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Steven Jones Founding Producer

Shane Peterman Producer

and Prairie Rose Productions

Presents

PURE COUNTRY

Music by

Steve Dorff

Lyrics by

John Bettis

Book by

Rex McGee

Vocal and Dance Arrangements/Orchestrations Eugene Gwozdz

starring

Harley Jay*

featuring

Iacob Lewis

Marissa Lesch

Cara Statham Serber*

Justin Duncan

Julie Johnson* s Eli Luian Brent Loper

with

Ryan Anthony, Joshua Bangle, Jared Barnes, Shannon Conboy, Jordan Crites, Stephanie Felton, Caitlin Galloway, J. Anthony Holmes, Gregg Hullett, Scott Hynes, Sydney Kirkegaard, Shane Peterman*, Rachel Reininger, Kirsten Simmons, Jenny Tucker, Justin White

Lighting Design **Julie N. Simmons**

Sound Design
Bill Eickenloff

Scenic Design Randel Wright

Production Stage Manager

Matt Grevan*

Costume Coordinator

Andrew Givens

Music Director/Conductor **Eugene Gwozdz**

Directed and Choreographed by **John de los Santos**

Rex McGee/Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures 4000 Warner Boulevard, Bldg. 137, Room 1093, Burbank, CA 91522

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In order of appearance)

	(17 order of appearance)
Young Del	Eli Lujan
Del "Rusty" Hubbard	Harley Jay*
Toledo Announcer	
Lula Rogers	
Charlie Boles	
Marty Foster	Justin Duncan
Bobby	
Leroy	Gregg Hullett
	Scott Hynes
	Brent Loper
Harley Tucker	
Mama Ivy	Julie Johnson*
	Eli Lujan
	Stephanie Felton
Las Vegas Announcer	Shane Peterman*
Ensemble	Ryan Anthony, Joshua Bangle, Jared Barnes, Shannon Conboy,
J	ordan Crites, Stephanie Felton, Caitlin Galloway, J. Anthony Holmes,
_	Gregg Hullett, Scott Hynes, Sydney Kirkegaard, Shane Peterman*,

Rachel Reininger, Kirsten Simmons, Jenny Tucker, Justin White

You are invited to join Lyric Stage League, a fun-filled group dedicated to supporting Lyric Stage. Join us for the many fund-raising and exciting events scheduled throughout the year. For more information, please contact Lisa Chambers at 314-973-8916 or info@lyricstageleague.com.

LYRIC STAGE

lyricstageleague.com

PRODUCTION STAFF

D: 101 1	
Director/Choreographer	John de los Santos
Music Director, Arranger	Eugene Gwozdz
Lighting Design	Julie N. Simmons
Sound Design	Bill Eickenloff
Scenic Design	Randel Wright
Costume Coordinator	Andrew Givens
Production Stage Manager	Matt Grevan*
Assistant Stage Manager	Sally Soldo*
Props Designer	Taylor Vasek
Rehearsal Pianist.	Bruce Greer
Dance Captain	Rachel Reininger
Fight Captain	Jared Barnes
Intern	

*Member Actors' Equity Association

PRAIRIE ROSE BAND

Eugene Gwozdz, CONDUCTOR

KEYBOARDS Eugene Gwozdz, Keyboard 1 Bruce Greer, Keyboard 2 GUITAR Rusty Hayley, *Lead* Kevin Bailey Sonny Franks (June 10, June 17) DRUMS Garrett Roper Bobby Hibbitts (June 9-10)

FIDDLE Jim Baker PEDAL STEEL Larry White ELECTRIC BASS Kerry Huckaba

Special Thanks to the University of North Texas, Billy Bob's Texas, the Dallas Children's Theater and Donatelle Mascari.



ACT I

ACT I	
PRELUDE: "Heartland"Young Del	
SCENE 1: Rusty's Concert in Toledo, Ohio "While the Gettin's Good"Rusty	
SCENE 2: Backstage in Topeka	
SCENE 3: A Country Road "Lost My Way"Rusty	
SCENE 4: The Prairie Rose Bar "Pickin' and Grinnin'"	
SCENE 5: Backstage "Don't %\$#! With Lula"Lula	
SCENE 6: Harley's House "But I Did"	
SCENE 7: The Prairie Rose "Jubilee"	
SCENE 8: At the Rusty Concert in Tulsa	
SCENE 9: Harley's House "Pretend"	
SCENE 10: The Prairie Rose "It Ain't Texas!"	
ACT II	
SCENE 1: Rusty's Concert Rehearsal "Time's No Friend of Mine"Rusty "Right About Now"Rusty, Harley	
SCENE 2: Harley's House "Prairie Rose" reprise	
SCENE 3: In Rusty's Las Vegas Hotel Suite	
SCENE 4: Las Vegas Stage "Back Among My Yesterdays"	
SCENE 5: In Rusty's Las Vegas Hotel Suite	
SCENE 6: At the Prairie Rose "Whatever That Was"Lula	
SCENE 7: Harley's House "Not My Problem Anymore"Lula, Harley	
SCENE 8: The Prairie Rose "Heartland"	



RYAN ANTHONY (Ensemble) Lyric Stage debut! Favorite roles include Cosmo *Singin' in the Rain*, Carmen Ghia *The Producers*, Bernardo *West Side Story*,

and Will Parker *Oklahoma*. He was last seen in Stage Rights' *My Fair Lady* as Jamie in Houston.



JARED BARNES (Bobby, Ensemble)
Lyric Stage debut. *Pure Country* is Jared's
third production in the Dallas area, the
most recent being *Titanic* with Uptown

Players. Jared comes from the Houston area where he has performed in many theaters over several years, and he is thrilled to be trying new venues.



JOSHUA BANGLE (Ensemble) Joshua Bangle is ecstatic to be making his first appearance with Lyric. He recently performed in Uptown Player's *Titanic*

and Pegasus Theatre's *Another Murder, Another Show*. He wants to thank his wife, Kacie, for all of her support.



SHANNON CONBOY (Ensemble) is thrilled to be returning to Lyric Stage! Most recently, Shannon joined Brick Road Theatre as Adele/A Man Of No

Importance. Other DFW credits include Beauty/ Of Thee I Sing (Lyric Stage) and Elle Woods/Legally Blonde (SMU). Learn more at shannonconboy.com.



JORDAN CRITES (Ensemble) is a TCU graduate from Little Rock, Arkansas. This is Jordan's second appearance at Lyric Stage after *Anything*

Goes (Ensemble). At TCU, Jordan has appeared in productions like Sexual Perversity in Chicago (Danny Shapiro) and Spring Awakening (Ensemble/Reinhold).



JUSTIN DUNCAN (Marty, Ensemble): Previous Credits: Quanah/New Moon-Lyric; Parade-Watertower; Galileo-Undermain; Bootycandy-Stage West;

Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins-Amphibian Stage; Cotton Patch Gospel-Theater Too; Pericles-Shakespeare Dallas; Yellow-Uptown Players; & National Tours of Stuart Little/Flat Stanley-Dallas Children's Theater.



STEPHANIE FELTON (Hotel Waitress, Ensemble) is making her Lyric Stage debut and would like to thank John De Los Santos for the opportunity.

Her favorite previous roles include Dolly in *Hello, Dolly!*, Lady of the Lake in *Spamalot*, and Trina in *Flasettos*.



CAITLIN GALLOWAY (Ensemble): Caitlin is a DFW native who recently obtained her BFA in Acting from SMU. She has appeared at venues including

CTD, Casa Manana, Bass Hall, and Theatre Arlington. She is excited to be back at Lyric after recently appearing in *Quanah*.



GREGORY HULLETT (Leroy, Ensemble) Greg was trained at KD Studio Actors Conservatory in Dallas and earned his degree in Acting

Performance. Recent stage credits include: *Paradel* WaterTower Theater, *Dancing at Lughnasal* Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, *Chicagol* Mainstage ILC. Enjoy the show!



J. ANTHONY HOLMES (Ensemble) Anthony is an actor, musician and writer from Dallas. He studied stage combat with RC Annie in Exeter and worked

as a fight captain under Lloyd Caldwell. He is appearing in his fourth show at Lyric.



SCOTT HYNES (Ensemble) Regional: Oklahoma City Repertory Theatre-*Pryor Rendering* (Buck), *Peter...Starcatcher* (Slank), *Grapes of Wrath* (Man Going

Back), The Normal Heart (David). Other credits: Falsettos (Whizzer), Cats (Munkustrap), Reasons to Be Pretty (Greg), The Credeaux Canvas (Winston), South Pacific (Emile).



HARLEY JAY (Del "Rusty" Hubbard) was seen by over 12 million people in *Grease Live!* on FOX as Reginald. Broadway: *Rent* (Mark Cohen). National

Tours: Rent & Miss Saigon. Harley's band has opened for Rick Springfield, Marc Broussard, Eddie Money, Jana Kramer, The Gin Blossoms & others.

* - Member Actors' Equity Association

PRODUCTION TEAM



JULIE JOHNSON* (Mama Ivey) is so excited to be part of Pure Country! Her career spans Broadway, Off-Broadway, touring and, of course, Lyric Stage!

Most recently, she appeared in the title role of Mame and has performed in 10 shows at Lyric! Julie was the voice of Baby Bop on Barney and Friends and appeared in the film Pure Country!



SYDNEY KIRKEGAARD (Ensemble) recently graduated from TCU with a BFA in musical theater. Professional credits include: Lyric Stage (Anything

Goes), Skylight Music Theater (The Music Man, The Sound of Music & White Christmas), Milwaukee Repertory Theater (A Christmas Carol) and the Fireside Theater (A Fireside Christmas).



JACOB LEWIS (Charlie) is elated to be a part of Pure Country. He was last seen as Slank in Peter and the Starcatcher and as Conrad Birdie in Bye Bye Birdie

at Firehouse Theatre. Jacob sends thanks to his dear friends, family, and mentor Tracie Petri.



MARISSA LESCH (Harley) Marissa is thrilled to be making her Dallas stage debut in Pure Country! Proud Carnegie Mellon alum. Gratitude and love to

Mom, Austin, family and friends. For Abba, bringing this girl's dreams and heart back to life.



BRENT LOPER (Earl Blackstock) As a self proclaimed "country boy with a city flair," Brent has literally traveled the globe as an accomplished songwriter,

singer, and multi instrumentalist. In addition to his musical abilities, Brent has worked on many commercials, television shows, and major motion films.



ELI LUIAN (Little Del, David Lee) is thrilled to participate in his first production with Lyric Stage. Eli has been acting for seven years, and most

recently played Young Simba in The Lion King with The Frisco Acting Studio.



RACHEL REININGER (Ensemble/ Dance Captain) Rachel is excited to be returning to Lyric Stage after appearing in Anything Goes (Bonnie) last summer.

National Tour: Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer (Girl Elf). Regional credits: Chicago (Roxie) Mainstage Irving, Nice Work If You Can Get It (Jeannie) GSM, Legally Blonde (Ensemble) LGA. Special thanks to T, M, D, J, N, L, M.



CARA STATHAM SERBER* (Lula Rogers) Cara has been on stages across DFW, including Dallas Theater Center, Casa Manana, Amphibian Stage,

Uptown Players, WaterTower Theatre and Dallas Children's Theatre. She has received DFW Critics Forum awards and was previously named Best Musical Theatre Actress by the Dallas Observer.



KIRSTEN SIMMONS (Ensemble) is thrilled to make her Lyric Stage debut! Kirsten holds an MFA in Musical Theater from The Boston Conservatory.

Previous roles include Laurey (Oklahoma!), Miss Dorothy (Thoroughly Modern Millie), and Bombalurina (Cats). Thanks to Marcus and Rollo!



IENNY LEE TUCKER (Ensemble) Jenny is pleased to be in *Pure Country*, having been born and raised in Texas, she's worked with Uptown Players

(Titanic,) Casa Manana (Fiddler on the Roof, Les Miserables, The Sound of Music,) and many with Lyric Stage.



JUSTIN WHITE (Ensemble) Lyric Stage debut! Favorite roles include Jamie The Last 5 Years, Johnny American Idiot, Balladeer/Lee Harvey Oswald Assassins,

Athos The Three Musketeers, and will next be seen as Scarecrow in The Wizard of Oz at Stageworks Theater in Houston.

STEVE DORFF (Composer) The Music and Film Industry has dubbed multiple award-winning Steve Dorff an enigma who has evolved into a gifted composer in every musical field. There is no way to capture the diversity he regularly displays scoring major motion pictures, television, theater, or via an array of # 1 hit songs. In addition to winning the NSAI Songwriter of the Year award, Dorff has also been honored with more than 40 BMI, and 11 Billboard #1 awards. Three-time Grammy nominee, his credits includes nine #1 film songs and 15 Top 10 hits, including the Kenny Rogers' classic "Through The Years," a BMI 5 million performance song, as well as "I Just Fall In Love Again," the Anne Murray record that captured Billboard's #1 Song Of The Year honors. His many songs have been sung by some of the greatest artists of our time—Barbra Streisand, Celine Dion, Whitney Houston, George Strait, Vanessa Williams and countless others. This World Premiere performance is dedicated to the memory of Steve's late son, songwriter Andrew Marshall Dorff.

JOHN BETTIS (Lyricist) John Bettis has written songs that have been sung by some of the most loved artists of our time. Michael Jackson, George Strait, Celine Dion, Madonna, Diana Ross, Whitney Houston, The Carpenters, Julio Igelsias, Barbara Mandrell, Dionne Warwick, New Kids on the Block, Jennifer Warnes and scores of others have recorded his work. His songs include: "Human Nature," "Heartland," "Top of the World," "Yesterday Once More," "Goodbye to Love," "Only Yesterday," "Can You Stop the Rain?," "One Moment in Time," "Crazy for You," and "Slow Hand". John has been nominated for an Academy Award, a Golden Globe, 3 Grammies and 3 Emmys. John received the Emmy in 1988 for "One Moment in Time", theme for that year's Olympics. He also received an Emmy for "Where There is Hope" 2003. His list of film work runs from Twilight Zone: The Movie, Vision Quest and Star Trek V to Cocktail and The Godfather Part III. His TV Themes include Growing Pains, Murphy Brown and Empty Nest. John has pursued his love of theater for over 25 years. The musical Lunch, which he wrote with Steve Dorff and Rick Hawkins, toured the US in 1994 and was revived in 2014 at Cabrillo Stages. John received a Los Angeles Drama Critics' Best Musical Score award for lyrics to The Last Session in 1999. Svengai, a collaboration with Frank Wildhorn, opened April 3, 1991 at the Houston Alley Theater. That work was awarded the prestigious D. Alton Jones grant. Pure Country, the musicalization of the hit film Pure Country, has seen several workshops

in New York. Tony winner Ken Waissman, who brought Grease, Agnes of God and Torch Song Triogy to Broadway, is currently producing Josephine, a musical based on the life of Josephine Baker, for Broadway. This show is also written with Mr. Dorff. John has served as: Chairman of the Board of the National Academy of Songwriters, Member of The Board of Directors of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), Member of the Board of Review of ASCAP, Member of the Board of Directors of the Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI), Member of the Board of Directors of the Nashville Ballet, and on the Film, Entertainment and Music Commission of the State of Tennessee. John lives with his wife, Mary, and their two children, his most prized creations, Wyatt and Conway, in Nashville, Tennessee. He is a proud member of both the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame.

MICHAEL SKIPPER (Producer, Prairie Rose Productions) Michael Skipper has been a veteran producer of Broadway and Off-Broadway productions for nearly three decades. He has produced and or participated in over 40 Broadway, Off-Broadway, and West End (London) productions to date. He won the 2008 Tony Award for Best New Musical for In the Heights (13 nominations including, Tony Award winner; Best New Musical, Best Score, Best Choreography, Best Orchestration). Other Broadway credits include The Crucible, for which he received a Tony nomination for Best Revival of a Play, (Drama Desk Award for a Distinguished Production of a Revival), On the Waterfront, Play On!, and The Civil War to name a few. He's also participated in a variety of other Broadway shows including Something Rotten!, Rent, Avenue Q, Damn Yankees!, Seussical, White Christmas, and Taboo (with Boy George in both the London and Broadway productions), and many others. He has also produced several award winning Off-Broadway shows including: In the Heights, The Vagina Monologues, Bat Boy (Best Musical Off-Broadway), Cobb, (Co-Produced with Kevin Spacey, Drama Desk Award for Best Ensemble), Shockheaded Peter, Andrew Lippa's The Wild Party, and Necessary Targets. These are just a short list of many his Off-Broadway productions. Along with AEA, SAG-AFTRA, Michael is also a member of ASCAP and the Broadway League. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Rattlestick Theatre Company in New York City and Casa Mañana in Fort Worth, Texas.

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6 LYRIC STAGE LYRIC STAGE 7

REX McGEE (Writer-Producer, Prairie Rose Productions) A protege of the legendary 6-time Oscar winning writer-director Billy Wilder, Rex wrote Warner Brothers' Pure Country, produced by Jerry Weintraub and starring George Strait, upon which the musical is based; the Hallmark Channel's perennial, Where There's a Will, starring Marion Ross and Keith Carradine; and the IMAX film, Texas: The Big Picture, at the Texas State History Museum in Austin. A graduate of the famous USC film school, member of the Writers Guild of America, West and the Dramatists Guild, he has collaborated on his screenplays with directors Peter Masterson (Best Little Whorehouse in Texas), Robert Mulligan (To Kill a Mockingbird) and Billy Wilder (Sunset Boulevard, Some Like It Hot). Rex's current film projects include an erotic drama, Zipless; a film noir, Country Dark; a social satire, Whistling Dixie; and a political comedy set in the former Soviet Union, The Life of the Party. Rex was born in nearby Cleburne, and after many years in L.A. now lives in Dallas, the proud father of his 16-yearold daughter Annie Lucille McGee. He teaches screenwriting privately and at SMU workshops.

JOHN DE LOS SANTOS (*Director/Choreographer*) has staged a range of productions that include opera, musicals, plays, ballet, concerts, variety shows, and workshop readings. His productions include the world premiere of The Astronaut Love Show for NYC's Kraine Theatre, The Rose & The Knife and Otello for LoftOpera, La Cage Aux Folles for Skylight Music Theatre, Carousel and South Pacific for Ashlawn Opera, María de Buenos Aires for Lexington Philharmonic, and Green Sneakers for the Southside Theatre at San Francisco's Fort Mason Center. His choreography has also been seen at the Washington National, Florida Grand, Philadelphia, Des Moines Metro and Austin Lyric Opera Companies. The New York Times called his production of Le Comte Ory for LoftOpera "a perfect union of New York's most raucous and delightful opera company with one of the most raucous and delightful works in the repertory." Also a librettist, John's first collaboration with composer Clint Borzoni, When Adonis Calls, was selected for inclusion in Fort Worth Opera's Frontiers showcase, and then performed at Opera America's New Works Forum in NYC. John's new work with Borzoni, The Copper Queen, won the top prize Arizona Opera's commission program, Arizona SPARK. He was then commissioned by Washington National Opera's American Opera Initiative to create a new original work with composer Christopher Weiss. The resulting piece,

Service Provider, premiered at The Kennedy Center in 2015. John has directed Carmen, The Mikado and The Pearl Fishers for Fort Worth Opera, and choreographed the world premiere of Jake Heggie and Terrence McNally's Great Scott for Dallas Opera. He also choreographed Spring Awakening, Smokey Joe's Café, and Dogfight for WaterTower Theatre. For Uptown Players, John choreographed the American premiere of the Pet Shop Boys musical Closer to Heaven, the regional premiere of Altar Boyz (for which John was awarded the DFW Critics Forum Award for Best Choreography), and directed/choreographed the regional premiere of Hello Again and the American premiere of Soho Cinders. John's debut with Lyric Stage was dancing the Carnival Boy in Carousel, and choreographing The Golden Apple. John is originally from San Antonio, Texas, where he performed as a principal member of the Alamo City Dance Company. http://johndelossantos.com

EUGENE GWOZDZ (Music Director/Arranger/ Orchestrator/Pianist), from Fort Worth, Texas, based in NYC. Eugene is the Music Director/ Arranger for the American Dance Machine 21, and the Duke Ellington Center for the Arts. Eugene was the Musical Director/Arranger for Our Guy, Cy, a musical concert tribute to Cy Coleman, starring Tony Award Winners, Randy Graff, Cady Huffman, and Lillias White which got rave reviews from the NYC critics; MD/Arranger for the Jerome Robbins Awards honoring Chita Rivera, Harold Prince, and Stephen Sondheim. Music Director/ Pianist/Arranger for Anika Noni Rose at the Lincoln Center American Songbook Series: Drama League Tribute to Patti Lupone; orchestrated and arranged music for the critically acclaimed revival of It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Superman. Music Director/Pianist/Arranger for the hit show, Thrill Me, and the critically acclaimed 20th Anniversary Revival Production of Maltby & Shire's Baby at the Paper Mill Playhouse. Broadway: The Full Monty and Oklahoma!. Broadway Tours: Sunset Boulevard (w/Petula Clark), The Flower Drum Song, Swing!, The Color Purple, Phantom of the Opera, The Will Rogers' Follies, and West Side Story (conducted and played keyboards). Music Director/Pianist for "The Princess & The Frog" star, Anika Noni Rose, and other Tony Award Winners Donna McKechnie, Cady Huffman, Shuler Hensley, and MD for Will Chase, Mandy Gonzalez, and Rachel York with Brent Barrett and Marc Kudisch. He has worked with many Broadway stars including Audra McDonald, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Chita Rivera, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Leslie Odom, Jr., Norbert

Leo Butz, James Monroe Iglehart, Stephanie J. Block, Patti Lupone, Chita Rivera, Leslie Uggams, Andre DeShields, Lee Roy Reams, Ken Page, Patrick Wilson, Billy Porter, Shirley Jones, Betty Buckley, Daphne Rubin-Vega, Will Chase, LaChanze, Nikki James, Victoria Clark, Kelli O'Hara, Andrea McArdle, Chris Seiber, Norm Lewis, Megan Hilty, Kristin Chenowith, Valisia Lekae, John Tartaglia, Laura Benanti, Melissa Errico, Karen Ziemba, Nita Whitaker, Judy Kaye, N'Kenge, Lou Diamond Phillips, and Laura Bell Bundy.

BILL EICKENLOFF (Sound Design) is the resident Sound Designer for Lyric Stage, as well as an adjunct professor at TCU's Theatre Dept. in Fort Worth. He is also the resident sound designer for Theatre Arlington and works for Casa Manana, Wishing Star Productions, Prism Theatrics and the Trinity Shakespeare Festival. He is a proud graduate of Texas A&M University. See his complete bio at www.linkedin.com.

JULIE N. SIMMONS (Lighting Design) is always thrilled to be working with Lyric Stage! Julie has designed for Lyric's recent productions of Anything Goes and many shows prior. She is currently the Technical Director for the Murchison Performing Arts Center at UNT.

RANDEL WRIGHT (Scenic Designer) native Texan, has designed scenery for Singin' In The Rain (national), Unsinkable Molly Brown (national/ Debbie Reynolds), Pal Joey (Joel Grey) (Dixie

Carter), The Wiz (Stephanie Mills), I Do, I Do (Sandy Duncan), Batteries Not Included (Jamie Hammerstein co-author & dir.), Coca Cola Centennial, Dr. Pepper Centennial and Yale University Tercentennial.

MATT GREVAN (Production Stage Manager) is excited to make his debut at Lyric Stage. His regional work includes Encores! at New York City Center, Uptown Players, Dallas Theater Center, Dallas Children's Theater and Kansas City Repertory Theatre. Some of his favorite credits include Fly By Night, Catch Me If You Can, A Charlie Brown Christmas and The History of Kisses. Matt holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Texas-Arlington and a MFA in Stage Management from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

STEPHEN DeANGELIS (New York Casting Director) is proud to continue his long association with Pure Country. He has cast over 300 theatrical productions in New York City and across the United States as well as having cast over 3600 network television and radio commercials for Manhattan's leading advertising agencies. He has had the pleasure of working with countless Academy Award, Emmy Award, Tony Award, Drama Desk and Grammy Award winners and nominees as well as some of the most recognizable performers in the entertainment industry. Stephen is the Casting Director for the upcoming Broadway revival of The Rise and Fall of Little Voice.







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