

POLLYANNA

A Musical in Two Acts

by

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SHOEBOX THEATRE
2015 Old Orchard Drive
Dallas, Texas 75208
469-865-3753**

CAST OF CHARACTERS

POLLY HARRINGTON:

Matriarch of Harrington. A spinster and unhappy woman of 30. POLLY is one of the richest people in Harrington and the most respected. SHE sits on the Town Council and is a major contributor to the Orphanage. POLLY had been engaged to be married long ago, but the marriage never happened because her fiancé ran off with another woman. Disappointed in love, POLLY is lonely and bitter, burying herself in business so SHE doesn't have to feel heartache.

POLLYANNA:

POLLY HARRINGTON'S niece and namesake. POLLYANNA is about 11 years old and the only child of POLLY HARRINGTON'S sister. When her mother dies, her AUNT POLLY becomes her ward. SHE has a sunshine personality and looks for the good in everyone.

NANCY:

POLLY HARRINGTON'S housekeeper. SHE is about 20 years old. As housekeeper, part of her job is to oversee POLLYANNA'S lessons. SHE and POLLYANNA develop a strong friendship. NANCY helps POLLYANNA better understand her AUNT POLLY.

DR. THOMAS CHILTON:

The town Doctor. Sweet on POLLY HARRINGTON. Dreams up lame excuses to see her. Polite, charming, and kind. Connives with POLLYANNA to get POLLY and HE together.

MRS. SNOW:

Lonely lady about 60 yrs old. SHE pretends to be sick but does it for attention. Befriends POLLYANNA who brings laughter back into her life. THEY become great friends.

JOHN PENDLETON:

Old man who befriends JIMMY BEAN and MRS. SNOW. HE is kind and patient. MR. PENDLETON is always advising the Town Council members. HE is wise and a perennial observer. Sweet on Mrs. Snow.

JIMMY BEAN:

An orphan about POLLYANNA'S age. HE runs away and befriends POLLYANNA. Together they make plans get AUNT POLLY to adopt JIMMY. JIMMY is fun-loving and friendly. HE is also a bit defensive because he doesn't have a family. HE is looking for a connection and finds it with Mr. PENDLETON

ORPHANS:

8 Children from the orphanage. Appear in production numbers and incidental town scenes.

SETTING

The town of Harrington in the colorful 1890's

DEDICATION

To Sharon Lipshie...because I love her in this show....(outside the show, too...)

ACT I

Scene 1

SETTING:

POLLY HARRINGTON'S front yard

AT RISE:

**Lights up at end of Overture.
NANCY is sweeping front walk.**

(From offstage)

POLLY

Nancy!

NANCY

(Cheerfully)

Yes, Ma'am!

POLLY

(Enters)

Nancy...When I'm talking to you, I wish you to stop your work and listen to what I have to say.

NANCY

Yes, ma'am. I will, Ma'am. I was only keepin' on with my work `cause you specially told me this mornin' to hurry with the sweepin', you know.

POLLY

(Frowns)

That will do, Nancy. I did not ask for explanations. I asked for your attention.

NANCY

Yes, Ma'am.

POLLY

The reason I asked you to hurry through your usual chores, Nancy, was that we have extra work to do today. So as soon as you're finished, you may clear the little room at the head of the stairs in the attic and make up the cot bed.

NANCY

Yes, ma'am. And where shall I put the things, please, that I take out?

POLLY

In the front attic.

(PAUSES)

I suppose I may as well tell you now, Nancy. My niece, Miss Pollyanna Whittier, is coming to live with me. She is eleven years old, and will sleep in that room.

NANCY

A little girl...coming here, Miss Harrington? Oh, won't that be nice!

POLLY

Nice? Well, that isn't exactly the word I should use. However, I intend to make the best of it. I am a good woman, I hope, and I know my duty.

NANCY

(Angry)

Of course, Ma'am. It was only that I thought a little girl here might...might brighten things up...for you.

POLLY

(Not noticing)

Thank you. I can't say, however, that I see any immediate need for that.

NANCY

But of course, you'd want her, your sister's child.

POLLY

Well, really Nancy, just because my sister Eleanor was silly enough to marry and bring unnecessary children into a world that was already quite full enough, I can't see how I should particularly WANT to have the care of them myself. However, as I said before, I hope I know my duty. At any rate, Pollyanna will arrive tomorrow at four o'clock. I wish for you to meet her at the station. The telegram says `light-hair, blue dress and straw hat. That is all I know, but I think it is sufficient for your purpose.

NANCY

Yes, ma'am, but you ought to...

POLLY

No, I shall not go. It is not necessary that I should, I think..... See that you clean the corners, Nancy.

(Exits through the gate)

NANCY

(Watches her leave. Starts sweeping furiously)

Yes Ma'am!!

(BLACKOUT)

ACT I

SCENE II

SETTING: The town of Harrington

AT RISE: A distant train whistle is heard. Enter ORPHANS running to meet the train. Imaginary train is in audience. ORPHANS gather in a line they sing "IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME". During song, enter Dr. Chilton and Mrs. Snow in wheelchair. SHE is complaining and directing him. THEY interface with ORPHANS. Dialogue over "WHEN THE BAND PLAYED ON".

ORPHANS

**IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME...IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME
STROLLING THROUGH THE SHADY LANES, WITH YOUR BABY MINE
YOU HOLD HER HAND AND SHE HOLDS YOURS
AND THAT'S A VERY GOOD SIGN
THAT SHE'S YOUR TOOTSY WOOTSY IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME**

(DIALOGUE OVER THE BAND PLAYED ON)

DR. CHILTON

What a beautiful day it is, Mrs. Snow! I love the Monday morning train. It gets the week started right.

MRS. SNOW

It gets in my way. All that racket and smoke. Smells bad. If I wasn't expecting something from Sears and Roebuck today, I'd be back in the bed nursing my illness.

DR. CHILTON

This is just the sort of outing you need to help your illness, Mrs. Snow. You know I've prescribed it before. I'm pleased you're taking my advice for a change.

MRS. SNOW

My daughter wrote me a letter saying she sent me some new curtains for the front window. I don't see anything wrong with the old ones. But, I guess a little of this air won't hurt my poor lungs.

DR. CHILTON

New curtains...How wonderful, Mrs. Snow! You must have me to tea, when you've hung them.

MRS. SNOW

This'll probably set me back a month, Dr. Chilton. I won't be having any guests anytime soon. And besides, who says I'm gonna hang the blamed curtains anyway. They're probably all frilly and lacey, like my daughter. I've got no time for frills and lace, Doctor!

(ORPHANS move on transition into "SILVERY MOON")

ORPHANS

BY THE LIGHT OF THE SILVERY MOON I WANT TO SPOON
TO MY HONEY I'LL CROON LOVE'S TUNE
HONEY MOON..KEEP A-SHINING IN JUNE
YOUR SILV'RY BEAMS WILL BRING LOVE DREAMS
WE'LL BE CUDDLING SOON
BY THE SILVERY MOON

(During "SILVERY MOON" enter JOHN PENDLETON. HE shuffles just past ORPHANS, but pauses to listen, enjoys the music, then moves on. HE notices as JIMMY BEAN enters, hides from the orphans and sneaks out again. NANCY enters with POLLY who is dressed for a meeting. Dialogue over "MERRY OLDSMOBILE".)

POLLY

I won't be home until late, Nancy. Please see that Pollyanna has what she needs. I shall be very tired and will go straight to bed to read. Tell her I'll speak to her in the morning. 7:30 sharp in the parlor.

NANCY

I don't see the harm in taking just a minute here, Miss Polly. You're right here at the train station.

POLLY

Nancy! That is enough about this. I do not hire you to give advice...

(DR. CHILTON has wheeled MRS. SNOW to greet
POLLY and NANCY)

DR. CHILTON

Good morning, Ladies!

NANCY

Why, good day to you, Dr. Chilton! Mrs. Snow, it is so good to see you out and about.

MRS. SNOW

It's not so good to be here. I'm sure to catch my death in this early morning air.

DR. CHILTON

And how is the lovely Polly Harrington today? Busy, as usual.

POLLY

Your charm escapes me, Dr. Chilton. And yes, I am very busy...as usual.

NANCY

Her niece is arriving today.

DR. CHILTON

A niece! Polly Harrington has a niece coming to visit! I AM amazed!

NANCY

She's not coming to visit. She's coming to live with us! Isn't it exciting?

MRS. SNOW

Children are a nuisance. Noisy and messy!

DR. CHILTON

Children are a joy and I think it's wonderful that you've accepted her into your home, Polly. The train will be here any minute. I'm sure you can't wait...

POLLY

I'm sure that I am LATE for my appointment at the bank. I'm sure that Nancy will handle everything just fine and I am very sure that Pollyanna will do quite nicely WITHOUT me. Good day to you all!

(Exit POLLY in a huff. ORPHANS come downstage center as if the time for the train is near. ORPHANS, NANCY, DR. CHILTON, and MRS. SNOW sing as they look for train)

ORPHANS, NANCY, CHILTON, SNOW

**IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME
STROLLING THROUGH THE SHADY LANES, WITH YOUR BABY MINE
YOU HOLD HER HAND AND SHE HOLDS YOURS
AND THAT'S A VERY GOOD SIGN
THAT SHE'S YOUR TOOTSY WOOTSY
IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME**

(Train whistle! As train arrives, ORPHANS wave and giggle. MRS. SNOW gives them a look and they run off giggling and pointing. DR. CHILTON retrieves package for MRS. SNOW and exits reluctantly, wanting to stay to see POLLYANNA. NANCY anxiously waits. When stage is empty, POLLYANNA bursts onstage through audience)

POLLYANNA

Aunt Polly!

NANCY

(Turns toward her)

Pollyanna?

(Pollyanna runs to NANCY and throws her arms around her neck)

POLLYANNA

Oh, I'm so glad, glad, glad to see you! Of course I'm Pollyanna, and I'm so glad you came to meet me, Aunt Polly. I hoped you would.

NANCY

Oh, I'm not...

POLLYANNA

(Interrupts)

I've been wondering all the way here what you looked like.

(Steps back to look at NANCY)

POLLYANNA (Continued)

And now I know, and I'm glad you look just like you do! The conductor said he would send my trunk round to your house, Aunt Polly. Oh, and such a fine NEW trunk it is!

(Proud)

POLLYANNA (Continued)

The Ladies' Aid bought it for me -- and wasn't it lovely of them, when they wanted the carpet so? Of course I don't know how much red carpet a trunk could buy, but it ought to buy some, anyhow -- much as half an aisle, don't you think?

NANCY

Pollyanna...

POLLYANNA

Oh, and Father told me long ago all about the street you live on. He remembered. And -- and I ought to have explained before. Mrs. Gray, who put me on the train, told me to, as soon as I arrived. She was afraid you would think it strange that I was not dressed in black. But you see, there weren't any black things in the last missionary barrel, and Mrs. Gray said that it was just as well anyway, for she didn't like children in black -- that is, I mean, she likes children, of course, but not the dressed in black part.

NANCY

Well, I'm sure it it'll be all right.

POLLYANNA

I'm glad you feel that way. I do too.

(Looks around)

POLLYANNA (Continued)

Of course, it would have been a good deal harder to be glad in black...

NANCY

(Shocked)

GLAD!

POLLYANNA

Yes -- that father's gone to heaven to be with mother and the rest, you know. He said I must be glad. But it's been pretty hard to....to do it, even in THIS dress, because I...I wanted him so. And I couldn't help feeling I ought to have him with me, `specially as mother and the rest have God and all the angels, while I didn't have anybody but the Ladies' Aid. But now I'm sure it'll be easier because I've got you, Aunt Polly. I'm so glad I've got you!

(Hugs NANCY again and starts walking)

NANCY

Oh dear....Pollyanna...you've made an awful mistake, dear. I'm only Nancy. I'm not your Aunt Polly, at all!

POLLYANNA

(Stops)

You aren't?

NANCY

No. I'm only Nancy, the hired girl. I do all the work except the washing and ironing.

POLLYANNA

(Thinks)

But there IS an Aunt Polly?

NANCY

OHHHH, yes, there certainly is!

POLLYANNA

Oh, that's all right, then.....and do you know? I'm glad, after all, that she didn't come to meet me, because now I've got HER still coming, and I've got you besides.

NANCY

(Smiles)

We'd better be off to the house.

1-2-11

POLLYANNA

Does she have carpets, Nancy? Father told me Aunt Polly was awfully rich. I have IMAGINED that she has carpets...and...ice cream!

NANCY

Yes, she's got the carpets. In almost every room. But she's not too keen on ice cream.

POLLYANNA

(Clearly disappointed)

I'm so sorry! I don't see how she can help liking ice cream. But -- anyhow, I can be KIND OF glad about that, `cause the ice cream you DON't eat ... can't make your stomach ache with too much. Yes, I will be glad about no ice cream and VERY glad about the carpets!

NANCY

Child, I believe you are the gladdest person I ever met! It's a good thing for you too... Now, smooth your dress...We're going home to meet your Aunt Polly! Are you ready?

POLLYANNA

Glad to be ready, Nancy!

NANCY

(As they exit)

Well, I'm not so certain she's quite ready for YOU!

(BLACKOUT)

1-7-32

ACT I

SCENE VII

SETTING: POLLY HARRINGTON's front yard

AT RISE: (Piano practicing is heard. JIMMY BEAN is walking by. He makes fun of the piano playing. Enter DR. CHILTON. JIMMY hides. As Dr. CHILTON approaches the house, enter POLLY from inside the house. JIMMY watches them)

POLLY

(To POLLYANNA)

I will be back shortly to hear your piano piece, Miss Pollyanna. And Nancy will be checking on you while I am gone. Do NOT take this lightly, young lady, or you will hear from me!

DR. CHILTON

Is that what it takes to get your attention?

POLLY

(Startled)

Oh! Hello there, Dr. Chilton.

DR. CHILTON

Must I misbehave to get you to notice me?

POLLY

Really, Doctor. I have had quite enough of children today. I don't need childish behavior from you.

(Starts to cross in front of him. HE stops her)

DR. CHILTON

Is it childish to express a desire to have a civil conversation with you? Or maybe I could take you to lunch?

POLLY

Dr. Chilton, we have been through this before. I am not interested. Now if you please, I am a busy woman.

DR. CHILTON

(Puts his hand gently on her shoulder)

Polly. Say yes to dinner...if you do, I promise, I won't ask you again.

(SHE hesitates)

DR. CHILTON

Please?

(Piano playing stops)

POLLY

Pollyanna?

(Piano starts up again)

POLLY

Good day, Doctor.

(POLLY exits. DR. CHILTON exits the other direction. JIMMY BEAN comes out of hiding place)

POLLYANNA

(From inside the house)

I'm glad I can't play this any better than I do. That way, I can practice some more tomorrow!

(JIMMY hides as POLLYANNA walks out on porch)

POLLYANNA

(Sings)

Oh, I come from Alabama, with a banjo on my knee...da da da da da da da...

(Spots JIMMY trying to hide)

POLLYANNA (Continued)

da da da da da da da GOTCHA!

(Jumps out at him)

JIMMY

HAH!!!!!! Hey! You scared me!

POLLYANNA

And aren't you glad I did! Otherwise, we'd not be getting the chance to say how do you do!

JIMMY

How do you do yourself.

POLLYANNA

My name's Pollyanna Whittier. What's yours?

JIMMY

Jimmy Bean.

POLLYANNA

Hello Mr. Jimmy Bean. I live at Miss Polly Harrington's house. Where do you live?

JIMMY

Nowhere.

POLLYANNA

Everybody lives somewhere!

JIMMY

Well, I don't. Just now.

POLLYANNA

Where did you live before?

JIMMY

(Irritated)

Look, Miss Busybody, I'm Jimmy Bean and I'm ten years old going on eleven. I come last year to live at the Orphans' Home. But they've got so many kids there ain't much room for me and I wasn't never wanted anyhow, I don't believe. So I've quit. I know this much. If you has a home, you has folks, an' I ain't had folks since...Dad died. So I'm a-hunting now. I've tried 4 houses but, they didn't want me....There! Is that all you want to know?!!!

POLLYANNA

Why what a shame. Oh dear! I know just how you feel, because after my father died, too, there wasn't anybody but the Ladies' Aid for me, until Aunt Polly said she'd take....OH! I know just the place for you. Aunt Polly'll take you...I know she will! Why she just took in Fluffy and Buffy...that stray dog and kitty I brought home. And they're just animals. Come on Jimmy Bean...I think you're about to find a home. Nancy! Nancy!

(Enter NANCY)

NANCY

What's all the hullabalooin' about? Why who is this?

POLLYANNA

This is Jimmy Bean, Nancy. Jimmy, this is Nancy, one of my dearest and closest friends.

JIMMY

Hi.

NANCY

Hello, Jimmy Bean. But you two still haven't told me what the ruckus is about.

POLLYANNA

Well, Jimmy here needs a home and...

(Enter AUNT POLLY)

POLLY

What is all the noise going on? Oh! Who is this? Nancy, what seems to be the problem?

NANCY

I'm not sure yet, Ma'am. I'm trying to get a straight answer, but it's not working.

POLLYANNA

Oh, Aunt Polly, Just look here! I've got something ever so much nicer, even, than Fluffy and Buffy for you to bring up. It's a real live boy. He won't mind a bit sleeping in the attic, at first, you know, and he says he'll work. but I shall need him the most of the time to play with, I suppose.

POLLY

(Feels faint)

Pollyanna, what does this mean? Who is this dirty little boy? Where did you find him?

1-7-37

NANCY

(Interceding)

He says his name is Jimmy Bean, Miss Polly. I think he's some sort of friend to Pollyanna.

POLLY

Well, what is he doing here?

POLLYANNA

Why, I just told you, Aunt Polly. He's for you. I thought he could live here because he wants a home and folks. I told him how good you were to me...and to Fluffy and Buffy, and that I knew you would be to him, too.

POLLY

(Drops to chair on porch. Fans herself)

That will do, Pollyanna. This is the most absurd thing you've done yet. As if tramp cats and mangy dogs weren't bad enough but you must bring home ragged little beggars from the street, who...

JIMMY

I ain't a beggar, ma'am, and I don't want nothing from you. I was expectin to work. I wouldn't of come to yer house except Pollyanna made me, tellin me how you was so good and kind. So there!

POLLYANNA

Oh, Aunt Polly, Why, I thought you'd be GLAD to have him here! I'm sure I should think you'd be GLAD...

POLLY

(Raises her hand for silence)

Pollyanna, WILL you stop using that everlasting word "glad"! It's 'glad, glad, glad from morning till night until I think I shall go wild!

POLLYANNA

But, Aunt Polly...I should think you'd be GLAD... OH!....

(JIMMY BEAN sneaks away as they talk. POLLYANNA runs after him. Finds him hiding behind the tree. POLLY exits into porch door. NANCY does business on the porch. Then goes to fetch POLLYANNA)

POLLYANNA

There you are! Jimmy Bean, I want you to know how...how sorry I am.

JIMMY

I ain't blamin you....(ANGRY) but I AIN"T no beggar!

POLLYANNA

Of course you aren't. Please don't blame Auntie. And you just listen, Jimmy Bean, to what I am going to do for you. The Ladies' Aid meets this afternoon. I heard Aunt Polly say so. I'll lay your case before them. That's what Father always did, when he wanted anything....you know, like educating a heathen and new carpet and all.

JIMMY

Well, I ain't a heathen OR a new carpet. Besides -- what's a Ladies' Aid?

(Enter NANCY)

NANCY

It's a group of ladies who try to help by doing good works...and Pollyanna, I think that's a splendid idea! And I'm glad you thought of it!

(Music cue)

POLLYANNA

I'm glad too!

SONG - THE GLAD SONG/REPRISAL - POLLYANNA, NANCY, JIMMY

POLLYANNA

I'VE GOT IT NOW I UNDERSTAND

NANCY

IT REALLY IS A SIMPLE PLAN

BOTH

**THE GAME IS NOT MUCH HARDER THAN
A SINGLE THOUGHT CAN BE!
HMMMMMM.....**

ALL

**THERE IS A GAME THAT WE CAN PLAY
WHENEVER WE ARE SAD
A HAPPY GAME TO MAKE THE DAY
THE BEST WE EVER HAD**

(DANCE 1 & 2 & 3 & 4)

THE BEST WE EVER HAD!

NANCY

Come on, you two. Let's go clean up a bit before the meeting. Last one round the back to the water pump is a rotten egg!

(POLLYANNA and JIMMY race around back of house)

NANCY (Continued)

I'd like to see the faces of those Ladies' Aiders...when Pollyanna tells them just how GLAD she is to be here!

(Exit NANCY to follow POLLYANNA and JIMMY. Enter POLLY from house)

POLLY

Nancy! Nancy? Pollyanna! Of course there is not a soul around. Of course, no one bothers to say where they are going...or what they are doing. I may as well live alone, for all the time I spend with the people who live here....!

(Her words ring in her ears. Sighs and walks. SHE is tired. MUSIC CUE/POLLY'S THEME)

POLLY

Oh Eleanor...Your child is so much like you...your happy smile, your loving spirit. Every time I look into her face, I see you looking back at me...

(Emotional)

I can't bear it, Eleanor. I can't bear being around her.

(Angry)

You left with that man and married him! You left when I needed you, too! And when you died...I couldn't get there. I tried, I really did...

(Enter DR. CHILTON)

POLLY (Continued)

Now he's gone, too. And Pollyanna and I...well, now both of us are alone. You gave her my name. And I want to love her, Eleanor. I just don't know how to do it...

(Breaks down)

(BLACKOUT)

INTERMISSION