

**Scene Two: Cockney Music Hall. London.**

*(Two men appear. We can call these the two CLOWNS. They play a COMPERE and MR MEMORY. They are in evening dress and dicky bows. Both have toothbrush moustaches.)*

**COMPERE.** Thank you ladies and gentlemen. And now with your kind attention I have the immense honour and privilege to presentin' to you one of the most remarkable men ever in the whole world. Mr Memory!!!

*(canned applause)*

*(MR MEMORY bows.)*

Every day Mr Memory commits to memory fifty new facts and remembers every one of them! Facts from history and from geography, from newspapers and scientific books. In fact, more facts is in his brain than is possible to conceive!

*(canned applause)*

*(HANNAY appears in a theatre box. Puffs at his pipe. He applauds with the audience.)*

Settle down now please. I will also mention that before retirin' Mr Memory has kindly consented to leaving his entire brain to the British Museum for scientific purposes. Thank you.

*(MEMORY bows.)*

*(canned applause)*

**MEMORY.** Thankoo. I will now place myself in a state of mental readiness for this evenin's performance and clear my inner bein' of all exentinsic and supernu-  
mary material.

*(drum roll)*

*(A woman appears next to HANNAY. She is beautiful and nervous in a plunging black 1930s evening gown. Her name is ANNABELLA SCHMIDT.)*

**ANNABELLA.** Is this seat taken?

**HANNAY.** Not as far as I know.

*(She sits. Takes out her program. Steals a glance at the audience. HANNAY is entranced.)*

*(Drum roll stops.)*

**COMPERE.** Now then are you ready for the questions Mr. Memory?

**MR MEMORY.** Quite ready for the questions, thankoo.

**COMPERE.** Thankoo.

**MR MEMORY.** Thankoo.

**COMPERE.** Now then ladies and gents. First question please. Come on now please –

*(Looks round the audience. Points at someone.)*

Pardon, sir? What was that, sir? Who won the Cup in 1926?

*(to MR MEMORY)*

Who won the Cup in 1926?

**MR MEMORY.** Who won the cup in 1926? The Tottenham Hotspurs won the cup in 1926 defeatin' the Arsenal Gunners by Five goals to nil in the presence of His Majesty King George the Fifth. Am I right, sir?

**COMPERE.** Quite right, Mr. Memory!!

**MR MEMORY.** Thankoo!

*(canned applause)*

**COMPERE.** Thankoo. Next question please!

*(Looks round the audience. Finds someone else.)*

What was Napoleon's horse called?

*(to MR MEMORY)*

What was Napoleon's horse called?

**MR MEMORY.** What was Napoleon's horse called? Napoleon's horse was called Belerophon, what he rode for the final time at Waterloo, June 15th eighteen-fifteen! Am I right, sir?

COMPERE. Quite right, Mr Memory!!

MR MEMORY. Thankoo.

*(canned applause)*

COMPERE. Thankoo.

*(points at new member of audience)*

What was that sir? How old's Mae West? How old's Mae West, Mr. Memory?

MR MEMORY. Well, I know sir – but I never tell a lady's age!

*(He finds this very amusing.)*

*(canned laughter)*

COMPERE. Very good, Mr. Memory!

MR MEMORY. Thankoo.

COMPERE. Thankoo. Now then – a serious question please.

*(HANNAY stands.)*

HANNAY. I say!

COMPERE. Who was that? Yes, sir?

*(ANNABELLA looks panicked. Hides behind her program.)*

HANNAY. How far is Winnipeg from Montreal?

MR MEMORY. Ah! A gentleman from Canada! You're welcome sir!

*(Audience applause. HANNAY waves. ANNABELLA hides.)*

HANNAY. Thank you.

COMPERE. How far is Winnipeg from Montreal, Mr. Memory?

MR MEMORY. Winnipeg from Montreal sir? Winnipeg from Montreal? One thousand four hundred and fifty four miles. Am I right sir?

HANNAY. Quite right.

MR MEMORY. Thankoo sir!!!

COMPERE. Thankoo sir!