

The 87th Annual Waa-Mu Show  
Revised 2/12/18

SCENE 4

*Niblo's Garden. SALLY is acting...badly*

*The rest of the cast of the Black Crook  
looks on silently judging*

*Hey BARRAS is enthralled by SALLY's  
performance*

SALLY

*(way overacted, as STALACTA)*

On the instant I was transformed into a white dove with shorn pinions.

*She makes a bird like motion and screeches like a dying vulture*

From beneath the rank leaves of an adderplant glided a huge serpent. Its eyes were burning coals, its tongue a living flame.

*She makes a hissing noise*

I was paralyzed with fear and powerless to move. Nearer and nearer it came. I felt it's stifling breath displace the purer air. I saw its venom fangs *glis'tning* in the pale moonlight. Rising from out it's deadly coil itself, when suddenly a youth, a mortal, strangely present in that wildwood spot, seeing the danger of the trembling bird seized a dead bough, which chance had fashioned like a holy cross, and smote the foul thing dead. Then bore me safely from the charmed spot and gave me life and liberty.

*She strikes a dramatic pose, maybe hitting a poor cast member in the process. BARRAS stands violently and claps.*

BARRAS

Wonderful, sweetheart! Absolutely stunning performance!

SALLY

*(fake, she knows she's amazing)*

Oh Grizzly Bear, do you think so? Do you really mean it? Cause I thought I could've-

BARRAS

Oh no no no no no! [some gross pet name], you were perfect, don't change a thing.

*(to the cast)*

BARRAS (CONT'D)

You see this everyone? THIS is what a *real* actor looks like. You all stand there, like *boards* while [same gross pet name] here *acts* with *emotion* with-

*Suddenly, GEORGE loudly bursts in. He is out of breath and cannot be understood at first.*

GEORGE

*(without any pronunciation)*

FIRE IN THE THEATER FIRE

BARRAS

How dare you burst in here when we're working! Get out and don't come back until your call time! I don't have time for games and interruptions!

GEORGE

*(able to be understood, still catching breath)*

Fire! FIRE!

CAST MEMBER

Fire

OTHER CAST MEMBER

Where?

GEORGE

Across the street! At the Academy!

ALL

*(ad. lib)*

What?! No way! Oh my God! I don't believe it! I've got to see this.

*Everyone rushes outside to see.*

*The scene changes to outside THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC*

*WHEATLEY, JARRETT, MILLIE, and the rest of the*

*PERFORMERS are outside, watching.*

*BARRAS, GEORGE, and the cast of the Black Crook enter and joins them.*

*THE OFFICER CLOPP enters with the FIRE BRIGADE*

*WHEATLEY goes to meet him.*

WHEATLEY

Oh thank God! Thank you for getting here so quickly! I think if you hurry there's still time to save it.

OFFICER CLOPP

We'll do our best, sir, but my men and I are tired, New York is a big city, with lots of fires, and we're a long way from the station. Now, if there was a little...benefit...that could boost our morale, it could go a long way in helping us find our strength

WHEATLEY

I don't understand, what are you saying? We don't have a lot of time here!

OFFICER CLOPP

Well sir, we've fought a lot of fires today, worth a lot more than what City Hall puts toward our retirement every week. Maybe if you do me a favor, I could do you one and help find some added strength for my men.

WHEATLEY

Are you kidding me?! What do you think this is Tammany Hall? I'm sorry but last time I checked, aren't firefighters supposed to help people?

OFFICER CLOPP

We are. But in the modern world, people need to help us too. I'm afraid nothing comes free these days. Capitalism's a bitch, ain't it?

*Wheatley hesitates.*

WHEATLEY

Fine. Let me just speak to my director, to see how much we can spare. Mr. Palmer? Can you come here?

*JARRETT comes over*

JARRETT

What is it?

WHEATLEY

*(to him, discreetly)*

He wants a bribe to put out the fire.

OFFICER CLOPP

*(interjecting)*

I think of it as more of a friendly donation.

JARRETT

What? That's ridiculous! Can't you just put out the fire, please? We're running out of time!

*OFFICER CLOPP stands stone faced*

JARRETT

Please? If you don't all of our work will be lost! We have people from all over the world here, they can't just pack up and go home!

WHEATLEY

What's the matter with you? Just pay him! You can spare the money!

JARRETT

Actually. Um

*He laughs nervously, ad. lib stalling*

We uh, funny story. Um, etc....

WHEATLEY

Jarrett what's going on? Out with it!

JARRETT

Look, we really... can't

WHEATLEY

What? What do you mean we can't!

JARRETT

I mean we're broke.

WHEATLEY

What? Since when? Does Millie know?

JARRETT

Nobody does

OFFICER CLOPP

I do.

WHEATLEY

Do you mind? Jarrett, this is bad. Really bad. When were you gonna tell us that we were broke?

JARRETT

After we turned a profit on the show.

WHEATLEY

What?! Jarrett, no, you needed to tell me as soon as you found out! I trusted you! What are we gonna do now?

JARRETT

I... I don't know

OFFICER CLOPP

I hate to interrupt this depressing little revelation, but if there's no pay, I think my men and I will be on our way.

WHEATLEY

It doesn't matter. It's too late anyway. The theater is gone. *My beautiful theater is gone.*

Morning Glow-- play off of the idea of the early morning glow be flames in place of the sun  
As the sun rises in the east  
We see the ashen ruins of our dreams