PROFESSOR PEDANTO ON
“CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG”

A Radio/Stage Play

By

Eric Coble
PEDANTO ON “CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG”  
By Eric Coble

RUDMAN

(APPLAUSE)

PEDANTO
THANK YOU. ALWAYS A PLEASURE, I’M SURE.

RUDMAN
SO HOW IS THE WORLD OF SCHOLARLY INTERPRETATION TREATING YOU, PROFESSOR?

PEDANTO
EXTREMELY WELL. I JUST RETURNED FROM A MUSICAL THEATRE CONFERENCE IN BELGIUM, WHERE I SAT ON A PANEL EXPLORING THE STRIKING PARALLELS BETWEEN “RICHARD III” AND “YOU’RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN”.

RUDMAN
CAN’T SAY I’VE NOTICED THOSE.

PEDANTO
WELL, ACTUALLY OF MORE INTEREST I FOUND WAS MY PAPER ON THE SUBLIMATED HOMOSEXUAL THEMES IN “ANNIE”.

RUDMAN
WHAT?

PEDANTO
OH, PLEASE. DON’T PRETEND YOU HAVEN’T NOTICED.

RUDMAN
I’M NOT PRETENDING.

PEDANTO
“THE SON WILL COME OUT. TOMORROW”. CLEARLY A YEARNING TO CLAIM ONE’S TRUE SEXUAL ORIENTATION, BUT PUT OFF YET AGAIN FOR FEAR OF SOCIAL REPRISAL–

RUDMAN
RIGHT, RIGHT, RIGHT. BUT YOUR NEW BOOK CONCERNS “CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG”? 
YES, WELL, CONTRARY TO POPULAR (MISTAKEN) OPINION, THIS FAMILY CLASSIC IS NOT MERELY THE WHIMSICAL ADVENTURE OF A FLYING CAR. IT’S AN EXAMINATION OF THE UNITED STATES’ SCHIZOPHRENIC RESPONSE TO THE LOOMING OIL SHORTAGE.

IT’S ALL RIGHT THERE IN THE TITLE SONG: “CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG, CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG, CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG, CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG”.

CLEARLY THE CURRENT OIL ECONOMY IS PALTERING, STUMBLING, THE MACHINERY ITSELF BEGINS TO COLLAPSE WITH AN ONOMATOPOEITIC “CHITTY CHITTY CHITTY” SOUND. AND THEN “BANG! BANG!” THE SOUND OF OIL DRILLS FINALLY HITTING DRY ROCK AS THERE IS NO OIL LEFT TO PUMP.


SOUNDS LIKE IT.

AND YET THEY REALIZE THE UNTENABLE PARADOX OF S.U.V. LOVE: “CHITTY BANG BANG, CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG, CHITTY BANG BANG, CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG!”

(BILL SHAKES HIS HEAD “NO...”)
‘CHITS’ IN THIS INSTANCE REFERRING TO THE MARKERS OUR NATION MUST PUT DOWN BIDDING ON THE PRICE OF FOREIGN OIL -- AND OF COURSE “BANG BANG!” -- THE VIOLENCE AND WARFARE THAT WILL BREAK OUT AS NATION BATTLES NATION TO CLAIM WHAT DWINDLING SUPPLIES ARE LEFT. “CHITTY... CHITTY... BANG! BANG!”

RUDMAN

WHO KNEW?

PEDANTO

I KNEW! AND IAN FLEMING KNEW! CLEARLY HE FORESAW OUR CURRENT CRISIS FORTY YEARS AGO! AND OBVIOUSLY THE TERM “CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG” ITSELF REFERS TO THE ANCIENT TIMALEAN PHRASE “CHILI CHILI BOON BOON”, WHICH ROUGHLY TRANSLATES AS “I AM PAYING TOO MUCH AT THE PUMP” OR “MY CAR IS BIGGER THAN YOUR HOUSE”. IT’S ALL RIGHT THERE IN THE SONG.

RUDMAN

I’M FLABBERGASTED.

PEDANTO

THERE’S MORE FLABBERGASTATION WHERE THAT CAME FROM. FOR INSTANCE, THE PRICE OF MY BOOK -- A PHENOMENALLY LOW $39.95 FROM HARCOURT PRESS!

RUDMAN

THEN WHAT’S NEXT? MAYBE MARY POPPINS IS A SYMBOL OF WIND POWER USED FOR CHILD CARE?

PEDANTO

NOW YOU’RE JUST BEING STUPID. BUT I CAN TELL YOU THIS: THE FAMILY WITH THE CAR DOES REALIZE WHAT ACTIONS THEY MUST TAKE TO MAINTAIN THEIR OIL HABIT: “CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG, WHAT WE’LL DO! NEAR CHITTY, FAR CHITTY” -- CLEARLY REFERRING TO DOMESTIC OIL DRILLING AS WELL AS OVERSEAS SUPPLIES. BUT ONCE THEY HAVE EMBARKED ON THIS PERILOUS COURSE, ARE THEY CONCERNED? “IN OUR MOTOR CAR, OH WHAT A HAPPY TIME WE’LL SPEND.” WINDOWS UP, CD AND AIR CONDITIONING BLARING, THEY CAN’T BE BOTHERED!

RUDMAN

WELL, THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER EYE-OPENING PRESENTATION, PROFESSOR--

PEDANTO

THERE’S MORE! DON’T YOU WANT TO HEAR HOW “TOOT SWEET” AND “TRULY SCRUMPTIOUS” ARE INDICTMENTS OF OUR CURRENT OBESITY EPIDEMIC?

RUDMAN

ANOTHER TIME. THANK YOU, PROFESSOR ERUDITE L. PEDANTO!

(APPLAUSE)