

Synopsis:

Fashion and clothing designer Hortense "Hortie " Wells Lambert, creator of the Hortie Wells Collection, a well-known brand of a national and prominent department store chain in Chicago, retires and returns to her small hometown, Zionsville, in central Indiana with her husband. They purchased an old, abandoned, multi-story, schoolhouse for conversion to an upscale apartment building. The three-year renovation took nearly all their savings and money...along with her husband. Now widowed, Hortie is joined by two other widows, who are from completely different backgrounds: her sister, Halcy Hill, the live-in and prudish housekeeper for a wealthy pharmaceutical family, and Lulubelle Mae Carter, otherwise known as "Cousin Lulu," a legendary hillbilly singer from the back hills of Kentucky, whose career has seen better days.

The trio of widows turn to Hortie's nephew, LCDR Thomas E. Teter "Tommy T," a JAG naval officer stationed near Chicago, to fight the legal battle with the newly elected and corrupt Mayor who has a 90-Day Notice to Vacate for Demolition notice served to Hortie by the town's lawyer. Tommy T is soon joined by Jody Marie, the visiting daughter of a tenant. The couple are soon embroiled in the legal battle to save the building. Meanwhile, the widows who are all "mad as wet hens" decide to "help" with all sorts of mischievous follies. When their 90-days have nearly run out, Jody Marie, who has fallen in love with Tommy T, discovers something that changes everything...and Zionsville's history.

Show Details:

Performances: Friday April 25, 7pm & Saturday April 26, 7pm

Sunday April 27, 2pm matinee

Friday May 2, 7pm & Saturday May 3, 2pm matinee and 7pm

Sunday May 4, 2pm matinee

Tech Week – Thursday, Apr 17-Monday, Apr 21 (no rehearsal on Easter Sunday the 20th)-

MANDATORY

Rehearsals: Start on Sunday, February 2nd

Rehearsal schedule: Sundays: 2-5 pm, Mondays: 7-9 pm, Tuesdays: 7-9 pm

Rehearsals are at the LOW Community Center, usually in Marion Pronk Hall

Work plans and cast calls for each rehearsal will be given in advance.

Show Leadership:

Director: Sheri Hayden

Assistant Director: Steve McCluskey

Music Director: Victoria Suich

Stage Manager: Chris Cain

Choreographer: Samantha Graves

LOW Players 2025 Board: Steve McCluskey, Manager
Steve Hein, Assistant Manager
Chris Cain, Treasurer

Audition Information:

Parts and character descriptions are listed below. Please prepare two songs you are comfortable with in a digital format. Also be prepared to move a little bit, not necessarily an intense dance call, but some movement. You will also likely be asked to conduct some cold readings from the play with others auditioning for parts.

Cast of Characters:

HORTIE: (f) (65+) (Sings, A3 to F5/opt. E5) a.k.a. Aunt Hortie, Hortense Wells Lambert. She is a retired professional dress designer and the creator of the Hortie Wells Collection, a women's clothing line for a national department store in Chicago. She is the owner of an apartment building in Zionsville, Indiana, and also a recent widow.

LULU: (f) (65+) (Sings, G3 to Eb5, Folk and Burlesque Styling) a.k.a. Aunt Lulu, a.k.a. Cousin Lulu. She is a distant cousin of Hortie and a once famous hillbilly (folk) singer who is at a low point in her career appearing at The Happy Flush Tavern near Zionsville. She, too, is a widow, albeit "grass-widow."

HALCY: (f) (65+) (Sings, A3 to D5, No solos) a.k.a. Halcy Wells Hill, Grandma Hill. She is Hortie's younger sister who is a long-time, live-in Housekeeper for a wealthy pharmaceutical family accustomed to a lifestyle of the rich and famous. She is a widow.

TOMMY T: (m) (30+) (Sings, B2 to F4) a.k.a. LCDR Thomas E. Teter, JAG Corps, US Navy. Hortie's nephew who is stationed at the Naval Station Great Lakes in Chicago, about three hours' drive from Zionsville. He is a bachelor and Hortie's favorite nephew who is totally dedicated to his work and his Aunt Hortie's wellbeing. He is also the show's love interest.

JODY MARIE: (f) (28+) (Sings, B3 to F5) a.k.a. Jody Marie Johnson. She is the daughter of Mrs. Johnson, a tenant of the apartment building and visiting to help her mother get settled in. She is studious, shy, focused, intelligent and nearly void of social skills. She helps Tommy T trying to save the widows from losing the apartments. She falls in love with him and comes up with a historical fact that saves the day.

HENRIETTA: (f) (65+) (Sings, C4 to F5, off-key, bad singing) a.k.a. Henrietta Nemeyer. She is an intruder and schoolhood acquaintance of Hortie's who is a busy body, a gossip, gives gifts which are useless then brags about them extolling their value. She craves attention and visions herself as a musical talent and has little which she performs miserably.

COTTON: (m) (40+) (Sings, B2 to E4, Speak-singing style) a.k.a Mayor Clifford P. Cotton the Third. He is an exaggerated character whose ego exceeds common sense. He is the villain. He is the epitome of stereotyped and crooked politicians, who tries to take Hortie's property for his own gain.

BUNDY: (m) (50+) a.k.a. Ralph Bunday, the Town Lawyer who values his position more than doing what is right. He has known Hortie for many years. He is a weasel-type of individual who looks down with disdain and is frequently sarcastic.

MRS. JOHNSON:(f) (55+) A widowed lady who is returning to the workplace after many years being a wife and a mother to Jody Marie. She has just taken a job at Sunnyside Sanitorium in Indianapolis as a food

service manager and takes an apartment at Walnut Hill. Hortie was a nurse there many years ago and approves her as a tenant for working with the “crazies.”

THE DREAM TEAM:(Sing, Opt. harmonization) a.k.a. (f) Kitty Kettle, (m) Tyrone, Tire and (f) Jenny Jar. (Sing)
A trio of singing and talking costumed figures who are on The Trash Heap and caution Hortie that there is nothing worse in life than growing old. Kitty speaks like Mae West, Tyrone like Droopy the Dog and Jenny like a tiny, sweet little girl.

THE B-GIRLS: 3 (f) (Sing, Opt. harmonization) a.k.a. Betty, Barbara, and Beverly Sue. They are sleazy, prostitutes who caution Jody Marie about Don't Get Connected to a Sailor. They want Tommy T for themselves. The song is a high-spirited dance routine, fast paced song with movements which can be innuendos.

THE CHEERLEADERS:3 (f) (70+) These are former Cheerleaders who march into a Town Hall meeting with a Zionsville cheer with modifications to suit their motive. They are dressed as they were when they were teenagers. Clothes are ill-fitting, too tight, too short except for their shoes which are comfort shoes, e.g. wedgies, granny-style or Dr. Scholls. A fun role.

ANNOUNCERS and TV INTERVIEWER: (m) Are all done from backstage over a microphone. There are three: The Happy Flush Tavern, and a TV Interviewer, John Kidder WIBC- TV

Notes:

* If you are cast in the show, we request that you refrain from posting on social media or sharing with other possible cast or friends until the Stage Manager gives permission.

* All cast members and other volunteers working on this show will be required to sign a LOW Players Volunteer Liability and Publicity Release Form (last page of audition form).



VOLUNTEER LIABILITY AND PUBLICITY RELEASE FORM

In return for being allowed to participate in volunteer activities for and with the Lake of the Woods Players (LOW Players) and all related activities, including any activities incidental to such participation, I, the undersigned Volunteer or Parent/Legal Guardian of Volunteer if Volunteer is under age 18, hereby release the LOW Players and its officers, directors, independent contractors, sponsors, agents, volunteers, and affiliates from any and all liability rising from, related to, or connected with, any injury, illness, or property damage for any reason, caused by, or sustained in the course of, any participation in rehearsals, performances, or any other activities conducted by or associated with the LOW Players. I hereby attest that this waiver of liability is provided voluntarily upon submission of this form and shall be fully binding upon me, my heirs, next of kin, executor, administrator and/or personal representative.

Further, in consideration of my participation with LOW Players, I hereby grant permission to use my/our child(ren)'s name and image and/or voice recording(s) in any publicity whether by print or electronic means for the purpose of informing the community of performances and other events, publicity, advertisements, or production sales or distribution. This includes, but is not limited to, newspapers, magazines, radio, television, the internet, social media, the Playbill or other program.

I represent that, to my knowledge, I am in good health and suffer no physical impairment that would or should prevent my participation with the LOW Players. I have read this form and understand that by signing this form, I am giving up certain legal rights and remedies.

Participant's Name: _____

Participant's Phone/Email: _____/_____

Participant's Signature: _____ Date _____

Parent / Guardian Waiver for Minors

In the event that the Volunteer is under the age of consent (18 years of age), then this release must also be signed by a parent or guardian, as follows:

I certify that I am the parent or guardian of _____,
named above, and hereby give my consent without reservation to the foregoing on behalf of this individual.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Relationship to Minor: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone/Email: _____ / _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date _____