

LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME - WINKELKOPF'S AUDITION PIECE

WINKELKOPF: Lord Arthur Savile?

ARTHUR: Yes. Don't go, Baines.

WINKELKOPF: I am delighted to make your acquaintance, my lord. It is indeed a privilege to meet von of the English aristocracy wid the same interests as myself.

ARTHUR: I'm afraid I don't quite follow . . .

WINKELKOPF: You vill, Lord Arthur, you vill when I haf given my card. There, you read him.

(He hands a visiting card to Arthur)

ARTHUR: "Frederick Winkelkopf."

WINKELKOPF: (proudly) Me!

ARTHUR: "President of the Royal Society of Anarchists. Humanitarian Branch."

WINKELKOPF: Now you understand, ja?

ARTHUR: I'm afraid not. If it's a subscription you want, I'm always willing to support a good cause . . .

WINKELKOPF: No, no, no. It is not for money I haf come to see you. It is because you and I, Lord Arthur - are brothers in der blood.

ARTHUR: I beg your pardon?

WINKELKOPF: Your object is the same as mine - murder.

ARTHUR: What - did you say?

WINKELKOPF: Ha, ha, ha, you need not look so frightened, Lord Arthur. I vill not gif you away.

ARTHUR: You're not from the police?

WINKELKOPF: No, no, I am the great Winkelkopf. I do not work wid the police. I support private enterprise. Now tell me, it is a member of the degenerate class you vish to remove, hein?

ARTHUR: Well, as a matter of fact, it's my Aunt Clementina.

WINKELKOPF: Ha, dat is gud !

ARTHUR: Yes, but you know I really didn't want it to get about. Have you been talking, Baines?

BAINES: Not a syllable, my lord.

WINKELKOPF: People do not need to talk for Winkelkopf to know. You like me to tell you how I find out?

ARTHUR: I'd much sooner you went away and forgot about all this.

WINKELKOPF: Ah, but it is so clever. Ven I think of it, I am filled with admiration for myself. Sometimes I say to myself, "Frederick - that is my first name - Frederick, how can you be so clever?"

ARTHUR: And what do you reply?

WINKELKOPF: Oh, I am modest, Lord Arthur. I gif a little shrug and pass it off. But now I tell you how I find out all about you, ja?

ARTHUR: Ja - I mean, yes.

WINKELKOPF: Last night I am passing by this house, doing nothing but minding my own business . . .

ARTHUR: How was that?

WINKELKOPF: I haf nothing on hand, you see. It is the off season for revolutions. When suddenly I see this man - (he points to BAINES - BAINES jumps)

- come out of the area and slip noiselessly round the corner.

Out of curiosity I follow him. He disappear into a newsagent's shop and presently come out wid a copy of the Police Gazette.

ARTHUR: Oh, Baines!

BAINES: I did it for the best, my lord. I thought it might assist us with our researches.

WINKELKOPF: Instantly I am on the alert. You ask me why? Because this man, he has not the look of one who buy the Police Gazette for legal information. He read it with a furtive air.

I watch him come back into the house - then I go away.

ARTHUR: Ah!

WINKELKOPF: Ah, but this morning early I am back. This time a - what you say - a maiden come up the steps.

ARTHUR: Eh?

BAINES: I fancy he means the maid, my lord.

WINKELKOPF: She go along the road muttering to herself, as though endeavouring to remember some complicated message.

ARTHUR: I must say, Baines, you seem to have handled your part in this extremely badly.

BAINES: I am abject, my lord.

WINKELKOPF: Do not blame him, Lord Arthur. He could not know the great Winkelkopf was on his track.

ARTHUR: And I suppose you followed the girl?

WINKELKOPF: That is right, my lord, and ven, at the end of her journey, I see the maiden plunge into a chemist's shop, I say to myself, "Heinrich . . ."

ARTHUR: (referring to the card) "Frederick."

WINKELKOPF: Sometimes I call myself "Heinrich". It is my second name.

ARTHUR: I beg your pardon.

WINKELKOPF: It is not your fault. You were not to know.

ARTHUR: Thank you.

WINKELKOPF: I say to myself, "Heinrich, there is some dirty work afoot. Go in". I go in, placing myself beside the maiden, and ven I hear her ask for a capsule containing Wolf's Bane for the destruction of a mastiff on the account of Lord Arthur Savile, I know my suspicions is confirmed.