

**WILD WEST
VARIETY SHOW**
(SCENES, SKITS, AN' FUNNY THANGS)



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BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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**BIG DOG PUBLISHING
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Wild West Variety Show

FARCE. There are scene-stealers for everyone in the cast in this hilarious western-themed variety show that includes scenes, skits, and other funny thangs! The lineup includes a shotgun wedding for a real bridezilla, a side show featuring "Belly Man" and "The Head," masked bank robbers who can't rob a bank because the teller requires a photo ID, a spoof of the movie *Shane*, a menagerie of "comedians," plenty of cream pies, and of course a rodeo! This hysterical, fast-paced variety show even allows you to add your own scenes, skits, an' funny thangs!

Performance Time: Approximately 75-90 minutes.

Characters

(15 M, 12 F, 40 flexible. Flexible cast.)
(With doubling/tripling: 7 M, 6 F, 10 flexible)

MONA: Entrepreneur; wears a western showgirl outfit with a cowboy hat and boots; female.

SYLVIA: Banker; wears business attire and carries a briefcase; female.

NATALIE: Smiling sign girl; wears a western outfit; female.

SHERIFF: Cowboy sheriff; has a huge fake belly that bobs up and down when he walks; male.

TAFFEE: Scary-looking clown who likes to smash cream pies in people's faces; flexible.

BARKER: Circus barker; wears a circus barker's costume and a hat; flexible.

SNEEZER: Sneezing spectator; has a large fake nose; flexible.

BELLY MAN/WOMAN: Circus sideshow performer; wears a bulky slipover shirt that is pulled up to his chest to reveal a big, obviously fake belly; flexible.

BODY-LESS HEAD: Circus sideshow performer; wears a black sweater to hide his lower body; flexible.

BRUISER: Circus sideshow performer who is supposed to be the smallest person on earth; wears a western outfit and an oversized cowboy hat; walks on his knees, which have shoes tied to them, and wears a cape to hide his backside and the lower parts of his legs; flexible.

SPECTATORS 1-4: flexible

FEMALE SPECTATOR: Female.

MALE SPECTATOR: Male.

PA: Father who is looking for a bride for his daughter Brazzilla; an older man with a beard; wears a cowboy hat, jeans, boots, and an empty gun holster; male.

LILA: Pa's attractive daughter; wears western clothing; female.

BEN: Prospective groom for Brazzilla; a young, very small man; wears western clothing and has a rope tied around his waist; male.

BRAZZILLA: Pa's hideous unmarried daughter; played by a huge man with exaggerated makeup; wears a big wig and a western bridal gown and holds a bridal bouquet; male.

PREACHER: Local preacher; wears a robe over his western duds; flexible.

JAKE/JOAN: Horse trainer; flexible.

JIMMY: Broomstick horse; flexible.

JOHNNY: Broomstick horse with bristles identical to Jimmy's; flexible.

JOEY: Renegade broomstick horse with brightly colored or decorated bristles; flexible.

BUSTER: Emcee for comedians; flexible.

LARRY LARRY: Comic; flexible. (Note: If actor is female, play as a male.)

MR. JOSEPH E. PELHAM JONES JAMES NICHOLSON, JR.: Comic; male.

MARY MARY TRULY CONTRARY: Comic; female.

BANK TELLER: No-nonsense bank teller who abides by bank rules; female.

ROBBER 1-5: Bumbling robbers; flexible.

JAN: Comic; female.

JOAN: Comic; female.

TICKET SELLER: Ticket seller whose name is Confused; flexible.

POPCORN SELLER: Popcorn vendor whose name is Nobody; flexible.

BOB/BOBBIE: Announces the hoedown; flexible.

SHAME: Actor who plays a mysterious gunfighter with a mysterious past in a western movie; speaks in standard American speech; male.

JOE STARE-AT: Actor who plays a farmer; speaks in standard American speech; male.

- MARION:** Plays Joe's wife; wears a traditional, long western dress that can be "ripped" off revealing pantaloons underneath; speaks in standard American speech; female.
- JODY:** Actor who plays Joe's young son; carries around a slingshot; speaks in standard American speech; male.
- DIRECTOR:** Western movie director; wears a beret and ascot; speaks in standard American speech; flexible.
- TRYKER:** Actor who plays a villainous boss; a husky man with gray hair and a beard who has a smiling sneer on his face at all times; wears solid black and has two pistol holders hanging on his chest from a belt around his neck; speaks in standard American speech; male.
- STILTSKIN:** Actor who plays a thug; speaks in standard American speech; flexible.
- BARTENDER:** Actor who plays a bartender; speaks in standard American speech; flexible.
- STONEWALL:** Actor who plays a southern man; speaks in standard American speech; male.
- THUG:** Actor who plays a thug; speaks in standard American speech; flexible.
- STAGEHAND:** Movie stagehand; non-speaking; flexible.
- HANK/HENRIETTA:** Snake oil salesman; wears a suit and carries a satchel; flexible.
- HAPPI:** Spectator who volunteers to be bitten by a rattlesnake to test the snake oil; flexible.
- AUDIENCE MEMBER 1, 2:** Flexible.
- SPRIG:** Comic; has a sprig of hay in his mouth, flexible.
- CHAW:** Comic; has a wad of chaw (bubblegum) in his cheek; flexible.
- DOC:** Hospital doctor; flexible.
- JANE:** Doctor's helper; female.
- BLEEDING MAN/WOMAN:** Man who has been shot; wears a shirt with fake blood over his heart; flexible.
- EDDIE:** Healthy man reading a newspaper; male.
- NURSE:** Hospital nurse; female.
- EMCEE:** Emcee for comedians; male.

PHONEY BALONEY: Comic; flexible.

ROARING MIKE: Comic; male.

BARNYARD BARNIE/BETTY: Comic; flexible.

MALE SPECTATOR: spectator; male.

FEMALE SPECTATOR: Spectator; female.

EXTRAS: As Spectators, Miscreants, Thugs, and Musicians.

Note: Mona, Sylvia, the Sheriff, and Taffee remain in their same roles throughout the show. Actors may play one, two, or several roles, using different voices and costume pieces. Women may play men's roles with or without wearing men's costumes but fake mustaches and beards and gaudy western costumes are encouraged. Men may not play women's roles except where indicated in the script. Unless otherwise noted, everyone speaks with a Texas drawl.

Production Notes

Directors may omit some existing scenes and add brief western-themed acts between present scenes if desired. For example, acts such as juggling, magic, tumbling, tutu-wearing male ballet dancers, etc. may be added.

Note: Actors take quick bows at the end of each scene. The term “a-rrested” is pronounced with a long “A” for emphasis.

Setting

The empty interior of a big western barn.

Sets

The basic set suggests the interior of a large barn rather than a realistic depiction. There may be hay bales and other miscellaneous barnyard items scattered about. Simple set pieces are used for the various scenes below and are placed onstage by the cast/crew in view of the audience and should be a fun part of the show. Cast/crew may make smiling contact with the audience and even wave as they move the set pieces on and off.

"Side Show": A curtain strung between two poles is brought on. A table covered by a long tablecloth is placed in front and off center of the curtain. It is arranged so "The Head" can position himself behind it without being seen by the audience.

"The Weddin": UCS are two cacti forming an arch.

"The Bank Robbery": The interior of a bank. There is a table for the Teller at RCS. The entrance is SL.

"Shame": At SL is a hint of the exterior of Joe's home. At SR is the hint of the interior of a saloon with a bar and one table and chair. The bar faces the audience. There is an empty bottle of whiskey, two shot glasses, and a bucket on the bar. Two cacti are seen UCS and are held up by two stagehands, opt.

"The Snake Oil Salesman": A sturdy platform is set up CS with a small table or bench on it.

"The Dead Cowpoke": There is a hospital bed or a long table CS with a sheet and pillow. There is a chair or bench off to the side.

Props

- | | |
|---|--|
| Briefcase, for Sylvia | ID or driver's license |
| Several broomstick horses with
bristles in assorted colors
(Brooms including bristles and
bridles that actors "ride.") | Bag of money |
| Sign that reads, "Side Show" | Sign that reads, "Bull Stuff" |
| Children's wagons, opt. | Plastic ball or bat |
| Flags or banners or balloons
inflated with helium, opt. | Small banner on a stick or a
crazy cap, for Jan |
| Table with cloth covering it | Tickets |
| Curtain strung between 2 poles | Bag of popcorn kernels |
| Penny | Coin |
| Sign that reads, "The Weddin'" | Sign that reads, "Sheriff's in
Town" |
| 2 Cacti arranged as a wedding
arbor (opt.) | Police whistle |
| Long rope | Huge handkerchief |
| Empty gun holster, for Pa | Handcuffs |
| Bible | Sign that reads, "Hoedown" |
| Very large bridal bouquet, for
Brazzilla | Garden hoe |
| Sign that reads, "Jake's Horses" | Sign that reads, "Shane, the
Movie" |
| Horse training whip or substitute
of about 36" for horse trainer | Shovel |
| 6 Cream pies on unbreakable
plates or tins (Note: Whipped
cream may leave odor and stain.
Shaving cream works better.) | Small tree in a pot |
| Sign that reads, "Funny Stuff.
Pleeze Laff." | Slingshot |
| Sign that reads, "Bank Robbery"
with the capital "B" printed
backward | Script for "Shame" |
| 5 Handkerchiefs, for Robbers | Bucket of "water" |
| | Dipper for the water bucket |
| | Bottle of "whiskey" (bottle is
empty) |
| | 3 shot glasses |
| | Pail on the bar |
| | Can of Wal-Mart cola |
| | Crushed can of Wal-Mart cola |
| | Sign that reads, "The
Salesman" |
| | Satchel, for Hank |

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Small empty bottle with a lid or a cork	Toy pistol, for Chaw
Letter	Sign that reads, "Dead Cowpoke"
Fake rattlesnake or a heavy rope to imitate it	High heels, for Sheriff
Official-looking paper	Dress or other women's clothing, for Sheriff
Sign that reads, "Horse Stuff"	Newspaper
Bushy beard, for Mona	Sign that reads, "Funny Stuff. Laff, durn it!"
Sprig of hay	2 Small pieces of paper, for
Chaw (Wad of bubblegum)	Phoney Baloney
Tablet	Sign that reads, "The Rodeo"
Pencil	

Special Effects

Band music

The opening of "Here Comes the Bride" is heard, preferably played on a guitar and/or fiddle with the players visible. It can also be sung by a small group or a recording can be used.

Serene music

Western/country music (e.g. "Turkey in the Straw," "Cotton Eyed Joe," "Arkansas Traveler" etc.)

Gunshots (Shooter yells, "Bang!")

Fistfights (Fighters yell, "Pow! Boom! Smack! Bam!" etc. when they "strike" the other person)

Majestic music

Horse whinny, opt. (Actor may make whinny instead.)

Loud gunshot

Upbeat marching band music

"Hand-pistol" means the actor uses his hand as a pistol with his index finger as the barrel.

Note: Sound effects may be live. Recorded sounds are acceptable if desired. Music may be live or recorded.

"Ah need to see
yer photo I.D.,
an' ah don't see no photo
on that thar gun."

-Bank Teller

ACT I

Scene 1

(AT RISE: *The empty interior of a big western barn. Mona and Sylvia enter. Mona is wearing a western showgirl outfit including a cowboy hat and boots. Sylvia is wearing a business outfit and carrying a briefcase.*)

SYLVIA: (*Turns up her nose as she glances at the barn.*) Mona, this hyer don't look like no [thee-eight-er]. [*"theatre"*]

MONA: Ah know, Sylvia. But real thee-eight-ers was too expensive fer mah budget.

SYLVIA: Whut is yer budget?

MONA: Well, ah don't exactly have no budget.

SYLVIA: Yew don't have no budget? Then how much did yew pay fer this hyer barn?

MONA: Nuthin'.

SYLVIA: Nuthin'? How did yew manage that?

MONA: Well, wasn't nobody home, so ah kinda jist, ya know, moved in.

SYLVIA: Yer ain't payin' no rent?

MONA: Couldn't find nobody to pay it to. Besides, ah ain't got no money to pay it with.

SYLVIA: No money? What happened to the money mah bank lent yew fer this hyar big ol' variety show o' yers?

MONA: (*Sheepishly.*) Ah sorta spent it.

SYLVIA: On what?

MONA: Food.

SYLVIA: Food?

MONA: Well, ah had to feed the cowpokes and the chickens.

SYLVIA: Chickens?

MONA: Yep. That's whut we're havin' fer supper.

SYLVIA: What about the horses?

MONA: (*Horrified.*) We ain't gonna eat the horses!

SYLVIA: I certainly hope not. Did yew buy the horses yew needed?
MONA: Uh, naw.
SYLVIA: Yew don't have no horses?
MONA: O' course ah have horses. Found a bunch o' old nags in the pasture out back.
SYLVIA: An' the bulls?
MONA: Weren't no bulls back thar.
SYLIVA: But yew gotta have bulls fer the bull-ridin' contest.
MONA: Well, I sorta [borried] some. [*"borrowed"*]
SYLVIA: From where?
MONA: From a few ranches nearby.
SYLVIA: Did yew get the owners' permission?
MONA: Not exactly.
SYLVIA: Mona!
MONA: Well, ah didn't wanna wake 'em up in the middle of the night.
SYLVIA: Yew took their bulls in the middle of the night?
MONA: Well, shore. If'n I'd a-done it in broad daylight, they'd probably shot me.
SYLVIA: Tell me you didn't steal a bull from the Bar-B-Q ranch jist down the road.
MONA: Well, okay. Ah didn't steal no bull from the Bar-B-Q ranch jist down the road.
SYLVIA: But yew did, didn't yew?
MONA: (*Tentatively.*) Uh, yeah.
SYLVIA: Mona! That ranch be-longs to the local sheriff! An' ah'm shore he won't cotton to yer takin' his bull.
MONA: But it's only fer one night.
SYLVIA: Ah'm very disappointed in yew, Mona. Let's git back to the bank loan. How er yew gonna git the money to repay it?
MONA: Ah'm over-chargin' the audience.
SYLVIA: Over-chargin' the audience? Fer whut?
MONA: Fer whut?! Ah got a great show hyar, Sylvia. Why, ah got music, ah got actors, ah got buckin' horses, skits,

circus freaks, sangers, dancers, magicians. Ah got it all, Sylvia. Ah got acts from all over the world!

SYLVIA: (*Skeptical.*) Like from whar?

MONA: From [Texas]! [*Or insert another state.*]

SYLVIA: Well, yer standin' in [Texas]. That ain't all over the world.

MONA: Also from West [Texas].

SYLVIA: Oh, Mona!

MONA: An'...an' East [Texas]. An' North [Texas] an' South [Texas].

SYLVIA: Mona!

MONA: An' even from Central [Texas]!

SYLVIA: That still ain't from all over the world! That's jist [Texas].

MONA: Sylvia, [Texas] is the world!

SYLVIA: That ain't gonna work. Looks like ah'll have to contact the Sheriff an' have yew a-rrested.

MONA: It'll take hours to contact the Sheriff.

SYLVIA: Not if'n ah use the Pony Express.

MONA: Cain't ya at least wait till the show's over?

SYLVIA: An' give yew a chance to [ess-cape] without payin'? Naw. Ah cain't do that. [*"escape"*]

MONA: Well, in that case... (*Goes CS, turns to the audience, and screams.*) Yeeeeee-haaaaah! Welcome, folks, to...The Wild West Variety Show! (*Stands CS and pretends to conduct the entering group.*)

SYLVIA: (*Upset.*) Disgustin'!

(Sylvia moves to the side and watches. Band music plays as the entire cast in colorful western costumes parades in a line USL toUSR, circles DSR and exits DSL. Some gallop on broomstick horses; some ride in decorated children's wagons pulled by others; some ride old bicycles or unicycles; some twirl batons; some juggle; some dance or walk. Some carry flags or banners, including the Texas flag. Everyone loudly sings a different made-up melody. It should appear

very festive and chaotic. Sylvia covers both her ears and exits. At the end of the parade, the entire cast takes a bow and quickly exits.)

Scene 2 Side Show

(Natalie, a smiling young woman in a western costume, crosses carrying a sign that reads, "Side Show." A curtain strung between two poles is brought onstage. "The Head" is hidden behind it. A table covered by a long tablecloth is placed in front and off center of the curtain. It is arranged so "The Head" can position himself behind it without being seen by the audience. The circus Barker enters and steps in front of the curtain. He takes off his hat and bows. A few Spectators gather to listen.)

BARKER: Ladieeeeees an' gentlemen!

SNEEZER: (Has a large fake nose and does a very loud sneeze.)
Ahhhhh-choooo!

BARKER: An' the loudest sneezer ah've ever hear-ed!

SNEEZER: Sorry. Ah have a big nose on mah face.

BARKER: An' yer gonna have a big knot on yer head if'n yew do that agin! (Slight pause. More Spectators enter.) Introducin' the astonishin', the astoundin', the unbelievable outcasts of the human race! Sights yew have never seen afore in yer whole lives! Sights yew hope yew'll never see agin! 'Cause they will give yew very, very bad dreams!

FEMALE SPECTATORS: Eeeeek!

BARKER: Yes! Nightmares!

FEMALE SPECTATORS: (Louder.) Eeeeek!

BARKER: First up, the man who can make his belly...disappear!

SPECTATOR 1: (In disbelief.) Ain't no such thang!

SPECTATOR 2: That ain't possible!

SPECTATOR 3: Ain't nobody whut can make his belly disappear!

SPECTATOR 4: That's right. (To Barker.) Yew ain't nuthin' but a charlatan! A quack!

BARKER: Yew don't believe me? Well, then, believe this! It's Belly Man! (Belly Man enters to light applause and some jeers.

He is wearing a bulky slipover shirt that is pulled up to his chest to reveal his belly. A big, obviously fake belly is preferable. He smiles and points to his belly with both hands.) Thar he is, ladies an' gents. Yew see that belly o' his? Big, ain't it? A real monster. So, yew ask, how can he make it disappear? How can he possibly have that big ol' belly one minute...an' no belly at all the next minute? How? Well, folks, that's his secret. But he is now gonna prove to yew that he can make it disappear. But, first, a few coins. (*Takes off his hat and holds it out to Spectators.*)

SPECTATOR 1: Yew mean yer gonna make us pay to see this hyar Belly Man?

[END OF FREEVIEW]