

JO WHITE and the 7 CAMPERS

By Craig Sodaro

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SYNOPSIS

Hi-ho, hi-ho ... uh-oh. A variety show competition tonight is Camp Wickeup's last chance to win the annual olympics against their arch rival, Camp Pine Cone. And winning these olympics isn't just a game - it's tradition!

Trouble is, the Great Buffalo Wigwam was the cabin drawn to represent the camp. And the seven campers of the wigwam are not only sleepy, sneezy, grumpy, happy etc., but also completely inept!

Luckily for the campers, Jo White, who would rather sing than whistle while she works, has escaped to their cabin. She was a maid for Mama Lu, one of the hottest rock stars around, but had to exit fast when an agent heard Jo singing and offered her a recording contract.

Mama Lu, who has a somewhat fragile voice, is afraid Jo will be a bigger hit than she is. So she and her two back-up singers, Tiny and Bubbles, are out to get Jo. Hot on Jo's trail, Mama Lu dresses as a little old lady and Tiny and Bubbles "hide" behind bushes they carry. Just as Mama Lu tricks Jo into taking a bite of a big, red apple, Tiny and Bubbles grab her and tie her up. But Jo is saved when the campers return to their cabin.

Mama Lu loses her voice, Jo gets her chance to perform, and the camp's reputation is saved!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 m, 11 w)

JENNIFER: Camp chief.

SCRIBBLING QUILL: Camp secretary.

MR. GRIMM: Owner of Camp Wickeeup.

JAMIE: A happy leader and camper.

MILLIE: A camper with solutions.

ANGELA: A grumpy camper.

GWEN: A sneezy camper.

CASANDRA: A clever camper.

RHONDA: A sleepy camper.

ALICE: A bashful camper.

JO WHITE: A maid who can sing!

MAMA LU: A popular rock star.

TINY: A back-up singer for Mama Lu.

BUBBLES: Another.

*(*Can be all female by changing Mr. Grimm to Mrs. and Tiny and Bubbles to girls.)*

Time: Present, a summer's afternoon in a cabin at Camp Wickeeup.

Playing Time: 20 to 25 minutes.

Costumes

Summer camping clothes for GIRLS, like T-shirts and shorts; MR. GRIMM wears safari shorts, perhaps a safari jacket and hat; JENNIFER and SCRIBBLING QUILL can wear Indian outfits or regular camping clothes. MAMA LU wears “rock” costume in Scene 1, old dress, wig, shawl, and old shoes in Scene 2; TINY and BUBBLES wear modern clothes and “hide” behind shrubbery in Scene 2.

Properties

Extra clothes; tennis rackets; sleeping bags and blankets; mouse trap; brushes; combs; books; posters; notebook and pencil (for SCRIBBLING QUILL) postcard; mop; laundry bag; blankets; basket of flowers; a rope; and a large purse or bag (for MAMA LU) containing an apple, gag, and pen.

Setting

The Great Buffalo Wigwam of Camp Wickeeup, which is nothing more than the most run-down cabin in the camp. Seven cots fill the room, along with a chest of drawers or two. Entrances are at SL and SR. UL is a closed-off area with a door or curtain signifying the bathroom. There is one window UC and another SR. The entire room is a terrible mess, with clothes strewn everywhere. Books, papers, brushes and combs lying about create every mother’s nightmare. On the walls are rock posters, with a prominent one of Mama Lu.

Lighting/Sound: No special effects.

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SCENE 1

(AT RISE: JENNIFER paces DR. Behind her SCRIBBLING QUILL takes notes, while MR. GRIMM sits glumly on a bunk. ALL 7 campers sit sadly about the room with RHONDA sitting atop a pile of sleeping bags, SL, pillow clasped in her arms.)

JENNIFER: *(With a mounting drama.)* Never before in the entire history of Camp Wickeeup has one bunk earned so few points in the annual Wickeeup Olympics! You “warriors” of the Great Buffalo Wigwam should be ashamed of the way you’re dragging the entire Wickeeup Tribe into the depths of defeat!

JAMIE: *(Defiantly.)* It’s not THAT bad! *(Sheepishly.)* Is it?

JENNIFER: Princess Scribbling Quill, would you please bring these warriors up to date on their scores?

SCRIBBLING QUILL: *(Reading precisely.)* The Warriors of the Great Buffalo Wigwam have earned the following points for Camp Wickeeup: for the tug-of-war, 0; for the scavenger hunt, 0; for the leg races, 0; for the archery shoot, 0; for the cook-off, 0; for the canoe race, 0.

ALICE: *(Gathering up HER courage to speak.)* Our canoe crossed the finish line first!

JENNIFER: Yes, upside down! And your crew was still swimming in the middle of the Wilymunka Lake!

RHONDA: *(Speaking slowly, sleepily.)* Gosh ... can we help it if we’re no good at shooting arrows?

CASANDRA: Cooking?

ANGELA: Running?

GWEN: Tugging? *(SHE sneezes.)*

JENNIFER: Well, you’d better be good at entertaining!

MILLIE: *(Cheerfully.)* Don’t worry, Chief! We’re a laugh a minute!

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JENNIFER: *(Dryly.)* Especially to our arch rival, Camp Pine Cone. At last count, they're ahead forty points to thirty-five. The Camp Variety show tonight is our last chance to win. And guess what? Your cabin's name was drawn to represent Camp Wickeeup! It's up to you warriors of the Great Buffalo Wigwam to win!

JAMIE: It's just a game, right?

MR. GRIMM: *(Grimly.)* Girls, girls, girls! It's not just a game! It's tradition. Since 1963 Camp Wickeeup has beaten the Pine Cones in every olympics. If we lose this year, they'll laugh us off Bear Mountain!

MILLIE: That could be our entertainment!

JENNIFER: *(Ominously.)* Princess Scribbling Quill, would you tell these warriors what happens to the losers?

SCRIBBLING QUILL: The losers take a ten mile hike in full gear and furnish a picnic for the winners.

ANGELA: A little walk never hurt anybody!

JENNIFER: The losing bunk makes a twenty mile hike and churns the ice cream by hand!

RHONDA: *(Sleepily.)* Gosh! My feet would have to go without me!

MR. GRIMM: Girls, we're counting on you to come up with a bang-up act. The reputation of Camp Wickeeup is at stake!

JENNIFER: *(Ominously.)* If we lose, you'll suffer in defeat!

(JENNIFER, SCRIBBLING QUILL and MR. GRIMM exit SR.)

JAMIE: Yeah! "De feet" will sure suffer after a twenty mile hike!

ALICE: *(Shyly.)* What are we going to do?

MILLIE: *(Cheerfully.)* We did a funny dentist skit once.

RHONDA: What happens in it?

MILLIE: All I can remember is somebody gets a tooth pulled.

ANGELA: *(Sarcastically.)* Oh, that would be funny. We could do a spinal tap for an encore.

CASANDRA: Wait! I've got an idea. Let's sing a song.

JAMIE: That's worth a try.

End of Freeview

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