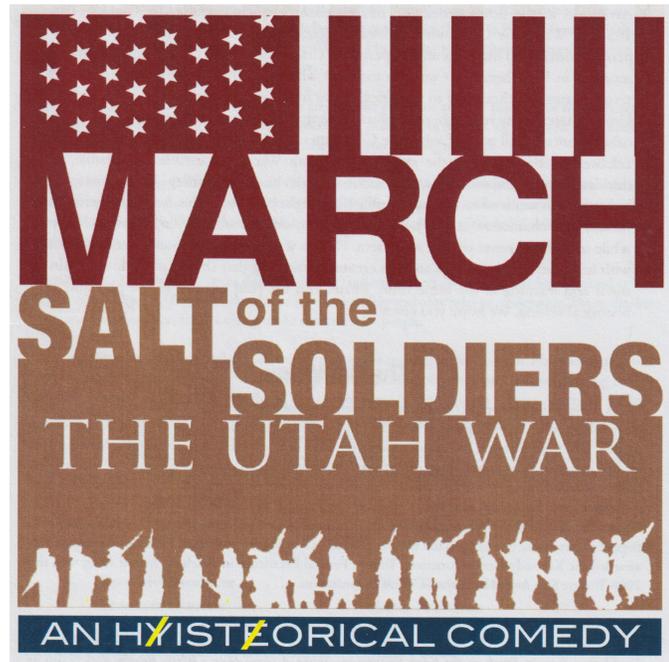


PERUSAL SCRIPT



by
JAMES ARRINGTON & MAHONRI STEWART



Newport, Maine

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MARCH OF THE SALT SOLDIERS: THE UTAH WAR

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ORDER # 2121

CAST OF CHARACTERS — 3f, 3m

LAINY O' DELL, mid 20's, bright, pleasant, bookish, and cute beyond the glasses. The PowerPoint operator for the panel. She is a graduate student working with Dr. Worthington.

DR. MADELINE LAVAUNTE, middle 60's, former Chair of the University of Utah History department. She proudly trained both panel "experts," OZ and Max. Mother of Celeste, she is gracious, knowledgeable, and festooned with a colorful hat.

DR. MAXWELL WEISMANN, 30-ish, of Jewish extraction. He is an attractive, thoughtful, and a real scholar of the material. Just a bit anxious normally, he is former roommates with OZ and at one time had a romantic interest in Celeste.

DR. WORTHINGTON BURR, 50's, quite casual in presentation, he is bright-eyed, congenial, middle-aged scholar and host of the panel. He's a bit patriarchal and speaks with a distinct Southern accent. He throws in folksy tidbits now and then.

DR. ORSON ZEDIKIAH "OZ" YOUNG, 30ish, husband to Celeste. He is the former roommate to Max. He is loud, outlandish, blunt, and often an impish clown. Full of zeal for history, he regards himself and a "post-Modernist."

CELESTE YOUNG, late 20's. She is Dr. LaVaunte's daughter. Attractive without being snooty about it. She is married to OZ and has a mind of her own.

TIME: 2008

PLACE: A theatre, auditorium, or stage platform at the University of Utah

MARCH OF THE SALT SOLDIERS: THE UTAH WAR an Hystorical Comedy by James Arrington and Mahonri Stewart. 3f, 2m, Interior setting, contemporary costumes. (Uses Powerpoint slides —provided in the rental package) About 90 minutes. Commissioned by the Utah War Sesquicentennial Committee, this play takes a unique approach to Utah and Mormon history. It doesn't tell the story of the Mormon's conflict with the U.S. Government, Johnston's Army marching to Utah, and the Mountain Meadows Massacre through a traditional 19th century narrative, but rather through the academic battles between historians familiar with the history and are trying to tell conflicting narratives of the story at an academic conference. Their personal lives and world-views come to the fore, as what should have been a dry, intellectual presentation becomes extremely personal battle over the way we tell history. **Order #2121**

James Arrington — Retired former Associate Professor, Former Department Chair at Utah Valley University. Professor James Arrington was schooled professionally at The American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco and has earned a Masters Degree in Theatre from Brigham Young University. He has worked professionally for 30 years and became a local sensation on the Utah theatre scene when returned to create and star in his well known groundbreaking one-man show *Here's Brother Brigham*. He followed this by displaying a quirky writing talent with *The Farley Family Reunion* and *J. Golden*. He starred in the former and wrote, directed and produced the latter. He went on to write and produce numerous works including *Farley Two: the Next Gyration*, *Wilford Woodruff: God's Fisherman*, *Farley Family Xmas*, *Tumuaki! Matthew Cowley of the Pacific*, and the pioneer musical *The Trail of Dreams*. He has written and produced numerous smaller works and was granted a commission by the Sesquicentennial Utah War Committee to write a new touring work entitled *March of the Salt Soldiers: The Utah War*. He has written for stage, screen, outdoor pageant, radio drama, and puppet shows. Professor Arrington was the first

Chairman of the Department of Theatrical Arts for Stage and Screen for UVU. He recently received both the local Star award from the SCERA and a highly sought after regional award, The Kennedy Center American Theatre College Faculty Excellence Award. Along with his teaching at UVU, Professor Arrington oversees the playwriting programs. He also originated the annual *Short Attention Span Theatre*, an engaging ten-minute play festival devoted to new student works.

Mahonri Stewart — is an award winning writer and educator. He has written over two dozen plays, most of which have been produced throughout the U.S. and Europe, including productions in Los Angeles, Scotland, and Switzerland. In 2004, his premiere play *Farewell to Eden* won the Kennedy Center's American College Theater Festival's National Playwriting Award (Second Place) and their National Selection Team Fellowship Award. Since then he has also received numerous other awards and honors as he continues to expand his writing into various mediums, including screenplays, graphic novels, poetry, and novels. He received his MFA degree in Dramatic Writing from Arizona State University. He received his Bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts from Utah Valley University. He's a former Playwright in Residence at the Noorda Regional Theater for Children and Youth. He currently is the Director of Theatre at Vanguard High School, in Utah.

Author's Note

Having received a commission from the Mormon History Association, we created a play about the historical incident called the "Utah War," (circa 1857-58) on its sesquicentennial year. The idea was to create a touring play to present fairly dry and controversial historical information in a palatable, entertaining, even playful way.

The writing, directing, and production of the play was hugely satisfying and great fun! The actors thought their characters were sharp and individual. The plot and the conflicts produced many juicy moments for them. The plot/subplot wound up being immersive and captivating to audiences and performers.

Our somewhat scholarly audiences were taken brought into the world of the play so successfully that they would often interact with the performers as if they really were scholars on the subject. Some even apologized that the academic panel had ended so oddly!

As engaging as the play was, the short computer survey results provided interesting data to those who commissioned the play. I've included these survey questions and Lainey's introduction to them in the play, but please, use them or not as your circumstance directs.

Though the real situation – an academic panel – is meant to feel somewhat formal, the tone of the play is definitely meant to be as casual and personal as possible. The magic of the play is in these natural interactions and relationships. There's gold there.

I would love to hear about your production and/or photos of it.

Thank you for choosing "*March of the Salt Soldiers: the Utah War*" – and good luck to you!

~ **James Arrington**

MSS PROPERTIES & EQUIPMENT LIST

For Surveys

Software and equipment for electronic survey (50 remotes)

Large projection screen

LCD computer projector

1 table bell with mallet

2 rectangular banquet tables,

2 table skirts

2 white tablecloths

1 freestanding podium (with mic)

6 chairs

2 table mics (one for each table)

Cords, amps, etc, to create a working sound system

6 water glasses (10 hard plastic cups)

2 water pitchers

6 pencils

6 event folders

Paper nameplates or lanyards for each panel member (5)

COSTUMES

Hat for Madeline

Pregnancy Pooch for Celeste

Men –suits, white shirts and ties

Shirt with stain on it – Oz

Change of shirt for Oz

Cane for Madeline

SOUND EFFECTS

Pre show music

Intermission music

Curtain call music (?)

Postlude

MARCH OF THE SALT SOLDIERS: The Utah War

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PRESHOW

(AT RISE: A typical hotel "ballroom" set-up for a convention or conference. The audience faces the stage with two head tables of a panel. Two tables facing the audience are draped with cloth skirts around the audience side. There are six chairs behind the two tables. A wooden podium or lectern with microphone stands between the tables. Across the table skirts and or podium is a paper banner that reads "March of the Salt Soldiers: The Utah War" OR simply use the PowerPoint slide.(S2)

(NOTE: Throughout the play an (S#) in bold will appear in this script. It indicates where numbered slide on the Master PowerPoint should be brought up. An overhead screen (best) or screen in view of the audience is used to show Powerpoint presentation. The controller to the projector travels with the speaker where he/she controls the slides.)

LAINY O'dell, enters the stage and gives something like the following speech. She holds the remote to her laptop.)

PRESHOW SURVEY - IF DESIRED:

LAINY: Ladies and gentlemen, we welcome you to our panel today: March of the Salt Soldiers: the Utah War. We are just as interested in what you will learn today from our panel, and we'd like to measure that learning. We have prepared a short survey as a simple study on your current knowledge. We will administer the same survey at the end, so... we hope you'll treat it seriously. My associates are now handing out the voting remotes. Very simple. Green for "yes" and red for "no." Your answers will all be sent to computer for compilation.

(She helps them finish the survey by flipping through the slides. (S3 to S9)

So, did any of you know any of the answers? Any of you all of them?

(If someone's raises their hand, she picks them out)

A star, ladies and gentlemen. Well, we hope when we're done, you'll all be as smart as *(him/her.)*

(Joking to that person)

You don't have to stay, you know it all already.

(To the audience)

Anyway, to make this fair we will give you the very same survey when we've finished our panel. I don't mind saying that if you pay attention, you'll ALL get gold stars! If you don't do so well... um... well, you'll lose your bathroom privileges for the balance of the evening! Sorry, a lame attempt at humor. So in other words, don't run off when the panel finishes, we'll need the exit poll for comparison. Okay? It doesn't take long, and it's actually kind of cool. We can show you the results immediately when we're finished.

(Whispered loudly)

And it'll really help my statistics grade!

(Full voice again)

My major professors are here!

(She giggles ever-so-slightly.)

Thanks.

ACT ONE

(Production Art slide (S10) is on the screen as the audience files in. Near the time set for the panel,

(LAINY moves down to the table preset with her laptop computer situated at the end of one of the tables. She checks and straightens two or three items on the tables and surveys the audience, again checking her watch.)

(Dr. MAX Weismann approaches Lainey. He appears to talk about her computer and/or the screen, then wanders off.)

(Dr. WORTHINGTON Burr soon enters the stage with a briefcase. He greets Lainey warmly and appears to joke with her a little. He opens his briefcase and hands Lainey a CD explaining what it is. LAINY nods and retreats to her computer and begins to add files. WORTHINGTON checks his place at the table net to the podium and removes a table bell from his briefcase and sets it and a small mallet on the Podium. He then puts his hand above his brow to block the lights and greets people in the audience.)

(MAX enters again heading toward LAINY. WORTHINGTON cuts him off greeting him and seemingly congratulating him on something. MAX is gracious.)

(When he is free, MAX approaches LAINY at the computer. She seems to reassure him and he

again wanders off. She checks her watch and speaks to the Stage Manager who appears in headset just to the edge of the acting space.)(Coming back to the tables, LAINNEY sees

(Dr. MADELINE LaVaunte loudly greeting and chatting with the audience. LAINNEY, who's now come off the stage, approaches Madeline and edges her away from the audience into the aisle and they chat while slowly making their way to the stage area.)

LAINNEY: Oh, Dr. LaVaunte? Madeline?

MADELINE: Yes, Lainey, dear?

LAINNEY: Dr. Wiesmann is back there pacing around like mad and keeps asking what time it is.

MADELINE: Typical of Max. Forgot his watch, I presume.

LAINNEY: But he looks... uhm... well, pretty rattled. Every time I walk by he asks me if the computer is ready.

MADELINE: Is it?

LAINNEY: Of course.

MADELINE: Good. Do you tell him that?

LAINNEY: Every time, yes, but I'm kind of, you know, worried about him. He's all...

MADELINE: That's Max, all right. He's not quite the showman that OZ is.

LAINNEY: OZ?

MADELINE: Oh sorry, Lainey dear, our missing presenter. We call Dr. Young "OZ." It's short for Orson Zedikiah Young. And he IS something of a wizard...

(she laughs)

Lainey, we're fine, don't fret, darling.

LAINNEY: Dr. LaVaunte, I just don't think I'm cut out for this organizational stuff. I'm training to be a scholar, not a party hostess.

MADELINE: With degrees come speeches, presentations, conferences, travel and yes, organizational stuff, dear. Max and OZ did it too.

LAINNEY: They both got their doctorate with you, didn't they?

MADELINE: Yes, my two stars, Max and OZ.

LAINNEY: Sounds like a stand up comedy team... Laurel and Hardy, Abbot and Costello, Max and OZ... sorry - no disrespect. I'm reading their stuff. They're really quite brilliant.

MADLINE: Oh yes! And they know each other very well, you know. Went to school together. They were the best of friends, even roommates at one point.

LAINY: And that's when your daughter sort of...

MADLINE: Well, yes. That's when it got a little theatrical.

LAINY: Theatrical?

MADLINE: Oh, colorful, emotional, dramatic. It looked for the longest time that Max had her heart, but there was something at the end about OZ's passionate approach to things that was very exciting to Celeste. It was a whirlwind at the end, hurt feelings, trauma, late night events, tears, squealing tires... all of those sort of romantic things, but that was more than a year ago. I mean, they married and flew off to his new teaching job.

LAINY: So they haven't seen each other since the wedding?

MADLINE: Nor have I! I can hardly believe it. She said, "Now Mom, let us get started on our own." She's headstrong that way. So, this will be the first time we've all been together since a year ago now.

LAINY

So... this could really be... uhm... a little "theatrical", as you say?

MADLINE

Ah no, I don't think so, darling. Academia, Lainey – the world of scholars. In this setting I think old grudges will be laid aside and they'll simply get passionate about what they both love: History. They'll work through these things and then sit down to dinner and laugh together, you'll see. Dinner is paramount with colleagues and rivals. As Shakespeare says, "Strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends."

LAINY: I don't think I...

MADLINE: Oh you will, dear. Look, you're on the panel today! You're on your way, darling.

LAINY: Do you think it'll get... personal?

MADLINE: Of course it will?! It IS personal, Lainey. We spend our lifetimes pouring over evidence to put a real face on history. That's why it's an art, not a science. And that's personal! Why one day, darling, you'll be up here defending some idea you've written and someone else will think you're a complete kook and write about it, or even say it, and then... Classic Historical drama! You'll both be discussed and famous, and you'll go out to dinner and become fast friends, because ultimately, you see, you love the same thing.

LAINY: But in this case it's your daughter they loved...

MADLINE: Funny, Lainey. Very Funny. That history was a tempest in a teapot, but of course, any storm is fascinating.

(She grins coquettishly. Their conversation has led them back onstage. MAX has entered from the wings, he seems mildly nervous.)

MAX: Oh hi, Dr. LaVaunte, I just need to ask Lainey... are my files loaded and ready to go?

LAINY: Yes, yes, Dr. Weismann, it's fine...

MAX: You've tested it?

LAINY: Ready to go, see?

(She points to the image already on the screen.)

Don't worry. Check!

(She gives a thumbs up.)

Thumbs up. All is "go", Captain.

MAX: Okay.

(He starts to leave and turns back)

And you can call me Max.

LAINY: Ok. Ready, Max.

(MAX wanders backstage again.)

LAINY: See, this is starting to feel a little, well, "theatrical"...

MADLINE: OZ and Max are old friends and professionals. I'm sure that it will be just like old times.

LAINY: Isn't that what we should be afraid of?

(WORTHINGTON who had drifted offstage enters with a cell phone to his ear. He waves at the two ladies and mouths the words "we're going to start.")

WORTHINGTON: *(on phone)* ...That's good. Yes, we're holding a little, so just get here as fast as you can. Wait, just a second...

(He approaches the podium and speaks to the audience.)

(on mic) Ladies and gentlemen, is this thing on?

(He taps the mic and the others respond)

Good. I'm sorry to interrupt your pre- panel social festivities, but I'm pleased to report that Dr. Young, our wayward presenter, is nearly here...

(on phone) I'm actually at the podium right now, OZ. Oh, wait! Wait! I know! I'm putting you up to the mike...

(on mic) (Suddenly with impish glee) Ladies and gentlemen, this is Dr. Orson Zedikiah Young directly from his transportation into the city...

(on phone) Say hello to everyone, OZ...

(whispering loudly into the phone)

You're on mic, say hello!

(WORTHINGTON puts the phone up to the mic. We hear a distant voice.)

OZ: *(on phone & mic)* Oh, uh, hello everyone. We're nearly there, I guess. Anxious to get going.

WORTHINGTON: *(on mic)* See, he's on his way...

(on phone) OZ, y'all do the quick step on over here. Your lovely wife's mother's practically turning somersaults waitin'... So, come on down! Alright, see you soon.

(He finishes with the phone, places it in a coat pocket, then at the mic.)

Alright, whew! We're gonna git goin' here, laddies and gentlemen. Apparently the pilot of Dr. Young's plane heard a strange noise when they started up the engines... and it took a while to find a new pilot.

(He picks up a mallet and hits a the small bell for order.)

My name is Dr. Worthington Burr and I've been asked to oversee this symposium, panel, or talk-fest today treating one of the most fascinating events in U.S. history commonly known as "The "Utah War." For those who don't know, 2008 is the sesquicentennial of the Utah War and its termination... think about it... yes, 1858. Our purpose here is to present a gut-bustin' buffet of information to make you all experts about the Utah War, so you'll be that most rare of all personalities, "Informed Attenders." We are grateful to *(Any Company, Foundation, Corporation, or individual names)* for their support of this historic historical event. As Santayana, a famous philosophical gentlemen said: "Those who do not study history are... DOOMED TO REPEAT IT." We really don't want to repeat doom, now do we? I'm sure ya'll are with me on this doom thing. So, with that in mind we'd like to welcome all of you traditionalists, revisionists, obstructionists, conventionalists, progressivists, conversationalists, educationists, classicists, apologists, genealogists, and especially all you general audience-ists to attend our panel of expert scholars. Allow me to briefly introduce our participants: Please welcome Dr. Madeline K. LaVaunte, former chair and eminent historian now retired from the University of Utah.

(Applause as she nods and acknowledges the audience. Someone in the audience shouts "Great hat!")

Ms. Lainey O' Dell, a history graduate student working on her doctorate with me and who's made all the arrangements here today. Thanks. Oh, and please, if anyone has any complaints, please be sure to contact her, not me! Next is one of today's expert featured presenters, Dr. Maxwell A. Weismann, now a consultant in Washington D.C. And we're, of course, waiting for our 2nd featured presenter, Dr Orson Young coming in from Princeton with his lovely wife, Celeste, who, as many of you know, is also the daughter of Dr. Lavaunte... she keeps it all in the family...

(laughter)

So without further ado I will ask Dr. Madeline LaVaunte to introduce our first scholarly presenter.

(Gentlemanly, he escorts her to the podium, then sits.)

MADELINE: Your Southern charm is winning, Dr. Burr, thank you. Just so you all know, Dr. Burr received his degrees at the time of the dinosaurs.

WORTHINGTON: Tye-ranneosaurus makes a tasty barbecue. You were cooking it for me when I was a kid. Remember?

MADELINE: I can't one up you, Worth, you're an original. Lainey?

(She motions to LAINNEY, who changes the slide to (S11) and hands the remote to Madeline.)

(S12) Dr. Maxwell Abraham Weismann was raised in various suburbs of New Jersey. But since he was very young Dr. Weismann has loved the West.

((S13) A photo of tiny Max with a gun belt.)

MAX: Hey, where'd you get that...?

MADELINE: **(S14)** Whether it was "Hoss" on the TV reruns of the Western *Bonanza* reruns, or **(S15)** The spaghetti westerns starring Clint Eastwood, or the **(S16)** romantic panoramas created by Winthrop and Reynolds he saw at the New York Museum of Art, no one knows, but he gobbled it up. He loved the West.

(S17) (A teenage Max in cowboy garb.)

At his first opportunity he followed the famous words of Horace Greeley **(S18 and S19)** and did, indeed, go West to Stanford University where he graduated with honors and then chose **(S20)** graduate school working with yours **(S21)** truly at the University of Utah to finish his doctorate. Dr. Weismann's first book, **(S22)** *Chicanery Rocks the Mountains*, is coming out this year, I think.

(She looks at Max.)

MAX: *(Grinning)* Yes, ma'am!

MADELINE: And he is currently consulting the department of the interior in Washington. You, dear friends, are very privileged to hear from **(S23)** Dr. Maxwell Weismann.

(She claps as MAX rises warmly greeting her. She has moved to (S24) and hands the controller to him.)

MAX: Thanks, Dr. LaVaunte, for that kind and generous obituary. Lainey, is the computer is still working after Dr. LaVaunte's embarrassing group of camera-breaking photographs? *(Apprehensively)* My PowerPoint "Intro #1", please?

LAINNEY: Ready. Just poke "advance" on the controller.

MAX: Oh... yeah...

(He eyes the remote and punches the button. (S25) appears. MAX is finally relieved.)

Ladies and gentlemen, most of you have heard of the Utah War, if not in seventh grade Utah History, then many times at this meeting already. However, at the time of its occurrence, it was not referred to as the Utah War, but rather (S26) "The Utah Expedition," and later it earned the (S27) popular title of "Buchanan's Blunder." You'll understand why later. It is my purpose here to (S28) give a slight introduction. The panel will subsequently discuss the events separately. First of all, we can safely say that the more active arming part of this event (S29) happened in the years 1857-58, which is why we are treating it in this sesquicentennial year. The two chief parties (S30) put in harm's way were the Federal Government and the fairly recently organized Utah Territorial Government...As represented here (S31) by the first Utah territorial Governor and legendary, Brigham Young, "The American Moses." Thanks to the renowned Leonard Arrington for the monicker...

(From the back of the hall comes a very loud shout.)

OZ: (O.S.) UNTRUE!

(Everything stops as all turn to see the intruder. There stands Dr. Orson Zedikiah "OZ" Young and his wife, CELESTE.)

MAX: OZ!

OZ: Untrue.

(OZ nudges CELESTE in front of him and they make for the stage carrying a small bag and a leather briefcase slung over his shoulder. MADELINE stands gleaming and blowing double kisses.)

Moses led a million Israelites to the mountain of the Lord. Brigham Young was the last - and sickest - to arrive in the Valley of a mere 143 men 2 women and three children.

WORTHINGTON: *(Leaning into the podium)* Ladies and gentlemen, we welcome Dr. Orson Zedikiah Young and his lovely wife, Celeste.

MADLINE: Celeste! Oh, Oh, Ooooh!

(CELESTE has been waving covertly at her excited mom as she moves toward the stage. MADELINE heads straight for CELESTE to hug her. WORTHINGTON motions to the wing whispering "A CHAIR". The Stage Manager or stage hand brings another chair to Worthington. The panel stands in welcome.)

CELESTE: Hiya, Mom!

MADLINE: Is that all I get after a whole year? Come here!

(MADLINE gives her a big hug. She makes a discovery.)

What in the world, Celeste?!... Are you...?

(CELESTE grins broadly and pulls back her coat.)

You're pregnant?! WHAT?! OOOOHHHH! My baby is...

(to the audience)

having a baby!

(Probable supportive applause.)

MAX: What?!

MADLINE: *(Feeling CELESTE's stomach)* But you must be...

CELESTE: *(Gleeful)* Six months!

MADLINE: And you didn't tell me?!

OZ: Celeste wanted to surprise you.

CELESTE: SUR-PRISE!

(She grins as MADLINE jumps in for another hug hardly containing her joy.)

MAX: Always the master of "surprise," OZ.

OZ: Max.

(They shake somewhat warily, then to all)

Sorry to interrupt.

WORTHINGTON: Well, congratulations to he both of you. It appears you're the bellweather, Mrs. Young. When you sit, I think we'll all sit. We've kindly been provided a chair for you to sit next to your husband, that is, if you wish to.

CELESTE: Thank you, Dr. Burr, I will.

(WORTHINGTON makes a little room and helps her into the chair.)

Thanks so much. Hi everybody.

(As she sits, they all do. She catches Max's eye for the first time. There's a moment...)

WORTHINGTON: Max? You're still up.

(He motions to continue)

MAX: Oh, uh, yes, where was I?

(Checking the screen)

Yes, yes, okay, uhm, **(S32)** Utah was looking for eventual statehood. After their **(S33)** overland pioneering journey of more than 1200 miles. Nearly as soon as they had roofs over their heads the Mormons looked for political legitimacy. Not even two years after their arrival in the Salt Lake Basin in 1847, **(S34)** John M. Bernhisel left Great Salt Lake City with petitions asking Congress to create the Territory of Deseret. **(S35)** The Mormons, as virtually the only settlers between the United states and California, were now the masters of their own fate, or so they thought. They quickly founded, colonized, and proposed a large territory. **(S36)** Encompassing everything from mid-Colorado, all of Utah and Nevada, a large portion of Arizona, parts of modern-day New Mexico, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon and about a third of modern-day California including their proposed port in San Diego. After some heavy political wrangling, **(S37)** Utah, newly re-named after the indigenous Indian tribe that occupied the area, was granted Territorial status in Sept 9, 1850 with a greatly reduced area. **(S38)** However, the suggested size of the territory and even the agreed upon reduced area of the territory were concerning to those in power. A growing list of concerns and the distance involved created a sense of unease about this new territory. As you can see, it was larger by more than twice the size of the modern state. **(S39)** Brigham Young, was appointed the new territory's first governor by President Millard Fillmore. So, through plagues of drought, illness, desperation, **(S40)** and even large black locusts now called "Mormon" crickets...

OZ: Historians dispute the crickets and seagulls...

MAX: Uh, that's why I purposely didn't mention the seagulls...

OZ: Ah. Wise.

MAX: *(To the audience)* Brigham, **(S41)** and his family or families was one of the most remarkable or shall we say "renowned" families...

O Z: Repugnant...

MAX: What?

OZ: I said repugnant... repugnant families...

(This is confusing to MAX. He comes to a full stop and stares at OZ. OZ motions for him to continue.)

MAX: **(S42)** As well as governor, he was also the president, or the Mormons call it, "prophet" of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- day Saints, which is the real name of the church. "Mormons" is the nickname after their singular scripture, the Book of Mormon. **(S43)** The members of the Mormon faith made up very nearly the entirety of the voters living in the territory at the time. The reason the people would live in the heart of this difficult desert territory was to flee religious oppression. Conflict between the Mormons and the federal government seemed almost inevitable given their separate histories and the climate of the time. It was in this difficult situation that **(S44)** James Buchanan became the fifteenth president after Millard Fillmore and Franklin Pierce. Under his watch the radicals inside the United States government would eventually produce the single most damaging internal strife the United States could have ever imagined: **(S45)** The Civil War. However, the civil strife we are studying here today, the Utah War, could easily have become, and in some ways was, the first American Civil War. **(S46)** The Utah War

occurred when then president James Buchanan induced the Federal Government to **(S47)** mount a large army and to go to the Utah Territory to attack...

OZ: The orders did not read "attack," Max.

MAX: Well, I'm just referring to what they did.

OZ: They didn't attack either, Max.

MAX: They approached with loaded guns.

OZ: It's what armies do.

MAX: Because of this movement, **(S48)** James Buchanan was not appreciated by the Mormons of his day, and in fact, to this day, he is recognized as possibly one of the two or three worst presidents the country has ever had...

OZ: ... not a character examination...

MAX: ... and many point to the war we are studying here today as one of the worst decisions ever made by a sitting president. Thank you.

(MAX relinquishes the podium and the remote. He points a stare at OZ who gleefully winks. WORTHINGTON arises, but OZ leaps in front of him.)

OZ: The fact is that it was not a war at all. There were no orders to attack. The opponents never really engaged, and the truth is that the mission or expedition... was merely to transport and install a new governor in what was an openly hostile and cantankerous population who saw themselves as above the laws, statutes, and principles of the United States of America!

(OZ sits abruptly, WORTHINGTON takes over.)

WORTHINGTON: Dr. Young, Dr. Young! Tsk, tsk, tsk.

(Sweetly)

I declare, your passion, interest, and knowledge of this subject is completely admirable. However, I shall like to suggest, if I may, that we stay within the decorum of presentation. **(S49)** Though it is your time to speak, Dr. LaVaunte has prepared a lovely introduction for you and we have already received a fine one for Dr. Weismann. Dr. LaVaunte, if you please.

*(As MADELINE moves to take the podium taking the remote, she nods to LAINY, who puts up slide **(S50.)**)*

(Half whispered) And don't you go interrupting your introduction, either, young man.

OZ: *(He grins)* Okay.

(WORTHINGTON sits.)

MADLINE: Dr. Orson Zedikiah Young. **(S51)** He was born and raised mainly in rural Utah. **(S52)** He attended the Brigham Young University on a presidential scholarship and finished his degree **(S53)** after serving a two year mission in Brazil proselytizing for the LDS church. Much to my delight, he selected to pursue a doctorate with us at the University of Utah. **(S54)** For those unacquainted with Utah school politics **(S55)** this was a bold, perhaps even traitorous and foolhardy choice as BYU and the University of Utah are rivals and arch enemies in almost every conceivable way... even though their common founder was none other than Brigham Young, himself, **(S56)** who was also, I might add, the great, great, great, great - is that enough greats?

(OZ smiles and nods)

...Grandfather of our dear Dr. Orson Young - who is also my son-in-law **(S57)** and I've just found out, father to be of my first grandchild! Dr. Young. **(S58)**

(She applauds and greets OZ warmly giving the remote to him as he goes to the podium with notes.)

OZ: Thank you, Dr. LaVaunte, I see my payment in advance was accepted... oh, and I have a battered, stamped, and now belated Mother's day card somewhere in my bags for you...

(he laughs)

Remind me. Ladies and gentlemen, I realize I've come in here with guns 'a blazin', so to speak, but I'm hopeful you will forgive me. I learned a long time ago that the most direct route to the truth is usually the route least taken, and very often, the most uncomfortable. A few words about my ancestry; I asked Dr. LaVaunte not to hide it, but indeed, to reveal it. Yes, Brigham Young is my direct progenitor by several generations. From my famous grandpap I hope I have inherited his strong will, grit, pugnacious personality, direct language, and striking good looks. However, you should know that I have dispensed with and/or discarded all of his closely held personal beliefs - be they religious or spiritual, all but the most fundamental formalities of Christianity. So, I am not a Mormon anymore!

(Apparently this is a bit of a shock to the panel.)

WORTHINGTON: *(Kindly)* Dr. Young, if you put a kitten in the oven it doesn't make it a muffin! As important your religious persuasion, or lack thereof, may be to you, it shouldn't have relevance in our current discussion, sir.

OZ: On the contrary, Worth, I think you're wrong. I think the persuasion, beliefs, and allegiances of an historian deeply influence his view of the material, don't you, Max?

MAX: Professionally speaking...

OZ: Especially professionally. So, I'm putting my cards on the table right now. I'm not a believer, not a follower, not a sheep anymore. All right, Max?

MAX: Well, it's obviously your choice...

MADLINE: We all know Dr. Weismann is of long-standing East Coast Jewish background. I don't see

how either changes the presentation.

OZ: Oh, it'll change it a lot, you'll see. I don't profess the old wives tales anymore...

MAX: Old wives tales?!

OZ: I won't attempt to justify or explain the strange and magical journey I have taken, I don't think it really matters here, but my new orientation is bound to enter this presentation. In terms of our discussion today, although I *am* Brigham's fifth great-grandchild, I have come be ashamed that my great progenitor was governor of the territory.

MADELINE: OZ, this is not the place or...

CELESTE: He wants to do it, Mom.

MADELINE: Well, contrasting points of view are a good thing, academically, I've always said that. Although, I had hoped to have a Mormon on the panel.

LAINY: Uh, I'm a Mormon, for what it's worth.

MADELINE: Oh, well then, perhaps we'll have a little balance. Don't be afraid to speak up, Lainey.

LAINY: (*Happily*) Well, OK.

OZ: (*Eyeing MAX*) Whatever our religious persuasion, or lack thereof, we're *all* after the truth then, right?

ALL: Absolutely. Sure. Yes, etc.

OZ: So let's get after the truth, no holds barred. Much more interesting.

WORTHINGTON: Well, ladies and gentlemen, very interesting, this panel has suddenly changed complexion and oddly become more... compelling. Although, there's an old Chinese curse which says "may you live in interesting times." In the interest of safety, I shall retain my position as moderator to avoid possible bloodshed.

MADELINE: Oh, Worth!

WORTHINGTON: New powder, new shot. You're up, Dr Young.

(*OZ walks toward Lainey holding out a CD.*)

OZ: Can you...?

LAINY: That's what I'm here for.

(*Inserts it into her computer.*)

MAX: Very interested to hear this new perspective.

OZ: (*To Max*) Exactly what I'll be delighted to do.

(*To Lainey*)

It's "Causes #1," Can you find and just start when you're ready?

LAINY: Sure. Should be easy.

WORTHINGTON: Fire away, sir.

OZ: Thank you. It's nothing new, but completely relevant. The first salient point was the appointment of Brigham Young as governor of the new territory of Utah.

(Watching the screen) (S59)

Ah, the man himself! Good work... Lainey? Don't know your last name.

ALL BUT CELESTE: O'Dell.

OZ: Okay then, Lainey!... Making Brigham Young the governor of the new territory the Mormons couldn't have been happier about their Prophet and ecclesiastical leader as the official Governor of their new territory. Making a religious leader governor, however, in many different ways was the foremost ingredient that brought about and exacerbated the event called the Utah War. It wasn't really a war, anyway. It was originally called the Utah Expedition. If anyone brought it to war status, it was the Mormons, themselves.

(MAX gazes at him darkly a stops his response.)

We'll get into that more later on, I'm certain, but ladies and gentlemen, my purpose is to lay out the major causes of the event under investigation. I shall endeavor to be exacting... **(S60)**

(He refers to his notes)

PRIMARY CAUSES OF THE UTAH CONFLICT: 1850-57

(He punches the remote (S61) and it reveals a photo of OZ in a ridiculous Hawaiian shirt, sunglasses, shorts and flip flops, with his arms around or even cradling Celeste. Perhaps a honeymoon photo. OZ is unaware of the slide.)

OZ: Brigham Young, a severe authoritarian man, was even nicknamed the "Lion of the Lord!"

WORTHINGTON: *(Whistles and points to the screen laughing)* Nice shirt, OZ!

MADLINE: Nice wife, OZ!

OZ: *(Glancing up at the screen and sees the mistaken image.)* Wow... As you can see, Utah in those days wasn't very repressive at all... this is great great great great grandpappy Young with his first wife... Oh, never mind. My honeymoon with Celeste. I apologize. I'm now afraid to see what... **(S62)** AH! All right, in 1848, because of the War with Mexico the western territories were officially ceded to the United States. This territory was politically unorganized and landholding basically existed on squatters rights, the Mormons were chief among them. We know from the minutes of the 1849 territorial convention that the Utah constitution **(S63)** ostensibly drafted there was, in fact, created earlier by a council of church leaders, thus further smudging the distinction between church and state!

LAINY: Can I say something?

WORTHINGTON: (*Clearing his throat*) The moderator recognizes Ms. Lainey O'Dell.

LAINY: Ladies and gentlemen, the constitution drafted there had to be drafted by church leaders, true... because there was no one else here to do it! With the exception of the neighboring Native Americans, church leaders were the only possible governing body.

OZ: True, true enough, there WAS no one else here to do it... so we know exactly where to put the blame. (**S63**) Intended or not this "church vs. state" problem has dogged Utah since its inception and always will. It was the number one problem in gaining statehood. It was the number one problem of the Utah War, and it continues to be a matter of grave concern for citizens, both Mormon and non-Mormon, in Utah to this very day!

MAX: As she just said, they didn't have anyone else...

OZ: Had "the Brethren," as general authorities of the Mormon Church are now known, not been so anxious to assume and impose ecclesiastical AND governmental power over the people, they might have realized that they were orchestrating against the constitution of the United States which they consistently said they held so dear.

(He again refers to his notes)

These religious officers or "Brethren," though unelected (**S64**) by the populace in a legal vote...

MADLINE: But they were voted on, OZ.

OZ: No they weren't. Forgive me for arguing with my mother-in-law, but there was never a constitutional runoff or vote taken.

MAX: They voted in their wards and stakes.

OZ: Exactly! A. It wasn't an official constitutional vote. B. It was only a church vote of support, or consent, and C. and this is really important – Non-Mormons were thus officially disenfranchised... something the Mormons had screamed about in all their previous history.

MAX: But there was no one else...

OZ: So, because there was no one else, the Brethren had themselves designated in church meetings to place themselves in charge and therefore assumed government services in the Great Basin and, I might add, endeavored never to let go.

MAX & LAINY: (*Virtually together*) But there was no one else!

OZ: (*Ignoring this*) For instance, (**S65**) no judges were selected or provided, but a church court system prevailed.

MAX: Probate! OZ, are we going to...

OZ: (*Ignoring him*) Laws regulating elections were passed, however, voters were expected to and did simply ratify choices previously made by their church leaders.

MAX: It was in the people's own best interest to vote with their leaders.

OZ: This effectively disenfranchised the non-Mormons and the "brethren" set taxes on property (**S66**) and imposed high taxes on liquor, and gambling was suppressed (**S67**) and the use of water, timber, and other natural resources was regulated... all essentially controlled by the church.

LAINY: Dr. Burr, can I say something?

OZ: The more the merrier.

WORTHINGTON: The moderator recognizes Ms. O' Dell.

LAINY: If the brethren were wrong simply be being there, who should have done it?

OZ: Right or wrong, it was done. It's history. It's over. But it was was a major cause, right? You'll all agree with that, won't you?

(ALL seem to agree)

So it's not about who "shoulda" done it, but what happened because of it? (**S68**) With this mini-theocracy in charge, hopes for statehood were questionable. So, there's a huge problem: (**S69**) A church, with a standing army, was in charge of a vast portion of the Western United States. It was the antithesis to the American way!

(This is getting under MAX's skin.)

MADLINE: Now, I mean, I agree that the perceptions about church and state were one of the causes of the war, but one can take it too far. Let's try to keep a little moderation.

MAX: So you're saying that the

(mocking)

mighty arch-villain Brigham Young and his evil conniving confederates were planning an insurrection of utter villainy, and that their ultimate goal was indeed, collusion, calumny, rebellion, revolution, domination, and the final utter overthrow of the United States government?!

MADLINE: A little less hyperbole!

LAINY: Can I, uh...?

WORTHINGTON: Aw, go on, girl, nobody else is asking for permission...

LAINY: Okay, well, this point-of-view of Brigham and the elders being evil was no doubt held by the ignorant and lunatic anti-Mormons in the 19th century...

OZ: See? Perception.

LAINY: However, it's only one point of view.

MAX: Yes, a point of view that defies the facts, overlooks the injured party, and is the closest thing to a bigoted position one can assume, given the facts.

LAINY: The Mormons had to organize as a civil government to benefit themselves because there was no one else to do it.

MAX: So, does that look like a church that is on the march and trying to take over?

OZ: (*Sarcastically*) Very nice tag team.

(MAX and LAINY look at each other for a moment.)

No, what I'm talking about here is how it looked, the perception held by the president in Washington at the time.

MAX: And your "standing army" comment, which, by the way, you threw in at the end without discussion. The Mormons needed protection and brought the organization of the Nauvoo legion with them...

OZ: A standing army...

MAX: The organization of a militia authorized by the second amendment to the constitution, I might add. To have a citizen army was not un-American, it was very American, intensely human, completely understandable in a fiercely unpredictable new land.

OZ: But again, that is not how it was perceived. Buchanan saw a church with an army in charge of a territory, Right? Right? So it was a cause, right?

(He looks around the panel.)

Right?

ALL: Yeah. Agreed. Yessir. True. Etc.

OZ: Whew. Good to get a little agreement going here today. So, then the Mormon's Army or the perception of it was a cause.

CELESTE: Militia, dear. Max just made that point.

OZ: I can do that – militia then. Next comes the great unmentionable: are you ready for that dreaded word-bomb everybody? (**S70**) Polygamy. And continually in the news, oddly enough. We now know that "The Brethren" and selected men of the Mormon hierarchy had been practicing polygamy in secrecy for almost two decades. It wasn't a very good secret. The stories, jokes, and antagonism had already spread far and wide. I mean, the actual Governor of the Territory, my great multiple great grandpap, Brigham Young' has multiple families right out in front of everyone, but it was supposedly a secret!

MAX: They considered it sacred.

OZ: Sacred - secret, same thing to an onlooker. (**S71**) "The Principle," as polygamy was called, had become

completely obvious and widespread in the Utah territory, the culture, and obviously the church.

LAINY: There were never more than 10% of the church living polygamy.

OZ: Oh yeah, I'd expect you to minimize it, however, it is now clear that they thought they were far enough away from moral eyes, **(S72)** that they felt out of danger and announced plural marriage publicly in 1852. To no one's surprise EXCEPT the Mormons, apparently, there was an immediate and angry furor of politics and yellow journalism. Political cartoons were the late night comedians of their day and instantly found their way into newspapers. Here's a few. **(S73)** Shocking to America. **(S74)**, An "average" point of view, **(S75)** How did they do that? **(S76)** Followed him to his death. **(S77)** Most Americans perception, true or not. So, yet another problem: **(S78)** extreme religious views, particularly polygamy, that caused nearly instant condemnation by a very Christian nation.

MADELINE: *(To the audience)* Which is exactly the reason they left, ladies and gentlemen. Whatever you may think of polygamy or Mormons in history, the Mormons of the time viewed themselves as devoted Christians...

MAX: All the Mormons wanted was to be left alone to worship as they believed. The same religious rights others enjoyed.

OZ: No, Max, it gave Brigham Young extraordinary powers in his society. **(S79)** Leaders should not dictate obvious digressions in societies, and polygamy is reprehensible in any civilized...

MAX: Look, OZ, if you want to argue that the Church shouldn't lord it over in secular matters, as you have, then neither should the government rule completely over in religious matters, right?

CELESTE: Max! You're not seriously defending polygamy are you?

MAX: Are you... do you... look, Celeste, we are talking from a historical perspective...

CELESTE: But it's polygamy, Max.

MAX: Yes, the way the early Mormons lived it, yes.

CELESTE: Max!? You used to be completely against...

MAX: I have always been a proponent for the full and equal rights of women...

CELESTE: Well, I thought so until I hear you go into this kind of thinking.

MAX: Constitutional principles guarantee...

CELESTE: Constitutional principles guarantee rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and that horrid practice of polygamy denied those rights to thousands of women in polygamous relationships.

MAX: But all polygamy isn't the same, Celeste. Mormons lived it so that...

CELESTE: I'm appalled that you could show the slightest bit of justification for a religion's practice that so degrades and subjugates women.

LAINY: Mrs. Young, pardon me for jumping in, but try to think of it they way they did... historically. For most of the Mormon women of that era, they not only entered it willingly, but earnestly, fervently, even zealously.

CELESTE: And crazily!

MADELINE: Moderation, professionalism everybody...

LAINY: And that's not the point, Mrs. Young. As Dr. Young says, it's just what happened. It's over.

MAX: This was a sacred principle to Mormon women which the government was trying to obstruct.

CELESTE: Which is *why* the government needed to interfere. When even the women themselves are brainwashed to such a thing, then you know something awfully wrong has happened.

MAX: Celeste...

CELESTE: Look at the FLDS in Texas.

MAX: Which we know now was mostly a mistake and a knee-jerk reaction to a prank caller.

WORTHINGTON: What Mrs. Young is saying could be leveled against any faith, ladies and gentlemen, the Muslims, the Evangelicals, the Jehovah's Witnesses, the shoe can be forced to fit any...

CELESTE: That's easy for a *man* to say.

MAX: It's not about what a man says, or about what you say, or about what OZ or any segment of society or the world says. It's about people's rights to act on what they believe, popular or unpopular. This Constitutional right was consistently denied to the Mormons.

CELESTE: And that's how suppression continues, under the guise of freedom of religion!

OZ: (*Proudly*) I married a lioness!

MAX: Okay, look. The Mormons were the first state to extend the suffrage vote to women.

CELESTE: The women of Wyoming voted first!

LAINY: Wyoming only made the date of voting first to keep the Mormon women from having the first vote. That was prejudice too. The anti-Mormons were dancing in the street when the Mormon women were given suffrage because they thought the poor downtrodden women in polygamy would vote all the Mormons "brethren" out. Exactly the opposite. The Mormon delegates won by 5 to 1 instead of 2 to 1.

CELESTE: See, they were brainwashed!

LAINY: No, they were enthusiastic and informed. The Mormons hosted Susan B. Anthony with a packed, ecstatic crowd in the Salt Lake Tabernacle.

MAX: Brigham Young advocated an expanded woman's role, even saying that a woman ought to be able to be president of the United States....

CELESTE: I'm very disappointed, Max.

MAX: (*Genuinely hurt*) Well, I... I... I'm very sorry to disappoint you, but there is a principle here I'm obligated to defend.

CELESTE: Obligated. Ugh!

MAX: It's personal.

CELESTE: Personal? It has nothing to do with you.

MAX: Trust me, Celeste.

(OZ, Max and CELESTE eye each other. CELESTE respectfully sits back down.)

WORTHINGTON: I believe, if I may interject, that we have wandered far-a- field. Since the field we're supposed to be in is the Utah War field, let me suggest we get back in that field. Could the panel kindly crease themselves back into Utah War field, please? Strangely enough, OZ still has the floor.

MADELINE: All right OZ, in the interest of our discussion, could I get you all to agree that both sides were narrow minded?

OZ: ...uh... what?

MADELINE: Would you agree that both sides of the Utah Conflict - the federal government and the leaders of Utah were somewhat myopic and narrow minded in their own personal viewpoints?

MAX: Perhaps "uninformed" is a better word.

OZ: It was the government's right to enforce...

MAX: You're right, the government was trying to enforce. But that's the thing about independent people, free thinking people — the more you try to force them, the more they fight for their liberty of conscience.

OZ: So, though we agree with a person's supposed right to practice even the most bizarre and tainted lifestyles, such as polygamy, we must also agree that it was part of the many reasons why other Americans were suspicious of the Mormons and thus helped lead up to the conflict?

(OZ looks around the table.)

ALL BUT MAX: Right. Indubitably. True. etc.

MAX: Minus the rhetoric, yes, we agree. Is that your list?

OZ: Oh no!

(to the audience as he checks his notes)

Haven't even gotten to the cowboys and Indians yet! Alright, you know in 1850 congress organized the territory properly. This meant the federal government recognized Brigham Young's power (**S79**) was strong and growing. But it was a legal territory so they sent in territorial officials from outside of Utah to

govern those inside, so: causal problem number ten. (*S80*) Would you look at that! mounting up, huh? Difficulties came almost immediately to Brigham Young and his cronies...

MAX: Cronies?

OZ: The "brethren..."

MAX: The territory!

OZ: Yes, that too. So when federally appointed functionaries were sent to properly and officially govern the territory. Brigham immediately took offense.

MADLINE: Let's elucidate a little more, shall we, OZ?

OZ: Uh, pardon me?

MADLINE: (*Humorously*) You two, you're forgetting our audience.

(*To the audience*)

Ladies and gentlemen, Utah being a territory and not a state at the time, the majority of their officials were not elected, but rather appointed from Washington D.C. Brigham Young, for example, was not elected as Governor, but appointed to the post by President Fillmore. Thus it was also with the Utah judges.

OZ: And at that early point of Utah Territorial history, working in Utah was definitely NOT a plum job. This meant that the kind of men who accepted Utah appointments were a bit odd...

MAX: Odd?! Recalcitrant, unseemly...

OZ: Ha! Yes. Seriously unfit characters of questionable ability.

MAX: Yes, and in fact, in some cases the judging of Utah and its people had taken place long before the officials actually arrived.

MADLINE: Moderation, Max... honestly, sometimes I wonder if anyone heard my lectures about objectivity...

OZ: So, objectively speaking, some officials and judges, of course, got along just fine while others created chaos.

MADLINE: OZ, I think we're into Max's territory now...

(*proudly*)

He's the judge man...

OZ: But I was in the middle of...

MADLINE: That was his doctorate!

OZ: Yeah, okay, go ahead.

(He sits punching the remote (S81) and gives it to Worthington.)

But remember, we're still working on my list of causes.

WORTHINGTON: The moderator recognizes... is it any use to recognize anyone any more?

MAX: Well sure, recognize me, I'd rather be legitimate!

(MAX stands at the pulpit and to Lainey)

Lainey, "Judges" file, please.

LAINNEY: On it.

(She begins making the changes.)

WORTHINGTON: You are hereby recognized & legitimate.

(Aside)

I feel so useful.

MAX: Ladies and gentlemen, this area of Judicial "occupation" would be funny if it weren't true. In some ways the fact that it is true is what makes it funny. **(S82)** As I researched it the story sounded like a Marx brother's movie, a kind of wacky comedy...

OZ: Except it mattered.

MAX: Correct. The Mormons from their past had no reason to trust the federal officials, in fact, quite the opposite. I could tell you many stories, but let's follow the most influential group: **(S83)** This group of appointed officials consisted of Territorial Chief Justice Lemuel G. Brandeberg – we've found three different spellings of his name, Associate Justice Perry E. Brocchus, Justice Broughton D. Harris & Associate Justice Zerubbel Snow. No one had trouble with Snow...

OZ: Of course not, Utah is famous for its snow... joke! Actually Snow got on famously in Utah because - HE WAS A MORMON!

MAX: As were some other appointees, but not so, with these other three. You see, not long after their arrival in Salt Lake, in fact, only a few weeks after arriving, Brocchus was asked to speak **(S84)** at the annual 24th of July celebration in the tabernacle. Judge Brocchus unwisely took advantage of his opportunity to speak to the people as an excuse to scold them on their lack of patriotism and the practice of polygamy. Can you imagine?

MADLINE: *(To the audience)* See, ladies and gentlemen, Mormons viewed that as an attack.

MAX: Thinly veiled, of course. It was said that Brigham Young had to actually restrain the fomented crowd not to harm Brocchus on the spot. In the following turmoil it was only a matter of days before all three of the federal appointees Harris, Brandeberg, and especially Brocchus fled for their lives, as they later claimed, by covertly leaving the territory. This action earned them the joint title of the "Runaways." Both

the "Runaways" and the Mormons protested their innocence and blamed the other party in the events. **(S85)** The letters flew back to Washington as the "Runaway" judges commenced a letter writing smear campaign to salvage their own cowardly careers!

MADLINE: Objectivity, Max...

OZ: They were in fear of their lives.

MAX: Well, that's what they said, but no one has ever shown that there was an ounce of truth in it to this day.

OZ: Just because it's unproven doesn't mean they didn't feel threatened.

MAX: Well, they ran anyway. The letters from both Mormons and "Runaways" sounded almost the same back in Washington, each blaming the other. But there was virtually no one in Washington to verify the Mormon point of view, so the excitement and bombast created by the judges and their loud remonstrations, as well as their colorful descriptions of their harrowing "escape" were published far and wide creating a general sense of outrage. The "Runaways" episode was finally settled when President Millard Fillmore – **(S86)** Remember he was somewhat understanding – decided to side with the Mormons. So the administration concluded in favor of the Mormons in the "Runaways" dispute. Brocchus, Harris, and Brandeberg were told to return to Utah or resign their posts. They didn't return.

(He grins)

MADLINE: Well, with President Fillmore's support of Brigham Young as their the governor and these decisions, the Utahns...

OZ: Mormons...

MADLINE: ...felt honored enough to name a central city after him. Fillmore, of course...

OZ: ...and promised to move the state government there.

MAX: Yes, and it did, but it only lasted in Fillmore until the Capital building in Great Salt Lake City was painfully and finally built and dedicated in 1856.

OZ: And then they moved the territorial government right back to Salt Lake City and ran it right out of Brigham Young's house!

MAX: He was the governor...

OZ: But what a farce! The Mormons' big problem though, ladies and gentlemen, was that in spite of their sense of persecution, they brought all these events upon themselves.

MAX: OZ, we've been through this...

OZ: But it persists, see?

(To the audience)

Do you see, ladies and gentlemen? By outraging national Christian sympathies, by a secretive society, by a standing army, by the great not-so- hidden silence about polygamy and by their anti-social acts and attitudes, Mormons were their own worst enemy.

MAX: They were misunderstood and maligned by out-of-touch bigoted statesmen. They were simply trying to get power over their own destinies.

OZ: Ah, and you finally say it out loud. Power. That's now getting down to the real cause. Thoughtful historians have used this period to show how freely blood flowed in lawless Utah.

MAX: Blood did not freely flow in Utah! And it was far from lawless. These insinuations are...

OZ: It was amidst these wild accusations, polygamy, offended sensibilities, the issues of religious freedom and autocratic rule, that James Buchanan was elected president. And that's where I'll give it back.

WORTHINGTON: Thanks, Dr. Young, for your thoughts. A very stimulating and very loud treatment of the conflict.

OZ: And we've only done the major ones...

WORTHINGTON: Back to you, Dr. Weismann.

MAX: Though originally taking a "hands off" approach to the Mormons' practice of polygamy, Buchanan took a lot of heat about the Mormons. (**S87**) W. W. Drummond, caused an even greater stir...

OZ: He also had to flee Utah for his life...

MAX: Well then, let's look at Associate Justice W. W. Drummond, and see what you ladies and gentlemen think of this federally appointed justice. In 1855 William W. Drummond was appointed to the Supreme Court of the Territory of Utah. Drummond was related by marriage to a Mormon, and he rated them somewhat lower than horse thieves on the social ladder. If anything, the feeling was mutual. Brigham Young, in one of his kinder moments, referred to Drummond as "a rotten-hearted loathsome reptile." Drummond became a stench within his jurisdiction once he introduced "Mrs. Drummond" to Mormon social circles. It was later discovered that she was, in fact, Pleasant Ridgeway, a prostitute he brought with him. A letter from the real Mrs. Drummond was published in The Deseret News exposing his scandalous behavior revealing he had deserted his wife and child in Illinois. To make things worse, on the days Drummond held court, Ridgeway joined him on the bench. So, yes, in this case it's very plausible he had to flee for his life. (**S88**) And in Washington...

OZ: He loudly published that he did! And that's more of what the Buchanan heard about the Utah mess. It was perception, ladies and gentlemen! His departure and testimony, along with a former Mormon Judge George P. Stiles...

MAX: A crooked judge and an adulterer

OZ: ... Like I say, who had been a Mormon, had his office broken into and ransacked. President Buchanan had no choice but to put down what appeared to be a Mormon rebellion by replacing Brigham Young!

(ALL are quiet, momentarily.)

WORTHINGTON: What? No more interruptions interrupting the interruptions from y'all? It's the miracle of silence! I hardly know what to do. Max?

MAX: After quite a lot of searching, Buchanan appointed (**S89**) Alfred Cumming, who had been the the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the upper Missouri Agency and a former mayor of Augusta, Georgia, as the Utah territorial Governor to replace Brigham Young. So, we can all see that, based on lies and innuendos of disgraced former judges, hooligans and ne'er-do-wells, President James Buchanan ordered the Utah Expedition to install the new governor. However, he did this without telling Governor Young.

OZ: Whether you consider it wise or foolhardy the record shows that congress agreed.

MADLINE: Well, we know that Governor Young accused the President of pandering to his cronies in business by giving out lucrative government contracts for transport, supplies, and the like.

LAINY: Subsequent research has proven that the major firm involved actually wound up losing considerable money on the venture.

MAX: Just because they lost money doesn't mean that couldn't have been part of his reasons for it.

WORTHINGTON: It's possible it started out that way since this is one of the remaining mysteries, but others have felt that it was a political effort to remove a large section of the army to a distant location thus avoiding what would later become the Civil War.

MAX: Your expertise, Worth...

WORTHINGTON: (*Pleased to answer*) Oh. Well, in my experience it's just ludicrous to actually believe Buchanan was smart enough to pull that one off.

(WORTHINGTON laughs)

LAINY: Others believe that he simply had a prejudiced and bigoted attitude toward Brigham Young and the Mormons which appears to be true.

MADLINE: Oh, I think bigoted is too strong of a word, Lainy. And it was based only on his limited information at the time - false as some of it might have been.

(The following speeches build in tempo and volume.)

OZ: You have to agree that the president was acting on the best knowledge he had.

MAX: He *wasn't* looking for the best knowledge, it was just the only story he believed.

OZ: I'm merely pointing out that the President Buchanan didn't believe the Mormons were innocent of the charges, which they weren't.

LAINY: (*Loudly*) The Mormon's had to assume that Buchanan was nothing more than an elected mobster!
(It hangs in the air)

... Sorry, I...

(LAINY sits)

WORTHINGTON: Go on. Go on and finish...

LAINY: Well, okay, I mean, it would have been kind of crazy and almost, well, suicidal for Brigham Young to assume anything else. I mean given their success with the governments and magistrates in the past, they had to assume the worst.

OZ: Come on, the president wasn't a mobster and it seems all he wanted to do was install a new, less problematic governor.

MADLINE: If that were the case, OZ, maybe 20 or 30 men in an army escort would have sufficed. But 2500?!

WORTHINGTON: That's using a shotgun to kill a gnat.

(Quiet)

Just a figure of speech...

MAX: OZ, you'll agree that had the president's motives been clear and unassailable the Utah conflict might never have taken place. We might not even be meeting today.

OZ: Or from another viewpoint, had the Mormons not been stinking up the faraway West, Buchanan might have only had to send 20 or 30.

MAX: But he didn't.

OZ: No, he didn't.

MAX: He sent an army...

WORTHINGTON: And that, ladies and gents, is what we now call the Utah War.

MAX: Based on prejudice, bigotry and hatred, an army was dispatched against a religion.

OZ: A religion based on blind obedience, questionable theology, and grasping unscrupulous leaders - no one could trust the Mormons.

MAX: Which is why they left the United States to a place no one wanted...

OZ: Ah, so you believe the rest of it, Max? Ha ha, your debating sucks.

MAX: So does your attitude!

MADLINE: Boys! You're leaving academic discourse.

CELESTE: *(To OZ)* Nobody says "sucks" in panels.

WORTHINGTON: *(Interrupting)* Ladies and gentlemen, I believe we should all take a short restorative

while we're agreeing.

MADELINE: Are we agreeing?

WORTHINGTON: On everything but where to place the blame.

(Looking at his watch)

According to my chronometer, I think we need to put the horses out to pasture for a while...

LAINY: We haven't even talked about the war itself yet!

OZ: There wasn't a war! Hasn't anyone been listening?

WORTHINGTON: Ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to suggest a short stretching period. Maybe we should all to stand up and do "head, shoulders, knees and toes."

MADELINE: *(Arising)* I'm going to the powder room.

WORTHINGTON: Just don't run off too far. Like some baseball player said,

(with a comic Bronx accent)

"it ain't over till it's over and..."

(WORTHINGTON holds up a finger and answers his cell with the other then turns from the podium and walks away. The panel gazes back and forth determining what to do. MAX stands, stretches and leaves to the wings. LAINY stands up (S90) looking confused, then decides to leave following Madeline. CELESTE and OZ finally stand.)

OZ: And they all ran away saying...

CELESTE: *(Gently)* Sweetheart, uhm, I think this may be getting out of hand.

OZ: Are you joking? I haven't had this much fun in years!

CELESTE: You're making a fool of yourself. Both of you are.

OZ: Oh, but Celeste, we thrive on this – open, intellectual warfare. You've never understood this part of my relationship with Max.

CELESTE: Oh, I've understood it. I just resent the fact that I've continually been brought into the middle of it.

OZ: The middle?

CELESTE: You're always after him.

OZ: *(thoughtfully)* Why are you defending him?

CELESTE: Did the little spat about polygamy look like a defense?

OZ: Spat is the right word. It looked like a lover's spat.

CELESTE: Oh come on! That's unfair. Now don't go all Othello on me, OZ. I chose you and I chose you for good. There's no room for jealousy in our relationship. You got that?

OZ: I... sorry.

CELESTE: See? That's how I'm in the middle. Now listen to me, sweetie, I've watched my Mom doing this since I was a little girl and I've never seen such unprofessional outbreaks.

OZ: Hey wait, is this the pot calling the kettle black? You did it too.

CELESTE: Okay, my polygamy stuff may have been little over the top, but you and Max looked like two eighth graders out behind the school.

OZ: Ninth graders at least!

CELESTE: This is serious, OZ. My Mom was right, be objective...

OZ: Objective! That's the point, Celeste, there's no such thing. Your mom had a very classical training and I'm a post-modernist. Everyone has a bias no matter how they try to hide it. Objectivity is a myth!

CELESTE: Sometimes you are so frustrating. You argue. You don't listen.

OZ: I have strong points of view, and I'm determined to see that point of view wins. Max is determined to see his do the same.

CELESTE: And we're supposed to be impressed with all of this chest thumping?

OZ: It's personal between me and Max.

CELESTE: If it's personal, then deal with it personally, not in front of an audience! At least pretend to show some professionalism! You two are supposed to be expert authorities, but it's turning into a vindictive... circus!

OZ: (*After a pause*) I'm... I'm just so sick of all the phony pretending. All of Max's phony pretending...

CELESTE: Maybe he's not pretending.

OZ: There's a lot more going on here than any of you understand.

CELESTE: Oh please! Just deal with it.

OZ: Well... okay.

CELESTE: Seriously?

OZ: Sure.

CELESTE: Promise?

OZ: Sure! Yeah. But that doesn't mean I'm letting Max off easy.

CELESTE: Just don't go overboard and you can't lose.

OZ: What a woman.

(THEY embrace.)

CELESTE: Now honey, you've had something on your shirt this whole time!

OZ: *(Satirically)* Oh. My. Heck!

CELESTE: There's a clean one in the suitcase. Let's get you changed.

(OZ and CELESTE move toward the wings.)

CELESTE: Wait. Do you think the mic was on?

OZ: No sweetheart, they turn those off at halftime.

(THEY exit.)

END ACT ONE

30 MORE PAGES IN ACT TWO