

ACTORS GUILD

OF PARKERSBURG PRESENTS



AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

by Tracy Letts

January 16, 17, 23 and 24 at 8 PM
January 18 and 25 at 2:30 PM

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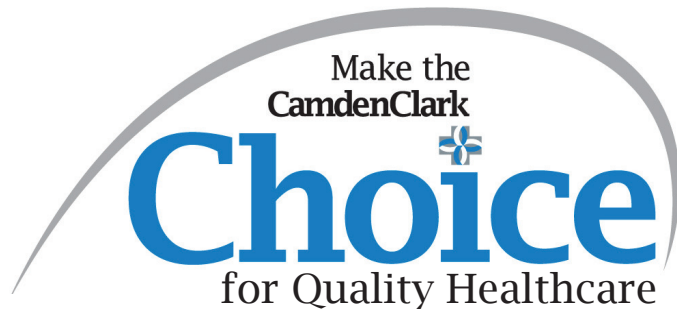
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Actors Guild of Parkersburg Presents

August: Osage County

by Tracy Letts

August: Osage County is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

August: Osage County premiered in June 2007 at Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago, IL, Martha Lavey, Artistic Director; David Hawkanson, Executive Director. Steppenwolf's production of August: Osage County opened on Broadway at the Imperial Theatre on December 4, 2007. It was produced by Jeffrey Richards, Jean Doumanian, Steve Traxler, Jerry Frankel, Ostar Productions, Jennifer Manocherian, The Weinstein Company, Debra Black/Daryl Roth, Ronald & Marc Frankel/Barbara Freitag, and Rick Steiner/Staton Bell Group.

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THIS PROGRAM IS PRESENTED WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM

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M-T-W-F: 9am - 7pm • Th: 9am - 9pm • Sat: 9am - 6pm • Sun: 9am - 5pm



Synopsis & Scenes

When the family patriarch vanishes, the Westons return to rural Oklahoma to care for their afflicted, manipulative mother Violet. Armed with prescription drugs and paranoid mood swings, Violet reigns over the home as family secrets unfold.

Place: A large country home outside Pawhuska, Oklahoma, sixty miles northwest of Tulsa **Time:** August, 2007

Prologue

Act One

- Scene 1: Living room, front porch
Scene 2: Dining room, attic bedroom
Scene 3: Living room
Scene 4: Living room

Act Two

Various rooms throughout the house

Act Three

- Scene 1: Study, living room
Scene 2: Dining room
Scene 3: Study
Scene 4: Living Room
Scene 5: Dining room

There will be two ten-minute intermissions.

You are invited to meet the cast in the greenroom following the performance. The video or audio recording of this production by any means is strictly prohibited.

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Cast

Beverly Weston..... CHARLIE MATTHEWS
 Violet Weston.....TARA POLAN
 Barbara Fordham.....RENA SWEARINGEN
 Bill Fordham..... RONNIE TALBOTT
 Jean Fordham.....EMMA PEARSON
 Ivy Weston RAQUEL JACKMOND
 Karen Weston.....JESSICA BLANKENSHIP
 Mattie Fae AikenBARBARA FULL
 Charlie Aiken..... MITCH MAZAHER
 Little Charles Aiken..... ISAAC EASTWOOD
 Johnna Monevata HALEY MATTHEWS
 Steve Heidebrecht.....BRIAN SCOTT FIELDS
 Sheriff Deon Gilbeau ANDY RASMUSSEN

Staff & Crew

Director..... DAVID PRATHER
 Technical Director.....ROD ODEN
 Assistant Directors..... CHARLIE MATTHEWS, STEVE SMITH
 Costumer MERYL WALKER
 Production AssistantMARY LUCAS
 Stage Manager.....SABRINA DYE
 Assistant Stage Manager.....MARY LUCAS
 Props JEAN NEWTON, PAM SALISBURY
 Set Designer.....ROD ODEN
 Set Construction Crew..... LARRY DEEM, ROBERT FRANCIS,
 BOB HEFLIN, CHRIS WALKER, CAST, CREW
 Lighting DesignerROD ODEN
 Lightboard Operator.....STEVE SMITH
 Sound Designer.....ROD ODEN
 Sound Operator.....ELI TRACEWELL
 Stage Crew.....NORA CORRA
 Book Holder.....ABBY SMITH
 Costume Crew..... JANE MANCINI, DEBBIE SEELEY, DONNA LINSELL
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 Playbill Layout and Design.....BRETT MEADE



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A Letter from the President

AUGUST OSAGE COUNTY is an award-winning play, and a successful movie and now comes to the stage of the Actors Guild. Many of us have some interesting relatives in our family tree. In this play one family has more than its share with a depressed father who is driven to drink, three sisters and several in-laws all harboring shady little secrets. When the large Weston family unexpectedly reunites after Dad disappears, their Oklahoman family homestead explodes



in a maelstrom of repressed truths and unsettling secrets. Mix in Violet, the drugged-up, scathingly acidic matriarch, and you've got a major new play that unflinchingly—and uproariously—exposes the dark side of the midwestern American family.

This is my first letter to you as president of the board of trustees. Regretfully for us, Gary McIntyre has stepped down from our board and as our president to pursue other opportunities. For more than eight years he has been a tireless supporter and leader. We greatly appreciate Gary and wish him the best as he moves forward.

Charlie Matthews has been elected to fill my vacated position as the vice president of administration. As part of the process of filling the many and varied areas Gary covered, Brett Meade has stepped forward to chair the box office committee. Gary left us some pretty big shoes to fill, but we hope to make these transitions as smoothly as possible.

As we start this new year, we thank you for your continued support and pledge to continue bringing you quality live theater. If you have any issues or suggestions, please email me at jwnewton@suddenlink.net so we can address them.

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Director's Note

AS AN EPIGRAPH TO THE PLAY *August: Osage County*, the author Tracy Letts quotes Robert Penn Warren from *All the King's Men*:

The child comes home and the parent puts the hooks in him. The old man, or the woman, as the case may be, hasn't got anything to say to the child. All he wants is to have that child sit in a chair for a couple of hours and then go off to bed under the same roof. It's not love. I am not saying that there is not such a thing as love. I am merely pointing to something which is different from love but which sometimes goes by the name of love. It may well be that without this thing which I am talking about there would not be any love. But this thing in itself is not love. It is just something in the blood. It is a kind of blood greed, and it is the fate of a man. It is the thing which man has which distinguishes him from the happy brute creation. When you get born your father and mother lost something out of themselves, and they are going to bust a hame trying to get it back, and you are it. They know they can't get it all back but they will get as big a chunk out of you as they can. And the good old family reunion, with picnic dinner under the maples, is very much like diving into the octopus tank at the aquarium.

When I was a college student studying sociology and anthropology with a dabbling of psychology, I learned that the family unit has changed drastically over the centuries. A blood-tie used to be a connection of honor, and to disgrace that connection was to shame the entire family. This was not limited to mothers and fathers and siblings. This shame reflected even upon the character of cousins and nieces and nephews and distant relatives many times removed. It was a stain upon the name.

Today, not only do family members distance themselves by moving to far-away cities in faraway lands, they also distance themselves emotionally and psychologically. Each of us finds ourselves more and more isolated, breaking each of those "ties that bind" until we think ourselves free of all the distress we

perceive was created by our families. Instead, we take all that garbage with us and throw it around wherever we land.

Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning play is a cutting drama that explores some of the most heinous ways family members can hurt each other, intentionally or unintentionally. When Violet, the matriarch of the family, starts "truth-telling," on the surface she believes she is helping her family, her daughters. However, on a subconscious level, she is truly serving her own selfish needs, destroying others' perceptions to keep them near her as long as possible.

We would just be kidding ourselves if we didn't admit that every family has problems, but if we can sit back and look into the mirror that Letts has provided us, perhaps we can learn something about who we are and how we handle our familial relationships. Perhaps we can find a way to heal many centuries of shame and find a way to truly love one another.

DAVE PRATHER

Director, *August: Osage County*



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About the Playwright

TRACY LETTS WAS RAISED IN DURANT, OKLAHOMA, the home of Southeastern Oklahoma State University. His father, Dennis, was an English professor and an aspiring actor, and his mother, Billie, was a journalism professor and a best-selling novelist. Inspired by his father's work in community theatre, Letts pursued a career in acting. He moved to Chicago at age 20, where he eventually landed acting jobs and also began to write plays.



In 1991 Letts wrote the play *Killer Joe*, about a Texas family that enlists the titular murderer-for-hire to kill a relative with a sizable life insurance policy. The script was graphic and violent, but mixed reviews did not prevent it from becoming a hit in New York City and London. Next came *Bug*, a love story that premiered in London in 1996 and later ran in New York. Meanwhile, Letts continued to act. He moved to Los Angeles for a brief period, finding bits of work on television shows such as *Seinfeld* and *Judging Amy*. He joined Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company ensemble in 2002.

In 2003 Steppenwolf staged Letts's next play, *The Man from Nebraska*. The story of an insurance agent's loss of religious faith, it represented a departure from the writer's previous shocking blood-and-guts material and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. His subsequent play, *August: Osage County*, was a black comedy depicting a wildly dysfunctional Oklahoma family coping with the death of its patriarch. Performed by Steppenwolf as well as on Broadway (with Letts's own father in the role of the patriarch) in 2007, *August: Osage County* won a Pulitzer Prize and five Tony Awards, including for best play. Critics regarded *The Man from Nebraska* and *August: Osage County* as tamer than Letts's earlier fare; however, the playwright himself saw more similarities than differences across his body of work. According to Letts, all of his plays feature real-life characters who do not always express themselves poetically.

Letts followed *August: Osage County* with *Superior Donuts*, which debuted at Steppenwolf in 2008 and moved to Broadway the following year. The play revolves around a doughnut shop, located in Chicago's changing Uptown neighbourhood, whose Polish American ex-hippie proprietor struggles to deal with his altered surroundings. Also in 2009 Letts's adaptation of Anton Chekhov's *Three Sisters* premiered at a theatre in Portland, Oregon.

In 2012 he made his Broadway debut as an actor in Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* where he earned a Tony Award for his searing performance as George. In 2013 he joined the cast of the television drama series *Homeland* as an aggressively determined U.S. senator.

Who's Who in the Cast & Crew

JESSICA BLANKENSHIP (Karen Weston) appeared in *Night of the Living Dead* and *The Sound of Music* at MOVP. A former DJ and radio personality, she has appeared in *On Borrowed Time*, *In the Beginning*, *Prelude to a Kiss*, and *Bram Stokers' Dracula* at AGP and held the female lead role in the motion picture *Christ Complex*. She studied theater at Converse College in South Carolina. Her technical credits are many and include *The Full Monty* and *The Rocky Horror Show*. She would like to thank Becky Blankenship, Ryan Nedeff and a special little guy, Ralland Nedeff, for all their support and encouragement!

ISAAC EASTWOOD (Little Charles Aiken) is making his fourth appearance at the Guild having appeared in *The Lion in Winter*, *Witness for the Prosecution* and *Grandest Canyon*. He also played Tybalt in WVUP's *Romeo and Juliet*. He enjoys doing film as well playing such roles as Neil Bellamy in *White Zombie 2014*, Greed in *The Seven* and Robb in the short *Arcadia*. Isaac has appeared in several commercials locally and is successfully transitioning himself from running The Locker Room Sports Bar in Marietta to becoming a full time actor.

B. SCOTT FIELDS (Steve Heidebrecht) first stripped his way onto the stage in *Legends* and has loved theater since that time. Scotty would like to thank his family of thespians, bikers, and blood for making his world beautiful. "I love you all!"

BARBARA FULL (Mattie Fae Aiken) has been active at the Guild since 1975, appearing in 40 shows, including *Sweeney Todd*, *Dixie Swim*

Club, *Secret Garden*, *Into the Woods*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Civil War, 1776*, *Damn Yankees*, *Honk!*, and *Barnum*. Directing credits include *Shrek*, *Rent*, *Avenue Q*, *Doubt*, *Annie*, *Tommy*, and *Full Monty* (music director), and she is Vice President of the Guild's Board of Trustees. Barbara retired as the music teacher at Neale School after 36 years, where she directed the choirs and theatrical productions. She is active at the Smoot Theatre with Camp Vaudeville and directs The Smoot Theatre Children's Chorus.

RAQUEL JACKMOND (Ivy Weston) is thrilled to be returning to the stage at the Guild! She has performed in theaters from Los Angeles, CA to Big Rapids, MI playing such roles as Lucy in *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, Roz in *Moon Over Buffalo* as well as recently being seen as Miss Poppenghul in *Moonlight and Magnolias* at AGP. She would like to thank her four baby boys for their constant love and support. She also wants to thank her amazing partner, Rod Oden, for always being her biggest fan.

CHARLIE MATTHEWS (Beverly Weston/Assistant Director) has been very active in the Guild for many years having served in many capacities both administrative and artistic. He has participated in well over 100 productions. His memorable directing experiences include *Big River*, *Man of La Mancha*, *The Civil War*, *Into the Woods*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *The Elephant Man*, *Children of a Lesser God*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Noises Off*, *Lombardi*, and the award winning *Tuesdays with Morrie*. Memorable acting experiences include *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Caine Mutiny*

Court Martial, *Noises Off, 1776*, *Moon over Buffalo* and *A Walk in the Woods*.

HALEY MATTHEWS (Johnna Monevata) is a Senior at PSHS where she has been part of several productions including *Beauty and the Beast*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Little Women*, and *The Little Mermaid JR*. Haley started out on the Guild stage in fourth grade and completed six years with Guild Builders. This is her fourth main stage production with the Guild. Others include *Hairspray*, *All Shook Up*, and *Shrek The Musical*. She is very excited to be a part of this production and to share the stage with so many other talented individuals including her grandfather, Charles L. Matthews. Enjoy the show!

MITCH MAZAHER (Charlie Aiken) is honored to be appearing on the AGP stage. Previous appearances include *Lombardi* (Vince Lombardi), *The Boys Next Door* (Jack Palmer), *Hairspray* (Wilbur Turnblad), and *All Shook Up* (Jim Haller). Mitch lives in Zanesville, OH and performs often at The Cambridge Performing Arts Center. Mitch's CPAC performances include *Warbucks (Annie)*, *Tevye (Fiddler on the Roof)*, *Henry II (Lion in Winter)*, *Scrooge (Christmas Carol)*, and *Charlie Brown (You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown)*. Mitch thanks Dave Prather for this opportunity, and he sends much love to his wife, Kitrina, and two children, Cole and Madigan, for their constant support.

EMMA PEARSON (Jean Fordham) is performing on the Actors Guild stage for the first time. However her first time being involved at the Guild was in *Lombardi* as part of the back stage crew. Emma considers her biggest accomplishment on stage to be her portrayal of Amy in *Little Women*

and *Flounder* in *The Little Mermaid* at Parkersburg South High School. She would like to say thank you to all those who have supported her including her parents, her older brother, Rodney Oden and Melissa Life.

TARA KNIFFIN POLAN (Violet Weston) is delighted to be a member of this great cast and to portray such a challenging role. She was last seen on the Guild stage as Aunt LaMerle in *The Red Velvet Cake War*. Tara has been performing for about 12 years now and has won several awards including this year's Khalil award for her performance as Opal in *Everybody Loves Opal* at the MOVP in Marietta. She has been in numerous shows over the years and always thanks her family for their patience and love. Tara hopes you enjoy the show!

ANDY RASMUSSEN (Sheriff Deon Gilbeau) is appearing for the second time on the stage at the Guild. His first appearance was *Prelude to a Kiss* in 2013. Andy has had a love for the stage since he was very young in his hometown of Bend, Oregon. As a child he was in *The Wizard of Oz* and his 5th grade production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Then at the Community Theater of the Cascades he performed in *Corpse*, *The Foreigner*, *Charley's Aunt*, *Mousetrap*, *A Bad Year for Tomatoes*, and *The Odd Couple*.

RENA SWEARINGEN (Barbara Fordham) is a Guild veteran and has appeared in many productions. Her most notable are Maggie in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Christine Vole/Woman in *Witness for the Prosecution* and Carmen in *Cooking with Gus*. She has also worked backstage on several productions. She most recently appeared as the Waitress/Antiques Dealer in *Grandest Canyon*.

RONNIE TALBOTT (Bill Fordham) most recently appeared as Dick in *9 to 5*. Previous Actors Guild experience includes *Sweeney Todd*, *Pippin*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Tommy*, *Lion in Winter*, and *Dracula*. Other credits include *Footloose*, *West Side Story*, *The Tempest*, and *A Christmas Carol*. Ronnie also worked on the films *Ma-neater*, *Burning Annie*, and *Spider-Man 3*, but he is most well-known for appearing in the 11th season of the hit CBS show *Big Brother*. Ronnie would like to thank his friends, family, and especially his wife, Michelle. She is his best friend and soul mate. "I love you, Michelle!"

DAVID PRATHER (Director) is a long-time member of the Guild, appearing in several shows. He received Khalil awards for his performances in *Honk! (The Cat)*, *Chicago! (The Jury)*, *The Diary of Anne Frank (Otto Frank)*, and *The Boys Next Door (Lucien P. Smith)*. He has directed several shows including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Paint Your Wagon*, and *Leading Ladies*. He appears in the movies *Christ Complex* and *White Zombie*. Dave studied acting at The National Shakespeare Conservatory and writing at Warren Wilson College. He has completed a screenplay, a stage play, and is working on three novels.

STEPHEN SMITH (Assistant Director) is acting as an Assistant Director for the first time with *August: Osage County*. He has previously appeared on stage in *Grandest Canyon* and *On Borrowed Time*. He has worked behind the scenes in several other Guild productions. Stephen is the technical coordinator for the Guild Builders program and the treasurer for the Guild Board of Trustees. He is a professor of accounting and business at WVU at Parkersburg. Stephen would like to thank Dave Prather and Charlie Matthews for giving him this opportunity to learn from each of them and gain from their directing experience.

ROD ODEN (Technical Director) is very excited to be continuing with the Guild on their journey through the 2014-2015 Season! Rod is proud to be a part of the continuing tradition of theatrical excellence at AGP. Rod has designed and technical directed on stages from Los Angeles to Michigan, in a variety of venues. Among his most recent work at AGP includes *Shrek*, *Lombardi*, and *9 to 5: the Musical*. Other favorite productions include *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You*. Rod sends his love and appreciation to Raquel, Tristan, Lucas, Jamie, and Sylar.

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Our most recent Bayley Award was granted to Dr. Robert Heflin and United Anesthesia, Inc.

The Khalil Awards

For many years Dr. Ghassan Khalil and his family have made an annual contribution to ensure the continuation of live theater in our community and have championed the importance of the arts in our lives. The Khalil Awards were established to honor the Outstanding Production and the Outstanding Performance of each season. An anonymous panel consisting of persons who have seen every show of the previous season selects the recipients of these awards.

The Actors Guild of Parkersburg would like to congratulate director Barbara Full and the entire cast and crew of *Avenue Q* as the Best Show for the 2012-2013 season. Receiving the honor for Best Performance was Dan Miller, for his portrayal of Dave Bukatinsky in *The Full Monty*.

The Grace-Marie Merrill Award

John Newton is the most recent recipient of the Grace-Marie Merrill Award for exceptional volunteerism to the Actors Guild of Parkersburg. The award is named for a former drama teacher at Parkersburg High School who was an early member of the Guild, where she acted in and directed plays.

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Clifford & Phyllis Walker
John & Yvonne White

Ticket Patrons

Purchased \$90 + in tickets

Ann Abele
Bobby & Jessica Adair
Betsy Albright
Sally Alvarado
Harry Amsbary
Jennifer Auxier
Jim & Peggy Backus
Gary Batton
Jim & Ann Beck
Allison Bennett
Tonya Bertagnolli
Dave & Carol Bidstrup
Sheryl Braid
Damien Brown
Mike & Jean Bugyis
Sandra Bumgarner
Keith Burdette
Carolyn Calhoun
Jonnie Camp
Ralph Chambers
Pauline Cline
Ehren Clovis
Josalin Cochran
Kelli & Mario Coon
Nora Corra
Jon & Carlene Cox
Sue Crews
Zachary Cronin

Larry & Marilyn Croucher
David Currie
Joyce Davis
Ronda Davis
Kathy Disalle
Elizabeth Dotson
Vickie Dotson
Leslie Haynes Dubeau
Pamela Duliere
DuPont Washington Works
Elaine Emrick
George Faber
Malinda Flores
Ty Furrow & Helen Reilly
David & Carolyn Garrity
Mark Gaston
Dr. & Mrs. George & Denise Gevas
Jean Gill
Bunk & Pat Goudy
Mark Gray
Judith Grize
Amy Grube
Carma Guertin
Robert & Jane Harris
Jeanne Hayhurst
Connie Hinkle
Carolyn Hollendonner
Ruth Ann Huddle
Dr. Anna Hughes
Richard Hummel
Joyce Hupp
Maude Jarvis
Bill & Donna Johnson
Larry & Rachel Johnson
Melinda Johnson
Paul Jordan
David Kaufman
Genevieve Khalil
Albert & Teresa Kimmel
Susan Lamp
Pamela Lantz
Emily Larrison
Lana Law

Ticket Patrons continued ...

Alice Lawrence
Michael & Roberta Leach
John Lee
Joseph Lee
Edith Lemon
Jim & Edie Lindley
Jason Lockney
Phil & Becky Lofty
Louise C. Long
Cindy Lowden
Craig Lowe
James Mahaffey
Andrea Mahaney
Sharon & Don Maloney
Frances Manzo
Andrea Marks
Virginia Mayle & Peter Polites
Sally Mcdonie
Dale Mcewuen
Courtney McLain
Amelia Mcpeak
Susan Merriman
Gregory Merritt
Julie Moore
Richard & Nancy Murdock
Melissa Nayak
John Newton
Sharon Niday
Allan & Carol Norris
Tim Northrup
Eleanor & Carolyn Oakes
Mary Ann Osborne
Carl & Sue Overmiller
Ashton Parsons
Johnathan Perdue
Thomas Perdue
Mercedes Phillips
Beth Deem Pierce
Tara Polan
Scott Ramsay
Douglas Reeder
Marcia Ritchie

Heyward & Peggy Roberts
Bruce & Lynda Rogers
Gary Schade
Susan Schuchts
Rosemary Scott
Deborah Shaffer
Steve Simonton
Becky Smith
Karen Smith
Betty & Marqueta Stephens
Joseph Stocking
Jack Stokes
Mary Stoneking
Rob & Erin Strcula
Lisa Tanner
Mary Thomas
Pamela Thomas
Colen Townsend
Patricia Troisi
Mike & Jean Turrill
Lynn Vanfossen
Vaughan Funeral Home
Wayne Waldeck
Clifford & Phyllis Walker
Meryl Walker
Jackie Walters
Sam & Katrina Ware
David Warfield
Paul Warren
John & Yvonne White
Jayne Whitlow
Marda Wilson
Tiffany Wince
John Witschey

*In Honor of
John Lee*

Sandra Lessig

*Donor information is complete as of 12/15/14.
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quickly learns that being a parent is full of challenges. He struggles to make his son "the perfect boy" only to lose him to a gang of Roustabouts. It is only when faced with the thought of never seeing Pinocchio again that Geppetto truly learns the joys of being a father and loving your child unconditionally.

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