

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



# Meat Pies and Mortadella

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by Valentino Musico

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EXTRACT

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## CAST

FIELD GOAL - Billy O'Riordan, 19, captain of Brickwood A Grade Rugby League team and Brickwood's rugby league god.

MAD DOG - Archie McCun, 19, vice - captain of Brickwood A Grade Rugby League team. Executioner front rower.

AUSSIE TOM- Tommaso Bolero, 17, star soccer player in Brickwood's Italian community and Fantastica's fiance.

FANTASTICA CALABRIA- 16, a good Italian girl who works in her father's Brickwood delicatessen.

BRACCIO DI FERRO DI CALABRIA- 48, Fantastica's father and owner of Brickwood Delicatessen.

BELLA BONBONIERE - 19, another good Italian girl. She is a bonboniere obsessive. Fantastica's best friend. Goddaughter of Braccio. She also works in the delicatessen.

## ITALIAN MARCHERS

## WEDDING GUESTS

The drama is set in Brickwood, a fictional outer - western suburb of Sydney, during the 1970's.

In this script the Italian words "Cumpare" (masculine) or "Cummare" (feminine) are used. These words have three meanings. The first is godfather or godmother of a child. The second is the godson or goddaughter. The third is a close family friend. The first two meanings are the ones used in this script.

1 THE BRICKWOOD BUSH

Two still prostrate forms become visible in the mist: FIELD GOAL and MAD DOG. FIELD GOAL rises. He is holding a walkie talkie. He wears an Australian Army uniform, but the shirt is unbuttoned so that a 1970s Penrith Rugby League Club jersey is visible beneath. He wears a blond mullet haircut. Mad Dog then rises. He is similarly armed and dressed, save for wearing a 1970s Western Suburbs Rugby League Club jersey. Mad Dog sports a black mullet.

FIELD GOAL

The wogs.

MAD DOG

Dirty wogs-

FIELD GOAL

Bloody wogs-

MAD DOG

Greasy wogs-

FIELD GOAL

Fucking wogs.

MAD DOG

Kill them.

FIELD GOAL

Shh-

(He listens to his walkie  
talkie )

Fremantle, Adelaide, Melbourne - The  
same bloody thing: the wogs keep coming.

MAD DOG

But how are you fighting the invasion?

There is the sound of a crash, then an explosion. They both  
dive for cover.

2 BONBONIERE SLUMBER PARTY

We see BELLA BONBONIERE and FANTASTICA CALABRIA having a  
bonboniere slumber party.

BELLA

When you're engaged, Fantastica, I'll be  
your bonboniere adviser!

(CONTINUED)

FANTASTICA

I can do better, Bella - I'll make you my bridesmaid!

BELLA

"Make"?

FANTASTICA

I'm engaged!

BELLA

But you don't have a boyfriend!

FANTASTICA

You don't need a boyfriend. Tommy Bolero saw my father today. He's seen me in the shop plenty of times. He decided he wanted to marry me. But he was too scared to talk to me. So he asked papa if he could. His papa and mine were neighbours in Italy - papa knows they're a good family. So he said to Tom "she say yes, you can marry her". I said yes!

BELLA

Tom?

FANTASTICA

Yes.

Silence.

FANTASTICA

You will be my bridesmaid?

BELLA

I can't.

FANTASTICA

Why?

BELLA

I'd wreck everything! My tears of joy would flood the church. You'd have to get married in a wet suit.

FANTASTICA

My mother is dead. I need my best friend there!

BELLA

I can't!

3 THE BRICKWOOD BUSH

TOMMASO (O.S.)  
Field Goal? Field Goal?

Tommaso enters, bloody and bedraggled. Field Goal emerges.  
Tommaso embraces him.

TOMMASO (CONT'D)  
Lennie Cook ran me off the road! He hit me up Orlando's Hill - then at the crest he banged me again - I couldn't hold it - went off the road - hit a gum!

FIELD GOAL  
How many leaves were on it?

TOMMASO  
Don't know - got knocked out - woke up smelling petrol - flames!- jumped out just in time. Then they came: Albert, Barrett, Chapman, Grogan. They had 4-B-2s. They were combing in the bush, like coppers looking for clues. "*Little Guiseppe - come out, come out.*" I bolted.

FIELD GOAL  
Your name Guiseppe?

TOMMASO  
No.

FIELD GOAL  
Then they're looking for the wrong bloke.

TOMMASO  
I know. But they wouldn't have listened. Had to run. Bushes scratched me. Barbed wire ripped me. German Shepard chased me. Had to choke him.

FIELD GOAL  
Good boy.

He puts a gold star on Tommaso's head.

FIELD GOAL  
Now you've come here cos you want to?

TOMMASO  
Scored 10 goals last week. But can't take it. Can't take soccer anymore. Can't - it's the wog's game.

(CONTINUED)

## FIELD GOAL

Good...on your knees. Put this flag on you.

He hands Tommaso an Australian flag. Tommaso drapes himself.

## FIELD GOAL (CONT'D)

Read this out.

## TOMMASO

What is it?

## FIELD GOAL

Great words Doggie wrote.

## TOMMASO

I can't say this!

## FIELD GOAL

You can!

## TOMMASO

No!

## FIELD GOAL

It's easy!

## TOMMASO

Thought I just cut my finger, get some blood, make a promise!

## FIELD GOAL

No way!

## TOMMASO

Can't do it.

## FIELD GOAL

Then wet your pants when you walk past the Aussie Cafe, past us Brickie Boys: "Hey slippery! How you're going?" Then piss off down a grease trap. You won't do a bloody thing cos if you do we'll smack your fucking head in.

He pushes Tommaso over. Tommaso rises.

## TOMMASO

*I am a wog,  
Sitting on a log,  
Like a greasy dead dog,  
In the thick white fog,  
Living like a hog,*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TOMMASO (CONT'D)  
*While all the Aussies jog.  
Get me outta this bog,  
Don't wanna be a wog,  
Like the loser King Zog.  
Put on new cossies,  
Make myself an Aussie.  
Aussie! Aussie! Aussie!  
Oi! Oi! Oi!  
Aussie! Aussie! Aussie!  
Oi! Oi! Oi!*

FIELD GOAL  
You believe that?

TOMMASO  
Yes.

FIELD GOAL  
How much?

Tommaso kisses Field Goal's foot. Field Goal holds out a football for Tommaso to kiss. Mad Dog seizes the ball.

FIELD GOAL (CONT'D)  
Give it to him.

MAD DOG  
I am the Dog!

FIELD GOAL  
Give it to him.

MAD DOG  
He shall defile it!

FIELD GOAL  
I want it!

He cuffs Mad Dog. Mad Dog yields the ball to Tommaso and howls.

FIELD GOAL (CONT'D)  
(to Tommaso)  
Kiss it...kiss it.

Tommaso kisses the ball.

FIELD GOAL (CONT'D)  
Good. Now you're in the Brickwood A grade team. Training Brickwood Oval Tuesday and Thursday, 7 O'clock.

TOMMASO  
Thanks! Thanks!

(CONTINUED)

Tommaso exits.

FIELD GOAL

(to Mad Dog)

That's what I'm doing you dumb prop!  
Slippery soccer Marios are dribbling off  
the docks like centre half cockroaches.  
They want to kill Brickwood rugby league.  
But their star defects. He scored 10  
goals in a game last week- 10 goals! And  
you almost stuff it up.

(slapping Mad Dog)

So get some propaganda in you, OK?

4 BRICKWOOD DELICATESSAN

FANTASTICA

My best friend must be my bridesmaid!

BELLA

But because I'm your best friend I can't!

FANTASTICA

Everyone cries at weddings!

BELLA

You want me to buy you some goggles and a  
snorkel, don't you, don't you? I don't  
trust myself! I don't!

Field Goal enters.

FIELD GOAL

\$5 of devon.

BELLA

\$5?

FIELD GOAL

Don't you know the customer's always  
right?

BELLA

Sorry.

FIELD GOAL

Why did your lot lose the war?

BELLA

Which war?

FIELD GOAL

Does your dad drive a Valiant?

(CONTINUED)

BELLA  
He catches the train.

FIELD GOAL  
Why do you sell this salami shit?

BELLA  
Why do you eat devon? They make it from  
all the scraps.

FIELD GOAL  
You smart arse?

BELLA  
I learn it from you: "the customer is  
always right" - \$5.

FIELD GOAL  
(searching his pockets)  
Got nothing.

BELLA  
Call home.

FIELD GOAL  
Got nothing.

BELLA  
Pay!

Tommaso enters with flowers.

TOMMASO  
(embracing Fantastica)  
Hey! What's up?

BELLA  
He's ordered \$5 of devon. I've cut it.  
Now he won't pay - he's tricked us!

FIELD GOAL  
(shaking Tommaso's hand)  
Aussie Tom! There's been a mix up. I come  
in here, a hard day laying bricks. I need  
my devon. My devon. I ask for some devon.  
I ask for \$5 worth. But then my pockets  
are empty. What can a poor boy do?

TOMMASO  
(offering the money)  
Bella, here's the money. Take it. He'll  
pay me back tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

BELLA

No!

Field Goal tries to slime his exit. Bella bars him. Field Goal flings Bella aside. Fantastica screams. BRACCIO DI FERRO DI CALABRIA, Fantastica's moustached father charges in with a gun.

BRACCIO

Stop there!...Down!

Field Goal falls on his knees.

FANTASTICA

He came in and asked for \$5 devon. Then he said they had no money. Bella tried to make him pay but he pushed her on the floor.

BRACCIO

*E' vero Bella? (Is it true Bella?)*

BELLA

*Si. (Yes.)*

BRACCIO

Money!...Money!...

He then puts the gun in Field Goal's face. Field Goal pulls out a \$5 note.

BRACCIO (CONT'D)

*(to Tommaso)*

*Prenderlo! (Take it!)*

BRACCIO (CONT'D)

*Da mi la devon. (Give me the devon.)*

Bella fetches him the devon.

BRACCIO (CONT'D)

*Apri la. (Open it.)*

Bella opens the package.

BRACCIO (CONT'D)

*Gettalo 'vant iedu. (Throw it front of him.)*

She throws it upon the floor in front of Field Goal.

BRACCIO (CONT'D)

Eat!

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (3)

4

Field Goal hesitates.

BRACCIO (CONT'D)

Eat!

Field Goal eats with distaste. He almost finishes the floor stock.

BRACCIO (CONT'D)

Eat! Eat!

FIELD GOAL

I'm full...

BRACCIO (CONT'D)

You full? No leave devon here. No waste.  
Take home. Put in shirt... Put!

Field Goal puts the remaining meat down his shirt. He skulks out. Bella laughs.

BRACCIO (CONT'D)

*Io sono Braccio di Ferro ( I am Braccio  
di Ferro) - fist of steel!*

5 BRICKWOOD MUSEUM

A howling Mad Dog is in his footy gear revering an old football in a display cabinet - the ball of the 1908 grand final, then won by Brickwood for the first time. He takes paper and pen from his pocket and writes. Field Goal enters. Mad Dog barks at him like an alerted guard dog.

FIELD GOAL

Doggie!

Mad Dog puts the note in his pocket. Mad Dog continues barking and then attacks Field Goal. They roll on the floor as Field Goal tries to get these words out:

FIELD GOAL (CONT'D)

Doggie! - what's up? - stop! - stop! -  
been looking over and under for you! -  
stop! - need you help! - need your help  
to get the wogs-

Mad Dog stops. They rise from the floor. Stand off.

FIELD GOAL (CONT'D)

I went into the deli yesterday. I went  
along to give them a little shove back  
home. But the old man came out with a  
shotgun. He got me; he got me alright.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)