

DÉJÀ VU

A Music-Theatre Piece

by

**David Wenden, Andy Jeffers
and Ward Baker**

Music & lyrics

by

Ward Baker

SchoolPlay Productions Ltd

15 Inglis Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3HU

DÉJÀ VU

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ISBN 978 1 872475 85 1

Printed and published by
SchoolPlay Productions Limited,
15 Inglis Road,
Colchester, Essex, CO3 3HU

CAST LIST

Rosie - *Mother to Danny and Ellie*

Tom - *Their Father*

Danny - *Sixteen years old*

Ellie - *Eleven years old*

Jenny - *Mother to Kelly and Joe*

William - *Their Father*

Kelly - *Fifteen years old*

Joe - *Ten years old*

SCHOOLFRIENDS

Vanessa

Analise

Phillip

James

Ben

Harry

Joan

Other schoolfriends and partygoers

DÉJÀ VU

From an idea by Andrew Jeffers, Ward Baker & David Wenden
Music & lyrics by Ward Baker

SCENE 1 A clear stage.

MUSIC No. 1 - STEPPING OUT

Company: *Stepping out with a shout
Angry that the system is wrong
And there's no-one there, so why should we care?
Stepping out with a shout.
Fed up with the rules of the game
'Cos it's never fair, so why should we care?*

*Don't do this , don't do that.
They've no idea just where we're at
We're on an up, they knock us down
Why don't they leave us alone?*

MUSIC No. 2 - MACHINE (Instrumental)

(A split stage. The two families set up some chairs and a table either side. The remainder of the cast mechanically improvise posting mail , delivering milk and papers etc. It is morning).

Kelly: *(Looking at JOE's homework)* Joe, why didn't you do this yesterday? It's quite good though. You've got that one wrong there; you've got to add that and take that.

Joe: Coco pops again.

William: Morning love.

Jenny: Morning.

William: Morning children.

Joe: Morning Dad.

Kelly: Morning Dad.

Jenny : There you go, get that inside you.

William: Champion.

Joe: Mum.

Jenny: Yes.

Joe: Why does Dad get a cooked breakfast and I only get coco pops?

Jenny: Because he does. Now get on with it.

Joe: Mum I want sausages, bacon and eggs.

Jenny: Joe pack it up.

Joe: But

Jenny: Joe, we can't afford it.

Joe: Sorry.

Jenny: Anyway, your Dad's got a job interview and it's very important he gets a good breakfast inside him.

Kelly: What's it for this time Dad, a dustbin man, porter, skivvy?

Jenny: Kelly that's enough, you know we're trying our best, this could be our lucky break.

Joe: You said that the time before, and the time before that, and the time before that, and the time before

William: Joe, I don't need reminding.

Kelly: Mum?

Jenny: Yes.

Kelly: I need some new trainers.

Jenny: Not now, Kelly, you know we can't afford it.

Kelly: Oh, but look at them Mum, they're all tatty and horrible.

Jenny: We can fix them. I'll write you a note for school. You'll have to wait a couple of months, I'm sorry.

Kelly: Its not fair! Nicola's got new ones, you know them ones with Reebok written on the side.

Jenny: She's got more money than us at the moment.

Kelly: Please Mum?

Jenny: No.

Kelly: Can't I use some of the money from out of my bank account?

Jenny: No it's for when you're older.

Kelly: But it's piling up and

Jenny: Kelly, look, it's for when you're older.

Kelly: Oh please Mum?

William: Kelly it's your trust fund for when you're eighteen. You can't have it before then.

Kelly: Oh but please?

Jenny: No !!!

Joe: Dad.

William: Yes, Joe?

Joe: Can I go on a school trip?

William: Where to?

Joe: Germany, The Black Forest.

Jenny: How much is that going to cost?

Joe: Only a hundred and twenty-two quid.

Jenny: ONLY a hundred? Money doesn't grow on trees, Joe.

Joe: Well it's not my fault.

William: How long is it before you have to hand in the money?

Joe: Next week.

Jenny: You could have told us sooner we might have saved up then.

Joe: I only found out last week.

Kelly: You liar! You knew from the beginning of term about that trip.

Joe: Somebody told me last week.

(They argue. JENNY cuts in).

Jenny: Quiet you two! Sit down! What's got into you this morning?

Kelly: Anyway, if he gets the trip, I get the trainers.

Jenny: We didn't say he was getting the trip, did we?

Kelly: I bet he does though.

Jenny: Oh grow up. It's at times like this we've got to pull together, not be stupid.
What are you mumbling about now?

Kelly: Nothing.

Jenny: Kelly, what are you mumbling about now?

Kelly: I don't see why he should get the trip when I don't get the trainers.

Jenny: Here we go again. Neither of you get what you want!

Joe: Yeah.

Kelly: Can I have the trainers please dad?

Jenny: No.

William: No.

Kelly: You always take her side.

William: Kelly you're acting like a spoilt brat.

Kelly: You're always picking on me.

William: Kelly that's not true.

Kelly: It's your fault we're in this mess.

William: Kelly it's hard on all of us now

Kelly: It's all your fault. Proper dads have jobs!

William: That's not fair.

Kelly: Look at the way I'm dressed. I get picked on at school because of you! I
hate you!

William: Kelly!

Jenny: Sit down. She'll cool off. She didn't mean it.

Joe: Come on, Dad, I'll be late for school!

SCENE 2 (Cross-fade to other family).

Ellie: Morning Mum.

Rosie: Morning Ellie. Where's your brother?

Ellie: Upstairs I think, why?

Rosie: Can you go and get him please?

Ellie: OK. Danny! Danny! Danny!

Rosie: Ellie, don't shout.

Ellie: You told me to go and get him.

Rosie: I told you to GO and get Danny.

(DANNY appears).

Ellie: There you are.

Danny: Morning Mum.

Rosie: Morning Danny.

Danny: Good morning Ellie, how did you sleep?

Ellie: What's it to you?

Danny: I care about my little sister.

Ellie: Yeah, right!

Danny: I do! I love little Ellie.

Ellie: Is that why you're always getting me into trouble?

Danny: Me? Get you into trouble? Never.

Ellie: Yes you do.

Danny: No I don't.

Ellie: Yes you do.

Danny: No I don't.

Ellie: How come you never get into trouble?

Danny: Because I'm older.

Ellie: The size is why.

Danny: Age is, actually.

Rosie: You two stop it, please.

Tom: Morning kids.

Danny: Morning Dad.

Ellie: Morning Dad.

Rosie: Toast anyone?

Ellie: Yes please.

Tom: Yes please, love.

Rosie: You can make your own.

Tom: How many pieces do you want Ellie?

Ellie: Two please.

Rosie: Look, I can make Ellie's.

Tom: Oh don't be stupid. It's as easy for me to toast four pieces as it is two.

(Lights fade to a spot on ROSIE. She delivers a monologue that the others don't hear).

Rosie: Every morning's the same. Recrimination and regret. Snapping, sniping. Six months. Six short months of my life ruined. We were happy once. Yes of course we were happy together. Now it's as if we never even existed. Like two total strangers. Sixteen years. For him to find someone else to use our marriage to build up his own selfish ego. Moving up here was the biggest mistake of my life. He said it made sense. He said it was part of the job and that we'd be together as a family. He lied. Lied through his teeth. And now I'm left to pick up the pieces.

(Lights back up).

Dad: I suppose you want toast, Danny?

Rosie: Danny, what are you having?

Danny: Nothing.

Rosie: Oh come on. You've got to have something.

Danny: No, Mum, I don't want anything.

Rosie: Danny, just have some toast.

Danny: Mum, I'm not hungry.

Ellie: Mum.

Rosie: Ellie just go and pack your bag. Look, Danny, I'm not carrying on this argument.

Danny: Oh for God's sake. I've got to get my stuff ready for school.

(He storms out).

SCENE 3

(Cross fade to other family. The children have gone, WILLIAM is about to leave, and JENNY is clearing the breakfast things).

Jenny: Look, I've been thinking. What if you don't get this job?

William: If I don't get this job I'll get another one.

Jenny : How do you know that? You've been saying that for the past six months and you're always being turned down. We can't go on living like this. You can't sit back and do nothing. I've got qualifications. Why don't I try to get a job?

William: No.

Jenny: Why not?

William: Because of Kelly and Joe, that's why not.

Jenny: They're old enough to look after themselves. It'd only be part time. I'd never forgive myself if I didn't do anything.

(JOE rushes on).

Joe: Come on Dad.

William: I've got to go.

Jenny: Good luck with the interview.

(WILLIAM and JOE exit. The lights go down leaving JENNY in a spot. She delivers her monologue to the audience).

Jenny: That's William, my husband. We met sixteen years ago at school. We were in love still are. But times are hard and money's short. He's unemployed, you see, after his business went bust. Little Joe's only twelve. I don't think he understands how bad the situation is. Then there's Kelly. She's fifteen, and like any teenager, wants everything and anything. She blames her Dad for the mess we're in. It's not his fault, not his fault at all. I won't let the family fall apart, even if it means finding work myself.

SCENE 4

(Cross-fade to the other family. ROSIE is clearing the breakfast things. TOM is reading the newspaper. ELLIE enters).

Ellie: Mum, I'm ready.

Rosie: OK.

Ellie: Are you taking me to school then?

Rosie: Yes.

(DANNY dashes in).

Danny: I'm off now.

Rosie: Oh, why don't you come with me and Ellie?

Danny: No, I'm going with John.

Rosie: John? Why don't you just come with me and Ellie?

Danny: I'm walking.

Rosie: Danny why don't you come in the car with me and Ellie?

Danny: Mum!!!

Tom: Let him walk if he wants to.

Ellie: Hurry up, Mum, we're going to be late.

Mum: Wait, Ellie.

Tom: Oh, you two.

Rosie: *(As she leaves, to TOM)* You stupid man.

SCENE 5

*(Music/lighting effect to signify **flashback** to JENNY and WILLIAM's school. This can take place in front of the darkened family scenes).*

Vanessa: This morning was really slow wasn't it?

Analise: Yeah, I didn't hand my homework in. I got in big trouble again. Oh yeah, there's a new girl in my class.

Vanessa: You have to tell me who it is. Then we can get Phillip and the gang together.

Analise: Yeah.

Vanessa: We can play some really good tricks.

(JENNY enters. She is clutching a packet of sandwiches).

Analise: That's her. I'll go and get Phillip.

(ANALISE exits).

Vanessa: Hi, I'm Vanessa. What's your name?

Jenny: Oh, hi! I'm Jenny.

Vanessa: You're the new girl aren't you?

Jenny: Yeah.

Vanessa: Would you like to have lunch with me?

Jenny: Yes, I'd love to, thanks.

Vanessa: So what lessons have you had today?

Jenny: Oh, Maths and English.

Vanessa: Who teaches you for maths?

Jenny: Oh, you know the one, the Lady.

Vanessa: Miss Hayward. URK!

(ANALISE enters).

Analise: Hi, Vanessa, hi, Jenny.

Jenny: Oh hi!

Vanessa: Hi, Analise, do you two know each other?

Analise: Yes we're in the same class.

Vanessa: Where do you come from? *(JENNY doesn't get the chance to answer).*

Analise: She comes from Edinburgh.

(WILLIAM and HARRY enter and mooch around to one side of the stage).

Vanessa: Why did you move?

Analise: Because her Dad's got a new job - a stableman.

Vanessa: What's in your sandwich?

Analise: Cheese and pickle.

(PHILLIP and JAMES enter).

Phillip: Hi, Vanessa.

Vanessa: Hi, Phillip.

(BEN enters and walks across to WILLIAM and HARRY in front of the others).

Phillip: Watch this.

(PHILLIP sticks his foot out and trips up BEN).

Ben: What was that for?

Phillip: Why not?

(BEN carries on to the others).

Phillip: Who have you got here then?

Vanessa: Oh, this is the new girl, Jenny.

Phillip: Let's all say 'Hello' to Jenny!

All: Hello, Jenny!

Phillip: Got some food for me? *(JENNY looks in her pack of sandwiches).* How kind of you - cheese and pickle sandwiches, my favourite. Urgh! *(He throws it on the floor).* But not the way **your** Mum makes them. Got any money then?

Jenny: Only my bus fare.

Analise: She comes by bus then, ooh!.

Vanessa: What a tramp!

(The focus switches to the other group).

Harry: All right Ben?

Will: Hi, Ben.

Ben: Hi!

Harry: What's wrong?

Ben: That lot.

Harry: Phillip?

Will: What's he done to you?

Ben: Tripped me up.

Will: Come on Harry.

(They walk over to PHILLIP).

Will: Hello Phillip.

Phillip: Oh! *(He starts to make a quick exit).* Will, we were just going. *(To JENNY)* Make sure you bring some decent food tomorrow.

(PHILLIP, JAMES, VANESSA and ANALISE leave).

Jenny: *(To WILL)* Thanks.

Harry: Hi!

Jenny: Hi!

Will: Have they been bothering you?

Jenny: Yeah. A bit.

Harry: Just ignore them. They pick on everyone.

Will: They're just trouble makers. What class are you in?

Jenny: Miss Perkin's.

Will: Do you know where you're supposed to be next?

Jenny: No.

Harry: Come on we'll show you.

SCENE 6

(Another flashback, this time to ROSIE and TOM's school. ROSIE and JOAN, her friend, are sitting, gossipping).

Joan: Her dress was hideous.

Rosie: I know.

Joan: She really fancies herself doesn't she?

Rosie: Yeah, but hanging round with a swarm of guys makes me feel sick.

Joan: I bet she's got warts everywhere.

Rosie: You'd need a spade to get all her make-up off.

Joan: And her legs are like tree trunks.

Rosie: Yeah.

Joan: You could fry chips in her hair it's so greasy.

(TOM enters looking lost and smoking).

Rosie: Look, it's Tom. I think he's seen us.

Joan: So?

Rosie: Look, he's coming over.

Joan: Well he'd better not sit next to me. He stinks! I can smell him from here.

Tom: Hi, Rosie.

Rosie: Hi, Tom. *(TOM exhales over JOAN).*

Joan: Do you mind? I washed my hair this morning!

Tom: Do you want to come to a party tonight?

Joan: COUGH! Do you know what that's doing to you? Your lungs are going, so are your teeth. Your breath stinks, your fingers too. It's a filthy habit.

Tom: (*Ignoring JOAN. To ROSIE*). Do you want a drag?

Joan: What do you think you're doing?

Tom: What do you think YOU'RE doing?

Joan: If you were going out with me you wouldn't be smoking.

Tom: Well I'm not going out with you. You're dumped. (*To ROSIE*). There - the quickest date and dump in history. (*ROSIE and TOM laugh*). Well then, how about it? Tonight, I mean.

Joan: (*Miffed at being laughed at*). Oh, she can't go.

Rosie: Joan!

Joan: YOU'RE not going out with a smoker, either! You might want to smoke your life away but my friend doesn't. Do you know what that's doing to you? Read the packet.

Tom: It says Benson and Hedges Special Filter.

Joan: Not that bit there. (*Pointing*).

Tom: Smoking when pregnant.....

Joan: Well that's really going to apply to you isn't it? (*She points again*). No, there.

Tom: Smoking can seriously d, d....

Joan: Damage.

Tom: Damage your health.

Joan: There you go.

Tom: Yeah. Just because of a few silly surveys, it doesn't mean anything.

Joan: They just won't be told will they?

Tom: Anyway what about it?

Rosie: I will, yeah.

Tom: Great.

Rosie: On one condition.

Tom: What.

Rosie: You don't smoke.

Tom: Yeah. OK. (*He stubs his cigarette out on the floor*).

Joan: What about the rest?

Tom: There's seventeen in there!

Rosie: If you want to go to the party with me you've got to chuck them all. (*He does so reluctantly*). Right, lets go.

(*ROSIE and TOM start to leave. TOM reaches into his back pocket without ROSIE seeing and produces another packet of cigarettes. JOAN sees it*).

Joan: (*Jumping up and running after them*). He's got another packet!

SCENE 7

(*Back to the present. DANNY and KELLY are at school, sitting at desks facing front. They are talking to an imaginary teacher*).

Danny: Yes Miss. Sorry Miss. How many? A hundred? Oh Miss! OK.

Kelly: Only five Miss, but I've been writing slowly, Miss. All right.

(*They watch the teacher move on to someone else*).

Kelly: It's not fair. I got two hundred for poor work but you only got one hundred for bunking off!

Danny: I've got playground duty as well.

Kelly: That's worse than the lines.

Danny: You're telling me. (*The teacher is back*). We weren't talking Miss. No Miss. OK, Miss, we won't do it again. (*She moves away again*).

Kelly: Stupid cow. If I get a letter my Dad's going to flip!

Danny: A letter? Oh no, with all the stresses at home, I'm going to die!

Kelly: My Dad's unemployed.

Danny: My Dad's never home. When he is he's shouting at my Mum.

Kelly: And then Mum's just looking for an excuse to stress on me.

Danny: Yeah mine too. And my little sister.

Kelly: Oh don't talk to me about brothers and sisters. My brother's the biggest creep in the world. (*Pause*). Can I ask you a question?

Danny: Yeah.

Kelly: What do you do when you bunk off? I mean, I've covered for you twice.

Danny: Go around town. Go to the cemetery sometimes, to visit my grandad.

Kelly: Does he work there?

Danny: No, he's dead.

Kelly: Oh, sorry.

Danny: Doesn't matter. Never really knew the old bloke anyway. What are you doing tonight?

Kelly: Nothing.

Danny: What about the disco?

Kelly: Can't afford it.

Danny: You could come with me.

Kelly: I've still got to pay for myself.

Danny: No it'd be my treat.

Kelly: Yeah, all right then. (*The teacher reappears to them*).

Danny: What? Another fifty?

Together: Oh, Miss!

MUSIC No. 3 - BEING AT SCHOOL

(*The following groups are needed: Boys 1, 2, 3 & Girls 1, 2, 3*).

Boys: *I had a bad day today.*
Girls: *Why do I have to be at school?*
Boys: *Got in a fight*
Girls: *I'll run away*
Boys: *It served him right*
Girls: *Oh God I hate*
Boys: *It's like that*
Together: *Being at school.*

Girls: *I'm always told what to do*
Boys: *I think I'll go and have a smoke!*
Girls: *The Head's a sod!*
Boys: *Just for a bet!*
Girls: *He thinks he's God!*
Boys: *That's all you get*
Girls: *He loves it*
Together: *Being at school!*

Girls 1: *Leave me alone*
Boys 1: *Why should I?*
Girls 1: *'Cos I'm working*
Boys 1: *Yeah! Your type they really make me sick!*
Girls 1: (*Spoken*) *Just leave it !*

Girls 2: *Did you go last night?*
Girls 3: *Of course!*
Boys 2: *How far did you go?*

Boys 3: *You know!*
Girls 2: *Wasn't it a laugh?*
Girls 3: *You bet!*
Boys 2: *Bet you didn't*
Boys 3: *Yes I did!*

Girls 2: *Got home late, though*
Girls 3: *So did I!*
Boys 1: *You're sucking up*
Girls 1: *Leave me alone*
Boys 2: *'Course I've done it*
Boys 3: *You? Oh yeah!*
Girls 2: *Now I'm grounded*
Girls 3: *So am I!*
Boys 1: *You creep you,*
Girls 1: *Just go and play*
Boys 1: *Why can't we play?*
Boys 2: *Loads and loads of times*
Boys 3: *I bet!*

Boys 1: *Sister*
Girls 1: *Sod off!*
Boys 1: *Grow up!*
Girls 1: *God you are really immature!*
Boys 1: *At least I've got a life!*
Boys/Girls 2 & 3: *School is so boring I can't wait to get out of here!*
All: *What can be worse than the curse on us being at school?*
Being at school. Being at school.
Being at school. Being at school.

SCENE 8 (Back to family scene).

Danny: Ellie, where's Mum?
Ellie: Upstairs I think, why?
Danny: It doesn't matter.
Ellie: Tell me.
Danny: Ellie, it doesn't matter.

Ellie: Tell me or I'll call Mum.

Danny: It's not important.

Ellie: Mum!

Danny: Ellie!

Rosie: What's going on?

Danny: Nothing.

Rosie: Danny?

Danny: Nothing, Mum.

Rosie: (*She produces a letter*). Danny, what's this?

Danny: A letter, what does it look like?

Rosie: But playing truant, Danny. Why?

Danny: It's only a few days.

Rosie: Only a few days? Danny this is your life.

Danny: It's just school!

Rosie: Just school? Oh, Danny come on. What's wrong with you? Who the hell do you think you are? You can't just

Danny: Who do I think *I* am? What about you and Dad?

Rosie: What about me and your Dad?

Danny: Some supportive family you are!

Rosie: Supportive? We try to be supportive.

Danny: Oh yeah, yeah. You don't care!

Rosie: You know we do, Danny.

Danny: You don't flipping care!

Rosie: Yes we DO care, Danny.

Danny: Yeah.

Rosie: Look. Just stop Danny, please. Just sit down. I've got something to tell you both. Ellie come here. Look, as you both know, your Father and I haven't been getting on very well recently, and we've decided that it would be better for you and us if we didn't live together any more.

Ellie: What are you saying?

Danny: Yeah, Mum just say it!

Rosie: We might be getting a divorce.

Ellie: Why? Why?

Rosie: He's found somebody else. I don't know. It's just

Danny: Why didn't you tell us sooner?

Rosie: Look, Danny, I'm trying to tell you now.

Danny: Mum, I'm sixteen. You could have told me.

Rosie: Danny, I'm telling you now. I'm sorry. It's just the way it's happened.

Danny: Better for who, eh?

Rosie: Better for me, Danny.

Danny: Yeah.

Rosie: And you.

Danny: Yeah.

Rosie: For both of you.

Danny: I've got to get ready to go out. (*He leaves*).

Rosie: Ellie (*ELLIE storms out*).

SCENE 9

(*Cross-fade to other family. JENNY is laying the table and JOE is seated*).

Jenny: Kelly, dinner's ready. (*KELLY enters*).

Kelly: Joe! You're sat in my place.

Joe: So?

Kelly: Joe, that's my place. That's yours.

Joe: Does it matter where we sit?

Kelly: Yes. I 'm used to that seat I'm not used to that one.

Joe: I'm not moving.

Jenny: Joe, just move.

Joe: No.

(*JENNY exits*).

Joe: Oh, have you told Mum about that letter yet?

Kelly: Oh shut up!

Joe: You've got to tell her.

Kelly: No I haven't.

Joe: Yes, you have.

Kelly: No I haven't.

Joe: Yes you have. It's from the teacher to the parent.

Kelly: That's all you've been going on about. I wish I'd never told you about that stupid letter.

(*JENNY re-enters*).

Jenny: There you go. It's your favourite.

Joe: Thanks Mum.

Jenny: Come on. Don't let good food go to waste. What's this about a letter?

Kelly: Nothing Mum.

Joe: Kelly's got a letter for you Mum. Haven't you?

Kelly: No. It's just another letter about the school trip.

Jenny: Can I have it anyway, Kelly? Joe, don't be stupid. Even though she's told me a complete lie we're going to talk about it sensibly. (*KELLY hands JENNY the letter. She reads it.*)

Joe: Damn!

Jenny: Kelly, what went wrong? Last term your marks were brilliant. You've gone all down hill since you started behaving badly. I've never had a letter home before.

Kelly: Work's too hard.

Jenny: How can you say that? You've got a perfectly good brain. You're just letting it go to waste. Is this about homework never being in on time? You can ask me if you've got a problem.

Kelly: Oh yeah! In this house?

Jenny: You've got people around to help you.

Kelly: Yeah! Until you scream at me it is.

Jenny: No matter what the situation, I never take it out on you or Joe.

Kelly: What about this morning then?

Jenny: That was different. You were blaming your Dad for something that wasn't his fault. He's out trying to get a job now, isn't he?

Kelly: Hmmm.

Jenny: Look on the bright side of life for a change. So - what are we going to do about this?

Kelly: I don't know.

Jenny: It's not good enough. You've got to try harder, Kelly. This is your education we're talking about.

Kelly: OK. I'll try harder.

Jenny: (*She hears the front door bang*). That's your father now. We'll talk about this later. (*JENNY exits*).

Kelly: Thanks a lot, Joe. Thanks for telling her. I hate you sometimes.

Joe: It's your fault. Are you going to eat that? (*He stabs her sausage and puts it on his plate*).

Kelly: I was about to eat that ! Pig!

(*JENNY re-enters with WILLIAM*).

Jenny: I'm so pleased. Come and tell them. Your Dad's got some good news for you.

William: I got the job.

Joe: Well done, Dad.

Kelly: Oh great! Dad, seeing as you're in such a good mood, could I possibly go to the disco tonight?

William: All right.

Joe: I think I'll have another sausage to celebrate. (*He stabs another of KELLY's sausages*).

SCENE 10

(*Another flashback to JENNY's schooldays. VANESSA and ANALISE are gossiping at a party. Other characters are scattered around, including JENNY and WILLIAM. Music is playing in the background*).

Vanessa: You'll never guess who's here.

Analise: Who?

Vanessa: Jenny.

Analise: What?

Vanessa: Yes. And she's wearing this gorgeous tight top, with white frills like this and

Analise: Where'd she get it from?

Vanessa: I'm not sure.

Analise: It must have been expensive.

Vanessa: Probably, but you'd look good in something like it.

Analise: Yeah.

Vanessa: There she is, over there.

Analise: Yeah, that's where all the boys are.

Vanessa: It makes me sick you know. She's so bright, good at sports, she's pretty, she's kind, and she's good with the boys.

Analise: But you must admit she is a bit of a tart. You can tell that by the way she walks.

Vanessa: That's how she gets all the boys.

Analise: Yeah, it's so childish.

Vanessa: Yeah. Come on lets see if anyone's snogging.

(*The girls exit and Phillip and James move to centre stage*).

Phillip: Amazing, it's the beautiful Jenny.

James: Do you remember the performance last year when her bra came off?

Both: Wow!

Phillip: What I would do for a dance with her.

James: Go on then, go and ask her for a dance.

Phillip: Yeah, all right then; *(he starts to go then stops)* but wait - I haven't finished my drink yet. Why don't you go and ask her?

James: She's chatting to her friends, they always say no when they're chatting.

Phillip: Yeah, you're right.

James: Go on then, you've finished your drink - now ask.

Phillip: I'll wait till the next record; this one's pretty crap. Hey, look it's weasel Will. Let's get him to do our dirty work. Oi! Weasel!

(WILLIAM comes over).

Will: Yeah?

Phillip: You see Jenny over there?

Will: Yeah.

Phillip: Go and ask her to dance with me, will you? She keeps looking over but I want her to make the first move.

Will: You?

Phillip: Yeah, me.

(WILLIAM walks over to JENNY).

James: Can I have a dance after you?

Phillip: I'll have to see. *(They watch as WILLIAM starts to dance with JENNY).*
The cheeky devil! He's having a dance with her. Never liked her anyway, always thought she was a bit of a tart.

James: Obviously no taste.

(PHILLIP and JAMES move off. The centre of the stage clears and a choreographed sequence starts as the background music swells. After the dance, TOM takes centre stage. He is practising what he is going to say to his girlfriend, ROSIE. It is not the same party, but it is a parallel situation).

Tom: Rosie, I don't love you anymore. No, too harsh. Rosie, I can't go out with you anymore. No - think, Tom, think!

(ROSIE moves up behind him slowly).

Tom: Rosie, I don't want to go out with you anymore.

Rosie: Tom?

Tom: Oh, Rosie.

Rosie: Where were you last night?

Tom: I told you I was ill in bed.

Rosie: That's not what Joan said. She said she had a good time - with you!

Tom: Oh, listen I'm sorry. I've been meaning to tell you. It's just that two years you know it's a long time. (*He goes to put an arm round her*).

Rosie: Get off me. Well?

Tom: I don't know what to say.

Rosie: Well?

Tom: I I I'm

Rosie: Well?

Tom: I'm I'm I'm bored.

Rosie: You what?

Tom: No, I didn't mean to say that.

Rosie: You're bored? Bored?

Tom: No, that's not what I meant.

Rosie : After two years you're bored? We've been going out together for two years having fun and you're bored? You you you!

(*She slaps him and then runs, crying, off*).

MUSIC No. 4 - TEENAGERS

Boys: *Brothers , oh brothers, I feel kind of shy
We're supposed to enjoy this but I don't know why
Are the girls in the corner there winking at us
No don't make it obvious don't make a fuss
Teenagers, teenagers, teenagers, teenagers*

Girls: *Sisters, oh sisters we're growing too soon
Sisters, oh sisters it started last June
I feel sexy, so pretty, I'm not cold now I'm hot
But the problem I'm facing is one great big spot
Teenagers, teenagers, teenagers, teenagers*

SCENE 11

(This is at the end of the party, but in the present day. KELLY and DANNY are eventually left alone on stage).

Kelly: I had a good time tonight.

Danny: Yeah, it was great, it really took my mind off the troubles at home.

Kelly: My Dad's got a job.

Danny: That's great! Pretty chuffed isn't he?

Kelly: Yeah. Mum's stressed as usual, and then there's Joe being a creep. How's your family then?

Danny: My Mum and Dad have decided to get a divorce. I don't know what went wrong. I mean they used to be so happy, things have changed so much in the last couple of years.

Kelly: Don't worry about it.

Danny: You don't see the way they're treating me. I just don't understand it.

Kelly: It's the same in my family. They treat us like babies really.

Danny: But we're really adults. I mean, at sixteen I'd like to be treated like one. The thing about my parents is I don't understand THEM anymore. There's my sister Ellie. She never understands what's going on, but with Mum and Dad - I don't know what went wrong. My Dad's found someone else, I think. But they were so happy. I kind of wish we'd stayed down south - but then I'd have never met you.

Kelly: My Mum and Dad are all right, I suppose. I hope I don't turn out like them though.

Danny: I hope I don't turn out like mine.

MUSIC No. 5 - GIVE ME FREEDOM

Kelly: *Why is growing up so very hard?*

Danny: *Why are parents holding every card?*

Kelly: *Why can no one see I'm trying hard?*

Danny: *To be a real life person not some poor charade.*

Kelly: *Why is everything I do so wrong?*

Danny: *Why does freedom take so very long?*

Kelly: *Why is running my own life so wrong?*

Danny: *Escape the agony they feel they must prolong.*

Both: *Give me freedom to be
On my own with the right to be me.
Give me reason to be
All you prayed that your child would be.
Hearing you say I'm not ready yet...
I may forgive but I'll never forget.
Give me freedom to be
On my own with the right to be me
Give me reason to be
All you prayed that your child would be.*

SCENE 12

(Back to the family. JENNY and KELLY are sitting round the dining table)

Jenny: Pregnant? After everything I've taught you? You're under age for one thing. You're not even out of school.

Kelly: Here we go again. That same propaganda. Education, welfare, get a job.

Jenny: It's important! I want you to have a good life for yourself. You've got to finish school, Kelly.

Kelly: Maybe I don't want a job, maybe I want to be a housewife.

Jenny: You can be much more than that - you know you can. So who is it then? Is it this Danny?

Kelly: Yep.

Jenny: You won't see him for dust as soon as he finds out. He won't want to stay with you.

Kelly: 'Course he will.

Jenny: How do you know?

Kelly: Because he loves me.

Jenny: Have you asked him?

Kelly: Yes, of course I have.

Jenny: How do you know what love is at your age?

Kelly: Look, Mum stay out of this. I'm sorry I told you. I don't have to take it. I love him, he loves me and that's all there is to it. I don't even know for sure, yet!

(KELLY starts to go off stage).

Jenny: Kelly! Kelly, come and sit down. I know exactly what you're feeling.

Kelly: Oh, yeah?

Jenny: I do.

Kelly: Yeah, Mum.

Jenny: I've been there myself. I don't want you to make the same mistakes I did. I married your father because I was pregnant with you, and I don't regret having you - not for one minute. But it was the wrong place and the wrong time. I'd never stop you having it if you wanted it. But at least at eighteen I had an education. You haven't got anything.

Kelly: Why didn't you tell me Mum?

Jenny: It's not something I'm proud of. Come on we'll sort something out. You've got to find out how Danny feels first. Maybe Danny can come and live here I don't know we'll have to see.

SCENE 13

(Crossfade to the other family. DANNY is on the telephone).

Danny: I don't believe it! What have I done? How could I be so stupid? I'm sorry Kelly. Look, I'll be round in a minute, we've got to talk Kelly, you and I

(DANNY puts the phone down and sits down. ROSIE enters).

Rosie: Who was on the phone, Danny?

Danny: What?

Rosie: Who was on the phone?

Danny: Kelly.

Rosie: Oh right. What do you want for your tea?

Danny: Nothing.

Rosie: Oh come on. You've got to eat something. You didn't have any breakfast.

Danny: No Mum, I'm not hungry.

Rosie: Danny, you've got to eat sometime.

Danny: Mum, I'm really not hungry.

Rosie: Danny, just have some tea.

Danny: Mum!

Rosie: If you'll just have

Danny: Mum!

(ROSIE gets up and starts to go off stage).

Danny: Mum, wait, please. Mum, Kelly thinks she's pregnant.

Rosie: Oh Danny. How could you be so stupid? I mean on top of everything that's happening

Danny: It just happened.

Rosie: It just happened? You've got Kelly pregnant and it just happened? Danny how? I mean

Danny: I'm not going into detail Mum, it just happened.

Rosie: It just happened. On top of everything

Danny: Well you can hardly say there's someone who cares here, can you?

Rosie: Your father and I are here.

Danny: My father, oh yeah, Dad's always around.

Rosie: He tries, Danny.

Danny: And you you're always shouting at me.

Rosie: Danny!

Danny: See you're shouting at me right now.

Rosie: That's because *(TOM enters).*

Danny: You're always shouting at me.

Tom: Danny don't talk to your mother like that.

Danny: And here he is, my father. I'm meant to look up to you Dad, but what is there to look up to? Nice one, Dad.

(Danny exits).

Rosie: Nice one, Tom.

Tom: What did you say to him?

Rosie: What did *I* say? All I said was what do you want for your tea?

Tom: And that made him storm off like that did it?

Rosie: No, no. Look, he might have got Kelly pregnant. *(TOM sniggers).* It's not funny, Tom!

Tom: When?

Rosie: Oh, I don't know.

Tom: Didn't you teach him? Didn't you tell him?

Rosie: Didn't *I* teach him? YOU'RE supposed to be the father. YOU'RE supposed to teach him things like that. But you're never here. You're at work or gallivanting round the countryside with your woman.

Tom: I work night and day for this family, to support you.

Rosie: Support us? The way to support us is to be here when we need you. You're not.

Tom: Listen, Rosie. I want to try and patch things up, I want to try again.

Rosie: I know, Tom, it's not going to work. Look at our son. We destroy him when we start arguing. I want to move back to London and I'm taking the kids with me. I want a divorce Tom.

Tom: God, do you realise what I've done for you? I walked out on my parents for you. I haven't spoken to them in years because of you.

Rosie: Tom, I can't ever trust you again. What you've done has destroyed me. I just can't trust you Tom. You've betrayed me. You're still the same as you were at school. A quick fling then you're bored. A shotgun wedding, then you're bored. How many have there been in the last sixteen years? Just how bored have you got?

Tom: I left home for you. I gave up everything.

Rosie: Yes. So did I!

Tom: I walked out on my family.

Rosie: And what a waste that was.

MUSIC No. 6 - DÉJÀ VU

All parents: *With every day that passes
You learn that nothing else is new
Life turns around in circles
And the centre of the world is you*

*Déjà Vu ,
We've been there before
It hurt before , there must be more
To keep looking for
Déjà Vu ,
Using wisdom that we've found
Same old problems come around
Will it always end in tears
With the passing of the years*

*We never learn from others
'Till it's too late to change our minds*

*But still you hope for something.
A perfection that someday you will find.*

*Déjà Vu ,
We've been there before
It hurt before , there must be more
To keep looking for
Déjà Vu ,
Using wisdom that we've found
Same old problems come around
Will it always end in tears
With the passing of the years*

SCENE 14

(The family scene. JOE and WILLIAM are sitting at the table, eating).

Joe: Dad, this custard's lumpy.

William: Just eat it.

Joe: No, you're a rotten cook, you know that?

William: I know, just eat it.

Joe: Why couldn't Mum cook?

William: She's gone out.

Joe: Where's she gone?

William: She's gone with Kelly.

Joe: Where's Kelly gone?

William: They've gone out, now eat your custard.

Joe: No.

(KELLY and JENNY enter).

Jenny: Are you going to tell them or am I?

Kelly: You can tell them.

Jenny: It's all clear.

Joe: What's all clear?

Kelly, Jenny, William: Eat your custard!

Kelly: Mum, can I give Danny a call?

Jenny: Yes. You give him the good news and I'll make some proper dinner. And custard that isn't lumpy!

(Lights come up on DANNY in the other set, and a spot for KELLY to make the 'phone call. The rest of the stage is in darkness. The others freeze. The 'phone rings).

Danny: Hello.

Kelly: Hi, Danny, it's Kelly.

Danny: Kelly.

Kelly: I've got some good news for you.

Danny: Go on.

Kelly: I'm not pregnant, it was just a scare.

Danny: That's great!

Kelly: I found out this afternoon at the clinic.

Danny: Oh, I can't believe it.

Kelly: Is every thing all right at your house?

Danny: Not really. My Mum and sister are getting to move back down south. I want to stay here, but I don't know how.

Kelly: Listen, that's the other thing I rang you about. Mum and Dad had decided that you could move into the spare room if you wanted to. I know it's not the same, now, but I don't see why they would mind. I'll ask them and you ask yours.

Danny: I don't believe it! That would be great!

Kelly: I've got to go now.

Danny: OK, thank your Mum and Dad if they say yes. Give me a ring as soon as you know.

Kelly: All right, I'll see you later. Love you.

Danny: Me too. Bye Kelly.

Kelly: Bye.

SCENE 15

(Full lights up DANNY's family. ROSIE and ELLIE enter).

Rosie: Who was that?

Danny: It was Kelly, Mum.

Rosie: Oh yes?

Danny: She's not pregnant.

Rosie: Oh, Danny that's wonderful. I don't suppose it changes anything though does it?

Danny: No Mum. I want to stay here. All my friends are here, I like the school ... and there's Kelly.

Rosie: I don't see how we can do anything about it, though.

Danny: Kelly's Mum and Dad might offer me their spare room, if it's all right with you.

Rosie: I see.

Danny: I'm sorry Mum.

Rosie: Oh Danny, it's not your fault your father and I are splitting up. It's just one of those things that happen. I'll talk to Kelly's Mum and Dad. I'm going to miss you.

Danny: Yes Mum.

Rosie: I love you lots.

Danny: You're still my little sister aren't you?

Ellie: Yeah. When will we see you?

Danny: Oh, I don't know. But I expect I'll be down in the holidays.

Rosie: And you will ring, won't you?

Danny: Of course Mum.

(They all hug. The COMPANY enter with the principals at the front).

MUSIC No. 7 - GIVE ME FREEDOM

All: *Give me freedom to be
On my own with the right to be me
Give me reason to be
All you prayed that your child would be
Hearing you say I'm not ready yet
I may forgive but I'll never forget.
Give me freedom to be
On my own with the right to be me
Give me reason to be
All you prayed that your child would be.*

CURTAIN

