

REX'S EXES

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DRAMATISTS
PLAY SERVICE
INC.

REX'S EXES

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SPECIAL NOTE ON LOGO

The logo for REX'S EXES, available for download at www.dramatists.com, is required for use in all playbills, posters and other promotional materials.

*In recognition of his directorial talents,
unique vision and unflagging support,
we dedicate this play to our friend, Joe Smith.*

AUTHORS' NOTES

The role of Cee Cee can be doubled with Bitsy or Gentle Harmony or Mama Doll.

The cousins' living room is the only set. All other locations should be suggested by lighting.

Although Jimmy Wyvette's wedding gown designs are visually amusing, both the "Camouflage Wedding Gown" and the fringed "Belle of the Prairie" dress should be well-constructed and beautiful, each in its own unique way.

The name "Puggy" should rhyme with the word "buggy."

The name of the town "Floydada" should be pronounced "Floyd-day-dah."

We suggest the pace of the play be brisk and lively.

We suggest up-tempo music be played pre- and post-show, at intermission and especially during scene transitions. Texas swing music is particularly appropriate.

The characters who populate Sweetgum, Texas, should be portrayed as real people, not Southern caricatures.

All of the characters portrayed in REX'S EXES are fictional creations and any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

REX'S EXES received its world premiere at Butterfield Stage Players in Gainesville, Texas, on May 10, 2012. It was directed by Sally Page; the assistant director was Jaime Jaksch; the technical director was Jeffrey Watson; the stage manager was Kathy Zachary; the assistant stage manager was Jocelyn Allgood; the costume design was by Sandy Geyer; the set construction was by Ron DeDoes; the light and sound design were by Danny Winters. The REX'S EXES logo was designed by Joe Conner, Joe Conner Designs.

CEE CEE WINDHAM Pam Evans
GAYNELLE VERDEEN Sandy Geyer
JIMMIE WYVETTE VERDEEN Kelly Fiore-Watson
PEACHES VERDEEN BELROSE Shelley Head
LA MERLE VERDEEN MINSHEW Kat Guyon
AUBREY VERDEEN Perry Goodwyn
BITSY HARGIS Lorena Provencio
THEODORE REXFORD BELROSE Jeffrey Watson
GENTLE HARMONY Lynda Thomson
MAMA DOLL HARGIS Lee Skinner
MARLISSA CRUTCHFIELD Mary Jo Dollar
WILD BILL BOUDREAUX Russell Schmid
COUSIN PURVIS Hollis Parsons

CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

CEE CEE WINDHAM, late 40s to 50

GAYNELLE VERDEEN, 50

JIMMIE WYVETTE VERDEEN, 40s

PEACHES VERDEEN BELROSE, late 40s

LA MERLE VERDEEN MINSHEW, late 60s to 70

AUBREY VERDEEN, late 80s

BITSY HARGIS, late 40s

THEODORE REXFORD BELROSE, 50

GENTLE HARMONY, 40s to 50s

MAMA DOLL HARGIS, 80s to 120

MARLISSA CRUTCHFIELD, 40s

WILD BILL BOUDREAUX, 50s

PLACE

In and around the home of the Verdeen cousins,
Gaynelle, Peaches and Jimmie Wyvette,
Sweetgum, Texas, USA.

TIME

The present.

ACT ONE

- Scene 1: Fall morning
- Scene 2: Moments later
- Scene 3: A few minutes later
- Scene 4: Minutes later
- Scene 5: That afternoon
- Scene 6: Noon, the next day
- Scene 7: That night

ACT TWO

- Scene 1: The next morning
- Scene 2: Later that morning
- Scene 3: Minutes later
- Scene 4: Later

REX'S EXES

ACT ONE

Scene 1

A fall morning, lights up center stage on a small countertop, the "set" of Hospitality House, a low-budget cable access program in Sweetgum, Texas. Several hardback books are arranged on the counter. Cee Cee Windham, sassy and stylish, addresses the "camera."

CEE CEE. Well, howdy, y'all! I'm Cee Cee Windham and welcome to *Hospitality House*, the number one cable access show in the tri-county area, coming to you live, from Sweetgum, Texas! Now, let's kick-start today's program with our regular update "What's Doin' in Sweetgum Tonight?" (*Scans a memo.*) There's bingo with the Rotarians, canasta with the Civitans and a lecture at The Dirt Daubers' Garden Club called "Mature Manure: THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS." (*Sincerely to "the camera."*) Tempting choices all! (*Sets down the memo.*) Okay, moving right along, it's time for our new Thursday morning segment, "Crafty Hands at Home." Be honest, girls, how many times have you thought, "What am I gonna do with that shelf full of dusty, old books? It's not like I'm going to read 'em or anything." Well, I've got the perfect fix for that problem and it's a doozy! Just hollow out the centers and use 'em as clever little gift boxes or safe places to hide your valuables. I mean, what robber breaks into your house so he can curl up with a Mary Clark Higgins? So, I've invited my best friend to drop by and give me a hand showing y'all how to make 'em. Everybody welcome Gaynelle Verdeen and her hot glue gun! (*Canned music plays, Gaynelle Verdeen, kind, quirky, a bit on edge, enters, joins Cee Cee.*)
GAYNELLE. (*Uncomfortable, speaks in a stiff, uneasy manner.*)

Good-morning-Cee-Cee-I-am-thrilled — (*Remembers, quickly holds up a glue gun.*) to-be-here.

CEE CEE. Oh, it's so great to have you here, Gaynelle. And we want you to know that almost everyone in McTwayne County was rooting for you after your mental breakdown when your husband left you and all. So glad you're doing better. Now, let's get started making this cute little gift box which you just may be receiving here in a few days. (*Winks at "the camera."*)

GAYNELLE. (*Baffled.*) I ... might — What?

CEE CEE. I happen to know you're just a couple of days away from celebrating a birthday — a great big one! (*Gaynelle stiffens, forces a smile.*) So, let's get busy craftin'. (*Hands Gaynelle a book and a box cutter.*) I'll take *Moby Dick* here and you can work on — (*Reads cover.*) *Ancient History: The First Fifty Years*. Sounds like the story of your life, girl! (*Laughs heartily. To "the camera."*) Is that perfect, or what?! Yes, indeedy, Gaynelle, one of these cuties we're making here just might wind up at your birthday party!

GAYNELLE. (*Bristles.*) Actually, I'm not having a birthday party.

CEE CEE. Well, that's just too sad! Finally making it to fifty and not celebrating the monumental feat?! For heaven's sake, nobody should be *that* touchy about *getting on up there!*

GAYNELLE. (*Curt.*) I'm not touchy! (*Opens the book, tries to cover, anxiety grows as she speaks.*) It's just that all this celebrating of birthdays is so overblown! All this emphasis on age is ridiculous. It's just an incessant (*Head first into a meltdown.*) reminder of the passage of time and all those wasted years and stupid decisions! (*Loses it.*) But the one thing I am *not* is ... (*Stabs the pages.*) touchy! ... (*Stabs pages.*) about! ... (*Stabs pages.*) my! ... (*Stabs pages.*) age! I have nothing to live for! (*Races offstage in tears.*)

CEE CEE. Well ... (*Rallies like a pro.*) I believe Gaynelle's gone to look for a new blade for that box cutter which I encourage any available stage hand to take away from her ASAP! And what a perfect time to take a break and hear from this week's sponsor, Puggy and Butch Walleford's Do-It-Yourself Taxidermy. Puggy and Butch say whatever you can kill and drag through the door, they will gladly show you how to stuff it. Yes, it's fun for the whole family! And to kick off hunting season, this month only, all squirrels are half off. Talk about a bargain! Now, y'all sit tight and we'll be right back with more crafty fun, live from Sweetgum, Texas! (*Blackout.*)

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by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, Jamie Wooten

3M, 8W (doubling)

... And, yes, it's set in Texas! This deliriously funny Southern-fried farce finds the Verdeen cousins of Sweetgum, Texas — Gaynelle, Peaches and Jimmie Wyvette — teetering on the brink of disaster again. Gaynelle, frustrated and frazzled from working too many two-bit jobs, stubbornly refuses to face the fact she's turning the Big 5-0. In a misguided effort to lift her cousin's spirits, Peaches, a sassy, mortuarial cosmetologist who's stuck in a romantic dry gulch, is determined to throw Gaynelle a surprise birthday party she doesn't even want. Jimmie Wy, riding high on the success of her new wedding gown boutique for big gals — Wide Bride — reluctantly agrees to help Peaches surprise Gaynelle. But it turns out the surprise is on them when, in a startling twist, the party plans shift to a hastily thrown-together family funeral instead. The hilarity escalates when Peaches' recently declared dead husband unexpectedly returns and his romantic links to each of the cousins is revealed. And the hits just keep on coming as a Cajun bounty hunter who's tracking Peaches' husband crashes the funeral and a jilted bride holds the Verdeens hostage with a loaded paintball gun. All the while, the cousins struggle to avoid their bitter Aunt LaMerle who's hell-bent on cracking the ranks of the elite Daughters of the Nation of Texas and exacting revenge on the Verdeen girls before the dirt hits the casket. As the outrageous complications of this ferociously funny Jones-Hope-Wooten comedy explode into chaos, you'll find yourself hoping your next family celebration — be it birthday, wedding or funeral — is even half this much fun!

Also by Jones, Hope, Wooten:

CHRISTMAS BELLES
THE DIXIE SWIM CLUB
THE HALLELUJAH GIRLS
THE RED VELVET CAKE WAR
and many others

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