

TRUE SPIT...THE WESTERN

a short comedy by
Kris Thompson

Kris Thompson
106 East 16th Street
Georgetown, TX 78626
281-253-3488
kriskt@outlook.com

Cast of Characters

CONSTANT DELIGHT	Sexy, new Schoolmarm who is really partner in crime with and wife of Black Bart. She's the real leader though the public thinks it's Bart. She is dressed in a somewhat provocative dress of the time showing a little cleavage and has a tear-away skirt under which she has, holster around her thigh, a gun, and cowboy/girl boots. Old west/southern accent, sometimes innocent voice, sometime sexy. Very Mae West.
DEPUTY FIVE	Extremely Barney Fife (Don Knotts) type character Town Deputy
'LIL BILLY BOB	Pig Farmer. Very slow mentally. Talks slow with country hick accent. Moves very slow. Can be double-cast by actor for Black Bart as not seen on stage at same time.
BLACK BART	Jailed outlaw and husband to Constant Delight who is also his partner in crime. Black hat and clothes. No gun. Can be double-cast by actor for 'Lil Billy Bob.

Synopsis

Black Bart is in jail having robbed the bank with an unknown partner. The money is still missing. The Sheriff is then killed by an unknown masked gunslinger. Constant Delight appears and has a note she said she found on the Sheriff's body. It reads as if Sheriff wrote, though Constant did, and says if he dies they should have an open contest to see who should be sheriff. Contest involves sharp shooting, horseback riding, and chaw spitting. Constant Delight participates because she wants to be Sheriff, so she can free husband Black Bart. She also turns out to be the masked gunslinger who killed the Sheriff and is in possession of the money from the bank robbery. She wins contest, becomes Sheriff, frees husband.

Setting

Saloon in a very small dusty old-west town in a lawless area. On the bar in the saloon two bottles that have strings tied to the bottom, so they can be pulled from behind bar. In front of bar there is a table and two chairs and playing cards on the table and a large spittoon on the floor in front of the bar. A graphic hint that there are dancing girls. A window type opening on the stage is a jail cell. Perhaps you can use electrical tape to represent the bars? Jail cell keys on wall. Middle of front of stage there are two chairs that represent horses.

Time

Late 1800s.

ACT I
Scene 1

SETTING: Saloon as described above.

AT RISE: 'LIL BILLY BOB and DEPUTY FIVE are playing cards and drinking beer at the table in front of the bar. BLACK BART is (supposedly) unseen in jail cell.

DEPUTY FIVE

It's still your turn Billy Bob.

'LIL BILLY BOB

Oh. I been waitin for you to go. Got any twos?

DEPUTY FIVE

We're not playing go fish. We're playing Rummy!

(OS outside of door to R of jail cell sound of gunshot causes DEPUTY BARTON to jump up but 'LIL BILLY BOB is oblivious because he's really slow.)

DEPUTY FIVE

What was that? Sounded like gunfire!

(Pulls out his gun and points at the door.)

'LIL BILLY BOB

What? Oh that? Sorry.

(Waves hand like shewing away odor from passing gas.)

Beans for breakfast. Always beans for breakfast.

DEPUTY FIVE

Oh, for heaven's sake Billy Bob.

(Holsters gun, sits down and starts playing cards again.)

'LIL BILLY BOB

Got any twos?

(CONSTANT DELIGHT makes a quick entrance from door next to jail cell. She has a folded-up note in her pocket.)

CONSTANT DELIGHT (innocently)

Help! Help! The Sheriff's been shot!

DEPUTY FIVE

What? I'm coming Sheriff Joe!

(DEPUTY FIVE pulls out his gun, fumbles, drops it. CONSTANT DELIGHT leans over the gun suggestively, picks up the gun, and gingerly and returns to DEPUTY FIVE who awkwardly takes it back and mumbles some thanks and runs out the door to R of jail cell. CONSTANT DELIGHT sits at table with 'LIL BILLY BOB who still has not acknowledged her presence.)

CONSTANT DELIGHT (flirting)

Well...aren't you a big strong fella. (long pause) Say...what's a girl gotta do around here for a little fun?

'LIL BILLY BOB (finally looking up)

Got any twos?

(DEPUTY FIVE enters carrying Sheriff's gun and badge, and a black mask, and puts them on the bar or table.)

DEPUTY FIVE

Sheriff Joe is...dead.

CONSTANT DELIGHT

Oh, dear heavens! What are we going to do without a Sheriff? What with that villain Black Bart on the loose after robbin the bank and all.

DEPUTY FIVE

Black Bart's not on the loose! He's right in there. In our jail cell. Sleepin I think.

CONSTANT DELIGHT

Really? You've got a jail cell right here in the saloon?

'LIL BILLY BOB

Swear we spend most our time. Who wants to drink 'n play go fish in the jail? Sides, they ain't got no dancin gals in the jail like we do here.

(motions toward graphic representation of saloon girls.)

I like dancin gals.

CONSTANT DELIGHT (straining to see in cell)

How very...practical. So Black Bart is right there behind those bars?

DEPUTY FIVE

That's right mam. Robbed First National just this morning. Bank wasn't even scheduled to be open, what with it bein Sunday and all, but the Railroad was a day late to pick up payroll. Can you imagine, committin a crime like that on a Sunday! And...hold on a minute. Who're you? I don't recognize you from around these parts.

CONSTANT DELIGHT

Why I'm Constant. Constant Delight. I'm the new schoolmarm.

DEPUTY FIVE

Constance?

CONSTANT DELIGHT (suggestive)

No. It's Constant. (pause) And it really is Constant. (pause) And you are...

DEPUTY FIVE

I'm Deputy Five.

CONSTANT DELIGHT

Fife?

DEPUTY FIVE

No. It's Five. And it really is Five.

CONSTANT DELIGHT

Unusual. A family name?

'LIL BILLY BOB

Naaa. He's the fifth boy and his mama done run outa fella names.

DEPUTY FIVE

True story. (pause) Now Miss (pause) Delight. Did you see the shooter?

CONSTANT DELIGHT (flirting)

Why no, Deputy. I just got off the stagecoach and was looking for a place to, well, rest my pretty little head, if you know what I mean.

DEPUTY FIVE (oblivious)

Yes. I know what 'rest my head' means.

'LIL BILLY BOB

Me too. Parta my head's flat. Rest my head's round.

(CONSTANT DELIGHT and DEPUTY FIVE stare at 'LIL BILLY BOB.)

DEPUTY FIVE

(clears throat) So, our only clue is this mask.

(DEPUTY FIVE picks up the black mask and CONSTANT DELIGHT does a quick intake of air and checks her pocket realizing she dropped the mask.)

'LIL BILLY BOB

'Samatter? Ain't 'cha never seen a mask?

CONSTANT DELIGHT (covering reaction)

Oh. No...it's just so shocking to see the mask of whomever did this dastardly deed. Oh, Deputy Five, I

CONSTANT DELIGHT (Cont.)

forgot to tell you. As I was steppin over the poor Sheriff's body on my way in, I saw this paper stickin out of his shirt pocket and I wondered if it was important, so I brought it with me.

DEPUTY FIVE

Well, let's have a look-see.

(Puts down mask, takes note and reads outside of note.)

It says, 'In case of death, open'. Peculiar.

CONSTANT DELIGHT

What else does it say?

DEPUTY FIVE

(Unfolds and reads.)

If you're readin this then I'm dead. I'm the Sheriff. My last dyin wish is that you find my replacement by gathering all willin participants for a contest of sharp shooting, horse riding, and chaw spitting. The person winning all the events will be the new Sheriff. Sincerely, The old Sheriff. (long pause) Well if that don't beat all. I thought for sure I'd be next in line.

CONSTANT DELIGHT (laying it on thick)

Well, it was his dyin wish... You could be in the contest though. You'd Probably win too. I'll bet you're real talented with a gun, a horse, and (long pause) spit.

DEPUTY FIVE

Well, shucks. I guess that's right. (pause) Billy Bob, go see if you can wrastle up more contestants. Anybody who wants to wear the badge.

(LIL BILLY BOB exits from door next to cell.)

CONSTANT DELIGHT

(Picks up badge, fingering it fondly.)

I think I might like to wear the badge.

DEPUTY FIVE

What? A woman? There's not a town in these united states that would see a woman wear the badge.

(Snatches badge from CONSTANT and puts reverently down on table.)

The law is a man's world. Besides, I thought you said you were a schoolmarm.

CONSTANT DELIGHT

Every try wrangling a school house full of children. I think I could handle being Sheriff. Besides, the note said "all willin participants", not "all willin male participants".

DEPUTY FIVE

Not a chance missy. Only if you were my very last option.

(LIL BILLY BOB enters from door next to cell.)

'LIL BILLY BOB

Sorry Deputy Five. No takers. Eerybody's just too ascared what with the bank bein robbed, Black Bart in jail, his partner still on the loose, and the Sheriff getting himself kilt. Plus, it's Sunday so lotta of folks are busy (pause) prayin.

DEPUTY FIVE

Alight then, it's just you and me 'Lil Billy Bob. Winner wears the badge and keeps this town safe!
(Picks up note and reads.)

Let's start with the...sharp shooting.

(DEPUTY FIVE holds out Sheriff's gun to 'LIL BILLY BOB who stares at the gun for a moment and then bolts out the door moving faster than ever seen.)

DEPUTY FIVE

Never seen him move that fast.

CONSTANT DELIGHT (flirting)

Looks like it's just you and 'lil old me, Deputy Five.

DEPUTY FIVE

Now you listen here missy. No way, no how are you gonna be Sheriff!

CONSTANT DELIGHT

Deputy Five. I thought you were an honorable gentleman, but it appears you're not a man of your word!

BLACK BART

(OS behind from cell) Yea Five. Ain't 'cha a man of your word?

(Appears behind the bars, stretching as if he's been sleeping.)

I heard ya say she could participate if she was your very last option, so no denyin it. Ain't 'cha got no honor?

DEPUTY FIVE

Quite yourself Black Bart, you scoundrel. This don't concern you.

BLACK BART

Shoot. I may (long pause) or may not be, a bank robber. But I'd never lie to a lady. Specially one as pretty as this one. What's your name darlin?

CONSTANT DELIGHT (giggle)

I'm Constant Delight.

BLACK BART

I bet you are.

DEPUTY FIVE

(long pause) Oh all right. Fine. Not like she's got a chance of winnin.

BLACK BART

Oh, I don't know. Fine gal like this. She might surprise you. So, let the games begin! Wake me when there's a winner.)

(BLACK BART disappears to back of cell. Someone, unseen behind bar, is ready to pull strings on bottles. DEPUTY FIVE hands CONSTANT DELIGHT the Sheriff's gun and leads her to the farthest point away from bar.)

DEPUTY FIVE

OK, see those two bottles there? You aim for the one on the right. I've got the left one.

CONSTANT DELIGHT (singing)

(Tears away skirt while starting to sing 1950s tune "Anything You Can Do" from Annie Get Your Gun.)

Anything you can do I can do better. I can do anything better than you.

DEPUTY FIVE (shocked/singing)

No, you can't

CONSTANT DELIGHT (singing)

Yes, I can

DEPUTY FIVE (singing)

No, you can't

CONSTANT DELIGHT (singing)

Yes, I can

DEPUTY FIVE (singing)

No, you can't

CONSTANT DELIGHT (singing)

Yes, I can! Yes, I can! Yes, I can!

(Immediately, CONSTANT DELIGHT and DEPUTY FIVE both point and shoot. Unseen, someone behind bar pulls both strings causing both bottles to fall down behind bar. CONSTANT DELIGHT blows perceived smoke from the end of the barrel of her gun.)

DEPUTY FIVE

Guess we're tied so far. Who knew a schoolmarm could have such great aim?

CONSTANT DELIGHT

It is the wild west, Deputy Five. What's next?

DEPUTY FIVE

Horseback riding. Let's step out front, shall we?

(DEPUTY FIVE and CONSTANT DELIGHT step toward front of stage, sit on chairs representing horses, and grab perceived reins.)

CONSTANT DELIGHT

So, it's a race is it? Ready? Set. Ride!

(During loudly spoken dialogue, DEPUTY FIVE and CONSTANT DELIGHT move their bodies forward/back as if riding horses, turning, etc...and using their arms operating perceived reins, leaning forward to go faster...physically funny.)

DEPUTY FIVE (loud, shaky)

Wow. You ride pretty good (pause) for a girl.

CONSTANT DELIGHT (loud, shaky)

Sexist pigs always underestimate their opponents.

DEPUTY FIVE (loud, shaky)

Hey...who you callin pig, missy?

CONSTANT DELIGHT (loud, shaky)

Didn't mean it that way Deputy!

(CONSTANT DELIGHT and DEPUTY FIVE slow down and come to a halt.)

DEPUTY FIVE

Whew! We tie again.

(CONSTANT DELIGHT and DEPUTY FIVE go back into bar while BLACK BART actor sneaks, unseen, behind bar again, ready to tap something metal with metal spoon for sound effect.)

DEPUTY FIVE

I have to admit, I did underestimate you. But I know you don't want to go through with the chaw spitting event, being a lady and all.

CONSTANT DELIGHT

I'll give it a shot, so to speak.

(DEPUTY FIVE pulls a pouch of chaw out of his pocket. He hands some to CONSTANT DELIGHT who puts it in her mouth and he puts some in his own mouth. They both begin chewing and he leads her to the farthest point from bar.)

DEPUTY FIVE (with mouth full of chaw)

OK you see that spittoon on the floor by the bar. That's what we're shootin for. I see you're still working on that hunk of chaw, so I'll go first.

(DEPUTY FIVE appears to spit, and misses.)

DEPUTY FIVE

Well. Maybe we're a bit too far for spittin. Let's move closer.

CONSTANT DELIGHT (with mouth full of chew)

No wait. I'll try it from here. (spoken too garbled to understand) If I hit it, I win right?

DEPUTY FIVE

What's that?

CONSTANT DELIGHT (with mouth full of chew)

If I hit it, I win right?

DEPUTY FIVE

Yes.

CONSTANT DELIGHT (with mouth full of chew)

OK. Here I go. One. Two. Three!

(CONSTANT DELIGHT appears to spit and someone unseen behind the bar, creates sound effect with a metal spoon against something metal. CONSTANT DELIGHT looks pretty smug.)

DEPUTY FIVE (astounded)

I don't believe it. I got beat (pause) by a girl.

CONSTANT DELIGHT

Better get used to Deputy. Times, they are a changin.

(DEPUTY FIVE picks up badge and pins it to CONSTANT DELIGHT'S shirt.)

CONSTANT DELIGHT

Deputy, take the rest of the day off. I insist.

(DEPUTY FIVE exits, deflated. CONSTANT DELIGHT picks up the black mask and puts it on, and tucks the Sheriff's gun in the back of her pants and, during dialogue, gets cell keys off wall.)

BLACK BART

(OS from back of cell) Poor fella.

(Appears behind the bars, stretching as if he's been sleeping.)

So, do I have to call you Sheriff now?

CONSTANT DELIGHT (annoyed)

Funny. (pause) So, what happened to you keeping a lookout while I robbed the bank? Fall asleep again? You're lucky they didn't catch me too!

(CONSTANT DELIGHT unlocks cell and BLACK BART enters room.)

BLACK BART

Happy Anniversary darlin!

CONSTANT DELIGHT (annoyed)

Why I married you...I'll never know.

(BLACK BART grabs CONSTANT DELIGHT and gives her a big kiss.)

CONSTANT DELIGHT

Oh yea. That's why.

BLACK BART

Took you long enough to beat him. Wha'd you finally get him on? The spit?

CONSTANT DELIGHT

I didn't want to raise his suspicion by beating him too quickly. But yea. Got him with the spit. Come on, I know where some horses are.

(BLACK BART follows CONSTANT DELIGHT to horse "chairs".)

BLACK BART

Can I hold one of the guns?

CONSTANT DELIGHT (like a Mom)

No, you may not.

BLACK BART (disappointed)

Shoot. I never get to hold the guns.

(BLACK BART and CONSTANT DELIGHT arrive at horses and sit. They start making slow easy riding motions with body/arms while talking.)

BLACK BART

What about the money?

CONSTANT DELIGHT

Down by the river. (pause) I have to say, Bart, this was our best Anniversary ever!

BLACK BART

Yea. That was fun. Maybe we can do it again next year to celebrate!

CONSTANT DELIGHT (coy)

Maybe. (long pause) If I keep 'ya around for another year.

BLACK BART

Wait. What?

END - LIGHTS OUT