

She Was Only A Garbageman's Daughter

-or-

But She Was Nothing to be Sniffed At

Book by
Earl Reimer

Music and Lyrics by
Marshall Lawrence

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She Was Only a Garbage Man's Daughter

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STORY OF THE PLAY

There is the villain, the hero, and the heroine, yes, but also a German Mennonite detective, two athletic old ladies and some dynamic new tunes such as "Just For You", "Only a Garbage Man's Daughter", "Women Can Be So Easily Manipulated" and others. This is a fresh, unique approach to the traditional melodrama. About 90 minutes.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

She Was Only a Garbage Man's Daughter was first produced at Bethel College in Mishawaka, Indiana on April, 1993 to sold-out audiences. The original cast was as follows:

Julia Clutterbuck - Kim Pratt
Amelia Marblehurst - Rachel Traub
Dan B. Frank - Matt Coffman
Reginald Moncrief Fitzwharton - Shawn Holtgren
Percival McWilty - Nathan Freel
JP Klassen - Bradley Reimer
Sonia Atterbury - Marci Hemminger
Celia Atterbury - Ashli Hepler
Gwendolyn Goright - Lesley McMullen
Cindy, the card girl - Erin Powell
Pianist - Marshall Lawrence

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Julia Clutterbuck
Amelia Marblehurst
Dan B. Frank
Reginald Moncrief Fitzwharton
Percival McWilty
JP Klassen
Sonia Atterbury
Celia Atterbury
Gwendolyn Goright
Cindy, the card girl
Pianist

SYNOPSIS OF MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

- #1 - Just For You - Company
- #2 - Only a Garbage Man's Daughter - Julia
- #3 - I Don't Smoke, I Don't Chew - Dan
- #4 - Women Can Be So Easily Manipulated - Reginald, Percival
- #5 - Women Can Be So Easily Manipulated (*Reprise.*) - Reginald
- #6 - From My Head Right Down To My Toes - Julia & Dan

ACT II

- #7 - I Don't Smoke, I Don't Chew (*Reprise.*) - Dan
- #8 - Oh Dan, My Man - Julia
- #9 - The Treasure Hunt – All
- #10 - What a Bum! - Amelia
- #11 - Curtain Call - All

NOTE: Underscores and character entrances and even character theme music should be liberally played throughout the production. Have fun inventing musical gags between the Pianist and the Actors.

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ACT I

(The stage LIGHTS are up at the beginning of the play. The ACTORS and the production staff gradually enter, checking props, lights, costumes, moving furniture, etc. The PIANIST enters, starts to play the PRELUDE.)

MUSICAL #1 - JUST FOR YOU

ALL: *(ALL sing or may split lines as desired.)*

THERE'S GONNA' BE A SHOW TONIGHT,
A COMEDY FOR YOUR DELIGHT
SOMETHING SPECIAL, SOMETHING NEW,
WE PREPARED IT JUST FOR YOU!
A GOOFY GAG, A CRAZY STUNT,
A SILLY SONG, A TREASURE HUNT,
EVERY ENTRANCE RIGHT ON CUE,
WE PREPARED IT JUST FOR YOU.

FIRST CAME AUDITIONS, THEN CAME THE SONGS
WEEKS OF REHEARSAL,
AND FINALLY THE SHOW IS ON!
WE THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE
AND JOINING US IN A NIGHT OF CHEER.
THIS IS WHAT WE LOVE TO DO,
AND WE DO IT ALL FOR YOU.

THERE'S GONNA' BE A SHOW TONIGHT,
A COMEDY FOR YOUR DELIGHT
SOMETHING SPECIAL, SOMETHING NEW,
WE PREPARED IT JUST FOR YOU!
A GOOFY GAG, A CRAZY STUNT,
A SILLY SONG, A TREASURE HUNT,
EVERY ENTRANCE RIGHT ON CUE,
WE PREPARED IT JUST FOR YOU.
FIRST CAME AUDITIONS,

ONE CHARACTER: *(Spoken.)* To be or not to be!!

ANOTHER CHARACTER: *(Spoken.)* Next!!.

ALL: *(Sung.)* THEN CAME THE SONGS

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WOMEN: LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA

MEN: *(Mocking.)* LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA
WEEKS OF REHEARSAL,

(Fight business. DIRECTOR then points to each actor in turn for the following lines.)

ALL: *(In turn.)*

I FORGOT MY LINE
THIS PROP'S HARD TO FIND, THIS COSTUME IS MINE.
THE SET'S LOOKING FINE, THE POSTER'S DIVINE,
AND FINALLY TONIGHT IT'S TIME!
FROM TICKET TAKER TO LIGHTING CREW
EACH ONE OF US HAS A JOB TO DO
ALL OUR WORK WAS LEADING TO...
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WELCOME TO OUR SHOW!!
WE PREPARED IT JUST FOR YOU!

(The ACTORS and STAGE CREW exit. CINDY moves C and the play begins.)

CINDY: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. We welcome you to our old-fashioned melodrama tonight entitled *She Was Only a Garbage Man's Daughter - But She Was Nothing to Be Sniffed At*. Now, I'm sure that a lot of you know how a melodrama works, but for those who don't, I'll explain. When the hero enters, you'll hear music like this...

(The PIANIST plays the "hero" music.)

CINDY: ... and I'll hold up this sign and you cheer. OK? Let's try it.

(MUSIC. CINDY holds up sign. Audience cheers.)

CINDY: Great! Now, when the villain enters ... well, actually we have two villains. You can tell them. They're the ones with the moustaches and they wear black. Well, anyway, when they come in, music will sound, and when I hold up the sign, you boo! All right? Let's try it. Here's the music...

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(As the MUSIC starts, PERCIVAL comes in, carrying a fan.)

PERCIVAL: Now just a minute here.

CINDY: What's the matter?

PERCIVAL: Is this fair?

CINDY: What?

PERCIVAL: Well, you're turning these people against me before they even get a chance to know me.

CINDY: *(Holds up "Ah-h-h!!" sign.)* Poor baby!

PERCIVAL: See! That's not fair!

CINDY: But you're a villain!

PERCIVAL: But I don't mean to be!

CINDY: Then why do you wear black clothes?

PERCIVAL: Because my uncle made me.

CINDY: *(Holds up "Ah-h-h" sign again.)* Poor baby!

PERCIVAL: What you're doing really distresses me. You see, all I ask - *(He fans himself.)* - oh, I'm so nervous. Anyway, all I ask is a little respect. Before we go any further in this play, I must insist that I be given more respect, or else I'll refuse to continue...

(A long STICK with a hook reaches out from the curtains and catches PERCIVAL around the collar or neck, and starts to pull him offstage. He puts his hand to his throat.)

PERCIVAL: Now see here, this really isn't fair. I have rights-ah-h!

(JP KLASSEN comes onstage, holding the other end of the pole. He has a hat and trench coat, like a stereotypical detective. He speaks with a German Mennonite accent.)

JP: Rights? The right to cause trouble?

PERCIVAL: No, I don't want to cause trouble. It's just that ... *(He fans himself.)* ... oh, I'm so tired. It's just that she's telling people I'm bad without their knowing all the hardships I've suffered, all of the...

JP: Yes, yes, so you've had troubles. So have we all. But now is not the time to come out here and complain.

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JP: *(Cont'd.)* As my great aunt Ermengarde Giesebrecht used to say:

“Early to complain,
Early to rise
Makes everyone grouchy
And draws lots of flies.”

PERCIVAL: But just because I wear black ...

JP: Look, if everyone comes out here and grumbles, we'll never get started ever, and this play is going to go right down into the tubes, as my cousin Corny Ens used to say.

PERCIVAL: But couldn't she be...

JP: Why don't you go rest?

PERCIVAL: But if she ...

JP: What happened to your fan?

PERCIVAL: What?

JP: It's got a piece missing. Did you get hungry?

PERCIVAL: No, it's always been that way. Is that bad?

JP: No, I'm just kidding. Go rest.

PERCIVAL: OK. *(Fanning himself as he exits.)* I'm so nervous.

JP: He's basically a good boy, but a softy. I tell you, when I was growing up on the sugar beet farm in Manitoba, nobody complained about being tired. You just worked. But, this younger generation...

CINDY: Uh, sir!

JP: Yes?

CINDY: We'd like to get on with the play.

JP: And so?

CINDY: Well, I hate to do this but I'm afraid I'll have to ask you to leave!

JP: Me leave?

CINDY: Yes.

JP: And who are you?

CINDY: I'm Cindy.

JP: Cindy?

CINDY: Yes.

JP: Are you in the play?

CINDY: Well, kind of.

JP: Kind of?

End of Freeview

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