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BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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BIG DOG PUBLISHING
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Lottie and Bernice, Livin' Large

COMEDY. There are plenty of polkas, pierogies, and dog poo as we follow grumpy grannies Lottie and Bernice on new adventures in this side-splitting sequel to *Regrets Only!* and *Get Off My Cabbage!* After tackling a bank robber, the ladies heckle mall-goers, steal Lottie's pearls off a corpse, sell illicit pierogies, hitchhike a lonely stretch of highway, and attend a court-appointed anger management class. In a series of flashbacks, we see Lottie and Bernice as babies, as kids selling lemonade, and at a school dance—and they're just as cantankerous! The infamous lunch-eating duo, Hal and Sal, are now working at a cemetery and discuss the merits of canned meat, marriage counseling, and public toilets. The laughs never end in this uproarious show!

Performance Time: Approximately 90-120 minutes.

Characters

(16 M, 12 F, 8 flexible, 2 boys, 2 girls, extras)
(With doubling: 9 M, 5 F, 5 flexible. Tripling possible.)

LOTTIE: Elderly woman, present day; female.
BERNICE: Elderly woman, present day; female.
YOUNG LOTTIE: As 10-year-old girl selling lemonade, 1961;
can be played by Lottie dressed like a little girl; female.
YOUNG BERNICE: As 10-year-old girl selling lemonade, 1961;
may be played by Bernice dressed as a young girl; female.
TEEN LOTTIE: As a teen girl at a school dance, 1967; may be
play by Lottie dressed as a teen girl; female.
TEEN BERNICE: As a teen girl at a school dance, 1967; may be
played by Bernice dressed as a teen girl; female.
HAL: Neurotic cemetery worker, present day; male.
SAL: Hal's friend and cemetery worker, present day; male.
YOUNG HAL: As a 10-year-old neurotic boy, early 1970s;
male.
YOUNG SAL: As a 10 year old boy, early 1970s; male.
TEEN HAL: As a neurotic teenager; male.
TEEN SAL: As a teenager; male.
MOTHER 1: Lottie's mother, 1950; female.
MOTHER 2: Bernice's mother, 1950; female.
JANITOR: Elderly hospital janitor, 1950; male.
HOSPITAL NURSE: Hospital nurse, 1950; nonspeaking;
female.
RECEPTIONIST: Doctor's office receptionist, present day;
female.
NURSE: Doctor's office nurse; present day; female.
MANAGER: Bank manager, present day; flexible.
SECURITY OFFICER: Bank security officer; flexible.
DISGRUNTLED WOMAN: Disgruntled pierogi customer;
female.
NERVOUS MAN: Nervous Pierogi customer; male.
COP: Pierogi customer; flexible.

DESPERATE MAN: Man desperate for pierogies; male.

STANLEY/WITNESS 5: Lottie's husband as a teen (seen) and elderly adult (unseen); testifies that Lottie nags him too much; male.

STOSHEW/WITNESS 4: Bernice's husband as a teen (seen) and elderly adult (unseen); testifies Bernice has made his life a living hell; male.

BAILIFF: Courtroom bailiff, present day; flexible.

JUDGE: Courtroom judge, present day; male.

DA: District attorney prosecuting Lottie and Bernice, present day; flexible.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Defense attorney representing Lottie and Bernice, present day; flexible.

WITNESS 1: Neighbor pelted with dog poop; flexible.

WITNESS 2: "Meatball Betty's" husband; male.

WITNESS 3: Member of the Happy, Happy Sunshine Church of the Divine who was chased down the street by someone wearing a devil mask; flexible.

WITNESS 6: Tupperware lady who fell into a pit in Bernice's yard; female.

WITNESS 7: Disgruntled groom who had live snakes thrown at his wedding; male.

WITNESS 8: Hosed down at a picnic; female.

WITNESS 9: Bobby Vinton's drummer; male.

BOB: Group leader of an anger management class at a community center; wears a smiley-face T-shirt; male.

GEORGE: Court-appointed anger management classmate; male.

CHARLIE: Court-appointed anger management classmate; male.

EXTRAS: As Patients, Bank Customers, Bank Teller, Bank Robber, Mourners, Parade Watchers, Passersby, Mall Customers, Mall Workers, Mall Flash Mob, Driver, and Anger Management Classmates.

Options for Doubling

ELDERLY LOTTIE/TEEN LOTTIE/YOUNG LOTTIE (female)
ELDERLY BERNICE/TEEN BERNICE/YOUNG BERNICE
(female)
ELDERLY HAL/TEEN HAL/YOUNG HAL (male)
ELDERLY SAL/TEEN SAL/YOUNG SAL (male)
MOTHER 1/WITNESS 6 (female)
MOTHER 2/WITNESS 8 (female)
JANITOR/BOB (male)
HOSPITAL NURSE/NURSE (female)
DESPERATE MAN/WITNESS 2 (male)
SECURITY OFFICER/COP/DA (flexible)
RECEPTIONIST/WITNESS 1 (female)
BANK MANAGER/BAILIFF (flexible)
DISGRUNTLED WOMAN/WITNESS 3 (female)
GEORGE/WITNESS 7 (male)
CHARLIE/WITNESS 9 (male)
NERVOUS MAN/JUDGE (male)

Setting

Upstate New York, 1950-present day.

Synopsis of Scenes

ACT I

Scene 1: A hospital hallway, middle of the night, 1950.

Scene 2: A doctor's waiting room. There are chairs, tables with magazines on them, and a patient check-in window.

Scene 3: An elementary school cafeteria, early 1970s. There is a table and a few chairs.

Scene 4: A bank, present day. There is a teller window.

Scene 5: A lemonade stand, summer 1961.

Scene 6: A funeral parlor, present day. There are chairs lamps, and flowers.

Scene 7: A Cemetery, present day. There are two benches.

Scene 8: In front of a storefront, present day.

Intermission, opt.

ACT II

Scene 1: A mall, present day. There is a bench.

Scene 2: A high school gym, decorated for a dance, 1967.
There are colorful lights.

Scene 3: A dark stretch of highway, late at night, present day.

Scene 4: A school hallway. There is a janitor's cart and two tall stools.

Scene 5: A courtroom, present day. The Judge's bench is SR.
Next to the Judge's bench is a witness stand. There are two long tables with chairs SL of the bench on the upstage side.
The Defense Attorney and defendants are at a table SL. The District Attorney's table is SL of the witness stand.

Scene 6: A cemetery, present day. There are two benches.

Scene 7: A small classroom at a community center. There are chairs positioned in a horseshoe shape and bright, happy posters on the wall.

Props

Mop	2 Sunglasses, for Lottie and Bernice
2 Dolls with cat eye glasses and wearing babushkas	Money
Paper bag	Several white wrapped packages (pierogies)
Large purse, for Lottie	Wallet
Large purse, for Bernice	\$5 bill
2 Magazines	2 Flashlights
Newspaper	Sandwich
2 Brown paper lunch bags	Sausage
"Bloody" napkin	Can of Pepsi
Napkin	Can of Diet Pepsi
Oreo cookies	Can of caffeine-free Diet Pepsi
Handgun (toy), for Bank Robber	Straw
Note	Binoculars
Handcuffs	Denny's coupon
Card table for lemonade stand	Rubber pig snout
Funeral guestbook	Cup of Tim Horton's coffee
Pearl necklace	White partition screen to go in front of the witness stand
Hotdog roll	Devil mask
Banana	Tupperware container filled with Thin Mint cookies
Wanted posters with a sketch of Hal's face on it	Gavel
2 Pieces of fake dog poop	Sandwich
2 Folding lawn chairs, for Lottie and Bernice	Package of Double Stuf Oreos
Assorted lawn chairs, for Parade Watchers	Pill bottle
Assorted candy	Pills (candy)
2 Large paper bags with handles	Shoeboxes, for anger management attendees

Paperwork
2 Shoe boxes, for Lottie and
Bernice

Whistle

Sound Effects

Thunderstorm
Baby crying
Woman screaming
Theme music for Lottie and
Bernice
Soft music for doctor's
waiting room
Sound of flies buzzing
Dance music, for Flash Mob
dancers
Music for high school dance,
1967
Sound of crickets
Sound of a car approaching
at normal speed and then
suddenly speeding off.

Sound of a semi truck
approaching
Blaring truck horn
Truck speeding by
Sound of a car approaching
Sound of a car stopping
Polka music
Sound of tires squealing
Dogs howling in the
distance
Sound of car driving by
Squealing brakes
Car horn
Crowd cheer
New Age music

*“Word on the street is . . .
a couple of dames
are selling black market pierogies
on this corner.”*

—Cop

ACT 1

Scene 1

(AT RISE: A hospital hallway, middle of the night, 1950. A thunderstorm is raging. An ancient Janitor is mopping the floor. A woman screams. A baby cries. A Nurse races across the stage and disappears. Another scream. Baby crying. The Nurse, visibly shaken, runs across the stage and off. The lights go to black. Lights slowly come up as Mother 1 and Mother 2 are walking the halls carrying their new babies. Janitor is still hard at work.)

MOTHER 1: Mine's a girl.

MOTHER 2: Mine, too.

MOTHER 1: My baby's name is Lottie.

(Janitor stops mopping.)

MOTHER 2: My baby's name is Bernice.

(Janitor gasps. Mother 1, 2 proudly hold their babies up for show. The babies are wearing cat eye glasses and babushkas. The Janitor, sensing that the prophecy of old has come to pass, drops his mop.)

JANITOR: No! No! Noooooooooooooooooooooo!

(Janitor runs off in terror. Mother 1, 2 shrug and hold their babies up high for the audience to see. Lottie and Bernice theme begins to play. Blackout.)

Scene 2

(AT RISE: A doctor's waiting room, present. There are chairs and tables with magazines on them. Soft music is heard. Lottie and Bernice enter and cross to the check-in window. Bernice pounds on the window.)

BERNICE: Write your name on the paper.

(Bernice pounds again. Receptionist opens the window.)

RECEPTIONIST: Who's pounding? Oh, no! Not you! Not you! (Shouts.) Nurse! Nurse! They're back! They're back! That's it! I quit!

(Receptionist closes the window. Nurse suddenly appears in the doorway.)

NURSE: (To Bernice.) Have you an appointment today?

BERNICE: No, this is an emergency.

NURSE: May I recommend the emergency room at the hospital?

BERNICE: We're not allowed in there.

NURSE: Of course. It's a trauma center, what am I thinking?

What is the nature of the emergency?

LOTTIE: You're not the boss of us.

NURSE: No, no, I'm not. I am just trying to ascertain why you have come here.

BERNICE: Lottie, tell her.

LOTTIE: Okay. Last night in bed, I had a big burp and something came out and landed on Stanley. He said, "What was that?" I showed cousin Edju, and he said it was some kind of organ that I should have put back in. I got it here in this bag.

(Lottie pulls a paper bag out of her purse and holds it open for the Nurse to see. Nurse takes a quick peek.)

NURSE: *(Horried.)* Close it! Close it!

LOTTIE: Should I take my clothes off?

BERNICE: *(To Nurse.)* Should I take my clothes off, too?

NURSE: *(To Bernice.)* Do you need to see the doctor?

BERNICE: No.

NURSE: Nobody should take their clothes off. As a rule, we discourage disrobing in the waiting room. Let me go speak to the doctor. *(Lottie follows her. To Lottie.)* You stay put. I will have the doctor examine the projectile and see what he wants to do from there.

(Nurse races off with the bag. Lottie and Bernice sit.)

LOTTIE: *(To Bernice.)* It's hot in here.

BERNICE: Hot? It's freezing! I should have brought my puffy coat.

LOTTIE: Hey, how come that lady looks so funny over there?

BERNICE: Lottie, this is a small room. You can't talk like that. *(Grabs two magazines.)* Here, take one. *(Hands Lottie a magazine.)* Hold it up like this. *(Holding the magazine in front of her mouth.)* Now no one can hear us.

LOTTIE: *(Holding the magazine in front of her mouth.)* Hey, how come that lady looks so funny over there?

BERNICE: She probably wants the doctor to fix her facelift. They put too much buttocks into her forehead.

LOTTIE: They put buttocks in her forehead?

BERNICE: Yeah. They take the fat from the butt and put it in the head.

LOTTIE: Is it true that to do a facelift they slice here... *(Indicates her hairline.)* ...and pull the skin up?

BERNICE: Yeah.

LOTTIE: How come her eyeholes aren't on her forehead?

BERNICE: They cut that skin off and drill new eyeholes.

LOTTIE: Oh. That man next to her...didn't we go to his funeral?
BERNICE: We were going to, but they called it off.
LOTTIE: How come?
BERNICE: He didn't die.
LOTTIE: It won't be long now. *(Pause.)* Why does that man have a knapsack?
BERNICE: The Knapczaks live on Fourteenth Avenue.
LOTTIE: Not "Knapczak." "Knapsack." Is he going camping?
BERNICE: Not camping. To college. College kids carry those.
LOTTIE: For their bombs?
BERNICE: Not always for bombs, sometimes for drugs.
LOTTIE: He's opening it and taking something out. It's a bomb! He's going to blow us up!
BERNICE: It's not a bomb. It's a book.
LOTTIE: A book on how to build a bomb!
BERNICE: No. Homework. He's doing homework.
LOTTIE: I'm going to keep my eye on him.
BERNICE: Is that the newspaper over there?
LOTTIE: Yeah.
BERNICE: Give me some.

(Lottie grabs the newspaper and gives a part of it to Bernice. They read quietly.)

LOTTIE: Who's dead?
BERNICE: Helen Babinski.
LOTTIE: I don't know her.
BERNICE: She went to school with us. She was short and heavy and wore men's hats.
LOTTIE: Never heard of her.
BERNICE: She had a wooden leg and a hunchback.
LOTTIE: Doesn't ring a bell.
BERNICE: She carried a green purse.
LOTTIE: *(Remembers.)* Oh, her. I never liked her.
BERNICE: I never liked her, either.

LOTTIE: How did she die?

BERNICE: She killed herself by sticking her head in the microwave.

LOTTIE: You can't kill yourself by sticking your head in a microwave. No gas.

BERNICE: Her head got stuck.

LOTTIE: What happened?

BERNICE: She starved to death. By the time her kids came for Christmas dinner, they found a skeleton standing in the kitchen.

LOTTIE: What did they do?

BERNICE: They ordered out.

LOTTIE: Serves her right, then.

BERNICE: Yeah, serves her right.

LOTTIE: Who else is dead?

BERNICE: Roland Nowicki.

LOTTIE: Roland Nowicki? I just talked to Maria two days ago. She said Roland wouldn't stop having the hiccups, so I told her to jump out of the bushes when he came home from work. How did he die?

BERNICE: Heart attack.

LOTTIE: Serves him right.

BERNICE: Yeah, serves him right. Here comes that nurse.

(Nurse enters.)

NURSE: You will be happy to know that the doctor has identified the object that you coughed up last night.

LOTTIE: Is he going to put it back in?

NURSE: No surgery is required. The object turned out to be a pork sausage.

LOTTIE: Sausage? I haven't had sausage in weeks.

BERNICE: You had some yesterday on the Grand Slam at Denny's.

LOTTIE: Oh, yeah. *(To Nurse.)* Where's my sausage?

NURSE: *(Surprised.)* You want it back?

LOTTIE: It's mine. *(To others.)* She's trying to steal my sausage.
Grab her!

[END OF FREEVIEW]