LAST ROUND-UP OF THE GUACAMOLE QUEENS

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We dedicate this play, with love,
to Janet and Foley Sparks —
the best neighbors on Planet Earth.
AUTHORS’ NOTES

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

The roles of Dixie Davenport and Tanzie Lockhart can be doubled.

Wide Bride, the wedding boutique, is the only set. All other locations should be suggested by lighting and minimal furniture.

Because a character must be concealed behind the couch for an extended length of time, the audience should not be able to see under the couch.

To avoid losing momentum between scenes — particularly in Act One between Scenes 5 and 6, and in Act Two between Scenes 2 and 3 — speedy scene and costume changes should be a priority.

Dewey speaks to Obediah as if he were a real person. Dewey is NOT a ventriloquist. No attempt by the actor playing Dewey should be made to conceal the fact that he’s speaking for the puppet when he does so.

Obediah should be a hand puppet with human features. He is not a sock puppet or ventriloquist’s dummy or an animal or a creature.

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

All of the characters portrayed in LAST ROUND-UP OF THE GUACAMOLE QUEENS are fictional creations, and any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.
CHARACTERS

CEE CEE WINDHAM, 50s
JIMMIE WYVETTE VERDEEN, 40s
PEACHES VERDEEN BELROSE, late 40s
GAYNELLE VERDEEN, 50s
LAMERLE VERDEEN MINSHEW, late 60s to 70
AUBREY VERDEEN, 90s
DIXIE DAVENPORT, 50s
ENNIS CROWDER PUCKETT, 80s
DELLA CROWDER, 80s
GROVER LOUT, 40s
DEWEY DAVENPORT, late 40s
RAYNERD CHISUM, 40s
TANZIE LOCKHART, 50s

PLACE

In and around Wide Bride, a bridal boutique on Main Street, Sweetgum, Texas, USA.

TIME

The present.
ACT ONE

Scene 1: The set of *Hospitality House*, morning.
Scene 2: Java Junction, the same time.
Scene 3: Uncle Aubrey’s house, moments later.
Scene 4: The set of *Hospitality House*, half an hour later.
Scene 5: Wide Bride, four days later.
Scene 6: Wide Bride, two days later, afternoon.

ACT TWO

Scene 1: The set of *Hospitality House*, the next morning.
Scene 2: Wide Bride, three-thirty that afternoon.
Scene 3: Wide Bride, that night.
Scene 4: Wide Bride, two o’clock the next morning.
LAST ROUND-UP OF THE GUACAMOLE QUEENS

ACT ONE

Scene 1

Morning, lights up downstage center on the set of Hospitality House, a low-budget cable access program in Sweetgum, Texas. Two chairs are arranged for conversation and Cee Cee Windham, sassy and stylish, addresses the “camera” from the stage right chair.

CEE CEE. Happy Friday, everybody! 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, if you missed yesterday’s program, you missed a good one. Sister Dixie Davenport hosted our new segment, Inspiration Station, with the timely topic: “Hot Flashes — God’s Way of Giving You a Little Taste of Hell.” Powerful stuff. Moving right along, here’s a quick announcement — Clovis Sanford’s House of Meat finally reopened over in Fayro. And if that’s not exciting enough, today Clovis will be signing copies of his self-published memoir, High On The Hog, back by the sausage grinder. Don’t miss this once-in-a-lifetime literary event! And now, let’s get right to the topic everyone’s talking about — that dear old Sweetgum High is going to be torn down. Now, we want everyone to show up for the final reunion of all the classes one week from tonight.
Go, Buccaneers! And until then we’ll feature several of our most famous graduates here on this show. Today’s celebrity alum is the founder of the go-to source for wedding gowns for Texas-size gals, Wide Bride! Let’s welcome Jimmie Wyvette Verdeen! (Jimmie Wyvette Verdeen, a hearty good ol’ girl with an unfortunate unibrow, enters from stage right wearing men’s Western wear, strides to the stage left chair, waves, and sits.) So good to have you with us on today’s show, Jimmie Wy. Now rumor has it you and your cousins are in charge of this big reunion and are whippin’ up a real humdinger!

JIMMIE WYVETTE. Well, I don’t usually cotton to rumors but this is one you can take to the bank! Peaches, Gaynelle, and myself are popping our shirttails getting ready for one fabulous, final blowout in the old gym. And I’ve got a trivia tidbit for all your viewers: Do all y’all remember that the school was built on the site of an old avocado grove? That’s why the homecoming game was called the Guacamole Bowl.

CEE CEE. Ah, precious memories, how they linger. Now, everybody in McTwayne County’s super excited about the reunion. And we thought members of our viewing audience might have some questions for you. We have our first caller so … (Louder.) Who are we speaking with and is this question for me or our guest?

MAN. (Voiceover.) It’s for any woman. I’m Lloyd Jarvis, my wife’s gone, and I gotta wash my shirt. What settin’ do I use on the washin’ machine?

CEE CEE. (Sighs.) Well, it depends. What does it say on your shirt, Lloyd?

MAN. (Voiceover.) Uh … Texas A and M. (Cee Cee hangs her head.)

JIMMIE WYVETTE. Hey, Lloyd, when zombies attack, lookin’ for brains, don’t worry, you’ll be safe! (Guffaws. Off Cee Cee’s glare:) What? I didn’t say he’s stupid. I figured he already knew.

CEE CEE. (Quickly, to the “camera.”) The views expressed by our guests are not necessarily those of this station. (Then.) I think now would be a super time to hear from our new sponsor, The Gravy Bucket, offering all-you-can-eat biscuits and syrup on Saturdays. And with the purchase of any cake, pie, or dozen donuts, you’ll get a free diabetes home test kit at the check-out. Now, we’ll be right back, live from Sweetgum, Texas! (Blackout.)
LAST ROUND-UP OF THE GUACAMOLE QUEENS
by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, Jamie Wooten

4M, 8W (doubling)

In this deliciously funny Southern-fried comedy, the Verdeen cousins of Sweetgum, Texas — Gaynelle, Peaches, and Jimmie Wyvette — are up against the clock as they frantically attempt to produce the ultimate high school reunion before the old building is demolished. But they’ve got a bushel of obstacles to overcome before they can pull off this miracle: Gaynelle is reeling from the humiliating demise of her loathed ex-husband; Peaches’ romantic life has tanked because the older her dates get, the more horrified they are by her job as a mortuaria...