

19. THE SAD END OF PROCRUSTES

A moral tale in Mime

Cast

Procrustes	A wicked inn keeper
Maria	His sloppy serving wench
Marcus	A clumsy serving boy
Randolphus	A weary traveller
Anna	A marketwoman
Antonius	A soldier
Roberta	His girl friend
Lucia and Julia	Old gossips
Theseus	A hero from Greece
Horatius	His faithful servant

Chorus of Noises

[Catalogue of Noises for Chorus to practice, using props

Scene I

*Newspaper rustling, fire crackling, chair scraping, clinking glasses, chatter-chatter.
Hero's welcome, greeting, plonk down the plate.
Door shutting, ah-h-h dread and horror.*

Scene II

*Tying up, struggling, sawing off toes, head, bundling away the body.
Hero's growl of anger, tying up, struggling, stretch, s-t-r-e-t-c-h, sword whoosh, chop.
Hero strides off into the sunset.]*

SCENE I – A WAYSIDE INN

Wicked Procrustes is reading a paper in the bar. Marcus is trying to light the fire. Maria is arranging the chairs.

Randolphus and Anna, then Antonius and Roberta followed by Lucia and Julia come in. They call for drinks. Drink them. Call for more.

Theseus and Horatius arrive. Ask for food. Served, not very well, by Marcus and Maria.

All the customers except Randolphus, Theseus and Horatius leave.

Randolphus is tired. Can he have a bed? Procrustes is delighted, leads him away.

SCENE II. THE EVIL BEDROOM

Procrustes, Marcus and Maria show Randolphus to the bed. They tuck him in. They tie him in. Oh dear, he's too long. Off with his toes. Off with his head. Procrustes steals his money. Just as they are bundling the body away.....

In come Theseus and Horatius. Horatius ties up the servants. Theseus ties Procrustes to the bed. Oh dear, he's too short. Horatius helps stretch, s-t-r-e-t-c-h him. Still his head sticks out the other end. Theseus draws his sword and whiss he beheads him. Head rolls, tumble, tumble to the floor. Theseus and Horatius stride off to their next adventure.

THE END