MR. POTCHER’S HOLIDAY

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SYNOPSIS: Mr. Potcher cancels the arts and extracurricular activities in the school where he has been hired as consultant. Darcy, a student desperate to fit in with the other kids, tries to change his mind. But she not only fails, she also inadvertently gives him the idea to eliminate all the holidays, which he does with a magic calendar. The outraged students ostracize Darcy.

Darcy has a nightmare of being taunted by Mr. Potcher and the students. But then, still dreaming, she consults with Plato and Shakespeare and hatches a plan with Cupid, Santa, Easter Bunny, Leprechaun, Jack-O’-Lantern and Thanksgiving Turkey to change Mr. Potcher’s mind.

The next day, Darcy is amazed to see that the scheme goes into effect. Mr. Potcher winds up madly in love and open to the beauty in life. He reinstates the arts classes, extracurricular activities and all the holidays. And the students hail Darcy as the hero she aspired to become.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(8-10 females, 8-14 males, 0-1 either, 0-1 extra, 2+ ensemble)

STUDENTS:
DARCY (f) .............................................. Desperately wants to fit in with the other kids. (125 lines)
SHALENA (f) ........................................ Darcy’s best friend. (30 lines)
CHLOE (f) ........................................... School’s student body president. (23 lines)
MERYL (f) ............................................ Captain of the school’s debate team. A member of the Theater Arts Club. (4 lines)
CARMEN (f) ....................................... Best friends forever with Andi (they have been known to finish each other's sentences). Star member of the Cheerleading Squad. (13 lines)

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ANDI (f) ....................................................... Best friends forever with Carmen (they have been known to finish each other's sentences). Star member of the Cheerleading Squad. (15 lines)

ZIMMER (m) ................................................ Shalena’s younger brother and Darcy’s wisecracking friend. (20 lines)

HARRY (m) .................................................. Self-appointed leader of the Theater Arts Club. (27 lines)

LORNE (m) .................................................. The school’s star quarterback and captain of the football team. (3 lines)

WILL (m) ...................................................... At the lower end of the age range. Good friends with Jake. Serves as political advisor to Chloe. A member of the Theater Arts Club and the school’s marching band. (24 lines)

JAKE (m) ...................................................... At the lower end of the age range. Good friends with Will. Serves as political advisor to Chloe. A member of the Theater Arts Club and the school’s marching band. (22 lines)

FACULTY AND STAFF:
MR. POTCHER (m) ..................................... 35-55; Consultant to the school’s administration. (75 lines)

MISS TEAFORD (f)................................. 30s-40s; English teacher and faculty advisor to the Theater Arts Club. (36 lines)
COACH (m) .................................................. 45-65; Doesn’t tolerate fools. He played football for Wagstaff when he attended the school, and he considers that the best thing he ever did in his formative years. (3 lines)

MISS SNOOD (f) ......................................... 45-65; Part of the cafeteria staff. She loves her job. (18 lines)

HOLIDAY CHARACTERS:
CUPID (m) .................................................... Pretty fed up with Valentine’s Day and the whole god-of-love thing. (39 lines)

LEPRECHAUN (m) ..................................... Represents St. Patrick’s Day, is Irish through and through, including the accent. (24 lines)

EASTER BUNNY (f) ................................... A soprano. She is kind and sympathetic. (12 lines)

JACK-O’-LANTERN (m) ............................ Represents Halloween and is appropriately spooky. (13 lines)

TURKEY (m/f) ............................................. Represents Thanksgiving and is usually a little behind the curve with regard to what’s going on. Tends to hang with Jack-o’-lantern. (4 lines)

SANTA CLAUS (m) .................................... He’s chubby, he’s jolly, and he loves making children happy. (21 lines)

CHILDREN’S DAY GUY (m) ..................... This is the iconic character for the holiday of Children’s Day, which was in August until a sorceress eliminated it from existence. (20 lines)

DREAM AND FANTASY CHARACTERS:
CONDUCTOR (m) ........................................ Mr. Potcher’s foil in the comedy song, “Potcher’s Heroes.” (Non-Speaking)
MONA LISA (f) ........................................... The famous painting by Leonardo da Vinci, come to life. (1 line)

PLATO (m) ................................................ The famous Greek philosopher. (13 lines)

SHAKESPEARE (m) .................................... The famous playwright. (10 lines)

ENSEMBLE:
DARCY’S MOTHER (f) .............................. Offstage voice. (1 line)
STUDENT (m/f) ........................................... (1 line)
STUDENT CHORUS (m/f) .......................... Any number, optional. (Non-Speaking)

OPTIONAL DOUBLING

MISS TEAFORD can double as MONA LISA.
COACH can double as SANTA and/or PLATO.
MERYL can double as EASTER BUNNY or TURKEY.
CHLOE can double as EASTER BUNNY or TURKEY.
LORNE can double as CHILDREN’S DAY GUY or JACK-O’-LANTERN.
HARRY can double as CHILDREN’S DAY GUY or JACK-O’-LANTERN.
WILL can double as CUPID or LEPRECHAUN or TURKEY.
JAKE can double as CUPID or LEPRECHAUN or TURKEY.
SHAKESPEARE can double as CONDUCTOR.

Quick Costume Changes Note: Any student who doubles as a holiday character will have to change quickly during Act. II, scene 5. If Santa and Plato are played by the same actor, he will have to change very quickly at the start of Act II, scene 3.

DURATION: 90 minutes
TIME: Present.
SETTING: Quincy Adams Wagstaff Community School
MUSICAL SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE

SCENE 1: AUDITORIUM STAGE
SONG #1: THANKSGIVING SONG
SHALENA, ZIMMER, MERYL, HARRY, CHLOE, JAKE, WILL, DARCY, STUDENT ENSEMBLE

SCENE 2: SCHOOL CAFETERIA
SONG #2: ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY
DARCY, HARRY
SONG #3: I HEARD FROM A GUY
HARRY, CARMEN, ANDI, JAKE, WILL, SHALENA, MERYL, LORNE, DARCY, ZIMMER, CHLOE, STUDENT ENSEMBLE
SONG #4: TOO BUSY: STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT
CHLOE, STUDENT ENSEMBLE
SONG #5: TOO BUSY: FOOTBALL CAPTAIN
LORNE, STUDENT ENSEMBLE
SONG #6: TOO BUSY: DEBATE CAPTAIN
MERYL, ZIMMER, CHLOE, LORNE, STUDENT ENSEMBLE
SONG #7: TOO BUSY: DARCY!
DARCY
SONG #8: HAIL TO DARCY
STUDENTS

SCENE 3: MR. POTCHER'S OFFICE
SONG #9: POTCHER'S HEROES
MR. POTCHER

SCENE 4: CLASSROOM

SCENE 5: SCHOOL CAFETERIA

SCENE 6: MR. POTCHER'S OFFICE

SCENE 7: ISLAND OF LOST HOLIDAYS
SONG #10: AUGUST HAS NO HOLIDAYS
CHILDREN’S DAY GUY, HOLIDAY CHARACTERS ENSEMBLE

SCENE 8: CLASSROOM
SONG #11: FILLING IN THE BUBBLES
HARRY, ZIMMER, CARMEN, ANDI, MISS SNOOD, JAKE, WILL, CHLOE, STUDENTS

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SONG #12: ANYONE BUT ME
DARCY

INTERMISSION

ACT TWO
SCENE 1: SCHOOL CAFETERIA
SONG #13: KEEP A GOIN’
ZIMMER, SHALENA, MISS SNOOD

SCENE 2: ISLAND OF LOST HOLIDAYS
SONG #14: ISLE OF LOST HOLIDAYS
HOLIDAY CHARACTERS

SCENE 3: DARCY’S BEDROOM & SHALENA’S BEDROOM
SONG #15: NIGHTMARE MEDLEY
MR. POTCHER, MONA LISA, PLATO, NIGHTMARE CHORUS
SONG #16: AT THE TOUCH OF LOVE
DARCY, SHAKESPEARE, PLATO, MONA LISA, NIGHTMARE CHORUS

SCENE 4: SCHOOL CAFETERIA & ISLAND OF LOST HOLIDAYS
SONG #17: LULLABY FOR POTCHER
LEPRECHAUN, SANTA, EASTER BUNNY, JACK-O’-LANTERN, TURKEY, DARCY, MISS TEAFORD, MR. POTCHER,
SONG #18: TAKE A CHANCE
MR. POTCHER
SONG #19: ISLE OF LOST HOLIDAYS (REPRISE)
HOLIDAY CHARACTERS, MR. POTCHER, DARCY

SCENE 5: IN FRONT OF CURTAIN

SCENE 6: AUDITORIUM STAGE
SONG #20: AS WE GO ’ROUND THE SUN
ALL STUDENTS, MISS TEAFORD
SET


SCHOOL CAFETERIA:
1. Tables with chairs or benches (enough for multiple students to sit)
2. A cafeteria food station

MR. POTCHER’S OFFICE: Door, desk, desk chair

CLASSROOM: chairs or desk-chairs for all students

ISLAND OF LOST HOLIDAYS: A typical desert island, with a palm tree or two embedded in the sand and the ocean visible in the near-background.

DARCY’S BEDROOM: Bed

SHALENA’S BEDROOM: minimal suggestion of a girl’s bedroom.

SOUND EFFECTS

☐ Island Sounds: ocean waves and seagulls
☐ Cupid Slurping 1 and 2: Slurping sounds through a straw
☐ Cupid’s Arrow: an arrow flying through the air and hitting its target.
☐ Sploosh!: Mr. Potcher plopping face-first into a bowl of apple sauce.

PROPS

ACT ONE

SCENE 1
☐ pom-poms
☐ football helmet

SCENE 2
☐ snacks and beverages for the after-show party
☐ clipboard or tablet
☐ Chloe’s appointment book
☐ Lorne’s newspaper with full-page ad for “all the shrimp you can eat” seafood restaurant.
SCENE 3
- papers and other stuff for the top of Mr. Potcher’s desk
- framed portraits of Captain Hook, Ebenezer Scrooge, and “Image Not Available”
- orchestra conductor’s baton
- CRUD sign or banner

SCENE 4
- 2 laptop computers or tablets

SCENE 5
- cafeteria trays with food

SCENE 6
- magic calendar
- eraser

SCENE 8
- guest passes for Mr. Potcher to hand out
- pencils
- papers for students to hand in
- cafeteria trays with “food”
- serving spoon for Miss Snood
- boxes, supposedly holding holiday decorations

ACT TWO
SCENE 1
- fork and plate holding a slice of pumpkin pie

SCENE 2
- elaborate tropical drink for Cupid
- beach lounge chair for Cupid
- 5 upright beach chairs for the other holiday characters
SCENE 3
☐ 2 phones
☐ 2 laptop computers or tablets (again)
☐ Darcy’s bedside lamp
☐ palette and brush for “Leonardo da Vinci”
☐ picture frame with removable print of Mona Lisa
☐ Cupid’s bow and heart-tipped arrows
☐ coconut and straw

SCENE 4
☐ several big reference books
☐ plate of cookies
☐ 3 glasses of milk
☐ bowl (supposedly containing apple sauce), big enough for Mr. Potcher’s face to fall into
☐ cauldron and stirrer
☐ sparkly material for Jack-o’-lantern to toss into the cauldron
☐ Cupid’s bow and heart-tipped arrow (again)
☐ magic calendar (again) with big quill pen

PRODUCTION NOTES

You are encouraged to cast all the characters without regard to ethnicity, including the holiday characters.

All Sound Cues are available at the end of the script.

Detailed Character Descriptions are available at the end of the script.

CUPID’S ARROW EFFECT:  As CUPID releases the bow’s string, when the “Cupid’s arrow” sound cue is played, he moves his arrow out of view of the audience. Simultaneously, MR. POTCHER holds a duplicate arrow, which he had been hiding, at his chest. The audience will only see the shaft and feathers of this arrow since the heart-shaped tip has presumably penetrated his chest. The HOLIDAY CHARACTERS watch the arrow’s imaginary flight from Cupid’s bow to Mr. Potcher’s chest, thereby encouraging the audience to redirect their attention to Mr. Potcher as Cupid hides his arrow.
“AUGUST HAS NO HOLIDAYS”: It is important that as the holiday characters sing backup, they do the synchronized, stylized choreography that is characteristic of doo-wop songs. For great examples, find videos of *The Temptations*.

MAGIC CALENDAR SUGGESTIONS: Make an oversized book or calendar-type object for Mr. Potcher to manipulate, and project the pages onto a screen for the audience to see. To add mystery, hide a light inside the magic calendar to make it glow.

**PREMIERE PRODUCTION**

*Mr. Potcher’s Holiday* was the first musical to win Texas Nonprofit Theatre’s biennial “TNT POPS!” competition. The Bastrop Opera House produced the show’s premiere at the Jerry Fay Wilhelm Center for the Performing Arts in Bastrop, TX.

**DEDICATION**

To our parents,

whose original cast albums fostered our love of musicals.
ACT ONE, SCENE 1

AT START: Auditorium Stage – evening. SHALENA, ZIMMER, HARRY, MERYL, WILL, JAKE, and CHLOE, plus optional supplemental CHORUS stands facing the audience. They are lit dramatically, as if in some dark, avant-garde theatrical piece. One by one, they start singing of their sorrows and tribulations.

SONG #1: THANKSGIVING SONG
SHALENA, ZIMMER, MERYL, HARRY, CHLOE, JAKE, WILL, DARCY, STUDENT ENSEMBLE
SOUND CUE 1

SHALENA:
IT’S LATE NOVEMBER.

ZIMMER:
HALLOWEEN CANDY’S GONE.

MERYL:
I CAN HARDLY REMEMBER SLEEPING TILL AFTER DAWN.

HARRY:
IT’S DARK BEFORE DINNER.

CHLOE:
IT’S HOMEWORK UNTIL THEN.

JAKE:
CHRISTMAS IS JUST IN MY DREAMS

WILL:
AND IT SEEMS IT WILL NEVER BE SUMMER AGAIN.

DARCY: (Enters.)
BUT... (Exits.)

The lighting brightens, revealing a cheerfully decorated Thanksgiving-themed set, and all the kids sing and dance joyfully. What starts out as a Thanksgiving pageant evolves into a classic Broadway-style number in which the kids use pilgrim hats as top hats.

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STUDENT ENSEMBLE:

Hey! It's Thanksgiving!
Pass the pumpkin pie.
Just put a drumstick on my plate and
my spirits fly!

Hey, it's Thanksgiving
like days of old.
Cranberry sauce and mashed potatoes
and Jell-O mold.

Don't be sad
don't be blue
though autumn winds are blowing
and Winter's almost due.

Tell your cares
toodle-oo.
What if skies are murky
and you're far from perky.
If you're not a turkey
you ought to give thanks
for all that you've got, so…

Let's all be grateful
and celebrate-ful
and then we'll have another plateful
of happy times.

And when I get that wishbone
I'll wish with all my might
that it could always be Thanksgiving
and we could always have Thanksgiving
'cause it would always be Thanksgiving
each and every night!

And if you're still grim
make like a pilgrim
grinning from ear to ear, 'cause
it's Thanksgiving
and you know Thanksgiving's
the very best time of the year!
Yeah!

On applause, MISS TEAFORD enters, also applauding.
MISS TEAFORD:  *(To audience.)* The Quincy Adams Wagstaff Community School Theater Arts Club!

STUDENTS bow.

MISS TEAFORD:  And let's hear it one more time for the Wagstaff Wolverines, who are going to win the big Thanksgiving game!

STUDENTS cheer. CARMEN and ANDI enter and prepare to flank the entering football player.

MISS TEAFORD:  Team captain Lorne Winfield!

LORNE, in uniform and carrying his helmet, runs onto the stage from the wings between the waving pom-poms of ANDI and CARMEN.

CARMEN and ANDI:  *(Doing a cheer.)*
  Fight the fight!
  Dream the dream!
  Disembowel the other team!
  Yaaaaaaaay!!

CARMEN and ANDI cross to the other side of the stage to flank MERYL.

MISS TEAFORD:  And please join me in wishing good luck at the Fall Forensics Festival to our debate team, the Wagstaff Wordsmiths, led by our own Meryl Darrow!

MERYL steps forward and acknowledges the applause in a stately manner.

CARMEN and ANDI:  *(Doing a cheer.)*
  Argue! Argue!
  Yaaaaaaaay!!

MERYL looks askance at them and steps back into line with the other singers.
MISS TEAFORD: Thank you so much for coming to our Thanksgiving program. We hope to see you again in just three weeks for our big winter holiday show. It's going to be great! Thanks again, good night, and Go Wolverines!

ALL STUDENTS: Go Wolverines!

SOUND CUE 2: Transition to Act One, Scene 2.

ACT ONE, SCENE 2

AT START: School Cafeteria – night. All STUDENTS in previous scene are celebrating at a cast party. COACH crosses the stage with a paper cup in one hand and a paper plate loaded with cookies in the other. MISS SNOOD, a cafeteria worker wearing the typical hairnet, apron, and plastic gloves, crosses with a tray of goodies. CARMEN and ANDI spot DARCY at the refreshments table and rush over to her.

CARMEN: Darcy! There you are!
ANDI: Are you going to have all those torn pom-poms fixed before the Saturday game?
DARCY: Oh yeah, no problem!
HARRY: (To STUDENTS.) Listen everybody! Like Miss Teaford said, we've only got three weeks till the Christmas show, so we better get started making plans. (Consults his clipboard or tablet.)
CARMEN: (To DARCY.) Oh, and don't forget the shoe polish.
ANDI: Scuffs count against us!
DARCY: OK. But listen, when do I get to try out for the squad?
HARRY: Now who's going to do set design and decoration?
SHALENA: I'll do design if you'll help me decorate.
HARRY: Great! Ticket sales?

ALL look around at each other.

HARRY: Ticket sales. Anybody? (No takers.) I guess that's another one for Darcy. OK, Darcy?
DARCY: (To HARRY.) 'Scuse me?
HARRY: Ticket sales?
DARCY: Oh. OK, sure.
ANDI: (To CARMEN.) Ohmygod, I almost forgot! Who's bringing Marvin the Mascot for the halftime show?
CARMEN: That's another one for Darcy.
DARCY: OK, but what about the tryout? I've been waiting all semester.
ANDI: Oh sure, sure.
CARMEN: Real soon.
ANDI: It's just that the team is full right now.
CARMEN: You know how it is.
HARRY: Cast party committee?
CHLOE: (Flirting with HARRY.) Want to work on that together, Harry?
   It'll be fun!
HARRY: (Not enthusiastic.) OK, sure. Cleanup committee?
CHLOE: Definitely another one for Darcy.

ALL STUDENTS voice their agreement.

HARRY: OK Darcy?

SONG #2: ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY
DARCY, HARRY

SOUND CUE 3: ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY, Part 1

DARCY: (Gives the audience a look that says "See what I have to put up with?" and then sings.)
   ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY
   ANOTHER CHANCE TO SHINE
   AT CLEANING OUT THE MASCOT'S CAGE
   OR HANGING UP A SIGN.
   OR SELLING ALL THE TICKETS,
   THAT'S MY BIG CLAIM TO FAME.
   WELL, I DON'T MIND, NOT REALLY.
   AT LEAST THEY KNOW MY NAME.

   ONLY...
   SOMETIMES I THINK
   IT SURE WOULD BE COOL
   IF ONE DAY AS I'M WALKING
   HOME AFTER SCHOOL,
   THERE'S A HOLE IN THE GROUND
DARCY:  (Continued.)
AND A CROWD, AND THEY SHOUT
THAT A TODDLER FELL IN
AND HE CAN'T GET OUT!
THERE’S POLICE, PARAMEDICS,
AND FIREMEN AND ALL.
BUT THEY CAN'T GET IN
'CAUSE THE OPENING'S TOO SMALL.

THEY SEE ME JUMP IN.
THEY HEAR ME HIT BOTTOM.
THEN SILENCE…
TILL THEY HEAR ME CALL OUT: "I GOT 'EM!"
I CARRY HIM OUT
WITH GRACE AND APLOMB
RIGHT TO THE ARMS
OF HIS DAD AND HIS MOM.
THEY THANK ME FOR SAVING
THEIR CHILD FROM HIS FALL.
AND I SAY "IT WAS NOTHING,
NOTHING AT ALL."

IT GETS ON THE NEWS
AND EV’RYONE SEES.
AND NEXT DAY AT SCHOOL
THEY DROP TO THEIR KNEES
AND THROW LITTLE FLOWERS
WHEREVER I WALK
AND LISTEN IN RAPTURE
WHenever I TALK
AND I'M THE MOST POPULAR
GIRL IN THE SCHOOL!
IT SURE WOULD BE NICE.
IT SURE WOULD BE COOL!

HARRY:  Darcy? Darcy? Cleanup committee? OK?
DARCY:  Oh, yeah. No problem.

SOUND CUE 4:  ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY, Part 2

DARCY:  (Continued.)
BUT MEANWHILE, I KEEP DOING
JUST WHAT THEY WANT ME TO.
WHenever THERE'S THE TYPE OF JOB
THAT NO ONE ELSE WILL DO.
I'M MISS RELIABILITY.

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DARCY: (Continued.)
ON ME THEY CAN DEPEND.
AND I'M VERY NEARLY ONE OF THEM.
I'M KIND OF LIKE THEIR FRIEND.

ONLY...
SOMETIMES AT NIGHT
WHEN I LOOK AT THE SKIES,
I THINK WHAT IF THEY NEEDED SOMEONE
JUST MY SIZE
TO FLY IN A SPACESHIP
AND TOUCH DOWN ON MARS
THEN LOOP AROUND SATURN
AND ON TO THE STARS.

I DISCOVER A PLANET,
STRANGE AS CAN BE,
THAT'S RULED BY A GIRL
WHO'S EXACTLY LIKE ME!

AND WHEN I RETURN
THEY HAVE A PARADE
AND THE PRESIDENT'S THERE
AND SPEECHES ARE MADE.
AND THEY SAY AS A MEDAL
IS HUNG ON MY CHEST:
"THAT'S ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY,
'CAUSE DARCY'S THE BEST!"

HARRY: Oh – Darcy? Can you possibly wait by the loading dock from four to seven in the morning in case the guy tries to deliver the backdrop?
DARCY: Um, yeah… I guess.
HARRY: That's great! He's not sure he'll make it. But we need someone there just in case, you know?
DARCY: No problem.

SOUND CUE 5: ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY, Part 3

DARCY: (Continued.)
WELL, FANTASY'S FUN
AND DREAMING IS FINE.
BUT IT'S NOT REAL LIFE.
AT LEAST NOT MINE.
DARCY: *(Continued.)*

AND SO I SAY: "NO PROBLEM,"
AND THEN I GIVE A GRIN.
I DO WHATEVER'S NEEDED
AND HOPE THAT I FIT IN.
I GUESS I'M SORT OF USED TO IT.
I'M PRETTY MUCH RESIGNED.
IT'S NOT SO BAD, NOT REALLY.
I KIND OF LIKE DON'T MIND.

HARRY: OK, we need someone to hand-clean the mud off the costumes that are too delicate for the dry cleaner. Anyone?

*ALL look at DARCY.*

DARCY: Got it.

**SOUND CUE 6: ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY, Part 4**

MISS TEAFORD: *(Enters.)* Kids, you did a wonderful job tonight. I'm proud of you all!

*STUDENTS cheer themselves.*

MISS TEAFORD: Enjoy yourselves at the party. But get a good night's sleep – we’ve got to start work on the next show tomorrow!

HARRY: I've already started the sign-up sheet.

MR. POTCHER just barely enters. *He is dressed in black, somber and foreboding.*

MISS TEAFORD: Oh, that's great. So tomorrow—

MR. POTCHER: Miss Teaford. May I have a word?

MISS TEAFORD: Oh. Certainly, Mr. Potcher. Excuse me, kids.

*MISS TEAFORD crosses to MR. POTCHER and they exit together.*

DARCY: Who was that?
HARRY: Mr. Potcher? He's a consultant.
DARCY: A what?
ZIMMER: A consultant. The school pays him to tell them all the things they're doing wrong.

CHLOE: Gee, my mother does that for free!

MERYL: He's kind of creepy, isn't he?

HARRY: *(Knowing laugh.)* You have no idea!

MERYL: What do you mean?

CHLOE: *(Eagerly.)* What do you know?

HARRY: Are you ready for this? Listen!

**SONG #3: I HEARD FROM A GUY**

HARRY, CARMEN, ANDI, JAKE, WILL, SHALENA, MERYL, LORNE, DARCY, ZIMMER, CHLOE, STUDENT ENSEMBLE

**SOUND CUE 7: I HEARD FROM A GUY, Part 1**

HARRY: *(Very confidentially.)*

I HEARD FROM A GUY,
WHO HAS NOTHING TO GAIN,
THAT POTCHER'S CONTROLLED
BY A CHIP IN HIS BRAIN,
INSTALLED BY HIS MASTERS
IN SOME FOREIGN LAND
TO MAKE HIM DO ANYTHING
THEY MAY COMMAND.
WHEN THEY SEND THE SIGNAL,
WHEN HE GETS THE CALL,
HE'LL PICK UP A HATCHET
AND SLAUGHTER US ALL!

**CHORUS:**

*(Spoken with revulsion.)* EWWW! Ow! I NEVER KNEW!
*(Sung.* ) IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT IT'S GOT TO BE TRUE!

CARMEN:

I KNOW I HEARD SOMEWHERE,
OR MAYBE I READ,
THAT POTCHER IS ONE OF
THE WALKING UNDEAD!
HE CASTS NO REFLECTION,
HE SLEEPS IN A COFFIN,
AND HAS TO DRINK BLOOD
ONCE A WEEK OR MORE OFTEN!
ANDI:
IT’S TOTALLY TRUE.
GO TO GOOGLE AND CHECK.
BUT NEVER LET POTCHER
GET CLOSE TO YOUR NECK!

CHORUS:
(Spoken with revulsion.) EWWW! Ow! I NEVER KNEW!
(Sung.) IT’S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT IT’S GOT TO BE TRUE!
RUMORS THIS VIOCUS
ARE SO DELICIOUS!

JAKE:
AT HIS LAST SCHOOL, A BOY
WHO LOOKED INTO HIS EYES
FELL UNDER HIS POWER TO…
HYPNOTIZE!
I KNOW FOR A FACT
’CAUSE I READ IN A BLOG,
THIS KID THOUGHT THAT HE HAD
TURNED INTO A HOG!
AND POTCHER DENIED IT.
HE SAID HE WAS FAKIN’.
BUT SECRETLY USED HIM
FOR HAM AND FOR BACON!

CHORUS:
(Spoken with revulsion.) EWWW! Ow! I NEVER KNEW!
(Sung.) IT’S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT IT’S GOT TO BE TRUE!

ALL STUDENTS whisper into each other’s ears. Each pops up from
the mass whispering to say his or her line.

WILL: (Spoken in rhythm.)
I HEARD HE KICKS PUPPIES.

SHALENA: (Spoken in rhythm.)
HE’S NASTY TO CATS.

MERYL: (Spoken in rhythm.)
HE LIVES AMONG SPIDERS
AND LIZARDS AND RATS.

JAKE: (Spoken in rhythm.)
HE SWINDLES OLD LADIES.
LORNE:  *(Spoken in rhythm.)*

AND DISABLED VETS.

DARCY:  *(Spoken in rhythm.)*

RUNS A SWEATSHOP FOR ORPHANS
WHO CAN’T PAY THEIR DEBTS.

CARMEN:  *(Spoken in rhythm.)*

HE CHEATS AT CANASTA.

ANDI:  *(Spoken in rhythm.)*

HE ALWAYS TELLS LIES.

ZIMMER:  *(Spoken in rhythm.)*

FOR LUNCH, HE HAS ROAD KILL
WITH COLESLAW AND FRIES.

CHLOE:  *(Spoken in rhythm.)*

HE BOILS LITTLE BABIES
TILL THEY TURN TO GLUE!

CHORUS:  *(Spoken.)* Ewwwwww!

SOUND CUE 8:  *I HEARD FROM A GUY*, Part 2

EVERYONE:  *(Spoken in rhythm.)*

AND I SWEAR THAT EACH WORD
OF THIS STORY IS TRUE!


STUDENTS give MISS TEAFORD their attention.

MISS TEAFORD:  I’m so sorry, but the holiday show is canceled.
THEATER ARTS STUDENTS:  WHAT??

ALL STUDENTS and COACH pay attention to MISS TEAFORD.

MISS TEAFORD:  There won’t be any more shows for a while. Mr.
Potcher is canceling all non-academic classes and extracurricular
activities.

HARRY:  But why?
MISS TEAFORD: He wants us to concentrate on improving grades.

ALL STUDENTS ad lib.: “Grades?”, “What's wrong with our grades?”, (Etc.)

MISS TEAFORD: I don’t know. But there won’t be any extracurricular activities for a while.

COACH: What about sports? He’s not canceling sports, is he? I mean, we’ve got the big Thanksgiving game coming up!

MISS TEAFORD: I think he is.

CARMEN and ANDI: What??

MISS TEAFORD: He said art classes, music classes, and all extracurricular activities.

COACH: Well, we’ll see about this! I’m not taking this lying down! (To STUDENTS.) All practice continues as scheduled until you hear different from ME! (Storms off stage.)

DARY: (To MISS TEAFORD.) He can’t do this! Can he?

MISS TEAFORD: I’m afraid he can. I’m sorry. (Exits.)

CARMEN: We’ve got to do something!

WILL: Someone’s got to change his mind!

JAKE: You mean talk to him? Like in person? (Skeptically.) Yeah, right.

HARRY: What else can we do? Somebody’s got to step up!

SHALENA: What about Chloe?

CHLOE’S eyes widen in horror, but she quickly changes to a fake-confident expression when SHALENA turns to face her.

SHALENA: (To CHLOE.) After all, you’re the student body president!

ALL STUDENTS: (Ad lib.) Yeah, Chloe! (Then, chanting.) Chlo-ee! Chlo-ee! Chlo-ee! Chlo-ee!

SONG #4: TOO BUSY: STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

CHLOE, STUDENT ENSEMBLE

SOUND CUE 9
CHLOE: I accept your nomination. I accept your sacred trust. And I vow to do my duty as a noble statesman must. I'll negotiate and reason till he yields to our demands. Rest easy 'cause your future's in the very best of hands.
(Sings.) BUT WAIT! OH NO!
I'M SORRY TO SAY THAT I CAN'T GO.

STUDENTS ad lib.: “What?”,”She can't go?”,”Why not?”,”What's wrong?”, etc.

CHLOE: (Singing.)
I KNOW THAT YOU'LL FORGIVE ME
IF YOU COME AND TAKE A LOOK
AT ALL THE OBLIGATIONS HERE
IN MY APPOINTMENT BOOK.

CHLOE holds the appointment book open, inviting the STUDENTS to see it, but snaps it shut when they try. CHLOE refers to the appointment book during the rest of the song, but holds it so that only she can read it.

STUDENTS:
SO MANY OBLIGATIONS ARE IN HER APPOINTMENT BOOK.

CHLOE:
THE ORTHODONTIST NEEDS SOME TIME TO TIGHTEN UP MY BRACES.
MY SOFTBALL COACH SAYS I NEED PRACTICE RUNNING ROUND THE BASES.
I'VE GOT A TEST TOMORROW AND I'VE REALLY GOT TO CRAM.
AND I SAID I'D SHOW MY UNCLE HOW TO FILTER OUT HIS SPAM.

STUDENTS:
SHE SAID SHE'D SHOW HER UNCLE HOW TO FILTER OUT HIS SPAM.
CHLOE:
OUR GARDEN NEEDS SOME WATERING
AND I'M THE ONE TO DO IT.
MY HAIR IS REALLY DIRTY AND
I SIMPLY MUST SHAMPOO IT.

YOU KNOW MY DEVOTION
IS ALL THAT IT SHOULD BE.
BUT YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO FIND
SOMEBODY ELSE INSTEAD OF ME.

STUDENTS:
YES, WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO FIND
SOMEBODY ELSE INSTEAD OF SHE.

STUDENTS turn away from CHLOE, who breathes a big sigh of relief.

CARMEN: Lorne could do it!

LORNE is horror-stricken. He motions no, no, no.

ANDI: Great idea!

CARMEN and ANDI turn toward LORNE, waving their pom-poms and cheering. His "no, no, no" hand motions change to fist pumps.

STUDENTS: (Ad lib.) Yeah, Lorne can do it, great idea! (Then, chanting.) Lorne! Lorne! Lorne! Lorne! Lorne! Lorne! Lorne! Lorne!

SONG #5: TOO BUSY: FOOTBALL CAPTAIN
LORNE, STUDENT ENSEMBLE
SOUND CUE 10

LORNE puts on a big fake grin and sings with false bravado.

LORNE:
(Spoken in rhythm.) GIMME THE BALL, GIMME THE BALL!
I'LL TAKE IT ALL THE WAY!
(Sing.) I'LL GIVE A HUNDRED AND TEN PERCENT!
I'LL REALLY COME TO PLAY!
I'LL RUN ACROSS HIS GOAL LINE.
LORNE: (Continued.)
I’LL NEVER EVER FUMBLE.
I’M STRONG AND FAST,
AND BEST FOR LAST,
INCREDI-BALLY HUMBLE!

BUT TIME OUT, STOP THE CLOCK.
YOU’RE TALKING TO ONE BUSY JOCK.
I’D LOVE TO SCORE A TOUCHDOWN
ON BEHALF OF MY WHOLE CLASS,
BUT MY SCHEDULE IS FILLED UP
AND SO I’M GONNA HAVE TO PASS.

STUDENTS:
OH NO, HIS SCHEDULE’S ALL FILLED UP.
HE’S GONNA HAVE TO PASS.

LORNE:
I GOTTA GO TO PRACTICE
OR THE COACH IS GONNA KILL ME!
AND THEN I GOTTA BABYSIT,
WHICH REALLY DOESN’T THRILL ME,
I GOTTA WEATHER-STRIP THE DOORS,
THE WINDOWS ALL NEED CAULKING.
AND MY GIRLFRIEND SAYS WE NEED TO DO
SOME HEAVY-DUTY TALKING.

STUDENTS:
BE CAREFUL WHEN YOUR GIRLFRIEND SAYS
YOU NEED TO DO SOME TALKING!

LORNE:
MY MOM’S BEEN ON ME FOR A MONTH
TO STRAIGHTEN UP MY ROOM.
AND I JUST CAN’T MISS THIS SPECIAL:

LORNE holds up a newspaper ad for a seafood restaurant.

ALL THE SHRIMP I CAN CONSUME!
I’D LOVE TO TACKLE MISTER P.
I’D KNOCK HIM ON HIS HEAD!
BUT SOMEONE ELSE WILL HAVE TO TALK
TO MISTER P. INSTEAD.

STUDENTS:
YES, SOMEONE ELSE WILL HAVE TO TALK
TO MR. P. INSTEAD.
As the STUDENTS turn away from him, LORNE'S cheeks puff out and he wipes the sweat of fear from his brow.

HARRY: Well, who else can we get?
ZIMMER: Wait, I got it! It's perfect! Meryl – captain of the debate team!
   She can talk anybody into anything!
STUDENTS: (Chanting.) Mer-yl! Mer-yl! Mer-yl! Mer-yl!

SONG #6: TOO BUSY: DEBATE CAPTAIN
MERYL, ZIMMER, CHLOE, LORNE, STUDENT ENSEMBLE
SOUND CUE 11

MERYL looks daggers at ZIMMER, but when the STUDENTS turn to her, she follows the pattern that CHLOE and LORNE have established.

MERYL:
   YOU'VE FIN'LY CHOSEN WISELY.
   I'M A CHAMPION LOGICIAN.
   AND WHEN WE SPAR, I KNOW I'LL ARGUE
   HIM INTO SUBMISSION.
   HIS CASTLE, I'M ABOUT TO STORM!
   HIS SHIP, I'M GONNA SCUTTLE!
   WHEN I PRESENT A CASE THERE IS
   NO QUESTION OF REBUTTAL!
   BUT OH WAIT!

ZIMMER: (Spoken in rhythm.)
   HERE WE GO!

MERYL:
   I'M BUSIER THAN YOU COULD EVER KNOW.
   MY DATEBOOK HAS ACTIVITY
   ON EV'RY SINGLE LINE.
   AND THEREFORE, SAD TO SAY,
   I MUST REGRETFULLY DECLINE.

STUDENTS:
   YOU KNOW, WE HAD A FEELING
   SHE'D REGRETFULLY DECLINE.
MERYL:
I’VE GOT TO WRITE A PAPER
ON THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS.
AND THEN I HAVE A TOURNAMENT
IN THREE-DIMENSIONAL CHESS.
I HAVE A MUSIC LESSON,
I PLAY ADVANCED PERCUSSION.
AND THEN I TUTOR SOMEONE
IN CONVERSATIONAL RUSSIAN.

STUDENTS:
AND THEN SHE TUTORS SOME POOR KID
IN CONVERSATIONAL RUSSIAN.

MERYL:
MY SISTER’S GETTING MARRIED
AND I’M GONNA BAKE THE CAKE.
AND THEN A TUTU FITTING,
’CAUSE I’M DANCING IN SWAN LAKE.

As music from Swan Lake plays, she dances on point, flapping her arms like wings, and exits as if it’s a natural part of the dance. The STUDENTS look at one another, confused. One of the STUDENTS walks offstage and retrieves MERYL in time for her to continue singing.

MERYL:
I’M JUST THE ONE TO MAKE OUR CASE,
A VERBAL ACROBAT!
BUT I CAN’T SPARE THE TIME
AND THERE IS NO DEBATING THAT!

STUDENTS:
NO, SHE CAN’T SPARE THE TIME
AND THERE IS NO DEBATING THAT!

CHLOE, LORNE, and MERYL:
WE’RE VERY, VERY SORRY
BUT YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE
THAT NO ONE IS AS BUSY
AS BUSY AS WE THREE.

STUDENTS:
WE DON’T KNOW HOW THEY FOUND THE TIME
FOR THAT APOLOGY.
YES, NO ONE IS AS BUSY…
ZIMMER:  (Spoken in rhythm.)
   THEIR SCHEDULES MAKE US DIZZY!

CHLOE, LORNE, MERYL, and STUDENTS:
   YES, NO ONE IS AS BUSY, BUSY, BUSY,
   BUSY AS WE (THESE) THREE.
   (Shouted.) BUSY!

WILL:  Well, this is great! Now what are we going to do?
HARRY:  Any volunteers?

STUDENTS look down sheepishly and try to become invisible.

ANDI:  Hey! I think I know who we can get.

STUDENTS look at ANDI, then follow her gaze to DARYC, who is at
one end of the crowd. DARYC turns her head too, to see who they're
looking at, smiling in anticipation of spotting the person who will take
on this onerous task. But there is no one beyond her, so she looks back
at the other kids, who are all looking right at her. DARYC'S smile fades
as realization hits her.

DARYC:  Ohhh, no no no no!
CARMEN:  You're the perfect person for the job!

DARYC launches into an improvised song and dance, trying the same
tactic as CHLOE, LORNE, and MERYL.

SONG #7: TOO BUSY: DARYC!

DARYC

DARYC:  (Sung a cappella.)
   OHHH... I'M SO BUSY.
   YES, I'M SO BUSY.
   I'D LOVE TO DO IT
   BUT I AM WAY TOO BUSY.

DARYC tries to get the STUDENTS to sing the chorus part.
**DARCY:** (Continued. Sung a cappella.)

YES, SHE’S BUSY
OH, SO BUSY
HEY, SHE’S BUSY, BUSY, BUSY, BUSY,—

*(Spoken.*) You're not singing—

HEY, I'M BUSY
YEAH, SO BUSY
I'M REALLY BUSY, BUSY, BUSY, BUSY, BUSY.
Wow, so busy...

**DARCY** starts dancing away from the STUDENTS, but **ANDI** blocks her path.

**ANDI:** Darcy, we need you.

**DARCY:** *(Frenetic.)* Not me – I'm no student leader! I'm cleaning out cages and fixing pom-poms and the cleanup committee. Yeah, the cleanup committee! *(Looking around.)* Would you look at the mess we've left here. Tsk, tsk, tsk. I'd better get started straightening up.

**DARCY** takes a step or two, trying to exit, but **HARRY** blocks her path.

**HARRY:** There's nothing to be afraid of, Darcy. *(To CHLOE, LORNE, and MERYL.)* Is there?

**CHLOE, LORNE, and MERYL:** *(Strategically blocking DARCY. In unison, way too enthusiastically.)* Noooooo!

**DARCY:** *(Feigning calm reasonableness.)* Tell you what. I know what let's do. I'll find someone to talk to Mr. Potcher. Huh? OK? I'll search the whole school! I'll look in every nook and cranny, under the desks, behind the lockers – everywhere! In fact, I'd better get started!

**DARCY** takes a step or two away from the crowd. This time, **CARMEN** blocks her path.

**CARMEN:** Darcy – Mr. Potcher is just a guy.
DARCY: (Flustered.) Just a guy? Didn't you hear that song? He's got a hatchet and coleslaw! He boils little puppies. He hypnotizes bacon! Never let him get close to your neck, you said. Well, he's not getting anywhere near this neck!!
HARRY: Oh, that's just silly rumors. (To the other kids.) Right?
STUDENTS: (Ominously.) RIIIIIGHT!
SHALENA: (Sincerely.) You know, Darcy, I think you can do it!

SHALENA’S vote of confidence calms DARCY a bit and she becomes more receptive to what the student say.

HARRY: You'd have us all behind you!
ZIMMER: Way, way, way behind you!
CARMEN: You'd be a hero!
ANDI: For sure!
SHALENA: You could be elected student body president!

STUDENTS voice their enthusiastic agreement -- all except CHLOE, who looks alarmed!

ALL STUDENTS: (Slowly and building.) Dar-cy! Dar-cy! Dar-cy! Dar-cy! Dar-cy! Dar-cy! Dar-cy! Dar-cy! Dar-cy!
HARRY: What do you say, Darcy? Will you do it? Will you be our hero?
DARCY: (Looks into the STUDENTS’ faces, musters her courage and grins weakly.) No problem!

ALL STUDENTS cheer.

SONG #8: HAIL TO DARCY
STUDENTS

SOUND CUE 12: HAIL TO DARCY, Part 1

STUDENTS: (Singing.)
HAIL TO DARCY,
STAND UP AND CHEER! (YAY!)
HAIL TO DARCY,
SHE HAS NO FEAR.
STUDENTS: (Continued.)
  MARCHING ON,
  INVINCIBLE IS SHE!
  ON TO VICTORY!

  HAIL TO DARCY,
  STAND UP AND CHEER! (YAY!)
  HAIL TO DARCY,
  SHE HAS NO FEAR.
  MARCHING ON,
  INVINCIBLE IS SHE…

The song pauses abruptly as COACH enters, thoroughly defeated. His hair and clothes are disheveled. His arm is in a sling. ALL STUDENTS look at him with great expectation.

COACH: Practice and all games are canceled until further notice.
  (Sotto voce.) That guy just can't be reasoned with!

COACH exits. STUDENTS look at each other for a moment with deep concern in their eyes.

DARCY: Gee guys, you know, on second thought—

SOUND CUE 13: HAIL TO DARCY, Part 2

STUDENTS: (Double-time, before DARCY can change her mind.)
  HAIL TO DARCY,
  STAND UP AND CHEER! (YAY!)
  HAIL TO DARCY,
  SHE HAS NO FEAR.
  MARCHING ON,
  INVINCIBLE IS SHE!
  ON TO VICTOR,
  ON TO VICTOR,
  ON TO VICTORY! (YEAH!)

DARCY looks extremely apprehensive. SOUND CUE 14: Transition to Act One, Scene 3.

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ACT ONE, SCENE 3

AT START: Mr. Potcher's Office – next day. It is dark and foreboding, with ominous shadows. MR. POTCHER sits at his desk, doing some paperwork. There's a tentative knock at the door. MR. POTCHER looks up quizzically, not sure whether he heard something. He returns to his paperwork. Another tentative knock. He looks around for the source of the sound. Another knock and he traces it to the door.

MR. POTCHER: (Irritably.) Is someone knocking on the door?
DARCY: (Offstage. Timidly.) No.

MR. POTCHER stands, crosses to the door, and opens it, revealing a cowering DARCY.

MR. POTCHER: Yes, what is it?
DARCY: Um, Mr. Potcher? Can I talk to you for a minute?
MR. POTCHER: You want to speak with me? (Bemused chuckle at the audacity.) All right, come in.

DARCY enters the office.

MR. POTCHER: Who are you?
DARCY: I'm Darcy. I'm in the Theater Arts Club? And the Dance Committee? And the Pep Squad?
MR. POTCHER: Waste of time, waste of time!!
DARCY: Well, that's what I'm here to talk to you about, Mr. Potcher.
MR. POTCHER: Well?
DARCY: It's about canceling the show? And sports? And dances? And art and music classes? And all the other stuff?
MR. POTCHER: What about it?

DARCY draws herself up as if preparing to give a speech.

DARCY: Please don't. (Job done, she heads for the door.)
MR. POTCHER: And why shouldn't I?

DARCY stops, turns, and resumes the conversation.
DARCY: Because it'll take all the fun out of school.
MR. POTCHER: Fun? Do you think you're here for fun?
DARCY: Well—
MR. POTCHER: You're here to learn, not to have fun!
DARCY: But we are learning.
MR. POTCHER: Not enough! This school's grades are just like all the other schools in this system... (Disparagingly, making quote marks with his fingers.) ..."meeting the standards."
DARCY: But doesn't that mean we're keeping up?
MR. POTCHER: It means you're average! And average isn't good enough, not for a school under MY control!
DARCY: Why not?
MR. POTCHER: Darcy, have you ever heard of Consult-a-palooza?
DARCY: No.
MR. POTCHER: It's the biggest annual conference for consultants. And each year, they give an award to the consultant who achieved the most academic improvement in his school. I've never won that award, but I'm going to! This is my year, because I've finally figured out the secret. It's work! Work, work, work, and no distractions! No art. No music. No theater. No sports. Just the three "R's"!
DARCY: (Puzzled.) Reduce, re-use, recycle?
MR. POTCHER: No. Reading, writing, 'rithmetic!
DARCY: But you can't do this now, not with the holidays coming up! What about the big Thanksgiving game? And the Christmas show?
MR. POTCHER: Oh, the holidays! Don't talk to me about the holidays! They're the biggest time-wasters of all! Thanksgiving pageants, Valentine's Day dances. Not to mention winter vacation, which "just happens" to coincide with Christmas and New Year's! And then spring break, which oh-so-conveniently falls on Easter! Weeks and weeks of utter sloth!
DARCY: Well, I think of the holidays more as inspirational. Miss Teaford uses them as themes for...
MR. POTCHER: (Lost in thought.) And even if I forbade everyone to observe the holidays in school, they would still be distracted by them after school and on weekends, wouldn't they.
DARCY: Well, I mean – you can't just erase the holidays from the calendar, can you? You've got to accept them. Maybe even enjoy them.

MR. POTCHER: That's it! Darcy, I'm indebted to you!

DARCY: Oh. Well, good. So you're going to start enjoying the holidays?

MR. POTCHER: No, no. "Erase them from the calendar," you said. That's what I've got to do. It's the next logical step. Completely do away with all the holidays. It would be the greatest contribution to work productivity in history!

DARCY: But that's impossible.

MR. POTCHER: Is it? Is it? I wonder. I wonder. (Sinks deep into his thoughts, a crazed look in his eyes.)

DARCY: Mr. Potcher? Could we talk some more about putting back the art and music classes, and the extracurricular activities? Mr. Potcher? Mr. Potcher? (Seeing that MR. POTCHER is now oblivious, she backs away to the door and exits.)

MR. POTCHER: (To himself.) What if I could? Actually eliminate the holidays! It would be the single greatest achievement in the history of productivity enhancement. The Consult-a-palooza prize would be mine! No, no, the academy's highest honor – the lifetime achievement award! (In a euphoric trance, he walks to an imaginary microphone downstage. A curtain closes behind him.) I can see it now! The most glittering glitterati of the consulting profession filling an immense hall. An orchestra led by a distinguished conductor.

CONDUCTOR enters, nods to MR. POTCHER and faces the imaginary orchestra. [NOTE: If the performance includes a real conductor who is visible to the audience, the scene is played with him or her instead of a "fantasy" conductor.] MR. POTCHER begins his speech.

MR. POTCHER: I'd like to thank this wonderful organization – Consultants for Research, Understanding, and Development – for this richly deserved honor.
After he says "Consultants for Research, Understanding and Development," a SIGN or BANNER appears behind him [lowered from the flies if possible] with "CRUD" written in large capital letters and "Consultants for Research, Understanding, and Development" written in smaller letters underneath the acronym.

MR. POTCHER: And I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to acknowledge those who came before me, those whose profound influence on my life has led me to this magnificent moment.

Three framed portraits similarly appear behind him, covered so the audience cannot see who they are.

SONG #9: POTCHER'S HEROES
MR. POTCHER
SOUND CUE 15: POTCHER'S HEROES, Part 1

MR. POTCHER:
(Spoken.) WHEN I THINK OF THE LEGENDS OF HIST'RY
WHOSE EXAMPLE MIGHT PROFIT A MAN,
WHO GETS MY ADULATION? WHO'S MY INSPIRATION?
THERE'S NO ONE WHO'S WORTHIER THAN...

Big musical introduction, and the three portraits are unveiled: Captain Hook, Ebenezer Scrooge, and a third that is either blank except for the words "Image Not Available" or has a generic outline of a figure with those words inside the outline.

(Speak-singing.) CAPTAIN HOOK, NOW THERE'S A GREAT LEADER!
UNAFRAID OF WHAT PEOPLE MAY THINK.
EV'RY SEA-GOIN' HAND IN HIS PIRACY BAND
WOULD OBEY TO STAY OUT OF THE DRINK!

AND WHEN HE CALLED OUT, "WEIGH ANCHOR!!"
EV'RY SWABBIE LAID HANDS ON THE WINCH.
BORN COMMANDERS, THESE THREE, OH TAKE IT FROM ME,
WERE CAPTAIN HOOK, SCROOGE, AND THE GR——
A burst of music drowns out the final word, throwing MR. POTCHER off-balance. MR. POTCHER regains his footing and glares at the conductor, but resumes singing.

**MR. POTCHER:** *(Continued. Speak-singing.)*

**NOW SCROOGE, YOU SEE, WAS ALL BUSINESS.**
**AND NO HOLIDAYS GOT IN HIS WAY.**
**KEPT HIS HEART IN THE FREEZER, DID OLD EBENEZER**
‘CAUSE GIVING TIME OFF DOESN’T PAY.

**NOW WE COME TO THE LAST OF THE TRIO.**
**OF COMPASSION, HE HAS NOT A PINCH.**
**HE’S BIG AND HE’S GREEN AND HE’S EVER SO MEAN.**
**HE’S THAT GANGRENOUS GARGOYLE, THE GR—**

Another burst of music drowns out the final word. MR. POTCHER glares at CONDUCTOR with more annoyance than last time, but again resumes.

*(SPOKEN.)* **AND SO NOW YOU KNOW WHOM I ADMIRE,**
**WHOM I CLUTCH TO MY HEART IN A CLINCH.**
**ARE THEY WRONG? ARE THEY BAD?**
*(Speak-singing.)* **WELL, MAYBE A TAD.**
**BUT THEY’RE CAPTAIN HOOK, SCROOGE, AND THE—**

**MR. POTCHER** abruptly stops singing and whips around to hold up a warning finger to the CONDUCTOR, but the music is silent. CONDUCTOR smiles at MR. POTCHER, then gently conducts the introduction to the next section of the song as MR. POTCHER slowly tears his distrustful gaze from the CONDUCTOR and resumes singing.

*(Speak-singing.)* **AND SOMEDAY IF I’M TRUE TO MY STANDARDS**
**AND I NEVER YIELD EVEN AN INCH**
**WELL THEN MAYBE MY NAME**
**WILL ACHIEVE LASTING FAME**
**JUST LIKE CAPTAIN HOOK, SCROOGE—**
**NOW IT’S NOT THE THREE STOOGES—**
**IT’S CAPTAIN HOOK, SCROOGE,**
*(Rushing.)* **AND THE GRINCH! HA HA!**
The final "ha ha" is directed at the CONDUCTOR. Then MR. POTCHER turns his attention to the audience in a confidential manner to sing a coda. SOUND CUE 16: POTCHER’S HEROES, Part 2

MR. POTCHER: (Continued. Speak-singing.)
Now perhaps you have started to wonder why we’ve shown only two of the three. It’s the lawyers, I fear, who have made it quite clear

Indicating the third picture.

(Speak-singing.) That this one’s not copyright-free. So my friends, to avoid legal trouble, the lesson to learn is quite plain. Yes, if you are the sort who would stay out of court, choose your heroes from public domain.

Come to think of it, though, to determine the most fearsome of all is a cinch! So I’ll model my life on those masters of strife, the lawyers who handle the GR—

A final blast of music drowns out the last word. SOUND CUE 17: Transition to Act One, Scene 4

ACT ONE, SCENE 4

AT START: Classroom – day. CHLOE, WILL, and JAKE meet in an otherwise unoccupied classroom.

JAKE: I tell ya, I don’t like it!
CHLOE: Simmer down, Jake.
WILL: This could cost us the election, you know!
CHLOE: What are you talking about? They love me!
JAKE: They do, huh? (Reads from his laptop or tablet.) Statement: Chloe Davenport should be re-elected student body president in the mid-term election. Strongly agree, two percent. Two percent!!
CHLOE: (Taken aback.) Really?
WILL: (Reading from his laptop or tablet.) Somewhat agree, 38 percent. Somewhat disagree, 47 percent!
JAKE: We're losing them!
CHLOE: But I don't understand. What happened?
WILL: Darcy happened, that's what happened!
JAKE: She's getting big points just for talking to Mr. Potcher.
WILL: If she pulls off changing his mind, she could be elected the next president!
CHLOE: But she's not even running.
JAKE: Ever hear of a write-in vote?
WILL: She could be drafted!

LORNE opens the classroom door.

JAKE: Hey! This is a private meeting!
LORNE: But I forgot my lunch in here.

WILL crosses to the door and shoves LORNE out.

WILL: Buy it! It's pizza day!

WILL slams the door and returns to where he was.

CHLOE: Are you saying I should've talked to Mr. Potcher?
JAKE: No, no, that would've been too risky if you failed.
WILL: Political suicide!
JAKE: But it leaves you vulnerable if Darcy succeeds!
CHLOE: But it wasn't just me. Lorne and Meryl said they were too busy, too.
WILL: It's different for them.
JAKE: They need Potcher to reinstate extracurricular activities.
WILL: So he can play football.
JAKE: And she can debate.
WILL: They need Darcy to succeed.
JAKE: Then all they have to do is win a couple of games.
WILL: A couple of tournaments.
JAKE: And no one will remember that they wimped out of talking to Potcher.
WILL: But for you, it's a question of leadership.
JAKE: Leadership!
WILL: You can't afford to lose that aura right before the mid-year election.
JAKE: Especially with a fresh, new face in the race.
CHLOE: What can I do?
JAKE and WILL: You've got to confront Darcy!
WILL: She's been playing it cagey.
JAKE: Playing it cute.
WILL: No one really knows how her meeting with Potcher went.
JAKE: You've got to change that.
WILL: Find out how she's doing with Potcher.
JAKE: Pin her down!
WILL: Did she change his mind or didn't she?
JAKE: No more waffling!
WILL: And in front of the other kids. As many as possible.
JAKE: The longer she drags this thing out, the worse it is for you!

 SOUND CUE 18: Transition to Act One, Scene 5.

ACT ONE, SCENE 5

AT START: School Cafeteria – next day. Lunch period. DARCY eats with her friends, SHALENA and ZIMMER. Other STUDENTS sit at or bring trays of food to the other tables.

SHALENA: So let me get this straight. Mr. Potcher canceled art and music and theater and sports and all that. Then you went to talk to him. And now all that stuff is still canceled and he's talking about canceling the holidays, too?
DARCY: Yeah.
ZIMMER: So your meeting with Mr. Potcher wasn't a complete success.
DARCY: No.
SHALENA: What does he mean, "cancel the holidays"?
DARCY: I don't know. Maybe he's just crazy.
ZIMMER: What are you going to do?
DARCY: I don't know.
CHLOE enters, closely followed by WILL, JAKE, and an entourage of STUDENTS.

CHLOE: So, Darcy, how did it go with Mr. Potcher?
DARCY: Oh, pretty well, pretty well.
CHLOE: Really? That's great! So he's reinstating all the programs he canceled?
DARCY: Well, not quite yet. But soon.
CHLOE: I don't understand. Did you convince him or didn't you?
DARCY: Well, I gave him a lot to think about. And he's... you know... mulling it over.
CHLOE: But nothing's actually changed.
DARCY: It just takes a little time for my arguments to... to sink in.
CHLOE: So when do you expect a final answer? I mean, we can't wait much longer to prepare for all the holiday activities.
DARCY: Right, the holidays. Well, soon, soon, I'm sure.
CHLOE: You know, Darcy, it isn't right to keep everyone's hopes up if you really haven't changed his mind. So be honest. What did Mr. Potcher say when you talked to him?
DARCY: Well...

STUDENT: (Enters.) Hey, Darcy! Mr. Potcher wants to see you in his office.

SHALENA: There, you see? I'll bet Mr. Potcher is ready to give in!
ZIMMER: Go get 'em, Darcy!

STUDENTS pat DARCY on the back and cheer her. CHLOE looks worried. DARCY looks panicky as she exits to meet her fate. SOUND CUE 19: Transition to Act One, Scene 6.
ACT ONE, SCENE 6

AT START: Mr. Potcher’s Office – minutes later. DARCY knocks and MR. POTCHER opens the door.

MR. POTCHER: Ah, Darcy! Come in! (Crosses to his desk.) You’re a very lucky young lady. This is the greatest moment of my life, and I’m going to share it with you because you gave me the inspiration. (Reveals a mysterious-looking object.) Do you know what this is?

DARCY: No.

MR. POTCHER: It’s a magic calendar.

DARCY: Magic calendar?

MR. POTCHER: Created by a sorceress thousands of years ago, and passed down through the ages.

DARCY: (Awed.) Did you steal it from a secret hidden chamber buried inside a pyramid?

MR. POTCHER: No, I got it on eBay.

DARCY: What are you going to do with it?

MR. POTCHER: I’m going to erase all the holidays! When they’re erased from this calendar, they’ll cease to exist!

DARCY: (Aghast.) No!

SOUND CUE 20: Calendar Music 1. MR. POTCHER opens the calendar and sings merrily as he erases.

MR. POTCHER: (Singing – at first to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne" and then to the obvious tunes.)

NOW NEW YEAR’S DAY WILL BE FORGOT...

SOUND CUE 21: Calendar Music 2. (Layer over Sound Cue 20.)

THERE GOES PETER COTTONTAIL...

SOUND CUE 22: Calendar Music 3. (Layer over Sound Cue 20.)

OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOOD
THANKSGIVING, THANKSGIVING IS GONE FOR GOOD...

1 An alternative Calendar Music Sound Cue is available at the end of the Production CD. This alternative Sound Cue combines Sound Cues 20-24.

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SOUND CUE 23: Calendar Music 4. (Layer over Sound Cue 20.)

MR. POTCHER: (Continued.)
DECK THE HALLS WITH BOUGHS OF HOLLY
FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA.
I'M ERASING ALL THAT FOLLY
FOLLY FOLLY FA LA LA LA LA.

SOUND CUE 24: Calendar Music 5. (Layer over Sound Cue 20.)
Fade out SOUND CUE 20.

MR. POTCHER: (Speaking.)
No more will all the holidays
Create such massive waste.
From Christmas down to Groundhog Day
They're all of 'em erased!
DARCY: NO!

SOUND CUE 25: Transition to Act One, Scene 7.

ACT ONE, SCENE 7

AT START: Island of Lost Holidays – day. SOUND CUE 26: Island Sounds. After a few beats, SANTA CLAUS enters, looking befuddled at his uncharacteristic surroundings. He is followed in short order by CUPID, LEPRECHAUN, EASTER BUNNY, JACK-O’-LANTERN, and TURKEY, all of whom look equally bewildered.

SANTA: Any idea where we are?
LEPRECHAUN: We're not over the rainbow, I can tell you that!
CHILDREN'S DAY GUY: (Offstage.) Hey! Company!

CHILDREN'S DAY GUY enters rapidly and enthusiastically shakes SANTA’S hand. His hairstyle and clothes are those of a kid who might have sung doo-wop on a street corner in the 1950s.
CHILDREN'S DAY GUY: Aloha, man! Great to see you! Welcome to my humble home.

EASTER BUNNY: Where are we, exactly?

CHILDREN'S DAY GUY: This is the Island of Lost Holidays. Somebody must be messing with that calendar again.

CUPID: The Island of Lost Holidays? What the heck is that?

CHILDREN'S DAY GUY: It's where a holiday goes when it's been erased from the magic calendar. So far, it's just been me, but man, it's good to have company!

LEPRECHAUN: And who might you be?

CHILDREN'S DAY GUY: I'm Children's Day.

CUPID: Never heard of it.

CHILDREN'S DAY GUY: I know. But didn't you ever wonder why there's a Mother's Day and a Father's Day but no Children's Day?

SANTA: (Very jolly.) Because every day is children's day!

SANTA looks to the other HOLIDAY CHARACTERS for agreement, but they stare blankly at him.

CHILDREN'S DAY GUY: No, it's because Children's Day was erased in the magic calendar about 2000 years ago. That's how long I've been here. (Proudly.) But as you can see, I've kept up to date.

CUPID: Actually, you seem more like a kid from the fifties.

JACK-O'-LANTERN: Why was Children's Day erased?

CHILDREN'S DAY GUY: Children's Day was in August, which was named after Augustus Caesar, the emperor of Rome. Well, he got a sorceress mad at him and she decided that his month, August, shouldn't have anything to celebrate. So she erased Children's Day in her magic calendar and I've been here ever since.

CUPID: You're kidding!

CHILDREN'S DAY GUY: Didn't you ever wonder why August is the only month with no holidays?

EASTER BUNNY: Is it?

CHILDREN'S DAY GUY: Think about it.
SONG #10: AUGUST HAS NO HOLIDAYS
CHILDREN’S DAY GUY, HOLIDAY CHARACTERS ENSEMBLE
SOUND CUE 27

CHILDREN’S DAY GUY:

JANUARY STARTS WITH NEW YEAR’S.
(Touching CUPID’S shoulder.) IN FEBRUARY, YOU’RE MY VALENTINE.

CUPID: (Shrugging him off. Spoken.) Watch it!

CHILDREN’S DAY GUY: (Marching over to the LEPRECHAUN.)

THEN WE MARCH ’ROUND THE TOWN FOR ST. PADDY.
(Gesturing to EASTER BUNNY.) APRIL’S FOR THE EASTER EGGS WE FIND.

CUPID and LEPRECHAUN:

MAY HAS A DAY JUST FOR MOTHER.

SANTA and JACK-O’-LANTERN:

JUNE HAS THE SAME FOR DEAR OLD DAD.

CHILDREN’S DAY GUY:

BUT IN ONE MONTH, THE CALENDAR’S EMPTY.
ONE MONTH’S A BAGFUL OF SAD.

ALL HOLIDAY CHARACTERS sing a doo-wop backup complete with classic choreography as CHILDREN’S DAY GUY continues. TURKEY doesn’t sing, but does the same choreography as the others.

CHILDREN’S DAY GUY:

AUGUST HAS NO HOLIDAYS.
NONE, ZIP, NADA, NOTHING AT ALL.
NO TRADITIONAL FOODS AND NO PRESENTS.
NO CHEESY DECORATIONS AT THE MALL.
(Spoken.) Ooo!

AUGUST HAS NO HOLIDAYS.
HOW MUCH MORE MUST IT WAIT TILL IT DRIES ALL ITS TEARS
AND GLIDES THROUGH THE YEARS WITH ITS VERY OWN SPECIAL DATE?

JULY HAS AMERICA’S BIRTHDAY.
LABOR DAY COMES IN SEPTEMBER.
OCTOBER HAS HALLOWEEN PARTIES.
THANKSGIVING IS FOUND IN NOVEMBER.
CHILDREN'S DAY GUY: (Continued.)
December's a countdown to Christmas,
with a smile for each and ev'ry little tot.
Oh, but one month is the mayor of Lonelyville.
It's the month that Hallmark forgot!

August has no holidays
And it makes me oh so very blue.
'Cause if August had some holidays
I'd spend them all with you.

Musical interlude

LEPRECHAUN: So tell me, lad. How do you celebrate Children's Day?
CHILDREN'S DAY GUY: Kids wear golden crowns all day long. And
grown-ups have to do whatever they say. They get to stay up as
late as they want. And at midnight, everyone goes outside and plays
in the snow.

LEPRECHAUN: It snows in August?
CHILDREN'S DAY GUY: It does on Children's Day!

ALL HOLIDAY CHARACTERS:
And now we are stranded together.
No more will any holidays appear.
The calendar's running on empty.
It might as well be August all year.

CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:
No more, no more holidays.
And it makes us oh so very blue.
'Cause if they'd just bring back the holidays,
all the holidays,
we'd spend them all with

CHILDREN'S DAY GUY and TENOR VOICE:
you.

BARITONE VOICE:
you.

BASS VOICE:
you.

TURKEY: (As if harmonizing.)
[TURKEY GOBBLE].
ACT ONE, SCENE 8

AT START: Classroom – day. MISS TEAFORD is teaching an English class, which includes DARCY.

MISS TEAFORD: All right, after reading your last batch of essays, I think we'd better review some basic grammar.

STUDENTS groan. MR. POTCHER enters through the classroom door, holding a bunch of tickets.

MR. POTCHER: Excuse me. I won't be a minute. I just need to hand these out. (Begins to distribute the tickets.)
MISS TEAFORD: What are those?
MR. POTCHER: Guest passes! To my professional society's big award dinner. I'm expecting a major, major award and I know you'll all want to attend and cheer me.
MISS TEAFORD: Oh, well congratulations! What did you do?
MR. POTCHER: (Proudly.) I eliminated the holidays!

DARCY tries to disappear into her chair.

MISS TEAFORD: What do you mean?
STUDENTS: What?!!
MISS TEAFORD: But why? How??
MR. POTCHER: (Matter-of-factly.) Magic calendar. Oh, I know it may take a little getting used to. But trust me, you'll get a lot more work done without all that distraction. (Spots DARCY.) Oh, Darcy – if you have any more brainstorms like getting rid of the holidays, be sure to let me know.
MISS TEAFORD: Darcy? What's she got to do with this?
MR. POTCHER: She suggested the idea. But of course I carried it through to completion, and that's what gets the awards. OK, now -- back to work!!
MR. POTCHER exits, slamming the door closed. ALL STUDENTS glare at DARCY. Fade to black. A title is projected onto the curtain or REAR wall: "one week later". Lights fade up on Classroom – day. STUDENTS sit at their desks as before, but DARCY is not among them. They are completing a test.

**SONG #11: FILLING IN THE BUBBLES**  
**HARRY, ZIMMER, CARMEN, ANDI, MISS SNOOD, JAKE, WILL, CHLOE, STUDENTS**  
**SOUND CUE 28**

MISS TEAFORD: Pencils down. Everyone please pass your papers to the aisle.

STUDENTS do so, as the song begins.

STUDENTS:

PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.  
PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.

JAKE:

I USED TO PLAY TRUMPET IN THE MARCHING BAND.

STUDENTS:

PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.

JAKE:

NOW MY TRUMPET’S IN THE ATTIC AND MY LIFE IS BLAND.

STUDENTS:

PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.

JAKE:

AND I SPEND ALL DAY WITHOUT ANY REST  
FILLING IN THE BUBBLES ON A STANDARDIZED TEST.

STUDENTS cross to the cafeteria (or the set they’re in transforms to the cafeteria) as they continue singing. There, they each pick up a tray, line up along the rail to get their food, and then sit at the tables. MISS SNOOD cheerfully spoons food onto their plates.
STUDENTS:
  Oh hey, we're feeling so depressed
  filling in the bubbles on a standardized test.

ZIMMER:
  I can kick a ball, I can swing a bat.

STUDENTS:
  Pencils up, pencils down.

ZIMMER:
  I can sink a basket in nothing flat.

STUDENTS:
  Pencils up, pencils down.

ZIMMER:
  But the only thing sinking is the heart in my chest
  filling in the bubbles on a standardized test.

STUDENTS:
  Filling in the bubbles on a standardized test.

CARMEN:
  Once the wind did blow and the sun did shine.

STUDENTS:
  Pencils up, pencils down.

CARMEN:
  Now I feel like I'm working in a deep, dark mine.

STUDENTS:
  Pencils up, pencils down.

ANDI:
  No dawn in the east, no sunset in the west.
  Only filling in the bubbles on a standardized test.

STUDENTS:
  Filling in the bubbles on a standardized test.

MISS SNOOD: What'll it be, hon? I've got broccoli, carrots, and peas.
HARRY: A and B but not C.
MISS SNOOD: Okey dokes!
WILL: 
LORD HAVE MERCY ON MY STANDARDIZED SOUL.

STUDENTS: 
PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.

WILL: 
I'M STRONG ON ACADEMICS BUT I DON'T FEEL WHOLE.

STUDENTS: 
PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.

WILL: 
OH SOMEBODY TELL ME WHY THEY'RE SO OBSESSED 
WITH FILLING IN THE BUBBLES ON A STANDARDIZED TEST.

STUDENTS: 
OH HEY, WE'RE FEELING SO DEPRESSED 
FILLING IN THE BUBBLES ON A STANDARDIZED TEST.

DARCY enters with a tray of food. She tries to sit at one of the tables, 
but each time she sees an open spot and tries to sit, the STUDENTS 
squeeze together so she can't.

CHLOE: 
NOW THERE AREN'T EVEN HOLIDAYS TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

STUDENTS: 
PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.

CHLOE: 
AND IT'S ALL THE FAULT OF YOU-KNOW-WHO!

ALL STUDENTS glare at DARCY.

STUDENTS: 
PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.

CHLOE: 
INSTEAD OF HAVING HOLIDAYS, 
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU GUESSED. 
WE'RE FILLING IN THE BUBBLES ON A STANDARDIZED TEST.
STUDENTS:
OH HEY, WE'RE FEELING SO DEPRESSED
FILLING IN THE BUBBLES ON A STANDARDIZED TEST.
FILLING IN THE BUBBLES…

WILL:
NO ONE KNOWS OUR TROUBLES.

STUDENTS:
FILLING IN THE BUBBLES ON A STANDARDIZED TEST.

DARCY gives up trying to sit at the first table and tries to sit at another table. To her happy surprise, those STUDENTS don't prevent her from sitting. But as soon as she sits down, they ALL rise and exit. The STUDENTS at the first table join them until everyone but DARCY is gone. MISS SNOOD exits inconspicuously. CHLOE, CARMEN, ANDI, LORNE, MERYL, HARRY, and WILL re-enter, carrying boxes which they deposit at DARCY’S feet.

CARMEN: Here!
DARCY: What's this?
CARMEN: A little thank-you present for getting rid of the holidays. These are the Christmas ornaments we don't need anymore. Now that there's no Christmas, my mom doesn't want them cluttering up the garage.
LORNE: Same goes for our Fourth of July stuff.
MERYL: Here's our Valentine's Day decorations. My parents met on Valentine's Day, so it was kind of special in our family. Now it's just another day.
HARRY: It was bad enough not having sports and arts and stuff. But why did you have to tell Mr. Potcher to get rid of the holidays, too?
DARCY: Look, this wasn't my fault!
CHLOE: Did you give Mr. Potcher the idea to eliminate the holidays, or didn't you?
DARCY: Well, kind of. But I didn't mean to.
CHLOE: Yeah. We'll keep that in mind.
WILL: Thanksgiving was the only time the whole year when our family got together.
DARCY: They can still get together.
WILL: Nah. What's the point anymore?
ANDI:  Thanks again, Darcy. Thanks so much!

ALL (except DARY) exit.

DARCY:  (Calling after them.)  But I didn't mean to. It was an accident. I'm sorry.

SONG #12:  ANYONE BUT ME

DARCY

SOUND CUE 29

DARCY:  (All alone.)
I thought I'd be a hero.
I thought I'd save the day.
At last I'd be someone who they admire.
It's my heart's desire.
And now I wish that I could be anyone but, anyone but me.

I tell them that I'm sorry
But they just turn away
And leave me all alone in my despair.
It just isn't fair.
Oh how I wish that I could be anyone but, anyone but me.

My parents say just give it time,
A year or two or ten.
They're sure that this will fade away
And I will smile again.
They say that they were children once
And so they know first-hand.
But everything was diff'rent then.
How could they understand?

I guess I'll have to move now
To somewhere far away,
Where no one knows my sorrow and my shame.
Better change my name.
'Cause now it's very clear to see
That it's better, better far to be anyone but, anyone but me.

INTERMISSION
ACT TWO, SCENE 1

AT START: School Cafeteria – day. SOUND CUE 30: Opening of Act Two, Scene 1. The cafeteria is empty except for DARCY, who sits alone at a table, extremely despondent. MISS SNOOD enters with a slice of pie.

MISS SNOOD: Here, hon. I thought you might like the last slice of pumpkin pie.
DARCY: Thanks, Miss Snood. But I'm not hungry.
MISS SNOOD: Oh, now, don't let it get you down, hon. Kids have short memories. Things'll get back to normal pretty soon.
DARCY: Normal wasn't so great either.

SHALENA and ZIMMER enter.

SHALENA: Cheer up, Darcy. It's not that bad.
ZIMMER: Right! So what if you ruined school for everyone?

SHALENA punches ZIMMER in the arm.

ZIMMER: Ow!

MISS SNOOD starts eating the pie while SHALENA, DARCY, and ZIMMER talk.

SHALENA: So you got off to a rocky start. You'll find a way to change Mr. Potcher's mind.
DARCY: Oh no, I'm through!
SHALENA: What do you mean? You can't give up now!
MISS SNOOD: You're not a quitter, are you?
SHALENA: You don't know the meaning of the word!
DARCY: I looked it up. I'm pretty sure I can do it.
ZIMMER: Listen Darcy, we know how it is.
SONG #13: KEEP A GOIN’
ZIMMER, SHALENA, MISS SNOOD
SOUND CUE 31: KEEP A GOIN’, Part 1

ZIMMER:
SOMETIMES IT ISN’T EASY TO BE A KID.

SHALENA:
BUT THERE’S ONE THING WE’VE LEARNED THAT’S WORTH KNOWIN’.

MISS SNOOD:
WHEN THINGS ARE ROUGH
AND THE GOING’S TOUGH,

ZIMMER, SHALENA, and MISS SNOOD:
THAT IS WHEN THE TOUGH KEEP A-GOIN’.

SHALENA:
WHEN YOUR TEACHER CALLS ON YOU,
KEEP A-GOIN’.
STAND UP TALL, AND ALWAYS KEEP YOUR COOL.
IF YOU THINK TWO AND TWO IS THREE
AND YOU SPELL “DOG”

ZIMMER:
C-A-T,

SHALENA:
JUST REMEMBER, THERE IS ALWAYS SUMMER SCHOOL!

ZIMMER and MISS SNOOD:
SUMMER SCHOOL!

MISS SNOOD:
IF YOUR TEAM IS LOSING BIG,
KEEP A-GOIN’,
even if you think you haven’t got a prayer.
“IT’S NOT IF YOU WIN OR LOSE,
it’s how you play the game.”

ZIMMER:
THAT’S WHAT OUR COACH SAID AS HE TORE OUT ALL HIS HAIR.

SHALENA and MISS SNOOD:
ALL HIS HAIR!

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ZIMMER, SHALENA, and MISS SNOOD:
KEEP A-GOIN', KEEP A-GOIN'.
KEEP A-GOIN' JUST AS FAR AS YOU CAN.
KEEP A-GOIN', KEEP A-GOIN'.

ZIMMER:
KEEP A-GOIN' AND YOU'LL GROW INTO A MAN!

SHALENA and MISS SNOOD:
OR A WOMAN!

ZIMMER, SHALENA, and MISS SNOOD:
WHEN YOU'RE SINGING IN A CHOIR, KEEP A-GOIN',
even if the words have somehow left your brain.
BECAUSE LA LA LA LA SOMETHING SOMETHING
LA LA LA LA SOMETHING
UNTIL YOU REACH A MORE FAMILIAR REFRAIN.

KEEP A-GOIN', KEEP A-GOIN'.
KEEP A-GOIN' THROUGH THICK AND THROUGH THIN.
KEEP A-GOIN', KEEP A-GOIN'.

ZIMMER:
AND THERE'S HALF A CHANCE THAT EVEN YOU COULD WIN.

SHALENA:
IF YOUR FRIENDS ALL HATE YOUR CLOTHES,
KEEP A-GOIN'.

ZIMMER:
IF A BUG FLIES UP YOUR NOSE,
KEEP A-GOIN'.

MISS SNOOD:
IF YOU BREAK A CHINA CUP,

SHALENA:
AND YOUR FISH IS BELLY-UP,

MISS SNOOD:
AND YOU SCUFF A BRAND-NEW SHOE,

ZIMMER: (Indicating SHALENA.)
AND YOUR SISTER TELLS ON YOU,
SHALENA: (Indicating ZIMMER.)
AND YOUR BROTHER IS A PEST,
AND YOU'RE FEELING REALLY STRESSED.

ZIMMER:
AND YOU'RE REACHING FOR THE PHONE,
AND YOU SMACK YOUR FUNNY BONE,
AND YOU STUB YOUR LITTLE TOE,
AND YOU'RE WOBBLING TO AND FRO,
AND YOU FALL AND BUMP YOUR HEAD,
AND YOU SHOULD'A STAYED IN BED!

SHALENA and MISS SNOOD:
KEEP A-GOIN', KEEP A-GOIN',
KEEP A-GOIN', KEEP A-GOIN'.

SHALENA:
AND YOU HAVE TO CLEAN YOUR ROOM,
AND YOU SPILL YOUR MOM'S PERFUME,

ZIMMER:
AND YOU'RE TIRED OF BEING BOSSED,
AND YOUR HOMEWORK'S GOTTEN LOST,

MISS SNOOD:
AND YOUR TEACHER'S LOOKING GRAVER,
AND YOUR GUM HAS LOST ITS FLAVOR,

ZIMMER:
AND THE BABY'S SCREAMING SHRILLY

SHALENA:
AND YOUR HAIRCUT JUST LOOKS SILLY

MISS SNOOD:
AND IT'S LIMA BEANS FOR LUNCH,

ZIMMER, SHALENA, and MISS SNOOD:
DON'T GET YOUR UndIES IN A BUNCH!

SHALENA:
JUST WHEN EV'RYTHING IS WRONG,

MISS SNOOD:
KEEP YOUR CHIN UP!
ZIMMER:
Sing this song!

SHALENA:
Keep a-goin'!

MISS SNOOD:
Keep a-goin'!

ZIMMER, SHALENA, and MISS SNOOD:
Keep a-goin' strong!

They hold their positions as the audience applauds. MISS SNOOD exits. Then ZIMMER resumes singing. SOUND CUE 32: KEEP A GOIN', Part 2

ZIMMER:
When they think the song is done,
keep a-goin'.

MISS SNOOD comes running back out to rejoin ZIMMER and SHALENA. They involve DARCY in their choreography.

SHALENA:
Make it longer just for fun.
Keep a-goin'.

ZIMMER:
Keep it goin', make it last.

SHALENA:
Though the moment may have passed.

MISS SNOOD:
And we ought to leave the stage
while I'm still a youthful age.

ZIMMER:
And the audience says:
(Spoken.) "Good-night."

SHALENA:
And they turn off all the lights.

MISS SNOOD:
And the piano playing ceases

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SHALENA:
   AND THEY'RE CALLING THE POLICES.

ZIMMER:
   FORWARD MARCH! FULL SPEED AHEAD! AND NEVER STOP!

MISS SNOOD:
   KEEP A-GOIN'.

SHALENA:
   KEEP A-GOIN'.

ZIMMER, SHALENA, and MISS SNOOD:
   KEEP A-GOIN' TILL YOU DROP!

ZIMMER, SHALENA, MISS SNOOD, and DARCY collapse to the ground.

ZIMMER, SHALENA, and MISS SNOOD:  *(Shout in rhythm.)*
   KEEP A-GOIN'!

ALL laugh.

DARCY:  OK, OK, I'll tell you what. Let's all wrack our brains and see what we can come up with. Maybe there's some way to get Mr. Potcher to change his mind.

SHALENA:  That's right!

MISS SNOOD:  *(Picking herself up off the floor.)* And who knows? I might even live through it!

SOUND CUE 33: Transition to Act Two, Scene 2.

ACT TWO, SCENE 2

AT START:  Island of Lost Holidays – day. SOUND CUE 34: Island Sounds. SANTA, EASTER BUNNY, LEPRECHAUN, JACK-O'-LANTERN, and TURKEY are all sitting on beach chairs, looking rather stiff, uncomfortable, and out of place. They attempt to make chit-chat to pass the time.
LEPRECHAUN: (To JACK-O'-LANTERN.) So, Jack-O'-Lantern is it?
JACK-O'-LANTERN: That's right.
LEPRECHAUN: Any relation to the O'Lanterns of Killarney?
JACK-O'-LANTERN: No, I believe we're in the gourd family.
LEPRECHAUN: Oh, I see.

CUPID enters, wearing sunglasses, a Hawaiian shirt and shorts, and carrying an elaborate tropical drink. He sets up another beach chair – the kind you can recline in – and makes himself happily at home.

CUPID: (To SANTA.) Hey! Hey! I got one for you! Who's big and fat and brings toys to all the kids on the beach?
SANTA: I give up.
CUPID: Sandy Claus!
SANTA: (Laughing halfheartedly.) Heh heh.
CUPID: Get it?
SANTA: Sandy Claus. Cute.
CUPID: Hey, come on Santa. Where's the "ho, ho, ho"?
SANTA: Sorry. I'm just not feeling very jolly right now.

EASTER BUNNY gives SANTA a consoling pat on his knee. CHILDREN'S DAY GUY enters.

CHILDREN'S DAY GUY: Hey, going island! Lookin' good! Just another day in Paradise, right?
SANTA: It's, um, it's certainly different. I really don't get to sun myself all that much at the North Pole.
CHILDREN'S DAY GUY: Don't forget the sunblock.
SANTA: Oh, don't worry! I'm basting myself like a Thanksgiving… TURKEY: (Upset.) [Turkey gobble]
SANTA: Oh! Sorry.
EASTER BUNNY: To be honest, this isn't what we're supposed to be doing. We need to be out in the world!

ALL HOLIDAY CHARACTERS (except CUPID and EASTER BUNNY) ad lib. “Yeah, that's right!”, etc.
CHILDREN'S DAY GUY: Hey guys, I understand. I felt that way myself the first thousand years.

ALL HOLIDAY CHARACTERS groan (except CUPID).

CHILDREN'S DAY GUY: But you better get used to it, 'cause there's no way off this island unless someone puts you back in the magic calendar.

LEPRECHAUN: Well, at least I learned who took us out. It's this guy Potcher got hold of it somehow.

EASTER BUNNY: How do you know?

LEPRECHAUN: Bit o' leprechaun magic. I can see things in me hat sometimes. It's Potcher all right. He erased us all.

SANTA: (Pulling a pad and pencil from his pocket.) Well, he's going right onto the naughty list!

JACK-O'-LANTERN: (To LEPRECHAUN.) Can your leprechaun magic get us back home?

LEPRECHAUN: No, sorry bucko. The lad's right. Whoever's got that bloody calendar has to put us back in.

EASTER BUNNY: So that means we've got to find a way to get Mr. Potcher to change his mind.

CUPID: From way out here? You're dreaming!

LEPRECHAUN: Wait a minute – dreaming, that's it! When Potcher's asleep, we can talk to him. In his dream, you know?

CUPID: So we can talk to him, what good does that do us? What do we say to him – please oh please put us back with sugar on it?

JACK-O'-LANTERN: There's got to be something we can do.

CUPID: You're looking at this all wrong. We've been given a gift. No work, no responsibilities. I don't want to leave.

ALL HOLIDAY CHARACTERS: (Except CUPID.) What?!!

CUPID: You heard me.

LEPRECHAUN: But don't you want to get back to your holiday activities?

EASTER BUNNY: Everyone loves Valentine's Day!
Cupid: You know what Valentine's Day is to me? Complaints! February 14 rolls around and all of a sudden everybody's all "Hey, where's Cupid? Where's my Valentine? Why do I have to spend so much on flowers? Why didn't we go to a more romantic restaurant? Why am I all alone on Valentine's Day?" Like it's my fault every time somebody isn't head over heels with their true love. It's a lot of pressure!

Santa: But won't you miss seeing all those people in love?

Cupid: Naw, I'm out! And if you're smart, you'll just accept the situation and stay here, too. I mean, look around! Tropical island... no worries... what's not to like?

Song #14: Isle of Lost Holidays

Holiday Characters

Sound Cue 35

Calypso introduction.

Cupid:
Here we are so carefree and lazy.

All:
The Isle of Lost Holidays.

Leprechaun:
Much more fun, I think I go crazy.

All:
The Isle of Lost Holidays.

Cupid:
Sun and sand and ocean before us.

All:
The Isle of Lost Holidays.

Santa:
Who would think how much they could bore us?

All:
The Isle of Lost Holidays.
ALL:  *(Except CUPID.)*  
*OH, THE PALM TREE,*  
*COCONUT FOR A DRINK.*

CUPID:  *(Spoken.)*  *Now you're talkin'!*  

ALL:  *(Except CUPID.)*  
*ENDLESS VACATION*

CUPID: Yeah!

LEPRECHAUN:  
*BOY OH BOY, DOES IT STINK!*

JACK-O'-LANTERN:  
*HOW TO LEAVE? WE'VE GOT TO CONSPIRE!*

ALL:  
*THE ISLE OF LOST HOLIDAYS.*

CUPID:  
*COUNT ME OUT – I THINK I'LL RETIRE.*  
*TO THE ISLE OF LOST HOLIDAYS.*

ALL:  
*THE ISLE OF LOST HOLIDAYS.*  
*THE ISLE OF LOST HOLIDAYS.*

**SOUND CUE 36: Transition to Act Two, Scene 3.**

**ACT TWO, SCENE 3**

**AT START:**  *Darcy's Bedroom and Shalena's Bedroom – night.  
DARCY sits on her bed, talking on her phone while consulting her laptop or tablet.*

DARCY:  *So here's what I'm thinking. Mr. Potcher just likes academic subjects, right?*

*Lights come up on SHALENA. She sits on the floor of her bedroom in various yoga-type positions while talking to DARCY.*
SHALENA: Right.
DARCY: But if we can show him that people in these academic subjects think the arts are important, maybe he'll change his mind about the arts. And if he puts the arts back, he'll probably put everything back. Why not?
SHALENA: You lost me.
DARCY: Look at Thomas Jefferson. Founding father. Third president of the United States. Great academic achiever. But he called music… (Consulting her laptop or tablet) …"the favorite passion of my soul." Mr. Potcher has to respect him, right?
SHALENA: I don't know – maybe.
DARCY: And then there's Albert Einstein – one of the all-time great scientists, right?
SHALENA: Right.
DARCY: Einstein said, "I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music. I get most joy in life out of music."
SHALENA: OK, I see what you mean.
DARCY: Oh! Oh! Leonardo da Vinci! He's the best one! Scientist, engineer, inventor, mathematician. And he painted the Mona Lisa! The Mona Lisa! Wouldn't Mr. Potcher want us to be like da Vinci?
SHALENA: Well, maybe. But even if this does convince him that the arts are important, how is this going to get him to put back sports and holidays?
DARCY: I don't know – maybe da Vinci went bowling on Christmas! Work with me, Shalena – this is all I could come up with!
DARCY'S MOTHER: (Offstage.) Darcy? Time to stop working and go to sleep!
DARCY: OK, Mom! (To SHALENA on phone.) I gotta go. Keep looking. We'll compare notes tomorrow.
SHALENA: OK. Maybe if you sleep on it, you'll come up with something better.
DARCY: Yeah, maybe.

Lights out on SHALENA. DARCY turns off her bedside lamp, but continues to search on her laptop or tablet.
DARCY: Maybe the ancient Greeks. You can't get more academic than ancient Greeks. Aristotle, he's a biggie. (Reading her screen.) "Art not only imitates nature, but also completes its deficiencies." Not bad. What about Plato? Ah, here's something. (Reading.) At the touch of love, everyone is a poet. (Yawning.) "At the touch of love, everyone is a poet." That's pretty good. (Closes laptop's lid and lies down.) He's gotta listen to this. But what if he doesn't? I wonder how long it takes to transfer to a new school. In Norway. (Groans with anxiety, but then lies quietly.) Maybe she's right. Maybe I should sleep on it. Sleep on it…

SONG #15: NIGHTMARE MEDLEY
MR. POTCHER, MONA LISA, PLATO, NIGHTMARE CHORUS
SOUND CUE 37

Music and lights cue us that DARCY has drifted off to sleep. Her nightmarish dream begins with MR. POTCHER who appears as LEONARDO DA VINCI, his back to DARCY and the audience. He is painting the Mona Lisa, which is already in a frame and which faces the audience.

MR. POTCHER: (As LEONARDO, Chanting.)
WASTE OF TIME. WASTE OF TIME.

MR. POTCHER turns around to the audience. The print of the Mona Lisa is surreptitiously removed from the frame as MR. POTCHER momentarily blocks our view of it, revealing a live MONA LISA in the frame. She joins the chant.

MR. POTCHER and MONA LISA: (Chanting.)
WASTE OF TIME. WASTE OF TIME.

PLATO and NIGHTMARE CHORUS (STUDENTS except for ZIMMER and SHALENA) enter. MONA LISA steps out from behind the picture frame, and everyone except DARCY sings.
ENSEMBLE 1:  (Simultaneously with ENSEMBLE 2 and ENSEMBLE 3.)

HAIL TO DARCY, HAIL TO DARCY,
hail to DARCY STAND UP AND CHEER.
A WASTE OF TIME, A WASTE OF TIME,
a waste of time, a waste of time and
never let POTCHER GET CLOSE TO YOUR NECK!
HE LIVES AMONG SPIDERS AND LIZARDS AND RATS.
AREN'T EVEN HOLIDAYS TO LOOK FORWARD TO.
KEEP A-GOIN' AND YOU'LL
waste time, waste time.

ENSEMBLE 2:  (Simultaneously with ENSEMBLE 1 and ENSEMBLE 3.)

HAIL TO DARCY, HAIL TO DARCY,
hail to DARCY, hail to DARCY.
WASTE TIME, WASTE TIME,
waste time, waste time.
DARCY, DARCY.
PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN,
pencils up, pencils down.
HE BOILS LITTLE BABIES 'TILL THEY TURN TO GLUE.
KEEP A-GOIN' AND YOU'LL
waste time, waste time.

ENSEMBLE 3:  (Simultaneously with ENSEMBLE 1 and ENSEMBLE 2.)

IT'S ALL THE FAULT OF YOU-KNOW-WHO,
it's all the fault of you-know-who,
ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY,
another chance to shine.
DARCY, DARCY,
THOUGHT SHE'D BE A HERO.
SHE THOUGHT SHE'D BE A HERO.
WASTE TIME DARCY.
PICK UP A HATCHET AND SLAUGHTER US ALL.
KEEP A-GOIN' AND YOU'LL
waste time, waste time.

SONG #16:  AT THE TOUCH OF LOVE
DARCY, SHAKESPEARE, PLATO, MONA LISA, NIGHTMARE CHORUS

SOUND CUE 38

NIGHTMARE CHORUS:
Waste of time, waste of time,
waste of time, waste of time.
“Waste of time” continues as chanting under dialogue. DARCY evolves from being upset by this dream to just being annoyed by it. We see a look of determination on her face.

DARCY: All right, that's enough of that!

DARCY spots a figure in a toga.

DARCY: Excuse me… Plato, right?
PLATO: Yes?
DARCY: (Sotto voce.) I can't believe I'm dreaming about Plato. (To PLATO.) What was it you said that time about love?
PLATO: (Assuming the pose of an orator.) At the touch of love, everyone is a poet.
DARCY: That's what I thought you said. (Speaks in rhythm. Encourages the NIGHTMARE CHORUS to join her.)

At the touch of love, ev'ryone's a poet.
At the touch of love,

One by one, the NIGHTMARE CHORUS (except MR. POTCHER) alter their chanting to match DARCY'S.

DARCY and NIGHTMARE CHORUS:
EV'RYONE'S A POET.
At the touch of love, ev'ryone's a poet.
At the touch of love, ev'ryone's a poet.
At the touch of love, ev'ryone's a poet.
At the touch of love, ev'ryone's a poet.
At the touch of love...

The CHORUS forms a line that backs MR. POTCHER off stage. They whip around to face the audience and sing.

ALL:
At the touch of love, ev'ryone's a poet.
At the touch of love, your heart begins to sing.
At the touch of love, your soul is writing sonnets.
Ev'ryone's a poet at the touch of love.
At the touch of love…
PLATO and BOYS:
HER VOICE IS HEAVEN’S CHOIR.

ALL:
AT THE TOUCH OF LOVE...

DARCY and GIRLS:
HIS SMILE IS LIKE THE SUN.

ALL:
AT THE TOUCH OF LOVE...

SHAKESPEARE enters.

SHAKESPEARE:
LET OUT YOUR INNER SHAKESPEARE.

ALL:
EV’RYONE’S A POET AT THE TOUCH OF LOVE.
AT THE TOUCH OF, TOUCH OF LOVE...
AT THE TOUCH OF, TOUCH OF LOVE...
AT THE TOUCH OF, TOUCH OF LOVE...
EV’RYONE’S A POET...
EV’RYONE’S A POET...
EV’RYONE’S A POET AND THEY REALLY Gotta SHOW IT.

AT THE TOUCH OF LOVE, THE WORLD’S A BOTTICELLI.
AT THE TOUCH OF LOVE, THERE’S MOZART IN THE AIR.
AT THE TOUCH OF LOVE, YOU CHANNEL KEATS AND SHELLEY.
EV’RYONE’S A POET AT THE TOUCH OF LOVE.
EV’RYONE’S A POET AT THE TOUCH OF...

NIGHTMARE CHORUS begins to exit, still singing.

ALL:
AT THE TOUCH OF, TOUCH OF LOVE.
AT THE TOUCH OF, TOUCH OF LOVE.
AT THE TOUCH OF, TOUCH OF LOVE.

PLATO and SHAKESPEARE:
EVERYONE’S A POET AT THE TOUCH OF LOVE.

PLATO and SHAKESPEARE begin to exit.

DARCY: Wait, don’t go!
PLATO and SHAKESPEARE stop. DARCY crosses to them.

DARCY: (Excited.) I think I know how to change Mr. Potcher's mind!
PLATO: Oh?
DARCY: We have to get him to fall in love! If he's in love, he'll open up to all the beauty in life – music, art, dance…
SHAKESPEARE: Holidays?
DARCY: What could be better than spending a holiday with someone you love?
PLATO: Do you have anyone in mind?
DARCY: Well, there's Miss Teaford. She's nice.
SHAKESPEARE: Ah yes. Your English and theater arts teacher. (To PLATO.) They were my best subjects.
DARCY: Oh, that's perfect! If Mr. Potcher falls in love with the theater arts teacher, he has to love the arts!
PLATO: Sounds logical.
DARCY: Maybe I can get Mr. Potcher to meet with Shalena and Zimmer and me after school to hear one last argument for why he should bring back the arts and everything. And we'll get Miss Teaford to help us make our case. And when they're together, we'll keep pointing out how wonderful she is, and he'll fall in love with her!

SHAKESPEARE and PLATO look at each other dubiously.

SHAKESPEARE: Well, maybe.
DARCY: You don't think it'll work?
SHAKESPEARE: Who knows the ways of Cupid's dart
To penetrate the human heart?
PLATO: Is that from "Romeo and Juliet"?
SHAKESPEARE: No, I thought I was quoting you.
PLATO: It wasn't me.
SHAKESPEARE: Well, who then?
PLATO: It's her dream, ask her!
SHAKESPEARE: (To DARCY.) Why are you dreaming quotes about Cupid?
DARCY: I don't know. I guess we were talking about love… and holidays… so Valentine's Day… Cupid!

PLATO: (To SHAKESPEARE.) It makes perfect sense when she puts it that way.

SHAKESPEARE: Quite so.

DARCY: Too bad I can't get Cupid to shoot a love arrow at Mr. Potcher.

PLATO: Why can't you?

DARCY: Where am I going to find Cupid?

SHAKESPEARE: Where did you find us?

PLATO: Good point!

DARCY: Yeah… I guess I can do pretty much whatever I want in my dream, right?

PLATO: (Reciting an aphorism.) A dream is the realm of infinite possibility.

SHAKESPEARE: Now I think maybe that one was me.

PLATO: You? How could I quote you? You weren't even born till 2000 years after me!

SHAKESPEARE ponders this conundrum.

DARCY: So OK, I want to talk to Cupid.

PLATO and SHAKESPEARE exit in a whirlwind of activity as all around DARCY, the set changes to the Island of Lost Holidays –day. CUPID, lounging on a beach chair beneath a palm tree, shoots an arrow up into the tree. Down falls a coconut into his waiting arms. He punches a hole into it with another arrow, inserts a straw, and drinks.

JACK-O'-LANTERN: (Offstage.) Hey look, there's another one!

JACK-O'-LANTERN and ALL HOLIDAY CHARACTERS enter.

EASTER BUNNY: (To DARCY.) What holiday are you?

DARCY: What do you mean?

SANTA: Wait – she's not a holiday. I recognize her. You're Darcy, aren't you?

JACK-O'-LANTERN: How do you know her?

SANTA: I know all the children. It's my job. (Sadly.) At least, it was.
**TURKEY** gives **SANTA** a consoling pat on the shoulders.

**EASTER BUNNY:** But if you're not a holiday, what are you doing here?  
**DARCY:** I wanted to talk to Cupid, and the next thing I knew, I was dreaming I was here – wherever here is.  
**LEPRECHAUN:** Oh I get it! We can talk to mortals in their dreams when we want to, and they can come to us in their dreams when they want to!  
**DARCY:** You mean this is real?  
**LEPRECHAUN:** Real enough.  
**CUPID:** So what did you want to talk to me about?  
**DARCY:** I need you to help me get Mr. Potcher to fall in love.  
**CUPID:** Sorry. I'm retired.  
**DARCY:** Retired?!!  
**CUPID:** Yep!  
**DARCY:** But if Mr. Potcher falls in love, I think he'll put everything back the way it was.  
**SANTA:** You mean he'll put us back in the magic calendar?  
**DARCY:** I think so!  

**ALL HOLIDAY CHARACTERS** (except **CUPID**) buzz with excitement.  

**CUPID:** Sorry. Not interested.  
**LEPRECHAUN:** Well, we are! What do you have in mind?  
**DARCY:** We've got to get Mr. Potcher to fall in love with Miss Teaford. Then he'll love the arts and holidays and everything else!  
**JACK-O'-'LANTERN:** But we're stuck here. How can Cupid get to Mr. Potcher?  
**CUPID:** I'm retired!  

**ALL HOLIDAY CHARACTERS** ignore **CUPID**.  

**LEPRECHAUN:** Don't forget we can still interact with people in their dreams.  
**EASTER BUNNY:** So we just wait for Mr. Potcher to fall asleep and Cupid goes to him in his dream?
CUPID: Wouldn't work. He's got to see the object of his affection right after I shoot him. And besides...

CUPID: (Simultaneously with HOLIDAY CHARACTERS.) I'm retired.

HOLIDAY CHARACTERS: (Simultaneously with CUPID.) You're retired.

JACK-O'-LANTERN: Yeah, we know.

SANTA: (Indicating CUPID, to DARCY.) He likes it here.

DARCY: (To CUPID.) But if you retire, what's going to happen to Valentine's Day? What's going to happen to love?

CUPID: Love will have to get along without me. Or not – what's the difference?

DARCY: How can you say that? Love is the most wonderful thing there is!

EASTER BUNNY: I think so, too.

SANTA: So do I.

CUPID: Have you ever seen how people act when they're in love? And then, half the time it goes sour. Nah, this island thing came along just in time. I was getting pretty fed up anyway.

DARCY: OK, I guess you're right. You've had a great career! You've made millions of people fall in love.

CUPID: Thank you for noticing.

DARCY: No one can blame you for not wanting to end up with a failure.

CUPID: Failure? Who said anything about failure?

DARCY: Well, I just mean... You haven't come up against anyone like Mr. Potcher before.

CUPID: Are you kidding? I've made some of the toughest cases in history fall in love!

DARCY: That's what I'm saying. Why spoil your record now with somebody like Mr. Potcher? It's better to quit while you're ahead, right?

CUPID: Look. If I wanted to make this Mr. Potcher fall in love, I could do it in a heartbeat!

DARCY: Well, it's nice to think so.

CUPID: What do you mean!

DARCY: (Shrugging.) I guess we'll never know for sure, will we?
CUPID: I know what you're up to, you know. You're trying to make me feel it's a matter of honor to help you with Mr. Potcher. Like if I don't do it, I'm admitting I've lost the touch or something. But it's not going to work. I'm retired. And I'm staying retired until I decide I don't want to be retired anymore. And I am definitely not giving up retirement until... until... until I finish this drink!

ALL look at CUPID with great anticipation as he very slowly and deliberately sucks the coconut milk through his straw. SOUND CUE 39: Cupid Slurping 1.

CUPID: (To SANTA.) "Sandy Claus." I thought that was pretty funny!
ALL: (To CUPID.) Finish your drink!!

Cupid gives them a "don't rush me" look and returns to his coconut.
SOUND CUE 40: Cupid Slurping 2. With the sound of the final few drops being sucked through the straw, he smacks his lips and...

CUPID: OK, I'll do it.

ALL cheer!

SANTA: All right, then. What's the plan?
JACK-O'-LANTERN: Well, we can only get to Mr. Potcher while he's dreaming.
CUPID: And like I said – he's got to see the person he falls in love with right after I shoot him with my arrow.
CHILDREN'S DAY GUY: So you can't just wait for him to fall asleep at night.
DARCY: Right. We need him to fall asleep during the daytime, at school, so that when he wakes up, he sees Miss Teaford.
LEPRECHAUN: Putting him to sleep? That part's easy.

ALL look at LEPRECHAUN.

LEPRECHAUN: Bit o' leprechaun magic.
DARCY: Perfect! I'll arrange for him to meet with Miss Teaford at school. And while they're together… (To LEPRECHAUN.) …you put him to sleep… (To CUPID.) …and you shoot him in his dream. Then when he wakes up, he'll see Miss Teaford and fall in love!

CUPID: It's a deal!

CUPID and DARCY shakes hands. SOUND CUE 41: Transition to Act Two, Scene 4.

ACT TWO, SCENE 4

AT START: School Cafeteria and Island of Lost Holidays – day. Lights up on the School Cafeteria as DARCY, ZIMMER, and SHALENA sit at a table down right. Piles of books are on the table.

ZIMMER: Let me see if I got this right. Shakespeare and Plato gave you the idea to talk to Cupid about getting Mr. Potcher to fall in love with Miss Teaford.

DARCY: Well yeah, in my dream last night.

ZIMMER: But if it was just a dream, what are we doing here?

DARCY: Because we can still show Mr. Potcher that all these great people in history loved the arts. And Miss Teaford will be here to help us. And so we'll keep pointing out how great she is, and maybe he really will fall in love with her.

ZIMMER: But that's crazy!

SHALENA: (To ZIMMER.) I guess you're right. We'll go with your plan instead. What was your plan again?

DARCY and SHALENA stare at ZIMMER for a couple of beats. Then he grabs one of the books.

ZIMMER: OK, so I'll tell him about da Vinci, right?

MR. POTCHER enters and sits with them.

MR. POTCHER: All right, I'm here. Let's have it.

DARCY: We're just waiting for Miss Teaford.
MR. POTCHER: What for?
SHALENA: She's going to help us make our case.
MR. POTCHER: (Grudgingly.) Oh, all right.
ZIMMER: Do you know Miss Teaford, Mr. Potcher?
MR. POTCHER: I've met her.
ZIMMER: She's really nice, isn't she?
MR. POTCHER: I didn't notice.
ZIMMER: (Giving MR. POTCHER the old elbow and wink.) If I were only ten or twenty years older, you know what I mean?

MR. POTCHER looks at him with disdain. DARCY and SHALENA exchange a glance of concern. MISS SNOOD enters.

MISS SNOOD: How about a nice snack while you're having your meeting? Maybe some cookies and milk?
DARCY: That would be wonderful, Miss Snood. Thanks very much!
MISS SNOOD: Would you like some, too, Mr. Potcher?
MR. POTCHER: I'll have a large bowl of apple sauce, please.
MISS SNOOD: Apple sauce.
MR. POTCHER: Unsweetened.
MISS SNOOD: Coming right up. (Exits.)
DARCY: So, Mr. Potcher, did you know that a lot of American presidents liked the arts? President Kennedy said... (Consulting a book.) "Art establishes the basic human truths which must serve as the touchstones of our judgment."
MR. POTCHER: Yes, and I understand that Lincoln enjoyed a night at the theater. But it didn't work out too well for him.
MISS TEAFORD: (Enters.) I'm so sorry I'm late. I just got out of another meeting.
ZIMMER: That's OK. We know how important you are around here! (To MR. POTCHER.) The principal doesn't make a move without consulting her.
MR. POTCHER: All right, so what's your big argument?
MISS TEAFORD: Well, the kids here have done an impressive amount of research, I think, that demonstrates the value that many of our greatest academic achievers have placed on the arts.
DARCY: You have such a beautiful way of speaking, Miss Teaford!
MISS TEAFORD: (A little embarrassed.) Oh. Thank you, Darcy.
ZIMMER: I'll bet you're great at tongue-twisters!

*MISS SNOOD enters, carrying a tray. She places a plate of cookies and three glasses of milk onto the table.*

MISS SNOOD: Here you are, folks, cookies and milk.
ZIMMER, SHALENA, and DARCY: Thanks, Miss Snood!

*MISS SNOOD sets a large bowl in front of MR. POTCHER.*

MISS SNOOD: And one large apple sauce, unsweetened.
MR. POTCHER: Thank you.
MISS SNOOD: (To MISS TEAFORD.) Anything for you, hon?
MISS TEAFORD: (Taking a cookie.) I'll just have a cookie, thanks.
MISS SNOOD: Okey dokes! (Exits.)
MR. POTCHER: Can we get on with this, now?
DARCY: Sure, sure!
SHALENA: Um, for example, Mr. Potcher, did you know that George Bernard Shaw said... *(Consulting a book.)* "You use a glass mirror to see your face. You use works of art to see your soul"?
MISS TEAFORD: He also said, "From Mozart, I learned to say important things in a conversational way."
SHALENA: (To MISS TEAFORD.) Did you just know that off the top of your head?
MISS TEAFORD: Yes, I studied Shaw in college.
SHALENA: (Looking intently at MR. POTCHER.) That's really impressive!
MR. POTCHER: I never much cared for Shaw, myself.

DARCY fiddles with her hair.

MR. POTCHER: (To DARCY.) Will you stop doing that with your hair?
DARCY: Oh, sorry. It's just that I can't stand my hair! I wish it were more like Miss Teaford's. You have really beautiful hair, Miss Teaford!
SHALENA: You sure do!
MISS TEAFORD: (More embarrassed.) Thank you. But let's get back to our presentation.
DARCY: Right – we've got a lot more stuff! *(Flips through a book.)*

*With the cafeteria scene still playing, lights come up on the Island of Lost Holidays, down left. LEPRECHAUN presides over a cauldron, from which a large stirring implement protrudes. ALL HOLIDAY CHARACTERS stand around the cauldron.*

SANTA: So how does this work, exactly?  
LEPRECHAUN: We're about to cast a spell on Mr. Potcher, putting him soundly to sleep and bringing him here in his dream.  
CUPID: Right. And then I hit him with a love arrow, and when he wakes up – well, you'll see!  
LEPRECHAUN: All right then, here we go.

**SONG #17: LULLABY FOR POTCHER**  
LEPRECHAUN, SANTA, EASTER BUNNY, JACK-O’-LANTERN, TURKEY, DARCY, MISS TEAFORD, MR. POTCHER  
**SOUND CUE 42**

LEPRECHAUN: *(Stirs the pot as he sings.)*  
*We'll lay a bed for dreaming  
and tuck him snugly in.  
A rainbow for his blanket  
his sheet, a misty glen.*

MR. POTCHER yawns. DARCY notices. LEPRECHAUN passes the stirrer to SANTA.

SANTA: 
*A cozy, crackling fireplace  
while heavy snow is falling  
and somewhere in the quiet night,  
a lonely owl is calling.*

MR. POTCHER yawns even more elaborately. SANTA passes the stirrer to EASTER BUNNY.

MR. POTCHER: Excuse me. I guess I didn't get enough sleep last night.  
DARCY: *(Sotto voce, incredulous.)* It's working!
SHALENA notices, too, and looks at DARCY with excitement.

EASTER BUNNY:

AND LYING IN A MEADOW
ON A SILENT SPRINGTIME DAY
WATCHING CLOUDS DRIFT OVERHEAD
TILL HE JUST DRIFTS AWAY.

MR. POTCHER looks really sleepy. EASTER BUNNY passes the stirrer to JACK-O'-LANTERN.

MISS TEAFORD: Would you like to continue this meeting sometime when you're more rested?

MR. POTCHER: No, no, I'm fine…

JACK-O'-LANTERN: (Tossing something sparkly into the pot.)

AND FROM ALL HALLOW'S EVENING,
A MAGIC TALISMAN.

MR. POTCHER'S eyes are up in his eyelids and his head moves in circles. The TURKEY dips his foot twice into the pot.

JACK-O'-LANTERN:

AND JUST TO TOP IT OFF,
A DOUBLE-DOSE OF TRYPHTOPHAN.

MR. POTCHER falls face-first into the apple sauce. SOUND CUE 43: SPLOOSH! MISS TEAFORD and the KIDS react with alarm. MISS SNOOD enters.

MISS SNOOD: Oh my goodness! What happened?

SOUND CUE 44: Ominous Music. A change in lighting while the ominous music plays. Everyone at the cafeteria table remains frozen in position except MR. POTCHER, who stands and crosses to the island set. ALL HOLIDAY CHARACTERS await him, grouped in such a way that CUPID is hidden behind them.

LEPRECHAUN: Mr. Potcher, I presume?
MR. POTCHER: What is this!
EASTER BUNNY: This is the Island of Lost Holidays, Mr. Potcher. It's where you sent us when you banished all the holidays.
MR. POTCHER: Oh. Nice place. Hope you're enjoying yourselves.
SANTA: Well, that's the thing, Mr. Potcher. We're really not happy here. We'd much rather be doing our jobs.
MR. POTCHER: And so you brought me here to complain?
JACK-O'-LANTERN: Not exactly.
MR. POTCHER: To persuade me to reinstate you in the magic calendar?
TURKEY: (Shaking his head "no"). [Turkey gobble]
MR. POTCHER: Well then?

ALL HOLIDAY CHARACTERS start walking slowly toward him.

MR. POTCHER: (Laughing.) That's it? You're going to rough me up? You think I can't take on a bunch of cartoon characters? Well, come on! Give me your best shot!

They continue walking, but as they advance, the group parts down the middle, revealing CUPID taking aim at MR. POTCHER with a heart-tipped arrow. When MR. POTCHER sees him, his bravado turns to horror.

MR. POTCHER: NO!!!!!!

MR. POTCHER tries to back away, but CUPID lets the arrow fly [See Production Notes]. SOUND CUE 45: Cupid’s Arrow. MR. POTCHER turns to the audience, clutching the arrow, which is lodged in his chest. He staggers melodramatically back to his position at the cafeteria table and collapses into his seat, putting his face back into the apple sauce. SOUND CUE 46: SPLOOSH!. The lights come down on The Island of Lost Holidays. Lights return to normal in the cafeteria. MR. POTCHER slowly lifts his head from the table. The arrow is gone.

MISS TEAFORD: Mr. Potcher! Are you all right? Do you need a doctor?
MISS SNOOD: I'll get some napkins.
SONG #18: **TAKE A CHANCE**  
**MR. POTCHER**  
**SOUND CUE 47**

MISS SNOOD turns to exit. MR. POTCHER stands as if in a blissful trance and sings. MISS SNOOD halts her exit to watch MR. POTCHER.

MR. POTCHER:  
I KNOW JUST WHAT LIFE’S ALL ABOUT.  
A WORLD OF BEAUTY WHIRLING ALL AROUND ME.  
AND IT’S ALL THANKS TO YOU…

It looks like he's singing to MISS TEAFORD, but he pushes past her and moves toward MISS SNOOD, who reacts with a startled shriek and backs away. He pursues, passionately but respectfully.

MISS SNOOD!  
YOU ARE A SUNNY DAY THAT DRIVES AWAY THE RAIN.

MR. POTCHER gestures to the books on the table.

ALL THE EXPERTS WOULD CONCLUDE  
YOU ARE FROM TOP TO TOES  
THE FAIREST ROSE OF MAIDENHOOD, OF MAIDENHOOD.  
I HAD A REAL BAD ATTITUDE.  
I USED TO SIT AND SIMMER, GROWING GRIMMER DAILY, WASTING AWAY.

THEN SUDDENLY YOUR EYES BEGAN TO SHINE.  
AND SUDDENLY A SHIVER UP MY SPINE.  
AND SUDDENLY THE BIRDS ARE SINGING,  
BELLS ARE RINGING,  
DAFFODILS ARE BLOOMING  
AND THE LILIES ARE PERFUMING  
’CAUSE OF YOU!

YOU ARE A FIRE’S GLOW, A MISTLETOE BOUQUET.  
’S CUSe ME IF I COME UNGLUED  
BUT ALL MY SELF-CONTROL JUST UP AND STOLE AWAY TODAY.  
IT’S GONE AWAY.
MR. POTCHER:  (Continued.)

I hope I won't be misconstrued.
I've always been a steady, level-headed guy.
But suddenly I'm imagining the sweetness of a kiss.
Imagining just what could come of this.
And now I find the air is better,
Water's wetter,
Sunsets have more beauty,
And bananas are more fruity 'cause of you!

Musical interlude as MR. POTCHER dances with giddy abandon, ad libbing exclamations of excitement.

Now shooting stars are flying.
Fries are frying.
Snowflakes are more flakey
And the lakes are much more lakey.
Peaches are more juicy
And the geese are all more goosey.
Porpoises are splashing
And the fireflies are flashing
And the northern lights are lighting
And mosquitoes aren't biting
And the mornings are more dewy
And the brownies are more chewy
And the butterflies are flitting
And my shoes are fin'ly fitting
And the gelatin is jiggling
And the buffalo are giggling
And the glitter is more glossy
And spaghetti is more saucy
And the feeling's getting stronger
And the song is getting longer
'Cause of you!

Shorter dance interlude as MR. POTCHER grabs MISS SNOOD and dances with her.
MR. POTCHER: (Continued.)

MISS SNOOD, CAN'T YOU SEE WE CAN BE THE KEY TO REAL ROMANCE?
I'D BE FILLED WITH GRATITUDE
IF YOU WOULD SAY THAT YOU WILL STAY AND TAKE A CHANCE WITH ME.
PLEASE TAKE A CHANCE WITH ME.
PLEASE TAKE A CHANCE.
PLEASE TAKE A CHANCE.
PLEASE TAKE A CHANCE WITH ME!

MISS SNOOD: (Spoken.) But Mr. Potcher! I can't go out with you! You're management!

MR. POTCHER: I'll resign, of course! My work is done here anyway. Did you see what a wonderful job of academic research these kids did? Wonderful job, kids!

SHALENA, ZIMMER, and DARCY: Thanks, Mr. Potcher.

MISS TEAFORD: Does that mean you're going to reinstate the arts?

MR. POTCHER: Absolutely, along with all of those other fine, fine extracurricular programs! Darcy, I don't know how I can thank you for convincing me to come here today.

DARCY: I know just the thing – I'll be right back! (Exits in the direction of MR. POTCHER'S office.)

SHALENA: How about letting everyone know that she's responsible for your change of heart?

MR. POTCHER: (Gazing lovingly at MISS SNOOD.) My change of heart. Well put! (To ZIMMER and SHALENA.) Yes, absolutely! Everyone will know that this is all thanks to Darcy!

DARCY returns, pushing the magic calendar on its wheeled stand.

DARCY: How about making some changes to your calendar?

MR. POTCHER: (Sentimentally.) Oh, the holidays!

Lights up on the Island of Lost Holidays.

LEPRECHAUN: Did he say "holidays"?

ALL HOLIDAY CHARACTERS gather around LEPRECHAUN'S hat to watch what MR. POTCHER is doing.
MR. POTCHER: You know, I never really appreciated them before. But I feel like today is my very own holiday – the first one I've ever enjoyed!

DARCY: So you'll put them back?

MR. POTCHER sits at the calendar stand, opens the calendar, and picks up the big quill pen lying beside it.

MR. POTCHER: I certainly will! (Like a kid in a candy store.) Let's see, where to begin…

SONG #19: ISLE OF LOST HOLIDAYS (REPRISE)
HOLIDAY CHARACTERS, MR. POTCHER, DARCY
SOUND CUE 48

A gangplank of a ship extends down to the visible part of the shore.

MR. POTCHER: (Spoken.) Christmas!

SANTA sings and climbs the gangplank. MR. POTCHER writes in the calendar, flips pages and writes some more, calling out the holidays as he enters them.

SANTA:
TIME TO TELL THE ISLAND GOODBYE NOW.

ALL:
THE ISLE OF LOST HOLIDAYS.

SANTA:
IT'S BEEN REAL, BUT WE GOT TO FLY NOW.

ALL:
NO MORE LOST HOLIDAYS.

MR. POTCHER: (Spoken.) Thanksgiving… Halloween…

TURKEY and JACK-O'-LANTERN join SANTA at the top of the gangplank.
JACK-O'-LANTERN:
SAY GOODBYE TO LIFE WITH A SEA-VIEW.

ALL:
THE ISLE OF LOST HOLIDAYS.

JACK-O'-LANTERN:
OF ETERNAL HELL, IT’S A PREVIEW.

ALL:
NO MORE LOST HOLIDAYS.
BIG CELEBRATION!
HIP Hooray AND THREE CHEERS!
SOMEONE TELL HALLMARK:

MR. POTCHER: (Spoken.) St. Patrick’s Day...

LEPRECHAUN:
TIME FOR DRYING YOUR TEARS!

LEPRECHAUN gives a cheer and joins the others at the top of the gangplank.

MR. POTCHER: (Spoken.) Easter...

EASTER BUNNY:
KEEP YOUR ISLAND LIFE SO INFORMAL.

ALL:
THE ISLE OF LOST HOLIDAYS.

EASTER BUNNY:
JUST CAN’T WAIT TO GET BACK TO NORMAL.

ALL:
NO MORE LOST HOLIDAYS.

MR. POTCHER: (Spoken.) Valentine's Day...

The other characters look at CUPID, wondering whether he's going to join them.

CUPID:
DOIN’ NOTHIN’ HAS ITS ATTRACTION.
ALL:
THE ISLE OF LOST HOLIDAYS.

CUPID thinks it over for a couple of measures, then shrugs.

CUPID:
BUT I GOTTA GET BACK IN ACTION!

ALL:
NO MORE LOST HOLIDAYS!

Musical bridge. CUPID joins the others at the top of the gangplank, leaving CHILDREN’S DAY GUY standing alone on the island, bravely waving to his friends but sad at the prospect of resuming his solitary banishment.

MR. POTCHER:  (Spoken.) There! I think that’s all of them.

MR. POTCHER puts the pen down. DARCY hauls a big, ancient-looking book to where MR. POTCHER is sitting, open to a page.

DARCY:  Say, Mr. Potcher, did you know that there used to be a big holiday in August?
MR. POTCHER:  No kidding! (Looks at the page DARCY is pointing to, gives a "what the heck" shrug, and picks up the pen.) Why not?

MR. POTCHER resumes writing in the calendar. CHILDREN’S DAY GUY gives a whoop of joy and joins the other holiday characters.

CHILDREN’S DAY GUY:
TAKE ME HOME, I CAN'T WAIT TO GO THERE.

ALL:
NO MORE LOST HOLIDAYS.

CHILDREN’S DAY GUY:
I DON'T CARE IF I HAVE TO ROW THERE.
ALL:

NO MORE LOST HOLIDAYS.
NO MORE LOST HOLIDAYS.
NO MORE LOST HOLIDAYS!

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**ACT TWO, SCENE 5**

**AT START:** In front of curtain – day. **SOUND CUE 49:** Cheerleaders Marching Drums Intro. CARMEN and ANDI enter and perform a cheer for the audience. [Note: This scene is to be played in front of the closed curtain (if available) to allow time for setup of the next scene behind the curtain.]

**CARMEN and ANDI:**

Give a cheer!
Give a shout!
Scream and scream till your teeth fall out!
You know what
I'm talkin' about.
Darcy, Darcy's the one!

She won't fail!
She won't flop!
She won't stop till she hits the top!
Who's the cream
Of the crop?
Darcy, Darcy's the one!

She's so fine!
She's so cool!
Disagree and you'll be a fool!
Who's most awesome
In the school?
Darcy, Darcy's the one!
CARMEN and ANDI:  *(Continued.)*

Gimme a D. - A. - R.C.Y!
Gimme a D. - A. - R.C.Y!
Gimme a D. - A. - R.C.Y!
Gimme a D. - A. - R.C.Y!

No one ever could be better!

D. - A. - R.C.Y!
She’s so cool, you’ll need a sweater!
D. - A. - R.C.Y!
So give it up! Make it loud!
She stands out in any crowd!
Who's the one who's done us proud?

*CHLOE enters from one wing, her arms crossed and her face scowling at CARMEN and ANDI. The sight of her takes all the air out of their cheer. CARMEN and ANDI stop and exit to the other wing.*

CHLOE:  *(To audience.)* Them I could understand. But you?

*CHLOE shakes her head in exasperation and exits. CARMEN and ANDI enter, look to make sure CHLOE is gone, then finish the cheer.*

CARMEN and ANDI:

D. - A. - R.C.Y!

*SOUND CUE 50: Transition to Act Two, Scene 6. Curtain opens during transition. CARMEN and ANDI join the other students for the next scene.*
ACT TWO, SCENE 6

AT START: Auditorium Stage – evening. It's the school's big Christmas show. The stage is cheerfully decorated and all the kids sing to the audience.

SONG #20: AS WE GO 'ROUND THE SUN
ALL STUDENTS, MISS TEAFORD

SOUND CUE 51: AS WE GO 'ROUND THE SUN, Part 1

STUDENTS:

WINTER, IT'S SO EXCITING
HEARING SLEIGH BELLS
AND WATCHING CANDLE LIGHTING.
AND WE'RE WISHING
JOY TO EVERYONE
AS WE GO ONCE MORE AROUND THE SUN.

THERE'S ANOTHER YEAR, FRESH AND CLEAR, STRAIGHT AHEAD.
LIKE A FIELD OF SNOW.
ALL ACROSS THE LAND THERE'S A BRAND-NEW BEGINNING NOW.
JUST THINK OF THE THINGS THAT COULD HAPPEN.
MAGIC CAN BE SPUN.
AND WE'LL WATCH THE STARS GO WHIZZING BY
AS WE GO 'ROUND THE SUN.

WHAT COULD BE MORE INVITING?
SINGING CAROLS
AND FAM'LIES REUNITING.
AND IT'S LAUGHTER,
MERRIMENT AND FUN
AS WE GO ONCE MORE AROUND THE SUN.

THERE'S ANOTHER YEAR, FRESH AND CLEAR, STRAIGHT AHEAD.
LIKE A FIELD OF SNOW.
ALL ACROSS THE LAND THERE'S A BRAND-NEW BEGINNING NOW.
JUST THINK OF THE THINGS THAT COULD HAPPEN.
HANG ON, EV'RYONE!
AND WE'LL WATCH THE STARS GO WHIZZING BY
AND IT'S FULL SPEED AHEAD AS THROUGH SPACE WE FLY.
THE FUTURE HAS JUST BEGUN!
WITH EYES OPEN WIDE
ON THIS CAROUSEL RIDE
AS WE GO 'ROUND THE SUN.
Instrumental interlude under MISS TEAFORD’S dialogue.

MISS TEAFORD: Well, that wraps up our Christmas-Hanukkah-Kwanzaa show. Thank you so much for coming! Please join me in congratulating Darcy once more for being elected the new student body president!

ALL applaud. STUDENTS cheer. DARC Y looks very happy. CHLOE looks sullen.

MISS TEAFORD: And please don’t forget to mark your calendars for our big Easter-Passover-Spring Equinox show in April, and of course our annual Children's Day show during summer session in August. Thanks again, and good night everyone!

STUDENTS: (Continued.)

AND WE’LL WATCH THE STARS GO WHIZZING BY,
AND IT’S FULL SPEED AHEAD AS THROUGH SPACE WE FLY.
THE FUTURE HAS JUST BEGUN!

CRASH! A piece of scenery is accidentally knocked over, revealing MR. POTCHER and MISS SNOOD smooching behind the set. SOUND CUE 52: AS WE GO ‘ROUND THE SUN, Part 2

STUDENTS:

WITH EYES OPEN WIDE
ON THIS CAROUSEL RIDE
AS WE GO ‘ROUND THE SUN.

Curtain.

THE END
SOUND CUES

ACT ONE

SOUND CUE 1: THANKSGIVING SONG
SOUND CUE 2: Transition to Act One, Scene 2.
SOUND CUE 3: ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY, Part 1
SOUND CUE 4: ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY, Part 2
SOUND CUE 5: ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY, Part 3
SOUND CUE 6: ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY, Part 4
SOUND CUE 7: I HEARD FROM A GUY, Part 1
SOUND CUE 8: I HEARD FROM A GUY, Part 2
SOUND CUE 9: TOO BUSY: STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT
SOUND CUE 10: TOO BUSY: FOOTBALL CAPTAIN
SOUND CUE 11: TOO BUSY: DEBATE CAPTAIN
SOUND CUE 12: HAIL TO DARCY, Part 1
SOUND CUE 13: HAIL TO DARCY, Part 2
SOUND CUE 14: Transition to Act One, Scene 3.
SOUND CUE 15: POTCHER’S HEROES, Part 1
SOUND CUE 16: POTCHER’S HEROES, Part 2
SOUND CUE 17: Transition to Act One, Scene 4.
SOUND CUE 18: Transition to Act One, Scene 5.
SOUND CUE 19: Transition to Act One, Scene 6.
SOUND CUE 20: Calendar Music 1.
SOUND CUE 21: Calendar Music 2.
SOUND CUE 22: Calendar Music 3.
SOUND CUE 23: Calendar Music 4.
SOUND CUE 24: Calendar Music 5.
SOUND CUE 25: Transition to Act One, Scene 7.
SOUND CUE 26: Island Sounds.
SOUND CUE 27: AUGUST HAS NO HOLIDAYS
SOUND CUE 28: FILLING IN THE BUBBLES
SOUND CUE 29: ANYONE BUT ME
ACT TWO

SOUND CUE 30: Opening of Act Two, Scene 1.
SOUND CUE 31: KEEP A GOIN’, Part 1
SOUND CUE 32: KEEP A GOIN’, Part 2
SOUND CUE 33: Transition to Act Two, Scene 2.
SOUND CUE 34: Island Sounds.
SOUND CUE 35: ISLE OF LOST HOLIDAYS
SOUND CUE 36: Transition to Act Two, Scene 3.
SOUND CUE 37: NIGHTMARE MEDLEY
SOUND CUE 38: AT THE TOUCH OF LOVE
SOUND CUE 39: Cupid Slurping 1
SOUND CUE 40: Cupid Slurping 2.
SOUND CUE 41: Transition to Act Two, Scene 4.
SOUND CUE 42: LULLABY FOR POTCHER
SOUND CUE 43: SPLOOSH!.
SOUND CUE 44: Ominous Music.
SOUND CUE 45: Cupid’s Arrow.
SOUND CUE 46: SPLOOSH!.
SOUND CUE 47: TAKE A CHANCE
SOUND CUE 48: ISLE OF LOST HOLIDAYS (REPRISE)
SOUND CUE 49: Cheerleaders Marching Drums Intro.
SOUND CUE 50: Transition to Act Two, Scene 6.
SOUND CUE 51: AS WE GO ’ROUND THE SUN, Part 1
SOUND CUE 52: AS WE GO ’ROUND THE SUN, Part 2
CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

DARCY (f): Younger side of the age range, desperately wants to fit in with
the other kids. She takes on the less-desirable chores for the Theater Arts
Club and Cheerleading Squad in hopes of winning their acceptance. She
secretly fantasizes about doing something heroic and becoming the most
popular girl in school, but forces herself to smile and make the best of her
situation. (125 lines)

SHALENA (f): Shalena is more mature and considerably cooler than Darcy,
but is nevertheless Darcy’s best friend. She is into theater and yoga. She
gets along with her younger brother, Zimmer, but regards him as
something of a pest. (30 lines)

CHLOE (f): Chloe is the school’s student body president. Her age is in the
mid-to-high end of the range. She loves the prestige of her high office and
is jealously defensive against anyone who might threaten her position. She
has a crush on Lorne and thinks that she, as head of the student
government, and he, as captain of the football team, are a natural match.
But the feeling is not reciprocated. (23 lines)

MERYL (f): Meryl is captain of the school’s debate team. She is the ultimate
high achiever, as adept at chess as ballet. She is a member of the Theater
Arts Club, but it’s just one more item on her list of accomplishments.
Social skill is the one area where she falls short. She regards cheerleading
as silly. She tutors someone in Russian, but can’t be bothered to learn the
student’s name. (4 lines)

CARMEN (f): Best friends forever with Andi (they have been known to finish
each other's sentences). Star member of the Cheerleading Squad, which she
takes very seriously. Lives and dies by the success and failure of the
school’s football team. (13 lines)

ANDI (f): Best friends forever with Carmen (they have been known to finish
each other's sentences). Star member of the Cheerleading Squad, which she
takes very seriously. Lives and dies by the success and failure of the
school’s football team. (15 lines)

ZIMMER (m): Shalena’s younger brother and Darcy’s wisecracking friend.
He likes playing soccer and baseball, but is too small for football. He’s
good at basketball, but too short to be a star player. He hangs out with
Darcy and his sister for reasons that no one quite understands. (20 lines)
HARRY (m): Harry is self-appointed leader of the Theater Arts Club. He’s very serious about acting. He probably has a crush on the club’s faculty advisor, Miss Teaford, but would never admit it. His age is in the upper part of the range. He hopes to go to Juilliard and ultimately the New York stage. (27 lines)

LORNE (m): The school’s star quarterback and captain of the football team. He is big, as befits a football player, and his age is toward the upper end of the range. He is admired by the girls and not lacking in ego. He’s hoping for a football scholarship. (3 lines)

WILL (m): At the lower end of the age range. Good friends with Jake. Serves as political advisor to Chloe. Significantly shorter and probably younger than Chloe, but thinks of himself as a kingmaker and aspires to land an office in the White House. In the Theater Arts Club (to master the art of speech-making) and the school’s marching band. (24 lines)

JAKE (m): At the lower end of the age range. Good friends with Will. Serves as political advisor to Chloe. Significantly shorter and probably younger than Chloe, but thinks of himself as a kingmaker and aspires to land an office in the White House. In the Theater Arts Club (to master the art of speech-making) and the school’s marching band. (22 lines)

MR. POTCHER (m): 35-55; Mr. Potcher is a consultant to the school’s administration. He is unmarried and considers the arts and sports a waste of time. He wants to improve the school’s academic performance, not out of genuine concern for the students, but to wrap himself in glory. He dreams of being honored by his professional organization, Consultants for Research, Understanding and Development (CRUD). (75 lines)

MISS TEAFORD (f): 30s-40s; Miss Teaford is an English teacher and faculty advisor to the Theater Arts Club. She is attractive, though not glamorous, and unmarried. She genuinely loves teaching and relishes the opportunity to foster a love of the arts in her students. (36 lines)

COACH (m): 45-65; Doesn’t tolerate fools. He played football for Wagstaff when he attended the school, and he considers that the best thing he ever did in his formative years. (3 lines)

MISS SNOOD (f): 45-65; Part of the cafeteria staff. She loves her job. She knows that students are under a lot of pressure these days and considers it her role to bring them a bit of cheer with a friendly smile and a piece of pie. (18 lines)
CUPID (m): Has wings, wears the wardrobe of the ancient Greeks, and carries a bow and a quiver full of heart-tipped arrows. Pretty fed up with Valentine’s Day and the whole god-of-love thing. (39 lines)

LEPRECHAUN (m): Represents St. Patrick’s Day, is Irish through and through, including the accent. He’s capable of a bit o’ magic, as he reveals in a matter-of-fact way. (24 lines)

EASTER BUNNY (f): A soprano. She is kind and sympathetic, and eager to get hopping on the work she loves. (12 lines)

JACK-O’-LANTERN (m): Represents Halloween and is appropriately spooky. He’s all about the fun of recreational fright and the mysteries of things that go bump in the night. His favorite character in literature is the Headless Horseman. He roots for the ghosts in Ghostbusters. (13 lines)

TURKEY (m/f): Represents Thanksgiving and is usually a little behind the curve with regard to knowing what’s going on at any given moment, but gamely tries to keep up with the others. Doesn’t speak, other than to issue a turkey’s gobbling sound. Tends to hang with Jack-o’-lantern. (4 lines)

SANTA CLAUS (m): You know the drill: He’s chubby, he’s jolly, and he loves making children happy. (21 lines)

CHILDREN’S DAY GUY (m): This is the iconic character for the holiday of Children’s Day, which was in August until a sorceress eliminated it from existence 2,000 years ago. He looks like a young teenager and dresses like someone who might have sung doo-wop on a street corner in the 1950s or ’60s. (20 lines)
NOTES:
Mr. Potcher’s Holiday
By Bob Silberg & Barbara Klaskin Silberg

Genre: Musical Comedy
Duration: 100 minutes
Cast: 8-10 females, 8-14 males, 0-1 either (16-25 total cast)
Flexibility: 0-1 extra, 2+ ensemble

Mr. Potcher cancels the arts and extracurricular activities in the school where he has been hired as consultant. Darcy, a student desperate to fit in with the other kids, tries to change his mind. But she not only fails, she also inadvertently gives him the idea to eliminate all the holidays, which he does with a magic calendar. The outraged students ostracize Darcy.

Darcy has a nightmare of being taunted by Mr. Potcher and the students. But then, still dreaming, she consults with Plato and Shakespeare and hatches a plan with Cupid, Santa, Easter Bunny, Leprechaun, Jack-o-lantern and Turkey to change Mr. Potcher’s mind.

The next day, Darcy is amazed to see that the scheme goes into effect. Mr. Potcher winds up madly in love and open to the beauty in life. He reinstates the arts classes, extracurricular activities and all the holidays. And the students hail Darcy as the hero she aspired to become.