**LEWIS, PIPPIN, CHARLES, FASTRADA, LEADING PLAYER,**

LEADING PLAYER

Enter Lewis ...

*(LEWIS enters. He does bicep curls to show off his muscles as the LEADING PLAYER introduces HIM)*

Pippin’s half-brother ... and after Pippin, heir to the throne. Addicted to the physical, Lewis loves weight

lifting ... Lewis loves wrestling ... but most of all, Lewis loves Lewis.

*(LEWIS puts down his barbell; grabs his sword and displays his swordsmanship)*

LEWIS

Hah! Visigoths!

PIPPIN

Well done, brother.

LEWIS

Of course it was! Did you know this arm slew twenty Frisians last year? And it’s going to slay even more

Visigoths.

PIPPIN

You’re going to war against the Visigoths?

LEWIS

Uh huh. That’s the next one. It’s going to be a glorious campaign. And oh -- those Visigoth women! I

don’t mean to shock your bookish sensibilities ...

PIPPIN

I’m only shocked you’re interested in women now.

LEADING PLAYER

Enter Fastrada. Pippin’s step-mother. Crafty, cunning, calculating...

FASTRADA

But a warm and wonderful mother!

LEADING PLAYER

Dedicated to gaining the throne for her darling son, Lewis.

FASTRADA

Lewis! Lewis! Guess what Mommy had made for you...surprise! *(a gleaming breastplate)*

LEWIS

Oh, Thank you, Mother. Think how I’ll shine! *(Shows it off to PIPPIN)* Look at this! Isn’t it a beauty?

PIPPIN

*(Taking the breastplate and admiring it)*

It really is beautiful …

FASTRADA

Of course it’s beautiful, Lewis is a great warrior.

LEWIS

*(Practicing a lunge again)*

Hah! Visigoths!

FASTRADA (to CHARLES)

We’re so proud of Lewis, aren’t we, dear?

CHARLES

I don’t know about that.

FASTRADA

Oh, my darling, before I forget, the royal treasurer informs me I’ve somehow overdrawn my allowance

account.

CHARLES

You’re overdrawn again?

FASTRADA

Now, now, my Lord, you know how confused I get about money. After all, I’m just an ordinary housewife

and mother ... *(To the audience)* ... just like all you housewives and mothers out there.

CHARLES

You know, sometimes I wonder if the fornicating I’m getting is worth the fornicating I’m getting.