

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!

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! To be honest, he becomes the Shade pretty much whenever he feels like it at this point. Which makes sense when you think about it. This is Chicago., Nefarious goings-on happen here all the time. You can't be a crimefighter and be like, "Sorry you're getting mugged, but it's two in the afternoon, so no-can-do." That just isn't right. Good to see he's flexible. Now where was I? Oh, right.

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?

SFX: Siren

NARRATOR

Find out on this week's episode of Throwing Shade--The Blunder Down Under. And, I have to admit, folks, that despite four season's worth of evidence, I was NOT expecting to have a new sponsor this week. However, it seems that Mad Murray's Metronomes was...

SFX: Papers rustling and shuffling

NARRATOR

Well, it seems that the people at Mad Murray's Metronomes didn't actually DO anything, but it was decided that, given our previous track record with sponsors, it was best to part ways in anticipation of the shocking scandal that was no doubt looming on the horizon. So we here at Throwing Shade are proud to welcome the fine folks at Benny's Bowling Bazaar--home of the best balls in Chicago!

Also brought to you by Eclectic Full Contact Theatre, bringing you 1930's radio-style satire since...people were able to differentiate it from reality.

Previously on Throwing Shade

SFX: THUD

NARRATOR

And now, on to our story!

Act 1 Scene 1--Bog Monsters

Chicago has a case of water closet willies

It was a gloriously sunny day in the bustling city of Chicago.

SFX: THUNDER

NARRATOR

Well, that's the Midwest for ya. Ahem. It was a...day in the bustling city of Chicago. And while most of the citizens went about their business in blissful ignorance, one couple was about to experience terror the likes of which had never before been seen

SFX: POUNDING ON DOOR

IRV

Ida, for Pete's sake, open up! What'd you do, fall in?

IDA

Don't rush me, Irv, I'm putting on my face!

IRV

It's a bathroom, Ida, not a construction site!

SFX: DOOR OPENS

IDA

I'll have you know, beauty like this takes time!

IRV

Ida, I love you, but I don't got that kinda time!

IDA

You're not usually this disagreeable this early in the morning. What's got into you?

IRV

I'll tell ya what got into me--that cockamamie breakfast of yours! That wavy branzino stuff.

IDA

Huevos rancheros, Irv. It's from Mexico.

IRV

It shoulda stayed there. Where'd you find somethin' like that?

IDA

I got the recipe from Mrs. O'Toole, who got it from Mrs. Wojiczewski, who got it from Mrs. Jackson, who got it from Mrs. De La Cruz.

IRV

Well, that explains the corned beef, paczkis, and grits. But what was all that other stuff in it?

IDA

Just eggs, beans, a bottle of hot sauce and a whole (*pronounced with a hard "j"*) jalapeno. It makes you get up and go.

IRV

I know, Ida, believe me, I know! That's why I need you to vacate the premises. If I'm not out in an hour, cash in the life insurance.

IDA

Ira, you're overreacting

NARRATOR

Before Irv could go into any more detail about the Mexican American war presently being fought in his belly, a strange, disturbing sound echoed throughout the room.

VOICE

(*echo-y and muffled*) Kwala, kwala, Kwala...

IDA

Irv, was that you?

IRV

I sure hope not.

VOICE

Kwala, Kuala, koala...

UDA

Irv, it's comin' from--

IRV

Inside the terlet!

NARRATOR

Then the couple did the only sensible thing to do under the circumstances.

BOTH

AAAAAAAAAJJJ!

SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS, SLAMMING DOOR

NARRATOR

They were, however, not the only citizens terrorized within the supposed safety of their loos. Over the next few hours, the police department was...(*sigh*) flush with reports about some sort of monster in the pipes. You know, it's times like this that I wonder why I stay in this job...

SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS

PONCH

Chief!

JOHN

Chief!

CANNOLI

Hey! Whatsamatta for you? What you doin' runnin' into my office without-a knocking?

PONCH

We've got something really important to tell you, Chief!

JOHN

And the door was already open...

PONCH

So our usual regard for decorum and professional protocol was put aside for the sake of expediency.

JOHN

Wow, Ponch, that was really good.

PONCH

Thanks, John. I bought a thesaurus.

JOHN

Aren't they extinct?

CANNOLI

Listen, I gotta no time for you to be showing off how big your Lexington is!

PONCH

Lexicon--

CANNOLI

I don't care what city you learn all dose words in! This station is-a flush with reports of a monster inna da pipes!

NARRATOR

You didn't REALLY think that wasn't gonna happen, did you?

PONCH

That's what we were coming to tell you!

JOHN

Yeah, people all over the city have been hearing--

CANNOLI

A spooky voice comin' up outta dry gabinettos!

PONCH

There too?

JOHN

We heard they was coming outta their bathrooms!

CANNOLI

And people wonder why I talk to my dog so much.

PONCH

Well, it seems like the whole city;'s got ghosts in their grabby nettles.

CANNOLI

Dat's-a ridiculous! There ain't-a no such things as ghosts.

JOHN

Well, something's making noises in people's water closets.

PONCH

Should we look into it?

JOHN

I doubt we'd see much.

CANNOLI

'Scusi, but why would anybody keep water in a closet? Alla you clothes get wet!

PONCH

No, Chief, water closet is another name for...*(Whispers)*

CANNOLI

I say it before and I say it again. English don't make-a no sense! But I gotta say, I don't think this is anything more than a case of bass infusion.

(Pause)

PONCH

You wanna do it, or should I?

JOHN

Flip you for it.

SFX: Coin flip

JOHN

Heads

SFX: SLAP

PONCH

Heads it is.

JOHN

Ah nertz. *(sigh)* Mass delusion.

CANNOLI

Huh?

JOHN

Mass delusion, Chief, not bass infusion.

CANNOLI

Dat don't make-a no sense! What's church got to do with this? No, bass infusion! A bunch of fish got into da sewers and is making a bunch of noise. You two go check it out.

PONCH

Us?

JOHN

In the sewers?

CANNOLI

Whatamaatta for you, you don't understand English? Yes, inna da sewers! Now get goin'!

SFX: FOOTSTEPS, DOOR SLAMMING

JOHN

Should we tell him he just stormed out of his own office?

PONCH

He'll figure it out. I gotta tell you, John, I think this whole case is full of--

NARRATOR

Shifting focus from our intrepid law men, word of the eerie emanations had reached the ears of Chicago Gazette-Times-Herald Editor-in-Chief Clarence Clemmons.

SFX: TYPEWRITERS AND CROWD NOISE

SFX: DOOR OPEN

CLEMMONS

Rockwell! Morning! Get in here!

SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS, DOOR SLAM

THEO

You hollered, Chief?

WED

What can we do for you, Mr. Clemmons?

CLEMMONS

I've been hearing reports from all over the city about people hearing noises coming up from their commodes!

THEO

Oh my! That's unheard of! Well, I mean, except for all the times you hear noises coming from your commode.

WED

Yeah, Mr. Clemmons. I'm not sure noisy bathroom plumbing is exactly news.

CLEMMONS

Normally, I;d agree with you, Rockwell.

WED

Seriously?

THEO

You would?

CLEMMONS

But it's been a really slow news week, and if I don't find SOMETHING to put above the fold on the front page, I'm going to have to print Winchell's story about that German twit who can't grow a full mustache!

WED

Heaven forbid.

CLEMMONS

Exactly! Besides, we can play up the mysterious spooky angle and get a few front page stories about ghosts in the can.

THEO

Maybe it's Prince Albert

SFX: TYPING

WED

I'm giving you points for that, but I don't like it.

THEO

Chief, while I would never refuse to check out a story for you--

CLEMMONS

Except for all the times you do it--

THEO

I think I've made my feelings on ghosts clear.

WED

Come on, Theo, there weren't ghosts in the Pushman Mansion, and I'm sure there aren't ghosts in people's pipes! The whole idea is just plain potty! *(PAUSE)*

WED

I am so, so sorry.

CLEMMONS

Look, I don't care what's causing it! I just need something to hold back the Germans!

THEO

You and the French. *(Pause)* Too soon?

CLEMMONS

Seriously, when have the Germans ever done anything newsworthy?

WED

Do the words Great War mean anything to you?

CLEMMONS

Like they'd ever be crazy enough to try that again! Now get out there and get me a red, white, and blue story!

SFX: DOOR OPENS< CROWD SOUNDS,
TYPEWRITERS, DOOR SLAMS

WED

You know, Theo, of all the crazy assignments Clemmons has sent us on, I'd have to say this is the most outlandish.

THEO

Really? I'd say it's at most number two.

SFX: TYPING

WED

You should be ashamed of yourself.

THEO

I should be, but I'm not. And you wouldn't be so judgmental if you were privy to my thought process.

SFX:TYPING

WED

Please, stop, I'm begging you.

THEO

Spoil sport. But I want to go on record as saying I do NOT like the

idea of tangling with subterranean spirits.

WED

Come on, Theo. You can't still believe in ghosts! I thought you gave all that up after the Pushman Mansion story.

THEO

I'm an investigative reporter, Wednesday. I follow the evidence. And everybody knows that spooky voices is clear evidence of ghosts. There's no other rational explanation.

WED

Oh please. Considering the number of people in this city and their love of pizza and hot dogs, I'm surprised the sewers hadn't protested before this.

THEO

You realize that's actually a far more disturbing thought than ghosts, right?

WED

Well, whatever is going on, I think our best bet is to start with the DPW.

THEO

Absolutely! A wonderful idea! I couldn't have said it better myself, Wednesday!

WED

You don't have any idea what I'm talking about, do you?

THEO

Not a clue.

WED

Then what was all that

THEO

I'm supporting you! You keep telling me that men don't support your ideas enough, so I'm doing that for you!

WED

Theo, I don't want people just agreeing with whatever I say blindly. I want them to support my ideas because I have good ideas and deserve to have them heard and supported. Just agreeing with everything that comes out of my mouth is as insulting as ignoring everything that comes out of my mouth.

THEO

Oh, I understand. That was the dumbest idea I've ever heard!

WED

No!

THEO

I'm so confused.

WED

Why don't you wait until you actually KNOW what I'm talking about, then make up your mind?

THEO

Ahhhh. That makes sense. So what's the DPW?

WED

The Department of Public Works--the people in charge of the water and sewage systems.

THEO

Ohhhhh! Well, that makes sense. Excellent idea, Miss Morning!

WED

Why thank you, Mr. Rockwell!

THEO

Now let's get going. U gave a feeling this one's gonna be a

loo-loo! SFX: RUNNING

FOOTSTEPS

WED

Theo, urine so much trouble! Now he's got ME doing it!

SFX: STING

NARRATOR

Act 1 Scene 2--Taking the Plunge

Information flows freely

Encouraged by Police Chief Cannoli and fortified with a dozen Dinkel's Donuts, Ponch and John began their investigation into the strange sewer sounds.

SFX: SPLASH

JOHN

Ponch, this stinks.

PONCH

Yeah, I don't like it either. These are new shoes!

JOHN

No, I mean this actually stinks. Ohhhh...I think that sixth cruller was

a mistake...

PONCH

Be strong, John! We gotta find out what's making those noises!

SFX: SPLASHING FOOTSTEPS CONTINUE
UNDER CONVO

JOHN

Why's it so bright down here, Ponch? I don't even need my flashlight.

PONCH

It's the hot dogs.

JOHN

What?

NARRATOR

I concur. What?

PONCH

Well, you know how they pile all that stuff on top of the hot dogs, right?

JOHN

Sure do! It's great! A meal on a bun for just a nickel!

PONCH

Right! Economical and nutritious!

NARRATOR

Watch it, fellas, we're sponsored by bowling balls this week.

PONCH

What most people don't know is that the peppers they put on the hot dogs are faintly radioactive. Which explains the unnatural color.

JOHN

And the taste.

PONCH

Well, once they mix with the stomach juices, the result...glows.

JOHN

Wait. Are you trying to tell me that the Chicago sewer system is filled with glowing radioactive pepper leavings?

PONCH

Uh-huh.

NARRATOR

I can't believe this! Why doesn't anyone tell me these things? This

is--

JOHN

Unbelievable!

NARRATOR

Exactly! I can't believe they thought they could get away with this!
It's--

JOHN

It's wonderful!

NARRATOR

I'm going to write a very strongly worded letter to--wait, what?

JOHN

Think of all the money the city is saving not having to run electricity down here, or buy flashlights for the sewer workers! Talk about smart!

PONCH

Yep, and the best part is, there's absolutely no danger like there would be with electricity around all this water.

NARRATOR

Anybody else's head just start hurting? No? Only me?

VOICE

Kwala, kwala, kwala...

SFXL FOOTSTEPS STOP

JOHN

What was that?

PONCH

What was what?

VOICE

Koala, koala, koala...

JOHN

THAT!

PONCH

Oh, that. Mice.

JOHN

Mice?

NARRATOR

Mice?

PONCH

Obviously. There are lots of mice in the sewers.

VOICE

Koala, koala, koala...

JOHN

That mouse has pretty deep voice.

PONCH

So they're grown-up mice.

JOHN

Grown0up mice?

PONCH

Sure. Our voices change as we get older, why not theirs? Come on.

JOHN

Come on? Come on where?

PONCH

To investigate. That's why we're here, isn't it?

VOICE

(closer) Koala, koala, koala...

JOHN

Do we have to? I mean, you just said it's mice. I would hate to interrupt whatever they're doing. It'd be rude.

PONCH

Rude?

JOHN

Exactly. Like you said, they're grown-ups, and whatever noises consenting grown-up mice want to make in the privacy of their own sewers is really none of our business, from a legal standpoint.

NARRATOR

Before Ponch could engage in a debate about jurisprudence, the two officers' attention was taken by a massive shadow looming against the tunnel wall.

VOICE

(Loudly) KOALA, KOALA, KOALA!

JOHN

Ponch, that's no mouse!

PONCH

It sure isn't, John.

JOHN

What did we do?

PONCH

Well, like you said, legally it's none of our business, so...RUN!

SFX: RUNNING< SPLASHING FOOTSTEPS

NARRATOR

As Officers Ponch and John were...exercising the better part of valor. Ip on the surface Theo and Wednesday were arriving at the Department of Public Works.

WED

Theo, I'm very glad to see you're not giving any credence to Mr. Clemmons' ghost theory.

THEO

Well, while I do like to keep an open mind when it comes to the supernatural, these noises could very likely be the result of blockages, tree root intrusion, or even simple corrosion of the pipes themselves.

WED

How do you know so much about plumbing issues?

THEO

Considering the number of manholes I fall into, I'm an expert.

WED

Natch.

NARRATOR

Theo and Wednesday entered the building.

SFX: DOOR OPEN, CLOSE

NARRATOR

And made their way to the front desk.

SFX: FOOTSTEPS

NARRATOR

Where a chipper young lady greeted them.

WILMA

(Completely deadpan) Hello, welcome to the Department of Public Works, the lifeblood of this great metropolis. My name is Wilma Scieki, how may I assist you?

NARRATOR

What is this, National Mess with your Narrator Day?

THEO

Hello, Miss Shaky,

WILMA

Scieki

THEO

Chalky

WILMA

Scieki.

THEO

Checkerboard.

WILMA

Call me Wilma.

THEO

Well, Wilma, my name is Theodore Rockwell, and this is my Girl Friday, Wednesday Morning.

WILMA

What can I do for you, Mr. Roswell?

THEO

Rockwell.

WILMA

Rotweiller?

THEO

Rockwell.

WILMA

Roquefort?

THEO

Call me Theo.

WED

I like her.

WILMA

What can I do for you and Miss Moribund?

THEO

Still like her?

WED

We're with the Chicago Gazette-Times-Herald, and we'd like to get some information about the reports of noises coming from the sewers.

WILMA

Oh. You're with the press. In that case, you'll have to speak with our Information Officer one desk over.

THEO

Thank you for all your help, Miss Studebaker.

WILMA

My pleasure, Mr. Rococo.

SFX: FOOTSTEPS

WED

It's good to see you making friends.

NARRATOR

As Theo and Wednesday approached the Information Desk, they saw a familiar face.

THEO/WED

Mr. McGillicuddy!

OLD

Please, call me Old Man.

WED

Oh right. Sorry. *(in his voice)* Old Man,

THEO

What are you doing here?

OLD

Once it was discovered that the Pushman Mansion WASN'T haunted, they no longer needed someone to utter cryptic warnings about it.

THEO

Oh, right. Sorry about that.

OLD

Oh, don't be,. Now I have a nice cushy desk job working for the city, letting' folks know all about the wonders of CHicago's Public Works. *(Voice drops ominously)* And the terrors...

THEO/WED

Terrors?

OLD

Oh, aye! For no system serving a city this large could ever be completely free of danger and horror that would chill yer very blood!

NARRATOR

Theo was concerned.

THEO

I'm concerned.

NARRATOR

What'd I tell you? But Wednesday was dubious.

WED

I'm dubious.

OLD

I'm Old Man McGillicuddy.

WED

Are you telling us there's something supernatural in Chicago's sewers?

OLD

I'm not sayin' there is and I'm not sayin' there isn't. All I'm sayin' is there are stories of horrible, mutated monsters lurking in the depths of these here sewers!

THEO

M-m-monsters?

OLD

Oh, aye. Animals grown to immense size who viciously defend their subterranean territories.

WED

Surely that can't be true.

OLD

There are sewer workers who swear to have heard their inhuman cries and seen their massive shambling shapes in the shadows of the sewer pipes. *(Pause)* And I told you to call me Old Man.

THEO

Wednesday!

OLD

No, every day!

THEO

A giant animal would explain the noises everybody's been hearing coming up through their plumbing!

WED

Theo, don't be ridiculous. There's got to be a perfectly reasonable explanation. How would animals get into the sewer? And why would they be giant?

OLD

Other cities have these stories as well. Some say tourists buy exotic animals on vacation, then when they get home and become difficult to deal with, they are flushed, and then grow to gargantuan size feeding on the leavings of a massive city.

THEO

Exotic animals?

OLD

New York is said to have alligators.

THEO

You think there are alligators in the sewer?

OLD

No, that would be ridiculous.

WED

See?

OLD

Only New Yorkers would do something as crazy as buying alligators as pets. No, the animal in the Chicago sewers is one that has never before been seen by man. Some say it is the remnant of a prehistoric era. Some say it's an unfortunate sewer worker gone feral, and some say it is an alien from outer space.

SFX: THUNGER

THEO/WED

AAAAAH!

OLD

(Normal voice) Now would you look at that? The weather report said clear skies today!

WED

Well, Old Man, I have to say, you certainly haven't lost your knack at ominous warnings.

OLD

Thanks, lassie. 'Tis a dying art, y'know.

WED

But we still need to check out what's going on.

THEO

That's right, we--wait, what? We do?

WED

Of course we do. It would be irresponsible of us to print a story like that with our researching it.

OLD

I would nae advise it, lassie. If the noises are increasing, that means the creature--or creatures--are no longer slumbering. And they're...hungry.

SFX: THUNDER

THEO/WED

AAAAHH!

OLD

I better go. I think I left my car windows rolled down.

WED

Well, thank you, Old Man, for all your...information.

THEO

Yes, thanks, Old Man. We'll be seeing you.

OLD

Maybe...or maybe NOT!

SFX: THUNDER

THEO/WED

AAAAAH!

OLD

Thank you, come again!

SFX: FOOTSTEPS OFF

THEO

How does he do that?

WED

Well, Theo, we better get going.

THEO

I think a better idea would be to inform the authorities and let them handle it.

WED

Who are you and what have you done with Theodore Rockwell?
You love rushing headlong into action with nary a forethought.

THEO

Flattery will get you nowhere.

WED

Come on, Theo, you said it yourself; you've spent so much time
down there, you're an expert.

THEO

Well, that is true.

WED

And in all the time the Shade has fallen down manholes, have you
ever heard or seen a giant animal moving around?

THEO

Well, no, I haven't...

WED

Then there's obviously some other explanation. It's very likely
someone using the stories of these giant animals to scare people off
in order to commit a crime.

THEO

Who would do something like that?

WED

Theo, that's exactly what those lady bootleggers were doing at the
Pushman Mansion, remember?

THEO

Oh. Right.

NARRATOR

Somebody didn't go back through the archives during our break.

WED

So who better than the Shade and the Vamp to foil their dastardly
deeds AND put to rest these ridiculous myths about giant animals in
the sewers?

THEO

You do make some good points.

WED

But we will go let the Mayor know what's going on. That way he
can't blame US for the noises.

THEO

Would he do that? After all we've been through?

WED

It's a new year, Theo, and politicians have short memories.

THEO

That explains why the city is tearing up the same stretch of road in front of my apartment AGAIN after they had repaved it just last year. You know, you seem awfully keen on proving this whole giant animal in the sewer story is a hoax. Why? Where's your whimsy?

WED

It's 1938, Theo, nobody can afford whimsy. But to answer your question, there's one thing I've learned from you in all our time together.

THEO

That it's easier to win a hot dog eating contest if you don't put them in your mouth sideways?

WED

What? No--

THEO

Never mistake your mayonnaise for Brylcreem?

WED

How would that even happ--

THEO

Everything is better with a cape?

WED

Stop! You are not getting a cape!

THEO

I know! That the best way to make sure you always look like the right kind of turkey at the bowling lanes is to head over to Benny's Bowling Bazaar, home of the best balls in Chicago!

WED

Is that true? Surely all bowling stores are the same!

THEO

That's what you might think, Wednesday, but at Benny's Bowling Bazaar, you'll find the most up to date equipment available to make sure that your league is never out of their league. Benny's Bowling Bazaar bowling balls are gyroscopically manufactured, and you know that means science! Which means they're obviously better!

WED

Well, you certainly can't argue with that logic!

THEO

So if you want to strike out in the best way possible, get over to Benny's Bowling Bazaar!

WED

While I'm always looking for a way to increase my bowling score, Theo, what I was going to say was the one thing I've learned from you is that everybody deserves to have someone looking out for them, no matter who they are, or how gullible they might be. That nobody deserves to have their fears or naiveté exploited, and that the people who engage in that activity can be stopped even by ordinary people.

THEO

Wow. Though to be honest, that's three things.

WED

Don't ruin it.

THEO

Sorry.

WED

The truth is, whether it's a hoax or not doesn't matter. Something's going on that doesn't make any sense. And when things don't make any sense, that's when the Shade is at his best.

THEO

I guess I was wrong.

WDE

What do you mean?

THEO

Flattery WILL get you somewhere. Come on! This is a job for--THE SHADE!

SDX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS

WED

Atta boy!

SFX: THUNDER

THEO

Wednesday, did you bring the umbrellas?

SFX: STING

NARRATOR

We'll return to Throwing Shade--The Blunder Down Under in just a moment. But first, a word from our sponsor. Friends, does your bowling game have more splits than an ice cream parlor? DO you spend more time in the gutter than a fella singing "Brother Can You Spare a Dime"?

Then you need to get down to Benny's Bowling Bazaar, home of the four-finger ball. That's right, friends. Benny's balls give you that extra bit of control with a fourth finger hole, guaranteeing you can sit it right in the sweet spot every time. So get over to Benny's Bowling Bazaar, where our balls are right up your alley.

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 2 Scene 1--Down the Drain
The plot...deepens?

AS Theo and Wednesday changed into the stylish--and drier--clothes of the Shade and the Vamp, across town, the aristocratic Badkamer family was airing its dirty laundry--

SFX: WINDOW OPENING, WIND BLOWING,
FABRIC WAVING, WINDOW CLOSING

NARRATOR

--because it had quite a musty smell to it. Then it was brought back inside to be washed. Once the servants had left to take care of that, the members of the Badkamer family sat down to discuss their scandalous secrets.

HENRY

Now that the servants are gone, let us sit down and discuss our scandalous secrets.

NARRATOR

I don't know why I thought rich people would be different.

PRUNELLA

Henry, darling, must we? It's so gauche.

HENRY

That is as many be, Prunella my sweet, but the facts cannot be avoided. Especially given what Sheridan has gotten us into.

SHERIDAN

Me? What did I do? Mummy, Father is being absolutely beastly! I haven't done anything!

PRUNELLA

Don't excite yourself, Sheridan, my dear. Remember your delicate constitution. Henry, darling, you really should be easier on poor Sheridan. He's highly strung.

HENRY

He certainly should be. And no Badkamer has ever suffered from a delicate constitution. They have all been hale and hearty in both mind and body. Sheridan, on the other hand, barely has the one and neglects the other. He gets it from your side of the family.

SHERIDAN

Do you hear that? I swear, Mummy, I do my best, but nothing's ever good enough for Father!

PRUNELLA

Really, Henry darling, I don't understand what your problem is with dear little Sheridan.

HENRY

My problem, Prunella my angel, is that Dear little Sheridan has ruined us with his profligate spending!

PRUNELLA

He's only a child!

HENRY

He's twenty-three!

SHERIDAN

It's not my fault! They were simply unlucky investments.

PRUNELLA

See, Henry? You can't blame Sheridan for the stock market! I understand several people have had problems with it in recent years.

HENRY

That is true, Prunella, my dear, but I put it to you that Sheridan's investments weren't unlucky, they were idiotic!

SHERIDAN

Mummy!

PRUNELLA

Henry, darling, that is a bit harsh.

HENRY

A bit harsh? He invested in a massage parlor for pets!

SHERIDAN

Chihuahuas carry a lot of stress!

HENRY

Then there was the school to rectify speech impediments--in parrots!

SHERIDAN

Have you ever heard a macaw with a stutter? It's heartbreaking!

HENRY

And let us not forget the piéce de resistance--the mail-order safaris!

SHERIDAN

Agoraphobes deserve to see the world too!

HENRY

Our entire fortune, wasted!

PRUNELLA

You must understand, he's just--wait, what? Did you say our ENTIRE fortune, Henry darling?

HENRY

That is precisely what I said, Prunella, my light.

PRUNELLA

Sheridan, you moronic little cretin, how could you?

SHERIDAN

But Mummy--

PRUNELLA

Doin't but Mummy me, you indolent nincompoop! If you think I'm going back to the life I had before I met your father, you can just think again!

SHERIDAN

Mummy, I--

HENRY

Prunella, dear, do calm down. We don't want the servants to hear.

PRUNELLA

Quite right, Henry my love, I do apologize. *(To SHERIDAN)* But you are on thin ice, young man!

HENRY

It just so happens that I have put into motion a plan that should recoup all our losses.

PRUNELLA

Really?

SHERIDAN

Really?

PRUNELLA

Quiet, brat.

HENRY

Yes, though I must admit it is both underhanded and unsavory. But such is the lot of noble families brought low by irresponsible relatives.

SHERIDAN

I'm in the room, you know!

PRUNELLA

But your plan will restore our standing and dignity?

HENRY

More importantly, it will restore our money. I do not wish to go into the details, as I would not want the stench of this plot to attach itself to you, Prunella my sweet, should we be discovered. But rest assured, if I am successful, we will have an unending pipeline of wealth.

PRUNELLA

Oh, Sheridan, do you hear that? Everything's going to be alright! Oh, you're such a good boy, Sheridan, and Mummy loves you very much!

SHERIDAN

You're not mad at me anymore?

PRUNELLA

Oh, how could I stay mad at my darling Sheridan? (*Becomes hard*) Just don't let it happen again, or you'll be wearing a pair of cement Oxfords! (*reverts*) I think a bracing cup of oolong is exactly what I need. I'll be in the parlor!

SFX: FOOTSTEPS, DOOR OPEN, CLOSE

SHERIDAN

Father--

HENRY

Sheridan, if you take no other piece of advice from me as your father, take this to heart. Take what your mother said very, VERY seriously.

SFX: FOOTSTEPS, DOOR OPEN, CLOSE

SHERIDAN

Probably shouldn't tell them about the psychiatric clinic for neurotic zoo animals.

SFX: STING

NARRATOR

Act 2 Scene 2--What The Deuce?

The situation becomes un-bear-able

While the Badkamer family's now no-longer-dirty laundry was being put away, over at City Hall, disturbing reports about the noises in the sewers had reached the desk of Mayor Crane.

MAYOR

Rosa!

SDX: DOOR OPENS

ROSA

Ay, Mr. Mayor, why are you yelling?

MAYOR

How else are you supposed to hear me when you're all the way in the other room?

ROSA

I have told you many times, Mr. Mayor, just use the intercom button on your phone.

MAYOR

I know, Rosa, but I can never get the blasted thing to work! It's far too complicated and completely unnecessary!

ROSA

It is not complicated at all. Push the button to talk, let go of the button to listen. Easy as flán.

MAYOR

Pie. It's easy as pie.

ROSA

You ever try to bake a pie? Now call for me using the intercom phone.

MAYOR

Nut you're here now. There's no need to use the phone.

ROSA

That's what you think.

SFX: DOOR CLOSES

MAYOR

I really have to do something to put a stop to all this public education. It's become frighteningly successful.

SDX: CLICK OF A BUTTON

MAYOR

Rosa? *(Pause)* Rosa, are you there? Anyone? Anyone? Honeysuckle? Honeysuckle?

SFX: DOOR OPENS

ROSA

Mr. Mayor, you have to let go of the button to hear!

SDXL CLICK

MAYOR

No, I still don't hear anything.

ROSA

That is because I am here and not there!

MAYOR

Well, then it worked, didn't it? And I didn't have to yell. You're right, Rosa, this contraption is very useful.

ROSA

(muttering) No me pagan lo suficiente por esto. What can I do for you, Mr. Mayor?

MAYOR

Rosa, I've been receiving several disturbing reports concerning noises in the sewer.

NARRATOR

Took awhile, but we finally got there.

ROSA

I know, Mr. Mayor. It is most confusing, not to mention spooky.

MAYOR

Yes, yes, I'm sure it is. But you see, Rosa, the problem is that I left explicit instructions earlier that I did not wish to be disturbed.

NARRATOR

I don't know about the rest of you, but I need to go lie down.

MAYOR

We can't have strange noises going on in the sewers of this fine city.

People will start to equate us with New York! Call Police Chief Cannoli and have him send some officers over here at once!

SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS

PONCH

Mayor Crane! Mayor Crane!

JOHN

It's in the sewers!

MAYOR

Rosa! Now that's what I call efficiency!

ROSA

Sí, Mr. Mayor. Sometimes I even amaze myself.

MAYOR

Now officers, we have a serious issue--ugh! What is that stench?

PONCH

Um, I guess that's us, Mr. Mayor.

JOHN

Yeah, we were just un the sewers, investigating the disturbing reports of noises.

MAYOR

Well, while I appreciate your attention to duty, you smell like trade unionists! Rosa! Open the window!

SFX: WINDOW OPENS

MAYOR

Now, tell me about these noises in the sewer.

SHADE

Yes, we're extremely interested.

MAYOR

AAAAHH!

PONCH/JOHN

AAAAAHH!

ROSA

I knew I shouldn't have opened that window.

MAYOR

Shade? I should've known you'd be involved in this!

VAMP

We're just trying to get to the bottom of this, Mayor Crane.

SHADE

AAAAHH!

VAMP

Seriously?

SHADE

Look, there were only two yells of surprise before. Somehow the whole situation just didn't feel right without a third.

(PAUSE)

VAMP

I'll allow it.

SHADE

Now, tell us what you--oof! It smells like the Cubs' gameplay in here!

PONCH

Okay, we get it, we smell.

JOHN

We came straight from the sewers.

PONCH

Chicago is doomed!

MAYOR/ROSA

Doomed?

SHADE/VAMP

Doomed?

JOHN

Doomed! The sewers have been invaded!

SHADE/VAMP

Invaded?

MAYOR/ROSA

Invaded?

PONCH

Invaded! John and I saw a giant animal roaming the sewers!

(SILENCE)

PONCH

Ahem!

ALL

Sorry.

MAYOR/ROSA

A giant animal?

SHADE/VAMP

A giant animal?

JOHN

A giant animal!

SHADE

What kind of giant animal?

JOHN

We didn't hang around to find out!

PONCH

Yeah, we heard its terrifying call, and saw its silhouette, and hightailed it out of there!

VAMP

Well, what did the silhouette look like?

NARRATOR

At that moment, the two officers fell strangely silent.

MAYOR

Come now, tell us what the gargantuan monster's horrifying silhouette looked like!

PONCH

Well, it was sort of...um...

JOHN

It was kind of like a...um...

ROSA

Madre De Dios! Spit it out!

PONCH

A teddy bear.

(SILENCE)

SHADE

I'm sorry, what was that?

JOHN

A teddy bear.

MAYOR

Are you telling us that the city of Chicago has a giant TEDDY

BEAR lurking in its sewers?

VAMP

Fellas, I think it's time we talk about this donut habit of yours.

SHADE

Yeah, just how much powdered sugar had you two had before this?

PONCH

You've got to believe us! That's what the shadow looked like!

JOHN

Yeah! And it was making this weird growling sound, like koala, koala, koala...

PONCH

I think it might have been an alien, Mr. Mayor!

MAYOR

Well, as long as they pay their taxes and stay out of trouble, this city is most welcoming--

ROSA

Mr Mayor--*(whispers in his ear)*

MAYOR

Ohhh! Never mind. Well, we must do everything we can to put a stop to this threat from beyond the stars!

SHADE

Mr. Mayor, I think Ponch and John were on the right track when they said it was a giant animal.

VAMP

Come on, Shade, you really think there's a giant living teddy bear in the sewers?

SHADE

No, I think there's something significantly more dangerous down there. I think they saw a giant KOALA!

ALL

A what?

ROSA

Those cute little bears from Australia?

SHADE

Exactly, Rosa! I think a stray koala somehow made its way to America, and into the Chicago sewer system where, we all know, there is a large amount of radioactive sport pepper waste!

VAMP

Exactly--wait, what? Those things are radioactive?

ROSA

That explains Wrigleyville.

SHADE

The radioactivity caused the koala to grow to massive proportions and set it on its reign of terror!

PONCH

That's what we thought!

MAYOR

What a ridiculous fabrication!

SHADE

We were warned about this very thing by Old Man McGillicuddy over at the Department of Public Works, weren't we, Vamp?

VAMP

Well, that is true. He did tell us about rumors of a giant animal in the sewers.

MAYOR

Well, in that case, how can we stop this threat?

ROSA

What, now you believe it?

MAYOR

Of course, Rosa. A bureaucrat wouldn't make up tall tales! Far too much paperwork involved. No self-respecting city employee would ever voluntarily of that much work!

ROSA

Good point.

VAMP

OR...it could be someone using the legend of this giant animal as a cover for criminal activity.

SHADE

Well, yes, that is also a possibility. I guess.

VAMP

The Shade and I will go investigate for ourselves tonight. To be honest, something about this whole story just doesn't smell right.

JOHN

Look, we get it, we'll go take a bath!

PONCH

You know, you try to alert the citizenry to a threat to their very existence, and what do you get? Nothing but abuse!

JOHN

I need a donut.

SFX: FOOTSTEPS, DOOR CLOSES

SHADE

Don't worry, Mayor Crane, we'll get to the BOTTOM of this!

(PAUSE)

MAYOR

Was that--?

VAMP

I don't really know. Best to just ignore it.

SHADE

Come on, Vamp! There's no time to WASTE!

SFXL RUNNING FOOTSTEPS, JUMP

NARRATOR

The Vamp found herself speechless in the face of the Shade's statement and made her exit sheepishly.

SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS, JUMP, BAA

NARRATOR

Et tu, Foley?

SFX: STING

NARRATOR

Act 2 Scene 3--KOALA ME BAD

Dim duo does deceptively dirty deeds

While Ponch and John headed off to keep their appointment with soap, water, and fried dough, and the Shade made sure he was fully stocked with the latest in his Sahde-themed line of equipment--

SHADE

See, Vamp? And you said Shade-waders were ridiculous!

NARRATOR

--deep beneath the streets of Chicago, something was moving. Two somethings, to be exact.

SFX: SPLASHING FOOTSTEPS

VOICE

Koala, koala, koala...

NARRATOR

The eerie noise echoed throughout the sewers...

VOICE

Koala, koala, koala....

NARRATOR

But was then suddenly replaced by a less eerie, more annoyed voice.

PENNY

Mick, how much longer we gotta wander around down here? It stinks!

MICK

(Sounding stuffed up) Jumpin' Jehoshophat, Penny! I told you to use these nose plugs! Then you wouldn't smell nothin'!

PENNY

Yeah, but then I'd sound *(holds nose, sounds stuffed up)* like this! *(Returns to her nasal voice)* And that just ain't attractive. 'Sides, I ain't clear on what it is we're doin' down here anyways!

MICK

Penny, you are one zozzled tomato!

PENNY

Thank you.

MICK

I told you before. We're down here to make everybody up there think there's something down here!

PENNY

Well, there is. Us!

MICK

No, Penny. We're supposed to make them think there's something SCARY down here.

PENNY

Oh right. *(Pause)* Why?

MICK

Oh for crying out--Penny, don't you never read the notes I leave on the icebox explaining what the plans are?

PENNY

Sure, Mick, sure. But I only got so much free space in my head, and

I try to only use it for important things, like song lyrics and the personal lives of Cary Grant and Clark Gable. Besides, your spelling's a mess.

MICK

Okay, I'm gonna go over this one more time,. Try to pay attention.

PENNY

I'm all ears. That's a funny thing to say, because if you was all ears, you wouldn't be able to do anything. You'd just sit there, a giant mass of ears. Ooooooh maybe Universal could make that their next monster movie. It Was All Ears!

MICK

Penny! Focus! The boss hired us to make everybody think there was something scary down here so he could clean up by selling the city a way to get rid of the things down here.

PENNY

What, us?

MICK

No, the monster.

PENNY

There's a monster down here?

MICK

No! It's--you know what? I need to sit down. I'm feeling dizzy.

SFX: SPLASH

MICK

Listen, Penny, it's simple. You and I are supposed to make people THINK there's a monster down here, then the boss sells the city something to get rid of the monster they THINK is down here but what ain't actually down here because it was just us making people THINK there was a monster down here. Get it?

PENNY

Got it.

MICK

Good.

PENNY

There's just one thing I don't understand.

MICK

I can't wait to hear this. What is it?

PENNY

What if it don't work?

MICK

What if what don't work?

PENNY

The thing the boss sells to the city to get rid of the monster? What if it don't work?

(PAUSE)

MICK

Just make the noise, Penny.

VOICE

Koala, koala, koala...

SFX: FOOTSTEPS SPLASH OFF INTO THE DISTANCE

NARRATOR

Meanwhile, on the surface, the Shade and the Vamp were surveying a manhole.

SHADE

Alright, Vamp. Entering a manhole is extremely dangerous, so I brought something along that will keep us both safe.

NARRATOR

The Shade pulled a small square of fabric from a belt pouch and threw it down the manhole.

VAMP

Shade, how is that--

SFX: SPLASH, THEN SOMETHING INFLATES

VAMP

Did that just inflate into a giant bouncy fedora?

SHADE

It did! I call it the Shade No-Crash-Pad! That what there's no injuries when we hit bottom.

VAMP

You do realize there's a ladder, right?

SHADE

What? Where?

VAMP

Right there, on the side of the manhole.

SHADE

Well, what do you know about that? I had no idea! When did they start putting those in?

VAMP

Always, Shade. They've always been there.

SHADE

Huh. I never noticed. So I guess there's no need for the Shade No Crash-Pad, huh?

VAMP

Well, you did already deploy it...and it IS a faster way down....and I gotta admit, it looks like a blast! Come on!

SFX: SOUND OF A JUMP

NARRATOR

The Vamp jumped down into the manhole and hit the Shade No Crash-Pad

SFX: A BOING AND SLIDE WHISTLE GOING UP

NARRATOR

She was immediately rocketed Hugh into the air!

VAMP

(Fading away) Shaaaaaaade!

SHADE

Hmmm...must've over-inflated it.

NARRATOR

Soon, the Vamp came hurtling back towards the unforgiving pavement.

VAMP

(Getting closer) Shaaaaaaade!

SFX: METRONOME

NARRATOR

Will the Vamp survive?

VAMP

I hate cliffhangers!

NARRATOR

Will the Shade come up with a brilliant plan to save her?

SHADE

Aim for the manhole!

NARRATOR

Will Mick and Penny ever see eye to eye?

PENNY

How can we? He's three inches shorter than I am!

MICK

Penny!

NARRATOR

These questions will most likely be given lip service in next week's thrilling conclusion to Throwing Shade--Blunder Down Under! Here's a sneak peek!

VOICE

Koala, koala, koala...

NARRATOR

This has been Throwing Shade--Blunder Down Under, brought to you by Benny's Bowling Bazaar, where you can strike gold for spare change!

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: Daniel Houle

And I am your narrator: Noelle Klyce!

Special thanks to Tina Salamone!

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