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CAST OF CHARACTERS
(in order of appearance)

Jeff Stafford	Baritone
Sarah Chicken	Mezzo-Soprano
Tom Wade	Tenor
Lola Lopez	Soprano
Eve St. John	Mezzo-Soprano
Parson Dowser (also Governor)	Baritone
Sister Sunshine	Soprano
Katie Lawder (Lady Moon)	Soprano
Jack Spaniard	Bass
Cecil Moon (Lord Moon)	Tenor
Thaddeus Bowen (Commissioner of Territories) (<i>may double with Rutledge Blunt</i>)	Speaking Only
Henchmen of Jack Spaniard (2)	Speaking Only
Rutledge Blunt	Bass-Baritone

Chorus: Various dance-hall girls, cowgirls, miners, ranchers,
Ashley Grangers, British uppercrust and townspeople
Dancers: Same as above

Scenes:

Act I

- Scene 1. Elkhorn, Colorado. Town center, intersecting streets with Hotel-Saloon, "Eve's Eatery" and "Katie's Launderee"
- Scene 2. Outside ranch barn
- Scene 3. Same as Scene 1, with changes

Act II

- Scene 1. Copswood Hall, England
- Scene 2. Same as Act I, scene 1, dressed up
- Scene 3. Borax Mansion, basically same as Act II, scene 1, with new dressing and props
- Scene 4. Election Headquarters (Painted scrim)
- Scene 5. Ballroom, Brown Palace Hotel, Denver, Colorado

Time: From Summer 1876 to Fall 1877

Orchestra:

2 Flutes (II dbl. Picc.)	2 Horns	Timpani
1 Oboe	2 Trumpets (Bb)	Percussion (2 players)
2 Clarinets (Bb)	1 Tenor Trombone	Harp
1 Bassoon	1 Bass Trombone	Piano (honky-tonk)
	Strings	

LADY KATE

Synopsis

Elkhorn, Colorado, 1876, a lazy little town in north central Colorado with a mixed population of farmers, miners, ranchers, groups of Mexicans and Indians in the outlying areas, and one or two large British ranches manned mainly by remittance men. Among the prominent citizens of the town are Katie Lawder, lately of Dublin, now the owner of the only laundry in town; Eve St. John, operator of the only public eating-place; Jeff Stafford, miner, mountain man and founding father; Jack Spaniard, owner of the local saloon and suspected of banditry and similar activities. We also meet Cecil Moon, one of the expatriate Britishers. It is his simple efforts to retrieve his laundry which involve him ever more deeply in the affairs of the town.

ACT I, scene 1. When the curtain rises, Elkhorn, sweltering in the summer heat, is a perfect picture of restless boredom - not a thing to do and not a thought about how to alter the situation. Eve, with cheery greetings, tries to inject some energy into the loungers. All agree that a rousing big party would cure all their ailments, but no one can think of an excuse for such a party. The possibility that the Territory of Colorado might be on the verge of becoming a state might do the job, but so far that is only a weak rumor. Sarah Chicken, Katie's Indian helper, suggests a pow-wow, complete with drinking and dancing, but the notion strikes everyone as laughable. Katie herself is called out of the laundry to provide one of her bright ideas. She suggests a Founder's Day celebration. Jeff, called on to tell how Elkhorn was founded, spins a shaggy-elk story, and this is good enough for Katie and the others. Gleefully, and in chorus, they describe the planning and celebrating of their first civic holiday.

Disturbed by the commotion, Jack Spaniard, all swagger and bluster, comes out of his saloon followed by his two sinister henchmen and a number of dancehall girls. Hearing of the Founder's Day celebration, Jack sings a grossly macho song warning of the dangers of law and order, dangers to the real rights of a real man - "A real man's his own law and order."

Jack then suggests that Katie become one of his dancehall girls instead of wasting her talents on silly celebrations. Good-humoredly he demonstrates how a dancehall girl behaves; with equal good humor she slaps him across the face with a wet shirt. The crowd laughs, Cecil Moon louder and longer than the rest, provoking from Jack Spaniard a warning to behave more respectfully. When Jack leaves, Jeff and his particular friends introduce themselves to Cecil and take the occasion to tell of the general friendliness "out here in Colorado." Eve says that the forthcoming party will be a good chance for Cecil and the other Ashley Grangers to meet their neighbors in the countryside.

All leave except for Katie and Cecil, who had come for his shirt - which turns out to be the one used to slap Jack Spaniard. He lingers, and these two people, usually so articulate, turn tongue-tied when alone with each other. At opposite sides of the stage, unseen by each other, each bewails the sudden feelings of total inadequacy in the presence of one who seems to be the ideal mate.

Scene 2. Ranchhouse barn, two weeks later, decorated for the shindig. The first part of this scene takes place just outside the barn. Jeff, casually making preparations for the party, sings of the lonesome happiness of the mountain man, riding his winding trail at peace with all the world. Eve comes along, listens, then joins him in the song. This temporary harmony breaks down the customary bickering between the pair, and Eve is impelled into a nearly serious proposal of marriage. Jeff recoils in total horror just as Tom, Lola and the others enter having finished with the shooting and other games.

Everyone enters the barn for dancing, Jeff calling on one and another of the local groups. First the Mexican girls sing the sad ballad of a young lad who, wherever he goes, hears nothing but "vamos muchacho." Next comes a square dance, the Ashley Grangers giving a formal account of themselves. Katie teases them into following her into an Irish jig. This is interrupted by what seems to be a fusillade of shots. It is, however, only a fireworks display, Jack Spaniard's way of announcing his arrival with his friend Thaddeus Bowen, Commissioner of Territories, with the news that Colorado has been admitted as the 38th state in the Union. After the rowdy crowd leaves, Katie and Cecil sing of their mutual love.

Scene 3. Four months later, a somewhat polished Elkhorn. Katie's Launderee has been replaced by "The Great Western Land Company, Cecil and Katie Moon." The swinging doors of Spaniard's Saloon have been replaced by the massive doors of a bank, and the two henchmen are putting up a great gilt sign, "Elkhorn First Federal Bank and Trust - Jack Spaniard, President." Jack is admiring all this splendor when Sarah Chicken enters. She questions him in what seems to be an honest curiosity about what has always seemed a miracle to her - how a banker, seeming to do nothing at all, nevertheless grows richer and richer. Jack is only too happy to explain, and now her wonder is transferred to the greatness of Jack himself - "his talents are wasted in this small town bank. He is certainly the man to run for state senator or governor - nay, why stop there, even President of the United States." And in awe of this great being, Sarah bows low and slides off. Jack, in a song, expands on his fantasy - what will life be for Senator Jack Spaniard, Governor Jack Spaniard, even President Jack Spaniard, why not? On these wings he floats into his bank.

Eve comes out of her restaurant/telegraph office carrying a telegram and looking quite sad. The telegram is for Cecil and tells of the death of his grandfather. When Cecil reads it to Katie and Eve, he tells them that he and his grandfather never got along, but now this message means that he is the new Lord Moon and that Katie is Lady Moon. They must leave for England immediately to settle the estate and to decide what is to happen next. Each reflects with some uncertainty and much fantasy on the momentous news.

ACT II, scene 1. Two months later, Copsewood Grange, Yorkshire, in the drawing room of the Moon country house. Cecil's mother has assembled a group of the local gentry to meet Katie. The smug certainties of the British exacerbate the lonely uneasiness of Katie who only becomes more defiant and outrageous as her responses turn more irreverent and shocking. The fiasco ends with Mrs. Moon dragging her disgraced daughter-in-law out of the room.

Scene 2. The next morning, the same setting. Katie tries to find some human response in Blunt, the frozen-faced butler. While seeking at least some frailty in him, she mentions gambling. Here she strikes pay-dirt. Blunt is not only obsessively fond of all methods of gambling but has long been curious about the American shoot-the-craps game. Luckily, Katie is able to give him a detailed exposition of the game. In the midst of this, Mrs. Moon enters, and in a flash the entire escapade is over for both Katie and Blunt.

Scene 3. Six weeks later, the town square of Elkhorn. All the folks of Elkhorn are waiting for the stagecoach bringing Katie and Cecil home. When they arrive their companion, Rutledge Blunt, responding to a question about his line of work, says that he has been a butler whose career has been toppled again and again by a passion for gambling. In this new land he hopes to stick to butlering.

Jack Spaniard pushes himself into the group of friends and asks support for his candidacy for state senator. When Jack leaves, Jeff and Tom ask Cecil to run against Spaniard. The thought of Jack in that office is intolerable, but no adequate candidate has been found to oppose him. Cecil and Katie pleasantly refuse; they are here to live quietly and make a good life for themselves.