

Lord 2

By

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Cast of Characters

- Lord 2: 40 yrs old, male, ruler of the Kingdom of Two, a large person, vulgar, disgusting & purely revolting. Highly charged, angry, and always annoyed. Never realizes his own absurdity; well dressed.
- Barmaid 2: 19 yrs old, female, seeking something greater than being a two or being with a two, wants to find someone who has the same vision as her; dressed in Swiss Maid attire, with a shoulder-less top, a skirt or long dress, lace-up cincher and possibly head scarf.
- Beatnik 2: 21 yrs old, male, Though he acts mellow for the most part, he is a very sincere person; dressed like a stoner in somewhat ragged clothes.
- Drunk 2: 50 yrs old, male, one Lord 2's self-proclaimed advisors. Always drunk and often drinking unless otherwise noted. He is the stupider of the two and often the more obvious; preferably has a British accent.
- Hobo 2: 60 yrs old, male, one Lord 2's self-proclaimed advisors. The more intelligent, yet not articulate and still an idiot who is easily agitated.

(MORE)

Cast of Characters (cont'd)

- Guard 2: 20-30 yrs old, male, average build and in average shape. He enjoys taking advantage of Gatekeeper 2.
- Gatekeeper 2: 20-30 yrs old, male, slightly dumber than Guard 2 but clearly either looks tougher or is physically bigger than Guard 2 and he has a much deeper voice, at least when singing.
- Scientist 2: 60 yrs old, female, mad scientist and friend of Barmaid 2, tries to help her be with Pseudolus, and is very knowledgeable. (looks like a female version of Einstein)
- Secretary 2: 35 yrs old, female, Lord 2's Secretary, who usually disagrees with everything Lord 2 says. Has a very strict business-women attire but she's got sass to come with it.
- Courtesan 2: 25 yrs old, female, Surprisingly sweet and is tired of being misunderstood for a prostitute in shows, and in this kingdom especially, instead of a courtesan, which is much more romantic in her mind and who can be much more selective of her clients.

(MORE)

Cast of Characters (cont'd)

Ensemble: (could be done with as few or as many actual actors as desired) Quartet Singer 2, Girl 2, Boy 2, Pirate 2, Guest 2, Clown 2, Policeman 2, Villager 2, Bartender 2, Elvis 2, French Soldier 2, German Soldier 2, Roman Soldier 2, American Soldier 2, Cowgirl 2, Dancer 2, Whiner 2, Customer 2, Messenger 2

Pseudolus: 25 yrs old, only non-two cast member, must look like Pseudolus from "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," like a Roman slave, with a comic twist. He is blinded by his lead actor status and plays up the ridiculousness of his Romeo-esque characteristics (His name must be listed last in the playbill with an asterisk denoting "In this kingdom, two's are first.")

Scene

A castle wall placed center & appearing to continue off stage left & stage right, with a large double door gate near center stage. On top of this wall, on stage left, there is a space for 2 people to sit comfortably, with a ladder to it on the upstage side of the wall. This area needs to be angled/bent/curved, at least slightly downstage, so that a person on this perch could view someone leaning on the wall far stage right. A large obnoxious throne is on stage right in front of the castle wall & close to the gate. In front of the throne is a large landing pad (i.e. high-jumper pad) with fancy decorations on it. On stage left, in the castle wall itself, is a large jail cell window. The window should be near the ground, but the cell should appear to be mostly below grade, as if it were a dungeon, & the small room around the window should actually have access from the upstage side of the wall, as well as room for one person. The scene changes are only from night to day and the main thing that happens is that the landing pad is either covered with something solid, or removed from the stage by Guard 2 and Gatekeeper 2. If you wish to embellish the area behind the gate feel free.

ACT 1

Scene 1 - DAY

CURTAINS UP

Two guards stand on each side of the gate. GUARD 2 is on the SL side, GATEKEEPER 2 is on the SR side. They will always be on their respective sides unless otherwise noted. DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2 are drinking up on the wall. The sun is rising and it is noticeably the beginning of the day. Note: As each "daytime" scene occurs the lighting should be coordinated so that from the beginning to the end of the scene it looks as though the sun has come up in the morning and set in the evening. LORD 2 enters CS through the open gates with bows from the two guards. He takes his seat on the throne. Note: He should seldom leave his throne unless absolutely necessary. The gate stays open and some hustling and bustling begins happening within the walls. Shops are setting up and people are getting ready for the day. LORD 2 gets comfortable and starts reading a Playboy magazine or something similar. Whatever dirty magazine is choose, he should have this with him in each scene; either in his hands or on a table beside his throne.

(1) "Out in Your World" - see music index

After the song, you can see people behind the gates in the Kingdom and some of the ensemble enters the Kingdom and some of the ensemble moves DSL, then LORD 2 on his throne, GUARD 2 on the right side of the gate, and GATEKEEPER 2 on the left side of the gate and then DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2 on the wall. BEATNIK 2 and BARMAID 2 step out of the crowd of Twos DSL and begin conversing. LORD 2 is eerily spying on them during their conversation.

BEATNIK 2
I love you.

BARMAID 2
What?

BEATNIK 2
I've been doing a lot of thinking. And here's the thing: I love you.

BARMAID 2

Uh..huh? How do you expect me to respond to this?

BEATNIK 2

How about, you love me too?

BARMAID 2

How about, I'm leaving and we can talk about this later.

BEATNIK 2

Barmaid 2, we've been together for so long and I'm serious about this. Doesn't what I just said mean anything to you?

BARMAID 2

I'm sorry Beatnik 2. I know it's a small kingdom and maybe...maybe you're feeling lonely or that the selection of decent women around here is limited, but you just can't show up here, tell me you love me and expect me to want to run away with you. It doesn't work that way, not even here.

BEATNIK 2

How does it work?

BARMAID 2

I don't know, but not like this.

BEATNIK 2

What about like this: I love that you get cold when its 80 degrees out. I love that it takes you two hours to figure out the tip after dinner. I love that you crinkle your nose and twitch your eyes when you fall asleep. I love you are the last person I wanna talk to before I go to bed and the first person I want to talk to every morning. And I don't feel like this because I'm lonely. And I don't feel like this because it's a small kingdom. I'm telling you this now, because when you know that you've found the best person to spend you're life with, you don't want to wait around for something better...cause there isn't anyone better.

BARMAID 2

You're really serious aren't you?

It appears for a moment that she may fall for him instantly but then she reacts flustered and overwhelmed, stumbling over her words

I never get cold when it's that hot out....well, okay.. so it happened once. But, in fact, I have a glandular disorder and...and if you knew me at all you'd know that I actually sweat a lot. And so what if it takes me

BARMAID 2
a while to figure out the tip. You know I'm not that good at math.

BEATNIK 2
That's not what I meant!

BARMAID 2
I just... how do you expect me to want to spend the rest of my life with you? I like you Beatnik 2, but this is a little too much right now. I'm going. We can talk about this later.

BARMAID 2 exits through gate.

LORD 2
Beatnik 2, come here!

BEATNIK 2
He walks out of the crowd towards LORD 2 at this moment.
Yes, sir?

LORD 2
I, uh...I just saw that scuffle between you and Barmaid 2.

BEATNIK 2
You just saw that? Oh, I'm sorry sir.

LORD 2
No need to be sorry. I actually think I can help you find the love you're looking for.

BEATNIK 2
What, sir? Really?

LORD 2
Of course. Look, just be in front of the kingdom walls at 9:55 tonight. And don't be late.

BEATNIK 2
Oh, great sir. Thank you so much!

LORD 2
Anything I can do to help.

LORD 2 winks at BEATNIK 2 and then slaps him on the back.
Get outta here.

BEATNIK 2 scampers offstage through the gate and PIRATE 2 drops onto the mat, either by jumping from a high spot SR or "falling" from the catwalk also SR.

PIRATE 2

Shakes himself off.

So that's what happens when you walk the plank. Hmm.

Looks around quizzically and somewhat amused.

LORD 2

With a rather fake smile.

Cheers!

Switching quickly to being rather harsh.

Who are you and why should I admit you?

PIRATE 2

Don't you think it's obvious?

LORD 2

Stop with your nonsense! Who are you and why should I admit you?

PIRATE 2

Come on now!

Begins speaking very quickly but articulately.

"Blank" of the Caribbean, Long John Silver, One-Eyed Willy, Crazy Pete, Captain Jack, Blackbeard.

LORD 2

I think you'll have to repeat...

Gets cut off by DRUNK 2 but doesn't get agitated yet, he just continues admiring his magazine.

DRUNK 2

That's a really long name, that is.

HOBO 2

Sure is. I reckon he has to have some sort of nickname Lord 2.

DRUNK 2

I don't think he's really a two anyways, I definitely hears him say the letter one, and then a bunch of them objectives.

HOBO 2
No! They isn't objectives, they's is adjectations!

DRUNK 2
I don't think so--

HOBO 2 lightly forces DRUNK 2 to swig a lot of his bottle.

HOBO 2
What was you saying, remember, 'bout this bloke usin' all them adjectations, right?

DRUNK 2

Hiccup.
Right!

HOBO 2 grins pleasantly.

LORD 2
As they have distracted me from my orderly and important work and business here as Lord 2 and ruler of this Kingdom, let us get back to my orderly and important work and business here as Lord 2 and ruler of this Kingdom. Since you had a rather long name and you rushed through it like a madman, say it again! And clear as crystal this time, or you'll be headless; effective immediately.

LORD 2 pulls out a small note pad and writing utensil and is getting ready to write down Pirate 2's name, even if he speaks quickly.

PIRATE 2
I haven't actually said it.

LORD 2 signals for a beheading. PIRATE 2 gets to the point.

But my name is

LORD 2 scribbles down on the note pad furiously. PIRATE 2 annunciates his name but speeds through the rest of his dialogue.

Pirate 2! That's why I said "Blank" of the Caribbean, Long John Silver, One-Eyed Willy, Crazy P--

He is cut off by LORD 2.

LORD 2

Oblivious.
Right, right! I managed to get it that time. It seems there is, in fact, a two. You'll be keeping your head

LORD 2
after all. Of course, you'll have to keep it short in this Kingdom. Lots of the citizens here aren't quite as bright as you and I, especially those two.

Points to DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2 and then as if reading from the note pad,
Does "Pirate 2" work for you?

PIRATE 2
Um..

Looks indirectly at the audience.
Obviously!

LORD 2
No need for an attitude! I warmly grant you entry to the wonderful, fabulous, and painfully penultimate Kingdom of Two.

PIRATE 2
Um.. thank you.. I guess.

PIRATE exits CS through the gates, and then from offstage, in a very gentile voice,
Oh, my, this is lovely!

LORD 2
Secretary 2!

SECRETARY 2

Enters unexcitedly CS through the gates and is already fed up with LORD 2.
Yes, o contrived one?

LORD 2
Secretary 2!

SECRETARY 2

Yells.
I'm right here!!!

LORD 2
Yes, that is obvious my dear, and there is no need to state the obvious.

SECRETARY 2
Certainly. How can I pretend to assist you?

LORD 2

I'd like you to find Courtesan 2 and send her my way.

SECRETARY 2

Business or pleasure?

LORD 2

Very bluntly, entirely missing the joke.
Business of course.

SECRETARY 2 stares at LORD 2 incredulously until he gets uncomfortable and says,
Right. On with it!

SECRETARY 2

Sarcastically obsequious.
By all means. Right away, sir, right away.

She exits CS through the gate into the kingdom and then GUEST 2 drops onto the stage.

LORD 2

With a rather fake smile he says,
Cheers!

Switching quickly to being rather harsh.
Who are you and why should I admit you?

GUEST 2

Rather quickly and slurred as he is disheveled from the fall he says,
Guest 2.

LORD 2

I don't have time for guessing games! Who are you and why should I admit you?

GUEST 2

This time annunciating
Guest 2, G-U-E-S--

LORD 2

Highly irritated that he spelled it out.
No need to spell it out. I'm not an idiot after all. I warmly grant you entry to the wonderful, fabulous, and painfully penultimate Kingdom of Two.

GUEST 2

Sarcastically,
Thanks.

*GUEST 2 hands a gift to GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2.
They smile.*

GUARD 2

Oh. How kind!

*SECRETARY 2 enters CS through the gate with
COURTESAN 2 as GUEST 2 exits CS through the gate.*

LORD 2

It's about time Secretary 2.

*He is genuinely irritated and does not realize
that he is being absurd.*
I have been waiting for all of...

Pulls out a pocket watch.
...three minutes.

SECRETARY 2

Sorry, your dishonor, next time I'll bring your guests
via magic carpet.

*GUEST 2 pops his head back into view, US of the
gate.*

GUEST 2

Really?

LORD 2

Yells.
Of course not!

Short conveniently placed pause.
The magic carpet is for important guests only.

Pretentious laugh.

GUEST 2

Oh.

Walks out of view, sad and dejected.

SECRETARY 2

We really have a magic carpet? I just made it up!

LORD 2

No, no! The truth is also only for important guests.

DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2 start cracking up at this, adlibbing things like: "That's a good one," "The truth," "I'm honored you tell us the truth," and constant laughter.

Right. Courtesan 2, I need you to do me a favor.

LORD 2 suggestively places his hands on both thighs, closes his eyes, and stretches backward.

COURTESAN 2

Misreading this as a request for a sexual favor.
I will not do that here!

LORD 2

I'm not talking about that you dolt!

SECRETARY 2 starts to exit CS while COURTESAN 2 approaches LORD 2. LORD 2 pushes COURTESAN 2 away and then noticing SECRETARY 2 leaving, he says, Don't go anywhere yet!

Then he turns back to talk to COURTESAN 2 again. I need you to meet up with that two that I saw you eyeing earlier.

Makes suggestive faces at COURTESAN 2; with each face she suggests a different two.

COURTESAN 2

Is it... Bartender 2?

LORD 2

No.

Makes a different face.

COURTESAN 2

Villager 2!?

LORD 2

No, no.

Makes a different face.

COURTESAN 2

Oh this is tough! I check out a lot of men!

Realizing that this makes her sound more like a prostitute and less like a courtesan she says,

COURTESAN 2
What girl doesn't?

LORD 2 looks at her visually requesting her to continue guessing.

Uh... is it Policeman 2?!

LORD 2
No, you daft girl!

Makes a different face and uses a lot of creative body language now as he mouths the word 'BEAT-'

COURTESAN 2
Roman Soldier 2, Quartet Singer 2, Priest 2...

Louder and more excited than before, almost as if sexually aroused.

Oh, Oh, Oh I got it! Beatn--

LORD 2
Yes, that one!

COURTESAN 2
I finally got it and you won't even let me finish!

LORD 2
No, I won't.

Pulls a sack of money out of his jacket/pocket. Bring him right here, in front of the gates tonight at oh, say...9:55, okay? Do what I say dear and I'll see to it that you get more than a few dollars in your pocket.

Looks at the money in his hands and then makes a suggestive face.

COURTESAN 2
You really don't know me as well as you think. No one here does. I can't be bought off so easily.

Pause. Lord 2 jingles the sack of money. However, I'll do this favor.

Grabs the money out of his hand. But I'm doing it on my own terms, 'cause I actually think he's kinda cute.

LORD 2
Having ignored most of what COURTESAN 2 said. Whatever helps you sleep at night! Just get going already!

*COURTESAN 2 leaves CS as LORD 2 yells,
Secretary 2!*

SECRETARY 2

*SECRETARY 2 is standing directly next to LORD 2
and therefore yells back at him.
Sir, I am not deaf!*

LORD 2

This I know woman! And how dare you go around and
proclaim such a thing. If you're trying to make the
deaf jealous,

*He half-whispers this next line.
there's no need to yell. They can't hear you anyway.*

SECRETARY 2

*Nodding her head and whispering as aggressively as
possible.
What do you want?*

LORD 2

I need you to bring me Barmaid 2, and quickly!

SECRETARY 2

*Sarcastic again, but this time almost screaming.
Certainly. I'll walk faster this time.*

*SECRETARY 2 slowly exits, dragging her feet as she
leaves. LORD 2 is obliviously reading his magazine
and/or staring off into space. DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2
stare at SECRETARY 2 awkwardly until SECRETARY 2
notices that no one cares that she is dragging her
feet. She then walks normally and exits CS through
the gate. CLOWN 2 enters, landing on the mat.*

LORD 2

*Angry that his reading was interrupted.
It never ends!*

*A short pause.
Who are you and why should I admit you?*

CLOWN 2

Clown 2 is one's name and thou shouldst admit me for
humor is my business.

LORD 2

Right. You may enter as your name obviously has a two in it. I warmly grant you entry to the wonderful, fabulous, and--

CLOWN 2

Pause, my lord. Thou ask of me for what right dost I hold to be in thy kingdom? Dost thou not wish to witness a trick or open an ear to comedic prose, be it either which? For that which dost give thou pleasure, my Lord, is that which I wish to most humbly bequeath upon thy royal person.

LORD 2

No. Not really in the mood.

CLOWN 2

I beg of you my lord. I seldom hath a chance to perform for an audience. I find myself in the background juggling or entertaining. As by your wisdom please, one line for a laugh? Dost thou enjoy a laugh?

HOBO 2

Surely. Let's hear a joke.

DRUNK 2

Yeah, a funny one.

HOBO 2

Everyone looks at DRUNK 2 as though he is an idiot. Pause.

They're all funny, or at least supposed to be.

Looks back at Clown 2.

How 'bout a really smart one! Test how intelligent you is.

CLOWN 2

Verily, absent are my wits, gone off to some distant land of faeries at the moment and by my graces, I am unable to gather them.

LORD 2

Suddenly interested.

You wanted to prove yourself. Go ahead.

CLOWN 2

Thinks for a little while and then suddenly,
What doth thou get when thou subtract doth get thou subtract thou when?

HOBO 2, DRUNK 2, & LORD 2

All confused and curious.
WhAT?!?

CLOWN 2

Precisely!

Complete silence and then,

DRUNK 2

Hahhahahahahaha

Extreme laughter.

WhAT!!!! ahahahahahahaha

Everyone else, including GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2, stares uncomfortably at DRUNK 2. DRUNK 2 continues to laugh until noted.

LORD 2

Speaking to CLOWN 2, seemingly sarcastic.

If at least one idiot laughed then I guess you may enter.

CLOWN 2 smiles uncomfortably, bows, and begins to head toward the gates to exit.

Stop!

With a devilish grin he says,

That Clown 2, was a joke, unlike whatever you just said.

Evil laughter and then he yells,

Off with his head...her head...its head!

GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 drag CLOWN 2 offstage while he is pleading in the most servile Elizabethan language for another chance. DRUNK 2 stops laughing when he hears "off with his head." Once CLOWN 2 has been dragged offstage, there is a long moment of silence. SECRETARY 2 enters with BARMAID 2 by her side and then DRUNK 2 resumes his ridiculous laughter. A guillotine can be heard falling and DRUNK 2 stops laughing with an overacted gulp and caresses his own throat.

SECRETARY 2

I give you Barmaid 2 my lord. And now I leaving, before I discover whatever absurdity Drunk 2 was laughing about.

SECRETARY 2 exits CS through the gate.

LORD 2
Barmaid 2, how is everything?

BARMAID 2
Fine sir, why do you ask?

LORD 2
No reason. How is everything with Beatnik 2 going?

BARMAID 2
Good, I suppose. But again sir, why do you ask?

LORD 2
Again, no reason...

Feeling as if she is catching on to him, though she is not.

...but my, you sure are inquisitive! And now onto an entirely unrelated separate issue about which I needed to speak to you...separately.

Pause.

You see, Bartender 2 wanted to discuss some business with you tonight at 10pm right here, in front of the gates.

BARMAID 2
Why didn't Bartender 2 just tell me that in person?

LORD 2
He wants to keep the business rather secret, he says. So don't speak of this to anyone until you see him tonight.

BARMAID 2
Somewhat hesitantly she says,
Okay, sir. I guess I'll be there then.

LORD 2
Winking and whispering.
No you won't my dear.

BARMAID 2
I won't?

LORD 2
No but you seriously will be there.

BARMAID 2

Confused.
Please make up your mind Lord 2.

LORD 2

Angrily breaking the whisper.
You WILL!

BARMAID 2

Okay, Okay! I've got it. Goodbye sir.

BARMAID 2 exits CS through the gate.

LORD 2

Goodbye.

PSEUDOLUS enters, by falling on the mat, singing "something familiar, something peculiar, something for everyone.. Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhh!" he hits the pad, and then finishes singing somewhat dazed "Comedy Tonight?" Note: At this point DRUNK 2 should not drink from his flask until noted that he can resume drinking.

PSEUDOLUS

Under his breath to the audience, after looking around confused for a bit he says,
This is certainly a different audience...hmm...

LORD 2

Who are you and why should I admit you?

PSEUDOLUS

Proudly jumps to his feet and speaks.
Pseudolus and have you seen "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum?"

DRUNK 2

What?

PSEUDOLUS

Have you seen it?

HOBO 2

Seen what?

PSEUDOLUS

A funny thing happened on the way to the forum.

DRUNK 2

What happened?

PSEUDOLUS

I dunno really. The show began and I was singing the beginning of my opening number, when I just disappeared and everything went black. So I just thought I was temporarily blinded by the lights or something, so I kept singing of course, until I landed right there.

DRUNK 2

Well that's horrible, everything black, falling, temporary blindness... all serious things.

Be sure to emphasize "serious."

HOBO 2

That's not funny at all!

PSEUDOLUS

I never said it was.

DRUNK 2

Yes you did. You just said before that a funny thing...

PSEUDOLUS looks at him confused.

... oh... never mind... I give up!

LORD 2

Enough! Mr. Pseudolus, you seem to be lost. This is the Kingdom of Twos, where only Twos are allowed to enter.

PSEUDOLUS

Oh... Um.. I guess I'll be going back to my show. Which way do I go to get back?

LORD 2

Back the way you came!!

PSEUDOLUS looks up from where he fell. He ponders the impossibility of reversing gravity, then he looks back down confused, asking the others with a sad look what he should do. In turn GUARD 2, GATEKEEPER 2, DRUNK 2, and HOBO 2 all point to different locations.

PSEUDOLUS

They can't all very well be the way back, can they?

HOBO 2

Truthfully, this has never happened before.

DRUNK 2

Yeah, we've never seen a lead actor accidentally get misplaced down here. Maybe some mischievous Two didn't want to come here, so he decided to have you replace him. Was your understudy also a Two by any chance?

PSEUDOLUS

Yes, Eunuch 2 was my understudy.

HOBO 2

Oh... That's a shame really.

DRUNK 2

Yeah,

Thoughtful pause.

We really coulda used a Eunuch 'round here.

HOBO 2

Slaps DRUNK 2.

I apologize for my friend here. We didn't get properly introduced and we don't usually get too many imported guests around here.

GUEST 2 walks by the gate as HOBO 2 says his previous line. There is a purposely awkward pause and GUEST 2 looks out to the audience rather sad for a moment, then keeps walking until out of sight.

DRUNK 2 & HOBO 2

We are Lord 2's honerary

Hone like hone a laser beam, Hone-ER-Rary.
advisor's...

DRUNK 2

All these lines should be delivered rapidly.
We are very imported.

PSEUDOLUS

I think you mean...

HOBO 2

No! Like a fine wine, we are aged and wise!

PSEUDOLUS

Hmm..

DRUNK 2

I am Drunk 2, but...

As he speaks he looks at the flask in his hand upset when he realizes he hasn't drank for a few minutes...

I assure you I haven't had a drink in... minutes,

He panics and quickly takes a swig of his flask; he is comforted by this.

HOBO 2

And I am Hobo 2. You may call the both of us...

Long pause and possibly a drum roll.
...the Two-Twos.

Both look smug and sophisticated while they strike a pose.

PSEUDOLUS

Haha... so you are like the dress.., ahahhah...
tu-tu..

PSEUDOLUS dances around in jest like a ballerina as DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2 try to interrupt but he keeps laughing and dancing until finally LORD 2 cuts back in to the conversation.

LORD 2

Listen. I don't care how you leave, but you must do so immediately, because I'm not going to let you in!

Starts smirking evilly.

You aren't a two. It wouldn't be possible.

Villainously.

It's getting dark now anyway. Goodbye Mr. Pseudolus!

Evil snicker and then DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2 disappear off the wall and everyone enters the Kingdom except PSEUDOLUS, GATEKEEPER 2, and GUARD 2. PSEUDOLUS runs for the gate, but they close it in his face.

GATEKEEPER 2

I don't think so!

GUARD 2

You heard what Lord 2 said!

PSEUDOLUS goes far SR, sits against the wall and closes his eyes.

END SCENE

SCENE 2 - Night

PSEUDOLUS is still SR, sleeping against the wall. GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 are on their respective sides. The gate is closed.

GUARD 2

Gatekeeper 2, I'm going on my break. Do you want anything?

GATEKEEPER 2

No I'm fine. Wait no, on second thought, grab me a Twix.

GUARD 2

Aye. I'll be back in a bit.

GUARD 2 exits CS through the gate. A moment later DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2 can be seen climbing back up to their usually perch atop the castle wall SL.

DRUNK 2

It's a really nice night!

HOBO 2

Sure is!

Suddenly BEATNIK 2 and COURTESAN 2 burst through the gate CS. COURTESAN 2 is playfully chasing BEATNIK 2 on stage.

GATEKEEPER 2

What the heck are you doing? You scared me half to death!

COURTESAN 2

Sorry Gatekeeper 2.

COURTESAN 2 winks or makes a suggestive face at GATEKEEPER 2 and then throws BEATNIK 2 against the castle wall on SR and starts making out with him. He resists in a nervous uncomfortable way, but she is very insistent. During BARMAID 2's entry the following should occur: BEATNIK 2 and COURTESAN 2 should move around a little reversing who is upstage of who; ending up with COURTESAN 2 against the wall with her hands moving/forcing/sliding BEATNIK 2's dazed face goofily across her body, from her face, down across her chest, ending up in between her legs when BARMAID 2 finally sees them. PSEUDOLUS awakes during this encounter and starts

watching somewhat alarmed and he slides nearly offstage as their making out gets a little too close to him. BARMAID 2 enters CS through the gate but doesn't see BEATNIK 2 and COURTESAN 2 at first.

BARMAID 2

Hello Gatekeeper 2, have you seen Bartender 2? He wanted to meet me here tonight.

GATEKEEPER 2

He is indirectly blocking BARMAID 2's view of the couple in the background as he speaks.

No madam, I haven't seen him tonight.

BARMAID 2

What's that over there?

She screams and the couple separate quickly.

COURTESAN 2 runs near GATEKEEPER 2, and BARMAID 2 and BEATNIK 2 end up DSC.

Explain yourself! Who's she and what are you doing?

(2) "Deny Deny Deny" - see music index in back

BARMAID 2 chases BEATNIK 2 offstage SL, then she turns around, scowls at COURTESAN 2 and exits CS through the gate.

GATEKEEPER 2

Sorry you had to go through that.

Awkwardly tries to kiss COURTESAN 2 but she pulls away.

COURTESAN 2

Fooling with him, teasing him.

I apologize but I really must go. Plus, it's only you here tonight and you must keep watch.

GATEKEEPER 2

Aw bumbles!

COURTESAN 2

Goodbye.

COURTESAN 2 exits CS through the gate. GUARD 2 enters CS through it a moment later.

GUARD 2

Here's your Twix.

Hands GATEKEEPER 2 one Twix.

GATEKEEPER 2

You couldn't have come back even a minute sooner?

GUARD 2

Stuffing his face with the other Twix.
What? What'd I miss?

GATEKEEPER 2

Ohhhh nothin!

PSEUDOLUS

Speaking what is on his mind out loud.
That's a shame. That Barmaid 2 doesn't deserve that kind of treatment. She's really sweet. And to think that no-good promiscuous pot-head's been with her all this time. It's so wrong! I just can't stand it!!

DRUNK 2 throws a tin/aluminum flask at PSEUDOLUS.

DRUNK 2

Aww shut up and go to sleep you stupid sap!

PSEUDOLUS, angry and upset, sulks to his sleeping area far SR and falls asleep against the wall.

END SCENE

SCENE 3 - Day

The sun comes up and the only people on stage are the usual: LORD 2, GUARD 2, GATEKEEPER 2, DRUNK 2, and HOBO 2 in their typical locations. The gate is open.

GUARD 2

Looks like Pseudolus left.

LORD 2

Good thing too. We cannot have any of that madness here. Soon enough we'd be getting more lead actors; or worse, threes or fours.

DRUNK 2

Threes or fours.

Shudders.

DRUNK 2

I shudder at the thought of it!

HOBO 2

I hope I never see the day.

Secretary 2 enters CS through the gate.

SECRETARY 2

Do you have a minute to talk?

LORD 2

Yes. What do you want?

SECRETARY 2

In private?

LORD 2

Stares at SECRETARY 2 awkwardly for a moment and pause. He yells at GUARD 2 & GATEKEEPER 2.

Take a hike!

GUARD 2 & GATEKEEPER 2 walk SL and begin conversing with DRUNK 2 & HOBO 2. Then LORD 2 waves SECRETARY 2 to walk over to his right side and she does so. Their conversation should be "whispered" as DRUNK 2 can be seeing trying to listen in from SL.

Right. What's wrong?

SECRETARY 2

Nothing.

Pause.

Are you familiar with Mobster 2's new restaurant?

LORD 2

The one with the naked women in the window?

SECRETARY 2

Nods and speaks quickly.

It's called Via Delle Belle Donne.

LORD 2

Slowly and horribly mispronounced.

Vee... a dull bull... uh... what?

SECRETARY 2

Slower than previously.

SECRETARY 2
Via Delle Belle Donne.

LORD 2
Right. What's so special about it?

SECRETARY 2
I was wondering if you wanted to eat there?

LORD 2
Do they deliver?

SECRETARY 2
Uh, no. It's a sit-down restaurant.

LORD 2
Then no. I don't have anyone to go with.

SECRETARY 2
I'd go with you.

LORD 2
I hate talking business when I eat!

SECRETARY 2
We wouldn't have to--

PSEUDOLUS can clearly be seen by the audience, but not the actors, in a costume running from SR and diving onto the pad. This costume is a gray suit with a white button-up shirt, a red tie, and a George W. Bush mask. Also there should be a large sticker on his chest that says President 2 or just a large number 2.

LORD 2

To SECRETARY 2
Can we talk about this later?

SECRETARY 2
Sure.

SECRETARY 2 exits CS through the gate sad as LORD 2 turns to PSEUDOLUS.

LORD 2
Who are you and why should I admit you?

PSEUDOLUS

Mimicking the President of the U.S.A., specifically referring to George W. Bush.

PSEUDOLUS

Why, I am President 2!

LORD 2

Mr. President 2, sir!

GATEKEEPER 2 and GUARD 2 kneel. DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2 awkwardly and incorrectly salute.

PSEUDOLUS

I'll be making my way into the Kingdom now and I thank you kindly.

LORD 2

Wait a minute. Mr. President 2, sir. I have a question for you.

PSEUDOLUS

Go ahead my fellow two.

LORD 2

Do you believe that OB/GYN doctors should be allowed to practice their love with women everywhere?

PSEUDOLUS

Slightly hesitant.

No, I do not. I think there should be some sort of line drawn and that those doctors should not cross that line.

Pause.

Period.

Thoughtful pause and everyone makes an uncomfortable face when they realize the pun.

LORD 2

As convincing as that answer may be,

Attitude changes to angry.

you cannot possibly be President 2!

Anger is building to rage throughout this.

Not only is that answer far too smart and...and grammatically correct for that president to have uttered it, but also there cannot be a President 2! If you're going to attempt to get by us, try a little harder Pseudolus!

GATEKEEPER 2 rips the mask off PSEUDOLUS and it falls to the ground.

PSEUDOLUS

Yes, ha.. I'm sorry sir. I sincerely apologize. I just wasn't thinking.

LORD 2

Yells and almost gets out of his seat.
Clearly you were not!

PSEUDOLUS cowers and BARMAID 2 enters CS through the gate.

BARMAID 2

Innocently,
Lord 2, apparently Beatnik 2 has gone missing sir. He ran away last night.

DRUNK 2

Yeah sir, we saw him run off into the distance.

HOBO 2

With Barmaid 2 yelling and screaming at him as he ran.

Jabbing at BARMAID 2 as she goes to exit, he says sarcastically,
It was quite romantic.

DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2 giggle and BARMAID 2 scowls at HOBO 2 and then heads closer to the gate, continuing to exit CS.

PSEUDOLUS

Struck by BARMAID 2.
Hello.

BARMAID 2

Barely noticing PSEUDOLUS.
Oh, hi.

Turns to LORD 2.
Goodbye sir.

BARMAID 2 finally exits through the gate.

LORD 2

Evilly, fully aware of what he did.
Right. Thank you for the update. We'll have to keep an eye out for him.

Grins villainously and then redirects himself back on PSEUDOLUS.

Back to you!

Then he notices that PSEUDOLUS is enthralled and gets dreamy-eyed as BARMAID 2 walks away and eventually exits.

(3) "Once upon a time" - see music index in back

PSEUDOLUS exits SR, head down and scared of LORD 2. ELVIS 2 enters by landing on the mat to the orchestra playing a piece that sounds like Elvis Presley.

LORD 2

Thinking it is PSEUDOLUS again he angrily says, I don't even know why I bother. Who are you and why should I admit you?

ELVIS 2

The name's Elvis 2. How do ya do?

LORD 2

Yells.

Come on man! This is even less original than the last one. Elvis 2? How could you possibly be Elvis 2?

ELVIS 2

I was in an off-Broadway show and there is a part of it that features a bunch of Elvis impersonators. I'm the second one, you see.

DRUNK 2

He's an impostinator alright! Get rid of him!

GATEKEEPER 2 grabs him and starts dragging him offstage SL.

ELVIS 2

Resisting.

I don't understand. Wha'd I do?

PSEUDOLUS enters from SR and walks C, picks up his mask and the entire action on stage other than him freezes.

PSEUDOLUS

Depressed.

PSEUDOLUS

I forgot...

PSEUDOLUS mumbles the rest of his sentence and then walks offstage the same way he came.

LORD 2

Signals to GATEKEEPER 2 that he should let up. As he does, ELVIS 2 shimmies free in an Elvis-dance-move-esque manner and starts fixing his clothes and hair.

Elvis 2, you say?

ELVIS 2

Angrily.

Yes!

LORD 2

Right then, I warmly grant you entry to the wonderful, fabulous, and painfully penultimate Kingdom of Two.

ELVIS 2

That's right, you better.

Starts to strut offstage.

LORD 2

Grabs ELVIS 2 by the oversized collar, then under his breath.

If you think you can get away with that kind of attitude just because you made it into this kingdom you're sorely mistaken! I will personally see to it that you're beheaded if you talk to me like that again, you greasy-haired, hip-swiveling bastard!

LORD 2 shoves ELVIS 2 back towards the gate.

DRUNK 2

That was a disaster!

HOBO 2

We know!

DRUNK 2

I mean, what with the confusion with the Elvis 2 and thinkin' it was that Pseudolus bloke and then all the time he really was Elvis 2.

EVERYONE ELSE ON STAGE
WE KNOW!

DRUNK 2
No need to get all loud and what not!

LORD 2
It's getting rather dark. Seems that Elvis 2 incident
is a

Sarcastically,
fantastic note on which to leave our posts for the
evening. Good night all!

END SCENE

SCENE 4 - Night

*PSEUDOLUS is sleeping on SR. DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2
climb up the wall and take their seats. The gate
is closed. From the opening of the scene the light
should look especially blue where PSEUDOLUS is
sitting.*

HOBO 2
Looky there!

DRUNK 2
Yeah, the wall is really blue. I think it's the
lightin' thou, cause during the day, that wall
definitely looks different.

HOBO 2
Must you always be so unaware.

DRUNK 2
Yes, I must.

HOBO 2
Wha? Look again you buffoon! See, there. It's that
Pseudolus fella. He must not've found a way out.

DRUNK 2
Must be it.

Pause.
And he sure is awfully blue.

*DRUNK 2 laughs a little at his own joke. HOBO 2,
not appreciating the joke, gives him a sidelong
glance while DRUNK 2 is still chuckling, and then
just snaps and attacks him. HOBO 2 and DRUNK 2
start a small spat on the wall and fall off the*

wall fighting, back into the Kingdom, US of the wall. GUARD 2 can be seen falling asleep leaning against the wall.

GATEKEEPER 2

A few nights ago, I swear I saw a ghost out there.

Stares out towards the audience.

It was a foggy night

Or 'an especially dark night'; choose the preceding line based on your productions ability to provide fog or not.

like tonight and it was nearly one o'clock and then--

A "ghost" walks DS of GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 entering from SL, but it's really LORD 2 dressed in the attire of 'MacBeth' and he is booing eerily. The fog gets heavier and heavier or it gets darker with lighting, but ultimately it becomes very difficult to see.

GUARD 2

Wakes up in a panic.

It looks like MacBeth!!

GATEKEEPER 2

It can't be!

The figure glides toward the gate. GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 stand back against the wall in fear and the ghost slides right past them into the kingdom through the gate. It suddenly gets a little brighter or the fog dissipates and GATEKEEPER 2 and GUARD 2 calm down a little and there is a moment's time for recuperation.

GUARD 2

That was strange.

GATEKEEPER 2

Very strange.

Pauses for a moment.

I won't tell anyone if you won't.

GUARD 2

Agreed.

GATEKEEPER 2

I'm taking my break. You can stay here. You want anything?

GUARD 2

Still in shock.
No I'm fine.

Realizes he doesn't want to be there.
Wait. On second thought, maybe I should go on break.

GATEKEEPER 2
What? Why?

GUARD 2
Aye, that way...

Attempting to convince GATEKEEPER 2 while making this up on the spot.
I can... go get you... some Twix and you can stay here.
You don't even have to move.

GATEKEEPER 2
I sure would like some Twix!

GUARD 2
Hastily.
Aye. It's settled. I'll be back in a bit.

GATEKEEPER 2
Fine. I'll stand guard, while you go on my break. Don't forget my TWIX!

GUARD 2 exits CS through the gate. GATEKEEPER 2 laughs to himself and then realizes what he's done.
Aw darnit!

BARMAID 2 appears CS through the gate, slightly sad.
Evenin' miss.

BARMAID 2
In a dazed and distant state.
Hello...

(4) "Hooligans" - see music index in back

PSEUDOLUS adds "Our Love" in harmony weakly but BARMAID 2 still doesn't notice him.. BARMAID 2 finishes her song and then leaves CS crying. PSEUDOLUS chases after her but as GUARD 2 passes her on his way back in, he also stops PSEUDOLUS from leaving. DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2 reappear on their perch.

GUARD 2
I don't think so.

PSEUDOLUS
But.. I love her! Don't you understand that?

GUARD 2
Aye. But what I don't understand however,

Kicks GATEKEEPER 2.
is how Gatekeeper 2 could fall asleep when we got a deviant such as you on the loose out here.

GATEKEEPER 2
Aw.. piss off. I've been here, awake for the past two days and nights straight. And, I am not lettin' that happen again.

GUARD 2
What happened?

GATEKEEPER 2
You going on break instead of me. I'm goin next!

GATEKEEPER 2 Grabs one Twix out of GUARD 2's hand and eats it.

GUARD 2
Egad! It's not a problem.

GUARD 2 eats the other Twix while staring longingly at GATEKEEPER 2.

PSEUDOLUS
Looking towards DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2 as GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2's argument fades away.
What do you two make of her love predicament?

DRUNK 2
Suddenly intellectual and philosophical.
I would say she's simply heartbroken. And that... that only finding a true love could save her.

PSEUDOLUS
Staring outward.
Heartbroken?

DRUNK 2
Looks as if he could be reading something not quite visible to the audience.

Yeah. Heartbreak's a common metaphor used to describe the intense psychological pain one feels after losing a loved one through death, divorce, separation, shark attack or any other means.

HOBO 2

I'm sure he knows what it is. But since when have you been so knowledgeable?

DRUNK 2

Suddenly dumbing it down again.

No. I'm not knowledgeable. I just read it on a line.

HOBO 2

It's online. ON-LINE! Where'd ya get a computer?

DRUNK 2

Computer? No. I was readin' it ON-A-LINE!

DRUNK 2 pulls out a huge sign with the words written on it with one long bold underline.

See.

HOBO 2

Sure. Back to the issue at hand.

To PSEUDOLUS,

Do you plan on curing her of this ailment?

PSEUDOLUS

Yes, yes I do!

(5) "Love songs" - see music index in back

During this song PSEUDOLUS should seemed rehearsed and lethargic at first, then a few lines into the song, BARMAID 2 shows up on the SR side of the wall and listens. At this moment PSEUDOLUS glances back and notices her. He suddenly pretends he didn't see her. From this point onward he plays up the song and his love for her 110%. BARMAID 2 disappears off the wall shortly before the song concludes. Also, during the beginning of the song DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2 are heckling but then they start to enjoy it, assuming PSEUDOLUS' feelings are sincere. They sing along swaying gently on the castle wall, arms around each other. They only join in on "all love songs, are all about love, songs...are all about love." In the final chorus even GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 unenthusiastically join in.

DRUNK 2

I'm not typically one for love stories and all that sap but that was quite nice.

HOBO 2

You do realize that you can't be together though, right?

PSEUDOLUS

Yes we can. Nothing can stop a love this strong.

HOBO 2

She doesn't even know your name. And you're not a two. How do you 'spect to be with her if you're both in different worlds?

PSEUDOLUS

I'll have to plead with Lord 2. He'll have to understand.

DRUNK 2

Delivered quickly.

And maybe you should actually get to know Barmaid 2 before you thrust upon her as if it were lust instead of love.

HOBO 2

Wha's the difference?

PSEUDOLUS

Exponentially more hours spent together and an endless amount of talking. There's surely not enough time for love, so I'll lust after her and we'll call it love and everyone'll be happy.

DRUNK 2

I suppose that's one way--

PSEUDOLUS

Whatever does happen, tomorrow I'm going to talk to Lord 2, and if I don't succeed, make sure Barmaid 2 knows that I,

Hesitant at first but then quickly convinces himself.

I love her.

(5R) "Love Song REPRISE" - see music index in back

This reprise is in a higher key than the verse before, a fifth up, and this time, it is a solo. DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2 watch sympathetically and after a moment's pause PSEUDOLUS runs off SL.

HOBO 2

I'm not sure how I feel about that, but he certainly keeps things interesting 'round here.

DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2 climb down the ladder.

GUARD 2

I never told anyone this but...

GATEKEEPER 2

Yes?

GUARD 2

I was a faerie once!

GATEKEEPER 2 stares uncomfortably for a moment with his mouth slightly ajar. Then GUARD 2 realizes his awkward statement and tries to fix it.

Uh... I acted as a faerie... in a Midsummer Nights Dream... a while back.

GATEKEEPER 2

Only partially relieved.

Oh..

Uncomfortable pause. GATEKEEPER 2 stares outward while GUARD 2 carefully eyes GATEKEEPER 2. Then BARMAID 2 runs out towards the gate. GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 open the gate and let her run out of the Kingdom.

BARMAID 2

Did he leave already?

GUARD 2

What?

BARMAID 2

Did he leave? Did.. did Pseudolus leave yet?

GATEKEEPER 2

Yes. He left a moment ago.

With this news, BARMAID 2 is upset. She walks DSL and sits either on that edge of the stage or on a static object in that location. BEATNIK 2 enters from SR and carefully walks over to BARMAID 2 from US of her. He puts his hands over her eyes from behind her and keeps them there until otherwise noted.

BARMAID 2

You came back!

BEATNIK 2

I care about you too much to stay away.

BARMAID 2

I'm so sorry about what happened to you the other day.
It was very mean to--

BEATNIK 2

It doesn't matter now. Just wait here. And keep your
eyes closed. I have something for you.

BARMAID 2

I'll be waiting.

*BEATNIK 2 exits SR and returns SR with flowers and
a letter in hand. BEATNIK 2 turns BARMAID 2
around. Her eyes are still closed. He then leans
in and kisses her. The make out briefly and then
BARMAID 2 finally opens her eyes.*

I've been wa...

*She realizes it is BEATNIK 2 and not PSEUDOLUS, as
she had thought. Her expression and attitude
change.*

Wha...what are you doing? Where's Pseudolus?

BEATNIK 2

Who?

BARMAID 2

What did you do to Pseudolus? How dare you trick me
like that?

BEATNIK 2

Clearly confused.

What? What do you mean?

BARMAID 2

I can't believe this! I can't believe you took
advantage of me like that. You disgust me!

*BARMAID 2 slaps him and runs toward the Kingdom
gates CS.*

BEATNIK 2

Barmaid 2! Wait!

*BARMAID 2 starts crying and finally runs off
CS through the gates. BEATNIK 2, depressed, walks
with his head down, DS.*

(6) "Role of a Lifetime" - see music index in back

At the end of the song, BEATNIK 2 drops the flowers and the letter CS and exits SR. The lights dim. A random 2 falls and hits the ground, but there is not a mat at night, so he makes a loud thud and at that thud the scene is over. In order to do this the actor could wear athletic pads under his/her clothes and also have pillows strapped to some parts on his/her front side, or which ever side he/she would be landing on.

END SCENE

SCENE 5 - Day

The sun rises and the only people on stage are DRUNK 2, HOBO 2, LORD 2, GUARD 2, and GATEKEEPER 2. GATEKEEPER 2 is sleeping against the wall. The gate is open. SECRETARY 2 enters CS through the gates. COURTESAN 2 walks on from SL, returning from a late night encounter, and notices the flowers. She picks up the flowers and then the letter. She opens the letter and reads it to herself. She then makes a shocked and important face and runs into the kingdom. Following this it gets very quiet for a moment and then DRUNK 2 starts humming "Love Songs."

HOBO 2

*Stares at DRUNK 2.
Could you stop humming?*

DRUNK 2

Yeah.. um.. But why..?

HOBO 2

'Cause can't you tell its one of those awkwardly silent moments that needs to remain silent until something important happens to break the silence.

DRUNK 2

Oh.. indeed.

Pauses quietly pondering and then speaks loudly to HOBO 2. HOBO 2 is shocked and jumps as DRUNK 2 starts talking.

So I'm not imported.

HOBO 2

Angrily whispers.

HOBO 2
No, you're not! Now SHHHH!

DRUNK 2
Hmpf!

PSEUDOLUS runs on from SL.

PSEUDOLUS

Yells.

I have an announcement!

Everyone stares at him.

DRUNK 2
ShhhhhHHHH! Be quiet!

PSEUDOLUS walks to the wall below DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2. Everyone else goes back to being quiet and staring into space. PSEUDOLUS whispers to DRUNK 2.

PSEUDOLUS
Why are we being quiet?

DRUNK 2
It's one of those awkwardly silent moments that needs to remain silent 'til somethin' imported happens to break the silence.

PSEUDOLUS

Nods.

I'll just wait then.

Nothing happens on stage for a very long time and then,

Wait a minute. What if I'm supposed to break the silence?

HOBO 2
Go for it, I suppose.

PSEUDOLUS
Great.

Loud again.

I have an announcement!

Everyone stares at him again.

LORD 2
You said that earlier and then did not announce anything. I'M NOT falling for it. Behead him now!

PSEUDOLUS
What? Just listen to me! I...

LORD 2
I'm not listening!

*Trying to ignore PSEUDOLUS he hums,
hmhmhmhmhmoffwithhisheadhmhmhmhmhm!*

PSEUDOLUS
Please. I just want to be allowed entry into your Kingdom.

LORD 2

Furious.
How dare you interrupt my interrupting you!

PSEUDOLUS
Sorry.

LORD 2
I cannot let you enter! I HAVE TOLD YOU SEVERAL TIMES!!! This is really getting old Mr. Pseudolus!!!!

PSEUDOLUS
Look. Please, I beg you!

Pause.
I am in love!

LORD 2

Disgusted as if the worst news imaginable was just given to him.
WHAT?!?!?!?!?!?!

PSEUDOLUS

Yells it this time.
I am in love!

Begin intense orchestra vamp until noted.

LORD 2
Before I simply thought you were lusting after her.

Seemingly sympathetic.
But love. Love is so different. Love makes people happy and do crazy things.

LORD 2's real hatred is starting to overcome his false happiness. In his mind he is visualizing all the horrible possibilities of love.

And Love... Love between a TWO and a lead COULD NEVER BE! We won't allow such... Cross-....um..

DRUNK 2
Cross-Pollination?

HOBO 2
Cross-Country?

DRUNK 2
Cross-Hairs?

HOBO 2
Criss-Cross?

DRUNK 2
Cross to bare?

HOBO 2
Crossed-Wires?

DRUNK 2
Star-Crossed?

HOBO 2
Cross-Contamination?

DRUNK 2
Cross-Bow?

HOBO 2
Cross-Court?

DRUNK 2
Cross-Fire?

HOBO 2
Cross-Eyed?

DRUNK 2
Cross-Dress?

HOBO 2
Cross-Cultural?

DRUNK 2
Double-Cross?

HOBO 2
Cross-Walk?

DRUNK 2
Cross-Hatch?

HOBO 2
Moto-Cross?

DRUNK 2
La-Crosse?

HOBO 2
Cross-Roads?

DRUNK 2
Cross-Opterygian?

*HOBO 2 stops the rant & stares confused at
DRUNK 2.*

DRUNK 2

Offended and defensive!
It's a word!

LORD 2

Now extremely angry.
ENOUGH!!!!!!!!!! ENOUGH YOU IDIOTS!!!!
Cross-BreeEEEEEding. We won't allow it! I have had
enough of your shenanigans Pseudolus!

Brief Pause
Gatekeeper 2! Guard 2! Take him away! We'll behead him
tomorrow morning in front of everyone.

LORD 2 turns and looks at the orchestra.
And you all, KNOCK IT OFF!

*The music stops exactly then. GUARD 2 and
GATEKEEPER 2 grab PSEUDOLUS and begin to drag him
into the prison cell as he obviously resists. And
once he is in the prison he kicks the door and
then gives up and just grabs the window bars and
stares outward.*

END OF ACT 1: CURTAIN CLOSES

ACT 2

CURTAINS UP

SCENE 1 - Night

PSEUDOLUS can be seen sleeping in the jail cell, having fallen asleep with his face smooshed up against the bars. GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 are the only other people on stage. The gate is closed.

GATEKEEPER 2

Time for my break.

As to make completely sure that GUARD 2 understands whose break it is.

You want anything?

GUARD 2

Ranting.

Aye. But I'm not really good at just choosin' a snack at random. You know, I need to see the snacks in front of me. Maybe I should go, and then I can get--

GATEKEEPER 2

No! I'm not letting this happen again. I'm going on my break.

GUARD 2

Trying to convince GATEKEEPER 2 to stay while he goes on break.

But I really have to pee. And..um..plus It's boring out here when you're all alone.

GATEKEEPER 2

No! No. No. No. You should have thought about using the bathroom last time you were on break. And you have plenty of company out here. Why, Mr. Pseudolus is right there.

Points to PSEUDOLUS, who at that exact moment starts snoring.

GUARD 2

Suddenly realizing something.

Aye, he is here. Sleeping though.

GATEKEEPER 2

Fine, sleeping. I guess you can't really hold a conversation with someone while they're sleeping. But that doesn't mean I'm gonna let you go on my break.

GUARD 2

No, it doesn't. You should really take your break.

GATEKEEPER 2

You're right, I should!

GUARD 2

But what's convenient to point out is that when someone is sleepin' they can't see or talk or--

GATEKEEPER 2

Obviously?

GUARD 2

Or... escape,

Immediately GATEKEEPER 2 starts shaking his head in disagreement.

We could probably both go on break and no one would even notice. It's not like he's gonna go anywhere, and the Two-Twos are asleep, so--

GATEKEEPER 2

It doesn't mean we can both just leave.

GUARD 2

Now very determined.

I'm coming anyway. You can't stop me.

GATEKEEPER 2

Are you kidding?

GATEKEEPER 2 just stands in place like a statue and GUARD 2 swats at him like a little kid against a giant. GATEKEEPER 2 looks out at the audience, his watch, etc. Finally GUARD 2 collapses on the ground in his struggle. GATEKEEPER 2 looks at how pathetic he is and then says,

Fine. Come on! But I'm not getting blamed if we get in trouble.

GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 exit CS through the gate. There is a moment of silence and then BARMAID 2 and SCIENTIST 2 enter CS through the gate, leaving it cracked open. They attempt to be stealthy but are instead quite loud. They creep towards the cell.

BARMAID 2

Somewhat whispering.

Pseudolus?

SCIENTIST 2

This is a bad idea. We are going to get caught. You don't even know this guy.

BARMAID 2

All I know is that someone other than the usual skeezball two is interested in me and I want to find out why.

SCIENTIST 2

You think you're in love and you know that's what this is about. It's nonsense.

BARMAID 2

I'm not in love. I... I... think this is some ploy for him to get into the Kingdom and I just want to know what he's up to.

Redirecting her attention back to PSEUDOLUS.
Pseudolus. PSEUDOLUS!

PSEUDOLUS

Waking up and feeling out of place.
Wha? What's goin' on? Ba..ba...Barmaid 2? Is that you? I must be dreaming. You are even more beautiful up close than I had realized.

SCIENTIST 2

Ranting.
Please. Are you kidding? This guy is such a joke. He is clearly a lead actor, romanticizing his way right into your pants, that's what he's tryin--

BARMAID 2

Slaps SCIENTIST 2.
Give him a chance to explain himself.

Redirects her attention back on PSEUDOLUS and PSEUDOLUS is dreamily staring at her.
Don't make a fool of me. Explain yourself.

PSEUDOLUS

Let's cut the crap! I'm in love.

SCIENTIST 2

Flattered.
Oh thank you...

PSEUDOLUS

Not with you, madame. With her.

Looks back at BARMAID 2.

BARMAID 2

Coldly, not convinced at first.
No your not.

PSEUDOLUS

Yes I am. I'm in love with you. I have watched you a lot lately.

SCIENTIST 2 looks suggestively creeped out and mouths "stalker" to BARMAID 2 who then hits SCIENTIST 2 again in response.

And I have seen how sad you've been, and how mistreated you were. That guy you were with before... he went beyond mistreating you. He lied. No. It was more than that. ...He lied about loving you. He never meant it. But I would never want it to be that way between us. I assure you... I love you.

BARMAID 2 is blushing but attempting to look as if she is unaffected.

(7) "Twenty to Two" - see music index in back

BARMAID 2 will progressively fall more and more in love with PSEUDOLUS throughout the song. At the end, BARMAID 2 suddenly feels that this love is more real than anything she has known before, despite the fact that it is not. PSEUDOLUS passionately kisses her cutting off the end of her solo.

SCIENTIST 2

Look at that. You just met, and you're already singing in harmony... almost. I hope you're right about this guy.

BARMAID 2

Let's just figure out how to get him out.

SCIENTIST 2

Precisely.

They improvise suggestions on how to break the bars, or crack the lock on the door, etc. Then, before they can break him out, a loud noise can be heard offstage.

BARMAID 2
Shit!

PSEUDOLUS and SCIENTIST 2 both pause and look at BARMAID 2 surprised to hear her curse at this moment. Then they quickly refocus.

PSEUDOLUS
Just go. We can work this out later; provided you don't get caught.

BARMAID 2
We'll figure out something. We will get you out.

Still somewhat hesitant.
I love you.

PSEUDOLUS
I love you too. Now go!

Quick kiss that lingers a little on her way out.

SCIENTIST 2
Listen to the boy, my dear.

She starts hurrying offstage as Barmaid 2 is slowly walking away. Barmaid 2 is staring dreamily back at Pseudolus.

The reason he's not running is cause he's already in jail. Do you want to be there too?

BARMAID 2
With him?

Stops in her place, realizing that isn't a bad idea. She nods as she answers,
Uh-huh!

SCIENTIST 2
SCIENTIST 2 grabs BARMAID 2 now assisting her offstage until she realizes that she needs to run again.
Oh... you entirely missed my point!

They finally exit CS. Then PSEUDOLUS slinks to the back of the cell, just out of sight. LORD 2 stumbles on from SL, somewhat intoxicated and in noticeably different clothes.

LORD 2
Briefly trying to sing a song from "Legally Blonde."

Dammit!

Mumbling.

You're not really a blonde..ugh..

LORD 2 is dressed as 'MacBeth' but he has a blonde wig in his hands.

Where the hell are those pansy guards?!?! Ahhh.

GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 sprint from within the Kingdom to the gate CS.

GUARD 2 & GATEKEEPER 2

It's the ghost!

GUARD 2

Shaking in fear but with confidence rising.

Who are you and why should we admit you?

Quietly to GATEKEEPER 2 he says,

I've always wanted to say that.

LORD 2

It's me, you idgits!

GATEKEEPER 2

Sounding legitimately apologetic at first.

I'm so sorry.

Pause for a moment and then suddenly,

But your name doesn't have a two in it, so we are not going to be able to let you into the Kingdom.

LORD 2 bashes the both of them into each other and is now sobering up and angry.

LORD 2

It is ME! LORD 2! Step aside and let me into the Kingdom!

GUARD 2

So sorry sir, it's just, we didn't recognize you in those bizarre clothes.

GATEKEEPER 2

And sir, why are you dressed so strangely?

LORD 2

Not entirely sure what to say...

Um... But... arh.. you really shouldn't be asking.. ugh...

He has an idea.
A costume party!

GATEKEEPER 2
Outside the Kingdom walls?

LORD 2

Laughing that is clearly fake and forced.
Hahaha...ha... of course not! Of course...not... I...
I... I was celebrating at a home that borders the wall,
on the east side of the Kingdom. It was a crazy time
and I was soooo drunk, I... we, we were.. all so drunk,
and I fell from the wall.

GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 show immediate shock and concern.

GATEKEEPER 2
Are you injured?

LORD 2

Suddenly realizing he needs to play this up.
Um.. n--... n---

Says no quietly at first and then quickly says...
YES!

*Acts as if his leg is hurt, starts hobbling around
and overacting like he's really hurt.*
Ow! Ow! Oh It hurts soooo much.

GUARD 2
Let us help you!

GATEKEEPER 2
We'll carry you!

*GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 awkwardly pick up LORD 2
and begin trying to carry him, but both start
walking in different directions and just goofily
carrying him all over the stage. Finally they get
him through the gate and as they are going through
the gate CS they hit his supposedly injured leg
against the gate. Suddenly they both stop and look
at him concerned that they just hurt him. There is
a moment's pause and then LORD 2, realizing that
he needs to act hurt, does so.*

LORD 2
Ow Ow!

GATEKEEPER 2 and GUARD 2 carry him into the Kingdom and they disappear into the darkness. Before the scene ends, PSEUDOLUS leans forward and there is enough light on his face to see his expression of shock and sudden realization.

END SCENE

SCENE 2 - Day

The scene begins with PSEUDOLUS obviously still imprisoned, LORD 2 on his throne, GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 standing by the gate, and DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2 up on the wall. WHINER 2 falls and lands on the pad. The gate is open.

WHINER 2

Oww... that hurt. I can't believe they just got rid of me...

Improvise whining.

LORD 2

This Kingdom is not for whiners! It is for TWOS! Who are you and why should I admit you?

WHINER 2

Ohh, well then I guess.. um.. I shouldn't... well....but.. I'm whiner number 2?

LORD 2

Oh... Damn! Right. You may enter! Welcome to the wonderful, fabulous, and painfully penultimate Kingdom of Twos.

WHINER 2

Why do we exist? I'm only a two... We are all only twos. Why? Why? WHYYYYYYYYY!!? In that chorus line, I had to sing ONE...ONE...ONE over and over, it's just not fair.

This whining fades as he/she exits CS; this character needs to have a somewhat existentialist view on life. WHINER 2 enters the Kingdom slowly and is practically forced into the Kingdom by GUARD 2.

LORD 2

That was a bit much, don't you think?

DRUNK 2

Indeed.

HOBO 2 stares at DRUNK 2 awkwardly because he believes DRUNK 2 is ignoring he.

HOBO 2

Drunk 2, I was thinking we should spend more time inside the castle walls, rather than on the wall.

DRUNK 2

Pretty much spacing out and not at all concerned with what HOBO 2 is actually saying.

Indeed.

HOBO 2

HOBO 2 Pauses, looks out towards audience as if having an idea.

I think you ought to get checked out. You know, since you slept with Courtesan 2...

DRUNK 2

Nonchalant, not paying any attention.

Indeed.

HOBO 2

DAMN YOU! You're not even listening to me. Why do you keep ignoring me and just saying, 'indeed?'

DRUNK 2

I would have thought that was oblivious.

PSEUDOLUS

You mean obvious?

DRUNK 2

Yeah.

Mocking PSEUDOLUS' pronunciation of the word "obvious,"

Isn't it obvious that "Indeed" is the universal response?

HOBO 2

Wha?

DRUNK 2

Indeed. It's the universal response.

HOBO 2 looks confused and PSEUDOLUS is intrigued. Even LORD 2 stops reading his magazine to listen.

Something is a universal response when you can say it in any attitude, any time, anywhere. I've tried others, but they don't seem to work as well.

HOBO 2

What else have you tried?

DRUNK 2

"That really burns my toast" is a good one, plus its kinda funny. Try it out. Tell me something, anything.

HOBO 2

Your puppy just died!

DRUNK 2

Really sad, as if the puppy really just died.
That really burns my toast.

HOBO 2

Haha.. um..

PSEUDOLUS

You love milk!

DRUNK 2

That really burns my toast.

*Nobody laughs, they all just sort of
contemplatively stare off.*

I suppose that was an example of where only "indeed" really works. At least, that's the only response I've found so far to work for everything.

HOBO 2

You have way too much time on your hands.

LORD 2

Indeed.

*Small chuckle and then a quick change of
disposition.*

Right! I'm getting bored. I believe its time for some torture. Guard 2, Gatekeeper 2, bring out the prisoner!

GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 go into the Kingdom and drag PSEUDOLUS from his cell. PSEUDOLUS' hands are tied behind his back on stage by GUARD 2. Then GATEKEEPER 2 grabs him under one arm while GUARD 2 grabs him under the other. PSEUDOLUS attempts to resist and fight back but quickly realizes it is useless.

Release...the TWO!!

Entering CS from within the Kingdom, through the gate, is a tall figure in a dark cloak and hood. This figure is actually GIRL 2 on the shoulders of

BOY 2. The figure walks CS and then suddenly, after a moment during which PSEUDOLUS begins to panic, the cloak comes off and GIRL 2 jumps down off BOY 2's shoulders. The two children stand still with big grins on their adorable faces.

PSEUDOLUS

*To the audience he says,
Ohh, thank God! Two seemingly pleasant and adorable children!*

LORD 2

*Laughs and then signals to GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 to let go of PSEUDOLUS.
Let him go.*

PSEUDOLUS

*Shocked.
Thank you. Thank you so much, sir. But... um... my hands are still tied?*

LORD 2

Don't thank me yet, you fool!

*LORD 2 pauses and clears his throat.
Attack!*

At this moment GIRL 2 and BOY 2 go crazy. This whole fight scene is open to any choreography including some shin-kicking and ankle-biting. The following dialogue is happening throughout the fight.

PSEUDOLUS

They're only children. I can't hit a child.

HOBO 2

That's what makes those little buggers so damn diabolical.

DRUNK 2

Yeah! Just imagine their pigmy drug peddlers.

HOBO 2

And they are going to kill your mother.

PSEUDOLUS

There is a moment's pause for everyone on stage and PSEUDOLUS looks up and outward longingly.

PSEUDOLUS
Mama?

Then suddenly GIRL 2 interrupts his longing moment with an intense shin kick.

Ow! It's on, gremlins!!!

The fight scene continues until GIRL 2 and BOY 2 get PSEUDOLUS face down with his head DS of his body, near the audience. Possibly a kick to the crotch is the final blow. GIRL 2 and BOY 2 restrain PSEUDOLUS until GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 grab him again and pick him up, so his back is upright, with his knees on the ground. Then the children run over next to LORD 2.

LORD 2
Thank you children. Here you go!

LORD hands each of them a bag of chocolate coins. Coins. Chocolate, of course.

He hands them each a pack of candy cigarettes. Cigarettes. candy, of course.

He hands them a cake. And your cake.

BOY 2
And what about the X-Box you promised?

LORD 2
Right.

LORD hands them a cardboard box with a large black X painted on each side.

BOY 2
Are you kidding? Where's the real X-BOX?

GIRL 2
We're not being paid per pound here?

BOY 2
Starting to get angry.
You owe us an actual X-BOX!!

LORD 2
Right, right!

LORD 2 hands them the actual X-Box cardboard box, but with no actual gaming system inside it, but the kids don't think to check inside it.

GIRL 2
Nice doing business with you!

GIRL 2 and BOY 2 exit through the gate. LORD 2 quickly redirects his attention to PSEUDOLUS.

LORD 2
Do you know why I had to do this, Mr. Pseudolus?

BOY 2

Offstage.
HEY! This box is empty!

LORD 2 laughs loudly and diabolically and then sharply turns back onto PSEUDOLUS.

LORD 2
Are you going to answer my question?

PSEUDOLUS
I thought it was a rhet--

Cut off by LORD 2.

LORD 2

In a matter of fact attitude.
It was a rhetorical question you idiot! So let me finish or you will be without a head... quicker... than I had intended, that is.

PSEUDOLUS
Then go on. I insist.

LORD 2
I'm doing this... because I love torture and cruelty more than the embrace of a woman's bosom against my chest.

PSEUDOLUS
No wonder you're angry!

LORD 2 scowls at PSEUDOLUS and before he has a chance to say anything, BARMAID 2 and SECRETARY 2 enter CS. SECRETARY 2 storms over to LORD 2 as BARMAID 2 runs over to PSEUDOLUS, kissing him on the cheek while he remains restrained with his knees on the ground. Many Twos can be seen gathering from this point until the end of the song, "Lord Two."

SECRETARY 2

I thought I knew you. But you disgust me sometimes!

LORD 2

I don't really think I deserved that! You have no idea what I go through on a day to day basis.

*Pause then softly says,
This is how I vent.*

SECRETARY 2

Are you insane?

(8) "Lord Two" - see music index in back

LORD 2

Evil. His anger is building rapidly.
I am not a villain. I am... I'm misunderstood more than anyone here, that's all!

DRUNK 2

We like Pseudolus... at least a little bit. Maybe we could all make an exception and let him in.

LORD 2

No exceptions!! Love is no excuse for letting a lead in.

SECRETARY 2

All of you are Twos, once background actors, people left out of a show. Now, when you have the chance to include someone, are you going to do the same thing to him?

The entire cast of Twos, including BARMAID 2, immediately nod and say things such as "yes", "of course", "why not?", etc. PSEUDOLUS nudges BARMAID 2 when she nods and she turns to him and smiles as if nothing happened.

SECRETARY 2

Seriously, are you even listening?

LORD 2

No one cares about a lead in this place!

SECRETARY 2

You know damn well that half of these people are just too scared of you to speak up.

LORD 2

Faking pity.
Isn't that a shame?

Harsh again.
Get back to work or I'll behead you as well!

*SCIENTIST 2 runs in with a book in hand and
whispers to SECRETARY 2.*
What? What is this?

SECRETARY 2

Scientist 2 has unearthed some interesting facts.

*LORD 2 is unmoved and begins to signal for
decapitation.*

SCIENTIST 2

Scared a little.
On second thought, no I haven't!

Turns to run away but SECRETARY 2 grabs her.

SECRETARY 2

Scientist 2, look at them.

Looks at PSEUDOLUS and BARMAID 2.
You can make this work out! You can be the hero!

*SCIENTIST 2 looks at SECRETARY 2 somewhat insulted
at first.*
Sorry, Heroine!

SCIENTIST 2

Um--

LORD 2

Scientist 2? Anything at all to say?

*LORD 2 signals for decapitation again. Everyone is
staring at SCIENTIST 2. Slowly and with some
nudging from SECRETARY 2, she works up the courage
to speak and opens the book she has in her hand.*

SCIENTIST 2

Pseudolus is a fake!

*Everyone is in "over-acted" shock and awe. Then
SCIENTIST 2 begins speaking, slowly at first and
then building in confidence as she speaks.*
But in this case, it helps him out. In Latin, Pseudo
translates to fake and...

She just makes up the second part of this, but does so confidently.

...dolos derives from the ancient Babylonian word for two. So, therein we realize that Pseudolus actually translates to fake 2 and... as such he is to be considered a two and ...therefore he must be allowed admittance into the Kingdom!

Only a few Twos in the background actually cheer. LORD 2 is enraged but trying to bottle it up. GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2, assuming that PSEUDOLUS will be admitted, let him rise and they release their grip, though his hands are still tied behind his back. BARMAID 2 starts hugging PSEUDOLUS. SECRETARY 2 and SCIENTIST 2 are both content.

(8R) "Lord Two REPRISÉ" - see music index in back

PSEUDOLUS kisses BARMAID 2 to the orchestra playing a short piece from "Twenty to Two."

LORD 2

Calmly at first as if everything is okay and he will let him enter.

Pseudolus, I warmly grant you entr--

Cuts himself off and yells quickly.

BEHEAD HIM!!!! Guard 2, Gatekeeper 2, show him what happens to a lead actor who tries to cause trouble in this ki-- in MY KINGDOM!!!

He laughs villainously and then turns to SECRETARY 2 and SCIENTIST 2.

And you're both next!

PSEUDOLUS

GUARD 2 tries to grab PSEUDOLUS but he does a football-style spin move around him and yells, RUN!!!

First, SCIENTIST 2 and SECRETARY 2 run off SL and PSEUDOLUS is behind them, having quickly forgotten about BARMAID 2. You can see that BARMAID 2 is upset, but then like a suave typical hero, PSEUDOLUS runs back towards her. At this point she closes her eyes, grins, and starts leaning towards him, with the hope that he will catch her and take her away, but right as he gets next to her, he turns toward the audience and says, Barmaid 2, I'll come back for you!

Then PSEUDOLUS runs off SL ignorantly and Barmaid 2 starts falling. As PSEUDOLUS is not there to catch her as she expected, she lands flat on her face on the ground. LORD 2 leaps down from his throne and approaches BARMAID 2 menacingly. As he gets close to grabbing her, BEATNIK 2 runs in from SR, pushes LORD 2 out of the way and onto his ass and grabs BARMAID 2. They run off SR. LORD 2, furious, struggles to get up and will not accept the assistance of GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 and instead continues struggling for a moment. Once up, he storms into the Kingdom CS.

END SCENE

SCENE 3 - Night

DRUNK 2, HOBO 2, GUARD 2, and GATEKEEPER 2 are in their usual spots. The only difference is that the gate is open. GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 are silent for a moment. Then GUARD 2 starts humming "Moondance" by Van Morrison. Then they start singing.

GUARD 2

Singing.

It's a marvelous night for a moondance
with the stars up above in your eyes.

DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2 start swaying to the rhythm.
SECRETARY 2, PSEUDOLUS, and SCIENTIST 2 quietly
enter from SL and watch in amusement for a moment.

GATEKEEPER 2

Singing.

A fantabulous night to make romance
'neath the cover of October skies.

GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 pause and eye each other like kids staring at fudge-sicles on a hot summer day. GUARD 2 jumps into GATEKEEPER 2's arms and they start making out furiously. They fumble into the Kingdom, leaving their post. Though they attempt to shut the gate, in their passion it remains slightly ajar. SCIENTIST 2, SECRETARY 2, and PSEUDOLUS are startled and completely shocked but decide to walk CS. DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2 suddenly notice them.

DRUNK 2

Get a room!

*Pauses and laughs to himself. DRUNK 2 notices
SCIENTIST 2, SECRETARY 2, and PSEUDOLUS.*

Look! The convicts are back!

HOBO 2

Turns to DRUNK 2.

Seriously?

DRUNK 2

What?

HOBO 2

Are you still stating the obvious? Just stop.

*DRUNK 2 is about to argue again but is cut off by
HOBO 2, who is now talking to the convicts.*

Hello!

PSEUDOLUS

Hi. I guess you're on our side now?

HOBO 2

Surely not! We're just nonpartisan!

DRUNK 2

Like FOX news!

HOBO 2

Stop talking.

DRUNK 2

Why?

HOBO 2

'Cause you're a buffoon!

DRUNK 2

What? How could you ju--

HOBO 2

And you interrupt the harmonic flow of things.

*SECRETARY 2, PSEUDOLUS, and SCIENTIST 2 start
walking to the opposite side of the stage.*

PSEUDOLUS

To SECRETARY 2 and SCIENTIST 2,

PSEUDOLUS

I'm glad at least the three of us are in this together.
To the get to the point immediately, I think I found
out--

DRUNK 2

Pseudolus! Hey Pseudolus!

PSEUDOLUS

Yes?

DRUNK 2

Do you think I'm always interruptin' things?

PSEUDOLUS

Clearly lying to get DRUNK 2 to shut up.
Um. No. Not at all.

To SECRETARY 2 and SCIENTIST 2.
Look, I have something very impor--

*Cut off again by DRUNK 2 speaking loudly to
HOBO 2.*

DRUNK 2

See, even Pseudolus agrees with me.

HOBO 2

I don't think so.

*Points to PSEUDOLUS who was staring at DRUNK 2
annoyed.*

PSEUDOLUS

I think Lord 2 is really--

DRUNK 2

Pseudolus? Pseudolus?

PSEUDOLUS

Getting very annoyed.
Yes, Drunk 2?

DRUNK 2

Please tell me the truth. Do I interrupt everythin?

PSEUDOLUS

To tell you the truth, yes. You actually do interrupt a
lot of things. Do you mind?

DRUNK 2
But Pseudolus--

PSEUDOLUS cuts him off with the song.

(9) "Fake" - see music index in back

At the end of the song the three of them quickly sneak through the opening in the gate and lights go down.

END SCENE

SCENE 4 - Day

As usual, we have LORD 2 on the throne, GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 by the gate, and DRUNK 2 and HOBO 2 on the wall. HOBO 2 starts climbing down the wall.

DRUNK 2
We just started. Where you goin?

HOBO 2
Bathroom.

DRUNK 2
What are you doing there that can't wait til later?

HOBO 2
If you must know--

DRUNK 2
I must.

HOBO 2
Number 2, alright?

HOBO 2 continues climbing down as DRUNK 2 starts laughing way too much and saying things like, "It's funny 'cause it's a show 'bout Twos," etc. Then as the others on stage start to laugh a little, DRUNK 2 laughs ridiculously hard, so hard in fact that he falls back off the wall. A loud thunk can be heard, HOBO 2 screams, and DRUNK 2 yells out,

DRUNK 2
Ah, CRAP!

A crowd of Twos develops behind the gate. Suddenly SECRETARY 2 runs out of the crowd and enters CS from within the city followed by PSEUDOLUS and

SCIENTIST 2. They run DS and before GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 have a chance to react they are restrained by POLICEMAN 2 and BARTENDER 2. Throughout the scene more Twos can be seen entering in the background and the soldiers march in and stand by the gate in line, basically forming a wall of people.

LORD 2
What is the meaning of this?

GATEKEEPER 2

In a very confident and matter-of-fact way, Sir, I believe 'this' is a pronoun. It's used to indicate a person, place, or thing, typically something just mentioned.

GUARD 2
Sometimes it's used to show mere contradistinction, as opposed to 'that' for example.

Everyone on stage pauses for a long moment. GUARD 2 and GATEKEEPER 2 look stunned and confused as to why everyone is staring at them. Then action suddenly continues.

SECRETARY 2
Lord 2, a recent event has raised questions of your origins as a Two.

LORD 2
Guard 2, Gatekeeper 2, stop playing around!!! Break free and kill them!

SCIENTIST 2
While they're trying to escape, we have a few pertinent questions to ask you.

DRUNK 2
What's pertinent mean, again?

HOBO 2
Imported.

DRUNK 2

Finally realizing he is a nuisance when he interrupts.

Indeed. Sorry for the interruption. So sorry, please continue, with no further interruptions from me.

Short pause.

DRUNK 2

I assure you...

Slightly longer pause.
none at all...

PSEUDOLUS

Two nights ago, you were seen stumbling into the Kingdom in a costume of MacBeth? Why was this?

LORD 2

Not quite nervous yet, just annoyed.
I was at a costume party.

Tries to playfully laugh it off.

SECRETARY 2

That sounds like a legitimate story, but why were you covered in so much stage make-up?

LORD 2

Why... um.. I had an encounter with... Courtesan 2 and it must have rubbed--

COURTESAN 2 pops her head up above the crowd of Twos in the background and yells out.

COURTESAN 2

No you did not!

She starts fighting her way forward out of the crowd to where she can be better seen and heard.
I'm really tired of this! Let's get one thing straight! A courtesan is NOT a lowly prostitute. She's more like a geisha, at least this one is! So you can't just use me as some excuse. And I assure everyone here, that he has never been my client.

The crowd reacts in shock saying things like "but why would he lie", "what's he hiding", etc.

LORD 2

Well, it was a--

PSEUDOLUS

No need to falsely explain yourself.

Turns to the crowd.
I give you the first lie.

SCIENTIST 2

Lord 2, we have all seen you reading your "magazine" for quite some time.

DRUNK 2

Since the beginning of the show I believe.

Realizes he is interrupting and cuts himself off and sulks disappointed in himself that he cannot keep from interrupting people.

PSEUDOLUS

Yes. How is it that you, or anyone for that matter, can so intently "read" the same dirty magazine so many times?

LORD 2

Um... but... look... I don't feel comfortable saying it... but I...I...I don't have to tell you miscreants anything!

PSEUDOLUS

Then do you mind if I see it?

LORD 2

Furious.

Of course I do. This is property of Lord 2 only!!!!

PSEUDOLUS

Let me see it!

LORD 2

No!

PSEUDOLUS ignores LORD 2 and tries to grab it. They both won't let go and they are fighting, pulling it back and forth. This will be a short choreographed fight scene between the two. Near the end, BEATNIK 2 and BARMAID 2 run in from SR and bump into to LORD 2 knocking LORD 2 on his ass! Right before he goes down, a script falls out of the magazine and SCIENTIST 2 quickly scoops it up. BEATNIK 2 and BARMAID 2 then end up in the grouping with the rest of the cast.

SCIENTIST 2

Look here! A script of the tragedy "MacBeth." Isn't the thane of Cawdor, the thane of Glamis, and the future king of Scotland, MACBETH.. a character in this show? The lead and title character, no less?

PSEUDOLUS

Yes, I think so. How strange? I believe that is lie number TWO!

At this moment all the Twos start shouting and lurching towards Lord 2.

Get him!

LORD 2

Wait... Let me explain. It's really not what you think! I assure you.

PSEUDOLUS

Then what is it?

The ensemble yells out improvised lines similar to "Yeah, explain yourself!"

LORD 2

I'm not secretly a lead sneaking off at night to star in some amazing show. I wish that was the case. I'd probably be a much happier person. Truthfully, I've been sneaking off at night to audition to be a lead in many shows. Recently I've been so desperate that I tried auditioning for the role of Elle Woods in "Legally Blonde," but the casting director did not seem to like that too much. I typically audition for MacBeth because that's the show I was in before I came here. I was so frustrated by how leads were always the ones ending up in amazing romances while Twos like me had to constantly be used for menial, insignificant tasks. And oh, how I loved the Queen! Yet I had to watch MacBeth treat her like she meant nothing. It was torture. So when I became ruler of this Kingdom, I vowed that no one could be in love if I couldn't be in love. I kept auditioning hoping to escape this place, become a lead and win the girl. But alas, I've not yet obtained a lead role.

SECRETARY 2

That's why? That's why?! You know you've spent so much time worrying about becoming someone else that you've been ignoring possibilities that are right in front of you. When I first came to this Kingdom, I was in love with you--

Everyone on stage gasps.

...but you kept treating me like I was just your secretary and I couldn't be anything else. I so damn sarcastic and I've developed an attitude because it was the only way to get your attention. Though even that hasn't been working recently. But you still have the potential to love. And I've been right here this whole time.

LORD 2
You loved me?

SECRETARY 2
I still do.

DRUNK 2 & HOBO 2
Awwwww!

SECRETARY 2
I see the good person inside you; the one that knows being a lead is not what's important. It's what you make of what you have that makes you special.

LORD 2
Would you give me another chance? I'm sorry for having been so blind and so horrible. I can start anew if you'll let me.

SECRETARY 2
I will most certainly give you a second chance. But I think that you first have some other wrongs to right...

LORD 2

LORD 2 grabs SECRETARY 2's hand and turns to face the ensemble.

Everyone, I would like to formally apologize to all of you for my torturous deeds since I've been your ruler, like that time I killed a clown. A ruler should be someone who commands an audience, respects others as much as they respect him, and unifies people instead of dividing them. This was not me. I'm very sorry and I hope you can accept my apology. Barmaid 2, you and Pseudolus can finally be together. Do you want to have this wedding right now? We can bring out Priest 2?!?

BEATNIK 2 drops his head very depressed and he walks SL trying to walk offstage.

BARMAID 2
Beatnik 2, wait! I know you've been so kind, especially saving me earlier, but... how am I supposed to choose between you and Pseudolus? You cheated on me and then you toyed with me later on. I think Pseudolus is more serious than that.

At this moment, COURTESAN 2 comes out of the crowd to make an announcement.

COURTESAN 2
I know you probably don't want to listen to me, but I tricked Beatnik 2.

Everyone on stage gasps.

He was unwilling to be with me so I was very forceful. It's just that I am constantly treated as an object by men, but ultimately I still have the control in choosing who I want to be with. But he didn't want to be with me.

LORD 2

Um.. yes.. I suppose this is another thing I should apologize for as this is actually partially my responsibility as well. I arranged for Beatnik 2 and Courtesan 2 to meet up without him realizing her intentions and then I arranged for you, Barmaid 2, to accidentally bump into them. Sorry.

COURTESAN 2

Also, the other day I found some wilted flowers and a letter for you, Barmaid 2, from Beatnik 2.

COURTESAN 2 looks at BEATNIK 2

I think you should read it. Here.

COURTESAN 2 gives the letter to BEATNIK 2.

BEATNIK 2

Dearest Barmaid 2, I love you. I spend every day thinking about you. You have caught me in unfortunate circumstances, but regardless of whether you believe me or not, I insist that I love you more than anyone and I would never try to hurt you. When that lead actor talks to you, is he listening to you or is he only acting like he's listening? Does he really want you to be happy or does he just want to make himself happy? Does he sing to you or does he sing to an audience? I don't know him, so I can't answer these questions, but you can. And I swear that when it comes to you, I will always be sincere and honest.

Pause.

And honestly, I want you to be happy. So please, choose who you want to be with and I can only hope that you will love him as much as I love you.

Endlessly in love, Beatnik 2.

BARMAID 2

BARMAID 2 is practically in tears. She looks at PSEUDOLUS.

I know who I should be with...

BARMAID 2 turns to BEATNIK 2
and it's Beatnik 2!

BARMAID 2 runs over to BEATNIK 2.
I've been so foolish. Will you forgive me?

BEATNIK 2
Yes. I love you!

They kiss and the crowd cheers. At this PSEUDOLUS breaks down and is really upset.

PSEUDOLUS
Even that evil bastard fell in love, and then I lose the girl... what about me... I'm the lead... I'm not supposed to end up sad and lonely and... and... not in love... I lost... I'm a loser... I'm as bad as any of you Twos. What if I'm worse?

GUARD 2
Worse? Like a three or a four?

PSEUDOLUS
Even worse still.

GATEKEEPER 2
Stage crew?

PSEUDOLUS
Cringing.
Yes, stage crew. Jupiter Forbid!! I'm as low on the totem pole of theatrical production as stage crew.

Suddenly all the lights shut off in the theater. Stage crew members from all over run in from offstage and beat the crap out of PSEUDOLUS. Fighting noises can be heard. Then they scamper off just as quickly as they appeared.

The lights return and PSEUDOLUS can be seen with a black eye, some scratches, bruises, and tattered clothes. He drops to his knees.
I'm sorry.

He starts to cry a bit and then he yells out.
Stage crew is very important... perhaps the most important part of the show!!! I'm soo sorry... I'm just so down!!!

COURTESAN 2

COURTESAN 2 walks over to PSEUDOLUS and addresses him.
I can't promise anything long term, but you can do your curtain call with me if you'd like.

PSEUDOLUS
Really?

COURTESAN 2
Really.

PSEUDOLUS
I would love that.

COURTESAN 2
Great!

(11) "Finale" - see music index in back

During the finale song PSEUDOLUS is getting more and more excited about the possibility of him and COURTESAN 2. Following the song, the cast starts going back to normal post-show life and then DRUNK 2 falls off the wall and lands conveniently positioned on top of SCIENTIST 2 and they eye each other for a moment.

DRUNK 2

*Suggestively toward the audience,
If there were to be a sequel, what would it be called?*

CLOSE CURTAIN. END SHOW

Curtain Call:

1st bow: Secretary 2/ Scientist 2

2nd bow: Ensemble

3rd bow: Gatekeeper 2/ Gaurd 2

4th bow: Stage crew

5th bow: Pseudolus/ Courtesan 2

6th bow: Beatnik 2/ Barmaid 2

7th bow: Drunk 2/ Hobo 2

8th bow: Lord 2/ Secretary 2 runs up and joins him