

SYNOPSIS: “THE SIDE EFFECT PILL”

A Musical Satire with 15 original songs
music & lyrics by Terry Crystal
book & original story by Don DiVecchio
c. 2013

PILCO Pharmaceutical is losing money and going under fast. What are top executives to do? The executives (Aldo, Max and Susan) create a new blockbuster pill to cure all side-effects.

In this musical satire, everyone has an agenda. Law suits from the side effects of the company's pills have been cutting into profits and CEO Max pretends to go senile in case he needs to make a quick exit. His nephew, Aldo, unaware of the company's problems, plans to replace him, and Susan, head of research & development, goes along to get along. Liz, an undercover reporter posing as research scientist, falls in love with fellow researcher Justin. But Justin becomes spokesman for the new pill, and Liz is torn between her love for him and exposing the company's past transgressions. Justin loves Liz as well, but is hesitant to enter a new relationship, especially when he sees her seducing Aldo to get into the company vault.

In the end, the side effect pill has unexpected consequences - it is also a truth serum which helps people see the error of their ways. Liz has been spiking the executive water-cooler, and Aldo and Max get a taste of their own medicine.

Dramatis Personae:

Liz – Undercover reporter and researcher (alto/mezzo)

Justin – Researcher (tenor)

Susan – Head of Research & Development (soprano)

Max – President of Pillco Corp. (baritone)

Aldo – Head of Marketing (tenor)