



Musical HEEYY BABY DAYS at the THEATER

Based on the book The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music by Greg Haynes

Adapted to theater by Nora Marion Lott Haynes

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Cast of Characters:

Greg	Band Promoter
Marion.....	Loving Wife
Charlena.....	Groupie
Joe.....	Handyman/Band Member
Fats.....	Band Ticker Clicker
Four White Guys.....	Band Members
Robert Abramson.....	Co-Band Promoter
Reggie.....	Charlena's 1 st Husband
Bubba.....	Charlena's Brother
Sally.....	Charlena's Cousin
Mick.....	Mick
Gram.....	Gram
Porky.....	Greg's Cousin
Grainger.....	Band Member
Harry.....	Dancer/Courier
Mr. Jake.....	Ticket Checker
Fat Lady.....	Fat Lady
Bands.....	TBA

The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music is set in the 1960's in the Southeastern corner of the United States. Bands, playing at dances attended by youngsters, were set up and booked by Promoters through Booking

Agents. Blue-eyed, black-sound-a-likes, bands sprouted up like tobacco all over the South. Blue eyes “jumped the rope” to listen and watch the moves. These dances were the cat social scene for many. Greg, a high school entrepreneur, was a part time promoter. This is his story.

Act One

Scene One Setting the Stage

SONG TIMELESS #1

Darkness. Music. Curtain.

Greg is suspended in the purple haze as SONG TIMELESS plays. He is enmeshed in a black and white holographic visual of THE PARTY TO END ALL PARTIES. The visual includes authentic movie or still scenes from the bands and characters that will appear in the last scene of the BIG ONE (The Party To End All Parties). This includes 60’s vintage: Swingin’ Medallions, King David and the Slaves, Tams’ Joe Pope, In_Men Ltd., Elvis, Gram Parsons, Pieces of Eight, Jackie Wilson, Willie Tee, (and any of the bands featured in the book depending on performance venue) This is Greg’s dream of the ultimate fantasy of a Beach Music show and dance.

Living and non-living performers are performing in black and white. The living ones will be blurred and those departed will be very clear. Purple smoke/haze engulfs him so that you can’t tell whether he’s standing or sitting with the party behind him and around him.

This visual with the bands at The Party To End All Parties oozes out of The City Auditorium. SONG TIMELESS continues to play.

Greg is smoking a swisher sweet. (Author's note: Those were born and rolled in Waycross, GA which is the location of The City Auditorium.) He's just groovin' in absolute heaven as he is in the BIG ONE, his dream of THE Ultimate Beach Music Sweet Southern Soul Show Dance & Review.

A HORN loudly honks (startling the audience) as haze and visuals disappear. Suddenly, Greg is aware of the ashes from his swisher burning a hole in his pant leg as he is indeed sitting on the steps of The City Auditorium.

Marion, the source of the horn honking, gets out of the car and walks up the steps, kisses Greg's head, sits down very cozy and says:

MARION

Whatcha' doin', Sweet?

GREG

Oh, I don't know. I was just sitting here uh, uh thinking. (Obviously disoriented.)

MARION

From the way you looked when I drove up, you were doin' more than thinkin'. Looks to me like you're in some sort of deep funk? Daydreamin' about the way it used to be here in our old hometown? And how you wish you could be promotin' another BIG ONE

(She teases him.)

—a band playin' 1960's beach music, Southern Soul with a huge crowd screamin,' yellin, and whoopin' it up?!! Is that right?

(Smiles lovingly and then noticing the smoke and fire.)

Is that a hole in your new pants?

GREG

(He brushes off the comment and the ashes.)

It's just amazing that here in this building, on these steps where we sit; so many big-named performers played on that stage.

(Points behind to The City Auditorium.)

I wish that old building could talk—I'd like to turn back the hands of time.

Marion, think about how many times we danced right there to all that great southern soul music. What if our

old friends and the performers could ALL come back and play and dance just one more time?

(Holds up 1 finger with enthusiasm.)

MARION

(Realizing this is for real.)

Greg, many are gone. I bet some from that era would be relieved to know that the old place can't reveal the by-gone secrets!

(Eerie look on her face.)

Strangely, while drivin' here I saw an old bus, just like those old band buses in the '60's, you remember, it was stopped at the red light headin' south.

(Pausing introspectively.)

**It had faded letterin' on the sides; I think it said.....
'Pieces of Eight'.**

Inside that ole bus, it looked like several men were laughin' and talkin'. It was all smokey-like in there, though! The men had on the kind of hats that the Green Beret wore—like the one Reggie had. It was weird. Very weird. Do you think I was having a flashback—it's not Halloween!?

(She smiles.)

GREG

(Very agitated and hyper.)

Are you kidding? Are you making that up?

(Marion shakes head no.)

This is scary.

(Greg jumps up.)

Marion, I must get the bands back together for one more BIG ONE. I just gotta write a story about those times in the 60's in the deep South. I still have all those pictures that Charlena gave me and all the other memorabilia from then.

Fads and styles may come and go. They're hot then they're gone. Very few things that I know just keep rolling on. Like that music we grew up with that's stood the test of time; in fact, Beach Music is even better now—

(He reflects dreamily.)

Just like vintage wine. It's timeless. It never grows old. It's timeless. It's sweet southern soul. The sound of the sun, surf in the sand.

(Pauses.)

I relive each memory with every single song. Yesterday is right here with me.

(Touches his heart.)

Now that we are old and gray, Marion, I remember every word to every song they played—I remember every move you made. And every move that Robert couldn't make.

(They both laugh.)

I always loved you, even then, but you just wanted to be friends.

(Marion stands up too and puts her head on his shoulder.)

MARION

I just can't forget Charlena—her dancing, her love of southern soul music, and all the things she taught us about music and all that we went through with her.

(Greg puts his arms around Marion tenderly.)

GREG

You even threw your bra away then and you wouldn't let me open the door for you. Remember? I loved you then and I love you now.

(Greg smiles while lovingly teasing Marion who now has saggy tits as a result!)

SONG TIMELESS #1

(Plays quietly in background.)

GREG

Beach Music, that era, is timeless. It never grows old. How can I get them to want to remember and share their stories, their music, and their dance? Viet Nam, rock, and drugs really interrupted a great music genre. I guess we were at the very end of the Victorian Age.

The bands never got the notoriety that they deserved, nor the fame and fortune. They just didn't! You know what was the best thing about the show and dances?

MARION

The screamin', yelling' and whoopin' it up?!!

GREG

You got it! I'm sure that I want to go back there.

(He states emphatically.)

Where is my old friend Robert Abramson—the A of the famous AH Promotions? You think we can find him? He's probably a lawyer or a doctor or maybe some kind of an entrepreneur. Marion, what about Charlena? Remember the Medallion Concert in April of 1968? That was a BIG ONE—we had such a crowd but it was also a BIG disaster. Oh, Charlena.

(A far away sad look as Greg turns Marion to look at him.)

MARION

(Putting her hands on his shoulders since she's on a step above him, she can look him smack in his eyes.)

Are you sure you really want to take this trip, Greg?

(Pause.)

It's been such a long time....What pain could relivin' this cause you, cause us, or cause all the others? Greg, should you write this book and bring up all the spirits of the past? What secrets might be revealed?

GREG

Marion, it was a good time. It's timeless. These musicians in the 60's were talented. It was sweet southern soul. It was a culture and it was an energizing period. Baby, Beach Music needs its Heeey Day. Fasten your seat belt. It will be unforgettable!! That is the secret that we will reveal—Beach Music is just like vintage wine!!

{Holding hands they walk down the steps to the car--

SONG TIMELESS #1

#1 gets louder. The lights go out but when the lights come back on----}

Act One

Scene Two Oh, Charlena!

SONG I GOT THE FEVER #2

{Marion stays her age (real time) but has moved to side of stage sitting in a bar stool. She will be the communicator to the audience.}

Greg is riding in a car all right but he's a young Greg riding in the convertible with Charlena. Charlena is dressed for the Beach, radio blasting. Looking so fine.

SONG BE YOUNG BE FOOLISH #3