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LUCKY, LUCKY HUDSON

LUCKY, LUCKY HUDSON

by Tim Kelly

music and lyrics by Bill Francoeur



Meriwether Publishing Ltd.

Contemporary Drama Service

PO Box 7710 • Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7710

STORY OF THE PLAY

GANGSTERS! GANGSTERS! GANGSTERS!

Thrill-packed and spectacularly entertaining is the name of the game when Steve Jenkins, an imaginative lad, decides to fight racketeers. Steve's an aspiring writer who creates stories about fictional crime-buster LUCKY HUDSON! Steve's teachers, parents, and friends all think his imagination will get out of hand one day — and it does. Or does it? Lucky actually turns up and shows Steve how he plans to defeat a gang of hoods known as the 12TH STREET GANG. The gang is planning to pull off the biggest caper in the history of crime. Steve finds himself in an underworld of seedy nightclubs and city pavements — a world populated by such colorful characters as Big Al, Ma Cribbs, Mad Dog Myrtle, Two-Gun Tommy, Petty-Larceny Jane and Video Vicky. And there's Hong Kong Holly, Skeets the Squealer and musical comedy star LaVerne LaVerne and her Broadway Babies who keep turning up when they're least expected. All controlled by a godfather figure known only as "The Boss." Hold-ups, prison breaks, jury trials, and floor shows flash by in wild fashion until Lucky informs Steve it's up to *him* to defeat the gang.

WATCH STEVE GO INTO ACTION!

Written for an easy rehearsal schedule, with no scenic or production hassle. When you think box office — THINK LUCKY.

CAST OF CHARACTERS*

(In Order of Appearance)

STEVE JENKINS: Young crime writer

MRS. JENKINS: His mother

MISS WINTERS: English teacher

MIKE: Steve's friend

JENNY: Another friend

MISS CORDELIA: An editor at *Crime Magazine*

LUCKY HUDSON: Foe of the gangster underworld

FIRST WAITER: Works at Paradise Club

SECOND WAITER: Also works at Paradise Club

BIG AL: Heads the 12th Street Gang

MEDIUM-SIZED AL: His henchman

LITTLE AL: Another

LA VERNE LA VERNE: Owns the Paradise Club

BROADWAY BABIES: Chorus girls

VIDEO VICKY: Television reporter

TWO-GUN TOMMY: Ma Cribbs' son

MA CRIBBS: Runs a family of crooks

PETTY-LARCENY JANE: Shoplifter, Two-Gun Tommy's wife

MAD DOG MYRTLE: Ma Cribbs' daughter

ROXIE: Another daughter

MYSTERIOUS MAN: Brings a mysterious message

HONG KONG HOLLY: Works for “The Boss”

THE BOSS: A “Godfather” gangster type

SECRETARY: Works for Heliotrope Harry

HELIOTROPE HARRY: Criminal lawyer

JUDGE: At Steve’s trial

FIRST NEWSPAPER SELLER: A city voice

SECOND NEWSPAPER SELLER: Another

WARDEN SMITH: Of Fulsome Prison

PRISON GUARD: Of Fulsome Prison

CYRIL: Warden’s friend

SKEETS THE SQUEALER: Of Fulsome Prison

EXTRAS: As desired

*NOTE: Consult Production Notes following for suggestions of how to make cast smaller, if desired. Also, how to make some roles female rather than male.

PRODUCTION NOTES

SET PROPS:

Steve's Bedroom: Bed, pillow with large stamped envelope under it, sheets, blanket, slippers, small table with medicine bottle, liquid medicine, spoon, box of paper tissues, desk, chair, lamp, typewriter with ribbon, typing paper, cup with pencils, etc...

General Stage Area: Small table with tablecloth and three chairs.

SOUND EFFECTS:

Honky-tonk music, machine gun or gunfire, gong, burglar alarm, telephone, prison siren, optional car horn.

HAND PROPS:

SCENE ONE (Brought on): Bathrobe (MRS. JENKINS), attaché case or briefcase with papers (MISS WINTERS), soda pop bottle with pop, glass, tray (FIRST WAITER), chair, tommy gun or submachine gun, watch (TOMMY), dish towel, large spoon, chili, wristwatch (MA CRIBBS), shopping bag with: fur piece, clock, perfume bottle, blouse, shoes, rubber chicken, large ugly necktie (PETTY-LARCENY JANE), gun (MAD DOG MYRTLE, ROXIE) machine gun, whistle (MA CRIBBS), small table and chair with small gong and hammer (WAITERS), menu (HONG KONG HOLLY), wallet and money bills (LUCKY), cup of soup, spoon, tray, stamp (WAITER), receipt (HONG KONG HOLLY), walking stick (BOSS), safe with papers (WAITERS or STAGEHANDS), bag with tools (LITTLE AL), guns (MA CRIBBS' GANG), guns (12TH STREET GANG), gun (LUCKY).

SCENE TWO (Brought on): Chair and rope (VICKY — set prior to curtain), typewriter ribbon (LUCKY), candy bar (STEVE), gun (MA CRIBBS), machine gun (TWO-GUN TOMMY), shopping bags (PETTY-LARCENY JANE), small table or desk, phone (WAITERS), steno pad and pencil (SECRETARY), purple flower, legal document, pen (HELIOTROPE HARRY), bench (2)

(WAITERS), gavel, pocket watch (JUDGE), thermometer (MRS. JENKINS), newspapers (NEWSPAPER SELLERS), billy club, dog leash, rifle (GUARD), dog collar (CYRIL), whip (WARDEN), rifle, whistle (GUARD), paper with poem (MIKE), tin plate on string (WAITER), watch (WARDEN), telephone (SECRETARY), typewriter eraser (LUCKY), optional chauffeur's cap (WAITER), contract (MISS CORDELIA).

COSTUMES:

Costuming throughout is modern, although it helps with the “gangster” atmosphere to mix in some items from the '20s, '30s, and '40s — hats for men, some Charleston dance frocks, etc. Since the play is happening “inside Steve’s head,” clashes of styles won’t matter. In fact, they’ll help the overall mood. Listed here are only those costumes that might require some special attention because of plot points.

STEVE: Pajamas and robe. He’s fully dressed for much of Act Two.

MISS CORDELIA: Tailored suit or something to suggest the business world. Large “picture” hat.

GANGSTERS: Wide-brimmed hats, dark suits, ties, optional tinted glasses. Both the 12TH STREET GANG and MA CRIBBS’ GANG should be dressed in “classic” gangster fashions. THE BOSS might also wear white gloves.

LA VERNE LA VERNE: Evening gown, very “show bizzy.”

PETTY-LARCENY JANE: Lots of junk jewelry.

MYSTERIOUS MAN (OR WOMAN): Trenchcoat or raincoat with hat.

HONG KONG HOLLY: Chinese dress.

WAITER: In HONG KONG HOLLY’s he might wear an optional Chinese hat and Mandarin jacket.

HOLLIHOCKS: Optional Chinese hats.

HELIOTROPE HARRY: Suit, vest, purple flower in lapel.

JUDGE: Optional robe (can be choir robe).

PRISONERS: Classic prison “stripes” or can wear T-shirts and dungarees.

MOURNERS: In Death Row scene. Dark dresses and veils for MRS. JENKINS, MISS WINTERS, JENNY. Dark suit or jacket, black tie for MIKE.

SOME TIPS:

BROADWAY BABIES ROUTINE: As mentioned in the script, the number of “chorus girls” can be anywhere from two on up. Remember — to work, it must be *loud, fast, and funny*.

EXTRA CHARACTERS: This depends entirely on the space available and the director’s wishes in the matter. For example, in the Paradise Club sequence there could be additional customers. Ditto for the courtroom, the prison yard, etc.

LUCKY RETURNS FROM THE RIVER: He’s dripping wet and will soon come down with a bad cold, so “sprinkle” him with the contents of a watering can before he comes On-stage after returning from the river.

THREE PERSONALITIES OF STEVE JENKINS: The actor must portray three distinct shifts in character — (1) Steve Jenkins, boy writer; (2) Steve Jenkins, crime-fighter á la Lucky Hudson and (3) the bitter con of Fulsome Prison.

CYRIL: The vicious dog in the warden’s office is optional, but it usually brings the house down. Director can decide whether or not to use the “hound” in any subsequent scenes, the chase, etc. CAUTION: If CYRIL is used in other scenes he may “steal” them.

PRISON ESCAPE: STEVE might leap into the auditorium and make his escape this way with the spots (lights) crossing the auditorium and the siren wailing.

PACING: There must be no pauses, waits, delays. The play should move like a film, one scene blending into the next. No pauses. If there is an unavoidable break, cover it with music — the fast dance music is a good bet.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS: In any play as free-wheeling as this, all sorts of funny bits will turn up during rehearsals. If they work — use them.

ABOUT THE PROP GUNS: Don't use anything but *toy guns!* Department stores, joke stores, toy stores etc., carry an ample selection of revolvers, rifles, submachine guns, etc.

DOUBLING AND ALTERING ROLES: Many roles can be doubled. For example, SKEETS could be the MYSTERIOUS MAN, THE BOSS could portray the GUARD, WAITERS can appear as convicts and NEWSPAPER SELLERS, etc.

GENDER CHANGES: Many of the male roles can be changed to female roles. LITTLE AL might become LITTLE ALICE, MYSTERIOUS MAN might become MYSTERIOUS WOMAN, HELIOTROPE HARRY might become HELIOTROPE HAZEL, CYRIL might become CINDY, etc.

THE CUT-OUT AUTOMOBILE: The shape of an automobile is cut from heavy cardboard or lightweight wood and painted. The actor in front (CHAUFFEUR) holds onto an unseen handle on the Up-stage side of the cut-out. Another handle is in the back for the passenger. Thus, CHAUFFEUR and passenger grab the handles and simply "walk the car" into position. Ditto for "driving away."

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The world of Steve Jenkins

SCENE ONE

Late afternoon.

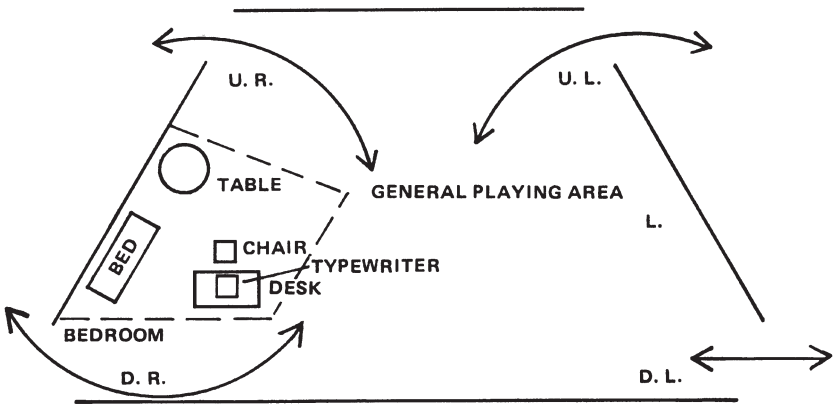
SCENE TWO

The following morning.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

1. Overture	1
2. Lucky, Lucky Hudson (<i>Steve, Mrs. Jenkins, Miss Winters</i>)	3
3. A Wild Imagination (<i>Miss Cordelia, Steve</i>)	9
4. The Paradise Club (Introduction) (<i>Instrumental</i>)	12
5. Welcome to The Paradise Club (<i>La Verne, Broadway Babies</i>)	14
6. The Almighty Dollar (<i>Gangsters</i>)	21
7. Welcome to The Paradise Club — Reprise (<i>La Verne, Broadway Babies</i>)	24
8. Hong Kong Holly (<i>Scene change music</i>)	33
9. The Hollihock Hong Kong Babies (<i>Holly, Hollihocks</i>)	35
10. Lucky, Lucky Hudson — Reprise (<i>Instrumental</i>)	41
11. The Chase (<i>Instrumental</i>)	44
12. He's Guilty (<i>First Seller, Second Seller, Chorus</i>)	52
13. "The Juice" (<i>Warden, Guard, Chorus</i>)	60
14. Curtain Call (Lucky, Lucky Hudson — Reprise) (<i>Company</i>)	72
15. Exit Music (A Wild Imagination) (<i>Instrumental</i>)	73

STAGING DIRECTIONS



1 **SETTING:** Stage Right represents the bedroom of Steve Jenkins. In
2 the bedroom are the following properties: Bed with pillow,
3 sheets, blanket, slippers or moccasins under bed. A small table
4 with medicine bottle, spoon, box of paper tissues. Also, a
5 student's desk and chair. On the desk is a student lamp,
6 typewriter, typing paper, cup with pencils, erasers, etc. The
7 room can be entered from Upstage Right and Downstage Right.
8 It helps, although it's not necessary, if this room can be
9 somewhat elevated. This way the action of the "real world" will
10 be clearly separated from the "imaginary world" that Steve
11 creates with his writing. The remainder of the Stage is open
12 space. This "open space" area can be entered from Up Right, Up
13 Left, Down Right and Down Left. Down Left Center is a small
14 table covered with a tablecloth, and three chairs. NOTE: For
15 further suggestions consult Production Notes.

16
17
18

1. *Overture*

19 *(STEVE JENKINS, a young teenager, is seated at the typewriter.*
20 *He wears pajamas. Although the bedroom is in the light, the rest*
21 *of the stage is in shadows. STEVE types eagerly, finishing up a*
22 *page. He stops, rips the paper from the machine, reads:)*

23 **STEVE:** "Lucky moved toward Big Al, the 'syndicate' kingpin.
24 'The game's up, Big Al,' he said. 'Sez you, copper,' answered
25 Big Al with a snarl on his gangster face. 'Are you handing
26 me that gun,' asked Lucky, 'or am I taking it from you?' 'I'm
27 gonna give you the biggest funeral in town,' joked Big Al.
28 Lucky stiffened; he meant business. 'Have it your way, Big
29 Al,' he said. The look on his face turned to cold steel ..."
30 *(He sneezes, stands, gets a paper tissue, blows his nose. From Off-stage,*
31 *Down Right, we hear the voice of Steve's mother MRS. JENKINS*
32 *and the voice of his teacher MISS WINTERS.)*

33 **MRS. JENKINS:** *(Voice from Off-stage)* This is awfully nice of
34 you, Miss Winters. Steve will be so pleased to see you.

35 **MISS WINTERS:** *(Voice from Off-stage)* You're sure he's feeling

1 **better?** (*STEVE jumps back into bed and pulls the blanket to*
2 *his chin.*)

3 **MRS. JENKINS:** (*Voice from Off-stage*) **Much, much better.**

4 **MISS WINTERS:** (*Voice from Off-stage*) **Sometimes flu can be**
5 **quite serious.**

6 **MRS. JENKINS:** (*Voice from Off-stage*) **The doctor assures me**
7 **the worst is over, but he's still feverish.** (*MRS. JENKINS, a*
8 *pleasant-appearing woman, enters the bedroom followed by*
9 *MISS WINTERS. MRS. JENKINS carries STEVE's bathrobe.*
10 *MISS WINTERS carries an attaché case or briefcase.*) **Steve,**
11 **you have a visitor.**

12 **MISS WINTERS:** **Hello, Steve. I understand you're feeling**
13 **better. I'm so glad.**

14 **STEVE:** (*Sits up.*) **Hello, Miss Winters. A little fever, that's all.**

15 **MISS WINTERS:** **I told your mother I'm only staying a moment.**

16 **MRS. JENKINS:** **Please sit down.**

17 **MISS WINTERS:** (*Sits at desk, puts attaché case on the floor.*) **I**
18 **knew you'd be anxious about the contest, so I thought I'd**
19 **come along and deliver the forms to cheer you up.**

20 **STEVE:** **Thanks, Miss Winters. You're the best English teacher**
21 **I have.**

22 **MISS WINTERS:** **I'm the only English teacher you have.**

23 **MRS. JENKINS:** (*Puts robe on foot of bed.*) **Here's your robe. I this**
24 **minute took it out of the dryer. (*Curious*) Contest?**

25 **MISS WINTERS:** **Short story contest. I'm certain Steve has an**
26 **excellent chance of winning. He has a writer's imagination.**
27 **It's a gift.**

28 **MRS. JENKINS:** **I don't think he should be worrying about a**
29 **contest until he's completely well.**

30 **STEVE:** **I'm fine, Mom. Honest.**

31 **MRS. JENKINS:** **The doctor said, "Rest."**

32 **STEVE:** **That's all I do. Rest, rest, rest.**

33 **MRS. JENKINS:** **Sometimes I think my son has too much**
34 **imagination.**

35 **MISS WINTERS:** **So do some of his teachers. I'm not one of**

1 them. Don't worry about your son, Mrs. Jenkins. He's got
2 a head on his shoulders.

3 **MRS. JENKINS:** Everyone has a head on his shoulders, but that
4 doesn't mean everyone has to have too much imagination.

5 **MISS WINTERS:** Steve's weak point is not imagination — it's
6 spelling. Here are the forms. (*She opens the attaché case and*
7 *takes out some papers.*) I'll leave them and you can fill them
8 out when you feel up to it. (*Puts them on desk.*)

9 **STEVE:** I feel up to it.

10 **MRS. JENKINS:** (*An order*) Rest.

11 **MISS WINTERS:** Do you have an idea in mind? For your entry.

12 **STEVE:** (*With mystery in his voice*) It's going to be about ...
13 Lucky.

14 **MISS WINTERS:** Lucky? (*Music begins.*)

15 **STEVE:** (*In rhythm*) Lucky ... Hudson!

16

17 **2. Lucky, Lucky Hudson**

18

19 He's a crime-bustin' sleuth,
20 An investigative whiz,
21 It's popular opinion
22 He's the best in the "biz"
23 When he's hot on the trail,
24 He won't disappoint,
25 He'll find 'em, nab 'em,
26 'N' send 'em to the joint.

27

28 A detective with a mission,
29 He's as tough as they come.
30 He's got the gangland world
31 Squirring under his thumb.

32 The mention of his name
33 Will bring a cry of fear ...

34 (*Speaking in rhythm*) Oh, no! Watch out! It's him!

35 (*Singing*) He's here!

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