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SF PERUSALS

Pump Boys and Dinettes

A Country Music Review

by

John Foley
Mark Hardwick
Debra Monk
Cass Morgan
John Schimmel
Jim Wann

A Samuel French Acting Edition



SAMUEL FRENCH
FOUNDED 1830

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(Name of Producer)
presents

PUMP BOYS AND DINETTES

Conceived and written by

JOHN FOLEY
MARK HARDWICK
DEBRA MONK
CASS MORGAN
JOHN SCHIMMEL
JIM WANN

Original stage production by Dodger Productions.

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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

"Highway 57" (J. Wann) ..... ALL
"Taking It Slow" (J. Foley, M. Hardwick, J. Schimmel, J. Wann) ..... PUMP BOYS
"Serve Yourself" (J. Wann) ..... L.M.
"Menu Song" (C. Morgan and D. Monk) ..... DINETTES
"The Best Man" (J. Wann) ..... PRUDIE
"Fisherman's Prayer" (J. Wann) ..... PUMP BOYS
"Catfish" (J. Wann and B. Simpson) ..... PUMP BOYS
"Mamaw" (J. Wann) ..... JIM
"Be Good or Be Gone" (J. Wann) ..... RHETTA
"Drinkin' Shoes" (M. Hardwick, C. Morgan, D. Monk) ..... ALL

ACT II

"Pump Boys" (J. Wann) ..... PUMP BOYS
"Mona" (J. Wann) ..... JACKSON
"T.N.D.P.W.A.M." (J. Wann) ..... L.M.
"Tips" (D. Monk and C. Morgan) ..... DINETTES
"Sister" (C. Morgan) ..... DINETTES
"Vacation" (J. Wann) ..... ALL
"No Holds Barred" (J. Wann and C. Morgan) ..... ALL
"Farmer Tan" (J. Wann) ..... L.M. AND DINETTES
"Highway 57" Reprise (J. Wann) ..... ALL
"Closing Time" (J. Wann) ..... ALL
"Greatest Hits" (Medley) ..... ALL

PUMP BOYS AND DINETTES was conceived and written by John Foley, Mark Hardwick, Debra Monk, Cass Morgan, John Schimmel and Jim Wann with scenery by Doug Johnson and Christopher Nowak, costumes by Patricia McGourty, lighting by Fred Buchholz and sound by Bill Dreisbach. It was presented by Dodger Productions, Louis Busch Hager, Marilyn Strauss, Kate Studley, Warner Theatre Productions Inc., and Max Weitzenhoffer at the Colonnades Theatre, NYC, October 1, 1981 and subsequently moved to the Princess Theatre on February 4, 1982.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

JACKSON (Lead Guitar) ..... *John Foley*
L.M. (Piano/Accordian) ..... *Mark Hardwick*
PRUDIE CUPP (Percussion) ..... *Debra Monk*
RHETTA CUPP (Percussion) ..... *Cass Morgan*
EDDIE (Bass) ..... *John Schimmel*
JIM (Rhythm Guitar) ..... *Jim Wann*

THE TIME: the present
THE PLACE: Highway 57 — somewhere between Frog Level and Smyrna.

The original production (off-off Broadway) was staged and performed concert style (with standing mikes) where the piano defined the gas station and the counter defined the diner.

STAGING NOTES

The stage is divided into two halves. L.M. and JIM's gas station is S.R. and the Double Cupp Diner is S.L. There are billboards on either side of the stage.

In the gas station is an upright piano with an open / closed sign on it and a beat up old office chair. The upright bass stores in the phone booth.

The diner counter and four stools are a castered unit with a pivot point at the S.L. end.

During half-hour cast members are free to appear onstage tuning instruments, checking props, reading newspapers, etc. The Pump Boys can go into the diner for coffee. The Dinettes can pay a visit to the gas station. All the while right up until the scripted show begins, prerecorded country music should be playing.

Conversation is fine, but should not be milked or projected. It is not the intention of the authors that the activity onstage be played for the audience. The purpose of the pre-show, aside from the obvious prop checking and instrument tuning, is to establish a very casual and relaxed atmosphere, and to blur the line between hanging out and performance mode. We are easing into the show.

Pump Boys and Dinettes

ACT ONE

(When the stage manager has received word from the house manager that the audience is all in, the phone in the gas station should ring. A cast member should answer it, and whomever is onstage should exit, leaving the stage empty for a few moments.

At 'places', everyone walks onstage. L.M. sits at the piano. PRUDIE and RHETTA cross to the diner. JACKSON, JIM and EDDIE put on their instruments. JIM and EDDIE—who has the air freshener card turned away from the audience—walk D.S. and the prerecorded music fades.)

JIM. Good evening. When all of ya'll came into the theatre tonight, you got tickets to see the show. I want to tell you that those tickets serve a double purpose. They are also chances for the Pump Boys raffle. Now, after intermission, we're going to be raffling off *(EDDIE turns the card around.)* an air freshener! That's right. And if you should be the lucky winner, you have your choice—Christmas, skunk, or bikini. Whatever you want. So hang on to those tickets.

HIGHWAY 57

JIM.
HIGHWAY 57, PLACE WHERE I WAS BORN
RIGHT DOWN THE ROAD APIECE TO THE SOUND OF A CAR HORN
GOT NO USE FOR THE BIG TOWN, TOO MANY STRINGS ATTACHED TO STRINGS
I BELONG TO THE HIGHWAY AND WHAT THE HIGHWAY BRINGS.

I RUN THIS GAS STATION WITH MY PARTNER L.M.
BEEN NINE YEARS TOGETHER, THAT'S HIM
WE CALL OURSELVES THE PUMP BOYS, L.M. AND JIM
(*spoken:*) Say somethin' L.M.

L.M.
WELL WE'VE HAD OUR UPS AND DOWNS, BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT WORKING WITH JIM

DINETTES.
COME ON IN JIM, WHAT YOU SAY L.M.?

L.M./JIM:
HOW 'BOUT SOME COFFEE, YOU MAKE IT SO GOOD

DINETTES.
NOW BOYS, HAVE YOU BEEN EATING LIKE YOU SHOULD?

L.M./JIM.
WE AIN'T BEEN TO THE DINER IN A DAY OR TWO

DINETTES.
YOU GOT BEHIND ON YOUR BARBECUE

L.M./JIM. That's true.

JIM.
THAT'S PRUDIE AND RHETTA CUPP, SISTERS WITH A MENU TO FILL A MAN UP. THEIR DOUBLE CUPP DINER.

DINETTES.
DOUBLE CUPP!

JIM.
IS HOME-COOKED HEAVEN.

DINETTES.
SUNDAY BREAKFAST, SIX TO ELEVEN

JIM.
IT'S RIGHT ACROSS FROM THE PUMP BOYS ON HIGHWAY 57

(*lead guitar break*)

JACKSON.
CALL ME JACKSON, I PUMP WITH GOOD SPEED
AND I'LL GET YOU ANYTHING YOU NEED

(*bass break*)

JACKSON.
NOW EDDIE'S EDSEL IS ABOUT HALF GONE

WHEN I GET HIM SOME NEW CAR PARTS HE'LL BE MOVING ON
ALL.
DOWN THE HIGHWAY
PUMP BOYS.
NO REGRETS
DINETTES.
DOWN THE HIGHWAY, NO REGRETS
ALL.
HIGHWAY 57
PUMP BOYS.
PUMP BOYS
DINETTES.
AND DINETTES
DINETTES. PUMP BOYS.
WE'RE HERE TO SERVE YOU FILL 'ER UP
YOU WON'T HAVE TO WAIT CHECK UNDER THE HOOD
ALL PURPOSE MENU CARD OR CASH
EVERYTHING IS GOOD
ALL.
A FULL TANK AND A FULL BELLY, ENERGY DUET
L.M./PRUDIE.
DUET
JIM & RHETTA.
IT'S THE BEST YET
JACKSON/PRUDIE.
PLACE ALL BETS
ALL.
ON HIGHWAY 57
PUMP BOYS.
PUMP BOYS
DINETTES.
AND DINETTES. MEET THE PUMP BOYS
ALL.
MEET THE DINETTES

(*L.M. turns the OPEN/CLOSED sign around. JACKSON and EDDIE underscore the following with "Highway 57" vamp until phone rings.)*

JIM. Thank you and welcome to Highway 57. Now we've all

lived around here for a long time and we've developed a philosophy of life. Here's how it goes—Work won't kill you but worry will. Yeah, worry is like a rocking chair, gives you something to do but it don't get you nowhere.

JACKSON. That's right. (*PRUDIE makes the kitchen timer in her hand ring.*)

DINETTES. Oh! The pies!

PRUDIE. We gotta go.

RHETTA. We'll be right back. (*DINETTES go behind counter.*)

JIM. We'll see y'all later.

JACKSON. Bye-bye girls.

JIM. Y'now sometimes the best thing about working is that it gives you something to look forward to.

JACKSON. Yeah, like not working.

(*phone rings*)

JIM. Scuse me. (*into phone*) Pump Boys—Oh, hi Uncle Bob. (*to JACKSON*) He wants to know when his vehicle is gonna be ready?

JACKSON. Yeah, that's that Winnebago; needs a new valve job.

L.M. It's up on some blocks out back.

JIM. Oh yeah, the Winnebago on blocks.

JACKSON. He wants to know when it's gonna be ready does he?

JIM. When's it gonna be ready?

JACKSON. Ready?

TAKIN' IT SLOW

JIM/JACKSON/L.M.
MAYBE NEXT WEEK, MAYBE
COULD BE LONGER, IT'S HARD TO TELL
GOT TO GO SLOW WITH A REBUILT WINNEBAGO
TAKES TIME TO DO THE JOB WELL

JIM.
JACKSON

JACKSON. Yeah?

JIM.
ABOUT THIS JOB
WE GOT TO HELP UNCLE BOB
WE COULD WORK TOO FAST—REPAIR MIGHT NOT
LAST

JIM/JACKSON/L.M.
TAKIN' IT SLOW
WE GOT TO KEEP ON TAKIN' IT SLOW
WELL I BEEN THERE BEFORE
AND I GOT THERE TAKIN' IT SLOW
JACKSON.
JIM
JIM. Uh-huh?
WE DON'T KNOW
WHY THAT VEHICLE WON'T GO
BENEFICIAL ALTERATION REQUIRES OBSERVATION
JIM/JACKSON/L.M.
TAKIN' IT SLOW
WE GOT TO KEEP ON TAKIN' IT SLOW
WELL I BEEN THERE BEFORE
AND I GOT THERE TAKIN' IT SLOW

(*piano solo*)

JIM/JACKSON/L.M.
EDDIE'S EDSEL, HE COULDN'T GET IT TO START
HE BEGAN TO WORRY, AND GOT IN A HURRY
AND PUT IN VOLKSWAGEN PARTS

(*bass solo*)

JIM/JACKSON/L.M.
TAKIN' IT SLOW
WE GOT TO KEEP ON TAKIN' IT SLOW
WELL I BEEN THERE BEFORE
AND I GOT THERE TAKIN' IT SLOW
TAKIN' IT SLOW
WE GOT TO KEEP ON TAKIN' IT SLOW
WELL I BEEN THERE BEFORE
AND I GOT THERE TAKIN' IT SLOW

(*L.M. hangs up phone on last beat of song, DINETTES move to stools, with fans.*)

JIM. One of the best things about working at this station is that women drive right up and talk to us. Now generally Jackson gets to 'em first. Some of them call him Lover Boy. (*JACKSON salutes.*) Now me, I'm kind of a friendly guy and some women

will like a friendly guy (*JIM and RHETTA wave at each other.*) But let me tell you about Eddie. One time this Hollywood actress drove up in a Maserati, took Eddie away for a whole week. (*EDDIE plays a bass glissando.*) But by and large, most of the women seem to gravitate towards L.M. (*L.M. looks at audience. CAST looks at L.M.*) Now, you think he likes this? Hell no, it only makes him suspicious.

SERVE YOURSELF

L.M.
I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT
WORKING ON THE BOOKS
YOU DRIVE UP THIS MORNING
GIVE ME ONE OF YOUR LOOKS
YOUR TANK IS EMPTY
YOU NEED SOME AIR
WOMAN
THE HOSE IS OVER THERE

SERVE YOURSELF, YOU CAN
SERVE YOURSELF
YOU SERVE YOURSELF
BETTER THAN YOU SERVE ME

(*DINETTES begin to fan themselves to music.*)

YOU GOT ME STARTED
THEN YOU RAN ME AROUND
GOT ME UNDER YOUR HOOD
THEN YOU SLAMMED IT DOWN
I COULD BE LYING IN YOUR TRUNK
FOR ALL YOU CARE
WELL I MAY BE A RETREAD
BUT I AIN'T NO SPARE

SERVE YOURSELF, YOU CAN
SERVE YOURSELF
YOU SERVE YOURSELF
BETTER THAN YOU SERVE ME

LUBE JOB, I AVOID
I AIN'T YOUR STARTER OR YOUR SOLENOID

YOU'RE OVERHEATING AND YOU STILL WANT MORE
I AIN'T GEARED FOR FOUR ON THE FLOOR

(*lead guitar solo*)
YOU WANT TO KNOW
WHAT I RECOMMEND
FOR THAT SHIMMY
IN YOUR REAR END
I SAY, FIND MR. GOODWRENCH
ASK HIM:
'CAUSE YOU'VE GOTTEN ALL YOU'RE GONNA GET
FROM MR. L.M.

SERVE YOURSELF, YOU CAN
SERVE YOURSELF
YOU SERVE YOURSELF
BETTER THAN YOU SERVE ME

SERVE YOURSELF, YOU CAN
SERVE YOURSELF
YOU SERVE YOURSELF
BETTER BETTER BETTER THAN YOU SERVE ME

(*RHETTA crosses* D.C. *PRUDIE gets pies. JIM and JACKSON cross to diner.*)

RHETTA. Now maybe sometimes you might want to drive up to a gas station and serve yourself. But that is the last thing you want to do when you come into a diner. You wanna set down, you want somebody to talk real nice to you—Hey Jackson.

JACKSON. Hey Rhetta.

RHETTA. And you want somebody to serve you. (*PRUDIE shows pies.*) Well, here at the Double Cupp me and Prudie are real proud of our service, we're real proud of our coffee, but we are especially proud of our pie. See, we always try to have plenty of pie. In fact, we're famous for it. The boys at the station can't get enough of our pie.

MENU SONG

RHETTA.
GOOD FOOD

PRUDIE.
AND ATMOSPHERE
DINETTES.
WE GOT SWEET POTATO FRIES AND HOME MADE BEER
RHETTA.
SPOON BREAD
PRUDIE.
BUTTER BEANS AND CORN
DINETTES.
YOU'VE BEEN LIVING ON THEM SINCE YOU WERE BORN

Y'ALL COME DOWN TO THE DOUBLE CUPP
YOU'LL WANT EVERYTHING YOU SEE
Y'ALL COME DOWN TO THE DOUBLE CUPP
WHERE THE SECOND CUP'S ON ME
WE GOT PECAN PIE AND BISCUITS
FRESH FISH FROM OVER YONDER
COME ON DOWN TO THE DOUBLE CUPP
WHERE YOU KNOW WE'LL TREAT YOU NICE
YOU COME DOWN WE'LL FILL YOU UP
IT'S A HIGHWAY 57 PARADISE
PRUDIE. Cheese grits.
RHETTA. How 'bout some barbecue?
DINETTES.
MY SIS AND I WILL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU
RHETTA. You want some succotash?
PRUDIE. Cup of soup to start?
DINETTES.
OUR MENU IS THE ROAD MAP TO YOUR HEART

WE KEEP THE WHOLE PLACE SPIC AND SPAN
BY SCRUBBING IT ON OUR KNEES
WE WASH OUR HANDS BEFORE WE LEAVE THE RESTROOM
IF YOU PLEASE
WE MAKE PANCAKES AND FRY THE STEAKS
TO GRANDMA'S RECIPES
WE KNEAD THE DOUGH AND EVEN GROW
OUR OWN TURNIP GREENS
RHETTA.
IT'S 4 AM
PRUDIE. Y'all still awake?

DINETTES.
COME ON DOWN TO THE DOUBLE CUPP AND WATCH US BAKE
RHETTA.
HOT BREAD
PRUDIE.
DOUGHNUTS AND PIES
DINETTES.
MAY YOUR STOMACH ALWAYS BE BIGGER THAN YOUR EYES

Y'ALL COME DOWN THE DOUBLE CUPP
YOU'LL WANT EVERYTHING YOU SEE
Y'ALL COME DOWN TO THE DOUBLE CUPP
WHERE THE SECOND CUP'S ON ME
WE GOT PECAN PIE AND BISCUITS
FRESH FISH FROM OVER YONDER
COME ON DOWN TO THE DOUBLE CUPP
WHERE YOU KNOW WE'LL TREAT YOU NICE
YOU COME DOWN, WE'LL FILL YOU UP
IT'S A HIGHWAY 57 PARADISE
DINETTES AND PUMP BOYS.
COME ON DOWN TO THE DOUBLE CUPP
WHERE YOU KNOW WE'LL TREAT YOU NICE
YOU COME DOWN WE'LL FILL YOU UP
IT'S A HIGHWAY 57 PARADISE

PRUDIE. Thank you. Well by now you've probably figured it out. If you come to visit us on the highway you can eat and you can get gas.

RHETTA. Or you can just eat.

PRUDIE. That's right Rhetta, or you can just get gas, whatever y'all want. (*RHETTA crosses* US.L. *behind counter.*) But y'know, there's something else that's really special about the highway, and well, that's our men. Yeah, we have ourselves a whole bunch of good looking (*She looks at JACKSON.*), able-bodied (*She looks at JIM.*), virile (*She looks at EDDIE.*), sexy men (*She looks at L.M.*). Uh-huh. Not only that, but on this little stretch of the highway where we are . . . two men to every one woman. Show 'em Rhetta honey (*RHETTA shows the audience.*) Now, y'all go up to Smyrna. That's a little town about fifteen miles up the road right up here. You drop right into Smyrna . . . three men to every one woman. Now most of them

are inbreds, but I'm talking facts and figures here and that's just a whole bunch of men. Now I'm personally interested in all of this stuff because I'm looking for the best man. Oh! And I gotta say right now, an honorable mention for best man has got to go to Eddie, our bass player. (*EDDIE joins PRUDIE* D.S.) Let's hear it for Eddie y'all. He almost made it, but, well, he's from Smyrna. Yeah, I'm sorry about that darlin'. However, the best man is here. Somwhere in this room right now is the best man.

BEST MAN

PRUDIE.
YOU'RE THE BEST MAN FOR MILES AROUND
THE BEST IN SIX COUNTIES
YOU'RE JESSE JAMES COME BACK TO LIFE
YOU'RE CAPTAIN OF THE MOUNTIES
YOU'RE ALL THEY SAY, YOU'RE JUST THAT GOOD
AND A RIGHTEOUS KIND OF BAD
YOU'RE THE BEST MAN
I NEVER HAD,
YOU'RE THE BEST MAN I NEVER HAD

YOU GOT AN EASY WAY WITH A SEARCHING LOOK
THAT MAKES MY SECRETS TINGLE
IT PUTS MY EMOTIONS INTO PLAY
I WANT OUR LOVES TO MINGLE
IF YOU WOULD ONLY WANT ME TOO
OH, I WOULD BE SO GLAD
YOU'RE THE BEST MAN I NEVER HAD,
YOU'RE THE BEST MAN I NEVER HAD

PRUDIE, WITH RHETTA.
BUT OH, SWEETHEART, IT'S TOO UNFAIR
TO MAKE ME WAIT FOREVER, WHEN I KNOW YOU
CARE
BUT SO SLOW YOU CARE
PRUDIE.
I USED TO HAVE A CRUSH ON A TV STAR
TILL HE GOT INTO MOVIES
ONCE I WENT OUT WITH A GUY WITH A VAN
THAT BELONGED TO THE FLAMIN' GROOVIES
BUT HE RAN OFF WITH A BURGER QUEEN

AND I WAS OH SO MAD
BUT YOU'RE THE BEST MAN
I NEVER HAD
PRUDIE WITH RHETTA.
YOU'RE THE BEST MAN I NEVER HAD
YOU'RE THE BEST MAN I NEVER HAD I NEVER HAD

JIM. Prudie Cupp—she's somethin' and her sister Rhetta Cupp—she's something else. Now you would think a guy with brains in his head would not forget that he had a date with Rhetta Cupp.

JACKSON. Yeah, Jim, that's what I would think.

JIM. Last week, I was going to take her and her two boys to the ballgame. (*PRUDIE crosses to behind Counter, as L.M. plays baseball music on accordion.*) Opening Day at Frog Level, it was a twi-night double header: Frog Level Fighting Frogs vs. The Smyrna Close Encounters. (*L.M. plays "Charge!" on accordion.*) Yeah, Rhetta was really looking forward to it. But y'know that afternoon the postman came up the road with something we'd been looking forward to a longer time and it changed everything. This year's fishing license. (*PUMP BOYS put on fishing hats.*)

FISHERMAN'S PRAYER

JIM.
I WAS LURED BY THE MOON TO THE COAST OF
CAROLINA
I WAS HOOKED BY THE CRYSTAL MOTEL
I FLOPPED OUT ON THE NIGHT FISHING PIER
WHERE I SURVIVED IN A BUCKET OF BEER
FOUR DOZEN FISHIN' POLES ROSE AND FELL
IN THE SWELLS WHERE THE BLUEFISH AND
MACKEREL DWELL
IN THE SWELLS WHERE THE KING MACKEREL DWELLS

(*DINETTES start setting percussion.*)

(*adding*) JACKSON.
OH, THE LIGHTNING CRACKED OPEN
THE DARK MIDNIGHT OCEAN
AND THE WIND RAISED HELL WITH THE LINES

AND THE THUNDERSTORM POURED AND DROVE US INDOORS
TO THE PINBALL AND MORE BALLANTINE'S

JIM.
AND THE WEE HOURS PASSED, FACES PRESSED TO THE GLASS
AND SOME GAVE UP AND WENT ON
BUT THE FAITHFUL THEY STAYED, AND DRANK AS THEY PRAYED
THAT IN THE MORNING THE STORM WOULD BE GONE

(*adding*) JACKSON/L.M.
OH, WE DRANK AS WE PRAYED
AND PRAYED AS WE DRANK
AND THE MONSOON SEEMED NOTHING BY THEN
AND THE DEPUTIES CAME TO PUT TWO IN THE TANK
AND THEY FLOUNDERED OFF INTO THE WIND

JIM.
NOW SOME FOLKS OUT THERE SPEND THEIR WHOLE LIVES IN PRAYER
GOOD LUCK HAS GOT TO COME FROM SOMEWHERE
WE IMBIBED TO THE DREGS ON WOBBLY LEGS
AND PRAYED THIS FISHERMAN'S PRAYER

JIM. Let us bow our heads.

JIM/JACKSON/L.M.
GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO GET UP AT DAWN
HELP ME GET OUT OF BED
GIVE ME THE VISION TO FIND MY ROD AND REEL
SHOW ME THE RIGHTEOUS WAY TO MY SHOES
PARDON THE PATH I TREAD
BLESS O LORD THY FISH, MY EVENING MEAL

CATFISH

JIM.
WELL IT'S SPRINGTIME CAROLINA
GOING FISHING ON THE RIVER
I DON'T WANT NO BREAM OR CRAPPIE
ONLY ONE THING THAT MAKES ME HAPPY
IS CATFISH, ON MY LINE, CATFISH, TASTE SO FINE
CATFISH, ALL NIGHT LONG, CATFISH, WHAT I WANT

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