



Preview Script

# Flumes And Fumes

# **Flumes And Fumes**

by John Bartlett

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**NOTE : This is a preview version, and does not contain the full script.**

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# FLUMES AND FUMES

## Synopsis

Madcap mayhem, debauchery, lust and mistaken identity, all this and more! The play is set in 'Floaters Leisure Centre' just prior to an inspection by the local senior councillor, Mr Pantalone. Isabella, the Centre's Manageress, is in a flap; however her dysfunctional staff are not perturbed in the slightest, add a good measure of lunacy to this theatrical pot of non-sense and you have all the ingredients for a crazy rollercoaster ride that builds and builds into an insane, ludicrous, climax that would not be amiss within the walls of Bedlam!

## Cast (in order of appearance)

<b>Frankie (Franceschina)</b>	A Receptionist
<b>Rickie (Ricciolina)</b>	A Receptionist
<b>Pulcinella</b>	The Caretaker
<b>Harley (Arlecchino)</b>	A Swimming Instructor
<b>Captain Cardoni Fartblast</b>	The Tennis Instructor
<b>Isabella</b>	The Manageress
<b>Olivia</b>	A 'Sloane Ranger'
<b>Angelica</b>	Another 'Sloane Ranger'
<b>Pantalone</b>	The Inspector
<b>Dr Halitosis</b>	The Doctor
<b>Colombina</b>	The Doctor's Nurse

## Set

The scenic requirements for the play are based upon a Medieval 'Booth Theatre'. To enhance the comedy a small raised stage is preferable. On either side, upstage of the main acting area, there are two doors. The central area between the doors, is covered by a curtain. Centre stage there is a reception desk, on which there is a desk bell, an appointment book, a microphone for a public address system, and a telephone. The area immediately in front and either side of the raised stage represents the pavement outside, and as and when appropriate, actors make their entrance by walking in front of the stage and then up a step to a mimed downstage door. If preferred, the set could though be a standard box set.

## Conventions Used

Text in upper case is shouted, and underlined text is spoken with emphasis.

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## Also by John Bartlett ...

### **Slap And Tickle At The Pig And Whistle** (5m, 3f), 60 mins

A story in the traditional Commedia'Del Arte style, concerning the misappropriation of private love letters belonging to Isabella and Lelio and the debauched selfish interest of Pulcinella, the publican of 'The Pig and Whistle'. The crazy antics of Arlecchino, Colombina's quick thinking paramour and the thwarted, elicited love affair between Isabella and Lelio, all add up to a rollicking, uproarious comedy that crashes like a comic avalanche to its ultimate conclusion.

### **The Village Hall** (9m, 8f), three 30 min one-act plays or one 90 min three-act play

That hallowed institution - the Village Hall, scene of unparalleled local country dramas is the setting for these three comedy plays. Each play stands up in its own right, but the trilogy could be played together as a single three act play. Each play features one or two main characters and their particular use of the Hall, a Jumble Sale, the Amateur Dramatics group and the scout's Gang Show.

# FLUMES AND FUMES

*The scene is set, early in the morning, in 'Floaters Leisure Centre'. Enter Isabella, USL. She is smartly dressed wearing a scarf, blouse, jacket and a short pleated skirt. Under her arm, she carries a clipboard. Speaking with an upper middle class accent, she practices her announcement.*

**Isabella** (Holding her nose) Bing-bong! This is Isabella speaking ... (She tries again) Bing-bong! Staff announcement, will all staff congregate in the foyer. (Assertively) Yes, I think that will do nicely.

*Isabella exits USL. Franceschina (Frankie) and Ricciolina (Rickie) arrive for work having come straight from 'a night out on the town'. They enter through the audience and attempt to mount the stage DSR. They discover that the (mimed) door is still locked.*

**Frankie** Well, I said to him, "I don't care if it's the bloody Taj Mahal, I'm not interested in your disgusting 'Willy Sculptures'!"

**Rickie** Willy Sculptures? What did he say to that?

**Frankie** Nothing, but the filthy pervert showed me anyway!

**Rickie** What did you do then?

**Frankie** Slapped him round the face of course!

**Rickie** I would have asked to see his Eiffel Tower.

**Frankie** Oooh! Rickie, you really are terrible sometimes!

**Rickie** Any port in a storm!

*The two girls laugh.*

**Frankie** Oh, bloody hell, the door's locked again! That Pulcinella is such a lazy dog, he's never on time!

**Rickie** Come on Frankie, we'll just have to go round the back.

*The two girls exit USL of the raised stage. After a moment's silence, we hear Pulcinella humming to himself, offstage ... 'Pom, pom, pom etc'. This develops into a version of "I'm Too Sexy For My Shirt". Suddenly, there is an almighty crash.*

**Pulcinella** (Still offstage) Bloody hell! What's that on the floor? (Pause) Cat crap! I should have bloody well known! Where is that little feline fur ball? Here puss, puss, puss! Here puss! Come to daddy! Puss, puss, puss, puss! Here Tiddles, where are you? Ah, there you are. Who's a pretty boy then? You want a little stroke? (Loud purring). Ah, got you! (Loud screech from Tiddles). I'll teach you to crap on my parade. (Another loud indignant screech from Tiddles). There, you moronic moggy. Who said there isn't enough room to swing a cat! (Tiddles complains loudly as Pulcinella swings him round. We see the cat's paws and head above the central curtain. Then on the third revolution, Pulcinella lets the cat go. There is a loud clatter as Tiddles lands in a heap, in the sink). Ha! Ha! You didn't land on your feet that time, you little ginger shit!

*He starts singing "I'm Too Sexy For My Shirt" again, as the USL door bursts open and he enters. Whilst performing a lewd dance, he changes the song to Rod Stewart's "If You Think I'm Sexy". When the song is over Pulcinella, swings his keys, looks at his watch and decides that it's still too early to open the main doors. Whilst he is standing there, he passes wind. Disgusted at his own stench, he exits USL. Riccie and Frankie enter USL.*

**Frankie** Yeah, well I slapped him round the face, no messing, and then I said, "Call that a dick, more like a soft whelk"!

**Rickie** Talking of seafood ...

**Both Girls** ... see food and eat it!

*They giggle, which is suddenly terminated as they become aware of Pulcinella's fragrant surprise.*

**Rickie** What is that smell? It wasn't you, was it?

**Frankie** Certainly not, the one who smelt it, dealt it!

**Rickie** Whoever said the rhyme did the crime!

**Frankie** Whatever!

*Pulcinella enters USL. Whilst mopping the floor, he slowly traverses the stage, passing wind as he goes. The two women look horrified and askance.*

**Pulcinella** Excuse me love.

*Having finished mopping Pulcinella exits USL.*

**Frankie** I thought he went to the doctors for that complaint?

**Rickie** He did! (She sprays a deodorant).

**Rickie** Hey Frankie, what do you think of that new fitness instructor?

**Frankie** What Arlecchino? He's a real dish! I think he fancies me.  
**Rickie** You wish!

*Arlecchino enters through audience. He tries to open the DSR locked door, just as Franceschina and Ricciolina had before.*

**Frankie** Oh look, talk of the devil!  
**Arlecchino** Open the door!  
**Frankie** Hi!  
**Arlecchino** Open the door!  
**Frankie** Yeah, fine thank you!  
**Arlecchino** The door's locked!

*Arlecchino points downwards towards the door handle.*

**Frankie** *(To Rickie)* He's pointing at his co...  
**Rickie** Dirty bugger!  
**Frankie** *(To Rickie)* I told you he wanted me!  
**Arlecchino** I'm going round the back!  
**Frankie** Not if I can help it you're not!  
**Arlecchino** I'll meet you at the other door.  
**Frankie** You want me on the floor?  
**Arlecchino** Round the back!

*Arlecchino exits USR.*

**Frankie** He wants me to go and meet him, won't be a mo!

*Franceschina exits USR.*

**Rickie** Charming! *(She rummages in her handbag, and, not finding what she wants, she looks in Franceschina's handbag. She pulls out a tin of Vaseline and applies a little to her lips. Quickly rummaging in Franceschina's bag again, she pulls out a dildo. Horrified at the prospect, she quickly replaces the dildo and Vaseline, at which point she discovers a letter, which she reads out loud).* "My dearest Franceschina, I cannot tell you how much I crave for your warm succulent body up against mine. I have dreamt about you in my arms, and want to kiss your delicate cherry lips. Do not worry your pretty little head about Isabella, she means nothing to me. She's just a passing flutter, a mere stopgap in my quest for true love with, yes, you my darling. Yours truly, Captain Cardoni Fartblast". Captain Cardoni! How could she, and now the dirty little slut is after Arlecchino as well! Wait, there's more, "PS: Let's keep our little secret to ourselves, I will tell Isabella myself".

*Arlecchino and Franceschina are heard offstage, Ricciolina hurriedly replaces the letter in Franceschina's bag.*

**Arlecchino** *(Off)* Here, what do you think you're doing?  
**Frankie** *(Off)* I was, er ... I was just ...  
**Arlecchino** *(Off)* Come on spit it out!  
**Frankie** *(Off)* Spit it out? Chance would be a fine thing!

*Arlecchino enters USR.*

**Arlecchino** Eager beaver! Morning Rickie, how's your luck?  
**Rickie** All the better for seeing you Harley.  
**Arlecchino** Catch you later!

*Arlecchino exits USL. Franceschina enters USR.*

**Frankie** That could have gone better.  
**Rickie** Letter, what letter?  
**Frankie** I said that could have gone better!  
**Rickie** Oh, I thought you said 'letter'!  
**Frankie** Letter, what letter?  
**Rickie** Oh, nothing.  
**Frankie** He just wasn't keen.  
**Rickie** Vaseline?  
**Frankie** I said he wasn't keen.  
**Rickie** Oh, I thought you said 'Vaseline'.  
**Frankie** Vaseline? What do you mean, Vaseline?

**Rickie** Oh, nothing.  
**Frankie** I still don't know how he feels though.  
**Rickie** Dildo?  
**Frankie** Why don't you listen! I said I don't how he feels though!  
**Rickie** Oh, I thought you said 'dildo'.  
**Frankie** Dildo? What do you mean, dildo?  
**Rickie** Oh, nothing.  
**Frankie** I'll give you dildo in a minute!  
**Rickie** Oh, right.

*Isabella enters USR.*

**Both Girls** (*Sarcastically*) Morning Isabella.

*Ignoring Franceschina and Ricciolina, Isabella speaks into the public address system; she holds her nose and makes the 'Bing-bong' sound herself.*

**Isabella** Bing-bong! Staff announcement, this is a staff announcement, will all staff please congregate in the foyer, immediately, thank you! Morning girls! (*She exits USL*).  
**Rickie** Snobby cow!  
**Frankie** Stuck up bitch! She's in for a big surprise!  
**Rickie** (*Knowingly*) Yeah she is, isn't she! (*Franceschina glances suspiciously at Ricciolina*) Just who does she think she is anyway?  
**Frankie** Anybody would think she owns the place, coming in here all 'lah-de-dah'.  
**Rickie** Yeah, tramp! (*Enter Arlecchino USL*). Oh, Harley you're looking a bit tense, let me give you a massage? (*She immediately starts massaging Arlecchino*).  
**Arlecchino** Oh yeah, oh yeah baby, ooh!  
**Frankie** If I were you, I'd be careful. You don't know where those hands have been!  
**Arlecchino** Oooh! Ah! That's good!

*Enter Pulcinella USR.*

**Pulcinella** What's all this about a meeting?  
**Frankie** I don't know. Isabella came in here and made an announcement.  
**Pulcinella** I know, I've got ears!

*Through the audience, Captain Cardoni Fartblast enters. He too, tries to open the exterior door DSR.*

**Cardoni** Pulcinella! Open the door!  
**Pulcinella** What's that? Get on the floor? (*He does so*).  
**Cardoni** What are you doing man, open the door!  
**Pulcinella** I'm already on the floor!  
**Cardoni** I'll go round the back!  
**Pulcinella** Yeah go round the back! (*Cardoni exits in a huff USR, and almost immediately enters USR. Meanwhile, Pulcinella unlocks the imaginary DSL door and shouts off*). What's that Fartblast, I couldn't hear you?

*Pulcinella pointedly leaves the door unlocked.*

**Cardoni** He gets worse and worse every day! If he was in my platoon, I'd have him shot!  
**Pulcinella** Cutting it a bit fine this morning, aren't you?  
**Cardoni** Why didn't you open the door when I asked you?  
**Pulcinella** It was locked!  
**Cardoni** But you've got the key!  
**Pulcinella** Oh, so I have, but it wasn't nine o'clock, was it?  
**Cardoni** But it is now, (*looking at his watch*) in fact it's a minute past!  
**Pulcinella** Exactly!  
**Cardoni** What do you mean, (*mimicking him*) "exactly"? The door should be open by now!  
**Pulcinella** It is, my chavvie!  
**Cardoni** Oh, very well, carry on.  
**Frankie** (*Saucily*) Morning Captain.  
**Cardoni** Oh, er, good morning Franceschina, (*Nodding towards Ricciolina*) Ricciolina.  
**Rickie** Watch out Captain Fartblast ...  
**Cardoni** I've told you before Ricciolina it's pronounced 'Artblast' with a silent 'F', as in the French!

**Rickie Cardoni** Whatever ... Isabella's on the warpath this morning. What again? She seemed all right last night. Mind you, Isabella's always in a bad mood! If I had a fiver for every time she was in a bad mood, I'd be a millionaire by now! (*Isabella enters USR and stands behind Captain Cardoni*). Hello Isabella. Ding dong, you look radiant this morning!

**Isabella Cardoni** Oh thank you Captain.  
My pleasure, my dear!

**Isabella** Ladies and Gentlemen, I have gathered you all here today ...

**Pulcinella Isabella** Well, hurry up, some of us have things to do!  
Thank you Mr Pulcinella, I am well aware, on today of all days, that yes, there are things to do. I have just received notification of our long awaited inspection. The council inspector, a Mr Pantalone, will be with us later this morning! So girls, remember your welcoming speech, up beat and cheerful!

*Both speaking at once, Franceschina and Ricciolina instantly launch into their somewhat tired welcome speech.*

**Both Girls Isabella** Hello welcome to Floater's leisure centre, my names Franceschina how can I help you?  
Oh lovely, I know I can rely on you all to do your best; I assure you there is nothing to worry about. Everything is in my, er ... our capable hands! Well come along everybody, jump to it!

**Rickie Arlecchino** Come on Harley, I'll meet you in the steam room in five minutes (*She winks and exits USL*).  
Er, well, er, I'm just going to er, well, see yah! (*He hurriedly exits USL*).

**Frankie Pulcinella** Oh what a nerve! (*In a huff, she exits USL*).  
Steam room eh. I, erm, I'm just going to er, polish my gauges and have a fiddle with the wench, I mean wrench! (*He rubs his hands with glee and exits USL*).

**Isabella Cardoni** Thank you for last night Cardoni, it was wonderful.  
The pleasure was all mine, I assure you. That red dress you wore fitted you like a glove, and that diamond necklace ...

**Isabella Cardoni** Oh, did you like it?  
Yes, it brought out the twinkle in your eyes.

**Isabella Cardoni** I agree. People often say my eyes sparkle like the stars in the sky.  
The stars don't do them justice.

**Isabella Cardoni** Oh, by the way did you find your wallet?  
Wallet, what wallet?

**Isabella Cardoni** The one you mislaid last night?  
Oh, that wallet!

**Isabella Cardoni** Yes that wallet. I only just had enough to pay for dinner.  
Well would you believe it, just after I left you last night I found it in my other pocket!

**Isabella Cardoni** How fortunate. Now we can split the bill and go dutch as we agreed!  
Dutch?

**Isabella Cardoni** Yes, you know, half each!  
Ah!

**Isabella Cardoni** What do you mean, "Ah"? I don't like the sound of that.  
What?

**Isabella Cardoni** That, "Ah"!  
Well, you see, I was just getting into the Jag, when I was accosted by a gang of ruffians!

**Isabella Cardoni** Oh Pooky, ruffians! What happened, were you hurt?  
Not in the slightest! There were three hooligans, but they were no match for me. Luckily, my army training came to the fore; I can kill a man just by looking at him you know!

**Isabella Cardoni** Really?  
Yes, I learnt it from an old Fakir in the Falkland Islands. In fact, I can kill a man in fifty different ways!

**Isabella Cardoni** Oh, Pooky my hero!  
Two grabbed me from behind, while the other two came at me with knives. I used my Special Service Macramé training to get me out of trouble; with an Origami style blow to the throat, I threw three over my shoulder! The four in front lunged at me with their evil looking six-inch daggers, and with a deft Ikea chop to the solar plexus, I knocked them for six. The other ten ran away, but when I looked, one of the blighters had made off with my wallet.

**Isabella** Oh no, how terrible!

**Cardoni** A lesser man would have buckled under the pressure, but not old Pooky ‘Artblast!

*Holding a mobile phone, Arlecchino opens the USR door and peeks out. He dials, a moment later the phone rings, Isabella picks it up. Arlecchino disappears.*

**Isabella** Just a minute Pooky I’m expecting a call from Inspector Pantalone. That might be him now.

**Cardoni** Well I’ll leave you to it, cheerio my dear, TTFN!

*Relieved, Captain Cardoni exits USL pinching Isabella’s bottom as he goes, at which she squeals.*

**Isabella** Hello, Floaters Leisure Centre, Isabella speaking, how can I help you? *(No answer)* Hello? Hello? Who is this? I beg your pardon; I think you’re breaking up! You did what? How dare you! That’s absolutely disgusting!

*Arlecchino re-appears at the door USR with the mobile phone.*

**Arlecchino** Your voice is like a spanner!

**Isabella** Like a spanner, what on earth do you mean?

**Arlecchino** Just talking to you makes my nuts tighten.

**Isabella** Don’t be so vulgar you horrible little man!

**Arlecchino** What are you wearing?

**Isabella** None of your business!

**Arlecchino** Are you wearing a peek-a-boo bra?

**Isabella** Certainly not and besides, what’s it got to do with you anyway?

**Arlecchino** Crotch-less panties?

**Isabella** Oh!

**Arlecchino** You horny sex kitten!

**Isabella** What!

**Arlecchino** How would you like an Australian kiss?

**Isabella** Don’t you mean a French kiss!

**Arlecchino** Nah, for an Australian kiss, you have to go down under!

**Isabella** Eugh! How dare you, I’ve never been so insulted in all my life! *(She slams the phone down in disgust, it instantly rings again, indignantly she picks it up and answers).* Look here you disgusting pervert, get lost, why don’t you! *(Pause. By Isabella’s reaction it is obviously not the previous caller).* Oh, Mr Pantalone, it’s you! I’m so sorry about that, but we’ve been plagued by obscene phone calls all morning ... Yes, yes, I quite agree, I really must be more careful. Anyway to business ... you’ll be here by two o’clock, splendid, I look forward to it ... well until then Mr Pantalone, goodbye. *(She replaces the phone with a pained expression on her face).* How ghastly, I’ll never be able to look him in the eye without blushing!

*Isabella exits USL shaking her head in disbelief. Arlecchino stealthily peers round the USR door. He enters, moving around the stage whilst humming the “Mission Impossible” signature tune. Finally, he leaps up onto the desk.*

**Arlecchino** Ha! That’s got rid of her, the coast is clear! Agent Harley at your service! Now to give my dozy old boss, Pantalone, a quick update! *(He picks up the phone and dials).* Ah, Mr Pantalone, is that you? ... But how do I know it’s you, for all I know you could be anybody, a spy even ... what’s that? I phoned you, oh so I did, but you can’t be too careful these days can you! ... Look I haven’t got much time, nobody suspects a thing ... yes ... yes, everything’s going to plan. They think I’m the swimming instructor ... SWIMMING INSTRUCTOR! So if you want to catch them all unawares, why don’t you arrive early this morning and book in for some swimming lessons ... What? ... I said “swimming”, not “women”! Swimming! ... No, no, no, not swimming, women swimming ... SWIMMING! ... Oh, very well, ‘S’ for sugar, ‘W’ for Wally... No, not you! ... ‘I’ for idiot ... Oh, this is ridiculous, SWIMMING LESSONS, got it ... good! Over and out, see you later you silly old duffer!

*Franceschina enters USL. She is slightly taken aback at the sight of Arlecchino standing on the desk.*

**Frankie** Oh, it’s you! I’m surprised you can show your face!

**Arlecchino** What do you mean?

**Frankie** *(Sarcastically)* Steam room? *(Pause).* What are you doing up there anyway?

*Arlecchino pretends to unscrew an imaginary light bulb.*

**Arlecchino** Er, nothing just changing the light bulb!

**Frankie** What light bulb, there’s nothing there.

**Arlecchino** Oh no, I thought as much, it's been stolen. You can't trust anybody these days, see yah!

*Arlecchino hurriedly exits USR. Ricciolina enters USL.*

**Frankie** Oh, there you are ... and just how was the steam room, may I ask?

**Rickie** Fantastic!

**Frankie** Really?

**Rickie** Yeah, I couldn't see very much, but he was enormous! I'll be walking like John Wayne for weeks!

**Frankie** Serves you right, but I bet it wasn't as good as that night in the back of Spendetti's car!

**Rickie** Oh, it was much better than that.

**Frankie** Well, I bet it wasn't as good as the day we flew to Ibiza with Flavio!

**Rickie** What do you mean?

**Frankie** (*Knowingly*) You know the 'mile high club', wink-wink!

**Rickie** Oh, it was much, much better than that.

**Frankie** Well, I bet it wasn't as good as the day we spent on the beach with Spavento!

**Rickie** Oh, it was much, much, much better than that, besides that sand gets everywhere! (*Pulcinella enters USL. With his back to Ricciolina and Franceschina he mops the floor*). There was one thing though, it's rather surprising but he's got a very hairy back and it's all sort of ...

**Frankie** What?

**Rickie** Well sort of lumpy, and he did have a slight bowel problem.

*Pulcinella passes wind once more, Franceschina collapses in a fit of giggles at the realization of what had really taken place.*

**Pulcinella** (*Suddenly turning*) You're the best!

**Rickie** Aagh! That's disgusting, I need a shower!

*Ricciolina hurriedly exits USR, energetically pursued by Pulcinella.*

**Pulcinella** I'll hold the soap!

*Franceschina excitedly rings her friend Colombina.*

**Frankie** Oh, hey Colombina ... you'll never guess what! Rickie did it in the steam room with Pulcinella! ... Yeah she thought it was ...

*In an animated fashion, Franceschina continues to mime talk. Angelica and Olivia enter through the audience DSR. We hear them before we see them, they are obviously trying to outdo each other.*

**Olivia** So how are your tennis skills these days Angelica darling. I can keep a rally going for five minutes.

**Angelica** Oh, that's nothing darling, I can keep going for ten!

**Olivia** Well, some days I can last for half an hour.

**Angelica** I can manage an hour!

**Olivia** Two hours!

**Angelica** Five!

*Having arrived at the reception desk, Olivia, who is most put out and annoyed with Angelica, rings the desk bell for attention. Franceschina, equally annoyed at the interruption to her phone call, ignores her. Throughout the next section Angelica repeatedly rings the bell for attention; eventually Franceschina is forced into acknowledging her.*

**Frankie** No way, you're kidding me! ... Really he didn't say that, did he? ... Weeee, what a nerve... mmm, that's what I thought

*Olivia rings the bell. Without pausing for breath, Franceschina deftly moves the desk bell out of her reach.*

**Olivia** Excuse me!

**Frankie** Yeah ... yeah ... I know! I thought he was ... (*Olivia frantically rings the bell, Franceschina is very indignant at the interruption. Pointedly to Olivia*). I'm on the phone! (*To Colombina*). Yeah, I know ... some people! (*Olivia is outraged at Franceschina's audacity, she furiously rings the bell*). Oh, look Col, I'm going to have to go, I'll call you back, all right honey. (*Franceschina speaks rapidly now; she continues talking as she leans forward to put the phone down, until her head is almost touching the desk*). Love you babes, all right honey, love yah, all right, all right, love yah / bye / bye / see yah / bye hon / bye / bye / love yah / all right / bye / bye / bye / see yah! (*She finally replaces the receiver*). Good morning. (*Now in a bored monotone*). Welcome to Floaters Leisure Centre, my name's Franceschina, how may I help you?

**Olivia** We've booked a tennis lesson with Captain Cardoni 'Artblast.

**Frankie** (*Holding her nose, she speaks into the public address system*). Bing-bong! Attention, attention please; this is a staff announcement. Will Captain Cardoni Fartblast please report to reception immediately, thank you! (*Sweetly*). He won't be a moment.

**Olivia** Thank you.

*Captain Cardoni bursts in, USL, agitated and annoyed.*

**Cardoni** Franceschina, my sweet, I've told you many times before, it's 'Artblast with a silent 'F' as in the French! (*He suddenly realises they are not alone*). Ah! Ladies, my morning appointment. I'm very sorry for that, er ... outburst. I, er ...

**Angelica** Oh, think nothing of it Captain Cardoni.

**Olivia** I agree. I love to see a man hot and bothered!

**Angelica** Now Captain, I want you to work on my backhand.

**Olivia** And I need you to spend time on my forehand.

**Angelica** Not forgetting my serve.

**Olivia** Or my smash!

**Angelica** Volley!

**Olivia** Deuce!

**Angelica** Love fifteen!

**Olivia** Love thirty!

**Both Ladies** Game, set and match!

**Cardoni** Well my dears, I'll see what I can do, tell me, how are your ball-handling skills?

**Olivia** Excellent!

**Angelica** Superlative!

**Olivia** Beyond all comparison!

**Angelica** None of my instructors have ever been disappointed!

**Olivia** I've even been known to instruct the instructors!

**Cardoni** Well it's a matter of opinion, but they do say, my pretty pair, "two in the hand is worth one in the bush".

**Angelica** You don't say!

**Olivia** How exciting. I can hardly wait!

**Cardoni** Well come along, there's no time like the present. Off we jolly well go!

*Frankie, hardly believing what is going on in front of her eyes repeatedly makes little disgusted exclamations "Huh! Huh! Huh!" etc. Captain Cardoni links arms with Angelica and Olivia and they exit USL. Franceschina picks up the phone and calls Colombina again.*

**Frankie** Oh yeah, hi Col, it's me again ... yeah ... you know that Captain Cardoni Fartblast ... yeah that one that sent me that letter ... yeah that's right, he's such a sleaze ... yeah ... right!

*Mr Pantalone arrives at the DSR door and walks over to the desk.*

**Pantalone** (*Coughing*) Er, excuse me, but ...

*Pantalone waits patiently. Eventually, to catch her attention, he rings the desk bell. Without batting an eyelid, Franceschina continues talking and deftly moves the bell out of the reach of Pantalone.*

**Frankie** These two girls came in to play tennis, what a pair of floozy's! ... He's only flirting with them ... yeah, and they're flirting with him right under my nose! (*Becoming more and more outraged, Pantalone frantically rings the bell at regular intervals*). Yeah, I know it was really rude! Do you think it was to make me jealous? ... Yeah, I think it was to make me jealous! (*Pantalone frenetically rings the bell for attention. Franceschina is obliged to speak over the racket*). Yeah, I do, cos' he wrote me that letter, it must mean something, well I think it must mean something, but I'm not sure, cos' I don't really know ... yeah ... I know ... yeah (*Apoplectic ringing from Pantalone*). Oh sorry Col, I'm going to have go, I've got some sort of nutter in here! (*Franceschina speaks rapidly, periodically interrupting her speech with kissing noises.*) Yeah / see yah / love yah babes / all right / all right / 'bye / 'bye / see yah / 'bye / 'bye / love yah hon / 'bye / 'bye / 'bye / see yah / 'bye. (*She replaces the receiver*). Good morning, my name's...

**Pantalone** Now I've come here to ...

**Frankie** (*With slightly more urgency*) Hello, my name's Franceschina, welcome ...

**Pantalone** Young woman, I've ...

**Frankie** (*With even more urgency*) Hello, my name's Franceschina, welcome to Floaters ...

**Pantalone** I just want to ...  
**Frankie** *(Even more urgency)* Hello! Hello! *(She rings the bell herself)*. My name's Franceschina, welcome to Floaters ...  
**Pantalone** Young woman, I just want to ...  
**Frankie** *(Very urgent)* Hello! Hello! *(She rings the bell again)*. My names Franceschina, welcome ...  
**Pantalone** Shut up! Shut up! Listen here you bimbo!

*The increasingly heated conversation continues, with neither party willing to give up. Franceschina is determined to finish her, somewhat tired, welcoming speech. Pantalone, on the other hand is equally determined that he will have his say. This section should be adlibbed. Ultimately Franceschina wins. Pantalone clutches his chest and gasps for breath; he quickly unscrews a small bottle and swallows a pill.*

**Frankie** *(Sweetly)* Hello, my name's Franceschina. Welcome to Floaters Leisure Centre, how can I help you?  
**Pantalone** *(Gasping for breath)* I ... I ... I ... I ...  
**Frankie** The Gents is through there, first on the right, you can't miss it.  
**Pantalone** My good woman, er ... I mean Miss, I ...  
**Frankie** *(Crossly)* What do you want?  
**Pantalone** Well, I've just come to ...  
**Frankie** Just a minute, what's the time?  
**Pantalone** Well, I'm not sure, I think it's, er ... *(He fumbles in his pocket for a hunter watch)*.  
**Frankie** Sorry, it's my coffee break. You'll just have to see someone else.  
**Pantalone** But, but, but ...  
**Frankie** Look, I can't stay here talking to you all day, there's a pot noodle with my name on it upstairs. So run along and pester someone else, there's a good chap.  
**Pantalone** I beg your pardon?  
**Frankie** I said piss off you dirty old pervert. Really, some people!

*With her nose in the air Franceschina exits USL. Somewhat taken aback, Pantalone records the altercation in a little black book. He looks at his watch, paces up and down impatiently and rings the bell. There is no response. Eventually, in a mad frenzy, he almost breaks the bell. Pulcinella flings the USR door open in an obvious temper.*

**Pulcinella** What the bloody hell's going on? Oi! Droopy-draws. Leave that friggin' bell alone, why don't you, I'm trying to get some sleep back there!  
**Pantalone** Sleep? ... Oh, never mind. Look I'm here for my swimming lesson.  
**Pulcinella** Well, you've come to the right place.  
**Pantalone** I know I've come to the right place.  
**Pulcinella** But not today!  
**Pantalone** What do you mean not today?  
**Pulcinella** We're draining the pool.  
**Pantalone** Draining the pool? Whatever for?  
**Pulcinella** It's full of urine.  
**Pantalone** Urine?  
**Pulcinella** I said "chlorine".  
**Pantalone** No you didn't you said "urine"!  
**Pulcinella** No, no "chlorine".  
**Pantalone** No, no, no I've the memory of an elephant ...  
**Pulcinella** Exactly!  
**Pantalone** *(Slightly taken aback)* You specifically said "urine"!  
**Pulcinella** "Chlorine"!  
**Pantalone** "Urine"!  
**Pulcinella** "Chlorine"!  
**Pantalone** "Urine"!  
**Pulcinella** "Urine"!  
**Pantalone** "Chlorine"!  
**Pulcinella** Precisely! We had a kiddie's party last night, and now there's tiddle everywhere!  
**Pantalone** Tiddle, what do you mean tiddle?  
**Pulcinella** Tiddles the cat, wee-wee all over the place!  
**Pantalone** Wee-wee?

**Pulcinella** Yeah, France. I've just come back from a booze cruise.

**Pantalone** Booze cruise? What has all this got to do with my swimming lesson?

**Pulcinella** Ah, you've come to the right place!

**Pantalone** I know I've come to the right place!

**Pulcinella** We're just filling it up.

**Pantalone** Filling it up, what do you mean, filling it up?

**Pulcinella** With a hose.

**Pantalone** A hose?

**Pulcinella** Yes, a green one.

**Pantalone** What? Now look here ...

**Pulcinella** Where?

**Pantalone** I demand a swimming lesson.

**Pulcinella** Oh very well, do this.

**Pantalone** Do what?

**Pulcinella** This! (*Pulcinella waves his arms frantically*).

**Pantalone** Whatever for?

**Pulcinella** Because I'm your personal swimming instructor!

**Pantalone** Why didn't you say so before?

**Pulcinella** You never asked me! Now come on, do this like I showed you.

**Pantalone** I can't do that!

**Pulcinella** Yes you can.

**Pantalone** Where's the water?

**Pulcinella** You don't need water, you might drown!

**Pantalone** Not if you teach me to swim I won't!

**Pulcinella** That's what I'm doing, but first you must practice your strokes.

**Pantalone** Strokes, what strokes?

**Pulcinella** Had one before? I'm not surprised.

**Pantalone** What?

**Pulcinella** At your age.

**Pantalone** At my age, how dare you!

**Pulcinella** That reminds me of a joke.

**Pantalone** A joke. Look, I really don't think ...

**Pulcinella** Yes, that's your trouble. There were two old boys sat in deck chairs.

**Pantalone** What?

**Pulcinella** (*Aside*) Deaf as well ... (*To Pantalone*) just as old Aunt Doris shot by, well not exactly shot by you understand ...

**Pantalone** Now look here I ...

**Pulcinella** Completely starkers she was.

**Pantalone** Who was?

**Pulcinella** Old Aunt Doris, why don't you pay attention? In the buff, naked, only wearing ...

**Pantalone** I thought you said she was naked?

**Pulcinella** Her birthday suit, a little bit worn in ...

**Pantalone** Or worn out! (*He laughs*)

**Pulcinella** Look, I do the jokes. Admittedly it was two sizes too big for her.

**Pantalone** What was?

**Pulcinella** Her birthday suit, anyway one of the old boys had a stroke.

**Pantalone** Oh dear.

**Pulcinella** But the other one wasn't quick enough! (*Pantalone looks startled*). Now, where was I? Oh yes, you were practicing your strokes. Just do as I do, and you'll be alright.

**Pantalone** Oh very well.

*Pulcinella slowly waves his arms about and Pantalone tentatively follows suit. The action becomes more and more wild, until they are both jumping around the stage in a totally ludicrous fashion. Finally, Pulcinella grabs Pantalone from behind and roughly manhandles him, forcing him to wave his arms even faster than before. Vocally building in volume throughout this, Pulcinella, wildly sings the 'Ride Of The Valkeryies' ... "Da-de-dada-da-dah, da-de-dada-da-dah, de-dada-da-da, da-dada-dee" etc.*

**Pulcinella** That'll be ten quid!

**Pantalone** Ten quid?  
**Pulcinella** Yes, cash, moolah. Cheque or plastic?  
**Pantalone** But, but, but ...  
**Pulcinella** Cough up, or I'll call my lawyer!  
**Pantalone** Well this is very unorthodox (*He takes out a ten pound note*).  
**Pulcinella** Thank you! Right, now get on the desk and do this.

*Pulcinella pretends to do the breast stroke.*

**Pantalone** What this?  
**Pulcinella** Yes, that's right!  
**Pantalone** (*Pantalone lies on top of the desk and pretends to swim*) How am I doing?  
**Pulcinella** Admiral!  
**Pantalone** Oh, thank you!  
**Pulcinella** I said "admiral", not "admirable"!  
**Pantalone** Admiral?  
**Pulcinella** Yes, just like an old admiral.  
**Pantalone** An old admiral, what are you talking about?  
**Pulcinella** About three knots.  
**Pantalone** (*Confused*) Three knots?  
**Pulcinella** Yes, there was an old admiral at a brothel ...  
**Pantalone** (*Aghast*) At a brothel?  
**Pulcinella** ... who wanted to know how he was doing, and the old trollop said three nots ...  
**Pantalone** I fail to see what this has got to do ...  
**Pulcinella** ... you're not in, you're not hard and you're not getting you're money back!

*Pulcinella exits USL, leaving Pantalone swimming on the table. Dr Halitosis is heard complaining offstage before making his entrance in a wheelchair. It is obvious from the bandages on his foot he is suffering from gout.*

**Dr Halitosis** (*Off*) Mind the post-box ... aagh! My foot!  
**Colombina** (*Off*) Oh sorry doctor.  
**Dr Halitosis** (*Off*) And watch that ... ow!  
**Colombina** (*Off*) Sorry!

*Dr Halitosis and Colombina enter DSR. Colombina attempts to mount the step onto the stage without success.*

**Dr Halitosis** I can't get up there that way! Try something else.  
**Colombina** What if I go backwards.  
**Dr Halitosis** Good idea try going up backwards. (*Colombina spins the chair round and hits his foot again*). Ow, you clumsy girl!  
**Colombina** Oh sorry, I'll try again.

*Colombina attempts to drag Dr Halitosis up the step eventually he is tipped out of his chair, Colombina stands on his foot.*

**Dr Halitosis** Aagh! My foot! My foot! Aagh! You're standing on my foot! What are you trying to do, kill me?  
**Colombina** Oh! Oh, Doctor!

*She stands on his foot once more.*

**Dr Halitosis** Ow! Ow!  
**Colombina** Just stand there, while I get the wheelchair.

*She runs over his foot.*

**Dr Halitosis** Ow! Ow! Watch out!  
**Colombina** I'll have to help you up, lean on me. Right, don't go away, I'll get the chair.

*Dr Halitosis tries to maintain his balance. Colombina returns, dragging the wheelchair up the step backwards. She bumps into Dr Halitosis, who topples over onto the still swimming Pantalone, landing with his face in Pantalone's posterior.*

**Dr Halitosis** Ah, Pantalone. I'd recognise you anywhere! I haven't seen you in years.  
**Pantalone** Good lord, it's my old friend Dr Halitosis! I haven't seen you since the old days.

*They shake hands. Pantalone accidentally stands on Dr Halitosis's foot.*

**Dr Halitosis** Aagh! Right toe  
**Pantalone** What? Right-ho?

**Dr Halitosis** (*Frantically*) Right toe! Right toe!  
**Pantalone** Right-ho?  
**Dr Halitosis** Right toe ... you're standing on my foot!  
**Pantalone** Oh, I'm terribly sorry, what on earth have you done to yourself?  
**Dr Halitosis** Gout, dear boy.  
**Pantalone** Gout, you should go and see a doctor.  
**Dr Halitosis** I am a doctor!  
**Pantalone** Oh yes I forgot. Well, it happens to all of us eventually.  
**Dr Halitosis** Yes, yes. Tempus fugit.  
**Pantalone** (*Musing*) Time passes! (*Pause*) I say old man, who's the floozy in the nurses uniform? You dirty dog, you!  
**Dr Halitosis** She's a trainee supply nurse.  
**Pantalone** What she supplies on your demand, eh! (*They both laugh a dirty laugh, Colombina joins in*). You still like it in frequently then I see?  
**Dr Halitosis** Well that depends if that's one word or two?  
**Pantalone** Pardon?  
**Dr Halitosis** 'Infrequently', is that one word, or two?  
**Pantalone** Oh, in ... frequently, very good. Ha! Ha! Very good!  
**Dr Halitosis** Well, these days Viagra helps a lot you know!  
**Pantalone** Oh, seeing you again takes me back to the good old days.  
**Dr Halitosis** When was that?  
**Pantalone** When we were the best ...  
**Dr Halitosis** The up and coming ...  
**Pantalone** The world at our feet ...  
**Dr Halitosis** Everything to live for ...  
**Pantalone** Now look at us ... ah well, what will be will be.  
**Dr Halitosis** Do you still remember the old school secret handshake?  
**Pantalone** Could I ever forget!

*They perform a ridiculous ritual handshake. Putting their right hands out they dive forwards and grab hold of each others foot, they hop round in a circle. They let go and lean backwards and make 'jazz hands'. All the while, they grin maniacally and make suitable noises "Ah-ha!" etc.*

**Dr Halitosis** Oh yes, those were the days all right!  
**Pantalone** Still play football do you?  
**Dr Halitosis** Not exactly, how about you?  
**Pantalone** Well I haven't hung up my boots just yet, not by a long chalk.  
**Dr Halitosis** You were the best goal post we ever had.  
**Pantalone** Really, I seem to remember you were a dab hand at left back ... left back in the changing room that is.

*They both laugh.*

**Dr Halitosis** What are you doing here anyway?  
**Pantalone** I'm on a secret mission.  
**Dr Halitosis** Mission impossible you mean!  
**Pantalone** No, no, no, I'm here on a secret ...  
**Dr Halitosis** Mission?  
**Pantalone** No, inspection.  
**Dr Halitosis** Oh, I see.  
**Pantalone** Oh do you? Is it that obvious? Mind you, I wouldn't mind inspecting that floozy of yours over there.  
**Dr Halitosis** Yes, we'd all give our right arm to give her the old once-over!

*Isabella enters USR.*

**Pantalone** You mean inspect her.

*Isabella knocks Pantalone out of the way.*

**Isabella** Inspector? You're early! (*She stands on Dr Halitosis's foot*).

**Dr Halitosis** Right toe! Right toe!

**Isabella** Right-ho?

**Dr Halitosis** Right toe ... you're standing on my foot!

**Isabella** Oh, I'm dreadfully sorry!

**Pantalone** Excuse me young woman ...

**Isabella** Bear with me one moment sir.

**Dr Halitosis** I've come for my treatment.

**Isabella** Treatment, what do you mean treatment?

**Pantalone** Now look here ...

**Isabella** If you wouldn't mind waiting one moment (*To Dr Halitosis*) Er, you were saying?

**Dr Halitosis** My therapy woman!

**Isabella** (*Knowingly*) Oh your therapy, you're here incognito!

**Dr Halitosis** Incognito, what are you talking about?

**Isabella** Very clever Mr Pant ... whoops, I nearly gave the game away! Don't worry, your secret's safe with me!

**Pantalone** Now look here ...

**Dr Halitosis** Secret, what secret? I haven't got a secret!

**Isabella** Oh, don't be so modest. A nod's as good as a wink ...

**Pantalone** I've been waiting here for ages, and I will not be ignored any longer!

**Isabella** Look I told you before, please wait your turn! (*To Dr Halitosis*) I won't tell a soul, very clever, very clever indeed.

**Dr Halitosis** Clever?

**Isabella** Yes, this way none of the staff will be aware of your true identity.

**Pantalone** Now look here, I've never been so ...

**Isabella** Look, push orff why don't you! (*To Dr Halitosis*) This way Inspector.

*Isabella 'swans' out USR followed by Colombina and Dr Halitosis. The wheelchair is left on the stage. Enter Arlecchino, USL.*

**Arlecchino** Ah, Mr Pantalone, you've arrived at last. Everything's going according to plan, no-one suspects a thing. Everything's going swimmingly.

**Pantalone** Swimmingly, I'll give you swimmingly! This place is an absolute disgrace. Since I've been here, I've been abused, ignored, reprimanded and worst of all, made a complete fool of!

**Arlecchino** Really?

**Pantalone** Yes, mocked!

**Arlecchino** Mocked, how so sir?

**Pantalone** That swimming instructor ...

**Arlecchino** Swimming instructor, but I'm (*winking*) the swimming instructor!

**Pantalone** Not you, the other instructor!

**Arlecchino** There isn't another instructor.

**Pantalone** Yes there is. He had me swimming on the table.

**Arlecchino** On the table?

**Pantalone** Yes, right there!

**Arlecchino** Where?

**Pantalone** On here, oh out of my way, look I'll show you, like this! (*He swims on the table as before*).

**Arlecchino** Oh, I see what you mean!

**Pantalone** Yes, I've never felt so foolish in my life!

**Arlecchino** Really?

**Pantalone** Yes really!

**Arlecchino** What did he look like?

**Pantalone** Well, he was a big ugly fellow, who smelt of drink!

**Arlecchino** Drink?

**Pantalone** Yes drink, and not only that, he made off with my ten pounds!

**Arlecchino** Ten pounds? What's he look like?

**Pantalone** I told you, he's a thick-set sort of fellow.

**Arlecchino** Thick-set?

**Pantalone** And he smelt of drink!

**Arlecchino** Drink?

**Pantalone** Stop repeating everything I say!  
**Arlecchino** Repeating?  
**Pantalone** Yes, everything I say.  
**Arlecchino** Everything you say. Oh, I wouldn't do that sir!  
**Pantalone** I should think not, now where was I?  
**Arlecchino** You were on the table swimming with an ugly thick-set sort of fellow, who smelt of drink.  
**Pantalone** No I wasn't!  
**Arlecchino** Yes you were!  
**Pantalone** No, I wasn't. I said ...  
**Arlecchino** What?  
**Pantalone** If you would just shut up for a moment, I'll tell you!  
**Arlecchino** Certainly, anything you say.  
**Pantalone** As I was saying ...  
**Arlecchino** What?  
**Pantalone** As I was saying, that swimming instructor ...  
**Arlecchino** What swimming instructor?  
**Pantalone** The swimming instructor that had me on the table!  
**Arlecchino** Really?  
**Pantalone** Oh, get out of my way you buffoon! I need to find somebody in authority.

*As Pantalone attempts to exit USR, the door bursts open knocking him flying. Arlecchino catches him. Enter Captain Cardoni, in hot pursuit of the squealing Olivia and Angelica.*

**Olivia** Oh Captain, Captain!  
**Cardoni** Come here you saucy little minxes! I'm going to get you!

*Pantalone recovers and exits USR.*

**Arlecchino** Hey, wait for me! *(He exits, USR).*  
**Angelica** Not if I can help it!

*Captain Cardoni, Olivia and Angelica exit USL.*

**Olivia** *(Off)* Come along Angelica, let's get him!

*A moment later the USR door bursts open again, but this time Captain Cardoni is being pursued by Olivia and Angelica.*

**Cardoni** Girls, girls!

*They exit USL. Isabella enters USR, looking for the Doctor whom she still thinks is Pantalone.*

**Isabella** *(Calling)* Mr Pantalone, Mr Pantalone? *(She crosses left, searching for him. The door USR bursts open and Olivia and Angelica career past her, pursued by the Captain. Annoyed, she calls to him).* Captain Cardoni, what is the meaning of this outrageous behaviour?

**Cardoni** Ah, Isabella, my dear, ding dong!

**Isabella** *(Peeved)* From now you can bloody well keep your ding dong to yourself!

**Cardoni** But my precious darling, you've got the wrong end of the stick!

**Isabella** Not from where I'm standing I haven't! How could you, it all seems pretty obvious to me!

**Cardoni** But Pumpkin you don't understand we were ...

**Isabella** Oh don't I! You were what?

**Cardoni** Fluffy, we were just, er ... um, circuit training!

**Isabella** Circuit training, my eye!

**Cardoni** Yes it's a new method devised by, er ... Dr McFeelyfeely.

**Isabella** Dr Mcfeelyfeely, never heard of him!

**Cardoni** He's an expert in flatulence, tittyitus and cellulite.

**Isabella** *(Horried)* Cellulite?

**Cardoni** Not that you need anything like that my little fluffy-kins!

**Isabella** What, cellulite?

**Cardoni** No, no I didn't mean that!

**Isabella** Well, what did you mean?

**Cardoni** I meant you are lean, lithe and salacious!

**Isabella** Salacious, of course I am! My body is my temple!

**Cardoni** A temple of love, my dear!

**Isabella**            *(Flattered)* Oh Captain.  
**Cardoni**            It was those two that need the cellulite treatment.  
**Isabella**            Oh, of course! Well in that case Captain, carry on!  
**Cardoni**            Ciao!  
**Isabella**            Until later!  
**Cardoni**            I can hardly wait!  
**Isabella**            Missing you already!  
**Cardoni**            Parting is such sweet sorrow.  
**Isabella**            Au revoir.  
**Cardoni**            Si-en-ara.  
**Isabella**            Adieu.  
**Cardoni**            Bless you!

*Isabella looks a little perplexed as Captain Cardoni exits USR.*

**Isabella**            What was I doing? Oh yes. *(Calling)* Mr Pantalone, Mr Pantalone!

*Isabella exits USL. Arlecchino enters USR.*

**Arlecchino**        Mr Pantalone, Mr Pantalone!

*Arlecchino shrugs his shoulders and turns to exit as the USL door bursts open and Colombina enters to collect the wheelchair.*

**Colombina**        Oh! I was just coming to get my wheelchair, well it's not my wheelchair, I mean I don't need a wheelchair, it's my patients wheelchair. *(She retrieves it and starts to push it).* He needs it, er, would you like to sit down?

**Arlecchino**        Don't mind if I do.

*As Arlecchino attempts to sit down, Colombina turns the wheelchair 180 degrees. Arlecchino falls to the floor Colombina is flustered and embarrassed. She helps him up and falls back into the wheelchair, pulling Arlecchino onto her lap.*

**Colombina**        We haven't been introduced.

**Arlecchino**        Arlecchino.

**Colombina**        Colombina ... Nurse Colombina!

**Arlecchino**        Nurse eh, what brings you here?

**Colombina**        I'm the doctor's nurse ...

**Arlecchino**        Doctor, what doctor?

**Colombina**        Dr Halitosis, we're here for physiotherapy.

**Arlecchino**        Physiotherapy ... I'm quite a fan of physiotherapy!

**Colombina**        I bet you are!

**Arlecchino**        Yes, I often get stiff.

**Colombina**        I should think it's quite hard.

**Arlecchino**        Hard?

**Colombina**        To get around I mean.

**Arlecchino**        Oh, I see.

**Colombina**        You could examine me if you like.

**Arlecchino**        What?

**Colombina**        I mean I could examine you. Well, I am a nurse you know. Now hop on the table and I'll see what we can do.

*Colombina thrusts Arlecchino onto the reception desk in a professional manner.*

**Arlecchino**        I like a forceful woman.

*Colombina begins to massage Arlecchino's shoulders.*

**Colombina**        Oooh my, you are a bit stiff!

**Arlecchino**        More than you know.

**Colombina**        We need some lubricant.

**Arlecchino**        Lubricant?

**Colombina**        Yes unction for the function. I'll be back in a tick!

*Colombina exits USL, without the wheelchair.*

**Arlecchino** I'll just take my top off! (*Pulcinella enters USR holding a broom. Unseen by Arlecchino, he instantly realises the possibilities*). Colombina, hurry up, its cold out here. (*Calling*) Colombina?

*As if he is playing billiards, Pulcinella aims the broom handle at Arlecchino's posterior.*

**Pulcinella** (*Aside*) Aye, aye, what have we here? (*To Arlecchino in a high voice*) Ready when you are.

**Arlecchino** Did you get the lotion?

**Pulcinella** Lotion? Erm, oh yes, the lotion! (*He blows his nose into his hands and applies the liquid to Arlecchino's back*). Applying lotion now!

**Arlecchino** That's wonderful but you need some more.

**Pulcinella** (*High voice*) More. I'll see what I can do.

*Pulcinella reaches behind his back as if squeezing a boil; he rubs the liquid on Arlecchino.*

**Arlecchino** Oooh, that's really good, what is it?

**Pulcinella** (*A momentary low voice*) It's grease from a boil!

**Arlecchino** What?

**Pulcinella** (*High voice*) Its lavender oil!

**Arlecchino** Ah, lavender oil. I thought as much.

*Pulcinella clears his throat and spits on Arlecchino's back.*

**Pulcinella** (*Low voice*) That feels clearer.

**Arlecchino** What?

**Pulcinella** (*High voice*) Aloe Vera!

*Upstage of Arlecchino, Pulcinella massages Arlecchino's back with the broom.*

**Arlecchino** Oooh, what rough hands you've got! What's that smell?

**Pulcinella** (*Low voice*) Puke and cat piss!

**Arlecchino** What?

**Pulcinella** (*High voice*) Eucalyptus!

**Arlecchino** Lower ... lower! You've nearly hit the spot, a bit lower.

**Pulcinella** (*High voice*) Spot? Perhaps you can hit the spot, that'll be ten quid.

**Arlecchino** Ten quid?

**Pulcinella** (*High voice*) I'm sure I'm worth it.

**Arlecchino** (*Unsure*) Well ... all right, here you are.

*With his face in ecstasy on the table but turned away from Pulcinella, Arlecchino hands Pulcinella a ten pound note.*

**Pulcinella** (*Low voice*) Nice one my chavvie!

*Colombina enters USL.*

**Colombina** I've got the lotion.

*Arlecchino quickly looks round and sees Pulcinella with the ten pound note.*

**Pulcinella** Magic touch mate!

*Pulcinella hurriedly exits USR.*

**Arlecchino** Aagh! I need a shower!

*Arlecchino exits USR.*

**Colombina** Oooh! I'll hold the soap!

*Colombina follows Arlecchino offstage, taking the wheelchair with her. Enter Dr Halitosis USL. Impatiently, he rings the desk bell.*

**Dr Halitosis** Hello! Hello! The service in this place is diabolical! (*Ring the bell*) Hello! Hello! This is really not good enough! (*Enter Ricciolina USR, rubbing her hair dry from her recent shower*). Ah, and about time too!

**Rickie** Hello, welcome to Floaters Leisure Centre, my name's Ricciolina how can I help you?

**Dr Halitosis** I'm here for my treatment.

**Rickie** What's the name?

**Dr Halitosis** (*Leaning close in to her*) Dr Halitosis.

**Rickie** (*Recoiling from his breath*) No kidding!

*Olivia and Angelica enter USR. The next section should be performed rapidly to allow for two conversations to take place at once. Ricciolina is the central lynchpin to the two conversations, answering both Angelica/Olivia and Dr Halitosis at the same time.*

**Angelica** I couldn't help noticing the Captain's eyes ...  
**Olivia** What do you mean?  
**Angelica** They were all over me.  
**Olivia** So what, I've got his number.  
**Angelica** I've got his address.  
**Dr Halitosis** Excuse me ladies ...  
**Olivia** Yes, whatever. *(To Rickie)* We want to use the pool.  
**Rickie** Excuse me, I'm just dealing with a customer.  
**Dr Halitosis** I'm right in the middle of ...  
**Olivia** Whatever!  
**Dr Halitosis** I was here first!

*Olivia and Angelica react in a disgusted fashion.*

**Dr Halitosis** I'm here for my treatment.  
**Rickie** What time? *(Looking in her appointment book)*  
**Dr Halitosis** Ten thirty.  
**Rickie** You've missed it, its eleven o'clock!  
**Olivia** Where are the changing rooms?  
**Rickie** Through there first on the right and ...  
**Dr Halitosis** What do you mean eleven o'clock?  
**Rickie** You're too late.  
**Dr Halitosis** Too late?  
**Angelica** First on the right and ...?  
**Rickie** Straight down the corridor and ...  
**Dr Halitosis** But can't you fit me in, I've been wandering around this place for hours!  
**Rickie** Let me see ...  
**Angelica** Straight down the corridor and ...  
**Olivia** Then where?  
**Rickie** Straight past the vending machine, and first on the ...  
**Dr Halitosis** What about my treatment?  
**Rickie** I've got a cancellation at ...  
**Angelica** First on the ...?  
**Rickie** Left.  
**Dr Halitosis** What time?  
**Rickie** Eleven twenty.  
**Dr Halitosis** What does it involve?  
**Rickie** What?  
**Dr Halitosis** My treatment!  
**Olivia** What treatment?  
**Dr Halitosis** The treatment for my foot!

*Dr Halitosis proffers his bandaged foot.*

**Angelica** Grandfather had one of those.  
**Dr Halitosis** Really, he should have come to see me.  
**Angelica** What for?  
**Dr Halitosis** I am a doctor you know ... Harley Street!  
**Olivia** What about a flume?  
**Angelica** Oh yes, have you got any flumes?  
**Dr Halitosis** A flume?  
**Olivia** Yes a flume!  
**Dr Halitosis** My word! Well I'm not a gynaecologist, but I'll look into it for you. *(Dr Halitosis laughs at his own joke).*  
**Rickie** *(Choosing to ignore him)* Yes we've got two.

**Dr Halitosis** Two, how extraordinary!  
**Rickie** Not really.  
**Dr Halitosis** When I studied anatomy I seem to remember the female of the species only had one.  
**Angelica** Eugh! How disgusting!  
**Olivia** Eugh! How vulgar!  
**Rickie** Excuse me, but a flume is ...  
**Dr Halitosis** You don't need to explain, to me my dear, I am very well aware what a flume is.  
**Rickie** But I think perhaps I do!  
**Dr Halitosis** In my younger days I used to play Doctors and Nurses all the time.  
**Angelica** Doctors and Nurses?  
**Dr Halitosis** Oh yes, I could keep it up with the best of them. Now where do I need to go?  
**Angelica** I think you need professional help, you dirty pervert.  
**Dr Halitosis** I am a Doctor you know ... Harley Street! As I was saying where can I find my treatment?  
**Olivia** You need more than treatment, you need locking up!  
**Rickie** Down the corridor, turn right at the stairs ...  
**Angelica** Where did you say we have to go to get changed?  
**Rickie** Through there first on the right and ...  
**Dr Halitosis** Down the corridor and turn ...?  
**Rickie** Right.  
**Dr Halitosis** By the stairs?  
**Olivia** First right?  
**Rickie** Then straight past the vending machine and take the first on the ...  
**Olivia** Right?  
**Rickie** No, left.  
**Dr Halitosis** I thought you said right?  
**Rickie** I did, you go right, and they need to go left.  
**Angelica** Right!  
**Rickie** No you go left!  
**Olivia** Right! I mean left.  
**Dr Halitosis** So I'm going past the vending machine and ...  
**Rickie** No, you're going past the stairs.  
**Dr Halitosis** I thought ...  
**Rickie** Well don't think! Just go through there, and turn right at the stairs.  
**Dr Halitosis** Oh, very well.

*Dr Halitosis exits USL.*

**Rickie** And you two, go straight past the vending machines and turn ...  
**Olivia**  
**Angelica** }  
**Rickie** } Right!  
 (Angrily) Left!  
**Angelica** There's no need to shout!  
**Olivia** We're not stupid!  
**Angelica** Ooh! You just can't get the staff these days.

*Angelica and Olivia exit USR. Franceschina enters USL.*

**Rickie** Where the hell have you been?  
**Frankie** Where do you think? I've been on my break.  
**Rickie** Break, while you've been on a break I've been doing my nut in here!  
**Frankie** So, I'm entitled to a break aren't I?  
**Rickie** You lazy cow, I do all the work round here!  
**Frankie** All the work, what a nerve! You've just been in the shower for half an hour!  
**Rickie** Well wouldn't you!

*Enter Colombina, looking rather pleased with herself!*

**Colombina** Oh, hello Frankie, hello Rickie.  
**Frankie** (Brightly) Oh hello Col.

**Colombina** How's the steam room these days Rickie?  
**Rickie** Steam room? What are you talking about?  
**Frankie** You know!  
**Rickie** No I don't!  
**Colombina** You know I know, you know!  
**Rickie** What do you know?  
**Colombina** You know!  
**Frankie** Yes, you know. I know that she knows, that you know.  
**Colombina** Yes, I know all about it.  
**Rickie** No, I don't know what you think she knows, I know what you know!  
**Colombina** Look you do know that I know all about it, don't you?  
**Rickie** What do you mean you know all about it?  
**Colombina** Well, I just do that's all!  
**Rickie** How do you know then?  
**Colombina** Look I just know that I know what I know, that's all, you know?  
**Rickie** So you're saying that you know what I know, and that she knows what I know, even though you know what I thought I knew that she knows what you know!  
**Colombina** Yeah!  
**Frankie** Yeah!  
**Rickie** Well, promise you won't tell anybody.  
**Frankie** What're you doing here anyway?  
**Colombina** Oh, I've been employed to push some old buzzard about in a wheelchair.  
**Frankie** An old buzzard?  
**Colombina** Yes, Doctor Halitosis; but I've lost him. Mind you, he can't get very far; he can hardly walk!  
**Rickie** Oh him! His breath stinks like an old goat's growler!  
**Frankie** How did you lose him?  
**Colombina** Well, I just came back here to get his wheelchair and ...  
**Rickie** And what?  
**Colombina** I bumped into Arlecchino and well, you know, one thing led to another.  
**Frankie** What do you mean?  
**Colombina** Let's just say I held the soap!  
**Frankie** Oooh you dirty cow!  
**Colombina** Look never mind that, right now I've got to find my patient. Where did you say he went?  
**Rickie** Through there, he's probably lost by now.  
**Colombina** Oh no, you couldn't help me find him could you?  
**Frankie** Oh all right, come on Rickie, you look that way and we'll look this way.

*Franceschina, Ricciolina and Colombina exit right and left. Isabella enters USR.*

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**... in this Preview Script, the remainder of the play has been deleted ...**

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