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NOV. 21 – DEC. 27, 2009

Book by Jeffrey Lane | Music and Lyrics by David Yazbek | Based on the film Dirty Rotten Scoundrels written by Dale Launer & Stanley Shapiro & Paul Henning | Directed and choreographed by Max Reimer

A PLAYHOUSE THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION

PLAY GUIDE

PART 2: LESSONS AND ACTIVITIES

6th Significant Script Segment (Lessons Supplement)

Prepared by Dr. Warren McKinnon, UBC Continuing Studies, PTAB* Member

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AND OTHER PARTS (GLOSSARY, QUOTES, LINKS) AT VANCOUVERPLAYHOUSE.COM

Created to provide you with explorations and insights into this production beyond the actual performance, this Play Guide includes information on its creators and characters, notable quotables and more:

You can download suggested practical lessons and activities at vancouverplayhouse.com! As a teacher, you can adapt these to your classroom activities before or after your performance. As a parent, you can draw on some activities to enhance your child's theatre experience. And, as a patron at large, these activities might stimulate your own exploration or offer a new insight into the production.

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DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS – 6TH SCRIPT SEGMENT – ACT 2, SCENE 9 (P. 117-121)

In the segment, Christine's scam is completed on both the Master, Lawrence, and his competing apprentice, Freddie. By so doing, Christine takes advantage of Lawrence's brutish, vulgar view of Freddie's character – "You're the kind of man that gives swindling a bad name." He has no respect for a fellow thief.

Christine – Oh, Dr. Shuffhausen! *(She bursts into tears and runs to him. He puts his arms around her and leads her to a chair.)*

Lawrence – *(back in character)* My dear, what's the matter?

Christine – I know what you said, but I just had to see him again...I thought I was in love with him. I went back to the hotel...and he was in my room, and we...and we...

Lawrence – ...I see.

Christine – *(nods)* I mean, except for the little concussion, it was really quite romantic. At least I thought it was. But then we fell asleep, and when I woke up, he was gone. He took my money, my jewelry, my traveler's checks, even my little change purse. What kind of man would do something like that?

Lawrence – What kind, indeed...Monsieur Andre –

Andre – Consider it done. *(Andre exits.)*

Christine – I'm beginning to think he could walk all along, that he made up this whole thing just to get to me and my money...It was all my savings, the prize money, everything – fifty thousand dollars!

Lawrence – But I told you I'd waive my fee.

Christine – It had already gotten here. I had it in my bag. What am I going to tell my father? Some of the money was his. *(She breaks down again. Lawrence looks at her, makes a decision, then speaks into an intercom.)*

Lawrence – Please have my car brought around. *(He moves to the safe, opens it, removes a large amount of cash and puts it in a briefcase.)*

Christine – What are you doing?

Lawrence – Simply covering your losses.

Christine – But you're not responsible. How could you have known?

Lawrence – Any fool should have seen he was a charlatan. In any case, it's cheaper than a malpractice suit, which I've no doubt you would win.

(He closes the briefcase and hands it to her with some keys.) My car's out back. You can call and let me know where

to pick it up.

Christine – I don't feel good about taking your money.

Lawrence – I feel good about it. Now go.

Christine – (*looks at him*) Sometimes I wish I...

Lawrence – Yes? (*She seems momentarily troubled by something. We should not know what. A moment, and she pushes it away.*)

Christine – If you're ever in Cincinnati, would you give me a call?

Lawrence – Of course. (*She kisses him tenderly. He watches as she starts out through the back exit, then suddenly calls to her:*) Christine –

Christine – (*turns back*) Yes?

Lawrence - ...Have a safe trip.

Christine – Thank you.

(*She exits. A moment as Lawrence gazes after her, when suddenly she runs back on. Lawrence opens his arms to embrace her, as she runs to him and just shoves the briefcase into his arms.*) I can't take this. It doesn't belong to me. Besides, I'll always have something from you worth so much more. (*She runs back out. Lawrence looks after her, as in the background we hear a police siren approaching. Andre enter.*)

Andre – The Jackal has been captured.

Lawrence – Hah! (*The door opens and two Policemen enter, escorting Freddy, who is wearing Christine's robe and fuzzy slippers.*)

Andre – They found him at the hotel, returning to the scene of the crime.

Freddy – What crime? What are you guys talking about?

Lawrence – I knew you were low, but I never thought you –

Freddy – Me? What are you trying to pull now?

Lawrence – You worm.

Freddy – You louse.

Lawrence – You –

Freddy – You –

Lawrence – You –

Freddy – You –

Lawrence – You're the kind of man that gives swindling a bad name.

Freddy – *(re: his nightgown)* Boy, this thing is ventilated.

Lawrence – Listen, Freddy, this time she really is gone. You'll never see her again.

Freddy – What? You let her go? You've got to stop her! *(runs to the terrace doors and calls)* Hey! Hey! *(turns back to Lawrence)* You, you Ruprecht! You let her get away.

Lawrence – How could you do that to her?

Freddy – Do what to her? *We're in her room...The lights are low...I've got it made...All systems go...I'm in. She's down -...The hair, the gown...We go to kiss, she conks me out...Then I wake up...with nothing on...She took my clothes...My shoes are gone...My wallet's gone...My watch is gone...And here I am a schmuck in a robe.*

Lawrence – And you expect me to believe that when she just returned the fifty thousand dollars I gave her?

Freddy – What fifty thousand dollars?

Lawrence – The fifty thousand dollars that you stole from her!

Freddy – I didn't steal fifty thousand dollars from her!

(Music stops short. Lawrence and Freddy look at each other for a moment. Lawrence opens the briefcase.)

Hey, there's my clothes.

(Lawrence reaches into the briefcase and pulls out a white embossed card. As he reads, in the Orchestra pit, the Conductor turns around, and we see it is Christine:)

Christine – 'Goodbye, boys. It was fun. Love, The Jackal.' *(She climbs over the Orchestra rail and exits via the audience. Lawrence and Freddy look at each other, as it comes together.)*