HALL SIDE 44

PLEASE READ ALL ROLES THAT AREN'T PERCY AS ONE CHARACTER

By the prince?

SCENE ELEVEN Blakeney Estate: The Library

(As the lights come up, PERCY stands in his library, wearing an outrageous outfit. JESSUP enters.) **JESSUP** Sir- The gentlemen have been, readied. Send them in. JESSUP exits. DEWHURST, OZZY, ELTON, FARLEIGH, HAL AND BEN enter, wearing equally outrageous outfits.) **START** DEWHURST Percy, really now-there is a limit. PERCY Patience, lads. There's a method to my madness. **DEWHURST** But tis madness! Spies and cutthroats surround us and we play dress-ups? PERCY Precisely. **FARLEIGH** Percy! I demand to know why I'm forced into this get-up! Upon leaving my house, the footman giggled- right in my face! **ELTON** Well, I think it's rather nice for a change. Quite..summery. **PERCY** Elton, sometimes you frighten me... But- we shall all continue to look "summery" for a while yet, boys. Desperate times call for desperate measures, what? We've been summoned to the palace. BEN The palace? FARLEIGH

PERCY

Yes. He has his suspicions. If he finds us out, he'll shut us down straightaway. British-French relations are tenuous enough these days without rabble rousers runnin' about.

HAL

Is that what he calls us? Rabble Rousers?

PERCY

That is how he refers to "the Pimpernel and his men," whomever they might be. But he'll never think it's *us*, will he? Naturally not, for the mere mention of that scoundrel makes us...

ALL

..Swoon?

END

PERCY

Indeed! Such ruffians besmirch the very name of manhood. Nay, tis our duty as males not to rush to the battle, but to the tailor!

No. 12 THE CREATION OF MAN

(Percy, Ozzy Dewhurst, Elton, Farleigh, Hal & Ben)

Percy:

PEACOCKS!

Elton:

SINK ME!

Percy:

THINK YE, SIR,

HOW THOSE FEATHERED BOYS LOVE TO FLAUNT THEIR TAILS!

STALLIONS!

Farleigh:

ZOUNDS, SIR!

Percy:

HOUNDS, SIR! STAGS!

Dewhurst:

OF THE GOOSIE AND THE GANDER, SIR,

WHICH GENDER IS THE GRANDER, SIR?

Percy:

TO RENDER TOTAL CANDOR, SIR:

THE SPLENDOR IS THE MALE'S!

OZZY

But Percy, I simply can *not* hop about wearin' pink chiffon.

PERCY

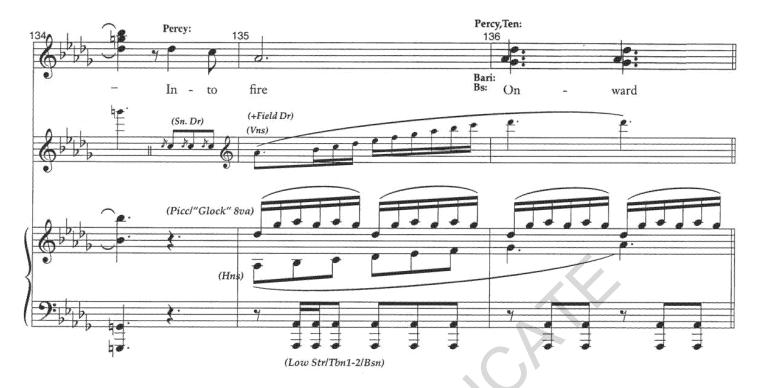
Ozzy, whatever we *must* do to deflect suspicion, we *shall* do- which in this case is.. to *shimmer*!

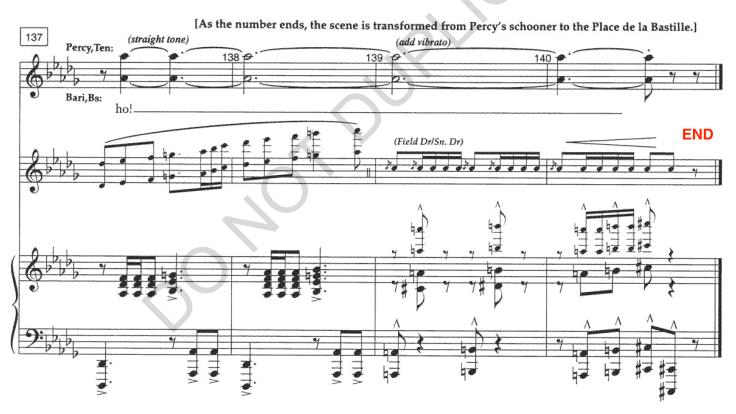












Applause segue