

# Centre Stage The Musical

***THE DUGDALE ARTS CENTRE, ENFIELD***

***7.00pm Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025***

<b>Girl Students</b>	
Chelsea	<i>Rei YF</i>
Lara	<i>Sofia G</i>
Lucy	<i>Arianna C</i>
Janice	<i>Annabelle T</i>
Sarah	<i>Kayra G</i>
Sally	<i>May H</i>
Michelle	<i>Kani S</i>
Cathy	<i>Sophia P</i>
Annabel	<i>Orla S</i>
Michaela	<i>Isabel C</i>
Charlotte	<i>Layla O</i>

<b>Board Members</b>	
Gloria Goodman	<i>Phaedra K</i>
Andrea Silverman	<i>Elodie G</i>
Debbie Dabble	<i>Leana AE</i>

<b>Investors</b>	
Hayley Swift	<i>Autumn A</i>
Jane Sharp	<i>Scarlett W</i>
Ryan Charmers	<i>Rex N</i>
Anna Forsyth	<i>Ava S</i>
Frank Peterson	<i>Tom A</i>

<b>Boy Students</b>	
Billy	<i>Conor S</i>
Matt	<i>Joshua O</i>
Craig	<i>Nell N</i>
Olly	<i>Minnie H</i>

<b>Other</b>	
Pushy Mum	<i>Scarlett W</i>
Carmen	<i>Autumn A</i>
Burton - Surveyor	<i>Rex N</i>
Tax Person	<i>Ava S</i>
MC	<i>Tom A</i>
Tim (Emerson Tools)	<i>Tom A</i>
Amy (Emerson Tools)	<i>Autumn A</i>
Alicia (Emerson Tools)	<i>Ava S</i>
Stacey (Busy Office)	<i>Scarlett W</i>
Ron (Busy Office)	<i>Rex N</i>
Reggie (Advertising Company)	<i>Rex N</i>
Tony (Advertising Company)	<i>Tom A</i>
Susan (Advertising Company)	<i>Scarlett W</i>
Alice (Advertising Company)	<i>Ava S</i>
Passer By	<i>Autumn A</i>
Paublo	<i>Rex N</i>
Franco	<i>Tom A</i>

<b>Teachers</b>	
Janet Thompson	<i>Lilah Z</i>
Josh Hansen	<i>Jacob MF</i>
Leona Drinkwater	<i>Florence A</i>
Gemma Finch	<i>Martha S</i>
Harriet Hackett	<i>Olivia S</i>

**ACT ONE**  
**SCENE 1: Prologue – Boardroom**

*The scene opens on a large boardroom of OWNERS and INVESTORS. The SECRETARY is also present taking the minutes of the meeting. Lights up...*

GLORIA

Well I'm glad to see you all again, at what I hope will be a straightforward and encouraging meeting.

ANNA

Evening Gloria.

GLORIA

Evening Anna. For those of you who don't know, this is Anna Forsyth, one of our most recent investors. On my left, my business partner Andrea Silverman and our school secretary, Debbie Dabble. Next to her are Hayley Swift and Jane... I'm sorry, I didn't catch your surname, Jane...?

JANE

Sharpe.

GLORIA

Yes, Jane Sharpe. Hayley and Jane are both from the BubblePop Corporation. Next along, Ryan Charmers, from Formidable Fashion.

CHARMERS

Good evening everyone.

GLORIA

And last but not least, Frank Peterson of Wallace and Ellis Investment Banking. How are the boys back at the office Frank?

FIONA

Quite alright thanks, and business is thriving.

ANNA

Hello everyone. My own business is rather small compared to yours, I just bake cakes really, so I won't say much.

SILVERMAN

Well actually, Anna's chain of bakeries now extends to three cities which is no mean feat. So say as much as you like Anna.

*(JOHN SWIFT looks at his watch and coughs)*

GLORIA

Yes, moving on. As you are aware we call a financial meeting once a year for all our investors. However, this year we felt the need to bring it forward a few weeks.

PETERSON

Yes, why has it been brought forward, you didn't really say on the phone.

SWIFT

Perhaps if you'd read your notes you would know the answer to that question.

CHARMERS

Centre Stage's profits have been declining dramatically of late.

GLORIA

As you know, we are one of the leading Performing Arts schools in the country. A slight slump as we've seen of late is really not something to be too concerned about.

SWIFT

Well as *you* know, we are one of the leading soft drinks manufacturers in the country and to us that sort of slump *is* a concern.

SHARP

Given that ours is the largest investment in the school, we stand to make the greatest loss. Our sponsorship alone totals in excess of £700,000 a year, and frankly the return we're witnessing doesn't merit the outlay.

CHARMERS

Yes and our £500,000 is no mere drop in the ocean.

SILVERMAN

*(Clears her throat)* Right, well, hum... I having been over the paperwork and I propose that our forthcoming financial year will be more successful. The relationship between investment and return will improve greatly with the umm... sorry, the end of year production we intend to stage. I predict a 5% increase in return upon all of your investments. *(Looks pleased with finally getting that out)*

SWIFT

Well I'm afraid realistically that's not enough.

CHARMERS

It's not just about financial return Gloria. With a company like Formidable Fashion, publicity is an important consideration, and quite frankly, we at Formidable Fashion are seriously reviewing our future investment.

GLORIA

This is all news to me. I was not aware your concern ran so deep.

DEBBIE

Nor was I, and I don't think that two days before the start of the new term is the time to bring this up. Why hasn't this been mentioned before?

SWIFT

Miss Dabble, with all due respect, we all, well most of us, represent large multi-national companies, and although it may come as a slight surprise to you, our everyday activities do not revolve around a performing arts school.

SHARPE

We only really review our 'less important' commitments like sponsorship on a quarterly basis. One of which has just passed, therefore explaining our desire to bring this meeting forward.

DEBBIE

It all feels slightly underhand to me.

PETERSON

So you requested the meeting be brought forward?

SWIFT

Correct.

PETERSON

I can't say I've been particularly aware of the concerns you've just shared.

SWIFT

Well I'm sorry, to us the situation is clear. The BubblePop Corporation have decided to cease our commitment to Centre Stage at the end of the coming term, reluctantly we see no alternative.

ANNA

Oh no, that's terrible.

DEBBIE

Is this legal, can they really do this Andrea, at a drop of a hat?

SILVERMAN

I'm afraid so.

GLORIA

This is not the meeting I was expecting, nor wanting just before term.

CHARMERS

I'm sorry to say that from the end of the year the same will apply for us Gloria. I hadn't anticipated being joined by anybody else and I'm sure this comes as rather a shock to you, but it just isn't viable anymore. I am sorry.

GLORIA

You do know what this will mean to us, don't you? (*Silence*) Well don't you? We'll have to close if we don't find new sponsorship – and find it quickly. After such a long association with you all I am genuinely hurt by this. I trusted you all, and I trusted your word.

SWIFT

I understand your disappointment, but it is not good business sense to just throw money away, it is as simple as that Gloria.

DEBBIE

One final thing... is this all about money? Have you even thought about the children?

CHARMERS

I can only speak for myself Debbie, and naturally that has been the hardest part of this for me. But at the end of the day, as Mrs Swift says, business is unfortunately business.

## **SCENE 2: New term at school – The playground.**

*The lights slowly come up, we hear the school bell ring and we see a scurry of activity as the children start to arrive for the new term. OLLY and BILLY are already on stage, MATT and CRAIG enter.*

BILLY

Hey! Matt my man, how's it going?

MATT

Good man, nice to see you again Billy. So how you doing boys, how was your summer?

BILLY

Got to go down as one of the best. I went to a lot of parties.

OLLY

I had a good time as well, except for the accident.

MATT

*(Shocked, concerned)* What accident?

OLLY

I lost two fingers in a carpentry accident working with my Dad.

CRAIG

No way, really? Let me see the scar.

OLLY

*(Holds up hand with two fingers down)* Look, my hand, Oh! Wow, I seem to have found them again!  
*(Makes a 'V' sign, the boys laugh)*

CRAIG

Oh, very funny, nice to see you too.

OLLY

Only joking mate, nice to see you haven't changed.

MATT

Still a bit slow!

BILLY

Slow? If Craig got any slower, he'd walk backwards. *(They laugh)*

MATT

We're just messing about Craig, it's good to see you again. I'm looking forward to this term. It should be a good one.

BILLY

Definitely, I'm looking forward to meeting the new girls!

MATT

No, I mean the rehearsals and the show.

CRAIG

Yeah, this is my lucky term, I can feel it, I'm going to get a star part.

BILLY

You're not going to get a lead Craig, unless you practice hard.

OLLY

Yeah, the only lead you're getting is for your pet dog!

CRAIG

Get lost.

BILLY

Hey, hey, it's Miss Drinkwater.

ALL

Wow!

*(DRINKWATER walks across stage to GIRLS)*

LUCY

Morning Miss.

DRINKWATER

Good morning Lucy. Did you have a nice holiday?

LUCY

Yes Miss, I went to see Swan Lake and I've decided I want to join the Royal Ballet when I leave Centre Stage.

DRINKWATER

Really, well work hard and you just might. That goes for all of you, the hard work that is.

GIRLS

Yes Miss.

*(DRINKWATER walks past the girls and into the school)*

CHELSEA

That Drinkwater fancies herself so much...

*(LARA and JANICE enter and join the GIRLS)*

JANICE

What was that, Drinkwater fancies herself? Ha, like you don't!

LUCY

Oh hi ya Janice, Lara.

CHELSEA

Hi!

LARA

How is everyone, alright? Do anything nice over the summer Chelsea?

CHELSEA

Yes I did actually. I went out on a date with Jeremy Sanders from the Boys' School. *(Reaction)*

LUCY

And what about you Janice?

JANICE

Nah not really, got in a fight with this lad, but other than that, nothin' much.

LARA

A fight? You never said!

JANICE

Nah, no point really, it wasn't all that. He tried to kiss me so I gave him a slap.

*(MR HANSEN, the new teacher, enters the playground and walks to centre stage.)*

ALL GIRLS *(Except JANICE)*

Who's that???!!!

ALL BOYS

Who's that!!!

*(PUSHY MUM enters and bundles her way through the crowd dragging Annabel along by the hand.)*

PUSHY MUM

Come on darling, hurry up. *(They stop.)* Right, got everything? Come here. *(She licks her handkerchief and wipes and wipe her daughter's face.)* Right, you look lovely. Now remember, listen hard and don't go getting involved in any fun and games, you are here to learn, remember. Now go on, run along and get ready for class. *(PUSHY MUM exits.)*

*(MISS THOMPSON, the Head, walks across to speak to the staff who are congregating by the entrance)*

THOMPSON

Good Morning Mr Hanson!

HANSON

Miss Thompson, lovely to see you.

THOMPSON

Oh please, do call me Janet!

HANSEN

OK Janet!

THOMPSON

Let me introduce you to some of your new colleagues. This is Gemma Finch.

FINCH

Morning... welcome on board!

HANSEN

Ha, yes thank you.

THOMPSON

This is Leona Drinkwater

DRINKWATER

Good Morning, lovely to meet you at last.

HANSEN

Yes, you too. Looking forward to this new term Leona?

DRINKWATER

Yes, very much so. Come back fit, refreshed and ready for fun.

FINCH

Indeed... and here comes the lovely Ms Hackett. You may well find her slightly disagreeable at times, but I'm sure you'll get along fine!

DRINKWATER

He'll be the first if he does!

HACKETT

What are we all doing standing around outside like a bunch of old fish wives?

THOMPSON

We're just chatting away waiting for the kids, Harriet. How was your summer?

HACKETT

Satisfactory, shall we? *(She walks into the school. Reaction)*

*(GLORIA GOODMAN comes out of the school gates and addresses everyone before they enter)*

GLORIA

Quiet please, everyone. Good morning and welcome back to a new term at Centre Stage. Most of you know me in some way, shape or form, but for those of you that don't, I'm Gloria Goodman, the owner of the school and so on behalf of myself, and all of the staff – welcome, and may you all have an enjoyable time here!



## **SONG 1: Opening – welcome to Centre Stage!**

*(Everyone starts filing off stage, going into the school)*

OLLY

So any new girls?

BILLY

Nah, no one new. Matt's still got his eye on Lara though.

CRAIG

What, you fancy Lara?

BOYS

Shushh...

CHELSEA

Did you hear that Lara? Someone just shouted your name.

LARA

Who was it?

JANICE

I think it was Matt. Come on, let's go.

*(LARA Looks behind her and exchanges glances with MATT. BOYS follow GIRLS into school, lights fade out)*

## **SCENE 3: Auditions**

*TEACHERS enter carrying chairs to set up the audition, forming a panel at the front of the stage. The staff are led in by an impatient MS HACKETT. They sit in a row facing upstage as the scene begins*

HACKETT

Hurry it along, I don't want this to take all day.

THOMPSON

Patience Harriet... *(HACKETT sits and huffs)*

HANSEN

I'm quite looking forward to this. I haven't really had a chance to see what the kids can do as yet.

HACKETT

Hold your enthusiasm until you've sat through thirty of them, then tell me whether you're still enjoying it.

FINCH

That's hardly fair Harriet. I'm looking forward to it too Josh, there are some lovely singing voices you know.

HANSEN

Good, I can't wait.

THOMPSON

Now... Don't be too harsh on them everyone. We don't want any tears, do we? *(The first group enters)*  
Ah girls, come on in. What are you going to do for your audition?

MICHAELA

We are going to do ?????????? for you Miss.

FINCH

Lovely. Now we may stop you when we think we've seen enough, OK? So, when you're ready.

**(FIRST AUDITION: The group performs until THOMPSON stops her)**

THOMPSON

Next!

**(SECOND AUDITION: Another student/group enters and does a dance. Again THOMPSON stops her after a short while.)**

THOMPSON

Next!

FINCH

That girl can really dance, can't she Leona?

DRINKWATER

Well her movement isn't bad I suppose, but she'll have to work on her physique, and if she wants to be a dancer she'll have to be a lot more supple. My limbs can still do things she can only dream of.

*(DRINKWATER looks seductively at HANSEN)*

THOMPSON

Yes, next.

**(THIRD AUDITION: Another student/group enters and performs an audition (it's meant to be bad), they are once again stopped by THOMPSON)**

THOMPSON

Thank you!

DRINKWATER

Oh no... I don't think so.

THOMPSON

Shall we carry on. Next.

ANNABEL

Hello everyone, my turn at last! Where would you like me to stand, is here OK? I'm so excited, and a little nervous, but I'll give it my best shot. We've been rehearsing for two weeks, so I hope you like it. My mum says I'll be the next Taylor Swift. (*laughs*)

FINCH

I'm sure you could be.

ANNABEL

I'm/we're going to sing *????* from/by *????*... Music please.

**(FOURTH AUDITION: ANNABEL/Group performs a verse or two of a song until THOMPSON stops her)**

THOMPSON

Thank you, that was lovely.

ANNABEL

Do you think so? I'm not sure, I think I've done it better in my room. I don't know if I hit the top C, did I hit the top C Mrs Finch?

FINCH

Yes Annabel.

ANNABEL

Did you like the dancing Miss Drinkwater? I choreographed it myself!

DRINKWATER

Yes Annabel.

ANNABEL

Do you think I had good stage presence Mr Hansen?

HANSEN

Yes Annabel.

ANNABEL

'Cause my mum says I have...

THOMPSON

*Thank you* Annabel. We'd love to stop and talk, but we're on a tight schedule. Goodbye.

ANNABEL

Yes Miss. Thank you all, bye! (*All the TEACHERS breathe a sigh of relief*)

HACKETT

Thank goodness for that! Mr Hansen, I think you should work with that girl... on MIME!

THOMPSON

Lunch!

**SONG 2: Audition Process – wanting the role/nervous for the outcome**

#### SCENE 4: Calling for Sponsorship – Office.

*The lights come up on the office where we see GLORIA, DEBBIE and SILVERMAN all seated around the table. A telephone is seen on the desk. We see them flicking through papers/phones/tablets/laptops looking for details of companies they are going to call for sponsorship.*

GLORIA

There really isn't that much here, is there?

SILVERMAN

Well... No... Not really. We just need to find the big companies in the area, there's no real point in asking just anyone. We need to speak to those people with large turnovers.

DEBBIE

*(Holding up a piece of paper)* What about this one?

SILVERMAN

Never heard of them, what do they do?

DEBBIE

*(Studying paper)* They make kitchen and bathroom accessories.

GLORIA

May be worth a go.

DEBBIE

What about... Monster International... They sound quite big, Mrs Goodman?

GLORIA

OK Debbie, pass it here. I'll give this one go as well.

SILVERMAN

I've got one too... Johnson Campbell Investment Bankers, I've heard of them – they're huge!

GLORIA

Right folks, here goes nothing...

*(GLORIA picks up the phone, the others crowd around her as she makes the first call. The phone rings as lights come up on the stage and we see ALICIA, ALICE and TIM sitting around eating their lunch.)*

ALICIA

Did you watch the whole game?

AMY

No, only bothered watching the first half. England were rubbish!

TIM

Are you going to answer that? Oh... I'll get it. *(Picks up the phone)* Hello?

GLORIA

Hello. Gloria Goodman here from Centre Stage Performing Arts School. I'm looking to speak to someone about sponsorship. Would that be yourself?

TIM

Ummm? Wait just one minute. *(Covering the receiver)* There's someone from some stage school asking about sponsorship. What shall I say?

ALICIA

I don't know. See what she's got to say. *(022 and 023 join 021 around the phone and listen in.)*

TIM

Sorry about that. How exactly can I help you?

GLORIA

Well like I say, it's regarding sponsorship. We are currently looking to gain new sponsors for our forthcoming term. Have you heard of our school at all?

TIM

No, can't say I have.

DEBBIE

Well we are one of the leading Performing Arts Schools in the country and we have been running for over 25 years now.

SILVERMAN

And we are just looking for additional help from new companies who would be interested in the advertising benefits from being associated with a successful school like ours.

ALICIA

Ask her how much she wants.

TIM

How much are you actually looking for?

GLORIA

Yes... well somewhere in the region of £200,000 would certainly be a great start, but obviously as much as you are prepared to invest.

TIM

*(Covering receiver)* They want £200,000.

AMY

No!

TIM

No, sorry. *(Puts the receiver down and continues eating lunch. Lights fade down on the main stage)*

GLORIA

Right, next one.

*(Again GLORIA picks up the phone to ring. The lights come up on the main stage revealing a high-profile board meeting in progress with REGGIE, TONY and ALICE. The phone is picked up by SUSAN during the following dialogue and mimes a conversation. )*

ALICE

The situation is clear, we need to look at the advertising campaign again. Frankly Tony, this *(holding up a piece of artwork)* doesn't do it for me.

REGGIE

Nor me.

TONY

It is what you asked for, but if you want me to rethink it, that's fine.

ALICE

Oh no Tony, not rethink – start from scratch. You've got until Friday.

SUSAN

There's a phone call for you from a lady looking for investment in her arts school.

ALICE

Tell him no.

SUSAN

Sorry Mrs Goodman, no

DEBBIE

No joy?

GLORIA

Sadly not. Right, final one – Monster International.

*(She dials again. We see an office scene in full flow. STACEY, RON and workers are looking for something.)*

RON

Where is that report? It was on my desk five minutes ago.

STACEY

I haven't seen in. *(From under the desk)* I'm sure it's not down here.

RON

*(Answering the phone)* Hello?

GARY

Yes, hello. I'm calling from Centre Stage Performing Arts...

RON

No. *(Puts the phone down)* Now find that report before someone loses their job! *(The lights fade down on main stage)*

*(The phone is put down and the lights fade on the main stage to leave GLORIA and the others in the office looking rather despondent.)*

DEBBIE

What did they say?

GLORIA

No of course, like all the others.

SILVERMAN

We are going to have to find someone quickly you know. We've only really got enough funds to see us through to half term. After that we are clinging on by our fingertips.

DEBBIE

Is it really that serious? I didn't realise.

GLORIA

Well you do now Debbie. I must ask you to keep this to yourself.

DEBBIE

Of course Mrs Goodman. Mum's the word.

SILVERMAN

Well folks, we'd better get back to work.. Sleep on it and we'll see what we can do and we'll talk more tomorrow.

GLORIA

We've got to come up with something otherwise we'll have to seriously consider closing the school in the summer.

*(Blackout)*

## **SCENE 5: The Dance Class**

*The lights come up on a dance class. The students are on stage, some are going through dance steps with DRINKWATER, others are standing/sitting around the stage chatting.*

DRINKWATER

OK everyone. Let's go through the routine once more without the music, just marking the steps. From the top, and 5,6,7,8.

**(A group dance and DRINKWATER corrects them, etc.)**

SARAH

Lucy really is a fantastic dancer, isn't she? One day she'll make it, I'm sure.

SALLY

She's alright. But she's not amazing, considering how long she's been dancing.

MICHELLE

Yeah, since she was four years old or something, sad or what?

SALLY

I reckon we're as good as she is.

MICHELLE

Well, we'll find out soon enough, as soon as the results from the auditions are printed.

CRAIG

Miss Drinkwater works so fast I'm having trouble remembering the steps.

OLLY

You always do Craig.

CRAIG

At least I try, which is more than can be said for some people.

OLLY

The difference is Craig, that I don't try and that's why I get it wrong, whereas you try your hardest and still get it wrong. At least I make slacking look good!

BILLY

Talking of looking good, Chelsea's looking hot these days.

CRAIG

True. What do you think Matt? (*Wave hand in front of MATT'S face who's gazing at LARA*) Hello? Earth to Matthew!

MATT

Huh? Yeah, she's lovely.

BILLY

We weren't talking about Lara, lover-boy! What do you think of Chelsea?

MATT

She's alright... do you think Lara likes me? She was looking over here earlier.

BILLY

Play it cool, bide your time. I'll try to find out for you.

JANICE

Those boys keep looking over here.

CHELSEA

Probably fantasising about me.

SARAH

Actually, I think they were looking at Lara.



LARA

Really? Who was looking?

JANICE

Why, who you got your eye on?

LARA

*(Bashful)* Oh, no one really, but I quite like the look of...

DRINKWATER

Alright everyone! Quiet please. Let's have the other group, we'll do the routine once more from the top, this time with the music. Keep stretching if you're dancing so your muscles don't get cold.

LUCY

Can I go through the routine again, Miss?

DRINKWATER

OK Lucy.

MICHELLE

*(Mocking LUCY)* Ooh, Miss Drinkwater, can I have another go, can I, can I?

JANICE

Lucy's so keen she even makes you look lazy, Sally.

SALLY

Ha, ha. There's nothing wrong with a bit of enthusiasm, Janice. It might pay for you to try it sometime.

DRINKWATER

Enough chatting! From the top – 5,6,7,8.

**(DANCE, towards the end BURTON enters and starts surveying etc. The class become distracted)**

DRINKWATER

Keep going everyone.

BURTON

Good Morning.

DRINKWATER

Yes, it was until my class were disrupted. Can I help you?

BURTON

Sorry to be in the way. I just have to get this finished, then I'll be on my way. Shouldn't take long.

DRINKWATER

What exactly are you doing here?

BURTON

Oh, I'm sorry. Were you not told I was coming? The name's Sasha Burton, I'm a surveyor and I'm just estimating the value of the property. Just a routine evaluation, I'll be out of your way in just a minute.

LUCY

Excuse me, we are dancing here. Who is this, Miss?

DRINKWATER

Miss Burton, she's a surveyor.

LUCY

Well why is she here?

DRINKWATER

I don't know Lucy. I don't know.

BURTON

That will be all, thanks. Good day.

DRINKWATER

Goodbye. *(Pause)* OK class, as we were interrupted we'll have to do the routine again, from the top.

ALL

Oh Miss! Do we have to! *(etc.)* It's lunchtime.

LUCY and SALLY

Yes!

*(Blackout)*

## **SCENE 6 – Assembly of Performance**

*As the students all filter in in groups, we focus on different pockets of conversation. We also notice the STAFF are in mid conversation on the stage to one side of MISS THOMPSON.*

THOMPSON

Come along everyone, we haven't got all day. Vincent Minor, stop mucking about and sit down.

DEBBIE

...Well Josh, I've been here a number of years now and I absolutely love the place. The kids are so much fun. I would like to think that when I find the right man, settle down and have kids of my own, they'd be able to come here as well.

HANSEN

Well yes, it's a lovely place to learn.

DEBBIE

I just hope it's still around when I've got children old enough to come here.

HANSEN

Well, I don't see any reason why not.

DEBBIE

No... No...

DRINKWATER

*(Sitting down)* Debbie. Any ideas as to why I had someone interrupt my class today?

DEBBIE

*(Hesitantly)* Um, no, I don't say I do.

DRINKWATER

She just came strolling in and started taking measurements of the room. Very odd.

DEBBIE

Well I think it's probably... um... just because Mrs Goodman is thinking of refurbishing the dance studios.

DRINKWATER

Really? I had no idea. Oh well. How are you, Joshua, settling in OK?

HANSEN

Yes, very well thank you, Leona. The kids are great, I'm really enjoying myself.

DRINKWATER

Good. Remember if you need any help of any kind, I'm always available.

HANSEN

*(Warming to her)* Yes Leona, thank you. That's very kind of you. I may well take you up on that at some time.

SARAH

Where are the boys?

LARA

I don't know. I haven't seen them since dance class.

SALLY

Nah, me neither, probably gone down the shop or something.

LUCY

Talking of boys right, when I went for a dance audition in the summer, I had to do these lifts with this big male dancer from The Royal Ballet. He was amazing, and he asked me out! But I couldn't go 'cause it was my sister's birthday. I was so gutted you know.

LARA

*(Thoughtfully)* I don't really like muscles all that much.

LUCY

No I know you don't, you fancy Matt!

LARA

I don't fancy him, I just think he's nice, that's all.

(JANICE and CHELSEA cross the stage to join the girls)

CHELSEA

Hi y'all.

SALLY

Hi ya. Lara's just explaining to us that she doesn't fancy Matt after all, she just likes him.

CHELSEA

Oh right. I'll tell him when I see him. Oh look, here comes Billy now, I'll tell him to pass it on.

LARA

No, don't you dare.

BILLY

Hello lovely ladies. How are you fine creatures today?

LUCY

Oh sod off Billy!

BILLY

Charming, just being polite. I'll remember next time Lucy. Let's make a little note in my black book. *(Pulls out a black book from his pocket)*... Lucy – likes to be treated mean, that's what will keep her keen!

LUCY

Grow up, and by the way – in your dreams!

CHELSEA

While you're here, Billy, I've got a message for you to give Matt.

LARA

Chelsea, please don't.

JANICE

Oh don't be so wet, Lara, just talk to him then if you don't want our help.

BILLY

What's this? A little blossoming of romance in the ranks? Is this true Lara.. the vibes I'm picking up here suggest you have a slight flutter for my little Matt boy.

LARA

I didn't say that!

BILLY

You didn't have to. Well, well, well. If that's how you like your men, I must say, I feel slightly put out. But it doesn't matter, I'm saving myself for Chelsea anyway *(Looks at CHELSEA)* Aren't I baby?

CHELSEA

Give it a break, moron. Go and play with your little friends.

BILLY

I will. Here they come now actually, I'll go spread the word of luurrvve!

LARA

Please don't, Billy.

BILLY

Later lovers. (*BILLY moves across stage to join the boys who have just entered.*) Yo! Boys, Whassuup?

THOMPSON

Alright everyone, quiet please and let's begin. In today's assembly we will be watching each other's work to see what the other groups have been doing and how everyone is progressing. Remember, this is your last chance to impress us before the results of the auditions go up, so do your best, and good luck.

*(GROUP make their way on stage. While this happens we cut into a discussion by the other groups)*

ANNABEL

I can't wait for it to be our go! I've been practising all week.

MICHAELA

I've got butterflies in my stomach.

CHARLOTTE

That's just nerves. It's called stage fright. Don't worry, you'll enjoy it.

MICHAELA

Look, the next group are ready. I'm looking forward to this. I want to get a top like Chelsea's one, she's so cool.

CHARLOTTE

Well I'll be watching Lucy, don't you think she's an amazing dancer? I'm going to be like her one day.

FINCH

OK everyone. Sing loud and clear and remember your diction.

DRINKWATER

And give me energy!

### **SONG 3: A small section of the 'FINAL' Song**

HANSEN

Well once again, thank you very much. Now after brief discussions up here during your performances, I think we've pretty much made our final decisions on casting for the show.

DRINKWATER

So, by the time you return from break, the parts for this end of term show will be posted on the school notice board.

HACKETT

So go and stretch your legs for a few minutes and when you come back we'll put you out of your misery.

FINCH

Well done all of you. Now have a nice break.

*(Blackout)*

## **SCENE 7: Office**

*The OWNERS, THOMPSON and DEBBIE wait in the office.*

THOMPSON

Wasn't it a wonderful presentation in this morning's assembly? The kids have all done extremely well this term.

GLORIA

Yes, a good term had by all. However, I'm not sure this meeting will be as encouraging. But let's not lose all hope yet.

*(Enter TAX PERSON and SURVEYOR)*

BURTON

Good Afternoon, everyone.

GLORIA

Is it? I hope so.

TAX PERSON

There's no easy way of putting this. No one likes hearing bad news so I'll keep this simple and to the point. On the basis of your financial situation and the results of our recent property survey, I'm afraid the only way we foresee you being able to meet repayments and avoid extreme debt, is to repossess the property.

DEBBIE

Oh!

SILVERMAN

How long do we have?

TAX

In the interests of the school, we're willing to defer until the end of the academic year.

GLORIA

*(Growing angry)* And that's it? There are no other options?

TAX

I'm awfully sorry to bring such bad news, but there's no other way.

DEBBIE

There must be something we can do... Andrea?

SILVERMAN

I'm afraid I think she's right. In our present state, no one will offer us a loan.

GLORIA

I can't believe it...

TAX

The property will be signed over to us at the end of the school year and Centre Stage will have to relocate or close.

GLORIA

Right, I see. Well I think we understand that. Could you leave us now please.

TAX

I am sorry, but with more careful accountancy and less spending, this could have been avoided. We do offer a service to help bankrupt businesses...

GLORIA

I SAID GET OUT!

TAX/BURTON

Have a nice day/Good day to you.

*(Silence. Everyone waits nervously.)*

GLORIA

I can't believe this. I started this school 25 years ago and with my bare hands built it into what it is today. I love this place. How can something like this happen?

DEBBIE

We'll think of something, Mrs Goodman.

GLORIA

I wish it were that simple, Debbie.

SILVERMAN

What do you want us to do?

GLORIA

Nothing for the time being, and this news doesn't leave this office, alright? But sooner or later someone's going to have to tell the staff and the kids that at the end of this year, Centre Stage will be no more.

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT 2**  
**SCENE 1: Kids Lament**

*We open the scene with the TEACHERS leading a rehearsal. Led by MISS FINCH and MISS DRINKWATER.*

FINCH

Alright everybody, not bad, let's go through it again. This time sing it as if you mean it! We're deep into rehearsals now and you need to show me that you're not just singers but performers as well – and music please...

**SONG 4: Another small section of the 'FINAL' Song**

DRINKWATER

Well done... that's become a really strong number, keep that level of performance up. I know you all maybe tired but try to keep the energy up.

CRAIG

But we've been rehearsing all day, Miss!

DRINKWATER

Yes, that's right Craig, but practice makes perfect. From the top!

*(PUSHY MUM storms into the class dragging a reluctant Annabel by the hand.)*

PUSHY MUM

Yes yes... Well done, very good. Hello, Miss Finch isn't it? I'm Mrs Shaw, I've come about my daughter.

FINCH

Well what seems to be the problem? Annabel has been doing very well.

PUSHY MUM

The problem is that Annabel's been practising daily, outside of school hours, and she still hasn't got a lead part in the show. I think you should give her a chance to audition again, now that you know how hard she's been working.

FINCH

Um... Well, what you've got to understand Mrs Shaw is that we have many talented children here and they have all auditioned equally for the parts in the show. If we let Annabel re-audition now, people might think it was unfair.

PUSHY MUM

Well, all I can say is that whoever cast this show must have left their glasses at home and had their hearing aid turned down because they failed to spot the blatant talent that is my daughter. Look at her, she's a shining star. Over you come darling...

*(ANNABEL makes her way over to her mother)*

FINCH

But... I don't think...



PUSHY MUM  
Music maestro please!

FINCH  
I suggest we...

PUSHY MUM  
Ready darling? And off you go honey, show them what you can do...

FINCH  
Really Miss Shaw...

PUSHY MUM  
She's a born natural, a born performer, the next Taylor Swift ...

DRINKWATER  
OK Miss Shaw! Thank you Annabel. We'll do our very best to accommodate both your needs.

PUSHY MUM  
Wasn't so hard now, was it?!

*(Blackout)*

## **SCENE 2: Office Scene – Bad News**

GLORIA, SILVERMAN and DEBBIE are sitting in the office. *The STAFF start to arrive*)

DEBBIE  
Hi ya Mr Hansen, how are you? How was your class, OK?

HANSEN  
Very good, thank you Debbie, how are you?

DEBBIE  
Oh, very well.

HANSEN  
Well you look lovely today, is that a new skirt you're wearing?

DEBBIE  
It is actually, how nice of you to notice. You are a one, Mr Hansen, you are a one!

DRINKWATER  
Hi Josh.

HANSEN  
Leona, hello.

GLORIA

Now, sorry to eat into your lunch break like this, but there are a few things you should all be aware of, and a few things we need to discuss.

HACKETT

Sounds very serious.

GLORIA

Well actually I'm afraid it is. In recent weeks we have been experiencing a few, shall we say, financial difficulties.

SILVERMAN

Firstly, we had two of our major investors pull their funding, which as you can imagine left us in a rather awkward position. Since then we have been pursuing every possible avenue to find alternative Sponsorship but, quite simply, they haven't been forthcoming.

HANSEN

What exactly does that mean in layman's terms?

GLORIA

At this moment in time we have no alternative but to look at this term as our last at Centre Stage.

HACKETT

You mean the school will be closing in the summer?

FINCH

Oh, my word! I don't believe it.

DEBBIE

I knew what you said the other day was serious, but I just thought you'd manage to find a way to sort this out...

HACKETT

Hold on one minute... Did you know about this Debbie?

GLORIA

*(Interrupting)* Yes Harriet. Debbie did know. She is after all my personal assistant.

HACKETT

I am aware of that. But you are also a colleague Debbie, and I thought you may well have seen fit to share this with us.

DRINKWATER

Well, if Debbie knew, who else had prior warning? Because I don't know about anybody else, but my main concern is finding a new job, and a few weeks before the end of term doesn't really give much time for planning, does it!

THOMPSON

I was also aware of the situation Leona, but I honestly didn't think it would come to this.

HACKETT

That's typical, bad man-management, poor communication and a complete disregard for anybody else.

GLORIA

Hold on just one minute, Harriet. I don't really know who that comment is aimed at, but I am the last person who wants to close the school, or for any one of you to lose your jobs, come to that.

HACKETT

I wasn't referring to you Mrs Goodman, I merely meant that Miss Thompson's skills as a Head teacher leave a lot to be desired.

THOMPSON

Oh I see Harriet, we're going to use this as another opportunity to blow your own trumpet are we...?

HACKETT

Just saying that there are others in the room more suited to being the Head.

DRINKWATER

Oh really? I can't see any.

HACKETT

Thanks, Leona. Typically supportive.

THOMPSON

Oh stop being so petty Harriet!

HACKETT

How dare you speak to me like that!

HANSEN

Ladies, please, calm down...

GLORIA

Thank you, Joshua. Now listen, this is not the time for squabbling and staff rivalry. Now that we know how serious this all is, the only question that remains is 'what do we do next?'

HANSEN

That's simple, we must tell the children. They'll be mortified, but they also have a right to know.

THOMPSON

I think Josh is absolutely right, they deserve to know.

FINCH

Agreed.

GLORIA

OK, that seems to be pretty much unanimous. Maybe you could call an assembly on Monday morning. There's no point in dragging this out.

THOMPSON

Certainly, Gloria. Leave it to us.

GLORIA

Well, I'm sorry everybody.

DEBBIE

It's not your fault, Mrs Goodman. I'm just sad that my kids won't be able to come here as I'd hoped.

GLORIA

True... I think I should be leaving you now... I'm sorry this isn't the happy ending we were all hoping for.

*(GLORIA exits. The STAFF are left in silence. Blackout)*

### **SCENE 3: Home Time**

*The KIDS are seen leaving the stage at the end of the school day, with coats and bags, etc.*

OLLY

At last, I thought we'd never get out of there! My body is aching from all that rehearsing., I need my bed.

BILLY

Yeah, it's been a long day, I'm looking forward to the weekend.

CRAIG

What's the matter? You lot lightweights or something? Run out of energy already have... *(HE yawns mid-sentence)*

OLLY

Oh yes, you could go on all night couldn't you, Craig? Full of energy! *(BOYS laugh at CRAIG)* Looks like you're as tired as the rest of us.

BILLY

Yeah, Matt's the only one looking lively... he's got plenty of energy whenever Lara's concerned.

*(MATT is watching LARA. HANSEN walks across the stage towards the BOYS)*

HANSEN

Haven't you got homes to go to?

OLLY

Yeah, but we're being delayed *(Pointing to MATT)*

HANSEN

Ahh! Love struck is he?

CRAIG

It's Lara, he can't take his eyes off her.

OLLY

But he doesn't know what to say to her.

MATT

Have you got any suggestions, Sir? I mean, you're a man of the world, you should know about these things – how should I approach her?

BILLY

I think you should just be cool, make her want you!

OLLY

Nah, man. You've got to be funny; girls love a man who can make them laugh.

CRAIG

Well, if it was me with Lucy...

OLLY

You wish!

CRAIG

Yes... Well I'd show her your muscles Matt, so she knows you're strong enough to protect her, but buy her chocolates so she can see you're romantic!

MATT

Where am I gonna get chocolates and muscles from in the next two minutes, Craig?

CRAIG

Oh, yes...

BILLY

Later Matt.

ALL BOYS

See ya, bye etc.

HANSEN

If you want my advice, Matt, just relax and be yourself. If she likes you, she wants to know the real you. Don't try too hard. Good luck.

MATT

Thanks Sir, see you after the weekend.

*(MATT is left on his own, as he exits he walks past the GIRLS)*

CHELSEA

Bye, Mr Handsome!

HANSEN

Goodnight girls, see you on Monday morning. Oh by the way, Lara... (HE *whispers in her ear, she giggles*)

LUCY

Goodnight, Sir.

HANSEN

Bye all. (*Looks at LARA*) Good luck!

LUCY

What was all that about, Lara?

CHELSEA

It's obvious isn't it? Hansen fancies me!

JANICE

You are so full of yourself. Course he doesn't fancy you. God! It was about Matt, wasn't it?

LARA

Might have been...

SARAH

Come on Lara, tell us!

SALLY

I don't think she has to. Look who's still waiting by the gates. All by themselves...

MICHELLE

Go on Lara, go and speak to him...

CHELSEA

No, don't! Wait for him to make the first move. What is he, some sort of wimp? It should never be up to a girl to ask a boy out. I've never chased a boy in my life.

JANICE

Oh shut up, Chelsea. Go on Lara. We'll leave you. (*SHE makes a move and gestures the other girls to leave with her*) Make sure you tell us tomorrow though. Come on you lot.

LUCY

Good luck! (*SHE kisses LARA on the cheek*)

SALLY

Go for it girl, here, take my lippy. (*Hands her a lipstick*)

CHELSEA

I think I'll stay for a bit of moral support.

JANICE

No you won't. (*Grabs CHELSEA by the hair and drags her out*)

MICHELLE

See ya tomorrow.

*(LARA is left alone, she nervously puts on a little of SALLY'S lipstick)*

MATT

*(Making his way nervously across the stage)* Oh hi ya, Lara, didn't see you there. How are you, did you enjoy rehearsal today?

LARA

Yeah, they were OK. Where are your friends?

MATT

Oh... They've gone home already.

LARA

Ah... *(A brief silence)*

BOTH

Which way are you walking...? *(They laugh)*

LARA

Towards the playing fields... what about you?

MATT

Ah, the same way... there's been something I wanted to say to you for a while... I um... I um... really, what I'm trying to say is that I really fancy, um, fancy, really fancy... getting home now... bye... *(HE walks away from her)* Damn it! *(To himself)*

LARA

Oh, OK. See you tomorrow then... *(SHE walks away)*

## **SONG 5: SEVENTEEN from HEATHERS**

*(Blackout)*

## **SCENE 4: Assembly – Spreading The Word**

*The bell rings. The STAFF make their way to the hall from the office area, the children enter from the wings and settle down into their positions for assembly.*

OLLY

*(Catching up with the others and singing)* Mr Lover man! How did it go on Friday night, Matt?

CRAIG

Did you snog her?

MATT

No, I didn't get quite as far as that. But it was cool though.

BILLY

That ain't what Chelsea told me. "I fancy, I fancy, I fancy going home now"!

CRAIG

So what did happen?

BILLY

Wake up sparky, nothin'. He bottled it.

MATT

I didn't exactly bottle it, it just wasn't the right time. (HE sees the GIRLS enter) Come on, we're late for assembly.

BILLY

Oh yeah... (*shouts*) I really fancy going to assembly, Matt.

(CHELSEA and LARA enter, they are in mid conversation)

CHELSEA

He's such a loser, he ain't worth bothering with Lara.

LARA

Yes, maybe you're right.

(They go into assembly. MICHELLE and SALLY enter and see CATHY)

MICHELLE

Cathy! You're back! How was your holiday?

CATHY

I had a brilliant time, do you like my tan?

CHARLOTTE

Yeah, where did you go?

CATHY

I've been with relatives in Spain for four weeks.

CHARLOTTE

That's so unfair! Why can't I have some relatives in a hot country?!

CATHY

Is Matt still here?

MICHELLE

Yeah, but we think he's got a bit of a thing for Lara.

CHARLOTTE

Do you still like him?



CATHY

Yeah.

SALLY

I think I've got an idea which could help slow down their little romance...

(SARAH, LUCY and JANICE enter. SALLY raises her voice so that they can overhear her)

SALLY

I can't believe Lara has started going out with Matt. I didn't think she was interested.

JANICE

Get your facts right, Lara isn't going out with him.

MICHELLE

Really? That's not what we heard him saying to his mates.

LUCY

Why, what was he saying?

MICHELLE

He was telling them how he asked her out last night, and she said she really fancied him, and now they're going out.

LUCY

The little liar!

SALLY

There's more too. I heard him say that he didn't really fancy Lara much anyway, and he was just filling the time before Cathy came home, 'cos he really likes her.

SARAH

I can't believe it. I thought Matt was such a nice guy. Lara's going to be well upset about this. My Mum always told me that all men were cheats, and that they'd break your heart if you gave them half a chance... Poor Lara.

LUCY

We've got to tell her Sarah, although I don't want to be the one to break the bad news. Thanks guys, you've done something nice for once. I didn't think you liked Lara very much.

SALLY and MICHELLE

That's OK.

THOMPSON

Can we all take our seats please. Right, good morning everyone. The assembly notices this morning are very important, so I would like your undivided attention. I'm afraid I have some rather sad news for you this morning. Following a long meeting with our owner, Mrs Goodman, after school yesterday, we have discovered that Centre Stage will be closing down at the end of this term and that the end of term show will be the final one. *(There is a stunned silence)* I know you are probably all shocked, but there is nothing we can do.

## **SONG 6: Sad Song – the song must close down**

Are there any questions?

CRAIG

Yes Miss. Why?

BILLY

Oh shut up, Doffus!

THOMPSON

No Billy, that's a fair question. Basically, it's all to do with money, there simply isn't enough.

MICHAELA

Well how much would be enough, Miss?

THOMPSON

More than we can raise in such a short space of time.

CATHY

Well there must be something we can do, Miss. Isn't there?

THOMPSON

Mrs Goodman has tried everything already I'm afraid. It just isn't possible, I'm so sorry for all of you...

CHARLOTTE

So that's it then, Miss? Simple as that?

JANICE

Yes, you've always taught us to be the best and work hard, never to give up.

CHARLOTTE

You're giving up now Miss.

ANNABEL

There must be something we can do?

HANSEN

Maybe the children have a point, Janet.

THOMPSON

What else could we possibly do?

MICHELLE

What about the show? That always raises a fair bit of capital... At least enough to keep us going for a bit.

CHARLOTTE

Yes Miss, the show! If we get full houses every night, it'll make loads of money!

CATHY

Why don't we do some Cabarets before, that might raise some money too, Miss.

FINCH

They're talking sense!

THOMPSON

OK, OK, calm yourselves down. (To STAFF) What do we think?

DEBBIE

We've got nothing to lose Miss Thompson.

HACKETT

Amazingly, I agree with Debbie. Why not?

DRINKWATER

Might as well go out with a bang rather than a whimper!

THOMPSON

Well, once again you have all amazed me with your high spirit. Let's give it a go! There's no promising it'll work, but there's no harm trying and together we'll try to save the school. Our school! Everyone agreed?

ALL

Yes, yeah etc.

### **SONG 7: Uplifting song - the school can stay open, we can save the school!**

*(The KIDS hurriedly start to exit, full of excitement discussing the events they will organise. Blackout)*

### **SCENE 5: The Cabaret – Fundraising**

*The scene opens with the kids encouraging people to come to the Centre Stage fundraising fête, during this scene we will spotlight different fundraising activities all over the stage; A cabaret, a rehearsal etc. Each time the action will be joined in mid-flow, highlighting the passing of time.*

*(Fête)*

KID 1

Come to the Centre Stage school fête!

KID 2

Help raise money to save the school...

KID 3

Enter the raffle for the grand prize draw...

KID 4

... Win a holiday for two in Italy!

KID 5

Kindly donated by Cheap & Cheerful Travel!

PUSHY MUM

How much are they?

KID 3

£1 each, or £5 for a strip of six.

PUSHY MUM

I'll take ten strips...

KID 4

...Ten? Yippee!

*(Cut to the office)*

GLORIA

We've got to pull out all the stops now, Debbie. If we've ever done business with them, I don't care how long ago, call them and ask for support.

DEBBIE

Yes Mam, Mrs Goodman!

SILVERMAN

How are the ticket sales, Debbie?

DEBBIE

Not bad so far. I'm calling all of our contacts to raise interest, and the kids are handing out flyers all over town.

GLORIA

Excellent! Right, I'm gonna call some old business friends – time to cash in a few favours and get some fresh funding. Centre Stage ain't closing for nobody! *(She picks up the phone)*

*(KIDS handing out flyers)*

KID 1

Don't miss the Centre Stage Extravaganza!

KID 2

Can I give you a flyer? Thanks!

KID 3

How many have we done today?

KID 4

Each box holds 500, and we're nearly at the end of our second box.

KID 5

Not bad... Excuse me Sir, can I give you a flyer?

PASSER BY

What is it for?

KID 1

Only the best show you'll see this year! (*Cut to cabaret*)

MC

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to the Centre Stage Cabaret. Thank you for your support, we hope you enjoy the evening's entertainment and we look forward to seeing you at our end of term show in a few weeks' time. Without further delay, I'd like to welcome on stage 'The Centre Stage Choir/Dance Troupe' who are going to sing for you this evening

### **SONG 8: A short song/dance from the CS Choir or Dance Troupe**

(*Cut to dance rehearsal*)

DRINKWATER

Alright everyone, the big night is almost upon us and we've all got to give the performances of our lives. So once more from the top, and 5,6,7,8...

**(Short Dance... *Lights fade out, the dance class exit and the singing class enter*)**

FINCH

OK, there's still a lot to get through and your performances have got to be first class. So, with full energy – one more time from the top.

**(Short Song/Solo... *Lights fade out, the singing class exit and the drama class enter*)**

HANSEN

There wasn't one hundred percent concentration from all of you, you've all got the talent to shine and that's exactly what I want you to do. So let's go from Franco's entrance and run the scene once more.

PAUBLO

What have you done with her?

FRANCO

I don't know what you're talking about...

PAUBLO

Don't lie to me Franco, I love that woman and I won't let you come between us.

FRANCO

Then first you must beat me, for I love her also, on guard!

PAUBLO

On guard... (*Fade out and exit. Cut back to office*)

DEBBIE

*(On phone)* ... I'll put you down for a block of six then... OK? Yes, I'm afraid the upper circle are the only ones available... OK... Bye. *(SHE puts the phone down)* We're nearly sold out, Mrs Goodman.

GLORIA

Good, with three days left we need to be. Andrea, what's the financial report looking like?

SILVERMAN

I'm not one hundred per cent Gloria, but er... if my calculations are correct and we sell all our tickets, we may just reach a secure profit zone. Enough to keep Centre Stage open for at least another year, or until we can find new sponsors.

GLORIA

That's what we like to hear. All we need now is a small miracle and we might just do it.

*(Blackout)*

## **SCENE 6: Backstage – Show night**

*We see the students backstage getting themselves prepared for the show – Putting on make-up, getting dressed, mucking around, nerves a plenty as the students talk about the forthcoming show. We get the impression that the show is only a matter of thirty minutes or so away. MATT is wandering around slightly aimlessly*

TANOY VOICE

Scene one performers, this is your thirty-minute beginner's call. Repeat, your thirty-minute call.

JANICE

*(Getting ready)* Matt's over there, Lara

LARA

So?

LUCY

Don't you fancy him at all anymore?

LARA

Not if what you said about him really fancying Cathy is true. I can't believe he could be so dishonest.

SARAH

*(Doing her hair)* I told you, Lara – you can't trust men.

LARA

But I thought Matt was different.

*(CHELSEA walks across the stage)*

CHELSEA

Hurry up you lot, we've got to be in the wings in ten minutes.

JANICE

What's that on your face, Chelsea?

CHELSEA

*(Horried)* What?!

LUCY

That mark *(SHE points at her cheek)*

JANICE

Oh no, it's your make-up, you've smudged it!

CHELSEA

No I haven't!

LARA

You have. *(Handing her a mirror)* Look!

CHELSEA

*(Screams in shock)* Oh no! *(Runs out. The GIRLS laugh)*

LARA

Now who's going to be late on stage!

SALLY

*(Getting ready on the other side of the stage)* Look at them, so special, all so popular.

MICHELLE

No they're not. They just think they are. Not so smart as all that, if they haven't worked out that Matt still fancies Lara. Look at him. *(THEY look at MATT who is still pacing around)* Bless him, but he's so wet!

CATHY

She can have him, I've gone right off him now anyway. I've got my eye on Billy.

MICHELLE

No chance there, Billy fancies Chelsea.

CATHY

We'll see about that!

*(BILLY and OLLY enter)*

OLLY

There he is...

BILLY

Come on, Matt. You're not even dressed yet. Where have you been?

MATT

Just wandering around back here.

BILLY

I wonder why. (HE *points at LARA sitting down*)

OLLY

Matt man... Just ask her out. She can only say no! She probably will, but at least you'll know.

BILLY

Olly's right, Matt. Just ask her.

MATT

I might do, later, after the show. I can't be bothered now, she's sitting with all her mates anyway.

OLLY

That's not a problem, I'm sure I can keep at least one of them busy for you... and I think it will be Lucy. She looks lovely.

CRAIG

(*Entering*) Nearly time boys. (*Notices the girls*) Wow... look at the girls...

(MISS THOMPSON *enters*. As she does, the STUDENTS notice her and turn in anticipation)

THOMPSON

Right everyone, the moment is nearly upon us. Everyone ready?

ALL

Yes Miss.

THOMPSON

Now, we all know how important tonight is, but what is also important is that you enjoy yourselves. This may be the last time we all get to do this sort of thing, so make it special and remember, this is the moment...

## **SONG 9: THIS IS THE MOMENT from JEKYLL AND HYDE**

(*The curtains close. A drum roll and the score of the previous number is heard under the voice over*)

MC

Ladies and Gentlemen, please take your seats for this evening's performance. And now, with no further delay, I present Mrs Gloria Goodman, the owner of Centre Stage Performing Arts School.

(GLORIA *enters*)

GLORIA

Good evening everyone, lovely to see such a great turn out. The past few weeks have been pretty hectic at Centre Stage in preparation for tonight's show. Many tears have been shed and many sleepless nights had by all the staff and students... And unfortunately, as some of you may be aware, this may be the last show that Centre Stage will ever produce, since we have recently been hit by extreme financial hardship and may be forced to close the school. For me, this would be heart breaking since not only have I built the school up over many years, but I've seen the pleasure it has brought to hundreds of students who



have trained with us. (*almost in tears*) Thank you for listening and enjoy the show – let's hope there will be many more in the future. Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you, Centre Stage.

(*The 'Copacabana' score begins and the curtains open to reveal the cast on stage in very glamorous costumes.*)

## **SONG 10: The FINAL Song/ Performance (full version)**

(*Blackout*)

### **SCENE 7: Backstage – Epilogue**

*The show has ended and the STUDENTS are getting themselves ready to leave, removing make-up, etc.*  
PUSHY MUM enters.

PUSHY MUM

Annabel, darling, well done! (*Hands her some flowers*) You were amazing, Taylor Swift would have been proud. I've got it all on camera so you can see it when you get home.

ANNABEL

Thanks mum, did you really think I was good?

PUSHY MUM

Oh darling, good doesn't even come close. You were fantastic, get your coat and let's get ourselves home. On the way home I might just treat you to a takeaway.

ANNABEL

Oh thanks! Chinese, Indian, pizza?

PUSHY MUM

It's your special night darling – you're the star of the show... how about all three!!

ANNABEL

Thanks mum.

PUSHY MUM

Just don't tell your father!

(*THEY exit laughing. BILLY, MATT, OLLY and CRIAG enter*)

BILLY

That was wicked! Did you see when Chelsea fell over? I saw her pants and everything, it was so funny man!

CRAIG

I missed it, I was talking to Mr Hansen backstage.

BILLY

Oh well... It was class, wasn't it, Matt? (*No response*) Matt?

OLLY

Right, that's it. Where's Lara? I've had enough of this...

CRAIG

Here she comes... (The GIRLS enter)

LUCY

Did you hurt yourself Chelsea?

CHELSEA

No, of course I didn't. I've been taught how to fall properly.

SALLY

I wouldn't worry, Chelsea. I doubt anyone noticed.

LUCY

Lara, look. There's Matt. What are you going to do?

LARA

Nothing, he doesn't fancy me, remember?

SALLY

That's not what it looks like, he's looking right at you.

LARA

Well if he wants to speak to me, he can come over here.

CHELSEA

That's my girl, make him do the work!

JANICE

Well, come on then, Matt, we won't bite!

BILLY

Go on mate, it's now or never.

CRAIG

Yes, go on... remember the advice I gave you.

MATT

Yes, cheers Craig, that'll be invaluable!

OLLY

Move it loser, before I give you a slap!

(MATT *reluctantly makes his way across the stage towards the GIRLS*)

JANICE

Well hello, what can we do for you?

MATT

Well, It's Lara I was looking to speak to...

LUCY

Really Matthew, well would you like to speak to this nice young man, Lara?

LARA

I don't know. Depends on what he's got to say.

MATT

Well... umm...

CHELSEA

Spit it out, Matthew, we haven't got all day.

MATT

Well... Lara, what I've been wanting to ask you for some time is... well... would you like to go out with me some time?

SALLY

Just a date? A one off?

MATT

No. What I mean is, will you go out with me. Properly, you know.

LARA

I thought you fancied Cathy? Why are you asking *me* out?

MATT

Cathy? No way!! Who told you that? (*GIRLS look over at other GIRLS*)

LARA

(*Slightly shocked, but pleased*) Really, don't you want to go out with her?

MATT

Why would I want to go out with Cathy? I've fancied you for ages. You must have realised that, surely? I just haven't had the courage to ask you out. I thought you were bound to say no.

LARA

Why?

MATT

I didn't think you felt the same way at all.

GIRLS

Ahhh...

MATT

Well, do you?

LARA  
Kind of...

MATT  
Kind of?

LARA  
OK. Yes, I do!

MATT  
So will you go out with me then?

LARA  
Yes. Of course I'll go out with you.

GIRLS  
Ahhh... *(Even bigger!)*

JANICE  
I think we should be leaving you two love birds alone for a minute.

CHELSEA  
Ah, bless, they look really cute together. I wish I had someone like that!

LUCY  
Yes, me too... Come on.

*(BILLY , OLLY and CRAIG move across stage to catch up with the GIRLS)*

OLLY  
Hey, hold on ladies. Which way are you lot walking?

LUCY  
What's it to you?

CRAIG  
We thought we could walk with you, seeing as Matt's busy and all.

LUCY  
We're going into town, we thought we'd have a celebratory burger.

OLLY  
Can we come?

CHELSEA  
As long as someone buys me a burger.

BILLY  
I'll buy you a burger, Lucy, and a coke if you want one.

CHELSEA, JANICE and LUCY

Come on then. (THEY exit. MATT and LARA exchange a look and walk out hand in hand)

GLORIA

How are you getting on Andrea, are we nearly there?

SILVERMAN

I think I've got us a final figure...

(HANSEN and DEBBIE enter)

DEBBIE

I was wondering, Mr Hansen, if you'd like to nip out for a drink with me this evening, once we've finished here.

HANSEN

Are you asking me out, Debbie? (Pause, DEBBIE looks nervous) Because if you are, I'd love to go out with you for a drink.

DEBBIE

Oh Joshua, you are such a charmer!

(By this time DEBBIE and HANSEN have been joined on stage by the STUDENTS and the rest of the school STAFF, PARENTS, etc. GLORIA and SILVERMAN enter)

THOMPSON

Right, I hope everybody is here, because Mrs Goodman has something very important she would like to say to us all.

(Silence)

GLORIA

Well the first thing to be said is a huge congratulations to all of you for your hard work. I can honestly say that in the 25 years of Centre Stage, I've never seen a better production and I'm very proud of you all. It's always nice to go out with a bang and I'm glad we've ended on such a high note... because unfortunately this *will be* our last show.

SILVERMAN

We have all tried incredibly hard to raise the necessary money to save the school, but we're afraid to say that despite our efforts, we haven't quite reached our target.

GLORIA

Sorry to break this news to you like this... I don't think I can say much more, other than to wish you all the best in the future, wherever that future may lie. (She starts to walk off stage. CARMEN enters)

CARMEN

Mrs Goodman? Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Carmen MacinBosh! I know, sounds familiar, right?! (Laughs) Come on, raise a chortle, what are we so down about?

GLORIA

Well Carmen, we aren't really in the mood for laughing, as you may be aware from my pre-show speech, we have been in some financial difficulty of late and we've just found out that the school is going to have to close.

CARMEN

Yes, I gathered... a terrible shame, but all is not lost. Actually, Mrs Goodman, that is what I wanted to talk to you about, I don't know whether you've heard of me at all, but I'm a Theatre Producer in London's West End, and as such would hate to see such a talented bunch of people go to waste. I would like to offer you and your school my full financial support to enable you to keep your wonderful school open.

CHARLOTTE

Are you serious?

CARMEN

Deadly! However there is one condition upon which my proposal depends.

GLORIA

Yes... and what would that be?

CARMEN

That your end of year show next year will run at one of my West End venues for a minimum period of three weeks. I've got to make my money back somehow and I can't think of a better way to do it. Well, what do you think?

GLORIA

I think you're pulling my leg, that's what I think. But if you're serious... (CARMEN *nods*) then of course! The answer is yes! Yes!

CARMEN

Excellent!

GLORIA

This is amazing, we're going to stay open everybody! Centre Stage isn't going to have to close after all!

ALL

Cheers etc...

SILVERMAN

Oh, I can feel the relief lifted from the room. Can you feel it Gloria?

GLORIA

Oh yes indeed, I can feel it!

## **SONG 11: Happy FINALE Song!!**

(Curtain)

**THE END**