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SF PERUSALS

Brenda Bly: Teen Detective

A musical

Book and lyrics by Kevin Hammonds
Music by Charles Miller

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

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BRENDA BLY:
TEEN DETECTIVE

First produced by Glenn Lee and Fenton Gray for the London School of Musical Theatre at the Cochrane Theatre, London in August 2002.

The show was revised and subsequently produced by Glenn Lee at the Bridewell Theatre, London in August/ September 2003, with the following cast:

Brenda Bly	Cassidy Janson
Buddy Rogers	Joshua Dallas
Vera Van Strander	Ruth Madoc
Darcy	Jessica Robinson
Jo Jo	Holly Graham
Autumn	Laura Checkley
Stu	Richard Runnalls
Madeline	Melitsa Nicola
Cecil Sessile/Wally	Charles Shirvell
Bridget	Lisa Baird
Gidget	Sarah Annis
Candy	Collette Fraser

Director/Lighting Designer Fenton Gray
Choreographer Sam Spencer Lane
Musical Director Colin Billing
Designer Amy Jackson
Sound Designer Tony Gayle
Casting Director Graham Hubbard

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First produced by Glenn Lee and directed by Fenton Gray
on behalf of the London School of Musical Theatre

and the names of the author, Kevin Hammonds, and composer, Charles Miller, must be displayed on all announcements and programmes.

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CHARACTERS

Brenda Bly
Buddy Rogers
Vera Van Strander
Darcy
Jo Jo
Autumn
Stu
Madeline
Cecil Sessile
Wally
Bridget
Gidget
Candy
Nurse Wilder
Nurse Iris
Nurse Ivy
A Villain
A Mad Groundskeeper
A Cool Dude
Creepy Miss Jenkins

The action of the play takes place in and around The Whitney Ellis Private School For Girls, Florida, McFrostie's Soda Shop, and Van Strander's Remote Cabin In The Woods.

Time — 1958

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Brenda Bly is everybody's favourite teen detective: confident, charming and loyal. Her hair is perfectly coiffed, and she looks every bit the perfect teenager she strives to be. Even in peril, she manages to keep her cool.

Darcy is one of Brenda's best friends; pretty, a bit ditsy, and all pink and frills.

Jo Jo is Brenda's other best friend, a short-tempered, wise-cracking girl who is more interested in boys than following the rules.

Autumn is in charge of the end of term show and treats it as if it were an opening on Broadway. She is a very serious student and will not let anyone get in the way of her great opus.

Madeline is the French foreign exchange student. She wears her own school uniform, complete with beret.

Bridget and **Gidget** are twin sisters who used to be child stars with their own television show, but once they grew into their teens the show was dropped and they were sent back to private school, and the only thing that remains from their heyday is the identical red curly hair they unfortunately never grew out of. Desperate to revive her career, Bridget considers herself worldly, sophisticated, and extremely more talented than the others. She is wrong on all accounts. Gidget has been around the block more than most girls her age. She smokes, and is attracted to men from the wrong side of the tracks.

VeraVan Strander is the headmistress of the school, a no-nonsense woman in her mid-forties who suffers no fools, and is always quick to point out anyone's flaws. She is glamorous, but proper; sophisticated, but stern, with a wicked and sarcastic sense of humour that terrifies anyone in its path.

Cecil Sessile is the school security guard. He is a bumbling, self-important man in his mid forties. He is a cross between Phil Silvers and Don Knotts, always trying to elbow his way into any crisis, just in time to make matters even worse.

Buddy Rogers. He is a clean-cut, "All-American" Boy. Cocky and self-assured, but charming enough to get away with it. In short, he is the perfect match for Brenda Bly, and is madly in love with her.

Dr Sniffles. He is your typical smooth-talking, devilishly handsome doctor straight out of a daytime soap opera. His smile is bright and hypnotic. He blankly stares down at his armful of medical charts.

Stu. He is a cute, geeky, high-strung young man who doesn't like trouble, and gets even more nervous when he's around girls.

Wally, a soda jerk.

Candy, a Whitney Ellis schoolgirl.

DOUBLING

Wally: the **Villain**, the **Mad Groundskeeper**, **Dr Sniffles** and the **Cool Dude.**
Nurse Wilder: **Schoolgirl**
Nurse Iris: **Candy**
Nurse Ivy: **Creepy Miss Jenkins**

The ideal casting uses the doubling above. It is possible to reduce the cast to twelve (M3 F9) by having the same actor play **Cecil Sessile**, **Wally** and all the small cameo roles (including **Creepy Miss Jenkins**). **Bridget** and **Gidget** would double as **Nurse Iris** and **Nurse Ivy**; **Nurse Wilder** would double as Candy. It is also possible to increase the cast size by having extra students in the company scenes.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

1 **Prologue: Brenda Bly: Teen Detective** (Entire Company)

SCENE 1 Cape Canaveral/On The Bus/Whitney Ellis School For Girls Auditorium

2 **Times Like These** (Students of Whitney Ellis School)

SCENE 2 On the set of "Rocket Girl"

3 **Next Stop The Moon** (Darcy, Jo Jo and "Rocket Girl" cast)

4 **Next Stop The Moon: Reprise** (Darcy)

5 **I Always Get My Man** (Brenda Bly)

SCENE 3 The Hospital

6 **A Girl Like Me** (Darcy, Autumn, Nurse Wilder, Nurse Iris, Nurse Ivy and Dr Sniffles)

SCENE 4 Backstage

7 **Find Me That Man** (Van Strander and Cecil)

SCENE 5 Onstage

8 **Showbiz** (Autumn and "Rocket Girl" cast)

SCENE 6 The Prop Room

9 **Cha Cha Cha** (Brenda and Buddy)

SCENE 7 The Costume Store

10 **I Always Get My Man: Reprise** (Jo Jo)

11 **Jo Jo's Undercover** (Jo Jo)

SCENE 8 The Prop Room

12 **I Always Get My Man: Reprise** (Van Strander)

13 **A Thief In The Night** (Brenda and Buddy)

ACT II

SCENE 1 Onstage
14 **Entr'acte and Brenda Bly: Reprise** (Entire Company)

SCENE 2 McFrostie's Soda Shop
15 **All American Boy** (Buddy and Company)
16 **Stu** (Jo Jo, Autumn and Darcy)

SCENE 3 Van Strander's Office
17 **Times Like These: Reprise** (Van Strander)

SCENE 4 On the set of "Rocket Girl": The Moon
18 **All That And Cheese** (Bridget, Gidget and "Rocket Girl" cast)
19 **Darcy's Memory Returns** (Darcy)

SCENE 5 The Costume Store/Van Strander's Office
20 **Undercover** (Stu and Cecil)
20b **Brenda Bly: Teen Detective: Reprise** (Detectives)

SCENE 6 The Hospital
21 **Oogie Woogie Boogie** (Nurse Wilder and "Rocket Girl" cast)

SCENE 7 A Remote Cabin In The Woods
22 **Van Strander's Lament** (Van Strander)
23 **Back On The Case** (Brenda)

SCENE 8 Onstage

SCENE 9 The Prop Room
24 **Next Stop The Moon: Reprise** (Madeline)

FINALE The Set of Rocket Girl
25 **I Always Get My Man:Reprise** (Darcy, Van Strander, Brenda, Buddy and Full Company)
26 **Bows Music**
27 **Exit Music**

Scores, vocal books, orchestral parts and a demo music CD for
BRENDA BLY: TEEN DETECTIVE
are on hire from Samuel French Ltd

ACT 1

PROLOGUE

The back wall of the stage has the words "Whitney Ellis Private School for Girls" painted across the top of it. DS *of this is a set of curtains with a centre opening; these divide the stage into* US *and* DS *areas.* US *of these curtains is a stand-alone flat painted to resemble a cliff; this flat has a ladder behind it*

There is a girl's ear-piercing scream and the House Lights snap out

The front curtains open. The stage is in darkness and the US *curtains are open. Brenda Bly is standing* L, *reaching up and hanging on to the top of the flat, as if hanging from the cliff. The Villain stands on the ladder behind the cliff flat, visible from the waist up, as if standing on the cliff. He looks down on Brenda*

Music No. 1: Prologue: Brenda Bly: Teen Detective (*Entire company*)

The Lights come up on the US *area*

Villain Not so smart now, are you Brenda Bly?
Brenda You'll never get away with this.
Villain But I have gotten away with it. Only how did you figure it out?
Brenda Quite simple really. You're not the first jewel thief to hide diamonds in a paper maché clock.
Villain Too bad your knowledge of paper maché can't help you out of this jam.
Brenda That's where you're wrong. The gun you're holding is paper maché.
Villain Damn!
Brenda That grassy knoll you're standing on is paper maché.
Villain Damn!
Brenda However, the pit beneath it is absolutely real.
Villain Ahhh!!!!

The Villain drops behind the flat in slow motion

The US *curtains close and the* US *Lights cross-fade to the* DS *area*

The whole cast, except Brenda, Darcy and Creepy Miss Jenkins, enters DS *dressed in trench coats and fedoras and carrying flashlights*

All (*singing*) There's danger in the air
And trouble round the bend
Just who, what, when and where
Will all this madness end
Girls The only one with answers to our query
Boys With gorgeous hair and always thorough theory
All Private eye and so effective
Brenda Bly
Teen Detective

The Lights cross-fade to the US *area. The* US *curtains open to reveal a haunted house setting. Brenda, with Darcy hiding behind her, faces Creepy Miss Jenkins who is disguised as a sheeted ghost and trying to spook them from across the room*

During the following, Jo Jo exits from the DS *area*

Creepy Miss Jenkins (*as a ghost*) Wooooooo! Wooooooo!
Darcy Brenda, the ghost of Bernard Mansion!
Brenda That's no ghost, Darcy. That's creepy Miss Jenkins from next door!

Brenda pulls the sheet off the ghost to reveal Creepy Miss Jenkins

Creepy Miss Jenkins You pesky kids! But how could you possibly know?
Brenda The real Lady Bernard died in her sleep. Which immediately led me to notice the obvious. If you were the actual ghost of Bernard Mansion, you'd be wearing no shoes!

The US *curtains close on Darcy, Brenda and Creepy Miss Jenkins and the Lights cross-fade to the* DS *area*

All (*singing*) A culprit on the loose
A low life on the lam
A very good excuse
To leave this place and scram
But never fear, there's no need to feel danger
We've got a gal who'll stop that unknown stranger
Never shy and not defective
Brenda Bly
Teen Detective

No other snoop can swoop and scoop
A troupe of gangsters
There's not a lad gone bad or mad she hasn't stopped
You'll never name a better gumshoe
On land or sea or wheels
She'll track each scum down to their scum shoe
And do it all in heels

The Lights cross-fade to the US *area. The* US *curtains open on a setting that suggests a deserted warehouse. Brenda and Darcy are tied together back to back with Jo Jo on a wooden crate. A Mad Groundskeeper hovers above them with a shovel*

Mad Groundskeeper You almost stopped me from carrying out my dastardly plan, Brenda Bly. But I'll be ding-danged if I let you re-open this amusement park!

Jo Jo This is it, isn't it Brenda Bly? I knew I'd die before I kissed a man!

Brenda Don't cash in your lipstick just yet, Jo Jo. I've managed to cut the ropes with a file I fashioned from my Girl Scout pin and locket.

Darcy So what are we waiting for?

Brenda The perfect music. Now!

Brenda jumps up, followed by Jo Jo and Darcy. In slow motion, they fight the Mad Groundskeeper and eventually leave him lying motionless on the floor

The Lights cross-fade back to the DS *area and the* US *curtains close*

All (*singing*) If danger in the air
Sneaks up to trump your ace
Just send up any flare
And Brenda's on the case
She's smart and slim in every way a winner
She'll save the day and be back home for dinner

The US *curtains open. Brenda steps down from the* US *area and joins the group* DS. *Darcy and Jo Jo move* UR *and* UL *respectively, cheering on their famous friend*

Get the guy
Brenda That's *my* objective
All Brenda Bly
Teen Detective

Black-out

Music No. 1a: Prologue Tag

Everyone except Brenda Bly exits

The Lights come up DS

The Mad Groundskeeper enters DS. *He is hog tied, and desperately trying to escape, hopping across the stage*

Brenda Bly watches, hands on hips, and shakes her finger disapprovingly at the Mad Groundskeeper. She grabs the end of the rope and hangs on tight. Resigned, the Mad Groundskeeper turns, and hops towards the exit with Brenda right behind him

The US *curtains open fully as Brenda and the Mad Groundskeeper head off, revealing a bare stage*

They exit

SCENE 1

Cape Canaveral / On The Bus / Whitney Ellis Private School for Girls Auditorium

Music No. 2: Times Like These (*Students of Whitney Ellis*)

The Visitor's Center at Cape Canaveral

A freestanding sign is placed DR: *it reads:' "Welcome to Cape Canaveral Visitors' Center"*

The Lights come up brightly over the whole stage. The students of Whitney Ellis School for Girls are on a field trip. As the song begins, the girls (among them Autumn, Jo Jo, Darcy, Madeline, Bridget, Gidget and Candy) pour on to the stage (as if coming out of the Visitors' Center) armed with souvenirs, such as rocket models, T-shirts and posters. Darcy also has a camera with a flashgun

Girls (*singing*) Sha-do-wa-she-wop
Sha-do-wa-she-wop
Isn't it great
Clearly the best
Looking at us who won't be impressed

Sha-do-wa-she-wop
To be-bop
In times like these
Sha-do-wa-she-wop
Sha-do-wa-she-wop

Autumn Isn't it swell
Aren't we the most

Jo Jo Hear Elvis Presley from coast to coast

Girls Sha-do-wa-she-wop
To be-bop
In times like these
Sha-do-wa-she-wop
Sha-do-wa-she-wop

Autumn We're gonna win soon
In our race to the moon
There's fin'lly a polio vaccine.

Darcy / **Jo Jo** We hear Disneyland
Is so perfect and grand

Bridget And I'm certain to wed Jimmy Dean

Gidget I'll beat ya to it

Girls Isn't it hip

Bridget Really too too

Girls Our latest fashion – our greatest do
Sha-do-wa-she-wop
To be-bop
In times like these

Brenda enters

Brenda (*speaking*) OK, ladies. I've enjoyed this field trip as much as anyone, but I think it's time we get back to school.

Autumn Brenda, thank you so much for driving us to Cape Canaveral.

Brenda It was my pleasure.

Autumn Thank goodness you're the one girl in the entire school who has her driver license.

Darcy And knows how to drive a school bus.

Brenda I knew that summer course in public transport would come in handy. All aboard!

The Lights change for a bus trip. During the following, the girls roll on three sets of bus seats (on the first of which is pre-set a steering wheel) and create the school bus. They all get on board with Brenda Bly at the front, driving with the wheel. The Visitors' Center sign is removed

Girls Isn't it keen
Excellence shows
Wearin' our hair
In Marilyn Monroes
Sha-do-wa-she-wop
To be-bop
In times like these
Sha-do-wa-she-wop
Sha-do-wa-she-wop
Old folks think change
Is unsettling and strange
But that's when the place starts to swing

Brenda We're starting to date
And this girl, she can't wait
To see what the Sixties might bring

Girls The Sixties might bring
The Sixties might bring
The Sixties might bring

The girls arrive back at school. They are on stage in the auditorium of The Whitney Ellis Private School for Girls, where a show is obviously in rehearsal

The Lights change to a suitable setting for the school stage. During the following, the bus seats are wheeled off stage. A rack of costumes and a cut-out flat of a rocket ship (facing US *and behind the line of the* US *curtains) are wheeled on. The* US *curtains are edged in to suggest the auditorium's curtains*

Isn't it fun (Fun!)
Isn't it great (Great!)
Don't ya just love nineteen fifty-eight
Sha-do-wa-she-wop
To be-bop
In times like these
So take this time and clock it
We're soaring in a rocket
We're gonna rock it and clock it
In times like these
We're gonna rock it and clock it
In times like these
We're gonna rock it and clock it
In times like
These!

At the end of the song, the girls pose for a picture that Darcy is taking. They smile and freeze as the flash goes off

Brenda runs off with the bus keys

During the following, Madeline, the French Foreign Exchange student, grins inanely, unable to understand a word anyone is saying

Autumn (*with great authority*) Ladies, the field trip to Cape Canaveral was great fun, but let's not forget why we went in the first place. Our fall musical is only days away from opening night. We must get back to rehearsal.

Darcy One second, Autumn. One last group picture.

Autumn Darcy, really, we've got a great responsibility before us. I am the first student in the history of Whitney Ellis Private School for Girls to ever write, direct, produce and make costumes for her very own production: *Rocket Girl, The Musical!*

Darcy Jo Jo, be sure to thank your father again. Who knew the space programme was so interesting?

Autumn I knew! In fact, I wrote a musical about it. Anyone care to get back to it?

Darcy I especially liked meeting the astronauts. Did you see how that one astronaut couldn't take his eyes off of me?

Jo Jo That's because you were standing on his oxygen hose.

Autumn takes a military uniform from the rack and hands it to Jo Jo

Autumn Here, try this on.

Jo Jo What is it?

Autumn It's your costume.

Jo Jo You gotta be kidding me. You won't be able to see my figure at all.

Autumn That's the way it should be. You're playing General Flavaven.

Jo Jo Autumn, I am in my prime. I wake up in the morning and I find things that weren't there the night before. I'd like a chance to display the goods.

Autumn It's an *all-girls* school. Somebody's got to play the man. So, if you're done complaining, I'd like to start from the top. (*She moves* US *and signals off to have the curtains closed*)

The US *curtains close and the Lights go down on the* US *area*

Darcy Just one more picture. I've got to use up the rest of the film. I got some very interesting pictures this afternoon. I want to run out and get them developed.

Madeline runs forward excitedly and takes the camera from Darcy

Madeline Bonjour!
Darcy It's OK, Madeline. I'll take the picture.

Madeline shakes her head and directs Darcy to get in the group. Autumn takes the camera from Madeline

Autumn I'll take it, Madeline. It'll be nice to have the entire company in the shot.
Jo Jo Frenchy isn't in the show. She doesn't know a kick line from a corkscrew.
Autumn She's our spotlight operator.
Jo Jo You've gotta be kidding!

Autumn takes hold of Madeline and moves her to the group. The rest of the girls gather around

Autumn Isn't part of a foreign exchange programme to immerse yourself in your new homeland's culture?
Jo Jo That's easy for you to say. She isn't your roommate, immersing herself into everything you own. *Bonjour! Bonjour!*
Autumn Say cheese!
Girls Cheese!
Madeline *Fromage!*

Autumn takes the picture. The group breaks up

Autumn Now, can we please get on with rehearsal?

Everyone exits but Jo Jo, Madeline and Autumn

Madeline, you're the spotlight operator. Remember?
Madeline *Bonjour!*
Autumn Spotlight.
Jo Jo I'll take her.

Jo Jo drags Madeline towards the exit

Hey, if this is a foreign exchange programme, how come I'm not in France?
Madeline *Bonjour.*
Jo Jo Shut up.

They exit

Autumn All right, ladies. From the top.

Music No. 3: Next Stop, the Moon (*"Rocket Girl" cast*)

Reporters in a frenzy. Wives in tears. The race to the moon has begun and Rocket Girl is in the lead. Curtain!

Scene 2

On the set of "Rocket Girl": The Flight to the Moon

The US *curtains open and Lights come up on the* US *area. A sign saying "Rocket Girl: Inaugural Flight to the Moon" has been flown in. Bridget and Gidget are dressed as newspaper reporters. They are joined by other girls dressed as scientists with geeky glasses and clipboards. Everything is rather glamorous and has been slightly over-choreographed by Autumn, who stands at the side of the stage correcting any mistakes (of which there are a few)*

Bridget / **Gidget** Stop the press
You'll never guess
The future we all face
Now the time has fin'lly come
To shoot to outer space
We'll sail towards a brand new world
That's bright and full of hope
Bridget We're gonna see the galaxy
Gidget We're gonna see the galaxy
Bridget / **Gidget** Without a telescope
Autumn (*speaking*) That's it girls. Busy, busy!
Girls (*singing*) The USA did say one day
The moon was in our reach
Now that time has fin'lly come
To practise what we preach
Around the bend
My starry friend
It's up up and away
Bridget / **Girls** We're gonna see the galaxy
Gidget / **Girls** We're gonna see the galaxy
All God bless the USA.

Jo Jo enters, now dressed as General Flavaven

Jo Jo (*speaking; reluctantly*) Ladies and Gentlemen, members of the press, Mr President. I proudly give you Rocket Girl.
Girls (*singing*) Ah! Ah!

Darcy enters, dressed as Rocket Girl in a complete astronaut outfit. She takes off her helmet and places it under her arm

Darcy (*singing*) On with my space suit
Off with a bang
I've packed my suitcase
Said goodbye to all the gang
An adventure of a lifetime
Is gonna happen soon
Buckle up, ladies
Next stop — the Moon
All Out with the old bag
In with the new
Darcy With all that weightlessness
I guess I'll eat for two
Darcy / **Girls** And then every doubting Thomas
Will have to change his tune
Darcy All aboard ladies
Girls All aboard ladies
Next stop — the Moon

Way out past the wild blue yonder
You can keep your stinking cars
In our lunar ship we can sooner trip
Along the milky way and past the stars

The rocket ship flat is turned to face the audience. Darcy moves behind the rocket and the others bid Rocket Girl farewell with great fanfare

Touch the big dipper
Say ciao to mirth (Ciao)
We're close to heaven while
The men are stuck on earth
An adventure of a lifetime
Is gonna happen soon

Darcy sticks her head out of the tiny rocket window

Darcy All aboard, ladies
All Oooooh!
Darcy Next stop — the Moon
All One fine day
The USA will sail beyond the stars! Stars! Stars!

They all freeze in a typical musical theatre pose. During the applause, Darcy crosses back to Autumn from behind the rocket

Autumn (*speaking*) God, I'm good.
Darcy You really are, Autumn. Top drawer.
Autumn Did you hear the way I rhymed lunar ship with sooner trip?
Van Strander (*off*) For God's sake someone kill me!
Autumn Miss Van Strander, is that you?

Vera Van Strander enters from the wings

Van Strander No, it's Florenz Ziegfield. Get this garbage off the stage.
Autumn But we've booked the stage for another hour.
Van Strander I am the headmistress of the Whitney Ellis Private School For Girls. I say how long you have the theatre booked for. And if you're not out of here in half an hour I'm shutting this show down.
Bridget But this is our chance to make a comeback.
Van Strander My dear, Hitler has a better chance of a comeback. If it's glamour and attention you crave, join Home Economics. You'll be sewing your own cocktail dresses by mid-term. (*She heads for the exit*) Half an hour!

Van Strander exits

Darcy Don't let Van Strander get you down, Autumn. You've written a wonderful play. It's very funny.
Autumn Funny? It's not supposed to be funny!
Bridget You have a Girl Scout from Encino going to the moon and opening her own hair salon.
Autumn It's political satire.
Gidget It's garbage!

Brenda Bly enters

Brenda Mission accomplished. (*She throws the bus keys to Autumn*) The school bus is parked, refuelled and for extra measure I changed the oil.
Autumn Thanks again for driving us, Brenda.

Brenda Don't mention it. It was my pleasure.
Autumn Great. Thanks again. Bye.

Autumn moves US *with Bridget and Gidget to continue rehearsing*

Brenda Bye? Don't I get to watch rehearsal? I'm dying to see it.
Darcy We'd love to have you watch, Brenda. But you must be incredibly busy. Don't you have to solve "The Case of the Agitated Attic"?
Brenda Oh, that tiny thing? Turned out to be a grumpy neighbour with a recording device and a bed sheet.
Jo Jo Brenda, no-one's gonna tell you the truth, so I'm just gonna let you have it. You're bad luck with a capital black cat. No-one wants you here.
Brenda I just want to help out, that's all.
Jo Jo You wanna help? Go home. Build a birdhouse for your father.
Brenda I already did.
Darcy Bake a cake.
Brenda It's cooling as we speak.
Jo Jo Make a dress.

Music No. 3a: Brenda's Dress

Brenda twirls around showing off her newly sewn dress

Jo Jo I don't know why I'm friends with you, I really don't.
Darcy (*to Brenda*) You're a smart girl. You have to notice that anytime you're around, something bad happens.
Brenda Now you're talking crazy talk.
Jo Jo Oh, really. What happened when we took that cruise to Europe?
Brenda "The Case of the Capsized Cruise Ship".
Darcy And that field trip to the mining town?
Brenda "The Mining Town Massacre".
Jo Jo Sheila's slumber party?
Brenda "The Slumber Blunder".
Darcy It's not you, Brenda. It just comes with the territory of being a teen detective, I guess.
Brenda I understand. I'll just go home and work on my Civil War re-enactment. You girls have fun.

Brenda exits

Darcy Now look what we've done. I promised I wouldn't let success go to my head and I've already forced my best friend off of the set. Brenda Bly!

Brenda appears from the wings

Brenda Yeah, Darcy?
Darcy What am I thinking? Of course you can stay.
Brenda Are you sure?
Darcy Heck, yeah. I was just being a silly.
Autumn Darcy, this is a closed rehearsal.
Darcy Doesn't the star have any pull in this company?
Autumn Fine, but if something happens, don't come crying to me.

Music No. 3b: Tension Underscore

Let's take it from Darcy's reprise. (*To Brenda, pointedly)* Anyone *not* going to the moon, kindly leave the stage.

The remaining members of the cast go into the wings

Brenda Thanks so much, Darcy, for letting me stay and watch. I promise nothing bad is going to happen.

Music No. 4: Next Stop the Moon: Reprise (*Darcy*)

Brenda exits

Darcy moves C *and takes a pose. The spotlight comes on and shines on the backdrop*

Autumn (*calling to the light booth at the back of the house*) Madeline, spotlight on the star.
Darcy Me! On me!

The spotlight quickly finds Darcy. As soon as it hits her, she smiles

(*Singing*) On with my space suit
Off with a bang
I've packed my suitcase
Said goodbye to all the gang
An adventure of a lifetime
Is gonna happen soon
Buckle up ladies
Next stop — the ...

A strobe light flickers over Darcy. In slow motion, a sandbag on a rope is dropped from up above and lands directly on Darcy's head. She collapses to the stage. The music stops and the Lights return to normal

All the girls run on stage

Autumn Cut!
Jo Jo Darcy, are you OK?
Bridget She's out cold.

Van Strander enters, quickly followed by the uniformed school security guard, Cecil, who wears glasses and a cap at all times

Van Strander What in heaven's name is going on here?
Autumn Darcy's been knocked out cold.
Cecil (*trying to take charge*) All righty, rootie, girls. There's nothing to see here. Step back. Nothing to see here. Give the girl some room.

Van Strander pulls Cecil aside

Van Strander What did I tell you? I knew something bad would happen.
Cecil Now don't you worry there, Vera. Cecil's got it all under control. Stay with the girl. I'll go notify the authorities.
Van Strander No, don't you dare. What would the parents think? We can't blemish the school's impeccable reputation.
Cecil Ya sure, but just the same, you know, seems like serious business there, Vera.
Van Strander But aren't you a man of the law? We don't need pesky police nosing around. We've got you.
Cecil I am pretty quick on my feet.
Van Strander You certainly are.
Cecil And I have one of those Sherlock Holmes hats.
Van Strander Help me get her to the Nurse's Office.

Cecil and Van Strander attend to Darcy

Autumn What have I done? I've put my own star in mortal danger.
Bridget It's just awful. Who's going to get her part?
Autumn Bridget! A dear friend of ours was nearly killed. Priorities please! (*She moves to Darcy, sits her up and shakes her*) Darcy, can you hear me? I need you for costume fittings by six!
Van Strander Costume fittings my Aunt Maude. You certainly don't think this show is going on, do you?
Autumn But it's scheduled to open in two days.
Van Strander That's too bad.
Autumn I'll get you comps.
Van Strander I said no!

Brenda Miss Van Strander, have the police been notified?
Cecil Yes, well, we've decided to handle this eternally.
Van Strander Internally.
Cecil That too.
Brenda I assume you would like to keep this as low profile as possible.
Van Strander Well, yes. There's really no reason to panic anyone just yet.
Brenda But that's exactly what we'd be doing if we cancelled the show.
Van Strander Mmm. Little Miss Marbles has a point. Fine, for now the show is on. But one more mishap, and I am pulling this show over! Mr Sessille!

Cecil and Van Strander drag Darcy off stage

Autumn I can't tell you how grateful I am, Brenda Bly. You convinced Van Strander to keep the show on. You're a true friend. A true friend. (*She turns to go; to the other girls*) You see. She showed up, and look what happened.
Gidget It's like some sort of curse.
Autumn Remind me to tell box office, she's not allowed in on opening night.

All but Brenda exit

The Lights dim

Music No. 4a: Tension Underscore

Brenda is alone on stage. She gets out her flashlight and starts searching the stage area

Suddenly, Buddy jumps out from the wings

Buddy Boo!
Brenda Buddy! How did you get in here? Boys are strictly prohibited inside Whitney Ellis.
Buddy I climbed over the fence. It's gonna take more than a ten foot wall and barbed wire to keep this fella away from his gal.
Brenda You really shouldn't do things like that. It's too dangerous.
Buddy That's a risk I'm willing to take.
Brenda Buddy, don't be a hero.
Buddy Can't help it. It's in the blood. Come on, I just passed McFrosties and there's a hot fudge sundae with our name on it.
Brenda I can't. You'll never guess what happened.
Buddy You dreamt about me all night long, and vowed never to love another man as long as you live.

Brenda No, silly. Darcy was attacked.
Buddy You mean to say you don't dream about me.
Brenda Of course, I dream about you. More than a girl my age should.
Buddy You wanna know what I dream?
Brenda No. A girl shouldn't know about things like that. It's inappropriate.
Buddy Hey, I got an idea. Let's sneak out your father's Studebaker again.
Brenda That was reckless and you know it.
Buddy But tonight is our anniversary.
Brenda It is?
Buddy Six months to this very night, we shared our first soda at McFrosties.
Brenda Didn't we celebrate an anniversary last week?
Buddy Six months ago last week, we held hands for the very first time.
Brenda Goodness, let's not forget the first time we accidentally swapped our chewing gum.
Buddy That's tomorrow! You remembered! (*He hugs her*) Come on, let's go somewhere less academic.
Brenda Buddy, Darcy was just nearly killed. Didn't you wonder what all the commotion was just about?
Buddy I figured Van Strander finally lost her mind, and attacked a student.
Brenda Perhaps she did.
Buddy Oh no, you've got that look again.
Brenda What look?
Buddy That "I'm off to solve a case, and Buddy Rodgers doesn't exist" look.
Brenda Just let me get to the bottom of this, and I'm all yours. It shouldn't take too long.
Buddy That's what you said with "The Case of the Cranky Clydesdale".
Brenda That was a tricky one, wasn't it? But I figured it out eventually. Brenda Bly always gets her man.
Buddy Geez, for a teen detective, sometimes you're not very good at noticing the obvious.
Brenda What are you talking about?
Buddy There's a man standing right in front of you, Brenda Bly. And you're looking right through him.
Brenda Not another ghost.
Buddy I might as well be. Good luck on your case, Brenda Bly.

Buddy exits

Brenda (*making to chase after him*) Buddy! (*She stops herself*)

Music No. 5: I Always Get My Man (*Brenda*)

A villain waits out in the night
It's up to me to make it right

I get each man I keep in sight
But one

Be he jewel thief or con
Be it midnight or dawn
When the pressure's put upon
I always get my man
Supernat'ral or real
If they frighten or steal
I'll expose the slimy heel
And get my man

I'll inspect every clue
Check the phone records too
And the swindler gets his due
I always get my man
Watch me dusting for prints
List'ning in through the vents
I cash in my fear for sense
And get my man

There is not a crook who can outwit me
There is not a case I haven't cracked
But the one man I dream of kissing
Always winds up missing
Sad, but a fact

Through the rain, sleet or snow
I'll pursue any foe
Let the lawless bandit know
I always get my man
I will search low and high
For that dastardly guy
Or my name's not Brenda Bly
I get my man

No 5a: Scene Change Incidental

Brenda exits

SCENE 3

The Hospital

A sign is placed DL. *There are two arrows on it, pointing in opposite directions; one is marked "Maternity", the other "Morgue". A folding hospital screen is wheeled on* UR

The Lights come up. Autumn, Bridget, Gidget and Jo Jo pace around the waiting room

Van Strander enters

Van Strander Congratulations, ladies. After fifty years of the most spotless reputation in education, you've managed to plunge the Whitney Ellis Private School for Girls into the depths of utter embarrassment and despair.
Autumn Miss Van Strander, be straight with me. Darcy. How bad is she?
Van Strander I'm not going to lie, Autumn. It's pretty ugly.
Autumn But what about her performance as Rocket Girl?
Van Strander I was talking about her performance of Rocket Girl.
Bridget Miss Van Strander, it's the casting that's all wrong. I had my own television show, and now I'm playing an alien. It's an outrage!
Van Strander What do you expect, my dear? Life in the theatre is nothing but one disappointment after the other.
Gidget (*to Bridget*) You didn't have your own television show. I had my own television show, and you tagged along for the ride.
Bridget It was "The Bridget and Gidget Show", thank you very much. Bridget came first. You were just excess baggage.
Van Strander Enough! I have heard enough out of all of you.
Bridget But I can tap dance.
Gidget My dead pony tap dances better than you!
Bridget It was our pony and you killed it!
Van Strander What part of "enough" do you not understand? Now out of my way. Darcy is going to be fine. Hospital smells make me nauseous. So someone please explain to me why I'm standing here talking to yard apes in poodle skirts?
Autumn You're absolutely right, Miss Van Strander. The twins, they're all wrong. But if you'll just give me a chance ...
Bridget Need I remind you that we have had correspondence with Vincent Minnelli?
Autumn In the form of a restraining order!
Van Strander You see, ladies. Look around you. Overblown egos. Back-stabbing. Deceit. Welcome to the theatre.

Van Strander exits. Bridget and Gidget follow her off

Autumn This is all my fault. I knew I should have played the part myself.

Jo Jo puts her hand on Autumn's shoulder, as if to comfort her

Jo Jo Autumn, don't be ridiculous. You would have been awful as the lead.

Dr Sniffles enters with some hospital charts

Dr Sniffles Anyone here know a girl named Darcy?
Autumn Darcy Warner. Yes.
Jo Jo How is she?
Dr Sniffles She's dead.
Autumn What!
Dr Sniffles Oops. Wrong chart. I hate it when that happens. (*He looks at another chart*) Darcy Warner. She's fine. You can see her now.

Nurse Ivy rolls Darcy on in a wheelchair. She wears a matching pink pyjama set with fluffy pink slippers. She has a large bandage round her head

Brenda runs in

Brenda (*to Dr Sniffles*) Excuse me; I'm looking for Darcy Warner.
Dr Sniffles Never heard of her.

Dr Sniffles exits

Brenda (*seeing Darcy and running over to her*) Darcy, I'm so sorry. I feel just horrible.
Darcy Do I know you?
Brenda Of course you do, silly. I'm your best friend. Brenda Bly.
Darcy Brenda Bly?
Brenda That's right. Teen detective.
Darcy I don't remember.
Brenda Oh no. I've given my best friend amnesia.
Jo Jo Come on, Brenda. You didn't give her amnesia. Whoever dropped that sandbag on her head gave her amnesia.
Brenda That's right. And now it's up to me to figure out who it was.
Autumn But what about "Rocket Girl"? It opens in two days, and my leading lady has lost her mind.
Darcy I was the lead? How was I?

Jo Jo You were all right. A bit over the top.
Darcy I can't believe it. This is just my luck. I finally get the lead and I can't remember it.
Brenda I swear I'm going to catch the person who did this.
Darcy Why would someone do this to me? Was I annoying?
Girls Of course not.
Darcy Was I rude?
Girls Don't be silly.
Darcy Was I a bad actress?

They are all silent, not sure what to say

Brenda I have to go. I've got a case to solve. I'll let you know what I find out.
Darcy Thanks...
Brenda Brenda Bly.
Darcy Brenda Bly. Teen Detective.
Brenda That's right.

Brenda and Jo Jo exit. Dr Sniffles enters

Dr Sniffles Now let's see how our patient is doing? How are you, sweetie?
Darcy I don't know who I am.
Dr Sniffles That's OK. I didn't know who I was 'til *way* past college. (*He puts his stethoscope in his ears and checks Darcy's heartbeat. He writes something on a pad, and then stands up. He beckons Autumn over to him*)
Autumn Yes?
Dr Sniffles (*still with the stethoscope in his ears, so shouting very loudly*) I didn't want to worry your friend, but it doesn't look good. Not good at all. (*He moves* US *to study his charts*)

Nurse Wilder and Nurse Iris enter US *and join Dr Sniffles*

Autumn Pay him no mind, Darcy. I'm sure you'll be fine. You just need to be reminded of certain things. I'll take you back to the theatre. Maybe being in familiar surroundings will jog your memory.
Darcy You're very kind. All my friends seem very nice.
Autumn Oh, the nicest. You're very well liked.
Darcy Nurse, can I see a mirror?

Nurse Ivy magically produces a mirror and hands it to Darcy

Music No. 6: A Girl Like Me (*Darcy, Autumn, Dr Sniffles, Nurse Ivy, Nurse Wilder and Nurse Iris*)

Oh, look at that complexion. Like a porcelain doll! I'm adorable!

(*Singing*) I had it all
First thing this morning
Then came the fall
Without a warning
Who-oo-oo
Could hurt a girl like me?

Am I not sweet?
Autumn As candy
Darcy Am I not charming?
Autumn And then some
Darcy Pure and elite
Autumn Like Doris Day
Darcy What's so alarming
Who-oo-oo
Could hurt a girl like me?

Dr Sniffles wheels Darcy around the stage; the others dance

I've done my best
Ensemble You've done your best
Darcy I've done my duty
Ensemble You've done your duty
Darcy Unlike the rest
Ensemble Unlike the rest
Darcy I live for beauty
Ensemble Woah-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh
Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh
Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh

Nurses, **Autumn**, **Dr Sniffles** One of the most
Lovely of faces
Always the toast
You are what grace is
Who
Could hurt a girl like
Who
Could hurt a girl like…

Darcy Don't like to boast
No need for braces
From coast to coast
I am what grace is
Who
Could hurt a girl like
Who
Could hurt a girl like…

Dr Sniffles produces a large syringe, which he plunges into Darcy's arm

Darcy (*speaking*) ME! (*She passes out*)

Music No. 6a: Scene Change Incidental

Everyone exits

SCENE 4

Backstage

A costume rack or two, the rocket ship flat (turned to face US*) and a few flats are brought on stage. The* US *curtains are edged in slightly*

The Lights are very dim

Buddy runs on to the darkened stage dressed in black, and wearing a ski mask. He rolls across the floor and manoeuvres through the darkness, as if he were a spy on a secret mission. He is followed by Stu, hobbling on one foot, also wearing a ski mask

Buddy Come on. We're almost there.
Stu I can't see a thing, Buddy! I've gone blind! We break into an all-girl's school and as soon as I'm over the wall, I'm blind! My mother told me this would happen.
Buddy You're not blind. You've got your mask on backwards.

Stu takes off his mask. It is apparent that currently he is in the middle of his worst nightmare

Stu I can't go any further, Buddy. My foot's killing me.
Buddy Just relax. We made it over the wall. No-one saw us.
Stu I think I cut my foot climbing over the fence. It cut right through the shoe.
Buddy You'll be fine.
Stu Do you want to be expelled from Lorber Academy? Do you? Because that's what's going to happen when they catch us.
Buddy No-one's going to catch us.
Stu I don't understand what we're doing here anyway.
Buddy Brenda has fallen in love with someone else, and I'm going to find out who it is with my very own eyes.
Stu How?
Buddy Girls talk, Stu. I realize that, never having any contact whatsoever with a girl, this news might come as a shock to you.
Stu The only female I know is my mother, and she scares the daylights out of me.

Buddy Well, I'm not afraid of women, and I'm going to get to the bottom of this. Now let's go.
Stu I don't know if I can. I hurt my foot real bad.
Buddy You're a total basket case. Why did I let you come with me anyway?
Stu You didn't let me come. You made me come. I begged you to not make me come.
Buddy Well, I have a good mind to send you back.
Stu Please, send me back. I want to go back.
Buddy You're not going anywhere. Let me see your foot. (*He pulls off Stu's shoe*)
Stu Be careful with my foot. I've only got one more.
Buddy Don't look.
Stu Is it bleeding?

There is a sound from the wings

Van Strander (*off*) I'll check in here.
Buddy Oh, no. It's that Van Strander. We've got to hide.

Buddy and Stu hide, Buddy dropping Stu's shoe in the process

Van Strander enters in a fury. She storms in and searches backstage

Van Strander No use hiding, you good-for-nothing brutes. I'll find you. I may not be able to see you, but I can smell you. (*She sniffs around the room like a bloodhound*)

After a moment, Cecil enters carrying a bottle of wine behind his back

Cecil taps Van Strander on the shoulder. She immediately spins around and slaps him across the face

Van Strander Cecil! What did I tell you about sneaking up on me? You know I'm high strung.
Cecil I'm sorry, sweetie. I wanted to surprise you. (*He presents her with the bottle of wine*)
Van Strander Apple wine? I have a Defcon Five crisis going on, and you're playing "Find the cheap wine"?
Cecil I thought we could have a little Cecil/Vera time. I could bring the Perry Como records. You could unwind a bit.
Van Strander Cecil, I can't think about that right now. Something more troubling is brewing.
Cecil You're cooking chowder?

Van Strander No, you imbecile. I saw two hoodlums crawling over the fence.
Cecil No!
Van Strander Yes!

Cecil and Van Strander simultaneously look down and see Stu's shoe

Did I not tell you! There's a man on the premises and they've already started taking off their clothes.
Cecil I wouldn't worry about it, Vera. Probably one of the girl's boyfriends sneaking in for a little attention. I think it's sweet.
Van Strander You think it's sweet, do you? (*She sidles up to him and seductively runs her fingers over his chest*) Hot blooded testosterone jockeys, disobeying the rules, and putting my girls in harm's way.
Cecil Everybody needs a little lovin' now and then.
Van Strander You want some lovin', Cecil? You find me those boys who crawled over these walls.
Cecil And if I do?
Van Strander I'll give you a surprise that'll make your chest hairs stand on end.
Cecil Can do!
Van Strander And if you don't find them, you can take your Perry Como records and go home. Alone.
Cecil Couldn't we just ——
Van Strander Cecil, that was not a request!

Music No. 7: Find Me That Man (*Van Strander and Cecil*)

Do you realize the gravity of this situation? There has been a penetration of the male form into my "Girls Only"!
(*Singing*) Find me that man
Who's hiding in the shadows
So I can string him
Bring him
Like any man
I'm certain when I find him
How easily I will grind him

By nature a man is vicious
So true
He's slippery and malicious
That too
Still won't he taste delicious
In stew
Find me that man
Or you're in hot water too

Find me that man
Can't you
Find me that man
Won't you
Find me that man darling do

Cecil I'll find that man and in no time when we got him
We're gonna get down to the bottom
Search high and low so that aggravating devil
Is on the level
True — this stranger could be seedy
You can bet that I'll be speedy
Do I got it — yes indeedy
Babe you can count on Cecil
Find me that man
I will
Find me that man
Yes, I'll
Find me that man darling do

Van Strander Three's a crowd
Cecil So let's go catch that creep
Then at last we'll be alone
Such a fright, I'm certain I won't sleep

Van Strander You'll protect me, dear
Cecil If anyone can clear a weasel
Vera, you can count on Cecil

V.S. Find me that man
Who's slipping through our fingers
Once I've attacked him
Sacked him
I'll thank the man
Who found him on the double
I'll make it worth his trouble
You're ready for some romancing
Do tell
For drinking and maybe dancing
Sounds swell
You want to see me prancing
Ah well
Find me that man
Or there's not one chance in hell

Cecil I'll find that man and in no time when we got him
We're gonna get down to the bottom
Search high and low so that aggravating devil is on the level
True — this stranger could be seedy
You can bet that I'll be speedy
Do I got it — yes indeedy
Babe you can count on Cecil

Cecil
Van Strander

Find me that man
Let's go
Find me that man
Let's go
Find me that man darling do

Find me that man
Let's go
Find me that man
Let's go
Find me that man darling do

One more time!

Find me that man
Let's go
Find me that man
Let's go
Find me that man darling
Do!

Music No. 7a: Playoff/Scene change

Van Strander and Cecil exit

SCENE 5

On stage

The spaceship flat is moved to face DS *and the flats and costume racks are removed*

The Lights come up. The girls — Candy, Madeline, Bridget, Gidget, Jo Jo, Darcy and Brenda among them — are preparing for rehearsal

Autumn enters carrying a large can of red paint and a brush

Autumn OK ladies, I realize we have had some bumps on the path to my greatness, but that is not reason to give up the ghost. We've got a show to put on. Sets do not build themselves. Jo Jo, paint those craters. Candy?

Candy runs over with excitement

I realize you only have one line in the show, but I'm afraid it's been cut. (*She walks away from Candy, crossing over to Madeline*)

Candy is left, as always, speechless

Bridget (*to Autumn*) You mean the show's going on. Who's going to play Rocket Girl?
Autumn Darcy, of course.

Brenda runs up to Darcy

Brenda Darcy, you got your memory back?
Darcy Have we met?
Gidget Autumn, who are you kidding? This show is doomed.
Autumn Don't say that!
Jo Jo She has a point. We have a better chance at flying to the moon ourselves than getting this thing off the ground.
Autumn All great works of art comes with a little heartache. Do you think greatness comes easy, ladies?
Darcy But it just seems impossible. I don't even remember what a moon looks like.
Autumn The moon. What *the* moon looks like.
Darcy See?
Autumn I do see, Darcy. I see Possibility in the face of Adversity. And that's what makes it all so exciting.

Music No. 8: Showbiz (*Autumn and "Rocket Girl" cast*)

(*Singing*) You've a leading role
That could make a star
Then a sandbag falls
And you're less than par
You don't have a clue
As to who you are
You know what that is —
Showbiz!
(*Crossing to Candy*)
If your only line
Has a tragic plight
And you play a mute
On your op'ning night
So your claim to fame
Is fifth to the right

You know what that is ——

Candy makes as if to sing, but Autumn covers her mouth

Showbiz!
So we'll keep on chugging on
Till that great day we're redeemed
We'll keep chugging, yes we will
Till we're the cream of the crop
Jo Jo Or just creamed
Autumn (*crossing to Madeline*) You've come all this way
From a place called France
And you stomp around
In a zombie trance
You may can-can-can
But you can't-can't dance
You know what that is ——
Madeline *Showbiz!*
All Yes we'll keep on chugging on
And we won't give up the ghost
We'll keep chugging, yes we will
Autumn Till we're the toast of the town
Bridget / **Gidget** Or just toast
All On and on up that hill we'll go
We won't settle for status quo
In this business that they call show
Till we're the top of the heap
We're in knee deep
Autumn (*crossing to Bridget and Gidget*) You were once a star
You had found your place
Then you lost it all
And to your disgrace
You can't win the lead
In a three-legged race
You know what that is
Bridget I know what that is all right. That's bullsh'…
Autumn Showbiz!
All So we're days away
From our big première
And our stomachs turn
Cause we're filled with fear
Be it do or die

We will persevere
Through the drama that is
Showbiz! Showbiz! Showbiz! Showbiz!

Autumn (*speaking*) Now that's more like it. We're not about to take a back seat to defeat. Jo Jo, get these sets out of here. (*Picking up the pot of paint and a brush*) Madeline, take this paint and touch up the rocket.
Madeline Bonjour!
Autumn Paint. Paint? Monet?
Madeline Bonjour!
Autumn Come on, this isn't rocket science. Look at the pretty paint brush. See? You dip it in the can. See? Dip? Dip?

Jo Jo and Brenda move the rocket ship flat

Van Strander is revealed standing behind the flat, staring at Autumn with her arms crossed

Doesn't take an idiot, Frenchy. Dip, dip and slap it on the tired old hunk of metal.

Autumn, intending to paint the rocket ship, slaps the paintbrush across Van Strander's face, getting paint in Van Strander's eyes. Van Strander doesn't budge. She is so mad, she can't even speak. As if that's not bad enough ...

See? Any idiot can do this. Dip, dip and slap. (*She does it again*) Dip, dip. Sl ... (*She realizes what she has done*)

Music No. 8a: Showbiz: Reprise and Scene Change

(*Singing*) You have bared your soul
For your favourite art
You have formed the words
That express your heart
With one fatal stroke
You'll be ripped apart
Girls You know what that is
Autumn Ah, put a sock in it.

The US *curtains close and the Lights go down on the* US *area*

SCENE 6

The Prop Room

To the R *of the stage, a costume shop, as represented by a costume rack, a costumed mannequin, bolts of fabric, etc. is set up, possibly trucked on. To the* L *a prop shop, represented by a large trunk and various theatrical props, is set up or trucked on simultaneously*

The Lights come up on the prop room

Music No. 8b: Prop Room Underscore

Brenda enters carrying a large sword. Jo Jo follows her in

Jo Jo Did you see that, Brenda? Van Strander got it right in the eyes. Score!
Brenda Something else caught my eye. Look what I found backstage. (*She produces the sword*)
Jo Jo What the heck is that?
Brenda Two guesses.
Jo Jo The sword used to cut the rope of the sandbag?
Brenda Exactly. I think our culprit ran to the prop shop and grabbed the first thing that could cut that rope.
Jo Jo And now you've decided to check out the prop shop — at night — alone. You will never learn, will you?
Brenda Don't worry. What could possibly happen to us? (*She opens the trunk*)

Buddy stands up from inside the box and screams

Brenda and Jo Jo scream back

Buddy! You nearly scared the daylights out of me.
Buddy You didn't do wonders for me either.
Brenda I haven't had such a fright since we were nearly locked in King Kaaman's tomb for the rest of eternity.
Buddy I've heard all about "The Case of the Crummy Mummy". Spare me.
Brenda What are you doing here?
Buddy No. I think the question is what are you doing here?
Brenda I go to school here.
Buddy Oh, right. Well, I think the real question is what is Stu doing here?

Buddy drags Stu out from behind a curtain

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