

ALL (CONT'D)

BUT LAY OFF A MY BLUE SUEDE SHOES
WELL IT'S A BLUE, BLUE, BLUE SUEDE SHOES
BLUE, BLUE, BLUE SUEDE SHOES
BLUE, BLUE, BLUE SUEDE SHOES
BLUE, BLUE, BLUE SUEDE SHOES

CARL

WELL YOU CAN DO ANYTHING
BUT LAY OFF A MY BLUE SUEDE SHOES

(song ends...lights down on ALL but SAM PHILLIPS, who has entered the studio and is illuminated by a mystic shaft of light, and on the FOUR BOYS, who are facing forward toward the AUDIENCE, each framed in their own individual shaft of the otherworldly light of SAM's imagination...bass and drums continue to play quietly underneath.

PHILLIPS

(to AUDIENCE)

Ain't they somethin'?

1A INTRODUCTION (UNDERScore)

Every one of my boys started right here, and we've been blessed this past year. Blessed with success beyond our wildest imaginings. Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, Elvis Presley, and Johnny Cash.

(PHILLIPS crosses downstage...lights begin to dim on QUARTET who exit in the dark)

And my name is Samuel Cornelius Phillips. Pretty big name for a little red dirt Alabama country boy, huh? This is mah company. Sun Records. See, I was a radio man. Come to Memphis right after the war...and prob'ly could'a been a big wheel here. But there's a cussedness 'bout me. It's hard as hell to work for someone else. And another thing, I didn't just wanna PLAY the tunes, I wanted to RECORD 'em. So, first of 1950 I threw the cards in the air, and started Sun Records. Now don't be thinkin' I just fell in the luck bucket findin' these kids. It ain't that easy. There were a LOTTA years when dee-jays wouldn't play none a'my records. Back then, I'd PAY 'em, and they still wouldn't play 'em. If I hadn't had

PHILLIPS (CONT'D)

faith in what I was doin', I'd a' given up a long time ago. Now, you might'a heard that I had to sell ol' Elvis to RCA, so he ain't on Sun Records anymore. Well, RCA called again...and who do you think they wanna buy now?

(PHILLIPS invites AUDIENCE to guess)

Me! Yeah, offering a LOT of money to fold Sun Records into RCA. Move up to New York City...work exclusively with Elvis again. I been stallin' 'em, but they're lowerin' the boom on me. They want an answer--by close of business tonight.

(lights transition into studio)

Hey fellas. Elvis just called. He's up the street at Jo-Jo Coogie's place and he's comin' by directly. Don't none of y'all tell Carl when he gets here. Got it?

BROTHER JAY AND FLUKE

Yup.

PHILLIPS

Them boys prob'ly ain't seen each other since I had 'em doin' shows offa that ol' flat bed truck in Grenada, Mississippi.

(to FLUKE)

Musta bin 'bout a year, huh?

FLUKE

Yup. We all come away with four bucks apiece.

BROTHER JAY

Yeah, four bucks.

PHILLIPS

And now--now we all got Cadillacs and diamond rings.

(JERRY LEE re-enters from outside)

JERRY LEE

Not me, buddy. I got a broke-down Ford. And, Mr. Phillips...I might need me a little payday loan...what with gas up to twenty-five cents 'n all.