CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!

An Old-Fashioned Musical Melodrama

Book by James G. Lambert
Music and Lyrics by James G. Lambert and C. Michael Perry

Performance Rights
It is an infringement of the federal copyright law to copy or reproduce this script in any manner or to perform this play without royalty payment. All rights are controlled by Eldridge Publishing, Co., Inc. Call the publisher for additional scripts and further licensing information. The authors’ name must appear on all programs and advertising with the notice: “Produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing, Co.”

PUBLISHED BY
ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING CO. INC.
hiStage.com
©1982 by James G. Lambert and C. Michael Perry

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
http://www.histage.com/playdetails.asp?PID=143
Curses, Foiled Again!
- 2 -

STORY OF THE PLAY

Can our Hero, Jedediah Justice, of Justice Junction, overcome the evil villain, Delvin Dastardly, and win the hand of our Heroine, Polly Praiseworthy? Will he be able to reunite Polly’s parents, Peter and Portia Praiseworthy, now that Peter has been unjustly jailed by our Villain? Your audiences will enjoy booing and hissing the Villain, cheering the Hero and sighing for our Heroine! A rollicking score includes “I Get What I Want!”; “A Maiden’s Prayer”; “One Potato and a Bean,” and others.

Performance time about an hour.

Rave reviews have followed Curses openings:

“Rollicking entertainment.”

“Hysterical.”

“I laughed too hard.”

“The best melodrama I’ve ever seen.”
CAST OF CHARACTERS
(6 m, 5 w, extras, doubling possible)

MC: Master or mistress of ceremonies.
CHLOE PERSON: (For continuing olio act.)
DELVIN DASTARDLY: The Evil Villain, 30.
DUNCAN DASTARDLY: His brother, 22.
PETER “PAPA” PRAISEWORTHY: Polly's stalwart father, 45.
PORTIA “MAMA” PRAISEWORTHY: His fragile, devoted, wife, 40.
PENNY PRAISEWORTHY: Their second daughter, 18.
PENROSE PRAISEWORTHY: Their first son, 12.
SHERIFF DUDLEY DUMJOHN: A man of questionable duty, 40.
PARSON WENDELL WEEKNY: A man of the cloth, 50.
MELVINA MANLEY: A trusted aide to the governor, 35.
THE DOCTOR/THE DRUNK: Our man of medicine. Can also play the drunk, an audience plant with one line.

Extras as:
TOWNIES: They sing and five have about a line each.
THE CHAIN GANG: Five poor souls.
SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Prologue
#1 CURSES, FOILED AGAIN! (Full Cast)

Scene 1: On the street in town one fine day
#2 TAKE IT! (Duncan, Papa, Mama and Polly)

Scene 2: Praiseworthy Parlour later that afternoon

Scene 3: Praiseworthy Parlour later that evening
#3 A MAIDEN’S PRAYER (Polly and Penny)

Scene 4: Dastardly’s Domicile several days later
#4 I GET WHAT I WANT (Delvin)

Scene 5: Praiseworthy’s Pasture weeks later
#5 WORKING WITH THE LAND (Polly)

Scene 6: Praiseworthy’s Parlour a moment later
#6 ONE POTATO AND A BEAN
(Penny, Penrose, Polly and Mama)

ACT II

Prologue
#7 CURSES, FOILED AGAIN! Reprise #1 (MC)

Scene 1: The County Prison Farm some time later

Scene 2: Praiseworthy pasture at harvest time
#8 POLLY (Jedediah)
#9 WORKING WITH THE LAND Reprise
(Polly, Penny and Penrose)

Scene 3: In Town the next day
#10 WILL YOU BUY? (Polly)
#11 I GET WHAT I WANT Reprise (Delvin)

Scene 4: Praiseworthy’s Parlour the next day
#12 CURSES, FOILED AGAIN! Reprise
(Full Cast and Chorus)
#13 CURTAIN CALL/EXIT MUSIC (Piano)
Curses, Foiled Again!

- 5 -

ACT I
Prologue

(AT RISE: PERSON enters auditorium R holding a large seed, climbs to SL and moves SR, then descends to exit auditorium L, all the while calling.)

PERSON: Chloe! Chloe! Chloe! Chloe! (Etc.)

MUSICAL #1 - CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!

FULL CAST: (Entering.)

DID YOU EVER WANT TO SEE THE HERO ROUT THE VILLAIN? HEAR HIM SNEER, "OH, CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!"
YOU WILL SEE US GIVE A GREAT BIG CHEER, "OH!"
WHEN WE HEAR THE VILLAIN SNEER, "OH, CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!"
JEDEDIAH JUSTICE
SHOULD WIN FAIR POLLY'S HAND—
EVEN THOUGH THE EVIL DELVIN'S
AFTER MORE THAN POLLY'S LAND!
CAN OUR HERO SAVE HER
FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THAT MAN?
CAN HE FIND A WAY TO FOIL HIS PLAN?
WILL WE NEVER SEE THE END OF FEAR? OH,
WILL WE HEAR THE VILLAIN SNEER, "OH,
CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!"
CAN WE HOPE THE VILLAIN COMES UP ZERO?
WILL HE TELL OUR DAUNTLESS HERO,
"CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!"

(MUSIC continues US. MC moves to CS.)

MC: We welcome you tonight to an old-fashioned musical melodrama entitled:

CHORUS:
CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!

MC: We invite you to join in the fun by booing and hissing the villain, Delvin Dastardly!

(DELVIN enters and bows sneeringly.)
DELVIN:
CURSES, FOILED AGAIN! (Exits.)
MC: And cheering and clapping for our hero, Jedediah Justice, of Justice Junction!

(JED enters and bows suavely and exits.)

MC: (Cont’d.) That’s not bad but let’s try booing once more.

(DELVIN enters.)

ALL: (Audience and CAST.) Boo!

(DELVIN shakes his fist at the audience.)

MC: Good! Good! Now let’s try a real snaky hiss.
ALL: Hiss!

(DELVIN exits angrily.)

MC: Now you’re really getting into it. Shall we try a cheer for our hero?
ALL: Yeah!

(JED enters and bows to audience suavely.)

MC: Now a sigh for our pretty heroine, sweet Polly Praiseworthy!

(POLLY enters and curtsies.)

ALL: A–a–ah!
MC: Now, let’s try the most important thing of all. Only by your clapping can our hero find the encouragement to do better things. This stands true for all of our tireless cast. So, let me hear your heartfelt applause!

(As audience claps, DELVIN jumps out to accept it. It should evoke more boos forcing Delvin to re-exit hiding behind his
cape. This, in turn, should bring on more applause and laughter. As it begins to subside, intro MUSIC and ALL sing.)

ALL:
DID YOU EVER WANT TO SEE THE HERO
ROUT THE VILLAIN? HEAR HIM SNEER, "OH,
CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!"
YOU WILL SEE US GIVE A GREAT BIG CHEER, "OH!"
WHEN WE HEAR THE VILLAIN SNEER, "OH,"
CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!"
JEDEDIAH JUSTICE
SHOULD WIN FAIR POLLY’S HAND—
EVEN THOUGH THE EVIL DELVIN’S
AFTER MORE THAN POLLY’S LAND!
CAN OUR HERO SAVE HER
FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THAT MAN?
CAN HE FIND A WAY TO FOIL HIS PLAN?
WILL WE NEVER SEE THE END OF FEAR? OH,
WILL WE HEAR THE VILLAIN SNEER, "OH,
CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!"
CAN WE HOPE THE VILLAIN COMES UP ZERO?
WILL HE TELL OUR DAUNTLESS HERO,
"CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!"
CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!

MUSICAL #1a - PLAYOUT MUSIC - PIANO

MC: Our story begins on a fine summer’s day as our lovely heroine, Polly Praiseworthy, travels home with her worthy parents, Portia and Peter Praiseworthy, as they return from an afternoon’s shopping after having purchased sweet Polly’s trousseau for her forthcoming marriage to Jedediah Justice, (Aside.) of Justice Junction.
End of Freeview

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
http://www.histage.com/playdetails.asp?PID=143

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!