

Content Advisories

CALAMITY JANE

Co-Adapted by Ronald Hanmer and Phil Park

Directed by Richard Carroll

This information contains warnings and spoilers and is subject to change without notice.

CONTENT ADVISORY

Mild Adult Themes, Historical Cultural References and Theatrical Haze

AGE SUITABILITY

Recommended for audiences aged 12+

This recommendation is developed as a guide based upon the general maturity required to engage thoroughly in the production's themes and content and considers the production's context and duration.

Audiences younger than the recommended age can attend the production at parent/care givers discretion.

DETAILED WARNINGS

MILD ADULT THEMES

Violence

Acts of physical violence are described by various characters

Characters threaten each other with physical violence

Characters are verbally aggressive with each other

Sexual

Calamity Jane removes Danny Gilmartin's shirt and is overly forward with her physical touch during this interaction. Danny chastises her for touching him without his consent

Tobacco

There are frequent references throughout the play to cigarettes and tobacco

Guns

There are references throughout the play of guns, and proficiency with weapons and their use is normalised BUT no gun is ever used on stage

Cross Dressing

When Francis Fryer is mistakenly hired as a 'female' performer he tries to meet the terms of his engagement by performing in drag. This is in no way intended to disparage or mock the trans or non-binary community and is a comic plot device.

Blood

Danny appears on stage with a bloody wound on his arm

HISTORICAL CULTURAL REFERENCES

Derogatory Language

Historic use of the term ‘Indian’ which may be considered derogatory to First Nations peoples when referring to the First Nation peoples of North America fighting for their land, and as the traditional owners of the Black Hills of Dakota.

ABOUT THE SHOW

“CALAMITY JANE” is a musical cabaret comedy adapted by Ronald Hanmer and Phil Park from the stage play by Charles K. Freeman after Warner Bros. film written by James O’Hanlon.

It is Set in Deadwood City, Dakota Territory in 1876.

This story revolves around the bar called ‘The Golden Garter.’ where swaggering sharpshooter Calamity Jane is mocked and admired in equal measure. Deadly with a whip or a quip, her bluster and bravado mask a longing for something deeper. When disaster strikes ‘The Golden Garter’ the only way to solve it is the help of Adelaide Adams a performer from Chicago. Calamity Jane swears to bring her back and soon all hell breaks loose.

KEY THEMES

Self-Identity and Transformation: Calamity Jane, the central character, navigates her journey of self-discovery, initially seen as a rough-and-tumble, masculine figure but gradually learning to embrace her femininity, vulnerability, and capacity for love. Her transformation challenges traditional gender roles and expectations. The story operates within the Gender binary but this contemporary production celebrates love, self-expression and self-identity of all individuals.

Love and Relationships: The musical explores various aspects of love, including unrequited love, romantic misunderstandings, and self-sacrifice. Calamity’s evolving feelings toward Wild Bill Hickok and her friendship with Katie Brown highlight the complexities of relationships, especially when one is learning to navigate personal desires.

Friendship and Loyalty: Calamity’s loyalty to her friends, particularly to Bill and Katie, plays a central role in the plot. The theme of friendship underscores much of the drama, emphasizing that true bonds are built on trust, honesty, and support in times of need.

These themes work together to convey messages of personal growth, emotional depth, and the importance of meaningful connections in life.

RESOURCES FOR FURTHER SUPPORT

Lifeline (13 11 14) Lifeline has trained crisis supporters available 24/7. They also offer an online Crisis Support Chat 7 days a week between 7pm-4am AEDT (www.lifeline.org.au/crisischat) | Translation services available via (131 450)

QLIFE (1800 184 527) 3pm – Midnight every day

13YARN (13 92 76) 24/7 Crisis Support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people

Spoiler Sheet

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Below is the Scene Breakdown Spoiler Sheet. Please note some changes to technical elements of the production may be subject to change.

IF YOU DO NOT WANT THE PLOT OF THE SHOW TO BE SPOILED – DO NOT READ AHEAD.

CAST

Francis Fryer/ Johnny Roll-Up
Henry Miller
Katie Brown/ Flo
Susan Miller/ Adelaide Adams
Wild Bill Hickok
Calamity Jane
Cover
Lieutenant Danny Gilmartin
Piano Player/ MD
Cover

Darcy Brown
Andrew Buchanan
Laura Bunting
Juliette Coates
Anthony Gooley
Naomi Price
Aurélie Roque
Sean Sinclair
Nigel Ubrihien
Jeremiah Wray

There are two acts.

The play takes place in chronological order.

Most of the action takes place in the **Golden Garter Saloon**. Some audience members are seated on stage at table which are 'in' the bar.

There is a Piano on stage and live playing and singing throughout.

This is a contemporary re-telling of "Calamity Jane"

SCENE BY SCENE:

Preshow – The Choosing of Joe

Pre-show

Rattlesnake enters and begins playing the Piano

Song – "PIANO OVERTURE"

He is interrupted by Henry Miller, the owner of the Golden Garter Saloon and his 'Niece', Susan Miller.

They break the fourth wall and communicate directly with the audience as they welcome and set the scene for play - The Wild West. The town of Deadwood, Dakota Territory to be exact.

The actors playing Henry and Susan have a problem. They are missing an actor and the character of **Joe the Barman** will need to cast using a member of the audience. They 'audition' and chose an audience member from the seats on the stage.

ACT 1

Scene 1

Location: The Golden Garter Saloon: depot, hotel, bar, gambling hall, and theatre.

Wild Bill Hickock, former peace officer and professional gambler is seated at the table. Henry and Susan are anxiously waiting for the stagecoach to arrive.

Song - "THE DEADWOOD STAGE"

Calamity Jane enters, heralding the safe arrival of the stagecoach and bringing trinkets, oils and clothes from the East. Henry Miller wants to know if she also brought an actress on the stagecoach.

Calamity shares a story with Susan about being mistaken for a man in the dress shop. Susan leaves.

Henry is agitated, waiting for the actress who he has engaged to arrive. He has put up billboards advertising that 'Francis Fryer' will perform tonight and the locals will be angry if he isn't true to his word.

Calamity shares a tale of her bravery whilst driving the stage saying they were attacked by 100 bandits and she shot 30 of them. **Bill Hickok** and **Deadwood Dick** tease her that she might be exaggerating. Calamity puts Dick in a headlock and stands by her tale.

Susan enters with a cigarette tray and tension are eased. The men are excited to open the cigarettes and find out which trading cards they got. **Johnny** (a barfly) shrieks with delight as he finds he received **Adelaide Adams**.

'Who's Adelaide Adams?' Calamity Jane says. Bill explains that Adelaide Adams is the best actress in America. A hope. A vision.

Song - "ADELAIDE"

All leave except Bill and Calamity. Bill laments the picture of Adelaide in tights, Calamity says that a real gentleman wouldn't look twice at the picture. The conversation turns to **Lieutenant Danny Gilmartin** who Calamity is sweet on. Bill leaves and Susan enters and soon after **Francis Fryer** enters, the MALE actor from New York.

Henry Miller enters wondering where his actress is. Eventually, it dawns on him that Francis Fryer is a man. Francis then performs his act.

Song – “EV’RYONE COMPLAINS ABOUT THE WEATHER”

Calamity is the only one that claps, Miller is not impressed. Miller tells Fryer to go up to his room while he thinks of something. Miller, Susan, Francis leave.

Hank comes bursting through the doors injured. Hank says the bandits also got Lieutenant Danny Gilmartin. Calamity, hearing Danny is injured grabs Hank by the collar and interrogates him for more detail.

Hearing he is in the Wagon outside, Calamity throws Hank aside, runs to the Wagon and re-enters carrying the Lieutenant. He has a small wound on his arm. Calamity tends to it as if it’s life or death, unbuttoning his shirt to check for further wounds. Danny is not enjoying the attention.

Susan enters and sells Danny a pack of cigarettes. He opens them and is excited when he gets the ‘Adelaide Adam’s trading card. Calamity is jealous crumples the card.

Danny leaves promising to buy Calamity a Sarsaparilla next time he sees her.

Calamity is frustrated.

Song – “MEN”

Henry Miller appears from behind the stage curtain, looking nervous as he welcomes folks to the evening performance in the Saloon and introduces “Susan’s Magic Show”

Susan performs her magic routine. It is dreadful.

Henry Miller introduces the next act, “Miss Francis Fryer”. Francis appears, poorly disguised as a woman. He is wearing the identical outfit to Susan.

Song – “HIVE FULL OF HONEY”

Francis performs his routine but at the end of the act his wig fly’s off revealing him as a man. The crowd in the saloon are shocked and angry. Henry Miller is unable to calm down the mob. Calamity steps in to stick up Henry Miller and it quiets the angry crowd she promises to bring a ‘real actress’ – ‘Miss Adelaide Adams’ to perform at the Golden Garter! This seems to appease the crowds.

All exit except Susan and Francis Fryer, who is still dressed as a woman but without his blonde wig on. Susan consoles Francis who is worried about his safety. She encourages him not to leave.

Francis exits. Henry Miller, Bill and Calamity enter. Calamity doubles down on her promise to bring Adelaide Adams to deadwood. She also argues with Bill about what a real woman is.

Song – “I CAN DO WITHOUT YOU”

Scene 2

Location: Adelaide’s Dressing-Room in the Bijou Theatre, Chicago

Adelaide Adams says to and her maid Katie Brown are in Adelaide’s dressing room. She is lauded by her adoring fans and agrees, after just a little bit of encouragement, to sing one more song for her adoring fans.

Song – “IT’S HARRY I’M PLANNING TO MARRY”

The fans leave and while Adelaide prepares to leave she shares her plans to leave for Europe. Katie enquires as to whether Adelaide thinks she (Katie) might ever get a chance to perform on stage. Adelaide is disparaging and laughs at Katie for even dreaming of such a thing.

As Adelaide leaves she gift Katie her wardrobe, vowing to buy a whole new wardrobe when she arrives in Europe.

Katie, now alone, tries on some of the clothes.

Calamity enters and mistakes Katie (in Adelaidels clothes) for Adelaide Adams. She begs her to come to Deadwood to sing at the Golden Garter Saloon. Katie, realising that if she goes to Deadwood, which is in the middle of nowhere, she could pretend to be Adelaide Adams and fulfill her dream of being a performer pretends she IS Adelaide Adams and agrees to go back to Deadwood with Calamity.

They excitedly pack and exit.

Scene 3

Location: The Golden Garter

Song – Reprise “ADELAIDE”

Henry Miller is lamenting his fate when Calamity Jane bursts in with Adelaide Adams (Katie Brown). Calamity excitedly introduces ‘Adelaide’ to all the townsfolk. Everyone is very happy to see her except Francis Fryer, who recognises Katie from Chicago and knows it isn’t ‘Adelaide Adams’.

Katie Exits. Susan and Henry Miller ask Calamity what Chicago was like.

Song – “WINDY CITY”

Later, Francis shares his concerns with Calamity but they decide it is better not to tell Henry Miller that it is not the real Adelaide Adams in Deadwood.

Time for the show!

Henry Miller proud as punch introduces Katie masquerading as ‘Adelaide Adams’ to the stage.

Song – “KEEP IT UNDER YOUR HAT”

Katie bombs. She is shy and nervous. The crowd begins to boo. Katie comes clean and tells the truth. She is not ‘Adelaide Adams’.

Calamity calms the crowd, telling them to give Katie a chance. Katie performs her own way and wins the admiration of the crowd.

Song – Reprise “KEEP IT UNDER YOUR HAT”

INTERVAL

ACT 2

Scene 1

Location: Calamity’s Cabin

Calamity and Katie are cleaning Calamity’s Cabin.

Song – “A WOMEN’S TOUCH”

They exit.

Wild Bill wanders into Calamity’s cabin, lovesick, looking for Katie. Bill notices the changes Katie has made to Calamity’s Cabin.

Song – “HIGHER THAN A HAWK”

Lieutenant Danny Gilmartin comes on stage with flowers behind his back looking for Katie as well. The men quickly exchange quips at each other. Katie comes in and quickly analyses the situation as both men are vying for her heart. To save Calamity from heart ache and wanting to keep from destroying her friendship with Calamity, Katie please with Danny to take Calamity to the ball. Wild Bill and the Lieutenant draw straws instead. Bill loses and has to take Calamity. Calamity enters and is immediately informed of the situation. She then tells Bill one on one that even though she would prefer to go with him she wants him to go with Katie.

Scene 2

Location: A Trail Through a Pass in the Black Hills Night

Calamity and Cast make their way to the Fort for the Ball.

Song - "BLACK HILLS OF DAKOTA"

Scene 3

Location: Fort Scully

The cast introduce themselves to the colonel (an audience member). Everyone is surprised at how well Calamity looks in a dress and then dancing ensues.

Katie and the Lieutenant share their feelings for each other but Katie feels conflicted about her feelings for the lieutenant and her friendship with Calamity and feels like she is betraying her.

Song - "LOVE YOU DEARLY"

Eventually she gives in and they share a kiss.

Calamity happens upon Katie and the Lieutenant, and a fight nearly ensues.

Calamity feels betrayed and orders Katie to be on the first carriage out of Deadwood in the morning.

Wild Bill tries Calamity and make it clear that Katie and Danny love each other. Calamity realises that Bill is also in love with Katie.

As they comfort one another, something shifts, their anger melts away and Bill and Calamity share a kiss and a passionate embrace.

Song - "MY SECRET LOVE"

Calamity realises that she has been in love with Wild Bill this whole time. Danny returns and tells Calamity that Katie has left. Calamity plans to save the day again and tells Bill and Danny to head to Deadwood and get ready for two weddings.

Calamity then proposes to Wild Bill. Wild Bill says yes. Calamity hurries to stop Katie on her fastest horse.

Scene 4

Location: The Golden Garter

Rattlesnake and Henry Miller are preparing for the double wedding. Francis Fryer enters and asks Henry Miller for Susan's hand in marriage because he and Susan love each other. Reluctantly, Henry Miller gives his blessing. There will be three weddings.

Song - "MEDLEY"

THE END

NB: After some shows the cast may make an appearance in the foyer to continue the 'wedding' celebrations. There will be singing and opportunities for photographs.