

# **MEHUJA!**

A Musical Play

by

**DAVID WENDEN and  
IAN KEARNEY**

Music by

**WARD BAKER**

**SchoolPlay Productions Ltd**

15 Inglis Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3HU

MEHUJA!

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## **MEHUJA!**

Book and Lyrics by Ian Kearney & David Wenden  
Music by Ward Baker

### *CAST LIST:-*

**Gran (Mrs. Baggett)**

**Mehuja\***

**Evacuees:-**

**Nick**

**Roger**

**David**

**George (Georgina)**

**Jackie (Jacqueline)**

**The Mehujans:-**

**Plog (Their leader)**

**Zoob**

**Eriah**

**Merp**

**Wegan**

**Quanta**

**Pligo**

**Tsaibe**

**Merax**

**Xeran**

**Chorus of Evacuees, Townsfolk and other Mehujans**

*\*Mehuja is the name given to the machine - computer-like - which rules the Land of Mehuja. Its voice should be robotic and the "hooded figure" that appears at the end of the play should be able to work the lights and any other special effects that may be attached to it.*



**MEHUJA!**

by IAN KEARNEY and DAVID WENDEN

**ACT I**

*SCENE 1*

*(A railway station as a train has just pulled out and the passengers have spilled out onto the platform and are swarming through the barriers. They are mainly EVACUEES carrying bundles and the inevitable gas mask slung round their necks)*

*OPENING CHORUS (EVACUEES, TOWNSFOLK ETC)*

*Oh! What a journey on a train  
We're in the country, what a game!  
Where are the towns of smoke and fires,  
Nothing but grass for miles and miles.  
(repeat) Oh!.....miles and miles.  
Where's Mum? Where's Dad?  
Where's Mum? Where's Dad?  
Where's Mum? Where's Dad?*

*CHORUS:- Little towns with their market stalls,  
No more bombs and siren calls.  
We are here for our safety,  
Free to play all the day.*

*Oh! what a journey on a train  
We're in the country, what a game!  
Animals round us everywhere  
Living our lives without a care.  
(repeat) Oh!.....a care  
Where's Mum? Where's Dad? (as above)*

*CHORUS:- Little towns.....all the day.  
Think of all the games we'll play,  
With our friends on our holiday,  
Oh! What a journey on a train  
We're in the country, what a game!  
We'll be looked after by some friends  
Who'll keep us here 'til this War ends.*

(repeat) *Oh!.....'til this War ends.*  
*No Mum! No Dad! (as before)*

**CHORUS:-** *Little towns.....all the day (twice)*  
(*Exeunt all except NICK, DAVID, GEORGE, ROGER and JACKIE*)

**Nick:** Wonder where ours is?

**Roger:** Our what?

**Nick:** The woman that's looking after us.

**David:** Our Guardian.

**Roger:** What?

**David:** In loco parentis!

**Roger:** S'funny name.

**Nick:** Don't be stupid. He means , er... means....

**George:** Well.

**Nick:** Mrs. Baggett.

**Roger:** Well why didn't you say so?

**Jackie:** Don't start fighting again, we had enough on the train.

**George:** Well said Jaxie, it's about time....

**Nick:** Okay! Okay! We'd better just stay here and wait. (*pause*)

**George:** If we wait long enough we can get the next train back!

**Roger:** Back where? (*groans all round*)

**Nick:** Just sit down and shurrup.

**Jackie:** I'm so hungry.

**Roger:** Yeah! I could eat a horse.

**George:** Lot of them about!

**David:** Actually I think that's overstating the case.

**Roger:** What?

**David:** You eating a horse.

**George:** He's not!

**Roger:** I'm not!

**David:** I simply meant that if one did happen to be available it would probably prove inedible. For a start we have no means of preparing it, no knives or instruments with which to butcher it, no cooking facilities and....

**Roger:** And the way you're going no teeth!

**Nick:** That's enough, just sit down and be quiet. (*pushes ROGER onto his case*)

**Jackie:** I'm still hungry.

**Nick:** Why don't you stroll along the platform and see if you can see Mrs. Baggett.

**George:** The old faggot.

**Roger:** I could murder one of them.

**All:** *(totally baffled)* What? *(JACKIE strolls off)*

**Nick:** *(to JACKIE)* Don't go too far in case she comes.

**Jackie:** Okay.

**David:** If she's coming she'll be here whether SHE goes too far or not.

**Roger:** What?

**Nick:** Shut up David you only confuse him.

**David:** I was merely trying to elucidate.

**George:** You can get locked up for that sort of thing!

**Nick:** I 'spect she'll be here in a minute.

*(JACKIE enters with MRS. BAGGETT [GRAN])*

**Jackie:** I found her. I found Mrs. Baggett.

**George:** *(aside)* The old faggot! *(ROGER laughs)*

**Nick:** Shut up you two, she might hear you.

**Gran:** Hello everyone How are you all? I was waiting at the barrier. I was beginning to wonder if you'd missed the train.

**Nick:** No ma'am, we were waiting here for you ma'am.

**Gran:** Don't call me "ma'am", call me "Gran", it's more homely isn't it?

**All:** *(except ROGER)* Yes Gran.

**Roger:** Yes ma'am.

**George:** Oh my Gawd. Going to be great this is.

**Gran:** What are all your names then? *(they introduce themselves)* Let me see if I've got it right. *(She gets it wrong)*

**David:** No he's Roger, not me. *(pause)* Aren't you?

**Roger:** What?

**David:** You are Roger.

**Roger:** Er.... yes.

**George:** That's Roger!

**Gran:** Good, then that's all settled. Come along, we'd best be going before it gets dark. It's not far from here, make sure you don't leave anything, gas-masks and such.

**George:** Are there any cows on your farm? 'Cos if so I'm going home now!

**Gran:** No dear we've no cattle.

**George:** Good, 'cos I couldn't afford the fare anyhow!

**Roger:** Fair? What fair? Bagsi first go on the coconuts!

**All:** *(hitting him with baggage and pushing him offstage)* Oh Roger! *(Exeunt)*

*SCENE 2 (The farm barn)*

*(Voices off)*

**George:** Come on, you lot! Load of chickens, there's nothing wrong with an old

barn.

**Jackie:** Gran said we weren't to go in.

**George:** Stay out then. I'm going in, coming Rog?

**Roger:** All right. (*GEORGE enters cautiously*)

**George:** Come on then.

**Roger:** Coming!

**George:** You're not scared are you?

**Roger:** No, I'm not scared. Nothing scares me. (*GEORGE taps him on the shoulder*) Ooh! Don't do that!

**Nick:** (*rushing in*) Hey you two - out!

**George:** Why?

**Nick:** You know very well why. I promised Gran I wouldn't let anyone in here, so beat it.

**Roger:** (*Slapping and clapping*) Tiddle om pom pom.

**George:** What are you doing?

**Roger:** Beating it! (*falls about at his own joke*)

**Nick:** Belt up. Gran said it was very dangerous, it wasn't safe and we weren't to go in.

**George:** Well we are in and nothing's happened, so we're staying. (*JACKIE and DAVID enter*)

**Roger:** Yeah.

**Nick:** No we're not. C'mon we're going.

**David:** (*he struts around the barn and soon sums up what he sees before him dismissively*) Looks like 12th century, probably Dutch construction with a touch of dry rot, probably due to lack of foundation and inadequate damp coursing. Apart from that, peculiarly uninteresting. Four walls, double stable doors and a roof. I can see what Gran means about dangerous though....

**George:** Have you quite finished?

**David:** Not quite, I was going to say....

**Nick:** Be quiet all of you! Since we're all in here we'll have a quick butchers, but that's all. Then we scarper, if Gran catches us she'll skin us alive.

**Roger:** What's this?

**George:** A wheelbarrow.

**Roger:** But it's only got one wheel.

**George:** That's why it's called a wheelbarrow not a wheelsbarrow.

**David:** It doesn't need any more Roger, look let me show you. (*He pushes but it doesn't move*)

**Roger:** Aha!

**David:** There must be a perfectly logical explanation.

**George:** Yeah, it's called a brick under the wheel.

**Nick:** *(he moves in front of her, temporarily preventing further exploration)* Don't touch anything George. I don't want you to break anything.

**George:** *(she pushes him aside)* I won't. Blinkin' Ada, you're worse than that old faggott.

**Jackie:** Don't be so nasty George. You'll call her that one day then you'll be sorry.

**David:** What have you got there Jackie?

**Jackie:** An old pair of boots.

**David:** Put them on. *(she does)* Let's have a look at them.

**Jackie:** There!

**David:** You don't need trousers now!

**Nick:** A regular Puss-in-Boots.

**David:** That's a jolly idea, we could perform a playlet for Gran. She'd like that, Jackie could be Puss-in-Boots. Nick, Dick Whittington, myself....er....the mayor or some such dignitary, George, the old Dame, and Roger....er....um what can Roger be?

**Roger:** I can be the pirates, or the robbers or baddies or something, anything wiv' lots of fighting and stuff and swords and daggers and blood and....

**Nick:** You could read the story Roger....

**Roger:** Yeah, then change into a monster and things and kill people and....

**Nick:** The introducer can't change into something else, don't be so stupid.

**George:** He can't read can he?

**Roger:** 'Course I can, s'long as there's no big long words.

**George:** Wouldn't make sense if you were to read "I" and "a" all the time!

**Roger:** Shut up you.

**Nick:** Shut up all of you. I'm sure David can write it so you can read it.

**Roger:** Can't I just have one fight?

**Nick:** No! *(ROGER moves upstage in a sulk and begins to fight an imaginary foe. Care must be taken that he does not distract the audience's attention too much. He will need to time his actions so that he "dies" at the appropriate time, ready for his next line)*

**David:** I'll see to it Nick, never fear.

**George:** David's here! I'm going back to my investigation. All sounds barmy to me. *(she returns to the corner of the barn where she continues to sift through the various treasures children can find)*

**Nick:** Spoilsport!

**David:** We can start writing the play without her.

**Jackie:** Why do I have to play the cat?

**Nick:** Because you're the smallest Jackie. Anyway, you'll do the cat much better than any of us could do.

**Jackie:** O.K. , I suppose you're right. How does it start?

**David:** If I remember correctly it starts with Dick and Puss being very sad because they don't have any money. So they decide to go to London to see whether their luck will change.

**Nick:** Yes, that's right. They end up working for the Mayor, but are framed by some robbers for stealing a pot of salt.

**Roger:** I'm the robbers then, 'cos you lot are all other things. How many people do I kill?

**David:** I suppose you'll have to be the robbers. (*his attention is caught by ROGER who has just "died" and he continues sarcastically*) but nobody gets killed.

**Roger:** Go on. Only a little bit of killin'.

**Nick:** No Roger.

**Jackie:** Where does George fit in?

**David:** Well, George is the Mayor's cook.

**Roger:** That'll be a laugh! Hey where is she anyway? (*shouting*) George!  
George, what are you doing? (*no reply : he continues in a sing song voice*)  
Oh Georgie! Oh Georgeena! Georgie-Porgie!

**George:** (*emerging*) Shut-up you. Just don't call me names.

**Roger:** Why not? It's your name isn't it?

**George:** You know I don't like Georgina.

**Roger:** No, nor do I! I think she stinks!

**George:** Not half as much as you. (*squaring up*)

**Nick:** Look, pack it in you two, can't you do anything without fighting?

**George:** He started it!

**Roger:** No I didn't!

**David:** (*stepping in between them*) May I suggest you put your petty differences aside for the moment and that George be persuaded to answer the question posed earlier.

**George:** Eh!

**Roger:** ) Eh!

**Nick:** For goodness sake! What were you doing just now when you disappeared?

**George:** Oh just looking around. You were right David, there's not much to an old barn. I don't know what's so dangerous about it.

**David:** Well hurry up George, we're almost ready to start rehearsals.

**George:** Oh I see. One minute it's "you can't go in there, it's dangerous, the old faggott will tell us off" - the next minute - "come on let's have a rehearsal for a silly little play, never mind the danger, it's only an old barn." You're like a yo-yo.

**Jackie:** Please don't fight!

**George:** All right, I'll be back in a minute. (*she returns to her investigation with*

*renewed vigour*)

**Nick:** When you've finished we'll rehearse the play outside. Gran's making the tea so she won't see us.

**Jackie:** How does it end David?

**David:** Happily, of course.

**Nick:** Yes Dick and Puss discover who did it and get paid a huge reward.

**David:** Of course the robbers have to get hanged.

**Roger:** What?

**David:** Well you said you wanted some killing.

**Roger:** Yes, but not me.

**Jackie:** What about clothes?

**Roger:** What? What clothes?

**David:** Ah, you mean costumes.

**Roger:** How much?

**Nick:** Costumes are what people wear when they are doing a play.

**Roger:** Oh.

**Jackie:** What are we going to do for a puss?

**David:** Well you've got the boots, all you need now is the whiskers.

**Nick:** And all I need is a paper hat.

**Roger:** You'll look pretty stupid in just a hat!

**David:** I think Nick means in addition to the rest of his assemblage.

**Roger:** What?

**Jackie:** The rest of his pantomime costume.

**Roger:** Pantomime?

**Nick:** Yes, Pantomime, that's what this sort of play is called.

**David:** That's right. Originally it was called "Panto di Arti" and started in Italy.

**Roger:** Oh.

**Nick:** Is that a fact?

**David:** Yes, from the Italian travelling troupes of the 17th Century.

**Jackie:** I had an idea it was French.

**David:** (*bluffing*) I expect....er....they added the mime!

**Jackie:** (*dubious*) Mmmm.

**David:** Well anyway back to the costumes. What about a dress for George?

**Nick:** She could borrow one of Gran's.

**Jackie:** How are we going to do that?

**Nick:** Just ask her - she won't mind.

**David:** We can't do that.

**Jackie:** It's supposed to be a surprise.

**Nick:** Oh yes.

**Roger:** How can it be a surprise if it's hers already?

**David:** What's hers already?

**Roger:** The dress.

**David:** That's not the surprise.

**Roger:** Told you it wasn't.

**Jackie:** What wasn't?

**Roger:** The dress wasn't a surprise if it's hers already.

**Nick:** Oh for heavens sake Roger - the play is the surprise.

**Roger:** Well it won't be if we borrow the dress!

**All:** Aargh! (*they clout him, sit on him etc.*)

**David:** Could be one in here I suppose. (*shouting*) George, I don't suppose there's a dress over there, is there?

**George:** Oh yes, course there is, course there is. It's a regular warehouse full of the latest fashions an' stuff. Berk! Where do you think we are? This is barn, not a dress shop!

**David:** No harm in asking; you never know what you might find.

**George:** That's true. I think I've found something.

**Nick:** What?

**George:** I dunno, but you'd all better come and have a look.

**Nick:** Oh yes, sure we will. C'mon she's being daft again, let's go and rehearse.

**George:** No, hang on, I'm being serious this time.

**David:** Well what has our intrepid explorer discovered?

**George:** Come and see.

**Roger:** (*already there*) BLIMEY!

**George:** It's a sort of passage. A sort of hole.

**David:** Sounds like the back door to me!

**Nick:** I think she's serious. I didn't think it would ever happen but it has now. We'd better take a look.

**Jackie:** Wait a minute. I've got to take these boots off, I can hardly move in them.

**Nick:** Quickly then. I'll give you a hand.

**George:** Come on everybody or I'll go without you.

**Nick:** Coming!

**Gran:** (*voice off*) Children, children! (*Exeunt*)

SCENE 3

*(The Land of the People of Mehuja.. A throng of MEHUVANS are chanting to their deity. As they sing the CHILDREN enter unnoticed)*

**THE CHANT (MEHUVANS)**

*Ah.....*  
*We are Mehuja's people*  
*We are Mehuja's people.*  
*Praise him, Glory, to the one, Mehuja.*  
*Praise him, Glory, to the one, Mehuja.*  
*We are Mehuja's people*  
*We are Mehuja's people.*  
*You are all knowing*  
*You are all powerful,*  
*Mighty one!*

*(At the end of the song the MEHUVANS take up positions to play "The Game" - a type of mirror game or "Simon says")*

**George:** Come on. *(entering)* You were very anxious to leave the barn and now we have you're miles behind. *(she looks around)* Blimey!

**Nick:** *(entering)* All right, keep your 'air on, I'm here now. *(he helps JACKIE through)* C'mon little 'un.

**Jackie:** Thanks Nick *(she stares in wonderment)* Gosh!

**David:** *(enters)* Absolutely fascinating.

**Roger:** *(enters and retreats)* Flippin' Heck!

**Nick:** Where are we? Come back Roger. *(he pulls ROGER back)*

**David:** In answer to your question, I can produce no satisfactory reply, suffice to say....

**George:** Dry up Einstein.

**Jackie:** It feels a bit scary.

**Nick:** Yes it does a bit.

**Jackie:** I'm frightened, let's go back.

**Nick:** Who are they?

**David:** Well let's find out shall we? There's bound to be a perfectly logical explanation. May I suggest....

**George:** No you may not. S'pose we go up and ask them who they are and what they're doing here and....

**Roger:** S'obvious.

**George:** What?

**Roger:** Singing - I think.

**Nick:** What if they don't speak English?

**David:** Then we try something else.

**Roger:** I'm good at sign language.

**George:** I bet.

**Nick:** Quiet, let's watch.

**Roger:** Double Dutch?

**Nick:** What?

**Roger:** We could try Double Dutch.

**George:** We could try nailing your gob up too! Can't you see they could be dangerous?

**Roger:** What, cannonballs or something?

**David:** The word is cannibal.

**George:** Whatever it is I don't like it.

**Jackie:** I'm with you George, let's go.

**David:** I think we should stay and investigate, as I said, there must be a perfectly logical explanation.

**George:** That's all you ever think about you brainy git.

**Nick:** Calm down George, there's no point in arguing between ourselves.

**Jackie:** I'm still frightened. I want to go home.

**George:** Come on then, let's go.

**David:** All right I'll turn it into a novel - "The Mystery in the old Barn" - a novel by David Bannister. Half fact, half fiction.

**George:** Half wit.

**Nick:** Okay, let's go.

*(ROGER trips up as they exit and they are discovered by the MEHUIJANS)*

**Plog:** *(advances towards them)* Stop! Who are you?

**Jackie:** Oh-Oh.

**Plog:** Answer me!

**Nick:** Calm down Jackie, they won't harm us.

**Plog:** Who are these people that come to visit the people of Mehuja?

**George:** Ma'what?

**Plog:** We are the people of Mehuja.

**George:** Mehuja? And you must be the Mavlips. Eh? Eh? Mehujamaflips! *(she laughs at her own joke, the others are not so sure)*

**David:** I don't think that was quite the thing to say at this juncture.

**Plog:** Please produce a sensible reply.

**Roger:** He sounds like the 'eadmaster.

**Nick:** *(now in control)* We are staying at Preston Farm.

**Plog:** What is this Preston Farm?

**Nick:** Well it's just.... it's a..... just a farm.

**Plog:** Farm?

**Roger:** Don't you know what a farm is?

**Nick:** Shut up Roger.

**David:** Allow me to define a farm. A farm....

**George:** Never mind that now, tell him or it, who we are and that we're sorry to intrude, but we didn't mean to and we were just going anyway.

**David:** Very well. We are humans from the planet Earth.

**George:** We have come here on a daring mission to recapture the lost mermaid of Blackpool Pier.

**Jackie:** B..B..Be quiet Georgie.

**Plog:** Gee-orgee? Is that the given word for this human?

**George:** No, that's me name.

**David:** *(sotto voce)* Shut-up! *(to PLOG)* Yes, it's what we call a name. I am called David, he is called Nick, he is Roger and this is Jackie.

**Nick:** Never mind that! Who are you? What are you doing here?

**George:** What are we doing here?

**Nick:** Where is here?

**Roger:** *(dumbly but sincerely)* I want to go home.

**George:** We might be home now if you weren't such a clumsy oaf.

**Plog:** We are the people of Mehuja. This is our place. We are here to serve Mehuja.

**Nick:** Who is Mehuja?

**Plog:** *(he points to a machine)* He is our leader and mentor. *(the MEHUVANS bow with great reverence to the machine)*

**David:** Fascinating!

**George:** Very.

**David:** Do you have names?

**Plog:** The word given to me is Plog.

**Roger:** BOG!!?

**Plog:** *(spells it)* P-L-O-G. Plog.

**Roger:** Oh! *(starts to wander, feeling safer but bored)*

**Plog:** This is.... *(he points to each one in turn)*

**Eriah:** Eriah

**Merax:** Merax.

**Merp:** Merp.

**Pligo:** Pligo.

**Quanta:** Quanta.

**Tsaibe:** Tsaibe.

**Wegan:** Wegan.

**Xeran:** Xeran.

**Plog:** (*pointing at ZOOB*) Ahem.

**Zoob:** (*who is looking stangely at ROGER and vice versa*) Er .... Zoob.

**Roger:** They're good for your tubes!

**Zoob:** Please?

**Roger:** Good for your tubes! Zubes!

**Zoob:** Please?

**Roger:** Zubes - Tubes. Oh never mind.

**George:** At this rate we'll need Flash Gordon as an interpreter.

**Nick:** Belt up George.

**David:** Look, you were playing a peculiar game when we entered. What was it's purpose and it's name?

**Plog:** We call it "Sotexta". Would you like to discover what the game is?

**Zoob:** Tooob?

**Plog:** You wish to speak?

**Zoob:** What is tube?

**Plog:** It shall wait till later. Come we shall play.

**Roger:** 'Ope it's not hard.

**Plog:** Hard? How can a game be hard?

**George:** Easy if he's playing.

**David:** He means difficult, Plog.

**Plog:** I understand.

**George:** He doesn't.

**Plog:** (*ignoring GEORGE*) No, Roger, it is not hard.

**Nick:** Come on then, teach us how to play it. You join in as well Jackie.

**Jackie:** As long as it doesn't take too long - I want to go home soon.

**Plog:** One of the people must do the same as another one of the people concurrently and without loss of continuity.

**Roger:** What?

**Zoob:** At the same moment, together with the other....

**Roger:** Oh yeah! (*to GEORGE*) What?

**Zoob:** Her what? I think her to be George.

**Roger:** What?

**George:** Forget it Roger. I think they mean copy-cat.

**Roger:** Well why didn't they say so?

**Plog:** Yes. The one who is doing the same for the longest is the one who is Sotexta.

**Nick:** What is Sotexta?

**Plog:** The one who chooses the actions for the next ten Saxtas.

**Jackie:** Saxta?

**David:** I should equivocate that with one of our minutes or similar time divisions I

imagine.

**George:** Yeah, you would.

**Nick:** Well? Shall we play?

**Plog:** Take up your positions and play will commence. (*they play "The Game". Eventually a loud noise is emitted from the machine. All the MEHUIJANS go down on their knees and sing. The CHILDREN are dragged down except JACKIE who is too frightened to move. A CLOAKED FIGURE enters and disappears behind the machine*)

**THE CHANT** (*reprise: MEHUIJANS*)

*Ah.....*

*We are Mehuja's people*

*We are Mehuja's people.*

*Praise him, Glory, to the one, Mehuja.*

*Praise him, Glory, to the one, Mehuja.*

*We are Mehuja's people*

*We are Mehuja's people.*

*You are all knowing*

*You are all powerful*

*Mighty one!*

**Plog:** Oh mighty mentor Mehuja, who is all powerful, please accept our knowing for you.

**Mehuja:** Your knowing is accepted and received.

**Mehujans:** Our knowing is accepted and received.

**Mehuja:** Relate your entreaties.

**Mehujans:** We do your bidding in grateful homage.

**Mehuja:** Discourse may now commence.

**Plog:** We are visited by others.

**Mehuja:** There are others, Plog?

**Plog:** Yes, Mehuja.

**Mehuja:** What are others, Plog?

**Plog:** People who intrude, O mighty one.

**Mehuja:** You are knowing, Plog. Why do you speak and play with intruders, Plog?

**Plog:** They are one with your people. They have spoken the words given to them. They do not wish your people harm.

**Mehuja:** Intruders harm! Intruders harm!

**Mehujans:** INTRUDERS HARM ! INTRUDERS HARM!

**Nick:** (*shouting over the cacophony*) We don't want to hurt anyone. We just happened to be here and thought that the game was fun, so we asked if we could join in. We're quite friendly really. We like your people.

**Mehuja:** Who is this other that speaks to me? Plog is the chosen one! Plog alone speaks to Mehuja.

**George:** Tell him, Plog.

**Mehuja:** ARREST THE INTRUDERS!

***STRANGERS (MEHUVANS)***

(*during this song the CHILDREN are pursued and caught*)

*We'll get you.....  
We must take you now to Mehuja,  
We must take you now to him.  
You are strangers to our land,  
People take them by the hand.  
We've got you.....  
We must take you now to Mehuja,  
We must take you now to him.  
You are strangers to our land,  
People take them by the hand.*

**Mehuja:** Bow down before Mehuja. Why do you intrude upon the people of Mehuja?

**Nick:** Look, I told you before, we haven't come to intrude or harm anyone.

**Mehuja:** Address me in a knowing way.

**David:** I think that means we have to converse in superlatives.

**Roger:** Sue who?

**Jackie:** D..Don't Roger.

**David:** Words like - "Oh mighty mentor, Oh splendid one...."

**George:** Oh machine of great bulk!

**Mehuja:** Silence. Talk so only I can hear, others.

**Nick:** Mehuja, we didn't mean to come....

**Plog:** We discovered the others hiding near the forbidden place, O great leader.

**Mehuja:** So the others would speak untruths. People of Mehuja mark these words. Untruths, untruths. Others speak untruths. Others are intruders. Intruders harm! Intruders harm!

**Mehujans:** INTRUDERS HARM! INTRUDERS HARM!

**Jackie:** STOP! PLEASE STOP!

**Nick:** Plog, tell him we mean no harm. Tell him it's not our fault. Tell him we're

friendly.

**David:** Plog invited us to join in. We did, we enjoyed it. Wher's the harm in that?

**Roger:** It was 'ard.

**David:** Difficult.

**Roger:** Difficult, but it was fun.

**Jackie:** Please let us go, please let us go. We meant no harm. Let us back to the farm. We shouldn't have strayed, we're only kids after all. What's happening to us? Why are we here? I want to go home. Let us go home please, please, please, oh my God, PLEASE!

**Nick:** It's all right Jackie, we'll be home soon. You see, we'll be all right.

**George:** I don't see why we can't go now. Come on! *(she tries to escape but the machine "zapps" her.\* She stops dead in her tracks)*

*[\*This is a special effect best left to the ingenuity of a technician]*

**David:** Amazing!

**George:** Never mind about amazing, it hurt.

**Nick:** I wouldn't try that again.

**Mehuja:** No, I wouldn't try that again if I were you.

**George:** He just said that in English! *(pause)*

**Nick:** Shut up George. You'll make it worse.

**David:** O mighty Mehuja, please allow me to explain our presence.

**Mehuja:** You are intruders. There is nothing more to explain.

**David:** In essence that is correct, we do have no belonging here. This is the place of the people of Mehuja into which we have accidentally stumbled. We have tried to explain in a fair and honest manner our mode of arrival and our subsequent actions. It is also a fact that Plog understood us to be intruders and then realised our friendly intent. I fail to see the harm in the playing of Sotexta with your people, certainly we meant no harm and even though you attacked one of our people your belligerence bequeaths no malice for our part.

**Roger:** Well if he understood that I hope it meant what I thought it meant before I got lost thinking about what I thought it meant.

**Mehuja:** This other speaks with a knowing tongue. Plog, is it the truth that you saw no harm in these others?

**Plog:** Yes, O mighty one. They were as perplexed by us as we were disrupted by them.

**Mehuja:** I shall give it credence.

### ***SONG OF ACCEPTANCE (MEHUVANS)***

***Welcome to our people, welcome to our land.***

*We are pleased to receive you, take Mehuja's hand.  
Please do not be afraid, we will not harm you,  
Mehuja has welcomed you, come with us.  
There must be many games, we can play with you,  
Mehuja has welcomed you, come with us.  
Please do not be afraid, we will not harm you,  
Mehuja has welcomed you, come with us.  
There must be many games we can play with you,  
Mehuja has welcomed you, come with us ....  
Join our people.*

**Mehuja:** This pleases Mehuja. To prove themselves worthy of acceptance and thereby clearing themselves of the act of intrusion, they shall undergo a test of initiation. They must go from whence they came and return with gifts that I shall demand.

**Roger:** What's that mean? Tests? I'm useless at tests. What's 'e going on about?

**David:** He means we've got to go back home and get something that Mehuja wants.

**George:** Well c'mon let's go!

**Jackie:** Are we going home?

**George:** Yes, Jaxie.

**David:** What is it you want us to bring you?

**Mehuja:** You will return with a ring which you will find in the kitchen of the farm and the key to the clock close by.

**Nick:** How does he know about the farm?

**Mehuja:** Silence! Mehuja is all knowing.

**George:** Whereabouts? He hasn't given us much clue has he?

**Mehuja:** The searching is part of the test. It would not do to tell you everything. To ensure no treachery one of you must stay. The hostage shall be the little one.

**Jackie:** No, please, please, not me. *(she screams as she is grabbed by the MEHUIJANS)*

**Nick:** Leave her alone. You can't do this to us. You can't keep us here if we don't want to stay.

**Mehuja:** Go! Complete your task and you shall be free to do what you will.

**Nick:** Then take me and let the little one free.

**Mehuja:** No. She suits my purpose. *(JACKIE is sobbing)*

**David:** Jackie don't worry, we won't be long.

**Mehuja:** GO!

**George:** I'm staying as well. *(she hugs JACKIE)*

**Mehuja:** Only one must remain. (*the MEHujANS separate JACKIE and GEORGE*)

**SONG OF HELP** (*JACKIE and MEHujANS*)

**Jackie:** *Let me out, let me out, let me out to the world I know  
Let me out, let me out, let me go with the friends I know  
Let me go 'cos I'm cold and hungry  
And I'm lonely and scared.  
I don't want to stay any longer, I don't like it here.  
Let me out, let me out, let me go to the world I know  
Let me out, let me out, let me go with the friends I know.  
(she screams) Please stop, don't leave me. HELP!*

**Mehuja:** GO!

**Mehujans:** *No-one may leave here, Mehuja has spoken  
No-one may leave here, Mehuja has spoken.  
You have been chosen to wait for the others  
You have been chosen by our great Mehuja.  
No-one may leave here, Mehuja has spoken  
No-one may leave here, Mehuja has spoken.  
Please do not be afraid, we will not harm you,  
Mehuja has welcomed you, come with us.  
There must be many games we can play with you,  
Mehuja has welcomed you, come with us.*

(*During this verse the MEHujANS separate JACKIE from the OTHERS and she is left on her own. As the music dies away she screams in terror*)

**CURTAIN**

## ACT II

### SCENE 1 (GRAN'S Kitchen)

**Gran:** Children! Children! Come on it's tea-time (*pause*) I've called you three times already, now come on before I send you all to bed without any tea. (*pause*) Ah! There you are! Come on, come and have your tea.

**Nick:** Coming Gran. (*they all enter*)

**Gran:** Good, now sit down and start. (*she begins to seat them*) Where's Jackie? (*no reply - she goes to the door and calls out*) Jackie! Jackie! Where are you? Come along dear. Now where can she have got to? (*to the CHILDREN*) Where is she? You shouldn't have left her behind.

**Roger:** That's what I said to....

**Nick:** (*sotto voce*) Shut up! (*nudges him*)

**Gran:** Pardon dear?

**Roger:** Nothing; I'm just hungry.

**Gran:** Well, so you may be, but we can't start without Jackie. Where is she, Nick?

**David:** She'll probably be along shortly, Gran.

**Nick:** Yes, she often gets lost in her own little world.

**Gran:** Whatever do you mean?

**David:** Carried away in her games, you know.

**George:** Like some other people I know!

**Gran:** Pardon George?

**George:** Nothing Gran.

**Nick:** George often speaks to herself (*nudges her*) don't you George? It's a bad habit you know. You ought to stop doing it.

**George:** I'm sorry sir, but I can't help it.

**Gran:** Now, now children, calm down.

**David:** We're sorry Gran. Really we're probably a bit homesick.

**Roger:** Home! That's a laugh. Don't suppose we'll see that again.

**Gran:** There, there Roger, don't go upsetting yourself so. Of course you'll get home again. This horrid old war will be finished by Christmas, you'll see.

**George:** Will it? I doubt if it will ever be over..

**Gran:** Of course it will, darling and in the meantime you must try to be happy with each other. Well come along now, tuck into your tea. We'll not wait for young Jackie. I'll go and see if I can find her.

**Nick:** No Gran, it's all right. She'll be....

**David:** Outside somewhere. Would you like me to go and reconnoitre?

**Roger:** What?

**George:** Have a look.

**Roger:** What at?

**All:** Ooooh! (*they clonk him*)

**Gran:** That's enough children. You just get started now and I'll go and see if I can find her.

**David:** Shall I go?

**Gran:** No thank you David. I don't want two of you missing. (*exit*)

**George:** We shouldn't have let the old faggot go. If she does find Jackie they'll think we've sent some sort of secret weapon.

**David:** She won't find her. She doesn't realise we've been into the barn, so she won't think of looking there. Anyway we need her out of the way so that we can do Mehuja's bidding.

**Roger:** I thought all we had to do was nick the key and the ring.

**David:** Correct.

**Roger:** Well let's do it later, I'm hungry.

**George:** So am I.

**Nick:** Yes, there probably won't be time anyway. Let's eat and then plan it later

**George:** What about Jackie?

**David:** I'm sure she'll be treated with due care and consideration.

**Nick:** You're probably right, but we must get back soon. Ssh, here she comes.

**Gran:** (*enters*) Well I can't see her anywhere. Where did you last see her?

**Roger:** In the bar....owoo (*he has been kicked*)

**Gran:** Pardon dear?

**Roger:** In the ....er....farm....er somewhere.

**Gran:** (*twigging slowly*) Are you sure that's what you said Roger?

**Roger:** Yes Gran.

**Gran:** Uum. (*pause*) If she's in any trouble I want to know, so that I can help. After all I am responsible for you all.

**Roger:** So long as she's careful she won't get into no trouble.

**Nick:** (*nudges ROGER*) But then that's the same for all of us isn't it?

**George:** She's probably playing hide and seek and can't find herself.

**Gran:** Stop being so silly, George. If you can't make any sensible suggestions don't say anything at all. Now you all know where Jackie is and the sooner you tell me the better. (*pause*) Come on. Nick? (*no reply*) Roger, I'm sure you know perfectly well; now where is she?

**Roger:** I....er....forget.

**Gran:** So you did know, but now remarkably you can't remember.

**David:** I think we should tell her.

**Nick:** Be quiet.

**Gran:** Yes David?

**David:** We left her in the barn.

**Gran:** I thought so, but I was waiting for one of you to tell me. I knew we'd get there in the end.

**Nick:** I'm very sorry Gran.

**Roger:** It was George's idea

**George:** Wasn't.

**Roger:** Was too.

**Gran:** Children! Children! I am not concerned whose idea it was but rather disappointed that you disobeyed me. I gave you all strict instructions not to venture into there, it's very, very dangerous. Now then Roger, what's she doing in there?

**Roger:** I'm not telling.

**Gran:** I beg your pardon.

**Roger:** I said I'm not telling

**Gran:** That's no answer. Now come on, tell me what's happened before I lose my patience.

**Roger:** I can't Gran, I promised.

**David:** I'm afraid he did.

**Gran:** What are you talking about?

**Nick:** We can't tell you Gran, we just can't.

**Gran:** Look, nothing's going to happen to you, but I must know. Whatever will your parents say if I lose one of my precious charges? Hey? Look my darlings, I'm not angry, I'm worried about Jackie. I care for her as I care for you all. *(she sits down and the CHILDREN group around her)* I just don't want anything to go wrong. Do you understand that? You're very precious to me.

**David:** We understand Gran, but we simply can't tell you what she is doing. *(during the song which follows the use of a gauze, either set into the fireplace, above the mantelpiece or behind a backdrop, is a superb effect, although the scene will work without one. When JACKIE sings her verse the CHILDREN must not look at her even if she is obviously visible especially if no gauze is available)*

**FAMILY (GRAN, NICK, ROGER, DAVID and JACKIE)**

**Gran:**           *Come and sit at table now  
Your tea is all prepared  
I know you visited the barn  
Where no-one else has dared.*

**Nick, Roger,** *Sadly we sit the table round*  
**George, David:** *Our parents far away*  
*Sadly we miss them all of us*  
*But here we are to stay,*  
*Ah.....*

**Jackie:** *Think of me and come back soon*  
*I'm getting rather scared*  
*Find the key and get the ring*  
*Just like Mehuja said*

**Nick, Roger,** *Jackie don't worry we'll be there soon*  
**George, David:** *Please don't be too scared*  
*They'll never harm you, just hang on*  
*You know that we all care*  
*Ah.....*

**Gran:** *Trouble shared is trouble halved*  
*You need not worry now*  
*Tell me where young Jackie is*  
*We're all one family now.*

**Nick, Roger,** *Granny please trust us just for now*  
**George, David:** *She really isn't far*  
*If we could tell you where she was*  
*We'd find out where we are.*  
*Ah.....*

**Gran:** Well, if you can't tell me you can't and I suppose I must try to understand.  
You stay here and I'll go and search the barn (*exit*)

**Nick:** That's torn it.

**George:** Torn it, it's blinkin' ripped it apart.

**David:** We haven't much time. We must be constructive. Come along, start searching.

**Roger:** I'm hungry.

**George:** For goodness sake stop thinking about your belly and start flippin' looking.

**David:** He said something about the clock didn't he? We'll begin there.

**Nick:** (*by the mantlepiece*) Well that's easy. (*he examines the clock*) Can't see a key or a ring.

**David:** Have a look inside (*ROGER is at the mantelpiece*)  
**Nick:** No, there's definitely no key.  
**David:** Pass it here.  
**George:** It's all hopeless, we'll never find it.  
**David:** Sometimes there are compartments concealed in the base of these.  
(*ROGER is playing with a key ring he has picked off the mantelpiece. He stands apart from the others*) This doesn't appear to conceal anything.  
**Nick:** Shake it or something....  
**David:** This is a delicate piece of machinery.  
**Nick:** Never mind that, shake it.  
**George:** Give it here. (*they tussle and the clock falls*)  
**David:** Crikey that's done it.  
**George:** What are we going to do now? She'll skin us alive.  
**Nick:** What are you doing, Roger?  
**Roger:** Nuffink!  
**David:** What have you got there?  
**Roger:** Just an old key-ring.  
**David:** Where did you find it?  
**Roger:** It was on the shelf.  
**All:** ROGER!!!!  
**Roger:** What?  
**David:** That's it.  
**Roger:** What is?  
**Nick:** That is. The key and a ring, the key-ring!  
**Gran:** (*enters*) Well she's not there now, I .... (*notices clock and guilty CHILDREN*) What on earth is going on? What have you done to my clock?  
**Nick:** N...Nothing Gran, we....(*she advances*) Quick run for it. To the barn!  
(*there follows a typical chase sequence, which may be covered by music, during which they all escape but ROGER has to return for the key-ring he left on the table and GRAN chases him out, just missing him*)

## SCENE 2 (*The farm barn*)

**George:** (*enters*) Come on you lot! The old faggot's catching up! She may ancient but she can't half run. Quick!  
**Nick:** (*enters with DAVID*) You two go through the hole. I'll wait for Roger, he managed to forget the key-ring.  
**George:** Typical. Come on Dave.  
**David:** My name is David, not Dave.

**George:** Get on with yer. *(exit)*

**Roger:** *(enters)* She's coming! She's coming! Aaargh! *(he falls over his feet and the key-ring flies into the air and is caught by NICK)*

**Nick:** Come on then *(exit)*

**Gran:** *(pouncing on ROGER)* Got you!

**Roger:** Ow! Geroff. That hurts!

**Gran:** You've got some explaining to do my lad. Why have you come running in here? You know you're not allowed to.

**Roger:** Let go, please Gran.

**Gran:** Where are the others? What were you doing with my clock? Where's Jackie?

**Roger:** I'll tell you! I'll tell you!

**Gran:** *(releasing him)* I'm waiting.

**Roger:** What's wrong with playing in an old barn anyway? Nothing wrong with playing in a barn is there?

**Gran:** It may not seem so to you but....

**Roger:** Well?

**Gran:** Well, if I tell you about the barn, will you promise to tell me what's going on?

**Roger:** Yeah, all right.

**Gran:** Well, many years ago my husband was in here working. When I came to call him for his supper he had disappeared, and all I found was a key-ring. From that day to this his disappearance has been a mystery. The police couldn't find him, no-one could find him. And yet there are still times when I'm convinced I see him. Perhaps it's his ghost?

**Roger:** Ghost?

**Gran:** That's what I said my dear. Now do you see why I didn't want you to come into the barn?

**Roger:** 'Spose so.

**Gran:** Well....

**Roger:** Well what?

**Gran:** What about your side of the bargain?

**Roger:** What?

**Gran:** Where have they gone? What's happening? *(ROGER begins to explain as the lights fade and the music plays)*

*SCENE 3 (The Land of the people of Mehuja)*

*(JACKIE rushes out from a group of MEHUJANS to greet the returning*

*CHILDREN. She is very relieved to see them and they swarm around her protectively. The MEHujANS stand aside but not far away in case of another escape attempt)*

**Jackie:** You're back! You're back! Can we go home now? Where's Roger?

**Nick:** He's just behind us, he'll be here in a minute.

**David:** Saxta.

**George:** Give it a rest, Einstein. Let's get this key-ring to his nibs and get out of here.

**Plog:** (*marches importantly over*) You have returned.

**George:** No, we're still out there.

**Plog:** Did you fulfil the task we set before you?

**Nick:** Yes, here it is.

**Zoob:** Where is the one called Roger?

**Nick:** He's following.

**Zoob:** Following who?

**Plog:** Disregard the facile one. Kneel before Mehuja. O mighty Mehuja, they are returned.

**Mehuja:** Show me.

**Nick:** We brought you a key-ring.

**Mehuja:** The key-ring? Plog, relieve them of their burden.

**Plog:** (*he takes it*) Shall I place it in the receptacle, O mighty one?

**Mehuja:** So do. (*he does*)

**Plog:** O mighty mentor Mehuja, who is all-powerful, please accept our pledging for you.

**Mehuja:** Your pledging is accepted and received.

**Mehujans:** Our pledging is accepted and received.

**Mehuja:** Relate your entreaties.

**Mehujans:** We do your bidding in grateful homage.

**Mehuja:** Discourse may now continue.

**Jackie:** Does that mean we can go home now?

**Mehuja:** The one whose given word is Roger is not returned.

**George:** Oh no, he's just coming.

**Mehuja:** The one whose given word is Roger is not returned.

**George:** Is he deaf or something? I've just told him.

**David:** Allow me George. He was behind us when we entered, and I can only think that he is lost for a moment. But I expect there is a ....

**David:** )

**George:** ) .... perfectly logical explanation.

**George:** He tripped over his shoelaces again!

**David:** Perhaps he decided that this meagre gift was inadequate for one of such

high degree.

*SONG OF EXPLANATION (DAVID, GEORGE, NICK & MEHUJA)*

- David:** *We got home in time for tea so we had to eat  
With Jackie not around Granny searched the grounds.*
- George:** *We searched for the ring and key but they could not be seen  
Roger found it on the shelf but kept it to himself.*
- Nick:** *Then the clock fell on the floor as Gran came through the door  
As we tried to get away Roger caused a delay*
- David, George, Nick:** *But Roger tripped and fell and let out a yell  
Then Nick picked up the key and we had to flee.  
We came through the hole in the barn  
So Jackie would come to no harm.  
We never said a word  
We promise you not a word.*
- Mehuja:** *You have not done what I sent you for  
You disobeyed Mehujan law.  
Mehuja is the lord of this land  
You must obey his every command.*
- David:** *We told you once before Roger fell on the floor  
He will be here in time, he can't be far behind.*
- George:** *It was he who found the key-ring, then he dropped the thing  
I'm afraid it must be said Roger makes us see red.*
- Nick:** *So it's just as well I saw Roger flat on the floor  
Otherwise you'd never see your precious key..*
- David, George, Nick:** *So you see we've tried to say  
All that's happened today  
We have told you all we know,  
What more can we do now?  
We came through the hole in the barn  
So Jackie would come to no harm.*

*We never said a word  
We promise you not a word.*

**Mehuja:** (*bellows*) ENOUGH! (*The CHILDREN huddle: even the MEHUIJANS are terrified*) You have not completed your test. You are therefore intruders. Intruders harm! Intruders harm!

**Mehujans:** (*extremely agitated*) INTRUDERS HARM! INTRUDERS HARM!

**Nick:** (*shouting and pleading*) Look, Roger's doing no harm. He hasn't got the intelligence to do harm.

**Mehuja:** He must be fetched in order that the task be completed. Arrest the little one.

**Jackie:** Not again! No! No! Please no! (*she is grabbed*)

**Nick:** But we can't go back. Gran would follow us and we'd be back where we started.

**George:** I'm getting fed up with this barm-pot.

**David:** Be quiet George. He may hear you.

**George:** He? "It" more like. I hope it does hear me, it might overheat and melt.

**Nick:** Don't start arguing again.

**George:** Let's make a run for it! Quick! Run Jackie! (*they are zapped*)

**Mehuja:** There is no escape. You have disobeyed. Mehuja is displeased.

**Jackie:** What can we do?

**David:** Let's consult with Plog, he may be able to assist.

***BELIEVE US (THE CHILDREN and MEHUIJANS)***

(*during the song DAVID manoeuvres himself behind the machine*)

**Children:** *We know that you can help us if you will,  
You only need to show us to the hole.  
We meant no harm, we were only playing  
Please let us go and stop obeying.*

**Mehujans:** *You heard it from Mehuja  
You are to stay here with us  
Your friend is late in arriving  
He has betrayed our trust.*

**Children:** *If we can go we'll never say a thing  
We've got the key-ring, what more can we bring?  
We've done the task Mehuja set us  
Because of him you won't release us?*

*Please let us go, we have told you all we'll ever know  
We are your friends, can we never make amends!?*

*(DAVID is now tinkering behind the machine)*

**Nick:** David what are you doing?

**David:** Fascinating!, absolutely fascinating.

**George:** Not now brain-ache, this isn't the time.

**Plog:** Do not go near our mentor!

**Jackie:** Come back David!

**Zoob:** No-one may touch!

**David:** This looks like the one.

**Nick:** One what?

**George:** Look at them! *(The MEHUIJANS are cowering anxiously)*

**Mehuja:** Do not touch! *(A MEHUIJAN is zapped)*

**David:** I think I've found it! *(zaps everywhere)*

**Mehuja:** Do not touch!

**Nick:** Of course! I've just realised what he's doing.

**Jackie:** Be careful David!

**Mehuja:** DO NOT TOUCH!

**David:** *(triumphantly)* Got it!

**Mehuja:** *(the voice is extremely anguished as if in death throes)* DON'T TOUCH IT! *(a cloaked figure rises from behind the machine and all the MEHUIJANS scream and collapse in terror)*

**David:** I think it's time we left.

**Nick:** Right, come on, let's go! *(the CHILDREN run for the hole: ZOOB is following)*

**Plog:** No that is the forbidden place. People of Mehuja cannot go there. *(ZOOB runs back)*

**Mehuja:** *(remainder of Mehuja's lines now spoken by the cloaked figure)* WHY DID YOU DO THIS TO ME ?

**Nick:** Follow us.

**Mehuja:** I'm ruined. My life is at an end.

**David:** Come and start a new one.

**Mehuja:** WHY!? WHY!? WHY!? *(commotion and panic ensues: the machine explodes. The CHILDREN and MEHUIJA pass through the hole but the MEHUIJANS are left behind and "lost".)*

SCENE 4 (the farm barn)

**REUNION** (MEHUJA, GRAN and the CHILDREN)

**Mehuja:** *Here I am again, fighting back the tears.*

**Gran:** *Is it really you after all these years?*

**Mehuja:** *I have seen you many times you know.*

**Gran:** *Where have you been? Why did you go?*

(MEHUJA slowly sinks to the ground)

**Children:** *This is him the almighty Mehuja  
Weeping on the ground  
How were we to know he was her husband  
Who has never been found?*

**Gran:** *I have prayed so hard that you might return.*

**Mehuja:** *When I went away I didn't mean to stay.  
I tried to tell you where I'd been  
Will you please forgive me.*

**Children:** *This is him the almighty Mehuja  
Weeping on the ground  
How were we to know he was her husband  
Who has never been found?*

(By this time MEHUJA is lying flat on the floor. GRAN cradles him in her arms.  
Suddenly his head lolls to face the audience revealing a skull in place of his  
face!)

**Gran:** (screams) My husband!

**HELP US** (THE MEHUVANS and CHILDREN)

(The MEHUVANS should appear behind a gauze or enveloped in smoke or some  
such device as to indicate the disintegration of their world and the fact that  
they are in a different place to the action on stage)

**Mehujans:** *Help us! help us.  
Will you give us our Mehuja.  
Please forgive us, friends of colour.  
Help us, help us.*

**Children:**        *There'd be no point in us helping  
There's nothing we can do  
We can't get back to reach you  
There's nothing we can do.*

**Mehujans:**      *Help us, help us.  
Will you give us our Mehuja  
Please forgive us, friends of colour  
Help us, help us.  
Will you give us our Mehuja.  
Please forgive us, friends of colour.  
Will you help us find our leader.  
Please forgive us, friends of Mehuja.*

*SCENE 5 (GRAN'S kitchen)*

*(The CHILDREN are sitting disconsolately in a huddle)*

**Roger:** Well I still don't understand what's going on, I mean who was that old geyser anyway?

**George:** Oh do shut up fathead; why are you always the last to....

**Nick:** Leave him alone George you're as baffled as we are.

**George:** No I'm not!

**Roger:** Yes you are! Explain it if you're so clever.

**George:** Shan't!

**Roger:** That's 'cos you don't know!

**Jackie:** Please you two, Gran's upset enough as it is.

**Nick:** Jackie's right; now pack it in. I expect David knows. *(they all turn to DAVID expectantly)*

**David:** *(as if in a daze)* Well as I understand it we've experienced some sort of time warp, a quirk in time and space; an imbalance suspending all known parallels; unquantifiable; unpresaged; idiosyncratic and....

**Roger:** Who are you calling an idiot?

**George:** For goodness sake, Roger! He doesn't understand any better than us!

**David:** *(shaken from his reverie)* Yes I do! All I'm trying to say is that we managed to step into another dimension of time and space.

**Nick:** That's all very well, but where did that Mehuja character come from?

**George:** Yeah! And why did he turn into that ... that thing?

**David:** He didn't turn into anything.

**Roger:** He turned into something.

**David:** He merely reverted to himself.

**George:** You mean to say the old faggot married that?

**Nick:** No, of course she didn't. It's just that when he came back he aged to make up the time.

**George:** What time?

**Roger:** Teatime I hope!

**Nick:** Shut up Roger.

**Jackie:** You mean that when he was in ...in the... the other place, he didn't age?

**David:** That's right Jackie.

**Jackie:** And so when he came back here he had to catch up.

**David:** Well done Jackie. We'll make a scientist of you yet.

**Roger:** Well why didn't we turn into monsters then?

**Nick:** 'Cos we weren't there long enough!

**George:** Oh I see!

**Roger:** Bet you don't, you're just saying that!

**George:** No I'm not.

**Roger:** Yes you are. (*GRAN enters and listens for a while unnoticed*) I'm going to knock your block off!

**George:** Yeah?

**Roger:** Yeah!

**George:** You and who's army?

**Gran:** Children, children; that's enough. (*she sits at the table*) Gather round. (*they do*) Now listen. We've all been through an awful lot together it would be a shame to fall out now.

**All:** Sorry Gran. We didn't mean it etc....

**Gran:** I don't really understand what happened I don't suppose anyone does really.

**Roger:** 'Cept Einstein of course (*referring to DAVID*)

**Jackie:** (*softly and sincerely*) Sssh Roger.

(*The scene may end here. GRAN'S final speech is optional*)

**Gran:** All I know is that in the short time I have known you I've grown to love you very dearly and to think of you as my own. God knows when this dreadful war will be over; but end it will, whether it be sooner or later than the world expects. When that time comes you'll all be reunited with your parents and life will slowly come back to normal. Until then we have to grin and bear it, make the most of it and enjoy each new day, because it is a new day, and we must be glad that we have been spared to live it. (*During this speech the CHILDREN have moved around GRAN and by the end her arms encircle them*)

## **FINALE (FULL COMPANY)**

*Ah.....*

*We are Mehuja's people.*

*We are Mehuja's people.*

*Please do not be afraid, we will not harm you*

*Mehuja has welcomed you, come with us.*

*There must be many games, we can play with you,*

*Mehuja has welcomed you, come with us.*

*Ah.....*

*Little towns with their market stalls*

*No more bombs and siren calls*

*We are here for our safety*

*Free to play all the day.*

*Think of all the games we'll play*

*With our friends on our holiday.*

*Little towns with their market stalls*

*No more bombs and siren calls*

*We are here for our safety*

*Free to play all the day.*

*We must live our lives on our own*

*Times are changing now he has gone.*

*Our Mehuja,*

*MEHUJA.*

*THE END*