



# THE DOYLE AND DEBBIE SHOW

A MUSICAL BY  
BRUCE ARNTSON



DRAMATISTS  
PLAY SERVICE  
INC.



THE DOYLE AND DEBBIE SHOW  
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*The author would like to thank Coke Sams  
for his support and encouragement.*

## AUTHOR'S NOTE

Doyle and Debbie were inspired by the old-guard country duos such as Dolly Parton & Porter Wagoner, Loretta Lynn & Conway Twitty, and Tammy Wynette & George Jones. Many of the old syndicated TV shows, such as *The Porter Wagoner Show* and *The Wilburn Brothers Show* (with Loretta Lynn), can be found on the internet. They'll give you a sense of the old-timey, presentational performance style that these talented people embodied. Nothing will kill this show faster than over-the-top mugging with bad hillbilly accents. Without respectful, thoughtful interpretations of this style, *The Doyle and Debbie Show* will quickly devolve into gross parody, and Doyle will be perceived as an unredeemable misogynist, rather than the fun-loving, albeit troubled, product of his culture and generation.

## PRODUCTION NOTES

The Station Inn is a classic Nashville honky-tonk, lined with old showbills, 8x10 promo photos, and memorabilia. It looks the same as it did thirty years ago.

There are two mics on stands downstage for Doyle and Debbie. Upstage, to Doyle's left, is Buddy's stool and bandstand with laptop, along with a boom mic and guitar.

The dressing room, which probably doubles as a broom closet, contains two mismatched chairs and a small end table. On the table sits Doyle's battered leather satchel.

THE DOYLE AND DEBBIE SHOW was first performed at Bongo Java After Hours Theatre in Nashville, Tennessee on June 2nd, 2006. It was produced by Coke Sams and Kenny Bernstein. It was directed by Bruce Arntson; the set and props were designed by Sheila B.; and the costume design was by Annie Freeman. The cast was as follows:

DOYLE.....Bruce Arntson  
DEBBIE.....Jenny Littleton  
BUDDY..... Matt Carlton

The production moved to its home at legendary bluegrass venue the Station Inn on October 9th, 2007, also produced by Coke Sams.

On October 17th, 2011, THE DOYLE AND DEBBIE SHOW opened at the Royal George Theatre in Chicago, IL, produced by lonesome road productions, in association with Jim Jensen and Lisselan Productions.

## **CHARACTERS**

DOYLE, an old-guard country singer.

DEBBIE, an attractive young country singer.

BUDDY, Doyle's long-suffering band leader.

## **PLACE**

The stage of the Station Inn, Nashville, TN.

Station Inn dressing room.

# THE DOYLE AND DEBBIE SHOW

*The house jukebox plays classic vintage country duets.*

*Buddy enters through the dressing room door, carrying Doyle's suit jacket. He hangs it up on the wall and walks out onto the semi-dark stage.*

*He sits at his station and briefly preps his guitar, spits in his cup, etc.*

*He moves to center stage and taps on the mics. He yells off-mic to the sound mixer at the back of the house.*

BUDDY. *(Off-mic, miming unplugging.)* Luther! Luther! Unplug the ... Luther! Would you unplug the jukebox? UNPLUG THE ... *(The jukebox song grinds to a stop, and Buddy approaches one of the mics. Hushed.)* Excuse me, ladies and gentlemen. If I could I have y'all's attention for just a minute. First off, I'd just like to thank y'all for comin' out tonight and supportin' Doyle in his return to his former glory. But there's just a couple o' things I need to ask you, if you don't mind. First off, some of y'all may remember that tonight's the sad anniversary of the tragic demise of Doyle's father. So if any of y'all happen to see Mr. Mayfield out back or in the bathroom or something, please don't mention nothin' 'bout his mamma nor his daddy. And one more thing: It's been three years now since Doyle's been on the wagon. So please, especially tonight, don't offer to buy him a drink. Thank y'all. *(Buddy returns to his station. Doyle and Debbie enter the dressing room. Debbie hands him his jacket. He puts it on and sits. Debbie touches up her make-up, etc. Once she's ready, Doyle yells out the dressing room door toward the stage.)*

DOYLE. Throw down them biscuits, mama, the mules is a-dancin' in the peas!

*(Song begins: "Grandma Flickertail.")*

BUDDY. Ladies and gentlemen, would you please welcome, their first time back in Music City in almost eleven years, America's number-one country sweethearts, Doyle and Debbie! (*Lights up as Doyle and Debbie hit the stage and move to their microphones.*)

*(“Grandma Flickertail” abruptly stops, and the band launches into “Whine Whine Twang Twang.”)*

DOYLE & DEBBIE.

WHINE WHINE TWANG TWANG  
DON'T YOU LOVE TO HEAR ME SING  
WHINE WHINE TWANG TWANG  
DON'T YOU LOVE THE STRUM AND DRANG  
CHEAT CHEAT GUILT PANG  
SHOOT SHOOT BANG BANG  
WHINE WHINE TWANG TWANG

DOYLE.

I GOT A TRUCK GO BUY SOME BEER  
LET'S TAKE A RIDE AWAY FROM HERE  
I'LL GET A BOTTLE OF MUSCATEL  
I KNOW A LITTLE CHEAP MOTEL  
I GOTTA HAVE SOME ATMOSPHERE

DEBBIE.

I'M NOT THE KINDA GIRL TO GO  
FOR EVERY COWBOY ROMEO  
HOW DO I KNOW THAT YOU'RE SINCERE?

DOYLE & DEBBIE.

WHINE WHINE TWANG TWANG  
DON'T YOU LOVE TO HEAR ME SING  
WHINE WHINE TWANG TWANG  
DON'T YOU LOVE THE STRUM AND DRANG  
CHEAT CHEAT GUILT PANG  
SHOOT SHOOT BANG BANG  
WHINE WHINE TWANG TWANG

DEBBIE.

I GOT THE HAY, LET'S TAKE A ROLL  
LET OUT SOME LINE SO WE CAN TROLL  
I KNOW IT'S JUST A CHEAP AFFAIR  
THERE'S NO REASON I SHOULD CARE  
BUT I LOVE YOU WITH MY HEART AND SOUL



DOYLE.

THIS ISN'T RIGHT, I GOTTA GO  
I DON'T WANNA SEE YOU ANYMORE  
YOU GOTTA USE SOME SELF-CONTROL  
AND WE DON'T WANT MY WIFE TO KNOW

DOYLE & DEBBIE.

WHINE WHINE TWANG TWANG  
DON'T YOU LOVE TO HEAR ME SING  
WHINE WHINE TWANG TWANG  
DON'T YOU LOVE THE STRUM AND DRANG  
CHEAT CHEAT GUILT PANG  
SHOOT SHOOT BANG BANG  
WHINE WHINE TWANG TWANG

*(Instrumental break — Doyle does a shameless cornball dance.)*

DEBBIE.

I BOUGHT A GUN I SHOT HIM DEAD  
I MEAN I FILLED HIM FULL OF LEAD

DOYLE.

I GAVE HER LOVE AND IN RETURN  
SHE SENT ME STRAIGHT TO HELL TO BURN

DOYLE & DEBBIE.

WHINE WHINE TWANG TWANG  
DON'T YOU LOVE TO HEAR ME SING  
WHINE WHINE TWANG TWANG  
DON'T YOU LOVE THE STRUM AND DRANG  
CHEAT CHEAT GUILT PANG  
SHOOT SHOOT BANG BANG  
WHINE WHINE TWANG TWANG

DOYLE. Hello everybody, and thanks to all you good people and fine folks for comin' out to see the *Doyle and Debbie Show* tonight. We're mighty glad you came. And we just hope you find our music entertaining and enjoyable, so that you can go home and tell all your friends and neighbors that Doyle and Debbie had done all they could with what the good Lord gave 'em. Tonight is a very special evening for Doyle and Debbie. Now I know y'all are lookin' up here on the stage and sayin' to yourselves, "That looks like Doyle, but I sure don't recognize that good-lookin' little gal up there next to him." Well I'd like y'all to say hello to my new Debbie!

DEBBIE. Hello.

DOYLE. She's been out on the road with us now for six weeks, learnin' all the Debbie songs and all the Debbie parts. And once you hear this little gal sing, you're gonna wanna take this little Debbie to heart the same way you did the other two. And it is my new Debbie's heartfelt wish that her abundant talent and special care with these songs will wipe the other Debbies clean from your mind. Tell 'em where I found you, Debbie!

DEBBIE. Well, Doyle, I was singin' at the VFW Hall in Mooney's Gap, Tennessee, when in walks the most famous man ever to hail from Cocke County, Mr. Doyle Mayfield. And no one had seen him in years since his breakdown and everything, and I guess we all thought that he was still in the hospital or retired or something ...

DOYLE. (*Breaking in.*) Lemme just say real quick here that it wasn't even a hospital. It wasn't any more than a little ol' research facility, for the study and treatment of emotional exhaustion in country artists, and that's all they was to it. So anyway ...

DEBBIE. Well, so anyway, he sat down at the bar and listened to me and my band play a few songs, and he musta liked what he heard, 'cause he asked me to be his new Debbie.

DOYLE. That's right I did, right there on the spot. I walk in and I hear this little gal just a-singin' her heart out, and I said to myself: Doyle, this little gal is your ticket back to the big-time. So how long had you been singin' at that little hole in the wall there, darlin'?

DEBBIE. That night?

DOYLE. No, I mean how long had you been employed at that establishment?

DEBBIE. Almost ten years.

DOYLE. Good Lord! Ten years!

DEBBIE. (*Profoundly.*) Well if I hadn'ta been there, I wouldn't be here. (*Doyle is impressed. He looks at the audience and slowly starts clapping.*)

DOYLE. Well Debbie, how 'bout we quit this yackin' and show these good folks what we're talkin' about. How 'bout you kick it off for us! (*Doyle nods to Debbie to cue her line. His lips move with hers, like he's watching his child in a school play.*)

DEBBIE. (*Canned.*) If you'da been passin' through Missoula, Montana on July the 17th, 1989, and you had your car radio tuned to KMOS Big Country, you mighta heard the local DJ introducin' the number-three song in that market, and it mighta sounded somethin' like this ... (*Buddy counts it off and starts the song.*)

BUDDY. (*Off-mic.*) Three, four, one, two ...

(*Song begins: "When You're Screwin' Other Women (Think of Me)."*)

DOYLE. I wrote this song for my third wife, who was also my second Debbie.

DEBBIE.

I KNOW YOU'RE CHEATIN'

DOYLE.

BUT I STILL LOVE YOU

DEBBIE.

AND I HAVE TRIED MY BEST TO KEEP YOU

DOYLE.

YOU CANNOT ASK ME TO BE SOMEONE

I CANNOT BE

DEBBIE.

I KNOW YOU'RE LEAVIN'

DOYLE.

AND YOU CAN'T STOP ME

DEBBIE.

BUT THERE'S JUST ONE LAST THING I ASK THEE

WHEN YOU'RE SCREWIN' OTHER WOMEN

THINK OF ME

DOYLE & DEBBIE.

WHEN YOU'RE SCREWIN' OTHER WOMEN

DEBBIE.

THINK OF ME

DOYLE & DEBBIE.

JUST PRETEND THE END IS OVER

DEBBIE.

AND YOU'RE BACK IN LOVE WITH ME

DOYLE.

I'LL THINK OF HER "G" SPOT AS YOUR "G" SPOT

EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT TO ME

DOYLE & DEBBIE.

WHEN YOU'RE SCREWIN' OTHER WOMEN

DEBBIE.

THINK OF ME

*(Instrumental turnaround.)*

DOYLE. *(To Buddy, off-mic.)* Take one, Buddy. *(Buddy resists as Doyle insists, until a spotlight hits Buddy's face, and he quickly turns to the audience and reluctantly "takes a solo.")*

DOYLE & DEBBIE.

JUST IMAGINE I'M THE FILTHY SWINE

# THE DOYLE AND DEBBIE SHOW

a musical by Bruce Arntson

2M, 1W

Doyle Mayfield is an old-guard country star in the Porter Wagoner/George Jones mold, who had a handful of regional hits with his duet partner Debbie, back in the '70s and '80s. Thirty years, four wives, and three Debbies later, he finds himself back in Nashville at a Lower Broadway honky-tonk for one final attempt to regain his former "glory." Doyle has just discovered his new (third) Debbie singing at the VFW Hall in his hometown of Mooney's Gap in East Tennessee, and immediately saw her as his ticket back to the big-time. Debbie, a single mother of three, sees Doyle as her last chance to make it to Nashville and make a record, but she is gradually realizing what a terrible mistake she's made in hitching her star to this loose cannon.

*"... hilarious. Drop-dead funny."*

—**Chicago Tribune**

*"90 minutes of goofy perfection — clever, hilarious, wacky and [brilliant] ..."*

—**Chicago Sun-Times**

*"It is akin to George and Tammy doing a night at the Grand Ole Opry — only on mescaline."*

—**AustinOnStage.com (Austin, TX)**

*"THE DOYLE AND DEBBIE SHOW is like Spinal Tap with a twang, and it manages to tweak and tickle without ever denigrating country music."*

—**The Tennessean (Nashville, TN)**

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