

# **JASON AND THE ASTRONAUTS**

The Intergalactic Panto

by

**GARETH JONES**

**SchoolPlay Productions Ltd**

15 Inglis Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3HU

JASON AND THE ASTRONAUTS

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## CAST

**Pylon, *The Pantomime Centaur***

**Pelias, *The King***

**Jason**

**Daft Raider**

**Dame Josephine**

**Orpheus, *The Musical Hero***

**Hercules**

**Hansel**

**Anorakus**

**Luke Flyswatter**

**Han Polo**

**The Golden Geez**

**Pyrex, *bit of a dish, whose role is mostly improvised***

**Lynceus, *The All Seeing***

**Robot**

**Castor**

**Pollux**

**Lulu**

**Gretel**

**Anorak 1**

**Anorak 2**

**Anorak 3**

**Guardian 1**

**Guardian 2**

**Guardian 3**

**Guardian 4**

**Hydra 1**

**Hydra 2**

**Hydra 3**

**Hydra 4**

**Hydra 5**

**Hydra 6**

**Hydra 7**

**Peasant**

**Peasant 1**

**Peasant 2**

**Peasant 3**

**Harpie 1**

**Harpie 2**  
**Harpie 3**  
**Chorus**

ORIGINAL CAST PRODUCTION

*First performed at Hailsham Community College on 16th December 1995*

**Pylon** STEPHEN MILLER & ALEX PLOWMAN  
**Pelias** PAUL COLLIN & ANDREW KEEGAN  
**Jason** ANDREW FILLERY & JONNY NORMAN  
**Daft Raider** PAUL WILLIAMS & PAUL TESTER  
**Dame Josephine** TONY GOLDSMITH & PAUL HILL  
**Orpheus** BEN COX & LUKE PLOWMAN  
**Hercules** JASON BALL & GARY SPIERS  
**Hansel** IAN DYER & TRISTAN BLYTHE  
**Anorakus** MATT SEXTON & STEVEN BURGESS  
**Luke Flyswatter** IAN DAWBER & CHRIS SHAW  
**Han Polo** PAUL GATES & STEPHEN TESTER  
**The Golden Geez** CHRIS SOUTH & CHRIS YATES  
**Pyrex** DANIEL MURTAGH  
**Lynceus** PETER WINSLETT & ANDY PLUMMER  
**Robot** GRAEME FILLERY & JONATHAN COLTMAN  
**Castor** JADE COOK & RACHEL SCOTT  
**Pollux** LIZ BROWN & LINDSAY MARTIN  
**Lulu** JENNA LAIRD & LIANNA SUNDARAM  
**Gretel** KERRY ASHDOWN & LUCY BENNETT  
**Anorak 1** BECKY ARNDLE & LIA WALBRIN  
**Anorak 2** GEMMA SHELDON & LUCY SALVAGE  
**Anorak 3** JASON BALL  
**Guardian 1** ANDY SPIERS & JONNY HAMMOND  
**Guardian 2** HELEN COLLIER  
**Guardian 3** LUCY SALVAGE & LISA HEARNS  
**Guardian 4** YASMIN TETRA & LAURA HARRIS  
**Hydra 1** FAYE HARWOOD & ALISON CHRYSTIE  
**Hydra 2** JANICE CHUEN CHENG  
**Hydra 3** GEMMA SHELDON & KERRY BROWN  
**Hydra 4** RIA SAUNDERS & VICKY JARVIS  
**Hydra 5** CHRISTINE KING & KATY REED  
**Hydra 6** SAMANTHA STRINGELL  
**Hydra 7** SABRINA COOPER  
**Peasant** ANDY SPIERS & JONNY HAMMOND  
**Peasant 1** ALISON CHRYSTIE & NATASHA ASKAROFF  
**Peasant 2** SUZANNE COOPER & CLAIRE FULLER  
**Peasant 3** HANNAH SAUNDERS & KELLY LAURENCE  
**Harpie 1** HELEN COLLIER & FAYE HARWOOD  
**Harpie 2** CHRISTINE KING & SAMANTHA STRINGELL

**Harpie 3** RIA SAUNDERS & HELEN BELL  
**Chorus** SOPHIE CARPENTER

## JASON AND THE ASTRONAUTS

by Gareth Jones

### PROLOGUE

*Enter PYLON, the Pantomime Centaur.*

**Pylon:** It has been written that there are only seven stories and four jokes. It follows therefore that if you live long enough and take notice of the world around you, you will see each story played out many times. Thousands of years ago an ancient pupil of mine, one Jason, set off in search of the Golden Fleece to prove his right to his father's kingdom. Now that story is about to be replayed. Thrill-seekers, I give you Jason and the Astronauts.

*(Curtains open with spectacular smoke and lighting effects and some startling music, revealing the Court of the evil KING PELIAS. A group of small actors are miming Act 1 Sc 5 (or a scene from a popular soap).*

**Pelias:** Enough, no more. I've seen this episode a thousand times before.

*(They scurry off. There is a commotion. JASON bursts in).*

**Jason:** I am here, oh great King Pelias, come to claim my father's kingdom.

**Pelias:** So I see, Jason, son of Aeson. Very well, you are now of age, and the ancient prophecy must be fulfilled. The time has come for you to gather round a group of bold and/ or exceptionally talented individuals who will accompany you on board the Astro, your newly constructed star ship, in search of that semi-mythical figure described by Pylon in his great work "Semi-mythical figures I have known".

**Jason:** You mean ....

**Pelias:** Yes, the Golden Geez, that super cool legendary dude who will give you all you need to earn back half the kingdom I, hum, legitimately won, from your father.

**Jason:** But that is impossible, the Golden Geez isn't real!

*(PYLON enters).*

**Pylon:** But that's where you're wrong!

**All:** Pylon, the Pantomime Centaur!

**Pylon:** The same!

**All:** GASP! That's given us a bit of a shock!

**Pelias:** Pylon! I thought you were dead!

**Pylon:** Not dead, but merely sleeping, and now I have returned to aid our young hero in his quest, for the Golden Geez does exist! And not so very far away!

**Jason:** Where then is he to be found? (*Sound fx of tinkles etc. - a mirror ball would be nice*)

**Pylon:** (*In a trance*).

Long ago and far away  
The Golden Geez was heard to say  
The time has come for SILENT RUNNING  
Puerile jokes and silly punning  
For round this STAR there are too many WARS  
And lengthy queues to see STAR TOURS.  
He knew that the "RETURN OF THE JEDI"  
Was only so much "PIE IN THE SKY".  
So to avoid a CLOSE ENCOUNTER  
With his enemy DAFT RAIDER  
He journeyed to a far DARK STAR  
By SPACE MOUNTAIN and EUROSTAR  
Surrounded now by ALIEN bands  
He lives alone in the OUTLANDS  
Not knowing that he should attack  
Before the EMPIRE STRIKES BACK  
So get to him before they do  
And he will do the biz for you.  
He's been there since 2001  
He's bored, he's lonely, he's ready for fun  
So Jason, if you're serious and you want your kingdom to be free  
Gather all your forces and get immediately E.T.  
(extra terrestrial).

**Jason:** I am serious, I am, I will go, I am ready .... Only ....

**Pylon:** Yes?

**Jason:** You still haven't said where he is!

**Pylon:** Haven't I? Oh no, so I haven't (*Looking at script*). Sorry about that, I get a bit carried away, anyway here's a map. (*JASON looks at the map*).

**Jason:** It's a bit confusing .... I mean, what's this meant to be?

**Pylon:** That, ah, oh yes, that's a coffee stain.

**Jason:** What language is this in?

**Pylon:** Language?

**Jason:** Yes.

**Pylon:** Well, I picked it up on Alpha Centauri, so I suppose it's in whatever language they speak on Alpha Centauri

**Jason:** And you're a Centaur?

**Pylon:** A pantomime Centaur.

**Jason:** All right, a pantomime Centaur, so .... you can read this map?

**Pylon:** Yes.

**Jason:** And I can't?

**Pylon:** No.

**Jason:** So what's the point of giving it to me?

**Pylon:** Oh please let me come, please, everyone sees me as a woolly headed old philosopher with a wide knowledge of Kant and Nietzsche (and of course all the Stoics) but nobody ever actually wants me to do anything. It's so boring, please let me come.

**Jason:** O.K., let's go and find some heroes, I know just the place.

*(As they exit) ....*

**Pylon:** Oh thank you, thank you, you've no idea how much this means to me.  
*(Exit).*

**Pelias:** Right! I'm not standing for this. *(He is).*

**All:** Yes, you are!

**Pelias:** Don't be silly.

**All:** Sorry.

**Pelias:** Right, I'm not standing for this *(Glares at Crowd)*. He isn't meant to succeed; I shall place plentiful impediments in their path!

**All:** Pardon?

**Pelias:** I shall place plentiful impediments, oh what's the point, send for DAFT RAIDER.

**(Wings):** Send for Daft Raider etc.

*(Enter DAFT RAIDER).*

**Pelias:** Daft!

**All:** *(Snigger. DAFT glares at them - they cower).*

**Pelias:** I want you to follow Jason in his quest for the Golden Geez; on no account is he to return if he is successful. Do you understand?

**Daft:** Yes, oh imperious one.

**Pelias:** Right, take anyone you need, no holds barred, do what you like.

**Daft:** Yes, oh imperious one.

**Pelias:** Oh, and Daft.

**Daft:** Yes, oh imperious one?

**Pelias:** If you fail don't come back.

**Daft:** Yes oh .... what never?

**Pelias:** Never.

**Daft:** Oh .... (*Much less enthusiastically*) .... yes oh imperious one.

**Pelias:** And I'll be watching on my inter-sky spy link, so no little diversions en route, I haven't forgotten the last time.

**Daft:** (*Apologetically*). Yes, oh imperious one. (*Leaves*).

**Pelias:** Meant to be annihilating Luke Flyswatter, and where is he? Two days in Euro-Disney, I ask you, villains these days.

### *BLACKOUT*

## **ACT I**

### *SCENE 1*

*(A big sign appears - "LITTLE JOE'S HEROES' EMPORIUM"*

*SALE BONANZA*

*QUESTS A SPECIALITY*

*There are lots of figures on stage, frozen or covered in sheets, in the semi-darkness. LITTLE JOE is pottering about dusting and whistling a happy tune).*

**Dame Josephine:** Hello boys and girls, I'm Dame Josephine .... (*Improvise*). (*An elaborate door bell sequence occurs*). Oh goody, customers, I do like it when I have customers, it does help you see, being a shop and such. Now, is everything ready? (*She peeps under dustcloths and adjusts one or two arms etc., the last one she does a double take and appears to adjust something slightly embarrassing*). Well these Latin heroes! What would mother have said, tantalus at this time of day?

*(Enter JASON and PYLON).*

**Dame J:** Gentlemen, gentle .. men (*Seeing PYLON*). You'll be wanting a hero, or maybe two, I'm never wrong, never wrong .... so .... How many heroes would you be wanting?

**Jason:** Ten.

**Pylon:** At least.

**Dame J:** Ten .... at least .... Goodness .... have a seat. Would you like a cup of tea, something stronger perhaps for men and Centaurs of your heroic stamp, could I see your credit cards please? No offence, but we do get so many customers wanting to test drive our heroes with no intention what so ever of purchasing or even a short-term hire scenario.

**Pylon:** Certainly. (*He unfurls an endless line of gold credit cards*).

**Dame J:** (*Fanning forehead*). Goodness, so many and all gold, I'm so pleased, and you're in just the right place, now what sort of heroes are you looking for?

**Jason:** Brave and adventurous.

**Pylon:** Witty and clever.

**Jason:** Expert at maths, macrame and Mahjong.

**Pylon:** Not too tall.

**Jason:** But not too short.

**Pylon:** Of an age.

**Jason:** But not too old.

**Pylon:** Strong.

**Jason:** Dexterous.

**Pylon:** Well behaved.

**Jason:** But with a hint of eccentricity.

**Dame J:** I see, let's try coming at this from a different angle. (*They all change places*). What sort of experience are you planning for these heroes?

**Jason:** I'm sorry?

**Dame J:** By which I mean frontal assault on a heavily fortified space citadel?

**Jason:** Ah, no.

**Dame J:** Um, a diabolical trek through dreadfully dire terrain to rescue a desperate damsel in distress?

**Pylon:** Ah, no.

**Dame J:** Two weeks at Chessington World of Adventures, riding the scary rides?

**Jason/Pylon:** Definitely NOT.

**Dame J:** Then what?

**Jason:** It's a quest.

**Dame J:** A Quest?

**Pylon:** Yes, a quest.

**Dame J:** Well, is that all? For goodness sake I've got quest heroes coming out of my ears. They're so unfashionable these days, quests, nobody does them, it was that Indiana Jones you see, did the genre to death, Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark, Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom, and when he got together with Sir Galahad that was the end of it; nobody could decide who should get top billing so in the end they gave it to the costume lady.

JAN ALSTON'S COSTUMES  
IN  
THE SEARCH FOR THE RAIDERS OF THE TEMPLE  
OF THE LOST GRAIL  
WITH  
INDIANA JONES AND THE BRAVE SIR GALAHAD

And that was that, no decent quests left and no way to top that billing, so the industry collapsed you see, and there you have it, and that's why I've got millions of quest heroes. Now here's the menu, sorry list, you call out the numbers when you're ready, and I'll get the dust sheets off.

*(Soft music plays as LITTLE JOE removes the dust covers revealing the various heroes -JASON and PYLON are consulting the list as if it's a Chinese Restaurant menu).*

**Jason:** Well, No. 43 looks interesting.

**Pylon:** Um, yes, and I like the look of No. 23.

**Jason:** No. 23 .... oh no, I had that last time, no good at all, caused all sorts of problems in the rear.

**Pylon:** Well we can't have that, how about No. 14?

**Jason:** An excellent choice, I think, also 26, 47 and 51.

**Pylon:** Yes, yes, yes, and 2 pints of lager.

**Jason:** Ideal. Excuse me.

**Dame J:** Yes sir? *(Producing note pad).*

**Jason:** Can we begin with a 43 then a 14, a 47 and a 51?

**Pylon:** And two pints of Lager.

**Dame J:** Certainly Geezers.

**Jason/Pylon:** WHAT! How did you know?

**Dame J:** Know what?

**Jason:** That we are off in search of the Golden Geez!

**Dame J:** The Golden Geez? I didn't honestly, but if you're off in search of the Golden Geez you'll certainly need a 36, a 24 and a 6 as well as your already excellent choice.

**Pylon:** All right then, bring them on, and no empty horses.

**Dame J:** My pleasure, heroes, ready, customers ready, *(In the style of "Gladiators")* and we're off. *(No. 43 comes down).* And here we have No. 43, otherwise known as PYREX, he's generally regarded as a bit of a dish .... tall with a .... chest, a .... waist and biceps your granny would be proud of. His specialities are: sword fighting, kick boxing and the tango. Pyrex hopes to develop a career in male modelling. *(Polite applause).*

**Jason:** No, no, no terribly sorry, he won't do at all.

*(Exit PYREX looking depressed).*

**Dame J:** No. 14 please. *(No 14 comes down).* With No. 14 you get two for the price of one, *(Shirley Temple look-alikes)* CASTOR & POLLUX, pronounce it carefully, the heavenly twins, each as delightful as the other and highly telepathic.

*(At this point the twins walk over to JOSEPHINE and beat her up. Whilst they are doing this JOSEPHINE is apologising continuously).*

**Dame J:** I'm sorry, I shouldn't have thought it, it just popped up.

**Twins C&P:** *(Together).* She's always doing that, saying one thing and thinking something else, tetchy indeed, short tempered, glad to see the back of us, well!

**Dame J:** Specialities: telepathy and the confusing ability to appear to be in two places at the same time. Next No. 47. *(No. 47 comes down).* Can I present ORPHEUS, one of our more famous heroes? King, poet and above all, a musician whose music is so wonderful that it causes the birds to leave the trees, the animals to leave the forest.

**Twins C&P:** And the audience to leave their seats.

**Orpheus:** What was that? Sorry, I'm slightly deaf you see.

**Twins C&P:** And your enemies to beat a retreat, we said, oh yes, absolutely.

**Orpheus:** How kind, pray continue.

**Dame J:** Orpheus is a veteran of many a quest and will be an asset on any adventure. *(EVERYONE applauds politely).*

**Orpheus:** And of course these days I always travel with LYNCEUS, No. 51, with his X-Ray vision.

**Jason:** X-Ray vision, pah, I should coco.

**Lynceus:** *(Hard stare).* Red, with white polka dots, boxer shorts. *(JASON goes bright red, checks his underwear).*

**Jason:** O.K., O.K., point taken.

**Dame J:** And that concludes our main presentation, the others you've got to provide the chorus. I just know that these heroes will provide an excellent service.

**Pylon:** What about Hercules?

**Dame J:** I'm sorry?

**Pylon:** Hercules, there's meant to be a Hercules on your list, world's strongest man, twelve labours of, that sort of thing, but he's not here.

**Dame J:** No.  
**Pylon:** Well why not?  
**Dame J:** He's busy.  
**Pylon:** Where?  
**Dame J:** Somewhere.  
**Twins C&P:** Oh no he isn't.  
**Dame J:** Oh yes he is.  
**Twins C&P:** Oh no he isn't.  
**Dame J:** Oh yes he is.  
**Twins C&P:** Don't! You know it's a waste of time. Hercules left you to sign a lucrative contract to appear on GLADIATORS!  
**Dame J:** (*Breaks down*). It's true, it's true, the temptation was just too much for him, the bright lights, the adulation, he tried to say no.  
**Twins C&P:** No he didn't.  
**Dame J:** He thought about saying ....  
**Twins C&P:** No he didn't.  
**Dame J:** Oh all right then, he couldn't get out of here fast enough, nothing to do, you see. But he might come back for a good quest.  
**Jason:** So give him a call.  
**Dame J:** I will on my mobile phone. (*She dials, after 2 rings it says - "The person you are calling is not available, please try again later, you have been charged for this call"*). Arrgh! Don't you just hate it when that happens?  
**Jason:** O.K., just get him when you can .... one problem, haven't you got any more MODERN heroes?  
**Dame J:** Like who?  
**Jason:** Oh, you know, Luke Flyswatter.  
**Pylon:** Han Polo.  
**Jason:** And some females, we need some good female heroes .... Heroines  
**Dame J:** Well, I'll see what I can do, the modern heroes are usually too busy making sequels but I'll make some calls and send whoever I get down to the Astro at dawn.  
**Jason:** Make it 10.30; just because we're going on a quest there's no need to get up at an uncivilised hour.  
**Dame J:** O.K., 10.30 it is, farewell brave heroes.  
**All:** Farewell Little Jo  
**Dame J:** Good journey.  
**All:** Good business.  
**Dame J:** Good bye.

(*HEROES exit - enter DAFT RAIDER*).

**D. Raider:** Little Joe.

**Dame J:** Daft Raider.

**D. Raider:** You know me, this is good, I want you to rent me a hero or two, discount of course.

**Dame J:** Of course, how much can you afford?

**D. Raider:** (*Opening wallet*). This much.

**Dame J:** Ah, I see. Fine, I'll send a selection to your ship at 12.30 tomorrow.

**D. Raider:** 12.30! I want to start at dawn!

**Dame J:** Sorry, 12.30 is the earliest I can do.

**D. Raider:** Why?

**Dame J:** They have to be dry cleaned.... double dry cleaned in fact.... it's the mould you see, gets everywhere.

**D. Raider:** All right then, but don't be late, I don't want Jason to get ahead of me! Hang on, what about these two? (*Hansel and Gretel*).

**Dame J:** Well, if you're sure.

**D. Raider:** I am, I'll take them now; send the rest tomorrow. (*Exit*).

**Dame J:** Phew, that was lucky, at least I bought Jason some time. Hmm....If Daft Raider is on his case Jason is going to need a special kind of hero. I'd better go myself.... in disguise! Hooray! (*Exit*).

**Pyrex:** (*Enters*). - And I'd better go too, even if they didn't choose me (Aahh). Right, I'd better go and change my socks, but first, my disguise. (*He dons dark glasses*). Hooray. (*Exit*).

## SCENE 2

(*Aboard the Astro - All of the previously mentioned HEROES are in place plus LITTLE JOE <in disguise>, and a couple of tough looking Females. JASON is at the front with LULU, the navigator. There are some empty chairs. PYREX enters, from now on each of his appearances is improvised along the lines indicated - So "Little Joe" sent me, I'm the...etc*).

**Jason:** Lulu.

**Lulu:** Yes Captain?

**Jason:** Initiate launch procedure.

**Lulu:** Affirmative captain.

(*LULU presses various buttons, sound / lighting FX cut in. There is a banging at the door*).

**Jason:** Hold it! *(Everything winds down sadly)*. That must be our modern heroes, or possibly even Hercules! Pylon let them in.

**Pylon:** I'd be most pleased to, we could do with some more updated models.

**All:** Oi!

**Pylon:** Sorry nothing personal.

**Twins C&P:** Yes it was, wasn't it?

**All:** Yes.

**Pylon:** Oh, well you are all more than 5000 years old.

**Orpheus:** And all the better for it, thank you.

**All:** Yes thank you.

**Lynceus:** Smelly Centaurs.

**Pylon:** I'm not smelly, am I boys and girls?

**Lynceus:** Oh yes you are.

**Pylon:** Oh no I'm not. *(Improvise this sequence. PYLON and LYNCEUS square up for a fight, as they get close)*. Don't come any closer or you'll be in for a bit of a shock; they don't call me Pylon for nothing! *(He raises his arms and puts his hands on his hips, at the same time he squeezes a ball in each hand to spray powder out of the tube in each armpit, everyone reels back coughing)*.

**All:** PYLON, for pity's sake.

**Pylon:** Well, it's not my fault, what do Centaurs know of personal hygiene? We were meant for better things!

**Jason:** Just open the door.

*(PYLON looks sheepish and goes off. He returns immediately with HAN POLO, LUKE FLYSWATTER and HERCULES).*

**Pylon:** May I present -

Han Polo - *(Applause)*.

Luke Flyswatter - *(Applause)*.

And Hercules, he who slew the Minotaur.

**Hercules:** Ah, excuse me that wasn't me.

**Pylon:** He who cut the head off the dreaded Medusa.

**Hercules:** Ah, no, that was Perseus.

**Pylon:** He who withstood the .... *(HERCULES smacks him one)*.

**Hercules:** Just Hercules is fine, thank you.

**Pylon:** There was no need to get violent.

**All:** Oh yes there was.

**Pylon:** Oh no there wasn't.

**All:** Oh yes there was etc.

**Py;on:** Well, I blame a media drenched with images of violence that has no

apparent consequences.

**Twins C. & P.:** Oh strap up.

**Pylon:** All right, all right, I know when I'm not appreciated.

**Jason:** They mean we're about to take off.

**Pylon:** Oh sorry.

**Jason:** O.K. let's go.

**Lulu:** Affirmative Captain -- 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 LIFT - OFF .

*(There is a special effects spectacular as they all take part in the same co-ordinated movement routine, possibly accompanied by some appropriate music - it settles down as they are in space. Perhaps planets or stars could be lowered in, everybody has been thrown everywhere).*

**Orpheus:** Excellent take off Lulu old chap, one of your better efforts.

**Lynceus:** Yes, bravo.

**Hercules:** Bravo.

**Jason:** Better efforts! Better efforts! I'm battered, biffed and bruised, even my bruises have been battered and as for my biffs, well, I hope the rest of you perform better than that.

**Lulu:** If you think you can do any better, you drive.

*(He sits back and folds his arms - everyone starts to fall about as the ship spins and planets jiggle about etc).*

**Pylon:** He didn't mean it, he didn't mean it. *(Aside)*. Say you didn't mean it.

**Twins C&P:** Yes he did.

**Pylon:** Can it four eyes, or you'll get it in the bi-focals.

**Twins C&P:** EEK!

**Pylon:** Say it.

**Jason:** I... didn't.... mean.... *(Fingers crossed)*.

**Lulu:** Say you're sorry; he should say he's sorry, shouldn't he children?  
*(Improvise).*

**Jason:** Thanks a bundle kids.... O.K. I'm sorry, that was a brilliant take off.

**Lulu:** That's all right then. *(LULU resumes control, they relax)*. Now can I suggest that I set the Robot to auto pilot mode and we all get some sleep.

**Jason:** Yes, that's fine....

**Lulu:** Robot!

**Robot:** Coming, won't be a tick.

*(Everyone stands around whistling - eventually he enters).*

**Lulu:** What took you so long?

**Robot:** Sorry E.R.I.C. needed some attention.

**Jason:** Who or what is ERIC ? How many more characters are there in this spaceship?

**Robot:** ERIC is the most important part of my Robotic anatomy, it's my ECCENTRIC ROBOTS INBOARD COMPUTER without which no self-respecting robot could stand proud.

**Lynceus:** Enough of this, plug yourself in and let's get some sleep.

**Robot:** Your wish is my command. E.R.I.C. let's get stuck in.

*(They do; the CREW quickly go to sleep - up pops DAFT RAIDER).*

**D. Raider:** He he, ha ha, little do they know that I, Daft Raider, and my two heroic companions *(They pop up, they are very small and made up like puppets)* have smuggled ourselves aboard despite Little Joe's attempt to make us late. We can sabotage their every move, we will tamper with ERIC and send them wildly off their course. Go to it Hansel and Gretel.

**Hansel & Gretel:** Ve vill, ve vill. *(They skip down to the front, manipulate the ROBOT who goes "oh, ah" etc.).*

**D. Raider:** Is it done:

**Hansel:** Yes, it is done.

**D. Raider:** Excellent, where are we heading?

**Gretel:** For the 2nd star on the right and straight on till morning.

**D. Raider:** You fools, that's the way to Never Never Land, we'll end up in the wrong panto. *(JOE stirs)*. Arrgh, someone stirred, it will have to do, hide. *(They exit)*.

**Dame J:** Ha Ha, He He, little does he know that I, Little Joe, have sneaked on board disguised as a hero to foil his attempts to foil Jason's quest. I will now fiddle with E.R.I.C. to restore us to our former course. *(He goes to the control panel on the robot, starts twiddling, after a while)*. It's no good, I can't do it. I should have paid more attention at school. I've definitely changed our course, but I don't know where to. ONLY TIME WILL TELL. I'd best join the others in deep sleep until we reach our first destination!

*(A dramatic sound FX and BLACKOUT)*

SCENE 3.

THE PLANET OF THE ANORAKS

(The Ramp descends and a selection of our heroes come down it led by JASON. ROBOT is there, CASTOR and POLLUX, LYNCEUS and 2 Chorus Heroes).

**Jason:** So where are we?

**Robot:** I don't know, somebody has fiddled with ERIC, twice! We could be anywhere.

**Jason:** But that means there must be an Anti-hero in our midst. A hero who has been taken over by the dark side and whose destiny now is to destroy all that we try to create, to block all that we try to achieve, to wipe out civilisation as we know it, completely.

**All:** Arghhh!

**Robot:** Well, it could be worse.

**Lynceus:** Could it? I can't see how.

**Robot:** We could have landed on the legendary PLANET OF THE ANORAKS, that's round this way somewhere.

**Jason:** The planet of the Anoraks, what's that?

**Twins C&P:** We know.

**Jason:** You would.

**Twins C&P:** The planet of the Anoraks is where people are sent who become completely obsessed in the minute trivial detail of things that are completely irrelevant to everyday life.

**Lynceus:** Like railway timetables.

**Twins C&P:** Yes!

**Jason:** And stamp collecting.

**Twins C&P:** Yes.

**Robot:** And Local Government.

**Twins C&P:** Yes.

**All:** Oh the horror, the horror.

**Twins C&P:** But it's even worse than that. To be a true Anorak you must be convinced that everybody else is also obsessed by your obsession and wants to hear about it all the time! Especially when their victim is held helplessly by social convention and can't escape without being openly rude.

**Jason:** Which of course we cannot be!

**Twins C&P:** Of course.

**Jason:** (*Exaggerated - to Audience*). Lucky we aren't there then!

*(The Anorak people now enter from all over, dressed appropriately and carrying notebooks, stamp collecting albums etc. They all notice our Heroes at exactly the same moment and say:)*

**Anoraks:** Oh look, how interesting, an odd collection of alien life forms.

**Anorakus:** Let's look them up. *(Out come the reference books, frantic leafing through).*

**Anorak 1:** I've got one, I've got one, it's a perfect match, see. *(He and some others gather round LYNCEUS).*

**Anorak 2:** It says LYN - SEE - US, an ancient Greek hero who is now a rare sight in our universe, typically dressed in ----- and blessed with X-RAY vision. Do you think he really has X-ray vision?

**Lynceus:** *(Crossly points at underwear and or socks).* Last changed two weeks ago.

**Anorak 2:** But of course. *(Other ANORAKS can't see the problem).*

**Jason:** Just who are you people?

**Anorakus:** We are the Anoraks.

**All:** *(Except ANORAKS).* Gasp!

**Anorakus:** And I am Anorakus, the duly elected secretary of the Bi-galactic Order of the Really Interesting Newsmongers' Group.

**All:** Boring.

**Anorakus:** Quite, would you like to see our constitution? It's very interesting, we took all the clauses that we considered most useful from the charters of Anorak Societies all over the galaxy and put them together into one super charter worth of this planet which boasts the largest collection of Anorak wearers in the entire universe.

**Anorak 1:** As far as we know.

**Anorakus:** Yes, thank you, as far as we know.

**Jason:** Not just now, if you don't mind, we are in a bit of a hurry.

**Anorak 2:** But surely you've got time to view my collection of post modern fast food wrappers from the planet Earth. I've got a particularly fine selection of used napkins from late 20th century London, not to mention ....

**Lynceus:** Sorry, we'd love to of course but ....

**Anorak 3:** You can't leave until you've given your full attention to my set of inner London telephone directories circa 1995, I have complete sets you know of both the 0171 and 0181 areas.

**Anorakus:** Most impressive.

**All Anoraks:** Oh yes.

**Jason:** But do you have anything to do with "The Golden Geez"?

**All Anoraks:** Gasp.

**Anorakus:** The Golden Geez, goodness me no, he's far too exciting.

**Anorak 3:** I have.

**Anorakus:** We could never get involved with anybody as cool as that.

**Anorak 3:** I have.

**All Anoraks:** What?

**Anorak 3:** I have, sorry. I found it, you see, when I was adding to my collection of personalised business cards. I was working on accountants when it just turned up.

**Anorakus:** How far have you got now?

**Anorak 3:** I never got past accountants, even Anoraks have to draw the line somewhere.

**Jason:** But what did you find?

**Anorak 3:** It was an invitation, to the coolest party in the universe.

**Jason:** Was there an address?

**Anorak 3:** Oh yes.

**Jason:** And do you still have it?

**Anorak 3:** Oh yes.

**Jason:** And can we have it?

**Anorak 3:** Oh no.

**Heroes:** What?

**Anorak 3:** You have to swappsy for it.

**Jason:** SWAPPSY for it?

**Anorak 3:** Yes swappsy for it.

**Jason:** All right, what would you like?

**Anorak 3:** Do you have any used Lottery Scratch Cards?

**Jason:** Used lottery scratch cards?

**Anorak 3:** Yes.

**Jason:** Ah, well, um, how many would you like?

**Anorak 3:** How many have you got?

**Jason:** About 75,000.

**Anorak 3:** It's a deal, let's get swopping.

*(The other HEROES bring out bin bags of lottery cards, finally - ANORAK 3 hands over the invitation).*

**Jason:** Hoorah! Now we have the address of the Golden Geez and an invitation to the coolest party in the universe. This is good! Let's go.

**Anorakus:** Wait. *(He rips off his Anorak).* I resign as secretary of B.O.R.I.N.G. I can't take it any more. I never wanted to be an Anorak. My mother wouldn't let me dress fashionably, but now I'm free, free. Meeting you has shown me

what life can be like. Take me with you. I too want to be a hero. (*He dashes on to the Space Ship*).

**Twins C&P:** Strange, definitely very strange.

**Jason:** Hmm. Thank you, people of the Planet Anorak. I wish you well in your forthcoming election. Astronauts away!

(*They all dash on to the Ship and the Ramp goes up*).

**Anorak 1:** He'll be sorry.

**Anorak 2:** The excitement will be too much for him.

**Anorak 3:** There'll be tears before bed-time.

**Anorak 1:** Well let's get sorting, you take the blue ones, I'll take the red and you can have the green. We'll leave the house cards until after tea in case we get too excited.

(*Slow fade to BLACKOUT as they exit*).

#### SCENE 4 (OPTIONAL).

#### PLANET OF THE HARPIES

(*The Ramp descends and DAFT RAIDER comes off with HANSEL and GRETEL*).

**D Raider:** This is the Planet of the Harpies where King Phineus lives in a fog plagued by the three Harpies who make his life a misery. We've sneaked off first to lay a trap for Jason and his half-wit heroes. Will you help us boys and girls? (*Improvise: "Oh go on, I'll give you sweeties" etc.*). No matter, I Daft Raider and my two side kicks Hansel and Gretel will make our plans without you. You see this box, cleverly disguised as a bag, well when any of those nosy heroes open it they will immediately be frozen like stone for ever. A little idea I got from Medusa. Ha, Ha, I'm so evil.

**Hansel & Gretel:** (*Aside*). He is, but we're not, he paid to hire us you see, so we have to do what he says, until his deposit runs out, then we'll see.

**D Raider:** And don't you dare warn them, you won't will you?

**Audience:** Yes.

**D Raider:** Oh no you won't.

*(Impro etc. - HANSEL & GRETEL secretly encouraging the Audience and then looking innocent when DAFT turns round).*

**D Raider:** Well it won't do any good, for they are too stupid. Come on you two let's go and see what we can tax off the locals!

*(They exit as JASON and everyone else except the DAME enters).*

**Jason:** All right heroes, pay attention, we've come here for extra supplies and that's all so we don't want any trouble, especially with those Harpies. Now spread out and see what you can find.

*(They all begin to wander off, JASON goes towards the bag).*

**Jason:** I wonder what this is, shall I open it? *(To Audience)*. No? Why not, it's only a bag; I tell you what, I will open it but I'll be very careful.

*(He opens the bag, there is another FX spectacular and he is turned to stone, the others become curious and wander over).*

**Orpheus:** Jason, Jason, are you all right?

**Twins C&P:** He's not usually this quiet.

**Lynceus:** Don't open the bag!

**Pylon:** Why ever not, it might explain why Jason is being so peculiar. *(He picks it up)*.

**Lynceus:** If you don't believe me, ask them. *(Indicates the Audience)*.

**Pylon:** All right then, shall I open it children? What was that? What did they say Orpheus?

**Orpheus:** I think they said YES!

**Pylon:** Right then I will!

*(He does and they are all frozen. - DAFT, HANSEL & GRETEL now re-enter).*

**D Raider:** Ha ha!

**H & G:** *(Without enthusiasm)*. Ha ha.

**D Raider:** My evil plot has worked. Jason and his entire crew have been turned to stone. Now we can steal the Astro and leave them stranded here for ever!

*(Enter DAME JOSEPHINE).*

**Dame J:** Not so fast Raider.

**D Raider:** You!

**Dame J:** Me!

**H & G:** Gasp!

**Dame J:** My time has come, Raider, to prove myself to be more than a weary entrepreneur specialising in a wide variety of heroic figures. Tonight, I Josephine, will be the hero!

**D Raider:** Ha ha, *(To Audience)*, wait for it. NOT TONIGHT JOSEPHINE, for I Daft Raider, will foil your feeble plan.

*(Enter FLYSWATTER and POLO).*

**Flyswatter:** That's what you think Raider. Polo and I are here to foil you too.

**D. Raider:** Do your worst.

**Polo:** We will; Luke, the turkey wrap. *(They pull out rolls of kitchen foil and head menacingly towards RAIDER).*

**D Raider:** No, No, anything but that.

**Polo:** Foiled again, hey Raider.

**D Raider:** I'm not beaten yet. Flee my trusty minions, so that we can return in Act 2 to further confuse the plot.

**H & G:** *(Unenthusiastically)*. We flee, oh noble one.

**Flyswatter:** Victory!

**Dame J:** Well done, you certainly need the right technology to be a hero these days.

**Polo:** We couldn't have done it without you Josephine.

**Dame J:** How did you know it was me?

**Flyswatter:** *(Removing her disguise)* No disguise could hide your heroic figure.

**Dame J:** Oh thank you, but what do we do about this lot? *(Referring to the frozen HEROES).*

**Polo:** This is the Planet of the Three Harpies. Perhaps they can help, and here they come!

*(Enter the 3 HARPIES).*

**Harpies:** When shall we three meet again,  
In lighting, darkness or in Spain,  
Where we could get a serious tan  
And find for each a handsome man.  
EEK.

**Harp 1:** Who are you?

**Harp 2:** What do you want?

**Harp 3:** Where have you come from?

**Polo:** We are intrepid heroes travelling through space in search of the Golden Geez!

**Harpies:** The Golden Geez!

**Flyswatter:** Yes the Golden Geez!

**Dame J:** Unfortunately our travelling companions have run into a spot of bother. They have been enchanted!

**Polo:** Can you help?

**Harp 1:** What's it worth?

**Polo:** What do you want?

**Harp 2:** What have you got?

**Flyswatter:** How about, (*opening matchbox*), one of these?

**Harp 3:** Glory, glory, it's years since I've seen one of those. It's a deal. Come on sisters. (*They pull out a big book*).

**Harp 1:** (*To DAME*). Hmm, we'll need your help, deary. If we can all hit this note at the same time we can shatter the spell like a crystal glass. Two each side (*They do*) and Go! (*They screech, it fails*).

**Harp 2:** It's no good, there aren't enough of us, they'll have to help (*Indicates Audience*).

**Dame J:** Allow me, I am the Dame after all. O.K. boys and girls, on three you have to go EEK! as loud as you can etc. It's no good you aren't being silly enough.

*(Improvise, each time the frozen Characters shake until finally they burst free).*

**Jason:** We're free, thank goodness, thank you boys and girls. Now let's get quickly on our way before anything else goes wrong! All aboard. (*They board*). Harpies, how can we thank you enough? You have saved our quest!

*(Whilst he isn't looking RAIDER and H & G sneak on board).*

**Harp 1:** Think nothing of it. It's all in a day's work for the members of H.A.R.P. (*Reveal H.A.R.P. T-shirt*).

**Jason:** H.A.R.P. The Heroes' Accidents Repair People! I should have known!

**Harp 2:** Yes you should, sign here please (*He does*). Thank you and safe journey.

*(They all freeze with big smiles at Audience).*

BLACKOUT

*SCENE 5 (OPTIONAL).*

*ATTACK OF THE SYMPLEGADES*

*(Everybody is aboard the Astro, snoring, playing board games etc, DAME JOSEPHINE could be ironing. LULU is steering badly, ORPHEUS is strumming away).*

**Jason:** Lulu, how long have we been travelling since we left the last place?

**Lulu:** 3 weeks, 4 days, 17 hours, 34 minutes and 35 seconds, 36 seconds, 37 seconds, 38 seconds ....

**Jason:** Yes, yes, all right, that will do, how much longer till we reach the next place?

**Lulu:** 2 weeks, 2 days, 5 hours, 17 minutes and 26 seconds, 25 seconds, 24 seconds ....

**Jason:** Thank you.

**Lulu:** Just doing my job, you have to be accurate when dealing with the vastness of space you know. One degree off course now is a million miles by tomorrow.

**Jason:** You've been spending too much time with Anorakus.

**Lulu:** Excuse me!

**Jason:** Sorry, it's the boredom, I thought quests were meant to be exciting.

**Orpheus:** I could sing a song?

**All:** NO, thank you.

**Orpheus:** That's not what you said last time.

**Pylon:** We hadn't heard you sing last time.

**Dame J:** We could play a party game, I like Dead Fishes personally.

**All:** Dead Fishes, you've got to be joking.

**Lynceus:** AAArgh, look out, take cover.

*(Panic, everybody dives for cover - nothing happens. Eventually their heads pop up).*

**Twins C&P:** Well?

**Jason:** What's the problem?

**Lynceus:** We're about to be attacked by two vicious Asteroids who hang around in this part of the Universe waiting for unsuspecting questers.

**Lulu:** There's nothing on the radar.

**Lynceus:** I know there's nothing on the radar but they're coming, believe me, and they're very big and they're moving very fast!

**Twins C&P:** Well thank you very much, that's all we needed to brighten up our

day.

**Lulu:** Robot, can you sense anything?

**Robot:** No sir, my sensors are a complete blank.

**Lynceus:** Suit yourselves, if you don't trust my x-ray vision that's your problem, I'm going to strap myself down in my bunk.

*(He exits, everyone shrugs and goes back to their boring games - all of a sudden a siren sounds and red lights flash - instant panic as the ROBOT says -*

**Robot:** Asteroid alert, Asteroid alert, collision imminent. Lynceus was right, it's the SYMPLEGADES.

*(MAJOR PANIC as ASTEROIDS appear).*

**Jason:** All right, all right, calm down, calm down, we're meant to be heroes, we can deal with this .... anyone got any bright ideas? *(Pyrex impro.)*. How about ....

**Lulu:** Run away.

**Hercules:** Fight them with a big stick.

**Robot:** For your information these Asteroids are 2 miles across and converging on us at a combined speed of 45,000 miles per minute.

**Hercules:** Oh, sorry, bit silly of me.

**Pylon:** ORPHEUS!

**All:** What?

**Pylon:** Orpheus, last time round ORPHEUS sang to them and they went away!

**Twins C&P:** I'm not surprised, last time he sang we all went away.

**Jason:** ORPHEUS, great King, will you sing to the stars and send these asteroids away?

**Orpheus:** No.

**Jason:** No? But why?

**Orpheus:** Because I've been insulted; we harp players are highly strung. If my music wasn't good enough for you ten minutes ago it's not good enough for you now.

**Jason:** But we'll all be killed.

**Orpheus:** No, you will all be killed, I happen to be immortal. It's all part of that Greek God thing, you know how it is?

**Jason:** Immortal. But that's worse, the Astro will be destroyed and you'll spend 14 light years just floating about hoping to hitch a lift on some passing planet.

**Orpheus:** Could be worse.

**Jason:** Could be worse, could be worse, what could be worse than that!

**Orpheus:** .... You're right, I'll sing.

**All:** Hurrah, we're saved. *(They all put on ear muffs).*

**Orpheus:** Turn on the sound system!

*(ROBOT does, there is lots of electric noise, ORPHEUS gets ready to sing - he is just about to start when ....*

**Orpheus:** It's no good, I can't do it, they've destroyed my confidence, my gift has fled.

*(Everyone except DAME J. is scrunched up and doesn't realise there's a problem; as ORPHEUS is weeping she comes down. Through this sequence a voice-over is counting down. Impact T minus 10 etc.).*

**Dame J:** We're going to have to help him boys and girls, will you do that? *(Improvise etc.).* Right, now everybody stand up, come on. Now stand like this *(Elvis stance).* Uh hah, O.K. after me, come on Orpheus, dear, we're doing this for you. O.K. *(PYREX helps improvise).*

ONE FOR THE ASTRO  
TWO FOR THE BOY  
YOU NASTY ASTEROIDS  
GO GO GO

*(Improvise until it's loud and buzzy).*

*(Sound FX eventually of screech of brakes and ASTEROIDS going into reverse).*

**Dame J:** Wonderful! We've done it, give yourselves a clap on the back. *(She smacks ORPHEUS).* It's all right everybody, the Asteroids are gone, you can come out now.

**Jason:** Really?

**Orpheus:** Yes of course, it was nothing really. *(DAME J. glares - he looks embarrassed).*

**Lulu:** Captain, we're about to enter the orbit of our last destination in Act 1; prepare for landing.

*(They all grab something, freeze and BLACKOUT).*

SCENE 6

THE GUARDIANS OF THE GATEWAY TO THE GALAXY OF THE GOLDEN  
GEEZ.

*(The lights come up strongly yellow to reveal four STATUES who are themselves all dressed in yellow. They are standing on yellow plinths and they are snoring loudly. - There is the sound of a Spaceship landing and the Ramp descends. JASON, DAME J. etc. all appear staring around in wonder).*

**Guardian 1:** Halt.

**Guardian 2:** Stop.

**Guardian 3:** Now.

**Guardian 4:** Or else.

**Jason:** O.K., O.K., we've stopped.

**Guardian 1:** State your business, mortal.

**Jason:** I am .... Jason ....

**Guardian 1:** Yes?

**Jason:** Jason!

**Dame J:** Heroic leader of the Astronauts!

**Guardian 2:** *(Unimpressed).* Really? *(Gets out a check list).* And who are the others? *(PYREX to conceal name produces an AMEX card and is allowed straight through).*

**Twins C&P:** We are Castor and Pollux, the heavenly twins, and we'll thank you to keep your thoughts to yourself.

**Lynceus:** I am Lynceus, renowned for my X-Ray vision.

**Orpheus:** Orpheus, I trust that will do.

**Guardian 3:** Of course, so that makes you Lulu, Polo, Flyswatter *(And so on).*

**Others:** Yes.

**Guardian 4:** Well, you can't come in, except Orpheus.

**Jason:** Can't come in, why ever not?

**Guardian 1:** You're not on the list.

**Jason:** Not on the list, what sort of quest is this where Guardians to the Gateway of the galaxy of the Golden Geez make decisions concerning the fate of heroes based on lists and petty regulations?

**Guardian 1:** A Euro quest.

**Dame J:** A Euro quest, what do you mean?

**Guardian 1:** Extra terrestrial-

**Guardian 2:** Union-

**Guardian 3:** Regulatory-

**Guardian 4:** Organisation.

**Jason:** But that's silly.

**Guardian 1:** Silly! Silly!

**Jason:** Yes, silly, quests are meant to be about devil-may-care characters rushing off willy-nilly into the great unknown in search of virtually unobtainable goals. You can't have regulations to cover quests.

**Guardian 1:** Why not, you have regulations to cover everything else.

**Guardian 2:** Corn -

**Guardian 3:** Sheep -

**Guardian 4:** Schools -

**Guardian 1:** Money -

**Guardian 2:** Bananas -

**Guardian 1:** So why not quests?

**Jason:** Fine.... so how do we get on the list?

**Guardian 3:** (*Shocked*). How do you get on the list?

**Jason:** Yes.

**Guardian 2:** (*Imperiously*). There are only three ways of getting on the list.

**All:** Yes?

**Guardian 4:** One! You fill in forms QL 11/2 - 3, QL 36-4/3, APL QL 67-14/6....

**Guardian 3:** In triplicate.

**Guardian 4:** I was coming to that.

**Guardian 3:** Sorry.

**Guardian 4:** Then wait 13 light years.

**Jason:** 13 light years? I can't wait 13 light years. I'm a busy hero.

**Hercules:** I've got to get back, I'm opening a supermarket on Wednesday.

**Guardian 2:** Or, two, you complete the heroic task concealed in this randomly selected envelope.

**Jason:** Which is?

**Guardian 2:** That you can only know when you have made your decision.

**Twins C&P:** But how are you supposed to make an informed decision if you have not been informed?

**Guardian 2:** Don't blame me, I didn't make the rules.

**Twins C&P:** Who did then?

**Guardian 2:** Ah, (*Pointing to GUARDIAN 1*) he did.

**Guardian 1:** No I didn't.

**Guardian 2:** Yes you did.

**Guardian 1:** All right, so I did, but I can't change them now, it's more than my job's worth.

**Jason:** I want to talk to somebody in charge.

**Guardian 1:** That is your perfect right.

**Guardian 3:** There's only one problem.

**Jason:** What's that?

**Guardian 4:** In order to be able to talk to somebody in charge ....

**All:** Yes ....

**Guardian 1:** You have to be on the list.

**All:** Oh for goodness sake, etc. etc.

**Jason:** (*Eventually*). What's the third method?

**Guardian 3:** The third method is .... to give us each a present.

**Jason:** A present, I see, what would you like?

**Lynceus:** (*Stage whisper*). Open the envelope.

**Jason:** What?

**Lynceus:** Open the envelope, I can see what's written on the card, open the envelope.

**Jason:** Are you sure?

**Lynceus:** Of course I'm sure, what's the use of X-Ray vision if you can't be sure?

**Jason:** Well, all right then. Guardians.

**Guardian 1:** Yes.

**Jason:** We will accept the challenge contained in the golden envelope.

**Guardian 1:** You will?

**Jason:** Yes.

**Guardian 2:** But what about our presents?

**Jason:** Open the envelope please.

**Guardian 1:** You're no fun at all, here we go then, it says: "JASON: in less than 10 minutes you must involve the entire audience in a 30 second dance routine with appropriate sound effects".

**Dame J:** Is that all? That's no problem at all is it boys and girls? You're not going to let us be stopped now are you boys and girls? Right, on your feet then and off we go.

*(There follows an improvised sequence led by the DAME in which the entire Audience and the onstage cast take part - ending with ....)*

**Guardians:** ENOUGH!

**Guardian 1:** You have succeeded. The challenge has been completed and your names have been added to the list. You may pass safely through the gateway to the Galaxy of the Golden Geez, BUT be warned, if there is anybody on your ship who has not made their presence known they will be hurled from your space ship and left hovering between the stars.

**D Raider:** (*Emerging*). Wait! Wait!

**All:** GASP. DAFT RAIDER.

**D Raider:** The same; and my evil side kicks Hansel and Gretel.

**Jason:** Where did you come from?

**D Raider:** Where do you think, you fool? We've been hiding in your tacky space ship all along.

**Jason:** But how, why couldn't Lynceus see you?

**D Raider:** Because, we are entirely enclosed in LEAD.

**Twins C&P:** LEAD?

**D Raider:** Lead!

**Lulu:** You mean that extremely heavy grey metal once used as a handy roofing material, or so I've been told.

**D Raider:** Precisely.

**Jason:** Oh no you're not.

**D Raider:** Oh yes we are.

**Jason:** Oh no you're not. (*Improvise etc.*)

**D Raider:** Oh yes we are, for this is a NEW SPRAY-ON LEAD, undetectable to the human eye, lightly scented with rose water and guaranteed to repel 100% of X-Rays. Ah ha, so there.

**Jason:** Rats, this new technology gets more confusing every day.

**Dame J:** One moment, we must accept that your lead wonder spray shielded you from Lynceus's x-ray vision, but why couldn't Castor and Pollux, who are telepathic, pick up your thoughts?

**D Raider:** Ah ah! Because, Dame Josephine, they are wooden puppets who have no thoughts, and I, ah, I, ah, I ....

**Dame J:** Point taken, you are Daft Raider and have no thoughts either.

**D Raider:** Yes.

**Dame J:** And that's why YOU are the baddy!

**D Raider:** (*To Audience*). Don't you just hate it when they hit you with a moral statement?

**Jason:** In any case, Daft Raider and his puny puppet side kicks, you are not on the list and so you can proceed NO FURTHER. On, my heroes, through the Gateway of the Galaxy of the Golden Geez!

*(They get on the Space Ship and the Ramp goes up).*

**D Raider:** O.K. Guardians, what do you want?

**Guardian 1:** What have you got?

**D Raider:** I have this. (*Gets out matchbox and shows them contents*).

**Guardians:** GASP! We've always wanted one of those.

**Guardian 1:** It's a deal, you're on the list, and you can borrow that Space Ship over there.

**D Raider:** (*To Audience*). You see, you thought we were done for, didn't you, but we're not, not this Daft Raider, no way. And so we journey on to further sabotage Jason's plans.  
BUT FIRST, THE INTERVAL!

**BLACKOUT**

## ACT II

### IN THE GALAXY OF THE GOLDEN GEEZ

#### SCENE 1

##### GEEZ CITY

*(Amidst a tremendous fanfare of music, lights and spectacular smoke effects, the GOLDEN GEEZ, resplendent in his Golden Jacket, makes a spectacular entrance. He progresses to the front of the stage).*

**Golden G:** Yo dudes! *(Audience responds)* No way, Jose. When greeted by the Golden Geez, namely me, you've got to say - Yo Geez! Let's practise. *(Improvise)*. Truly amazing, I now declare you all to be honorary Geezers. So I will address you as - Yo Geezers and you will say ....

**Audience:** Yo Geez!

**Golden G:** Yo, that's the way I like it. *(PYREX impro. "I'm your long lost half-brother" etc)*.

**Golden G:** Now listen Geezers everything is ready for my big party tonight and it's time for me to take my traditional 40 winks, so I need someone to keep a careful watch on my Golden Garb. Can you do that, Geezers? *(Improvise)*. Yo, that's the way I like it, O.K. I'm going to sleep and if anybody tries to touch the Golden Garb you've got to shout "Yo Geez", get it? O.K. One practice. *(Improvise)*. Startling. Right; time for my 40 winks.

*(He has by now placed his Golden Jacket on a chair up stage. He lies down to sleep. Enter HANSEL, GRETEL and DAFT RAIDER).*

**D Raider:** Ha Ha! As I thought, we've got here ahead of Jason and his hopeless collection of half-wit heroes. Now I can wreck their plans by stealing the Gorgeous Golden Garb of the Great Golden Geez! Can't we?

**Hans & Gret:** Yes, we suppose so.

**D Raider:** And there it is, let's sneak over and nick it, and hide it in the tree of the 7 headed HYDRA!

*(They sneak over theatrically; if the Audience don't respond HANSEL and GRETEL can encourage them behind DAFT RAIDER'S back. The usual routine ensues during which they hide and the Geez doesn't believe the Audience. Finally they steal it and run off).*

**Golden G:** It's gone. This is terrible, what can we do, the Golden Geez can't party Garbless. I shall have to effect a rescue; who can I get to help me?

*(JASON and the HEROES enter)*

**All:** Look, help is at hand. What? You need help?

**Golden G:** Yes, I am the Golden Geez, but my Golden Garb has been grabbed.

**Jason:** Not only your Garb, but also my throne!

**Golden G:** No!

**Jason:** Yes.

**Golden G:** You must be Jason.

**Jason:** The same.

**Golden G:** How do you do, so pleased.

**Jason:** Likewise.

**Golden G:** *(Loudly)*. Now, how do we get my Garb back?

**Jason:** *(Authoritatively)*. Lynceus, what can you see?

**Lynceus:** *(He scans around)*. I can see Daft Raider running away at great speed with the puny Hansel and the pathetic Gretel.

**Jason:** Castor and Pollux, what is their plan? *(CASTOR & POLLUX adopt mind-reading poses)*.

**Twins C&P:** They are taking the Golden Garb to the Grove of the Seven Headed Hydra.

**All:** Gasp!

**Twins C&P:** They think that we will be too frightened to follow and that your mission will therefore fail!

**Jason:** Frightened? Us? Pah, we're never frightened.

**Lulu:** Aren't we?

**All:** No!

**Lulu:** Not even a little bit?

**All:** Definitely not.

**Lulu:** Oh, only asking.

**All:** Well don't.

**Lulu:** Sorry.

**Jason:** Pylon, a plan please.

**Pylon:** Certainly, I suggest that we pursue Raider to the Grove of the 7 headed Hydra. Kill the Hydra by chopping off each of its 7 heads, remove the Golden Garb and set off back to your planet with the Golden Geez suitably Garbed to reclaim your Kingdom.

**Jason:** Hmmm, anybody else?

**Lulu:** Give up.

**All:** No.

**Lulu:** Sorry.

**Golden G:** Got it.

**All:** Go for it Geez.

**Golden G:** We will all sneak up on the Hydra. At the agreed moment Castor and Pollux will appear in different parts of the Grove using their amazing ability to appear to be in two places at the same time to make the Hydra go cross-eyed. Whilst the poor thing is confused Hercules will use his amazing strength to tie the Hydra down, (with monster-friendly ropes of course) as Pylon, with the dexterity for which centaurs are well known, will scale the scaly monster, grab the Gorgeous Garment and bring it back to me.

**Dame J:** Brilliant, and what will I be doing?

**Golden G:** Making the tea.

**Lynceus:** And me?

**Golden G:** You're in charge of commentating.

**Jason:** And what will we be doing, you and I?

**Golden G:** We will be in charge of the whole operation.

**Jason:** You mean drinking tea?

**Golden G:** Precisely.

**Jason:** Genius, let's do it.

**All:** Hurrah!

*(BLACKOUT as they begin to Exit).*

## SCENE 2

### THE GROVE OF THE HYDRA

*(The lights come up as if it is dawn. The HYDRA is composed of 7 Actors in one costume. Their arms should be free. The number of heads could be reduced if need be. The HYDRA wakes up slowly, perhaps to some classical music, it is really quite friendly except for it's one cross head).*

**Hydra 1:** Good morning.

**All:** Morning, Hello, etc.

**Hydra 1:** Sleep well, did we?

**Most:** Yes, thank you.

**Hydra 7:** No.

**Hydra 1:** No? Oh, I am sorry; what's the matter?

**Hydra 7:** You know very well what the matter is.

**Hydra 1:** I'm sorry, but I don't think I do.

**Hydra 7:** He snores, she smells, that one needs a personality transplant, his finger nails need cutting and I'm sick to death of being stuck on the end.

**Hydra 1:** I don't think that personal comments are going to help but if you don't want to be on the end you don't have to be, does he?

**Hydras:** No, even if he is rude, a spoilt brat, sour puss etc.

**Hydra 1:** Everybody ready on three, all change .... 3.

*(They all dive into the costume and emerge by different holes, eventually).*

**Hydra 1:** Happy now?

**Hydra 7:** Yes .... thank you .... but he still smells.

**Hydra 3:** I can't help it, I used to be a centaur. *(Puffs armpits, everybody coughs).*

**All:** For goodness sake.

**Hydra 3:** Sorry.

*(Enter DAFT RAIDER, HANSEL and GRETEL - All The HYDRAS fix them with a snakey stare).*

**D Raider:** You distract it and I'll throw the Golden Garb over the top.

**Hans & Gret:** How do we distract it, it's got seven heads?

**Hydra 4:** You could sing us a song.

**Hydra 5:** Or juggle.

**Hydra 2:** Or make some tea.

**Hydra 6:** Do you play whist?

**Hydra 2:** Monopoly?

**Hydra 5:** Trivial pursuit?

**Hydra 6:** We're easily pleased.

**Hans & Gret:** We could ..... if that would be all right. *(Insert depending on skills of performers).*

**Hydra 1 - 7:** Marvellous, wonderful etc.

*(They all settle down with their arms folded to watch the show [perhaps juggling, tap dancing, mime or whatever]. Whilst this is happening DAFT RAIDER sneaks around the back and very gently puts the jacket on HYDRA 3. When he is done .... ).*

**D Raider:** Run for it! *(They do).*

**Hydras:** (*Clapping*). Marvellous show, just goes to show that children aren't all bad, wonderful etc.

**Hydra 1:** Oh! They've gone.

**Hydra 7:** (*Referring to Jacket*) Where did that come from?

**Hydra 3:** EEK, what a startling surprise. I've really no idea. It is rather nice though, don't you think?

**Hydra 2:** But is it your colour?

**Hydra 4:** It goes with his eyes.

**Hydra 5:** But not with his hair.

**Hydra 6:** Even so, the overall effect is quite nice.

(*JASON and the others burst in*).

**All Heroes:** Ah ha!

**Hydra 1:** What a day! 7000 years of changing places and arguing over sock odour and now this.

**Jason:** PLAN A, everybody.

(*DAME J. immediately brings out a thermos of tea and serves JASON and the GOLDEN G. CASTOR and POLLUX spread out left and right, the HYDRAS go into a constant double-take between the two. HERCULES goes in with a rope, at the appropriate moment PYLON charges in and grabs HYDRA 3. There ensues a desperate struggle which is completely ignored by the rest of the HYDRAS. HYDRA 3 is dragged out to reveal embarrassing baggy underwear or silly leggings or striped slippers or whatever. The Jacket is removed and the HEROES leave with PYLON on their shoulders. While this is happening the commentary takes place*).

**Lynceus:** (*In commentary style*) And here we are in the Grove of the 7-headed Hydra some miles outside the City of the Golden Geez. The Hydra appears to be in top form even though this is the wrong end of a long season. We seem to have got another re-configuration of the seven heads which may, if I'm not mistaken, possibly lead to a slight list to the left. (*The HYDRA lists left*).

Our heroes have now gathered on the edge of the playing area and Jason and His Highness the Golden Geez, that veteran of many a Hydra campaign, are drinking tea, Darjeeling, I believe. No, no, there's a late change, it's Earl Grey, yes, that's definite, it's definitely Earl Grey and the odds are shortening in favour of a Geez Gang victory.

And we're off, Castor is moving into left field as Pollux goes deftly to the right. The Hydra looks confused, a lack of direction here I think, and there goes Hercules, no messing here, a good classical Hero charge armed only with a bit of string and of course his legendary superhuman strength. Let's see that bit again. *(Does a rewind)*. And yes, he has successfully thrown his ball of string at the Hydra who has ignored it completely, or to be more accurate Hydras 1 and 5 are watching Castor, Hydras 7 and 4 are watching Pollux; 2 and 6 are making cats' cradles with the string and, what's this, 3 was knitting quite happily *(Apparently a scarf for his grandmother)* but now he is struggling violently with Pylon the Pantomime Centaur who is deftly removing the Golden Garb and yes, yes it's off, I can confirm, it's definitely off and Jason and his team are celebrating a famous victory. And now, back to the studio!

*(All freeze except the HYDRA).*

**Hydra 1:** Well, I must say, they only had to ask!

**Hydra 2:** Poor 3, so embarrassing.

**Hydra 4:** He'll get over it, now it's *(Insert time)* so whose turn is it?

**Hydra 5:** It's 6's.

**Hydra 6:** Oh goody, I spy with my little eye something beginning with

BLACKOUT

**All:** Oh!

SCENE 3

BACK ON THE ASTRO

*(Everybody is in the usual positions. The GEEZ has a seat next to JASON. Something is beeping).*

**Jason:** How long before we get back Lulu?

**Lulu:** 3 days 2 hours and 14 minutes and 28 seconds, 27 sec., 26 secs.

**Jason:** Yes, yes, we've done that joke, thank you. Robot, status please.

**Robot:** ..... o'clock and all is well captain.

**Jason:** Excellent, O.K. team, well done, let's get some sleep.

*(DAFT RAIDER, HANSEL and GRETEL burst in).*

**D Raider:** Not so fast hapless heroes.

**Jason:** Raider, where did you spring from?

**D Raider:** From the cargo hold where our borrowed space ship is cleverly concealed.

**Golden G:** Was it you who stole my Gorgeous Golden Garment Raider?

**D Raider:** Me, your Geezness, no, of course not, it was, it was, it was .... them.  
*(Pointing at HANSEL and GRETEL).*

**Hans & Gret:** It wasn't, you did it, you're horrible, we don't want to work for you anymore!

**Dame J:** And you don't have to!

**Hans & Gret:** Dame Josephine.

**Dame J:** The same. And I'm cancelling your agreement Raider. Hansel and Gretel don't have to do your bidding any more.

**Hans & Gret:** Oh thank you, thank you, he's such a naughty person and we're not.

**Golden G:** Don't worry Hansel and Gretel, we understand and we forgive you. But as for you Raider, account for yourself.

**D Raider:** Not so fast Geez, I'm not the easy target that you seem to think I am. The force is with me!

**Golden G:** Pylon.

**Pylon:** Yes, Geez.

**Golden G:** Unplug him.

**D Raider:** No, no, not that, anything but that, I can't cope with being disconnected.

**Golden G:** Will you promise to be good?

**D Raider:**Yes, yes.

**Jason:** Will you promise to be nice?

**D Raider:** Yes, yes.

**Twins C & P:** Will you promise NEVER to take the black fruit pastels out of turn?

**D Raider:** Even that! Yes, yes.

**Golden G:** Then in the light of all you've said .... we'll only banish you for ever to the dark side of the most distant planet of the loneliest solar system to the left of Wales!

**All:** Gasp!

**Golden G:** And NO SKY T.V.

**D Raider:** Nooooo! It's too cruel, whatever I've done I don't deserve that. To be banished to the loneliest planet to the left of Wales. No-one deserves that. I

had a very difficult childhood. I supported PLYMOUTH ARGYLE, I hated computer games.

**All:** Gasp.

**Daft Raider:** Please let me stay and I'll tell you all about King Pelias' plans to betray you if you should succeed in getting back.

**Jason:** Well, I don't know, shall we trust him boys and girls? *(To Audience)*.

**D Raider:** Oh, please. *(Improvise)*.

**Golden G:** All right, we'll trust you, but don't forget that Castor and Pollux are telepathic and if you have devious thoughts they will know.

**D Raider:** *(Aside)*. RATS! - Oh thank you, thank you, I will be good.

**Jason:** That's settled then, now on to the Court of King Pelias which is soon to be mine!

BLACKOUT

SCENE 4

AT THE COURT OF KING PELIAS

*(PELIAS is on his throne. He is being entertained by a dance routine; when it finishes there is applause).*

**Pelias:** What's next?

*(Enter the PEASANTS).*

**Peasants:** It's us sir, we're next.

**Pelias:** You!

**Peasants:** Yes ..... sorry.

**Pelias:** You're not going to plead, are you? I hate it when the peasants plead, why can't you just go away and get on with your pleasingly simple lives? Why do you have to bother me all the time? Well, why, why?

**Peasant 1:** Well, you are the King.

**Pelias:** Yes .... go on.

**Peasant 2:** And the King is supposed to look after his people, isn't he?

**Pelias:** Is he?

**Peasants:** Well, we thought so.

**Pelias:** Treason! Being a pantomime King isn't about caring, it's about being NASTY and SELFISH and WATCHING THE DANCING GIRLS! It's not about CARING! How could the audience HISS at me if they thought I was CARING? *(To AUDIENCE)*. Go on then, HISS. *(They do)*. Thank you. Now just so I can make myself even more unpopular, make your requests so that I can reject them out of hand!

**Peasant 3:** First, we must tell you our story.

**Pelias:** Must you?

**Peasants:** Yes, we must.

**Pelias:** Oh, very well, get on with it.

*(The PEASANTS adopt a theatrical pose. The following tale can be divided up in any way you wish. Scenes from the tale can be acted out by the PEASANTS wearing various hats).*

#### *THE PEASANTS' TALE*

There was a time which was the best of times. The sun always shone so it was warm in the daytime; then the moon made sure it wasn't too dark at night so the children wouldn't be frightened. We all went to school THREE whole days a week and learnt all about the wonderful world in which we lived. The fields were full of corn.

**Pelias:** The peasants were full of corn.

**Peasants:** We were.

**Pelias:** You are.

**Peasants:** And life was good. BUT THEN!

**Pelias:** Yes.

**Peasants:** EVERYTHING CHANGED! The sun went in, the moon went down. The schools were closed, everybody had to learn from their home computers. We had no friends; we never went out! We forgot how to play! AND THEN compulsory paper rounds were brought in!

**Pelias:** One of my better ideas!

**Peasants:** To teach us the value of money and keep us off the streets. *(Confused looks)*. So we thought we'd come here and tell you what was going on so that you could make things right again, because that's what Kings are for, to make things RIGHT.

**Pelias:** Wrong!

**Peasants:** Wrong?

**Pelias:** Right!

*(JASON et al enter).*

**Jason:** Wrong

**Pelias:** Wrong?

**Jason:** Right!

**Pelias:** So! You have returned, (*Aside*), against all the odds, but without the Golden Geez, I see.

**Jason:** (*Faking*). Oh, Great Pelias.

**All:** Oh, Great Pelias.

**Jason:** We have journeyed long and hard.

**All:** Hard.

**Jason:** We have trekked through the endless wastes of Hyper-space.

**All:** We have.

**Jason:** We have triumphed over many-headed monsters and various motley magic tricks.

**All:** It's true.

**Jason:** And we have managed to make our way back. Surely that is enough. Surely somewhere in that villainous black heart of yours there is some compassion, some faint flicker of kindness, some spark of humanity, something that will lead you to the right decision? Something that will tell you that the decent thing to do, the right thing to do, would be to restore me to my Kingdom which you so cruelly wrested from my father's ageing grasp? PELIAS, we appeal to your better nature this one last time.

**Pelias:** I haven't got a better nature, go away. GUARDS!

(*THE GOLDEN GEEZ now leaps into view*).

**Pelias:** Gasp, the Golden Geez.

**Golden G:** The same.

**Pelias:** I had no idea, please forgive my rudeness, Jason, dear boy, you are of course welcome to to half the Kingdom.

**Golden G:** ALL of the Kingdom.

**Pelias:** ALL! ALL!

**Golden G:** You had your chance Pelias. Jason, noble youth that he is, gave you the opportunity to prove that there was some goodness in you somewhere, but no, and now you must be banished for your sins, to that solar system to the left of Wales!

**Pelias:** Arrgh! .... But wait, all is not lost, where is Daft Raider, my trusty champion?

**D Raider:** (*Appearing in white*). Here I am Pelias.

**All:** Gasp!

**D Raider:** And free from your evil grip. Jason and the Golden Geez have shown

me the error of my ways and I am now on the side of Good!

**Pelias:** Lost! Lost! All is Lost! Looks as if you've won this time Jason, with the help of your glittery friend. But watch out for me in the sequel, "**Pelias Strikes Back**". *(He laughs maniacally).*

**All:** Hoorah, Hoorah, Hoorah.

**Golden G:** And now, Jason, it is time for you to take your rightful place on the throne that once belonged to your father. *(He does).* Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you King Jason and his Astronauts!

*(Applause).*

*(EVERYONE takes their bow) ....*

*(Then -*

**Dame J:** Wait a minute, haven't we forgotten something?

**Jason:** Um. I'm not sure!

**All:** Mutter, mutter, have we etc.

**Golden G:** THE COOLEST PARTY IN THE UNIVERSE! How could I have forgotten?

**Dame J:** But we're in the wrong place, a million light years from your Galaxy.

**Golden G:** Fear not, for we have LIGHTS, SOUNDS, ME! And a whole hall full of geezers! LET'S PARTY.

**All:** Hoorah!

*(Music, lights and the CAST grab the AUDIENCE and EVERYBODY starts dancing - eventually a big voice says ....*

**"THE END"**

*And the CAST freeze - not responding until the house Lights come on.*





