



**...or Left High and Dry
in Low Humidity Chasm**

AUDITION & INFORMATION PACKET

You are invited to audition for the Merry Heart Theatre production of How the West Was Dun! This melodrama production will be performed on Friday, July 12th in honor of the 100 year anniversary of the OK Theater in Enterprise! Teens through seniors may audition in this slapstick, old west production. Please take note of the rehearsal schedule. You must be available to attend all rehearsals in order to audition for this show. This packet covers general information about auditions, casting, rehearsal/performance process, character descriptions, audition scripts and forms. For additional information, please contact Lisa directly at merryhearttheatre@gmail.com.

OPEN AUDITIONS	Friday, April 5 7:00-9:30 PM OK Theater 208 W Main Street, Enterprise, OR
DIRECTOR	Lisa Hallam Closner
CASTING	Casting decisions will be decided by Saturday, April 6 by noon and posted on the OK Theater Facebook page & Merry Heart Theater's website: https://merryhearttheatre.org/
READ THROUGH	There will be a mandatory cast meeting and read through of the script on Saturday, April 6 2:00-5:00 PM.
REHEARSALS	All rehearsals are mandatory and will be held at the OK Theater. Saturday, May 18 2:00-6:00 PM Monday, May 20- Thursday, May 23 6:30-9:30 PM Monday, June 17- Friday, June 21 6:30-9:30 PM Saturday, June 22 10:00 AM- 6:00 PM Saturday, July 6 10:00 AM- 6:00 PM Monday, July 8- Thursday, July11 6:30-9:30 PM
PERFORMANCE	Friday, July 12, 2019

ROLES

Sheriff Wayne John- *true hero in every sense of the word*
Deputy Dudley Doowrong- *his heart is in the right place, but his brain ain't*
Widow Cracker- *Polly and Prunella's mother*
Polly Wanda Cracker- *true heroine*
Prunella Cracker- *wants to wed Rick Coldheart*
Cowboy Bob Skcratchit- *heart of gold with rough edges*
Bo Best- *proprietor of the hotel: always wants what is the best*
Sarsaparilla Sal- *runs saloon; helps Bo as Bo doesn't always know what's best*
Rich Coldheart- *owns bank, a true villain*
Snydley Dastardley- *chief bad guy*
Belle Starr- *main bad gal*
Schizophrenic Kid- *white to black and black to white*
Calamity Jan- *that's J-A-N-E (but the E is silent)*
Kid Kid- *tough as nails*
Black Bart- *mean*
Blacker Bart- *meaner than Black Bart*
Reverend Right- *man of the cloth*
Narrator- *tells it like it is*
The Lone Stranger- *who is that masked man (woman)?*
Band of Indianians- *four girls, April, May, June and August, are invited to play music for a town celebration. April has a terribly annoying and loud laugh, makes fingernails on the chalkboard sound nice. August is the eldest and leads the group. May and June are feisty characters.*

TIME/PLACE

The 1880's in Low Humidity Chasm, which of course is in the old wild west!

PLOT

Here's a hilarious melodrama that spoofs many of Hollywood's Westerns and has modern touches to boot. Slick and wealthy Richard Coldheart ("Oh, that's Rich!") must marry Polly Wanda Cracker to control the Cracker property. However, it's Polly's dull sister, Prunella, who wants to marry him! Meanwhile, our hero, Sheriff Wayne John, has his hands full surviving the hilarious antics of well-meaning but not too bright Deputy Doowrong. When a bundle of villains, including Snydley Dastardley, Kid Kid, and Calamity Jan, attempt to take over Low Humidity Chasm (Aren't you sick and tired of melodramas taking place in Dry Gulch?), things really go crazy! Your audience will have to pay close attention to whether Schizophrenic Kid is wearing his white hat or his black hat to know whether to cheer or boo. But Blacker Bart will leave no doubt in their minds, for he's even meaner than Black Bart. With a narrator to keep the characters onstage in line, this play can be presented as a traditional melodrama or as a full-length comedy. Either way, this wild and wooly Western will bring down the house!

AUDITION OVERVIEW

- 1) Using the character descriptions above, choose 1-2 characters you would like to audition with.
- 2) Choose the audition scene that your chosen character is in.
- 3) Prior to auditions, become familiar with the scene and character. It will work to your advantage if you memorize the lines.
- 4) Audition with gusto! According to an online dictionary, melodrama is *a sensational dramatic piece with exaggerated characters and exciting events intended to appeal to the emotions*. You can almost never overact in a melodrama. So, practice your character before you come to auditions.
- 5) To learn more about melodrama characters go to:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89wis6V86gs>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please visit the Merry Heart Theatre website at <https://merryhearttheatre.org/> for more about Lisa Hallam Closner's work. You can email Lisa at merryhearttheatre@gmail.com.