HILLBILLY REUNION

A HAYRIDE OF LAFFS
In Two Acts

By Tim Kelly

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Those wild and lovable hill folk, the Hawleys, decide to pay a surprise visit on their distant cousin, Charles “Chicory” Seabury, and his snobbish wife, Josephine. As far as Josephine is concerned, they couldn’t have picked a worse time as she is planning an exclusive reception for Princess Ann. After unsuccessfully trying to get rid of the visitors, Josephine decides they’ll have to attend charm school—and what a scene that is! When that fails, she locks them in their rooms.

But the clever hillbillies, led by Gram Hawley, are not so easily put off. When they attend the reception, Bubba shows how he can waddle like an alligator! Besides the ruined reception, Josephine has another problem; someone has stolen a priceless jewel, the Star of Iceland. Could it be one of her society friends?

Charles has his problems, too - mostly with the Internal Revenue Service. And Cindy Lou is falling for a handsome house painter, and Alice thinks she’s an airplane. By the time this absolutely hilarious farce comes to an end, the Hawleys have solved all problems. Even the Princess is delighted. The action is inspired lunacy.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(Flexible, about 32. Roughly 12 M, 20 F.)

JOSEPHINE SEABURY: Society dragon.
VICTORIA: Maid.
LESTER: Butler.
JOE: House painter.
LOIS FONTAINE: Interior decorator.
CAROL REED: Writer.
CHARLOTTE SEABURY: Spoiled teenager.
CHARLES SEABURY: Businessman, Charlotte's father.
MISS CLAYPOOL: Secretary.
MRS. RHINEHARBOR III: Society dragon, loves jewels.
GRAM HAWLEY: Lively mountain woman.
BUBBA: Young hillbilly.
ALICE: Strange child.
CINDY LOU: Gram's pretty granddaughter.
CLEM: Bubba's brother.
MISS LOOP: Internal Revenue Service agent.
TAYLOR: Security man.
COUNTESS HEPBURN: Lady-in-waiting to Princess Ann.
MARGARET: Cook.
BUNNY BOOSTERSPANGLE: Charlotte's sorority sister.
JANIE APPENZELL: Another.
THIEF: Unwelcomed visitor.
PHILLIP BOGART: Private investigator.
POPEYE: Photographer.
MOLLY: Bag lady.
ANDY: Street person.
SAMMY: Another.
MISS MONTGOMERY: Charm school teacher.
PIZZA DELIVERY MAN: Delivers pizza.
MRS. PROUDRADISH: Another social dragon.
MRS. QUICKSHUFFLE: Another.
PRINCESS ANN: Royalty.

SETTING

A large reception room, suggesting wealth and refinement. DSR there's a door leading to a study. SR are French doors that lead onto the estate grounds with a matching curtain or drape on each side. URC is a table with a vase of flowers. There is a hanging bell cord or hand bell. ULC is a matching table, this one with a telephone and vase of flowers. USC is an archway with a hallway beyond. Another small table in the hallway. SR in the hallway leads to the front door. SL in the hallway leads to other areas of the mansion. SL is another archway, this one leading into the Blue Room. DSL leads into the dining room and the kitchen beyond. CS there's a handsome sofa with a chair to its SR, DS a bit. SL of sofa, also DS somewhat, is a small elegant table with a matching chair.

SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY

PLACE: The action takes place at the Seabury Mansion in the exclusive Whitley Heights section of Los Angeles.
TIME: The present.

ACT I:
Scene 1: Morning.
Scene 2: Shortly following.
Scene 3: That evening.
ACT II
Scene 1: Following day.
Scene 2: The reception.
Scene 3: Later.

NOTE: See back of playbook for complete list of Props, and Sound Effects.

ACT I
Scene 1

(Prior to Lights up: SOUND of construction from the Blue Room. HAMMERS banging. AT RISE: JOSEPHINE is stretched out on the sofa reading a fashion magazine. It's a lovely day, so the French doors stand open. The noise continues. Josephine is annoyed, looks SL.)

JOSEPHINE: How am I to think, much less concentrate, with all that noise?

(VICTORIA enters USC from SL. She carries flowers for arranging.)

VICTORIA: Did you say something, Mrs. Seabury? *(SHE steps to the URC table and sticks a few more flowers into the vase.)*

JOSEPHINE: That noise! It's giving me a headache. Ask them to stop.

VICTORIA: Yes, Mrs. Seabury. *(SHE puts the flowers down and crosses into the Blue Room.)*

JOSEPHINE: I've been patient. But there are limits. *(TELEPHONE RINGS)* Now what? *(SHE sits up and tosses the magazine aside. Telephone continues to ring. Hammering continues, too.)* This mansion has become an absolute madhouse. Someone answer the telephone! *(LESTER enters USC from SL, wearing dark jacket, bow tie, white gloves. JOSEPHINE stands and paces nervously in front of the sofa, hands to her ears.)* Hammers banging, buckets falling, workmen in and out, telephones ringing.

(LESTER steps to telephone, picks it up.)

LESTER: Seabury residence. *(Listens, covers the mouthpiece)* It's those people from the television station again, Mrs. Seabury.

(Sound of BANGING stops.)

JOSEPHINE: What?
LESTER: The television people. They want to verify the time of the Princess' reception.
JOSEPHINE: Later, later, Lester.
LESTER: Yes, Mrs. Seabury.
JOSEPHINE: I'm expected to do everything myself. It's a burden a society leader must bear.
LESTER: Mrs. Seabury will be in touch. Thank you for calling the Seabury Mansion. *(Hangs up)* Will there be anything else, Mrs. Seabury?
JOSEPHINE: I have a splitting headache. Get me an aspirin.
LESTER: Regular or double strength?
JOSEPHINE: Double.
LESTER: At once, Mrs. Seabury.

(LESTER exits USL, VICTORIA returns.)

VICTORIA: I told them to stop, Mrs. Seabury. I don't think he liked it.
JOSEPHINE: Who?
VICTORIA: The foreman.
JOSEPHINE: I'm not paying him to like it. I'm paying him to finish the job.

(JOE enters from Blue Room. He wears painter's work overalls which are spattered generously with fresh paint, and a painter's hat. He carries paint bucket in one hand and a paintbrush in the other.)

JOE: That's what I'm trying to do, Mrs. Seabury. But I can't finish the job if you keep telling me to stop. We're already falling behind.
JOSEPHINE: What!?

(VICTORIA returns to the flowers, and when she is done with them, exits USL.)

End of Freeview

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