

# BRIEFCASE BLUES

## “Police Involvement”

Live Script 1.2 / Improvisation

Revised: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2012

### I. OUTLINE / PURPOSE

The whole idea behind this skit is to involve local uniformed law enforcement (or, in the absence thereof, uniformed security officers) in the opening and closing of a **BRIEFCASE BLUES** show.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

In no way is the involvement with this staged scenario intended to cast an uncomplimentary light upon the profession of law enforcement, nor be detrimental to the image of any member thereof. This outline is intended only as a “guide” to those uniformed men or women who wish to be a part of the **BRIEFCASE BLUES** show and have the necessary clearance, through whatever appropriate channels, to do so at any given event.

Since the *Blues Brothers* characters are identified as being in constant contention with “The Law”, this script is intended to act as a guide to involving uniformed officials as a fun part of the show (“the cops are *still* after Jake and Elwood Blues”). The idea is that the “Blues Brothers” are in some sort of trouble with the local law and the officers have been instructed to bring “Jake” and “Elwood” to the stage and, at the end of the concert, “re-arrest” them and lead them from the stage.

### II. THE SHOW

Here is an example of a show that was done with actual police officers. References from a number of law enforcement agencies are available upon specific request. The script is paraphrased, and can be altered any way needed.

#### THE SETUP

A typical **BRIEFCASE BLUES** show begins with two or three instrumental tunes, the last of which is usually a tune called “Intro (I can’t turn you loose)” – known as the “mall chase” scene music from the film **BLUES BROTHERS (1980)**. The show begins with all 7-8 members of the band, onstage and in place and ready to play (there may or may not be an opening announcement). Before the band can strike a note, two uniformed officer walk onto the stage with authority...

## **SCENE ONE**

**FIRST OFFICER (to the band):** Y'all hold up there – just hold on a minute.  
**(Turns to audience)** My name is officer (----name----) of the South Padre Island Police Department; This is my fellow officer (----name----). **(Turns to SECOND OFFICER)** Officer (----name----), I need you to bring our two offenders (reads paperwork in his hand)...a “Jake Blues” and an “Elwood Blues”.

**SECOND OFFICER (gripping):** Aw jeez – those two? Do I hafta?

**FIRST OFFICER:** Yes you do – you know what the Sarge said...

**SECOND OFFICER:** Yeah...fine. What are those two in for anyhow?

**FIRST OFFICER:** A bunch of stuff. Doin' this show for part of their court-ordered community service. Here – check it out on these printouts...

**FIRST OFFICER pulls out a computer-printout continuous form, which unfolds from his hands all the way to the stage floor**

**SECOND OFFICER:** WHOA – that's a bunch of offenses...

**FIRST OFFICER:** Now you go to the station, get these two and bring 'em up here. They're gonna do this show, and when they're done - back to their cells they go.

**SECOND OFFICER:** I'm on my way...(starts walking off stage)

**FIRST OFFICER (turning back to audience):** Ok now, ladies and gentlemen – everybody enjoy the show. Thank you very much for your courtesy **(turns back to the band, waves his arm)** O.K. – y'all go ahead and play, now...

**FIRST OFFICER walks off stage with his paperwork as the band begins first tune: “LAST NIGHT” (approx. 4:30), followed by “PETER GUNN THEME” (approx. 3:50), immediately followed by “INTRO (I Can't Turn You Loose)”**

**During the song, there will be an offstage or onstage announcer that will read a prepared introduction.**

**At the end of this introduction, the two officers drive a marked patrol car up to the stage. “Jake” and “Elwood” a released from the back of the car, handcuffed. The officers un-handcuff the two “brothers”, who take the stage and begin performing.**

## **SCENE TWO – END OF SHOW**

At the very end of the entire show, “Jake” and “Elwood” are performing the tune “JAILHOUSE ROCK”, and have changed into denim-blue “jail shirts with names and jail-numbers stenciled on them.

The two officers each appear on either end of the stage, each holding a pair of handcuffs and beckoning to “Jake” and “Elwood”. Each walk to one of the officers, allow themselves to be handcuffed, and both are led off on the same side of stage.

As the show ends, the band plays the short “OUTRO” instrumental. At this point both “Jake” and “Elwood” suddenly “make a break for it” from offstage – running onto the stage, where the two officers in foot pursuit snag both and drag them struggling – after taking a quick bow to the audience – off stage and back to jail.

# # #

This is by no means the only way to do this; the officers involved might forego the improvisations, opting to simply escort “Jake” and “Elwood” onstage in cuffs and re-cuffing them at the end of the show (with no “escape attempt”).

There is also the possibility that the **BLUESMOBILE** (our privately-owned 1974 Dodge Monaco, just like the one in the movie) might be a part of the proceedings – there have been times when:

1. The **BLUESMOBILE** has been driven up to the stage with police officers in foot-pursuit
2. The officers hang close by the stage throughout the performance, and
3. “Arrest” the brothers at the end of the show

The options are a lot of fun – and only limited by the imaginations of those involved. If there are any questions, I can be reached at 214-324-0768 or on my cell at 972-514-9755.

**Let’s have some fun!**

*J.W. Leggio*

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