Gentili Ascoltatori, Dear Listeners,

Here’s a transcript of “I’m In the Mood For …” – our recent show about expressing opinions and emotions using the subjunctive mood, which you can hear by accessing http://coerll.utexas.edu/ra/episode.php?p=04

Gli artisti: Artists in this broadcast:
Steven Miller Pulcinella as a singer
Eric Edwards Writer and composer of Pulcinella’s song
Marlene Lucio, Henry Fuentes, Wesley Baker and Bryant Moscon as the Wheirdos

Buon divertimento!

Transcript

La canzone di Pulcinella “Spaghetti alle lacrime” The Song of Pulcinella “Tearful Spaghetti”
(A poetic translation, not word for word!)

Il povero Pulcinella
crede che la vita sia bella
ma non sa cosa lo aspetta
al veder Arlecchinetta.

Quando la vedo sul palcoscenico
crederai ch’io diventi schizofrenico

In quel momento leggendario
quando si alza il sipario

mi pare che si tolga il tovagliolo
per rivelare il raviolo

più squisito della terra.
Nel mio cuor: effetto serra!

Più deliziosa di Arlecchinetta

The Song of Pulcinella “Tearful Spaghetti”
(A poetic translation, not word for word!)

Poor little, little Pulcinella
thinks that life is so stellar
but he doesn’t know what’s gonna come
when he sees Arlecchinetta, she’s the one!

When I see her up on the stage
I think I’m flying into a rage

In that moment so legendary
when the curtain lifts heavenly

it seems that it removes the wrapping
to reveal the ravioli’s delicate topping

most exquisite throughout the globe
a deadly greenhouse effect on my soul

More delicious than my lovely Arlecchinetta
non credo che pizza abbia fetta.  
not even the most delectable tomato on bruschetta

Questo è sogno? o è fatto? 
Pulcinella, dai, sei matto 
Is this a dream, or is it really true 
Come on, Pulcinella, don’t be a fool

Voglio disperatamente 
dirle quanto io le voglio bene 
ma lei non sente 
non vuole che le dica niente. 
I desperately want to say 
how much I love her every day 
but she doesn’t hear a thing 
she wants that I tell her No-thing!

Arlecchina, Arlecchina, 
when you hear me cry and wail 
you’ll know that my heart’s gonna fail

Arlecchina, Arlecchina, 
when you hear me cry and wail 
you’ll know that my heart’s gonna fail

Per il dolor della mia anima spezzata 
non c’è altro rimedio che una bella spaghettata. 
For the pain of my broken soul and psyche 
there’s no other remedy but a fine plate of spaghetti.

Nota Grammaticale

**Indicative vs Subjunctive**

Main rules to use subjunctive (wheirdo category/two subjects) and infinitive (one subject)

By far the most common use of the **subjunctive** is to express actions that are viewed subjectively rather than objectively: actions that are colored by emotion or doubt rather than reported as matters of fact. This use of the **subjunctive** in dependent clauses is triggered by verbs in the main clause that we may consider as belonging to the “**WHEIRDO**” category: verbs that denote wish or will, hope, emotion, impersonal expressions, recommendations, doubt or denial, opinions:

**W is for Wanting and Wishing.**
*Vorrei* che Colombina *si innamorasse* di me! 
I wish Colombina would fall in love with me.

**H is for Hope.**
*Spero* che il Dottore non *dia* più fastidio ad Arlecchina. 
I hope the Dottore won’t bother Arlecchina any more.

**E is for Emotion.**
Gli spettatori *hanno paura* che Arlecchino gli *salti* sulle gambe. 
The audience is afraid Arlecchino will jump right into their laps.
I is for Impersonal Expressions.
È impossibile che Arlecchino smetta di corteggiare Colombina.
It’s impossible for Arlecchino to stop courting Colombina.

R is for Recommending.
Il regista si raccomanda che tutti gli attori imparino la parte a memoria.
The director recommends that all the actors learn their parts by heart.

D is for Doubt.
Arlecchina dubita che Pulcinella la difenda da Balanzone.
Arlecchina doubts that Pulcinella will defend her from Balanzone.

O is for Opinion.
Pulcinella crede che la vita sia bella.
Pulcinella believes that life is beautiful.

While in the indicative mood, the choice of verb tense almost always depends on when the action takes place: in the past, the present, or the future, in the subjunctive mood, the choice of tense depends on when the action takes place in relation to the verb in the main clause that triggers the use of the subjunctive in the subordinate clause:

Il Dottore sa che Colombina è bella — indicative
The Doctor thinks that Colombina is beautiful.

Colombina pensa che il Dottore sia brutto — subjunctive
Colombina thinks that the Doctor is ugly.

Here some of the golden rules that govern this mood:
1. Verb in the main clause belongs to the WHEIRDO category;
2. The dependent clause is introduced by che and has a subject different from the one in the main clause.

The subjunctive mood has four tenses:

Presente: Penso che la canzone di Pulcinella abbia parole strane
I think Pulcinella’s song has weird lyrics

Passato: Penso che lui abbia scritto la canzone in un momento di follia
I think he wrote the song in a moment of foolishness

Imperfetto: Speravamo che Pulcinella invitasse tutti
We were hoping that Pulcinella would invite everyone
Trapassato: Avremmo voluto che lo spettacolo fosse cominciato prima
We would have wanted for the show to begin earlier.

If the verb in the main clause belongs to the **WHEIRDO** category and the subject of the main clause is the **same** as the subject of the dependent clause, then the **infinitive mood** must be used. **Infinito presente** is used if the action is **contemporary** or **future** compared to the action of the verb in the main clause:

Pulcinella **pensa** (pensava/aveva pensato/ecc.) di **cantare** bene.
Pulcinella thinks (thought/had thought/etc.) to sing well (that he sings well).

**Infinito passato** is used if the the action is **past** compared to the action of the verb in the main clause:

Loro **sperano** (speravano/avevano sperato/ecc.) di **aver recitato** bene ieri sera.
They hope (were hoping/had hoped/etc.) to have performed (that they have/had performed) well last night.

**Nota Culturale**

If you get a **déjà vu** feeling during this Moody Musical Moment, it might be because our Pulcinella has freely quoted—and misquoted—passages from Donizetti’s **L’elisir d’amore** (“Una furtiva lagrima”) and Puccini’s **Tosca** (“E lucevan le stelle”).

**Vocabolario: a teatro**

If you decide to go to the **Teatro** in Italy you can buy **il biglietto** (the ticket) on line or al **botteghino** (ticket office). Before entering the theatre, you must find a **parcheggio** (parking area) for your car. Often, outside the theatre a **parcheggiatore** (parking man) is available to accommodate your needs. In Rome, he will lure you with a **venghi, venghi Dotto’** (come, come Doctor). You will wonder when you went to medical school or got your PhD or what strange use of the subjunctive is the one he uses. **Tuttavia** (nonetheless) you give him your car and your **non temere** (fear not!) when **lo spettacolo finisce** (the show ends) your valuable car will still be there.

Often, you will consume **una bibita** (a drink) before the show starts. When you decide to seat **al tuo posto** (your seat), you ask la **maschera** (the usher) to help you locate it. In big theatres there are **molte file numerate** (many numbered rows) and it is not easy to find the right seat. If you seat in **platea**, (the main floor in front of the stage) your tickets must be **molto cari** (very expensive). If you seat in **piccionaia** (lit. where the pigeons stay) you are a probably a student and your tickets are **molto economici** (very cheap). Wherever you seat, **il palcoscenico** (the stage) dominates the theatre.

**Ecco, Si alza il sipario, entrano gli attori, la magia incomincia.** (Here it is. The curtain goes up, the actors enter the stage, the magic begins). If **la rappresentazione** (the performance) is nice,
you *applaudrai gli attori molte volte* (you will applaud the actors many times). If la rappresentazione is not nice, *si può fischiare* (one may boo) but always with *classe e discrezione* (tact and discretion). Enjoy the show and don’t forget to *vestirsi in maniera appropriata* (dress appropriately); after all you are in Italy!

Thanks for listening! And be sure to tell your friends that you heard it here on Radio Arlecchino!

Your hosts with the most – grammar,
Antonella Olson & Eric Edwards
“*Out of our minds ... into your ears*”