

SPRINGTIME FOR KANSAS or FIFTY SHADES OF BROWN

Bar President Welcome.

End with LIVE FROM TOPEKA, IT'S THE 2014 TOPEKA BAR SHOW

ACT I

Narrator: Not long ago, in a pleasant little state called Kansas there lived a people known for the simple things in life: Tornadoes, wheat, Dorothy & Toto, sunflowers and moderation. That all began to change just a few years ago, as Kansas embarked on a new, golden age.

Republicans went door-to-door to the people of Kansas, introducing them to The Roadmap for Kansas. This roadmap had all the answers no one was looking for:

Defeat the obstructionists...or moderates as they were once known.
The Legislature and Courts will serve at the pleasure of the Governor,
Supply Side economics designed by Art Laffer will lead to economic prosperity.
No more taxes - - at least for folks that count.
Minimum wage jobs with no benefits for everyone!

Let us return now to the campaign of 2010.

Lights up. Hello Singers on stage and each is holding up a Kansas map. Front door stage left with women in curlers and house coat.

Song 1 – Hello

Lights out. as singers exit

Narrator: Just a few short years ago, upon the inauguration of Samuel Dale Brownback, these were just a few of the many promises of this grand Roadmap. In 2010, it was Springtime in Kansas.

Curtain Rises Lights up. Backdrop, Statehouse Dome is Green. Need steps up-center stage. Construction materials and equipment are here and there. Johnnie on the job.

Song 2 - Springtime for Kansas

(5 chorus girls with head dresses with logos Koch, KS Chamber, AFT, GOP, State Seal)

Three Legislators, with make up of dressed like O'Brother Where Art Thou Characters, all legislators will be in overalls and yellow shirts, enter stage right.. Other Legislators enter stage left, playing in the background: passing a beach ball, Twister, Nerf or water guns, etc. ALL LEGISLATORS HAVE SIDE ARMS.

Legislator #1: (center mike) Golly, look how purty this place is.

Legislator #2: (center right mike) Yeah, and they are not even finished yet.

Legislator #3: (right mike) Who would have thought we'd be in the Legislature? And it was so easy! I didn't have to campaign.

Legislator #1: All I did was sign the American's for Prosperity Pledge, recite the Chamber of Commerce chant and send the Republican Party a blood sample, and they all campaigned for me.

Legislator #2: And agree to do whatever the Governor told us.

Legislator #3: It was so easy!

Legislator #4 (*part of the group playing stage left mike*): Is this where we vote against Nancy Pelosi for Speaker?

Legislator #1: Republicans had a clean sweep in 2010. We won every state office, two thirds of the House, two thirds of the Senate. We can change the state in ways no one has ever dreamed. We are In the Statehouse now!

Song 3: In the Statehouse Now (sung by Legislator #1) (*need banjo, fiddle*)

Scrim Down (lights out behind scrim – change set)

A small kiosk is wheeled to center stage , lights up in front of scrim.. The sign over kiosk reads: "DUMBILLS.OMG" A division of ALEC. A clown sits behind the kiosk. He has a squeeze horn. Three legislators are in line waiting to speak with the clown, at least one is female. They start pushing each other to be first, until the clown squeezes his horn and they line up.

First Legislator: Dumbills, I need something to get my kids off the couch.

Clown: *Nods. Sounds horns once, begins pulling bills out of the boxes, tossing them around. Pulls one out and hands it to the Legislator.*

First Legislator: *Looks at the bill, reads title out loud.* RESTORING CORPORAL PUNISHMENT FOR KIDS, Perfect!

Clown sounds horn twice, waves up the next legislator, who is a woman.

Female Legislator: Dumbills I need something to discourage men from having sex.

Clown looks at her, long pause, shrugs, sounds horn once and goes back to flinging bills around. He pulls one out and hands it to her.

Female Legislator: *Looks at the bill, reads title out loud.* AN ACT REQUIRING MEN TO REGISTER BEFORE HAVING SEX. Perfect! Thanks Dumbills.

Clown gestures and shrugs, sounds horn twice and motions to the final legislator.

Third Legislator: Dumbills, I need something to teach President Obama a lesson in constitutional law about state's rights.

Clown nods, sounds horn once, looks around kiosk, finds another bill and hands it to the legislator.

Third Legislator: *Reads the title out loud.* AN ACT IMPOSING PENALTIES ON FEDERAL AGENTS ENFORCEING FEDERAL GUN LAWS, AND PRAIRIE CHICKEN PROTECTION, Great, just what we needed!

Narrator: Try Dumbills when your own ideas just aren't stupid enough.

Clown sounds horn three times. Lights go out. Quickly remove kiosk from stage.

With the lights out, Narrator begins to speak.

Narrator: It's been 4 long years since the inauguration of Governor Brownback and the people of Kansas began their journey on The Roadmap for Kansas. Let's take a look at how things are going today in 2014.

Lights up, standing center stage.

Williams: My name is **Brian Williams**. Formerly of KOAM-TV Pittsburg Kansas, now anchor of NBC Nightly News, and I am here to cover what is happening in Kansas. The other networks have declined to cover this story. When asked if he would spend time in Kansas, Mr. Glen Beck responded: "Even I have standards!" So you are stuck with me. Let's take a look at how things are going in Kansas.

Curtain rises. Backdrop is the new copper dome. Construction materials are gone. Everything is clean. The Dumbill.omg kiosk is on stage. (also may serve as Visitor Center kiosk)

Williams: We are here in the Visitors Center at the recently refurbished Statehouse. The Legislature has been dealing with a number of important issues. Let's talk with this tour guide.

Walks to tour guide at the Kiosk.

Williams: What are some of the important issues the Legislature is tackling?

Tour Guide: Well, they designated a new state fossil.

Williams: Oh, what is the new state fossil?

Tour Guide: Free thinkers.

Four Legislators walk on from stage left. Also enter 3 teachers from stage right in red NEA shirts carrying signs.

Legislator #1: We sure have gotten a lot accomplished.

Legislator #2: Eliminated gun restrictions, got rid of leadership political action committees, and petition circulators must now be US citizens. Can't trust those foreign petition circulators!

Legislator #3: Yes, but all our hard work can be undone.

Legislator #4: Especially on education. Supreme Court is always trying to tell us what to do, teachers are suing us over bargaining and my kid is always complaining about school lunches.

Legislator #1: And don't get me started on Common Core!

Legislator #3: You know if everyone would just read their bible, then We Don't Need No Education.

Teachers leave stage right in disgust.

Song 4 – We Don't Need No Education

Legislators exit stage left. Supreme Court Justices enter stage right, pushing a big wheel.

Supreme No. 1: Chief, now that we have just witnessed an example of why Kansas kids need an education, how in the heck are we going to decide this case?

Chief: How do I know? These numbers are so big! I can't even imagine how much money we're talking about. *(spins wheel and it stops on \$1 zillion)*

Supreme No. 2: Gosh, I'm afraid what the legislature will do if we make them spend more money on schools. (*spins wheel and it stops on \$1 zillion again*).

Supreme No. 3: Yeah, they're a mean bunch. Vindictive. They might make us retire.

Supreme No. 4: Or move us out of the Judicial Center into the Docking Office Building.

Chief: But they're going to tear that down.

Supreme No. 4: That's what I'm talking about.

Supreme No. 5: We've still got to decide how much money they've got to spend for education.

Supreme No 6: Remember the issue in this case is sticking it to the Legislature.

Chief: OK, spin that wheel, because its all about the money that makes the world go round. (*spins wheel again and it stops on – of course, \$1 zillion*).

Song 5 – Money, Money, Money

Justices leave stage right.

Kathleen Sebelius enters stage left, arrives in GEEK Squad golf cart) in the red dress. Golf cart leaves stage right.

Williams: Secretary Sebelius, welcome back to Kansas!

Sebelius: Thank you but I never really left. As you know, the First Dude and I have a home in Topeka.

Williams: Is it a real home or a Pat Roberts living arrangement?

Sebelius: (*offended*) We don't rent. I received an urgent message on my mobile electronic device that I was needed back home. (*holds up calculator*)

Williams: Uh, Madam Secretary that's a calculator. What did the message say?

Sebelius: That I've been hired as the new IT Director for the State of Kansas court system to head up the implementation of the new Full Court electronic filing system..

Williams: Really? You?!

Sebelius: Of course. With all my prior experience it is a perfect fit, like my dress. I am dedicated to having it fully functioning by 2018.

Williams: With all due respect Secretary, your past experience had a few glitches.

Sebelius: Whatever you think you know, Let it Go!

Song 6 – Let It Go

Sebelius waves to the crowd and exits stage left.

Enter Kris Kobach and Derek Schmidt, stage right.

Williams: Who are you guys?

Kobach: I'm Secretary of State Kris Kobach, Anybody seen any suspicious looking illegal voters around here?

Cohort 1: No, Secretary Kobach, we've scared all of them away with our voter ID laws. I saw both of them leaving the state last week.

Cohort 2: There's still too many democrats and liberals voting. Some of them are even registering as republicans so they can vote against us in the primaries. That ought to be illegal, too.

Cohort 1: It is now.

Cohort 2: Oh, yeah.

Kobach: I'll propose a law that anybody that's a liberal can't register as a republican. And, anybody that's already a republican has to take an oath to never support a democrat.

Cohort 1: Whose going to decide who's a liberal or who's already a republican?

Kobach: I will, of course.

Cohort 2: I'm not too sure that that sounds legal.

Schmidt turns toward the audience. Someone runs out on stage and hands him an American Flag, which he proudly holds.

Schmidt: I am Attorney General Derek Schmidt. I have finally made it into the bar show. I am the champion of equal rights and fight crime with my bare hands.

Williams: Yeah, yeah...we get it. You want to be Governor someday.

Kobach: Hey...me too!

Schmidt: Hey Kris, I understand you have a great tax advisor?

Kobach: I use Morton Buildings. When they speak, *(everyone on stage leans towards Kobach)* farmers listen. *(pauses)* And of course I do too.

Enter Chickens from back of theater dancing to the Chicken Dance Song. After the song, they move around the stage in the background. One chicken has a sign: "Eat More Cow" Kiosk sign is changed to marriage licenses, 2 chickens stand there getting a license.

Williams: The Federal Government has declared the Lesser Prairie Chicken an endangered species. You both must have thoughts on that?

Schmidt: Once again the Federal Government is restricting us good Kansans and impeding our constitutional rights.

Kobach: We have reports that bunches of them are crossing our borders without proper ID. We can't stand for that. We must protect our borders!

Schmidt: Well, there must be Fifty Ways to Cross the Border so let's sing a song about it.

Song 7 – Fifty Ways to Cross the Border

Mary Pilcher Cook with nurse and legislators enter, stage right wheeling in a Lesser Prairie Chicken in on a gurney, followed by a nurse with a sonogram machine.

Williams: And you are?

Cook: (center left mike) State Senator Mary Pilcher Cook and I'm here to show that the Lesser Prairie Chicken does have life.

Nurse: (center right mike) If this is a lesser prairie chicken I'd hate to see a greater one.

Cook: Nurse, administer the sonogram!

Cook nods to the nurse/sonographer who moves the wand over the Lesser Prairie Chicken. Everybody gathers around to watch. Some type of sparks fly...

Nurse/Sonographer: I see it. A sign of life! The prairie chicken is not endangered.

Cook: You see, life finds a way!

The chickens and legislators dance around while the chicken song plays again. All of a sudden a shotgun blast is heard, and the music stops.

Enter Dick Cheney and Virgil Peck, from stage left, wearing hunting gear and with their shotguns. Cheney looks like Elmer Fudd.

Williams: It's Dick Cheney and Virgil Peck!

EVERYONE DUCKS.

Peck: (from center mike) The Vice President and I are here to take care of the Lesser Prairie Chicken problem. Show them Dick.

Chicken yells: Show them what?

Cheney fires at the gurney Prairie Chicken, who does an extended death scene (to chicken song) and ends up falling across the gurney. Other chickens run off stage (whatever direction is closest). The Lead Chicken is rolled away by Cook and Nurse to stage right. Peck and Cheney exit stage left.

Legislators and Williams stay, shaking their heads Enter Chamber Lobbyist from stage right. All non-chickens return to fill up stage.

Williams: Who are you?

Chamber Lobbyist: I'm the lobbyist for the Kansas Chamber.

Williams: And what do you lobby for?

Chamber Lobbyist: I fight to reduce taxes, eliminate the Court of Tax Appeals, shrink workers compensation and make Kansas the best place for an employer to do business.

Williams: But what about the workers?

Chamber Lobbyist: What about them? Kansas has never had a friend like me.

Song 8 – Never Had a Friend Like Me

Curtain closes - End of Act I