SYNOPSIS: “Lettin’ the cat out of the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin’ it back in!” “There’s two ways to arguin’ with a woman . . . neither one of them works!” “If you find yourself in a hole . . . the first thing to do is stop diggin’!” These words of wisdom are spoken by the lovable Sooney Ollis in the delightful play, *Dr. Sooney’s Medicine*. Actors and audiences of all ages revel in comedic scripts with fast pace, outrageous antics, and clear exaggerated characters. *Dr. Sooney’s Medicine* is made to order. Adapted from Moliere’s *A Doctor in Spite of Himself*, this play puts a mountain twist on the French classic.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(FIVE WOMEN, SEVEN MEN, TOWNSPEOPLE)

SOONEY OLLIS (m) .....................Lovable, mischievous mountain man. (91 lines)

CARO OLLIS (f) ............................Strong and independent wife to Sooney. (44 lines)

DR. HOSKINS (m).........................Traveling doctor. Betrothed to Polly Ann. (10 lines)

POLLY ANN (f) .............................Free spirited mountain girl. A bit on the loud side. (6 lines)

HOMER HINES (m).......................Cousin to Homer Whitman. Good natured but not very bright. (91 lines)

HOMER WHITMAN (m)...............Cousin to Homer Hines. Good natured but not very bright. (98 lines)

MEE MAW (f)................................Feisty old mountain woman. Always looking for a good man. (22 lines)
AUNT CECIL (f)............................Community leader. Mother to Eullamay. 
(41 lines)

EULLAMAY (f).............................Daughter to Aunt Cecil. In love with 
Samuel. Pretending to be sick. (11 lines)

SAMUEL (m)..............................In love with Eullamay. (15 lines)

PAPPY MCCORD (m)....................Father to Polly Ann. Leader of town 
mob. (12 lines)

MR. PEABODY (m).....................Rich Texas oil tycoon. (2 lines)

TOWNSPEOPLE (m/f)................Also plays MOB. (15 lines)

SET REQUIREMENTS

SCENES 1-4: Dr. Hoskin’s traveling medicine wagon with bench sitting 
next to it.

SCENES 5-10: Aunt Cecil’s cabin complete with clothes line.

PROPERTIES

☐ Suitcase
☐ Little brown jug
☐ Slapstick
☐ Various medicine bottles
☐ Doctor’s robe
☐ Rocking chair
☐ Shot gun
☐ Disguise for Samuel
☐ Peabody’s business card
The original cast of *DR. SOONEY’S MEDICINE* included:

SOONEY OLLIS ...................................................... Tyler Franks  
CARO OLLIS ..................................................... Laura Barrett Segrest  
DR. HOSKINS ..................................................... Cameron Couch  
POLLY ANN ....................................................... Maria Lindsey  
HOMER HINES .................................................... Waker Houser  
HOMER WHITMAN ............................................. Hunter Stiles  
MEE MAW .......................................................... Dominick Jattuso  
AUNT CECIL ........................................................ Becca Schell  
EULLAMAY .......................................................... Katie Kalivoda  
SAMUEL .............................................................. Alex Brown  
POPPY MCCORD ................................................. Maggie Kellet  
MR. PEABODY ....................................................... Gabe Doerr  
TOWNSPEOPLE ................. Morgan Chick, Rose Dasher, Esther Deaton,  
                                 Anar Patel, Gayatri Setia, Lisa Sheppard,  
                                 Taylor Solomon, Kena Vyas
ACT ONE, SCENE 1

SOONEY OLLIS is sleeping stage left under a tree, his brown jug is beside him on the ground. There is a covered wagon stage right with a “Doctor” sign and a bench in front with various colored bottles . . . SOONEY remains asleep during the following action. Enter HOSKINS running stage right, he has a long robe that he removes frantically and throws into the covered wagon, he grabs his suitcase and runs center stage. He stops center stage and looks both ways, sees POLLY ANN and then exits through the house left. POLLY ANN enters stage right and stops center to call after HOSKINS.

POLLY ANN: Oh Doctor! Doctor Hoskins! Wait! I love you! (She exits through house left.)

PAPPY: (Enters stage right with the town’s angry mob. They all stop center.) Alright! She went that a way. If that two-bit vermin doctor thinks he can break my daughter’s heart, he’s got another thing a comin’!

TOWNSPEOPLE: Yeah!! (Angry TOWNSPEOPLE lead by PAPPY yells and exits through the house left. Enter HOSKINS house right running. He stops center stage and looks both ways and then running exits stage left. He is followed by POLLY ANN. She stops center.)

POLLY ANN: Honey Dumplins, slow down! Pappy just wants to talk to you about the (She smiles big.) weddin’. (She exits stage left.)

PAPPY: (PAPPY enters house right with the TOWNSPEOPLE and stops center stage.) Doctor Fancy Pants needs to learn things are different here in the mountains. You kiss ‘em, you keep ‘em.

MOB: You kiss ‘em, you keep ‘em!

PAPPY: Come on everybody, we got us a groom to catch. (They exit yelling stage left. HOSKINS enters stage right looking over his shoulder. The TOWNSPEOPLE immediately return and see HOSKINS.)

TOWNSPERSON: There he is, boys! (The mob chases him through the audience and up on the stage. They surround HOSKINS.)

TOWNSPERSON: There’s only one way to skin this jack-rabbit!
TOWNSPERSON: Let’s take him to Aunt Cecil’s! *(They lift him up and carry him off stage left, followed closely by POLLY ANN.)*

POLLY ANN: Pappy! If you skin this one, who am I gonna marry? *(She exits stage left.)* Pappy!!

**ACT ONE, SCENE 2**

A few beats of silence and a sweet sounding bird chirps from the distance. SOONEY OLLIS is startled awake.

SOONEY: What? Who? *(Sees the audience.)* Oh! Hooow - - dy! You could skeer a fella plum to death sneakin’ up on him that a way. Name’s Sooney Bartholomew Ollis *(He shakes hands with audience members, leaving his jug sitting stage left)*. But you *(Kissing hand of female audience member.)* can call me Sooney.

CARO: *(Offstage.)* SOOO—NEY!

SOONEY: *(To audience.)* That’s right!

CARO: *(Angry.)* Sooney!

SOONEY: *(Jumps, clutching hat.)* Leapin’ lizards! *(To audience.)* That t’weren’t you, that t’weren’t you atall. I’d know that voice anywheres. That’s my wife, Ca-ro-line. *(Takes off hat as if his end is near.)* Mean as a snake and not half as purty.

CARO: *(More annoyed.)* Sooney Bartholomew Ollis!

SOONEY: *(Pacing as if caught in a cage.)* If she finds me, she’ll kill me *(Mimes slitting his throat.)* . . . or worse, she’ll put me to work. You gots ta hide me! *(He hides in the audience.)* Not that I’m askin yous to lie for me, but if she asks ya if ya seen me . . . just don’t tell her the truth. *(SOONEY hides as CARO enters.)*

CARO: Sooney! I knows these parts like the back of my hand, and Sooney Ollis, if you don’t come out, that’s what yer goin’ get! *(Slaps her hand.)*

SOONEY: *(CARO looks in opposite direction as SOONEY pops up.)* Charmin’ ain’t she? *(He hides again.)*

CARO: *(CARO turns quickly toward SOONEY.)* What’s that? That’s alright, that’s alright . . . I ain’t in no hurry. I’s got the patience of a saint.

SOONEY: *(Pops up again.)* A Saint Bernard that is.
CARO: I'll just sit down right cheer (Here.) and wait. (She sees the brown jug and then looks at the audience. She knows that SOONEY is near. She decides to trick him.) I just don’t where my Sooney could be! Well, lookee here! (Pointing to jug.) Someone left a little brown jug, jest left it all alone... all alone and full of Wayne and Lester Crockett’s moonshine. Them Crockett boys are known for their fine shine. It’s a shame I’m gonna haf to pour it out. (CARO starts to “pour” as SOONEY comes out from hiding.)

SOONEY: No!

CARO: Well, surprise, surprise, folks. Just look who it is, it’s my husband, Sooney. (SOONEY crosses to CARO on the stage.)

SOONEY: Now Ca-ro, you be a fine woman and (Lunges for jug as CARO holds it out of his reach.) give me back my jug.

CARO: (Leans toward SOONEY.) You just give me one good reason why I should!

SOONEY: I’ll give you more than one good reason, I’ll give ye three. (Holds up fingers as if counting each word.) I said so!

CARO: Well, I says, the only fool bigger than yous is the one that listens to what yous says. (She knocks his hat from off his head to the ground.)

SOONEY: (Picking up hat.) Oh, I don’t know... I think a bigger fool than the one who listens to me is the one who married me! (Hits CARO on the bottom with his hat.)

CARO: (Throwing her hands up and sits on bench.) Cursed be the day I ever said “yes”!

SOONEY: (Sits next to her.) Cursed be the shotgun that made me say “I do”!

CARO: Don’t I wish I had that shotgun now.

SOONEY: (Stands, proud.) You should consider yourself lucky.

CARO: Lucky?

SOONEY: (Adjust his hat and clothing.) Lucky to have a husband like me.

CARO: (Stands in disbelief.) A husband who eats us out of house and home?

SOONEY: (Putting his arm around CARO.) Now Caro, that’s a lie. I drink (Taking the jug.) more than I eat. (He turns his back to her and takes a swig.)
CARO: Why, you good for nothing . . . (She kicks him in the bottom.)
SOONEY: (He turns to her.) Now Caro, now don’t you make me give you a whoopin’! (He grabs a slap stick from his belt.)
CARO: I’d like to see you try.

As SOONEY is chasing CARO with the slapstick, HOSKINS enters stage left looking over his shoulder. HOSKINS sees the argument and steps in to protect CARO.

HOSKINS: Sir! I must insist that you stop this dreadful behavior immediately. (Turns to CARO.) Oh, my dear Madame, I hope you have not been injured by this terrible affair.
HOSKINS: (To CARO.) You’re married? You actually went to the altar with this man?
SOONEY: Oh, she altered me alright. I’m nothin’ but a mere shadow of the man that I once was. (Takes off hat and puts it over his heart.)
CARO: (Crosses to SOONEY.) And exactly when were you a man?
(Grabs slapstick from SOONEY.)
HOSKINS: (Holding back CARO.) Now, now, let us not commit acts we might regret!
CARO: Well, if I had an ax now, I certainly wouldn’t regret it.
HOSKINS: Madam! This is no way for a lady to behave!
CARO: Well, there’s you’re first mistake! I ain’t no lady! I’m a wife and (Crosses to SOONEY.) this here’s my husband. And the way I got it figured, this here argument ain’t none of yer concern.
(Moving in on HOSKINS.)
HOSKINS: I’m so sorry.
SOONEY: (Moves in on HOSKINS.) That’s right, she’s my wife.
HOSKINS: (Becoming frightened.) I’m terribly sorry.
CARO: (To HOSKINS.) What’s that suppose to mean?
HOSKINS: I beg your pardon?
CARO: Why are you terribly sorry that I’m his wife?
SOONEY: Yeah? I understand why I’m sorry she’s my wife, but I don’t know why you would be! Are you sayin’ there’s something wrong with my wife?
HOSKINS: No, No! There is nothing wrong with your wife! (To CARO.) I simply meant (She hits slapstick. He turns to speak to SOONEY.) I mean . . . I was trying to say . . . (SOONEY makes a fist.) I . . . I can only pray for your forgiveness. (HOSKINS drops to his knees.)
SOONEY: Pray, huh?
CARO: Yep, he looks like prey to me.
SOONEY: I’ll give you to the count of ten . . . One. Ten!!! (HOSKINS exits through the house. SOONEY exits after him. The TOWNSPEOPLE enter.)
TOWNSPERSON: (Seeing HOSKINS.) Thar he is!
TOWNSPERSON: Let’s git ‘im! (They exit through the house, chasing HOSKINS.)
CARO: (To audience.) Well, never a dull moment! Especially if you live with Sooney. Oh, my Sooney, gotta love him . . . don’t mean I gotta like him . . . I jest gotta git him. Get him back and get him good. Question is, how?

ACT ONE, SCENE 3

Enter HOMER HINES and HOMER WITHMAN. They are arguing. CARO watches hidden.

HOMER H: Did not.
HOMER W: Did too.
HOMER H: Did not. Did not.
HOMER W: Did too. Did too.
HOMER H: (Holds up a finger as if counting each “did not.”) Did not, did not, did not.
HOMER W: Did two. (He holds up two fingers. The other HOMER reacts as if HOMER W. has won the argument.) Homer, you said to take a right.
HOMER H: Homer, I did not.
HOMER W: Did too! I said, “Let’s go left,” *(Points left.)* and you said, “Right.” *(Points right.)*

HOMER H: That’s right. You said, “Let’s go left,” *(Points left.)* and I said, “Right.” *(Gives a thumbs-up.)*

HOMER W: *(Gives a thumbs-up, realizing his mistake.)* Right . . .

HOMER H: So it’s yer fault we’re lost.

HOMER W: Is not.

HOMER H: Is too.


HOMER H: Is two! *(Holds up two fingers. The other HOMER reacts as if HOMER H. has won the argument.)* I’m hungry. Let’s go home. *(Turns to exit.)*

HOMER W: *(Stops HOMER H.)* We can’t go home until we find a doctor. You heard what Aunt Cecil said. *(This interests CARO.)*

HOMER H: No more bathin’ in the well water?

HOMER W: No!

HOMER H: No more dancin’ with possums in the pastures?

HOMER W: No!!

HOMER H: I know, always wear yer britches when you go to town. *(HOMER W gives HOMER H a look.)* What?

HOMER W: No!!!!

HOMER H: Yer right, I hate the way they ride up my . . .

HOMER W: NO! She said, “We gots to find a doctor to cure Eullamay. She can’t marry Edgar Hurly until she can talk again”.

HOMER H: But, I thought Eullamay loved Samuel.

HOMER W: She does love Samuel . . . but Aunt Cecil don’t. And you know what they say . . .

HOMER H/W: If Aunt Cecil ain’t happy, ain’t nobody happy.

HOMER W: And right now, the only thing to make Aunt Cecil happy is fer Eullamay to marry Edgar.

HOMER H: Not Samuel?

HOMER W: Right. Not Samuel. So we’s got to find a doctor. *(They look out over audience.)*
CARO: (To audience.) If it's a doctor they want, it's a doctor they'll get. Doctor Sooney Ollis. (Overly dramatic.) Oh!!! Where is he? Just where is he? I came to thank him. Thank him for everything he done fer me and mine. (Pretends to notice the HOMERS for the first time.) Why, hello there! I don't believe we've met. I'm Caro.

HOMER W: I'm Homer Whitman.

HOMER H: And I'm Homer Hines

HOMER H/W: We're cousins.

CARO: You fellers ain't seen the good doctor, has you?

HOMER H/W: (They look at each other.) Doctor?!

CARO: Yes sir, yes sir, only the best doctor around these parts. He's got a cure for everything that ails ya.

HOMER H/W: Everything?

CARO: Everything. Why, six months ago, a woman was gave up fer dead and was 'bout to be buried (HOMER H/W take off hats.) but after Doctor Sooney Ollis was brought in, the good woman got up, went to her kitchen, and fried up some fritters tasty as you please.

HOMER H: Mmmm (Rubs his stomach. He is hungry.) . . . fritters. (HOMER W hits him.)

HOMER W: What else has Doctor Sooney Ollis done?

CARO: Two weeks ago, the littlest of the Crawly boys climbed tall (They all look up.) in a pine tree, aimin' to fetch some robin's eggs. He went out on the limb . . . and snap; he went fall . . . alll . . . allin'! (They look down to the ground.)

HOMER H/W: Ugh!

CARO: It was an awful terrible sight. But after Doctor Sooney Ollis got there, not only was the boy fit as a fiddle, but he tweren't little no more! He was tall as a corn stalk.

HOMER H: Mmmmm . . . (Rubs HIS stomach.) corn. (HOMER W hits him again.)

HOMER W: Where can we find this good doctor?

CARO: Well, this here's his wagon, and I reckon if you boys stick around, he'll be back directly.

HOMER H: How will we know it's him?

CARO: You see this little brown jug?

HOMER H/W: Uh-huh.
CARO: Well, this here’s his little brown jug of *(Thinks for a moment.)* “miracle juice.” Why don’t you boys just hold onto it, and I’m sure he’ll find you. So just sit right cheer and wait for the good Doctor Sooney Ollis.

HOMER H/W: *(Memorizing.)* Doctor Sooney Ollis.

CARO: *(Starts to leave, but turns back.)* Oh! I almost forgot! There’s just one thing about Doctor Sooney Ollis that you need to know.

HOMER H/W: What?

CARO: He’s stubborn.

HOMER H/W: Stubborn?

CARO: Stubborn as a mule in mud.

HOMER H: Mmmm *(Rubs his stomach, ... mule. (CARO and HOMER W look at him strangely.)* What?

HOMER W: Well, whadda we do?

CARO: There’s only one thing to do. Beat him. *(She hands the slap stick to them.)*

HOMER H/W: Beat him?

CARO: That’s the only way. Good Doctor Sooney Ollis don’t understand nuttin’ but a good beatin’. Sometimes, he won’t even admit to bein’ a doctor until you hit him hard once or twice. We have to beat him every time somebody gets sick.

HOMER W: If it’s a beatin he needs . . .

HOMER H: It’s a beatin he’ll get.

CARO: Glad to hear it.

HOMER W: We sure do appreciate your help.

CARO: It was my pleasure! *(She winks at audience and exits.)*

ACT ONE, SCENE 4

HOSKINS: *(Enters stage right running, see boys, stops center and tips his hat.)* Boys. *(Exits through the house running.)*

POLLY ANN: *(Enters stage right running, sees boys, stops center, smiles.)* Boys. *(Exits through the house running.)*

PAPPY: *(Enters stage right running, follow by TOWNSPEOPLE, sees boys, stops center.)* Boys. *(Exits through the house running.)*
TOWNSPEOPLE: Boys. *(Exit after PAPPY.)*

HOMER W: *(Looking after the group.)* It’s a race.

HOMER H: I bet first prize is one of Eursala Davey’s peach cobblers.

HOMER W: *(Getting up to join the race.)* I’m gonna beat ya.

HOMER H: *(Running after HOMER W.)* Are not!

HOMER W: Are too!

HOMER H: Are not. Are not.

HOMER W: Are too. Are too. *(They continue as they run off still holding jug.)*

SOONEY: *(Entering from the opposite side of the house.)* Whew! Boy, he can run fast! I need a break . . . something to wet my whistle. Now, where is my little brown jug? *(Sees wagon and sees a bench with a collection of bottles on it.)* Well, what have we here? *(Smells bottle.)* Hmmm . . . *(Takes a swig.)* Ohh! It ain’t Wayne and Lester Crockett’s, but it ain’t bad! Let’s see what else there is. *(Climbs into wagon.)*

HOMER H: *(Entering from the house.)* That fella that won the race didn’t look too happy. Not even when they picked him up and carried him off on their shoulders.

HOMER W: I don’t think the first prize was a cobbler.

HOMER H: You don’t?

HOMER W: Didn’t you hear? They were all shoutin’ something about a cooked goose.

HOMER H: Well, you couldn’t a won anyway. You’re too slow

HOMER W: Am not.

HOMER H: Are too.

HOMER W: Am not.

HOMER H: Are too! Are too! *(They continue to argue as SOONEY crawls out of wagon with his back to audience in the doctor’s robe and hat.)*

HOMER W: *(Sees SOONEY.)* Look! Is that him?

HOMER H: It’s the doctor! He done come back.

HOMER W: How do we know it’s him?

HOMER H: *(Looks down at jug.)* Well, if it’s him, he’ll come to us.
SOONEY:  (Turns and sees HOMERS.) Well, hey there, boys. (Sees jug.) That’s a mighty fine little brown jug you boys got. It’s almost nice as my little (He realizes that the jug is his.) . . . say, where did you boys get that jug? Because, if you found it, it’s mine.

HOMER W: So you’re sayin’ this brown jug belongs to you?
SOONEY: That’s what I’m sayin’.

HOMER H/W: (To each other.) The jug is his.

HOMER H: Does that mean you’re Doctor Sooney Ollis?
SOONEY: I’m Sooney Ollis alright. The Doctor, however, is out.

(Snatches jug and crosses stage right.)

HOMER H/W: (To each other.) Stubborn as a mule.

HOMER W: (Crosses to the other side of SOONEY.) We heard you might deny bein’ a doctor.

SOONEY: Of course I deny it. I ain’t no doctor.

HOMER H: But you er Sooney Ollis?
SOONEY: (Looks at each HOMER and then to the audience.) Depends on what you want with him.

HOMER W: We want to pay him for his help.
SOONEY: (This gets his attention.) Pay?

HOMER H: We’ve heard how wonderful he is.
SOONEY: Well, word does get out.
HOMER W: We’ve heard about his greatness.
SOONEY: It runs in the family.
HOMER H: We’ve heard he can wake women from the dead.
SOONEY: I always considered myself mighty handsome.
HOMER W: You’re just the man we’ve been lookin’ fer.
SOONEY: Sooney Ollis at yer service.
HOMER W: Well, Doctor Ollis, if you’ll just follow us we need you to cure Eullamay, she hadn’t talked since . . .

SOONEY: Whoa, whoa, whoa, you boys just wait a cotton pickin’ minute. I done told ya, I ain’t no doctor.

HOMER H: We was afeared it come to this . . .
HOMER W: You leave us no choice.
Homer H/W: But to beat ya. (Pulls out slapstick.)
SOONEY: Now you boys just hold on! (HOMER H hits him and hands the slapstick to HOMER W.)
HOMER W: We’re gonna beat ya until you say you’re a doctor. (HOMER W hits SOONEY with the slapstick.)

SOONEY: Now just a . . . . (Hit.) Now, boys. (Hit.) If you . . . (Hit.)

HOMER H: Are you a doctor?

HOMER W: (Holding slapstick.) Say you’re a doctor.

SOONEY: (Rubbing bottom.) I’m a doctor.

HOMER W: I’m glad you’re so reasonable.

SOONEY: What makes you fellers think I am a doctor? I’m not sayin I ain’t, I’m just asking what makes you so sure?

HOMER H: Why, you’re the greatest doctor there ever was.

SOONEY: Really?

HOMER W: You’ve cured thousands.

SOONEY: You don’t say?

HOMER H: People sing your praises for miles around.

SOONEY: Hmmm . . . well, if I’m such a miracle man, I must cost a purty penny.

HOMER W: Don’t worry, money ain’t no object.

HOMER H: We just need you to cure Eullamay.

HOMER W: She’s lost her speech.

SOONEY: Well, I ain’t found it, (To audience.) but it sure won’t hurt me none to look. (He exits. The HOMERS follow him.)

HOMER H: I sure am glad I found him.

HOMER W: You didn’t find him, I did.

HOMER H: Did not.

HOMER W: Did too.

HOMER H: Did not. Did not.

HOMER W: Did too. Did too.

Fade to BLACKOUT.
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