOTTA

CALL A NURSE!

GHOSTS

YOU MUST BRING US BACK!

DEX

YOU MUST BRING THEM BACK!

DYÁBLIK

If I don't....?

GHOSTS

BOO! BOO! BOO!  
BOO! BOO! BOO!

*(DAPHNE yanks ABRA's hair)*

ABRA

Make her stop!

*(And Poof! The GHOSTS disappear!)*

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

DEX

They really have you behind the eightball. What if while you're filming- they materiaize?

*(The GHOSTS materialize on cue.)*

GHOSTS

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

DEX

You know how superstitious actors are.

CARLOTTA

No more actors...

DAPHNE

No more souls.

EDWIN

We'll haunt every sound stage you work on...



DEX

I can't crank out a movie in just six hours!

DYÁBLIK

Now is the only time slot available. And if you fail, I will own all of your souls and all the rights to her diarrhea.

DAPHNE

My diarrhea?

DYÁBLIK

Yes, darlink. I'm only making you actress to get you under contract and after contract goes into infect, I would keep you on mine staff as head waiter.

ABRA &amp; KADABRA

Writer.

DAPHNE

*(outraged)*

You tricked me!

DYÁBLIK

No, darlink, I wouldn't say that.

DAPHNE

But that's what you did.

DYÁBLIK

I know, darlink, but I wouldn't say it. So now, Mr. Webster, there are only three possibilities. They can can haunt the soundstage, you can try to save their puny souls and be free, or *(to DAPHNE)* you will live miserably ever after turning your nacht traums into beautiful, glorious giant mutated bug pictures into purpletwotitty.

ABRA &amp; KADABRA

Perpetuity.

DYÁBLIK

So...is deal?

DEX

It is; If...

DYÁBLIK

"IF?"

DEX

If I finish this flick by 6:00a.m., you never make another movie again.

*(DYÁBLIK grimly considers his options and a bright smile suddenly wreathes his face.)*

DYÁBLIK

All right. Is deal. Abra!

Yes sir! ABRA  
Kadabra! DYÁBLIK  
Yes sir! KADABRA  
Bring forth... DYÁBLIK  
Bring forth... ABRA & KADABRA  
The addendum! ALL

DYÁBLIK  
SIGN YOUR NAME  
AND YOU'LL BE  
LIKE THE YOUNG MAN  
THAT YOU USED TO BE.  
JUST AN UNEMPLOYED  
LITTLE NOBODY NOTHING!

*(ABRA presents the new glowing contract.)*

GHOSTS  
AHH - AHH!  
AHH - AHH!  
AHH - AHH! AHH - AHH!

DEX  
I'LL BRING THEM BACK!

DYÁBLIK  
 TRY AND BRING THEM BACK  
 IF YOU CAN!

ABRA  
 'NITIAL HERE.

DEX  
 YES I CAN!

KADABRA  
 'NITIAL THERE.

DEX & DYÁBLIK  
 AND BY DAWN...

ALL  
 WE'LL BE FREE!

*(DEX signs. THEY shake hands. Once again DYÁBLIK circles DEX with his index finger as ABRA and KADABRA revolve around DEX doing their magician's assistant routine. LIGHTNING FLASHES. THUNDER ROLLS. POOF! The girls part to reveal DEX dressed once again as an unemployed light bulb screwdriver-complete with vest, light bulb basket and hat.)*

DAPHNE  
 Dexter?

EDWIN  
 He looks lost.

DAPHNE  
 He's not lost.

DYÁBLIK  
 He looks lost.

DEX  
 I'm not lost!

DYÁBLIK  
 You, Little Soul, have the whole studio at your disposal. And my full cooperation.

DEX  
 "Full cooperation?"

DYÁBLIK  
 Correct. And my word, as you know, is my bong. All right, Mr. Drecktor...

*(HE snaps his fingers. ABRA brings out a large red director's chair and DYÁBLIK pushes DEX into it.)*



(The LIGHTS close in on DEX as the  
CREW pepper him with production  
questions. Confused and overwhelmed  
DEX retreats into his thoughts.)

DEX

MY WHOLE LIFE'S LIKE MY MOVIES:  
IT MADE NO DIFFERENCE.  
OUT OF FO-  
CUS, ALL GRAINY, BAD LIGHT.  
I JUST WANT TO MAKE SOMETHING  
TO TOUCH SOMEBODY'S SOUL -  
BUT THE SCRIPT  
THAT I GOT  
WASN'T RIGHT.

CREW

REWRITES FOR THE SCRIPT-  
PAD THE SCENES OR PAGES RIPPED?

DEX

IN MY DREAMS I MADE MOVIES  
THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE,  
IN MY LIFE  
I'M JUST GRINDING OUT SCHLOCK.  
IN MY DREAMS I MAKE MOVIES  
THAT TOUCH  
SOMEBODY'S SOUL -  
BUT I KNOW ALL MY DREAMS ARE A CROCK.

CREW

DOLLY SHOT? DAY FOR NIGHT?  
NAME THE ANGLE? SET THE LIGHT.

DEX

WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED  
IF I WASN'T SO FRIGHTENED  
OF ENDING UP LESS THAN NOTHING?  
WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED  
IF I HADN'T SOLD OUT?  
COULDN'T I HAVE BEEN SOMETHING?  
MAYBE I CAN BE SOMETHING!  
(HE looks to Heaven.)

I DON'T KNOW  
HOW TO PRAY. CAN  
IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?  
I WOULD TRY  
IF IT MADE ANY SENSE.  
THEN I'D PRAY FOR A WAY  
TO TOUCH SOMEBODY'S SOUL!  
(To Heaven)  
SEND ME A SIGN!  
MAKE IT IMMENSE!  
PUT IT IN NEON  
YOU KNOW THAT I'M DENSE.  
MAKE IT FORTY FEET HIGH,  
LIKE A BEACON THAT LIGHTS UP THE SKY.

DEX (CONT'D)  
CAN I ALTER MY FATE?  
  
IF IT ISN'T TOO LATE

CREW  
DOLLY SHOT? DAY FOR NIGHT?  
WILL DEX WEBSTER GET IT  
RIGHT?  
NAME THE ANGLE. AIM THE  
LIGHT.  
WILL DEX WEBSTER GET IT  
RIGHT?

\*  
\*  
  
\*  
  
\*

DEX  
CAN I STILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
OR EVEN TRY?

\*  
\*  
  
\*

CREW  
WHAT WILL THE DIRECTOR DO?

\*  
\*

*(Silence. DEX is played out.)*

\*

EDWIN  
*(Gently)*  
Mr. Webster, did you ever direct before Dyáblik?

*(DEX doesn't answer.)*

DAPHNE  
He was a production assistant's assistant.

CARLOTTA  
A production assistant?!

DYÁBLIK, ABRA & KADABRA  
...Assistant!!!

ABRA  
And he only had just one eencie beencie job.

KADABRA

...when they were filming the Five Books of Moses  
simultaneously...

ABRA

...And at the same time.

DYÁBLIK

From which he was fired because he was completely incontinent!

ABRA

*(taunting)*

Got a match?

DYÁBLIK

*(with a horse laugh)*

See you in the morning, kidneys!

ABRA & KADABRA

Break a lense!

*(Laughing derisively, DYÁBLIK and  
his HENCHWOMEN slip into the shadows.)*

CREW #1

Boy I hate these late night shoots.

CREW #2

It's Art for a paycheck.

CREW #3

You call this art?

CREW #4

It ain't "Gone With the Wind."

*(THEY laugh)*

DEX

Could I get a little quiet please.

CREW #1

QUIET ON THE SET!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Anything else?

DEX

A little privacy please.

CREW #2

"Privacy?!"

CREW #3

*(a la Boris Karloff)*

Yes, Master.

CREW #1

"Full cooperation"

CREW #2

First they shlep us on, then they shlep us off...

CREW #4

As long as we're on the clock, he can have privacy up the ying yang.

CREW #2

"Ying yang?" I never realized you were such a word-smith...

\*  
\*

*(THEY exit.)*

DEX

Before we begin, I just want to say...

CARLOTTA

We're doomed! Doomed! DOOMED!

EDWIN

Carlotta, my dear...

CARLOTTA

DOOMED!

EDWIN

I must insist: Shut up! Shut up! SHUT UP this instant! Or so help me I will not make this movie and I will never say another word to you until the sun turns ice.

DEX

I just wanted to say...

CARLOTTA

We're doomed! Oh, mon Dieu!

EDWIN

Madame, I am in earnest. You fancy yourself a professional

CARLOTTA

I AM a professional.

EDWIN

Then Act like one. For the first time in your career, I want you to do something you have never done before:

CARLOTTA

For instance?

EDWIN

Listen to your director.

CARLOTTA

But he doesn't know the first...

EDWIN

Listen to your director. As if your afterlife depended on it.

*(Chastened, she turns her attention to DEX. Through this show of support, DEX has tapped into something within himself.)*

DEX

Thank you, Edwin. I... just wanted to say...

DAPHNE

We're doomed! We're doomed!

*(DEX holds her gently, but SHE can't look at him)*

DEX

No, no, baby, we're not doomed. No way. Not at all. What I wanted to say is: We've got ourselves a second chance. Like your father says. "It's never too late. I know there's a way." We just can't see the answer... yet. Daphne, look at me.

*(SHE can't bring herself to. HE takes her hand. SHE looks up.)*

Happy endings can't ever happen if you don't believe in them. If I'm given the choice... I believe in them.

*(EDWIN shoves CARLOTTA forward.)*

CARLOTTA

I... I believe.

EDWIN

I believe.

DEX

Do you?

*(SHE kisses his cheek. This is the sign HE needed.)*

DEX (CONT'D)

*(sincerely)*

You know, it's funny. But sometimes, that's all a guy needs.

EDWIN

*(discreetly urgent.)*

Mr. Webster... The time.

*(HE and CARLOTTA exit.)*

DEX

Right! *(beat)* Lights!

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*



(EDWIN appears in his Captain Morton costume)

DEX (CONT'D)  
(suddenly unsure)

Edwin...?

EDWIN  
(coaching)

Set the scene and then rehearse.

DEX  
Set the scene and then rehearse. You are Captain "Salty" Morton of the Space Ship Salt Shaker. Your ship has been sucked into a quasi-stellar vortex and space-jacked by Nova the Slugwoman...

KADABRA

...From Uranus.

DEX  
...who has slimed your ship, your crew and is going to destroy all the salt in the universe.

EDWIN  
I am Captain "Salty" Morton of the Space Ship Salt Shaker. My ship has been sucked into a quasi-stellar vortex and space-jacked by Nova the Slugwoman...

ABRA

...From Uranus.

EDWIN  
...Who has slimed my ship, my crew and is going to destroy all the salt in the universe.

(ABRA snickers as SHE hands CREW #4 the chicken skin mask.)

EDWIN (CONT'D)  
But I won't wear that mask...

DEX  
The only way we can succeed is to beat Dyáblík at his own game. We've got to stick to the script. To the letter.

EDWIN  
Stiff upper, sir. You can depend on that.

DEX  
Thank you. Let's get started, "Captain".

**[19] MUSICAL NUMBER: "THE SLUG WOMAN FROM URANUS"**

DEX (CONT'D)  
(Directing EDWIN)  
SHIP'S... IN... DISREPAIR...

EDWIN  
*(envisioning)*  
SHIP'S IN DISREPAIR... (GASP!)

DEX  
CREW...IS...IN...DESPAIR...

EDWIN  
CREW...IS...IN...DESPAIR... (GASP!)

DEX  
THERE'S NO TIME FOR NOVA'S SLIMED YOU

EDWIN  
PANIC STRICKEN...

DEX  
SKIN LIKE CHICKEN...

EDWIN  
*(objecting to the chicken skin mask)*  
THIS IS TOO HEINOUS!

DEX  
*(insisting)*  
Sorry.

EDWIN  
*(stepping up to the plate)*  
HARD TO CATCH MY BREATH... (GASP!)

DEX  
HARD TO CATCH YOUR BREATH

\*  
\*

EDWIN  
GETTING CLOSE TO DEATH. (GASP!)

DEX  
NOW YOU GOT IT!

\*  
\*

EDWIN AND DEX  
WITHOUT ANY SALT  
THERE'S NO WAY TO HALT

ALL  
THE SLUGWOMAN FROM URANUS!

DEX  
Reahearsing. And Action!

*(Eerie electronic "space" Theremin music. Sign flips to read "CAPTAIN'S CABIN". EDWIN as CAPTAIN SALTY MORTON writes in his log)*

CAPTAIN  
Captain's log. Midnight. All sodium supplies abated. All morale depleted. Hope running on empty. First Mate, Bosun and Cook - dead. Slimed by Nova the Slugwoman.  
(MORE)

\*  
\*

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

Symptoms: slimy jaundiced appearance to flesh accompanied by a myriad of lilliputian pimples followed by spontaneous regeneration of the skin to its former luster after which death follows within the hour. Agony. Excruciating. Poor men. But their skin look lovely. Damn, damn, damn you, Nova.

*(Knock on the door)*

STRANGE WOMAN'S VOICE

*(behind door)*

Captain, may I speak with you?

CAPTAIN

Who's there? What is it?

STRANGE WOMAN'S VOICE

It's... it's about the Maid.

CAPTAIN

The Maid?!

*(springing to his feet)*

Penelope? Is she hurt? Is she all right?

*(HE rushes out the door. A horrible slimy sucking noise is heard accompanied by the CAPTAIN'S screams.)*

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

*(behind the door)*

No...! No...! Nova!!!!!!

*(HE staggers back in wearing the infamous mask of chicken skin and collapses, writhing at his desk.)*

DEX

Aaaaaaaand Cut! Now we're cookin'! We're moving on!

ALL

MOVING ON WE'RE MOVING ON WE'RE MOVING ON WE'RE MOVING ON

DEX

Carlotta!

*(CARLOTTA enters wearing a space wig and space maid's outfit)*

CARLOTTA

Metteur en scène!

EDWIN

*(coaching)*

Set the scene and then rehearse.

DEX

Rodger!

EDWIN  
(*correcting him*)

Edwin.

DEX

I'm getting it!

EDWIN  
(*understanding*)

Rodger!

DEX

Carlotta, by all appearances, you are the ship's maid.

CARLOTTA

Really.

DEX

But in reality you are a secret double alien agent from Alpha Centauri...

CARLOTTA  
(*surprised*)

Really?

DEX

...whose top secret mission is to search out and destroy Nova the Slug Woman from Uranus.

CARLOTTA  
(*delighted*)

Really?!?!

EDWIN

Should have read the script...

[20] MUSICAL NUMBER: "INCOGNITO"

DEX

NOBODY KNOWS YOU'RE TRAVELING INCOGNITO.

CARLOTTA

How exciting!

DEX

EVERYONE'S TAKEN IN BY YOUR DISGUISE.

CARLOTTA

I adore subterfuge.

DEX

NOBODY KNOWS THAT ON YOUR FACE  
YOU WEAR AN INCH OF MAKE UP BASE  
SO YOUR NATURALLY GREEN COMPLEXION...

CARLOTTA

Green?!

DEX  
PASSES UNDER THEIR KEEN INSPECTION.

CARLOTTA  
I understand.

DEX  
YOU LOVE AN EARTHLING...

CARLOTTA  
OH! THAT'S RATHER SWEET...

DEX  
The Captain.

CARLOTTA  
"Salty?"

DEX  
ALTHOUGH INTERGALACTIC LOVE AFFAIRS ARE TABOO.

CARLOTTA  
The Earthling's are so provincial.  
SUFFICE IT TO SAY, I'M OBVIOUSLY DISCREET.

DEX & CARLOTTA  
FOR IF HE  
EVER SHOULD LEARN  
YOUR/MY SECRET  
YOU'LD/WE'LD BE THROUGH!

DEX  
Make up!

*(CREW #4 slams her with a giant powder puff. Crew #3 sets the sign that says "CAPTAIN'S BRIDGE")*

CREW #3  
The Maid Scene.  
*(HE slams the clapboard.)*

DEX  
Ready to rehearse. And Action!

*(Lights up on Captains Bridge, a fifties style rocket control counsel with a large "Anti Vortex Confrabulator," a cheesy special effects machine, featuring a very large circle with a red and white vertigo design.*

*CARLOTTA, as the MAID, enters with a Feather Duster which she uses as a "Spy camera".)*

*(SHE quickly snaps pictures of the computer devices then dusts them innocently. SHE looks about furtively to ensure SHE is alone. She then snaps her feather duster in two and speaks into the feathers as a mouthpiece, using the handle as a receiver.)*

MAID

Hello Operator, long distance, please: Alpha Centauri 65137. Reverse the charges. Yes, collect. From Agent L-M-N-O-P. No, "P." "P!" What are you deaf? Get me Alpha Centauri 65137! No...7! No... 7!

*(EDWIN, as the CAPTAIN, staggers in, freshly slimed. The MAID quickly snaps her duster together.)*

CAPTAIN

*(looks around, ensuring they're alone)*

Penelope.

MAID

L-M-N-O-P.

CAPTAIN

You're in grave danger, LMNO. I have to get you off this ship.

MAID

You've been hurt.

CAPTAIN

It's nothing. Just a flesh wound.

MAID

Your skin does look lovely. So luminous. So... *(realizing)* Salty! You've been slimed.

CAPTAIN

Yes...

MAID

That Slutwoman.

CAPTAIN

Slugwoman. And she'll slime you too if I don't get you out...

*(HE collapses)*

It's too late for me, LMNOP, but not for you.

*(He struggles to get up.)*

Get into the Space pod and I'll turn on the Antivortex Confrabulator.

\*

MAID

*(pointing to the Confrabulator)*

Is that a Confrabulator?

\*

CAPTAIN

Yes.

*(SHE snaps pictures of the  
Confrabulator with her duster.)*

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

By the black mole of Lincoln, I can't get up. I can't feel my leg!

MAID

*(Rushing to him)*

It's the antigens spreading through your system. Quick, Salty. Give me your elbow.

CAPTAIN

My elbow?

MAID

I'm gonna suck out the venom!

CAPTAIN

But she slimed my foot.

MAID

Then suck on MY elbow. It's the only way.

CAPTAIN

Listen to me, LMNOP. I love you, damn it, and I know you mean well. But you can't save me from the Slugwoman.

*(HE caresses her face)*

You're only a maid.

*(HE recoils in horror)*

Jumping Jupiter! Your face!

MAID

Femme Fatale Gastropodis doesn't make class distinctions, Captain!

*(SHE turns to the audience revealing green skin where EDWIN has touched her.)*

I may look like just a simple Chambermaid's daughter, but in reality -

*(SHE pulls off her wig revealing two big "Martian" antennae popping up out of the back.)*

I am a secret double alien agent from Alpha Santouri and my Deoxyribonucleic acid possesses the only know antidote in the universe to neutralize the slime of the Femme Fatal Gastropodus.

CAPTAIN

I didn't... how could I....

MAID

Now suck on my elbow and LIVE!

*(The music swells. As the lights begin their fade, SHE takes out her atomizer and sprays first her elbow then her throat.)*

\*

\*

\*

\*

EDWIN  
(*breaking character*)

What is that?

CARLOTTA  
(*lying*)

Disinfectant.

EDWIN

Carlotta!

DEX

CUT!

CREW #3

CUT!

KADABRA

That's not in the script.

\*  
\*

EDWIN

It's Xambrusia! You have a real problem!

\*  
\*

CARLOTTA

My only problem is I don't have a digestive system.

\*  
\*

ABRA

That's not even in her diary.

\*  
\*

EDWIN

Amateur!

CARLOTTA

Asshole!

DEX

Cuuuuuuuuuuut!

CARLOTTA  
(*thinking DEX said another "C" word.*)

How dare you!

DEX

I said "Cut." Now listen you two. We don't have time for this kind of baloney. We have to stick to the script or we're all washed up. You're both an integral part of the ensemble. We have to work like cogs in a machine! Got it?

CARLOTTA

Yes, sir.

EDWIN

Yes, sir.

DEX

Good! We're moving on!

ALL

MOVING ON WE'RE MOVING ON WE'RE MOVING ON WE'RE MOVING ON

DEX

Abra! Kadabra! I need you in this scene. \*

ABRA & KADABRA

IN the scene?

DEX

*(to Dyablik))*

You said "Full Cooperation"

CREW

Full Cooperation!

DYÁBLIK

Be cooperational.

*(ABRA & KADABRA warily cross to set.)*

DEX

Daphne!

*(DAPHNE comes forward, in SlugWoman costume. She is very uncomfortable.)*

DAPHNE

Dexter...

DEX

Nova, the Slug Woman, is on a rampage.

DAPHNE

Dexter...

DEX

She's sliming the crew and is going to blow the ship's cargo of salt to oblivion.

DAPHNE

Dexter....

DEX

What is it?

DAPHNE

*(SHE looks at the camera and freezes.)*

I'm not an actress. I can't do this.

DEX  
(Shooting him daggers)  
Just try, baby. You're a natural.

KADABRA  
We're waiting on the set!

CREW #3  
Attack of the Slug Woman! Rehearsal. Scene 3.

ABRA  
I'm sorry. I don't understand. Who are we supposed to be?

DEX  
The crew of the S.S. Saltshaker.

KADABRA  
And what's our motivation?

DEX  
To not be slimed by the Slugwoman.

ABRA  
And that's bad because...?

DEX  
Remember the chicken skin?!

ABRA & KADABRA  
Right.

DEX  
Aaaaand ACTION!

(CREW #3 claps the board.)

[21] MUSICAL NUMBER: "NO,NO,NOVA!" (PART 1)

ABRA & KADABRA \*  
"NO! NO! NOVA!" \*

(DAPHNE'S mouth moves, nothing comes \*  
out. She's petrified.) \*

DEX \*  
A little louder, baby. . \*

ABRA & KADABRA \*  
"DON'T, DON'T STEP IN..." \*

DEX \*  
(To CREW #2) \*  
Move the camera in closer \*

(CREW #2 zooms in the camera adding \*  
to her anxiety which mounts until \*  
SHE screams.) \*

DAPHNE \*  
AUUUUGH!!!! \*

DEX

CUT!

(DYABLIK ENTERS)

KADABRA

(*breathless and starstruck*)

That was so wonderful!

ABRA

(*ditto*)

I love being an actress!

(*to DYÁBLIK*)

How was I?

DYÁBLIK

(*ignoring them*)

Poor Mr. Webster, the clock keeps tocking and your lead is putrefied with fright. If only there was something I could do.

DEX

(*getting an idea*)

Now that you mention it, there is.

(*gently*)

Daphne, get your costume and give it to him.

DAPHNE

Oh, no, Dexter. You shouldn't have to...

DEX

Trust me, Daphne, I know what I'm doing.

DAPHNE

But Dexter...

DEX

Just go along with me, Baby. I know my customers.

(*to Crew #4*)

Make the alterations.

CREW #4

(*measuring Dyáblik*)

Better pray for enough fabric.

DYÁBLIK

What is she giving me the costume?

DEX

You're going to wear it.

DYÁBLIK

I'm not wearing a costume.

DEX

Oh yes you are. You said full cooperation, Dad, and I'm taking you at your word.

DYÁBLIK

I'm not putting that on. What sentence part word are you not understanding?

\*  
\*

\*  
\*

\*  
\*

\*  
\*

\*  
\*

\*  
\*  
\*

\*  
\*  
\*

DEX

I got witnesses.

DYÁBLIK

All right. Raise your hands. I'm not one of them. What do you think?

DEX

Who heard him say "My word is my bong?"

DYÁBLIK

I'm some sort of actor? Some kind of lesbian?

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

DEX

*(To DAPHNE)*

Daphne, you can play the ship's... um, bar maid.

CREW #2

What's a bar maid doing in a Science Fiction picture?

DEX

Not much.

DAPHNE

Perfect.

DEX

There's no lines, see? All you have to do is serve cocktails and scream.

DAPHNE

Thank you, Dexter.

DEX

*(To Dyáblik)*

Now get in that costume or I'll make sure no actor will sign your lousy contracts again!

ABRA

Now, don't get wrathful, MD!

KADABRA

You've got the profile to do this, you know.

ABRA

Try it!

DYÁBLIK

No. I am not an actor!

DEX

You're better than an actor! You're a producer! Hitchcock does cameos, but you have charisma.

ABRA &amp; KADABRA

You have charisma, MD!

DEX

Remember, Dyáblik: You may have slithered out from under a rock "The Prince of Darkness," but your gonna come crawling back - A Star!

DYÁBLIK

*(He's hooked!)*

A STAR?

*(Off of DYÁBLIK'S reaction, DAPHNE catches on to what DEX is doing.)*

**[22] MUSICAL NUMBER: "LONG LUXURIOUS LASHES (REPRISE)"**

DAPHNE

Oh, Mr. Dyáblik. You are the only one who could do this part  
justice. I may be a just a simple fumigator's daughter, but I  
know a Gastropodus when I see one.

DYÁBLIK

It's the sulfur.

DAPHNE

Oh, no, Mr. Dyáblik. It's your eyes.  
YOU'VE GOT LONG LUXURIOUS LASHES.  
LADIES SEE THEM AND SIGH.

DYÁBLIK

They do?

DAPHNE

LONG LUXURIOUS LASHES  
LIKE THE LEGS OF A FLY.

DYÁBLIK

Thank you.

*(CREW #4 leads him off to change)*

DAPHNE

SOMETIMES PRODUCERS HAVE EYES  
YOU JUST WANT TO ...

DEX

PUNCH OUT;  
EYES LIKE SAM GOLDWYN'S...

DAPHNE

OR DISNEY.

DEX

HEY ISN' 'E LIKE CHAPLIN?

EDWIN

OR KEATON?

DAPHNE

OR HITLER!

CARLOTTA

BUT SWEETENED BY

ALL

LONG LUXURIOUS LASHES...

DEX

UNDULATIN' AND THRILLIN'...

ALL

LONG LUXURIOUS LASHES...

DEX

...POTENT AS PENICILLIN.  
YOU CAN KEEP YOUR MUSTACHES...

ABRA & KADABRA  
*(Suggesting)*

PUBIC HAIR?

DAPHNE

I DECLINE.

DEX

GIVE ME...

ALL

LONG LUXURIOUS LASHES...

DEX & DAPHNE  
 JUST LONG LUXURIOUS LASHES,  
 LONG LUXURIOUS LASHES...

GHOSTS & A&K

\*

AHHH!!! AHHH!

*(DYÁBLIK steps out from the screen  
 in technicolor Slugwoman drag.)*

DYÁBLIK

LIKE MINE!  
 I'm ready for my close up!

CREW #1

Use the 24" lens.

DEX

Now remember you're Nova the Slug Woman and your out to slime every earthling on the S.S. Saltshaker and you're loving it! Aaaaaaand Action!

*(CREW #3 claps the board.)*

**[23] MUSICAL NUMBER: "NO,NO,NOVA!" (PART 2)**

DYÁBLIK, ABRA & KADABRA

"NO! NO! NOVA!"

DYÁBLIK

...THEY WAIL!

DYÁBLIK, ABRA & KADABRA

"DON'T, DON'T STEP IN..."

DYÁBLIK

...MY TRAIL!

*(HE squeezes the air-bulb and a "Snail Trail" rolls out the back of his costume like a New Year's Party favor.)*

WHAT A SHAME ALL THOSE HUMAN BE-IN'S  
 MUST BE BLASTED TO SMITHEREE-INS.

ABRA & KADABRA

NOVA, NO!

DYÁBLIK

HEIGH-DEE-HO!

ABRA & KADABRA

WIPED OUT BY...

DYÁBLIK

ESCARGOT!

*(DAPHNE ENTERS with tray of DRINKS.)*

ABRA &amp; KADABRA

LOOK OUT! SHE'S GONNA SLIME YA!

DYÁBLIK

PREPARE TO DIE!

DAPHNE

AUGHGGGGH!!

*(DAPHNE exits.)*

DYÁBLIK, ABRA &amp; KADABRA

NO, NO NOVA! GOODBYE!

DEX

Cut!

DYÁBLIK

*(exhilarated)*

How was I?

ABRA AND KADABRA

So proud!

DEX

Terrific!

DAPHNE

Dexter, it's nearly dawn!

EDWIN

Look at the time!

DYÁBLIK

*(Swept up in it)*

It really does fly, doesn't it?

DAPHNE

Dexter!

DEX

And now for something I learned as a Production Assistant's Assistant at Pinnacle Studios before I accidentally burned it to the ground.

DAPHNE

That was you?!

DEX

We filmed "The Five Books of Moses" simultaneously...

ABRA

...And at the same time.

DEX

...And that's what we're going to do now!

CREW #1

That's impossible!

CREW #2  
He's gone loco in the coco.

CREW #3  
And I thought the cucarachas were cuckoo.

CREW #4  
It's these late hours. I've seen it before.

DEX  
Quiet on the set!

CREW #1  
Quiet on the set

DEX  
First we'll rehearse...

CREW #1  
First we'll rehearse...

DEX  
...then we'll film all the scenes simultaneously...

CREW #1  
Simultaneously...

DEX  
And then we'll dub it in the mix!

CREW #1  
Dub it in the mix!

DEX  
Is everybody ready?

ALL  
Ready!

DEX  
Aaaaaaaaaaaaaand Action!

**[24] MUSICAL NUMBER: "THE SHOOT"**

*(CREW #3 claps the board. As they sing, DAPHNE wanders with her tray of cocktails from scene to scene, blithely screaming.)*

EDWIN	DYÁBLIK, A&K	CARLOTTA	*
SHIP IN	"NO! NO! NOVA..."	NOBODY KNOWS	*
DISREPAIR GASP!	DYÁBLIK	I'M TRAVELING	
	...THEY WAIL.	INCOGNITO.	
	DEX & CREW		
MOVING ON!	WE'RE MOVING ON!	WE'RE ...	
	DYÁBLIK, A&K		
CREW IS IN	"DON'T, DON'T STEP	EVERYONE'S	
DESPAIR. GASP !	IN... "	TAKEN	
		IN BY MY	
	DYÁBLIK	DISGUISE.	
	...MY TRAIL!		
	DEX & CREW		
MOVING ON!	WE'RE MOVING ON!	WE'RE ...	
THERE'S NO TIME	WHAT A SHAME	NOBODY KNOWS	
		THAT	
I	THESE	ON MY FACE	*
STEPPED IN SLUG SLIME.	HUMAN BE-INS'	I WEAR AN INCH	*
PANIC STRICKEN!		MAKE UP BASE	*
SKIN LIKE CHICKEN!			*
( <i>DAPHNE enters</i> )			*
PANIC STRICKEN!	MUST BE BLASTED	SO MY NATCHRALLY	*
SKIN LIKE CHICKEN!	BLASTED TO	GREEN COMPLEXION	
PAIN IS TOO HEINOUS!	SMITHEREE-INS!	PASSES UNDER THEIR	
( <i>DAPHNE screams</i> )		KEEN INSPECTION	
	DYÁBLIK, A&K		
HARD TO CATCH	NOVA, NO!	I LOVE AN	
MY BREATH! GASP!	DYÁBLIK	EARTHLING WHO	
	HEIGH-DE-HO!!	IS RATHER SWEET;	
	DEX & CREW	ALTHOUGH...	
MOVING ON!	WE'RE MOVING ON!	WE'RE...	
EDWIN	DYÁBLIK, A & K	CARLOTTA	
GETTING CLOSE TO	WIPED OUT BY	...INTERGALACTIC	
		LOVE AFFAIRS ARE	
DEATH! (GASP!)	ESCARGOT!	TABOO.	
	DEX		
MOVING ON!	WE'RE MOVING ON!	WE'RE...	
( <i>DAPHNE enters</i> )			
WITHOUT ANY	LOOK OUT!	SUFFICE IT TO SAY	
SALT	SHE'S GONNA SLIME YA	OBVIOUSLY	
THERE'S NO WAY	DYÁBLIK	DISCREET	
TO HALT	PREPARE TO DIE!	FOR IF	
( <i>DAPHNE screams</i> )		HE	
	A&K	EVER	
THE SLUG WOMAN	NO! NO!	( <i>DAPHNE enters</i> )	
FROM	NOVA!	SHOULD LEARN MY	
		SECRET	
URANUS!	GOODBYE!	WE'D BE THROUGH!	
		( <i>DAPHNE screams</i> )	

\*

DEX  
 WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST! DANG!  
 OUR TIME'S ALMOST DONE!  
 HOLD ONTO YOUR HATS, GANG!  
 LET'S GET IT ONE!  
 LIGHTS! CAMERA! AAAAAAAAAAAAAAND ACTION!

*(The cameras roll and everything speeds up. Everybody doing the same exact movement they were doing but twice as fast.)*

*A strobe light flickers to suggest both the rapid passage of time and the celluloid film itself passing through the camera.)*

EDWIN  
 HARD TO CATCH  
 MY BREATH! GASP!

A&K  
 NOVA, NO!  
 DYÁBLIK  
 HEIGH-DE-HO!!

CARLOTTA  
 I LOVE AN  
 EARTHLING WHO  
 IS RATHER SWEET;  
 ALTHOUGH...

MOVING ON!  
 GETTING CLOSE TO  
 DEATH. GASP!

DEX & CREW  
 MOVING ON! WE'RE MOVING ON!  
 DYÁBLIK, A&K  
 WIPED OUT BY  
 DYÁBLIK  
 ESCARGOT!  
 DEX & CREW

WE'RE...  
 INTERGALACTIC  
 LOVE AFFAIRS  
 ARE TABOO.

MOVING ON!  
*(DAPHNE enters)*  
 EDWIN  
 WITHOUT ANY  
 SALT  
 THERE'S NO WAY  
 TO HALT

WE'RE MOVING ON! WE'RE...  
 A&K  
 LOOK OUT!  
 SHE'S  
 GONNA SLIME YA.  
 DYÁBLIK  
 PREPARE TO DIE!  
*(DAPHNE screams)*

WE'RE...  
 CARLOTTA  
 SUFFICE IT TO SAY  
 I'M  
 OBVIOUSLY  
 DISCREET.  
 FOR  
 IF  
 HE

EDWIN  
 THE  
 SLUG WOMAN  
 FROM  
 URANUS!

DYÁBLIK, A&K  
 DYÁBLIK, A&K  
 NO! NO!  
 NOVA!  
 GOODBYE!

CARLOTTA  
*(DAPHNE enters)*  
 EVER SHOULD LEARN  
 MY SECRET  
 WE'D BE THROUGH!  
*(DAPHNE screams)*

*(The strobe effect stops revealing the Slugwoman's efforts a success. EDWIN, CARLOTTA, DAPHNE, and ABRA & KADABRA are in a final tableau; ALL wearing chicken skin masks)*

DEX  
 CUT! PRINT!  
 MAN, OH MAN!

DEX  
 (MORE)

DEX (CONT'D)

SLUG WOMAN FROM URANUS  
IS IN THE CAN!

*(Off stage a rooster crows the arrival  
of dawn. EVERYBODY cheers.)*

DAPHNE

We made it!

CREW #1

Quitting time!

EDWIN

Good show, Mr. Webster! Highest praise!

CREW #2

What a night.

*(The CREW EXIT.)*

CARLOTTA

Direttore mi amore! Congratulazioni!

ABRA

What happened to the french?

CARLOTTA

I'm so happy, darling, I'm speaking in tongues!

EDWIN

We are the proud owners of our own souls.

CARLOTTA

We're going home... *(wincing)* to Chicester.

*(ABRA and KADABRA begin to snicker.)*

DYÁBLIK

Thank you, Mr. Webster. Thank you from the cocktails of my  
heart. Thanks to you this film will make the studios bigger  
then Kate Smith!

KADABRA

Kate Smith?! That's huge!

\*

DAPHNE

Is he going to actually release the movie?

\*

\*

DYÁBLIK

Think of all the lousy bug bomb movies we'll make - In which I  
will be the star! Think of all the thousands of little souls  
we'll sign...

ABRA

Millions!

KADABRA

Bungabillions!

DYÁBLIK

...Once we make a REAL movie.

DEX

What are you talking about? This was a completely real movie.

DYÁBLIK

As you know, Mr. Webster, I am a man of tremendous foreskin. I knew it was impossible for you to make this picture. Would I ever agree to give up the show businesses if I did not know for certain that ectoplasm does not photograph on film?

CARLOTTA

Ectoplasm?!

ABRA

Ghost Residue.

KADABRA

Any idiot knows ectoplasm's un-photographicable.

DAPHNE

Not any idiot.

KADABRA

Take it up with your attorneys at Marienkafer, Kafke and Kaufman.

DEX

That won't be necessary.

DYÁBLIK

Correct. I own them all.

DEX

Because any idiot knows that chicken skin is photographable.

DYÁBLIK

It's time to pay the pooper, Mr. Webster! There was no one in that movie and your souls belong to me!

DEX

A movie's a movie and a deal's a deal.

DYÁBLIK

And a movie's no movie with no actors!

DEX

And that's where you made your mistake, pal. Hoisted by your own petard.

DYÁBLIK

I don't play the petard.

DEX

But you did play the SlugWoman.

ABRA

And he was fabulous!

DYÁBLIK

Shut up you idiot! Get me the contracts.

*(ABRA & KADABRA exit.)*

DEX

If we didn't have a SlugWoman, we couldn't have made the movie, but thanks to your "full cooperation..."

DAPHNE

...Your name will be forever linked with Nova, like lox with cream cheese!

*(ABRA & KADABRA return with the red filing cabinet looking very concerned)*

DEX

You're no better than the rest of us, Dyablik. You were star struck by stardom. And it was stardom that struck you down!

ABRA

Mr. Dyáblik! Mr. Dyáblik!

DYÁBLIK

What is it you want from me!?!?!?

*(SHE pulls out a contract: It has been restored to white.)*

ABRA

Look. They're white as the driven snow.

KADABRA

They've been fulfilled.

DYÁBLIK

It can't be!

*(Horried, DYÁBLIK checks the contract. Quickly, DEX seizes the contract from his hands.)*

DEX

Which leaves Carlotta DeLongpre! Redeemed!

*(HE rips her contract. DYÁBLIK grabs his heart.)*

DYÁBLIK

No!

DEX

*(Ripping his contract)*

Edwin McMannoff! Redeemed!

DYÁBLIK  
(*writhing*)

NO!

DEX  
(*ripping her contract*)  
Daphne Marienkäfer! Redeemed!

DYÁBLIK  
(*collapsing*)

NO!

DEX  
You're out of show biz, pal. The contracts are fulfilled.  
Malatoff Dyáblik is through! Finito! Floppo!

(*DYÁBLIK collapses. CARLOTTA opens  
the Cabinet drawer and takes out  
DEX's contract.*)

CARLOTTA  
(*to DEX, passing it to EDWIN*)  
Tear up your contract, darling.

EDWIN  
(*Passing it to DAPHNE*)  
Dexter Webster, you are...

DAPHNE  
(*passing it to DEX*)  
Redeemed.

DEX  
Thanks.  
(*With a wink to heaven*)  
Thanks.

(*HE looks at his contract for a moment  
and then tears it up, wads it up  
and hurls it into the sky.*)

(*In response, sparkling confetti  
begins to gently rain down from the  
heavens. ABRA and KADABRA help  
DYABLIK off.*)

DAPHNE  
You did it, Dexter. You finally made a movie that touched souls.

DEX  
I didn't know I was going to be so literal about it.

DAPHNE  
I'm alive! We're alive!

EDWIN  
Oh that this too too solid flesh won't melt!

CARLOTTA

*(handing EDWIN her atomizer)*

Take this, darling. A new leaf.

EDWIN

Petal.

*(The couples embrace and freeze as the lights cross fade to DYÁBLIK'S HEADQUARTERS.*

*ABRA and KADABRA are packing their supplies while DYÁBLIK sulks.)*

DYÁBLIK

I wanted to be a movie star.

I NEVER DREAMED

THEIR SOULS COULD

BE REDEEMED

ALL MY SINISTER SCHEMES

WERE IN VAIN.

SO GRAB ME A PLUNGER

MY LIFE IS FERBLUNGERED

WITH NOTHING BUT PIPE DREAMS

CLOGGING THE DRAIN.

KADABRA

Come on MD. We'll go back to D.C.

ABRA

You love Politics. It's like shooting fish in a barrel.

DYÁBLIK

I hate fish.

ABRA

But you do like shooting them in barrels.

KADABRA

COME ON M.D. Give us a smile.

ABRA

BEWARE OF THE STARS ON THE FLAG

KADABRA

FOR OFTENTIMES GLORY CAN DRAG

A SOUL PATRIOTIC

ABRA

TO DEPTHS IDIOTIC

ABRA & KADABRA

GET LOST

IN WASHINGTON LAND.

ABRA

COME ON BOSS!

KADABRA

YOU MUSTN'T BE GLUM

DYÁBLIK

I'M NOT GLUM!  
THERE'S MUCH MORE SOUL SNATCHING TO COME!  
WE'LL FIND SOME RAT FINK 'N  
CONVINCE HIM HE'S LINCOLN

ABRA

IT WON'T TAKE US LONG JES'  
TO GET BACK IN CONGRESS...

KADABRA

AND ONCE WE'RE THERE THEN IT  
IS TIME FOR THE SENATE

DYÁBLIK, ABRA &amp; KADABRA

GET LOST... LOST... LOST....  
IN WASHINGTONLAND!!!

*(LIGHTS CROSS FADE back to the  
HOLLYWOOD SIGN where DEX and DAPHNE  
admire the clear blue skies over  
Hollywoodland.)*

**[25] MUSICAL NUMBER: "DAPHNE" (REPRISE)**

DEX

DAPHNE, DAPHNE  
OUR LIVES START ANEW NOW

DAPHNE

AND IT SEEMS  
THAT ALL OUR DREAMS ARE  
GONNA COME TRUE NOW.

DEX

I DONT NEED HOLLYWOOD  
FOR A HAPPY ENDING

BOTH

CAUSE I HAVE YOU NOW.

*(As DEX and DAPHNE kiss, the lights  
of the sign dim leaving the sign  
silhouetted against the stars and  
the rising harvest moon.)*

BOTH (CONT'D)

YOU ARE THE ONE  
I'LL LOVE FOREVERMORE!

*(The sign is now dark, but the stars  
begin to gleam.)*

**THE END**