

CALAMITY JANE

Calamity Jane is one of the most popular film musicals ever made. It was transferred into a stage musical some years later, with additional songs and dialogue to bring it to the length of a stage show and take the place of on-screen action that cannot be represented on stage. It is a feel-good, high energy show, very much in the vein of a traditional musical comedy. Generally we will be looking for performers who can bring infectious energy and enthusiasm to the production and carry off with believability some of the somewhat 'cheesy' dialogue.

Synopsis

We are in the wild, warm and humorous Old West of Deadwood City, Dakota Territory, 1876. Our story tells of famed Calamity Jane who dresses, rides and shoots like a man, but given the proper chance can be a beautiful girl who hankers for the love of a man (initially dashing Lt. Danny Gilmartin).

Fuss-budget Henry Miller, owner of Deadwood's hotel-bar-theatre, nervously awaits the arrival of the lovely eastern actress, Frances Fryer, to embellish his show. His niece, Susan, assures him that Calamity will bring the stagecoach to town on time. And so Calamity does to the sharp and singable beat of "Deadwood Stage". But the "actress" turns out to be a young man, "Francis" and not "Frances". The show must go on, and "Millie" contrives to dress Fryer as a woman, but when the latter's wig falls off during the show, the local characters rise in noisy anger. Only Calam's trusty pistol restores order; also her promise that "Millie," to make amends, will import to Deadwood the east's most glamorous star, Adelaide Adams herself. The men are overjoyed, but Will Bill, Lt. Danny Gilmartin and "Millie" know full well that Adelaide Adams wouldn't be caught dead in Deadwood.

Calam and Wild Bill express their ongoing rivalry in "I Can Do Without You" and Calam storms out headed for Chicago. At the Chicago theatre Calam mistakes Adelaide's maid, Katie Brown, for the great actress herself. Before she is aware of it, she is stage-coaching Katie back to Deadwood where Katie is greeted in high excitement as the famed Adelaide Adams. Unnerved by Fryer when he becomes aware of her true identity, Katie breaks down at the opening show, and only Calam's masterful control of the audience saves the day. Bucked up by Calam, Susan and Fryer, Katie gives a show-stopping performance. All of Deadwood's hearts are won, not the least those of Danny and Wild Bill who begin squabbling over Katie's affection.

Calamity and Katie become close friends, and Katie helps give Calamity's cabin and attire a feminine make-over. After a ball given in honour of the new commander at Fort Scully, Calam, dressed in Katie's finery, is the belle of the event. Her hour of triumph explodes when she finds Katie with Danny (who are falling in love). In a fit of jealous anger she orders Katie to leave town, but Wild Bill corners her and forces her to accept her own 'feminine' feelings, and their mutual attraction. She realizes that it was Bill all the time (not Danny) she loved and the show closes joyously with all of Deadwood's citizens attending a triple wedding; Calam to Bill, Katie to Danny and Susan to Francis.

Principal Roles

Calamity Jane

Low G (Opt. F) to D Flat (Opt. E. Flat)

Playing age approx: 25-35

The hard-bitten, gun-totin' heroine, who tries to behave like a man but can't help loving like a woman. In order to hold her own in a man's world, she dresses, speaks, rides and shoots like a man; groomed and dressed in proper feminine fashion, she is revealed as a beautiful girl and learns to accept, and have confidence in, her true self.

Wild Bill Hickock

B Flat to E Natural

Playing age: approx 30-40

A fine figure of a man, though perhaps slightly worn by the passage of time and his gritty sharp-shootin' past. He is now a well-respected professional gambler with something of a reputation to boot. Good-natured, with a sense of humour, he has a playful rivalry with Calamity Jane whom he enjoys mercilessly teasing, which blossoms into love when they acknowledge their feelings for each other.

Katie Brown

Low F Sharp to C Sharp

Playing age 20-30

A stage-struck city-girl whoworks as Adelaide Adam's dresser. More conventionally feminine she initially lacks confidence when she poses as Adelaide. However she has her own natural good looks, talent and character to allow her to succeed in her own terms. Principled, and loyal to her friendship with Calamity, she faces the dilemma of falling in love with Danny and becoming Calamity's competition for his attentions.

Lieutenant Danny Gilmartin

B Flat to E Flat

Playing age 20-30

A young officer attached to the nearby fort. Conventionally handsome, brave and romantic, he quickly catches the attention of Katie. Likeable and personable he is the man Calamity Jane dreams about, but he doesn't reciprocate her love and somewhat mercilessly pursues Katie.

Supporting roles**Francis Fryer**

B Flat to D

A song-and-dance man more at home in the vaudeville theatres of the Eastern States than in the nerve-racking Wild West. A role with strong possibilities for comedy. Francis demonstrates his singing and dancing ability (in the song "Ev'ry one Complains About the Weather") before circumstance dictate that he reluctantly has to impersonate a female vaudeville star with hilarious results. Falls in love with Susan.

Henry Miller

Non-singing comedy role

Proprietor of " The Golden Garter ", Deadwood City's saloon-hotel-theatre. Aged about 50, he is nervous and erratic-giving the impression that he is constantly only one jump ahead of a nervous breakdown. Uncle to Susan.

Adelaide Adams

Low F Sharp to B (Opt. D)

A highly-paid vaudeville star and celebrated " beauty " of the period ; off-stage, a somewhat selfish and conceited woman who is rather tactless about Katie chances as a performer. Appears in one key song and scene.

Minor roles**Susan**

Non-singing

Miller's young, friendly and pretty niece. Falls in love with Francis.

Rattlesnake

Non-singing

A bewhiskered old fossil who drives the stage-coach.

"Doc" Pierce

Non-singing character role

Deadwood City's doctor/undertaker, with doubtful qualifications but considerable experience. A poker-playing pal of Hickock's.

Joe

Non-singing

Bartender of "The Golden Garter"

Hank and Pete

Two Scouts

Colonel

Of Fort Scully

Chorus

Cowpunchers, Bullwhackers, Prospectors, Trappers, Women of the town, Chorus Girls, Officers, Soldiers and their Wives, Stage Coach Passengers, etc.

The chorus will be limited to performers aged 15+

We will be presenting the song "It's Harry I'm Planning to Marry" as in the film; with Adelaide performing her stage act with the backing of her chorus of female dancers/singers (vaudeville showgirls). A select number of the female chorus with dancing ability will be selected for this song.

KEY MUSICAL NUMBERS

"The Deadwood Stage"	<i>(Calamity & Ensemble).</i>
"Careless With the Truth "	<i>(Calamity, Bill & Chorus).</i>
"Adelaide"	<i>(Bill and Men).</i>
"Ev'ryone Complains About the Weather"	<i>(Fryer).</i>
"Men!"	<i>(Calamity).</i>
"Hive Full Of Honey	<i>(Fryer).</i>
"I Can Do Without You"	<i>(Calamity and Bill).</i>
"It's Harry I'm Planning To Marry"	<i>(Adelaide & Showgirls).</i>
"Windy City"	<i>(Calamity and Chorus).</i>
"Keep it Under Your Hat"	<i>(Katie)</i>
"A Woman's Touch"	<i>(Calamity and Katie).</i>
"Higher Than A Hawk"	<i>(Bill).</i>
"The Black Hills of Dakota"	<i>(Chorus)</i>
"Love You Dearly"	<i>(Katie and Danny).</i>
"My Secret Love"	<i>(Calamity).</i>
"Finale"	<i>(Full Company)</i>