

SEVERAL AMUSING AND SOMETIMES THOUGHT-PROVOKING EPISODES ABOUT SOAPS

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SYNOPSIS

Any kind of joke contains a grain of truth in any joke, so does our radio-joke about soaps. Together with certain amusing stories there are some thought-provoking episodes, both from the nearest past and the present day as well. (Meetings mania, certain people's attitude towards culture, dreaming about a better future)

As for the names of soaps, in the Soviet Union all the soaps used to have their own names. After the Soviet symbols, for some reason, the soap manufacturers favored opera most of all. The soap "Carmen" used to be very popular, also the soaps "Tosca" and "Chio –Chio-San."

It was due to these soap names that the fantasy of the authors of the radio-play was directed to the free improvisation and encouraged them to mix up various music styles.

The music, characteristic to the wandering circus and buffoonery. The music stops as soon as the festive fanfares start playing.

PRESENTER: Ladies and gentlemen, we'd like to present several amusing and sometimes thought-provoking stories about soaps, the episodes about our nearest past and just imagine, about the present day as well, opera arias and unexpected as it might be, accompanied by rap. So we start travelling in the world of soaps. Episode One.

Some very well-known melody. In this case “The Dreams of Love” by Ferentz Liszt.

PRESENTER: (SENTIMENTAL INTONATIONS AND SOMETIMES FALSE PATHOS PREVAILS IN HIS VOICE) Ladies and Gentlemen! Attention, please! We start travelling in the world of the bars of soap, small bars of soap, wrapped in thin, multi-colored paper, beautiful bars of soap of different smell... Close your eyes and imagine a dream hotel, a dream bath,(THE SOUND OF SHOWER) a big mirror and underneath small bars of soap, lined on the shelf. Think about them, who they are, where they are from, where they are going, what worries them. They are like butterflies, aren't they? Their life is just as short and before you foam them up and put an end to them, caress them, love them! You can even sing to them! Yes, sing to them! Sing a jolly, lively song to them, let it be even from some Italian opera – it will be more impressive! (SINGS)

**ENÇAMBLE FROM THE OPERA “ LA TRAVIATA” BY VERDI,
PERFORMED**

SOME GOGGA: (stops the song) No! No! It is a sentimental nonsense... It's trite, we fight against clichés, stereotypes, moreover, who needs these terrible sentiments today. What has opera to do here! I can't stand opera. Neither me, nor

my buddies, we are only interested in the ordinary, everyday soap! Nothing else! And the principal thing is that you should know that in the world, in the developed civilized countries there are intelligent people, who think absolutely differently and they gain success as well.

PRESENTER: Episode Two. A market is a market everywhere.

Festive music. The ceremony of awarding the main prize at one of the festivals. Then the hullabaloo of the market, which is changed into the background noise of a meeting. Shouts are heard: Soap!...Soap!

OPPOSITIONER: We call upon everybody: Think of soap and give us information! The government that does not think of soap must resign!

SHOUTS: He must resign! He must resign!

A MEETING PARTICIPANT: Comrades! Yes, comrades! While we addressed one another like this we had a wonderful perfume, eau-de-Cologne and soap “Krasnaya

Moskva”! (“The Red Moscow”). That’s why we achieved great success! (BEGINS SINGING “SHIROKA STRANA MOYA RODNAYA”

SHOUTS: Go away! Go away!

PRESENTER: Episode Three – Soap Opera. Remember, if the water is turned off in the middle of taking a shower, a person will be left soaped all over.

THE SOUND OF THE SHOWER AND A WOMAN’S PLEASANT HUMMING. THE SHOWER NOISE STOPS AND THE GURGLING SOUND OF THE EMPTY PIPES IS HEARD.

ARANTA: Conchita! Conchita! (BANGS ON THE BATHROOM DOOR) What shall I do now? How can I be left all soaped up like this? (HYSTERICALLY) Conchita! Are you deaf? Can’t you hear me? Oh, I wish you knew how my eyes

hurt!

THE STEALTHY SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS.

ARANTA: (SCARED) Oh, what shall I do? Who can it be? Who's there?

THE MAN'S SARCASTIC LAUGHTER

ARANTA: Oh, it's you, Carlos! Aren't you ashamed? Why did you scare me like this? Why don't you go to bed?!

CARLOS: Have you prayed tonight, Aranta?

ARANTA: What may you mean by that?

CARLOS: If you bethink yourself of any crime Unreconciled as yet to heaven and grace Solicit for it straight I would not kill thy unprepared spirit.

ARANTA: Then heaven have mercy on me!

CARLOS: Amen, with all my heart!

ARANTA: If you say so, I hope you will not kill me.

CARLOS: Think of thy sins.

ARANTA: They are loves I bear to you.

CARLOS: Ay, and for that thou diest.

ARANTA: Here in the bathroom? At least bring some water to wash away this soap.

CARLOS: (GRITTING HIS TEETH) Hum-m-m!

ARANTA: Alas, why gnaw you so your nether lip?

CARLOS: That bar of soap which so I loved and gave thee, Thou gave'st to Don Pedro?

ARANTA: And are you going to kill me for that?

CARLOS: Exactly for that!

ARANTA: Kill me tomorrow, let me live tonight!

CARLOS: You try in vain.

ARANTA: But half an hour!

CARLOS: It can't be delayed!

ARANTA: But while I say one prayer?

CARLOS: It's too late!

SOME LATIN AMERICAN MELODY SOUNDS AT FULL VOLUME.

I ANNOUNCER: Now here is a commercial!

II ANNOUNCER: In the middle ages Doctor Parcells came to the conclusion that not keeping personal hygiene very often caused a lot of serious diseases and even epidemics. Buy the soap made by the recipe of Doctor Parcells and there will be no danger for your health.

I ANNOUNCER: In the past in spite of peoples' strong friendship, there existed lots of tribes, who were not aware of soap and imagine! Even today there exist such tribes in impenetrable jungles. Don't imitate them and get the new universal soap "Extra plus".

II ANNOUNCER: The end of episode 377.

I ANNOUNCER: Who is Don Pedro? And has charming Aranta really given to him a bar of soap? You will find out about it in episode 378.

RAP

-We were a developing country, a third world. It was cold in winter, we didn't have electricity and very often there was no water, but still we know that strangling a woman for a handkerchief is out of date, banal, sentimental! It's quite different if it is done for soap – to strangle a soap-foamed woman in the bathroom!

PRESENTER: The new episode. We have got an exclusive right on this material. We can't disclose it to you how we have obtained it. Here is the document. (Reads). appeal of the International Association of Soap Rights to the governments of those European countries where Shengen visas are valid: "Please stop granting visas to the citizens of those countries, who due to hard social conditions suffer the deficit of hot water. The shower orgies made by such persons present great danger to bars of soap and if adequate measures are not taken, they will be in danger of complete extermination. There are facts of torture, which are proved by the

investigation, held by the international amnesty. We present the relevant audio material as evidence to prove our righteousness.”includes recording

THE DELIGHTED EXCLAMATIONS OF A MAN LONGING FOR GETTING A SHOWER, THE SOUND OF WATER FROM THE TAP AND ESTIMATION: “OH, GOOD, WONDERFUL!” THEN IN THE SHOWER MORE DELIGHTED INTERJECTIONS AND SINGING.

SOAP: (SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE MAN’S ACTIVITY) To be or not to be? That’s just my fate! Why did this one of all the people come to this room!? With or without water? That is the question! Without water there is no point in our existence, then with water...Oh, oh! How he foams me up, this son of a bitch! A little more and I’ll disappear altogether! Hey, you! Let go of me! Don’t squeeze me so much! When you are in the shower you must put the soap on the shelf... Can’t you understand? Put me on the shelf! What’s so hard to understand?!

(THE SHOWER-LONGING MAN WORKS HIMSELF INTO ECSTASY) This one is sure not to know any English. Maybe he knows German at least. Sprechen sie Deutsch? (THE SHOWER-LONGING MAN SINGING:” Ich verchtain nicht Deutsch.”) French? (THE SHOWER-LONGING MAN, AGAIN SINGING : “Nicht Franzosisch.”) Nicht Franzosisch, nicht Deutsch!)Then what the hell made you come here?! Italian? (THE SHOWER-LONGING MAN: “Oh, yes! Italiano, yes, yes!” SINGS “SANTA LUCIA” OR SOME OTHER ITALIAN SONG). He has nearly put an end to me and he is singing! That’s all! Everything is over! This is my Fate! (STARTS SINGING CAVARADOS’ FINAL ARIA)

SHOWER-LONGING MAN: (STOPS SINGING. NOW ONLY THE SOUND OF THE SHOWER AND THE SOAP SINGING IS HEARD) Wow, it can make one crazy! Some technology! They sure invent things! Who will ever believe it – soap and singing?!

RAP

- What is so unbelievable here? We do remember the time when there was soap “Toska”, which differed from soap “Carmen” by its smell, but they served the same purpose. Oh, Carmen, Carmen, Carmensita! (SINGS “HABANERA” AND AT THE VERY START TOSKA’S ARIA RUSHES IN). You see, even now they keep competing. Yet, you were better, Carmen. When you started dancing everybody forgot sorrow, only Madam Butterfly used to stand alone, looking at the sea, waiting and waiting...But at that time people were carried away by “TheTango” most of all.

Tango. Then the music, used at the beginning of the radio- play.

PRESENTER: Ladies and Gentlemen! Rejoice, if you feel like it! Down with nostalgia. Down with sorrow! We continue our travelling in the world of soap! Laughter, joyful exclamations. On this background the scene of Don Quixot’s death, from Massne’s opera “Don Quixot”

RAP

- Down with nostalgia! Down with sorrow! Yet it was sorrow that killed Don Quixote! Sorrow...sorrow...
- Oh, Dulcinea...Dulcinea
- The soap-producing firms have made a great mistake.
- At that time there still existed the iron curtain and the Berlin wall was not demolished yet.
- They produced the soap “Don Quixote”.
- Oh, Dulcinea... Dulcinea... Dulcinea...

- And it did not come to anybody's mind to produce soap "Dulcinea".
- It was because of it that the soap "Don Quixote" perished. Just like the sad-faced knight it was the victim of sorrow too. And still, down with nostalgia! Down with sorrow! Down! Down! Long live culinary! Yes, yes, culinary!
- If the culinary people had made the same mistake, there wouldn't have been the wonderful gateaus "Napoleon" and "Josephine."
- Oh, Dulcinea... Dulcinea...Dulcinea...
- There still existed the iron curtain and neither the Berlin wall was demolished!
- There was soap "Carmen"!
- There was soap "Toska"!
- There was soap "Krasnaya Moskva"!
- And Don Quixote was dying of sorrow!
- As there never was the soap "Dulcinea"!

The sound of the sea and Butterfly's aria.

PRESENTER: And Madam Butterfly was standing alone, gazing at the sea and waiting. She was waiting for the white ship, though maybe she was waiting in vain. Nobody understood her, but she kept standing, gazing at the sea and dreaming...dreaming... She is dreaming even today, while women are fighting for gender equality.

Shouts: So-ap... So-ap... so-ap...so-ap!

They are protesting that there does not exist the soap “Madam Butterfly”, that is “Chio-Chio-San, neither there is Anna Karenina, nor Emma Bovary, nor Lady Macbeth, nor Hedda Habler...

Song- “Ar-gen-ti—na...Ar-gen-ti-na”

They are not protesting that there does not exist Diego Maradona... Yes, yes, neither Diego Maradona. There is coffee “Pele” but there is no soap “Maradona”. Yet, it would have been good – a round, ball-like piece of soap named “Great Diego”! Or “Gabriela Sabatini”... ”Gabriela Sabatini”. - Oh, no, no, ”Gabriela Sabatini” won’t do. Her time has passed. She must be living somewhere on the phasenda with her loving husband. Besides modern tennis is... I’ll tell you in secret that tempo has increased in modern tennis. It has become more vigorous and the principal thing is (WHISPERS) it is more sexual.

The sound of playing tennis.

Madam Butterfly didn’t play tennis, neither did Emma Bovary, nor Lady Macbeth, nor Hedda Habler nor Anna Karenina. There is another Anna who played tennis. charming, unique tennis sex symbol of the time - Anna Kournikova! Today she is playing (The song from the musical “West Side Story”) Maria...Maria...Maria...

The sound of tennis playing, over which the sounds of tennis players’ panting and shrieking are heard.

The music, characteristic to soap operas.

ANNOUNCER: In episode 377 you have seen what was brought about by the unexpected water stopping in the bathroom. (MUSIC) Episode 378.

DON PEDRO: My friends, I have invited you here to solve quite a serious question. Here is a bar of soap. You see that beautiful Aranta was sacrificed for this ordinary, everyday soap! Her stupid husband had no reason for jealousy, though I admit that Aranta really gave me a bar of soap as a present!

DON JAIME: Carlos must die! If you wish, I'll carry out this task!

DON PEDRO: Yes, he must die, but before that another one will die!

SHOOTING

DON JAIME: Oh, he has killed me!

DON DIEGO: Don Pedro, what have you done! Why did you kill Don Jaime?

DON PEDRO: For betrayal! He made Carlos insane and it was he who stopped water to poor Aranta. You agree, Don Diego, that Don Jaime deserved death, don't you?

DON DIEGO: Yes, yes, I do!

DON PEDRO: I believe that you agree, but to be fully convinced you must answer my question about soap first. I wonder if you can tell me why it is said about a certain man that he is always soaped.

DON DIEGO: Because...because to enable him...

THE TELEPHONE RINGING

DON PRDRO: Enough! Sh-sh-sh! Hallo...What? Very good! The time of revenge has come! I have been informed that Carlos and his friends are having a blissful time in the baths. I swear that he will die soaped like Aranta. Alas! The soap that Aranta presented me with made me think about a lot of things...

I ANNOUNCER: In the next episode 379 you will find out what those things are that the soap, given by Aranta made Don Pedro think over as well as the principal thing: The answer will be given to the question why a certain man is always soaped.

MUSIC

PRESENTER: Ladies and gentlemen, just imagine, what mankind would have been if there had not been soap operas... After all they were named in honor of soaps, weren't they?! Soap opera... soap opera...soap...

Music of dreaming.

PRESENTER: The dream, or the final of the soap opera.

On the background of the waltz by Strauss people's delighted shouts are heard, followed by the fragments of various pieces of music. The whole episode is performed on the background of interchanging music.

WOMAN I: Oh, how wonderful! How grand! We have existed for so many centuries and we have never been honored like this!

WOMAN II: Look, look, the Prince!

WOMAN III: Oh how excited I am! You know, it's my first ball!

WOMAN II: I wonder whom the Prince will choose!

SHOWMAN: Our deeply honorable society! On your behalf allow me to thank all those international organizations, who got interested in the fate of the ordinary, everyday soap! Without their financial assistance this festivity would not have been held.

WOMAN I: They say at twelve o'clock, when the city clock strikes twelve!

WOMAN III: Will they play "The Midnight Waltz" then?

WOMAN I: Yes, at that time.

SHOUTS: It's wonderful! Great!

In this joyfulness Carmen's song storms in.

WOMAN III: What does this gypsy want here?

MAN I: Why, don't you remember the soap "Carmen"?

WOMAN II: Yes, I do remember. It used to be a very cheap soap! Trouble-shooting! Has this whore made up her mind to charm the Prince?

MAN II: She is sensual, devilish. One can expect anything from her!

WOMAN II: No way in this case!

MAN III: Just look at them! How proudly they are stalking!

MAN I: Whom do you mean?

MAN III: Anna Karenina and Emma Bovary!

WOMAN II: Who has invited them? They have never been bars of soap, have they?

MAN II: Well, you have heard that a cousin helps a cousin...

WOMAN IV: Then what about Dulcinea? Look at poor Don Quixote! How desperately he is looking for her!

WOMAN II: Oh, my God! I'm so excited, it's my first ball, you know! And nobody is asking

me for a dance! The Prince passed me by and never looked at me! Oh, I don't care about the Prince...I wish at least that sad-faced knight paid attention to me!

MAN I: Madam Butterfly is still standing alone and she must be still dreaming about her sea!

SOME GOGGA: No, no, it's impossible to improve them! This nostalgia is unbearable, and over and over, literature and opera all the time. Don't you understand that I can't bear them! As if there don't exist the other soaps. What's wrong with "Palm Olive" or "Safegaurd"? No, I can't understand you!

WOMAN I: What has he got to do here?!

WOMEN II: How did he manage to get here?! Go away from here! You shameless one!

SOME GOGGA: Oh, help me Oh! I'm leaving, leaving! Don't strike me any more, please!

WOMEN II: Go away from here! Get lost!

SOME GOGGA: You got me wrong! Oh...Oh... I just wanted to get soaped!

Silence. THE MUSIC OF DREAMS.

WOMAN I: He spoiled everything...

WOMAN II: Shall we never hear “The Midnight Waltz”?

WOMAN III: Shall I be unable to dance at my first ball?!

MAN I: You will dance, by all means, you will !He will never get in our way. He managed to get soaped, but it did not help him, he was dragged away!

AS IT HAPPENS IN A DREAM, THESE PHRASES ARE MIXED UP.

WOMAN I: The prince is going towards Madam Butterfly.

WOMAN II: Is it possible that he might choose her?

MAN I: I wish he did, I wish this prince made her dream come true!

THE CLOCK STRIKES TWELVE. “THE MIDNIGHT WALTZ” IS HEARD, OVERLAPPED BY THE DREAM MUSIC.