

NIGEL

NIGEL Dorothy - may I have a word?

DOROTHY What is it?

NIGEL I have an announcement to make. I am leaving the Stratford Players.

DOROTHY Oh not again

NIGEL I am sorry but it is a matter of principle.

DOROTHY The principle being that you didn't get the best part. Don't be so pompous.

NIGEL I am not being pompous. That appalling American is a disgrace to the traditions of the amateur stage and the noble name of the Stratford Players.

DOROTHY That sounds pompous to me.

NIGEL For you, Dorothy, I was prepared to humiliate myself and play the Earl of Kent.

DOROTHY It is a very difficult part Nigel, and you're the only one who can do it.

NIGEL You really think so?

DOROTHY Remember the judge at that drama festival in Norwich

NIGEL (fake modesty) Oh. I'm not sure, it was all a long time ago.

DOROTHY One of the best Malvolios he had seen...

NIGEL '(interrupts) 'The best Malvolio ever seen in the history of the East Anglia Drama Festival', were... I think...his exact words.

DOROTHY That's why we need you. Anyone can play Lear. Jefferson's just a famous face to raise the money... But how

many people can dazzle as Kent. I can think of only one.

NIGEL You're not just saying that to get round me

DOROTHY takes his hand and looks into his eyes.

DOROTHY (innocently) Would I?

Yes she would,

NIGEL "The Gods reward your kindness".

NIGEL leans forward for a kiss. DOROTHY avoids him tactfully. He looks disappointed. She then drops his hand. JEFFERSON returns.

NIGEL

NIGEL walks off into the spotlight whilst the rest of the cast begin to dress the set with scenery, props and costume. Whilst this is going on we see NIGEL negotiating on phone.

As you know I represent Mr. Jefferson Steel and it appears that your newspaper has committed a gross and indeed malicious defamation upon my client, an act of both libellus famosus and of scandalum magnatum...

You will be familiar with the quotation from the play Othello - in which, incidentally. I once played a very well received Iago - where they are speaking of reputation and Iago says:

*Who steals my purse steals trash; 'tis something, nothing;
Twas mine, 'tis his. and has been slave to thousands; But
he that filches from me my good name, Robs me of that
which not enriches him. And makes me poor indeed.' What
does that mean in plain English? It means that according
to the highest principles of English jurisprudence I have
you by the short and curlies chummy!