

ACT ONE

Scene 2

ELECTRIC CUE #1

SCENE:

Corridor.

Back Stage. Spiral staircase stage R.  
Doorman's booth stage L. Telephone  
attached to upstage corner of booth.  
Backdrop depicts corridor of theatre.

BOYS and GIRLS separate, some exit L.,  
others move briskly to iron staircase  
and exit. LOIS is at telephone.  
DOORMAN in his booth.

LOIS

(On phone)

Hello! Hello! Is Bill Calhoun there? I said Bill Calhoun!  
Well, you don't have to be so fresh about it!

(Hangs up)

Pop, let me know the minute Mr. Calhoun comes in.

(She moves towards staircase)

(DOORMAN leaves booth, stands by phone)

PAUL

(Enters from L. Xs to R.C.)

Miss Lane, you got two dollars?

LOIS

(Stops C.)

What do you want two dollars for?

PAUL

It ain't for me. It's for Mr. Calhoun.

LOIS

Where is he?

PAUL

He's a prisoner of the Yellow Cab Company.

(BILL enters from door with CAB DRIVER,  
smoking cigarette. He whistles first  
three notes of "Bianca")

LOIS  
Bill!

BILL  
(Xs to her)  
Hiya, Sarah Bernhardt!

CAB DRIVER  
(D.L.)  
I want my fare.

(HARRY enters stage R.)

BILL  
(Shaking dice)  
Shoot you for it...double or nothing!

(CAB DRIVER shakes his head)

PAUL  
(Calling LOIS' attention to HARRY)  
Psst! Psst!

LOIS  
Harry, you got two dollars?

HARRY  
Child, if I had two dollars, I'd retire and never do a lick  
of work again!  
(Exit D.L.)

LOIS  
Paul, do you suppose Mr. Graham's got two dollars?

PAUL  
Mr. Graham? Not him! He's a producer!  
(PAUL exits R.)

LOIS  
(To CAB DRIVER)  
Can you wait until Saturday night?

(DRIVER shakes head "no")

DOORMAN  
(Steps forward)  
All right, Miss Lane. I'll lay it out! That'll make sixteen  
dollars.  
(CAB DRIVER exits L. followed by DOORMAN)

(DOORMAN returns to his stool in booth  
and reads Racing Form)

LOIS

Bill, you've been gambling again. And I told Mr. Graham you  
went to the chiropodist's.

BILL

I went to the cleaners!

LOIS

How much did you lose this time?

BILL

Ten G's. Ten thousand fast little bucks!

LOIS

Ten G's? Did you sign an I.O.U. again?

BILL

Uhuh!

LOIS

Whose name did you sign this time?

BILL

Frederick Graham!

(Writes the name in the air)

LOIS

Mr. Graham! Oh, Bill! This is our big chance. Do you want  
to play night clubs all your life?

BILL

(Xs to L.C. looking away from LOIS)

We were doing all right, weren't we?

LOIS

Yeah, it's as Mr. Graham said, "Give a Broadway hoofer a chance  
to play Shakespeare and..."

BILL

(Turning quickly to LOIS)

Mr. Graham...your hero!

LOIS

Mr. Graham is a great actor, a scholar and a gentleman. He's just culturing me...but there's nothing wrong between him and I...I mean he and I.

BILL

(Xs to staircase)

I know...Art!

LOIS

I'll never forgive you,

(MUSIC STARTS)

Bill, if anything happens to Mr. Graham before I'm a star on Broadway.

(Xes onto stairs)

BILL

Gee, honey, I'm sorry.

(At foot of stairs)

ELECTRIC CUE #2

LOIS

If you only meant it!

(On 4th step)

(On dim -- DOORMAN exits)

/ 2 /

SONG: "WHY CAN'T YOU BEHAVE" - LOIS LANE & BILL

LOIS

Why can't you behave?

(BILL sits on platform)

Oh, why can't you behave?

After all the things you told me

And the promises that you gave

Oh, why can't you behave?

Why can't you be good?

And do just as you should?

Won't you turn that new leaf over

So your baby can be your slave?

Oh, why can't you behave?

There's a farm I know near my old home town

Where two can go and try settlin' down

There I'll care for you forever,

Well at least 'til you dig my grave.

(BILL rises)