

## MAX

Sorry to hear that. Well, we'll iron out all these thorny details over strudel. Ta-ta.

*MAX hustles LEO off.*

## FRANZ

Vat nice guys. Broadway. Wait till they hear about this in Argentina! Ach, mein lieblings!

VE'RE WINKEN UND BLINKEN  
UND CLINKEN UND DRINKEN  
OUR SCHNAPPS  
'TIL VE PLOTZ!

*(HE clasps his hands over his heart... The pigeons, now each wearing a Nazi armband, make the Nazi salute)*

Heil you-know-who!

*Blackout.*

## #10a Intro Scene 7

## ACT ONE

## Scene 7

*The Elegant Foyer and Living Room of ROGER DE BRIS's Upper East Side Townhouse.*

*Later the same day. SOUND: telephone ringing. CARMEN GHIA, a thin, strange-looking man in a black turtleneck sweater, answers the phone.*

**Start Here**

**CARMEN**

Hello. The living room of renowned theatrical director Roger De Bris's elegant upper East Side townhouse on a sunny Tuesday afternoon in June. Whom may I say is calling? ... Listen, you broken-down old queen, he was drunk, he was hot, you got lucky. Don't ever call here again!

*(HE angrily hangs up)*

**ROGER**

*(calling from off-stage left)*

Who was that?

**CARMEN**

*(calling back to him)*

Wrong number!

#10aa Roger's Doorbell

A doorbell CHIMES the identifying notes of "I Feel Pretty" in the foyer, stage right. CARMEN opens the door revealing MAX and LEO on the doorstep, still wearing the Nazi armbands.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Yesssssssss ...

(MAX and LEO exchange looks as the "s" on the end of his "yes" goes on seemingly forever)

... ssssssssss.

MAX

Hello. I am Max Bialystock and this is my associate, Mr. Bloom. We have an appointment with renowned theatrical director Roger De Bris.

CARMEN

Ah, yes. Please, come in, please.

MAX

Thank you.

CARMEN

How do you do? I am Carmen Ghia. Mr. De Bris's common-law assistant. You are expected. May I take your hat, your coat, and your swastikas?

MAX

Oh, these, ha, ha, just a little joke. Hope you enjoyed it.

(aside to LEO, as CARMEN takes MAX's hat, LEO's coat, and the armbands & places them on a coatrack)

Why didn't you tell me we still had these on?

LEO

(aside to MAX)

I didn't notice them. You told me to look straight ahead. Do you remember that?

MAX

All right, let's not fight.

CARMEN

Walk this way, pleasssse.

(CARMEN minces back into the living room. MAX and LEO follow behind mimicking the way HE walks.)

Oh, Roger! We are not alone.

(HE exits up the stairs.)

LEO

This Roger De Bris, is he good? I mean, is he bad?

MAX

He stinks. That's why we're here. This guy couldn't direct you to the bathroom.

CARMEN

*(entering)*

Here's Roger!

### #10b Roger's Entrance

ROGER DE BRIS

*(enters, in a silvery full-length Art Deco gown)*

Ahhh, Messers Bialystock and Bloom, I presume. Forgive the pun.

MAX

Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha.

LEO

*(aside to MAX)*

What pun?

MAX

*(aside to LEO)*

Shut up. He thinks he's witty. Ah, Roger, good to see you again.

LEO

*(aside to MAX)*

Max, he's wearing a dress.

MAX

*(aside to LEO)*

No kidding.

*(to ROGER)*

Roger, you look gorgeous. Gorgeous.

ROGER

Merci. Oh, by the way, Max, darling, we loved "Funny Boy!", didn't we, Carmen?

### #10c To Be or Not To Be

CARMEN

Worshiped it!

CARMEN (CONT'D)

TO BE OR NOT TO BE ...

CARMEN & ROGER

... YOU MEAN A LOT TO ME ...

ROGER

Show-stopper!

CARMEN

Fabulous!

ROGER

Oh, dear, your Mr. Bloom is staring at my gown.

LEO

Oh, well, I ...

ROGER

I should explain. I'm going to the choreographer's ball this evening. There is a prize for best costume.

CARMEN

We always win.

ROGER

*(looking in a mirror as HE puts on a pointed Art Deco tiara; turning back to face front)*

I'm not so sure about this year. I'm supposed to be the Grand Duchess Anastasia. But I think I look more like the Chrysler Building.

CARMEN

As far as I'm concerned, without your wig on, you're only half dressed.

ROGER

Well, then, why don't you go and get it, oh Wicked Witch of the West?

CARMEN

If your intention was to shoot an arrow through my heart ... Bulls eye!

*(HE exits)*

ROGER

Mr. Bloom, what do you think of my gown? Be brutal, brutal. God knows they will.

LEO

Uh ... where do you keep your wallet?

MAX

What a kidder. Roger, let's face it, that building is you. Listen, I know we sent it to you only this morning, but did you get a chance yet to read "Springtime For Hitler"?

ROGER

Read it? I devoured it! And I found it remarkable, remarkable. I feel that it is a very

## ROGER (CONT'D)

important piece. Drenched with historical goodies. I for one, for instance, never realized that the Third Reich meant Germany.

MAX

Yeah, how about that? Then you'll do it?

← Stop

#11 *Keep It Gay*

Do it? Of course not. Not my kind of thing. I mean, Max, please, World War Two? Too dark, too depressing...

(CARMEN re-enters with Roger's wig)

THE THEATRE'S SO OBSESSED  
WITH DRAMAS SO DEPRESSED,  
IT'S HARD TO SELL A TICKET ON BROADWAY.  
SHOWS SHOULD BE MORE PRETTY,  
SHOWS SHOULD BE MORE WITTY,  
SHOWS SHOULD BE MORE...

What's the word?

LEO

Gay?

ROGER

Exactly!

NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO ON THE STAGE  
KEEP IT LIGHT, KEEP IT BRIGHT, KEEP IT GAY!  
WHETHER IT'S MURDER, MAYHEM OR RAGE.  
DON'T COMPLAIN, IT'S A PAIN, KEEP IT GAY!

CARMEN

PEOPLE WANT LAUGHTER WHEN THEY SEE A SHOW,  
THE LAST THING THEY'RE AFTER'S  
A LITANY OF WOE.

ROGER & CARMEN

A HAPPY ENDING WILL PEP UP YOUR PLAY...

ROGER

OEDIPUS WON'T BOMB ...

CARMEN

... IF HE WINDS UP WITH MOM!

ROGER

KEEP IT GAY ...