

DOUBLEWIDE, TEXAS

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PLAY SERVICE
INC.

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*We dedicate this play with our gratitude
to Mary Bishop, talented director
and good friend.*

AUTHORS' NOTE

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

We urge scene changes be made as quickly as possible to maintain a lively pace for the play.

We suggest that in Act Two, Scene 1, the actress portraying Georgia Dean have on her “sexy dress” for Act Two, Scene 2 under her “pink Hawaiian muumuu” to guarantee a speedy scene change. And for the same purpose, we suggest she quickly slip the “pink Hawaiian muumuu” back on over her “sexy dress” for the beginning of Act Two, Scene 3.

All of the characters portrayed in *Doublewide, Texas* are fictional creations, and any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

DOUBLEWIDE, TEXAS received its world premiere at The Theatre Company in the historic Lyric Theater in Harrison, Arkansas, on June 13, 2015. It was directed by Mary Bishop; the assistant director was Tom Fitton; the stage managers were Clark Middleton and Kim Trublood; the technical director was Tony Grimes; the lighting technician was Michael Hughes; the set designer was Ann Graffy; the sound designer was Dan Reynolds; the make-up designer was Amber Millsap; the property designer was Roz Slavik; set construction was by Bill McDaniel; the production assistant was Shellie Renner; and the original Jones Hope Wooten show logo was designed by Joe Connor. The cast was as follows:

BIG ETHEL SATTERWHITE Lynn Grace
GEORGIA DEAN RUDD Brooke Lewis
LARKEN BARKEN Julianna Stefanski
NORWAYNE “BABY” CRUMPLER Jamie Taylor
HAYWOOD SLOGGETT Jim Gresham
JOVEETA CRUMPLER Karen McKaig
CAPRICE CRUMPLER Gwen Gresham
LOMAX TANNER Michael “Richie” Amburn
STARLA PUDNEY Dana O’Quin

CHARACTERS

BIG ETHEL SATTERWHITE, 60s

GEORGIA DEAN RUDD, 40s

LARK BARKEN, 20s

NORWAYNE “BABY” CRUMPLER, 40s

HAYWOOD SLOGGETT, 70s

JOVEETA CRUMPLER, 40s

CAPRICE CRUMPLER, mid-to-late 70s

LOMAX TANNER, 40s

STARLA PUDNEY, 40s

PLACE

In and around the living room of Georgia Dean’s mobile home in a trailer park just outside Tugaloo, Texas. Other locations are indicated by pools of light only.

TIME

The present.

The action of the play takes place over five consecutive days.

DOUBLEWIDE, TEXAS

ACT ONE

Scene 1

A spotlight comes up downstage center on a lectern. Big Ethel Satterwhite, brusque, down-to-earth, enters stage right in colorful nurse's scrubs, stethoscope around her neck, carries a shopping bag, strides to the lectern.

BIG ETHEL. (*Addresses the audience.*) Hmm. There's lots more of y'all than I expected. Now, it's none of my beeswax what you drank, smoked, snorted or stole that got you locked in here with me this morning, that's between you and your parole officer. But the State of Texas has agreed your participation today *will* count toward your community service. I'm Big Ethel Satterwhite, L.V.N., and this pilot program, run by our very own County Sheriff's Department and forced on us by the *brain-trust* in Austin, is built on the paper-thin notion that better nutrition leads to better health which somehow leads to better decision-makin' habits in the long run. (*Beat.*) And I'll buy that if *you* will. Now thanks for agreeing to forego your usual breathalyzer and urine tests this morning for blood pressure and glucose checks instead. And having just looked over those numbers, I think it might be best if we throw ourselves into today's lesson ... before any of y'all start strokin' out. Now if pork rinds and Dr. Pepper are two of your major food groups, you are *makin' bad choices*. And just like you can choose to stop stealin' your grandma's social security checks, you can also choose to stop shovelin' down greasy slop. You cannot be alert and on the ball if all you've had for breakfast is a cigarette, a beer and a bear claw. Heck, stuffed full of

junk like that, who *wouldn't* race out and rob the closest Seven-Eleven? And there you have the debatable connection between poor nutrition and a life of crime. So, if you never want to post bail again, remember these four little words. (*Pulls a cabbage and a large cookie from shopping bag, holds one in each hand.*) “More cabbage ... less cookie!” Take this cabbage. It's full of fiber, Vitamins K, C and B-six with the only drawback bein' it can give you enough gas to generate one day's electricity for a small subdivision in the greater Houston area. On the other hand, take this cookie. It's a caramel, double-chocolate chip cookie I made for my husband, O.C., not that he noticed. He's retired and does nothin' but sit in that Barcalounger of his, glued to the TV which makes it real easy to forget our weddin' anniversary five years in a row— but I digress. Back to this cookie ... (*Takes a whiff.*) which smells ... dang, that smells *great*. (*Regains composure.*) It ... uh, it doesn't really give you many usable nutrients. (*Pinches off a bite.*) Wow. That's got to be the best thing I ever put in my head! (*Takes another bite, swoons at the taste, pulls herself together.*) Which just goes to prove you should ... uh, choose cabbage every ... (*Stares at the cookie, then at the cabbage, gives up.*) Oh, who am I kiddin', only a *moron* wouldn't go for the cookie! (*Hurls the cabbage offstage, then, conspiratorially.*) Look, as usual, those out-of-touch politicians in Austin wouldn't know reality if it bit 'em in the butt. Let's just cut to it — y'all all know right from wrong, so just *do* it! And if you don't want to be stuck in these idiotic classes ever again, *stop makin' stupid decisions!* Choke down somethin' green once in a while and don't act the fool in public! And if you won't breathe a word about this to the Sheriff, meet me out back. I've got a whole Tupperware full of these caramel beauties in my Cutlass. So, good luck, *vaya con Dios, class dismissed!* (*Takes another bite, groans with pleasure. Blackout.*)

Scene 2

A spotlight comes up downstage left on a bench covered in a lumpy mound of clean restaurant towels, uniforms, aprons, etc. A coat rack with an apron and a flyswatter on it is nearby. Georgia Dean Rudd, gregarious ball of fire, hurries in stage left in jeans, ruffled shirt, big earrings, neck scarf, all in her signature color: hot pink. Talks on her phone, seriously ticked off.

GEORGIA DEAN. Hoyt, this is Georgia Dean at Bronco Betty's Buffeteria and yes, I am leaving you yet *another* message: *Where the devil's my food order?! I've got a café full of ranchers, truckers and senior citizens out there and all I've got left to feed 'em is Vy-enna sausage and saltines — truckers will eat anything that doesn't fight back, but the seniors are not having it!* You know I'm doin' the work of two since Marva's hip blew out, so call me back A.S.A.P. or I'm never goin' two-steppin' with you again, *comprende?! (Hangs up.)* Have I found the most useless man on the planet or what?!

WOMAN'S VOICE. *(Under the laundry.)* Depends. Is he a good dancer?

GEORGIA DEAN. *(Grabs flyswatter, brandishes it.)* Who said that?

WOMAN'S VOICE. I did. *(A bespectacled young woman, Lark, guileless, sits up, covered by the laundry. Georgia Dean screams, Lark screams.)*

GEORGIA DEAN. Who the heck are you?

LARK. I'm Lark and I'm not dangerous! Could you drop the flyswatter?

GEORGIA DEAN. Well, *Lark*, don't you know it's bad manners to eavesdrop? And you look to be about twenty-nothing. What could you *really* know about men? *(Lark pushes the laundry off, struggles to her feet; she's hugely pregnant.)* O-kay. So, there's *one* thing you know about men. But what are you doin' in my storage room, *Lark*?

LARK. Actually, it's Larken but back home in Oregon I'm just Lark. I'm ... uh, seeing the country before the baby's born or *was* until I ran out of gas. I saw your back door open with that big welcome mat so I said to myself, "That's a sign!" I'm very sensitive to signs and I

DOUBLEWIDE, TEXAS

by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, Jamie Wooten

3M, 6W

In this hilarious, fast-paced comedy, the inhabitants of one of the smallest trailer parks in Texas — four doublewides and a shed — are thrown for a loop when they realize the nearby town of Tugaloo is determined to annex them. And it's not as if they don't already have enough to deal with. Joveeta Crumpler has had it up to here, having been passed over *again* for a promotion at work. On top of this, she has an ongoing battle to keep her feisty mother, Caprice, out of the local bar and worries that her good-ol'-boy brother, Baby Crumpler, is taking his participation in a womanless beauty pageant *way* too seriously. Joveeta's big-hearted best friend, Georgia Dean Rudd, is struggling to keep her diner and finances afloat, but she just can't curb her impulse to take in every stray cat, possum, and armadillo that wanders by. Then there's Big Ethel Satterwhite, who's nobody's fool. But tough as she is, she's continually frustrated by her clients at Stairway To Heaven Retirement Village as well as her mule-headed husband, O.C., who shows far more affection for his Barcalounger than he does for Big Ethel. And all the residents are plagued by Haywood Sloggett, the curmudgeon from across the road, who loathes their "trailer-trash" ways, especially their keeping a life-size illuminated nativity scene up year 'round. But these friends, enemies, and neighbors realize they'll have to work together to defeat the encroaching annexation if they — and their way of life — have a snowball's chance to survive being swallowed up by "the big guys." The rollicking mayhem of this flat-out funny Jones Hope Wooten comedy escalates as the residents attempt to secede from Texas, discover a traitor in their midst, and turn the tables in a surprising and side-splitting finale. So grab your Stetson and come on over to Doublewide, Texas, where life is double the fun, double the joy, and where audiences double over with laughter!

Also by Jones, Hope, Wooten

FARCE OF NATURE

FUNNY LITTLE THING CALLED LOVE

LAST ROUND-UP OF THE GUACAMOLE

QUEENS

and others

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