

A MAYOR FOR DIXIE

a one act comedy

By

Landen Swain

Copyright © December 2016 Landen Swain and Off The
Wall Play Publishers

<http://offthewallplays.com>

This script is provided for reading purposes only Professionals and amateurs are hereby advised that it is subject to royalty It is fully protected under the laws of South Africa, the United States of America, the British Empire including the Dominion of Canada and all other countries of the Copyright Union. All rights including but not limited to professional amateur film radio and all other media including use on the worldwide web and the rights of translation into foreign languages are strictly reserved and any unauthorized use of the material may subject the user to any and all applicable civil and criminal penalties. For any information about royalties or to apply for a performance license please click the following link :

<http://offthewallplays.com/royalties-and-licensing-of-plays-sold-by-off-the-wall-plays/>

AT RISE: (Two candidate campaign offices, separated by a wall, on the right is CRANCE's office, on left is POPE's. CRANCE's office has a big desk with two chairs on the opposite side of the desk, the desk has several family photos, a mini American flag, an intercom system, and a phone. CRANCE has a coat rack against the back wall. A door is on the wall upstage, opposite his desk against the wall S.L. is a couch. A big campaign poster with CRANCE's face in red, white, and blue, with words in all caps reading "The best chance is with Crance, Vote For Crance" is hanging on the wall S.L. of the door. POPE's office has the same things in it, except he does not have campaign posters up around the office. Against the wall behind POPE's desk is a mini bar with a mirror above it. Opposite POPE's desk is a couch, above the couch is a window which can be opened easily. Around ten thirty in the fictional town of Dixie, Delaware. POPE is sitting in his office on the phone, CRANCE is in his office reading the morning paper. Lights are focused on POPE's side.)

SCENE 1

POPE

Tommy, I just don't think it's a very good idea. (beat.) It's a nice thought but there are about a million things that could go wrong. (beat.) Tommy, I hired you as my campaign manager because I knew you had a lot of passion for your work and the last five clients you have represented have ended up winning their election. But do you really think it's a good idea to be associating my name with a peanut butter candy bar? Suppose some child has an allergic reaction to the peanut butter and dies, I don't think having the reputation that Oliver Pope poisons children is really the best thing for my campaign. I want you to focus on getting those campaign signs up and running. Crance already has his up all over town, and I will not be outdone by Edward Crance. I'll talk to you later. (Hangs up)

LUCY

(Through the intercom) Mr. Pope.

POPE

(Holds the intercom button) Yes Lucy?

LUCY

Just reminding you of your eleven o'clock meeting today at the diner on 5th Street with that nosey reporter lady.

POPE

Lucy, when you say nosey reporter lady, you're going to have to be a lot more specific.

LUCY

That Brianna Davis from Channel 8 news.

POPE

Oh, well thank you.

LUCY

You're welcome. Oh and Mr. Pope, remember not to eat anything spicy, you tend to get gassy when you eat anything spicy.

POPE

Thank you Lucy.

(He lets his finger off the button)

Gosh, why does that woman constantly bring up those little sassy helpful tips? Seriously just shut up. Yes I know spicy foods make me gassy, but you don't have to bring it up. I haven't brought up the fact that her breathe makes skunks smell like roses.

(LUCY opens the door, walks over to the intercom and hits the button)

LUCY

You have to hit the button twice for the microphone to turn off. (She turns to exit)

POPE

Lucy, I'm sorry.

(LUCY slams the door, POPE picks up a pen and a sticky note and begins writing)

Note to self, give Lucy a big Christmas bonus.

(AMY, who is holding a briefcase, knocks on the window, POPE walks over and unlatches and opens the window)

AMY

Special delivery for the future mayor of Dixie, Delaware.

(She steps in with assistance from POPE, they begin to kiss)

Now Oliver, we had enough pleasure last night right now is time for business.

POPE

Fine, just promise me there will be time for pleasure later.

AMY

There will always be time for pleasure dear.

POPE

Would you like some scotch while you're here?

AMY

Yes, but not a lot I can't stay long. I just came to deliver this.

(POPE pours the scotch and gives AMY the glass, AMY takes a file out from her briefcase and gives it to POPE)

POPE

Ah, Crance's upcoming campaign events. I knew you wouldn't let me down. (opens file) Let's see here, he's planning to go to the fishing docks and talk with the leader of the fishermen's union later today.

AMY

Seems a tad bit fishy for him to be talking with the fishermen's union, are you going to try to beat him to them.

POPE

Nah, most fishermen around this area are a loud of hicks. Most of them don't even vote because words like taxes or economy confuse them. I bet if you asked one of them what they're solution for global warming is, they'd say turn up the AC. They're a waste of time, if Crance wants them he can have them. Let's see what else is on here, oh he's going to buy a hundred boxes of cookies from the local girl scout troop to win over their parent's votes. I'll go to those girl scouts first and buy out their entire stock before he can even buy a crumb.

AMY

When are your posters coming in?

POPE

The posters are coming in later this week. Crance got to them first and they have been occupied making his order first before they would even touch mine. Right now that's the only thing he's beating me at in the advertising field. I've rented space on every billboard in this county, I've been running television and radio commercials about my campaign for weeks, and I've even got a cleverer catchphrase. I tried to get Tommy to write a campaign song for me, but he stopped after he couldn't think of a rhyme for the word extravagant.

AMY

I'd imagine all that advertising is really paying off in the poles isn't it?

POPE

Yes, according to the Dixie Times I've got about 60 percent of the vote.

AMY

That's fantastic!

POPE

Yes but it's too close to comfort for me, I've seen countless elections where the underdog comes back and wins out of nowhere. I can't allow that to happen. If Crance wins all my plans will go right down the drain.

AMY

What plans?

POPE

Well you might as well know. I've got several large company's looking to move their branches here, if I was mayor I would have the authority to let them and they'd give me a big pay check in return. Unfortunately by doing that, most of the small businesses in this town would be ruined in the process.

AMY

Oliver I can't support you doing this.

POPE

Well why not?

AMY

Because, I know most of the small business owners in this town and I consider them friends, I couldn't do that to my friends.

POPE

What if I told you that if I got that big check I could buy you that fur coat you saw in that catalog the other day.

AMY

Do you mean the one that is made completely out of polar bear fur?

POPE

That's the one.

AMY

Well when you put it that way... survival of the fittest.

POPE

That's my girl.

AMY

(Checks watch)

Oh dear, I've got to go. Can we have dinner tonight at that bistro on Main Street?

POPE

Yes, I'll make the reservations when I'm done with my meeting with the reporter from Channel 8.

AMY

And then after dinner we can have a little dessert.

POPE

Yes, I hear they have a lovely Boston cream pie.

AMY

I meant the other kind of dessert.

POPE

Oh well, I would take that over Boston cream pie any day.

AMY

I know you would. I will see you tonight.

(They kiss, AMY climbs out the window, POPE latches the window)

POPE

(POPE crosses to the intercom and holds the button)

Lucy.

LUCY

Yes?

POPE

Can you call and get my car pulled to the front?

LUCY

Yes sir.

POPE

Thank you.

POPE (Cont'd)

(He takes his finger off the button, he crosses over to the mirror, staring into the mirror he gives himself a pep talk)

Alright Oliver, this is a big interview, you cannot screw this up. The old mayor croaking a week ago is an opportunity you have to capitalize on. This one reporter can make or break you in this election. You've got to make her like you. And I mean what's not to like? You've got the chiseled jaw of a Greek god, the body of an Olympic athlete, and the hair of Rock Hudson. Even blind women find you to be the most attractive man in all of Dixie. You're a sexy devil you are, if I were a woman I would kiss me right now.

LUCY

Mr. Pope, you forgot to hit the button again.

POPE

Oh, sorry. Is my car out front yet?

LUCY

Yes, (beat.) Mr. Sexy Devil.

(POPE hits the button then exits out the front door)

(Lights shift focus to Crance's side of the stage, lights down on POPE's side)

CRANCE

(Humming a tune)

Huh, local gun shop owner stabbed to death in his own store.

MARSHA

(MARSHA voices in using the intercom)

Mr. Crance.

CRANCE

(Crane hits the button)

Yes Marsha?

MARSHA

Mr. Wallace is here to see you sir.

CRANCE

Send him in, thank you.

(Hits the button again)

JAMES

(JAMES opens the door carrying a couple files)

Eddie, I've got a great campaign opportunity, and I want you to hear it.

CRANCE

Great let me hear it.

JAMES

Okay, trust me you're going to want to sit down for this one.

CRANCE

I already am sitting down James.

JAMES

Okay, so picture this (beat.) I can get your face on the side of every porta john in town for the next three weeks.

CRANCE

(beat.) There are a couple of questions running through my mind right now, the first one being how. How are you able to get my face on the side of all the porta johns in this town?

JAMES

Alright so I was down at the farmers market handing out those little button things that people can wear and I was telling people all about you, and then this plumber comes out of the bathroom after fixing it and I see him walking to his truck. And on the side of the truck, it says "get a crap load of advertising by calling us!"

CRANCE

Ew.

JAMES

I know, it's a nasty slogan but still, it got me thinking so I called the number and the manager down there hooked me up with a great deal. I think it's a good investment, and we need to take the final plunge on this deal before Pope gets to it. The manager assured me there would be no clogs in the operation. Plus it will look good to the public eye that you are helping a small business that cleans up big business. (snaps fingers a la rimshot)

CRANCE

You know what, what the heck, let's give it a shot. But if this advertising job is crappy, I'm going to ask for my money back.

JAMES

Alright that's fine with me. Did you see the polls in the paper this morning?

CRANCE

Yes, I can't believe we only have forty percent of the vote.

JAMES

The only reason that is happening is because you don't have as much advertising as Pope does. I mean we are doing the best we can with what we've got but he's got more funding.

CRANCE

He's put more money towards advertising then I'll see in my lifetime.

JAMES

And it's just sad honestly. Obviously you are the better candidate. You're a hard worker, he's been given everything to him his entire life. You are a big supporter of small business. He wants big time corporations to take over this town. You like the Redskins, he likes the Cowboys. And to top it all off, you rose up from poverty as a child to the man you are today. You had to be the man of the house after your father died, even as a child you were very responsible.

CRANCE

I know. If I only had the money to advertise like he does.

JAMES

Sadly your father, unlike Pope's daddy, was not the only man in United States history to win the lottery twice.

(JAMES pulls out a flask and takes a sip)

CRANCE

James, I thought you gave up on drinking.

JAMES

I did before this election. I've been so stressed out about all this, I've needed something to keep me from punching a hole through the wall.

CRANCE

I understand that, but there's much better methods to deal with stress than booze.

JAMES

Yeah, like what?

CRANCE

Take up a hobby. Go fishing, learn to play an instrument, take up archery.

JAMES

Yes, because an extremely stressed out man with a bow and arrow is a really good idea. I think I'll pass on the whole hobby thing.

(Takes a sip, puts flask back in his pocket)

CRANCE

Alright well I at least want you to stop drinking in my office. Last thing I need right now is some reporter coming in here and smelling booze. Next thing you know newspaper headlines will read "Edward Crance, the moonshine making candidate".

JAMES

You really think the Press in this town would do something like that?

CRANCE

It's a small town James, not a lot of news to report. The Press will make something out of nothing in a heartbeat. Remember last year when Ms. Andrews over at the gardening shop said to the newspaper that she has just gotten some brand new hose in from New Jersey. Next day the newspaper reported she was running her own little whore house.

JAMES

Well on that one the Press actually was right, she was running a whore house.

CRANCE

Well yes, but that's beside the point. My point is the Press in this town is looking for anything they can find to put in the papers and make a big deal out of. And it's already an uphill battle for me trying to get publicity for my campaign.

JAMES

I know, and don't worry we will find a way to win this.

CRANCE

Yeah, sure.

JAMES

Now when have I ever let you down before?

CRANCE

Remember when I asked you to pick me up some really nice flowers for my wife on Valentine's Day?

JAMES

Yeah, and I got the flowers.

CRANCE

Yes, but you picked my wife's blue ribbon winning tulips from her own garden.

JAMES

You said to find the best flowers in town, and those were the nicest ones I could find.

MARSHA

(Over the intercom)

Mr. Crance.

CRANCE

(CRANCE hits the button once)

Yes Marsha?

MARSHA

Your wife is here to see you.

CRANCE

Great, send her in.

(CRANCE hits the button again, AMY walks through the door)

AMY

Hello there boys.

CRANCE

Hello honey.

(They kiss)

JAMES

Hello Mrs. Crance.

AMY

Hello there James, how goes advertising for my husband?

JAMES

Not exactly the easiest thing in the world, but we're doing the best we can.

CRANCE

The advertising must be helping a little, we have forty percent of the vote so far, and I've still got a meeting with the local Girl Scout troop at three that I told you about. I'm going to buy a hundred boxes of their cookies, which should at least get me their parent's votes.

AMY

Well that's good news. I've been at the hair salon all day today trying to convince the owner to vote for you. I think I was finally able to convince her.

JAMES

What did you say to convince her?

AMY

I just promised her that Eddie and I would go get the couples perm from them.

(MARSHA comes through the door, carrying a note)

MARSHA

Mr. Crance, I just got a call from the Girl Scout troop leader about your meeting at three. He's going to have to cancel.

CRANCE

Oh well that's okay I guess. I can always go buy the cookies later this week.

MARSHA

Actually sir, there are no more cookies to sell.

CRANCE

What?

MARSHA

Mr. Pope called them five minutes ago and bought their entire stock of Girl Scout cookies.

(Gives CRANCE the note, CRANCE begins reading it)

CRANCE

How is this possible? How could he possibly know I was going to do that and beat me to it?

MARSHA

Well maybe it's just a coincidence, I mean I'm sure he didn't find out about it from some mole or something.

JAMES

No, this is too much of a coincidence to be real. He must have found out somehow, maybe he's got this place wired!

(Begins doing hands signals)

CRANCE

James none of us know sign language.

JAMES

Shh.

(Continues doing the hand signals)

CRANCE

For heaven's sake James, my office isn't wired, stop with the sign language. He just must have found out somehow and beat me to the punch. There's nothing I can do about that now.

MARSHA

I'm sorry Mr. Crance. You'll get the next one I'm sure. Because Lord knows I need you to win this election.

AMY

Why do you need him to win so bad Marsha?

MARSHA

If he loses, I lose my job, and I can't go back to my old job.

AMY

Why can't you go back to your old job?

MARSHA

Because it doesn't exist anymore. I was the secretary at Ms. Andrew's whore house. I didn't know those girls were prostitutes, I thought they were a support group. I thought the men that stopped by were just the guest speakers for the support group. Heck, Mr. Pope stopped by at least once or twice a week. He would bring a pair of handcuffs and a blindfold each time he came.

JAMES

What did you just say?

MARSHA

I said he would bring a pair of handcuffs and a blindfold every times he came. I always assumed the blindfold was for some sort of trust fall exercise.

JAMES

No not that, the part before that.

MARSHA

Mr. Pope would stop by once or twice a week.

JAMES

Eddie that's it! That's our big break! Now all we have to do is spread that news to the newspapers and let them know Pope hired prostitutes and we are guaranteed to win this election!

CRANCE

No James.

JAMES

What do you mean no?

CRANCE

I mean no, I'm not going to have this information leak to the press.

JAMES

What why not?

CRANCE

Because it's not the honest thing to do. If I do that, it will ruin this man's life. He'll probably pullout of the election and I'll win by default.

JAMES

That's the best way to win!

CRANCE

No James.

JAMES

Come on, this will make sure the right guy gets into office. You're in politics, you can't be afraid to get your hands dirty every once in a while.

CRANCE

No James, I may be a politician, but I still have my ethics. I will not become part of the stereotype about politicians. If I'm going to win this election, I'm going to do it fair and square.

JAMES

Eddie, I understand you have your ethics and I respect that, but I guarantee you Pope has done some dishonest things to hurt your campaign to, you've got to fight fire with fire.

CRANCE

No James, I will not stoop to that level. And that's the bottom line. Is that understood?

JAMES

Yeah.

CRANCE

Good. Besides I still have the town hall debate tomorrow, and if I can do really well in the debate I can win over some voters. Now Marsha do I have any other meetings today?

MARSHA

No sir, your schedule is completely free for the rest of the day.

CRANCE

Excellent, Amy would you like to go get some lunch?

(Walks to the coat rack and gets his coat)

AMY

I suppose so.

CRANCE

Splendid. Marsha you can take your lunch break now if you'd like.

MARSHA

Well thank you Mr. Crance.

(MARSHA exits)

CRANCE

James, are you going to come?

JAMES

No, I'm going to stay back and do some paperwork.

CRANCE

Suit yourself.

JAMES

Have a good lunch. Don't worry Mrs. Crance, I'll make sure you are the first lady of Dixie by the end of this election. I'm going to work my butt off making sure of that.

AMY

Well, thank you James, but I can assure you, I will be the first lady of Dixie, no matter what.

(CRANCE and AMY exit. Blackout)

SCENE 2

(Three hours later, POPE comes through the door with TOMMY, both are dancing with excitement. They then begin swinging each other's arms, all while humming a victory tune.)

POPE

Happy days are here again Tommy! That interview went so well, the reporter was practically eating out of my hand!

TOMMY

This election is in the bag!

POPE

I believe this is worthy of some Champagne.

(POPE walks to his mini bar and picks up a Champagne bottle from underneath, then pours it into two glasses and gives one glass to TOMMY)

I would like to propose a toast. I would just like to say that (beat.) I'm awesome. I nailed that interview, and it the process guaranteed my winning of this election. Sit back and take notes Tommy, you might learn something from the master.

TOMMY

I have to admit, you pulled that interview off like a pro. But now that we know we are going to win, you have to keep up your appearance. You have to act like a good sport for the cameras but once the cameras go away you can party like there is no tomorrow.

POPE

Right. How are those campaign signs coming along?

TOMMY

Do we even need them anymore?

POPE

Sure we do, even though I already know I'm going to win, that doesn't mean I'm going to stop. The interview today just took away any doubt I had about the election, and relieved a lot of the stress.

TOMMY

Right, well the signs are going to start being made tonight, they should be finished by lunch tomorrow.

POPE

Really? Wow, that's some fast service. It's too bad that when all the big corporations take over this town, the company that makes the signs will probably go under. But that's life.

LUCY

(Over the intercom)

Mr. Pope.

POPE

(POPE hits and holds the button)

Yes Lucy?

LUCY

There's a black car outside getting towed, I believe it is Mr. Lewis'.

TOMMY

It's not mine, I have a red car.

LUCY

Well Mr. Lewis, I'm color blind so every car looks black to me.

TOMMY

(TOMMY runs to the window and looks out in horror as his car is getting towed)

My baby!

(TOMMY runs out the door, POPE let's go of the button)

POPE

My goodness, what a cry baby. It's only a car, and it's not even a nice one. His car looks like what comes out the south end of a north bound mule.

LUCY

Mr. Pope, you forget to hit the button again.

POPE

Oh, well sorry.

(Hits the intercom button)

(AMY knocks on the window, POPE walks to the window and unlatches it. AMY climbs in with POPE's assistance)

AMY

Hello there Mr. Mayor.

POPE

Hello there Mrs. First Lady.

(They kiss)

AMY

I heard you called the girl scouts.

POPE

Yes, I now have a lifetime supply of Girl Scout cookies, and an increased chance of getting diabetes. So tell me my dear, when are you going to divorce that loser and come marry me?

AMY

As soon as I can. I'm going to wait about two months after you win the election, then I'm going to ask for a divorce, claiming he hasn't been the same since he lost the election. Then I'll marry you.

POPE

Sounds like a wonderful plan. Any news on campaign plans he has? (Crosses to the minibar, pours a glass of scotch)

AMY

Nothing major.

(Sits down in chair across from the desk)

AMY (cont'd)

I believe he's just counting on the town hall debate to be the place where he wins all the undecided voters.

POPE

Ah yes the dreaded town hall debate.

(POPE sits down)

As long as I don't make a complete fool of myself I believe I will be alright.

AMY

Eddie did have some dirt on you though.

POPE

What? What was it?

AMY

He knows you were a regular visitor at Ms. Andrew's whore house.

POPE

How on earth would he know about that?

AMY

Eddie's secretary used to work there.

POPE

What is he going to do with the information, is he going to try and blackmail me into dropping out of the race?

AMY

Actually no. His campaign advisor advised him to do that, but he said no, he said it was against his ethics.

POPE

He's a politician with ethics? That will never work in this line of work. Politics is a cut throat industry, and nice guys finish last. You use whatever you can to beat your opponent, whether it be real or not. You find the crack in your opponent's armor, you hit it and you hit it hard. If it doesn't exist then you create it. You can't be soft, Crance is missing out on a major opportunity.

AMY

Well that doesn't seem very fair.

POPE

All's fair in love and war my dear, and this is war.

AMY

Have you ever used these tactics on someone you're running against?

POPE

I did once back in high school, I was running for class President and the boy I was running against had a slight lead on me. So I spread the rumor that he was related to Joseph Stalin. I eventually won the election by a landslide.

AMY

Why did everyone believe the rumor?

POPE

He was a foreign exchange student from Russia. I don't like using the dirt I have on somebody, but I will if I have to.

AMY

Do you have any dirt on Eddie?

POPE

I do have some, but there's no point in having it come to the public eye if I'm guaranteed to win the election.

AMY

Do you have a game plan for the debate?

POPE

Win that's it. All I have to do is not look like an idiot at the debate and this election will be in the bag.

LUCY

(Over the intercom)

Mr. Pope.

POPE

(POPE hits and holds the button)

Yes Lucy?

LUCY

I was received a call from the local PTA and they asked if you would come down and answer some questions from the parents.

POPE

That sounds great, what time?

LUCY

In thirty minutes down at the library.

POPE

Great, call them and tell them I will be there.

(Takes finger off the button)

The PTA, if I win them over, I might as well start moving into the Mayor's office right now. Oh Mrs. Crance this is some fantastic news, or should I start calling you Mrs. Pope?

AMY

As soon as I can drop the last name Crance I'm going to. Amy Pope, has a nice ring to it.

POPE

That is does. I definitely couldn't have won this election without you giving me all Eddie's campaign strategies. It's going to be wonderful having you as the First Lady of Dixie.

(They kiss)

AMY

Well I think I'm going to hit the road. You have to go to your meeting at the library. I recommend you hurry home after your meeting, I've got a little surprise waiting for you at home.

POPE

Is this surprise see-through?

AMY

It can be.

(They kiss, AMY exits out of the window with POPE's assistance. POPE exits out the front door, leaving the front door open)

LUCY

(LUCY walks in with a shocked expression on her face, she slowly walks over and hits the intercom button)

LUCY (cont'd)

Oh my gosh!

(Blackout)

SCENE 3

(Three podiums are brought out onto the apron of the stage, curtain is closed. One is set on the downstage left side of the apron, another downstage right of the apron and the last one down center of the apron, Brianna Davis is standing behind the middle podium, down two of the isles are citizens who will ask questions at the debate, each side has a mic)

BRIANNA

Welcome ladies and gentlemen of Dixie, Delaware to the first public debate here at town hall. My name is Brianna Davis and I will be the mediator for this debate. I will introduce the two candidates and then open the floor to questions from the audience. Just a reminder, since we had a problem with this last year, the questions must have relevance to the election, and please refrain from asking the candidates for their phone numbers. Now without further ado let me introduce to you our first candidate, Mr. Oliver Pope.

(POPE enters and waves to the crowd, then takes his place behind the downstage right podium)

Welcome Mr. Pope.

POPE

I'm happy to be here Brianna.

BRIANNA

Now tell us a little about yourself Mr. Pope.

POPE

Well I collect sports cars, my favorite style of music is classic rock and roll, and I graduated from Green Lake University.

BRIANNA

Green Lake? That's a very hard school to get in to.

POPE

Well it's not really that hard when your daddy owns the Green Lake.

BRIANNA

Now ladies and gentlemen please welcome our second candidate, Mr. Edward Crance.

(CRANCE comes out and waves to the crowd, then takes his spot behind the downstage left podium) Welcome Mr. Crance.

