**FULL LENGTH PLAYS, MUSICALS, ONE ACTS, TEN MINUTE PLAYS, AND PLAYS IN DEVELOPMENT**By Janis Contway 10-15
janiska@yahoo.com

**BIO**Award winning plays and musicals withmany productions by live theater, film and Network TV.
Award winning and published songs, Achievement in Film music Award.
Nominee, Hollywood Producers Independent Film Best Actress
Degrees in Nursing, Business/Marketing and Graduate degree in Creative writing/Playwriting
Doctoral work in Ethnic Literature

***Discounted and/or free scripts, tracks and music.
Commissions accepted for plays and musicals.*** **FULL LENGTH PLAYS AND MUSICALSAPPROXIMATELY 90-120 MINUTES**

**BELLE STARR, BANDIT QUEEN** - 4F, 5M: *(A full length musical with 15 songs and underscoring)* Isolated from the bloody Civil war and trained to be a lady with skills in equestrianship, voice, and piano Belle (Shirley) Starr, is drawn into the war by her beloved Cole Younger, Belle attempts to be the respectable lady envisioned by her mother. but her ’s mother hosts an engagement party for Belle and Cole Younger. When Union soldiers intrude, Cole along with Belle’s adoring friend, Jim Reed, and her brother, Bud, join the Confederacy leaving Belle to spy on the Union. When Jim Reed returns with news that Bud has been murdered and Cole captured, Belle reveals she is expecting Cole’s child and Jim marries her to protect her reputation. Union soldiers return to burn Carthage and Belle gives birth to a daughter, Pearl. Destitute, Belle’s family moves to Texas, Belle gives birth to Jim’s son, Ed, and accepts a job singing in a Dallas saloon. Harassed by admirers, she wears the gun given to her by her father and is labeled an outlaw. When Jim is murdered, she marries the Cherokee renegade, Sam Starr and moves to Indian Territory where they hide out with other Confederate criminals. When Sam is murdered, she marries the Creek Indian, Jim July, nineteen years her junior and discovers Pearl is pregnant. She tries to correct her children and become respectable, but before she can regain her reputation, she is killed. She dies as she lived “by the gun.”

**HORSEPLAY IN THE OILPATCH** *(A one-act or Full length Comedy)* 3 M-3F. *In the one-act play*, Set after the Oil bust of the eighties, Leon, an older wildcatter, Jim, a handsome land man, and a Bob, a bookish geologist are broke and losing hope. The oil-bust that has taken their luxurious homes, trophy wives and fancy cars. To survive, they are all moving into a one-bedroom apartment. On a phone plugged into the landlady’s line Jim, even as the lights blink on and off, convinces OG&E to extend service. When Jim’s unemployment is halted and Bob loses his Seven-Eleven job, they are losing hope, but Jim devises a plan to syndicate an imaginary horse named Old Invisible. All he needs is money for a Wall Street Journal ad. Convincing the others syndicating a non-existent horse it is no different than borrowing money for an oil well not knowing oil is there he convinces Leon to pawn their only asset, his pinky ring, and places an ad for investors in the non-existent horse to regain their hope.
In the *full length,* The second act moves to New York where Alice, an innocent blonde Avon salesperson, Barbara, a curvy cyclist, and Jane an intellectual magazine editor discover Alice has innocently sold Avon powder to a drug dealer who believed it to be cocaine. They must quickly get rid of the cash and get out of town. When the dealer appears to be threatening murder, they fed ex their $50,000 cash to the owners of Old Invisible and leave immediately for Oklahoma. At a party celebrating what investors believe will be a big win for Old Invisible, the two groups collide. With the drug dealer and the Sheriff in attendance, the two groups work together to hide their identity by developing hilarious disguises. Joining forces to avoid both the sheriff and the murderous drug dealer who has followed the New Yorkers to Oklahoma, they also develop unexpected friendships and a little romance.

**SONG OF THE TRAIL** *(Tragic full length musical)* 4M, 3F plus Chorus. In dance and song, the beautiful half-Cherokee Aniwake falls in love with the full blood hunter, Deerkiller and they are married in the Cherokee tradition. When President Andrew Jackson refuses to enforce the Court’s rule for the Cherokees, the militia forces Aniwake and the slave couple purchased and set free, Pricilla and Benjamin, to the \_\_\_\_ stockade. Unknown to Aniwake Deerkiller has been confined to the \_\_\_\_ Stockade and each. Each fearing the other is dead. They are forced to walk different routes to Indian Territory. And on bleeding feet with scarce food and little protection form the elements they must maintain hope for being re-united at trails end. Armstrong, the militiaman in charge of Aniwake’s removal falls in love with her and when she discovers she is expecting Deerkiller’s child, she protects her people by hiding her pregnancy. With the support of Pricilla and Benjamin, she endures the arduous journey believing she will be re-united her husband. With scarce food and little protection from the elements Cherokees walk the trail on bleeding feet. With many ill and dying, Aniwake finds beauty and hope. At the Ohio River, more die from exposure and Benjamin drowns. Together, Pricilla and Aniwake persevere toward what they hope will be a new home in Indian Territory. Arriving at their destination, Aniwake reveals her pregnancy to Armstrong who abuses her and she lies bleeding and injured. Rescues by the commander of the fort, , she gives birth to a child and is reunited with her husband knowing like the Cherokee Rose struggle will force deep roots and they will grow stronger with beautiful blossoms and stronger seeds for a bright future.

**STAKE YOUR CLAIM** 5F, 5M plus Chorus. *(Full Length musical)* A fictional romance set in a historic land run typical of those that settled much of the West during the late nineteenth century. “Stake Your Claim” sets stories of the women who accompanied their husbands to song and dance. The story begins with light comedy leading to a poignant ending.

**BUFFALO SOLDIER** 2F, 2M, *(Full Length Musical)* Katherine Holmes, a freed slave is a maid in the Commander’s residence at Fort Reno, Indian Territory. She hopes to own land which she believes offers true freedom. But she falls in love with the nomadic Buffalo Soldier, Benjamin. When he leaves to fight Apaches in the Southwest, they correspond in letters and song and when he returns they are married. When she discovers she is expecting a child her desire for land increases and she clashes with her husband who values the freedom of military life. Thinking he has left her, she is even more determined to acquire land and as Benjamin races to her side, she wins a claim in Oklahoma’s 1889 Land Run. But her horse falls on her and after giving birth to a daughter, as she lies dying, Benjamin joins her and comes to understand the importance of the land as a legacy of love.

**SONG OF THREE RIVERS** 3M, 1F: Historic musical set at Fort Gibson, Oklahoma in the mid-nineteenth century when dozens of American Indian tribes are being relocated to Indian Territory. A tribal war looms, but is averted through the efforts of the commander of the fort, Matthew Arbuckle who falls in love with the half Osage daughter of a Choteau fur trader. Trained as a dancer in France, Antoinette worries for the native spirit represented by the buffalo who are being slaughtered, but is assured by her Osage grandfather that the buffalo will take their own revenge. As Antoinette plans a cotillion to celebrate the arrival of the supply boats, Colonel Arbuckle, who has been promised a promotion to general is unexpectedly replaced by the attorney, Henry Leavenworth who arrives to begin the march westward with the second in command, Lieutenant Dodge, George Catlin, artist, Washington Irving, writer and Jacques Choteau interpreter who speaks all of the European languages and all of the Indian languages. Along the way they kill hundreds of buffalo and at what Leavenworth declares is the last hunt, he is given the opportunity to make the last kill, a mother and calf. He aims to shoot the mother, but kills the calf and the mother charges his horse killing him, proving the Osage Grandfather right. The buffalo did take their own revenge. Arbuckle is promoted to General and dances with Antoinette at the cotillion.

**RAILROAD FEVER** 3 M, 4F + Chorus: *(Full length musical set around the settlement of a town around a railroad)*. The town’s founder has received hundreds of acres and decides to survey it and sell it in plots for a city he envisions. His wife arrives in a dance scene set amid a hailstorm and is unimpressed with the barren plains. He realizes he must entice the railroad to his town by acquiring the Post office from a nearby town of twelve churches. The Post Office is also being sought by another town with sixteen saloons and a chorus of “dancing girls.” When the two towns appear to be unable to survive without the railroad, the founder’s wife along with the “dancing girls” leave town. The surveyor dons a mop wig and sings in a female voice to compensate as women from the town with the Post Office arrive to surrender it to the new town’s founder. The railroad arrives and brings the women back to town for a surprise ending.

**CARING** 4F 5M, *(Full-length musical set around a high school prom with a star performer who winds up hospitalized)* When the Little River High School schedules a rock star to perform at its long anticipated prom, the teens are excited, but all are dismayed when he is hospitalized after a serious car accident on the way to the prom. With the singer still in traction, the students decide to bring him some “Good Times medicine.” Songs and hilarious dance scenes set around bedpans and medical equipment ensues leading to an unexpected ending.

**APPROXIMATELY TEN MINUTE PLAYS**

**THE COLD WITHIN** *(Drama) 7 m or f.* In a very cold Armageddon type setting with death from hypothermia threatening, a character finds matches and needs the kindling and wood from other very diverse individuals for a fire.

**TOGETHER** *(Comedy)* 1F, 1M (2M Off stage). During the seventies a tornado approaches as Jane tries to improve her marriage to Bill sharing more activities. But Bill is consumed with adjusting the TV to hear Oklahoma’s own Gary England’s forecast. Their efforts culminate in a typical Oklahoma response to a tornado and the realization that they share more than they thought.

**ANGER MANAGEMENT** *(Comedy)* 2 M (3 Off-stage voices). When Jack, acts on his anger in the workplace he is directed to undergo anger management which only further angers him. When he dials a wrong number and is treated rudely he is furious, but when someone takes his parking spot, he finds an efficient way to “manage” his anger.

**DOG AND CAT** *(Comedy)* 2 M. Jim, a dog lover, reluctantly agrees to watch his very muscular next door neighbor’s cat and is terrified when his dog presents him with a ‘trophy’ that he must somehow hide from the neighbor.

**CAR THEFT** *(Comedy)* 2 M. As James leaves church, he discovers he has lost his keys then notices his car is missing from the parking lot. He notifies the police then calls his wife to pick him up and is surprised at her response.

**RED WAGON** *(Dramedy)* 1F, 1M, 1child. At Christmas, a young man longs for the Red Wagon he sees in a store window. His mother cannot afford the wagon, but as a result of a miracle, the young man receives the wagon and all enjoy a surprise ending.

**IN THE BEGINNING** *(Comedy)* 2M, 1F. God issues the rules for living well and conflicts with Satan who issues rules for living exorbitantly and destructively. At last they reach a compromise.

**LOST JESUS** *(Dramedy)* 1 F, 1 M, 1 Child. A mother purchases an incorrectly packed Nativity set and when she tries to rectify the error, she learns the true meaning of Christmas.

**GRATITUDE** 2 M. *(Dramedy)* When a wealthy man sends his son to a farm to develop his ambition to become as successful as his wealthy father, they both learn lessons of true success.

**LEARNING TO LOVE** *(Dramas)* 2 F. In five short ten minute plays, a female inmate who has been betrayed and deservedly imprisoned learns to love herself and others.

**MAKING A BABY** *(Comedy)* 1 F. A monologue by a young girl (possibly played by an adult). At Show and Tell, Judy describes and illustrates the birth of her brother to her classmates in hilariously vivid detail.

**LITTLE GIRL HIDING** *(Comedy)* 1 F, 1 M, 1 Child: When a young mother discovers her child missing, she notifies the authorities who show up in force and mayhem ensues leading to a surprise ending.

**THE ART OF QUILTING** *(Tragicomedy)* 2 F, 1 M. A cheerful retired actress confined to a nursing home is frustrated by her roommate’s opposition to the light necessary for the quilt she is creating for a charity art auction. She is delighted when the nurse introduces an aphasic male patient in a well-lighted room. Their friendship leads to a beautiful ending.

**PET CAT** *(Drama)* 2 M. Alex, a teen is in foster care and headed for Juvenile Detention when he is offered community service helping an elderly veterinarian care for his animals. The most difficult, a tough older cat named Lucky, touches the Alex’s heart and when Lucky becomes ill, Alex learns a lesson of love.

**JUST A LITTLE PRICK** *(Comedy)*1 F, 2 M. A middle aged man who is terrified of needles is having an affair with his dentist’s wife. In the dental chair with his mouth full cotton and unable to speak, the affair comes to light and the dentist takes revenge.

**FISHING** *(Dramedy)* 4 children. While fishing, children mourn a goldfish and debate the existence of God. When a fish in the stream becomes endangered they reveal their own fears losses and the effects on their hearts,

**OLD DOCTOR YOUNG DOCTOR** *(Comedy)* 1 F, 2 M. A young doctor is persistently belittled by an older doctor, but the older doctor learns a lesson when the younger physician deals effectively with an especially difficult patient.

**THE PRIEST’S DONKEY** *(Comedy)* 1 F, 1 M. When a nun purchases a donkey, the Priest is increasingly distressed by the double meaning of headlines in which the donkey is referred to as an “ass.”

**MARINE AT THE BEDSIDE** *(Drama)* 1 F, 3 M As an elderly Marine lies dying in a hospital, with the help of a nurse and his physician, he is comforted by a fellow Marine leading to a surprise ending.

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY** *(Comedy)* 1 F, 1 M. When a friends asks her best male friend to care for her pet iguana, the concept of friends and family comes into question.

**SICK NEW YEAR** *(comedic Monologue)* 1F. When Maggie totally screws up Christmas, she decides to have a big New Year’s Eve Party. Before preparing refreshments, and with her cat Shelly in her lap, she phones her friends to invite them and encounters a litany of diseases. Her friends have developed allergies, addictions, ulcers, gall bladder problems, as well as other illnesses and intolerances. At last she concludes that next year she will play a big soiree at the hospital.

**ADDICTED TO ROMANCE**: 1 F. A short monologue about a woman seeking romance in all the wrong places and finding it with all the wrong men.

**ONE LITTLE BITTY BRICK:** 1F, 1M, A woman is assigned what she feels is an insignificant job in completing a new church and learns the importance of everyone’s contribution no matter how small.

**BABPIPES FOR A FUNERAL,** *(Comedy)* 3M When a man accepts his first gig playing the bagpipe for a funeral, he gets lost and terrible, but touching performance attracts a whole new audience.

**Christmas for Mom:**  A single mother struggles to surprise her daughters on Christmas morning, and becomes the recipient of an even greater surprise.

**ONE ACT PLAYS ANS MUSICALS**

**PHONE SEX** *(Comedy)* 5 F, 3 M (3F, if double cast). Amid preparations for a blizzard, the octogenarian, Viola with a screeching hearing aid inadvertently accepts a job in phone sex and mayhem ensues.
On a frigid Chicago morning during the mid-seventies a blizzard threatens. But Viola, a determined, hearing impaired octogenarian with a screeching hearing aid waits outside the Illinois Employment office. At her insistence she is referred for an interview at what she understands as a Home Bank, but in reality is a phone bank providing telephone sex. Sex operators offer services from semi private cubicles occupied by an arrogant Harvard grad and a Viet Nam vet who speak in a sexy female voices on the phone then in a overly masculine voices when off the phone. A blind girl uses her dog as a sexual prop and a recovering addict and prostitute is filled with resentment. When they are offered a bonus for enticing customers to ‘call back,’ Viola is determined to collect the bonus necessary to reach her $500 goal. Her screeching hearing aid and sweet voice puts her ahead, but as the drunken Manager slides onstage with the payroll and the Harvard grad brawls with the Viet Nam vet, the blizzard strikes knocking out the lights and phones to end Viola’s chances for earning her $500 before Friday. When they realizes the phones are out, they gather around Viola’s candles. In the intimacy of the candlelight the phone workers reveal their feelings and when Viola discloses the reason for her desperate attempt to earn five-hundred dollars, the Harvard Grad, the Viet Nam vet, the blind girl, and even the angry addict reveals the kindness concealed behind their facades of cynicism.

**HORMONES, HORMONES, HORMONES**. 3F *(Short musical comedy)* A secretary and other employees in a gynecologist’s office exhibit all of the symptoms of PMS and other hormonal conditions the sings and dances about with other office personnel about their afflictions in order to win raises from their gynecologist bosses.

**SHORT FULL-LENGTH CHRISTMAS AND ONE ACT CHILDREN’S BIBLICAL MUSICALS**

**HENRIETTA’S WONDERFUL EGGS** *(Interactive sing, dance and act along Easter musical for children)* 1F, When Henrietta Hen has laid her eggs, birds and rabbits from the audience come to see them and protect them then through a miracle, they develop the beautiful colors of Easter.

**LORD OF ALL CREATION, A series of seven short humorous, but meaningful Musical comedies beginning with a full length Christmas musical that depict the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus from the perspective of the animals at the birth plus a hilariously disoriented South American Parrot. The five Animal Characters have been portrayed by puppets and by children in animal costumes of varied complexity. They interact with actors in typical Christmas and Easter pageant roles.**

**CHRISTMAS FOR ALL CREATION** 3-8F, 3-8M (First in the “Lord of All Creation” series) The Angel comes to Mary with the news of the impending birth of is told she will give birth to the Son of God, Polly is delighted and plans a party. When Joseph puts Mary away from him in a song, Polly whispers about the angel and rejoices when the angel returns to change Joseph’s heart. When Joseph determines they must travel to Bethlehem for the birth, Cornelius, the arrogant camel leaves to study astronomy and Danny, the shy country Donkey must carry Mary to Bethlehem and learn to hold his head high. Lilly, the timid Irish Lamb faces the wolves to make a path and Polly guides the way from the sky where she learns to follow the Son. At the stable, they encounter the persnickety Nazi Cow, Mabel, who loudly prohibits the tattered group from entering her meticulous stable that she is keeping neat in anticipation of a visit from a king, but is convinced by the outspoken Lilly to allow the motley crew to enter the stable. At the birth of Jesus, the unbelieving Cornelius sees the star and knows Jesus is the king of the universe and when the kings and Wise men kneel at the manger, Mabel understands the King of Kings has been born in her stable and all rejoice in prayer and song.

**TRIUMPHAL ENTRY** *(Second in the “Lord of All Creation” Children’s Biblical Musical series)* 3F, 5M Stars performers (Possibly children) in animal costumes or puppets who interact with actors in human roles. Danny Donkey (Introduced in Christmas for All Creation) accompanies Jesus to enter Jerusalem for Passover. As a result of Carrying Mary to Bethlehem, Danny has become a star Struck rock star with gold teeth and jewelry who is “too busy” to help his friends Lenny and Buddy avoid the Money Changer who intends to capture them and sell them as Passover sacrifices who are being sought for sale as Passover sacrifices by the comedic and villainous Money Changer.

**STAR STRUCK** *(Short one-act Biblical Musical comedy)* 3F, 5M Stars performers (Possibly children) in animal costumes or puppets who interact with actors in human roles. Buddy, Lenny, and Polly audition for the Money Changer who declares he is seeking an actor to impersonate the rooster who is prophesied to crow three times before Jesus is betrayed by Peter. When the animals realize the money changer’s true intent, they determine to protect both themselves and the Savior.

**SET FREE** *(Short one-act Biblical Musical comedy)* 3F, 5M - Stars performers (Possibly children) in animal costumes or puppets) who interact with actors in human roles. Polly is captured and imprisoned by the Money Changer who intends to sell her as a dove for sacrifice. Lenny, Danny and Buddy try to free her, but she is only set free when Jesus enters to overturn the tables at the Temple.

**BETRAYED** *(Short one-act Biblical Musical comedy)* 3F, 5M - Stars performers (Possibly children) in animal costumes or puppets) who interact with actors in human roles. Fearing for his life, Buddy Bull betrays his friend Lenny Lamb to the Money Changer who imprisons Lenny for sale as an unblemished lamb fit for sacrifice. Danny is humbled by the realizes his weakness and returns to tell the story of the trial and crucifixion of Jesus, Polly attempts to free Lenny by applying makeup to resemble pimples ñ(blemishes). Failing to impress the Money changer, Polly is saddened and Lenny remains imprisoned, as the musical ends in a suspenseful but hopeful resolution when Lenny is set for trial.

**THE TRIAL** *(Short one-act Biblical Musical comedy)* 3F, 5M - Stars performers (Possibly children) in animal costumes or puppets) who interact with actors in human roles. Realizing the danger facing Jesus, Danny is humbled and returns with the story of Jesus, Lenny Lamb goes to trial before the Money Changer, found guilty for all of the sins of man and set for crucifixion.

**THE CRUCIFIXION** *(Short one-act Biblical Musical comedy)* 3F, 5M - Stars puppets or performers (Possibly children) in animal costumes) who interact with actors in human roles. Lenny Lamb is taken from the court of the Money Changer for sacrifice. As the Money Changer raises the axe to sacrifice Lenny, the venue goes black and the Cross of Jesus is spotlighted for a suspenseful, but tragic ending.

**RESURECTION TO ROYALTY** *(Short one-act Biblical Musical comedy)* 3F, 5M - Stars puppets or performers (Possibly children) in animal costumes) who interact with actors in human roles. As Buddy Bull watches sadly from afar, Polly, Danny, Lenny and Cornelius walk talking about the sadness of the crucifixion of Jesus. Suddenly Jesus, in his grave clothing joins them and all are given crowns of glory as they rejoice in song and dance.

**INCOMPLETE MUSICALS IN DEVELOLPMENT**

**CICADA** 3 F, 2 M: *(Full Length Musical)* A small northeastern town is being invaded by cicadas who live only one day in which they must hurriedly mate in order to reproduce before dying. Their untimely arrival coincides with the elderly Viola’s plans for an elegant garden party and Andrew’s plans for a football rally. The cicadas dance to a sensual beat as Andrew and Viola join forces to build a Rube Goldberg type Cicada defense machine and the cicada lovers, Jane and Daniel, arrive determined to wait even unto death for their one true love. Amid the mating and dying cicadas they search for each other in song and dance as Andrew and Viola fall in love. Watching the cicadas mate then die, Andrew and Viola realize the importance of seizing the moment and like Jane and Daniel they come together in love.

**ALICE UP AND DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE** 3F, 4M: *(Full-length rap/hip hop musical)* A rap and hip hop adaptation of Lewis Carroll’s fairy tale in which Alice’s pragmatic sister tries to entice her to return to the real world as Alice is torn between reality and the fantasy of the underground. Persistently drawn to the beauty of the underworld, Alice resists her sister’s pleas to seek adventure until at last she understands the greatest adventure of all is love and returns to her family.

**BEARS,** 1 F, 2F. *(Children’s interactive musical timed around a shore childcare program with snacks, naps and activities*) A Stearny teddy bear falls in love with a real bear and in the forest they encounter bears, possums, raccoons and birds. Designed to entertain children while their parents attend a musical or other entertainment. Performed by puppets and/or performers in animal costumes.

**PRETTY BOY,** 3F, 4M.*(Full length musical)* The life and loves of Oklahoma’s most well-known robber of the Great Depression is set to music. Pretty Boy marries the love of his life and is drawn into crime after the birth of his son during the Great Depression. With a partner, he robs a Kroger store and after being caught, convicted and released, he becomes involved with a prostitute, but longs for his wife. When he finds her she has remarried, but he and goes to her and she and their child leave her new husband to return to Charlie. Posing as a salesman, he leaves town on weekdays to rob from the banks who are foreclosing farms and become a hero to farmers when he destroys bank notes. When he is caught and killed by law enforcement, 30,000 people including both his wife and the prostitute attend his funeral.