

SCENE FOR SEÑOR POLICHINELA

Señor Polichinela arrives at Dona Señora's party showing off his garish wife and determined to protect his beloved daughter. Note: A reader will read Doña Sirena and Señora Polichinela.

Sirena: Oh, Señor Polichinela! I was afraid you wouldn't come. Only now has the party begun for me.

Polichinela: The tardiness was not my fault. It was my wife's, who couldn't decide which of her forty dresses to put on.

Señora P: If it was up to him, I'd present myself any which way. See how flustered I am from all the rush.

Sirena: You look as beautiful as ever.

Polichinela: She's not even wearing half her jewels. She couldn't handle the weight.

Sirena: And who better than you to bask in your wife flaunting the fruits of a fortune acquired through your labour?

Señora P: But, isn't this the 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, Señor Polichinela! Your daughter deserves much more than a businessman! You mustn't think of it. You shouldn't sacrifice her heart for your own interest. What do you say, Silvia?

Polichinela: She would prefer some young dandy, for, very much in spite of me, she's very taken with reading novels and poetry.

Silvia: I will always do what my father orders, if it does not contradict my mother and it does not displease me.

Sirena: That is very wise.

Señora P: Your father 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 speak that way! What of virtue, and knowledge and nobility?

Polichinela: Everything has its price, who can doubt it? Nobody knows that better than I, who bought a great deal, and for not very much.

Sirena: Oh, Señor 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 right to deny her. I know that you have the sensitive heart of a father.

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