

SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE PEPPER PERPETRATOR

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A Radio Drama

by

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## Characters

\*all have a British accent except for Ingenué & Lance Ryder

### **Narrator**

**Linda VanPatton** - A stage manager that just happens to be a neat freak and Shakespeare Wiz

**Director** - Niles Jamison. There's a lot of "personalities" on his plate.

**Oscar Wilde** - New playwright on the scene, checking out the theatre in town. Witty and charming, just like he was.

**Ingenué** - Kathleen Butterfly. Sick of playing the ingenué all the time. Married to the Leading Man

**Lance Ryder** - Charming and goofy, southerner from the American South.

**Humphrey McOltimer** - One day he'll get to play King Lear

### **Sherlock Holmes**

#### **Watson**

**Juggler** - He tries

**Lestrade** - Police officer in London

## Setting

The Pennypincher's Theatre, 1879

Office of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson

\* (VO) indicates the character is speaking over a sound cue that is continuing, such as a typewriter

**Episode One:****Scene One: Inside the Penny Pincher's Theatre: Day**

1. SOUND WE HEAR AN OLD THEATRE CURTAIN  
SLOWLY OPENING
2. NARRATOR Here we are, back at the old  
Pennypincher's Theatre, London, England, 1875. The cast and  
crew are back at work after their brief hiatus and are  
discussing their new season.
3. SOUND DOOR CREAKING OPEN
4. SOUND WHISTLING, THEN HARD SOLED SHOES  
CROSSING A HARD WOOD STAGE FLOOR
5. (VO) Ah, yes. Linda VanPatton, the  
trusty stage manager. Here, early as usual to get the theatre  
ready for the actors, and also the important people. They're  
coming too. She has opened the curtains and is about to cross  
the bare stage. As always she carries her clipboard, and  
though quite unusual, a washcloth.
6. SOUND SHOES SUDDENLY STOP
7. LINDA Yet, here's a spot
8. NARRATOR She's always been good with  
Shakespeare.
9. SOUND FLOOR BEING SCRUBBED

1. LINDA Oh, will these floors ne'er be cleaned?!
2. SOUND DOOR OPENING AND SHOES ON THE FLOOR
3. DIRECTOR (from off) Ms. VanPatton? Linda? Are you already here?
4. LINDA I'm here, Mr. Jamison. Just finishing up.
5. SOUND FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING  
(DIRECTOR NILES JAMISON has entered with OSCAR WILDE)
6. DIRECTOR Linda I would like you to meet Oscar Wilde. He's a charming new playwright in town and he's going to sit in on our company meeting today.
7. OSCAR WILDE How, do you do, Ms. VanPatton?
8. LINDA I'm fine. Wow. Your accent is so fancy and pretentious.
9. OSCAR WILDE I use cologne for mouthwash
10. LINDA That's strange
11. OSCAR WILDE Thank you.
12. DIRECTOR Linda, I was hoping you could, sort of, take Mr. Wilde under your wing-show him around a little.
13. LINDA Well, alright
14. SOUND KNOCKING AT THE DOOR

1. LINDA                               To bed! To bed! There's a knocking  
at the gate! Fie my Lord, Fie! I'll be back!
2. OSCAR WILDE                       Did she tell you to go to bed?
3. DIRECTOR                            She's quoting Shakespeare
4. OSCAR WILDE                       She's very good
5. SOUND                             SCUFFLE; ARGUING
6. DIRECTOR                            Sounds like someone's here a little  
early. It also sounds like they're a little angry
7. OSCAR WILDE                       In my opinion that's the best way  
to sound.
8. INGENUE (from off)               Where is he? I want to speak to him  
right now!
9. OSCAR WILDE                       I'm assuming she means you.
10. SOUND                            HEAVY HEELED SHOES ACROSS THE  
FLOOR
11. INGENUE                            Mr. Jamison! What's this I hear  
about us performing Romeo and Juliet?!
12. DIRECTOR                           Hello Ms. Butterfly. I hope you  
had a nice Holiday. Where'd we go this year? The Alps?
13. INGENUE                            Spain, but don't change the  
subject! I want to know why in the heck you chose Romeo and  
Juliet? Again?!

1. OSCAR WILDE                                      What's wrong with Romeo and Juliet?  
It's a classic.
2. INGENUE & DIRECTOR                             It's Shakespeare. They're all  
classics!
3. OSCAR WILDE                                      Good point. How do you do Ms.  
Butterfly?
4. INGENUE (rushed an irritated but still a southern lady)  
Charmed I'm sure.
5. DIRECTOR    What's the big deal, Kathleen? You  
play the beautiful, young, innocent Juliet opposite Lance and  
everyone loves you and we can afford to keep our lights on.
6. INGENUE   That's just the thing (She starts  
to cry). This was supposed to be my breakout role. I was to  
play Cleopatra, the headstrong, scheming, brilliant Queen! You  
said so yourself! But, there's no Cleopatra on the schedule!
7. DIRECTOR   There's Lady M
8. INGENUE   That's better..
9. DIRECTOR   Oscar, this is the resident  
Ingenue, Ms. Kathleen Butterfly. She and her husband Lance  
Ryder moved here from the states. As in America. Lance is our  
leading man.
10. OSCAR WILDE                                      Thrilling story. What happens  
next?

1. DIRECTOR (to INGENUE) Look, I know we discussed you playing meatier roles...
2. INGENUE We didn't just discuss it! You promised!
3. DIRECTOR So, I may have promised you would play a meatier role, but box office sales were lower than expected, so we really need something that will bring in an audience.
4. INGENUE But Romeo and Juliet is so overdone. Especially by us!
5. DIRECTOR It's a crowd pleaser
6. INGENUE So? Since when has the theatre cared about pleasing crowds?
7. DIRECTOR The others will be here soon. Why don't you go to your dressing room? Linda will bring you those lovely cucumber sandwiches you like so much.
8. OSCAR WILDE Cucumber sandwiches?
9. DIRECTOR She loves them.
10. INGENUE (through tears) It's only because I could never get something so awful in the states.
11. OSCAR WILDE Makes perfect sense.
12. DIRECTOR Rest now. The others will be here soon.

1. INGENUE (sniffles)                    Okay. Lovely to meet you Mr. Wilde.
2. OSCAR WILDE                            Pleasure's all yours..
3. DIRECTOR                                Sorry about that Mr. Wilde. Where  
were we?
4. OSCAR WILDE                            I believe Linda was making me a  
cucumber sandwich.
5. DIRECTOR                                Indeed. Follow me, Mr. Wilde
6. SOUND                                 FOOTSTEPS MOVING AWAY

**Scene Two: Inside Pennypincher's Theatre: Day**

1. SOUNDS                                 TALKING, HUBHUB, LAUGHING, SINGING,  
PRACTICING SHAKESPEARE IN THE BACKGROUND, MUSIC
2. NARRATOR                                Ah, it's such an exciting feeling  
when all the actors have arrived. The energy is so high, the  
anticipation is so great, the volume level is so unnecessary.  
(it gets quieter) Thank you. Here we are, day one. The singers  
are warming up, the jugglers are here for some reason.
3. JUGGLER                                 They'll use me someday
4. NARRATOR                                Will they, though?
5. JUGGLER                                 The juggle is real!
6. NARRATOR                                Everyone's on the edge of their  
seat, just waiting for their much loved director to take the  
stage. And here he is! (sound gets quiet. A few "shhhs")



1. SOUND SHOES ACROSS THE FLOOR
2. DIRECTOR Ladies and Gentlemen welcome back to your home, the Pennypincher's Theatre of London. I am the Director and Producer, Niles Jamison.
3. SOUND APPLAUSE AND WHISTLES
4. DIRECTOR I am here, of course, to announce our new season (CHEERS) and also to introduce you to Oscar Wilde. He is a new playwright and he's interested in cutting his teeth in our theatre. And I don't just mean on the cucumber sandwiches (LAUGHTER). Please allow him to mill about, take notes, and generally spy on everything you do.
5. SOUND LAUGHTER & CHEERS
6. OSCAR WILDE It's wonderful to meet everyone. Even the juggler.
7. JUGGLER The juggle is real!
8. DIRECTOR As for our season, we will be opening with Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.
9. SOUND A FEW GROANS
- 10.INGENUE I told you!
- 11.DIRECTOR That heartwarming tragedy will be followed by the equally heartwarming greek tragedy, *Prometheus Bound*.

1. SOUND OFF CUTTING REMARKS, LIKE "OH, GREAT." OR "REALLY, WHY?" OR "I'M GOING BACK TO ACCOUNTING".
2. DIRECTOR I know these tragedies are not the most upbeat of stories, but our third production will be the swash-buckling *Pirates of Penzance!*
3. SOUND EXCITED CHEERS
4. OSCAR WILDE They sure do love their Pirate musicals.
5. DIRECTOR I'm hoping it's just a phase. And finally, we will close the season with "The Scottish Play"
6. SOUND OOOOOOOHHHHHHH
7. HUMPFREY Finally! A role for me!
8. DIRECTOR (whispers) That's Humpfrey McOltimer. He's been here a long time. Holding out for King Lear.
9. HUMPFREY I heard that!
10. DIRECTOR Did he though...?
11. LINDA Alright everyone that's our season.
12. OSCAR WILDE Is that a wash cloth hanging from her clipboard?
13. LINDA Let us go ahead and introduce ourselves to those we haven't yet met. I'm Linda VanPatton. I

am your stage manager. I believe in order and cleanliness. I'm not your mother. Clean up after yourselves.

1. HUMPFREY   If only my mother were here to defend herself.
  
2. LINDA   That is unfortunate Mr. McOltimer. I'm assuming your mother has passed on...
  
3. HUMPFREY   No, she just hates the theatre. Hello everyone I'm Humpfrey McOltimer. I've been here a long time.
  
4. LANCE RYDER   Hello, friends. I'm Lance Ryder. I'm the leading man. I'm originally from Georgia. The state. In America. Land of the free. Home of the brave. Let freedom
  
5. SOUND   A OLD TIMEY TELEPHONE RINGS
  
6. DIRECTOR   Linda, please answer that.
  
7. LINDA   Certainly sir.
  
8. SOUND   LINDA'S SHOES RUNNING OFF
  
9. INGENUE   Hello I'm Kathleen Butterfly and I am sick and tired of being the ingenue
  
10. DIRECTOR   Thank you Kathleen, we'll all keep that in mind.
  
11. SOUND   LINDA'S SHOES RETURNING
  
12. LINDA   That was our benefactor. He says he's pulling his money if we don't add in a murder mystery.

1. SOUND CHEERS & OOOOOHHHH
2. DIRECTOR What? He can't be serious
3. LINDA As a heart attack
4. DIRECTOR But murder mysteries are so...this century! Oh, how I hate being topical!
5. LANCE RYDER You shouldn't go to Florida then
6. INGENUE He said topical, not tropical you dolt!
7. DIRECTOR Great. Now I have to find another script. And a murder mystery. What a kick in the head.
8. OSCAR WILDE Murder? Now that is always a mistake. One should never do anything that one cannot talk about after dinner.
9. LINDA Alright chaps, that's a day. Go home, get some rest, and let us know if you get any murder mysteries ideas.
10. SOUND GROANS, TALKING, SINGING AS THE ACTORS LEAVE THE THEATRE
11. NARRATOR The excitement! The challenge! The refreshing wit of Oscar Wilde!
12. OSCAR WILDE You're welcome
13. NARRATOR Wait. Can they hear me?



6. Must be actually storming outside.

That sounds so real! Anyhow, I can say it of course because I'm not actually in a theatre...I'm just looking at a theatre, so no worries here. But remember folks: never say the word *Macbeth* in the theatre. It's bad, bad, very bad...luck

1. SOUND LIGHTING & THUNDER

2. Ahhh looks like our company members are filing in. Sure hope everyone made it here okay!

(GENERAL CONVERSATION, VOCAL WARM UPS, TALKING, ETC.)

3. DIRECTOR Hello everyone (CHATTER DIES DOWN) and welcome to our first night of rehearsals. And a big 'welcome back' to Mr. Oscar Wilde. Mr. Wilde, is there anything we can get you to make you feel more at home?

4. OSCAR WILDE Yes, thank you, I'll take my coffee in bed tomorrow morning.

5. DIRECTOR I mean here. Now. In the theatre. Now. Also, I literally don't even know where you're staying in town.

6. OSCAR WILDE In that case, no.

7. DIRECTOR Very well then. Tonight we will begin rehearsals, so get ready to expand and explore the text! Ms. VanPatton will give you further instructions. Is she here?

(COMPANY MEMBERS DISCUSS WHERE LINDA MIGHT BE)

1. DIRECTOR                                Oh dear. I hope she made it in  
through this terrible storm we are having.
2. SOUND                                LIGHTNING AND THUNDER
3. LINDA     (from off)                I'm here! I'm here!
4. SOUND                                LINDA'S SHOES APPROACHING
5.    Sorry about that! I was, um,  
cleaning something.
6. DIRECTOR                                Naturally. Well I'm turning the  
floor over to you, Linda. Everyone listen. You know stage  
managers hate to repeat themselves.
7. LINDA                                        We do
8. HUMPFREY                                What's that?!
9. LINDA                                        (shouting)    I SAID WE DO!
10. HUMPFREY                                You do what now?
11. LINDA                                        Today we will be starting our  
rehearsals for *Romeo & Juliet*. I'd like for our principal  
actors to introduce themselves, starting with Romeo, who will  
be played by our very own heartthrob, Lance Ryder. Lance, what  
attracts you to the role of Romeo?
12. LANCE RYDER                                Hello y'all. I'm so happy to be  
playing Romeo. I like him. He's a guy... (*BEAT*)
13. LINDA                                        Thank you, Lance Ryder
14. OSCAR WILDE                                Truly inspirational.

1. LINDA His lovely wife will be playing  
Juliet: Ms. Kathleen Butterfly.
2. INGENUE Did you say "loving"?
3. LINDA No, I said "lovely"
4. INGENUE Oh, good. Anyway, I hate you all
5. OSCAR WILDE I'll have what she's having.
6. LINDA Thank you Mr. Wilde but there's no  
need to comment on what everyone else is saying.
7. OSCAR WILDE You're welcome.
8. LINDA Humpfrey McOltimer will be playing  
Lord Capulet
9. HUMPFREY Finally, the leading man!
10. LINDA Other roles will be played by  
company members...
11. JUGGLER Do you need a juggler?
12. LINDA Actually the role of Tybalt is  
still needing to be filled, so why don't you come on stage and  
practice sword fighting with Lance Ryder?
13. LANCE RYDER Well, that doesn't sound safe.  
Does he have any training?
14. JUGGLER/LINDA I'm a juggler/He's a juggler
15. LANCE RYDER Good enough for me.
16. SOUND SWORD-FIGHTING



1. LINDA (VO) While they fight the rest of you must get fitted for your masks for the masquerade scene. It is of the utmost importance that you meet with the costume department right away.
2. LANCE RYDER Excuse me, Ms. VanPatton?
3. LINDA Yes, Lance Ryder?
4. LANCE RYDER I really dislike wearing masks. They're uncomfortable. After a while they make me feel so tired.
5. LINDA Well, luckily this is a short scene...
6. LANCE RYDER That IS lucky! Could you imagine having to wear masks all the time? I hope that never happens to me.
7. LINDA It would be annoying
8. LANCE RYDER Indeed! I mean, what if you had to wear them to buy your groceries or get your haircut?! That would be terrible.
9. LINDA Yes, surely that would be terrible
10. LANCE RYDER Indeed! I mean, what if children had to wear them at school and adults had to wear them at concerts?
11. LINDA For sure...it would be...

1. INGENUE                                Lance! For goodness sakes, shut up  
and finish your fight scene!
2. LANCE RYDER                            Sorry honey! (gasps as if he's been  
hit)
3. ALL                                        Lance Ryder! Are you okay?! Is he  
okay?
4. LANCE RYDER                            Yes, y'all
5. LINDA                                    He's fine
6. INGENUE                                Did that juggler stab you?
7. LANCE RYDER                            Actually I think Linda did
8. INGENUE                                Linda!
9. LINDA                                    A touch, a touch, I do confess!  
But, he wouldn't stop talking. He's not even cut. I just  
whacked him one on his biscuits.
- 10.LANCE RYDER                            It hurt though...
- 11.OSCAR WILDE                            Did someone say biscuits? I'm  
starving.
- 12.HUMPHREY                                Me too!
- 13.LINDA                                    Everyone! If you could please make  
your way to costumes to get fitted for your masks. And next  
time please eat dinner beforehand!
- 14.SOUND                                    GROANS & FOOTSTEPS SHUFFLING OFF
- 15.OSCAR WILDE                            MacBeth





1. SOUND FOOTSTEPS RUNNING. EVERYONE BACK ON  
STAGE
2. INGENUE Shhummboddiisssh puzzz pebbles in  
maaaay massshhkeee!!!!
3. DIRECTOR Ms. Butterfly! Are you alright?  
What has happened?
4. INGENUE Shhummboddiisssh puzzz peppily in  
maaaay massshhkeee!!!!
5. DIRECTOR Lance Ryder! Do you know what she's  
saying?
6. LANCE RYDER Ishhhrreallycanitquitmakesitouts
7. DIRECTOR Lance, take off your mask
8. LANCE RYDER Oh, yeah, that's better. No, I  
can't understand a word she's saying.
9. OSCAR WILDE Her lips are all swollen and she  
can't talk.
10. INGENUE Shhummboddiisssh puzzz pebbles in  
maaaay massshhkeee!!!!
11. OSCAR WILDE That's sweet dear, but no, I got  
this at Nordstroms.
12. JUGGLER I think she's trying to tell us  
what happened!
13. DIRECTOR Who's that guy?

1. JUGGLER                           The juggle is real!
2. LINDA                            Quiet everyone! Is she cut  
anywhere?
3. INGENUE                         Shhummboddiisssh puzzz pebbles in  
maaaay massshhkeee!!!!
4. LINDA                            Kathleen, did your mask prick you  
at all when you put it on?
5. INGENUE                         Nolll
6. LINDA                            I'm assuming that's means "no".  
Lance Ryder, is she allergic to anything?
7. INGENUE                         Pebbles!!
8. LANCE RYDER                    No, I don't think so.
9. INGENUE                         Yeath I ammishh, yousss  
bbufffoooooonnalls!
10. HUMPHREY                      I think she's saying she IS  
allergic
11. LANCE RYDER                    I can't really say...
12. INGENUE                         YEATH! I'MMM ASHELERIG TO PEBBLES!  
Shhummboddiisssh puzzz pebbles in maaaay massshhkeee!!!!
13. LANCE RYDER                    I truly think she has no allergies
14. HUMPHREY                      She's saying she does...
15. INGENUE                         PEBBLES!
16. HUMPHREY                      Pebbles?



