ACT I

Scene 4

DOROTHY'S DRESSING ROOM. PAT DENNING sitting at dressing table as MAC carries PEGGY to chaise with BILLY following. Through following, KIDS exit leaving JULIAN, ANDY, BERT and OSCAR at upstage piano.

BILLY
Easy! Okay, set her down.

PAT
What happened?

MAC
One of the kids fainted. Par for the course on a Julian Marsh show. Get 'er some water, will ya?
(To BILLY)
And you'd better get back out there before the Boss starts yelling for you.

BILLY
When she comes to, tell her I'll be back as soon as I get a break! The name's Lawlor, Billy Lawlor.

MAC
(As THEY exit)
Yeah, come on, Billy.

(A moment, and PEGGY opens her eyes)

PAT
You all right?

PEGGY
I guess I fainted.

PAT
Good guess.

PEGGY
(Begins to stand)
But I guess I'm all right now....

(PAT catches PEGGY as her knees buckle)

PAT
Bad guess. Now, let me be the doctor for awhile. What you need is some rest.

PEGGY
But the rehearsal isn't over.

PAT
Oh yes it is, young lady. For you, anyway. Now as your doctor, my first prescription is for you to sit on this chaise.
(PEGGY protests, HE helps her)
That's it. And as your doctor, my second prescription is for you to get those legs up.

DOROTHY
(At dressing room door as PAT lifts PEGGY'S legs onto chaise)
And I'll bet I know what your third prescription is!

PAT
Dorothy, I didn't expect you till....

DOROTHY
(Entering)
It's quite obvious you didn't expect me....Doctor!

PAT
Darling, she fainted and they brought her in here till she came to.

DOROTHY
And since when is my dressing room an emergency ward for every clumsy chorine who throws a little fainting act? Now get her out of here before I prescribe some medication she won't like so much!

PEGGY
Please, Miss Brock, I....

DOROTHY
(By now quite loud)
You shut up! And if my prescription upsets you, Doctor, you can just get out with her!

JULIAN
(Hearing the noise, crossing to dressing room)
What the hell is going on here? I'm trying to conduct a rehearsal on that stage....Who are you?

PAT
My name is Pat Denning, Mr. Marsh. I was a guest of Miss Brock's.

JULIAN
Well, beat it. Miss Brock's official gentleman friend happens to be in the house and I don't want him to get any funny ideas.

(A knock at dressing room door)