

The Crisis

by FELIPE CABEZAS

Pantalone, il Dottore, Brighella, Arlecchino, and Pedrolino

Pantalone is in a crisis. His businesses have closed. His employees have realized their stocks have fallen. All is lost! He decides to ask il Dottore for help with his personal crisis. He exits.

Enter Brighella and Arlecchino. They are tired of working all day without any pay. They decide to rob Pantalone.

Enter Pedrolino. (Arlecchino and Brighella hide.) Pedrolino tells the audiences about his secret savings account and vows to leave the house to move to a better place where he can start a great new life. [Note: In the original Spanish version, Pedrolino arrives at the old-fashioned ideal of emigrating from Europe to America. Organizers are free to adapt this to their own setting.]

Arlecchino and Brighella attack him and begin to rob him of all of his possessions, including his clothes that they plan to sell.

Enter Pantalone and il Dottore. Il Dottore has designed a strange machine that makes money, but it requires some real money to make it start. Pantalone swears he does not have a single penny.

Arlecchino comes out of hiding with Pedrolino's money in hand, determined to steal the money machine. Pedrolino pursues him, followed by Brighella. Pantalone struggles with Arlecchino and everyone fights. The fight ends with the machine being destroyed. Everyone is upset.

Il Dottore admits, to the surprise of all, that the machine was a hoax and that he is also in crisis! But then he has a great idea. They should invest Pedrolino's savings the stock market, which he says is a great business.

Happy and determined, they decide to form a business, even Pedrolino, the largest shareholder, who they name president.

The End?

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FELIPE CABEZAS, Il Capitano Spavento.
Barcelona.

+34 666303314 // +34 931802518

truffaldinno@hotmail.com

<http://felipecabezas.aadpc.cat>

www.felipecabezas.blogspot.com