

## **September 26, 1932\***

Jack Benny announces that its “Russian Night” on the program. He and, Ethel Shutta, George Olsen and Mary Livingston crack jokes and make puns with Russian themes. Their skit “Chow Service” parodies the popular “Chauvre Souris” Russian music and dance revue that toured the US in the 1920s.

\*This episode is the “pandemic special.” The UCLA special collections library was closed for many months and I was unable to access this script, which should have been included in Volume Two.

**STATION WJZ**                      **PROGRAM**   **CANADA DRY GINGER ALE, INC.**  
**AND**                                **DATE**        **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1932.**  
**BLUE NETWORK**                **TIME**        **9:30 – 10:00 P.M.**  
**SIGNATURE – JOLLY GOOD COMPANY**

<b>1. PINK ELEPHANTS</b>	<b>ORCHESTRA</b>
<b>2. COME WEST LITTLE GIRL</b>	<b>ETHEL SHUTTA</b>
<b>3. THANKSGIVING</b>	<b>GARDNER</b>
<b>4. JUST COULDN'T SAY GOODBYE</b>	<b>ETHEL SHUTTA</b>
<b>5. FIDDLE FOR THE CZAR</b>	<b>FRAN FREY</b>

**SIGNATURE – ROCKABYE MOON**

**CANADA DRY GINGER ALE INC.**        **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1932.**

**SIGNATURE --- JOLLY GOOD COMPANY**

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen, another half hour of sparkling entertainment about Canada Dry – the champagne of ginger ales - now available by the glass at soda fountains as well as in bottles for the home. You'll find the new, large size bottle very economical and particularly convenient for home use.

Once more we present George Olsen, Ethel Shutta and Jack Benny the Canada Dry humorist, who will perform for your enjoyment. George Olsen opens the program with "PINK ELEPHANTS."

## 1. PINK ELEPHANTS

## ORCHESTRA

ANNOUNCER

And now, folks, sit back, close your eyes, relax – and we will bring Russia to you without causing you any inconvenience.

(ORCHESTRA PLAYS LIVELY RUSSIAN TUNE)

JACK BENNY

Hello, aerial neighbors ...you guessed it. This is Russian Night, poneymi perusky, hmmm? ... or don't you speak Russian? Well, this is Jack-owski Benn-o-vitch speaking....Are you listening-ski? What a night! I am wearing a Russian wolf coat ...the wolf came to the door and I took his coat....Olsen and his Cossacks are sitting here with sabers....and Ethel is drinking a glass of vodka – water to you...hm-hm, get it?....I asked George to help us out on Russian Night, and he hasn't shaved for five days...which is a saving of a dollar and a quarter...not counting the nickel tips.

HICKS

And don't forget, folks –

JACK

Hicks, leave Russia at once.

GEORGE OLSEN

Say, Jack, I heard what you said....I shave myself, and I've loaned you many safety razor blades.

JACK

I know, George, but by the time I get them, they are certainly safe.... You can stand them up and walk on them barefooted....You know, folks, that before Olsen shaves himself, he runs five miles so he can work up a lather ...He gets more mileage out of a razor blade--

GEORGE

Well, at least I don't borrow them.

JACK

This is Jack Benny giving up.... See how nice Russian Night is starting!....And it isn't half Soviet .... Hmmm, I thought I scratched that line out...Say, George, is that a Russian hat you've got on – or do you need a haircut?

You've said enough...Say, for five cents I'd punch you right in the nose.

Yeah?...but where can you get five cents these days?

You can get five cents back on any large Canada Dry bottle.

Yes – this is Russian Night.... And that was Nicholas Backowski Hicks...

(in Russian) Motashka noska emmscray.

What was that?

(repeats) Motashka noska emmscray.

Oh! eemscray.... That's Pig Russian, folks....it means "good with ice cream." And now we'll start this great night of ours with the customary introductions. We have here the Who's Who and the How Come of Russia. Of course a few people sneaked in from Poland and Manchuria... but there's a leakage in every business... So first, I take great pleasure in introduction that famous dancing trio who just finished a successful engagement at the Cotton-ski Club in Harlemania....

They are Hotsky, Totsky and Trotsky... and very Hotsky...Say something, boys!

FRAN, RALPH AND BALDWIN    Hey!

Thanks, boys – what music do you want?

The Odessa song.

How does it go?

(sings) Odessa song at twilight... but play it fast and make it a different tune.

I see – all right, George. Give it to them.

(ORCHESTRA GOES INTO FAST RUSSIAN CZARDAS)

FRAN, RALPH & BALDWIN (AD LIB) hey!...hey! ....

(STAMPING OF FEET)

You ought to see how they kick their heels in the air.

Ouch!

Olsen got in the way of that one....Well, that just adds a little spice to the program.

FRAN, RALPH AND BALDWIN Hey!...Hey!....Hey!....

JACK All right, boys – that’s enough.

FRAN, RALPH AND BALDWIN Hey!...Hey!...

GEORGE Hey, Ethel!

ETHEL Hey! Fran!

FRAN Hey, Mary!

BALDWIN Hey, Taxi!

SADYE Hey, Hotcha!

FRAN, RALPH AND BALDWIN Hey!...Hey!....Hey!....

(CONTINUING OVER FOLLOWING SPEECH BUT IN DISTANCE)

JACK Don’t mind them, folks...At this time of the year the boys suffer a little from hay fever....And now, while the janitor sweeps out the hay, George Olsen-off and his sleigh riders will play, “COME WEST, LITTLE GIRL, COME WEST,” sung by Natsha Shutta – Ethel to me.

## 2. COME WEST, LITTLE GIRL, COME WEST ORCHESTRA AND ETHEL SHUTTA (ORCHESTRA PLAYS RUSSIAN CZARDAS)

JACK BENNY This is Jack Benny-o-vitch again... who just had the Russian dancers deported. Maybe I should have sent the whole program back ... Well, we shall see what we shall see. We have several celebrities here and can’t very well throw them out. But it’s no use talking – Russia is a great country ...Everybody is working there. Of course, nobody gets paid – but they’re all working....I have an uncle who came over from Russia three years ago, and as soon as he arrived in this country, he got a job as master of ceremonies – until he could speak English, the fool!... Well, our show must go on....Say, who do you think just walked in here? ... a man you’ve all been reading about and a big figure in the coming election in Vladivostok... You guess it! The Honorable Franklin-owski D. Roosha-velt....Hello, Rooshy!...Hello, Charlotte!...A little bashful – he won’t talk...I fact, he isn’t even here...Say, who started this Russian Night, anyway?

(SOUND EFFECT: WATER MACHINE IN DISTANCE)

JACK Well, folks, another surprise!...Who is this coming down the River?

(RALPH ASHE HUMS “VOLGA BOATMAN” SONG IN DISTANCE)

JACK Nobody else but the Vulgar Boatman... A little late, but here he is....

(HUMMING GETS LOUDER – WATER MACHINE LOUDER)

RALPHE ASHE

(SINGS IN RUSSIAN)

Ah – Ah yooch nim....

Ah – Ah yooch nim...

Yas chavrazyah

Ah – Yooch nim...

JACK

(SYMPATHETICALLY) Aw, what's the matter?

RALPH

(HUMS SONG SOFTLY)

JACK

The poor fellow... (STARTS TO SING)

Canada Dry ---

Canada Dry –

Sold at all fountains,

And good with ice cream...

RALPH

(SINGS) That's what I mean....

JACK

(SINGS) And good with ice cream...

JACK & RALPH TOGETHER (HUM LAST THREE MEASURES)

JACK

All right, Vulgie – tie your boat over there...to that post...No, no – that's Hicks! Over there, to that post...

Tell us, Vulgie, where did you get the reputation for being a Vulgar boatman?

RALPH

(RUSSIAN) Pana plasna von kahoodya komda noy pa joosh.

JACK

Careful what you say, Vulgie...this is a radio program.

RALPH

No – pana plasna beyosh Canadya Dry.

JACK

What was that you said?

RAPLH

pana plasna beyosh Canadya Dry.

JACK

I mean those last two words.

RALPH Canadya Dry.

JACK (IMITATING HIM) Oh! Canadya Dry! ....You're on the wrong program. You came up the East River. You should have come up the Hudson....Now, tell me – where did you just come from?

RALPH Padeshva trosk padanya manya.

JACK Oh! Detroit! And what were you doing up there?

RALPH Neeetsa vola.

JACK You, you beat Garwood in the boat race! What did you make it in ?

RALPH (GROANS) Ugh!

JACK Is that so? 132 miles an hour?...Well, well...

RALPH Panks padeshva manya kadockis.

JACK (LAUGHS) I'll say!

RALPH (VERY LOUD) Panya kaya.

JACK You're telling me!...now tell me, Vulgie – why is it whenever anybody sees you, they're always pulling a rope?

RALPH (WITH ACCENT) You vant I should spik Hainglish?

JACK Now you will.

RALPH Well, for twenty years – for twenty years – I have been pulling this rope, without missing one day.

JACK Why do you pull that rope?

RALPH I've often wondered.

JACK Well, Vulgie, you certainly know your ropes!

(SOUND EFFECT: BOAT WHISTLE)

(FOLLOWED BY WATER SPLASH)

(RALPH ASHE STARTS HUMMING “VOLGA BOATMAN”)

JACK Do you have to go now?

RALPH The Volga calls me – I mos-gow.

(CONTINUES TO HUM –

BUT STOPS ON JACK BENNY'S CUE "BEAUTIFUL PICTURE")

JACK                        There he goes up the river, folks....what a beautiful picture... a patch of blue sky overhead...the rippling water in the moonlight...  
Why do they call him the Vulgar Boatman?

RALPH'S VOICE (IN DISTANCE) I've often wondered....

JACK                                I thought you were gone?

(STARTS TO SING)

And now George Olsen will play

The next number,

And it will be sung by Hotcha

While I go out and smoke.

## 5, THANKSGIVING

## ORCHESTRA AND GARDNER

(ORCHESTRA PLAYS RUSSIAN CZARDAS INTRODUCTION)

JACK BENNY                      Ladies and gentlemen, we have with us this evening our own Art company, and tonight we will present that restaurant play called “Chow Service.”

ETHEL Jack, that's pronounced "Chauve Souris."<sup>1</sup>

JACK                      Not this play, Ethel...this is our own company. The original production was successful presented in New York by the great impresario, Mr. Morris Chair. Now for the benefit of those of you who did not see this play, let me give you a rough idea of the plot –

Vonya, the pretty daughter of that well-known Russian farmer, Si Beria...is tired of hanging out with the home-town rubles of the farm...and the hill-bill-o-vitches..so one morning – as she went to Mos-Cow to get a pail of milk...she thought things over and said to herself, “I’m a big city girl and have no business milk-o-vitching a cow-o-vitch.... Its really cow to you, but I’m just keeping you in the

1 *La Chauve-Souris* (French: *The Bat*) was the name of a touring revue during the early 1900s-1920s. Originating in Moscow and then Paris, and directed by Nikita Balieff, the revue toured the United States, Europe, and South Africa. The show consisted of songs, dances, and sketches, most of which had been originally performed in Russia. The revue was enormously successful in the U.S.



Russian atmosphere...so she threw away her paid – went back to the house – and tuned in on WJZ-o-vitch...and who was on but that famous crooner, Russ-ia Columb-off...Oh, how he can croon-o-vitch, thought she-o-vitch...so she immediately sat down and wrote him, telling of her love – also o-vitch...Her father- hearing of this- put his foot down... and what else happened, you will hear for yourself as the play unfolds...Personally, I'd rather be at the Fight tonight!

Now let me introduce the Russian Art Players to you. What a bunch of boys! ....all with full-sized beards – and should be welcome on any mattress program....

The players are as follows: George Olsen-off....Fran Frey-off... Coat-off...Pants-offf..Rubin-offf Ten per Cent-off...Saturday Afternoon-off...Old Sign-off, sign-off, by the way, he was a former radio star from Station Avec-from Mere....

The lead will be played by Si Beria's brother, Wallace Beria...the part of Vonya, by Ethel Shutt-owski...late of the Minsky Opera Company in Times Square-o-grad..the lover, by the famous Russian actor, Clark Sable..and the villain, by Ivan Awful-itch...from Green-itch...Vill-itch... are you scratching, hmmm? Ivan had the seven-year itch, but scratched it out in three years...What a man! – what a joke!

And now George, will you play the next number while we set the stage-o-vitch for the play-o-vitch? ...or vitch is vitch? I don't know...This play will start immediately after the next number without warning.

SEGUE INTO—

#### 4. JUST COULDN'T SAY GOODBYE

(OLSEN MAKES HIS ANNOUNCEMENT)

(ORCHESTRA PLAYS FEW MEASURES OF 'OCHECHANA')

(SOUND EFFECT: WIND)

(VIOLIN PRACTICE STARTS AND CONTINUES UNTIL WORD CUE: "OFF TO BED")

(FOUR CHIMES)

ETHEL                                      Ten o'clock...what a night! Rubinoff, my child – stop practicing your violin and canter off to bed.

JACK BENNY                              (HIGH PITCHED VOICE) Yes, momsky – good night.

ETHEL                                      Good-night, darling.

(WIND EFFECT)

Ohhh! What a night – and Ivan isn't home yet.

(WIND EFFECT LOUDER-

WE HEAR THREE KNOCKS ON DOOR – KNOCKS REPEATED)

Who is there? WHO IS THERE?

JACK'S VOICE                              (FROM DISTANCE) It's Boris.

ETHEL                                      Boris who?

JACK'S VOICE                              Boris Plaster....

(MORE WIND EFFECT)

ETHEL                                      Ah, Boris! What is your mission here on a night like this?

JACK'S VOICE                              I came to tear a herring with Ivan – your husband.

ETHEL                                      But Ivan isn't home yet.

JACK'S VOICE                              Then I shall wait – Can I come in?

ETHEL                                      I wouldn't leave a dog out on a night like this.

JACK'S VOICE                              Woof! ...Woof!...

ETHEL                                      Come in.

(WIND EFFECT – FOLLOWED BY DOOR SLAM)

JACK    (FULL VOICE)              What a night!

ETHEL                                      What a wind!

JACK                                      Must be Ed Wind....Well, I'll remove my boots and sit by the fire..  
Where is the fire?

ETHEL                                      We have no fire.

JACK                                      But we're supposed to have one, Ethel.....Boy! The fire.

(CELLOPHANE EFFECT)

I'll just sit here a while and thaw out. Where is Ivan?

ETHEL                      He went to Hoboken-grad to bring back our daughter, Vonya...She's stepping out with Nicholai of the Royal Family.

JACK                          Not Czar-face Nicholai.

ETHEL                      Yes, Boris.

JACK                                  Hmmmmm.

ETHEL Can I make you a sandwich?

[illegible]

ETHEL                                I'll caviar-a sandwich.

JACK                      Why couldn't I think of that line?...Oh, well what a night! WHAT A NIGHT!.....

(SOUND EFFECTS MAN – SUDDENLY REMEMBERING CUE)

Oh!

(WIND EFFECT)

(SLEIGH BELLS IN DISTANCE)

ETHEL                                    Ah, listen – sleigh bells...someone is coming. I wonder who it can be?

JACK                      Its Christmas – that’s only a month off.

(SLEIGH BELLS LOUDER)

[illegible]

JACK                      Not bring Nicholai-back on the bottle!

ETHEL                         No- Nicholai-back on the sled!

JACK I know, Ethel – but a little boost here doesn't hurt.

ETHEL Ivan looks very mad...Here they are! (WIND EFFECT). Open the door, Boris!

(DOOR SLAM – NOISE OF PEOPLE ENTERING)

OLSEN                      Into the house with you...you good-for-nothing...I have business to settle with both of you.

ETHEL Darling – don't be harsh....Remember! they are but children.

GEORGE                      Away, woman! Now, Vonya, you are no longer a daughter of mine. I told you not to go out with Czar-face Nicholai – Vonya! You must leave my house at once.

JACK Ivan! You just brought her home and now you're throwing her out.

GEORGE I brought her home to throw her out. ..Go, Vonya!

JACK Wait, Ivan! If you don't Vonya...I vonya...Vonya, sit down by the fireside and von your feet.

SADYE Oh, Boris! I think you're swell.

JACK Mary, get off the stage!

GEORGE You stay out of this, Boris...I varn-ya not to butt in with Vonya.

JACK Oh, you vanya fight- eh?

GEORGE Quiet! everybody...And you, Nicholai...I told you to stay away from my daughter....At last I caught you together – drinking. And what were you drinking?

GEORGE HICKS Why, Canada Dry Ginger Ale, made-to-order....

EVERYBODY (AD LIBBING) Why Hicks...Hicks!!! I didn't know you were in the sketch...etc. etc....Oh, hello Hicks....

HICKS Hello, everybody

JACK Curtain!...curtain!...All right, George.

SEGUE INTO

**6. I PLAY FIDDLE FOR THE CZAR                      ORCHESTRA & FRAN FREY**  
 (OLSEN MAKES HIS OWN ANNOUNCEMENT)

JACK That was the last number of the forty-third program on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September. And, by the way, we just got the results of the Schmeling-Walker fight... but we're not going to tell you until Wednesday night. You'll have to wait until Wednesday to find out the winner... so be sure to listen in. And no fair looking in the papers tomorrow...

SADYE Jack – Oh, Jack!...

JACK Yes, Mary.

SADYE Thanks for giving me such a big part in the sketch.

JACK Oh, that's all right, Mary... but where were you while we were playing it?

SADYE Well, during the first part of the sketch, I was sitting on the divan with Ivan...then later I went outside in the cold and snow...but it was awfully hot out there, so I came back in again.

JACK Well, I suppose if I asked to take you home tonight, you'd say you had another date.

SADYE Who told you?

JACK I knew it.

SADYE I've got a date with – oh, I don't want to tell you.

JACK Tell me, Mary – with whom are you going home?

SADYE Oh – somebody!

JACK Who?

(RALPH ASHE'S VOICE HEARD HUMMING "VOLGA BOATMAN")

JACK I see, Mary.

SADYE No, no..I haven't got a date with him. He's taking Hotcha and me home.

JACK I didn't know you could get to Plainfield by boat.

SADYE WHAT BOAT?... Why, he has the most beautiful car you've ever seen...Good-night, Jack....Come on, Hotcha.

JACK Say, George, I don't like that Hotcha....he's a nice fellow and all that, but—but....

GEORGE I get it, Jack.

JACK Good-night, George.

ANNOUNCER The next time you stop at a soda fountain for a refreshing drink, ask for a glass of Canada Dry, the Champagne of Ginger Ales – it will be made-to-order for you and costs only five cents for a regular glass or ten cents for an extra-large glass. Remember, too, that with the exception of a few localities where freight charges do not permit, you can take back your Canada Dry bottles to the dealer and get a cash refund,. So that now when you buy Canada Dry you pay for the contents only. Next Wednesday night at this same time. Jack Benny, Ethel Shutta and George Olsen will again entertain you. This is the National Broadcasting Company.

