

# THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY

A Pantomimic Skit

by  
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TIME: 1880. Old-fashioned clothes may be worn.

SET: Inside of train. Needs only to be a double row of chairs. Place chairs parallel to footlights, about half way down, so that robbers will have room to "pursue" on the audience side of the train. The train is traveling "West" toward the left of the stage. More passengers may be used--or fewer--according to stage and people available. Benches may be used, if desired. The "windows" are located on the audience side of train. Passengers, therefore, look toward the audience for the happenings on the prairie. Between the "coach" and the "locomotive," small space to indicate "separation." Engineer and fireman stand.

CHARACTERS: (May be either mixed cast or all male or all female.)

MOLLY - young school ma'am, going West to teach. (In front seat.)

HERO - handsome and brave. (Seat directly behind Molly.)

PIONEERS - man and woman. (Seat behind hero.)

GAMBLERS or SHOW GIRLS, going to dance in music halls. (Seats behind pioneers.)

CONDUCTOR and FIREMAN - they stand in engine cab, a little ahead of coach.

RAILS - two girls crouching just ahead of train.

HOLDUP MEN - they dash in on broomsticks, bandannas over faces.

READER - must read well--with good timing for action. May be in costume.

PROPERTIES AND SOUND EFFECTS: As indicated in script.

NOTE: In order to decrease script instructions, the actions of the passengers are underlined (wherever possible) instead of being written out. The person involved is to follow the instruction of the script.

(Before curtain rises, there is the sound of a moving train, (May be done by a record or by the passengers) and a train whistle, if desired.)

TRAIN: (Before rise of curtain) Chugga--chug---Chugga--chug---Chugga--chug---Chugga--chug--(etc.) (The Reader comes out--going down right, so as not to block the view of the train; the curtains part to show the train "dashing over the prairie" with passengers and crew located as described. After a moment, the Reader speaks--and the passengers and crew obey his instructions--as underlined or written in. As the Reader starts, the train noise dies out. It is necessary for the Reader to time carefully with pantomime, to allow it to get across before he continues.)

READER:

It was back in 1880--when life was filled with zest.

A train was speeding onward--toward the wild and Wooly West.

It's passengers were varied--some were sweet and some were sour! (Here, the school teacher, the hero and the pioneers hold aloft signs which read SWEET! The gamblers and/or chorus girls hold aloft signs reading SOUR! The Reader waits for this action to be completed before continuing.)

As the shiny engine rushed them on--at thirty miles an hour!

The engineer was Casey Bones--this monster was his pride! (Casey holds steering gear with great determination.

The fireman fed the fire box, close to honest Casey's side.

The conductor took the tickets from each man and lady there.

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The brakeman gave out seat checks with most efficient care. (He pantomimes placing them on “window” toward audience, above passenger.)

There were pioneers of fortune, going to tame the untamed Wilds! (Pioneers rise, hold up axes, sit down.)

There were gamblers going to cheat folks with their many vicious guiles! (Gamblers rise, flash huge “Ace of Spades” on cardboard.)

There was Molly, sweet young school ma’am. Girls, just note her “teaching power.” (Molly rises, bows prettily, sits down.)

There was the brave young hero. Knighthood, boys, is still in flower. (Hero rises with a flourish, raises hand in sign of victory, sits down.)

The rails leaped up to meet the train, a’ dancing in the sun! (The two girls who have been crouching in front of the train jump up and dance gaily to some peppy song such as “Ta-ra-ra-boom-der-e,” “Dixie Land,” or “Man on the Flying Trapeze.” When the dance is over, they may slide off the stage as the Reader continues.)

And all the folks sang happily; this trek would soon be done! (The passengers may sing some such song as “Yankee Doodle” or they may fake singing while some song comes through on record.)

But after while, when they grew tired, a silence fell on all.

**--- END OF FREE PREVIEW ---**