

Open Wide

By John Webb

“Roebuckers” is no longer being used in this play and I left the reference here because I wanted to. Roebuckers is a reference to a term used in an old movie “Goodbye My Lady” with Walter Brennan and Brandon de Wilde. They lived in an old cabin in the swamp and Walter Brennan was always talking about getting some new teeth from a Sears-Roebuck catalog. He called them “Roebuckers”

CAST

DARLA – Dental Technician, in her early 30’s, big blonde hair, long earrings and large breasts. She is wearing scrubs.

MR. CLOONEY – A dental patient in his late 50’s. He is dressed in a shirt and slacks.

SETTING

A dental office

Mr. Clooney is already seated in the dental chair and it has been reclined for him. The top of his head is facing the audience.

Darla is standing over him with a gas mask device for delivering nitrous oxide (laughing gas).

DARLA: How are we today Mr. Clooney.

MR CLOONEY: Except for the nightmares I have every night before coming here, I’m fine.

DARLA: Oooh, how terrible for you Mr. Clooney. What kind of nightmares do you have?

MR. CLOONEY: I either dream I’m having my fillings lashed out by Cardinal Torquemada, the Grand Inquisitor of the Spanish Inquisition. Or that the World War II Nazi butcher, Dr. Mengela, is trying to remove my gums while keeping my teeth in place.

DARLA: That does sound terrible, but you’re safe from all of that while you’re here Mr. Clooney. So try to relax and I’m sure this “gas” we are going to use will help all those scary dreams go way.

Are we comfortable yet Mr. Clooney? Are we ready for me to place this little “piggy nose” on you?

MR CLOONEY: I'm comfortable, but I don't know about you Nurse Ratchet. Are you comfortable?

DARLA: Now, now Mr. Clooney you know I'm not a nurse and my name is Darla, not Ratchet.

MR CLOONEY: And as for the "piggy nose", the name doesn't do a lot for my self esteem. Why don't we just call it what it is, "taking the gas pipe".

DARLA: We prefer not to call it that Mr. Clooney but I will try to think of something more pleasant for you.

DARLA adjusts the gas mask and turns the gas on.

DARLA The gas will make you feel much better in a few minutes. Mr. Clooney. Now I am going to apply a local anesthetic to your gums before I give you the shots and then you won't be able to feel any thing while I do a deep cleaning on the lower quadrant of your teeth. Now open wide and turn your face this way Mr. Clooney

DARLA starts swabbing his gums and then steps away.

DARLA Now that shouldn't take long to take effect.

DARLA checks her equipment, then picks up a hypo and checks the levels. Then she bends over Mr Clooney again and uses her fingers to touch his gums.

DARLA Open wide. Can you feel my fingers Mr. Clooney?

MR CLOONEY: He mumbles a NO.

DARLA Well then, that's good. Ok, so now you should only feel a little pressure, but let me know if it hurts.

DARLA starts to give the shots.

Mr. Clooney makes a loud muffled scream and DARLA quickly stops and steps away.

DARLA Did that hurt you Mr. Clooney?

MR CLOONEY I think you stuck that needle all the way down to the knuckle of my big toe Nurse Mengala.

DARLA Mr. Clooney I told you, I'm not a nurse and my name is Darla not Mengala.

Maybe I didn't wait long enough Mr. Clooney. Let's wait a few more seconds.

DARLA hums a little Spanish tune (Habanera from Carmen) to herself while she organizes her tools.

DARLA: Are you comfortable, Mr. Clooney? Ok, the painkiller should have taken effect by now. Let's try this again.

Darla presses her fingers against his gums again.

DARLA OK, open wide. Can you feel my fingers Mr. Clooney?

MR CLOONEY: He mumbles a NO.

DARLA leans over him again and starts the shot process. This time every thing seems to go OK.

DARLA then gets the water and suction hoses and starts to place them in his mouth.

DARLA OK Mr. Clooney open wide and turn towards me.

He does so but his face goes against her breast.

DARLA Oh, Mr. Clooney!! You've turned too far. Please, we don't do that around here Mr. Clooney.

DARLA moves his face from her breast and then places the hoses in his mouth. Then she picks up her dental cleaning tools (they are the new high speed, high tech cleaning tools) and looks at his teeth.

DARLA Oooh my, it's been a while since your last cleaning hasn't it Mr. Clooney?

Mr Clooney pulls away from her and turns his head to the other side.

MR CLOONEY: Look away! Look away! I'm hideous! I'm hideous!

DARLA Oh Mr. Clooney you're overreacting. You are just fine. I only see a few things that look like barnacles and there are not many of them. Oh, and Mr. Clooney, since your teeth are so yellow I would suggest that you might want to start wearing brown shirts, to be color coordinated and for fashion purposes of course. Now let me get started. Open wide Mr. Clooney?

The high pitch squeal of a dental cleaning instrument comes on and DARLA starts cleaning his teeth while she is humming Habanera from Carmen..

Every so often Mr. Clooney makes a muffled groan but DARLA continues on. Soon Mr. Clooney starts to choke and cough and DARLA stops.

DARLA I'm so sorry Mr. Clooney, the suction stopped clearing your mouth of water. Here, quick, spit into this.

DARLA offers him a small container and as he chokes he spits into it.

MR CLOONEY: Good grief Nurse Kavorkian, if your goal was to inflict pain on me why don't we skip this teeth cleaning charade and go right to you tasing me or water boarding me.

DARLA Please Mr. Clooney, my name is Darla, not Kavorkian and I keep telling you I am not a nurse.

I will try to do better. Let me make sure the suction is working again Mr. Clooney, and I will try to finish this quadrant of your mouth. Now open wide again Mr. Clooney and turn this way.

He turns toward her again, but again he turns too far.

DARLA Oh, Mr. Clooney!! You have turned too far again and I think you are doing that on purpose.

MR. CLOONEY chuckles to himself.

Darla moves his face away and starts working on him again and continues to hum the Spanish tune. As she is working she says:

DARLA You know Mr. Clooney, I would think you are old enough to know better than to upset a person who has implements of death and destruction in your mouth.

Darla pauses, works a little more and then pauses again.

Oh, and by the way Mr. Clooney, you might also want to know that my full name is Darla Tomás de Torquemada, but I am still not a nurse.

Darla cackles to her self, pulls off her scrubs to reveal a scarlet cardinal's cloak. She then pulls out a large, wide brimmed scarlet cardinal's hat and slaps it on her head. Then starts humming the little Spanish tune to herself again (Habanera from Carmen).

The high pitch dental tool sounds start again, you can hear Mr. Clooney's muffled groans, the lights go down and the scene goes dark and you can still hear Darla's cackle.

DARLA Open wide, Mr. Clooney.

THE END