

Jungle

A lion-taming, hippo-sized musical to thrill any circus crowd

A musical play by Cenarth Fox
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Jungle is scored for piano, guitar, bass, percussion, woodwind and brass. These band parts are for hire and will really boost your production. There is also a marvellous backing CD with both rehearsal and performance versions of the score.

Production Package

Groups staging a **FOX** play or musical receive support in several ways. There are free Production Notes (*set-design, costumes, lighting, props*) and with musicals, free lyrics for chorus members. Your local agent may have photos and DVDs of previous productions. Friendly, personal service is available to all groups.

To The Director

The gender of all characters is male or female.

First Performance

Jungle was first staged by Seaford Park Primary School, Melbourne Australia in November 1992. It was a great success. The musical has since been staged around the world with wonderful results.

Reviews

It was a great show for the whole school, very well received. **Gib Gate School**
It was an extremely successful production and cast, crew, orchestra and staff
have been an absolute buzz these last couple of days. Our audiences responded
to the witty, humourous script **Xavier College**

The unique story and bouncy music are all fabulous. **Seaford Park PS**
Bright music, witty dialogue, magnificent masks, a wonderful production **Te
Puru PS**

JUNGLE was a great success **Houghton Regis Middle School**

A great success **Whitefriars College**

Another outstanding success. Thanks for a fantastic musical. JUNGLE was tops
Singleton PS

The musical was a great success. The parents thoroughly enjoyed the show and
declared it our best ever **Birrilee PS**

JUNGLE has proved so popular it's been a sell-out for each of the three nights
St Joseph's School Levin

Most successful and met with excellent comments from audiences **Sefton
School**

A magnificent night of entertainment. **Takapuna Intermediate School**

JUNGLE was another excellent show [the third of yours!]. The students and
audiences loved it. Thank you for your efforts and support. Keep up the great
work. **Killarney Vale PS**

The show was a great success. All the participants got a great feeling of self
worth and their friends and relatives were amazed. Thank you once again for
one of your musicals. **St Fidelis Youth Group**

This musical is a great celebration! What a show! What a celebration! What a
buzz for our school! The audience loved us. We had a finale of three of the
favourite songs and in the end the children were dancing and singing in the
aisles ... almost out of control! The audience joined in as they were so familiar
with your songs. Some even complained that they couldn't stop singing them!
You should have been there for the final curtain and received your well-
deserved accolades. **Cambewarra PS**

JUNGLE was hugely successful **Hampton PS**

The music is superb and it really is a wonderful play. It has a good message and
there are so many values. Thank you for writing such a fantastic show.

Walcha Central School

Thank you once again for a delightful musical with a great message. The girls
had a great time on stage with over 100 plants imported for the production.

Seymour College



JUNGLE by Cenarth Fox

Production by the Te Puru School, Thames, New Zealand
Producer/Director Sally Muir. Animal Heads Fran Jensen. Animal Costumes Jenufa Waiti



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Synopsis

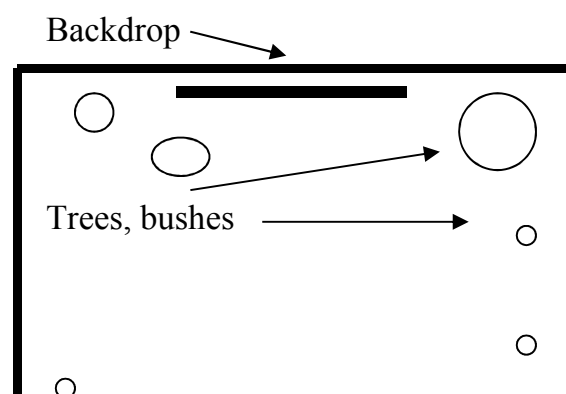
The scene is a local village of animals in the teeming metropolis of a large jungle. It's more rainforest than savanna and poetic licence is used. The animals are like the inhabitants of any town or suburb. They have their problems, their good and bad days. Some animals have discovered that certain species of plants and humans are either extinct or very nearly so. They inform their neighbours. But some animals have other, more pressing problems. There's local politics, the demise of traditional habits and unemployed youth. The climax occurs when a circus comes to town. A circus which has humans as performers. There's sabotage, anger, danger, disagreements, reconciliation and ignorance. Sound like your place? But all's well that ends well. It's a friendly finish. Or is it?

Costumes and Movement

The animals walk on two legs. The costumes can be very simple using just tee-shirts and jeans with the name of each animal on the shirt. Or else you can be more elaborate and create some marvellous life-like outfits. The animals must be free to move and speak. Large masks or headpieces must not restrict the performer's ability. Detailed costume ideas are provided in the free Production Notes.

Set Design

There is only one set. Upstage and to a lesser extent the sides are trees, bushes, vines etc. Tree-stumps are spread around in various places. These could be covered with moss. There are cubby-houses in some of the trees. Some of the animals live therein. The downstage half of the stage needs to be clear for the circus and other activities. Because of the tree-stumps, when the stage is fully occupied, the performers are on various levels. Here is a bird's-eye-view.



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Characters

Chimp - *intelligent, sensitive, caring*

Zebra - *politician, selfish, opportunist*

Lion - *ex-monarch, kind, reflective*

Elephant - *independent, friendly*

Hippo - *old-fashioned, traditionalist, royalist, afraid of change*

Crocodile - *entrepreneur, crook, selfish, ruthless*

Ostrich - *timid, nervous, a follower, doubles as a clown*

Giraffe - *independent, cynical, a loner, doubles as a clown*

Rhino - *gullible, easily swayed*

Jinks - *leader of the monkeys, tough, brave, unemployed*

Tricks - *second-in-command of the monkeys, strong, tough, brave, unemployed*

Monkeys - *group of young, unemployed, tearaways*

Hyena - *worker, circus employee*

Humans - *a variety of human beings [3 joggers, 2 or more footballers]*

Company - *several types of animals other than the main characters*

Musical Items

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Overture | Orchestra |
| 2. | It's A Jungle/Animal Anthem | Company |
| 3. | Missionaries | Lion & Company |
| 4. | Charley Darwin Dance | Crocodile & Company |
| 5. | Save Endangered Species | Principals |
| 6. | Monkey Business | Monkeys |
| 7. | Priorities | Zebra & Company |
| 8. | Superstition | Crocodile & Company |
| 9. | Ah Or Ah Or | Chimp & Company |
| 10. | Monkey Business - Reprise | Monkeys |
| 11. | Manners | Hippo |
| 12. | Circus Parade | Company |
| 13. | Hopping Humans | Orchestra |
| 14. | Ferocious Footballers | Orchestra |
| 15. | Manners Reprise | Hippo |
| 16. | Animal Anthem - Reprise | Company |
| 17. | Curtain Calls | Company |
| 18. | Playout | Orchestra |

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(The Overture is played. Once it has finished, pause. Slowly bring up sound effects [FX] of jungle noises. There are FX on the backing-tape. Lighting is very dim. It's the dawn of time. Mist swirls. We can hardly see the animals on stage who are frozen in many places around the set. MUSIC BEGINS. Gradually fade FX if you are providing your own. N.B. The opening song starts softly with little light or volume. Build the number. Gradually. Start low-key. Perhaps little movement until the latin tempo when it's all colour and movement. For the anthem, again little or no movement)

It's A Jungle/Animal Anthem

Company

*Ahhh. Ahhh. Ahhh.
Oooo. Oooo. Oooo.
Eeee. Eeee. Eeee.
Ahhh. Oooo. Eeee.
Flower and a fern, hardly room to turn
It's a jungle
Creeper and a vine, traffic all in line
It's a jungle
Greenery to grow, everywhere you go
It's a jungle
Overgrown and dense, no-one needs a fence
It's a jungle.
Every type of plant, every kind of ant
It's a jungle
Lichen on the ground, hard to get around
It's a jungle
Undergrowth and brush, always in a rush
It's a jungle
Grass that simply grew, overcrowding too
It's a jungle.
It's a jungle where we walk, swim and fly
It's a jungle which can blot out the sky
It's a jungle, here we live and we die
Everything grows, everything grows.
It's a jungle, see it's wet and it's hot
It's a jungle, how we like it a lot
It's a jungle and it's all that we've got
Home of our own, it's a jungle!
Colours are many, some brilliant, some bland
All shapes and sizes from tiny to grand
Proud to be part of this wonderful land
Honour the animal kingdom.
Beautiful, beastly and much more beside
Some swim, some gallop, some climb and some glide
Graceful or clumsy but all dignified*

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Honour the animal kingdom.

The animals.

(Song ends with COMPANY in strong formation. The Animal Anthem is a powerful, patriotic piece. Applause. ZEBRA is first to move. This is the cue for COMPANY to break free and move around the set)

Zebra *(Exiting DL)* Now don't forget the council meeting tonight. Eight o'clock sharp.

Giraffe Boring. *(COMPANY agree)*

Zebra *(Stops)* I heard that. I'm sick of your anti-politician remarks.

Lion Well let's face it, Zebra, you never *do* anything.

Zebra You're jealous, *former* monarch!

Ostrich Please, no arguments. Otherwise I'll have to bury my head.

Zebra Ever since we tossed out the royal family and became a republic, you wander round like a ... like a ...

Rhino Like a king without a crown.

Zebra Exactly.

Hippo And it was the worst thing we ever did. Tradition was trampled underfoot.

Croc By a herd of wild elephants.

Elephant Hey, watch it!

Chimp Yes but royalty's not the only thing that's disappeared.

Hippo Well said, Chimp. We all know good behaviour's almost extinct. Only this morning I saw graffiti on the riverbank. *[Shock from some]*

Giraffe What about food? You can't get the leaves any more. *(COMPANY agree)*

Chimp What about the disappearing flora and fauna in our jungle? Things have definitely changed.

Ostrich And that makes me worry. None of us like change. *(COMPANY agree)*

Zebra So bring it up at council. If it's serious we can refer it to committee.

Giraffe Refer it to oblivion.

Zebra *(Angry)* I heard that.

Chimp Some of the plants we used to eat have vanished. I mean, who's had a *Leafus Salad* lately? *(COMPANY murmur. "Not me ... I haven't ..." etc)* And where are the natives? And the explorers? They've all disappeared. *(COMPANY again agree. "That's true ... He's right" etc)*

Hippo It's a sign of the times. We have discarded all that's good and true.

Chimp *(To ZEBRA)* And your cousins, the Quaggas.

Zebra Leave my family alone. Politics should never be personal.

Ostrich That's right. The Quaggas don't visit anymore. Why not?

Chimp Because our world is changing. The Quaggas have left - permanently!

Rhino I haven't noticed a change.

Lion Well old Grandpa Lion did. *(COMPANY smile, titter)*

Giraffe *(Polite complaint)* Not *another* Grandpa story.

Lion He remembered when the jungle was crawling with big, plump, juicy missionaries, just like Robert Morley. Now, not a sausage. *(MUSIC BEGINS)*

Hippo Sausage?

Lion Grandpa blamed the

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Company television evangelists. (*COMPANY have heard it all before*)

Missionaries

Lion *My grandpa was old when he finally died
He never ate rubbish or food that was fried
He stuck by his diet and did so with pride
Grandpa, he ate missionary.
He ate well at home and when out with a friend
He even had take-away on the weekend
His menu I guess could be called a godsend
Grandpa, he ate missionary.
And this is what he said.
Baptists you bite a bit
Mormons you munch
Salvos you swallow whole
Catholics you crunch
Luth'rans you lick a lot
Anglicans chew
Supper's a smorgasbord of Missionary stew!
Now grandpa was careful like any smart beast
He ate well but had the occasional feast
And Christmas was special, he'd try a roast priest
Grandpa, he ate missionary.
Old grandpa he lived long and made many deals
The best one was captured on all the newsreels
When two bikie bishops became meals-on-wheels
Grandpa, he ate missionary.
And this is what he said.
[Spoken] *Would somebody please pass me a Presbyterian?**

*(COMPANY repeat the chorus then congratulate/thank LION when their former monarch finishes the song.
CHIMP and ELEPHANT lead LION to one side for a quiet word. CROCODILE takes over)*

Croc Okay, break it up folks - listen up!

Rhino [*Confused, annoyed*] Listen up!?! What's wrong with "listen"?

Croc Listen up is cool talk for entrepreneurs. Now, first the good news. Today is St Charley's Day. (*Pause. No reaction*) Hey, what is this? St Charley's our patron saint. Aw come on. Show a little enthusiasm.

Giraffe I keep forgetting why we have St Charley's Day.

Croc (*Aghast*) Forgetting! Charles Darwin wrote your family tree.

Chimp Not mine. (*Indicates tree*) My family have lived in that tree for two thousand years.

Croc Oh ha, ha. Very funny.

Zebra Everyone knows about Charles Darwin. He wrote *Roots*.
(*COMPANY agree*)

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Ostrich No. That was Charles *Dickens*. (*COMPANY buzz*)
Hippo No, no. He wrote *A Tale of Two Hippos*.
(*COMPANY all talk at once. "Tale of Two Hippos ... Charles Darwin ... Was it really Charles Dickens? ... I don't know ... What do you think?" etc. CROCODILE has lost control and calls over the hubbub*)
Croc Hey! Hey! Hold it! (*Louder*) Hold it! (*COMPANY quiet. Pause*) Punters please, I ain't finished. We are going to celebrate St Charley Day in style -tonight!
Zebra (*Upset*) You can't do that. Council meets at eight o'clock.
Croc Not on a public holiday! Not when there's a circus in town!
Company (*Excited*) Circus!?
Croc (*Calling*) So c'mon, let's celebrate. (*Calls*) All hail St. Charley!
Company (*MUSIC BEGINS. COMPANY call loudly*) All hail St. Charley!

Charley Darwin Dance

Company *First y'take a tiny creature very small
You can hardly see the little thing at all
In a million years or so it starts to crawl
Doin' the Charley Darwin Dance.
Fascinatin' movement that is scrutable
Sceptics say the whole thing is disputable
Not if everyone of is mutable
Doin' the Charley Darwin Dance.
Char-ley Dar-win. [Three times]
Doin' the Charley Darwin Dance.
Oh species origin. Natural selection
Knees up the Devil's Chaplin
Hail to Saint Charley.
All hail to Saint Charley! Chas!*

(*COMPANY excited at end of song. CROCODILE takes over*)
Croc Don't forget, punters, tonight the circus hits the jungle!
(*COMPANY cheer*)
Zebra (*Calling*) No way! Absolutely not! Tonight is council.
Croc (*Calling*) What'll it be? Council or circus?
Company (*Calling*) Circus!
Croc Okay, players. Tickets on sale the corner of Undergrowth and Vine. (*Points DR*)
Be there!
(*COMPANY excited rush off DR/RC/UR all chattering at once. "Gotta get my tickets ... I need two, no three ... The circus is fantastic" etc. ZEBRA is furious with CROCODILE. Principals alone on stage*)
Zebra This is scandalous! Council takes precedence over *everything*.
Croc Cool it, Zebby! (*ZEBRA further incensed*) We live in a democratic jungle. The punters have decided.

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Giraffe Besides, council's a bit like a circus anyway.
Zebra Right, that's it. I'm going to raise your contemptible behaviour in council.
Chimp Zebra, you've got it all wrong. Council should discuss important things like the preservation of endangered species.
Zebra (*Indignant*) We need new traffic signs.
Hippo (*Indignant*) And lessons in good behaviour.
Chimp (*A touch angry*) Zebra, we're facing a crisis. The jungle is under threat. Some species are already extinct!
Ostrich Royalty's extinct.
Hippo Respect's extinct.
Chimp While you fuss about litter and traffic signs, plants and people are being wiped out!
Croc It's the law of the jungle, mate. The fittest entrepreneur survives.
Chimp (*Angry with CROCODILE*) Oh why don't you run away and join the circus?
Giraffe But should we really worry about vanishing humans? I mean, they're only *people*.
Elephant Part of the food-chain, Stretch. Remove one link and the whole thing's kaput.
Hippo None of this would have happened if we still wore hats and gloves.
Chimp Elephant's right. Humans are living creatures. They're part of the food-chain and besides, they have a right to exist.
Elephant And if they keep disappearing, they'll be lost forever.
Lion Which would be a cultural and *economic* disaster.
Croc Hey, lighten up. The world is full of humans.
Chimp *Some* humans. Many species are extinct, others in real danger.
Ostrich Such as?
Chimp Well, *policeus onbeatus* for one.
Giraffe Speak English. I've forgotten my Latin.
Chimp The unarmed policeman.
Ostrich That's true. Whatever happened to whistles and bike-clips?
Hippo They went out with quiet music and good manners.
Chimp Or there's the well-behaved tennis-player, the truthful politician, the humble pop-star, the doctor with neat handwriting - the list is very long. They're either extinct or just about.
Zebra Well write to your local politician.
Chimp It's too late for debate. We need immediate action.
Lion (*Reflective*) If I were still king, I'd click my claws and it'd be done.
Hippo (*Excited*) Oh yes. Let's bring back royalty. Let's have white tablecloths, curtsies and knighthoods.
Elephant Why not build a national park to save the humans?
Chimp (*Excited*) Hey! Great idea.
Ostrich What's a national park?
Chimp We'll declare a suburb or town just for humans - no animals allowed.
Croc Hang on. I may need that space for my circus.
Chimp Unless we act now we could lose these humans forever.
Hippo Forget the humans. What about us? (*HIPPO fumes, turns and exits in a huff*)

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Croc *(Starting to exit)* You can't do this. Where's my lawyer? *(Exits calling)* Lawyer!
Lawyer! *etc*

Ostrich Surely we don't care about *nasty* humans? *[MUSIC BEGINS]*

Lion Of course we do.

Giraffe *[Surprised]* The ones that bite and abuse us?

Chimp Too right. They all play their part. Come on, let's save the endangered humans!

Save Endangered Humans

Elephant *Everywhere the world is clearing
Out the old and bringing in the new.*

Lion *Humans now are disappearing
Is there something we can do?*

Others *Yes!*

Chimp *We can save the last examples
Endangered species must not die.*

Lion *We'll work until we drop*

Elephant *Never ever stop*

Trio *Save the humans is our cry.*

Company *We've got to save the truthful politician
We've got to save the humble TV host
We've got to save the honest crooks
The humans who read books
Love and honour any who can guarantee the post.
We've got to save the courteous car-driver
We've got to save the student who can spell
The republican who's king, the rock-star who can sing
God bless their socks and keep them well.*

[During the song some rapid-fire dialogue is presented a la spruiking]

Chimp Okay, reports. Truthful politicians?

Animal 1 We're still lookin.

Lion Humble TV hosts?

Animal 2 Contradiction in terms.

Elephant Honest crooks?

Animal 3 All in jail.

Chimp Humans who read books?

Animal 4 We're waiting for the movie.

Lion Posties who deliver on time?

Animal 5 The answer's in the mail.

Elephant Courteous car-drivers?

Animal 6 Fewer than .05.

Chimp Students who can spell?

Animal 7 Can't read their writing.

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Lion Successful entrepreneurs?
Animal 8 No such creature.
Elephant Rock stars who can sing?
Animal 9 Not on the charts.
Chimp Protect endangered species!
Company Yes!
Company *God bless their socks and keep them well.
Save endangered species - now!*

(Song is performed only by the principals without CROCODILE and HIPPO. During song, various endangered species could appear. These may be [a] slides on a screen or [b] members of the COMPANY dressed as humans or [c] cardboard cut-out humans carried by members of the COMPANY or [d] large signs naming the endangered species again carried by animals from the COMPANY. The signs could read- Polite Tennis Player ... Unarmed Policeman ... Truthful Politician ... Humble Rock Star ... Doctor With Neat Handwriting ... etc. Song finishes with new "props" in formation mixed in with the principals. COMPANY break ranks and exit in all directions chatting as they go. CHIMP calls while ELEPHANT and LION guide ZEBRA DR)

Chimp *(Calling to departing COMPANY)* Thanks everyone. We need all the help we can get. And please take good care of those endangered species. Bye.
(COMPANY wave back, call "bye" and exit. CHIMP moves to join ZEBRA, ELEPHANT and LION)

Elephant Now listen Zebra, this is serious, very serious.
Zebra Thank you but I'll be the judge of that.
Lion We need tough legislation.
Zebra All in good time.
Chimp No! That's just it. We haven't *got* the time.
Zebra You're not unique. There are lots of other problems in the jungle. Saving endangered humans is just one of them.

Elephant If you delay it may be too late. *(Pointing at ZEBRA)* It'll be on your conscience.
Zebra *(Angry)* Don't threaten me. D'you hear? *(Louder)* Ever! *(Storms off)*
Lion *(Sarcastic)* Good one, Jumbo. We're trying to win them over not drive them away.

Elephant *[Disappointed]* I know but dealing with a politician is never easy.
Chimp All right, settle down. It's hard enough without fighting among ourselves. *(ELEPHANT and LION ashamed and shake hands muttering "Sorry". CHIMP takes off DL)*
Come on. We've got work to do.
(LION and ELEPHANT scramble after CHIMP. The jungle is quiet and empty. Pause. Suddenly a MONKEY drops out of a tree. Then another. Then two more bob up from behind a tree-stump. MUSIC BEGINS. The group of MONKEYS moves downstage and confronts the audience)

Monkey Business

Monkeys *We ain't got no job
We ain't got no dough*

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*We ain't got no hope
We're up to monkey business.
We ain't got no joy
We ain't got no friends
We ain't got no peace
We're up to monkey business.
Walkin' the streets, spray paintin' the town
Doin' a burg, coppers! Get y'down.
Hangin' about, pinchin 'n stuff
Gettin' the dole
Lousy! Hell it's tough!
We're up to monkey ... [Three times]
Business!*

(Song ends with the MONKEYS in defiant pose. Suddenly they break free and move to various trees and prepare to become graffiti artists. They mime. Just as they start, HIPPO enters DR dressed in full "going-out" gear. HIPPO is concerned about her appearance and is about C when she sees a monkey. She freezes then suddenly turns. HIPPO sees the MONKEYS and cries out in anger and surprise. The MONKEYS react immediately to HIPPO'S voice)

Hippo Hey! *(MONKEYS race off in all directions)* Stop! What are you doing?!
(HIPPO moves about and collides with one or two MONKEYS fleeing the scene. It's not a collision so much as avoiding a collision but it sees HIPPO spinning around, calling "Stop! ... Help!" etc and falling to the jungle floor. HIPPO'S hat is askew, basket of goddies scattered. Pause. The MONKEYS have gone. HIPPO alone and distressed)

Hippo *(Pathetic)* Help. *(Little louder)* Help!

Ostrich *(Enters UL)* Hippo! *(Moves to HIPPO)* Are you all right?

Hippo I've been viciously attacked. Help me. Do something.
(OSTRICH in a dither)

Ostrich *[Upset]* I don't know what to do. I can't handle a crisis.
(CHIMP, LION and ELEPHANT enter UR, see the problem and hurry to HIPPO)

Chimp What happened?

Lion Hippo, you okay?

Hippo *[Over-reacting]* No. I think I'm dying.

Elephant *(Helping HIPPO to rise)* We've got you. Up you come. That's the ticket.
(COMPANY enter gradually from different directions. They show interest)

Hippo I was brutally assaulted by a vicious gang of hooligans.
(COMPANY buzz)

Chimp Are you hurt? Any broken bones?

Hippo I caught them vandalising public property.
(COMPANY react. OSTRICH and one or two others go to examine the trees)

Lion You must have been terribly frightened.

Hippo Then they turned and launched their barbaric thuggery at me.

Elephant *[Genuinely concerned]* Oh no, you poor old thing.

Hippo *(Suddenly offended by ELEPHANT'S comment)* Old! Who's old? How dare you!
(ZEBRA enters, sees the action and moves quickly to see what's happening)

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Lion *(Trying to calm HIPPO)* Now Hippo, keep your hat on.
Ostrich *(Calling)* There's no damage over here.
Zebra Damage? What damage?
Elephant Hippo's been attacked by hooligans.
Zebra What!? That's terrible.
Hippo I caught them destroying public property.
Zebra *(Highly incensed)* Public property! That's *outrageous!*
Chimp Come off it, Zebra. It was a bunch of unemployed kids.
Hippo *(Angry)* Unemployed *maniacs!* They charged at me like a wild human!
Zebra They've destroyed public property.
Lion It's a bit of graffiti.
Zebra Oh and that makes it okay does it?
Chimp Of course not. But a few frisky monkeys will always be with us. We can't say the same for many endangered humans.
(Big buzz from COMPANY)
Hippo Endangered *humans!* What about me? *I* was nearly endangered.
Zebra This is very serious. Vandalism is getting out of hand. I'll write a report. *[Our fearless TRIO react as one]*
C'mp/E'hnt/Lion No!
Hippo Yes. A report about etiquette and *savoir-faire*.
Zebra Every serious issue demands an inquiry and written report.
Chimp But another report means chopping down more trees.
Hippo *(Referring to MONKEYS)* The hooligans were *destroying* trees!
(COMPANY agree)
Zebra So that's *two* topics. Hooligans and traffic-management.
Elephant What about endangered species?
Zebra All in good time.
Hippo We should tackle our own problems, important things like public safety.
Zebra And good traffic-management.
Chimp You mean vote-catchers.
Zebra I intend to help my constituents. I am the people's politician.
Lion *(Sarcastic)* Oh great. Terrific! And who speaks for the humans?
Ostrich We do need better traffic-management. It's chaotic here at rush-hour.
Chimp So while we all get home ten minutes earlier, endangered humans become extinct.
Zebra *(Moving DC)* Here is where the new clearway will be. *(COMPANY interested)* And here is where the slower animals will have right of way. *(COMPANY buzz. Two council animals enter and roll out a cloth pedestrian crossing about three metres long]*
Giraffe Excellent idea, Zebby. What's it called?
Zebra *(False modesty)* Well, council did honour me on this issue. *(Big voice)* I hereby declare this path *The Zebra Crossing!*
(Applause from COMPANY. Much chatter. MUSIC BEGINS)

Priorities

Jungle 13

Company *Priorities, we all have priorities
We look at problems we've got
The whole bloomin' lot
We choose what's important, ignore what is not
Priorities, we all have to choose.*

Zebra *You see the traffic's appalling
Commuters are calling
For clearways and stop-signs and more.*

Hippo *Young people's ways are revolting
My home I am bolting
I fear going outside my door.*

Chimp *We know some humans now face, well
Extinction, no trace, hell
Already some have lost the war.*

Trio *I hope the project I mention
Will capture attention
Priority one, don't ignore.*

Company *Priorities. Priorities!*

(Song ends with everyone congratulating ZEBRA on the new crossing and HIPPO on the bravery displayed. The crossing is rolled up and removed. ZEBRA and HIPPO exit or wander upstage followed by several creatures. The OTHERS move away. Lights concentrate DL where CROCODILE leads an unsuspecting ELEPHANT)

Croc Elephant, old trunk, just the one I want to see.

Elephant I'm busy. I haven't got the time, *especially* for you.

Croc Hey, lighten up, buddy. Wait'll you hear this. *(Looks around then speaks even more quietly)* How would you like a footballer's foot?

Elephant *(Exclaiming)* A footballer's foot!

Croc *(Upset)* Hey, quiet! You want the whole jungle to hear?

Elephant That's barbaric! What do I want with a footballer's foot?

Croc Are you crazy? They're worth a fortune. They *guarantee* good luck.

Elephant *(Angry)* I don't care what they do.

Croc Listen pal, some animals'd kill for one of these.

Elephant Which only it makes *more* repugnant.

Croc I can let you have it for two Americans.

Elephant *(Shocked)* Two Americans!

Croc *[Thinks E'HANT'S shocked at the price]* All right, all right! As a special price, just for you, five Australians.

Elephant *(Threatening CROCODILE)* I'm going to report you.

Croc Elephant, comrade, this stuff is genuine stition.

Elephant Stition! What's stition?

Croc I don't believe I'm hearing this. Stition is magic. And my stition is top quality. Not good. Not very good. It's super.

14 Jungle

Elephant *Super stition!*
Croc Impossible to find today. Grab it while you can.
Elephant Get away. *(Exiting DL)* You're sick. Why don't you grow up? *(Exits)*
Croc *(Calling)* Remember, five Australians *[Angry]* loser!
(CROCODILE turns towards C and sees RHINO. Lights crossfade - down DL, up DR - as CROCODILE moves across the jungle clearing)
Croc Rhino, old charger, just the one I want to see.
Rhino I've already bought my circus ticket.
Croc Course you have. Say, Rhiny, how'd you go at the dance last week?
Rhino Disaster. Don't ask. I mean I've got fresh breath, I can do the Waddle but ...
(Shakes head, disappointed) with the opposite sex, I'm hopeless.
Croc Not any more. I've got the key to your stunning social success.
Rhino *(Anxious)* Really? What is it?
(CROCODILE looks around, beckons RHINO to close in then speaks in a softer voice)
Croc A shrunken human head.
Rhino *(Shocked)* A human head!
Croc *(Annoyed)* Shhhh! You want the whole jungle to hear?
Rhino What do I want with a human head?
Croc *(Mock surprise)* Are you crazy? They *guarantee* success with the opposite sex.
Rhino *(Interested)* *Guarantee?* Are you sure?
Croc Some animals have killed for one of these.
Rhino *[Stunned]* Wow!
Croc And I can let you have it for two natives.
Rhino *(Shocked. Loud)* Two natives!
Croc All right, all right. A special price - ten big-game hunters.
Rhino *(Hesitant)* Well, I'm not sure.
Croc Rhiny, neighbour, this is premium stition.
Rhino Stition?
Croc Not good, not very good. It's super.
Rhino *(Impressed)* *Super stition!*
Croc One rub of this skull and your dance card'll look like a phone book.
Rhino You think so?
Croc I know so.
Rhino Okay. I'll get the money. *(Starts to exit, stops)* Do you take credit leaves?
Croc *Masterleaf. Visaleaf. American Pressedleaf.* The lot.
Rhino I'll be right back *(Exits DR. MUSIC BEGINS)*
Rhino *[Laughing]* Take y'time, sucker. *[Laughs before singing]*

Superstition

Crocodile *If y'wanna know success'n prosper in your schemes
If y'wanna win the heart of someone in your dreams
If y'wanna give y'enemy a fright'n screams
I got the answer - Sunbeams.*

Jungle 15

*If y'cannot get t'sleep at night and suffer fright
If y'try'n pick the numbers but are never right
If y'wanna look a stunner but are just a sight
I've seen the answer - the light.
Soo-oo-perstition, Double-dealin' trickery
Soo-oo-perstition, Shifty business, rookery.
Well it's incredible to get this stuff some folk are glad to pay
Old Barnum was correct there is a sucker born today!
Oh soo-oo-persition
Double-dealin' trickery.*

(COMPANY drift in during the first chorus. The COMPANY performs the dance and repeat of the chorus. Many think CROCODILE'S deals are fantastic. Song ends with COMPANY bombarding CROCODILE for trinkets. CROCODILE distributes a few then moves upstage and the COMPANY disperse. CHIMP enters, moves DL and places a sandwich-board sign on the ground. The sign reads - ACTING CLASSES - Enquire Within. CHIMP adjusts the sign as ZEBRA comes down)

Zebra What's this?

Chimp A sign.

Zebra I can see that. Have you got a permit?

Chimp Zebra, I'm terribly worried about endangered species.

Zebra So am I. Where's your permit?

Chimp We need to attract vanishing breeds back to the jungle.

Zebra Such as?

Chimp Ah, *Hollywoodus Starus*

Zebra Who?

Chimp Hollywood stars. Movie directors. Camera crews. The humans we never see anymore. They're dying.

Zebra So what's with these acting classes?

Chimp If we educate ourselves, learn about these endangered humans, maybe they'll return. Agreed?

Zebra Maybe. But you still need a permit.

Chimp Aw fair go. I'm trying to do something worthwhile.

Zebra So am I. The law is the law. Fill in the appropriate form, pay the application fee and wait till your number is called. *(Starts to exit)* And remove that sign immediately.

Chimp *(Going after ZEBRA)* Wait. Zebra. Please.

Zebra I warn you, attempting to bribe an elected representative is ...

Chimp Oh I wasn't doing that. I just need some advice.

Zebra *(Suspicious)* Oh yes?

Chimp I need a patron for my acting school.

Zebra A patron?

Chimp Someone important. Someone whose name will look impressive on my letterhead. Someone who won't actually *do* anything but who'll get loads of free publicity.

Zebra Really?

16 Jungle

Chimp Yes, the patron gets all the kudos. But I'm in trouble. I can't find a suitable patron.

Zebra Well maybe I can help you.

Chimp Oh Zebra, you're a lifesaver. Can you suggest someone?

Zebra Of course. *(Pause)* Me.

Chimp *(Mock surprise)* You!?

Zebra *(Offended)* There's no need to sound so surprised.

Chimp Oh I'm not. I'm just so overwhelmed you'd even consider it.

Zebra I'll make a perfect patron. Your school will be a brilliant success.

Chimp Of course but ... *(Suddenly sad)*

Zebra *(Concerned)* What? What's happened?

Chimp *(Mock sadness)* Unfortunately the school is closing.

Zebra *Closing!* Whatever for?

Chimp I haven't got a permit.

Zebra *(Relieved)* Oh good heavens. Don't worry about a little thing like that. I'll fix everything.

Chimp *(Delighted)* You will? That's marvellous, Zebra. I mean,... *Patron.* *(ZEBRA swells with pride. CHIMP calls to the COMPANY)* Listen everyone, I have an announcement. *(COMPANY pay attention. Some gather round)* Zebra, our popular politician, has graciously agreed to become the patron of my new school. *(COMPANY applaud. ZEBRA waves, laps it up)*

Zebra My fellow-creatures, as patron of the *Jolly Jungle Acting Academy*, *(CHIMP looks at ZEBRA in amazement)* it gives me great pleasure to launch this truly magnificent institution. With its ivy-clad walls, *my Academy* will rescue the endangered human species, *Hollywoodus Starus* *(Applause from COMPANY)*

Chimp Thank you Patron Zebra.

Zebra *(Displeased, curt)* Please, I haven't finished.

Chimp Oh. Ah. But the press'll be here very soon and they'll ...

Zebra *(In a tizz)* The press! Oh no! *(Starts to exit)* Where's my hat? Where's my speechwriter? *(Calling)* Make-up! *(Exits continuing to call)*

Chimp As I was saying, some of my ancestors were movie buffs who helped the humans make movies. *(COMPANY buzz)* They even knew Johnny Weismuller! *(Bigger buzz from COMPANY)* If you learn acting at my school, the human movie makers may return to the jungle. Do you care about missing humans?

Company Yes!

Chimp Do you want to learn about them?

Company Yes!

Chimp Then repeat after me. *(Gives loud drawn-out Tarzan call)* Ah Or Ah Or!

Company *(MUSIC BEGINS. Mimic CHIMP)* Ah Or Ah Or!
(The last syllable is drawn out and the music starts under this cry)

Ah Or Ah Or

Chimp *Long ago in Hollywood, jungle scenes were in*

Jungle 17

Company *Tarzan movies everywhere had us in a spin
Then we saw some other things, green turtles and ET
They can't compare with biceps bare on a bloke high up a tree.
Come back Tarzan, come back Jane, we know all your lines
"Me Tarzan, you Jane", swing back on our vines.
Come back Ape Man, Cheetah, Jane, you're our film folklore
Come back Tarzan, come back Jane
Ah Or Ah Or!*

Chimp *Trouble is with films today, full of big effects
Stunts 'n stuff are all you see, hide the script's defects
What we need is simple fare with hero, tanned 'n tall
Ape Man adorned in tiny togs and an IQ just as small.*

Company *Come back Tarzan, come back Tarzan
Come back Tarzan, come back.
Come back, come back Tarzan!*

(COMPANY dance then repeat the chorus. It's a fun number, a celebration. You could introduce Tarzan, Jane and Cheetah for a cameo appearance. Song ends with the COMPANY happy and excited. ELEPHANT and LION take CHIMP DL to congratulate him)

Lion Brilliant Chimp. Your acting school may help save some endangered humans.
Elephant I'm still worried about the circus. Crocodile doesn't care about the performing humans.
Chimp I know but what can we do? Circuses with humans may be legal.
Zebra *(Enters)* Here I am. *(Crosses to TRIO)* Where are the press?
Elephant Oh Zebra, we need some advice.
Zebra *(Suspicious)* Advice?
Lion Are you in favour of circuses which use performing humans?
Zebra *(Switches to automatic-pilot)* An excellent question, Lion. I'm so glad you asked. It's a very important issue and one which I treat with the greatest of respect.
Chimp So where do you stand?
Zebra Please. You've had your turn. Allow me to have mine. All sensitive subjects require careful consideration. As your elected representative, I can honestly say I have and will continue to give this matter my immediate attention.
Elephant Does that mean *yes* or *no*?
Zebra I will vote for what is right and just for my constituents.
Chimp So that's a *yes*?
Zebra And I'm extremely grateful to you for updating me on the situation.
Lion So that's a *no*?
Zebra I'm so glad I could help. *[Starts to exit]* Feel free to call on me at anytime. *[Exits. TRIO frustrated at ZEBRA'S behaviour]*
Chimp Nice one, Zebra. Thanks a bunch.
Lion Why don't we start some petitions?
Elephant Or write letters to the *Jungle Times*.

18 Jungle

Chimp I think we're too late. Endangered humans may soon be extinct.
Lion Don't give up, Chimp. Every little bit helps.
Elephant Education's the answer. When our fellow-creatures learn the facts, they'll save the humans.
Chimp *(Starts exit DL)* It's the youth. If they get the message we might be okay.
Lion *(Calling trying to cheer up CHIMP)* Don't forget the circus tonight.
Elephant *(Copies LION)* I've got the tickets.
Chimp *(Stops near edge of jungle)* Now that's one thing I *don't* want to see.
(CHIMP exits. ELEPHANT and LION look at one another, shrug and follow. MUSIC BEGINS. The MONKEYS appear as before, move forward and sing a reprise of their song)

Monkey Business

Monkeys *We ain't got no job, We ain't got no dough
We ain't got no hope, We're up to monkey business!
We ain't got no joy, We ain't got no friends
We ain't got no peace
We're up to monkey ... [3 times] Business!*

(Song ends. MONKEYS again freeze in defiant formation. Unbeknown to them, HIPPO enters UL with furred umbrella. As soon as applause dies, HIPPO roars)

Hippo Don't move!
(MONKEYS die of fright, turn, see the threatening and angry HIPPO, fall over one another finishing DR huddled together in fear)

Hippo Anyone moves, they'll be *umbrellaed!*

Jinks *(Frightened)* Hey, take it easy. You could hurt someone.

Hippo *(Moving DC/DR)* Oh you speak do you? You're not humans after all. Well now, time for a bit of your own medicine. You hurt me. You damaged public property. It's time you were punished.
(On the word "punished", HIPPO raises the umbrella causing the MONKEYS even greater fear)

Tricks We wuz only muckin' around. Honest. *(To OTHERS)* Wasn't we?
Monkeys Yeah ... That's right ... We wuz ... *etc*
(HIPPO is disgusted with their speech and mimics them)

Hippo *(Mimics)* We wuz only muckin' around. *(Angry)* And you *poison* the Queen's English!

Jinks Fair go, mate [lady]. We ain't done nuffin to no Queen, 'ave we?
Monkeys No ... We ain't Nuffin! ... *etc*

Hippo You've destroyed everything I hold dear. You terrorise innocent people, vandalise public property, ruin a beautiful language. You have no respect. You can't even *spell* the word. And then you ...

Tricks *(Offended)* We can spell.

Jungle 19

- Hippo** *(Furious)* And you interrupt when I'm speaking. You have no manners, no love of tradition. You bring change that no-one wants or can handle. *(Emotional)* You have ruined my life.
(Pause. MONKEYS uncertain what HIPPO will do next. HIPPO uncertain what will happen)
- Tricks** Well things ain't so crash hot for us, y'know. *(MONKEYS agree)*
- Jinks** That's right. No jobs, no prospects, no money, no hope. What'cha expect?
- Hippo** I expect respect. I expect honesty and determination. You don't want work, just welfare and a spray-can to go.
- Tricks** Times have changed. When you wuz young, jobs grew on trees. Today, they've ringbarked the jungle. Look!
(Points to audience where HIPPO looks briefly allowing one/two MONKEYS to scamper upstage behind HIPPO who then turns back to her hooligans)
- Hippo** *(Sarcastic)* Oh very droll. You've got all the smug answers. Well I've had enough. I want the old ways brought back. Clean, safe streets, traditional values, respect, ...
- Jinks** Jobs for everyone.
- Hippo** *(Louder)* You keep saying that. It's just a pathetic excuse.
- Jinks** *(Louder)* It's just the pathetic truth!
- Hippo** *(Raising umbrella causing MONKEYS to be afraid)* Liar!
- Tricks** D'you think we want this life? Do you think we enjoy every boring, useless day? Nothin' to do. No chance of a job.
- Hippo** You don't try.
(The MONKEY/S upstage rises slowly and starts to move downstage)
- Jinks** After five hundred knock-backs you start lookin' for somethin' else.
- Hippo** Yes like vandalising my favourite street.

(The MONKEYS try not to look at their mate who is creeping closer to HIPPO. Tension. Pause. Suddenly HIPPO senses danger and turns. The other MONKEYS leap at HIPPO. There is a brief struggle. JINKS grabs the umbrella. HIPPO is screaming. "Help! Help!" etc. HIPPO is helpless on the ground. Pause. Will JINKS attack HIPPO? The others are waiting for the signal to attack. Suddenly JINKS drops the umbrella. MUSIC BEGINS. JINKS runs off UL. The MONKEYS follow. Lights dim slowly to a single spot on the desolate HIPPO)

Manners

- Hippo** *I like the old ways, the things of the past
The sayings and actions, the products that last
Now things are all changing and changing so fast
Where are the good, old ways?
Once we used manners, had rules strict yet fair
Helped those in trouble, gave others their share
Now nobody listens, they don't seem to care
Where are the good, old ways?
Bring back manners
Things that are good and true*

20 Jungle

*Bring back manners
Rudeness should be taboo
Bring back manners
"Excuse me" and "After you". Bring back the brightness,
The rightness, politeness of "Please" and of course, "Thank you".
[Spoken] Thank you.*

(Song finishes with HIPPO mournfully facing front. In the blackout upstage, the COMPANY has quietly entered in preparation for the circus. Applause for HIPPO'S song. BLACKOUT. HIPPO exits. Umbrella is removed in the darkness. Another spot lights CROCODILE wearing a ringmaster's hat. CROCODILE calls in a loud voice. Alternatively, CROCODILE could speak in the BLACKOUT. Set the low fence during the blackout)

Croc *My beasts, creatures and animals, it's time for the circus!*
(MUSIC BEGINS. Lights up on a night-time performance. Big cheer and applause from the COMPANY. The ring is brightly lit but the audience on stage are in an eerie light. The COMPANY are in the trees, on the tree-stumps etc in a large semi-circle from RC to LC. They are on different levels. It is a colourful but not an orderly audience. This is a circus! One or two balloon and popcorn vendors could walk amongst the crowd. A small ring [semi-circle?] is created using a low oval-shaped fence downstage. The grand parade of circus folk enters UR and/or UL and does a lap or two of the ring. The on-stage audience sing, clap and wave to the circus performers who sing and wave as they circle the big-top)

Circus Parade

Company *We're part of the circus, this is a parade
Our heart's in the circus, big-top cavalcade
Let's start up the circus with your accolade
We're part of the circus, the circus parade!*

(The performers work to both audiences. The parade consists of various performers e.g.

- a lion with a whip [the human-tamer]*
- some acrobats in sparkling costumes e.g. tigers*
- some clowns in funny outfits and big red noses*
- some humans dressed in safari suits with monkeys [even plastic models] on their shoulders*

*The on-stage audience, COMPANY, applaud and sing with the different characters in the ring.
The artists are probably former COMPANY members.*

After their lap or two, the performers line up in formation just as the music finishes. Wild applause from the on-stage audience. The artists are facing front. The artists then quickly exit to both sides of the stage and CROCODILE wearing a top-hat, perhaps a smart red coat or jacket and holding a megaphone, stands on a tree-stump and tells the world the news)

Croc *Welcome one and all to the greatest show in the jungle. Welcome to the circus. (Applause and whistles from on-stage audience) For your immense pleasure, direct from the biggest circus cities, Old Croc Productions proudly present, Hyena and the Hopping Humans!*

(MUSIC BEGINS. On-stage audience applaud. HYENA bounces out with a whistle on a chain around his neck. HYENA is followed by three or four humans dressed in athletic outfits - joggers, shorts, singlet with number/logo etc)

Jungle 21

Hopping Humans

[Instrumental]

(HYENA moves to one side and humans form a line in centre of the ring. HYENA blows the whistle and the first human starts jogging on the spot. Two blasts on the whistle and the second human joins the jogging. Three blasts and all the humans are jogging on the spot. Applause from onstage audience as HYENA enough raises hand to indicate this trick. A whistle blast and the humans head off to the left and right, go upstage in an arc hopping from one foot to the other. They meet upstage then come down to being back to their original positions. HYENA blows the whistle and immediately the humans bow. Applause from onstage audience. Another sore blast and the humans place their arms on each other's shoulders and begin a chorus line kick routine. Applause from onstage audience as HYENA makes a sweeping gesture to indicate these superbly trained humans. Note: the actions of both the hopping humans and the ferocious callers are intended to be ridiculously simple. Both groups of humans are capable of far greater feats. The routines they are given are way, way below their intelligence and capabilities.

Another whistle blast and the humans bow to the real audience, about turn and bow to the onstage audience then in single file jog off waving as they go. HYENA now indicates these magnificent athletes, takes his bow and is the last to exit. CROCODILE reappears with megaphone and rallies the masses)

Croc Come on, let's hear it for hyena and the hopping humans!

(The onstage audience are enthusiastic in their applause)

Croc Weren't they fantastic? Sensational skills from those cuddly little humans. But now it's time for ...

(CROC is interrupted by two clowns who enter and call in loud voices. It is GIRAFFE and OSTRICH wearing silly clothes and speaking with silly voices)

Giraffe *(To real audience)* it's how the rowdy, you prickly person! *(Waves, carries on)*

(Onstage audience laugh and point with glee at the funny characters who talk over the top of each other and move DR and DL addressing the real audience, occasionally turning upstage)

Croc Hey, just a minute!

Ostrich Who's a horrible human, hey! Where'd you get that hat madam? Oh sorry, *sir?*

(The clowns joke and ad lib with the real audience. They cross the front of the stage and bump into one another, exaggerating their stupidity while continuing their ad libbing. CROC allows them to continue but pretends to be annoyed)

Giraffe Jumpin' Jack 'n Jills, where'd you get them coconuts, Crocodile? *(etc)*

Ostrich Ooooooooo. Hello little animals. *(etc as OSTRICH waves to real audience)*

Croc *(After brief warm-up business)* Excuse me. *(Is ignored)* I say, excuse me!

(Clowns get the message and turn upstage. One calls the other to attention)

Ostrich Hey, Absa, I think the grumpy geezer wants us.

Giraffe Ooooo, funny lookin', ain't 'e?

Croc *(Coming DC)* Just who do you think you are?

Giraffe Hello. *(Shaking hands vigourously with CROC)* We're the Crazy twins.

Croc The Crazy Twins!

Ostrich Yes. *(Also pumps CROC's hand)* I'm Completely.

Croc Completely Crazy!

Giraffe Yes and I'm Absolutely. *(Makes crazy face to real audience)* Absolutely Crazy!

Ostrich Here, stick this in your gob and blow.

(OSTRICH thrusts a balloon at CROC who hesitates)

Giraffe Blow. Come on. *(To real audience)* Should he blow the balloon?

(On-stage audience shout 'Yes' and CROC starts to inflate the balloon. OSTRICH turns upstage and gets the on-stage audience into a chant)

22 Jungle

Company *(Chanting)* Blow, blow, blow ...
(GIRAFFE tries to get the real audience in on the chant. After a few puffs from CROC he is weary and indicates the balloon)

Croc Is that enough?

Ostrich *(To real audience)* Is that enough?

Company No!
(The chant resumes and CROC further inflates the balloon. Finally it gets to a large size and CROC holds out the inflated balloon)

Croc There, it's full.

Ostrich *(Holding up hands for silence)* He's done it. He's done it. *(Chant stops)*

Giraffe Let me see. Yes, it's full of hot air. *(Lots of laughing/teasing)*

Croc Now what do I do?

G'ffe & O'ich Ooooh.

Giraffe That's a silly question. *(To real audience)* Isn't it monkeys and chicks?

Company *(On-stage audience)* Yeeeeees!

Giraffe *(Louder)* Is that a silly question?

Company *(Louder)* Yeeeeees!

Ostrich I've got a good idea.

Giraffe Have you? What?
(OSTRICH whispers in GIRAFFE'S ear. GIRAFFE steps back shocked then addresses the real audience)

Giraffe Well monkeys and chicks, should we do it?

Company *(On-stage audience scream)* Yeeeeees!

Ostrich I can't hear you.

Company *(Behind the clowns, scream)* Yeeeeees!

Croc Do what?

Ostrich **This.**
(With small pin taped to a finger, OSTRICH bursts the balloon held by CROCODILE. The Clowns die laughing. CROC is furious and chases the two laughing clowns around the stage and then offstage. CROC doesn't exit but mounts the tree-stump again. The on-stage audience applaud wildly, laugh and whistle. CROC has been party to the joke but now turns serious. Dim the lights and put a spot on CROC who addresses the real audience)

Croc Beasts and creatures, we now come to the most dangerous, death-defying feat in all the jungle. *(COMPANY gasps)*
(HYENA and friend enter and erect a small fence inside the ring. It represents a cage and has only one or two sections or panels all of which are downstage front. It's assumed the cage goes all the way around the inside of the ring. Two small boxes/crates are placed DC)

Croc We have combed the wildest cities for these maniacs. They are wild, insane, moronic, loathsome, terrible and not very nice. Not only have we captured these lunatics but I personally, myself, on my own will put these wild things through their paces. *(HYENA and friend exit now if not already)* So please let's hear a cheer for the ... human footballers!
(MUSIC BEGINS. Big cheer and applause from the on-stage audience)

Ferocious Footballers

[Instrumental]

Jungle 23

(Spotlight RC as the two human footballers enter snarling and spitting [mime please] and mount two small boxes either side of the ring. The humans wear the socks, shorts, tops, etc., of well-known football teams. CROCODILE moves C between the two humans holding a large red handkerchief. CROCODILE waves the red cloth at one human and then at the other. Each human responds by snarling and flicking an elbow and a kick or two. Lights concentrate of the centre ring.

The music heightens the tension. CROCODILE picks up a soft football. The on-stage audience gasp. CROCODILE, a touch nervously, holds the football aloft. Suddenly CROCODILE waves the cloth and one human leaps off his box/crate, grabs the football and returns to his position. Big applause from on-stage audience. CROCODILE again waves the red cloth. The human with the ball hesitates then lumbers across the ring, hands the ball to the other human and returns to his stand. The on-stage audience rise and clap and cheer. CROCODILE laps up the applause given as recognition of his triumphant artistes.

Suddenly one human jumps down, moves DC and kicks the cage. It breaks or falls. The on-stage audience fall silent. They rise as one in fear. CROCODILE freezes. This is not in the script. Both humans then leap out of the cage/ring DC and face the real audience, snarling and lashing out with their hands and feet. Typical footballers. A huge scream begins [on cue] from the on-stage audience. They panic. Kill or dim the lights.

Use follow-spots to criss-cross the stage [even occasionally on the real audience]. The on-stage audience exit upstage in various directions in a choreographed panic. They scream, stumble and depart. Pandemonium. CROCODILE tries blowing a whistle and waving the red cloth but is knocked about by the fleeing masses. Downstage, the ferocious footballers continue to threaten the world. This 'mess' lasts only a few seconds. BLACKOUT. Immediate silence. Pause. Lights up DR where HIPPO is moving backwards towards DC. We can see HIPPO'S danger. HIPPO turns at the last moment and the humans roar and snarl and lash out towards HIPPO who falls on the ground ready for a horrible death)

Hippo

Oh my goodness! No! Help! Help me! (Covering face) No!!!

(Suddenly the MONKEYS appear from the darkness. They leap at/challenge the HUMANS then fall back. MONKEYS briefly taunt the HUMANS so as to distract them from HIPPO. The MONKEYS dash off and are pursued by the HUMANS. Silence. HIPPO is alone and under a single spot. MUSIC BEGINS. Strike the fence, boxes, etc., during the song. COMPANY enters quietly towards the end of the song)

Manners - Reprise

Hippo

*(Speaks) What have I done? What is happening?
Bring back manners, things that are good and true
Bring back manners, rudeness should be taboo
Bring back manners, "Excuse me" and "After you"
Bring back the brightness, the rightness, politeness
Of "Please" and of course, "Thank you"
(Spoken) Thank you.*

(Song ends. BLACKOUT. HIPPO exits. The circus props are gone. Upstage the COMPANY is in position. It is next morning. Lights come up slowly revealing COMPANY spread around discussing the amazing events of last night)

Chimp

(Indicating) It was right here. The cage broke and humans escaped.

Lion

Lucky they didn't kill anyone.

Elephant

Lucky they were recaptured unhurt. (ZEBRA enters and crosses to TRIO)

Zebra

(Officious as usual) What a fiasco!

Chimp

Good morning Zebra. What did you think of the circus?

24 Jungle

Zebra Like any fair-minded animal I was deeply shocked. Fortunately it was only a disaster and not a tragedy.

Lion No doubt you'll be holding an enquiry.

Zebra Naturally. And I confidently predict some changes.

Elephant *(Hopeful)* You mean no more circuses which use humans?

Zebra I didn't say that. Don't put words in my mouth. *(Crossing DL)* You can read my report next year.

Chimp *Another report!*

Lion *Next year!*
(CROCODILE enters UR limping, arm in sling being helped by HYENA. COMPANY amused/interested. TRIO turn. CROCODILE limps down to TRIO. ZEBRA stops, turns back. CROCODILE waves walking-stick at the tormentors)

Zebra Ah, speak of the Devil.

Croc *(Upset)* It ain't funny. And watch y'lip. I'll sue!

Zebra *You'll sue! You'll spend the rest of your life in court.*

Chimp Serves you right for making those poor humans perform such degrading tricks.

Croc It ain't degrading. *(Stops and clutches his chest as he coughs)*

Elephant *(Lightly tapping CROC who winces)* Feeling a little bit sick, are we?

Croc Ow! And I bet you lot were responsible.

Lion Who?

Croc Everyone. You, the monkeys, the council, the ...

Zebra *(Furious)* The council!?

Croc *(Attacking ZEBRA)* It's your fault. You gave permission.

Zebra You had sub-standard equipment and unsatisfactory safety-measures.

Croc Human-dust!

Zebra I'm going to sue you.

Croc Me!?

Zebra You allowed wild animals to go free.

Croc They escaped.

Zebra You're responsible.

Croc *You're responsible.*

Chimp *(Preventing them coming to blows)* Hold it! Hold it!

Zebra I have never been so insulted.

Croc What about me? I've done me dough. *(Many amused)*

Zebra Ha! Serves you right.

Chimp Animals, please. It's obvious there are two sides to this debate. Some of us favour humans in the circus.

Croc Absolutely. The humans love it. Didn't you see their happy faces?

Chimp Some of us are against it.

Elephant and Lion Hear, hear.

Chimp *(Looking at ZEBRA)* Some of us sit on the fence.

Zebra I'm glad you asked me that ...
(ZEBRA is in automatic pilot when cut-off by CHIMP who raises a hand)

Chimp But there are other issues on which we must all agree. Some humans and plants are already extinct, others in real danger. Let's stop the killing.

Zebra I agree. And even as we speak I'm preparing a report.

Elephant No report! *(ZEBRA offended)*

Zebra There's a debate next month.

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Lion (Angry) No debates! (ZEBRA intimidated)

Chimp We need *immediate* action. (HIPPO enters UL)

Croc (Indicating arm in sling) Immediate compensation.

Zebra Of course. I always respond to the needs of the voters.

Chimp Yes but when?

Zebra (Fighting back) There is a right way of doing these things. If we rush, we'll never fix the problem.

Hippo (From upstage) Zebra is right. (COMPANY turn upstage)

Chimp Hippo!
(HIPPO moves slowly downstage. COMPANY open up to allow HIPPO through)

Hippo We must do this the proper way.

Zebra Thank you, Hippo. Incidentally, I've finished your anti-hooligan report.

Hippo Forget it. (Buzz from stunned COMPANY)

Zebra (Shocked) Forget it? My dear Hippo, whatever do you mean?

Hippo Just what I said.

Zebra But the hooligans.

Hippo They're *not* hooligans.
(Pause. Stunned silence)

Chimp (Shocked) Pardon?

Hippo They risked their lives to save me.
(Another buzz of amazement from the COMPANY)

Zebra Who? (Can't believe it) The hooligans?

Hippo (Nodding) Even after I threatened to ... (HIPPO ashamed) ... hit them.
(COMPANY gasps. This is truly a shocking statement)

Lion You? Hit somebody?

Hippo And apart from saving my life, they taught me something. Something very important. (Pause) Don't judge someone until you've walked a mile in their shoes.

Zebra Hippo, you've had a very nasty shock. We're all ...

Hippo I've had a nasty *attitude*. (MONKEYS move DR) Those young animals need our love and understanding.

Zebra (Switches sides with ease) Of course they do. My thoughts exactly. I'll prepare a report immediately.
(HIPPO moves to MONKEYS who embrace their new friend)

Chimp (Delighted) Hippo, this is wonderful.

Lion And well done you Monkeys.

Company (Lots of smiles and congratulations) Hear, hear.

Elephant It's never too late to start afresh.

Chimp Nothing beats the truth, Zebra. Now how about those endangered plants and humans?

Zebra (Another U-turn) Oh absolutely. I'm one hundred per cent in favour.

Chimp (Surprised) You are? I mean, what'll you do?

Zebra (Into election mode) Let us forget our differences. Let us unite and go forward together.

Lion Look out, he's in election mode.
(MUSIC BEGINS softly. ZEBRA has them won over. Even CHIMP and Co are under the spell)

Zebra If we believe in ourselves, if we have hope and faith in the future, we can achieve anything! (COMPANY excited. Things are looking up)

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- Chimp** *(Getting excited)* This is fantastic *(MUSIC SWELLS)*
Zebra *(Hotting up)* Let us confront this challenge, overcome our difficulties and emerge triumphant. *(Raises hands)* Victory!
Company *Victory!*
Chimp *(Suddenly softer so as to build another crescendo)* Let's make the whole world a fair and just place where our young and their young can live in peace and freedom.
(Call to arms) Long live the animals!
Company *(Enthusiastic response)* Long live the animals!

Animal Anthem Reprise

- Company** *Colours are many, some brilliant, some bland
All shapes and sizes from tiny to grand
Proud to be part of this wonderful land
Honour the animal kingdom.
Beautiful, beastly and much more beside
Some swim, some gallop, some climb and some glide
Graceful or clumsy but all dignified
Honour the animal kingdom. The animals.*

(The COMPANY forms a strong formation and sings with conviction. They could stand still and have overhead lighting only for a quasi-religious effect. Towards the end of the song, an animal appears upstage - perhaps a CHIMP - wearing a hard helmet and carrying a plastic chainsaw. The worker mimes cutting as tree upstage or to one side. The audience can see the worker, the singers pay him/her no heed. If possible, have the worker mime the attack on a tree which either falls or loses a branch just as the song draws to a close. The COMPANY face front and sing with hope in their hearts unaware of the activity around/beside/behind them. BLACKOUT)

(COMPANY moves to positions for Curtain Calls. Bring up lighting as soon as music begins)

Curtain Calls

- Company** *It's a jungle where we walk, swim and fly
It's a jungle which can blot out the sky
It's a jungle, here we live and we die
Every thing grows, everything grows.
It's a jungle, see it's wet and it's hot
It's a jungle, how we like it as lot
It's a jungle and it's all that we've got
Home of our own, it's a jungle.
Soo-oo-perstition, double-dealin' trickery
Soo-oo-perstition, shifty business, rookery.
Well it's incredible to get this stuff, some folk are glad to pay
Old Barnum was correct there is a sucker born today!
Oh soo-oo-perstition, double-dealin' trickery.
Bring back manners, things that are good and true
Bring back manners, rudeness should be taboo
Bring back manners, "Excuse me" and "After you"
Bring back the brightness, the rightness, politeness
Of "Please" and of course "Thank you".*

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*Come back Tarzan, come back Jane, we know all your lines
"Me Tarzan, you Jane", swing back on our vines.
Come back Ape Man, Cheetah, Jane, you're our film folklore
Come back Tarzan, come back Jane, Ah Or Ah Or!
Come back Tarzan
Come back, come back, come back Tarzan! Yow!*

Playout

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Germs

A brilliant musical set inside a human body. One fabulous set. The germs are trying to kill the human who fights back with pills and injections. Within the germs, a mutiny is brewing - a bloodless coup! The drama builds to a stunning climax. There are many lively songs for principals and chorus. *Germs* is Cen Fox's most successful and popular musical ever.

Rat Race

Everyone's a rat. The set is a gigantic pile of rubbish into and over which the rats sing, dance and scramble. They face starvation, eviction and death from the terrifying tom in the alley. In steps Snortle Tozer. Is she a politician, evangelist or movie producer? The rats are filled with hope for a better future. The pile of rubbish instantly changes to a glittering staircase, the ticker-tape showers on our rats as they perform the dazzling finale *We're Nice*. Another hugely successful musical for all ages.

Lollies

Your set is a mass of colourful boxes in and on which are dozens of sweets. The lollies are facing a crisis. Their speciality shop is closing and life on a lonely supermarket shelf looms large. They choose to fight back. But suddenly their plans are wrecked when *After Dinner Mint* is found floating in a cold cup of coffee. Did she jump or was she pushed? Who committed this foul deed? *Hercule Truffle* investigates and unravels more than one mystery. Lots of action and marvellous songs including the *Jellybean Boogie*. *Lollies* is a hit!

Suburban Circus

65 minutes of comedy, music, dance and drama. A revue, a musical, a great piece of family entertainment. This prize-winning show is performed by adults, primary and secondary schools. It works. Exciting backing-tape with all the flavour of the circus. You can include simple juggling and other routines as you parody your local shire or council activities. Cinch to stage, guaranteed to entertain. A huge success.

Toys

Enchanting two-act musical to delight everyone. The toys come alive on Christmas Eve to escape to the North Pole. Santa has to be told that some humans are mistreating their toys. There's a traitor, a transplant, romance, a storm, an art show, a steam train and much more. Marvellous toe-tapping songs, glorious set and costumes. Performed by adults and children for children and adults. Terrific band parts and backing-tape.

Fairytales

Your set is like a pop-out picture-book. You know the characters - Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Jack and the Cow, Hansel and Gretel, the Wolf, the Handsome Prince, etc. They get together and decide to swap roles for the day. Oh dear. There's mayhem, mischief and much more as the adventures unfold. Delightful songs in this two-act pantomime/musical. It's performed by both adults and children, there's a lovely backing-tape plus orchestrations.

Garden Folk

One of Cen Fox's most popular shows. Set in a corner of your garden, the colourful and interesting insects come to life. Bee is busy, Mantis is hungry, Ant's looking for prime real estate, Spider's getting married, Ladybird's worried about her children, Grasshopper's keeping fit, Fly's trying to break into the movies and Caterpillar, well, what a surprise she has in store! Humour, drama and a marvellous backing tape for this stunning musical. The costumes and set are breathtaking.

Fish 'n Ships

Set on the ocean floor meet all sorts of wonderful characters. Tourists flock to the vintage shipwreck. Shark loves playing pool and life seems pretty good. All until Diver arrives with some exciting free garbage. The sea folk will soon be *filthy* rich. Comes with another marvellous backing-tape for the terrific songs. One great set with stunning costumes and lots of subtle messages about the marine environment. Comedy, drama and some very catchy songs.

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