

# Village Theatre

## Production Preview Guide

### IN ISSAQUAH:

Francis J. Gaudette Theatre,  
303 Front Street North, Issaquah

NOVEMBER 9- DECEMBER 31, 2011  
WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY: 8:00 PM  
SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS: 2:00 PM  
SELECTED TUESDAYS: 7:30 PM  
SELECTED SUNDAYS: 7:00 PM

### IN EVERETT:

Everett Performing Arts Center,  
2710 Wetmore Avenue, Everett

NOVEMBER 9- DECEMBER 31, 2011  
WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY: 8:00 PM  
SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS: 2:00 PM  
SELECTED TUESDAYS: 7:30 PM  
SELECTED SUNDAYS: 7:00 PM

---

**PATRONS HAVE DIFFERENT IDEAS OF WHAT MATERIAL OR THEMES ARE APPROPRIATE FOR THEM OR THEIR FAMILIES. FOR THIS REASON, WE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

---

### THE PRODUCTION:

This Wild West show-within-a-show tells the ageless love story of the sharpest sharpshooter Annie Oakley and Frank Butler, the heart-throb of Buffalo Bill's traveling show. Toe-tap your way through Berlin's invigorated score of much-loved songs like "There's No Business like Show Business," "I Got The Sun in the Morning" and "Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better" as we celebrate one of Broadway's most enduring triumphs on the Mainstage.

### VERSIONS AVAILABLE TO PREVIEW:

A film version, also titled *Annie Get Your Gun*, was produced in 1950. It starred Betty Hutton, Howard Keel and Louis Calhern and was directed by George Sidney.

### PRODUCTION LENGTH:

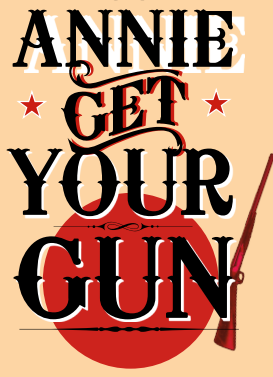
Exact length to be determined.

### WHY DID VILLAGE THEATRE CHOOSE TO PRODUCE *Annie Get Your Gun*?

*Annie Get Your Gun* is an enduring classic that has become one of the most recognizable and successful pieces of musical theatre to date. The show is undeniably appropriate for all ages, and has been a strong contender on our Subscriber Survey for several years now. Artistic Director Steve Tomkins is particularly excited to take on the direction for this show and breathe new life and energy into the classic story and songs. Village Theatre has never produced *Annie Get Your Gun* on the Mainstage and we're sure audiences will enjoy the charming love story, endearing characters, and catchy score.

### SCRIPT CONTENT DETAILS Please note: the following information may contain plot spoilers.

Village Theatre encourages parents to investigate the themes in this story to ensure that it is appropriate for younger audiences (under 13). This light-hearted Wild West love story is appropriate for a variety of audiences. Guns are fired during this show; however it is not with violent intent, but rather is in the context of marksmanship display. There is no drug or alcohol use mentioned or shown during this play. There is no swearing during this play. There is some kissing onstage; however there are very limited mild sexual references.



# Village Theatre

## Production Preview Guide

### ACT I

Frank Butler is standing alone and singing “There’s No Business Like Show Business,” in which he tells about the appeals of the entertainment industry. As he sings, another figure appears and addresses the audience. He introduces himself as Buffalo Bill Cody, the owner of a Wild West show. He tells the audience that they are about to see his own version of the romance between Annie Oakley and Frank Butler. He then introduces Frank, who continues singing about show business. In between verses of the song, Buffalo Bill introduces other various characters, who also join in the song. The characters include Dolly Tate, Frank’s assistant, Tommy Keeler, a knife thrower, Tommy’s assistant and Dolly’s sister, Winnie Tate, Charlie Davenport, the show’s general manager, Foster Wilson, the man who discovered Annie Oakley and Chief Sitting Bull, a great Sioux warrior. The song about show business is finished and Charlie calls for the company to set up for a scene at Wilson Arms Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio.

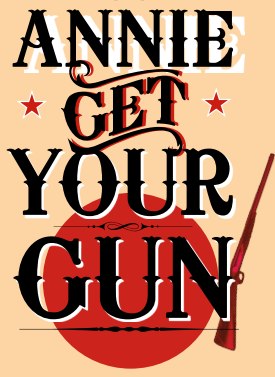
With the set in place, Foster Wilson, a hotel proprietor, appears from inside his hotel. He is furious because there is a group of people loitering on his lawn. Charlie introduces himself and explains that they are arranging a shooting match between their champion shooter and the best local shot. Wilson does not want this event held on his property and disappears into his hotel, followed by Charlie.

Dolly and Winnie enter, followed by Tommy. Winnie does not like how Dolly treats Tommy, but Dolly apparently has some prejudices because Tommy is half-Indian. Tommy leaves and Winnie follows, just as Frank enters. Charlie enters to inform Frank that the hotel proprietor is not interested in hosting their shooting match. Wilson re-enters the scene, surprised to see the troupe has not left yet. Frank offers Wilson one-hundred dollars if he can find a local shooter who can outshoot him in the contest. Wilson is not convinced and exits, as Frank follows, hoping his fame will win over the proprietor.

Left alone on stage, Dolly is startled when a shot rings out. Annie Oakley, a backwoods person, appears and takes credit. Wilson emerges from the hotel, inquiring about the shot, and Annie asks if he would like to buy some of the game she has shot. She calls for three children, who appear with a wagon of game and are introduced as her younger siblings, Jessie, Nellie and Little Jake. Wilson makes a purchase. As he tries to finish the deal, it is revealed that Annie cannot read or write. She begins to sing that she, and her family, has gotten by without these skills because they survive doing what come naturally.

As the song ends, Wilson comments on Annie’s shooting ability and invites her to enter a shooting contest in the Wild West Show. Annie agrees and as Wilson leaves, Frank enters and approaches Annie to ask about the old gun she is carrying. When Annie looks up from her gun it becomes clear that she is attracted to Butler. He advises her that guns are not safe for girls, but she mentions that she is going to be in a contest. Frank is surprised and warns her that she will be up against a champion. Annie asks him to stay and watch the contest. Frank says that she will definitely see him there and leaves. Annie stops him, asking if he likes her. Frank begins to sing about the girl he will marry, citing stereotypical qualities of a woman. As he leaves, the music segues into a song by Annie, who sings that she can’t get a man with a gun. As she finishes the song, the set is struck.

Buffalo Bill and Charlie enter and Buffalo Bill begins to introduce the shooting match. Wilson calls for Annie, shocking Buffalo Bill and Charlie. Buffalo Bill agrees to the contest. Annie is surprised to discover that Frank is her competition. An-



# Village Theatre

## Production Preview Guide

nie is not familiar with using clay pigeons, yet still manages to make the first shot. Frank begins to use fancy techniques, each of which Annie copies and neither contestant misses for some time until Frank misses one. Buffalo Bill is pleased by Annie's ability and thinks she should join the show as Frank's assistant, but Frank disagrees. Annie says that she would like to and Charlie, Buffalo Bill and Frank begin to sing about show business. As they finish, the set is broken down.

Six weeks later, the troupe is on a train. Dolly claims Annie is nothing but trouble and is frustrated by Annie's presence and storms out. Dinner is called and Annie interrupts Winnie and Tommy, who are taking advantage of Dolly's absence and kissing. Annie is confused why Dolly does not like Tommy and gives them encouragement. Winnie remembers that she has a newspaper clipping that mentions Annie. Annie is still unable to read, so she pretends to save it for later and leaves Tommy and Winnie alone. She exits as Winnie and Tommy are having a discussion about marriage. Winnie is worried about their lack of money and Tommy begins to sing about the things they have.

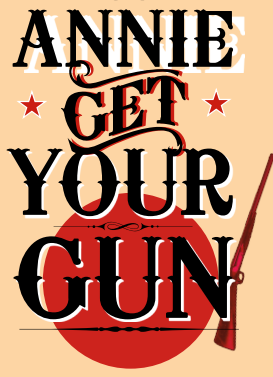
As the song ends, Annie and Little Jake reenter. Annie is asking Jake for help with her reading when Frank enters. She shows Frank the review and convinces him to read it aloud. The review briefly mentions her position as an assistant. Frank tells her he will have her name added to the program and will let her do an additional trick, maybe even letting her be his partner one day. The conversation then shifts to Frank's feelings for Annie. She has become slightly more refined since joining the show and Frank has noticed.

As Frank leaves, Charlie and Buffalo Bill arrive to tell Annie that Buffalo Bill's competitor, Pawnee Bill, is opening against the Wild West Show and they need her to help them by performing a new trick. She wants the trick to be a surprise for Frank, but wonders if he would like her performing it so soon. Charlie and Buffalo Bill convince her that this trick will make him want to marry her, so Annie agrees. Charlie and Buffalo Bill exit just as Annie's siblings enter in their pajamas. They ask Annie to sing them a bedtime song. As the kids fall asleep, Charlie appears and instructs a set change.

The next scene begins at a fairground. Pawnee Bill enters with Chief Sitting Bull, who is rumored to be joining Pawnee Bill's show. Buffalo Bill invites Pawnee Bill to his private box, leaving Buffalo Bill and Charlie with Sitting Bull. Charlie asks if Sitting Bull will be joining Pawnee Bill, but Sitting Bull says no, refusing to join in any show business. As Buffalo Bill leads Sitting Bull away, Frank enters.

Frank is angry about the new posters because Annie's picture is bigger than his. Charlie thought that Frank would like them because he assumed Frank had feelings for Annie, which Frank says would only be possible if he was bigger than her in the show. Frank leaves just as Buffalo Bill wonders about going through with Annie's surprise trick, but Charlie insists.

Dolly enters, worried because she cannot find Winnie. Annie enters with Winnie and Tommy and reveals that Winnie and Tommy have married. Dolly decides to have it annulled because Winnie is underage and exits. Annie is startled to see the giant poster when Frank enters. They discuss the poster and he claims that it will be gone next week. Infatuated, Annie agrees. The two discuss their feelings and Annie says she has never loved someone who loves her back and begins singing about how wonderful she thinks it will be. As the song ends she asks him to watch her new trick, Frank begins to refuse, but Annie insists and alludes to a marriage proposal. The two kiss. As Annie leaves, Frank begins to sing about how he is taken aback by his feelings for her.



# Village Theatre

## Production Preview Guide

As Frank's song ends, Buffalo Bill starts to introduce Annie. Frank cuts him off and finishes the introduction himself; however he underestimates her because he does not know about the new trick. Buffalo Bill finishes the introduction and Annie swings in on a trapeze, shooting and popping balloons. When the balloons are gone, Annie fires at a barrel and fireworks begin to go off.

Buffalo Bill and Charlie are thrilled with the outcome of Annie's trick, but Frank and Dolly are furious and Charlie tries to explain that Annie wanted to surprise him. Frank blames Buffalo Bill and Charlie for putting her up to the trick. He begins to talk about how he had been considering marrying her and Annie enters, wondering if he was surprised. Sitting Bull enters to meet Annie. Unnoticed, Frank and Dolly leave. Sitting Bull is so inspired he decides to invest in the Wild West Show. Annie then notices Frank's absence. A prop hand enters, offering her a letter from Frank. She asks Sitting Bull to read the letter and it is revealed that Frank has left to join Pawnee Bill's show. Sitting Bull briefly comforts Annie and then leaves as Annie begins to sing that she can't get a man with a gun.

### ACT II

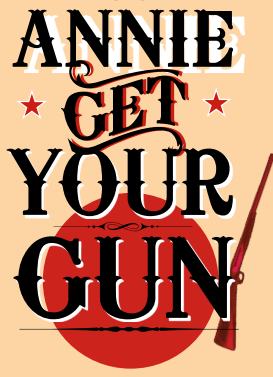
Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show tours Europe and Annie performs before many monarchs, who are impressed with her abilities and award her with medals. Eight months after the end of Act I, Buffalo Bill, Charlie, Sitting Bull and Annie are on the deck for a cattle boat in the New York Harbor waiting to disembark. Buffalo Bill is explaining that their trip was an artistic success, however the expenses of traveling caused them to lose all of their money and he thinks that he will need to break up the show. A messenger delivers a message from Pawnee Bill, inviting Buffalo Bill's troupe to a reception. Charlie is noting that Pawnee Bill seemed to be more successful than Buffalo Bill when Sitting Bull suggests that the two shows should merge. Charlie loves the idea and Annie is pleased because it will get her closer to Frank again. She sings about her feelings.

Annie's song segues into a waltz, as the set is switched to that of a ballroom. Tommy enters and spots Winnie, who runs over to see him. They kiss and Winnie explains that she has turned eighteen. Tommy begins to sing wondering who Winnie loved, hoping that it was still him. Winnie joins in, offering similar sentiments. As the song ends, Winnie tells Tommy she'd like to be married again and they leave before Dolly can stop them.

Frank joins Dolly and Pawnee Bill at the reception, telling Pawnee Bill he is worried Annie will never want to speak to him again. Pawnee Bill is not concerned and admits that the show has run out of money and he is hoping to partner with Buffalo Bill, who must be rich after his success in Europe. Frank likes the idea because wants to fix things between him and Annie. He leaves to go put on his medals to impress her.

Meanwhile, Buffalo Bill enters with Charlie. Pawnee Bill proposes combining the shows. They leave to discuss the merger and Dolly and Charlie follow. As they leave, Annie, outfitted in a gown covered with her European medals, enters on the arm of Sitting Bull. Charlie and Buffalo Bill return and it is revealed that the merger is not going to happen because both companies are broke. Annie asks Sitting Bull to do something and he reminds her of the value of her medals. Buffalo Bill and Pawnee Bill are thrilled with the idea and the merger is decided. Annie begins to sing about money not being the most important thing because she has enough to be happy.

Frank enters at the end of the song. He and Annie exclaim how they have missed each other. Frank begins to compliment



# Village Theatre

## Production Preview Guide

Annie and says that he would like to marry her. Annie is thrilled and Frank begins to sing about the old-fashioned wedding they will have. Annie cuts into the song; however she is singing about the big wedding that she would like to have. Frank offers to compromise by giving Annie his medals in exchange for doing the wedding his way; however Annie initially refuses. He unpins one of his medals and Annie cannot resist, so she takes off her coat, revealing the multitude of medals she already has. Suddenly, they begin to bicker about who is the best shooter. Annie tells Charlie to set up another shooting match. Annie claims the merger is off and leaves. Frank is left singing about the girl he wants to marry.

The set is changed to Buffalo Bill's property room. Sitting Bull and Charlie enter to find Dolly tampering with one of the rifles. After refusing to explain, she leaves and Sitting Bull decides that he needs to create a situation so Frank will never leave Annie again. He explains that if Annie wins, she will lose Frank, but if she loses, she will win Frank. Sitting Bull tampers with Annie's gun and the set is switched for the shooting match.

Buffalo Bill announces the contest. Frank and Annie begin to bicker until a song begins in which Annie and Frank both claim to be better than the other person. Buffalo Bill calls for the contest to begin. Annie shoots first, but continues to miss her targets, claiming there must be something wrong with the gun. Frank offers her his gun and Sitting Bull tries to stop her from taking it, but Frank insists. She hits every shot when using his gun. Annie returns Frank's gun and Sitting Bull tries to give her the broken gun, reminding her that she said you cannot get a man with a gun. Using the broken gun she proceeds to miss every shot and gives up, declaring Frank the best shooter. Frank claims he wants a fair contest, so he must take the remainder of his shots before the contest ends. He then misses every shot. Annie is shocked and Frank suggests that the two be partners again.

Buffalo Bill wraps up the show by saying that Annie and Frank lived scrappily ever after. Annie and Frank begin to sing that falling in love is wonderful and the curtain falls as the whole company sings about the joys of show business.