

Polichinela – crass and ruthless crook, whose wealth gains him social standing - he could be friends with Al Capone and Batman's The Penguin

Scene VI

Signor Polichinela and His Wife arrive at Dona Sirena's house for her party. They have brought their beautiful daughter Sylvia with them.

Sirena: Oh, Mr Polichinela! I was afraid that you would not come. The party has not yet begun for me.

Polichinela: The delay was no fault of mine. It was my wife who could not decide which of forty dresses to wear.

Mrs P: If it was up to him I'd be wearing any old thing. See how flustered I am from so much rushing.

Sirena: You are as beautiful as ever.

Polichinela: And she's only wearing half of her jewels. She couldn't wear them all, they weigh so much.

Sirena: And who better than you to glory in his wife displaying the fruits of richness won through your own work?

Mrs P: But isn't it time to enjoy it, as I say to him, and to have more noble aspirations? Imagine. Now he wants to marry our daughter off to a businessman.

Sirena: Oh, Mr Polichinela! Your daughter deserves much better than a businessman! You mustn't contemplate that. You must not sacrifice her heart to your interests. What do you say, Sylvia?

Polichinela: She would prefer some young dandy, for, very much to my regret, she is given to reading novels and poetry.

Mrs P: My husband thinks that only money is of worth and value in this world.

Polichinela: I think that without money nothing is of worth or value in the world; that it is the price of everything.

Sirena: Don't talk like that! What about virtue, and knowledge and nobility?

Polichinela: Everything has its price, who can doubt that? Nobody knows that better than me, who bought most of all that, and for not very much.

Sirena: Oh, Mr Polichinela! You jest. You know very well that money isn't everything, and that if your daughter falls in love with a noble gentleman it would not be good to deny her. I know that you have the sensitive heart of a father.

Polichinela: That is true. I would be capable of anything for my daughter.

Sirena: Even of financial ruin?