



Preview Script

Star Crossed

by

David Hodges

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Cast of Characters:

Principals (* denotes a singing role)

Rocky Roberts * - Captain of the Starship Alpha-Zee

Ricky Retro * - Junior Navigation Officer on the Alpha-Zee

Princess Alena/L.C. * - On the run from her father's agents disguised as an android

General Garth * - Chief of Staff of the Intergalactic Force

Bill * - Garth's henchman

Bob * - Garth's other henchman

Number One - second in command of the Alpha-Zee

Crew Girl - female member of the starship crew

Imperator Zaphon * - Alena's father

Nodrog Shalf - Heir to the throne of Zardis.

Supporting Cast

Presenters 1 and 2

Voice of the starship computer

Android Delivery Person

Baggage Handlers 1 and 2

Security Guards 1 and 2

Major Domo

Androids, Startroopers, starport passengers and staff.

Scenes

Act 1	Scene 1	The Present
	Scene 2	Starport 2120 (sometime in the future)
	Scene 3	The Flight Deck
	Scene 4	Ricky Retro's Living Quarters
	Scene 5	The Flight Deck
Act 2	Scene 1	The Hold
	Scene 2	The Secure Accommodation Unit
	Scene 3	A Walkway
	Scene 4	The Secure Accommodation Unit
	Scene 5	The Flight Deck (a few moments earlier)

ACT 1

The Stage is set for “Starport 2120”. On the right there is a check-in desk that can be rotated to form the control console for the starship ‘Alpha-Zee’. On the left there is a trolley filled with baggage behind which is a rodded screen which can be rotated to reveal part of Ensign Retro’s living quarters.

Music No. 1 - Overture: “The Star-Crossed March”.

Scene 1: The Present.

Enter the two presenters, P1 and P2. The cast enter during verse 1

Music No. 2 - Things to Come (Presenters and Cast)

Presenter1 *Ev’rybody’s looking for a new day,
All the world is hoping for a new way,
At the dawn of the twenty-first century.*

Presenter 2 *Now tonight we draw aside the curtain,
‘Though the things we see may not be certain.
Is the future waiting there for you and me?’*

Both *And together we can fly in our imagination’s eye
Beyond the moon, above the sun.
Reaching for the light, maybe tomorrow’s looking bright.
Is this the shape of things to come?*

All *As we turn our faces to tomorrow,
Is there joy, or will it bring us sorrow?
Standing at the threshold of the breaking day;
‘Though we have no crystal ball to gaze in,
Still we think the future is amazing,
But what will really be nobody here can say.
And together we can soar where no one’s ever gone before,
We’ll take tomorrow at the run.
Through endeavour to the stars, perhaps one day they will be ours.
Is this the shape of things to come?’*

(Instrumental - 36 bars)

Presenter1 *Ev’rybody’s looking for a new day,
All the world is hoping for a new way,
At the dawn of the twenty-first century.*

Presenter 2 *Now tonight we draw aside the curtain,
‘Though the things we see may not be certain.
Is the future waiting there for you and me?’*

All *And together we can fly in our imagination’s eye
Beyond the moon, above the sun.
Reaching for the light, maybe tomorrow’s looking bright.
Is this the shape of things to come?’*

Presenters and cast exit/move to places for “Starport”.

Scene 2: Starport 2120 – Starport 2120 (sometime in the future).

An announcement bell sounds.

Voice Welcome to Starport twenty-one twenty. Would all passengers intending to travel to Star City on the Star Cruiser ‘Alpha-Zee’ please report to check-in desk three where you will be met by your flight commander, Captain Rocky Roberts, and his crew. Thank you.

Enter Rocky and members of the Crew of the ‘Alpha-Zee’ including “Crewgirl” and “Number One”, both of whom carry clipboards. Passengers come running forward and ‘mob’ him.

1st Passenger Gee, Captain Rocky, we’re so glad that you’re the one who’s flying us to Star City.

Rocky Uh-huh.

2nd Passenger Oh, Captain Rocky, is it true that you’ve always wanted to be the captain of a starship, ever since you were a little boy?

Rocky Uh-huh.

3rd Passenger Captain Rocky, please will you tell us how you got to be the commander of a Starcruiser like the ‘Alpha-Zee’.

Rocky Uh-huh.

Music No. 3 - Starship Cruising (Captain Rocky with Passengers and Crew)

Rocky *When I was a kid on my first day in Star School,
I had this idea and I thought it was real cool:
I want to be a winner, I don’t want to be a loser,
I want to be the captain of a Starship Cruiser.”
I made it my ambition to be top of the tree,
And now I am the captain of the Alpha-Zee.
So come on ev’rybody and go starship cruising with me.*

*I started at the bottom as a starship cabin waiter
And for a week or two I worked the baggage elevator.
I wanted to be number one and not a number zero
And cruise among the stars like a comic book hero.
I knew that I could make it to the top of the tree
And I would be the captain of the Alpha-Zee.
So come on ev’rybody and go starship cruising with me.*

*I started in October, by the middle of November,
I became the youngest ever starship flight crewmember.
I wanted to be flying my own interstellar racer.
Go zooming past the planets zapping aliens with my laser.
I guess that someone up there must be looking after me
‘Cause I became the captain of the Alpha-Zee,
So come on ev’rybody and go starship cruising with me.*

(Instrumental - 12 bars)

All *When he was a kid on his first day in Star School,
He had this idea and he thought it was real cool:
I want to be a winner, I don’t want to be a loser,
I want to be the captain of a Starship Cruiser.”
He made it his ambition to be top of the tree,
And now he is the captain of the Alpha-Zee.*

Rocky *So come on ev’rybody and go starship cruising with me.*

Crew Girl If passengers would please bring their boarding passes and follow me to the main gate, Captain Rocky must meet with his flight officers.

She exits followed by passengers.

Rocky So who are the flight officers on my first tour as a fully-fledged starship captain, Number One?
No.1 There's only one other new flight officer joining the crew of the 'Alpha-Zee' on this trip, Captain, a junior navigation officer, an Ensign Ricky Retro. He's supposed to be joining us here now for flight briefing. Ah, yes, I think this must be him.

Enter Ricky who steps up smartly to Rocky and Salutes.

Ricky Ensign Retro reporting for duty aboard the 'Alpha-Zee', sir! *(He double-takes and gasps)* Rocky...it's you!
No.1 Ensign Retro, that's insubordination.
Rocky It's O.K. Number One, Ensign Retro and I are old friends, very old friends.
No.1 But sir, I was only ...
Rocky That's all right, but if you could leave us for a few minutes, I think we have some catching up to do. We'll attend to the flight briefing before we go on board.
No.1 Yes, sir. *(He exits)*
Rocky Hey buddy, it's so good to see you! *(they greet each other)*
Ricky And you too. When they told me to report to Captain Roberts I never guessed it would be you. Here you are, six months out of Star School and the Captain of a Space Cruiser, my goodness.
Rocky Amazing isn't it, heaven only knows how it happened. They say it usually takes ten years to get to be a starship commander.
Ricky Well I'm sure that you deserve it, and I'm pleased to be serving with you, Captain Rocky, sir. *(mock salute)*
Rocky You know, I always thought that you'd be the one to get rapid promotion. I mean, you were the one with the good grades; best cadet in cohort if I remember rightly, while I was the one who struggled right through the course and nearly flunked my finals. If you hadn't given me those last minute revision tips.....Still, it's going to be like old times!
Ricky Not quite Captain Rocky, remember you're my commanding officer now, but maybe when we're both off duty ...
Rocky Yeah, we can talk about Star School, we can talk about High School, you and me, we can even talk about Preschool.

Music No. 4 - Do You Remember (Rocky and Ricky)

Rocky *Do you remember how it was when you and I were little boys?*
Ricky *The games we played, the friends we made, the fun we had, our childhood toys?*
Both *Those days of innocence are gone, only the memories still live on,
The highs, the lows, that's how it goes, we shared our sorrows and our joys.*

Ricky *There was a girl across the road I think her name was Mary Jane.*
Rocky *We pulled her pigtails, pushed her in the stream; she chased us down the lane.*
Ricky *I saw her just the other day, she didn't have a lot to say.*
Both *Some friends we lose while others stay; I'm glad that you and I don't change.*

Both *Those boyhood days we spent together, such times will never come again.
But they're not lost and gone forever while in our hearts the memories remain.*

Both *We dreamed someday we'd save the world and bring it truth and hope once more.
We'd put an end to hunger, bitterness, injustice, and to war.
Are these the dreams we dream today, or have we lost them on the way?
Have we the faith, the childlike grace, to know the things worth living for.*

The following is spoken under the instrumental.

Rocky Those were great days, eh, Ricky, growing up in that sleepy little town. How things have changed!
Ricky Life moves on, my friend. Times change and we must change with them.
Rocky How true. One moment two little boys and the next thing you know, I'm the captain of a starship and you're my junior navigation officer.

Ricky Don't rub it in too much.
Rocky Of course not, old buddy.

Both *Do you remember how it was when you and I were little boys?*

Rocky Let's get a move on then, Ensign. It's time for that pre-flight briefing. *(They exit)*

Enter Princess Alena. She wears a long dark cloak. She moves quickly, but without running, frequently looking furtively to either side and behind her. She looks in the direction that Rocky and Ricky have gone, looks all around again and then goes off in the same direction. Enter Bill and Bob in animated conversation.

Bob I think if we go this way, Bill, we may be able to cut her off before she enters the terminal building.

Bill Yes, Bob, I'm sure you're right, Bob. I'm certain I saw her coming this way.

Bob This is most important, Bill. General Garth said that we must not allow her to escape again. If we did, he said it would be the worse for us.

Bill Yes, Bob, I'm sure you're right, Bob. But she's a slippery customer, this Princess Alena. Remember what happened on Zargo last year.

Bob: Oh, I remember, Bill. That time we nearly lost her in a crowd of Star School space cadets. We mustn't let anything like that happen again.

Bill No Bob, I'm sure you're absolutely right, Bob. Perhaps she went this way? *(Points 'wrong' way).*

Bob If we were to split up, Bill, and look in different parts of the terminal, we might stand a better chance of finding her.

Bill Yes, Bob, whatever you say, Bob. We certainly don't want to fail General Garth on this mission. *(They both look around, then run forward, knocking each other over. They stand up and dust themselves off, having changed places in the process.)*

Bob Let's try that again, Bill, only this time, we'll go in different directions.

Bill Yes, Bob, whatever you say, Bob. *(The same thing happens again)*

Bob *(a little exasperated)* Look, Bill, what if you go that way, and I go this way? Then we won't bump into each other.

Bill Yes, Bob, I'm sure you're right, Bob.

They carefully circle past each other, watching each other intently. One falls over the check-in desk, The other over a pile of luggage. They leap up, glare at each other and exit in opposite directions. Enter Crew Girl.

Crew Girl Captain Rocky, oh, Captain Rocky.

Enter Rocky, followed by Ricky and No.1.

Rocky Were you looking for me?

Crew Girl Yes, Captain Rocky, the deliveryman from the Android Supply Company is here with our new consignment of personal assistant androids. He needs you to sign for them.

Enter Android deliveryman carrying clipboard and remote control.

Delivery Psn Captain Roberts? Please could you sign for these six androids?

Rocky You'll have to wheel them in first. When I was at Star School they taught me never to sign for anything until I'd checked it over.

Delivery Psn O.K., you're the Captain. *(He turns, points and presses the remote control).* This way please, ladies.

Six 'female' androids enter, they walk with a jerky, mechanical motion)

Rocky Well, my oh my, are these the new L-grade personal assistant androids that everyone's been talking about?

Delivery Psn That's correct, sir. These 'girls' are programmed to respond to each individual flight crew member's every need. Anything from cleaning out the living quarters and making an early morning cup of tea to providing sympathetic emotional support and confidential counsel. Everything a crewman could want, Captain Roberts.

Rocky Everything a crewman could want, eh?

Delivery Psn Well, perhaps not quite everything, Captain. This is a respectable Starship Line after all, if you follow what I mean.

Rocky I think I understand. How are they operated?

Delivery Psn At the moment they are functioning only in transit mode. Press this button here and they are fully operational. You'll hardly be able to tell them apart from the human members of your crew. However, before you do that, there is a demonstration sequence. You activate that by pressing the red button here.

Rocky takes the remote control, points it at the androids and presses the red button.

Music No. 5 - The Android Song (The Six Androids)

As they sing, they gesture and turn like 'music box dancers'

Androids *L Grade Android, personal assistant
I'm your friend and family,
I will call you early in the morning,
I will bring you cups of tea.*

Rocky That's most impressive. Should I sign the

Androids *L Grade Android, personal assistant
I will help you all I can
I will tidy up your living quarters
I will keep them spick and span.*

Rocky That's great, if you give me the clipboard I'll

Androids *L Grade Android, personal assistant
I will soothe your cares away
I will sing my little song to cheer you,
I will tell you, "Have a nice day".*

Rocky Well, I'm glad that's finished, now I'll just

Androids *L Grade Android, personal assistant
I am at your beck and call
If you need me I will always be there
Any time of day at all.*

Rocky Is that it now, can we carry on

Androids *L Grade Android, personal assistant ...*

In desperation Rocky presses several buttons on the remote and the androids freeze.

Delivery Psn If you just press this button here, sir, not only will they be fully operational, but they'll respond to voice commands as well.

During this conversation, Alena emerges silently from behind the check-in desk, grasps the third android in the row and drags it behind the baggage trolley. Moments later she emerges wearing the android's wig, badge etc and takes it's place in the row, unseen by the others who are engrossed in the remote control demonstration.

Rocky This button?

Delivery Psn No sir, this button, the blue one, labelled "V.O."

Rocky What does the "V.O." stand for?

Delivery Psn *(a little exasperated)* It stands for "Voice Operational", Captain Roberts, sir.

Rocky O.K. As long as I don't get that awful "L-Grade Android" stuff again.

Delivery Psn You won't, sir, but if you could just sign here first.

(He proffers the clipboard, Rocky signs) That's it, Captain Roberts, they're all yours now, six L-Grade Personal Assistant Androids. Now, if you'll excuse me, I do have other deliveries to make. *(He turns and exits)*

Rocky No. 1 Let's see now, we've got six androids here, who's eligible for a personal assistant Number One? Well of course you get one, sir, then me and C.G. here, the Chief Engineer and the Starship's Catering Officer.

Rocky No. 1 That's five accounted for Number One, but we've got six. What do we do with the other one? Next in line of command is the Junior Navigation Officer, sir, but it's not usual to give N.Q.O's a personal assistant. Still, I guess if there's one spare ...

Rocky That settles it then, Ensign Retro, how would you like your own L-Grade Personal Assistant Android? You can have that lopsided looking one in the middle there. *(Pointing at Alena)* What is it, L.C.?

Ricky I'm not going to argue, Captain Roberts, sir.

Rocky O.K. *(pressing remote control)* Androids, left turn! Androids, all aboard the 'Alpha-Zee', quick march! *(Androids turn to left and exit followed by Ricky, No.1 and Crew Girl. As they leave, they begin to sing "L-Grade Android Personal Assistant.....")* Androids, Shut Up! Please!

Exit Rocky. Enter Bill and Bob.

Bob Have you found her, Bill?

Bill No, Bob, I'm sorry, Bob. I only saw that starship crew heading off with their new androids.

Bob Well she must be around here somewhere and we have to find her. We dare not disappoint General Garth again. You look over there, and I'll check behind this baggage trolley.

Bill Yes, Bob, certainly, Bob. *(They go off into their respective search areas)*

Bob Oh Bill, come and see what I've found. *(from behind the trolley he drags out the body parts of a wigless dummy)*
And I'm sure I recognise this! *(Holds up Alena's cloak)*

Bill Oh Bob, you don't think.....?

Bob Think, Bill? I'm absolutely sure! Now quickly, there's someone coming.

They disappear behind the baggage trolley. Enter two Baggage Handlers.

Bag Handler 1 Right mate, this all the stuff for the 'Alpha-Zee'?

Bag Handler 2 Yes mate, docking port three, ennit?

Bag Handler 1 O.K. mate, you ready your end?

Bag Handler 2 Yes mate, if you are.

(They push the baggage trolley off the stage. There are two suitcases left lying on the floor.)

Scene 3: The Flight Deck of the Alpha - Zee.

Crew members, No.1, C.G., Ricky and others are stationed around the stage. Rocky is seated centre stage. The face of the onboard computer watches from the video screen.

Rocky No. 1 Are all take off procedures completed, Number One.

No. 1 Yes, Captain Rocky sir. According to the starship computer all procedures are completed and we are now in full flight mode and headed for Star City.

Rocky Fine, then I guess it's time for me to make my first report as captain of the Alpha-Zee. Let's see now, computer, do you read me.

Computer I read you Captain Roberts.

Rocky O.K., Captain's log, star date 2130. Our voyage to Star City has begun. Our mission to boldly.....

Computer Captain Roberts.

Rocky Yes, Computer.

Computer I rather suspect, Captain Roberts, that you have been watching too many videodisc images of early evocations of interplanetary flight dating from the late twentieth century.

Rocky Pardon?

Computer I mean, Captain Roberts, that there is no need to make regular entries in the captain's log. All flight details and progress reports are logged automatically in the starship's advanced computer navigation and guidance system.

Rocky Oh, so in that case what I need to do is simply set course for Star City, go zooming past stars and planets and steer the 'Alpha-Zee' safely home.

Computer 'Zooming' will be quite unnecessary too, Captain Roberts. All course details are pre-programmed into the starship computer. Once the flight plan has been activated the computer will guide the starship to its destination unaided.

Rocky Unaided huh! O.K. clever clogs, give me the details of our route.

Computer Once clear of the Solar System, we travel through the Wastes of Severa ,into the upper reaches of the Mysteros Quarter and past the Andromeda Nebula, in order to reach Star City.

Rocky The Mysteros Quarter! That region's dangerous; it's full of black holes, clusters of them! It's not safe, computer!

Computer It's perfectly safe for us, Captain Roberts. The 'Alpha Zee' is equipped with the latest in antigravitational stabilisation equipment. Black holes in non-active galaxies pose no threat to this ship.

Rocky So, I and the rest of the crew simply sit back while you guide us all the way to Star City?

Computer Perfectly correct, Captain Roberts. You and your crew may sit back and relax and confidently leave the navigation of the ship to your onboard automated guidance system until you are safely touched down in Star City.

Rocky So may I enquire of our "onboard automated guidance system" exactly when it expects to be touching us safely down in Star City.

Computer It is a little over two thousand light years to Star City. By maintaining our present course and speed, I estimate that the Alpha-Zee will arrive in precisely one hundred and thirty-five days, sixteen hours and twenty-four minutes.

Rocky One hundred and thirty-five days..... why, that's four and a half months! Do you mean to say that we're all supposed to 'sit back and relax' for four and a half months!

Computer Many starship captains find they are able to use such time periods profitably, perhaps acquiring skills in a new language, studying for a degree with the Intergalactic Open University, reading the Complete Works of Shakespeare or learning to crochet. You may have your choice, Captain Roberts.

Rocky Two thousand light years ... four and a half months ... learn to crochet ...

Rocky slumps in his chair, attempts to read a book, twiddles his thumbs, then flops dejectedly in his seat. After a few moments of silence he sighs, then rises and makes his way to the front of the stage.

Music No 6 - 2000 Light Years to Go (Captain Rocky and the Crew)

Rocky *Cruising a starship, like I always wanted to.
Cruising a starship, but I'm feeling sad and blue,
'Cause we're on automatic pilot, nothing's left for me to do.
Two thousand light years to go.*

Officers *Cruising a starship out into the great unknown.
Can't help but feel that we'd be better off at home,
Our computer guidance systems can do it on their own!
Two thousand light years to go.*

Crew *Boredom's setting in now, and it's very hard to bear,
Does anyone know we're up here, and do they really care.
We just can't understand it, there must be something wrong,
We didn't think the journey was this long!
Watching and wond'ring exactly where we are,
Asking the names of all the planets and the stars,
Saying "are we nearly there yet?" when we've only just passed Mars!
Two thousand light years to go.*

*Cruising a starship, across the universe;
Cruising a starship and things are getting worse:
If we travelled any slower we'd be cruising in reverse,
Two thousand light years to go.*

*Cruising a starship beyond the galaxy,
Wishing and hoping for a second cup of tea
And the thought of watching paint dry's seeming pretty good to me,
Two thousand light years to go.*

*Boldly we are going where no one has ever gone
Our journey to infinity and beyond goes on and on.
At least we're getting closer to the climax of the song,
Because we feel that there's a key change coming on. Coming on.*

(Instrumental - 16 bars)

*Boldly we are going very slowly round the bend,
We're stuck on board this starship on a voyage without an end.
Is anybody listening, can someone hear our plea?
Please take pity on the crew of Alpha-Zee!
Cruising a starship in the depths of outer space.
Cruising a starship with a lot of time to waste.
Automated navigation's killing off the human race.
Two thousand light years to go.*

Scene 4: Ricky Retro's Living Quarters

Enter L.C. (Princess Alena), she carries a duster and as she moves about the cabin she sings quietly to herself.

L.C. L-Grade Android, I can make you paranoid,
I can drive you round the bend,
I'll annoy you, stress you and destroy you
With my silly song that never ends. *(She giggles.)*

There is the sound of someone coming. L.C. hastily assumes the doll-like movements of an android. Ricky enters.

Ricky Oh hi, L.C. I see you're busy as ever.

L.C. You know, Ensign Ricky, that it is my task to make your journey on this starship a comfortable one.

Ricky Thankyou, L.C. I know you're just a mechanoid and it's your reason for existence, but I'm grateful for your ministrations anyway. I never was much use at keeping my room tidy.

L.C. *(in human voice)* I'm only too ... *(in android voice)* I'm only too pleased to be of service, Ensign Ricky. Is there something else that you need, sir?

Ricky No thanks, L.C., you can finish for the evening now. *(He slumps into chair and sighs heavily, L.C. makes to go, but then turns to look at Ricky.)*

L.C. You do seem rather distracted, Ensign Ricky. Is there anything I can do, a cup of cocoa, a friendly chat or something?

Ricky No, no, I'm fine, just a bit melancholy, I suppose.

L.C. Is the problem the length of the trip? I understand that some of the flight crew members are finding the boredom a little overwhelming.

Ricky It's not the boredom. In fact L.C., as an android, I doubt that you'd really be able to understand just what the problem is.

L.C. May I remind you, Ensign Ricky, that all L-Grade androids are programmed to provide sympathetic emotional support and confidential counsel. Perhaps a little heart to heart would be helpful.

Ricky 'Heart to heart' hardly seems an appropriate phrase, L.C. I mean, you're an android, so you don't have a heart, and as for me, well, I think I left my heart over on the other side of the galaxy.

L.C. I'm not sure that I really understand, Ensign Ricky. Perhaps if you were to explain a little more.

Ricky It's quite simple really, L.C., it's a girl.

L.C. A girl?

Ricky That's right, a girl. A human female type person, a young woman. I'm unlucky in love.

L.C. You mean, someone has ... er ... what is the phrase now? Terminated a relationship with you!

Ricky Terminated, L.C.? I'm afraid that it never even got started.

L.C. I don't quite know what you mean, Ensign Ricky. If you could tell me a little more?

Ricky Well, it happened last year. I was on my final placement from Star School. We were travelling back from one of the outer stations in the Marganos Sector when we had to refuel on Zargo. We were waiting in the transit lounge when this girl joined us. I'd never seen anyone like her, L.C. I couldn't take my eyes off her. She was so beautiful. Her face, her eyes, her hair She didn't stay very long, seemed sort of unsettled. I saw her later being escorted on to one of those Intergalactic Force shuttles by a couple of rather peculiar little guys. Since then, well, I just can't get her out of my mind.

L.C. *(Somewhat unnerved)* So you've never tried to find out who she was or to contact her, Ensign Ricky.

Ricky Oh, I found out who she was alright. She was the Princess Alena, daughter of Galactic Emperor Zaphon himself. She'd have no time for a lowly Ensign like me. Anyway, I heard that she was already engaged to be married to Nodrog Shalf, heir to the Zardine Oil and Gas Conglomerates. Mine is one passion, L.C., that's doomed to remain unrequited.

L.C. But if you were to meet her, Ensign Ricky, surely you could explain how you feel. I mean, suppose she were here now, wouldn't you want to tell her?

Ricky If I weren't too tongue-tied. But then I'd probably say something stupid and banal like, "I want to dance with you by the light of a thousand shimmering stars."

L.C. She might not consider it so stupid.

Ricky Come on L.C. Mind you in the right place, and with the right setting.

L.C. You mean, soft lights and sweet music?

Ricky Something like that.

L.C. I'm sure that on a sophisticated starship like the 'Alpha-Zee' such things can be arranged. *(She gestures and the lights dim)* There now. And might I suggest something in three quarter time, a fairly gentle rhythm. *(A band begins to play)* Go on Ensign Ricky, what would you say?

Music No. 7 - Waltzing by Starlight (Ricky and L.C.)

Ricky *Waltzing by starlight with you,
That would be my dream come true,
All that I'm hoping and longing to do
Is go waltzing by starlight with you.*

*Look in my eyes and you'll find
Only one dream in my mind:
It would be heaven if this dream came true
And I'm waltzing by starlight with you.*

*High, into the sky away from the rush of day,
Far, beyond the stars and over the Milky Way;
There in my dreams I go dancing through moonbeams,
Waltzing by starlight, holding you very tight,
Waltzing by starlight with you.*

L.C. Oh Ricky, how romantic, I didn't re. I mean, I'm sure, Ensign Ricky, that if the Princess were here she would not think that it was foolish.

Ricky Are you sure, L. C.? You're not just trying to make me feel better?

L.C. I'm quite sure. Please, now that you have begun you must continue. Just imagine that I am the Princess Alena. What else would you tell her?

Ricky O.K., I'll try. Let me see now.

Ricky *Holding you close in my arms
I'm overwhelmed by your charms.
I would be happy if all my life through
I were waltzing by starlight with you.*

Both *Stars shimmer and shine all over the endless skies,
Your hands holding mine, as I gaze into your eyes.*

*This heart is true and wants to be with you,
Waltzing by starlight, until the day is bright,
Waltzing by starlight with you.*

Ricky L.C., may I have the pleasure of this dance?

(Instrumental - 40 bars)

*There in my dreams I go dancing through moonbeams,
Waltzing by starlight, holding you very tight,
Waltzing by starlight with you.*

Ricky Thanks L.C., I feel so much better for being able to tell you all that.

L.C. *(Almost overcome and decidedly weak at the knees)* Would you excuse me Ensign Ricky, I think I have to go to the bathroom.

Ricky Sure L.C., you go. *(She dashes off, he sits back in his chair, then after a moment's thought)* Hey, come on L.C., you're an android. Androids don't need to go to the bathroom!

Scene 5: The Flight Deck of the Alpha – Zee.

Rocky and members of the flight crew are seated at their workstations undertaking such varied activities as reading the Complete Works of Shakespeare, struggling with the English-Zargonian Dictionary and playing patience or dominoes. The captain is attempting to crochet. An alarm sounds.

Crew Girl Captain Rocky, intruders have been found on number one deck, the starship security patrol is bringing them up to the flight deck right now.

Two security guards enter escorting Bill and Bob.

Sec Guard 1 Captain, we found these two creeps hanging around outside the luggage bay. They're not listed on the passenger roster and they wouldn't explain what they were doing there, so we thought we'd better bring them straight to you.

Rocky O.K., you two, I want to know what you think you are doing on my ship without proper authorisation.

Bob I advise you to be very careful in what you say, Captain, you don't know who you are speaking to.

Rocky I am speaking to two little squirts who have snuck aboard my starship, that's who I'm speaking to. And I want some answers.

Bill Perhaps if you were to put the questions a little more civilly, Captain, we might be prepared to give you some.

Rocky Then let me put it like this, gentlemen: Would you be kind enough to tell me who you are and what you are doing on this starship? If you do not, I will be forced to place you in secure confinement until we reach Star City in a little under four and a half month's time. There I will turn you over to the appropriate authorities to deal with you as space pirates and suspected interplanetary smugglers.

Bob That won't be necessary, Captain. My associate and I are representatives for the Chief of Staff of the Intergalactic Force, General Euripedes Garth.

Bill Yes, and there is something aboard this starship that is of immense interest to the General.

Bob Indeed, before we were so rudely accosted by your security personnel, we had communicated this to him.

Bill And he is on his way to intercept this ship at this very moment.

Rocky Computer, have you recorded any transmissions from the ship in the last few hours?

Computer There was a short message sent on secure frequencies about two hours ago, Captain Rocky. It was encoded, however, and I am not programmed to decipher transmissions of this nature.

Rocky And is there any sign of approaching intergalactic shuttles, I think that is the General's usual means of travel?

Computer One has just arrived in the central docking bay, Captain. Since it identified itself as an Intergalactic Force craft and gave all the authorised security and clearance codes, I did not consider it necessary to inform you. The occupants are making their way to the flight deck right now.

Rocky Didn't consider it necessary to ...

There is the sound of approaching footsteps, a door sliding open, General Garth and four star troopers appear at centre back of stage.

Bill and Bob General Garth.

All the others General Garth!

Garth General Euripedes Garth, Chief of Staff, Intergalactic Force. Now, I understand that you have something of immense interest to me on board this starship. Captain Roberts, I will need to undertake an interrogation of your crew.

Rocky General, I really must protest.

Garth No time for protest, lad, we have to get on.

Rocky But General ...

Garth *(taking Rocky aside)* And no buts. You had better listen to me Captain Rocky Roberts. I know all about you. I know who you are, I know where you came from and I know how you got there. Do the names Albert and Mavis Roberts of Orton Wistow mean anything to you?

Rocky Mum and Dad?

Garth Exactly. I know about star school. I know how you nearly flunked your final examinations and I have been watching you. You don't suppose that anyone gets to be captain of a starship in six months on merit alone, do you? I made you what you are and I can break you too, so you had better do what I say or else. Do we understand each other, Captain?

Rocky Yes sir, General Garth.

Garth Captain, *(so that all can hear)* I shall need to interrogate your crew. Would you please ensure that all personnel are brought to the flight deck.

Rocky Certainly sir, I'll bring them in one at a time.

Garth One at a time won't be necessary, Captain Roberts, just bring them here. I shall be undertaking mass interrogation by telepathy.

Rocky Mass interrogation by telepathy? Whatever do you mean?

Garth I shall explain.

Music No. 8 - Mind to Mind (General Garth and the Star cruiser crew)

Garth *On the far side of the Galaxy, on a planet called Telemos Three,
Lived a silent race who never spoke a single word.
Instead of speaking up like you and me, communicated by telepathy,
In their silent world no human voice was ever heard.
Mind to mind, brain to brain
Thought transference meant they never had to speak again*

*I was stationed on Telemos Four, when by chance I took a trip next door
And I met the final member of that dying race.
He bequeathed his secrets all to me: mind reading and telepathy,
In the eerie stillness of that strange and silent place.
Brain to brain, soul to soul,
I became the master of Telemotian mind control.*

*I quickly found an application for this new means of communication,
Interrogation by telepathy of course!
And with successful investigations, rapidly rose to the highest station,
Chief of Staff of the Intergalactic Force.*

*So I hope that you will plainly see, you can never keep a secret from me.
I must warn you all, I can read you like an open book.
Thought transference and telepathy are the skills that will enable me
To open up your minds and peep inside and take a look.
Brain to brain, mind to mind,
There is vital information buried there that I must find.*

Rocky Please General Garth, there's one thing that I don't quite understand.
Garth What's that, my boy?
Rocky Well, if the Telemotians were so advanced and intelligent, why did their race die out?
Garth It's quite simple really, lad. If the only way in which you communicate with each other is by telepathy, then your fate is sealed. There are certain forms of interpersonal communication vital to the survival of the species, which are absolutely impossible by that particular means.
Rocky I think I understand.

Garth *This is no time for procrastination; we have to start an interrogation.
I must discover the secrets of your soul.
This is the time for a revelation; I want your total co-operation
Open your minds and let the General take control.*

*Now I think we should be moving on, and I want to get this quickly done
There is information that I need before I go.
So beginning with the Starship crew and starting Captain Rocky with you,
You are going to tell me all the things I want to know.
Mind to mind, brain to brain,
And you really mustn't worry; it doesn't cause a lot of pain.*

Garth surveys the whole starship crew, beginning with Captain Rocky. They clutch/shake heads etc. When he comes to L.C., she collapses in a heap on the floor. Bill and Bob rush across to her.

Bob This is the one, General, it's definitely her.
Bill Yes Bob, you're quite right, Bob. *(Lifting up the android wig)* It's the Princess.
Ricky L.C? - Princess Alena! *(He faints)*
Garth Startroopers, take her to the starship's secure accommodation unit.

They carry her away, Garth and Rocky follow. The rest of the flight deck crew gather around Ricky and carry him off. Only Bill and Bob are left on stage.

Bill So what happens now Bob?
Bob I think, Bill, it's time we had a well-deserved cup of tea.
Bill Ah, yes Bob, I quite agree, Bob. *(They turn and leave, the lights go out)*

Reprise Music No. 1 - Star-Crossed March

END OF ACT ONE

~~~~~<<<< **INTERVAL** >>>>~~~~~

# ACT 2

## Scene 1: The Hold Of The Alpha-Zee

*Enter presenters, passengers and crew.*

### **No 9 - Star-Crossed Lovers** – Presenters and Cast

**Presenter 1** *Racing down the years that lie before us,  
From another time, another place,  
Comes our story told in verse and chorus,  
Winging `cross the vastness of space.  
Hear the tale of Ricky and Alena,  
Once again it only goes to prove,  
As the poet said so clear and plain, “The  
Course of true love never runs smooth.”*

**Cast** *Romeo and Juliet, Abelard and Eloise,  
Do you know or have you met  
A pair of star-crossed lovers like these?*

*All in all, it’s still the same old story,  
Once again a case of do or die.  
Here we see a fight for love and glory,  
Nothing’s changed as time passes by.  
Take a journey in imagination,  
Come with us on board the Alpha-Zee.  
Pity this poor damsel’s situation  
As she waits in solitary.*

**Presenter 2** *Hiding as an android on a space flight,  
Who would be a Princess on the run?  
Suddenly she finds she’s struck by starlight,  
Suddenly she knows he’s the one.*

**Cast** *Romeo and Juliet, Abelard and Eloise,  
Do you know or have you met  
A pair of star-crossed lovers like these?*

*Ricky, are you longing just to see her?  
Ricky, is there nothing you can do?  
Ricky, are you wishing you could free her?  
Don’t you know she’s counting on you?*

*(Instrumental -16 bars.)*

**Cast** *Romeo and Juliet, Abelard and Eloise,  
Do you know or have you met  
A pair of star-crossed lovers like these?*

*What’s the fate of Ricky and Alena  
In a tale as old as it is new?  
Proving as the poet said so plain, “The  
Course of true love never runs,  
Tell us if it ever runs,  
Course of true love never runs smooth”*

## Scene 2: The Secure Accommodation Unit of the Alpha-Zee.

Princess Alena sits alone. As she stares out through the bars, she begins to sing:

### **Music No. 10 - Funny How Love** (Princess Alena)

*Alena*        *Pouring out his coffee, tidying his room,  
Just the way he held me when we danced,  
Moments of contentment disappearing much too soon,  
Is it time for me to take a chance?*

*Strange how love can catch you by surprise,  
All at once before you realise  
Love is standing there and zaps you right between the eyes.  
Funny how love can be that way.*

*See how love comes creeping up behind,  
When it was the last thing on your mind  
And you'd sworn by stars above you, that you'd never be so blind.  
Funny how love can be that way.*

*Some people say, "Love never comes twice,  
Reach out and take it" that's been their advice,  
"Or you're certain to regret it the remainder of your life."  
Funny how love can be that way.*

*I was so collected and so cool,  
Vowed that I would be nobody's fool,  
But it only goes to prove I'm no exception to the rule,  
Funny how love can be that way*

**Alena**        Oh Ricky, whatever am I going to do? For months I've been running away from commitment, running away from duty, running all over the galaxy, and now I've come running into you. What am I supposed to do? I've never felt like this before. It's all new and so different.

*Some people say, "Love never comes twice,  
Reach out and take it," that's been their advice,  
"Or you're certain to regret it the remainder of your life."  
Funny how love can be that way.*

*I was so collected and so cool,  
Vowed that I would be nobody's fool,  
But it only goes to prove I'm no exception to the rule,  
Funny how love be that way.  
Funny how love be that way.*

## Scene 3: A Walkway on the Alpha-Zee

Enter Bill and Bob in quiet conversation. They are startled by the arrival of General Garth.

**Garth**        Ah, Bill and Bob, just the men that I was looking for.  
**Bob**        Us, General Garth, you were looking for us?  
**Garth**        Yes, Bob, I was looking for you, Bob, and for Bill.  
**Bill**        Oh dear, what's gone wrong this time?  
**Garth**        Wrong? Why, absolutely nothing, my most reliable representatives. I simply wanted to say what an excellent job you have done. I am absolutely delighted. My plans are working out very nicely

thanks to you two. When all is successfully accomplished, I shall ensure that you are both amply rewarded.

*General Garth exits.*

**Bob** Did you hear that, Bill? A “thank you” from General Garth.  
**Bill** Yes, Bob, ‘an excellent job’, Bob, ‘absolutely delighted’ and,  
**Bill & Bob** ‘AmPLY rewarded’.  
**Bob** I wonder what his ‘plans’ are. He certainly seems very pleased.  
**Bill** Yes Bob, it’s nice to see him in a good mood for a change.  
**Bob** Just think Bill, you and I are his ‘most reliable representatives’, his right hand men.  
**Bill** Yes Bob, anything that the General wants doing, we’re the men for the job, Bob.

**Music No. 11 - The Magnificent Two -The Bill and Bob Rap** (Bill and Bob)

**Bill** *(Spoken) Well did you hear what the General said*  
**Bob** *He gave us both a pat on the head.*  
**Bill** *When everything is said and done*  
**Bob** *We are the best, we’re number one*  
**Bill** *So we’re gonna shout **(Both)** and we’re gonna sing,*  
*We’re gonna dance and do our thing:*  
*We are the men who can do the job,*  
*So please give it up for Bill and Bob!*

**Both** *(Sung) We are the men who can do the job,*  
*We are the infamous Bill and Bob.*  
*We are the men who will see it through,*  
*We’re the magnificent two!*

**Bob** *(Spoken) Do you recall that time on Venus,*  
**Bill** *We were great, you should have seen us*  
**Bob** *We got there when things were quiet,*  
**Bill** *But very soon we raised a riot.*  
**Bob** *If you need some **(Both)** dirty doing,*  
*If you want some trouble brewing*  
*Make a call to us today*  
*We’ll fix it for you right away.*

**Both** *(Sung) We are the men who can do the job,*  
*We are the infamous Bill and Bob.*  
*We are the men who will see it through,*  
*We’re the magnificent two!*

**Bill** *(Spoken) We do that cloak and dagger spying,*  
**Bob** *Just be sure you can rely on*  
**Bill** *These two dudes to do the job.*  
**Bob** *Who you gonna call for? **(Both)** Bill and Bob!*  
*If fugitives are on the run,*  
*We’ll track them down, we’ll get it done.*  
*We execute our work with skill.*  
*Who you gonna call for? Bob and Bill!*

**Both** *(Sung) We are the men who can do the job,*  
*We are the infamous Bill and Bob.*  
*We are the men who will see it through,*  
*We’re the magnificent two!*

**Bill** *(Spoken) Give it up for the man.*

**Bob** Who is the man?  
**Bill** Give it up for the man.  
**Bob** Who is the man?  
**Bill** Give it up for the man.  
**Bob** Who is the man?  
**Bill** Give it up for the man.  
**Bob** Bob is the man!

**Both** (Sung) We are the men who can do the job,  
We are the infamous Bill and Bob.  
We are the men who will see it through,  
We're the magnificent two!

**Bob** (Spoken) Give it up for the man.  
**Bill** Who is the man?  
**Bob** Give it up for the man.  
**Bill** Who is the man?  
**Bob** Give it up for the man.  
**Bill** Who is the man?  
**Bob** Give it up for the man.  
**Bill** Bill is the man!

**Both** (Sung) We are the men who can do the job,  
We are the infamous Bill and Bob.  
We are the men who will see it through,  
We're the magnificent two!  
We are the men who can do the job,  
We are the infamous Bill and Bob.  
We are the men who will see it through,  
We're the magnificent two!

*Bill and Bob exit.*

#### **Scene 4: The Secure Accommodation.**

*Alena is sitting pensively in her cell, there is the sound of a grating being lifted and Ricky emerges from behind the control console carrying the grill-cover.*

**Alena** What's that? Who's there? Ricky, it's you!  
**Ricky** Sorry L.C., I mean Princess, I didn't mean to startle you.  
**Alena** But I don't understand Ricky, however did you get in here?  
**Ricky** Everyone knows, Your Highness, you can get anywhere you like on a starship simply by crawling through the ventilation system. A few grills to remove and here I am, now what should I do with this? (*indicates grille cover*)  
**Alena** Just put it over there somewhere. (*She takes the grille and places it on the console*)  
Now Ricky, please explain, tell me what's going on.  
**Ricky** Look, Princess, L.C., Your Imperial Highness, I just came to apologise. All that stuff about dancing and starlight, I let myself get carried away and I shouldn't have. You really must forgive me, I know that you're going to be married and please, you mustn't take any notice of the ramblings of a very junior navigation officer.  
**Alena** Ricky, really, there's nothing to forgive, I .....  
**Ricky** And I came to let you know that your father, the Emperor, is on his way to collect you in person. General Garth sent a signal to him shortly after you were put into the secure accommodation, he's expected to be here in a few hours time.  
**Alena** And knowing Daddy, he'll have that awful Nodrog Shalf in tow as well.  
**Ricky** I'm sorry, Your Highness, what did you say?

**Alena** I said, Daddy will have that awful Nodrog Shalf in tow. And Ricky, you don't have to call me "Your Highness", Alena will do just fine.

**Ricky** Your...,Princess, I mean Alena, I don't understand. You don't seem at all pleased at the prospect of the arrival of your father and your fiancé.

**Alena** Let me explain. Daddy, the Emperor, wants me to marry Nodrog Shalf because he is the heir to the throne of Zardis and its Oil and Gas Conglomerates. Daddy believes that a link between our two families can only be good for the entire universe, linking together the Interplanetary Freight Federation and the Zardine Oil and Gas Corporation. I'm afraid daddy's plans are made on a business rather than a personal level. And as far as 'personal' goes, that's one level I do not intend getting to with dear Nodrog!

**Ricky** Whatever do you mean, Alena.

**Alena** I mean, I can't stand Nodrog Shalf. He's the oiliest Zardine I have ever come across. I try to explain how I feel, but whenever I do he simply says, (*lisp*) "Don' wowwy my Pwintheth, everwything will be just fine when we're mawwied". He's not even good looking, all goofy teeth and little beady eyes. Why do you think I keep running away, Ricky? I don't want to marry Nodrog, but I don't want to upset Daddy either.

**Ricky** I think I understand.

**Alena** And you're sure that in a few hours time daddy will be here to collect me.

**Ricky** Yes, Princess, just a few hours, not long at all now.

**Music No. 12 - Written in the Stars** (Ricky and Alena)

**Alena** *Can we make this moment last forever?  
Could it be it's written in the stars,  
That we two should always be together,  
You and I should never be apart?*

**Ricky** *Isn't this the strangest situation?  
Here we are two voyagers lost in space,  
Sharing your enforced incarceration,  
Startled by your presence in this place.*

**Both** *You and I, is this what fate's intending?  
Wonder why we had to come so far.  
Should we try to make a happy ending?  
Could it be it's written in the stars?*

*Can we hold back time until tomorrow?  
Can we live forever in a day?  
Parting's seldom sweet, but always sorrow,  
Can I cope if I/you should fly away?*

**Alena** Ricky, you did really mean the stuff about dancing and starlight, didn't you?  
**Ricky** Yes Alena, I really meant it.  
**Alena** Oh Ricky, I'm so relieved!

**Both** *You and I, is this what fate's intending?  
Wonder why we had to come so far.  
Should we try to make a happy ending?  
Could it be it's written in the stars?  
Could it be it's written in the stars?*

(The voice of Crew Girl is heard over the starship's loudspeakers)

**Crew Girl** This is a starship colleague announcement. All crewmembers, repeat, all crewmembers report to the flight deck at once. Thank you.  
**Ricky** I'll have to go Alena, or they'll miss me. (*He goes behind the console into the ventilation system*)

**Alena** Not without me you don't, Ricky Retro. If you can get out through the ventilation system, so can I!  
(*She picks up the grille then goes down behind the console*)

**Scene 5: The flight deck of the Alpha-Zee** (a few moments earlier).

**The last scene of this musical has been deleted from this preview copy, but the following synopsis completes the action ...**

*... The Emperor arrives, making a grand entrance and sings his calypso-style "Imperator Zaphon" song. He has brought Alena's intended husband with him. Alena though, having escaped from the cells and once again disguising herself as L.C., decides to reveal the fact that L.C. is really the Princess Alena and publicly spurns her suitor, Nodgog Shalf. Her father realising the error of his ways relents and agrees to her finding a more suitable husband.*

*During a power dip, which threatens to send them all spinning into a black hole (but is successfully overcome by harnessing and diverting the power of audio waves into the ships batteries during the song "Power Up"), Ricky and Rocky are revealed by General Garth to be in reality a Prince and a pauper respectively, which naturally allows Ricky to marry his beloved Princess. As the ship's computer has shut down, Rocky gets his wishes answered by having to manually command the starship back to port ....*

**Rocky** Ensign Retro, set a course for Star City.

**Ricky** Course is set, sir.

**Rocky** Number One, set thrusters to cruise speed.

**No.1** Thrusters set to cruise, sir.

**Rocky** Star City here we come!

**Zaphon** And steady as you go, Captain. Keep your eyes on the way ahead. I think perhaps it's time for all of us to look to the future? And, what is it they say? Ah yes, "reach for the stars".

**Music No. 15 - Look to the Future, Reach for the Stars** (Cast)

*All* How can we know where to go 'til we know where we've been?  
How can we tell what we see 'til we're told what we've seen?  
Maybe we're not very sure where we are,  
Who would believe we could make it this far?  
As we look to the future and reach for the stars.

*Keeping our eyes and our minds on the journey ahead,  
Try to recall all the things that the instructor said.  
Boldly we go where the stars brightly shine,  
All the way through to the end of the line,  
As we look to the future and reach for the stars.*

*The sky is filled with silver stars,  
Gently they lead us on,  
The ancient lights that steer the way,  
And guide the journey home  
Star City is very pretty they say  
Course set, we will try to get there some day*

*Putting our hands in the Hand and our hopes on the line,  
Pulling together we stand and we'll get there just fine.  
Face up with dangers we've never faced yet,  
We're going to need all the help we can get  
As we look to the future and reach for the stars.*

(Instrumental - 16 bars)

*Keeping our eyes and our minds on the journey ahead,  
Try to recall all the things that the instructor said.  
Boldly we go where the stars brightly shine,  
All the way through to the end of the line,  
As we look to the future and reach for the stars.*

*Reach for the stars*

## **The End**

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For further details on purchasing a full copy of the script, or for information on royalties, please contact :-

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