

Cosmo e Don.

1/3

Scene 6

Stage at Monumental Pictures studio. Two WORKMEN are carrying props that will be used later in COSMO's number. Many pictures are being shot in different parts of the stage, so we see various sets and props in various arrangements for either immediate use or for storing purposes. There is a piano Downstage for COSMO to use. WORKMEN are entering and there are various crossovers of activity at the studio.

At rise: Two of the WORKMEN enter carrying props.

1ST WORKMAN

Where does this thing go, Jim?

2ND WORKMAN

New Lockwood-Lamont picture -- just starting today.

(ROD enters, talking to COSMO)

COSMO

(Looking at "Variety")
Say, did you read "Variety" today?

ROD

No, why?

COSMO

(Reading)
"First talking picture novelty -- "The Jazz Singer" -- all-time smash end of first week."

ROD

All-time flop at end of the second. Good luck on your new Lockwood-Lamont film. I'm sure it'll be another smash.

COSMO

(Standing near piano)
Aren't they all? All I do is play along.

(HE does a glissando on the piano.

DON enters)

Enter, the star!

ROD

Good luck, Mr. Lockwood.

DON

Thanks, Rod.

(ROD exits)

DON
(HE assumes a cavalier pose)
Well, new picture, new role -- Conte Pierre de Battaille,
better known as the Dueling Cavalier!

COSMO
What's this one about?

DON
A French Revolution story.

COSMO
I've got it.
(COSMO plays French minuet music on piano)
-- you're a French aristocrat -- she's a simple girl of the
people -- and she won't even give you a tumbril.

DON
(First doing a take)
Well, it's a living.

COSMO
(Stops playing)
Why bother to shoot this picture? Why don't you just release
the last one under a new title? If you've seen one, you've
seen them all.

DON
(Sharply)
Why did you say that?

COSMO
Say what?

DON
(Brooding and with some annoyance)
That's what that Kathy Selden said to me that night.

COSMO
Three weeks ago and you're still thinking about it.

DON
I can't get her out of my mind.

COSMO
How could you? She's the first dame who hasn't fallen for
our line since you were four.

DON
She's on my conscience.

COSMO
It's not your fault she lost her job at the Coconut Grove.

DON
I've got to find her.

COSMO

Well, you've been trying to haven't you -- short of sendin' out blood hounds and a posse.

(HE plays Western peril music)

DON

(Depressed)

I suppose so.

COSMO

(Crossing to him)

Come on now, Don. Snap out of it! You can't let a little thing like this get you down. Why you're Don Lockwood, aren't you? And Don Lockwood's an actor, isn't he?

(HE moves DON to a chair by the piano)

Well, what's the first thing an actor learns?

(HE pushes DON down on the chair)

The show must go on. Come rain, come shine, come sleet, come snow, the show must go on. So remember --

(HE plays an arpeggio and falls off the stool)

Short people have long faces. Long people have short faces. Big people have little humor and little people have no humor at all!

(HE jumps up and seats himself on top of the piano. COSMO rises and stands on the keys)

And in the words of that immortal bard, Samuel J. Snodgrass, as he was about to be led to the guillotine:

Number: "MAKE 'EM LAUGH"

(COSMO does a wild slapstick routine while singing -- playing hit and miss with planks being carried by stagehands, racing up and down ladders, slipping on "banana peels", etc.)

MAKE 'EM LAUGH
MAKE 'EM LAUGH
DON'T YOU KNOW EVERYONE WANTS TO LAUGH.
MY DAD SAID BE AN ACTOR, MY SON,
BUT BE A COMICAL ONE.

THEY'LL BE STANDIN' IN LINES
FOR THOSE OLD HONKY TONK MONKEY SHINES!
NOW YOU COULD STUDY SHAKESPEARE AND BE QUITE ELITE
AND YOU COULD CHARM THE CRITICS AND HAVE NOTHING TO EAT
JUST SLIP ON A BANANA PEEL, THE WORLD'S AT YOUR FEET!
MAKE 'EM LAUGH!
MAKE 'EM LAUGH!
MAKE 'EM LAUGH!