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SURF'S UP!*



**A musical comedy celebrating
the 60s surf scene**

Book by Craig Sodaro

Music and Lyrics by Bill Francoeur



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SYNOPSIS

Cranky as an old Model T, widower Luigi Barone loves his beachfront restaurant, Surfin' Burger. It had been his dream to open a place in America after the war with his wife Rosa. Though Rosa is now gone, Luigi, his daughter Anna, and his three granddaughters (Maria, Gina, and Nicola) serve up great Italian food to a gang of surfers, a couple of aging beatniks who speak in poetry and bongo beats, and assorted customers who find their way to remote Kahuna Beach.

Unfortunately, Luigi's dream turns into a nightmare. More and more he's seeing his granddaughters lose the "old ways." Maria breaks all tradition by falling for Eddie Hays, a nice guy, but not an Italian doctor like Luigi wants. To make matters worse, a flock of enthusiastic birdwatchers invades Kahuna Beach looking for a rare species. Worst of all, a wily land developer, G.G. Glibb shows up bent on buying — or stealing — Kahuna Beach for his new hotel and casino.

When Luigi refuses to sell, Glibb makes life miserable for everyone, including fellow realtors who are equally hot on the trail of Kahuna Beach. Only a mysterious artist can bring Luigi back to his senses and realize he needs to accept help from those he has almost — but not quite — chased away if he wants to preserve his dream.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

in order of speaking

WALTER, 40s, an aging beatnik
GLORIA, 40s, his aging girlfriend
ANNA ROMANO, 40s, Luigi's daughter
JOEY, 20, a surfer
MARIA, 20, Anna's oldest daughter
GINA, 16, Anna's second daughter
NICOLA, 13, Anna's youngest daughter
BRENDA, 18, a surfer girl
JUDY, 18, another surfer girl
GARY, 20, surfer
RICKY, 20, another surfer
CAROL, 18, surfer girl
LUIGI BARONE, 60s, owner of Surfin' Burger restaurant
VISION OF ROSA, 60s, Luigi's wife (appears as an image
behind a scrim curtain)
EDDIE HAYS, 22, a new guy on the beach
BEVERLY, 50s, an enthusiastic birdwatcher
JUNE, 50s, another birdwatcher
TRUDY, 50s, another birdwatcher
G.G. GLIBB, 30s, a land developer
SABRINA SMART, 20s, his secretary
CONNIE, 50s, an artist
SADIE SLADE, 20s, a realtor
TRACY, 18, a customer
STACY, 18, a customer
LACY, 18, a customer
BETSY CROCKER, 40s, the health inspector
MISS PILLSPOTT, 50s, a realtor
FRANK FLOYD WRIGHT, 40s, an architect
OFFICER WILLIE, 30s, a cop
JEEVES, 50s, a butler

PRODUCTION NOTES

This lively musical comedy in the style of the Beach Boys' 50s music will require a careful study of the script and the recorded music. There are several sections of the show where the music is under the dialog before, during, and after the songs themselves. This was done to keep the mood and spirit of the show moving. Using the vocal track with early rehearsals will help the performers learn their cues.

The Vision of Rosa, Luigi's departed wife, appears twice in the show. Luigi's Vision of Rosa can be achieved by using a scrim curtain. The actress portraying Rosa will appear when a spotlight behind the scrim illuminates her figure. When the spotlight fades, her image will disappear.

Costuming and props for the show can be improvised. Surfboards and other surfing gear can be made of painted cardboard shapes.

PROPS

Various Restaurant Paraphernalia (Order pads and pens, food baskets, soup bowls, menus, to-go bags, dollar bills, napkins, silverware, sandwiches, a sign that reads, "We reserve the right to refuse anybody.")

Skateboard

Bongo Drums (at least two)

Surfboards for All Surfers

Notepads and Pens (two)

Small Notebook and Tiny Pencil

Binoculars (three)

Sketchpad and Pencil

Wrapped Christmas Present

Several Slips of Paper

Small Bottle of Castor Oil

Briefcase

Poster that reads, "Closed by Order of the Health Department"

Legal Papers

Poster that reads, "Kahuna-Ritz Hotel and Casino — Invest Now!"

Whistle

Fake Gun

Three Large Fish (May be stuffed or made of wood)

Boxes and Suitcases

Sign that reads, "This Property Condemned"

Silver Tray

Envelope Containing a Letter and a Check

SETTING

The exterior of Surfin' Burger restaurant on Kahuna Beach, California. We see the façade of the run-down shack that faces the beach. Wing entrance Down Left leads to parking lot and highway. Wing entrance Down Right leads to Kahuna Point and a wilderness area. One Center entrance leads to the restaurant, perhaps covered with hanging beads. No door is necessary. Two or three tables with mismatched chairs Up Right and Left. Red and white checkered tablecloths decorate the tables. Fishing gear, life preservers, surfboards, and so on stand against or hang on the walls of the restaurant along with a weather-beaten sign reading "Surfin' Burgers". A menu on the wall, however, lists only Italian dishes. To the right and left of the restaurant front are cardboard or wood sand hills along with a palm tree or two here and there in the distance.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Scene One: Exterior of Surfin' Burger restaurant on Kahuna Beach, California, a summer afternoon, 1971.

Scene Two: The same, that evening.

Scene Three: The same, the following afternoon.

ACT II

Scene One: The same, the following morning.

Scene Two: The same, the following evening.

SONG LIST

ACT I:

1. Surf's Up (Prologue)
Joey, Ensemble — p. 1
2. The American Dream
Luigi, Vision of Rosa, Anna, Maria, Gina, Nicola — p. 6
3. Nothing's Gonna Stand in My Way
G.G., Sabrina — p. 14
4. Kahuna Beach Christmas
Surfers, Anna, Maria, Gina, Nicola, Connie, Walter,
Gloria — p. 20
5. Riptide — p. 30
- 5a. Nothing's Gonna Stand in My Way (Reprise)
G.G., Sabrina — p. 31
6. Hey, Little Girl
Eddie, Surfers, Walter, Gloria — p. 35
7. California (Montage)
Ensemble — p. 40
- 7a. Entr'acte (California) — Instrumental/Vocal
Ensemble — p. 43

ACT II:

8. Shocka Bra (Hang Loose)
Joey, Brenda, Luigi, Surfers, Anna, Maria, Eddie, Gina,
Nicola, Walter, Gloria — p. 48
- 8a. Chase Music (Riptide) — p. 54
- 8b. The American Dream (Reprise)
Luigi, Vision of Rosa — p. 56
- 8c. The American Dream (Underscore)
Instrumental — p. 58
9. She's-a My Land
Luigi, Anna, Gina, Nicola, Chorus — p. 63
- 9a. Surf's Up (Epilogue)
Joey, Ensemble — p. 69
- 9b. Curtain Call (California)
Ensemble — p. 70

ACT I — PROLOGUE

1
2 *(In the darkness, we hear the sound effect of the ocean surf and*
3 *seagulls. Music Cue #1: Surf's Up (Prologue). In the distance*
4 *we hear the haunting sound of a conch shell followed by a ship's*
5 *bell. The music builds and then segues into a surfer-rock feel. A*
6 *spotlight comes up on JOEY who enters riding a skateboard*
7 *from Stage Right in front of the curtain. The spot follows him*
8 *as he rides across the stage and back, stopping at Center Stage.*
9 *He addresses the audience.)*

10 **JOEY:** *(Singing)* Wake up, everybody, it's a sunny California
11 day.

12 Got the woody all packed an' we're itchin' to be on our
13 way.

14 With the chariot revved, foot to the floor,

15 Wheels burnin' rubber all the way to the shore,

16 Drivin' my hot rod, cruisin' along.

17 I'm chirpin' out a Beach Boy song.

18 *(The curtain opens, lights up to reveal the rest of the*
19 *ENSEMBLE. The next two stanzas are sung together as soloists*
20 *with backup vocals.)*

21 **SURFERS:** *(Group of BOYS, GIRLS, or mixed)*

22 We'll be checkin' out the action, lookin' for the ultimate
23 high.

24 Rippin' on the waves, like a roller coaster rumblin' by.

25 With my toes-on-the-nose, I'll be hangin' ten.

26 Takin' off, turnin' and a-burnin' again!

27 Stoked and smokin' like a demon dude,

28 I'll be comin' down with attitude!

29 **BACKUP VOCALS:** *(Group of BOYS, GIRLS, or mixed)*

30 Ooo. Wop wah ooo.

31 Ooo. Wop wah ooo.

32 Doo wah ah! Doop doo wah ah!

33 Doop doo wah ah!

34 *(The next three stanzas [part one, two, and three] are sung as a*
35 *trio.)*

1 **PART ONE:** *(A few solo GIRLS [or BOYS singing falsetto 8va])*
 2 Ooo!
 3 Ooo!
 4 **PART TWO:** *(Mixed BOYS and GIRLS)*
 5 Surf's up! Surf's up!
 6 Surf's up! Surf's up!
 7 Surf's up! Surf's up!
 8 Surf's up!
 9 **PART THREE:** *(BOYS)*
 10 Surf's up! Everybody's ridin' it, now,
 11 Surf's up! Everybody's livin' it, now,
 12 Surf's up! Everybody's shoutin' it, now,
 13 Surf's up!
 14 **ALL:** Never gonna shut me down!
 15 Surf's up!
 16 *(Backup vocals continue as before during the following soloist*
 17 *section [see piano score].)*
 18 **SURFER GIRL SOLOISTS:** Every surfin' Kahuna will be
 19 showin' off under the sun.
 20 **SURFER BOY SOLOISTS:** Every cute Wahini will be watchin'
 21 me under the gun.
 22 **SURFER BOY/GIRL SOLOISTS:** I'm a surfer with a tendency to
 23 misbehave,
 24 S'pecially when I'm rippin' on an awesome wave.
 25 Ridin' that pipeline, walkin' the board,
 26 People say I'm outta my gourd!
 27 *(The next three stanzas [part one, two, and three] are sung as a trio.)*
 28 **PART ONE:** *(A few solo GIRLS [or BOYS singing falsetto 8va])*
 29 Ooo!
 30 Ooo!
 31 **PART TWO:** *(Mixed BOYS and GIRLS)*
 32 Surf's up! Surf's up!
 33 Surf's up! Surf's up!
 34 Surf's up! Surf's up!
 35 Surf's up!

1 **PART THREE: (BOYS)**

2 **Surf's up! Everybody's ridin' it, now,**
3 **Surf's up! Everybody's livin' it, now,**
4 **Surf's up! Everybody's shoutin' it, now,**
5 **Surf's up!**

6 **ALL: Never gonna shut me down!**

7 **Surf's up!**

8 *(Repeat last chorus. Music out, blackout, ENSEMBLE exits*
9 *Left and Right.)*

10

11 **Scene One**

12 *(As the lights come up, WALTER sits cross-legged at Center*
13 *Stage, bongo drums in his lap. GLORIA sits next to him in the*
14 *same position, also with bongo drums in her lap. JOEY,*
15 *CAROL, BRENDA, JUDY, GARY, RICKY, and extra*
16 *SURFERS sit around at tables or stand Upstage. Sound of*
17 *WALTER's irregular bongo rhythms are heard.)*

18 **WALTER: Cowabunga!** *(WALTER and GLORIA frequently*
19 *punctuate the poem with beats on their bongo drums.)*

20 **Breakers on the sand.**

21 **GLORIA: Get your board in hand!**

22 **WALTER: Gnaratious!**

23 **GLORIA: Big surf now in view!**

24 **WALTER: Big surf meant for you!**

25 **GLORIA: Grommets, gremlins wipe out now!**

26 **WALTER: Dudes hotdogging — holy cow!**

27 **GLORIA: Excellent!**

28 **WALTER: Outrageous!**

29 **GLORIA: Ripping the crunchers, a pounder grows!**

30 **WALTER: A three-sixty, then toes on the nose!**

31 **GLORIA: Kahuna smiles!**

32 **WALTER: Surfers rule!**

33 **GLORIA and WALTER: Radical!**

34 *(They finish with a flourish of beats on the bongo drums.*
35 *SURFERS clap enthusiastically as MARIA, GINA, and*

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