

## CAST

Ghost Wilbur Chapman	Steelworker 2	MRS. OPAL WILCOX BARRON	
Thug 1 (Ricky)	Steelworker 3	JOHN W. SCOTT	William Herd
Thug 2 (Vicky)	CAPTAIN COLEMAN LUCAS	CLARENCE JOHNSON	AL KING
Thug 3 (Micky)	GOVERNOR WILLIAM (WALLY) WALLACE BARRON		G.E. Young
Steelworker 1	Interior Designer (Drev T. Snaps)		Edward Woodward

## Scene 1

Kids sneaking into theatre at night

RICKY

Shhh. I don't think anyone is here...

VICKY

Wha....what was that sound?

MICKY

I didn't hear nothin'.

RICKY

I said be quiet...you don't want to get caught do ya?

MICKY

Nope... I am going to be quiet and not say another word. If I get in trouble again my old man will have a conniption and that would be upsetting. So I am not gonna say nothin' no way and I not going to open my mouth....

RICKY

What did I just tell you?

MICKY

You said....

RICKY

I know what I said you need to be quiet!!

MICKY  
but....

RICKY  
No not another word.

MICKY  
But...

RICKY  
Not a sound!

VICKY  
ahhhhhhhh!

RICKY  
I thought I told you....

MICKY  
That wasn't me. It was...

VICKY  
Help!!!

RICKY  
What happened Micky?

MICKY  
I don't know Ricky.

CAPT. CHAPMAN (singing)  
(sung to the tune of Old Folks at Home - Stephen Foster)  
Way down upon de Mississippi,  
Right over there.  
There's where this boat once was sailin'  
Here's where I'll always stay  
dum dee dum de dum dee dum dum

RICKY  
What the?

MICKY  
Who the?

CAPT. CHAPMAN  
Me the Captain....Captain Wilbur Chapman. I sail this old barge.

RICKY

You..r'e aa...aaa...aa ghost.

CAPT. CHAPMAN

Well you're an adolescent. How do you like that?

MICKY

No really you are all white and cloudy like....you're a ghost dude.

CAPT. CHAPMAN

Captain....not dude. What are you two doing aboard my ship.

RICKY

Your ship?

CAPT. CHAPMAN

Yeah my ship. I've been behind the wheel of this girl for 75 years. (you can extend the the number of years depending on the year this is performed the boat was built in 1935) Back in the day this steam sternwheel could tow a mighty load.

MICKY

I don't even know what that means. We are on land. This boat hasn't sailed in 25 years.

RICKY

Besides that we have lost our friend Vicky.

CAPT. CHAPMAN

Oh Vicky is still here but she has slipped through time.

MICKY

What are you talking about? Slipped through time.

CAPT. CHAPMAN

She must have stepped upstage left at 12:01. You really shouldn't do that unless you want to time travel.

RICKY

Time travel....we need to be back home before our parents wake up otherwise we are in trouble.

CAPT. CHAPMAN

Well there is only one thing to do...

MICKY and RICKY

What's that?

CAPT. CHAPMAN

Travel back in time to find her. (he looks at his watch) We can make it there if we stand right here in 3...2....1

(Light show, smoke, and sound effects transport us in time to 1936)

Scene 2

1936 at Neville Island, PA. Dravo Company.

We see 3 Steelworkers working hard on three stern wheel tugboats Omar, Champion Coal, and Ranger

*Sung to the Tune "I Love to Sing-a"*

STEELWORKER #1

I love to work-a

Loosen the bolt-a and the Screw-a in the spring-a,

STEELWORKER #2

I love to work-a,

Inna da sky of blue-a, on the stern of the tug-a,

STEELWORKER #3

Anything-a on da wat-a to an "I work hard-a,"

I love to, I love to work!

VICKY (walking in)

Where am I? What happened?

STEELWORKERS (in a jazzy harmony)

Hey-a little girl-a

You betta watcha, we don't wantcha

to get hurt-a as we build-a

as we build, we build-a Omar

We love to work!

(they break into a wrench dance - Busby Berkley-esque - Vicky joins in and is led offstage by the steelworkers)

CAPT. CHAPMAN (Walking on with Micky and Ricky)

Well this is where it all started.

MICKY

What started dude...er...Captain.

CAPT. CHAPMAN

Everything...the bow...the stern...let's see I think that's the galley. Up there will be the wheel house.

RICKY

Captain we appreciate you leading us here to help us find our friend, but could you please speak to us in English?

CAPT. CHAPMAN

Ricky, this is English. Kids now-a-days do not know their nautical terms. The bow is the front of a boat.

MICKY

Wait I thought the bow was what you do at the end of a play. My sister was in a play once...I think it was Peter Pan or something like that. She had to auction (intentionally spelled wrong) for it. She did really good in it too.

CAPT. CHAPMAN

What did she play in the show?

RICKY

You really shouldn't ask.

CAPT. CHAPMAN

No I am interested. What did she play Micky?

MICKY

One of the pirates pegged legs.

CAPT. CHAPMAN

You're right Ricky I shouldn't have asked. Now the stern is the back of the boat and you see the start of the that big round thing at the end of the boat that is called the stern wheel that's what propels the boat forward.

RICKY and MICKY

Wow.

CAPT. CHAPMAN

That's right wow. Now who knows the name of this boat that their building right now? Keep in mind that ships are always girls.

RICKY

Lets see..that's a tough question.

MICKY

That's easy It's OMAR!

RICKY

Don't be such a pinhead you pinhead. OMAR is a boy's name.

MICKY

Then why does it say OMAR on the bow.

CAPT. CHAPMAN

You're very observant Micky and very right. This here boat's name is Omar and even though it sounds like a boys name she's still a girl. She's named after the town she'll pick up loads of coal from in West Virginia.

RICKY

Well we must have jumped to the wrong place in time then we need to find Vicky and she was last seen on THE CITY OF CLINTON SHOWBOAT not OMAR the female tugboat.

CAPT. CHAPMAN

There's a very simple answer to that Ricky...the reason is...  
(the Steelworkers enter with their lunch pails)

STEELWORKER #1

I love to eat-a  
Eat-a my lunch-a gotta meat-a and some bread-a,

STEELWORKER #2

I love to eat-a,  
Inna da sky of blue-a, on the stern of the tug-a,

STEELWORKER #3

Anything-a on da wat-a to an "I eat all-a,"  
I love to, I love to eat!

(they see Captain Chapman)

STEELWORKER #1

Hey Captain Chapman...she'll be done soon and you can sail her out-a-here.

RICKY

I thought you said you were the the Captain of the CITY of CLINTON SHOWBOAT, not the this here a OMAR.

CAPT. CHAPMAN

I was just getting to that The CITY of CLINTON SHOWBOAT wasn't always the CITY of CLINTON SHOWBOAT, it was originally called OMAR.

RICKY

But Captain...OMAR is shorter than the CITY of CLINTON SHOWBOAT.

MICKY

Duh...it's still a kid...it has to grow up and get bigger.

CAPT. CHAPMAN

Micky you're not totally wrong this time. I assure you OMAR and the CITY of CLINTON SHOWBOAT are one in the same.

STEELWORKER #2

Oh a Captain I almost forgot to tell you. There was a girl here about 5 minutes ago...a good dancer...looking for a Micky and Ricky...is them those guys?

RICKY

Yeah. wes those them guys... How come you didn't tell us sooner?

STEELWORKER #3

We were on our mandated Steel Workers Organizing Committee break.

MICKY

Where did she go?

STEELWORKER #1

Well we took her into the galley and she disappeared.

CAPT. CHAPMAN

That's about right. She hit the galley time portal. If we get to the engine room boys we can follow her. There's a portal there in 10 seconds hurry!

(they run off and the steelworkers continue to eat and we hear time travel sound effects and see lights flicker 10 seconds later offstage - the steelworkers look at each other and shrug and continue to eat as the lights fade to the next scene)

Scene 3

Omar on the Ohio River in Huntington West Virginia 1939

The Pilot house

G.E. YOUNG

That's 28.

EDWARD WOODWARD

Hold it one second...28...I don't know how we can make it all the way up to Cincinnati with a load that big. We need to ask the engineer. William come to the pilot house.

VICKY (enters)

Excuse me..can you tell me where I am.

G.E. YOUNG

Well young lady you have found yourself on the starboard side of the pilot house on the Ohio River Company's OMAR.

VICKY  
Starboard?

EDWARD WOODWARD  
That means right

G.E. YOUNG  
We are about to set sail so unless you want to travel about 138 miles upstream you better find your way to the dock.

VICKY  
Thank you..er...

EDWARD WOODWARD  
His name purty thing is G.E.Young and I am Edward Woodward, we're the pilots of this here vessel.

WILLIAM HERD  
Engineer Herd reporting. Oh it's you two. I thought Captain Chapman called for me. What do you...well who do we have here?

VICKY  
My name is Vicky. My friends and I were just in the theatre of the Showboat snooping..er...looking around and all of a sudden I end up in a boat factory and then just as a sudden I am here.

WILLIAM HERD  
There aren't any showboats docked near here. Are you all right sweetheart?

EDWARD WOODWARD  
Maybe you should come with G.E. and me to get a nice cup of coffee. That'll make you feel better.

VICKY  
I swear to you I'm fine..I walked on the stage and blam...

G.E. YOUNG  
Then you'll feel even better with some coffee in ya. Come on let's go. Herd man the pilot house.

(the 3 of them exit)

WILLIAM HERD

How come they always get the girl? Man the pilot house...I'll man they're....

(the Captain, Micky, and Ricky enter)

CAPT. CHAPMAN

Eh hmmm.

WILLIAM HERD

(turning slowly) What do you guys want now?....Eh Captain Chapman. Aye Aye..

CAPT. CHAPMAN

At Ease. Herd. What day is today?

WILLIAM HERD

Come again Captain?

CAPT. CHAPMAN

I asked a simple question. What day is it?

WILLIAM HERD

It's July 28th, 1939. We are tying off 28 coal tubs and heading 139 miles to Cincinnati today.

CAPT. CHAPMAN

Where's Young and Woodward?

WILLIAM HERD

They ah.. Well you see...

CAPT. CHAPMAN

Spit it out Herd!

WILLIAM HERD

They are escorting a young lady to the galley for some coffee. She gave some story about how she was on a showboat...there's no showboat's docked in Huntington right now..

(The Captain, Micky, and Ricky run out)

WILLIAM HERD (cont.)

So everyone gets to get coffee and I get to sit up here and watch over the...what was that If I didn't see it with my own eyes I wouldn't have believed it. That girl was running from G.E. and Edward and all of a sudden disappeared on the deck. Oh boy do I need coffee.

Scene 4

The Omar takes a nosedive, May 22, 1948

The Licking River, Cincinnati  
The Pilot House

CAPTAIN COLEMAN LUCAS

I cannot believe you two. How could you let this happen? I am going to make the riverboat captain's hall of fame with a nosedive like that on my record. Explain yourselves.

(G.E. and EDWARD start to talk over each other making no sense whatsoever)

CAPTAIN COLEMAN LUCAS

You speak...you nod and agree!

G.E. YOUNG

Captain it wasn't our fault. We were just running to light. Omar is a strong boat and needs to haul a lot. Our tandem condensing engines can and need to handle a lot more than what we have right now.

CAPTAIN COLEMAN LUCAS

So that's your excuse. (they nod) You see this lever here. (they nod again) This is how much power you give the engines. If you push it this way you get a lot of power if you push it this way you get a little power. Which way do you think you should have pushed it?

EDWARD WOODWARD

That way Captain.

(Captain Chapman, Ricky, and Micky enter)

CAPTAIN COLEMAN LUCAS

What the...I thought you had retired. First sinking Omar and now you are here to gloat.

CAPT. CHAPMAN

At ease Lucas. I am not here to gloat, however this would have never happened if you wouldn't have put so much coal in the boilers. Omar likes to go fast and the only way to slow her down is to feed her less.

(GE and ED smile, look at each other, and then look at Captain Lucas, who sends them a death glare)

CAPTAIN COLEMAN LUCAS

I knew you were here to gloat.

RICKY

No we are looking for a girl named Vicky? Have you seen her?

MICKY

She's about this tall, \_\_\_\_\_ hair, 2 eyes, and no mustache.

CAPTAIN COLEMAN LUCAS

There has been no girl on this ship since I have been captain.

G.E. YOUNG

Ain't that the truth?

CAPT. CHAPMAN

She must have jumped to a later period in time. Come on boys I know where we can jump to get to her but i think it is under water right now. Can you boys swim?

MICKY

I can swim.

RICKY

and I can swim better.

CAPT. CHAPMAN

Well let's go. (they run out)

Scene 5

Omar as the Rhododendron in West Virginia 1963 West Virginia's Centennial

Celebration dedication ceremony

Interior Designer goes wild

(at a Podium outside the boat docked near the State Capital Building of West Virginia)

GOVERNOR WILLIAM (WALLY) WALLACE BARRON

As the Governor of West Virginia during our centennial celebration it is with great pleasure and pride that we rededicate this renewed and renovated tugboat to its new and glorified status as a Showboat. I would now like to present my wife Mrs. Opal Wilcox Barron who will christen the boat.

MRS. OPAL WILCOX BARRON

Thank you Wally. ...As you continue to sail up and down the Ohio we ask that you sail into our hearts...I christen thee THE RHODODENDRON.

*(The Crowd cheers and sings)*

*(Sung to the song Surf City)*

Two shows for everyone

I bought a ticket for the showboat Rhododendron

(The Showboat, we'll have fun)

The Omar's now retired, it's an oldie but a good friend  
(The Showboat, we'll have fun)  
Well, we'll see lots of shows here in West Virginia  
If you go too I'm sure I'll see ya

And we're goin' to the Showboat, 'cause it's two to one  
You know we're goin' to the Showboat, gonna have some fun  
Ya, we're goin' to the Showboat, 'cause it's two to one  
You know we're goin' to the Showboat, gonna have some fun, now  
Two shows for everyone  
(The crowd cheers again)

VICKY (who was in the crowd)  
Excuse me Governor?

GOVERNOR WILLIAM (WALLY) WALLACE BARRON  
Governor William Wallace Barron, but you can call me Wally at your service little lady.

VICKY  
That was a fine dedication for the showboat, but her name isn't the Rhododendron.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM (WALLY) WALLACE BARRON  
Well it most certainly is now. We just changed it.

VICKY  
But I thought it was called the City of Clinton Showboat.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM (WALLY) WALLACE BARRON  
No no no little lady...let me take you on a tour and I'll prove it to you.  
(they exit as they do Captain Chapman (dry), Micky and Ricky (soaking wet) enter .)

MRS. OPAL WILCOX BARRON  
Oh dear look at you boys. Did you boys mean to go swimming in your clothes? Mr.  
Snaps come here and look at these mess of boys.

DREV T. SNAPS  
Oh my...I overhauled the design of the Rhododendron, but I do not know what I can do  
for you boys. I think they are a lost cause.

MRS. OPAL WILCOX BARRON  
Mr. Snaps was the interior designer for the Rhododendron. And who might you all be?

CAPT. CHAPMAN  
I am Captain Chapman and these here are my friend Micky and Ricky. We are looking  
for a little girl named Vicky.

DREV T. SNAPS

Well there was a little girl talking with Governor Barron a few minutes ago. They went into the theatre. I'll show you where they went and on the way we'll find you some new clothes to wear. (he leads the way)

RICKY (in the back and not heard by DREV)

Captain how come your not all wet? I'm a ghost right? The water goes right through me. (they all exit)

Scene 6

Clinton purchases Omar 1966

CLARENCE JOHNSON

Well what do you think Mr. Scott?

JOHN W. SCOTT

It is a fine vessel, Mr. Johnson. I think it will be a fine addition to the Clinton Waterfront. We are very lucky to purchase it from West Virginia.

CLARENCE JOHNSON

Perhaps a parallel can be drawn between a good three dollar bill and the million dollar integrity of the people of the mountain state.

JOHN W. SCOTT

Well it's a done deal then?

CLARENCE JOHNSON

Absolutely...

VICKI

This is really getting old...

CLARENCE JOHNSON

Yes it is an old boat young lady. Can we help you with something?

VICKI

Yeah...who owns this boat?

JOHN W. SCOTT

Why the City of Clinton.

VICKI

Wait a minute...not just 5 minutes ago Governor Wally told me it was owned by the State of West Virginia.

CLARENCE JOHNSON

5 minutes ago it was owned by West Virginia..we just sold it the City of Clinton for \$21,165. Where did you see former Governor Barron?

VICKI

He was giving me a tour and the next thing I know I am here.

(the Captain and the 2 boys run in funny outfits)

MICKY

Vicky there you are.

RICKY

We've been looking all over time for you.

VICKI

All over time? What do you mean?

CAPT. CHAPMAN

Vicki you mustn't step upstage left at 12:01. It sends you spinning through time.

VICKI

Huh? And who are you?

CAPT. CHAPMAN

That's not important we need to get to museum floor in 10 seconds in order to make the last jump. Lets go...(they grab her and head out)

JOHN W. SCOTT

Three dollar bill huh?

CLARENCE JOHNSON

You might call this ship the Three Dollar Belle!

Scene 7

Cast runs the Boat - Present Day or Night Actually

(Completely dark - lights come on showing VRM sleeping mid stage)

VICKY

What the?

AL KING

Hi I'm Al King. I'm a CAST board member. Can I help you kids?

RICKY

Where did Captain Chapman go?

AL KING

I'm Sorry?

MICKY

You know the ghost looking dude.

AL KING

I do not know who that is, but I bet you kids are here for our intern auditions?

VICKY

Well not really....

AL KING

Well if your not here for that you must be trespassing

RICKY

No..no.. we're here for the auctions.

VICKI

Auditions....

AL KING

Well your the first to go...I'll get out of your way so you can begin.

Sung the tune of New York, New York

Start spreading the news, we're dancing today  
We know a lot about it - Clinton, Showboat  
We traveled through time, Go lost on the way  
Found out the boat was OMAR - Clinton, Showboat

We traveled through time with the captain, that's cloudy white  
And find that the word starboard - It just means right.

THE REST OF THE CAST JOINS IN  
This little town boat, will here always stay  
Well after 75 years - the old showboat!  
If I can make it there, I'll make it anywhere  
It's up to you - Clinton, Showboat!

AL KING

You kids are fantastic..you're all hired and I have a great idea for a children's show it'll be about the history of the showboat and we'll call it OMAR!

ALL

It's up to you - Clinton, Showboat!