

Agnes

1

OVERTURE

5

ACT ONE

Scene 1

SCENE:

Somewhere in New York.

1A

OPENING -
ACT I

There is a pattern of terrifying lights of the City: A huge, gartered girl's leg kicking, a bubbling champagne glass, a flashing red arrow which points God-knows-where.

PATRICK, age 10, and AGNES GOOCH, a dowdy nanny, face upstage as the end of the overture blends into the cacophonous sound of traffic and confusion. EACH carries a suitcase, and clutches the OTHER's hand. Slowly, THEY turn around in a spotlight, gaping at the mystery of the big city.

PATRICK

Golly, Agnes, New York is like a foreign country!

AGNES

START → You don't have to worry, Patrick. I'm worried enough for both of us.

(Reaching into her reticule)

Now, all we've got to do is what the lawyer told us.

(Panicky)

The letter! I've lost the letter!

PATRICK

(Taking a crumpled letter out of his pocket, reasonably)

You gave it to me, Agnes -- after you lost your reading glasses.

AGNES

(Eyes to heaven)

Thank you, St. Bridget. Read it again, Patrick.

PATRICK

(Reading)

"Dear Miss Gooch.

(MUSIC fades out)

Herewith are instructions from the will of the late Edwin Dennis."

(AGNES puts her arm around the
BOY protectively)

Agnes

1-1-2
6

PATRICK (Cont'd)

"Upon my demise, I direct our faithful nanny, Agnes Gooch, to deliver my son Patrick to my sister and only other living relative, Mame Dennis, at 3 Beekman Place, New York City. However, the Knickerbocker Bank is appointed trustee with sole authority -- "

AGNES

(Interrupting)

We don't need that part now. All we need is a safe haven. Oh, I've read about what happens after dark in New York -- to unmarried girls and innocent children!

(MUSIC starts)

Your dear Auntie must be worried frantic.

(AGNES clasps her hands in prayer and sings:)

2

SONG: ST. BRIDGET

ST. BRIDGET DELIVER US TO BEEKMAN PLACE
AWAY FROM THE WICKED AND DEPRAVED
A GRAY HEAD IS PEEPING THROUGH THE CURTAIN LACE
CALLING "COME YE INSIDE WHERE YOU'LL BE SAVED"
SHE'S BAKED HIM A CHERRY PIE AND GLAZED A HAM
HER DEAR ARMS REACH OUT FOR HIS EMBRACE
SO IF YOU HAVE PITY ON THIS POOR LOST LAMB
GOD LOVE YOU
DEAR ST. BRIDGET DELIVER US TO BEEKMAN PLACE

Sing with me, Patrick. It'll keep up your courage.

PATRICK

My father was a Presbyterian, Agnes. I don't think he'd like that.

AGNES

Where your father is now, there's not much he can do about it. Sing!

(PATRICK and AGNES sing together)

PATRICK & AGNES

SO IF YOU HAVE PITY
ON THESE POOR LOST SHEEP

AGNES

GOLD LOVE YOU

AGNES & PATRICK

DEAR ST. BRIDGET DELIVER US TO BEE-EEEE-EEKMAN PLACE

(The LIGHT fades on their faces.

There is a slap of raucous Dixieland
as THEY go off, MUSIC starts for

3 "IT'S TODAY")

STOP →