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BIG DOG PUBLISHING
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THE PERILS OF PEPPERMINT

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*To all the Showdown alumni,
young and old,
wherever you are.*

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THE PERILS OF PEPPERMINT premiered as part of the Showdown Theater camp in Jefferson City, MO, in June 2014: Nikki Scheulen, director; Cindy Marcus, artistic director; Ashton Boessen, co-director; James Buhr, choreographer; Dennis Poore, music director; Desma Hoyle, producer; Kenneth Hugo, lighting design; Ashlee Hernandez, assistant producer; Desma Hoyle, costumes; Mike Bollinger and Lorissa Kretchel, sound design; Amy Rogers, media relations; Elizabeth Weider, house master; and Zach Kever and James Buhr, props.

SLOW POKE: David Pinero

DOT: Claire Sholes

GOOBER: Miguel Pinero

ROBIN BANKS: Kira Kuhn

GINGER VITIS: Natalie Boessen

MIKE: Hailey Boessen

DR. HUGH J. PAYNE: Luke Hinton

IKE: Maddie Morgan

PEPPER MINT: Cat Jaques

NURSE FLOSSY: Sydni Stratman

JUNIOR MINT: Maria Mendez Hoyle

SHERIFF VIN NERE: Anna Mendez Hoyle

MRS. PHILIP BUSTER: Maggie Parris

DEPUTY DEX TROSE: Skippy Johnson

JUNIOR BUSTER: Anthony Baker

MRS. O'HENRY: Alexis Goff

DR. COLE GATE: Foster Kuhn

THE PERILS OF PEPPERMINT

CHILDREN'S COMEDY. Two villains, Ginger Vitis and Dee Kay, have concocted a scheme to get rich quick by stealing a delicious new candy recipe from Pepper Mint, the owner of the Lemon Drop Candy Shop, the best candy store in the West. But what if Pepper Mint won't hand over the recipe? Why, a villain with an evil laugh always has another plan! Muh-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha! But beware! Dr. Cole Gate, Nurse Flossy, and the other citizens of Old Faithful are ready to give these villains the brush off! Children will love this wonderfully wacky Wild West show.

Performance Time: Approximately 30 minutes.

CHARACTERS

(4 M, 7 F, 7 flexible)

- PEPPER MINT:** Works at the Lemon Drop Candy Shop and has cooked up a sweet new candy recipe; female.
- JUNIOR MINT:** Pepper Mint's uncle who works in the Lemon Drop Candy Shop; flexible.
- PATTY MINT:** Pepper's cousin who works in the Lemon Drop Candy Shop; female.
- DEE KAY:** Aka Dr. Huger J. Payne, a villain who wants to get rich by stealing Pepper Mint's secret candy recipe; male.
- GINGER VITIS:** Dee Kay's accomplice who hopes he will marry her after they steal the candy recipe; female.
- DR. COLE GATE:** Dentist who has a sweet spot for Pepper Mint and is working on a new toothpaste; male.
- NURSE FLOSSY:** Dr. Cole Gate's dental assistant who is a hopeless romantic; female.
- MISSUS O'HENRY:** Outcast in the town because she painted her house beige instead of a bright candy color; female.
- DOT:** Missus O'Henry's loyal assistant who likes to repeat things loudly; female.
- MR. BUSTER:** Mayor of the town of Old Faithful; male.
- MRS. BUSTER:** Mayor's overbearing wife and a town busybody; female.
- FINN ANCE:** The town's banker; flexible.
- SHERIFF VIN NEER:** Town's sheriff; flexible.
- DEPUTY DEX TROS:** Sheriff's silent deputy; flexible.
- MIKE:** Newsboy who is always announcing what's going on around town; flexible.
- IKE:** Newsboy who is always announcing what's going on around town; flexible.
- GOOBER:** Fast-talkin' kid; flexible.
- SLOW POKE:** Slow-movin' kid and Goober's best friend; walks very slowly; flexible.

SETTING

Town of Old Faithful.

SET

The sets can be as simple or elaborate as your budget allows. The bright candy-colored facades can be flats, signs, or merely banners hung on stage. There can be a few giant lollipops and candy canes scattered about the stage. The town should feel like a child's dream of what a candy land would look like.

Town of Old Faithful. There is a sign or banner that reads, "Welcome to the Town of Old Faithful (population 79)."

Lemon Drop Candy Shop. There is a Cashier's window on one side of a window frame on wheels. On the other side of the frame is the bank teller's window for the Sugar Rush State Bank.

Sugar Rush State Bank. There is a teller's window.

Dr. Colgate's Dental Office. There is a dentist's chair or another reclining-type chair and a small side table with assorted pliers, chisels, and hammers on it.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

- Scene 1:** Town of Old Faithful.
- Scene 2:** Lemon Drop Candy Shop.
- Scene 3:** Sugar Rush State Bank.
- Scene 4:** Dr. Colgate's dental office.
- Scene 5:** Lemon Drop Candy Shop.
- Scene 6:** Sugar Rush State Bank.
- Scene 7:** Town of Old Faithful.
- Scene 8:** Lemon Drop Candy Shop.
- Scene 9:** Town of Old Faithful.
- Scene 10:** Lemon Drop Candy Shop.

PROPS

Plate of candies	Large broom
Old woman costume, for Dee Kay	Medium broom
Nurse costume, for Ginger Vitis	Hand broom
Cane	Abacus
Newspapers	Money
Cotton balls	Pennies
Flashlight	Money bag
Hammers	Wanted poster
Pliers	Huge molar (can be made
Chisels	with papier-mâché or white
Huge pair of pliers	clay)

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SPECIAL EFFECTS

Old-time music

Music for "I Want Candy" song

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"A MAN WITH AN EVIL LAUGH
ALWAYS HAS ANOTHER PLAN.
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!"

—DEE KAY

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SCENE 1

(AT RISE: Town of Old Faithful. Old-time music is heard. Goober rushes on. Slow Poke enters very slowly.)

GOOBER: Dig-dag-diddly-ding-dang-dog, Slow Poke. Hurry up!

SLOW POKE: I'm a-comin', I'm a-comin'.

GOOBER: Could ya go any slower?

SLOW POKE: Ayup, I reckon so.

(Slow Poke actually starts to move backward. Goober grabs Slow Poke's arm and pulls, trying to make him go faster.)

GOOBER: No, no, diggy-dag-it! We gotta hurry! Today's the day that Pepper Mint releases her brand-diggity-new candy at the candy shop.

SLOW POKE: It'll still be there when we get there.

GOOBER: Didjer brains fall outta yer ears? Pepper Mint's candies always go fast. And I heard tell this was the greatest candy recipe in the history of mankind.

SLOW POKE: Reckon we'd better hurry, then.

GOOBER: Yeah, before all the samples are gone!

(Lights fade to black as Goober pushes/pulls Slow Poke off.)

SCENE 2

(AT RISE: Outside the Lemon Drop Candy Shop. Ginger Vitis and Dee Kay enter.)

GINGER VITIS: (To Dee Kay.) Well, here we are. D'ya think they're still following us?

DEE KAY: We shook that posse three states ago.

GINGER VITIS: Ya mean we're not goin' to jail?

DEE KAY: No. In fact, we're here to get rich, my dear.

GINGER VITIS: Aw, call me "my dear," again.

DEE KAY: I heard this candy store has the best candies in the West. And now they're unveiling a new candy, the best ever made. We're gonna get that recipe and make ourselves a fortune!

GINGER VITIS: And then you'll marry me, right, Doctor Payne?

DEE KAY: Don't call me that! No one can know my real name. You just call me "Dee Kay," snookiums.

GINGER VITIS: Once we get the recipe, you'll make me Missus Snookiums?

DEE KAY: Of course, my little snickerdoodle. (To audience.) She's not my snickerdoodle, or any kind of doodle. I will never marry her, but I need her to carry out my evil plan. (Evil laugh.) Ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha! That's the best evil laugh I can do. (To Ginger.) Come, my little nougat, destiny awaits.

(Dee Kay and Ginger Vitis enter the Lemon Drop Candy Shop. Pepper is holding a plate of her latest candies. Those present are Goober, Slow Poke, Mr. and Mrs. Buster, Jr. Mint, Patty, Mike, Ike, Sheriff, and Deputy. Everybody "ooohs" and "ahhs" when they take a bite.)

PEPPER MINT: Here ya go, Mister and Missus Mayor. Try my newest candy.

MR. PHILIP BUSTER: Thank you, Pepper.

MRS. PHILIP BUSTER: (*Looking at candy.*) It looks delicious.

(*Mr. and Mrs. Buster each take a bite and "oooh" and "ahhh."*)

GOOBER: This here is the greatest candy I ever ding-dang
[et]! [*"ate"*]

MR. PHILIP BUSTER: I may have died and gone to candy
heaven!

DEE KAY: (*To Pepper Mint.*) May I try some?

PEPPER MINT: Sure thing, stranger. Are you new in town?

GINGER VITIS: Yes, but we're not on the run from a posse or
anything. And his name *isn't* Dr. Payne.

DEE KAY: Hush, my little peanut brittle. (*Takes a bite. To
Pepper Mint.*) Mmmmm, this is quite good. I'd like to buy
this recipe from you.

PEPPER MINT: Oh, I couldn't do that.

DEE KAY: I will pay you one gajillion dollars!

(*Everyone gasps, but Pepper just smiles.*)

GOOBER: Diddly-ding-dang, that's a lot of money!

PEPPER MINT: (*To Dee Kay.*) Oh, gosh, I couldn't sell. These
recipes have been in my family for generations. I will never
sell them.

JR. MINT: Good girl.

PEPPER MINT: Thanks, Uncle Junior.

DEE KAY: Well, good day to you.

(*Dee Kay and Ginger start to exit the candy store.*)

GINGER VITIS: (*Aside.*) Now what are we going to do? If she
won't sell the recipe, we can't get rich and you won't marry
me.

DEE KAY: (*Aside.*) Don't worry, my little caramel. A man
with an evil laugh always has another plan. (*Evil laugh.*)
Ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!

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(As Ginger Vitis and Dee Kay exit, Mrs. O'Henry and Dot enter and nearly run into them.)

MISSUS O'HENRY: *(To Dee Kay and Ginger Vitis.)* Oh, excuse me.

DOT: *(To Dee Kay and Ginger Vitis, shouts.)* Yeah, excuse her!

DEE KAY: Certainly.

MISSUS O'HENRY: Wait. You look familiar. Do I know you?

DEE KAY: No, I'm certain we've never met.

GINGER VITIS: *(To Missus O'Henry.)* And we're not running from a posse or anything.

[END OF FREEVIEW]