

SCENE 1 [8] Ava, Toirese, Deeya, Natalia, Macey, Ruby, Shapol, Jake

Students onstage about to sing finale. Music starts and we get a note then blackout. General sounds of 'what's happening', 'nick what do we do'. Lights come up to confused looking students, aware the audience are watching.

Ava: What just happened?

Toirese: I think the lights went out.

Deeya: I believe the technical term you're looking for is 'blackout'. I've been listening in drama.

Macey: Show off.

Ruby: I'm so confused. One minute we're about to end the show, the next...nothing.

Ava: I didn't even get to do my solo part!

Toirese: You didn't have a solo part.

Ava: Yeah well, I was hoping for a last-minute change.

Natalia: Unlikely, the staff have been preparing for this show for ages. Everything was sorted months ago. Linda's been sewing since last Oscars.

Shapol: Talking of staff, anyone know what we should be doing right now? Nick? Carole? We need some help!

Jake: (*running onstage*) Guys, guys what's happening? Is it time for me to come on yet?

Macey: Well you're on now aren't you.

Jake: Oh yeah (*awkwardly waves to audience*).

Ruby: Do you know what's going on?

Macey: Have you seen any staff?

Ava: Can I have another solo?

Jake: I don't know anything. I was waiting and waiting for my cue to come on but then it all went silent and I panicked and thought I'd missed it.

Natalia: I'll go see what's happening.

Deeya: I'll come help you.

(They exit)

Shapol: So now what do we do?

Toirese: Anyone know any jokes?

Jake: I can do a backflip.

Ruby: How does that help anyone?

Jake: It doesn't, it just looks cool.

Macey: Do it.

Jake: Shall I?

Shapol: No.

Natalia and Deeya return.

Natalia: Ok guys, don't panic. Apparently, we're having some technical difficulties backstage.

Ava: I think all the audience could've told you that by now.

Toirese: How long is it going to take to fix it?

Natalia: They're not sure but Nick's hard at work.

Macey: So what are we meant to do in the meantime?

Ava: The audience are getting twitchy, the man in the front has run out of snacks.

Deeya: Carole said to keep going and do the opening again but make it extra good. You think you can reach that note again Shapol?

Shapol: There's only one way to find out...

SCENE 2 [8] *Laurence, Louis, May, Alba, Isabella, Lilah, Layla, Sophia*

Sophia: I'm so glad we remembered that Honk routine.

Alba: That filled up some time!

Louis: I thought it was egg-cellent.

Laurence: Don't crack me up Louis.

Sophia: Someone make them stop.

Isabella: That might be impossible.

Alba: Does anyone have an update from Nick?

Lilah: Oh I do, he spoke to me before we went on.

Layla: What did he say?

May: Why didn't you tell us before?

Lilah: I wanted to do the song and Kani had already got into the catsuit.

Alba: So what's the plan? Have they fixed the issues yet?

Lilah: Nope, it's chaos backstage. First the curtains weren't working which is why they did a quick blackout. Then that caused a system reset and none of the cues were working. Now some of the mics are going crazy-

Laurence: What? My mum's here, I hope she heard my bit.

Louis: And mine!

Lilah: Basically, we all have to keep going until they can get everything working again.

Isabella: How long will that take?

Lilah: It could be a while so in the meantime...

May: The show must go on!

Sophia: Right guys we need to think of some routines we can pull out, we've got a long time to fill.

Layla: Anyone got any ideas?

Lilah: Nick said we can do whatever we want as long as it's good!

Alba: No pressure!

Isabella: We could do some routines from old shows? Or stuff we've been working on in class?

May: But what about costumes? And mics? How will we know what to do and when to do it?

Sophia: We'll be fine, the staff will tell us what to do.

Lilah: They're all too busy sorting the mess backstage. Esel is asking Chat GPT to choreograph new routines!

Layla: If they're busy then maybe we should talk to the older ones? They'll know what to do, they've done the most shows.

Sophia: Who's brave enough to go talk to the seniors?

All look at Louis and Laurence

Louis: Don't worry, we've got this.

Laurence: Yeah we'll save the day!

They exit

Layla: Are we sure they're the best for the job?

Sophia: Those two will get the seniors into shape, one way or another. We'll have a plan to save the show as soon as the boys are back.

Alba: That gives me an idea for a song...

SCENE 3 [6] Blanka, Lorena, Lilia, Innes, Eimear, Arianna

Legally Blonde bridge scene

LILIA: Wait we've got to stay on? Why?

ARIANNA: Apparently the Young Centre Stagers have locked Kathryn in a cupboard and the rest of the staff are having to...deal with that... So nobody else can be brought to the stage right now...

INNES: When I said I wanted my last Centre Stage show to be memorable, this is so not what I meant.

LORENA: What are we supposed to do?

EIMEAR: What is it the teachers are always saying?

LILIA: From the top: 5,6,7,8

EIMEAR: No...

ARIANNA: JUST LEARN YOUR LINES

EIMEAR: No -

INNES: It's you that's going on that stage in two weeks, not me.

EIMEAR: No! If something goes wrong just keep going, most of the time the audience won't even notice!

LORENA: They've definitely noticed... *(all awkwardly turn and smile at audience)*

INNES: I think some of them have left...

BLANKA: Girls, did we or did we not just sing a song called "Positive!?" So let's stay positive!

LORENA: Okay! I'm Positive this is an a total nightmare!

BLANKA: Come on! **(sung)** 'keep it positive...'

LORENA: I beg you to stop

ARIANNA: Seriously, what are we going to do?

EIMEAR: We could tell jokes?

LILIA: I don't know any jokes

ARIANNA: We could just improvise a scene?

INNES: That feels dangerous...

EIMEAR: I bet nobody's told Lucy the next group aren't ready for their song. I'm gonna go warn her. *(EXITS)*

LILIA: Warn her... *(continues over next few lines)*

LORENA: Oh great, just leave us here to keep the audience entertained...

ARIANNA: Which is ironic because the real entertainment is what's going on backstage

INNES: What like Blanka nearly walking on stage wearing two different shoes

BLANKA: Fashion is subjective!

INNES: So is choreography apparently.

LILIA: Warn her.... Warn her.... WARNER!

LORENA: We are not doing another song from Legally Blonde

LILIA: WAIT A SEC! This is the kind of girl Warner wants.

INNES: Here we go again

LILIA: Someone serious! *HIT*

ARIANNA: You're not even blonde!

LILIA: Someone Lawyerly! *HIT*

BLANKA: I swear this song is like 8 minutes long...

LILIA: Someone who wears black when nobodies dead! *CUE SONG* Girls! I have a completely brilliant plan!

SCENE 4 [5] *Sofia G, Minnie, Nell, Sam, Phaedra M*

Sofia G: Good job everyone, we're doing well with filling time.

Sam: We've almost done enough for an entire act.

Minnie: My feet hurt, must this show go on and on and on!

Nell: Well Minnie I have good news and bad news.

Phaedra: What's the good news?

Nell: The tech is mostly fixed.

Minnie: So we can end the show?

Sofia G: Hold on, what's the bad news?

Nell: The staff have all gone missing!

Minnie: What? How? When? Why?

Nell: All very good questions.

Sam: Have you got any answers?

Nell: Yes. Jack was looking for a jack lead, Nick was looking to nick some batteries and Osman... seems to have gotten lost looking for both of them

Sam: So what do we do?

Phaedra: We need time to find everyone... let's have an interval.

Nell: We can't just go straight into it, we need time to get the bar ready, find more programmes to sell.

Minnie: Let's do a big act one finale. That'll give us time to prepare for the interval and start looking for the teachers.

Sam: The seniors were meant to be coming up with something using a load of tables Eliz found. It's looking pretty good.

Minnie: Ooo scenery!

Sofia G: Whilst they finalise that we should do a big, emotional ballad where someone pours out their hopes and dreams onto the stage.

Phaedra: Blanka was telling me in dance troupe that she's thinking of being a pilot.

Nell: I know just the song...

SCENE 5a [5] *Connor, Taylor, John, Inca, Cara*

(Stage stays in Blackout after Shadowland)

Connor: Umm, weren't the lights meant to have come back on by now?

Cara: Don't tell me it's ANOTHER malfunction

Connor: Guess they took Shadow land a bit too literally.

(Lights on)

Taylor: Phew, that's better. But do we have an update? Do we need to keep stalling?

John: I hope so, I've got just the thing - (comes forward as if to sing/do a speech)

(Blackout)

John: Well that was a bit aggressive

Cara: Quiet John! Now how are we meant to keep stalling if we can't even see who's on the stage.

(Lights on)

Inca: You worry too much.

Connor: Remember when we all did Shrek? Simpler, less malfunctiony times...

Taylor: We weren't in Shrek Connor...

Connor: ...Or when we did Les Mis, (One day more!!!)

Inca: We weren't even born yet Connor!

Connor: Or Hamilton! (I'm not throwing away my shot)

Cara: CENTRE STAGE HAVE NEVER EVEN DONE THAT CONNOR!!!

Taylor: I think the stress is getting to him.

(Blackout)

Connor: See what you did...

Taylor: Not again!

John: I did nothing...

Cara: I've got it!

(Lights on)

Cara: If only a few of the lights are working, we'll just get a couple of people out to throw in a solo song or two while they figure out what's going on with the rest of them. The follow spot should be working at the very least?

Inca: That's a great idea. Means we don't have to sing another sad Disney song...

Taylor: Or keep stalling

John: And we don't have to stand here waiting for another...

(Blackout)

John: ...blackout (exit)

SCENE 5b [4] Gabriel, Cristian, Alex, Mike

Mike: This way to the tech box, keep following me.

Cristian: Are you sure this is the way Mike?

Mike: Positive. I know the Wyllyotts like the back of my hand.

Cristian: Where's all the staff then?

Mike: I don't know, somewhere in the building.

Cristian: That doesn't fill me with confidence.

(They exit SR as Alex and Gabriel enter SL)

Alex: Hello. Any staff members about? Two lost seniors over here.

Gabriel: Where is everyone?

Alex: I don't know. It all got confusing after Hello, you were the only one I could find in the dark.

Gabriel: We need these lights back on, my torch is running low.

Alex: We can find some batteries?

Gabriel: How? We can't find anything!

Alex: Oh yeah!

Mike and Cristian re-enter. They all get startled.

Cristian: Who's there?

Mike: *(turning his torch onto himself, lighting his face)* It's me, Mikey

Cristian: Not you!

Mike: Sorry!

Alex: *(turning his torch onto himself, lighting his face)* It's me, Alex

Gabriel: *(turning his torch onto himself, lighting his face)* And me, Gabriel

Mike: He's Gabriel. *(turning his torch to light Cristian's face)*

Cristian: No, I'm Cristian.

Mike: You are? Ah it's so confusing in the dark.

Cristian: I was wondering why you were talking about my dancing so much.

Mike: Concentre Gabriel... I mean, Cristian!

Gabriel: Have you guys found anyone? We've been looking for ages.

Cristian: Nope. No students or staff anywhere. We were trying to find the tech box.

Alex: Well we were looking for our dressing room.

Lights come up, they realise they're onstage and visible to the audience. Awkward. Lights down.

Mike: Do you think they saw us?

Alex: Just a little bit.

Cristian: We need another song quick and something that can cope with these lights going crazy.

2.30pm Scene finish:

Gabriel: Let's get the Young Centre Stagers on, they're nice and cute. But we'll need a lot more torches...

Mike: Why's that?

Gabriel: They're doing Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat!

Alex: I like the sound of that...

Gabriel: So probably best to find some colour gels too

Mike: Good idea Cristian.

Gabriel: I'm Gabriel.

Mike: Argh, when are these lights coming on!

(Cue song and into YCS)

6.30pm Scene finish:

Gabriel: What about a couple of romantic ballads with just a spotlight? Everyone loves a romance.

Cristian: I like the sound of that...

Mike: Good idea Cristian.

Gabriel: I'm Gabriel.

Mike: Argh, when are these lights coming on!

(Cue song and into spotlight on Natalia)

SCENE 6 [6] *Zach, Henry, Isla, Kat G, Sienna, Styliani*

Henry: Ok team, how are we doing? What's the latest backstage report?

Isla: We managed to find the key to the green room and free Carole, Linda and Selda.

Katerina G: They had been stuck in there since act one.

Henry: Poor things.

Sienna: Carole was panicking, Linda ran out of thread to mend the costumes and Selda...

Zach: What happened?!

Styliani: She lost her ticket spreadsheet.

Zach: No!

Henry: It's ok we'll find it for her. The morning inters will save the day.

Sienna: Carole said she needs something really good to ease her nerves.

Styliani: Anyone know her favourite musical?

Katerina G: What about something Centre Stage has performed before?

Isla: Linda said she found some of the Seussical costumes.

Zach: What's Seussical?

Isla: Imagine the Avengers or Justice League but this time for Dr Seuss characters.

Zach: Cool.

Henry: That settles it, let's do it team. Positions everyone!

SCENE 7 [5] *Ava, Toirese, Deeya, Natalia, Safia*

Deeya: I don't know about you lot but I'm hungry after hearing that.

Safia: I know! How much longer have we got left?

Natalia: I had a message from Ashley that all lights and mics are working as normal.

Safia: Brilliant! And have all staff been located?

Toirese: Yes but not successfully.

Deeya: Expand please.

Toirese: Lucy has lost her voice-

Ava: And Linda is helping her find it.

Toirese: Lidia ran out of Tik Tok content to entertain the young ones...

Ava: All she can think of is rehashes of baby shark.

Natalia: This isn't looking good. Anything else?

Toirese: Yes. Selda finally located her ticket list-

Natalia: That's good!

Ava: But it was from the last show.

Safia: Less good.

Ava: And then we're pretty sure Nick and the rest are hiding in the pub across the road.

Deeya: Great, so it's left to us to hold the fort.

Safia: The show must go on!

Ava: It's the final push guys, we've got this.

Natalia: Yeah why do we need the staff anyway!

Toirese: Literally for everything.

Ava: How hard can it be to shuffle the juniors onstage or push some buttons for tech? We've seen the staff do it for so long now. They're not here so it's time for us to take charge of our school. Let's give the audience some great final numbers, do it for your yourselves, do it for the school, do it for Carole!

ALL: For Carole!

Toirese: That was quite the speech.

Ava: I told you I wanted a solo.

SCENE 8 [6] *Lily, Louisa, Noah, Zoe, Aoife, Adam*

Adam: *(looking around)* Okay... quick check. Lights?

Louisa: Working!

Lily: *(loudly)* Microphones?

Noah: On... not that you need one!

Aoife: Backstage?

Zoe: Busy – that Dance Troupe is something else!

Adam: Changing rooms?

Lily: A total disaster... but that's not our problem now. We've done what we needed to do and we're ready to go.

Adam: *(amazed)* Wait... does this mean—

Noah: —nothing is broken?!

Louisa: No tangled wires!

Zoe: No missing props!

Lily: No more “I don't care how long it takes, just get out there and do something!”

Aoife: We actually did it.

Zoe: After all the chaos tonight...

Louisa: ...all the running around...

Noah: ...all the last-second fixes...

Aoife: The show can finally... finish.

Zoe: *(hearing music start)* That's our cue!

Adam: Alright team.

Aoife: One last song.

Lily: One big finale.

Louisa: Let's make it amazing.

Noah: Ready?

Zoe: Ready!

All: Let's finish the show!

(They run offstage as the Alyssa enters and starts the song.)