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***We help older performers fulfill their theatrical dreams!***

**ArtAge Publications**

Bonnie L. Vorenberg, President

PO Box 19955

Portland OR 97280

503-246-3000 or 800-858-4998

[bonniev@seniorthatre.com](mailto:bonniev@seniorthatre.com)

[www.seniorthatre.com](http://www.seniorthatre.com)

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FreeView

**BILLY BUCK & JO-JO**

By

Frank Canino

CAST

BILLY BUCK: A worn-out rodeo performer, well into his sixties.

JO-JO: A rodeo clown, also in his sixties and equally worn out.

Place

A room anywhere, close to eternity.

Time

The present and sometime in eternity.

*Setting: A perfectly bare, symmetrical and colorless room.*

*At Rise: In blackout, there's a loud BANG. Lights flash up on two men who stare ahead in numb astonishment, then at the room around them, and finally at each other.*

*The two men are of a certain age --- or even beyond. They are seated on a small couch. On stage left, Billy Buck is in faded jeans and jacket, ragged leather chaps and scuffed boots. He speaks with a Southwestern drawl. On stage right, Jo-Jo is in a rodeo circus clown outfit, including a garish shirt, a woman's skirt, traces of clown white on his face, and a clown mask perched on his skull like a hat. JoJo's accent is suspiciously close to the Bronx or Brooklyn. Jo-Jo holds an AK-47 semi-automatic rifle. He stares at it and then abruptly puts it down as if it were a dangerous animal. Billy Buck touches his own head gingerly and then starts to hit Jo-Jo.*

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BILLY BUCK: Goddam son of a bitch, you did it!

JO-JO: *(overlapping)* What? I didn't mean —

BILLY BUCK: *(overlapping)* I told you: wait till I —

JO-JO: *(overlapping)* I barely touched it —

BILLY BUCK: *(overlapping)* Always fuck everything up.

JO-JO: *(overlapping)* I didn't mean to pull the ----.

BILLY BUCK: And where the hell are we?

JO-JO: I don't know. Some kind of holding place. Before they send us on.

BILLY BUCK: But for how long?

JO-JO: Who knows? Forever maybe.

BILLY BUCK: With you? *(feeling his head)* Oh my Jesus, feel the size of that hole.

JO-JO: Mine's bigger I bet. See?

BILLY BUCK: But I don't feel nothin'. Do you?

JO-JO: *(shaking his head)* We're beyond that now.

*(BILLY BUCK crawls around the room, looking under the couch and in the corners.)*

BILLY BUCK: And where's the damn bullet. It's not in my skull or your empty --

JO-JO: Who cares? We're gone, aren't we?

BILLY BUCK: I just want to see what landed us here.

JO-JO: Not gonna do us any good.

BILLY BUCK: Where's that rifle? I swear I'm gonna kill you, boy.

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