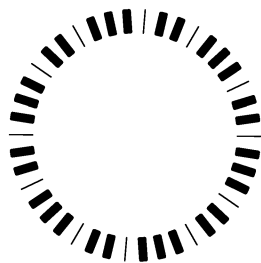


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CONCORD
THEATRICALS

ACT 1

1

SCENE ONE

1

THE OLYMPIC POWERHOUSE

A rock group is in a pool of light.

1. I'M TOO HOT FOR YOU

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

...And now, ladies and gentlemen,
please welcome to the stage: No
Vacancy!

The song is sexy and strong and loud, the lead singer has hair like a Nordic God and a body to match. So do two of his supporting band. But the last one does not fit this pattern. At all. This is DEWEY FINN. He strums away, bored, disconnected from the music.

THEO

GIRL WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER
SUCH A LONG LONG TIME
IT'S BEEN A GREAT THREE DAYS YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE
BUT NOW I CAN'T HELP THINKIN'
SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT
AND HONESTLY IT ISN'T ME IT'S YOU...
I'M TOO HOT FOR YOU

THEO, DOUG, BOB

BABE YOU JUST CAN'T DENY.

THEO

I'M TOO HOT FOR YOU
THE MIRROR DOESN'T

THEO, DOUG, BOB

LIE

THEO

THOUGHT YOU'D PASS THE TEST
BUT YOU'RE A SIX AT BEST
I'M TOO HOT FOR YOU

THEO (CONT'D)
SO LET'S JUST SAY GOODBYE.

DEWEY
Let's pick it up now guys!

THEO DOUG, BOB
BABY DON'T FEEL SORRY OOH
I KNOW HOW HARD YOU TRIED HOW HARD YOU TRIED
I GUESS SOME THINGS THEY JUST OOH
AIN'T MEANT TO BE.

DEWEY
YEAH!!

THEO DOUG, BOB
YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT HAPPENED OOH
JUST LOOK ME IN THE EYE: OHH

THEO DOUG, BOB (CONT'D)
FACE IT BABE THE ANSWER'S FACE IT BABE THE ANSWER'S
PLAIN TO SEE PLAIN TO SEE

DEWEY
PLAIN TO SEE! YEAH!

THEO
I'M TOO HOT FOR YOU

DEWEY
ME TOO!

THEO, DOUG, BOB
I KNOW, IT'S SO UNFAIR.

DEWEY
SO UNFAIR! BABY!

THEO
I'M TOO HOT FOR YOU

THEO (CONT'D) DEWEY
AND YOU'RE AND YOU'RE
JUST KINDA JUST KINDA

THEO, DOUG, BOB, DEWEY
THERE!

THEO, BOB
I'M TOO HOT FOR YOU.

Dewey begins to play a wild, inappropriate guitar solo. His bandmates watch in horror.

THEO

Dewey cut it out! Dewey! etc.

BOB

Dewey! What are your doing? etc.

But DEWEY cannot hear. He is in his own private ecstasy. At last he comes to an end.

DEWEY

Thank you Poughkeepsie! Goodnight!

THEO

That's it, I'm done with that guy. He's out.

DOUG

Alright, man!

The act is over. They walk off stage, and then...

2

SCENE 2

2

DEWEY'S BEDROOM

The lights come up to reveal Dewey lying in bed in a room which looks like the cell of a mad man. Instruments, albums, filthy clothes, plates of rotting food, are all a part of this horror. PATTY and NED SCHNEEBLY, the same age as Dewey, burst into the cursed chamber.

NED

Do we have to do this now?

PATTY

Yes, he trashed the house again, I'm sick of it!

NED

He's lived here a long time.

PATTY

What does that mean? He's been here longer than me so I matter less?

NED

No, Patty-cake, of course not, it's just - we went to High School together, we were in a band together. He's my best friend.

PATTY

He's not your friend. He's a freeloader, Ned, and he never pays rent. He takes advantage of you. He's rude to me, and it's time he paid some rent!

NED

Waking him up in the morning is a bad idea. It's like using a beehive as a pinata - it's dangerous!

PATTY

You can't live your life letting people push you around. Go! Do it!

Ned crosses to Dewey.

DEWEY

(talking in his sleep)
Yes, I understand guacamole is two dollars extra...

NED

Dewey.
(poking Dewey gently)
Dewey? Dewey!

PATTY

Wake up, Dewey! Time to get up!

She rips the covers off Dewey. He stumbles out of bed with a start.

DEWEY

(seeing Patty)
Patty! What do you want?

PATTY

The rent.

DEWEY

You woke me for *that*?

PATTY

Yes, we woke you for that!!

DEWEY

I am so sick and tired of being the
guy everyone comes to for the money
I owe them.

PATTY

Well, sorry to disturb your beauty
sleep, but we're going to work now,
Dewey. You see, we work. I serve
the Mayor of the city - the whole
city - and Ned... Ned has the most
important job there is!

DEWEY

Temping?

PATTY

Teaching! A substitute teacher is
not a temp!

DEWEY

He's a baby sitter.

NED

I'd like to see you try it!

DEWEY

Sweet comeback, bro.

PATTY

I don't care what you think of us,
Dewey. Pay some rent!

DEWEY

Tell her, Ned! The Battle of the
bands is in three weeks! I need
every penny I make!

PATTY

So do we! And you know what? It
belongs to us! Why don't you sell
that stupid guitar?

DEWEY

(Lunging for guitar)
Noooo! Would you ask Picasso to
sell his guitar?

PATTY

Oh my God, you're an idiot.

DEWEY

Ned? Help me here. You can't have forgotten what I'm playing for. What's happened to you? You used to be a blood sucking, cross-dressing incubus from Maggot Death!

NED

I may look like a satanic sex god, but that's not who I am anymore.

PATTY

He's moved on, Dewey. It's called "growing up"! You should try it.

Patty exits.

DEWEY

I don't want to try! Ned?! I've been mooching off you for years and it's never been a problem before.

NED

Come on. If you don't pay rent, Patty might leave me.

DEWEY

So I shouldn't pay the rent then?

NED

Dewey. I may never get another girlfriend.

3. WHEN I CLIMB TO THE TOP OF MOUNT ROCK

DEWEY

Ned. When I win the Battle of the Bands I will be rolling in the benjamins and then I'll pay your stupid rent. And that's just the beginning.

(sings)

I'LL BE STRUMMING MY AXE IN A BASEMENT DIVE
WITH MY TOTALLY KICK-ASS BAND,
WHEN AN ARMY OF A AND R MEN WILL ARRIVE
WITH PENS AND CONTRACTS IN HAND.
AND THEY'LL WHISK ME AWAY IN A BIG BLACK CAR,
AND THE RECORD EXECS AND THE GIRLS FROM P.R.

THEY'LL KNOW FROM THE START WHAT A MAJOR LEAGUE
STAR I WILL BE...
JUST WAIT AND SEE...!

NED

Please Dewey, just pay it.

Dewey exits the apartment. We
follow him out of his bedroom...

DEWEY

WHEN I CLIMB TO THE TOP OF MOUNT ROCK,
AND I'M THERE STARING DOWN FROM THE HEIGHTS,
IN MY BLACK LEATHER BOOTS, MY SEVEN-INCH HEELS
AND MY LIZARD SKIN SPANDEX TIGHTS,
I'LL DIVE OFF THE EDGE STRAIGHT INTO A CROWD
THAT'S SCREAMING MY NAME OUT LOUD
AND THE GATES WILL UNLOCK
AT THE TOP OF MT. ROCK!

...until he arrives at a REHEARSAL
SPACE. His band "No Vacancy" is
there waiting.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Hey, guys! I've got some killer new
material for the Battle of the
Bands.

THEO

Dewey, you're out. We're taking The
Battle of the Bands seriously this
year. Meet Snake.

SNAKE

Sup.

DEWEY

What?! No! You can't kick me out. I
created No Vacancy!

THEO

You brought the band together and
now the band wants you out.

DOUG

Don't feel bad, Dewey. You don't
fit in. We're all really good-
looking.

DEWEY

Thanks for that Doug! But you've
forgotten about one little thing:
The Music! Y'know what? Screw you.

(MORE)

DEWEY (CONT'D)

I don't need you. I don't need any
of you!

(sings)

I'LL BE BLOWING OUT AMPS PLAYING STADIUM SHOWS
ON MY SOLD-OUT GALACTIC TOUR.
AND I'LL BLISTER THE EARS OF THE FIRST THOUSAND
ROWS,
AND LEAVE WHILE THEY BEG FOR MORE.

DOUG

What a jerk.

Dewey leaves his former band-mates
behind and takes to the streets.

DEWEY

THEN I'LL POP THE CHAMPAGNE AND THE PARTY WILL
RAGE,
NO BROWN M&MS IN MY GREENROOM BACKSTAGE,
BIGGER THAN HENDRIX AND CLAPTON AND PAGE
AND THE REST...

He takes out a leaflet from his
knapsack. It has a picture of his
face and the words BAND WANTED. A
moment after he steps away, TWO
GIRLS stop to look at the flyer.

EMO GIRL 1 (SOPHIE)

Dewey Finn?

DEWEY

THE ALL-TIME BEST...!

EMO GIRL 2 (SHONELLE)

What a loser.

DEWEY

WHEN I CLIMB TO THE TOP OF MT. ROCK
AND I'M PERCHED AT THE UPPERMOST PEAK,
WITH A LEGION OF GROUPIES ALL DUKING IT OUT FOR
MY CHISELED ROCK-GOD PHYSIQUE,
I'LL SCATTER HIT SINGLES ALL OVER THE LAND, WITH
MY TWELVE GRAMMYS IN HAND
AND THE FAN-BOYS WILL FLOCK
'ROUND THE TOP OF MOUNT ROCK!

He ends up at the record store
where he works. His boss, STANLEY,
is waiting, carrying a crate of
records.

STANLEY

You're late again, Dewey. I have to let you go.

DEWEY

But Stanley, I need this job. I've got to pay rent.

STANLEY

That was your last chance, Rockstar. I would have put Rockstar in air-quotes but I'm carrying a crate of records.

DEWEY

Please!

(sings)

THE DOUBTERS AND THE HATERS
AND THE HIPSTERS--
LET 'EM LAUGH.
SOON THEY'LL ALL BE BEGGIN'
FOR MY ROADIE'S AUTOGRAPH.
I KNOW MY TIME IS COMIN'.
WELL, HOPEFULLY IT'S COMIN'.
I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S COMIN' ANY DAY
ONCE I FIND A WAY...

Dewey, disappointed and lost,
opens his guitar case and pulls
out his guitar.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

THEN THE DREAMS THAT I'VE HAD
SINCE THE DAY I TURNED TEN
WILL BE FINALLY COMIN' TRUE.
AND NO ONE WILL CALL ME
A LOSER AGAIN
OR TELL ME WHAT I CAN'T DO.

But as he sings, he gains strength
from the purity of his vision...

DEWEY (CONT'D)

SO I'LL HOLD MY HEAD HIGH, AND KEEP STRUMMING
THOSE STRINGS,
AND I'LL GRAB ANY CHANCE THAT MY DESTINY BRINGS
I'LL RISE AND I'LL RISE AND I'LL RISE ON THE
WINGS OF MY SONG
UP WHERE I BELONG...

AND I'LL CLIMB TO THE TOP OF MOUNT ROCK
AND BE PART OF THAT HEAVENLY SCENE
WITH ODIN AND ZEUS ON THE BASS AND THE DRUMS
AND THOR PLAYING TAMBOURINE.

AND ELVIS AND JANIS AND KURT WILL APPEAR,
AND JESUS WILL TOSS ME A BEER,
AND WE'LL JAM 'ROUND THE CLOCK
AT THE TOP OF MOUNT ROCK...
AT THE TOP OF MOUNT ROCK...
AT THE TOP OF MOUNT ROCK!

He has ended up back home. There is silence, broken only by the ringing of the phone. Dewey picks up the receiver, buried in his bed.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

What do you want?

ROSALIE

(speaking into her phone)
Hello? This is Rosalie Mullins,
Principal of Horace Green Prep
School. Am I speaking with Mr Ned
Schneebly?

DEWEY

No. He's not here.

ROSALIE

Will you give him a message?

DEWEY

Whatever.

ROSALIE

We have had an emergency and we need an immediate substitute to start tomorrow morning at 8:45. I am not sure for how long, but the position will pay nine hundred and fifty dollars a week.

The words hit Dewey like an electric shock. He pulls the receiver back to his ear.

DEWEY

Nine fifty a week?

ROSALIE

Yes. Nine hundred and fifty dollars a week.

Without a word, Dewey goes to the door, opens and closes it.

DEWEY

Hold on a second, I think he just came in the door. Hello-o! Anybody ho-ome! Oh, hey Dewey! Ned, the principal from Horace Green is on the phone.

Now he speaks into the receiver again.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Hello? This is Ned Schneebly. To whom am I speaking, please?

The music takes over, drowning the conversation. Its tone tells us that Dewey is back on track. A sea of children flood the stage as we are transported to:

3

SCENE 3.

3

HORACE GREEN - THE FRONT ENTRANCE/ASSEMBLY HALL.

4. HORACE GREEN ALMA MATER

Parents and children enter the school. ROSALIE MULLINS stands and greets them as they pass. An unattended student rushes by.

ROSALIE

No running!

A man in the suit of a banker, MR MOONEYHAM, strides along.

MOONEYHAM

Zack. Zack! Don't make me call you twice!

His son, ZACK MOONEYHAM, runs to catch up. He is a little dishevelled.

MOONEYHAM (CONT'D)

And walk like you're going somewhere! Look at you! Tuck in your shirt!

ROSALIE

Good morning, Mr Mooneyham. Good morning, Zack.

ZACK

Good morning Ms Mullins!

Other children enter the school with their parents, MASON WARD, BILLY SANDFORD... All greeting Rosalie with "Good Morning Ms Mullins" as they pass. They all walk off as a smart woman hurries down the aisle with her daughter. The girl, SUMMER HATHAWAY, is perfect and unbelievably organised.

ROSALIE

Good Morning, Mrs Hathaway. Good morning, Summer.

SUMMER

Good Morning, Ms Mullins!

MRS HATHAWAY

Ms Mullins, I wonder if I could -

SUMMER

Mom, your car is in a no parking zone.

MRS HATHAWAY

I know, honey, but I just wanted to ask Ms Mullins if -

SUMMER

I'll do the asking. Go move the car.

MRS HATHAWAY

All right, honey, if you're -

But Summer has already gone. The mother smiles nervously.

MRS HATHAWAY (CONT'D)

She's so definite.

ROSALIE

Isn't she just?

More children we will recognise come aboard.

We hear the odd admonition.

"

Mason, don't forget this!" "Marcy, your belt's twisted." "Come straight home, Billy. You hear me?" Two trimly suited white men walk either side of a black girl.

MR WILLIAMS

You're sure you've got everything?

MR SPENCER

Your homework? Your books?

ROSALIE

Good morning, Mr and Mr Spencer-Williams. Hello, Tomika.

MR WILLIAMS

Hello Ms Mullins. How is she settling in?

ROSALIE

It's hard to join a new school at her age, but she'll be fine.

MR WILLIAMS

And your cold is completely gone?

Again, she opens her mouth but before she can speak -

MR SPENCER

It wasn't a cold, it was an allergy.

MR WILLIAMS

I'm holding her lunch. Christ, Kevin, I'm holding her lunch! Tomika!

They run after their daughter. Rosalie checks her watch and we hear A SCHOOL BELL RING - Right on time. We reveal the children in neat ranks in the ASSEMBLY HALL.

CHILDREN

HERE AT HORACE GREEN,
WE FACE THE FUTURE,
ALWAYS STRIVING,
EAGER TO SUCCEED.
HERE AT HORACE GREEN,
THE OLD TRADITIONS
SHAPE WHO WE ARE,
IN WORDS AND DEED.
SOLEMN AND SERENE,

WE SHOULDER DUTY,
SEEK PERFECTION,
TOIL AND NEVER REST.
THANKS TO HORACE GREEN
OUR ALMA MATER,
WE'LL TAKE OUR PLACE
AMONGST THE BEST...

CHILDREN & TEACHERS
HERE AT HORACE GREEN
WE MARCH IN LOCK-STEP, EVER UPWARD,

CHILDREN
DESTINED TO ACHIEVE

TEACHERS
DESTINED TO ACHIEVE

CHILDREN
HERE AT HORACE GREEN
WE GO FORTH PROUDLY,
MARKED FOR SUCCESS
THE DAY WE LEAVE.

CHILDREN AND TEACHERS
AND WE SHALL CONVENE
IN YEARS HEREAFTER,
DECKED WITH HONORS

ROSALIE
AND. AND WE SHALL CONVENE
DECKED WITH HONORS

CHILDREN
WORTHY OF THESE HALLS

TEACHERS & ROSALIE
WORTHY OF THESE HALLS

CHILDREN, TEACHERS & ROSALIE
THANKS TO HORACE GREEN,
OUR ALMA MATER--
NOTHING WILL SHAKE
THESE IVIED WALLS...
NOTHING WILL SHAKE
THESE IVIED WALLS!

ROSALIE
Children? One word before you go.

The children freeze.

ROSALIE (CONT'D)
Due to Mrs Dunham's injury, a
substitute will be arriving this
morning. His name is Mr Schneebly
and I want to see him treated with
the courtesy that has made Horace
Green famous. You are dismissed.

The children leave with the
teachers.

Rosalie crosses into the hallway
where she is met by Ms Sheinkopf.

4A. HORACE GREEN ALMA MATER (UNDERSCORE)

MS SHEINKOPF
Ms Mullins, when will he be here?

ROSALIE
I told him we begin at eight forty
five.

MS SHEINKOPF
But it's nine forty-five.

ROSALIE
Let's hope he arrives before ten.

MS SHEINKOPF
And will he fit in?

ROSALIE
His resumé is very impressive.

The children shout off stage.

ROSALIE (CONT'D)
Can you take care of them until he
arrives?

Ms Sheinkopf enters the room
roaring like a lion-tamer:

MS SHEINKOPF
Get back! All of you! Now!

A little girl runs on.

ROSALIE
No running!

The little girl begins to cry.

ROSALIE (CONT'D)
Don't cry. Do you want a hug?

She walks towards the child with
her arms open.

MADISON
AHHHH!

ROSALIE
But I -

In her anxiety she drops her arms, and the girl seizes the moment to run away. Rosalie is a figure of terror at Horace Green. Dewey enters.

ROSALIE (CONT'D)
Deliveries are out back.

DEWEY
No, Hi. I'm Ned Schneebly. The substitute?

ROSALIE
You're very late Mr Schneebly... never mind, you're here now. Principal Rosalie Mullins, we spoke on the phone.

DEWEY
Sure. First things first: is there any chance of being paid up front?

ROSALIE
What?

DEWEY
It'd be really great if I could be paid now. In cash.

ROSALIE
We don't do that.

DEWEY
If you say so, but no checks made out to Ned Schneebly, OK? Everything made out to Cash. Tax purposes.

ROSALIE
You can discuss that with Candace in administration at the end of the day.

Dewey raises his hand.

ROSALIE (CONT'D)
Mr Schneebly.

DEWEY
When is the end of the day?

ROSALIE

The school hours are from eight
forty five to three.

DEWEY

Can I cut out a little early? I had
a few last night and my head is
like pounding. That's if you don't
mind.

ROSALIE

I mind.

DEWEY

Cool.

ROSALIE

Mr Schneebly, perhaps you're not
familiar with this kind of
institution. Let me explain
something to you.

She begins to walk Dewey through
the halls of Horace Green to his
classroom. As they travel, they
are greeted by orderly and
obedient faculty members at every
turn.

5. HERE AT HORACE GREEN

ROSALIE (CONT'D)

HERE AT HORACE GREEN
OUR NAME HAS COME TO MEAN
PURE EXCELLENCE,
IN EV'RY SENSE,
WHICH WE COMMANDEER
FOR QUITE A LOFTY YEARLY FEE.

WHEN THEY WRITE THOSE CHECKS,
EACH PARENT HERE EXPECTS
THEIR CHILD TO EARN
A HIGH RETURN.
AND BECAUSE THEY DO,
THE PRESSURE'S ON FOR YOU AND ME.

HERE AT HORACE GREEN,
WE RULE THE RANKINGS,
LEAD IN FUNDING,
TEST RIGHT OFF THE CHART.
GREATNESS IS ROUTINE.
THE BOARD DEMANDS IT.
OR WE WILL BOTH
BE RIPPED APART.

DEWEY

No worries with me. If a kid gets
out of line, I smack 'em. Real
hard.

ROSALIE

There is no corporal punishment at
Horace Green.

DEWEY

But you do spank 'em, right?

ROSALIE

No.

(sings)

AT OUR HALLOWED SCHOOL,
THE CHILDREN, AS A RULE,
LEARN DISCIPLINE--
WE DRILL IT IN,

WITH, AS YOU MIGHT GUESS,
THE FEAR OF DOING LESS THAN WELL.
WHILE THEY'RE IN OUR CARE,
WE TENDERLY PREPARE
THEM TO COMPETE--

MR NOBLE

Morning, Ms Mullins!

ROSALIE

WITH THE ELITE.

MR GREEN

Good Morning, Ms Mullins!

ROSALIE

TIL THEY ARE DISPERSED
TO HARVARD OR, AT WORST,
CORNELL.

HERE AT HORACE GREEN,
WE TAKE TOP HONORS,
CRUSH OUR RIVALSA,
WEAR THE PREP-SCHOOL CROWN.
THERE'S NO IN-BETWEEN-
WE GET RESULTS HERE,
OR THE ALUMS
WILL HUNT US DOWN.

(speaks)

Ah, here we are! This is your
classroom. Good morning children!

CHILDREN

Good Morning, Ms Mullins.

ROSALIE

Thank you, Ms Sheinkopf.

MS SHEINKOPF

(snidely)

You're welcome.

Ms Sheinkopf leaves. Rosalie stands with Dewey at the front of the class, watched by a group of pupils standing at attention.

ROSALIE

Children, sit. This is Mrs Dunham's substitute, Mr Schneebly.

CHILDREN

Good Morning, Mr Schneebly.

ROSALIE

Why don't you write your name on the board?

DEWEY

Good thinking.

He picks up a chalk and writes Mr F -

ROSALIE

That's a funny S.

DEWEY

I'm just trying to get control of this darned chalk!

He holds the chalk in front of him like an enemy.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Don't give me such a hard time!
That's better.

He writes "Schneebly," but struggles to remember how to spell it.

ROSALIE

Well then. Any further questions?

Dewey raises his hand.

ROSALIE (CONT'D)

Mr Schneebly.

DEWEY

When's lunch?

ROSALIE

Lunch is at lunchtime. Oh, Mr
Schneebly, one last thing:

5A. HERE AT HORACE GREEN (PART 2)

ROSALIE (CONT'D)

HERE AT HORACE GREEN,
WE STICK TO CUSTOM,
KEEP ON SCHEDULE,
DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.
DON'T AND IT WILL MEAN
I GO BALLISTIC--
RIGHT, THEN, THAT'S ALL.
GOOD LUCK.
HAVE FUN.

She goes. The children stare at
Dewey. Dewey stares at them.

DEWEY

Who's got some food?

SUMMER

We're discouraged from bringing
unauthorized food into the
building.

DEWEY

Nobody's going to get in any
trouble. I'm hungry. You. Glasses.
I know you've got food.

LAWRENCE

I have a Granola bar.

DEWEY

Give it here.

He takes a bite and clearly
doesn't like it.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

What is this? Don't you have any
real food?

LAWRENCE

Real food?

DEWEY

A burger! A pizza! What's the matter with you?

LAWRENCE

I'm gluten intolerant.

DEWEY

Oh. God! You!

He throws the Granola bar in the trash can and points at Freddy.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

What's your name?

FREDDY

Freddy Ham-

DEWEY

Get up here, Freddy Mercury. You got any money?

FREDDY

I have ten dollars.

DEWEY

Great. Now I want you to go out and get me a meatball sub with marinara sauce, extra cheese and a large soda. Diet. I'm watching the fig.

SUMMER

Mr Schneebly, we can't leave the school.

DEWEY

Ever?

SUMMER

Not until the final bell.

DEWEY

OK. Here's the deal. I've got a hang-over. Who knows what that is?

LAWRENCE

Does it mean you're drunk?

DEWEY

No. It means I was drunk yesterday.

ZACK

It means you're an alcoholic.

All the children laugh.

DEWEY
(laughing sarcastically)
Alcoholic.

The children laugh harder.

DEWEY (CONT'D)
What's your name?

ZACK
Zack Mooneyham.

DEWEY
Well, shut up, Zack Mooneyham. The point is, today you can just chill out. We'll start on the teaching crapola tomorrow. Take recess. Have fun. Leave me alone.

Summer raises her hand.

DEWEY (CONT'D)
You. Lucy Liu.

SUMMER
Summer Hathaway.

SUMMER (CONT'D)
Do you have any questions about our schedule? Mrs Dunham starts with vocabulary followed by a word quiz, then she divides us into reading groups -

DEWEY
Don't you see that Mrs Dum-Bum is not your teacher today? I am. And I say it's time for recess.

SUMMER
My parents don't spend fifty thousand dollars a year for recess.

DEWEY
Fifty thousand dollars?

SUMMER
Mr Schneebly. Come with me. This poster tracks our achievements.

(MORE)

SUMMER (CONT'D)

We get gold stars for how we do in class.

Dewey strolls over to the chart.

DEWEY

What kind of sick school is this? This is a tool of *The Man*.

ZACK

The who?

DEWEY

Not The Who, The Man! The man is everywhere! Don't you know who the Man is? Ms Mullins is the Man. The man is responsible for global warming, tuxedos, Jar Jar Binks and the Kardashians.

ZACK

So what are we supposed to do about it?

DEWEY

You're supposed to fight him! With Rock'n'Roll and spirit and everything you've got to give!

SUMMER

That's all very well, but how can we be graded or get any gold stars today, if we just have recess?

Dewey yanks the poster down and tears it to shreds.

DEWEY

Now, listen! As long as I'm here, there will be no grades and no gold stars and absolutely no achievements! We're gonna have recess all the freakin' time. Geddit? Now re-cess! Go!

SUMMER

We'll see what Ms Mullins has to say about this.

DEWEY

(mocking her)

May-Meh May-Meh May! No, we won't. Now go!

The children run for it.

5B. HORACE GREEN U/S

4

SCENE FOUR

4

THE APARTMENT

Patty enters dressed for a run, bends over, and begins to stretch. Ned enters the living room with his bag.

NED

Patty, I'm home...
(sees her bent over)
Oh, hello! Are you going out?

PATTY

I'm going for a run. Come with!

NED

(feigning exhaustion)
Ohhh. You know, I'd love to, but I can't. I have so many papers to grade and I don't want to betray 35 children.

Ned pulls out a computer, hunches over it.

PATTY

Oh that's my little Neddy... such a hard worker. Do you know how I admire you?

NED

Really?

PATTY

Really.
(she kisses him)
Bye Mr Wonderful.

Patty leaves. Ned waits for her to go. Ned rushes under the couch and whips out a guitar-hero guitar.

NED

Patty?

He switches on the TV, selects a song and begins to play.

GUITAR HERO V/O
Guitar Hero!

After a minute, Dewey enters. He
stares.

DEWEY
JUDAS!

NED
Oh my God! Dewey! Don't sneak up on
me like that! I thought you were
Patty.

DEWEY
Never mind her. *You are playing*
without me! Could my week get any
worse?

NED
I just started, but we've only got
a few minutes before Patty gets
home.

DEWEY
Yes!

Dewey pulls out a guitar hero
guitar, switches it on.

GUITAR HERO V/O
Player 2 has entered the game.

They begin to play ferociously.

DEWEY
How was your day?

NED
So-so.

DEWEY
That's what you get when you're a
teacher, Ned. It is life-sucking,
trust me, I know.

NED
How?

DEWEY
Just do.

NED
Sorry you got kicked out of your
band.

DEWEY
Don't worry about that, I have a
plan.

Dewey watches Ned play.

DEWEY (CONT'D)
Switch!

They switch sides.

NED
Switch!

They continue to play wildly until
the song ends.

NED (CONT'D)
So what's your plan?

6. CHILDREN OF ROCK

DEWEY
CAN YOU IMAGINE
SIX STRINGS ABLAZE

NED
Whaddya mean?

DEWEY
BACK UP ON STAGE, MAN,
JUST LIKE THE GOOD OLD DAYS.

NED
(warning)
Oh no...

DEWEY
DECKED OUT IN LEATHER,

NED
Leather?

DEWEY
AXES IN HAND!

NED
I do like leather.

DEWEY
RISING TO CONQUER
THE BATTLE OF THE BANDS!

NED
Don't do this to me, Dewey...

DEWEY
CROWD PACKED AND STEAMIN'--
EVERYBODY SCREAMIN'--
DUDE? WE'LL BE MONSTERS OF ROCK!

NED
I can't...

DEWEY
FRAMED IN THE SPOTLIGHT,
BASKIN' IN THAT HOT LIGHT--
ASS-KICKIN' GIANTS OF ROCK!

NED
But, Patty--

DEWEY
TEENAGERS RAVIN'
LIGHTERS UP AND WAVIN'
THEY'LL KNOW WE'RE TITANS OF ROCK!

NED
(he knows he's losing)
Oh God...

DEWEY
BRO, LET'S GET TO IT--
YOU KNOW YOU WANNA DO IT.
LET'S GO BE CHILDREN OF ROCK.

NED
(giving up)
I'll do it!

Dewey emerges with a large amp and
rack of guitars.

DEWEY
PICTURE THE MAYHEM!

NED
(seeing it)
I SEE IT ALL!

DEWEY & NED
MAGGOT DEATH-MANIA!
FANS GOING OFF THE WALL!

DEWEY

AMPS OVERLOADIN',
ENERGY EXPLODIN'!
US BEIN' MONSTERS OF ROCK!

NED

PLACE GETTIN' HECTIC,
ATMOSPHERE ELECTRIC--
DUDE, WE'LL BE GIANTS OF ROCK!

DEWEY

RAGING AND REELING,
NOTHIN' LIKE THE FEELING--

NED

WHEN YOU'RE A TITAN OF ROCK!

DEWEY & NED

FULL THROTTLE JAMMIN'
HARDCORE BODY-SLAMMIN'
DEATH METAL CHILDREN OF ROCK

DEWEY

AND WHEN IT'S OVER

NED

ONE MIGHTY ROAR!

NED & DEWEY

TEN THOUSAND VOICES
BEGGING FOR JUST ONE MORE!

They play wild guitar solos.
Suddenly, Patty appears dripping
with sweat. The music is so loud
that Ned can't hear her screams.

PATTY

(mimed)

NED! NED!!!

Patty switches off their amp. Ned
and Dewey look to her slowly.

Ned immediately puts his guitar
down and begins to straighten up
the room.

7. *MT ROCK REPRISE*

PATTY (CONT'D)

YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING FOR FREE IN THE LAMEST
DIVES,
WITH A TALENTLESS, TENTH-RATE BAND.

AND THE MOMENT A DECENT REPLACEMENT ARRIVES,
THEY TELL YOU TO GO POUND SAND.

NOW YOU'RE STUCK AT THE FOOT OF MT ROCK,
AND YOU'RE NOT EVEN CLOSE TO THE TRAIL.
YOU'RE A JOKE, AND A FOOL,
AND YOUR SO-CALLED CAREER
IS AN EPIC, SPECTACULAR FAIL.
WELL WE'RE DONE PUTTING UP WITH YOUR FREELOADING
WAYS-
COUGH THE RENT UP IN THIRTY DAYS
OR WE DUMP ALL YOUR SCHLOCK

DEWEY

Ned?

PATTY

OFF THE SIDE OF MT. ROCK
THEN WE'LL CHANGE EVERY LOCK.

DEWEY

This is my last chance.

PATTY

AND WE'RE DONE WITH MT. ROCK.

NED

I'm sorry Dewey, I can't.

PATTY

Ned!

Patty Exits triumphantly, Ned
follows.

7A. MT ROCK REPRISE PLAYOUT

Dewey is alone. As Dewey exits, we
transition to the school.

5

SCENE FIVE

5

HORACE GREEN - THE HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE MUSIC ROOM

We are outside the music room.
The kids are playing *Queen of the
Night*, conducted by Ms Mullins.
Dewey can hear the music through
the closed door. He sees GABE
BROWN, another teacher, walking
down the passage.

8. QUEEN OF THE NIGHT

DEWEY

Hey, Joe, what's going on?

GABE

Gabe. It's ten o'clock! I stood in for you first period, but -

DEWEY

Sssh! What's that noise?

GABE

Your class. They have music studies now, with Ms Mullins.

DEWEY

My kids? The spoiled brats with the gold stars? They're the ones making that sound?

GABE

Yes.

Dewey enters the music room. The scene transforms, so that we can see the students playing. Ms Mullins begins to sing. Dewey is astonished.

Freddy plays the cymbals with perhaps too much enthusiasm.

ROSALIE

Freddy. I'm warning you.

ROSALIE (CONT'D)

AHHH

(to Freddy)

That's it. You're done. Get out.

(sings)

AHHH

SOBIST DU MEINE TOCHTER NIMER MEHR

The students finish the song. A bell rings.

ROSALIE (CONT'D)

Class dismissed.

The children exit. Summer remains.

SUMMER

Ms Mullins, may I speak to you a moment?

ROSALIE

Yes, Summer.

SUMMER

I have some concerns about Mr
Schneebly. Are you sure he's
qualified to teach us?

ROSALIE

I'm sure he is more qualified to
teach you than you are to question
my decisions.

SUMMER

But he tore -

ROSALIE

It's time for class, Summer.

SUMMER

But he -

ROSALIE

It's time for class.

Summer goes to exit, then turns
back for one last attempt...

ROSALIE (CONT'D)

Class.

Summer goes. Rosalie begins to hum
to herself, letting her guard
down.

ROSALIE (CONT'D)

AHHH

Ms Sheinkopf enters the hallway
and catches Rosalie in the act.

ROSALIE (CONT'D)

(recovering)
Ms Sheinkopf.

And they both leave as though
nothing happened.

8A. QUEEN OF THE NIGHT - PLAYOUT

As the music continues, we see Dewey run back into the classroom, bringing on various instruments: electric guitars, keyboards, amps, basses etc. He is moving everything into place as the children arrive...

DEWEY

Hey! Come in! Come in! Sit! Etc.

SUMMER

What's going on, Mr Schneebly?

DEWEY

Always the little question mark.

SUMMER

I like to know what's going on.

DEWEY

Do you? Well, I like to know what's going on, too, Summer, and there's something I want to know right now: WHY DID NO ONE TELL ME YOU COULD PLAY MUSIC? I had the instruments! They were in my van the whole time! I just didn't know I had the players!

LAWRENCE

What difference does it make?

DEWEY

What difference? I thought you were just a bunch of little *douche bags*. Now I know you're soul brothers and soul sisters! What difference! I'm not alone! Oh, God! *I am not alone!*

SUMMER

Does that mean no more recess?

DEWEY

I'll tell you what it means. It means *we can compete in The Battle of the Bands!*

MARCY

What's The Battle of the Bands?

DEWEY

Excuse me? You do know about earth and water? Or air and fire?

(MORE)

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Then how come you don't know about
The Battle of the Bands!

SUMMER

If this is some kind of dream of
yours -

DEWEY

Yes, it's a dream of mine, little
Miss Sunshine! And you know what?
It's going to be a dream of yours
too!

SUMMER

I doubt it.

DEWEY

But you have a feeling for music!
Real music! I've heard you!

LAWRENCE

But classical music, Mr Schneebly.
Not your kind of music.

DEWEY

Nonsense! Music speaks to you!
That's what matters! You! Zack!

9. YOU'RE IN THE BAND

Dewey points to Zack.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Ever play an electric guitar?

ZACK

My dad says it's a waste of time.

DEWEY

Well, Zack, let's waste that time
together. Here, take this.

He hands Zack an electric guitar.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Now pay attention.

(sings)

GRAB A HOLD OF YOUR AXE,
AND TRY TO PLUCK OUT THIS RIFF

Dewey plucks out a riff on the
guitar. Zack dutifully imitates
him.

DEWEY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Good!

(sings)

LET YOUR SHOULDERS RELAX,
YOU DON'T WANNA BE SO STIFF.

Zack plays again, with more
confidence.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

That's it!

Zack does it one more time,
vividly.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Excellent!

Zack continues playing with the
music.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

KEEP ON GOIN', DON'T STOP-
TAKE IT OVER THE TOP-
MAKE EACH NOTE REALLY POP-
SQUEEZE OUT EV'RY LAST DROP-
GIVE IT ONE FINAL WHOP!
AND YES! YOU'RE IN THE BAND.

Dewey points to Katie.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

You! What's your name?

KATIE

Katie.

DEWEY

And what is that big, lumpy thing
you were playing?

KATIE

The cello?

DEWEY

The cheeel-lo. Right. Come here.

He picks up a bass guitar by the
neck, then tilts it onto its side.

TURN A CELLO THIS WAY,
AND IT'S PRACTIC'LY LIKE A BASS.

He plays the riff of "Smoke On The Water". Then he passes it to Katie.

DEWEY (CONT'D)
POP THE STRINGS WHEN YOU PLAY--
AND WATCH HOW YOU SHRED MY FACE.

She rocks the riff, sounding great.

DEWEY (CONT'D)
Whoa, yes! Katie's shredding my
face off! Oh, no, it's still there.

Katie now plays along to the music.

DEWEY (CONT'D)
KEEP ON ROCKIN' EACH NOTE--
GRAB IT RIGHT BY THE THROAT--
KEEP THE RHYTHM AFLOAT--
DON'T FORGET TO EMOTE!
AND THAT'S ALL THAT SHE WROTE--
BABY, YOU'RE IN THE BAND!

Next, he turns to Lawrence.

DEWEY (CONT'D)
Piano man!

LAWRENCE
Lawrence.

DEWEY
Whatever dude, come here!
(sings)
IF YOU PLAY THE PIANO,
YOU CAN PLAY THE KEYS.

LAWRENCE
I only play classical -

DEWEY
SO JUST LOOSEN IT UP,
AND STRUT YOUR EXPERTISE.

LAWRENCE
I don't think I can.

Dewey places some sheet music on the stand.

DEWEY

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS MUSIC,
AND LET YOUR MIND EXPAND...

Lawrence plays a keyboard riff.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

...YOU'RE IN THE BAND!
(speaks)
Now who's gonna be my drummer?

FREDDY

I play percussion.

SUMMER

You play the *cymbals*.

FREDDY

Shut up!

DEWEY

Shut up!
(sings)
SIT YOUR BUTT AT THE SKINS
AND TRY TO WHACK OUT A BEAT.

Freddy finds a simple rhythm.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Not bad. For my grandma. Who's
dead.
(sings)
FEEL THE GROOVE IN YOUR PINS,
THEN SLOWLY TURN UP THE HEAT.

Freddy starts getting fancy.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Yeah, now he's playing like my
grandmother who's alive!
(sings)
AND NOW, RAT-A-TAT-TAT-
HIT THE BASS AND HIGH HAT!
MAKE IT JUICY AND FAT!
YEAH, EXACTLY LIKE THAT!
AND NOW SHUT IT DOWN FLAT-

Freddy plays a monster fill.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

YOU'RE IN THE BAND!

SUMMER

I still don't see how this is going
to work. What'll I do?

DEWEY

You just sit back and enjoy the
magic of rock.

JAMES

You mean we're not in the band?

DEWEY

Now hold on. Just 'cos you're not
in the band, it doesn't mean you're
not in the band. I'm gonna need
some backup singers. Anyone?
(points to Marcy)
Sing!

MARCY

THE SUN'LL COME OUT TOMORROW
BETCHER BOTTOM DOLLAR---

DEWEY

(points to Shonelle)
Sing!

SHONELLE

O SAY CAN YOU SEE
BY THE DAWN'S EARLY--

DEWEY

(points to Summer)
Sing!

SUMMER

MEMORY
ALL ALONE IN THE MOONLIGHT--

This is a terrible sound.

DEWEY

No, no, no.
(to Marcy)
Backup singer.
(to Shonelle)
Backup singer.
(to Summer)
Groupie.

BILLY

What about the rest of us?

DEWEY

Let's see...

(sings)

I NEED A COUPLE O'ROADIES.

SOPHIE/MADISON

We can do that!

DEWEY

I NEED SOMEONE ON TECH.

MASON

I'll be tech.

DEWEY

WHO WANTS TO BE SECURITY?

JAMES

I will.

BILLY

CAN I BE THE STYLIST?

DEWEY

CHECK!

SUMMER

Mr Schneebly! I don't want to be a groupie. Groupies are sluts!

DEWEY

No! Groupies are great! They're like cheerleaders, only better.

SUMMER

No.

DEWEY

WELL, HOW 'BOUT BEING MANAGER?

SUMMER

Manager?

DEWEY

IS THAT SOMETHING YOU COULD SWING?

SUMMER

What does it mean?

DEWEY

IT MEANS I'M PUTTING YOU IN CHARGE
OF THE WHOLE
DAMN
THING!

SUMMER
 (pumping fist)
 Yes!

DEWEY
 WE'VE GOT OUR BAND!

All instruments drop out except
 the drums, played by Freddy.

DEWEY (CONT'D)
 Now Freddy, keep that beat going.
 Katie, come in on G. Just give me
 that G, lay it down there. Zack,
 hit me with some big fat chords.
 Awesome! Lawrence, take me to the
 moon! Where are my backup girls?
 Give me a little Lou Reed action,
 like this:

(sings)
 DOOT, DE DOOT, DE DOOT,
 DOOT DE DOO
 DOOT, DE DOOT, DE DOOT
 DOOT DE DO...

BACK UP GIRLS
 DOOT, DE DOOT, DE DOOT,
 DOOT DE DOO
 DOOT, DE DOOT, DE DOOT
 DOOT DE DO...

DEWEY
 NOW REPEAT AFTER ME-
 "I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE BAND"

KIDS
 "I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE BAND"

DEWEY
 "AND I PROMISE TO GIVE
 MR SCHNEEBLY FULL COMMAND."

KIDS
 "I PROMISE TO GIVE
 MR SCHNEEBLY FULL COMMAND."

DEWEY
 AND WITH ME IN CONTROL
 OF THE BAND AS A WHOLE
 WE WILL ROCK AND WE'LL ROLL
 WITH OUR HEART AND OUR SOUL
 IF YOU'RE IN RAISE YOUR HAND!

KATIE
I'M IN THE BAND.

BILLY
I'M IN THE BAND.

SUMMER
I'M IN THE BAND.

FREDDY
I'M IN THE BAND.

MARCY & SHONELLE
I'M IN THE BAND.

ZACK
I'M IN THE BAND.

DEWEY
Yes!
(sings)
YOU'RE IN THE BAND!

KIDS
WE'RE IN THE BAND!

DEWEY
YOU'RE IN THE BAND!

KIDS
WE'RE IN THE BAND!

DEWEY
YOU'RE IN THE BAND!

Dewey suddenly leaps into a stage
dive over the kids, they disperse
and he crashes to the floor.

DEWEY (CONT'D)
Owww! I think I broke my back!
Someone get my bag. Don't look at
me when I'm down.

Dewey looks through his satchel
and hands out CDs to them.
Lawrence is hanging back.

DEWEY (CONT'D)
Here! The history of Jimi Hendrix
by tomorrow! You! Les Claypool,
listen to track three it's
incredible.

Zack receives his CDs.

ZACK

Are we going to compete against other schools?

DEWEY

There's no question that a win will go on your permanent record. Hello, Harvard. Hello, Yale. Yo. But I can't put in a good word for you unless you clean this place up! I mean, what am I not paying you guys for? Roadies? All of you! Clean up!
(seeing Tomika all alone)
What's wrong?

Tomika just shakes her head.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Tomika? Something is wrong. Tell your old pal, Mr Schneebly. Come on, you can talk to me.

MARCY

You haven't given her a job.

DEWEY

Sure. OK. Can you sing? Do you want to be a backup singer with Marcy and Shonelle?

Again, the girl shakes her head.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Then what do you want to do if you don't want to sing?

But she just can't say.

LAWRENCE

Mr Schneebly, can I speak with you a moment?

DEWEY

(to Tomika)
Think about what you want to do, and we'll talk about this later.
(to Lawrence)
What up homey?

LAWRENCE

I don't think I should be in the band.

DEWEY

Why not?

LAWRENCE

I'm not cool. People in bands are cool. I'm not cool.

DEWEY

Dude, you're cool. The way you play? Why do you say you're not cool?

LAWRENCE

Nobody ever talks to me. I have no friends. Except Tomika, and she doesn't speak.

DEWEY

Those days are over. Trust me.

LAWRENCE

You don't understand what it's like. You're too cool.

Lawrence walks away.

DEWEY

Hey! Come back here! Pop a squat next to papa. You think I don't understand what it's like? To be fat and lonely, to have no friends, to be left out of everything? Believe me, kid, I understand better than you know.

LAWRENCE

I never said I was fat.

DEWEY

Fat or thin, by the time I'm done with you, you'll be so cool you'll be a walking popsicle. You'll be King Cool of all you survey.

LAWRENCE

Honest?

DEWEY

Honest.

LAWRENCE

OK. I'll do it.

MASON

Are we really going to compete in
The Battle of the Bands?

DEWEY

Are you kidding?

10A. YOU'RE IN THE BAND REPRISE

DEWEY (CONT'D)

WITH THE TALENT YOU'VE GOT,
WE'LL DO MORE THAN JUST COMPETE. YEAH!
WE'LL BE SO FREAKIN' HOT
THIS HERE'S THE BAND TO BEAT.

(speaking)

Are you with me?

KIDS

Yeah!!

DEWEY

IF YOU'RE READY TO WIN
THEN IT'S TIME TO BEGIN
WITH A REMEDIAL SPIN
THROUGH MY OWN CD BIN
GET IN LINE IF YOU'RE IN...

KIDS

YES! WE'RE IN THE BAND!

DEWEY

(to Zack)

Clapton. Memorise it.

KIDS

WE'RE IN THE BAND

DEWEY

(to Lawrence)

Emerson Lake and Palmer. Karn Evil
Nine!

KIDS

WE'RE IN THE BAND

DEWEY

(to Freddy)

Rush. Feel it and dream.

KIDS

WE'RE IN THE BAND

DEWEY
 (to Billy)
 Bowie. Ziggy Stardust. Iconic.

KIDS
 WE'RE IN THE BAND

DEWEY
 (to Marcy)
 The Supremes. So tasty!

KIDS
 WE'RE IN THE BAND

DEWEY
 (to Shonelle)
 Aretha. Soul sister number one!

KIDS/DEWEY
 WE'RE/YOU'RE IN THE BAND...

DEWEY
 Go! Listen! Study! Learn!

He hands out the rest of his CDs.

7

SCENE SEVEN

7

STUDENT'S HOMES

Freddy enters the garage and tries
 to avoid his father on his way
 into the house.

MR HAMILTON
 Where's your homework?

Freddy hands his father a CD.

MR HAMILTON (CONT'D)
 I don't believe it. More music?
 Should I tell you what my homework
 was? Or how I had to chop wood and
 bring it in when I finished? Jeez,
 Freddy, if I had your life...

FREDDY
 OK, Dad. I get the message.

MR HAMILTON
 No, you don't. Do you even know why
 I'm paying for this school?
 (MORE)

MR HAMILTON (CONT'D)

Or why I'll pay for an Ivy League College? So you can have any career you choose.

FREDDY

I choose or you choose?

MR HAMILTON

Pick up that hammer and get to some real work.

BILLY SANDFORD is reading a copy of Sports Illustrated.

MR SANDFORD

What are you reading?

BILLY

Sports Illustrated.

Not convinced, Mr Sandford grabs the magazine finding a copy of Vogue hidden underneath.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Vogue. I'm going to go to my room.

MR SANDFORD

No you're not! You're going to stay and watch the game!

BILLY

Do I have to?

MR SANDFORD

Yes! You're my son, Goddammit! You're a Sandford! My dad played football, I played football, and you're gonna play football, too. It's a legacy, Billy. Now sit down and watch the game.

Billy sits. The light fades up on Tomika with her two fathers.

TOMIKA

But I don't fit in, I miss my old school.

MR SPENCER

But we love your new school!

MR WILLIAMS

Your old school was falling apart.
Do you know how long we were on the
waiting list for Horace Green?

TOMIKA

But I miss my friends -

MR SPENCER

Don't be silly! You can make
friends anywhere you go!

MR WILLIAMS

BFFs! Besties!

TOMIKA

They're so much smarter than me!

MR SPENCER

No one is smarter than you, Tomika.
No one is better than you.

MR WILLIAMS

And how cute do you look in that
uniform!

The men kiss.

TOMIKA

But I don't know how talk to anyone-

MR SPENCER

Tomika. We know what's best for
you.

Zack has arrived home. His father
talks into his phone.

MOONEYHAM

Look. I'm not asking anymore, just
get it done.

ZACK

Hey, Dad. You won't believe the day
we had -

MOONEYHAM

What did I say when Daddy's on the
phone?

ZACK

You're working.

MOONEYHAM

I'm working. Hey, Jim? I want ten thousand shares in Northbrook Chemicals. Never mind why. I know what I know. Just do it.

11. IF ONLY YOU WOULD LISTEN

ZACK

YOU ALWAYS TALK, TALK, TALK ALL THE TIME.

MOONEYHAM

Bob?

ZACK

YOU NEVER LET ME GET IN A WORD.

MOONEYHAM

Are you at the meeting tomorrow?

Mooneyham exits.

ZACK

I WISH I HAD, I HAD A DIME
FOR EV'RY THOUGHT I'VE SWALLOWED UNHEARD.
NO MATTER WHAT IT IS THAT I DO,
IT'S LIKE I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO GET THROUGH.

BILLY

I'VE GOT SO MUCH TO SAY
IF ONLY YOU WOULD LISTEN.
I'VE TRIED EV'RY WHICH WAY,
AND STILL YOU NEVER LISTEN.
CAN'T YOU SEE I'M HURTING?
I COULDN'T BE MORE CLEAR.
BUT I PROMISE,
ONE DAY I'LL MAKE YOU HEAR.

FREDDY

YOU KNOW I TRY TRY, TRY, TRY TO EXPLAIN
I'M NOT THE KID YOU WANT ME TO BE.
AND YET IT'S ALL, IT'S ALL IN VAIN--
YOU JUST DON'T WANNA SEE THE REAL ME.
YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHAT I'M ALL ABOUT,

ZACK, BILLY, FREDDY, TOMIKA
AND YET YOU JUST KEEP SHUTTING ME OUT.
I'VE GOT SO MUCH TO SHARE,
IF ONLY YOU WOULD LISTEN.
YOU COULD PROVE THAT YOU CARE
IF ONLY YOU WOULD LISTEN.
I'M NOT GONNA BEG YOU--

YOU'LL NEVER SEE A TEAR.
BUT I PROMISE, ONE DAY, I'LL MAKE YOU HEAR.

LAWRENCE
YEAH, YOU'LL SEE ONE DAY,
I'M GONNA MAKE YOU HEAR ME.

MADISON
GOTTA FIND A WAY,
BUT YOU ARE GONNA HEAR ME.

SHONELLE, MASON
GOT SO MUCH TO SAY
AND I'M GONNA MAKE YOU HEAR ME.

Mr Sandford exits.

TOM/SHO/LAW/MAS/ZAK/FRED
MAYBE THEN YOU'LL LISTEN
YOU GOTTA LISTEN
YOU NEED TO LISTEN

BILLY & MADISON
MAYBE THEN YOU'LL LISTEN
YOU GOTTA LISTEN

ALL KIDS
YOU BETTER LISTEN!

Mr Hamilton and Mssrs Spencer
Williams exit.

ALL KIDS (CONT'D)
I'VE GOT SO MUCH INSIDE
IF ONLY YOU WOULD LISTEN!
JOY AND ANGER AND PRIDE
IF ONLY YOU WOULD LISTEN!

IT'S NOT MUCH I'M ASKING
I ONLY WANT YOUR EAR.

BUT I PROMISE ONE DAY I'LL MAKE YOU HEAR
IT'S NOT MUCH I'M ASKING
I ONLY WANT YOUR EAR

AND I PROMISE ONE DAY I'LL SHAKE YOU,
SO DAMN HARD THAT AT LAST I'LL WAKE YOU
YEAH, I PROMISE ONE DAY I'LL MAKE YOU HEAR!

When the number ends, we find
ourselves back in the classroom,
at Horace Green...

...with the kids lined up and Dewey pacing in front of them like General Patton surveying his troops.

DEWEY

All right, look alive, listen up and look alive! First thing you do when you start a band, the very first thing you do, is? You talk about your influences.

CHILDREN

Ahhhh!

DEWEY

So who do you like? You, Little Debbie?

MARCY

Taylor Swift.

DEWEY

Who? No! Go to the corner. You, Buddy Holly?

MASON

Kanye.

DEWEY

Wrong. To the corner! Billy?

BILLY

Barbara Streisand?

DEWEY

What? Guys! Please! This project is called Rock Band! I'm talking about bands that rock! Led Zeppelin!

SUMMER

Who?

DEWEY

Don't tell me you guys have never gotten the Led out! What about Sabbath? AC/DC? Motorhead? Augghh, what do they teach in this place? Summer! New schedule! 8:45 - 10:45, Rock History. 11:00-12, Rock Appreciation and Theory. Then band practice to the end of the day.

LAWRENCE

What about math?

DEWEY

Not important. Ozzy Osbourne
doesn't do math!

SHONELLE

Social Studies?

DEWEY

Definitely not important! Mick
Jagger doesn't -- look, guys! We've
gotta focus here. You gotta have a
purpose! Don't you want to win this
contest? It's prestigious!

FREDDY

So what are we gonna play?

DEWEY

Oh, you don't have to worry about
that. We have awesome material.
Which I wrote.

ZACK

Let's hear it.

DEWEY

What?

ZACK

Let's hear your song.

DEWEY

You want to hear my song? OK I'll
play you my song if you want to
hear it. Thing is... keep in mind
that I wrote it in like fifteen
minutes... And, uh... it's not done
yet. And you might not -

FREDDY

Just play the song, Schneebly!

12. IN THE END OF TIME

DEWEY

OK, I will sing it... but let me
just, uh... get in the zone...
Brrrrrrr....brrrrr....
I'm riffing here, I'm gonna need
some of you to write this down.

Some of the children run to their desks and pull out notepads, computers etc.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Tip of the tongue on the teeth and the lips.

OK... It starts off on a dark stage. There's a beam of light and you can see me and my guitar...

DOO NOW DOO NOW

IN THE END OF TIME

THERE WAS A MAN WHO KNEW THE ROAD
AND THE WRITING WAS WRITTEN ON THE STONE.

(speaks)

Now a thin layer of fog comes in around my ankles. Roadies, that means dry ice, we'll talk about this later.

(sings)

IN THE ANCIENT TIME,
AN ARTIST LED THE WAY
BUT NO ONE SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Chimes, Freddy.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

IN HIS HEART HE KNEW,
THE ARTIST MUST BE TRUE
BUT THE LEGEND OF THE RENT WAS WAY PAST DUE.

(speaks)

And then Katie, you come in with the bass!

WELL YOU THINK YOU'LL BE JUST FINE
WITHOUT ME, BUT YOU'RE MINE!
YOU THINK YOU CAN KICK ME OUT OF THE BAND?

Zack! It's you now! You come in with a face-melter!

WELL THERE'S JUST ONE PROBLEM THERE:
THE BAND IS MIIIIINE!
HOW CAN YOU KICK ME OUT OF WHAT IS MINE?

Freddy, here I want one of those Hawaii-5-0 drum solos.

YOU'RE NOT HARDCORE
UNLESS YOU LIVE HARDCORE...

That's where I want the backup singers, like -

WELL YOU'RE NOT HARDCORE
 (falsetto)
 NO YOU'RE NOT HARDCORE--
 (back to normal voice)
 UNLESS YOU LIVE HARDCORE--
 (falsetto)
 UNLESS YOU LIVE HARDCORE--
 (now comes the big finish)
 BUT THE LEGEND OF THE RENT WAS WAY HARDCORE!

Boom! A big explosion! Confetti!
 Panties fly on stage...Anyway,
 that's all I have right now, it's a
 work in progress.

SUMMER

I liked it, Mr Schneebly. I thought
 it was catchy.

DEWEY

Thank you, Summer Hathaway - still
 not giving you a gold star. All
 right everybody, stand up! Time for
 Rock History. Lesson one: The
 fifties!

12A. IN THE END OF TIME (TRANSITION TO FACULTY LOUNGE)

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Rock-a-Billy...

Billy raises his hand.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Not you Billy.

The kids exit as the set reveals
 the Faculty Lounge.

9

SCENE NINE

9

HORACE GREEN - THE FACULTY LOUNGE

13. FACULTY QUADRILLE

MR SANDERS

HERE AT HORACE GREEN,
 OUR PURPOSE IS TO GLEAN GOOD TEST RESULTS,
 FROM PRE-ADULTS.

MS GORDON
MAKING SURE EACH CHILD IS DRILLED,
AND RANKED AND FILED BY SCORE.

MR NOBLE
Hello all!

MS SHEINKOPF
HENCE, ONE WOULD EXPECT
OUR GARISHLY BEDECKED NEW SUBSTITUTE
TO FOLLOW SUIT.

GABE BROWN
SCHNEEBLY, THOUGH, COMES IN
AND DISCIPLINE GOES OUT THE DOOR.

MR JANES
Cookie?

MR GREEN
HERE AT HORACE GREEN,
THERE'S STOLEN GLANCES--

MR NOBLE
PLAYFUL WHISPERS--

MS BINGHAM
GIGGLING IN THE GYM.

MR WOODARD
WHAT IT ALL CAN MEAN
IS QUITE CONFOUNDING--

TEACHERS
STILL, ONE THING'S CLEAR:

MR JANES
IT COMES FROM HIM.

MR SANDERS
HAVE YOU SEEN THAT PSYCHEDELIC VAN THAT HE'S
GOT?

MS MACAPUGAY
LEFT IN THE LOT?

MR SANDERS
PARKED IN MY SPOT!

MS SHEINKOPF
WITH THAT NAKED LADY PAINTED RIGHT ON THE REAR?

MS BINGHAM
WHAT ABOUT THOSE SLOPPY-LOOKING OUTFITS HE'S
HAD?

MR WAGNER
STRIPES MIXED WITH PLAID.

TEACHERS
ALL SMELLING BAD.

MS GORDON
RATHER LIKE PATCHOULI--

GABE BROWN
DIRTY SWEAT-SOCKS--

MS SHEINKOPF
AND BEER.

MR WAGNER
DON'T FORGET HIS COCKY
OVER CONFIDENT AIR

MS GORDON
GREASE IN HIS HAIR--

MS BINGHAM
STAINS EVERYWHERE.

MR NOBLE
AND THAT AWFUL LINGO,
FAR TOO CRUDE TO DISCUSS.

MS SHEINKOPF
PLUS THE ENDLESS MUSIC COMING RIGHT THROUGH HIS
DOOR,
HARD TO IGNORE

TEACHERS
AND FURTHERMORE -

GABE BROWN
WORST OF ALL,
THE CHILDREN ALL LIKE HIM MORE THAN US.

TEACHERS
HERE AT HORACE GREEN -

MR SANDERS
WE GROOM ACHIEVERS -

MS GORDON
KEEP THEM FOCUSED -

MS MACAPUGAY
MINIMIZE THEIR QUIRKS.

TEACHERS
SCHNEEBLY HITS THE SCENE -

MR SANDERS
THEY SMILE!

MS GORDON
LAUGH!

MR NOBLE
BEAM!

TEACHERS
WHO KNOWS WHAT HE DOES -

GABE BROWN
BUT GOD, IT WORKS.

SOPRANOS
HERE AT HORACE
HERE AT HORACE GREEN

ALTO/TENOR/BASS
HERE AT HORACE GREEN

TENORS
HERE AT HORACE GREEN

BASSES
HERE AT HORACE

ALTOS/TENOR
HERE AT HORACE GREEN

SOPRANO/BASS
HERE AT HORACE

ALL TEACHERS
HORACE GREEN...
HERE AT HORACE GREEN,
WE HAVE A SYSTEM
WHICH WE KEEP TO,
AS WE'RE TOLD WE SHOULD.
THINK WHAT IT WOULD MEAN

TEACHERS
TO DO THINGS HIS WAY!
MAYBE WE TOO,
WOULD DO SOME GOOD.
MAYBE WE TOO, WOULD DO SOME GOOD.

Dewey enters as they finish, ready
for a high five.

DEWEY
(sing-song to Mr Green)
What-up! My brotha from another
motha.

Mr Green reluctantly slaps Dewey's hands.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Yeah!... Coffee!

As Dewey pours coffee, the teachers signal to Gabe to talk to him.

GABE BROWN

Mr Schneebly! So what do you think of our school, Mr Schneebly? Are we saying it right? Schneebly?

DEWEY

Actually, it's Schnay-blay.

GABE BROWN

How's it going? Are you settling in all right?

DEWEY

You know what they say. In marriage or teaching, the first month is always the hardest.

The teachers laugh.

GABE BROWN

We were discussing testing. Which test do you prefer? The Tass or the Wilson-Bennet?

DEWEY

I say no testing.

GABE BROWN

No testing?

DEWEY

None at all, and I'll tell you why, Joe.

GABE BROWN

Gabe.

DEWEY

Gabe. I believe the children are our future. Teach them well but let them lead the way.

MS SHEINKOPF

But that's a song.

DEWEY

I don't believe so.

MS SHEINKOPF

Didn't Whitney Houston sing it?

DEWEY

Who?

GABE BROWN

I wish I knew what you're getting at.

DEWEY

I'm getting to the heart of it, Joe.

GABE BROWN

Gabe.

DEWEY

Jaybe. We are a team. We participate. And there is no "I" in participation.

Rosalie enters. Dewey waves her over.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Rosalie! I've been looking for you.

ROSALIE

It might be more appropriate to call me Ms Mullins.

DEWEY

It might be. It might be. It might not be.

ROSALIE

It would be.

DEWEY

Anyway, I'm thinking about taking the kids away.

ROSALIE

What?

DEWEY

A field trip. What do you say?

ROSALIE

I say substitutes don't organise
field trips.

DEWEY

Please. Aren't I a little more than
a substitute by now, Ms Mullins?

ROSALIE

No.

DEWEY

Don't you think kids can sometimes
learn more outside the classroom?

ROSALIE

Mr Schneebly. I can check, but
there are safety issues, parents
have to be notified. It's not usual
school policy.

Rosalie begins to exit.

DEWEY

You know what? Forget I said
anything. We'll talk about this
later.

He leaves the Faculty Lounge...

14. IN THE END OF TIME (BAND PRACTICE)

10

SCENE TEN

10

HORACE GREEN - THE CLASSROOM

...and enters through the door
back into the classroom, where the
kids are diligently playing *IN THE
END OF TIME*.

Dewey slides in on his knees, and
picks up the vocal as he comes to
a stop.

DEWEY

'COS YOU'RE NOT HARD-CORE

BACKUP GIRLS

NO YOU'RE NOT HARD-CORE

DEWEY

UNLESS YOU LIVE HARDCORE -

BACKUP GIRLS
UNLESS YOU LIVE HARDCORE -

DEWEY	BACKUP GIRLS (CONT'D)
BUT THE LEGEND OF THE RENT	OOH OHH
WAS WAY HARD-CORE!	WHOA!

The band stops.

FREDDY
Are we really going to goof off
like this for the rest of the
semester?

DEWEY
We are not goofing off, Freddy.
We are creating musical fusion, we
are forging rock and roll! Now
listen, everyone - today is the
last day to qualify for the Battle
of the Bands. We only get one shot
at it, so we have to blow them out
of the water. Freddy that was
awesome, you're rocking. But it was
a little sloppy-joe. Tighten up the
screws, ok?

FREDDY
Sure.

DEWEY
Katie. That was awesome! Zack.
Dude. What's up with the stiffness,
man? You're looking a little ro-bo-
tro-nic. Let's grease up the
hinges, and loosey-goosey, baby,
loosey-goosey.

ZACK
I'm just playing it the way you
told me.

DEWEY
And you know what? It's perfect.
But the thing is, Zack, rock is not
about being perfect! It isn't about
the rules. It isn't about getting
A's, Summer. Who can tell me what
rock is about?

MASON
Scoring chicks?

DEWEY

No. Marcy?

MARCY

Getting wasted?

DEWEY

Noooo! Haven't I taught you anything? Rock and roll is all about *sticking it to the Man!*

SUMMER

Why can't it be a woman?

DEWEY

OK, Summer, I grant you: The Man can be a woman.

SUMMER

Yeah, but she'll probably only get seventy cents to the dollar.

GIRLS

Mmm-hmm.

DEWEY

Controversial... The point I'm trying to make is that the world is full of things that will piss you off!

Tomika gasps.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

I don't care. Billy! What really makes you angry?

BILLY

When my mom gets too much Botox, I can't tell if she's happy.

15. *STICK IT TO THE MAN*

DEWEY

Okay, not really my point, but what I'm saying is, the Man makes the rules. He's the one that keeps you down. How does that make you feel?

ZACK

Angry.

DEWEY

Damn right!

(sings)

WHEN THE WORLD HAS SCREWED YOU
AND CRUSHED YOU IN ITS FIST,
WHEN THE WAY YOU'RE TREATED
HAS GOT YOU GOOD AND PISSED,
THERE'S BEEN ONE SOLUTION
SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN--
DON'T JUST SIT AND TAKE IT,
STICK IT TO THE MAN!

DEWEY (CONT'D)

RANT AND RAVE
AND SCREAM AND SHOUT
GET ALL OF YOUR AGGRESSION OUT
THEY TRY TO STOP YOU,
LET 'EM KNOW
EXACTLY WHERE THEY ALL CAN GO--
AND DO IT JUST AS LOUDLY AS YOU CAN--
STICK IT TO THE MAN!

DEWEY (CONT'D)

If you wanna rock, you've gotta get
mad at the Man! Right now, I'm your
teacher so I'm the Man. So go
ahead, stick it to me.

ZACK

Shut up, Schneebly.

DEWEY

It's a start. Anyone else?

FREDDY

Sit down! Dumb Ass!

DEWEY

Getting better. Who's next?

SUMMER

You're the worst teacher I ever
had.

DEWEY

Very good, Summer.

SUMMER

The only difference is, I mean it.

DEWEY

Great! Next!

LAWRENCE

You are dull and stupid and boring
and-

DEWEY

All right! That's it! Before we go
somewhere we regret! So are you all
feeling ticked off?

KIDS

Yeah!

DEWEY

Then what makes you more angry than
anything else in the world? Katie?

KATIE

Being over-scheduled?

KIDS

Yeah!

DEWEY

PARENTS OVERWORK YA?
STICK IT TO THE MAN!
(speaks)
What else? You, Freddy?

FREDDY

All the pressure.

DEWEY

Good one.
(sings)
HATE THE WAY THEY JERK YA?

FREDDY

STICK IT TO THE MAN!

DEWEY

Yes! You're getting it! What ticks
you off, Zack?

ZACK

When my Dad doesn't pay attention
to me.

DEWEY

MAD THAT THEY IGNORE YA

ZACK

STICK IT TO THE MAN!

DEWEY
HERE'S THE ANSWER FOR YA.

ZACK/FREDDY/KATIE
STICK IT TO THE MAN!

DEWEY
STAND UP TO THE SYSTEM.

ZACK/FRED/KATIE/MARCY/SHONELLE/MASON
STICK IT TO THE MAN.

DEWEY
RISE UP AND RESIST 'EM

ALL KIDS
STICK IT TO THE MAN.

FREDDY
BREAK THE RULES!
IGNORE THE SIGNS!

MARCY
AND COLOUR WAY OUTSIDE THE LINES!

LAWRENCE
GO OFF THE SCRIPT!

SHONELLE
DO WHATCHA LIKE!

SUMMER
THEY HATE IT, THEY CAN TAKE A HIKE.

DEWEY
WHY LIVE YOUR LIFE TO SOMEONE ELSE'S PLAN?

ALL KIDS/DEWEY
STICK IT TO THE MAN!

DEWEY
If you're feeling angry, then put
some of it into your music!

ZACK plays a fiery, punky guitar
solo.

DEWEY (CONT'D)
Lawrence! Hit me with some
rebellion!

LAWRENCE plays a messy, keyboard-
pounding solo.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Go ahead, all of you, get it off
your chests.

MARCY

FAMILY THERAPY!

ALL KIDS

STICK IT TO THE MAN!

DEWEY

Yes!

SHONELLE

PARENTS IN YOUR FACEBOOK!

ALL KIDS/DEWEY

STICK IT TO THE MAN!

DEWEY

Boo-ya!

BILLY

VEGAN SNACK FOODS!

ALL KIDS

STICK IT TO THE MAN!

DEWEY

Right on!

SUMMER

Unrealistic images of female beauty
in modern media discourse!

DEWEY

Why not?

ALL KIDS

STICK IT TO THE MAN!

DEWEY

Boom!

ALL KIDS

ROCK THE HOUSE AND MAKE A SCENE,
AND CRANK THE AMPS TO SEVENTEEN,
AND SCREAM UNTIL THEIR EARS ARE SHOT--
THEY ALL CAN KISS YOUR YOU-KNOW WHAT!

DEWEY

DO EVERYTHING THEY'VE EVER TRIED TO BAN!

ALL KIDS
STICK IT TO THE MAN!

BILLY
Mr Schneebly, you're an ugly fat
loser and you have body odour.

DEWEY
We've done that bit, Billy. It's
finished. We've moved on.

BILLY
You're tacky and I hate you.

DEWEY
Billy, take a lap. Okay guys, we
need a name for our band! Katie!

KATIE
How about the Koala bears?

DEWEY
Noooo! Too girly! Mason!

MASON
The Animals?

DEWEY
It's been done. Billy!

BILLY
Pig's Rectum?

DEWEY
Billy. We've got to talk.

Marcy and Shonelle have been
whispering together.

SHONELLE
We think we have it, Mr Schneebly.

DEWEY
Hit me.

MARCY & SHONELLE
The School of Rock.

Music stops.

DEWEY
(dramatic, with guitar
flourish under)
The School of Rock.
(MORE)

DEWEY (CONT'D)

And we shall teach rock to the
world..!

(sings)

THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN STOP
THE SCHOOL OF ROCK!

The kids cheer.

KIDS

Yeah!

The flourish turns back into the
riff of "Stick It To The Man".

DEWEY & KIDS

WHEN THE WORLD HAS SCREWED YOU
AND CRUSHED YOU IN ITS FIST,
WHEN THE WAY YOU'RE TREATED
HAS GOT YOU GOOD AND PISSED,

THERE'S BEEN ONE SOLUTION
SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN
DON'T JUST SIT AND TAKE IT,
STICK IT TO THE MAN!

RANT AND RAVE
AND SCREAM AND SHOUT,
AND STICK YOUR MIDDLE FINGER OUT
AND WRECK YOUR ROOM

AND RIP YOUR JEANS
AND SHOW 'EM WHAT REBELLION MEANS
WHY MARCH IN SOMEONE ELSE'S CARAVAN?

KIDS

Yeah!

DEWEY

ESPECIALLY THOSE YOU'RE SO MUCH COOLER THAN

KIDS

Yeah!

DEWEY

IT'S TIME TO THROW SOME SHIT AGAINST THE FAN...

The kids freeze.

FREDDY

Wait! Wait! Wait! Can we say that?

DEWEY

We're the School of Rock! We can
say anything!

FREDDY
(with a smile of dawning
joy)
Cool.

ALL KIDS
STICK IT TO THE MAN!
STICK IT TO THE MAN!
STICK IT TO THE MAN!
STICK IT TO THE MAN!

JAMES
Mullins is on the move!

DEWEY
Alright! Everyone get into
positions!

Quickly, they hide the instruments
with Thanksgiving decorations as
the door opens and Ms Mullins
appears.

Dewey poses as Washington crossing
the Delaware.

DEWEY (CONT'D)
And lo. That wooden toothed salty
haired George Jefferson Washington
crossed the Delaware and gave us
forever the festival of
Thanksgiving. Oh Ms Mullins!

ROSALIE
Good Afternoon, class.

ALL KIDS
Good Afternoon, Ms Mullins.

ROSALIE
Mr Schneebly, may I have a word?
You were asking about a possible
field trip for your class.

DEWEY
They have to qualify first, but
that'll be figured out this
afternoon.

ROSALIE
Qualify?

Even the kids know Dewey has made
a mistake. He thinks hard.

DEWEY

For the field trip.

ROSALIE

I was not aware that students have to qualify for a field trip.

DEWEY

This one is kind of unusual.

ROSALIE

In what way?

DEWEY

Because of the unusual...fields.

ROSALIE

Well, anyway, I've checked and I was right. There's an insurance problem. As I said, you're only a substitute and substitutes don't take field trips. And, before you ask, there are no exceptions.

She leaves the room.

SUMMER

Well, that's that.

DEWEY

That's what?

He looks round at the class.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Right. We gotta hustle. Is everyone ready?

ZACK

Ready for what?

DEWEY

Ready to qualify.

MARCY

But how are we going to qualify if we can't leave the school?

DEWEY

What do you mean we can't leave?

SHONELLE

Didn't Ms Mullins just forbid it?

DEWEY

Oh, that! Don't listen to her!
Gather around. When the bell rings
for gym, which is pointless, we'll
get the instruments into the van
and go, on my signal. We'll be back
before anyone notices.

Music begins here and continues to
the interval.

FREDDY

But then what?

ZACK

What happens if we qualify?

DEWEY

If we qualify? IF? As a wise
prophet once told me: we are the
champions, my friends. Now let's
pack it up! We don't have a lot of
time!

The band members clear the
classroom of their instruments.
Tomika remains behind, uncertain,
feeling excluded. She reluctantly
rejoins the group.

15A. THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN STOP (TRANSITION)

11

SCENE ELEVEN

11

HORACE GREEN - THE HALLS

Dewey enters stealthily and sneaks
across the floor as Sheinkopf's
shadow appears in a doorway. Once
the coast is clear, he tries to
whistle but fails.

DEWEY

(calling like a bird)
Ay-yah!! Ay-yaaahh!

Zack pokes his head out from the
door.

ZACK

Is that the signal?

DEWEY

Yes! Come on!

15B. MT ROCK - THE ESCAPE

Dewey and the children sneak through the halls of Horace Green, dodging teachers and obstacles along the way. The children carry their instruments. They escape without being seen. The escape song is completed as the lights come up on the backstage area of the theatre:

12

SCENE TWELVE

12

THE PALACE THEATER - BACKSTAGE

MASON

We're late. You should have driven faster.

DEWEY

Not with all of you in the van.

SUMMER

Careful, Mr Schneebly. You're starting to sound responsible.

DEWEY

Remind me why you're here?

SUMMER

I'm the manager. We're booking our first show. Where else should I be?

DEWEY

That's fair.

ZACK

I thought we were playing against other schools.

DEWEY

Later. First, we go up against the big boys.

MARCY

They're gonna laugh at us.

DEWEY

I don't understand. Why would they?

ZACK

Because we don't know what we're doing?

LAWRENCE

Because we don't look like rock stars. We look like geeks.

DEWEY

Now, listen! What you've got is what everyone wants, and that's talent! And as for looking like a rock star, did Mama Cass look like a rock star? She weighed three hundred pounds but when she was on stage, people worshipped her! She was a goddess!

SUMMER

What happened to her?

DEWEY

She choked to death on a ham sandwich. But that's not the point.

LAWRENCE

What is the point, Mr Schneebly?

DEWEY

Let me put it like this: If we don't make the cut, we don't play in The Battle. If we miss The Battle, our project is shot. You won't get into Harvard and we'll all be failures. But no pressure.

SUMMER

You heard him. Let's get set up.

An official is standing on stage,
looking at his watch.

DEWEY

I'm trying to find Jeff Sanderson.

JEFF

I am he.

The kids are amping up.

DEWEY

They said you're in charge here?

JEFF

I was in charge.

DEWEY

What do you mean?

JEFF

The auditions have finished. We only had a couple to see this morning. That one was the last and now the bill is filled.

He catches sight of the children.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Who are they?

DEWEY

My band.

JEFF

Kids? Is this some kind of gimmick?

DEWEY

No, it's not a gimmick. I know they're kids but they're awesome. Just listen.

JEFF

I'm sorry. I don't have time. I have to go. Better luck next year.

Dewey is stumped by this, so is the band. They are almost unpacked and ready to go... but then Summer steps in.

SUMMER

There won't be a next year.

JEFF

What?

SUMMER

There won't be a next year for us, any of us, *will there, Mr Schneebly?*

She looks sternly at Dewey and whispers.

DEWEY

She's right, Jeff. I can call you Jeff, right?

(MORE)

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Of course I understand you need to have rules, and if it wasn't for the fact that the Battle of the Bands has been keeping these kids alive, I -

JEFF

What do you mean?

DEWEY

You see, the kids have a condition -

JEFF

What condition?

DEWEY

Er...

SUMMER

A rare blood disorder. Stikkitu Demanus.

JEFF

That's terrible.

DEWEY

You know the Yoda Hospice for Children Out of Luck?

JEFF

I don't think I do.

DEWEY

It's a good place, Jeff, and the people there are good people. But they can't work miracles, Jeff. I only wish they could.

Summer gestures at the kids who are now drooping over their instruments. They look as if they only have minutes left.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Still, what the hell. The dream of this contest has given them a few extra, stolen weeks, which can't be bad. Thank you for that, at least, Jeff. Thank you. All right. Let's go get all of your wheelchairs.

He starts to walk off stage, then he stops and turns.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Unless you'd just listen to them?
So they haven't made the journey
for nothing?

JEFF

I don't know...

SUMMER

Hit it, kids!

Instantly, they are back on form
and the music begins.

16. IN THE END OF TIME (THE AUDITION)

DEWEY

One. Two. Three.

(sings)

'COS YOU'RE NOT HARDCORE

MARCY & SHONELLE

NO YOU'RE NOT HARDCORE.

DEWEY

UNLESS YOU LIVE HARDCORE

MARCY & SHONELLE

UNLESS YOU LIVE HARDCORE

DEWEY

C'MON, JEFF, HELP THESE KIDS
AND BE HARDCORE.
JEFF! JEFF! JEFF!

MARCY & SHONELLE (CONT'D)

OOOH OOOH
WOO!

JEFF

All right. I surrender. You're in.

17. STICK IT TO THE MAN (REPRISE)

DEWEY

Oh my God you guys we're in the
Battle of the bands!

(sings)

THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN STOP
THE SCHOOL OF ROCK

The kids let out a cheer and rip
right into...

KIDS

WHEN THE WORLD HAS SCREWED YOU
AND CRUSHED YOU IN ITS FIST,
WHEN THE WAY YOU'RE TREATED

KIDS (CONT'D)
HAS GOT YOU GOOD AND PISSED,

RANT AND RAVE
AND SCREAM AND SHOUT,
GET ALL OF YOUR AGGRESSION OUT,
THEY TRY TO STOP YOU,
LET 'EM KNOW
EXACTLY WHERE THEY ALL CAN GO,

DEWEY
AND DO IT JUST AS LOUDLY AS YOU CAN--

DEWEY & KIDS
STICK IT TO THE MAN!
STICK IT TO THE MAN!
STICK IT TO THE MAN!
STICK IT TO THE MAN!

Blackout.

END OF ACT ONE.

ACT TWO

1

SCENE ONE

1

HORACE GREEN - THE CLASSROOM**18. TIME TO PLAY**

As the lights come up, the children begin piling into the classroom. Summer is standing on a box and writing "36 Hours" on the chalkboard. As she finishes she leaps to the ground, in full generalissimo mode.

SUMMER

All right! Everybody hurry up and take your seats. Until Mr Schneebly gets back from the faculty meeting, I am in charge!

FREDDY

Says who?

SUMMER

Says me. The Band Manager! Get it?
(sings)

HEY!

AIN'T GOT ALL DAY!

GET MOVING!

She points to the chalkboard.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

Only 36 hours till the battle!

She points at James.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

YOU!

NO ONE COMES THROUGH

THAT DOOR!

JAMES

On it. Security! Roll out!

SUMMER

NO DISTRACTIONS, NO DELAYS -
THIS IS FOR OUR RESUMES!
SO -

IT'S TIME TO GO
HARDCORE.

All the kids are on their feet
now. The room is a beehive of
activity.

SUMMER (CONT'D)
NO TALK, NO GUM SMACKING,
CELL PHONES AWAY.
GO PUNK OR START PACKING.
GET TO WORK
IT'S TIME TO PLAY!

WAKE UP, STOP DAY-DREAMING,
DO AS I SAY
GET THOSE GUITARS SCREAMING
CLEAR THE ROOM,
IT'S TIME TO PLAY!

Summer turns to Mason at the
lighting computer.

SUMMER (CONT'D)
YOU!
GO ON AND CUE
THE LIGHT BOARD.

MASON
Fade down to three, then back up to
seven.

We see the awesome lighting
effects!

Summer turns to Marcy and the
backup singers.

SUMMER
YOU -
SHOW THEM THE NEW
HOT MOVE.

MARCY & SHONELLE
Right! A-five, six, seven, eight -

SUMMER
LOOK REBELLIOUS,
ACT MORE CRUDE.
BRING YOUR BEST BAD ATTITUDE.

BAND,
GET READY AND -
LET'S GROOVE!

BACKUP GIRLS
HIPS OUT, AND HEADS BANGIN' -

SUMMER
WORK THAT SASHAY!

SUMMER (CONT'D)
NOW BRING THE WHOLE GANG IN -
HUSTLE UP,
IT'S TIME TO PLAY.

The boys add their voices to the
mix.

GIRLS AND BOYS
HANDS HIGH AND FISTS PUMPIN' -
SNEERS ON DISPLAY.

SUMMER
LET'S GET THIS JOINT JUMPIN!

GIRLS AND BOYS
BRING IT ON!
IT'S TIME TO PLAY!

Summer now strides through the
room, clipboard in hand, grilling
the other students in a clipped
staccato patter.

SUMMER
(to Mason)
HAS THE MICROPHONE BEEN TESTED?

MADISON
Check.

SUMMER
WHAT ABOUT THE STAND?

MADISON
Check.

SUMMER
PLACE IT AS REQUESTED
AND AWAIT MY NEXT COMMAND.
(to Mason)
ARE THE PYROTECHNICS READY?

MASON
Check.

SUMMER
AND SYNCED TO THE ROUTINE?

MARCY

Check.

SUMMER

I'M COUNTING ON YOU, SOPHIE--
DON'T SCREW UP THE FOG MACHINE.

SOPHIE

Duh.

SUMMER

WHO'S GOT THE SPEAKER CABLE?
COME ON, THIS ISN'T HARD!

SOPHIE

I'm ordering it!

SUMMER

GET EXTRA IF YOU'RE ABLE--
PUT IT ON YOUR MOTHER'S CARD.

SOPHIE

Right.

SUMMER

(to Katie)

WHAT ABOUT THE SONG LIST?
PRINTED LIKE I SAID?

KATIE

Uhhh...

SUMMER

IF YOU BROUGHT THE WRONG LIST,
I SWEAR TO GOD, YOU'RE DEAD.

(to Zack)

GOT THE FLANGER?

ZACK

Yup.

SUMMER

THE PHASER?

ZACK

Yup.

SUMMER

THE PEDALS AND EFFECTS?

ZACK

Yup.

SUMMER

(to Katie)

MAKE SURE HE REMEMBERS,
OR I'M BREAKING BOTH YOUR NECKS.

KATIE

Sure.

SUMMER

(to Backup Singers)
KEEP YOUR VOICES RESTED -
WARM UP BEFORE YOU SING.

MARCY & SHONELLE

Right!

SUMMER

I'M OF COURSE PREPARED,
AND SO THERE'S ONE MORE THING...
(to Billy)

YOU!
CAN WE REVIEW
THE COSTUMES?

BILLY

I'm still working out some looks...

SUMMER

JEEZ!
DON'T BE A TEASE!
LET'S GO!

BILLY

I'm thinking a grunge-punk-glam
kind of thing...

SUMMER

LOOK, WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE
WHILE YOU TRY TO FIND SOME TASTE.

BILLY

FINE!
HERE'S THE DESIGN.

Lawrence pops out dressed like a
glam rockstar.

SUMMER & KIDS

HELL, NO!

BILLY

I'll ditch the sequins!

He storms off in a huff.

GROUP 1

AMPS CRANKED AND DRUMS BEATING
DON'T STOP HALFWAY.

GROUP 2
LET'S LEAVE SOME EARS BLEEDING

ALL KIDS
TURN IT UP -
IT'S TIME TO PLAY!
DON'T SLACK, THERE'S NO CRUISING,
NO WAY, JOSE!

SUMMER
THIS BAND IS NOT LOSING!

GROUP 1
BRING THE NOISE -
IT'S TIME TO PLAY!

GROUP 2
ROCK THE MICS!
IT'S TIME TO PLAY!

ALL KIDS
WORLD, WATCH OUT!

SUMMER
IT'S TIME TO PLAY!

ALL KIDS
WORLD WATCH OUT!
IT'S TIME TO PLAY!

SUMMER
Let's go!

As the children scurry about, we
transition to:

18A. TIME TO PLAY PLAYOUT

2

SCENE TWO

2

HORACE GREEN - THE FACULTY LOUNGE

The faculty is relaxing, reading,
sipping coffee etc. Dewey is at
the photocopier making
copies of his face, holding a
bottle of water.

DEWEY
Does anyone know what this meeting
is about?

GABE BROWN

No idea.

DEWEY

It's not like I have anywhere else to be.

ROSALIE

Good afternoon, everyone.

TEACHERS

Good afternoon, Ms Mullins.

ROSALIE

I'm not going to keep you. I just wanted to be sure you had your presentations ready for tomorrow.

DEWEY

What's tomorrow?

He sips some water.

ROSALIE

The Parents' Meeting.

Dewey does a spit-take.

ROSALIE (CONT'D)

Is there a problem, Mr Schneebly?

DEWEY

No.

ROSALIE

Good. The parents will need to see how their children are progressing, So you'll need to prepare a few subject breakdowns, some paperwork that your pupils have completed in class -

DEWEY

I love to meet the parents! I'm so interested in their opinions of my work! Just one thing. How long will it take?

ROSALIE

They come when school finishes and they leave around seven. Why?

DEWEY

No reason, no reason. I have something planned for later on, but I'm sure we'll be done in time.

ROSALIE

Mr Schneebly, Parents' Night is very important to me. They must walk away with a smile on their faces.

DEWEY

And drugs are out of the question?

ROSALIE

It's not a joke, Mr Schneebly. They are my employers and they are your employers. We have to please them.

She takes in the rest of the room.

ROSALIE (CONT'D)

I'm not going to hold you up any more. You have a busy afternoon ahead.

Rosalie exits.

DEWEY

Wow. She needs a good defrosting.

GABE BROWN

Ahhh -- she's not always the way she is at Horace Green.

MS SHEINKOPF

I'll say! Remember at the teachers' convention when she was singing *Dreams* at the top of her lungs? After just one beer!

MR NOBLE

What a light-weight!

DEWEY

Fleetwood Mac, huh.

GABE BROWN

She's a big fan of Stevie Nicks.

DEWEY

Wow. Rosalie the Rock Chick is into Stevie Nicks... good to know.

18B. YOU'RE IN THE BAND (SCENE CHANGE)

3

SCENE THREE

3

HORACE GREEN - THE CLASSROOM

Dewey walks back into the classroom. He is preoccupied.

SUMMER

What was the meeting about?

DEWEY

I don't know. Parents' Night.

SUMMER

Parents' Night??

DEWEY

They want to see your written work and the projects you've completed.

ZACK

What written work?

KATIE

What completed projects?

Dewey shrugs.

SUMMER

What are you going to do?

DEWEY

I don't know. What would you do, Summer? You're the one with the brains around here.

SUMMER

I don't know. You're the teacher!

ZACK

If our parents are coming tomorrow we won't be able to get away for the Battle of the Bands.

The kids begin to panic.

DEWEY

Don't worry. I'm working on it.

SUMMER

But how? It's just not possible.

MARCY

Well, it's got to be.

DEWEY

Yes! It's gotta be and it will be.
We just need to come up with a
plan. Any ideas?

The kids bombard Dewey with ideas.
Tomika raises her hand.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Whoa! Hold on. Tomika has something
to say. Front and center. What's
up?

TOMIKA

Mr Schneebly... I just wish...

DEWEY

Tomika, I know you're shy, but I'm
not a mind-reader.

TOMIKA

I wish I was in the band.

DEWEY

I wish you were, too, but... do you
play an instrument?

TOMIKA

No.

MARCY

You didn't want to sing.

TOMIKA

I do want to sing. But you asked me
to be a back-up singer and I'm not
a back-up singer. I'm a singer.

DEWEY

It's just a little too late for
that, Tomika.

Dewey sighs.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

OK. If you sing something, maybe I
can make you a singer.

(MORE)

DEWEY (CONT'D)

But I can't make you a singer
unless you can sing.

(he waits for her to
sing.)

That's OK, don't worry about it.
Alright, who's got an idea?

Summer and some of the other kids
raise their hands as Tomika opens
her mouth.

19. AMAZING GRACE

TOMIKA

AMAZING GRACE!
HOW SWEET THE SOUND
THAT SAVED A WRETCH LIKE ME!
I ONCE WAS LOST, BUT NOW I'M FOUND;
WAS BLIND, BUT NOW I SEE.

The pure, lyrical sound soars to
the heavens. They are all
astonished. She is a genius. She
stops. The kids cheer! Dewey nods.

DEWEY

I always knew there was something
inside you, now we know what it is.
Pure magic. You're in the band!
Let's hear it for Tomika!

ALL KIDS

Whoo Hoo! Yay! Etc. TOMIKA! TOMIKA!
TOMIKA...

JAMES

Red alert! It's Mullins.

Every child runs to their seat.
Dewey pulls out a sign with $E=MC$
squared on it.

DEWEY

Therefore E equals MC squared.

ALL KIDS

Ahhh!

DEWEY

Oh. Ms Mullins. Come in, come in!

Rosalie Mullins enters and closes
the door behind her.

ROSALIE

I'm sorry to interrupt, only Ms Sheinkopf thought she heard music coming from this classroom again.

DEWEY

I haven't heard any music. Ms Sheinkopf must be on crack. Right, kids?

ALL KIDS

Mmm-hmm.

ROSALIE

What's this?

She is pointing to a guitar against the wall. The class is silent. Dewey slaps his thigh.

DEWEY

I've got it! Sheinkopf must have heard us learning in sing-song!

ROSALIE

One of your methods?

DEWEY

I find it very useful for teaching really boring subjects.

ROSALIE

We don't acknowledge there are any boring subjects at Horace Green.

DEWEY

Slightly boring?

ROSALIE

You don't mind if I sit in on your class this afternoon, do you?

DEWEY

Sure. Come on back this afternoon.

ROSALIE

It is the afternoon, Mr Schneebly. I meant now. Please continue with your method.

She sits. Dewey picks up the guitar. And sings...

DEWEY
MATH IS A WONDERFUL THING,
MATH IS A REALLY COOL THING.

DEWEY (CONT'D)
SO GET OFF YOUR ATH AND LET'S DO MATH.
MATH, MATH, MATH, MATH, MATH.

FORTY TWO DIVIDED BY SIX IS -

Katie and some of the others raise
their hands.

DEWEY (CONT'D)
Katie!

KATIE
Seven.

Now it's Madison's turn.

DEWEY
AND FIFTY FIVE DIVIDED BY FIVE IS -
(speaks)
Madison?

MADISON
Eleven.

DEWEY
VERY GOOD.
AND SEVENTY FOUR IS SIXTY FIVE MORE THAN -
WHAT IS THAT NUMBER, SUMMER?

SUMMER
Nine.

DEWEY
NO. IT'S EIGHT.

SUMMER
NO. IT'S NINE.

DEWEY
OH. YES, I KNOW. I WAS JUST TESTING YOU.
IT'S NINE.
AND *THAT'S* A MAGIC NUMBER!

Much to Dewey's relief, the bell
rings. The kids start to put away
their things and leave the
classroom.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Don't forget your homework!
Remember! Tomorrow we begin on the
rhythm of Logarithms! But first we
sing the key points in the life of
President Grant! Go, go, go!

The children leave and Dewey and
Rosalie are alone.

ROSALIE

Your methods are certainly very
unusual, Mr Schneebly.

DEWEY

Funny. They don't seem unusual to
me, but then I did study under
Errol von Strossen Bergen Baker,
and he made Rudolf Steiner look
like Mary Poppins.

ROSALIE

Did he? Well, Mr Schneebly, let me
be clear:
We are not interested in
experimental philosophy here at
Horace Green. Music is for music
class, math is for math class. Got
it?

DEWEY

Got it. Do you want to grab a
drink?

ROSALIE

Excuse me?

DEWEY

Like a coffee?

ROSALIE

You're asking me to go for coffee
with you?

DEWEY

I guess I am. The bell rang.
School's out for the day. What do
you say?

ROSALIE

I have things to do.

DEWEY

What kind of things?

ROSALIE
Principal kind of things.

DEWEY
Okay, after that meet me at The Roadhouse.

ROSALIE
The Roadhouse? The dive bar?

DEWEY
So you know it!

ROSALIE
Yes.

DEWEY
The Roadhouse then!

ROSALIE
The Roadhouse?

DEWEY
At seven.

ROSALIE
At seven?

DEWEY
Great! It's a date! Dismissed.

20A. TIME TO PLAY UNDERSCORE (THE ROADHOUSE)

She goes, confused and nodding.

4

SCENE FOUR

4

THE ROADHOUSE

And we are in the road house. Bikers, punks, crowd together as Dewey pushes through to a table where Ms Mullins is already sitting. He brings two beers, begins chugging one.

ROSALIE
Are you sure they don't have any coffee?

DEWEY
Hm?

ROSALIE

No coffee?

DEWEY

Strange, isn't it?

ROSALIE

And there's no other coffee shops?
Not even a Starbucks?

Dewey finishes chugging his beer.

DEWEY

Nooo! Hey, can I get a pitcher!

ROSALIE

Mr Schneebly -

DEWEY

I'm having another and you wouldn't
want me to drink alone, would you?

ROSALIE

I don't think either of us should
be drinking at all.

(a beat)

Mr Schneebly, I've been thinking -

DEWEY

I wish you'd call me Dewey.

ROSALIE

Why would I call you Dewey?

DEWEY

Ned! Dewey's my other name. My
middle name. Ned Dewey Schneebly.

ROSALIE

Some people are born lucky.

ROSALIE (CONT'D)

So is there a Mrs Ned Dewey?

DEWEY

Nooo! No! I'm not really in the
financial position to date right
now. Most girls end up wanting me
to be something that I'm not. Like
handsome... You know what, I'm
going to put on a random song.

Dewey goes to the jukebox. A rough looking man walks by Rosalie, and she drinks, perhaps too quickly. EDGE OF SEVENTEEN begins playing.

ROSALIE

You know this is the first time a teacher has ever asked me to do anything outside of school.

DEWEY

Really?

ROSALIE

It's true. Not in six years.

DEWEY

I bet they're just intimidated.

ROSALIE

It's not that. They hate me.

DEWEY

They do not.

Rosalie, enraptured by the song, finds moments to sing along through the following:

ROSALIE

Yes, they do OOH OOH. You know, I was fun once. Funny even. But you can't be funny and a principal because when it comes to their kids, people have nooo sense of humour.

DEWEY

You'd think that's when it matters the most.

ROSALIE

I know, but NOTHING ELSE MATTERS!

Rosalie half laughs, but she is baring her soul.

ROSALIE (CONT'D)

But I've got to be perfect. And - I'm not kidding - that pressure has turned me into... Well, you know what it's turned me into.

DEWEY
No, I don't. What?

ROSALIE
A bitch... *a bitch!*
I love this song.

DEWEY
Wait. You love Stevie Nicks?

ROSALIE
I love Stevie Nicks!
(sings)
EYES ON HIM

WAITRESS
Shut-up!

DEWEY
You shut-up!

ROSALIE
SEVENTEEN!

DEWEY
It's like a freakin' religion for
me.

21. WHERE DID THE ROCK GO INTRO

ROSALIE & DEWEY
JUST LIKE THE WHITE WINGED DOVE
SINGS A SONG SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S SINGIN'

ROSALIE & DEWEY (CONT'D)
OOH

ROSALIE
BABY

ROSALIE & DEWEY
OOH

ROSALIE
SAY

ROSALIE & DEWEY
OOH

DEWEY
Have you seen her live?

ROSALIE

Yes!! She sang here in town once. I
will never forget it.

DEWEY

This is such a coincidence! We're
like one person, Rosalie Mullins. I
love Stevie Nicks - You love Stevie
Nicks.

ROSALIE

Yes!!

DEWEY

I love freedom - You love freedom!

ROSALIE

I do! I do love freedom!

DEWEY

I knew it! I knew it the first time
I saw you.

ROSALIE

You did?

DEWEY

Immediately.

(sings)

I COULD TELL DEEP INSIDE YOU ARE JUST LIKE ME.
THERE IS MUSIC INSIDE YOU, MOST DEFINITELY-
AND YOU KEEP IT LOCKED UP WHEN IT REALLY SHOULD
BE IN FLIGHT
JUST LIKE TONIGHT...
WELL AM I RIGHT?

ROSALIE

Yeah, you're right.

22. WHERE DID THE ROCK GO?

ROSALIE (CONT'D)

BACK WHEN I WAS YOUNGER,
WILD AND BOLD AND FREE,
I CAN STILL REMEMBER
HOW THE MUSIC USED TO BE:

CHORDS LIKE ROLLING THUNDER-
LOUD BEYOND CONTROL-
EV'RY NOTE AND LYRIC
BRANDED RIGHT ACROSS MY SOUL-

WHERE DID THE ROCK GO?
WHERE'S THE RUSH OF THOSE ELECTRIC GUITARS?

WHERE ARE ALL THOSE VOICES RAISED TO HEAVEN,
 BLAZING DOWN LIKE SHOOTING STARS?
 TELL ME,
 WHERE IS THE PASSION?
 WHERE'S THE RATTLE AND THE ROAR AND THE BUZZ?
 WHERE DO LAST YEAR'S ONE-HIT-WONDERS GO TO?
 AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GIRL I WAS?

SOMEHOW I GOT OLDER,
 YEAR BY BUSY YEAR,

ROSALIE (CONT'D)

GUESS THE SONGS KEPT PLAYING,
 BUT I DIDN'T STOP TO HEAR.
 ALL THAT YOUTHFUL SWAGGER
 TURNED TO GROWN-UP DOUBT.
 AND THE WORLD SPUN LIKE A RECORD
 BUT THE MUSIC FADED OUT...

WHERE DID THE ROCK GO?
 WHERE'S THE POUNDING OF THE DRUMS IN MY VEINS?
 WHEN DID ALL THE STATIC FILL THE AIRWAVES?
 WHEN IT'S GONE, THEN WHAT REMAINS?
 TELL ME,
 WHERE DID THE TIME GO?
 WHERE'S THE JOY I USED TO KNOW WAY BACK WHEN?

WHERE'S THE POWER AND THE BEAUTY
 AND THE FRENZY AND THE RAPTURE?
 WHERE'S THE MAGIC OF THE MOMENTS
 ONLY ROCK COULD EVER CAPTURE?
 NOW THE ONLY THING I'M HEARING
 ARE THE ECHOES DISAPPEARING-

SORRY FOR THE OUTBURST.
 PLEASE, I'LL BE OK.
 LET'S KEEP THIS OUR SECRET-
 WHO'D BELIEVE IT, ANYWAY?

WE'LL PRETEND IT NEVER HAPPENED.
 FILE IT, AND FORGET.
 STILL - THANKS FOR THE REMINDER
 THAT THERE'S MUSIC IN ME YET...

(speaks)

I have to go.

DEWEY

Rosalie. You're sure about this
 field trip? I mean it would be so
 great for these kids.

ROSALIE

What is it?

DEWEY

A concert. Tomorrow night. It would be like you seeing Stevie for the first time. I think that would be such an awesome experience for them.

ROSALIE

It would be awesome. But, would it be educational?

DEWEY

It would be an education they would never forget.

ROSALIE

OK. Help me send those parents home happy tomorrow night and I'll see if the school can make an exception. Deal?

Dewey goes in for the kiss.

ROSALIE (CONT'D)

You didn't have to do that. You already have permission.

DEWEY

I know. I wanted to. Goodnight Ms Mullins.

ROSALIE

Goodnight, Mr Schneebly.
(sings)

WHERE DID THE ROCK GO?
ALL THOSE FEELINGS THAT I'VE LEARNED TO IGNORE?
IF YOU FLIP THE RECORD AND START OVER,
DOES IT SOUND THE WAY IT DID BEFORE...?
WHERE DID THE ROCK GO?

22A. WHERE DID THE ROCK GO PLAYOUT

5

SCENE FIVE

5

THE APARTMENT - THE LIVING ROOM

The next morning, Dewey is listening to *EDGE OF SEVENTEEN* in his headphones when Ned enters, from the kitchen, taking off yellow rubber gloves.

NED
Big plans today?

Dewey doesn't hear. Ned taps him
on the shoulder.

NED (CONT'D)
Big plans today?

DEWEY
Huge plans, Ned. Huge plans. Also,
listen, I'm gonna be home really
late tonight, so don't wait up for
me.

NED
Oh, I won't. I'm taking Patty to
Applebee's.

Patty enters carrying the mail.

PATTY
Neddy Neddy Ned! You got a letter
from Horace Green!

NED
Really?

PATTY
You never told me you sent in your
resume.

NED
They never answered.

PATTY
Well, they've answered now! You
deserve this, Ned. You deserve the
best!

During this, behind her, Dewey
freezes. He has literally turned
to ice. Ned opens the letter.

NED
Whoa. Hello? Why would Horace Green
pay me two thousand six hundred
dollars?

PATTY
What? Why? You've never worked
there.

DEWEY

Sure he did! He just forgot!

NED

I think I would remember if I'd worked at Horace Green.

Dewey laughs nervously.

PATTY

They've mixed up two letters. But they must want you for an interview. Call them! I have to go to work. I'm so proud of my Neddy bear! Call them.

As she exits:

PATTY (CONT'D)

Now!

NED

Oh, you mean now.

Ned searches for his phone in his pocket, in the couch etc. Dewey reaches for the check.

NED (CONT'D)

Have you seen my phone?

DEWEY

Yes. In your room.

Ned exits to his bedroom, Dewey reaches over the couch for the check. Ned re-enters.

NED

What are you doing?

DEWEY

Nothing.

NED

You've got my letter.

DEWEY

Yep.

NED

Give it back to me, I need to call them.

DEWEY

Why? Can't you use the money?

NED

It's not mine, Dewey. I didn't earn it.

DEWEY

So it's like a bonus. Spend it!

NED

And wind up in court for misappropriating funds? Dewey Finn: Financial Advisor! I don't think so.

Ned snatches the letter from Dewey and heads for the door!

DEWEY

I said to make it out to Cash!

Ned begins to have an asthma attack. Unsure of what to do, he begins to breathe into a rubber glove.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Ned! Wait, sit! Breathe. Would you believe me if I told you I'd done a bad thing?

NED

Oh, so easily. So very easily.

DEWEY

You know I'm not the sort of guy who'd take advantage of his friends.

NED

Only because you haven't got any friends.

DEWEY

I promise you'd have done the same if you were me.

NED

How? If I were you I'd have jumped off a tall building long ago.

Underscore begins, to mark the simple truth. This is where Dewey gives the game away...

DEWEY

Ned. If I tell you something, will you promise not to tell Patty?

NED

Sure.

DEWEY

Don't say "sure" like that. It's not sure. It's not even likely. She's stronger than either of us. She's stronger than Washington. She's stronger than the sea.

NED

I said I won't tell her. So I won't tell her.

The final chord of the music says different.

6

SCENE SIX

6

HORACE GREEN - A HALLWAY

Ms Mullins is getting everything ready for Parent's Night.

ROSALIE

Do we have enough refreshments?

MS SHEINKOPF

Tea, coffee and we've got some wine.

ROSALIE

Hold the wine for the end. Too early and it fuels their anger.

Ms Sheinkopf goes to leave as Dewey walks in.

DEWEY

Rosalie. I had a great time last night.

The word "Rosalie" stops Sheinkopf in her tracks.

ROSALIE

(for Sheinkopf)

Ms Mullins! Mr Schneebly. I think I should be 'Ms Mullins' when we're here at Horace Green and you should be 'Mr Schneebly' here at Horace Green...

Sheinkopf exits.

ROSALIE (CONT'D)

But thank you for last night.

DEWEY

And I'm still taking the kids to the concert tonight?

ROSALIE

Yes, the school will make an exception if the parents go home happy. I cannot stress enough how important Parents' Night is, Mr Schneebly.

DEWEY

Got it.

ROSALIE

I'd better get ready. They'll be here any minute.

Rosalie goes to leave...

DEWEY

Hey. You're going to be awesome.

7

SCENE SEVEN

7

HORACE GREEN - THE CLASSROOM

The classroom is a flurry of activity. The children hang signs for parents night, post examples of their "work", clean up the room etc. Zack sits on a desk with his guitar, diligently writing on a sheet of paper.

DEWEY

I've ordered the school bus for tonight.

SUMMER

And we really have permission?

DEWEY

I told you. We have permission to go to our concert. Excuse me?

Billy enters with a garish sequined costume on a dress form. Dewey stops dead.

BILLY

What do you think?

DEWEY

What? Did I lose a competition? It looks like Siegfried and Wrong.

BILLY

It's glitter rock. It's glam, it's fabulous. Have you no vision?

DEWEY

I have twenty/twenty vision. I have seen salads dressed better than this. *This* is not style.

BILLY

You talk to me about style? You can't even dress yourself. You wear the same ugly clothes every day. Fine. I give up. They can just wear their uniforms.

23. SCHOOL OF ROCK (PART 1 - ZACK)

Zack begins playing what he has been writing down.

DEWEY

That's not a bad idea.

BILLY

Not a bad idea? I was kidding.

DEWEY

Hey, what is that? No, don't stop.

ZACK

It's nothing. It's just an idea I was fooling around with.

DEWEY

You wrote it? You wrote a song?
Play it. I want to hear it.

ZACK

I'm not much of a singer.

DEWEY

Play it.

ZACK

BABY, WE WERE MAKIN' STRAIGHT A'S,
BUT WE WERE STUCK IN A DUMB DAZE.

ZACK (CONT'D)

DON'T TAKE MUCH TO MEMORIZE YOUR LIES--
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN HYPNOTIZED.

There is something wild and
exciting in the sound Zack is
making. The class is mesmerized.

DEWEY

It's great, Zack.

ZACK

You really like it?

DEWEY

I really like it because it's
really good. Lawrence! Freddy!
Katie! Rock positions, let's go.

The kids run to their instruments.

ZACK

Wait, what are you doing?

DEWEY

We're going to learn your song.

ZACK

Why?

DEWEY

That's what bands do. You got
lyrics?

Zack hands him a piece of paper.
The band figures out their
individual parts through the
following:

DEWEY (CONT'D)
 (scanning the sheet)
 Uh-huh. What are the chords?

23A. TEACHER'S PET (PART 2 - WITH THE BAND)

ZACK
 (demonstrating)
 D...C...G...C...
 BABY, WE WERE MAKIN' STRAIGHT A'S,
 BUT WE WERE STUCK IN A DUMB DAZE.

DEWEY
 I love this!

ZACK
 DON'T TAKE MUCH TO MEMORIZE YOUR LIES--
 FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN HYPNOTIZED.

AND IF YOU WANNA BE THE TEACHER'S PET,
 BABY, YOU JUST BETTER FORGET IT.

ROCK IS THE REASON,
 ROCK IS THE RHYME...

Dewey breaks off.

DEWEY
 If it's cool with the writer, can
 we try something? Rock got no
 reason, rock got no rhyme. Is that
 cool? Great! Freddy!
 (who is already at the
 drum kit)
 He's there, he's always there.
 Katie give me the face. Backup
 singers! we need some "ooh la
 la's", so like -
 (sings)
 OOH LA LA LA
 OOH LA LA LA
 AND MAKE UP SOME FUNKY DANCE MOVES
 (to Freddy)
 Let's take it from the chorus.
 Count me in!

FREDDY
 1..2..3!

The whole band kicks in as Dewey
 joins Zack.

ZACK & DEWEY	BACKUP GIRLS
AND IF YOU WANNA BE THE	OOH LA LA LA
TEACHER'S PET,	OOH LA LA LA
BABY YOU JUST BETTER FORGET	OOH LA LA LA
IT.	OOH LA LA LA
ZACK	BACKUP GIRLS (CONT'D)
ROCK GOT NO REASON, ROCK GOT	OOH LA LA LA
NO RHYME--	OOH LA LA LA
ZACK & DEWEY	BACKUP GIRLS (CONT'D)
YOU BETTER GET ME TO SCHOOL	OOH LA LA LA
ON TIME.	OOH LA LA LA
ZACK	BACKUP GIRLS (CONT'D)
AND IF YOU WANNA BE THE	OOH LA LA LA
TEACHER'S PET,	OOH LA LA LA
BABY YOU JUST BETTER FORGET	OOO LA LA LA
IT.	OOH LA LA LA
ROCK GOT NO REASON, ROCK GOT	OOH LA LA LA
NO RHYME--	OOH LA LA LA
YOU BETTER GET ME TO SCHOOL	OOOO-OOOOH!
ON TIME	

Dewey, overcome with excitement,
jumps in and begins to mouth a
guitar solo.

DEWEY
YOU BETTER GET ME TO SCHOOL ON
TIME...
Bow bow bow-bow etc.

As it reaches a crescendo...

ROSALIE
Mr Schneebly? *Mr Schneebly!* MR
SCHNEEBLY!

ROSALIE (CONT'D)
May I introduce you to the parents
of your class?

She steps back to admit the
parents.

Now they let him have it. Their
complaints overlap.

MR MOONEYHAM
What is with this music? Zack is
not a smart kid. He doesn't have
time to waste on music, music,
music.

(MORE)

MR MOONEYHAM (CONT'D)

He needs all the studying he can get! Now he says when he grows up he wants to be a musician!

DEWEY

I don't think that would be so -

But they are talking together and over each other, now.

MR WILLIAMS

Tomika's the same! I don't get it! Singing and listening and singing some more? But what's she learning?

MRS TURNER

Lawrence's head is stuffed with keyboards! He won't talk or think about anything else!

MRS HATHAWAY

Summer tells me they don't work! They never work! They just sit around and play music!

MARCY

Mr Schneebly, don't you think you should just tell them about the Battle of the Bands.

MR SPENCER

What Battle of the Bands?

DEWEY

OK OK. Everybody sit down, I will explain everything. Sit down in the chairs provided! Welcome to Parent's Night! Hello, I am Ned Schneebly, Mrs Dunham's substitute.

Before it hits the fan, there's something Dewey needs to say.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Look. Over the last few weeks I've gotten to know your kids. Your *kids*. Zack. You say that he isn't smart? Are you crazy? He's an incredible guitarist and mind. You should hear him play. He's the next Hendrix. Freddy and Katie can jam with the best of them.

(MORE)

DEWEY (CONT'D)

But more importantly, since they picked up these instruments, they have grown so much. I've seen it! They're great, great kids.

(to Mrs Turner)

You! You say Lawrence plays keyboards all day. Well why shouldn't he?! He's insane! He's going to go down in the rock record books. He is a sex god. Look at him!

Marcy and Shonelle have the voices of angels. I worship every note that comes out of their mouths. And Tomika? Tomika is a star. And don't even get me started on Summer. Summer will be the first woman President of the United States. She could run later this year and I'd vote for her.

The truth is, they are all really cool kids. If they were mine, I'd be so proud. I *am* proud.

Patty bursts into the room with Ned.

PATTY

He's an imposter!

DEWEY

Ned? *You told Patty?*

NED

She got it out of me. Sorry.

PATTY

Don't apologize!

NED

Sorry.

MRS TRAVIS

Who is this?

MR MOONEYHAM

What the hell is going on?

PATTY

I'll tell you what is going on. This is the real Ned Schneebly. And this loser is Dewey Finn! He is not even a teacher! *He can barely read!*

Dewey tries to address the
bewildered room.

DEWEY

OK. Let me speak, let me speak, let
me speak!

24. DEWEY'S CONFESSION

DEWEY (CONT'D)

ALL RIGHT, YES, I CONFESS,
THAT MY ACTUAL NAME IS DEWEY FINN.

MRS HATHAWAY

No!

DEWEY

YES INDEED.
AND ALTHOUGH YOU SHOULD KNOW
I'M NOT LICENSED TO TEACH,
I PROMISE YOU, I CAN READ.

MR WILLIAMS

Oh, my god!

DEWEY

BUT FORGET WHO OR WHAT I MIGHT HAPPEN TO BE--
THESE CHILDREN OF YOURS, THEY HAVE TRULY TOUCHED
ME.

AND I CAN ASSURE YOU,
I HAVE DEFINITELY TOUCHED THEM.

(a beat)

Well... most of them.

A stunned silence. Then the
parents turn on Rosalie. Dewey
flees.

PARENT GROUP 1

YOU!

PARENT GROUP 2

MY GOD IT'S TRUE!

PARENT GROUP 1

SHE HAD NO CLUE!

PARENT GROUP 2

WE'RE GONNA SUE!

ALL PARENTS

WHERE IS HE?

MR MOONEYHAM
He got away!

PATTY
THAT PILE OF EPIC FAIL...!

PARENT GROUP 1
HOW--

PARENT GROUP 2
WERE YOU ASLEEP?

PARENT GROUP 1
COULD YOU ALLOW--

PARENT GROUP 2
THAT LITTLE CREEP!

ALL PARENTS
HIM PAST?

Summer and the children conspire
and quickly leave the room.

NED
WHY DEWEY WHY?

PATTY
HIS ASS BELONGS IN JAIL!

ALL PARENTS
FIFTY THOUSAND BUCKS A YEAR!

MR SANDFORD
MY GOD...!

ALL PARENTS
HOW COULD HE HAVE HAPPENED HERE?

ROSALIE
Just calm down--

ALL PARENTS
NOW
YOU'LL TELL US HOW--
AND FAST!

ROSALIE
People, please!
(sings)
JUST CALM DOWN NOW, I IMPLORE YOU,
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE ALARMED--

ALL PARENTS
HERE AT HORACE GREEN...

ROSALIE
AND I HASTEN TO ASSURE YOU
THAT NO CHILDREN HERE WERE HARMED--

ALL PARENTS
A TOTAL OUTRAGE!

ROSALIE
WHILE THIS CRIMINAL INTRUSION'S
UNACCEPTABLE AT BEST--

ALL PARENTS
WE WANT ANSWERS!

ROSALIE
LET'S NOT JUMP TO QUICK CONCLUSIONS
TIL THE DAMAGE IS ASSESSED.

ALL PARENTS
HERE AT HORACE GREEN

ROSALIE	ALL PARENTS (CONT'D)
IF THERE'S ANYONE TO BLAME	JESUS IT'S OBSCENE,
HERE,	
THE FAULT'S COMPLETELY MINE--	WE'LL PULL OUR CHILDREN--
I AM WHY HE CAME HERE,	SEND THEM ELSEWHERE,
IF I MUST, THEN I'LL RESIGN.	SOMEWHERE WE CAN TRUST.
NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOUR	HERE AT HORACE GREEN
ATTENTION,	
I THINK WE CAN MOVE ON--	HOW COULD THIS
LISTEN!	HAPPEN--

Silence. Then...

ROSALIE
I'm sorry to inform you that all of
your children are missing!

The parents go wild as they run
off to look for their children. Ms
Mullins is left alone. Ms
Sheinkopf appears, calling.

SHEINKOPF
Ms Mullins! Ms Mullins, do you know
why the bus is in the parking lot?

Rosalie almost limps on exhausted.
She sinks against the wall.

ROSALIE

I have no idea. Where are the parents?

MS SHEINKOPF

Still panicking and screaming that their children were in danger.

ROSALIE

You think I've been a fool.

MS SHEINKOPF

If you're asking, I think you need to pull yourself together and take charge. You can do it. You're a strong woman and a good Principal, and I don't want to hear any more self doubt today.

Rosalie looks at her surprised.

MS SHEINKOPF (CONT'D)

Now, I'll see what I can do with the parents.

Rosalie nods and Sheinkopf leaves.
A child runs in.

MS SHEINKOPF (CONT'D)

No running!

She has spoken automatically and walked off. The child stops. It is Mason. He stares at Rosalie.

ROSALIE

Mason, where are the other children?

MASON

I can't stay! They're waiting! I forgot my computer and I'm running the lights from it!

ROSALIE

Wait. You are not going anywhere, Mason. What lighting? What computer? Keeping who waiting?

MASON

We've got the instruments but we have to pick up Mr Schneebly and then we'll compete in The Battle of the Bands!

He rattles this out, anxious to be gone.

ROSALIE

Mason, you do know he isn't really Mr Schneebly? He's Mr Finn.

MASON

What's the difference?

Rosalie is stumped. What is the difference?

MASON (CONT'D)

We're a good band, Ms Mullins. We've worked so hard for this show.

ROSALIE

But he's not who he says he is!

MASON

Who cares?! He taught us that rock can set us free. We can't fail him now!

A beat.

24A. ROS & MASON U/S

As she looks at him, Ms Sheinkopf's voice rings out.

MS SHEINKOPF (V.O.)

Ms Mullins, the parents are back and they're demanding a meeting *right now!*

Rosalie Mullins makes her decision.

ROSALIE

Go! I'll handle this.

Mason runs out of the room, but then he comes back and gives her a giant hug in gratitude.

MASON

You're the best, Ms Mullins!

The child has gone. She takes a deep breath and squares her shoulders as she opens the door.

The sound of shouting parents
fills the air as she strides out
to her fate...

8

SCENE EIGHT

8

THE APARTMENT - DEWEY'S BEDROOM

We are in Dewey's chaotic bedroom,
where Dewey sits with his head in
his hands. Patty comes in with
Ned.

PATTY

What are you doing here?

DEWEY

I don't have any other place to go.

PATTY

Yeah, well find a place.

DEWEY

Look, all I was -

Patty holds up her hand to silence
him.

PATTY

I don't want to hear anything you
have to say. I have never liked you
and now you bring this mess on to
our doorstep. Do you realize how
serious it is? We're talking about
children, Dewey! Young vulnerable
children!

DEWEY

But they were all -

PATTY

Don't you understand, you idiot?
This is fraud! You can go to
prison! What were you thinking?

DEWEY

I was just trying to pay the rent.

PATTY

Don't you dare blame us! You're
delusional! I don't even feel safe
with you around. You're sick! You
should get help!

NED

Patty. That's enough.

PATTY

(to Ned)

I'm going. And when I get back I want him out of here!

She leaves and they are alone.

NED

She's right, Dewey.

DEWEY

She's a pain.

NED

She may be a pain, but she's right. You've done some really messed up stuff, but this is unforgiveable. Did you ever think about me?

DEWEY

You're not involved.

NED

Oh, no? I could lose my teaching license, Dewey. My license, the apartment. This could screw up my entire life.

DEWEY

Ned, I am so sorry.

NED

It's too late for that. I want you to move out. Me. Go. It's over. I loved playing music with you. It was the best time of my life, but maybe some people aren't born to be rock stars. Did you ever think of that?

25. WHERE DID THE ROCK GO REPRISE

He leaves. A dejected Dewey stands and starts to take down his "Maggot Death" poster. Then, the door bursts open and Summer, Zack, Lawrence, Katie, Tomika and Freddy run in.

DEWEY

What are you doing here?

FREDDY

We've come to get you! The bus is
outside!

DEWEY

Listen. I'm a loser. Go back to
school.

ZACK

Yeah, yeah. Didn't you hear us? The
bus is outside! We've gotta go!

DEWEY

But -

SUMMER

Mr Schneebly, you can't give up
now.

DEWEY

Mr Schneebly?! I've lied to you! I
used you! And worst of all, I've
wasted your time! Just go back to
your lives. Just go.

The kids begin to protest but are
interrupted by Tomika:

22. IF ONLY YOU WOULD LISTEN (REPRISE).

TOMIKA

(sings)

I WAS LOST,
LOST AND IN PAIN...
SO MUCH HURT BOTTLED INSIDE.
ALL THE THINGS I SHOULD'VE SAID,
I JUST KEPT TRYING TO HIDE.
AND I THOUGHT NOBODY COULD,
BUT YOU... YOU UNDERSTOOD.

I NEEDED TO SHARE,
AND ONLY YOU WOULD LISTEN.
HOPED SOMEONE WOULD CARE,
AND ONLY YOU WOULD LISTEN.
YOU RAISED MY VOICE UP,
TAUGHT ME NOT TO FEAR.
I'VE LEARNED WHO I AM
BECAUSE YOU'RE HERE.

LOOK AROUND--
SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE?
CAN'T YOU TELL HOW YOU CAME THROUGH
AND NOW YOU, YOU NEED SOMEONE
SO LET US BE THERE FOR YOU.

DON'T YOU KNOW, WE'LL UNDERSTAND.
BECAUSE YOU'RE, YOU'RE IN THE BAND.

LAW/TOM/FRED/ZACK/SUM

WE WANT YOU TO STAY.
IF ONLY YOU WOULD LISTEN!
WE NEED YOU TO PLAY,
IF ONLY YOU WOULD LISTEN!
NOW THAT WE'VE FOUND YOU,
YOU CAN'T JUST DISAPPEAR!
SCHOOL WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU HERE!

SUMMER

I NEEDED RESPECT.
AND ONLY YOU WOULD LISTEN.

FREDDY

I NEEDED A CHANCE.
ONLY YOU WOULD LISTEN.

ZACK

I COULDN'T CONNECT.
AND ONLY YOU WOULD LISTEN.

LAWRENCE & KATIE

JUST WANTED ONE GLANCE.
ONLY YOU.

TOMIKA

YOU GAVE US VOICES.
HELPED US MAKE THEM CLEAR.

TOMIKA (CONT'D)

YOU GAVE US VOICES

KIDS

YOU GAVE US VOICES

ALL KIDS

HELPED US MAKE THEM CLEAR.

TOMIKA

YOU'VE TAUGHT US SO MUCH
SINCE YOU'VE BEEN HERE.

FRED/SUM/ZACK/LAW

YOU'VE TAUGHT US SO MUCH
SINCE YOU'VE BEEN HERE.

DEWEY

I can't.

Outside the window we hear the
voices of the other children.

OTHER CHILDREN (OFF)

WHEN THE WORLD HAS SCREWED YOU
AND CRUSHED YOU WITH ITS FIST.

DEWEY

What's that?

OTHER CHILDREN (OFF)

WHEN THE WAY YOU'RE TREATED
HAS GOT YOU GOOD AND PISSED

SUMMER

Your students.

ALL STUDENTS

THERE'S BEEN ONE SOLUTION
SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN--
DON'T JUST SIT AND TAKE IT,

ALL KIDS

Mr Schneebly! Come on! etc.

A beat. Dewey lets that sink in.
Then buying in:

DEWEY

STICK IT TO THE MAN!

TOMIKA

RANT AND RAVE -

SUMMER

AND SCREAM AND SHOUT -

FREDDY

GET ALL OF YOUR AGGRESSION OUT -

KATIE

THEY TRY TO STOP YOU -

ZACK

LET 'EM KNOW -

LAWRENCE

EXACTLY WHERE THEY ALL CAN GO -

ALL KIDS

DO EVERYTHING THEY EVER TRIED TO BAN -
AND TELL THEM WHERE TO STICK THEIR BORING PLAN
AND DO IT JUST AS LOUDLY AS YOU CAN!

Dewey is moved and galvanized by
their support.

DEWEY

Yes! And we shall teach rock to the
world!

Lawrence finds Dewey's guitar and
presents it to Dewey, who puts it
on.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN STOP
THE SCHOOL OF ROCK!

(speaks)
Now get to the bus.

The kids cheer and exit. Suddenly,
Patty hurries in.

PATTY
There is a bus full of singing kids
blocking the driveway! What is
going on?

Ned has joined her in the doorway.

DEWEY
I'll tell you what is going on! I'm
going to the Battle of the Bands
and you can't stop me!

He rushes out past Patty.

PATTY
Aren't you going to do something?
This is so par for the course! You
never stand up to him. etc.

She continues to berate Ned, until
it becomes too much for him to
take.

NED
SHUT UP!! I'm going to the show!

He has gone, slamming the door in
her face. A rock riff fills the
theatre.

9

SCENE NINE

9

THE PALACE THEATRE - ONSTAGE

The curtain opens. We are at the
Battle of the Bands at the Palace
Theatre.

NO VACANCY performs *I'M TOO HOT
FOR YOU.*

27. I'M TOO HOT FOR YOU

JEFF SANDERSON (O.S.)
 And now the Battle of the Bands
 welcomes to the stage... "No
 Vacancy!"

THEO
 BABY DON'T FEEL SORRY.
 I KNOW HOW HARD YOU TRIED
 I GUESS SOME THINGS THEY JUST
 AIN'T MEANT TO BE.
 YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT HAPPENED
 JUST LOOK ME IN THE EYE:
 FACE IT BABE THE ANSWER'S PLAIN TO SEE

THEO (CONT'D)
 I'M TOO HOT FOR YOU

THEO, DOUG, BOB, SNAKE
 I KNOW IT'S SO UNFAIR

THEO
 I'M TOO HOT FOR YOU
 AND YOU'RE JUST KINDA

THEO, DOUG, BOB, SNAKE
 THERE

THEO
 THOUGHT YOU'D PASS THE TEST
 BUT YOU'RE A 6 AT BEST
 I'M TOO HOT FOR YOU
 SO WE AIN'T GOT A PRAYER.

NO VACANCY continues to perform as
 the class enters with instruments.
 We transition backstage.

THE PALACE THEATRE - BACKSTAGE

Jeff Sanderson arrives.

JEFF
 You're late.

DEWEY
 We're late but we're here and the
 show isn't over.

JEFF
 You're on next. Be ready.

He walks off. Summer reads from
 her clipboard.

SUMMER

Lights?

MASON

All set when I connect to the main board.

SUMMER

Go. Hair, make up, costumes.

BILLY

Nearly there. Just some touch ups.

DEWEY

OK, now listen up. We only have one song to show them who we are, and I think it should be Zack's.

ZACK

What about your song?

DEWEY

You don't get it. You're better than me, Zack. You're ten years old and you're better than me.

FREDDY

But we don't know it. Not like we know your song.

LAWRENCE

If we play it, we may not win.

ALL KIDS

Yeah Mr Schneebly! We won't win!
Etc.

DEWEY

We're not here to win. We're here to rock! Right. Tomika, you're singing the solo. Now. Are you with me?

KIDS

Yeah!

He sticks out his hand and, one by one, they put in theirs.

DEWEY

Let us pray. Bow your heads! God of Rock, thank you for the chance to kick ass.

(MORE)

DEWEY (CONT'D)

We are your humble servants, but
can you please give us the strength
to blow their freakin' minds. Amen.

KIDS

AMEN!

DEWEY

Now let's rock.

KIDS

WOOO!

BILLY

(remembering)
Mr Schneebly!

DEWEY

Dude, it's Dewey.

BILLY

Whatever. I almost forgot. This is
your costume.

DEWEY

I don't understand.

BILLY

Just put it on!

Dewey takes it and leaves as a
group of parents arrive, trying to
push on to the stage but blocked
by security guards.

MR MOONEYHAM

Zack! Get over here!

Zack, Tomika, Summer and Lawrence
come hurrying across.

SECURITY GUARD 1

Sir, stand back! You cannot come
through here without a pass.

MR MOONEYHAM

That's my son! What are you doing
with that man?

ZACK

That man? You mean the man who made
me feel I could achieve something?

Now Tomika is being dressed down.

MR WILLIAMS

Why here? Why now?

TOMIKA

Because I'm part of the class for
the first time!

LAWRENCE

Mom, I never felt cool before! But
I'm in a real band! I'm one of the
cool kids!

MRS HATHAWAY

Summer! Make them let us in!

SECURITY GUARD 2

You want to get in, you have to get
a ticket.

MR WARD

The hell with this! Let's try
around the front!

MR SPENCER

I'm calling her therapist.

MR WILLIAMS

I'll do it. I've got her on speed
dial.

The other parents run out, leaving
only the defiant Mooneyham,
boiling with rage. He points at
his son.

MR MOONEYHAM

Zack, I'm warning you -

ZACK

You don't get it, Dad. For once in
your life, open your ears and
listen! This is for us! For the
kids! And you're not taking it
away!

SECURITY GUARD 1

Front entrance, sir.

JEFF SANDERSON (O.S.)

And now, ladies and gentlemen...

The kids run to the stage, which is revolving to reveal Dewey in a schoolboy outfit. The kids take their positions.

THE PALACE THEATRE - ONSTAGE

JEFF SANDERSON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
THE SCHOOL OF ROCK!

The first notes ring out.

At this moment some of the parents storm down the aisle, led by Messrs. Spencer-Williams.

28. SCHOOL OF ROCK (THE COMPETITION)

DEWEY
We are the School of Rock, and this song was written by our lead guitarist, Zack Mooneyham!

MOONEYHAM
(quieting the other parents)
Zack?!

Zack looks to his father and begins playing his song defiantly.

DEWEY
BABY, WE WERE MAKIN' STRAIGHT A'S,
BUT WE WERE STUCK IN A DUMB DAZE.
DON'T TAKE MUCH TO MEMORIZE YOUR LIES--
I FEEL LIKE I BEEN HYPNOTICIZED.

AND THEN THAT MAGIC MAN, HE CAME TO TOWN--
WOO-EEE! HE DONE SPUN MY HEAD AROUND.
HE SAID RECESS IS IN SESSION,
TWO AND TWO MAKE FIVE
AND NOW, BABY, OH, I'M ALIVE...
OH YEAH, I AM ALIVE!

DEWEY (CONT'D)	BACKUP SINGERS
AND IF YOU WANNA BE THE	OOH LA LA LA
TEACHER'S PET,	OOH LA LA LA
BABY, YOU JUST BETTER FORGET	OOH LA LA LA
IT!	
ROCK GOT NO REASON,	OOH LA LA LA
ROCK GOT NO RHYME--	OOH LA LA LA
YOU BETTER GET ME TO SCHOOL	OOH LA LA LA
ON TIME.	OOH YEAH!

Dewey takes his long-awaited guitar solo. He's in ecstasy. As he finishes...

TOMIKA

OH, YOU KNOW I WAS ON AN HONOR ROLL--
GOT GOOD GRADES, AND GOT NO SOUL.
RAISE MY HAND BEFORE I COULD SPEAK MY MIND.
I BEEN BITING MY TONGUE TOO MANY TIMES.

DEWEY

AND THEN THAT MAGIC MAN SAID TO OBEY--

TOMIKA

UH-HUH!

DEWEY

DO WHAT MAGIC MAN DO,
NOT WHAT MAGIC MAN SAY.

TOMIKA

SAY WHAT?

DEWEY

NOW CAN I PLEASE HAVE THE ATTENTION OF THE
CLASS?

(speaks)

Today's ASSignment...?

KATIE/ZACK/MARCY/SHON/TOMIKA

KICK SOME ASS!

DEWEY

AND IF YOU WANNA BE THE
TEACHER'S PET,
BABY, YOU JUST BETTER FORGET
IT!

BACKUP SINGERS

OOH LA LA LA
OOH LA LA LA
OOH LA LA LA
OOH LA LA LA

ROCK GOT NO REASON,
ROCK GOT NO RHYME--
YOU BETTER GET ME TO SCHOOL
ON TIME.

OOH LA LA LA
OOH LA LA LA
OOH LA LA LA
OOH LA LA LA

DEWEY

AND IF YOU WANNA BE THE
TEACHER'S PET,
BABY, YOU JUST BETTER FORGET
IT!

BACKUP SINGERS (CONT'D)

OOH LA LA LA
OOH LA LA LA
OOH LA LA LA
OOH LA LA LA

DEWEY

ROCK GOT NO REASON,
ROCK GOT NO RHYME--

BACKUP GIRLS

OOH LA LA LA
OOH LA LA LA

MOONEYHAM

Zack. Come here.

ZACK

Are you mad at me?

MOONEYHAM

Mad? I love you, son. And I have never been more proud.

The two hug. Ned enters dressed like a satanic sex God.

NED

Dewey!

DEWEY

Ned?!

NED

Dewey! That was awesome.

DEWEY

You look incredible!

NED

Dewey. You did it!

DEWEY

It was all them.

NED

Say it with me!

(chanting)

MAGGOT DEATH MANIA, MAGGOT DEATH MANIA! MAGGOT DEATH, etc.

The two men celebrate as Rosalie joins them.

DEWEY

Hold on. I have to deal with something real quick.

(to Rosalie)

Hi. They came to my house...

Patty runs in with a policeman.

PATTY

There he is! That's the man! Take him!

The parents have now noticed what is happening. They gather round.

MOONEYHAM

Is there a problem, officer?

POLICEMAN

Sir, I'm going to need you to come with me.

PARENTS

What do you mean? This man has been the best teacher our kids have ever known, etc.

POLICEMAN

Ma'am? It has been reported that this teacher --

PATTY

Teacher? He's not a teacher at all!

ROSALIE

No, he's not a teacher.

What is she going to say?

ROSALIE (CONT'D)

Mr Finn is our music coach and he is fully qualified for that.

PARENTS

Absolutely! Just as qualified as a man can be! The best music coach you'll ever hear!

The policeman knows he is beaten.

POLICEMAN

It seems there's been a mistake, ma'am.

PATTY

Now wait a minute --

POLICEMAN

Think twice before you waste police time.

He exits.

NED

Give it up, Patty. It's over.

PATTY

Ned!

She turns to give him a tongue-lashing, but then she sees him in his rock gear, and...

PATTY (CONT'D)

(she melts)

Ned...

NED

Forget Applebee's, I'm taking you to Red Lobster.

She takes his arm. They move off.

DEWEY

You didn't really mean that? About the music coach.

ROSALIE

I don't know. Let's try it. Coaching after class. Because I'll tell you this, Dewey Finn: I have never felt so cool in my life.

She kisses him.

JEFF SANDERSON (O.S.)

And tonight's winner of the twenty thousand dollar first prize is... No Vacancy!

The parents are furious.

MRS TRAVIS

What?

MRS WILLIAMS

That's disgraceful!

MR MOONEYHAM

I demand a recount!

Together they start to shout:

PARENTS

School of Rock! School of Rock!

The children remain, dejected.

DEWEY

Hey guys. Get over here. Listen up. No. *Listen*. They're calling our name. That's what we came here for. That's rock and roll.

(MORE)

DEWEY (CONT'D)

And remember, *no real rock star
ever won anything!* I'm proud of you
guys, we did it.

JEFF SANDERSON (O.S.)

Ok Ok. By popular demand, please
welcome back to the stage, The
School of Rock!

THE PALACE THEATRE - ONSTAGE

29. STICK IT TO THE MAN (COMPETITION ENCORE)

ALL KIDS & DEWEY

WHEN THE WORLD HAS SCREWED YOU
AND CRUSHED YOU IN ITS FIST,
WHEN THE WAY YOU'RE TREATED
HAS GOT YOU GOOD AND PISSED,
THERE'S BEEN ONE SOLUTION
SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN--
DON'T JUST SIT AND TAKE IT,
STICK IT TO THE MAN!

RANT AND RAVE
AND SCREAM AND SHOUT
GET ALL OF YOUR AGGRESSION OUT
THEY TRY TO STOP YOU,
LET 'EM KNOW
EXACTLY WHERE THEY ALL CAN GO--
AND DO IT JUST AS LOUDLY AS YOU CAN--
STICK IT TO THE MAN!

DEWEY

One more time, it's Mr. Zack
Mooneyham!

Zack Guitar Solo - 8 Bars

DEWEY (CONT'D)

And on keys, it's Lawrence Turner!

Lawrence Keyboard Solo - 8 Bars

DEWEY (CONT'D)

And the duchess of destruction -
Katie Travis on the bass!

Katie Bass Solo - 4 Bars

DEWEY (CONT'D)

And on drums, it's Freddy Hamilton!

Freddy Drum Solo - 8 Bars

DEWEY & KIDS
WHEN THE WORLD HAS SCREWED YOU
AND CRUSHED YOU IN ITS FIST,
WHEN THE WAY YOU'RE TREATED
HAS GOT YOU GOOD AND PISSED--

RANT AND RAVE
AND SCREAM AND SHOUT,
AND STICK YOUR MIDDLE FINGER OUT
AND WRECK YOUR ROOM
AND RIP YOUR JEANS
AND SHOW 'EM WHAT REBELLION MEANS

DEWEY
DO EVERYTHING THEY EVER TRIED TO BAN

ALL KIDS
Yeah!

DEWEY
AND TELL THEM WHERE TO STICK THEIR BORING PLAN!

KIDS
Yeah!

DEWEY
AND DO IT JUST AS LOUDLY AS YOU CAN!

DEWEY & KIDS
STICK IT TO THE MAN!
STICK IT TO THE MAN!
STICK IT TO THE MAN!
STICK IT TO THE MAN!

DEWEY
(to audience)
Alright, are you having a good
time?

KIDS & AUDIENCE
Yeah!

DEWEY
Now, are you having a great time?!!

KIDS & AUDIENCE
Yeah!!!

30. YOU'RE IN THE BAND (CURTAIN CALL)

DEWEY
Well good then. Let's close this
sucker out. I want to introduce
some very special people.
(MORE)

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Ladies and Gentlemen please put
your hands together for the parents
and teachers of Horace Green Prep.

Adult Ensemble enters for Bow.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

And we mustn't forget the children,
the demon rascals of Horace Green
Prep!

All Kids except for Band Members,
Tomika, Summer, and Billy bow.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

And Now my stylist, our band
manager, and miss thang herself!
*ACTOR'S NAME (Billy), ACTOR'S NAME
(Summer), ACTOR'S NAME (Tomika)!*

DEWEY (CONT'D)

And now I want to introduce you to
my band. On Bass and playing Katie,
it's *ACTOR'S NAME!*

Katie enters for bow.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

On Keys and playing Lawrence,
ACTOR'S NAME!

Lawrence enters for bow.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

On Drums and playing Freddy, it's
ACTOR'S NAME!

Freddy takes a bow.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

And on Lead Guitar and playing
Zack, it's *ACTOR'S NAME!*

Zack takes a bow.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Ladies and Gentlemen, playing live
all night long - I give you my
band!

Band Bows.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

And now, the peanut butter to my
jelly, my best friend Ned
Schneebly, played by *ACTOR'S NAME!*

Ned takes a bow.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

And playing his fabulous girlfriend
Patty, played by the equally
fabulous *ACTOR'S NAME!*

Patty takes a bow.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

And now, the Queen of the Night
herself. Principal of Horace Green.
It's Rosalie Mullins, played by
ACTOR'S NAME!

31. QUEEN OF THE NIGHT (ROCK VERSION)

ROSALIE

AHHH

DEWEY

BA DA BUP BUP BUP BUP BUP BUP BUP BAAAH!

ROSALIE

AHHH
MEINE TOCHTER NIMMER MEHR.

DEWEY

BA DA BUP BUP BUP BUP BUP BUP BUP BAAAH!

ALL

AHHH

ROSALIE

And now, the rock god of my heart
and yours, playing Dewey Finn it's
ACTOR'S NAME!

THE CURTAIN FALLS. THE END.

31. PLAYOUT