

MADRABABES

a fun filled one act musical

by

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Madrababes

Characters

Women

Phyllis

Philomela

Oriana

'Men'

Amyntas

Tom the Tailor

John A'Dunn

Setting – A contemporary coffee shop and surrounding areas.

Scene 1

Phyllis and Philomela are sat on a sofa in the coffee shop. Oriana is sat away from them next to a harp, drinking coffee (she does this throughout the show).

Song – Tho Philomela

Philomela – I could do with a good shag...

Phyllis – Well don't beat around the bush will you...

Philomela – That's exactly what I'm talking about...

Phyllis - Oh for God's sake...you could at least try and act with some decorum.

Philomela – Why? We're 21st century women...we can be frank about our wants and needs.

Phyllis – Yes...but it doesn't mean you need to sound like a teenage boy.

Philomela – (**ignoring her**) What we really need are some men in our lives...

Phyllis – We know lots of men...

Philomela – If you're referring to Tom and John...those sorry excuses for men are about as manly as I am...

Phyllis – Masculinity isn't as set a concept as it once was...John and Tom are just metrosexuals.

Philomela – Girlymen you mean.

Phyllis – You’re starting to sound like my grandmother...gender roles are much more fluid these days...Tom and John are real men...just not cavemen...

Philomela – Quiet...they’re coming in...

At this point Tom the Tailor and John A Dunn enter. They are both clearly girls dressed as men.

Song – Late in my rash/Tis Women makes us love

John – I don’t know Tom...I just can’t work out why the ladies don’t see us for the masculine Adonises we so clearly are...

Tom – I know...I think it must be something to do with the way we wear our hats...

Tom takes off his hat and unravels his hair in the classic stripper way.

John – Or maybe our waistcoats...

John adjusts his waistcoat, pushing his cleavage together.

Tom – But I’m the greatest tailor in the city...I know these clothes are the cutting edge of contemporary fashion...in fact I honestly believe we’re the best dressed men in town.

John – Maybe that’s the problem...maybe we should dress down a bit?

Tom – But clothes doth make the man...we won’t woo the ladies by being shabbily turned out...our manly frames must be furnished properly...

Tom & John then move across to the sofa and sit with Phyllis and Philomela.

Phyllis – We bought you both a coffee.

Tom – That was very kind of you.

Philomela – I couldn’t remember how you take it...

John – Strong and black for me...

Tom – The same for me...

Philomela – The way you like your men...

John – What are you suggesting?

Philomela – It was a joke.

Tom – Well it wasn’t very funny...

Oriana – It was actually...

They all look at Oriana who's been sat aloof for the entire time.

Tom – And who asked you?

Oriana just gives him a look.

Phyllis – Dear me...I think we should all relax and not take ourselves too seriously...we're all friends after all.

Song – Poor is the Life

John – It is strange though...despite our excellent dress, charming manners and fully deodorised armpits; we don't seem to be able to win over the ladies at all. It's bloody frustrating I can tell you.

Tom – Now John there's no need for foul language...we have ladies present.

John – Sorry I forgot myself...

Philomela – I think I might know why you're struggling...if you don't mind me being honest?

Tom – Please do...any insight would be most welcome.

Philomela – Well frankly...it's because you both look about as butch as a kitten with a pink bow round its neck.

John – I beg your pardon?

Phyllis – (**smelling Tom**) And there's something distinctly floral about your aroma...

Tom – I'll have you know that I'm wearing Le Male by Jean Paul Gaultier ...you don't get manlier than that...

Philomela – It's not a problem...I'm just not sure whether women are entirely convinced that they're what you're looking for...

Tom – Are you suggesting that women might think we're homosexuals?

Oriana – No...she's suggesting that women might think you're women...

John – Well I've never been so insulted...just because we don't lollop around dragging our knuckles on the floor and eating raw meat...you have the gall to suggest that our very maleness is under question...I'm appalled and dismayed.

Phyllis – Look it's not a big deal...it's just I personally prefer a man with, you know, some facial hair, a deep voice and well...an Adam's apple.

Philomela – Me too I'm afraid...there are plenty of women out there who would be interested in you...you're just not looking in the right places.

Tom – Well I think you're just wrong...we're modern men yes, but men none the less.

Song – Tom Making a Manteau

At the end of the song Tom and John will exit in a huff.

Phyllis – It's not wrong to want a man with hair on his chest is it?

Philomela – No...it's just a matter of personal taste...attraction is a complicated thing.

Phyllis – I've always just dreamed of a man who was...taller, hairier and with smaller breasts than myself...that's not strange is it?

Philomela – Not at all...though I don't think you need to worry about the breasts bit...Oh for a real man though...

Song – Though my carriage be but careless

After the song Amyntas will enter the stage. He is hairy and gruff with a very deep voice. He struts wherever he walks and has a stereotypical masculinity about him. On seeing him Phyllis and Philomela are instantly interested.

Song – Singing Fine knacks for ladies

Philomela – Bloody hell...look at him...

Phyllis – My God...he seems to have stubble on his chin...

Amyntas turns round and sees the two ladies...he gestures them.

Amyntas – (**very deep voice**) Good afternoon ladies.

Phyllis and Philomela look at each other with exaggerated delight.

Philomela – Please do come and join us...coffee?

Amyntas – Thank you...double espresso...no sugar.

Phyllis – That's quite the hot beverage...

Philomela – For quite the hot man...

Amyntas – Sorry I didn't catch that...

Philomela – Oh nothing...I'll just get your coffee...

Philomela exits to get coffee. John and Tom re-enter and see Amyntas is sat with Phyllis.

John – My God...Phyllis is under attack from a grizzly bear.

Tom – And look at his clothes...how can she stand to have that sat next to her?

John – We must remove this oike immediately.

John and Tom stride over the where Amyntas and Phyllis are sat.

Tom – My dear man...I do believe you should leave this poor lady alone...she clearly doesn't have any spare change for you...

Amyntas – Pardon me?

Tom and John step back a little. Phyllis is amused by the exchange.

John – Now there's no need to get violent.

Amyntas – Who's getting violent...I just couldn't quite understand what you said.

Tom – I said...I think you should unhand this fair maiden and leave before I'm forced to act.

Amyntas – Act? Act like what exactly?

John – **(to Amyntas)** Don't rile him up please sir...he's quite the brawler when he's riled.

Amyntas – Really...**(Amyntas stands and towers over Tom)**

Tom – Well I rather think you're using your excessive height unfairly there...

Amyntas – Are you two some kind of pantomime double act?

John – Pantomime?...we are deadly serious...we are the only thing standing between this lady and certain molestation from you...

Amyntas smiles at the ludicrous nature of Tom and John. At this point Philomela re-enters with Amyntas's drink.

Philomela – Here we are...**(to Tom & John)** oh gentlemen...let me introduce our new friend...

She gestures Amyntas

Philomela – **(To Amyntas)** Sorry I didn't catch your name.

Amyntas – Amyntas.

Philomela – Come again?

Amyntas – My name's Amyntas...

Philomela – How exotic.

Tom – (**to John**) His breath smells like he could do with A Myntas...

Amyntas – Sorry?

Tom – Oh nothing, nothing...

Oriana – (**Very loud**) He said your breath smells like you could use A Myntas...it wasn't that funny...

Amyntas – (**hurt**) Oh...(to **Phyllis and Philomela**) Well I think it might be time for me to leave...I get the feeling I'm not welcome here.

Phyllis – Oh don't leave now...we were only just getting to know you.

Song: Wither Away so Fast

Amyntas – I'm sorry but I think I should probably just go.

Amyntas leaves dejected

Phyllis – (to **Tom and John**) Well that was very friendly of you both.

Philomela – Yes...the first real man we've seen for ages and you send him packing.

John – Real man?...he was clearly a miscreant of some kind...did you see his unshaven face?

Philomela – I most certainly did.

Tom – And his slap dash attire?

Phyllis – Well he didn't look like a pretentious fop if that's what you mean...

Oriana – Well I thought he was about as pathetic as the rest of you...

Philomela – Oh do shut up.

John – Yes...this is no time for your derisory commentary.

Oriana puts her middle finger up at John and turns away...

John – (**To Tom**) It's probably time we were leaving.

They move away from the others.

John – My dear friend I think we need to remove this unpleasant fellow permanently...

Tom – Are you suggesting we murder him?

John – Oh dear god no...nothing so brutish...no we just need to get him to leave and never come back...

Tom – What do you suggest...we could tell him there's a bare knuckle boxing match somewhere, or dog racing...or whatever else common people like to do...

John – No I think it needs to be something more fiendish than that...but what?

Tom – Donut sale?

John – No no no...I have it...we'll tell him that we've discovered a brood of children, that all claim that he's their father...a scoundrel like that is bound to have impregnated a whole host of unsuspecting girls with his raging testosterone...he's certain to believe it and attempt to run away...

Tom – It's a brilliant plan...brilliant. You are indeed a genius of the highest order...if only intellect and wit were as prized in men as much as gruff voices and testicles...

Both Tom and John adjust their trousers.

John – Indeed...lets be off.

Tom and John leave.

Scene ends – (musical interlude of fa la las etc) All leave after this interlude except Oriana.

Scene 2

Amyntas enters and sits on the sofa. He is alone except for Oriana.

Song – Tho my carriage

Amyntas – God I'm terrible with girls...absolutely pathetic. The two men I met today have such ease with the ladies. They're so comfortable in their presence, so at home in their world...I'm just a freak. I just don't understand them. I know how to sleep with women...that's simple...but I don't know how to be with them...to make them love me...those bastards with the funny dress sense have got the whole thing completely understood...clearly I need to learn from them and copy what they do. I need to make women see past this rough exterior to the gentle man that lives inside.

Song – Those Sweet Delightful Lilies

Amyntas starts the song and Tom and John enter halfway through and join in. As the song ends Amyntas will sit back down on the sofa and Tom & John will speak to each other aside from him.

Tom – John my dear man...I think we need to change the plan.

John – Why on earth...it's a fabulous plan?

Tom – Oh the plan is pure brilliance, I'm not denying that for a second...it's just I think we should learn from this man...before we send him away.

John – Learn what?

Tom – How to be manly men.

John – How to be brutish men you mean.

Tom – We obviously won't take it to the extreme level this poor fellow has...but I think we can certainly alter our behaviour a little...

John – But if he's staying here, how can we stop him rogering the very ladies we're attempting to woo?

Tom – We need to aim his lust in a different direction...but where?

Tom and John survey the room and after an exaggerated look for a candidate, both turn their attention to Oriana.

John – Perfect.

Oriana – What?

Tom – Perfect.

Oriana – Are you lady boys going to tell me what the hell you're looking at me for?

John – Nothing to worry your pretty little head about my dear.

Oriana – Tossers.

Tom and John turn back to each other.

Tom – But how to make him interested in her?

John – What do you mean? (**sarcastic**) She has such a charming personality...who wouldn't be interested.

They both look at Oriana again.

Tom – But he doesn't know what she's like...we'll just say she's shy or something...but worth the effort of getting to know.

John – We should also suggest that she's absolutely filthy in the bedroom...it's the sort of things cavemen find appealing...

Tom – Not me...how repulsive...it is a good plan though.

Tom & John approach Amyntas and sit with him

Tom – **(To John, in an over-exaggerated stage whisper)** Now John I cannot believe that a woman with such a wonderful, charming demeanour as dear Oriana could ever do something that lude.

John – It's true dear fellow...I for one was shocked.

Tom – And with a whole pineapple as well...

Amyntas is intrigued

Amyntas – Sorry what?

Tom – Oh nothing at all dear boy...just some bedroom secrets of the fair Oriana. A gentleman never tells.

John – Indeed...all I can say is long live Oriana

Song – Long Live Oriana

During the song Tom and John will crowd around Oriana, which will confuse her.

At the end of the song the 3 men will sit on the sofa again.

Tom – Coffee Amyntas?

Amyntas – Thanks. I'll come and help

John – Me to.

The three men exit to get coffees. At that moment Phyllis and Philomena will enter.

Phyllis – Well really I think as the alpha female I should get the first go.

Philomela – The first go on what?

Phyllis – Amyntas of course...and I don't mean the first go on Amyntas...you foul mouthed floozy. I mean the first go at a romantic engagement with him.

Philomela – That sounds like a go on him to me...and besides who elected you the alpha female.

Phyllis – No one elected me...it's just the natural order of things...look at our different statures.

Phyllis stands up and sticks her chest out. She is taller and larger chested than Philomela.

Philomela – Big tits aren't the only indication of status you know...

Oriana – But that pair certainly creates a sense of presence...

Philomela – Will you just piss off back to your harp...

Song – Come Sable Night – fawning over loving

Phyllis – I just think that as the more eloquent and sophisticated of the two of us, I should probably approach him first. If it doesn't work out you're free to have a go yourself.

Philomela – I don't want your sloppy seconds thank you.

Phyllis – Oh do be reasonable Philomela, you're acting like a petulant child.

Philomela – Well as a petulant child, I invite you to swivel on this.

Philomela sticks up her middle finger at Phyllis and exits in a huff.

Phyllis – Oh this is ridiculous...do be reasonable.

Phyllis also exits.

Oriana – What a bunch of twats.

Scene ends

Scene 3

Tom and John enter and sit at the sofa with coffees. Amyntas enters as well and sits with them.

Tom – So my dear man...what brings a strapping chap like you, to our neck of the woods?

John – Yes...I would have thought a fine specimen of a man like you, would be so popular, that you'd never wish to move anywhere else.

Amyntas – Why are you two suddenly being so friendly? I got the sense that you weren't all that keen on me when we first met.

Tom – Oh don't take any notice of that...just a bit of manly banter...nothing to be concerned about...we actually can't think of anyone we'd be more keen to have hanging about in our stomping grounds...(to John) could we John?

John – Oh no...no one at all...your particular brand of neandathilic machoism is exactly what our refined little world needed.

Amyntas – And I suppose that's banter as well...

Tom kicks John.

Tom – Of course...you know how it is with us lads when we're together...all those endless tales of drinking and sexual conquests...we could tell you some stories you wouldn't believe.

Amyntas – I'm sure you could...so why did you want to chat?

John – Well the thing is...despite our excellent record in getting into lady's pants, we still think we could hone our skills a little more.

Tom – Yes...though our techniques are already extremely good...we just think that whatever hints you have, will only add to our arsenal, and make us true lady killers.

Tom and John both stand at this point and thrust, to emphasise the point.

Song – Pox on You

Amyntas – (sarcastic) Well you two seem to have the whole thing buttoned up...however, I can give you a few very minor pointers, if you think they'll help at all...

John – Oh please do...

Tom – Yes...please.

Amyntas stands in front of Tom and John.

Amyntas – Well the first thing to look at is your stance...could you just stand in your usual manner for a moment.

Tom and John both stand, with their hands on their hips and a knee bent.

Amyntas – OK...well you might want to look at standing up straighter...

They straighten up

Amyntas - Lifting up your heads.

They raise their heads