

Title: one man vaudeville show: a comedy sketch

Name(s): Cook, Joe

Resource Type:

Note(s): From the collections of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division.

Subject(s): multiple characters -- one actor
magician
ventriloquist
games -- playing cards
song reference -- "Hang On The Bell Nellie" -- dramatization
dialects -- New York -- New York City -- Bowery dialect
musical instruments -- banjo
musical instruments -- violin
musical instruments -- ukelele
Hawaii
musical instruments -- Australian Woozophone
song title -- "Yankee Doodle"
song title -- "How Dry I Am"
musical instruments -- sleigh bells
high wire act -- burlesque

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A ONE MAN VAUDEVILLE SHOW

A Comedy Sketch written by Joe Cook. Produced at
Hammerstein's Theatre, New York City, October 13, 1914.

Characters

- Orchestra Leader
- Magician
- Nellie
- Father
- City Chap
- Musical Moke
- Ventriloquist
- Mme. Cuckoo.

) All played by one man.

Scene: Small asbestos curtain in one. (Man enters carrying violin
small tormenter and chair.

M- Hello Customers, I am going to inflict upon you my burlesque
version of a One Man Vaudeville Show. You are about to witness an en-
tire show from start to finish with three carloads of special scenery.
(puts chair in center of stage and tormenter over to one side). Now,
the first thing is the orchestra coming out of the pit. You knowhow
they come out of that little door down there. (Imitates orchestra com-
ing out of cellar.) Did you ever notice them. Pardon my back. (Sits
in chair with back to audience, tunes up violin, looks around house
and plays short overture. (Asbestos curtain rises.)

L-That's the overture. Now the first turn on the program is a
magician - one of those fellows who would not deceive you for the
world. Allright.

Mag.- Ladies and gentlemen, I am going to perform for your amuse-
ment this afternoon, several feats in the art of ledger demain or
sleight of hand. My first experiamet will be with an ordinary pack of
playing cards. I would like to have some gentleman in the audience
kindly call out a card and I will endeavor to find the card called out
while the pack is placed behind my back. Now any card in the pack--
any one in the house. (When in someone in audience calls for a card
he shows back of card)

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Mag.- That's correct. My next experiment is known as the "Match Safe Mystery". I have here an ordinary match safe, two empty pockets; I will place the safe in the left hand pocket, and without placing either hand in either pocket, I will endeavor to make the match safe pass over to the right hand pocket. (Snaps finger). The match safe is now in the right hand pocket, but the most mysterious part of the trick is to make the match safe return to the original or left hand pocket, which I will now endeavor to do. (Snaps finger). The match safe is now back in the original pocket. (Pulls match safe out of pocket).

Mag-. My next and last experimant will be an imitation of Ching-Ling Food, the famous Sweedish corn doctor, making a man appear before your very eyes. (Takes red cloth, goes over to side of stage, and brings man to center of state to appear, then goes over to little tormenter and takes three bows.)

M-Now the next turn on the program is a melo-dramatic sketch written by Edna Wheeler Silksox. There is special scenery with this. Wait until you see it. (Takes small piece of scenery representing house with sign painted on it - "The Old Bedstead" from under drop and places it in center of stage. Imitates curtain going up with arm.)

M-That's the curtain going up. What did you think it was.

Father- I wonder where my little daughter Nellie is tonight. Gong rings three times back of stage).

Father-Ten minutes of seven. The last time I seed Nell she was only about that high. (Holds hand few inches from stage). I haven't seen Nellie now for over 150 years. She must be almost grown up by this time. Why here she comes now, tripping over the hill with a smile on her neck. (Small door opens in scenery)

Father- Hello Nellie.

Nellie-Hello Father.

Father- Where have you been Nellie?

Nellie- I have been away to the city Father.

Father- You've been away to the city,Nellie? Speak up che-ild. What do you want to ask your old daddy?

Nellie- Father I want you to meet my sweetheart.

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Father- All right Mellie, bring up that City Chap. (Door opens again).

Father- So you have come back. Why you, you didn't do right by that ar little gal when you took 'er away from me and these here mountains, but by the Gods, I'll settle accounts with you now. (Father chokes imaginary man and imitates curtain descending with arm).

M- That's the finish of the sketch. (Small piece of scenery is pulled from under curtain).

M- That's the finish of the scenery. And now we have a refined young fellow, doing a musical act. (In bowery dialect).

Musician - Ladies and Gentlemen: I am now going to give you me refined society entertainment. The first number will be on the American banjo. I'm going to show you, ladies and gentlemen, that real music can be produced with this instrument. (Plays piece on banjo). Me next number will be on the Hiwain Euculiptus, cheapest instrument of its kind in the world. At first all I could play was (plays cord #1). Then I learned how to play (plays cord #2). And at first all I could play was (plays cord #1 until later on with great practice, I accomplished (now plays cord #2). And mind you that (plays cord #2) thats much harder than (plays cord #1)-plays piece on euculayly and imitates violin). And now the only instrument of its kind in this country, the Austrillian Woozophone. Its the only instrument of its kind in this country, and I call your especial attention to the tone and technique of the instrument as its the only instrument of its kind in this country. Of course there may have several of these over in (name some local town) but not in this country. (Starts to play yankee-doodle and sneezes). By golley, there's so much draft connected with this instrument that you catch cold when you play one. I'll play you something a bit more serial. (Plays How Dry I Am). (Now plays Sliegh Bells and drops picture of Wilson and sign reading "Applause" and American flag in front of bells. Goes over to Little Tormenter, lights cigar, places hat on head and drops sign reading "Intermission" and exits.

M- And now we have a ventriloquist. (Enters with dummy.

Ven- Well Eczema, my boy how do you feel this evening. (Leg drops off dummy and is tied back on). Voice back stage says "Pretty well, thank you."

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Ven-That's good. I hear you can throw your voice. (Voice back stage answer: Oh, yes sir.

Ven-Well mynboy, I'll tell you what we'll do. I'll call over to the side of the stage and I want you to throw your voice over there and answer the call. Hello Hark. (Voice at the side of stage answers Hello Hark).

Ven- Very good my boy, and now throw your voice on the other side of the stage. (Man back stage runs across stage and ventriloquist throws dummy off stage).

M-Now the next and the last act in the program is a young lady on the high tight wire, whose stage name is Mme. Cuckoo. Her real name is Maggie O'Brien, and she is the only one of her kind in this country. (Does burlesque tight-wire act). (Picks up violin, sits in chair and plays exit march as small asbestos curtain descends. Picks up chair and Small Tormenter, and exits.

Finish.

Cook, Joe, of Lake Hopewell, N. J.

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