

THE FANTASTICKS

Henry
(OLD ACTOR)
Monologue

HENRY: Don't look at us like we are, sir. Please. Remove ten pounds of road dust from these ag-ed wrinkled cheeks. See make-up, caked, in glowing powder pink! Imagine a beard, full blown and blowing, like the whiskers of a bear! And hair! Imagine hair. In a box I've got all colors, so I beg you — imagine hair! And not these clothes. Oh no, no, no. Dear God, not rags like any beggar has. But see me in a doublet! Mortimer, fetch the doublet.

(MORTIMER sheathes him in a worn out doublet which he has hurriedly retrieved from the Trunk.)

There — Imagine! It's torn; I know — forget it. It vanishes under light. That's it! That's the whole trick; try to see me under light! I recite! Say a cue. You'll see. I'll know it. Go on. Say one. Try me.