



[CARL PERKINS] Male 20 – 35. actor/singer/guitar player (lead guitar); he was the American pioneer of rockabilly music and best known for his song “Blue Suede Shoes”; must be an excellent lead guitarist; prepare a Carl Perkins or Elvis Presley song (or song in that style from that era) and accompany yourself on the guitar; an amp will be provided; in the production, Carl Perkins sings “Matchbox,” “Who Do You Love?,” “My Babe,” and “See You Later, Alligator.”

[START]

CARL

Mistuh Phillips? I’m Carl Perkins, and this here’s my brother Jay. We drove down from Jackson. Come to play you a couple of tunes.

PHILLIPS

(to CARL)

It’s kinda late boy, but...well, whatcha got?

CARL

Got a song I wrote called “Blue Suede Shoes.”

PHILLIPS

(incredulous)

You wrote a song about your shoes?

CARL

Yes sir.

PHILLIPS

Well, uhh...okay. You really must like them shoes.

CARL

When you’re as poor as us, Mistuh Phillips, you like ANY kinda shoes.

PHILLIPS

Son, I ain’t never heard a rich man make a record worth a damn. Y’all farmin’ boys?

CARL

Tell you the truth, Mistuh Phillips, we was sharecroppers. Wasn’t nuthin’ beneath us, ‘cept the ground...

Continue...

PHILLIPS

Where'd you learn to play then, son?

CARL

There was an old colored man across the field...ever'one called him Uncle John. He taught me how to play git-tar like no one you ever heard.

PHILLIPS

Well, flog me a lick, son. Show me some a'that.

(CARL plays a hillbilly lick)

No, No. That ain't no kind of nothin'. Lemme hear some of them blues you were talkin' about.

(CARL plays a funky blues riff)

Now ain't that somethin'. So what you want from me, son?

CARL

I want you to hear my song. Put out a record on me.

PHILLIPS

(to AUDIENCE)

So I listened to that song and I recorded his "Blue Suede Shoes."

[END SIDE 1]

Side 2 begins on following page

[START SIDE 2]

CARL

Mistuh Phillips. Uhh...Me an' the boys talked it over, and we've signed to go to Columbia as well when our deal is up here.

(silence)

Mistuh Phillips. I been high, low, and ever'place in-between this year. But when "Blue Suede Shoes" was Number One, an' I was driving to New York City to sing "my" song on the Perry Como television show--and we had that bad car wreck...a week later I'm layin' in bed in the hospital watchin' the Ed Sullivan Show...watchin' Elvis Presley sing MY SONG on the Ed Sullivan Show. You can't believe how that feels! That shoulda been MY break.

ELVIS

Carl, you know the Colonel was the one...

CARL

(to ELVIS)

You got the whole world pitchin' songs at ya'--you coulda left "Blue Suede Shoes" alone. Since you done the song on TV ever'one thinks it's your song. I got dee-jays tellin' me I'm coverin' Elvis. Naw, it's the other way around, ain't it.

(to PHILLIPS)

And then there come a time and I'm standin' out there, and by God, I hear Sam Phillips on the phone to the pressin' plant tellin' them to take my records off the presses and put Johnny Cash on.

PHILLIPS

Carl, that was just for a day or two. We had to get them records in the stores. We had ads runnin' out west...

CARL

You give up on me Mistuh Phillips. You know you did.

(this is a body blow to PHILLIPS)

Well, it don't matter what's bin did and what's bin hid...like you talking to RCA, huh? The upshot is that Columbia offered me a deal. Promised to get behind my records. Damn near guaranteed me another hit.

(PHILLIPS stares at CARL...looks slowly around the room...turns and walks, exiting toward sound booth)

[END SIDE 2]