**Auditions**

*Late, A Cowboy Song*

By Sarah Ruhl

Directed by Hardy Koenig, hardy.koenig@ndsu.edu

Stage manager: Michaela Burns, michaela.burns@ndsu.edu

*This play is for all the lady cowboys of heart and mind who ride outside the city limits of convention. Mary, always late and always married, meets a lady cowboy outside the city limits of Pittsburgh who teaches her how to ride a horse. Mary’s husband, Crick, buys a painting with the last of their savings. Mary and Crick have a baby, but they can’t decide on the baby’s name, or the baby’s gender. A story of one woman’s education and her search to find true love outside the box.*

*Don’t take any of the following character information too literal. Read the play and make up your own mind. This is just some data to consider.*

***CRICK*** *- Charming, fragile, and child-like*

***MARY*** *- Keeps her journal locked*

***RED*** *- She’s no cowgirl, she’s a cowboy*

*Red talks slow. Crick talks fast. Mary’s somewhere in the middle.*

**If you would like to audition for Mary or Red please memorize one of the following monologues and come to auditions prepared to present it.**

**Mary**

Lately---I can’t decide simple things, like should I eat this potato chip or should I take a walk. So I ask myself questions in my head. I close my eyes and ask: should I take a walk? And the voice answers: yes or no, and I think it’s my own voice, but I’m not sure. Sometimes I think it’s God’s voice. But I’ve never been sure about God. So it must be my voice. Do you ever do that?

**Mary**

She wore a big hat into the Green Shutters. It was kind of funny. People looked at her and she just tipped her hat. She does things to saddles and harnesses. She rides things. She can make a horse fall asleep---she sings horse lullabies for a job. She gets paid for it. She says it’s beautiful, when a horse falls asleep. She says it’s like if God fell asleep. Because God would sleep standing up---just in case he had to wake up---to take care of anything.

**Red**

Maybe you think about things too much, Mary. You should learn to ride a horse. When you’re riding a horse, there’s no time to think, should I jump over this fence or shouldn’t? All of a sudden you’re just jumping over a fence. You know?

**Red**

To me---a blank fortune is . . .an open sky on the horizon. Fill in the blank. A fortune no one’s ever written up ahead of time, because no one could imagine a life as strange and as beautiful as the horse you’re about to jump on.

**If you would like to audition for Crick, please memorize one of the following monologues.**

**Crick**

It’s good practice to just look at something. If Eve had just looked at that apple instead of eating it, we’d all be better off. If all the bad things of the world were paintings, and we just looked at ‘em, we’d be better off. It clears your head, just to look at something. Don’t you think?

**Crick**

At the museum is this painting of just the color red and white. Red on top and white on the bottom. You look at it and you just want to cry your eyes out---you don’t know why. I look at it all day. I watch the people go by. They look at the painting and they are unmoved. It’s like they have plastic flowers for souls. Sometimes I stay late just to look at it. Today was its last day. Then it goes far away.

**Everyone:** If you play guitar please bring your guitar with a short song prepared to play and sing. It doesn’t have to be long or complicated. Could be 3 chords and 30 seconds of song. I just want to see where your skill level is at this point. Don’t be dismayed if you do not play guitar, it is not an absolute prerequisite for any part.

I will ask you to perform one of the monologues, ask you to make an adjustment, talk with you about the play and generally just talk. The more prepared you are the better.