

Damn Yankees

CHARACTERS

JOE BOYD – Avid Senators Fan

MEG BOYD – Joe’s spouse

MR. APPLGATE – Devil

SISTER – Meg’s sister

DORIS – Meg’s friend

DARLENE – Meg’s friend

JOE HARDY – Star Baseball Player

LOLA – Applegate’s associate

GLORIA – Newspaper reporter

VAN BUREN Senator’s Manager

COMMISSIONER (of MLB)

WELCH – Senators’ owner

MISS WESTON – Welch’s asst.

POSTMASTER

GUARD

LYNCH - Reporter

NATALIE DETROIT - Reporter

RADIO ANNOUNCER

EDDIE – Lola’s dance partner

BASEBALL FANS/YOUNG FANS

SINGERS AND DANCERS

Ball Players/Managers

HENRY

SOHOVIK

SMOKEY

LINVILLE

ROCKY

BOULEY

LOWE

BRYAN

MICKEY

VERNON

ACT I, Scene ii

Corridor under the stands of the Washington Baseball Park. HENRY and SOHOVIK both in uniform are standing stage R talking

HENRY (Left of Sohovik) Do you have to sell insurance in the summer too?

SOHOVIK I don't have to but when I see a guy like you that's not covered, I get worried.

HENRY (Center) I've been uncovered a long time. I don't worry.

SOHOVIK Everybody should have an insurance program.

(SMOKEY enters R)

HENRY Next year, maybe. (X SOHOVIK to R) How's the crossword coming Smokey?

SMOKEY Very difficult.

(HENRY looks over Smokey's shoulder)

LINVILLE (Enter L. followed by LOWE, X R) So Ferguson give me the signal to steal, it was a pitch out and when I got to second, everybody was waiting for me except Ford Frick.

SMOKEY Hey, Sohovik, what's a three-letter word for a sticky substance?

(SOHOVIK points in his mouth, where he is chewing gum) Spit? No, that's four.

SOHOVIK Gum.

(LOWE, SOHOVIK and HENRY exit R. as and ROCKY enter 1. VAN

BUREN Xs IC with ROCKY)

SMOKEY Gum.

VANBUREN Look - Rocky - What sign is this?

ROCKY Hit and run, sure.

VANBUREN Right. Now you're still at bat.

(ROCKY takes stance. VAN BUREN signals again.)

ROCKY I take.

VANBUREN O.K. Now the Count's two and one. (He signals)

ROCKY I don't do nothing.

VANBUREN How can you not do anything. If I wipe the take signal watch what follows.

(He signals. ROCKY looks dumbfounded) You go for it.

ROCKY Oh, sure.

MICKEY Why couldn't you remember that last night, you could have cost us a big inning.

ROCKY (X center) It's not that dumb, Mickey.

MICKY Nobody said anything about your being dumb, exactly.

ROCKY It's just that when we play the Yankees I kind of tense up. I kind of lose my head. I figure what the hell is the use.

VAN BUREN Will you listen to the guy?

SMOKEY Benny, there is something different about 'em.

VAN BUREN What do you mean?

LINVILLE Well, we don't make them same gofers when we're playing Kansas City.

SOHOVIK But they're something else, those Yanks!

VAN BUREN And so are you. I've seen it. Now, listen, all of you, that's what I'm talking about. Boys, I know you're not yellow. But your mental state is all off in left field. There's a new dawn out there, guys and you are right at the beginning of it. It takes skills, sure, but it takes something else too. Something that this country is just about to discover. Something bigger...

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(JOE enters L. xc. GLORIA X down to box)

VAN BUREN Never played anything but sandlot ball, huh? Whereabouts?

(HENRY helps GLORIA down onto the field from the stands)

APPLEGATE Out West.

JOE The mid-West. Oh. Hannibal. Hannibal, Missouri

GLORIA (X to L of Joe) Is that your home town?

JOE: Yeah-yeah, that's it. Boy, does it get hot there sometimes. We just sit around and wait for the cold air to come down from Canada.

VAN BUREN You do all right.

JOE Thanks.

VAN BUREN I think we might give you a contract, send you to one of our farm clubs for a little seasoning

(GLORIA takes notebook out and is about to write)

APPLEGATE (Rise) Seasoning? That's ridiculous.

VAN BUREN How about it, Kid?

JOE No sir, I don't think so.

(GLORIA looks up)

VAN BUREN What do you mean?

JOE I haven't got time.

VAN BUREN Time?

APPLEGATE Baseball's in a rut. If Ty Cobb came here looking for a chance, you'd send him to Little Rock for three years. (X up stairs and L) All right, Joe, come on we'll go where we'll be appreciated.

JOE Gee, Mr. Van Buren, give me one more chance, will you? I love the Senators.

GLORIA

So do I and there's only a few of us left.

VAN BUREN Get your bat. (JOE runs off L. VAN BUREN calls off to the pitcher) Buster. (He gestures - "Give him your toughest." ALL watch intently. There is a loud CRA CK. ALL THE PLAYERS jump up and come down stage)

APPLEGATE

More seasoning, eh? The ball's only going for a 600 foot ride.

VAN BUREN (X D): That's the longest ball I ever saw in my life.

ROCKY (Gulps): I swallowed my chew in' tobacco.

VAN BUREN: I just can't believe it-where could he have been all these years? (JOE enters L) OK. You win. Get a uniform.

JOE You mean it?

VAN BUREN Yes, I mean it.

JOE Yow, I made it.

(VAN BUREN and the OTHERS smile at his enthusiasm. JOE rushes UL to APPLE- GATE who is still in the stands, but has come down stage left in the box seat section) You were right. Oh, man oh man. Mr. Applegate, how can I ever thank you? (JOE grabs APPLGATE's hand)

APPLGATE I'll find some way.

JOE Oh, baby, this is wonderful.

(He runs RC grabs SMOKEY around the waist, jumps up and down. Then X further R and sits down.) Listen, you guys, don't think I'm crazy, or going off my chump or something. But you got no idea what this means.

SOHOVIK Feels good, eh, Joe?

JOE All my life I dreamed - oh gee. (He starts to untie his shoes)

VANBUREN (XR and puts JOE's shoulder) Just take it easy, kid.

JOE I will, I will.(He is still fumbling with shoe laces)

VANBUREN I don't want you to get so excited you'll tense up on us.

JOE I must have tied the wrong knot.

SOHOVIK Let me wait on you boy, I got a hunch you're going to bring us luck. (SOHOVIK kneels down and begins to untie Joe's R shoe)

MICKEY Me too. (starts loosening other shoe)

JOE (protesting) Oh No.

MICKEY Sit still.

GLORIA (X to R of Van Buren) Well, I'm glad I came by this morning.

APPLGATE (Out of stands. X UL) Something happened after all, eh?

GLORIA Give me the real story on this, will you?

APPLGATE He's a natural talent-that's all. (XR)

GLORIA Oh don't be coy-

JOE Thank very much for the loan of your shoes. (Gives shoes to LINVILLE)

LINVILLE You did right by them, Joe. (VAN BUREN X D)

GLORIA What was the matter with your own shoes? I saw you bringing in a pair.

JOE Those were too small for me.

GLORIA Your own shoes? (Rises)

JOE: Yeah. I Guess my feet had swollen. Maybe it was the excitement or the heat or something.

VAN BUREN (XR) Come on Joe, I'll take you up to the office. I'll have you meet Mr. Welch.

JOE (Follows VAN BUREN and is followed by APPLGATE) Oh great. Shouldn't I put on my shoes? (exit R)

GLORIA (writing in notebook) I've got it. Shoeless Joe Hardy.

SMOKEY That's what you're going to call him?

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Young Fans

GIRL

BOY

2ND GIRL

2ND BOY

FAN(S)

ACT II, Scene ix: Dugout

Stands are filled with shouting people. VAN BUEN calls SMOKEY in from DSL, gives him instructions.

SMOKEY starts out, VAN BUREN calls him back, gives him further instructions and SMOKEY exits DL.

During this, Applegate and LOLA enter stands X down steps to first row center aisle seats. SMOKEY exit.

APPLEGATE the score? What's the score, bud?

FAN Come on, Senators. We got 'em now!

FAN Mantle at bat. Get this guy - get this bum.

APPLEGATE (Rises) Come on Yankees.

VAN BUREN Back Joe, play deep.

LOLA Come on, Washington. Come on, Joe. (The CROWD jumps to its feet)

VAN BUREN Come on Joe. (APPLEGATE makes magical pass) What's happened-what's the matter-come on, boy.

FAN He can't run. He's lame or something.

VAN BUREN Come on boy, come-he caught it. (The CROWD goes wild, SMOKEY runs on from L, embraces VAN BUREN)