

A Day at the White House



Arthur Hoppe

Real Life Productions presents . . .

The Marx Brothers
in

A DAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE

SCENE: A White House. Honest, innocent, young Dick (played by Allan Jones) is trying to save the reputation of his beloved White House from a bunch of crooks and spies. But nobody knows who they are.

Coming to his aid in the nick of time are four dear friends, Groucho Haldeman, Chico Magruder, Zeppo Dean (the young, handsome one) and Harpo Ziegler (who never says anything, but only blows his horn).

As the scene opens, a dedicated police officer named Senator Sam (played by Guy Kibbee), is pounding on the door, crying, "What's going on in there?"

In the hallway inside, which is lined with office doors, Dick is talking nervously to his friends.

Groucho: Don't worry, kid, it's in the bag.

Dick: (as a shadowy figure, carrying a black bag, dashes out one door and into another): What's in the bag?

Groucho (shrugging): Who knows what's in the bag?

Zeppo and Chico (together): There's nothing in the bag.

Harpo: Honk! Honk!

Dick (sincerely): I want you to know that I have complete confidence in all of you. (People carrying bags, bundles of money and stacks of papers begin scurrying in and out of doors in ever-increasing tempo). But, golly, it sure seems like something funny's happening around here.

Groucho: If something funny doesn't happen soon, we're in trouble. Thank

heavens, it's John and Martha.

(John, played by Edgar (Slow Burn) Kennedy, wanders in with his wife, Martha, played by Billie Burke. For the rest of the scene, she never stops talking, even though nobody listens.)

John: I was passing by, Dick, and I wanted you to know that I don't know a thing. I never talked to a soul about it.

Chico (pointing at John): He did it!

John (mopping the back of his neck with his handkerchief): Except to tell them not to get caught.

Groucho: I think the butler did it.

Senator Sam (bursting in the door): All right, now. Who did it?

(Groucho, Chico, Zeppo and John all point at each other, shouting, "He did it!" "They did it!" "You did it!" while Harpo honks his horn furiously.)

Senator Sam: Now, dang it, somebody must of done it. I'm running you all in!

(There follows a marvelous chase scene with Groucho, Chico, Zeppo and Harpo ducking in and out of doors while showering the pursuing Senator Sam with papers, money, names, dates, tapes and memos as John tries to silently slip away.)

Senator Sam (finally buried under the mass of data): Okay, you guys, I give up. You're free. No jury in the country could ever understand what's going on in here.

Dick (shaking his friends' hands): Golly, you've saved the reputation of my White House! Now I can bring the country together again.

(And in a great final scene, as the entire cast joins arms, Dick steps forward to sing that famous Allan Jones hit, "Donkey Serenade.")

The End