

# Surfin' Summer

A Comedy in Two Acts

*By Michael Druce*

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### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

It is the summer of 1963 and the kids of Point West Beach in Southern California have just graduated from high school and are looking to their futures. Sandy wants to start a singing group called Sandy and the Sonics with best friends Zoey and Joanie, while Yup wants to relax on the beach for the rest of his life. Ziggy, owner of the local beach hangout, wants to take a trip to Greece, leaving nephew Vinny in charge.

Suddenly everything gets turned upside down with the news that "Surfin' Summer," the next Gina and Johnny beach movie, will be filmed at Point West and local kids will be used as extras. The teens are disappointed to learn the two Hollywood stars are a lot different in real life, and that the movie's surfing scenes are really filmed on dry land! Soon Sandy and the Sonics find themselves headed for a musical wipeout, and Vinny discovers he's about to lose Ziggy's place to a swindler.

Performance time: About 70 minutes.

### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*\*Flexible casting, approx. 23 roles (from 11 m, 12 w to 7 m, 16 w)  
Extras, some doubling possible*

#### **POINT WEST COUPLES**

**VINNY:** Point West teen dating Sandy.

**SANDY:** Point West teen dating Vinny.

**ARTY:** Point West teen dating Joanie.

**JOANIE:** Point West teen dating Arty.

**YUP:** Point West teen dating Zoey.

**ZOEY:** Point West teen dating Yup.

**KENNY:** Point West teen dating Barb.

**BARB:** Point West teen dating Kenny.

**RALPH:** Point West teen dating Sue.

**SUE:** Point West teen dating Ralph.

#### **OTHERS**

**GABRIELLA:** (Gabby) Foreign exchange student. Can be from any country which borders an ocean.

**ZIGGY:** Owner of Ziggy's, a local hangout for surfers. (*In script, written as a female, Mrs. Zee.*)

**EDDIE:** Owner of a less successful hangout further down the beach.

**RIP TOFF:** Eddie's sleazy lawyer.

**MAX POWERS:** Film director and record producer.

**MARY:** Max's assistant.

**RILEY:** Mary's assistant, camera operator, and makeup girl.

**NICK STARLING:** Aka Johnny Surf, teen heartthrob.

**HOLLY WOOD:** K-SRF deejay.

**SHERMAN OAKS:** K-SRF deejay.

#### **RUBY AND THE RAYLONS**

**RUBY:** Aka Gina, teen idol and lead singer.

**RUTH:** Backup singer of Ruby and the Raylons.

**RENEE:** Backup singer of Ruby and the Raylons.

### **EXTRAS**

Additional Point West kids.

One or two employees should always be in Ziggy's.

**\*Flexible casting:** *Ziggy may be Vinny's uncle or aunt, Max becomes Maxine, Rip Toff becomes Shady Deeds, Sherman Oaks becomes Marina Del Rey.*

**Doubling:** *Holly Wood and Sherman Oaks could double as Riley and Rip Toff.*

### **SYNOPSIS OF SCENES**

**Time:** The summer of 1963.

**Setting:** Point West Beach, Southern California.

#### **Act I**

Scene 1 – An early summer evening

Scene 2 – An afternoon two weeks later

Scene 3 – Evening a few days later

#### **Act II**

Scene 1 – An afternoon two weeks later

Scene 2 – A late summer afternoon

### **SETTING**

The set is a beach scene. The ocean will be toward the audience. DR is a rock and an old box filled with nets and floats. It is used as a bench. Right of center is a boulder or two. In front is an upside down boat the kids use as a bench. Left of center is another boulder or two with two palm trees behind. In front is an old surfboard which has been turned into a bench. To the right is a trash barrel. UC is volleyball net. UR is Ziggy's. Stools are in front so the surfers can be served from inside. Above Ziggy's is a fence with another palm tree behind and a sign pointing the way to various beaches. A blue backdrop or lighted scrim represents open sky. Additional palm trees and a lifeguard chair could create even more atmosphere. See **drawing and additional production notes** at the end of the script.

**ACT I**  
**Scene 1**

*(AT RISE: Before the lights fade up, we hear an upbeat surf SONG being played on the radio. After about thirty seconds, we hear the voices of deejays Holly Wood and Sherman Oaks.)*

**HOLLY:** (V.O.) It's time to *Name It and Claim It!* Hi, I'm Holly Wood.

**SHERMAN:** (V.O.) And I'm Sherman Oaks. You're listening to K-SURF, southern California's number one radio station.

**HOLLY:** (V.O.) If you're the first caller to correctly name the last song we played, we'll send that record to you. Start dialing, keep listening, and keep K-surfing on KSRF AM.

*(The song continues for a few more seconds. An early summer evening. As the LIGHTS fade up, the song fades. A group of KIDS are sitting on the benches, rocks, and a boat. JOANIE, entering from UR, joins the group.)*

**KENNY:** Hey Joanie, did you win this time? What record did you win?

**JOANIE:** No, somebody was using the pay phone at Ziggy's. By the time I put my dime in, it was all over. I never win.

**ARTY:** I think you're a winner. *(Looking out to sea.)* Is that not the most gorgeous sight you've ever seen?

**JOANIE:** Why thank you, Arty, you're so sweet.

**ARTY:** I was talking about the sun going down.

**JOANIE:** Oh, you!

**ARTY:** But you're a pretty close second, Joanie.

**JOANIE:** If I'm not first, I'm nothing.

**ARTY:** But you are to me, dimple cheeks. You've got the cutest little dimples I've ever seen. You mean everything to me.

**JOANIE:** Everything? You mean that?

**ARTY:** Sure, I do. Scout's honor.

**JOANIE:** Forget you, you were never a boy scout.

**ARTY:** I was too a scout. You can ask Ralph.

**JOANIE:** Ralph, was Arty ever a scout?

**RALPH:** (*Cupping his hands like binoculars.*) A girl scout.

**JOANIE:** Very funny.

**BARB:** Arty's right, I never get tired of sitting here staring at the ocean.

**KENNY:** Except when the tide comes in and carries you away.

**VINNY:** If you think about it, we've got to be the luckiest kids in the world. It's like the Beach Boys say, "If everybody had an ocean," they'd been living the good life just like us.

**JOANIE:** Hey, Gabby, you're a foreign exchange student. Do you have a place like this in France?

**GABRIELLA:** Oui. We have beaches and sunshine.

**VINNY:** What about hot rods and surf boards?

**GABRIELLA:** Oui. But not like this.

**VINNY:** See, we are the luckiest kids in the world.

**YUP:** Yup.

**KENNY:** Hey, Yup, how many sunsets do you think we've seen? You know, ever since the gang got together? Hundreds?

**YUP:** Yup.

**KENNY:** A thousand?

**YUP:** Yup.

**SUE:** I don't know, maybe not a thousand, but a lot. Ralph can do the math. He's a brainiac.

**RALPH:** Oh, sure, let me just pull out my slide rule, or better yet, my pocket calculator.

**ARTY:** Now there's an invention I could use, an adding machine that fits right in your pocket.

**KENNY:** Yeah, right after they invent the portable computer, the portable phone, and the portable hi-fi.

**ZOEY:** It's possible. My science teacher said that right now a couple of guys could be working in a garage somewhere inventing a home computer.

**RALPH:** It could happen.

**BARB:** Why? What will it do?

**ZOEY:** I don't know, compute, I guess.

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