

SONG AND CHORUS – SIR DESPARD. SIR D.

Oh, why am I moody and sad?

CH. Can't guess!

SIR D. And why am I guiltily mad?

CH. Confess!

SIR D. Because I am thoroughly bad!

CH. Oh yes –

SIR D. You'll see it at once in my face. Oh, why am I husky and hoarse?

CH. Ah, why?

SIR D. It's the workings of conscience, of course.

CH. Fie, fie!

SIR D. And huskiness stands for remorse,

CH. Oh my!

SIR D. At least it does so in my case!

SIR D. When in crime one is fully employed –

CH. Like you –

SIR D. Your expression gets warped and destroyed:

CH. It do.

SIR D. It's a penalty none can avoid;

CH. How true!

SIR D. I once was a nice-looking youth; But like stone from a strong catapult –

CH. (explaining to each other) A trice –

SIR D. I rushed at my terrible cult –

CH. (explaining to each other) That's vice –

SIR D. Observe the unpleasant result!

CH. Not nice.

SIR D. Indeed I am telling the truth!

SIR D. Oh, innocent, happy though poor!

CH. That's we –

SIR D. If I had been virtuous, I'm sure –

CH. Like me –

SIR D. I should be as nice-looking as you're!

CH. May be.

SIR D. You are very nice-looking indeed! Oh, innocents, listen in time –

Between Welcome Gentry and now a "bomb" goes off DSR and everyone runs USL in shock, facing the back. Despard appears at the wall USL (standing on a box to tower over them).

Turn to audience to sing

Tiptoe away from Despard

Freeze and turn to audience.

Despard comes down to stage level

Chorus nods frantically, still frozen to the spot.

Despard walks among chorus leering at them.

Chorus runs to the back and all cram behind the wall, some hiding more successfully than others.

Pop up from behind wall to sing then go back down.

Pop out again.

Pop out then tentatively start creeping behind Despard to the pub. Not all at once. Freeze whenever you sing.

All should be in the pub (mid SR exit).

Everyone run from Mid SR to USL and off. Despard is centre stage and doesn't notice.

Despard looks around in break between verses to realise he is alone.

Start to re-appear as the flattery begins

Everyone preens as they think of themselves as virtuous, filling the stage around Despard and getting more and more confident.

CH. We do,

SIR D. Avoid an existence of crime –

CH. Just so–

SIR D. Or you'll be as ugly as I'm–

CH. (loudly) No! No!

SIR D. And now, if you please, we'll proceed.

Chorus all enjoying themselves now and getting drawn in to Despard's charm.

In playout everyone gathers around Despard (not too tightly) but he scares people off a bit at a time. When he lunges at you scream and leave via the nearest exit.

Ann and Jennifer move to the bench DSL after the singing is over and sit down. They stay until the very last scare which is directed at them. They look Despard up and down then get up and leave in their own time.