

### Scene Four

*Lights up on ALBERTO. He is admiring himself in a mirror. He sings an Italian song.*

**ALBERTO** Look at that reflection. No wonder the girls, they go mad. If I met me, I would go mad. *(He kisses the mirror)*

*The COLONEL and GRUBER enter.*

**COLONEL** Captain Bertorelli. Lieutenant Gruber has just received a top level, most highly secret communication from Hitler's Headquarters.

**GRUBER** Hitler's plans have been changed. He will not be coming by train. He will be coming by car to avoid the possibility of assassination by the Resistance.

**ALBERTO** This Hitler—he not the big fool how he look, eh?

**COLONEL** His car will pause in the town square.

**GRUBER** My General will take this opportunity to present to him the painting.

**ALBERTO** So it's bye bye to the bigga da boobies and we no splita the dough.

**COLONEL** All is not lost, Captain. Gruber has a plan, haven't you, Hubert?

**GRUBER** The painting will be handed over to Hitler but it will not be Hitler.

**ALBERTO** Who will it be?

**COLONEL** You.

**ALBERTO** Hand the painting over to me? The General—why me?

**COLONEL** Captain Alberto, when we gave the concert in aid of the distressed SS gentlewomen, who was the star? Who did the impersonations of Adolf?

**ALBERTO** You right. Me big success. But I see the bigga problem. If I am dressed as Hitler and Hitler is dressed as Hitler, how will he know which Hitler to give the painting?

**GRUBER** Von Schmelling will be told that Hitler is to arrive one day early. We will obtain a staff car, fly the correct insignia, it will be dark.

**COLONEL** One quick Heil Hitler, he will give you the painting and you will give him a medal.

**ALBERTO** What happen when the real Hitler turn up?

**GRUBER** We can always blame the Resistance and shoot a few peasants.

**ALBERTO** Is dangerous. I no wanna be the Hitler.

**COLONEL** Then we cut you out of the deal and after the war you will get nothing. You will end up as a spaghetti inspector.

**ALBERTO** You really think I do Hitler good enough?

**COLONEL** Of course you will. You are a wonderful Hitler. Think how exciting it was on the night I introduced you. Gruber give him your hat.

*GRUBER hands ALBERTO the hat and drums on some furniture. During the following speech, ALBERTO turns away like the traditional impersonator and puts on a hat to which is attached a hair piece, and a false nose and moustache, which is held by elastic.*

Ladies and gentlemen. Straight from the back streets of Naples, the greatest Hitler impersonator in all Italy—Captain Alberto Bertorelli.

*ALBERTO turns round. They applaud. ALBERTO works himself up making crowd noises, howls, goose-steps, etc. He takes a chair, places it with its back to the audience, then stands on it as though on a podium. He makes crowd chanting sounds, then raises his hand for silence.*

**ALBERTO** Citizens of the Fatherland, I will tell you a most amusing story about the hunchback of Notre Dame. He is hopping up and down on the parapet when he notices the bell is missing in the middle the big clapper. What does he do, he pushes away from him the bell. When he returns, it hits him smack in the face. It gives a loud bong and he falls two hundred feet right on to the cobble stones.

**GRUBER** That is very funny.

**ALBERTO** I have not finished it. Two men walk up, one man says to the other man, "Who is that?" The other man says to the one man "I do not know, but his face rings a bell". Now I have finished.

**GRUBER** Fortunately, you will not be required to do jokes in the staff car.

*The phone rings.*

**COLONEL** Answer that, Gruber.

**GRUBER** Hallo... It's Berlin. *(He clicks his heels)*

**COLONEL** If it is Hitler, say I am out.

**GRUBER** What could they want?

**ALBERTO** *(taking the phone)* If it is Hitler, he is out. This Captain Bertorello. I am a great war hero and best friend of Colonello... I see. I will give him the message. *(He puts the phone down. To COLONEL)* It is good news. There is a bigga part for you.

**COLONEL** For me?

**ALBERTO** Hitler is coming with Herman Goering.

**COLONEL** No, no. I am a rotten actor.

**ALBERTO** *(as Hitler)* Am I to understand that you, my trusted Field Marshall, Flying Ace and Hero of the First World War, are refusing to accompany me on an inspection of the glorious German Army in their hour of victory?

COLONEL (*standing to attention*) No, my Führer.

ALBERTO Then you will obey me?

COLONEL Yes, my Führer.

ALBERTO Heil Hitler.

COLONEL Heil Hitler.

ALBERTO Left turn, quick march, left, right, left, right... (*Etc.*)

*They march off.*

*Blackout.*