

Apollo Performer side

38

As the applause continues a piece flies in denoting the wings of the Apollo theatre.

THE WINGS: APOLLO THEATRE HARLEM

The backstage area is formed of several sets of drape legs which form a line across the stage. This creates a large empty wing-space. The stage is Off SL

Upstage of the split curtain we hear the PERFORMER talking to an imaginary audience off stage left.

SX: of audience clapping Off SL

PERFORMER: (VO) Thank you thank you very much. And now I'd like to introduce you to a new act here at the Apollo who has made a great impact since his appearance on amateur night. Let's have a big Apollo welcome for Mr Denzel Jefferson Macaulay.

SX: big Raucous round of applause Off SL for Denzel. In the background we hear Denzel singing 'True Love' throughout the following:

A white DJ, who has a mic which is linked to a portable tape recorder, is backstage. He talks into his mic.

DJ: Testing, testing, One two three....

The two PERFORMERS enter from the stage. One of them hears the DJ and switches on some light.

DJ: Hello again boppers, I'm backstage at the Apollo in Harlem New York hot on the trail of the up coming group called Buddy Holly and the Crickets

The PERFORMER walks across to the DJ and stares at him. The SECOND PERFORMER slowly follows.

DJ: Hi... you got a problem?

PERFORMER: Yeah, how the hell did you get in here man?

DJ: I walked.

PERFORMER: Then you can walk right out again.

DJ: No....I'm here to interview Buddy Holly for my radio show.

PERFORMER: (Laughs) You're wasting your time. There's no way the Crickets will want to talk to you, white boy, no way no how... so hit the road Jack.

DJ: I'll stay if you don't mind.

JOE, JERRY and the 4TH CRICKET enter SL -
the PERFORMER sees them and double takes.

PERFORMER: It's an epidemic.

DJ: Hi fellas, where's Buddy?

JOE: He's coming.

The PERFORMER walks over to the Crickets
and stares at them.

JOE: (To PERFORMER) What you lookin' at man?

PERFORMER: I ain't lookin' - I'm staring! You got business here man?

JERRY: Sure have - we're on next.

PERFORMER: You! You are going out there!

JERRY: Yeah.

The PERFORMERS burst out laughing.

JERRY: What's so funny?

PERFORMER: You guys are jiving me right, the Crickets are on next.

JOE: That's us - we're the Crickets!

PERFORMER: You're a Cricket!!!

JOE: Sure I'm a Cricket, he's a Cricket an' he's a Cricket too.

PERFORMERS: (Mimic) I'm a Cricket, he's a Cricket, he's a Cricket too.

They laugh.

PERFORMER: Well if you're a Cricket... what colour's Buddy Holly....?

BUDDY moves quickly on and past the PERFORMER, on his way to the DJ.

PERFORMER: (Squeaks)white!

The PERFORMERS laughs.

JERRY: What's the matter with y'all man?

The PERFORMER looks towards the stage area, then back at the CRICKETS

PERFORMER: You guys are gonna get...

He thinks better of warning them.

PERFORMER: ... nuthin', nuthin' at all.

BUDDY is wearing a black suit and carries his guitar. He now wears all black curved frame glasses. BUDDY will get nervous as the PERFORMERS cross to him and stare.

DJ: Buddy, ready to go?

BUDDY: Sure.

DJ: I've done the intro so it's just straight in.

BUDDY: Ok.

DJ: (Turns on the tape) Hi Buddy.

BUDDY: Hi.

DJ: How are you?

BUDDY: Fine.

DJ: Good to see you again old Buddy.

BUDDY: Oh huh.

DJ: Gee the last time I saw you were in the middle of your last tour.

BUDDY: Back in the summer weren't it?