

# UC DAVIS

## DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE



### MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY

**A Dark Comedy with Music**  
**Written by Anne Washburn**  
**Music by Michael Friedman**  
**Lyrics by Anne Washburn**

**Director: Mindy Cooper**  
**Musical Director: Graham Sobelman**  
**Stage Manager: Lyn Alessandra**



- Standby



- Sound



- Lights



- Rail



- Deck Cues



## The First Act

Preshow

*A warm night in early October.*

*End of season crickets.*

*Faintly, we can hear a stream.*

*Five people around a fire, on a mixed arrangement of indoor chairs, sports or lawn chairs and an expensive looking antique couch.*

*A woman is huddled a slight distance away, in relation to the group around the fire but not part of it.*

MATT

It starts...the episode starts with Bart getting letters saying: "I'm going to kill you Bart".

JENNY

...Right...'I'm going to kill you Bart'...because doesn't Lisa, doesn't she have a pen pal or something?

MARIA

oh

MATT

No, that's something - uh - yes - she has a pen pal and that's like a that's an other yes it starts with she has a pen

JENNY

she has a pen pal from someone in some Asian country

MATT

Yes like a repressed country or something and uh Bart is like uh thinks that's - is making fun of her

JENNY

Something like that and then *he* gets a letter





MATT

Right right he gets the letter and it says written in what appears to be blood like:  
I'm going to kill you Bart

JENNY

But that's not how it starts-starts it starts - they're on the couch, Bart and Lisa  
and they're

MATT

Oh

JENNY

They're watching tv, right?

MATT

That is right. Yes. They are watching

JENNY/MATT

Itchy and Scratchy

MARIA

Oh...

JENNY

And it's ...some Itchy and Scratchy episode

MARIA

Is that...that's the cartoon show they watch, right? It's

JENNY

It's incredibly violent

MATT

It's shockingly violent. And they think it's hilarious.

MARIA

Because they always die, right? They always die --

JENNY

The cat always dies. The cat always gets it really violently



MARIA

Somebody always gets chopped up to bits

JENNY

That's the cat. Itchy. Or is it Scratchy? Wait -

MATT

Itchy is the cunning mouse who always kills Scratchy who is the cat. And Bart and Lisa always think it's completely hilarious, it's disturbing, it's awesome

MARIA

I think. Yeah. I think I saw that the first time I saw that I thought oh...that's going too far.

MATT

It's absolutely going too far. It's so brilliant.

JENNY

So I remember that they're watching the episode and something...

MATT

They're watching it - and it's incredibly violent -- and Lisa is totally cracking up and Bart isn't

JENNY

Yes yes yes that's right, right? And Lisa is saying, like, that's really funny Bart why aren't you laughing or something and Bart is full of gloom because he's depressed because someone is trying to kill him...

MATT

And then the doorbell rings and it's the mail

JENNY

Yes. And *that's* when Lisa gets the pen-pal letter

MATT

And Bart, yes, that's when Bart gets another death threat and like no one, like everyone's really blasé about it and at one point he's like - and everything is shot like Cape Fear so like there are like all these smash cuts where its just like: Dunnnnnngh - where like they start on a start on a shot and then sort of widen out in this way that Cape Fear like

SB  
LQ  
5.1

LQ  
5.1

MARIA

The second Cape Fear

MATT

The second the DeNiro so it's like it'll be he'll open a letter and suddenly it'll be like a smash cut on a letter like "I'm going to kill you Bart!" Oiiiiing! and then like widen out and at one point he's got all of the letters on the kitchen table and it's an overhead shot, all of these letters written in blood and it's like whomp whomp - well yeah that's the sound from the Cape Fear soundtrack that's the - whomp whomp whomp

JENNY

Oh, *yeah*: whomp whomp whomp whomp...

MATT MARIA JENNY

Whomp whomp whomp -

JENNY MATT

Whomp

MARIA

(simultaneously)

Wom - no.

JENNY MATT MARIA

whomp whomp whomp whomp, whomp whomp whomp whomp

*Matt does a little conductoristic 'it goes here' gesture*

*wom wom wom -*

MATT

And so it's that, it's that and it's all of them sitting around the kitchen table and it's like 'die Bart die I'm going to kill you Bart dah dah dah dah' and then's like one written in pen and he's like this one is written in pen and Homer's like oh I wrote that one because when (*Laughs tumultuously.*) when when ah Bart 'oh I wrote that one because for that time when Bart tattooed this on my butt' and he like pulls down his pants and his butt is tattooed with the word 'wide load'

*Laughter.*

and the whole family is like 'ahhhh!' and starts laughing laughing for like a really weirdly long time, Marge, Lisa, and the baby are just like: ha ha ha ha ha