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The Late Sleepers

A musical

Book and lyrics by Paul James

Music by Eric Angus



Samuel French — London
www.samuelfrench-london.co.uk





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THE LATE SLEEPERS

First presented by National Youth Music Theatre on
16th August, 2002 at Theatre Royal, Newcastle-upon-
Tyne, with the following cast:

Gabriel
Angelina
Wilma
Fred
Dino
Boris
James
Elsa
Hannah
Barbara
Buffy
Igor
Carrie
Morticia
Tabatha
Herman

Kieran McGinn
Tasha Sheridan
Kate Wilkins
Matthew Barlow
Paul Stafford
Robert Copeland
James Benn
Olivia Drew
Anna Gilthorpe
Beth Purvis
Alicia McKenzie
Conleth Kane
Ami Instone
Amy Parkhouse
Faye Castelow
James Hedley

Chorus

Aidan Salter
Amy Papa
Amy Wareham
Andrew Moysey
Beth Stobbart
Charlene Fairish
Charlotte Reid
Christina Francotte
Christopher Mitchell
Daniel McGinn

Francesca Breslin
Grace Holdstock
Hayley Sharples
Jessica Cornish
Jessica Irving
Jonathan Stewart
Lewis Bradley
Nichola Telford
Sarah Warbey



The Artistic Team

Writer
Composer
Director
Musical Director
Choreographer
Designer
Lighting Designer
Assistant Musical Director

Paul James
Eric Angus
Vernon Mound
Tim Sutton
Joanne Banks
Chris deWilde
Hugh Conway
Tom Deering

Band

Guitar
Drum
Bass

Kenneth Belsham
John Major
Tom Pattison





CHARACTERS

The Humans

James
Elsa

The Sleepers

Gabriel
Angelina
Wilma
Fred
Dino
Boris
Hannah
Barbara
Buffy
Igor
Carrie
Morticia
Tabatha

Four Sleepers as:

Lon Cheney (*the Wolfman*)
Bela Lugosi (*a suave Dracula*)
Boris Karloff (*Frankenstein's monster*)
Christopher Lee (*a taller Dracula*)

Chorus of Sleepers

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Outside the Sleepers' Hive – early evening

Act II

Outside the Sleepers' Hive – before dawn





MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

No 1	Sundown	Wilma, Fred and Dino
No 2	We Live by Night	Company
No 3	The Dark Side	Angelina, Gabriel, Hannah, Barbara, James and Elsa
No 4	From Jetsons to Simpsons	Company
No 5	My New Life	Wilma and Elsa
No 6	People Change	James

ACT II

No 7	The Party That Never Ends	James, Boris and Sleepers
No 8	A Creature Gets Lonely	Gabriel and Sleepers
No 9	The Wedding of the Year	Sleepers
No 10	Fairytale Wedding	Carrie and Sleepers
No 11	Nobody Knows That Now	Gabriel and Elsa
No 12	Finale	Sleepers

There is no incidental music in the score. Where the word “music” occurs in the script, the Musical Director and/or band should improvise underscoring based on musical themes from the show.

The Vocal score and associated band parts are available on hire from:

SAMUEL FRENCH LTD, 52 FITZROY STREET, LONDON W1T 5JR





Also available from Samuel French Ltd:

The Demon Headmaster

Book by Paul James. Lyrics by Iain Halstead and Paul James

Music by Eric Angus and Cathy Shostak

Based on the novel *The Demon Headmaster* by Gillian Cross

Based on the very popular children's book, *The Demon Headmaster* by Gillian Cross, this musical is fun, exciting and a little bit scary. An early version of the musical was "workshopped" at the Royal National Theatre's studio in 1997 and premièred at The Pleasance Theatre, London. In 1999 it enjoyed a very successful national tour.

The pupils of St. Campion's Comprehensive, ultra-disciplined exam machines, are devoted to their headmaster. But something strange is going on and the worst class in the world — 6Z — are going to get to the bottom of this mystery and expose the DEMON HEADMASTER!

"Mildly subversive, the humour appeals both to seven-to-fourteen year olds currently engaged in the politics of the playground and adults who have been there, done that, read the league tables ... a musical endowed with strong characterization, pacy plot and good songs," *Time Out*

"The first thing to say about this new musical version of the "Demon Headmaster" is that it is a great show. A cracking storyline, both suspenseful and sill, and a terrific score ..." *Highbury and Islington Express*

"I have greatly enjoyed watching this show develop and it was wonderful to see it performed on stage. The writers and composers have done a fantastic job in catching the spirit of the original book and dramatizing it with flair and invention — and I love the songs." *Gillian Cross*





ACT I

Lights up

Early evening, almost dusk. Through the following scene the sky slowly darkens. The scene appears to be an amphitheatre constructed of junk and scrap metal. It is as though a large hole in the ground (a bomb crater?) has been the starting point for the creation of an underground complex — though this will only become apparent when people emerge from its depths

Three young people are on stage. Fred is a burly youth. He lies back and gazes up at the sky. Dino, who is nervous, sly, shifty, looks out over the upper edge of the structure to the landscape beyond. Wilma - quicker, more intelligent — stands with her back to the audience. She turns and advances towards the audience, singing and moving in rhythm

Music No. 1: Sundown

Wilma Something strange is occurring
 Distinctions are blurring
 Are they dead or alive?
 Here in the Hive
 They're already stirring
 Because when daylight dies
 They arise

 At Sundown
 We're gonna have fun down here
 On the wrong side of town
 At Sundown
 Let me give you all a run-down
 Of the home-spun fun that has almost begun
 We're gonna pop out your eyes
 We're gonna rip out your heart
 We're gonna su-su-suck you in
 And b-b-baby b-b-blow you apart
 At Sundown
 At Sundown

Fred has moved to her side and together they begin the verse again. It becomes apparent they are rehearsing a number. They dance together





Fred Something strange is occurring

Wilma (*speaking*) Slide... reach...

Both (*singing*) Distinctions are blurring

Wilma (*speaking*) Step...

Fred (*speaking*) I know!

Both (*singing*) Are they dead or alive?

Here in the Hive

They're already stirring

Because when daylight dies

Both (*speaking*) Thrust... two... three...

Wilma (*singing*) They arise

Fred (*speaking*) Come on, Dino – one more time.

Wilma We've got to be ready. Tonight, I'm sure they're going to let us perform the number.

Dino Yeah, right.

He joins them reluctantly and they talk whilst rehearsing the dance steps

Wilma Slide... Reach!

Dino Listen – Fred, Wilma — we're the Flintstones. And what do Flintstones do? They guard this place during the day. We're warriors, not dancers.

Fred If we show them we can do it, that we're performers, then they're going to let us join the gang properly.

Wilma Yeah – do you want to be a Flintstone all your life?

All 3 (*singing*) At Sundown

We're gonna have fun down here

On the wrong side of town

At Sundown

Let me give you all a run-down

Of the home-spun fun that has almost begun

We're gonna pop out your eyes

We're gonna rip out your heart

We're gonna su-su-suck you in

And b-b-baby b-b-blow you apart

Dino At Sundown

Wilma Sundown

Fred Sundown

All 3 At Sundown

Laughing, Fred begins to climb up to resume their watching duties





Act I

3

Fred We're gonna blow them away!

Wilma We sure are!

Dino Be still my beating heart...

Fred (*suddenly ducking down*) Hey — quiet you two. There's someone coming

Dino (*not believing him*) Yeah, right.

Wilma Are they soldiers?

Fred No — it's just a kid. No uniform... Wait — there's two of 'em.

Dino (*very nervous*) Is it a gang?

Fred No gang's crazy enough to come round here. This is Sleeper territory. They're just a couple of kids.

Wilma What planet are *they* from? Haven't they heard about us?

Fred They're about to...

Dino Wait. Maybe we ought to go downstairs and wake 'em up. (*Indicating below-ground*)

Wilma Are you crazy, Dino? It's not even dark yet.

Fred Hey — heads down.

They hide

Two figures (James and Elsa) appear, silhouetted against the reddening sky. They appear to be two teenage boys. One wears a baseball-style cap. They peer down into the amphitheatre. They look at each other for a few seconds, then begin to clamber down. They reach the bottom

James (*shouting*) Anybody here?

They pause to listen, then look around

(To Elsa) Some place! (*Shouting*) Hallo!

Fred emerges

Fred No need to shout.

James Hi — can you help us? I think we're lost.

Wilma emerges

Wilma I think you're right.

Dino emerges behind Elsa, smirking





Fred grabs James and puts a knife to his throat. Dino grabs Elsa

Dino Heh, heh — we got 'em, Fred! Heh, heh.

Elsa begins to struggle

Fred You sure you can manage there, Dino, my boy?

Dino Sure I'm sure. He's skinny as hell, not a muscle on him. And if he knows what's good for him...

Elsa elbows Dino in the stomach and breaks away, but is stopped by Wilma who deftly puts her in an armlock. Furious, Dino confronts Elsa and makes to hit her

Wilma Stop! They belong to Gabriel now.

Dino (to Elsa) You little punk! Do you know who you're messing with?

Elsa No. Tell me.

Fred Shut it, Dino!

Dino skulks off to peer over the top of the Hive

James Look, we don't mean any harm. We were just exploring, you know — looking around. We thought we heard music...

Wilma begins to frisk Elsa, and motions to Fred who does the same to James

Wilma Music? Out here in the wasteland? You've had too much sun.

Fred What did you think?

James Sounded pretty good...

Fred (amused) You're really scared, aren't you?

James Should we be?

Dino Oh, I think so. Especially now that the Sun — has — set. Ladies and Gentlemen — it's time to meet the gang!

Sound effect/music

From various holes, tunnels, trap-doors begin to emerge crawling, sinuous creatures, with pale skin, dressed in black and scarlet, though each with bright dyed hair of various hues. These are the Late Sleepers





Act I

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They include: Boris — a swaggering, sadistic boy who obviously has some seniority in the gang; Angelina — another senior member of the gang, exotic and sexy; Buffy — technical wizard of the gang, with her assistant Igor; Hannah and Barbara — two gang members who are always together like twins and whose costumes (& hair?) are complementary. Others include Morticia, Carrie, Tabatha and Herman

They move around in time with the music, stretching, jumping, short dance steps. The Late Sleepers are generally dismissive of Fred, Wilma and Dino. Some do not immediately notice their captives

Carrie Hallo, Flintstones.

Hannah } (together) Yabba dabba doo!
Barbara }

Boris (to Fred, Wilma and Dino, pushing them aside) Yo, dayboys — been sunning yourselves?

Angelina (to Wilma, bitchily) Nice tan, Wilma (noticing James and Elsa) Hey — what do we have here?

Everyone gathers around them. Some lunge towards them hungrily. For a few moments they are pushed around like rag dolls until Boris motions them to stop. Angelina wraps herself around James

Boris A little decorum, please. (To the Flintstones) What's the story, morning glories?

Fred We saw them coming this way——

Dino From a distance, so we spread out and tracked them, kind of toyed with them, till kapow! We took 'em out.

Boris Why don't I believe you – ever? In fact, why don't I like the look or the smell of this at all?

Igor Ah, come on, Boris — they all taste the same, whether we caught them ourselves or not.

Boris We usually eat out.

Angelina Boris, dear Boris — don't you see what we have here?

Boris Why don't you tell me, Angelina — if you can stop drooling for long enough.

Angelina What we have here, at least for a little while, is a small but perfectly formed audience for our new number.

All Sleepers Yeah! Right! *Etc.*

Hannah } (together) Let's do the show right here!
Barbara }

Music - everyone springs into action and the stage is a mass of movement





Tabatha Flintstones — show them to their seats.

The Flintstones escort James and Elsa to positions higher in the structure. Fred and Wilma sit nearby them, Dino stands watching. In what follows, all the Sleepers are performers, though some seem to have other roles, e.g. Carrie is stage manager, Morticia director, Buffy and Igor technical team

Herman Full production number!

Carrie Thirty second call downstairs.

Morticia Lights?

Buffy General wash.

Igor Sound check — two, one two, one two.

Carrie Beginners, please.

Herman (to Boris) Break a leg!

Boris (surly) How about yours?

Buffy More power, Igor!

Igor You got it, Buffy.

Hannah and Barbara approach the front of the stage

Hannah } (together) Please switch off all mobile communication
Barbara } devices.

Carrie Ten second call.

Morticia Places, everyone! Give it everything!

Carrie Four... three... two...

The lights grow brighter. The impression of this being a performance area is heightened

Music No. 2: We Live by Night

Sleepers We live by night
We sleep by day
And we've got
Fangs for the memories
Claws for complaint
Paws for effect
We show a terrible lack of restraint
When we're out on the streets
Then we're out on the prowl
And we gaze at the moon
With an animal howl! (*They howl*)





Act I

7

Carrie (*speaking*) And if there's one thing we know, it is that death is a five-letter word. And it is spelt B. O. R. I. S.

Sleepers Boris! Boris!

The group parts to reveal Boris

Boris I hunt by night
So be afraid
I'll give you
Cause to be terrified
Pain to endure
Scream! And roll up
For my hysterical mystery tour
Where are you gonna hide?
Where are you gonna run
When I make up my mind
That I'm after some fun?

All Get the sunshine out of your life
Let the darkness into your soul
Any fool can seize the day
Kill that light
Paint it black
Embrace the night

Herman (*speaking*) And yet from the chill of the crypt can come supernova heat in the shape of a girl we know – Angelina!

Sleepers Angelina! Angelina!

The group parts to reveal Angelina

Angelina I writhe all day
With hot desires
I have these
Dreams that are teeming with
Steamy details
Screaming, I wake up
Get me some red-blooded males!
There was never a hunger, a thirst like this.
There was never a passion, a kiss like my kiss.
Yet despite the pleasures, the pouts, the pains
My treasured one throughout remains

(*Speaking*) Gabriel





Sleepers Gabriel Gabriel
(*singing*) Come, dark angel!
Dark angel Gabriel!
Come, dark angel
Dark angel Gabriel!
Gabriel! Gabriel!
Gabriel! Gabriel!

As the music grows louder Gabriel appears. An imposing presence whom the other Sleepers treat with a mixture of admiration and fear

Gabriel I walk alone
My path is dark
I live the life diabolical
My very touch is contagion
I walk abroad sowing chaos
And in my trail pandemonium
But hey,
I do it all so here in Liberty Hall
My children can live
My children live
Sleepers We live
Gabriel My children live
Sleepers We live
We live
We live
We live by night
We sleep by day
And we've got
Fangs for the memories
Claws for complaint
Paws for effect
We show a terrible lack of restraint

When we're out on the streets
Then we're out on the prowl
And we gaze at the moon
With an animal howl!

Get the sunshine out of your life
Let the darkness into your soul
Any fool can seize the day



Act I

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Kill that light
Paint it black
Embrace the night
Get the sunshine out of your life
Let the darkness into your soul

Any fool can seize the day
We who must be obeyed
Put the rest in the shade.
Join the charge of the Dark Brigade
Embrace the night!

Gabriel Ah, the smell of the greasepaint and (*sniffing the air*) of the crowd. (*He approaches James and Elsa*) So we've had a little audience for our floorshow, have we? It did seem to stiffen the sinews. And where did they come from, Wilma...?

Wilma We don't know. They just arrived. Wandered straight into the Hive.

Gabriel You mean they crossed our threshold uninvited?

Wilma (*nodding*) Their souls are yours, if you want them.

Gabriel You have done well.

Wilma Thank you, Gabriel. Does that mean tonight we might — join you? (*She bares her neck hopefully*)

Gabriel moves closer, stands behind her and places his hands on her shoulders, gazing at her bared neck. He almost bites her, but something makes him stop

Gabriel Soon, my pretty.

He moves away leaving her disappointed

Fred Tell him about the number, Wilma.

Wilma Oh yeah! We've been rehearsing a song all day while you slept! It's called 'Sundown'. We could do it for you right now.

Gabriel There's no time. The nights grow damnably short as we approach Midsummer. Some of you can feast on these two. The rest of us must begin our trawl.

Angelina (*to Gabriel*) Shall we hunt together tonight, Gabriel? I've been dreaming of you all day. I've tossed and turned...

Gabriel Angelina — dear one. Perhaps I did sense a certain warmth even through the layers of consecrated earth.

Angelina It was me you could sense, wanting you, missing you. For weeks now, you have hunted without me...





Gabriel (*distracted*) There are things I must do alone. (*To those who have gathered around James and Elsa*) Enjoy (*To the others*) Come — we fly!

They make to leave

Elsa (*to Gabriel*) Hey! Gabriel! What are they going to do — sing and dance us to death?

Morticia Your veins shall be punctured, your life will ebb into ours...

James But we could help you. You're a gang, yeah? We can steal, we can fight. We know lots about the city — how to get in, where to go——

Gabriel (*to James and Elsa*) We never enter the city.

James Oh, but you should — people are rich there——

Gabriel Silence! You're about to die, boy — and not the sad, lonely death that the poor suffer in the wasteland. Your end will be vicious but poetic. And you've just had the benefit of weeks of rehearsal.

James But we could do that too — we could learn to sing and dance! That's why we're here — we want to join you.

Gabriel I choose my company — and I have not chosen you. (*He approaches Elsa*) Though somehow, I find this one intriguing. One senses hidden depths. You know my name, boy — what's yours?

Elsa says nothing. Gabriel circles her. He removes her hat, and her hair comes tumbling free

Music

There are murmurs of surprise. Some of the male Late Sleepers move forward hungrily

Elsa My name is Elsa.

Gabriel Elsa? (*Smiling*) Of course it is.

Fred Hey, Dino — you couldn't handle a girl!

Dino Shut it, Fred.

Carrie And who's this? Your boyfriend?

Elsa He's my brother. His name is James.

Gabriel walks away, considering them. Boris takes over, interrogating

Boris Where've you come from?

Elsa The streets. Same as you.

Boris Don't lie, punk — you've got the pampered smell of the city all





Act I

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over you. You're nowhere tough enough to survive on the streets.

Wilma She *can* fight though. Where'd she learn that?

Boris Did you run away from home, cupcakes? What was the problem
— air-conditioning set too high?

Morticia Was your food too rich maybe?

Herman Or did your mummy make you tidy your room?

Tabatha Something life and death like that?

They all laugh

Elsa Something like that. My mother didn't like my attitude. She said I
was turning into — a Late Sleeper.

Pause. Everyone looks round at Gabriel

Gabriel What did you say?

Elsa I think you heard. The Late Sleepers. That's who you are, aren't
you? This gang of yours.

Gabriel Do the people of the city still believe in bogey men and
fairytales?

Elsa The people we met on our way here certainly do. They believe
there's something dark and evil way out here in the wasteland. Some-
thing they're all pretty scared of.

Gabriel Yet still you came looking. Now why is that?

Elsa I'm always looking for a deeper thrill.

James Life sucks in the city. We came to find something different.

Boris Like death, for instance?

Elsa Maybe.

Dramatic chord

Gabriel Congratulations. You found it.

Dramatic chord

Death is indeed our close companion — but our vocation is amuse-
ment. Whoever you are, your last few hours on earth will be spent
providing us with some.

He grabs Elsa

(to Elsa) At least, you will — *(To the others)* She's mine. *(He indicates James)* The other — feast on him.





They close in on James. Angelina is stung with jealousy. She grabs James

Angelina No! I want him.

They all look to Gabriel

Hannah, Barbara and I — we can share him. (*Pleadingly to Gabriel*)
Can't we?

Gabriel Very well — it would seem the rest of you will experience the thrill of the chase after all. Good hunting.

The Late Sleepers climb up out of the Hive and disappear into the night midst a cacophony of growls and howls, leaving Gabriel with Elsa and Angelina, Hannah and Barbara with James, and the three Flintstones

Fred We better get some food too. I'm starving.

Wilma Come on, Dino — chow time.

Dino You know what? I'm beat. I'm just going to hit the sack.

Wilma OK, but don't complain to us when you're hungry tomorrow.

During the following, James and Elsa stand nervously by while Gabriel, Angelina, Hannah and Barbara move slowly around them. Dino glances at them

Fred and Wilma begin to climb out of the Hive. At the top, Fred calls back to Dino

Fred And Dino - don't go having bad dreams about little girls beating you up, OK?

Dino Yeah, right.

Hannah }
Barbara } (*together*) Goodnight, Dayboy.

Dino scowls then disappears down into the depths of the Hive

Music - underscore anticipating "The Dark Side"

James What are you going to do with us?

Elsa We're supposed to be frightened, right?

Gabriel How frightening can it get? Let's find out, shall we?



Hungry for More?

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