

Welcome, loyal listeners, to another episode of Eclectic Full Contact Theatre's satirical saunter down the silly streets of yesteryear, Throwing Shade! If you enjoy the adventures of the Shade and the Vamp, head over to tinyurl.com/EFCTThrowingShade where for as little as \$5/month, you can get exclusive access to bloopers, rehearsals, and special bonus episodes. Now sit back, relax, and enjoy, Throwing Shade!

SFX: METRONOME

NARRATOR

There is a darkness in the minds of men, a darkness in their hearts. A darkness in a room with no lights. And who knows that darkness? The Shade knows! By day, Theodore Rockwell is a go-get-em reporter for the Gazette-Times-Herald, by by night, he becomes, The Shade!

He, assisted by his girl Friday, Wednesday Morning, who is the mysterious female vigilante, the Vamp...anybody else wonder what was going through the heads of Mr. And Mrs. Morning when they named their daughter? Considering her father, you think it was a "this is going to make your life awful so it'll build character" type of thing?

(Whispers from off mic)

NARRATOR

Her MOTHER named her that? Why?

(More whispers)

NARRATOR

Naming her after the day she was born in order to remember her birthday better? That's not how birthdays work...you know what? I shouldn't ask questions I don't want the answers to. Where was I? You know what? Just go to the siren.

SFX: SIREN

NARRATOR

Find out in the thrilling conclusion to Throwing Shade--The Blunder Down Under! And, as proof that longevity does not equal progress, we have yet another new sponsor! Apparently, Benny's Bowling Bazaar was subject to an investigation from the censors, who objected to...well every mention of their product. So while Benny tries to find another way to describe bowling...spheroids, we here at Throwing Shade are proud to welcome the fine folks at Paraclesius Educational Playthings, makers of the Stubbins Ffirth Home Chemistry Set! Oh, yeah, I can't see ANY issues with that...

Also brought to you by Eclectic Full Contact Theatre, bringing you high-quality 1930's radio-style satire since...roughly four seasons ago.

Previously on Throwing Shade--

SFX: SPLASH

NARRATOR

And now, on to our story!

Act 3 Scene 1--Hanging With Cliff

At least one question gets answered.

When we last left our heroes, The Vamp was hurtling earthward, having been flung high into the air by an over-inflated fedora.

Despite the Shade's keen problem solving--

SHADE

Aim for the manhole!

NARRATOR

--Things looked firmly fatale for the fastly falling femme.

VAMP

(getting closer) SHAAAAAADE!

NARRATOR

All appeared lost, until--

SFX: STRAP BEING PULLED TAUT, GRUNT, A
BOING LIKE A SPRINGY DOORSTOP

SHADE

Vamp! That was amazing! Using the strap of the Vampocket to catch on that flagpole jutting from the side of the building was genius!

NARRATOR

Couldn't have said it better myself. Not that I was given a chance to.

VAMP

(As though still bouncing up and down on a springy pole) Sh Shade...while I ap-p-preciate the s-s-support, there's a mu-mu-much better way to h-h-help.

SHADE

Oh? How?

VAMP

GET ME DOWN!

NARRATOR

Utilizing the Shad-der, an expandable ladder designed by one Wendell Hauptmann, The Shade helped The Vamp back to the safety of terra firma. And in a situation like this, the firma the terra, the betta! Am I right? Huh? Huh? Get it? *(Sighs)* Everybody's a critic.

SHADE

Vamp! Are you alright?

VAMP

I think so., But maybe this time...we use the ladder, huh?

NARRATOR

Descending at a significantly more sedate pace, our intrepid heroes reached the depths of the sewer.

SFX: SPLASH

VAMP

Wow! You weren't kidding about those peppers! This whole place is glowing.

SHADE

Exactly! And it's because of this eerie, otherworldly glow, that the poor koala mutated into a giant, bloodthirsty beast with a hunger for humans!

VAMP

Seriously? You think it's violent? All it's done is make noise. And aren't they herbivores?

SHADE

Come on, Vamp. Everybody knows radiation makes animals violent and carnivorous, regardless of nature. But not to worry. I have Shade Giant Radioactive Monster Repellent!

SFX: AEROSOL CAN

VAMP

Mmmmm. Smells lemony. But I'm still not convinced these noises ARE being made by a giant animal. Come on. Let's see what's down here.

SFX: SPLASHING FOOTSTEPS

VAMP

Whew! It smells awful down here. How are you not affected by the
stench

SHADE

Well--

VAMP

No, don't tell me. Let me guess. You're using Shade-plugs, which are just two cotton balls painted black and shoved into your nostrils!

SHADE

No, but that's an amazing idea! Thanks Vamp!

VAMP

Why do I feel like I just contributed to the delinquency of a vigilante? Okay, I'll bite. If it isn't nose plugs., what's keeping you from being bowled over by the stench?

SHADE

Simple. I've fallen down her so often, I'm used to it. But here, this should help.

SFX: AEROSOL CAN

VAMP

Mmmm. Lemons.

SFX: SPLASHING FOOTSTEPS AND AEROSOL SPRAYS UNDER NEXT FEW LINES.

NARRATOR

SO the Shade and the Vamp slowly made their way through the glowing, stinky underbelly of Chicago.

SFX: SOUNDS STOP

NARRATOR

Meanwhile, above ground and in far more salubrious surroundings, Henry Badkamer was receiving some distressing news.

SFX: KNOCK

HENRY

Enter.

SFX: DOOR OPENS

BUTLER

Message for you sir.

HENRY

Thank you, Cheeves, you may go.

BUTLER

Very good, sir. Oh, sir?

HENRY

Yes?

BUTLER

Your son has been looking for you., Says it's most urgent.

HENRY

Cheeves, what have I said about delivering me distressing news?

NARRATOR

AAAAAnd there it is.

BUTLER

I do apologize, sir. It's merely that I believe he is a bit worse off due to drink, sir. He's been distracting the staff from their duties with behavior that is far too familiar for their station. I am told that at one point he put his arm around the footman's shoulder and expressed a deep and undying affection for the man.

HENRY

Oh, very well. Send the blighter in.

BUTLER

Very good sir.

SFX: DOOR CLOSES. PAUSE DOOR OPENS

SHERIDAN

Father! It is always a pleasure to see you!

HENRY

The pleasure is all yours, I can assure you. Now do be a good lad and sit quietly for a moment. I have just received a message.

SHERIDAN

Of course, pater mine. I shall simply help myself to some refreshment.

SFX: GLASSES CLINKING, LIQUID POURING

SFX: ENVELOPE OPENING, PAPER UNFOLDING.

HENRY

Great Scott!

SHERIDAN

Who's Scott?

HENRY

Oh, do be quiet! This news is most distressing!

NARRATOR

Well look at that, two for one!

SHERIDAN

What is it, Father?

HENRY

None of your concern.

SHERIDAN

Please, Father, I want to help. I feel simply awful about my part in bankrupting the family and I want to make it right.

HENRY

Do you really mean that, Sheridan?

SHERIDAN

Oh yes, Father. I recognize that I am at the age where I must start to take on responsibility.

HENRY

And you're frightened of your mother.

SHERIDAN

Terrified. Do let me help, Father.

HENRY

Very well. I have a plan in motion to make the citizens of this city believe there is a monster roaming the sewers. Once their fear is ingrained and they demand someone to help, I shall offer to sell to the city, at an exorbitant price, a method of ridding the sewers of this fictions beast. A method, I might add, that will have to be replenished and updated on a regular basis to ensure the beast does not return.

SHERIDAN

That's brilliant, Father, I have only one question.

HENRY

Only one? How refreshing! What is it?

SHERIDAN

Where did you find a beast to go along with such a plan?

HENRY

Sheridan, I can honestly say, your dimness is beyond any I have encountered to this point.

SHERIDAN

Thank you, Father.

HENRY

There is no actual monster, Sheridan. Just two hired patsies wandering around the sewers making noise.

SHERIDAN

Ahhh! Much easier to control, then.

HENRY

Quite. And up to now, everything had been going according to plan.

SHERIDAN

What's happened?

HENRY

I've just received word that instead of cowering in the grip of fear, the city has instead enlisted the aid of The Shade and The Vamp.

SHERIDAN

I've heard of them! The Shade is that vigilante fellow who dresses all in black, and from the photos I've seen in the paper, The Vamp has quite the air of Joan Fontaine about her. And such a nice outfit.

HENRY

Yes. I'm led to understand it has pockets.

SHERIDAN

How daring! But why are they a problem?

HENRY

They have a nasty habit of foiling criminal enterprises, you nit. And if they discover my plans and put a stop to them, that means no money. Which means...

SHERIDAN

(gulps) Mother.

HENRY

Exactly.

SHERIDAN

What can I do, Father? I'll do anything make up for my past mistakes and avoid the wrath of mater!

HENRY

Anything?

SHERIDAN

Anything!

NARRATOR

I think we all know where this is going.

HENRY

Sheridan, I want you to get rid of The Shade and The Vamp.

SFX: OMINOUS ORGAN CHORD

SHERIDAN

Get rid of The Shade and The Vamp?

SFX: OMINOUS ORGAN CHORD

HENY

Yes. Get rid of The Shade and The Vamp.

SFX: OMINOUS ORGAN CHORD

HENRY

You'd think after ten years of organ lessons, your sister Honoria would be more accomplished.

SHERIDAN

Father, how am I supposed to dispose of two trained vigilantes?

HENRY

Try treating them like a company you invest in. Those seem to disappear rather quickly.

NARRATOR

While Sheridan bristled at his father's mockery, he also realized he didn't have much choice.

SHERIDAN

I suppose I don't have much choice.

NARRATOR

I pretty much walked into that one.

SHERIDAN

Alright, Father. You can count on me. This is the end for The Shade and The Vamp!

SFX: OMINOUS ORGAN CHORD

HENRY

For pity's sake, Honoria! Learn another chord!

SFX: STING

NARRATOR

Act 3 Scene 2--IT FLOWS DOWNHILL

Confused? Sewer We.

Meanwhile, in the depths of Chicago's sewer system, Mick and Penny were bemoaning their fate.

PENNY

Mick, how much longer do we gotta stay down here? When you told me this job would show me a side of the city I had never seen before, this was NOT what I had in mind. And I don't think I'm ever gonna be able to eat a hot dog as long as I live!

MICK

Quit yer griping, will ya, Penny? It ain't gonna be much longer. By

now all them gullible marks up top gotta be scared outta their gourds.

PENNY

You know, I ain't never seen anybody IN a gourd, so how they gonna get scared outta them? I mean, how would you even fit in a gourd? And what about people what ain't got a gourd to begin with?

MICK

Pipe down, will ya? It's just a figure of speech!

PENNY

Yeah, but how did it become one? What's the etymology?

MICK

How should I know? And what's bugs got to do with it?

PENNY

Mick, it's a good thing you're cute.

MICK

Thanks!

PENNY

But even if the people up there are gourd-less, how are we gonna know when the job's over?

MICK

The job's over when the boss drops his invention into the sewer.

PENNY

What's his invention?

MICK

He said we'd know it when we see it. Come on, let's crank up the terror!

PENNY

Koala, koala, koala...

SFX: SPLASHING FOOTSTEPS

PENNY

You hear that?

MICK

Hear what?

SFX: SPLASHING FOOTSTEPS

PENNY

THAT! SOMEBODY'S COMING!

MICK

Who would come down here when there's a monster in the sewers?

PENNY

THERE'S A MONSTER IN THE SEWERS?

MICK

Shhhh!

PENNY

(Whispers) There's a monster in the sewers?

MICK

It's US, ya knucklehead!

PENNY

Oh, right. I think the pepper fumes are getting to me.

MICK

Come on, let's get outta sight!

SFX: RUNNING SPLASHING FOOTSTEPS

NARRATOR

Just as Penny and Mick disappeared around a bend in the tunnel,
The Shade and the Vamp arrived on the scene.

SFX: SPLASHING FOOTSTEPS AND AEROSOL
CAN.

VAMP

Shade, are you thinking what I'm thinking?

SHADE

That the sight off all this radioactive material reminds you of all the
fun a child can have with the Stubbins Ffirth Home Chemistry Set
from Paraclesius Educational Playthings?

VAMP

I don't know, Shade. Aren't all home chemistry sets the same?

VAMP

Not at all, Vamp! The Stubbins Ffirth home Chemistry Set from
paraclesius Educational Playthings has everything your budding
young scientist could possibly need! Not only test tubes, bunsen
burners, and the like, but also their very own home-sized chunk of
uranium!

VAMP

Wow! That's amazing!

SHADE

And that's not all! Unlike other home chemistry sets where your experiments only do things like change a liquid's color, the Stubbins Ffirth Home Chemistry Set comes with industrial ingredients, like glycerol, nitric and sulphuric acid, and even saltpeter and charcoal!

VAMP

That sounds like hours of fun!

SHADE

Oh, it's a blast!

VAMP

Well, as much as I do love a good home chemistry experiment devoid of all safety precautions and prior education, what I was thinking was that it seems a little strange that we've been down here this long and haven't seen a single sign of a giant bloodthirsty koala.

SHADE

You're right, Vamp. I would've expected to at least find a couple of bullet casings.

VAMP

Exactly. It's just a little--wait, what? Bullet casings? Why?

NARRATOR

I'm not going to like the answer to this question, am I?

SHADE

Well, from everything I've read about koalas, they're an animal that eats, shoots, and leaves.

NARRATOR

Yep, I was right.

VAMP

I'm ignoring you.

SHADE

I don't blame you. But I do see what you mean. IF there were a giant koala down here, we should've had SOME sign.

VOICE

Koala, koala, koala...

VAMP

Well, that was convenient.

SHADE

Who knew koalas had such a sense of timing?

VOICE

Koala, koala, koala...

VAMP

What's it saying?

SHADE

I believe it's saying "Koala, koala, koala", which from everything I've read about koalas, is their natural call.

VAMP

You're telling me the sound a koala makes is "koala, koala, koala..."?

SHADE

I believe that's where they got the name. At least, from everything I've read.

VAMP

Shade, how much have you actually read about koalas?

SHADE

Not a thing.

VAMP/NARRATOR

Natch

SHADE

But I have seen pictures, and they certainly look like they'd make that sound.

VAMP

Well, despite your expert photographic extrapolation, I'd like to see some actual evidence that we're dealing with an oversized marsupial.

NARRATOR

Again, as if on cue, the voice sounded...

VOICE

Koala, koala, koala...

NARRATOR

And against the wall of the tunnel, in the unnatural glow of sport pepper refuse, loomed the giant, koala-shaped silhouette.

SHADE

Look! A giant, koala-shaped silhouette!

NARRATOR

(heaves a heavy sigh)

VAMP

Well I'll be dipped.

VOICE

(Louder) Koala, koala, koala...

SHADE

I think we're about to come face to face with that evidence you wanted, Vamp!

VAMP

Where's that Shade Giant Radioactive Monster Repellent?

SFX: sound of empty aerosol can

SHADE

It's empty! I must've used it up on our way here!

VAMP

Curse that lemony scent!

SHADE

The Shade-plugs seem like a much better idea now...

VOICE

(Even louder) KOALA, KOALA, KOALA...

NARRATOR

Just as our heroes braced themselves for the onslaught of a giant enraged Australian transplant, another sound cut through the fetid air of the Chicago cesspits. Oooh! That's good, Kudos to the writers for that one!

SHERIDAN

Stand and deliver, peasants! En garde!

SHADE

Huh?

VAMP

What?

VOICE

Koala?

NARRATOR

The Shade and The Vamp turned to see a skinny figure dressed in what can only be described as Victorian highwayman garb, topped, rather incongruously, with a Great War-era gas mask.

SHADE

Now THAT'S what I should've gone with! A Shade Anti-Stink Mask! It's so obvious!

VAMP

Shade! Focus! Who are you?

SHADE

It's me, the Shade! Those pepper fumes must be more toxic than I thought!

VAMP

I'm not talking to you, Shade! I'm talking to the Gas-Masked Pimpernel over there!

SHERIDAN

I'm here to stop your meddling! No-one must stand in the way of my sewer monster!

SHADE

Sorry friend, but we're here to send your sewer monster AND your dastardly scheme down the drain!

(PAUSE)

SHERIDAN

That's it? That's all you got?

VAMP

Oh no...

SHADE

Alright, Mr. Smarty-Gas-Mask! You asked for it! Prepare to be BOWL-ed over!

SHERIDAN

Ouch!

VAMP

Shade...

SHADE

One of is tough enough to beat, but we're DOUBLE, YOU SEE!

VAMP

No, Shade, that's too much!

SHERIDAN

Noooooo!

NARRATOR

Before the Shade could let fly another bathroom-based pun, the stranger pulled a sword!

SFX: BLADE BEING PULLED

SHADE

He pulled a sword! That's a sword! Vamp, he has a sword!

VAMP

Yes, Shade, I can see that!

SHERIDAN

I'll put an end to you both! AAAAAHHHHH!

SHADE/VAMP

AAAAHHHHH!!!

VOICE

Koalaaaaaaaaah!

SFX: STING

NARRATOR

We'll return to Throwing Shade--Blunder Down Under in just a moment. But first, a word from our sponsor. Friends, is your child exhibiting disturbing signs of being interested in creative pursuits? Do they write, play music, or even worse, ACT? Are you concerned that they'll never enter a career that provides respect, status, and most importantly, INCOME? Then turn to Paraclesius Educational Playthings, makers of the Stubbins Ffirth Home Chemistry Set!

You and your child will glow with...pride at what they're able to accomplish with Stubbing Firths industrial-grade uranium, and if you order now, you'll also get the special Paraclesius medical pack, so your little scientist can concoct their own curatives from such ingredients as wormwood, foxglove and poppies! So remember, before you think of any other home chemistry sets, think of Stubbins Ffirth!

And now, a few words from other important personages.

Friends, Eclectic Full Contact Theatre is forging ahead with their 11th season, bringing you a year of nothing but new works.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

From readings to festivals celebrating the best new works from around the country and the world, both onstage and over the airwaves, EFCT is bringing fresh, new work to audiences everywhere! So go to eclectic-theatre.com to find out about all their brand-spanking new 11th season! And tell them the Shade sent you! And now, back to our story!

NARRATOR

Act 4 Scene 1--PIPE DOWN!

Things come to a head

The Shade and the Vamp watched as the figure charged forward, sword held high, emitting a blood-curdling battle cry!

SFX: Weak growl

NARRATOR

I guess you had to be there. The Shade acted quickly--

SHADE

Never fear, Vamp, I'll use my Shade-a-rang to knock the sword out of his hands!

SFX: SOUND OF A THROW, THEN WHIRRING
OFF INTO THE DISTANCE...

SHADE

Missed it by THAT much!

NARRATOR

That much being equivalent to a country mile.

VAMP

Perhaps fedora is not the ideal shape for a throwing weapon.

SHADE

Everybody's a critic.

NARRATOR

A moment later, their assailant was upon them swinging his sword with ferocity, but fortunately, not much skill.

SFX: WHOOSH, THEN METAL AGAINST
STONE

SHERIDAN

Ouch!

NARRATOR

The sword fell from his grip--

SFX: SPLASH

NARRATOR

He tried to retrieve it--

SHERIDAN

EW!

NARRATOR

Thought better of it, and resorted to hand-to-hand combat. The Vamp waded in--literally, utilizing her unique fighting style, which was a blend of karate--

SFX: WOOD BREAKING

NARRATOR

Badminton

SFX: RACKET

NARRATOR

And door to door sales.

SFX: DOORBELL

NARRATOR

Unfortunately, the Shade also waded into the fight, and ended up doing nothing more than tripping The Vamp.

VAMP

Whoops!

SFX: SPLASH

VAMP

Ew, ew, EW!

SHADE

Sorry, Vamp, I was just trying to--

NARRATOR

Shade's apology was cut off by the gas-masked figure advancing upon him.

SHERIDAN

You're next!

SHADE

Come on, then. Feel the wrath of

SFX: WHIP CRACK

SHADE

Shade-fu!

NARRATOR

Okay, this gag has officially gone too far. Thankfully, before The Shade could completely offend an entire culture, a strange sound filled the tunnel.

VOICE

Koala, koala, koala....

NARRATOR

No, not that strange sound, a different strange sound.

SFX: WHIRRING

NARRATOR

Yep, that's the one. The mysterious assailant turned around just in

time to get a fedora-shaped Shade-a-rang full in the gut.

SHERIDAN

oof!

NARRATOR

As he was driven back by the force, he stepped on...well, the less said about what he stepped on the better, Whatever it was, it caused him to slide backward at an ever-increasing speed.

SHERIDAN

AAAAH!

NARRATOR

Right past the Shade

SFX: WHISTLE

NARRATOR

And, perhaps unbelievably, around the bend in the tunnel--

SFX: SKID

NARRATOR

Resulting in a collision with two highly surprised conspirators.

SFX: CRASH

SHERIDAN

Ow!

PENNY

Ow!

MICK

Ow! I mean, koalow!

VAMP

Get me up!

SFX: SUCKING SOUND, THEN A POP

SHADE

Vamp, are you alright?

VAMP

Alright? No! I'm not alright! I'm going to need to go home and take a bath for about six months because somebody made me fall into pepper-peppered sewage!

SHADE

I was just trying--

VAMP

I know what you were trying to do, Shade, but I'M the one with the unique fighting style, remember?

SHADE

Well, I also--

VAMP

No, Shade, you have a unique getting in the way style!

SHADE

I'm sorry, Vamp. I didn't realize--

VAMP

I know, Shade. That's part of the problem. Come on, let's find out who those voices belong to so we can get out of here!

NARRATOR

They made their way to the scene of the collision, to find a tangled mass of bodies and two familiar faces.

SHADE

Mick! Penny! You're the ones behind the sewer monster noises?

MICK

Noises? What noises? We didn't hear no noises, did we Penny?

PENNY

We sure didn't, Mick!

MICK

See?

PENNY

I couldn't hear nothing on account of those koala sounds Mick here was making. They was so loud!

MICK

Right, so we'll just be--PENNY!

PENNY

What I say? What I say?

VAMP

I knew it was a cover for something criminal. Okay you two, what are you up to?

SHADE

And who is this blade-wielding miscreant?

MICK

We ain't never seen him before.

PENNY

Yeah, fellas in gas masks all look the same anyways.

VAMP

Let's take a look, then.

SFX: MASK BEING REMOVED

MICK/PENNY

Sheridan Badkamer?

SHADE

So you DO know him!

MICK

Yeah, he's the son of the fella what hired us!

VAMP

Hired you?

PENNY

Yeah, his dad hired us to walk around down here and scare people.

MICK

So he could sell the city some kinda invention to get rid of the monster.

SHERIDAN

And he would've gotten away with it, too, if it hadn't been for you meddling vigilantes!

SHADE

We hear that a lot.

VAMP

But why?

SHERIDAN

He had no choice. I lost a lot of money investing in a company that supplied mail order safaris.

SHADE

How would--

VAMP

Don't, Shade. Just don't.

SHERIDAN

One of the animals we imported was a koala. It was impossible to control! It raided the icebox, fired Father's shotgun, then ran off.

SHADE

What'd I tell you? Eats, shoots, and leaves!

VAMP

Quiet, you. Then what?

SHERIDAN

We couldn't find it anywhere. So Father came up with the idea of making the city think there was a giant mutant koala in the sewers.

VAMP

But why that weird sound?

SHERIDAN

That's the sound a koala makes.

SHADE

SEE?

VAMP

My head hurts. But what about the silhouette we saw?

PENNY

Oh, that was just my old teddy bear Mr. Fuzzykins and them weird glowing peppers.

SHADE

Alright, you three. It's time to send you up the river.

PENNY

Oh good, clean water!

MICK

He means we're going to jail, Penny.

PENNY

I stand by my statement.

SHERIDAN

Jail? You're taking me to jail? Locking me up behind bars with armed guards?

VAMP

Afraid so, Mr. Badkamer.

SHERIDAN

Thank you! Oh thank you!

SHADE

You're...welcome? I'm confused. Vamp, why is he happy?

SHERIDAN

Trust me, when my mother discovers we WON'T be making back the money I lost, jail will be the safest place for me!

SFX: STING

NARRATOR

**Act 4 scene 2--TANKS FOR THE MEMORIES
WE CAN'T STALL THE ENDING ANY LONGER.**

With the concession of Mick, Penny, and Sheridan, Henry Badkamer was arrested, and Prunella Badkamer was forced back into the life she led prior to meeting Henry.

PRUNELLA

Nooooooooo! You can't send me back to the gutter!

HENRY

It's alright, Prunella my sweet! It'll only be for 5-10 years, and there's no shame in being employed by the Department of Public works.

PRUNELLA

Nooooo!

NARRATOR

Later, the Shade and the Vamp were congratulated by the Mayor and Police Chief Cannoli.

CANNOLI

Imma so happy to find out there are no giant animals inna da sewer!

SHADE

It was all just a greedy rich man.

VAMP

Usually is.

MAYOR

Now, now, we can't paint all greedy rich men with the same broad brush.

CANNOLI

Dat's right! We should use different ones, or at least wash it off in between. Wait, why are we painting greedy rich men in the first place?

MAYOR

That's not...oh never mind.

CANNOLI

Shade, Vamp, I gotta one favor to ask.

VAMP

What's that, Chief?

CANNOLI

Could you NOT tell Pnnch and John about this? Seeing that giant monster has made them cut back on their powdered sugar intake, which is saving the station a LOT of money! That's money we can use to develop better training programs and invest in more up to date investigative techniques.

MAYOR

Chief, that sounds...(*suspicious*) almost competent.

CANNOLI

Who?> Me? No, Imma just talking through my face!

VAMP

Hat.

CANNOLI

Huh?

VAMP

It's talking through your hat, not talking through your face.

CANNOLI

Dat don't make-a no sense. My face is where my mouth is, so what else am I gonna talk through? Oh, look atta da time. Gotta run!

SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS DOOR OPEN,
SLAM

MAYOR

I want to thank the two of you for bringing us the news so quickly.

ROSA

Sí, thought you could've waited until you had a bath. It's too cold to keep the windows open all the time!

MAYOR

Nevertheless, thanks to you, the citizens of this fine city can now...um...conduct their business without fear.

SHADE

All in a day's work, Mr. Mayor.

VAMP

For you, maybe. That's the first time I've ever been down a manhole, and believe me, it'll be the last.

MAYOR

Now, if you'll excuse me, I have several important calls to make.

ROSA

Sí, like to get the office fumigated.

NARRATOR

Later that day, Chicago Gazette-Times-Herald Editor-In-Chief Clarence Clemmons was also pleased with the outcome.

CLEMMONS

I am pleased with this outcome.

NARRATOR

Natch.

WED

It's always heartening when a rich and powerful man who tries to use his influence to swindle good and decent people for his own gain is brought to justice.

(SILENCE)

WED

(Sighs heavily) And you get a story to keep international news off the front page.

CLEMMONS

NOW you're talking! I don't know how anybody could believe there were giant animals in the sewers! I mean, what do they think this is, New York?

WED

It does boggle the mind.

CLEMMONS

Good work, you two, but don't think you're gonna rest on your laurels!

THEO

Laurels? WE have laurels? Why wasn't I told about this? Wednesday, do you have laurels?

WED

Me? All I've got is a fern on its last legs.

THEO/WED

You have a fern with LEGS?

CLEMMONS

ENOUGH! I'm presently in a good mood, but don't push your luck. Now get out there and get me another story that allows me to keep my head in the sand about the world outside our borders!

THEO

That's an oddly specific request, Chief.

CLEMMONS

GO!

SFX: DOOR OPENING, SLAM

THEO

Well, Miss Morning, it seems you were right again. No giant monsters, just criminals.

WED

I know it's disappointing, Theo, but there was one good thing about it being plain old criminal activity.

THEO

Oh? What?

WED

I will never have to crawl around in those sewers ever again!

SHADE

Never say never, Wednesday. Come along, Miss Morning. I'll buy you lunch.

WED

Why thank you most kindly, Mr. Rockwell. Only....no hot dogs, okay?

(Both laugh)

NARRATOR

AS Theodore Rockwell and Wednesday Morning cheerfully went about their day. Deep below the pavement, in the radioactive glow of the sewer peppers, something stirred...

VOICE

Koala, koala, koala...

SFX: STING

SFX: METRONOME

NARRATOR

This has been Throwing Shade--Blunder Down Under, brought to you by Paraclesius Educational Playthings, makers of the Stubbins Ffirth Home Chemistry Set! It's a blast!

Throwing Shade has also been brought to you by Eclectic Full Contact Theatre. Remember to like, follow and subscribe to our podcast! Or leave a review!

Created by Andrew Pond and Sarah Siegel
Written by: Andrew Pond with Zach Osterman
Directed by: Andrew Pond
Starring the voice talents of:
Our Foley Artist was Lori Eyre
Our engineer was:
And I am your narrator:
Special thanks to Tina Salamone!
Tune in next week--Same Shade Time, Same Shade Station!