

PUTTING ON HEIRS

A Farce

By Michal Jacot

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DEDICATION

*PUTTING ON HEIRS is dedicated to the
memory of Sally Lippert.*

PUTTING ON HEIRS was originally presented October 27, 1989 (under the title *Tangled Webbs 2: If There's a Will, I Want to Be In It*) by the Tawas Bay Players of East Tawas, Michigan. It was produced by Nadeen Bouback and directed by Michal Jacot. The cast was as follows:

AnnouncerLisa Taipalus
Mrs. Ernestine WebbJune Hudgins
Reporter #1Marla Nagy
Salesman #1Charity Szatkowski
AttorneyVickie Szatkowski
GroupieJolene Logue
Salesman # 2Craig Sayer
FanaticJoann Arnold
Alex WebbDennis Szatkowski
Donald WebbNick Warner
Rhonda WebbBarbara Hunter
Reporter # 2Armanda Swartz
FenwickKeith Frank
Elwood WebbJason Snow
Miss PomfreyDiane King
EmilyKelli Szatkowski, Kayte Parsons
The BurglarRon Warner
Millicent SweetLaurie Jacot
Charles CanterburyBrad Freeman

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(5 M, 5 F, 6 Flexible)

MRS. ERNESTINE WEBB: A widow and the matriarch of the Webb financial empire.

ALEX WEBB: Mrs. Webb's oldest son. Snobby socialite. Not the brightest guy in the world.

DONALD WEBB: Alex's brother, a California-born "surfer boy."

RHONDA WEBB: Their sister, a greedy, double-crossing witch.

FENWICK: A butler nine years older than dirt.

ELWOOD WEBB: Youngest of the Webb children. Suffers from delusions in which he imagines himself to be anyone from John Wayne to Luke Skywalker. Everyone in the family regards him as a harmless, imaginative child.

MISS POMFREY: Mrs. Webb's friend. Extremely wealthy, and bordering on senility.

EMILY: Her six-year-old niece. A little charmer.

BURGLAR: A black-clad cat-burglar.

MILLICENT SWEET: Mrs. Webb's niece. Sickeningly sweet and optimistic. A girl with a past as a gold digger.

CHARLES CANTERBURY: Mrs. Webb's brother, Millicent's father and the family attorney. Stately and distinguished.

ANNOUNCER: This part is optional - see note in Prologue.

UNRULY MOB: Consisting of a REPORTER, a SALESMAN, an ATTORNEY, a GROUPIE, and a FANATIC.

SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY

ACT I: A sunny, summer Saturday, late morning.

ACT II: Two hours later.

ACT III: Minutes later.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Ernestine Webb is overwhelmed by the day-to-day pressures of managing the \$77 million dollar Webb fortune. When her slightly senile friend, Miss Pomfrey, visits bemoaning the loss of her beloved gerbil, and the heirs think it's Mother Webb who has died, Ernestine realizes that death is one way to get out from under all the hassles. She cooks up an elaborate plot to fake her death. To see how much they've inherited, her greedy children fall all over each other in an attempt to find their mother's will and when they can't find it, they simply make up one of their own. Wild and wacky, this play is sure to provide a full evening of laughs.

PRODUCTION NOTES

This play is a sequel to *TANGLED WEBBS*, although either play can easily be produced independently of each other. If your group has presented *TANGLED WEBBS* previously, you may want to use the introductory prologue. It is entirely optional. The prologue should be cut if your audience is not familiar with *TANGLED WEBBS*.

SETTING

The spacious living room in the mansion of the ultra-rich Webb family. DSR is a door to a study next to which is a large armchair. USR is the main entrance that starts with two steps going down offstage, presumably to the downstairs section of the house. At the back wall there is a large window seat in front of a window that affords a summer's day view. At SL of the back wall there is a set of stairs leading off to the upstairs rooms. Part way up the stairs is a landing with a door leading into a closet. In front of the stairs there is a bookcase and a stocked bar. USL there is an archway, DSL is an exit that leads the sunroom. DSC sits a sofa with an end table on either side.

NOTE: See back of playbook for a listing of props and sound effects.

PROLOGUE

(The ANNOUNCER enters from the stage and stands DSC.)

ANNOUNCER: Good evening. Welcome to tonight's production. As you may already be aware, it's a sequel of sorts to *TANGLED WEBBS*, which we presented to you some time ago. Just in case you need a little refresher course, let me remind you of a few things that happened previously.

(When the ANNOUNCER mentions a character's name, he or she will enter onto the stage and freeze into a position befitting their character, whenever the Announcer mentions events involving that character, the character will react accordingly and freeze into another position. The recitation starts out at a normal pace, but gradually increases to a frenzied pace. If desired, a little light music could play.)

This is the story of the Webb family of Boston, very wealthy, and more than a little eccentric. Sort of like the Rockefellers meet *The Addams Family*. The mother, Ernestine Webb, is a widow with three children: Alex, the eldest; Rhonda, the sister; and young Elwood, rumored to have a bit of brain damage. That's three kids - well, make that four. You see, there was this long-lost brother, Donald, who lived his entire life in California.

It seems he and his attorney, Charles Canterbury, turned up to help Donald find his true heritage. Now, they showed up just in time to prevent Alex from marrying Millicent, a sweet young thing who only wanted to marry him for his money. *(To an audience member.)* Not exactly *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*, huh? Don't worry, it gets better.

So, here's this whole strange family, all being waited on by Fenwick, a butler who's approximately 60 years older than all of them put together. Well, imagine everyone's surprise when Charles and Mrs. Webb found out they were brother and sister! Of course, that made him uncle to Alex, Rhonda, Elwood and Donald, too.

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ANNOUNCER: (*Cont'd.*) But then Millicent found out that Charles was her long-lost father! It also made Millicent a cousin to Donald, Rhonda, and Elwood, and of course to Alex. Say good-bye to *those* wedding plans. This made Mrs. Webb Millicent's aunt; Charles, Elwood's uncle; Rhonda, Millicent's cousin; and Donald, Mrs. Webb's son. In fact, by the time the smoke cleared, the only one not related to anyone was Fenwick.

Whew! Have you got all that? No? Well, don't worry about it because you really don't need to know any of that, anyway. But now that that's all cleared up, we can start the next chapter of the Webb family, *PUTTING ON HEIRS*.

(*BLACKOUT.*)

End of Freeview

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