Opera

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"THE RING OF THE NEED-A-LUNGS"

COMIC OPERA

PRESENTED BY

JUNIOR OPERA COMPANY

TIME: Summer time — a hot time on any beach, but especially on Wrongsville Beach, which is the hottest.

PLACE: That you've ever . . .

SCENE!

PREVIEW OF PLOT: Read this before enjoying the opera. If you do, you will have a third of a chance of interpreting the theme, or, in your vernacular, catching the point.

Mrs. Pond, wife of a high class baker, has brought her daughter, Lily, to Wrongsville Beach in search of a good match for her — Lawrence Tidbit is in the process of becoming the above mentioned match, when that process is interrupted by the evil and sudden appearance of the villian, Razzpudding, and his accomplice, Cabooso. It is Razz's one and only aim in life to "give toLily Pond the T. B." by slipping his Need-a-lung Ring on her finger. He succeeds in consumptionizing Aida Pie until she is just a shadow of her former self. He even gets the ring on Mrs. Pond, and both she and Aida are taken to the Need-a-Lung Infirmary, where the second act takes place. Here the villianmakes a second attempt to get Lily in his T. B. (tremendously bad), power. This time Tidbit, the hero, has been warned by Hie and Cup, two simonized sailor twins, who are on to Razzpuddin's schemes, and he is more than ready for the feud When he slips into the infirmary. There is great celebrating when Mrs. Pond shoots Razzpuddin, and all his victims revive.

In case you don't understand about Cabooso, he is the "handy man" who brings Kleenex for the patients as soon as they get T. B., and who picks up the trash, and keeps things in smooth working order for his boss, Razzpuddin. He will do anything in the world for his master, that is any thing but one thing—He will not sing. In fact, he cannot sing. Alas, he is a monotone of the monotones.

There is just one more thing which should be mentioned before this opera begins. The cast, splendid though it be, realizes that it could never have produced this opera without the assistance of Miss Sunny Kirby, a Sophomore, but nevertheless a wonderful pianist, and a cutie pie. Miss Kirby will take her bow at the half—pardon, at the end of the first act.

NOTICE:—Just before the curtain opens, you will hear the motif of Wrongsville Beach, which motif recurrs frequently throughout the whole opera. If your ear is well trained, you will notice that Razzpuddin also has a motif of his own, so does Cabooso, and so do Hie and Cup. By the time you learn to recognize these characters by their separate motifs, the opera will be over.

Act I

Mrs. Pond, Lily, and Tidbit seated on Beach.

Tidbit: (tune, *Marquita*)
"O, Lily sweet Lily,
This sun makes me silly,
I love you, sweet Lily, I do.

Lily: (same tune)
Hush, Doctor, you shocked her,
I wish that you wouldn't
Insist upon slinging me woo.

Tidbit:
Oh, do not deny me
A date for eight thirty,
I want one, sweet Lily, with you.

Mrs. Pond, (sighing looking into space —tune *Old Black Joe*):
"Gone are the days when my husband felt that way,
Lily, you'd better heed what I do say,
This man's intentions are the best
I know . . . ."

Tidbit (embarrased):
" . . . Well, pardon me, dear ladies,
but I'd better go."
(Is leaving stage, meets Hie and Cup, sailor twins)

Hie and Cup (tune *Capital Ship for an Ocean Trip*):
O, we made us a trip on a rickety ship,
Now we're glad to get on land.
How I love to feel underneath my heel
This blasted, cockeyed sand!
We're simonized twins, but for our sins
We never will go below.
For another man named Razzpuddin
Is the villian of this show.
Our voyage was rough and slow,
And oh, the winds did blow.
I'm fresh from the sea come flirt with me.
Oh, baby, don't tell me no, o, o!
Then come on girls, Hello,
Let's dance the twinkle toe!
I would if I could; this is gonna be good,
If you'll only let my hand go!"
Pajama Girls Dance

Hie and Cup (tune *How Lovely is the Evening*):
"Oh, how ugly is the motion, is the motion
Of the slippery, slimy, ocean—slippery ocean, slimy ocean.
Hie, Cup! Hie, Cup!"

Mrs. Pond (coyly — tune *Barnacle Bill*):
"You're new comers to the shore.
Sailor boys I do adore."

Hie and Cup:
Of our crew there are two more,
Ole roughy, toughy sailors!"

Mrs. Pond:
"Did you have a happy trip?
And where is your little ship?
Is that something on your hip?"

Hie:
"No, ma'am, it's only my tooth brush,
And pajamas,
And washrag!"

Cup:
"He fooled you!"

Enter Razzpuddin and Aida Pie.

Razz (motif):
"Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!"

Aida (tune *You're an old Smoothie*):
"You're an old Thmoothie!"

Hie and Cup:
"He's an old meanie!
He's brung disaster to the lung of some little bittie girls like you—"

Razz (tune *Blue Danube*):
"Don't listen to them, my dear,
They have fancy notions here."

Aida:
"Of you I will have no fear!"

Tidbit:
"I think this is very queer!"

Mrs. Pond:
"Is that man a sailor too?"

Lily:
"He looks like he has the flu!"

Tidbit:
"I think I shall trail him and see
What there is for me to see!"
Exit Razz, Aida, and Tidbit

Mrs. Pond (tune *Dinah*):
"Daughter,
Don't you think that you oughta
Take a dip into the water?
If you do, then you can run now,
Before you dinner . . . . . wait—
Daughter,
Here take this little quarter,
Buy yourself a drink of water
And bring me three dopes with lime."
Exit Lily—

Mrs. Pond:
"Oh, every night, why do I
Shake with fright?
Because my Lily might
Say no! to that man—
I've taught her,
My adorable daughter,
And to Wrongsville beach I've brought her,
For my sweet, romantic plan."

Enter Cabooso (motif — Funeral March)

Hie and Cup (tune: *Chloe*):
"Over sea and land,
Caboosa has travelled far.
Trash can in one hand,
And victims in his car.
If the ring is slipped on you,
And you go, a ka, choo!
There Cabooso stands
With Kleenex in his hands."

Caboosa (monotone):
"I am the handy man of Razzpuddin,
I work for him tho' I know it is a sin"

Mrs. Pond (starting to take his picture):
"Oh, how very thrilling,
Now if you are willing—"

Cabooso:
"Pardon me, lady,
Razzpuddin's calling me"—(*exit*)

Mrs. Pond (violets):
"Hie and Cup, Both stand up!
Take me out to see a show!"

Hie and Cup:
"We respond, Madam Pond,
If you'll pay our way, we'll go!"

Mrs. Pond:
"What's a dollar more to me?
My husband owns a bakery."

Hie and Cup:
"What show would you care to see,
Oh, Mrs. Pond?"
(Exit all three)

(Razz and Aida enter—she with the Needa lung Ring on her finger, and therefore coughing and sneezing—Razz motif.)

Razz:
"Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha—"

Hidden Chorus (tune: *Poor Butterfly*):
"Poor Aida Pie
The poor girl will die.
When, and where, and how?
She's his victim now.
A consumptive, she will now have no more fun.
The poor girl will die
Poor Aida Pie."

Razz (tune: *It'nd It Romantic*):
"The Ring is on her finger,
Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, and how.
Not long will she linger!
She's my victim now—"

Aida (tune: *Marquita*):
"Rathpuddin, to me,
It ith plain to thee
Thith ring hath brought me T. B."

(Exit Razz and Aida—Enter Tidbit)

Tidbit (tune: *Soldiers' Chorus*):
"Oh, what a dastardly man is he
He gave Aida Pie T. B.!
Just let him try his old ring on me,
And then we shall see, and then we shall see,
What we shall see!!"

Enter Lily (tune: *Girl of My Dreams*):
"Mamma, I brought back a dime.
And your three dopes with lime.
But where are you?"

Tidbit (romantically — tune: *The World is Waiting for the Sunrise*):
"Dear one, the sun has turned your little nose,
To the color of the rambling rose—"

Lily:
"Where is my dear Mamma gone?
Can't you see I'm forlorn?
Tidbit, go find her, do!"

Exit Tidbit (in search of Mrs. Pond)

Razz motif—he rises up. Lily screams. He is about to slip Need-a lung ring on her finger while she is in a faint.

Razz (tune: *Tiptoe Through the Tulips*):
"Tiptoe, oh, Cabooso—
O, ho, ho, ho, will you pardon me?
While I give to Lily Pond the T. B."
(Hears voices—exit)

Mrs. Pond (tune: *Killy Killy, Wash, Wash*):
"Mercy, mercy, mercy, mercy, look, look, look, look!
Look, my daughter's dying."

Tidbit:
"Lily, oh, Lily, oh, Lily, oh, Lily, oh
Why are you thus lying?"

Hie and Cup:
"Look at Madam Pond,
Fit, Fat, and fond—
Poor Madam Pond."

Mrs. Pond:
"Oh, goodness, gracious, mercy, me."

Lily (tune: *Sailing, Sailing*):
"Where am I?"

Tidbit:
"Oh, darling, can't you see?"

Lily:
"Yes, now I remember the ugly man,
Who jumped up behind me!"

Hie and Cup:
"The one she remembers, Razzpuddin must be.
His Need-a-lung Ring, the nasty thing gives everyone T. B."

Mrs. Pond:
"Tidbit, take her back up to the house—
I will wait a little late
To try to catch that louse."

Hie and Cup:
"We will take her, Lady, have no fear."

Lily:
"But, mamma, I know, you ought to go—"

Mrs. Pond:
"I'm staying here, my dear!"
(Exit all except Mrs. Pond)

Mrs. Pond (tune: *Ah I Have Sighed to Rest Me*, from Il Trovetore):
"Why did I ever bring her here?
She will now come to harm I fear.
Where is my blessed husband?
He should be here to protect us—
But he's at home, in his bakery."

Razz (motif—Enter softly, disguised in baker's suit and cap—with loaf of bread—tune: *Won't be Home Until Morning*):
"Oh, Madam Correspond,
I've come here
To bring you happiness
And good cheer—
Your husband from the bakery
Sent you this present by me!"

Mrs. Pond (takes loaf—tune:*Killy, Killy, Wash, Wash*):
Goody, goody, goody, goody, hi, hi, hi, hi!
Look what hubby sent me!
Wonder if I'm supposed to keep it?
Or if it's only lent me?"

Razz:
"It's meant for you, Mrs. Correspond.
But you must not yet eat it.
Just look inside, and find . . . .

Mrs. Pond:
"A *ring*, well can you beat it?

Razz:
"Let's see you try it on."

Mrs. Pond:
"Oh, surely I must try it on."

Razz (aside):
"Once she has put it on, her fate she will meet it!"

(Mrs. P. puts ring on, coughs. Razz laughs, Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!)

Razz. (tune: *Three Blind Mice*):
"Now ain't that nice.
My ring has gone on twice.
Aida Pie, her swan song has sung.
Madam Pond will now need a lung.
The next one I want is the daughter young.
Won't that be nice! Won't that be nice!"

Mrs. Pond (between coughs—tune: *Give Me Liberty or Give Me Love*):
I'm a slave to thee
For the need a lung ring I see.
You have got me where you want me
But leave Lilly, please, alone!
Please don't give my babee T. B."

Razz, Ha, Ha, etc. (tune: *Shuffle Off to Buffalo*):
Go home and tell your daughter
That I've just as good as caught her
Ho, Ho, ho, ho, ho,
Off she's gonna shuffle,
With a cough and a shuffle, O!
(Exit)

Enter Aida (tune: *I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles*):
"Coming events cast before them
Future shadows in the air
Now here am I—just about to die.
There you see me as I soon will be."
(Enter future shadow of Aida—thin and pale)

F. Shadow:
"I am but a future shadow.
Of you poor Aida Pie.
Just skin and bones
And tearing sighs and moans
As you see her, so once was I."

Mrs. Pond:
"Look at me, Aida Pie.
I, too, am about to die,
But if I do—I hereby swear to you (loudly) My Lilly Pond shall not die too."
(Enter Tidbit, Lily, Hie and Cup)

Mrs. Pond (tune: *We'll Make Hay While the Sun Shines*):
"Take me to the infirmary,
Oh, I am in such pain.
My two lungs are useless
I am as good as slain."

Aida:
"Hurry to the infirmary
Let's catch a special train.
Once in the country air and sun
Myself I may regain."

Former self of Aida (waves goodbye, tune: *Taps*):
Oh, goodbye, I could cry.
There I see what was me—
About to die!
"I would be good, if we could kill Razzpud!"

Echo (all): "Twould be good, if we could KILL RAZZPUD!"
(Curtain)

Act II

Scene: A sleeping porch in the Need-a-Lung Infirmary. Several sickly specimens of humanity are stretched out in wheel chairs. As curtains part they sing mournfully between coughs and gasps. (*Volga Boatmen*):
"Cough . . . . groan . . . . blow—
Wheeze—moanin' low—
We have T. B.
O—O—O—"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

CAST

Lily Pond, the heroine
.....Pat de Fierta

Mrs. I. Corres Pond, her mother
.....Peg o' My Bernhardt

Lawrence Tidbit, hero
.....Stee McGee

Aida Pie, friend of Lily
.....Ozzie Williamington

Hie .....given name, Country

Cup .....given name, Butter

Simonized Sailor Twins

Razzpuddin, villian
.....Dongda Burrymore

Cabooso, accomplice of villian
.....Stayoff-Tune

Future Shadow of Aida
.....Ima Voided

Pajama girls, T. B. germs.

For the benefit of such companies as The Metropolitan Opera; Carolina Play Makers, and Jelly Leftwich, Inc., who may wish to use some numbers of this cast as prima donas or torch singers, we will give their everyday names, as well as their "noms d' opera" which you see above—they are: Misses Pat Padrick, Mary Penn, Margaret McLean, Jane Williams, Cokey Preston, Margaret Ward, Wona Thagurls, Virginia Nall, Frances Adams, and Junior Twinkeltoers.