

MIMI-2

48

A COMEDY OF TENORS

Start

(He enters.)

CARLO. Mimi, where have you – Holy cow, what’s that?

MIMI. It’s a costume. Do you want to ask me why I’m wearing it? Because I got the part, I got the part, *I got the part!!*

(MIMI screams with happiness and hugs him and twirls him around.)

Oh, Carlo! I’m an actress now, *a working actress!* You see MGM is filming a movie here in Paris called *Marie Antoinette* and I play a peasant girl, I mean I’m not the star, but I have one good scene with Norma Shearer!, and they want me to wear this costume to get used to it because we start filming tomorrow and the actress who was going to play the part got sick and they auditioned over twenty girls *and they picked me!*

CARLO. They must be very smart.

MIMI. *(modestly)* Oh I don’t know...

(She gets tears in her eyes.)

It’s just that I worked so hard for this and I gave up so much! I mean that’s what we do, we’re in the theatre – and I actually signed the contract, and the doctor did a physical for insurance and they gave me the script

(She’s weeping now.)

and I talked to the director and he said he was glad to have me! I am so happy.

(They embrace.)

I didn’t think it would happen. I have a profession!

(Still crying, she wipes her eyes.)

Oh, I’m so stupid. My mascara’s running. Have you met my father yet?

CARLO. I have.

MIMI. And does he like you?

CARLO. I wouldn’t say so, no.

MIMI. Oh he will. I promise he will!

(She throws her arms around CARLO – at which moment, BEPPO enters from the bedroom, shaved, his hair combed, his moustache gone, and he’s wearing one of TITO’s dressing gowns. So now he looks 100 percent like TITO. Except, perhaps, for the glint in his eye.)

(BEPPO and the lovers gasp in surprise. There is an instant when MIMI hesitates about her father.)

MIMI. Daddy?

(BEPPO looks around for this “Daddy” – then gets it.)

BEPPO. Yah?

MIMI. *(bravely)* Oh, Daddy, please listen and keep an open mind. I know how protective you are and how you don’t think I’m ready to get involved with a man yet, but I am, I really am, I promise, and this is him, he’s the man I love! Daddy, Carlo.

(Beat. Then BEPPO walks up and shakes CARLO’s hand.)

Stop

BEPPO. How are you, my boy?

CARLO. I’m... I’m fine, sir. You?

BEPPO. I am feeling tip a-top, thank you.

CARLO. We really are in love with each other, sir, and I’m very sorry we got off on the wrong foot. I’m not sure what I did to offend you, but if there’s anything I can do to make it up to you –

BEPPO. No. You are good boy. I respect you.

CARLO. Really?

MIMI. Oh I just knew he’d like you! I knew it!

BEPPO. You two make a-beautiful couple, eh? And you will make a-beautiful children together.

MIMI. Oh, Daddy!