

Title: Oriental America at Mrs. Waldorf's fifth anniversary: a spectacular operatic absurdity in one act

Name(s): Isham, John W.

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ORIENTAL AMERICA

AT

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Mrs. Waldorf's Fifth Anniversary

A Spectacular Operatic Absurdity

in One Act

by

JOHN W. ISHAM

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by J. W. Isham.

Oriental America.

(SCENE:- The exterior of a handsome hotel on the Florida coast. Handsome garden with palms and flowers decorated for a Lawn Fete. Time A spring evening in 1895.

DISTRIBUTION OF CHARACTERS.

Mrs. Waldorf

Mr. Waldorf

Senator Von Puff

Johnson a servant.

Phillips a cook.

Friends, guests, etc.

(As curtain arises company singing opening chorus. Waldorf and wife on top step of hotel.)

WALDORF: Welcome, friends. Twice welcome. May this be a gala day for you and allow me to assure you that my wife joins me in assuring you of our delight at this evidence of your friendship and esteem and do thank you for your presence here complimentary on the anniversary of our wedding.

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Mrs. WALDORF: My friends it certainly is an honor you are conferring on me and I heartily agree with my husband in returning you thanks. The committee in charge have prepared a programme and have requested me to call on those who will participate in entertaining this party tonight.

(Music and business)

(Disturbance in hotel Von Puff & Johnson rush on stage from hotel in belligerent attitude).

WALDORFF: What is the meaning of all this disturbance?

Von Puff: I have been grossly insulted by one of your servants That one there. (He points to Johnson).

JOHNSON: No such thing. He's always quarrelling with me. Tries to tell me how to mind my own business. Says I insulted him. He knows I couldn't do it and didn't do it.

VON PUFF:

Well, what would you think Mr. Waldorf. He told me to go off in a corner and eat my pie with a spoon, and he said I eat my soup backwards.

JOHNSON:

Well, if he didn't get his pie and if he thinks its lost he can go in and rescue it.

WALDORF:

Stop sir, I won't have it. You are always interfering with my guests and now you have grossly insulted one of my best friends. I can not stand it. You are discharged and can step to the office and get your money. Now, sir, be off with you at once.

JOHNSON:

I've been a faithful servant to you, sir, for a long time and because I won't allow everybody who comes in to the house to walk over my old body I'm discharged. Never mind sir, I'll quit and I'll go away for a little time and when I come back I'll buy your old hotel and turn you all out.

FEMALE GUESTS: (In chorus). No cooks!

MALE GUESTS NO Waiters!

WALDORF:

Never mind that the ladies can cook and the gentlemen can wait on them.

MRS. WALDORF:

That is one way of settling a difficulty, but as the disturbing element has been removed from our midst don't you think that it would add to our pleasure to resume our entertainment.

GUESTS:

By all means let us once more to merriment.

MRS WALDORF:

Miss ----- will you favor us
(Music and dancing).

WALDORF: (As Johnson rushes on very excitedly from the garden).
What do you mean? Coming in here raising another disturbance. I am surprised at you. You seem to forget that you are in the presence of ladies and gentlemen.

JOHNSON:

I don't care where I is. That man there called me names. You just ought to have heard what he said to me.

WALDORF:

Well, what did he say?

JOHNSON:

He called me alligator bate.

WALDORF:

Well for such a trifling thing as that you try to break up my entertainment. I thought I sent you to the office to get your money.

JOHNSON:

I knows you did and I just don't propose to go away until I gets it. He didn't give it to me.

WALDORF:

Well how much is coming to you.

JOHNSON:

Fifty cents.

WALDORF: (taking money from his pocket):

Well, heres a dollar. Now get out.

JOHNSON:

Well, I will (Exit).
(Music and business).

JOHNSON (Rushing in)

Oh, Mr. Waldorf. Do you know that man that lives in No. 16?

WALDORF:

Who, Mr. Jerome?

JOHNSON:

Yes sir. I met him on the road just a minute ago and I saved his life. He didn't see nothing and he was just walking right into the ocean when I pulled him back.

WALDORF:

He is so interested in that book he's writing that he couldn't see anything.

JOHNSON

(at back). Here he comes now. (Enter Jerome with pencil and paper in hand, manner abstracted)

WALDORF:

Ah, Mr. Jerome, I see you are deeply engaged in your book. May I ask the title?

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JEROME: Certainly, Mr. Waldorf. I call it "Things No One Seems To Understand."

(Song).

(Enter two tramps- Business- Song and dance).

WALDORF:

What do you vagabonds mean by intruding on a select party like this. Get off of these grounds or I will call the police.

WEARY:

All right, sir, we'll go. But we'll come again and see you in half an hour. (Exit tramps but return immediately and quietly mingle with the company).

WALDORF:

Pardon me Mr. Jerome but I have a little bill against you. Board and extras amounting to nearly five hundred dollars. Times are a little hard and you will oblige me if you can meet it.

JEROME:

Just put it aside Mr. Waldorf and I will settle after I get the royalties on my book. (Exit Jerome). (Waldorf speaks to servant). Watch Mr. Jerome and guard his luggage.

(With a great noise Von Puff, Johnson and Phillips rush on from house. Phillips with knife, Johnson with broad-axe and Von Puff with heavy cane. Business)

WALDORF:

Why, Von Puff in company with my cook and ex-porter What is the meaning of this?

VON PUFF:

It means sir that I am in sympathy with the cook's union. I have espoused their cause and take part in their quarrels and I will leave the hotel with them. I know a good thing when I see it and am on this earth looking out for fair treatment to my stomach.

PHILLIPS:

Yes, Mr. Waldorf. I am the cook and they all want to stand in with me.

WALDORF:

Johnson this is some of your work.

JOHNSON:

I told you I would break up this entertainment and now we are going to close up the hotel.

WALDORF:

If you do not leave the grounds at once I shall have the clerk ring for officers and have you carted to the station house.

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VONPUFF, JOHNSON & PHILLIPS (All speak at once) Are you ready?
(Business). They all exit.

LADIES GUESTS: (In chorus) Are they really going to break up
our entertainment?

WALDORF:

Nothing of the kind my dears. Our programme may
continue now without any further interruption, Miss Van

~~MISS VAN OSTEN~~: Osten is the next lady who has agreed to favor us.
(Song by Miss Van Osten).

Von Puff introduces the tramps and they sing-----
Business for Von Puff and Freddy.)

WALDORF:

O, Mr. Von Puff I hope you are not hurt.

VON PUFF:

O, no. Young as I am-- (business of Freddy) You
young rascal what are you laughing at? (Business for
Freddy and his friend.)

VON PUFF: What do you mean for stopping me in that manner?

WALDORF:

Now, Von Puff, you know that boys will be boys:

VON PUFF:

Yes, I know that but they must not be fiends.

WALDORF:

Now ladies and gentlemen Mrs. Waldorf will do what
she can to add to your entertainment.

(Music and song).

VON PUFF (Coming on). What are you laughing at?

WALDORF:

In trouble again, my friend? Now whats the matter
this time?

VON PUFF:

That waiter and cook persuaded me into a dice game
I lost all my money and jewelry. I am afraid I will
have to send home for money and I know the blow will al-
most kill father. (Sings)

WALDORF:

Don't cry old friend, nor make so much to do over
nothing. Now I have four little Japs from the flowery
kingdom. I know they will please you and you must treat
them nicely or they will cut off your supply of tea.

(Business. Enter four little Japanese maids, who sing
and dance, then exit. Business for Von Puff and
Johnson, who enters, dressed very stylishly).

WALDORF:

Well, Johnson, can I believe my eyes?'

JOHNSON:

Yes, this is me. How do I look?

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WALDORF:

Splendid. And where did you get the money, Johnson.

JOHNSON:

Oh, I struck the silver gig. Policy is a great thing for a nigger.

WALDORF:

What is the silver gig?

JOHNSON:

Well from now to election day it will be 16 two, one. But after election it is liable to be all cyphers.

WALDORF:

Johnson you always were a good fellow round the house and made a splendid servant. Now what do you say to coming back and taking your old place.

JOHNSON:

That would exactly suit me. If I did strike policy I'm not proud and I decided not to buy your hotel as I haven't got room in my cellar to store it. But I would like to come back to work for you.

WALDORF:

Very well, then. But before you resume your duties if you remember I would like you to sing about that girl of yours. Where did she live?

JOHNSON:

Who? That gal of mine in Hot Tamale Alley.

WALDORF:

Yes, thats the one.

JOHNSON:

Then I'll tell you about her. (He sings).
(At the end of song enter the Magnolia Golf Club.)

WALDORF:

Now ladies and gentlemen I would like to introduce the Magnolia Golf Club and also The young ladies of the Gove Lawn Tennis Club. (Business both clubs singing and dancing. At conclusion enter Johnson from hotel).

JOHNSON:

Well, Mr. Waldorf, I done resumed my responsible position as head porter in your elegant establishment, but I does object to checking bikes for New Women.

WALDORF:

What do you mean, Johnson?

JOHNSON:

Well sir, theres four mighty pretty young ladies done come into the hotel and they calls themselves the Twentieth Century Bicycle Maids. They say they are not

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a bit strong-minded, but all wear bloomers when out cycling .

WALDORF:

Well Johnson, ask the ladies if they won't join us in our amusement.

JOHNSON:

But I ain't told you all Mr. Waldorf.

WALDORF:

What more is there Johnson?

JOHNSON:

Well sir, there's four dudes in the bar and they've been asking for these bike ladies.

WALDORF:

Well extend the invitation to them also.

JOHNSON:

Wel, sir, I'll do it but dudes that call themselves Manhattan sports and women that wear men's clothes can't get any of my time. (Exit Waldorf).

WALDORF:

Well friends, this new addition to our numbers may prove a very welcome diversion from our set programme. (Enter the Manhattan sports and the bicycle maids). (Who at the request of Waldorf give exhibition of bicycle riding with musical numbers. At the close Waldorf says:

WALDORF:

Ladies and gentlemen I have a pleasant surprise for you. A company of actors are stopping in the hotel and have agreed to aid us in our evening's entertainment and I take pleasure in introducing the young ladies of the company in a dancing divertisement, called the Flower Ballet, which will be given with the charming floral accompaniment, "Nature's Repose".

(Enter young ladies of the ballet, who do their dancing to their own vocal music, while the trees, shrubs and flowers are lightened up with original electrical effect)

WALDORF:

(After exit of ballet)

Friends, our evening I think has been one of considerable enjoyment, but before we break up I would like your indulgence to hear a grand medley of selections from grand and comic operas, by a company of well-known and popular singers. There will be forty minutes about taken up with these selections, after which we will adjourn for refreshments and to the ballroom.