

Prince of Wales
British

SCENE TWELVE
England, The Royal Palace

SENTRY

His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales!

(The PRINCE OF WALES enters as PERCY and his MEN make a grand entrance, closing out the song.)

Percy & His Men: LA, BUT SOMEONE HAS TO STRIKE A POSE!
AND BEAR THE WEIGHT OF WELL-TAILORED CLOTHES!
EACH SPECIES NEEDS A SEX THAT'S FATED
TO BE HIGHLY DECORATED!
THAT IS WHY THE LORD CREATED MEN!

Stage cue #1 (At crest of applause,
conductor signals MEN to break
the stage and shift position.)

START

PRINCE

Is that *you*, Percy?

PERCY

Highness! How well you're lookin'!

PRINCE

I protest, you lie, Blakeney, smooth as a cat.

PERCY

You've caught me out.

PRINCE

No more lies, my lad. No, called you here for a bit of candor. I have reports you fellas sail back and forth to France at a dizzyin' pace these days- what's that all about then?

PERCY

Frou-Frou!

PRINCE

Beg pardon?

BEN

Frou-frou!

ELTON

Frills!

DEWHURST

Fabric!

PERCY

Where *else* can one get the finest but *France*?

FARLEIGH

Even in these days of butchery, the French do *still* turn out such rickrack!

OZZY

Gad, but we must have their trim, tassels, taffeta!

HAL

Whatever the cost!

PERCY

So back and forth we go-

Stage cue #2 (Conductor treats "go" as beat 3 in fast 4/4 time and conducts the MEN's next line as two measures of music.)

ALL

Row, row, row your boat-

PRINCE

Yes, but-.. you're *sure* you're not hooked up with this... Pimpernel fellow?

(The MEN's reactions range from horror to hilarity.)

PRINCE

Hmmm. Well, I must say you *are* all lookin' quite.. quite..

PERCY

Summery?

PRINCE

Yes.. quite summery. Oh, very well. You may continue certain brief and politic trips to France for the purposes of uh-.. "frou-frou" only. Oh, and next trip, pick me up one of them silly hats, what?

END

(SENTRY enters.)

SENTRY

Citizen Chauvelin, Agent of the French Republic.

Stage cue #3 (Conductor treats "-pub-" as beat 3 in fast 4/4 time and conducts Percy's BOUNDERS in a choreographed back-up routine for three measures.)

(SENTRY exits as CHAUVELIN enters with his two aides, MERCIER and COUPEAU.)

PRINCE

Oh, yes. Citizen Chauvelin, we've been expecting you.

PERCY

Shovelynn!

SCENE SEVEN**Outside the Prison****No. 22a****CHAUVELIN'S RUSE** (orchestra)*(Outside the prison, CHAUVELIN enters followed by ROBESPIERRE. Music continues under dialogue.)*

ROBESPIERRE

Well?

CHAUVELIN

They near the cart....

ROBESPIERRE

And the carriage?

CHAUVELIN

In position.

START

ROBESPIERRE

You realize, Chauvelin, our heads are on the *line* over this plan- *your head and mine* ... The Committee grows ugly... Do you think they would *hesitate* to denounce us?

CHAUVELIN

Our men are in place.

ROBESPIERRE

Then *give* the signal. Now.*(CHAUVELIN fires a gun.)*

*Music—fast segue from gunshot—
low string tremolo under dialogue.
[Bar 1 of next number.]*

VOICES OFF

They escape! Stop them! Stop that carriage! They're escaping!

ROBESPIERRE

And?

CHAUVELIN

It seems, Robespierre.. we have had another....*incident.*

ROBESPIERRE

They've *escaped*?! A pretty plan, Chauvelin! *Stylish.*

CHAUVELIN

They're in the carriage! Heading for the West Gate!

ROBESPIERRE

Just so! But the *note*? The paper with the scarlet flower?

CHAUVELIN

Thrust into the boy's hand. He took it.

ROBESPIERRE

Yes- Let the St. Justs escape. Make the boy think his own men have rescued him-

END

CHAUVELIN

~~And he will lead us to Calais perhaps? Boulogne? Whichever port the bastards use! He'll lead us straight to their boat and to the *Pimpernel*! Robespierre, I vow to you, before a new day dawns, it shall be recorded that the Scarlet Pimpernel fell to Madame Guillotine!~~

(Blackout.)

No. 22b`

IN THE COACH (orchestra with offstage chorus)

(Music continues as scene is transformed and under following dialogue.)

PRINCE OF WALES - SONG CUT

P/C

-194-

"They Seek"

START

Sing Melody

56

3X

58

Ensemble:

[Peek seek]

Sops, Men, Aitos:

(1st x only) 57 59

oui! Cue to continue: Percy:
"And what else do they do?"

They seek him here! They seek him there! Those

(Rds/Hns/Tpts/Tbns/Stgs/Ky1)

(Harpsi/Stgs)

60 61 62 63

Percy: Prince of W:

French-ies seek him ev - 'ry - where! Is he up yon-der or down in the dell? Where

64 65 66 67

is this blast - ed Pim - per - nel?

(+Hn/Tpt)

(+Tbn)

68

Chauv:

Percy:

Prince of W:

69 70 71

I be-lieve he's here up-on your own shore, Danc-ing 'round these hal-lowed halls?! Well,

(Tpt1/Harpsi)
(Hns/Tbns)
(Vc)

72

[To 75]

Ensemble:
S, Men/Alto:

73 75 76

af - ter all, we Eng-lish-men are known for splen-did balls! They

END

(Rds/Hns/Brs/Harpsi/Stgs)

77

Percy:

(1st x only)

Marg:
(2nd x)

78 79 80

seek him here! They seek him there! The la - dies seek him ev - 'ry-where. Please

2nd X: Percy: (spoken) "Marg... what should you say to him?"

(Harpichord/Stgs—both x)
(+Tbns, 1st x only)

(Rds/Harpsi/Stgs)