



TUNA TIDBITS

Tuna, Texas, is a fictional town where the Lion's Club is too liberal and Pasty Cline never dies. Creators Joe Sears, Jaston Williams and Ed Howard have taken their satire on rural America to a new play land — Las Vegas!

Here's the *Tuna Does Vegas* Plot Summary:

Arles and Bertha plan to renew their wedding vows. Petey Fisk, from the Greater Tuna Humane Society, goes on a mission to find out if the white jungle cats in Vegas are really albinos or just the victims of bad dye jobs. Inita and Helen from the Tastee Kreme take a spin as showgirls. Joe Bob goes on the Rush Limbaugh diet and Vera and Pearl battle over the slot machines. Leonard's wife accidentally stuffs a \$20 bill into a male dancer's underwear and goes back for change.

Characters at the Vegas Hula Chateau Hotel include: manager Anna Conda, a woman of the world, who has been everywhere except Utah; Maurice, owner of the in-house beauty salon; and Ricky the masseuse and a hotel security guard who was shot in the buttocks by Sinatra. An Elvis impersonator, from the sequined white stretch-pants era, gets double-booked with another Elvis impersonator from the "Blue Hawaii" period.

Here's a Summary of the Boys:

Joe Sears is a native of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and a graduate of Northeastern State University in Oklahoma.

Jaston Williams grew up in Crosbyton, Texas, and attended San Jacinto Junior College in Houston.

The two met in 1973 at the First Repertory Company of San Antonio, at auditions for a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Director Ed Howard bankrolled the first production of *Greater Tuna* with his life savings: \$10,000.

Three months after opening *Greater Tuna* Off Broadway at Circle in the Square, Joe and Jaston were booked on *Late Night With David Letterman* (Jan. 5, 1983).

In 1985 and 1986, *Greater Tuna* was the most performed play in the United States.

Joe and Jaston played a command performance for George and Barbara Bush at the White House in 1989, then again for Barbara Bush and a party of congressional wives in 1990.

In December of 1994, *A Tuna Christmas* took Broadway by storm. Joe Sears received a Tony Award nomination for Best Actor in a Play.

In 2000, Joe and Jaston wrote the libretto to a new opera, *Ocheata's Wedding*, commissioned by the OK Mozart International Music Festival.

By the end of 2001, Joe and Jaston had racked up over 4,000 performances, combining the tours of *Greater Tuna*, *A Tuna Christmas* and *Red, White and Tuna*.

In 2002, Joe and Jaston launched a limited 20th Anniversary tour of *Greater Tuna*.

August 4, 2007, *Tuna Does Vegas* premieres in Galveston, Texas.

March 25, 2008, *Tuna Does Vegas* national tour launches in Ft. Worth, Texas.