

JEST AT THE WEST.

(C) Judith Prior www.judithprior.com

6 Ryan Street Bundaberg Q4670 Ph. 07-41527003



Directors Notes:-

Jest at the West was first performed by Bundaberg PI "Jest at the West" is a complete send up of the Wild West. The action takes place in The Silver Slipper Saloon and the audience are included as part of the Saloons patrons.....So be sure to encourage the cast to include them in all the jokes.

If there is no stage available the set may consist of a small bar, one

table and four chairs and perhaps a free standing set of bat-wing doors. If you have an obliging piano player it might be fun to incorporate him, or her, on stage as part of the cast.

Feel free to leave out some of the songs or add more if this suits your cast better e.g. If your Father O'malley is not a singer leave out his Irish song...Or you may like to have the Saloon Girls stay on in this scene and assist, or have the Irish number as an audience participation song. Perhaps a song for Johnny and the girls.

If you don't have strong singers mimed recorded musical numbers may be the way to go. The audience participation as in the flapjack flipping competition should be handled by your most experienced actors... With volunteers on stage Murphy's Law of Theatre is bound to apply!

"Jest at the West"

CHARACTERS:-

MAGGIE MAY	Saloon Owner, Good Sport
WHITE DOVE	Indian Squaw....Not too young
ANNIE	Tom-Boy, wears trousers
SUE ELLEN	Sophisticated Saloon Girl
MARY LOU	Not so Sophisticated Saloon Girl
SAM	(Could be Samantha) Understanding Bartender
WILD BILL	Stagecoach Driver, Town character
FATHER O'MALLEY	Irish Priest
SHERIFF	Very Gullible Sheriff
CECIL	Visiting City Dweller
JOHNNY	Bandit, Has to be disguised as a Girl
GAMBLER	Cameo Role
FARMER (Could be Farmers Wife.)	Cameo Role

**CHORUS OF COW-BOYS AND SALOON GIRLS
OPTIONAL**

Suggested Music

1. Deep In The Heart of Texas.
2. She'll be Comin' 'Round the Mountain
3. Kawlija or, I'm an Indian Too..Any Indian Song.
4. Silver Dollar ... a Gambling Song.
5. I remember it Well, or When I'm Old and Grey
6. Buttons and Bows or Ghost Riders in the Sky.....
7. Don't Fence me In, or Jail House Rock.
8. Running Bear, or Some Tom-Tom Music.
9. Home on the Range or Tennessee Wig Walk
10. Rag-time Cow-Boy Joe....Any Good Cow-Boy Song.
11. William Tell Overture..Lone Rangers Theme.
12. Galway Bay or Does Your Mother Come from Ireland.
13. When You and I were Young Maggie
14. Act Naturally, (They're gonna put me in the Movies)

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N.B. This script is text only.

Above music is an indication only of the type of song suitable. Music is of your own choosing and copyright permission should be sought from the appropriate publishers of any songs used.

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ACT ONE

**THE SILVER SLIPPER SALOON, SATURDAY NIGHT ,
FULL CHORUS PLUS MAGGIE , MARY-LOU, SUE-
ELLEN, SAM, WILD BILL AND JOHNNY.....**

OPENING NUMBER HOEDOWN OR LINE DANCE

MUSIC NO.1.....

WILD BILL Waal, Howdy Doody folks, and a great big Western welcome to you all. Tonight you 'uns are a gonna be treated to a special feast of fun and frivolity, I say fun and frivolity...Right here, right now at Miss Maggie May's Silver Slipper Saloon, Yes folks that's Miss Maggie May's Silver Slipper Saloon..... And, boy that ain't easy to say even this early in the evening!

Wild Bill Hickup is the name ,I say Wild Bill Hickup's the name and scoutin's me game, Dib, Dib, Dib, Dob, Dob, Dob, and all that sort of thing now how's about a great big Howdy from all you 'uns out there?..... Oh, Shucks you all can do better than that! Let's hear it, I say let's hear it for your old pal Bill... On the count of three, I say on the count of three....One..Two...Three!..(**HOWDY BILL!**)..Say I'm a little hard of hearin', I said ...have you said it yet?..Oh, you did? Waal

I sure didn't hear anything. I said I didn't hear a thing. Let's try it again shall we. Howdy folks...(HOWDY BILL!).Waal now that's more like it, I say that's much more like it now perhaps we can get on with the show.

MAGGIE Bill Hiccup, you old rascal I sure hope you wiped your boots good and clean before you came in here. You know I run a nice clean Saloon and I sure don't need any Wild Old Scouts tracking up my floor with good-ness knows what all they might have been stompin' in.

WILD BILL Who you callin' old? I say mind who you go callin' old Miss Maggie, course I done wiped my boots. (**HE GUILTYLY RUBS BOOT TOPS ON BACKS OF TROUSER LEGS.**) Would I ever, I say Would I ever do any-thing to upset I say upset a lady? Now I ask you?

MAGGIE By the way Bill what are you doing here in town to-night? I heard you were out helping the Lone Ranger and Tonto tracking down those bank robbers the James boys.

WILD BILL Waal so I was Miss Maggie, so I was, but the Ranger he had to drop the case.

MAGGIE Drop the case? I say Drop the case...Good Lord he's got me doin' it now!.....The Ranger dropped the case you say, why? What happened?

WILD BILL You see Miss Maggie the Ranger is not real well at the moment.

SAM (FROM BEHIND THE BAR) The Lone Ranger sick? Why he never gets sick.....The man is a legend in his own eyes!

MAGGIE I think you mean his own time, Sam. A legend in his own time!

SAM That too Miss Maggie, That too!

WILD BILL Now I didn't say the Ranger was sick exactly, no not sick exactly more like he's just not..er just not feeling his-self on account of he had a little accident last week.

MAGGIE Accident?..Oh, No,..How bad is it? Bill What happened?

WILD BILL Waal it was like this..(**DURING THIS SPEECH BILL SHOULD USE MUCH EXPRESSIVE MIMING TO ILLUSTRATE**) You see we thought we had them James boys cornered, I say cornered, in the old line shack up on Bear Mountain...Tonto went 'round one side and the Ranger he went round the other way to cover, I say cover the back door. 'Course I had the job of keepin' an eye on the front, I said the front door.

SAM Go on Bill, Go on!

WILD BILL Next thing I heard shots, I said shots and screams commin' from in back of the shack. It was shocking Miss Maggie!

MAGGIE What happened Bill? It must have been terrible.

WILD BILL Waal, Miss Maggie.... It seems that the Ranger had been flattened out along the back wall, I said flattened out along the wall,..... cleverly disguised as a door!

SAM A master of disguises the Lone Ranger.

WILD BILL Sure is Sam, Why the disguise was workin' so well that when Tonto came around the other side, I said the other side of the shack he didn't recognise the Ranger at all and the next thing I say the next thing Tonto up and shot his bolt off!

SAM No wonder he ain't been feelin' his-self.

(**ENTER ANNIE**)

ANNIE Howdy Bill,....Miss Maggie...I'll have a Sarsaparilla thanks Sam. (**SAM POURS HER A DRINK**)

MAGGIE Hello Annie. Is the mail in yet?

ANNIE No, not yet miss Maggie...Say that sure is a purty dress you're wearin'.

MAGGIE Yes, it is lovely isn't it? ...You should try wearin' a dress sometime Annie, I'm sure you would look very pretty in a dress.

WILD BILL Pretty ! Annie! Take more than a ,I said more than a dress to make Annie even look like a girl!

(EXIT BILL..ANNIE IGNORES HIM.)

ANNIE You know I ain't never owned me a dress Miss Maggie.

MAGGIE Never owned a dress! Well it's high time you did young lady. Why don't you know that having the correct clothes and under garments help to make a girl feel pretty.

ANNIE Under-wear? What kind of under-wear are you talking about Miss Maggie?

MAGGIE Well, for instance, this outfit I'm wearing looks and fits so well because of the lovely line created by the special bra. I'm wearing.

ANNIE Special bra? What do you mean special bra?

MAGGIE This one I'm wearing at the moment is what I call my Cattle Dog Bra.

ANNIE Cattle Dog Bra! Why do you call it a cattle dog bra?

MAGGIE Because it rounds me up and points me in the right direction!

ANNIE Aw, shucks Miss Maggie you're just makin' fun of me.

MAGGIE No I'm not Annie, I'd really like to see you in a dress. Didn't your mother ever make a dress for you?

ANNIE Waal I cain't remember my Ma very well, she died when I was still real little.

MAGGIE Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't know that Annie

ANNIE Nothing to be sorry about Miss Maggie..Happened a long time ago. We have a good life on our farm, my Pa, my brother Leeroy and me.

MAGGIE But what happened to your mother you poor child?

ANNIE Oh she was killed at the Little Big Horn.

MAGGIE The Little Big Horn,...How dreadful..Custer's last stand! That poor dear woman having to be involved in that terrible battle.!

ANNIE Oh, she weren't involved in the battle exactly, Miss Maggie.....

MAGGIE But you just said.....?

ANNIE You see we were living at the time just over the hill from where the battle took place and Ma, well she just went over to complain about the noise!