

LOLLIES

A sweet musical
Words and Music by Cenarth Fox



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Email
admin@foxplays.com

Telephone
+61 03 9428 9064

Web page
www.foxplays.com

LOLLIES

A musical play by Cenarth Fox
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Orchestrations and Backing CD

Lollies is scored for piano, guitar, bass, drums, percussion, flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets and trombones. These band parts are for hire and will give your show a terrific boost. There is also a stereo CD with a rehearse and perform version of the score.

Production Package

Groups staging a CENARTH FOX play or musical receive free *Production Notes* (set-design, costumes, lighting, props) and with musicals, free lyrics for chorus members. There is a free activity booklet with art-work, a quiz and follow-up activities specific to each show. There are photos, programs, DVDs and reviews of previous productions to help with your production.

To the Director

The gender of most characters in this musical is not important. *Marshmallow* is female and *Chocolate Bar* male but the others can be either male or female. If you have a female actor in one or more of the genderless roles, simply change the he/him to she/her. The word *lollies* in this musical means *sweets* or *candy*.



Reviews of this popular musical staged by primary, middle and secondary schools in New Zealand, Britain, the USA and Australia

Another of Cen Fox's wonderful musicals. Your shows are truly wonderful for kids to perform and go over extremely well with audiences. Keep up the marvellous work!! **St Albans East PS**

There were sherbert bombs, licorice all-sorts, toffee apples, peanut brittle, a jelly bean and an after-dinner mint. And that was just the beginning. Add 210 girls, lots of colour and movement and you've got Lollies - a mix of music, mayhem and mystery The sweetest songs of all. Lollies is very age-appropriate.

Methodist Ladies' College

Lollies worked out really well. **Northam High School**

The final night said it all. The children just wanted to keep on going. We received lots of compliments, especially for the songs. **Napier Central School**

The show went well with everyone having a great time. **Milton PS**

The staff and girls enjoyed the show very much indeed. Thank you for your support and we hope to use your plays in the future. **Kilvington Baptist Girls' School**

Heaps of fun for the whole school - a real hit! The younger students who came to a matinee are still singing numbers from the show. Such comments as "It was rad!" and "I enjoyed every second of it!" The songs are delightful and easy to choreograph. **Seaford Park PS**

This year we have 362 children to perform *Lollies*. It's a show you will remember – bright, happy, melodic and bubbly. **St Louis de Montfort PS**

If you're looking for a play which will [a] get a large number of children interested in a fantastically enjoyable piece of musical theatre, [b] lend itself to creative, simple makeup, costume and staging [c] be adored by audience and cast members alike and [d] be easy and fun to direct, THEN YOU'VE FOUND IT!!!! I can highly recommend *Lollies* to anyone working with upper primary and/or lower secondary students. In our case 80 year 6 students had a wonderful experience of musical theatre. It was the highlight of their year! As a bonus you have the support of the very approachable playwright, Mr Cen Fox. Look no further, you have found it! Enjoy! **Robyn Kay, Drama Co-ordinator, Loreto Mandeville Hall, Toorak**

The production went very well. The children enjoyed the musical. The songs were lively or reflective depending on the situation. The story had a great climax. Many thanks. **Kumbia SS**

Scrumptious! A delicious musical! **Lauriston Girls' School**

Lollies was a huge success. Both performers and audiences loved it. Keep turning them out, please. **Ettalong PS**

More Reviews

Many people commented on *Lollies* being one of the best they've seen. Great songs, great story and great scope for individual touches.

Traralgon PS Grey Street

A great success. **Birrilee PS**

A professional, fun-packed, animated and highly entertaining show. *Look On The Bright Side* had the audience swaying in their seats. The audience was indeed Turkish Delighted!

Ouyen and St Joseph's Primary Schools

Lollies was extremely successful. The children thoroughly enjoyed being involved and we received nothing but positive comments. No small part of our success was due to the actual musical you have written. The songs were delightful and the dialogue relevant and easily presented. I still have the tunes and lines running through my head. I have no hesitation in recommending your musicals to others and look forward to being involved with your musicals in the future. **Killarney Vale PS**

A sweet, sweet show. A great success, our production will never be forgotten!

Leeton PS

A very successful show. We enjoyed the music and the humour.

St Mary's School Rushworth

A fun, witty and entertaining musical. **Rainbow Theatre Wanganui**

It was truly a great success. **Silvan PS**

This is St Patrick's school writing to tell you how enjoyable *Lollies* was. Everybody enjoyed it from young people to old people. It was fanatstic. Pity you weren't here to see it. **Alicia Coffey Year 4 student**

Lollies was very rewarding. Best wishes with your great work.

St Brendan's PS

Our production of *Lollies* was exhausting but wonderful. The kids did great. Our audiences were the best we have ever had. They loved the show. The kids really enjoyed the show. The backdrop was a really cute cartoon version of a sweet shop shelf. It's great to have material that is suited to children's voices and talents. **Stages Children's Theater New Orleans**

It was great. Thanks for an excellent musical **Korumburra PS**

Lollies was a great success All the school [21 children] from Prep to Year 6 took part. *Lollies* was the most challenging musical we have undertaken. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and so did the very appreciative audience. Thanks for all your help over the phone and maybe one day I'll have the opportunity to direct another of your musicals. **Brim PS**

Even More Reviews

You were very helpful with suggestions when I was trying to choose a show. We did *Lollies* with the whole school - all 82 children in the show. They loved the songs. It was fantastic. **Sassafras PS**

We had another successful show. I must say the reason we like this musical is because it gives so many students chances to solo and have a REAL part.

Colorado Academy of the Arts

Each and every one of the 87 students in our Year 7 had a wonderful experience. Thank you for writing such a wonderful musical. I must agree with you – “Musicals are certainly magic!”. Some of the students have written reviews. “I received lots out of this production. To always learn your lines on time, to co-operate with your cast and director, to follow all instructions, to use time effectively. To always go into a musical with 110% exertion and come out feeling like you have done something really worthwhile. I did most of these things and the musical for me was very pleasant. But mostly I received lots of memories that will live in my memory in years to come. *Lollies* entered into the hearts of all who came to see it ... My parents thought the show was terrific. Friends of my parents were very enthusiastic and wanted to see it again. My little sister is still singing some of the songs in the shower. When is the next play being cast? I would love to be in another play for the thrill of being on stage. **Matthew Flinders Anglican College**

We have finished *Lollies* and had a great time with the audiences really enjoying every aspect of the show. I will be sending a DVD shortly. Looking forward to producing *Germs* next fall. Keep writing!

Interlochen School Michigan



St Brendan's PS Lakes Entrance

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Synopsis

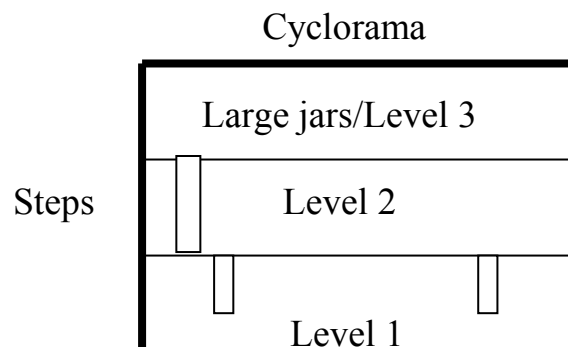
Our story takes place one night in a lolly shop [candy store] when the owners have closed the door and gone home. The lollies [candy] come alive. It's just another night when suddenly a bombshell is dropped. Everyone's life is being threatened. Will they survive? How? And then someone's missing. Finding the body is not pleasant. Was it murder? How will it all end? We long for a sweet ending. P.S. The actors in this play respectfully request that they be not consumed until *after* the show!

Costumes and Movement

The characters should have free to very-free movement. Their costumes should not restrict their ability to sing, act and dance. Colourful, life-like, fantastic - yes. But the actors' arms, legs and face should not be restricted. There are detailed suggestions in the free *Production Notes*.

Set Design

There is only one basic set. Imagine the floor of your stage as the top of part of a counter in a specialist sweet or candy shop. Level 1 is the downstage floor area of the stage. Level 1, apart from a few decorative containers, is basically free for movement. Upstage is Level 2 containing packets/boxes of sweets - but still room to move. Further upstage and even higher is Level 3 on which stand huge jars of lollies [candy]. The jars could be painted on a backdrop. The distance in height between each level is about a metre with camouflaged steps linking the levels. What a sight. It looks delicious. Poetic licence is needed to make the sweets [the actors] fit the shelves and containers. Here's a bird's-eye view of your set.



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Characters

After-Dinner Mint - snob, aloof, wealthy, paranoid about appearance
Jelly Bean - happy-go-lucky, joker, lots of get-up-and-go, a Jolly Bean
Licorice All-Sort - beatnik, hippie, old rocker, long-haired, cool man, groover
Bubble Gum - yuppie, wise-guy, knows his rights, ambitious
Chocolate Bar - nice bloke, hard worker, shy with personal relationships
Truffle - foreigner, accent, silent type, intelligent
Peanut - brittle, worrier, pessimist, pain-in-the-neck
Fudge - politician, fence-sitter, committee-member, organiser
Nougat - sticky-beak, fuss-pot, tells tales, dobber
Marshmallow - softie, independent, underneath a romantic, friendly,
Chorus - a collection of other types of candy/sweets e.g. rocky road, bon bons, snowballs, wine gums, humbugs etc - select those pieces familiar in your area

Musical Items

1.	Overture	Orchestra
2.	Lollies, Sweets and Candy	Company
3.	Money	Mint & Company
4.	Supermarket Blues	Licorice & Company
5.	Get Going	Marshmallow & Company
6.	Yes	Chocolate-Bar
7.	Love Is A Box of Chocolates	Company
8.	Send 'Em To The Dentist	Company
9.	Jelly Bean Boogie	Jelly Bean & Company
10.	Revenge	Company
11.	Yes - Reprise	M'mallow & C'bar
12.	Health Before Wealth	Company
13.	Look On The Bright Side	Company
14.	Curtain Calls	Company
15.	Playout	Orchestra

Language/Vocabulary

The English language has many synonyms. Some can mean exactly the same thing. Take the word *lollies*. It can mean candy, sweets, confectionery or similar. And a lolly shop can mean a candy store. If necessary, change such words to suit your town or country.

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(The OVERTURE is played. It finishes. Pause for applause. Then do three things simultaneously. [a] Start the introduction for the first song [b] Open the curtains and [c] Bring up the lights. Do all three at once. It's a bright, colourful set with a happy, lively song. Begin with a bang. The lollies [candy] are in full swing. They sing and dance in a celebration of life)

Lollies, Sweets and Candy

Company	<i>Round and hard and square and soft And lots more in between White and green and pink and brown Confectioner's cuisine Big and small and cheap and rich A sugar-coated scene Every super sweetmeat - choc'late to jelly-bean. Lollies, sweets and candy, beautiful to bite Lollies, sweets and candy, delish, delick, delight Fruit of course is dandy and vegetables all right But lollies, sweets and candy are beautiful to bite.</i>
Chocolate	<i>They call me Choc'late</i>
Licorice	<i>I'm Licorice</i>
Jelly Bean	<i>My name is Jelly Bean.</i>
Trio [Above three]	<i>The three of us make quite a fuss At every sweet-tooth scene.</i>
Peanut	<i>My name is Peanut</i>
Truffle	<i>I'm Truffle</i>
Fudge	<i>I'm Fudge</i>
Gum	<i>I'm Gum</i>
Mint	<i>I'm Mint</i>
Marshmallow	<i>Marshmallow is my given name</i>
Sextet [Above six]	<i>For flavour take this hint.</i>
Company	<i>Lollies, sweets and candy</i>

(Song ends with everyone in strong, smiling formation. Hey world, here we are! Suddenly some lollies [candy] on level 2 scream. They are being emptied out of their box and fall to level 1 i.e. the stage. [NOTE: This needs to be carefully handled so that no injury occurs] The lollies below in their formation are suddenly/dramatically disturbed. They turn, look upstage and panic. Other lollies are raining down on them. Well, three of four are falling. The lollies on level 1 panic.

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Screaming, calling and pushing, they move to the sides. Some are trapped under the falling lollies. This initial drama is quite short and when the scattered lollies realise no others are going to fall, most quickly move in to help their fallen comrades. Lots of murmuring and offers of help)

Fudge *(Calling)* Is everyone okay?

Marshm *(Already helping)* We need some help over here. *(Others move to help)*

Peanut *(Concerned)* Any broken shells?

Fudge *(Assessing from afar)* No major damage, just an unfortunate accident.

Gum Accident! You blind or what? *(Pointing)* Look up there.
(GUM points upstage. COMPANY look at GUM, then to where he's pointing on Level 2. MINT steps out from behind box from where lollies had fallen. MINT is unconcerned about the commotion below)

C'bar Mint!

Mint After-Dinner Mint if you don't mind. And I'm busy. *(Continues surveying the scene)* I need room for my cellophane-wrapped container.

Fudge *(Annoyed)* Did you push those lollies *[that candy]* off the shelf?

Mint *(Annoyed)* Of course I did. They were in the way. *(COMPANY angry)*

Marshm You can't do that. They might've been cracked or broken.

Mint *(Back to preparing his space)* So what? Who cares?
(Bigger reaction from COMPANY)

C'bar *(Furious)* Who cares!?

Mint *(Stops work, addresses COMPANY)* Look, you lot are a dime a dozen. Nasty, cheap rubbish. *(Outrage from COMPANY)*

Fudge That's a bit rich, Mint. I think you should apologise.

Mint *(Scorn)* Apologise!?! I'm the one improving the place. I'm lifting the tone of the counter. And quality merchandise gets the prime position.

(Explosion of protest from the COMPANY. They speak at once, over the top of one another. Divide the COMPANY into 3 groups. Each speaks the phrases that follow. Each group starts on a different phrase)

C'pany *(Protesting)* Who says? ... Rubbish! ... That's not fair! *[etc]*

Marshm *(Calling)* We won't let you do this! *(COMPANY agree)*

Licorice I think you're being uncool, man. I mean, like, back-off.

Mint When will you lot learn that money talks. An after-dinner mint is quality. It costs. It brings quality customers into the shop. Wealthy customers with money to spend. We all benefit.

C'bar What's wrong with little kids and old folk?

Marshm Their money's just as important. *(COMPANY agree)*

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Mint You stupid sweets. Quality rules! Cheap lollies are hangers-on.
(*COMPANY* murmur their anger. *MINT* calls over hubbub) Get real, cretins.
Money talks.

Marshm Since when?

Mint Since time began. (*MUSIC BEGINS*) Do I have to tell you everything?

Cash

Mint *In days of old so long ago the rule of life was this
Whoever had the biggest crop could live a life of bliss.
And here today it's still the same, to argue's balderdash
The only way to get ahead is with a pile of cash.
Cash, you gotta have cash
You need-a da cash to make a splash
And cut a dashing figure.
Bread, you gotta have bread
You needa da bread to get ahead
Avoid da red, stay solvent.
Brass, you gotta have brass
You needa da brass to always fly first-class.
Cash produces panache
You're sure of a smash when you're stashed up with cash!*

[*COMPANY* repeats the above chorus]

*Best seats, anytime I want 'em
I can pick and choose.
Fine food, always on my table
Call me Howard Hughes.
Travel to exotic places
Just another cruise.
Life is sweet and full of sunshine
Goodbye "Can't Buy Blues".
But how can this be done?
How can life be such fun?*

Company

*C A S H
You gotta have cash!*

(*Song ends with COMPANY in strong frozen formation. MINT is the first to move. Once he does, OTHERS break up and move*)

LOLLIES 7

- Mint** Now that's settled, I'd like someone to move my container centre front. (*COMPANY indignant*) Just about ... here.
- C'bar** We're not your lackeys. Your fancy price-tag doesn't mean you can boss us around. (*COMPANY agree*)
- J'bean** Exactly.
- Peanut** Do your own dirty work.
(*COMPANY agree and exit in various directions. They chat/laugh but stop when FUDGE calls*)
- Fudge** Wait! Let's not be hasty. I think we should all help one another.
- Marshm** No way, Fudge. First, Mint is rude and treats us like dirt. Second, he wants us to work for nothing. That is not a time to help.
- Mint** You're jealous. (*OTHERS scoff and laugh*) You dislike me because I'm top quality and attract a better class of customer.
- Gum** We dislike you, pal, because you're a schmuck! (*OTHERS agree*)
(*MINT surveys the grinning, teasing faces then springs into action*)
- Mint** Right. (*Starts pushing a container centre*) Possession is nine-tenths of the law. I hereby claim this shelf as After-Dinner Mint Drive.
- C'pany** (*Annoyed, moved to anger*) No!
- C'bar** (*Threatening*) You pinch that possie and I'll fix you myself - permanently!
- Gum** Me too!
- Mint** (*Appealing to the masses*) Did you hear that? They threatened me. You're all witnesses. If anything happens to any After-Dinner Mint, they'll be responsible.
- Marshm** Take it easy, Mint. Nothing's going to happen.
- Fudge** I'm sure we can resolve this issue by negotiation.
- C'bar** There's nothing to negotiate. That shelf is not Mint's to take.
- Gum** And if he takes what isn't his - (*Emphatic*) we'll take him!
(*COMPANY agree, murmur anger and start to move up and towards MINT*)
- Mint** (*Defies them*) Stay back! All of you. I'm wealthy and I'm claiming this shelf.
- C'bar** (*Heading to Level 2 to "fix" MINT*) Oh no you're not!
- Fudge** (*Desperate*) Stop! Wait! Negotiate! Negotiate! (*Sees LICORICE seemingly disinterested DL*) Licorice! Please! Do something!
(*COMPANY stops as they all respect LICORICE. Why is he not interested in stopping MINT?*)
- Licorice** (*Shrugs*) Forget it. I say give Mint the shelf.
- C'pany** (*Explodes*) What!?! (*COMPANY stunned, turn back to LICORICE*)
- Marshm** Licorice! How can you say that? It's not right.

LOLLIES 8

- Licorice** Don't matter, folks. We're all leaving anyway.
C'pany *(Stunned)* Leaving!?
Fudge What do you mean, leaving?
Licorice I mean like we ain't staying, man. We're all heading for that great lolly shop in the sky. *(MUSIC BEGINS)*
(Shock sweeps over COMPANY. It's terrible news from a reliable lolly)
Peanut *(Devastated)* Oh no! Say it isn't true.
(Lighting dims. Strike a blue and sombre scene)

The Supermarket Blues

- Licorice** *I've got the white 'n black 'n yellow
But we all got the blues. [Oh] [Repeat]
You see this shop is soon to shut down
And that's the latest news.
Well now the owners hit recession
Their money they did lose. [Oh]*
- Company** *They hit recession, recession. [Repeat above three lines]*
- Licorice** *You see they're so far in the red now
They've started on the blues.
I say a supermarket shelf is
A place we can't refuse. [Oh]*
- Company** *We can't refuse it, refuse it. [Repeat above three lines]*
- Licorice** *You bet I know it sounds revolting
It's not what I would choose.
You see our life in here is over
No more can we enthuse. [Oh]*
- Company** *Our life is over, it's over [Repeat above three lines]*
- Licorice** *Too bad we're all about to suffer
The supermarket blues.*
- Company** *Oh yeah!*
(Song ends. Sombre mood. COMPANY distraught. Slowly, lighting returns to normal)
- Licorice** I was in the back room today. Mr and Mrs Candy are in big trouble.
(COMPANY anxious, distressed, show interest)
- Peanut** I can't believe they're closing the shop.
- Marshm** It's inevitable. Few customers, poor sales. Things are really bad.
(COMPANY murmur their fear and distress)
- Fudge** There's no need to panic. I'm sure we can rectify the situation by using appropriate strategies.

LOLLIES 9

- Gum** (*Fed-up with FUDGE*) Hey Fudge. That's bubble-dust.
(*FUDGE indignant*)
- Peanut** I think the shop [store] closing is bad enough, but living in a supermarket ... yuk! (*COMPANY murmur agreement*)
- Mint** Well one thing's for certain, an after dinner mint will never live in a supermarket.
- J'bean** Aw, go and play in the till, dill!
- C'bar** (*To MINT*) Listen Mint, if we go, you go.
- Mint** I refuse. You'll have to kill me first.
- Gum** Is that a request? (*Tense moment broken by MARSHMALLOW*)
- Marshm** I've heard supermarkets have endless rows and you're all spread out. Not like here - one family.
- Truffle** And there's no dignity. Your price can go up and down like a yo-yo.
- J'bean** I heard they have blinding lights. Nothing subtle or fancy.
- Licorice** Wait'll you hear their cheap, plastic music.
- Peanut** And we'll have very strange neighbours. Soap, (*COMPANY disgusted*) pet-food, (*COMPANY'S disgust increases*) nappies, even toothpaste!
- C'pany** (*Disgusted*) Toothpaste!
- Fudge** (*Trying to calm the masses*) It's not that bad. You get to ride in nice, clean trolleys.
- Gum** (*Disgusted*) Nice trolleys! They're lousy, metal cages with wheels that never go straight.
- Marshm** And there's no expert advice. No specialist shopkeeper to care about you or sing your individual praises.
- C'bar** You're tossed on the shelves in the middle of the night.
(*COMPANY upset*)
- J'bean** But that's when we do the Jelly Bean Boogie! (*COMPANY agree*)
- Gum** Not any more. You're never alone in a supermarket. There's no privacy. There are packers, cleaners, stock takers, even security cameras to spy on you. (*COMPANY distressed*)
- C'bar** And we're often at the check-outs so we're the last thing people buy.
- Truffle** I could never survive in a supermarket.
- Gum** We've become an after-thought. "Oh look, here's some gum and chocolate".
- Peanut** It sounds degrading.
- Marshm** It *is* degrading.
- Fudge** Licorice. You started all this. You broke the news. What's your opinion?

LOLLIES 10

- Licorice** *(COMPANY face LICORICE who takes his time. He is well respected)*
I've sung my piece. We're being dumped but what's new? The world is full of crummy deals.
(Pause. Silence. Everyone feeling low. LICORICE wanders DL. COMPANY bewildered)
- Fudge** Hey, listen, why don't we negotiate?
- Gum** *(Fed up with FUDGE)* Give it a rest, Buster. Go sign a petition.
(FUDGE offended)
- Peanut** I think we should all say goodbye. *(COMPANY angry)* Well it's a lost cause. The shop *[store]* is closing and we'll soon finish up as anonymous confectionery *[candy]* in some awful barn called a supermarket.
- Truffle** I refuse to say *au revoir*. *(COMPANY agree)*
- Marshm** Good on you, Truffle. I think we should make a stand. We may not change things but it's crazy to give up without a fight. *(MUSIC BEGINS)*
- Mint** You're insane. You haven't a hope and fighting is so degrading!
- Fudge** I agree. Let's form a committee. Let's negotiate.
- C'pany** *(Keen to find any hope)* No!

Get Going

- Marshmallow** *When the odds are against you and the outlook's grim
That's the time to get going
When the prospects are awful and your chances slim
That's the time to get going
When the problems are mounting and all hope seems dim
And it's time to sink or swim
When the forecast is rotten and you're out on a limb
That's the time to get going. [COMPANY agree]
There are problems every day in every shop and town
Lots of worries, troubles, woes, enough to get you down
Some surrender, fail to send a message that is grand
But I say we stay. Hearsay? No way! Come on make a stand.*
- (Chorus is repeated with COMPANY joining in with enthusiasm. It's a rousing scene. MINT and FUDGE have been a part of things but are reluctant participants. LICORICE is cool and laid-back)*
- C'bar** You're terrific, Marshmallow. You've given us hope.

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- (COMPANY agree)*
- P'nut** But what's next? What do we actually do?
- Fudge** I've been thinking and suggest we send a deputation to the owners.
- L'rice** No man, that never works. Let's have a protest march.
- J'bean** Let's dig an escape tunnel. *(COMPANY all talk at once)*
- C'bar** This is ridiculous. *(Hubbub stops)* We all need time to think. Let's visit our cousins on different shelves. Talk to them. See what they say. *(COMPANY agree)*
- Truffle** That's right. We need good ideas.
- Fudge** *(Calling as they exit)* Right everyone visit friends but be back in five minutes!

(COMPANY chat excitedly amongst themselves as they exit in various directions on different levels. They chat. "What should we do? ... Do you know anything about supermarkets? ... Let's go and visit So-and-so" etc. MARSHMALLOW wanders DL and mimes conversation with LICORICE. CHOCOLATE-BAR stands C watching the OTHERS depart. He waves/nods to one or two and wishes them good luck. He is building up to something and starts to feel nervous. He would like to act cool but can't. LICORICE sees the lonely CHOCOLATE-BAR and nods. MARSHMALLOW turns and sees him)

- Marshm** Chocolate-Bar. Are you looking for me?
- C'bar** *(Nervous)* No. Ah, yes. Well, that is if you're not otherwise engaged.
- Marshm** *(Smiles at LICORICE)* I'll see you later.
(LICORICE smiles and exits DL. MARSHMALLOW tidies some boxes. She is cool. He is nervous)
- Marshm** Shouldn't you be out drumming up ideas? *(CHOC-BAR heads DL)*
- C'bar** Yes but I just wanted to say ... how much I enjoyed your song.
- Marshm** *(Cool, adjusting her outfit)* Thank you.
- C'bar** *(Pause, nervous)* The message was, ah, just what we needed.
- Marshm** You liked the words then?
- C'bar** Oh absolutely. They were great. *(Pause)* May I call you, Marshmallow?
- Marshm** Everyone else does.
- C'bar** *(Another pause. Weak smile)* There's something I want to ask you.
- Marshm** Not too tricky. I'm hopeless at maths and chemistry.
- C'bar** *(So serious)* Oh it's nothing like that. It's ...
- Marshm** Not politics.
- C'bar** *(Heaven forbid)* Oh no, not that.
- Marshm** It's the lyrics of my song. They were too deep?

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- C'bar** Gosh no. They weren't deep. *(Gets into a tizz)* Oh, I mean, yes they were deep but, I was still able to understand them. I think. And you have a beautiful voice.
- Marshm** Thank you. Is that what you wanted to tell me?
- C'bar** Yes. No. Ah, ... I wanted to say you have a beautiful voice and ... *(Blurts it out)* can I take you to the Candy Carnival?
- Marshm** *(Laughing but not at him)* The Candy Carnival!
- C'bar** You don't have to if you don't want to. If you're going with someone else or if you're too busy or you'd rather not or ...
- Marshm** Are you sure it's on. With the shop *[store]* closing, it might be cancelled.
- C'bar** *(Devastated)* Cancelled!?
- Marshm** We're facing a crisis. The supermarket, remember?
- C'bar** *(So disappointed)* Oh yes, I forgot. I'm sorry. *(Under his breath)* You idiot! *(Then to her)* Look, I'd better be going. *(Starts to back upstage to C)* ... I'll see you ...
- Marshm** Wait. *(CHOCOLATE-BAR stops)* There's no need to leave and yes, if the Carnival's still on, I would like you to take me.
- C'bar** *(Stunned)* Pardon? Did you say yes?
- Marshm** Yes.
- C'bar** *(Speechless)* Oh.
- Marshm** I'd love to go but right now I've got some calls to make. Bye.
- C'bar** *(Half waves in a daze)* Bye.
(She exits DL. Pause. MUSIC BEGINS. CHOC-BAR suddenly overjoyed. Lights dim to blackout with a single spot on CHOC-BAR)
- C'bar** *(To the world)* She said yes. To me. That lovely tender, sweet sweet said ... *(The dialogue ends just as the first word is sung)*

Yes

- Chocolate-Bar** *Yes is tiny, very small
Yes is hardly there at all
Yes is like a dash, over in a flash
Yet it has the power to enthrall me.
Yes is simple, very clear
Yes can bring a smile or tear
Yes I must confess, profess I have to bless
The "yes" she spoke, I love you Yes.
Yes is classy, oh so grand*

LOLLIES 13

*Yes can trumpet, be a band
Yes can make a sound, echo and rebound
Yes and happiness go hand in hand.
Yes is def'nite, yes has weight
Yes is certain, seals your fate
Yes, I feel success, it's joy I now possess
The "yes" she spoke, I love you Yes.
Three lovely letters, wonderful word
See what emotion "yes" in me has stirred
Oh why I'm excited, sure you can guess
My heart is singing because she said "Yes"
She said, "Yes".
Yes is gentle, yes is strong
Yes is with you all day long
Yes can bring you glee, delight and ecstasy
Yes is drama, dance and yes is song.
Yes has let my feelings show
Yes has helped my love to grow
Yes I can possess so much it's in excess
The "yes" she spoke, I love you, Yes!*

(Big finish under single spot. Pause for applause. Lights return to normal. COMPANY enters from all directions - chatter. They fill the set and CHOCOLATE-BAR melts into crowd. COMPANY say "We found something fantastic ... What did you do? ... We've got some great ideas ... Wait'll you hear what we're going to suggest ... I think we can stop the shop [store] closing ... It's not all over, you know, not by a long way." ... etc. FUDGE works his way C on Level 2 and calls for silence)

Fudge *(Calling)* Okay, bit of shush. Come on, please.
(Hubbub settles and COMPANY turn to face FUDGE)

Gum How come you're in charge?

Marshm Let him be. Someone has to organise things.

Gum Yeah but not Fudge. He'll want a flamin' committee.

Fudge I've carried out a random survey and the findings are quite clear. Undecided or don't know - five per cent. Those who think we should give up and join the supermarket - forty per cent. *(Hubbub from COMPANY)* Those who believe we can change the course of history and keep our speciality-shop [store] going, fifty-five per cent! *(Big cheer from COMPANY)* These results are quite clear. We have a mandate to form a committee. *(Howls of protest from COMPANY. FUDGE shocked)*

LOLLIES 14

- C'pany** No! ... No way! ... Get out of it! ... *etc*
- Gum** Not a committee!
- Marshm** Enough of the talk, let's take some action! (*COMPANY agree*)
- C'bar** Okay, but who's got an idea?
- Fudge** (*Descending to Level 1*) Well actually I do. (*COMPANY groan*)
- Truffle** Mon dieu, dear Fudge, we do not want your theory.
- Fudge** This shop [*store*] must be saved to preserve endangered species. *Hubbub from COMPANY. "Rubbish ... Get with it ... Be practical" etc*)
- Licorice** He's right. (*Instant silence*) You won't find no fancy lollies [*candy*] in them modern supermarkets.
- Fudge** What'll happen to Ginger or Creme de Menthe Chocolates? Or Fruit Liqueurs and French Jellies? (*Buzz from COMPANY. FUDGE is right*)
- Peanut** Do they have Peanut Brittle?
- Marshm** They won't have Apricot Brandies or a full range of Humbugs.
- Truffle** I'll be surprised if they stock many Truffles.
- Fudge** So that's my idea. We save this shop in order to save endangered species.
(*COMPANY buzz. "Great idea ... Let's do it" etc*)
- C'bar** There's another line, you know. We could push the service angle. Let's face it, personal service beats self service every time.
(*COMPANY agree*)
- J'bean** And a specialist shop like this means specialist service.
- Gum** Supermarkets have packers and cashiers but no-one to advise on our flavour or staying power or anything.
- Marshm** There's no-one to love and understand us.
- Fudge** (*Taking notes*) So that's endangered species and service. Any more?
- Peanut** How about health?
- C'pany** Health?
- Peanut** Yes. Some of us are a good source of carbohydrates, fats, protein, even vitamins and minerals.
- Truffle** He's right.
- Peanut** Soldiers and mountaineers often carry us for a quick top-up.
(*Hubbub from COMPANY. These ideas are good. Things are looking up*)
- C'bar** Good thinking, Peanut.
- Mint** Well if any soldier selects me, it'll be at least a Colonel. And not on some filthy battlefield. I'll be partnered by elegant china in the officers' mess.
- Marshm** (*Annoyed*) Are you still here?
- Gum** Yeah. Go play in the cash register.

LOLLIES 15

- Mint** All this save-the-shop business is irrelevant. Quality material will always find a quality home.
- Gum** *(Angry)* We're in this together, Mint. We're trying to help each other.
- Marshm** Yes, Mint. Try thinking of others - for once! *(COMPANY agree)*
- Mint** I don't need your lousy advice. I'm rich. I'm quality.
- C'bar** *(Furious)* You're rubbish. What you need is a good, hard smack. *(Starts towards MINT)* Right now! *(OTHERS restrain CHOC-BAR)*
- Mint** *(To COMPANY)* You heard that. He threatened me. Have him melted. Remove his wrapper. Do something.
- C'bar** We'll do something - *you!*
- Mint** *(Panics)* He wants to hurt me. Stop him!
(CHOCOLATE-BAR eventually cools but points a threatening finger at a scoffing MINT. FUDGE tries to regain control. Hubbub)
- Fudge** *(Calling)* Lollies and gentlepops. Please. The topic is saving our home. *(COMPANY settle and concentrate on original subject)* We have three ideas. Endangered species, service and carbohydrates. I recommend these three ideas form the basis of our philosophy.
- Marshm** Philosophy!
- Licorice** *(To FUDGE)* Hey, Sunshine. Philosophy equals supermarket. Besides, all you've got so far are reasons to save the shop. The big question is how!
- C'bar** That's right. The ideas don't fix the problem. Cash is the answer. The owners are closing because they're broke. We need practical ideas to make money!
(COMPANY stumped. This is the truth but what's the solution?)
- Truffle** I think language would be good. *(COMPANY puzzled)*
- Marshm** Language?
- J'bean** Swearing! Great idea. A dollar *[quid]* for every rude word. *(COMPANY stare at JELLY BEAN. His grin turns to a blank look and he shrugs)* Ooo, sorry I spoke.
- Truffle** We need to establish ourselves as part of the language. We must become, how you say, synonymous with certain sayings.
- Peanut** I can't understand a word you're saying.
- Licorice** Listen man, I've heard it all and the most popular saying is "*I love you*".
- Truffle** *(Slightly excited)* Excellent. Then let us change the language.
- Peanut** I get it. Instead of "*I love you*", people say "*I peanut you*".
- J'bean** That won't work. This is much better. *(Drops onto one knee and clasps hand of nearby lolly)* "My darling. I jelly-bean you".
(COMPANY buzz. MUSIC BEGINS)

LOLLIES 16

Truffle That's the idea. Something like this.

Love Is A Box Of Chocolates

Truffle *Love is a box full of chocolates
Love is a truffle or two.*

Company *Truffle or two, truffle or two*

Truffle *When there is love in your heart to express*

Company *When there is love*

Truffle *Then say "I chocolate you".*

Company *I chocolate you!*

For love is sugar and cream

A wonderful dream

A marvellous marzipan taste.

A flavour or three

From the cacao tree

Love is a heavenly taste!

Gum *Love is a gob full of chewing gum*

Love is a bubble gum too

Company *Bubble gum too, bubble gum too.*

Gum *When there is love in your heart to express*

Company *When there is love*

Gum *Then say "I chewing gum you".*

Company *I chewing gum you!*

Marshmallow *Love is a mouthful of marshmallow*

Love's a marshmallow or two

Company *'mallow or two, 'mallow or two*

Marshmallow *When there is love in your heart to express*

Company *When there is love*

Marshmallow *Then say "I marshmallow you"*

Company *I marshmallow you!*

Oh yeah!

(Wow! Big finish with COMPANY high on emotion. They can help lift sales. They can save the shop. They won't have to move. Happiness abounds. Congratulations all round)

Marshm *(Excited) This is fantastic. Love is everywhere. That means we'll be everywhere.*

Truffle *It'll be Valentine's Day every day!
(Great buzz of excitement from COMPANY)*

Mint *It's got to work first.*

LOLLIES 17

- C'bar** It'll work. But listen, we need more ideas.
- Fudge** The chair recognises Chocolate-Bar.
- C'bar** (*Ignoring FUDGE*) Sales are vital but so too is theft.
- C'pany** (*Shocked*) Theft!?
- Marshm** Shoplifting?
- C'bar** Every time a customer steals one of us, the owners lose money. Stealing stock means no income. No income means close the shop. (*Buzz from COMPANY. "He's right ... That's true" etc*)
- Peanut** I've seen people pinch peanuts.
- Licorice** Listen man, stealin's as old as toffee-apples. You'll never stop thievin'.
- C'bar** Maybe. But we can make it tough for pickpockets. Let's give 'em a rotten time. Let's make 'em rue the day they stole sweets in this shop.
- Gum** Good thinking. If we're stolen, we can stick to the wrapper.
- Marshm** We can stick to their teeth.
- Truffle** We can make our wrapping rustle during the quiet parts of movies and plays.
- Fudge** We can even remove their fillings! (*MUSIC BEGINS*)
- C'pany** (*Excited, in agreement*) Yeah!
- C'bar** Let's give 'em hell!
- C'pany** (*Roar their enthusiasm*) Suffer!

Send 'Em To The Dentist

(During the song, a giant tooth is wheeled on stage and some lollies climb on and attack it! Ouch!)

- Gum** *Lollies may be yummy but when we're in your tummy
We can play a very nasty trick
Even in a cake-hole, well we can cause an ache-hole
And make every shoplifter feel sick.*
- Company** *Let's send 'em to the dentist, let's cause 'em all some grief
Let's send 'em to the dentist, dig holes in all their teef!
Let's wreck their precious molars, let's punish every thief
Let's send 'em to the dentist, dig holes in all their teef!*
- Fudge** *Candy is so dandy and thieves find us quite handy
Slip us in their pocket or a purse
But as they start chewing, oh boy will they be spewing
We'll make every tea-leaf loudly curse!*
- Company** *Let's take 'em to the dentist ... [etc]*

LOLLIES 18

(Song ends with giant tooth - that's toof - now with gaping {pre-drilled} holes being pushed away offstage by some triumphant lollies. The COMPANY cheer and wave calling disrespectful remarks "Chew on that one ... Dentist's got a drill ... That's not holy, mate ... Ha, ha, ha!" ... etc)

Gum *(Calling)* We've done it! We can boost sales and stop shoplifting.

C'bar *(Also excited)* Business will boom.

Marshm We'll save the shop! *[store!]*

C'pany *(Very happy)* Hooray!

J'bean Not so fast. *(Hubbub continues. JELLY BEAN yells)* Not so fast!
(COMPANY quiet)

Peanut Come on, Jelly Bean. It's not like you to spoil the fun.

J'bean Conning customers, thwarting thieves, very important. But you're forgetting the most important thing - us!

C'pany Us!?

J'bean Appearance. Presentation. Chew appeal!

C'pany Chew appeal!?! *(Buzz from COMPANY)*

Mint He's right. But then we of the upper class always look stunning.

J'bean If our wrapping's not crackly, if our packing's not perfect, we're unattractive. And lousy looking lollies are losers! We must always, always smile!

C'pany Smile!?! *(MUSIC BEGINS)*

J'bean Yes, be happy! A smiling sweet is nice to eat. Get with it. Show some life!

Jelly Bean Boogie

Jelly Bean *When you get up in the morning at the break of day
You gotta have a smile that will not fade away
You gotta flash those pearly whites
And have the blues all banged to rights
You gotta grin a bit and then put in a bit
With the Jelly Welly Boogie Woogie eight to the bar.
Oh the jolly Jelly Beans is always what we are
Some snappy, happy colours in a pack or jar
We've got a shape that's kinda cute
We've got a taste that's oh so beaut
Oh yes we're storable and adorable
On the Jelly Welly Boogie Woogie eight to the bar!
Oh! Jelly Welly Boogie Woogie takes you far
Jelly Welly Boogie Woogie, you're a star*

LOLLIES 19

*It's gonna lift your spirits high
And a put a twinkle in your eye
Oh what a stimulus, kinda fabulous
It's the Jelly Welly Boogie Woogie eight to the bar!*

Company *Oh! Jell, Jell, Jelly Bean*

Hell, well, what a scene

It's gonna lift your spirits high

And put a twinkle in your eye

Oh what a stimulus, kinda fabulous

It's the Jelly Welly Boogie Woogie eight to the bar! Yow!

(Song ends with everyone exhausted but happy. They collapse. But there is little delay. The moment they relax, NOUGAT bursts in on Level 3. NOUGAT is distraught)

Nougat *Murder! Murder! (COMPANY stunned, look up, turn, stand) It's evil!
It's awful! Somebody help! (Buzz from COMPANY)*

Gum *What's happened?*

Nougat *It's Mint. He's in the back-room.*

Marshm *Is he all right?*

Nougat *All right!? He's floating in a cup of coffee!
(Horror from COMPANY. This is terrible news)*

C'bar *Did you try and save him?*

Nougat *Of course. But it's dangerous and anyway, he's dead! (More horror)*

Fudge *This is terrible news. Just when we were making progress.*

Nougat *Will somebody do something?*

C'bar *I'll go.*

Gum *Me too.*

(CHOCOLATE-BAR and GUM scramble up the steps to Level 3 then exit UL. NOUGAT follows)

Truffle *This sounds quite interesting. I wish to investigate. If you will please excuse me.*

(TRUFFLE exits as did the other two only not nearly as fast. COMPANY pole-axed. They fall back muttering their dismay and disbelief)

C'pany *This is terrible ... I can't believe he's dead ... What a way to die ... etc*

Marshm *Listen everyone. Life goes on and we'll need help with the funeral.
Who can do the flowers?*

Peanut *Forget the funeral. We've got ourselves a murder.*

Marshm *Oh don't be a peanut! We don't know what happened.*

Licorice *The question is, did Mint jump or was he pushed?*

J'bean *It's a horrible way to die - drowned in a cup of coffee.
(COMPANY agree)*

LOLLIES 20

- Fudge** I can't believe Mint would commit suicide. He was wealthy, had a beautiful home, classy owners. No, it was either an accident or ...
- Peanut** Go on. Say it. It was murder and we all know who did it.
- Marshm** Now this is absurd. You have no right to say such things.
- Fudge** If it is murder, Chocolate-Bar would certainly be under suspicion.
- Marshm** We're all under suspicion.
- J'bean** He threatened Mint.
- Peanut** Threatened? He attacked him. Right here. (*To COMPANY*) We all saw it, right?
- C'pany** (*Nod, agree*) Yes ... that's right ... *etc*
- Fudge** What a pity. Chocolate-Bar was such a ... nice lolly. Still, even the best can go astray.
- Marshm** This is absolutely disgraceful. You've pronounced him guilty without a trial or even before we know it was murder.
- Licorice** Wouldn't be the heart talkin', would it?
- Marshm** (*Shattered*) Licorice!
- Licorice** It's cool. I've seen it all before. Love blinding the truth.
- J'bean** Love?
- Peanut** Are you and Chocolate-Bar in love?
- Marshm** Of course not. And even if we were, that's totally irrelevant.
- Fudge** I believe we're missing the point. Our home, our very survival is under threat. Until quite recently we had a plan to change the situation. Now it's back to square one.
- C'pany** (*Most are hostile*) Yes ... That's right ... We're ruined ... *etc*
- J'bean** We can still fight back.
- Fudge** There's no time. We have to deal with the murder.
- Marshm** (*Anger increasing*) We don't know if it *is* murder.
- Peanut** It is. And that means get the murderer. (*To COMPANY*) Agreed?
- C'pany** Yes!
- Marshm** No!
- Fudge** If we can overcome this tragedy, we might still avoid the supermarket.
- Peanut** (*Loud*) Let's get Chocolate-Bar. Come on!
(*COMPANY agree. PEANUT leads them towards Level 2. They don't get far. CHOCOLATE-BAR and GUM enter UL on Level 3. COMPANY freezes*)
- Lolly 1** (*Member of the COMPANY*) There he is!
- Marshm** (*Half-warning/half despairing*) Chocolate-bar!
- C'bar** It's true. Mint has drowned.

LOLLIES 21

- Peanut** Well you oughta know. You killed him!
- C'bar** What! You're crazy! (*CHOCOLATE-BAR and GUM come down*)
- Gum** That's baloney, Peanut-Brain and you know it!
- Fudge** I think we should discuss things in more detail.
- Peanut** (*Threatens CHOC-BAR who moves to Level 1*) You threatened to kill Mint.
- C'bar** I was angry. So were you.
- J'bean** You attacked him.
- Gum** He was stealing your space.
- Fudge** When we went out looking for ideas, where were you?
- C'bar** I don't have to answer your questions.
- Licorice** Hey man, stay cool. These guys are playin' dirty.
- Peanut** (*Fired up*) You could've arranged the drowning while we were gone.
- C'bar** I could have but I didn't. I was here, talking to ... (*Pause*)
- J'bean** We know. It was Marshmallow.
- C'bar** (*Angry*) You leave her out of this. She had nothing to do with it.
- Peanut** Maybe you're covering for her.
- C'bar** (*Furious*) You take that back!
- Peanut** Maybe you both killed Mint!
- C'bar** (*Wild*) Damn you, Peanut! Damn you to hell!
(*CHOCOLATE-BAR lunges at PEANUT intent on giving him a smack. A horde of lollies grab CHOCOLATE-BAR and restrain him. Very tense moment*)
- Peanut** He *is* mad! Look at him! He's got violence written all over him.
- C'bar** (*Cooling down a fraction*) You're the one who's mad. Marshmallow and I had nothing to do with Mint's death. We're innocent.
- Fudge** Could we postpone this discussion?
- J'bean** No! Let's clear it up - now!
- Peanut** That's right. We all saw Chocolate-Bar threaten and attack Mint. Now Mint's been drowned. I say, let's do the same to the murderer!
(*PEANUT points at CHOCOLATE-BAR and calls to COMPANY*)
Agreed?
- C'pany** (*Fired up. Not GUM or MARSHMALLOW*) Yes! (*MUSIC BEGINS*)
- Marshm** (*Desperate*) No!

(*The COMPANY has revenge on its mind. Two or three lollies drag a protesting CHOCOLATE-BAR up to C on Level 2. GUM and MARSHMALLOW try to help but they are shoved aside by the masses. CHOCOLATE-BAR protests but his hands are tied [this could be mimed]. MARSHMALLOW appeals to FUDGE but he waves her away and moves to one side. The COMPANY sings with fire and fury*)

LOLLIES 22

Revenge

- Company** *Let's capture and seize him, let's squash and then squeeze him
Oh let's have revenge!
Let's get him, let's fix him, let's pole-axe for six him
Oh let's have revenge.
We're certainly willing to act on this killing
A crime we must avenge
We've tried him, now tie him and stand by to fry him
Oh come on, let's have revenge!*
- Peanut** *An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth
The good book it do say.*
- J'bean** *If you commit a murder then
There is a price to pay. [I'm innocent]*
- Fudge** *You can't expect to take a life
And then get off scot-free.*
- Trio [Above 3]** *The law demands a punishment
As you're about to see! [No! No!]*
- Company** *Let's capture and seize him ...
Revenge. Revenge. Revenge. [Continues, fades]*
- Fudge** *(Speaks over the song - now a chant) Chocolate-Bar, you are guilty of murder!*
- C'bar** *(Cries) No!*
- Fudge** *The punishment means you die the same way. (Issues command)
Bring forth the cup.*
- Lolly 2** *(Near wings. Calls into wings) Bring forth the cup!
(Slowly a large cup is pushed onto Level 1. It stops C and FUDGE waves and calls)*
- Fudge** *Enough!
(The chant slowly fades away. This could take place over 8 bars. The cup stops immediately below CHOCOLATE-BAR who is held securely)*
- Lolly 3** *The cup is full of coffee.*
- Fudge** *You are sentenced to death by drowning. Before you die, you are allowed one final request. (Pause) Well?*
- C'bar** *(Frightened but strong) Please may I speak to my friend ...
Marshmallow?*
- Marshm** *(Steps forward and looks up at CHOCOLATE-BAR) I'm here
Chocolate-Bar and ...*
- Fudge** *(Curt) Silence! He is permitted a short speech. You, a brief reply.*

LOLLIES 23

(MUSIC BEGINS. Lights dim slowly. Cross-fade with general lighting to blackout as two spots come up, one each on CHOCOLATE-BAR and MARSHMALLOW)

C'bar I know I said terrible things about Mint. I know I tried to hurt him but you must believe me. I didn't kill him. And even though I'm being punished for something I didn't do, my greatest hurt would be that you don't believe me. Please. It means everything to me. I'm innocent. *(Very hopeful)* Do you believe me?

Fudge *(Officious)* Remember. Keep it short.

C'bar Please. What's your answer?

(Time the lighting change to perfection. The music, lighting and dialogue must all reach this point with pinpoint accuracy. MARSHMALLOW turns front and sings. COMPANY motionless)

Yes - Reprise

Marshmallow *Yes is tiny, very small
Yes is hardly there at all
Yes is like a dash, over in a flash
Yet it has the power to enthrall me.*

(During MARSHMALLOW'S singing, CHOCOLATE-BAR is thrilled. His initial despair slowly turns to happiness as she gives him the answer he longs to hear. When he joins the duet, he sings softly at first, slowly building until both are singing with great feeling by the end of the song)

Duet *Yes is simple, very clear
Yes can bring a smile or tear
Yes I must confess, profess I have to bless
The "yes" I/she spoke, I love you Yes.
Yes!*

(Duet ends. Only lights are two spots on the singers. They freeze. MARSHMALLOW slowly turns and looks up. From the darkness, FUDGE gives the order)

Fudge You drowned another, so you must drown. *(Louder)* Revenge!

C'pany *(In the darkness they roar)* Revenge!
(The lollies holding CHOCOLATE-BAR start to push him to the edge of Level 2 and thus into the cup. CHOCOLATE-BAR is brave but scared. He is being pushed to the edge tottering above the cup)

Truffle *(From UL Level 3 in the darkness)* Stop! You must stop!

LOLLIES 24

(Suddenly the general lights come up quickly and the spots are killed. COMPANY buzz and look up)

Fudge Stay back! The sentence is being carried out.

Truffle The sentence is wrong!

(Buzz from COMPANY. TRUFFLE makes his way down to Level 1)

C'bar *(No longer being pushed but still being held)* Thank you, Truffle. Thank you, thank you!

Fudge *(To lollies holding CHOCOLATE-BAR)* Release him for now. *(CHOC-BAR is released. To TRUFFLE)* This had better be important.

Licorice If it is, man, you had better be important or nothing'll save *your* skin.

Marshm *(Calling to CHOCOLATE-BAR)* It's okay, Mister Candy Carnival. Everything's fine.

(She waves to CHOCOLATE-BAR who waves back and beams)

C'bar *(Calls back)* I think you're wonderful!

Truffle *(Arriving at Level 1)* I can't believe you would do this. Not before my investigation was complete.

Gum C'mon Truffle. Tell us what happened.

(Everyone is fascinated. What is the news? TRUFFLE will not be rushed)

Truffle *(Indicating cup)* I would like this monstrosity removed. Immediately. *(FUDGE pauses then nods and the cup is removed)*

Peanut *(Upset)* Just a minute. You aren't the law around here. We all voted and he's guilty.

Truffle Guilty of what?

Fudge Murder by drowning.

Truffle And just who, may I ask, has been murdered?

Peanut Don't get smart. You know.

Truffle Well in that case I think you should all thank me profusely. I have just prevented a totally unjustified act of barbarism.

J'bean What's all that supposed to mean?

Fudge *(Impatient)* Do you have proof the defendant is innocent?

Truffle Irrefutable proof.

Marshm I knew it. He is innocent.

Peanut *(Bitter. Sarcastic)* Oh I get it. You and Choco here are pals and you're pushing the suicide theory. Well it won't wash, Sunshine.

Truffle *(Calm despite attacks)* Oh it's definitely not suicide. And nor is it murder.

(Buzz from COMPANY. PEANUT is speechless)

Fudge You mean it was an accident?

Truffle Natural causes.

LOLLIES 25

- J'bean** What's that mean in English?
- Gum** You said you had proof. What proof?
- C'pany** Yes ... Tell us ... What proof? ... *etc*
- Truffle** *(Pause. Looks around. Speaks confidently)* Chocolate-Bar had nothing to do with Mint's murder because Mint isn't dead.
- C'pany** *(Stunned)* What!?
- Peanut** You're lying.
- Gum** But we saw him, floating in the coffee.
- Truffle** From a distance, yes. Had you examined the body more closely you would have discovered half a chocolate biscuit [*cookie*].
(Buzz from COMPANY)
- C'bar** *(Distressed)* Chocolate Biscuit! [*Cookie!*] That's my cousin!
- Truffle** As we all know, our owners are fond of dunking their biscuits and, on this occasion, the dunk was a touch too deep.
(Murmur from COMPANY. Interesting but a sad way to go)
- Licorice** *(To TRUFFLE)* Hey, good one, man. And nice timing too.
- Fudge** Well if Mint didn't drown, where is he?
- Peanut** Yeah. Maybe he's been kidnapped!
(TRUFFLE, without any flair, wanders across the stage)
- Marshm** You're mad. All of you! There's been one terrible miscarriage of justice. Don't make the same mistake again.
- J'bean** I'd still like to know what happened to Mint.
- C'pany** *(Agree)* Yes ... Me too ... Where's Mint? ... *etc*
- Truffle** Perhaps this will help.
(TRUFFLE suddenly rips an unsuspecting NOUGAT'S clothes. They are lightly stuck together and come apart easily revealing a costume beneath)
- Nougat** *(Shocked)* Hey! What is this!?! *(COMPANY are stunned)*
- Truffle** And the glasses. And the hat. *(Instead of "hat" you could say "wig")*
(Pause. NOUGAT looks around. Everyone is staring at NOUGAT)
- C'bar** Do it.
(NOUGAT pauses then slowly removes his glasses and hat/wig)
- C'pany** *(Stunned. Gasp)* Mint!
- Mint** *(Unmasked. Nasty)* All right, it's me. So what?
- J'bean** *(Amazed)* It's a life after After Dinner Mint.
- Gum** We should have fixed you when we had the chance.
- C'bar** *(Stopping potential violence)* No, Gum. No more violence.
(CHOCOLATE-BAR comes down to Level 1)
- Gum** *(Furious)* He was going to let you drown for something you didn't do!

LOLLIES 26

- Marshm** You're a disgrace, Mint. (*COMPANY murmur their disgust with MINT*)
If anyone deserves to be punished, it's you.
- Fudge** I think you owe Chocolate-Bar an apology.
- Licorice** (*To FUDGE*) Hey man, the apology comes from you!
- Fudge** (*Embarrassed*) A slight misunderstanding. (*Appeals to COMPANY*)
Well?
- C'pany** (*Pause then effusive apologies*) Sorry ... Very sorry ... Please forgive me.
- Peanut** (*Contrite*) I'm sorry, Chocolate-Bar. I've been a bit upset with this
business about the shop closing and ...
- C'bar** (*Shaking hands with PEANUT*) I know, Peanut. We've all been under
pressure.
- Fudge** You understand I was only following the wishes of the people.
- Licorice** You know something, Fudge, you and Mint'd make a good team.
- Fudge** (*Miffed*) Mint!
- Licorice** Yeah. You both talk baloney.
(*COMPANY relax a little. FUDGE and MINT are both "squashed" and
the COMPANY like it. The tension is relaxed a little*)
- J'bean** Well I reckon Mint's to blame for everything. (*COMPANY agree*)
- Gum** And if anyone deserves revenge, it's Chocolate-Bar.
(*COMPANY agree again*)
- C'bar** Yes, okay, take it easy. Look, I have to say I'm not really into
revenge. But there is something I'd like.
- Fudge** Go ahead. I'm sure we'll all support you.
- C'bar** I'd like the law that allows you to kill someone, removed forever.
(*COMPANY buzz. This is serious*)
- Marshm** Well said.
- C'bar** Any law which permits the execution of someone who's innocent is
wrong, terribly wrong.
- Gum** You're one brave cookie, friend. Most of us would be after revenge.
- Licorice** He's a cool dude who speaks the truth.
- Fudge** Those who want the death penalty abolished, please signify. (*All
hands are raised*) Agreed unanimously. (*COMPANY happy and
applaud*)
- C'bar** And I'd like to pay a tribute to Truffle without whom I'd be floating
in a cup of cold coffee.
(*COMPANY murmur. That would be a terrible fate*)
- Truffle** Thank you my friend. You are too kind.
- Marshm** You seem very experienced in the ways of the world, Truffle. What
would you do with Mint?

LOLLIES 27

- J'bean** Put him under the counter.
(COMPANY agree with these suggestions. MINT is horrified)
- Peanut** Reduce his price!
- Mint** *(Horrified)* Oh no! Not my price!
- Gum** Let him be dunked with the chocolate biscuits. *[cookies]*
- Mint** *(Distraught)* No! Please! Please! *(Falls to knees, pleading)*
- Truffle** Where I come from, we have a saying. To understand all is to forgive all. I guess it's easy to condemn Mint until we hear his side of the story.
(Pause. COMPANY step back from MINT who is alone. He looks pathetic. He speaks slowly with humility and contrition. Still on his knees)
- Mint** All my life I've lived for money. Best position, best price, best everything. Money was my god. Then, not long ago, I discovered I was ... shopsoiled. *(Shock waves ripple through COMPANY. This is terrible news)*
- Fudge** *(Whispers)* Shopsoiled!
- Mint** My cellophane was torn, my container was bent and I've got ... cracks!
- C'pany** *(Stunned whisper)* Cracks!
- C'bar** *(Serious)* I'm sorry to hear that, Mint. *(COMPANY agree)*
- Mint** I panicked. I couldn't believe it. All the money in the world and I was cracked. I guess I just flipped. *(Meaning CHOC-BAR)* I hated you because you were healthy and happy. You had no status but you were happy. You had love. I saw Chocolate-Biscuit floating in the coffee, pretended to be Nougat and ... *(Hangs head in shame)* told those terrible lies.
- Marshm** Well if you feel bad now, Mint, think how you'd feel if Chocolate-Bar had been executed.
(MINT nods, realising how terrible it might have been. COMPANY murmur)
- Mint** *(Genuinely repentant)* I'm really sorry for what I've done. And being sick has made me realise that all the money in the world is worthless if you haven't got good health.
- C'bar** *(Crosses to MINT)* Looks like we've all learnt something, Mint. How about a fresh start?
(Pause. CHOCOLATE-BAR extends a hand. MINT rises then shakes it. Smiles all round. The handshake becomes a warm embrace. COMPANY very happy. Spontaneous applause)
- Gum** Hey! Nice one you guys. Nice one! *(MUSIC BEGINS)*

Health Before Wealth

Gum *Listen everybody to the tale I tell
It's about a someone who is not so well
They believed that money was the only thing
Till they learnt their lesson and began to sing.*

Company *Health before wealth is the only way to go
Health before wealth, a clean bill sure beats dough
Money can be fine but fitness brings a glow
Health before wealth is the only way to go.*

Mint *I was pretty stupid, I was pretty rash
All I ever lived for was a pile of cash
Suddenly I noticed I was sick and then
Now I only wanna get my health again.*

Chocolate-Bar *I was once indicted and condemned to die
Set to meet my maker right up in the sky
Now that I'm reprieved this is my lucky day
And there's something special I would like to say.
Here's to a long life. Good health!*

(Chorus is repeated. COMPANY sing with conviction. Song ends with MINT and CHOCOLATE-BAR centre front of formation. After/during applause they again shake hands and are congratulated by COMPANY. Lots back-slapping, "well done" etc)

Fudge *(Calling) If I could just have everyone's attention. (Hubbub continues)*

J'bean *Hang on. Fudge wants to make a speech.
(Chorus of disapproval from COMPANY. "Get off, Not him" etc.
Eventually they settle)*

Fudge *Our small but important community has just taken a most
progressive step. We have matured.*

Peanut *Matured? What do you reckon we are? Cheese?
(COMPANY laugh. FUDGE ignores this and continues. He likes the
sound of his own voice)*

Fudge *The test of a family, a nation, comes when it faces adversity. We
have faced the test ... (Builds his speech) and passed with flying
colours!
(COMPANY pleased and applauds and cheers)*

C'bar *I agree, Fudge, but aren't you forgetting something?*

Gum *(To friend CHOCOLATE-BAR) We won't forget you and how you
turned tragedy into triumph. (COMPANY agree)*

Fudge *I'm sure we can help Mint. An operation for his cracks perhaps.*

Mint *(Grateful) Oh please. That'd be marvellous.*

LOLLIES 29

- Fudge** And we'll become one big, happy family. (*COMPANY pleased*)
- Licorice** All ready for the supermarket.
(*Instant deflation. COMPANY distraught*)
- Gum** (*Upset*) Oh no! In this ruckus we've forgotten our terrible predicament.
- Mint** It's all my fault. I was selfish and cruel. Now I've wrecked your campaign.
- Fudge** It may not be too late to re-negotiate the contract.
- Marshm** (*Annoyed with FUDGE*) What contract you pompous twit!
(*COMPANY stirred*) Why don't you face reality? We can't speak directly to humans. We can't order the owners to cancel the sale.
- C'bar** No but we can leave messages for them like "*I love you, Marshmallow*".
- Gum** And we can hassle and annoy those pickpockets.
- J'bean** And smile and give off good vibes.
- Fudge** Exactly. And maybe the supermarket won't be all that bad.
- C'pany** (*Strong protest*) "No way ... Not the supermarket ... Get lost" *etc*
- Gum** Are you kidding? What's super about a plastic market where we do all the work?
- Peanut** Don't forget the smiling badges!
- Gum** This place has got something a supermarket will never have.
- Fudge** What's that?
- Gum** A soul!
- Licorice** Hey, right on, man. I like it.
- J'bean** Well I say it's too late. (*COMPANY protest*)
- C'pany** No!
- J'bean** We're all gunna digest sometime.
- Peanut** Don't talk like that. (*Upset*) Oh it's so depressing. (*Is comforted*)
- Truffle** (*Slight panic*) Oh mon dieu! Please, forgive me!
- Fudge** Why? What is it?
- Truffle** I have forgotten the most important news. (*COMPANY hooked*)
- Gum** What news? Tell us.
- Truffle** When I was investigating the business with Mint, I discovered a letter regarding this shop.
- C'bar** And?
- Truffle** The contents were most disturbing.
- J'bean** Truffle, don't tell me. You're going to Turkish Delight us?
- Truffle** Our shop is not closing.

LOLLIES 30

(COMPANY delighted. JELLY BEAN'S joke turns into delight. COMPANY clap and cheer, congratulate one another. "We're safe ... We're alive ... No supermarket" etc. TRUFFLE hasn't finished. GUM sees this and calls)

Gum Hey! Hey! He hasn't finished. *(Celebrations continue. GUM louder)* Be quiet!

(Noise quickly subsides. It's serious again and all eyes are on TRUFFLE)

Truffle *(Waits for absolute silence. Pause)* Please, my friends, your celebrations are too soon.

Fudge *(Solemn)* You haven't told us everything. There's more, isn't there?

Truffle Oui. *(Sigh of despair from COMPANY)* The letter said the shop was not closing but rather was being demolished.

C'pany *(Gasp)* Demolished!

(This is a cruel blow. Their hopes have been dashed)

Licorice Hey man, my grapevine mentioned supermarket.

Truffle Indeed and that is correct. One of the options faced by the owners is to sell their business and all its stock to the supermarket.

(Another sigh from the COMPANY. This really is the end)

Fudge Then farewell it is. Let's discuss redundancy payments. *(Despondency)*

Mint I thought my sickness was bad news but this is terrible.

Marshm Please everyone. Don't give up. Where there's life there's hope.

C'bar Hang on. Just a minute. *(To TRUFFLE)* Truffle, you said one of the options. One, meaning there must be at least one more.

Truffle And as before, you won't let me finish. You jump in and say and do things before I have finished speaking. It is most rude.

Marshm Truffle, we're sorry, but please, what else did you wish to say?

(COMPANY almost have their tongues hanging out. Please. No bad news. They're clutching at straws)

Truffle *(Pause)* The other option facing the owners is to purchase another lolly shop in the new complex. *(COMPANY excited)*

Fudge *(Agitated)* New complex? What new complex?

Licorice The one being built next door to the supermarket. *(More excitement)*

Peanut *(Annoyed at LICORICE)* You knew!? Why didn't you say?

Licorice Hey, stay cool, man.

Truffle It's a complex of small, specialist shops. Apparently consumers want personal service after all.

J'bean A new lolly *[candy]* shop *[store]*?

Fudge A specialist lolly *[candy]* shop *[store]*?

Gum Beside the supermarket?

END OF PREVIEW

Some Other Musicals by Cenarth Fox

Germs

The most popular FOX musical ever! Huge success in ythe UK, USA, Australia and New Zealand. Inside a human [what a set!] the germs spread disease. The human fights back. Some germs mutiny - it's a bloodless coup! Tension mounts and builds to a heart-stopping finale. The set, costumes, make-up, music, comedy and drama make this a marvellous musical. Performed by schools and youth theatre – even the medical staff at a public hospital!

The production of GERMS was absolutely magnificent. The play is brilliant in concept. All the things that make theatre a terrific experience were there.

Wesley College

Jungle

A set dripping with vines, branches and mystery. Some animals are worried that certain species of humans are in danger of being wiped out e.g. honest politicians, students who can spell, humble TV hosts. Some animals are selling *stition* - it's super! There are unemployed chimps up to monkey business. And then a circus hits town. It features the controversial performing humans. When the ferocious footballers escape, will Hippo be attcaked? Will the youth find work? This musical is suitable for youth theatre and schools. A terrific score including the very moving *Animal Anthem*.

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

Rat Race

Rat Race is about rats (or are they humans?) living in a street in your town. They are poor, suffering creatures who face a sad and lonely existence. Into this tenement of heart-ache steps a politician with promises of recovery and hope. Are these promises genuine? Will the rats find happiness?

We had a wonderful time with *Rat Race* and it was a huge success! The characters were engaging and the music catchy! We all particularly loved 'Moggies'. Thank you so much for all your guidance. **Loreto Mandeville Hall**

RAT RACE is fast-moving, packed with action and guaranteed to generate laughs. It has bright and bouncy numbers to keep audiences humming and stomping along.

Melbourne Herald Sun

Enjoyed it immensely **Swan Hill HS**

RAT RACE voted a smash hit. It is a wonderfully written show **Moe PS**

Our RAT RACE production was a tremendous success. We have received wonderful feedback from parents **Templeton PS**