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Dramatic Publishing

A FULL LENGTH MUSICAL MELODRAMA

Showdown
at the
Sugar Cane Saloon

Book and lyrics
by
JOSEPH ROBINETTE

Music
by
JAMES R. SHAW



THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY

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(SHOWDOWN AT THE SUGAR CANE SALOON)

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ABOUT THE PLAY

The ship of that dreaded French Pirate Orange Marmalade and his men lies anchored just outside New Orleans. Because the fearful townspeople stay behind locked doors, business is slow in the city, particularly at the Sugar Cane Saloon which is operated by Fraulein Praline and her helpers, Golden Graham, a reluctant hero, and Cookie Crumble, a fragile heroine. The only customers on this summer day in the 1890's are Sheriff Pistachio, Banker Butterscotch and an old prospector, Pop Tart.

Soon, however, that dastardly villain, Devil-Dog Do-Wrong and his female companions, Cherries Jubilee and the Pitt Sisters, arrive hoping to join forces with Marmalade, described as the "greatest villain of them all."

What follows is a series of chases, songs, disguises, merriment, mistaken identities and one of the most surprising endings ever encountered in a melodrama.

From the show's opening number, which vividly describes a melodrama, to the closing curtain, wherein even the piano player gets into the act, this musical combines all the best elements of an old-fashioned melodrama with plenty of contemporary one-liners, sight gags and comedy routines.

CHARACTERS

DEVIL -DOG DO-WRONG	the villain
FRAULEIN PRALINE	owner of the saloon
SHERIFF PISTACHIO	a law officer
BANKER BUTTERSCOTCH	the local banker
POP TART	an old prospector
COOKIE CRUMBLE	a fragile heroine
GOLDEN GRAHAM	a handsome hero
CHERRIES JUBILEE)	
PEACH PITT)	three pretty chorus girls
PLUM PITT)	

SONGS AND SINGERS

VILLAIN'S SONG	Devil-Dog Do-Wrong
MELODRAMA	Entire Cast
THE SUGAR CANE SALOON	Frauline Praline
A LITTLE BIT ORDINARY	Golden Graham and Cookie Crumble
FRUIT SALAD	Cherries Jubilee, Cookie Crumble, Peach and Plum Pitt
ALAS! ALACK!	Entire Cast
SHOWDOWN	Entire Cast
REPRISE - A LITTLE BIT ORDINARY	Entire Cast
REPRISE - MELODRAMA	Entire Cast

Time: The 1890's

Place: The Sugar Cane Saloon, Texas

ACT ONE

SONG: OPENING - "Melodrama"

Scene: As the house lights fade, DEVIL-DOG DO-WRONG, a villain, attired in cape, top hat, etc., and carrying a cane and whip, enters in front of the curtain or from the rear of the house, then comes down front.

DEVIL-DOG. Ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha! He-he-he-he-he-he-he! Heh-heh-heh-heh-heh-heh-heh! (To the audience.) Heh - lo there! (A pause.) You don't seem very happy to see me. Oh well -- that's to be expected, I suppose. No one -- absolutely no one likes the villain. (A pause.) The villain -- that's me. You surely didn't think I was Peter Pan in this outfit -- or Robin Hood or the fairy godmother. Oh, no -- they're all good guys -- heroes. Me? (Singing:)

I'M THE MEAN OLD VILLAIN,
AND I MAKE A KILLIN'
WHEN IT COMES TO STEALIN' AND ROB-
BIN' PEOPLE BLIND!
I'M A SNAKE IN THE GRASS --
AT THE HEAD OF MY CLASS!
I'M THE FOULEST FIENDISH FELLOW
YOU'LL EVER FIND!

(Speaking:) But it's not altogether my fault.
I'm somewhat a victim of circumstances -- a

product of my environment. You didn't understand that, did you? Good! The villain is supposed to be confusing and confounding. But for you, I will simplify. (Singing:)

THE PLAY TODAY THAT YOU'VE COME
TO SEE
REQUIRES A DASTARDLY DUDE LIKE ME!
WITHOUT THE VILLAIN, THERE'D BE NO
SHOW,
SO, YOU'D HAVE TO LEAVE YOUR SEATS
AND GO!
OH, YOU MAY DESPISE ME AND WISH I'D
FADE AWAY,
BUT I'M ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO
THE PLAY!

(Speaking:) You will see other people in the show, of course -- but I'm clearly the most important character of all! You don't believe me? Then I'll prove it. We'll begin the play. Without further ado, I'll bring it to you. Behold -- I present a panorama of our brand new old-fashioned melodrama!

(The curtain opens to reveal the interior of the Sugar Cane Saloon. A bar and three stools are up-stage right. Three or four tables and chairs are at various locations. UC is the main entrance with swinging doors. A smaller entrance leads off R. The CAST enters singing:)

ALL. MELODRAMA! MELODRAMA!
A MOST EXCITING SHOW -- WE GUARAN-
TEE THAT YOU'LL ENJOY A BIT OF
MELODRAMA! MELODRAMA!

WE KNOW IT WON'T BE LONG TILL YOU
AGREE
THERE'S NO MORE FUN UNDER THE SUN,
THERE'S NO MORE MIRTH UPON THE
EARTH,
THERE'S NO MORE JOY FOR GIRL OR BOY
THAN IN OUR MELODRAMA, MELO-
DRAMA -- YOU'LL SEE!

DEVIL-DOG (speaking). The wonderful thing about
a melodrama is that it has a little something for
everyone. It also has *someone* for everyone.
So let us begin with the characters. First of all,
my *least* favorite.

GOLDEN GRAHAM (the handsome hero. He sings:)
I'M THE HERO - NAPOLEON AND NERO
ALL WRAPPED UP INTO ONE!
I AM BOLD; I AM BRAVE; I MUST ALSO
BEHAVE!
OF VIRTUE, I'M A PARAGON!
(Speaking:) I think that means I'm a good
guy. And -- I am!

COOKIE CRUMBLE (the pretty fragile heroine. She
sings:)
I'M THE MISTRESS -- WHO IS ALWAYS IN
DISTRESS!
THE HERO I WILL WIN!
IF HE MARRIES ME, YOU KNOW WHAT I

WILL BE?

A GENUINE REAL HEROINE!

(Speaking:) I'm not sure what a heroine does,
but it sounds like fun!

BANKER BUTTERSCOTCH, SHERRIFF PISTACHIO

and POP TART (the banker, sheriff and old
prospector. They sing:)

WE'RE THE LOCALS -- BANKERS, SHER-
IFFS, YOKELS!

WE ALL MAKE UP THE TOWN!

BANKER (singing:)

I AM RESPECTED!

SHERIFF (singing:)

I AM ELECTED!

POP (singing:)

AND ME? WELL -- I'M JUST OUT AND
DOWN!

(Speaking:) Actually, I'm down and out. But
we had to make it rhyme.

FRAULEIN PRALINE (owner of the saloon. She
sings:)

I'M THE FRAULEIN -- THE SUGAR CANE
IS ALL MINE!

PLEASE COME TO MY SALOON!

CHERRIES JUBILEE, PEACH PITT and PLUM PITT

(singing:)

WE ENTERTAIN YOU

'CAUSE WE'RE THE GIRLS WHO

CAN SING AND DANCE FROM NIGHT TILL
NOON!

CHERRIES JUBILEE (speaking). We also do light
housework on slow days.

PEACH PITT. But no windows!

DEVIL-DOG. And there you have it -- the dramatae personae of this devastating dramaturgical diversion!

GOLDEN GRAHAM. Uh -- what does that mean?

DEVIL-DOG. It means -- there you have it -- the people in the show.

GOLDEN GRAHAM. Oh -- why didn't you say so?

DEVIL-DOG. As I mentioned before -- the villain is supposed to be confusing. That's his part in the --

ALL (singing:)

MELODRAMA! MELODRAMA!

A MOST EXCITING SHOW -- WE GUARAN-
TEE THAT YOU'LL ENJOY A BIT OF
MELODRAMA! MELODRAMA!

DEVIL-DOG. You've met the characters. Now here's what we have for you in the area of dramatic progression.

GOLDEN GRAHAM. Dramatic progression?

DEVIL-DOG. It means -- what we're going to do.

GOLDEN GRAHAM. Then why didn't you -- oh, yeah -- confusing.

DEVIL-DOG. That's me!

ALL (certain lines may be given to various actors.

They sing:)

WE HAVE CHASES AND EMBRACES,
BIG SURPRISES AND DISGUISES!

THERE ARE SONGS AND FRANTIC FIGHTS;
THERE ARE WRONGS THAT VERSUS
RIGHTS!

A MAIDEN YOU CAN WOO AND KISS;

A VILLAIN YOU CAN BOO AND HISS!
SOME GIRLS TO MAKE YOU RAVE,
“HOO-RAY!”

A HERO WHO MAY SAVE THE DAY!
WE HAVE GOBS OF GRAND ROMANCES,
AND A DASH OF DANDY DANCES.

DEVIL-DOG (speaks while ALL dance to each “command.”). A polka . . . Now slow-down (waltz)! A can-can . . . A hoe-down!

(Sings:)

AND THE CHOREOGRAPHIC *PIECE DE RESISTANCE* --

(Speaking, quickly to GOLDEN GRAHAM.)

That means -- the big finish. A showdown! (DEVIL-DOG unfurls his whip as the GIRLS scream. SHERIFF PISTACHIO pulls out his pistol and holds it aloft. The MEN yell and ALL dive for cover. DEVIL-DOG pops his whip, and SHERIFF PISTACHIO fires his pistol. ALL scream. [Note: All pistol shots may be coordinated with an offstage blank pistol being fired.] Cut! (ALL are quiet as he addresses the audience). And if that doesn't grab you, we've got an elephant that stands on his head and whistles “The Star Spangled Banner.” You don't believe me? Well -- you're right! The villain also fibs a lot in our brand new old-fashioned --

ALL (singing:)

MELODRAMA! MELODRAMA!

A MOST EXCITING SHOW -- WE GUARAN-
TEE THAT YOU'LL ENJOY A BIT OF

MELODRAMA! MELODRAMA!
WE KNOW IT WON'T BE LONG TILL YOU
AGREE --
THERE'S NO MORE FUN UNDER THE SUN,
THERE'S NO MORE MIRTH UPON THE
EARTH,
THERE'S NO MORE JOY FOR GIRL OR BOY
THAN IN OUR MELODRAMA, MELO-
DRAMA -- YOU'LL SEE!

SO, COME ON MA'AM -- AND COME ON
MISTER,
BRING YOUR BABY BROTHER AND YOUR
LITTLE SISTER!
GRAB YOUR DADDY AND YOUR MAMA
AND GET ON DOWN TO OUR BRAND NEW
-- JUST FOR YOU,
RIGHT NOW -- IT'S A "WOW,"
LET'S GO -- WHAT A SHOW,
AT THE MARV'LOUS, MERRY, MELO --
MELODRAMA!

DEVIL-DOG (as ALL exit). And now -- let the melo-
drama begin! (He laughs and exits off R.)

FRAULEIN PRALINE'S ENTRANCE - PIANO

(FRAULEIN PRALINE, an elderly, but spry woman
with a thick German accent, "opens" the
saloon. She putters about, setting up for the
day's business. Unseen by her, SHERIFF
PISTACHIO and BANKER BUTTERSCOTCH
enter from UC.)

SHERIFF PISTACHIO. Morning, Ma'am.

FRAULEIN PRALINE (not turning around). Good morning, Sheriff Schnapps.

BANKER BUTTERSCOTCH. Top of the day, Madame.

FRAULEIN PRALINE. Greetings to you, Banker Bon-Bon. (She turns to them and gasps.) Oh, my goodness. You are not Sheriff Schnapps.

BANKER BUTTERSCOTCH. And I am not Banker Bon-Bon.

SHERIFF PISTACHIO. I am the *new* sheriff -- Sheriff Pistachio. (He shakes her hand.)

BANKER BUTTERSCOTCH. And I am the new banker -- Banker Butterscotch. (He shakes her hand.)

FRAULEIN PRALINE. My pleasure, gentlemen. I am Fraulein Praline. But what happened to Sheriff Schnapps and Banker Bon-Bon? They used to be my first customers each morning.

SHERIFF PISTACHIO. They're on a temporary -- vacation.

FRAULEIN PRALINE. Vacation? Why?

SHERIFF PISTACHIO (secretively). To tell the truth -- and very confidentially -- we have been sent here to New Orleans by the United States Government -- to take over for a few days. (FRAULEIN PRALINE expresses surprise.)

BANKER BUTTERSCOTCH. Are you aware that the ship of that dreaded French pirate -- (Pronouncing the name with a French accent.) -- Orange Marmalade -- lies anchored in the bay not five miles from here?

FRAULEIN PRALINE. Am I aware? Everyone is

aware! That's why my business is so bad. Everyone stays home these days -- behind locked doors. They're afraid the pirates may come ashore any minute now and terrorize the entire city of New Orleans -- robbing and stealing -- and eating cookies without paying for them. (Offering a plate of cookies to them.)
Have one.

SHERIFF PISTACHIO. Thank you, Ma'am.

BANKER BUTTERSCOTCH. Delicious.

SHERIFF PISTACHIO. So that's why we're here -- because the pirates don't know what we look like.

BANKER BUTTERSCOTCH. When they come into town, it'll be easier for me to spot them when they try to rob the bank.

SHERIFF PISTACHIO. And easier for me to arrest them when they do.

BANKER BUTTERSCOTCH. Then our good friend, Marshall Marshmallow, the U. S. Marshal, will arrive and take those terrible pirates to prison.

SHERIFF PISTACHIO. And the town will be safe once again.

FRAULEIN PRALINE. That is comforting. Everyone is so afraid. Well, gentlemen -- enjoy yourselves with a nice cool sarsaparilla.

SHERIFF PISTACHIO. Thanks.

BANKER BUTTERSCOTCH. Very kind of you. (She gives them the drinks.)

SHERIFF PISTACHIO. Nice place you've got here.

FRAULEIN PRALINE. If you'll excuse me saying so -- it's the best place in town! When things are

normal, the saloon is full of customers. And for a very good reason. (She sings:)

Song - THE SUGAR CANE SALOON

THE SUGAR CANE IS WHERE YOU COME
AND HUM A TUNE OR TWO.
YOU SIT AROUND UNTIL YOU'VE FOUND
A FRIEND THAT'S OLD OR NEW!
A GLASS OF CHEER, A COLD ROOT BEER,
OR SARSAPARILLA SWEET
WILL BE THE HOST THAT MAKES A TOAST
TO EVERYONE YOU MEET!

AT THE SUGAR CANE, THE SUGAR CANE
-- IT'S LIKE A DAY IN JUNE,
THE SUGAR CANE, THE SUGAR CANE --
IT'S ONE LONG HONEYMOON!
AND IF FORTUNE SHOULD EVER TAKE
ME TO CHINA OR TO SPAIN,
THIS MEMORY WILL ALWAYS MAKE ME
COME BACK ONCE AGAIN
TO THE SUGAR CANE, THE SUGAR CANE,
THE SUGAR CANE SALOON!

SHERIFF PISTACHIO (singing:)

A CANDY BAR, A COOKIE JAR WILL MAKE
YOU WANT TO STAY!

SWEET VANILLA CREAM, A CHOC'LATE
DREAM WILL FLAVOR UP YOUR DAY!

BANKER BUTTERSCOTCH (singing:)

THE CAKES AND PIES WILL BULGE YOUR

EYES NO MATTER WHAT YOUR TASTE,
AND STRUDEL, TOO -- SO NICE TO CHEW
-- WILL SURELY BULGE YOUR WAIST!

ALL (singing:)

AT THE SUGAR CANE, THE SUGAR CANE
-- IT'S LIKE A DAY IN JUNE,
THE SUGAR CANE, THE SUGAR CANE --
IT'S ONE LONG HONEYMOON!

(They dance, FRAULEIN PRALINE taking turns with SHERIFF PISTACHIO and BANKER BUTTERSCOTCH. During the dance, POP TART, an old prospector with a broken arm, enters and joins the dance, at one point being inadvertently paired with BANKER BUTTERSCOTCH. [Note: During the OPENING (MELODRAMA), POP TART did not wear the bandage and sling that he now has on.])

ALL (singing:)

AND IF FORTUNE SHOULD EVER TAKE
ME TO CHINA OR TO SPAIN,
THIS MEMORY WILL ALWAYS MAKE ME
COME BACK ONCE AGAIN
TO THE CANDY-COVERED,
CHOC'LATE-COATED,
CAR'MEL-COLORED,
COCO-NUTTED
SUGAR CANE SALOON!

PLAYOFF: THE SUGAR CANE SALOON

(COOKIE CRUMBLE enters from UC.)

COOKIE CRUMBLE. Good morning, Fraulein Praline.

FRAULEIN PRALINE. Hello, Cookie. Everyone --
this is my helper -- Cookie Crumble.

COOKIE CRUMBLE. Hi! Say -- where are Sheriff
Schnapps and Banker Bon-Bon?

BANKER BUTTERSCOTCH. Vacationing.

SHERIFF PISTACHIO. Until we capture the French
pirate, Orange Marmalade.

COOKIE CRUMBLE. I hope it's soon. I'm so nervous
I could crumble.

FRAULEIN PRALINE. Clean, Cookie. (COOKIE
CRUMBLE takes cleaning equipment from
FRAULEIN PRALINE and begins to work.)

SHERIFF PISTACHIO (to POP TART). Say, old
fella -- we haven't met you.

POP TART. Me? I'm Pop Tart. I'm an old prospector.

BANKER BUTTERSCOTCH. What does an old
prospector do?

POP TART. Same as a young prospector -- looks for
gold -- only slower.

FRAULEIN PRALINE. Herr Tart -- there is no gold
in New Orleans.

BANKER BUTTERSCOTCH. Except on that pirate
ship anchored in the bay.

POP TART. Pirates?

COOKIE CRUMBLE. Oh -- I'm so scared.

FRAULEIN PRALINE. Clean, Cookie. (To POP
TART.) How did you break your arm, Herr
Tart?

POP TART. My donkey fell on it.