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*Dramatic Publishing*

# **MONKY BUSINESS II: Back in the Sandals Again!**

Book by  
TODD MUELLER and HANK BOLAND

Music and lyrics by  
GREGG OPELKA



**Dramatic Publishing**

Woodstock, Illinois • England • Australia • New Zealand

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Book by TODD MUELLER and HANK BOLAND  
Music and lyrics by GREGG OPELKA

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(MONKY BUSINESS II: BACK IN THE SANDALS AGAIN!)

ISBN: 1-58342-231-5

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*MONKY BUSINESS II: Back in the Sandals Again!* was first produced by Pritchard Theatricals at Cornwell's Dinner Theater on April 9, 1998, with the following:

**CAST**

Abbot Costello . . . . . DAN DOWLING  
Brother Brooks . . . . . STEVEN HESSON  
Brother Forte . . . . . PATRICK KEARNS  
Brother Lee Love . . . . . TYLER MICHAEL  
Brother Clarence . . . . . A.W. SAUNDERS

**PRODUCTION STAFF**

Director . . . . . MICHAEL MURPHY  
Musical Director . . . . . ELIZABETH HARDING  
Stage Manager . . . . . DOUG BROVER  
Set Design . . . . . MATTHEW DOUGLASS  
Producer . . . . . DAVID PRITCHARD

# **MONKY BUSINESS II: Back in the Sandals Again!**

A Musical Comedy in Two Acts  
For 5 Men\*

## **DRAMATIS PERSONAE**

ABBOT COSTELLO . . . . . the top dog at St. Bernard's  
Monastery

BROTHER BROOKS . . St. Bernard's second-in-command  
and Abbot Costello's right-hand monk

BROTHER FORTE . . the monastery's "miracle monk" with  
the recently received gift of speech

BROTHER LEE LOVE . . . the youngest and most innocent  
brother in St. Bernard's order

BROTHER CLARENCE. . everyone's favorite devil in dis-  
guise.

\* No doubling or expansion.

The entire play is set in the main sanctuary of St. Bernard's  
Monastery.

Approximate running time: 2 hours

## **MUSICAL NUMBERS**

### **ACT I**

1. Are You Ready?
2. Back in the Sandals Again
3. Men in Brown
4. Girls
5. Chant Your Troubles Away
6. An "St." by My Name
7. The Temptation

### **ACT II**

8. Nice Guys Finish Last
9. A Helluva Place to Be
10. I Like You Except
11. The Sell-Your-Mortal-Soul-to-Get-a-Little-Earthly-  
Pleasure Blues
12. Men in Brown (reprise)
13. Back in the Sandals Again (reprise)

## ACT I

*(As the lights come up we find ourselves in the main sanctuary of St. Bernard's Monastery. As the opening musical number begins, the BROTHERS of St. Bernard's make their way to the stage from the back of the house, greeting the audience as they go.)*

### **MUSIC CUE #1: ARE YOU READY?**

*(A song of the gospel/revival variety; a calling, of sorts. In song, the BROTHERS ask the audience whether they are ready to join St. Bernard's Monastery as monk novitiates. The audience learns that, as monk recruits, they are all here for monastic orientation.)*

ALL.

**ARE YOU READY?**

**ARE YOU READY?**

**ARE YOU READY TO COME INTO THE FOLD?**

**MAKE YOUR MIND UP.**

**SINNER, COME GET SIGNED UP.**

**'CUZ EVERYBODY'S LINED UP**

**TO HAVE THEIR NAME ENROLLED.**

**EV'RY SINNER HAS A SAINT INSIDE.**



**AND THE DEVIL CAN BE DIGNIFIED,  
SO ARE YOU READY?  
ARE YOU READY?  
ARE YOU READY TO COME INTO THE FOLD?**

*[UNDERScoreD DIALOGUE]*

ABBOT COSTELLO. Welcome, Brothers!

BROTHER LEE LOVE. We're so happy that you've all decided to become monks.

BROTHER BROOKS. We consider it quite a blessing that you've chosen St. Bernard's Monastery.

BROTHER FORTE. I hope everybody's ready for tonight's orientation.

BROTHER LEE LOVE. I know I am.

*[INCIDENTAL HELL MUSIC]*

*(Immediately following the above dialogue, the action is eerily suspended, the lighting changes and the music takes a dark tone. The back wall, above and behind the BROTHERS, opens/rotates to reveal CLARENCE in hell. Heavily shackled, CLARENCE is wearing devil's horns and a barbed tail. Next to him stands a podium/stalagmite with a large black and red book, roughly the size of an old encyclopedia. A red glow from inside the book reflects on CLARENCE's face when he reads from it. CLARENCE's following dialogue is underscored.)*

BROTHER CLARENCE *(pleading upwards)*. No more, Beelzebub, I beg of you. How can you condemn me to watch these four nincompoops for the rest of eternity? You're too cruel. So I wasn't able to turn St. Bernard's

Monastery into Bernie's Casino Royale. I said I was sorry. (*Lightning flashes and the book on the podium opens by itself, a red light glowing from its pages.*) Yes, I know what the handbook says about forgiveness. What's this? The celestial equinox? "If each member of a monastic order can be persuaded to commit one of the seven deadly sins before the stroke of midnight, the entire monastery shall fall into the hands of darkness." Is this a second chance? Beelzebub, you old softy! So if I get each one of those monks to commit a deadly sin before midnight, St. Bernard's belongs to me...I mean us. Four monks, seven sins; you couldn't ask for better odds. What could be easier? Gluttony. Envy. Pride. Lust. (*With each sin he gestures to the corresponding monk: COSTELLO, BROOKS, FORTE and LEE LOVE. Each monk spins once in his frozen place. CLARENCE pleads upwards.*) I'm ready for my second chance! (*CLARENCE's shackles fall away.*) Oh, brother, am I ready!

CLARENCE.

**I'VE WAITED FOR THIS DAY.  
AND FOR THE CHANCE TO SAY:  
"HEY, BROTHERS, LOOK WHO'S BACK—  
LOOK WHO'S ON THE ATTACK!"**

**THEY SAY REVENGE IS SWEET.  
SOON MINE WILL BE COMPLETE.  
I'M FEELIN' JUBILATION.  
CAN EVERYBODY SPELL "DAMNATION"?**

**YES, I'M READY.  
FEELIN' HEADY.  
I'M SO READY TO HAVE MY SECOND SHOT.**

**I'VE BEEN WAITIN'  
WAY DOWN SOUTH WITH SATAN,  
BUT I'M DONE CALCULATIN'.  
IT'S TIME TO MAKE THINGS HOT.**

**EV'RYBODY HAS A LITTLE HATE  
WHICH YOU ONLY HAVE TO CULTIVATE,**

**SO, YES, I'M READY.  
LORD, I'M READY.  
I AM READY TO GIVE IT ALL I'VE GOT.**

*(Following the CLARENCE section, the lighting is restored to normal and we return to the action. The song continues in counterparts: The BROTHERS calling, "Are you ready?" and CLARENCE answering, "Yes, I'm ready!" Throughout the rest of the song CLARENCE prepares for his return to St. Bernard's Monastery by removing his horns, retracting his tail, dusting off and putting on his old robe, etc.)*

**ALL.  
ARE YOU READY?**

**CLARENCE.  
OH, YES I'M READY. (Ad lib responses.)**

**ALL.  
ARE YOU READY  
TO COME INTO THE FOLD?**

**ARE YOU THIRSTIN'?  
BROTHER, YOU CAN'T BURST IN.**

**THE LAST SHALL BE THE FIRST IN.  
THAT'S WHAT THE BIBLE TOLD.**

**RIVER JORDAN MAY BE AWFULLY WIDE,  
BUT IT'S WORTH IT ON THE OTHER SIDE. SO  
ARE YOU READY?  
ARE YOU READY?  
ARE YOU READY TO COME INTO THE FOLD?  
ARE YOU READY?**

*(As the song ends, CLARENCE exits and the back wall returns to its original St. Bernard's setting.)*

ABBOT COSTELLO. Good evening, Brothers, and welcome to your new home: St. Bernard's Monastery.

BROTHER BROOKS. I can't tell you how happy we are that you've all decided to become monks.

BROTHER LEE LOVE. It's very exciting to see so many new faces.

ABBOT COSTELLO. Especially since we all look the same from the neck down.

BROTHER FORTE. I hope everybody is enjoying their "Last Supper."

BROTHER BROOKS. Please, try not to spill anything on your new robes.

BROTHER LEE LOVE. Mohair stains very easily.

BROTHER BROOKS. Now, for those of you whom I did not meet during registration, my name is Brother Brooks and I'm the second in command here at St. Bernard's Monastery.

BROTHER FORTE. The Abbot's right-hand monk, so to speak.

BROTHER BROOKS. So to speak.

ABBOT COSTELLO. And I'm your abbot, Abbot Costello.

BROTHER LEE LOVE. Abbot Costello is our first in command.

ABBOT COSTELLO. Although, He's really in charge.

BROTHER BROOKS (*thinking the ABBOT is referring to him*). Well, I do handle all of the administrative—

BROTHER FORTE. Not you, (*Pointing heavenward.*) Him.

BROTHER BROOKS. Yes, of course. So I guess that would make me the third in command.

BROTHER LEE LOVE. Actually, you would be fourth and Abbot Costello would be third because His son is the second in command.

ABBOT COSTELLO. You know how it is in a family business.

BROTHER LEE LOVE. Now if you were to count St. Peter that would make you—

BROTHER BROOKS. Let's do the math later, shall we?

BROTHER FORTE. You know, you're the first group of new recruits we've had here at St Bernard's in quite some time. But now we've got a waiting list, thanks to my miracle.

BROTHER BROOKS. And, as I'm sure most of you already know, this is Brother Forte, our miracle monk.

BROTHER FORTE. Up until a few weeks ago I was completely mute.

BROTHER LEE LOVE. And then, during a fund-raiser, Brother Forte miraculously received the gift of speech.

BROTHER FORTE. Boy, did that "show me the money"!

ABBOT COSTELLO. And he's been chattering away ever since.

BROTHER BROOKS. I'll say.

BROTHER FORTE. What's that?

BROTHER BROOKS. I say...we almost forgot to introduce the youngest member of the St. Bernard's family, Brother Lee Love.

BROTHER LEE LOVE. Why do people always laugh when they meet me?

BROTHER FORTE. It's not just you, it's Abbot Costello, too.

BROTHER LEE LOVE. I think my robe hangs funny.

BROTHER BROOKS. Now that introductions have been made I think we should push ahead with your monastic orientation.

ABBOT COSTELLO. Brother Brooks has us on a very tight schedule.

BROTHER FORTE. Brother Brooks always has us on a very tight schedule.

BROTHER BROOKS. I've got it perfectly timed so that we induct all of our new monks into St. Bernard's Monastery at exactly the last stroke of midnight. That way we'll coincide with the pinnacle of the celestial equinox. (*Directly to audience.*) The celestial equinox is a very rare occasion when, for a brief moment, the stars in the heavens are in perfect alignment.

BROTHER LEE LOVE. What does that mean, exactly?

ABBOT COSTELLO. You know, alignment, like the tires on the van.

BROTHER LEE LOVE. Oh, I see.

BROTHER BROOKS. But before we can induct anyone, we must first instruct you on the ways of monastic life.

BROTHER FORTE. So, for the next two hours, Abbott Costello will be leading us in a monastic orientation.

BROTHER LEE LOVE. "How to Be a Monk-101."

BROTHER BROOKS. Sort of a monastic boot camp.

BROTHER FORTE. Or “sandal camp.”

ABBOTT COSTELLO (*removing a stack of 3x5 cards from his robes*). I spent last week at the Vatican where I took the official training seminar.

BROTHER FORTE (*reading from the back of one of ABBOT COSTELLO's 3x5 cards*). The Spiritual Keys to Conducting a Joyous and Inspirational Monastic Orientation?

ABBOT COSTELLO. They thought “Orientation Training” sounded a little redundant.

BROTHER BROOKS. The Vatican wanted all of us to go to the seminar, but the St. Bernard’s coffers could only cough up one plane ticket to Italy.

ABBOT COSTELLO. I really wish all of us could have gone. You know, we should have checked the bus rates.

BROTHER LEE LOVE. Or maybe we could have rented a car.

BROTHER BROOKS (*aside to the audience*). We don’t travel much.

BROTHER FORTE. Anyway, it was clear that only one of us could go.

BROTHER BROOKS (*putting his hands together in prayer*). So we did what we always do when we’re faced with a hard decision.

BROTHER LEE LOVE. We drew straws.

BROTHER FORTE. And Abbott Costello was the lucky winner.

ABBOT COSTELLO. It’s not very often that God gives me the short end of the stick.

BROTHER BROOKS. Oh, I’d say it’s more often than you think.

BROTHER FORTE. So, how did you find the Vatican, Abbot Costello?

ABBOT COSTELLO. How could I have missed it? It's enormous!

BROTHER LEE LOVE. Did you get a chance to see anything?

ABBOT COSTELLO. Oh, yes. It's amazing; all the artwork, the history, and the food, oh, the food.

BROTHER BROOKS. And what about the seminar?

ABBOT COSTELLO. Oh, they had great food at the seminar, too. I even got to meet Cardinal Pullini's mother while I was there. She makes the most heavenly desserts! Cakes and pastries and Italian ices and cannoli, oh, such wonderful cannoli. She had me bring back six for the cardinal.

BROTHER FORTE. You said in your postcard that you were bringing home a dozen.

ABBOT COSTELLO. It was a long flight.

BROTHER BROOKS. And you learned a great deal about the process of monastic induction?

ABBOT COSTELLO. Oh, and I took the most wonderful walking tours. We walked to bakeries, and pastry shops, and espresso cafés. I walked the soles right off my sandals. Luckily, I have the same shoe size as the pope.

BROTHER LEE LOVE. The pope gave you a pair of his sandals?

ABBOT COSTELLO. Oh, mercy no. He gave me a very nice pair of his Italian loafers.

BROTHER BROOKS. He did what?

ABBOT COSTELLO. Oh, yeah. He said he's always helping people who have lost their soles.

ALL. Oh, brother.



ABBOT COSTELLO. Yeah, he's not a very funny pope.

BROTHER BROOKS. I can't believe this. First you get to go to Rome and then the pope gives you a great pair of Italian shoes.

ABBOT COSTELLO. It's no big deal. Everyone there was wearing Italian shoes.

BROTHER FORTE. When in Rome...

BROTHER BROOKS. Where are these shoes?

ABBOT COSTELLO. Oh, I don't have them anymore. I gave them back.

BROTHER FORTE. Gave them back? Why?!

ABBOT COSTELLO. They were very uncomfortable. The pope has very high arches.

BROTHER BROOKS. I have high arches! You could have given them to me

ABBOT COSTELLO. Well, maybe next time. Besides, I couldn't wait to get back to St. Bernard's and slip into a pair of my favorite old favorites.