

SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE PEPPER PERPETRATOR

SCRIPT SAMPLE

(Relieved, everyone begins shuffling off)

DIRECTOR

Well, now that that little hiccup is out of the way, please report to the costume department. (to OSCAR WILDE) Well, Mr. Wilde. You've really had a first hand look of the dramas of the theatre, haven't you?!

OSCAR WILDE

Yes. And here I thought the only thing tragic would be their performances.

DIRECTOR

Let's say you and I retire for a bit of tea?

OSCAR WILDE

A most excellent idea

(INGENUE screams)

OSCAR WILDE

What was that?

DIRECTOR

Sounded like Madame Butterfly

(everyone runs back onstage)

INGENUE

Shhummboddiisssh puzzz pebbles in maaaay massshhkeee!!!!

DIRECTOR

Ms. Butterfly! Are you alright? What has happened?

INGENUE

Shhummboddiisssh puzzz peppily in maaaay massshhkeee!!!!

DIRECTOR

Lance Ryder! Do you know what she's saying?

LANCE RYDER

Ishhhrrealllycanitquitmakesitouts

DIRECTOR

Lance, take off your mask

LANCE RYDER

Oh, yeah, that's better. No, I can't understand a word she's saying.

OSCAR WILDE

Her lips are all swollen and she can't talk.

INGENUE

Shhummboddiisssh puzzz pebbles in maaaay massshhkeee!!!!

OSCAR WILDE

That's sweet dear, but no, I got this at Nordstroms.

JUGGLER

I think she's trying to tell us what happened!

DIRECTOR

Who's that guy?

JUGGLER

The juggle is real!

LINDA

Quiet everyone! Is she cut anywhere?

INGENUE

Shhumbboddiisssh puzzz pebbles in maaaay massshhkeee!!!!

LINDA

Kathleen, did your mask prick you at all when you put it on?

INGENUE

No!!!

LINDA

I'm assuming that's means "no". Lance Ryder, is she allergic to anything?

INGENUE

Pebbles!!

LANCE RYDER

No, I don't think so.

INGENUE

Yeath I ammishh, yousss bbufffoooooonnalls!

HUMPHREY

I think she's saying she IS allergic

LANCE RYDER

I can't really say...

INGENUE

YEATH! I'MMM ASHELERIG TO PEBBLES! Shhumbboddiisssh puzzz
pebbles in maaaay massshhkeee!!!!

LANCE RYDER

I truly think she has no allergies

HUMPHREY

She's saying she does...

INGENUE

PEBBLES!

HUMPHREY

Pebbles?

INGENUE

PEBBLES!

DIRECTOR

Well, that really makes no sense

LANCE RYDER

Pebbles? Honey, I feel like I don't know you at all

INGENUE
(screams)

PEBBLES!!

JUGGLER

Could she be saying "peppers"?

DIRECTOR

Who are you?

INGENUE

YEEASSHHH PEBBLES!

LANCE RYDER

Oh, yes. She's allergic to peppers. And it lasts for days. Then, she has to do massive mouth training to get back on track. It's likely she won't recover in time to do Romeo & Juliet!

(GASPS)

DIRECTOR

She's fainted!

INGENUE

Shhummboddiisssh puzzz pebbles in maaaay massshhkeee!!!!

DIRECTOR

Okay now she's fainted. Well, don't just stand around. Someone call a doctor

ALL

(into the air)

Doctor? Doctor?

DIRECTOR

On the telephone. They've been invented by now!

OSCAR WILDE

What an unfortunate day

DIRECTOR

It's okay, Mr. Wilde. You didn't know about *The Scottish Play*

OSCAR WILDE

I was referring to the fact that I never got the tea you promised, but, yes, the whole pepper mask thing is truly unfortunate.

DIRECTOR

Everyone head home. I will get to the bottom of this, but as of now everyone's a suspect and will be treated as such. Do not trust each other. You must all be handled like the scum of the earth. Therefore, it is advised you take the train home tonight.

(GROANS)

DIRECTOR (Cont...)

Let us get Ms. Butterfly to the hospital. We'll all meet back here tomorrow. Goodnight.

Lights down

Scene Four

Lights up on the office of Sherlock Holmes, 221B Baker St., London:Day. SHERLOCK HOLMES and DR. WATSON are at their desks. DR. WATSON is typing.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

So, then I said: No I used pushpins! (HE LAUGHS AT HIS OWN JOKE. BEAT) What Watson? Did you not find my joke funny?

WATSON

(stops typing)

No, it's not that. It's funny. Especially the part where no one knows what happened to the tail, but forgive me: it's only the billionth time I've heard it.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Ah. You've heard it before?

WATSON

So many times. You told the same joke recently: at that party that was held for Lestrade.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Ah. Then you should know why I'm telling it to you now.

WATSON

What do you mean?

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Watson, when have you ever known me to repeat myself?

WATSON

Only when you're trying to prove a point.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Precisely. That party was drab. But how else was I going to steal his wallet?

WATSON

You're holding his wallet!

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Or yours...

WATSON

You're holding my wallet too!

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Ha ha. Elementary, my dear Watson

WATSON

Oh, get some new material!

SHERLOCK HOLMES

I wonder when he'll realize it's stolen...

LESTRADE
(from off)

HOLMES!

WATSON

I'm guessing now...

Enter LESTRADE

LESTRADE

HOLMES!

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Lestrade I'm so unimpressed. I would have had it delivered.

LESTRADE

Had what delivered? Holmes! You're holding my wallet! I didn't even know it was missing...

SHERLOCK HOLMES

And you do what for a living again? Birthday party clown? This is all I can think of...

LESTRADE

My wallet?!

SHERLOCK HOLMES
(hands them both their wallets)

How may we help you Lestrade?

LESTRADE

I need a favor. A friend of mine has reported to me a mysterious poisoning at his theatre. Sort of.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

What do you mean, "sort of"? The poisoning or the theatre?

WATSON

Probably the friend! Ha ha! See, Holmes?! That's how you tell a joke!

SHERLOCK HOLMES

I so admire your silent side Watson...

LESTRADE

It's the poisoning. One really can't call it a poisoning, because there wasn't any poison...

SHERLOCK HOLMES

I can see you're terribly good at your job

LESTRADE

Apparently someone put peppers in one of the leading ladies' masks

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Ugh, masks! Could you imagine having to wear them all of the time, Watson?

WATSON

I'm a doctor

SHERLOCK HOLMES

It would be tragic. I like onions far too much.

WATSON

So why do you need our help? Can't your office handle something like this?

LESTRADE

Of course we could, but we are too backed up at the moment. Since the telephone got invented everyone is making prank calls.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Ah! I love them. Never gets old.

LESTRADE

Besides it seems like a classic case of 'who done it' and right up your alley.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

This theatre. What do you know about it?

LESTRADE

The Pennypincher's Theatre, right up the alley. Are you even listening?

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Clever.

LESTRADE

Fallen on hard times, but it's making a comeback. They were just starting this season when this tragedy struck and they are in a panic.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Who do you know there?

LESTRADE

The director is an old friend of mine

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Do you mind asking him if there are any jugglers in the company?

LESTRADE

I already did. He couldn't recall

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Oh, good. I absolutely despise jugglers. So redundant. I'm *already* looking in three places at once.

LESTRADE

Can I tell him you're on board?

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Watson what do you think?

WATSON

Well, I quite like jugglers, actually...

SHERLOCK HOLMES

About the job, Watson.

WATSON

Well, I don't know. I was going to finish this report and visit my Nana.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Your Nana?

WATSON

She makes excellent cheddar biscuits.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Worry not: I stole the money from Lestrade's wallet. I'll buy you a biscuit on the way.

LESTRADE
(looks in wallet)

You did? He did!

WATSON

Sounds lovely.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

We'll be sure to visit your Nana when this is all said and done.

LESTRADE

Are you heading there now?

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Yes we are. Lestrade, hold our calls...

LESTRADE

I don't work for you. I'm literally leaving with you and going to my own office.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Watson. Next item on the agenda: look for a secretary.

WATSON

Indeed.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Grab your coats, we have a pepper mystery to solve!

WATSON

Yes, and are we still getting biscuits? I'm quite hungry and the more we talked about it, the hungrier I got.

LESTRADE

Me too. And it's my money

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Very well! Grab your coats! We have biscuits to eat...and a pepper mystery to solve!

WATSON

Sounds like a fine afternoon to me!

Sherlock Holmes-y music and lights down