

# **Ye-Ha!**

Junior Script  
by  
Craig Hawes

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**CAST LIST**

***N.B. In the following list, the bracketed number shows the number of spoken lines each role has.***

***An asterisk (\*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.***

***Principal Characters***

\* Billie-Jo Brisket ..... (73)  
 Lightrnin' The Horse ..... (0)  
 \* Wilbur Hubbard..... (86)  
 Ma Annie Hubbard ..... (62)  
 Chip Checker ..... (40)  
 Mayor Tex Truman..... (100)  
 Dwayne Dimples ..... (35)  
 \* Dr. Cornelius Spooner ..... (36)  
 Rooster ..... (12)

***The No-Good Outlaws***

Howling Mad Dog McNut ... (36)  
 Bronco Bill..... (22)  
 Buzz ..... (8)  
 Buck ..... (7)  
 Bud..... (4)  
 Brad ..... (4)  
 Bret ..... (4)  
 Butch..... (6)

***The Saloon Girls***

Bonnie..... (3)  
 Casey..... (3)  
 Dixie ..... (3)  
 Ellie ..... (3)  
 Frankie..... (3)

***The Townsfolk***

Philius Snuffitt..... (18)  
 Festus Rott ..... (14)  
 Old Seth ..... (17)  
 Old Amos..... (18)  
 Smith Ironside ..... (6)  
 Levi Vandergelder ..... (7)  
 Dolly Vandergelder ..... (6)  
 Claude the Barber ..... (4)  
 Clyde the Barber ..... (4)  
 Clifford the Barber ..... (4)  
 Clint the Barber ..... (4)  
 Miss Bracegirdle..... (6)

***The Children***

Sonny Ironside ..... (3)  
 Chad Checker ..... (4)  
 Verity Vandergelder..... (3)  
 Virginia Vandergelder ..... (3)

***The Two Stroke Indians***

Chief Walking Weasel ..... (25)  
 Squatting Poodle ..... (8)  
 Leaping Leopard ..... (6)  
 Jumping Jaguar ..... (7)  
 Towering Wild Bear ..... (7)

***Any lyrics referring to “Chorus” should be sung by anyone on stage.***

## SPEAKING ROLES BY NUMBER OF LINES

***N.B. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (\*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.***

Mayor Tex Truman .....	100
* Wilbur Hubbard .....	86
* Billie-Jo Brisket.....	73
Ma Annie Hubbard.....	62
Chip Checker .....	40
* Dr. Cornelius Spooner.....	36
Howling Mad Dog McNut .....	36
Dwayne Dimples.....	35
Chief Walking Weasel.....	25
Bronco Bill.....	22
Old Amos .....	18
Philius Snuffitt .....	18
Old Seth.....	17
Festus Rott .....	14
Rooster .....	12
Buzz.....	8
Squatting Poodle .....	8
Buck.....	7
Jumping Jaguar .....	7
Levi Vandergelder.....	7
Towering Wild Bear .....	7
Butch.....	6
Dolly Vandergelder .....	6
Leaping Leopard .....	6
Miss Bracegirdle .....	6
Smith Ironside.....	6
Brad .....	4
Bret.....	4
Bud .....	4
Chad Checker.....	4
Claude the Barber.....	4
Clifford the Barber.....	4
Clint the Barber.....	4
Clyde the Barber.....	4
Bonnie.....	3
Casey.....	3
Dixie.....	3
Ellie.....	3
Frankie.....	3
Sonny Ironside.....	3
Verity Vandergelder.....	3
Virginia Vandergelder .....	3

## CAST LIST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER (WITH LINE COUNT)

***N.B. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (\*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.***

* Billie-Jo Brisket.....	73
Bonnie.....	3
Brad .....	4
Bret.....	4
Bronco Bill.....	22
Buck.....	7
Bud .....	4
Butch.....	6
Buzz.....	8
Casey.....	3
Chad Checker.....	4
Chief Walking Weasel.....	25
Chip Checker.....	40
Claude the Barber.....	4
Clifford the Barber.....	4
Clint the Barber.....	4
Clyde the Barber.....	4
Dixie.....	3
Dolly Vandergelder .....	6
* Dr. Cornelius Spooner.....	36
Dwayne Dimples.....	35
Ellie.....	3
Festus Rott .....	14
Frankie.....	3
Howling Mad Dog McNut.....	36
Jumping Jaguar .....	7
Leaping Leopard.....	6
Levi Vandergelder.....	7
Ma Annie Hubbard.....	62
Mayor Tex Truman .....	100
Miss Bracegirdle .....	6
Old Amos .....	18
Old Seth.....	17
Philius Snuffitt.....	18
Rooster .....	12
Smith Ironside.....	6
Sonny Ironside.....	3
Squatting Poodle .....	8
Towering Wild Bear .....	7
Verity Vandergelder.....	3
Virginia Vandergelder .....	3
* Wilbur Hubbard .....	86

***Non-speaking roles: Lightnin' The Horse.***

**CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE****Scene 1**

Chip Checker  
 Claude the Barber  
 Clifford the Barber  
 Clint the Barber  
 Clyde the Barber  
 Dolly Vandergelder  
 Dwayne Dimples  
 Festus Rott  
 Levi Vandergelder  
 Ma Annie Hubbard  
 Mayor Tex Truman  
 Miss Bracegirdle  
 Old Amos  
 Old Seth  
 Philius Snuffitt  
 Smith Ironside  
 Wilbur Hubbard

**Scene 2**

Bonnie  
 Casey  
 Claude the Barber  
 Clifford the Barber  
 Clint the Barber  
 Clyde the Barber  
 Dixie  
 Dolly Vandergelder  
 Dwayne Dimples  
 Ellie  
 Festus Rott  
 Frankie  
 Levi Vandergelder  
 Ma Annie Hubbard  
 Mayor Tex Truman  
 Miss Bracegirdle  
 Old Amos  
 Old Seth  
 Philius Snuffitt  
 Smith Ironside  
 Wilbur Hubbard

**Scene 3**

All

**Scene 4**

Billie-Jo Brisket  
 Brad  
 Bret  
 Bronco Bill  
 Buck  
 Bud  
 Butch  
 Buzz  
 Chief Walking Weasel  
 Howling Mad Dog McNut  
 Jumping Jaguar  
 Leaping Leopard  
 Lightnin' The Horse  
 Mayor Tex Truman  
 Squatting Poodle  
 Towering Wild Bear

**Scene 5**

Billie-Jo Brisket  
 Dwayne Dimples  
 Ma Annie Hubbard  
 Wilbur Hubbard

**Scene 6**

All

## LIST OF PROPERTIES

### Scene 1

Town sign, with population count displayed ..... Scene Prop  
 Sheriff badge ..... Unnamed townsfolk  
 Handbell..... Dimples  
 Bag of lottery balls, with numbers drawn or painted on ..... Dimples  
 Lottery tickets..... The Townsfolk

### Scene 2

Bar and at least three tables ..... Scene Prop  
 Glasses and a washing up cloth or sponge ..... Chip  
 Swing doors ..... Scene Prop  
 Notebook ..... Festus  
 Tape measure..... Festus  
 Business card ..... Philius  
 Tablecloths ..... Dixie & Ellie  
 At least two bowls of nibbles, on a tray..... Wilbur

### Scene 3

Town sign (as used previously) ..... Scene Prop  
 Suitcase ..... Spooner  
 Large cart..... Rooster  
 Mixing bowl and large whisk ..... Wilbur  
 Sheriff badge (as used previously) ..... Wilbur  
 Tape measure (as used previously) ..... Festus  
 Eight popguns..... The No-Good Outlaws  
 Eight pairs of brightly coloured underwear (costume) ..... The No-Good Outlaws

### Scene 4

Bag of paper money ..... Tex  
 Set of bongo drums ..... Towering Wild Bear  
 Lone Ranger mask ..... Billie-Jo

### Scene 5

Prison bars and cell door ..... Scene Prop  
 Lone Ranger mask (as used previously) ..... Billie-Jo  
 Bag of paper money (as used previously) ..... Billie-Jo



**Scene 6**

Town sign (as used previously) .....	Scene Prop
Large cart (as used previously) .....	Rooster
Soap box or crate .....	Scene Prop
Barbells .....	Rooster
Dunce's hat .....	Rooster
Mortarboard .....	Rooster
Medicine bottle of tonic, and glasses .....	Rooster
Paper money .....	The Townsfolk
Lone Ranger mask (as used previously) .....	Billie-Jo
Large whisk (as used previously) .....	Wilbur
Sheriff badge (as used previously) .....	Wilbur
Black oil (or face paint) .....	Seth & Amos

## **PRODUCTION NOTES**

Welcome to *Ye-Ha!* I am sure you will enjoy rehearsing and performing this musical comedy, but to aid you in your production it may be helpful to consider the following production notes.

### **CASTING**

The script is written for 42 speaking characters, as listed previously. Lightnin' The Horse is a non-speaking role. These roles range from principal parts to small supporting roles. For productions with fewer cast members, condensing and doubling of characters is possible. This can be done in numerous ways, but the following example reduces the cast number to 26:

- Remove Bud, Brad & Bret (reallocating lines) to leave just 3 outlaws
- Combine the Saloon Girls, The Barbers and The Vandergelders into just 1 part each
- Combine The Children into just 2 parts
- Double up 5 Townsfolk as The Two Stroke Indians.

To expand the cast, unlimited chorus parts may be used as additional Townsfolk, Saloon Girls, Children and an off-stage choir for backing on other songs. All characters work better if they can attempt American accents, apart from the Indians. Chief Walking Weasel is written as a highly eloquent Englishman to contrast with the traditionally low, abrupt speech of his tribe (who should be cast in height order from medium to tall, with the exception of Towering Wild Bear who is tiny!) The outlaws sound rough and tough apart from Butch, who has a squeaky, high voice.

### **COSTUMES**

This show is quite easy to costume as it is full of traditional Wild West characters, and there are countless films and cartoons to draw upon. One idea to keep in mind is that the baddies work well all in black, allowing the audience to easily identify them and differentiate between them and the other townsfolk. This will also help when they reveal their bright, contrasting underwear. Lightnin' (the horse) is traditionally played by two performers in a pantomime horse costume which can be hired or made as appropriate. These performers may wish to also play townsfolk when they are not saddled up! Billie Jo requires a brown "Calamity Jane" style costume as well as a traditional white "Lone Ranger" costume. Remember, plenty of gingham, Stetsons and neckerchiefs and you can't go far wrong!

### **STAGING**

This production can be staged effectively with just simple scenery to suggest a Wild West Town. Saloon doors, tables and chairs can be brought on for the Saloon Scene, and Chip can bring on his own "portable" bar on wheels, with wood effect front and different bottles and glasses on top. Some small flats with rocks and a cactus or two can be brought on for Critter Creek and a small flat of a cell door with barred window for Wilbur to look through could be used in the Jail scene. Effective use of lighting can also help to differentiate between other scenes. In the town, a large sign with "Splodge City" is required, with a

population count beneath it that can be changed. This is usually done with hole-punched squares of paper, printed with descending numbers, suspended from the sign and ripped off as required at the beginning of the show. The use of a small blackboard and chalk might work just as effectively.

## **MUSIC**

All the music required to stage this production, including sound effects, is found on the Backing Track CD. A vocal recording is provided as a guide and to enable the swift learning of songs. The backing tracks without vocals are ideal to use in rehearsals and performances, and the two scores provide additional flexibility if you have the luxury of a live pianist. Directors may, if they wish, allow a choir or separate character to accompany or replace a soloist in a song or section intended for a soloist. This is sometimes necessary if certain cast members are unable to perform the solo themselves fully or if a larger chorus or choir is required to be employed more fully throughout the show.

## **AND FINALLY...**

This is a fun show to rehearse and perform, so remember to enjoy yourselves and your audience will, too! My best wishes for a successful and enjoyable production.

***Craig Hawes***

**TRACK 1:** **OVERTURE**

*As the House Lights dim, the music begins and eventually swells as the curtain rises.*

**SCENE 1**

*Mainstreet, Splodge City - a traditional Wild West town. To one side is the town sign, with a population count below it. The lights are dim and a spotlight fades up on Wilbur as he enters and begins to sing.*

**TRACK 2:** **IN THE WILD WILD WEST!**

**WILBUR:** IN A WESTERN TOWN LIFE CAN BE GRAND  
WE'RE THE LUCKIEST FOLK IN THE LAND  
AND WITH EVERY NEW DAY  
WE SHOULD STAND UP AND SAY WE'VE BEEN BLESSED...  
IN THE WILD, WILD WEST!

*As the music changes, the lights brighten and the townsfolk begin to enter.*

**WILBUR:** THERE'S A LAND WHERE WE ALL WANT TO BE  
WHERE THE RIVER AND CATTLE RUN FREE  
WHERE THE THRILLS AND THE SPILLS  
PUT YOUR RODEO SKILLS TO THE TEST...

**CHORUS:** IN THE WILD, WILD WEST!  
IN THE WILD, WILD WEST!  
IN THE WILD, WILD WEST!  
IN THE WILD, WILD WEST!

IF YOU WANDER THE WESTERN FRONTIER  
THERE'S A WELCOME IN STORE FOR YOU HERE  
IF YOU'RE GOOD, IF YOU'RE BAD  
IF YOU'RE UGLY OR MAD, BE OUR GUEST

**CHORUS:** IN THE WILD, WILD WEST!  
IN THE WILD, WILD WEST!  
IN THE WILD, WILD WEST!  
IN THE WILD, WILD WEST!

*An exciting instrumental follows, accompanied by cowboy claps, yelps and shouts, as some of the townsfolk perform some agile dancing, cartwheels and cowboy tricks.*

**CHORUS:** IF YOU WANDER THE WESTERN FRONTIER  
THERE'S A WELCOME IN STORE FOR YOU HERE

IF YOU'RE GOOD, IF YOU'RE BAD  
IF YOU'RE UGLY OR MAD, BE OUR GUEST

IN THE WILD, WILD WEST!  
IN THE WILD, WILD WEST!  
IN THE WILD, WILD WEST!  
IN THE WILD, WILD WEST!

***At the end of the song, the townsfolk get on with their daily routine, and slowly exit. Chip steps forward to address the audience.***

**CHIP:** Welcome to the wild, wild west, folks, and to our little ol' town - Splodge City! Chip's the name: bartender at The Fordoor Saloon! It sure is mighty fine to see strangers around these parts, but I'm bettin' you won't want to stay long. You see, something stinks in Splodge City, and it ain't the drains!

**TRACK 3:** **SFX POP-GUN #1**

***We hear a popgun shot and a scream. In the background, townsfolk run across the stage. As the undertakers drag a body across the stage, a townsman comes up to the sign and changes the population count, minus one!***

**CHIP:** There's a no-good gang running wild, a-stealin' and a-shootin'! Townsfolk are sellin' up and leavin'. And where's the sheriff? Good question - no one seems to want the job!

***Behind Chip, a worried-looking man is pushed on by some townsfolk who stick a sheriff badge on his chest and walk off. The new sheriff convinces himself to be brave and strides across the stage and exits.***

**CHIP:** I mean, the pay's good, you get a shiny badge and every Wednesday off. Trouble is, none of 'em survive past Tuesday!

**TRACK 4:** **SFX POP-GUN #2**

***We hear another popgun shot & scream. The undertakers drag the old sheriff across the stage whilst another townsman reduces the population sign by one again.***

**CHIP:** There goes another one! Thankfully, Mayor Truman - our glorious leader - has come up with a clever solution to the sheriff problem!

***Dwayne Dimples enters, ringing a bell and holding a bag of balls. He calls the townsfolk to order.***

**DIMPLES:** Gather round, folks, and show your appreciation for your Mayor, Mr. Tex Truman!

*The crowd gather around and clap as Mayor Tex Truman enters, looking grand and important.*

**TEX:** Thank you, kind citizens of Splodge City. As you know, we're facing a crisis. Mad Dog McNut and his posse have been terrorising us for far too long. *(The crowd shout in agreement)* It's time we took a stand. *(The crowd cheer)* We need a sheriff who'll sort them out once and for all! *(The crowd cheer again)* So who's it gonna be? *(The crowd give half a cheer, realise their mistake and quickly look away trying not to be noticed)* Well get your tickets ready, folks, 'cos it's time to release those sheriff lottery balls!

*The crowd pull out their lottery tickets and look nervously between them and Dwayne Dimples. Dimples vigorously shakes his bag of balls and pulls out three balls with numbers on. There is much dramatic reaction as he pulls out each ball and reads the number.*

**DIMPLES:** Number three! Number eight! And the bonus ball is... number six!

*Everyone releases a loud gasp of relief, except Wilbur who seems in shock.*

**LEVI:** *(Looking over Wilbur's shoulder)* It's Wilbur!

**CROWD:** It's Wilbur!

**MA HUBBARD:** *(Shocked)* It's Wilbur?

**WILBUR:** *(Sounding terrified and upset)* It's me!

*The crowd chatter as Ma Hubbard consoles her son. Tex and Dimples walk up to Wilbur and, as Dimples pins the sheriff badge on Wilbur's chest, Tex shakes his hand vigorously.*

**TEX:** Congratulations, Wilbur. I'm sure you'll make us proud and put up a good fight.

**WILBUR:** But Mayor Truman, I can't fight! I don't know how to fight! I'm just a cook!

**DIMPLES:** Only girls cook, sonny. It's time you stood up and acted like a man!

**TEX:** Come on, folks, let's hear it for our new sheriff - Wilbur Hubbard!

*The crowd cheers as the opening song reprises.*

**TRACK 5:                    IN THE WILD WILD WEST (REPRISE)**

**CHORUS:** IF YOU WANDER THE WESTERN FRONTIER  
THERE'S A WELCOME IN STORE FOR YOU HERE  
IF YOU'RE GOOD, IF YOU'RE BAD  
IF YOU'RE UGLY OR MAD, BE OUR GUEST  
IN THE WILD, WILD WEST!

*During the final few bars of this song, the actors change the scene. The townsfolk exit and Chip wheels on his bar whilst the saloon girls bring on chairs and tables. Other scenery is changed to allow a smooth and seamless transition into Scene 2.*

**SCENE 2**

***The Fordoor Saloon. Chip is behind the bar, cleaning glasses. A few tables are dotted around the stage. Seth and Amos are sat drinking at one table, a group of townsfolk are at another. The saloon girls are dotted around serving and chatting.***

**CHIP:** The Fordoor Saloon! Liveliest joint in town! Well, it used to be - until Mad Dog McNut and his posse turned up. Customers are a bit thin on the ground, now! Old Ma Hubbard's doing her best to keep the place going, but it sure ain't looking good.

***Ma Hubbard and Wilbur enter through the saloon's swing doors. Ma is looking worried and upset.***

**MA HUBBARD:** Oh, Wilbur, this is all we need! As if things weren't bad enough already. Up to our eyes in debt, customers leaving every day and now this - a sheriff's badge. You might as well wear a sign saying "shoot me now please!" Oh, if only your father was still with us, God rest his soul! ***(She begins to cry)***

**WILBUR:** Now don't get all tearful, Ma. I ain't planning on getting into no fights. I reckon we can sort it all out with a chat and a few nibbles, nice and peaceful like. I mean, what's the worst that could happen?

***Philius Snuffitt and Festus Rott, the undertakers, enter.***

**FESTUS:** Ah, Sir, Madam! Philius Snuffitt and Festus Rott at your service!

***They both bow solemnly, then Festus examines Wilbur and gets out his notebook and tape measure. Philius gives Ma Hubbard his business card.***

**PHILIUS:** We're the undertakers from the local funeral parlour - Snuffitt and Rott!

**MA HUBBARD:** Undertakers? But...

**FESTUS:** When we heard the news about you becoming the new sheriff, Sir, we had to come and congratulate you! And your weight is, sir?

**WILBUR:** About a hundred and fifty pounds.

**FESTUS:** ***(making a note in his notebook)*** A hundred and fifty pounds, excellent.

**MA HUBBARD:** But I don't quite...

**PHILIUS:** Yes, you must be very proud of your - er - shall we say "Dear devoted son, greatly missed?" That would look very good in granite, don't you think?

**MA HUBBARD:** Greatly missed?

**PHILIUS:** The wording's very important, madam! Not many undertakers pay as



much attention to the job as us - in fact, it's a dying art!

- FESTUS:** **(laughing)** A dying art! Oh, very good, Mr. Snuffit!
- PHILIUS:** Thank you, Mr. Rott! Just a little joke, madam. We find it helps to lighten what can otherwise be a rather grave situation! **(He laughs at his own joke)**
- FESTUS:** **(Moving Wilbur's head)** Looking straight ahead, please Sir. **(He measures Wilbur with his tape)**
- WILBUR:** **(To Festus)** Stop it! What are you doing? **(To Philius)** What's he doing?
- PHILIUS:** He's just getting accurate measurements, Sir. When it comes to funeral arrangements, Mr. Rott is dead keen!
- MA HUBBARD:** Funeral arrangements? But my Wilbur's alive and well!
- FESTUS:** Of course he is, madam... at the moment! But when you're the sheriff of Splodge City, Sir, you'll find it's not just six feet of paperwork you'll be buried under!
- PHILIUS:** We just want to be prepared for every eventuality. Now, will you be wanting oak or mahogany?
- MA HUBBARD:** What?
- PHILIUS:** Or pine's very popular.
- WILBUR:** Out!
- FESTUS:** We do a lovely line in chipboard!
- WILBUR:** **(Extremely cross as he pushes them through the doors)** Out!
- PHILIUS:** Well, be like that, then.
- FESTUS:** It's your funeral!

*The undertakers exit.*

- SETH:** They've got a point, there, young Wilbur! That there badge is a curse!
- AMOS:** Sure is, Seth! The boy's a goner, and that's a fact!
- MA HUBBARD:** Are you saying my boy can't stand up to a gang of no-good hoodlums?
- SETH:** He's just a cook, Annie! What's he gonna do? Give 'em a roasting?
- AMOS:** Make mincemeat out of 'em? **(They both laugh)**
- BONNIE:** Look who's coming this way, girls!
- CASEY:** Oh no, it's Mayor Truman!
- MA HUBBARD:** Mayor Truman? Oh no, just look at the state of me.
- WILBUR:** You don't need to dress up for Tex Truman, Ma.
- MA HUBBARD:** But he's the Mayor, Wilbur. And the wealthiest man in Splodge. He owns most of it.
- WILBUR:** And if he marries you, he'll own this bit, too. Just 'cos he's got money, he thinks he can do what he wants.
- MA HUBBARD:** Beggars can't be choosers, Wilbur. And Tex Truman's money might

just save this saloon. Now stop your whittling and fetch us some food.  
Girls?

**DIXIE:** Yes, Ma Hubbard?

**MA HUBBARD:** Tidy up this place and cover up anything unsightly.

**ELLIE:** Yes, Ma Hubbard!

***The two girls cover Seth and Amos with tablecloths as Wilbur exits. Mayor Tex Truman and Dwayne Dimples enter the saloon.***

**DIMPLES:** Make way for the mayor! Make way for the mayor! **(To Seth and Amos)** Hey, you two - this ain't no fancy dress parade. Now beat it - this is the Mayor's favourite table.

***Seth and Amos take off their tablecloths and reluctantly go and sit at another table.***

**TEX:** Stop fussing, Dimples. Ah, Annie, my dear!

**MA HUBBARD:** Mr. Mayor, won't you take a seat. Frankie, get Mayor Truman a drink.

**FRANKIE:** Yes, Ma Hubbard, straight away!

**TEX:** Well, Annie - have you thought on my proposal?

**MA HUBBARD:** **(With false bashfulness)** Oh, Mr Truman, a young girl can't be rushed, you know!

**DIMPLES:** A young girl?

**TEX:** Oh, Annie. Don't go teasing me so. You know how I feel about you!  
Why, your eyes are like pools!

**DIMPLES:** Yep, cess pools.

**TEX:** And your teeth are like stars!

**DIMPLES:** Yep, they come out at night!

**TEX:** Why, Annie, you're one in a million!

**DIMPLES:** More like won in a raffle!

**TEX:** Dimples, go away. I'm having a private chat with Miss Hubbard.

***Dimples looks cross and wanders off to sit at another table. Tex continues to woo Ma Hubbard.***

**TEX:** A woman like you shouldn't stay a widow. Horace would have wanted you to move on, you know.

**MA HUBBARD:** **(Getting tearful)** Oh, my poor Horace. What a way to go. He never wanted to enter that rodeo. He got roped into it! You see, we were poor, and someone told him if he was good with a lasso he's be sure to get a few bucks! Well, he didn't know what to do, did he? Should he stay at the saloon? Should he enter the dangerous Rodeo? And so he ended up caught on the horns of a...

**TEX:** ... dilemma?  
**MA HUBBARD:** No, a six foot bull. And now here I am, with only Wilbur to help me run the saloon.

***Wilbur enters with a tray of nibbles.***

**TEX:** Annie, look at me. I may be the Mayor, but deep inside I'm just a...  
**WILBUR:** ***(Offering a bowl of nibbles)*** ... Cheesy flake?  
**TEX:** I'm just a lonely man with pots of money. And when I look at you, do you know what I see?  
**WILBUR:** ***(Offering another bowl of nibbles)*** A fruity tart?  
**TEX:** I see a lonely woman who could use a helping hand. Just one little word, Annie, and I'll take over this place and you'll wave your worries bye-bye!  
**WILBUR:** We're doing just fine, thanks very much, Mr. Mayor.  
**TEX:** That's not how I see it, sonny. And as for you, cooking ain't no job for a real man. We'll have you out of that kitchen and holding a gun when I'm your new Pa!  
**WILBUR:** My new Pa? Over my dead body!  
**TEX:** Well, that's looking a little more likely, now, isn't it... Mr. Sheriff! Annie, we'll continue our conversation when we have a little more privacy. Dimples, we're leaving.  
**DIMPLES:** ***(Rushing out ahead of Tex)*** Make way for the Mayor! Make way for the Mayor!

***Tex and Dimples exit. Ma Hubbard looks crossly at Wilbur.***

**MA HUBBARD:** Well, Wilbur, you stuffed that up good and proper!  
**WILBUR:** But Ma...  
**MA HUBBARD:** You've upset Mayor Truman and now we're back in debt! We'll have to sell up, and I doubt we'll get more than a dime for the whole darn place. ***(She exits looking stressed and upset)***  
**WILBUR:** But Ma...  
**SETH:** You mark my words, boy, this place is more valuable than it looks. Why, this saloon could be a gold mine!  
**AMOS:** Shut your trap, Seth you old fool! Take no notice of him; he's got gold on the brain. Never been the same since we were gold mining in the mountains and someone pinched his nuggets!

***Seth and Amos exit. The Saloon Girls go over to Wilbur to try and cheer him up.***

**WILBUR:** Great! Wilbur Hubbard does it again! Oh, if only I could find a way to

sort this mess out. Get rid of McNut and his gang, get this place back on its feet. Then Ma wouldn't have to marry that old oaf Mayor Truman.

**BONNIE:**

Come on Wilbur, you're the Sheriff now! This is your chance.

**CASEY:**

You're smarter than anyone else in town. You'll think of a way!

**DIXIE:**

That's right, you could sort Mad Dog McNut and his gang.

**WILBUR:**

Me? I'm no sheriff, I'm just a cowardly cook. I couldn't fight my way out of a paper bag.

**ELLIE:**

Sure you could, Wilbur. Just have faith in yourself!

**FRANKIE:**

You know what they say - there's a hero hiding inside everyone!

**WILBUR:**

Well, if that's true, the one inside me's hiding pretty darn good.

*The Saloon Girls exit, leaving Wilbur to tidy up the tables in the saloon whilst he sings sadly to himself.*

**TRACK 6:**

**WHERE IS THE HERO IN ME?**

**WILBUR:**

HEROES OF OLD, DASHING AND BOLD  
THAT'S WHAT THE STORIES SAY  
WISH I COULD BE FEARLESS AND FREE  
SAVING THE DAY!

I MUST PROVE MYSELF AS MY FATHER'S SON  
AND UNLOCK MY LIFE WITH THE KEY  
IF A HERO'S HIDING IN EVERYONE  
THEN WHERE IS THE HERO IN ME?

COWARDLY KID, RAN AND I HID  
NEVER WOULD FACE MY FEAR  
ISN'T THAT STRANGE? TIME FOR A CHANGE  
THAT TIME IS HERE!

I MUST PROVE MYSELF AS MY FATHER'S SON  
AND UNLOCK MY LIFE WITH THE KEY  
IF A HERO'S HIDING IN EVERYONE  
THEN WHERE IS THE HERO IN ME?  
TELL ME, WHERE IS THE HERO IN ME?

***Blackout.***

**SCENE 3****TRACK 7: SPOONER'S ENTRANCE**

*Mainstreet, Splodge City. The children of the town are playing games in the street. Dr. Spooner strides on with a suitcase, followed by Rooster who is pushing a large cart. It soon becomes clear that Dr. Spooner gets his words muddled up.*

**SPOONER:** This way, Rooster, my boy!  
**ROOSTER:** So this is Splodge City, is it Dr Spooner?  
**SPOONER:** That's right, Rooster! Another down, another time!  
**ROOSTER:** You mean another town, another dime!  
**SPOONER:** Precisely, my boy. That's just what I said!  
**ROOSTER:** Well, let's hope this town is better than the last one. We didn't sell a single jar of tonic there!  
**SPOONER:** You've got to have faith, Rooster, my boy. I've spent years going from town to town, walking my hares and sealing the hick!  
**ROOSTER:** You mean hawking your wares and healing the sick?  
**SPOONER:** Precisely, my boy! And you never know what the next town will bring. This could be the one where we rake it mitch!  
**ROOSTER:** Make it rich?  
**SPOONER:** Yes, and that! Something tells me this town will change our lives forever!  
**ROOSTER:** How do you know, Dr. Spooner?  
**SPOONER:** I have a funny healing in my fart! Come along Rooster, let's find the local hostelry!

**TRACK 8: BILLIE-JO'S ENTRANCE #1**

*Spooner and Rooster exit. Billie-Jo enters, leading her faithful horse Lightnin'.*

**BILLIE-JO:** Come on, Lightnin'! It can't be far, now. Is your hoof still sore, boy? **(Lightnin' nods sadly)** Let's take a look, shall we? **(Lightnin' shakes his head and looks scared)** Come on, you big sissy, I'm only going to look at it. **(Lightnin' reluctantly lifts his foot)** You're gonna need a new shoe, boy. We'll have to find a Blacksmith. **(Lightnin' looks more scared than ever)** Don't be silly, it won't hurt none. Now, let's see. Hey, you kids.

*The children all run up to see Billie-Jo and Lightnin'.*

**SONNY:** Hi there, Miss. I sure like your horse!

**CHAD:** I'm Chad and this is Sonny.  
**VERITY:** I'm Verity Vandergelder!  
**VIRGINIA:** And I'm Virginia Vandergelder!  
**BILLIE-JO:** Well, I'm mighty pleased to meet you kids. I'm Billie-Jo Brisket, and this here magnificent stallion is Lightnin'! Say, do you know of a Blacksmith round these parts?  
**SONNY:** Sure do - it's my Pa! I'll go and fetch him! (*Sonny exits to fetch his father*)  
**CHAD:** Wow! He sure must be a brave horse with a name like Lightnin'!  
**BILLIE-JO:** Brave? He's a bit of a cowardly custard, if I'm honest. I call him Lightnin' 'cos at the first smell of trouble, he's gone in a flash! (*The children all laugh*) Mind you, he won't run far at the moment - he needs a new shoe.

**Sonny returns with his father, Smith Ironside the Blacksmith.**

**SMITH:** Someone here call for a blacksmith?  
**SONNY:** This is Billie-Jo Brisket, Pa, and her horse Lightnin'.  
**BILLIE-JO:** His hoof's been hurting for a couple of days - I think he needs a new shoe.  
**SMITH:** I'm sure we can take a look back at the forge. You look like you've been travelling a mighty long way, Missy. What brings you to Splodge?  
**BILLIE-JO:** I'm just exploring the Wild West, you know, to seek adventure and fortune!  
**CHAD:** But you can't do that! You're just a girl!  
**VERITY:** Mummy says girls should stay at home, cook, sew and have babies.  
**VIRGINIA:** I'm going to have twenty-seven!  
**VERITY:** Well, I'm going to have twenty-eight!  
**VIRGINIA:** Don't be silly, Verity. Twenty-eight babies is quite ridiculous.  
**BILLIE-JO:** Well, let me tell you, girls can do far more than have babies! Why, I'm as tough and brave as any boy and...  
**MISS B'GIRDLE:** (*Off-stage*) Children?  
**CHAD:** Oh, no, it's Miss Bracegirdle!

**Miss Bracegirdle, a strict and severe looking schoolmistress, enters, looking cross.**

**MISS B'GIRDLE:** And what do you think you children are doing here?  
**CHILDREN:** Nothing, Miss Bracegirdle!  
**MISS B'GIRDLE:** Well stop dawdling and yakking - you're late for lessons. Now come along!  
**CHILDREN:** Yes, Miss Bracegirdle!

**SMITH:** Come along, there, Lightnin'. Lets get you a new shoe! *(To Billie-Jo)*  
You can fetch him when he's done!

*The children line up behind Miss Bracegirdle who leads them off stage. Smith leads Lightnin' off stage as Wilbur enters, carrying a bowl and whisk.*

**WILBUR:** Howdy, partner! I've not seen you around these parts before.

**BILLIE-JO:** I'm new in town: Billie-Jo Briskett, at your service.

**WILBUR:** Well, pleased to meet you, Billie-Jo Briskett! I'm Wilbur, Wilbur Hubbard. Welcome to Splodge! Though if you have any sense, you won't hang around for long.

**BILLIE-JO:** Why? What's up?

**WILBUR:** This town's in trouble! There's a no-good gang running about. This place just ain't safe anymore.

**BILLIE-JO:** Well, you just need to lay down the law - show 'em who's boss.

**WILBUR:** Hey, I just cook in the saloon. I leave all that laying down the law stuff to the sheriff.

**BILLIE-JO:** *(Pointing at his sheriff badge)* That would be... you!

**WILBUR:** *(Looking down at his badge and remembering)* Oh, yeah! I forgot about that!

**BILLIE-JO:** Well, my horse Lightnin's at the blacksmith's, so I'll be stopping in Splodge for a while. Then it's back in the saddle and on the dusty trail, looking for adventure!

**WILBUR:** Adventure? But you're just a girl!

**BILLIE-JO:** Don't you start that too! My Ma always said I should act like a lady. But with my Pa gone, it's down to me to make our fortune. Anyhow, I can do anything a boy can, and just as well. No, better! I can ride, I can fight and I can look after myself! All this boy stuff and girl stuff is just a load of old baloney!

**WILBUR:** I know what you mean. I can't do any of those things, but I can sure cook better than anyone in town. Folk say that's just sissy, that I should be a real man and learn to fight. But I just ain't brave like that.

**BILLIE-JO:** Which is a bit of a problem when you happen to be the sheriff, right? Well, I'm sure I can lend a hand if you need some help.

**WILBUR:** Thanks! Well, if you're sticking around, you better meet the neighbours! Good people of Splodge City, this here young lady is Billie-Jo Brisket.

**SETH:** Howdy, young lady! I'm Seth, and this is Amos.

**AMOS:** Welcome to Splodge!

**PHILIUS:** Snuffitt and Rott, the undertakers!

**FESTUS:** *(Measuring Billie-Jo with his tape)* Always delighted to meet potential clients!

**LEVI:** Levi and Dolly Vandergelder! We own the local store, Vandergelder's Emporium!

**DOLLY:** Now you be sure to pop in and see us, dear - anything you need, we sell it!

**WILBUR:** These are the Saloon Girls!

**SALOON GIRLS:** Hi, Billie-Jo!

**WILBUR:** And the barbers from the barbershop.

**CLAUDE:** *(Singing in a mock-barbershop style)* I'm Claude!

**CLINT:** I'm Clint!

**CLIFFORD:** I'm Clifford!

**CLYDE:** I'm Clyde!

**BARBERS:** We'll give you a free shave with a short back and sides!

**CLYDE:** *(Making the most of his solo)* Short back and sides!

**WILBUR:** And we all hope you'll have a pleasant stay in our little ol' town!

**TRACK 9:** **LITTLE OL' TOWN**

**WILBUR:** YOU CAN KEEP THE MOUNTAIN  
AND THE PRAIRIE GOLDEN BROWN  
THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER HERE  
FOR THERE'S NOWHERE BETTER THAN OUR LITTLE OL' TOWN!

**ALL:** YOU CAN KEEP THE MOUNTAIN  
AND THE PRAIRIE GOLDEN BROWN  
THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER HERE  
FOR THERE'S NOWHERE BETTER THAN OUR LITTLE OL' TOWN!

NOWHERE SO PRETTY  
NOWHERE SO FINE  
GIVE ME SPODGE CITY EVERY TIME!

**WILBUR:** SKIES ARE NEVER CLOUDY  
AND THE FOLK ARE NEVER DOWN  
SO COME AND JOIN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD  
FOR THERE'S NOWHERE BETTER THAN OUR LITTLE OL' TOWN!

**ALL:** SKIES ARE NEVER CLOUDY  
AND THE FOLK ARE NEVER DOWN  
SO COME AND JOIN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD  
FOR THERE'S NOWHERE BETTER THAN OUR LITTLE OL' TOWN!

NOWHERE SO PRETTY  
NOWHERE SO FINE  
GIVE ME SPODGE CITY EVERY TIME!  
EVERY TIME!

YOU CAN KEEP THE MOUNTAIN  
AND THE PRAIRIE GOLDEN BROWN



THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER HERE  
 FOR THERE'S NOWHERE BETTER THAN OUR LITTLE OL' TOWN!

SKIES ARE NEVER CLOUDY  
 AND THE FOLK ARE NEVER DOWN  
 SO COME AND JOIN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD  
 FOR THERE'S NOWHERE BETTER THAN OUR LITTLE OL' TOWN!

FOR THERE'S NOWHERE BETTER...  
 THAN OUR LITTLE OL' TOWN!

**TRACK 10: MCNUT GANG ENTRANCE**

*The gang burst in and take up centre stage, making frightening gestures at the townsfolk, who scream and scatter to the edges of the stage.*

**DOLLY:** Oh no! It's the McNut Gang!  
**BRONCO:** Reach for the sky! Hold it right there, folks! I'm Bronco Bill and I'd like you to welcome the rest of the posse. Introduce yourselves to the good folk of Splodge, boys.  
**BUZZ:** I'm Buzz!  
**BUCK:** I'm Buck!  
**BUD:** I'm Bud!  
**BRAD:** I'm Brad!  
**BRET:** I'm Bret!  
**BUTCH:** *(Rather high and squeaky)* And I'm Butch!  
**BRONCO:** And now please welcome the baddest baddy in the west...  
**CLAUDE:** It's their no-good leader, Mad Dog McNut!

*Mad Dog McNut enters dramatically. The Townspeople run to the centre of the stage and huddle together.*

**MCNUT:** That's "Howling Mad Dog McNut" to you!  
**BILLIE-JO:** Well, it's nice to meet you, Mr. Poodle...  
**MCNUT:** Mad Dog!  
**BILLIE-JO:** Whatever!  
**BRONCO:** Hey, stranger, haven't I seen your face somewhere else?  
**BILLIE-JO:** No, it's always been on the front of my head! Anyway, we were just in the middle of a nice little song and dance number, so if you don't mind leaving and taking your troupe of performing monkeys with you.  
**MCNUT:** Why you little...