

RUBBISH

An environmentally sound show to reduce the garbage!

A musical play with words and music by Cenarth Fox

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Published by FOX PLAYS

ISBN 0 949175 53 6

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Backing CD and Band Parts

There is a backing CD with both rehearse and perform versions. If you want a live band, you can hire the lively band parts.

Production Package

There are lots of ideas and suggestions in the free Production Notes for *Rubbish*. Tips on the set, costumes, lighting, props, make-up, etc. The notes are sent to all groups staging the show. So too are the free lyric sheets for your chorus members. There is a DVD of the show which may be used for rehearsal purposes. The composer/playwright is happy to offer free advice and he can be contacted by phone, letter or e-mail.

To the Director

The characters have no gender. You may change the he/she to him/her.

First Season

The first season of *Rubbish* was staged by the staff and students of St Leonard's College, East Brighton, Victoria, Australia in September 1996. It was a great success.

Some reviews of this musical staged by primary and middle schools

Thank you for your wonderful script. We had a fantastic night and everyone loved the performance – especially the performers. Keep writing, we need great scripts for primary students. Thanks again

St Leonard's College

It was a tremendous event with our small hall struggling to cope with both our audience and 160 kids on stage. Thanks for all your help

Kennington PS

The children were terrific. Thanks for a great environmental musical

Mackellar PS

Rubbish gave us a chance to think about our environment

Chertsey PS

We are right in the middle of rehearsals and having a ball with it. We love the music and the lines. Very clever. The more we rehearse, the more humor we find. I'll let you know how the performances go. The choreographer has had fun with the music also. She has come up with some great dances. I am hoping to produce *Germs* this summer at one of the dance centers in town. I'll let you know more later.

We thoroughly enjoy performing *Rubbish* for our school. It was very well received.

Greg Barner – Interlochen School USA

2 RUBBISH

The Plot

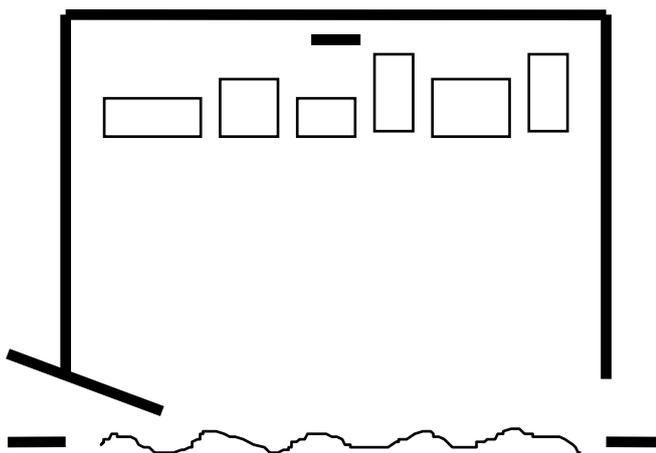
Below the street in which you live is a stormwater drain. In this drain is the village of Garbage. The folk living in Trash Street are just like the folk in your street. Some are neat and tidy, some are messy, some don't care and others are very particular about their house, garden and environment. But that's life. And that's your street. Mind how you walk. It's right below you. Let's meet the folk beneath your street.

Costumes and Movement

The characters are humans of a kind. They speak, sing and dance just like the performers in your drama group. They can have stunning costumes to match their title or can wear jeans and teeshirts just like you do. There are detailed suggestions in the Production Notes. The key of course is freedom, well, relative freedom of movement.

The Set

There is only one. It's a subterranean situation. We see a row of houses/dwellings in which the main characters live. A pretend river/stream flows across the very front of the performing area. There is a street/open area between the houses [upstage] and the river [downstage]. This space is important. It's where most of the action takes place. There is a drain offstage on one side with a slide from the drain leading down into the river. Various characters/items come from the drain, down the slide and thus into the village. There is an opening upstage above the houses. This is a side-entry in the gutter of the street above. This can also be a light source for the village below. There are more suggestions in the Production Notes. Here's a simple sketch of a suggested set design.



RUBBISH 3

Characters

Can	bright, cheerful, leader
Smokes	easy-going, laid-back, joker, friendly
Clam	doesn't care about the environment, ignorant, shady trader
Plastic	does care about the environment
Straw	shares house with ice-cream stick, moaner and groaner
Stick	other half of the Thin Twins, moaner and groaner
Glass	tidy fanatic, prim and proper, thinks locally not globally
Garbo 1	a dustman [member of the COMPANY]
Garbo 2	another dustman [member of the COMPANY]
Collector 1	a good citizen tidying the neighbourhood
Collector 2	a good citizen tidying the neighbourhood
Clerk	official working on litter project
Surveyor	official working on rubbish disposal
Villagers	other characters who live in surrounding streets

Note. If you need to double, the two garbos can play the two collectors.

Musical Numbers

1.	Overture	Orchestra
2.	Down Under	Company
3.	Everything In Its Place	Glass & Company
4.	Put Off Till Tomorrow Blues	Smokes & Clam
5.	Use It Again	Plastic & Company
6.	Wrap It	Clam & Company
7.	You Need A Hole	Surveyor & Company
8.	Re-Use, Re-Cycle, Re-Turn	Company
9.	Curtain Calls	Company
10.	Playout	Orchestra

4 RUBBISH

(The Overture begins. Slowly open the curtains and bring up the lights. It's night. It's dark. Varying lights are on in the houses and an old-fashioned street lamp throws more light on the scene. During the Overture, a garbage truck enters. The truck could be a two-dimensional cardboard truck with the upstage driver walking the machine across the stage or a pedal-car with a small trailer attached. Two workers are on foot. They empty the small plastic bins outside each house into the truck/trailer. GARBO 1 breaks free and addresses the audience. Garbage collecting goes on behind him upstage. The collecting may need padding out to fill in during the speech. GARBO 2 could duck up between a house, even offstage to collect a bin or two)

GARBO 1 Good morning. Just collecting the garbage. You learn a lot about people from what's in their bin. Hamburger Clam's in number one. Messy, lazy and selfish. We hate his type. But not Plastic in number two. We love him. Hardly got *any* rubbish. Now Can's in number three. A nice type. Neighbourhood watch and all that. And number four's a joker. Smokes. No, that's his name. Always good for a laugh. But number five, no way. Stick and Straw are the Thin Twins. All they ever do is complain. And lucky last is number six. Glass. Talk about tidy. Glass washes the garbage before placing it neatly in a sparkling bin.

GARBO 2 *(Calling)* Hey! Come on! We've finished this street. *(Truck exits)*

GARBO 1 *(Calling)* Okay! *(To audience)* Gotta go. It's a dirty job but somebody has to do it. Enjoy the show. See ya. *(Exits after truck. Calls back to audience. Music stops)* And don't forget me bottle of beer at Christmas.

(GARBO exits and the Overture ends. Lights come up to herald the morning. Residents come out of their houses to get their paper, bring in the bins, take dog for a walk, go jogging, etc. CLAM is late and there is paper rubbish strewn in front of his house. GLASS has a brush and pan and sweeps his bin, path, front door etc. STRAW and STICK huddle under an umbrella peering out to see if it's raining. They're miserable. Chorus characters are neighbours from surrounding houses out walking, jogging, going to school, work, etc. Do NOT take much time getting everyone on stage. Rather start the music and have people arrive during the song. MUSIC BEGINS)

No. 2 Down Under

Company *When the rain falls in your street
We can tell you where it goes to
When the rain falls in your street
We can show you where it flows to.
From the sky to the street to the drain to the sea
And there getting wet why it's dear old me.
When the rain falls in your street
We can show you where it flows to.*

RUBBISH 5

*Down here, down here, there's a village underground
Down here, down here, there are creatures safe and sound.
There are houses, browsers, lots of drains
And running water when it rains
Down here, down here, there's a village underground.*

(Dialogue during the song)

- CLAM** *(Addresses audience)* Welcome to our subterranean abode. *Sub* is a prefix meaning under and *terrane* a geological formation.
- SMOKES** *(Also addressing audience)* So subterranean means a geological prefix formed in a submarine.
- CAN** *(At SMOKES)* No it doesn't! Subterranean means something existing underground.
- SMOKES** That's what I said.
- GLASS** Yes but in a convoluted way.
- PLASTIC** Okay, enough of the chit chat. C'mon. It's time to dance.
(They dance, repeat the song and finish in a happy mood. But PLASTIC has seen the rubbish outside CLAM'S house and would like things to improve)
- PLASTIC** Excuse me, Clam but would it be possible for you to put a lid on your bin? I mean look at all the rubbish you've left behind.
- CLAM** Hang on, hang on. It wasn't me who left it there. It's those lazy garbos.
[dustmen]
- CAN** Good morning Plastic. Good morning Clam.
- CLAM** Oh yeah. What's good about it? You wanna abuse me too?
- PLASTIC** Can, I'd like a word if I may. *(Moves CAN to one side)* What are you going to do about the rubbish in the street? It really is an eyesore.
- CAN** Plastic, I look after neighbourhood watch. I'm not in charge of garbage. Look, if you're not happy with Clam, tell him yourself.
- CLAM** *(Moving in)* Somebody mention my name?
- PLASTIC** We were about to discuss the unnecessary rubbish in the bins.
- CAN** In the bins? I thought you meant the rubbish in the street.
- CLAM** And I thought I told you to mind your own business.
- PLASTIC** Oh don't be ridiculous.
- CAN** Okay, Clam. None of that thanks. We're all neighbours, remember?
- SMOKES** *(Laughing at TWINS)* Hey! Mind the rain drops you two! There might be another shower tomorrow.
- STICK** Oh this is terrible. I think it's going to rain.
- STRAW** Yes and we don't like it. We don't like it all.
- STICK** Last week we had three days of rain and two days when it almost rained.
- STRAW** It's terrible. The rain makes miserable folk even more miserable.

6 RUBBISH

- STICK** And remember, if we haven't got anything to complain about, well, we're very unhappy.
- STRAW** That's right. We're never happy unless we're miserable.
- GLASS** *(Holding a piece of litter)* Excuse me. To whom does this belong?
- SMOKES** *(Mocking GLASS'S poshness)* Ooooh. I say. Does anyone know to whom it does belong. I mean, has it got anyone's name on it?
- GLASS** It didn't get here by itself. This litter came from somebody's bin.
- CLAM** *(Nasty)* Well put it back then you dozy old cow. *(GLASS offended)*
- CAN** Knock it off, Clam. There's no need to be rude.
- SMOKES** Sure it ain't yours, Glass?
- GLASS** Of course it's not mine. This litter is dirty, mine is always spotless. And besides, it hasn't been wrapped properly before being placed tidily in a clean bin with a secure and matching lid.
- SMOKES** Oh darn. *(OTHERS turn to seemingly angry SMOKES)* I've done it again. *(Pause)* I forgot to wash me rubbish. *(OTHERS laugh. GLASS offended)*
- GLASS** That's right, mock me. Make fun of me. As soon as anyone tries to do something worthwhile, all they get is ridicule and sarcasm. *(MUSIC BEGINS)* We should all remember, tidiness is next to godliness.
(If you wish to have some or all of your chorus members in this song either allow them to remain after the first song, say strolling upstage, or bring them back on in dribs and drabs once the singing has started)

No. 3 Everything In It's Place

- Glass**
- Life would be more bearable, more shareable and sweet
If everyone was clean and tidy, kept thing nice and neat.
It's not a lot to ask or do, it sure won't take all day
Just clean up when you're finished
And put your things away.
Everything in its place and a place for everything
Everything in its space, be it soap or saw or string.
If you tidy up, put your things away
It'll help you win, it'll make your day, it's true with
Everything in its place and a place for everything.*

(COMPANY repeat song then dance. The dance could consist of GLASS organising the others who mime collecting all manner of things, tidying their room, the street, etc. It's a fun routine. The chorus is repeated with coda and everyone finishes pointing/looking at GLASS. After applause, chorus members, if used, exit. CAN calls a meeting)

- CAN** If I could have everyone's attention. Please. *(Indicates DC)* Over here.
(Principals gather around CAN)

RUBBISH 7

CLAM This is a total waste of time. I dunno why we have these meetings.

PLASTIC Well if you'd stop yapping and listen you might learn something.

CLAM You're just jealous because my packaging company makes heaps of money while your pathetic re-cycling fiasco goes pear-shaped.

CAN Please, we need to discuss a new plan by council. *Without* bickering.

PLASTIC *(Gives CLAM a return volley)* Your packaging company is responsible for most of the litter in this street.

CLAM Oh very funny. It's *people* who create litter, mate, my company creates wealth.

SMOKES *(Breaking up the dispute)* Okay it's two all and half time. Now knock it off you two and let's get on with the meeting.

CAN Thank you. Look, I need to tell everyone about a new plan by council. The street above is being re-surfaced and the drain in the gutter up there *(Points to upstage drain)* is being repaired. *(Reaction from others)*

GLASS *(Very happy)* Oh that's wonderful. That's marvellous news.

PLASTIC Wonderful? Are you mad? A new drain means more rubbish washed down here right into our village.

GLASS Yes but the street above will look so nice and new. It'll be clean and tidy.

CAN That's true, Glass. But when it rains we cop the rubbish. All sorts of litter and other garbage is washed into the drain.

PLASTIC And that drain becomes our river. Look. Have you seen it lately?
(They all look at the river)

SMOKES Yes but you've got to admit it's well named. The *Rubbish Dump River* is a very good title.

CAN The people above are just like us. They drop litter, their cars leak oil in the gutter, their dogs use the street as a toilet, they don't sweep up the leaves and all these things and others go down the drain and straight into our river.

GLASS Yes but out of sight is where the rubbish *ought* to be.

CLAM Yeah, just like you.

PLASTIC But it's not out of *our* sight. We can see it. Look at our river. It's polluted. And this river flows into the ocean and when it rains, the beaches are covered in all sorts of garbage.

CAN And believe me, the people on the beach are not happy.

SMOKES True but as there's nothing we can do about it, let's all go home and forget the whole jolly thing.

CLAM Brilliant idea. And here's another one. *(Nasty)* Why don't you do-gooders leave us alone and mind your own filthy business.
(CLAM blows a raspberry as he and SMOKES exit upstage and sit/chat outside their homes. GLASS is upset and exits into her house)

8 RUBBISH

- GLASS** *(Exiting)* This is appalling. I can't stand untidy, unclean, un ... *(Lost for words, storms off)* ooooooh.
- STICK** Look, never mind the rubbish, what are you doing about the miserable wet weather?
- SMOKES** *(Wanders down)* Nothing I hope. I like wet weather. It gives me an excuse to stay inside.
- STRAW** We've had day after day of heavy rain, misty rain, downpours and showers. It's just not good enough!
- STRAW** That's right. It's either raining or about to rain. And that makes us miserable.
- STICK** But it's no good asking you lot for ideas. You haven't got a clue.
- CAN** Sorry Stick. Sorry Straw. I'm afraid the weather is beyond my control.
- STICK** Well that's not good enough. We want some action.
- STRAW** *(Leading STICK to their house)* Oh come on. They're useless. Let's go and be miserable in peace.
- STICK** *(Exiting)* You're right. We'll have to fix it ourselves.
- PLASTIC** Can, there's something we didn't discuss. I've become very interested in what actually goes *into* my rubbish bin. Did you know that garbage today has become very important.
- CAN** *(Frustrated)* I told you it's not my concern. You need to contact the council. And besides, if people want to be messy, that's their business.
(Storms upstage into house)
- PLASTIC** But I've got some great ideas to tackle the problem. *(Goes after CAN)* We can beat this litter problem. *(CAN exits)* Can!
- SMOKES** Oh, give up, Plastic. Can't you see that all the goodwill in the world is never going to beat the most powerful movement ever discovered?
- PLASTIC** Sorry, what are you talking about?
- SMOKES** There are some things in life you just can't fight. They're too powerful.
- PLASTIC** Oh yeah? Such as? What's this powerful movement?
- SMOKES** *(Takes his time)* Inertia.
- PLASTIC** *(Scorn and surprise)* Inertia?
- CLAM** *(Laughing)* Oh that's very good. Nice one, Smokes. I like that. Inertia.
- PLASTIC** But my ideas can mean better health, big financial savings, new jobs and all sorts of great things.
- SMOKES** *(Moving to PLASTIC)* Gee I'm amazed you don't know about this, Plastic. In fact. I am shocked by your ignorance. Listen. Everyone is born with certain genes. Right?
- PLASTIC** Genes. Okay, so what?
- CLAM** *(Moving down to other side of PLASTIC)* But I don't like jeans. I can't stand denim.

RUBBISH 9

SMOKES *(Ignores CLAM)* And one of our genes is the lazy gene.
PLASTIC *(Thinks they're talking baloney)* Ah, you're making this up. You don't know what you're talking about.
CLAM There's only one reason why litter lands in our streets, why our rivers and streams are polluted and why my bin never has a lid.
SMOKES Inertia.
PLASTIC What do you mean, inertia?
(PLASTIC turns back and forth as each speaks either side of him. The tempo of delivery is rallentando - gradually getting slower)
CLAM Indolence.
SMOKES Inactivity.
CLAM Procrastination.
SMOKES Lack of interest.
CLAM Laziness.
PLASTIC So? Fight it. Resist. Do something about it.
SMOKES We can't.
PLASTIC You can't!? Why not?
SMOKES Inertia.
CLAM We're too lazy. *(MUSIC BEGINS)*
(PLASTIC unhappily brushes them aside and exits. Lighting dims for duet)

No. 4 Put Off Till Tomorrow Blues

Smokes & Clam *Laziness we push, life should be a cush
Doin' nothin's what we choose.
When there's work to do, disappear from view
Find yourself a place to snooze.
But not before the sweet procrastination time
We've got the put off till tomorrow blues.*

Smokes *House it needs a clean, car it needs a sheen
Time to fix my favourite shoes
Leaves are everywhere, time to cut the hair
Got to pay my union dues
But not before the sweet procrastination time
I've got the put off till tomorrow blues.*

Clam *Litter in the yard, doggies' calling card
Hardly makes for lovely views
Garbage overflows, drains are on the nose
Time to heed the clean-up cues
But not before the sweet procrastination time
I've got the put off till tomorrow blues.*
(Dialogue during song)

10 RUBBISH

CLAM You know, I like making decisions. I like choosing between tomorrow and the day after.

SMOKES Me too. My favourite expression is, "I must get around to that".

CLAM Well I'm big on new year resolutions. Not keeping them mind, just making them.

SMOKES And remember the words of the poet, "Always put off today what you can do tomorrow".
(They laugh and sing)

Smokes & Clam *But not before the sweet procrastination time
We've got the put off till tomorrow blues.*

(Duet ends. Lights remain dim [poetic licence] and the duo start to exit into their homes)

SMOKES So Clam, what are you going to do today?

CLAM Well I was thinking about mowing the lawn, weeding the garden, washing the car, painting the house and building a shed.

SMOKES *(Shocked)* What?! You're going to all that. I don't believe you.

CLAM I didn't say I was *going* to do it. I said I was *thinking* about doing it. Now I've thought about it so there's me full day's work. Time to be lazy again. See ya.
(Exits. SMOKES shakes his head and exits too. It's still dark. Slight pause. STRAW and STICK look out and creep surreptitiously from their home. Each carries a sack on their shoulder. They are nervous but determined)

STICK Come on. There's nobody here.

STRAW I'm scared. And I'm not sure this is such a good idea.

STICK It's a great idea. And the best way to get rid of that terrible wet weather. You do want to get rid of it?

STRAW Of course I do. I hate it. But I'm not sure your plan will work.

STICK It'll work all right. Just keep quiet and creep this way.
(STICK creeps in an exaggerated fashion and STRAW watches then follows mimicking the movement. They creep upstage maybe between the houses. We see them heading up, climbing perhaps, until they disappear from view. Slowly bring up lights to the normal day scene. COMPANY members out for a stroll or passing by on business could enter from different directions and pass through the village. Suddenly CAN appears pushing a wheelbarrow laden with plants. CAN heads downstage to one side to the river bank, unloads the plants and mimes digging the soil to prepare planting. GLASS comes down to investigate)

GLASS Excuse me, Can, I'd like a word. I was wondering if by any chance

CAN Mind out. I'm digging there.

GLASS *(Shocked)* Urrgh. Dirt!

RUBBISH 11

- CAN** Yep. Dirt is the reason I'm here. This exercise is all about dirt. You see I'm trying to change the colour of the river.
- GLASS** Yes but you're making such a mess. Look at all this dirt.
- CAN** True but if I can get these plants to grow on the river bank it might stop the rain washing the soil into the water.
- GLASS** But soil is really just dirt and we don't want dirt. We must keep things clean.
- CAN** Exactly. That's what I'm trying to do.
- GLASS** How? You said you wanted to change the colour of the river.
- CAN** I do. You see plants on the river bank bind the soil and keep it out of the water. It's the soil in the river that helps make it so dirty.
- GLASS** Well why don't you just pour in some nice blue dye.
- CAN** *(Shocked)* Blue dye!
- GLASS** Yes. You can get some very pretty colours. Sky blue, lilac blue, aqua marine. Just a few bottles of dye could make all the difference.
- CAN** I can't believe you said that. The reason our river looks so horrible, the reason we have no fish in our river is because it's full of soil and chemicals from farms and factories and folk like you.
- GLASS** *(Outraged)* Me! How dare you. I'm the cleanest person in the street.
- CAN** *(Backs off)* Yes, yes I'm sorry. I didn't mean you in particular. I meant. Oh, look, can't you see? People use the river as a tip. They throw their litter out of cars, they drop things in the street where it's washed down the drains and then ends up here. It's terrible.
- GLASS** *(Has settled a little)* Yes, I agree. It is disgusting.
- CAN** Then we remove the vegetation and the soil is swept into the water and that just makes it worse.
- GLASS** Yes, all right. You've made your point.
- CAN** Would you like a clean river with beautiful plants on the bank, with fresh water and lots of fish?
- GLASS** And no dirt?
- CAN** And no dirt.
- GLASS** Well of course I would.
- CAN** Then please help me dig the dirt and plant these plants.
- GLASS** *(Offended)* Dig the dirt? Urrgh.
(GLASS turns and exits to his house. PLASTIC comes down from his house carrying a sack of plastic bottles)
- PLASTIC** *(Moving down to CAN)* Hello Can. Good to see someone cleaning up our village.
- CAN** Oh, good morning, Plastic. Yes I thought I'd my bit for the river bank. A spot of re-planting.

12 RUBBISH

- PLASTIC** Great. I'll collect any plastic, glass and aluminium and between us, we'll have this river back to life again.
- CAN** Terrific. Tell me, I heard you can make a few cents [pennies] from recycling. Is that true?
- PLASTIC** More than a few cents [pennies]. But it's also the look of the place. A clean park or river looks fabulous. And with recycling today, I make things from plastic bottles and then sell the new things to make quite a lot of money.
- CAN** Really? You can make new things out of empty plastic bottles?
- PLASTIC** Lots of things. And it's got so big that now I have a factory. All I need are the empty bottles and cans we all use every day.
- CAN** That's brilliant. But I'm ashamed to say I sometimes toss my empties in with the other garbage.
- PLASTIC** Well simple recycling is just that. Simple. And if anyone can, Can, you can, Can.
(They laugh and MUSIC BEGINS. Village folk come out and listen then join PLASTIC in the song)

No. 5 Use It Again

- Plastic**
- There are things we use almost every day
There are things we use and then throw away
But there's dough to flow, you can make it pay
When you use it again.
There are cans and jars, piles of plastic too
There are hats and mats that are still brand new
There is cash to splash, we can all accrue
When we use it again.
Use it again, use it again
Use it to store or stack
Inside or out the back
So much that you can pack! Jack!
Use it again.*

(COMPANY repeat the chorus. The DANCE could use props - probably mimed - where PLASTIC demonstrates uses of certain items e.g. containers become flower pots, seedling trays, mini rubbish bins, etc. Chorus is repeated and everyone is impressed when song is over. COMPANY hardly get a chance to congratulate PLASTIC when there is a scream from a downstage corner by the river. A rubbish collector or two are in the reeds. One collector screams and everyone turns their attention to the noise)

- CAN** Over there. Someone's in trouble

RUBBISH 13

(Others move to surround the collectors)

PLASTIC We heard you scream. What's the problem?

C'LECTOR 1 It's my fault. We were collecting litter from the river when my friend nearly touched it.

SMOKES Touched what?

C'LECTOR 2 There. *(Points)* I think it's a syringe.
(OTHERS react not with alarm but show concern)

CAN You're right. It's a syringe with a very sharp needle. And you're sure you haven't touched it?

C'LECTOR 1 No, we haven't. But is it okay if we're wearing gloves?

PLASTIC Not even with gloves. Dangerous things like broken glass and syringes should only be handled by people who know what to do.

C'LECTOR 2 But my gloves are fairly thick.

SMOKES So are you if you touch that syringe with your hands.

CAN Gloves are necessary but you must use tongs like these. *(Produces tongs)* And never put sharp things in a bag or sack. Always use a solid box made of wood or metal.

C'LECTOR 1 Like this *(Produces small solid container)*

CAN That's perfect. And you've even got it clearly labelled. Well done.
(The syringe is correctly placed in the container. This is mimed. Do not use a real syringe or any potentially dangerous object)

PLASTIC We think it's great you're helping to tidy our village, *(To OTHERS)* don't we?

VILLAGERS Oh ... it's great ... well done. *(etc)*

CAN But please follow the simple safety rules and everyone wins.

CLAM *(From upstage in big voice)* Everyone wins. What a sensational idea.
(Everyone turns and opens up as CLAM comes down centre clutching a device he has invented. If necessary, the litter collectors could exit or at least remove their props)

SMOKES Well if it isn't my partner in laziness, Clam Inertia.

CLAM My friends, I have here the greatest invention since hamburger clams. This is going to revolutionise the world of marketing, selling and advertising. This - is the wrapmobile!
(Big buzz from COMPANY)

PLASTIC You're crazy, Clam. Wrapping is often unnecessary.

CLAM Wrapping keeps our products safe from nasty germs. We must look after our health!

PLASTIC Packaging is responsible for mountains of rubbish. Packaging pollutes! It's the last thing we need.

CLAM Ah! But that's where you're wrong. Customers love presentation. It catches their eye. It tempts them to buy. And it brings a little touch of colour to our lives. Am I right or am I right?

14 RUBBISH

COMPANY *(Won over)* You're right!
CLAM Life is about selling. And selling is about style, presentation and wrapping!
(MUSIC BEGINS)
CAN You're talking rubbish and you're producing rubbish.
PLASTIC Come on, Can. Let's get out of here.
(CAN and PLASTIC are disgusted and exit)

No. 6 Wrap It

Clam *When you take a stroll down the supermarket aisle
When you window shop on the golden mile
When you try to buy the very best in style
It's wrapping, wrapping, wrap rap.
When you buy a gift for your valentine
When you want that gift to look oh so fine
There's an easy way to appear divine
It's wrapping, wrapping, wrap rap.*

Company *Wrap, wrap, wrapping rap
Snap, snap, snapping snap
Clap, clap, clapping clap
Wrap, wrap, wrapping rap.*

Clam *Well it's party time with your dainty dancin' shoes
In your fancy gear well you just can't lose
Your appearance helps put you in the news and
It's wrapping, wrapping, wrap rap.
Now your first impressions so they say
Surely count a lot almost every way
So you've gotta make first impressions pay
With wrapping, wrapping, wrap rap.*

(Chorus repeated and rap song finishes and CLAM is on a high. He sells his gimmick)

CLAM Believe me folks, this is sensationally good. Anything wrapped with my wrapping just has to be had.

PLASTIC *(Coming down/over with CAN)* Hold it. We can't allow this garbage to go unchallenged.

CLAM *(Scoffing, laughing)* Why, it's Mister Plastic Bottles. Collected another three have we? Made a mammoth ten cents have we?

CAN You're wrong again, Clam. Nobody wants *more* packaging. We want *less!*

PLASTIC The vast majority of litter is packaging. All you're doing is making rubbish for people to throw away.

RUBBISH 15

- CLAM** Rubbish? My wrapping is quality material. This makes everything look gorgeous.
- SMOKES** What? Even me? Even a smelly old joker like me? *(Laughter)*
- PLASTIC** *(To EVERYONE)* Look, this is serious. Clam is only interested in making money.
- GLASS** Well so are you. You run a business.
- CAN** Yes but Plastic uses recycled materials. Clam uses valuable raw materials and makes things we don't need and can't use again.
- CLAM** People want pretty looking products. Don't you?
- OTHERS** Yes!
- PLASTIC** Look we're not against any packaging. What we need are ways to reduce the darn stuff. You buy products not packaging.
- CAN** Less packaging means less pollution.
- CLERK** *(From edge of drain DR. Calls)* Excuse me. *(EVERYONE turns)* I'm looking for the village of Rubbish.
- GLASS** This is Rubbish. And that's my extremely clean and tidy house right over there.
- CLERK** Yes, well I seem to be stuck. Is there a way down?
- SMOKES** Sure mate. Slide.
- CLERK** *(Nervous)* Slide?
- SMOKES** Yeah. It's easy. Point your size tens at the floor and push.
- CLERK** *(Nervous)* Well, okay. If you think it's safe. *(Nervously prepares to slide)*
- GLASS** Just be careful you don't make a mess.
(CLERK slides down and is helped up into group. A few applaud his safe landing)
- CAN** Welcome to the village of Rubbish. We're the residents of Trash Street and I'm Can. *(Extends hand and they shake)*
- CLERK** Oh, how do you do. My name's Clerk. I'm from the Department of Rubbish, Red Tape and Drains. *(Buzz from COMPANY)*
- PLASTIC** Well you've come to the right place, Clerk. Our river is polluted, our streets have litter and our rubbish bins are overflowing.
- CLERK** Well that's very interesting. But really I'm here on a mission. You see, I'm looking for tagged litter. *(COMPANY interested. They buzz)*
- GLASS** Oh I tag all my litter. I fold it first of course and then put the colours in one very neat pile and the whites in another and everything is thoroughly clean before it goes into my pristine bin.
- SMOKES** Do you mean you've actually put marks on bits of rubbish?
- CLERK** Yes, exactly. We tag various items to discover what happens to litter dropped in the streets above. Where it goes, how long it takes to get there, et cetera.
- CAN** You mean you can identify specific pieces of rubbish?

16 RUBBISH

- CLERK** Yes, that's right. We mark them with a numbered sticker and then release them through the drains.
- SMOKES** You mean you deliberately release litter?
- CLERK** Yes.
- CLAM** On purpose?
- CLERK** That's right.
- PLASTIC** But that makes you a litter bug.
- CLERK** Well technically yes but we're trying to learn about litter so we can educate and warn people of the consequences.
- CLAM** Consequences? What consequences?
- CLERK** Well some people don't know that rubbish dropped in the street, even accidentally, can travel through the underground drains for days, weeks or even months.
- PLASTIC** Can told us something about that.
- CLERK** A hamburger wrapper dropped in the street can finish up in our rivers - even on our beaches. Cigarette butts bob around in the bay for years!
- CAN** We know. We cop all the litter from above. It's their drain but it becomes our river and look at it. All the rubbish from up there gets dumped on our doorstep.
- CLERK** Litter looks awful but far worse it can damage our water supplies, help spread disease and ruin our leisure activities.
- CLAM** Well I'm sure we all agree with your noble endeavours. We think litter is a terrible blot on our beautiful and precious environment.
(Others a little surprised at such words from Mister Pollution)
- CLERK** You're right. And so much of the litter is that ridiculous wrapping. So many products have unnecessary wrapping. *(CLERK continues but COMPANY moves a little away from CLAM who is handed his wrapmobile and looking guilty)* Our tests show that the majority of litter recovered is packaging or related to packaging
- SMOKES** Ah, Clerk. You haven't met the uncrowned king of wrap. Clam here reckons packaging is next to perfection.
- CLAM** Absolutely. Absolutely. And I can't say how glad I am you're here. I am about to announce a scheme to raise money to fight pollution.
(Buzz from COMPANY)
- CLERK** Well that's marvellous. We're always keen to find ways to reduce rubbish.
- PLASTIC** *(Attacking CLAM)* Why you two-faced hypocrite. A minute ago you wanted to package everything from lollies to loo paper.
- CLAM** Ah, but you didn't let me finish. My friends, you see before you an artist. You see I love art and I want to share it with the world. *(Big announcement)* I am going to wrap the river!
- COMPANY** *(Stunned)* What?

RUBBISH 17

CAN Wrap the river?

CLAM And it will look stunning. It will bring culture to the masses. The media will flock here, the public will follow and a huge part of the proceeds will go to the *Clean Up Our Village Fund*.

PLASTIC But wrapping the river *is* pollution.

CAN What *Clean Up Our Village Fund*? We haven't got a fund.

CLERK I'm concerned that the wrapping may hinder the normal journey of the tagged litter.

CLAM You Philistines. You lily-livered, bleeding-heart wimps! I offer you beauty and nature and how do you respond? With scepticism and red tape.

SMOKES Knock it off, Clam. Too much baloney is bad for your health.

PLASTIC It's a scam. A Clam scam!

CLAM *(Aggressive)* You take that back!
(A scuffle develops with lots of pushing and shouting. "Stop fighting! ... Leave me alone! ... I'll get you for that! ... This is ridiculous" etc. Sound effects [FX] of drill or similar. The scuffle doesn't last long and is interrupted by a loud noise. Everyone freezes and looks out front)

CLAM What was that noise?

CAN It sounded like some sort of a drill.

CLERK It might be someone from the government.

GLASS *(Pointing to downstage corner)* Look! Over there!
(A workman wearing overalls and a hard hat enters and calls)

SURVEYOR Hello there. I seem to be stuck. How can I get across the river?

PLASTIC Over by the drain. It's slippery so be careful.

SURVEYOR Okay. Thank you.
(Buzz from COMPANY as SURVEYOR disappears then reappears at drain)

CLERK *(Calling)* You have to slide in. That's what I did.

SURVEYOR Okay. *(SURVEYOR slides in and is helped to join others)*

CAN Welcome to the Village of Rubbish. You're the second visitor we've had today. *(Indicating)* I'm Can. This is Clerk.

CLERK *(Pompous)* Yes. I'm from the *Department of Rubbish, Red Tape and Drains*.

SURVEYOR *(Equally pompous)* Oh yeah. Well I'm from the *Department of Bag It, Burn It and Bury It*.

CLERK Well you're too late. I was here first so you can clear off.

SURVEYOR Clear off yourself. I've got as much right as anyone to investigate around here.

CLAM Investigate?

CLERK You're spoiling my tagged litter project.

18 RUBBISH

- PLASTIC** Just a minute. Hold everything. We know about him (*meaning CLERK*) dumping garbage in the streets above, but who are you and what's this investigation business?
- CLAM** Yeah. Investigate what?
- SURVEYOR** Holes.
- CAN** Holes?
- SURVEYOR** Yeah, I'm a surveyor and I'm looking for holes. (*COMPANY react*)
- CLAM** Do you mean those big things with nothing in them?
- SMOKES** (*To CLAM*) Oh, stop talking about your head, mate.
- SURVEYOR** Yeah. Empty holes. If you lot use rubbish bins, I need holes.
- GLASS** (*Gushing*) Oh yes. I have a red bin with a matching lid and all its contents are perfectly packed in mint condition.
- SURVEYOR** Well rubbish is rubbish my friend. And if you throw it out, we have to dump it. It's as sure as night follows day. If you've got rubbish, we need a hole. (*MUSIC BEGINS*)

No. 7 You Need A Hole

- Surveyor** *You hear them in the morning, they come on rubbish day
To take away your garbage, the stuff you throw away.
But have you ever wondered where rubbish can be found?
The contents of your bin my friend are headed underground.
If you've got rubbish, you'll need a hole
If you've got garbage, you'll need a hole
If you've got trash to throw away
Then like the night that follows day
You've gotta dig down through that clay
To pop it in, just drop it in.
Your junk pile pigsty may lack a soul
And trash disposal seem rather droll
But even though it ain't a sin when you put things in a bin
For trash and garbage, you'll need a hole.
(Dialogue during song)*
- Surveyor** Ladies and littermen, the law of science is exact. Apropos rubbish, science says "You throw it out, it's gotta go somewhere." To you it's out of sight, out of mind. But it's not *really* out of sight. Some humans see it, the birds and fish see it. The worms see it but hate plastic and tin and leave for real compost. So understand this. The more rubbish you throw out, the more space you need to dump it. And more rubbish means more risk of polluting your environment. It's the truth. In fact it's the hole truth.

RUBBISH 19

You throw out garbage, you need a hole to bury it. (*Looking around*) Now let's see. Where's a good spot to dump some rubbish? Over here?

(*Song ends and everyone is concerned about the new rubbish dump*)

CAN But why are you looking for holes in this particular area?

PLASTIC Yeah, why us?

SURVEYOR Why not? You generate garbage, you need a hole.

CLAM But we've never had a hole here before? Why now?

SURVEYOR Well to put it simply, we've run out. Because people put so much rubbish in their bins, all the holes we've got are filling up.

GLASS But surely you wouldn't put a rubbish dump near here?

SURVEYOR Why not? (*COMPANY shocked*)

PLASTIC Why not!? For goodness' sake, this is a residential area. We have a river and children and old folk and pets and parks and people.

CAN We live here!

SURVEYOR Well all the other holes are full and over there (*Points out front*) is a perfect place to dig a new hole.

CLAM I agree.

COMPANY What!?

CLAM It's mainly down wind and there'll never be any leakage if you wrap it with my latest packaging. (*Others upset*)

SURVEYOR Thanks chum. We'll use your packaging but frankly we don't really care. Leakage is quite a few years down the track and I'll be long gone by then. (*More concern even outrage at these comments*)

SMOKES But what about our children? And our grandchildren? We can live for centuries. The Butts will be around forever!

SURVEYOR Not my problem, pal. No, I'm going to recommend a hole be dug right over there.

PLASTIC But surely there must be something we can do to stop this.

SURVEYOR Sure. It's dead easy to stop new rubbish dumps.

GLASS How? What can we do?

SURVEYOR No rubbish. No hole. You stop chucking out garbage and we won't need a hole to put it in.

CLERK But I have to keep tagging litter. It's my job.

SMOKES Get another one.

PLASTIC But this is terrible. Our health is in serious danger.

CAN There must be a way to stop the dump.

GLASS This could be the end of the world!

(*Instant blackout. General hubbub. Some screams but no real panic. Lights in the street lamps and houses come on as at the beginning of the play. It's eerie. COMPANY afraid*)

- SURVEYOR** What in blue blazes was that?
CAN What's happened? It's not night time, yet. Why is it suddenly dark?
GLASS I told you. It's the end of the world.
CLERK I can only assume there's been an eclipse.
SMOKES What sort of clips? Paper clips? Bicycle clips?
PLASTIC I suggest we all go inside until we know what's going on.
(COMPANY agree and start to drift off. They stop as STICK and STRAW appear upstage and call)
STICK *(Triumphant)* We did it! We did it!
STRAW *(Equally triumphant)* No more rubbish. No more wet weather.
CAN It's Stick and Straw. What are they doing?
PLASTIC *(Calling)* Hey! You two! Come down immediately. We think there's been a terrible accident. *(STICK and STRAW come down)*
SURVEYOR I can hear rain. There's a storm going on up there.
CLERK Great. That'll mean my tagged litter will get washed down the drains.
SURVEYOR It's mighty strange though. I can't understand why everything's gone dark.
STICK *(Joining OTHERS)* Well we've finally done it. It took ages but we did it.
GLASS Did what?
STRAW No more wet weather. No more dirty litter floating past our door.
SURVEYOR You've been up on the street. What's happening up there?
STICK *(Excited, happy)* Lots happening up there, absolutely zippo down here.
STRAW We've blocked the silly old drain.
COMPANY What!?
STICK We've been collecting straws and ice-cream sticks and believe me they make a fantastic dam.
CLERK You mean you've blocked the drain with sticks and straws?
STRAW And they said it could never be done.
SURVEYOR You're crazy. This could mean a disaster.
(COMPANY worried. STICK and STRAW rapidly losing their joy)
STICK No it doesn't. It means no more wet weather.
PLASTIC But if it's raining and the drain is blocked, where will the water go?
SURVEYOR Exactly. If the drain is blocked the water goes into the houses. And if there are floods, people take drastic action.
CLAM *(To STICK and STRAW)* You stupid twits. You've caused a disaster!
STICK *(Worried)* No we haven't. We didn't mean any harm.
STRAW *(Equally upset)* We only wanted to stop the wet weather.
CLERK I think some people might start digging holes and new drains.
SMOKES But that'll send water into our street, into our homes. We'll be washed away!
(Panic started to develop)

21 RUBBISH

- SURVEYOR** Not if you can unblock the drain. Let the water through the normal channel and you might be okay.
- PLASTIC** Right everyone. Let's go.
(Most of the company head upstage climbing towards the blocked opening at street level. But all talk at once)
- CAN** *(Up there with the climbers)* Hurry up, we haven't much time.
- GLASS** *(Pointing to ceiling of theatre above audience)* Look, there's a spade. Someone's digging a new hole.
(Panic as a few rushed to the front of the stage and look out and up)
- STICK** *(Worried on stage)* We didn't mean any harm. We didn't think this would happen.
- STRAW** *(With stick and also worried)* This is worse than being miserable. Now I'm scared.
- GLASS** Look out! The roof is collapsing!
(If possible, release some confetti over the audience)
- PLASTIC** *(Calling from drain UC)* Stand back. I'm going to pull at the rubbish.
(All eyes focus on UC. Milk it. Plastic fiddles with prop and then pulls back the curtain, piece of cardboard or whatever. The lights come up, sound effects of water are heard, everyone claps and the workers stagger back downstage. They are helped by those who didn't climb to the top)
- SURVEYOR** Well done. You saved yourselves from a very watery grave.
- GLASS** It's incredible to think that little sticks and straws can cause such a blockage.
- CLERK** Well I have to say that I'm delighted because any minute now your river is going to get swamped.
- SMOKES** *(Pointing to drain outfall where the slide leads into the imaginary river)* And there is. Loads of lovely litter.
(Offstage worker/s push litter out of drain. Litter roles/tumbles down slide and is collected if necessary or left in river)
- CAN** Well here we go again. *(Uses the rhymes rain again main drain)* The rain again flows mainly down the drain.
- PLASTIC** It happens every time. Look! Paper, cigarette butts, straws, bottles, cans, wrapping, leaves, you name it, it's here.
- SURVEYOR** Well I told you what to do.
- GLASS** Yes be tidy and always put your rubbish neatly in your bid.
- CAN** Well yes and no. The tidy parts correct but we've got to get rid of our rubbish.
- SMOKES** We know that. He's gonna dig us a very big hole.
- PLASTIC** No! We don't want the hole. *(To OTHERS)* Do we?
- COMPANY** No!
- PLASTIC** We have to stop producing rubbish.

22 RUBBISH

- CAN** The first thing is to re-use or re-cycle; paper, glass, plastic and aluminium for starters. They can all be used again.
- PLASTIC** And lawn clippings, tea leaves, fruit and vege scraps can all be made into beautiful and rich soil. Start a compost in your own garden.
- GLASS** The beautiful soil really *is* beautiful when it allows us to grow healthy plants in our streets and gardens.
- SMOKES** And on the river banks to keep the water clean and bring back the fish.
- CLAM** Well there's only one question remaining. Do you want me to wrap the river?
- COMPANY** No!
- CAN** There's only one rap we want, Clam. And it's not the wrap rap.
(MUSIC BEGINS)
- PLASTIC** It's the *re-use* rap.
- GLASS** And the *re-cycle* rap.
- CAN** And the *re-turn* rap. Get the picture?
- CLAM** *(Won over. Happy)* I sure do. Let's rap! *(Big cheer from COMPANY)*

No. 8 Re-use, Re-cycle, Re-turn

- Clam** *You've got to get rid of your rubbish
You've got to make your base a very nice place*
- Smokes** *You've got to get rid of your rubbish
By not creating it in the first place*
- Plastic** *Re-use those things you can re-use*
- Glass** *Return food scraps to earth*
- Can** *Re-cycle plastic, glass and more*
- Thins** *Reduce for all you're worth*
- Principals** *You've got to get rid of your rubbish
By not creating it in the first place*
- Company** *Re-use, return, recycle, reduce
(COMPANY repeats the song which finishes with everyone happy. You can now go straight into the Curtain Calls. It's probably better if the show, like the drain, flows uninterrupted)*

No. 9 Curtain Calls

- Company** *There are things we use almost every day
There are things we use and then throw away
But there's dough to flow, you can make it pay
When you use it again.
There are cans and jars, piles of plastic too
There are hats and mats that are still brand new
There is cash to splash, we can all accrue*

22 RUBBISH

*When we use it again.
Use it again, use it again
Use it to store or stack
Inside or out the back
So much that you can pack!
When you use it again.
Everything in its place and a place for everything
Everything in its space, be it soap or saw or string.
If you tidy up, put your things away
It'll help you win, it'll make your day, it's true with
Everything in its place and a place for everything.
You've got to get rid of your rubbish
You've got to make your base a very nice place
You've got to get rid of your rubbish
By not creating it in the first place
Re-use those things you can re-use
Return food scraps to earth
Re-cycle plastic, glass and more
Reduce for all you're worth
You've got to get rid of your rubbish
By not creating it in the first
Not making it in the first
Not making it in the first place.*

No. 10 Payout

Curtain

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If you wish to stage *Rubbish* or any show from FOX PLAYS, you must obtain permission in writing. Request a *Show Application*.

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