

# **DONOVAN'S DAUGHTERS**

## **The Musical**

**Book by Shirley McNichols**  
**Music and Lyrics by Scott Keys**

### **Performance Rights**

It is an infringement of the federal copyright law to copy or reproduce this script in any manner or to perform this play without royalty payment. All rights are controlled by Eldridge Publishing Co., Inc. Call the publisher for additional scripts and further licensing information.

The author's name must appear on all programs and advertising with the notice: "Produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Co."

PUBLISHED BY

**ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY**

**[www.histage.com](http://www.histage.com)**

© 1997 by Shirley McNichols and Eldridge Publishing Co.

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing

<https://histage.com/donovans-daughters-musical>

## **STORY OF THE PLAY**

Seattle, Washington, the late 1880s. There are 10 men for every woman in the territory, excellent odds for Shamus Donovan, an Irish fisherman with five daughters to marry off. Several town council members immediately fall for the younger daughters, but unfortunately, a family tradition says the eldest must marry first. But the oldest daughter is Katherine, a wild cat! In a woman-starved town like Seattle there has to be someone desperate enough to take on Katherine!

Using William Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* as a guide, the men give Danny O'Brien, a federal marshal, advice on how to tame the wild Katherine. Add to the mix two feuding Indian tribes, three dim-witted lumberjacks, and a botched kidnap scheme, and you have all the elements for one of the most energetic romances the West has ever seen.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(12 M, 15 W)*

**THE DONOVANS**

SHAMUS: Father, in his 40s

ABIGAIL: Mother, in her 40s

KATHERINE (KATIE): Wild cat daughter, 20

BRIDGETTE (BRIDEY): Sweet-natured daughter, 19

MAEVE: Twin who likes to sing, 18

MOIRA: Twin who likes to write, 18

ALANA: Youngest daughter, 17

**SEATTLITES**

PATRICK: Hired hand, 17

ASA MERCER: Mayor, in his 20s

JUDD TERWILLIGER: Banker/councilman, in his 20s

CLIVE GILES: Editor/councilman, in his 20s

DANNY O'BRIEN: Federal Marshal, in his 20s

**VILLAINS**

DARIEN SPECTER: Unscrupulous man, in his 30s

AGATHA SPECTER: Darien's sister, in her 30s

**SPECTER'S YOUNG LADIES    YOUNG LUMBERJACKS**

ELSA

LARRY

CLAIR

MOE

LUCY

ALBERT

JULIA

MARIE

BETHANY

**INDIANS**

RUNNING BEAR: Suquamish brave, in his 20s

LILLY BLOSSOM: Suquamish woman, in her 20s

SKULKING FOX: Duwamish brave, in his 20s

MORNING DOVE: Duwamish woman, in her 20s

### **PROPS**

Banner which reads, "Seattle Fisherman's Inn"; pipe for Shamus; luggage; matchsticks for Clive; hotel register and keys for Abby; books, knitting needles, yarn for Specter girls; coats and gloves; pajamas for Darien; robe and towel for Agatha; journal and pen for Katie; animal skin, burlap bag with beef jerky, three 3' to 4' lengths of rope, and stage knife for loggers' cabin; starter gun and holster for Danny; small black book for Asa.

### **COSTUMES**

All clothing is of the late 1800s. Girls should wear ankle-length dresses and skirts. Men's clothing often consisted of three-piece suits. Lumberjacks should wear jeans and flannel shirts. Danny should look more traditionally western with jeans, leather vest, gun and holster. Both male and female Indians can wear short-sleeved tunics made of muslin or any beige material. The women's tunics should be longer and the men can wear brown or black jeans under theirs. Fringe at the hem of the body and sleeves gives the costume more of an "Indian look." Add some beads and headbands (with feathers for the men) and moccasins or canvas shoes to complete the looks.

**SFX:** Gunshot and avalanche sounds needed in Act II, Scene 3. (The sounds are included on the performance CD.)

## **SETTING**

The main set, the parlor of the Seattle Fisherman's Inn, consists of three exits: USR leads upstairs; USL leads outside; and DSR, leads to the kitchen and back exit. There is a counter at SR, a small sofa (or better yet, a wooden bench for ease of movement) at CSR, and a small round table with two chairs at SL, fireplace UCS (optional). Across the UPS wall hangs a banner with "Seattle Fisherman's Inn" painted crudely on it. The flats and set may be decorated in any manner you choose, but should reflect the "woodsiness" of Seattle and the era (pre-electric).

A second location, the lumberjacks' cabin, is created by removing the sofa, table and chairs and bringing to CS portable flats painted to represent a log cabin. Four 4 x 8 cardboard panels connected with reinforced packing tape and painted work well for this because they are light weight and can be folded at the tape joints for ease of movement and storage.

## **SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY**

### **ACT I**

**Scene 1:** The parlor of the Seattle Inn, an early spring day.

**Scene 2:** The next morning.

### **ACT II**

**Scene 1:** Several days later.

**Scene 2:** About an hour later.

**Scene 3:** Later that day at the loggers' cabin.

**Scene 4:** Three days later, at the inn.

**SONGS**

"Donovan's Curse" (*Shamus and Patrick*)

"What I Hate Most..." (*Katie*)

"Settle Down in Seattle" (*Specter Girls and Darien*)

"I'll Never Meet a Man" (*Katie and Sisters*)

"Lessons in Survival" (*Asa, Clive, Judd, Donovan daughters,  
Shamus, and Darien*)

"Waiting Out the Rain" (*Specter Girls, Bridgette, Maeve,  
Maira, and Alana*)

"Two People" (*Morning Dove, Running Bear, Chorus*)

"Danny's Our Man" (*Four sisters, Asa, Clive, and Judd*)

Reprise: "Two People" (*Morning Dove, Running Bear*)

"Corned Beef and Cabbage" (*Shamus and Abby*)

Reprise: "Settle Down in Seattle" (*Danny, Katie*)

Reprise #2: "Two People" (*Running Bear and Morning Dove*)

Finale: "Seattle Sky" (*All on stage*)

## **End of Freeview**

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing  
<https://histage.com/donovans-daughters-musical>

Eldridge Publishing, a leading drama play publisher since 1906, offers more than a thousand full-length plays, one-act plays, melodramas, holiday plays, religious plays, children's theatre plays and musicals of all kinds.

For more than a hundred years, our family-owned business has had the privilege of publishing some of the finest playwrights, allowing their work to come alive on stages worldwide.

We look forward to being a part of your next theatrical production.

Eldridge Publishing... for the start of your theatre experience!