



CHARACTERS



Chad



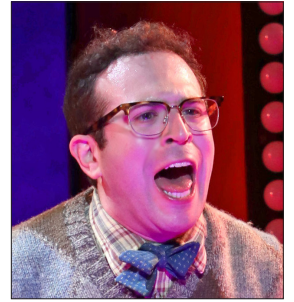
Sylvia



Lorraine



Natalie Haller/Ed



Dennis



Jim Haller



Mayor Matilda



Sheriff Earl



Dean



Miss Sandra



Townsperson



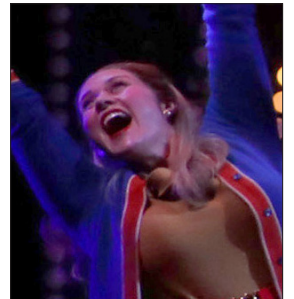
Townsperson



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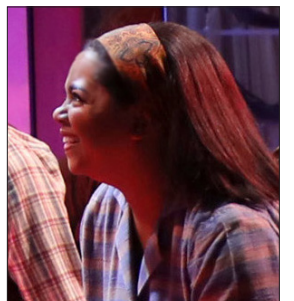
Townsperson



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ACT 1

SCENE 1: Jailhouse / Somewhere in the midwest in the summer of 1955

Lights up on prisoners behind bars. Chad, a great-lookin', motorcyclin', guitar-playin', leather-jacketed, roustabout, begins singing about a party in the jailhouse. The warden releases Chad from jail and warns him not to ride his motorcycle through town, sing his music, and get all the women excited again.

 **Song:** "Jailhouse Rock"

 **Watch For:** Percussive music, lively shouting, sirens, actors in the audience.

SCENE 2: Sylvia's Honky Tonk

Lorraine lounges while her mother, Sylvia, encourages her to work in the bar. Natalie, a young mechanic, works at her father's gas station and it's been a slow day there. Dennis enters with a letter accepting him into dental school. Dennis says that he might not go to dental school to stay near a girl (implying Natalie) that he is in love with. Lorraine wishes someone was in love with her. But, there aren't many options in this town.

Bar patrons join in singing about being lonely at the Heartbreak Hotel. Natalie's dad, Jim, comes in from visiting his wife's grave. Everyone is lonely from being heartbroken.

Suddenly they hear the roar of a motorcycle.

 **Song:** "Heartbreak Hotel"

 **Watch For:** Exaggeration of being so lonely they could die.

SCENE 3: The Town's Main Street

Chad enters with his motorcycle and guitar. He explains that he's a "roustabout" meaning he travels often and never settles down. He is so handsome


and charming he makes a woman faint. Chad needs his motorcycle fixed and it's suggested that Natalie can fix it. She instantly falls for Chad when she sees him.


Chad notices a broken down jukebox and explains that a broken-down jukebox means broken-down people. We discover that the town recently had a law passed discouraging anything that may be considered indecent to modest people. Chad vows to get that law changed.

Chad begins to encourage everyone and swivels his hips which seemingly makes everyone scream. The town is entranced by Chad into a frenzy. The town shifts from black and white to color! Everyone dances and sings full out and collapses in exhaustion.

The mayor, Matilda, enters and condemns everyone to hell for their behavior.

Dean, Matilda's son and rule follower, drops his glove and Lorraine strikes up a conversation with him.

 **Song:** "Roustabout", "C'mon Everybody"

 **Watch For:** Roar of a motorcycle, actors in the audience, fog machine, collapsing, screams, electricity sound effect, language.

SCENE 4: Jim's Gas Station

Natalie is helping Chad fix his motorcycle. Natalie uses a dress as a rag to wipe up the oil. Chad explains that he has a gift of spreading love and encourages Natalie to follow her own dreams and leave this town. Natalie can imagine herself traveling on the open road with a special someone. She is falling for Chad.

 **Song:** "Follow That Dream"

SCENE 5: The Town Museum

Outside the museum Dennis approaches Natalie wearing the greasy dress she used as a rag. Dennis gives Natalie a romantic sonnet written by Shakespeare.

Just when Dennis is about to profess his love to Natalie, Chad interrupts calling Natalie by the wrong name. Natalie tells him that his motorcycle will be working by tomorrow and Chad asks Dennis to be his sidekick.

Natalie asks Chad what he looks for in a woman and suddenly Chad sees and instantly falls for Sandra, the museum's curator. Miss Sandra is not interested in Chad. She gives them a tour of the museum and quickly shuts down Chad's romantic advances.

🎵 **Song:** "One Night With You (Chad)", "Teddy Bear/Hound Dog"

⚠️ **Watch For:** Animal noises.

SCENE 6: Sylvia's Honky Tonk

Sylvia stops people from acting indecent in public. Natalie wants to take the rest of the day off from work and her dad, Jim, notices she's wearing her oil stained dress. Lorraine helps her change into one of her clean dresses which brings Jim to tears, because Natalie reminds him of his late wife. Jim and Sylvia are left alone and discuss how they are single. Miss Sandra from the museum enters and Jim instantly falls in love with her. Miss Sandra is not impressed. Both exit and Sylvia is visibly shaken by the fact that Jim is interested in Sandra.

Dean, the mayor's son, enters and shows interest in Lorraine. Dean asks Lorraine to dance, but they are interrupted by Chad and Dennis looking for Sandra. It's apparent to Chad that Lorraine and Dean are kindling an interracial relationship and although they deny it, Chad insists it's alright. Although Lorraine is hesitant at first she teaches Dean how to dance. When Sylvia sees her daughter dancing with Dean she stops them and Dean leaves.

🎵 **Song:** "One Night With You (Jim)", "That's All Right"

⚠️ **Watch For:** Language.

SCENE 7: The Bus Stop

The mayor, Matilda, and the sheriff, Earl, are waiting to meet Dean at the bus stop to send him back to his military school because the "agitator", Chad, may be a

bad influence and encourage interracial relationships. Dean doesn't want to go back to school. Once his mother leaves the bus stop, Lorraine finds Dean and they discuss how they want to be together despite what Matilda and society may say. Dean appears to get on the bus and leave. But, changes his mind, returns, and decides "it's now or never."

🎵 **Song:** "It's Now or Never"

⚠️ **Watch For:** Kissing.

SCENE 8: Outside the Garage

Chad goes to the garage looking for Sandra and clearly doesn't remember Natalie's name. But, he does notice that Natalie is wearing a new dress just as Sandra enters and steals Chad's attention from Natalie.

Natalie feels defeated and Dennis, wearing a strange hat, tells her he thinks she's beautiful. Natalie questions Dennis' hat and he explains that his cousin Ed said a hat will make him more relatable to other guys. Natalie gets the idea that she should wear the hat and put grease on her face like stubble so that she can be more relatable to Chad, too. She even fools one of her customers!

🎵 **Song:** "Love Me Tender"

⚠️ **Watch For:** Miming shooting a gun.

SCENE 9: In Front of the Shoe Shop

Dennis spots Sandra and asks her if she's seen Chad. She has and he's following her. Sandra is not interested and Chad is not used to chasing a woman. Dennis suggests a woman like Sandra would respond better with a more intellectual approach.

Dennis suggests giving Sandra a Shakespearean sonnet. But, then Natalie enters dressed in drag as Ed. She fools Chad. The men all connect by having matching blue suede shoes. Chad now wants Ed to be his sidekick instead of Dennis. Chad asks Ed to give Sandra the sonnet from him.

Jim sees Chad and asks him for advice on how to win over a special person. Chad recommends that Jim acts more like Chad and introduces him to wearing blue suede shoes.

🎵 **Song:** "Blue Suede Shoes", "Don't Be Cruel"

⚠️ **Watch For:** Roaring engine, fog machine, actors in the audience.

SCENE 10: The Museum Garden

In the Museum Garden Natalie, pretending to be Ed, reads Sandra the sonnet that Dennis gave Chad to give to Sandra and she is moved to tears by the poetry. We start to see Sandra fall for “Ed.” Ed is not interested in Sandra. The paintings from the museum join Sandra in her song.

🎵 **Song:** “Follow That Dream- Reprise”, “One Night With You (Sandra)”, “Let Yourself Go”

⚠️ **Watch For:** Unwanted advances towards Ed.

SCENE 11: Main Street

Mayor Matilda enters with a bullhorn and Earl, enforcing the Mamie Eisenhower Decency Act. Matilda sees her son, Dean, and Lorraine kissing and she’s appalled by their indecent behavior, especially since the two young lovers are different races and Dean has learned how to dance.

Matilda spots Chad and expresses her anger about him being a bad influence. So much so that she wants Chad arrested.

Chad wants to know what Sandra thought of the poem he gave Ed to give to Sandra. Sandra is still not interested in Chad. So, Chad decides to hide from Matilda and Earl at the old fair grounds. Chad wants Ed to join him later.

Sandra is looking for Ed and Dennis suggests to Ed/Natalie that maybe instead of Chad, Natalie should be interested in someone more like Dennis. But, Natalie is insistent that Chad is the man of her dreams.

Sandra hears a guitar playing in the old fair grounds and decides to follow the sound.

Jim still wants to chase after Sandra. But, Sylvia is trying to discourage him. Jim gets so frustrated with Sylvia’s negative attitude toward love that he kisses her to prove his point. There is a spark. The whole town joins in sharing their love.

Dean suggests he and Lorraine run away together.

🎵 **Song:** “Can’t Help Falling in Love”

⚠️ **Watch For:** Megaphone, kissing.

ACT 2

SCENE 1: The Abandoned Fairgrounds

Chad is still fixated on Sandra, Ed/Natalie is fixated on Chad, Dennis is fixated on Natalie, Jim is fixated on Sandra, Sylvia is fixated on Jim, Sandra is fixated on Ed for giving her the sonnet, and Dean and Lorraine are fixated on each other.

🎵 **Song:** “All Shook Up”

SCENE 2: The Abandoned Fairgrounds

Chad is hiding from the mayor on the old fairgrounds but still obsessed with Sandra even though Ed says Sandra wants nothing to do with him. Dennis tries to upset Ed/Natalie’s ruse by suggesting all the “guys” go swimming.

“Ed” asks Chad what he thinks of Natalie and Chad breaks Ed/Natalie’s heart by calling Natalie a “grease monkey.” Chad still doesn’t realize Natalie is pretending to be Ed.

Seeing Natalie’s hurt feelings, Dennis consoles her.

🎵 **Song:** “It Hurts Me”

⚠️ **Watch For:** Actor in underwear, actor shirtless.

SCENE 3: Another part of the Fairgrounds

Ed/Natalie tries to convince Chad to be interested in Natalie and Chad suggests Ed pursue Natalie. Which would be impossible since they’re the same person. Natalie/Ed tries to get Chad to pretend to seduce Natalie by role playing with each other. Chad tries and notices that he starts to get strange feelings for Ed.

Chad touches a string of lights and they turn on as if by magic. Natalie/Ed is getting impatient and wants Chad to make a move. Ultimately leading toward Ed and Chad kissing. Chad is confused and intrigued.

Jim enters causing Natalie/Ed to leave. Jim and Chad discuss how they’re going to win over the person they love. Ultimately realizing they love the same person, Sandra. While Sandra is looking for her cultured and poetic love, “Ed.” Natalie/Ed enters and explains to Chad that the feelings between Ed and Sandra are not mutual. Chad goes to hit Ed but can’t. Chad struggles with new found feelings for “Ed.”

🎵 **Song:** “A Little Less Conversation”, “The Power of My Love”, “I Don’t Want To”

⚠️ **Watch For:** Kissing.

SCENE 4: Another part of the Fairgrounds

Matilda and Earl are looking for Dean. Matilda is convinced Chad is a very bad influence and a devil. Matilda and Chad have a guitar-off supported by the Devilettes and Angelettes.

🎵 **Song:** “Devil in Disguise”

SCENE 5: Another part of the Fairgrounds

Jim enters looking for Natalie and Dennis says he hasn’t seen her. The two bond over their unrequited love.

Then Sylvia enters and joins Jim in a conversation about feeling love again after losing past loves. Sylvia professes her love for Jim and he is overwhelmed and surprised by this new information.

🎵 **Song:** “There’s Always Me”

SCENE 6: The Tunnel of Love

Dean and Lorraine are hiding in the Tunnel of Love until the bus comes in the morning. We learn that Dean’s father was a war hero and the reason Matilda is so hard on Dean is because she wants Dean to emulate his father.

Chad interrupts and tries to encourage them to not run away from their problems. The ensemble shows different forms of love that are possible for the world to see.

🎵 **Song:** “If I Can Dream”

SCENE 7: Another part of the Fairgrounds

Ed/Natalie wants to come clean to Sandra about Ed’s true identity. Dennis enters wanting to confess something to Natalie. Jim and Sylvia enter discussing

their mutual feelings towards each other. Matilda enters still looking for her son and asking for support to get rid of Chad. Then Chad enters.

Dean and Lorraine profess their love for each other. Chad expresses how he has noticed this town is full of love and he even found love in an unexpected place. Matilda goes to protest and Earl finally stands up to her for the first time surprising the whole town. While Earl has disagreed with Matilda for 15 years he has also been in love with her. Earl kisses her and is ready to face the consequences for being indecent in public.

Earl proposes to Matilda and she accepts. Then Jim professes his love for Sylvia. Dean asks his mom for permission to be with Lorraine and she ultimately gives him her blessing. Chad professes his love for Ed. Natalie drops her charade as Ed and his identity is finally revealed. Sandra and Chad are mortified. Natalie finally professes her love to Chad. Chad is overwhelmed by this new information and leaves. Dennis professes his love for Natalie. The feelings are not reciprocated. It is revealed that Dennis suggested the sharing of Shakespeare’s sonnet and Sandra is now in love with Dennis instead. Natalie is left to reflect on her feelings of love.

🎵 **Song:** “Can’t Help Falling in Love- Reprise”, “One Night With You (Sandra/Dennis)”, “Fools Fall in Love”.

SCENE 8: The Town Church

We are at the wedding of Sandra and Dennis, Sylvia and Jim, Matilda and Earl. Chad enters and asks Natalie to marry him. However, Natalie says no and wants to focus on her own dreams and travel instead. Natalie agrees to allow Chad to be just her sidekick on her next adventure.

🎵 **Song:** “Burning Love”

⚠️ **Watch For:** Kissing.

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