

Berlin Irving

"Puttin' On The Ritz"

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[Original version:]

Have you seen the well-to-do up on Lenox Avenue
On that famous thoroughfare with their noses in the air
High hats and colored collars, white spats and fifteen
dollars
Spending every dime for a wonderful time

If you're blue and you don't know where to go to
Why don't you go where Harlem sits
Puttin' on the ritz

Spangled gowns upon a bevy of high browns
From down the levee, all misfits
Puttin' on the ritz

That's where each and every lulubelle goes
Ev'ry Thursday evening with her swell beaus
Rubbing elbows

Come with me and we'll attend their jubilee
And see them spend their last two bits
Puttin' on the ritz

[Revised 1946 version:]

Have you seen the well-to-do up and down Park Avenue
On that famous thoroughfare with their noses in the air
High hats and Arrow collars, white spats and lots of
dollars
Spending every dime for a wonderful time

If you're blue and you don't know where to go to
Why don't you go where fashion sits
Puttin' on the ritz

Diff'rent types who wear a day coat, pants with stripes
And cutaway coat, perfect fits
Puttin' on the ritz

Dressed up like a million dollar trouper

Trying hard to look like Gary Cooper
Super duper

Come let's mix where Rockefellers walk with sticks
Or "um-ber-ellas" in their mitts
Puttin' on the ritz

[alternates:]
Strolling up the avenue so happy
All dressed up just like an English chappie
Very snappy

You'll declare it's simply "top-thing" to be there
And hear them swapping smart tidbits
Puttin' on the ritz

[Transcript of 1982 version by Dutch singer Taco (which
Berlin
"reportedly enjoyed"):]
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Why don't you go where fashion sits
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Puttin' on the ritz
Puttin' on the ritz
Puttin' on the ritz

Move...

Gotta dance
Gotta dance...

If you're blue and you don't know where to go to
Why don't you go where fashion sits
Puttin' on the ritz...

[Parody version:]

Have you seen the well-to-do having sex like me and
you?
They're afraid of STDs and unwanted pregnancies
The AIDS scare's reached it's apex
But who cares? I want my safe sex
You feel that way too? Then the Ritz is the rubber for
you

If you screw and you don't know who you do screw
Why don't you use the brand that fits
Puttin' on the Ritz

Girls, you'll see, will be receptive
They don't want the contraceptive pills and kits
If you're puttin' on the Ritz

Other brands? Well, friends, you can't compare theirs
When you can wear the brand that Fred Astaire wears
And the Care Bears

It's a glitzy, ritzy condom
Worn by even Stephen Sondheim who admits
To puttin' on the Ritz

You won't need no diaphragm to trap her
Just slap your Mister Happy in that wrapper
And you'll look dapper

With your playmate you will get much more play
She'll help to put it on you during foreplay At work or
play Keep a few right in your wallet If you do then I can
call it quits, that's it! Puttin' on the ritz

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