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BLACK ART
A MINSTREL SKETCH

By Mary Moncure Parker

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A farce in three acts, by Mary Moncure Parker. Copyright, 1902. Three male and five female characters. One interior scene, modern costumes. Time, one hour.

The plot hinges upon the troubles of a married man, whose wife returns from "out-of-town" at an inopportune moment, whereupon matters become lively for a time. This play has been put on successfully at the leading clubs in Chicago and proved to be a side-splitting attraction.

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CHICAGO

BLACK ART

A Minstrel Sketch in One Act

A Take-off on Mind-Reading and Thought-
Transference Exhibitions

BY

MARY MONCURE PARKER

Author of "Mrs. Busby's Pink Tea," "Powder and Patches" (a
Colonial Play), "When Your Wife's Away," etc.



CHICAGO
FREDERICK J. DRAKE & CO.
MCMIII

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BLACK ART.

Program.

1. The George Washington Razor Test.
2. The Golden Chain Test.
3. When the Medium is Unknown to the Professor.
4. The Blindfold Test.

Characters.

PROFESSOR MACARONI HOODOO.....	Mind Reader
MR. HAMBONE JOHNSING.....	Master of Ceremonies
MR. ISAIAH JACKSON.....	The Medium
MR. ABRAHAM LINCOLN BONES.	} The Committee.
MR. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE BROWN.	
MISS CLEMENTINA CAULIFLOWER	The Lady
And the entire Minstrel Chorus.....	The Audience

The audience, consisting of the minstrel chorus, is arranged in groups on either side of the stage.

A table is placed in the center of the stage, containing vase, with flowers, a book and a large satchel.

Mr. Hambone Johnsing and Professor Macaroni Hoodoo are seated in chairs near the table.

Mr. Hambone Johnsing. "Ladies and Gentlemen: I has great joy dis evenin' in introjeuin' to yo' notice de celebrated Professor Macaroni Hoodoo, of de Hawaiian Islands in Europe, who has pufformed his celebrated feats throughout all de known and de unknown world. I can truthfully say dat he am well versed in the 'Black Art.'—I don't know what dat am, but anyhow he am black. Professor Macaroni Hoodoo, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Professor, a small, wiry man, with a huge black mustache, comes forward and bows profusely.

Professor Macaroni. "Ladies and Gentlemen: Dis am de proudest moment of my life. Never since I gave an exhibition

befo' de Blacktown Lunatic Asylum has I seen sech intelligent faces and sech concentration of minds. I can feel yo' minds vibratin' right now in de thought currents which come floatin' to me from yo' brains in large chunks. You am de brainiest crowd I ever struck. The great wondah to me am how yo' all holds so much cerebellums. It am a pleasure to pufform my wonderful feats of mind (an heah I might say when one pufforms feats of mind dat dis am whar extremes meet—feats and mind). I ain't saying' but what in some audiences dey has bigger feets dan minds, but dat ain't so in dis fine lookin' intelligent crowd.

De fust test I'm goin' to gib you dis ebenin' am de George Washington Razor Test. Will two gentlemen kindly come forward and perform de office of committee?"

Mr. Abraham Lincoln Bones and Mr. William Shakespeare Brown step forward.

Professor Macaroni. "Thank you—I'm much obliged, and I'd like to say right heah to the audience dat I never have met two men befo' who had sech large feet (I mean minds) in all my life. I kin feel their thoughts vibratin'. (A whirring noise is heard from behind the scenes.) It am popularly supposed dat George Washington done cut down his father's cherry tree with a hatchet, but recent research has proved beyond all question dat he done it wid his father's razor. Will any gentleman in de crowd kindly act as a medium for de transfers?"

Mr. Isaiah Jackson steps forward.

Professor Macaroni. "Thank you, berry good. (Takes the medium's hand.) Now, Mr. Isaiah Jackson, you think of somethin' and when the thought slips yo' trolley I git's a transfer and den I reads what you am thinkin' about. Am you ready? Well, turn de crank an' we're off." (A whirring is heard outside.)

The Professor sways, makes various motions, rolls his eyes, pulls the medium about the stage, then stops suddenly.

Professor Macaroni. "I've got de thought: Every gentleman in dis crowd has a razor in his pocket."

Every man in the audience pulls out a large razor. The professor collects them all and puts them into the satchel on the table.

Professor Macaroni. "Has any gentleman in the crowd a quarter?"

Each man produces a quarter. Professor Macaroni collects them all and puts all, except one, in the satchel.

Professor Macaroni. "Now I will place dis heah quarter in

dis vase and cover it wid de flowers. Now, Mr. Medium, you concentrate yo' large feet (I mean mind), on dat quarter an' I'm going to tell you where it am."

Professor Macaroni takes the medium's hand, sways, takes jerky steps, runs around through two or three doors and then comes back to the table and sways two and fro— then stops, takes the flowers from the vase and produces the quarter.

(Loud applause from the chorus.)

Professor Macaroni (taking a revolver from his pocket and pointing it at the committee). "Will de committee kindly state if dis am a square puffedance?"

The Committee (dodging to escape the revolver). "It curtinly am square."

Professor Macaroni (putting up revolver). "Thank you. My next test am entitled the Golden Chain test, puffedance wid great success befo' de King of de Cannibal Islands. Will any gentleman kindly lend me a gold watch chain?"

Two chains are handed to him. He takes a bottle of acid from his pocket and tests the two chains; one he drops into the satchel; the other he holds in his hand.

Professor Macaroni. "Will de medium kindly tell de committee of a word he am thinkin' of in dis heah book." (Hands book to Mr. Jackson. Mr. Jackson picks out a word and lays the book on the table.)

Professor Macaroni. "Now will de medium take hold of de other end of dis chain. Now, concentrate yo' mind on de word you have selected in dat book."

Professor Macaroni sways, pulls the medium about the room, gasps and finally stops and says:

"Mr Isaiah Jackson, you am thinking of a word on page 4-11-44, an' de word am "Chicken." Am I right?" (Flourishes revolver.)

Mr. Isaiah Jackson (shaking). "Yes, sah; you am."

(Applause.)

Professor Macaroni puts the chain upon his own watch.

Professor Macaroni. "Thank you very much, Mr. Jackson; dat will do. (Mr. Jackson sits down.)

Professor Macaroni. "My next test is when de medium am unknown to de professor. Will you please select a gentleman to act as medium when I go out of de room?"

(Exit Professor.) A man is selected. The professor re-enters.

Professor Macaroni. "Now let the man selected keep his mind on me."

Professor Macaroni stands in the center of the stage, sways, gesticulates, jumps about and then stops suddenly.

Professor Macaroni. "Wait a minute. Dar's something wrong. The man selected done slipped his trolley. I don't git no thought transfers. Will de man selected please come forward."

The man rises. The professor feels his head carefully.

Professor Macaroni. "I am sorry gentlemen, but you have to select some one else. I can't git no transfers from dis man; he ain't got no mind."

The professor goes out and another one is selected by the committee. The professor re-enters, goes through various motions, sways, rolls his eyes and takes several quick steps and stops.

Professor Macaroni. "De man selected by de committee am black; he am cross-eyed and knock-kneed."

The man selected jumps up with alacrity:

"Who am cross-eyed? Who am knock-kneed?"

Professor Macaroni (pointing him out). "Gentlemen, dis am de man selected."

(Applause.)

Professor Macaroni. "Now, is der a lady in de audience? If so, will she kindly come forward and oblige me by actin' as medium? I am a great admirer of de fair sex and believe in de influence of gentle woman. Will a lady volunteer?"

A tall man, dressed as a woman, comes forward, and is introduced by Mr. Hambone Johnsing.

Mr. Hambone Johnsing. "Professor Macaroni Hoodoo, dis am Miss Clementina Cauliflower."

Miss Clementina bows to the professor, who bows in return. The professor takes her hand, sways, makes a few passes in the air with his other hand, and says:

Professor Macaroni. "I kin read de mind of every man present. Each man present am thinkin' that Miss Clementina Cauliflower am a honey and de fairest culled lady he ever done see."

Miss Clementina bows again and the men smile and applaud.

Professor Macaroni. "Will any gentleman in de audience lend me a watch and a dollar?"

The watch and dollar are handed to him. He drops the watch into the satchel and bites the dollar; then slips it into his pocket.

Professor Macaroni. "Now, Miss Clementina Cauliflower, please give me yo' hand and concentruate yo' mind on something. You certainly am a lady who can pufform large feats."

Miss Clementina (threateningly). "Who has big feet?"

Professor Macaroni (hastily). "No offense, Miss Clementina, no offense. Feats of mind is what I mean. You am a lady who kin sway men."

Miss Clementina (sidling up to him, angrily). "Who am sway-backed?"

Professor Macaroni (in a conciliatory manner). "You don't understand, Miss Clementina. I mean you has power. I ain't never seen sech development of mind befo' in all my life. Please take my hand again and concentuate yo' mind on something, and I'll tell you what it am."

He sways, walks jerkily about the room, then runs through the doors, back and forth across the stage, pulling her after him. Then suddenly the positions are changed, and she comes chasing him with a razor through the doors, until stopped by Mr. Hambone Johnsing.

Mr. Hambone Johnsing. "Miss Clementina, don't git so excited. The professor was jest readin' yo' mind."

Miss Clementina. "I teach him to read my mind. Dar ain't no low-down turkey-buzzard of a niggah gwine to play sech fool doins' with this chile, I kin tell you. I'll raise somethin' on his mind he won't furgit in a hurry."

She stalks angrily out, flourishing the razor, and the professor comes creeping in through another door.

Professor Macaroni. "Am she gone?"

Mr. Hambone Johnsing. "Yes, I guess she got all the thought transfers dat she keers about."

Professor Macaroni. "Gentlemen, my last test am called de Blindfold Test. Every gentleman in dis room must blindfold his eyes and concentuate his thoughts on somethin' and I'll tell him what it am."

Each man in the audience blindfolds his eyes. The professor hastily puts everything on the table in his satchel—vase, flowers, book, etc.—gathers up one or two extra hats and coats and quietly sneaks out.

(Slow curtain.)

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FARCE

		Time	Males	Females
Arabian Nights, The	3 acts.	2h.	4	5
Bachelor's Bedroom, The	1 act.	40m.	2	
Betsy	3 acts.	2½ h.	7	6
Betsy Baker	1 act.	45m.	2	2
Black Mail	1 act.	30m.	3	
Black Statue, The	1 act.	25m.	4	2
Boarding School, The	1 act.	1h.	7	5
Change Partners	1 act.	45m.	1	3
Freezing a Mother-in-law	1 act.	45m.	3	2
Funnibone's Fix	1 act.	30m.	6	2
Furnished Apartments	1 act.	50m.	5	
How to Tame Your Mother-in-law	1 act.	35m.	4	2
John Smith	1 act.	40m.	5	3
Jumbo Jim	1 act.	40m.	4	3
Lend Me Five Shillings	1 act.	1h.	5	2
Mischlevous Nigger, The	1 act.	30m.	4	2
More Blunders Than One	1 act.	1h.	4	3
My Neighbor's Wife	1 act.	45m.	4	4
My Precious Betsy	1 act.	55m.	4	4
Obstinate Family, The	1 act.	40m.	3	3
Popping the Question	1 act.	40m.	2	4
Persecuted Dutchman, The	1 act.	50m.	6	3
Quarrelsome Servants	1 act.	15m.	3	
Quiet Family, A	1 act.	45m.	4	4
Regular Fix, A	1 act.	50m.	6	4
Rooms to Let, without Board	1 act.	15m.	3	
Rough Diamond	1 act.	40m.	4	3
Stage Struck Yankee, The	1 act.	45m.	4	2
That Rascal Pat	1 act.	50m.	3	2
Troublesome Servant, The	1 act.	15m.	2	
Turn Him Out	1 act.	45m.	3	2
Uncle Jeff	1 act.	30m.	5	
Vermont Wool Dealer, The	1 act.	45m.	5	3
Virgin's Mummy, The	1 act.	30m.	6	
Who Is Who?	1 act.	40m.	3	2
Wooling under Difficulties	1 act.	30m.	4	3
Yankee Peddler, The	1 act.	45m.	7	3

COMIC. Price, each 15 cents.

All That Glitters Is Not Gold	2 acts.	2h.	6	3
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