

THE THREE MUSKETEERS

by Dumas

Adapted By Hattie Naylor

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Cast

1.D'ARTAGNAN

2. MAMA - (*doubles as Athos*)

3. PLANCHET (*double as Richelieu/Lapidarist*)

4. MILADY (*doubles as Aramis*)

5. LOUIS (*doubles as Head Guard to Cardinal's Men, Buckingham*)

6. PORTHOS (*doubles as Queen Anne*)

7. CONSTANCE (*doubles as gardener/Perruquier/Guard*)

PORTHOS

ATHOS

RICHELIEU

QUEEN ANNE

PERRUQUIER

GARDENER

LAPIDARIST

HEAD GUARD

GUARD

D'ARTAGNAN The one that asks him if I too can train to be a Musketeer, like Papa.

MAMA You're going to Paris to be a Musketeer???
You're off your melon D'Artagnan.

D'ARTAGNAN But I have the letter.

MAMA He was sick when he wrote that.

D'ARTAGNAN holds up the letter in response.

 Couldn't tell his feet from his head, poor man.
It's exploitative that is, exploiting the words of a dying man.

D'ARTAGNAN ... I'm going.

MAMA You can't go and be a Musketeer, that is the most off your melon thing, of all the off your melon things you've ever said.

D'ARTAGNAN I am gone.

MAMA You can't.

D'ARTAGNAN Why ever not.

MAMA It's obvious.

D'ARTAGNAN How is it obvious Mama?

MAMA Planchet you say.

PLANCHET looks confused (mouthful of grass)

PLANCHET Say wot?

MAMA (*livid*) Because Missy! Because Missy!
You are, whether you like it or not, of the female persuasion.
Tell her Planchet.

PLANCHET Tell wot?

MAMA You're a girl D'Artagnan, a girl.

PLANCHET You are girl?

D'ARTAGNAN shrugs and nods.

D'ARTAGNAN Yeah.

PLANCHET I can't tell the difference.

PLANCHET and D'ARTAGNAN exchange a look.

MAMA You listening to me.

PLANCHET You all look the same to me. 'umans...

MAMA D'Artagnan!

D'ARTAGNAN Fancy coming with me Planchet?

PLANCHET To Paris? Moi?

MAMA You can't take our only horse. D'Artagnan!!

D'ARTAGNAN To be a horse to a musketeer?

MAMA No!!

PLANCHET (*dreamily*) A horse to a musketeer.

D'ARTAGNAN What you say Planchet?

PLANCHET I say 'oui!'.

D'ARTAGNAN Brilliant.

MAMA Paris is dangerous. You'll get hurt or worse!

D'ARTAGNAN hands PLANCHET all his very heavy bags, PLANCHET expression changes.

MAMA cont Dangerous! You hear me. D'Artagnan!
And the moment they know you're a girl, you'll be in
even more danger.

D'ARTAGNAN All the more reason to go as a man, Mama.

MAMA And you can't just become a Musketeer anyway.
It's takes training and rigour and anyway you're the
wrong sex!

D'ARTAGNAN (*to Planchet*) Shall we depart?

*Planchet now loaded with bags grunts, and they move off, Planchet banging
two coconut shells together as they go.*

MAMA No!! NO!! D'Artagnan.

Damn you D'Artagnan. Damn you!!
Off your melon, hear me, off it. Nothing but fruit up
there. You'll come to harm, great harm.
(*to self*) there, in the big city. In Paris,
Oh, my days.

Scene 2

*Outside an Inn the HEAD GUARD and GUARD, and MILADY are drinking
wine. PLANCHET and D'ARTAGNAN arrive. PLANCHET is clearly
exhausted, breathless.*

D'ARTAGNAN Paris, isn't it fantastic! Look at it!!
Look at it!!
Aren't you excited?

PLANCHET looks down at his bags.

Planchet!?

PLANCHET I'm just a bit tired.

D'ARTAGNAN This looks a good a place to stay.

PLANCHET Can I take these bags off now?

D'ARTAGNAN ignores PLANCHET, takes out his money pouch/bag tosses it the air, as it jangles with money.

D'ARTAGNAN I'll inquire about a room.

D'ARTAGNAN goes to find the Inn keeper. PLANCHET is left on his own, kicking his heels, and looking bored. MILADY and GUARDS – notice PLANCHET whisper amongst themselves, then begin to chuckle and then laugh. They mock PLANCHET, who grows more and more uncomfortable, he might neigh or toss his head like a horse, this amuses the assemble even more. D'ARTAGNAN returns. The laughter continues.

D'ARTAGNAN What is it that amuses you Sirs and .. Lady?

They are all laughing too much to answer.

Answer me Sirs? And Lady. What is that makes you laugh?

HEAD GUARD Is that supposed to be a horse?

D'ARTAGNAN It is a most excellent horse Sirs, and ..Lady.

More completely hysterical laughter.

Tell them you're a horse Planchet.

More completely hysterical laughter. PLANCHET looks embarrassed and looks to the floor.

Tell them.

PLANCHET shakes his head and looks to floor.

Planchet!

More completely hysterical laughter

Planchet!!

PLANCHET I'M A HORSE!!

Utterly hysterical laughter.

D'ARTAGNAN I'm not a boy!!

PLANCHET No, he's a g..

D'ARTAGNAN On guard!

HEAD GUARD Do you really think it wise to take on the cardinal's men for that is what we are?

COM THEATRE And when all duelling is banned.

D'ARTAGNAN On guard!!!

HEAD GUARD And thereby make a man such as Cardinal Richelieu your enemy? Very unwise.

D'ARTAGNAN Fight!

GUARD Both of us at once?

D'ARTAGNAN I am afraid of no man.

GUARD Then you're an idiot.

D'ARTAGNAN Triply insulted.

MILADY Come, come.

HEAD GUARD This boy challenges us.

D'ARTAGNAN Boy again! A quadruple insult.

MILADY (*flirting*) A quadruple insult?

D'ARTAGNAN bowing low.

D'ARTAGNAN Excuse me dear Lady, these men have insulted my horse.

PLANCHET You know it's really nothing.

MILADY You're a horse..?

PLANCHET I'm mean you know, it's nothing to get that worked up about, I'm really find about it. I mean really...

MILADY You're his horse?

PLANCHET Yep.

*PLANCHET might neigh/ toss his head/clip clop his coconuts.
MILADY flirts with D'ARTAGNAN.*

MILADY How fascinating you young men are.

D'ARTAGNAN On-guard.

MILADY *(to the Guards)* You haven't time for this.

HEAD GUARD It won't take long.

D'ARTAGNAN Quadruple, Quad.. *(searching for word)* Quintuple insulted!

MILADY 'Quintuple'?

D'ARTAGNAN I will not fight a lady.

MILADY *(approaching)* I don't mean to fight you.

As she approaches him, MILADY beckons to the GUARD D'ARTAGNAN. The HEAD GUARD distracts him/her. She slips the letter out of D'ARTAGNAN pocket and throws it to the GUARD, who then toss it further away from D'ARTAGNAN, she further distracts D'ARTAGNAN by kissing them on the cheek, this really throws D'ARTAGNAN, (they are not sure if they likes this or not!). MILADY sneaks the pouch/bag of money from the other pocket, and the pouch follows the same route. PLANCHET attempting to intervene but failing.

MILADY Now, we must go. You must excuse us.

MILADY kisses D'ARTAGNAN on the other cheek, completely distracting them.

Another time.