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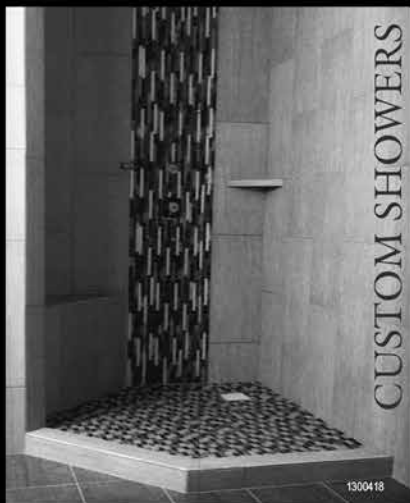


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Director's Note

When I was first asked to direct *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, I turned it down. I generally only do shows that really speak to me, as my schedule is rather crazy, and I had just never seen a version of this show that really tripped my trigger. However, when I was approached a second time, I figured fate was trying to tell me something. I started researching the show, but more importantly I began to read everything about the actual Chicken Ranch and the people involved that I could get my hands on. Historically, it is a fascinating story. It holds the title as the oldest continuously running bordello in America. Local lawmakers and other powers-that-be simply looked the other way for many years. There were a few who raised a stink and tried to close it, mostly jealous wives or overzealous religious types, but none succeeded until Marvin Zindler decided to use the story to boost his ratings. As I said, historically it is very interesting. However, as I delved into my research I became more passionate about the humanist side of the story. That is what gave me the desire to get involved with this project. Yes, this musical is described as a "hootenanny," and a "rollicking good time." But what about the intimate subject matter? What about Edna Milton, the last owner of the Chicken Ranch? What makes a woman make these choices? What happened in her past that drove her to that lifestyle? And what did she do when the rug was pulled out from under her? No matter how one feels about the subject morally, there is a lot to be learned from her story, and the overall story of the Chicken Ranch. It is my sincere hope that we succeed in presenting both the fun and the seriousness equally, and that you leave tapping your toes and kicking up your heels, but also doing a bit of thinkin'. I encourage y'all to do a little research of your own. But for now, how 'bout you just sit back and enjoy *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*!

~Jodi Prosser, Director

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Music and Lyrics by Carol Hall

Based on a story by Larry L. King

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The Cast

1930s

Band Leader: Patrick Linn

Ladies: Sarah Mills, Aubrey Falconio, Brooke Kuchefski, Breely Arford, Sydnee Sexton, Sonnia Schroeder, Michelle Waites, Bryana Perry

Male Guests:

Farmer: Drake Taylor **Shy Kid:** Eli Ronk

Cowboy: Preston Dildine

Traveling Salesman: Caleb Stephenson **Slick Dude:** Jacob Ault

Mechanic: Mark Willard **Construction Worker:** Chris Hodges

Business Man: Brittini "Mac" Waites

Miss Wulla Jean: Mary M. Matthis

Miss Wulla Jean's Assistant: Robin Romack

Choir: Kelly Holden, Jodi Prosser-Muller, Lynnette Hodges, Carolyn Smith, Gretchen Yordy, Barb Whaling, Mark Muller, David Zych

1970s

Angel: Sidnee Gordon **Shy:** Sara Todd

Jewel: Carolyn Smith **Mona Stangley:** Suzy Goben

The Girls at Miss Mona's:

Linda Lou: Sarah Mills **Dawn:** Sonnia Schroeder

Ginger: Aubrey Falconio **Beatrice:** Brooke Kuchefski

Taddy Jo: Sydnee Sexton **Ruby Rae:** Lynnette Hodges

Eloise: Barb Whaling **Durla:** Bryana Perry

Leroy Sliney: Jacob Ault

The Dogettes: Eli Ronk, Patrick Linn, David Zych, Mark Muller

Melvin P Thorpe: Grant Morenz **Camerawoman:** Breely Arford

Soundman/assistant: Caleb Stephenson **Stage Manager:** Robin Romack

Melvin P. Thorpe Singers: Jodi Prosser-Muller, Chris Huffman, Gretchen Yordy, Bryana Perry, Kelly Holden

Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd: Drake Taylor **C.J. Scruggs:** Mark Willard

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Senator Wingwoah: Phil Weber

Aggies: Jacob Ault, Chris Hodges, Caleb Stephenson, Preston Dildine, Teddy Klein, Dave Sanders, Sam Sanders, Breely Arford, Sam Sanders

Towel Boy/Equipment Manager: Eli Ronk

Photographers/Reporters: Robin Romack, Breely Arford, Eli Ronk, Mac Waites, Mark Willard

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Musical Numbers

ACT 1

"Prologue".....The Rio Grande Band Leader
.....and the Rio Grande Band
"20 Fans".....Company
"Alil' Ole Bitty Pissant Country Place"Mona Stangley and the Girls
"Girl, You're a Woman".....Mona Stangley, Shy, Jewel and the Girls
"Watch Dog Theme".....The Dogettes
"Texas Has a Whorehouse in It".....Melvin P. Thorpe
.....the Thorpe Singers and the Dogettes
"Twenty Four Hours of Lovin'".....Jewel and the Girls
"Watch Dog Theme" (Reprise).....The Dogettes
"Texas Has a Whorehouse in It" (Reprise).....Melvin P. Thorpe
.....and the Dogettes
"Doatsy Mae".....Doatsey Mae
"Angelette March".....Angelette Imogene Charlene
.....and the Angelettes
"The Aggie Song".....The Aggies

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We apologize for any names omitted from this list.
Please see the Thank You list in the foyer.

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Musical Numbers

ACT 2

"The Sidestep".....The Governor of Texas & Company
"No Lies".....Mona Stangley, Jewel and the Girls
"Good Old Girl".....Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd and the Aggies
"Hard Candy Christmas".....The Girls
"The Bus from Amarillo".....Mona Stangley



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The Cast



Breely Arford (Chorus) is excited to be in her second DLO show! She has helped back stage for several others. Favorite roles to date have been The Mad Hatter in *Shrek: the Musical* and Daisy Stanley in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Breely is thankful for her other half MaCabe for being willing to lose sleep watching their son Cabe so she can do this show!

Jacob Ault (Slick Dude/Leroy Sliney/Aggie)

This is my first time being with DLO and I'm very excited to be in this production. My love of acting began in 2010 with the DACC showing of *Dearly Departed*, and it's been a wild ride since. I hope y'all enjoy this raunchy comedy with the rest of us!



Aubrey Falconio (Ginger) is thrilled to be a part of this wild production, and happy to be working with DLO once again. She's been involved in local theatre for 9 years and counting. Aubrey loves traveling, reading, cuddling with her pup, Ajax, and taking care of all the kiddos at her job, where she works as a registered nurse. She wants to thank her family and friends for their never waivering support and for putting up with her "crankiness" after a long night of rehearsals. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

Suzy Goben (Miss Mona) has been involved in local community theater since 2003, and is thrilled to be playing Miss Mona! Some of her favorite shows she has performed in have been: *August Osage County*, *The 39 Steps*, *Great American Trailer Park*, *Cabaret*, and *Nunsense*. Being on stage performing is her much loved hobby. Thanks to her husband, Rich for always supporting her, and she means ALWAYS!



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Production Team

Director/Choreographer.....Jodi Prosser-Muller
Vocal Director.....David Zych
Orchestra Director.....Lucinda Lawrence
Producer.....Kelly Holden
Stage Manager.....Nancy Keener
Costumes.....Audra Martin & Jodi Prosser-Muller
Set.....Gary Lickfett & Mark Willard
Props.....Brittany McDaniels
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Guitar.....Dave Butler
Guitar.....Lucas Latoz
Piano.....Kevin Latoz
Bass.....Derek DeNeal
Drums.....Mel Hoaks
Rehearsal Accompanist.....Chris Huffman

The Cast



Barb Whaling (Eloise) is excited to be in another DLO production. She is vice president for Darkhorse Theatre Company, owner of Realty Werks, inc. and a graduate from Columbia College. She would like to thank her husband, Jason and her kids, Riley and Mikayla for allowing her to follow her passion.

Mark Willard (CJ Scruggs) It's been since *Annie Get Your Gun* that Mark has had a speaking part (Sitting Bull). Though he has worked on several shows since, behind the scenes working with Gary on sets and producing shows with his wife, Susie, are more in his comfort zone. He has enjoyed being CJ Scruggs in this show and is happy to report his comfort zone has been expanded. He wants to thank everyone in this show for their hard work.



Gretchen Yordy (Doatsey Mae) has been involved in eight DLO shows. She was most recently seen as Violet in *9 to 5*, and as Lin in *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*. She is excited to be reunited with several of her Trailer Park friends and to share the stage with so many fun and talented people. She thanks Tony and her children for their love and support.

David Zych (Vocal Director) didn't have time to write a bio, so anything you're reading right now is a figment of your own imagination; if it's not funny, you have only yourself to blame. Love to Chelsea and Charlie.



The Cast



Sidnee Gordon (Angel) is proud to be working with DLO again after being in *Shrek* and *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* as her most recent productions. She has been in theatre throughout her life but her favorite role so far would have to be this one! She's never felt so "naked and raw" before. Plus it's been a lot of fun! She would like to thank her family for giving up so much time with her. Now saddle on up and prepare for one hell of a ride!

Chris Hodges (Construction Worker/Aggie) is making his adult acting debut with the DLO Musical Theatre. Although he dabbled in show choir and theatre as a child he never expected to be forced into a production so many years later. Chris was voluntold by his wife, Lynnette, to be one of the Aggies, and he has enjoyed every whomp and stomp required of him. Chris certainly hopes that you like the show as he has been counting down the minutes.



Lynnette Hodges (Ruby Rae) Although you may know Lynnette from *The Miss Firecracker Contest* and other Red Mask productions, she is excited to be making her first appearance with DLO Musical Theatre as Ruby Rae. Ruby Rae is one of Mona's girls who is often looked over by the "customers" but never ceases to advertise her "goods". Lynnette often jokes that she was typed-cast as this lovable loser of a lady mirrors her personality and style.

Kelly Holden (Producer) attended the St. Louis Conservatory of Music studying vocal music performance. She performed in many student opera productions and recitals. Kelly also performed two seasons with the Houston Grand Opera. Most recently, Kelly appeared as the Widow Comey in DLO's *Oliver!*, Mamma Ogre in *Shrek*, and Marie in *La Cage Aux Folles*. This is Kelly's first producing gig. She wishes to thank Jodi, the cast and crew, and her mommy, for their support.



The Cast



Chris Huffman (Chorus) has been active with DLO in many different capacities: as music director, board member, producer, rehearsal accompanist and orchestra member. Chris has been involved in the local music community for most of her life as a performer and teacher. She would like to dedicate her performance to the memory of her brother Brad, who was a drama major in college and a part of the Danville drama community. Love you, big bro!

Nancy Keener (Stage Manager) Last seen in front of the curtain at the Station Theatre in *Wintertime*, Nancy is thrilled to be working it behind the scenes for this cast and crew. Much gratitude to Jodi for the opportunity. As always, thanks to Memphis for enduring scheduling irregularities for the show.



Theodore L. Klein (Chorus) is 15 years old. This is his third DLO show. He has been seen locally in *Chasing Charming*, *Mary Poppins*, and *The Addams Family* and most recently, *Violet*. While *The Addams Family* was by far his favorite show, his favorite role was in *Chasing Charming*, where he starred as a minion.

Brooke Kuchefski (Beatrice) is a recent graduate of Illinois College where she majored in Theatre. Brooke was a member of the improvisational troupe on campus, LSD, and was last seen in *Playboy of the Western World*. She most recently worked as the stage manager for *Driving Miss Daisy* at the Beef House. Her favorite shows include: *Gypsy*, *Les Miserables*, *Bonnie and Clyde*, and *Richard III*. Brooke would like to thank her family and friends for their continued support! Lastly, she hopes you all enjoy the show the cast has worked so hard on. Now turn up the A/C because things are about to get hot!



The Cast



Carolyn Smith (Jewel) Carolyn "Coco" Smith has three sons, 13 grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and lives with her husband John, and brother Billy. She retired from Blue Cross Blue Shield after 28 years. Coco has performed in eight DLO, 18 Beef House and one DACC production. Her two favorites were *Civil War* and *Nunsense*. Coco sang professionally in an R&b band called WQBC for 15 years. She has a small craft business, Crafts by Carolyn, located in the Heartland Fair building downtown.

Caleb Stephenson (Chorus) This is Caleb's first experience in the theater. He is very excited to give it a try. Caleb would like to thank his good friend, Jacob Ault, for asking him to join, and his beautiful wife, Steph, for supporting him. Steph and Caleb are ecstatic to be expecting their first child, a baby girl, this May.



Drake Taylor (Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd) *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* is Drake's second DLO production. He was last seen as Norbert in *The Great American Trailor Park Musical*. He would like to thank Patrick and Ladybug for all their support.

Sara Todd (Shy)
Too shy to write a bio!



Philip Weber (Senator Wingwoah) studied acting at Illinois State University and participated in mainstage productions of *Love for Love* and *The Threepenny Opera*. He also played Peter in Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story*. He has had a nearly 25-year hiatus from the stage, instead focusing on a different kind of performance-he acts like an English teacher at North Ridge Middle School. Phil is excited and grateful for the opportunity to join such a fun show, and is extremely uncomfortable referring to himself in the third person.



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The Cast



Lucinda Lawrence (Orchestra Director) The terrific people of DLO Musical Theatre have made this one of those 'excellence in theatre' experiences for Lucinda, the kind she will relish for years. The American Association of Community Theatre is a big part of her life, and this, right here in Danville, Illinois, is the good stuff, what makes community theatre valuable to us and our communities.

Patrick Linn (Band Leader/Dogette) *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* marks Patrick's 15th performance on the DLO stage. He was last seen as Seymore in *Little Shop of Horrors*. When not on stage, he likes to spend quality time at home with Drake and Ladybug. Hobbies include handing out peanuts and pretzels at high altitudes.



Bob McIntire (Governor) is serving his second term as Governor, reprising the role he first performed at the Beef House Dinner Theatre. Previous roles for DLO include Senex in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Father White in *The Butler Did It Singing*, and Father in *Ragtime*. Bob has also appeared for the Station Theater, Gregory's Academy of the Arts, and the Red Mask Players. Bob practices law and lives in Danville with his wife Cheryl.

Sarah Mills (Linda Lou) This is Sarah's second performance with DLO. She is excited to be a part of such a great show and cast. She owns a salon in Danville and resides in Chrisman with her husband Damien and their fur babies. She would like to thank her family and friends for all the love and support.



The Cast



Grant Morenz (Melvin P. Thorpe) This is Grant's first show for DLO. Grant is from Champaign, IL. Grant has performed in various theaters across the country, locally working with the Station Theater, Parkland College, Twin City Squared, and CUTC. Most recently, Grant was seen as Black Stache in *Peter and the Star Catcher*, and Pablev in *American Wee Pie*. Thanks to Jodi and the cast and crew. Enjoy the show!

Mark H. Muller (Edsel Mackey) Glad to be back in Danville to do another DLO show. Also proud to be in a show with the best director in the world!



Bryana Perry (Durla) is very excited to be a part of this production. She has most recently appeared in a concert workshop for the new musical *How to Say Goodbye* and in the DACC Players' production of *Ragtime* (Ensemble). She has also appeared in many productions at Myers Dinner Theatre including *Cinderella* (Stepsister Joy), *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (Sarah), *And Then There Were None* (Ethel Rogers), and many others. She would like to thank the cast and crew for being amazing and working so hard on this production!



Jodi Prosser Muller (Director) is absolutely thrilled to be the director of this amazingly talented cast! She is also very excited to join them as a cast member (and to be on stage with her husband again...Love you, honey!) Past Danville credits include Lily in *The Secret Garden*, the Beggar Woman in *Sweeny Todd*, and the director of *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*.



The Cast



Eli Ronk (Shy Kid) is an 8th grader at Salt Fork Junior High. He is an active participant in chorus and band. He is also active in 4H and shows halter horses in National AQHA shows. This is Eli's third DLO production. He was a greaser in the teen musical *Grease* and Pugsley in *The Addams Family*. He was also in the Red Mask Players children's production of *Huck Finn*.

Sam and David Sanders (Chorus) Sam and David both would like to thank Kelly for roping them into this show. They both played in the orchestra for DACC's *Funny Girl* earlier this month, and have played in the pit for several DLO past productions. They are both in graduate school working on their Masters in Education with an emphasis in ESL. Sam is currently an ESL teacher in Danville, and David teaches 3rd grade in Hoopeston.



Sonnia Schroeder (Dawn) is happy to be on the stage once again, having most recently been seen as Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors* and unseen as co-producer of *The Addams Family*-both DLO Musical Theatre productions. She is also an active DLO board member. Sonnia's special super powers include the ability to hear a cat walk across carpet and the ability to fold a fitted sheet.

Sydnee Sexton (Taddy Jo) This is Sydnee's first DLO show! We welcome her to the cast and hope she will remain an active member of the DLO family!

