Supplemental Show Notes

## Destry Rides Again

Opening on Broadway at the Imperial Theatre on April 23, 1959, *Destry Rides Again* starred Dolores Gray and Andy Griffith. In 1960, the show was nominated for four Tony Awards including Best Direction of a Musical and won for Best Choreography. A full-length musical running about two hours with twenty songs and an overture, the production is based on the novel by Max Brand and the 1939 Western movie starring Marlene Dietrich and James Stewart.

The story follows Tom Destry, who is hired as the deputy sheriff of Bottleneck in order to rid the town of the outlaw Kent and his gang. Frenchy, a saloon girl who is initially in Kent’s camp of followers, saves Destry’s life and becomes romantically involved with him. A tried-and-true Western saga, to be sure.

The show closed on June 18, 1960 after 472 performances. The Imperial Theatre, part of the Shubert Organization, is still in operation as of 2021. The venue’s first production was in 1923, the same year it was built, with a total seating capacity of 1,457 including the orchestra pit, which holds 18.

*Credits:* Music and Lyrics by Harold Rome. Book by Leonard Gershe. Based on the Story by Max Brand. Original Production Directed and Choreographed by Michael Kidd. Produced for the Broadway Stage by David Merrick.

*An aside:* Max Brand was one of fifteen pen names used by Frederick Schiller Faust.

## To Have and Have Not

*To Have and Have Not* was originally a short story by Ernest Hemingway and published in *Cosmopolitan* magazine in 1943 with the title, “One Trip Across.” The character Harry Morgan was first introduced here.After the novel came out in 1937, it was many years before a movie deal was made and after considerable script changes, production started in late February 1944. Cut to a running time of one hundred minutes, the film debuted on October 11, 1944. The chemistry between Bogart and Bacall was noticeable off-screen as well and they started a relationship during filming, later marrying in 1945.

The story is set in the early 1940s during World War II where an American expatriate, Harry Morgan, helps transport a French Resistance leader and his beautiful wife to Martinique—all while romancing a sensuous lounge singer. The film changed the original book’s setting from Cuba to Martinique because the portrayal of Cuba’s government was believed to be in violation of America’s Good Neighbor policy with Latin American countries at the time.

*Credits:* Directed by Howard Hawks. Produced by Howard Hawks and Jack L. Warner. Screenplay by Jules Furthman and William Faulkner. Based on *To Have and Have Not* by Ernest Hemingway. Starring Humphrey Bogart, Walter Brennan, and Lauren Bacall.

*An aside:* The infamous “whistle” scene was not written by Ernest Hemingway, Jules Furthman, or William Faulkner, but by director Howard Hawks.

## Man of La Mancha

The musical production of *Man of La Mancha* is a challenging and rewarding undertaking for any company. The orchestration requires mastery of a Spanish guitar and, of course, castanets. The musical parts and numbers total more than thirty, including various underscore renditions and the combat music. The vocal style is in classical Broadway voice, sometimes referred to as the “legit” style of singing. It’s recognized by a more operatic sound and features consistent vibrato, smooth register transitions, and crisp diction. The show has eleven principal roles and a large mix of supporting characters and ensemble players who grace the stage in seventeenth-century costumes that are less than glamorous—think knickers and tights, robes, and aprons.

Sort of a play within a play, the plot is inspired by Miguel de Cervantes’ book, *Don Quixote*, about one man’s refusal to give up his impossible dream. One of the more metaphysical scenes is when Don Quixote spots a windmill and mistakes it for a four-armed giant. The book was originally published in two parts, in 1605 and 1615, and many consider the work to be one of the greatest novels ever written. The musical also received plenty of accolades, winning five Tony Awards in 1966.

*Credits:* Written by Dale Wasserman. Music by Mitch Leigh. Lyrics by Joe Darion. Original Production Staged by Albert Marre. Originally Produced by Albert W. Selden and Hal James.

*An aside:* The actor who won the Best Actor Tony for his role as Don Quixote was baritone Richard Paul Kiley (1922–1999), He was the first to sing and record “The Impossible Dream” aka “The Quest” Renditions of the song are apparently impossible to resist, given that “The Quest” has been attempted by hundreds of performers including Frank Sinatra in 1966, followed by The Temptations, Robert Goulet, Glen Campbell, Andy Williams, Cher, Sammy Davis, Jr., Liberace, Elvis Presley, Aretha Franklin, and Josh Groban. And then there was the TV version by actor Jim Nabors (Jim was discovered by Andy Griffith for his show) as Marine Private First Class Gomer Pyle, who stirringly performed the classic during a 1967 episode where he loses his voice and then finds it again.

## Tiger Tail

*Tiger Tail* is full-length stage play and a somewhat obscure work by Tennessee Williams. Written in 1970 as an adaptation of his 1955 screenplay for the film *Baby Doll*, *Tiger Tail* finally had its New York premiere run in July 1999. Another early performance of the play was at the Hippodrome Theatre Workshop in Gainesville, Florida, in 1979. Williams gave one of the Hipp’s artistic directors, Marshall New, his blessing to make something out his variation attempt, which he had struggled with. The script, under New’s direction, took some crazy turns, especially when one of the characters had to interact with a live chicken.

In October 1979, Williams wrote a letter to the Hippodrome saying, “One of your directors at the Hippodrome, Marshall New, is probably the first in my experience to recognize and bring out the qualities and various versions of *Tiger Tail* offered him that truly lift this work to its most effective level.”

The play and the film revolve around Archie Lee, a Mississippi cotton gin owner. Lee takes a voluptuous child bride, who refuses to share her husband’s bed until she is of consenting age. Lee then crosses another Sicilian gin owner, who exacts his revenge by seducing the nymphet. In a 1956 review about *Baby Doll*, directed by Elia Kazan, *Time* magazine called the effort “just possibly the dirtiest American-made motion picture that has ever been legally exhibited.”

*Credits:* Written by Tennessee Williams. The New York production was directed and produced by Harry Mastrogeorge and was staged at the Harold Clurman Theatre on 42nd Street. It had a very limited run.

*An Aside:* Before being known by his penname, Thomas Lanier Williams III (1911–1983) worked at a string of menial jobs that included a stint as caretaker on a chicken ranch in Laguna Beach, California. Among many other novels, screenplays, teleplays, short stories, one-act plays, poems, and nonfiction works, he wrote at least thirty major plays in his lifetime.

## The Drunkard

There have been several iterations of the world-famous melodrama *The Drunkard*, also known as *The Fallen Saved*, including musical versions and films. The five-act play was written by William H. S. Smith and was first performed circa 1844. The Temperance Movement was in full swing at the time and this prompted P.T. Barnum to get into the act. He presented the drama at his own New York City American Museum for a run of 150 performances. From there, the play was extremely popular across a variety of venues. In a 1964 off-Broadway musical version, the play was adapted by Bro Herrod, and Barry Manilow, of all people, wrote the music and lyrics. His song list included the memorable titles, “Don’t Swat Your Mother” and “Garbage Can Blues.” Albert Herman directed a 1935 black-and-white movie version starring James Murray that would likely be hard to sit through today.

Basically, a single mother and her daughter are destitute and late on their rent. An evil lawyer, Mr. Cribbs, decides to cash in on their bad luck using alcohol as a wedge on the people who are trying to help them. From there, the soap opera goes on and on until the Salvation Army steps in to save the day. The old-fashioned plot was eventually turned into a comedy sometime around 1934.

*Credits:* Written by William H. S. Smith, with an anonymous co-writer. For the original 1844 production at Moses Kimball’s Boston Museum, Smith was also credited as Stage Manager.

*An aside:* Actor James Murray (1901–1936) was spotted by a director while James was working as an extra at MGM. He quickly became a star but by the early 1930s, the pressure led him to become a chronic alcoholic, eventually homeless and begging for change. His body was found in the Hudson River, a result of either jumping, falling, or being thrown off a pier. He was only 35.

## G.R. Point

Originally given as a staged reading for the 1976 National Playwrights Conference at The Eugene O'Neill Memorial Theatre Center, *G.R. Point* won a Distinguished Playwriting Obie (an award for off-Broadway theater productions) for writer David Berry (1943–2016), who later went on to teach screenwriting at the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

William Devane got involved when an agent sent him the script after the play received solid reviews as an off-Broadway production at the Phoenix Theater in 1977. Devane loved the story and he decided to produce it at Center Stage in Baltimore, where Devane and Michael Moriarty would team up again—they’d been friends since they started out together at a Shakespeare Festival in 1962.

*G.R. Point* is set in the Republic of South Vietnam and takes place roughly over eight months in the middle of the war in 1969. The location is a base camp occupied by a Graves Registration unit, hence the “G.R.” of the title. Berry served in Vietnam and his message that “war is hell” comes through loud and clear in his grim depiction. The soldiers in the unit are considered “garbage men,” the ones who must package their own dead in plastic bags for shipment back to the United States.

*Credits:* Written by David Berry. Directed by William Devane. Artistic Direction by Stan Wojewodski. Scenic Design by Peter Larkin. Artistic Direction by Peter W. Culman.

*An aside:* Born in Colorado, Berry had joined the Army in 1968 after graduating from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. He received an early emergency discharge in Vietnam to take care of his two siblings following the death of his mother.