

# On the Razzle

by Tom Stoppard

## Audition Material

### Synopsis

The play is a farce, in two acts, with a large, flexible cast size. Set in 1900, the action takes place in various locations: Herr Zangler's shop on the outskirts of Vienna; the road to Vienna; Mme Knorr's shop in Vienna; a café; Miss Blumenblatt's apartment and Miss Blumenblatt's garden, amongst others.

*"Why do I have a sense of impending disaster?"* Herr Zangler, a linguistically challenged successful greengrocer in suburban Vienna, muses halfway through the first scene. He's about to go into town to wine and dine a wealthy widowed milliner, Madame Knorr, while packing off his ward and niece Marie to his sister-in-law, Miss Blumenblatt, to prevent her from eloping with an impoverished gentleman, Sonders. Little does he know that his chief clerk, Weinberl, and apprentice, Christopher, are going to close up shop for a day of adventure on the town, that his niece is wearing a Scottish outfit on precisely the day that everyone in Vienna is in the grips of a Macbeth-and-Sir Walter-Scott-inspired highland fashion craze, and that all these people, along with his fiancée's widowed friend, Frau Fischer, his newly hired servant, Melchior, and various waiters, policemen and servants, including a rump-obsessed coachman, will end up, in various disguises, tartans and states of dress and undress in the same fashionable restaurant. As Zangler concludes - *"One false move, and we'll have a farce on our hands."* And we in fact, DO have a farce on our hands!

### Period

1900 Vienna - costume to be in keeping with the period. The city is going through a fashion craze for all things Scottish, so there is a LOT of tartan.

### Character Descriptions

There are a number of roles of various sizes in the show. All may be cast with unique actors or some roles may end up being doubled and played by one actor. The play is a very strong ensemble piece and there is a LOT going on at all times with scenery, people and various moving parts – including a “horse”!

Some of the principal characters:

Weinberl (M) - Age 20s. The head clerk at Zangler's grocery emporium. Clever, witty, easily bored. Decides to go 'On The Razzle' to Vienna while Zangler is away.

Christopher (M) - Teens. The male junior clerk at Zangler's shop. Younger than Weinberl, but respects him deeply. Happy to go along with any scheme of Weinberl's.

Zangler (M) - Age 40s - 60s. Owner of Zangler's grocery emporium. Employer of Weinberl and Christopher. Engaged to Madame Knorr. Perpetually angry and prone to spoonerisms and malapropisms.

Melchior (M) - Age 20s - 30s. Zangler's new manservant. Cheeky and sharp, but still ends up outwitted by the two shop-boys.

Marie (F) - Age Teens/20s. Zangler's niece and his ward. Works in the shop. Pretty and clever, but actually very innocent ingenue. Loves Sonders and dreams of marrying him.

Sonders (M) - Age 20s. Marie's penniless lover. Despised by Zangler, owing to his lack of money and prospects for his future.

Madame Knorr (F) - Age 30s. Zangler's fiancée. Owns and manages a fashionable haberdasher shop in the center of Vienna.

Frau Fischer (F) - Age 30s. A wealthy widow. Friend of Mme Knorr. Weinberl pretends to be her husband in order to avoid Zangler in Vienna.

Gertrud (F) – Age 70s. Zangler's old, hard-of-hearing housemaid. Main “guardian” of Marie.

Coachman (M) – Age 40s-50s. A large, husky, fun loving, adventure seeking coachman who at times transports many of the main characters on their adventure. He's always on the lookout for a lovely lady.

Fraulein Blumenblatt (F) – Age 40s-60s. Zangler's eccentric widowed relative who, in the course of the play, he sends Marie to to hide her from Sonders. Blumenblatt believes in true love though and ultimately her home is a haven for many of the characters who are on the run.

Lisette (F) – Age 20s. Fraulein Blumenblatt's French maid who is longing to meet the man of her dreams. A bit distracted at all times.

In addition, there are a number of other roles of various types – a German couple, Italian waiters and people of all sizes and shapes from around the globe!

# On the Razzle Audition Information Form

*(Please print legibly.)*

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ HS Graduation Year (i.e. 2021): \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Schedule

### REHEARSALS

Late August through Oct 9 + some actors may be called for some work just before school starts in August. Full rehearsals will likely start Aug 26<sup>th</sup>.

MOST Mondays - Thursdays from 3:30-6:00pm, Tech Week will move to evening rehearsals

### SHOW DATES

October 10, 11, 12 - 7:00pm

**PLEASE LIST BELOW ALL KNOWN CONFLICTS. BE AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE - LIST DATE AND TIME.  
MISSING MULTIPLE REHEARSALS UNANNOUNCED CAN RESULT IN BEING CUT FROM THE SHOW.**

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