

Title: man with the hats, or, The mosquitoes [sic] revenge: a burlesque melodrama in four acts

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THE MOSQUITOES
REVENGE

Aa BURLESQUE MELODRAMA In FOUR ACTS

BY JOHN BIRCH

(INTRODUCTION) I am about to play a Blood and Thunder Melodrama in Four Acts entitled "The mosquitoes Revenge" To understand this play you must depend a great deal on your imagination as I play everything in the drama even to the Mosquitoes WATCH THE HATS

Enters the VILLIAN (Puts on hat) This is the old mans house, I wanted to secure a grasp on this haughty banker and now I've succeeded, he cannot meet the mortgage and there is but one thing that will stay my hand, that is his daughter's promise to become my wife.

Enters THE OLD MAN (Puts on hat) Another day and still no gleam of hope, if Roger Blackleg refuses an extension of time I am lost, that mansion which I built will pass from my hands and my beautiful daughter will be homeless.

The Villian (Hat Bus) Good evening sir, having but a few moments to spare I may as well begin and make known my business here to day I am in need of ready cash and must foreclose the mortgage.

The OLD MAN (HAT BUS) Then sir I am ruined and homeless.

The Villian (Hat Bus) This is your hour of need and I can assist you, I have loved your pretty daughter long and well-

OLD MAN (Hat Bus) Stop Sir! Do you wish me to force my child into an odious marriage? No a thousand times no!

The Villian (HAT BUS) You have thrown away the chance I have offered you everything will be sold without mercy!

OLD MAN (Hat Bus) Do your worst false friend I see you now in your true colors! Exits Old Man.

ENTERS THE HEROINE (Puts on lady's HAT)

The Villian (Hat Bus) One moment Miss!-This homestead is mortgaged and about to pass into the hands of strangers-Mary listen to me, you love Jack Seymour, -I have loved you sincerely from the hour I met you I can offer you a home of luxury-consider well before you give me your final answer- I will brook no rival-Think of your Father!

HEROINE (Hat Bus) My father would never ask his child to make such a sacrifice, we can share poverty together' Let me Pass Sir'

Villian (Hat Bus) Stay'Remember this estate can be mine at any Moment'

HEROINE (Hat Bus) I suspected you were a villian Now I am sure of it.

Villian(Hat Bus) Those words from you' they burn into my soul like molten lead'(Grabs Her)

HEROINE ~~Yes~~ (HatBus) (Struggle) Release me sir or I will call for HELP HELP'

Enters THE HERO (Hat Bus) Unhand that woman you Villian'

Villian (HAT BUS) What right have you to interfere?

HERO (HAT BUS) The right of every man to protect a woman'

Villian (HAT BUS) Curse you I'll get even with you for this'

HERO(HAT BUS) Do your worst Rogor Blackleg I defy you'
Come Mary (Both Hats Exit)

Villian(Hat Bus) Curse you Jack Seymour I'll have you in my power sooner than you expect (Whistles)

(Enters with CAP on) (VILLIANS ACCOMPLICE) BLINKER - WellCap, what new dirty work do you want me to do?

Villian(HAT BUS) I want you to set fire to that house,kill the old man and accuse Jack Seymour of the crime'

BLINKER(CAP BUS) What kill that old manthat gave me food when I was hungry? NO I'll HANGED IF I DO'

Villian(HAT BUS) You forget you are in my power'The Prison gates are yawing for you'

BLINKER(CAP BUS FALLS ON KNEES) Oh dont send me back to prison' I'll do your dirty work'

Villian(HAT BUS) Thats right-Now you're sensible- Here take a drink to steady your nerves.

BLINKER (CAP BUS) NO' I will never take a drinkas long as I live'

Villian (HAT BUS) Drink I say'

BLINKER(CAP BUS) All right Cap

Villian (HAT BUS)Here disguise yourself with Jacks Cigarette he left behind-Now Jack Seymour we'll see who holds the trump card YOU or I' (HAT OFF CAP ON)

BLINKER (CAP ON) This cigarette will disguise me -Now to set fire to the house and during the excitement killthe Old man (PUTS ON HERO'S HAT)-I wonder where I left my cigarette?(LOOKS) Ah never mind I have another.

Enters OLD MAN (HAT BUS) HELP'HELP' I'm Stabbed'(Falls)

ENTERS EVERYBODY (Throws on a lot of hats)

MARY (HAT BUS) Father who stabbed you?

OLD MAN(HAT BUS) A Man with a cigarette'

VILLIAN (HAT BUS) Then it was Jack Seymour for SEE he has a cigarette in his hand'

HERO (HAT BUS) YOU LIE ROGER BLACKLEG IT IS A PIPE STEM'.
¶ Smashes pipe stem on stage. Puts on different HATS to show different attitudes of the characters assumed.

(The HERO strikes a picture of defiance (CURTAIN)

ACT 2

HERO Here i am in prison condemned to death for a crime I never committed I could face a thousand deaths and face them like a man, but to be hanged like a dog, nearly drives me mad' There is one hope' Enters the faithful servant (Puts on EAT)

HERO (HAT BUS) What time do you go off duty?

FAITHFUL SERVANT In ten minutes massa (HAT BUS)

HERO(HAT BUS) What time is it now?

FAITHFUL SERVANT (HAT BUS) Half past nine o'clock massa

HERO (HAT BUS) Do me a favor and I will give you this pocket-book containing \$ 200.00

F-S (HAT BUS) What is it massa?

HERO (H B) At 10 O'clock station yourself outside that window at the tenth stroke of the clock I will come to that window raise this lantern so and you must fire-fire here at my forehead'

F S (H B) FIRE' KILL you massa whos been so kind to me? NO I'll DIE first'

HERO (H B) YOU must it will save me from a worse death,here take the money'

F S (H B) All right massa I hate to do it

HERO (HB) Now I shall rob that villian of the satisfaction of seeing me hanged'

ENTERS THE HEROINE (HAT BUS) JACK'

HERO (HAT BUS) MARY (Embrace bus)

HEROINE(HAT BUS)Oh JACK if you die I will not cannot survive you

HERO (HAT BUS) Nay Mary you must live to wipe out the stain on my name & am condemned to death but I shall outwit them.

HEROINE (H B) Ah how by escape?

HERO (H B) No by a more welcome death, at TEN o'clock I shall that window raise that lantern and as the last stroke quivers in the air a friendly bullet from the outside will-

HEROINE (H B) NO NO MERCY NO!

HERO (H B) Yes Yes MARY!

ENTERS THE JAILER (PUTS ON CAP) (RATTLES CHAINS) Gent with an order.

ENTERS THE VILLIAN (H B) SO- Trapped at last!

HERO (H B) Leave this place at once or I shall disgrace myself by striking you.

VILLIAN (H B) If you do Jack Seymour I will have you arrested.

HEROINE (H B) It is like you Roger Blackleg to come and gloat over the mischief you have made, I can forgive the man who boldly fights another, but he who crawls in the night and strikes his rival in the dark is a wretch beyond abuse.

VILLIAN (H B) Ah Mary see how hasty you are to misjudge; I came not to gloat over my victim as you term it, but to bring good news, I have here a free pardon.

HERO (H B) A pardon?

VILLIAN (H B) Yes, the condition is, that you sign this document, a confession of your guilt.

HERO (H B) I will not sign the papers 'do your worst I defy you'

VILLIAN (H B) Very well, at sunrise you will be shot!

HERO (H B- RINGS BELL) AH THE CLOCK STRIKES!-The bars are loose

Ah HA I Escape you Roger Blackleg!

VILLIAN (H B) I will call for help!

HEROINE (H B) STAND BACK! I am a desperate woman and will kill you like a dog if you prevent his escape from this barroom!

VILLIAN (H B) HE'S ESCAPING HELP! HELP! (HE SHOOTS) AH I'M SHOT. ()
(FALLS & STRIKES VARIOUS "PICTURES" (CURTAIN)

ACT 5

(PRISON COURTYARD IN RUSSIA)

HERO HEROINE & VILLIAN DISCOVERED

HERO (H B) Ah Mary I thought when we escaped to Russia we were out of that villain's clutches, but it's no use.

HEROINE (H B) Oh Roger Blackleg to you I appeal, pause before you have the crime of murder on your soul.

VILLIAN (H B) He dies unless ^{you} will consent to become my wife.

HEROINE (H B) Impossible he will never accept his life on such terms,

VILLIAN (H B) Then he shall DIE

HEROINE (H B) Then we shall die together'

VILLIAN (H B) Soldiers seperate them(HE)

HERO (H B) Stand back Villian you shall not pollute her with your touch'

VILLIAN (H B) This painful scene must end quickly, let us proceed, Prisoner by the martial law of RUSSIA you have been condemned to death, ere the last penalty be paid have you anything to say?

HERO (H B) You are committing a foul murder and if I had a THOUSAND lives I'd DEFY YOU'

VILLIAN (H B) Blindfold him'

HERO (H B) No I will die like a soldier, facing his foes'

VILLIAN (H B) Soldiers' ~~seperate them~~ (H B) ATTENTION ~~xNxNx~~
Present arms at the word THREE FIRE' ONE-TWO -TE-

HEROINE (H B Does "HORSE EFFECT") HOLD HOLD I SAY'

VILLIAN (H B) Useless I'm resolved .

~~HEROINE~~ (H B) Upon me a representative of the UNITED STATES'

VILLIAN (H B) Stand back or remain at your peril Soldiers ONE TWO-

HEROINE (H B) Upon Jack Seymour an AMERICAN Subject'

VILLIAN (H B) Stan aside I say or I fire upon you all'

HEROINE (H B) Then upon this (PULLS OUT FLAG) THE AMERICAN FLAG
FIRE IF YOU DARE' (STRIKES VARIOUS ATTITUDES FOR CURTAIN)

ACT 4

A ROCKY PASS IN RUSSIA

(HOWLS and YELLS "OUTSIDE) Enters the VILLIAN --Curses on them .
they'll show me no mercy, though hunted like adog. I'll revenge
myself like atiger- I'll outwit them yet - whats that? someone
is coming(Hides)

ENTERS THE HEROINE & HERO (H B) YOU wait here Mary and I'll
return, and should any danger threaten you, take my revolver,
to protect yourself-Good bye Sweetheart.

HEROINE (H B) Oh what a change all this is to me, how different
to the old happy life in America shall we ever return?

VILLIAN (H B) Its a great pity you ever left there Mary Hope'

HEROINE (H B) ROGER BLACKLEG'

VILLIAN (H B) At last you are in my power swear to follow me
quietly and I will spare you'

HEROINE (H B) I'd rather die HELP 'HELP'

VILLIAN (H B) (HOWLS) The miners are hunting

me to ^{fly} fly with me - refuse, and I will lay you lifeless
at my feet.

HEROINE(H B) All right I consent'

VILLIAN (H B) Ah mine Mine Nothing shall part us Come Mary Come'

HEROINE (H B) Come and take me if you dare'Drop that knife,or
woman as I am I will blow your brains out'

VILLIAN(H B) † ON KNEES) Mercy MARY Mercy'

HEROINE (H B) What mercy did you show me or mine? what mercy
shall I show you? None None'

Oh VILLIAN(H B) Oh spare my life'

HEROINE (H B) Coward'you would have doomed, the man I love
to a fate worse than death- was it not though your perjury
that he was led out for execution and would have been shot
down, but for the dear old flag of the UNITED STATES?

VILLIAN (H B) Have mercy I did it allfor the love of you-
Curse you give me that pistol'

ENTERS THE HERO(H B)At last Roger Blackleg we are face to face,
† HOWLS) The miners whom you have betrayed are thirsting for
your blood'

VILLIAN(H B) NO NO I'm not fit to DIE'

HERO(H B) Fit to die- no not fit to live'There isno one in
the world to pity or help you(HOWLS)

VILLIAN(H B) Oh do not leave me to their fury they will tear
me to pieces'

HERO(H B) GO E FORGIVE you.,and may we never meet again.

VILLIAN(H B) I have nothing to defend myself.

HERO(H B)Here take my revolver.

VILLIAN(H B) Curse you take that and that(TRIES TO SHOOT

(GIVES IMITATION OF MOSQUITOES SLAPS HIMSELF FALLS)

HEROINE(H B) ROGER BLACKLEG IS DEAD'

HERO (H B) Yes ~~HE'S~~ HE'S BEEN STUNG TO DEATH BY THE
MOSQUITOES

ENTERS EVERY BODY --HERES A FREE PARDON FOR JOE SEYMOUR
(Throws up HATS) HURRAY- Now MARY we'll go back to
Jersey to raise mosquitoes (Drops Curtain"BULLET PROOF")EXITS

H-B The HUMOR of this play depends on the HATS as each
HAT represents the different Character assumed.

1889

Apr 28 1848

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PN 6120
-A5 B59
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