

*Pity the Fool*

Fool decides he'll try to make his disadvantage work for him by playing on people's sympathies, like Chaplin did as the lovable Little Tramp. He spends the last of his savings on a frazzled bowler and an oversized pair of shoes, starts walking like a penguin, and is surprised to discover that meek-looking little tramps might as well be wearing kick-me signs. Some drivers swerve to hit him as they pass. Doe-eyed girls, who ought to respect a little vulnerability in a man, stroll right by with their bruisers. When he lands a job as greeter at a Wal-Mart, a little old lady throws him a forearm-to-the-chest before he can thank her for shopping there. The manager fires him on the spot and then has him arrested for trespassing. As they cuff him, he wishes he'd saved enough for the endearing baggy pants. "Watch your head," says the attending officer, giving it a good bang on the squad car door.