

PHANTOM OF THE SOAP OPERA

A Two-Act Musical Comedy

*Story and lyrics by Craig Sodaro
Music by Randy Villars*

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CHARACTERS (8M, 9W, Extras)

REGINA BROOKS, about 22, a glamorous star of the daytime drama, “As the Heart Burns.” A realist who has a good sense of humor and more than her share of courage.

TEDDY BURNETT, about 30, a villain on the soap opera, a professional actor who works hard at realism — too hard.

DAPHNE DAVIS, about 50, a haughty actress who has reached the pinnacle of her career and refuses to admit it’s on the downward slide.

BLYTHE EVANS, about 20, a silly actress chosen more for her looks than her abilities. Too bad she aspires to greatness!

QUENTIN HARRIS, about 25, a former football player who is now trying to carve a career on television. Unfortunately, he doesn’t have the necessary tools!

NOAH CAINE, about 60, a gentlemanly actor who is a father figure on the set of “As the Heart Burns.”

SAM, about 75, a gentleman who makes his living selling sandwiches in the studios and offices in the building. Although he moves slowly, he’s a sharp observer.

ADDISON MERIWETHER, about 40, a nervous, irritable director who strives for order in his life and never gets it. He never seems happy about anything, a true pessimist.

EMILY PARRISH, about 30, a long-suffering writer who has to concoct a different scenario every time she turns around.

LILY PONDS, about 20, a scatterbrained secretary and script girl who’s got a comment for everything.

THEODORA OSBORN, about 45, a precise, efficient producer who knows exactly what she wants and how to get the job done. She is one cool lady under pressure.

HARLAN GASPAR, about 25, a true Southern gentleman, who holds his own ideals highly. He is chivalrous to a fault, and quite resourceful.

THE PHANTOM, a mysterious, mask-covered figure who wears a long black robe, cape, and hat. His voice sends shivers through the rest of the cast!

MILLICENT CRUMP, about 30, a caustic costumer who would

rather work in front of the camera than behind it.

NELLIE STARR, about 20, a budding reporter for the *NATIONAL SNOOP* who stops at nothing to get a story.

DIGBY WRIGHT, about 40, a shabby, seemingly inept police officer whose rough exterior conceals a very cunning mind. Has little patience with these “artists.”

EVE POTTER, about 30, his hard-boiled partner on the case who’s got more heart than she lets on.

STAGEHANDS—extras as studio staffers

SOAP OPERA ROLES

REGINA...plays *Desiree Carstairs*, beautiful daughter of a wealthy family. Believes in love before money.

DAPHNE...plays *Leona Carstairs*, her conceited mother who believes in money above all.

TEDDY...plays *Byron Grimshaw*, a villainous cad who stoops low enough to steal from children in his pursuit of ill-gotten gains.

QUENTIN...plays the heroic gardener, *Todd Dillon*, who believes in love, honesty, faithfulness, respect, cleanliness and everything positive.

NOAH CAINE...plays the kindly *Dr. Murdoch*, everybody’s friend and convenient medical examiner.

BLYTHE ...plays *Mimi*, the cheerful maid.

MILLICENT...by the end of the show plays *Angela*, a Southern belle turned maid.

ACT I

Scene 1: Morning on the set at Studio 13.

Scene 2: Late afternoon, that same day.

Scene 3: Midnight, that night.

ACT II

Scene 1: The following morning at the studio.

Scene 2: Late that night.

Scene 3: The following afternoon.

SONGS

“Soaps”

Soap opera cast and crew...page 7

“Lost Among the Stars”

Regina and Harlan...page 14

“I Get an Ulcer”

Addison with Quentin, Daphne, and Lily...page 21

“How Can I Be Wrong When I’m Wright?”

Wright, Eve, and Stagehands...page 27

“The Object of My Obsession”

The Phantom...page 36

“My Boss”

Lily and Stagehands...page 41

“I Am A Star”

Daphne and Stagehands...page 56

“Shootout in Studio 13”

Soap opera cast and crew...page 65

Finale-“Soaps!”

All...page 70

SETTING

As this is a play within a play, so the set is a set within a set. The action takes place in Studio 13 at a major big-city television company headquarters. Being a studio, there are flats, furniture, ladders, lights, wires, chairs, and so on scattered everywhere about the stage with the exception of the center. In the center of the stage we see the set, which is a single room in the Carstairs mansion. The room has three "walls" with one rear entrance. In the center of the room is a table, either nice wood or covered with a nice cloth. Chairs dot the walls. At one side, either right or left there is a desk on which we find a telephone. On the other side is a hope chest which can serve as another seat. There should be two chairs at the table, one on each side. The entire set should give the feeling of luxury and wealth, but not be so realistic as to be convincing. This is television, after all!

Actors entering and exiting the studio can use right and left. USL entrances and exits indicate movement to the various offices. A red light is situated somewhere near the USL entrance to indicate when the show is being taped. Only the first segment is actually being "taped," so this light is used only during the first scene.

PROPS

ACT I: TV cameras; several clipboards; newspaper; flower for Quentin; starter gun for Regina; box of wrapped sandwiches and cartons of milk for Sam; pencil and clipboard for Emily; stack of scripts for Lily; small book for Harlan; “bullets” for Phantom; makeup and sewing cases and powder puff for Millicent; scripts for Lily; newspaper for Theodora; camera, notepad and pencil for Nellie; hammer for Digby; list for Eve; black dress for Millicent; notes for Regina and Quentin; glass milk for Lily; tea cup on set for Regina; new scripts for Emily; maid’s apron and note for Eve; magnifying glass for Digby; candles and McDonald’s bags on set; leash and diary for Phantom.

ACT II: Hamburger wrappers on set; nail file for Lily; carpenter’s outfit with hat or mustache for Nellie; glass milk for Lily; knife for Phantom; scripts for Emily; list for Theodora; sandwiches for Sam; money for Eve; guns for Digby and Eve; camera for Nellie; newspaper for Addison; 2 clown costumes with fright wigs for Noah and Daphne; bags, cowboy hat and Colt .45 for Digby; handkerchief for Phantom; letter in an envelope for Lily; bandana and Digby’s .45 for Phantom.

ACT I

Scene 1

(After Overture has played. AT RISE: Morning on the set of "As the Heart Burns." Two EXTRAS check the cameras, R and L, aimed on the set of the Carstairs mansion. THEODORA OSBORN and EMILY PARRISH stand at left by camera, consulting a clipboard. LILY PONDS tries not to spill a glass of milk she's bringing to ADDISON MERRIWETHER nearby. MILLICENT CRUMP fixes the costume of BLYTHE EVANS while QUENTIN HARRIS, studying his script, and NOAH CAINE, reading a newspaper, are standing, ready to go on. Somehow they are in the way of busy STAGEHANDS arranging props and testing sound levels. Within the set we see REGINA BROOKS, SC, flanked by TEDDY BURNETT and DAPHNE DAVIS. A stagehand is adding last minute touches to DAPHNE's makeup. THEY are almost ready to play their soap opera parts, Desiree, Leona, and Byron. All around there is a sense of confusion. ADDISON, checking his watch, shouts out:)

ADDISON: Two minutes people, two minutes. Is everyone ready? We've got a soap opera to tape!

SONG: SOAPS!

Sung by soap opera cast and crew

(Chorus)

Soaps! They make afternoons alive!
Soaps! They help our dreams survive!
Soaps! They're full of love in bloom!
Soaps! We live to watch the gloom!

Who will Kristen marry?
Who is dating Sam?
Will Ellen die of chickenpox?
Should Helen baste the ham?
How will Fred tell Natalie
That he's decided they are through?

End of Freeview

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