

# **THE CLUELESS SHERIFF**

**Also Known As  
"Oils Well That Ends Well"**

**By  
Gary McCarver**

**A Justin Credible Old West  
Small Cast Musical Melodrama**

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The New Home for Great American Melodrama**

## **The Clueless Sheriff** **(A “Teaser” for Announcements)**

Up for a little adventure? Welcome back to the small western town of San Juan Capistrano for the story of a lost love, a “rehabilitated” villain, a jilted woman, and a framed sheriff.

Meet the scoundrel Professor Mack, the Judge Jerry Mander and that irrepressible Gypsy Claire Voyant who now runs the Swallow’s Inn with her partner Sarah Bellum. New friends include our Hero Justin Credible and our Heroine “San Juan Sally”.

Through the magic of Melodrama, you are transported to that much simpler year of 1896 ... for the retelling of tale of the old west ... a time when the men were strong and the women were stronger ... well at least that is our story and we’re sticking to it.

Of course, included are a whole slew of authentic old-time songs and random live sound effects. Now turn back your calendars back for the twists, the turns, and authentic old west fun found in “*The Clueless Sheriff*” - A Justin Credible Melodrama.

## **(A “Teaser” for Playbills)**

### **The Clueless Sheriff** **- A Justin Credible Old West Melodrama**

Get transported to the much simpler year of 1896 in the small western town of San Juan Capistrano for the story of a lost love, a “rehabilitated” scoundrel, a jilted woman, and a framed sheriff. Toss foam rocks at the Villain. Cheer for the mysterious Gypsy Claire Voyant, the clueless sheriff Justin Credible, the melodic Sally Mander, and the irrepressible Sarah Bellum. Of course, you can expect a whole slew of authentic old-time songs played live in this family friendly old west melodrama.

# THE CAST

in order of appearance | 4 M & 6F + piano player

**Piano Player – MELODY PLAYER** – Bringing melodramatic antics to life, our resident musician tinkles out the tunes that put the “melo” in melo-drama. We can’t do this without her.

**SARAH Bellum** – Sarah was the local school marm who quit teaching and bought the local Saloon with her good friend Claire Voyant. Sarah also acts as a part-time narrator for the play.

**The Heroine – SALLY Mander** – The Judge’s only daughter and the popular star singer over at the Swallow’s Inn Saloon. Everyone calls her “San Juan Sally”.

**The Gypsy – CLAIRE Voyant** – The former sideshow soothsayer and co-owner of the saloon finds her past coming back to haunt her and taunt her as the Professor comes back into her life.

**The Hero – JUSTIN Credible** – A simple and good-natured cowpoke who is handy with a gun but clueless as a sheriff. There is only one gal for him ... San Juan Sally.

**PROFESSOR Thaddeus Mack** – The self-proclaimed “rehabilitated” conman, scoundrel, and villain returns to town with yet another evil scheme and tries to woo his old flame, Claire.

**DOC Phil McCavity – The Town Dentist and Undertaker** – Doctor Phil is often pulled into the action between extractions but can usually be found chatting with his friend the Judge or offering up some of the various live sound effects you will hear.

**JUDGE – Jerry Mander** – As gruff and as stern a man as you have ever met. He only has two soft spots in his heart ... one for his daughter Sally and the other to protect his town.

**Optional EXTRAS** – Saloon extras are a great addition. Get them if you can or enlist members of your audience as walk-on extras.

# SONG LIST

## Songs in order of performance

### **There's A Place That I Know**

Words by Gene Buck & Gary McCarver

Music by Dave Stamper

### **Beautiful Capistrano**

Words by Gary McCarver

Music by Creamer and Layton & Gary McCarver

### **Oh, Pretty Baby**

Lyrics by Gus Kahn & Gary McCarver

Music by Tony Jackson & Egbert Van Alstyne

### **Blue**

Words by Grant Clarke & Edgar Leslie & Gary McCarver

Music by Lou Handman

### **San Juan Sally**

Words by Gary McCarver

Music by Will Donaldson & Rubey Cowan

### **Kiss Me, Kiss Me Again**

Words by Henry Blossom & Gary McCarver

Music by Victor Herbert

### **When the Little Swallows Come**

Lyrics by Cary Duncan and Gary McCarver

Music by Anselm Goetzl

### **Reprise - There's A Place That I Know**

Words by Gene Buck & Gary McCarver

Music by Dave Stamper

### **Curtain Call Song - 'Till You Visit Again**

Words by Jack Drislane & Gary McCarver

Music by Chris Smith

# ACT 1 SCENE 1

The Place: San Juan Capistrano – near the Train Depot

The Date: March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1896

The Time: Sun is setting early in twilight

**CUE-CARD** – *Evening in Old San Juan – 1896*

**CUE-CARD** – *The Swallows Inn Saloon*

*(MUSIC STARTS and a mission bell rings)*

**SARAH** – *(to the audience)* By the sound of that old mission bell ... and the sun setting on the majestic hills of this town we call San Juan Capistrano ... you know that it's time for one last song as we call it a night here at the Swallows Inn. So, dust off your Stetson and put your hands together for the melodic meanderings of our star singer - San Juan Sally.

## **SONG – There's A Place That I Know**

Sung by San Juan Sally *(sultry ballad style)*

Words by Gene Buck and Gary McCarver

Music by Dave Stamper

## **INTRO & CHORUS**

There's a place that I know ... where the sweet waters flow.

Where the sky is so clear and blue.

It's a place far from care and I want to go there ...

and I bet you'll want to go there too!

Where the people you meet as you walk down the street

are like family and know your name.

Pack your bags ... come away. I know you'll want to stay.

Where the swallows will greet you

and folks are glad to meet you.

It's the town that we call ... San Juan!

*(SALLY holds up a cue card sign)*

**CUE-CARD** – *Applause*

**CLAIRE** – Good night, ladies and gentlemen but do be sure to come back tomorrow for some of the best food and tunes north of the Rio Grande.

**SALLY, CLAIRE, & SARAH** – Goodnight everyone.

*(SALLY and CLAIRE exit while SARAH meanders on stage)*

**(LIGHTS FADE UP** on the “Lonesome Prairie” part of the set)

**(SOUND EFFECTS** – Hoots of owls and the howl of a coyote.)

**CUE-CARD** – *Out on the Lonesome Prairie*

**SARAH** – Meanwhile. Out on the Lonesome Prairie we find a lone cowboy sitting on a rock in the twilight only punctuated by the light of his flickering campfire. And where there is a cowboy ... there is always a faithful steed. His horse is named Palomitas and is tied up just behind a rock outcropping)

**(SOUND EFFECTS** – *Sound of horse hooves slowing down then the sound of the horse “Palomitas” neighing or whinnying)*

**JUSTIN** – *(talking to his horse)* Palomitas ... what's got you so riled up? I got you your feed and water after a hard day of herding ... it's time you settled down for the night. You've been a tireless and faithful horse out here on the range, but I suppose six months of nothing but beans and jerky is finally taking its toll on us.

**(SOUND EFFECT** – *Palomitas is neighing and farting)*

**JUSTIN** – You are telling me. *(beat)* The money is good enough out on these cattle drives, but maybe ... just maybe it's time we stop all this lollygagging, vagabonding and traipsing around and head on back to San Juan Capistrano. *(beat)* What do you think Palomitas?

**(SOUND EFFECT** – *Palomitas is neighing and whinnying)*

**JUSTIN** – Yes ... those are mighty fancy words. Those are my three new words for the day from this book called ...

*(JUSTIN holds up a book and reads the title)*

**JUSTIN** – The Title is ... “*Three New Words for the Day*”.

**(SOUND EFFECT** – *Palomitas is neighing and whinnying*)

**JUSTIN** – I was never much for small talk, and I want to make sure my Sally thinks the best of me when I see her again.

**(SOUND EFFECT** – *Palomitas is neighing and whinnying*)

**JUSTIN** – Yes, I know ... I know I should stop all my bellyaching. But a man can only eat so much jerky and beans before you hanker for a home cooked meal. And Sally ... well ... she was the best cook you could imagine and ... as pretty as a picture.

*(JUSTIN holds up picture of San Juan Sally for all to see.)*

**(SOUND EFFECT** – *Palomitas is neighing and whinnying*)

**JUSTIN** – I suppose it's late and I'm plumb tuckered out too.

**(SOUND EFFECT** – *Palomitas is neighing in agreement*)

**JUSTIN** – But ... before we call it a night ,.. here out on the lonesome prairie... I can't help but think about that little town of ours. I suppose you want me to sing that song to you again.

**(SOUND EFFECT** – *Palomitas neighs in the negative.*)

**JUSTIN** – *I will take that as a yes.*

*(If JUSTIN knows how to play the guitar, there are chords listed in the following song. If not, it is just as good with piano or track.)*

**(MUSIC STARTS)**



## **SONG – Beautiful Capistrano**

Words by Gary McCarver

Music by Creamer and Layton

*(NOTE – Sung by JUSTIN in a soulful old western style.)*

### **VERSE**

Night time 'a fallin' ....

the whippoorwills are calling

come on home ... just come on home.

Moonlight is shining, the Wind is softly pining ....

come on home ... won't-cha come on home.

Listen' ... Those crickets are calling just for you.

Come now ... there's no use in stalling ....

you want to go home too!

### **GUITAR CHORDS**

C

G C

C E7

A7 A Am

D Dm C

Am Cm D7

D7 F G7

### **CHORUS**

(to) San Juan Capistrano ... beautiful Capistrano.

From that old Depot ... A lonesome whistle blows

tellin' you it time to come home

to San Juan Capistrano ... (yes) beautiful Capistrano.

Oooh those mission bells they're calling you.

Those hot spring waters bubblin' up just for you too.

(Oh!) In San Juan Capistrano

Beautiful Capistrano

C A D7

Dm Gm Dm G

D7 G

C A7 D7

D7 C E Am

Em B7 Em

F C G7 A7

D G7 C

*(JUSTIN says "Yes Sir" and then repeats the chorus once.)*

*(SOUND EFFECT – Palomitas is neighing with disturbance)*

**JUSTIN** – Palomitas ... you want me to sing it again?

*(SOUND EFFECT – Palomitas is neighing with disturbance)*

**JUSTIN** – What is it Palomitas? ... "Trouble is brewing back in San Juan Capistrano" you say?

*(SOUND EFFECT – Palomitas is neighing and whinnying)*

**JUSTIN** – How in blazes can you know that?

**(SOUND EFFECT – Palomitas is neighing and whinnying)**

**JUSTIN –** What do you mean - “I’m oblivious to the gravity of the schemes and shenanigans going on back home?”

**(SOUND EFFECT – Palomitas is neighing and whinnying)**

**JUSTIN –** Well then ... I’m not one to disagree with your ‘horse sense’ even though it’s late. We best head back to San Juan.

**(SOUND EFFECTS – Hoots of owls, whippoorwills, and the howl of a coyote off in the distance are heard.)**

**(LIGHTS GO DOWN on the prairie part of the set as JUSTIN gathers his gear and EXITS)**

**(LIGHTS COME UP on the Swallow’s Inn Saloon part of the stage as noise, conversation and laughter comes out from the Saloon. SALLY, CLAIRE, and SARAH come through swinging doors.)**

**(SOUND EFFECT – Rooster crowing good morning)**

**SALLY and SARAH –** Gooooood morning everyone.

**SONG – Oh, Pretty Baby**

Sung by SALLY, SARAH, and CLAIRE

Lyrics by Gus Kahn and Gary McCarver

Music by Tony Jackson & Egbert Van Alstyne

**CHORUS** *(Sung once or twice based upon blocking)*

Ev’ry body needs a baby that’s why we’re invitin’ you ...

pretty baby (Oh) pretty baby. And if you’re looking for a honey  
just to spend some time with you ... pretty baby ... pretty baby.

Why don’t come and mosey over to our little saloon,  
we’re there most any time. (Oh yeah.)

We’ve been looking for a sweetie

and it Might as well be you. Come on over some time.

*(SALLY holds up the Cue-Card sign for all to see)*  
**CUE-CARD** – Applause

**SALLY, CLAIRE, & SARAH** – Thank you. Thank you very much.

**CLAIRE** – I will go make sure the customers don't get too ... how you say ... "roudy" until your next number.

*(CLAIRE EXITS into the Swallow Inn Saloon and we hear the sound of customers inside and )*

*(SALLY quickly moves to gaze out to the distance sadly)*

**SARAH BELLUM** – *(to SALLY)* We've been friends too long Sally. If I don't miss my guess ... there you go thinking about him again ... aren't you. Well ... aren't you?

**SALLY** – I had so hoped that Justin would be back by now.

**SARAH** – Sally, you've been saying that for weeks.

*(CLAIRE VOYANT ENTERS flamboyantly)*

**CLAIRE** – ... Why do you pine for one man? From my experience ... men are about as useful as zee letter "G" in lasagna. What's so unique about zis one?

**SALLY** – Justin is so much more than unique ... he's *(beat)* ... well ... he's ... one of a kind.

**SARAH** – Sally ... any man in town would cut off his good arm to call you his "girlfriend".

**SALLY** – But I don't want to date a one-armed man.

**SARAH** – *(said to ANN)* That's a really good point she has there.

**SALLY** – And besides ... I just have to believe that he will be back ... real soon.

**CLAIRE** – I have traveled zee length and breadth of zis world and in all my journeys, I have never met zee man that can be trusted. You might as well stop thinking zat he'll be coming back to you Sally ... That's zee pure and simple truth..

*(CLAIRE EXITS through swinging doors)*

**SALLY** – *(calling after CLAIRE)* Truth is seldom pure and is never simple.

**SARAH** – ... When I purchased the Swallow in saloon with Claire she used to be the life of the party. ... They called her “Claire Voyant Zee Amazing” ... I mean “the Amazing” ... now ... not so much.

**SALLY** – What in blazes happened?

**SARAH** – Well she doesn't like to talk about her past, but Claire used to be a fortune teller exploring the world in a traveling circus un-till her old beau ran out on her.

**SALLY** – That's just so sad!

**SARAH** – I don't even know his full name ... Claire apparently just called him ... “The Professor”. It was years ago, and from what I can piece together, she met him right here in San Juan.

**SALLY** – Imagine that! Traveling the world ... then finding the man of your dreams right here in San Juan.

**SARAH** – Well ... this story did not exactly have a happy ending. The best that I can tell ... that “Professor” of hers had some serious trouble with the law ... and left town all sudden like.

**SALLY** – Oh my!

**SARAH** – He told Claire he'd come back and take her away from all of this *(big gesture with arms outstretched)* ... buuuut he skedaddled and she never heard “hide nor hair” from him a-gain.

**SALLY** – ... That is just ... so sad. Not a single solitary word? ...

**SARAH** – Nope. Not a peep .... So, one day ... she simply stopped waiting and stopped hoping.

**SALLY** – I simply believe ... that if you want something with all your heart ... it's just bound to come true!

*(SOUND EFFECT – musical chimes or bell tree)*

*(CLAIRE ENTERS again through the saloon's swinging doors)*

**CLAIRE** – I have wondered vat fairy tale you valked out of?

**SALLY** – Claire ... I don't care what you might think ... I know in my heart that MY Justin will return when he finishes that one last big cattle run that he wrote me about. *(SALLY holds up a letter)*

*(CLAIRE snatches the letter from SALLY's hands)*

**CLAIRE** – That's what men are always doing ... running. Running cattle ... running your lives ... then running away.

*(SALLY snatches the letter back)*

**SALLY** – My “Justin” is different.

**CLAIRE** – That's vhat zhey all say. Shoo now ... you've got another show to do in about 15 minutes.

**SARAH** – *(said to SALLY as EXITING)* As you can see ... Claire is a little bitter about the whole “Professor” topic. I hope one day she will get over it and we will have our old Claire back.

**CLAIRE** – I said shoo now.

*(SALLY, SARAH and then CLAIRE EXIT into the Swallow's Inn)*

**FADE TO BLACK**

## ACT 1 SCENE 2

The Place: San Juan Capistrano – near the Train Depot

The Date: March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1896

The Time: Early the Next Morning

**(LIGHTS UP)**

**CUE-CARD** – *Early the Next Morning*

*(CLAIRE is in looking the other direction from where the PROFESSOR is about to enter ... SALLY is talking to SARAH.)*

**SALLY** – *(to SARAH)* I know you told me not to bring up the topic with Claire, but ....

**SARAH** – ... Don't say *I didn't warn you.*

**SALLY** – Claire. So ... tell me about that Professor of yours ...

**CLAIRE** – Fine ... if you really must know ... he's one of those people who makes enemies as naturally as soap makes suds and to clarify ... I don't think he was ever really "MY Professor". He was nothing more than a lying good for nothing, card cheat, scoundrel and conman. Here's my last picture of him.

*(CLAIRE holds up a wanted poster with the Professor's face.)*

**SARAH** – Fine. Probably good if we change the subject.

**SALLY** – A scoundrel sounds mild for that man. I remember you mentioning once that he was probably in jail 'somewheres.

**CUE-CARD** – *Boo ... Hiss*

*(SALLY and SARAH see the PROFESSOR entering behind CLAIRE. And the PROFESSOR holds a finger to his mouth to signify "Shush".)*

**SALLY** – I suppose maybe he might have been released on “good behavior”.

**CLAIRE** – “Good behavior?” ... Ha ... very unlikely.  
More zhan likely he bribed someone to get out!

*(The PROFESSOR nods his head “YES” and All the Girls shake their heads in unison with him as he does.)*

**SALLY** – *(change as needed)* So was he a sharp dresser?

**CLAIRE** – Not really sharp, but in his way, he was ... striking ...  
He’d strike just about anything or anyone zhat got in his way.

**SARAH** – ... And dressed mostly in black?

**CLAIRE** – Why ... Yes. Probably to match his heart!

**SALLY** – *(describing – change as needed)* And he liked to wear a fancy top hat?

**CLAIRE** – *(interrupting)* ... A tall black top hat. Let me think ... yes ... we first met back in Constantinople ... the Professor was searching for powders, pills and potions for that traveling medicine show of his.

**PROFESSOR** – Claire ... don’t talk about me as if I am not eavesdropping on every word you say.

*(CLAIRE now slowly turns around to see the PROFESSOR holding a single red rose and trying his best to be charming.)*

**CLAIRE, SALLY, & SARAH** – Oh My!

**PROFESSOR** – I told you that you had not seen the last of Professor Thaddeus Mack. Remember?

**CLAIRE** – And I told you that I would wait for you ... and I waited and then waited some more ... and then waited ...

*(THE PROFESSOR hands her the flower and kisses her hand.)*

**SALLY** – Oh My!

**CLAIRE** – *(to PROFESSOR)* You were never known to make such a quiet entrance.

**PROFESSOR** – Only to banks at midnight, my dear.

**CLAIRE** – So ... what brings you back to San Juan? Tell the truth if that is even possible.

**PROFESSOR** – Perhaps ... I simply missed your smiling face.

**CLAIRE** – Why should I believe you?

**PROFESSOR** – Claire ... I'm a reformed man.

*(CLAIRE tosses the rose off stage.)*

**CLAIRE** – The only thing “reformed” about you ... is that school you went to as a child! Well, this day was a total waste of makeup.

*(CLAIRE EXITS storms off into her Saloon – The Swallow’s Inn.)*

**PROFESSOR** – *(calling after her)* ... So ... should I wait here?

**CUE-CARD** – *Boo ... Hiss*

**PROFESSOR** – ... So, Ladies ... will she be coming back soon?

*(SALLY and SARAH EXIT following CLAIRE into the Saloon.)*

**PROFESSOR** – *(to Audience)* ... I will wait.

*(THE PROFESSOR pulls out a newspaper and sits down to read it in front of the Swallow Inn Saloon. The JUDGE and DOC walk in front of the PROFESSOR towards the Swallow’s Inn.)*



**DOC** – Judge ... wait up a minute.

**JUDGE** – Well ... isn't it Phil McCavity our town dentist and undertaker ... whatever is it that you want Doctor Phil ... it can wait until after my afternoon whiskey.

**DOC** – Judge, after what I have to say - you'll need two whiskeys.

**JUDGE** – All right ... now you've got my attention ... so what's the bad news this time?

**DOC** – You know how every few weeks a gang of desperados comes into town to shoot up the place ...

**JUDGE** – ... and the sheriff ... if they can find him.

**DOC** – Well the bad news is ... that new Sheriff you hired has up and quit on us before the bandits even arrived in town.

**JUDGE** – Jumpin Jehosaphats! Who told him about the desperados. The town's overdue for a good shooting up. He can't quit now!

**DOC** – He just did. Packed his bags and vamoosed on the train. If it's any consolation, he left his hat and this badge for me to give to you.

*(PHIL MCCAVIDY holds up a sheriff's badge for all to see.)*

*(SOUND EFFECT – A single long Train Whistle)*

**JUDGE** – Well ... at least he left the badge.

**DOC** – This town goes through sheriffs ... like a "horse goes through shoes" or "grass goes through a goose".

**JUDGE** – Where are we going to find a man brave enough ...

**DOC** – ... or gullible enough... to take the job?

**JUDGE** – So what you’re telling me is we need a man that is ... how should I say this ... “Not the sharpest knife in the drawer” .

**DOC** – Exactly! “One board short of a porch” or “One hot pepper short of an enchilada.”

**JUDGE** – Sure ... I reckon that’s about right ...

**DOC** – “A few clowns short of a circus.” Or “A few kernels short of an ear.”

**JUDGE** – I think we got the point.

**DOC** – ... or “A few tacos short of a Ricardo’s happy hour special.”

**CUE-CARD** – *Shameless Plug*

*(Offstage we hear JUSTIN arriving with his horse Palomitas)*

**JUSTIN** – *(heard offstage)* Whoa ... Whoa there Palomitas.

*(JUSTIN ENTERS looking around and carrying a duffel)*

**DOC** – Why look ... it’s Justin Credible ... coming back to town. Didn’t he use to be sweet on your daughter Sally?

*(JUSTIN doesn’t hear what the DOC and JUDGE are saying yet.)*

**JUSTIN** – Finally ... back in beautiful San Juan Capistrano.

**JUDGE** – *(to DOC MCCAIVITY)* Yep ... A good man ... honest as the day is long ... a great shot, but ... about as sharp as a marble.

**DOC** – ... or maybe “One sandwich short of a picnic?” *(Laughing)*

**JUDGE** – Doc ... *(pause)* are you thinking what I’m Thinking?

**DOC** – I’m thinking that some biscuits and fig marmalade would be good right about now? I did miss lunch and ...

**JUDGE** – *(interrupting)* ... No! *(beat)* I'm thinking that ... we may just have found our new Sheriff.

**DOC** – Where? ...

*(JUSTIN almost clumsily trips over a crate)*

**DOC** – Ohhh! I see what you're thinking.

*(JUDGE and DOC MCCAVIDY walk over to greet JUSTIN).*

**JUDGE** – *(Privately to DOC)* Let me handle this. Remember ... a little inaccuracy ... often saves a whole lot of explanation.

**JUDGE** – Justin ... welcome back to San Juan.

**JUSTIN** – Howdy ... Judge ... Doc McCavity ...

*(JUSTIN starts to walk off, but DOC stops him)*

**DOC** – Just-'in town ... are you?

**JUSTIN** – Yep ... Just-'in today. First, I was going to go over to the livery then to see if Sally might be around ...

**JUDGE** – My daughter Sally had been wondering when you'd finally be back in town.

**JUSTIN** – Was she? *(JUSTIN stops trying to walk away)*

**JUDGE** – Yes ... yes indeed. You're just about all she talks about. Justin this ... Justin that. Too bad you don't have a steady job.

**JUSTIN** – What do you mean?

**JUDGE** – Well ... Sally does have high standards, being a star entertainer and all over at the Swallows Inn Saloon. So nice seeing you again.

*(JUDGE grabs DOC and both start walking away from JUSTIN)*

**JUSTIN** – Judge, you wouldn't happen to know of a job in town.

*(The JUDGE and DOC turn back to talk with JUSTIN)*

**JUDGE** – Not many to speak of since the great stock market panic and the drought ... still ... I like you son. There is one job that comes to mind ... now that you mention it. But ...

**JUSTIN** – But ... what?

**JUDGE** – But ... I don't know if it's right for you ... it's a heap of responsibility.

**JUSTIN** – What is?

**DOC** – How'd YOU ... like to be town sheriff?

*(JUDGE holds up a sheriff's badge to show JUSTIN)*

**JUSTIN** – Don't you already have a sheriff?

**JUDGE** – Interesting that you bring that up. By a fortuitous turn of events ... we just happen to have an opening in that area. So, what do you say?

**DOC** – The old sheriff is not dead or nothing. He just up and quit on us.

**JUSTIN** – Well ... I don't rightly know ...

**THE JUDGE** – It pays 25 dollars per week ...

**JUSTIN** – Wow ... 25 whole dollars?

**DOC** – *(interrupting)* It moves up to 30 dollars weekly if you have your own gun. And from what people say ... you're pretty handy with that peacemaker you've got there?

**JUDGE** – So ... what do you say Justin?

**JUSTIN** – I can shoot ... yes ... if that's what people are saying.

**JUDGE** – Great! So, then it settled ... you start today!

**JUSTIN** – But ... I didn't say ...

*(DOC MCCAVIDY Pins the Sheriff's badge onto JUSTIN's vest)*

**DOC** – Doesn't that badge look natural on you?

**JUSTIN** – Does it? Well ... I've always wanted ...

**DOC** – *(interrupting)* The Jail House is right over there.

*(A flat represents the jail. With bars in a cut out window. And the rear of Justin's horse Palomitas is showing next to the Jail.)*

**JUDGE** – Oh ... and by the way ... If you were wondering ... since you are now a pillar of the community ... Sally is over at the Swallow's Inn right now. I suspect you might want to tell her you're back in town.

**JUSTIN** – Don't mind if I do ... after I check out the jailhouse of course.

**JUDGE** – *(to DOC)* Doc ... let's leave him to get settled in. He's got more important things to do than talking to two old men.

*(The JUDGE and DOC MCCAVIDY start to walk away)*

**DOC** – Judge?

**JUDGE** – What is it now?

**DOC** – I didn't want to say anything, but I saw a tattooed stranger over at the Swallow's Inn the other day ... and I bet he's one of those desperados.

**JUDGE** – How do you know?

**DOC** – He had trouble written all over him. *(laughing)*

**JUDGE** – Well then ... he must have been from Hemet.

**CUE-CARD** – *Hemet?*

*(The JUDGE & DOC MCCAIVITY EXIT into the Swallow's Inn)*

**JUSTIN** – *(calling after)* Thanks again for the job! *(Polishing his badge)* Me ... Sheriff! Well ... isn't that something.

*(JUSTIN heads into the jail house just missing CLAIRE and SALLY and SARAH as they walk out of the Swallow's Inn. They don't notice that the PRODESSOR is sitting in a chair on stage the entire time with a newspaper in front of his face.)*

**SALLY** – So Claire, the Professor is back in town just to see you?

**SARAH** – Maybe he is “rehabilitated” like he says ...

**CLAIRE** – The Professor “rehabilitated”? *(Laughing)* You take the lies out of him, and he'll shrink to the size of your hat. You take the scoundrel out of him ... and he'd disappear entirely.

*(SALLY and SARAH EXIT inside the saloon. CLAIRE spots the PROFESSOR sitting in the chair and walks over to him.)*

**CLAIRE** – *(said mockingly to the PROFESSOR)* Oh ... are you still here ... don't you have some place to RUN off to?

**CUE-CARD** – *Boo ... Hiss*

**PROFESSOR** – Claire, aren't you the vision of loveliness ...

**CLAIRE** – Professor ... you used to be arrogant and obnoxious. Now I find that you are just the opposite. *(beat)* Obnoxious and arrogant.

**PROFESSOR** – I don't remember you as sarcastic Claire. I'm not saying that I don't like it ... It's just I don't remember it.

**(MUSIC STARTS)**

*(SALLY AND SARAH gather near CLAIRE to protect him from the PROFESSOR and are prepared to sing along with CLAIRE.)*

**CLAIRE** – Professor, I'll have you know that just looking at you gives me the fiercest desire to be lonesome and BLUE again.

**PROFESSOR** – I have this feeling we have a song coming on.

**SONG – Blue**

Sung by CLAIRE with back up by the Saloon Girls  
Words by Grant Clarke, Edgar Leslie and Gary McCarver  
Music by Lou Handman

**VERSE**

I've learned to live life alone without you.  
I've learned to stop wondering where you are.  
When I think back to zhat time I knew you ...  
it only makes me so sad and oh ... so ...

**CHORUS**

*(SALLY and SARAH sing as back-up singers ... in brackets)*  
Blue ... 'cause we are parted.  
(... she's blue ... she's blue ...)  
Blue ... and broken hearted.  
(... it's true ... it's true ...)  
(There was a time she was jolly.  
Now you're the reason she's melancholy.)  
Blue and oh so ...  
(... she's blue ... she's blue ...)  
Lonely. True ... I wanted you  
(... it's true ... it's true ...)  
Only. Now I'm through grievin' ...  
'cause it's the time for gettin'  
(... ooooooh ...)  
even ... so zhat you're ... blue ... too!  
(... you're ... blue ... too!)

**CLAIRE VOYANT** – Ladies ... if you will excuse us a moment.

**SALLY** - He's much cuter than I thought he would be.

*(SALLY and SARAH EXIT into the Swallow's Inn)*

**CLAIRE** – Professor ... I may have loved you once but ... now I regard you with indifference bordering on aversion.

**PROFESSOR** – Don't mince your words Claire ... How do you really feel about me? *(beat) (taking her hand)* By the absence of that ring I gave you ... I hope you put it to better use?

**CLAIRE** – Oh yes zhat ring. I sold zhat ring so I could partner with SARAH and buy zhis saloon ... if zhat's vhat you're talking about.

**PROFESSOR** – Excellent ... simply excellent!

**CLAIRE** – Vhat are you mumbling about?

*(The PROFESSOR scanning the area looking around.)*

**PROFESSOR** – I just needed to make sure we are not being overheard by these Capistrano bumpkins.

**CUE-CARD** – *Boo ... Hiss*

**CLAIRE** – You're always thinking people are out to get you professor.

**PROFESSOR** – Personally, I believe that paranoia is much under-appreciated quality. *(pause)* Claire ... Can you hear that "rumbling" sound?

**CLAIRE** – Oh ... It is probably just my lunch settling from El Adobe Restaurant. *(or name of any local restaurant)*

**CUE-CARD** – *Shameless Plug*

**PROFESSOR** – No. A "rumbling" coming from under ground.



**CLAIRE** – Are you sure you haven't been too long out in the sun?

**PROFESSOR** – Claire ... just suppose this town no longer seemed a safe place for the "Kind and Gentle" folk of San Juan ... a person could pick up land here for a song don't you think?

*(PIANO CHORD – evil scheming theme)*

**CLAIRE** – What are you talking about? What possible purpose would be served by buying up an entire town?

**PROFESSOR** – I'm so very glad that you asked that question ...

**PROFESSOR** – *(Aside to the Audience)* Mostly because I haven't divulged my nefarious scheme yet.

**CUE-CARD** – *Boo ... Hiss*

**PROFESSOR** – Claire, let me tell you all about my scheme ...

**CLAIRE** – I know zhat I am going to regret this.

**PROFESSOR** – First ... I must profusely apologize for my running out on you but there were extenuating circumstances as you may have guessed ...

**CLAIRE** – (interrupting) ... I was waiting at the Justice of the Peace's office for hours ...

**PROFESSOR** – Oh yes ... that. I promise to make it all up to you.

**CLAIRE** – Likely story.

*(PROFESSOR and CLAIRE EXIT into the Saloon as JUSTIN enters wearing a white Stetson. DOC enters from the Saloon.)*

**DOC** – ... It is nice having a new sheriff ... 'gonn'a go a long way to make everybody feel safe here in town ...

*(SALLY ENTERS from the Swallow's Inn rushing to JUSTIN.  
SALLY moves over to JUSTIN hoping for a kiss.)*

**SALLY** – Justin! ... You're back! ... As ... look at you ... Sheriff?  
Oh My!

**(MUSIC STARTS)**

**JUSTIN** – I couldn't stay away from San Juan ... or from you  
Sally. I even wrote a song about you while out on the range.

*(SALLY puckers up for a kiss, but JUSTIN walks to center stage  
to sing a song about her instead.)*

**SONG – San Juan Sally**

Words by Gary McCarver

Music by Will Donaldson & Rubey Cowan

I've Traveled all a-round this land ... from sea to shining sea.  
But where ever I may be there's a place that's calling back to me.  
A pretty girl lives in that town ... I'm hankerin' to see.  
No, her name's not Flo nor Tes nor Rose ...  
it's Sally that's for me!

**CHORUS**

I think I'm in love with San Juan Sally,  
You've never met a girl as sweet as she.  
It could be time to settle down ... and maybe stay in this here  
town, as long as my sweet Sally is around.  
(Well) what I guess I'm saying.  
Maybe it is time to "pop that question" ...  
Maybe she will say those words "I Do".  
(Saloon Gals sing: Yes I do ... Yes I do ... Yes I do)  
So, I reckon' it's time that I know ... now with hat in hand I go ...  
to see my San Juan Sally of Cap-i-str-ha-no.

**JUSTIN** – So ... you like your song?

**SALLY** – Just thinking about you makes my heart go pitter  
patter...

**JUSTIN** – I feel the exact same way, but do I have to say “pitter patter”?

**SALLY** – I suppose you’ve heard all the fuss that’s been going on in town?

**JUSTIN** – Well I ahhh ... honestly ...

**SALLY** – *(interrupting)* ... of course you have! You’re the sheriff and everything ... of course you know about the desperadoes ...

**JUSTIN** – Desperadoes? Well I ahhh ...

**SALLY** – *(interrupting)* ... And all the shootings ...

**JUSTIN** – Shootings? Well I ahhh ...

**SALLY** – *(interrupting)* ... Oh! I am so proud of you.

*(SALLY and JUSTIN hug but do not kiss)*

**SALLY** – Our town’s new brave Sheriff ... imagine! ... That might take some getting used to.

*(Grabbing a pocket watch from JUSTIN’s pocket – SALLY looks at the time and grabs JUSTIN’s hand ... SALLY leads JUSTIN off stage in search of her father – with two more lines as they EXIT)*

**SALLY** – Oh my! Just look at the time. Come now ... let’s tell my father that you’re back in town... He will be so excited.

**JUSTIN** – *(said as leaving)* Actually ... I think he already knows ...

*(Meanwhile ... CLAIRE and the PROFESSOR ENTER talking.)*

**CLAIRE** – ... On top of zhat every few weeks desperadoes show up to shoot up zee town. 20 families have already left. I’ve got 3 bullet holes in my roof from zee last time zhey came to town,

**PROFESSOR** – There are far more important things than a leaky roof, my dear.

*(The PROFESSOR Holds up a container with black liquid in it.)*

**PROFESSOR** – Do you know what this?

**CLAIRE** – Whatever it is ... it looks vile.

**PROFESSOR** – This is the future my dear ... the future! Have you ever heard of that contraption called a horseless carriage?

**CLAIRE** – Who hasn't? MotoWagons are all zee rage in zee East ... I have heard ...

**PROFESSOR** – *(interrupting)* fine ... fine ... of course ... but do you know what makes them run? Well ... I'll tell you ... it's gas-o-lean ... and do you know where gas-o-lean comes from?

**CLAIRE** – I'm sure you're about to tell me.

**PROFESSOR** – It comes from this! It is called crude oil.

*(The PROFESSOR holds up the vial again for everyone to see)*

**CLAIRE** – It looks crude for sure, but what does zhat have to do with zee price of tea in China?

**PROFESSOR** – *(looking around)* Not a single person in town knows what riches lie rumbling just below their feet. I got a very reliable tip that the entire town of San Juan is sitting over a fortune of this "crude oil".

**CLAIRE** – So ... knowing you ... you're zee one behind all the desperadoes shooting up zee town.

**PROFESSOR** – They have been on my payroll for months now. Soon I'll be able to buy up this town for pennies on the dollar from these San Juan simpletons.

**CUE-CARD** – *Boo ... Hiss*

**CLAIRE** – But with Justin as zee new sheriff ... I don't think zee townfolk of San Juan will be so easily scared off next time.

**PROFESSOR** – Yes ... that is an unfortunate turn of events It just means that I will simply have to change my strategy.

**CUE-CARD** – *Boo ... Hiss*

**PROFESSOR** – *(talking to CLAIRE)* That new Sheriff has all the virtues I dislike ... and none of the vices I admire. I just wonder how much this town would love that new sheriff if they thought he had something to do with this! Take a gander here.

*(The PROFESSOR pulls out a folded piece of brown paper from his pocket and hands it to CLAIRE. She reads it and gasps.)*

**CLAIRE** – Oh ... zhat is just so mean! I didn't think zhat even you were zhat cruel. Thaddeus ... how could you?

**PROFESSOR** – I'm so glad you approve. Soon chaos will return to this little town of San Juan Capistrano! And it will be all mine.

**CUE-CARD** – *Boo ... Hiss*

**CLAIRE** – If you do vhat I think you are planning to do ... how could I ever trust you again. *(pause)* And without zee trust ... what kind of relationship would zhat be?

**PROFESSOR** – A pretty common one ... from what I hear.

**CLAIRE** – Well ... I suppose so ...

**PROFESSOR** – Come Claire. Let me buy you a sumptuous meal.

**CLAIRE** – What are my choices?

**PROFESSOR** – Yes ... or No.

**CLAIRE** – *(beat)* Fine ... Professor. But remember zhat I only drink zee fine wines like zhat Haraszthy Family Cellars Bearitage available at the Camino Real Playhouse concessions.

**CUE-CARD** – *Shameless Plug*

**PROFESSOR** – *(Aside to Audience)* I think we have found our victim in that new sheriff. My plans are all finally coming together.

**CLAIRE** – *(Aside to Audience)* I think I smell zee plot twist coming zhat you will not be expecting.

**PROFESSOR** – Soon this town will be all mine ... *(laugh)*

**CUE-CARD** – *Boo ... Hiss*

**CLAIRE** – *(interrupting)* You mean “OURS” ... Don’t you?

*(CLAIRE links her arm with the PROFESSOR’s)*

**PROFESSOR** – Of course ... or course ... OURS it is.

**CLAIRE** – *(ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)* I zhink it is about time to partake of some liquid refreshments conveniently available in zee lobby at zee intermission.

**CUE-CARD** – *Shameless Plug*

**PROFESSOR** – *(ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)* And be sure not to forget those delicious treats also available in the lobby.

*(The PROFESSOR and CLAIRE EXIT)*

**CUE-CARD** – *INTERMISSION*

**FADE TO BLACK FOR INTERMISSION**

## ACT 2 SCENE 1

The Place: San Juan Capistrano – near Train

The Date: March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1896

The Time: The sun is setting early in twilight

*(SALLY and JUSTIN ENTER hand in hand to the porch on the front of the Swallows Inn Saloon. Meanwhile SARAH enters to tell the audience what to expect)*

**SARAH** – *(Aside to the audience)* Welcome back. Now let's return to our story where we find our new sheriff Justin Credible in the middle of a conversation with San Juan Sally out in front of the old jail house, completely unaware of the trouble that's brewing and stewing in town.

*(SARAH EXITS)*

*(SOUND EFFECT – A train whistle blows twice)*

**JUSTIN** – *(in mid story)* ... And so there I was facing down a pack of wolves between me and the heard of cattle I was entrusted with ... out there on the range just outside of Dixon California.

**SALLY** – Whatever happened then?!

**JUSTIN** – Well ... let's just say ... things somehow always work out and I lived to tell the tale and come back here to you.

**SALLY** – Oh my!

**JUSTIN** – Sally ... if you don't mind me saying ... don't you look prettier than a gob of butter melting on a tall stack of wheat cakes over at Molly's Café.

**CUE-CARD** – *Shameless Plug*

*(MUSIC STARTS)*

**SALLY** – Thank you ... I think?

**Song – Kiss Me, Kiss Me Again**

Words by Henry Blossom and Gary McCarver

Music by Victor Herbert

**VERSE** (*SALLY Sings Alone*)

Oh! Sheriff how often you think of the past!  
Can it be ... you forget?  
Maybe it was passion too wondrous to last,  
but I dream ... of it yet.  
I saw you again as you gazed in my eyes,  
with joy and delight.  
Remember you'd hold me and softly you told me  
of love through the star sprinkled night

**CHORUS**

*(becomes a Duet between SALLY and JUSTIN)*

Sweet San Juan breeze, whispering trees.  
Stars shining softly above.  
Roses in bloom, bring their perfume ...  
Swallow birds flying above  
Safe in your arms ... far from alarms  
Troubles would come, but in vain.  
Tenderly pressed ... close to your chest.  
Kiss me ... Kiss me again ...  
(Oh Sheriff) Kiss me ... Kiss me again!

*(At the end the song they get for that kiss but are once again interrupted ... this time by the sound of a scream.)*

**CLAIRE and SARAH** (*off stage*) – *(a loud scream in unison)*

*(Then DOC MCCAVIDY and THE JUDGE and everyone rushes on stage in a crowd scene towards the sheriff.)*

**SALLY** – Whatever in tarnation is all that commotion about?



**DOC** – *(rushing in and talking to the sheriff)* Sheriff ... I found a dead desperado just outback of your jailhouse.

**SALLY** – That is good news ... isn't it?

**DOC** – I'm sorry Sally ... but unfortunately, I also found this note clutched in his cold dead hand.

**EVERYONE** – What's it say?

**DOC** – Apparently, it's a ... "To Do List". Let me read it ...

*(DOC unfolds a small brown note that looks remarkably like the one that the PROFESSOR showed to CLAIRE in ACT 1.)*

*(DOC stands silently reading to himself while everyone looks on and then they move towards him to hear him to read the note.)*

**EVERYONE** – *(in unison)* ... Out loud!

**SALLY** – So we can all hear, Doc.

*(DOC takes a moment to clean his glasses then starts reading. As he reads he uses a different gruff voice when he is reading the words said by the desperado in the note.)*

**DOC** – Of course. Sorry folks. As I said ... it looks like it is a to do list. I will read it out loud. It says - "*First, end my evil ways.*" "*Then, surrender unarmed to the sheriff and plead for mercy.*" ... It also says at the bottom ... let's see ... it is a little hard to make out. Good, It also says ... "*I sure hope that new sheriff Justin doesn't shoot me in the back like a dirty low-down dog ... just like he said to me that he would.*"

**EVERYONE** – Oh my!

**DOC** – It's signed ... and has some initials down at the bottom.

*(DOC shows the To Do List note to Sally to read.)*

**SALLY** – Oh my! Look! It's even notarized. Strange? *(beat)*  
I didn't know desperados used monogrammed stationery?

*(The JUDGE grabs the note from SALLY's hand to read it.)*

**JUDGE** – It doesn't look good for you sheriff. No ... not good at all.

**DOC** – Slim chance you'll talk your way out of this I'm afraid.

**JUDGE** – Sheriff ... so what do you have to say for yourself?

**SARAH** – Judge ... you know that Justin would never do such a thing?

**SALLY** – *(excitedly interjecting)* It just can't be true!

**JUSTIN** – Here ... let me see that note.

*(JUSTIN grabs the note from the JUDGE to examine it.)*

**JUSTIN** – Hummm? *(beat)* The evidence looks pretty bad against me. I guess there's nothing else for me to do ...

*(JUSTIN reaches for his gun belt)*

*(All the men freeze and reach for their gun belts as well, crouching and expecting a gunfight or shoot out.)*

**JUSTIN** – Yep ... nothing for me to do ... but ... to arrest myself.

**EVERYONE in Unison** – *(relieved but surprised)* What !?

**JUSTIN** – Yep ... 'gotta ... put myself in the hoosegow.

**SALLY** – What?

**JUSTIN** – You know ... the jail ... the pokey ... the slammer ...

**SALLY** – I know what it is ... what I meant was ...

**JUSTIN** – ... *“up the river” ... “the lock up” ... “the clink” ...*

**SALLY** – *(interrupting)* No ... what I meant was ... WHY are you arresting yourself? You KNOW you are innocent.

**JUSTIN** – That is true ... but I swore an oath to uphold the law ... and ... an oath ... IS an oath.

**SALLY** – But you know that you’re innocent ...

**JUSTIN** – True ... but the law ... IS the law.

**CLAIRE** – Definitely zee “Clueless Sheriff” if I ever saw one.

*(SARAH takes a step forward to the audience)*

**SARAH** – *(Aside to Audience)* I guess you were all wondering when we might finally fit that into the dialogue?

**DOC** – That sheriff is definitely *“several swallow’s short of a flock”*.

**JUSTIN** – Nothing more to do than put myself behind bars ...

**DOC** – ... *“One ship short of a fleet” ... or ... “One snowflake short a ski slope” ...*

**JUDGE** – That’s quite enough Doc.

**DOC** – ... or *“One line short of a good script” ...*

**SALLY** – *(almost in tears)* Justin ... it just can’t be true.

**SARAH** – *That’s just so sad!*

**JUSTIN** – *(said sadly)* Sally, if you would be so kind as to hold my gun, this note and ... my badge for me.

*(JUSTIN gives his gun belt, gun, the note and his badge to SALLY. He walks inside the jail behind the bars.)*

**SALLY** – *(to the JUDGE)* Father! What “ever” can we do?

**JUDGE** – Not much I’m afraid. Evidence after all ... is evidence.

**SALLY** – But Father ... you know he just couldn’t have done it?

**JUDGE** – Sally ... I’m not sure you should be keeping company with a “jail bird”. Come on now ... let’s go on home ...

**SALLY** – But Father!

**JUDGE** – Come now!

*(The JUDGE leads SALLY off stage as everyone starts to EXIT)*

**JUSTIN** – *(calling to SALLY)* Don’t worry about me Sally. Even though I always seem to be in the right place at the wrong time ... things somehow always work out.

**SALLY** – *(calling back)* I’ll wait for you ... I’ll wait for you.

**JUDGE** – Not while I’m Judge in this town! Pack your bags Sally. I’m sending you back east to your Aunt Fiona’s on the noon train.

*(SALLY starts to whimper as she and the JUDGE EXIT)*

**SARAH** – *That’s just so sad!*

*(SARAH and everyone EXITS except for CLAIRE)*

*(CLAIRE goes to center stage to talk to the Audience.)*

**CLAIRE** – *(Aside to the Audience)* Zee Professor always said zhat people will believe anything ... as long as zee lie is big enough. *(Getting angry)* Zhat Professor! He promised zhat no one would get hurt. And I promise you ... nobody vill ... at least not if I can help it. Don’t worry folks ... I’ve still got zee trick or two up my sleeve.

*(CLAIRE notices that she is not wearing sleeves)*

**CLAIRE** – Well not zhis dress of course ... but I have zee sleeves on my other outfit ... I will go get it.

*(CLAIRE storms off into The Swallow's Inn Saloon)*

**FADE TO BLACK**

## ACT 2 SCENE 2

The Place: San Juan Capistrano

The Date: March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1896

The Time: It is nearly noon and the train is about to leave

**(LIGHTS TO FULL)**

**CUE-CARD** – *Nearly Noon in Old San Juan*

**(THE SCENE** – *As the lights come up The JUDGE is talking to SARAH at the far corner of the set. JUSTIN is behind bars in the Jail House and SALLY is hiding herself behind the water tower.)*

**(SOUND EFFECT** – *Three blasts of a train whistle)*

**OFF STAGE VOICE** – *(conductor's voice) All aboard!*

**(SPECIAL EFFECT** – *Smoke from behind Water Tower)*

**JUDGE** – Dad-blasted! Sally is nowhere to be found and the train is about to leave.

**SARAH BELLUM** – So judge ... let me get this straight ... the sheriff put himself behind bars in his own jail house.

**JUDGE** – Yep. That's about the size of it.

**SARAH** – If he's as simple minded as you say ... I guess that makes sense. But can he do that? Arrest himself?

**JUDGE** – No law says he can't ... darn confusing if you ask me. *(The JUDGE looks at a pocket watch from his vest.)* I need a drink. It's almost noon ... so I figure one quick drink wouldn't hurt.

**SARAH** – You know that too much liquor can be really bad for you Judge.

**JUDGE** – I emphatically disagree. I believe that the human brain is like a herd of buffalo.

**SARAH** – I've heard of buffalo ...

**JUDGE** – Like the buffalo ... weak, slow brain cells are the ones that are killed off by whiskey.

**SARAH** – I'm not sure where you are going with this - but continue.

**JUDGE** – Without those straggling weak and slow brain cells - our minds operate more efficiently.

**SARAH** – Judge I think you have had one whisky too many already. Buffalo? Really.

**JUDGE** – *(impatiently looking at his pocket watch)* Where is that daughter of mine? She may have missed this train, but there is always another one tomorrow. Maybe she's in that Swallow's Inn. If you'll excuse me.

*(The JUDGE EXITS into the Swallow's Inn)*

**SARAH** – I'll better come with you Judge ... just to make sure you don't cull your herd of too many buffalo.

*(The JUDGE and SARAH enter the Swallow's Inn.)*

*(SALLY sneaks from behind the Water Tower to the Jail. She carries a carpet bag with Justin's gun, badge and the note.)*

**JUSTIN** – My Sally!

**SALLY** – I brought you this fig marmalade sandwich to eat.

*(SALLY hands JUSTIN a sandwich wrapped with a bow)*

**JUSTIN** – Thank you kindly. *(taking a bite)* I was getting a might hungry. What is the rest of the town saying?

*(JUSTIN grimaces at the taste of the sandwich and hides it)*

**SALLY** – I am sorry to say that you have a lot of well-wishers.

**JUSTIN** – Well-wishers ... that doesn't sound so bad?

**SALLY** – Unfortunately, they wish to throw you down a well.

**JUSTIN** – I started out with nothing and still have most of it left.

**SALLY** – *That's just so sad!*

**JUSTIN** – I recon' the only one I can count on is you Sally.

**SONG – When the Little Swallows Come**

Sung by SAN JUAN SALLY to JUSTIN

Lyrics by Cary Duncan and Gary McCarver

Music by Anselm Goetzl

**VERSE**

Tho' times may seem tough from behind those bars.

Remember I am here for you.

I've heard the things they say you've done,

but not one word is true. Through good times or bad

I'm here by your side, and so it will ever be.

For a love like yours and mine endures for all eternity.

**REFRAIN**

Love is love in satin or tatters dear.

Love is love and nothing else matters dear.

Love that is true is all in all.

Always watching ...tenderly lovingly.

Love is love in jail house or mansion dear.

Heart to heart speak softly and love will hear.

Here in springtime ... things will be fine ...

When the little swallows come ...

(Yes) When the little swallows come.



**SALLY** – Justin ... you just couldn't have killed that desperado ... I was with you the entire time. Remember?

**JUSTIN** – Come to think of it. You're right! I couldn't have done it.

**SALLY** – That's what I've been trying to tell you!

**JUSTIN** – And since I can't prove that I'm innocent from behind these jail house bars. *(beat)* Well ... I arrested myself so I guess I can un-arrest myself too.

*(JUSTIN steps out from behind the bars.)*

**SALLY** – Oh my goodness ... is this a jail break?

*(They Hug and SALLY gets ready to kiss JUSTIN, but he places a finger on her lips as she leans in.)*

**JUSTIN** – No time for that right now. There's a heap of shenanigans going on in this town and I'm going to get to the bottom of them. My grandpappy always used to say "*that doing what's right, makes the difference between a hero and a villain*". Sally ... go get my badge and gun.

**SALLY** – Fortunately, I brought them with me, just in case of course. Here you go. And I also brought that "desperados to do list" that started all this trouble.

**JUSTIN** – Let's have a closer look at that "to do list" again ... there was something that just wasn't right about that note. *(looking closely at the note)* What are these monogrammed initials here on the bottom ... hummm? P and M? I wonder what P and M stands for?

*(JUSTIN paces back and forth as he reads the note and thinks.)*

**SALLY** – Could it be the Pro-of...

**JUSTIN** – *(interrupting)* That is what I am looking for ... proof. Nighttime is called PM isn't it?

**SALLY** – Justin ... maybe the initials stand for Professs ...

**JUSTIN** – *(interrupting)* What in blazes was I thinking? It's all so clear now ... those initials are the initials of *(beat)* ... the Post Master ... he must be the one behind all of this ... I'm sure of it.

**SALLY** – Or maybe Professor Mack ... the scoundrel and villain.

*(SALLY shows the Professor Mack wanted poster to JUSTIN)*

**JUSTIN** – Or ... maybe Professor Mack the scoundrel and villain.

**SALLY** – *(mug to the audience)* How brilliant of you.

**JUSTIN** – Thank you ... and now if I only knew where he was.

*(PROFESSOR steps out from the Swallow's Inn into the street)*

*(Pulling out his Peacemaker JUSTIN confronts the PROFESSOR)*

**JUSTIN** – Professor Mack ... I'm placing you under arrest for ... well ... for so many things.

**PROFESSOR** – On what proof?

*(At the point a crowd is coming from the Swallow's Inn Saloon.)*

**JUSTIN** – Proof? ... On the proof that your exact initials P and M are monogrammed on that dead desperado's incriminating "To Do List"!

**PROFESSOR** – For all we know that stands for Post Master.

**JUSTIN** – *(to SALLY)* See Sally ... I told you ... Post Master ...

*(SALLY gives him a firm look and encourages him to continue.)*

**SALLY** – Justin ... you were saying ...

**JUSTIN** – Yes ... as I was saying ... P.M. stands for Professor Mack AND you ... ahhh? ... wanted to get the gold from the train depot's safe. Yep ... that must be it!

*(The crowd gathers closer to listen to JUSTIN)*

**PROFESSOR** – Nope ... already did that a few melodrama's ago.

**DOC** – Well then, maybe you wanted to get the sheriff out of the way so you could ... run for sheriff in the next election.

**PROFESSOR** – That is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard! Although I will add that to my evil schemings list.

*(CLAIRE steps forward from her Saloon and approaches JUSTIN)*

**CLAIRE** – *(to JUSTIN)* Zee next thing you'll be telling us is zhat zee Professor has been paying zee desperados to periodically shoot up zee town to scare off zee families and zee only reason he framed you iz so that he can buy zee whole town for pennies on zee dollar.

*(CLAIRE pauses quickly to look around at the crowd listening.)*

**CLAIRE** – *(said sarcastically)* Oh my! I guess zat I should not have said zhat. Should I?

**PROFESSOR** – *(upset)* You think? While you're at it why not tell them that I've done all this because the town is built over a fortune in crude oil! *(pause)* Curses! I guess I shouldn't have said zhat ... I mean ... that either?

**EVERYONE** – *(Gasps!)*

**SALLY** – Oh my!

*(SOUND EFFECT – Palomitas is heard neighing and laughing.)*

**DOC** – “Crude oil”? ... The only oil in San Juan is “olive oil” from those trees planted on the outskirts of the old Mission.

**SARAH** – “Crude oil” here in San Juan? Where would you get a lame-brained idea like that?

**PROFESSOR** – No oil? Well ... I have the proof right here? See.

*(The PROFESSOR holds up the vial of “Oil” for all to see as SARAH steps forward walking over to the PROFESSOR to take the vial from his hand and looks at it carefully.)*

**SARAH** – Soooo ... I was wondering where my expensive French perfume bottle went off to. Claire? Didn't you borrow this from me a while back?

*(SARAH walks over to CLAIRE to ask her a question)*

**CLAIRE** – *(as a loud proclamation)* Why Yes! Yes I did. I knew zee Professor wouldn't come back unless zhere were zee people to swindle or hoodwink.

**EVERYONE** – *(Gasps!)*

**PROFESSOR** – I won that vial in a card game and the man assured me that this entire valley was loaded with oil.

**CLAIRE** – Soooo ... I made sure zhis bottle found its way to him. A friend owed me a favor and I made sure he lost it to zee Professor playing Faro ... along with zee story about riches zhat zee Professor just could not resist.

**PROFESSOR** – I never would have expected you to be so ... so ... “villainous” ... Claire! *(beat)* Actually ... I kind of like it.

*(CLAIRE gently throws the PROFESSOR a kiss)*

**CLAIRE** – I believe we have a sheriff in this town?

**PROFESSOR** – *(Aside to the Audience)* Why is it that things just never go as expected in this blasted one-horse town?

**CUE-CARD** – Boo ... Hiss

**JUSTIN** – Professor ... as the official recently un-arrested sheriff of this here town ... I'm going to have to put you under arrest. Sally could you fetch me my handcuffs.

*(SOUND EFFECT – Palomitas is heard neighing and prancing.)*

*(SOUND EFFECT – Three blasts of a train whistle)*

**PROFESSOR** – *(to everyone)* Drat! I suspect it's time to make my customarily hasty exit. Keep your hands away from your gunbelts gentlemen ... if ... you know what's good for you.

*(The PROFESSOR pulls out a gun in threatening manner)*

**EVERYONE** – *(Screams or Gasps!)*

*(SPECIAL EFFECT – Smoke coming from behind the Water Tower giving the PROFESSOR cover to EXIT to the train.)*

**PROFESSOR** – Nice try Claire. Maybe you'll have more luck next time. You've not seen the last of Professor Thaddeus Mack. And don't anyone try to follow me.

*(The PROFESSOR EXITS to the train disappearing in the smoke)*

**OFF STAGE VOICE** – *(conductor voice)* All Aboard! Train leaving for Anaheim, Azusa, Cuuuu-ca-mon-ga and ... Hemet!

**CUE-CARD** – *Hemet?*

*(We hear The PROFESSOR's maniacally laughing)*

*(SOUND EFFECT – One More long Blast of a Train Whistle and the sound of the train leaving the station.)*

*(JUSTIN pulls out his Peacemaker points it off towards the train then pauses a moment and then he re-holsters his gun.)*

**JUSTIN** – Don't try to follow him folks.

*(JUSTIN puts his arms out to hold people back)*

**CLAIRE** – But sheriff ... how can you just let zee Professor get away like zhat? I worked so hard to bring him to justice.

**JUSTIN** – Don't worry ma'am. I figure we can telegraph ahead to the next town to arrest that scoundrel the moment his train arrives. Easy as falling off a log and no one gets hurt in the process. He's not going anywhere except to the hoosegow.

**SALLY** – Justin ... that is ... actually a really smart idea.

**JUSTIN** – I do have one of those every once in a while.

*(The JUDGE walks over to apologize to JUSTIN)*

**JUDGE** – I suppose that this town owes you a debt of gratitude Sheriff. I terribly underestimated you, son. No offense intended.

*(The JUDGE offers his hand and JUSTIN shakes it)*

**JUSTIN** – If none was intended ... then nones taken. Like my grandpappy always used to say ... *"Oil's well that ends well"*.

**SARAH** – *(to JUSTIN)* You've been waiting all Act two to say that line haven't you?

**JUSTIN** – Well ... Actually ... yes ... yes I have.

***(MUSIC STARTS)***

**SALLY** – If I don't miss my guess ... I hear a song comin' on.

**JUDGE** – I was afraid you were going to say that.

*(Sally walks over towards JUSTIN as the cast gathers ... to sing the familiar Melodramatic theme song.)*

**SONG – There’s A Place That I Know**

Everyone sings this Reprise from Act 1  
Words by Gene Buck and Gary McCarver  
Music by Dave Stamper

**CHORUS**

There’s a place that I know ...  
where the sweet waters flow.  
Where the sky is so clear and blue.  
It’s a place far from care  
and I want to go there ...  
and I bet you’ll want to go there too!  
Where the people you meet  
as you walk down the street  
are like family and know your name.  
Pack your bags ... come away.  
I know you’ll want to stay.  
Where the swallows will greet you  
and folks are glad to meet you.  
It’s the town that we call ... San Juan!

**(OPTIONAL - REPEAT CHORUS)**

*(CLAIRE walks over to the JUDGE, looping her arm in his arm  
and then begining to slowly walk towards the Saloon where the  
rest of the crowd is heading ... except for SALLY and JUSTIN.)*

**JUDGE** – In all that excitement ... I seem to have worked up a bit  
of a thirst.

**SARAH** – Why does that not surprise me?

**CLAIRE** – Judge ... zhat can be easily remedied. I happen to  
know someone who is zee partner in a saloon.

**JUDGE** – Claire ... I thought you’d never ask. Did I ever tell you  
how your brain is like a herd of buffaloes?

**SARAH** – Just ignore him Claire ... he has already culled his herd  
too much for the day. *(a quick laugh)*

*(Both CLAIRE and the Judge enter the Swallow's Inn followed by SARAH and DOC. Only JUSTIN and SALLY remain on stage.)*

**SALLY** – I guess now that all the excitement in town is over, you'll be heading off again on the next cattle drive.

**JUSTIN** – No need. Actually ... I only was away just to save up money for an important purchase I needed to make. Besides, now that I'm sheriff in town ... I can't leave my best girl unprotected. That is ... if you'll have me?

**SALLY** – Is that a proposal?

*(JUSTIN pulls a sparkly diamond wedding ring from his pocket and gets down on one knee while he holds SALLY's hand.)*

**JUSTIN** – Why do you think I went on all those cattle drives ... I needed to save up money for this.

**SALLY** – Oh! My!

*(JUSTIN puts the ring on SALLY's finger.)*

**JUSTIN** – Well?

**SALLY** – Yes ... Yes ... of course. Yes.

**JUSTIN** – I was really hope'n you'd say that!

*(JUSTIN stands up and SALLY and he embrace and finally so kiss, but the kiss is covered up by JUSTIN's hat at the last second so that the audience doesn't see the kiss. Although the rest of the cast looks out from the windows of Swallow's Inn.)*

**FADE TO BLACK**



# CURTAIN CALL

(The cast reenters singing and taking their bows)

## **SONG – ‘Till You Visit Again**

Words by Jack Drislane & Gary McCarver

Music by Chris Smith

### **VERSE**

We've come to the end of our story.  
It's sad but our time's now through ...  
reliving bygone days of glory  
of heroes and villains with you.  
There's time set aside just for dreamin'.  
And time for things you've gotta' do.  
We're glad we spent this time together ...  
to share songs and laughter with you.

### **CHORUS**

After each melodrama ends ...  
After all of the fun is through.  
After all of our over-acting ...  
Every shameless plug we brought to you.  
It's that old story told again ...  
that heroes still win in the end.  
As you step through that door ...  
plan to come back once more ...  
we'll be saving a seat here for you.

**EVERYONE** – Goodnight everybody!

*(Everyone waves goodbye)*

***(Final Bow and the cast EXITS)***

**FADE TO BLACK**

# **PROPERTY LIST**

## **recommended Props & Set Dressing**

Bad puns and over the top acting is one thing ... but “Wardrobe is really what really makes the Melodrama”. Get creative!

There are countless sources for clothing and props that are appropriate for the late 1800s. Here are a few of the author’s favorites. Stick with top quality brands like Wah-Maker, Frontier Classics or Scully. The Professor has a top hat and a black frock coat. Most men wear old west lapeled vests or suspenders and just about everyone has a hat of some kind. Ladies dress in Victorian style western wear or wear fancy saloon singer corsets and lace.

**[www.wmmerc.com](http://www.wmmerc.com)**  
**[www.texasjacks.com](http://www.texasjacks.com)**  
**[www.gentlemansemporium.com](http://www.gentlemansemporium.com)**  
**[www.westernstageprops.com](http://www.westernstageprops.com)**  
**[www.villagehatshop.com](http://www.villagehatshop.com)**

Most of what you will need in the way of props for the Broken Badge can be found in any established theatre’s prop room, except you might need to rustle up a two person “pantomime horse” costume or a realistic horse head depending upon how you want to portray the hero’s horse “Palomitas”. You could even play it as an imaginary horse ... it’s up to you.

Be sure to visit: **[www.heroandvillain.com](http://www.heroandvillain.com)**  
for pictures, and more melodrama scripts,  
and even free melodramatic resources.

# **SOUND EFFECTS FOR OLD TIME MELODRAMA**

Throughout the Melodrama we have put many cues for sound effects and a couple of “all abords” from an unseen conductor. Off stage cast members can do the sound effects or you can cast a sound effects wizard to do all of the special sound effects if desired. Sound effects listed in the script are the suggested minimum and you will find numerous places for additional humorous effects.

**SWALLOW BIRDS:** *(When the word Swallow is uttered)*

Twist a little bird call. Check a local camping outfitter.

**CRACKLING CAMPFIRE:**

Quietly and randomly crinkle a large plastic bag at a microphone.

**DOG BARKING/ COYOTE HOWLING/ OWLS HOOTING:**

Go ahead and vocalize it ... we know you want to. “Rarf Rarf Rarf!” “Ah-woooo” “Hoot Hoot Hoot”.

**THE HERO’S FAITHFUL HORSE “PALOMITAS”:**

Start practicing your neighing and whinnying.

**A FACE BEING SLAPPED:**

A “Slap Stick” (2 15" x 3" boards connected by a spring hinge).

**GALLOPING, TROTTING, WALKING HORSES:**

Use coconut shells in gravel hoof box. You can also use plastic cups the type that fast food restaurants serve. Use them on a table or a book or on top of some pea-sized gravel. You “gallop” with a cup in either hand using a triplet rhythm. Think: gid-dy-UP, gid-dy-UP, gid-dy-UP, gid-dy-UP which most people associate with a horse.

**TRAIN WHISTLE:**

Go ahead and buy one from eBay or an online toy shop.

# **ADDED BONUS**

## **A QUICK GUIDE TO Melodramatic ACTING**

Melodrama is essentially a theatre of emotions - an exuberance of exaggerated emotions.

**Anger** – The actor's hands are both shoulder high ... eyebrows are pushed toward each other ... with the actor's face tense with a grimace ... hands in tight fists.

**Fear** – The actor's face is turned to the right side... eyes wide ... with the right hand to the mouth, fingers curled touching the top of the palm.

**Grief or Sorrow** – The actor's shoulders rounded ... head down and hands cupping the face. Shoulders rise up and down ... with an optional sobbing noise.

**Love (Male)** – The actor's chest is held high with his right hand crossing the chest and resting upper left over the heart - opening out to the right and his loved one.

**Love (Female)** – The actor's chest is held high with her head cocked a bit to one side the opposite leg goes out with foot pointed ... hands under the chin ... fingers entwined and bent at the first and second knuckles (almost praying).

**Villainous Scheming** – One eyebrow up, the other down, a grimace on the face and hands rubbing together and the villain's fingers twiddle.

**Villainous Sneaking** – Shoulders hunched over, one arm raised to cover the nose on down, eyes free to shift around the room, legs bent on the cross of the stage. An exaggerated twirl of your black cape or duster as you enter and exit the room.

**Feeling Overwhelmed** – Chin up bringing the face to look up, one arm dropped limp to the side, the other hand open with palm towards the audience on the top of the forehead.

## **LIST OF CUE-CARDS USED**

Cue-card are listed roughly in their order of first used.  
Hemet can be replaced with another local town to poke fun at.  
Cue-Card signs can be either held up by the indicated characters  
in the script or projected on the wall for the audience if you are  
fortunate enough to have a projector.

**Evening in Old San Juan – 1896**

**The Swallows Inn Saloon**

**Applause**

**Out on the Lonesome Prairie**

**Applause**

**Early the Next Morning**

**Boo ... Hiss**

**Boo ... Hiss**

**Shameless Plug**

**Hemet?**

**Boo ... Hiss**

**Boo ... Hiss**

**Shameless Plug**

**Boo ... Hiss**

**Boo ... Hiss**

**Boo ... Hiss**

**Boo ... Hiss**

**Boo ... Hiss**

**Shameless Plug!**

**Boo ... Hiss**

**INTERMISSION**

**Shameless Plug**

**Boo ... Hiss**

**Hemet?**

## **ADDED BONUS**

### **A FEW VILLAINOUS HECKLER RESPONSES**

Here are just a few heckler responses that your villain can use to keep control of the performance when a barrage of heckles ensue. A more comprehensive compendium of responses can be found online at <http://www.heroandvillain.com>

Ignore him. He's a few swallows shy of a full flock.

I'm glad to see you're not letting your education get in the way of your ignorance.

A sharp tongue is no indication of a keen mind.

I can't seem to remember your name, and please don't help me! I'm not as dumb as you look.

Any friend of yours ... is a friend of yours.

He is always lost in thought -- it's unfamiliar territory.

I can't talk to you right now; tell me, where will you be in ten years?

I hear that you're a self-made man. It's nice of you to take the blame!

I like your approach, now let's see your departure.

I'd hate to see you go, but I'd love to watch you leave!

The trick, my friend, is to keep an open mind, but not so open that your brains fall out, my friend.

I'm busy working now. Can I ignore you some other time?

Some people don't hesitate to speak their minds because they have nothing to lose.

# WHY PUBLIC DOMAIN MUSIC IS USED

Here are a few reasons why the songs used in this Melodrama are derived from music with expired copyrights (i.e. in the Public Domain). Besides the fact that they “feel” right for the time period ... since they came from the late 1800s ... Under U.S. copyright law, any edition of sheet music that was first copyrighted before January 1st, 1923, is in the public domain in the U.S., even if the copyright was renewed, the book that contained the sheet music is still in the public domain as long as it was initially copyrighted before January 1, 1923. Prior to 1998, U.S. copyright law featured a "75 year" rule whereby copyright on a musical work lasted 75 years from the first year it was copyrighted. In 1998, that was changed to 95 years. However, the 1998 law was not retroactive and works that were out of copyright before the law was passed are still out of copyright and anyone is free to use its music and lyrics in the U.S. without permission.

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**MELODRAMA REHEARSAL TRACKS** are available online visit [www.HeroAndVillian.com](http://www.HeroAndVillian.com) for details

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# **DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

HERE ARE A FEW PAGES FOR THE CAST TO MAKE NOTES  
REGARDING BLOCKING AND MUSICAL DIRECTIONS.



