

***STAR ACTING* at ESPA**
MONOLOGUES FOR MEN
by Charles Busch

SHANGHAI MOON, PUG TALBOT, page 32 Samuel French

1930's Shanghai. Pug Talbot, is a sleazy cockney seafarer. He confronts the elegant Lady Sylvia Allington with their shared past.

PUG

Well, well, well. Awfully small world, isn't it, Lady Allington? Must I call you Lady Allington? Seems rather formal, don't you think? Considering you and me go so far back. Sylvia, there's no use putting on an act, I've got you and there ain't no way to get around it. I know your real name, old girl, and that name is Mrs. Pug Talbot. We did get into some fierce rows back in Texas. You've come a long way from that tent show. You wouldn't have gotten away so easy if you hadn't put something foul in that chicken hash. It had me puking so bad, I let you run out the door without a good beating. I bet you ain't doing much cooking for Lord Old-fart-What's-his-name. Of course, many would say that he isn't your husband, not in the legal sense. A gal can't be married to two men at the same time. At least not to my knowledge. Now times is hard. I've got expenses, big expenses, a boat to upkeep, a crew. You're directly responsible for my financial situation. Believe me, I don't want to cause you any trouble. I've got fond feelings for you, Sylvia. Always have. Despite you running out on me like you did. I can't imagine Lord Allington would appreciate a bigamy scandal. I appreciate any little crumb you can pass my way.