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THIS RIVER IS GOLD

By

Alvin H. Reiss

About the show

This River is Gold is a musical tribute to older adults, lauding their lifestyles, aspirations and dreams. Their spirit and love of life is reflected in the song, *Over the Hill* which begins "We're over the hill and we're proud of it, we've climbed every step and we've reached the top, we've savored each moment that we've had of it, now we'll enjoy life and we won't stop."

A tuneful, joyous excursion into life in a senior community the show also reflects local politics and the forces -money and greed -that can divide a community. The 14 songs ranging from romantic to wistful to humorous to boisterous advance the action of both the main plot -the consequences of a presumed discovery of gold on the community and several subplots. *Years Have Passed* sings of the rediscovery of a past love and *I Wanted to Write a Song For You* sings of the unexpected discovery of a new love.

The show's characters all 55 and over, sing songs, individually, in duets and in group chorus numbers, that reflect character and action ranging from a greedy developer' *I Am Sleazy* to a community recreation room number, *Games*, to a celebratory concluding number, *This River Is Gold*.

The show was written specifically for production by theater groups in senior communities, by Alvin H. "Skip" Reiss, well-known in the cultural field as writer educator, consultant and lecturer. The author of eight books on the arts hundreds of magazine articles and columns, including a current Arts Agenda column for *Travel Weekly Magazine* he also writes and edits *Arts Management*, the world's oldest continuing publication for cultural administrators which he co-founded in 1962.

In the musical theater world his produced works include "The Hills Are Alive Are We?" and " Tall Paul, A Tall Tale, The Legend of Paul Bunyan." In Westchester County New York, where he has a home in a senior community, he was the local library's Centennial Author and his works were featured in "Songs

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by Skip," a program of his music at the Somers Library. He also has had his original songs featured in three "Thalia Follies" musical revues at New York's noted Symphony Space and at arts conferences throughout the world where he served as keynote speaker.

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Book, music and lyrics by Alvin H. Reiss

ACT ONE, SCENE ONE

(Husband and wife, SAM and MABEL in front of curtain.)

SAM: Mabel, it's gonna be great. Just think, we can have our own condo in the country. I can play golf every day if I want to.

MABEL: Sam Sam. I can't give up our six room apartment in the city. Where will I put all the china and my silver? There' IJ be no room for anything. I won't see my friends anymore.

SAM: But there'll be room for my golf clubs. And country air. And leisure...
(Singing)

A Day Out in the Country

(The curtain parts showing the sales office of Twin Hills a condominium development for over 55's. SAM and MABEL enter and are greeted by an exuberant salesperson.)

SAM: We're looking for a ...

MARIAN: A home, a place to live, a place to love. Hi, I m Marian head of sales. And you are?

MABEL: I'm Mabel Brown. And this is my husband Sam. Now we're just exploring possibilities. You see, we're downsizing.

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SAM: I wish you wouldn't discuss our sex life with a stranger. Look, we don't want to spend too much. We just want a small space and one that's not too expensive . . .

MARIAN: Well you've come to the right place. Twin Hills has everything you want. Tennis, golf, activities. And clubs for every interest.

SAM: Mabel. Maybe they have a gossip club. You could be president.

MARIAN: And above all we have friendly neighbors.

MABEL: I hope they're not too friendly, Sam has a roving eye.

MARIAN: Let's get down to brass tacks. I have a house that just came on the market. It's perfect two bedrooms, two baths, a living room and den. It's a Monroe.

MABEL: Sam *isn't* that cute. They name their houses for presidents.

End of FreeView—Now buy the entire play!
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