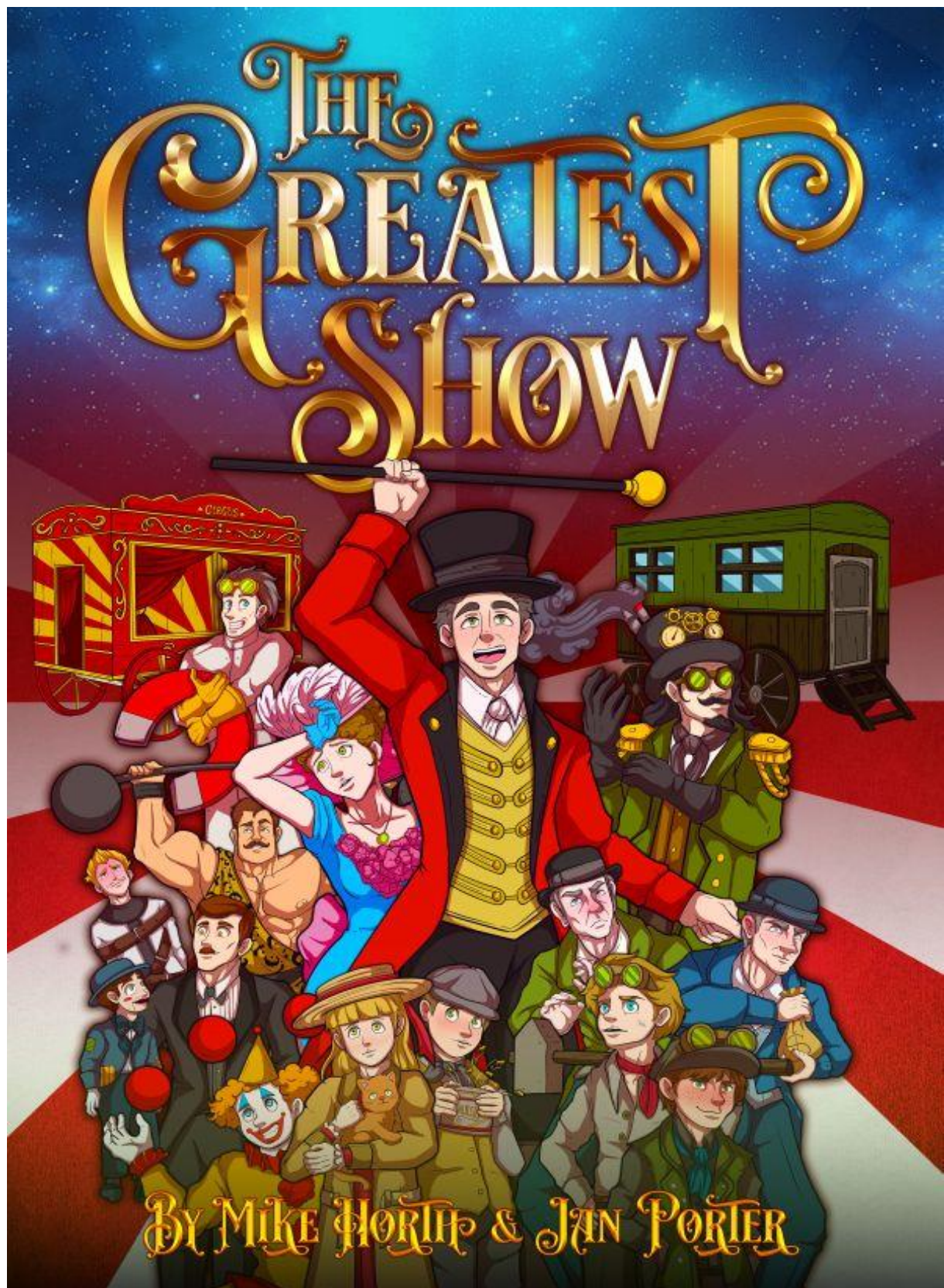




QUINCE CLASS

Characters in each scene

Scene One

Herbert
Lily
Vagabond
Branston
Prof
Victor
Buffalo Bill
Maximus
Harry
Cats 1-3
Scamp
Lady
Cookie
Coco
Mrs Tickle
Petunia
Ratfink

Scene Two

Heckle
Snide
Ragamuffins 1-4
Ibis
Mercure
Mrs Longlegs
Donald
Ratfink

Scene Three

Mrs Tickle
Lily
Herbert
Petunia
Branston
Ibis
Mercure
Flossie
Cats 1-3
Scamp
Lady
Cookie
Coco
Gladiators 1-2
Maximus
Prof

Scene Four

Cogs 1-4
Heckle
Snide
Ratfink
Obadiah

Scene Five

Cookie
Coco
Ibis
Mercure
Herbert
Branston
Fleas 1-3
Dungo
Harry
Petunia
Lily
Victor
Mrs Tickle
Buffalo Bill
Maximus
Vagabond
Prof

Scene Six

Heckle
Snide
Flossie
Mrs Longlegs
Donald
Ibis
Mercure
Ragamuffins 1-4
Branston
Lily

Scene Seven

Donald
Mrs Longlegs
Mrs Tickle
Cogs 1-4
Ratfink
Obadiah
Heckle
Snide
Lily
Branston
Flossie

Scene Eight

Cog 1 (If no backdrop)
Prof
Petunia
Ratfink
Heckle
Snide
Obadiah
Lily
Branston
Flossie
Lord D'Enture
Policemen 1-2
Ibis
Mercure

Scene Nine

Prof
Petunia
Branston
Herbert
Lily
Mrs Tickle
Flossie
Lord D'Enture

SCENE THREE:

THE SHOW

(Backdrop of show tent interior. Enter Herbert, Petunia, Mrs Tickle, Lily and Branston.)

MRS TICKLE: Well, I'm looking forward to our first show of the season.

LILY: Yes, we are all just about ready. The audience is filling up. *(She peers forward.)*

(Ibis and Mercure enter carrying chairs and sit to the side of the stage ready to comment. Enter Flossie.)

FLOSSIE: Excuse me, are you Herbert Pickle?

HERBERT: Yes, what can I do for you?

FLOSSIE: Well, I'm looking for work.

HERBERT: I'm sorry but we don't have any work at the moment.

FLOSSIE: I'm good with animals... and would be happy to muck out the cages and do the smelly jobs and care for all your lions and tigers...

HERBERT: Oh, we don't have large animals like that; it's too cruel to keep them in small cages. We just have some performing dogs and cats...

BRANSTON: And performing fleas.

MRS TICKLE: *(Wriggling uncomfortably as if she has caught fleas)* The more's the pity!

HERBERT: They are really our pets, and my daughter Lily looks after them all. We are a family business.

FLOSSIE: *(Wistfully)* Your family? Ah well, I'll keep looking.

HERBERT: So sorry, young lady. I hope you find something soon.

MRS TICKLE: Come along dearie, you look tired out. Let me make you a nice cup of tea before you head off.

FLOSSIE: *(Gratefully)* Oh, thank you.

(Exit Flossie with Mrs Tickle.)

LILY: I feel really sorry for her, she looks so sad, and when you mentioned the family, I thought she was going to cry.

PETUNIA: And did you see the quality of her clothes? She's quite posh and well-to-do. Why is she looking for work?

HERBERT: I know, it's very strange – looks like she's fallen on hard times.

BRANSTON: Or maybe, she ran away from home?

HERBERT: Well, there's nothing we can do to help I'm afraid. And we have a show to perform right now!

(Exit Lily, Branston, Petunia.)

TRACK 9: **CIRCUS PLAY ON / UNDERSCORE**

(Fade as dialogue below finishes; segue Track 10.)

HERBERT: *(Moving to the front of the stage in 'Showman mode')* Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Pickle's Perambulating Palace of Performers! We have a superbly splendid show, and to make the 'purrfect' start, put your paws together to welcome Lily Pickle and the Purwell Singing Cats.

(Enter Lily and the Cats during Herbert's dialogue. The Cats stand downstage centre, and Lily stands to one side in order to conduct them.)

(Exit Herbert.)

TRACK 10: **DAISY CATS (SONG)**

(The Cats sing in rhythm using 'miaow' instead of words. The words indicated in brackets are for timing purposes only. After 'give me your answer do', enter Scamp with Lady who trot around the stage in tandem pretending to be on bicycles.)

CAT 1: MI-AOW (Daisy)
CAT 2: MI-AOW (Daisy)
CAT 3: MIAOW MIAOW MIAOW MIAOW MIAOW MIAOW
(Give me your answer do.)
CAT 1: MI-AOW (I'm half)
CAT 2: MI-AOW (crazy)
CAT 3: MIAOW MIAOW MIAOW MIAOW MIAOW MIAOW
(All for the love of you.)
CAT 1: MI-AOW-WOW-WOW-WOW – WOW-WOW-WOW
(It won't be a stylish marriage,)
CAT 2: MI-AOW MI-AOW MI-AOW-WOW (I can't afford a carriage.)
CAT 3: MI-AOW (But you'll)
CAT 1: MI-AOW (look sweet)
CAT 2: MI-AOW (upon)
CAT 3: MI-AOW (the seat)
CAT 1: MIAOW MIAOW MIAOW-WOW-WOW (Of a bicycle)
CAT 2: MIAOW-WOW (made for)
CAT 3: MIAOW! (two.)

(Audience clap.)

TRACK 11:

DAISY CATS PLAY OFF

(Lily and Cats take a bow. Scamp and Lady bow. All exit.)

IBIS: Why would they have a bunch of cats singing the Daisy song?

MERCURE: 'Cos the rabbits were sick!

(Both laugh.)

IBIS: Has Herbert Pickle named his daughter after a chutney?

MERCURE: No, she's Lily Pickle, not piccalilli!

IBIS: Just wait till we meet his son!

(Enter Herbert.)

HERBERT: Well, what a treat that was! Who'd have thought it – singing cats!

TRACK 12:

CLOWN MUSIC AND PLAY OFF

HERBERT: ***(Announcing)*** And now, especially for the boys and girls, we have our comical clowns Cookie and Coco!

(Exit Herbert. Enter Cookie and Coco: Cookie with a flower that squirts water, Coco with an extending handkerchief in his pocket. The clowns bump into each other, then Cookie squirts water at the audience and Coco enacts the handkerchief routine, pulling out the very long handkerchief. At the wasp buzz, Cookie starts to bat away imaginary wasps which appear to head for the flower. The two clowns exit to the play off, escaping the wasps. Enter Herbert over the play off.)

HERBERT: *(Announcing)* Ladies and Gentlemen, put your hands together once again for the hilarious Coco and Cookie!

HERBERT: The performing wasps were kindly provided by Branston Pickle and his Insect Circus.

IBIS: What did I tell you?

MERCURE: What?

IBIS: Branston Pickle!

MERCURE: And his sister piccalilli.

IBIS: They're all named after chutney!

(Both laugh. Enter Branston hurriedly with a large jar labelled 'Jam'.)

BRANSTON: Sorry to interrupt, I've just got two more wasps to collect; they flew off in a huff when I only offered them sugar water. *(He moves around the stage waving his jam jar.)*

TRACK 13: **SFX WASPS / GLADIATOR PLAY ON**

BRANSTON: Here, Busby!

(Branston captures the wasp putting his hand over the top of the jar.)

BRANSTON: Good, that's one. (Calls loudly in a cajoling voice) Stingerella! I have your favourite flavour, strawberry!

(Branston lurches in a different direction and captures Stingerella in the jar. He puts the lid on. Exit Branston.)

HERBERT: *(Over drumroll.)* And now Ladies and Gentleman, in a change to our advertised show, we have a re-enactment of the Roman amphitheatre starring our very own strongman. Please give a big thumbs up for the Gladiators!

(Enter Maximus and two gladiators. Maximus stands centre stage with his back to the audience, head down in a strong pose. The two gladiators circle anxiously waiting to fight. Exit Herbert.)

GLADIATOR 1: Prepare to fight, slave! Who are you? I will have your name!

MAXIMUS: *(Turns around slowly and menacingly)* My name is Maximus Biceptius Sixpackius Girder and I will have my vengeance on this stage or the next! *(flexes muscles)* No beast will frighten me! *(Cowers at cat miaow below)*

TRACK 14: **SFX CAT MIAOW / GLADIATOR FIGHT**

(Cats enter as lions and tigers. They carry a soft animal toy each e.g. snake, monkey etc. and circle the Gladiators threateningly. The Cats move towards the Gladiators as if stalking them. They 'attack' the Gladiators, handing over the soft toy, then back off and prowl around the perimeter of the stage, gradually getting closer again to the Gladiators. The Gladiators wrestle with the toys and hurl them to the ground.)

Maximus holds his up above his head in a 'strong man' pose before throwing it onto the ground. The music ends. Enter Professor in a white coat and gladiator helmet carrying a giant magnet.)

GLADIATOR 1: *(Panting)* Who else dares to enter into gladiatorial combat?

PROF: My name is Professaurus Pickleonus.

GLADIATOR 2: Select your weapon! Quickly!!

PROF: Actually, I already have it! My giant magnet! *(Shows it to the audience)* I can't stand fighting and I'll put a stop to this!

(He holds up his magnet.)

TRACK 15:

SFX MAGNET

(All the Gladiators rush towards him and 'stick' to the magnet. The Cats back off, afraid of the magnet. Prof leads the Gladiators and Maximus offstage, stuck to the magnet. SFX Fade as required.)

IBIS: *(Thumbs up)* Pickleonus! Pickleonus!

MERCURE: Those gladiators seem very **drawn** to the professor! Ha, Ha!

IBIS: You could say he was the **main attraction**!

(Both laugh. The Cats look at the audience, shrug, pick up any discarded soft toys and exit.)

TRACK 16:

FANFARE

(Enter Herbert.)

HERBERT: That's all folks! Hope you enjoyed the show. Our next performance will feature Ventriloquist Victor Chatterson with Vagabond Charlie; Buffalo Bill and his Wild West Show; Harry (get me out of here) Houdidit as well as Branston Pickle and his famous Flea Circus. See you again soon!

TRACK 17:

CIRCUS PLAY OFF INTO THE ENGINE SHEDS

(Exit all to play off.)

SCENE FIVE:

SABOTAGE

TRACK 30:

DUM DUM DUM!

(Lights down. Exit all. Lights up. Enter Lily and Branston.)

LILY: What's just happened?

VICTOR: **(Offstage)** Over here! Help!

LILY: Did you hear a shout?

BRANSTON: It was Vagabond, I mean Victor.

LILY: He must be in the prop cupboard over there. **(She points offstage)**

(Lily walks off stage to look. Enter Herbert, Petunia, Harry and Mrs Tickle.)

HARRY: **(Examining his straitjacket)** My straitjacket was tampered with. As soon as I put it on a metal clasp locked! There was nothing I could do!

PETUNIA: It's a disaster! We are ruined! **(She wanders around wringing her hands melodramatically)**

(Enter Lily with a 'Pimple Poultice' packet label hidden in her hand, Victor with Vagabond, Buffalo Bill and Maximus.)

BUFFALO BILL: The shame of it – to be tied up with my own lasso.

MAXIMUS: You can talk; I'm the strong man here and I couldn't do anything. They took us by surprise.

HERBERT: Are you OK? Did you see anything?

VICTOR: Yes, there were two of them. I was able to throw my voice once they'd gagged me, so they didn't stay long – wrecked a few things then scarpered.

VAGABOND: They were scared because they didn't know where the voice was coming from.

PETUNIA: **(Panicking)** It's like the Sands Travelling Show and the Trumpet Circus. They all closed down and no one really knew why. It's happening to us now...oh what will we do?

(She rushes off stage in a panic.)

HERBERT: Petunia...

MRS TICKLE: **(Kindly)** I'll go after her. Make her a nice cup of tea!

(Exit Mrs Tickle.)

TRACK 31:

THE SHOW GOES ON (SONG)

ALL: WHO'S DONE THIS?
WHAT'S HIS GAME?
WRECKED OUR SHOW,
WHO'S TO BLAME?

HERBERT: CAN'T BELIEVE SUCH
TYRANNY BUT
NO ONE GETS THE
BEST OF ME.

ALL: ON!
THE SHOW GOES ON.
WE'LL NEVER FAIL,
WE ARE TOO STRONG.
ON!
THE SHOW GOES ON.
WE'VE GOT THE STRENGTH
TO CARRY ON.

ALL: WE'LL STAND UP,
WON'T GIVE IN.
THERE'S NO WAY
THEY WILL WIN!

HERBERT: WHAT CAN BE THE
MOTIVATION
TO DESTROY MY
REPUTATION?

ALL: ON!
THE SHOW GOES ON.
WE'LL NEVER FAIL,
WE ARE TOO STRONG.
ON!
THE SHOW GOES ON.
WE'VE GOT THE STRENGTH
TO CARRY ON.

SMALL GROUP: ON, ON, }

ON, ON, } **(4 times)**
THE SHOW GOES }

ALL: ON!
THE SHOW GOES ON.
WE'LL NEVER FAIL,
WE ARE TOO STRONG.
ON!
THE SHOW GOES ON.
WE'LL FIND A WAY
TO RIGHT THE WRONG!
ON!
THE SHOW GOES ON.
WE'VE GOT THE STRENGTH
TO CARRY ON.

BRANSTON: That's the spirit, Dad!

HERBERT: Well, it's easy saying it, but how do we go about it? The public want new, original acts – things they've not seen before. Petunia is right about other shows closing, with or without sabotage. I have to admit I've been worried about the show even before all this happened...

(Enter Prof very pleased with himself.)

PROF: They tried to get into my trailer but my new burglar-proof, mechanised locking system stopped them. All my inventions are safe. Yes! **(He pumps the air)**

LILY: That's great! We are going to need your new secret invention more than ever, Prof. What is it that you've got up your sleeve?

BRANSTON: His hands?

LILY: Very funny!

PROF: Well, I think now is the time for the big reveal. Herbert, your worries are over! My invention is finished and it works, we just need a trial run.

(He whispers something to Herbert.)

HERBERT: Really? I can't believe it. This is amazing!!

BRANSTON: What?

LILY: You have got to tell us!

PROF: The rest of you will find out very soon.

TRACK 32: **SHOW GOES ON REPRISE (SONG)**

ALL: ON!
THE SHOW GOES ON.
WE'LL NEVER FAIL,
WE ARE TOO STRONG.
ON!
THE SHOW GOES ON.
WE'LL FIND A WAY
TO RIGHT THE WRONG!
ON!
THE SHOW GOES ON.
WE'VE GOT THE STRENGTH
TO CARRY ON.

(Exit all apart from Lily and Branston. Lily pretends to pick up the 'Pimple Poultice' packet label she has hidden in her hand and shows it to Branston.)

LILY: What do you make of this?

BRANSTON: It looks like the label from a packet of something.

LILY: ***(Reads aloud)*** 'Pimple Poultice; also cures warts, boils, bad breath and fungal infections of the feet.' Why would this be here?

BRANSTON: I think someone has dropped it.

LILY: ***(Knowingly)*** Yes, and I think that we should go shopping tomorrow!

(Exit Lily and Branston.)

TRACK 33: **ARTIFICIAL TEETH SCENE CHANGE**

SCENE NINE:

THE GREATEST SHOW

(Backdrop – Professor's workshop. Enter Herbert, Lily and Mrs Tickle.)

PROF: Well, I said my invention needed testing and it worked brilliantly! Thanks to my wonderful cast!

BRANSTON: Uh? I'm not with you.

HERBERT: You were all the cast in Prof's moving picture. His invention is a bioscope, it records moving pictures.

PROF: Yes, I set up the machine and Herbert here controlled it.

LILY: I wondered where you were, Dad, when Obadiah and his gang raided us.

HERBERT: Yes, thanks to your warning, we were able to set a trap and catch them red-handed.

LILY: It could have gone wrong!

PROF: We had contingency plans; Buffalo Bill was on standby with his lasso, Maximus was ready to stop anyone getting away and we had alerted the police.

MRS TICKLE: Yes, and I put itching powder in the flea tin – I'd stowed the fleas safely in that beautiful feather hat I found in the props.

PETUNIA: What? My Daisy hat!

MRS TICKLE: Only joking!

BRANSTON: I thought it was strange that Flossie should treat the fleas so badly, so she knew they had been moved?

MRS TICKLE: Of course. We knew it would have more effect if the tin was marked 'Fleas'!

BRANSTON: What about Heckle and Snide?

PROF: They were caught running off by the police. They are now safely behind bars with Blastpipe and Ratfink.

LILY: And we have all the evidence of their evil deeds thanks to the bioscope!

HERBERT: That's right! And now, thanks to Prof, our future is safe; we have the new scientific act that will draw the crowds: Pickle's Moving Picture Show! And our first show can be 'Crime Doesn't Pay' or 'Obadiah Blastpipe And The Magnet Of Doom!'

PETUNIA: Yes, although it's a pity I didn't get tied to the railroad tracks: imagine the drama in that! It would have been my finest hour!

PROF: There will be many more opportunities for you to use your acting talents, my dear.

HERBERT: So now everyone's jobs are safe - we will continue with our usual acts, but we have the moving picture show as our headliner.

MRS TICKLE: Never mind Pickle's Moving Picture Show, I hope you realise that with the bioscope we now have The Greatest Show!

(Everyone cheers and claps.)

LILY: Yay! Well done Dad and Prof!

(Enter Flossie, and Lord D'Enture.)

MRS TICKLE: Ah Flossie, are you going to do the introductions?

FLOSSIE: Of course, this is my father, Lord D'Enture.

(Everyone nods.)

PETUNIA: Oh, your Lordship! *(She performs an outrageous curtsey and has difficulty getting back up.)*

D'ENTURE: *(Helps Petunia get back up)* I am very much in your debt...

PETUNIA: Oh, *(Flutters eyelashes)* my absolute pleasure!

D'ENTURE: ...Mrs Tickle. *(Petunia looks embarrassed)* Florence has told me all about the help you gave her when she ran away from home.

MRS TICKLE: Oh, it was nothing. Such a sweet girl, I had to get in touch with you once I knew a bit about her. I knew your little quarrel could soon be sorted out.

D'ENTURE: Indeed, it has.

FLOSSIE: Father has agreed to let me open a wildlife park on our estate at Denton Abbey. All the animals we have rescued can live out their lives happily there and we have offered jobs to Heckle and Snide's poor ragamuffins and to the cogs if they want them.

D'ENTURE: Yes, from now on Denton Abbey will be known for its animals. Who knows, maybe one day there will be a moving picture about us?
(Looks up dreamily as theme tune plays.)

TRACK 41: **DENTON ABBEY**

HERBERT: You never know! First the travelling show, now the moving picture show. Who knows where inventions will take us next?

LILY: Talking and moving pictures?

FLOSSIE: Talking and moving pictures in colour?

BRANSTON: Talking, moving pictures in colour in your own home?

PROF: *(Thinking hard)* Hmmmm, talking, moving, colour pictures in a little frame that you can carry around with you...

HERBERT: Well, that really is ridiculous!!

MRS TICKLE: Oh, never mind all that, we have got The Greatest Show!

TRACK 42: **THE GREATEST SHOW (SONG)**

(Enter whole cast during the first verse of the song.)

ALL: WE'VE SEEN THE FUTURE AND WE'RE LOVIN' THE VIEW;
OUR SHOW IS CHANGING TO SOMETHING NEW.
WE'RE MOVIN' FORWARD, AHEAD OF THE GAME;
OUR NEW INVENTION WILL BRING US ALL FAME.

ALL: THE MOVING PICTURES, REAL LIFE ON A SCREEN;
THEY'LL TAKE YOU PLACES THAT YOU'VE NEVER SEEN.
GOODIES AND BADDIES WE'LL CHEER AND WE'LL BOO;
OUR SILENT MOVIES WILL ENTERTAIN YOU.

GROUP 1 AND 2

(IN HARMONY): WE ARE SPECTACULAR, SHININ' LIKE A SUPERSTAR.
BIOSCOPE WILL TAKE US FAR; GONNA BE SO POPULAR.

ALL: WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA:
IT'S THE GREATEST SHOW!

ALL: THE CAT'S PYJAMAS' GOT NOTHING ON US;
CALL US THE QUEEN BEES. CAN YOU HEAR THE BUZZ?
TOP OF THE PLAYBILL AND WE'RE ALL THE RAGE,
AT THE BEGINNING OF A GOLDEN AGE.

GROUP 1 AND 2

(IN HARMONY): WE ARE SPECTACULAR, SHININ' LIKE A SUPERSTAR.
BIOSCOPE WILL TAKE US FAR; GONNA BE SO POPULAR.

ALL: WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA:
IT'S THE GREATEST SHOW!

ALL: IT'S SO GROUND BREAKIN', FIVE STARS IN THE MAKIN'.
IT'S GONNA BE A BIG SURPRISE!
IT'S SO AMAZING; YOU WON'T BE COMPLAININ'.
YOU REALLY WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES!

ALL: THE MOVING PICTURES, REAL LIFE ON A SCREEN;
THEY'LL TAKE YOU PLACES THAT YOU'VE NEVER SEEN.
GOODIES AND BADDIES WE'LL CHEER AND WE'LL BOO;
OUR SILENT MOVIES WILL ENTERTAIN YOU.

(IN HARMONY): WE ARE SPECTACULAR, SHININ' LIKE A SUPERSTAR.
BIOSCOPE WILL TAKE US FAR; GONNA BE SO POPULAR.

(IN HARMONY): WE ARE SPECTACULAR, SHININ' LIKE A SUPERSTAR.
BIOSCOPE WILL TAKE US FAR; GONNA BE SO POPULAR.

(To be used after Track 38 if using a pianist for the performance.)