Charlie - Doddy B

Act 1, Sc 3

DADDY B

That's me. I'm an actor. In the show. How do-y' do ma'm. I'm an actor in the show.

Scene 3

(The Venue becomes a vaudeville stage. LIGHTS change. MUSIC begins. CHARLIE and DADDY B enter in a striped coats and bulbous nose pieces.)

CHARLIE (sings)

"De sveetest ting in life, vat odder peoples say, Iss Samstag afternoon, a-walkin' down old Broadway. Mein schwester in der lager beer saloon vill stay. But I should alvays make a valk Right down dot pretty Broadway.

DADDY B (sings)

I valk dot Broadway down
I valk dot Broadway down
Der nicest thing as neffer vas
Iss valk dot Broadway down.

(DADDY B checks his pocket, and reveals a big wad of cash.)

CHARLIE

Here comes zat fella, Mike Schleddelhepper. Look, see, ya? He's got some vad there? Say Mike, mein old friend. Vere you been? I been lookin all ofer vor you.

DADDY B

Zey, Sharlie.

(Wiggles uncomfortably).

CHARLIE

What for iss it you viggle so?

DADDY B

Ach! Iss no-sing. Iss just my undervear.

CHARLIE

Under vere?

DADDY B

No, underevear.

CHARLIE

Ya, under vere.

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DADDY B

Dot's vat I said.

CHARLIE

Vat you has said?

DADDY B

Under vere.

CHARLIE

No! Whas is under zere?

DADDY B

Oh! Under here!

CHARLIE

Undere zere. Ya. Vas iss under zere?

DADDY B

I am.

(Money slides out of his pants.)

Mein got! Don't tell, Sharlie. I von on za horses today. Zo much money. I gotta get it to za bank before it clozez.

CHARLIE

Vat? You hhand it ofer to za crooks zo soon?

DADDY B

You got zome better idear, Sharlie?

CHARLIE

You gotta invest, Mike. Be an entrepheneweha.

DADDY B

A vat?

CHARLIE

Open your own business!

DADDY B

Oh, ya?

CHARLIE

Ya! Unt fact, I'm goink to open up a zhrestazhrant. Maybe I can talk my pahtnazs into letting you give uz za money.

DADDY B

Oh, Sharlie. I do't know mush about business.

CHARLIE

You don't hef to. I'll take care of ev-rysink. You'll be my vaiter.

DADDY B

Vhat? Vy?

CHARLIE

You get za tips.

DADDY B

Oh?

CHARLIE

Unt den you hhond zem to me.

DADDY B

Vhot? Vy?

CHARLIE

Because I'll be your boss. You'll be a schvell vaiter. How much have you got?

DADDY B

Only sixty t'ousand.

CHARLIE

Ze couldn't make a vaiter any schveller.

(DADDY B hands CHARLIE a wad of bills).

Now, we practice. I vill play a lady who comes to our restaurant.

(CHARLIE sits at a table)

CHARLIE

Oh, Vaiter!

DADDY B

Yes, sir?

CHARLIE

Vhas is zas?

DADDY B

Vat?

CHARLIE

You coll me sir. Vy?

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Ya?

CHARLIE

You can't zay sir to za lady.

DADDY B

You said you were za boss!

CHARLIE

No, Mike. I ain't za boss no more...

DADDY B

You qwit?

CHARLIE

No! I am za boss...but.

DADDY B

You're not za lady?

CHARLIE

No, I am za lady now. But first, I am za boss. Zo vee show you how to treat za lady ven she comes, so ven she zees you are such a schvell vaiter, she leaves you za big money. You see. I am za boss who is za lady who comes to za restaurant. Zo. Now. Vot am I?

DADDY B

You're verhy confused.

CHARLIE

Just give me za menu!

DADDY B

De vot?

CHARLIE

De menu.

DADDY B

I know you mean me. But, whot do you vant?

CHARLIE

Menu!

DADDY B

Mean me?

CHARLIE

No! Menu!

DADDY B

Oh, mean you? Right....

Vhot again?

CHARLIE

Never mind. I vill do it, now pay attention. You are a lady...You come in.

(gets ready to role play)

Vy, hello madame...

DADDY B

Hello, boss!

CHARLIE

No! You are za schvell lady! Remember?

I am not your boss.

DADDY B

Yes, m'am?

CHARLIE

No!

DADDY B

Vat!

CHARLIE

No, you never say yes m'am to a vaiter!

DADDY B

Sorry, Sharlie. How should I treat za vaiter?

CHARLIE

Like a dog!

DADDY B

Oh! Ya! I got it. Zorry.

CHARLIE

Okay?

DADDY B

Ya. Zorry

CHARLIE

You ready?

DADDY B

Ya, I got it.

CHARLIE

You sure, Mike?

DADDY B

Ya, Sharlie. I got 'ya. You be surprised, I got it so good!

CHARLIE

Okay.

Goot evenink, M'am!

DADDY B

Vy, you filthy dog!

(Punches CHARLIE. Slapstick flight ensues. CHARLIE's physical comedy is brilliant. DADDY B milks curtain call as EXIT MUSIC plays.)

(Young GEORGE BURNS enters wearing a flamenco dancer costume.)

GEORGE BURNS

You know, Charlie, you're pretty funny.

CHARLIE

Thank you!

GEORGE BURNS

I'd say you got what it takes.

CHARLIE

That's a swell thing to say!

GEORGE BURNS

But that old man. You'd have an act if you dumped him.

(Cymbals. GEORGE BURNS exits.)

(Light cue on Charlie.

SKEETER

I adored Papa. He could do no wrong in my eyes, no matter what.