



THE SMITH HOUSE

By Bill Purdie

A SMITH SCRIPT

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The Smith House - A Full Service Hotel

08-22-20

Synopsis

John, a travelling salesman on his way home, develops car trouble when passing through a small Tennessee mountain town. He is forced to stay overnight at the only hotel in town, The Smith House. It's advertised as a "full service hotel", which turns out to be a local euphemism for "brothel".

Misinterpretations abound and a marital crisis develops when John's wife, Marsha, makes a surprise visit to the hotel to celebrate their tenth wedding anniversary together.

Marsha is furious when she misinterprets John's innocent situation and storms out of the hotel, but she soon realizes that it is too late for her to drive home. So she is also compelled to book a room at the Smith House.

More misinterpretations occur as Marsha soon finds herself in a compromising situation of her own, making marital matters worse before they improve.

Time and Place

Present day in a small southeastern U.S. mountain town.

Performance Time

The play runs 1 hour with no intermission.

Main Characters

<u>Character / Description</u>	<u>Costumes</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Attendant</u>
Flo / Hotel Manager	FL		
John / Travelling salesman	J1, J2, J3	1	Cindy
Marsha / John's wife	M1, M2	9	Carl

Minor Characters

(Two or more actors can double. List is in order of appearance.)

<u>Character/Description</u>	<u>Costume</u>	<u>Room/Attendant</u>
Santa Claus / Tommy	SC	Wanda
Wanda / Santa's Elf	SE	
Tex / Cowboy	TX	6 Karen*
Fireman / (no name)	FM	Melody
Melody / (no name)	ME	
Sheik / Muhammad Ali	SH	7 Patti*/Fatima*
Professor / (no name)	PR	4 Student*
Cindy / Room attendant	CN	
Playwright / (no name)	PW	
Tiffany / Room Attendant	TF	
Senator / (no name)	SN	16 Belinda*
Pilot / Phil	PT	
Flight Attendant / (no name)	FA	
Scotsman / Scotty	SS	7
Carl / Room attendant	CA	
Al / Police detective	AL	5 Tiffany, Rita*
Mildred / Room Attendant	ML	
Clarence / Senior Citizen	CL	
Henry / Vampire	CT	2 Debbie*/Vampira*

"" refers to character name reference only in script, not an on-stage actor

Some of the "Other Hotel Guests" are not critical to the story line and can be eliminated from the performance to shorten the play's run time. Therefore, some scenes are listed as "Optional Scene".

Set Description - Hotel Lobby

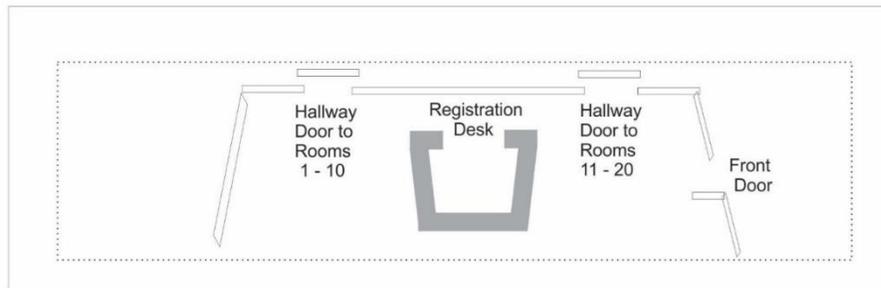
Reception desk, 3-sides

Outside entry/exit to street, mid stage left with entry chime

Hallway to rooms 1 - 10, upstage right

Hallway to rooms 11 - 20, upstage left

Set Drawing



Plan View



Audience View

The Smith House A Full Service Hotel	
Date 04-24-18	
Rev 1	
Sheet 1 of 1	

Act 1 - Scene 1 - John Checks In

[At curtain/lights up, Flo (in Costume FL) is doing paperwork behind the registration desk when she hears the front door entry chime (sound effect). John (in Costume J1) enters from Stage Left Center . Looking up, Flo welcomes John.]

Flo

Good evening. How may I help you?

John

Hi. I need a room for the night. Do you have one available?

Flo

We certainly do. What is your preference?

John

Preference?

Flo

You know, your "thing" [air quotes].

John

[John looks over his shoulder and around.]

My "thing"? This is a hotel, the Smith House, isn't it?

Flo

Yes, this is the Smith House, a full service hotel. I'm Flo, the hotel mad- . . . , uh, manager.

John

Nice to meet you Flo, I'm John.

Flo

John, how appropriate.

John

[John looks a bit bewildered at Flo's response.]

Appropriate? Why is that?

Flo

[Ignoring John's question.]

What do you have in mind for the evening?

John

What? Uh, I just need a room for the night.

Flo

Well, is there any special fantasy, event or situation that interests you?

John

No, just a room. I was passing through town when I had some kind of car trouble. I pulled into the garage down the street and the mechanic found the problem and says he can fix it, but the parts won't be in until tomorrow morning. It's a real disappointment because today is my tenth wedding anniversary and I planned to take my wife out tonight for a special dinner.

Flo

Well, we don't do marriage here, for obvious reasons.

John

Marriage? Obvious? What?

Flo

[Ignoring John's question.]

So, you must have talked with Nick. He's a good, honest mechanic and I'm sure he can fix you up.

John

Uh, yes, it was Nick and he recommended your hotel, saying something about it being the best in the area and I would really enjoy my stay here.

Flo

Well, Nick would know, he stays with us about twice a month.

John

Really? I thought he said he lives here in town.

Flo

He does.

[John looks a bit bewildered at Flo's response.]

John

Then why . . . ?

Flo

[Flo interrupts John again and offers an explanation, using "air quotes" for emphasis.]

Nick comes in to, shall we say, "tune his engine", if you know what I mean.

John

[Shaking his head]

No, I don't know what you mean.

Flo

"Rotate his tires".

[John shakes his head]

"Flush his cooling system."

[John shakes his head]

"Re-align his front end."

[John shakes his head]

"Polish his cam shaft."

John

Oh, OK, I get it, I get it!

Flo

Well, finally!

John

You repair cars here, too.

Flo

[Pause] No, sweetie. Look, let me be very blunt here. Actually, this hotel is a . . .

[Flo is interrupted by a female scream off-stage and looks exasperated. A skimpily clad young lady (Wanda, Santa's Elf, (Costume SE) runs on stage from upstage right and is chased by a hotel customer dressed as a

Santa Claus (Costume SC). He carries a bag over his shoulder. They run around the hotel desk to exit upstage left. Flo does not appear to notice at first and does not react, but John is surprised and looks confused and follows the couple with his eyes as they enter and exit the stage.]

Santa

Ho Ho Ho!

Elf Wanda

But Santa, it's not time to open your present yet.

Santa

Slow down, little elf, I want to show you what's under MY Christmas tree.

[As Santa passes Flo she flags him down.]

Flo

Hold on there, Tommy, let's see what's in that sack.

Santa

It's just a few toys, Flo, for a nice girl that's been good to me all year long, if you know what I mean.

[Flo looks through the sack.]

Flo

I know exactly what you mean and . . . Nope, Elf Wanda won't approve any of these toys. Now run along, she's gaining on you.

Oh, all right.

[Santa exits with a season's greeting.]

Merry Christmas! Ho Ho Ho.

John

[Looking perplexed.]

What? What in the world was that?

Flo

Well, besides being the only hotel in town, we are the Smith House, a "Full Service Hotel". We cater to all types of guests.

John

[John responds with the same "air quotes".]

"Full service"?

Flo

"Full service". Obviously, you haven't stayed with us before.

John

No.

Flo

Well, you're in for a real "treat". Our hotel is unique and I'm sure you'll enjoy your stay with us. We cater to most all preferences.

John

Preferences?

Flo

Tell you what. I have a room where we start out our first-timers. Our fee is \$500 cash.

John

Five hundred dollars? Isn't that a bit steep for a small town hotel?

Flo

We're the Smith House, a full service hotel. I'm sure you'll find your experience here completely "satisfying", but if you don't I'll refund your money.

John

Hmmm. Sounds fair, I guess. [pausing] Well, I have no other options, so, OK. I'll try it. I hope I have that much cash with me. Let me see . . .

[John sifts through his wallet, counts out five bills, and hands them to Flo]

Flo

You won't be disappointed. Here's our registration form.

[Flo hands John a multi-page document. He walks upstage left to the end of the counter to fill it out, and then notices its many pages.]

John

Uh, all this? And why is the name already filled in as "John Smith"?

Flo

We register all of our guests here as John Smith because we are the Smith House, a full service hotel.

John

Why?

Flo

We don't need to officially know our guests' names. That's why we only accept cash. And, that way there's no record of our guests staying here.

John

Why?

Flo

Most, well, all, of our guests prefer anonymity because we are the Smith House, a full service hotel.

John

OK, whatever.

[Reading the registration form. He flips a page.]

Uh, Flo, why do you need to know the name and phone number of my primary care physician?

Flo

It's for the safety of our guests, Hon. Suppose, for example, during your stay with us, you had a "medical emergency". We want the local hospital to have enough information on you when we drop you off there.

John

Drop me off? Wait! Don't they have an ambulance?

Flo

Oh, sure, they do. But, again, our guests prefer anonymity. We are the Smith House, a full service hotel.

John

[Reading further.]

Uh, huh. OK, but why do you also need my lawyer's contact information?

Flo

Well, suppose, you had some unexpected, you know, "legal entanglements" during your stay with us. We are the Smith House . . .

Flo and John
[In unison]

. . . a full service hotel

John

[Reading further, flipping pages.]

Ok, Ok, I get it . . . full service. I guess that's also why you need to know my blood type, past medical history, and medications? Wow!

Scene 1 Time: 6:45

Act 1 Time:

Play Time: