



THE CINEMA

©Steve Davies

THE SCENE OPENS TO REVEAL
TWO ROWS OF SEATS FACING
THE AUDIENCE

CHARACTERS:- Know It All (KIA)

Man Stood Up By Girl Friend (MSG)

Man With Food (MWF)

Shopping Woman (SW)

Elliot

SEATING ORDER:- FRONT ROW
- KIA, ELLIOT, EMPTY SEAT,
MSG, MWF. BACK ROW – SW

ENTER ELLIOT. KIA AND MSG
ARE ALL READY SEATED

ELLIOT: (PASSES KIA) Excuse me (GOES TO SIT IN THE SEAT
NEXT TO MSG)

MSG: Someone's sitting there

ELLIOT: Sorry. (SITS NEXT TO KIA)

KIA: There's no one sat there

ELLIOT: Pardon me?

KIA: There's no one sat there

ELLIOT: Oh!

KIA: Not that I've seen anyway

ENTER MWF. EVERYONE HAS
TO STAND AS HE PASSES
THEM

MWF: (CARRYING LARGE BUCKET OF POPCORN. SPILLING
IT OVER EVERYONE AS HE PASSES) Excuse me,
excuse me (GOES TO SIT IN VACANT SEAT)

MSG: Sorry, that's someone's seat (KEEPS LOOKING AT HIS
WATCH)

MWF: Sorry, excuse me (SITS AT THE OTHER SIDE OF MSG. STARTS EATING, NOISILY)

KIA: Have you seen this film before?

ELLIOT: No, no I haven't

KIA: This is one of his best

ELLIOT: Is it.

KIA: Oh, yes. I've seen it thirteen times

ELLIOT: Thirteen

KIA: Oh, yes. His use of lighting is quite stupendous in building the tension

ELLIOT: Right

KIA: And the camera work was way ahead of its time.

ENTER SW CARRYING A LARGE SHOPPING BAG. LOADED WITH FRUIT

SW: Has it started yet?

KIA: Not yet

SW: Oh good. I hate to miss the start of it. That's my favourite bit. I've seen it five times.

KIA: I've seen it thirteen times

SW: Thirteen, really?

KIA: I'm afraid the start of it wasn't as good as it could have been. If only he had had Lon Chaney junior in that part

SW: I thought it was Bella Emberg

KIA: Dear oh dear. He's a woman

SW: Who is?

KIA: Bella Emberg. You're thinking of Bella Lugosi

SW: Oh that's it, silly me

MSG: (LOOKING AT HIS WATCH. GETS UP AND EXITS PAST EVERYBODY) xcuse me, excuse me etc

SW: (KNOCKS OVER HER BAG AND ORANGES ROLL OUT UNDER THE SEATS IN FRONT) Oh, damn and blast. There go my Satsumas. Excuse me dear, could you just have a look under your seat please.

ELLIOT: Just a second (BENDS DOWN FEELS UNDER THE SEAT) Ah! Got it. Oh, it's an onion?

SW: I didn't have any onions dear

ELLIOT: (WONDERING WHAT TO DO WITH IT) Oh, well err?

SW: What's it like?

ELLIOT: Here (HANDS HER THE ONION. SEARCHING UNDER SEATS)

SW: Seems Ok. Shame to waste it (PUTS IT IN HER BAG)

KIA: The humble onion. Did you know that if you eat an onion every day you will never have a cold

ELLIOT: Or any friends

KIA: Pardon?

ELLIOT: Nothing. Ah, here we are, one Satsuma

SW: Thank you dear

MSG: (ENTERS. EVERYONE HAS TO STAND UP AGAIN) Excuse me, excuse me etc (RESUMES HIS SEAT, KEEPS LOOKING AT WATCH)

SW: Is this the one where he goes over the cliff at the end

KIA: No this is the one, if you remember, with the man in the pith helmet

MWF: That's not this film. This is the one with the guy with one leg

KIA: I think you'll find that the man with the pith helmet does only have one leg

SW: That's right. He turns out to be the antique dealer who is really a spy

ELLIOT: I'm sorry but, excuse me. Would you mind, I've not actually seen this film before

SW: Sorry dear

KIA: You'll love it. Especially the bit in the middle where...

ELLIOT: Look I don't wish to appear rude but, you know

KIA: Ah, right yes. My apologies young man. Not another word.
My lips are sealed

**FX10: PEARL AND DEAN MUSIC
STARTS.**

ALL JOIN IN WITH THE TUNE

ALL: da da, da da, da da da etc

MWF: (GETTING UP AND PASSING EVERYBODY AGAIN)
Excuse me, sorry, excuse me, sorry, just enough time to
get a snack before it starts (*exits*)

SW: (LEANING FORWARD AND WHISPERING TO KIA AND
ELLIOT) Poor chap

ELLIOT: Sorry?

SW: Poor chap. Him there. He seems very worried and he
keeps looking at his watch

ELLIOT: I hadn't really noticed

KIA: Stood up

SW: No, him, sitting down

KIA: I mean, I think you'll find he has been stood up

SW: Poor lamb

KIA: Yes, I think you'll find I'm correct. As I was parking my
Volvo Estate in the disabled parking bay, which, I might
say, was a task in itself as it was partially blocked by large
lorry delivering some sort of dubious meat products to the
American fast food emporium opposite. If it had not been
for my advanced driver training...

ELLIOT: All that reversing in and out of cones on the supermarket
car park on Sunday mornings not gone to waste then

KIA: As I was saying, if it was not for my training I may not have
been able to manoeuvre between the bollards to take my
rightful place in the disabled bay. I know, I know what
you're going to say..

ELLIOT: I'm sure you do

KIA: I may look the picture of health, but I'm an absolute martyr to the gout

SW: Oh dear. Are you taking anything for it lovie?

KIA: Nothing they can do my dear. I have even had to give up my motorbike and sidecar. Couldn't get on it you see

SW: Shame

KIA: I said to the wife, I said. I'm afraid that's it, no more of that, it will have to go.

SW: Was she upset?

KIA: No she took it very well. She said not to worry. I had not had my leg over in years and it was only getting mildew growing on it

MSG: (GETS UP TO EXIT, STARTS TO PASS EVERYONE)
Excuse me etc

MWF: (ENTERS CARRYING HOTDOG, COKE WITH STRAW)
excuse me etc

MSG AND MWF MEET IN THE MIDDLE, EVERYONE STOOD UP, CONFUSION. WORK OUT SOME BUSINESS. HOTDOG ENDS UP STUCK OUT OF SOMEBODY'S SHIRT ETC

SW: (TO MSG AS HE PASSES) Don't worry dear I'm sure she will turn up or he will

MSG: She. She said she'd be here at quarter to (EXITS)

SW: I like these best

ELLIOT: What's that?

SW: The adverts. Best bit

MWF: (SLURPS HIS COKE DRINK)

ELLIOT: I know what you mean. I like the old ones

SW: (SINGS) A million housewives everyday pick up a tin of beans and say...

ELLIOT & MWF: Beans means Heinz

KIA: I think you'll find the advert voted the best ever was the one with the alien robots

ELLIOT: I know the one, (DOES THE METALY VOICE) on your last trip did you discover what the Earth people eat

SW: (PULLING A POTATO OUT OF HER SHOPPING BAG AND HOLDING IT UP.) Yes, they eat a great deal of these

OTHERS CHUCKLE

SW: First they peel them with their metal knives

OTHERS CHUCKLE, SLIGHTLY MORE

SW: Then they boil them for twenty of their minutes

INCREASED LAUGHTER

SW: Then they smash them all to bits

HYSTERICAL LAUGHTER.
FOLLOWED BY A LOUD
SSSSSHHHHHH OFF STAGE

SW: Oh dear I think we got a bit carried away there

ELLIOT: Ooops!

MSG: (ENTERS) 'scuse me etc

ALL STAND IN TURN. BUSINESS
CAN BE IMPROVISED AS
NECESSARY

SW: Still no sign dear?

MSG: No. I can't think where she's got to. I told her Thursday, quarter to

SW: Thursday?

MSG: I think I said Thursday. I had had a bit to drink.

SW: I thought it was Wednesday?

ELLIOT: No it's Thursday today, I think it is anyway

KIA: I keep thinking it's Tuesday

SW: Are you sure dear only...

ELLIOT: Ooo! Ooo! The films starting

ALL SETTLE DOWN TO WATCH

**MUSIC: J'AIT AIM OR OTHER
SUITABLE ADULT MOVIE MUSIC**

ALL STARE AT THE SCREEN.
ALL TILT HEAD IN UNISON TO
THE LEFT SIDE AS IF
FOLLOWING THE ACTION AND
THEN BACK TO THE RIGHT

MSG: (SUDDENLY LEAPS TO HIS FEET) Sharron?

LIGHTS: BLACKOUT

CLOSE TABS

END