

Title:	What next: a character sketch in one act
Name(s):	Lyle, J.G.
Resource Type:	
Note(s):	From the collections of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division.
Subject(s):	play within a play family relations -- siblings musical instruments -- violin musical instruments -- pianos illness -- mental -- simulated mental illness transportation -- railroads -- accidents -- train wreck music -- rag-time dance -- serpentine song title -- "My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean" musical instruments -- piano -- tuning dance -- Spanish -- parody humor -- music jokes musical instruments -- organ
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"WHAT NEXT"

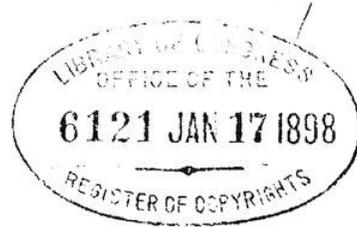
A Character Sketch in one Act.

Gerald Von Piester

Archie Von Piester

Emma Reams)

Sis Hopkins)



Interior Scene.

(Gerald and Archie)

Both outside- (G) Come on- come on what's keeping you?

(A) Why my wife's keeping me.

(G) Your wife-

(Song outside) G. ~~and A.~~ run and hide. Archie exit. (Emma enters singing.) "Have a few moments before dinner to run over this song. Can't sing after a hearty dinner- and before- well the jury's still out.

(G) Lady can I assist you? (Emma screams) Don't be alarmed.

(Emma) Who are you?

(G) A promoter of schemes.

(Emma) What are you doing in my house?

(G) That's the way the act was written- I have to be here. I have been wandering about for hours seeking my brother. We were together making a jump from-- and during the night the train jumped the track- pitched over an embankment (Emma breaks in- "Was any one killed"?)

Musicians

(G) Four men and three ~~men~~. We are the sole survivors of the band. (break)

Emma-Can you play?

(G) (Business-) sits at piano- plays song. During song Archie enters playing violin. At end of song Archie exits. Centre down right.

(G) Well, I must leave you to seek my brother. (exit)

(Archie enters) Is my brother here?

(Emma) Why, I thought you went that way. (starts L.)

(G) If he should come (sings) laugh- exit.

(Emma) Why that man is crazy. (Starts R.l.)

(A) And also tell him to wait.

(Emma) Screams and business of going mad (starts L.l) saying
No more Champagne for me- Mum's the word.

(G) I'll return in fifteen minutes. Emma screams, "Oh don't-
goes mad- burlesque. Emma laughs hysterically. I am so cold-
so cold and the night is yet young. Listen to the birds how
sweetly they sing (chee chee chee) Are they not happy- They toil
not neither do they spin. 'Twas cruel of them to take away me
child. How pretty the flowers are growing in the warm sunlight.
They are growing for you. (throws one out) What is that noise?
That incessant buzzing? Ah, 'tis the chainless wheels in my poor
head. (rattle and crash outside) falls.

Gerald and Archie enter- pick up Emma.

(Emma) Gentlemen, you have ^{saved} ~~saved~~ me from myself- but sh-h-
h-h While me ravings were upon me I thought of a joke; it's
funny. The best you ever heard. (laughs and slaps both on the back)
G. and A. laugh heartily.

(Emma) Why is a hen as it lays-

(G) Can you guess it?

(A) I wish I could- ask me.

(Emma) Give it up?

(G. and A.) We do.

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(Mama) Because the more, the bigger the percentage. (laughs and biz goes up C.D. You fooled me- its my turn now.

Gerald and Archie go to piano- Rag Time Duett.

Knock outside.

(G) We had better get away (knock)

(A) No, we'll stay and see it through.

(G) (After knock) Come in. (both go up C.D. and lead on Sis Hopkins.

(G and A) Who are you?

(Sis) My name is Sis Hopkins- I'm Jim Hopkin's gal what just moved into Johnsing's house down at the cross-roads.

Gerald. Oh yes; I remember that.

(Sis) Yes sir; my maw sent me over to your house to see if youn's wouldn't lend wen's some knives and forks and plates and cups and saucers and a half a pound of raisins, a little tea and coffee and your clothes line and clothes pins, and a looking glass and an axe.

(A) Are you quite sure you havn't forgotten something?

(Sis) Yes sir; my maw said she'd like to borrow your clock till own gets fixed.

(G) Well, we'll just hitch up the horses and move over to your ma's house.

(Sis) And my maw said if youun's didn't lend um to weuns, weuns would think you uns didn't have nun.

(A) I don't see how your going to beat that.

(G) And what did you uns come down here for?

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(Sis) I came down to see the sights.

(G and A.) She came down to see the sights.

(A) She'll see them.

(Sis) Yes sir; my maw said ef I was a good girl I could go down and bathe in Mr. Coney's ocean. Can you tell me where it's at?

(G) No; (points to Archie) Sis goes to Archie-

(Sis) Can you tell me where it's at?

(A) No, I can't tell you where it's at. You walk down the road a piece and you'll find a Sheriff and he'll tell you where it's at.

(Sis) Yes sir: (starts off stumbling)

(G) She walks like a last year's hay rake.

(G) Hold on a bit.

(A) Hold on- whoa.

(G) What is that you have there?

(Sis) Huh?

(A) What is that you have there?

(Sis) That's my bathing suit.

(G and A) (shake hands- both say that's her bathing suit)

(G) Where do you wear that- on your wrist?

(Sis) Yes sir: No sir: I wear it in the water.

(Both) Look wise.

(Sis) I guess I go to go home now. (starts up stage and falls) both rush up and pick her up. Sis cries and both comfort her. Archie gives her candy.

(G) There is one thing I want to ask you. What's your hurry?

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(Sis) I got to go home and go to bed so as to get up early and see um kill hogs. (Sis starts up stage both chase her and bring her down stage.)

(G and A) Has any one got an axe?

(Sis) (Starts up again) Both bring her down.

(G) Don't be in a hurry- there is somebody down in your neighborhood.

(Sis turns and puts hair in G's eyes)

(A) Yes, we would like to know. (Sis turns again and puts hair in A's eyes)

(G) What's the matter with you- are you bent?

(A) Take your finger out of your mouth.

(G) Say, little girl, can you sing?

(Sis) Yes sir: I can sing, my maw had my voice educated on the organ.

(G and A) Keep back-

(A) So you have an organ over to your house, have you?

(Sis) Yes sir; we did have a organ but the mice chewed a hole in the bellows and let all the wind out. But my paw used to play fiddle in the or-ches-tra. And I had a brother that was a piano tuner , but times was so hard and he broke so many strings that now he's tightening barb wire fences for farmers.

(G) Won't you sing something for us?

(Sis) I don't like to.

(A) Can you do anything else.

(Sis) Yes sir; I can dance. My maw sent me to the city and I learned the snakentine dance.

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(G) No, no, you mean the serpentine dance- not the snakentine

(Sis) Um-m -m (exit up bis.- ad lib.)

(A) (Look at her feet) I guess you had better sing.

(Sis) I don't know but one.

(Both) Well, sing it. (Sis starts down)

(A) Look at that walk. Sis reaches foot-lights. Both hol-
low "whoa", (Business for both ad lib.)

(G) If it hurts you- don't do it. (Sis stays up stage)

(A) Don't be afraid, they all live here.

(G) Don't pay any attention to her- she is very timid.

(Sis sings "My Bonnie lies over the ocean")

-- All exit--

Encore.

Burlesque Spanish dance by Sis.