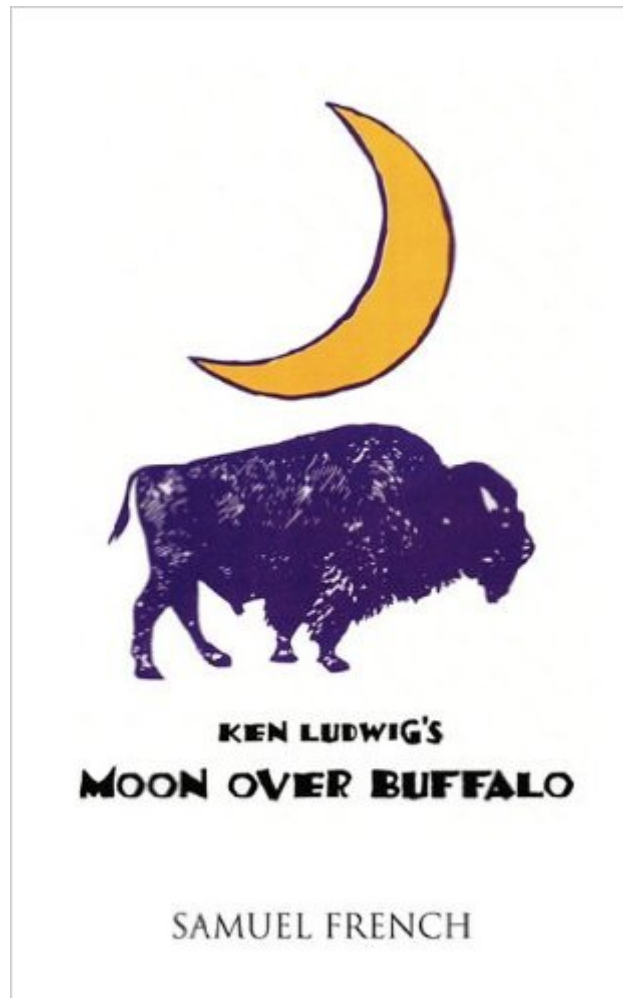


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Moon Over Buffalo



Synopsis

Comedy / 4m, 4f / Unit set Charlotte and George Hay, an acting couple not exactly the Lunts are on tour in Buffalo in 1953 with a repertory consisting of Cyrano de Bergerac "revised, one nostril version" and Noel Coward's Private Lives. This backstage farce by the author of Lend Me a Tenor brought Carol Burnett back to Broadway co-starring with Philip Bosco as her megalomaniac, drunken husband and leading man. Fate has given these thespians one more shot at starring roles in The Scarlet Pimpernel epic and director Frank Capra himself is en route to Buffalo to catch their matinee performance. Will Charlotte appear or run off with their agent? Will George be sober enough to emote? Will Capra see Cyrano, Private Lives or a disturbing mixture of the two? Hilarious misunderstandings pile on madcap misadventures, in this valentine to Theatre Hams everywhere. "Hilarious ... building up its laughs methodically shtick by shtick.... Ludwig stuffs his play with comic invention, running gags ... and a neat sense of absurdity.... Go and enjoy." - N.Y. Post "Somewhere up above ... George S. Kaufman, Abe Burrows, Moss Hart and all those clever fellows who wrote the comedies of yesteryear are rolling with laughter, echoing the audience last night at ... Moon Over Buffalo.... The play is nothing less than a love letter to live theater." - Boston Herald

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If MOON OVER BUFFALO seems a bit like something you would have seen on the legendary CAROL BURNETT SHOW twenty or thirty years ago--well, there is a reason for that. Ken Ludwig, author of the considerably superior LEND ME A TENOR, essentially created the play as a vehicle for Carol Burnett in her 1995 return to Broadway. But what works extremely well as variety show

"sketch" comedy seems exceptionally uninspired when expanded to the length of a full show: although Burnett's talents kept the play running for a reasonable length of time, no one was greatly enthusiastic about the play itself. The story is pure claptrap. A once famous theatrical couple, George and Charlotte Hay, have begun to fray at the edges. George is fond of cheap women and cheaper liquor; Charlotte is prone to temperments; and their shows aren't bringing in the customers like they used to. When Charlotte suspects George of yet another cheap affair, she stomps out and George goes on yet another bender--and is dead drunk by the time Hollywood calls in the form of celebrated director Frank Capra, who is considering the Hays as the stars of his newest project. Can they find George, sober him up, and patch up the family before Capra arrives? Well, do you really need to ask? The play screams with slamming doors, antiquated plot devices that were old hat even in Shakespeare's day, and stock characters that would make a comic strip look well rounded. The first act of MOON OVER BUFFALO reeks of unfunny comic turns; the second act, however, manages to achieve a consistent mediocrity with the rare shining moment that reminds of us what Ludwig can actually do when he puts his mind to it.

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