

Vesti la Giubba

Michael Bolton

(Pagliacci) (On with the show)

Recitar!...mentre preso dal delirio
Non so piu quel che dico e quel che faccio!
Eppur...e d'uopo...sforzati! Bah, sei tu forse un uom?
Tu se' Pagliaccio! Vesti la giubba e la faccia infarina.
La gente paga e rider vuole qua.
E se Arlecchin t'invola Colombina, ridi, Pagliaccio...
E ognun applaudira! Tramuta in lazzi lo spasmo ed il pianto;
In una smorfia il singhiozzo e'l dolor...
Ridi Pagliaccio, sul tuo amore infranto!
Ridi del duol che t'avvelena il cor!

SYNOPSIS

Canio, his wife Nedda, and their troupe perform adulterous comedies in their traveling shows. This time, though, life imitates art. Canio has just been warned that Nedda is in the arms of another man. When Canio arrives, the man is gone. "Tell me his name!" he threatens. Just at that moment, they announce, "It's show time!"

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Go on stage, while I'm nearly delirious?
I don't know what I'm saying or what I'm doing!
And yet, chin up! I'll try harder. Bah, you think you're a man?
You're just a clown! On with the show, man,
And put on your white-face.
The people pay you and you must make them laugh.
And if Harlequin should steal your Columbine, laugh,
You're Pagliaccio, and the world will clap for you!
Turn into banter all your pain and sorrow,
And with your clowns' face hide grief and distress...
Laugh loud, Pagliaccio, forget all of your troubles,
Laugh off the pain that so empisons your heart.