

The Greatest Show

SCENE ONE: PICKLE'S TRAVELLING SHOW

TRACK 1:OPENING/TRACK 9:CIRCUS PLAY ON / UNDERSCORE

(Enter HERBERT who hurries up the center aisle onto the stage then looks at his pocket watch. Dialogue continues over the music to '...where's Branston?')

HERBERT: Welcome! Welcome to the Greatest Show...

OTIS: Excuse me sir, we are the Ringling Brothers. My name is Ottis.

CHARLES: My name is Charles.

OTIS: We have traveled across the state to see the area attractions...

CHARLES: ...side shows and circus acts to be exact, to see what yours looks like.

OTIS: In hopes to create our own...

HERBERT: Well, welcome Ringling Brothers! I do hope you are inspired! Welcome! Welcome everyone to the Greatest Show - Pickle's Perambulating Palace of Performers. Excuse me... Where is everybody? We need to get the show on the road, you know what I always say... the show must go on! We don't want to keep the Fox Valley waiting...*(Looks around)* Where is my darling daughter, Lily? *(LILY and CATS enter.)*

LILY: Here Dad! Come along kitties. *(CATS follow)*

HERBERT: This is my daughter Lilly, otherwise known as Queen of the Cats. Where's your brother, Branston? *(BRANSTON enters from right holding a tin containing his flea circus, and stands the other side of HERBERT.)*

BRANSTON: Here Dad.

HERBERT: Right. This is my son, Branston... The Brain of Fleas!

CHARLES: *(to OTIS)* Sounds like no flea brain to me!

HERBERT: Make sure the fleas don't escape this time! Now, Where is your mother?

PETUNIA: *(off stage)* Coming, Herbert dear!

LILY: Mom is just finishing her hair.

HERBERT: What about Grandpa- Professor Pickle?

BRANSTON: He's still locked up in his lab with his experiments.

OTIS and CHARLES: Experiments?

LILY: For the side show.

OTIS and CHARLES: Side show? Interesting!

BRANSTON: He said he's having some...

LILY and BRANSTON: *(look at each other)* technical problems.

TRACK 2: SFX METALLIC CRASH

PROF: (*staggers on stage looking frazzled.*) There is something wrong with the balance lever. If I would just move the thingamagig to the whatchamacallit, I could possibly... oh- I just need more time on it... oh hello! (*noticing BROTHERS*) Am I seeing double?

HERBERT: These are the Ringling Brothers. They have come to see The Greatest Show!! The experiments are going to have to wait, Dad. Now what about the rest of the troupe? Surely, they are ready? Victor Chatteron the Ventriloquist and Vagabond Charlie.

VAGABOND: Here!

VICTOR: Packed and ready to go!

HERBERT: (*EVERYONE enters one by one. They carry their props. HERBERT calls them individually, he checks them off.*)

- Clowns - Co Co and Cookie - (*come in, strike a pose*)
- Buffalo Bill - I got my ropes! Yee Haw! All set! (*strike a pose*)
- Maximus Girder and his Gladiators - We. Are. Ready! (*strike a pose*)
- Harry Houdidit - I'm always ready! (*strike a pose*)
- And the trapezers, tight ropers, trick riders, and tamers...

MRS TICKLE: Don't forget me!

OTIS: Ah, and this must be your wife!

MRS. TICKLE: Oh, dear me... I'm Ms. Tickle the Housekeeper! Everyone calls me Mrs. T. I keep everyone and everything in ship shape! I just got done scrubbing down the dirt floor. We want to leave everything tidier than when we got here! Oh- and I just finished with Mrs. Pickle's makeup! The bags are packed and ready to go to the next town!

ALL: Yeah!

HERBERT: Petunia! Darling! You must be ready by now! (*To the BROTHERS*) She takes her role as the Melodramatist very seriously!

VAGABOND: I bet she's doing her nails!

PETUNIA: (*off stage*) Almost dear...

VICTOR: She's probably waiting for her nail varnish to dry.

PETUNIA: I'm waiting for my nails to dry... But Alright. Eh-hem... where's my entrance??

HERBERT: And here's... my radiant flower, the apple blossom of my eye, my... Petunia Pickle!
(*Enter PETUNIA, with fingers spread, blowing on her nails to dry them.*)

PETUNIA: How do I look, darlings? I mean besides my nails being a little wet.

HERBERT: As lovely as the day we met my little buttercup...

PROF: Oh! I've got just the new invention to help with wet nails! (*He produces a pump and pumps it towards PETUNIA'S nails.*)

TRACK 3: SFX WHEEZY BELLOWS

PETUNIA: *(Shrieks)* Take that wind bag away! It will ruin my hair! *(She steps back and bumps into Ringling Brothers.)*
Oh, excuse me. I didn't know we had company!?

HERBERT: Everyone, these are the Ringling Brothers and they have come to see the Greatest Show! So let's get this show on the road!

TRACK 4: GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD (SONG)

(Backdrop changes to reveal brightly coloured show trailers and wagons with 'Pickle's Perambulating Palace of Performers' clearly signed.)

ALL: COLLECT YOUR KIT AND CABOODLE,
WE AIN'T TRAVELLING LIGHT;
THERE'S A WORLD OUT THERE
AND WE'RE LEAVING TONIGHT.
GOT LOTS OF MILES TO TRAVEL
AND WE DON'T WANNA WAIT;
GOT SOME PLACES TO VISIT
AND WE MUSTN'T BE LATE.

GRAB YOUR HAT AND COAT,
PUT YOUR GLAD RAGS ON;
THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE –
PASS THE MESSAGE ALONG.
THE BAGS ALL PACKED
AND THE LUGGAGE STOWED?
ALL THE WAGONS HITCHED?
SO WE'RE READY TO ROLL!

WE GOTTA GO, GO, GO,
CREATE A SHOW, SHOW, SHOW.
YOU GOTTA KNOW, KNOW, KNOW
WE'LL GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD.

HERBERT: Come on. Let's go! Let's get this show started!

ALL: FORGET YOUR CARES AND YOUR WORRIES,
WE'LL GET RID OF THOSE FROWNS.
WATCH THE WILD WEST SHOW
OR HAVE A LAUGH WITH THE CLOWNS.
COME ON, DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE,
WE'RE GONNA HAVE SOME FUN;

WE'RE ONLY HERE FOR A WEEK,
THEN WE'RE MOVING ON.

WE GOTTA GO, GO, GO,
CREATE A SHOW, SHOW, SHOW.
YOU GOTTA KNOW, KNOW, KNOW
WE'LL GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD.

WE'RE HERE TO ENTERTAIN YOU NOW;
PERFORM OUR SHOW THEN TAKE A BOW!

WE GOTTA GO, GO, GO,
CREATE A SHOW, SHOW, SHOW.
YOU GOTTA KNOW, KNOW, KNOW
WE'LL GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!

(Music continues, whilst characters sway to the music.)

HERBERT: Ladies and Gentlemen, introducing... *(Characters step forward and take a bow.)*

...Ventriloquist Victor Chatterson and Vagabond Charlie!

...Harry Houdidit, escapologist!

...Cookie and Coco, our resident clowns!

...Maximus Girder, the strongest man in the Fox Valley

...Buffalo Bill and his Wild West Show!

ALL: WE GOTTA GO, GO, GO,
CREATE A SHOW, SHOW, SHOW.
YOU GOTTA KNOW, KNOW, KNOW
WE'LL GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD.
WE'LL GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD.
WE'LL GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!
YEAH!

TRACK 5: GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD PLAYOFF

(Exit cast to play off, apart from Lily and Branston.)

HERBERT: Alright everyone let's unpack!

OTIS: We are going to take a look around to check out the *other* area attractions.

CHARLIE: The Fox Valley looks very promising! We will be back...

BRANSTON: (*Looks at the backdrop*) Pickle's Perambulating Palace of Performers! I don't know why they would need to look any further!

LILY: Dad's trying to make us sound as amazing as possible; there is a lot of competition for more sensational and unusual acts. He's heard about other shows going out of business. (*CATS react*)

BRANSTON: Really?

LILY: Don't worry kitties, we have nothing to worry about! We are family and we take care of each other.

(*Enter HERBERT, PETUNIA, MRS TICKLE and PROF.*)

HERBERT: Well, here we are, our first stop in Appleton, Wisconsin! Once we are set up, we can start performances tomorrow.

PROF: Well, I can't do the automaton act, it's still not fixed.

HERBERT: Why is it taking so long?

PROF: (*Sheepishly*) Well, I've actually been working on something else... and I might say... some of you may be speechless!

MRS TICKLE: Yes and making a right mess of the trailer. It takes me all my time to keep it tidy.

HERBERT: But we need the automaton now! You know how the audiences love your scientific inventions.

(*Enter RATFINK and COGS in a dark, hooded cloak who moves across the back of the stage and listens to the conversation unseen by the rest of the cast.*)

PROF: Wait till you see what I'm working on. It will make our fortune: no more worries about going out of business!

LILY: Dad, you don't suppose those Ringling Brothers are spies.

BRANSTON: Yeah, they could be just trying to steal our ideas.

HERBERT: Spies! Nonsense! Who would want to spy on us? Gramps, we have to get the automation act up and running! Right now we have a gap in the program without it, and we need to set it up. The show must go on! We have to give it our best show...

BRANSTON: Even if people are trying to steal our ideas?

HERBERT: Yes!

LILY: Even if we are tired?

HERBERT: Yes!

MRS TICKLE: Even if things need cleaning?

HERBERT: Yes!

PROF: Or things need fixing?

HERBERT: Yes!

PETUNIA: What if I just need to touch up my makeup just a tad?

HERBERT: Yes, my dear Petunia! The show must go on! Now let's set the stage- let's get ready to amaze our audience!

(Exit ALL, as RATFINK and COGS? moves downstage.)

TRACK 6: OMINOUS MUSIC / WE'VE GOT THE CURE PLAY ON

RATFINK: *(Addresses the audience in typical panto villain style)* The Pickles aren't worried about people stealing their ideas, eh?! But they should be! Professor Pickle thinks they have a secret invention that will make their fortune, eh? *(Rubbing his hands together)* This is just what we have been looking for. Colonel Obadiah Blastpipe will be very pleased! *(Evil laugh)* Wah ha ha ha!

SCENE TWO: THE QUACK DOCTORS

(Backdrop – HECKLE and SNIDE’S wagon.)

OTIS: Hmm- what is this?

CHARLES: Probably just some quack doctor stand, trying to sell their latest cure...

(Enter HECKLE.)

HECKLE: Well, hello good sirs! What brings you to the great town of Apples...get it? Apple-town?

OTIS: We traveled here with Pickle’s Perm...

CHARLES: Pickle’s Perambulating Palace of Performers...

OTIS: Otherwise known as The Greatest Show...

HECKLE: *(Addressing the audience)* Pickle’s Perambulating Palace of Performers! Only a showman could have thought up that one! And he’s going to bring us lots of customers! *(Calling and beckoning offstage)* Quick! Snide! Ragamuffins! Get the stall set up. We are in for a busy day with the show here!

(Enter SNIDE with a table, and RAGAMUFFINS wearing sandwich boards who have a tray containing boxes and packets for sale. They set out the table and parade around the stage with their sandwich boards advertising their wares during Heckle’s introduction below. Enter SPECTATORS, DONALD DUFFELCOAT and MRS LONGLEGS who stroll up and down the stage examining the wagons depicted on the backdrop. They then approach the stall looking at the products.)

HECKLE: *(Addressing the public)* Ladies and Gentlemen, Dr Horace Heckle and Mr Tyrus Snide are pleased to announce their arrival in this wonderful town - Apple-Town!

SNIDE: We are patronized by the elite, the clergy, the gentry, and the principal inhabitants of the county, not to mention old Mr Bloggs down the road who has a terrible case of the squints!

SPECTATORS: Oh dear! Oh my!

DONALD: Did you hear that?

MRS. LONGLEGS: Absolutely, heartbreaking!

OTIS: The squints? I don’t know if I have ever heard of that!

CHARLES: And is there a cure for that?

RAGAMUFFIN 1: Let us tell you about it...

TRACK 7: WE’VE GOT THE CURE (SONG)

(During the song OTIS, CHARLES, DONALD and MRS LONGLEGS listen and look interested as if commenting on the products that are being advertised.)

ENSEMBLE: QUACK, QUACK, QUACK, QUACK,
QUACK, QUACK, QUACK, QUACK.

HECKLE & SNIDE: DO YOU SUFFER FROM CARBUNCLES?
PRONE TO PIMPLES ON YOUR FACE?
HAVE A BILIOUS DIGESTION?
FIND IT HARD TO STAY AWAKE?

YOU COMPLAIN OF PALPITATIONS,
KNOW THE PAIN OF RAGING GOUT –
TRY OUR TRUSTED EMBROCATIONS,
THEY WILL SORT YOUR PROBLEMS OUT.

HECKLE, SNIDE: WE'VE GOT THE CURE,

& RAGS: WE'VE GOT THE REMEDY.

THERE'S A PRODUCT WITH YOUR NAME ON IT,
WE GUARANTEE.

THERE'S SO MUCH YOU'LL WANT TO BUY
COME ON OVER, DON'T BE SHY.

WE'VE GOT THE CURE,
WE'VE GOT THE REMEDY.

(RAGAMUFFIN holds up a 'pimple poultice' box with a cheesy smile.)

OTIS: I say – they've got pimple remedies!

CHARLES: They shouldn't make such rash promises!

(Both laugh.)

OTIS: Can you hear ducks?

CHARLES: Yes, it's those salesmen – they're quacks! *(CHARLES and OTIS exit.)*

RAG 1: WE'VE GOT BILE BEANS FOR THE LIVER,

RAG 2: WE'VE GOT SNAKE OIL FOR THE GLANDS,

RAG 3: ARSENIC WATER FOR COMPLEXIONS

RAG 4: AND SOME CREAM FOR WARTY HANDS.

HECKLE & SNIDE: WE CAN HELP YOU LOOK MUCH YOUNGER,

RAISE THE SPIRITS, CLEAN THE BLOOD.

WE'LL RESTORE YOUR HEALTH AND VIGOUR
SO YOU'RE FEELING RATHER GOOD.

HECKLE, SNIDE: WE'VE GOT THE CURE,

& RAGS: WE'VE GOT THE REMEDY.

THERE'S A PRODUCT WITH YOUR NAME ON IT,
WE GUARANTEE.

THERE'S SO MUCH YOU'LL WANT TO BUY;
COME ON OVER, DON'T BE SHY.

WE'VE GOT THE CURE,
WE'VE GOT THE REMEDY.

HECKLE: One more time!

HECKLE, SNIDE: WE'VE GOT THE CURE,

& RAGS: WE'VE GOT THE REMEDY.
THERE'S A PRODUCT WITH YOUR NAME ON IT,
WE GUARANTEE.

THERE'S SO MUCH YOU'LL WANT TO BUY;
COME ON OVER, DON'T BE SHY.
WE'VE GOT THE CURE,
WE'VE GOT THE REMEDY.
WE'VE GOT THE CURE,
WE'VE GOT THE REMEDY.

HECKLE: (*Approaches MRS LONGLEGS with a small box in his hand*) Now madam, why don't you try this miracle powder? It gets rid of grey hair instantly!

MRS LONGLEGS: How dare you! I don't have grey hair. It's just my natural silver blond.

HECKLE: (*To DONALD*) What about you sir? What can I help you with? (*DONALD whispers in his ear.*)

Ah yes, we can deal with that discreetly! (*He shouts to SNIDE who has remained behind the stall.*) Mr Snide, can you pass me the extra-large bottle of anti-flatulence tonic?!

DONALD: Don't bother! (*He exits angrily, others leave.*)

SNIDE: Wait! We have the cure!

HECKLE: We've got the remedy!

(*Enter RATFINK.*)

RATFINK: Good evening, gentlemen. Am I correct in thinking you are Dr Horace Heckle and Mr Tyrus Snide?

HECKLE: At your service, sir!

RATFINK: Indeed, I hope so! My name is Ronnie Ratfink and I wonder if you would be interested in joining me in a little money-making... (*look both ways*) scheme?

SNIDE: (*Eagerly*) I think we might be.

RATFINK: Excellent! (*Handing SNIDE a piece of paper*) Go to this address and you will learn some more.

(*Exit RATFINK.*)

SNIDE: *(Reading the note)* 'Compliments of Colonel Obadiah Blastpipe, The Old Engine Sheds, Gasworks Street.'

HECKLE: I suppose there is no harm in going to see what this is all about.

SNIDE: If it's about making money, I'm in! *(Big cheeky smile at the audience)*

TRACK 8: WEVE GOT THE CURE PLAY OFF

(Manual fade if required. Exit all taking the props with them.)

SCENE THREE: OBADIAH BLASTPIPE

(Industrial steampunk backdrop. Enter COGS 2-4 doing a robotic routine to the music that resembles machinery movements. Enter COG 1 walking backwards holding a rope that appears to have an animal attached to it offstage. Enter HECKLE and SNIDE.)

SNIDE: What is this place?

HECKLE: This is where the paper Ronnie Ratfink said for us to go to meet Col. Obadiah...

BOTH: for a money making scheme!

TRACK 18: SFX ELEPHANT TRUMPETING

COG 1: Steady Dumbo! Yikes! *(COG pulls him off stage)*

HECKLE: If I'm not mistaken, wasn't that Dumbo the Intelligent Elephant from Barnum and Bailey?

SNIDE: The Intelligent Elephant?

HECKLE: Yes, the elephant that is supposed to be able to count by stamping its feet.

SNIDE: Oh yes, it disappeared... the papers said it had packed its trunk and said goodbye to the circus!

HECKLE: Exactly!

RATFINK: *(enters)* Good evening, gentlemen. Colonel Obadiah Blastpipe is ready to see you.

TRACK 19:OBADIAH (SONG)

(Enter OBADIAH. COGS move robotically to downstage center with OBADIAH. RATFINK sings with the COGS.)

OBADIAH:I'M OBADIAH BLASTPIPE,
 MASTER OF THE STEAM.
 SO GOOD OF YOU TO VISIT HERE
 AND LISTEN TO MY SCHEMES.
 I'M SEARCHIN', RESEARCHIN'
 TO FIND MY METAL DREAMS;
 I NEED THE BEST INVENTIONS
 FOR THE MEANEST MACHINE.

COGS:WHOA-OH

OBADIAH:O-B

COGS:WHOA-OH

OBADIAH: THAT'S ME.

COGS:WHOA-OH

OBADIAH:YOU'LL SEE – IT'S A WACKY FACTORY.

OBADIAH:I'M GONNA BE THE GREATEST,
COOKING RIGHT ON GAS.
AIN'T NOTHING GONNA STOP ME,
AMBITION IS A BLAST.
I'M SMOKIN', PROVOKIN';
MY DEALS ARE IRON CLAD.
I'LL CONQUER EV'RY SHOW ON EARTH,
I'M STEAMPUNK AND BAD.

COGS:WHOA-OH

OBADIAH:O-B

COGS:WHOA-OH

OBADIAH: THAT'S ME.

COGS:WHOA-OH

OBADIAH:YOU'LL SEE – IT'S A WACKY FACTORY!

COGS:HE'S BAD, BAD, BAD, OBADIAH B.
HE LIVES A LIFE OF NOTORIETY.
HE'S WORKING HARD ON MANY EVIL PLANS.
BLASTPIPE IS A MENACING MAN.

OBADIAH:YOU SEE, I'M POWER DRIVEN;
FORCEFUL, YOU'LL CONCUR.
MY MASTER PLAN INVOLVES THE HELP
OF FIENDISH SABOTEURS.
BE WARY; I'M SCARY,
I'LL FLY INTO A RAGE.
DON'T EVER DISAPPOINT ME. I'LL BLOW
MY PRESSURE GAUGE!

COGS:WHOA-OH

OBADIAH:O-B

COGS:WHOA-OH

OBADIAH: THAT'S ME.

COGS:WHOA-OH

OBADIAH:YOU'LL SEE – IT'S A WACKY FACTORY!

COGS:WHOA-OH

OBADIAH:O-B

COGS:WHOA-OH

OBADIAH: THAT'S ME.

COGS:WHOA-OH

OBADIAH:OH, YOU'LL SEE. I'M OBADIAH B.

(COGS return to the back of the stage and continue the repetitive movements.)

OBADIAH: Colonel Obadiah Blastpipe at your service.

HECKLE: Good evening, Colonel.

OBADIAH: I guess you must be wondering why I have set up this little meeting?

SNIDE: Yes. Our expertise is in cures and remedies.

HECKLE: Not mechanics and steam. *(Indicating the industry around him.)*

OBADIAH: Well fella, you are looking at more than mechanics and steam. You are looking at the final stages of my master plan, to build the greatest show on Earth, in Space and across the Universe!
Haha

COGS: Oooooo

HECKLE: *(Sarcastically)* Oh, you don't need to be modest with us!

RATFINK: Gentlemen, the Colonel is about to cause the collapse of every circus and traveling show in the world!
Hahaha

COGS: Ahhhh

OBADIAH: You'd better believe it fellas. Just a few more shows to take care of, and a few more er...acquisitions, then I'll be ready to launch my Great Steampunk Spectacular!

COGS: Oooo

RATFINK: All our new inventions and acts will make any other show look pathetic. That is, if there are any other shows left!

HECKLE: But why do you need us?

OBADIAH: Well, because you are... *(He hesitates, choosing his word carefully)* entrepreneurs.

(Each time he says the word 'entrepreneur' throughout this speech, HECKLE, SNIDE, RATFINK and COGS nod heads with him.) I know you think the same way as I do being an... entrepreneur myself. You don't mind stretching the rules a little bit for the sake of... entrepreneurial risk... and you have something I need for my... entrepreneurial plan.

COGS: Ahhhh

HECKLE: Absolutely! Seems quite reasonable to me!

SNIDE: Oh yes! Just one thing... what's an... entrepreneur? (*SNIDE nods head again*)

HECKLE: (*Irritated*) Ignore him! What is it that we have, that *you* need?

SNIDE: Have anything you like; we have a wide range of...entrepreneurial (*nods head again*) products.

OBADIAH: I'll tell you what I need. You pitch your stall right outside Pickle's traveling show.

RATFINK: You can get yourself into a Pickle! If you know what we mean!?

SNIDE AND HECKLE: (*they act like they do*) Yeah, we know what you mean...

SNIDE: (*not convinced*) No we don't.

RATFINK: You could easily slip into Pickle's trailers without being seen and perform a few

...er...entrepreneurial tasks (*ALL nod heads again*) for us.

OBADIAH: Like I said, I have a few more shows to take care of and a few acquisitions to make!

HECKLE: (*Eagerly*) That would be no problem for the right (*Rubs his fingers suggesting money*)

...entrepreneurial reward! (*ALL nod again.*)

OBADIAH: Well, I believe we have a deal. Let's go into my office and discuss the fine details.

SNIDE: Entrée (*indicating offstage*) preneurs!

TRACK 20: OBADIAH PLAY OFF / CIRCUS PLAY ON

(*Exit all.*)

SCENE FOUR : THE SHOW

(Backdrop of show tent interior. Enter HERBERT, OTIS, CHARLES.)

HERBERT: Welcome Ringling Brothers. I saved you seats right in front! Come one, come all! You are about to see the Pickle's Perambulating Palace of Performers... otherwise known as

ALL: *(enters)* The Greatest Show!

MRS TICKLE: There Petunia! You look ravishing!

PETUNIA: Do you think so? Little old me!? I should probably still practice.

BRANSTON: You look great mom, the audience is going to adore you!

LILY: Yes, we are all just about ready. The audience is filling up. The Ringling Brothers are in their seats!

FLOSSIE: *(enters)* Excuse me, are you Herbert Pickle?

HERBERT: Why, yes, what can I do for you?

FLOSSIE: My name is Flossie. I'm looking for work.

HERBERT: I'm sorry, we don't have any work at the moment.

FLOSSIE: I'm really good with animals... and would be happy to muck out the cages and do the smelly jobs... any way I can help! I'm a hard worker!

HERBERT: I'm sorry. We're just a small family business.

FLOSSIE: *(Wistfully)* You're all family? Yes. Well, how nice. Ah well, I'll keep looking.

HERBERT: So sorry, young lady. I do hope you find something soon.

MRS TICKLE: Come along dearie, you look tired out. Let me make you a nice cup of tea before you head off.

FLOSSIE: *(Gratefully)* Oh, thank you.

(Exit FLOSSIE with MRS TICKLE.)

LILY: I feel really sorry for her. She looks so sad, and when you mentioned our family, I thought she was going to cry.

PETUNIA: Perhaps, she's fallen on hard times? Maybe we can think of something? Maybe she has a hidden talent?

HERBERT: Well, Mrs. Tickle is giving her some tea. And right now we have a show to perform. Perhaps I will try to catch her after the show. But for now...

ALL: Gooooo Pickles!

(Exit LILY, BRANSTON, PETUNIA.)

TRACK 9: CIRCUS PLAY ON / UNDERSCORE

(Fade as dialogue below finishes; segue Track 10.)

HERBERT: *(Moving to the front of the stage in 'Showman mode')* Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Pickle's Perambulating Palace of Performers! We have a superbly splendid show, and to make the 'purrfect' start, put your paws together to welcome Lily Pickle, the Queen of Cats and the Purrfectly Singing Cats. *(Enter LILY and the CATS. HERBERT exits.)*

TRACK 10: DAISY CATS (SONG - Bicycle Built For Two)

TRACK - ? THREE BLIND MICE

Practice/Choreography Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZ1CGdGkkUE>

Practice/Choreography Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5y3avfjHiW4>

Three blind mice, three blind mice
See how they run, see how they run
They all ran after the farmer's wife
She cut off their tails with a carving knife
Did you ever see such a sight in your life as three blind mice?

TRACK 11: DAISY CATS PLAY OFF

(LILY and CATS take a bow. Exit.)

Otis: Those were some pretty talented cats!

Charles: How do cats end a fight?

Otis: How?

Charles: They hiss and make up!

HERBERT: *(Enter)* How purr-fect was that? Well, what a treat that was! Who'd have thought of that - singing cats!

Wait a minute!? That was me!? Haha!

LILY: *(off stage)* It was me, dad!

TRACK 12: CLOWN MUSIC AND PLAY OFF

HERBERT: *(Announcing)* And now, especially for the boys and girls, we have our comical clowns Cookie and Coco!

And their performing wasps!

CHARLES and OTIS: Wasps??

(Exit HERBERT. Enter COOKIE and COCO: COOKIE with a flower that squirts water, COCO with an extending handkerchief in his pocket. The clowns bump into each other, then COOKIE squirts water at the audience and COCO enacts the handkerchief routine, pulling out the very long handkerchief. At the wasp buzz, COOKIE starts to bat away

imaginary wasps which appear to head for the flower. The two clowns exit to the play off, escaping the wasps. Enter HERBERT over the play off.)

HERBERT: *(Announcing)* Ladies and Gentlemen, put your hands together once again for the hilarious Coco and Cookie! And the performing wasps were kindly provided by Branston Pickle and his Insect Circus.

Otis: Wow

Charles: What?

Otis: Those wasps may be small, but they really pack a buzz!

(Both laugh.)

BRANSTON: *(Enters hurriedly with a large jar labeled 'Jam'.)* Sorry to interrupt, I've just got two more wasps to collect; they flew off in a huff when I only offered them sugar water. *(He moves around the stage waving his jam jar.)*

TRACK 13: SFX WASPS / GLADIATOR PLAY ON

BRANSTON: Here Buzz Buzz! *(BRANSTON captures the wasps putting his hand over the top of the jar.)* Good, that's a good boy. *(Calls loudly.)* Stingerella, I have your favorite flavor, strawberry! *(BRANSTON lurches in a different direction and captures Stingerella in the jar. He puts the lid on. Exit BRANSTON.)* Gotcha!

HERBERT: *(Over drumroll.)* And now Ladies and Gentleman, in a change to our advertised show, we have a re-enactment of the Roman amphitheatre starring our very own strongman - In this corner able to lift 500 pounds, the strong of the strong, the one with mighty muscles, he is our very own Maximus Girder...*(Strong show...)*... and now in this corner... the Gladiators!

(Enter the two GLADIATORS. MAXIMUS stands center stage with his back to the audience, head down in a strong pose. The two GLADIATORS circle anxiously waiting to fight. Exit HERBERT.)

MAXIMUS: *(Turns around slowly and menacingly)* My name is Maximus BiceptiusSixpackius Girder and And this stage belongs to me! *(flexes muscles)* No beast nor men in metal will frighten me!

GLADIATOR 1 and 2: You! Prepare to fight!

GLADIATOR 1: Who are you?

GLADIATOR 2: We will have your name!

MAXIMUS: You dare to challenge me!?

TRACK 14: SFX CAT MIAOW / GLADIATOR FIGHT

(The music ends. Enter PROFESSOR in a white coat and carrying a giant magnet.)

GLADIATOR 1: *(Panting)* Who else dares to enter into gladiatorial combat?

PROF: My name is Professaurius Pickleonius.

GLADIATOR 2: Select your weapon! Quickly!!

PROF: Actually, I already have it! My giant magnet! *(Shows it to the audience)* I can't stand fighting and I'll put a stop to this! *(He holds up his magnet.)*

MAXIMUS: Oh man, Professor! I'll be back!

TRACK 15: SFX MAGNET

(GLADIATORS rush towards him and 'stick' to the magnet. PROF leads the GLADIATORS offstage, stuck to the magnet. SFX Fade as required.)

Otis: *(Thumbs up)* Pickleonus! Pickleonus!

Charles: Those gladiators seem very *drawn* to the professor! Ha, Ha!

Otis: What a great show! You could say he was the *main attraction*!

(Both laugh.)

HERBERT: Did someone say, main attraction?

SONG - GREATEST SHOW

ALL: Whoa

Whoa

Whoa

Whoa

Whoa

Whoa

Whoa

Whoa

Whoa

HERBERT: Ladies and gents, this is the moment you've waited for (whoa)

Been searching in the dark, your sweat soakin' through the floor (whoa)

And buried in your bones there's an ache that you can't ignore

Takin' your breath, stealing your mind

And all that was real is left behind

Don't fight it, it's coming for you, runnin' at ya

It's only this moment, don't care what comes after

Your fever dream, can't you see it gettin' closer?

Just surrender 'cause you feel the feeling takin' over (oh)

It's fire, it's freedom, it's floodin' open (oh)

It's a preacher in the pulpit and your blind devotion (oh)

There's something breaking at the brick of every wall, it's holding

All that you know (oh)

So tell me, do you wanna go?

ALL: Where it's covered in all the colored lights

Where the runaways are runnin' the night

Impossible comes true, it's takin' over you

Oh, this is the greatest show

SOLO: We light it up, we won't come down

ALL: And the sun can't stop us now

SOLO: Watching it come true, it's takin' over you

ALL: Oh, this is the greatest show

SOLO: colossal we come these renegades in the ring

(Whoa) where the lost get found and we crown 'em the circus kings

ALL: Don't fight it, it's coming for you, runnin' at ya

(Don't try to fight it, it's coming)

It's only this moment, don't care what comes after

(You know it's only this moment)

It's blindin', outshining (shining) anything that you know

Just surrender 'cause you're comin' and you wanna go

Where it's covered in all the colored lights

Where the runaways are runnin' the night

Impossible comes true,

SOLO: intoxicatin' you

ALL: Oh, this is the greatest show

We light it up, we won't come down

And the sun can't stop us now

SOLO: Watchin' it come true,

ALL: it's takin' over you

Oh, this is the greatest show

SOLOS: It's everything you ever want

It's everything you ever need

And it's here right in front of you

This is where you wanna be (this is where you wanna be)

It's everything you ever want

It's everything you ever need

And it's here right in front of you (this is what you want)

This is where you wanna be

SOLO: This is where you wanna be

ALL: When it's covered in all the colored lights

Where the runaways are runnin' the night (oh, oh yeah)

Impossible comes true, it's taking over you (hee)

Oh, this is the greatest show

We light it up, we won't come down

And the sun can't stop us now

Watching it come true, it's taking over you

SOLO: This is the greatest show

When it's covered in all the colored lights

Where the runaways are runnin' the night

Impossible comes true, it's takin' over you

Oh, this is the greatest show

We light it up, we won't come down

And the walls can't stop us now

Watchin' it come true, it's takin' over you

Oh, this is the greatest show

'Cause everything you want is right in front of you

And you see the impossible is comin' true

And the walls can't stop us (now) now, (oh), yeah

This is the greatest show (oh)

This is the greatest show (oh)

This is the greatest show (oh)

This is the greatest show (oh)

This is the greatest show (oh)

This is the greatest show (oh)

(This is the greatest show)

This is the greatest show (oh) (this is the greatest)

This is the greatest show

TRACK 16: FANFARE

HERBERT: *(Enter.)* Are we having fun?? Hope you enjoyed the first act on the big stage. Our next performance will feature Ventriloquist Victor Chatterson with Vagabond Charlie; Buffalo Bill and his Wild West Show; Harry (get me out of here) Houdidit as well as Branston Pickle and his famous Flea Circus. Be sure to check out the human oddity exhibit and the Kid Show. Grab yourself some popcorn, circus peanuts, or some cotton candy! See you again soon!

TRACK 17: CIRCUS PLAY OFF INTO THE ENGINE SHEDS

(EXIT ALL to play off.)

ACT 2

SCENE FIVE: SABOTAGE

(Backdrop of show tent interior. At circus play on, VARIETY ACTS and CLOWNS enter juggling scarves.)

CHARLES: Did you *have* to try everything?

OTIS: Circus peanuts, popcorn, cotton candy... I can't help it... circus food is my favorite!

CHARLES: Let's sit down, we are here to check out their show not taste test all their food!

-

FLOSSIE: Thank you so much for the tea, Mrs. Tickle.

MRS. TICKLE: A good spot of tea can do the heart good.

FLOSSIE: It did cheer me up some. *(Sigh)* I guess I'll be on my way...

MRS. TICKLE: Do you know where you are going?

FLOSSIE: No, not really, but I'll be ok... I need to find a job. I'm trying to save enough money to open my own wild life sanctuary.

MRS. TICKLE: Wow! What an inspiration! Why don't you stay and watch the second act?

FLOSSIE: Really? I would love that! But then I must go. Thank you for the warmth and hospitality!

-

RATFINK: Did you finish the deed?

SNIDE: Wait until you see what's in store for the *(mocking)* Greatest Show.

HECKLE: Let's take our seats, I believe some heckling will be in store...

SNIDE: And maybe some snide comments!

HERBERT: *(Enter)* Welcome back, friends! Are you ready for the Greatest Show to begin? We still have quite a show for you!! First, get out your magnifying glasses and put on your spectacles for the tiniest show on earth: Branston Pickle and his flea circus!

(Manual fade drumroll if required, segue Track 21. OTIS and CHARLES hold up a magnifying glass to watch the show. Exit HERBERT and CLOWNS.)

TRACK 21: SAND DANCE

(Music continues throughout the act. Enter BRANSTON who opens his tin of fleas.)

ALL FLEAS: *(in very high voices)* One, two, flea... one, two, flea

(Enter Fleas 1, 2 and 3 in a line doing a dance/flea act. They move across downstage then move back to center stage.)

BRANSTON: Ladies and Gentlemen, Flea circuses have been entertaining audiences for centuries. They have a trick of their small sleeve that make them the ideal circus performer: the ability to jump up to 38 times their body size in only 1/1000th of a second. For decades the strength possessed by these small beasts puzzled researchers, as jumping fleas seemed to exert a force more powerful than their muscles alone should allow. The secret was found to be a rubber-like protein called resilin, which is capable of bending and storing great amounts of energy. In fleas, resilin is stored in their large hindlegs. When this great burst of energy is released, the flea is catapulted forwards – allowing them to glide through the air like true acrobats. It furthermore allowed them to push, pull, and drag objects numerous times their body size in order to amuse the circus-loving masses.

HERBERT: Aren't they fascinating? Let's hear it for Branston and his fantastic fleas!

TRACK 22: FLEA PLAY OFF

(FLEAS and BRANSTON exit waving to the audience.)

Charles: Did you know that fleas make very faithful pets?

Otis: Really?

Charles: Yep, once they find someone they like, they stick to you!

(Both laugh. Enter HERBERT, clapping.)

HERBERT: Thanks to Branston Pickle and his performing insects. And now...

TRACK 23: HARRY PLAY ON

HERBERT: *(Drumroll)* Ladies and Gentlemen, it's time for Harry (get me out of here) Houdidit and his Great Escape!

(Exit HERBERT. Enter HARRY and PETUNIA. PETUNIA is carrying a 'straitjacket', rope (leg tie), belt and chains.)

HARRY: Welcome everyone. Tonight, I'd like to introduce my lovely assistant, Petunia. *(PETUNIA curtseys and does the assistant 'stance' looking as glamorous as possible.)* To perform my Great Escape, I will first be confined in a straitjacket.

(PETUNIA holds the straitjacket out to the left, then to the right in typical 'assistant style' then puts it over HARRY'S head.)

HARRY: Secondly, my feet will be bound together, *(PETUNIA demonstrates the ropes to the audience as before then pretends to tie his feet together.)* and the tops of my arms secured further so there is no 'wriggle room'. *(PETUNIA demonstrates the belt as before, then buckles it across his chest.)*

HARRY: Finally, I will be immobilized further by heavy chains. *(PETUNIA demonstrates the chains as before then drapes them all over him.)*

HARRY: My escape will be completed in 15 seconds – start the clock!

TRACK 24: TIMER 1

(HARRY wriggles about trying to free himself whilst Petunia stands holding out her arms to direct the focus onto HARRY.)

HARRY: Right, first to get my arms free. Nearly there! *(Wriggles but can't do it)* I'll try again. *(Struggles but can't do it)* I'll try the chest belt with my teeth. *(Lowers head to try and bite the belt.)*

HARRY: *(Embarrassed after the music ends)* Er, perhaps another 15 seconds?

TRACK 25: TIMER 2

(HARRY wriggles and struggles again. PETUNIA moves behind HARRY and looks at his back.)

PETUNIA: *(To HARRY)* There is something metal hidden in the back. I didn't see it! There is no way you'll get out! *(She turns and does the arm pointing with a false smile on her face again for the benefit of the audience.)* *(HARRY lies down and wriggles to try and get free. Then stands up again exhausted.)*

HARRY: *(After the music ends, shouts)* I'm a celebrity, get me out of here!

(Enter HERBERT who helps HARRY hop off the stage. PETUNIA bows elegantly to the audience to try and cover the mistakes.)

TRACK 26: HARRY PLAY OFF

SNIDE: Boo Boo!

HECKLE: Call yourself an escapologist? You couldn't find your way out of your own house.

(Both laugh. Enter HERBERT hurriedly.)

HERBERT: Ladies and Gentlemen, let's move on to our Wild West Show with Buffalo Bill!

TRACK 27: WILD WEST PLAY ON

(HERBERT looks around during the play on for BUFFALO BILL to appear. COCO and COOKIE rushes on as music stops. They pantomime the situation...)

HERBERT: Oh look! It's Coco and Cookie! Welcome back Coco and Cookie... *(under his breath)* you're not on now. What are you doing!? *(To audience)* Oh, they are trying to tell us something!? Hmm- what can it be? I don't get it. Something about Buffalo Bill...

COOKIE and COCO: Buffalo Bill is tied up!

(BUFFALO BILL reveals himself all tangled up in his ropes.)

BUFFALO BILL: It seems I'm tied up at the moment.

HERBERT: *(To audience)* OH! Oh, just like Harry it seems, hmmm! Ha Ha. Well, never fear, there's always another great act right around the corner. You know what they say, they show must go on! So that's just what we are going to do! So put your hands together for Victor Chatterson and Vagabond Charlie. *(Exit COCO and COOKIE.)*

TRACK 28: VENTRILOQUIST PLAY ON

(HERBERT looks around again for VICTOR and VAGABOND to appear.)

HERBERT: Victor? Vagabond? *(COOKIE and COCO rush on as music stops.)* Oh! Hey! It's our two favorite clowns... again!? Cookie and Coco! They always give us something to smile about! *(They try to pantomime the situation.)* What are they trying to tell us? Is anyone good at charades?

COOKIE: Victor and Vagabond...

COCO: have lost their voices! *(VICTOR and VAGABOND come out with socks in their mouths or gagged)*

HERBERT: *(Incredulous)* What?! What's going on?

SNIDE: Boo! Boo!

HECKLE: Call this a show? I want my money back!!

SNIDE: Me too! Even though I got in without paying!

(Both laugh. Exit COOKIE and COCO.)

Charlie: Such a tough break!

Otis: That's show business for ya!

HERBERT: *(Very stressed.)* Um - sorry about that folks. So now ladies and gentlemen...

TRACK 29: SFX CATS AND DOGS

HERBERT: *(Horrified)* Oh no! Now what!?

SOMEONE: *(Off stage)* The dogs are out of their cages!

HERBERT: Who let the dogs out?

SNIDE and HECKLE: *(As in the song)* Woof, woof, woof.

(PETUNIA runs on stage, being very melodramatic.)

PETUNIA: Herbert! Darling! Herbert!

BRANSTON: Dad! Stop the show!

LILY: You are not going to believe what has happened!

ALL: We've been sabotaged!

TRACK 30: DUM DUM DUM!

HERBERT: Sorry folks! I know we just had a break... but we gotta get to the bottom of all this! Please feel free to check out the side shows. We will reconvene just as soon as possible!

LILY: What's going on?

BRANSTON: I was just going to say the same thing!

PETUNIA: I know you all think I can be a little melodramatic! But this is a catastrophe!

VICTOR: I'll say, come on in, everyone...

VAGABOND: Yeah, show them what we found out...

(Enter MRS. TICKLE, HARRY, BUFFALO BILL, MAXIMUS and GLADIATORS .)

HARRY: *(Examining his straitjacket)* My straitjacket was tampered with. As soon as I put it on a metal clasp locked! There was nothing I could do!

PETUNIA: It's a disaster! We are ruined! *(wringing her hands melodramatically)*

BUFFALO BILL: *(enters)* The shame of it – to be tied up with my own lasso!!

MAXIMUS: I'm the strong man here and I couldn't do anything.

GLADIATOR 1: They took us by surprise.

GLADIATOR 2: Locked us in our dressing room, and couldn't get out.

(Enter LILY with a 'Pimple Poultice' packet label hidden in her hand, and VICTOR with VAGABOND)

HERBERT: Are you all OK? Did you see anything?

VICTOR: Yes, there were two of them. I was able to throw my voice once they'd gagged me, so they didn't stay long – wrecked a few things then scampered.

VAGABOND: They were scared because they didn't know where the voice was coming from.

PETUNIA: *(Panicking)* It's like the Sands Travelling Show and the Trumpet Circus. They all closed down and no one really knew why. It's happening to us now...oh what will we do? *(She rushes off stage in a panic.)* We are ruined!

HERBERT: There, there... Petunia...

MRS TICKLE: *(Kindly)* I'll go after her. Make her a nice cup of tea! *(Exit MRS TICKLE.)*

ALL: *(upset)* What are we going to do? Oh no! This is terrible!

HERBERT: Now, wait a minute! Are we going to pack our bags and just give up? We are the Pickles... Pickle's Perambulating Palace of Performers! You each have gifts! And so what if things didn't go exactly to plan! We need to pick ourselves up, because I believe we have a great show! The greatest show, perhaps! We are not just going to lie down, are we?

ALL: No!

HERBERT: Why?

ALL: Because the show must go on!

TRACK 31: THE SHOW GOES ON (SONG)

ALL:WHO'S DONE THIS?
WHAT'S HIS GAME?
WRECKED OUR SHOW,
WHO'S TO BLAME?

HERBERT:CAN'T BELIEVE SUCH
TYRANNY BUT
NO ONE GETS THE
BEST OF ME.

ALL:ON!
THE SHOW GOES ON.
WE'LL NEVER FAIL,
WE ARE TOO STRONG.
ON!
THE SHOW GOES ON.
WE'VE GOT THE STRENGTH

TO CARRY ON.

ALL:WE'LL STAND UP,
WON'T GIVE IN.
THERE'S NO WAY
THEY WILL WIN!

HERBERT:WHAT CAN BE THE
MOTIVATION
TO DESTROY MY
REPUTATION?

ALL:ON!
THE SHOW GOES ON.
WE'LL NEVER FAIL,
WE ARE TOO STRONG.
ON!
THE SHOW GOES ON.
WE'VE GOT THE STRENGTH
TO CARRY ON.

SMALL GROUP:ON, ON,}
ON, ON,} (*4 times*)
THE SHOW GOES}

ALL:ON!
THE SHOW GOES ON.
WE'LL NEVER FAIL,
WE ARE TOO STRONG.
ON!
THE SHOW GOES ON.
WE'LL FIND A WAY
TO RIGHT THE WRONG!
ON!
THE SHOW GOES ON.
WE'VE GOT THE STRENGTH
TO CARRY ON.

HERBERT: All right everyone, let's pull ourselves up by our boot straps! Let's reset and check our things!

(PERFORMERS EXIT, except HERBERT, LILY, and BRANSTON)

(CHARLES and OTIS enter.)

CHARLES: Tough break Mr. Pickle. But we really like the message you had about the show must go on. May we borrow it?

HERBERT: Sure! But sometimes it sounds easier than done!

OTIS: I'm sure you will figure it out. You seem to have a really great bunch of people... they seem like a family. Anyways, I'm out of cotton candy. Let's go, Charles. We'll be back.

HERBERT: We will carry on! Right, kids?

LILY and BRANSTON: Right!

BRANSTON: That's the spirit, Dad!

HERBERT: Well, it's easy saying it, but how do we go about it? Petunia is right about other shows closing, with or without sabotage. I have to admit I've been worried about the show even before all this happened...The public want new, original acts – things they've not seen before.

(Enter PROF very pleased with himself.)

PROF: Who ever tried to sabotage us tried to get into my trailer but my new burglar-proof, mechanized locking system stopped them. And not to fear- All my inventions are safe. Yes!

LILY: That's great, Gramps! We are going to need your new secret invention now more than ever! What is it? What do you got up your sleeve?

PROF: My sleeve? Hmm

BRANSTON: His hands?

LILY: Very funny!

PROF: Ahh- you two are clever!! Well, I think now is the time for the big reveal. Herbert, your worries are over! My invention is finished and it works, we just need a trial run. I just need to finish setting it up.

HERBERT: I'll help!

LILY: In the meantime Branston and I will look around for clues.

HERBERT: That's right. We aren't going to give up. Are we?

ALL: No!

HERBERT: Why? Because...

ALL: The show must go on!

TRACK 32: SHOW GOES ON REPRISE (SONG)

ALL:ON!

THE SHOW GOES ON.

WE'LL NEVER FAIL,

WE ARE TOO STRONG.

ON!
THE SHOW GOES ON.
WE'LL FIND A WAY
TO RIGHT THE WRONG!
ON!
THE SHOW GOES ON.
WE'VE GOT THE STRENGTH
TO CARRY ON.

(Exit all apart from LILY and BRANSTON. LILY pretends to pick up the 'Pimple Poultice' packet label she has hidden in her hand and shows it to BRANSTON.)

LILY: What do you make of this?

BRANSTON: It looks like the label from a packet of something.

LILY: *(Reads aloud)* 'Pimple Poultice; also cures warts, boils, bad breath and fungal infections of the feet.' Why would this be here?

BRANSTON: I think someone dropped it.

LILY: *(Knowingly)* Yes, and I think that we should go shopping! *(Exit)*

SCENE SIX: SUSPECTS

(Backdrop of Heckle and Snide's wagon. Enter HECKLE, SNIDE and FLOSSIE, and RAGAMUFFINS with a table and some small potion boxes as well as boxes with moustaches and boxes with false teeth drawn on the outside.)

HECKLE: Well Flossie – what do you think?

FLOSSIE: Yes, Dr Heckle, thank you for giving me a job.

HECKLE: I'm relying on you to make some good sales today. Have you learned your lines?

FLOSSIE: Yes, Dr Heckle.

SNIDE: Don't let me down. Remember the spectators love a bit of melodrama!

FLOSSIE: I'll try my best, Mr Snide.

HECKLE: Right, sort out these packages for me.

(FLOSSIE moves away to arrange some packets on a table then exits.)

SNIDE: *(Looks around furtively, then whispers)* Do you think we were entrepreneurial enough for the Colonel last night?

HECKLE: *(In a hushed voice)* No, I don't! We didn't even get into the inventor's lab - professor what's his name trailer, did we? It's the Professor's inventions the Colonel is most interested in.

SNIDE: Shh- here come the customers...

(Enter MRS LONGLEGS, DONALD, OTIS and CHARLES, LILY and BRANSTON (in disguise), and possible SPECTATORS who look around.)

HECKLE: *(Changes voice)* Ladies and Gentlemen, step right up! Step right up! Did you miss us? Actually, don't answer that! Ha Ha. Don't miss this opportunity to buy all your cosmetic needs here- miraculous medicines, cures for common ailments. See what enhancements you might be missing in your lives. Oh- see all the wonderful remedies we have in store for you today!

SPECTATOR 1: I wonder what they will have today?

SPECTATOR 2: I sure hope they have something for my dry skin!

CHARLES: Otis, let's check this out...

OTIS: It could be entertaining to say the least.

SNIDE: Today we start with a demonstration of The Kaiser Moustache Trainer and complimentary wax! *(Holds up a box with moustache on it)*

HECKLE: Yes, by appointment to Kaiser Wilhelm the Second, this moustache trainer is used by the Imperial Highness himself! The Kaiser achieves his fierce curl by fastening the device *(Snide holds up a face mask on a stick)* to his imperial countenance at night when he goes to sleep. His style has become all the rage in Europe!

(Enter RAGAMUFFIN 1 wearing The Kaiser moustache. He walks around the stage like a model on a catwalk then stands to one side.)

SNIDE: Indeed, the training device can also be used to introduce other designs in facial decoration, such as The Handlebar. *(Enter RAGGAMUFFIN 2 wearing The Handlebar moustache who parades as above.)*

HECKLE: Or, if you prefer to stand out in a crowd, try The Hungarian. *(Enter RAGAMUFFIN 3 wearing The Hungarian moustache who parades as above.)*

SNIDE: And finally, our latest American style, The Walrus...*(Enter RAGGAMUFFIN 4 with Walrus moustache who parades as above. OTIS and CHARLES come forward to make a purchase.)*

Otis: I moustache (must have) one! *(They both laugh)*

Charles: And me! But will you shave it for later? *(They both laugh)*

HECKLE: Ho ho! Very funny! With pleasure, gentlemen, I will keep them aside for you. but beg you all to remain for our next demonstration...

(Enter LILY and BRANSTON who stand to one side.)

SNIDE: Brought to us by the lovely Miss Flossie Dentures, the girl with the dazzling smile!

LILY: Isn't that the girl who asked dad for a job?

BRANSTON: Yes, oh I feel awful she ended up here instead. Maybe we should talk to dad again...

LILY: For sure...

TRACK 34: ARTIFICIAL TEETH (SONG)

(RAGAMUFFINS form the Chorus with HECKLE and SNIDE. Enter FLOSSIE, who stands center stage to sing.)

FLOSSIE: I WANDERED THROUGH THE MEADOWS,
HEART FLUTTERING AND GLAD.
I SPIED MY TRUE LOVE WAITING,
MY HANDSOME SHEPHERD LAD.
HE GREETED ME WITH KINDNESS
BUT SOMEHOW LOOKED SO SAD.
'I CANNOT BE YOUR LOVE,' HE SAID,
'BECAUSE YOUR TEETH ARE BAD.'

(FLOSSIE holds up a mask on a stick of a mouth with bad teeth.)

HECKLE & SNIDE: 'CANNOT BE YOUR LOVE,' HE SAID,
'BECAUSE YOUR TEETH ARE BAD.'

FLOSSIE: MY HEART WAS BROKE IN PIECES,
I WEPT AMONGST THE HEATHER.

THE RAIN IT LASHED, THE WIND IT BLEW
 I WAS MINDLESS OF THE WEATHER.
 IN DESPERATION, 'HELP!' I CRIED,
 AND RAN ACROSS THE HEATH.
 I HEARD A VOICE CALL OUT TO ME

HECKLE & SNIDE:*(Angelically)* 'TRY ARTIFICIAL TEETH!'

CHORUS: HECKLE'S, HECKLE'S, ARTIFICIAL TEETH.

HECKLE'S, HECKLE'S, ARTIFICIAL TEETH.
 HECKLE'S, HECKLE'S, ARTIFICIAL TEETH.
 HECKLE'S, HECKLE'S, ARTIFICIAL TEETH!

HECKLE & SNIDE:YOU'LL NEVER NEED TO WORRY 'BOUT
 BACTERIA OR PLAQUE.

WE'LL PULL OUT ALL THE BAD ONES
 AND POP SOME NEW ONES BACK.
 YOU'LL FIND NO BETTER DENTISTRY,
 A SERVICE UNSURPASSED;
 TEETH PAINLESSLY EXTRACTED
 WITH NITRO-OXIDE GAS!

(Scream offstage.)

CHORUS:HECKLE'S, HECKLE'S, ARTIFICIAL TEETH.
 HECKLE'S, HECKLE'S, ARTIFICIAL TEETH!

HECKLE & SNIDE:YOU WON'T REGRET YOUR PURCHASE
 FOR THE PLEASURE THAT IT BRINGS.
 AND, FOR AN EXTRA PAYMENT,
 NO UNSIGHTLY CLASPS OR SPRINGS.
 OUR MEDAL WINNING PRODUCTS
 COME IN GOLD OR VULCANITE,
 PLATINUM OR ALLOYS
 IF YOU WANT SOME EXTRA BITE!

CHORUS:HECKLE'S, HECKLE'S, ARTIFICIAL TEETH.
 HECKLE'S, HECKLE'S, ARTIFICIAL TEETH!

FLOSSIE:MY TALE IT HASN'T ENDED;
 THEY FIT JUST LIKE A GLOVE.
 I CROSSED THE HEATH WITH BRAND NEW TEETH
 TO MEET MY ONE TRUE LOVE.
 MY SHEPHERD, HE RELENTED
 AND HE SAID HE'D MARRY ME.
 I HAVE A HAPPY ENDING
 THANKS TO ARTIFICIAL TEETH!

(FLOSSIE holds up smiley mask with beautiful white teeth.)

CHORUS:HECKLE'S, HECKLE'S, ARTIFICIAL TEETH.
 HECKLE'S, HECKLE'S, ARTIFICIAL TEETH.
 HECKLE'S, HECKLE'S, ARTIFICIAL TEETH.
 HECKLE'S, HECKLE'S, NA NA NA NA NA NA NA
 ARTIFICIAL TEETH!

TRACK 35: ARTIFICIAL TEETH PLAY OFF

(Exit Ragamuffins. MRS LONGLEGS, DONALD, OTIS and CHARLES move to one side of the table to buy packs of false teeth; HECKLE and SNIDE are busy selling the products. LILY and BRANSTON browse the other side of the stall. BRANSTON picks up a packet.)

SPECTATOR 1: Let's get a closer look.

SPECTATOR 2: I'm definitely interested.

BRANSTON: Does this look familiar?

LILY: 'Pimple Poultice', I thought so.

FLOSSIE: Hello, nice to see you again.

LILY: It's Flossie, isn't it? Hello. I'm glad you found some work! You are very talented!

FLOSSIE: Thank you.

BRANSTON: But are sure you want to work for them?

FLOSSIE: Yes, I'm not so sure about the work. *(She looks anxiously over her shoulder and sees SNIDE coming over.)* I'm supposed to be selling these remedies. *(Louder voice)* Er, can I help you with that? It's our new line.

BRANSTON: Oh, a new line?

FLOSSIE: Yes, the Pimple Poultice we only got yesterday. I put out the packets just now.

LILY: Have you sold any yet?

FLOSSIE: No, you would be the first, although you don't look like you need it.

SNIDE: Oh, I'm not sure about that! The poultice is good for all sorts of ailments. *(Hissing at FLOSSIE)* What are you doing? Don't put the customer off!

LILY: *(Hastily, seeing FLOSSIE is in trouble)* Oh I think we'll take a packet; it should be very handy to have in reserve.

SNIDE: A good decision, Madam! That will be ten cents.

(LILY hands the money over. SNIDE pockets it and moves away.)

FLOSSIE: *(Relieved)* Thanks for that, you are very kind, just like your Ms T.

LILY: Yes, we were sorry we couldn't help you. To be honest, it was just as well because the show was sabotaged last night.

FLOSSIE: Yes, I was still there, I'm sorry about what happened.. I was in the audience with Dr. Heckle and Mr. Snide when they offered me a job, and I couldn't refuse . But since I've got this job, I've learned a couple things...

BRANSTON: What? Do you think you might know something?

FLOSSIE: *(Looks over her shoulder again)* Look, I really can't talk now. I'll come to Ms T's trailer tonight.

SNIDE: It's time to pack up for the day, folks! We are always in search of the latest cures, remedies, and inventions! If you think you have something that needs a patent, we will be taking appointments.

HECKLE: Who knows, you could have the latest idea...

SNIDE: Remedy...

HECKLE: Cure...

SNIDE: *(under breath)* Sure we might steal your idea... but we can't wait to help you make our dreams come true!

(Exit all. Lights down.)

SCENE SEVEN: DRAGON'S DEN

(Lights up. Steam punk backdrop.)

TRACK 36: WHAT AN INVENTION (SONG)

(Enter DONALD, MRS LONGLEGS, MRS TICKLE and COGS. They stand downstage centre to sing. Enter OBADIAH and RATFINK with a chair each and a table on which is a wad of bank notes. They sit obscured behind the singers with the table and bank notes between them.)

RATFINK: *(Grumpily)* How many more inventors have we got to see? Please let there be something worth having! Who wants bifocals for horses or a self-retracting sausage fork?

OBADIAH: *(Very cross)* This is really putting a damper on my day! We are living in the age of invention! I know there are people out there with great ideas!

RATFINK: Well, clearly they're not in Appleton!

OBADIAH: I want mechanical miracles; I want stupendous steam-powered airships; I want cog-crafted automatons. I need more exhibits for the Steampunk Spectacular!

RATFINK: *(Subdued)* Yes, Colonel. I understand...

(Sung by Donald Dufflecoat, Mrs Longlegs, Mrs Tickle and the Cogs.)

WE LIVE IN A VICTORIAN WORLD,
A TIME TO INNOVATE.
THERE'S SOMETHING NEW MOST EV'RY DAY
WE LIKE TO CELEBRATE.

IT'S FABULOUS AND THRILLING,
SO GOOD, GIVE THEM A CHEER.
WE'RE REALLY QUITE EXCITED WHEN
WE SPOT A NEW IDEA.

SOLO:A PETROL-HEAD CALLED MISTER FORD
(THEY SAID HE WOULD GO FAR.)
PRODUCED A HORSELESS CARRIAGE
WHICH HE CALLED A MOTOR CAR.
IT'S CALLED A MOTOR CAR,
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THE LIKE?
WHEN IT CHUGS ALONG THE ROAD
IT'S BETTER THAN A BIKE.

ALL:WHAT AN INVENTION!
 WHAT AN INVENTION!
 HOW DID THEY THINK OF THAT?
 WHAT AN INVENTION!
 WHAT AN INVENTION!
 SUCH A CLEVER CHAP.
 IF I EVER MEET HIM I WILL SURELY RAISE MY HAT.
 WHAT AN INVENTION!
 WHAT AN INVENTION!
 HOW DID THEY THINK OF THAT?

SOLO/MRS TICKLE:THE HOUSEWIFE MISSUS DAWN

WAS SO TIRED OF SCRUBBING PANS,
 SO MADE THE FIRST DISHWASHER,
 SAVING HER FROM DISHPAN HANDS.
 SAVED HER FROM DISHPAN HANDS;
 I FEEL YOUR PAIN, POOR LOVE.
 BUT IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD ONE,
 GET A PAIR OF RUBBER GLOVES.

ALL:WHAT AN INVENTION!
 WHAT AN INVENTION!
 HOW DID THEY THINK OF THAT?
 WHAT AN INVENTION!
 WHAT AN INVENTION!
 SUCH A CLEVER CHAP.
 IF I EVER MEET HER I WILL SURELY RAISE MY HAT.
 WHAT AN INVENTION!
 WHAT AN INVENTION!
 HOW DID THEY THINK OF THAT?

COG 1:HENRY HEINZ FROM PITTSBURGH

WAS A FORWARD-THINKING MAN.

COG 2: HE COATED BEANS IN TOMATO SAUCE

AND SOLD THEM IN A CAN.

COG 3: HE SOLD THEM IN A CAN,

OH YES, THEY TASTED FINE;

COG 4: AND AS THE ADVERTISING GOES:

'BEANZ MEANZ HEINZ!'

ALL:WHAT AN INVENTION!

WHAT AN INVENTION!

HOW DID THEY THINK OF THAT?

WHAT AN INVENTION!

WHAT AN INVENTION!

SUCH A CLEVER CHAP.

IF I EVER MEET HIM I WILL SURELY RAISE MY HAT.

WHAT AN INVENTION!

WHAT AN INVENTION!

HOW DID THEY THINK OF THAT?

MRS LONGLEGS:A BRIGHTON MAN CALLED KOHLER,

BACK IN EIGHTEEN EIGHTY-EIGHT,

DESIGNED FOR OUR CONVENIENCE

THE WORLD'S FIRST pBUBBLER - GREAT,.

THE WORLD'S FIRST BUBBLER - GREAT,

IT'S A SERVICE FOR THE FEW;

SO NOW WHEN YOU'RE THIRSTY

YOU CAN GO THERE FOR A

TASTE - GLUB 8x

ALL:WHAT AN INVENTION!

WHAT AN INVENTION!

HOW DID THEY THINK OF THAT?

WHAT AN INVENTION!

WHAT AN INVENTION!

SUCH A CLEVER CHAP.

IF I EVER MEET HIM I WILL SURELY RAISE MY HAT.

WHAT AN INVENTION!

WHAT AN INVENTION!

HOW DID THEY THINK OF THAT?

ALL:WHAT AN INVENTION!

WHAT AN INVENTION!

HOW DID THEY THINK OF THAT?

WHAT AN INVENTION!

WHAT AN INVENTION!

SUCH A CLEVER CHAP.

IF I EVER MEET HIM I WILL SURELY RAISE MY HAT!

(Grab hat, raise hat, replace hat.)

WHAT AN INVENTION!
 WHAT AN INVENTION!
 HOW DID THEY THINK? –
 HOW DID THEY THINK OF THAT?

TRACK 37: DRAGON'S DEN THEME

(Exit singers during Track 37 to reveal Obadiah and Ratfink seated in a Dragon's Den scenario.)

OBADIAH: Who is next?

COG 1: *(Looks at a list)* Er... we have Donald Dufflecoat with his automated button fastener.

OBADIAH: You *are* joking?

(Enter DONALD with the button fastener.)

DONALD: Good evening, Gentlemen. My miracle button fastener is an essential for every household. It can fasten coats, corsets and spats...

RATFINK: Corsets? I'm out!

DONALD: *(Gulps)* What, already? But it will amaze, astound and fascinate...

OBADIAH: Fasten eight? That's not many! I have at least 15 buttons on my coat alone. I'm out!

(Exit DONALD grumpily.)

COG 2: OK. Next we have... Mrs Longlegs, with...

LONGLEGS: *(enters)* With my patented spider trap... you see here....

OBADIAH: How is this going to further my wicked plan of world circus domination?

RATFINK: A spider trap? It will never catch on! I'm out!

OBADIAH: Yeah and I'm out as well –

(Exit in a huff.)

COG 3: *(Big sigh)* Well, we've got one more.

COG 4: Mrs Tickle with her flying dusters.

OBADIAH: Flying dusters? Well, maybe there is a mechanism here I could use.

(Enter MS T with a feather duster.)

MRS TICKLE: Good evening gentlemen. I'm looking for an investment of *(whispers in their ear)* for a 20% share in my housekeeping business.

OBADIAH: What? I thought you had a flying duster.

MRS TICKLE: *(Innocently)* Oh, did you? Sorry, no; the business is called Flying Dusters. We are very thorough, and I have to say your er...abode could do with a good once over! *(She starts to dust around and dusts RATFINK and OBADIAH.)*

RATFINK: Enough! We want inventions! Flying dusters... it's feathers on a stick! This will never take off!

OBADIAH: *(Sneezing)* I'm out! And you're out too, Mrs Tickle!

(MRS TICKLE moves to downstage right listening to the next conversation.)

OBADIAH: *(Very cross)* This has been a waste of time! How am I going to complete my mechanical menagerie and Steampunk Spectacular without mind-blowing inventions and wacky ideas? I need that inventor Professor Pickle; he's the man – him and his inventions.

RATFINK: I would just like to remind you, Colonel, we still have all the animals!

OBADIAH: Yes, the animals!? Hahaha! Soon they will all be turned into mechanical creatures! I hope Heckle and Snide have done the deed!

RATFINK: They are here now. Let's go check on them...

(Enter HECKLE and SNIDE to center stage. They freeze along with OBADIAH and RATFINK. Enter LILY, BRANSTON and FLOSSIE to downstage right, where they meet MRS TICKLE.)

MRS TICKLE: You were right, Flossie. It was Dr. Heckle and Mr. Snide! They are working for Obadiah Blastpipe – the show saboteur! But there's more!

LILY: They want to destroy us?

MRS TICKLE: Yes, but there's more...

BRANSTON: Obadiah Blastpipe is responsible for the other shows going out of business...

MRS TICKLE: Yes, but there's more...

FLOSSIE: He's got a warehouse full of weird contraptions, he's going to exhibit.

MRS TICKLE: Yes, but there's more!

LILY: I knew it! He's after the Prof, and all his inventions.

MRS TICKLE: *(Shouts)* Yes, but there's more!!!

(ALL pause surprised, check over at the frozen characters at the back of the stage in case they've been heard.)

MRS TICKLE: *(Lowers voice)* He's got animals he's stolen locked up in the engine sheds.

ALL: Animals!?

MRS TICKLE: The Cogs are making metal plating and horrible chain harnesses. The poor animals are going to be encased in them to look mechanical.

FLOSSIE: Oh no! I can't bear it. Those poor defenseless creatures!

(ALL freeze. OBADIAH, RATFINK, HECKLE and SNIDE unfreeze and walk center left so they can be seen.)

OBADIAH: Are you telling me that you got nothing from the Professor?

HECKLE: His trailer was locked with this incredible invention, mechanism, or whatever it is... is inside!

OBADIAH: *(Getting really angry)* I need the Professor and everything he has made *and* whatever his secret invention is. *(Becoming really maniacal)* They must all be mine, mine, mine! *(RATFINK, HECKLE, and SNIDE lean away from him, shocked at the outburst.)*

RATFINK, SNIDE, HECKLE: Woah!

OBADIAH: *(Clears throat and calms down a bit)* Anyway, as it seems you two can't be left on your own, or that I can't count on you to get a job done! Ratfink, you and I are going to have to go along and do the job properly next time! *(They exit, taking chairs and table with them. LILY, BRANSTON, FLOSSIE, and MRS TICKLE unfreeze and move downstage centre.)*

TRACK 38: OBADIAH PLAY OFF / SFX GORILLA

LILY: How many animals to you suppose they have animal-napped?

BRANSTON: Let's check it out...

FLOSSIE: Oh, that's Cuddles, the Grinning Gorilla – they must have stole him from Barnum and Bailey

LILY: And there's Dumbo the Intelligent Elephant...

BRANSTON: ...and Trilly the Trumpet Playing Hyena....

TRACK 39: SFX MULE

FLOSSIE: It breaks my heart! Oh dear...Cornelius the comic mule.

BRANSTON: Well, his life is no joke!

FLOSSIE: No kidding! I didn't think the conditions were good at the circus, but they are much worse here! We must do something!

LILY: You do know a lot about all these animals, Flossie.

FLOSSIE: Yes, well I want to start a wildlife park reserve. That's what I'm trying to save for.

LILY: You must talk to our dad again!

BRANSTON: *(Anxiously)* Speaking of dad, we've got to get back and warn Dad and Gramps. Our whole circus family is in jeopardy!

LILY: And I left my precious kitties... we need to make sure they are alright! Let's go! *(Exit ALL.)*

SCENE EIGHT: THE BIOSCOPE

(Backdrop – the Professor’s workshop. Table with mechanical instruments on it. This scene takes the form of a comic melodramatic silent film and is scripted with stage directions alone. If using a Cog with cards, he/she should have them all and show each one at the points noted in bold type below.)

(Numbers in brackets denote seconds on track.)

TRACK 40: SILENT MOVIE PIANO MUSIC UNDERSCORE

1. Enter PROF with a table of mechanical instruments. He begins to work on them. (1-14)
2. **(At 7 seconds) Backdrop/or Cog with a card: ‘Professor Pickle is working on his next invention.’**
3. Enter PETUNIA with a cup of tea for the professor. She greets him and puts the tea on the table. (15-23)
4. Enter RATFINK, HECKLE, and SNIDE. PETUNIA reacts in melodramatic style. (24-33)
5. **(At 27 seconds) Backdrop/Cog with sign: ‘Oh No! It’s the dastardly Obadiah, Ratfink and the Quack Doctors - Dr. Heckle and Snide!’**
6. HECKLE grabs the PROF; RATFINK grabs PETUNIA, who continues to be very melodramatic with her actions; Snide drinks their tea tauntingly, then starts to steal the equipment on the table. (34-43)
7. Enter OBADIAH in his most ridiculous costume full of metallic accessories including his bunch of keys. (44-49)
8. Enter LILY and BRANSTON who show shock horror. OBADIAH grabs the PROF. OBADIAH mimes an evil laugh. (50-58)
9. **(At 54 seconds) Backdrop/Cog with Sign: ‘Evil laugh Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!’**
10. LILY and BRANSTON run around the stage pursued by HECKLE and SNIDE. (59-1:05)
11. Enter FLOSSIE with Branston’s tin of fleas. She shakes them down the necks of HECKLE and SNIDE who run off stage dancing about and yelping (silently). (1:06-1:17)
12. **(At 1:09) Backdrop/Cog with sign: ‘Yikes, ouch! Itchy, itchy! Get them off me! Get them off me!’**
13. BRANSTON ~~takes the tin off FLOSSIE and looks very crossly at her,~~ then exits. (1:18-1:24)
14. FLOSSIE and LILY approach OBADIAH and grab some keys from his belt. They rush offstage holding the keys up in triumph. (1:25-1:36)
15. **(At 1:33) Backdrop/Cog with sign: ‘The keys to the engine sheds – we can free the animals!’**
16. OBADIAH lets go of the PROF and starts to run off stage after the girls. (1:37-1:45)
17. **(At 1:40) Backdrop/Cog with sign: ‘Curses! I must get my keys back!’**
18. Enter BRANSTON with the giant magnet which stops OBADIAH and drags him back to the magnet where he is stuck. (1:46-1:53)
19. Enter LORD D’ENTURE and two POLICEMEN. (1:54-2:00)
20. **(At 2:00) Backdrop/Cog with sign: ‘The surprise appearance of Lord D’Enture, Flossie’s father!’**
21. The POLICEMEN arrest RATFINK and OBADIAH and march them off stage. (2:01-2:10)
22. FLOSSIE enters, runs to her father and they embrace. (2:11-2:21)
23. **(At 2:21) Backdrop/Cog with sign: ‘Don’t you just love a happy ending? Please clap!’**

24. *FLOSSIE and LORD D'ENTURE slowly walk off stage, arm in arm. (2:21-2:30)*

(Audience clap - hopefully! Exit Cog if appropriate. Enter OTIS and CHARLES who walk across the stage in front of remaining cast from one side to the other, during the dialogue below.)

Otis: That was terrific!

Charles: I'm lost for words!

Otis: So you should be – it's a silent movie!

(Both laugh then exit. PROF, PETUNIA and BRANSTON move to downstage centre patting each other on the back for a job well done.)

SCENE NINE: THE GREATEST SHOW

(Backdrop – Professor’s workshop. Enter Herbert, Lily and Mrs Tickle.)

PROF: Well, I said my invention needed testing and it worked brilliantly! Thanks to my wonderful cast!

BRANSTON: Uh? I’m not with you.

HERBERT: You were all the cast in Prof’s moving picture. His invention is a bioscope, it records moving pictures.

PROF: Yes, I set up the machine and Herbert here controlled it.

LILY: I wondered where you were, Dad, when Obadiah and his gang raided us.

HERBERT: Yes, thanks to your warning, we were able to set a trap and catch them red-handed.

LILY: It could have gone wrong!

PROF: We had contingency plans; Buffalo Bill (*enters*) was on standby with his lasso, Maximus and the Gladiators (*enter*) were ready to stop anyone getting away and we had alerted the police.

BRANSTON: But what about my poor fleas!

MRS TICKLE: Don’t worry Branston, we wouldn’t want any harm to come to them! We put itching powder in the flea tin – I’d stowed the fleas safely in that beautiful feather hat I found in the props.

PETUNIA: What? My Daisy hat!

MRS TICKLE: Only joking!

BRANSTON: Ohhh! I thought it was strange that Flossie should treat the fleas so badly, so she knew they had been moved?

FLOSSIE: (*enters*) Of course. We knew it would have more effect if the tin was marked ‘Fleas’!

BRANSTON: What about Dr. Heckle and Snide?

PROF: They were caught by the police.

POLICE 1: (*enters with the VILLAINS*) Look who we have here!

POLICE 2: We will also get all the animals back to their proper homes.

LILY: And we have all the evidence of their evil deeds thanks to the bioscope!?

PETUNIA: That’s right, Lily! And I can’t wait to watch *my*... our performance!

BRANSTON: And now, thanks to the Gramps, our future is safe!

HERBERT: We have the new scientific act that will draw the crowds: Pickle’s Moving Picture Show!

ALL: Horray!

LILY: And our first show can be 'Crime Doesn't Pay'

PETUNIA: or 'Obadiah Blastpipe And The Magnet Of Doom!'... starring Petunia Pickle! (*ALL react*) Although it's a pity I didn't get tied to the railroad tracks: imagine the drama in that! It would have been my finest hour!

PROF: There will be many more opportunities for you to use your acting talents, my dear.

HERBERT: So now everyone's jobs are safe - we will continue with our usual acts...

LILY: Wait! Dad. Not everyone. Flossie doesn't have a job.

BRANSTON: She is saving to open a wild life sanctuary.

HERBERT: You didn't let me finish... now we will have the moving picture show as our headliner. And hopefully make enough money to bring Flossie on!

FLOSSIE: Really!?

HERBERT: Really!

(*CHARLES and OTIS enter.*)

CHARLES: Pickle's Moving Picture Show is going to be a hit...

OTIS: All over Wisconsin... maybe the world!

HERBERT: What!? You Ringling Brothers haven't come to steal our ideas!

OTIS: No. We came to be inspired!

CHARLES: Which is exactly what you all did! I hope you realize that you have The Greatest Show! Because you have heart and you have each other! (*EVERYONE cheers and claps.*)

OTIS: You kept going, even when some people might have quit!

HERBERT: You are correct, Ringling Brothers! That's because...

ALL: The show must go on!

LILY and BRANSTON: Yay! Well done Dad!

TRACK 41: DENTON ABBEY

HERBERT: You never know! First the travelling show, now the moving picture show.

PROF: Who knows where inventions will take us next? The ideas are endless...

FLOSSIE: Wildlife sanctuaries!

LILY: Talking and moving pictures?

MS T: Talking and moving pictures... in color?

BRANSTON: Talking, moving pictures in color... in your own home?

PROF: (*Thinking hard*) Hmmm, talking, moving, color pictures... in a little frame that you can carry around with you...

HERBERT: Well, that really is ridiculous!!

PETUNIA: Oh, never mind all that, we have got The Greatest Show!

HERBERT: That's right... so let's go! The show must go on!

TRACK 42: THE GREATEST SHOW (SONG)

ALL:WE'VE SEEN THE FUTURE AND WE'RE LOVIN' THE VIEW;
OUR SHOW IS CHANGING TO SOMETHING NEW.
WE'RE MOVIN' FORWARD, AHEAD OF THE GAME;
OUR NEW INVENTION WILL BRING US ALL FAME.

ALL:THE MOVING PICTURES, REAL LIFE ON A SCREEN;
THEY'LL TAKE YOU PLACES THAT YOU'VE NEVER SEEN.
GOODIES AND BADDIES WE'LL CHEER AND WE'LL BOO;
OUR SILENT MOVIES WILL ENTERTAIN YOU.

GROUP 1 AND 2

(IN HARMONY):WE ARE SPECTACULAR, SHININ' LIKE A SUPERSTAR.
BIOSCOPE WILL TAKE US FAR; GONNA BE SO POPULAR.

ALL:WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA:
IT'S THE GREATEST SHOW!

ALL:THE CAT'S PYJAMAS' GOT NOTHING ON US;
CALL US THE QUEEN BEES. CAN YOU HEAR THE BUZZ?
TOP OF THE PLAYBILL AND WE'RE ALL THE RAGE,
AT THE BEGINNING OF A GOLDEN AGE.

GROUP 1 AND 2

(IN HARMONY):WE ARE SPECTACULAR, SHININ' LIKE A SUPERSTAR.
BIOSCOPE WILL TAKE US FAR; GONNA BE SO POPULAR.

ALL:WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA:

IT'S THE GREATEST SHOW!

ALL: IT'S SO GROUND BREAKIN', FIVE STARS IN THE MAKIN'.

IT'S GONNA BE A BIG SURPRISE!

IT'S SO AMAZING; YOU WON'T BE COMPLAININ'.

YOU REALLY WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES!

ALL: THE MOVING PICTURES, REAL LIFE ON A SCREEN;
THEY'LL TAKE YOU PLACES THAT YOU'VE NEVER SEEN.
GOODIES AND BADDIES WE'LL CHEER AND WE'LL BOO;
OUR SILENT MOVIES WILL ENTERTAIN YOU.

GROUP 1 AND 2

(IN HARMONY): WE ARE SPECTACULAR, SHININ' LIKE A SUPERSTAR.

BIOSCOPE WILL TAKE US FAR; GONNA BE SO POPULAR.

ALL: WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA:

IT'S THE GREATEST SHOW!

GROUP 1 AND 2

(IN HARMONY): WE ARE SPECTACULAR, SHININ' LIKE A SUPERSTAR.

BIOSCOPE WILL TAKE US FAR; GONNA BE SO POPULAR.

ALL: WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA:

IT'S – THE – GREATEST – SHOW!

TRACK 43 THE GREATEST SHOW – BOWS AND REPRIS (SONG)

ALL: IT'S THE GREATEST SHOW!

GROUP 1 AND 2

(IN HARMONY): WE ARE SPECTACULAR, SHININ' LIKE A SUPERSTAR.

BIOSCOPE WILL TAKE US FAR; GONNA BE SO POPULAR.

ALL: WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA:

IT'S – THE – GREATEST – SHOW!

TRACK 44: THE GREATEST SHOW – OPTIONAL ENCORE (SONG)

GROUP 1 AND 2

(IN HARMONY): WE ARE SPECTACULAR, SHININ' LIKE A SUPERSTAR.

BIOSCOPE WILL TAKE US FAR; GONNA BE SO POPULAR.

ALL: WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA:

IT'S – THE – GREATEST – SHOW!

GROUP 1 AND 2

(IN HARMONY): WE ARE SPECTACULAR, SHININ' LIKE A SUPERSTAR.

BIOSCOPE WILL TAKE US FAR; GONNA BE SO POPULAR.

ALL: WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA:

IT'S – THE – GREATEST – SHOW!

TRACK 45: FINAL PLAY OFF

TRACK 46: SFX GORILLA ONLY