

The Love Machine

adapted by Faction of Fools' based on their production of *The House with Two Doors*

A short play for six characters

2 Old Men (Vecchi):

---Il Dottore

---Tartaglia [or Pantalone]

4 Lovers (Innamorati):

---Isabella, daughter of il Dottore and lover of

---Luzio, a foreigner and friend of Orazio [can also be played as a Capitano]

---Ortensia, daughter of Tartaglia and lover of

---Orazio, son of il Dottore

SCENE ONE: Isabella, Luzio

Isabella enters the street, in disguise. She laments that because of her jealous father and brother, she must go in disguise to meet her lover, Luzio.

Luzio enters, in disguise. He and Isabella do not recognize each other, and challenge each other to a duel.

Before either is harmed, they discover each other's identities, and they play a dialogue of love and devotion. Luzio asks Isabella to marry him, and Isabella tells him to come to her house tonight to ask her father, Il Dottore, for her hand.

With many vows of love, they exit apart.

SCENE TWO: Orazio, Ortensia

Ortensia and Orazio meet. Orazio accuses Ortensia of flirting with other men, while she denies it.

Ortensia accuses Orazio of being unfaithful, while Orazio denies it.

They play a dialogue of jealousy and indignation. Orazio tells Ortensia that she is welcome to come to the house of his father, Il Dottore, any time she wishes and see for herself that he has no women hidden there.

With many unkind words, they exit apart.

SCENE THREE: Il Dottore, Tartaglia

Tartaglia and Il Dottore enter together. Il Dottore is complaining about his children, Isabella and Orazio. Tartaglia is complaining of his daughter Ortensia who suffers from a terrible melancholy

Tartaglia asks how il Dottore can cure melancholy. With lazzi [comical stage business] of diagnosis and treatment, il Dottore determines that Ortensia must be married.

The fathers agree that il Dottore will marry Ortensia and Tartaglia will marry Isabella. They agree to meet that night at il Dottore's house to draw up the agreement, and they exit.

SCENE FOUR: il Dottore's House, Ortensia, Luzio, Isabella, Orazio, il Dottore, Tartaglia

Ortenzia enters, disguised, and tells the audience she has come to catch Orazio with another woman.

Luzio enters and seeing Ortenzia's disguise believes that she is Isabella. He embraces her and declares his love, calling her "My love," "My darling," "My sweetheart," and the like.

Isabella enters and sees Luzio with another woman. She berates him for being unfaithful. He tries to explain the mistake. While Luzio is still holding Ortenzia, she reveals her true identity.

Orazio enters and see Luzio holding Ortenzia. He challenges Luzio to a duel. Isabella threatens Ortenzia. All fight.

At the height of confusion, il Dottore and Tartaglia enter singing. They mistake the fighting for dancing and continue the song and dance with happiness.

Il Dottore and Tartaglia announce the wedding of Isabella to il Dottore and Ortenzia to Tartaglia. There are arguments and confusions. The "lazzo of the Love Machine" is created as characters move each other around the room, attempting to embrace the person they wish to marry or to appeal to the person who stands in their way, but—through mistakes, disagreements, and catastrophes—they repeatedly embrace the wrong person.

Finally, through accident or exasperation, the Love Machine resolves so that Isabella and Luzio embrace, Ortenzia and Orazio embrace, and il Dottore & Tartaglia are together as happy friends who agree to bless their children's marriages.

THE END

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