

Polichinela's Wife – a tattered trophy wife, with an addiction to flashy jewels and a yearning for class

Actors should prepare to do the scene.

Scene VI

Polichinela and his wife arrive late to Dona Sirena's party with their daughter Sylvia.

DOÑA SIRENA: Oh, Mr. Polichinela! I was beginning to fear that you wouldn't come. For me, the party has only begun right now.

POLICHINELA: I'm not to blame for the delay. The one at fault is my wife, who, with forty dresses, can never choose which one to wear.

POLICHINELA'S WIFE: If it were up to him, I'd show myself in public in any which way...Look how out of breath I am from rushing.

DOÑA SIRENA: You look more beautiful than ever.

POLICHINELA: And she's not even wearing half of her jewelry. She couldn't wear it all, it weighs so much.

DOÑA SIRENA: And who, better than you, may take pride in your wife's displaying the fruits of a wealth acquired through your labors?

POLICHINELA'S WIFE: But isn't it high time to enjoy that wealth, as I keep telling him, and to have more noble aspirations? Just imagine: he now wants our daughter to marry a businessman.

DOÑA SIRENA: Oh, Mr. Polichinela! Your daughter deserves much more than a businessman. You shouldn't even think about it. You mustn't sacrifice her heart to any self-interest. What do you say, Sylvia?

POLICHINELA: She'd prefer some young whippersnapper, because, to my great regret, she's very fond of novels and poetry.

SYLVIA: I'll always do what my father orders, if my mother isn't opposed to it and it doesn't displease me.

DOÑA SIRENA: That's a sensible attitude.

POLICHINELA' WIFE: Your father thinks that only money counts and is esteemed in society.

POLICHINELA: I think that, without money, nothing counts or is esteemed in society, because money is the price of everything.

DOÑA SIRENA: Don't talk that way! What about the virtues, knowledge, and nobility?

POLICHINELA: They all have their price, who can doubt it? No one knows that better than I do, because I've bought a lot of all that, and not too dearly.

DOÑA SIRENA: Oh, Mr. Polichinela! That's a caprice of yours. You're well aware that money isn't everything, and that if your daughter falls in love with some noble gentleman, it wouldn't be right to oppose her. I know you have a tender father's heart.

POLICHINELA: That I do. For my daughter I'd be capable of anything.

DOÑA SIRENA: Even of ruining yourself financially?