

Trivia

A fun-filled family musical full of trivia



A musical play by Cenarth Fox
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Orchestrations and Backing CD

Trivia is scored for piano, guitar, bass, drum-kit, percussion (2), flutes, clarinets, alto saxophone, trumpets, trombone and french horn. The orchestrations are for hire. There is also a backing CD with an instrumental teaching version and then full orchestration for performances.

Production Package

Groups staging an **FOX PLAYS** show receive support in the form of free production notes (*set-design, costumes, lighting, props, etc*) and with musicals, a free set of lyrics for chorus members.

First Performance

The first performance of *Trivia* was given by Golden Square High School, Bendigo Australia on July 29, 1986

Reviews of this popular musical

It's a witty and lively musical, great fun and with something for everyone. An experience we shall remember and treasure. **Westall HS**

Excellent. The students enjoyed the whole thing **Birchip Edn Complex**

Trivia worked really well. It was a very satisfying experience **Knoxfield College**

Our musical was extremely successful and met with a favourable response from our audiences. The printing of the word *Trivia* was important to our show. In the school scene we used our school colours with the school badge and the word *Trivia* printed in blue writing on a yellow t-shirt. We got good publicity for the show. Thank you for such a great musical. **Coffs Harbour HS**

The show was very successful and the children really enjoyed doing it, as usual.
Timboon P12 School

We thoroughly enjoyed preparing for and performing *Trivia*. We're looking forward to some of your other musicals next year. Thanks too for being a distinguished guest in our audience – it meant a lot to the girls and staff! **Ruyton Girls' School**

We had so many people involved. It was very rewarding
Korowa Anglican Girls' School

With a cast and orchestra of over 100 students, the world premiere of *Trivia* explores failure, success and the effects these have on our families and friends
Golden Square HS

Trivia is far from trivial in theme. Underneath the simple story of the Precocious family is very definitely a message for us all. If parts of *Trivia* seem fairly close to home, I make no apology, as it is only by questioning and reflecting on our behaviour, attitudes and belief that the unfairness reflected in this play can be avoided. The students have worked enthusiastically and co-operatively to present a show full of fun in which justice is done and the heroine is successful in the end **Rangeville SS**



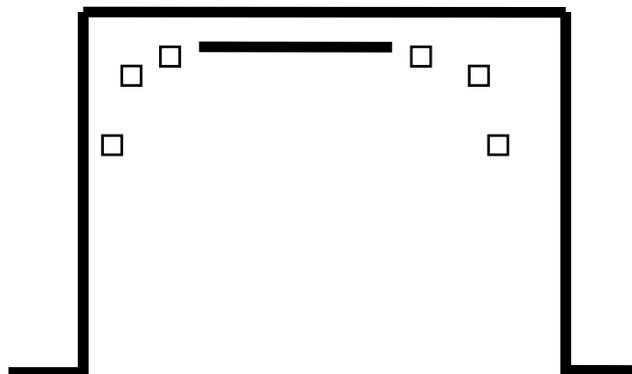
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Synopsis

Janet and Keith Precocious have three "lovely" children. Two are super-talented brats spoiled rotten by their upwardly-mobile parents. Tracey, their third child and star of this musical, has an untapped yet incredible ability for remembering trivia. When Tracey displays her trivia talent, her parents, siblings, neighbours, teachers and friends are simply knocked over. Could Tracey become a national or international star? Surely not because of trivia? The media representatives fall over one another for the "story". Question: When trivia becomes important, what then is trivial?

Set

There is no set as such. *Trivia* has several scenes - house interior, TV studio, classroom, stage of assembly hall. It's not necessary to have realistic sets. An exception could be the sets for the three quizzes, each becoming more upmarket than the one before. You could use a simple set on a truck on which the quiz contestants are seated. Dress the set more elaborately for each quiz. The actors carry small props on and off. The Production Notes give detailed information on these and other matters. Here's is a view of how your set might look.



Quizzes

There are three quizzes. Questions and answers are provided in this script. However, you may wish to write your own questions. e.g. What date appears on the statue in the town square? What is the address of the local post office? The town hall? The hospital? Who is captain of the local football team? When was it founded? By writing "local" trivia questions, you have the cast involved in writing the play and the script becomes more relevant to your audiences.

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Characters

Keith Precocious	pushy, greedy, selfish, father
Janet Precocious	pushy, greedy, selfish, mother
Debbie Precocious	teenage tennis star, a brat
Kenny Precocious	computer whiz, musical prodigy, a brat
Tracey Precocious	friendly, easy-going, trivia-nut
Cynthia Popinjay	pretentious, snobbish, neighbour
I.M.Mediocre	fumbling, bumbling, school principal
Al Slick	smooth, upmarket, promotions manager
Terri	Tracey's school friend
Marg/Mark Chalk	Tracey's teacher (one of)
Les Lovely	conceited TV reporter
Toni/Tony Trivia	extroverted TV personality, compere
W.P.	Warm-up Person/clown/announcer
Announcer	just that
Chorus of journalists, photographers, technical crew, quiz contestants	

Musical Numbers

1. Overture/It's All Happening Here	Orchestra
2. Look At Your Kids	Keith & Janet
3. Our Dear Old School	Company
4. Our Dear Old School - Reprise	Company
5. A Good Story	The Media
6. A Good Story - Reprise	The Media
7. Another Day	Tracey
8. Trivia	Company
9. Trivia - Reprise 1	Company
10. Trivia - Reprise 2	Company
11. Look At Your Folks	Debbie & Kenny
12. Trivia - Instrumental	Orchestra
13. Trivia - Reprise 3	Company
14. Another Day - Version 2	Tracey
15. I Can Make You A Star	Al Slick & Company
16. I Can Make You A Star - Reprise	Al Slick & Company
17. Toni's/Tony's Tune	Orchestra
18. Trivia - Reprise 4	Company
19. Look At Yourself	Company
20. Curtain Calls	Company
21. Playout	Orchestra

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Sponsorship

Many groups sell advertising space in their program. In Trivia you can sell part of the stage. The quizzes, especially the last two, could have a sponsor. Make it a local company. The compere could mention the company's name and a banner could be displayed as part of the set. Every penny helps.

The Script

[Overture begins. At bar 65 the curtain rises or the lights come up. Everyone in a frozen state. At bar 72 everyone comes alive. We see a busy scene. It could be a street or public-square. We see a broad cross-section of people going about their business. People are walking, playing games, media people are filming/interviewing, families are having picnics, kids are on excursions, etc. All activities are mimed. Suddenly they all face the audience and sing]

It's All Happening Here

Company *There may be action a plenty over yonder
There may be business of sorts next door
There may be hustle and bustle if you wander
I shouldn't wonder or be in awe.
It could be peak hour and rush hour at the station
It could mean bodies and an awful fuss
There may be action a plenty 'cross the nation
But you can't top us.
It's all happening, happening here
It's all happening here
It's all commotion, perpetual motion
In a hectic atmosphere.
It's all activity, much activity
Such activity's clear
It's all happening, see how it's happening
All happening here.*

[At bar 108, the mimed actions continue but several characters stop their routine to address the audience. The underlined words signal the beginning of the following speech. This re-inforces the theme of activity, hubbub and progress. Keep it moving!]

Janet Don't tell me you lead a busy life. Mine's all go. I'm a housewife, mother, career-woman, fund-raiser, expert cook, superb hostess and above all, modest.

Slick You got something to sell? Anything to sell? See me. My place. Your place. Do it. Okay?

Keith There's one question I can't answer. Why aren't I "Father of the Year"? Come to mention it, why not "Father of the Century"? I'm the perfect pater.

Popinjay Just look at my outfit? Quality. You can see it's class. Italian footwear, Spanish shirt, South American jewellery. I'm actually ahead of the fashion.

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Debbie I made the state squad when I was twelve. Reached the semis in the national last year and should have made the final. This jerk of an umpire called my cross-court backhand out. It was definitely on the line.

Principal I've noticed several papers around the school. You're old enough to know the identity and purpose of a rubbish-bin. A beautiful school is a happy school.

Kenny Some pop music is passable. But when you've analysed Bach on your own 128K micro-computer, you don't really have time for plastic entertainment. I'm just so busy.

Company We're just so busy.

[The chorus is repeated, the song ends and we move immediately to the next scene. The company retires leaving DEBBIE practising her smashes, KENNY computing or keyboarding and TRACEY watching TV. JANET and KEITH glow over DEBBIE and KENNY. Note that the music simply continues. Any minor set changes can happen as the song is performed]

Look At Your Kids

Keith *I don't claim to be any special kind of father
But I am*

Janet *And I don't claim to be any special kind of mother
But I am*

Duet *We don't wish to label ourselves as perfect parents
But in point of fact - that's what we are.
You can tell what type of parent you are
By looking at your kids
You can tell if you're a top ma or pa
By looking at your kids.
If they're home on time and study hard
And use a lotta soap
You're sure to find a healthy mind
And not a trace of dope
You can tell what type of parent you are
By looking at your kids.
[Speeches during the song]*

Janet My son's a wonder, simply brilliant. In music, a child prodigy - at maths, a genius. King of both keyboards. Of course we encourage him. Piano lessons, special tutors, new piano, new music, micro-computer, software, hardware, we care. Our Kenny's made it because of his folks.

Keith My daughter's a marvel. Her sporting prowess is stunning. Call us crazy but Janet and I have booked Wimbledon next year. Our Debbie is heading for big bucks. *(Aside)* Might recoup the billions I've spent on tennis pros. *(Mock horror)* What am I saying? It's my duty. I love spending money to help my kids.

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[The parents fuss over their "stars" during TRACEY'S speech.]

Tracey I guess you noticed I don't exactly get top billing in this number or even this house. Oh I'm part of the family. I mean I live here, I eat and sleep here. It just happens the folks and my super siblings pay little attention to someone who's average, unremarkable and in fact, absolutely ordinary.

[The chorus is repeated and the family exit. The show just flows along without breaks. As the family exit, the school principal steps forward with a microphone on a stand. This could be a dummy. The PRINCIPAL certainly is. The scene is the stage of the school assembly hall. The PRINCIPAL is about to address the school played by the company now lit or about to be lit on stage. The PRINCIPAL faces the real audience but the pretend audience does all the things asked of it. PRINCIPAL taps microphone, coughs and shuffles papers]

Principal Good morning school.

Company Good morning Principal.

Principal The school song.

[The company rises and sings with gusto. The school has a fine tradition. The words of the school song - a mixture of all those vague expressions in school songs around the world - could be displayed above the stage to encourage the real audience to participate. Some company members planted in the theatre could stand and sing from the auditorium. Interesting]

Our Dear Old School

Company Stand tall and sing of the school we love
"Aim high" is our golden rule.
Stand tall, seek truth and be strong in faith
Be proud of our dear, old school.
Honour the work and strive to serve
Onward and upward, unity preserve
Stand tall and sing of the school we love
Be proud of our dear, old school.

[The school sits and the PRINCIPAL, after more coughs, microphone taps and paper shuffling, addresses the assembly]

Principal Thank you, school. *(Everyone settles)* Today I want to talk about ... *(PRINCIPAL points into real audience)* That boy over there .. yes you ... no, not you, the boy behind you ... no, next to you ... next to the boy with the grey jumper ... *(Use the colour of your school jumper)* ... you know who I mean ... the boy who was talking ... no, behind you ... what's that? ... Oh, sorry. That girl over there ... yes you ... wait outside my office.

(During this, audience on stage react to commands. Company members rise, step forward then retreat as confused principal confuses everyone. One or two teachers could move among the students to try and locate the "talker". Eventually the culprit is located and she exits across stage to PRINCIPAL'S office. Fifty strokes of the cane, at least! The student re-enters discreetly soon after.)

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Of course PRINCIPAL does all his shouting and gesticulating to the audience in the theatre. They are watching themselves on stage)

Principal Now I don't want to growl at you today. In fact I want to praise you - well some of you. Two of our students have brought great honour to our school. Last week, Deborah Precocious - Debbie to her friends - reached the finals of the under 16 State Tennis Championships and I'd like her to come forward and receive the congratulations of our school. Deborah, where are you?

(The PRINCIPAL looks into one set of wings and DEBBIE enters from the other. The PRINCIPAL shades his/her eyes looking into the auditorium. DEBBIE stands beside and slightly upstage of the PRINCIPAL)

Principal Is Deborah here today? Deborah? *(Laughter from COMPANY when the PRINCIPAL "discovers" DEBBIE)* Oh, there you are. *(More titters)* Thank you, school. *(Hubbub dies)* Now Deborah, I'm sure the school would like to know how you played in last week's hockey tournament.

Debbie Tennis.

Principal Pardon

Debbie It was tennis and I won.

Principal She won! *(PRINCIPAL leads applause, DEBBIE laps it up)* Well congratulations, Donna. I'm sure you'll go on to bigger and better things. *(PRINCIPAL again leads applause only this time manages to drop the papers. PRINCIPAL gathers up papers and DEBBIE moves upstage)* Now that's not all the good news. *(Adjusts papers)* So, where am I? *(Good question)* We had another outstanding performance by one of our students. In fact by a student from the same family as Denise's. In the State Piano Championships, Kenneth Precocious - Kenny to his friends - reached the finals in the under 14 *(If necessary, change age to suit actor)* Section and I'd like him to come forward and receive our congratulations. Kenneth, where are you? *(PRINCIPAL looks in direction from which DEBBIE came but KENNY comes from the other side. PRINCIPAL again shades eyes and looks into the auditorium. KENNY stands near the PRINCIPAL)* Is Kenneth here today? *(Laughter from company as the PRINCIPAL "discovers" KENNY)* Oh, there you are. *(More titters)* Thank you, school. *(Hubbub dies)* Now Benny, I'm sure the school would like to know how you went in the cross-country championships.

Kenny Piano.

Principal Pardon?

Kenny It was the piano titles and I won.

Principal He won. *(PRINCIPAL leads applause, KENNY laps it up)* Well congratulations, Lenny. I'm sure you'll go on to bigger and better things. *(PRINCIPAL again leads applause, drops papers and KENNY fights with his sister for the limelight - subtle but noticeable. The intro for the school song begins, the company rise and sing. Keep it moving)*

Our Dear Old School - Reprise

(Play TAG immediately the song finishes. During the TAG, the PRINCIPAL, DEBBIE and KENNY exit. The PRINCIPAL could walk the wrong way, be corrected and have to re-trace steps. The company exit or simply disappear in the darkness as the lighting concentrates once more on the living-room of the Precocious family. JANET and KEITH could wander in with a chair each. No sooner have they arrived then CYNTHIA POPINJAY bursts into the room clutching some of her beloved trendy magazines. She's excited and gushes)

- Popinjay** Janet! Keith! Look what I've got.
Janet What is it? *(Parents are anxious/curious)*
Popinjay The publicity. Your children.
Keith Let's see. *(Trio study the magazines)*
Popinjay They're such wonderful magazines.
Keith Great photos. Debbie looks terrific.
Janet And Kenny's so photogenic.
Popinjay Look at the ads. Quality. Companies with class.
Janet Listen to this. *(Reads)* "Janet and Keith Precocious have two of the country's most talented and gifted children."
Popinjay I always read *Vogue*. *(Or other upmarket magazine)*
Keith *(Reading)* "Keith and Janet Precocious must be proud of their outstanding and enterprising offspring."
Popinjay I subscribe to *Harper's Bazaar*. *(Or other upmarket mag)*
Keith This is great. *(To JANET)* Let's see yours.
(They swap and droll over the magazines. POPINJAY gushes away)
Popinjay Aren't they gorgeous?
Janet *(Reading)* Multi-talented children ...
Keith *(Reading)* Kids with flair and success...
Popinjay Sophistication. It's my middle name.
(Door slams off-stage and DEBBIE calls from the wings)
Debbie *(Brat-like)* Where's my white tracksuit?
Keith *(Excited)* They're home. *(A furious DEBBIE enters)*
Janet *(Gushing)* Hello darling. Have a nice day?
Debbie *(Demands)* Where's my white tracksuit?
Popinjay *(Indicating magazines)* Guess who's in the glossies?
Debbie *(Goes to magazines)* You know I'm playing in front of ... *(Sees photo of herself in white tracksuit)* There it is. Ergh! I look terrible.
Janet Debbie! Darling! You look lovely.
(Others agree. KENNY slams door offstage and calls from the wings)
Kenny Where's my floppy disc?
Popinjay *(More gushing)* Kenny's home. *(The little angel)*
Kenny *(Enters in huff)* How can I program without a floppy disc?
Keith Hi star! How's it feel ... hero?

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Popinjay *(Indicates magazines)* Guess who topped the charts? Again?
Kenny *(Goes to magazines)* I'll murder the moron who ... *sixty-four K!* I look terrible.
Janet Kenny! Darling! You look lovely.
(Others agree. The following sets of dialogue overlap. A starts a couple of seconds before B. The sets of dialogue are repeated from the beginning several times)

Dialogue A

Kenny Big deal, me photo's in the paper. *(Dialogue B starts)*
Popinjay That's no paper, Kenny. That's an upwardly mobile magazine with real imitation gloss paper.
Kenny I 'spose it says I'm a whiz with computers.
Popinjay And the piano. You're a lucky boy, Kenny.
Kenny Lucky! What's luck got to do with it?
Popinjay I know people who'd kill to get their photo in these magazines.

Dialogue B

Debbie If you've lost my tracksuit, I'll never play tennis again.
Janet Of course we haven't lost it.
Keith We'll find it, Debbie.
Debbie You'd better. How can I play tennis without proper warm-up gear?
Janet Why don't you wear your blue one until ...
Debbie No! I hate blue. Everyone wears blue.
(As soon as both sets of dialogue are underway, TRACEY enters. She tosses her bag to one side and calls to everyone)
Tracey I'm home. *(TRACEY is ignored. The conversations continue. TRACEY calls in a louder voice)* I'm home.
(Instant silence. Everyone stops, turns to TRACEY who gives little "wiggly-finger" wave. Brief pause then everyone immediately resumes the two sets of dialogue beginning simultaneously from the beginning. TRACEY moves amongst them. As soon as she speaks, the others continue their speeches in mime with lots of gesticulating from KENNY and DEBBIE. The others take no notice of TRACEY)
Tracey Well hi there, folks. How was my day? Thought you'd never ask. Let's see. I robbed three banks. Or was it four? I set fire to the Principal's car. I refused five marriage proposals and I won Tattslotto. *(Or other well-known lottery)* Pretty boring really. *(She starts to exit to kitchen)* I'll just pop out to the kitchen ... *(Much louder)* and commit suicide!
(She exits. Her loud voice causes OTHERS to stop miming and turn to her. She's vanished. Before they can recover, the PRINCIPAL bursts into the room)
Principal *(Puffing)* Ladies and gentlemen, please excuse me.
Janet The principal!

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- Principal** I just had to call. Deborah and Kenneth have put my school on the map. I'm so proud. *(Beam, beam, beam)*
- Keith** *(Offers hand)* How nice of you to call.
- Principal** Yes, how do you do? Look, I'd like to offer special tuition.
- Janet** *(Upset)* Special tuition!
- Keith** *(Offended)* Are you saying our kids are dumb?
- Principal** Oh no! Heaven forbid. They're brilliant. But all that travel and rehearsal takes time. I'll change the school timetable just to cater for your cultured and clever kids.
(Door-bell rings. POPINJAY looks off-stage)
- Popinjay** Oh bliss, it's the media.
(The media enter in a rush. They could come from several directions. There are photographers, journalists, television crew, reporters, etc. Flashlights flash in a scene of controlled mayhem. LES LOVELY and technical crew rehearse for a take. Such is the activity that some members of the media photograph and interview one another. The family is non-plussed. POPINJAY and PRINCIPAL lap it up and try and get their faces in all the right places. The following media dialogue overlaps and is repeated ad lib}
- Photo'er** Smile. Bit closer. That's it. Say "cheese".
- Journo** Now when did you first realise you were famous?
- Lovely** *(With mic into camera)* Hello. I'm Les Lovely from XYZ News. Testing, testing. One, two, three, four.
(KEITH finally breaks through the frantic activity)
- Keith** Okay, hold it. *(Louder)* Hold it! *(Everyone freezes. Pause)* Just who *are* you people?
- Media** *(As one)* What? *(What a stupid question)*
- Lovely** *We - are the media.*
- Janet** But you just barged in unannounced.
(Lots of laughter from the media. MUSIC BEGINS over the laughter)

A Good Story

- Solo 1** *Wanna see y'face on a TV screen?*
- Solo 2** *Wanna read y'name in a magazine?*
- Solo 3** *Wanna make a splash in the social scene?*
- Media** *You need us, you need us, need us.*
- Solo 4** *Wanna sell a cause, some goods or chattel?*
- Solo 5** *Wanna win the war or just the battle?*
- Solo 6** *Wanna spread the word and tell y'tattle?*
- Media** *You need us, you need us, need us, need us.
There are the facts, the goods
The details and things*

Trivia 11

*But we have to have a good story.
There is the truth, whole truth
And nothing but the truth
But we have to have a good story.
There is the accurate the definite the very literal
The logical, historical, the tautological
Oh there are points and parts
And portions of proof
But we have to have a good story.*

Group A

*We'll go anywhere, we'll do anything
We'll be anyone for a story.*

Group B

*We'll scratch any back, we'll grease any palm
We'll pay any price for a story.*

Media

*We'll hustle, bustle, rustle, tussle,
Just to get your views
We'll pander, gander, brander, slander
Just to get the news
We'll try any trick, we'll pull any prank
We'll hock any hype for a story.*

(During the instrumental break, various members of the media call out their news. It's an auction where nobody bids. Lots of laughter. Every media rep tries to out-sell the other - all hype and hubbub)

Media 1

*I've got the genuine article, genuine article. Who wants the genuine article?
(Next person comes straight in)*

Media 2

*I've got the real thing, real thing. Who wants the real thing?
(More laughter, maybe a mock bid but keep it moving)*

Media 3

*I've got the ridgy-didge, ridgy-didge. Who wants the ridgy-didge?
(Australian saying meaning true, correct, genuine)*

Media 4

*I've got the real McCoy, real McCoy. Who wants the real McCoy?
(The laughter keeps coming and so do the announcements)*

Media 5

I got the lowdown, the lowdown. Who wants the lowdown?

Media 6

I've got the good oil. good oil. Who wants the good oil?

Media 7

I got the tip-off, the tip-off. Who wants the tip-off?

Media 8

I've got the mis-print, the mis-print. Who wants the mis-print?

(Laughter and jeers greet this last offer as the media burst into a happy repeat of the chorus. The media love this and themselves. The song ends with the family in a "family pose" (no TRACEY) facing the real audience with the media on either side or crouching low in front. It's a typical TV news conference. POPINJAY and PRINCIPAL try and get into the picture but can't get through the milling media)

Trivia 13

(During reprise, KEITH and JANET try to explain but enthusiastic media reckon they have a great story. The song ends and the media start to exit)

- Media 1** Great story, Mister P.
- Keith** Please stop. You don't understand.
- Janet** You got it all wrong.
(The media continue to exit chatting happily about their scoop. JANET and KEITH look at one another then try their last tactic. They both scream as loud as possible. The media freeze. They turn. Pause. The scream continues until it fades away. The parents stand with mouths open. Pause. Slowly one media rep moves into the parents and speaks and writes in notebook)
- Media 2** Parents bitten by deviant dog.
(Everyone breaks out of the freeze and hubbub/chat returns)
- Janet** It's all a mistake. Tracey is ... *(She can't say it. KEITH helps)*
- Keith** That's right. Tracey is ...
(Pause. Parents look at one another then finally confess)
- Parents** *(Basically ashamed)* Our daughter.
- Media** *(Stunned)* Your daughter!
(The media crush/rush back into the room all talking at once. The press conference situation begins again. KENNY and DEBBIE join their parents in this moment of family tragedy. POPINJAY and PRINCIPAL comfort one another. Everyone settles. Pause)
- Janet** *(Brave in the crisis)* It's a terrible misunderstanding.
- Media 1** You said Tracey was a cat.
- Janet** I was misquoted. What I really said was "Tracey likes cats".
(Pause. Media stunned. This has killed their juicy story. One media rep tries to revive their flagging interest)
- Media 2** So Tracey's a dog who likes cats?
- Keith** It's a terrible misunderstanding.
- Media 3** You said Tracey was a dog.
- Keith** I was misquoted. What I really said was "Tracey likes dogs".
(Media unhappy. They groan and start to drift off. POPINJAY sees a chance to get into the news)
- Popinjay** What about Tracey the modern-day St. Francis? *(She is ignored)*
- Media 4** Guess we'll stick with talented kids.
(Media agree and exit chatting quietly. POPINJAY and PRINCIPAL exit trying to get into the news)
- Popinjay** I'm their neighbour. Cynthia Popinjay's my name.
- Principal** I'm their school principal. My qualifications are B.A., M.A., B.Ed., M.Ed.
(etc as he exits. The family is alone. They collapse with relief)
- Janet** That was close. Tracey nearly ruined everything.
- Debbie** If she's got my white tracksuit, I'll kill her.
- Kenny** Wanna hand?
- Keith** We could send her to boarding-school.

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- Tracey** *(Enters from kitchen)* What was all that noise?
(Family freeze with fear. KEITH races to door, the others rush to TRACEY and hide her. TRACEY is gagged)
- Keith** It's okay, they've gone.
- Tracey** *(Now released)* Hey, what is this? *(Family return to their seats and become dejected again)* Did I miss something?
- Kenny** Yeah, the bus.
- Tracey** What bus?
- Debbie** The one wearing my white tracksuit.
- Tracey** What? Look what's going on? I do live here, you know.
- Janet** *(Giving in a fraction)* Of course you do, Tracey. Why don't you tell us what happened at school today.
- Tracey** *(Stunned)* Me? You want to hear from me?
- Keith** Good idea. *(Winks at others)* Give us a run-down on your hectic lifestyle.
(Others smirk)
- Tracey** Okay. How's this? Today our class held a trivia test and guess where I came?
- Kenny** Second last.
- Debbie** Last.
- Tracey** Nope. First.
(TRACEY looks at the family. Nobody moves. Pause. JANET reaches for a magazine)
- Janet** I love these photos.
- Keith** *(Looks at watch)* Is that the time? *(Starts to exit)* Come on, Deb. You should be training.
- Janet** *(Also up and active)* You too, Ken. Time to practise.
(DEBBIE exiting after KEITH and KENNY after JANET)
- Debbie** Where's my white track-suit? *(She exits grumbling)*
- Keith** *(Pops head in)* Tracey, don't forget to feed the animals.
- Janet** Set the table, Tracey. It's your turn. *(JANET exits)*
- Kenny** Feed the dog ... Rover.
(TRACEY flings a cushion at KENNY who exits yelping like a dog. TRACEY is alone and reflects upon her life and family)

Another Day

- Tracey** *Today was just another day
An ordinary, average day for me
Today I found another way
To pass the time in perfect drudgery
Dullness took on a kind of glow
Drabness it simply went on show*

Trivia 15

*Dreariness I swear it won't let go
Today was just another day.
Today was just another day
A hum-drum, ho-hum, hapless day for me
Today my diary's resume
Reveals a pointless uniformity
Staleness there's nothing fresh in sight
Soulless no feelings to excite
Sameness oh hell this can't be right
Today was just another day.*

(Spoken) If only I had something. *Anything.* Good news, bad news, *any* news. I've become this family's most insignificant member. My lack of achievement is so outstanding it's boring. *I'm* boring. Oh I'm not jealous or upset. I don't begrudge them their terrific talents. But it would be nice - real nice - if just a smidgen of class rubbed off on little old me.

(TRACEY repeats the last four lines. No sooner has she finished singing when her moment of reflection is shattered as another student dashes in very excited and out of breath)

Terri Tracey, Tracey ... *(Gulps air)* Guess what?

Tracey What? What's happened?

Terri 2B had their own trivia test today.

Tracey That's the news?

Terri They've challenged us to a trivia test.

Tracey We can beat them

Terri What's this "we" business? You're our champ. *(Grabs TRACEY)* Come on. The test's about to start.

(Excited, TRACEY and TERRI race off. The company, as students from the two classes, surge forward. The lights come up)

Trivia

Company *If it's trivial then it's important
If it's important then it's trivial
It might be commonplace
Yet rate a special place
It's what the populace love to see.
It might be frivolous and downright boring
In fact ignoring sensitivity.
But if it's trivial then it's important
If it's important then it's trivial.
Trivial acts and trivial flings*

Trivia 16

*They all make the world renowned
Trivial facts and trivial things
They make the world go round.*

*Common-or-garden's fine
Run-of-the-mill will shine
Man-in-the-street's divine
Mundane and middlebrow
Gladly we will allow
Trivial facts and trivial things
They make the world go round.*

(TERRI and TRACEY could be involved in this song but, if so, they need to re-enter. After the song, the first of three trivia tests takes place. This is a low-key event between the winners of the trivia tests between two classes at the same school. TRACEY and her competitor are seated. Each player needs a small bell or crude buzzer with batteries. It is not necessary to use the questions given below. Feel free to invent your own based on local places, events, issues, etc.)

Teacher Right, test your bells/buzzers. *(They do so)* First question. What's the name of our school? *(Company laughs at such an easy question. TRACEY'S bell sounds slightly ahead of her competitor)* Tracey. *(TRACEY names the school - your school perhaps and scores a point. A simple scoreboard is used, perhaps a blackboard)* Correct. What's the full address of our school? *(Bell rings)* Tracey.

Tracey *(Gives the correct postal address)*

Teacher Correct. *(Another point to TRACEY)* Not including the present person, name the last three principals at this school. *(TRACEY'S bell slightly ahead)* Tracey.

Tracey *(Names the correct three names)*

Teacher Correct. *(TRACEY'S friends delighted as she gains another point)* Into what did the ugly duckling grow? *(Bells ring but Helen is slightly ahead)* Helen.

Helen A graceful swan. *(HELEN'S friends delighted)*

Teacher Well done, Helen. You're on the board. Now which animal is measured in hands? *(Bells ring)* Tracey.

Tracey A horse.

Teacher Correct. *(Another point)* Which mosquito bites - the male, female or both? *(Bells ring)* Helen.

Helen Female.

Teacher Correct. *(Excitement. Another point)* Which type of eagle appears on the United States of America's ... *(Bells ring)* Tracey.

Tracey A bald eagle.

Teacher Yes. *(Another point)* Well done. *(MUSIC BEGINS)*

Trivia 17

(Cheer from Tracey's friends. The company sings a short reprise during which the scores are changed to Tracey 23, Helen 17. We don't necessarily see the scores being changed and reprise is used to show the passing of time)

Trivia Reprise 1

- Company** *If it's trivial, then it's important
If it's important then it's trivial
It might be commonplace yet rate a special place
It's what the populace love to see.
It might be frivolous and downright boring
In fact ignoring sensitivity.
But if it's trivial then it's important
If it's important then it's trivial.*
- Teacher** The score is Tracey 23, Helen 17. Good luck and here's the final round. Where was golf first played in Australia? *(Bells ring)* Tracey.
- Tracey** In Bothwell, Tasmania.
- Teacher** Correct. *(Another point. Don't let scoring delay things)* What was George Orwell's real name? *(Bells ring)* Tracey.
- Tracey** Eric Blair.
- Teacher** Correct. *(Excitement as TRACEY'S score mounts)* Which European led the first north-south crossing of Australia? *(Bells)* Helen.
- Helen** Burke and Wills.
- Teacher** No. Tracey.
- Tracey** Landsborough.
- Teacher** Correct. *(Another point)* Which musical is based on Shakespeare's *Taming of ...* *(Bells)* Tracey.
- Tracey** *Kiss Me Kate.*
- Teacher** Correct. *(Another point)* Only one major European river flows from east ... *(TRACEY'S bell)* Tracey.
- Tracey** The Danube.
- Teacher** Correct and that's the end of the game. *(Over cheer as TRACEY is congratulated)* Our school trivia champ is Tracey! *(MUSIC BEGINS)*
(Clapping and congratulations. The company surge forward and sing another reprise. The Precocious family enter upstage but are hidden)

Trivia Reprise 2

- Company** *Trivial facts and trivial things
They make the world go, they make the world go
They make the world go round.*

Trivia 18

(The company retires maybe in a brief blackout and the family is revealed. KEITH carries a telephone and paces about in earnest conversation. KENNY is working his computer. JANET is adjusting a new sporting outfit on the grumbling DEBBIE)

Keith Now listen, we're talking big bucks. My kid is star material. *(Continues conversation in mime)*

Popinjay *(Enters in usual rush)* Yoo-hoo. Just popped in ... oh Debbie, that's beautiful. *(Admires outfit. DEBBIE still complains)*

Janet *(With mouth full of pins)* The colour really suits her.

Debbie I hate it. *(They continue in mime)*

Keith Endorsements! She can endorse anything. *(Continues in mime)*

Debbie I can't serve in this. Look.

(She mimes serve hitting/throwing ball of wool or socks at KENNY)

Kenny *(A disturbed brat)* Hey, watch it! I'm programming.

(KENNY returns to work scowling after he and Debbie exchange a few choice gestures with poking tongues and threatening fists etc)

Popinjay Oh Debbie, look at the label. Designer distinction.

Keith I'm ready to sign. Just boost your percentage. Okay?

(TRACEY bursts in fresh from her trivia triumph)

Tracey Hi everyone. Guess what? *(Nobody notices her. They continue their activities as if TRACEY doesn't exist)* I'm home. Still no response. *TRACEY shrugs then exits whence she came. The doorbell rings)*

Keith *(Covers mouthpiece)* Somebody get that. I'm on the phone.

Janet *(Not looking up)* We're busy. Kenny, get the door please.

Kenny *(Still working)* I'm busy. Get it yourself.

(Doorbell rings again. KEITH fumes and again covers the mouthpiece)

Keith I'm trying to swing a contract. Somebody get the door.

(OTHERS look up. Nobody wants to move. DEBBIE calls in loud voice)

Debbie *(Voice to frighten linesmen)* Come in!

(Pause. TRACEY enters grinning and then throws her hands in the air)

Tracey Da-dah! *(The others are furious)*

Janet *(Almost choking)* Tracey!

Tracey *(Moves into room)* Just li'l old me.

Popinjay Go away. Debbie's making a difficult decision.

Keith *(Hangs up fuming)* Was that you? Did you ring the bell?

Tracey Come on, Dad. It's only a joke.

Keith I was making a deal which could make us a lot of money.

Debbie Trust Tracey to wreck things.

Tracey Listen sister dear, I've got fantastic news.

Kenny You've joined the army?

Tracey I'm the school trivia champ.

(Absolutely no reaction at all. KEITH moves to TRACEY)

Trivia 19

- Keith** Do you know how much money we make if Debbie wears French sweatbands?
- Popinjay** Oh how gorgeous. I've seen them in *Vogue*.
- Tracey** (*Annoyed*) Well excuse me. I may not have a white tracksuit or a computer-like brain but today ...
- Janet** Don't be rude.
- Tracey** Rude!
- Keith** And don't answer back. (*The doorbell rings*)
- Tracey** (*Sarcastic*) Look folks, no hands. (*TEACHER enters*)
- Popinjay** (*Disgusted*) Tracey!
- Teacher** Hello. Sorry to barge in but ...
- Tracey** (*Happy*) Hi sir/miss.
- Teacher** Hi Tracey. (*To parents*) I'm Marg/Mark Chalk, Tracey's teacher, and I've got some really exciting news.
- Janet** We've heard it.
- Keith** Second last in a history test is not exciting.
- Teacher** Actually it was a trivia test and ...
- Keith** Trivia test! (*What kind of garbage is that?*)
- Teacher** There's an all-school's trivia test and Tracey's been chosen to represent our school.
- Tracey** Aw gee, that's terrific. (*To unimpressed family*) Hey you guys, how about that?
- Janet** How nice. (*Takes TRACEY aside*) Come and see Debbie's new outfit. (*KEITH takes TEACHER aside*)
- Keith** Don't think we're being rude but two of our kids are ... well, exceptional.
- Teacher** Congratulations.
- Keith** We're talking international achievement here and Tracey's spelling bee is really ... well ... (*He searches for the word*)
- Teacher** Trivial?
- Keith** That's it. Trivial.
- Teacher** I guess you're pretty busy having two talented teenagers.
- Keith** Busy? I'm bustin' a gut for my kids. It's a full-time occupation.
- Teacher** And does Tracey get in the way?
- Keith** Yeah, but she doesn't mean it. She's really a nice kid. But let's face it, the kid's got no marketable talent.
- Teacher** If she enters the trivia test, she'll be out of the house for hours - maybe a whole day.
- Keith** (*His eyes light up*) A whole day!
- Teacher** You can swing a few deals for Kennie and Debbie.
- Keith** What a great idea. (*To TRACEY*) Tracey. Over here. (*TRACEY crosses*) How'd you like to go to the ... ah ...
- Teacher** All schools' trivia test. (*TRACEY delighted*)

Keith What he (*she*) said.
Tracey (*Hugs KEITH who doesn't know what affection is*) Oh Dad, that's fantastic.
Teacher Come on Tracey, first heat starts in an hour.
(*TRACEY and TEACHER exit in a rush. KEITH rubs his hands with glee*)
Keith Right, on with the business. She'll be gone for hours.
Debbie What's wrong with weeks?
Kenny I vote for years.
Janet Kenny! You shouldn't say those things.
Popinjay You've done the wisest thing. Tracey's nice but ...
Debbie She's *not* nice. She makes people think our parents are horrible.
(*Huge shock from the adults*)
Keith Horrible!
Janet We're not horrible.
Popinjay Surely you children don't think that.
Janet & Keith Do you? (*MUSIC BEGINS*)

Look At Your Folks

Kenny *I don't claim to be any special kind of a son
But I am.*

Debbie *And I don't claim to be any special kind of daughter
But I am.*

Kenny & Deb *We don't wish to label ourselves as classy children
But in point of fact, that's what we are.
You can tell what type of kid that you are
By looking at your folks
You can tell if you're a kid who'll go far
By looking at your folks.
If they're home at nights and weekends too
And speak to one another
You're sure to find the perfect kind
Of father and of mother.
You can tell what type of kid that you are
By looking at your folks.*

Debbie (*Spoken over music*) My Dad's a wonder, he's simply brill. He knows all the important people and how to swing the best deals for his incredibly talented daughter. (*False modesty*) Oh no, that's me! (*Back into it*) If kids could choose their folks, you can bet y'sweatbands, my Dad'd be first in line. (*KEITH all smiles*)

Trivia 21

Kenny *(Spoken over music)* My Mum's a marvel. She's intelligent, beautiful, talented, clever, sophisticated and then some. People always say how much she takes after her son. *(False modesty)* Oh no, that's me! *(Back into it)* Listen, if they give points for style, my Mum's a ten. *(JANET is beaming)*

(POPINJAY and the parents join the brats for a repeat of the chorus after which they all exit)

Trivia - Instrumental

(You could have a blackout during the instrumental break or simply have the company move forward with the set for the second trivia test. This quiz could be sponsored by a local company. It is not televised but is upmarket - say the stage of a local hall/theatre. There could be four contestants - TRACEY and three others - being the finalists. The announcer addresses the real audience, the pretend audience being around/beside/behind him/her on stage)

Announcer Hi there and welcome to the All Schools' Trivia Test. Let's have a big hand for our finalists. *(Company applauds and contestants look excited)* Okay, buzzers ready? *(One at a time, each contestant works his/her buzzer. A light could shine if your set-designer is a budding electrician)* Good luck everyone and here we go. *(Remember you can invent your own questions although the contestants in this quiz come from different locations so questions which are too local may be out of place)* Which instrument was played by Benny Goodman? *(TRACEY buzzes)* Tracey.

Tracey The clarinet.

Announcer Correct and the first score is for Tracey. *(Applause from TRACEY'S supporters and five points on the scoreboard for TRACEY)* Which female movie star has a surname you find on a compass? *(HENRY buzzes)* Henry.

Henry Mae West.

Announcer Correct. *(Five points for HENRY, his fans applaud)* Well done. Now where do fools rush in? *(TRACEY buzzes)* Tracey.

Tracey Where angels fear to tread.

Announcer Indeed they do. *(Five more points. Applause)* Which animal is said to most resemble man? *(TRACEY is first)* Tracey.

Tracey The chimpanzee.

Announcer Is correct. Hey come on you others. Let's test those buzzers. *(Others buzz)* Okay, how many strings on a bass guitar? *(GINA buzzes)* Gina.

Gina Four.

Announcer Four it is. Well done, Gina. *(Five points and GINA'S fans applaud)* Come on Roy, you're the only one without a score. Now which entertainer had a famous nose? *(ROY buzzes)* Roy.

Roy Rin Tin Tin.

Trivia 22

AnnouncerI'm sorry. That's not ... (*TRACEY buzzes*) Tracey.

Tracey Jimmy Durante.

AnnouncerJimmy Durante it is. (*Five more points and applause*) Now what does a deltiologist collect? (*HENRY buzzes*) Henry.

Henry Postcards.

AnnouncerPicture postcards. I'll give you that. (*Applause, more points to HENRY*) The collapse of the New York stock exchange in ... (*TRACEY buzzes*) Tracey.

Tracey The Wall Street Crash.

AnnouncerYes indeed. (*Applause and TRACEY goes further ahead*) Great work, Tracey. And at the end of the first round, our leader is ... Tracey! (*More applause and MUSIC BEGINS immediately*)

Trivia Reprise 3

Company *If it's trivial, then it's important
If it's important then it's trivial
It might be commonplace
Yet rate a special place
It's what the populace love to see.
It might be frivolous and downright boring
In fact ignoring sensitivity
But if it's trivial then it's important
If it's important then it's trivial.*

(This brief reprise is again used to show the passing of time. The scores are changed and when the company resume their seats as members of the quiz-audience, everything is in readiness for the final round. Scores are Tracey 65, Henry 55, Gina 35 and Roy 20. Play this scene at a lively pace with Tracey firing on all fours)

AnnouncerAnd here's the final round. What is the name of the leading female character in "Gone With The Wind"? (*TRACEY buzzes*) Tracey.

Tracey Scarlett O'Hara.

AnnouncerCorrect. (*Score changes but announcer keeps going over any applause*) Which American President was assassinated in a theatre? (*TRACEY buzzes*) Tracey.

Tracey Abraham Lincoln.

AnnouncerCorrect. Which colour has the highest visibility? (*TRACEY buzzes. The other mime their attempts*) Tracey.

Tracey Yellow.

AnnouncerCorrect. (*Buzz of excitement as TRACEY goes further ahead.*) What is the approximate depth of the atmosphere? (*TRACEY buzzes. The others try but in vain*) Tracey.

Trivia 23

Tracey Six hundred and forty-four kilometres.

Announcer Correct. Sherlock Holmes lived ... (*ROY buzzes*) Roy.

Roy Doctor Watson

Announcer Incorrect. Sherlock ... (*TRACEY buzzes*) Tracey.

Tracey In Baker Street.

Announcer Correct (*Bell sounds to end contest*) And that's the final question. (*Much cheering/clapping*) And the winner of the All Schools' Trivia Test is ... Tracey!

(More cheers/clapping. TRACEY is surrounded by well-wishers. TRACEY could hold aloft a trophy. The company retreats calling out their congratulations, the set is removed, the lights dim. TRACEY is alone. She can't quite take it in. Suddenly TERRI bursts in out of breath)

Terri Tracey, you star, you super-star! (*The friends hug*)

Tracey Oh thanks, pal. Thanks for everything.

Terri Wait'll I tell those snobs at school. Now this is just the beginning. You've gotta practise. This is *not* trivial. (*They look at one another then laugh. TERRI hugs TRACEY once more then exits*) This'll give your family something to think about. See ya.

(MUSIC BEGINS. TERRI exits. TRACEY looks after her, then at the trophy)

Another Day - Version 2

Tracey *Today was just another day
A happy, snappy, hectic day for me
Today I found a brand new way
To pass the time in good old ecstasy.
Good times took on a kind of glow
Fun times, they simply went on show
Great times, I swear they won't let go
Today was just another day.*

(Song ends with TRACEY under single spot. Her family enters in the darkness during final few bars. Applause. Slowly the lights come up. The family is exhausted. The lights dazzle them. KEITH has telephone on lap and handset dangles free. DEBBIE has tennis racquet over her face. JANET and KENNY slump in lifeless poses. TRACEY, all excited, turns to her family)

Tracey Hey, look at this. (*Family protest at being disturbed*)

Keith Shut up, Tracey.

Janet Go away, we're tired.

Tracey (*Bubbling over*) Guess what?

Kenny You really have joined the army.

Tracey I've been to the All Schools' Trivia Test.

Debbie (*Snaps as TRACEY moves in*) Mind my white tracksuit.

Trivia 24

- Tracey** They gave an award to the winner. (*Indicates trophy to disinterested family*) An award. Get it?
- Kenny** You'll get it if you don't shut up.
(*Doorbell rings. Others groan. POPINJAY flies in, family fall back*)
- Popinjay** Only me. You'll never believe ... (*Sees TRACEY'S trophy and speaks with contempt*) What is that?
- Tracey** (*Excited*) Hi Missus P. This is the award they gave the winner - that's the winner of the All Schools' Trivia Test.
- Popinjay** (*Dismisses it as junk*) Really. (*To others*) Listen everyone, you've got a visitor. (*Family groan*) The pride of Pedigree Promotions ... (*Doorbell rings*) ... is here!
(*Family instantly transformed. This is big news. Everyone turns towards door as AL SLICK enters followed by the MEDIA and PRINCIPAL*)
- Family** (*Mixture of delight and shock*) It's Al Slick! (*MUSIC BEGINS*)

I Can Make You A Star

- Al Slick** *I can put your name on everyone's lips
I can put your name up in lights
I can put your name on everyone's hips
Think of the tips, the total eclipse.
I can put your name in papers, on screens
From Xanadu to Zanzibar
I can put your name in glory and fame
I can make you a star.*

(Company repeats the chorus, there is a dance break during which AL is feted and then the chorus is sung again with a big finish. AL is into flashy showbiz in a big way. AL is the star. POPINJAY drools, PRINCIPAL preens, KENNY and DEBBIE wait nervously and TRACEY watches from one side. The media lap it up)

- Janet Slick** Oh Ms/Mr. Slick.
Call me Al.
- Keith Slick** (*Shaking hand's hand*) Ms/Mr. Al. I'm Keith Precocious.
Understand there's a touch of talent round here.
- Janet Slick** Our kids ooze talent.
Mind you talent by itself is nothing. It must be packaged. Me? I'm into wrapping paper.
- Popinjay** Oh yes. I've seen you in *Vogue*.
(*Flashlights pop and the media lap it up*)
- Keith Slick** It must be difficult choosing which of our talented kids you'd like to promote.
(*Surprised*) I have a choice?

Janet It's Kenny, king of the keyboards or Debbie, the next world tennis champion. *(The brats sneer at one another)*

Slick Now that is some choice.

Keith Of course you don't have to choose. *(Intimate voice, media intoxicated)* You could sign both and get two stars for the price of ... Hey! I'm sure we can talk turkey.

Slick Impressive. But my hunches are always right and I've decided to promote just one of your multi-talented kids.
(KENNY and DEBBIE are almost fighting and need to be separated)

Janet Kenny! Debbie! *(Brings squabbling brats forward)*

Keith Here they are. The dashing and delightful Debbie, the clever and charming Kenny. What do you say?
(Pause. AL looks hard at each brat. They squirm/flaunt themselves)

Slick *(Matter-of-fact)* I'll take Tracey.
(Murmurs. Tracey? Hubbub from media. Parents look at one another)

Keith *(Recovering)* Sorry. Did you say Debbie?

Janet You did say Kenny?

Slick Nope. *(Pause)* Tracey. *(More confusion, hubbub)*

Keith There seems to be some confusion. The talented ones are Debbie and Kenny.

Janet *(Equally flustered)* Kenny and Debbie.

Slick Two very talented kids. *(Pause. KEITH recovers)*

Keith Oh I get it. You want Debbie and Kenny and we throw in Tracey to round off the package.

Janet That sounds fair. We'll throw in Tracey for free.

Slick I'm only after one, folks. The deal is for Tracey.

Keith *(Flustered)* Oh, look, I'm sorry. I forget to introduce someone.

Janet Tracey, over here, darling.
(TRACEY moves to them, MEDIA letting her through. Tension builds)

Keith *(Embarrassed laugh)* We thought you were outside. Tracey, I'd like you to meet Mr *(Ms)* Al Slick.

Tracey *(Shaking AL's hand)* Hi, Al. *(Parents cringe at familiar tone. AL loves it)*

Slick Really nice to meet you, Tracey. And congratulations on your big win.
(Parents and OTHERS stunned. Hubbub from MEDIA. What's going on?)

Tracey Thanks. But it wasn't all that big. Just some kids having a bit of fun.

Keith *(Taking TRACEY aside)* Hey, Tracey. *(At AL)* Be right back. *(To TRACEY)* Go away. *(Pushes TRACEY who moves to one side but not offstage. KEITH back to AL)* She'll be late for her paper round. Hard worker's our Tracey.

Slick And talented.

Family Talented!

Slick A real smart cookie. *(FAMILY stunned)* let me package her career. Big bucks are just around the corner.

Janet Smart cookie?

Keith Big bucks?
Kenny *(Clutching at straws)* I think she's joining the army.
Debbie *(Likewise desperate)* And she definitely hasn't got a white tracksuit.
Popinjay She reads *(Insert name of trashy magazine)*
Principal She failed plasticine.
Slick Sounds great. *(Headline)* Ordinary kid with extraordinary talent. *(To TRACEY)*
Come on, Tracey. You're for the big time. *(MUSIC BEGINS)*

I Can Make You a Star (Reprise)

(The chorus is repeated with TRACEY getting the full star treatment. Family and Company stunned. As song ends, TRACEY is swept away by the MEDIA with AL in pursuit. The FAMILY, POPINJAY and PRINCIPAL are alone. Silence. They're shell-shocked. KENNY and DEBBIE are blubbing)

Keith There's been a terrible mistake.
Janet I've never been so ... humiliated.
Kenny *(First to recover)* I think it stinks.
Keith *(Shocked)* Kenny!
Kenny You made me learn piano - practise, practise, practise.
Janet But you *love* the piano.
Kenny Love it! I hate it! You made me hate it. *(Shock and horror from OTHERS)*
Popinjay No! It's not true. He's under a great strain.
Debbie Exactly. Muscle strain, mental strain, travel, tracksuits and tantrums. I *hate* tennis. *(More shock and horror)*
Principal Debbie. Your language.
Keith But look what we've given you, look at what we've done for you.
Kenny For us or for you? *(Shock waves)*
Janet How dare you speak like that.
Keith You ungrateful brat.
Debbie First decent thing he's ever said.
Adults Debbie!
(All six immediately begin to speak at once. The adults attack the kids and the kids attack the adults. No sooner have they started than the doorbell rings causing everyone to stop talking. TRACEY enters wearing smart new outfit)
Tracey *(As she used to do)* Da-dah!
(Everyone pays attention. They stare. Pause. They are uncertain. Humble pie time)
Janet Hello Tracey.
Keith Hi Tracey.
Tracey *(Moving to them)* Hi. Like my new outfit?
Popinjay It's beautiful.
Principal Very tasteful.
Debbie It's much nicer than my white tracksuit.

- Kenny** And the crummy gear you get in the army.
- Tracey** Wait'll you see Al's promotional package. It's fantastic.
- Keith** Oh, we're so proud of you, Trace. *(To OTHERS)* Aren't we?
(OTHERS agree. It's humble-pie time. What else can they do or say?)
- Tracey** It's not all happening yet but if my TV spot works ...
- Janet** TV?
- Tracey** Only the national networks but ...
- Keith** The national networks?
- Tracey** But who knows? The world titles are in ...
(TRACEY names exotic, fashionable city and OTHERS swoon)
- Popinjay** Oh how lovely.
- Tracey** *(Starts exiting)* Well I'll be off. Got a photo call, some commercials to shoot and an interview with *Vogue*.
- Popinjay** *(Swoons)* Oh Tracey.
- Tracey** Bye. *(With a wave she exits. The OTHERS wave feebly and mouth 'Bye'. Suddenly TRACEY enters)* Oops, almost forgot. Here are some tickets for the National Titles. See ya.
(She throws tickets and exits. Everyone looks at one another. Suddenly they race for scattered tickets, jostle and scramble in undignified way. Perhaps some tickets are torn. Cries of "That's mine", "I saw it first", "I want that" etc. Then with tickets and while still bickering they exit. COMPANY surge forward to become audience in TV studio. The FAMILY, POPINJAY and PRINCIPAL make a small costume change - more dressy - and when ready, enter upstage to join TV audience. A warm-up person bounces in and confronts real audience)
- W.U.P.** Hi there, folks.
- Company** *(Timid response)* Hi.
- W.U.P.** Aw come on. Don't tell me the wimps are in tonight. *(Really big)* Hello!
- Company** *(Really big)* Hello!
- W.U.P.** I like it, I like it. Now let's see how clever you are. *(Begins clapping hands above his head)* This means clap. *(Stops clapping)* Okay, your turn. *(W.U.P. claps with hands above head and the COMPANY claps in the normal way)* Not bad, not bad. How about this? *(Holds up one hand and mimes scratching arm-pit a la a gorilla. A few laughs from COMPANY)* This means laugh. Give it a try. *(W.U.P. does gorilla routine and COMPANY laughs then W.U.P. switches to overhead clapping and COMPANY claps in normal fashion. A few rapid changes between laughing and clapping gets the audience doing just that. Remember W.U.P. faces real audience with TV studio audience beside or behind the W.U.P.)*
- W.U.P.** Okay folks, let's take a breather. *(Audience settles)* Now who's here tonight? Any special groups? *(Person on stage in pretend audience raises their hand. Looking into real audience, W.U.P. points and asks)* Yes, where are you from? *(COMPANY member calls name of real local club or neighbouring town - perhaps the sponsor's company. Other COMPANY members cheer and/or clap at the response)*

Trivia 28

Hey, don't you mean? (*W.U.P. claps above head and gets the COMPANY clapping and laughing*) Now, who else? (*KEITH raises his hand and W.U.P. points to another part of the real audience*) Yes sir. You with the head on. (*Laughter from COMPANY*)

Keith We're the family of one of the contestants.

W.U.P. (*Cupping ear*) Can't hear.

Keith (*Louder*) We're Tracey's family. She's a contestant.

W.U.P. Tracey's family. (*Makes clapping sign and COMPANY applaud*) That's terrific. I bet you're very proud of her.

Keith We certainly are. We've supported her all the way. (*Liar*)

W.U.P. That's marvellous. Here's a whole family along to support their Tracey. Wonderful to see. Take a bow, folks - come on. Let's hear it for Tracey's family. (*COMPANY applauds warmly. Tentatively at first, the family, Popinjay and Principal all stand. They warm to the applause and give pathetic bows/waves*) Okay, enough from me. Time to start our show and for you to give a big, big welcome to ... Tony (*Toni*) Trivia!
(*W.U.P. gives clapping sign and the COMPANY goes wild. TONY bounces in and the orchestra plays the signature theme. MUSIC BEGINS*)

Tony's/Toni's Tune

Toni/y (*Is OTT - Over the top*) Hi guys!

Company Hi Toni/y!

Toni/y What an audience. You're beautiful. (*W.U.P. does gorilla sign and the clapping sign and COMPANY claps and laughs*) Welcome folks to the National Trivia Titles sponsored by (*Insert name of local company*) Now let's hear it for the contestants.

(*W.U.P. gives clap sign, company claps enthusiastically and contestants enter and take places on elaborate set. You could have the contestants already seated on a truck and simply wheel this in or have a screen in front of the contestants and have the screen fly out. The Precocious family rise and clap and maybe even wave. Boy have they changed their tune. Crawlers*)

Toni/y Okay folks, tonight's the night. The winner will be our national trivia champ and go on to the World Trivia Titles!

(*W.U.P. make clapping sign, COMPANY claps and lights flash*)

Toni/y Buzzers ready? (*Contestants press buzzers*) Players ready and away we go.

Trivia Reprise 4

(*This short reprise again shows the passage of time. During the reprise, buzzers buzz, lights flash, Toni/y gesticulates and the scores appear and increase. When the music stops, the scores are Tom 40, Kelly 35, Tracey 25 and Steve 20*)

Trivia 29

- Toni/y** And here we go with the final round. The next few minutes will decide who becomes this copuntry's champion of trivia. (*Asks trivia question*) Which country has the oldest flag in the world. (*TRACEY buzzes*) Tracey.
- Tracey** Denmark.
- Toni/y** Correct. (*TRACEY's score to 30*) Who was Walt Disney's first cartoon character? (*TRACEY buzzes*) Tracey.
- Tracey** Mickey Mouse.
- Toni/y** Correct. (*TRACEY's score to 35*) Americans eat almost half of the world's production of what product? (*TRACEY buzzes*) Tracey.
- Tracey** Chocolate. (*Crowd excited*)
- Toni/y** Correct. (*TRACEY's score to 40, her family to Thrillsville*) Who was the first man to fly in outer space? (*TOM buzzes*) Tom.
- Tom** Yuri Gagarin.
- Toni/y** Correct. (*TOM to 50. Tension builds*) Approximately what percentage of the world's population is left handed? (*TRACEY buzzes*) Tracey.
- Tracey** Ten per cent.
- Toni/y** Correct. (*TRACEY's score to 45, her family nail-bite*) Which word in the English language has the most definitions? (*TRACEY buzzes*) Tracey.
- Tracey** Set.
- Toni/y** Correct. (*TRACEY's score to 50, level with TOM*) What do Tchaikovsky and Sir Isaac Newton have in common? (*TOM buzzes*) Tom.
- Tom** They were both born on Christmas Day.
- Toni/y** Correct. (*TOM to 55*) What was remarkable about the inventor of the popsicle in 1905? (*TRACEY buzzes*) Tracey.
- Tracey** Frank Epperson was only 11 years old.
- Toni/y** Correct. (*TRACEY's score to 55. Wow*) Why is watermelon not one of the world's favourite fruits? (*TOM buzzes*) Tom.
- Tom** Because it's a vegetable.
- Toni/y** Correct. (*TOM to 60*) How many people in the world share your birthday? (*TRACEY buzzes*) Tracey.
- Tracey** At least nine million.
- Toni/y** Correct. (*TRACEY to 60, everyone spellbound*) The mother of a pop star invented a product used by students and ...
(*Bell/Gong sounds to end competition. Huge sigh from COMPANY*)
- Toni/y** And that's it. The Trivia Test is over and ... no wait. We have a tie (*COMPANY buzzes*) I'll finish the last question. The mother of a pop star ... (*TOM buzzes*) Tom, good luck. This for the title. (*PRECOCIOUS family frantic*)
- Tom** The ballpoint pen.
(*Huge cheer from TOM's fans/family. TONI/Y waves the glee subsides*)
- Toni/y** I'm sorry, that's not correct. (*TRACEY buzzes*) Tracey.
- Tracey** The mother of one of the Monkees invented white-out.

- Toni/y** *(Excited) That's it! (COMPANY goes wild. PRECOCIOUS family hug one another. PRINCIPAL hugs POPINJAY) Ladies and gentlemen, the winner of the National Trivia Title - Tracey Precocious!*
(W.U.P. makes clap sign and the COMPANY claps, cheers and laughs. The other contestants congratulate TRACEY who then moves downstage where TONI/Y presents her with a trophy. TRACEY's family, POPINJAY and PRINCIPAL all come forward)
- Tracey** Gee, what can I say? Wow? *(W.U.P. makes clap sign and the COMPANY claps, cheers and laughs to help TRACEY celebrate)* I'd like to thank my manager, Al Slick and ... *(She names a local company that helped sponsor her)* for sponsoring the titles. Thanks to the other contestants; they did a terrific job. *(Applause then silence)* I'm really rapt to have won and I'll certainly do my best to win the world title. *(More excited applause and her family are bursting)* Thanks to everyone who helped me.
(She waves to real audience and raises her trophy. COMPANY applauds and TONI/Y gives TRACEY a hug. Suddenly TRACEY has something more to say. She raises her hand and everyone falls silent. Pause)
- Tracey** I almost forgot. I want to say a special thank you to my family for all their support and encouragement. Everyone at home is so busy but they never stopped me learning my trivia. So to Mum *(Mom)* Dad, Debbie and Kenny - thanks a million. *(She blows them a kiss)*
(Much applause at this moving speech. TRACEY gives a final wave and the COMPANY rise and give her a standing ovation. AL crosses to TRACEY and some media people mob the couple. TRACEY and AL move to one side. The Precocious family, POPINJAY and PRINCIPAL come forward)
- Toni/y** Well folks, how do you feel?
- Keith** We're rapt. She's wonderful. We're just so proud of our little girl.
- Janet** Thrilled. We knew she'd do it. We've always believed in Tracey.
- Kenny** It's ace. She's the best sister in the world.
- Debbie** Fantastic. She's my absolute first best friend.
- Popinjay** Superb. Marvellous. Divine.
(Continues to gush but microphone is put in front of PRINCIPAL who grasps it and taps it a la school assembly)
- Principal** Ah, ladies and gentlemen ..., Is it on? Pardon? Ladies and gentlemen ...
(TONI/Y whips microphone away leaving PRINCIPAL speechless. TONI/Y addresses real audience)
- Toni/y** So there it is, folks. Tracey took the title. Her family thinks she's great. We think she's great. But now it's goodbye and remember ...
- Company** If it's trivial, it's important. *(MUSIC BEGINS)*
(Applause as everyone launches into finale)

Look at Yourself

Company *You can tell what kind of person you are by looking at yourself
You can tell if you're a good character (tar)
By looking at yourself.
If honesty, sincerity are qualities you show
You'll value friends and find that style's the only way to go.
You can tell what kind of person you are
By look, look, look, look, looking at yourself.
(Curtain and/or BLACKOUT)*

Curtain Calls

Company *I can put your name on everyone's lips
I can put your name up in lights
I can put your name on everyone's hips
Think of the tips, the total eclipse.
I can put your name in papers, on screens
From Xanadu to Zanzibar
I can put your name in glory and fame
I can make you a star.
There are the facts, the goods, the details and things
But we have to have a good story
There is the truth, whole truth and nothing but the truth
But we have to have a good story.
There is the accurate, the definite, the very literal
The logical, historical, the tautological.
Oh there are points and parts and portions of proof
But we have to have a good story.
Trivial acts and trivial flings
They all make the world renowned
Trivial facts and trivial things
They make the world go round.
Common-or-garden's fine
Run-of-the-mill will shine
Man-in-the-street's divine
Mundane and middlebrow gladly we will allow
Trivial facts and trivial things
They make the world go round.*

Curtain

Playout

Jungle

A steamy, vine-clad set with mists and mysterious sounds. The costumes are brilliant, the songs lively and the story full of pathos, drama, comedy and lessons about life. The unemployed youth, the old guard versus political stirrers, conservation of flora and fauna, the circus with performing humans, superstition and, of course, Tarzan and Jane. Ninety minutes of adventure in this pacy musical.

RAT RACE

Your set is a giant pile of tacky, uninviting rubbish. Your actors are rats facing life's tough problems - lousy health care, unemployment, hunger, big business taking over and general prejudice and hatred from fellow creatures - the humans. But rats are rats. They're diseased and dangerous. But are they? Could rats ever be friendly with humans. When Snortle Tozer suggests they make a movie flogging their good points, the rats slip on their make-up and party frocks to give you the finale to end all finales. Eighty-five minutes of slick social comment and toe-tapping tunes.

Germs

It all takes place inside a human. There are veins and organs and a pumping, thumping heart. The germs are out to kill the human who retaliates with medicine, exercise and anything else to win the war. Some of the germs are traitors and plan a bloodless coup. When a pill appears, tragedy strikes. Or does it? The germ leader has a dreadful secret. If the germs discover the secret, catastrophe looms. Builds to a very powerful climax with spirited music and memorable characters. 85 minutes.

Squawk!

Straw everywhere and chickens to match. A musical with powerful themes and messages. Drug abuse, sex education, fashion parades, genetic engineering, cruelty to animals, fox hunting and marketing. The cock-fighting scene is a show stopper. Ninety minutes of entertaining, educational fun. Lively songs, one set, simple but stunning costumes and some rave reviews.

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