

As the play begins, the stage is dark. We hear what seems to be a 'big screen' western movie. There is the fully orchestrated theme music of the generic saga, suggesting a pleasant day out of doors, complete with a chirping bird or two. We hear a loud laugh as the horses draw near. The laugh belongs to Deputy Marshal Fernando Flanagan.

FERNANDO

(in an accent that incorporates both the Irish and Mexican in him) That is very funny, Marshal – 'a round-up of sheep'. Very funny.

(Fernando laughs again and he is joined by the hearty laugh of Marshal James Hollister, Lawman of Los Angeles.)

JIM

I heard that one from Conchita. (he chuckles)
Good old Conchita. She's got one good ear for stories. Eh, Deputy?

FERNANDO

Sí, Señor. And the rest of her body is not so bad, either.

JIM

Fernando!

FERNANDO

You must admit, Marshal, that Señorita Conchita Corraldo is a very attractive woman.

JIM

Never thought much about her one way or the other.

FERNANDO

(sigh) No, Señor. I suppose you would not. A man who is in love with only one woman...

At this moment, we hear a flurry of gunshots.

JIM

Gunfire! Quick, 'Nando. Behind these rocks!

We hear the sound of two lawmen leaping from their horses and running for cover as bullets ricochet all around.

FERNANDO

Marshal Hollister, who are they?

JIM

I don't know, Fernando.

The gunfire ceases.

VOICE

(from a distance) Marshal?

JIM

Nevins? Casey Nevins, is that you?

CASEY

It's me, Marshal.

JIM

Now, that ain't so smart, Nevins. Shootin' at a Federal Marshal. (he whispers to Fernando) Keep talkin' at him, 'Nando. I'm gonna sneak around the back and nab 'em from behind.

FERNANDO

But Marshal. There must be six or seven men!

JIM

No, Fernando. Just three.

FERNANDO

Three! How can you be sure, Señor?

JIM

I count their bullets.

Fernando gasps in amazement. Jim laughs.

JIM

I also happen to know that Casey Nevins travels with two buddies, the Boche (Baw-chee) brothers.

We hear the sound of the Marshal moving out.

FERNANDO

Oh. (he shouts to the Nevins gang) Casey! Hey, Casey!

CASEY

Who's that?

FERNANDO

It's me, Casey. Deputy Marshal Fernando Flanagan.

CASEY

Well, isn't this just my day! A whole passel of federal marshals. What do you say about that, boys?

We hear the Boche brothers laugh it up with Casey.

CASEY

Well, I'd just love to stand here yappin' at you, Deputy. But I've got a little date with a gold shipment and I don't want to be late. I'll just be sayin' ay-de-os to you and the Marshal now. (we hear him cock his gun) Uh, where IS the Marshal, Deputy Flanagan?

JIM

Right here, Nevins. Drop the gun.

We hear the sound of a gasp and then a dropped gun.

JIM

You too, boys.

They also drop their guns.

JIM

Fernando!

FERNANDO

Ee-hah! (he calls) I'll be right there, Marshal!

JIM

Like I said, Nevins, you done a stupid thing. Real stupid.

CASEY

Who you callin' stupid, Marshal? Let me introduce you to the Boche brothers – Ed, Garret ... and Little Moe. (he calls:) Say hello, Little Moe!

LITTLE MOE

(from a distance) Howdy do, Marshal. (he laughs)
You are one dead lawman.

The shooting begins as everyone dives for their guns.

FERNANDO

(arriving out of breath, just as the shots are silent)
Madre de Dios! Marshal Hollister! You've been shot!

JIM

(in pain) Looks like – I counted wrong, Fernando.

The music swells to a climactic, cliff-hanging note and segues into the MARSHAL HOLLISTER, LAWMAN OF LOS ANGELES theme song.

The lights fade up slowly to reveal a radio station of the early 1950's. At stage left is the sound stage. There is acoustical tile on the walls and stand microphones on the floor. The back wall houses the control booth; we cannot see inside of it.

At stage right is the soundproofed greenroom, where actors can relax when not participating in a particular segment of the show. There are chairs, an end table and a couch. On the wall is a volume control switch for tuning in or out the sound from the studio. There is a door which connects the sound stage with the greenroom and each room has an exit to leave the stage entirely.

As the lights come up, we can see the people behind the voices of the characters: JIM KALISH portrays James Hollister. In physical appearance, he is very unlike the character he plays. He is not tall, he is not handsome – yet when he speaks, he truly IS Marshal Hollister. 'MAC' McFARLAND plays Deputy Marshal Fernando Flanagan. He also plays Doc, Little Moe, Sam, Julie and every other odd voice on the show. He is the proverbial 'man of a thousand voices'. There are some scenes where he is literally carrying on entire conversations with himself. BRETT TURNER plays Casey Nevins on the show. He is very attractive in a TV cowboy sort of way. Also in the studio is TUCKER THOMPSON, the sound effects guy who creates all of the sounds for the MARSHAL HOLLISTER show, including background music, which is available on a number of records.

As the theme music reaches a crescendo, the OFFSTAGE ANNOUNCER declares:

ANNOUNCER

Gumpertz Oateo's, the breakfast as big as the west,
brings you – (“Tada!” the music blares)

ANNOUNCER

MARSHAL HOLLISTER, LAWMAN OF LOS
ANGELES! (he pronounces the city as 'ahn-hell-
es')

There is more theme music.

ANNOUNCER

(back to the anglicized pronunciation) Los Angeles, California. Eighteen fifty-three. A sleepy town north of the border with a reputation for murder. A safe hideout for every horse thief and assassin in the southwest. Safe that is, until Marshal Hollister pinned on a star. James Hollister, an ordinary man, who took the job nobody wanted – making the streets of Los Angeles safe for its honest citizens. Jim Hollister: a man with no shadow. A man with no past. Marshal James Hollister, who with Deputy Fernando Flanagan – son of an Irish immigrant father and a California Señorita – fight to keep the peace in the 'City of the Angels'. Pack up your saddlebags and ride with us out west to yesterday. The Lawman of Los Angeles rides at dawn!