

The

Reno

Cure



Created by Guy Olivieri

The Reno Cure

By Guy Olivieri



For a single mother, raising a well-adjusted daughter is difficult under the best of conditions. Gina Fisher, the proprietor of one of the famed Reno Divorce Ranches of the 1950s, has a special kind of challenge. Her home is full of rich women from all over the country, waiting out the 6-week divorce process - maybe not the best role models for Gina's 16-year-old daughter, who is on the verge of womanhood. The Reno Cure provides a glimpse at this little-explored bit of American history with real pathos, and real women - not the Donna Reed's and Lucy Ricardo's we're used to when you think of the 50s.

Come to Reno. Ditch your husband. Find yourself.

"Exploiting the very liberal divorce laws in the state of Nevada, a woman could get a divorce from her husband after establishing state residency, which took 6 weeks. In the 1920-50s, it was common for rich women to plan extended stays at dude ranches, founded singularly for this purpose. The practice was known as The Reno Divorce.

I had heard about Reno Divorces in old movies; a large part of the classic movie, *The Women* (1939), takes place at a Reno Divorce Ranch. I was watching a production of *Barfoot In The Park* – I'm a huge Neil Simon fan – and Corie offhandedly mentions running away to Reno to get a divorce. It occurred to me: I didn't know much about this little piece of American, feminist history. Did it stretch into the 1950s?

I bought a book called *Divorce Seekers*, by William L. McGee. I thumbed through it, and immediately got the idea for *The Reno Cure*.

At the time, I was also obsessed with Lucille Ball. In *I Love Lucy*, of course, but I had just caught a movie of hers on TCM called *Stage Door* (1937), that was about a boarding house for women. It got me thinking, "What were women really like then?"

The images we have of women in the 1950s are all white-washed – women went from being blushing virgins to subservient housewives. What were their marriages really like? What were their sex lives like? Where were the women who chose not to conform?

When you combine the ideas you get *The Reno Cure*. Real women finding the courage to leave their dissatisfying lives, and forge new identities – getting a taste of freedom in the country's biggest party city."

Guy Olivieri,

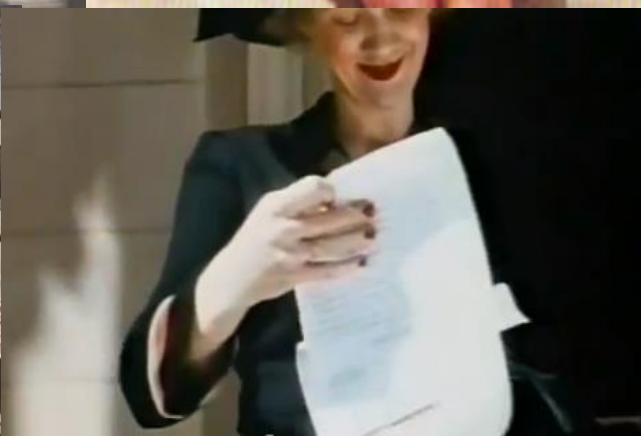


Gina would like Samantha Ranch to be a place where women learn to become independent, fully-realized versions of themselves. Some guests agree. Some just want to party. Billie, a loud, outspoken Mardi-Gras of a woman enjoys a stiff drink and an occasional divorce. Myrna, a mysterious young woman ran away to Reno with a bruised face, and broken heart. Once they get to Samantha Ranch, they both get tangled up with GW, a new ranch hand, desperate to divorce himself from his previous life and identity.



“Sam, martinis are like husbands: If you like the first one, you’re probably going to want a second one. And two feels so good, hell, why not go for three and four?”

A period piece with timeless intrigue and comedy, The Reno Cure handles issues of shame, women’s rights and rebirth. Mixed with equal parts drama, mystery and comedy, audiences will return to Samantha Ranch each week to discover what needs to be left behind in order to move forward.



The Reno Cure

Cast of Characters



Gina Fisher - 38. Devoted to her daughter Sam, and to keeping Samantha Ranch positive place that empowers women during the hardest time of their lives.



Sam Fisher – 16 - Gina's daughter. She's a tomboy now , but there's a beautiful woman just under the surface. She's bored with her life, and craves any type of adventure.



Clarence Clarke– 45. The lawyer. He's handsome and slick and always smoking a cigar. He's got a casual confidence that both infuriates and attracts Gina. He's in love with her, and has nothing but the best intentions.



Billie McGillicutty Ackerman. 32. A guest of the ranch. She's also waiting out her time in Reno before her divorce. She's got "spare" boyfriend waiting in the wings. She's fun and unfiltered, but sometimes brash and mean. She's the type of woman you'd love to be friends with, but you'd be terrified if she were an enemy.

Cast of Characters



Myrna Corvinus– 25. A Westchester beautiful Housewife. She's a guest at the ranch, and arrives terrified and nearly broken. She hides the information that her husband was abusive, and she ran away after he raped her. We learn in the first episode that she's pregnant, and that news is devastating to her.



GW Conner– 40 - The new cowboy. He's been brought to the ranch to pick up some of Jack's duties. He's mysterious, quiet and nervous. We learn in the first episode that he's on the run from the law: he was an unwitting accomplice in a robbery perpetrated by his brother Joe, in which a security guard was killed.



Jack – 66. Gina's avuncular ranch hand. He's been with Gina for years and is like family. He's her confidante, even though he is over-the-hill, and can't perform all of his duties anymore.



Miss P – 50. The cook. Her real name is Agatha. She's harried and funny. She's always getting burned. Sam gave her the nickname Miss Paris when she was 5, because Agatha has been to Paris when she was young.

RENO

THE BIGGEST LITTLE CITY IN THE WORLD



The Reno Cure

For a full script or further
inquiries, contact
Off Off Hollywood Productions

Divorce Decree



RENO Train Departures			
PACIFIC STANDARD TIME			
WESTWARD			
No	NAME		Departs
23	Gold Coast	To San Francisco	10:40 P.M.
101	City of S.F.	Streamliner	2:22 A.M.
605	Tonopah Exp.	To Reno only	6:10 P.M.
21	Fast Mail	To San Francisco	8:25 P.M.
27	San Francisco	Overland	
25		To Sacramento	