

# The Good, the Bad, and the Holy

*Sometimes It's Hard to Tell  
Which Is Which!*

A Spaghetti-Western Dinner Theater Comedy  
by  
*Richard Van Den Akker*

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- 2 -

**Dedication**

*This play is dedicated to the members of the Hawkins United Methodist Church who had faith in my writing when no one else did.*

**Premiere Performance**

*The Good, the Bad, and the Holy* premiered at the Hawkins United Methodist Church, Vicksburg, MS, in February, 2008. The play was performed three times in a dinner theater format with silent auction, raising more than \$4,000 for a Mexico mission trip. The message of the play had a profound impact on the cast and the audience. During production each rehearsal was preceded by a short devotional based upon one of the themes and the associated Bible verses in the play.

**Original Cast and Crew**

Jeremiah Stockdale ... Rev. Chris Young  
Delilah P. South ... Debbie Tate  
Tom ... Dr. Bob Ford  
Old Sue ... Dianne Gibson  
Mississippi Kid ... Ryan Van Den Akker / Wesley Johnson  
Liza ... Delane Killgore  
Pelahatchie Pete ... Pete Phifer  
Chuck Binford ... Pete Dionne  
Carrie Township ... Judy Ford  
Martha McKenzie ... Joyce Borum  
Billy the Kid ... Noah Van Den Akker  
Penelope ... Kimberly Oakes  
Sarah ... Sara Young  
Cowboy ... Kyle Killgore  
Cowboy ... Paul Bennett  
  
Director ... Sara Dionne  
Lighting ... Nicholas Becker  
Sound ... Bob Marr  
Prop Master ... Kyle Kilgore  
Set/ Props ... Richard Van Den Akker, Sara and Pete Dionne  
Marketing/Tickets/Catering/Facilities...Mission Committee  
Publicity ... Jennifer Tate  
Programs ... Dianne Gibson

### **Story of the Play**

Everything seems normal in the little town of Larrabee Texas, until four strangers come to town. One is a gunslinger looking for the man who shot his pa, another a gambler looking for some action, the next is a snake-oil salesman who promises to have anything anyone could ever need, and lastly is a preacher who offers the word of God.

What follows is one of the most curious bets the gambler has ever seen, pitting the salesman against the preacher in a high-stakes game where lives – and souls -- are on the line!

### **Synopsis of Scenes**

*This is a Spaghetti Western set in the late 1800s. All action takes place in a saloon.*

**Act I:** Friday evening.

**Act II:** Saturday morning.

**Act III:** Sunday morning.

### **Schedule for Dinner Theater Format**

Greet and seat diners. Take orders, serve drinks, salad, soup, appetizer and/or bread.

**Act I:** Brief intermission. Serve Entrée (spaghetti, garlic bread etc.) Allow a few minutes after everyone is served for them to start eating.

**Act II:** Brief intermission. Clear dishes if everyone is done. Serve dessert and/or coffee.

**Act III:** During breaks have cast assist servers or visit with diners. The audience enjoys meeting the cast, and this is what makes dinner theater so much fun. Mississippi Kid could ask diners if they saw the man he's looking for. Delilah can try selling various products etc. (Show t-shirts could also be sold.)

### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*5 m, 6 w, 1 flexible, 1 girl, extras as Cowboys and Waitresses*

**JEREMIAH STOCKDALE:** Preacher.

**TOM MCCLURGG:** Bartender.

**LIZA:** Dance hall girl.

**THE MISSISSIPPI KID:** Gunfighter.

**DELILAH P. SOUTH:** Snake oil saleswoman.

**PELAHATCHIE PETE:** Gambler.

**OLD SUE:** Prospector.

**CHUCK BINFORD:** Town drunk.

**PENELOPE BINFORD:** Chuck's older daughter.

**SARAH BINFORD:** Chuck's younger daughter.

**CARRIE TOWNSHIP:** Leader of the Women's Temperance Movement.

**MARTHA MCKENZIE:** Leader-in-training of the Temperance Movement.

**COWBOYS:** 2 - 6 extras who sit in saloon.

**PIANO PLAYER:** (Flexible role.) Sits at piano while taped piano music plays. Talent not required.

**WAITRESSES:** 2-4 extras who bring drinks to cowboys.

*NOTE: The parts of Delilah and Old Sue can be played by males.*

***Please see end of script for Props, Set, Costumes and Bible references.***

## ACT I

*(AT RISE: TOM tries to unlock the saloon' swinging front door, and after fumbling for several moments, finally reaches over the door to unlock the chain or slide bolt. HE enters and starts cleaning glasses. After a few seconds CHUCK enters.)*

**CHUCK:** Evenin', Tom.

**TOM:** Good Evenin', Chuck.

**CHUCK:** Spare a drop for an old friend?

**TOM:** I told you before, I can't keep giving you drinks less'n you pay your bill.

**CHUCK:** Well, how much is it, then?

**TOM:** Let's see... *(TOM takes roll of paper from behind the bar. As he holds it up to read, it unrolls across the saloon floor.)* Let's see, you paid me last... *(Looking through bill.)* well, I guess you never paid me. The total comes to around four thousand and twenty two dollars and fifteen cents.

**CHUCK:** *(Rubbing his chin.)* That much, huh.

**TOM:** Yep.

**CHUCK:** Well, today's your lucky day, I've got me...*(Digs around in his pockets and pulls out some crumpled bills and change.)* er, how much is this, Tom? *(Places the money on the bar.)*

**TOM:** Let's see. *(Counts money.)* What's this? *(Holds up rabbit's foot.)*

**CHUCK:** Oh, that's my lucky rabbit's foot. You can't have that. *(Takes foot from TOM.)* I'd be lost without it.

**TOM:** You sure it works? It don't seem your luck's been too good lately.

**CHUCK:** No, I guess not. Come to think of it, I don't guess it did that rabbit no good neither...but at least I still got both feet...that's more'n the rabbit can say!

**TOM:** Well, Chuck, ya got two dollars and seventeen cents here.

**CHUCK:** That's what I thought. Give me a bottle of your best, and put the rest toward my bill. What is your best?

**TOM:** Brandy. All the way from Europe. Ten dollars a bottle.

**CHUCK:** *(Surprised.)* Um, that's pretty steep. Got something more in the neighborhood of fifty cents?

**TOM:** Chuck, that's not much of a neighborhood.

**CHUCK:** Well, when ya only got two dollars, you don't feel too neighborly.

**TOM:** *(Pouring a shot.)* How 'bout I give you a small one and put the rest towards a sandwich? *(Takes sandwich from under bar and gives it to CHUCK.)* You don't eat you're gonna die before you can finish paying me.

**CHUCK:** Okay, Tom. And put whatever is left on my bill.

**TOM:** Okay, that'll be *(Does some mental calculations.)* four thousand twenty dollars and eleven cents you now owe. *(Makes a note on the bill and rolls it up and puts it away.)*

**CHUCK:** *(Gulping the drink.)* Why, at this rate I'll have you paid off by...what year is it again?

**TOM:** *(Laughing.)* Oh, go on. As if I ever expect you to pay me back.

**CHUCK:** *(Serious.)* Now Tom, there's no call to be a laughin' at me like that. I...I'm gonna pay ya back. You just wait and see. You're my best friend in this whole town, and soon's I get my medical bag back outta hock, I'm gonna put out my shingle, and you'll get paid. Every last penny!

**TOM:** Okay, Doc, whatever you say.

**CHUCK:** I mean it, Tom. I'm gonna go back to doctoring. It's just...well, I'm not ready...not yet.

**TOM:** It's okay, Chuck. Really.

**CHUCK:** Tom, it ain't easy, you know. I really try to get up on mah feet, but someone just keeps pullin' the rug out from under me.

**TOM:** Sure, Chuck.

*(PENELOPE and SARAH enter timidly, not accustomed to being in a saloon. They look around, but don't recognize Chuck because he has his back to them.)*

**PENNY:** Excuse me.

**TOM:** Yes ma'am? Can I help you?

**PENNY:** We're looking for our pa. I think he's here.

## **End of Freeview**

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