

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!

(Metronome)

NARRATOR

There is a darkness in the minds of men. A darkness in their hearts, and by extension, quite probably their veins and arteries. They should probably get their blood checked.

But 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 typically becomes the Shade! This night, though, he seems to be wearing a... different costume. Apparently it's Halloween, meaning everyone is dressing up. Even though you can't see me, I'm in costume. Because I work on the show, I was able to get a discount on a Shade costume in fact. But since I want to get to celebrate tonight, let's get back on track. He, assisted by his girl Friday, Wednesday Morning, who is the mysterious female vigilante, the Vamp, defends the downtrodden and fights the forces of evil. But can one man defend the innocent from the scourge of Chicago's underbelly?

(Siren)

NARRATOR

Find out in this week's episode, The Vamp's Ire! Sponsored by... oh boy. Cole's Candied Corn. 'The candy that doubles as an industrial grade adhesive, now with cherry flavoring!' Yes, that's their selling point. (Sigh). Get them before they're gone, I guess.

Also brought to you by Eclectic Full Contact Theatre, providing you with high quality 1930s' radio-style satire since they started doing so. Let's get this moving though, I want to be fashionably late to my party, not late-late to the party. Last week on Throwing Shade-well, nobody knows, as this is apparently a LOST episode. Don't really think that's true. I've known where I was the whole time.

NARRATOR

And now, onto our story!

**Act 1 Scene 1 - Solid Halloween Plans.
Hallow's Eve Eve**

Morning at the Chicago Gazette-Times-Herald, Clarence Clemmons is even more blustery than usual, having given Rosa the day off to go shopping for a Halloween costume.

(door opens, footsteps)

CLEMMONS

ROSA!

(silence)

CLEMMONS

ROSA!

(silence)

CLEMMONS

ROSA! ROSA, WHERE THE--

(quick footsteps)

WEDNESDAY

CHIEF! Why are you making such a racket?

THEO

Yes, Chief, it's much too late in the year to be playing tennis.

(silence)

THEO

(chortling)

Get it? Tennis? Racket?

(silence)

THEO

(apologetically)

Well, I thought it was...

(chortling)

PUNNY!

(Theo laughs heartily, until he has to gasp to get his breath)

WEDNESDAY

Are you done?

(Theo emits a short girlish giggle)

THEO

Yes. Now I'm done.

(silence)

CLEMMONS

ROSA!

WEDNESDAY

Chief, you gave Rosa the day off.

CLEMMONS

I did what?

THEO

You gave Rosa the day off.

WEDNESDAY

(under her breath)

I just SAID that.

CLEMMONS

I gave Rosa the day off?

THEO/WEDNESDAY

Yep.

CLEMMONS

Why would I do that?

WEDNESDAY

So she could go shopping.

(silence)

CLEMMONS

Nope, that doesn't sound like me.

WEDNESDAY

She wanted to buy a unique costume for Halloween.

(silence)

CLEMMONS

(bellowing)

You mean to tell me she's out shopping for something to wear for a ridiculous holiday?

WEDNESDAY

Well, you DID give her the day off. She should be able to do what she wants with her time.

THEO

(muttering)

Oh, no.

CLEMMONS

HER TIME? HER TIME! This is a work day! You suffragettes aren't satisfied with getting the vote. Now you want to dictate how you spend your time!

WEDNESDAY

I am NOT a suffragette! I'm... wait, am I a suffragette? No that's an antiquated term, specifically about the right to vote. I'm about women having equal rights as men, from equal pay in the workplace to pockets in the apparel....

CLEMMONS

What is she going on about?!?

THEO

Don't get her started.

(silence)

CLEMMONS

ROSA!

THEO/WEDNESDAY

SHE'S NOT HERE!

WEDNESDAY

YOU GAVE HER THE DAY OFF!

(Clemmons starts sputtering, a la Yosemite Sam)

THEO

Don't worry. It's not like you're paying her for the day.

(Clemmons' sputtering immediately turns into raucous laughter)

CLEMMONS

(recovering from his laughter)

Oh, that's a good one, Theo. Paying a woman when she's not at her job. The next thing you know women would want to wear trousers to work.

WEDNESDAY

(under her breath)

At least we'd always have pockets then.

(Clemmons starts sputtering again)

THEO

Chief, ignore Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY

(gruff masculine voice)

HEY!

THEO

(timidly)

I mean, I mean...you should hang on every word Wednesday says. I'm sure she's just wondering why you need Rosa.

(silence)

WEDNESDAY

Yes, I was just going to ask what you need Rosa to do that you can't do yourself.

(papers rustling)

CLEMMONS

I want someone to open the mail. AND explain to me why stamps are three cents apiece.

THEO

They've been three cents for years.

CLEMMONS

Yes, and the last time they raised the price of postage, they increased it by 50%! It's highway robbery! Do you know what I could buy with three cents?

(smooth announcer voice)

I could buy a full pound of Cole's Candied Corn.

NARRATOR

Candy corn?

CLEMMONS

(still in announcer voice)

(over enunciating D)

Cole's Candied Corn. Everyone's favorite new candy and industrial grade adhesive.

NARRATOR

What is happening?

CLEMMONS

(announcer)

Now in cherry flavor!

NARRATOR

What happened to cinnamon flavor?

CLEMMONS

(in his natural speaking bellow)

I need Rosa to open the mail.

(silence)

Because opening *letters* is women's work.

(WEDNESDAY starts sputtering, a la Yosemite Sam)

WEDNESDAY

(crossly)

Oh give me those!

(shuffling of paper)

Electric bill, ink bill, Parakeet Fancy Magazine...

CLEMMONS

(embarrassed)

Give me that!

(grabs magazine)

WEDNESDAY

What's this?

(shuffles paper)

It looks like a card. From Crystal Lyte?

CLEMMONS/THEO

(excitedly a la Mel Blanc)

Ooooh!

CLEMMONS

(extra masculinely)

Well, open it!

(sound of ripping paper)

WEDNESDAY

Oh, it's NOT a card.

CLEMMONS/THEO

(disappointedly)

Oh.

WEDNESDAY

(excitedly)

It's an invitation to a Halloween party! A costume ball!

NARRATOR

The three grown adults start to giggle and discuss what they will wear, whether they should bring anything, and who else might be invited.

CLEMMONS

This means we're popular, right? I'm sure no one from the Chicago World Bugle Bee gets an invite, right?

THEO

The Chicago World Bugle Bee? That rag!

NARRATOR

Oh, brother.

WEDNESDAY

Chief, I need the rest of the day off to work on my costume.

CLEMMONS

Oh, not you too!

(silence)

No, you cannot!

(silence)

But I am closing the office for the rest of the day, because... because we are fumigating the place. We are getting the darn cat out of here.

(outraged cat meowing)

(Footsteps, door opening and slamming)

WED

Well, that was beyond weird.

THEO

Tell me about it. I'm just glad he left when he did.

WED
Why?

THEO
I didn't want to have to tell him Rosa doesn't work for him.

(*STING*)

**Act 1 Scene 2 - Crystal's Diamonds
October Festivities.**

NARRATOR
The party planner herself, Crystal Lyte, was party planning away, with her butler Jeeves, from her surprisingly large and stately manor. Seriously, is this where all the real estate in Chicago went? I mean, my apartment is about the size of a checkerboard, but this, whoo-! You could get lost in here. This party's going to be amazing!

CRYSTAL
Jeeves, this party's going to be amazing!

NARRATOR
I literally just said that. Try again.

CRYSTAL
Jeeves, this party is going to be the hottest event this city has ever seen!

JEEVES
(*archly*)
Ah, so we are inviting Mrs. O'Leary's cow to the party?

CRYSTAL
Who's what? Oh, nevermind. Just help me put up this banner. I'll hold up this end, and you take the other end to the far side of the room.

JEEVES
(Sighs)
Yes Ma'am.

(Footsteps, sound of cloth being moved, footsteps growing fainter)

(Stops for a breather)

(Faint footsteps continue to fade)

CRYSTAL

Yes, that's good. Just put it up there, and... perfect! What do you think, Jeeves?

JEEVES

(Faintly/ a la a *Peanuts* adult)
Quite good, Ma'am.

CRYSTAL

What? I couldn't quite hear you.

JEEVES

(Still faint)
I said it is quite good Ma'am.

CRYSTAL

I still can't- Okay, let's meet in the middle.

(Footsteps)

JEEVES

I said it is quite good Ma'am.

CRYSTAL

Thank you. Now, I think here would be a good place to put the blood diamonds on display for everyone to see.

JEEVES

I... I do not think that is quite so wise, Ma'am. Chicago does seem to have a scourge of Chicago's underbelly-

CRYSTAL

Chicago's underbelly? You sound like a radio narrator, trying too hard to make it seem like crime is absolutely everywhere.

NARRATOR

Hey! I just read what they tell me to read. Blame the writers.

CRYSTAL

Besides, we invited the police chief, and I am certain that those Vamp and Shade characters will show up as well.

JEEVES

Oh? How did you send the invitation to a pair of vigilantes?

CRYSTAL

I made the party completely open invitation! Any and all are welcome to it!

JEEVES

... Including those with criminal records?

CRYSTAL

... yes. But, I don't think we should advertise that fact. (Thoughtfully) Though, vigilantism is technically a crime. And it would be rude to retroactively revoke their invitations.

JEEVES

Well, I still must insist that we keep the diamonds in a slightly more secluded spot.

CRYSTAL

(Slightly whiny)

But the whole point is to show them off. What's the point of vast wealth, societal influence, and pretty looking rocks if I can't show them off?

JEEVES

I don't think I have the authority or experience to answer that question. But if you are so insistent... Perhaps showing them in another room, one that won't be crowded by the entire populace of Chicago?

CRYSTAL

Alright... how about... the kitchen! Easy enough to have someone stand guard there, keeping an eye on the diamonds while the party goes on.

JEEVES

Yes, but who would spend their entire evening away from the party, without interacting with anyone the entire time, potentially having to deal with violent criminals if and when they decide to- Oh. Me.

CRYSTAL

Thank you for volunteering.

JEEVES

More volunTOLD than volunteered, but such is my lot, Ma'am. Very well. I'll spend the evening guarding the diamonds, while you enjoy the party. I just hope then that the box's alarm will be working should I fail.

CRYSTAL

You'll do fine. And what alarm are you talking about?

JEEVES

The one your father had installed in case of theft. Currently it is set to 'Klaxon alarm,' so if there are any attempts to steal it, the alarm will warn everyone. I'll go to set it up now.

(Footsteps)

CRYSTAL

Hmm. That loud a sound would ruin the party completely. He mentioned that it was set to that sound though. Surely there are more quiet settings. I'd better go make sure. We wouldn't want anything to disturb my guests!

(Running footsteps)

NARRATOR

Little did our hostess know how prophetic her concerns were, for her blood diamonds would attract the attention of three individuals who were already high disturbed. Ooooh...that was some high-level foreshadowing! Gimme a sting so we can get to the next scene!

(STING)

Act 1 Scene 3 - Once Bitten, Never Die Undead Certain

NARRATOR

On the other side of the city, a trio of darkly dressed ne'er do particularly wells gathered in a shadowed alley. Their leader, a Dr. AKula... subtle... glances around, conspiratorial, much to the confusion of his followers, Vladika Impala and Noah Surfartu... okay, a bit more subtle there.

NOAH

(Very surfer accent)

Doc, like, I still don't understand why we had to leave Electro Acres Home for the Socially Unacceptable?

DR. A KULA

(Maniacal, over the top... Transylvanian accent)

Why? Why? Because even among outcasts, we shall be outcasts, now that I have been cursed to drink the blood of the living, thanks to being BITTEN!

(Scary chord)

VLADIKA

I said I was sorry! To be honest, I don't even remember biting you!

DR. A KULA

To think! All those years I thought you two were crazy—no offense

BOTH
None taken.

DR. A KULA
And then to wake up one morning to discover BITES! On my neck! I cannot continue as Dr A Kula any longer. Now I will be shunned! Ostracized! I shall be a...a...

NOAH
A piranha?

VLADIKA
I don't know why you think we'll automatically be outcasts. I'm sure if we explain our situation to the world, we can get the help we need.

DR. A KULA
And what help would that be, hmm?

VLADIKA
Well, I suppose they could set up some sort of building where non-vampires could go to give their blood... er, some of it, not all of it, and then store it until someone like us needs it. It could be called... The Blood Shed!

NOAH
Cool. But, I, like, think it kinda sounds like you'd be expecting to eat in an actual shed, with rakes, hoses, and hoes. Maybe it could be like a blood delivery service, where the blood is brought to you. It'd be called... a Blood Streaming Service.

DR. A KULA
Are you two quite done?

NOAH
Nah, I got one more.

DR. A KULA
(Begrudgingly)
... Go ahead.

NOAH
It could be a building to get blood. It would, like, be a blood... bank thing.

DR. A KULA
A blood bank, hmm? Now you have my interest. Too bad that there isn't any money in blood.

VLADIKA

Well, there's certainly money in those blood diamonds.

DR. A KULA
Blood diamonds? What are you talking about?

VLADIKA
Right here on this poster.
(Tearing paper off the wall, rustling paper)
It says that there will be a party thrown on Halloween, with costumes, dancing, candied corn-

DR. A KULA
But what about the diamonds?!

NOAH
It's like, the thing in big text right there.

DR. A KULA
Ah. My eyesight isn't accustomed to reading in the dark yet.

NOAH
Well, we could just step into the sunlight to read-

VLADIKA
But we're vampires, Noah. Sunlight is fatal to us.

NOAH
Aw, how am I going to get a tan without sunlight?

DR. A KULA
Well, if you wish to step into the sun and burn to ash, who am I to stop you?

VLADIKA
Dr., please, there's no reason to make such biting remarks.

Dr. A KULA
I'm half tempted to just start biting. But I'll save it for the party.

NOAH
But how are we going to get in to it? There's going to probably be a ton of security and stuff.

VLADIKA
You would think-

DR. A KULA
He doesn't. Think, that is.

VLADIKA
If you are done insulting Noah and interrupting me- And that was not an invitation to do either, by the way.

DR. A KULA
Aw...

VLADIKA
The party is open invitation. All of Chicago is welcome.

NOAH
But we're not all of Chicago...

DR. A KULA
No, but we are a part of all of Chicago. Now let's go!

VLADIKA
Dr., the sun?

DR. A. KULA
... Later, let's go!

NARRATOR
And that sounds like a good time to skip ahead.

**Act 1, Scene 4 - All Hallows' Evening Wear
Less Than Custom Costumes**

NARRATOR
By the time the party had officially started, almost all of Chicago was there, in costume. And not costumes... costume. Singular. For you see, everyone was wearing the same costume. Embarrassing, really... Now if you'll excuse me, I need to change out of my Shade costume before anyone sees me.

THEO/WEDNESDAY
I can't believe it! Everyone is dressed as the Shade!

THEO
This is amazing!

WEDNESDAY
This is infuriating!

THEO/WEDNESDAY
And kind of unsettling.

THEO
Wait, how is this infuriating? The Shade is getting the respect I- he deserves.

WEDNESDAY
This is probably a bit more than the respect he deserves- And what of the Vamp? She fights crime too, and her costume even has pockets! Pockets! But no, not a single person is wearing her outfit. Even I'M not wearing it!

THEO
Well, you have only have yourself to blame for making that bet, and wagering what costume you'd wear tonight.

WEDNESDAY
I really didn't think that those candied apples would be sticky enough to support the weight of a full grown man, and still be deemed fit for human consumption. And now I am trapped in this nigh pocketless outfit.

THEO
Well, at least I won't look out of place dressed as the Shade. Seems like the open invitation really was open.

WEDNESDAY
And with those diamonds on display, I don't doubt on-

THEO
Devilish and dastardly deeds being done in the dark? Sorry, I like alliteration.

WED
You're lucky this costume doesn't allow for my typewriter. Another thing I may never forgive you for.

THEO
What are you complaining about? I think you make an adorable Little Orphan Annie.

WED
You better hope you never fall asleep at the office ever agin, or you'll wake up looking like Daddy Warbucks.

(Sound of jostling in the distance)

CLEMMONS
(off) Look out! Coming through! Make a hole, make a hole!

WED
Is that...?

THEO
Editor-in-Chief of the Chicago Gazette-Times-Herald Clarence Clemmons dressed up like a giant sunflower? Why yes, yes it is.

WED
Suddenly I don't feel so bad.

THEO
Let's make ourselves scarce before he sees us.

WED
Good idea. The last thing we need is him following us around while we're trying to keep an eye on those diamonds. Come on!

(Footsteps)

NARRATOR
While Theo and Wednesday went to find the blood diamonds, and Editor-in-Chief Clemmons attempted to maneuver the buffet--

(Sound of a scream, then a slap)

CLEMMONS
Sorry, ma'am, this stamen has a mind of its own.

NARRATOR
Our three vampiric villains arrived at the party. Noah Surferatu was confused.

NOAH
Dude, I'm confused.

NARRATOR
Sometimes I wonder why I even bother.

NOAH
I know you're like a doctor and everything...

DR. A KULA
WAS a doctor, Noah! Now I am merely one of you--an undead monster doomed to hunt humankind as prey, all because I was BITTEN!

(Scary Chord)

VLADIKA

How many times am I going to have to apologize?

NOAH

Well, yeah, okay, I guess. But you're still, like, super-smart.

DR> A KULA

I cannot argue with that.

NOAH

So if this party is open invite, why are we sneaking in through the kitchen window instead of walking through the front door?

NARRATOR

I'd like to know the answer to that as well.

DR. A KULA

If we were to walk right through the front door, we would immediately be beset upon by angry villagers!

VLADIKA

Villagers?

DR. A KULA

Our kind are constantly persecuted! They would be on us with...with...

NOAH

Stakes?

VLADKIA

Pitchforks?

NOAH

Torches?

DR. A KULA

Swizzle sticks! Possibly even cocktail weenies! Oh, the horror!

VLADIKA

O.....kay. But you do realize it's Halloween, right? They might just think we're in costume.

DR. A KULA

Oh, you sweet, naive fools. There's no way to hide our true nature! Evil rolls off us in waves.

(Sound of sniffing)

NOAH
Dude, and I took a bath this morning and everything.

DR. A KULA
Come! While there's still time!

(Sound of window opening, grunt and struggling through the window)

JEEVES
I say, may I help you?

NOAH
(Whispering) Oh no!

VLADIKA
(Whispering) We're caught!

DR. A KULA
(Whispering) Never fear! I shall use my vampiric mental powers! *(In normal volume)* You see nothing. It is all a dream. You will go back to your normal business.

JEEVES
I told Miss Lyte an open invitation party was a bad idea. But does she listen to me?
Noooooo. I'm just the hired help.

NARRATOR
Tell me about it.

JEEVES
Alright you three. I don't care what kind of trick or treat prank you're attempting, but the entrance to the party is through the front door. And really, you should all be ashamed of yourself;ves, acting like this at your age.

(Sound of grunt, a thud, and the window slamming shut)

VLADIKA
So much for your vampiric mental powers.

DR. A KULA
What are you talking about? I clouded his mind so he did not recognize us as vampires! Now we should be able to walk right in with no problem! Come, my children of the night!

(Footsteps)

VLADIKA

I'm starting to regret ever biting him

(Scary chord)

NARRATOR

The three bloodsuckers entered the party, just as the hostess, socialite Crystal Lyte, was greeting her guests in the massive living room.

CRYSTAL

I am your hostess, socialite Crystal Lyte, and I am so happy you could all attend my open invitation Halloween party!

(Enthusiastic applause)

CRYSTAL

I want to assure you all that my home is your home! Feel free to roam the mansion to your heart's content.

(Enthusiastic applause)

CRYSTAL

My butler, Jeeves, put paper down and covered the furniture in plastic, so those of you who are members of the working class, don't be shy!

(Less enthusiastic applause)

CRYSTAL

And be sure to take a gander at my amazing blood diamonds! They're in the kitchen, under the strict watch of my butler, Jeeves. Now everyone, eat, drink, and be merry!

CITIZEN

Well, I'll do the first two, but I ain't changing my name!

DR. A KULA

Did you hear that? The diamonds are in the kitchen! We were so close! Come, we must away to the kitchen!

NOAH

I dunno, Doc. That Crystal Lyte lady said they were being guarded by her butler. Could be dangerous.

VLADIKA

What's he going to do? Buttle us? Oh no, please, whatever you do, don't fix me a drink! What? You've laid out my clothes for the day? AAAAAHHHHH!!!!

NOAH

Y'know, nobody likes sarcasm.

DR. A KULA

I do. However, Noah does have a point.

VLADIKA

Yeah, on his head.

NOAH

It's called a widow's peak!

DR. A KULA

We will need to distract the butler, to give us enough time to abscond with the diamonds.

NOAH

I thought we were gonna steal them.

NARRATOR

At that very moment, there was a loud disturbance in the main room. How's that for convenient?

(Sounds of pushing, bumping, and general upset)

HIGH SOCIETY LADY

Well, I never!

CAPTAIN OF INDUSTRY

The very idea!

WORKING CLASS JOE

That sunflower's potted!

NARRATOR

Yes, Editor-In-Chief Clemmons had made use of the bar in a bit too liberal of a manner, and was now careening through the party, his costume, and inebriation, making balance difficult.

CLEMMONS

Look out! Coming through!

NARRATOR

The hubbub caught the attention of Jeeves, who came rushing out of the kitchen, carrying a large glass case filled with diamonds.

JEEVES
What is going on here?

CRYSTAL
Oh, just good-natured hijinks. That is what the common people say, isn't it, Jeeves?

JEEVES
Madam, I really think we should--

(Crash)

JEEVES
Oh dear!

NARRATOR
Jeeves placed the case holding the Blood diamonds on a nearby sideboard and rushed into the living room, followed closely by Crystal.

(running Footsteps)

CLEMMONS
Hope that pot wasn't expensive

JEEVES
That POT was a vase from the Ming Dynasty!

CLEMMONS
Well, I'm sure you can return it if you've still got the receipt.

NARRATOR
At that moment, the three denizens of the night made their way over to the glass case.

VLADIKA
Ain't that convenient?

NARRATOR
Told you.

NOAH
Those are the blood diamonds?

VLADIKA
Yep.

NOAH
They look like regular diamonds to me.

Dr. A KULA
Foolish youth. Those are definitely blood diamonds. And with them, we can--

VLADIKA
Make a lot of money!

Dr. A KULA
Manufacture all the blood we need!

VLADIKA
Right--what?

Dr. A KULA
Blood diamonds make blood! Everybody knows that!

VLADIKA
Do they?

NOAH
That's amazing!

VLADIKA
Almost unbelievable.

Dr. A KULA
Now we must wait for just the right time to snatch the diamonds from their case!

NARRATOR
Meanwhile, in the main room...

JEEVES
Sir, I must ask that you vacate these premises!

CLEMMONS
And I must ask that you stop watering down the drinks!

(Running footsteps)

THEO
Please, allow us to help.

WED
Yes, we know him.

CLEMMONS
Rockwell?! Morning? Is this my office?

WED
No, Mr. Clemmons, this is a party.

CLEMMONS
That's what I thought. I'd never wear this to the office.

THEO
Something we're all very glad to hear, Chief.

CLEMMONS
This is all they had left at the costume shop when I got there. I told them I didn't want to look like a pansy.

WED
Mr. Clemmons!

CLEMMONS
But they reassured me this was a sunflower, so it was alright. Hate pansies. Stupid flowers. Give me a good lily of the valley any day!

THEO
This is all very interesting, Chief, but--

CLEMMONS
Why isn't there any entertainment at this shindig? I've got it! I'll tell some jokes!

JEEVES
I don't think--

WED
I'd let him.

THEO
At least he won't be drinking while he tells them.

CRYSTAL
Ooooooh, working class humor! I've never heard it before! Please do!

CLEMMONS
Alrighty then! There once was a man from n
Nantucket--

THEO
NOT that one, Chief

WED
We're in polite company.

CLEMMONS
They tried to stop me drinking. They're not that polite.

THEO
Try something else, Chief.

CLEMMONS
Alright. My favorite candy's a sucker--

THEO
CHIEF!

CLEMMONS
What now?

WED
There are ladies present!

CLEMMONS
That's no lady, that's my wife!

THEO
What? Where?

CLEMMONS
Over there, dressed like the giant watering can. Hi honey!

Mrs. CLEMMONS
(Same actor, just in a raspy falsetto) Don't talk to me!

THEO
I guess it's true what they say.

WED
WHat?

THEO
Married couples do end up looking alike.

CLEMMONS
Can I continue?

THEO
Carefully...

CLEMMONS
Let me tell you a ditty
About the piping in our fair city
They're so narrow you'll blush
For when you attempt then to flush
You end up with a situation quite--

THEO
Editor-In-Chief Clemmons everyone! Chief, that was...something else. MAYbe you
should go plant yourself somewhere.

CLEMMONS
I'm going to be very upset about that when I sober up.

(Staggering footsteps)

CRYSTAL
I want more lower-class entertainment! That was delightful!

WED
Okay Rockwell, this is it.

THEO
What?

WED
I finally get to hear you sing.

THEO
I have a significantly less embarrassing idea. Ventriloquism!

WED
That's LESS embarrassing?

THEO
Ladies and gentlemen, I, the amazing Rockwell, shall astound you with my ability to
throw my voice. In fact, I shall sing while drinking a glass of water!

WED
This should be good.

THEO
May I have a glass of water?

JEEVES
Here you are.

THEO
Thank you! And now, all I need is my dummy! My Little Orphan Annie dummy!

WED
I didn't know you had a--oh....I see what you did there. Don't think I'm going to--YOINK!

NARRATOR
Theo grabbed Wednesday and pulled her onto his knee.

WED
If you think I'm going through with this, you're crazy!

(Assembled laughter)

THEO
I do apologize. My dummy is a bit nervy.

WED
You call me your dummy one more time, you'll be a bit toothless.

(Laughter)

THEO
(Whispering) They love it. Just go with it.

WED
(Whispering) Why?

THEO
To give Clemmons a chance to sober up and this crowd a chance to forget what he did so it doesn't reflect badly on the paper and lead to firings.

WED
And here I thought it was because you're such a ham we could stick cloves in you.

THEO
Potato, potahto. Now sing!

NARRATOR

Wednesday started singing as Theo drank from the glass of water.

(WED sings)

NARRATOR

The crowd was mesmerized.

CROWD

Ooooooooooh. Aaahhhhhhh.

DR. A KULA

Perfect! During the applause, we will break the glass and steal the diamonds! Be ready!

NARRATOR

Wednesday's song built until she hit a note so high--

(WED hits high note--glass breaks)

THEO

OW!

NARRATOR

At that same exact moment, our villains smashed the glass case holding the diamonds and grabbed the precious stones.

Dr. A KULA

Quickly! To the kitchen!

(Running footsteps)

NARRATOR

No-one noticed , as everyone was crowded around Theo, who was bleeding from where the broken glass had cut his lip.

CRYSTAL

The poor man. Will we have to put him down?

JEEVES

He's a person, ma'am, not a horse.

NARRATOR

As the three vampires reached the kitchen, they were confronted by a familiar, black-cloaked figure.

Dr. A KULA

The Shade!

PUDDLES
(barks)

VLADIKA
And a barking witch-cat!

NOAH
Dude, that is no bueno.

Dr. A KULA
Of course it isn't. We just said it was a witch-cat! Run! Scatter! Hide in the party until we can make a clean getaway!

(Running footsteps)

CANNOLI
I don't know what they was so scared of. Though, I gotta admit, this Shade-a costume is-s pretty convincing, isn't it, Puddles?

PUDDLES
(bark)

CANNOLI
Though I don't know why they thought you was a witch-cat. That costume is-a good, but you gotta meow, not-a bark.

PUDDLES
(Meows)

CANNOLI
Dat's a good Puddles!

(Scream)

NARRATOR
At the sound of the scream, everyone rushed over to find socialite Crystal Lyte standing in front of a smashed and empty glass case.

CANNOLI
What-a happened?

CRYSTAL
Oh, Chief Cannoli! You heard the silent alarm!

CANNOLI

Silent alarm? What-a silent alarm?

JEEVES

Ma'am, that case doesn't have a silent alarm. Just on and off.

CRYSTAL

Oh....

CANNOLI

Plus, how could you hear a silent alarm? Dat-a don't make-a no sense!

JEEVES

Chief, Madam Lyte's blood diamonds have been stolen!

THEO

I can't believe someone stole the blood diamonds!

WED

I can't believe Cannoli is dressed as the Shade!

CANNOLI

Stole-a you diamonds! Ponch! John!

PONCH/JOHN

Yeah Chief?

WED

THEY'RE dressed like the Shade, too? This is almost too much to bear.

THEO

Green is not an attractive color, Wednesday.

CANNOLI

Lock alla da doors! Nobody's getting in or outta dis house until we finda da thieves!

VAMPIRES

Ah, nertz!

(*STING*)

NARRATOR

We will return to Throwing Shade--Vamp's Ire in just a moment. But first, a word from our sponsor. Friends, are you looking for a sweet confection that will delight trick or treaters? But do you also regularly find yourself with a lot of leftover candy after Halloween, with no way to put it to good use? Well, look no further than Brick's Candied corn! Not that useless confection, CANDY corn, but good, solid, all-American CandIED corn! Sweet corn kernels covered in a thick, hard caramel coating, perfect for

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Need to fix a cracked china cup? Bricks Candied Corn! Need to replace some roof shingles? Brick's Candied Corn? Sick of waiting for the city to fill that pothole in front of your house? BRICK'S CANDIED CORN! That's right, Brick's Candied Corn. The taste sticks with you!

And now, a few words from other important personages!

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NARRATOR

And now, back to our story!

**Act 2 Scene 1--Fangs for the Memories
Chaos reigns at the Halloween party.**

Within minutes of the theft of Crystal Lyte's blood diamonds, Police Chief Cannoli had everything under control. *(Pause, bursts out laughing)* I'm sorry. I really thought I could say that with a straight face.

CANNOLI

Alright, everybody just-a relax! We're gonna get to the bottom of this crime no matter what! Now, Miss Lyte--

CRYSTAL

Please, call me Socialite Crystal Lyte, Chief.

CANNOLI

Um....okay. Now, Miss Socialite Crystal Lyte, what did these blood diamonds look like?

CRYSTAL

Diamonds.

CANNOLI

Dat's it? Just diamonds? Dey didn't have no blood in them or nothin'?

CRYSTAL

Of course not. The very idea!

CANNOLI

Well, how am I supposed to tell if any diamonds I find are you blood diamonds, or just regular old diamonds?

NARRATOR

Yep, completely under control.

THEO

Chief Cannoli--

CANNOLI

Ah! Shade, thank goodness you here. But you sound a little funny. You gotta cold?

THEO

No, Chief Cannoli, it's me, Theodore Rockwell. I'm just wearing a Shade costume for Halloween.

CANNOLI

Oh, of course! I don't know what I was thinking. You, da Shade. *(Laughs)* How ridiculous!

THEO

Abso-hey!

PONCH

Chief, all the doors are locked.

CANNOLI

Shade! There you are. Thanks for-a locking the doors. Now tell me. Can you tell da difference between diamonds and blood diamonds?

PONCH

Um, it's me, Chief. Ponch. This is just a Halloween costume, remember?

CANNOLI

Of-a course! I knew dat!

JOHN

Chief, seems nobody left the house, so our culprit must still be here.

CANNOLI

Finally! Da Shade!

JOHN

No, it's me, John. This is just a--

ALL
Halloween costume.

CANNOLI
Alright! Everybody line up against-a dat wall! We gonna find out exactly which one of you is-a DA SHADE!

THEO
You know, Miss Morning, perhaps we should do a bit of investigating on our own, just to help out.

WED
I fully concur, Mr. Rockwell. The only problem is, it's going to be difficult to sneak off and change with so many party guests and the police around.

THEO
Way ahead of you, Wednesday. Follow me.

(Footsteps)

NARRATOR
Theo led the way over to the punch bowl, where they found Jeeves talking to a strange, pale man in a cloak.

JEEVES
Yes, sir, would you like some punch?

Dr. A KULA
I never drink...punch.

THEO
We'll have some punch, my good man.

Dr. A KULA
Aaaaahhhh!

(Running footsteps)

WED
Strange man.

(Sounds of punch being poured into cups)

JEEVES
Yes, quite. Here you are, sir, Madam. Yes, I caught him and his two friends trying to sneak in through the kitchen window earlier tonight.

WED
Really? That's quite

(Sound of someone being hit full in the face with punch)

WED
THEO! What are you--

THEO
Oh, how clumsy of me, to accidentally spill punch all over you. I'm terribly sorry! I say, you wouldn't happen to have somewhere my friend Miss Wednesday Morning could clean up and change?

JEEVES
Yes, of course. Top of the stairs on the left.

THEO
Thank you so much. Come along, Miss Morning.

(Footsteps)

WED
Couldn't you have WARNED me?

THEO
And ruin the spontaneity of the moment? It would never have worked.

WED
What exactly am I supposed to change into? I didn't bring my Vamp outfit.

THEO
Never fear, Wednesday. I have brought several "Plan B" costumes with me.

WED
"Plan B"?

THEO
Well, more like Plan B-G. I do it every Halloween, because hard as this may be to believe, I am a bit of a klutz--

WED
No. Really?

THEO
And have a tendency to spill punch on myself. Here we are.

(Sound of door opening)

THEO
Step right in and try this on.

(Sound of fabric being unfurled)

WED
I'm not 100 percent sure about--

(Door slams)

NARRATOR
A short time later...

(Door opens)

WED
Absolutely not.

THEO
Really? I mean, I think it looks just fine, but I do understand your reticence about the clown costume. Those are pretty big shoes to fill.

WED
Where's my squeaky hammer?

THEO
Here, try this one.

(Fabric unfurling)

WED
What is--

(Door slam)

NARRATOR
Wednesday tried on one costume—

WED
For some reason, I just think dressing like a Cherokee is problematic.

THEO
It was good enough for the founding fathers. Alright. Try this

(Fabric unfurling, slam)

NARRATOR
After another—

WED
WHAT were you thinking?

THEO
I will have you know that costume comes straight from Hollywood. I bought it from a guy named Frederick. Here, try this.

(Unfurl, slam)

NARRATOR
After another. Until finally...

WED
This is just a square of fabric. What is it?

THEO
Can't you tell? I figured it would be perfect for you. It's....a....POCKET!

WED
I don't know whether to hit you or hug you.

THEO
Do I get a vote?

NARRATOR
Just at that moment, there was a commotion in the main room as Ponch and John tried to haul several dark-cloaked figures away.

CANNOLI
Don't resist! Just go along quietly. You all under arrest for impersonatin' a vigilante and obstetrician of justice.

WED
Did he—?

THEO
He did.

PONCH
Um, I think you mean obstruction, Chief.

CANNOLI

Dat don't make-a no sense. Obstruction is when-a you build something.

JOHN

That's CON-struction, Chief.

CANNOLI

You can no fool Cannoli. Construction is a criminal's vehicle. *(Laughs)* It's-a like you don't know you own language.

CRYSTAL

Chief Cannoli, these people are just guests at my party. They're wearing costumes.

CANNOLI

Dat's a-right! And who wears costumes? Criminals! Alright-a you villains, get-a movin'!

(Footsteps and grumbling)

CANNOLI

I'll take-a dese reprobates-a downtown. Ponch, John, you stay here and find-a dose diamonds.

PONCH/JOHN

Yessir!

(Footsteps)

PONCH

So....now what?

JOHN

Don't know about you, but I think we need to do an exhaustive search for donuts.

PONCH

Good thinking!

(Hurried footsteps)

THEO

Shall we go check out the Diamond case?

WED

I'm more interested in that pale gentlemen and his two friends who tried to break into an open party.

THEO

Good thinking, Wednesday. Let's split up. And make sure to take notes on whatever you find.

(Footsteps)

WED

Take notes? HOW? This thing has no POCKETS!

(STING)

NARRATOR

ACT 2 Scene 2—SANGUINE INTERVENTION
Theo has a crisis of identity.

Our heroes split up, looking for the pale gentleman from the punch bowl. Wednesday headed back that way, to see if Jeeves could give her a description of the other two. Theo decided to investigate the kitchen, where he found yet another blatant theft taking place.

(Sound of ravenous chewing)

THEO

Ponch! John!

PONCH

It's not what you think!

JOHN

All the guests are gone! These would go to waste otherwise!

THEO

Don't you think you should do some actual policing?

PONCH

I guess you're right.

JOHN

I'm taking this cruller for the road.

THEO

Of course.

NARRATOR

Ponch and John left the kitchen, just as two highly suspicious characters were entering.

(Footsteps, bumping noises)

NOAH

Dude, these doorways are tiny. They should get one of those revolving doors.

NARRATOR

That was SO many episodes ago...

(Squishy sound)

PONCH

Sorry, ma'am.

VLADIKA

(Whispered terror) Oh no...there's blood on my shirt! I don't know if I'll be able to control myself!

NOAH

Hang loose. I think that's just jelly.

JOHN

Ponch! What did we say about wasting jelly? Come on!

(Footsteps)

VLADIKA

Now what do we do?

THEO

I think some water and baking soda will take care of that.

NOAH/VLADIKA

Ahhhhhh!!!!

THEO

Ahhhhhh!!!!

VLADIKA

Wait, why are you screaming?

THEO

I don't like to be left out.

NOAH

Doctor!

THEO
Where?

NOAH
We've been looking all over for you!

THEO
You have?

VLADIKA
(Whispering) Noah, this isn't Dr. A Kula.

NOAH
Sure it is. Look, he's got the same long black cape.

VLADIKA
True.

NOAH
And the black hat

VLADIKA
True. But Dr, A Kula didn't wear a mask.

NOAH
Well, he obviously needed a disguise.

VLADIKA
Noah—

NOAH
Plus, look! He's got blood all over his mouth!

THEO
Oooops! Still? That is so embarrassing. I thought I had cleaned that all up.

VLADIKA
You ARE Dr, A Kula!

THEO
I am?

NOAH
Are we glad to see you, doc! How do we get out of here?

THEO
I'm pretty sure the front door still works.

VLADIKA
Hey, where's that accent of yours?

THEO
Accent?

NOAH
Yeah, that over the top Transylvanian accent you started using the minute you were BITTEN!

(Scary chord)

VLADIKA
Look, I'm tired of apologizing. I'm a vampire, I bite people. It's what I do. Get over it.

THEO
You two are...vampires? Um, I mean...*(With Transylvanian accent)* You two are VAMPIRES!

NOAH
Yup! ANd so are you!

THEO
I am? I mean *(With accent)* I AM!

VLADIKA
Do you still have the blood diamonds? I want to get outta here.

THEO
I had the blood diamonds? I mean *(Accent)* I had the blood diamonds!

NOAH
Right. So where are they?

THEO
I...uh...I hid them. Yes, that's right. I hid them for safekeeping!

NOAH
That's why you're the one in charge! Where are they?

THEO
I...uh..Don't you worry about it. I'll go get them!

VLADIKA
We'll come with you.

THEO
No! I mean...*(Accent)* No, that will not be necessary. If we all three go snooping around, it will be suspicious. Stay here. I will be back.

(Running footsteps. Pause. Running footsteps)

THEO
And don't bite anyone.

NOAH/VLADIKA
Awwwww.....

(Running footsteps)

NARRATOR
As Theo ran off in search of Dr. A Kula and the blood diamonds, Wednesday was interrogating Jeeves at the punch bowl.

WED
So what exactly did those three people who tried to break in look like?

JEEVES
Vampires.

WED
Vampires?

JEEVES
Well, two of them did. The third one was wearing a Polynesian shirt and shorts.

WED
That's...unusual.

JEEVES
Not around this house, it isn't.

(Footsteps)

CRYSTAL
Jeeves! We're running out of food!

JEEVES
What, madam? How is that possible?

CRYSTAL

Well, I think our guests took most of the hors d'oeuvres with them to the police station. And the donuts seem to have just...disappeared! We need to do something!

JEEVES

I don;t know what we can do, Madam. The chef was one of the people taken to police headquarters. I told him that participating in this silly excuse for candy makers to gouge the public was a bad idea, but does anybody listen to the butler? Nooooo..... They just--

CRYSTAL

I'm sorry, jeeves, what were you saying?

JEEVES

Nothing Madam.

WED

I think I just may have an idea on how to feed your guests and flush out the thieves at the same time.

(Spooky Portentous sting)

NARRATOR

Act 2 Scene 3--High Stakes
The criminals start coffin up the diamonds

Wednesday Morning went off to find a telephone so she could put her super-secret plan into action. Meanwhile, Theo went in search of Dr. A Kula and the blood diamonds. He found the delusional doctor in the cellar, doing some construction.

(Sound of hammering)

THEO

Excuse me!

(HAMMERING stops)

DR. A KULA

I am terribly sorry. Am I making too much noise? I am merely down here in the darkened cellar hammering old pieces of wood together in an attempt to make a coffin so I can sleep in it. No! Drat! I said the inside part out loud again. I mean, I am merely building a coffee table as a gift to our hostess. Yes, that should work. He'll never suspect what I truly am.

THEO

You said that part out loud, in case you were wondering.

Dr. A KULA

Drat! I was never here, you didn't see me, it was all a dream.

THEO

Are you Dr. A Kula?

Dr. A KULA

Depends on who is asking. Come into the light so I may see you.

(Soft footsteps)

THEO

My name is--

Dr. A KULA

AAAHHHHH!!!

THEO

What the--?

Dr. A KULA

Back! Stay back!

THEO

Doctor, what's wrong?

Dr. A KULA

Don't try to play me for a fool! I know exactly who you are, Van Hecksing!

THEO

Van who-what-now?

Dr. A KULA

Yes, play innocent if you wish, but I know you are the famous German vampire hunter Van Hecksing!

THEO

Don't you mean Van ___sing?

(Beep over "Hel")

NARRATOR

I'm sorry, folks, but if I let that go, we'd get in trouble with the censors.

Dr. A KULA

No, Van Hecksing! Admit it!

THEO

(Heavy sigh, then German accent) So what if I am?

Dr. A KULA

I knew it! Well, believe you me, this is one vampire you won't stake a claim to!

THEO

I should do you in for that joke alone.

Dr. A KULA

Do your worst. You don't scare me! I am a member of the undead! I have super strength, super speed, and I can turn into a BAT! Voila!

(Silence)

THEO

When does it happen, the bat turning thing?

Dr. A KULA

My powers are depleted because I haven't fed in awhile. But tremble, mortal, as I produce a fresh supply of blood from these BLOOD diamonds!

(Sound of jewels being poured out of a bag)

THEO

I don't think that's why they're called blood diamonds.

Dr. A KULA

I will give you this one chance to flee, for once I bite into this jewel and feed, there will be no mercy for you!

THEO

I think you might want to--

(Sound of a hard chink, then bone breaking, then a yowl)

Dr. A KYULA

Owwwwwwwww!

THEO

--rethink that.

Dr. A KULA

Ow ow ow ow ow ow ow!

THEO

Come on, Doctor. Let's go find you someone who specializes in blunted canines.

Dr. A KULA

I need a dentist, not a veterinarian!

THEO

I'm ignoring that.

NARRATOR

As Theo led the good doctor out of the cellar, he bumped into someone completely unexpected.

VAMP

There you are!

THEO

Vamp? I wasn't expecting you!

VAMP

I know. Luckily, Crystal happens to be a fan and had a spare outfit.

THEO

Well, good news, I found the blood diamonds, and one of our culprits. The other two should be in the kitchen.

VAMP

I was just there. The place is empty.

THEO

Great.

VAMP

What's with the accent?

Dr. A KULA

The Vamp works with the famed vampire hunter Van Hecksing?

VAMP

Van Who-sing?

THEO

It's a long story. So how are we going to find Dr. A Kula's accomplices?

VAMP

I have that under control. My plan should be coming together right...about....

(Doorbell)

VAMP
Now.

(Footsteps, door opens)

JEEVES
Yes?

DELIVERY
Pizza Pronto delivery. Somebody here order four large pizzas?

JEEVES
We would NEVER--

VAMP
That's for me!

DELIVERY
Wow! The guys will never believe this! Me, delivering to the VAMP! What an honor! And what an outfit!

VAMP
Thanks, it has pockets...finally. Jeeves, give the man a tip.

JEEVES
Get a real job.

(Door slam)

THEO
Vamp, not that I don't love a good pizza, but exactly how is this going to catch the other two culprits.

VAMP
Just watch.

NARRATOR
The Vamp set the pizzas on a nearby table and opened the boxes. The thick, heady scent of garlic filled the room.

Dr. A KULA

Oh no! Not garlic! It will send them screaming for the hills.

(Running footsteps)

NOAH

Dude, who ordered the garlic pizzas?

VLADIKA

Garlic is my favorite!

(Sound of hearty eating)

Dr. A KULA

But...but vampires HATE garlic.

NOAH/VLADIKA

We do?

Dr. A KULA

Yes! I used to love it until I was.....BITTEN!

(Spooky chord)

VLADIKA

Enough! I swear, I don't remember biting you!

Dr. A KULA

Well, you DID. I still have them, see?

NARRATOR

Dr. A KULA pulled his collar aside to show everyone the tell-tale marks.

VAMP

Am I mistaken, or are those mosquito bites?

Dr. A KULA

What? No, they are the mark of the vampire!

THEO

No, those are mosquito bites.

Dr. A KULA

Are you sure?

THEO

Are you doubting the word of famed vampire hunter Van Hecksing?

NOAH

Dude, why are there two Dr. A Kulas?

VLADIKA

Hush up and eat your pizza.

(Footsteps)

PONCH

Do I smell pizza?

VAMP

Yep, and you can take some of it with you when you take these three in for stealing the blood diamonds.

Dr. A KULA

No! Not prison!

JOHN

Oh, it won't be prison. Thinking you were a vampire means you get a one way ticket to Electrode Acres Home for the Socially Unacceptable.

NOAH

Dude, you can be a patient, just like us!

VLADIKA

It'll be like one big happy family!

Dr. A KULA

Oh. Joy.

PONCH

Come on you three.

JOHN

And we'll take a few of these pizzas along with us...as evidence.

PONCH

Yeah, evidence.

(Footsteps)

THEO

Well, everything seems to have worked--

(Footsteps)

JEEVES

You have to do something! It's Miss Lyte!

VAMP

What's wrong?

JEEVES

She wants to do this AGAIN next year!

CRYSTAL

This was SOOOOO much fun! Maybe next year we'll get werewolves/ Jeeves! Buy more chew toys!

JEEVES

(Heavy sigh) Yes, Madam.

(Footsteps)

THEO

Well, that all worked out.

VAMP

Yep, and there are no loose ends to tie up.

(running footsteps)

MRS. CLEMMONS

Has anyone seen my husband?

THEO

Isn't that him, snoring away in the corner?

(Snoring)

MRS. CLEMMONS

So it is. Thank you! Oh, He's so adorable when he's sleeping.

(Louder snoring)

THEO/VAMP

We'll take your word for it.

(Footsteps)

THEO
Let's get outta here before anything else happens.

VAMP
I feel sorry for Mr. Clemmons.

THEO
You do? Why?

VAMP
He's going to be so upset tomorrow when he wakes up with a hangover AND realizes...Rosa doesn't work for him.

(Metronome)

Throwing Shade is brought to you by Chicago's premiere storefront theatre, Eclectic Full Contact theatre, Remember to like, follow and subscribe to our podcast! Or leave a review!

Created by: Sarah Siegel and Andrew Pond

Written by: Lori and Richard Eyre, with Andrew Pond and Zach Osterman

Directed by: Andrew Pond

Starring the voice talents of: Chloe Adamo, Jessica Lauren Fisher, Daniel Houle, Noelle Klyce, Zachary Osterman, Andrew Pond,, Julian Serna, and Monica Szaflik

Our Foley Artist was Lori Eyre

Our engineer was: Daniel Houle

And I am your narrator: Noelle Klyce

Special thanks to Tina Salamone!

Tune in next week--Same Shade Time, Same Shade Station!