

A Juicy Bit of Gospel

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Dramatis Personae

Pantalone, a wealthy but stingy merchant, later known as *Il Magnifico the Angel*
Isabella, his virginal and miraculously pregnant daughter, usually a shallow psycho bitch

Brighella, his servant, later known as a *shepherd*

Dottore, a wise and learned man, later known as *Three Wise and Learned Men*
Virginio, his virginal son, madly in love with Isabella

Spinetta, his servant

Arlicchino, his servant

Beatrice, the courtesan, proprietress of the house of negotiable virtue, the pregnant virgin expert, later known as the *Star of Bethlehem*.

Properties

A piñata donkey filled with goodies
Fake angel wings (although the real ones would do just as well)
Fake halo (ditto)
An armful of random things.
Two puppets
Padding for a belly

Scene 1

Spinetta enters

Spinetta is looking for and calling for Arlicchino

Isabella enters

Spinetta sees Isabella and tries to hide, fails, braces herself for the worst.

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Isabella greets Spinetta, she is all sweetness, and being polite and wonderful, and gives Spinetta really generous gifts.

Spinetta suspects a trick, asks Isabella all kinds of questions, but does not know quite what to make of a sudden change in Isabella's attitude and personality.

Isabella exits

Scene 2

Beatrice enters

Beatrice greets Spinetta, Spinetta gossips about Isabella's sudden change in attitude. Discusses it with Beatrice, both decide that only one thing really can change a woman so drastically, and that is Pregnancy! Beatrice says she can't wait to tell everybody!

Beatrice and Spinetta exit

Scene 3

Pantalone and Brighella enter

Pantalone is furious, he and his household are dishonored, Isabella is pregnant out of wedlock! The whole town is talking about it.

He wants to know who did it, so he, or, rather, Brighella, will kill the guy; both go over possible candidates, nobody really fits. Eventually, Pantalone starts accusing Brighella, Brighella swears it wasn't him, with some very convincing arguments. Virginio's name is brought up, but both just laugh it off.

Isabella enters

Isabella has a visible bump, denies all accusations by Pantalone, avoids all questions by Brighella and leaves.

Isabella exits

Perplexed Pantalone decides to go to Dottore for a consultation

Brighella and Pantalone exit

Scene 4.

Spinetta and Dottore enter

Spinetta and Dottore both know about Isabella's condition - Dottore just came back from Beatrice, and received a fresh dose of local gossip. Spinetta and Dottore are arguing how to break the news to Virginio – he is so madly in love with Isabella, he will not take the news well, and will be devastated.

Virginio enters

Virginio enters, unseen by both, and overhears a good part of it.

Spinetta and Dottore notice Virginio, and try to cover up, unsuccessfully. Virginio declares how thrilled and happy he is, and announces that he is moving into Pantalone's house.

Dottore asks why.

Virginio explains, that when two people love each other very much, they get married and then they get pregnant. He and Isabella love each other very much, and now they are pregnant, which means that they are already married! So he is moving in with his wife. Although it is strange that he doesn't remember much of his wedding. He was sure it would be more memorable.

Virginio leaves to gather his stuff.

Virginio exits

Scene 5.

Spinetta accuses Dottore of neglecting his son's education. Now Virginio will be the laughingstock of town. He doesn't even know where babies come from! He never had the talk about the birds and the bees! Dottore tries to push the responsibility for Virginio's sex education to Spinetta, she resists, both fight and argue, Spinetta wins and leaves.

Spinetta exits

Virginio enters

Virginio has a weird assortment of crap (his stuff). Dottore stops him, tells him that now that he is a married man, he should be aware about his duties and responsibilities and launches into a bizarre half oblique half vulgar physiology lecture about the birds and the bees.

Virginio listens, absolutely fascinated.

Dottore finishes, asks whether it was clear, and if Virginio has any questions.

Virginio says it was great, and asks whether after the birds are gone, does the belly button hurt (or something along those lines).

Dottore answers, “not at all, as long as you’re doing it right.”

Virginio exits

Scene 6

Pantalone and Brighella enter

Pantalone asks Dottore for advice regarding Isabella’s condition, mentions that Isabella denies everything. Dottore says that abstinence is almost always (99.999999%) effective, when done right. But there was that strange case in Bethlehem about 1500 years ago.

Pantalone asks about what happened to the baby, Dottore explains that he got a great job, really high up there, and is still one of the largest employers in the world, with main offices in the Vatican. Pantalone is thrilled (money !!!!) and wants details.

Dottore is rather unclear on the details, but remembers a star, shepherds, angels, three wise men and a donkey.

Dottore exits

Pantalone decides to start a copycat cult, and sends Brighella to procure the necessary details.

Pantalone exits

Brighella exits

Scene 7

Isabella and Virginio enter

Isabella and Virginio are arguing. Isabella wants to know why Virginio moved into her room. Virginio is in full blown couvades syndrome (sympathetic pregnancy). Virginio has so many symptoms and is so miserable, he cant even argue properly. It really pisses Isabella off. All of a sudden, the sweet and wonderful Isabella is gone and the real Isabella is back.

Isabella and Virginio exit

Scene 8

Brighella, Beatrice, and Dottore enter

Brighella is wearing fake angel wings and a halo and convinces both to participate in Pantalone's new cult, especially since they can use Beatrice's expertise on pregnant virgins. Beatrice wants to be an angel, instead of Brighella, they argue, but Beatrice is convinced to be the star instead. She starts acting like a star. Dottore decides he will be the three wise men, as he is easily as wise as three, and will fake the other two with puppets. He talks about the three wise men following the star and starts stalking Beatrice, she runs away, followed by Dottore and puppets.

Beatrice and Dottore exit

Scene 9

Pantalone enters

Pantalone wants to know what's up with the wings, Brighella explains, that he is the angel for the cult. Pantalone is against that, saying that Brighella's reputation will ruin the cult's credibility, and decides to be the angel himself. They argue, Pantalone wins, dons the wings and the halo, acts beatifically and angelically, pronounces himself Il Magnifico the Angel and Brighella a shepherd and tasks him with obtaining the donkey.

Brighella leaves, completely weirded out.

Brighella exits

Scene 10.

Dottore and Beatrice enter

The Star of Bethlehem, and the Three Wise Men are greeted by Angelic Pantalone. All try to act in an appropriately solemn and grandiose manner.

Pantalone addresses the crowd (the audience), and promises them a savior and miracles to follow.

Isabella and Virginio enter

Isabella thinks she is having a baby. Virginio is so helpful and concerned that Isabella is murderous, and can't wait until the whole childbirth bullshit is over. Virginio can't wait to be a father and read poetry to his baby. Pantalone can't wait to rake in the cash.

Brighella enters

Brighella interrupts the birth scene by running in with a donkey. Isabella's anger is exacerbated (What is she to do with a Donkey). All is settled, and from Isabella's skirts emerges Arlicchino.

Arlicchino enters

All are stunned. Pantalone, tries to go on, and announces that the message from the savior is to follow.

Arlicchino looks around, and cries out "Donkey! I was looking for you everywhere!" Explains how he was looking for his donkey, and looked in Isabella, but fell asleep because it was warm and comfy, and forgot to get out.

Pantalones is devastated because he needs the miracle to appease the crowd, the Wise Men and the Star are making out and trying to sneak out before anybody notices, Virginio is heartbroken that the baby doesn't look like him, Isabella consoles him, saying they will make the second one exactly like Vrginio, and he talks to her about the birds.

Brighella and Arlicchino get into fight over the donkey, and it breaks spilling coins and candy.

Pantalone cries," Here is your Miracle!", and all throw candy into the crowd.

End