

Centre Stage The *Mini Musical*

THE DUGDALE ARTS CENTRE, ENFIELD

12.00pm Sunday 23rd March 2025

Girl Students (9)	
Chelsea	<i>Grace Cor.</i>
Lara	<i>Isla B</i>
Lucy	<i>Eloisa B</i>
Janice	<i>Leila W</i>
Michelle	<i>Roisin M</i>
Cathy	<i>Frances S</i>
Annabel	<i>Katerina C</i>
Michaela	<i>Cassie P</i>
Charlotte	<i>Grace Car.</i>

Board Members (3)	
Gloria Goodman	<i>Maddy C</i>
Andrea Silverman	<i>Beatrice B</i>
Debbie Dabble	<i>Lexi M</i>

Investors (5)	
Hayley Swift	<i>Isla B</i>
Jane Sharp	<i>Eliana V</i>
Ryan Charmers	<i>Zachary M</i>
Anna Forsyth	<i>Frances S</i>
Frank Peterson	<i>Theo R</i>

Boy Students (4)	
Billy	<i>Dominic N</i>
Matt	<i>Benjamin B</i>
Craig	<i>Aren D</i>
Olly	<i>Feliks B</i>

Other (4)	
Pushy Mum	<i>Ava T</i>
Carmen	<i>Eliana V</i>
Tax Person	<i>Zachary M</i>
Passer By	<i>Theo R</i>

Teachers (5)	
Janet Thompson	<i>Isla S</i>
Josh Hansen	<i>Henry B</i>
Leona Drinkwater	<i>Alice L</i>
Gemma Finch	<i>Raji M</i>
Harriet Hackett	<i>Amelie P</i>

ACT ONE
SCENE 1: Prologue – Boardroom

The scene opens on a large boardroom of OWNERS and INVESTORS. The SECRETARY is also present taking the minutes of the meeting. Lights up...

SILVERMAN

Well we're glad to see you all again, at what we hope will be a straightforward and encouraging meeting.

GLORIA

As you are aware we call a financial meeting once a year for all our investors. However, this year we felt the need to bring it forward a few weeks.

PETERSON

Yes, why has it been brought forward, you didn't really say on the phone.

CHARMERS

Centre Stage's profits have been declining dramatically of late.

GLORIA

A slight slump as we've seen of late is really not something to be too concerned about.

SWIFT

We are one of the leading soft drinks manufacturers in the country and to us that sort of slump *is* a concern.

SHARP

Given that *ours* is the largest investment in the school, we stand to make the greatest loss.

FORSYTH

Yes and *our* £500,000 is no mere drop in the ocean either.

SILVERMAN

Right, well, hum... I having been over the paperwork and predict a 5% increase, on all your investments, by the end of year.

PETERSON

Well I'm afraid realistically that's not enough.

CHARMERS

We at 'Formidable Fashion' are seriously reviewing our future investment.

GLORIA

This is all news to me. I was not aware your concern ran so deep.

DEBBIE

Nor was I, and I don't think that two days before the start of the new term is the time to bring this up.

SWIFT

Well I'm sorry but 'The BubblePop Corporation' have decided to cease our commitment to Centre Stage at the end of the coming term.

DEBBIE

Oh no, that's terrible.

FORSYTH

I'm sorry to say that from the end of the year the same will apply for us too, Gloria. I am sorry.

GLORIA

You do know what this will mean to us, don't you? (*Silence*) Well don't you? We'll have to close if we don't find new sponsorship – and find it quickly. I trusted you all, and I trusted your word.

SHARP

I understand your disappointment, but it is not good business sense to just throw money away, it is as simple as that.

DEBBIE

One final thing... is this all about money? Have you even thought about the children?

CHARMERS

Naturally that has been the hardest part of this for me. But at the end of the day, business is unfortunately business

SILVERMAN

What will happen to our school now?

SCENE 2: New term at school – The playground.

The lights slowly come up, we hear the school bell ring and we see a scurry of activity as the children start to arrive for the new term. OLLY and BILLY are already on stage, MATT and CRAIG enter.

BILLY

Hey! Matt my man, how's it going?

MATT

Good man, nice to see you again Billy. So how you doing boys, how was your summer?

BILLY

Got to go down as one of the best.

OLLY

I had a good time as well.

MATT

I'm looking forward to this term. It should be a good one.

CRAIG

Yeah, this is my lucky term, I can feel it, I'm going to get a star part.

BILLY

You're not going to get a lead Craig, unless you practice hard.

OLLY

Yeah, the only lead you're getting is for your pet dog!

CRAIG

Get lost.

(BOYS laugh and MISS DRINKWATER walks across stage to GIRLS)

LUCY

Morning Miss.

DRINKWATER

Good morning Lucy. Did you have a nice holiday?

LUCY

Yes Miss, I went to see Swan Lake and I've decided I want to join the Royal Ballet when I leave Centre Stage.

DRINKWATER

Really, well work hard and you just might. That goes for all of you, the hard work that is.

GIRLS

Yes Miss.

(LARA and JANICE enter and join the GIRLS)

LUCY

Oh hi ya Janice, Lara.

CHELSEA

Hi!

LARA

How is everyone, alright? Do anything nice over the summer Chelsea?

CHELSEA

Yes I did actually. I spent 6 weeks at my parent's villa in Ibiza. *(Wow/so lucky type of reactions)*

LUCY

And what about you Janice?

JANICE

Nah not really... went to the arcades in Southend and it rained the whole day! *(No way/ahh/sorry about that/so unlucky type of reactions!)*

(PUSHY MUM enters and bundles her way through the crowd dragging Annabel along by the hand.)

PUSHY MUM

Come on darling, hurry up. *(They stop.)* Right, got everything? Come here. *(She licks her handkerchief and wipes and wipe her daughter's face.)* Right, you look lovely. Now remember, listen hard and don't go

getting involved in any fun and games, you are here to learn, remember. Now go on, run along and get ready for class. (PUSHY MUM exits.)

(MISS THOMPSON, the Head, walks across to speak to the staff who are congregating by the entrance)

THOMPSON

Good Morning Mr Hanson.

HANSON

Miss Thompson, lovely to see you.

THOMPSON

Let me introduce to some of the staff. This is Gemma Finch.

FINCH

Morning... welcome aboard!

THOMPSON

This is Leona Drinkwater

DRINKWATER

Good Morning, lovely to meet you at last.

FINCH

Here comes the lovely Ms Hackett. You may well find her slightly disagreeable at times, but I'm sure you'll get along fine!

DRINKWATER

He'll be the first if he does!

HACKETT

What are we all doing standing around outside like a bunch of old fish wives?

THOMPSON

We're just chatting away waiting for the kids, Harriet. How was your summer?

HACKETT

Satisfactory, shall we?

(She walks into the school. Reaction. GLORIA GOODMAN comes out of the school gates and addresses everyone before they enter)

GLORIA

Good morning and welcome back to a new term at Centre Stage. I'm Gloria Goodman, the owner of the school, and so on behalf of myself, and all of the staff – welcome, and may you all have an enjoyable time here!

SONG 1: Opening – welcome to Centre Stage!

SCENE 3: Auditions

STUDENTS outside the Audition Room are talking before lining up ready for their turn. During the Student's lines the TEACHERS enter carrying chairs to set up the audition, forming a panel at the front of the stage. The staff are led in by an impatient MS HACKETT. They sit in a row as the scene begins

ANNABEL

I can't wait for it to be our go! I've been practising all week.

MICHAELA

I've got butterflies in my stomach.

CHARLOTTE

That's just nerves. It's called stage fright. Don't worry, you'll enjoy it.

MICHAELA

Look, the next group are going in. I'm looking forward to this. I want to get a top like Chelsea's one, she's so cool.

CHARLOTTE

Well I'll be watching Lucy, don't you think she's an amazing dancer? I'm going to be like her one day.

(Cut to 'Audition Room')

HACKETT

Hurry it along, I don't want this to take all day.

THOMPSON

Patience Harriet... (HACKETT sits and huffs)

HANSEN

I'm quite looking forward to this. I haven't really had a chance to see what the kids can do as yet.

HACKETT

Hold your enthusiasm until you've sat through thirty of them, then tell me whether you're still enjoying it.

FINCH

That's hardly fair Harriet. I'm looking forward to it too Josh, there are some lovely singing voices you know.

HANSEN

Good, I can't wait.

THOMPSON

Now... Don't be too harsh on them everyone. We don't want any tears, do we? *(The first group enters)*
Ah girls, come on in. What are you going to do for your audition?

MICHAELA

We are going to do ?????????? for you Miss.

FINCH

Lovely. Now we may stop you when we think we've seen enough, OK? So, when you're ready.

(FIRST AUDITION: The group performs until THOMPSON stops her)

THOMPSON

Next!

(SECOND AUDITION: Another student/group enters and does a dance. Again THOMPSON stops her after a short while.)

THOMPSON

Next!

ANNABEL

Hello everyone, my turn at last! Where would you like me to stand, is here OK? I'm so excited, and a little nervous, but I'll give it my best shot. We've been rehearsing for two weeks, so I hope you like it. My mum says I'll be the next Taylor Swift. (*laughs*)

FINCH

I'm sure you could be.

ANNABEL

I'm/we're going to sing *????* from/by *????*... Music please.

(THIRD AUDITION: ANNABEL/Group performs a verse or two of a song until THOMPSON stops her)

THOMPSON

Thank you, that was lovely.

ANNABEL

Do you think so? I'm not sure, I think I've done it better in my room. I don't know if I hit the top C, did I hit the top C Mrs Finch?

FINCH

Yes Annabel.

ANNABEL

Did you like the dancing Miss Drinkwater? I choreographed it myself!

DRINKWATER

Yes Annabel.

ANNABEL

Do you think I had good stage presence Mr Hansen?

HANSEN

Yes Annabel.

ANNABEL

'Cause my mum says I have...

THOMPSON

Thank you Annabel. We'd love to stop and talk, but we're on a tight schedule. Goodbye.

ANNABEL

Yes Miss. Thank you all, bye! *(All the TEACHERS breathe a sigh of relief)*

HACKETT

Thank goodness for that! Mr Hansen, I think you should work with that girl... on MIME!

(Addressing the rest of the school and all students who auditioned)

HANSEN

Well once again, thank you very much. Now after brief discussions up here during your performances, I think we've pretty much made our final decisions on casting for the show.

DRINKWATER

So, by the time you return from break, the parts for this end of term show will be posted on the school notice board.

HACKETT

So go and stretch your legs for a few minutes and when you come back we'll put you out of your misery.

FINCH

Well done all of you. Now have a nice break.

THOMPSON

Lunch! *(Blackout)*

SCENE 4: Office

The OWNERS, THOMPSON and DEBBIE wait in the office.

THOMPSON

Wasn't it a wonderful set of auditions? The kids have all done extremely well this term.

GLORIA

Yes, a good term had by all. However, I'm not sure this meeting will be as encouraging. But let's not lose all hope yet.

(Enter TAX PERSON)

TAX PERSON

Afternoon. So on the basis of your financial situation and the results of our recent property survey, I'm afraid the only way to meet repayments and avoid extreme debt, is to repossess the property.

DEBBIE

Oh!

SILVERMAN

How long do we have?

TAX PERSON

In the interests of the school, we're willing to wait until the end of the academic year.

DEBBIE

I can't believe it...

TAX PERSON

The property will be signed over to us at the end of the school year and Centre Stage will have to relocate or close. (*TAX PERSON exits*)

GLORIA

I can't believe this. I started this school 25 years ago and with my bare hands built it into what it is today. I love this place. How can something like this happen?

SILVERMAN

What do you want us to do?

GLORIA

Nothing for the time being, and this news doesn't leave this office, alright? But sooner or later someone's going to have to tell the staff and the kids that at the end of this year, Centre Stage will be no more.

SCENE 5: Kids Lament

We open the scene with the TEACHERS leading a rehearsal. Led by MISS FINCH and MISS DRINKWATER.

FINCH

Alright everybody, not bad, let's go through it again. This time sing it as if you mean it! We're deep into rehearsals now and you need to show me that you're not just singers but performers as well – and music please...

SONG 2: A small section of the 'FINAL' Song

DRINKWATER

Well done... that's become a really strong number, keep that level of performance up. I know you all maybe tired but try to keep the energy up.

BILLY

But we've been rehearsing all day, Miss!

DRINKWATER

Yes, that's right Billy, but practice makes perfect. From the top!

(PUSHY MUM storms into the class dragging a reluctant Annabel by the hand.)

PUSHY MUM

Yes yes... Well done, very good. Hello, Miss Finch isn't it? I'm Mrs Shaw, I've come about my daughter.

FINCH

Well what seems to be the problem? Annabel has been doing very well.

PUSHY MUM

The problem is that Annabel's been practising daily, outside of school hours, and she still hasn't got a lead part in the show. I think you should give her a chance to audition again, now that you know how hard she's been working.

FINCH

Um... Well, what you've got to understand Mrs Shaw is that we have many talented children here and they have all auditioned equally for the parts in the show.

PUSHY MUM

Well, all I can say is that whoever cast this show must have left their glasses at home and had their hearing aid turned down because they failed to spot the blatant talent that is my daughter. Look at her, she's a shining star! Come on darling... show them what you can do!

FINCH

Really Miss Shaw...

PUSHY MUM

She's a born natural, a born performer, the next Taylor Swift...

DRINKWATER

OK Miss Shaw! Thank you Annabel. We'll do our very best to accommodate both your needs.

PUSHY MUM

Wasn't so hard now, was it?!

(Blackout)

SCENE 6: Office Scene – Bad News

GLORIA, SILVERMAN and DEBBIE are sitting in the office. *The STAFF start to arrive*)

GLORIA

Now, sorry to eat into your lunch break like this, but there are a few things you should all be aware of, and a few things we need to discuss.

DRINKWATER

Sounds very serious.

GLORIA

Well actually I'm afraid it is. In recent weeks we have been experiencing a few, shall we say, financial difficulties.

SILVERMAN

Firstly, we had two of our major investors pull their funding and since then, we have been unable to find alternative Sponsorship.

HANSEN

What exactly does that mean in layman's terms?

GLORIA

We have no alternative but to look at this term as our last at Centre Stage.

HACKETT

You mean the school will be closing in the summer?

FINCH

Oh, my word! I don't believe it.

GLORIA

Now that we know how serious this all is, the only question that remains is 'what do we do next?'

HANSEN

That's simple, we must tell the children. They'll be mortified, but they also have a right to know.

THOMPSON

I think Josh is absolutely right, they deserve to know.

FINCH

Agreed.

GLORIA

OK, then maybe you could call an assembly on Monday morning. There's no point in dragging this out.

THOMPSON

Certainly, Gloria. Leave it to us.

GLORIA

I'm sorry everybody... I'm sorry this isn't the happy ending we were all hoping for.

DEBBIE

It's not your fault, Mrs Goodman. I'm just sad that my kids won't be able to come here as I'd hoped.

(GLORIA exits. The STAFF are left in silence. Blackout)

SCENE 7: Assembly – Spreading The Word

The bell rings. The STAFF make their way to the hall from the office area, the children enter from the wings and settle down into their positions for assembly.

BILLY

(Catching up with the others) Hey dudes! How was your weekend?

CRAIG

Great man, lots of sleeping after all of last week's rehearsals!

MATT

Same, my body is still killing me!

(They go into assembly. MICHELLE and SALLY enter and see CATHY)

MICHELLE

Cathy! You're back! How was your holiday?

CATHY

I had a brilliant time, do you like my tan?

MICHELLE

Yeah, where did you go?

CATHY

I've been with relatives in Spain for four weeks.

MICHELLE

That's so unfair! Why can't I have some relatives in a hot country?!

THOMPSON

Can we all take our seats please. Good morning everyone. I'm afraid I have some rather sad news for you this morning. Following a long meeting after school yesterday, we have discovered that Centre Stage will be closing down at the end of this term and that the end of term show will be the final one.

(There is a stunned silence)

CHARLOTTE

So that's it then, Miss? Simple as that?

JANICE

Yes, you've always taught us to be the best and work hard, never to give up.

CATHY

You're giving up now Miss.

ANNABEL

There must be something we can do?

CHELSEA

What about the show? That always raises a fair bit of capital...

LARA

Yes Miss, the show! If we get full houses every night, it'll make loads of money!

LUCY

Why don't we do some Cabarets before, that might raise some money too, Miss.

HANSEN

They're talking sense! *(General enthusiasm among the students)*

THOMPSON

OK, OK, calm yourselves down. *(To STAFF)* What do we think?

FINCH

We've got nothing to lose Miss Thompson.

HACKETT

Amazingly, I agree with Gemma. Why not?

DRINKWATER

Might as well go out with a bang rather than a whimper!

THOMPSON

Well, once again you have all amazed me with your high spirit. Let's give it a go and together we'll try to save the school. Our school! Everyone agreed?

ALL

Yes, yeah etc.

SONG 3: Uplifting song - the school can stay open; we can save the school!

(The KIDS hurriedly start to exit, full of excitement discussing the events they will organise. Blackout)

SCENE 8: The Cabaret – Fundraising

The scene opens with the kids encouraging people to come to the Centre Stage fundraising fête, during this scene we will spotlight different fundraising activities all over the stage; A cabaret, a rehearsal etc. Each time the action will be joined in mid-flow, highlighting the passing of time. We start at the Fête.

JANICE

Come to the Centre Stage school fête!

ANNABEL

Help raise money to save the school...

MICHAELA

Enter the raffle for the grand prize draw...

MICHELLE

... Win a holiday for two in Italy!

CATHY

Kindly donated by Cheap & Cheerful Travel!

PUSHY MUM

How much are they?

CHARLOTTE

£1 each, or £5 for a strip of six.

PUSHY MUM

I'll take ten strips...

ALL
...Ten? Yippee!

(The other KIDS handing out flyers)

BILLY
Don't miss the Centre Stage Extravaganza!

CRAIG
Can I give you a flyer? Thanks!

OLLY
How many have we done today?

MATT
Each box holds 500, and we're nearly at the end of our second box.

BILLY
Not bad... Excuse me Sir, can I give you a flyer?

PASSER BY
What is it for?

ALL
Only the best show you'll see this year!

(Cut to the office)

GLORIA
We've got to pull out all the stops now, Debbie.

DEBBIE
Yes Mam, Mrs Goodman!

GLORIA
How are the ticket sales, Andrea?

SILVERMAN
Not bad so far. I'm calling all of our contacts to raise interest now, and the kids are handing out flyers all over town.

GLORIA
That's what we like to hear. All we need now is a small miracle and we might just do it.

(Blackout)

SCENE 9: Backstage – Show night

We see the students backstage getting themselves prepared for the show – Putting on make-up, getting dressed, mucking around, nerves a plenty as the students talk about the forthcoming show. We get the impression that the show is only a matter of thirty minutes or so away.

TANOY VOICE

Scene one performers, this is your thirty-minute beginner's call. Repeat, your thirty-minute call.

(MISS THOMPSON enters. As she does, the STUDENTS notice her and turn in anticipation)

THOMPSON

Right everyone, the moment is nearly upon us. Everyone ready?

ALL

Yes Miss.

THOMPSON

Now, this may be the last time we all get to do this sort of thing, so enjoy it, make it special and remember, this is the moment...

SONG 4: THIS IS THE MOMENT from JEKYLL AND HYDE

(The curtains close. A drum roll and the score of the previous number is heard under the voice over)

TANOY VOICE

Ladies and Gentlemen, please take your seats for this evening's performance. And now, with no further delay, I present Mrs Gloria Goodman, the owner of Centre Stage Performing Arts School.

(GLORIA enters)

GLORIA

Good evening everyone, lovely to see such a great turn out. Unfortunately, as some of you may be aware, this may be the last show that Centre Stage will ever produce. For me, this would be heart breaking since not only have I built the school up over many years, but I've seen the pleasure it has brought to hundreds of students who have trained with us. *(almost in tears)* Thank you for listening and enjoy the show – let's hope there will be many more in the future. Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you... Centre Stage.

(The score begins and the curtains open to reveal the cast on stage in very glamorous costumes.)

SONG 5: The FINAL Song/Performance (full version)

(Blackout)

SCENE 10: Backstage – Epilogue

The show has ended and the STUDENTS are getting themselves ready to leave, removing make-up, etc.
PUSHY MUM enters.

PUSHY MUM

Annabel, darling, well done! (*Hands her some flowers*) You were amazing, Taylor Swift would have been proud. I've got it all on camera so you can see it when you get home.

ANNABEL

Thanks mum, did you really think I was good?

PUSHY MUM

Oh darling, good doesn't even come close. You were fantastic! On the way home I might just treat you to a takeaway.

ANNABEL

Oh thanks! Chinese, Indian, pizza?

PUSHY MUM

It's your special night darling – you're the star of the show... how about all three!!

ANNABEL

Thanks mum.

PUSHY MUM

Just don't tell your father!

GLORIA

(Addressing the full school of students and parents) Well the first thing to be said is a huge congratulations to all of you for your hard work. I can honestly say that in the 25 years of Centre Stage, I've never seen a better production and I'm very proud of you all. It's always nice to go out with a bang and I'm glad we've ended on such a high note... because unfortunately this *will be* our last show.

SILVERMAN

We have all tried incredibly hard to raise the necessary money to save the school, but we're afraid to say that despite our efforts, we haven't quite reached our target.

GLORIA

I don't think I can say much more, other than to wish you all the best in the future, wherever that future may lie. *(She starts to walk off stage. CARMEN enters)*

CARMEN

Mrs Goodman? Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Carmen MacinBosh! I know, sounds familiar, right?! *(Laughs)* Come on, raise a chortle, what are we so down about?

GLORIA

Well Carmen, we aren't really in the mood for laughing, as you may be aware we've just found out that the school is going to have to close.

CARMEN

Yes, I gathered... a terrible shame, but all is not lost. I don't know whether you've heard of me at all, but I'm a Theatre Producer in London's West End, and as such would hate to see such a talented bunch of people go to waste. I would like to offer you and your school my full financial support to enable you to keep your wonderful school open.

CHARLOTTE

Are you serious?

CARMEN

Deadly! However there is one condition upon which my proposal depends.

GLORIA

Yes... and what would that be?

CARMEN

That your end of year show next year will run at one of my West End venues for a minimum period of three weeks. I've got to make my money back somehow and I can't think of a better way to do it. Well, what do you think?

GLORIA

I think you're pulling my leg, that's what I think. But if you're serious... (CARMEN *nods*) then of course! The answer is yes! Yes!

CARMEN

Excellent!

GLORIA

This is amazing, we're going to stay open everybody! Centre Stage isn't going to have to close after all!

ALL

Cheers etc...

SILVERMAN

Oh, I can feel the relief lifted from the room. Can you feel it Gloria?

GLORIA

Oh yes indeed, I can feel it!

SONG 6: Happy FINALE Song!!

(Curtain)

THE END