

**DR. ZÜCKER'S
CLINIC FOR PHOBIAS
AND ADDICTIONS**

By

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

DR. ZÜCKER:	(M) an ex-B.B.C. Hypnotist in his early fifties
PHILLIPPA:	(F) an American woman in her 30's she is also Dr. Zucker's daughter.
MARCIA:	(F) a young upper-class lady, in her twenties
JACK:	(M) a tall man in his forties.
SIMON:	(M) a wimpy looking man in his 30's
DR. RICHARD SHANNON:	(M) a General Practitioner in his forties
DR. DEMPSEY:	(M) a man in his thirties
BASIL:	(M) an ex-boxer, in his thirties.
THE DIRECTOR:	(M/F) Same age as Dr. Zucker and Dr. Zucker's boss
CAMERAMAN:	(M/F) could be played by male or female.
POLICE INSPECTOR:	(M/F) could be played by male or female of around fifty years of age.
P.C. S 1 AND 2:	(M/F) could be of any age or gender.

6 Male; 2 Female; 5 Male or Female

Running time approximately 125 mins

Take one ex-TV Hypnotist with a bad accent. Add a sorry bunch of life's misfits. Sprinkle in a few weird and wonderful phobias and addictions. Mix them all together in a house full of secret identities and allow it to simmer in a plot full of twists and unexpected turns. What will follow is a riotously funny play, full of laughter, slapstick and farce.

DR. ZÜCKER'S CLINIC FOR PHOBIAS AND ADDICTIONS

ACT 1

SCENE ONE

(Curtains open to a large reception room. There is a fireplace upstage and two windows on the upstage wall either side of the fireplace. There are two stacks of chairs centre stage left covered with white table cloths. There are two side tables, one centre stage left against the wall and one centre stage right against the wall. There is a large clock on the wall above the fire place that reads ten past twelve. The CAMERAMAN and DR. DEMPSEY are taking turns to exit and carry on pieces of camera equipment. THE DIRECTOR looks at the items and ticks them off his list held on a clip board in his hands)

DR. DEMPSEY: When do the guests arrive? How long have we got to set everything up?

THE DIRECTOR: About two hours or so. I know we are so far behind this morning.

(DR. DEMPSEY exits stage right and the CAMERAMAN enters stage right carrying a video monitor)

THE CAMERAMAN: Where do we want this?

THE DIRECTOR: Put it in the back room with all the other film stuff.

(Enter DR. DEMPSEY stage right with a tripod and camera bag)

THE DIRECTOR: Follow him put it in the back room.

(Exit the CAMERAMAN stage left, followed by DR. DEMPSEY. Enter PHILLIPPA stage right pulling her suitcase)

THE DIRECTOR: (Not paying her a lot of attention) Catering, you should have been here two hours ago.

PHILLIPPA: (Protesting) But!

THE DIRECTOR: Come on lovely, get with the program. (Points off stage left) The kitchen is through there and down the corridor. Follow the breakfast smells.

PHILLIPPA: (Still protesting) But I'm...

THE DIRECTOR: (INTERUPTING) ...Yes very late, like the rest of us. Don't worry about it. Through there and down the corridor please. Go! Go!

(Enter DR. DEMPSEY and THE CAMERAMAN stage left that both cross the stage to collect more equipment not paying any attention to PHILLIPPA and both exit stage right. PHILLIPPA passes them, takes a good look at them and exits stage left. After a short pause enter DR. DEMPSEY stage right)

DR. DEMPSEY: That's it everything is in. The crew are dressing the set as we speak.

(Enter THE CAMERAMAN stage right)

THE DIRECTOR: (Reaches out an arm and stops the cameraman) You get the video stuff set up in the big room, behind the set. Hurry the crew up a bit will you?

THE CAMERAMAN: Yes sure thing.

(THE CAMERAMAN exits stage left)

THE DIRECTOR: (Looks for DR. DEMPSEY) Ah, Tom. Give the bedrooms a quick once over. Check all the lights. Make sure they're all working before the crew leaves this time. This old house is falling apart.

DR. DEMPSEY: Sure thing. I'll give the bathrooms a once over too.

THE DIRECTOR: Good, thanks. I'll be in video if you need me. Don't let the crew go until they have done everything this time.

(DR. DEMPSEY exits stage left and THE DIRECTOR exits stage left shortly after. The stage is empty briefly until THE CAMERAMAN enters stage left)

and starts to set up behind the false wall covering the corner upstage right. **THE DIRECTOR** enters close behind him and they busy themselves with the video in front of and behind the false wall. Enter **PHILLIPPA** stage left pulling her suitcase. She stops and studies the two men erecting cameras on tripods before exiting stage right. When the cameras are set up on the tripods (and behind the false wall), the dialogue can continue. The clock on the wall must read a little after one o'clock)

THE DIRECTOR: Well done! (**Looks at his watch**) It's a little after one now, so go and have a cuppa and a pee, or whatever, but be in position for two o'clock. OK?

THE CAMERAMAN: Yes will do. Do you want a coffee?

THE DIRECTOR: No thanks. I'll grab one with the doc when he gets here.

(Exit **THE CAMERAMAN** stage left. Enter **DR. DEMPSEY** stage left)

DR. DEMPSEY: Ah there you are sir. Don't forget you were going to fill me in properly. I only got the basics in my brief.

THE DIRECTOR: You need to meet the guests as they arrive and show them to their rooms and have them reassembled in the waiting area for the docs meet and greet. (**He flips a couple of pages on his clipboard and gives one of them to DR. DEMPSEY**) That's a list of guests arriving today. We've got one arriving late tonight, but the doc is on duty tonight, so he'll sort him out.

DR. DEMPSEY: OK yes I got all that in my brief. But tell me about the doc. There's a lot of talk about him, but no one, that I have spoken to, seems to have met him yet. What's he like? You've known him for a long time haven't you?

THE DIRECTOR: Yes we go a long way back. Look all you need to know is whatever he says to guests agree with. Whatever happens go with it. Always do what he asks, how he asks, and always assume he is always right. I may be the boss here, but he is definitely always in charge. I have found that is the best way to maintain the results we are getting.

DR. DEMPSEY: I'm still a little nervous to meet the legend that is Dr. Zucker.

THE DIRECTOR: Well don't be. He's a pussy cat really but a damn clever one at that. I know you are new to this outfit but if we didn't think you'd fit in, then you wouldn't be here. Just be aware of what you are saying and doing at all times. Remember the risks involved. Now go and grab yourself a brew and get yourself ready in case anyone arrives early.

DR. DEMPSEY: OK will do. Thanks for the chat sir.

(Exit DR. DEMPSEY stage left)

THE DIRECTOR: **(looking at his watch)** where the hell is he?

(Enter DR. ZÜCKER from the fireplace. He sees THE DIRECTOR and reverses back into the fireplace unseen)

THE DIRECTOR: I bet he has sneaked past me through one of those infernal secret passage ways again.

(Exit THE DIRECTOR. A single spot light reveals the clock spinning to half past one. A short pause before DR. DEMPSEY enters stage left. He places a plate full of biscuits on one of the side tables and then he uncovers the stack of chairs and starts to set them out. Enter PHILLIPPA pulling her suitcase)

PHILLIPPA: Are you ready for me yet?

DR. DEMPSEY: Well, that depends on who you are and what you are here for doesn't it?

PHILLIPPA: Ah, a wise guy eh?

(DR. DEMPSEY now greets her with a smile and a handshake)

DR. DEMPSEY: I am Dr. Dempsey. Judging by your accent, you must be Phillippa with no surname. A lady of mystery it seems.

PHILLIPPA: I try as much as possible to forget the surname.

DR. DEMPSEY: What is your surname? Just to save any confusion for later.

PHILLIPPA: Are there two Phillippa's here this week?

DR. DEMPSEY: Well, no there aren't.

PHILLIPPA: **(She says with a wry smile)** then, with you being a clever doctor and all, it shouldn't be too confusing for you.

DR. DEMPSEY: **(Smiling)** Fair enough. If you'd like to take a seat we need to wait until there are a few more of you, then I'll show you all to your rooms for the next few days. Is that OK Miss Roland?

(PHILLIPPA looks surprised that he did know her name but resists the argument and sits down and parks her suitcase at her feet. Enter MARCIA with a suitcase)

DR. DEMPSEY: Come in, Marcia isn't it? I'm Dr. Dempsey.

(DR. DEMPSEY holds out his hand for the customary handshake)

MARCIA: Yes it is, but don't touch me please.

DR. DEMPSEY: I'm sorry. Please take a seat.

(He holds out his arm to guide the way. MARCIA removes a handkerchief from her pocket and dusts off the chair before placing the handkerchief on it and sitting down. She then squirts a little antibacterial hand wash and cleans her hands with it)

PHILLIPPA: I wouldn't touch him either; you don't know where he's been.

(PHILLIPPA wryly smiles at the doctor who briefly sneers back at her)

MARCIA: Exactly!

DR. DEMPSEY: I can see I'm going to have to be on my best behaviour with you two.

Enter DR. SHANNON who walks across the stage to DR. DEMPSEY.

DR. DEMPSEY: (Holds out a hand for his customary handshake) Hi there and welcome. I'm DR. Dempsey one of your hosts for this week.

DR. SHANNON: I'm Richard Shannon, Dr. Shannon. Am I late?

(The two doctors shake hands)

DR. DEMPSEY: No perfect timing in fact. But don't sit down I'll show you all to your rooms now **(Raises his voice so all can hear.)** If you like to follow me I'll show you all to your rooms. This way please.

(DR. DEMPSEY exits stage left followed by PHILLIPPA then MARCIA with DR. SHANNON moving the chairs into a perfect line before hurrying to catch the others. Enter SIMON who is very nervous to the new surroundings and heads to the corner of the room up stage left and stands in it. Enter DR. ZÜCKER from out of the fire place. DR. ZÜCKER is dressed in a long white doctor's coat. SIMON cowers in the corner as DR. ZÜCKER helps himself to some biscuits and then exits stage left dusting himself off as he goes. Enter DR. DEMPSEY stage left. He doesn't notice SIMON hiding in the corner and sits down on one of the seats)

SIMON: (Almost screaming, pointing stage left) did you see that ghost? He was just there.

DR. DEMPSEY: (Startled by the sudden outburst he stands) Jesus! Who said that? **(He looks around and sees SIMON in the corner behind him)** You startled me sir! Are you SIMON?

SIMON: Yes! Did you see the ghost? It stole some biscuits and then left that way. **(Pointing stage left)** You must have seen it.

DR. DEMPSEY: I didn't see anything. This is an old house but I'm sure it's not haunted. And since when did ghosts eat biscuits?

(SIMON now turns to face the corner and makes himself as small as he can in the corner. Enter Jack who stands at the door turning in circles and blowing as he does so)

DR. DEMPSEY: You must be Jack.

(He holds out a hand for JACK, who walks fully around the room holding his breath, checking the fireplace and the windows before ending back at DR. DEMPSEY. He shakes the outstretched hand and stands looking at SIMON in the corner)

DR. DEMPSEY: Come on I'll show you to your rooms.

(There is a pause as SIMON doesn't move)

DR. DEMPSEY: Mr. Milton, please, there is nothing to be scared of. Come on you can walk with me. I'll keep you safe from the ghost.

(SIMON reluctantly stands. He looks at JACK)

SIMON: Did you see the ghost?

JACK: I never saw anything; I've just got here. **(Looking around)** a haunted house. Great fun!

DR. DEMPSEY: Come on Simon. No one saw the ghost because there are no ghosts here.

SIMON: I definitely saw him. He was a really old man, all in white. Came out of the fire and walked out the door there, as you came in. **(Pointing stage left)**

DR. DEMPSEY: I don't know what you saw, but I can assure you it was not a ghost. This house is not haunted. Maybe you're tired. Come on let's get you to your room.

SIMON: I'm scared! Will you hold my hand?

DR. DEMPSEY: **(Sighs)** Yes of course, now come on let's get you settled in your room.

(SIMON takes the outstretched hand of DR. DEMPSEY and they all exit stage left. Enter DR. ZÜCKER from the fireplace, takes some more biscuits and then leaves the same way)

SCENE TWO

(A single spotlight reveals the clock on the wall spinning to two o'clock. Enter DR. DEMPSEY stage left. He sits in the empty therapy room with a semi-circle of empty chairs. He is dressed in a white coat. He is holding a clip board. Enter THE DIRECTOR who stands at the stage left exit, half in and half out of the scene, almost hiding)

THE DIRECTOR: Now Tom, you'll soon know what we have in store for us this term, but let the doc start this session OK?

DR. DEMPSEY: OK sir, but where is Dr. Zücker.

(Enter DR. ZÜCKER from the fireplace that just seems to appear onto the scene. THE DIRECTOR, seeing the doctor enter, fully exits)

DR. ZÜCKER: **(Always talks with a bad German accent)** Right Dempsey my boy!

(A startled DR. DEMPSEY looks around as if to see from where the doctor appeared)

DR. ZÜCKER: You sit at the back and take the notes for this session, and we will analyse them later over the coffee.

DR. DEMPSEY: **(Composing himself)** yes sir, Dr. Zücker.

(DR. DEMPSEY takes a chair and sits on it at the back of the room. Enter PHILLIPPA with an unlit cigarette in her mouth, scanning the floor and ceiling. She is followed in by DR. SHANNON)

DR. ZÜCKER: Come in, come in. Please take a seat and sit anywhere you want to. **(Holding his hand out to PHILLIPPA)** We have no smoking in here please.

PHILLIPPA: It's not lit.

DR. ZÜCKER: Please.

(He holds out a hand for the cigarette. PHILLIPPA reluctantly gives it to him. He smells it and puts it in his pocket for later. PHILLIPPA silently protests. DR. SHANNON re-arranges the chairs before PHILLIPPA can sit down)

DR. ZÜCKER: SIT DOWN! Please. The chairs are fine as they are.

(DR. SHANNON quickly sits on the chair that PHILLIPPA was about to sit on)

PHILLIPPA: Are you sure that seat is OK for you? You don't want this one. **(Pointing to the chair next to it)**

DR. SHANNON: No, this one is fine; you should sit over there on that one.

PHILLIPPA: Why?

DR. SHANNON: It's a better position in the room. You'll get a good view of everything from there.

PHILLIPPA: Then you sit on it!

DR. SHANNON: No, I'm fine here thanks. I have to sit here. **(Holding on to the sides of the chair in case he should be forcefully removed.)**

PHILLIPPA: Oh, for God's sake!

(JACK enters the room and stands at the side of the doorway turning in circles and blowing at the same time. SIMON tries to enter. He sees JACK and is frightened to enter with him there. MARCIA enters and squeezes between them, almost dancing between them like a ballerina with her arms in the air trying not to touch anyone)

DR. ZÜCKER: Come, come. Sit down please so we can begin.

(JACK walks fully around the outside of the room, holding his breath until he has finished checking all the doors and windows then he and MARCIA sit down one seat apart. SIMON enters pulling his seat away from the group and sits down alone in front of the window)

DR. ZÜCKER: Now then if we are all sitting comfortably, then we can begin. I hope we all found the rooms to our likings. **(He waits for some positive responses from them.)** I am sorry we took away all of the mobile phones, but we do not want any outside interference. You are all here because you have a serious addiction or phobia that is ruining your lives, or work or family life. Either way you all need my help to make you better than you are now.

(SIMON notices he is by a window and gets scared, so he picks up his seat and noisily moves himself away from the window, and next to a side table stage left with everybody watching him)

PHILLIPPA: What is it with these Limies and their chairs?

DR. ZÜCKER: Now I will start us off. I am Dr. Zücker, I am here to help you all get over the problems you have been having. **(Looking around)** JA you will begin please. **(He points a finger to PHILLIPPA)** Tell us all your name and why you are here.

PHILLIPPA: Well, you can all call me Pip or Pippa and I hate Limies and their bloody chairs.

DR. ZÜCKER: We all need to take these sessions seriously or they will be of no help to any of us.

PHILLIPPA: OK. Herr Flick. Keep Zee vig on. I'm here because I want to quit smoking.

DR. ZÜCKER: **(Impatiently)** And?

PHILLIPPA: And I have an aversion to spiders.

(She shudders and scans the room again)

DR. ZÜCKER: Missy Pip has Arachnophobia a fear of the spiders. There are no spiders here but still she is feared for them. It is good for you all to voice your feelings about the phobias you have. Here at Dr. Zücker's clinic for phobias and addictions we encourage you to do so. **(Points to PHILLIPPA)** You may continue. Tell us something about you and where you are from please.

PHILLIPPA: Well, I'm single, American, from Florida actually. I live alone now. My mother died last summer.

DR. ZÜCKER: Yes, yes, but what about the spiders, how did you become feared for them?

PHILLIPPA: When I was younger I woke up in bed and a huge wolf spider was on my face. **(She shudders, stands and shakes herself off)** I panicked, and it bit me on my nose, and I spent a few days in hospital in a lot of pain. That was enough for me. When I see spiders now it frightens me so much I go out of control, or I just freeze on the spot. **(She shudders again)** let's change the subject doc.

DR. ZÜCKER: Yes of course, thank you missy Pip. **(Looking at jack)** Now you!

(SIMON suddenly recognizes DR. ZÜCKER as the ghost and points at him)

SIMON: The ghost. It's real.

(He slides down his chair unnoticed and sits under the table in the corner shaking with fear. Jack looks at SIMON)

DR. ZÜCKER: **(To Jack)** don't mind him we'll get to his problems too.

JACK: I'm Jack. You can call me Jack. I have Tourette's syndrome and I hate loud noises. But I'm not scared of them; they just send me a little crazy like.

PHILLIPPA: What sort of noises? **(Shouting)** Like if I shout?

(PHILLIPPA finds it funny)

JACK: No! Just *some* noises that's all.

DR. ZÜCKER: Jack has a mild case of Tourette's syndrome, and he has acute Ligyrophobia, common sometimes in the soldiers returning home from war.

PHILLIPPA: Iggy what?

DR. ZÜCKER: Ligyrophobia. It is a fear of loud noises like gunshots or bombs or screaming and things like that. When the German army came back from the home front many of the lower ranks were afflicted like Jack here.

PHILLIPPA: What Herr afflicted? **(Laughs and looks around to see that no one else is laughing)**

MARCIA: Oh, I love men in uniforms. Are you a soldier Jack?

JACK: Well, I could be for you sweetie.
(He reaches out and touches her face)

MARCIA: **(She screams at the top of her voice and runs around)**
Aaaaaahhhh!

JACK: Shut up! Shut up! **(He starts banging his head with his fists)**

MARCIA: He touched me. No, no. I'm unclean. **(Panics and exits knocking over her chair)**

(DR. ZÜCKER points to DR. DEMPSEY who understands immediately what the doctor is asking and stands and exits after MARCIA)

DR. ZÜCKER: Calm down Jack. It is OK now, she has gone. There is no screaming now. **(Rising to his feet to stop Jack from hitting himself any more)**
Calm down Jack.

(DR. ZÜCKER slaps JACK on the right side of his face. Then slaps Jack on the left side of his face. It takes a little while for JACK to calm down. DR. SHANNON stands the fallen chair to an upright position)

PHILLIPPA: Again, with the chairs.

DR. SHANNON: **(He protests)** She knocked it over.

PHILLIPPA: **(To DR. ZÜCKER)** what's her problem doc? She came on to him.

DR. ZÜCKER: That is Marcia. She has an acute case of Mysophobia, a fear of contamination or being dirty. She does not like to be touched and is probably washing herself as we speak.

JACK: **(Rubbing his head)** Remind me to keep away from that one.

DR. ZÜCKER: Now we must continue. Simon... Simon... where is Simon?

(They all look around)

PHILLIPPA: He's under the table Herr Flick.

DR. ZÜCKER: Come, come Simon.

(He tries to help Simon to his chair but SIMON resists)

SIMON: **(Speaks very quietly)** you're a ghost.

DR. ZÜCKER: Speak up my boy. You are amongst friends.

SIMON: **(Louder but still quiet)** you are a ghost. Leave me alone.

DR. ZÜCKER: There are no ghosts here Simon. **(He looks to all of them)** Simon is an unusual case. He has Pantophobia, a fear of just about anything. I am sure it took a lot for him to be here with us today, so well-done Simon.

(DR. SHANNON starts to clap and everyone joins in. SIMON hides further under the table. Enter DR. DEMPSEY and MARCIA who both return to their seats. MARCIA cleans her hands again with the hand sanitizer gel)

DR. ZÜCKER: **(Pointing at DR. SHANNON)** and now you speak!

DR. SHANNON: I'm Doctor Richard Shannon. But you can call me Dick or Doc. I'm here for help with O.C.D. I am a G.P. And I have found it hard to serve my patients with some of the rituals I have to go through each day.

PHILLIPPA: (Pretends to swoon) Doctor Dick. I'm feeling feint already.

DR. ZÜCKER: Zee Dick Doctor...

DR. SHANNON: (Interrupting) ...It's Dick; doctor.

DR. ZÜCKER: JA, JA, that is what I said Dick Doctor.

DR. SHANNON: No, it's just this... Dick!

DR. ZÜCKER: OK I apologize. This Dick...

(DR. SHANNON shakes his head in surrender)

DR. ZÜCKER: (Pauses) ...Has a common addiction called Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. It's quite common these days. (Looking at DR. SHANNON) Please continue Dick.

DR. SHANNON: Well, what else can I say? I'm touching forty, got my own home my own teeth...

DR. ZÜCKER: Yes but when do you think you started to get particular. When do you think the O.C.D. Started?

DR. SHANNON: I don't know, a long time ago. I can remember not being able to go to sleep as a boy, unless all my soldiers were in perfect formation. If my parents accidentally knocked them over during the night, I would have a panic attack when I first see that they aren't in line. So as long as I can remember I suppose.

DR. ZÜCKER: Now is that everyone? Ah Marcia, good of you to re-join us. You tell us about your problems now please.

MARCIA: Well, I hate to be touched. I have to be clean every moment of the day and that has now become a habit.

DR. ZÜCKER: Yes but how do you think it all started?

MARCIA: Well as a child we lived in a house not a lot different to this one and me and some of the other children used to play in the grounds. I think there was a big storm one year and the cess pit had been uncovered by a fallen tree or something. **(She starts to get upset)**

Well two of us fell into it and only I got rescued. I've been cleaning myself ever since.

DR. ZÜCKER: Thank you for sharing Marcia. We all have a catalyst that has set about these physical changes to our behaviour. If we can identify them, then we can fight them. **(Looking around)** OK. We will be having these sessions everyday while you are here. Where we shall try to identify what ways we can help us to help each other's. We will also be having Hypnotherapy and one on one session as well, with me or my assistant Dr. Dempsey.

(DR. ZÜCKER points an open hand to his assistant who looks up from his clip board and stands up)

DR. DEMPSEY: Hello.

DR. ZÜCKER: JA. That is enough my boy. We will be having plenty of time for you to play Sigmund Freud later.

(DR. ZÜCKER ushers DR. DEMPSEY to sit, who sits puzzled as to what he did wrong)

DR. ZÜCKER: We must all get to know each other here. Four days can be a long time on your own. Well, that is all for today. The dinner will be at six o'clock in the dining room. Relax and get plenty of sleep tonight as we will be having a busy day tomorrow. OK. Simple!

(All of the patients exit except for SIMON who remains under the table. PHILLIPPA grabs a hand full of JACK's ass as they leave. DR. ZÜCKER and DR. DEMPSEY remain. DR. DEMPSEY brings his chair next to DR. ZÜCKER and sits next to him)

DR. ZÜCKER: Now then my boy what have we learned today?

DR. DEMPSEY: **(Examining his clipboard)** well I have learned that you are my father as I always seem to be your boy.

DR. ZÜCKER: Don't be absurd my boy, you were two when I met your mother. **(Winks at audience)**

DR. DEMPSEY: What?

DR. ZÜCKER: I said... I eh... Never met or knew your mother. **(Smiles at audience)** Now, what else have we learned today?

DR. DEMPSEY: Oh, OK, vee, I mean we have learnt that Missy Pip is a horny nut case, Jack is a dizzy fruitcake, Marcia is unclean, the Dick doctor is not, oh, and Simon is still under the table.

(They both look under the table)

DR. ZÜCKER: Simon my boy, go to your room and be ready for the dinners.

(Reluctantly SIMON exits stage left)

DR. ZÜCKER: OK my boy we shall continue tomorrow. Go and prepare the notes. I shall expect a full report on my desk in the mornings. Simple!

(DR. DEMPSEY exits stage left upset about the homework. DR. ZÜCKER, smelling the cigarette he took from PHILLIPPA and shaking his head, exits through the fireplace)

BLACKOUT

(A single spot light reveals the clock on the wall spinning around to Nine o'clock. Outside there is a sound of a cockerel crowing. The same therapy room enter PHILLIPPA, MARCIA and JACK. Jack does his normal room entering ritual of turning and blowing and checking the room before he sits. PHILLIPPA scans the room and ceiling for spiders)

PHILLIPPA: My God it's early. I haven't even woken up properly yet.

JACK: Your face definitely hasn't.

(PHILLIPPA punches JACKS' arm in jest. With fleeting glances between them both)

PHILLIPPA: (She says under her breath) At least I got some sleep last night.

(**PHILLIPPA** smiles at **JACK** who returns the gesture)

MARCIA: Is this all of us?

PHILLIPPA: Well, if you didn't run out so fast last night, you'd have already met the rest.

(**PHILLIPPA** reaches an arm out to touch **MARCIA**. **MARCIA** pulls herself away. Enter **SIMON** who goes straight under the table in the corner)

PHILLIPPA: Little Jack Horner has arrived.
(Pointing at **SIMON** in the corner under the table) Where is Dr. Zücker?

(They all look around. As if by magic **DR. ZÜCKER** appears from the fireplace, unnoticed and startles the patients when he speaks)

DR. ZÜCKER: Sit down all of you. We have a lot to get through today. Where is the Dick doctor?

PHILLIPPA: Doctor Dick was in the john as we... I passed it just now.

DR. ZÜCKER: Dick was in John? But we have no John here.

PHILLIPPA: No Herr flick, he was not *in John*. He was in *the john*; the toilet; the can; the throne room.

MARCIA: (Enjoying the game) the water closet.

JACK: (In his best Australian accent) the dunny!

DR. ZÜCKER: Yes, yes, I know what a toilet is, thank you.

SIMON: (Nervously) Uh... The crapper!

DR. ZÜCKER: Thank you Simon.

MARCIA: The little boy's room.

DR. ZÜCKER: (He is agitated now.) Yes I get it thank you.

(Enter **BASIL** dressed in black leathers and a bright neon pink silk shirt and cravat. Two Black eyes and a thick lip and scars over his knuckles)

BASIL: The shit house!

(They all laugh)

DR. ZÜCKER: Yes, yes, enough of the pee, pee jokes. Now settle down all of you. Ah new boy mister Bond. Welcome, you will sit.

(A short pause while they wait for **DR. SHANNON**)

DR. ZÜCKER: While we wait for the Dick doctor, new boy, tell us what your name is and why you are here.

BASIL: But you were there when you signed me in last night in your teddy bear pyjamas doc. Have you forgotten already you doddering old fart.

DR. ZÜCKER: We will all be civil while we are here. I was there last night but they were not Basildon.

BASIL: Bas, doc! Just call me Bas.

DR. ZÜCKER: Very well Bas, tell everyone why you are here.

BASIL: Well, I could tell you but then I'd have to kill you all.

DR. ZÜCKER: There will be no killing here. (Under his breath) At least not just yet!

PHILLIPPA: No! You have got to be joking. Basildon Bond?

(**PHILLIPPA** laughs uncontrollably, and the others join in)

BASIL: (He stands up from his chair knocking it over and clenches his fists as he speaks) I'm not afraid to get rough, you know especially with yanks for that matter. Just be thankful you are not a man.

(PHILLIPPA stops laughing abruptly on the word yanks and scowls at him. DR. ZÜCKER stands face to face with BASIL)

DR. ZÜCKER: (Without the German accent and almost shouting)
Mr. Bond, will you sit down! There will be no violence here of any kind. Do you understand me?

(BASIL cowers at the sight of DR. ZÜCKER so close to his face and backs down)

BASIL: But she's asking for it doc.

DR. ZÜCKER: Now I am telling Mr. Bond. Sit down!

(BASIL is scared and sits down reluctantly, one seat further from PHILLIPPA)

BASIL: (Trying to save face) I am sat. Calm down you old fart.
(SIMON is now hiding under the table in the corner making himself as small as he can. Enter DR. SHANNON who stands Basil's chair upright for himself as he sits down next to basil)

PHILLIPPA: (Smiling) what's happened to your voice Herr Flick?

DR. ZÜCKER: (Angry and back into the German accent) Uh, there is nothing wrong with my voice, Missy Pip. Please may we continue without all these interruptions?

DR. SHANNON: What did I miss?

(He looks around. No one cares. PHILLIPPA smiles again knowingly, and sits back down)

DR. ZÜCKER: (A deep sigh of relief) Now where were we? Ah yes Mr. Bond was about to tell us why he is here, weren't you Mr. Bond?

BASIL: OK. My name is Bas and it is alleged, that I have anger issues and I keep getting into fights all the time. I don't know why but it's OK! I don't mind really, I enjoy it.

DR. ZÜCKER: Yes Mr. Bond, I see...

BASIL: **(Interrupting)** ...Doc, for Christ sake; call me Bas or so help me God, you and I will have a serious falling out.

DR. ZÜCKER: I see from your notes... Bas...
(A nod of approval from BASIL)

DR. ZÜCKER: Looking at this report, Dr. Zücker's clinic is probably your last chance for help. If you continue on this road to destruction, Mr. Bond, Bas, You may never live to see your 30th birthday. How does that make you feel?

BASIL: It always felt like a good idea at the time doc. You know I can't help it.

DR. ZÜCKER: You don't actually seem to be any good at this fighting game. **(To everyone)** Bas has an aggressive addiction to pain, and needs it like a junkie needs his Maryhuana, margawanna, marjabongo, **(A short pause)** Cocaine.

PHILLIPPA: Well with a name like Basildon Bond what do you expect? **(She laughs a bit)**

BASIL: I'm warning you yank.

PHILLIPPA: What are you going to do about it bad boy?

(She laughs again. BASIL surrenders)

DR. ZÜCKER: Now that is enough from all of you! **(He waits for them all to be silent.)** The first Hypnotherapy session will start with Simon... **(He looks around for SIMON. Sees him under the table and says again)** ...Simon, you are with me, when we have finished here. Bas will be after the lunch at two o'clock, and the rest of you will be having the one-on-one time with Dr. Dempsey. So, if we could all make our way to the recreational room where Dr. Dempsey and I will come to get you at the appropriate times.

(PHILLIPPA stands, sees a spider, then starts to scream, frozen to the spot. Which sets off JACK, who starts banging his head against the wall then the side table; the banging scares SIMON, who crawls from under the table and firmly grasps the first thing he sees which happens to be MARCIAS' leg, who

also screams. BASIL falls back in his chair in surprise. They all start running around knocking over chairs followed around by DR. SHANNON who picks up the chairs as they knock them over. DR. ZÜCKER shakes his head in disbelief and throws his hands up in surrender. Everyone exits, except for DR. ZÜCKER and SIMON who is under the table stage right)

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