

Those Wild West Women

By
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DEDICATION

For my three sons...Dale, Chris and Jeremy

SYNOPSIS

The women of Blue Butte are worried that their men are becoming too eager to feud and fight. In an effort to stop them, the women go on strike, refusing to cook, clean or kiss them unless they sign an agreement to stop carrying guns!

The men are reluctant and try to convince their women to go back to things as before. The women, in an effort to stay strong, decide to stay together at Colleen's restaurant.

Soon the deputy and his friends find out Custer Tarnation, a dangerous villain, is headed their way. They get an idea: one of their buddies will dress up as the infamous bad guy so they can scare the women into dropping this no-gun idea of theirs.

However, when the men arrive at Colleen's during the ladies' supper, they weaken fast, especially when the women ask the local show girls to do the can-can!

Just then, the evil Custer Tarnation arrives. Thinking that it's their friend, the men promptly lay down their arms, but quickly realize they have surrendered to the real Custer Tarnation! All seems desperate until the local hermit, Krazy Kate, pulls out her secret weapon!

CAST LIST

(13 m, 15 w, and extras as desired.)

Male Cast:

JEBEDIAH (ZEB) YORK: Owner of the Rockin' J Ranch.

JACK BARNES: Owner of the Lazy B Ranch.

DUSTY BARNES: Jack and Beulah's son. Loves Delia York.

JASPER KANE: Sheriff.

KIT KEENAN: The young, flashy deputy. Loves Virginia.

CODY COLT: Friend of Dusty, foreman of the Lazy B. Loves Cleo.

UTAH BILL: Foreman at the Rockin' J. Boyfriend of Allegra.

AMOS FLINT: Owner of the Brawlin' Bull Saloon, the villain.

AUGUSTUS PRESTON: Geologist and Amos' henchman.

DOC CONNORS: Doctor.

REVEREND SHAW: Minister.

CUSTER TARNATION: Bully, bank robber and bad guy.

KREE: Cody's Indian brother.

Female Cast:

COLLEEN KILLIGREW: Owns the Waterin' Hole Restaurant.

CLEO KILLIGREW: Colleen's daughter and a waitress.

KRAZY KATE: The town hermit and gold miner.

VIRGINIA VANCE: The beautiful, sweet schoolmarm.

HETTY KANE: The sheriff's wife.

CORDELIA (DELIA) YORK: Zeb and Euphemia's daughter, the Juliet character.

EUPHEMIA YORK: Delia's mother, a snob.

BEULAH BARNES: Mother of Dusty, wife of Jack.

MAUD YATES: Owns the General Store.

ENID SHAW: Pres. of Ladies' Righteousness Society.

EUNICE WRIGHT: Euphemia's friend and LRS member.

ALLEGRA PRICE: Head of the showgirls at the Brawlin' Bull.

LILY: Showgirl at the Brawlin' Bull.

DAPHNE: Another.

BELLE: Another.

SET NOTES

The interior of the Waterin' Hole Restaurant looks like a typical Western saloon except this is a classier place with a very slight woman's touch. It is still the Wild West, though, so it's not much more than curtains and tablecloths. On stage left are the typical swinging doors to the street. Upstage from the exterior doors is a counter with shelves behind it. There's also a door to the offstage kitchen area. Up center is a stairway to the second floor balcony with several doors leading to offstage rooms. Stage right is a small stage with a couple of steps up to the stage platform. There is a small piano nearby. Spaced out center stage are four tables with chairs. The set may be done as a realistic box set, or a more suggestive set with only hints of walls and stairs that vanish offstage so that the upper doors and second story platform aren't seen. Either way, the tables, counter, door to the street and small stage are important and should be there.

COSTUME NOTES

Clothes should feel like the old West. Men wear jeans and flannels while women wear pioneer women dresses, or skirts with blouses. Care should be taken to indicate class. The ranchers should look better than the cowboys and may even wear jackets and string ties. Augustus will dress like an Easterner and not fit in at all. Custer should look like a typical Western villain or bandit. The showgirls look flashier than the other women, probably with shorter dresses and perhaps with boas, while Enid, Eunice and Euphemia are dressed in black, with high collars and long sleeves, thus securely wrapped from the evils of men. Deputy Kit is flashy and should dress that way, while Krazy Kate is dressed as a man. There are no costume changes.

PROPS LIST

Colleen's balance scale; Kate's bag of fool's gold; Colleen's coins for Kate; guns (several which shoot blanks) and holsters for the men; dish and towel for Cleo; cleaning rag for Colleen; eye glasses for Augustus; Colleen's gun behind the bar; Virginia's small overnight bag; table settings; dinner foods; "contracts" and quill pens; Kate's extra-long rifle behind the bar.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: COLLEEN KILLIGREW is behind the counter weighing in Kate's rocks with a small balance. KRAZY KATE is dressed like a dusty old miner instead of a prairie woman. Colleen finally sticks the rocks in a bag, reaches under the counter and pulls out some coins and gives them to Kate.)

COLLEEN: Well, Kate, here ya go.

KATE: How much is it?

COLLEEN: Ten dollars. And that's pretty good, Kate, so don't you go asking me for anymore. I've given you the best price I can.

KATE: I know that. I didn't say nothin'. Just needed to know afore I went over to Yates' General Store. That Maud Yates always tries to cheat me.

COLLEEN: Now, Kate, Maud is a fine woman.

KATE: I hope you don't believe that, Colleen Killigrew, 'cause I've always had respect for ya, and I'd hate to think you was no better than the rest of them lily-livered, yellow skunks that run around this town and call themselves human bein's, and that includes that Maud Yates. Now, if'n you'll excuse me, I gotta go do my shopping.

COLLEEN: Just don't get in another fight with Maud, Kate, for my sake. She always blames me for encouragin' you to come into town.

KATE: She don't got to worry. I'll get my supplies and I'll be back in the mountains afore she can whine.

COLLEEN: Kate, I worry about you. I wish you'd stay in town for a while.

KATE: Nope. I don't wanna be around people more than I've gotta. I'll see you in a couple of months. Bye, Colleen.

(KATE exits to the street. COLLEEN comes out from behind the bar and busies herself cleaning the tables as AUGUSTUS PRESTON enters. A skinny little guy who wears glasses and looks studious, he's obviously an

Easterner. HE goes straight behind the bar as if he belongs here. When COLLEEN realizes he's around, she rushes over, obviously wanting to keep him from finding something.)

COLLEEN: Augustus! Why, I didn't expect you 'til this afternoon. Glory be, I don't have none of my samples ready or--

(AUGUSTUS holds up one of the rock samples that Kate just brought in and looks at COLLEEN, disgusted. She pulls up short and looks down at the ground, ashamed.)

AUGUSTUS: Miz Killigrew! You have been purchasing Krazy Kate's worthless hunks of fool's gold again, haven't you?

COLLEEN: Well, Augustus, the poor woman has no other income and--

AUGUSTUS: Miz Killigrew. I have been here in Blue Butte for nearly two years, and I have told you and told you that this glittery ore is nothing but pyrite, commonly referred to as fool's gold. And I also thought that I had made it abundantly clear to you that it wasn't worth a red cent. And here you are two years later, still giving that loony hermit woman good cash right out of your own moneybox. Will you ever learn?

COLLEEN: Mr. Preston. I consider it a charitable contribution to a member of my community who is in need. Since Kate would be too proud to take handouts and would rather starve, I find it much easier to let her bring in her worthless rocks. It saves her pride, and saves me the trouble of chasing her down all the time to make sure she's getting enough to eat. May I also remind you, that the moneybox and the cash in it are mine to do with as I please and really have nothing to do with you.

AUGUSTUS: Point taken, Miz Killigrew. I'm simply trying to do my job as your state-appointed geologist and make sure that you don't get taken for a ride, but if you insist on climbing aboard the stagecoach to poverty...

COLLEEN: You can stop worrying about me, Easterner. When Colleen Killigrew climbs on a stage, she goes straight to the driver's seat. Now you just forget all about this, and I better not hear you saying anything to Kate about it either, or I'll stretch your hide out on this here counter and tan it so good that you'll have your own built-in saddle! You hear me?

(Before Augustus can reply, SHERIFF JASPER KANE and his flashy, gung-ho, young, daring, good-looking deputy, KIT KEENAN, enter.)

COLLEEN: Howdy, Sheriff! Deputy!

JASPER: Howdy, Colleen!

KIT: Howdy, Miz Killigrew. Say, is this here rock collector a'botherin' you? 'Cause I can always fill his pants so full of lead that he'll never come 'round you again!

(KIT pulls out his gun and shoots at the ground around Augustus's feet. AUGUSTUS does some strange leaps, and takes off out the door. The SHERIFF takes off his hat and begins to hit Kit around the head while COLLEEN hollers.)

JASPER: Kit! How many times do I gotta tell you to put that thing away!

KIT: Would you tell me this, then? What's the point of wearin' this star if I don't never get to do no gun play! Even when someone comes to town and starts shootin' up the place, do I ever get to fire back? No! You make me talk to him and calm him down! I spend hours and hours out on the hot desert picking the needles off cactus with my six-shooter, and for what? Nothing! 'Cause you gotta be the lawman who don't need a gun! But what about me? Did you ever consider my needs?

JASPER: Believe me, Kit, when the day comes that talkin' don't do no good, and the only choice left is a shootout, I'll step aside and let you lead the way.

KIT: Thanks, Sheriff. I appreciate it. Sorry, 'bout my outburst, Miz Killigrew. It's been a rough day down at the office.

End of Freeview

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