

La Pharmacie

Brady Lea

The Scene: A pharmacy in Paris

The Cast:

Announcer, a voice from above/offstage (Can be doubled with either Pharmacist Role)

Iris, bad French-speaking tourist, female, 20-50ish

Pharmacist #1, a young man

Pharmacist #2, a middle-aged or older woman, kind of matronly

At rise:

Both PHARMACISTS busy themselves behind the counter, reading box and bottle labels, and tidying the inventory. IRIS enters and stands nervously by the door.

ANNOUNCER

The following is a reenactment of an actual event. This conversation has been translated word for word from the original crappy French into English for your viewing pleasure. We now take you to this pharmacy in Paris.

IRIS

Hello

PHARMACIST #1

Hello. (something unintelligible) can I get for you?

IRIS

Hello! Um, I don't know if I know the words for what I need. Do you speak English?

PHARMACIST #1

Sorry, no.

IRIS

Okay! Um. Hello. Do you have Monistat?

PHARMACIST #1

Monistat?

IRIS

Monistat, or something like Monistat? Maybe there is another name?

PHARMACIST #1

What is "Monistat" for?

IRIS

Um, it's for... I don't know if the words are the same in French.

PHARMACIST #1

What is wrong?

IRIS

I have an infection

PHARMACIST #1

Where?

IRIS

It is an infection of, I don't know if you use the same word, but it's an infection of... the thing that makes bread.

PHARMACIST #1 responds with a puzzled look.

IRIS

You know. You make dough, (*she pantomimes a little*) and the dough... grows? Gets more big? The thing that makes the dough get more big. That kind of infection. I'm sorry, I forgot my dictionary.

PHARMACIST #1

You are... sick from bread? (*He holds his stomach to indicate what his guess is.*)

IRIS

No. I have an infection of the thing that makes bread dough get more big. In my vagina.

PHARMACIST #1

(*Gesturing towards PHARMACIST #2*) Maybe she can help you?

IRIS

Maybe

PHARMACIST #2

(*To PHARMACIST #1*) What is it?

PHARMACIST #1

She has... bread dough in her vagina.

IRIS

NO! It is not that!

PHARMACIST #2

(*Quietly*) This is something you put in... your vagina?

PHARMACIST #1

(*Trying to be helpful*) ... and now there is an infection!

IRIS

NO! I did not put a thing in there. I have. Um. A *type* of infection.

PHARMACIST #2

Yes, yes. It is important to put only clean things, do you understand? Special clean things made especially for putting in your vagina.

IRIS

NO! I put nothing there! (*She pauses and tries to start over*) In English, it is an infection with the same thing you put in bread dough to make it get more big. It is natural in there. Do you understand?

PHARMACIST #2

(*She pauses*) It is... sexual? From sex?

IRIS

No! No. Not at all. Well, a little. But no! I just need something. There is a medicine. We call it Monistat at home. It is easy to find. It is simple. Lots of people buy it!

PHARMACIST #2

So... it *is* from sex?

IRIS

No! I'm sorry. Look. In English, it is the same thing that makes your bread dough get more big...

PHARMACIST #1

(*To PHARMACIST #2*) You understand what it is?

PHARMACIST #2

(*To PHARMACIST #1, with a disgusted look*) No. I think it could be...

IRIS

I... it doesn't matter. I'll wait. It isn't serious.

IRIS starts to exit.

PHARMACIST #2

(*Louder*) Sexual infections can be very serious!

IRIS

It's... not sexual. I. Um. (*She starts to leave*) Thank you. Sorry. Hello.

IRIS exits sobbing, and maybe mumbling something about how she might just go get a pastry. Lights fade out as PHARMACISTS shrug, Frenchly. END OF PLAY