

SEASIDE PLAY DRAFT SCENARIO as at 2.5.97

SONG

JOLLY GOOD COMPANY BESIDE THE SEA

Cheery faces, happy smiles, look at them everywhere
If the sun shines if it rains
Well, what do we really care?
See the boys and girls, all come out to play
That's the stuff to give the troops
It's all O.K.

It isn't the sea that makes your holiday gay
It isn't the sun that drives your worries away
It isn't the stars at night, or the pale moonlight
It's the jolly good company beside the sea

It isn't the band that plays those twiddly bits
Makes you feel as happy as can be
It's the whoops-a-daisy, pleased to meet you, here we are again,
Jolly good company beside the sea

SCENES

GETTING UP IN THE MORNING

GROUPS getting ready all at once and then one at a time while Olive plays "Sun has got his hat on" twice through quietly underneath:

Lilian: My mum got up very early to make the sandwiches because we were going on a day trip to the seaside. This is the way she cut the bread. she had a big fat tummy. There was a lot of us so she had a lot to make. And all of us wanted different kinds of sandwiches, One wanted jams...she always had sticky fingers, one wanted egg and I only wanted liver sausage so all the liver sausage sandwiches were just for me. And she wrapped them all up in brown paper and we each had our own little parcel.

Lil: I wore plimsolls with a strap across here and a little bar coming over here. They were whitened with Blanco over night so they'd be dry for the morning.

Mum: You just keep them clean Lilly.

Lil: Yes Mum. But of course by the time you'd walked around a bit or someone'd stepped on your toes they were dirty again.

Kitty: In the morning we'd get all excited and we'd shout: Where's our buckets and spades? Where are they? We couldn't find them.

Hilda as Mum: They're over in the corner. And tie your sister's laces before we go.

Anne: Oh Mum I wanna go to the lavvy.

Hilda: Well be quick then. Get down the garden. We'll be late.

Ralph: I remember as a lad in short trousers waiting at the kerb for the coach to come along, the East Kent Motor Coach Company. We'd got two great big suitcases with all our things in (cos we were going off for two weeks to Ramsgate). I was a bit naughty. I used to pretend to jump out into the middle of the road...because the coach had such a lovely sounding horn. It used to go "trumpet sound"

Barbara: We had this old car and it was terrible for going up hills. My mother was always the driver - she was a terrible driver - my father never drove, and we always used to sit in the back of the car thinking "Is it going to go? Is it going to get up the hill?" And of course it would stop and we all had to get out and push. It was a nightmare. *(Ralph and Joan help Barbara to push car up hill to song)*

All: You've got to get under
Get out and get under
To fix up the automobile

Joan: Every year we had a big event, a wonderful piece of luxury. My grandmother *(Lilian steps forward)* was terribly travel sick *(Lilian is!)* so she refused to go to the seaside in a charabanc. Instead, once a year she would hire a chauffeur-driven car to take us to the seaside. Charlie was the chauffeur *(Ralph as chauffeur in peaked hat opens door for them)* and he arrived at the front door to pick us up. He treated us exactly like royalty. My grandmother got in like a duchess. I would be beside myself with excitement. *(Joan jumps from foot to foot)* and I got in beside her and off we went to the seaside.

Joyce: We used to go on Sunday School trips to Southend on the steamer. We had to go all the way from Eltham to Woolwich and across the Ferry over to North Woolwich Pier. We'd all do our selves up and wear all our smartest clothes.

Eileen: Hallo Joyce, ooh you do look nice. Look at your hair.

Joyce: I had my hair waved and a little slide in it at the side. "Have you got your ticket?"

Eileen:*(she feels in her pockets and then remembers)* Oh no. I've left it at home on the mantelpiece.

Joyce: Oh no, you'd better go home for it quick.

Eileen: Ooh ... *(swimming off)*

Joyce: She had to go all the way back the way we'd come across the river on the ferry. And then back again and I was so nervous because I thought she wouldn't make it in time.

Eileen: *(breathless)* I'm here, I'm here..

Joyce: But she did and off we went. *(They both wave)*

Hilda: We would all get up early because we had to get this train cos it was an excursion train and the fare was half price. And if you missed the train you couldn't afford to go. Come on everybody. Quick. Let's get to the platform.

WHOLE GROUP SING AS THEY GATHER ON PLATFORM

The sun has got his hat on
Hip hip hip hooray
The sun has got his hat on and he's coming out to play
(wave to each other, etc)
Let us all be happy

let us all be gay
The sun has got his hat on and he's coming out to play

- everybody stands in a line, waiting for the train and looking right.

Ralph: The train now standing at Platform 5 is the 9.15 to Margate:

- steam engine sound and hoots and whistles.

To reprise of "Sun has got his hat on" on piano, everyone steps in the train (*2 groups in 2 compartments*)

Quick get a seat

Pull the blinds down

Ah look at the baby...put him in the rack

I want to go to the toilet....you should have gone before you came

Where's my comic?

Sit down and be quiet

WHISTLE

SONG AS CAST SPREAD OUT INTO 2s IN WINDOWS

Let us all be happy

let us all be gay

The sun has got his hat on and he's coming out to play

- 2 travellers look out of each window and describe what they see:

Eileen: The country starts here. I think it's time we had our sandwiches.

James: Ooh yes. An egg one.

Joyce: Look at all that steam. You've got smuts all over your face. Put the window up.

Kitty: Look Anne The cows are lying down. That means it's going to rain. (*All moo!*)

Lilian: Look at the little church. (*Ding-dong*)

Ralph: Look at the sheep.

Penny: Ah the little lambs...look at that. (*All bleat!*)

Joan: Are we nearly there?

Barbara: Oh look! THE SEA!

All step out of carriage singing:

SONG

OH I do like to be beside the seaside

Oh I do like to be beside the sea

Oh I do like to stroll along the prom, prom , prom

(*All step back playing instruments*)

Where the brass band plays, tiddly om pom pom

Eileen: The first time I saw the Sea it was just one long line of blue.. the sky and the sea all merged in one big sweep of blue.

Joyce: When I was little I had a picture in my book at home, a fictitious seaside called Winkleton-on -Sea and it was blue sky, blue sea, golden sands and seagulls. But my first view of the sea at Southend was brown mud and it was freezing cold.

Joan: I remember being frightened because the sea was so rough. It was high tide and was splashing over the promenade. Waves higher than I was.

Penny: The first time I saw the sea was at Blackpool and I remember the miles and miles of golden sands.

Oh I do like to be beside the seaside
Oh I do like to be beside the sea
There are lots of girls besides
I would like to be beside
Beside the seaside, beside the sea.

ON THE BEACH

five at a time mime being on the beach doing things followed by 2nd five while Olive plays underneath

- building sandcastles
- walking on pebbles/stones
- lifting their pants while walking in the water
- keeping their children together
- putting on swimming costumes
- paddling/ swimming, etc

Everybody steps back except Lilian

Lilian: I had these sisters and as soon as they saw the sea they wanted to run and I kept saying: "Stay with me, stay with me!" The thing is I had four sisters. It's very hard to control four, I could control two easy but four was quite something. My Mum just sat back in the deck chair.

Joyce: First time I ever went on holiday to the sea I was 17 and went with my friend Rene to stay with my great aunts. (*Use Eileen as friend, with much exaggerated shivering*) It was freezing. It was just about Easter time, but it didn't matter how cold it was, we had to go in the sea. We met these boys on the beach
(*Nathan and James come and chat beside them.*)

Nathan / James: There they are! Hello girls!

(*They try to wriggle into costumes*)

Joyce: And it was really difficult to get changed into our swimming costumes. We had to change on the beach, so we put a towel around us, (*much giggling*) and we were shivering and freezing but we had to make sure we've got our costumes on so we could go into the sea and show off.

James: Nice costumes!

Nathan Let's get them (*all get into the sea - the boys splash the girls. Girls run back*)

Joan: Grandmother and I duly arrived at the seaside and Charlie the chauffeur opened the door (*he does so*) and we got out (*they do so*) and then he got us a deck chair each on the pier (*he does so*) and then he said: "Would you like an ice cream?" And we had an ice cream each. (*he gives them one each*) And then he got a newspaper for grandma and a comic for me. (*He gives them one each*) Well, I've never been treated so well in all my life!

Eileen: I stayed in a "Bed and Breakfast" in Ramsgate with my mother and in the morning we had a breakfast in our room but we didn't always eat it all. And my mother used to say: "Don't let that bread go to waste, we'll take that with us - we've paid for it!" And we had it later on the beach.

Anne: I remember me and my sister Alice making sandcastles on the beach. (Olive steps in) We bought a packet of flags and decorated them all round.

Olive: We were always hoping to win the competition. They looked so nice. We used to stay there looking at them till the sea came in and washed them all away. What a shame.

All: Ahhhh!

Kitty: I can remember the Punch and Judy. We was all sitting around waiting for it to come on.... and the girls and boys fighting while we were waiting. And then you heard :
"Is everybody happy ?" And we all shouted:

All: Yes!

Lilian: If you wanted tea when you were on the beach you went to a little kiosk and ordered a pot of tea for four and you were given a tray with the tea things on. You had to leave 2/6 deposit and it was refund when you returned the tray That way they never lost any crocks.

Penny: I remember buying an ice cream on the beach from this old man with a barrow and the ice cream was lovely. I can remember.

Ralph: One of the main things I remember about the Promenade were these photographers that appeared from nowhere and had that magic thing of being able to walk backwards and take photographs. If you were interested they gave you a ticket and they said, "Right, now I'll take a proper one just to make sure it's good." He would than take a real photograph. And then he said: "Right in twenty minutes it will be ready. Down at the kiosk at the end of the pier."

Joyce: Shall we all go on the pier?

All: Yes! Let's go!

Joyce: Got your penny ready for the turnstile.

AT THE FUN FAIR

Half queue up at the turn-style and half become stall holders miming calling over customers

LUCKY ME SONG

Lucky lucky lucky me, I'm a lucky son of a gun
I work eight hours and I sleep eight hours
And that leaves eight hours for fun

The stall holders stand in one line and shout out their attractions in turn:

Ralph: Try your skill with a rifle. Three shots for sixpence.
Joan: Hoopla! Hoopla! Three rings for tuppence.
Eileen: Come on try your luck. Everyone's a winner!
Hilda: Do you want your fortune told dearie? You've got a lucky face.
Barbara: Come on. Come and try your luck. Three darts a penny. Come on!

All together stall holders shout at once

Then customers come through turnstile and decide where to go.

Crowd visit the stalls.

Nathan: Buy some candy floss.
James: Come here, buy your toffee apples

All change to another stall.

*They all win prizes:
Winners walk forward with prizes*

Joyce: Look! I've won a windmill all different colours. (*Holds up imaginary windmill and blows*)
Penny: I've got a celluloid dolly with feathers
Anne: I've won a goldfish in a jam jar
Kitty: So did I.
Lil: I had my fortune told and I'm going to have four daughters.
Lilian: I've got a lovely cuddly teddy.

Stall holders step forward to join them and all sing.

LUCKY ME SONG REPEAT

Lucky lucky lucky me, I'm a lucky son of a gun
I work eight hours and I sleep eight hours
And that leaves eight hours for fun

TALENT CONTEST

Hilda: Come on everyone. There's a talent contest at the end of the pier. Let's go and have a look.

Everyone: Yeah.

Kitty: I remember being in a talent contest on the pier at Southend. I was about twelve years old. I did tap dancing.

Olive plays first verse of "Ain't she sweet" and Kitty tap dances

Kitty: Sometimes you'd get a couple of fellas singing. It was lovely.

James and Nathan sing while Kitty dances and then all join in the song.

SONG

Ain't she sweet? Walking down the street
Now I ask you very confidentially, Ain't she sweet?
Ain't she nice? Look her over once or twice.
Now I ask you very confidentially, Ain't she nice?

Just cast your eyes in her direction
Oh me oh my, ain't she perfection
I repeat, Don't you think she's kind of neat
Now I ask you very confidentially, Ain't she sweet?

LOVE STORIES

Nathan next to Eileen - James next to Joyce

Joyce: I remember going to Clacton with my friend in about 1937. We were about 17. There were two boys we met down there (*Boys link arms with Joyce and Eileen*) They were camping at Butlins Holiday Camp which had just opened. My friend always said:

Eileen: Why do you always get the good looking one and I get the funny one?"

Joyce: Of course we got to know them and they asked us to go to the fun fair with them in the evening. We went on the bumper cars (*They separate into 2 bumper cars and then ram each other with much screaming. Then we went in the Tunnel of Love (In 2s pass along the front slowly arms round, etc)*)

All: Mmmh.

Joyce: And we had a wonderful time. It was really our first holiday romance.

Barbara: I was on holiday at Birchington and I was about 14 and rather precocious. And I really fancied this boy who used to walk along the prom in riding breeches. He was very dark and handsome and I thought he was just the cat's whiskers. I drove my sister mad because I could talk of nothing but this boy. (*To Joan*) Oh I really want to meet him.

Joan: Oh no not again. That's all you've been talking about this holiday.

Barbara: I know but I can't help it. I fancy him to death. In the end she went up to him and said:

Joan: (*goes up to young man*) I know you don't know me, but my sister, well she admires you enormously and she really wants to meet you. If you go up to the cliffs tonight at 6 o'clock she'll be waiting for you.

Billy: Oh right.

Joan: He's going to meet you.

Barbara: So I went up there and waited. I was so excited. Hello. I'm Barbara.

Billy: Hello Barbara. I'm Billy Levy. I gathered you wanted to meet me.

Barbara: Yes I do. Well we had a little chat and he put his arms round me and he was just about to give me a kiss (*FREEZE ACTION*) when suddenly (*HE SLIPS AWAY*) he slipped and disappeared down the cliff. I was so disappointed. I thought, well I might as well not bother.

Ralph: I remember staying at a guesthouse at Margate and there were three or four families staying there and we used to sit round a big table at mealtimes and there was a very attractive young lady there. During the week we got to know each other rather well (*Young man and girl hold hands in front*) and we decided we'd have a night out at Dreamland Fun Fair. The rule of the house was that you had to be back by eleven o'clock when they locked the door. We came back and we waited by the gate (*He looks at his watch. They cuddle*) at about 3 or 4 minutes to eleven and we started to kiss and cuddle. The next time I looked at the time it was about 20 past 11 (*They try the door*) and the door was locked.

Boy: "What do we do now?"

Girl: "We'd better ring the bell."

Ralph: Well we pressed the bell (*Very loud bell here and it stays on*) and it stuck and it was a really loud bell. And it woke up the whole neighbourhood. Everyone was looking out of the window, shouting:

All: (*getting up and opening the windows and shouting out loud:*) "What's going on?"

Ralph: We tried to get the bell out, but we couldn't and the landlady came down very gruff and said:

Anne: What kind of time do you call this? What a liberty! Young people today, I don't know.

Hilda: I remember meeting a smashing fella in a pub at Southend. He bought me a drink and we sat at a table and he was stroking my hair like this and he never took his eyes off me. And there was a band playing, a little trio, "Again...This mustn't happen again." Then we sat on the beach and watched the moonlight. Then I had to hurry off and get the steamer home. Never saw him again.

Eileen: Come on everyone, or we'll miss the boat!

Joyce and Eileen in front, but every one singing with them while they mime packing up.

WE'VE HAD A LUVERLY DAY TODAY

We've had a luvverly day today
We've had a luvverly day today
We don't know where we've been
We don't know what we've seen
We don't know whether we've had it out
Or whether we've had it in

*Ralph and James move into middle to collect tickets and rest pass through in 2s.
Everyone gets on boat giving tickets to Captain and James and finding a place on the boat
Joyce and Eileen last on. All wave at shore.*

We've had a luvverly day today
Take your umberella with you
John, John, John, John
Rain, rain go away
Come again another day
We've had a luvverly day today

Everyone boards boat singing "Luvverly Day" as they get on.

Ralph: *(over the song and very loud)* All aboard. Let's have your tickets for the steamer.
Tickets please.

Joyce: I bet Tony's enjoying this. Where is he?

Eileen: Ain't he with you?

Joyce: No, I thought he was with you.

Eileen: Oh poor little boy. He's only four years old. He'll be crying his eyes out.

Joyce: Well you were supposed to be looking after him.

Eileen: Oh my gawd, fancy leaving him behind. What are we going to do now?

Joyce: We'd better tell the captain.

Eileen: 'Ere Captain *(to Ralph)* We've left our little boy behind on the pier.

Captain: I'm sorry. I can't do anything about it now. You'll have to wait till we get up to London and notify the Port of London Authority.

Eileen: We can't leave him behind. he's only four years old. My old man'll kill me. Well, we had to wait till we got back to Tower Pier and the police brought him home in a police car. He had the time of his life.

Kitty: I remember there was a live band on the ship and everyone was dancing.
It was a bit squashed, but we had a lovely time.

Everyone dances to "Don't Blame Me" and sings along, with quite a lot of banging into each other and saying "sorry".

Everyone yawns and all spread out along the boat and go to sleep on each other's shoulders like little kids.

Lilian: All the little kids on the boat were exhausted. They'd had a lovely day but they were all worn out. They'd all be asleep on the benches. Poor little mites. They'd sleep through everything.

Joyce: The kids were tired, but the grownups weren't. We'd all been in the bar and had a drink or two. So we sang all the way home.

SONG: JOLLY GOOD COMPANY
ENCORE: CHARABANC SONG