

LAUNDRY SERVANTS

COLD, WARM, HOT!

TEMPA CHEER

THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH NOW, DON'T YOU THINK?!!!

ALL ON STAGE

COLD, WARM, HOT!

By the end of the song, all laundry is picked up. LITTLEST waits as the others go dancing off through the audience to an instrumental reprise of "Cold, Warm, Hot!"

PLAY TRACK. EMP #20b - Cold, Warm, Hot Exit

LITTLEST

(tugging at Tempa Cheer's shirt)

Why didn't you sing about this one?

TEMPA CHEER

Sorry, Kiddo, but have you ever tried to fit 'DRY CLEAN ONLY' into a song? The Dry Cleaners is behind the palace. See ya.

Enter STITCHES, taking off tunic of Jester costume while entering. Underneath it are clothes similar to what Sewphia wears.

LITTLEST grabs jester tunic out of STITCHES' hands.

LITTLEST

(reading the label)

'Dry Clean Only,' huh? I'll take care of that!

LITTLEST exits out through the audience, singing all the way.

LITTLEST

Dry Clean Only. Just read the label it says, "Dry Clean Only"...

STITCHES

Hey, Temp. Nice work! Have you seen Sewphia?

TEMPA CHEER

I think I saw her cutting cloth in the basement...

STITCHES

Good! Go tell her to meet me at the palace gate.

TEMPA CHEER

Wow, you sound excited. What's going on?

STITCHES

I've got a great idea how we can get the Emperor to stop all this vanity and see the error of his ways.

TEMPA CHEER

I'm all for that! I'll sort the Laundry, you stop the vanity! It's definitely time for a change around here...

PLAY TRACK. EMP #20c - End Act 1

TEMPA CHEER exits SL, rushing to find SEWPHIA.

STITCHES, excited about her plan, exits DSR, through the audience.

INTERMISSION

SCENERY CHANGES BACK TO OUTSIDE
THE PALACE GATE

Box of tailor vests and fabric is slightly hidden on stage during intermission.

ACT II

PLAY TRACK. EMP #21 - Act 2

SCENE ONE - WORKERS OUTTA WORK

Enter STITCHES quickly from audience, and up DSR side, looking for SEWPHIA. STITCHES is dressed more like SEWPHIA now.

Enter WORKERS, grumbling and complaining, through audience and up SL side.

Enter SEWPHIA, SL.

SEWPHIA

Hey Stitches, Tempa Cheer says you've got a great plan to...

WORKERS grumble and complain.

STITCHES

Whoa, I better tell you later - look at that mob!

SEWPHIA

Wow, they do sound upset! Okay folks, why don't you tell us about your problems. We're here to listen and help.

PSYCHOLOGIST

Yes, well that used to be *my* job.

SEWPHIA

Oh, yeah, you're the psychologist, right?

PSYCHOLOGIST

Correction: Used to be the psychologist. I've been told that no one's problems are as important as the Emperor's wardrobe changes. I'm turning in my psychology notebook.

(hands Sewphia the book, crosses to SR)

I won't be needing it.

(sobs loudly)

SEWPHIA

I think the Emperor could use a little help in the old Psychology department, heh, Stitch?

STITCHES

Yeah, he ought to be arrested!

OFFICER

Riiiiight.

SEWPHIA AND STITCHES

Oh, hello, Officer.

OFFICER

I'd love to arrest him, but I no longer have the power.

SEWPHIA

What do you mean?

OFFICER

I have been told that my only job is to enforce the following two laws:

(reading aloud from cop note pad)

#1- Everybody pays double taxes. #2 - Everybody keep washing those clothes!

SEWPHIA AND STITCHES

Oh, *NO!*

OFFICER

That's what I say. Well, I won't be writing any arrest reports with this. Everybody's too afraid of upsetting the Emperor to break the laws.

Handing his pen and pad to STITCHES he crosses to SR to join PSYCHOLOGIST.

STITCHES

Boy, that's enough to make you sick.

DOCTOR

I'd be happy to help you, if I hadn't had to sell all my medical equipment and supplies just to pay those taxes for the Emperor's wardrobe. I guess I won't be needing these either.

Handing her scissors to SEWPHIA, she crosses to SR to join other WORKERS.

SEWPHIA

Gee, that's terrible. You know, trying to find a good doctor like that is like trying to find a needle in a haystack.

FARMER

'Xcuse me, is this what y'all er lookin' fer?

Holds up a large needle with bright thread or yarn running through it.

SEWPHIA, STITCHES, AND
WORKERS

You found the needle in the haystack???

FARMER

(handing Sewphia the needle)

Ain't hard to do when you have to sell all your hay to pay taxes for his majesty's royal duds.

STITCHES

You know, I never thought of using "royal duds" to describe those ridiculous wardrobe assistants, but hey, it works.

SEWPHIA

I think he meant the Emperor's clothes.

STITCHES

(embarrassed)

Oh, yeah. Of course. Go on.

FARMER

Anyhow, I guess I ain't gonna be needin' this anymore.

Handing his hoe to STITCHES, he crosses to SR to join other WORKERS.

SEWPHIA

Boy, if he can't work his farm, he is going to be sooo *BORED*.

CARPENTER

Did somebody say board? Sorry, this is all the lumber I have left. I was told to use every other available piece of lumber in Washingland to build bigger closets for the Emperor's clothes.

SEWPHIA

What about this piece?

CARPENTER

Well, the Chief Advisor said his advice was that I should find somebody to use it - on me...

Handing them the board, he is confused.

Taking the board from him, STITCHES AND SEWPHIA read the lettering on it together.

SEWPHIA AND STITCHES

“Board of education. Apply as needed to your seat of learning.”

(rubbing their hips)

Oww....

CARPENTER

I don't get it.

STITCHES

(to audience)

Three bricks short of a wall.

(to Carpenter)

I think it means you just don't measure up.

CARPENTER

Oh, well. I guess I won't be using this any more.

Handing measuring tape to SEWPHIA and crosses to SR to join other WORKERS.

STITCHES

Wow, I'd like to teach the Emperor and his staff a lesson or two.

TEACHER

Yes, well, you can forget about that. Teaching used to be *my* job. But now I've been told that--

(very stiffly)

--No inhabitant of Washingland...

(pausing to take a deep breath)

...shall require any further illumination, investigation, deliberation, or examination on any subject but the timely exhibition of the imperial ensembles.

(big sigh)

ALL ON STAGE EXCEPT TEACHER

Huh??

TEACHER

(giving up on being the educator)

We're not supposed to talk about anything with our students except what the Emperor is wearing that hour.

ALL ON STAGE EXCEPT TEACHER

Oh.

TEACHER

Oh, dear.

(handing ruler to Sewphia)

I suppose I'll have no further use for this.

(handing apple to Stitches)

And I just don't feel right keeping this.

SEWPHIA escorts TEACHER to join others. She turns to put items in a sturdy box. STITCHES has one foot on it, starting to eat the apple, until SEWPHIA nudges STITCHES and music begins.

PLAY TRACK. EMP #22 - Workers' Woes Accomp.

SONG - "WORKERS' WOES"

ALL ON STAGE

HE IS (HE IS) THE EMPEROR OF WASHINGLAND

AND ALL (AND ALL) HE CARES ABOUT IS CLOTHES

HE IS (HE IS) THE EMPEROR OF WASHINGLAND

AND NOW OUR BUSINESSES HAVE CLOSED

WE USED TO BE HAPPY WORKERS HERE IN WASHINGLAND

HIS FATHER WAS PROUD OF THAT

WE ALL HAD JOBS THAT WE LIKED TO DO IN WASHINGLAND

NOW WE'RE A GIANT LAUNDRO-MAT

HE IS THE EMPEROR OF WASH - WE'RE ALL WASHED UP

ING - IT'S DEPRESSING, LAND. OH, MAN.

STITCHES

Cheer up everyone. I have a great idea how we can improve the situation around here, and by the time my plan is carried out, our Emperor may just realize how his greed for new clothes has caused everybody so much trouble. Want to hear it?

ALL

Yeah!

STITCHES calls a "cartoon huddle," with a head or two occasionally popping up to look for "spies."

STITCHES

Okay, tell ya what we're gonna do.

(taking deep breath, whispers the plan, ends with...)

Get it?

ALL ON STAGE

Got it!

STITCHES

Good! Here's your new work uniforms, group.

STITCHES helps them each grab a funny looking tailor's vest decorated with spools of thread, yarn, etc. and tri-corner or other kind of matching hats a tailor might wear.

WORKERS are not too sure, but they are willing, so they put on the vests and hats.

STITCHES

Hey, you guys look great!

WORKERS

Oh, yeah.... Great...

STITCHES

I'll hold on to your work tools. You're gonna need 'em. Now all we need is somebody to get the Emperor's attention long enough to listen to our sales pitch. Let's see, who do we know that might be...

PLAY TRACK. EMP #23 - Double Your Chances
Accomp.

Enter DOUBLEKNIT TWINS, with great energy.

Track continues through scene change.

SONG - "DOUBLE YOUR CHANCES"

DOUBLEKNIT TWINS

DOUBLE YOUR CHANCES, DOUBLE YOUR TRICKS

WITH DOUBLEKNIT, DOUBLEKNIT, DOUBLEKNIT CHICKS.

WE'D LOVE A PART, SO WHEN DO WE START?

SEWPHIA

They'll be perfect. Right this way, ladies.

SCENE CHANGE TO ROYAL DRESSING
ROOM

SCENE TWO - TAILORS TEMPTATIONS

Enter EMPEROR, in yet another outfit, carrying an extra cape, hat, or coat, undecided as to which to wear. CHIEF ADVISOR, SECRETARY, and TO-THE-9s, all argue about what the EMPEROR should wear next.

EMPEROR sits down in exasperation on some fancy chair or settee.

Track #23 ends.

DOUBLEKNIT TWINS break up argument as they surprise them, breaking into song.

SONG - "DOUBLE YOUR FASHION"

DOUBLEKNIT TWINS

(singing a capella)

DOUBLE YOUR FASHION, WATCH THE KING SMILE

WE'D LIKE TO PRESENT TO YOU TAILORS WITH STYLE...

PLAY TRACK. #24 - Tailors' Tango Accomp.

DOUBLEKNIT TWINS split to either side of the stage near STITCHES and SEWPHIA who have put on facial disguises. STITCHES wears a mustache or beard. The TWINS stay to help with the singing of the Tailor Tango.

Enter WORKERS/TAILORS moving to the music. The EMPEROR and his staff do not recognize STITCHES or SEWPHIA in their new outfits/disguises.

As the song is sung, the WORKERS/TALORS each present items to tempt the EMPEROR, each one entering the scene with a fabric or suit as the song states, tango-ing with their item as they do. Of course, for FARMER, OFFICER and CARPENTER it is a little out of their comfort zone to dance, (adding to the comedy) but they are desperate to teach the Emperor a lesson.

EMPEROR and his staff are completely taken in by the hypnotic display and the song.

STITCHES has the box of WORKERS' tools of the trade. On top of the tools are eight separate yards of flowing red, gold, or purple fabric. Once each WORKER/TAILOR has danced up to the EMPEROR and tempted him by putting at his feet or on his lap the fabrics or suit they came dancing in with, they dance over to STITCHES and smoothly pick up a yard of the flowing fabric.

By the last verse of the song, each WORKER/TAILOR and STITCHES and SEWPHIA will have a yard of the flowing fabrics to dance with for the last verse. This choreography should be simple yet dramatic with all dancers spread across the stage, doing the same movements, for the best impact. By the last line the WORKERS/TAILORS, SEWPHIA and STITCHES should all be crowded (some can kneel) around EMPEROR, holding out their flowing fabrics to him.

SONG - "TAILORS' TANGO"

GOOD DAY TO YOU, YOUR MAJESTY. WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR THE TIME
 TO TEMPT YOU WITH OUR FASHIONS RARE, AND WITH OUR CLOTH SUBLIME
 IF WE MAY BE SO BOLD, MY LORD, WE HAVE SOME CLOTHING RARE
 THAT'S SURE TO PLEASE HIS MAJESTY, A KING WITH STYLE AND FLAIR.

(interlude)

MAY WE SHOW YOUR MAJESTY SOMETHING IN RAW SILK
 A DELICATE CREATION THAT FLOWS LIKE SWEETENED MILK
 OR SAY PERHAPS A WARMER PIECE FOR CHILLY WINTER NIGHTS
 A FABRIC WHICH WILL KEEP YOU COZY MIGHT BE WORTH THE PRICE

EMPEROR

(speaking)

What is that, velvet? That feels like velvet.

WORKERS/TAILORS

(speaking)

Precisely!

(singing)

AND FOR THOSE LOVELY SUMMER DAYS