

GANGSTERS

- 10 -

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE

MAN

So, the Bride and Groom are whisked away, and we turn our attention to the B plot which involves the Producer.

KITTY

Mr. Feldzieg?

FELDZIEG

Getting married and leaving show business.

KITTY

Mr. Feldzieg?

FELDZIEG

Doesn't she know I got obligations?

KITTY

Mr. Feldzieg, I can be your leading lady. You said it yourself—I'm useless in the chorus.

FELDZIEG

Kitty! For the last time, you ain't got what it takes.

KITTY

But, I been taking lessons: Singing. Acting. Ballet.

FELDZIEG

Ballet?

KITTY

Yeah. I'm pretty good too. Last week I auditioned for Swanee Lake.

MAN

A little annotation; Kitty and Feldzieg were a couple in real life. Jack and Sadie Adler. Now, this a familiar comic construct: a stupid woman and her long suffering companion. Well, she appears stupid, but in the end she does something clever and makes everyone wonder whether it's all just an act. The irony here is that Sadie actually was quite stupid; Jack had to explain all the jokes to her apparently. But, still, she had a wonderful career on the stage. At that time, the theatre was the only place where stupid people could earn a decent living. This was before television, of course.

FELDZIEG

~~Kitty I don't have time for this!~~

~~Enter Gangster #1 & Gangster #2~~

START

GANGSTER #1

A petite four, Mr. Feldzeig?

FELDZIEG

Not now.

• *Gangster #2 stops him.*

GANGSTER #2

Perhaps a nice profiterole.

FELDZIEG

Boys, I'm not hungry.

GANGSTER #1

Then perhaps we could give you something else to chew on.

GANGSTER #2

Yeah. Something that ain't food.

FELDZIEG

What?

GANGSTER #1

Your confusion is to be expected. Although we stand here before you in the guise of innocent pastry chefs, we are also—

GANGSTER #2

and primarily—

GANGSTER #1

—employees of a certain individual.

FELDZIEG

A certain individual?

GANGSTER #2

A certain individual...

GANGSTER #1

...who happens to be largest single investor in Feldzieg's Follies. He has sent us here—

GANGSTER #2

As pastry chefs...

GANGSTER #1

... to express his concern about Ms. Van de Graaff's impending nuptials.

GANGSTER #2

Specifically...

GANGSTER #1

...that if she gets married and leaves the show...

GANGSTER #1 & GANGSTER #2

...then there ain't no show.

KITTY

(to the Gangsters)

Say, don't I know you?

GANGSTER #2

No, you don't.

KITTY

Have you ever spent any time in Toledo?

GANGSTER #1

Have you ever spent any time in a coma?

KITTY

No, but I have a cousin in Seattle.

FELDZIEG

Kitty. Boys, you tell your boss this wedding is never going to happen. You have my word.

GANGSTER #2

Oh, we'll take your word, alright.

GANGSTER #1

But, to go back on that word -- would be a recipe for disaster. Now, we hope we have made ourselves perfectly *Éclair*.

GANGSTER #2

One cannoli hope.

GANGSTER #1

You biscotti be kidding me.

GANGSTER #2

A trifle much?

GANGSTER #1

Don't tart with me.

FELDZIEG

Alright. You can drop the pastry chef routine.

GANGSTER #1

Alas, we ganache.

GANGSTER #2

We're on the lamb.

GANGSTER #1

(slapping him)

Lamb's an entrée, you macaroon.

END

#2b - Macaroons!

Kitty takes a pastry. Gangster #1 & Gangster #2 curtsy.

MAN

The gangsters were played by interchangeable vaudeville duo the Tall Brothers: John and Peter Tall. They were born Abram and Mendel Mosloskowitz, but were renamed at Ellis Island by a sarcastic immigration official. They were an early example of the typical Broadway gangster: full of word-play and stylized movements, not very intimidating. Unless you find dancers intimidating, which I do but for reasons that would not be appropriate to this situation.

GANGSTER #1

We'll leave the matter in your hands, Mr. Feldzieg. In the mean time, feel free to browse the desert carousel.

GANGSTER #2

Try the Toledo Surprise

GANGSTER #1 & GANGSTER #2

It's to die for.

Gangsters exit.

KITTY

Holy Cats, Mr. Feldzieg! They're Gangsters.

FELDZIEG

Very perceptive. Now go powder your face!

KITTY exits.

I've got to stop this wedding but how? Oh Lord in Heaven how! How?

MAN

I always thought that moment was a little overplayed. So with the story well on its way let's go to the Groom's room.

GANGSTERS

Orch: Larry Blank

PIANO/CONDUCTOR

Feldzieg
Gangsters
Kitty
Mrs Tottendale
Aldolpho
George
Underling
Drowsy
Ensemble

10

Toledo Surprise

1 **Feldzieg:** 2 3 **Gangsters:** 4

Da da da da da da Chop the nuts— pound the dough—

(Saxes/Rhythm) f (Ttr/Tbn/Bari) mf
(Rhythm + choke cym)

FELDZIEG: "Front!"

5 6 7 8
bake it up— nice and slow— then you got a to - le - do—

(+ Tpts 2,3) (+ Tpt 1)

Gangsters: FELDZIEG: "Now sell it!" 11

9 10 12

to - le - do sur - prise pit the peach peel the skin

(Xylo)

(Sop 1) *mf* (Pno) *mp* (Saxes) *f* (Saxes) *f*

(Tbn/Bari/Bass)

13 14 15 16

mush it up throw it in that's a tas - ty to - le do

(Xylo)

(Pno) *mp* (Saxes) *f* (Sop Lead) 3 (Saxes)

FELDZIEG: "Now you're cooking!"

17 18 19 20

to - le - do sur - prise first you beat it up then you

(Sops)

(Brass) (Pno./Rhythm) *mf*

(Bari) Bass Soli

21 Gangsters:

21 22 23 24

sweet it up — when you heat it up — if it tries to

(Sops) *mf* (Brass/Tur)

25 26 27 28

rise! don't let it it's a snap — try it folks —

(Sops/Pno) *f* (Sops) *mp* (Bari/Pno)

29 30 31 32

whip your whites — split your yolks — Then you got a splen - di - do —

mp (Tur) *mp* (Ipts 1,2)

33 34 Gangsters: 35 [To 58] 58 Vamp

to - le - do sur - prise

(Xylo + WB)

(Pno./Kbd "Xylo")

(Brass)

mf

(Rhythm)

59 60 61 62

KITTY: "Hey, what's going on here?"

(Tutti)

(Clas/Rhythm)

f.

sub.

63 64 65 66 [To 91]

To - le - do sur - prise

(Tpts)

mf

(Bar! Bass Soli)