

BEHIND THE SCENES

A One-Act Play for Marionettes

by H. Brayton

Characters: Director
Camera-man
Wardrobe Mistress
Actors: Cuthbert
Mr Guinness

BEHIND THE SCENES

Stage set with sound equipment and lamps

(Enter Director and Cuthbert with Camera-man on camera)

- Director:** Camera-man, get your equipment ready, and actors in your places, please. We'll shoot the scene that we didn't have time to do before dinner. You know, shot 57 of the second part: "But I only want a meal ..." etc.
- Camera-man:** All right Sir. Let me see now. (Fiddles with microphone, then the camera.) Microphone's O.K., Sir, and camera set.
- Director:** Where's Mr. Guinness. Ah, here he comes. (Enter Guinness)
- Cuthbert:** Come on Alec. You're late.
- Mr Guinness:** Sorry I'm late Sir. I was held up in the make-up room.
- Director:** All right. Ready?
- All:** (Nodding) Yes.
- Director:** Right. Action. Shoo No. Stop.
(Mrs Doolittle, wardrobe mistress rushes in)
- Mrs. Doolittle:** Just a moment. Just a moment. Just a moment. Let me put a safety-pin in the monk's cloak. (Rushes up towards the actors, and brushes against the camera)
- Camera-man:** Oh, my stars. She's put the camera out of focus.
- Director:** Can't you get out? Go on, or I'll get you sacked from Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.
- Mrs. Doolittle:** It was a silly thing for me to forget, but it's a good job I remembered in time, or your film would have been ruined.

Director: Come on, let's try again. Are you ready camera-man?

Camera-man: Yes Sir. Ready when you are.

Director: Right. Action. Shoot. (Camera starts buzzing.)

Mr. Guinness: "B – but I only want a meal and a bed for the night."

Cuthbert: "Not on your life. You come to a respectable monastery like this, with a bottle of containing alcoholic liquor, and expect me to allow you to partake of such a privilege. Not on your life. Not on your life."

Mr. Guinness: "B but I ..."

Cuthbert: "That's enough. Scram. Buzz off."

Mr. Guinness: "O.K. I'm going." (Exit from view of camera.)

Director: Cut. O.K. That's that.

Camera-man: I'm sorry Sir. There's been some mistake. There wasn't a film in the camera. (Director collapses back in chair.)

Director: You're fired!

C U R T A I N

T H E E N D

Howard Brayton
c. 1952 (aged 13 years)