

JIM DANDY'S RUDE, CRUDE DUDE RANCH

By Les McClain

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS

To copy this text is an infringement of the federal copyright law as is to perform this play without royalty payment. All rights are controlled by Eldridge Publishing Co., Inc. Contact the publisher for further scripts and licensing information.

On all programs and advertising the author's name must appear as well as this notice: "Produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing, Co."

Eldridge Publishing Company
www.histage.com

© 1989 by Eldridge Publishing Company

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
<http://www.histage.com/playdetails.asp?PID=213>

SYNOPSIS

At Jim Dandy's Dandy Dude Ranch for Children, nasty city kids learn good manners and improve their self-images! The Dandy ladies, including the lovely young Melody Dandy, are running the ranch while Jim Dandy is serving an undeserved prison sentence. Trouble is, the ranch is close to the future railroad line and villain Rash von Sphincter is determined to make a tidy, albeit unfair, profit on it.

Rash tricks the gals into letting him manage the ranch. He enlists several dusty Cowboys, who have no manners, to work for him, turning all the dude children into brats, ruining the ranch's reputation, and (hopefully) forcing Mrs. Dandy to sell. Rash's goody-goody son, Vincent, doesn't understand his father's evil actions. And the brave, shy hero, Elliot Bond, who has just finished his graduate work in international law enforcement, child abuse and cattle rustling, doesn't understand why he has such a bully of a son, Bradley, at all.

Melody finds out about Rash's plans from Crystal Starlight, his reformed accomplice. So Rash makes three rather creative attempts to silence Melody. All are foiled at the last moment by our hero. And Jim Dandy, out on furlough, finds out Rash is the real criminal of the crime Jim was convicted.

But there's unfinished business here. Crystal and the Cowboys turn out to have birthmarks that prove they are the Dandy's long-lost eldest children and Melody confesses that when she was a nurse, she accidentally switched two baby boys (and we know which two!) Adding humor to the already pun-filled play are a know-it-all Narrator, an old Sheriff who has a line for the women, a piano player who has one line, and a few other minor parts which can be doubled.

Playing Time: About 1 hour, 30 min.

THE CAST

4 w, 5 m, 3 others (*men or women*),
and 5-7 kids (*or adults dressed as kids*)

Melinda Dandy...wife, co-owner of Dandy Dude Ranch
Jim Dandy...husband, co-owner of Dandy Dude Ranch
Melody ...Dandy sweet daughter
Aunt Sophie...Melinda's sister, Melody's aunt

Dusty Cowboy 1...crude drifter*
Dusty Cowboy 2...rude drifter*

Rash von Sphincter...the villain!
Vinny von Sphincter...polite son of the villain
Elliot J. Bond...the hero!
Bradley Bond...nasty son of the hero

Sheriff Badge...the law
Crystal Starlight...accomplice of Rash
Stage Driver, Governor...2 small parts, same actor*
Stage Narrator...on stage story teller
Piano Player...short lived
3 Kids, (one doubles as Newsboy)...small parts

*Cowboys and Stage Driver/Governor can be either men or women. The parts are written for men; if woman are used, simply change the gender references throughout. The only other dialogue change would be in Scene 8 where the cowboys are referred to by name. The female names would be Finnette (*Fine-et'*) and Justise (*Just-teese'*).

SCENERY

One interior set, room of the dude ranch, and two simple drops, the desert and a main street of old west town.

SFX

Entrance and exit music, rapid door knocks, belches, gun shots, banging noises, crash and cattle stampede.

COSTUME NOTES

RASH: traditional villain suit, black cape

VINNY: dark or black colors

ELLIOT: traditional hero's outfit (*all white*) with holster and gun (*either a cap pistol or a blank gun that can fire 6 times without reloading*) Add white gloves for Scene 7

BRADLEY: light or white colors

KIDS: mixed colors (*not all dark or all white*)

CRYSTAL: 1) traditional dance-hall floozy outfit, dark stockings; 2) white nurse's smock; 3) regular, period dress, bonnet

MELODY: softer, lighter colors than other women, ribbon in hair

COWPOKES: dusty (*flour*), dirty clothes; then regular, clean, neat clothes

GOVERNOR: old-fashioned, gray suit

SOPHIE, MRS. DANDY, SHERIFF, JIM DANDY, COACH DRIVERS: traditional period clothes, mixed colors such as plaids, not real dark or real light. First Driver has arrow through cowboy hat; second is dressed as an Indian.

NARRATOR: unkempt, but distinguished; light pants, dark jacket, frilly or fancy shirt, Western gambler-drifter stereotype; ever-present wine or whiskey bottle (*or grape Kool-Aid bottle*).

Scene 1
The Desert

(AT RISE: RASH and VINNY enter. RASH is carrying a map, counting his paces.)

RASH: 13,452...13,453...13,454...13,455! Aha! Here it is Vinny! 13,455 paces due west of town. X marks the spot! *(Holds up map, showing big X)*

VINNY: *(Speaking rather formally.)* Father, you know I prefer to be called Vincent. But anyway, how do you know we're at the right place?

RASH: *(Picks up a piece of poster board that has been laying flat on stage, displays a large X painted on the poster)* Well, my boy, the X on my map matches perfectly with the X here on the ground. This is the place!

VINNY: What's so special about this place, Father?

RASH: Right here, Vinny, my boy, is probably the most valuable piece of property in the old west ...

(STAGE NARRATOR walks onto stage, carrying script papers, interrupting RASH. He speaks to audience.)

NARRATOR: Excuse me folks, this really isn't the old west. Well, to you it may be old but to these play characters, it was fairly newly discovered. And it's not really the west west, like California or something like that, it's just somewhere between the southwest, the northwest and the midwest. So, here we are.

I guess I should tell you that I'm not really in this play, like they *(Points to RASH & VINNY.)* are - I'm just around here to help out where I can. See, this play is not very well written and you might get confused trying to follow the story line, so I'll explain some things from time to time. And *(Holding up the script papers.)* I can offer some fascinating biographical material about the players *(Takes drink from bottle.)*

NARRATOR: (*Cont'd.*) You'll have to excuse me if I take a nip now and again — it's dusty and dry out here in the desert and a fellow's throat could get sore. Well, let's find out why this particular piece of desert land is so valuable (*Sits in corner or at side and watches.*)

RASH: Anyway, according to the unpublished government document that I...uh...borrowed, the railroad from the northwest and the railroad from the northeast will meet right here on this very spot and then connect with the railroad to the south. The railroad will pay a pretty penny for this land. AND the surrounding property will be ripe for development. Whoever owns this land, once they sell it to the railroad and to the developers, will be wealthy beyond imagination. Now, I wonder who does own this land? (*HE looks around and sees the sign that says: "DANDY'S DANDY DUDE RANCH FOR CHILDREN, JIM DANDY PROPRIETOR."*) Aha, this is the Dandy Dude Ranch!

VINNY: Oh, Father, the Dandy's will be so happy to find out that they are going to be rich! I can't wait to tell them!

RASH: No, No, Vinny boy. The Dandy's mustn't know about the coming railroad and this financial bonanza. I will act as intermediary in this transaction. I will buy the Dandy's property and I will sell it to the railroad (*Aside to audience.*) for a handsome profit.

VINNY: But, Father, that would be unethical. The Dandys would not receive their fair share of profit. That's not fair!

RASH: (*Aside to audience.*) I sometimes don't understand that kid. Now I realize that a kid's personality, to a certain extent, is determined by environmental factors...such as who his peers are, the economic-social conditions to which he has been exposed, etc. However, you'd think that some personality traits would be inherited — but he just doesn't seem to have my savvy for survival. (*Speaks to VINNY.*) We will do this my way, Vinny.

VINNY: Whatever you say, Father.

RASH: *(Looks around, notices that MRS. DANDY has entered and is pattering around the Dandy Dude Ranch sign. She coughs occasionally in Scenes 1, 2, & 3. HE approaches her.)* Good day, my fair Madame. Allow me to introduce myself. I am Rash von Sphincter. Are you associated with the Dandy Dude Ranch?

MRS. DANDY: Good day, kind sir. I am Melinda Dandy. My husband, Jim Dandy, has been away for some time and in his absence I am in charge of the affairs of our ranch, Rash. *(SHE says "ranch, Rash" with a play-on-words.)*

RASH: I am surprised to find someone so young and beautiful to have such weighty, stressful responsibilities. Perhaps I can be of assistance to you. I represent a company that is looking for some worthless desert land to purchase for a tax write-off. I am prepared to pay this tidy sum *(Show HER a document)* to purchase your property.

MRS. DANDY: *(SHE looks amazed at the paper.)* Why, that is a tidy sum, a very generous offer. But even though our land is marginal, we operate a very successful dude ranch for kids. And I do love living here. And I have promised my husband that I would manage the affairs of the ranch, Rash *(play-on-words)* in his absence. So, no, I will not sell the Dandy Dude Ranch.

RASH: *(Aside to audience.)* This is only a minor setback in my plans. If only she would have signed the deed, it would have been my greatest mean trick ever... If she would have sold me the property, the show would now be over and you *(Pointing to audience)* would be out your admission fees for only a five minute show. *(Laughs.)* But no matter. I am Rash von Sphincter and I'll have my way...for I have a trick or two up my sleeve

(HE pulls a sign from each sleeve. One says "TRICK", the other says "TWO." RASH and VINNY leave stage.)

End of Freeview

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
<http://www.histage.com/playdetails.asp?PID=213>

Eldridge Publishing, a leading drama play publisher since 1906, offers more than a thousand full-length plays, one-act plays, melodramas, holiday plays, religious plays, children's theatre plays and musicals of all kinds.

For more than a hundred years, our family-owned business has had the privilege of publishing some of the finest playwrights, allowing their work to come alive on stages worldwide.

We look forward to being a part of your next theatrical production.

Eldridge Publishing... for the start of your theatre experience!