



Preview Script

*Crazy Capers,
Dodgy Deals*

A Musical Play by Chris Goy

With some additional musical contributions by Dave Ross

Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals

By Chris Goy

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Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals

Synopsis

Frankie 'the fingers' Fuller and his 'intellectually challenged' sidekick John 'Duggs' McGee book into the Grand Hotel one weekend with the sole intention of tunnelling through to the bank next door. Having asked for Room 1 or 2, their first disappointment is to find that Reception have misheard their request and they have been placed in Room 102 (one-oh-two) on the third floor instead. It gets worse when they then discover their old school has organised a reunion that weekend in the very same hotel!

Nice guy' Tony Richards meets up with his childhood sweetheart Karen at the reunion, but unfortunately he's now engaged to the totally unsuitable 'social climber' Veronica. Timeshare salesman Vince is none too pleased to see his old enemy Tony again, and when they both turn up to the fancy dress party as Batman this is the last straw for Vince. The hippy couple Pearl and Dean do their best to keep the peace, but it's no easy task.

Meanwhile, Frankie and Duggs have switched plan, and are now tunnelling through to the bank from the ladies' loos. Unfortunately, this means that they have to spend half their time dressed in drag. They pinch the dresses and shoes from the two 'wallflowers' Janet and Jane, who coincidentally are starting to get rather keen on Frankie and Duggs. Confusion reigns when the girls think the 'slappers' (Frankie and Duggs in drag) are actually rivals for the affections of Frankie and Duggs. In true farce tradition, Frankie and Duggs are interrupted returning the dresses and shoes, and have to hide in the girls' bedroom while the girls discuss their manly merits!

Maria, the dissatisfied chamber maid helps Vince make trouble between Tony and Veronica, but it all backfires and Karen and Tony end up not speaking to each other, and then take out their aggression in the Men v Women hockey match that has been organised.

The audience are reduced to helpless fits of laughter when Janet and Jane come into the Ladies while Frankie and Duggs are locked in a cubicle. Thinking it is the two slappers, they completely misinterpret Frankie and Duggs' conversation in a scene that is one of the highlights of the show. Later, Veronica overhears the burglars in the Ladies and gets to know about the tunnel through to the bank. She quickly ditches Tony and teams up with Vince to cheat Frankie and Duggs out of the loot. There is an hilarious scene in the tunnel where Frankie, Duggs, Vince and Veronica all collide in the darkness, and then start negotiating a very dodgy deal to split the loot. Meanwhile, Tony is now free to be led by his heart (and with a little help from Pearl and Dean!) into the arms of Karen.

The play concludes with the four conspirators being discovered arguing over the loot in the hotel lobby in the dead of night. The rest of the cast have been roused from their beds by the noise. It turns out that the stolen money is all pre-decimal notes, and the country has just gone decimal so the loot is worthless! Everyone ends up happy, even Frankie and Duggs who are just pleased to get out of the deal with the awesome Veronica. Janet and Jane decide to reform the two burglars and take them 'under their wing', Vince and Veronica see a rosy future together as a ruthless team, and Karen and Tony finally become a couple!

The Setting

It's 1971 and the 'Class of '65' are gathering in The Grand Hotel of some seaside resort for their school reunion! The mini-midi-maxi skirt battle is in full swing, with Hot Pants and platform shoes sandwiched somewhere in-between. Meanwhile, the suits have flared up like a bad rash!

Frankie and Duggs arrive in the middle of all this, bent on a little bit of burglary. Boy, are they in for a big surprise....

Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals

List of Characters

Frankie ‘the fingers’ Fuller	Sees himself as a master criminal but is actually just a common crook in a cheap suit.
John ‘Duggs’ McGee	Classic ‘swag bag’ burglar, and happy with his lot. Intellectually limited.
Tony	An all round nice guy, well-liked by everyone, except Vince! Successful but modest, he is engaged to Veronica but has unresolved questions about the future.
Karen	An all round nice girl, equally well-liked by everyone! Shy but determined, she has fond memories of Tony from her school days.
Veronica	Engaged to Tony. Social climber. Knows what she wants and ruthless enough to get it.
Vince	Medallion Man! Chip on his shoulder over Tony’s success. Tries too hard at everything.
Janet	Man hungry wallflower. Would love to be trendy but just hasn’t got the nerve!
Jane	Also a man hungry wallflower. Inseparable from Janet and follows her lead in everything.
Pearl	A hippy chick.
Dean	A hippy dude.
Mr Bently	Hotel Manager.
Sam	Hotel waiter.
Maria	Hotel waitress.
Sergeant Sharp	}
Constable Perkins	} Three incompetent policemen
Constable Postelthwaite	}
Flynn	Referee of hockey match
Harriet	}
Sonia	} Female hockey players / hotel guests
Tracey	}
Julie	}
Richard	}
Alan	} Male hockey players / hotel guests
Terry	}
James	}
A pantomine horse	
A spaceman	

+ any number of ‘extras’ from the ‘class of ’65’ who appear in the chorus numbers, the fancy dress party, and form the crowd at the hockey match.

+ a dedicated dance troupe can perform in the main numbers and act as ‘cheerleaders’ for the hockey match

Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals

Scene Guide

Act I (Approx. 55min)

- Scene 1** A dark room somewhere! Frankie and Duggs plan the heist.
- Scene 2** The hotel lobby. Frankie and Duggs check in and discover all their old school mates are there as well. **Song: Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals.**
- Scene 3** The hotel lobby. Everyone meets up and gets introduced.
- Scene 4** The Burglars' bedroom. Frankie and Duggs come to terms with their 'disappointment' and hatch a new plan. **Song: Burglars' Bungle.**
- Scene 5** The hotel ballroom. The fancy dress party is in full swing, but Vince and Tony have both come as Batman. **Song: Power to the Petals.**
- Scene 6** The Burglars' bedroom, moving into the hotel lobby. Frankie and Duggs are dressed in drag, but unfortunately they bump into Janet and Jane in the lobby.
- Scene 7** Vince's bedroom. Maria the maid helps Vince plot his revenge.
- Scene 8** Janet and Jane's bedroom. Frankie and Duggs are returning the dresses to the wallflower's room when the girls turn up by surprise and discuss their affections for the men.
- Scene 9** The hotel lobby. Tony and Karen receive 'anonymous' letters from Vince, inviting them to a late night meeting on the Moonlit Terrace. **Song: Should I Or Shouldn't I?**
- Scene 10** Vince brings Veronica to witness the 'illicit' meeting of Tony and Karen, but it all goes wrong for him and Tony leaves with Veronica. **Song: Karen's Song.**

Act II (Approx. 55min)

- Scene 1** **Song: We need Men!** The hotel lobby. Pearl and Dean try to patch things up between Tony and Karen.
- Scene 2** The hotel gardens. The riotous Men v Women Hockey Match. **Song: The Hockey Whack Thwack (Hockey Match version).**
- Scene 3** The ladies' loos. Janet and Jane hear some very strange noises coming from one of the cubicles! Veronica later overhears the burglars' plan.
- Scene 4** Tony's bedroom. Veronica tries to tempt Tony into a crazy caper, but he wants no part of it.
- Scene 5** The hotel lobby. Mr Bently sees Frankie and Duggs coming out of the ladies, dressed in drag. **Song: Domestic Blues.**
- Scene 6** The hotel bar. Veronica readily recruits Vince as her partner in crime. **Song: Gonna Be Rich!**
- Scene 7** The Moonlit Terrace. Pearl and Dean finally reconcile Tony and Karen. **Song: "Swallows Returning In May".**
- Scene 8** The tunnel between the ladies' loos and the bank. The four conspirators meet up in the darkness of the tunnel. Frankie and Duggs are not happy!
- Scene 9** The hotel lobby. Whilst arguing over the loot, the conspirators are discovered by Mr Bently and the rest of the cast. **Songs: Reprise of "Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals" and "The Hockey Whack Thwack"** (Full vocal version).

Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals - ACT I

Scene 1

A dark room somewhere. There is a table with an overhead projector on it, a screen which has not been rolled down, and two chairs. Lighting minimal in accordance with safety. On the OHP is a transparency of plans showing adjacent buildings marked 'Hotel' and 'Bank'. Between the two buildings, crudely drawn on is a tunnel and marked 'TUNEL' (sic).

Music Cue #1: "Burglars' Bungle" Theme

Frankie 'the fingers' Fuller and John 'Duggs' McGee enter in the darkness. Duggs is dressed as typical comic burglar – striped tee-shirt etc. complete with bag marked SWAG. As the music stops, the OHP is turned on.

Frankie Right! Let's get down to business. Get the screen sorted Duggs.

Duggs Gotcha!

Duggs pulls the screen down and attempts to fasten it, but it rolls back up. He tries again with the same results.

Frankie *(Sighs)* Bleedin' 'eck Duggs! Get a grip on it won't yer!

Duggs 'Tain't my fault Frankie...I know what.

Duggs gets his swagbag and uses it to weigh down screen.

Frankie Must you take that swagbag everywhere you go?

Duggs Just trying to be professional Frankie.

Frankie What have you got inside it anyway?

Duggs *(Embarrassed)* Nuthin'. Only some essential papers.

Frankie Like what?

Duggs reluctantly produces from the bag a toilet roll.

Frankie What the 'eck...?

Duggs Look, you know what I'm like after a curry. There's no knowing what this hotel food will be like. It's best to be prepared.

Frankie *(Groans)* Gawd 'elp us. And to think, I'll be sharing a room with you. Just get over here can't you?

The projected plans have actually been placed upside down.

Duggs *(Excitedly pointing)* Right then! So this 'ere's the bank!

Frankie sighs and turns the plans the right way up.

Frankie No Duggs, this is the bank.

Duggs Oh, right. Gotcha!

Frankie Now this is what happens. We check into the hotel on the Friday night. We must get Room 1 or Room 2. It doesn't matter which but it has to be one of them 'cause they're right next door to the bank. We tunnel through here *(points)*. Should easily be through by the Sunday night. Get the loot, check out pronto, and by the time the bank re-opens on Monday morning yooze and meeze is well out of it!

Duggs It's brilliant Frankie! It's a stroke of genius! It's...uh-oh. I've just 'ad a thought.

Frankie Now don't exaggerate Duggs! *(Laughs at own joke, but in silence that follows becomes uncomfortable until.)* Well what?

Duggs Well, what if the maid comes in to tidy up and sees the tunnel. She won't 'alf be mad at all the mess. Think of the carpet! Had you thought of that?

Frankie *(Obviously flustered)* Course I have. Obviously I thought of that.

Duggs So...?

Frankie Well, ... er ... it's easy, ...um ...*(suddenly inspired)* We put a 'Do Not Disturb' sign on the door!

Duggs It's brilliant Frankie! It's a stroke of genius! It's...

Frankie *(Interrupting)* Yeah right. Now listen! You ring the hotel and book us in, and don't forget, we've got to have Room 1 or Room 2.

Duggs You can rely on me Frankie, you know that.

Frankie Oh yeah! I can rely on you to botch it up somehow.

Duggs Aw, don't be like that Frankie. I ain't got nuthin' wrong since the last time I got sumthin' wrong.

Frankie Quelle surprise!

Duggs Yer what?

Frankie It's a well known Spanish expression.

Duggs Yeah well I only did French at school so I don't know what yer on about.

Frankie You know Duggs, you really ought to expand your vocabulary.

Duggs Look, stick to plain English can't yer! Expand me what?

Frankie *(Sighs)* Never mind. Just get us booked in that hotel.

Duggs Consider it done!

Frankie Oh and Duggs, you are going to change before we check in aren't you?

Duggs Course I am! I ain't thick you know! Give us some credit!

Music Cue#2: "Burglars' Bungle" Theme.

Frankie turns off OHP and both exit in darkness to music.

Scene 2

Curtain opens on a brightly lit hotel reception set. Typical 1971 décor (lava lamps etc.). Sam and Mr Bently are behind reception desk (stage left) and Maria leans on an old style Hoover vacuum cleaner (stage right). The backcloth should extend the lobby area into an elaborate ballroom suite. Mantovani type music plays very softly up to point of song.

Mr Bently Mmm ... let me see now *(studying ledger)* ... that just leaves two more to check in and that will be everyone here. A Mr. Smith and a Mr. Jones, sharing a twin. Is everything organised Sam?

Sam Everything's fine Mr Bently, there's nothing to worry about.

Mr Bently I generally find that there's always something to worry about Sam. If there wasn't it would be quite worrying. Maria, are the tables set for dinner tonight?

Maria Yes they are, but goodness knows how I've managed, all by myself. I had all the rooms to prepare this morning, and then this afternoon....

Mr Bently *(Interrupting)* Yes, yes, yes. I just hope you've set the cutlery properly this time. I don't need to remind you what happened at the Town's Womens' Guild Annual Dinner Dance?

Maria No, you don't, but you just have done.

Mr Bently Well that's one booking I doubt we'll get again.

Maria *(Sarcastically)* What a shame! So I forgot dessert spoons! I still don't see why you can't eat sherry trifle with a fork. If they hadn't been such a hoity-toity set of old crows....

Mr Bently Maria! Might I also remind you that Mrs Bently is the Honorary Secretary and one of the ladies to whom you refer!

Maria sniffs disdainfully, as if to imply that this in no way invalidated her comment. Sam is anxious to defuse the potential confrontation.

Sam Well they all seemed to enjoy themselves anyway. I'm sure they'll want to come back next year.

Maria Yes, Mrs Fosdyke and Mrs Bruce in particular could hardly keep their hands off you all evening! Along with half a dozen others.

Mr Bently Maria! I will not have you talk this way about two such highly esteemed and respected members of our community! People of that quality don't just walk in off the street, I'll have you know!

At this point Frankie and Duggs walk in off the street. Duggs has changed shirt to a typically flamboyant wide collared 70's shirt.

Mr Bently Ah, gentlemen. Mr. Smith and Mr. Jones I presume?

Duggs Yer what?

Frankie elbows him violently in the ribs.

Frankie That is correct. My associate and I have reservations for three nights.

Mr Bently Yes indeed, we've been expecting you. Sam here will take your details and assist with any luggage you have.

Sam Good evening gentlemen. If I could just ask you to fill in these registration cards.

While Frankie fills his in, Duggs is urgently nudging him, pointing to himself and miming 'Which one am I? Smith or Jones?'

Frankie *(Sighs, then pointedly)* Mr. Jones here particularly requested Room 1 or Room 2 when he made the reservation, and I understand that you told him that there was no problem with that.

Duggs is now able to fill in his card.

Sam I'm terribly sorry Sir. I took a reservation for Room 102 *(spoken one-oh-two)*. I particularly remember that the gentlemen was very insistent. 'Room 102' he kept saying. It was the only room he would consider. Here's the key!

Frankie *(Aghast)* 102! What floor is that on?

Sam The third floor Sir, but we do have a lift, and as Mr Bently said, I'll be happy to assist....

Frankie *(Interrupting)* Listen! We ain't going up to no third floor room. We want Room 1 or Room 2, so get it changed!

Mr Bently I'm afraid that's impossible Sir. Those rooms are already taken and the guests have checked in. However, I can assure you that all our rooms are of a comparable standard. I'm sure that you'll find Room 102 to your liking.

Frankie Yeah well I'm even surer that I won't! What other spare rooms have you got available?

Mr Bently Actually none at all Sir. This is a very busy weekend. We have a school reunion booked in. Past students from the Barrington Green Comprehensive School have filled all our remaining rooms.

Duggs *(Nervously nudging Frankie)* Frankie! We went to Barrington Green!

Frankie Shhh! Er..., I see, um..., Barrington Green you say?

Mr Bently That's right Sir. Class of '65 I believe. All getting together again after six years. Charming idea really.

Duggs *(Frantically nudging Frankie)* Frankie! We left Barrington in '65!

Frankie Shhh! I see, er...class of '65 then? Right.

Sam So about the room then gentlemen, will 102 be satisfactory?

Frankie *(Distracted)* What? Which? Oh, er...yes! Right, room 102. We'll take it, but we'll look after the luggage ourselves.

Sam Very good Sir. Hope you enjoy your stay.

Duggs drags Frankie to centre stage.

Duggs Frankie! What're we gonna do? Cor blimey! This whole flamin' hotel is jam packed full of our old school mates. We're gonna be recognised in two ticks! We ain't no Mr. Bleedin' Smith or Jones. We're Frankie 'the fingers' Fuller and John 'Duggs' McGee!

Frankie Shut up! I know who we are! Don't panic! I'll think of something!

Duggs Well you better make it quick! Here they all come!

Music Cue #3: Song - "Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals"

This can be a dance number, particularly if the hockey teams can double as a dance group. Alternatively a dedicated dance group could perform on a stage extension.

The entire remaining cast enter from wings to intro of music. Duggs and Frankie discretely sidle around to back of group.

The middle eight should be sung only by the minor cast members, and during this section the major cast members walk to the front and greet each other with handshakes. Importantly, Tony and Karen never quite meet, always being waylaid by other people just when they finally seem about to meet.

Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals

Music and Lyrics by Chris Goy ©Chris Goy 2000

- All** Crazy capers, dodgy deals, are going on
When you think you've got it right, you've got it wrong
Welcome to our magic maze, where everything's a hopeless haze
And we'll be finding all the ways to party all night long!
- All** Crazy capers, dodgy deals, are going on
Come inside and join our gang, where you belong
First, we went our separate ways, 'til memories of our younger days
Have brought us here and now we'll raise the roof off with our song!
- Boys** Do you think the shirts we wear are just a bit too bright?
Girls (Doubtfully) Maybe - do you think the legs we bare are quite a pretty sight?
Boys (Eagerly) Maybe!
- All** If you've got the time to spare and
If you've got the clothes with flare then
Climb up here and dance with us tonight
- All** Crazy capers, dodgy deals, are going on
When you think you've got it right, you've got it wrong
Welcome to our magic maze, where everything's a hopeless haze
And we'll be finding all the ways to party all night long!
So come along!

Music Cue #4: Piano reprise of "Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals" into next scene.

Scene 3

At end of song, dancers, Mr Bently, Maria, Sam, Frankie and Duggs leave backstage. Main characters form small groups chatting on stage. Karen and Tony come to front of stage from opposite sides. Moving quickly towards each other, their meeting is awkward. They go to hug, but draw back and turn it into a handshake.

- Tony** Karen! It's you!
Karen Hi Tony.
Tony I wondered... I didn't know if...well, I hoped you'd be able to make the reunion.
Karen Oh I wouldn't have missed it! I've been so looking forward to it.
Tony Isn't it great! Meeting up with everyone after all this time.
Karen Fantastic! Everyone's different, but somehow the same too, if that doesn't sound too crazy.
Tony Not at all. I know just what you mean.
Karen You've not changed much though. Last I heard you were off to read Law at university.
Tony Yes. I'm graduated now. Ready to be unleashed on an unsuspecting legal system, at least (*he hesitates*) ... that's probably the plan. (*Pause*) Anyway, how about you? What have you been up to?
Karen Well if you'd sent me your address like you promised, you wouldn't have to ask!
Tony Oh well (*embarrassed*) yes, sorry about that. It all got a bit hectic at Law School ... so, what have you been up to?
Karen Well, I trained as a nurse, and now I'm working ...

Veronica has wandered over to Karen and Tony, and somewhat icily interrupts.

- Veronica** Aren't you going to introduce me to your charming friend?
Tony Oh yes, sorry ... Karen this is Veronica, my ... er, girlfriend. We met while I was at Law School.
Veronica Fiancée actually. (*She extends her hand, showing off her ring.*)

Tony This is Karen, we were ... in the same form at school.

Karen *(Clearly surprised and with a hint of dismay at the news)* Pleased to meet you. *(They shake hands)*

Awkward pause

Karen So are you a qualified lawyer too?

Veronica Goodness no sweetie. I'm just the filing clerk in the firm Anthony did his work experience with. He's the one with the brains. Was he telling you he's taking up a position with Fillingham, Fillingham and Cooper in the City later this year?

Tony Well, that's not actually been decided Veronica, not for certain. There's other possibilities.

Veronica Oh Anthony, don't start with that nonsense. They're one of the leading firms in London. Your starting salary alone will be three times what I earn.

Tony Yes, but there's more to life than money.

Veronica dismisses the comment with an airy wave of her hand. At this point Vince approaches the group.

Vince Well nothing changes does it? Still a jammy devil Tony! Surrounded by the gorgeous women, as always.

Tony Hello Vince. *(They pointedly don't shake hands)* You remember Karen?

Vince Who could forget?

Karen Hi Vince.

Tony And this is ...

Veronica *(Interrupting)* We met earlier, while you were neglecting me sweetheart.

Tony Oh, I see. Well Vince, what mischief are you up to these days?

Vince There you go you see! Still misjudging me after all these years. Actually I'm into something completely new and really exciting. It's going to be huge! Give it a few years and everyone will be in on it! It's called Timeshare!

Karen Timeshare?

Vince That's right! It's a fantastic concept. How it works is...

Janet, Jane, Pearl and Dean approach, interrupting Vince in full flow.

Janet *(Giggling)* Hullo everyone! It's only us. Janet ...

Jane And Jane!

Janet And you must remember Pearl!

Jane And Dean!

Dean Peace Man!

Pearl Far out!

There is a general Hi/Hallo from Tony, Karen, Veronica and Vince.

Pearl)

Dean) Groovy!

Janet and Jane giggle.

Janet Well isn't this lovely! All the old class back together again!

Dean It's like...you know...a total mind blow man, you dig?

Pearl I'm with ya baby! Weird but so groovy!

Janet I can't wait for the fancy dress party! *(To everyone)* Do tell us who you're going as! Oh no don't! The surprise will make it more fun!

Jane I wonder how many of the boys from our class are here?

Janet I haven't seen many so far.

Jane *(Disappointed)* No. That's a shame.

Janet Mmm ... hopefully there's some still to arrive.

Jane Hopefully!

Karen Well I think I saw Frankie Fuller and John McGee checking in earlier.

Tony Yes I noticed them too. Nice that they've made the effort.
Janet Well hopefully we'll meet them at the fancy dress party.
Jane Hopefully!

Mr Bently and Maria walk past on the way to Reception.

Mr Bently Ladies and Gentlemen, dinner will be served at 7-30 p.m. prompt.
Maria Hopefully.

Music Cue# 5: "Burglars' Bungle" Theme.

Scene 4

Burglar's bedroom. Twin beds, small wardrobe, dressing table and chair. Frankie and Duggs sit on the end of their respective beds, head in hands.

Frankie One little job Duggs! That's all I left you to do! One little job! Just get Room 1 or Room 2!
Duggs T'ain't my fault Frankie! Honest to God! You can't blame me if that waiter geezer has lugg ears!
Frankie Of course I can blame you! Take a look out of the window Duggs! On a clear day you might even be able to see the ground!
Duggs Well, ... I'd rather not just now. You know what I'm like with heights Frankie.
Frankie I know what you're like with everything!
Duggs Now that ain't fair! One little mistake could happen to anyone!
Frankie Anyone with the same I.Q. as tomato sauce!
Duggs Aw, give it a rest can't yer?! You'll think of sumthin'. You'll come up with a new plan! Bet you've already thought of sumthin' ain't yer?!

Pause while Frankie considers.

Frankie Course I have! Frankie 'the fingers' Fuller doesn't let a little problem like being three storeys up hold him back when he wants to dig a tunnel!
Duggs It's brilliant Frankie! It's a stroke of genius! It's ... er ... what is it?
Frankie *(Excited despite himself)* Well! I've been checking the plans and scouting around a bit. There's one other room we could dig the tunnel from!
Duggs But all the rooms are taken 'cause of this flippin' reunion thing. You heard the manager geezer.
Frankie Yeah well, I'm willing to bet the ladies' loos ain't taken. Least, not on a permanent basis!
Duggs But Frankie, ... that ain't no good. I mean, we can't tunnel in from the ladies' loos can we?!
Frankie Why not?
Duggs Well for one thing, we ain't ladies!
Frankie Granted, but so what? We get in there, put an 'Out of Order' notice on a cubicle door, and tunnel straight through to the vault from the back wall. If anyone comes in, we just keep mum for a while. Anyway, we can do most of the work at night. It's simple!
Duggs *(Uncertainly)* Well, ... can't we just tunnel in from the Gents instead? I'd feel more at home there!
Frankie Not unless you want to end up in the Vets instead of the bank! Come to think of it Duggs, that might be the best place for you!
Duggs Leave it out Frankie! I'm tryin' to be practical here. What if someone sees us going into the Ladies? That ain't normal for blokes like us. I mean ... *(he clears his throat uncomfortably)* ... after all, I got me reputation to think of.
Frankie Do me a favour!
Duggs Well it ain't like there's any shortage of people what know us, what with this flamin' reunion thing going on!
Frankie Use your head for once Duggs, just try! This school reunion is perfect! Nobody knows we didn't have a clue it was happening. They think we've turned up with everyone else. We couldn't ask for better cover! It gives us a reason to be here at the scene of the crime. Any questions later on and it's "pardon me officer, we were just at our little old school reunion. We don't know nuthin' about no tunnel from the ladies' loos. Better talk to some ladies about that!"

Duggs *(Gapes like a goldfish while it all sinks in)* Gotcha! Cor Blimey Frankie! This one is brilliant! This one is a stroke of genius!

Frankie Course it is! Just leave the thinking to me, you stick to digging! Frankie ‘finks’, Duggs digs!

Duggs Gotcha! ... uh-oh.

Frankie Now what?

Duggs But what if someone sees us going in or going out of the Ladies?

Frankie I haven’t told you the best bit of the plan yet.

Duggs *(Excited)* What is it Frankie? Tell us! Go on! Tell us!

Frankie We dress up in ‘drag’ to work!

Duggs *(Aghast)* What?!!

Frankie Look, the one good point you’ve made, and I don’t just mean now, I’m talking ever, in your life, is that we could be spotted going in or out of the loos. So, we dress up as a couple of slappers! There ain’t nothing suspicious about two ladies going into the Ladies now, is there?

Duggs Well, no Frankie, there ain’t, I’ll grant yer. But, ... me, a lady!

Frankie You’d be surprised Duggs. Put a dress and some make-up on you, and you might even get Vince Jones making a pass at you! He tried every other girl in our year.

Duggs Leave it out! *(Then coyly)* He’s not my type!

Frankie So there’s nothing to worry about! It’s just a simple disguise.

Duggs Well, ... where we gonna get the dresses and stuff?

Frankie Now Duggs, as a professional, you disappoint me. We’ll nick ‘em of course! They hang the room keys in reception when people go out. It’s gonna be a doddle!

Duggs Gotcha! ... Cor Blimey, me ... a lady! *(He puts hands on hips and minces across the room).*

Frankie Yeah, well you might need to work a bit on that walk.

Duggs *(Making effeminate gesture with hand, speaks Falsetto)* I don’t know what you mean!

Frankie Well, we’ve had some setbacks Duggs, but things are looking up.

Duggs Course they are! Even from the third floor!

Frankie We might just pull this job off after all.

Duggs We’ll be a credit to our profession!

Music Cue #6: Song - “Burglars’ Bungle”

Lyrics may be spoken over music if Frankie and Duggs are not musical! The three incompetent policemen accompany with a clumsy step dance.

Burglars’ Bungle

Music by Dave Ross ©Dave Ross 2000. Lyrics by Chris Goy ©Chris Goy 2000

Frankie *I’m Frankie the Fingers*

Duggs *And I’m Duggs McGee*

Both *Between us we seem to
Be some sort of team
Now our line of business
You might say is fearless
We’re just a pair of NICKERS! (Shout last word)*

Frankie *Now Frankily (sic) speaking
Between you and me
You’ve probably guessed that
With John ‘Duggs’ McGee
When talking of brain size
I’m telling you no lies
It’s physic’ly like a pea!*

Both *We rob and we plunder*

*With barely a blunder
It's loot and swag we grab
And if you're thinking
Chains will be clinking
The cops 'll never nab
US! (Shout)*

Duggs *Well Frankie the Fingers
He thinks he's so smart
But take it from me folks
He's acting a part
If doing a burgl'ry
You gave him the door key
He wouldn't know where to start!*

Both *We rob and we plunder
With barely a blunder
It's loot and swag we grab
And if you're thinking
Chains will be clinking
The cops 'll never nab
US! (Shout)*

Duggs *He's Frankie the Fingers*

Frankie *And he's Duggs McGee*

Both *Between us we seem to
Be some sort of team
But if things get too hot
We'll vanish in one shot
To keep us squeaky clean!*

*So, here-we-go-on-our-next-job
The best you've ever seen!*

Scene 5

The Dance Floor of the Hotel Ballroom. The Fancy Dress party is just under way, with the minor cast members dancing outrageously to early seventies music.

Costume: Tony is Batman, Karen is Snow White.

Vince is also Batman, Veronica is the Wicked Queen from Snow White.

Janet is Catwoman, Jane is Cinderella.

Pearl is a Flower (ie her head surrounded by petals).

Dean is a Guitar (but still carries his own guitar).

All other members of the cast in costume of own choice, but in there should be someone in a cumbersome spacesuit, and a pantomime horse that frolics in the background.

N.B. Frankie and Duggs are not in fancy dress.

Tony and Veronica enter. Other principal members of cast gradually entering in the background during the scene. Karen and Vince enter after the pantomime horse antics. Pearl and Dean are late, entering near end of scene.

Tony *Honestly Veronica! I don't know why you couldn't have come as somebody nice.*

Veronica *Personally, I always liked the wicked Queen from Snow White. At least I don't have to put my underwear on the outside.*

Tony *Well I've heard that Karen's coming as Snow White. It's going to be so embarrassing!*

Veronica Nonsense! It's quite amusing. You seem quite protective towards this sweet little Karen from your past.
Tony Oh don't start that again. We were never more than 'just good friends'. I'm engaged to you now.
Veronica Yes, even though you tend to forget when you introduce me.

Frankie and Duggs wander onto stage in normal attire, looking a bit lost.

Tony Frankie! John! Good to see you. How are you doing?
Frankie Alright Tony! Nice costume!
Duggs Wotcha Tony! (*Aside*) Who's the bird?
Tony May I present (*pointedly*) my fiancée, Veronica.
Frankie Cor! I don't remember you from school!
Duggs Me neither!
Veronica No, I didn't go to Barrington. Anthony and I met later at Law School.
Duggs Law? You ain't a Copper are you Tony?
Tony No, no, ... I may become a solicitor, or I might try something else. (*Veronica 'tuts'*) I haven't decided for sure. What about you two? What are you up to these days?
Frankie Oh er, ... a bit of this and that, you know.
Duggs Yeah, a bit of er, ... that and this.
Veronica What happened to your costumes gentlemen? The invitations clearly said fancy dress for the Friday evening.
Duggs We didn't get no invitations.

Frankie elbows Duggs violently.

Veronica No invitations? Well then,.. how did you know about the reunion?
Frankie Oh we got invitations alright, we er ... we just didn't read them carefully.

Janet and Jane enter and approach the group.

Janet Ooooh! Hallo everyone!
Jane Ooooh yes! Hallo! Frankie and John! Oh, what happened to your costumes?
Tony Well, we've just done this bit. Excuse us while we go and top the drinks up.

Tony and Veronica wander over to the bar where Sam is serving.

Frankie Well, as I was just explaining, due to an unfortunate misunderstanding ladies, we were not acquainted with the knowledge that this evening had an alternative dress code.
Duggs Yeah! An' we didn't know nuthin' 'bout this fancy dress thing neither.
Janet Oh well never mind. You could pretend that you're two dastardly burglars, casing the joint!

Frankie and Duggs look startled and turn their surprise into coughing fits.

Jane Oh dear! I hope you haven't both caught cold.

The girls show concern and each pat a burglar on the back.

Janet Now do come and tell us all about yourselves!
Jane Yes do! Where have two such handsome gentlemen been hiding away all this time?

The girls each link arm with a burglar and drag the reluctant men off to side stage. Music fades up while the pantomime horse is colliding with people and furniture in the background. It is offered a drink and tries to lift each leg in turn to take the drink. Having failed, an arm comes out the side and accepts the drink. The head turns to try and take a sip but can't reach, so it treads a circle trying to reach the glass until it gets dizzy and collapses. The drink is spilled and it attempts to lick it from the floor. The Spaceman then falls over it.

At this point Karen and Vince enter. They join Tony and Veronica at the front bar area. Tony and Vince who are in identical Batman costumes, stare in disbelief at each other. Music stops abruptly and straight into Batman riff.

Music Cue #7: 'Batman'-type Riff

During the following action, Sam holds up the relevant placards from behind the bar, but gets the wrong caption to each dialogue.

Tony Pow! (*Makes mock swing of fist – mock fight ensues to Batman riff, lasting a short while, with suitable improvised action*)

Vince Biff!

Tony Wham!

Vince Sock! (*Music suddenly stops.*)

Tony (*Looking down at socks*) They don't smell do they?

Vince (*With some bitterness*) Very funny. I should have known something like this would happen.

Tony Oh come on Vince. Don't be upset. I had no idea you were coming as Batman too.

Vince I'm Batman one if you don't mind.

Karen Could have been worse. You might both have turned up as Tony Blackburn! Anyway, look at Veronica and I! (*To Veronica*) When do I get the poison apple?

Veronica I'll have to go and ask the mirror!

Awkward silence.

Tony Well! I say let's just forget about the unfortunate costume clashes and get the next round in! Sam, my good man, drinks for everyone!

Karen Good thinking Batman!

Sam duly obliges with the drinks.

Sam That's eleven shillings ... sorry, I mean fifty five pence! This new decimal currency's a barman's nightmare!

Tony pays him. Meanwhile the pantomime horse is drinking from a punch bowl on a table. After a short while it starts to sway and collapses again, only this time its front and back legs get entangled. The Spaceman tries to untangle it, but can't bend down sufficiently to be effective.

Tony So Vince, tell us about this timeshare thing that you're into. What exactly is it?

Vince (*Brightening*) Well! It's going to change the face of package holidays forever! The concept is brilliant! Give me a couple of years and I'll be driving a Jag and renting a London penthouse - and you lot will all have a timeshare!

Karen But what exactly is one?

Vince Simple! You buy a share in a villa, say in Spain. You get an option on when you get to use it. You can go back year after year to the same place. The company I work for is handling twenty of these properties.

Veronica Where are they?

Vince Well, ... they aren't actually built yet. We're just getting started! We've got twenty building sites.

Veronica (*Sarcastically*) Sounds tempting already.

Tony What if you get fed up after a couple of years and want to try somewhere different?

Vince You won't! But if you do, you can always sell your share on, less my company's commission of course. I'm telling you, this is going to be the biggest thing since Space Hoppers!

Veronica How do you market something like that?

Vince Ah! Now that's the clever part! You run a competition where everyone gets a prize, only to collect that prize you have to attend a presentation where the whole concept is explained.

Karen What sort of prizes can you give to everyone?

Vince Timeshare holidays! Plus the odd gold watch, here and there. Look, I'm telling you, this is going to be big! All I'm saying is, if you ever get a letter saying you've won a gold watch or a holiday, and to find out which you've got to come to some hotel for a presentation, whatever you do, don't throw that letter in the bin!!

Tony I'll try to remember that.

Pearl and Dean finally enter. Frankie and Duggs, who have all this time been entrapped by Janet and Jane, seize the opportunity to get away.

Pearl (To no-one in particular) Sorry we're late, we like ... overslept a bit man.
Dean Heavy man!
Frankie 'Scuse us ladies, we must just say hallo to er ... Darren! No! er ... Donald! No! um ...
Dean Woah man! The name doesn't matter, just the message!
Pearl And the message is - peace dude, hit the groove, power to the petals! (To Duggs) Don't you dig it?
Duggs Er ... what was the question again?

Awkward silence.

Frankie Well, great to see you ... er ... both! Unfortunately we've got to be going now. (Frankie starts edging off stage, pulling Duggs with him.) We've got jobs to do ... no ... I mean ... work to start ... no, I mean ... (yawns) gosh I'm tired. Aren't you tired Duggs?
Duggs (Blankly) Not really. (Frankie gives him the elbow.) Oh yeah! Right! Tired.

Duggs makes an unconvincing attempt to yawn.

Janet Oh dear! What a shame you have to leave.
Jane Yes. Such a shame!
Frankie We really must. Sorry!
Janet Well hopefully we'll see you in the morning!
Jane Yes, hopefully!
Frankie Goodnight ladies. (Turns to Pearl and Dean) Goodnight er ... well, peace to the flowers an' stuff!
Dean Far out!
Pearl Groovy!

Frankie and Duggs exit hurriedly. Janet and Jane follow with obvious interest. (Both pairs of characters need to change for Scene 6). Pearl and Dean wander over to join Tony, Veronica, Vince and Karen at the bar.

Dean (Seeing two Batmans) Wow man, is this like ... for real, or was that last bit of grass greener than I thought!
Tony An accident ... no big deal.
Vince (Under his breath but clearly audible) Not to you maybe.
Veronica One of you should have been Robin!
Vince Yeah, Tony.
Tony Let it go Vince.
Vince (Aggressively) What d'you mean "let it go"?
Pearl (Holding both arms up as if to try and clear a mist). Peace people! I'm feeling bad vibes! You need to go hug the trees!
Dean Tell them flower pot! Time for the peace song, don't you think?
Pearl Groovy!

Pearl and Dean sit front centre of stage, and everyone still on stage gathers around them (including the pantomime horse, who dances during the final verse of song.) Ideally Dean will play his guitar for the accompaniment. Pearl and Dean sing the verses and everyone else joins in the chorus.

Music Cue #8: Song - "Power to the Petals".

Power to the Petals

Music by Dave Ross ©Dave Ross 2000 Lyrics by Chris Goy ©Chris Goy 2000

All Power to the petals of the world
Trees and bees and flowers and all the birds
Gentle cuddly woodland creatures

*Not the sort that sometimes eat yer
Power to all the petals of the world.*

P & D *Peace Man, get your body in the groove
Don't think how you look think how you move
Rules and Laws are far too heavy
Just make sure you're not too smelly
When you're groovy you've got nowt to prove.*

All *Power to the petals of the world
Trees and bees and flowers and all the birds
Tasty fungal flora and blooms
'specially those magic mushrooms
Power to all the petals of the world.*

P & D *Watching clouds is what we like to do
Sometimes we like smelling flowers too
Maybe when the rain is falling
Also too when nature's calling
We will use your field for our loo.*

All *Power to the petals of the world
Trees and bees and flowers and all the birds
Whales and dolphins, every big fish
Not including sharks, we all wish
Power to all the petals of the world.*

Power to all the petals of the world.

Scene 6

The following morning. The Burglar's bedroom(front of stage if possible), moving into the reception. The Burglars are dressed in drag, complete with wigs and false bosoms. Duggs is putting makeup on Frankie.

Duggs Now hold still there Frankie, this lipstick ain't goin' on straight!

Frankie Get on with it! We're not entering no bleedin' beauty contest! Just as well in your case.

Duggs Oh yeah? Well you ain't gonna get many offers yerself, if yer ask me! There! That'll do ... gawd, these bra straps ain't 'alf killin' me!

Frankie Yeah well that's 'cause you've filled it too full. Just who exactly are you trying to impress?

Duggs Leave it out!

Frankie That's exactly what you should have done!

Duggs 'T'ain't my fault! It's all this stuff we nicked off o' them two croonin' birds last night. It's far too small!

Frankie Well it's just gonna have to do. Come on, we need to get down there before people start driftin' in for breakfast. How do I look?

Duggs Like a cross between Cilla Black and Scooby Doo. How do I look?

Frankie Like Scooby Doo. Now don't forget the tools, and make sure you don't trip over in these shoes.

Duggs picks up handbag full of tools. As they leave, Frankie trips over on his shoes. Duggs has a good laugh. They exit front side of stage.

Music Cue #9: "We Need Men" Theme

Curtain opens on Reception. Lift doors open and Frankie and Duggs reappear. Janet and Jane are just entering from opposite side.

Janet I do love these early morning walks we take. Let's walk along the sea front. It's so pretty at this time of day.

Jane Yes! So ... *(catches sight of Frankie and Duggs in drag)* er ... so ... er ... pretty.

The four face each other in stunned silence.

Janet Morning.

Frankie *(Falsetto for rest of scene)* Mornin'.

Jane Morning.

Duggs *(Falsetto for rest of scene)* Mornin'.

Duggs drops his handbag full of tools in his panic. It clanks noisily to the floor.

Duggs Oops! There goes my make-up. Silly me!

Janet Er ... we didn't meet last night did we? In fact, I don't remember either of you from school.

Frankie Oh no. We were the year *(together)*... above / **Duggs** ... below. *(They then each attempt the reverse i.e. Frankie ... Below! / Duggs ... Above!)*

Frankie .. well, sort of in between really, but not the same year as you two. We sort of mis-read the invitations ... *(hurriedly)* which we didn't get of course, not being in the same year as you two, but we sort of misheard about the reunion. *(Lamely)* As you do.

Awkward pause.

Janet You know, it's very odd but..., well..., please don't think I'm being rude but..., it's just that, well, we've both got exactly the same two dresses as the ones you're wearing.

Jane Yes. Exactly the same! And the same shoes!

Duggs *(Giggles nervously)* Oh really? What a co-insud, co-unsid, er ... surprise!

Frankie Yes, but I believe these patterns are proving very popular this year. And they were so cheap, didn't you think?

Janet I paid a small fortune for mine!

Jane So did I !

Frankie Oh.

Duggs Oh.

Awkward pause again. Duggs adjusts his bosom in a very vulgar fashion.

Janet)

Jane) *(In disgust)* Oh!

Frankie Well! Don't let us keep you ladies if you're just going out for a stroll. It looked like it might rain quite soon.

Duggs Yes! It looked to me as if there might just be time for a stroll before it started raining.

Janet Well. We are just going for a stroll, *(pointedly)* in this lovely sunshine. I suppose we'll say goodbye then.

Jane Yes. Goodbye for now.

Frankie Goodbye ladies.

Duggs *(Doing ridiculous effeminate wave)* Tood-a-loo!

Janet and Jane exit, glancing back suspiciously at Frankie and Duggs.

Duggs *(Still falsetto)* Phew! That was tricky, but we pulled it off OK! Pity I dropped me handbag!

Frankie *(Normal voice)* Drop that stupid voice your berk! Quick! We've got to get this stuff back to their rooms before they come back and discover these are their dresses and shoes!

Duggs *(Normal voice)* Oops! Gawd Frankie! Bein' a woman is too complicated for me.

They exit back into lift.

Music Cue #10: – “Should I Or Shouldn’t I?” Theme

Scene 7

Vince’s bedroom. Vince is staring moodily out of the window. There is a knock.

Maria (Offstage) Domestic!

Vince (Sighs) Come in.

Maria enters and starts sweeping close to Vince.

Maria Mind I don’t sweep you off your feet!

Vince (Moodily) Be my guest.

Maria Jeepers! Were you planning to jump out of this window? This hotel ain’t that bad is it?

Vince Huh! Hotel’s alright sweetheart. Just some of the people in it. Just one of the people in it actually.

Maria Well so long as that one ain’t me! I’ve got enough to worry about, what with all these rooms to do, and Mr Bloomin’ Bently goin’ on at me all the time. Do you know ...

Vince (Interrupting) It isn’t you! It’s Tony ‘I’m so wonderful’ Richards.

Maria Is he the good looking one with the stuck-up witch?

Vince He’s not that good looking.

Maria Well is he the one who came as Batman last night?

Vince I came as Batman too! I mean ... as well!

Maria Well is he the one who ...

Vince Yes! Him! Got the picture?

Maria Oh. I see. Well what did he do to make you so sore?

Vince Well he ... I mean he ... every time he ... look, it doesn’t matter! I just can’t stand him. I wish there was some way to get back at him.

Maria There’s always a way to get back at someone. When a guest is rude to me, I often dip their toothbrush in the toilet bowl when I’m cleaning their room.

Vince Really. Remind me to be polite.

Maria Oh that’s just for starters. If I really don’t like someone I get properly stuck in.

Vince (Interested) Oh yeah? So what would you do to Tony if you didn’t like him?

Maria Easy! That Veronica witch wears the trousers there. Get her mad at him, and she’ll do the rest!

Vince They’re engaged! How am I going to get her mad at him?

Maria Wow! Look, don’t take offence or anything, but please don’t go on any TV quiz shows will you?

Vince So give us a clue!

Maria You need to start watching people. See the look in their eyes when Tony and sweet little Karen are talking. The witch will have spotted it, I’ll bet you any money.

Vince But I told you. Tony’s engaged to Veronica!

Maria More a case of Veronica’s ‘in possession’ of Tony if you ask me. One thing’s for sure. She’s mad jealous, and dangerous.

Vince So what use is that to me?

Maria (Thoughtfully) Well..., suppose Veronica came across Tony and Karen in a compromising situation. It would make the Hydrogen bomb look like a penny banger!

Vince What sort of a ‘compromising situation’?

Maria Look, I don’t recall you offering to pay me for all this! Surely you can work out the details? Something like an anonymous letter to each of them, inviting them to a late night meeting on the Moonlit Terrace. Then you just happen to bring Veronica along. Stand well back and watch the fireworks!

Vince I like it! You’re wasted working here!

Maria Don’t I know it! Give me half a chance and ... (Vince gets up to leave) ... where are you going?

Vince I’m just going to hide my toothbrush!

Lights down

Music Cue#11: “We Need Men” Theme

Maria and Vince leave during music. The room number and perhaps a picture should be changed in order to signify that the next scene takes place in a different bedroom.

Scene 8

The wallflower’s bedroom. Frankie and Duggs enter dressed normally, carrying dresses and shoes, but still wearing make-up. They put the room key on the bed.

Frankie Quick! Get this stuff back in the wardrobe!

Duggs just chucks the dresses and shoes into the wardrobe.

Frankie Not like that you berk! Hang them up!

Duggs I don’t know how to Frankie. I ain’t never hung up a dress before. They’re all slippy!

Frankie Oh give ‘em me!

Frankie takes dresses and hangs them up, but as he does so we hear the ‘ping’ of a hotel lift’s arrival on a floor

Offstage : [**Janet** It’s no good, I’ve just got to check our dresses before we go out. There was something very funny about those two women. Have you got the key?]

[**Jane** No, I thought you had it.]

Frankie and Duggs have frozen in horror.

Duggs Frankie! It’s them two birds! They’re back already!

Frankie Quick! Hide!

Duggs Gotcha! (*He does nothing.*)

Frankie Now!!

Duggs tries to climb into the wardrobe.

Frankie Not in there you Klondike! They’ve come to check the dresses!

Offstage : [**Janet** Well the key definitely wasn’t in reception. You must have it.]

[**Jane** Well I haven’t. I thought you must have picked it up from reception.]

Frankie has dived under one of the twin beds. Duggs tries to get under the same bed with him.

Frankie Get out of it!

Duggs But Frankie!

Frankie The other one! Use the other one!

Duggs Gotcha!

Duggs tries to get under the other bed but can’t.

Duggs Frankie! There’s cases under here! I can’t fit!

Frankie’s anguished face under the bed should be visible to the audience throughout

Frankie (*Groans*) Use the window ledge!

Duggs But Frankie! You know me an’ heights!

Frankie Duggs, if you don’t get up there behind the curtain now, I’m gonna chuck you straight out of that window!

Duggs wimpers but climbs onto ledge and draws curtains. However, his face should peep through a gap and remain visible to audience throughout.

Offstage : [**Janet** Try the door.]
[**Jane** Oh! It's open.]

The girls enter.

Janet There's the key! You left it on the bed!
Jane Well really... I don't remember. I suppose I must have.
Janet Now. Let's just check ...

She goes to wardrobe and finds everything in order.

Janet Mmmm ... here they are still. And the shoes. It's just so odd!
Jane Very odd. I didn't care for those two at all you know. The colour of my dress certainly didn't suit that awful woman.
Janet Oh the one wearing the dress like mine looked a right clip! And do you know what? I'm sure I could smell drink on her breath. At this time in the morning!

Frankie scowls under the bed and mimes 'at this time in the morning'.

Jane Well the other one stank of cigarettes. She was so ... how can I put it? Unfeminine!
Janet Plain ugly if you ask me. Both of them.

Janet goes and sits on the bed under which Frankie is hiding.

Janet Mind you, I'll tell you who I did like the look of!
Jane Oh do tell! Who was it?
Janet That Frankie Fuller at the party last night!

Frankie pulls a face of wide-mouthed horror.

Jane Really? Well I've got to admit I was rather smitten by John McGee!
Janet (*Excitedly*) Weren't they just lush! You know it's funny, but when we were at school I would have considered them both a bit..., well, you know..., beneath us really. But now I can't imagine I'd ever find Frankie Fuller beneath me!

Frankie, who is of course directly beneath Janet at this time, pulls a face full of disgust.

Jane Didn't you think John McGee had hidden depths! It wouldn't surprise me to learn he's high up in the City somewhere.

Duggs pulls a look of surprised pride.

Janet Well, let's go for this walk and then try and get a table with them for breakfast.
Jane Oh good idea! I say ... you don't think those two common slappers would make a play for them do you?

Janet jumps up in agitation.

Janet Just let them try it! My Frankie and your John can do a lot better than that. Come on!
Jane I'll just draw these curtains back properly.

Duggs grabs his head in horror as Jane moves towards the curtains.

Janet Oh come on Jane! There's men to be had in the breakfast room! Now don't forget the key this time.

Jane, distracted, turns to pick up the key from the bed, and hurriedly follows Janet out. After they exit, Frankie crawls out from underneath the bed and pulls the curtains back to reveal Duggs frozen statuesque in horror. Frankie slaps Duggs on the face to try and revive him.

Frankie Duggs! Come on Duggs! Snap out of it! I know you don't like heights, but you're not usually this bad!

Gradually Duggs revives.

Duggs It weren't the height that did for me Frankie! It was hearing that bird get the hots for me!

Frankie Tell me about it! Come on, we've got a tunnel to finish. And for God's sake, don't go anywhere near the breakfast room.

They exit.

Music Cue #12: - "Should I Or Shouldn't I?" Theme

Scene 9

The hotel lobby. Sam is behind the reception desk. Maria hooovers in lobby area. Tony enters.

Sam Excuse me Sir! I believe I have a message for you.

He hands Tony an envelope. Tony retires to front stage right to read message. As he does so Karen enters.

Sam Excuse me Miss! I believe I have a message for you.

He hands Karen an envelope, and she retires to front stage left to read her message. Tony and Karen read the letter aloud together.

Tony } Dear Friend. Please excuse the direct approach but I have something very important to tell you.
Karen } Come alone to the Moonlit Terrace at 10-30p.m. tonight and you will learn something to your great advantage and future happiness. All this will cost is a few moments of your time. From a genuine well-wisher. PS Please do not throw this letter in the bin.

The following conversation is carefully syncopated, with Tony and Karen 'thinking aloud'.

Tony That's ...

Karen Very ...

Tony Odd ...

Karen Indeed ...

Thoughtful pause.

Tony Very ...

Karen Mysterious ...

Tony And yet also very ...

Karen Intriguing.

Tony turns to address Sam.

Tony Sam. What would you advise me to do about this?

Sam Well Sir, as a Gentleman, I would advise you to have nothing to do with such nefarious goings on. However, if you just happen to be in the vicinity of the Moonlit Terrace at 10.30 tonight, that could be considered purely coincidental.

Karen turns to address Maria.

Karen Maria, what would you advise me to do about this?

Maria Well Madam, as a Lady, I would advise you to have nothing to do with such nefarious goings on ... but to hell with being a Lady! Get yerself down there babe!!

Tony Mmm ...

Karen Mmm ...

Music Cue #13: Song - “Should I Or Shouldn’t I?”

Should I Or Shouldn’t I ?

Music and Lyrics by Chris Goy ©Chris Goy 2000

Tony Oh boy! Should I or shouldn’t I, go along?
Karen Oh boy! Should I or shouldn’t I, go along?
Tony Oh boy!
T & K Who can it be, who’s inviting me to go along and meet them, very mysteriously, so tell me.
Tony Oh boy! (**Sam** Oh-boy-oh) Should I or shouldn’t I, go along
Karen Oh boy! (**Maria** Oh-boy-oh) Should I or shouldn’t I, go along?
Tony Oh boy!
T & K What would I see if I were to be, around the time ten-thirty, in the vicinity, so tell me
Tony Oh boy! (**Sam** Oh-boy-oh) Should I or shouldn’t I go along?
Karen Oh boy! (**Maria** Oh-boy-oh) Should I or shouldn’t I go along?
Tony Should I or shouldn’t I go along? (**Sam** Yes)
Karen Should I or shouldn’t I go along? (**Maria** Yes)
T & K Should I or shouldn’t I go along?

At end of song, Tony and Karen exit on applause.

Sam (To Maria) What are you looking so pleased about? Mr Bently hasn’t caught bubonic plague has he?
Maria (Airily) No, no..., it’s just nice to see that I haven’t lost my touch. (Singing to riff from ‘Let’s Face the Music and Dance’) There may be trouble ahead ...

Offstage : [**Mr Bently** Maria! Haven’t you finished hoovering the lobby yet?!]

Maria scowls and returns to her Hoover.

Sam Well! You were right about the trouble!

Music Cue #14: Piano reprise of “Should I Or Shouldn’t I?”

Scene10

The Moonlit Terrace. Tony enters stage left to a dimly lit set. Karen enters stage right.

Tony Karen?
Karen Tony?
Tony It’s you!
Karen (Warily) Who were you expecting?
Tony Well, I didn’t know who to expect.
Karen Why not?
Tony (Confused) Well ... I wasn’t sure who...
Karen (Interrupting) I nearly didn’t come!
Tony Why not?
Karen Well ... you know. It was a bit unconventional.
Tony You mean you had second thoughts after the letter?
Karen I had first thoughts! I mean ... I’m glad it’s you but ... what exactly ... that is ... why exactly did you ... erm ... (casting discretion aside) What are we doing here Tony?
Tony Look it’s O.K.! I’m glad it’s you, but I don’t understand why you’re glad it’s me. You surely knew I’d come?

Karen Well, I didn't know who to expect!
Tony Why not?
Karen (*A little exasperated*) Because I wasn't sure!
Tony But why not?
Karen Tony, we're going round in circles here.
Tony I know. We seemed to understand each other a lot better all those years ago, back at school.
Karen We did, didn't we? It was ... nice, back then. They were happy days.
Tony I think so. Sometimes, you know, things aren't exactly how they look. That is ... I mean ... Karen, did you ever wonder what might have happened if you and me ...
Karen Only about a thousand times ...

They draw closer, but hesitate.

Tony And now ...
Karen Exactly. Things have changed. You're engaged, and we shouldn't be talking like this. So come on Tony, tell me something 'to my great advantage and future happiness'. I could certainly use it.
Tony What?
Karen Tell me why you brought me here.
Tony I didn't! You brought me here!
Karen What do you mean? You sent me the letter!
Tony I certainly did not! You sent me the letter!

Offstage : [**Veronica** Vince, what on earth makes you think I'll get a better impression of the wonders of Timeshare from the Moonlit Terrace?]
[**Vince** Just come along won't you? You'll see what I mean. It won't take a second.]

Karen (*Distressed*) Oh! Tony! What is this? Some silly game just to humiliate me? How could you?

Vince and Veronica enter.

Tony Whatever game is going on, it's you who's playing it! If you wanted to cause trouble, you might have found a more dignified way of doing it! Nice try Karen, but this wasn't the way to go about it!
Karen (*Tearful*) I don't understand.
Tony You were right! Things have changed since school! Back then, you were a nice person! (*Turns to Veronica*) Fancy a drink Vee?
Veronica Anything to avoid hearing the word Timeshare again, but what's going on here?
Tony I'll tell you in the bar.

Tony and Veronica exit.

Vince No! Wait! That's all wrong! You were supposed to ... and then (*turning to Karen*) you were supposed to ... (*turning back to where Tony and Veronica had stood*) and then she was supposed to ... (*petulantly*) oh, you've all been useless!!

He stomps off, leaving Karen to sing.

Music Cue#15: Song - "Karen's Song"

Karen's Song

Music and Lyrics by Chris Goy ©Chris Goy 2000

Karen *How can I find my way?
How can I see tomorrow today?
Deep in my soul, feels empty and alone
Fill my heart, shine a light, guide me home*

One day I'll find the way on my own

I'll reap the hope that I've sown, 'til then...

*Help me to find my way
Face disappointments, all in a day
Trust in this heart, returning to the start
Seek my path, be myself, play my part*

*Search for the truth on the roads that I chart
Gather what once was apart*

*Once in a life, someone comes along
Reaches out to your heart like a song
I'll know for sure, when he's by my door
Until then I'll try to be strong
Still believe, but hope that he won't be long, so then...*

*How can I find my way?
How can I see tomorrow today?
Deep in my soul, feels empty and alone
Fill my heart, shine a light, guide me home*

*Every journey comes to an end
There I will search for my friend*

*Oh please, help me to find my way
Help me to find my way*

Curtain.

End of Act I

**... in this Preview Script, Act 2, Scenes 1-7 (inc) of the musical
have been deleted from here ...**

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Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals - ACT 2

Scene 8

The tunnel between the ladies' loos and the bank. The audience must see an open section of the tunnel, with the cubicle visible at one end, and the bank vault at the other. Dim lighting on either end. Action in the tunnel is played as if it were pitch black. Vince and Veronica enter the cubicle.

- Vince** Well this is one place I wouldn't have looked for a tunnel. Very convenient though!
- Veronica** Save your jokes until after we get the money. Come to think of it, please just save your jokes.
- Vince** Lighten up! This is going to be a doddle!
- Veronica** Well you go through and check the coast is clear. Then give me a shout.
- Vince** Oh I get it! Any trouble and you can say you just popped in here to spend a penny. Let me guess, *(wooden staccato voice)* I-never-saw-him-in-my-life-before-officer.
- Veronica** Look, if this goes OK you'll be spending thousands of pennies by tomorrow, and just remember who brought you in on this caper.
- Vince** OK, OK, I'm going.

Vince climbs into the tunnel and makes his way to the far end where a cardboard cover should remain as the 'plaster layer'. He removes this and enters vault. Meanwhile Frankie and Duggs enter the ladies' loos. Duggs is dressed once more as the comic burglar. Veronica, when she hears them, has no option but to enter the tunnel.

- Duggs** Blimey Frankie, I'll be glad when this is over! I've got the skitters somethin' awful.
- Frankie** Nearly home and dry now! You just pop through the tunnel and check the coast is clear, while I er ... keep guard at this end.
- Duggs** Gotcha! Hang on a minute! Why don't I keep guard at this end while you go through the tunnel?
- Frankie** It's far too dangerous at this end!

Duggs considers this argument a while, then gives up.

- Duggs** Gotcha! *(He enters tunnel)*. Blimey Frankie! It ain't 'alf dark in 'ere! I can't see a bleedin' sausage!

Meanwhile, at the other end of the tunnel Veronica has crawled through to the vault.

- Veronica** Vince! Quick! It's Frankie and Duggs! They're right behind me! We've got to hide.
- Vince** Oh ... magic. Where?!
- Veronica** Here, in the corner.

They crouch down in a corner. Duggs' head appears in vault.

- Duggs** *(Shouting back into the tunnel)* Frankie! The plaster layer must have caved in!
- Frankie** *(Shouting from cubicle end)* What?!

Duggs ignores him and enters the vault. He examines several sacks of loot which should clearly have 'Ten S' written on them. Behind Duggs' back, Vince and Veronica re-enter tunnel in that order. Veronica has picked up a sack of loot that she slings over her back. Meanwhile, Frankie enters tunnel from cubicle end, and Duggs re-enters tunnel from vault end. Vince and Veronica are now trapped between the two burglars. Frankie and Vince collide head first.

- Frankie** Duggs you idiot! I can't see a thing in this tunnel! Why didn't you tell me you were coming back, you great clomper! That hurt! *(He rubs forehead, as does Vince)*.
- Duggs** What hurt? I'm just coming back to say the coast is clear, and there's loads of loot! Bags of tenners!

Duggs then collides with the sack of money slung over Veronica's back.

- Duggs** Frankie? *(He reaches out and feels the sack of money)*.
- Frankie** What?
- Duggs** Why are you coming through backwards?

Frankie What are you talking about?!

Duggs feels the sack of money again, more vigorously.

Duggs Say Frankie, don't go getting offended nor nuthin', but you could do with losing some weight.

Frankie Duggs, what the hell are you talking about?

Duggs I'm talking about THIS! (*He slaps the sack of money with some relish.*)

Veronica can take no more.

Veronica Keep your fat paws off my money, you great groping gorilla!!!

Stunned silence.

Duggs Frankie? Are you OK? You don't sound yourself.

Frankie Don't be a Klondike!! That wasn't me!!

Duggs Well then ... if it wasn't you, and ... it wasn't me ... then who was it?

Vince Well it wasn't me!

Frankie }

Duggs } Ugghh?!

Duggs Who was that?!

Veronica Well it wasn't me!

Vince Who was that?!

Veronica That was me, you fool!

Vince Oh, gotcha!

Frankie }

Duggs } Ugghh?!

Duggs Frankie? I'm beginning to think there might be somebody else in this tunnel besides you an' me!

Veronica Oh brother! I've got the Brain of Britain head-butting my backside!

Frankie OK, that's it! Whoever you are, back up into the vault. NOW!

They start to 'back up' into the vault.

Frankie Watch 'em Duggs! Grab hold if they try to escape!

Veronica You keep your mauling hands to yourself McGee, or I'll smash your face!

Duggs I can't see nuthin' to grab hold of Frankie!

They all clamber into the vault, pick themselves up, and dust themselves down.

Frankie Vince and Veronica! Trying a new line of work are we?

Vince New to us Frankie, but obviously not to you!

Duggs 'Ere! What were you two doin' in our tunnel?

Veronica Duggs, do us all a favour, including yourself, and just shut up while we sort this whole mess out.

Frankie There ain't nuthin' to sort out! This is our job. You two can clear off out of it, right now!

Veronica Fine, we'll be glad to. Only on our way past Reception we'll just make one little phone call, to the police! I'm sure they'd be interested to hear that we've just discovered two burglars tunnelling through to the bank!

Frankie You lousy rat!

Vince I think you mean 'dirty rat', but I get the gist of how you feel.

Veronica (*Looking around vault*) Of course, it would be a shame. I mean, look at all these bags full of tens! Personally, a quarter share each sounds so much better than ten years in the clink! What do you think Frankie?

Frankie considers.

Vince Only one thing to do with a losing hand Frankie!

Frankie OK!OK! We'll talk about it back in the hotel. Let's get all the loot carried through.

Veronica Now that's more like it! Very sensible and mature.

They pick a couple of bags up each and move towards the tunnel.

Duggs Should I grab 'em yet Frankie?

Veronica Oh good grief! Will somebody shut him up!

Music Cue #24: "Burglars' Bungle" Theme (Extended as necessary to facilitate the scene change)

Scene 9

The hotel lobby. Frankie, Duggs, Veronica and Vince sit around several sacks of money marked 'Ten S'. They are dimly lit by a spot, with semi-darkness around them.

Veronica Right! Vince and I are perfectly prepared to be reasonable about this.

Frankie Good.

Veronica A quarter shares for everyone and we won't turn you in.

Frankie (Aghast) What?!

Vince Seems fair to me Frankie.

Frankie Fair?! We planned the job! We dug the tunnel! We took all the risks! And you expect us to settle for only half the loot?!

Veronica I'd call our offer generous, given the position you're in.

Frankie Well I wouldn't! Ten per cent of whatever's in these sacks, and that's my final offer.

Veronica laughs.

Gradually, over the next minute, the rest of the cast, including the pantomime horse, should gather in the semi-darkness behind the group of four but unnoticed by them. They have been disturbed by the argument in progress. The three hotel staff should be last to appear.

Veronica Frankie that's a charming offer, and in different circumstances, probably quite tempting. However, the circumstances are that I have a brain! If Vince and I don't get quarter shares each then we'll just turn you in. Nobody gets anything and, ...oh yes, I nearly forgot my favourite part – you and Duggs go to prison!

Duggs We don't want that Frankie. Let's split it half for you, half for me, and a quarter each for them!

Frankie (Sighs) Duggs, just leave the arithmetic to me.

Veronica Well don't take too long. Our offer's good for only another minute. After that we'll be requiring two thirds for us, and a third for you two to split between you.

Vince Hit 'em with it princess! You're gonna make a great business partner! Face it Frankie, you're up the creek without a paddle! I'd cut your losses if I were you!

Frankie ponders.

Frankie You can have a quarter of the first twenty-thousand, then ten per cent of the rest.

Veronica No deal! Quarter shares of the full amount! Thirty seconds.

Duggs Is half of a third still more than a quarter Frankie?

Frankie Shut up! Let me think!

Veronica Fifteen seconds!

Duggs (Nervously) Frankie!

Veronica Ten-Nine-Eight-Seven-Six-Five-Four-Three-Two-One-

Frankie Alright! Alright! Don't let me ever run up against a woman like you again! A quarter shares for everyone.

Veronica There now! Don't you feel better for having made the right decision?

Vince Wow-ee! Let's get the sacks open and count up how much we've got! If they're all full of tenners it's gonna be a fortune!

By now the entire cast except the three hotel staff should be gathered behind the group, still unnoticed by them. Frankie takes a sack, opens the neck, and pours the contents out onto the floor. Bundles of old pre-decimal ten shilling notes fall out!

Veronica *(murmurs)* Oh no.

Vince *(murmurs)* Oh no.

Frankie *(murmurs)* Oh no.

Veronica }

Vince } *(emphatically)* OH NO!!

Frankie }

Duggs What?

Veronica holds up a bundle of notes.

Veronica These aren't tenners! They're ten shillings! Old currency! Totally worthless since the country went decimal last month!

Vince *(Examining the empty sack)* Ten S ! It stands for ten shillings, not tens! This lot must all be due to be burnt. A month ago we'd have been rich. Now they can't even be exchanged for 50p!

Frankie *(Shaking head)* I don't believe it! This ain't happening!

Duggs Frankie? We do still get a quarter share don't we?

Gathered cast laugh aloud. Villains jump up. Lights fully up. Enter Mr. Bently, Sam and Maria.

Mr Bently Alright what's going on here? Why aren't you all in bed instead of making this infernal racket?

Tony It's alright Mr Bently. Our four friends here have just had a little disappointment, but I'm sure they'll get over it eventually. Bad luck Veronica, but I did try to tell you that money would never make you happy!

Janet Especially ill-gotten money! Frankie Fuller I'm ashamed of you! What you need is a good woman to reform you!

Janet goes and links arms with Frankie, who looks resigned to anything.

Jane *(Excitedly)* Yes! That's exactly what you need John McGee! *(More quietly)* Plus – someone to take you to a few night-classes.

She goes and links arms with Duggs, who looks baffled.

Veronica Oh well. C'est la vie!

Vince Never mind princess. We can still be partners! After all, we'll always have Timeshare!

They link arms.

Pearl Fab! Dean and I are going to start a 'Hippy Chippy' commune at *[local place]*! You can all come and visit us whenever you like!

Dean Groovy!

They link arms.

Vince Well Tony, that just leaves you and Karen. What's going to become of you two? High flying job in the City, or something else?

Tony Well actually, I've heard of these things called 'personal computers', and I think they may have a future. Karen and I are going to set up a company - we'll call it Minisoft or something like that. I've got this great idea for controlling the computers with a little rollerball on a pad. We'll call it 'the rat', perhaps, and ...

Vince *(Interrupting)* I've heard enough! It'll never catch on! For once Tony, I'm gonna end up ahead of you! People won't want computers, but they're gonna love Timeshare! What you've got there is just another Crazy Caper!

Music Cue #25: Song - "Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals" (Reprise)

Music Cue #26: Song – “The Hockey Whack Thwack” (Vocal version)

The Hockey Whack Thwack

Music and Lyrics by Chris Goy©Chris Goy 2000

*All We never said we knew the rules to play the game
We never wanted to be on the losing side again
So if the crowd should shout
‘You’re off-side and that ball was out’
Don’t worry, don’t hurry, carry on the same*

*And if this World should get you down from time to time
And maybe every day’s a mountain that you have to climb
When no-one seems to care
Above the clouds, the sun’s still there
Keep going, keep knowing, bells are gonna chime*

*Doing the Hockey Whack, doing the Hockey Whack, doing the Hockey Whack Thwack!
Doing the Hockey Whack, doing the Hockey Whack, doing the Hockey Whack Thwack!*

*You may not know which way to go or where you’ve been
But don’t forget you’re not alone you’re on a winning team
Don’t worry what to do
Just know that we believe in you
Stick ready, head steady, you can find your dream*

*And now the time has come for us to end this game
The whistle’s gone but you can bet that we’ll be back again
No matter what they say
Remember how things were today
Still whackin’, still thwackin’, Barrington’s our name!*

*Doing the Hockey Whack, doing the Hockey Whack, doing the Hockey Whack Thwack!
Doing the Hockey Whack, doing the Hockey Whack, doing the Hockey Whack Thwack!*

Instrumental

*Doing the Hockey Whack, doing the Hockey Whack, doing the Hockey Whack Thwack!
Doing the Hockey Whack, doing the Hockey Whack, doing the Hockey Whack Thwack!*

End