

# CENTER STAGE: The Sidestep

## Detailed Synopsis

### ACT ONE

The Chicken Ranch is introduced, and the audience discovers that the clean, little place has been around for years and is currently run by Miss Mona. The Chicken Ranch has twenty rooms for the girls to perform their service ([Prologue/20 Fans](#)).

Angel, a seasoned professional prostitute, and Shy, a slightly awkward and less experienced girl, come to the Chicken Ranch looking for jobs. Miss Mona and the girls explain the rules. She hires Angel, after giving her a quick makeover, and Shy, despite her apparent innocence ([A Lil Old Bitty Pissant Country Place](#)).

Shy admits to Miss Mona that her dad molested her and that now she has nowhere to go. Miss Mona agrees to help her get fixed up to work at the Chicken Ranch ([Girl You're a Woman](#)).

Meanwhile, investigative reporter Melvin P. Thorpe is on KTEX-TV telling Texas residents that there is a whorehouse in their midst - the Chicken Ranch ([Watchdog Theme/Texas Has a Whorehouse In It](#)).

At the Chicken Ranch, Angel talks to her son on the phone. Miss Mona overhears and tells Angel she might be able to get Christmas off work.

The girls at the Chicken Ranch are getting ready for the winners of the football game who will come celebrate at the ranch after their win. Jewel, Miss Mona's maid, has the day off and is going to spend it with her man, although a day is hardly enough time ([24 Hours of Lovin'](#)).

As soon as Jewel leaves, Sheriff Ed Earl comes to talk to Miss Mona. Miss Mona sends the girls away, and the sheriff tells her about Melvin's report. He is worried because he knows about the Chicken Ranch and basically supports it, even though it's technically illegal. Miss Mona



Photo courtesy of Casa Manana

does not get too worried because the people around the town know she pays taxes, sponsors town events and has a good reputation. The sheriff gets angry at Miss Mona, then is called back to the courthouse because Melvin is looking to interview him.

Melvin is filming on the courthouse steps, surrounded by a crowd of people. The sheriff tells him to leave and explodes in a fit of curse words when Melvin mentions the Chicken Ranch. The sheriff shoots his pistol into the air to clear the street of Melvin and the crowds ([Watchdog Reprise/Texas Has a Whorehouse In It Reprise](#)).

At the Texas Twinkle Café, it is the Saturday of the Texas A&M (Aggies) versus University of Texas football game. The local newspaper editor, Edsel Mackey, is in the diner with waitress Doatsey Mae arguing about the news report on the Chicken Ranch. Rufus, the mayor, and insurance agent C.J. come to the diner discussing the same thing.

The sheriff enters the diner and everyone admonishes him for allowing Melvin to report on the Chicken Ranch.



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Edsel says that he's glad he is not in Miss Mona's position, but Doatsey Mae says she would trade places with her (**Doatsey Mae**). The sheriff leaves and the rest of the group go on to argue about who will win the football game.

The football game is on TV, complete with the Angelette dancers (**Angelette March**).



Photo courtesy of Casa Manana

At the football game, Senator J.T. Wingwoah congratulates the Aggies on their victory and makes good on his promise to take them to the Chicken Ranch to celebrate, even though he denounced the place on the news just the night before (**The Aggie Song**).

The Aggies arrive at the Chicken Ranch to a big celebration, and the Senator pays for everyone's thrills. Miss Mona is going over her books when the Sheriff comes over asking if she's seen Melvin. The two end up reminiscing about the first time they met and their past love (**The Bus from Amarillo**).

Act One ends as Melvin and groups of reporters raid the Chicken Ranch

### ACT TWO

Edsel questions the Senator as to how he ended up in a warehouse, and he blames communists, which nobody believes. The Governor arrives on the scene, and the reporters start to question him. He distracts them with pointless tangents and doesn't directly answer any questions, so Melvin and his crew take that to mean they are going to get the Chicken Ranch closed (**The Sidestep**).

Protesters have gathered outside the Chicken Ranch, and the girls enjoy waving and taunting those who have used their services before. Miss Mona sees the protest and fires her shotgun in the air causing everyone to scatter and leave.

The girls go off to their rooms, while Miss Mona tells Jewel her about her past romance and lasting feelings for the sheriff, although she admits the current situation has gotten beyond his control now (**No Lies**).

The sheriff is working in his office when Rufus and C.J. barge in. The two are mad that the sheriff has not done anything about the Chicken Ranch. The governor calls while the group is arguing and tells the sheriff to officially close down the Chicken Ranch (**Good Old Girl**). Meanwhile, back at the Chicken Ranch, the girls are packing up and discussing where they are going to go next. Angel decides that she is going to go home to her son and stop working as a prostitute (**Hard Candy Christmas**).

The sheriff makes his way back to the Chicken Ranch to find Miss Mona leaving with Jewel. Miss Mona asks him about a romantic moment they shared together. He doesn't remember the moment, prompting Miss Mona's realization that there is nothing left between them (**The Bus from Amarillo Reprise/20 Fans Reprise**).

