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Divorce Me, Darling!

A Musical Play

Sandy Wilson

Samuel French – London

New York – Sydney – Toronto – Hollywood



ACTING EDITION © 1981 BY SANDY WILSON LTD

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by TRO-Essex Music Ltd.

Someone To Dance With
Whatever Happened To Love?
Maisie
No Harm Done
Together Again
Divorce Me, Darling!

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Fancy Forgetting

Lyrics of the following songs with words and music by Sandy Wilson © 1981
by TRO-Essex Music Ltd.

<i>Here Am I, But Where's The Guy?</i>	<i>Back To Nature</i>
<i>Here We Are In Nice Again</i>	<i>On The Loose</i>
<i>Lights! Music!</i>	<i>Paradise Hotel</i>
<i>Back Where We Started</i>	<i>Out Of Step</i>
<i>Blondes For Danger</i>	<i>You're Absolutely Me</i>
<i>Swing Time Is Here To Stay</i>	

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ISBN 0 573 08049 6

CHARACTERS

Dulcie Dubois
Nancy Lebrun
Pierre Lebrun
Fay de la Falaise
Marcel de la Falaise
Alphonse Dubois
Maisie van Husen
Bobby van Husen
Polly Brockhurst
The Hon. Tony Brockhurst
Lord Brockhurst
Lady Brockhurst
Percival Browne (alias Mr Jones)
Mme Dubonnet (Mrs Percival Browne, alias Madame K)
Hortense, receptionist at the *Hotel du Paradis*
M. Gaston, manager of the *Hotel du Paradis*
Bell-boy
Girl in distress
Gendarme
The President of Monomania
Cecelia Doublewick
Prunella Oglethorpe
Felicity Bagworth
Sir Freddy ffotherington-fitch
Solange, a maid
Raoul, a waiter
Hannah van Husen
Manager of the *Café Pataplon*
Three American Sailors
Hotel Guests and Staff, Holidaymakers and Diners at the
Café Pataplon

The action takes place in Nice

PROLOGUE

ACT I

- SCENE 1 The Foyer of the *Hotel du Paradis*.
Morning
- SCENE 2 The Promenade des Anglais. A moment
later
- SCENE 3 Two Balconies in the *Hotel du Paradis*.
That night
- SCENE 4 The Same. Next morning

ACT II

- SCENE 1 Outside the *Café Pataplon*. That night
- SCENE 2 Inside the *Café Pataplon*. Immediately
following
- SCENE 3 The Promenade des Anglais. A moment
later
- SCENE 4 On board the President of Monomania's
Yacht. Later that night

Time—the start of the Season, Summer 1936

Divorce Me, Darling! was first produced at the Players Theatre in London on 9th December, 1964, and subsequently transferred to the Globe Theatre on 1st February, 1965. The first production of this revised version was given by the Tavistock Repertory Company at the Tower Theatre, London N.1 on 23rd March 1979, and was directed by Noël Howard.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

- | | | |
|---|----------|-----------|
| 1 | Overture | Orchestra |
| 2 | Prologue | Orchestra |

ACT I

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|--|
| 3 | Here We Are In Nice Again | Dulcie, Nancy, Fay,
Hortense and Ensemble |
| 4 | Whatever Happened To Love? | Polly, Dulcie, Nancy, Fay |
| 5 | Someone To Dance With | Bobby and Ensemble |
| 5A | Melos for Bobby's exit | Orchestra |
| 6 | Lights! Music! | Mme Dubonnet and
Ensemble |
| 6A | Reprise: Lights! Music! | Mme Dubonnet, Hortense
and Ensemble |
| 7 | Maisie | Marcel, Pierre, Alphonse |
| 8 | Back To Nature | Lady Brockhurst, Sir
Freddy, Cecelia,
Prunella, Felicity |
| 8A | Reprise: Back To Nature | Orchestra |
| 9 | On The Loose | Lord Brockhurst, Dulcie,
Nancy, Fay |
| 10 | Monomanian National Anthem | Orchestra |
| 11 | Melos: Paradise Hotel | Orchestra |
| 11A | Paradise Hotel | Hortense, Gaston, Hotel
Staff |
| 12 | Reprise: Whatever Happened To Love? | Orchestra |
| 13 | No Harm Done | Bobby, Polly |
| 14 | Interlude: Paradise Hotel | Orchestra |
| 15 | Together Again | Tony, Polly, Maisie, Bobby |
| 16 | Finaletto: Paradise Hotel | Hortense, Gaston, Hotel
Staff |
| 17 | Entr'acte | Orchestra |

ACT II

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------|---|
| 17A | Melos | Piano |
| 18 | Divorce Me, Darling! | Polly, Bobby, Tony,
Maisie, Dulcie,
Alphonse, Fay, Marcel,
Nancy, Pierre |
| 19 | Anthem | Orchestra |

20	Here Am I, But Where's The Guy?	Hannah
21	Reprise: Lights! Music!	Mme Dubonnet, Hortense Gaston
22	Out Of Step	Bobby, Maisie and Ensemble
23	Fancy Forgetting	Hortense
24	Reprise: Together Again	Percy, Mme Dubonnet, Polly
25	You're Absolutely Me	Hannah, Sir Freddy
26	Back Where We Started	Polly, Tony, Dulcie, Alphonse, Fay, Marcel, Nancy, Pierre
27	Blondes For Danger	Mme Dubonnet and Ensemble
28	Swing Time Is Here To Stay	Maisie and Ensemble
29	Finale: Divorce Me, Darling!	The Company

No. 1 OVERTURE

No. 2 PROLOGUE

The CURTAIN rises to reveal the Principals en tableau, in front of the tabs, in the following order: Hortense, Alphonse, Fay, Marcel, Lady Brockhurst, Lord Brockhurst, Percy, Mme Dubonnet, Dulcie, Tony, Polly, Bobby, Maisie, Nancy, Pierre

The music continues softly, as Dulcie steps forward and addresses the Audience

Dulcie Oh—hello, everybody! I'm Dulcie. Remember? “Boop-a-doop, boop-a-doop” and all that . . . ? Yes, that's me—or rather that *was* me—ten years ago, in nineteen-twenty-six, the year I got married. The year we *all* got married, as a matter of fact! Nancy married Pierre—

Nancy and Pierre come forward and bow and exit L

—Fay married Marcel—

Fay and Marcel do the same and exit L

—and I married—Alphonse . . .

Alphonse comes forward, attempts to join Dulcie, but she waves him away without looking at him. He shrugs resignedly, and exits L

Then there was Maisie—Mad-cap Maisie, as we used to call her. She did awfully well. She married a rich American—Bobbie van Husen!

Maisie and Bobby dance forward, curtsy and bow to the Audience and exit L

And Polly—well, of course, Polly did better than all of us. She married the Honourable Tony Brockhurst . . .

Polly and Tony dance forward, and exit L

Tony was the son of Lord and Lady Brockhurst . . .

Lord and Lady Brockhurst come forward and bow. Lord Brockhurst gives a little wave to Dulcie, who responds coyly. Lady Brockhurst, about to leave, notices

Lady Brockhurst Hubert!

He turns and follows her off R sheepishly

Dulcie Polly's father was a widower, and a millionaire—at least he used to be . . .

Percy comes forward and bows

How did it all happen? Well, it started at a finishing-school, in Nice, called the Villa Caprice. The headmistress was Madame Dubonnet——

Mme Dubonnet comes forward and bows

—and *she* got married too. To Polly's father!

Mme Dubonnet moves off, turns back to Percy, holding out her hand

Percy (*fervently*) Kiki!

He clasps her hand, and they exit L

Dulcie And that was more or less that . . .

Hortense Mam'selle Dulcie!

Dulcie What? (*Turning to her*) Oh heavens, I nearly forgot! This is Hortense—the *maid*. She kept us all in order—or tried to!

Hortense shakes her finger at Dulcie and exits L

But that was all ten years ago. Now it's nineteen-thirty-six and—(*looking at her watch*)—ye gods, I must rush or I'll miss the train. Toodle-oo!

She dashes off L as the tabs part to reveal the full stage

ACT I

SCENE 1

The Foyer of the Hotel du Paradis. Morning

There are revolving doors UC which lead on to the promenade. UL is the entrance to the cocktail bar and UR a staircase which leads to the first floor. Next to the staircase is the reception desk

As the scene opens Hortense is standing behind the reception desk. The telephone rings and she answers it, telling the caller in mime that the hotel is full

At the same time M. Gaston enters C in a state

The Bell-boy enters L and M. Gaston shoos him out C

Hortense attempts to calm M. Gaston

The Bell-boy enters C carrying a load of suitcases and the Guests follow him in

No. 3 HERE WE ARE IN NICE AGAIN

Guests Here we are in Nice again

As we were last year

It's so jolly to

Have a holiday

Where the sea is so near.

Here on the French Riviera,

Haunt of Beauty and Rank,

Though each year it gets dearer,

It's still worth ev'ry franc.

That's why we're in Nice again

Where the sun shines bright.

Here we'll gaily

Get browner daily,

And then get blotto by night.

Others go to the

Island of Capri

Or the Isles of Greece.

We prefer to come back to Nice!

As the song ends, Dulcie, Nancy and Fay enter C. They carry small suitcases

Fay Oh what bliss—there's a cocktail bar!

Hortense Mam'selle Fay!

Nancy Thank heavens we've arrived! Where are we?

Hortense Mam'selle Nancy!

Dulcie If I haven't got a room facing the sea, I'm going straight to *The Negresco*!

Hortense Mam'selle Dulcie!

Dulcie Look, girls—it's Hortense!

Nancy Hortense? Hortense who?

Dulcie Hortense, the *maid*—at the Villa Caprice . . .

All Where we were finished!

(*Singing*) Here we are in Nice again
After all these years.

Dulcie I'm quite dizzy
With joy. Oh, isn't it
Simply heaven, my dears?

Nancy } Here where we played the fool, girls,

Fay } Larking down on the shore.

Hortense You were innocent school-girls!

Dulcie } Well, we're not any more.

Nancy } That's why we're in Nice again

Fay } In our youthful haunt.

Don't misunderstand,

Nothing underhand,

Just a jolly old jaunt.

It is utter bliss

To experience this

Feeling of release.

We're so glad to come back to,

Frightf'ly glad to come back to,

Madly glad to come back to

Nice!

Hortense But—where are your husbands?

Dulcie Our *husbands*? Oh, we left them behind—didn't we, girls?

Fay I'll say we did!

Dulcie, Nancy and Fay giggle

Hortense (*shaking her finger*) *Zut, alors!*

Dulcie But—can you keep a secret, Hortense?

Hortense nods eagerly

We told *them* we were going to England, to see the Old Folks at Home.

Hortense *Mais—pourquoi?*

Fay They'd never have let us come back to Nice on our own. You know what French husbands are like.

Hortense *Hélas*—not yet!

Dulcie They're like french windows—lead you up the garden path.

Hortense *Mais non—absolument non!*

Dulcie *Mais oui*—utterly *oui*! So we've decided to turn the tables on them, and have a bang-up hol on our own . . .!

All That's why we're in Nice again
In our youthful haunt.
Don't misunderstand,
Nothing underhand,
Just a jolly old jaunt.
It is utter bliss.
To experience this
Feeling of release.

Tutti We're so glad to come back to,
Frightf'ly glad to come back to,
Madly glad to come back to
Nice!

The Guests exit

The music continues softly as Hortense introduces Dulcie, Nancy and Fay to Gaston who ushers them upstairs R

They exit chattering excitedly leaving Hortense alone

After a moment the Bell-boy enters carrying two monogrammed cases and a hat-box

Hortense *Qui est arrivé?*

Bell-boy Ze 'Onourable Missis Brockhurst!

Hortense Madame Polly Brockhurst?

Bell-boy *Oui—c'est elle!*

Hortense claps her hands in delight as the music swells and Polly enters C

During the following scene the Bell-boy takes the luggage upstairs

Polly Hortense! Here I am at last!

Hortense Oh, *chère madame*, it is so good to see you again.

They kiss

And you look so well!

Polly Thank you, Hortense. But I do feel a bit fagged from the Blue Train . . .

Hortense Then you must go to your suite—*toute de suite*! But—where is your husband—the Honourable Tony?

Polly Oh, he—he chucked at the last minute. He's so busy with the wretched estate. So I decided to come on my own.

Hortense But does he not need *les vacances* too?

Polly Oh yes, Hortense, he does! But sometimes I feel the old ancestral acres mean more to him than anything—even me . . .

Hortense *Ah, non. C'est impossible!*

Polly We used to say we'd be happy with just a room in—well, Kensington or even Bloomsbury. But of course we were younger then . . .

Sounds of laughter off L

Hortense And soon you will be feeling young again! *Regardez, madame . . . !*

Dulcie, Nancy and Fay, wearing beach pyjamas and wide-brimmed hats, enter R

Polly (*turning*) What . . . ?

Dulcie (*seeing Polly, and stopping dead in her tracks*) Look, girls! It's Polly!

Nancy Polly . . . ? Oh, Polly!

They all greet each other effusively, much to Hortense's delight

Fay But—where's Tony?

Polly I was telling Hortense: he's too busy to take a hol.

Dulcie }
Nancy } (*together*) { Just like our husbands!
Fay }

Polly Really?

Dulcie Yes—dreary beasts!

Polly (*sadly*) Sometimes I wonder why we were all so keen to get married . . .

No. 4 WHATEVER HAPPENED TO LOVE?

(*Singing*) When we were younger
 We used to hunger
 For that certain thing we called a Boy Friend.

Dulcie }
Nancy } Boy Friend!
Fay }
Polly }

And then we found him,
 And we could hardly wait
 To build our lives around him
 And to become his mate.

Nancy Love was ours,
 And it was all we needed.
Fay Like spring flowers
 We blossomed in the sun.

Dulcie But time went by,
 And as our youth receded,
All The joys that once we knew
 Began to fade from view.

Polly And now I sometimes sit and sadly wonder
 Where did romance disappear to?
 And why did it vanish away?
 And how can the one I was dear to
 And was so very near to
 Seem a stranger today?
 When April still comes around ev'ry year too,
 And stars go on shining above,

When ev'ry song-bird upon the wing
Still has a song to sing,
Then tell me
Whatever happened to love?

Dulcie }
Nancy } We often ask the same question:
Fay }
Polly } Where

Dulcie }
Nancy } Won't you please tell me where
Fay }
Polly } Did romance disappear to?
And why

Dulcie }
Nancy } Won't you please tell me why
Fay }
Polly } Did it vanish away?

Dulcie }
Nancy } So far away
Fay }
Polly } And how

Dulcie }
Nancy } I just want to know how
Fay }
Polly } Can the one I was dear to
And was so very near to
Seem a stranger today?

Dulcie }
Nancy } It's all so strange
Fay }
Polly } When April still

Dulcie }
Nancy } Ev'ry spring April still
Fay }
Polly } Comes around ev'ry year too,
And stars

Dulcie }
Nancy } All those thousands of stars
Fay }
Polly } Go on shining above

Dulcie }
Nancy } So high above
Fay }
Polly }

When ev'ry song-bird upon the wing
Still has a song to sing
Then tell me whatever happened
Whatever happened
Whatever happened to love?

All
Polly

Dulcie }
Nancy } Whatever happened to love?
Fay }

Hortense But you must not be so sad! The season is just beginning! And tomorrow night there is a Gala re-opening of the *Café Pataplon*.

Dulcie The *Café Pataplon*—where we were proposed to!

Fay The night of the Carnival Ball!

Nancy Did I go too?

The others laugh

Hortense There will be *un Grand Cabaret* with an International Star . . . !

Polly Oh, who?

Nancy Florence Desmond?

Fay Hildegarde?

Dulcie Douglas Byng?

Hortense No—someone quite new to Nice. She is staying here at the *Hotel du Paradis*, but no-one, not even I, knows her real name. She is called—Madame K!

All Madame K!

Dulcie How madly intriguing!

Hortense And they say that the Gala will be attended by the President of Monomania.

Nancy Monomania? Isn't that a new dance?

Dulcie Oh, you are a chump, Nancy. It's a country—in South America.

Fay Where all the platinum comes from. When's he arriving, Hortense?

Hortense He is here already. His yacht is in the harbour!

Dulcie What a thrill! I say, girls let's all go and have a squizz!

Fay Righto! Are you coming, Polly?

Polly No, I think I'd like to see my room.

Hortense But of course, madame.

Dulcie See you later then . . .

They exit C, chattering excitedly, as Hortense ushers Polly upstairs R

A girl runs out of the cocktail bar L in a state of distress as Gaston enters R

Girl Really! I've never been so insulted!

Gaston What is the matter, madame?

Girl That man in there, that drunken American—he tried to—to molest me!

Gaston (*horror-struck*) *Mon dieu*, it is not possible, here in the *Hotel du Paradis*!

Gaston exits L

Bobby appears L, walking jauntily and a little tipsily

During the following scene the Guests drift on and Hortense enters from upstairs R

Girl That's him!

No. 5 SOMEONE TO DANCE WITH

Bobby Lady, oh Lady,
Please don't be distressed.
Lady, there's nothing shady
About my behaviour.
That look I gave yer
Was only meant to convey a simple request,
Please believe me.

Don't be afraid,
I'm no gay young blade
Out to make the grade.
I'm just looking round
For someone to dance with.

Make no mistake,
I am not a rake
Who is on the make.
I'm just looking round
For someone to dance with.

If you're keen on waltzing,
I'd be glad to waltz.
If you'd rather fox-trot,
I'll give that fox-trot ev'rything I've got.

So please relent
And you'll make this gent
Blissfully content
Just to know he's found
That someone to dance with.

The chorus is repeated musically, and Bobby dances with the Lady Guests

Bobby If you'd care to tango,
I can tango too.
If you'd rather rhumba,
I'll do the rhumba times without number.

Bobby	I'm not a cad,	Guests	He's not a cad,
	I'm a simple lad		He's a simple lad

Bobby and	Who'd be very glad
Guests	Just to know that you
	Are somebody who
	Will condescend to
	Be someone to dance with.

At the end of the number the Guests exit

Bobby is about to exit L, when Polly enters down the stairs R, and he sees her

Bobby Well, I'll be . . . !

WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

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Samuel French London



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