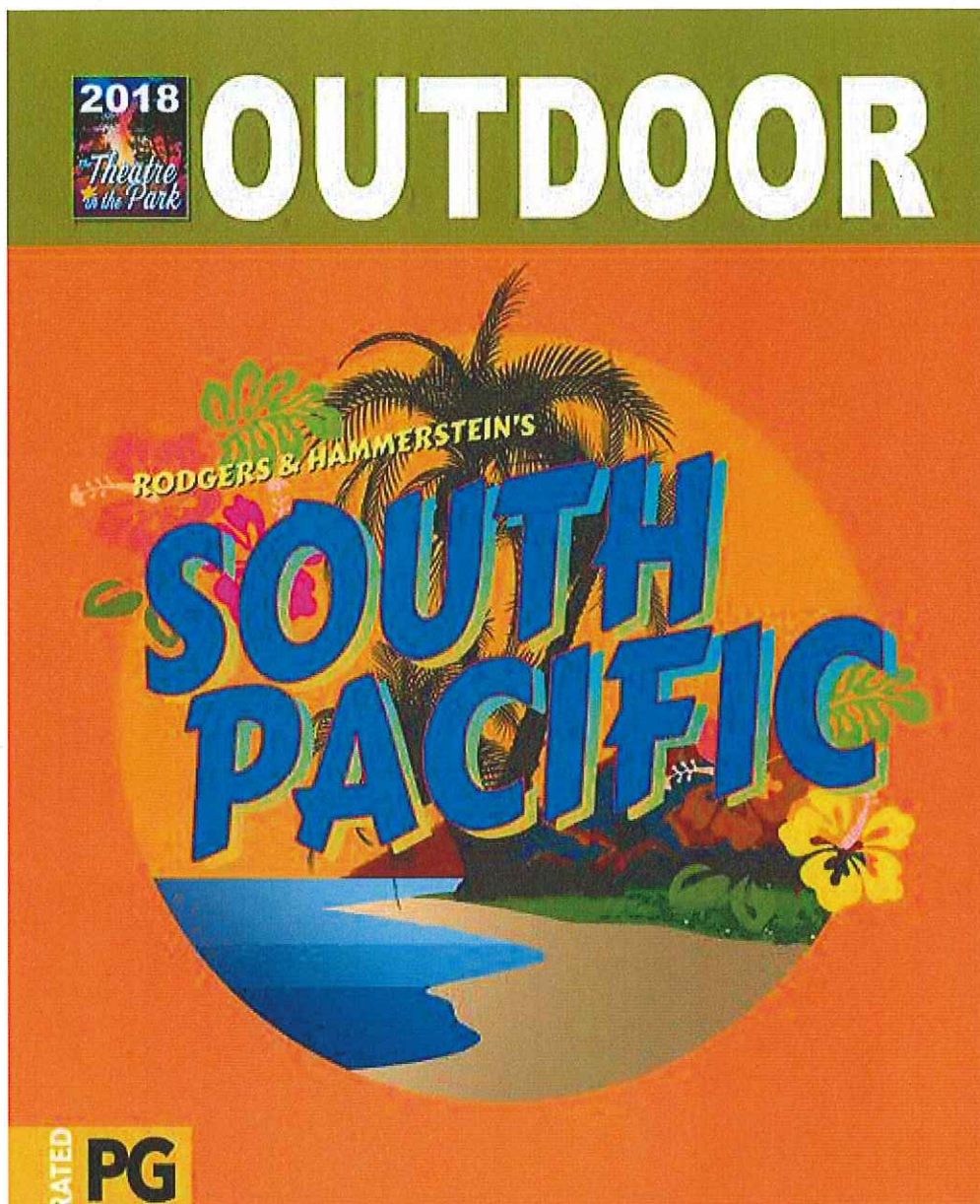




**Callback Material**

# **LUTHER BILLIS**

## **Vocal Sides**

"Bali Ha'i"

m116 - m124

"There's Nothing Like A Dame"

m17 - m51

## **Reading Sides**

B - w/Mary, Professor, Sailors

D - W/Cable, Mary, Professor, Bracket,  
Harbison



BILLIS: "...and everybody gets to know everybody pretty well."

BILLIS: \*  
(sings)

113 114 115 116

Bsn, Vln I

Stgs, Hp

Vln I

Ba · li

117 118 119 120

Ha'i Will whis - per on de wind Of de sea, "Here am

Stgs

EH, Fl (8va)

121 122 123 124

I — Your spe - cial is - land! Come to me Come to me!"

Bsn

+ Hn (8va)

125 126 127 128

Stgs, Ww

END

\* In the original New York production, singing was omitted here.

## No. 13

## There Is Nothin' Like A Dame

(BILLIS, STEWPOT, PROFESSOR,  
SAILORS, SOLDIERS, SEABEES, MARY)

*cue:*

SAILOR: "It ain't boar's teeth — it's women."

**Allegro**

1 2 3 4 5 6

Fl, Vln 1 (*pizz*)

Bsn, Vln 2 (*trem*) *pp*

Cl 1, Vln 1 (*arco*)

Cl 2, Fl (*8va*), Vla (*pizz*)

Vc

Bsn, Vc

Bs

Cl 1, Vln 1 (*arco*)

Bsn, Bs

7 8 9 10 11 12

Hns

13 14 15 16

Ww (*div*)

Tpts, Tbns, f Stgs (*pizz*)

Hns (+ *8va*)

Tba, Bs

SAILOR: + Cls, Bsn

We got

*p* (Br out)



## SEABEE:

18 19 20 21

sun-light on the sand, We got moon-light on the sea, We got man- goes and ba -

Stgs (pizz)

Hn 3

Bs

## SAILOR:

22 23 24 25 26

- na- nas You can pick right off a tree, We got vol- ley ball and ping pong And a

## BILLIS:

## ALL:

27 28 29 30 31

lot of dan- dy games— What ain't we got? We ain't got

Fl (8va), Ob

Br (8ves)

+ Hp

Bs

## MARINE:

33 34 35

dames! We get pack- ag- es from

Ww (div)

f Stgs (pizz)

Hns (+ 8va)

p

(Br out)

Hn 3

Bsn, Tba, Bs

Tba, Bs



SAILOR: STEWPOT: SOLDIER:

37 38 39 40 41

home, We get mov-ies, we get shows, We get speech-es from our skip-per And ad-

SEABEE: SAILOR:

42 43 44 45 46

- vice from Tok-yo Rose, We get let-ters doused wit' poi-fume, We get diz-zy from de

BILLS: ALL:

47 48 49 50 51

smell— What don't we get? You know damn well!

Fl (8va), Ob  
Br (8ves)  
Bs

+ Hp

52 53

BILLS: (like a recit.)

Ww, Sigs, Hp  
pp

We got nothin' to put on a clean white suit for.

(Hp out)

END



I - 3 - 15

**BEGIN**

BILLIS

*(To BLOODY MARY, confidentially.)*

Do you hear that, Sweaty Pie? You can probably sell these to the chumps for five or six dollars apiece. Now, I'll let you have the whole bunch for...say...eighty bucks.

BLOODY MARY

Give you ten dolla'.

BILLIS

What?

BLOODY MARY

Not enough?

BILLIS

You're damn well right, now enough!

BLOODY MARY

*(Dropping the skirt at his feet.)*

Den you damn well keep.

*(She goes down to another sailor and takes from her pocket a boar's tooth bracelet which she holds up to tempt him.)*

BILLIS

*(Following BLOODY MARY.)*

Now look here, Dragon Lady...

*(Whatever he was about to say is knocked out of his head by the sight of the bracelet. BILLIS is an inveterate and passionate souvenir hunter.)*

What's that you got there? A boar's tooth bracelet? Where'd you get that?

*(She points to the twin-peaked island.)*

Over there on Bali Ha'i?

BLOODY MARY

*(Smiling craftily.)*

You like?

BILLIS

*(Taking bracelet and showing to G.I.'s who have huddled around him.)*

You know what that is? A bracelet made out of a single boar's tooth. They cut the tooth from the boar's mouth in a big ceremonial over there on Bali Ha'i. There ain't a souvenir you can pick up in the South Pacific as valuable as this...

*(To BLOODY MARY.)*

What do you want for it, Mary?

BLOODY MARY

Hundred dolla'!

BILLIS

Hundred dollars!

I - 3 - 16

*(Shocked, but realizing he will pay it, turns to PROFESSOR and STEWPOT, takes money from his pocket.)*

That's cheap. I thought it would be more.

PROFESSOR

I don't see how she can turn them out for that.

BLOODY MARY

Make you special offer Big Deala'. I trade you boar's tooth bracelet for all grass skirts.

BILLIS

*(Grabs skirts from PROFESSOR, throws them at MARY's feet.)*

It's a deal.

BLOODY MARY

Wait a minute. Is no deal till you throw in something for good luck.

BILLIS

Okay. What do you want me to throw in?

BLOODY MARY

*(Taking money from one of his hands, shakes the other one.)*

Hundred dolla'. Good luck!

*(She exits with the grass skirts. The MEN all crowd around BILLIS, shaking his hand in ironic "congratulations.")*

BILLIS

You don't run into these things every day. They're scarce as hens' teeth.

PROFESSOR

They're bigger, too.

BILLIS

That damned Bali Ha'i!

*(Turning and looking toward the island.)*

Why does it have to be off limits? You can get everything over there. Shrunken heads, bracelets, old ivory,...

SAILOR

Young French women!

BILLIS

Knock it off! I'm talking about souvenirs.

PROFESSOR

So's he.

BILLIS

*(Pacing restlessly.)*

We got to get a boat and get over there. I'm feeling held down again. I need to take a trip.

**/END**





I - 3 - 26

YOUR SPECIAL ISLAND!  
COME TO ME, COME TO ME!"

BALI HA'I,  
BALI HA'I,  
BALI HA'I.

*(The MEN slowly turn upstage, one by one, to face Bali Ha'i.)*

SOME DAY YOU'LL SEE ME,  
FLOATIN' IN DE SUNSHINE,  
MY HEAD STICKIN' OUT  
F'UM A LOW-FLYIN' CLOUD;  
YOU'LL HEAR ME CALL YOU,  
SINGIN' THROUGH DE SUNSHINE,  
SWEET AND CLEAR AS CAN BE:

*(CABLE crosses to face Bali Ha'i.)*

"COME TO ME,  
HERE AM I,  
COME TO ME!"

IF YOU TRY,  
YOU'LL FIND ME  
WHERE DE SKY MEETS DE SEA:  
"HERE AM I,  
YOUR SPECIAL ISLAND!  
COME TO ME, COME TO ME!"

BALI HA'I,  
BALI HA'I,  
BALI HA'I.

*(The music continues as BLOODY MARY finished facing front, arms outstretched. She nods to CABLE, then exits.)*

BILLIS

Of course, Lieutenant, right now that island is off limits due to the fact that the French planters have all their young women running around over there.

*(He pauses to observe the effect of these significant words.)*

Of course, you being an officer, you could get a launch. I'd even be willing to requisition a boat for you. What do you say, Lieutenant?

*(Singing throatily.)*

BALI HA'I  
MAY CALL YOU,  
ANY NIGHT, ANY DAY.  
IN YOUR HEART  
YOU'LL HEAR IT CALL YOU:  
"COME AWAY, COME AWAY."

Hunh, Lieutenant?

**BEGIN**



(Pause.)

CABLE

No.

BILLIS

(Making a quick shift.)

I see what you mean, being off limits and all. It would take a lot of persuading to get me to go over there... But, another thing goes on over there—the ceremonial boar's tooth. After they kill the boar they pass around some of that coconut liquor and women dance with just skirts on...

(His voice becoming evil.)

...and everybody gets to know everybody pretty well...

(He sings.)

BALI HA'I

WILL WHISPER

ON DE WIND OF DE SEA:

"HERE AM I,

YOUR SPECIAL ISLAND!

COME TO ME, COME TO ME!"

It's just a little tribal ceremonial, primitive but *as-s-tonishing*, and I thought you being up in the shooting war for such a long time without getting any...recreation—I thought you might be interested.

CABLE

I am. But right now I've got to report to the Island Commander.

BILLIS

Oh.

(Shouting officiously.)

Professor! Take the Lieutenant up in the truck.

CABLE

Professor?

BILLIS

That's because he went to college. You go to college?

CABLE

Er...yes.

BILLIS

Where?

CABLE

A place in New Jersey.

BILLIS

Where? Rutgers?

CABLE

No...Princeton.

BILLIS

Oh. Folks got money, eh, Lieutenant?

*(CABLE turns away, BILLIS pats him on back.)*

Don't be ashamed of it. We understand. Say! Maybe you'd like to hear the Professor talk some language. What would you like to hear? Latin? Grecian?

*(BILLIS grabs the unwilling PROFESSOR by the arm and leads him over to CABLE.)*

Aw, give him some Latin.

PROFESSOR

*(Feeling pretty silly, but proceeds:)*

"Rectius vives Licini..."

BILLIS

Ain't that beautiful!

PROFESSOR

"...neque altum Semper urgendo dum procellas."

*(A CROWD gathers around the PROFESSOR. BILLIS beams at CABLE.)*

BILLIS

Now, Lieutenant, what did he say?

CABLE

I'm afraid I haven't the slightest idea.

BILLIS

What's the matter, didn't you graduate?

*(Disgusted, to the PROFESSOR.)*

Take the Lieutenant to the buildings.

*(CABLE and PROFESSOR start to exit.)*

PROFESSOR

Aye, aye!

BILLIS

*(To STEWPOT.)*

He'll never make Captain.

*(The PROFESSOR, suddenly alarmed by something he sees offstage, turns back and starts to make strange signal-noises of warning. BLOODY MARY enters below her kiosk.)*

PROFESSOR

Whoop—whoop—whoop.

*(In a horse whisper.)*

Iron Belly!



*(The MEN assume casual and innocent attitudes. Some make bird sounds. BLOODY MARY looks off and walks back to her kiosk to stand defiantly in front of it. CABLE, puzzled, stands by to await developments. What develops is that "Iron Belly," CAPTAIN BRACKETT, enters, followed by his executive officer, COMMANDER HARBISON.)*

HARBISON

Here she is, sir.

*(He points to BLOODY MARY, who is standing her ground doggedly in front of her kiosk. BRACKETT walks slowly over to her. HARBISON takes a few steps toward the MEN and they move away. BRACKETT glares at BLOODY MARY. Undaunted, she glares right back.)*

BRACKETT

You are causing an economic revolution on this island. These French planters can't find a native to pick a coconut or milk a cow because you're paying them ten times as much to make these ridiculous grass skirts.

BLOODY MARY

French planters stingy bastards!

*(STEWOPOT drops tin bucket. The MEN control themselves from laughing by great efforts. BILLIS approaches BRACKETT with a snappy salute.)*

BILLIS

Sir! May I make a suggestion, sir?

BRACKETT

*(Returning salute.)*

Who are you?

BILLIS

*(Disappointed that BRACKETT doesn't remember him.)*

Billis, sir, Luther Billis.

*(Making an impressive announcement.)*

The natives can now go back to work on the farms. The demand for grass skirts can now be met by us Seabees!

BRACKETT

Dressmakers!

*(Starting to blow up.)*

Do you mean to tell me the Seabees of the United States Navy are now a lot of...

BILLIS

*(Cutting him off.)*

If you don't like the idea, sir, we can drop it right here, sit. Just say the word. Just pretend I never brought it up.

HARBISON

*(Reflectively.)*

Luther Billis.

BILLIS

*(With an eager salute.)*

Yes, sir?

HARBISON

Nothing. Just making a mental note. I want to be sure not to forget your name.

*(BILLIS' salute dissolves; he slowly and dejectedly retires.)*

BRACKETT

*(Turns to BLOODY MARY.)*

I want to see you pick up every scrap of this paraphernalia now! And, for the last time, carry it way down there beyond that fence off Navy property.

*(She stands firmly planted and immovable! CABLE walks to the kiosk and collapse it.)*

CABLE

*(With decisive authority.)*

Come on, everybody. Take all this stuff and throw it over that fence.

*(The MEN quickly obey, BILLIS ostentatiously taking charge in front of the two officers.)*

BILLIS

*(To MEN, as they exit.)*

All right—take it way down there. Off Navy property!

CABLE

*(Strides over to BLOODY MARY and points off.)*

You go too.

BLOODY MARY

*(CABLE can do no wrong in her eyes.)*

All right, Lootellan. Thank you.

*(She exits. By this time, all the MEN have gone, taking her kiosk with them. BRACKETT, CABLE, and HARBISON are left. BRACKETT looks at HARBISON as if to ask who CABLE is. HARBISON shrugs his shoulders. CABLE turns and exchanges salutes with BRACKETT.)*

BRACKETT

Lieutenant, who are you, anyway?

CABLE

I'm Lieutenant Joseph Cable, sir. I just flew in on that PBY.

BRACKETT

A joy ride?

CABLE

No, sir. Orders.



A Marine under orders to me?

BRACKETT

Yes, sir.

CABLE

I'm Captain Brackett.

BRACKETT

How do you do, sir?

CABLE

This is Commander Harbison, my Executive Officer.

BRACKETT

*(CABLE and HARBISON exchange salutes and handshakes.)*

Well, what's it all about?

CABLE

My Colonel feels that all these islands are in danger because none of us has been getting first-hand intelligence, and what we need is a coast watch.

HARBISON

A coast watch?

CABLE

*(Drawing a rough map in the sand.)*

A man with a radio hiding out on one of those Jap-held islands, where he could watch for Jap ships when they start down the bottleneck...down this way.

BRACKETT

*(Turning to HARBISON.)*

What do you think, Bill?

HARBISON

Well, sir, our pilots could do a hell of a lot to Jap convoys with information like that.

BRACKETT

You'd have to sneak this man ashore at night from a submarine.

CABLE

Yes, sir.

HARBISON

Who's going to do it?

CABLE

Well, sir...I've been elected.

*(Pause.)*

I - 3 - 32

BRACKETT

*(After exchanging a look with HARBISON.)*

You've got quite an assignment, son.

HARBISON

How long do you think you could last there, sending out messages, before the Japs found you?

CABLE

I think I'd be okay if I could take a man with me who really knew the country. Headquarters has found out there's a French civilian here who used to have a plantation on Marie Louise Island.

HARBISON

Marie Louise! That's a good spot. Right on the bottleneck.

BRACKETT

What's this Frenchman's name?

CABLE

Emile de Becque.

BRACKETT

*(Suddenly excited.)*

Meet me in my office in about half an hour, Cable.

*(He starts off, followed by HARBISON.)*

CABLE

Yes, sir.

BRACKETT

Come on, Bill! Maybe we'll get into this war yet!

**END**

*(They exit. CABLE watches them off, then picks up his bag and starts off.)*

**MUSIC 16: CABLE HEARS "BALI HA'I"**

CABLE

*(Stops in his tracks and listens. Then he turns and looks across at the island. Softly, he starts to sing.)*

BALI HA'I

MAY CALL YOU,

ANY NIGHT, ANY DAY,

IN YOUR HEART

YOU'LL HEAR IT CALL YOU:

"COME AWAY, COME AWAY!"

BALI HA'I,

BALI HA'I,

BALI HA'I.

*(He exits.)*