

## **A nondescript area under the toekick, where Watson has set up what appears to be a dance studio.**

*Watson is doing (and singing to) some dance warmups when Marvin and Macaroni enter.*

**Marvin**

Watson – we have an issue that requires some delicacy.

**Watson**

What kind of delicacies you got in mind, cat? I'm particularly fond of shrimp.

**Macaroni**

I'm a mouse, not a cat, and you're starting to sound like a rat.

**Watson**

Chill man! Rats don't eat shrimp.

**Marvin**

Rats eat anything – that's all they think of is food.

**Watson**

You're the one that's offering me a meal. Whatcha need? No, let me guess. Somebody's not getting it and you need me to win them over.

**Macaroni**

Well...

**Watson**

You've got a plan, and there's somebody standing in the way.

**Macaroni**

Um...

**Marvin**

Watson, how is it that you get spiders to dance?

**Watson**

You came to ask me about spiders?

**Macaroni**

Not exactly.

**Watson**

Because spiders are cool. They sit out all day, just chillin' – waiting for stuff to happen. Gives them a lot of time to think, to reflect.

**Marvin**

That doesn't sound like dancing.

**Macaroni**

And it's not what...

**Watson**

Makes 'em open. You say something, they don't start out by tellin' you you're wrong. They listen. They think.

**Macaroni**

It's not spiders.

**Watson**

It's always spiders. Tell them dancing is fun, they won't do it right away. But they *will* consider it. Why not dance? It's liberating, it's joyous. And then you come around later, hum a tune, move to the music, and they're right there with you. Because why not?

**Macaroni**

It's not spiders. It's rats.

**Watson**

Rats are cool too.

**Marvin**

Sometimes.

**Macaroni**

You know all the stuff we've been making lately? The stuff for the rats?

**Watson**

The food court stuff?

**Macaroni**

Yeah, that.

**Watson**

Kylie mentioned it to me. Interesting dude, Kylie.

**Marvin**

That's not the half of it.

**Macaroni**

He hangs with Pettigrew...

**Watson**

...and Pettigrew has a problem with something, so you want *me* in the middle of it.

**Macaroni**

No...

**Marvin**

Yes. Let's not beat around the bush, huh?

**Macaroni**

Okay. Here's the thing. We used to put the art in the food court because, well food. But there's a new health ministry...

**Watson**

Yeah, I know. Wide open space, ripe for the taking. But Pettigrew's not having it.

**Macaroni**

How do you know?

**Watson**

Spiders. Here's the thing. Big mistake. Food in the health office? Not cool. Health at the food court? Not possible.

**Macaroni**

Food at the food court? Invisible. Our sculptures blend in with everything else. *This* is a chance to get noticed.

**Watson**

Be careful what you wish for.

**Marvin**

So what would *you* do?

**Watson**

Dunno. Let me think. Who comes to this health thing anyway?

**Macaroni**

So far, nobody. It just opened. So it's ours if we want it.

**Watson**

It's a health ministry, right. So people come in to get healthy. They need exercise, but they won't do it unless it's fun. Let me think now.

*(beat)*

Ok, so it's the first day – opening night, so to speak. Lights come on, the music starts, a fanfare with a nice, driving rhythm. We all come out as a conga line, break into three groups, and do a high energy number that gets everyone dancing. The spiders start in their webs doing this bouncy thing, and on the chorus, when the rhythm changes up, they leap from web to web. Like this:

*Watson starts singing a high energy tune and is cut off by Macaroni*

**Macaroni**

Yeah, no. We don't usually do musicals.

**Marvin**

*(to Macaroni)*

Well, to be fair we don't usually do rat statues either.

**Macaroni**

What? You think this makes sense?

**Marvin**

As much sense as anything else we've done. And it's different. Might even go viral on Critter.

**Watson**

Chill, 'roni. Act like a spider. Think!

**Macaroni**

*(pondering)*

Well, we do want to get noticed.

*(ponders some more)*

Do you know any bees? They could maybe do the wiggle dance.

**Watson**

Now you're thinking like a cool cat!

**Marvin**

We're doing this?

**Macaroni**

Dunno yet. How do we get Pettigrew on board?

**Watson**

Don't tell him. Leave the statues out in the food court, where they'll get the usual lack of attention. We do our thing, and he'll either come around, or he won't.

**Marvin**

Or we can give him the option. That way if he takes it, he's on board. But if he doesn't, it's on him.

**Watson**

That's equally good.

**Macaroni**

Okay, let's do it. I'll tell Kylie to tell... no, I'll tell Pettigrew myself.

**Watson**

Cool! Spiders be chattin' tonight!

*(Macaroni and Marvin begin to exit across the stage as the lights go down on Watson. Watson vanishes and they shortly run into Pettigrew as they walk.)*

**Macaroni**

I hope this is the right decision.

**Marvin**

It's the right approach – the thing I'm hesitant about is leaving it in Watson's hands.

**Macaroni**

Can **you** make spiders dance?

*(Pettigrew appears)*

**Pettigrew**

I knew you were woke, but dancing with spiders? I'm sure glad you're not working for me.

**Macaroni**

Yeah, about that. I'm going to make you a proposition, and I don't care whether you take it or not. It's going to happen anyway.

**Pettigrew**

Funny – I was going to make **you** a proposition.

**Marvin**

That would be funny.

**Macaroni**

You fired us, remember? Anyway, here's the deal. Those statues – we'll put them wherever you want. Food court, whatever. But we're **also** going to do a thing in the health thing. It'll be our thing. **If you want**, we could put your statues in the Ministry of Health during the thing we're doing there. If you don't want, we won't. Just tell me by tomorrow.

**Pettigrew**

And just what is this thing you're doing at the health thing?

**Marvin**

*(to Macaroni)*

Are you sure we want to tell him?

**Macaroni**

I don't know. Which would be more fun?

**Pettigrew**

Oh sweet summer mouse... this isn't about fun.

**Macaroni**

Yes it is. You want your message out there, it has to be fun. And I guarantee you this will be **fun**!

**Pettigrew**

What this?

**Macaroni**

Ok. Picture this: The room is packed – people all over the place. Then a full blown orchestra starts to play. The lights come on, highlighting your statues – yours of course gets the brightest light. And while people gape in amazement, rows and rows of dancing mice (and rats, if you dare!) pick up the throbbing beat as it crescendos...

**Pettigrew**

Stop right there. This is totally batty.

**Marvin**

Didn't think of bats! Can we get bats?

**Pettigrew**

No! We are dignified.

*(Marvin and Macaroni burst out laughing)*

**Marvin**

You just commissioned a statue made of food.

**Pettigrew**

Yes – that is art. Or so I'm led to believe.

**Macaroni**

So's this.

**Pettigrew**

We're rats. Dancing is something we don't usually do.

**Marvin**

Musicals are a big thing these days.

**Pettigrew**

What if it gets out on Critter?

**Macaroni**

Mission accomplished. You'd be famous.

**Marvin**

...and would have your pick of all the food eveywhere you go.

*(Kylie enters)*

**Pettigrew**

Kylie – get a load of this: Macaroni wants to put on a musical.

**Kylie**

Cool! Can I be in it?

**Pettigrew**

No! Of course you can't be in it! Are you daft?

**Kylie**

Remy could be the voice coach – we'd do everything in French!

**Macaroni**

*(To Pettigrew)*

Anyway, what was the proposition you were going to proposition me with?

**Pettigrew**

I was... never mind.

**Macaroni**

Ok. Let me know tomorrow where you want the statutes.

*(Macaroni and Marvin exit)*

**Kylie**

What's wrong with a musical?

**Pettigrew**

I don't know. But I don't trust the mouse.

**Kylie**

She's gotten us everything we wanted. I think it could work.

**Pettigrew**

Singing, dancing, wearing funny hats. It's effete.

**Kylie**

Picture yourself as the Phantom of the Opera. Then talk to me about "effete".

*(Pettigrew begins to imagine himself as the phantom. He gets more and more into it. Kylie steps back, at first to give him room, but then with growing apprehension.)*

*(blackout)*