

SNEAKYPETE UNDERHAND'S DEVIOUS DEALINGS

or
THE DOCTOR IS IN(SANE)!

*A Madcap Melodrama
by Billy St. John*

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Sneakypete Underhand, a villainous doctor, and his henchwoman, nurse Heide Bedpann, are on the loose! When the play starts, the devious duo, jailed for a thwarted scheme, fake their deaths and escape from the morgue to continue their lives of crime ... this time in Hollywood.

There they are hired to work at a silent movie studio where Sneakypete quickly hatches a plot to kidnap a top star, Verily Speakwell. (Little do they know that when talking pictures arrive, the career of the actress with the horrible voice will be doomed!) Complications arise, and Sneakypete, disguised as a harem dancer, is forced to impersonate the missing star in order to fool the director, Alfred Hitchkick (a former Vaudeville hooper), and her co-stars: Manly Jawline, a movie hero with a zero I.Q., and Peerless Sneer, the ham actor who plays the villain.

When the script girl, Paige Turner, stumbles onto Sneakypete's plot, camera operator, Cameron Mann, valiantly dashes to the rescue!

Zany action, goofy disguises, and hilarious asides to the audience make this melodrama a sure-fire hit! Want to have your audience in stitches? Send in a smooth operator like Sneakypete Underhand to do the job!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(5M, 4W, Extras)

SNEAKYPETE UNDERHAND: A devious doctor.
HEIDE BEDPANN: A nefarious nurse.
VERILY SPEAKWELL: A silent movie heroine.
PEERLESS SNEER: A silent movie villain.
MANLY JAWLINE: A silent movie hero.
ALFRED HITCHKICK: Silent movie director.
PAIGE TURNER: A script girl.
CAMERON MANN: A camera operator.
***MELODY SWEET:** A piano player (non-speaking).
IRVING: An extra.
RALPH: An extra.
EVELYN: An extra.
OTHER EXTRAS: If desired.

*If played by a man, Minor Keyes.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

TIME: Early 1900's.

PLACE: A Hollywood movie lot and other locations.

SCENES:

Scene 1: The morgue of an Eastern city.
Scene 2: A movie lot, several weeks later.
Scene 3: A studio street.
Scene 4: The studio commissary.
Scene 5: A studio street.
Scene 6: The movie lot.
Scene 7: Later that night.
Scene 8: The next morning.
Scene 9: A studio street.
Scene 10: A cabin in the woods.
Scene 11: A studio street. An hour later.
Scene 12: The movie lot.

PROPS

2 gurneys (or rectangular tables) - Sneakypete, Heide
toe tags and sheets - Sneakypete and Heide
rope on sawmill
gun - Manly
old camera with 2 large film cans and tripod - on stage
director's chairs for Alfred and Paige
make-up table for Verily
doctor's bag with large syringe, regular syringe,
stethoscope, cotton ball, and bottle of alcohol
scripts for Alfred and Paige, music for Melody
oriental folding screen
table, tablecloth, 2 chairs
rolling/serving cart
eye glasses, 2 menus and pad and pencil - Heidi
2 place settings and salt and pepper - on table
2 glasses of tea, 2 bowls of soup, 2 plates of food
eyebrow pencil and steak knife - Heidi
fake noodles - Heide
mound of cushions - on stage
scimitars - Irving and Ralph
small gold hoop earring - Manly
palm frond on long pole - Evelyn
ankle bracelet - Verily
dagger - Peerless
gunny sack holding rope, blindfold, bedsheet
three notes (from Sneakypete, from "Verily" and ransom)
block of wood - UPS

*** Additional production notes at back of playbook.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: The LIGHTS come up on the forestage as the CURTAINS open slightly to reveal a pair of hospital gurneys at the morgue of an Eastern city. Sheets cover both bodies except the bare feet which protrude from the DS ends of the sheets. A tag is on the left big toe of each person. After a beat, the SR "body" sits up, his sheet sliding down to his waist. He is SNEAKYPETE UNDERHAND, a villainous doctor. He wears a striped pajama-like prisoner's outfit and being a classic villain, sneaky, greedy and thoroughly rotten, he can even have a mustache that curls up on the ends.)

SNEAKYPETE: The attendant has left.

(The other "body" sits up, her sheet sliding down to her waist. She is HEIDE BEDPANN, an evil nurse. She wears an ankle-length, striped prisoner's dress of the same material. Heide Bedpann is as nasty as her boss, though she has a soft spot for handsome movie stars. She is extremely homely. She wears her hair in a bun, wire rimmed glasses, and has a wart on her chin.)

HEIDE: Good.

SNEAKYPETE: Let's do the same. *(THEY climb off the gurneys and move DS of them. The CURTAIN closes behind them.)*

HEIDE: That was a brilliant plan to break us out of prison, Sneakypete. When I got your note to swipe a bottle of atropine (peen) from the infirmary and take a dose of it so that I'd appear to have died and then be brought here to the morgue ... well! I was frightened, but I knew I'd have to do it if I wanted to see you again.

SNEAKYPETE: Yes, my dear Heide. *(An aside to the audience.)* And I took a dose in spite of the fact I'd have to wake up beside Heide Bedpann. I was hoping a side effect would be blurred vision; no such luck ... I can count the hairs on her wart.

Sneakypete Underhand's Devious Dealings

- 6 -

HEIDE: Even though I love you enough to commit horrible crimes and go to jail for you, I was never certain you cared for me as strongly in return ... until now.

SNEAKYPETE: Heide! How could you ever doubt how I feel about you? *(An aside.)* Especially when I turn green at the sight of her. Oh well, evil nurses who will do anything a villainous doctor asks of them are hard to come by. I guess I'm stuck with Heide till something nastier comes along.

HEIDE: I feel just like Juliet awakening in the tomb. *(Flinging HER arms around HIM.)* Kiss me, Romeo!

SNEAKYPETE: *(An aside.)* I'd sooner place my lips on hot asphalt! *(To HEIDE; untangling HIMSELF from her.)* Restrain thyself ... dearest. We have to hie ourselves out of here before the morgue attendant returneth ... I mean, returns.

HEIDE: But when he sees our bodies are missing ... ?

SNEAKYPETE: He'll assume another attendant put us on ice. The staff never pays any attention to the inventory until someone asks for a stiff ... and nobody will want us.

HEIDE: What do we do now? Search for an exit?

SNEAKYPETE: Yeah ... right after we find out where they put our shoes. This floor is like Antarctica!

HEIDE: You're right. I'm getting frost-bitten tootsies.

SNEAKYPETE: You're not the only one with frozen toes. Come on.

(THEY run jerkily - almost as if the floor was red hot - toward DSR, their toe tags flopping. They ad-lib comments such as, "Oooo! Ah! Cold!" When they reach DSR, Heide takes his arm and stops him.)

HEIDE: By the way, where are we going?

SNEAKYPETE: Since the police think we're dead, they won't have an all points bulletin out for us. I'm free to head west and begin practice again under my new name ... Sneakypete Underhand, M.D.!

HEIDE: West? What's out west?

SNEAKYPETE: A city full of sickies - Hollywood!

End of Freeview

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