

4 Songs from "The Poker Club"
by Billy Edd Wheeler



Blue Duck Music • Billy Edd Wheeler, C.E.O.

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6-24

Dear Scott,

Thank for the "review." Could
have been worse, I suppose.

I'm being commissioned to write
a new musical for DERBY DINNER
PLAYHOUSE - tho' it isn't official yet -
synopsis + working title enclosed.

Do you have a title for us?

My favorites (I think) are on
the enclosed list.

Sincerely,

Billy Edd

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POSSIBLE TITLES FOR NEW MUSICAL:

WHAT A WAY TO GO

IN THE COMPANY OF MEN

THE POKER CLUB

SILVER THREADS & GOLDEN LOVERS

JOKERS WILD

FEELIN' FRISKY

THE GOLDEN BOYS

THE DANCE OF LIFE

THE CASSEROLE KIDS

THE FIRST CASSEROLE THROUGH THE DOOR

DANCES WITH WIVES

DEALER'S CHOICE

HOW TO PICK UP GIRLS

HUSBANDS AND WIVES

LET'S KEEP ON DANCING

W H A T A W A Y T O G O

Book & Lyrics By Billy Edd Wheeler
 Music By Ewel Cornett & Dennis Burnside

This is a musical comedy about five retired men, all successful in their fields, and mostly still well off, who meet regularly to play poker, tell jokes, have a few drinks and talk about the good old days, their children and grandchildren, their ailments, their romances (mostly nil) and their sex lives (even more nil). They love their get-togethers and conclude that life is indeed wonderful "In The Company of Men," which is their opening song.

However, Baxter Tyler, who still has very active hormones, the male chauvinist senior Don Juan of the group, urges them to follow his example and become more energetic in chasing women, convincing them (for a short time) that it will change their lives and attitudes, cure their aches and pains, make them happier, help them live longer, etc. They don't believe his war stories until he has GEORGE, our central character who owns the mill where they meet, call one of his workers, E.J. Butler, to have her join them during one of her breaks. Baxter is dating E.J., 30 years his junior, and she confirms that, yes, Baxter is a sex maniac. The group is impressed and finally submit to Baxter's efforts to teach them all how to pick up girls. He sings: "This Is How You Pick Up Girls," a song that will make the audience hate him, it is so sexist. They practice their lines on Baxter and he offers critiques until they tire of it, then he gets E.J. to come and let them practice on her.

GEORGE, a confessed virgin until his wedding night, is very reluctant to enter into these frivolous games, not just because he is shy but because he is still in love with his dead wife. (In fact, she still comes to visit him and they keep their romance going. They dance and he sings to her: "What's A Memory Like You Doing In A Place Like This?") The group razzes him about this weird affair. So, not wanting to be the only prude in the group, he submits to the lesson sessions. When his turn comes to hit on E.J. he forgets they are acting and his lines become real, he is so taken with her, and she with him, and love begins to bloom, much to the delight of all the guys except BAXTER. Later GEORGE makes up a song for E.J. using the nursery rhyme "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." But things get complicated when E.J. learns of his continuing affair with his dead wife.

Act I ends with our five would-be Romeos duded up in tank tops and other ridiculous outfits out trying to pick up girls. This activity soon wears them out and they conclude that true love and companionship are more important than sex, and we have some real talk about the blessings and hardships of growing old. We also have some nice flashbacks and see our characters as YOUNG MEN chasing YOUNG GIRLS, dancing to "In The Mood," and doing "The Twist."

WHAT A WAY TO GO...synopsis continued, p.2

A conflict arises when Reality rears its ugly head and GEORGE'S son-in-law FREDDIE sees what is happening with E.J. and tries to have GEORGE committed, warning his wife that much of the family fortune could go to this new younger woman. The resulting song at this juncture is: "Where There's A Will There's A Lawsuit."

BAXTER, our SuperStud and supposedly the healthiest one of the group, dies, and the play ends with a double ceremony, a funeral and a wedding. (According to BAXTER'S last wishes, expressed earlier to the group, his ashes are loaded into shotgun shells and he is blasted out over his favorite hunting lake!)

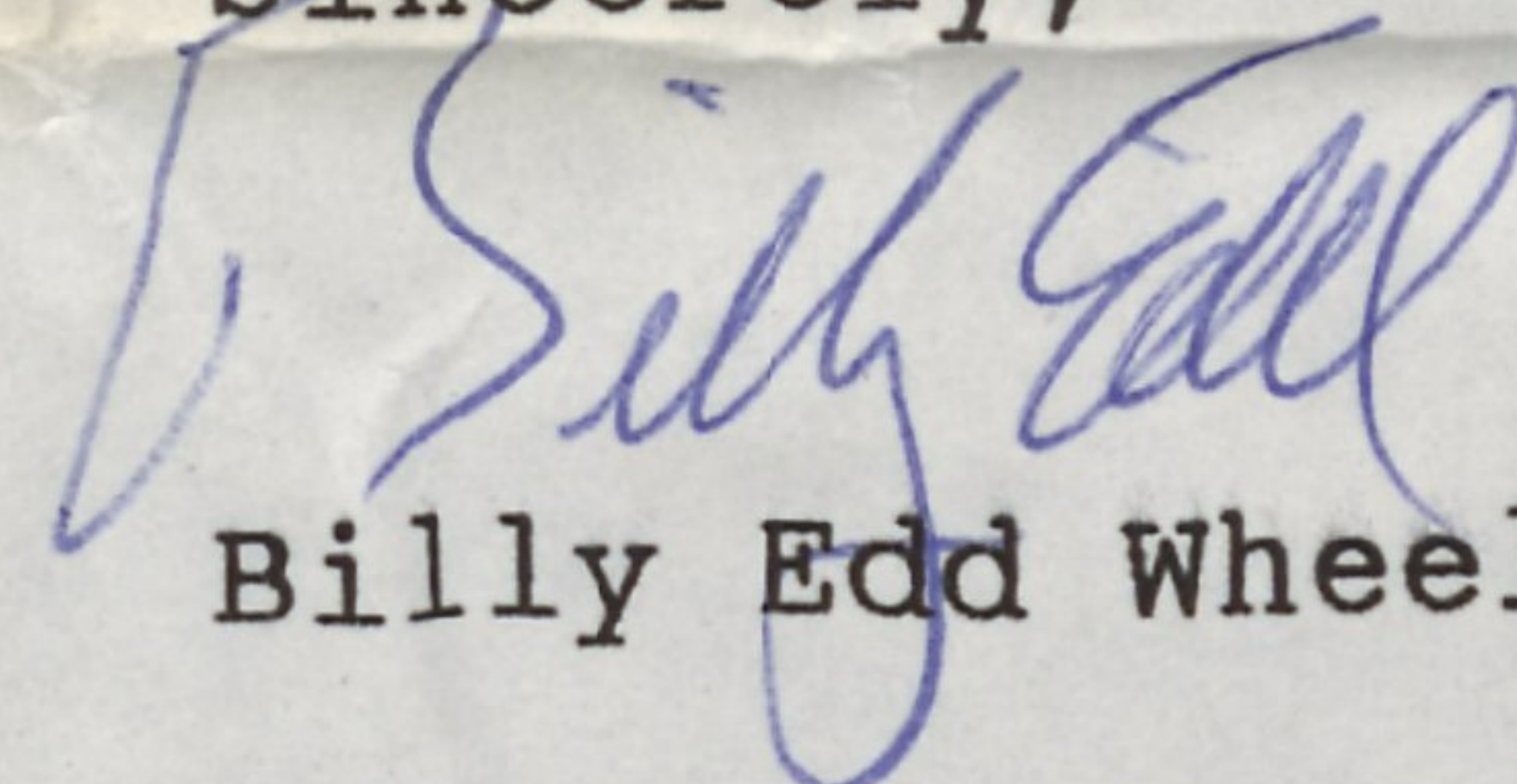
There is also a BIG SURPRISE at the very end following BAXTER'S LAST BLAST and the wedding, but I can't tell you what it is. You'll have to come see the play next June to find out!

By the way, the first draft of the script and lyrics are done, as well as four songs which have been done in a demo taping session, and we are now talking about rewrites as the composers do their thing with the rest of the musical score.

What we don't have is a title we all agree on.

If you get an inspiration and come up with a title for us, please let me know. (Note: I am told that WOMEN buy most of the show tickets and drag MEN along with them to the theatre, so bear this in mind when you're thinking of titles.) Some titles I've come up with are enclosed. If you can't think of one of your own, which of these from the list is your favorite?

Sincerely,


Billy Edd Wheeler

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