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Charles Baldwin, *Mad Dog*, 1914

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MAD DOG
New Pantomimical Patriotic Sketch
By
Charles Baldwin

Mad Dog

SCENE 1: Exterior of Recruiting office, Whitehall. Before curtain rises men's voices heard signing "It's a long way to Tipperary," Halfway through chorus curtain rises discovering a line of young men waiting in a queue to enlist. Among them are Collins's men. Everything must indicate suppressed excitement. A commissionaire is standing at entrance of recruiting office during the scene, at intervals, he lets the men into the office one at a time. A Hawker is selling flags of Belgium, France and Great Britain. A conclusion of chorus.

BILL; (A Painter in the queue). Are we down hearted?

ALL; No-o-o-o.

BUGGINGS; What oh! Bill are you going to enlist too.

BILL; Rather.

BUGGINGS; And there's old Harry and Tom and all Collins's men. Have you chucked up painting?

BILL; Not likely. We're going out to paint another bit of red on the map.

BUGGINGS; Good luck to yer.

BILL; They've asked for it long enough and now they're going to get it, for this time it's going to be a fight to the finish.

(A detachment of soldiers march across the stage to the time of "Soldiers of the Kings" L. to R. and exit-the crowd cheer them wildly, Business)

(ENTER from recruiting office ALGIE, a fair haired effeminate dude)

ALGIE; They've refused me, I've never been spoken to like it in my life before - anyone would think I was a born fool (to Commissionaire). I shall inform my mother the Countess of Clackton and she'll go to the War Office and have these fellows discharged.

COMMIS; Ah, my lad, things are different there now, we've got a man at the head of affairs.

ALGIE; A man - who's he?

COMMIS; (Drawing himself up and saluting). Lord Kitchener.
(BUS ;)

(ENTRE A NURSE in uniform L. goes to Recruiting Office. Commissionaire salutes her.)

NURSE; Good morning, Sergeant.

(She exits into recruiting office.) Please Sister see, if you can find my brother at the American Consul's.

ALGIE; That's a nice looking girl, do you know her?

COMMIS; I have cause to sir. She nursed me when I was wounded in South Africa. God bless her. She pulled me through.

(ENTRE FLOSSIE a languid well dressed woman)

FLOSSIE; (To Commissionaire) Oh, good morning, I was thinking about applying for the post of nurse, how does one go about that sort of thing.

COMMIS; Well in the first place Miss, what can you do?

FLOSSIE; Oh; I can do anything.

COMMIS; Can you sew?

FLOSSIE; Good gracious me no.

COMMIS; Can you cook?

FLOSSIE; Of course not.

COMMIS; Can you dress a wound?

FLOSSIE; Don't suggest anything so horrid. I thought I should only have to sit in the officer's tent and hold their hands - or write letters to their mothers or play the piano to them or something like that.

COMMIS; I'm afraid there's no room for any of your sort out here.

FLOSSIE; Oh that's a pity. And I had such a charming costume made.

COMMIS; And now it will be wasted.

FLOSSIE; Oh dear me no it won't I shall use it for Convent Garden Ball (seeing ALGIE) Hullo, Algie, what are you looking so pipped about?

ALGIE; These people here don't know their business. Here have I come all the way from Clackton-on-sea, I left my yacht the Skylark to offer my services and they refused me. They are a lot of silly asses that's what they are. I could have given them a bully lot of useful advise. Now I shan't - they can go out and jolly well mess the war up for all I care.

FLOSSIE; Never mind, Algie, you can take me to lunch.

ALGIE; Bai Jove, that's an awfully brainy idea - come along.

(They exit R.)

(ENTER GENTLEMAN WITH POLICEMAN)

POICE; Forged your name on a cheque has he?

GENT; Yes I think he got into the money lenders hands. But I'll have him arrested.

POLICE; (With pocket book) Can you give me a description?

GENT; Certainly. Age about 24, (starts and points to a pallid youth in the queue) Why there he is. (Business, the young fellow tries to hide his face) Arrest him.

POLICE; Arrest him! But he's going to enlist.

GENT; I don't care, arrest him.

POLICE; But he's going to fight for his country. Are you sure he's the man.

GENT; Going to fight for his country (Business) No, he's not the man.

POLICE; I thought not sir.

(PALLID YOUTH is motioned into recruiting office by COMMISSIONAIRE - he goes in)

(Business - a street Hawker enters selling toys on a tray)

HAWKER; Ere yer are, the British Bull dog, all made to wag its tail.

(Business, BILL buys one of the toys)

BILL; I'll have one for luck (looks at toy) why these things are made in Germany.

CROWD; What!

(Business to be rehearsed, they smash man's tray up)

HAWKER; Now I'm ruined, and all through supporting Germany - Hanged if I don't enlist and get a bit of my own back.

(Crowd Cheer - ENTER MAX and CARL)

MAX; Dats it, cheer you fools while you have the chance. Soon the mailed fist will close on you and you will be our slaves forever.

CARL; Vot fools dose English are, for years dey haf let us come into deir country in thousands to take de bread out of their mouths.

MAX; Yah dot vas so, but I don't like de look of all dese peoples enlisting.

CARL; Bah! Ven dey see our soldiers dey will run like rabbits.
(ENTER BOY SCOUT, he bumps into CARL)
Go away you great clumsy brute or I git you vot for ain't it?

BOY SCOUT; (Calmly) You will? I should like to see you do it.

MAX; Yah ve vill (To CARL) Vy don't you hit him?

CARL; I haf got nodings in mine hand. No I vill wait until ve haf conquered England.

MAX; Yah, ve vill go and drink to de day.

(They EXIT R.)

SCOUT; Hanged if I don't think they are a couple of spies. I'll be keeping an eye on them (EXIT R.)

(ENTER COLLINS and MRS COLLINS)

COLLINS; I tell you I'll find them, the lazy lot of scamps. I'll try the pig and whistle.

MRS C; (Firmly) You are not going in there.

COLLINS; Oh! I'm not going to have a drink.

MRS C; No; I'll see to that.

COLLINS; But I must find my men, here I get a big contract to paint (local names) rabbit hutch, and not one of them turned up (seeing men in queue) Ah, there you are. What's the meaning of this. I sent a telegram to be in the office for 6 this morning.

BILL; Did you send that wire?

COLLINS; Here have I got a contract to whitewash (name of some small local pigeon fancier)'s pigeon house, and nobody to do the work. What's the meaning of it?

BUGGINS; You'll have to postpone it, guv'nor. We're going to enlist.

BILL; We are going out to war.

COLLINS; War! Is there a war going on. That's fanny there's nothing about it in the papers.

BUGGINS; There's a war right enough. Lord Kitchener's calling for men and we are going out to fight for old England.

COLLINS; Calling for men? Then I'll enlist too.

ALL; Bravo!

(Business COLLINS pushes himself into group at top)

COLLINS; Ease up there.

MRS C; (Rushing up and pulling him away) Harold, what are you going to do?

COLLINS; What am I going to do. I'm going to do my duty like an Englishman.

MRS C; But think, Harold. Think, you will be parted from me.

COLLINS; That's why I'm going. I mean I must be going.

MRS C; Oh Harold, darling think of our ten little children.

COLLINS; Stop dearest; would you make me a coward, remember my country wants me and I must go. England calls for Lord Kitchener and (smacking his chest) the troubles over.

MRS C; Oh Harold (Weeps).

COLLINS; There is no time for women's tears, this is the time for strong men. I must go - good-bye. My country wants me. I tell you my country wants me.
(Pushing her off, goes to commissionaire and salutes)

You want me?

COMMIS; No!

(Business)

COLLINS; You silly ass, you've spoilt the whole thing - if you'd have said yes I could have got away for a week or two.

COMMIS; I'm sorry sir you are too old.

COLLINS; Too what? Here have you had a good look at me?

(ENTRE ALGIE)

COMMIS; Oh yes sir.

COLLINS; And you won't have me, then I'll join the special police force, and have you pinched.

(Business COMMISSIONAIRE lets more recruits pass into the recruiting office)

ALGIE; Don't be down-hearted they have refused me. What do you think of that? Refused Me.

COLLINS; I'm not surprised, you're too thin.

ALGIE; All the better the shots would miss me. I'll go back to Clackton and join my yacht.

COLLINS; You have a yacht?

ALGIE; Rather! The Skylark.

COLLINS; Anymore for Skylark? I'll come with you and we'll go after them on our own.

ALGIE; You will, good.

COLLINS; I must have one smack at them, the first enemy I see is going to cop.

(ENTER MAX and CARL followed by BOY SCOUT)

SCOUT; Look out Mr Collins, there's two of them!
(Business COLLINS knocks them both down)

(Crowd cheer)

(Black out)

END OF SCENE
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SCENE 2

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(Deck of Enemy's Man of War)

(As lights go up the CAPTAIN of the ship is seen talking to an officer)

CAPTAIN; Ve are now at sea, hof all our brave crew got over dere illness.

LIEUTENANT; Yah, most of dem can now stand.

CAPTAIN; Goot, den let dem parade pefore me and I vill make dem a speech.

(Business LIEUTENANT blows a whistle)

(A funny looking crew with big fat stomachs and large moustaches come and stand in line)

(A noise is heard off. A voice crying "Go on, dare!")

(Two men heavily chained ENTRE last a sailor driving them with a stick)

Who are dese?

LIEUTENANT; Dose are de Volunteers.

CAPTAIN; Goot! England will tremble ven she knows how eager our nation is to fight.

LIEUTENANT; Yah!

CAPTAIN; Mine brave crew. Ve are now about to take our place in de sun. Ve are now about to get it - vot you call - in de neck, after forty years of preparations de sword has been forced into our hand, and re are going to show ze world who's vich.

LIEUTENANT; Yah, dot vos so!

CAPTAIN; So it vos and ven ve again sheath the sword ve shall know all about it.

LIEUTENANT; Yah, dot vots so!

CAPTAIN; Minesellaf and my master.

(All salute)

are de bravest sailors on - on - earth, and you are de next bravest except me.

ALL; Hoch!

CAPTAIN; Ve are de bravest sailors vat neter vas -

(A shot heard off)

(Comic business the crew fly and hide themselves)

(After Business), Gott in Himmel, vas is das.

LIEUTENANT; Ve are safe, it is a sausage burst its skin

(Business CAPTAIN falls on LIEUTENANT and kisses him him below the cheeks)

CAPTAIN; CALL my brave crew!

(LIEUTENANT blows whistle)

(Crew come forward, salute)

Vonce more out arms are successful. Take dese medals -

(Pins medals on crews chest)

Send a wireless message to our master, and tell him of our glorious victory.

(Business LIEUTENANT goes up companion ladder to upper deck, shirts and points to sea -)

LIEUTENANT; See dere is a - a - boat.

CAPTAIN; A boat vere?

LIEUTENANT; Dere, mit a flag flown down side up.

CAPTAIN; Can you see da name?

LIEUTENANT; De Skylark.

CAPTAIN; De Skylark? I know him not - vot guns?

LIEUTENANT; No guns. It is a British pleasure craft in distress, evidently blown out to sea.

CAPTAIN; Now vos our chance to make de world tremble, I vill capture her (Looks through telescope) But I don't care to risk my brave crew.

LIEUTENANT; Vy not?

CAPTAIN; She is almost half as big as us.

LIEUTENANT; Vy not deceive them.

CAPTAIN; How?

LIEUTENANT; Hoist de British flag.

CAPTAIN; Yah, dot vos a good idea of mine, Hoist the British flag.
(Business; small flag run up)
 Now my brave crew stand around me while dey come aboard.
(Business; the crew stand around CAPTAIN)
(He gets behind them)
(COLLINS, ALGIE, MRS COLLINS, FLOSSIE, etc come aboard)

COLLINS; I tell you it was all your fault, I told you not to pull the plug out of the boat.

ALGIE; How did I know you couldn't steer the bally thing?

COLLINS; (Looking at Foreign Sailors) Good gracious, Madame Tussauds.

ALGIE; (To CAPTAIN) I say, pier master what place is this?

COLLINS; That's not the Pier Master ha'nt you got any more sense than that! That's the keeper (Pointing to the crew and these are the animals. (Throwing bit of biscuit down) Come on Consul!

CAPTAIN; Yah alone and unaided I haf captured de British fleet Ve vill now hold ein court martial.
(Business; a table is put centre of stage a chair is placed in front of it COLLINS sits on it)

COLLINS; Thanks old cock.

CAPTAIN; Place the prisoners over their.
(Business; the crew take COLLINS and the others and place them left of stage. The CAPTAIN and LIEUTENANT sit at the table. A bench is placed for the prisoners they sit down)

Stand up up
(ALGIE stands up. COLLINS falls off)
No, not you, you -
(COLLINS stands up)
No you
(FLOSSIE stands up)
No you
(Funny business all keep trying to find out who he means and stand up alternately finally they are all bobbing up and down)

DO you know vere you vos?

ALGIE; No do you?

CAPTAIN; You are mine prisoners.

ALL; Prisoners

COLLINS; LAGS!

ALGIE; This not a British ship at all.

COLLINS; I knew we should meet the enemy sooner or later.

MRS C; Oh Harold, what are we going to do now?

COLLINS; Leave everything to me.

CAPTAIN; (To ALGIE) Vot vos your name?

ALGIE; Algernon Percy De Vere Marmaduke Snooks.

CAPTAIN; Goot. You will be shot.
(COLLINS laughs at ALGIE)

ALGIE; Shot, Good gracious me and I've got my best silk socks on.

CAPTAIN; (To COLLINS) Vot is your name?

COLLINS; (Strong German accent) Mine name vos Fritz Heimensteiner von Collinshoffer.

SAILORS; Vot?

CAPTAIN; Fritz Heimensteiner (to LIEUTENANT) von of our brave spies (to COLLINS) Your address.

COLLINS; Steinerstrasse, Unten den Linden, Berlin.

CAPTAIN; (Pointing to FLOSSIE) And vos dis your frau?

COLLINS; No such luck, No dis von (points to MRS COLLINS)

CAPTAIN; (To LIEUTENANT) Goot, Give dem de state cabin.

COLLINS; (Whispers to CAPTAIN) She vos English.

CAPTAIN; Onderstandt (to SAILOR) Put her in de stoke hole.

COLLINS; You are a pal.

CAPTAIN; De orders ve vill make vork until ve return. (to LIEUTENANT) Take down dot flag.
(Business, Flag is hauled down)
Now you mine Fritz shall hoist our countries flag

COLLINS; Goot. (Business COLLINS hoists string of sausages)

CAPTAIN; (Who hasn't seen this) And now vot reward can I offer you?

COLLINS; (Pointing to FLOSSIE) Well, I should like this one to be going on with.

CAPTAIN; Yah, but we shall soon have dem all to pick from.

COLLINS; Well this one will do for now.

CAPTAIN; Goot. I vill go and send a wire to my master.

(EXIT)

(Business to be arranged with COLLINS and FLOSSIE.
Funny Business offering her a chair. COLLINS gets mixed
up in deck chair etc., after business)

FLOSSIE; And now Mr Collins what do you think they will do with us?

COLLINS; Do with us? You mean what are they going to do with them. Leave everything to me I'll get you out of it.

FLOSSIE; How brave you are.

COLLINS; And when we get back to England you must come and take tea with me.

FLOSSIE; With you?

COLLINS; Yes on day when the missis is out.

ALGIE; (Coming forward) I say there is a gunboat over there and it is one of ours. I don't think these people have noticed it.

COLLINS; Well, we must do our bit. If we could mess their guns up. Here comes the Captain. I'll get him to show us how they work.

(ENTER CAPTAIN)

CAPTAIN; YAH, de piggest and best vot nefervos.

COLLINS; How do they work?

CAPTAIN; I vill show you

(Business The CAPTAIN gives an order, the guns turn R. he gives another order, they turn L. The CAPTAIN proudly strolls to the guns and pats them. COLLINS gives an order, the guns turn suddenly and knock the CAPTAIN down. Business.)

Who did dose? Call the crew.

(LIEUTENANT blows whistle, Crew come on deck, MRS COLLINS ENTERS last with a black face)

CAPTAIN; Stand over dare
(The crew line up L. The two women are on that side of the stage)

A SAILOR; (Proudly) I did.

CAPTAIN; Take dot (slaps his face)
(SAILOR retreats howling)
I vill teach you whovos de boss, anit it?

COLLINS; That's right, put them all in irons. You are a brave man.

CAPTAIN; I should think I vos.

LIEUTENANT; (on Bridge) (in alarm) Ve are lost - a British gun boat is bearing down upon us full speed.
(The English party cheer)

CAPTAIN; Gott in Himmell, Hoist the English flag again, and let us escape.

COLLINS; You lay a hand on that flag if you dare.

CAPTAIN; Vot you mean? It is our only way of escape.

COLLINS; Then it's a way you're not going to have. You've got to fight. You've asked for it and now your going to get it.

CAPTAIN; Dot man vas a traitor, Seize him.

COLLINS; (Standing by guns) First man that moves I'll blow to kingdom come.

CAPTAIN; Put de women in front of us.
(Business: The women are pushed in front of the sailors.)

Now den fire if you like.

COLLINS; You miserable cowards.

MRS C; Fire, Harold we're not afraid.

COLLINS; (Aside) it's a terrible temptation.

FLOSSIE; (seizing pistol from CAPTAIN'S belt she covers sailors with pistol). Run Mrs Collins.

ALGIE; Come on let's have a go at them.

COLLINS; Yes. For King and Country.

(Business to be arranged. Funny chase and combat, the sailors are chased up the companion ladder; some are thrown over board some jump over, nice splash. A Cannon is heard firing off. Cannon balls fall on the deck. A Zeppelin airship passes on a wire at back. COLLINS fires at it, it collapses into the sea. The CAPTAIN gets knocked over and jumped on. A cannon ball hits COLLINS. He turns and strikes ALGIE. The sailors run round the stage trying to get away from COLLINS who strikes them all with a big stick.

The music grows louder, the cannon balls get bigger.

(At the end of the combat all the sailors are lying dead on the stage.)

(The music changes into Rule Britannia. The gunboat's crew rush aboard. The CAPTAIN shaking COLLIN'S hand as curtain falls.

PICTURE
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THE END
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