

COWGIRL COOKIE AND THE GHOST OF THE GRANGE



BY ALEXI ALFIERI

COWGIRL COOKIE AND THE GHOST OF THE GRANGE

THE THIRD COWGIRL COOKIE WESTERN
MELODRAMA IN THE TRILOGY
WRITTEN BY ALEXI ALFIERI

CAST

LARGE ROLES

NEW NARRATOR (M)

Nervous and mysterious new character

MIZ SNAPPY (F)

Constantly commenting member of the Granny Gallery

MIZ STICKY (F)

Constantly commenting member of the Granny Gallery

MIZ CHEWY (F)

Constantly commenting member of the Granny Gallery

MAC (M)

Mayor Macaroon, demoted to be the Grannies' assistant

MEDIUM ROLES

COWGIRL COOKIE (F)

Heroine and Mystery Solver of the Cookie Girl Family

SNICKERDOODLE (F)

Cowgirl Cookie's Friendly Sidekick

SHERIFF THUMBPRINT (M)

Town Sheriff

SMALL ROLES

MUSHY (M/F)

Clueless member of the Mustache Gang

CRUMMY (M/F)

Clueless member of the Mustache Gang

SOGGY (M/F)

Clueless member of the Mustache Gang

SYNOPSIS

Cowgirl Cookie and the Ghost of the Grange is an old-fashioned Western melodrama which wraps up the story of Cowgirl Cookie, a girl in love with her local library and solving a real mystery. Cowgirl Cookie finds herself trying to find out the truth behind a ghostly presence at the local grange hall. However, she's fairly distracted by an argument she's had with her faithful sidekick, Snickerdoodle, and the disappearance of her beloved pet chicken, Miss Petunia. In the meantime, a very mysterious New Narrator has appeared, the overly confident Sheriff Thumbprint is chasing crazy rumors, and members of the villainous Mustache Gang (Mushy, Crummy, and Soggy) have just been released from jail...much to their dismay. The Granny Gallery (Miz Snappy, Miz Sticky, and Miz Chewy) has taken comfortable seats on stage to interrupt the show whenever possible with advertisements for the local grange hall. As it turns out, they've hired on a disgruntled personal assistant this year, Mac, who once called himself the mayor of town. All is well in the end as the mystery of the Ghost of the Grange is solved, Miss Petunia reappears, Cowgirl Cookie and Snickerdoodle reunite, and the mysterious New Narrator is revealed for who they *really* are.

SETTING

A little town out in the middle of nowhere in the Wild West

CAST

11 performers, but flexible (see Production Notes)
5 Females, 3 Males, and 3 Female or Male

PLAYING TIME

Approximately 45 minutes without an intermission

SCENE 1

GRANNY GALLERY, NEW NARRATOR, AND MAC

(Miz Snappy, Miz Sticky, and Miz Chewy are all seated in chairs at stage left. Miz Snappy files her nails. Miz Sticky holds a coffee mug and sips out of it. Miz Chewy reads a large print book entitled "Big Business for Grannies". There is a small stool set beside Miz Chewy. New Narrator enters stage right.)

NEW NARRATOR: *(Tentatively comes toward center stage, looks at the Granny Gallery and the audience nervously, and uses a nerdy voice)* Uh, hey there? Is this a good time for me to enter? I wasn't sure.

MIZ SNAPPY: *(Grouchily)* Well, well, well...if it isn't a *new* narrator.

MIZ STICKY: *(Sarcastically)* Ya, what a surprise.

MIZ CHEWY: *(Deadpan)* Shockin'.

NEW NARRATOR: *(Nervously)* Yes, well...hello, I mean, howdy...or should I say "good evening"? And you're right. I am the new narrator, but I'm a bit nervous. I heard you folks in these Cowgirl Cookie plays tend to go through a lot of narrators.

MIZ SNAPPY: Well, that's true. Ya definitely aren't the first one we've seen. *(Looks over at Miz Chewy and Miz Sticky)* Remember the one we had a couple of years ago, girls? That one never knew what was goin' on with the plot!

MIZ STICKY: Oh ya, I remember them alright.

MIZ CHEWY: Not the brightest light on the tree.

NEW NARRATOR: Well, may I ask what happened to that narrator?

MIZ SNAPPY: Well, rumor has it they're washin' dishes out at that greasy truck stop diner. *(Ominously)* The graveyard shift.

NEW NARRATOR: *(Gulps)* Well, what about last year's narrator?

MIZ SNAPPY: *(Smirking)* Oh, well, now, last year's narrator... *(Looks over at Miz Snappy and Miz Chewy who begin chuckling)* That was a fella who thought he was the mayor of this here lil' town out in the middle of nowhere.

NEW NARRATOR: *He thought he was the mayor?*

MIZ SNAPPY: Oh ya. Called himself "Mayor Macaroon." But we weren't fooled for one moment were we, girls? *(Looks at Miz Snappy and Miz Chewy who are shaking their heads.)*

MIZ STICKY: Nope.

MIZ CHEWY: No way.

MIZ SNAPPY: We were onto him like fleas pouncin' on a hound dog. But he just kept talkin' and hangin' out on stage and flirtin' with the three of us any chance he got!

MIZ STICKY: Yup, as if we would have voted for him or *(with disgust)* dated him.

MIZ CHEWY: *(Gets into the spirit)* Ya. We were old enough to be his gra...*(catches herself)*...well, his older sisters!

MIZ SNAPPY: *(Turns back to New Narrator)* And now you come along. *(Narrows eyes suspiciously)* So what's your story, New Narrator?

NEW NARRATOR: Well, I really don't have a story...

MIZ SNAPPY: Ah, now, c'mon. Don't play innocent with us. You're the new, mysterious stranger 'round here, ain't ya? Ridin' into our lil' town with secrets in your past, hopin' no one asks too many questions. Am I right?

NEW NARRATOR: Well, no. I'm just...

MIZ SNAPPY: Now don't try to fool us! We know your kind. We know ya have a deep, dark past ya wanna keep hushed up!

MIZ STICKY: Ya, but it's just a matter of time before...

MIZ CHEWY: ...everyone will know everything. That's the way it is in small towns. *(Threatening)* Do ya wanna tell us or are we gonna have to Google ya?

NEW NARRATOR: Ladies, I assure you, I don't have any secrets. I'm just the new narrator. *(Tries to change the subject)* And I have two questions for you. First, whatever happened to that fella who called himself Mayor Macaroon?

MIZ SNAPPY: *(Smirking)* Oh, he's got a new job.

MIZ STICKY: Yup. A very different line of work, ya might say.

MIZ CHEWY: *(Calling out sweetly)* Oh, Macky!

(Mac enters stage right, grinning broadly with the APPLAUSE sign. He stands next to the New Narrator, hiding the New Narrator's face with the sign, and encourages more applause from the audience, pointing to the sign and then himself. He brings the sign down, stands directly in front of the narrator, and begins to speak.)

MAC: Well, howdy there, folks. My name's Mayor Macaroon, and I'll be the narrator for this nice little melodrama tonight...

GRANNY GALLERY: *(Sternly)* Macky!

(Mac looks over at Grannies with a frown.)

MIZ SNAPPY: Now, Mac, ya know those signs aren't about you, right?

MIZ STICKY: Ya, ya never were the mayor, and you're never gonna be.

MIZ CHEWY: And ya were definitely fired as the narrator. You're just lucky we hired ya on as our personal assistant. Now take your seat.

(Mac crosses dejectedly over to the small stool next to Miz Chewy, dragging the applause sign, and plops down onto the stool with a frown.)

MIZ SNAPPY: Now go on, New Narrator. Wasn't there a second question ya wanted to ask?

NEW NARRATOR: *(Pauses, looking slightly confused)* Well, my second question is who are you ladies?

MIZ SNAPPY: *(Stands up, suddenly enthusiastic)* Well, I'm so happy ya asked! I'm Miz Snappy, this here's Miz Sticky, and that there's Miz Chewy. We're the Granny Gallery! We're here to provide any needed help to the narration of this here melodrama.

MIZ STICKY: And moments of comedy relief for the audience!

MIZ CHEWY: And, of course, the advertisin'!

NEW NARRATOR: The advertising?

MIZ SNAPPY: That's right! In the last two plays, we were speakin' up for the local library, and I'm very pleased to report that after many of our popular announcements...

MIZ STICKY: ...and creative use of exciting props...

MIZ CHEWY: We think most folks 'round here know there *is* a library in town!

NEW NARRATOR: I see. And this year?

MIZ SNAPPY: Well, this year, we have a new client.

MIZ STICKY: Ya, we're devotin' our advertisin' energies to another local group in need.

MIZ CHEWY: We figured it was just good business to increase our customer base.

NEW NARRATOR: Well, that does seem like a smart idea. And did you say you called yourselves *The Granny Gallery*?

MIZ SNAPPY: Actually, our official name is now *The Granny Gallery* (*makes a comma in the air with one finger*) comma Incorporated.

MIZ STICKY: Ya can find us on the web, Facebook, and Twitter.

MIZ CHEWY: (*Business-like tone.*) Take one of our business cards. Macky.

(Miz Chewy looks sternly at Mac. Mac rolls his eyes, reaches into his jacket pocket for a card, and hands it out to the New Narrator. The New Narrator steps over to him, takes the card, and returns to center stage. The Granny Gallery begins a very rehearsed, very quick advertisement for themselves.)

MIZ SNAPPY: We're a marketing specialist corporation available for plays, carnivals...

MIZ STICKY: ...festivals, family reunions...

MIZ CHEWY: Civil rights demonstrations!

MIZ STICKY: Weddings, birthdays...

MIZ SNAPPY: Funerals!

MIZ STICKY: Bar mitzvahs, flea markets, corporate team building events...

MIZ CHEWY: Yard sales, auctions...

MAC: *(Joining in for a moment with enthusiasm)* Political campaigns!

GRANNY GALLERY: *(Without skipping a beat)* Sid down, Macky!

MIZ CHEWY: Church bazaars, bible studies...

MIZ STICKY: Gun shows!

MIZ SNAPPY: Grand openin's, goin' out of business sales...

MIZ STICKY: ...anniversaries, hoe-downs, baby showers...

MIZ CHEWY: ...and basically any occasion in which a little bit of advertisin' is needed. *(Nudges Mac with elbow.)*

MAC: *(Rolls his eyes, then speaking in a monotone)* Refer The Granny Gallery, Incorporated to a friend and get 2% off.

NEW NARRATOR: Well, thank you very much, but I think for now I just need to get back to my job of narrator.

MIZ SNAPPY: *(Cheerily)* Well, of course! Go on. Be the new narrator.

MIZ STICKY: Ya, don't mind us. Just pretend like we're not even here.

MIZ CHEWY: Yup, don't worry. We know how to be subtle.

NEW NARRATOR: Oh-kay. Well, I know I need to tell the audience that the name of this here melodrama is "Cowgirl Cookie and the Ghost of the Grange."

(New Narrator looks over at Granny Gallery and they smile broadly. Mac looks bored.)

NEW NARRATOR: And our heroine must be Cowgirl Cookie?

(New Narrator looks over at Granny Gallery and they nod encouragingly.)

NEW NARRATOR: And I think at some point we're going to hear about a mysterious ghost.

(New Narrator looks over once again to Granny Gallery, and they all give a thumbs-up.)

NEW NARRATOR: And it sounds like the ghost is linked to the town's grange hall.

GRANNY GALLERY: *(Grannies in enthusiastic sing song)* YA WON'T WANT TO MISS THE EXCITEMENT DOWN AT THE GRANGE HALL!

(New Narrator gives a surprised startle.)

NEW NARRATOR: I thought you said you were going to be subtle.

MIZ SNAPPY: Oh believe me...that was subtle.

NEW NARRATOR: So your new client is clearly the local Grange Hall?

MIZ SNAPPY: You got it! Now, let's keep this thing movin', New Narrator.

MIZ STICKY: We have a lot of work left to do.

MIZ CHEWY: On with the show!

NEW NARRATOR: Well, I think Cowgirl Cookie should make her entrance then. Now as I understand it, she has a sidekick, Snickerdoodle.

MIZ SNAPPY: Well, yahoo, New Narrator! You've done your homework!

MIZ STICKY: Ya, none of the other narrators could remember Snickerdoodle's name...or they just got it wrong. They were calling her things like Snickerdiddle, Snickerdoody, Snickity-doo-doo...poor thing. *(Shakes head.)*

MIZ CHEWY: Yup, that girl's had a real difficult time making a name for herself. Bad marketin', I say. Macky, be sure to give her one of our cards. *(Mac rolls his eyes.)*

NEW NARRATOR: Cowgirl Cookie, Snickerdoodle, are you ready for your scene?

COWGIRL COOKIE AND SNICKERDOODLE: *(Enthusiastically from side stage)* We're ready!

NEW NARRATOR: Good, then I'll go ahead and exit now. *(Exits quickly stage left.)*

MIZ SNAPPY: Well, I'll be darned. Seems smart enough, knows the character names, and exits on time. We've never had a narrator like this before. *(Looks sternly over at Mac who frowns.)*

To Be Continued...this is a 10-page sample of the playscript