

## RS #8 Shakespeare & Nick

NOSTRADAMUS

CATS!

SHYLOCK

What?

NOSTRADAMUS

A whole stage covered with singing cats! No, wait...

*(squinting).*

No, that's right. Singing cats.

SHYLOCK

Who's the nut job?

NICK

He's... in the show. I told you musicals need a big cast.

*NOSTRADAMUS looks delighted with this news.*

NIGEL

I'm sorry, Nick, I have a strong feeling something isn't right about all this.

TOM, SNUG, ROBIN

I don't get it/I miss the reapers!/we need better dresses.

TROUPE

I have some ideas/I agree/I'm not sure about all the eggs, etc.

SHAKESPEARE (AS TOBY)

**Start**

*(Yorkshire accent)*

→ Ey up!

*(pronounced "eye up")*

'Scuse me, lads.

*ALL heads turn. SHAKESPEARE – in disguise – has entered.*

*(as TOBY)*

Name's Toby Belch. A humble actor from York. I come seeking an audition for the Bottom Brothers.

NICK

That's us.

SHAKESPEARE

Oh! What an honor. I hear tell you are creating a work that is... *incendiary. Monumental.* Bigger than Shakespeare.

NICK

*(to troupe)*

Did ya hear that? That's right. Toby, was it?

SHAKESPEARE (TOBY)

From York.

NICK

We are working on something pretty special. It's a play full of songs – about an omelette.

SHAKESPEARE (TOBY)

*(dropping accent)*

That's the great idea?

NICK

What?

SHAKESPEARE (TOBY)

I said, "that's a great idea!"

*(hands him paper)*

Here's my head-sketch and resume.

NICK

*(reading)*

Hey. You've been in every one of my plays.

SHAKESPEARE (TOBY)

*(feigning deference)*

I'm a massive fan. And it's so unfair that Shakespeare gets all the praise and attention and the money –

*(rubbing it in)*

So much money – when your plays are in a class all of their own.

NICK

I like the new York actor! You're hired! Gents, meet our newest cast member – Toby Belch! Teach him the song.

*THEY shake hands and introduce themselves. NICK notices NIGEL heading for the door.*

Where are you going? We have a whole second Act to sort out.

NIGEL

I... need to... explore some other ideas. ← **End**