



Erasmus+



*“The European ABC” in Spain – Feb. 2018:*

*Micro-Theatre Bendinat/Mallorca*

## “A Scandal in the Supermarket”

*By German “ABC”- team, BBS Syke Europaschule*



Supermarket ABC logo (Jules)

## Cast:

Cashier:	Tinashe (Zimbabwe)
Mrs Chantal Smith	Celine (Germany)
Mr Angelo Smith	Toni (Spain)
Ms Caroline Golding	Jana (Germany)
Jafar Hussein	Jamil (Syria)
Mrs Irene Adler	Anne (Germany)
Mrs Harriet Brown	Carly (Germany)
Mickey the Pickpocket	Hanan (Germany, of Syrian origin)

Directors:	Mrs Sauer, Mrs Struthoff
Artistic Support:	Mrs Artelt-Marquart
Script:	Students, Mrs Paterkiewicz
Logo:	Jules (Germany)
Pictures:	Riza (Afghanistan)

*First performed at Micro-Theatre Performance at IES Bendinat, Mallorca 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2018*



# “A Scandal in the Supermarket”

## INTRODUCTION

*A supermarket “ABC” somewhere in Europe. The cashier is sitting at the cash and talks directly to the audience. In the background we can see different people with shopping baskets in different positions. But they do not move while the cashier is speaking to the audience. The cashier is wearing a typical supermarket uniform with the ABC-logo and her name on a name-sign.*



The cashier Tinashe

### Cashier:

“Hello, **dear** audience. I am Tinashe ... and will tell you of the **scandal** in this supermarket, a **completely** normal supermarket somewhere in Europe. There are our **customers**: ... Mrs Chantal Smith. She owns a beauty parlour in the main street and thinks she knows

everything but her business does not really go well . She is together with her husband Angelo. ... And over there are **Mrs Irene Adler**, a bored elderly lady who is very interested in the town's **gossip** and beside her her neighbour Mrs Harriet Brown, a **quiet** lady who is basically worried with her health. ... Right over there, you can see a **beautiful** young couple obviously very much in love. The girl is **Caroline Golding** and her boy-friend **from Syria** Jafar Hussein. .. Well, however, this evening was different. The talk, the gossip, the prejudices were the same as usual ...but just see for yourselves..."

**Cashier freezes, too.**

## **SCENE 1: PREJUDICES**

**Mickey the Pickpocket, young guy with hoodie, ear-phones starts moving slowly to the rhythm of "Despacito", looks around, makes a clever face, is in good mood. Sees some apples, takes a bite, and puts it back. Then freezes. Now two customers start moving.**

**Chantal Smith:**

*(overdressed, short sexy dress, high heels and kinky handbag - talking to her husband – a macho-style man, with open shirt, sun-glasses , oily hair, carrying a shopping basket full of unhealthy stuff – wine, make-up, crisps, sweets - seemingly he is not very intelligent. He is listening to his wife, but has got very little to say. She is loud and vulgar while she keeps complaining about all the international influences of the products. She touches everything and shows it to her husband ....)*

"Hey Angelo, **look** at this. Again all these **foreign** things, - look at all this pasta from **Italy** (*grabs a packet of pasta*). It'll make us **fat**. How can Italians eat spaghetti all day long? .... - **I don't know** (*sighs heavily*) - And here, this is very **strange!!** – Cabanosy from **Poland**... – How awful! Probably full of **garlic!!**

**Angelo Smith :**

*(Trying to be charming):* "Yes, my dear..."

**Chantal Smith:**

"And here – what – for **Goodness** sake – is **this ???** (*almost screams*) – Spanish **olives** – who on God's own Earth can eat **olives???** Spanish eat these things all the time... How **boring!!**

**Angelo Smith:**

*(getting desperate):* "Yes, my dear, but you remember our last holiday in Mallorca when you ate **kilos** of olives...."

**Chantal Smith:**

*(nose up, plays with her sun-glasses, completely ignoring her husband): “I only remember my horrible sunburn. (throws back her hair, shaking her head) “... Hey look, now **this tops the lot.** (now screaming) They even food from **Germany.!!!** Are they completely crazy? Oh no ... this is the end!!! **Sauerkraut** – just look at it – how awful ... this Europe is a cultural **disaster...***

**Angelo Smith looks embarrassed, head turned down - speechless. Both freeze.**

## **INTERIM:**

**Cashier**

*(talking to the audience) “Yes, it is always the same. This lady would probably **love** pasta from Italy, **olives** from Spain or **Cabanosy** from Poland, perhaps even **Sauerkraut** from Germany. These are the products **most** customers buy and **enjoy**. The diversity in food is a great **enrichment** to our culture, it is globalization in the **best** sense.... but some people cannot be helped.*

**Cashier freezes.**



Angelo Smith (Toni) and Jafar Hussein (Jamil) in front of Cabanosy poster

## SCENE 2: NEIGHBOURS' GOSSIP

*Mickey the Pickpocket appears again. He keeps looking around, with a cool and amused facial expression. Makes a mocking face at the Chantal Smith and Angelo. Then sneaks over to the shelves with body-care products. Opens a deodorant spray, smells at it and sprays it all over him, then puts it back. Then freezes.*

*Now the two neighbours, Irene Adler and Harriet Brown, start moving.*



The nasty neighbours (Anne and Carly)

**Irene Adler:**

*(elderly lady dressed wearing a funny hat, however, pretending to be happy to meet with Harriet Brown, and addresses her with false friendliness....)"Good evening, **Harriet** ... I haven't seen **you** in a while. How are you?"*

**Harriet Brown:**

*(elderly lady dressed nicely, also pretending to be happy to meet the neighbour)*

*"Oh hello, **Irene**. ... Is that a new **hat**?"*

**Irene Adler:**

*(Touching her hat):* “Well, not really. I’ve had it for almost 20 years . But these days it is so **cold** and windy and rainy, so I decided to put it on. This climate is just **awful**. We used to have beautiful summers when we were young.

**Harriet Brown:**

*(Trying to be polite )* “Yes, perhaps the climate is really changing. I’ve seen this documentary on television ... “

**Irene Adler:**

*(Interrupting and not interested really in what Harriet is saying. She has suddenly discovered a young couple who obviously are in love – both, nicely dressed, holding hands. )*

“ Hey, Harriet *(lowers her voice)*, **look** over there. Is that not the Caroline, daughter of Mrs Golding and her awful husband ... Oh dear, the girl has a **boy-friend** ... I did not know ... is she not a bit young, only 17? - Oh and look, he is not from here ... I bet her parents have no idea that Caroline is dating a boy from **another** country – maybe a **refugee** *(lowers her voice more, getting closer to Harriet’s ear, pointing at the young couple) .. thinking for a moment, makes clever face)* .... **Maybe**, I should go to her parents and **tell** them? Surely, they would **die** if they knew... What a **scandal**... !!!“

**Harriet Brown:**

*(She does not really like what she is hearing but tries to be compromising. She points at the young couple)* “But they seem to be **really** in love. Have you forgotten **your** husband - May he rest in peace - was a **foreigner**, too? “

***Irene does not listen anymore, she is staring at the young couple full of resentment . Both freeze and stay in the same position.***

## **INTERIM:**

**Cashier:**

“Yes, Mrs Irene Adler has **forgotten** that many years ago she married a young man, he was **poor** and came from a place far away. They were so **happy** together but he **died** very young . She has got **bitter** over the years alone and now she tries to find reasons to spoil the **happiness** of others. .. Prejudice and resentment often is only the result of people’s own **frustration**...”

***Then freezes.***

### **SCENE 3: YOUNG COUPLE IN LOVE**

**Mickey the Pickpocket starts moving around the shop – he becomes the running gag of the play – looks at some bottles in the shelves – then opens a bottle of energy drink – takes a sip – and puts it back again. Then freezes.**

**The young couple in love now start moving.**

**Caroline Golding:**

*(prettily dressed, modern in jeans and sneakers. She is looking at her boy-friend who is carrying a shopping basket with some vegetables ... She speaks in a low voice full of love.)*

“So, what **else** do we need, my love? - What a **wonderful** idea to cook a dinner for my parents tonight. They will be **overjoyed**. You know, of course, they really like you. I am so happy that they are so open-minded. ... – Anyway, what else do we need for a typical **international** dinner? Pasta from **Italy**? Olives from **Spain**? Cabanosy from **Poland** and perhaps some **beer** from Germany? ...- What do you think, sweetheart?”

**Jafar Hussein:**

*(casually dressed, jeans and sneakers. Looking at her with the same admiration)*

“Perhaps a bit of Falafel from **Afghanistan**? But I am not sure about the beer, personally, I prefer **coca-cola**,.. *(laughs)*- ... But, honestly, your parents are such **friendly** and open people... Hey, **look** *(grabs a box of chocolates with a big heart on the package)*. What about **this** for desert? Chocolate from **Switzerland**? A sweet surprise. What do you think, my love?”

**Carline Golding:**

*(happy, has only eyes for her boy-friend, smiling)*

“Of course ... we **love** chocolates. How lovely of you to think of that ...”

**All freeze .**

## **SCENE 4: THE REAL SCANDAL**

*Now Mickey the Pickpocket starts sneaking around again, gives Caroline an admiring smile, passes the couple and then slowly creeps up to Chantal Smith and sees some awful kinky sun-glasses on top of her hair. He grabs the sun-glasses and puts them on himself. Then sneaks into the back again.*



Mickey the Pickpocket (Hanan) stealing the sunglasses from Chantalle Smith (Celine).

*All start moving now. Irene Adler wants to put on her sun-glasses and realizes that they are gone and suddenly begins screaming:*

**Chantal Smith:**

*(Completely upset, realizing that her sun-glasses are missing) “Where are my **sun-glasses**???. I had them on my **head** ... Where **are** they???. My beautiful **expensive** sun-glasses!! (Looks around at the other customers, and accusingly points her finger at Jafar Hussein) It was **him**. Have you seen it???. (now screaming). It was the **foreigner**!! Who else??”*

*Irene Adler and Harriet Brown also point at Jafar.*

**Irene Adler:**

*(with arrogant voice) “**Yes**, it must have been him. Of course, I think I have **seen** him sneaking around you... Yes, the **more** I think about it – Yes, it was him. “*



All accuse Jamar (left to right: Celine, Toni, Jamar)

**All look at Jamar, pointing their fingers at him. They freeze. Only Mickey the Pickpocket slowly tries to open the door. But Jamar sees the sun-glasses and quickly follows the pickpocket. They start fighting a little bit. In the end, Jamar takes the sun-glasses and gives them back to Chantal Smith. Mickey quickly disappears. .**

**Jamar Hussein:**

*(in a sad voice):* “Here you are, madam. I am sorry for all the **hustle.**”

**Chantal, husband, neighbours are very embarrassed now, just pretend to be interested in more shopping. Caroline looks shocked and very sad, shakes her head.**

**All freeze.**

## **EPILOGUE**

**Cashier:**

“You have witnessed a scene **possible** in any supermarket in Europe with **good** people ... and **not** so good people. We should never judge others by their **looks** or their **origin**. All of us could be happier if there was **more respect** of each other, if there were **less racism** or **resentment**. ... Our differences make us **richer** because we can learn from each other, learn about **new cultures** and broaden our horizons. And in the end, isn't it **completely normal** ... *(pause)*- and **phantastic** *(pauses, smiles!)* ... that ....- **all** .. of us are ... **different?**”

***The End***



Final applause (left to right: Anne, Carly, Celine, Toni, Tinashe, Jana, Jamil, Hanan)