

(SONG #2. "I'D RATHER SEE AN OLD-TIME SHOW.")

words and music by Irving Berlin
from Chip Deffaa's THE IRVING BERLIN STORY)

EMCEE. (*brightly*)

I'D RATHER SEE AN OLD-TIME SHOW
THAN ANY OTHER SHOW I KNOW.
OH, THOSE COMICAL FOLKS
WITH THEIR RIDDLES AND JOKES!
HERE IS THE RIDDLE THAT I LOVE THE BEST:
"WHY DOES A CHICKEN GO...?"
YOU KNOW THE REST.
I'D PAWN MY OVERCOAT AND VEST
TO SEE AN OLD-TIME SHOW.
I NEVER CARED ABOUT THE DRAMA.

SIDEKICK. No.

EMCEE.

THE DRAMA ALWAYS GOT MY HAMMER.

SIDEKICK. Oh!

EMCEE.

I COME FROM SUNNY ALABAMA,

SIDEKICK.

AND HE LOVES AN OLD-TIME SHOW.

EMCEE. (*Speaking while the music of the song continues as underscoring.*) Mr. Berlin,
Hollywood made wonderfully entertaining films about songwriters like Jerome Kern, George
Gershwin, and Cole Porter without ever once letting facts get in the way of a good story....

SIDEKICK. Pure old-style entertainment!

A LADY IN THE ENSEMBLE. That's what made the good old days so good.

SIDEKICK. And so old!

IRVING. But sometimes people need to hear the truth. Life isn't all fun and games, you know.

THE ENSEMBLE (*except for Irving, in a hushed, staccato manner*)

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THAN ANY OTHER SHOW I KNOW.
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WITH THEIR RIDDLES AND JOKES!
HERE IS THE RIDDLE THAT I LOVE THE BEST:
"WHY DOES A CHICKEN GO...?"
YOU KNOW THE REST.

(The singing swells to full volume.)

I'D PAWN MY OVERCOAT AND VEST
TO SEE AN OLD-TIME SHOW.