

Scene Four

Barn rehearsal. NIGEL and DENIS are helping to dress the set waiting for a rehearsal.

NIGEL Jefferson's late as usual. One wonders whether the landlady is offering bed as well as breakfast.

DENIS You, Nigel, have a filthy mind.

NIGEL Oh come on Denis. We're men of the world. I am merely speculating about the possibility of a classic behind-the-scenes theatrical romance.

DENIS So you think Mary's shagging old Jefferson?

NIGEL Really Denis, you're very crude.

DENIS Jefferson wouldn't. He'd have told me. He's a mate.

NIGEL Correction - he's an American.

MARY enters. Furious.

Enter the femme fatale, stage right...

DENIS You alright Mary?

MARY I'd rather not talk about it.

DENIS What?

MARY The thing I'm not talking about.

NIGEL And where is our star?

MARY I don't know and I don't care.

NIGEL Perhaps he's having a private one-on-one rehearsal with the director?

DENIS You've got it on the brain Nige. You not getting any at home then?

NIGEL Shush. Enter Lothario - stage left.

JEFFERSON enters with DOROTHY and JESSICA.

We hear the FOOL's song performed by MARY in a flamenco style.

MARY/FOOL

THE CODPIECE THAT WILL HOUSE
BEFORE THE HEAD HAS ANY,
THE HEAD AND HE SHALL LOUSE:
SO BEGGARS MARRY MANY.

MARY ends this with a grand flamenco flourish.