STEPHEN KELEN -d'OXYLION

PRESENTS

P O L K C O U N T Y

A COMEDY OF NEGRO LIFE

ON A SAWMILL CAMP

WITH AUTHENTIC NEGRO MUSIC

IN THREE ACTS

BY

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AND

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CHARACTERS

BIG SWEET, a handsome Negro woman around thirty. Physically very strong. She has a quick temper and great courage, but is generous and kind, and loyal to her friends. Sings well. Has the quality of leadership.

DICEY LONG, a homely narrow-contracted little black woman, who has been slighted by Nature and feels "evil" about it. Suffers from the "black ass". Her strongest emotion is envy. What she passes off as deep love is merely the determination not to be outdone by handsomer women. Yearns to gain a reputation as "bad" (the fame of a sawmill camp) to compensate for her lack of success with men. She is extremely jealous of BIG SWEET. Being short, scrawny and black, a pretty yellow girl arouses violent envy in her.

LONNIE, a soft spoken man with a baritone voice. He loves and relies on BIG SWEET because she is his opposite. He is loyal and kind. Tall, brown and well-made.

LEAFY LEE, a slim mulatto girl, who wants to be a Blues singer. Frustrated in her hopes of a career in the music halls, she takes to wandering aimlessly, and perhaps s ubconsciously comes to Lofton Lumber Mills in POLK COUNTY where Blues are not only sung in the real manner, but are made. Simple, kindly and timid of life.

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MY HONEY, a fairly nice-looking brown man in his mid-twenties who has no other love but his "box" (guitar) when the story opens, though DICEY has resolved to make him hers. He is gentle, and not apt to resist her by force as the other men would do. So she persists in chasing and hounding him. He is pals with LONNIE, and gives him a sort of adoration.

STEW BEEF, portly, witty, good humored. Dances and sings.

SOB-THE-BOTTOM, big appetite, a rather good gambler at Georgia Skin but not above being sharp with less efficient players. Not really wicked, but considers himself smart.

LAURA B., just the average woman found on saw mill, turpentine and railroad camps. No looks to speak of. Just taking what life has to offer one who has no more to offer life than she has. Not bitter nor looking for anything particular.

BUNCH,)
) same type as LAURA B.
OTHER WOMEN,)

DO-DIRTY,) usual type found on such "jobs" the kind of men
)
BOX CAR,) who would be mis-fits in other places. Rough, cheerful, careless of human life, including their own, used to prison, hard work, and danger. Come day, go day, God send Sunday.

FEW CLOTHES, differs from the rest only in that he plays the mouth organ well.

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NUNKIE, a no-good gambler - shifty and irresponsible. His soul is as black as his face and his face is as black as the sins he commits. Any place with a dice table is his home.

QUARTERS BOSS, a poor white would would be a misfit outside of the job he holds, which is to keep order in the rough, lawless Negro quarters, where at least one person is killed every pay night. He is a little of a bully, but avoids trouble if he can. Tall lanky, and looks poor-white.

PIANO PLAYER, a good player who "jooks", that is plays by ear.

ELLA WALL, though primitive and pagan, has the air of a conqueror. She is strutting and self assured and accustomed to the favors of men which she in return grants freely. She practices Voodoo and feels she leads a charmed life.

A PREACHER, an old-time darkie - an aesthetic figure.

CHILDREN, about six or eight children (boys and girls)

MALE CHORUS,)
) there will be a male quartet and a female
WOMEN CHORUS,) quartet - if necessary a sextet.

DANCERS

DRUMMERS

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