

# CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!

*An Old-Fashioned Musical Melodrama*

*Book by James G. Lambert  
Music and Lyrics by James G. Lambert and  
C. Michael Perry*

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### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

Can our Hero, Jedediah Justice, of Justice Junction, overcome the evil villain, Delvin Dastardly, and win the hand of our Heroine, Polly Praiseworthy? Will he be able to reunite Polly's parents, Peter and Portia Praiseworthy, now that Peter has been unjustly jailed by our Villain? Your audiences will enjoy booing and hissing the Villain, cheering the Hero and sighing for our Heroine! A rollicking score includes "I Get What I Want!"; "A Maiden's Prayer"; "One Potato and a Bean," and others.

Performance time about an hour.

Rave reviews have followed *Curses* openings:

*"Rollicking entertainment."*

*"Hysterical."*

*"I laughed too hard."*

*"The best melodrama I've ever seen."*

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(6 m, 5 w, extras, doubling possible)*

**MC:** Master or mistress of ceremonies.

**CHLOE PERSON:** *(For continuing olio act.)*

**JED:** Jedediah Justice of Justice Junction. Our Hero, 25.

**POLLY PRAISEWORTHY:** Our Heroine, 20.

**DELVIN DASTARDLY:** The Evil Villain, 30.

**DUNCAN DASTARDLY:** His brother, 22.

**PETER "PAPA" PRAISEWORTHY:** Polly's stalwart father,  
45.

**PORTIA "MAMA" PRAISEWORTHY:** His fragile, devoted,  
wife, 40.

**PENNY PRAISEWORTHY:** Their second daughter, 18.

**PENROSE PRAISEWORTHY:** Their first son, 12.

**SHERIFF DUDLEY DUMJOHN:** A man of questionable  
duty, 40.

**PARSON WENDELL WEEKNY:** A man of the cloth, 50.

**MELVINA MANLEY:** A trusted aide to the governor, 35.

**THE DOCTOR/THE DRUNK:** Our man of medicine. Can  
also play the drunk, an audience plant with one line.

**Extras as:**

**TOWNIES:** They sing and five have about a line each.

**THE CHAIN GANG:** Five poor souls.

## **SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS**

### **ACT I**

#### **Prologue**

#1 CURSES, FOILED AGAIN! (*Full Cast*)

**Scene 1:** On the street in town one fine day

#2 TAKE IT! (*Duncan, Papa, Mama and Polly*)

**Scene 2:** Praiseworthy Parlour later that afternoon

**Scene 3:** Praiseworthy Parlour later that evening

#3 A MAIDEN'S PRAYER (*Polly and Penny*)

**Scene 4:** Dastardly's Domicile several days later

#4 I GET WHAT I WANT (*Delvin*)

**Scene 5:** Praiseworthy's Pasture weeks later

#5 WORKING WITH THE LAND (*Polly*)

**Scene 6:** Praiseworthy's Parlour a moment later

#6 ONE POTATO AND A BEAN  
(*Penny, Penrose, Polly and Mama*)

### **ACT II**

#### **Prologue**

#7 CURSES, FOILED AGAIN! Reprise #1 (*MC*)

**Scene 1:** The County Prison Farm some time later

**Scene 2:** Praiseworthy pasture at harvest time

#8 POLLY (*Jedediah*)

#9 WORKING WITH THE LAND Reprise  
(*Polly, Penny and Penrose*)

**Scene 3:** In Town the next day

#10 WILL YOU BUY? (*Polly*)

#11 I GET WHAT I WANT Reprise (*Delvin*)

**Scene 4:** Praiseworthy's Parlour the next day

#12 CURSES, FOILED AGAIN! Reprise  
(*Full Cast and Chorus*)

#13 CURTAIN CALL/EXIT MUSIC (Piano)

**ACT I**  
**Prologue**

*(AT RISE: PERSON enters auditorium R holding a large seed, climbs to SL and moves SR, then descends to exit auditorium L, all the while calling.)*

**PERSON:** Chloe! Chloe! Chloe! Chloe! *(Etc.)*

**MUSICAL #1 - CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!**

**FULL CAST:** *(Entering.)*

DID YOU EVER WANT TO SEE THE HERO  
ROUT THE VILLAIN? HEAR HIM SNEER, "OH,  
CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!"  
YOU WILL SEE US GIVE A GREAT BIG CHEER, "OH!"  
WHEN WE HEAR THE VILLAIN SNEER, "OH,  
CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!"  
JEDEDIAH JUSTICE  
SHOULD WIN FAIR POLLY'S HAND—  
EVEN THOUGH THE EVIL DELVIN'S  
AFTER MORE THAN POLLY'S LAND!  
CAN OUR HERO SAVE HER  
FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THAT MAN?  
CAN HE FIND A WAY TO FOIL HIS PLAN?  
WILL WE NEVER SEE THE END OF FEAR? OH,  
WILL WE HEAR THE VILLAIN SNEER, "OH,  
CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!"  
CAN WE HOPE THE VILLAIN COMES UP ZERO?  
WILL HE TELL OUR DAUNTLESS HERO,  
"CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!"

*(MUSIC continues US. MC moves to CS.)*

**MC:** We welcome you tonight to an old-fashioned musical  
melodrama entitled:

**CHORUS:**  
CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!

**MC:** We invite you to join in the fun by booing and hissing  
the villain, Delvin Dastardly!

*(DELVIN enters and bows sneeringly.)*

*Curses, Foiled Again!*

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**DELVIN:**

CURSES, FOILED AGAIN! *(Exits.)*

**MC:** And cheering and clapping for our hero, Jedediah Justice, of Justice Junction!

*(JED enters and bows suavely and exits.)*

**MC:** *(Cont'd.)* That's not bad but let's try booing once more.

*(DELVIN enters.)*

**ALL:** *(Audience and CAST.)* Boo!

*(DELVIN shakes his fist at the audience.)*

**MC:** Good! Good! Now let's try a real snaky hiss.

**ALL:** Hiss!

*(DELVIN exits angrily.)*

**MC:** Now you're really getting into it. Shall we try a cheer for our hero?

**ALL:** Yeah!

*(JED enters and bows to audience suavely.)*

**MC:** Now a sigh for our pretty heroine, sweet Polly Praiseworthy!

*(POLLY enters and curtsies.)*

**ALL:** A-a-ah!

**MC:** Now, let's try the most important thing of all. Only by your clapping can our hero find the encouragement to do better things. This stands true for all of our tireless cast. So, let me hear your heartfelt applause!

*(As audience claps, DELVIN jumps out to accept it. It should evoke more boos forcing Delvin to re-exit hiding behind his*

## **End of Freeview**

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