

# **THE YELLOW TIE**

**A musical comedy**

**LIBRETTO**

**Words and music by Phil Shaw**

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# THE YELLOW TIE

## 1. Prelude

(MAVIS and MARTIN enter)

## 2. Song - *PARTY NIGHTS* - MAVIS and MARTIN

(Intro)

**MAVIS**

Party!

**MARTIN**

Party night!

**MAVIS and MARTIN**

Party tonight!

**MAVIS**

A chance to dress up in our newest and best.

**MARTIN**

A chance to look swell, be the zest of the fest.

**MAVIS**

A chance to go with elegance and style.

**MARTIN**

A chance to crank eleven on the dial.

**MAVIS**

A chance to take a pose and wink and smile.

**MAVIS**

Party!

**MARTIN**

Party night!

**MAVIS and MARTIN**

Party tonight!

(Verse 1)

**MAVIS**

I buy my daily dresses down at Walmart  
I never try them on, they're off the rack  
But party nights, I wear Chanel or maybe Halston  
When I walk in the door  
you're gonna know who I am.

(Verse 2)

**MARTIN**

My daily wear is chinos and a blazer  
Day by day the same, the same old thing  
But party nights, I'm strictly custom tailored.  
When I walk in the door  
you're gonna know who I am

(Bridge)

**MAVIS**

Roses bloom and blossom,  
blazing brightly in the sun

**MARTIN**

Peacocks pride and prance and preen  
and plume just for the fun

**MAVIS**

Ornaments are more than just

**MARTIN**

adornments or amusements they are

**MAVIS and MARTIN**

costumes in the masquerade  
the circus---carnival!

(Verse 3)

**MAVIS and MARTIN**

We're ordinary people, ordinarily  
Simple folks. Pretentious? Not a bit.  
But party nights, we like to gleam and glitter.  
When we walk in the door  
you're gonna know who we are

(MAVIS and MARTIN go to opposite sides of the stage, MAVIS facing offstage to the side, MARTIN facing upstage, looking into 'mirrors' as they get dressed for the party. MARTIN puts on a tie.)

**3. Dialogue - "Which Tie" - MAVIS and MARTIN**

('The Yellow Tie')

**MAVIS**

MARTIN, MARTIN darling?

**MARTIN**

MAVIS, my dear?

**MAVIS**

What were you planning to wear this evening?

**MARTIN**

Planning to wear? The usual.

**MAVIS**

With a tie?

**MARTIN**

A tie? Yes, of course. A tie.

**MAVIS**

And which...which...?

**MARTIN**

Which tie?

**MAVIS**

Which tie?

**MARTIN**

Which tie? The bold, the brash. The brave, the brazen. My brand-new yellow tie.

(MARTIN turns downstage to reveal his yellow tie.)

The brand-new yellow tie.

('Not Your Style')

**MAVIS**

MARTIN, my sweet. (Turning toward MARVIN.)

**MARTIN**

MAVIS, my angel?

**MAVIS**

I'm not completely certain... not entirely sure the yellow tie quite suits you.

**MARTIN**

Suits me? Suits me? The yellow tie suits me quite well. It suits me very nicely indeed. It expresses my style.

**MAVIS**

Expresses your style? Bozo the clown!

**MARTIN**

Bozo the Clown? Wait 'til you see the smiles of approbation.

('People will laugh')

**MAVIS**

Wait 'til you hear the cruel and bitter laughter.

**MARTIN**

Joyful laughter greeting a fashion triumph.

**MAVIS**

A fashion disaster. The laughter will be behind your back.

**MARTIN**

My contribution to the evening's merriment.

**MAVIS**

More than the evening. People will tell the story all week. They'll call their friends to let them know.

**MARTIN**

And my reputation will spread. A man who sets his own style, I march to a different drummer.

**MAVIS**

Different drummer? Bozo Clown playing the drums?

**MARTIN**

Bozo again? That might be just a wee bit harsh. Besides, Bozo shouldn't be mocked or sneered at.

('Will it be safe?')

**MAVIS**

My apologies to Bozo. Besides, I can see that you value the yellow tie very much.

**MARTIN**

It's a treasure indeed.

**MAVIS**

I may not, for the moment at least, fully appreciate the yellow tie. Nonetheless I understand your affection for it, and I wouldn't want you to be disappointed.

**MARTIN**

Disappointed?

**MAVIS**

If anything should happen to it.

**MARTIN**

Happen to it?

**MAVIS**

A gravy spill. A splash of Bloody Mary. Accidents happen! You never can tell!

**MARTIN**

You're right! You're perfectly right. I thank you for the warning. I'll take special care.

**MAVIS**

Might it not be more prudent to save the Yellow Tie? Keep it for some special occasion? Some safer time?

**MARTIN**

MAVIS, my sweetest. Your solicitude truly warms my heart. But today is now. Events have their time. This is the moment for the yellow tie. Tonight is its day in the sun.

**MAVIS**

(Pauses)I'm convinced. Tonight will be the grand debut of the yellow tie its moment up there on the stage to glitter, gleam, and glow. And then, when the party is over.

**MARTIN**

Over.

**MAVIS**

And we're here alone.

**MARTIN**

Alone.

**MAVIS and MARTIN**

Alone Tonight.

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**4. Song - TONIGHT - MAVIS and MARTIN****MAVIS**

Tonight, tonight when we have bid farewell  
To all our friends, and to the wishing well.  
Tonight, when we leave our shoes  
scattered in the living room.  
Tonight, tonight.

**MARTIN**

Tonight, tonight when we are home, again.  
Tonight when we've forgotten where we've been.

**MAVIS**

Tonight, when we trip and fall

**MARTIN**

lunge and leap and bash and brawl.

**MAVIS**

Tonight, tonight.

(Bridge)

**MAVIS**

Tonight, tonight, tonight, tonight

**MARTIN**

Tonight, tonight, tonight, tonight

(Verse 3)

**MAVIS**

Tonight, tonight when we have lit the fuse  
Tonight, when we have counted every bruise

**MARTIN**

Tonight, when we pull the zippers  
right down to our knees,

**MAVIS**

and do just what we please,

**MARTIN**

pull and punch and squeeze,

**MAVIS**

make the pillow sneeze,



(Verse 1)

**MAVIS**

Love is someone you can teach and train

**MARTIN**

Love is someone who knows what is best

**MAVIS**

Love is someone you can polish and improve

**MARTIN**

Love is your very own pest

(Verse 2)

**MARTIN**

Love is knowing when to say OK

**MAVIS**

Love is when your work is done

**MARTIN**

Love is knowing when the prize is in your hand

**MAVIS**

Love is knowing when you've won

(Bridge)

**MAVIS**

Push and pull, heave and shove,

**MARTIN**

Bend and bow and give and take,

**MAVIS**

And it's all just a part of the game.

**MARTIN**

Poke and prod, dig and jab,  
Press and pull and jam and jog

**MAVIS**

And it's never exactly the same.

(Break)

**MAVIS**

Sometimes in the morning  
of a long forgotten day,  
the bluebird spreads her wings  
and waves the sun along its way.

**MARTIN**

Sometimes in the afternoon  
when clouds have filled the skies,  
the eagle takes to wing  
and sparks the lightning with his eyes.

(Verse 3)

**MAVIS**

Love is someone who can make you smile

**MARTIN**

Love will make your spirits fly

**MAVIS**

Love is someone who can tolerate the worst in you

**MAVIS and MARTIN**

Love is a yellow tie.

They're gonna know who we are.

They're gonna know who we are.

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## **7. Exit Music**