

Who'll Come a-Waltzing Matilda With Me?

One Act Comedy

FIRST SCENE – SAMPLE

By Robert J. Wheeler

May 24, 2023

TWO ACTORS REQUIRED

Rob Wheeler
15 Windsor Cres., London, Ontario N6C 1V6
Home 519-642-4844 Cellular 226-456-3636

CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
BARRY	Restaurant patron	35ish	Male
DONNA	Waitress	35ish	Female
MATILDA	A blown-up sex doll	20s	Female

TWO ACTORS REQUIRED -- 1 male 30-50, 1 female 30-50

THE SET IS IN A RESTAURANT

SCENE ONE

Time: Day

Place: Donna's Diner

Instrumental song "Waltzing Matilda" plays.

LIGHTS UP:

DL is a chair with a "Please Wait To Be Seated" sign near it.

UC is a three-panel screen with a sign "Donna's Diner" on top. There is a thermostat on the screen. Three feet in front of the screen is a round four-person, restaurant table with red and white checkered tablecloth and three chairs around it. There is a napkin holder on the table with napkins. Dirty dishes and utensils are on the table.

BARRY, wearing a T-shirt and shorts, ENTERS from DR with an arm around MATILDA, a BLOWN UP FEMALE SEX DOLL. The doll wears a T-shirt and shorts. Barry has an 8 ½ x 11" marathon race sign with lanyard hung over his head on the front of his shirt (1101) and Matilda has the same (1102). Both wear head bands. Barry and the doll stop at the sign.

Barry lays the two marathon pages, lanyards and head bands under the chair by the sign. Barry smiles and laughs with the doll without sound as he waits.

Head down and determined, DONNA, a waitress, ENTERS from behind the screen with a plastic container for carrying dishes. She wears an apron as she swiftly clears dishes off the table into the container. Donna puts all the dishes into the container, turns, sees the couple, freezes, drops the dishes container on the floor.

MUSIC STOPS.

DONNA You've got to be kidding!

BARRY The sign says "Please wait to be seated". We are pleased and waiting.

Donna moves the dishes behind the screen, goes to Barry and the doll, flips the "Please wait to be seated" sign over. A large one-word sign has replaced the previous sign. It reads "SCRAM!"

Is it me or my non-traditional girlfriend?

DONNA You're a pervert and she has an IQ of zero! *(makes an "O" with finger and thumb)*

BARRY So, there's an intelligence test before being seated?

DONNA *(looks up)* The moon is full.

BARRY Do you put your smart patrons in the best seats and the ones not as bright in an inferior location? Maybe the basement?! There's a law against that.

DONNA There should be a law against people like you and that, that thing!

BARRY Laws are written to protect Matilda and myself, not persecute us.

DONNA Take your airhead, brainless Matilda, and waltz yourselves out of here!

BARRY You've just insulted my sweetest and best girlfriend.

DONNA Then you're not a complete imbecile.

BARRY You insult Matilda, now me?! The audacity!

DONNA You've got your nerve bringing that thing in here!

Barry SITS on the chair by the entrance, holds Matilda on his lap.

BARRY Businesses that don't cater to minority groups get sued! Most places can't afford the lawyers and fines, so they close, costing everyone their jobs.

DONNA Oh, really?

BARRY Yes, really! Matilda and I are in love.

DONNA *(turns away)* I must be daydreaming. No, daymaring.

Donna pinches her forearm, winces.

(half crying) I'd give anything to wake up.

BARRY Matilda's got love in her eyes for me, just me.

DONNA Major Wacko Sir, you and your, whatever you call it, don't belong here. You need a private room! There's a hotel across the street.

BARRY My name isn't Major Wacko Sir! I'm Mr. Barry Wilson, a gentleman of unique distinction.

DONNA Barry, your "distinction" is killing my business! *(points)* Look, customers are leaving! Get a room! *(motions)* Shu.

BARRY Listen, Miss Disagreeable, Matilda and I are not accustomed to being talked to in that tone or manner. You owe us an apology.

DONNA *(draws near, looks down on Barry)* Me, disagreeable?! Donna would be agreeable if Barry were rational! I'm not used to being talked to in "that tone or manner," *(aggressive)* SO YOU . . .

Aggressive BARRY JUMPS UP. Suddenly intimidated, Donna steps back, throws a hand up, then . . .

. . . or Matilda owe me and apology.

BARRY Fine.

Barry SITS with Matilda, whispers something to Matilda then looks to Donna. (a pause)

DONNA So?

BARRY Is Donna satisfied?

DONNA Donna never got her apology.

BARRY Yes, Donna did.

DONNA No, Donna didn't.

BARRY Donna must be deaf.

Donna and Barry stare at each other for a couple seconds.

Although, Matilda is a low talker.

DONNA Yeah, right.

BARRY I distinctly heard Matilda apologize.

DONNA What did Matilda say with her two plastic lips? Repeat it, just so I hear it once!!!

BARRY Matilda said she's sorry Donna is so sensitive.

Donna gives an incredulous look to fourth wall, swings around wants to attack Barry.

DONNA That's not an apology! It's an insult!

Donna swats at Matilda. Barry pulls Matilda back just in time.

BARRY *(JUMPS UP)* Minority abuser!

DONNA Pervert!

BARRY Matilda and I would like a secluded table for lovers, one with a nice view. Do you have something for special patrons?

DONNA Spectacular lulus! *(points SR)* Look, you're scaring away my lunch time customers! I gotta make a living, so . . .

BARRY My brother's a lawyer.

DONNA *(turns away)* The moon and the lawyer? The perfect storm.

Donna winces, stamps foot simultaneously, reluctantly to Barry.

Oh, come on.

Donna flips the sign back so it reads "Please wait to be seated" then motions Barry and Matilda toward the table with three chairs, however, before following Barry and Matilda to the table she flips the sign back so it reads "SCRAM!"

Barry sits MATILDA on the chair that face DS.

BARRY SITS on chair facing SR. They will sit in these chairs, off and on, throughout.

You have the privilege of viewing our beautiful mural of the Island of Santorini. *(motions SR)* Painted fresh last year.

BARRY This is your special table?! Really?!

DONNA Look!

Donna points SR to imaginary leaving customers. She is near tears.

The last of my customers are leaving! I'm two seconds from calling the cops!

Barry shrugs. Donna pulls out a cell phone from her apron, punches in numbers.

BARRY My brother, the lawyer, specializes in accident claims.

DONNA So what?!

BARRY *(looking around)* I've just noticed, there's so much for one to hurt oneself on in the vicinity.

Donna fumes, pockets the cell phone.

We'd like to order.

DONNA Okay, what'll you have?

Donna pulls out a pad and pen from her apron.

BARRY I'll have a water with ice and Matilda will have a chocolate milk shake.

Donna writes, starts to move away. Barry bends to Matilda then back.

No, Matilda's changed her mind, wants a ginger ale.

Donna moves back, frustrated, writes, starts to move away. Barry bends to Matilda, then back.

No, now Matilda wants a coffee with cream.

Donna moves back, more frustration, writes, starts to move away. Barry bends to Matilda then back.

No, sorry, a tea with milk.

Donna moves back, more frustration, writes, starts to move away. Barry bends to Matilda then back.

No, better make it a water, no ice.

Donna moves back. More frustration. Donna glares at Barry. Barry casually stares back.

DONNA Two waters! That's it?!

BARRY That's all for now.

DONNA You're sure?

BARRY Very sure. Matilda is particular.

Donna tears the sheet from her pad, pockets the pad, tears the sheet in two, throws it over her shoulder.

DONNA You scare away my clientele, then have the nerve to order water?!!

BARRY Even the dingiest dumps serve water! Are you telling me you can't come up with a couple simple glasses of clear, fresh water?

(MORE)

Donna threatens to stab Matilda with the pen.

No!!!

Barry pulls Matilda back. Donna pockets the pen.

DONNA Water!!!

Donna walks behind the screen, comes back with two glasses of water.

Donna places one glass in front of Barry and pours the other over Matilda's head.

(insincere) Woops, soooooorry.

BARRY JUMPS UP, takes napkins from the napkin holder, dries Matilda while he talks.

BARRY That was no accident! I'll report you to the management!

Donna points to the "Donna's Diner" sign.

DONNA I'm listening.

Barry sees the sign, fumes.

BARRY Help me!

DONNA If I helped you I'd be contributing to your insane world. You're a prize-winning wacko. I wouldn't touch that thing for anything!

BARRY I should dump my water on you.

DONNA Do you know what a broken knee cap and fractured jaw feel like?

BARRY No.

DONNA Dump the water and I'll educate you. *(does a front kick)* It'd be a pleasure!

BARRY finishes cleaning, puts the cloth away, SITS, sips his water.

Are you finally ready to order?

BARRY After the way you've treated Matilda, did you actually think we'd eat here?

DONNA No, probably not. (*insincere*) I'm so sorry. I'll try to do better next time. Have a pleasant day, if it's at all possible. Off you go. (*motions*) Shu.

BARRY (*bends to Matilda then back*) We've decided to . . .

(*Pause*)

DONNA What?!!

BARRY Both of us, Matilda and I have decided to . . .

(*Pause while thinking*)

DONNA Leave?!!

(*Pause while thinking*)

BARRY . . . give you a second chance.

DONNA Ahuuuuu! (*jumps back*)

BARRY We forgive you.

DONNA Ahuuuuu! (*jumps back*)

BARRY (*bends to Matilda then back*) Let bygones be . . .uh, uh . . . (*puase*)

DONNA . . . bygones?!!

BARRY That's it. We want to start over.

DONNA Ahuuuuu! (*jumps back, then moves ahead, desperate*) Please, please order something!

BARRY (*bends to Matilda then back*) Matilda says she's cold. Can alter the air conditioning, make it warmer? Matilda's sensitive to cold.

DONNA The temperature's fine! (*pause, bright idea*) No, it's not fine! It's hot! Boiling! I'll cool it down a degree or two.

(MORE)

Donna goes to a thermostat and turns it a little, then . . .

Maybe more.

Donna cranks the thermostat higher. Barry takes off his shirt and puts it around Matilda.

How's that?

BARRY Matilda is warm now. We're both fine. I hope you don't catch a cold.

DONNA I said, (*shouts*) I'm boiling!

BARRY This table doesn't have the view we wanted. (*to Matilda*) We'd have to go to a nice place to get a descent view.

Donna points SR.

DONNA The Island of Santorini is a fantastic tourist spot! Affluent people from all over the world tour it on a regular basis!

Barry shrugs.

You think our mural of Santorini, with its spectacular blue domes, isn't good enough for you and that thing?!

BARRY There's no sound or scent of ocean, or the sight of curled, azure waves breaking on the pale, sandy shore, or the feel of sun, warm and welcoming on our tanned bodies.

DONNA (*fumes, SHOUTS LOUD!*) Critics!

Donna approaches and looks toward SR, speaks softly.

Some days I feel I can walk up those crisp white steps, all the way to the top, and disappear into Santorini.

BARRY Oh, look. (*breaks her reverie*)

DONNA (*loud, snaps, irritated*) What now?

BARRY (*points SR*) The wallpaper under your mock Santorini is loose. The blue dome. See. The wallpaper corner has lifted. It's making a tiny triangular window in the blue dome. (*laughs*)

Donna moves to the imaginary mural, licks her thumb, puts it on the peeling wall paper and presses it down with her thumb.

DONNA *(pleased she has fixed the mural)* Fixed.

Donna swings around, points to and snaps at Barry.

You, you're unfixable!

BARRY What do you think, Matilda?

Barry bends to Matilda to hear her words then bends back, looks around.

I agree, the whole place could stand a thorough cleaning.

DONNA That's unacceptable! Totally unacceptable!

BARRY What do you mean?

DONNA First you insult me, now my workplace!

BARRY *(shrugs)* Oh, well.

Donna fumes.

Where are the washrooms?

Barry puts the shirt he draped around Matilda over a chair back.

DONNA Why do you want to know?

BARRY Why do you think?

DONNA Do you intend on taking any *(looks to Matilda)* thing with you?

BARRY Yes.

DONNA What?

BARRY Matilda.

DONNA Leave Matilda here.

BARRY Matilda and I need some alone time.

DONNA WASHROOMS ARE CLOSED!!! Renovations! Major renovations!

BARRY What do you do when you have to go to the toilet?

DONNA *(hesitates, points DR)* The hotel across the street.

BARRY You scoot off across the street every time?

DONNA That's right. I suggest you do the same, and take your weird, thin-skinned concubine with you.

Barry STANDS, strolls, looks around, starts to UR. Donna blocks him.

BARRY I need alone time with Matilda for a blow . . .

DONNA *(interrupting)* Oh, no your not! There'll be no kinky stuff going on in my restaurant!

BARRY You expect us to do it at the table?

DONNA You're a deviant, a complete deviant!

BARRY If I don't do it, she won't last!

DONNA Do it around here and you won't last!

BARRY Just a few puffs! That's all it'll take to make her as good as new.

DONNA Puffs?

BARRY Matilda's sagging. I need to inflate her.

Barry blows a couple times.

DONNA Oh.

Broken and limp, DONNA COLLAPSES onto the SR chair at the table.

I see.

BARRY So, it's okay?

DONNA Whatever.

Donna lays her head on the table, faces Matilda.

BARRY Are you okay?

Barry takes Matilda, blows into the inflation area. He blows and talks through the next six dialogue exchanges.

DONNA Fine.

BARRY You don't look fine.

Donna faces DS, lets out a LOUD, CRAZY CACKLE. For the rest of the play Donna has entered Barry's crazy world, so she smiles most of the time.

You don't sound fine.

DONNA *(another cackle)* I was fantasizing. *(more cackling)*

BARRY Really?

DONNA *(cackles)* About offering a sexual services option with every meal.

BARRY You'd have to change the menu.

DONNA And the zoning.

BARRY Think of the tips!

DONNA *(turns head, sees Barry)* You're got deviant experience.

BARRY Just because I have a non-traditional girlfriend?

DONNA *(SITS UP)* You're hired!

Barry chuckles, SITS Matilda on the chair facing Donna.

BARRY See, Matilda, Donna has a sense of humor after all.

LIGHTS OUT

End of Scene One – END OF SAMPLE