

Smokies

A funny, educational and seriously entertaining look at tobacco



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What's It All About?

Smokies is a musical revue, cabaret, a short, sharp show about tobacco. It's about facts, asking questions and helping kids make their own decisions. The revue takes place in a nightclub called Smokies with its floorshow the Tacky Backy Cabaret. Patrons flock to Smokies to see the show and cough their appreciation for some of the world's craziest entertainers. Stand-up comics Smoke-It and Croak-It are lying to die or is that dying to lie? Character actor Christopher Columbus re-invents history. Pierre Pressure is a hypnotic hypnotist and Nick O'Teen an addictive magician. Brad and Jane are star-crossed but smelly sweethearts and Netty Ket has all the tips on glamorous gasping. There's slapstick, romance, politics, loonies and science. *Smokies* will light up your life and leave you breathless. And the chorus line, the all-singing, all-dancing Virginia Fats proves there's no smoke without mire. But me no butts, *Smokies* is smokin'!

Orchestrations and Backing CD

Smokies is scored for piano, guitar, bass, percussion, drum-kit, flutes, clarinets, strings, trumpets and trombones. The band parts are for hire. There is a stereo backing CD with both rehearse and perform versions of the musical score. There are several short musical items in *Smokies* – introductions and exits to various acts. All of these items are on the CD as well as full orchestra backing for all the songs.

Performed in Australia, the USA and Britain

"Just wanted to let you know the premiere of Smokies was fantastic. The kids - 75 4th and 5th graders - did a dynamite job. By show's end we will have exposed approximately 1500 students to your anti tobacco thoughts/script.

Thanks millions for your support and interest."

Marshall Magnet School, Flagstaff Arizona

"The anti-tobacco message in the musical fits the curriculum for our classes. The year 6 students have enjoyed the experience in preparing and presenting the musical." **North Rocks PS**

"Thank you for your excellent musical."

Hereford Choir



Production Package

All groups staging a musical or play from FOX PLAYS receive free production notes [*set-design, costumes, lighting, props, etc*], free art-work for your poster, tickets, program etc and, with all musicals, a complete set of lyrics for your chorus members. The piano/vocal score has detailed notes for your musical director and most shows have a video and/or colour photographs. Contact your local agent for friendly and helpful advice.

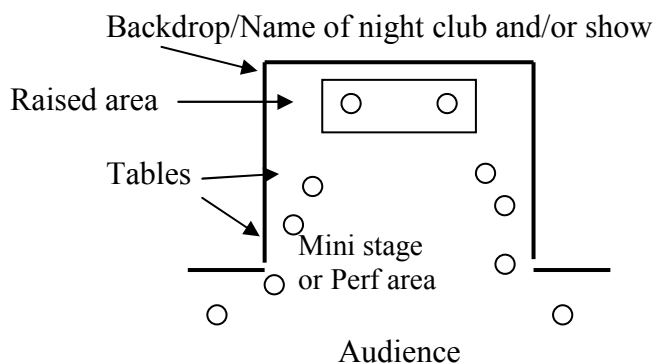
There are activities related to the show for teachers to use with students who have been in or attended the musical. This material is prepared by a former curriculum consultant and teacher and is free.

Set

We enter the interior of Smokies nightclub. The walls are black. The lighting even looks artificial. Patrons are seated at small tables which surround the sides of your stage. Upstage is a raised area where more patrons look down on the floorshow. Your orchestra could be placed on this raised upstage area. A mini stage or simply a cleared performing space is centre/down stage for solo and small group performers. The club could have a ritzy neon sign – *Smokies* – upstage or on the proscenium arch. The show could be performed in the round and/or as a piece of dinner theatre. With a thrust stage you could take your floorshow out into the real audience.

Here is a suggested layout of your performing space.

Intimacy is better than a barn-like auditorium. It's an over-the-top cabaret with the performers up close and personal.



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Characters

Many of the characters can be male or female and obviously played by either males or females

HUSKY	owner of Smokies night club and showbizzy compere of floorshow
SMOKE-IT	comedian
CROAK-IT	comedian [<i>Smoke-It's partner</i>]
VOX POP	TV interviewer, journalist
COLUMBUS	the famous explorer, Christopher Columbus
PROF	scientist, known as Professor Lung-Buster
FANATIC	anti-tobacco crusader
PIERRE	Pierre Pressure, hypnotist
POLLY	Polly Tission, democratically elected representative of the people
EXECUTIVE	tobacco industry executive
LAWYER	lawyer
SMOKER	member of the public who smokes
ADVERTISER	person working in the advertising industry
VENT 'N KENT	ventriloquist and his/her dummy cigarette [one actor and one doll]
BRAD & JANE	star-crossed lovers
NETTY KET	fashion guru and stylish upholder of glamorous behaviour
SLOB	rough male totally out of place in a refined finishing school
NICK	Nick O'Teen, magician
THE FATS	The Virginia Fats, a chorus line of singing cigarettes

Several roles can be doubled/tripled. The company are patrons. Several play small roles in the various skits. The company join in many of the musical numbers. To use more actors, Husky's role can be doubled. Use a second compere called Throaty who takes every second speech/skit.

Musical Numbers

1.	Overture	Orchestra
2.	Tacky Backy Cabaret	Virginia Fats & Husky
3.	Columbus Intro	Orchestra
4.	Comedy Intro	Orchestra
5.	Lies	Smoke-It & Croak-It
6.	Professor Intro	Orchestra
7.	Professor Exit	Orchestra
8.	Ahhh	Company
9.	Smoking Smells	Jane, Brad & Company
10.	Pierre Intro	Orchestra
11.	Pierre Exit	Orchestra
12.	Netty's Entrance	Orchestra
13.	Puff Politely	Netty, Slob & Students
14.	Vent 'n Kent Intro	Orchestra
15.	We're Makin' Money	Smoker, Executive, Polly & Lawyer
16.	Nick's Intro	Orchestra
17.	Nick's Nightmare	Orchestra
18.	You Can Quit	Nick & Company
19.	Curtain Calls	Company
20.	Playout	Orchestra

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No. 1 Overture

[Audience enters at same time as patrons. The nightclub is dimly lit but not dark. Ushers usher the real audience to their seats as waiters/waitresses [optional] show patrons to their tables. At appropriate time strike up the band. Play the Overture. Patrons arrive during Overture and final tables are filled by its end. Start to dim house lights towards end of Overture. Music finishes. Patrons applaud. Suddenly house lights killed. Perhaps only table lights remain on]

Husky *[Voice over from offstage]* Ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to Smokies and here to open the Tacky Backy Cabaret, it's The Virginia Fats!

No. 2 Tacky Backy Cabaret

[Patrons applaud and whistle as MUSIC BEGINS. Chorus line kick in and sing. Use 4 or more movers who can sing. They wear long white tubes with obvious spaces for their head, arms and legs. The tubes are not slim. More details are found in the free Production Notes. Use colourful lighting on the performing space area]

Fats *It's the Tacky Backy cabaret, puffing along for you
It's the Tacky Backy cabaret, hip, hip hooray and how do you do
We'll light up your life, we'll glow in the dark
We're more than a match for any bright spark
It's the Tacky Backy cabaret, puffing along for you.*

Husky *[Enters. Over the music]* Ah yes folks, welcome to some king-size, roll your own entertainment. Welcome to some wit about the weed. We've filtered facts and fables about that universal past-time, smokin' cigarettes. Our show is addictive. You'll be hooked on peer pressure. You'll be cravin' for clean air. And beware the warning in every opening number – this show could improve your health. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll cough and here's why, the Tacky Backy cabaret's in town!

[Stepping aside indicating chorus-line. The FATS dance then repeat song finishing with a big finale. Song finishes and VIRGINIA FATS dance off under TAG as Patrons applaud and HUSKY moves to microphone. There need not be a mic or if there is it could be a dummy. Most of the actors are. Spotlight HUSKY. The FATS could go offstage or simply remain on stage behind tables. It may be difficult for them to sit]

Husky *[Indicating the disappearing/disappeared dancers]* Say, ain't they just the tip of the filter? Hey? *[More applause from PATRONS]* Okay folks, on with the show and here for ...

Vox Pop *[Excited, rushing in interrupting Husky]* Stop! Stop! Hold everything! *[Buzz from Patrons]*

Husky Hey Voxy, where's the fire.

Vox Pop *[Puffing. Excited]* You ain't gonna believe this.

Husky I know. *[Jokes to Patrons]* You're a journalist. *[Patrons/Husky laugh]*

Vox Pop Outside it's Christopher Columbus. *[Big reaction from Patrons]*

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Husky *[Impressed]* The Christopher Columbus?
Vox Pop He's just sailed into town and agreed to an exclusive interview.
Husky *[Suddenly hooked. This is an exclusive]* What, here in my club?
Vox Pop *[Bubbling]* Right here. Christopher Columbus live at Smokies.
Husky *[Back into announcing]* Okay folks, let's have a huge welcome for one of the world's truly great adventurers ... Christopher Columbus.

No. 3 Columbus Intro

[Instrumental]

[During short instrumental intro, COLUMBUS enters to warm welcome from Patrons. HUSKY shakes hands with the explorer then exits into darkness, maybe just upstage. Lights concentrate on VOX POP and the interview with the Spaniard. COLUMBUS speaks with the appropriate accent and broken English. Hubbub settles. Some of the words spoken by COLOMBUS are deliberately spelt incorrectly. VOX POP could have a cordless dummy microphone]

Vox Pop Wow, Christopher Columbus, you must really love the sea.
Columbus *[Nodding]* Si. *[Vox Pop doesn't understand]*
Vox Pop Ah yeah, the sea.
Columbus *[More nodding]* Si.
Vox Pop Okay, Chris, moving right along, tell us, what was your greatest achievement?
Columbus Tobacco.
Vox Pop Tobacco? But what about sailing to the Americas?
Columbus In 1492 in-ha South Hamerica I hinvented tobacco.
Vox Pop *[Friendly admonish]* Now Chris, I don't think you mean invented. Tobacco had been growing in South America for thousands of years before you arrived.
Columbus Don't-a believe everything you-a read. Some people lie about-a tobacco.
Vox Pop So after you *discovered* tobacco, what did you do then?
Columbus I took it back home and soon everywhere in-ha Europe people start smoking tobacco. They even put it in-ha their hose. *[Trouble with "h"]*
Vox Pop *[Mimics politely]* Their hose? People put tobacco in-ha their hose?
Columbus Si. *[Mimes putting snuff in his nose]* In-ha their hose. *[VOX POP nods. Patrons amused]* And soon people discover tobacco is-ha wonderful medicine.
Vox Pop Oh very funny. Tobacco as a medicine.
Columbus No, it's true. Doctors in-ha Europe tell their patients to smoke because it can cure dah-see-zars.
Vox Pop *[Shocked]* Doctors prescribed tobacco as a medicine?
Columbus Si. In my day, some doctors say tobacco is the answer to-ha everything. *[Looks around. Then speaks in intimate voice]* Say, you want an exclusive?
Vox Pop Yes. I mean si.
Columbus *[Pause]* Okay. The Earth is-ha flat.
Vox Pop *[Scribbling]* The ... Earth ... is-ha ... flat.

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Columbus And smoking can cure cancer.
Vox Pop *[Still scribbling]* And smoking can ...
Husky *[Taking over. Wants to get the loony offstage]* Hey! *[Leading applause indicating Columbus. Patrons join in]* Senor Christopher Columbus! What a guy!
[Patrons applaud. VOX POP quickly escorts COLUMBUS offstage. The two discuss their exclusive as they depart]
And now folks it's time for a laugh. Smokies is proud to present that great comedy duo ... Smoke-It and Croak-It.

No. 4 Comedy Intro

[Instrumental]

[Patrons applaud wildly as Smoke-It and Croak-It bounce on, acknowledge applause over intro. They rip into their routine. Keep the show moving]

Smoke-It Howdy customers. Is everybody healthy?
Patrons *[They cough to express their good health]*
Croak-It Say Smoke-It, what's the toughest job in the world?
Smoke-It Workin' with you.
Croak-It That's right. Bein' a comic is the hardest job ever.
Smoke-It No it ain't. It's selling cigarettes.
Croak-It What is?
Smoke-It The toughest job in the world is selling cigarettes.
Croak-It It is? How come?
Smoke-It You gotta be able to tell gi-normous lies.
Croak-It Such as? Give us an example.
Smoke-It Smoking is good for you.
Croak-It Who said that?
Smoke-It Certain ignorant doctors.
Croak-It They did?
Smoke-T And smoking is not addictive.
Croak-It Who said that?
Smoke-It Certain tobacco companies who also said, "We don't want kids to smoke".
[MUSIC BEGINS]
Croak-It Wow! Telling whoppers must be really, really tough.

No. 5 Lies

Duo *If you wanna sell some tobacco stuff
You've gotta lie, lie, lie.
And if you wanna get young kids to puff
You've gotta lie, lie, lie.
You've gotta fib 'n fudge but with dexterity
Evade, deceive with false sincerity
If you wanna sell some cigarettes
You've gotta lie, lie, lie.
[Dialogue during song]*

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- Smoke-It** *[Announcing a la tobacco executive]* We don't want kids to smoke.
- Croak-It** *[A sort of devil's advocate]* But if kids don't smoke there won't be any new smokers.
- Smoke-It** *[Announcing as before]* We only want smokers to switch brands.
- Croak-It** Yeah but some tobacco companies own several brands.
- Smoke-It** *[Announcing as before]* Smoking isn't addictive.
- Croak-It** Nicotine's incredibly addictive both mentally and physically.
- Smoke-It** *[Announcing as before]* Passive smoking is harmless.
- Croak-It** People *die* from passive smoking.
- Smoke-It** *[Announcing as before]* The earth is flat.
- Croak-It** *[Twigs]* Oh I get it. *[Announcer like Smoke-It]* The moon is made of cheese.
- Smoke-It** *[Announcing as before]* Smoking improves your health.
- Croak-It** *[Announcing as before]* And you can bet we've never ever told a lie.
[Duo perform soft-shoe dance, repeat song then exit. You could make some business out of their bow/s – bumping into one another as they exit etc. Patrons applaud and whistle their approval as HUSKY re-enters]
- Husky** And now for all you technical buffs, you scientific sidekicks, you lovers of revealing and riveting information, it's Professor Lung-Buster! *[MUSIC BEGINS]*

No. 6 Professor Intro

[Instrumental]

- [PROF enters during music. S/he's a fruitcake. Full of facts but can't find his/her specs. They're on his/her head. The patrons love PROF. S/He knows just about everything. Patrons treat PROF with warmth and affection]*
- Prof** *[Faces upstage]* Ah, now first of all ... *[Realises and turns facing real audience]* There you are. *[Patrons laugh/applaud]* Now tobacco is a plant which was growing in South America thousands of years ago. I wasn't there at the time of course. *[Patrons laugh]* The scientific name for tobacco is *nicotiana tabacum*. *[Big Oooo from Patrons. They like this scientific big talk]* The tobacco plant and the potato plant, *solanum tuberosum*, *[Another big Oooo from Patrons]* are from the same family so fries and fags *[spuds and smokes]* are kinda like cousins. *[Patrons amused. Looking around]* Now, where's my dummy?
- Patron 1** I'm over here. *[Patrons laugh as Patron 1 joins PROF who uses the Patron as a model or dummy when referring to parts of the body]* Now keep it simple, Prof. Remember I really *am* a dummy.
- Prof** Nicotine is part of every tobacco plant and thus every cigarette and when when you smoke, nicotine is like an alarm clock.
- Patron 1** You mean it'll get me outa bed in the morning? *[Patrons laugh]*
- Prof** When you smoke, nicotine makes your body take off.
- Patron 1** *[Flapping arms]* Hey, I can fly. *[Patrons amused]*

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- Prof** *[Indicates head of Patron]* Your adrenal cortex gives you an instant shot of epinephrine which in turn stimulates other
- Patron 1** Whoa, Prof, I'm the dummy, remember? Please, keep it simple.
- Prof** Sorry. Smoking makes your heart pump faster, lowers your skin temperature and raises your blood pressure.
- Patron 1** Smoking does that?
- Prof** Smoking causes a rush of adrenalin like when you're scared or when you're standing on the stage next to a loony like me. *[Big laugh from EVERYONE]* Smoking makes you hyper.
- Patron 1** *[Excited]* I'm hyper right now.
- Prof** Your brain has neurotransmitters which facilitate messages via receptors on the postsynaptic cell.
- Patron 1** *[Again bamboozled. Frustrated]* Oh Prof, please, do me a favour.
- Prof** Sorry, sorry. Nicotine plays tricks in your head.
- Patron 1** Nicotine plays tricks?
- Prof** Yes nicotine tells your brain you like smoking and if you smoke you'll feel good.
- Patron 1** Nicotine talks to my brain?
- Prof** Even to the brain of a dummy. *[Patrons amused]* You see nicotine takes control. It has you fooled.
- Patron 1** But I'm a dummy. Anyone can fool me.
- Prof** Nicotine fools the brain of the smartest people on earth. Notice how many educated and intelligent people smoke. You see nicotine is very clever and when you smoke, it invades your brain.
- Patron 1** So smoking can kill you and nicotine's the bad guy?
- Prof** Nicotine's the *sneaky* guy. The poison in cigarettes can certainly kill you but the nicotine in cigarettes tells your brain that smoking's okay. Nicotine's a liar! Now, any questions?
- Patron 1** Yeah, I wanna ask about potatoes.
- Prof** Potatoes? I'm talking about tobacco.
- Patron 1** Yeah but you mentioned potatoes before. What effect will they have?
- Prof** Oh potatoes are completely different. They only have good effects. The sweet potato, *ipomoea batatas*, *[Big Oooo from Patrons]* and the common vegetable, *solanum tuberosum* *[Ooooo from Patrons]* are both very good ...
- Patron 1** *[Excited, grabs PROF]* Prof, Prof, Prof. I may be a dummy but I've just had the most brilliant idea.
- Prof** Oh, really?
- Patron 1** You said the tobacco plant and potato plant are related, yes?
- Prof** I did. They *are* related.
- Patron 1** And tobacco's bad for you but potatoes are good for you.
- Prof** Yes, perfectly correct. But what is your point?
- Patron 1** *[Pause. Over the moon]* How about ... potato cigarettes? *[Patrons buzz]*

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Prof What?!

Patron 1 You could smoke a spud! *[MUSIC BEGINS]*

Prof You mean puff on a potato? *[They start to exit]*

Patron 1 Boiled, steamed, mashed, fried and now smoked.
[Laughter/applause from Patrons. HUSKY enters applauding. Patron 1 and PROF exit chatting about new idea. Either or both could re-join a table]

No. 7 Professor Exit

[Instrumental]

Husky *[Lighting dims on HUSKY. Romantic lighting begins. A mirror ball perhaps]*
[Softer, more intimate] Ah romance, true love, that wonderful feeling of sweaty palms, passion and palpitations. A girl, a boy and sentimental joy. *[MUSIC BEGINS]* The Tacky Backy Cabaret lovingly presents – roll your own romance!

No. 8 Ahhh

Patrons *Ahhhh.*

[This short song is sung by the Patrons with the only word being “Ahhh”. It’s a scene setter, a mood maker. BRAD and JANE enter. They are shy young lovers. A spot picks them out. They gush. They move with exaggerated emotion. It’s almost a slow-motion drifting together of two hearts soon to become one. They finally speak as soon as the music stops]

Brad *[Love-struck]* Oh Jane.

Jane *[Love-struck]* Oh Brad.

Brad *[More intense]* Oh Jane.

Jane *[More intense]* Oh Brad.

Brad *[Even more intense. Mimics her]* Oh Brad.

Jane Oh ...*[Stops mid-sentence. Natural voice]* You said, “Oh Brad”.

Brad *[Normal voice]* Did I? *[Half laugh]* Sorry. You know I meant to say, *[Back into swoon mood]* Oh Jane.

Jane *[Back into swoon mood]* Oh Brad.

Brad *[More intense]* Oh Jane.

Jane *[More intense]* Oh Jane.

Brad Oh *[Stops mid-sentence. Natural voice]* You said, “Oh Jane”.

Jane *[Normal voice]* Did I? *[Half laugh]* Sorry. You know I meant to say, *[Back into swoon mood]* Oh Brad.

Brad Oh Jane, I think I’d like to kiss you.

Jane Oh Brad, I think I’d like to ... kiss you.

Brad *[More intense]* Oh Jane.

Jane *[More intense]* Oh Brad.

Patron 2 *[Calling from darkness]* Oh for Pete’s sake get on with it.

[Patrons amused. BRAD and JANE slightly embarrassed but now decide to kiss. Slowly they move faces closer. Tension mounts. Just as they are about to kiss, JANE suddenly pulls back. BRAD is startled]

Brad *[Upset]* Jane. Are you all right?
Jane Yes, I only thought
Brad What? Did I say something wrong?
Jane *[Turns away]* No, it's just ... *[She can't bear to tell him]*
Brad *[Goes and stands behind her]* Oh Jane, please, I really would love to ...
[He moves to kiss her neck but stops and pulls back. She turns to face him]
Jane *[Upset]* Brad. Are you all right?
Brad Yes, I only thought ...
Jane What? Did I say something wrong?
Brad *[Turns away]* No, it's just
Jane It's my hair, isn't it?
Brad *[Nods]* And it's my breath, isn't it?
Jane *[Nods]* It's that un-sexy smell of stale tobacco. *[MUSIC BEGINS]*
Brad It lingers longer.
Jane And leaves a ponger.

No. 9 Smoking Smells

[Music must begin exactly on cue as following lines are part of the song]
Brad *[Spoken]* The ads portray the manly rugged guy.
Jane *[Spoken]* The ads portray the gorgeous sexy gal.
Duet *But sometimes advertising, the facts it will deny*
Tobacco leaves a very nasty smell.
Your B O's a pain, your breath's from a drain
Your skin is much older than you are
Your teeth lose their sheen, your fingers turn green
Your body's a mess, in a hoo-ha.
Your carpet and blinds stink like horses' behinds
Your clothes have a pong somewhat tacky
No glamour in smoking your romance it's choking
Your love life is killed by tobaccy.
... your love life is killed by, no lover is thrilled by
Your passion is chilled by tobaccy. What a smell!
[BRAD and JANE perform the Backy Beguine, the song is repeated and they exit
blowing smelly kisses to one another, to wild applause from Patrons as HUSKY
enters applauding]
Husky Ah yes folks, Smokies has everything. Romance, glamour, fashion and bad
breath. But right now it's time to enter the world of mystery and intrigue. It's
time to
Fanatic *[Calling from offstage]* Nobody move.
Husky *[Not sure what's happening]* Ah, now the next act ...
Fanatic *[Enters]* This is a raid. Nobody move.
[Hubbub from Patrons. What's going on? If you have a large cast you could use extra
Fanatics who enter and move around the room. It's as if a bank raid is about to take
place]

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Husky *[Angry]* And just who the heck are you?
Fanatic *[Holding up piece of paper]* I have a wurrant to club this search.
Husky What's a wurrant?
Fanatic I'm *[We're]* from the Institute Dedicated to Incinerate and Obliterate Tobacco.
Husky Whoa, whoa, whoa. Hold everything. The Institute dedicated to what?
Fanatic The I.D.I.O.T. or, for short, IDIOT. My name's Complete and I'm looking for underage smokers.
Husky Well you won't find any here. *[To Patrons]* Right guys?
Patrons *[Cough their answer – a variety of coughs]*
Fanatic And if you *haven't* got any tiny tot tobaccoites you're in big, big trouble.
[Patrons buzz]
Husky *[Shocked]* If I *haven't* got any? Are you nuts?
Fanatic Yes, completely. We at IDIOT want kids to smoke. The younger the kid and the more they smoke the better.
[Another buzz from Patrons. HUSKY doesn't understand]
Husky You *are* an idiot.
Fanatic Stack-er-stis-tics show the average kid starts smoking aged twelve.
Husky Stack-er-stis-tics? What are you talking about?
Fanatic Stack-er-stis-tics are a stack of statistics. They prove IDIOTS are correct. You stamp out smoking by *encouraging* smoking.
[Patrons buzzing. This is bizarre. HUSKY bewildered]
Husky Listen Birdbrain, it's against the law to sell cigarettes to kids.
Fanatic We believe if a five year old smokes ...
Husky A *five-year* old!?
Fanatic Yes if a five-year old smokes a pack of cigarettes in ten minutes they'll swear off smoking for life.
Husky You're nuts!
Fanatic Smoking's cool to a ten year old only if they haven't been horribly sick beforehand.
Husky You're the one who's sick.
Fanatic It's called nip it in the butt. Kill the curiosity before smoking kills the kid. *[To Patron 2]* What about you? Do you smoke?
Patron 2 No sir *[m'am]*.
Fanatic And why not?
Patron 2 I used the IDIOT's approach when I was six and I'll never smoke again.
Fanatic Well done. *[Moves around]* And how about you?
Patron 3 My big brother made me smoke when I was only four. I threw up for hours. I hate smoking.
Husky This is crazy.
Fanatic Good for you, kid.

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Husky *[Angry]* Will you get the heck outa my club!?

Fanatic *[To HUSKY]* So make sure your club is packed with underage smokers or next time you won't be so lucky. Now, where's the nearest kindergarden? *[Exiting]*
See ya, guys. *[FANATIC/S exit]*
[Patrons wave and cough. HUSKY shaking head in astonishment returns to role as emcee]

Husky This is not called the *Tacky Backy Cabaret* for nothing. And now folks, for some genuine entertainment, please put your hands together for that great hypnotic mind-reader, Pierre Pressure.
[MUSIC BEGINS]

No. 10 Pierre Intro

[Instrumental]

[HUSKY indicates PIERRE who enters during the music. Patrons applaud and cough and PIERRE takes over. S/He could have a foreign accent pronouncing v as double u so victim and volunteer become wictim and wolunteer, etc. Three chairs are discreetly placed in position]

Pierre Good eve-a-nink, ladies and gentlemen. Tonight I wish to prove zat za human mind can do anyzing. Can I please have za wolunteer. *[Looks around. No takers]*
Come on, don't be afraid. You have nussing to lose and everyzing to gain.

Patron 4 *[Rising]* I'll have a go.

Pierre *[Applauds and Patrons join in]* Vonderful. Give him *[her]* a big round of za clapping. *[Patron 4 moves to and sits on one of three chairs]* Okay, now anyvon else?

Patron 5 *[Rising]* Yeah, count me in. *[More applause as Patron 5 sits on chair]*

Pierre Vell done. And von more.

Patron 6 I'll do it.
[Applause as Patron 6 takes the final chair. During this skit, PIERRE moves behind the trio placing a hand on a head or shoulder when appropriate]

Pierre Okay. Now please, vot iz your name? *[Hand on head/shoulder is cue]*

Patron 4 Four.

Patron 5 Five.

Patron 6 Six.

Pierre Excellent. Okay folks, now ve play za simple game. It vill be fun. No-von vill be sorry. Okay?

Trio *[Nodding, agree]* Okay ...

Pierre First you tell me vot iz za biggest vorry in your life today.

Patron 4 *[Thinking]* Ah.

Pierre Take your time. Problems maybe wiz your family or friends.

Patron 4 Well sometimes I'd like to murder my little brother. *[Patrons amused]*

Pierre Zat is perfectly normal. Little brussers are designed to annoy. Anyzing else?

Patron 4 My friends want me to start smoking.

Pierre Ah, vell zat is very interesting. Vot do your friends say?

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- Patron 4** They say I'm not cool because I don't smoke. They laugh at me and say I'm not one of them.
- Pierre** Do you vont to start smoking?
- Patron 4** No but I want to be accepted, I want to be one of the gang. If I start smoking I'll be just like them, I'll be one of them.
- Pierre** Okay, *[To Five]* Now vot about you. Vot is your problem?
- Patron 5** Getting told off by my folks. *[Patrons murmur, agree]* They're always telling me what to do and they give me heaps about not smoking. *[More agreement/understanding from Patrons]*
- Pierre** Sank you. Zat is very good. *[To Patron 6]* And you?
- Patron 6** I'm sick of bein' a dumb kid. I wanna be a grown-up, you know, mature and all that stuff. I wanna do what *I* wanna do.
- Pierre** Okay, now ve have za problems. Time to make zem go away. Are you ready?
- Patrons** *[Agree]* Yes ... I'm ready ... *etc.*
- Pierre** Now please you vill close your eyes. *[Patrons do so]* And allow your mind to stop vurrying. Concentrate. In za moment you vill go to sleep and all your vorries vill be disappearink. And Sleep.
[Snaps fingers. Three guinea pigs fall asleep. One could drop their head, another slump and the third starts to snore. PIERRE goes to the snoring patron and touches the top of their head and instantly the snoring stops]
- Pierre** *[To Patron 4]* Now ve change za rules. It iz cool to be your own boss. Underschtand?
- Patron 4** *[Trance like]* It is cool to be your own boss.
- Pierre** Professor Groucho Marx says, "If za gang vont you to be za copy cat, za gang iz not verse joinink".
- Patron 4** *[Still in trance]* If the gang want me to be a copy cat, then I'll join a gang where I can do what *I* want to do."
- Pierre** You muss be your own boss.
- Patron 4** I *am* my own boss.
- Pierre** Now, I am in your gang. Here, have za cigarette.
- Patron 4** *[Stands up, defiant, could even send chair sprawling which is replaced by nearby Patron]* Hey. Listen Bozo, if you wanna smoke, fine, but don't hang your guilt trip on me. *You* do what you wanna do. *I'll* do what *I* wanna do. What are you anyway? A robot? Do your own thing, man. Be your own person. Stand up for yourself. Take control of your *own* life. Savvy?
[Sits. Patrons applaud. PIERRE snaps fingers beside PATRON 4 who snaps out of hypnotic trance, looks a touch bewildered but is otherwise fine. PATRON 4 stands, shakes hands with PIERRE than takes his/her chair and returns to table with friends. Only two contestants remain]
- Pierre** Eggzalent. *[To Patron 5]* Now my friend, how old are you?
- Patron 5** I'm thirteen.
- Pierre** Okay but suddenly *[Claps hands once]* serte years have elapsed. How old are you now?

- Patron 5** I'm, ah, *[Coughs]* ... I'm forty-three.
- Pierre** Please to schtand up. *[Patron 5 goes to stand but has trouble]*
- Patron 5** Ah, could someone give me a hand. *[Ignored as PIERRE swoops]*
- Pierre** Now ven you were serteen you ignored your parents and started smoking.
- Patron** Yeah well advice from parents sucks.
- Pierre** Zay said you would get sick if you smoked but that voz years away.
- Patron 5** Sixteen was years away, twenty-one was outa sight and forty, hah, that was a million years away.
- Pierre** But now zat million years has gone. Now you are forty-sree. Stand up. *[Patron 5 coughs and is helped to stand]* Look at yourself. *[Patron 5 examines hands, touches face, etc]*
- Patron 5** *[Concerned]* What's happened to my skin?
- Pierre** *[Handing piece of black plastic]* Here iz za x-ray off *[sic]* your chest.
- Patron 5** *[Examining x-ray. Has it turned up the right way]* X-ray? What's happened?
- Pierre** Your lungs and arteries are kaput.
- Patron 5** *[Worried. Coughs]* Kaput?!
- Pierre** Stuffed, wrecked, had it! You have emphysema and need a triple by-pass.
- Patron 5** *[Panics]* A triple emphysema! *[sic]*
- Pierre** You ignored your parents and kept smoking. Now you vill probably die before you are old.
- Patron 5** But my youngest kid is about to start college. And my oldest kid is expecting a baby. I'm going to be grandfather. *[mother]*
- Pierre** Soon you vill be a dead grandfather *[mother]*. Sertee years of smoking has wrecked your body.
- Patron 5** *[Very worried]* But I'm too young to die. I wanna see my kids. *[Biggest distress]* I wanna see my grandkids!!
- Pierre** *[In close]* Zen remember. Za easist way to stop smoking is never to start. *[Finger snap. PATRON 5 suddenly back to earth. Smiles. Shows no signs of distress]*
- Patron 5** *[Smiles]* Hi.
- Pierre** Hi to you. Would you like a cigarette.
- Patron 5** *[Feels face, looks at skin as was done before]* Nah, no thanks. No way.
- Pierre** *[Shaking hand with PATRON 5]* Good for you. *[To COMPANY]* Please to give a big hand. *[PATRONS applaud and PATRON 5 takes chair and returns to table. Attention focuses on PATRON 6. PIERRE approaches]*
- Pierre** Za lucky last. *[PATRON 6 snores again]* Vake up please. *[Touches PATRON'S head and snoring stops]* Now I underschand you vont to be mature. You vont to grow up quickly. Is zat correct?

- Patron 6** Yeah. I'm sick of being' a kid. I wanna do grown-up stuff, act cool, rebel, be older.
- Pierre** Vy iz zat?
- Patron 6** Bein' a kid sucks. If I act like an adult I'll stop bein' a kid.
- Pierre** Vot vill you do?
- Patron 6** Take risks. Copy adults. They smoke. I'll smoke.
- Pierre** Okay but vot if I tell you smoking iz dangerous. It can make you sick and kill you.
- Patron 6** Big deal. Maybe I don't believe you. Maybe it's all baloney.
- Pierre** So if I tell you to touch a red hot piece of metal, would you do it?
- Patron 6** Of course not. Do you think I'm stupid?
- Pierre** Vy would you not touch it?
- Patron 6** Because it'll burn my hand, it'll hurt like crazy.
- Pierre** How do you know zis? Have you grabbed za red hot metal before?
- Patron 6** Listen Dumbsville, you don't have to touch it. You just know.
- Pierre** Now I have here za pen. *[Produces pen]* Would you like to hold it?
- Patron 6** Sure. *[Takes pen]* Now what?
- Pierre** May I? *[Takes pen back]* Sanks. Now zis time *[Puts pen behind back]* I have somesink else. *[Produces and offers same pen]* Vill you please take zis red hot piece of metal?
- Patron 6** *[Jumps up, frightened]* Hey. Are you nuts? Keep that away from me.
- Pierre** Vot iz vrong?
- Patron 6** Don't you know burning metal is extremely dangerous? If I touch it, the pain will be incredible.
- Pierre** How do you know? You haven't tried it?
- Patron 6** Look, you don't have to try it. There are some things you just know.
- Pierre** *[Moving closer, PATRON 6 backing off]* But you said you vont to take risks. Here's your chance. Find out if vot people say iz true. Be curious. Be a rebel.
- Patron 6** Look, keep that red hot metal away from me. I don't want anything to do with it.
- Pierre** So you know zis metal is dangerous without touching it but you don't know smoking is dangerous till you try it. Iz zat vot you are sayink?
- Patron 6** I *do* know smoking is dangerous.
- Pierre** Ah, you do know.
- Patron 6** Yes, all right, I know. But I wanna smoke so I can be like an adult.
- Pierre** But most adults don't smoke. Why copy za minority? Get wiz za strength and copy the majority.
- Patron 6** You mean most adults don't smoke?
- Pierre** Of course. Far more adults sink it's cool *not* to smoke. If you must copy adults, copy the majority who don't smoke. And hey ... *[Snaps fingers and PATRON 6 wakes up, smiles. Offers pen]* Your pen I believe.
- Patron 6** *[Takes pen]* Oh, nice one. Thanks.

Pierre *[Calling out]* Pleeze let's have za big hand for all our players.
[PATRONS 4 and 5 join 6. All three bow. Everyone applauds. HUSKY steps forward applauding. PATRONS return to being patrons]

Husky And let's here it for the hypnotic ... Pierre Pressure.
[Applause continues as MUSIC BEGINS and PIERRE takes a bow and skips off waving. Patrons settle]

No. 11 Pierre Exit

[Instrumental]

Husky And now folks, it's time for

Advertiser *[From side of stage]* Psst.

Husky *[Slightly thrown]* ... a performer you're sure to adore.

Advertiser *[Still side of stage. More insistent]* Psst.

Husky *[Breaks out of his/her routine. To ADVERTISER. Annoyed]* Oh what now? Can't you see I'm announcing?

Advertiser *[Moving forward]* I'm sorry but I need help.

Husky Don't we all? Look this is a nightclub not a charity.

Advertiser I don't want money. I want to spend it.

Husky What?

Advertiser I have to spend a million dollars. *[Buzz from Patrons]*

Husky Look if this is a wind up ...

Advertiser It's not. I'm an advertiser and I have to spend one million dollars on promoting cigarettes.

Husky Wow! Well how about magazines, billboards, theatre programs and racing cars? You could easily spend a million in those areas.

Advertiser Yeah but I've got to spend it in the next sixty minutes. *[Patrons buzz]*

Husky But why? What's the rush?

Advertiser And what'll I spend it on in the hour after that?

Husky The *next* hour?

Advertiser Yeah. Tobacco companies spend a million bucks on promotion every hour.

Husky What a million an hour for a whole day?

Advertiser No. A million an hour every hour every day for the whole year.
[Huge buzz from Patrons. HUSKY shocked]

Husky But that's not millions, that's billions!

Advertiser Exactly. And I'm desperate for ideas. I was thinking of reverse psychology.

Husky *[Shocked]* If tobacco companies *spend* billions, how much are they making?

Advertiser How about a campaign telling people what's really inside cigarettes?

Husky You're the advertiser.

Advertiser A campaign saying, "Cigarettes contain materials used to make garbage bags, rat poison, household cleaners, nail polish remover, disinfectants and embalmers' glue".

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Husky Embalmers' glue!?

Advertiser Or we could show hospital patients with one lung removed still puffing on their cigarettes. *[Announcing]* "Cigarettes are powerful".

Husky Do you really spend a million every hour?

Advertiser And get your kid a jacket with a tobacco symbol and she or he'll be four times more likely to smoke.

Husky Have you seen the time?

Advertiser *[Checks watch]* Oh no! I've got half an hour to spend a million bucks!

Husky Try the Institute Dedicated to Incinerate and Obliterate Tobacco.

Advertiser *[Exiting]* Who?

Husky I.D.I.O.T.

Advertiser Oh IDIOT. Great idea. Thanks. *[Exits]*

Husky *[Back into announcing acts]* And now it's time for sophistication, for elegance and style and here to raise our standards and lift our class, let's have a big but polite hand for the hostess with the most press, Netty Ket! *[MUSIC BEGINS. HUSKY indicates as NETTY enters and PATRONS applaud. HUSKY retires into darkness. The cigarettes used in this scene as elsewhere will not be real cigarettes. Use pretend cigarettes which can be small pieces of white cardboard with a green tip]*

No. 12 Netty's Entrance

[Instrumental]

Netty Good evening ladies and gentle-men. *[NETTY doesn't need to look behind here. Two "slavish" devotees have a high-backed elegant chair behind her so she may safely and elegantly sit. Devotees move upstage ready to attend to the boss's every whim. Lights concentrate on NETTY]* Tonight's lecture is on the refined art of smoking. Ladies, if you'd be so kind.
[Three chairs come forward and three female patrons take a seat] Now students, the first thing is style. *[DEVOTEE steps forward and whispers in NETTY'S ear. She is shocked]* Oh good gracious.

Husky *[Steps forward. Concerned]* Netty, is anything wrong?

Netty It appears that awful political correctness has reared its ugly head. Apparently I must have a male person in my class. *[PATRONS react]*

Husky Well surely that's not a problem?

Netty But my class is for the right class. A gentleman if you please.

Husky Of course. *[To Patrons]* Could we have a gentlemen volunteer?

Slob *[Coming forward. Chair provided]* No worries, mate. I'll be in anything.
[SLOB is a rough male. His clothes, speech, hair and demeanor make him the exact opposite of the type of student who would attend a lecture from the Netty Ket School of Charm. NETTY is horrified. Everyone is horrified]

Netty This is outrageous.

Slob Don't you worry about me, love. I'll be as good as gold. *[Sniffs then wipes his nose with his sleeve. PATRONS react. NETTY horrified]*

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- Netty** *[Recovering, just]* Right class, the art of smoking. There are certain rules which every cultured person will follow. Let us start with the equipment. First the case. *[From her stylish handbag NETTY produces a silver or gold cigarette case]* We keep our cigarettes in a stylish case and never, ever use those dreadful packets. Cases please.
[Patrons 7, 8 and 9 each produce an appropriate cigarette case]
- Slob** Ah sorry love. *[Produces plastic pouch]* I've got me tobacco in 'ere so's I can roll me own! *[CLASS and NETTY horrified]* Oh and I keep 'em under me sleeve *[Demonstrates placing package under t-shirt sleeve]*
- Netty** *[Trying to ignore the hoon]* Now the art of lighting one's cigarette. First we remove our cigarette.
[NETTY and CLASS remove a cigarette each. SLOB quickly rolls his own using chopped celery leaves or similar in lieu of tobacco]
- Slob** *[With cigarette paper in mouth]* Not too fast, love. Gotta roll me own y'know. *[By now SLOB is ignored. He is so out of place at such a refined gathering the others pretend he doesn't exist. Well they try to pretend]*
- Netty** Do not light your own cigarette. Always accept a light from another and always from a fashionable and expensive lighter. Cheap lighters are not acceptable and we do not even mention those dreadful matches. So let us light our cigarette.
[The lighting of course doesn't actually happen and everything is simply mimed. One of the Patrons and NETTY light each other's cigarette and the other two Patrons do likewise for each other. The female quartet are now seated holding a pretend lit cigarette]
- Slob** Ah, scuse me, love. Gotta light. *[Patron 9 horrified but reluctantly produces lighter]* Nah, just give us y'smoke. *[More horror]*
- Netty** Do you mind?
- Slob** This is a good trick, love. Youse can bung it in y'show. *[SLOB mimes lighting his roll your own cigarette from Patron 9's cigarette then hands back the cigarette]* Just light y'smoke from y'mate's smoke. Or y'own.
[SLOB resumes his seat]
- Netty** *[Will NETTY survive the moron?]* Now we come to the position. Never place the cigarette in the sides of your mouth and never, ever leave the cigarette in your mouth. The cigarette goes to centre front and the hand moves so.
[NETTY demonstrates. Cigarette to front of her mouth, pretend puff and then immediately cigarette is removed with broad sweep of hand to one side] It's centre front, puff, retire. So, everyone ... and ...
[Each member of the class performs the routine perfectly. SLOB puts cigarette in corner of his mouth and leaves it there]
- Slob** Sorry love. If I keeps me fag in me gob, I can use me hands for pourin' a beer or pickin' me nose or scratchin' me backside.
[Is there no end to the crude and moronic behaviour of the slob SLOB?]

Smokies 19

- Netty** One of the definite no-nos in smoking is to allow the cigarette to burn beyond halfway. A cigarette butt is revolting and should never be smoked.
- Slob** I'll have 'em. Give us y'butts. *[Pause. Sees them staring - polite]* Ah, please.
- Netty** Now exhaling. The smoke is always exhaled through the mouth and never the nose.
- Slob** I've got a mate who can blow it out his ears.
- Netty** You turn your head in the opposite direction from your cigarette and exhale politely and with dignity like so. *[NETTY demonstrates the centre front, puff, remove cigarette to one side routine then turns her head in opposite direction and exhales]* Let me see you from the top ... and ...
[The three female students perform the routine in sync, same direction and as instructed. SLOB has a drag from the corner of his mouth, leaves the cigarette in his mouth and upon exhaling goes into a brief coughing fit. It sounds terrible. The OTHERS are doing their best to totally ignore him]
- Netty** Now hostess rules at home. Large, fashionable ashtrays should be placed conveniently around the room. Never use small ashtrays and never allow them to gather discarded cigarettes.
- Slob** Youse can stick 'em in the pot plants when no-one's lookin'. And if youse wanna keep 'em, *[Demonstrates]* you stub 'em out on y'boot then slip 'em behind y'ear like this. *[Does so]*
- Netty** Always place deodorisers discreetly around the room.
- Slob** I just open a flamin' window.
- Netty** And remember, style will always in fashion. *[MUSIC BEGINS]*

No. 13 Puff Politely

[Song is polite and refined. SLOB contributes by commenting/coughing crudely as indicated. His coarse behaviour clashes with the refined performance of NETTY and students. During dance section, SLOB and a reluctant NETTY waltz in a sublime yet ridiculous pairing. The supposed elegance of refined smoking and the deadly ingredients of tobacco]

- Netty** *Smoking once was fashionable
Gentlemen may smoke. [Slob says "beautie"]
Ladies too then puffed away
Everyone could choke. [Slob has coughing attack]
But currently 'tis frowned upon
And rage it may provoke
So if you wish to light up these tips are okey-doke.
Puff politely, exhale with style
Manners are important though the product's vile.
Hold at a distance, butt out with stealth
Etiquette's essential, pity 'bout your health.
Puff, puff, puff with style
Puff politely, puff then smile.*

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*Puff, puff away your wealth
Puff, puff, pity 'bout your health.*

[There is a dance break in the style of a romantic waltz. During dance intro from bar 42, SLOB could say, "Come on ladies, time for the Smokers' Waltz". NETTY gets lumbered with the obnoxious SLOB and they are surprisingly good. Chorus is repeated with the counter-melody after which NETTY and her students and SLOB then exit. They could bounce on for a bow if required. HUSKY claps them off as he returns to introduce next act]

Husky Ah yes folks, we've got everything on the bill at Smokies. From the world of ventriloquists, let's have a real smokin' welcome for ... Vent and Kent! *[MUSIC BEGINS]*

No. 14 Kent 'n Vent Intro

[Instrumental]

[Patrons applaud. HUSKY exits indicating the new act. VENT enters carrying KENT who is a doll dressed as a cigarette. VENT has his/her hand in the back of KENT so as to work the doll's mouth. Patrons applaud. If necessary VENT could sit with KENT on his/her knee or else VENT stands holding KENT. The voice of KENT is another voice made by VENT - just in case you thought the talking cigarette was real! VENT addresses the real audience although responses come from the patrons – the acting audience. This is a challenge for the actor as s/he plays two roles and speaks one of the roles with a near closed mouth!]

Vent Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Are you all well? *[Patrons cough]*
Excellent. Glad to hear it. As always we're delighted to be with you here at Smokies. Aren't we Kent?

Kent No.

Vent We always feel right at home here ... *[Surprised, turns on KENT]* Did you say 'yes'?

Kent No.

Vent No?

Kent Yes.

Vent Hey listen wiseguy, are you trying to be funny?

Kent Trying. Not succeeding.

Vent It's very rude to be rude. We're guests in this club and should always be grateful for getting this gig.

Kent Liar.

Vent Liar!?

Kent In the dressing-room you said you hated this place.

Vent How dare you.

Kent You called it a dump.

Vent That's a blatant lie.

Kent The truth is very important. Why don't you tell the truth?

Vent I always tell the truth.

Kent You don't.

Vent I do.
Kent You don't.
Vent I do.
Kent And you mislead people.
Vent I'd like to mislead you.
Kent I'm just a doll, a dummy. It's not me talking. It's you. Why won't you tell the truth?
Vent Right, that's enough.
Kent Ventriloquism is like smoking.
Vent Oh very funny. Ventriloquism is like smoking. How so, professor?
Kent Everyone knows I'm just a doll but they pretend I'm real.
Vent And what has that got to do with smoking?
Kent Everyone knows smoking kills but the law says it's legal.
Vent Oh so now you want to change the law? Any other earth-shattering requests?
Kent Just stop the lies. Tell the truth. The doll's a doll and smoking kills.
Vent Listen Butt-Features, you're a hypocrite. You only say what suits you. I've never once heard you say "bottle of beer".
Kent There you go again. Deceiving. Misleading.
Vent Don't change the subject. Why won't you say "bottle of beer".
Kent I only say what you say. I'm a doll. Stop pretending otherwise.
Vent I'm warning you. Stop this ridiculous behaviour or our partnership is over.
Kent Oh very funny. Just stick me in the suitcase.
Vent I mean it. All this baloney about smoking being dangerous. You're a dummy and dummies don't think.
Kent Just like the rest of the world.
Vent Right, that's it. You've made me the butt of your jokes for the last time. *[Starts to exit. Tries to fold KENT who struggles]*
Kent Help! Help! He's turning nasty. *[Continues to struggle]*
Husky *[Enters, uncertain]* Hey, Vent, is everything okay?
Vent *[Stops struggling with KENT]* Oh Maestro Husky. I do apologise for my friend's outrageous behaviour.
Kent Free speech! Let's stop pretending!
Vent Be quiet. *[To HUSKY]* I promise this will never happen again. He's got some crazy notion that society should speak up about smoking.
Husky Maybe he's got a point.
Kent See I told you. Let's be open and honest.
Vent And he was supposed to sing a song called *Bottle of Beer* but now he refuses.
Kent I don't refuse. You won't let me.
Husky We've got the time.
Kent Tell the truth. I'm just a doll and cigarettes are full of poison!

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Vent *[To audience]* Next time, folks, I'll perform with my new partner Barbarella. Thanks again and good night! *[Starts to exit]*

Kent You can't say that. A vent can't say that name!

Husky *[Applauding]* Let's hear it for Vent 'n Kent!
[MUSIC BEGINS. Patrons applaud. KENT keeps calling as he departs]

No. 15 We're Makin' Money

Kent Stop pretending. I'm just a doll. Smoking sucks! Ahh!! *[Fades away]*
[HUSKY keeps speaking as the following dialogue and business happens whilst the music is playing. Time it well]

Husky And now folks let's welcome some stars in the world of tobacco. Representing billions of smokers it's ... the smoker!
[SMOKER or Patron 10 enters with wheelbarrow or supermarket trolley full of padded bags each with a dollar or pound sign clearly marked on each bag. SMOKER lines up facing audience. A sign SMOKERS is on the trolley. The next dozen or so speeches continue over music. The music plus dialogue is meant to create a mood of activity. It's big bucks, there's a lot happening. There is no pause between the speeches]

Husky And representing the business side of the tobacco industry it's ... the Executive.
[Executive in flash suit enters and acknowledges applause from audience. Music continues underneath. EXECUTIVE lines up beside SMOKER. EXECUTIVE pushes an empty trolley with the sign TOBACCO COMPANIES]

Husky And from the hallowed halls of government representing the voters of our great land, it's ... Polly Tission!
[POLLY enters waving, lapping up applause, lines up beside EXECUTIVE. POLLY and EXECUTIVE shake hands and POLLY leans over and shakes hands with SMOKER. SMOKER moves more. Like EXECUTIVE, POLLY pushes an empty trolley which displays a sign POLITICAL PARTIES]

Husky And finally that purveyor of principle, that student of jurisprudence, please welcome ... the Lawyer.
[LAWYER enters wheeling empty wheelbarrow or supermarket trolley and waves then settles alongside POLLY. Sign on Lawyer's trolley reads LAWYERS. More handshakes and HUSKY retires. Music continues]

Smoker *[Speech to audience]* I represent smokers. Every day we spend millions on cigarettes and heaps of this money goes to tobacco companies.
[SMOKER takes two bags of money from wheelbarrow or trolley and places them in trolley of the EXECUTIVE. No pauses between the speeches]

Executive I represent tobacco companies. Smoking laws may change and to help protect our interests, we make legal donations to political parties.
[EXECUTIVE takes one bag of money from wheelbarrow or trolley and places it in POLLY's trolley. Keep speeches moving]

Smokies 23

Polly I represent politicians. We make the laws. We always listen to what the voters say and are very grateful to generous donors. *[EXECUTIVE and POLLY shake hands and exchange pleasantries. LAWYER doesn't pause but gets on with the next speech]*

Lawyer I represent lawyers and when someone is sick or injured because of a dangerous product, we do our best to see that justice is done. *[SMOKER coughs. LAWYER holds up or flips over the sign on his/her trolley so that it now reads LAWYER FOR HIRE. SMOKER takes another sack of cash and moves to place it in LAWYER'S trolley. Music swells and the song commences. During song, SMOKER races back to original position, gives two bags of money to EXECUTIVE who gives one of these to POLLY. SMOKER rushes throughout, grabs bag and takes it to LAWYER then races back to original position to repeat the process. This goes on and on. At first POLLY, EXECUTIVE and LAWYER sing]*

Trio

*You smoke and choke, for us that's okey-doke
You bet because we're makin' money
You need the weed, keep smoking's what we plead
Oh please because we're makin' money.
Nicotine's addictive, a habit hard to ditch
Smokers all get stinking but we're just stinking rich
Go on and puff that stuff, too much is not enough
You bet because we're makin' money.
Rolling in it. Loaded. Comfortable. Millions.
Filthy rich. Bundle. Affluent. Tobacco!
You puff that stuff, too much is not enough
You bet because we're makin' money.
.... We're makin', we're rakin', we're makin' money!*

[During the song SMOKER is the one doing all the work. Back and forth delivering dough which is shared among the other three. SMOKER coughs due to his/her habit and the business of running back and forth. From bar 123 marked "Business" you can add a little theatre. Various patrons enter holding placards about tobacco e.g. Millions of cigarettes sold every day Billions of dollars/pounds spent on advertising cigarettes every year Tobacco companies make donations to political parties etc. For the latest figures, check web pages. This information could be proclaimed by patrons as they hold up their placard. You could broadcast such facts on a PA with slides showing the information in print. Make it dramatic. The song is then repeated at bar 154 with everyone joining in. The three "baddies" exit during the tag pushing their full-with-money trolleys. SMOKER struggles at the end of the line with a cough and no money. HUSKY enters as the quartet exit. Patrons applaud]

Husky And now it's time for some tricks, some tips, some problem-solving mysteries and some magic. Let's have a magical Smokies welcome for ... Nick O'Teen. *[MUSIC BEGINS]*

No. 16 Nick's Intro

[Instrumental]

[Orchestra plays. More applause, whistles as NICK enters and bows. S/He pulls long cloth from a pocket, a bunch from flowers pops out of another and an egg is plucked from his/her hair. Use two or three cheap, simple tricks. Much gasping and applause from enthusiastic Patrons. Props are quickly tossed and/or collected by assistant/patron]

Nick Folks, I'm a magician and let me tell you my secret. There's often a simple answer to how magic work. All it takes is a lot of practice and a willingness to have a go. So, let's try a routine and say hi to tonight's volunteers.

[Applause from Patrons as three volunteers move from their seats in the nightclub and join Nick centre stage]

Nick Right now, let's have your fabulous stage names.

Patron 10 I'm Ten.

Patron 11 Eleven.

Patron 12 And I'm Twelve.

Nick Wonderful. Now Ten I'd like you over here please. *[TEN moves to one side]* And Eleven you can stay here. *[ELEVEN moves centre]* And Twelve, you can go here. *[Helps TWELVE move to the other side]* Now here's the task. Ten you help Twelve. Twelve you help Eleven. And Eleven you help Ten. Got that?

Patron 10 Sure but help them do what?

Nick Ah, that's the problem. But first let's add something. *[Chair produced for TEN who sits. NICK moves to TEN and is handed a rope. This could be prepared already in a coil. Rope placed over/around TEN pinning arms and body to chair]* Okay Ten, you need to go and help Twelve. Can you do that?

Patron 10 *[Struggles]* No, I need help.

Nick So Eleven, it's your job to help Ten.

Eleven That's easy. *[Starts to move]* I can undo

Nick Whoa, whoa, whoa! *[ELEVEN stops]* Hold everything. First we need to add something.

[Assistant hands blindfold to NICK who places it over ELEVEN'S eyes. The blindfold could have velcro strips for quick application. ELEVEN should actually be able to see although the real audience will not know this. Patrons get involved and buzz or murmur when some action occurs]

Eleven Hey I can't see.

Nick Just relax. We haven't started yet. Now Twelve you need to help Eleven.

Twelve *[Starts towards ELEVEN]* That's a cinch. I can ...

Nick Hold it. *[TWELVE stops]* Back to your possie *[position]* please. *[TWELVE returns]* First we need to add something.

[NICK moves to TWELVE. Assistant pushes rucksack forward and helps NICK. It is stuffed with paper and bulging but we pretend it is full of books]

Twelve You're not going to make me carry that?
Nick This rucksack contains a huge pile of books and you need to take them back to the library, so [*Rucksack placed on TWELVE'S back*] up we go!
[Much groaning as rucksack is lifted. TWELVE staggers under the load and could even drop on his/her knees]

Twelve Hey, you've got to be joking. This is heavy!
Nick Okay folks, you know the rules. Ten you help Twelve. Twelve you help Eleven and Eleven you help Ten. Ready? Go!

No. 17 Nick's Nightmare

[Instrumental]

[MUSIC BEGINS. TEN struggles and calls to ELEVEN for help. ELEVEN wanders near but not to TEN. ELEVEN calls to TWELVE to guide him/her. TWELVE calls to TEN to come and help. All this happens simultaneously. Lots of calling. "Over here" "Where are you?" "No, to your left" etc. It lasts a short while. When the music stops the trio has failed. No-one has been able to help the other. NICK calls a halt and his assistant quickly releases the rope, blindfold and rucksack. Once free TRIO members join NICK centre stage]

Nick A big hand folks for our courageous volunteers. [*Patrons applaud*] Now that was a fairly simple task. But when Nick O'Teen gets a grip, what looks simple becomes very hard. Outsmarting Nick O'Teen is never easy. And it's exactly the same when you decide to quit smoking.

Ten I get it. A smoker quits by being tied up. They can't get their hands free to have a cigarette.

Nick Well that's not quite what I had in mind.
Eleven I think the blindfold means the smoker is blind to ... no, I don't understand at all.

Twelve If that rucksack represented the difficulty of quitting, then I pity the poor smoker.

Nick Excellent. But don't pity them, help them. You see there are two things a smoker has to have when they decide to quit smoking. One, a reason and two, a plan. So, any ideas?

Ten A reason could be to improve your health.
Nick Great reason. Remember that smoking kills.
Eleven Or to save money.
Nick Too right. Quitters save a small fortune.
Twelve Or to stop your family getting sick from passive smoking and nagging you about smelly breath.

Nick Exactly. There are heaps of reasons to quit. But Nick O'Teen is tough. The nicotine in every cigarette is one of the most addictive substances in the world. And to beat it, you also need a plan.

Ten We might have solved our problem before if we'd worked together.

Nick Brilliant. A plan could mean working with a friend or friends.
Eleven I've heard there are lots of support services for smokers who want to quit.
Twelve The Internet has heaps of tips.
Nick It does. And so too does the Quit Campaign*. [*Insert name of local anti-smoking help service. To audience. MUSIC BEGINS*] It's all true folks, the Nick O'Teen nightmare can become the healthy, smoke free life. Millions have quit. And you can quit too. All you need is a reason and a plan. So come on and go for it.

No. 18 You Can Quit

Nick *If you don't smoke be smart don't start
If you now smoke you can quit.
It sure ain't easy, you'll feel quite queasy
And crave that nicotine hit.
You'll need a good reason to quit and a plan
Now millions have done it, you must and you can
So if you don't smoke be smart don't start
If you now smoke you can quit.*

[The Virginia Fats enter at bar 49 and join the final song. You could even have all the other main characters do likewise. At bar 49 some or all of your cast could move into the audience and distribute a memento of your production. This could be a flyer or card with information about how to quit or the dangers of smoking or both. Make it friendly and non-threatening.

The song ends and the Curtain Calls begin. Having everyone on stage requires either that the principals exit to re-enter for their bows or simply that the principals move back and upstage and allow the bows to take place by moving forward at the appropriate time. Use simple choreography. Here is a suggested list of the order of your bows. Have fun]

Bar 8 – group/s of patrons
Bar 16 – another group/s of patrons
Bar 25 – The Virginia Fats
Bar 33 – Columbus and Vox Pop
Bar 40 – Fanatic, Advertiser and Professor
Bar 44 – Smoke-It & Croak-It
Bar 48 – Brad & Jane
Bar 52 – Netty & Slob
Bar 56 – Vent 'n Kent
Bar 62 - Lawyer, Polly, Executive & Smoker
Bar 70 – Pierre & Nick
Bar 78 – Husky

No. 19 Curtain Calls

Company *It's the Tacky Backy cabaret, puffing along for you
It's the Tacky Backy cabaret, hip, hip hooray and how do you do
We'll light up your life, we'll glow in the dark
We're more than a match for any bright spark
It's the Tacky Backy cabaret, puffing along for you.*

*If you wanna sell some tobacco stuff
You've gotta lie, lie, lie.
And if you wanna get young kids to puff
You've gotta lie, lie, lie.
You've gotta fib 'n fudge but with dexterity
Evade, deceive with false sincerity
If you wanna sell some cigarettes
You've gotta lie, lie, lie.*

*If you don't smoke be smart don't start
If you now smoke you can quit.
It sure ain't easy, you'll feel quite queasy
And crave that nicotine hit.
You'll need a good reason to quit and a plan
Now millions have done it, you must and you can
So if you don't smoke be smart don't start
If you now smoke you can quit.*

No. 20 Payout
[Orchestra]

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Music

A musical about music. 70 minutes of fun, action, education, entertainment and more fun. The show is divided into sections which make rehearsals a breeze.

There are the scientists explaining how we hear music, pre-historic folk showing how music was invented, the maestro demonstrating music, the dancing notes, the supermarket shopper "embracing" wallpaper music. *"They give you Gershwin by the gherkin, they let Lloyd Webber loose above the fruit."* There are the all-singing musical instruments, the fabulous musical styles [rock, latin, blues and ragtime], the famous composers [Beethoven, Bach, Mozart and Tchaikovsky] performing a barbershop quartet. *"We're classical chaps, we're yesterday's heroes who still hang around today."*

And then there's the fascinating finale - a musical work about musical language. When you sing about legato, you sing *legato*. Or staccato, rallentando and accelerando. When you sing about presto you perform at that tempo. It's brilliant.

*"Mezzo forte, hemiola, modulation [change key here]
Semi-quaver, hurdy-gurdy, syncopation [off the beat here]
Passionato, tremolando, rallentando [pull back here]
Enharmonic, pianissimo, accelerando" [get faster here]*

And there's even an excerpt from John Cage's silent show piece. Music is silence too!

Heaps of principal roles with lots of doubling if required. Tons of chorus work. One simple set, can use adults and children as performers and is an ideal show for any group which enjoys their music. Sing, sing, sing with *Music!*

