

## DISORGANIZED LABOR

Throwing Shade Season 4 Episode 6

**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](http://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 Chicago Gazette-Times-Herald, but by night he becomes, The Shade! Using his uncanny ability to wear dark clothing, he, assisted by his girl Friday, Wednesday Morning, who is the mysterious female vigilante, the Vamp--you know, anyone else ever wonder exactly how those two came up with this crimefighting idea? I mean, what's the origin story of these two?

SFX: OFF MIC WHISPERS

NARRATOR

MOVIE? The Shade's getting an origin movie?

SFX: FRANTIC OFF MIC WHISPERS

NARRATOR

After the sixth season? Pretty optimistic, considering how long it took to get to season four! And how do you make a radio show a movie? Doesn't make a whole lot of sense.

SFX: ANGRY OFF MIC WHISPERS

NARRATOR

Alright, alright, keep your hair on! Better be a narrator in that movie, that's all I'm saying. Now where was I? Oh yeah--defends the downtrodden and fights the forces of evil. But can one man defend the innocent from the scourge of Chicago's underbelly?

SFX: SIREN

NARRATOR

Find out in this week's episode of Throwing Shade--Disorganized Labor. And we end the season as we started--with a new sponsor! Grip-Tie Dentures has gone out of business because...

SFX: PAPERS RUSTLING

NARRATOR

...their product worked too well! The built-in adhesive was so good, that once they went in, they didn't come back out. Replacements were unneeded, and sales plummeted. And that, children, is why quality workmanship will never catch on in America. And so we at Throwing Shade are resigned to welcome the folks over at Kartonger Fine Furniture. Remember their motto--Kartonger Furniture--it's fine.

Previously on Throwing Shade:

SFX: CAR HORN

NARRATOR

Also brought to you by Eclectic Full Contact Theatre, bringing you high quality, 1930's radio-style satire since...well, I'm sure you all remember.

And now, on to our story!

**Act 1 Scene 1--EASY DOCENT--Tourism is nuts**

The chilly Chicago winter--

SFX: HEAVY WIND

CITIZEN

Brrrrrr!

NARRATOR

Had given way to the chilly Chicago spring.

SFX: LIGHTER WIND

CITIZEN

Brrr. Seriously?

NARRATOR

Which had, in turn, given way to the sweltering Chicago

summer. SFX: HEAVY WIND

CITIZEN

How is the breeze HOT??

NARRATOR

Which meant that tourists would soon be flocking to the city's many cultural attractions.

BARTENDER

Welcome to Chicago! Here, try this--the locals love it.

TOURIST

Malort? Is it good?

BARTENDER

It's definitely local!

SFX: EVIL BACKGROUND GIGGLES, THEN  
GAGGING SOUND, LOUD LAUGHTER

NARRATOR

That is NOT what I'm talking about....though that is funny. No, I meant the city's fine selection of museums. These repositories of class and sophistication attracted thousands of visitors from around the country every year. But this year, trouble was brewing...

SFX: EXPLOSION

IDA

Irv, how many times do I have to tell you, brewing beer in the garage is never going to catch on! It always causes trouble!

NARRATOR

I see the writers have abandoned all sense of continuity and plot, so strap in, folks. I meant, trouble was brewing at the National Union of Tourism Specialists.

SFX: GAVEL BANGS

DEBS

Hear ye, hear ye! I do hereby call to order this meeting off the National Union of Tourism Specialists, the right honorable John Candy Debs presiding. Let us start this meeting as we do every meeting, with the reciting of the Union pledge. If you're from out of town--

ALL

NUTS TO YOU!

DEBS

Now Hattie, our secretary, will read out the minutes of the last meeting. Hattie?

SFX: RUSTLING PAPER

HATTIE

The last meeting ran about thirty-five minutes.

DEBS

Thank you, Hattie. Any old business?

SFX: SLOW SCRAPE OF CHAIR ON FLOOR

CYRUS

*(A very old man)* I'd like to bring up some business...

DEBS

That's not what we mean by old business, Cyrus.

CYRUS

But--

DEBS

Save it for new business, Cyrus.

CYRUS

Fine!

SFX: HEAVY SIT

DEBS

Alright, any new business?

SFX: SLOW SCRAPE OF CHAIR ON FLOOR

CYRUS

I'd like to bring up--

DEBS

Sorry, Cyrus, that's old business.

CYRUS

Ah, nertz.

SFX: HEAVY SIT

DEBS

Brothers and sisters, another tourist season is upon us, and once again, the hard working men and women who serve the tourist trade are expected to go without adequate compensation!

SFX: ANGRY MUTTERING

DEBS

Or respect!

SFX: MORE ANGRY MUTTERING

DEBS

It is we who bring the city the money that floods its coffers every summer, is it not?

ALL

It is!

DEBS

And it is we who give the out-of-towners the experience that makes them wish to return again and again, is it not?

ALL

It is!

SFX: DOOR BURSTS OPEN

FIFI

You bet your boots it is!

DEBS

Fifa LaRue! What are you doing here?

FIFI

I am here to join your union. My girls are an integral part of the tourism experience and we deserve NUTS as much as anyone!

HATTIE

Even more so, some might say.

CYRUS

We've been through this before, Fifi. We can't let you in. The city council would riot if your girls unionized.

HATTIE

They're afraid the prices would go up.

SFXL: LAUGHTER

FIFI

We provide as legitimate a service as your doormen, chambermaids, museum tour guides--

MARIANNE

We're called docents!

VOICE

That's right! Know your worth, Marianne!

SFX: GAVEL BANG

DEBS

We should all know our worth! And we're going to make sure the city knows as well! I say we strike!

ALL

Strike?

CYRUS

If we strike, we don't get paid!

MARIANNE

What are supposed to do, just lay around all day?

FIFI

We do.

SFX: ANGRY MUTTERING, GAVEL

DEBS

Order! Order!

SFX: MUTTERING CEASES

DEBS

I know the idea of a strike is frightening, but rest assured, we have a strike fund to keep us going.

ALL

Strike fund?

CYRUS

Since when?

DEBS

Don't you worry about that. Just know that we have supporters who are deeply invested in helping us succeed in securing fair wages and respectful treatment for all the tour guides--

MARIANNE

DOCENTS!

DEBS

Whatever! So brothers and sisters, are we ready to show this city the power of NUTS?

ALL

YES!

NARRATOR

And in a flash, the city's tourist sites were without workers. Baseball stadiums had no hot dog vendors, museums, were guidelsss--

MARIANNE

We're DOCENTS!

NARRATOR

Museums were...(giggles) in-DOCENT. (Laughs) Get it? (Pause) Heathens. Things were so bad, Navy Pier had to go back to being..well, a pier for the Navy.

This caused an uproar in the city. Then, when it was discovered that Fiji LaRue's girls had also gone on strike in solidarity, it caused an uproar in city government. That uproar reached the ears of Mayor Crane, who knew something had to be

done!

Rosa! MAYOR

SFX: DOOR OPEN

ROSA  
Yes, Mr. Mayor?

MAYOR  
Something has to be done!

ROSA  
Many things have been. Usually brownish things.

MAYOR  
This cannot stand!

ROSA  
SO prop it up?

MAYOR  
This spells ruin! Ruin!

ROSA  
No, that nameplate spells Mayor Crane, just like always.

MAYOR  
Rosa, what are we to do?

ROSA  
Try starting over, but this time, let me know what we're talking about.

SFX: DOOR CLOSES

Rosa! MAYOR

SFX: DOOR OPENS

ROSA  
Sí, Mayor Crane?

MAYOR  
Something has to be done...about these striking tourist workers!

ROSA  
See? Was that so hard?

MAYOR  
This is disastrous! If there's no tourist workers, then there's no

tourism, and if there's no tourism, then my--I mean the city's--  
coffers will be empty!

ROSA

Yes, I can tell you are greatly concerned for...the city.

MAYOR

We have to get these strikers back to work! But how?

ROSA

Perhaps talk to the institutions involved and suggest they enter into  
good faith negotiations with the union to provide fair wages and  
good working conditions?

*(PAUSE)*

MAYOR

It boggles my mind, Rosa, how you can have worked in government  
this long and yet have no idea how politics works. No, no. no. If the  
people who do the work get paid more, then there's less money to go  
to the people who truly deserve it. Because without those people,  
there are no jobs for the workers to do!

ROSA

Ah, yes. How foolish of me. Then perhaps those people can go fill  
in the empty jobs.

MAYOR

This is no time for jokes, Rosa! No, the only way to handle this is  
send in scabs.

ROSA

We cannot do that, Mr. Mayor.

MAT

We can't? Why not? Surely they're not afraid of crossing a picket  
line full of tour guides?

VOICES

We are docents! We are docents!

SFX: WINDOW SLAMMING SHUT

MAYOR

I told you to keep that window closed, Rosa!

ROSA

The scabs are not afraid of crossing the picket line, Mr. Mayor. They  
just don't want to deal with out-of-towners on vacation.

MAYOR

Can't say that I blame them. You'd think Clevelanders had never



seen a city before!

ROSA

They haven't.

MAYOR

Fair point. Well, then send in the strikebreakers!

ROSA

We can't.

MAYOR

Why not?

ROSA

They're on strike.

MAYOR

WHAT?

ROSA

They haven't had a raise since 1926.

MAYOR

Greedy Bolsheviks! Then send in the police.

ROSA

We tried that.

MAYOR

What happened?

ROSA

They heard the word docent and got confused.

MAYOR

Oh no.

ROSA

So right now the entire police force is spread across the city protecting every donut shop in the Chicagoland area.

MAYOR

This is a dark day for our city, Rosa. Well, I suppose we have no choice.

ROSA

I agree. I will get the head of the union here so negotiations can commence.

MAYOR

What? No! Get me the Shade and the Vamp!

SFX: STING

NARRATOR

*(AS IF TALKING TO SOMEONE OFF MIC)* I don't know who I'd want playing me in the movie. I always thought I sounded a bit like Marlene Dietrich, you know? Glamorous, sultry...

*(WHISPERS from off mic)*

NARRATOR

Yorn? What's yorn?

*(Urgent whispering off mic)*

NARRATOR

You're on? Oh! I'm on!

SFX: FRANTIC RUSTLING PAPERS

NARRATOR

**Act 1 scene ILL EQUIPPED--the Shade experiences some rooftop recrimination**

While City Hall was deciding to fight...well...the city, across town two shadowy figures alighted atop a roof.

SFX: LIGHT THUD

SFX: HEAVY THUD

NARRATOR

Well, one shadowy figure alighted atop a roof. The other? Well...he got there.

SHADE

I'm alright! I'm alright!

VAMP

Shade, when I tell you I have a situation covered, I have it covered. I had a perfectly good barricade set up to stop that truckload of stolen kewpie dolls.

SHADE

I know, Vamp, but I really needed to test out my new Shade-Spikes! And they worked. Throw them under the wheels, and BAM! Two flat tires!

VAMP

Yes, which caused it to skid out of control, clip you with the side mirror, then overturn, spewing kewpie dolls everywhere.

SHADE

Well, if you put it like that...

VAMP

You can be so frustrating!

SHADE

I'm just trying to help.

VAMP

I know! I know. But all this equipment--

SHADE

Ah! I see! I completely understand.

VAMP

You do?

SHADE

Absolutely! You're upset that all you have is the Vampocket. Well, never fear, I can always--

VAMP

No! That's not it! Look, there's been a severe uptick in crime ever since NUTS went on strike.

SHADE

Now, I know some of them may be a bit eccentric, but that's rather harsh.

VAMP

The National Union of Tourism Specialists, Shade. Their union.

SHADE

Ah yes. I see.

VAMP

More crime means more work for us, which means we need to play it smart. Not just go barreling in because you've got some nifty new gadget.

SHADE

Aha! So you admit, they are nifty!

VAMP

Not the point! How am I supposed to get things done if I'm worrying about you all the time?

SHADE

Worrying about me? Vamp, you talk like you have to take care of me. We're partners.

VAMP

Are we? I just wish you would think...about the ramifications...um, Shade?

VAMP

Yes, Vamp?

VAMP

Why is there a giant glowing fedora in the sky?

SHADE

Ha-ha! It works!

VAMP

What works?

SHADE

It's the Shade-signal!

VAMP

The WHAT?

SHADE

The Shade-signal! I installed it on City Hall's roof so they could contact us whenever they need us!

VAMP

That is--

SHADE

And I thought it would be a good way to keep people from asking too many questions about why Theo and Wednesday are the only people who know how to contact The Shade and the Vamp.

*(PAUSE)*

VAMP

Ugh! I really hate when you do that!

SHADE

Do what?

VAMP

I'm in the middle of rebuking you for doing ridiculous things, then you go and do something that actually makes sense! Come on!

SFX: ANGRY FOOTSTEPS

SFX: LIMPING FOOTSTEPS

SHADE

Oof. (*Shouting*) I'll take the car and meet you there!

SFX: STING

NARRATOR

A short time later, the Vamp arrived on the roof of City Hall to find a vague figure standing next to the giant searchlight that was the Shade-Signal.

VAMP

Mayor Crane.

ROSA

No, it is me.

VAMP

Rosa? You sent for us?

ROSA

No, Mayor Crane sent for you, but he wants me to do the talking so he can retain...what did he call it again?

SFX: DOOR OPENS

MAYOR

Plausible deniability!

SFX: DOOR SLAMS

ROSA

That's it.

VAMP

Is he just hiding in the roof access staircase?

ROSA

Sí.

VAMP

O...kay. SO what seems to be the trouble.

ROSA

Where is the Shade?

VAMP

He had a disagreement with a truck on the way here, so he's moving

kinda slow.

ROSA

Have you ever thought of going out on your own?

VAMP

What? The Shade and I are a team.

ROSA

The Shade is a good man, and he means well, but he is very...

VAMP

Yes, he is. But he has his moments.

SFX: BODIES FALLING OVER EACH OTHER

MAYOR

*(off)* Ow! That's my head!

SHADE

*(off)* Sorry, Mr. Mayor. I didn't see you hunched on the stairs.

SFX: COMMOTION

SHADE

*(off)* If you could just let me get past over--

MAYOR

*(Off)* Wait, watch out...that's--OW! My spleen!

SHADE

*(off)* Not to worry, sir. EVerybody's got two. Now if I could just--

MAYOR

*(off)* Wait! Don't--

SFX: GOOR OPENS< BODIES FALL

MAYOR

Open the door.

ROSA

Moments, hmm?

VAMP

This isn't one of them.

SHADE

Rosa! Do you know the Mayor was hiding in the stairwell?

ROSA

No, but if you hum a few bars I think I could fake it.

MAYOR

I was not hiding! I'm not here! You don't see me! I am not the politician you're searching for!

SFX: DOOR SLAM

SHADE

Is he alright?

ROSA

No. He is very upset because someone struck the city's nuts.

SHADE/VAMP

What?

SFX: DOOR OPEN

MAYOR

No, the nuts are on strike!

VAMP

Oh, city council on vacation?

MAYOR

No, the National Union--

VAMP

We know, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR

Really Rosa, you must try to be more succinct. I can't stay hunched in the stairwell all day.

ROSA

This would go much more smoothly if you would stay out here. In case I make another mistake.

MAYOR

Oh, very well!

SFX: DOOR SLAM

VAMP

You do that on purpose, don't you?

ROSA

Every time.

SHADE

Now, Mr. Mayor, what's the problem with the strike?

MAYOR

Problem? Problem? Only that these greedy socialists are bleeding this city dry! All so they can line their own pockets!

VAMP

Well, even if that were true--

ROSA

It isn't.

VAMP

The striking tour guides--

MARIANNE

*(from far away)* We're docents!

MAYOR

We know, Marianne, we know! And we still don't care!

ROSA

Sir, it's best if you do not interact with the nuts.

VAMP

Mayor Crane, what they're doing is not illegal!

MAYOR

Are we sure? They might be up to something! I need you to investigate them and shut them down!

SHADE

Mayor Crane, we are not strikebreakers

VAMP

The Shade and I are crimefighters, not corporate shills.

SHADE

That's right. We have integrity. Just like Kartonger Fine Furniture. Kartonger manufactures affordable furniture you assemble yourself, once you cart it back to your home!

VAMP

How convenient!

SHADE

That's right! No more dealing with professional delivery men! At Kartonger Fine Furniture, you deliver to yourself!

VAMP

Is it easy to assemble?

SHADE

So easy a child could do it!

VAMP



Hot dog! That sounds aces! But is it quality?

SHADE

Kartonger Furniture is fine.

VAMP

Fine?

SHADE

Fine!

VAMP

Well, isn't that fine?

SHADE

It sure is! So remember, if you want integrity in your furniture, look no further than Kartonger!

VAMP

See, Mr. Mayor? The Shade and I are not for sale.

ROSA

Clearly.

MAYOR

Alright! Alright! I'm not asking you to go in and bust heads....anymore. But there's been a significant increase in crime ever since the strike started. Surely you could look into that?

SHADE

We were just discussing that.

VAMP

Could be a coincidence

SHADE

Still, it couldn't hurt to check it out, I guess.

MAYOR

That's all I'm asking! For the good of the city.

VAMP

Riiiiight. Fine, we'll investigate.

MAYOR

Excellent! And if we need to contact you, Rosa will use this...Shade signal.

ROSA

Oh yes, I do truly enjoy it!

SHADE

You do?

VAMP

You do?

ROSA

Sí, I do! When I use this, The Shade comes to the roof, not through my window!

SFX: STING

NARRATOR

We'll return to Throwing Shade, Disorganized Labor, in just a moment. But first, a word from our sponsor. Friends, are you tired of the high price of quality furniture? Do you shudder whenever a delivery man bumps into your possessions with the bulky pieces they bring into your domicile? Have you ever thought that life would be so much more enjoyable if you could add furniture assembly to your list of daily tasks? Then Kartonger Fine Furniture is for you!

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

That's right, Kartonger brings you the highest quality Nordic do-it yourself-furniture found anywhere in the Midwest! Each piece of Kartonger furniture comes with nearly all the tools necessary for assembly, with easy step by step instructions in several different languages, some of them even resembling English! Ut's fun for the whole family. And when you come to our store to purchase your Kartonger furniture, don't forget to pick up some lutefisk from our in-store café! Kartonger Furniture--it's fine!

And now for a few words from some other important personages.

Friends, Eclectic Full Contact Theatre is forging ahead with their 11th season, bringing you a year of nothing but new works. 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 2 Scene LABOR PAINS--Chaos reigns in the city**

All across Chicago, crime was running rampant. Iconic stores were being looted--

FLOORWALKER

I am terribly sorry, madam, but we cannot make any reservations for the Walnut Room, as someone has made off with all the walnuts.

NARRATOR

Restaurants were vandalized--

FYVUSH

Sorry, officers, but a bunch of hooligans busted up our fryers. No Dinkel's donuts today.

PONCH/JOHN

Nooooooo!

NARRATOR

And no bank was safe from perpetual robbery!

ROBBER

Okay, nobody move! This is a robbery!

TELLER

Yeah, yeah, we know. You're the third one this week. Here.

SFX: PAPER RUSTLING

ROBBER

What's this?

TELLER

An I.O.U. Come back in a week. We might have money then.

ROBBER

Ah nertz.

NARRATOR

But there was something unique about this crime wave, and it couldn't escape the steel trap minds over at the Chicago Gazette Times-Herald.

SFX: DOOR OPEN, CLOSE

WALLY

Mr. Clemmons, there's something unique about this crime wave, and--

CLEMMONS

Winchell! What are you doing here? Did I bellow for you?

WALLY

Um, no Chief.

CLEMMONS

I didn't think so. I usually remember my bellows.

WALLY

Um, right. So about this crime wave--

CLEMMONS

So you just decided to come into my office under your own steam?

WALLY

Yes, Chief.

CLEMMONS

You feeling alright?

WALLY

I'm fine. Listen, Mr. Clemmons, there's something about this crime wave that--

SFX: DOOR OPENS, CLOSES

THEO

Chief! There's something unusual about this crime wave!

WED

You see, it seems that--

CLEMMONS

What are you all up to?

ALL

Up to?

CLEMMONS

Yes, up to! I have never had a my-door-is-always-open policy. You can tell that because my door is NEVER open!

THEO

Yes, but--

CLEMMONS

But here you three come, waltzing in here like this isn't my private space, my sanctuary, my inner sanctum, but rather like it's someplace you're all WELCOME!

THEO

But you see, Chief--

WALLY

This is important, Chief!

CLEMMONS

And don't call me Chief!

WALLY

But Theo gets to call you Chief!

THEO

That is because I am very bad at listening to authority.

WED

Gentlemen, if I may? Mr. Clemmons, it's about a story. A FRONT PAGE story.

CLEMMONS

Well, why didn't you say so?

THEO

Good thinking Wednesday!

CLEMMONS

Good thinking, Rockwell!

WALLY/WED

Hey!

WED

What are you upset about?

WALLY

I was here first!

CLEMMONS

Hey! I was promised a front page story, and regardless of what you all might think, witty banter is not newsworthy!

WALLY

May I?

WED

Fine, go ahead.

WALLY

I figured out--

CLEMMONS

Wait! This isn't about Europe again, is it?

WALLY

No, it's about the crime wave here in Chicago!

THEO

So's ours!

WALLY

Turns out the crime wave is targeting pretty much everything EXCEPT tourist sites.

THEO

Hey! That's what we figured out too!

CLEMMONS

What are you talking about? What about that truckload of Kewpie dolls from Navy Pier?

WED

Turns out they just knocked over some toy stores.

THEO

Even thieves don't go to Navy Pier.

CLEMMONS

What about that raid on Soldier Field?

WALLY

Turns out it was just a really confused Army recruiter.

CLEMMONS

So the city's being overrun with criminals, but the tourist spots are safe?

THEO

Looks that way.

CLEMMONS

Well, then those union Bolsheviks must be behind this!

WED

There's no evidence they're involved with this.

CLEMMONS

No evidence, huh? Then it's a good thing I'm in the newspaper business. Evidence doesn't figure into it! Speculation is our bread and butter!

THEO

Now hold on, Chief!

CLEMMONS

Don't call me Chief!

THEO

Chief, it's me, Theo.

CLEMMONS

Oh. Right. I get confused with you and Winchell in the same room.

WED

I thought this was an interesting facet that we could look into, get the actual facts, then print a story that contained those instead of baseless supposition. You know, like journalists?

CLEMMONS

*(Whiny)* But that takes so loooooong!

THEO

With us on the job? We'll get to the bottom of it like THAT!

SFX: FAILED FINGER SNAP

THEO

Sorry. Just washed my hands and I can't do a thing with them.  
Wally?

SFX: FINGER SNAP

THEO

Thank you.

CLEMMONS

Fine! Look into it and get back to me with what you find. But make it snappy! No offense, Rockwell.

THEO

None taken.

CLEMMONS

Now get out there and get me that story!

SFX: DOOR OPEN, SLAM

WALLY

Well, now what do we do?

WED

Exactly what Mr. Clemmons told us to do. This will go a lot faster if we split up. Theo and I will go talk to the union reps and see what's going on with them. Wally, look into the crimes, see if you can find anything that links the perpetrators.

THEO

Other than the fact they're criminals.

*(PAUSE)*

WED

Yes. Other than that.

WALLY

That's aces! Finally, I get to work on a story that will actually get printed!

SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS

THEO

I assume we'll be visiting the union members as the Shade and the Vamp?

WED

Absolutely. I think they'll be more likely to let something slip to them rather than two ordinary reporters.

THEO

Excellent! I have some amazing new Shade gadgets to try out!

SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS

WED

Oh goody. Maybe Rosa was right...

SFX: SAD STING

NARRATOR

**Act 2 scene 2--SOMETHING DOCENT SEEM RIGHT--  
Motives are uncovered. Maybe. Who knows?**

A short time later, at the NUTS headquarters, a heated debate was underway, led by Chairman John Candy Debs.

SFX: GAVEL

DEBS

Order! Order! This debate is getting far too heated! Hattie, turn that space heater down!

HATTIE

Sorry.

SFX: CLICK OF A SWITCH

DEBS

Don't know why that was on anyway. It's June.

HATTIE

It's Chicago.

DEBS

Fair point.

MARIANNE

Tell me about it! I left the house today in a sweater. A SWEATER! And this old building doesn't help. Nothing but marble.

CYRUS

Don't get me started. Chill you to the bone, these hallways. Then you pass a window and you're perspiring like a politician in church!



SFX: GAVEL

DEBS

Could we possibly cease the discussion of the weather, mesmerizing though it is?

CYRUS

Sure, Johnny boy. Would you like to talk traffic? I couldn't believe how backed up it was getting here today! I coulda walked faster.

HATTIE

It's all that construction. Every year they tear everything up and rebuild it the exact same way so they can tear it all up again next year.

MARIANNE

That's why I refuse to drive. Just use the El. It's state of the art. And so CLEAN!

SFX: GAVEL

DEBS

Please! There are more important things than traffic!

CYRUS

Old Johnny only cares about cars during the winter when he sticks perfectly good chairs in the middle of the street after he shovels.

HATTIE

That's so ridiculous.

MARIANNE

You don't own a public street.

DEBS

It counts!

CYRUS

Sure. So says Johnny Debs!

NARRATOR

So it's HIS fault!

DEBS

I would like to discuss how the STRIKE is going, if that wouldn't be too much of a problem for everyone.

CYRUS

Seems the muckety-mucks are just fine with no workers. They ain't budging.

HATTIE

It is disheartening. I don't know how long we can hold out.

DEBS

I assure you, we are in no danger financially. Sooner or later, the loss of tourism revenue will force the owners, and the city itself, to capitulate.

MARIANNE

How can you be so sure?

SHADE

I'd like to know that myself.

DEBS

Aaaahh!

HATTIE

Aaaahhhh!!

MARIANNE

Aaaahhhh!!

SHADE

I'm most interested in how--

CYRUS

Aaaaqhhh!

SHADE

What the--

CYRUS

Whattaya want? I'm old. Takes me while to catch up.

SHADE

Fair enough.

VAMP

What we want to know is--

DEBS/JATTIE/MARIANNE

Aaaahhh!!

SHADE

Aaaahhh!!

*(PAUSE)*

SHADE

You're not going to say anything?

VAMP

It really isn't worth it. Now--

SHADE

Hold on. Wait for it...

CYRUS

Aaaahhhh!! Thank you.

SHADE

Don't mention it.

DEBS

Who are you?

SHADE

I'm the Shade, and this is the Vamp.

DEBS

Ah yes. I've heard of you. The Shade, all in black, and the Vamp. You have a real Betty Boop thing about you.

VAMP

*(whispering)* I don't know how to take that.

SHADE

I think it's a compliment?

DEBS

Nice outfit.

VAMP

Thanks, it has--

HARRIE/MARIANNE

POCKETS!

HATTIE

Where did you get those clothes?

MARIANNE

Can you imagine how much more effective my docenting could be if I had POCKETS?

SFX: GAVEL

DEBS

If we could get back to the point?

CYRUS

Really. They're just pockets.

HATTIE

JUST pockets?

MARIANNE

Hmph. Men!

DEBS

Why, exactly, are you here?

SHADE

We're looking into the crime wave that has recently broken out.

VAMP

It seems to be targeting everything in the city--except tourist sites.

DEBS

Surely you can't be suggesting we have anything to do with this!

MARIANNE

Typical. The minute the working class tries to pull itself up, the establishment boot stomps down on our neck. When do you pull out the rubber hoses?

SHADE

Hold on now. We're not here to do anything other than look into some crimes.

VAMP

We don't think you have anything to do with it per se, but it is a strange coincidence.

DEBS

I can assure you that's all it is. No member of NUTS would be crazy enough to get involved with a crime wave.

CYRUS

Well, the carnies might

CARNY

Hey!

SHADE

No, from all reports, the perpetrators had all their teeth.

CARNY

*(As if he had very few teeth)* See? Told you so!

VAMP

Though we are interested in how you're able to fund this strike. It's gone on quite a bit longer than I think any of us expected.

DEBS

Our union is a fiscally responsible organization. We do not spend our members' dues on frivolities

MARIANNE

Like snacks for the meetings!

HATTIE

Or decent coffee!

CYRUS

Or comfortable chairs!

HATTIE

Yet every month, John Candy Debs has a shiny new gavel.

DEBS

I think we're getting a bit far afield. The fact is, we have a sufficiently stocked strike fund.

CYRUS

Especially with that their supporter you keep talking about.

VAMP

Supporter?

DEBS

A private citizen who believes in our cause and has donated to our fund.

SHADE

I see. And exactly who is this philanthropist?

VAMP

Well done.

SHADE

Thank you. Finally, the word-a-day calendar gives me a word I can actually use!

DEBS

He wishes to remain anonymous.

SHADE

I'm Episcopalian, myself

VAMP

No you're not.

SHADE

I know. I just really like the sound of it.

NARRATOR

Hang in there, folks. I'm sure we left a plot around here somewhere.

DEBS

I couldn't possibly reveal their identity.

SHADE

It's a pretty safe bet that whenever someone tries to hide their identity, they're up to no good,

MARIANNE

Says the man in the mask.

HATTIE

I'd like to know, too!

MARIANNE

As would I.

DEBS

This is most--

CYRUS

Me too!

NARRATOR

While everyone was distracted by Cyrus's lapse in time, a door in the back of the room opened and a small, nondescript man entered.

OSSIFER

Hello.

ALL

Aaaahhhh!!

*(PAUSE)*

CYRUS

Aaaahh!!

SHADE

Who are you?

OSSIFER

My name is Dr. Charles Ossifer, and I am the man funding

NUTS. SFX: METRONOME

NARRATOR

Who is this mystery man?

OSSIFER

I believe I already said--

NARRATOR

What is his connection to the union?

OSSIFER

Seriously, that was the last thing out of my mouth--

NARRATOR

Why is he here?

OSSIFER

Maybe you weren't able to hear me over the metronome--

NARRATOR

These questions will be revealed to have been already answered in next week's thrilling conclusion to Throwing Shade--

DISORGANIZED LABOR

Here's a sneak preview--

CANNOLI

Huh?

NARRATOR

This has been Throwing Shade, brought to you by Kartonger Fine Furniture. Kartonger--it's what you make of it.

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!