HELLO, DOLLY!

Book by Michael Stewart
Music and Lyrics by Jerry Herman

Based on the play THE MATCHMAKER
by Thornton Wilder

Original Production Directed and Choreographed
by Gower Champion

Produced for the Broadway Stage
by David Merrick and Champion-Five, Inc.

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FIRST PERFORMANCE AT THE ST. JAMES THEATRE, NEW YORK  
JANUARY 16, 1964

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(In Order of Appearance)

MRS. DOLLY GALLAGHER LEVI............Carol Channing

ERNESTINA............................Mary Jo Catlett  
(Can be chorus but ideally is fat)

AMBROSE KEMPER.........................Igors Gavon

HORSE.................................Jan LaPrade, Bonnie Mathis (Chorus  
Dancers)

HORACE VANDERGELDER.....................David Burns

ERMENGARDE..............................Alice Playten

CORNELIUS HACKL........................Charles Nelson Reilly

BARNABY TUCKER..........................Jerry Dodge

IRENE MOLLOY............................Eileen Brennan

MINNIE FAY...............................Sondra Lee

MRS. ROSE...............................Amelia Haas (Chorus)

RUDOLPH.................................David Hartman (Can be Chorus

JUDGE.................................Gordon Connell(Can be Chorus

COURT CLERK.............................Ken Ayers (Chorus)

Townspeople, Waiters, etc.

8 girl dancers )
8 girl singers )
) Can be done
) with less
6 boy singers )
12 boy dancers 

* * *
SCENES

ACT ONE

Scene 1: Street Scene in New York City in the 1890's. Grand Central Station.

Scene 2: Horace Vandergelder's Feed Store, Yonkers, New York. Yonkers Railroad Station.

Scene 3: New York Street and Exterior of Mrs. Molloy's Hat Shop. Interior of Hat Shop. Deserted Store. Fourteenth Street Parade

ACT TWO


Scene 2: Harmonica Gardens Restaurant.

Scene 3: Courtroom, Judge's Bench and Docket.

Scene 4: Vandergelder's Feed Store.

* * *
MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Overture - Orchestra.

1. Opening Act I..................................Chorus
2. I Put My Hand In..............................Dolly
2A. Yonkers March................................Orchestra
3. It Takes A Woman...............................Horace, Cornelius, Barnaby and Chorus
       Barnaby and Chorus
3A. Reprise: It Takes A Woman..................Dolly & Horace
4. Put On Your Sunday Clothes..................Dolly, Cornelius, Barnaby, Ambrose & Chorus
4A. Encore: Put On Your Sunday Clothes......Chorus
4B. Incidental (Hat Shop).......................Orchestra
5. Ribbons Down My Back........................Mrs. Molloy
5A. Reprise: Ribbons’ Down My Back..........Mrs. Molloy
6. Motherhood March...............................Dolly, Mrs. Molloy, Minnie
7. Dancing...........................................Dolly, Mrs. Molloy, Cornelius & Barnaby
7A. Incidental (I Put My Hand In).............Orchestra
8. Before The Parade Passes By..............Dolly & Chorus
9. Finale Act I......................................Dolly

ACT TWO

10. Entr'acte........................................Orchestra
11. Elegance........................................Mrs. Molloy, Minnie, Cornelius & Barnaby

11A. March To Harmonica Gardens...............Ernestina
12. Waiter's Gallop...............................Orchestra
12A. Hello, Dolly - Agitato......................Orchestra
13. Hello, Dolly.....................................Dolly & Men
13A. Encore: Hello, Dolly.........................Men
15. Polka.............................................Orchestra
16. It Only Takes A Moment......................Cornelius
16A. It Only Takes A Moment: Part II..........Mrs. Molloy, Cornelius & Chorus
16B. End Of Courtroom Scene......................Orchestra
17. So Long, Dearie..............................Dolly
17A. Change Of Scene.............................Orchestra
18. Finale Ultimo.................................Dolly, Mrs. Molloy, Horace, Cornelius & Chorus

19. Curtain Music...................................Orchestra
20. Exit Music......................................Orchestra

* * *
OVERTURE (Optional)

ACT ONE

Scene 1

MUSIC:

Curtain rises on street scene,
New York City in the 1890's.
TOWNSPEOPLE are chatting....

OPENING ACT ONE

CALL ON DOLLY
SHE'S THE ONE THE SPINSTERS RECOMMEND
JUST NAME THE KIND OF MAN YOUR SISTER WANTS
AND SHE'LL SNATCH HIM UP
DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR MAIDEN AUNTS
AND SHE'LL MATCH 'EM UP
CALL ON DOLLY
IF YOUR ELDEST DAUGHTER NEEDS A FRIEND
(Horsecar enters right bearing
SEVERAL LADIES reading newspapers)
JUST NAME THE KIND OF MAN YOUR SISTER WANTS
AND SHE'LL SNATCH HIM UP
DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR MAIDEN AUNTS
AND SHE'LL MATCH 'EM UP
CALL ON....

MRS. LEVI
(On back of horsecar, she drops
newspaper and comes DC to ERNESTINA)

Dolly Levi!

(Appplause. Giving card to
ERNESTINA)

That's right, Mrs. Dolly Levi, born Gallagher, Social
Introductions, Ladies and gentlemen of excellent family
introduced under the most respectable conditions in an
atmosphere of elegance and refinement....Object Matrimony!
Unfortunately I won't be able to offer my usual lightning
service today as I have a previous appointment in Yonkers,
New York, arranging the second marriage of Mr. Horace
Vandergelder....the well known half-a-millionaire...as my
late husband Ephraim Levi always said that means he's got
at least sixty thousand cash....but I'll do my best to have
MRS. LEVI (Cont'd)
you carried across somebody's threshold before the week is out!
(Continuing as she hands cards to people)
Now, I might also mention I'm available for Financial Consultation, Instruction in the Guitar and Mandolin, Short Distance Hauling....and Varicose Veins Reduced!
(She—boards—horsecar)

ALL
CALL ON DOLLY
SHE'S THE ONE THE SPINSTERS RECOMMEND
JUST NAME THE KIND OF MAN YOUR SISTER WANTS
AND SHE'LL SNATCH HIM UP
DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR MAIDEN AUNTS

(AMBROSE KEMPER enters left)

AND SHE'LL MATCH 'EM UP
CALL ON DOLLY....

AMBROSE

Mrs. Levi!

MRS. LEVI

(Getting off horsecar)

....Mr. Kemper, the artist! You know, I'm something of an artist myself, I do those silhouettes with scissors and black paper, here's one of Ada Rehan looking the other way. I have to do them like that because I'm no good at noses.

AMBROSE

Mrs. Levi, the train for Yonkers leaves in five minutes and if we don't get there on time....

MRS. LEVI

But we will, Mr. Kemper! And not only will Horace Vander-gelder give you permission to marry his niece, Ermengarde, but he will also dance at your wedding and not alone either because I happen to be engaged in finding him a suitable second wife himself....What he really wants is someone steady to clean the house. As my late husband Mr. Levi always said, marriage is a bribe to make a house-keeper think she's a householder....

AMBROSE

I know all about it, Mrs. Levi! Half New York says he's going to propose to Mrs. Irene Molloy this very afternoon!

MRS. LEVI

Which is exactly why I'm on my way to Yonkers this morning, Mr. Kemper, and can take on your case and knock off four lovebirds with one stone or whatever I'll throw I'll see
and well well well what do you think of that I have nothing here to pay my train fare with, only large bills fives and sevens....

AMBROSE
I have some change here somewhere! I only hope this isn't a wild goose chase, Mrs. Levi!

MRS. LEVI
(X-ing Right to hand out more cards)
And speaking of poultry I am also available for Fresh Jersey Eggs, Surgical Corsets Re-boned, Ears Pierced, Pierced Ears Replugged...

AMBROSE
Mrs. Levi!

(She-runs Left-to-join-him)

ALL
(The whole GROUP moves to Right)
JUST NAME THE KIND OF MAN YOUR SISTER WANTS
AND SHE'LL SNATCH HIM UP
DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR MAIDEN AUNTS
AND SHE'LL MATCH 'EM UP
CALL ON DOLLY...

AMBROSE
Tell me, Mrs. Levi, what's in all this for you?

MRS. LEVI
A living, Mr. Kemper. Some people paint, some sew....I meddle!

(MUSIC into)

2
I PUT MY HAND IN

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A WOMAN WHO ARRANGES THINGS
FOR THE PLEASURE AND THE PROFIT IT DERIVES
I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A WOMAN WHO ARRANGES THINGS
LIKE FURNITURE AND DAFFODILS AND LIVES
(Hands purse to AMBROSE and moves to RC)
WHEN A MAN WITH A TIMID TONGUE
MEETS A GIRL WITH A DIFFIDENT AIR
WHY SHOULD THE TORTURED CREATURES BEAT AROUND THE BUSH
WHEN HEAVEN KNOWS MOTHER NATURE ALWAYS NEEDS A LITTLE
PUSH
SO I PUT MY HAND IN HERE
I PUT MY HAND IN THERE
MRS. LEVI (Cont'd)
AND A GIRL OVER SIX FOOT THREE
LOVES A MAN WHO COMES UP TO HER EAR
SURELY IT'S OBVIOUS SHE'LL NEVER BE SEDUCED
'TIL SOME KIND SOUL CONDESCENDS TO GIVE HER BEAU A
LITTLE BOOST
SO I PUT MY HAND IN THERE
I PUT MY HAND IN HERE

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A WOMAN WHO ARRANGES THINGS
IT'S MY DUTY TO ASSIST THE LORD ABOVE
I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A WOMAN WHO ARRANGES THINGS
LIKE LUNCHEON PARTIES, POKER GAMES AND LOVE

MY APLOMB AT COSMETIC ART
TURNED A FRUMP TO A TRUMP LADY FAIR
SHE HAD A COUNTEANCE A LITTLE BIT LIKE SCROOGE
BUT OH TODAY YOU WOULD SWEAR THE LORD HIMSELF
APPLIED THE ROUGE
I PUT MY HAND IN HERE!

(Short dance interlude)

I PUT MY HAND IN HERE
I TWIST A LITTLE, STIR A LITTLE
HIM A LITTLE, HER A LITTLE
SHAPE A LITTLE, MOLD A LITTLE
SOME POOR CHAP GETS SOLD A LITTLE
WHEN I USE MY FIST A LITTLE
SOME YOUNG BRIDE GETS KISSED A LITTLE
PRESSURE WITH THE THUMBS
MATRIMONY COMES
WHEN, I PUT MY HAND IN THERE....

(Grand Central Olio in)

AMBROSE

Mrs. Levi!

MRS. LEVI
I know, Mr. Kemper, the Yonkers train is ready to leave!
Now you go buy our tickets...get a window seat...order
lunch and I'll meet you on board....
(He exits left -- she comes down
on to ramp right)

....Ephraim Levi, I'm going to get married again. I'm going
to marry Horace Vandergelder for his money and send it out
circulating among the people like rainwater the way you
taught me.....and I want a sign from you, sometime today,
that you approve. Oh it won't be a marriage in the sense
we had one but I shall certainly make him happy....And I'm
tired, Ephraim! Tired of living from hand to mouth so I
want that sign....
AMBROSE

(Coming out of station left)

Mrs. Levi!

MRS. LEVI:

Sometime today!

(X to C of runway)

...Now don't you worry, Mr. Kemper, we'll make that train, we'll get to Yonkers, you'll marry Ermengarde....Just leave everything to me!

(He exits-Left)

FOR WHEN MY LITTLE PINKY WIGGLES
SOME YOUNG MAIDEN GETS THE GIGGLES
THEN I MAKE MY KNUCKLES ACTIVE
"MY" HE SAYS "SHE'S SO ATTRACTIVE"
THEN I MOVE MY INDEX DIGIT
AND THEY BOTH BEGIN TO FIDGET
THEN I CLENCH MY PALM
THE PREACHER READS A PSALM
WHEN I PUT MY HAND IN THERE!

(OLIO out as BAND starts on left,
MRS. LEVI exits left, FEED STORE
moves down)

/2A/ YONKERS MARCH
ACT ONE

Scene 2

...In Yonkers, New York, the LODGE MEMBERS march on left in bright orange outfits, playing various musical instruments. Last is HORACE VANDERGELDER, with bass drum, followed by weeping young lady, ERMENGERDE. They circle the runway. BAND exits Left, leaving VANDERGELDER and ERMENGERDE on stage.

VANDERGELDER

....Damn! How can I be expected to play Yonkers My Yonkers with all that bellowing in my ears!

ERMENGERDE

I can't help it, Uncle. I love Ambrose Kemper!

VANDERGELDER

And I say you're too young to be in love with anybody! Here, take this!

(Thrusting drum into her arms)

ERMENGERDE

I'm not too young! I'm seventeen, and in another year I'll be an old maid.

VANDERGELDER

Well, I forbid it! Dare to be an old maid, Ermengarde, and I'll cut you off without a cent!

(He hits drum, she screams)

And don't cry in front of the store!

ERMENGERDE

I can't help it! I'm unhappy!

(Running Left to enter Feed Store)

VANDERGELDER

(Following her in)

Then by thunder you'll go and weep for awhile in New York where it won't be noticed! Now go upstairs and start packing your trunk, and don't get any tears on the lock! It was just oiled!
VANDERGELDER
(He has gone up onto Right platform; he stamps on floor by trap door)

....Cornelius! Barnaby!

(Trap door opens, CORNELIUS and BARNABY appear)

CORNELIUS
You stamped, Mr. Vanderghelder?

VANDERGELDER
I did! I got news for you both! I am going to New York this afternoon to march in the Fourteenth Street Association Parade. And when I come back you're going to have a mistress.

BARNABY
I'm too young, Mr. Vanderghelder!

VANDERGELDER
Not your's, hell and damnation, mine!....I mean, I'm getting married again. And in honor of that occasion I've decided to promote you, Cornelius, to chief clerk.

CORNELIUS
And what am I now, Mr. Vanderghelder?

VANDERGELDER
You're an impertinent fool, that's what you are! And I'm promoting you from impertinent fool to chief clerk. Any more questions?

Yes.

VANDERGELDER
What?

CORNELIUS
Does....does the chief clerk get one evening off a week?

VANDERGELDER
So that's the way you thank me for your promotion, is it? No sir, you'll attend to the store as usual! Now get back to work! And don't forget to put the lid on the sheep dip! (To AUDIENCE)

....Evenings off, marrying artists....Foolishness! Ninety nine percent of the people in this world are fools....And the rest of us are in great danger of contamination! Why, even I was once young, which was foolish; and got married, which was foolish; and was poor which was more foolish than
VANDERGELDER (Cont'd)

anything else. Then my wife died which was foolish of her; I grew older which was sensible of me; and became rich, friendless and mean, which in Yonkers is about as far as you can go!

(MUSIC starts)

(Starting down steps)
Oh I know what you're wondering now. Why a man of so much good sense should be planning anything as foolish as getting married again. The answer's simple... This house without a woman would be an empty shell....and pretty dirty, too!

(TWO CUSTOMERS have come into shop)

/3/

IT TAKES A WOMAN

IT TAKES A WOMAN ALL POWDERED AND PINK
TO JOYOUSLY CLEAN OUT THE DRAIN IN THE SINK
AND IT TAKES AN ANGEL WITH LONG GOLDEN LASHES
AND SOFT DRESDEN FINGERS
FOR DUMPING THE ASHES

ALL

YES IT TAKES A WOMAN
A DAINTY WOMAN
A SWEETHEART, A MISTRESS, A WIFE
O YES IT TAKES A WOMAN
A FRAGILE WOMAN
TO BRING YOU THE SWEET THINGS IN LIFE

VANDERGELDER

THE FRAIL YOUNG MAIDEN WHO'S CONSTANTLY THERE
FOR WASHING AND BLUEING AND SHOEING THE MARE
AND IT TAKES A FEMALE FOR SETTING THE TABLE
AND WEANING THE GUERNSEY
AND CLEANING THE STABLE

ALL

YES, IT TAKES A WOMAN
A DAINTY WOMAN
A SWEETHEART, A MISTRESS, A WIFE
O YES IT TAKES A WOMAN
A FRAGILE WOMAN
TO BRING YOU THE SWEET THINGS IN LIFE

(INSTANT GLEE CLUB appears)

AND SO SHE'LL WORK UNTIL INFINITY
THREE CHEERS FOR FEMININITY

RAH RAH RAH....RAH RAH RAH

F E M - I T Y
VANDERGELDER

Get out of here!

(All the MEN disappear)

AND IN THE WINTER SHE'LL SHOVEL THE ICE
AND LOVINGLY SET OUT THE TRAPS FOR THE MICE
SHE'S A JOY AND TREASURE FOR PRACTICALLY SPEAKING
TO WHOM CAN YOU TURN WHEN THE PLUMBING IS LEAKING?

CORNELIUS & BARNABY

TO THAT DAINTY WOMAN
THAT FRAGILE WOMAN
THAT SWEETHEART, THAT MISTRESS, THAT WIFE
O YES IT TAKES A WOMAN

VANDERGELDER

A HUSKY WOMAN

VANDERGELDER, CORNELIUS
& BARNABY

TO BRING YOU THE SWEET THINGS IN LIFE!

(INSTANT GLEE CLUB re-appears)

ALL
O YES IT TAKES A WOMAN
A DAINTY WOMAN
A SWEETHEART, A MISTRESS, A WIFE
O YES IT TAKES A WOMAN, A FRAGILE WOMAN
TO BRING YOU THE SWEET THINGS IN LIFE

VANDERGELDER

All right, out of here, all of you....

(The CUSTOMERS and BARNABY and
CORNELIUS run off, MRS. LEVI
enters left with AMBROSE who
sneaks upstairs. VANDERGELDER
is SR)

MRS. LEVI

(X-ing to SR)

....Congratulations, congratulations, a thousand congratulations!

VANDERGELDER

What? What?

MRS. LEVI

Congratulations, Mr. VanderGelder! All New York is buzzing
with the news that you've practically proposed to Irene Molloy.
The streets are lined with eligible young ladies prostrate
with grief. All my congratulations and sympathy....
VANDERGELDER

Sympathy?

MRS. LEVI

Did I say that? A slip of the tongue, that's all. No I'm delighted with the happy news, after all she wasn't easy to unload... By that I mean you know what people said although I for one never believed the rumors, no I didn't....

(Sits on SR steps)

VANDERGELDER

Rumors? What rumors?

MRS. LEVI

Nothing to get upset about, Mr. Vanderghelder. I mean according to all known facts her first husband passed on quite naturally. It's just that he went so sudden. A few spoons of chowder she made special for him and pffft! But, it could happen to anyone. No, there's no truth in it. Just one word of advice, Mr. Vanderghelder. Eat out!

(He sits on stool by her)

VANDERGELDER

Now hold on, Mrs. Levi, you mean to say that Mrs. Molloy...

MRS. LEVI

I mean to say nothing, Mr. Vanderghelder. Just friendly advice. Keep away from the chowder. By the way, she's ordered her wedding gown, beautiful, you should see it.... Black!

(Rises, Xes to CS)

Well, as I said before, Mr. Vanderghelder, congratulations on your forthcoming nuptuals and may you rest in... I mean, may guardian angels watch over you both. Particularly at dinner.

VANDERGELDER

(X-ing to her)

Look here, Mrs. Levi, you introduced me to Mrs. Molloy and rumors or not I intend calling on her this afternoon.... as arranged!

MRS. LEVI

(X-ing toward door)

Very well, Mr. Vanderghelder, then there's nothing more for me to do but go back to New York and tell the other girl, the heiress, not to wait....

VANDERGELDER

(X-ing to her)

What did you say?
MRS. LEVI
Nothing, a word, heiress.

VANDERGELDER
particulars, Mrs. Levi, I demand particulars....her name!

MRS. LEVI
Her name? Er, um, blah....Money! Ernestina Money.

VANDERGELDER
What a lovely lovely name.

MRS. LEVI
Picture if you will hair as shiny as a newly minted dime....
eyes as big round as silver dollars....skin as soft and
mossy as an old greenback....

VANDERGELDER
I can feel her now.

MRS. LEVI
Age nineteen; weight, a hundred and two; waist, forty
seven....

VANDERGELDER
Waist forty seven?

MRS. LEVI
That's with the money belt. Now I could arrange for you
to meet this Ernestina this very afternoon....

VANDERGELDER
I ain't got time, Mrs. Levi. I got to bring my niece
Ermengarde to New York this afternoon until she forgets
a certain Ambrose Kemper!

MRS. LEVI
I could do that for you, Mr. Vanderfeld. I know just
how to handle such things....

VANDERGELDER
(X to her)
Then I'm marching in the Fourteenth Street Parade!

MRS. LEVI
What an amazing coincidence! Guess who's been chosen to
ride on the main float....The Spirit of Fourteenth Street....
Miss Money!

(Aside)
....Her mother was a Cash, you know.

VANDERGELDER
All right, Mrs. Levi, I'll meet Miss Money at the parade....
But I still intend paying another call on Mrs. Molloy first!
MRS. LEVI
Oh dear, what races you make me run! Very well, Mr. Vandergelder, I'll meet you on that bench in front of Mrs. Molloy's hat shop at two thirty as usual....

VANDERGELDER
One more thing, Mrs. Levi! Suppose I decide against Mrs. Molloy, and I don't like Miss Money neither?

MRS. LEVI
Well then I happen to have one more name on my list, Mr. Vandergelder, a name I know as well as my own but let's not go into that now it'll come up by itself all in good time, don't you worry about that!
(She gets his coat)
....Oh but wait'll you see Ernestina, Horace! A vision! A dream!

(As she puts on his coat and hands him his hat)

3A/ REPRISE: IT TAKES A WOMAN

VANDERGELDER
IT TAKES A WOMAN ALL POWDERED AND PINK
TO JOYOUSLY CLEAN OUT THE DRAIN IN THE SINK
AND IT TAKES AN ANGEL WITH LONG GOLDEN LASHES
AND SOFT DRESDEN FINGERS
FOR DUMPING THE ASHES
(He exits through door and then Xes right humming)

MRS. LEVI
YES IT TAKES A WOMAN
(She continues humming melody as she Xes to below center stairs)
....You know, Ephraim, I think I'll have that room done over in blue wallpaper. Yes, in blue!
(Calling)
Ermengarde, Ambrose, come on out here! We've got plans to make!

(AMBROSE and ERMENGERDE enter.
LIGHTS down on MRS. LEVI, AMBROSE
and ERMENGERDE seated upstairs.
LIGHTS UP on trap door where CORNELIUS and BARNABY appear)

CORNELIUS
Chief clerk! Promoted from chief clerk to chief clerk! And if I'm good, in ten years I'll be promoted to chief clerk again! Thirty three years old and I still don't get an evening free. When am I going to begin to live?
BARNABY
you can live on holidays, Cornelius!

CORNELIUS
did you forget what we did last Christmas? All those
canned tomatoes went bad and exploded and you and I
cleaned up the mess all afternoon. Do you call that
living?

BARNABY
No!

CORNELIUS
Barnaby, you and I are going to New York!

You mean close the store?

BARNABY
Uh huh.

CORNELIUS
Cornelius, we can't!

BARNABY
We'll have to. Some more rotten tomato cans are going to
explode.

CORNELIUS
Holy cabooses! How do you know?

BARNABY
I'm going to light this candle under them, that's how I
know. They'll make such a smell customers won't be able
to come into the place for twenty four hours. That'll get
us an evening off! We're going to New York, Barnaby,
and we're going to live! We're going to have a good meal,
we're going to be in danger, we're going to spend our
money, we're going to be arrested....
(He falls into trap)

BARNABY
Holy cabooses!

CORNELIUS
And one more thing! We're not coming back to Yonkers until
we've each kissed a girl!

BARNABY
Cornelius, you can't do that! You don't know any girls!

CORNELIUS
I'm thirty three years old! I've got to begin sometime!
BARNABY
I'm only seventeen, Cornelius. It isn't so urgent for me.

CORNELIUS
New York. Barnaby! Elevated trains! The lights of Broadway! The stuffed whale at Barnum's Museum!

BARNABY
A stuffed whale?

CORNELIUS
A stuffed whale! What do you say, Barnaby?

BARNABY
...Yes, Cornelius! Yes!

(MUSIC cue)

(LIGHTS down right -- LIGHTS up)
on upstairs)

MRS. LEVI
Now the first thing to do is make you financially independent. I know! I'll find you a job. Can you dance?

AMBROSE
I'm an artist, Mrs. Levi. I paint!

MRS. LEVI
Well, then, my card!
(She hands him a card. MUSIC out)

AMBROSE
Mrs. Dolly Levi, Painters Taught How To Dance!

MRS. LEVI
Now, there's a man, Rudolph Reisenweber, at the Harmonia Gardens Restaurant on Fourteenth Street, I'll give you a note for him and we'll see if he can't have you both entered in the polka contest tonight. The prize is a week's engagement and a gold cup. Oh, the cups we won, Ephraim and me!

AMBROSE
Hold on, Mrs. Levi! No fiancee of mine is going to set foot in a cafe....
(ERMENGARDE cries once)

...And I don't mind saying I'm surprised that you have acquaintances in a place like that!

MRS. LEVI
Not acquaintances, Mr. Kemper, friends. Dear friends from days gone by. My late husband Ephraim Levi believed in life and anyplace you could find it....cafes, ballrooms, yes even theatres! Why, even when times were bad, every Saturday night like clockwork down those stairs at the Harmonia Gardens we came, Ephraim and me....
AMBROSE

It's all very well to come down like clockwork, Mrs. Levi, but you're asking Ermengarde to work there!

(ERMENAGARDE cries)

MRS. LEVI

It's the only way to show Horace Vandergelder we mean business! Now you go to the Harmonia Gardens this afternoon and say Mrs. Levi sent you and incidentally tell Rudolph that Dolly's coming back and I want a table for two and a chicken for eight o'clock tonight!

(MUSIC cue. LIGHTS out, up on BARNABY)

BARNABY

(Peering down trapdoor)

...The bottom row looks allright, Cornelius. Now hold the candle under the ones on top! Not too close, they're swelled up like they're ready to bust!

(A BANG from underneath)

Holy cabooses! Cornelius, I can smell it up here!

CORNELIUS

(Coming out of cellar)

Let's get dressed, Barnaby! We're going to New York!

(Three Explosions; BARNABY slams trapdoor)

OUT THERE

THERE'S A WORLD OUTSIDE OF YONKERS
WAY OUT THERE BEYOND THIS HICK TOWN, BARNABY
THERE'S A SLICK TOWN, BARNABY
OUT THERE
FULL OF SHINE AND FULL OF SPARKLE
CLOSE YOUR EYES AND SEE IT Glisten, BARNABY
LISTEN, BARNABY....

(Five explosions; CORNELIUS slightly opens trapdoor -- smoke billows out)

PUT ON YOUR SUNDAY CLOTHES, THERE'S LOTS OF WORLD OUT THERE
GET OUT THE BRILLIANTINE AND DIME CIGARS
WE'RE GONNA FIND ADVENTURE IN THE EVENING AIR
GIRLS IN WHITE
IN A PERFUMED NIGHT
WHERE THE LIGHTS ARE BRIGHT AS THE STARS!
PUT ON YOUR SUNDAY CLOTHES, WE'RE GONNA RIDE THROUGH TOWN
IN ONE OF THOSE NEW HORSE-DRAWN OPEN CARS
(They go down the SR steps)

CORNELIUS & BARNABY

WE'LL SEE THE SHOWS
AT DELMONICOS
AND WE'LL CLOSE THE TOWN IN A WHIRL
AND WE WON'T COME HOME UNTIL WE'VE KISSED A GIRL!

(They run up to the SR platform
and put on their suit jackets and
hats.

LIGHTS out, up on MRS. LEVI as
she rises, she helps ERMENGERDE
dress)

MRS. LEVI

PUT ON YOUR SUNDAY CLOTHES WHEN YOU FEEL DOWN AND OUT
STRUT DOWN THE STREET AND HAVE YOUR PICTURE TOOK
DRESSED LIKE A DREAM YOUR SPIRITS SEEM TO TURN ABOUT
THAT SUNDAY SHINE
IS A CERTAIN SIGN
THAT YOU FEEL AS FINE AS YOU LOOK!

(ERMENGERDE wails)

MRS. LEVI, CORNELIUS, BARNABY,
ERMENGERDE & AMBROSE

(They go downstairs)

BENEATH YOUR PARASOL THE WORLD IS ALL A SMILE
THAT MAKES YOU FEEL BRAND NEW DOWN TO YOUR TOES
GET OUT YOUR FEATHERS
YOUR PATENT LEATHERS
YOUR BEADS AND BUCKLES AND BOWS
FOR THERE'S NO BLUE MONDAY IN YOUR SUNDAY CLOTHES!

(The Feed Store moves, CORNELIUS
and BARNABY jumping off as it
goes, and we arrive at the Yonkers
Railroad Station where we find
the OTHER PASSENGERS, dressed in
their Sunday best. During follow-
ing, the train arrives, is finally
boarded, and we're off to New York)

CORNELIUS

(Running around the runway, followed
by BARNABY)

Come on, Barnaby! We're going to New York! Elevated trains,
Barnaby! The lights of Broadway!
BARNABY

Holy cabooses!

CORNELIUS

The stuffed whale at Barnum's Museum!

BARNABY

Wow!

CORNELIUS

Come on!

(The TOWNSPEOPLE enter SR two by two. CORNELIUS and BARNABY precede them as they parade around the runway)

ALL

PUT ON YOUR SUNDAY CLOTHES WHEN YOU FEEL DOWN AND OUT
STRUT DOWN THE STREET AND HAVE YOUR PICTURE TOOK
DRESSED LIKE A DREAM YOUR SPIRITS SEEM TO TURN ABOUT
THAT SUNDAY SHINE
IS A CERTAIN SIGN
THAT YOU FEEL AS FINE AS YOU LOOK!

BENEATH YOUR PARASOL THE WORLD IS ALL A SMILE
THAT MAKES YOU FEEL BRAND NEW DOWN TO YOUR TOES
GET OUT YOUR FEATHERS
YOUR PATENT LEATHERS
YOUR BEADS AND BUCKLES AND BOWS
FOR THERE'S NO BLUE MONDAY IN YOUR SUNDAY CLOTHES!

(They strike a pose, as the Yonkers Station flies in)

BENEATH YOUR BOWLER BRIM THE WORLD'S A SIMPLE SONG
A LOVELY LILT THAT MAKES YOU TILT YOUR NOSE
GET OUT YOUR SLICKERS, YOUR FLANNEL KNICKERS
YOUR RED SUSPENDERS AND HOSE
FOR THERE'S NO BLUE MONDAY IN YOUR SUNDAY CLOTHES

MRS. LEVI

(Riding in with ERMENGERDE and luggage on a cart pushed by AMBROSE from SL)

ERMENGERDE, STOP SNIVELING -- DON'T CRY ON THE VALISES!
WE HAVEN'T MISSED THE TRAIN YET, THANK THE LORD!

(AMBROSE does a leap)

(Stopping SR)

LOVELY, YOU'RE IMPROVING -- NOW GET ALL ELEVEN PIECES
WE'RE SEVEN MINUTES LATE
(Whistles)

ALL ABOARD!
ALL
ALL ABOARD!  ALL ABOARD!  ALL ABOARD!  ALL ABOARD!
(The train comes on)

PUT ON YOUR SUNDAY CLOTHES THERE'S LOTS OF WORLD OUT THERE
PUT ON YOUR SILK CRAVAT AND PATENT SHOES
FOR I CAN FEEL ADVENTURE IN THE EVENING AIR

MEN
TO TOWN WE'LL TROT
TO A SMOKEY SPOT
WHERE THE GIRLS ARE HOT AS A FUSE!

GIRLS
OH!

ALL
PUT ON YOUR HIGH SILK HAT AND AT THE TURNED UP CUFF
WE'LL WEAR A HAND MADE GREY SUEDE BUTTONED GLOVE
WE'LL JOIN THE ASTORS
AT TONY PASTORS
AND THIS I'M POSITIVE OF
THAT WE WON'T COME HOME
THAT WE WON'T COME HOME
THAT WE WON'T COME HOME UNTIL WE FALL IN LOVE!

(Applause. MUSIC starts again.
Train pulls out....Yonkers
Station flies out. TOWNSPEOPLE start to exit)

ENCORE: PUT ON YOUR SUNDAY CLOTHES

PUT ON YOUR HIGH SILK HAT AND AT THE TURNED UP CUFF
WE'LL WEAR A HAND MADE GREY SUEDE BUTTONED GLOVE
WE'LL JOIN THE ASTORS
AT TONY PASTORS
AND THIS I'M POSITIVE OF
THAT WE WON'T COME HOME
THAT WE WON'T COME HOME
THAT WE WON'T COME HOME UNTIL WE FALL IN LOVE.

(Hat Shop wagon comes on. MINNIE
FAY enters UL carrying hat box, she
Xes above Hat Shop, then around to
front door, tries it, it's locked.
As 1ST PASSERBY enters SL, MINNIE
FAY turns to speak to AUDIENCE:)

INCIDENTAL (HAT SHOP)
ACT ONE

Scene 3

New York Street and the exterior of MRS. MOLLOY's hat shop.

MINNIE

(Babbling a mile-a-minute throughout)

....Oh dear, oh my, will you look at that, ten o'clock and the shop not opened yet...

(1ST COUPLE X R to L)

It's all because of the impending marriage, I tell you, what marriage? Oh I thought you knew. Why the marriage Mrs. Levi is arranging between Mr. Horace Vandergelder, the well known Yonkers half-a-millionaire and my employer and friend, Mrs. Irene Molloy....

(ERNESTINE Xes R to L)

....although if you ask me he'll never take the place of her late husband Mr. Peter Molloy may he rest in peace wherever he is I'm not sure....He was a caution you know! Oh it's all too much what with late husbands and new marriages and on top of everything else...

(2ND COUPLE X L to R)

Miss Mortimer returning this hat for the third time! Same old story, she wants more cherries and feathers.... cherries and feathers, to catch a beau I suppose, although if you ask me she'd do better with a nice heavy veil!

(She exits right and returns)

....I told her, ribbons down our back is what we'll be wearing this summer if we want to catch a gentleman's eye, but she'd have none of it! Cherries and feathers she wants, on today of all days, when that poor dear sweet Mrs. Molloy has enough on her mind what with....

(MRS. MOLLOY has entered SR)

MRS. MOLLOY

With what, Minnie?

(Xes to hat shop door)

MINNIE

(Following her)

With the door! It's stuck.
MRS. MOLLOY

It's stuck? Then push!
(Rattle. They turn Hat Shop around as side walls of Hat Shop come on L and R, they enter)

....Whew!

MINNIE

(Who's evidently been talking throughout)

....And as I was saying, Mrs. Molloy, I could bite out my tongue

(MUSIC fades out)

for the things I've said and the things I'm going to say but as long as I've gone this far I might as well go all the way! Mrs. Molloy....why....why....

MRS. MOLLOY

Say it, Minnie. Why have I decided to marry Horace Vandergelder?

MINNIE

Oh Mrs. Molloy, I didn't ask you that! I would rather die on the rack than ask you such a personal question! But as long as you did bring it up....

MRS. MOLLOY

I am marrying Horace Vandergelder for one reason and one reason alone, Minnie! To get away from the millinery business. I hate hats!

MINNIE

Mrs. Molloy!

MRS. MOLLOY

And I can no longer stand being suspected of being a wicked woman with nothing to show for it.
(Takes stool out of cupboard)

MINNIE

(Get hat box)

Oh, Mrs. Molloy!

MRS. MOLLOY

Don't protest, Minnie! All millineresses are suspected of being wicked women. That's why I can't go into restaurants or balls or theatres....that's all the proof they'd need! Take my word for it, Minnie....Either I marry Horace Vandergelder or I break out of this place like a fire engine!
MRS. MOLLOY (Cont'd)

(Pointing to hat box)

...Oh no, not Miss Mortimer again?

MINNIE

Miss Mortimer. I'll take care of it.
(Starting R with hat box)

MRS. MOLLOY

No, Minnie, leave it be! You can make another hat for Miss Mortimer if you like. I'm wearing this one myself.
(Takes hat box)

MINNIE

Mrs. Molloy, you can't! You're a widow and that hat.... well it's....it's provocative, that's what!

MRS. MOLLOY

Is it, Minnie?
(Removing hat from box)

(MUSIC starts)

Well, who knows who may walk into the shop today....and provocative may be just what I want to be!

MINNIE

(Shocked, as she exits right)

Mrs. Molloy!

---

RIBBONS DOWN MY BACK

MRS. MOLLOY

I'LL BE WEARING RIBBONS DOWN MY BACK
THIS SUMMER
BLUE AND GREEN AND STREAMING IN THE YELLOW SKY
SO IF SOMEONE SPECIAL COMES MY WAY
THIS SUMMER
HE MIGHT NOTICE ME PASSING BY

AND SO I'LL TRY TO MAKE IT EASIER TO FIND ME
IN THE STILLNESS OF JULY
BECAUSE A BREEZE MIGHT STIR A RAINBOW UP BEHIND ME
THAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO CATCH
THE GENTLEMAN'S EYE

AND HE MIGHT SMILE AND TAKE ME BY THE HAND
THIS SUMMER
MAKING ME RECALL HOW LOVELY LOVE CAN BE
AND SO I WILL PROUDLY WEAR
RIBBONS DOWN MY BACK
SHINING IN MY HAIR
THAT HE MIGHT NOTICE ME!
(As MUSIC continues, MRS. MOLLOY stops herself, removes the hat from her head and begins going about her duties. MINNIE enters and crosses to left closet, muttering to herself, takes scissors from closet and exits)

MRS. MOLLOY (Cont'd)

AND SO I WILL PROUDLY WEAR
RIBBONS DOWN MY BACK
SHINING IN MY HAIR
THAT HE MIGHT NOTICE ME!

(Unbeknownst to MRS. MOLLOY, MINNIE has quietly come back into shop as applause fades and now bursts out....)

MINNIE

....Mrs. Molloy, wild horses couldn't make me ask this next question I'm about to ask, but I'm going to ask it anyhow!
....Do you love Horace Vandergelder?

MRS. MOLLOY

No, Minnie, I don't. Peter Molloy, God rest him, was my share of love and I'm not sayin' I was short changed. Once is enough for a woman as long as it's true love, and it was that....

(Xes to window and looks out)
....Minnie, look. There's two men staring at the shop.

MINNIE

(Starting)

Men?

MRS. MOLLOY

Why I do believe they mean to come in here!

MINNIE

Men! In the shop! Oh Mrs. Molloy, what shall we do?

Do?

(Puts on hat)
....Why, flirt with them of course! I'll give you the short one.

MINNIE

(X-ing DR)

Mrs. Molloy! And you with all that talk about love!
MRS. MOLLOY

Love enough I've had, Minnie! It's a bit of adventure I could do with now! We'll get them all heated up and then drop them cold. It'll be good practice for married life. Now you go into the workroom, Minnie, I know some ways we can perk up our appearances. Besides, a bit of a wait will only make them nervous and easier for us to....

MINNIE

If you say vampire I'll scream!

MRS. MOLLOY

Vampire!

5A

REPRISE: RIBBONS DOWN MY BACK

(MINNIE screams. MINNIE hurries off into workroom as MRS. MOLLOY sings happily to herself)

AND SO I'LL TRY TO MAKE IT EASIER TO FIND ME IN THE STILLNESS OF JULY
BECAUSE A BREEZE MIGHT STIR A RAINBOW UP BEHIND ME...
THAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO CATCH A GENTLEMAN'S EYE.
(As she hurries into workroom)

....Oh Minnie, we'll get an adventure out of this yet!

(And she disappears as door opens and CORNELIUS and BARNABY hurry into shop. CORNELIUS shuts door)

CORNELIUS

We'll get an adventure out of this yet, Barnaby! All day long we wander around New York and nothing happens, then we come to the quietest street in the city and suddenly....

BARNABY

Vandergelder!

CORNELIUS

Is he still out there? Go look.

BARNABY

(Looking through window)
He's sitting on that bench. Cornelius, are you sure this is an adventure?

CORNELIUS

You don't have to ask, Barnaby. When you're in one you'll know it allright! How much money have you got left?

BARNABY

Not much, Cornelius. Forty cents for the train back.... thirty cents for dinner....And twenty cents to see the whale. Ninety cents. Why?
CORNELIUS
(X-ing around to R of table)
When those women come out we'll have to pretend to be
customers! Customers, that's it! Maybe the best thing
to do is make them think we're rich. Then we won't have
to spend anything! We're two men about town looking for
hats for ladies. Good afternoon, Mrs....

MRS. MOLLOY
(Entering from workroom SR)
....Molloy.

CORNELIUS

Here, Cornelius Hackl!

BARNABY

Here, Barnaby Tucker!

MRS. MOLLOY

My pleasure, gentlemen.  
(She crosses left)
Now what can I do for you, hmmm?

CORNELIUS

....Well, you see, we're two
ladies about town looking for
some hats to Molloy and we
wondered....

(BARNABY pulls himself to-
gether and continues)

CORNELIUS

We want a hat! For a lady, of course. And everybody said
go to Mrs. Molloy's because she's so pretty....I mean her
hats are so pretty....

BARNABY

And so reasonable, Cornelius! As reasonable as under a
dollar, would still leave us enough to see the whale.

CORNELIUS

You've got to pay him no mind, m'am, he's come all the way
from Yonkers to see the stuffed whale and he's all excited.
Just keep an eye on that street, Barnaby, and maybe you'll
see it pass by.

(Moves BARNABY to window)

BARNABY

Is it big and black with mean little red eyes?

Yes.

CORNELIUS
BARNABY
It's sitting right on that bench.

MRS. MOLLOY
(As CORNELIUS turns to BARNABY)
Excuse me, but did you say Yonkers, Mr. Hackl?

CORNELIUS
Oh yes, m'am, Yonkers! And forgive me for saying this but you should see Yonkers. By that I mean perhaps Mr. Molloy would like to see Yonkers, too!

MRS. MOLLOY
(X-ing UR)
Oh, I'm a widow, Mr. Hackl.

CORNELIUS
(Joyfully)
You are? Barnaby, she's a widow!
(BARNABY respectfully takes off his hat)
...Oh, that's too bad. I'm sure Mr. Molloy would have enjoyed Yonkers. Especially in that hat. I mean on you of course not Mr. Molloy may he rest in peace; you're Catholic aren't you, well don't let that worry you I'd be willing to change....
(Suddenly)
Mrs. Molloy, if you should ever happen to have a Sunday free in the near future, I'd be more than pleased to show you Yonkers from top to bottom!

MRS. MOLLOY
Well as a matter of fact, Mr. Hackl, I might be there sooner than you think.

CORNELIUS
Oh, really?

MRS. MOLLOY
You see, I have a friend who lives in Yonkers.

CORNELIUS
Do you?

MRS. MOLLOY
Perhaps you know him....

CORNELIUS
Perhaps we do.

MRS. MOLLOY
Oh, it's always so foolish to ask in cases like that, isn't it?
(They both laugh with increasing congeniality)

MRS. MOLLOY (Cont'd)

...It's a Mr. Vandergelder.

(CORNELIUS stops laughing abruptly. BARNABY reacts, loses his footing in window)

CORNELIUS

Horace Vandergelder?

BARNABY

Of Vandergelder's Hay and Feed?

Do you know him?

MRS. MOLLOY

BOTH

No! Oh, no! No, no....

MRS. MOLLOY

....Mr. Vandergelder's a substantial man and well-liked, they tell me.

CORNELIUS

A lovely man, Mrs. Molloy. Just lovely! Has only one fault as far as I know; he's hard as nails.

BARNABY

'(At window)
Cornelius, I think...I think --

MRS. MOLLOY

(X-ing UL to pick up boater hat)
Now I wonder if your friend might like this one!

BARNABY

'(A flying leap over rail and enters cupboard)
Look out!

CORNELIUS

(Puts hat on stool and Xes to cupboard)
Begging your pardon, Mrs. Molloy...

MRS. MOLLOY

Gentlemen! What are you doing?

CORNELIUS

Help us, Mrs. Molloy, we'll explain later!

(CORNELIUS enters cupboard, BARNABY pops out and crawls under table)
MRS. MOLLOY

Come out of there this minute!

BARNABY

(Head out)

We're as innocent as can be, Mrs. Molloy!

MRS. MOLLOY

(As they disappear again)

Well, really. Mr. Hackl! Mr. Tucker! I insist that you both come out of there or I'll be forced to....Mr. Vanderghelder!

(A curtsy at table, for VANDERGELDER has entered shop, a box of chocolates in one hand)

VANDERGELDER

...Mrs. Molloy. I don't suppose Mrs. Levi is here, is she? She was supposed to meet me on that bench ten minutes ago. Well she can just go looking for me if she comes. When I make an appointment I like people to be on time!

(Setting chocolates on table)

Here, here's a present for you. Chocolate covered peanuts. Unshelled. That's the expensive kind. Did I just see you talking with two men?

(Xes SL)

MRS. MOLLOY

Men? Men, Mr. Vanderghelder? What would men be doing in a ladies hat shop?....Well, now let's go back into my workroom. I'm so anxious for you to see it.

(Xes SR)

I saw it last week.

MRS. MOLLOY

(X L to him)

So you did. Well, Mr. Vanderghelder, what's new in the hay and feed business? I understand you have three friends. All hard as nails. I mean....

VANDERGELDER

What on earth are you talking about?

MRS. MOLLOY

Yonkers. I hear it's a very beautiful city.

VANDERGELDER

And who's been telling you about Yonkers, may I ask?

MRS. MOLLOY

Nobody....A friend!

(Straightens tablecloth to hide BARNABY and a bunch of cherries falls to floor)
VANDERGELDER

What friend?

MRS. MOLLOY

Well. You see, he...

(Stooping for cherries, but
BARNABY's hand snatches them)

VANDERGELDER

He?

MRS. MOLLOY

A customer, Mr. Vanderghelder. Someone quite well-to-do
as a matter of fact. He was in here buying hats for ladies.
You might even know him although it's usually silly to ask
in cases like that....It's a Mr. Cornelius Hackl.

VANDERGELDER

Did you say Hackl?

MRS. MOLLOY

Why, yes....

(MRS. LEVI enters)

VANDERGELDER

He happens to be my head clerk, that's all! Mrs. Molloy,
I demand an explanation!

MRS. LEVI

....And I'm going to give it to you! Why shouldn't she
know Cornelius Hackl? Everybody in New York knows Cornelius
Hackl! He's here at the opera, in all the fashionable
homes, why he's at the Harmonia Gardens Restaurant three
times a week!

VANDERGELDER

Impossible! He's only got a hundred and forty six dollars
and thirty five cents and I keep it in my own safe!

MRS. LEVI

Oh Mr. Vanderghelder, you're killing me! He's one of the
Hackls. They built the canal.

What canal?

VANDERGELDER

MRS. LEVI, MRS. MOLLOY

(Simultaneously)

The Erie!  ) Mrs. Levi
The Panama!  ) Mrs. Molloy
MRS. LEVI

Both.

VANDERGELDER

It ain’t the same man!

MRS. LEVI

Who took the horses out of Jenny Lind’s carriage and pulled her through the streets? Cornelius Hackl! And who dressed up as a waiter at the Fifth Avenue Hotel and dropped an oyster down Mrs. Astor’s....Oh, I can’t say it but it was Cornelius. He’s the playboy of New York!

(MINNIE enters, starts to cupboard)

....Now Irene, don’t deny it, I can see you were taken with him just like everybody else.

MRS. MOLLOY

Dolly! What are you saying, I’ve only seen him once in my life! Really, Dolly, I....

MINNIE

Excuse me.

MRS. MOLLOY, MRS. LEVI

Of course.

(They step aside, MINNIE opens cupboard, takes something out, closes the doors, and starts back to workroom. Suddenly she stops and screams)

MINNIE

Wa-a-ah!

MRS. MOLLOY

(Trying to quiet her as she backs MINNIE to workroom)

Minnie, hold your tongue!

(Shoves MINNIE into workroom. MINNIE pops right out again)

MINNIE

There’s a man in there.

(She exits into workroom. VANDERGELDER starts for cupboard)

VANDERGELDER

Now look here, if there’s a man in that closet....

MRS. LEVI

No, Mr. Vanderghelder, you can’t! It’s too dangerous!
VANDERGELDER
(Coming right up to her)
No man that hides in ladies closets can frighten me, Mrs. Levi! Stand aside!

MRS. LEVI
No man indeed, I'm sure you'd make short work of any man, those muscles, I can see them now rippling back and forth under your coat, ripple ripple ripple ripple, back and forth! Ripple, ripple, ripple!

VANDERGELDER
For the last time, Mrs. Levi, will you stand aside!

MRS. LEVI
Stand indeed, Mr. Vanderghelder! That's exactly what the court will want to know when you're accused of entering that closet without a search warrant. (X D to below L of stool. VANDERGELDER follows D and R of stool)
I mean what do you stand for if you don't stand for the law of this great land? I know what I stand for!

MOTHERHOOD MARCH

I STAND FOR MOTHERHOOD
AMERICA
AND A HOT LUNCH FOR ORPHANS

TAKE OFF YOUR HAT, SIR
BETSY ROSS' FLAG IS PASSING
DO YOU SEE HIM
ON THE HILL AT GETTYSBURG
'NEATH THAT GREAT TRIUMPHAL ARCH
IF YOU SEE HIM AS HE'S TRAMPING THROUGH THE GRAPES OF WRATH
STAND UP AND MARCH, MARCH, MARCH!

(She Xes him and around upstage to cupboard)

MRS. MOLLOY
(Taking his arm)
...Has this not affected you, Sir? I came here at fourteen years of age as an immigrant girl from a land that oppressed my people and I must echo here what was said by that great and patriotic American....uh....

MRS. LEVI
Moses.

MRS. MOLLOY
(As MRS. LEVI sneaks CORNELIUS out of the cupboard, marches him to the table, and pushes him under it, squeezing BARNABY out the other side)
MRS. MOLLOY (Cont'd)
I STAND FOR MOTHERHOOD
AMERICA
AND A HOT LUNCH FOR ORPHANS
TAKE OFF YOUR HAT, SIR
THERE'S A TEAR-STAINED EAGLE PASSING
DO YOU SEE HIM
ON THE BRIDGE AT WATERLOO
'NEATH THAT GREAT TRIUMPHAL ARCH

(She leads VANDERGELDER in a
march to the right. MINNIE
pops out of the workroom and
joins them)

IF YOU HEAR HIM SINGING DIXIE IN THE SUGAR CANE
STAND UP AND MARCH, MARCH, MARCH!

I STAND FOR MOTHERHOOD!

(Through MRS. MOLLOY's chorus,
and following, CORNELIUS and
BARNABY have tried to better
their hiding places by exchang-
ing, trying different conceal-
ments, etc., while VANDERGELDER
is being distracted. They
finally end up exactly as they
started)

MINNIE,
MRS. MOLLOY

AMERICA
AND A HOT LUNCH FOR ORPHANS
TAKE OFF YOUR HAT, SIR
BETSY ROSS' FLAG IS PASSING

DO YOU SEE HIM
ON THE HILL AT GETTYSBURG
'NEATH THAT GREAT TRIUMPHAL ARCH
IF YOU SEE HIM TRAMPING
THRU THE GRAPES OF WRATH

STAND UP AND MARCH MARCH...

MRS. LEVI
(Leading BARNABY
across the stage
as the TRIO wheels,
marching)

ALAMO
REMEMBER THE ALAMO
I REGRET THAT I'VE ONE
LIFE TO GIVE FOR MY
COUNTRY
IN THE WORDS OF LINCOLN
"ONE IF BY LAND AND TWO
IF BY SEA"
"YES DAD, I CHOPPED THAT
CHERRY TREE DOWN"
(CORNELIUS crawls
out and gets caught
up in the marching
rhythm)

O, STONEWALL JACKSON
GLORY, GLORY, HALLELUJAH
MRS. MOLLOY

(She steps forward to hide
CORNELIUS who has nearly marched
head-on into VANDERGELDER)

Four score and seven years ago!

ALL

MARCH, MARCH, MARCH

(MINNIE and MRS. MOLLOY sit on
CORNELIUS to hide him)

MINNIE

To form a more perfect union

ALL

MARCH, MARCH

MRS. LEVI

Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead.

(She pushes CORNELIUS down flat)

ALL

MARCH, MARCH, MARCH

(They march SR over CORNELIUS' prostrate form. He gets up
and rushes into cupboard. MRS. LEVI standing guard in front
of it and they are all back
where they started)

MRS. LEVI

So you see, Mr. Vandergelder, there couldn't possibly be a
man in that closet!

(A huge sneeze from inside cup-
board. MRS. LEVI's done all
she could)

God bless you.

VANDERGELDER

(After a long, furious pause)

Mrs. Molloy....

MRS. MOLLOY

Alright, Mr. Vandergelder, there is a man in that cupboard!

Aha!

MRS. MOLLOY

And another under that table!

(The table scoots Down Center)
VANDERGELDER

What the devil!

MRS. MOLLOY

There also happens to be a very simple explanation but for the present, good afternoon.

MRS. LEVI

Good Lord, the whole room's crawling with men, I'll never get over it, I take it I'll see you later this afternoon, Mr. Vanderghelder?

VANDERGELDER

You certainly will, Mrs. Levi! With a certain young lady on the main float at the end of the parade! Good day, Mrs. Molloy!

(And he slams out. He returns, gets candy, and exits. CORNELIUS' head pops out of cupboard)

CORNELIUS

Mrs. Molloy, I can explain everything. You see, we....

MRS. MOLLOY

(Pulling table U.S. as BARNABY crawls out D.S.)

I do not wish to hear any explanations, Mr. Hackl. Just you and Mr. Tucker do me the pleasure of leaving my shop at once or I send for Officer Gogarty.

MRS. LEVI

(X-ing to table)

Well if you ask me, Irene, calling an officer's letting them off too easy. The law courts, that's where they belong. I've been adding up the legal offenses these two have committed and believe me you've got grounds for at least two writs, a non corpus mentis, and a garnishee. Now, the main thing is to show that you tried to settle it amicably first. Have dinner with them.

CORNELIUS, BARNABY

Dinner!

MRS. MOLLOY

Is that absolutely necessary, Dolly?

MRS. LEVI

It's the way things are done in the law, Irene. Dinner first, garnishee afterwards.

MRS. MOLLOY

Well if it must be. Mr. Hackl, Mr. Tucker, you may take Miss Fay and myself to dinner.
CORNELIUS
(As BARNABY tries to indicate they haven't enough money)
Delighted, Mrs. Molloy. I speak for Barnaby too. Now I hear there's a very nice restaurant in the railway station...

MRS. MOLLOY
Oh no, Mr. Hackl! If the Harmonia Gardens is good enough for your fashionable friends it's good enough for us! They say they have a lovely orchestra there, Minnie.

CORNELIUS
Oh we couldn't go there! Now don't misunderstand me, it isn't the money or anything like that, it's the....

BARNABY
(Jumping between them)
It's the whale.

CORNELIUS
It's the whale. No it isn't the whale, Barnaby, it's the....It's the dancing!
(MRS. MOLLOY backs CORNELIUS L)
....You see, they have dancing in a place like that, exhibitions, even contests, and I don't know how and it would take me weeks, months, years to learn....
(MRS. LEVI hands him a card.
He reads....) ↑

Mrs. Dolly Levi, 33 year old chief clerks taught how to dance.

MRS. LEVI
Now it's very simple, you put one arm here...and one arm here...

CORNELIUS
It's no use! I have absolutely no sense of rhythm!

MRS. LEVI
Absolutely no sense of rhythm is one of the primary requirements for learning by the Gallagher-Levi Method. Just give me five minutes of your time, Mr. Hackl, and I'll have you dancing in the streets....
(She takes his hand)
....We'll start with Lesson Seven, the Waltz Kick Turn. Now it's simple, right foot, touch, left foot, touch, under, back, around, touch. Back, through, around, behind. Out, over....Release....unfurl!...That's wonderful, when I think of the lucky women who'll find heaven in your arms, let's go back to Lesson One.

DANCING
(And MRS. LEVI begins to move the stiff CORNELIUS)
MRS. LEVI (Cont'd)

PUT YOUR HAND ON HER WAIST AND STAND
WITH HER RIGHT IN YOUR LEFT HAND
AND ONE TWO THREE, ONE TWO THREE, ONE TWO THREE

CORNELIUS

LOOK, I'M DANCING!

Well, I was....

MRS. LEVI

of course you were, Mr. Hackl!
TAKE THE SOMEONE WHOSE ARMS YOU'RE IN
HOLD ONTO HER TIGHT AND SPIN
AND ONE TWO THREE, ONE TWO THREE, ONE TWO THREE

CORNELIUS

WOW, I'M DANCING!

MRS. LEVI

TURN AROUND AND TURN AROUND, TRY FLOATING THROUGH THE
AIR
CAN'T YOU BE A LITTLE MORE AESTHETIC?

CORNELIUS

DON'T YOU THINK MY DANCING HAS A POLISH AND A FLAIR?

MRS. LEVI

THE WORD I THINK I'D USE IS ATHLETIC!

CORNELIUS

WELL MY HEART IS ABOUT TO BURST
MY HEAD IS ABOUT TO POP
AND NOW THAT I'M DANCING WHO CARES IF I EVER STOP!

....Look at me, everybody! I, Cornelius Hackl....Sport....
Am dancing!

MRS. LEVI

You're next, Mr. Tucker!
(Pulling him downstage)
GLIDE AND STEP AND THEN STEP AND GLIDE

BARNABY

And everyone stand aside!
(He dances)

CORNELIUS

He's dancing!

MRS. LEVI

YOU COULD LEARN TO POLKA IF YOU WORKED A WEEK OR SO
OR THE TANGO FILLED WITH PASSION SEETHING

BARNABY

I MIGHT JOIN THE CHORUS OF THE CASTLE GARDEN SHOW
MRS. LEVI
WHATEVER YOU DO FOR GOSH SAKE'S KEEP BREATHING

ALL THREE
FOR MY HEART IS ABOUT TO BURST
MY HEAD IS ABOUT TO POP
AND NOW THAT WE'RE DANCING WHO CARES IF WE EVER STOP!

(DANCE INTERLUDE as MRS. LEVI,
BARNABY and TOWNSPEOPLE dance
outside Hat Shop. MRS. MOLLOY
and CORNELIUS dance together)

MRS. MOLLOY
WHEN THERE'S SOMEONE YOU HARDLY KNOW
BUT WISH YOU WERE CLOSER TO
REMEMBER THAT HE CAN BE NEAR TO YOU
WHILE YOU'RE DANCING

THOUGH YOU'VE ONLY JUST SAID "HELLO"
HE'S SUDDENLY SOMEONE WHO
CAN MAKE ALL YOUR DAYDREAMS APPEAR TO YOU
WHILE YOU'RE DANCING

(SR wall of shop moves off)

MAKE THE MUSIC WEAVE A SPELL
WHIRL AWAY YOUR WORRY

(SL wall of shop moves off)

THINGS LOOK ALMOST TWICE AS WELL
WHEN YOU'RE SLIGHTLY BLURRY

MRS. LEVI
AS AROUND AND AROUND YOU GO
YOUR SPIRITS WILL HIT THE TOP

MRS. LEVI, CORNELIUS, MRS. MOLLOY
AND NOW THAT WE'RE DANCING
WHO CARES IF WE EVER STOP

ALL
ONE-TWO-THREE
ONE-TWO-THREE
ONE-TWO

AND NOW THAT WE'RE DANCING
WHO CARES IF WE EVER STOP

(DANCE, during which Hat Shop revolves and moves off R.
Toward end of DANCE, Deserted Store Olio comes in. MRS. ROSE
with vegetable cart enters U.S.R.)
INCIDENTAL (I PUT MY HAND IN)

MRS. ROSE

(Slowly X-ing)

...Well, well, look who's here! Mrs. Levi. How are you, Mrs. Levi?

MRS. LEVI

(Slowly moving down toward runway)

How are you, Mrs. Rose.

MRS. ROSE

The same. Pains in my back, aches in my side, stabs in my liver....I'm fine. My daughter Fanny got married, you know.

MRS. LEVI

Did she....

MRS. ROSE

(As she slowly trudges off left)

A year ago last September. It's been a long time since you lived here, Mrs. Levi. Such a long long time!

(Her voice fades. MRS. LEVI has reached D.R. on runway. Facing front)

MRS. LEVI

...Ephraim, let me go! It's been long enough, Ephraim! Every evening for all these years I've put out the cat, I've locked the door, I've made myself a little rum toddy and before I went to bed I said a prayer thanking God that I was independent, that no-one else's life was mixed up with mine. Then one night an oak leaf fell out of my Bible. I placed it there when you asked me to marry you, Ephraim. A perfectly good oak leaf but without color and without life. And I suddenly realized that I was like that leaf....for years I had not shed one tear nor had I been filled with the wonderful hope that something or other would turn out well. And so I've decided to rejoin the human race, and Ephraim....I want you to give me away!

(And she sings. The Deserted Store Olio slowly rolls up out of sight)

BEFORE THE PARADE PASSES BY

BEFORE THE PARADE PASSES BY

I'M GONNA GET IN STEP

WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME LEFT.

BEFORE THE PARADE PASSES BY
("DANCING TAG" -- during which
MRS. MOLLOY and CORNELIUS enter)

MRS. MOLLOY

...Mrs. Levi, come along. Cornelius is taking us down
to see the Fourteenth Street Parade. Everybody will be
marching!

MRS. LEVI

Why, Irene. You're crying.

MRS. MOLLOY

Oh, Dolly! ....The world is full of wonderful things!
Come with us, Dolly.

(They exit SL)

MRS. LEVI

I will, Irene! I will.

BEFORE THE PARADE PASSES BY
I'VE GOT TO GO AND TASTE SATURDAY'S HIGH LIFE
BEFORE THE PARADE PASSES BY
I'VE GOT TO GET SOME LIFE BACK INTO MY LIFE
I'M READY TO MOVE OUT IN FRONT
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF JUST PASSING BY LIFE
WITH THE REST OF THEM
WITH THE BEST OF THEM
I CAN HOLD MY HEAD UP HIGH
FOR I'VE GOT A GOAL AGAIN
I'VE GOT A DRIVE AGAIN
I WANNA FEEL MY HEART COMING ALIVE AGAIN
BEFORE THE PARADE PASSES BY!

(Xes R on the runway, then
marches left again)

LOOK AT THAT CROWD UP AHEAD
LISTEN AND HEAR THAT BRASS HARMONY GROWING
LOOK AT THAT CROWD UP AHEAD
PARDON ME IF MY OLD SPIRIT IS SHOWING
ALL OF THOSE LIGHTS OVER THERE
SEEM TO BE TELLING ME WHERE I'M GOING
WHEN THE WHISTLES BLOW
AND THE CYMBALS CRASH
AND THE SPARKLERS LIGHT THE SKY
I'M GONNA RAISE THE ROOF
I'M GONNA CARRY ON
GIVE ME AN OLD TROMBONE
GIVE ME AN OLD BATON
BEFORE THE PARADE PASSES BY!

(Xes off runway and through
CROWD)
ALL
WHEN THE PARADE PASSES BY
LISTEN AND HEAR THAT BRASS HARMONY GROWING
WHEN THE PARADE PASSES BY
PARDON ME IF MY OLD SPIRIT IS SHOWING
ALL OF THOSE LIGHTS OVER THERE
SEEM TO BE TELLING ME WHERE I'M GOING
WHEN THE WHISTLES BLOW
AND THE CYMBALS CRASH
AND THE SPARKLERS LIGHT THE SKY
I'M GONNA RAISE THE ROOF
I'M GONNA CARRY ON
GIVE ME AN OLD TROMBONE
GIVE ME AN OLD BATON

(FLOAT with girls and mannequin
dressed the same, is pushed on)

BEFORE THE PARADE PASSES BY!

(Entire CROWD marches around
runway during orchestral chorus,
then picks up song again:)

I'M GONNA RAISE THE ROOF
I'M GONNA CARRY ON
GIVE ME AN OLD TROMBONE
GIVE ME AN OLD BATON
BEFORE THE PARADE PASSES BY!

(Appplause)

VANDERGELDER

(Pointing to the mannequin)

....Mrs. Levi, she's beautiful! Everything you said and
more! Don't move, Miss Money, I'm coming! I'm on my way!
(He starts up as MAN begins
tugging at figure's arm and
pulls it off)
Hey, you, cut that out! That's my fiancee! Stop, thief....
Pickpocket! Put that back, you! I paid for that girl and I
want all the parts!
(MAN carries legs portion of
dummy past VANDERGELDER)

....Miss Money, what have they done to you? Mrs. Levi!
What is the meaning of this?

MRS. LEVI

Nothing to get upset about, Horace, a last minute substitu-
tion. Miss Money had a sudden urgent business appointment
at the Mint. They ran a little short and she's helping out.
But she'll meet you at the Harmonia Gardens Restaurant at
eight o'clock tonight!
VANDERGELDER
That's the most expensive restaurant in the city!

MRS. LEVI
And well it should be! What food! And the fastest waiters in New York! By the way, I might be a little late so Miss Money will meet you in front of the restaurant. Wait 'til you see her, Horace, all in buttercup yellow with baby pink shoes and humming an old fashioned tune, yes, Sweet Rosie O'Grady, you couldn't miss her if you tried.

VANDERGELDER
I'll be there, Dolly....But only because I already paid for the introduction and I might as well get my money's worth! But from this point on you are hereby discharged as my marriage broker. Is that clear? From now on, Dolly Gallagher, you're just a woman like anyone else! Where are you taking me? What's happening?

(The MEN are pushing the float off, with VANDERGELDER on it)

MRS. LEVI
Ephraim....He's as good as mine.

FINALE ACT ONE

I'M GONNA RAISE THE ROOF
I'M GONNA CARRY ON
GIVE ME AN OLD TROMBONE
GIVE ME AN OLD BATON
BEFORE THE PARADE PASSES BY!

ACT CURTAIN
ENTR'ACTE

ACT TWO

Scene 1

Outside the Hoffman House Hotel,
CORNELIUS, BARNABY, MINNIE FAY,
MRS. MOLLOY, COACHMAN, HORSE,
at rise.

(MUSIC vamp starts)

MRS. MOLLOY

...Mr. Hackl, we've just loved looking at the lights of
Fourteenth Street these past four hours, but now perhaps
you'd better call a hack or we won't get to the Harmonia
Gardens on time. Oh, there's one....yoo hoo....

(Stepping forward to wave at
COACHMAN)

CORNELIUS

Oh we couldn't do that, Mrs. Molloy! It's not the money
or anything, it's just that nowadays really elegant people
never take hacks.

BARNABY

Hacks is out.

(The COACHMAN, disappointed,
exits S.L.)

CORNELIUS

They all go by street car.

BARNABY

J. P. Vanderbilt, Diamond Jim Morgan....

MRS. MOLLOY

Then by all means a street car.

MINNIE

Imagine...Just think, I've been elegant all my life and
never even knew it.
of course if you really want to be elegant....

MRS. MOLLOY/MINNIE

We do!

MINNIE

You walk!

(MUSIC UP)

\[11\]

ELEGANCE

CORNELIUS/BARNABY

YES, NEW YORK... IT'S REALLY US

BARNABY.... AND CORNELIUS

All the guests of Mr. Hackl are feeling great and looking spectacular.

ALL

WHAT A KNACK.... THERE IS T' THAT

ACTIN' LIKE A BORN ARISTOCRAT

WE GOT ELEGANCE

IF YOU AIN'T GOT ELEGANCE

YOU CAN NEVER EVER CARRY IT OFF

MINNIE

All who are... well bred agree

MINNIE PAY.... HAS PEDIGREE

MRS. MOLLOY

EXERCISE YOUR WILDEST WHIMS TONIGHT

WE ARE OUT WITH DIAMOND JIMS TONIGHT

MINNIE

COULD THEY BE.... MISLEADING US

CORNELIUS/BARNABY

SILVER SPOONS WERE USED FOR FEEDING US

WE GOT ELEGANCE

IF YOU AIN'T GOT ELEGANCE

ALL

YOU CAN NEVER EVER CARRY IT OFF

MIDDLE CLASS... DON'T SPEAK OF IT

SAVOIR FAIRE.... WE REEK OF IT

SOME WERE BORN WITH RAGS AND PATCHES BUT

WE USE DOLLAR BILLS FOR MATCHES AND

MINNIE

VANDERBILT... COWTOWS TO US

J. P. MORGAN SCRAPES AND BOWS TO US
ALL
WE'VE GOT ELEGANCE
WE WERE BORN WITH ELEGANCE

CORNELIUS
HAVE YOU NOTICED WHEN I HOLD MY CUP
THE SAUCER NEVER MOVES

MRS. MOLLOY
AND THE WAY I KEEP MY PINKY UP
INDUBITABLY PROVES

ALL
THAT WE GOT ELEGANCE
WE GOT BUILT IN ELEGANCE
AND WITH ELEGANCE...ELEGANCE (Cornelius)...
ELEGANCE (Mrs. Molloy)...ELEGANCE (Barnaby)...
ELEGANCE (Minnie)
WE'LL CARRY IT OFF (All)

(They exit right as Harmonia Gardens scrim comes in, then they re-enter through right portal)

WE GOT ELEGANCE
IF YOU AIN'T GOT ELEGANCE
YOU CAN NEVER EVER CARRY IT OFF
WE GOT ELEGANCE....
WE GOT ELEGANCE....

MRS. MOLLOY
Oh, look, Minnie....they're counting their money again!
Isn't that just like the rich? Well, gentlemen, aren't you going to escort us in?

CORNELIUS
Of course we are, Mrs. Molloy!
(With a shove)
....Barnaby!
(Then to MRS. MOLLOY as BARNABY and MINNIE start inside Harmonia Gardens through left portal door)
Uh, Mrs. Molloy....

Yes, Mr. Hackl?

MRS. MOLLOY

Mrs. Molloy, as we start inside, may I....

Yes, Mr. Hackl?

MRS. MOLLOY

May I put my arm around your waist?
MRS. MOLLOY

Yes, Mr. Hackl.
(As they go)
...But I might as well warn you, a corset is a corset.

(MUSIC starts)

(As they exit left, AMBROSE and then ERMENGERDE start on from right. He's still heel and toeing, she's still weeping)

ERMENGERDE

(Both stop DLC)
...But I don't want to be on the stage. I just want to get married!

AMBROSE
You heard Mrs. Levi! This is the only way to show your uncle we mean business! Now can you weep a little faster, you're throwing me off step....

(She does)
...Faster!

(Again, in tempo)

That's it!

(As they exit left, VANDERGELDER enters right and meets ERNESTINA who has entered left wearing incredible yellow outfit and white boa. She bleats....)

MARCH TO HARMONIA GARDENS

ERNESTINA

SWEET ROSIE O'GRADY!
MY SWEET LITTLE ROSE

(VANDERGELDER looks at her, then at audience. They exit left portal door as lights come up slowly behind Harmonia Gardens exterior scrim and we find ourselves....)
ACT TWO

Scene 2

...In the Harmonia Gardens Restaurant. A grand staircase center, two curtained off private dining rooms left and right. RUDOLPH, the Harmonia Gardens fairly Prussian major-domo, is at center on the staircase barking orders. His staff of WAITERS at attention.

RUDOLPH

Und it is my order, as headwaiter of the Harmonia Gardens, und your supreme commander, that tonight of all nights, our usual lightning service will be twice as lightning as ever, or else!

(He blows whistle)

WAITER’S GALOP

(MUSIC up and WAITERS begin rapid fire sequence of precision crosses with trays, napkins, etc....MUSIC throughout cutting off sharply as curtains on Dining Room right fling open, revealing CORNELIUS, MRS. MOLLOY, MINNIE and BARNABY)

(Slight accent, great condescension)

...I trust you are finding this table satisfactory, sir. The private dining rooms cost a bit more, but they do afford the best view of the entertainment.

BARNABY

(Who's been counting money through this)

A dollar forty, Cornelius. That's all that's left.

CORNELIUS

Are you sure? Count it again!

(BARNABY exits above Dining unit)
MRS. MOLLOY
Prepare yourself for a big night, Minnie. We're out with two of New York's best known sports!

(BARNABY re-enters)

BARNABY
I did make a mistake, Cornelius. It's only a dollar thirty five. I'll count it once more.

CORNELIUS
No, don't! We can't afford it!

MRS. MOLLOY
I'm going to order everything on the menu. Waiter!

(RUDOLPH blows whistle, as CORNELIUS quickly closes curtains on right Dining Room....MUSIC UP and SEVERAL WAITERS bearing trays, skewers, etc. zip back and forth. Through this RUDOLPH has crossed stage and emerges from left Dining Room as curtains open Dining Room left, revealing VANDERGELDER and ERNESTINA who is busily repairing her ample make-up)

RUDOLPH
I have told you before, sir, you will have to move. This table is reserved for Mrs. Levi and party!

VANDERGELDER
And who do you think I am? Only it's Horace Vandergelder and party! She's in my and party, I ain't in hers!

RUDOLPH
Mr. Vandergelder, of course! It's just that Mrs. Levi mentioned nothing about you bringing your...your...

VANDERGELDER
My personal physician!
(To ERNESTINA)
That's enough rouge, Doctor!

RUDOLPH
But Mrs. Levi only ordered a chicken for two!

VANDERGELDER
Chicken! Chickens are dear!

RUDOLPH
Und pate maison, soup de jour, und pommes souffles!
VANDERGELDER
Why didn't you tell me this was an oriental establishment, we'll take two bowls of rice, now get out!
(As RUDOLPH coldly leaves, to ERNESTINA)
Now, Miss Money, I understand you carry respectable sums in your belt.

ERNESTINA
Yeh, two dollars. Only it's in my garter!

(And VANDERGELDER hastily leaps for the curtain and yanks it shut as MUSIC UP and MORE WAITERS zip back and forth with trays, ice buckets, etc. and curtains open on Dining Room right)

MRS. MOLLOY
It's sweet of you to worry about our reputations, Cornelius, but Minnie and I don't care who sees us tonight!
(As RUDOLPH awaits their order)
Well, Minnie.... what have you decided?

MINNIE
(Reading menu)
Oh I couldn't have anything at these prices, I really couldn't!

CORNELIUS
Great grindstones! What a sensible girl! Waiter, bring us four glasses of beer, a loaf of yesterday's bread and some cheese.

MRS. MOLLOY
Yesterday's bread! Oh Cornelius, now I know how you keep half of New York in stitches all the time.
(Suddenly stopping)
....Minnie, have you ever eaten pheasant?

CORNELIUS/BARNABY
Pheasant!

(CORNELIUS slams curtain shut, WAITER comes down stairs carrying champagne bottle. As curtain opens left DINING ROOM he is prostrate in front of VANDERGELDER)

ERNESTINA
Say, why the closed curtains? You ashamed or something?

VANDERGELDER
It's not that, I just felt a slight chill....
ERNESTINA
Why didn't you say so? Here, I'll loan you this.
(Puts boa around his neck)
Now, let's order something to hold us 'til the rice comes.
Waiter, would you bring a roast suckling pig with chestnut
and oyster stuffing, cheese fondue and some ladyfingers.
(Then to VANDERGELDER)
....Now, what'll you have?
(Curtains close and WAITERS zip
back and forth with trays, etc.
ERNESTINA sticks her head out)
Hey, you with the big ears....what are you doing after the
show?
(More WAITER crosses and curtains
open on right Dining Room)

MRS. MOLLOY
It's sweet of you to worry about our digestion, Cornelius,
but I'm sure the pheasants are fresh.
(To RUDOLPH)
We'll take four, please, and a nice red wine.

CORNELIUS
Wait a minute! No wine!

No wine?

MRS. MOLLOY/MINNIE

Champagne!

CORNELIUS
"Champagne!"

MRS. MOLLOY/MINNIE/BARNABY

CORNELIUS
It's once in a lifetime, Barnaby. Champagne, and Neopolitan
ice cream, and hot house peaches and Barnaby, give the band-
leader a nickel and tell him to play "To A Wild Rose." We
want music while we dine.

(TWO WAITERS cross....ONE takes
chicken from OTHER by stabbing it
with a shashlik. As they exit,
curtains open left Dining Room)

ERNESTINA
(As she speaks, WAITER who lost
chicken enters left)
....Say, this is a cafe, isn't it? Let's dance!

VANDERGELDER
The Vandergelders do not dance, Miss Money. We're Presbyterian.

ERNESTINA
All right, I'll dance myself. Give him two dollars for the
bandleader, will you? And tell him to play something refined...
(With a preliminary wind-up)
....I'm going to do the hootchy-kootchy!
(VANDERGELDER yanks her inside, curtains shut, more WAITER crosses)

BARNABY

All right, Cornelius, I'll send for the band, but promise you won't order anything else!

(MUSIC UP then VANDERGELDER appears with purse in hand)

VANDERGELDER

You wait here, Miss Money! I'll tell them to play a nice waltz!

(And VANDERGELDER and BARNABY trying to find an available WAITER become embroiled in the melee which builds as WAITERS move faster and faster until entire clockwork of crossing WAITERS moves at lightning precision speed. A freeze, and the ballet ends.

Toward end of ballet, VANDERGELDER and BARNABY exit. During applause they return)

VANDERGELDER

(To a WAITER SR)

Look you, give this to the bandleader and tell him to play a waltz....

BARNABY

(To ANOTHER WAITER SL, overlapping end of VANDERGELDER)

....Here's a nickel for the bandleader, would you tell him to play a....

ERNESTINA

(Peering out from behind curtain)

Whooppeeee....

VANDERGELDER

(Dropping purse and rushing to L unit)

Miss Money!

CORNELIUS

And two more pheasants please!

BARNABY

(Dropping wallet and rushing to R unit)

....Cornelius!
VANDERGELDER
(By this time WAITERS have picked
up both purse and wallet and
started across stage)

My purse!

BARNABY

My wallet!

VANDERGELDER
(Catching wrong WAITER)
Here you, that's my purse!
(Starting back with BARNABY's
wallet)
...Miss Money, get off that table, you're dancing in the
stew!

BARNABY
(Taking VANDERGELDER's purse from
wrong WAITER)
Excuse me, but that's my wallet...I know it's mine be-
cause there's nothing in it but a dollar, three dimes,
five pennies and a....
(Finds a roll of bills)
Cornelius....Cornelius!
(RUDOLPH enters UR, Xes to SL
alcove, straightens curtains)
Did he say two pheasants? Three! Four! Pheasants for
the house! And never mind if we don't see the whale....
I'll buy one of my own!

(He exits right into the alcove,
as RUDOLPH goes to foot of stairs.
STANLEY runs in from right)

STANLEY

Sir! Sir!

RUDOLPH
....What's this? Shouting? How many times have I told
you not to shout boy? This is the Harmonia Gardens
Restaurant, not one of those....

STANLEY
But sir, she's here! The lady!

What? Are you sure, boy?

RUDOLPH

STANLEY
Like you told me, sir....eight o'clock on the nose up pulls
a carriage and out steps a tall lady with red hair and
the biggest handbag I ever saw....
RUDOLPH
It's she! Mrs. Levi! She's back!

(His reserve forgotten, all excitement, as COOK rushes on from right.
STANLEY goes up stairs and off)

1ST COOK
...Rudolph, is it true? I heard somebody laughing outside the kitchen window and it sounded like....

RUDOLPH
It is! It's Dolly!

(To a WAITER)
Fritz! Tell the band! She just stepped out of her carriage!

(12A) HELLO, DOLLY - AGITATO

2ND COOK
Rudolph, it's true, no?

RUDOLPH
It's true, yah! She just stepped out of a white and gold carriage, pulled by six black horses with scarlet plumes....

COOK
Ach, Rudolph! It's like old times again!

STANLEY
(Who has re-entered down the stairs)
Sir!

(He can't be heard through the babble)
Sir!

(A shout)

(MUSIC segues)

Rudy!

(A sudden freeze of silence)

She's here!

(MUSIC up as every eye goes to the head of the stairs, the portieres move and MRS. LEVI steps through, red hair done up magnificently on top of her head. She descends stairs as WAITERS etc. await her first words)
HELLO, DOLLY

MRS. LEVI

HELLO, HARRY
WELL, HELLO LOUIE,
IT'S SO NICE TO BE BACK HOME WHERE I BELONG
YOU'RE LOOKIN' SWELL, MANNY
I CAN TELL, DANNY
YOU'RE STILL GLOWIN', YOU'RE STILL CROWIN'
YOU'RE STILL GOIN' STRONG
I FEEL THE ROOM SWAYIN'
FOR THE BAND'S PLAYIN'
ONE OF MY OLD FAVORITE SONGS FROM WAY BACK WHEN
SO BRIDGE THAT GAP, FELLAS
FIND ME AN EMPTY LAP FELLAS
DOLLY'LL NEVER GO AWAY AGAIN

MEN

HELLO, DOLLY.
WELL HELLO, DOLLY
IT'S SO NICE TO HAVE YOU BACK WHERE YOU BELONG
YOU'RE LOOKIN' SWELL, DOLLY
WE CAN TELL, DOLLY
YOU'RE STILL GLOWIN', YOU'RE STILL CROWIN'
YOU'RE STILL GOIN' STRONG
WE FEEL THE ROOM SWAYIN'
FOR THE BAND'S PLAYIN'
ONE OF YOUR OLD FAVORITE SONGS FROM WAY BACK WHEN

MRS. LEVI

SO HERE'S MY HAT, FELLAS
I'M STAYIN' WHERE I'M AT, FELLAS

MEN

PROMISE YOU'LL NEVER GO AWAY AGAIN

MRS. LEVI

I WENT AWAY FROM THE LIGHTS OF FOURTEENTH STREET
AND INTO MY PERSONAL HAZE
BUT NOW THAT I'M BACK IN THE LIGHTS OF FOURTEENTH STREET
TOMORROW WILL BE BRIGHTER THAN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

MEN

(On stairs center)
THOSE GOOD OLD DAYS.

ALL MEN

HELLO, WELL HELLO DOLLY
WELL HELLO, HEY LOOK THERE'S DOLLY

MRS. LEVI

GLAD TO SEE YOU HANK, LET'S THANK MY LUCKY STAR

MEN

YOUR LUCKY STAR
MRS. LEVI

YOU'RE LOOKIN' GREAT, STANLEY
LOSE SOME WEIGHT STANLEY?
DOLLY'S OVERJOYED AND OVERWHELMED AND OVER PAR

MEN

I HEAR THE ICE TINKLE
SEE THE LIGHTS TWINKLE
AND YOU STILL GET GLANCES FROM US HANDSOME MEN
SO....

MRS. LEVI

GOLLY GEE, FELLAS
FIND ME A VACANT KNEE, FELLAS

MEN

DOLLY'LL NEVER GO AWAY AGAIN

(A DANCE follows with MRS. LEVI and MEN)

WELL, WELL HELLO DOLLY
WELL HELLO, DOLLY
IT'S SO NICE TO HAVE YOU BACK WHERE YOU BELONG
YOU'RE LOOKIN' SWELL, DOLLY
WE CAN TELL, DOLLY
YOU'RE STILL GLOWIN', YOU'RE STILL CROWIN'
YOU'RE STILL GOIN' STRONG
I HEAR THE ICE TINKLE
SEE THE LIGHTS TWINKLE
AND YOU STILL GET GLANCES FROM US HANDSOME MEN
SO....

MRS. LEVI

WOW WOW WOW, FELLAS

MEN

HEY, YOW!

MRS. LEVI

LOOK AT THE OLD GIRL NOW, FELLAS

MEN

WOW!
DOLLY'LL NEVER GO AWAY AGAIN.

(After applause there is brief reprise on which MEN exit)

13A ENCOUR: HELLO, DOLLY

I HEAR THE ICE TINKLE
SEE THE LIGHTS TWINKLE
AND YOU STILL GET GLANCES FROM US HANDSOME MEN
SO....
(MUSIC continues)

DOLLY'LL NEVER GO AWAY
DOLLY'LL NEVER GO AWAY --

(ALL exit except MRS. LEVI.
VANDERGELDER enters and bumps
into MRS. LEVI)

VANDERGELDER

Excuse me, girlie....Dolly! Dolly Gallagher! What are
you doing in that get up? And you're a half hour late!
And I demand an explanation of....

MRS. LEVI

Ernestina!

VANDERGELDER

Exactly!

MRS. LEVI

Ernestina whom I trusted!

VANDERGELDER

She wanted to do the hootchy kootchy!

MRS. LEVI

Well, she always was artistic! Horace, I'm going to have
our table moved down front. There's someone in the dance
competition I particular want you to see.

REPRISE: WAITER'S GALOP

(WAITERS enter and set table and
two chairs in rapid precision
form DC, then exit. RUDOLPH
stands at attention)

Now don't let's say another word about it I'm as shocked
as you are I-can't-eat-a-thing-what-have-you-ordered?

VANDERGELDER

What you wanted....a chicken! Now see here, Mrs. Levi,
about that hootchy kootchy girl....

MRS. LEVI

Did you say a chicken,
(Rises and Xes SR)
oh I don't think I could face a chicken, not a chicken,
not today, not after what's happened.

VANDERGELDER

Good! Then cancel the chicken!

MRS. LEVI

(To RUDOLPH)
And bring a turkey!
(RUDOLPH exits US. DOLLY parts curtains and peers into SR alcove)

VANDERGELDER

What are you doing now?

MRS. LEVI

(She laughs)

Nothing. Just looking the place over. Getting acquainted with the surroundings.

(Xing to SL alcove)

VANDERGELDER

That's the trouble with you, Dolly. Always wanting to know everything! Always putting your nose into other people's affairs. Anybody who married you would get as nervous as a cat.

MRS. LEVI

What? What's that you're saying?

VANDERGELDER

I said anybody who married you would....

MRS. LEVI

(Xing to table, and sitting)

Horace Vandergelder, get that idea right out of your head this minute. I'm surprised that you even mentioned such a thing. Understand once and for all that I have no intention of marrying you!

VANDERGELDER

I didn't mean that!

MRS. LEVI

Well I certainly do hope not! Horace Vandergelder, you go your way, and I'll go mine. I'm not some Irene Molloy whose head can be turned by a few chocolate covered peanuts... unshelled! Why, the idea of you even suggesting such a thing!

VANDERGELDER

Mrs. Levi, you misunderstood me!

MRS. LEVI

Well I certainly do hope not! But if I had any intention of marrying again it would be to a far more pleasure loving man than you.

(RUDOLPH and WAITERS enter with food and wine)

Here's the waiter with our food....I'll serve Mr. Vandergelder, Rudolph.

(As she starts serving him)

Here's some white meat for you....and dumplings, lighter than air they are, and some giblets, very tender and very
MRS. LEVI (Cont'd)
good for you. No, as I said before, you go your way, and I'll go mine.

(RUDOLPH begins pouring wines, VANDERGELDER first)
Start right in on the wine. I think you'll feel better at once.... However, since you brought the matter up, there's one more thing I think I ought to say.

VANDERGELDER
I didn't bring the matter up at all.

MRS. LEVI
(As she calmly starts to eat. She pantomimes eating steadily and heartily throughout rest of scene even though she never stops talking so she can't really eat)
One more thing I ought to say before we forget all about it. It's true I'm a woman who likes to know everything that's going on; who likes to manage things; but I wouldn't like to manage anything as out of control as your household. You'll have to do that yourself, God helping you.

VANDERGELDER
It's not out of control.

MRS. LEVI
Very well, let's not say another word about it. Have some beets, Horace, they're good.

VANDERGELDER
I don't like beets!

MRS. LEVI
(Serving beets anyway)
That's good! No, Horace, a complaining, quarrelsome, friendless soul like you is no sort of companion for me. You salt your beets....
(She salts her own)
And I'll salt mine....
(She salts his. RUDOLPH exits)

VANDERGELDER
Will you stop saying that!

MRS. LEVI
I won't say another word.

Good!

VANDERGELDER

MRS. LEVI
Except this. At your age, Horace, you should enjoy hearing the honest truth.
VANDERGELDER

My age! My age! You're always talking about my age!

MRS. LEVI

Well, I don't know what your age is, but I do know that up in
Yonkers with bad food and bad temper you'll double it in six
months. Have some more beets! They're good!

(Serving him beets)

VANDERGELDER

I don't like beets! I hate beets!

MRS. LEVI

That's nice. Now dig right in. Yes, the pity of it is you
could be a perfectly charming, witty, amiable man if you
wanted to.

VANDERGELDER

(Rises)

I don't want to be charming!

MRS. LEVI

But you are. Look at you now. You can't hide it. Now sit
down, Horace, and let's talk of something else. But before
we change the subject there's one more thing I am going to say.

VANDERGELDER

I don't want to hear it! And you're wasting your time, Dolly
Levi! I won't ask you to marry me!

MRS. LEVI

I suppose that means you want me to ask you. Well I'm sorry,
Horace, I'm turning you down.

VANDERGELDER

How can you turn me down when I haven't asked you anything?

MRS. LEVI

It's no use arguing. I've made up your mind. Here, let me
cut your wings....

(She cuts turkey on his plate)

VANDERGELDER

I've got a headache, I'm going back to my hotel.

MRS. LEVI

(As lights begin to dim)

You can't go now. The competition's about to begin....

(MUSIC starts)

VANDERGELDER

(Taking out BARNABY's wallet)

...Here's the money to pay for the dinner. Here's twenty dollars.
...Wait a minute. There's nothing in here but a dollar, three
dimes, five pennies and a button! This isn't my purse! I've
lost my purse!

(Xes to look into SL alcove)
CORNELIUS
(Peering out of alcove SR)
Barnaby, that purse you found....

MRS. LEVI
Impossible! I can't imagine you without your purse!

BARNABY
(Coming out of alcove)
...It's Vandergeelder's! Cornelius, we better get out of here!
(They disappear into SR alcove)

VANDERGEELDER
(Xing to table)
What am I going to do? I've never been here before, they don't
know me! Stop eating that turkey! I can't pay for it!
(Through following, more and more
COUPLES, including AMBROSE and
ERMENGARDE, start on)

MRS. LEVI
Horace, it's the latest thing....a polka! And there's one
dancer I particular want you to see. Rudolph, move our
table-right-down-front-so-Mr. Vandergeelder can better observe
his graceful movements.

VANDERGEELDER
(As their table is moved DR at proscenium)
Wait a minute! That man! That dancer!

MRS. LEVI
Isn't he wonderful! With talent like that he's sure to win
the solid gold cup....

/15/
POLKA

(And the DANCE COMPETITION begins.
It is a polka as MRS. LEVI indicated
and through this beginning section
various COUPLES, each tagged with a
number, start onto the floor)

CORNELIUS
Come along, Mrs. Molloy. It's been a perfectly wonderful
evening but I'm afraid we're going to have to cut it a
bit...excuse me....short!
MRS. MOLLOY
(Hearing the music)

Minnie, a polka! Cornelius, I simply must have one dance!

BARNABY
But Vandergelder is right there! We've got to go!

MRS. MOLLOY
We **will** go! .... But we'll dance our way out!
(And we are really into the POLKA. At end of Polka, as RUDOLPH is about to award the gold cup, VANDERGELDER rises at table D.R. and discovers CORNELIUS D.R.)

VANDERGELDER
Cornelius Hackl!
(MUSIC)

CORNELIUS
Mr. Vandergelder!
(MUSIC)

VANDERGELDER
Barnaby Tucker!
(MUSIC)

BARNABY
Mr. Vandergelder!
(MUSIC)

ERMENGARDE
Waaaaaah!

ERMENGARDE
(Then general melee, during which AMBROSE steals the gold cup from RUDOLPH, confusion, rushing around, arrival of POLICE at RUDOLPH'S instigation, MUSIC sustains under)

Dolly Levi, this is your doing! What are you up to?

CORNELIUS
Mr. Vandergelder, I can explain everything...

VANDERGELDER
I don't want to hear any explanations, you're fired!

RUDOLPH
Officer, arrest that man!
(CUE FOR MUSIC CODA)

VANDERGELDER/ERNESTINA/OTHERS
Get your hands off of me! Help! Cut that out!

POLICEMEN
All right, you're all under arrest! Arrest them all! All of you!
(Last of this occurs as SET begins to change, DOCKET and JUDGE'S BENCH are brought 'on, LIGHTS go down and COURTROOM DROP starts in)
MRS. MOLLOY

(Hearing the music)

Minnie, a polka! Cornelius, I simply must have one dance!

BARNABY

But Vandergerdeler is right there! We've got to go!

MRS. MOLLOY

We will go! .... But we'll dance our way out!

(And we are really into the POLKA. At end of Polka, as RUDOLPH is about to award the gold cup, VANDERGELDER rises at table D.R. and discovers CORNELIUS D.R.)

VANDERGELDER

Cornelius Hackl!

(MUSIC)

CORNELIUS

Mr. Vandergerdeler!

(MUSIC)

VANDERGELDER

Barnaby Tucker!

(MUSIC)

BARNABY

Mr. Vandergerdeler!

(MUSIC)

ERMENGARDE

Waaaaaah!

ERMENGARDE

(Then general melee, during which AMBROSE steals the gold cup from RUDOLPH, confusion, rushing around, arrival of POLICE at RUDOLPH's instigation, MUSIC sustains under)

Dolly Levi, this is your doing! What are you up to?

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(CUE FOR MUSIC CODA)

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Get your hands off of me! Help! Cut that out!

POLICEMEN

All right, you're all under arrest! Arrest them all! All of you!

(Last of this occurs as SET begins to change, DOCKET and JUDGE'S BENCH are brought on; LIGHTS go down and COURTROOM DROP starts in)
ACT TWO

Scene 3

The Courtroom. ... Judge's Bench SL, Prisoners' Docket SR, in the courtroom. Meanwhile, MRS. LEVI continues to eat at table down stage right.

Present are TWO POLICEMEN and RECORDER, JUDGE is at bench, and squeezed in docket are VANDERGELDER, CORNELIUS, MRS. MOLLOY, BARNABY, MINNIE, RUDOLPH, AMBROSE, ERMENGARDE and assorted DANCERS, WAITERS, etc.

JUDGE

... Quiet! Quiet! That's better! Now, you're all charged with disturbing the peace, assault and battery, inciting to riot, and several other equally serious violations of the law of this city! Is there anyone here to speak in your behalf? I say, is there anyone here to speak in your behalf?

(Silence. Then MRS. LEVI, who has been eating through the entire scene, crosses to bench and hands RECORDER her card. He hands it to the JUDGE)

Mrs. Dolly Levi....Counselor at Law!

MRS. LEVI

Your honor....the defense rests!

(Buzz from Docket)

...No, there is no need to call witnesses, ladies and gentlemen, when I see upon that bench a brow that gleams with honor.... A pair of snow white whiskers that bristle with fair play.... And a nose, I ask you to look at that nose, ladies and gentlemen....a nose that shines in the night like a flaming beacon of justice! Would you turn this way a bit, Your Honor, so we can get a better look at your beacon. A living symbol of the motto of this great land....E Proboscis Unum! Your Honor, I ask for freedom for my clients and a verdict of guilty for the only real culprit....Horace Vandergelder of Yonkers, New York!
VANDERGELDER

Dolly!

MRS. LEVI

The one man responsible for these grievous charges of willful destruction of private property....

RUDOLPH

A curtain torn, a waiter bruised and a solid gold cup bent....

MRS. LEVI

Cruelty to a poor unfortunate minor....

(ERMENGEARDE wails)

Would you mind repeating that, dear....

(ERMENGEARDE duplicates last wail louder)

CORNELIUS

....Begging your pardon, Mrs. Levi, but if it please the court, I have something to say!

MRS. LEVI

I was just about to call you, Mr. Hackl. Go right ahead.

(She exits left)

VANDERGELDER

Cornelius Hackl, if you dare testify against me, you'll be discharged!

CORNELIUS

You've already done that, Mr. Vandergelder.

I'll do it again!

VANDERGELDER

You've done it again too. But even if you hadn't I'd still say what I have to say....

(He is crowded at one end of the docket, MRS. MOLLOY at the other)

....I don't know much about disturbing the peace or inciting to riot, but I do know that what happened to me today, which is the most important thing that can happen to a man, might never have happened if I'd obeyed your orders and stayed in Yonkers, New York! Your Honor, I am talking about none other than....

(A declamation)

Love!

VANDERGELDER

What? You're trying to tell me that after thirty-three years you've fallen in love because you take one evening off?
CORNELIUS

Oh no, Mr. Vanderghelder. I didn't fall in love with Mrs. Irene Molloy of this city in just an evening... An hour! Even that's too long! What's less than a minute?

MINNIE FAY

A second!

CORNELIUS

Less than that!

MINNIE FAY

A... a moment!

IT ONLY TAKES A MOMENT

CORNELIUS

That's it!

(As MUSIC comes up, to CLERK)

...I'll go slowly so you can get it all down.

(And he sings)

IT ONLY TAKES A MOMENT
FOR YOUR EYES TO MEET AND THEN
YOUR HEART KNOWS IN A MOMENT
YOU WILL NEVER BE ALONE AGAIN
I HELD HER FOR AN INSTANT
BUT MY ARMS FELT SURE AND STRONG
IT ONLY TAKES A MOMENT
TO BE LOVED A WHOLE LIFE LONG....

(MUSIC continues as CORNELIUS speaks with quiet naive sincerity first to the JUDGE and then gradually to the entire audience)

....Isn't the world full of wonderful things? There I sat cooped up in Yonkers for years and years and all the time wonderful people like Mrs. Molloy were walking around in New York and I didn't know them at all! I don't know whether you can all see from where you're sitting... well, for instance the way her eye and forehead and cheek come together up here. Can you? I tell you right now: a fine woman is the greatest work of God on Earth! You can talk all you like about Niagara Falls and the Pyramids; they aren't in it at all. Of course, I've seen women before. But today I talked to one equal to equal, and they're so different from men! And they're awfully mysterious, too. I bet you could know a woman a hundred years without ever being really sure whether she liked you or not. Today I've lost so many things. My job, my future, everything that people think is important, but I don't care. Even if I have to dig ditches for the rest of my life, I'll be a ditch digger who once had a wonderful day.
CLERK
(Looking up from his pad)
I missed a few words back there, Mr. Hackl. Right after 'it only'....

IT ONLY TAKES A MOMENT - PART II

ALL IN DOCKET

(A bellow at CLERK)

....TAKES A MOMENT!
BUT HIS ARMS FELT SURE AND STRONG
IT ONLY TAKES A MOMENT.

MRS. MOLLOY

HE HELD ME FOR AN INSTANT
BUT HIS ARMS FELT SAFE AND STRONG
IT ONLY TAKES A MOMENT
TO BE LOVED A WHOLE LIFE LONG

CORNELIUS

AND THAT IS ALL
THAT LOVE'S ABOUT

MRS. MOLLOY

AND WE'LL RECALL WHEN TIME RUNS OUT

BOTH

THAT IT ONLY TOOK A MOMENT
TO BE LOVED A WHOLE LIFE LONG!

JUDGE

(In tears)

....Dismissed, dismissed! All dismissed! All except Horace
Vandergelder of Yonkers, New York! You're all dismissed!
You're free, my children! And bless you! Go, go....

END OF COURTROOM SCENE

(He exits right, following EVERYONE else, leaving VANDERGELDER alone in docket. POLICEMAN enters down left with MRS. LEVI)

POLICEMAN

You can see the prisoner now, Mrs. Levi!

MRS. LEVI

Well, Horace, there's your life....without niece, without clerks, without bride and without your purse....It looks like there's only one more thing to say....

VANDERGELDER

If it's to ask me to marry you, Dolly Gallagher, never! Not in a million years! Under no circumstances will I ever marry you!
MRS. LEVI

Oh that wasn't it at all, Horace, all I wanted to say to you was....

17

SO LONG, DEARIE

(She sings)

GOODBYE!

What?

GOODBYE!

VANDERGELDER

Now hold on, Dolly....

MRS. LEVI

It's too late, Horace. I've failed. And when a woman fails, there's nothing else she can say....

VANDERGELDER

Wait!

MRS. LEVI

But....

VANDERGELDER

Hey!

MRS. LEVI

GOODBYE, GOODBYE, GOODBYE
GOODBYE, GOODBYE, GOODBYE
DON'T TRY TO STOP ME HORACE PLEASE....
WAVE YOUR LITTLE HAND AND WHISPER
SO LONG DEARIE
YOU AIN'T GONNA SEE ME ANYMORE
BUT WHEN YOU DISCOVER THAT YOUR LIFE IS DREARY
DON'T YOU COME A KNOCKIN' AT MY DOOR
FOR I'LL BE ALL DOLLED UP
AND SINGIN' THAT SONG
THAT SAYS YOU DOG, I TOLD YOU SO
SO WAVE YOUR LITTLE HAND AND WHISPER
SO LONG, DEARIE
DEARIE, SHOULD HAVE SAID SO LONG
SO LONG AGO
BECAUSE YOU'VE TREATED ME SO ROTTEN AND ROUGH
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF FEelin' LOW
SO WAVE YOUR LITTLE HAND AND WHISPER
SO LONG DEARIE
DEARIE WOULD HAVE SAID SO LONG
SO LONG AGO

(She takes his hat and cane and moves down into One. The Red Drop comes down in back of her)
MRS. LEVI (Cont'd)

FOR I CAN HEAR THAT CHOO CHOO CALLIN' ME ON
TO A FANCY NEW ADDRESS
YES, I CAN HEAR THAT CHOO CHOO CALLIN' ME ON
ON BOARD THAT HAPPINESS EXPRESS
I'M GONNA LEARN TO DANCE AND DRINK AND SMOKE A CIGARETTE
I'M GO'N AS FAR AWAY FROM YONKERS AS A GIRL CAN GET

And on those cold winter nights, Horace....

You can snuggle up to your cash register....

It's a little lumpy but it rings....

DON'T COME A KNOCKIN'
I'LL BE ALL DOLLED UP
AND SINGIN' THAT SONG
THAT SAYS YOU DOG, I TOLD YOU SO.

SO HORACE, YOU WILL FIND YOUR LIFE A SAD OLD STORY
WHEN YOU SEE YOUR DOLLY SHUFFLE OFF TO GLORY
O, I SHOULD HAVE SAID SO LONG
SO LONG AGO....

(She exits left portal door)

CHANGE OF SCENE
ACT TWO

Scene 4

LIGHTS SLOWLY UP, as Feed Store comes down into position. VANDERGELDER is seated on stool.

VANDERGELDER

(Talking to himself)
...And...and I wouldn't marry you, Dolly Levi, if you were the last woman on earth. Not if you asked me a million times. I didn't need you before and I don't need you now. Dolly Levi, you go your way....

(He points)
...And I'll go mine.

(He points in same direction)
Dolly...Dolly....Dolly!

(He bangs on trapdoor)

CORNELIUS

(Out of trap)
You stamped, Mr. Vandergelder?

VANDERGELDER

What?....Oh, so it's you is it, Mr. Hackl? Come crawling back, have you?

CORNELIUS

No, Mr. Vandergelder! I just stopped by for my one hundred and forty-six dollars and thirty-five cents. You see, I've decided to go into business for myself and since the only business I know is hay and feed, I'm opening my own store.

MRS. MOLLOY

(Entering left)
And Cornelius has found the perfect location, Mr. Vandergelder. Right across the street from you.

VANDERGELDER

So, you think you can compete with Vandergelder's, do you? Well, just you try....

BARNABY

(Entering left)
Ahem!
VANDERGELDER

Aha! Another one come crawling, is it? What do you want?

BARNABY

My back salary for the past four months....Six dollars and twelve cents.

VANDERGELDER

You can't do this to me, any of you! I'll go to the courts! I'll get lawyers! I'll....I'll....

MRS. LEVI

(Sweeping in left)

Why, Horace Vandergelder, as I live and breathe, if you aren't handsome in that outfit! So few men nowadays have the courage to wear faun yellow and taupe.

VANDERGELDER

Dolly Gallagher!

MRS. LEVI

(Leaning on R platform)

I know just what you're going to say, Horace, you're not satisfied with Ernestina. Well, I have another girl for you, the ideal wife....but don't let me interrupt you, you were doing something, what were you doing?

MRS. MOLLOY

Getting Cornelius' money, Dolly, one hundred and forty-six dollars....

CORNELIUS

And thirty-five cents.

BARNABY

Plus six dollars and twelve cents of mine.

ERMENGARDE

(Upstairs, entering with AMBROSE)

And the money my Mama left me....

AMBROSE

Fifty-two dollars and forty-eight cents!

Thirty-eight!

Forty-eight!

AMBROSE/ERMENGARDE

VANDERGELDER

....All right, all right! If it's the money you want, the safe is upstairs....
(They exit quarrelling over sums of money)

MRS. LEVI
Money, money, money, money, money. Mr. Vanderghelder's money. It's like the sun we walk under...it can kill or cure. Vanderghelder's never tired of saying that most people in the world are fools, and in a way he's right, isn't he? Himself, Irene, Cornelius, myself! Yes, we're all fools and we're all in danger of destroying the world in our folly, but the surest way to keep us out of harm is to give us the four or five human pleasures that are our right in the world....and that takes a little money. The difference between a little money and no money at all is enormous....and can shatter the world! And the difference between a little money and an enormous amount of money is very slight, and that can shatter the world, too. It's all in how you use it. As my late husband, Ephraim Levi, used to say, money....pardon the expression....is like manure. It's not worth a thing unless it's spread around encouraging young things to grow! Anyhow, that's the opinion of the second Mrs. Vanderghelder! Which reminds me. Ephraim....I'm ready for that sign!

VANDERGELDER
(Coming downstairs as PAPER HANGER appears through door)
Well, don't just stand there! That goes upstairs!

(PAPER HANGER goes upstairs and exits)

MRS. LEVI
(Sitting C on stool)
Well, Horace, as I was saying, I've found you the ideal wife.

VANDERGELDER
Dolly Gallagher, I don't want you to find me no ideal wives! If I want an ideal wife, I'll find one of my own, and I've found her! And it's you, dammit!

MRS. LEVI
Why, Horace....

VANDERGELDER
I know I've been a fool about Mrs. Molloy and that other woman, but Dolly....forgive me and marry me!

MRS. LEVI
Horace...stop right there!

VANDERGELDER
What do you mean?
MRS. LEVI
You know as well as I do, Horace, that you're the first citizen of Yonkers. And your wife would have to be a somebody. Answer me, am I a somebody?

VANDERGELDER
You are, wonderful woman!

MRS. LEVI
(Xing to caress cash register)
Oh, you're partial. No, Horace, it won't be enough for you to load your wife with money and jewels, to insist that she be a benefactress to half the town....By the way, it's bad business letting Cornelius open a store right across the street from you. Better take him back and let him be your partner.

VANDERGELDER
Partner?

MRS. LEVI
And Barnaby can have Cornelius' old job!

VANDERGELDER
Now see here, Dolly....

MRS. LEVI
That way we'll all be together so we can dance at Ermengarde's wedding!

VANDERGELDER
That does it! You've gone too far, Dolly! I'll dance at no weddings! Besides, I don't know how and it would take me weeks, months, years to learn....

(Reads card she extends to him)

...All right, I'll dance....

MRS. LEVI
Horace! I never thought I'd hear you say a thing like that!

(PAPER HANGER appears upstairs)

VANDERGELDER
That front room, idiot! Well, go on! What are you waiting for?

MRS. LEVI
(Xing to get on SR steps)
Horace Vandergelder, what is going on up there?

(MUSIC starts)

VANDERGELDER
Oh, nothing, I just thought I'd have that front room done over in blue wallpaper....
I know the old paper ain't worn out, yet, but that fella's just set up in business and needs a good start. You see, Dolly, I've always felt that money, pardon the expression, is like manure. It's not worth a thing unless...  

Thank you, Ephraim...

18 FINALE ULTIMO

HELLO, DOLLY
WELL, HELLO, DOLLY
IT'S SO NICE TO HAVE YOU HERE WHERE YOU BELONG
(Takes her hand and leads her DC)
I NEVER KNEW, DOLLY, WITHOUT YOU, DOLLY
LIFE WAS AWFULLY FLAT, AND MORE THAN THAT
WAS AWFULLY WRONG
(They dance)

MRS. LEVI
SO HERE'S MY HAT, HORACE
I'M STAYIN' WHERE I'M AT, HORACE
DOLLY'LL NEVER GO AWAY

Wonderful woman!

AGAIN!

(MRS. LEVI punches cash register.
LIGHTS OUT and SPOT UP on MRS. MOLLOY and CORNELIUS upstairs)

HELLO

MRS. MOLLOY and CORNELIUS

ALL
DOLLY, WELL HELLO, DOLLY
IT'S SO NICE TO HAVE YOU BACK WHERE YOU BELONG
(OTHER PRINCIPALS follow on from SL and through trapdoor)

ALL
(WAITERS enter)
YOU'RE LOOKIN' SWELL, DOLLY
WE CAN TELL, DOLLY
YOU'RE STILL GLOWIN', YOU'RE STILL CROWIN'
YOU'RE STILL GOIN' STRONG
("DANCING" PEOPLE enter)

ALL (Cont'd)
TAKE THE SOMEONE WHOSE ARMS YOU'RE IN
HOLD ON TO HER TIGHT AND SPIN AND

(SL upper section of Feed Store goes off, followed by SR upper section)

ONE-TWO-THREE, ONE-TWO-THREE, ONE-TWO-THREE
LOOK, I'M DANCING
AS AROUND AND AROUND YOU GO
YOUR SPIRITS WILL HIT THE TOP AND
NOW THAT WE'RE DANCING WHO CARES IF WE EVER STOP

HE HELD HER FOR AN INSTANT
BUT HIS ARMS FELT SURE AND STRONG
IT ONLY TAKES A MOMENT
TO BE LOVED A WHOLE LIFE LONG

(DS sections of Feed Store move U, leaving an alley way between them, through which the "SUNDAY CLOTHES" PEOPLE parade)

PUT ON YOUR SUNDAY CLOTHES WHEN YOU FEEL DOWN AND OUT
STRUT DOWN THE STREET AND HAVE YOUR PICTURE TOOK
DRESSED LIKE A DREAM YOUR SPIRITS SEEM TO TURN ABOUT
THAT SUNDAY SHINE IS A CERTAIN SIGN THAT YOU FEEL AS
FINE AS YOU LOOK
BENEATH YOUR PARASOL THE WORLD IS ALL A SMILE
THAT MAKES YOU FEEL BRAND NEW DOWN TO YOUR TOES

(PRINCIPALS are taking their bows center, introduced by VANDERGELDER. VANDERGELDER bows last)

GET OUT YOUR FEATHERS, YOUR PATENT LEATHERS,
YOUR BEADS AND BUCKLES AND BOWS
FOR THERE'S NO BLUE MONDAY IN YOUR SUNDAY CLOTHES

(MRS. LEVI enters through center alley and Xes down to circle on runway)

WELL, WELL, HELLO DOLLY
WELL HELLO DOLLY
IT'S SO NICE TO HAVE YOU BACK WHERE YOU BELONG

DOLLY'LL NEVER GO AWAY AGAIN.

CURTAIN

/19/ CURTAIN MUSIC
/20/ EXIT MUSIC