

THE WISHING BOX

A Music-Theatre Piece

by

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

Music & lyrics

by

Ward Baker

SchoolPlay Productions Ltd

15 Inglis Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3HU

THE WISHING BOX

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CAST

The original cast for 'The Wishing Box' were predominantly female. Although designated to girls, most of the characters could be boys.

The Wishing Lady - A mysterious figure who appears throughout the piece.

Faith - A 16 year old, whose party it is.

Emily - Faith's 10/11 year old sister.

These three parts, although prominent, are not significantly larger than many other parts. The remainder of the cast are either friends of Faith at her party, or characters involved in a 'Wish'. Many of the parts can be doubled up.

Capital letters denote characters in more than one scene. Even these could be interchangeable.

Becky

LYDIA

Rachel

NICKY

ROSIE

Teacher

JANE

LIZZIE

OLIVIA

JOHN

Rocking Horse

2 x BARBIE DOLLS

Big Bear

ANNA

LISA

HELEN

Vicky

Lucy

Debbie

Katie

Mandy

SOPHIE

PETER

JUSTIN

RAG DOLL

Kite

Oracle (Ballerina Music-Box)

Jessica

Matthew

7 unnamed Girls*

*Where GIRL 1, 2, etc. is stipulated, these can either be the same all the way through, or can be completely different throughout the piece.

CAST BREAKDOWN

The WISHING LADY appears throughout.

- MUSIC 1:** *FAITH, Company*
- SCENE 1:** **Becky, LYDIA, Rachel, NICKY, LADY, FAITH**
- SCENE 2:** **ROSIE, Girl 1, Teacher, JANE, EMILY, FAITH, LIZZIE, OLIVIA, LADY**
- MUSIC 2:** *LADY, (ROSIE)*
- SCENE 3:** **FAITH, EMILY, HELEN, Lucy, Katie, Debbie, Girls 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, Mandy, Vicky, LADY**
- SCENE 4:** **EMILY, FAITH, RAG DOLL, Big Bear, Rocking Horse, 2 x BARBIES, Kite, Oracle (could be FAITH/ballerina), PETER, SOPHIE**
- MUSIC 3:** *Kite and toys (EMILY if desired)*
- SCENE 5:** **Girls 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7**
- SCENE 6:** **Jessica, PETER, SOPHIE, ANNA, Matthew, HELEN, JANE, LISA**
- MUSIC 4:** *HELEN, Dancers*
- MUSIC 5:** *Company, 2 soloists*
- SCENE 7:** **OLIVIA, JUSTIN, LIZZIE, JOHN, Girls 1, 2, 3, 4**
- MUSIC 6:** *OLIVIA, JUSTIN, LIZZIE, JOHN, Dancers*
- SCENE 8:** **LISA, EMILY, BARBIES, LYDIA, Girls 1, 2**
- MUSIC 7:** *Solo, Backing vocals, LYDIA, LISA, 2 Dancers*
- SCENE 9:** **EMILY, ROSIE, NICKY, ANNA, LADY, Girls 1, 2**
- MUSIC 8:** *LADY, Company*

Capital letters denote characters in more than one scene. Even these could be interchangeable.

PRODUCTION NOTES

The action at the beginning of each scene takes place in the kitchen at Faith's home, where she is having a party. We achieved this with lighting creating a shape on the floor, the Wishing Box being the focal point which never moves. The confines created the crowded effect when too many people were in the kitchen. Each 'Wishing' scene is then created again through lighting. The lights flashed and an eerie MUSIC EFFECT created the changeover between the real world and the imagined. Virtually no props were used. Surfaces, the fridge, cupboards, drinks and the sink were all mimed in the kitchen, as were the sinks and mirrors in the disco toilet. Apart from the Wishing Box (a black 18" - 2ft cube), and a seat for the LADY, the only furniture used were a desk and a gym bench for the TRAINING number.

Costuming is not necessary. Even the TOY scene works better if the toys are not costumed, but assume characteristics of their toys, as some of them are seen later in their human form.

The lighting design is most important. It can be as simple or complicated as possible, but there is enormous scope for imaginative effects.

THE WISHING BOX

by David Wenden, Andy Jeffers & Ward Baker

Music and lyrics by Ward Baker

MUSIC No. 1 - KITSCH 'N' SYNC

The Company need to be split into groups at various times. During the 'Tick-Tock' of the music at the beginning, various wishes can be shouted out; e.g.:

I wish I was older
I wish I had more money
I wish I had a big brother
I wish I could dance
I wish I could live forever
I wish I was eighteen
I wish we were all equal
I wish I could have a wish

Group 1: *We've been working all week long
Need a break, must have some fun.
All the same from day to day,
Wish we had some time to play.*

(Once started, each section carries on until all groups are singing at once).

Group 2: *Mum and Dad's away, let's have a party!*

Group 3: *What shall I wear this time?*

Group 4: *Wonder if she'll be there, I just can't stand her!*

Group 5: *Got to get a boy, got to get a new boyfriend!*

(After the next three lines, a different set of groups is required).

All: *# It's a party, we're going to have some fun.
No rules, no cares, best thing we've ever done!
Must get ready, hundreds of things to do.*

Group B: *I'll get some crisps, I'll get some cheese,
Wish we'd done this before!*

Group A: *Invitations, anyone young will do.*
Group B: *I'll get some tapes, and some C.Ds.
Wish we'd done this before!*

Group A: *Must do my hair, it's such a mess!*
Group B: *I can't decide; a skirt or dress?*
Group A: *I think that's it! Well, more or less.*
Group B: *Must take a pen for his address.*

(These lines are repeated while another two groups join in).

Group C: *Keeping busy, not much time,
There's things to Hoover, things to shine.*

Group D: *I'll practise all my chat-up lines,
I'll telephone some friends of mine!*

Group C: *The time is getting nearer now,
Begin to feel the heat.*

Group D: *Put on some music, feel the beat,
And watch my dancing feet! **

All: *(Sigh!)*
Slow down the mood and the lights go down low.
Hold someone close, here we go!
Glide round the room in a dream and a whirl.
Stop! And the room starts to swirl.

(Split again into two groups).

Group A: *I don't feel well, not at all well.*

Group B: *Drink-hic!-ing, eat-hic!-ing, smok-hic!-ing, danc-hic!-ing,*

Group A: *Must find a chair, must get some air, what's wrong with you?*

Group B: *Churn-ing-urgh!, reach-ing-urgh!, sweat-ing-urgh!, slurr-ing -
urgh!*

Faith: *It's my party and I'll cry if I want to!*

*REPEAT from # down to **

All: *We wished we could have a party,
Had the time of our life!
Ain't we had fun?*

(The Company disperse chattering about the party, FAITH organising everybody).

Faith: O.K. you lot, let's get this party moving. Get some chairs from the hall. Get the punch. Quick! Everyone will be here in a minute. *(As she leaves)* Becky, bring out some Twiglets, will you? They're in the kitchen on the box next to the fridge.

(The stage is transformed into the kitchen. BECKY is left alone).

SCENE 1

Becky: Twiglets! I don't even like Twiglets! Where are they? *(She moves to and sits on the box).* I shouldn't even be here. I SHOULD be at home doing my homework. I wish I'd done it!

(MUSIC EFFECT as lights change to reveal the WISHING LADY. This is effectively a scene change as we are now in the land of wishes where anything can happen. The scene is in school. LYDIA enters).

Lydia: Hi ya! Have you done your course work?

Becky: Uh, sort of.

Lydia: You have DONE it haven't you, Becky?

Becky: Oh, shove off!

Lydia: I don't believe you haven't done it. When are you going to do it?

Becky: I'll do it tonight, O.K?

Lydia: You haven't got time tonight. It's due in tomorrow.

Becky: Look I will do it. It's not your problem. Don't worry about it.

Lydia: You're a bit thick really aren't you? You don't realise how important it is.

Becky: Important?

Lydia: Well they go towards your exams, and exams go towards A levels, A levels go towards college, college goes towards a job.

Becky: What job?

Lydia: You're not going to get a job then? Money's just going to grow on trees.

Becky: Oh, what do you care?

Lydia: Maybe it runs in the family. What's your mum again? Oh, yes! A lavatory attendant. Working from the bottom up, eh?

Becky: Don't talk about my mother like that!

(RACHEL enters)

Lydia: Oh, hi Rachel. Have you done your course work yet?

Rachel: Yeah.

Becky: Oh, God, what IS this? Conversation of the day or something?

Lydia: At least we've got our priorities right. Rachel, can I see yours?

Rachel: Yeah. *(They swap folders)*. You haven't done 4 and 5.

Lydia: Oh God I must have turned two pages at once.

Becky: Oh YOU haven't done it now have you? Oh, dear.

Lydia: I'll do it tonight.

Becky: Well can I have a look?

Lydia: You've got to be joking. You're only going to copy it.

(NICKY enters)

Becky: Hi Nicky!

Nicky: Hi! How are you?

Becky: Fine. Did you have a good time last night?

Nicky: Oh, it was great!

Becky: It was brilliant. Are you going tonight? It's going to be THE best party.

Nicky: The boys! The booze!

Becky: Yeah, the boys! Where were you on Monday, anyway?

Nicky: Course work.

Lydia: Oh let's see.

Becky: You were doing your bloody course work. Well I'm not staying around this bunch of boffins.

(She leaves).

Nicky: Well my mum made me! What's wrong with her?

Lydia: Missed another deadline.

Rachel: Oh God, it's maths. We're going to be late.

(They all leave).

Rachel: You going to the concert tomorrow

(LYDIA has left her folder on the box. BECKY re-enters and notices the folder and reads the cover).

Becky: Lydia Wilson. Looks like I'll get to do it after all.

(LYDIA re-enters. BECKY sits on the folder).

Lydia: *(Off)* Yeah, I won't be a minute. *(On)* Becky, have you seen my course work?

Becky: No.

Lydia: But you must have. I left it here.

Becky: Oh so now I've stolen it, have I?

Lydia: No, but I had Julia's and I thought I left mine here. I've got to find it.

Becky: Then Julia's probably got yours.

Lydia: She hasn't. We looked. Oh, I've lost my course work!

(She runs off distraught. BECKY carries on looking through the folder. She cannot see the WISHING LADY but can hear her).

Lady: Should you be doing that?

Becky: Why not? I found it. Who are you, anyway?

Lady: The Lady. Are you comfy?

Becky: Yes thank you. Why do you ask?

Lady: It's just that you're sitting on my box.

Becky: Oh, I'm SORRY. *(Rising)*

Lady: No, no, no. Don't get up. Why are you so far behind with your work?

Becky: I'm not!

Lady: Well why are you looking at Lydia's work?

Becky: Because I haven't had time.

Lady: Haven't HAD time or MADE time?

Becky: What's the difference?

Lady: The difference is that nobody MAKES you go out.

Becky: Yes, but it's AWFUL at home.

Lady: Why is it awful?

Becky: It just is. My brother's always pestering me, my parents are always yelling at me, and then

Lady: Then what? Go on.

Becky: They're splitting up.

Lady: So not working is going to help them?

Becky: No.

Lady: Running away from your problems doesn't solve them. Your family need your support.

Becky: What? Even my brother?

Lady: Especially him. Imagine how he is feeling about all this. And your parents need to know you're all right.

Becky: So you mean by not working I'm adding to their problems.

Lady: You're certainly not helping. You could start to help right now.

Becky: What do you mean?

Lady: Give Lydia her folder back. You're not going to solve everything but you have to take responsibility for yourself. You can't blame your parents and your brother for your mistakes.

(MUSIC EFFECT. She leaves. LYDIA returns.)

Lydia: Becky, come on, it's Maths.

Becky: Oh, Lydia, I found your folder.

Lydia: You did? Where was it? *(She hands it to her).*

Becky: Under the bench.

Lydia: Brilliant! Thanks! Come on

(She leaves. Cross-fade back to the kitchen. MUSIC EFFECT. FAITH enters).

Faith: Come on Becky, where are the Twiglets?

Becky: Oh, sorry. Look, I'd better go. I ought to finish my course work. Sorry.

Faith: No, that's O.K. I'll see you tomorrow.

(BECKY leaves. Conga of people pass through the kitchen.)

SCENE 2

(3 girls enter carrying glasses. One is ROSIE who doesn't have a drink.)

Girl 1: Hold these will you, Rosie? *(She hands ROSIE the two glasses)* We're just going for a cigarette. *(They leave).*

Rosie: *(Shouting after them)* I didn't even WANT one! Didn't want these either! *(She puts the glasses down and sits on the box).* EVERY time! Alone in the kitchen. God I wish I had friends!

(MUSIC EFFECT. A number of girls, including FAITH and EMILY, are

discovered in formation doing a dance class).

Teacher: Right, we'll go from the top of that last step. Come on Rosie, join the class. *(She does so).* Five, Six, Seven, Eight

(They do a simple routine with no music).

Teacher: Point your toes, Jane! Straight backs! All right, all right! That's enough. I'll see you tomorrow for rehearsal. And for God's sake bring your feet! *(She leaves).*

Jane: It wasn't THAT bad. *(They start to change their shoes).*

Emily: *(who has been sitting, watching impatiently)* Can we go home now?

Faith: Will you sit down? I'm nearly ready.

(The girls have split into two groups and the scene now alternates conversations between the two. ROSIE is sitting alone back on the box, getting changed very slowly).

Lizzie: You know my boyfriend John?

Rosie: No!

Lizzie: Well, we were supposed to go out last night, and he didn't even turn up! He rang up

Rosie: Look, I said I didn't know him!

Jane: Faith, could you show me that last step again?

Faith: Sure. I'll be over in a moment.

Lizzie: *(Sniffing herself)* God, I really smell! I didn't realise I'd sweated so much. I must remember to have a shower in the morning.

Olivia: I suppose we'll have to put up with it until then.

Lizzie: Well I won't be going out tonight now that your brother stood me up. You can tell him from me I don't want to see his slimy, ugly face again and I hate him! But I'll be home tonight if he wants to ring me.

Olivia: Oh, having problems with John are you?

Lizzie: Oh I don't know. I really like him but he doesn't take much notice of me. It's as though I'm only there to be seen with him. He's so clever isn't he? He must be the hunkiest boy around. He's never got any money though. What does he spend it all on?

Olivia: God, you live in a dream world don't you? Now, take my Justin. He's a trainee accountant. His Daddy got him the job. Loads of money, no brain Like my new shoes? Justin paid of course. Must have cost loads.

Faith: *(Finishing routine)* That's O.K. Don't worry about it. You'll be fine. Look,

Mum and Dad are away next weekend. I'm having a party. Want to come?

Jane: Oh yeah!

Lizzie: (*Butting in*) Party? What's this about a party?

Faith: (*Sighing*) Next week. My house.

Lizzie: Can John come?

Faith: If he must.

Jane: I'd love Mum and Dad to go away so I could have a party.

Olivia: You! You couldn't organise a gossip in a

Faith: (*Interrupting*) Look, you don't have to come to the party you know.

Emily: (*Hearing the word for the first time*) Party? What party? When?

Faith: You keep quiet. I don't want Mum and Dad to know about it.

Emily: You'll have to give me something if you want me to keep quiet.

Faith: I'll give you something. (*Slaps her round the head*) Come on, let's go and have a coffee.

Olivia: Oh, I'll have a cappuccino.

Lizzie: Oh good. I can tell you all about John. You wouldn't believe what he did.

Faith: I can't wait!

(*They all leave except ROSIE. FAITH returns.*)

Faith: Rosie Rosie, are you coming for coffee?

Rosie: No. I've got things to do.

Faith: But you're coming to my party aren't you?

Rosie: Uh maybe.

Faith: Suit yourself. (*She leaves*).

Rosie: (*Calling after her*) Faith, Faith Oh no (*She throws her shoes on the ground and sinks her head in her hands. The LADY appears. ROSIE cannot see her, but can hear her. The LADY walks over to ROSIE.*)

Lady: Don't do that.

Rosie: Why not? They're mine.

Lady: It's no wonder you don't have any friends with that attitude.

Rosie: I've got friends.

Lady: Where are they then?

Rosie: They've gone for a coffee.

Lady: Why didn't you go with them?

Rosie: I don't have time.

Lady: You always have time for your friends.

Rosie: No I don't. I have to do my homework. Since Mum died, I have to pick up Maria from school, do the laundry, make the dinner for Dad I really like Faith and I'd like to be friends with her, but I don't know how.

MUSIC No. 2 - WISHING

(LADY's solo. She sings it around ROSIE, who hears every word).

VERSE: *When I was young and lonely, I wished I had a friend,
I knew I wanted someone to love me to the end.
When somebody came along I wouldn't let them go.
They were mine and mine alone, then I realised*

*They were another person with wishes of their own.
If we could wish together, what wonders might we own?*

CHORUS: *And it is wonderful, wonderful, a wish that's shared is
Wonderful, wonderful, and if you care
Then grant that wish of theirs.
Then the wish that you wished may soon come true.*

VERSE: *It's no good feeling sorry, you have to give not take.
Apart from you there's no-one to take control of fate.
I was selfish all alone, taking all I could.
Give a little, then you'll find: some things turn out good.*

*You are your own real person, responsible to you
If you can wish for others, then they can wish for you.*

CHORUS: *And it is wonderful, wonderful, a wish that's shared is
Wonderful, wonderful, and if you care
Then grant that wish of theirs.
Then the wish that you wished may soon come true*

*(They both leave. MUSIC EFFECT. The kitchen, back at the party. FAITH is
 busying herself).*

Faith: Glasses. Plates.

(ROSIE enters)

Faith: Oh hi, Rosie.

Rosie: Hi!

Faith: Why aren't you in the party?

Rosie: Oh I'm just going to change my shoes.

Faith: O.K. Could you do me a favour?

Rosie: Yes.

Faith: Could you take these through on your way back?

Rosie: Yeah - Oh, Faith

Faith: Yes.

Rosie: Thanks for inviting me.

Faith: No problem.

(The Conga passes through the kitchen again. Cries of "Come on, Rosie" etc. ROSIE joins on the end of the line and exits).

SCENE 3

Faith: It's good to see her here. If only Mum and Dad would give me more freedom. Take this party: nothing's going wrong, nothing WILL go wrong, nothing CAN go wrong. If only they'd give me more independence. I wish I was free.

(MUSIC EFFECT. FAITH is sitting on the box. She slowly starts to giggle and groan as if quite drunk, oblivious to what is going on around her. EMILY enters).

Emily: One bottle of brandy Enjoying the party big sister? *(FAITH is still giggling and groaning)* Like the punc It'll be even better in a minute.

(She leaves. HELEN enters).

Helen: You O.K.? Obviously. *(She busies herself finding some orange juice from the fridge).* Get out of the way! Orange juice?

Faith: Fridge! *(Pointing and falling over).*

Helen: Come on, sit up here.

(FAITH is back on the box. VICKY enters slowly and gets into the fridge. She is watched by HELEN and FAITH. HELEN deals with her orange juice. LUCY enters.)

Lucy: Where's the ice?

Helen & Faith: Fridge. (*LUCY flings the fridge door open and it hits FAITH in the face*).

Faith: Ow!

Lucy: Oh, sorry. (*DEBBIE and KATIE enter. They are smoking and gossipping. FAITH observes them and starts giggling again*).

Katie: Who are you?

Faith: It's my party.

Debbie: Oh lovely party, darling.

Katie: Yes, one of the best. (*She pointedly throws her cigarette on the floor and deliberately stubs it out with her foot*). ...Anyway, as I was saying... (*they carry on gossipping. They ignore FAITH*).

Faith: Oh, ...oh.....you've ruined the floor.....must try to clean it up... (*scrabbling around on the floor. Some more girls enter quickly*).

Girl 1: You've ruined my dress! I only bought it today.

Girl 2: I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to... It was only one glass of punch.. Most of it went on the carpet. (*FAITH wails loudly. She must still be the focus on stage*).

Girl 1: What am I going to do? What will mum say? She'll know I've been drinking!

Girl 3: Cold water. That's the best bet. Come on, over to the sink. (*She throws handfuls of water over the dress. Squeals ensue; almost a water fight. Before this has a chance to die down more girls enter, running*).

Girl 4: NOSEBLEED! Gang way! Nosebleed coming through!

Girl 5: Careful, you nearly dripped on me!

Girl 6: Out of the way, clear the sink! (*The previous group are bundled across the kitchen. FAITH is looking on, dumbfounded*).

Girl 4: At least you didn't get it on your dress.

Girl 5: Thank goodness most of it went on the sofa. (*FAITH lets out another enormous wail. There is a big huddle as the girls try to help the nosebleeder. GIRL 7 enters*).

Girl 7: Stop! (*Everybody freezes in a pose, preferably close to one another*). Don't move! Nobody move! I've lost my contact lens! (*She looks around*). Found it! (*She bends down to pick it up. EMILY enters*).

Emily: More booze, more booze! (*She bumps into GIRL 7 who starts a chain reaction round the other party guests who are still in their frozen pose. Various shrieks and yelps accompany the chain reaction. MANDY enters*).

Mandy: Where's Vicky? Anybody seen Vicky?

Faith: Fridge!

Girl 6: Don't be so stupid. You're drunk!

Mandy: No, if it's Vicky she'll be in the fridge. (*MANDY goes to fetch VICKY from*

the fridge. The ensemble leave the stage busily except FAITH, MANDY, VICKY, DEBBIE and KATIE. VICKY walks past FAITH).

Vicky: *(Freezing, shivering and walking as if frozen) G.g.great p.party Faith. (She is led off by MANDY).*

Mandy: Come on, you're thawing all over the floor. *(DEBBIE and KATIE look disdainfully at FAITH, stub their cigarettes out on the floor again, in unison).*

Katie: Anyway... *(They carry on gossiping and turn and leave. FAITH slowly stands up and wails. She makes her way back to the box).*

Faith: Oh my God! *(The LADY appears.)*

Lady: How's the party?

Faith: What a disaster! Cigarette butts all over the kitchen floor. Blood all over the sofa. Punch all over Mum's new Persian rug. People throwing up everywhere. And to top it all we had someone sitting in the fridge for half the night!....

Lady: I hope she wasn't cold.

Faith: No, she had a jumper on. God, I must be drunk! I'm talking to myself.

Lady: No you're not.

Faith: Yes I am.

Lady: Yes you are. So this is freedom?

Faith: What do you mean?

Lady: Well, this is what you wanted.

Faith: What is?

Lady: Freedom to do what you like, when you like, where you like and how you like.

Faith: Yes, but look at the place. They've wrecked it.

Lady: Don't THEY have a right to be free?

Faith: They don't have a right to smash my place up!

Lady: Who's place?

Faith: All right, Mum and Dad's.

Lady: Are Mum and Dad free?

Faith: Of course they are.

Lady: No. They've got you and your sister to look after...

Faith: Yes, but that's part of their responsibility: their choice.

Lady: Aha!

Faith: What do you mean: "Aha!"?

Lady: You've just answered your own question.

Faith: *(Realising. The LADY has vanished. MUSIC EFFECT. The scene goes back to the kitchen at the party. FAITH looks around, bewildered. She checks in the fridge, still not believing what has happened. VICKY enters).*

Vicky: Ah, Faith, do you have a dustpan and brush?

Faith: What? Oh no, what happened?

Vicky: Calm down. Don't worry. It's only a broken glass.

Faith: What... what about the blood on the sofa?...Wine on the carpet?...

Vicky: What are you talking about?

Faith: Ah,...er,...nothing. You go back to the party. I'll take care of it.

Vicky: Oh, O.K. (*VICKY leaves. FAITH collects the dustpan and brush thoughtfully. The Conga passes through once more. EMILY enters.*)

SCENE 4

Emily: This is a boring party.

Faith: Are you moaning again?

Emily: No, I 'm not moaning, but there's nothing to do. The music's awful....

Faith: Well go up to your room and play.

Emily: No! I want to stay here.

Faith: Stay in here, then, and I'll be back in a minute. (*FAITH leaves. EMILY sits on the box.*)

Emily: It's not fair! I'm not allowed to do anything. SHE's allowed to do EVERYTHING. No-one takes any notice of me. I want to do something different. Something they'll see. Oh, I wish I could fly! (*MUSIC EFFECT. She is transported to her bedroom. Scattered around the room are two Barbie dolls, a Rocking Horse, a tatty, cuddly Teddy Bear, a Rag Doll, a Kite and a Ballerina as if in a musical-box.*)

Emily: Oh, Big Bear, I wish I could fly.....(*The toys come to life and mime talking behind her back. They stop when she turns to look at them.*) What's going on?.... Big Bear?Something strange is happening.... Oh no, someone's been playing with my Barbies again! Oh it's her. She's left her stupid...

Rag Doll: Rag doll.

Emily: Yes, rag doll... (*double take, puzzled*). I really hate her sometimes. And SHE (*Mother*) thinks I need looking after all the time. I really hate her too.

Rocking Horse: Who?

Emily: Mum.

RH: Why?

Emily: Because she won't... (*realising*) Who said that? (*BIG BEAR points to the ROCKING HORSE*). Oh thanks Big Bear. (*She jumps, realising*).

Big Bear: Your welcome.

RH: We can all talk you know.

Emily: You can?

RH: Yes.

Emily: What? Even Kite? (*KITE sways in acknowledgement*). But why aren't my Barbies talking?

RH: Because you don't bother to brush their hair anymore. They're sulking.

Emily: Oh! *(She rushes and brushes their hair. The BARBIES always talk together).*

Barbies: Thank you. *(They walk together across the stage).*

Emily: Look. This is all very well, but it doesn't help me. I want to fly!

RH: You'll have to talk to our leader. Our Oracle.

Emily: I know what an oracle is; it's one of those Welsh boats isn't it?

RH: No. Barbies, go and wind up the Oracle.

Barbies: *(To each other).* It's your turn. No it's not. You go and do it. She's too heavy. I'll ruin my fingernails.

BB: BOTH of you go before I pull your legs off.

Rag Doll: MY legs don't come off.

All: Shut up!

Barbies: Really! I have to do EVerything around here! *(They position the ORACLE. If FAITH is a good dancer, it can be her).*

RH: Wind her up! Wind her up! *(ORACLE starts to dance to music-box music).*

BB: Oh, she's so beautiful.

Rag Doll: I wish I could do that. Can I do that?

All: Shut up!

RH: If I weren't stuck here, rocking, I'd do that.

Barbies: She's nothing special. I don't know what all the fuss is about.

Kite: When Emily used to take me outside, I would dance like that, through the wind and the...

BB: Oh be quiet, Kite. Emily's growing up, she doesn't want to play with all her old toys.

Barbies: It's all right for you. She'll always love you.

RH: Just like her mother did.

Oracle: And when Emily has her own little girl, she'll pass Big Bear on to her.

RH: Yeah, and the rest of us'll get stuffed up into The Attic.

All: Oh no, not The Attic! *(Etc.)*

Barbies: She'd never put me in The Attic. She wanted a Barbie so much, she was given two of us. I'm the special one, no, I am!

Emily: Look, you're ALL special. I'd never put ANY of you up in The Attic. I'm sorry I haven't played with you all so much lately, but...

Oracle: Listen, Emily, we know something is bothering you.

All: Yes we do, we do.

BB: What do we know?

Oracle: That she wants to fly.

Emily: Yes, how did you know?

Oracle: Oh, I know everything.

Rag Doll: TALK to her.

Emily: Don't YOU start! You're not even mine!

Rag Doll: Thank goodness! (*She flops backwards*).

Oracle: Why don't you ask Kite to help you?

Emily: That hasn't flown in ages! Why ask her?

Kite: Why me? Try me! Fly me! (*She flies across the stage*). We'll soar through the sky...

RH: Will you shut up? Can you help her or not?

Kite: Yes I can. Flying is the only way to travel.

RH: Personally, I think four LEGS are better.

Barbie: No, TWO. Then there IS my four-wheel drive and my jet-ski...

Rag Doll: Is that a Russian doll, Jetski?

All: Shut up! (*She flops back down*).

Kite: Rocking Horses are SO old fashioned.

Emily: Hey, wait a minute. That's my best Rocking Horse you're talking about!

BB: I think you're stupid!

Rag Doll: (*Agreeing*) Stupid!

All: Shut up!

BB: I've been here thirty years and I'VE never flown.

Kite: You can, you know!

MUSIC No. 3 - FLYING SO HIGH (KITE and TOYS [and EMILY if desired])

Kite: *You wish you could learn how to fly,
Be as free as a bird in the sky.
You wish you could learn how to fly,
So you'll go when the wind breathes a sigh.*

*But a Kite has a line to help it to climb,
And you'll go just as far as it's long.
It'll keep you in line; keep a hold, you'll be fine,
If it breaks with the wind you'll be gone.*

CHORUS

KITE & TOYS: *You're already flying so high,
The string keeps you safe, brings you home.
And never be frightened to cry:
"Please bring me back home, I'm not ready to fly".*

VERSE *We've learned how to fly in the sky,*

*With the breeze we are soaring up high.
We've learned how to fly in the sky,
We're floating and no-one knows why.*

*And the string tied around keeps our feet on the ground,
And there's only the sound of our song.
There's nothing to fear just as long as we're near
To each other, we'll never go wrong.*

CHORUS *You're already flying so high,
The string keeps you safe, brings you home.
And never be frightened to cry:
"Please bring me back home, I'm not ready to fly".*

(MUSIC EFFECT. We are back in the kitchen at the party. EMILY is looking downcast. FAITH enters).

Faith: Don't worry Emily. You'll be able to have your own party one day. You're enjoying this one though, aren't you?

Emily: Yes, I suppose so. It's just that I never realised I needed the string or I'll float away. But I feel better now you've all explained it to me.

Faith: What ARE you going on about? You're a funny little thing aren't you? Come on, let's go and have a dance.

Emily: No, I'll look stupid.

Faith: Of course you won't! Just imagine you're my rag doll and flop about! *(They leave).*

Emily: But she IS stupid! And everybody keeps telling her to shut up!

Faith: Have you been on the punch?

(SOPHIE enters with some glasses and starts to wash up. PETER lingers behind her, hesitantly, wanting to ask her to dance).

Peter: I..er...I just wanted to....

Sophie: Help me with the glasses?

Peter: Yes, that's right! *(They finish off and return to the party).*

SCENE 5

(GIRL 1 enters, sits crossed legged on the box, assumes a lotus position and begins

to hum a continuous, single note. GIRLS 2 & 3 enter. GIRL 3 is very slow and ponderous).

Girl 2: Oh, God, I'm hot. I really need a drink.

Girl 3: Here. *(She hands her a glass of water).*

Girl 2: Oh thanks. It's good we don't have to think about school and exams..

Girl 3: And grades...

Girl 2: What grades do you need? What do you want to do?

Girl 3: I want to be a gardener.

Girl 2: How interesting.

Girl 3: I love the flowers and the trees and planning where to plant things and watching them grow....

Girl 2: I want to be a vet. So I have to get really good grades. I love my pets at home.

Girl 3: Yes.

Girl 2: *(Noticing the hum of GIRL 1 which has been going on all the time).* Who is she? *(To GIRL 1)* Excuse me, but what are you doing?

Girl 1: I'm meditating. I want to live in harmony with Nature. So I try to rid myself of negative vibes, and just mellow into a state of happiness.

Girl 2: Right.

Girl 1: I want to be a human being. *(GIRL 4 enters singing the end of a loud, lively, show song, finishing in a pose).*

Girl 4: So, what are you all hiding in the kitchen for? The party's out there.

Girl 3: We just came here to cool down. We're talking about our future. What do you want to be?

Girl 4: Hey! I'm gonna be - a star! *(She adopts another pose).*

Girl 2: Oh, are you?

Girl 4: Yeah, in all the musicals.

Girl 2: Can I have your autograph? Just in case?

Girl 4: Sure!

Girl 2: Please! *(She turns away in derision. Enter GIRLS 5 & 6 talking).*

Girl 5: Do you think Justin is a nice name? I think I prefer Seymour. *(GIRL 4 bursts forward, singing from 'Little Shop of Horrors').*

Girl 4: *Suddenly Seymour is standing beside me. (Everyone looks at her and she backs off apologetically).*

Girl 6: *(To GIRL 5)* What is it with you and names? You're obsessed!

Girl 5: Oh I'm just planning my babies' names.

Girl 6: You're not...

Girl 5: No, no. But I'm going to have lots of kids, so I'm drawing up a list so that I have a good choice when the time comes.

Girl 1: We are all parents to all the children on the earth. (*They all look at her, turn, and carry on the conversation*).

Girl 5: Yes, I want to be a mum. I'm going to have lots of kids, a house, a dog, a volvo...

Girl 6: I'm going to be a hairdresser. (*To GIRL 3*) Oh, you've got gorgeous hair! Can I cut it?

Girl 3: No, I don't think so.

Girl 6: But it would look great with a colour. Can I dye it red?

Girl 3: No, I don't want to be a redhead.

Girl 6: What about purple? Purple's very popular this year.

Girl 3: No.....no.....no.....

(*Enter GIRL 7. She is manic, eccentric, like a mad professor. She always shouts*).

Girl 7: Oh! It's very crowded in here. The music is appalling! Electronic catastrophe! What are you all discussing? Anything interesting?

Girl 2: Our future. What do you want to do?

Girl 7: Me? I'm going to enter another dimension.

Girl 4: Why?

Girl 7: Why? Because this planet's been spinning round for far too long and it's time it gave up!

Girl 5: What are you talking about?

Girl 7: Judgement Day is near!

Girl 1: Embrace to-day and ensure the happiness of all our tomorrows.

Girl 7: Claptrap! It is high time this world was destroyed. But it will not bother me as I will be in another dimension!

Girl 2: Yes... Wouldn't it be good, though, if we could see into the future. To see if the planet survives?

Girl 3: Yes... I wish we could. (*MUSIC EFFECT. During the following lines, the LADY conducts each character to the front in turn, to deliver their experiences. As they finish, each character freezes in a suitable pose*).

Girl 4: My auditions didn't go very well. I soon realised that I couldn't sing, dance, or act! It was a difficult time for me. Then I became a human being. We are all parents to all the children on the earth. Peace.

Girl 6: I was a hairdresser for a while, and was doing all right. Then one day, mid-shampoo, I suddenly stopped. It was amazing - everything became clear. I saw myself in the mirror standing over the customer with my hands full of hair, and I knew - God loves me! So I became a nun.

Girl 3: I always wanted to become a gardener - so I became a gardener.

Girl 2: I tried very hard to become a vet. But I kept killing off my patients. So I decided I would be a star! You can see me now in the West End and on television. I can't imagine why I wanted to work with animals - those horrible

things!

Girl 1: *(She struggles forward, obviously heavily pregnant).* I met a boy in meditation class. We got married. Now I'm a house wife with five children and another one on the way. I've got a house, a dog, and a volvo.

Girl 5: When the exam results came out, I had straight As in everything. I became a professor at Oxford University. I'm successful, I'm respected, but I don't have time for a family.

Girl 7: I worked long and hard to enter another dimension. Just when I was about to enter, men in white coats arrived....

(MUSIC EFFECT. They wake as if having been in a trance).

Girl 3: So now we know what happens.

Girl 2: Do you think that was really it?

Girl 4: Can we change it?

Girl 5: Change the future?

Girl 3: If we know what's going to happen...

Girl 1: Or do we make it happen?

Girl 5: This is way too deep for me!

Girl 6: Let's have a dance and forget it.

Girl 4: *(To GIRL 2)* Can I have your autograph, though, just in case?

Girl 2: Sure! *(They all leave except GIRL 7).*

Girl 7: I think I just entered another dimension! *(She leaves).*

SCENE 6

(JESSICA, PETER, and SOPHIE enter. ANNA follows them).

Anna: Oh, Faith, have you seen Becky.

Jessica: Yes, she went ages ago. Said she had to do some course work. Nicky's here though.

Anna: Drinking lemonade I suppose? *(She laughs as she exits. MATTHEW enters).*

Matt: Oh, hi Jessica. I wondered if you were here.

Sophie: Did you have a nice holiday?

Jess: Yes. I got back yesterday.

Peter: Where did you go?

Jess: Corfu. It was great; it was so hot.

Sophie: Yes, we went to Majorca two weeks ago.

Jess: What? You had two weeks off school?

Sophie: Yes. Dad had a business trip out there, so he took us all.

Peter: I wish I could have gone with you. I haven't been on holiday since Christmas

when we went skiing. (*HELEN, JANE and LISA enter*).

Matt: We went to Disneyworld at Easter.

Jess: What? In Florida again?

Matt: No, Paris. We've only been to America once. (*To HELEN*) Are you going anywhere this year?

Helen: Oh, uh... I think we're going somewhere with the caravan.

Peter: Where? France?

Helen: No. I shouldn't think so. I've only been abroad once... when we went to Boulogne on a school trip.

Jess: Really? Only once? I couldn't stand it if I didn't get some sun.

Sophie: Yes, me too.

Peter: You get loads of sun skiing, you ought to try it some time.

Sophie: (*Embarrassed*) No... no... I was just saying....

Jane: The trouble is I always put on weight when I go abroad.

Jess: Me too. But this time I lost a few pounds before I went. Of course that meant Mum had to buy me some new clothes to go on holiday with.

Jane: Oh, can I have the things you don't want? You always wear such nice things.

Jess: God, no! Mum got rid of them. Can you imagine seeing someone walking around in YOUR dress?

Lisa: God, that's sad! Wearing other people's clothes?

Helen: (*Trying to join in, but feeling uncomfortable*) You'd never know what they'd done in them! (*They all laugh*).

Peter: (*Nervously*) Sophie, uh... um... would you like a drink.... or a dance... or... you don't have to... but I won't mind....

Sophie: Peter! Yes! (*They leave. Everyone else giggles*).

Matt: I didn't think he had it in him! He's been trying to ask her out for ages. Oh, by the way, I've ordered a taxi for half past eleven. Anybody want to share it? It's only a fiver. Helen? You're in the next road. I could walk you home.

Helen: No... no... it's all right.

Jane: (*Aside to HELEN*) Oh go on, Helen. You said you fancied him. Go on... go on...

Helen: (*To JANE*) No! I can't afford it! (*To MATT*) No, sorry. My Dad's picking me up. Maybe next time.

Matt: Oh, all right then. I need another drink. Find out how far Peter's got with Sophie. (*He leaves*).

Jane: God, you're stupid! You won't get that chance again.

Lisa: Come on, let's go and see what's happening. (*They leave*).

Jess: (*Who has been studying HELEN's dress*) Is that a NEW dress?

Helen: Yes. Dad bought it as a surprise.

Jess: It's just that it's... it's so similar to one I had.

Helen: Oh, really? You like it then?

Jess: Yes. It was one of my favourites.... It looks exactly the same! It looks really lovely on you.

Helen: Thanks.

Jess: You're lucky. I couldn't wear mine after Mum washed it with a pen in the pocket.... It really is so like the one I had.

Helen: But it can't be yours! If it was yours it would have a stain right h..... *(there is a pause while it sinks in that there is a stain).*

Jess: Look, it doesn't matter. I won't say anything..... *(As she leaves)* It really does look good on you.

Helen: *(She sits on the box, furious and upset).* Why didn't he tell me it was second hand? God I hate him! I hate this dress *(she tries to rip it)*, I hate this party, I hate my life!.... I wish I had more money!

(MUSIC EFFECT. Lights change to Nightmare scene. This is choreographed with HELEN the centre-piece on the box. The dancers can be clawing at her as though she had wealth, demanding hand-outs, and showing her that wealth isn't everything. It should end with HELEN in a pin-spot, completely desperate and having no control over her body).

MUSIC No. 4 - NIGHTMARE (Instrumental)

This would be a suitable point for an interval if required.

MUSIC No. 5 - F.U.N.T.I.M.E. (IT'S PARTY TIME) - (COMPANY)

All: *F.U.N.T.I.M.E. it's party time, party time.*

F.U.N.T.I.M.E. it's party time, party time.

Solo: *(Rap)*

Come down and shake a leg,

There's no Mother and no Father so

Nothing really matters.

Find a groove that's slick and smooth and Hop

All: *(Hip-hop-hip)*

Solo: *(Rap)*

Chill out and rave about,

Your wishin' for a kissin'

Ain't all that you'd be missin'

*Check it out, without a doubt you'll Hop
(Hip-hop-hip).*

All:

(At the end, someone shouts out "Let's Conga!" and they conga off the stage. They all leave except the person who played RAG DOLL in SCENE 4. We are in the kitchen again. She slumps next to the box. EMILY enters to get a drink. On exiting, she notices the girl slumped like RAG DOLL, shakes her head in disbelief and goes. GIRLS 1, 2, 3, & 4 enter gossipping. RAG DOLL girl leaves).

SCENE 7

Girl 1: Oh, God! I just saw a horrible sight! Kevin, you know, the weird one, just spilled a drink all down his front, so he pulled off his shirt to clean it. He's so skinny!

Girls 2, 3, 4: Oh don't! What an awful thought! What a sight! Urghh! *(etc.)*

Girl 2: Justin's worse. *(OLIVIA enters but stops when she hears JUSTIN is being talked about. She is not seen by the other girls).*

Girl 3: Justin?

Girl 4: The one with knotted string for arms and legs. *(They laugh).*

Girl 1: He's a stick.

Girl 3: I know the one.

Girl 2: He's such a drip.

Girl 1: Yeah, but he spoils Olivia something rotten.

Girl 3: He's got pots of money.

Girl 4: Did you see the earrings he gave her?

Girl 2: I'm sorry. Money does not compensate for that!

Girl 1: I wouldn't mind if my boyfriend bought me all the things Justin gives her.

Girl 4: No, I'm sorry. He's a weed.

Girl 2: He's a boring weed.

Girl 3: I wouldn't want him.

All: No way! *(LIZZIE enters in the same way that OLIVIA has).*

Girl 1: John, on the other hand, has a great body!

All: Yeah. He's gorgeous! Hunk or what!?! *(etc.)*

Girl 3: It's hardly surprising. He does all that sports training.

Girl 2: He's really cool!

Girl 4: John is definitely a looker.

Girl 3: He treats Lizzie badly, though.

Girl 4: Yeah. Do you know he took her to a burger bar for her birthday?

Girl 2: He didn't!

Girl 1: He doesn't spend any money on her.

Girl 3: He's so cheap.

Girl 2: What a nightmare! I wouldn't want either of them!

All: No! Nor me! No way! Never. (*etc. One of them notices LIZZIE and OLIVIA and nudges the others. They take one line and exit*). Anyway, I must go and dance..... Is that the time?..... I have to 'phone my Dad..... I need the loo. (*JOHN enters*).

John: Lizzie!

Lizzie: Hello.

John: (*He kisses her*). Coming to dance?

Lizzie: Not at this moment, no.

John: Oh. (*They freeze as JUSTIN enters*).

Justin: Sweetheart, kiss, kiss.

Olivia: Hello Justin.

Justin: Enjoying yourself, darling? Good party?

Olivia: It's OK I guess.

Justin: The music's a little loud for my taste, but everyone seems to be having a jolly time. (*They freeze*).

Lizzie: Tell me. Have you thought about dinner tomorrow, yet?

John: (*He can guess what is coming*). Valentine's Day?

Lizzie: Yes.

John: Of course I have.

Lizzie: Well?

John: Well... I... er... I thought we might... um.... maybe we could....

Lizzie: I'll tell you what we could do: we could go out to an expensive restaurant. You know, one with candles, gold carpets and curtains, crystal and silver, waiters fussing around us.... (*JOHN is looking forlornly at his empty wallet. They freeze*).

Justin: Livvy, darling, you know tomorrow's Valentine's Day?

Olivia: Yes.

Justin: Well I thought we could go out to a really, really nice restaurant - the new one down the road. (*They freeze*).

Lizzie: Somewhere really, really, pricey.

John: I hadn't quite thought that... and, it seemed to me, that on Valentine's Day we ought to be on our own... romantic... you know. (*LIZZIE is suspicious*). A restaurant will be full of other people, and I want you to myself. I think we should be alone. My Mother's a really good cook, and she would give us a fantastic meal, and we can have candles if you want them, and she'll leave us to eat by ourselves, and....

Lizzie: Oh no you don't! (*They freeze*).

Olivia: Not again! We always eat out. I'm bored with restaurants.

Justin: Oh, Livvy-pops. You sound cross with me. Don't be cross, I've got a surprise for you... at home.

Olivia: Oh?

Justin: A bottle of champagne, and some choccies.

Olivia: Just what I wanted. (*They freeze*).

Lizzie: I'm not eating at your house on Valentine's Day.

John: But it will be great. Mum can cook us a steak each and...

Lizzie: No! I want you to spoil me! (*They freeze*).

Justin: And look. (*He holds out a little box*). It's a ring.

Olivia: Diamonds.... again..... lovely. (*They freeze*).

John: I don't have the money!

Lizzie: Well GET the money!

John: How?

Lizzie: Earn it!

John: But I don't have a job.

Lizzie: Get one!

John: How can I? I need to train every day. (*They freeze*).

Olivia: How can I put this? It's just that, well... I feel a little... um... bored... with you. I mean, with what we do. We always do the same thing, and I want to... to... do something more exciting. Go sailing, or horse riding, or play a sport together....

Justin: I'm very fond of croquet.

Olivia: Yes, well, I was thinking of something a little more... um... demanding. Something to build up a bit of muscle, maybe. (*They freeze*).

Lizzie: You never give me anything John.

John: I thought you liked me the way I am. I didn't know money was so important to you.

Lizzie: It isn't, really. I just want you to show me some appreciation.

John: I do!

Lizzie: By treating me to some special meal, or giving me earrings, or a ring!

John: Look, I don't have the money. You take me as I am, or not at all! (*JOHN exits. LIZZIE freezes*).

Justin: It's a sweet thought, darling, but I can't really do those sort of things. I get a bit dizzy. But I tell you what, this weekend, let's go up to daddy's. We could have a... a croquet tournament! (*He is thrilled by this*).

Olivia: Great. Whatever.

Justin: I'll call him right now. Don't go away. kiss, kiss. Love you. (*JUSTIN exits. OLIVIA and LIZZIE move and sit on the box together*).

Lizzie: I wish John could be more like Justin.

Olivia: I wish Justin could be more like John.

(*MUSIC EFFECT. Under the effect the stage is split into a gym on one side and an office on the other*).

MUSIC No. 6 - TRAINING (Instrumental)

(*This number is all choreographed. The first half is in the gym, with JUSTIN being put through his paces and given a lot of attention by the attending girls. The second half is JOHN in an office, surrounded by girls who won't let him work because they are after his body. This becomes too much for him. OLIVIA and LIZZIE come in for the final section and at the end are spurned by JOHN and JUSTIN for other girls in the group. MUSIC EFFECT at end of number. They all exit except OLIVIA and LIZZIE, who sink back on to the box when the music finishes. After a few moments of realisation, they run off, shouting*).

Olivia: Justin!

Lizzie: John!

SCENE 8

(*LISA enters and sits on the box, rubbing her feet. GIRLS 1 & 2 enter and help*

themselves to a drink. EMILY enters and mooches around the kitchen).

Girl 1: *(To GIRL 2 about LISA)* What's the matter with her?

Girl 2: Don't know. *(The two girls who previously played the BARBIE DOLLS in SCENE 4 enter. They speak together, inadvertently).*

Barbies: Did you see Kevin?... Oh, after you... *(giggles)* no, you go first.... *(giggles)* No, you.... anyway.... *(They leave, giggling. EMILY stares after them not believing her ears. She follows them off).*

Girl 1: Coming for a dance, Lisa?

Lisa: No, I'll stay here for a while. My feet are killing me. *(GIRL 1 nudges GIRL 2 with an idea. They rush off and re-enter following LYDIA as her side-kicks, one slightly behind the other. When LISA sees LYDIA she gets up to leave).*

Lydia: Where do you think you're going?

Lisa: Back to the party.

Lydia: I don't think so.

Girls 1 & 2: We don't think so. *(Whenever they speak, GIRL 2 is obviously thick and slightly behind GIRL 1).*

Lydia: What are you wearing?

Lisa: It's a new dress. Do you like it?

Lydia: No. I think it's ugly.

Girls 1 & 2: Ugly!

Lydia: And look at your hair! It stinks!

Girls 1 & 2: Pooah!!

Lydia: And your make up - very pretty!

Girls 1 & 2: Pretty, pretty.

Lydia: We need something to laugh at. *(No response).* I said we need something to laugh at. *(She smears LISA's lipstick).*

Girls 1 & 2: Ha! Ha! *(LYDIA pushes LISA to GIRLS 1 & 2 who hold her).*

Lydia: Give me some money.

Lisa: But I only have enough for my taxi home.

Lydia: I don't care. Give me the money!

Lisa: I can't. It's in my pocket.

Lydia: Let her go.

Girl 1: Let her go.

Girl 2: Let her go. *(But she doesn't. After a pause she realises what she is supposed to do. LISA squeezes between them and runs off).*

Lydia: What do you think you're doing? Why did you let her go?

Girls 1 & 2: You told us to!

Lydia: Yes, but I didn't mean..... Oh, just leave me alone you two. Just go! Get out of my sight!

Girl 1: But we were only...

Lydia: I don't care. Just go! (*GIRL 1 exits, leaving GIRL 2*). I told you to go! (*GIRL 2 looks blank. GIRL 1 comes back on and pulls her off stage. LYDIA has turned away*). Look, I'm sorry, you guys. I didn't mean it. Could you get me a drink... (*She turns back but they have gone*). Oh why did I have to shout at them? They're the only friends I've really got. (*She sits on the box*). I wish I didn't have to be so cruel to people.

(*MUSIC EFFECT. The LADY moves to stand upstage of the box. She is the DEVIL over LYDIA's left shoulder, and an ANGEL over her right. A change of voice is effective*).

Angel: Was that a good thing to do?

Devil: Of course it was. You don't need those two.

Angel: Are you sure? They seem to be the only friends you've got.

Lydia: Yes, I don't know why I said what I said.

Devil: I do. It's because you're nasty and you like it. You enjoy making people suffer.

Lydia: Yes, I do!

Angel: But I don't think you really do, deep down.

Lydia: Well, maybe not.

Devil: Don't listen to her. She doesn't know what she's talking about.

Angel: Yes I do! (*To LISA*) And I think you do too.

Lydia: Will you both shut up?

Devil: Oooh! Aren't we the touchy one?

Angel: Do you really want to change?

Lydia: Yes.... (*She is unsure*).

Angel: Right. Let's see if you can handle the same situation you just put Lisa through. Do you think you can handle it?

Lydia: Errr...

Devil: Yeah, go on! Of course you could! Go on, go on!

Lydia: Yes. All right!

Angel: Very well. (*The scene now replays with the rôles of LYDIA and LISA reversed. This time LISA is much more unpleasant, as are GIRLS 1 & 2 who are tough and make no mistakes. As LISA enters, LYDIA gets up to go*).

Lisa: Where do you think you're going?

Lydia: Back to the party.

Lisa: I don't think so.

Girls 1 & 2: We don't think so.

Lisa: What are you wearing?

Lydia: It's a new dress. Do you like it?

Lisa: No. I think it's ugly.

Girls 1 & 2: Ugly!

Lisa: And look at your hair! It stinks!

Girls 1 & 2: Pooah!!

Lisa: And your make up - very pretty!

Girls 1 & 2: Pretty, pretty.

Lisa: We need something to laugh at. (*No response*). I said we need something to laugh at. (*She smears LYDIA's lipstick*).

Girls 1 & 2: Ha! Ha! (*LISA pushes LYDIA to GIRLS 1 & 2 who hold her very firmly, hurting her*).

Lisa: Give me some money.

Lydia: But I only have enough for my taxi home.

Lisa: I don't care. Give me the money!

Lydia: I can't. It's in my pocket.

Lisa: Let her go.

Girl 1: Let her go.

Girl 2: Let her go. (*LYDIA tries to escape as LISA had before, but she is stopped and held forcefully. LYDIA puts her hand in her pocket and gives some money to LISA*).

Lisa: It's not enough. I need more.

Lydia: I haven't got any more.

Girls 1 & 2: Tut! Tut!

Lydia: This didn't happen before! No! (*LISA grabs LYDIA by her front*).

Lisa: Next time I want more!

(She slaps LYDIA round the face, hard. LYDIA falls to the floor. LISA grabs LYDIA's hair, pulls her up and smiles).

This is what happens to people who don't pay up on time!

(She throws her down to the floor, violently. LISA smiles down at her and exits, followed by GIRLS 1 & 2. LYDIA is sobbing. Introduction of the song. The LADY goes back to her place. LYDIA moves to the box. The song is still part of the wish, so going into it should be seamless).

MUSIC No. 7 - CONFUSION

(This song has a soloist and backing singers. They can be situated to one side of the stage as they are not necessary for any action. During the introduction, with the lights down on the box, LISA enters and sits with LYDIA back to back on the box, frozen. Ideally, during the song, two dancers dance the parts of

LYDIA and LISA trying to reach a reconciliation).

Solo: *And in the cold light of day
Everything seems so different.
It's no use turning away.
Look in the face of confusion.*

*And so; round and round we go,
Trying not to show
Our friends are a delusion.
And though we're feeling high or low,
The answer's yes and no,
We're covered in confusion.*

*I never thought there'd be a miracle with you.
I know the past is in my hands.
I know you can't forgive or even understand,
Won't you give me a chance, one more chance?*

*And... and in this rhyme without a reason,
Everything seems so difficult.
I need a shelter in all seasons,
In this land of confusion.*

*And so; round and round we go,
Trying not to show
Our friends are a delusion.
And though we're feeling high or low,
The answer's yes and no,
We're covered in confusion.*

(LISA leaves the stage for the last chorus, leaving LYDIA on her own. Once the dancers and the singers are clear, we are back in the kitchen. MUSIC EFFECT. LISA re-enters. She stops when she sees LYDIA. LYDIA stands, unsure whether this is the old LISA or the one in her dream. She goes to say a word of apology, but she can't get it out. LISA turns her back on LYDIA and storms out of the kitchen. LYDIA is left completely stunned and at a loss).

SCENE 9

(EMILY enters looking tired. ROSIE comes in from the other side. LYDIA exits thoughtfully).

Rosie: Emily, why don't you go to bed?

Emily: Yes.

Rosie: Will you be all right?

Emily: Yes. *(They start to leave)* I have my toys to look after me. *(NICKY enters).*

Nicky: God I'm hot. I need a drink. *(GIRLS 1 & 2 enter).*

Girl 1: What are you doing here? Boyfriend dumped you?

Nicky: Actually, I was getting a drink.

Girl 1: Alcoholic, I suppose.

Girl 2: Remember last Saturday?

Girl 1: At the disco?

Girl 2: Made a total fool of yourself.

Girl 1: You embarrassed everyone! You make me sick! *(They leave. NICKY sits on the box).*

Nicky: The disco? Last week? What happened? Oh, God, I remember. Oh no! I wish it had never happened! *(MUSIC EFFECT. The scene changes to the toilet at the disco. NICKY is on the toilet, [on the box], ANNA enters and adjusts her make-up in the mirror).*

Anna: Come on, Nicky. You've been in there twenty minutes. *(NICKY gradually staggers through the door).* God, you look rough! Do you want to go outside for some fresh air? *(NICKY nudges ANNA. She takes some lipstick and smears it on).*

Nicky: Does this look all right?

Anna: No. You look stupid. *(NICKY keeps interfering with ANNA).* Look, will you stop it? *(NICKY giggles and throws powder all over the room).* Nicky! Stay here. I'll get you a drink...of coffee! I'll be back in a minute. *(NICKY sits back on the box. GIRLS 1 & 2 enter, chatting).* You can't go in there.

Girl 1: Why not?

Anna: Nicky's in there.

Girl 2: What's the matter?

Anna: She's drunk!

Girl 1: I thought she was only drinking lemonade.

Girl 2: Must have been that alcoholic stuff.

Girl 1: Her Mum's going to kill her.

Anna: Look, I didn't know it was alcoholic. I'm going to get some coffee to try and sober her up.

Girl 2: Is she all right?

Anna: Yes. She's just made a bit of a mess, that's all.

Girl 1: Oh God! I can't stand the smell of sick! (*ANNA and GIRL 1 turn to leave*).

Anna: No, it's not that sort of mess. It's just some powder... (*NICKY laughs and staggers around. GIRL 2 starts to laugh ironically*).

Nicky: You laughing at me?

Girl 2: You're pathetic.

Nicky: So?

Girl 2: You're drunk.

Nicky: So?

Girl 2: You're always drunk. EVery party.

Nicky: Does it matter?

Girl 2: Not if you don't mind showing your bum.

Nicky: What?

Girl 2: You've got your skirt tucked into your knickers.

Nicky: (*Giggles and staggers. She tries to dress herself*) At least I'm not... ugly!

Girl 2: Are you calling me ugly?

Nicky: Yes.

Girl 2: You call me ugly once more and I'll have you. (*NICKY just giggles*) You're drunk!

Nicky: At least in the morning I'll be sober. You'll still be ugly!

Girl 2: You... (*A fight ensues. ANNA and GIRL 1 enter*).

Anna: What are you doing? Leave her alone. (*In the struggle NICKY falls heavily on the floor, seemingly unconscious*). What have you done?! (*NICKY lifts herself up*).

Nicky: I'm O.K.

Girl 1: Leave her. She's not worth it. Let's go.

Anna: What about her?

Girl 1: Leave her. Just go! (*ANNA and Girl 2 leave*). You stupid bitch! (*GIRL 1 leaves. The LADY appears and stands where one of the mirrors were*).

Nicky: (*She stands - with difficulty*). I don't care..... What do I care?..... You're not my friends..... (*Hugging herself*) I am my own friend. (*She moves to the mirror where the LADY is. The LADY is her reflection in the mirror. NICKY slowly puts one hand to the side of her face, and down to her side. She runs her hand through her hair. She is amazed how bad she looks*).

Is that really me? (*She turns to go and sit on the box. As she turns, the LADY also turns as if in the mirror and goes back to her place. MUSIC EFFECT. NICKY looks shaken and bewildered. We are back in the kitchen. ANNA enters*).

Anna: Nicky, where've you been? Are you O.K.? You're not drunk are you?

Nicky: (*She stands, the light having dawned on her*). No. I'm stone-cold sober.

Anna: Come on, let's go.

Nicky: Not to do the conga...

Anna: No, it's late. Let's get our coats. *(They leave. As far as possible, all the people who have been involved in a wish enter the kitchen sporadically, chatting, clearing up. PETER enters last).*

Peter: God, I'm knackered. I must sit down. *(He sits on the box).* Oh, I wish...

All: *(Shout)* NO!!!

(BLACKOUT. The stage clears. Introduction to song. LADY moves centre stage to start singing. The rest of the company come in in groups according to the part they are singing).

MUSIC No.8 - WISHING FINALE (Reprise) - (LADY and Company)

SOLO: *It's no good feeling sorry, you have to give not take.
Apart from you there's no-one to take control of fate.
I was selfish all alone, taking all I could.
Give a little, then you'll find: some things turn out good.*

ALL: *You are your own real person, responsible to you
If you can wish for others, then they can wish for you.*

*And it is wonderful, wonderful, a wish that's shared is
Wonderful, wonderful, and if you care
Then grant that wish of theirs.
Then the wish that you wished may soon come true.*

THE END

