

A Sausage Wedding

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Dramatis Personae

Dottore, a learned doctor, a friend of Pantalone
Arlicchino, Dottore's servant

Pantalone, an old miserly merchant
Flavio, Pantalone's son

Isabella, Pantalone's young bride

Capitano, a mercenary and Isabella's one time bodyguard

Vittoria, a wise widow

Franceschina, a sausage vendor

Properties:

A letter

A sword for Flavio

A musical instrument (can go with something small and portable, like a flute, but can play up the ridiculous factor – anybody got a tuba? Or a drum?)

A women's dress

A doctor's bag, in it:

An enema syringe, the bigger the better

A whole bunch of strange bottles, and medical looking things

(also, you can get dry ice to put in the bag for the “magic” effect)

A plate of sausages – on the big side, so they can be seen well from the audience

A chair

Dottore's house

Dottore and Vittoria enter

Vittoria tells Dottore how hard it is to be a single woman and a recurrent widow. Vittoria would like Dottore's help in getting a husband, “just like the last time”. Dottore wants to know who and what she has in mind. Vittoria says that this time it is Pantalone. Dottore refuses to help, as Pantalone is his friend. Vittoria says that it's regrettable because there are only two old rich men in town, so if Pantalone is out of the picture, she will have to

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go after Dottore. Dottore is terrified and promises to find something in his bag to help her out. He has just the potion to make people fall in love. She just needs to stop by later.

Dottore and Vittoria exit

Pantalone's house.

Capitano and Isabella enter

Capitano and Isabella arrive at Pantalone's house. Isabella is a rich orphan, who has traveled from afar to meet her intended husband. Capitano was hired to accompany her as her bodyguard. Capitano is hitting on Isabella. Isabella ignores him. She was waiting her whole life to meet her fiancé, and is very excited.

Flavio enters

Isabella and Flavio meet, she assumes that he is her fiancé. Flavio is surprised, but very pleased. They instantly fall in love with each other. Capitano tries to interfere, but is ignored again.

Pantalone enters

Capitano gives him a letter, Pantalone reads it, and announces that this is the letter of his old business associate. He had passed away, and appointed Pantalone an executor of his estate and Isabella's guardian, until he finds a suitable match for Isabella. Pantalone reads the letter, and after listing all the qualities of a great husband. (Flavio thinks it refers to him), says that he, Pantalone will be the perfect match for Isabella (that way, he gets to use her money and estate). Isabella will live in Pantalone's house until the wedding.

Flavio and Isabella are shocked. Capitano points out to Isabella that she shouldn't have rejected his advances – he is waaaaaay better than Pantalone!
Pantalone notices that Capitano is hitting on Isabella and kicks him out of the house.

Capitano exits

Pantalone tells Flavio, who is already in love with Isabella, to stay and guard his father's bride. Flavio is devastated.

Pantalone tries to flirt with Isabella. Isabella refuses to talk to Pantalone. Tells him she is sick and leaves the room

Isabella exits

Pantalone is concerned about his bride's health and sends Flavio with a letter to Dottore. Can't entrust such a delicate task to a servant – servants talk too much. We can't have

any rumors of a young lady being sick – what is someone thinks that Pantalone’s young bride is pregnant before the wedding?

Pantalone and Flavio exit

City Street

Flavio and Vittoria enter, Capitano enters but remains “hidden” and listens in

Flavio goes out to fetch Dottore, bumps into Vittoria, and pours his heart out to her. Vittoria, a rich widow, who was trying to get to Pantalone herself, is shocked to hear the news, though for completely different reasons. Vittoria takes Flavio’s side, and promises to do everything in her power to upset the wedding. Vittoria suggests that every young woman needs a teacher (music, French, etc.), and will introduce Flavio disguised as a teacher to Pantalone, so Flavio can spend time with Isabella.

Capitano pretends to enter for the first time. (he actually overheard Vittoria’s plan)

Capitano flirts with Vittoria – she takes Pantalone’s letter from Flavio and gives it to Capitano to fetch Dottore, in return for some future favor.

Vittoria and Flavio exit

Capitano reads the letter and leaves, saying he will pay back Pantalone for kicking him out of the house. Pantalone is concerned that his young bride is sick and may be pregnant? Well, lets give him something to be concerned about! Pantalone needs something from Dottore to keep it up? At this point it is practically Capitano’s duty to save Isabella from the clutches of the old man. If she is truly sick, (and who wouldn’t be in this situation?) if he, Capitano, does not interfere, the poor thing may die a virgin. Perish the thought.

Capitano exits

Pantalone’s house

Flavio, Vittoria and Pantalone enter

Flavio goes back to his own house disguised as a music teacher. Vittoria introduces him to Pantalone and distracts Pantalone so Flavio is not recognized. Pantalone calls Isabella.

Isabella enters

Isabella recognizes Flavio, says she would love to take some music lessons right now. They retreat into Isabella’s room, discussing music. (Can use some horrible puns, i.e. he always wanted to play an organ, but she can always start with a flute. Flavio has just the instrument she needs, etc, etc.)

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Isabella and Flavio exit

Pantalone and Vittoria exit (can exit discussing wedding plans, Pantalone his and Isabella's, Vittoria hers and Pantalone's. Pantalone is clueless)

Dottore's house

Capitano enters

Capitano knocks on the door.

Arlicchino enters

Capitano asks for Dottore

Dottore enters

Capitano gives the letter to Dottore. Dottore reads it, and makes all kinds of comments. Says he is surprised that Pantalone got such a young bride, and that he is not sure if it is better than the alternative. Pantalone wouldn't know what to do with a young woman. Dottore will get his doctor's bag and pay a house visit to Pantalone.

Dottore leaves to get his bag

Capitano convinces Arlicchino to help him. Arlicchino agrees to help Capitano for food and for practical advice on how to pick up ladies. Capitano promises to buy him a plate of sausages from a street vendor, and to transform Arlicchino into a real pick-up artist.

Arlicchino says that he can totally get Capitano into Pantalone's house. He will just pretend to be Dottore. When Capitano is doubtful – what is Isabella is really sick, what then? Arlicchino says that he knows exactly what to do – he worked for Dottore for years! Plus, all Dottore ever does is take bottles out of his bag and give them to people – anyone can do that. All they really need is his bag.

Dottore enters with his bag

Capitano and Arlicchino jump him, beat him up and get the bag

Capitano and Arlicchino run away

Vittoria enters

Vittoria demands the promised potion from Dottore. Dottore says he has been robbed and lost his bag. Horrible things will happen if he will not recover it. It contains many Things That Man Was Not Meant To Know, such as Vittoria's potion. Anyway, Vittoria is on her own now.

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Vittoria runs out to stop Pantalone's wedding, Dottore runs out to find his bag,

City street

Capitano and Arlicchino enter

Capitano and Arlicchino emerge: Arlicchino is disguised as Dottore, and Capitano is disguised as Flavio disguised as music teacher disguised as Dottore's assistant. Capitano's plan is to pretend to be the music teacher to be in the good graces of Isabella, but just in case, also pretend to be Dottore's assistant so Pantalone will let him in. Capitano's plan is to sneak into Isabella's room and cuckold Pantalone.

Franceschina enters

Franceschina praises the quality of her sausages. Arlicchino is smitten with both the food and the vendor. Capitano shows Arlicchino how to court women. Arlicchino tries, but is distracted by sausages. Tries to make love to both. Franceschina welcomes his advances, but still wants to be paid for the sausages. In the end, Capitano and Arlicchino eat all the sausages but one, which they steal, and leave without paying. Franceschina starts chasing after them.

Capitano, Arlicchino exit

Dottore enters

Franceschina greets him (as Arlicchino was disguised as Dottore, she thinks he came back for her) and flirts with him, overjoyed that he came back. Says she will forgive him the theft of sausages, if he makes love to her. Dottore knows nothing about the sausages, but figures out that someone, probably Arlicchino, is impersonating him. He tries to pump her for information, but she's much rather he'd just pump her. He really likes Franceschina, but his bag is more important so he leaves.

Dottore exits, Franceschina runs after him

Pantalone's house

Flavio and Isabella

Flavio and Isabella have their "music" lesson, and it's so loud that Pantalone is getting suspicious.

Pantalone enters

Flavio hastily leaves before he is discovered.

Flavio exits

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Pantalone is very suspicious. He accuses Isabella of all kinds of things, she denies everything.

Vittoria enters

Pantalone berates Vittoria for recommending a teacher who practically cuckolded him. Vittoria tells Pantalone that Isabella is obviously too innocent to even know what he means. (Unlike Vittoria who is so wise and experienced. Older women are so much better.) Anyway, the sounds Isabella made were passions for music and he should be proud he has such a talented bride As far as the teacher, he came highly recommended; she is completely innocent as well. Pantalone is pacified that Vittoria is innocent. He also completely misses the fact that Vittoria is hitting on him. He entrusts Isabella to the care of Vittoria, as it is bad luck to see the bride before the wedding and stays home to execute wedding plans.

Pantalone exits

Isabella thanks Vittoria for the “music teacher” and asks Vittoria to help her get together with Flavio. Vittoria confesses that she did not exactly do it out of sheer kindness, and that she wants Pantalone.

Isabella is horrified that someone would find Pantalone attractive. Vittoria counters that Pantalone has many sexy qualities, such as: lots of money, big house, short life span, and no need to fake headaches or illnesses, just like Isabella did earlier.

Isabella says her illness was completely genuine, Vittoria counters that Isabella has much to learn.

Isabella and Vittoria exit

City Street

***Vittoria and Isabella enter
Franceschina enters***

On the street Vittoria and Isabella meet Franceschina, who is looking for the sausage thieves, and also for the thief who stole her heart . She describes Capitano and Arlicchino/Dottore. She obviously likes Dottore and describes him very flatteringly, and mentions that he left her for the bag. Vittoria and Isabella recognize the description as Dottore and Flavio. Vittoria tells Franceschina that the Dottore is way out of her league, and she should just forget about him and the bag.

Franceschina exits, heartbroken

Isabella is terrified that her lover is reduced to stealing food from street vendors

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Vittoria consoles her. Isabella really wants Flavio, she cant stand the thought of him with another women – even a sausage vendor. She wants to continue the music lesson right now!

All exit

Pantalone's house

Pantalone enters

On the second thought, Pantalone is sure that something was amiss with the “music” lessons, disguises himself as Isabella and waits in her room for the “music teacher” (Flavio) to come back.

Capitano and Arlicchino enter

Capitano courts “Isabella”, “Dottore” examines “Isabella”, Pantalone plays along, pretending to be sick. Pantalone thinks Arlicchino is Dottore, and is extra careful not to blow his cover, as he knows Dottore personally. Arlicchino declares that this is classic case of ennui, (if he can pronounce it), and calls for his world famous tonic enema. Arlicchino rummages in the bag, and after discarding a bunch of bizarre and ridiculous items (if you want, you can do weird things: dry ice for smoke, a rabbit, a bunch of magician’s handkerchiefs tied together), produces a ginormous enema syringe.

Arlicchino obviously has no idea how to do an enema. Pantalone, as his back is towards Arlicchino, doesn’t notice. Capitano tries to help Arlicchino out and pantomimes out an enema. Arlicchino thrusts the syringe into Capitano’s hands and makes him do it .

Capitano will go along, as he can’t blow his cover, although he always thought Isabella was less ugly (if you want to be gross, Capitano can treat his enema with Pantalone as a vicarious intercourse with Isabella). Pantalone will play along because he doesn’t want Dottore to find out he’s a cross dresser.

During the enema, which goes horribly wrong (I leave this entirely up to you!), Arlicchino accidentally discovers Pantalone is a man, panics, thinking he somehow turned Isabella into a man, uses all kinds of remedies on both Capitano and Pantalone until both run away terrified, Pantalone rips Isabella’s dress off so he can run faster, leaving Arlicchino and Isabella’s dress.

Capitano and Pantalone exit

Arlicchino is a bit overwhelmed and sits down for a snack, takes out his last sausage.

Flavio enters

Flavio, who decides to come clean to his father about his love for Isabella, bursts into the room, sees no Isabella, no father, only Arlicchino, the sausage and Isabella’s dress, and

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Dottore's bag. Demands to know what happened to the beautiful woman whose dress is on the floor. Arlicchino has no idea about a beautiful woman, indicates the sausage as the most beautiful thing in the room. Flavio recognizes Arlicchino as Dottore's bumbling servant, and figures out that Arlicchino misused Dottore's potions and turned Isabella into a sausage. Arlicchino is so impressed by his own power (first he turned a woman into a man, and then, into a sausage), that he is speechless, can't refute Flavio's logic. Flavio raves over the last sausage like a lunatic. Arlicchino tries to fight for his snack, but Flavio holds him back at sword point. Tells Arlicchino about his great love. Makes Arlicchino swear to help turn Isabella back, or else. Arlicchino agrees.

All exit

Vittoria's house

Isabella and Vittoria enter

Meanwhile, Isabella is at Vittoria's house, is lovesick, and really, really misses Flavio. Vittoria, who is not Flavio, and thus can't help directly, tries to teach her how to take care of things herself. Isabella is clueless, and Vittoria has to be more and more explicit in her instruction. May need to use props. Isabella finally gets it and runs off stage. She is very loud.

Isabella and then Vittoria exit

City Street

Pantalone and Capitano enter, Dottore enters

Pantalone and Capitano, who have bonded over their horrible experience, meet Dottore and decide to take revenge on Arlicchino. Dottore forgives Capitano if Capitano helps him return his bag (it must not fall into the wrong hands....)

Flavio and Arlicchino enter

Pantalone and Capitano try to beat Arlicchino up. Arlicchino drops Dottore's bag, Dottore picks it up. Flavio stops them from beating up Arlicchino, brandishes his sausage, claiming that Arlicchino's life has to be preserved, as only Arlicchino knows to save his greatest love – sausage. Nobody understands what he is talking about. He explains that he is in love with this sausage, and only Arlicchino knows how to turn it into a woman. Arlicchino confirms it. Pantalone is not buying it, says that since Dottore is here, they don't need Arlicchino, and asks Dottore if there is anything in his bag that can turn a sausage into a woman. Dottore honestly says, that, no, it would take a miracle to do something like that. All look impressed with Arlicchino, who looks modest but very important.

Flavio begs Pantalone for forgiveness and then his blessing to take the sausage in marriage. Pantalone agrees, makes Dottore perform an impromptu wedding ceremony, using the bag as a stand in for everything else. Pantalone kisses his children (is there a chaste way to kiss a sausage?). Capitano, who got the sausage himself from the street vendor quietly tells Pantalone that Flavio gone crazy – likely from another of Dottore’s misused potions. Dottore states that it must be one of more potent love potions from his bag but it will wear off in time. They agree to play along.

All exit

Vittoria’s house

Vittoria and Isabella enter

Isabella is still loud. The passion for music strikes again. Another round of instruction and props commences. Vittoria is running out of ideas.

Isabella exits

Flavio, Pantalone, Dottore, Capitano, and Arlicchino all enter

Flavio tries to explain the sausage thing to Vittoria. Because he is so in love, he can hear his beloved’s voice even now (Isabella is being very loud). Pantalone asks if it’s Isabella he’s hearing and what is she doing? Capitano tries to cash in on the promise of a favor from earlier. Vittoria tries to cover up for Isabella’s loud noises, by moving a chair, banging on things, and then, finally, by moaning herself, and pretending to be overwhelmed by passion for Capitano. He totally believes it. They put on a performance. All ends abruptly when Isabella is finally done. Capitano is not done yet.

Isabella enters

Isabella, feeling much better, comes out, sees Flavio, they confess their love to Pantalone and beg to be married. Flavio sees Isabella and drops the sausage, Arlicchino picks it up.

Dottore tells Pantalone that it is better he gives Isabella to Flavio, before someone else steals her from him, and he will be laughingstock of the whole city. Pantalone agrees, forgives them and gives them his blessing .

Isabella and Flavio exit

Vittoria consoles Pantalone over the loss of Isabella. This time he is actually receptive and responds to her advances.

Capitano becomes very jealous and tries to interfere. Dottore tells him if Capitano values his life, he should get the hell out, and briefly recounts Vittoria’s marital history.

Capitano runs away in fear. No, not in fear. In self preservation. Actually, in selfless self

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preservation – it is Capitano’s duty to preserve Capitano for all the women pining for Capitano in Hungary, Ethiopia, India, etc, etc, .

Capitano exits

Vittoria and Pantalone exit

Dottore turns and yells at Arlicchino. Arlicchino ignores him, tries to eat the sausage.

Franceschina enters

Franceschina enters, demanding her money, sees Dottore and Arlicchino, is very excited, hesitates which one to choose, finally chooses Arlicchino, grabs the sausage, dangles it in front of Arlicchino, and promises him the sausage and some other things to eat, if he comes with her.

Arlicchino follows Franceschina off stage.

Franceschina and Arlicchino exit

Dottore is left, crestfallen, with his bag. (if you want you can make him take something out of the bag that Franceschina might like)

Franceschina enters

Franceschina grabs Dottore, and says that on the second thought, it takes more than one man to eat all she’s got, and drags Dottore off stage

All exit

The End.