

Flavio, the Fake Magician

Written by The Golden Stag Players
Based on a Commedia del'Arte Scenario
From Henry F. Salerno's Translation of
Il Teatro delle favole rapresentative by Flaminio Scala
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Characters In the Play

Pantalone
Flaminia
Pedrolino
Doctor Gratiano
Isabella
Burattino
Franceschina
Oratio
Cinthio
Flavio
Captain Spavento
Arlecchino
Policemen (2)

Properties

A dress like Franceschina's, and a wig
Blonde Wigs for Isabella and Flaminia
An apron (porter's costume)
A bat [slapstick]
A rubber bat
A magician's costume (really cheesy hat)
A potted 'plant' with several (four?) removable branches used for hiding behind

Set

Six flats, four with doors, two doors have windows/shutters. (Other houses will be off stage ...)

ACT ONE
The City of Pesaro

(Pantalone and Gratiano enter from opposite sides of the stage.)

PANTALONE: Oh, my friend, I am so glad to see you, for I have wonderful news!

GRATIANO: What a coincidence, for I also have wonderful news! I have fallen in love with a beautiful woman.

(These two start upstaging each other ...)

PANTALONE: Ah, but you know nothing of real love, for I, too have fallen in love with a beautiful woman!

GRATIANO: But my lady, she has hair like Helen of Troy!

PANTALONE: Ah, but such magnifi... magnifi... mag ... such **splendor** would pale in comparison with my lady, for she has eyes that are as blue as ... something really, really, blue ... with black dots in the middle.

GRATIANO: Her arms are like the Venus de Milo!

PANTALONE: Her skin has the patina of a shiny new gold piece!

GRATIANO: Ah, but the one problem is, my lady is already married.

PANTALONE: I am sorry to hear that, for so is mine! She is married to your son Burattino.

GRATIANO: Wait a second, so is mine!

PANTALONE: Burattino has two wives?

GRATIANO: You dolt! Of course he has only one wife, and she is my true love!

PANTALONE: No, you old fart, she is to be MY possession!

(They start shoving each other and start coming to blows.)

(Pedrolino rushes in from stage left, and stops the fighting -- standing between them holding them at arms' length:)

PEDROLINO: *(To Pantalone)* Tell me my master, what could possibly come between two such close friends?

PANTALONE/GRATIANO:
This old fool is trying to steal the lady I love.

PEDROLINO: So who is this lucky lady that she has the devotion of two such *(pause)* men as yourselves?

PANTALONE/GRATIANO:

The wife of Burattino.

PEDROLINO: Burattino has two wives?

PANTALONE/GRATIANO:

No, Franceschina!

PEDROLINO: Wait a minute — she is **my** love!

(They all start fighting ...)

(Capitano and Arlecchino come on cowering from offstage (right), turn and threaten someone off stage. The sight of them brandishing weapons causes the others to flee (left) in fright!)

SPAVENTO: *(To whoever offstage)* And if I ever see you again, I will give you more of the same!

ARLECCHINO: Yeah! What he said!

(Flaminia opens her window and sees Capitano. Isabella opens her window and watches what happens.)

FLAMINIA: What is that noise? Avanti, it is my love, Capitano *(said with feeling)* Spavento!

SPAVENTO: *(A quick glance at her, and then to the audience)* I have this effect on **all** women.

ARLECCHINO: *(Pulls script out, checks the title, and then to the Captain:)* What play are **you** in? See, we're in Flavio, the Fake Magician ...

(Capitano grabs script and throws over wall ...)

ISABELLA: *(To the audience)* This oughta be fun ... *(To the Captain, said as a mockery of Flaminia's previous line -- very nonchalant)* Avanti, it is my love, Capitano Spavento!

SPAVENTO: Isabella, your words inflame the very fibers of my codpiece! *(Thrusting his hips)* Oh, Isabella, your eyes are as blue as something really, really, blue, with black dots in the middle.

ISABELLA: Oh, Capitano, your bravery is as immense as your *(look at codpiece)* ego.

(Oratio enters during the love scene between Isabella and Captain Spavento.)

SPAVENTO: How glad my heart is that I have the precious jewel that is Isabella's love.

- ORATIO: *(Oratio is jealous)* I am Oratio of Pesaro, Isabella is the woman that I love, prepare to die! *(bit from The Princess Bride -- faceoff, Capitano chickens out and runs, Oratio follows ... Arlecchino follows)*
- ISABELLA: *(Opens door, comes onstage through it, laughing)* Blessed are these hands. *[I am so clever]*
- FLAMINIA: *(Flaminia enters through door)* Yes, but how much did you have to pay the priest?
- ISABELLA: I didn't have to pay him anything.
- FLAMINIA: Oh, that's right – they pay you!
- ISABELLA: What's the matter, out of spending money since the fleet left last month?
- (Franceschina enters, up stage right door.)*
- ISABELLA: Cow!
- FLAMINIA: Pig!
- FRANCESCHINA: Ladies, ladies!*(To Flaminia)* I would expect a woman of **your** age, to behave with proper decorum!
- FLAMINIA: What would you know about proper behavior, you slut?
- FRANCESCHINA: What? What are you talking about? I am a well-respected member of the community!
- FLAMINIA: Ah, but do they respect you in the morning?
- (Burattino enters, stage left, Isabella notices him and coughs to point out he's there)*
- FRANCESCHINA: At least my name doesn't rhyme with... *(she sees Burattino ...)* Oh, my husband, spare me from the sharp tongues of these wenches! *(Runs to him, on the verge of tears ...)*
- BURATTINO: There, there, my lark, my sweet. You just go and rest, dear. I will handle everything.
- FRANCESCHINA: *(On the way in to her door (upstage right))* At least I *have* a husband!
- ISABELLA: Technically, you could say she has several ...
- FLAMINIA: But only one of them is hers.
- BURATTINO: What is that supposed to mean?
- (Burattino crosses to the Flaminia)*

- FLAMINIA: Not only has she made you a cuckold with Pantalone, you are also wearing your father's horns.
(She goes in.)
- ISABELLA: Eew. *(withdraws)*
- BURATTINO: *(To audience)* I can't believe it! My honor is besmirched! Whatever shall I do? It can't be true.
(Gets an audience member's eye and talks directly to that person) Why did Flaminia have to tell me that Pantalone and my father are sleeping with my wife? Why am I asking you?
(Pedrolino (stage left) enters during Burattino's speech)
- BURATTINO: I must go, confront my father, restore my honor, and find the truth behind these heinous lies.
- PEDROLINO: You may want to re-think that. *(In best Jack Nicholson voice possible -- from A Few Good Men)* You want the truth, signor? You can't handle the truth! He wants to make the two-backed beast with your wife.
- BURATTINO: What?
- PEDROLINO: He wants her to stuff his cod-piece. *(Thrusting hips ...)*
- BURATTINO: What?
(Grabs Burattino by the collar, shaking him, one shake per word, as he says the following:)
- PEDROLINO: HE IS IN LOVE WITH YOUR WIFE! HE WANTS HER FOR HIMSELF!
- BURATTINO: Agh! *(Breaks Pedrolino's grip on collar, tossing him to the ground)* I curse the hour I took a wife. She has brought me nothing but pain and sorrow!
(Exits, stage right, Pedrolino gets back up and dusts self off)
- PEDROLINO: I wish Flaminia had not revealed that her father desires Franceschina. Burattino will now be watching, and that makes it harder for **me** to court her — for she is the woman that I love.
(Cinthio enters, up stage left. comes down stage and spies Pedrolino ...)
- CINTHIO: Pedrolino, my good man. You must help me — her eyes are as blue as something really, really, blue ...
- PEDROLINO: ... with black dots in the middle?
- CINTHIO: Why, yes! How did you know?
- PEDROLINO: Psychic Friends Network.

(Pedrolino starts reacting badly to next line, until Isabella's name is mentioned)

CINTHIO: You must help me win the love of fair Isabella.

PEDROLINO: Isabella? *(Happily surprised)* Oh, well, alright! But you must also help me in my quest for the love of Franceschina.

CINTHIO: I swear by the Pancreas of St. Sexburga ...

(Spit into hands and shake ... messy, wipe spit off on hose)

(Pedrolino knocks at Franceschina's door, ducks so not seen, grabs a branch of the bush in the planter and hides behind it)

ARLECCHINO: *(Sees Pedrolino)* Hey, man ...

PEDROLINO: Shhhh! I'm hiding!

ARLECCHINO: Can I hide, too? *[Sounds like fun]*

PEDROLINO: Sure ... over there! *(Hands him a branch of bush from the same planter)*

(Isabella opens her window, and watches ...)

(Flaminia now opens her window, and she watches ...)

(Franceschina comes out of the house.)

CINTHIO: I speak on behalf of my good friend Pedrolino and his undying love for you.

FRANCESCHINA: Oh ... *(yawn)*, go ahead, I'm listening ...

(Pantalone and Burattino arrive (see below) during this speech)

CINTHIO: My friend's passion rages like a really hot fire, that's really hot. His love for you is undying, like a sick old relative with a huge inheritance. His eyes twinkle at the very mention of your name, like the stars in the heavens, but he's only got two, and they're closer. His love for you is as wide as the ocean, but not as salty and there are less fish in it.

(Pantalone enters, stage left, and starts to hide — grabs branch from Arlecchino, who grabs a branch from Pedrolino, who grabs another one from the planter.)

(Burattino up stage right, arrives and hides to listen — grabs branch from planter. He does not realize Cinthio is speaking for Pedrolino.)

ARLECCHINO: That was so beautiful!

(Pantalone hits Arlecchino to remind him he's hiding ...)

(Franceschina pulls some coins out of her purse, and hands it to Cinthio, saying:)

FRANCESCHINA: Your speech was so good, you must have gotten high marks in pimp's school!
(Just as Cinthio is about to respond:)

ALL: Pimp, pimp, pay off the pimp!

(Cinthio leaves (stage right) in a huff! All others enter appropriate houses or exit back off-stage, putting branches of plant back in planter.)

ACT TWO

(Pantalone and Pedrolino enter from stage right, Pantalone beating Pedrolino over the head)

PANTALONE: You imbecile! You revealed my ardor for Franceschina to her husband! Burattino will now be watching, and that makes it harder for **me** to court her. *(Mimic of Pedrolino's speech)* Why would you do such a thing? *(Brief moment of understanding)* Unless ... you really want her for yourself! Are you in love with her?

PEDROLINO: *(Quickly)* Uh, no, of course not, master. *(Cross down right)* I was merely wooing her for Doctor Gratiano. For shame! Franceschina is a married woman. You shouldn't be straying into your neighbor's yard.

PANTALONE: Can I help it if the gate is always open?

(Pantalone starts to stomp into his house, Burattino enters, stage left)

PEDROLINO: *(Seeing Burattino, loudly)* I want to remind you that it is a terrible thing to dishonor that poor man Burattino.

BURATTINO: Thank you. I'm glad someone around here is conscious of my honor. You're a good man, Pedrolino. *(Tips him)*

PANTALONE: Why you ... *(crosses down left, beats Pedrolino some more until Burattino hauls him off)*

(Franceschina enters from the house)

FRANCESCHINA: What is all of this commotion? Why, Signor Pantalone, what has this poor man ever done to you? You brute, taking advantage of a servant like that!

PANTALONE: As opposed to how you take advantage of him, you slut!

(Pantalone exits ...)

FRANCESCHINA: *(Taken aback, then recovering by weeping)* What? Oh, will no one defend the honor of a poor, helpless woman?

PEDROLINO: *(Taking Franceschina in his arms)* There, there. I'll comfort you. *(sotto voce to her)* Over, and over ...

FRANCESCHINA: *(To Pedrolino)* Wait for it. *(To Burattino)* Oh, my husband, how can you stand still for this injustice? Go to the police, and have charges brought against Pantalone for slandering me, and nearly beating his servant to death!

PEDROLINO: Huh? Oh, right ... (*mimes pain*)

BURATTINO: Never fear, my wife. I will see to it immediately. Pedrolino, I leave my wife in your capable hands.

(*Burattino leaves stage left*)

FRANCESCHINA: Pedrolino, this has left me with such an ache.

PEDROLINO: What are you talking about? I was the one beaten up!

FRANCESCHINA: No, an ache to be a mother.

PEDROLINO: Oh! Well, in that case, I think I can oblige ...

(*They go into the house.*)

(*Cinthio and Oratio enter from down left, laughing.*)

ORATIO: Pimp, pimp, pimp!

CINTHIO: Oh, stop it.

ORATIO: Look, you have to admit, that *was* funny. (*To the audience*) Well?

CINTHIO: (*Also to audience*) You are *not* helping!

ORATIO: So, how did you get yourself in that mess, anyway?

CINTHIO: It was a tradeoff — Pedrolino was going to speak to Isabella for me ...

ORATIO: Isabella? But, I love Isabella!

CINTHIO: What?

(*Puff up like ready to attack each other, and do Rock-Scissors-Papers three times in a row, tying each time. -- sequence: Rock, Paper, Scissors -- just so it works ...*)

CINTHIO: Best two out of three?

ORATIO: We'll let her decide ...

(*They knock at Isabella's door.*)

(*Isabella opens window.*)

ORATIO/CINTHIO: Isabella! I love you more than ... (*point*) him!

- ISABELLA: Oh, goody!
- ORATIO: Isabella, your eyes are ...
- CINTHIO: Oh, shut up!
- ISABELLA: No, that's good! What part of me has made you (*pause*) fall in love with me?
- ORATIO: The outer parts. No, the inner parts. No, those are gushy! Let me start over. We'll take the eyes as read.
- ISABELLA: No, they're blue!
- ORATIO: Yeah. Your hair is like straw — I mean the color of straw! Move on. You have skin like abalone ...
- CINTHIO: That's alabaster. Why am I helping you?
- ORATIO: Right, like alabaster. Your nose is impressive, like Vesuvius when it blows!
- ISABELLA: Ok, your turn!
- CINTHIO: Like a pie, my favorite part is the filling.
- ORATIO: (*To Isabella*) Did he just call you a tart?
- CINTHIO: No, no! I'm talking about your soul. It has filled me with a burning passion.
- ISABELLA: Eew. Daddy has a cure for that. Since you love the beauty of my soul so much, I will leave that in your care. Oratio, to you I will pledge my troth, and you can enjoy the love of my body.
- (*She goes in, with a flounce*)
- CINTHIO: (*Grief-stricken*) I am crushed like an over-ripe grape beneath her foot (*falls on floor*).
- ORATIO: You whiner. (*Look at audience, expecting the groans ...*) This play's not over yet, you're gonna get yours ...
- (*Oratio exits stage right walking over Cinthio during this speech*)
- (*Flavio enters from up right.*)
- FLAVIO: Cinthio, my friend, why are you so distraught?
- CINTHIO: Isabella, my love, has crushed my heart like an over-ripe grape beneath her foot.

FLAVIO: I feel your pain, but it doesn't have to hurt — for I, too, am in love. And I shall help you with all the power I command. Go now into the house, and I'll fix everything.

(Cinthio exits stage left)

FLAVIO: Well how I know the pain of love. For I, too, am in love with the cruel Flaminia. Why Do Fools Fall in Love? Love Hurts. Love Stinks. Where is Love? Love Is All Around. I Love You More Today Than Yesterday. And I Can't Give You Anything But Love. But, All You Need Is Love. If You Can't Be With The One You Love, Love The One You're With.

(Spavento and Arlecchino enter, stage left. The Captain is armed from head to toe, and angry.)

FLAVIO: Or not.

SPAVENTO: Where is that villain Oratio? I shall thrash him like the wheat on the floor.

ARLECCHINO: That's thresh.

SPAVENTO: That's what I said! *(Hits him, Arlecchino reacts whimpering at audience)*

FLAVIO: *(aside)* Ah, I see a chance ... *(to Spavento)* Tell me friend, what is this that you rail about?

SPAVENTO: I fought a pitched battle against that villain Oratio for nine days —

ARLECCHINO: More like nine seconds ...

SPAVENTO: *(a foul look at Arlecchino)* — back and forth, and through vile treachery he gained the advantage.

ARLECCHINO: *(Pointing to the Captain)* He fled the field.

SPAVENTO: I roared defiance!

ARLECCHINO: You screamed like a 12 year old girl on her wedding day.

SPAVENTO: *(high pitched)* Shut up! *(lowering voice dramatically, adjusting cod-piece)* Shut up! *(Hit him -- Arlecchino falls over)* But I have returned in full arms to defeat that cur!

FLAVIO: Do not fear, *(in best Black Adder style)* for I have a cunning plan ... For you, I will arrange things so that Oratio does not marry Isabella!

(They exit (down stage right) together, Arlecchino follows)

(Gratiano, Burattino enter from up-center.)

GRATIANO: I can not believe that you brought charges against Pantalone. Think of the scandal! Think of my standing!

BURATTINO: I know *someone* is playing me for the fool! I cannot trust anyone, other than you, my dear father. For you have always been honest with me. You understand the problems I'm having with my wife.

(Gratiano chokes, looks at ceiling, anything ... the old 'innocent' bit ...)

GRATIANO: *(Aside)* Everyone's having problems with your wife. *(back to Burattino, sputter)* Pedrolino -- he's the one you should be bringing up on charges!

BURATTINO: Never! He's my faithful friend!

(They come closer to the house ... (up center))

GRATIANO: Hark, I hear voices!

(Franceschina and Pedrolino are talking amorously together in the house.)

FRANCESCHINA: Oh, Pedrolino!

PEDROLINO: Oh, Franceschina!

FRANCESCHINA: Oh, Pedrolino, if my husband were to die, would you marry me?

PEDROLINO: Uh, yeah ... *(she hits him (loud), he gets the idea ...)* Yeah, yes, I would marry you my dear in an instant! I will be devoted to you only!

(Burattino starts to respond, but Gratiano keeps him from shouting (putting his hand over his mouth))

GRATIANO: Not that way, my son. **He's** the one you should bring charges against! Come, we'll go to the court together and have him arrested!

(Burattino and Gratiano exit, stage left.)

(Franceschina, Pedrolino enter from the house, laughing.)

FRANCESCHINA: My husband is such a fool. He actually believes that I would marry you.

PEDROLINO: More fool than that, he believes that I would marry you!

(Pause while she reacts badly. Double-take Laughing)

FRANCESCHINA: I can't believe he fell for such a simple trick ...

(They hug, and Franceschina goes back into the house.)

(Flaminia enters from house, and crosses down stage to him.)

FLAMINIA: I heard what you said! I'm gonna tell!

PEDROLINO: Tell you what! If you help me, I'll help you! You scratch my ... no. You get your father to pardon me, and I'll help **you** get your love, the Captain.

(Pantalone enters suddenly, enraged [at Franceschina].)

PANTALONE: The Captain! What about the Captain?

FLAMINIA: Oh, daddy! The Captain is chasing me around because he's so in love with me! He beat Pedrolino, because he wouldn't plead the Captain's suit to me, and because I was mean to him and called him a villain. *(Weeping)*

(She goes back in.)

PANTALONE: That vile Captain! That ... that ... Spaniard!

ALL *(including offstage)*:

OOOOH!

PANTALONE: Pedrolino, I will not have a coward in my service! If you wish to remain in my house, you must do two things for me. First, you must thrash ...

ARLECCHINO: *(pops head in from up right)* That's thresh!

PANTALONE: ... the Captain, and second, you must cause Franceschina to fall in love with me.

PEDROLINO: *(To the audience)* Dammit Pantalone, I'm a servant, not a miracle worker!

(Flavio, Captain Spavento, Arlecchino enter from up-right. Flavio is dressed as a magician. He points at places for the Captain and Arlecchino to hide, hands branches from planter to them)

FLAVIO: Hide.

(Flavio approaches Pantalone, who has his back to him -- and gestures, waiting for Pantalone to notice him)

PANTALONE: *(Noticing motion behind him, turns ...)* Where did you come from?

FLAVIO: I am al-Spumoni, the great magician! I know all your problems, and I can help! Vengeance can be yours. How much would you pay? Don't answer yet, if you act now, the lovely Franceschina can be yours to enjoy! *(Sticks out hand)*

(Pantalone hands over some coins -- good shtick here as Pantalone is a skinflint)

FLAVIO: Go dress yourself as a porter, and bring along a bat.

(Pantalone exits (stage left), overjoyed ...)

PEDROLINO: Oh, mighty magician, take pity upon me, do not bestow the favors of Franceschina upon that foul old man.

(Flavio pulls out Pantalone's coins, holds out hand for coins from Flavio, waiting for a 'balance' between hands ...)

FLAVIO: I can help. Oh, Franceschina ...?

(Franceschina comes out of the house.)

FRANCESCHINA: *(Squeal)* A magician! Do you do party tricks?

FLAVIO: I am Asti Spumanti, magician extraordinaire! I can arrange for you to enjoy your lover, Pedrolino, without your husband suspecting!

FRANCESCHINA: Really? Thank you!

(Flavio coughs, and sticks hand out for coins ... she gets Pedrolino to hand some over)

FLAVIO: Pedrolino, in order for this spell to work, you must ... dress like a woman. Franceschina, in a quarter of an hour, you are to appear, but until then, you are not to say a word!

PEDROLINO: *(To Franceschina)* I think you got the better part of the deal.

(Burattino arrives stage left, having brought charges against Pedrolino.)

BURATTINO: Soon, Pedrolino, you will be in gaol for your adulterous crimes!

(Flavio draws a circle with his wand (with Pedrolino following directly behind), embraces Burattino, kisses him, and leaves without saying a word. Pedrolino does the same and leaves. Arlecchino (hands his 'branch' to Capitano) comes at Franceschina to kiss her, chasing her around Burattino (following Flavio and Pedrolino), Burattino stops him and he falls over backward. He leaves down stage right followed by the Captain, who has placed the branches back in the planter. Franceschina embraces and kisses her husband. They go into the house, and here the second act ends.)

ACT THREE

(Isabella entering from Gratiano's house humming the romantic ballad from Romeo and Juliet)

ISABELLA: Oratio, Oratio, wherefore art thou, Oratio? To you have I pledged my troth, and fain would I cast mine eyes upon thee to fully express my affections. *(in a different tone)* Men ... one word about commitment and they're history. Where is he?

(Flavio enters from up right, dressed as a magician.)

ISABELLA: You're not Oratio. Who are you?

FLAVIO: I am the answer to your prayers.

ISABELLA: Oh goody, the salesman for Victoria's Secret!

FLAVIO: No, no — I am the powerful wizard Siegfried le Roi, from the distant Land Beyond the Rainbows.

ISABELLA: But that's just up the road from here!

FLAVIO: Do you mind, I'm trying to help.

ISABELLA: Sorry.

FLAVIO: I am your betrothed's distant cousin. I have arrived to bring you happiness —

ISABELLA: Are you sure you're not from the lingerie shop?

FLAVIO: *(Shoots her a dirty look)* — and to make your father agree to your marriage. All this will I accomplish in the space of one half hour.

(Flavio holds out his hand, looking away, waiting for coins ...)

ISABELLA: Gosh, thanks! *(Flounces inside)*

(Burattino enters and stands where Isabella was, Flavio looks surprised when it's not Isabella there.)

BURATTINO: Word is that you are a powerful magician!

FLAVIO: Why yes, I am Merlin the Magnificent!

BURATTINO: *(Sarcastic)* Merlin?

- FLAVIO: It was grandfathered in ... But, what can I do for you, my good man?
- BURATTINO: My wife, she does not talk!
- FLAVIO: This is a problem?
- BURATTINO: Hmm. No, she must be cured.
- FLAVIO: Well, as it happens, I am free to help you.
(Holding out the hand, waiting for coins ...)
- BURATTINO: You said you were free. *(pays Flavio)*
- FLAVIO: I can solve your wife's problems, but first you must know that your lovely wife has betrayed you.
- BURATTINO: I knew it!
- FLAVIO: I can help you avenge yourself.
- BURATTINO: Yes! But, who are these other men? *(Look for them in audience ...)*
- FLAVIO: All shall be revealed when you return with the ingredients for my spell. You must go find some ... um ... cheese powder, and ... um ... goldsmiths!
- BURATTINO: *(Unenthusiastically)* I shall do as you ask.
(Burattino exits stage left)
(Franceschina comes out, and says nothing, but tries to get Flavio's attention with gestures. Flavio turns her around and pushes her back into the house.)
(Oratio arrives.)
- FLAVIO: Greetings, I am Da'ud of the Copperfields, a great and powerful magician, and kinsman of Isabella. I have come from a distant land to preside over the chaos you caused when you left home to pursue your love.
- ORATIO: Oh, come on, it's not that bad, I'm only a year behind on my student loans ...
- FLAVIO: With my magic power, I will make Isabella **your** wife!
- ORATIO: Kewl. Seems like a tall order, how will you do it?

FLAVIO: I will change her bodily aspect to that of someone her relatives won't recognize, like, say, one of your neighbors. And, if you promise to marry her, I will show you how to change her back to her own likeness.

ORATIO: Before the wedding night?

FLAVIO: Oh, ok. Now, close your eyes, and kiss her as soon as you are in the house.

(Oratio stands there, eyes closed, mouth puckered.)

FLAVIO: Oh, Franceschina —

(Franceschina starts to say something:)

FLAVIO: Shh. Not a word or you will die instantly.

(Franceschina, starts to say something, claps her hand over her mouth ...)

(Flavio hands her over to Oratio, and grabs Oratio's cloak. Franceschina can't say anything, but she is making noises in protest ...)

FLAVIO: Here is your love, let me take this — go into the house.

(Flavio pushes the two of them into the house, Franceschina protesting without talking but making noises ...)

(Flaminia appears at her window.)

FLAMINIA: Where is that darn Pedrolino? He promised he would get the Captain for me. If he doesn't show up soon, I'm going to tell my father about him and Franceschina.

(Flavio hears her and sneaks down right to just outside her window)

FLAVIO: Ah, I am Juan de Santiago, a magician, and cousin of Capitano Spavento. I have talked with Pedrolino, and have transformed the Captain into the image of your father, Pantalone ...

FLAMINIA: Ee yuck. That's the **best** you could do?

FLAVIO: It was so he wouldn't be recognized. Besides, I was pressed for time. Speaking of which, in a quarter of an hour, he is coming to you.

FLAMINIA: OOOH! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I must go ... prepare!

(She goes back in.)

(Cinthio arrives (down left).)

FLAVIO: *(To Cinthio)* I am Douglas of the Hens.

CINTHIO: Funny, you look just like my friend Flavio!

FLAVIO: It's all an illusion. Here, wear this, knock there.

(Hands over cloak ...)

(Cinthio knocks on Isabella's door. She hauls him in (basically, a hand issues from the door and he gets yanked through the door))

CINTHIO: Wow.

(Burattino enters, stage left)

BURATTINO: I have been to every Andronico's in Pesaro, and I have yet to find any cheese powder!

FLAVIO: What, you never heard of Kraft?

BURATTINO: Which?

FLAVIO: Kraft. Never mind that now. I've got it all set up, go get the police, and when you get back, they can arrest the scoundrel who has made you a cuckold.

BURATTINO: Cheese it. The cops!

(Burattino exits left to get the police.)

FLAVIO: *(Aside)* Little do they know that they are going to Oratio's house.

(Gratiano arrives from down right)

GRATIANO: I can't believe that Franceschina would stoop to sleeping with a servant, like Pedrolino. Has she no sense of propriety? Can she not see that a man of my station is more suited to her?

FLAVIO: I am uh ... uh ... Vince Clortho, Keymaster of Gozer.

GRATIANO: You look like a magician to me.

FLAVIO: That too. And I am here to help you enjoy Franceschina! But to make it work, you must dress like a Spanish soldier, a Captain, perhaps ...

(Gratiano exits down right to disguise himself.)

FLAVIO: *(To the audience)* Tacky, yes, but it will keep him from entering his own house, won't it?

(Pantalone enters down left, dressed as a porter, (hiding a wooden bat behind his back) holding up a plastic or rubber bat.)

FLAVIO: No, no, no ...

(Pantalone hands him the wooden bat. Flavio starts conjuring over the bat ...)

FLAVIO: Fliegender Hollander, Guildemar,
Esmirelda Dancingstar,
Rosewitha's dog and Koshke's cat,
Transform ye now to a magic bat.

PANTALONE: Ooooh. What does it do?

FLAVIO: If you beat a man with this enchanted weapon it will turn him into a woman, and when you beat a woman, it will turn her into a man.

PANTALONE: Oh, a fairy bat.

FLAVIO: Furthermore, as long as you hold it, no one can attack you.

PANTALONE: So, where's the Captain ...?

(Pantalone taps his leg a couple of times, pauses (oops, I'm a man), and exits up left, happy ...)

FLAVIO: *(To the audience)* Now, to go dress like Pantalone ...

(Flavio exits, down left.)

(Oratio appears at his door, trying to find the magician.)

ORATIO: Oh, magician! I need your help! When I kiss the woman with my eyes closed, she doesn't change her appearance. Where *is* that magician?

(Pedrolino enters up right, dressed as a woman in clothes like Franceschina's (and a wig). He stands downstage before Oratio's door.)

ORATIO: How did you get out there so quickly? Come back in here!

(Pantalone enters up left, sees the "woman".)

PANTALONE: Here's my chance to see how this bat works!

(Sneaks around behind Oratio, hits Pedrolino ...)

(Oratio separates them, Pantalone manages to hit Pedrolino again.)

(Pedrolino pulls off wig ...)

PEDROLINO: Stop hitting me, with that bat, man!

PANTALONE: *(Laughs)* Holy hermaphrodite, it works!

(About to hit Oratio, says:)

Brace yourself, I'm going to change you into a woman!

ORATIO: No, no! *(Ducks)* I don't want to be a woman!

(Pantalone takes a wild swing and misses (circling ...). Pedrolino takes advantage of the confusion to run off (stage right)... Franceschina comes out of Oratio's house and stands right where Pedrolino was. Pantalone (completing circle) hits her with the bat (thinking it was the same person). Pantalone starts chortling delightedly ...)

ORATIO: You were the woman in the house! Maybe if I kiss you again, this time your appearance will change!

(Embraces her and takes her back into the house. She protests without saying any words.)

PANTALONE: Blessed be the magician for giving me this powerful bat!

(Flavio enters, down left, dressed like Pantalone.)

FLAVIO: *(To audience)* I'll never get a better cue than that!

PANTALONE: Hey, you look like Pantalone! Wait, I'm Pantalone, who are you?

FLAVIO: I am the spirit of Pantalone, looking for the body of Pantalone. His body has left me because of an old vendetta over love.

PANTALONE: Where are you going?

FLAVIO: I am going to comfort my daughter Flaminia.

PANTALONE: Wow! Some magician, I'll say ... I wonder what my daughter will do?

(Pantalone grabs a bit of shrubbery and hides ... Flavio knocks on the door)

(Flaminia comes out, and seeing Flavio, thinks he is her love transformed)

FLAMINIA: It is you, oh Captain, my Captain, albeit in a really disgusting form. But the eyes of love shine through the windows of your soul, and I know it is really you. Come with me my love.

(She takes him into the house.)

PANTALONE: *(Laughs)* What a drip, she takes after her mother. *(Puts branch back in planter)*

(Dr. Gratiano enters, dressed like the Captain.)

PANTALONE: Ah, Captain Spavento at last! With this bat I'm going to turn you into a woman!

(Pantalone hits him with the bat.)

(Burattino enters down left, policemen in tow. Seeing Pantalone beating the "Captain", the police arrest him.)

POLICEMAN 1: No brawling off the eric! *(Grabs Pantalone's arm and puts it behind his back)*

(Gratiano runs off ...)

BURATTINO: The evil malefactors are in that house there!

POLICEMAN 2: Which house?

BURATTINO: Oratio's house! *(Point to the door)*

(Policeman 2 goes into Oratio's house, comes out with Oratio and Franceschina and a doughnut in his hand)

POLICEMAN 2: Check it out! I found some pastries in there, oh and I got these two love-birds also.

FRANCESCHINA: Well, I was ... *(hand over mouth, realizes she can talk now)* Wait a minute — it's not my fault! I was in that house because that magician told me to go in there and not talk or anything because I would die ... uh oh!

(Everyone looks at her ...)

FRANCESCHINA: I guess it's ok now ...

POLICEMAN 1: Wait a minute. You look like that skinflint, Pantalone. What do you call that getup?

PANTALONE: It's not my fault! The magician told me to dress up like this!

(Pedrolino enters from up left)

PEDROLINO: He made me dress in woman's clothes so that you would beat me up! Again!

(Isabella comes out of house, arguing with Cinthio)

ISABELLA: What kind of trick is this? I thought you were Oratio!

CINTHIO: It's not my fault. The magician guy made me do it!

ISABELLA: He told me he was going to give me to Oratio!

CINTHIO/ISABELLA:

Oh, that skunk!

(Gratiano enters (up? right))

GRATIANO: My dainty sponce has been framed!

EVERYONE: What?

GRATIANO: He hit me in the head! The magician made me dress up like the Captain and get beat up!

PANTALONE: I'm so sorry Gratiano, but I thought that I was hitting Captain Spavento!

GRATIANO: With a bat that would transform him into a woman? Boy, I see Flaminia takes after her father!

(Flaminia comes out of the house screaming:)

FLAMINIA: I got violated by the spirit of my father!

EVERYONE: Ew.

PANTALONE: I'll kill that vile spirit! But, wait! If I kill my own spirit, I'll die too! What am I to do? *(Meekly)*
Spirit? Oh spirit? Can we talk?

(Flavio comes out of the house.)

FLAVIO: I am no spirit, I am Flavio!

PEDROLINO: You dirty dog! I wish I'd thought of that!

(All take one step toward him ...)

FLAVIO: Wait a minute! Wait a minute! Let me explain. Not only did I dress up as the spirit of Pantalone, but I was the magician!

(Everyone gasps! And everyone steps back)

FLAVIO: I merely wanted to get everyone out of the way, so I could have time with my true love, Flaminia.
(Cross toward her)

EVERYONE: Ah ...

FLAVIO: I hope you won't stay mad at me. I did it all in the cause of true love. *(Looking at Pantalone)*
And after all, I'm going to be your son-in-law, and I think Flaminia and I ought to get married soon ...

PEDROLINO: I really wish I'd thought of that.

ORATIO: You really had us going!

ISABELLA: Well, as long as it was for true love.

PANTALONE: I guess I'll have less problems if I just give her to you now ... *(exit up right)*

CINTHIO: Oh, Isabella, be mine, too!

ISABELLA: Oh father, may I?

GRATIANO: If that's what you really want ...

(The Captain and Arlecchino enter, the Captain draws his sword on Oratio)

SPAVENTO: Oratio, you rabid weasel!

ORATIO: Oh, go ahead and kill me now. Without Isabella, my life is not worth living.

FLAVIO: You have no reason to fight — neither of you has Isabella.

SPAVENTO: I need a drink.

ORATIO: I hear the Kasbah's open.

(Spavento and Oratio move exit through audience (followed by Arlecchino) Pedrolino and Burattino are growfing at each other ...)

ARLECCHINO: I'm not doing the table dance this time!

FLAVIO: Oh, Burattino, you don't understand — Pedrolino was playing a trick on you, right, Pedrolino?

PEDROLINO: Uh, yeah! But me and Franceschina, we knew you were listening at the door! We just wanted to have some fun ... *(Franceschina hits him)* with you! It was a joke ...

BURATTINO: Really?

FRANCESCHINA: How could you have ever doubted me? Why would I take a servant, when I have you, the son of a doctor? I love only you. Come home with me, my husband.

BURATTINO: *(Happy at last)* I could never stay angry with you, my beautiful and virtuous wife. You are *truly* an example to the women of Pesaro!

(Burattino and Franceschina exit, she pats Pedrolino on the butt on the way upstage to their door. Pedrolino gets a happy smile on his face, leers at the audience ... Exeunt (some of the characters will have already exited ...)

~ *finis* ~

THE ORIGINAL SCENARIO:**Argument**

In Pesaro lived a young man of modest means who loved a young woman, the daughter of one Pantalone, a rich merchant, a man more clever than wise. Through his cleverness, he became skillful in his cunning. The young man, named Flavio, was told that it was impossible to marry the young woman because she was an only daughter, and because of her wealth, she was courted by many. For all that, by his own will and luck, and by pretending to be a magician and working various tricks, he won the young lady for his wife with the thanks of her father and of all his relatives.

Characters In the Play

Pantalone, a Venetian	Oratio and
Flaminia, his daughter	Cinthio, friends
Pedrolino, his servant	Flavio, alone
Doctor Gratiano	Captain Spavento
Isabella, his daughter	Arlecchino, his servant
Burattino	
Franceschina, his wife	Policemen, who talk

Properties

A beard like Pantalone's
 A nightshirt
 Red breeches and shoes like Pantalone's
 A dress like Franceschina's
 A porter's costume
 A hat
 A magician's costume

ACT ONE

The City of Pesaro

PANTALONE, DR. GRATIANO

Pantalone and Gratiano enter, speaking of the beauty and grace of Franceschina, wife of Burattino. They discover that they are rivals; they then call each other names and come to blows.

PEDROLINO

At that, Pedrolino enters and separates them. He is told the reason for their quarrel, and he becomes enraged because he too is in love with Franceschina. Then all three start fighting.

CAPT. SPAVENTO, ARLECCHINO

At that moment, the Captain enters with drawn sword. He and Arlecchino pretend to have been fighting and make a great deal of frightening noise. All three rivals for Franceschina run off.

FLAMINIA

Flaminia then appears at her window. She is in love with the Captain. She greets him and entreats him. The Captain says he does not love her and looks at her contemptuously.

- ISABELLA Thereupon, Isabella appears at her window, hoping to make Flaminia jealous and to have some fun with the Captain. She greets him, and they speak together amorously.
- ORATIO While the Captain is rejoicing over the love of Isabella, Oratio, who loves Isabella, arrives. Seeing the Captain speaking with her, he beats the Captain, who runs off. Arlecchino also runs off, and Oratio chases after them. Isabella, laughing, says, "Blessed are these hands." Flaminia replies, "Your tongue is tiresome," and they begin to quarrel.
- FRANCESCHINA At that, Franceschina arrives. She tries to stop the quarrel, taking Isabella's side. Flaminia calls her a slut. Franceschina says she lies.
- BURATTINO Burattino, husband of Franceschina, comes out and sends her into the house. Then he tries to settle the quarrel, also taking Isabella's side. Flaminia calls him a cuckold, saying "Your own father sleeps with your wife," and she goes in. Isabella withdraws, leaving Burattino weeping over his lost honor.
- PEDROLINO Then, Pedrolino arrives and hears from Burattino what Flaminia said to him. He says he is going to speak with Doctor Gratiano about his honor. Pedrolino tells him that Gratiano is in love with her. Burattino, in despair, curses the hour he took a wife and goes. Pedrolino complains about Flaminia's revealing that Pantalone loves Franceschina.
- CINTHIO Then, Cinthio, who loves Isabella, enters and asks Pedrolino to help him. Pedrolino promises to do all he can but on the condition that he help Pedrolino in his love for Franceschina. Cinthio promises. Pedrolino knocks.
- ARLECCHINO Arlecchino, in disguise, enters and hides in order to hear everything.
- ISABELLA Isabella appears at her window to watch.
- FLAMINIA At that, Flaminia appears at her window to watch.
- FRANCESCHINA Then, Franceschina comes out. Cinthio, with smooth talk, speaks of Pedrolino's love for her and urges her to take him.
- PANTALONE Pantalone then enters and hides so he can hear what is going on.
- BURATTINO At that, Burattino arrives and also hides to listen, but he does not realize that Cinthio is speaking for Pedrolino. Franceschina, after listening to Cinthio, puts her hand in her purse and gives him some money, saying, "I am glad to see you have been to pimp's school." Cinthio is about to answer, when they all begin calling him, "Pimp, pimp, pay off the pimp!" Finally he is enraged and leaves; each goes into his house, and the first act ends.

ACT TWO

PANTALONE, PEDROLINO

Pantalone and Pedrolino enter. Pantalone is enraged at Flaminia's telling Burattino that he enjoyed his wife and asks Pedrolino if he is in love with her. Lying, Pedrolino says no, but says he is wooing

her for Gratiano. Then he scolds Pantalone for being in love with Franceschina. Pantalone starts to go into his house in anger; Pedrolino, seeing Burattino coming, raises his voice.

BURATTINO Burattino arrives in time to hear Pedrolino shout, "I want to remind you that it is a terrible thing to dishonor that poor man Burattino." Hearing that, Burattino tells Pedrolino he is a good man. Humiliated, Pantalone beats Pedrolino, but Burattino separates them.

FRANCESCHINA At that, Franceschina, hearing the commotion, comes out and scolds Pantalone, taking Pedrolino's side. Enraged, Pantalone calls her a slut and goes off up the street. Franceschina, weeping, comes into Pedrolino's arms; then, regaining her composure, she sends Burattino off to bring charges against Pantalone. Burattino, leaving his wife in the hands of his fellow countryman, goes off. Franceschina, embracing Pedrolino, tells him she aches to be a mother. Pedrolino says he will be the father, and they go in to enjoy themselves.

CINTHO, ORATIO Cinthio enters with Oratio, laughing at the trick Franceschina played on him about the pimp routine. Then he and Oratio begin talking of their loves. They discover they are rivals for the love of Isabella and agree to talk to her about it. They knock.

ISABELLA Isabella comes out and hears of their love for her. Then she asks what part of her has made them fall in love. Oratio says he has fallen in love with her beautiful body, praising the beauty of each part of her. Cinthio says he has fallen in love with her soul and speaks of the beauty of it, saying that it has filled him with a burning passion for her. After listening to each tell what part of her has made him fall in love, Isabella answers that Cinthio enjoys the beauty of her soul, and she leaves that with him; that Oratio, her betrothed, will enjoy the love of her body, and she goes in. Cinthio is grief-stricken. Oratio tells him to be patient and leaves.

FLAVIO Flavio, Cinthio's very dear friend, enters and consoles him. He promises to do all he can to help as he also is in love. He sends Cinthio into the house. Then he discourses on his love for Flaminia and on her cruelty.

CAPT. SPAVENTO, ARLECCHINO At that moment, the Captain, armed from head to toe and angered at the beating he received from Oratio, enters. Flavio hears what happened and promises to arrange matters so that Oratio does not marry Isabella. Then they go off.

DR. GRATIANO, BURATTINO Gratiano enters, scolding Burattino because he wanted to bring charges against Pantalone. Burattino says he doesn't know whom to trust and that he is being betrayed by somebody. Hearing that, Gratiano replies that Pedrolino has cuckolded him. Burattino says he is not telling the truth, that Pedrolino is his faithful friend. They hear talking in Burattino's house and go near to listen.

FRANCESCHINA, PEDROLINO Franceschina and Pedrolino are inside talking amorously together. Franceschina asks Pedrolino would he marry her if her husband were to die. Pedrolino replies yes and says other pleasant things to her. Burattino wants to shout at them, but Gratiano keeps him from shouting and urges him to bring charges against Pedrolino. They leave together to go to the court to have Pedrolino arrested.

FRANCESCHINA, PEDROLINO

Franceschina and Pedrolino come out laughing at the trick they played on Burattino. They pet each other affectionately; then Franceschina goes into the house, and Pedrolino remains.

FLAMINIA

At that, Flaminia appears at her window. She has heard all and says she is going to tell her father Pantalone. Pedrolino asks for her help, promising to help her get the Captain, whom she loves, if she can get her father to pardon him.

PANTALONE

Suddenly, Pantalone enters, enraged at Franceschina. He hears the name of the Captain and wants to know what's going on about the Captain. Shrewdly, Flaminia tells her father that the Captain, who is in love with her, has beaten Pedrolino because he refused to play the pimp for him, and because she called him a villain, and weeping, she goes back in. Pantalone rails against the Captain, calling his name and telling Pedrolino that if he wants to remain with him, he must do two things: one is to beat the Captain, and the other is to get Franceschina for him.

FLAVIO, CAPT. SPAVENTO, ARLECCHINO

At that moment, Flavio enters dressed as a magician. He instructs the Captain and Arlecchino to hide; then he approaches Pantalone and reveals his profession, saying he can help him avenge himself on his enemy, the Captain, and then get Franceschina for him to enjoy. He tells him to go dress himself as a porter and orders him to bring along a bat. Pantalone, overjoyed, goes off. Pedrolino begs the magician not to allow Pantalone to enjoy Franceschina. The magician calls her.

FRANCESCHINA

Franceschina comes out and learns from the magician that he can arrange for her to enjoy her lover, Pedrolino, without her husband suspecting. She thanks him, whereupon the magician orders Pedrolino to dress as a woman and she, in a quarter of an hour, is to appear, but until then she is not to speak.

BURATTINO

At that, Burattino arrives, having brought charges against Pedrolino. Immediately, Flavio draws a circle with his wand, then embraces Burattino, kisses him, and leaves without saying a word. Pedrolino does the same and leaves. Arlecchino kisses Franceschina and leaves. Franceschina embraces and kisses her husband. They go into the house, and here the second act ends.

ACT THREE**ISABELLA**

Isabella enters, discourses on love, and wonders why she has not seen Oratio.

FLAVIO

Flavio enters, still dressed as a magician. He tells Isabella he is a magician who left his remote homeland to help her, making her understand that he is a kinsman of Oratio. He has come only to bring happiness to them and to make her father agree to their marriage. All this he will do in half an hour. Isabella thanks him and leaves, happy.

BURATTINO

Burattino comes out and tells Flavio that his wife does not talk. The magician tells him that he has been betrayed by his wife, and he will help him avenge himself. Burattino begs him to do so, and Flavio sends Burattino off to find some cheese powder and goldsmiths.

- FRANCESCHINA Franceschina comes out of the house and says not a word, but the magician makes her go back in.
- ORATIO At that moment, Oratio arrives. Flavio tells him he is a magician, kinsman of Isabella, come from his unknown land to preside over the disorder Oratio brought about when he left the homeland of his parents to pursue his love and that, by his magic, he will make her Oratio's wife. Oratio rejoices. Then the magician explains that he transforms her into the likeness of a neighbor of Oratio's, so that she is not recognized by her other relatives; and he will show Oratio how to change her back to her own likeness, if he promises to marry her. Oratio promises. The magician then orders him to close his eyes and to kiss her as soon as she comes into his house. Then Flavio hides Oratio and calls out Franceschina, telling her not to talk or she will die on the spot. He gives her to Oratio, who thinks that she is Isabella thus transformed. Flavio takes Oratio's cape and hat, and then Oratio goes into his house, taking Franceschina with him, leaving Flavio outside.
- FLAMINIA Just then, Flaminia appears at her window, lamenting because she has not seen Pedrolino acting as go-between in her love for the Captain. Flavio talks to her, telling her he is a magician and kinsman of the Captain. He has talked to Pedrolino and has transformed the Captain into the image of her father so that he will not be recognized, and in a quarter of an hour, he will have come to her. Flaminia thanks him and goes back in, happy. Flavio remains.
- CINTHIO Cinthio arrives, and Flavio immediately puts Oratio's cape and hat on him and has Cinthio knock on Isabella's door.
- ISABELLA Isabella comes out and leads Cinthio into the house, thinking it is Oratio.
- BURATTINO Burattino enters and tells Flavio he can't find the powder. The magician sends him for the police so that he can have taken to prison whoever makes him a cuckold, planning, meanwhile, to send them into Oratio's house. Burattino happily goes off, leaving Flavio.
- DR. GRATIANO Gratiano arrives, complaining because Franceschina was handed over to a rascal like Pedrolino. Flavio notes all he says, then speaks to him, saying he is a magician and wants to help him enjoy Franceschina. He orders Gratiano to go dress up as a soldier like Captain Spavento. Gratiano, happy, goes off to disguise himself. Flavio explains he did that to keep him from going into his house.
- PANTALONE At that moment enters dressed as a porter and carrying a bat. He gives the bat to the magician, who pretends to conjure with it, telling Pantalone of its powers. He makes him believe that when he beats a man with it, immediately he will be changed into a woman; when he beats a woman, immediately she will be changed into a man. So as long as he holds it, no one can attack him. Pantalone, happy, goes off to try it and to find the Captain. Flavio says he is going to dress up to look like Pantalone and goes off.
- ORATIO Oratio appears at the window to find the magician because the woman does not change her appearance when he kisses her with his eyes closed.

- PEDROLINO At that, Pedrolino appears, dressed as a woman and in clothes like Franceschina's. He stands before Oratio's door. When Oratio sees him, he believes he is the woman who was in the house with him and calls to her, telling her not to leave.
- PANTALONE At that moment, Pantalone arrives and, seeing the woman, he tries out the bat and hits him.
- ORATIO At the instant he hits him, Oratio arrives and separates them, but Pantalone hits Pedrolino again. Pedrolino finally reveals himself to be a man. Pantalone laughs, thinking that that proves the power of the enchanted bat. Then he is about to hit Oratio, saying he is going to change him into a woman, but Oratio says he does not want to be changed. Pedrolino runs off.
- FRANCESCHINA Just then, Franceschina comes out of Oratio's house. Pantalone hits her. Oratio recognizes her as the woman who was in the house; he embraces her and takes her into the house. Pantalone praises the magician for his great power.
- FLAVIO At that, Flavio enters, dressed like Pantalone, wearing a beard like his. Pantalone sees him and asks him who he is. Flavio says he is the soul of Pantalone looking for the body of Pantalone, who had left it as the result of an old vendetta over love. Pantalone asks where he is going. Flavio says he is going to be a companion to Flaminia, his daughter. Pantalone again praises the magician, and he hides to see what his daughter will do. Flavio knocks.
- FLAMINIA Flaminia comes out, and seeing him, thinks he is her love thus transformed and takes him into the house. Pantalone laughs at his daughter's simpleness.
- DR. GRATIANO At that moment, Gratiano enters dressed like the Captain. Pantalone, thinking it is the Captain, beats him.
- BURATTINO, POLICEMEN Immediately, Burattino arrives with the police. Seeing Pantalone beating the Captain, the police arrest him. Gratiano runs off. Burattino sends some of the police into Oratio's house. They go in and return with Franceschina and Oratio.
- FRANCESCHINA, ORATIO Franceschina tells them she was in the house by the power of the magician who put her there. The policemen recognize Pantalone and are told by him that the magician had him put on that costume.
- PEDROLINO Then, out comes Pedrolino, who says, "He made me dress in woman's clothes so that you would beat me."
- ISABELLA, CINTHIO At that moment, Isabella comes out, arguing with Cinthio. They discover they were tricked by the magician, who, Isabella says, told her he would give her to Oratio.
- DR. GRATIANO Then, Gratiano enters and says that the magician made him take a beating. Pantalone asks his pardon, saying he believed he was hitting the Captain.

FLAMINIA At that, Flaminia comes out of the house screaming that the spirit of her father had violated her. All are astonished at this. Pantalone declares he is going to kill that spirit. Meekly, he calls to him.

FLAVIO Flavio comes out and reveals himself, saying he did all that he did only to get Flaminia, whom he loves. He begs the forgiveness of everyone; all then praise him for his cleverness. Pantalone gives him Flaminia as wife, and Cinthio marries Isabella.

CAPT. SPAVENTO, ARLECCHINO

Thereupon, the Captain enters and draws his sword on Oratio, who tells him he wants to die anyway because he has lost Isabella, but Flavio makes peace with the Captain and reconciles Burattino and Pedrolino. Pedrolino tells Burattino that he and Franceschina knew he was listening at the door, and what they said was only meant to be a trick on him. Burattino believes him, takes Franceschina for a good and beautiful wife; and here the play ends.