Everyday

A Musical

Story by Michael Claude Caswell

Music by Slade

Prod Notes - Everyday - The Story

Everyday is the story of two brothers, Cyril and Ernest, their friends and sweethearts and follows their progress through domestic unrest in Britain pre WW1 as well as taking them into the horrors of the Somme. Cyril is stuck in Victorian values, unable to show his love, while Ernest is the opposite. As the war rages, the women on the homefront change roles and behaviours while forever coping with the worry of losing the one they love, will the war allow Cyril to eventually show his love too? Everyday is a dovetail love story on many fronts where only war can break some hearts, unfortunately war doesn't always allow everyone to return home and when every thing looks sad and feels gloomy then there is only one band that can lift the mood and save the day, enter Slade.

**Cast Members**

Cyril Brewster (Ages 9 - 78)

Ernest Brewster (Ages 7 - 19)

Stan (Ages 9 - 21)

Bert (Ages 9 - 78)

Jane Simpson (Ages 9 - 21)

Charlotte (7-19)

**Ensemble**

1970's Slade (Noddy, Jim, Dave, Don) also play Recruitment Sergeant, Recruiting Corporals, Pub Landlord, Brothel Soldiers, Trench Soldiers.

Oddjob Gordon / A Soldier / DJ

Simone / Sadie

Ada & Gladys / French Whores / DJ Girls / Mabel (Berts' Mum) / Cyril and Ernests' Mum / Daisy

**Act 1**

**Scene 1**

**Split Stage:**

*Side One: Two old timers sit watching TV , thier identities are unknown to the audience. We know them as Old Timer1 (Bert) and Old Timer2 (Cyril)*

*Side Two: A cheesy 1970's DJ is presenting some kind of Top of The Pops. He is surrounded by girls as per 1970's standard.*

**DJ** This is the current chart entry for Noddy, Jim, Dave and Don. A diversion from their usual rocking thumping style, it's a great melodic number entitled 'Far Far Away', take it away guys

*Step up ensemble Slade*

**"Far Far Away"**

I've seen the yellow lights go down the Mississippi  
I've seen the bridges of the world and they're for real;  
I've had a red light of the wrist without me even gettin' kissed  
It still seems so unreal.  
  
I've seen the morning in the mountains of Alaska  
I've seen the sunset in the east and in the west;  
I've sang the glory that was Rome,  
And passed the hound dog singer's home;  
It still seems for the best.  
  
And I'm far, far away  
with my head up in the clouds  
And I'm far, far away  
with my feet down in the crowds  
Lettin' loose around the world  
But the call of home is loud still as loud  
  
I've seen the Paris lights from high upon Montmartre  
And felt the silence hanging low in no mans land;  
And all those Spanish nights were fine,  
It wasn't only from the wine;  
It still seems all in hand.  
  
I've seen the yellow lights go down the Mississippi  
The grand Bahama island stories carry on;  
And all those arigato smiles  
Stay in your memory for a while;  
There still seems more to come.  
  
And I'm far, far away  
with my head up in the clouds  
And I'm far, far away  
with my feet down in the crowds  
And I'm far, far away  
But the sound of home is loud still as loud.

**DJ** : Great stuff yeah folks? Last year was an amazing time for the boys from Wolverhampton with their fourth number One hitting the charts, here it is, it's the party song to end all party songs - 'Cum On Feel The Noize'.

*Ensemble Slade play urging audience participation throughout*

**"Cum On Feel The Noize"**

Baby baby baby!  
Ee-ow...  
  
So you think I got an evil mind, well I'll tell you honey  
And I don't know why  
And I don't know why  
So you think my singing's out of time, well it makes me money  
And I don't know why  
And I don't know why  
Anymore  
Oh no  
  
So cum on feel the noize  
Girls grab the boys  
We get wild, wild, wild,  
We get wild, wild, wild,  
So cum on feel the noize  
Girls grab the boys  
We get wild, wild, wild,  
At your door  
  
So you say I got a funny face, I ain't got no worries  
And I don't know why  
And I don't know why  
Say I'm a scruff bag well it's no disgrace, I ain't in no hurry  
And I don't know why  
I just don't know why  
Anymore  
Oh no  
  
So cum on feel the noize  
Girls grab the boys  
We get wild, wild, wild,  
We get wild, wild, wild,  
So cum on feel the noize  
Girls grab the boys  
We get wild, wild, wild,  
At your door  
  
So you think we have a lazy time, well you should know better  
And I don't know why  
I just don't know why  
And you say I got a dirty mind, well I'm a mean go getter  
And I don't know why  
And I don't know why  
Anymore  
Oh no  
  
So cum on feel the noize  
Girls grab the boys  
We get wild, wild, wild,  
We get wild, wild, wild,  
So cum on feel the noize  
Girls grab the boys  
We get wild, wild, wild,  
At your door

*As song ends and fades, there is low music in background as the TV show continues.*

**Side one:**

**Old timer 1** Well, what d'you think of that then?

**Old Timer 2** Longer hair than the ruddy girls - call themselves men? They look like women...all of 'em.

*Fingers through his remaining hair*

Whats wrong with a comb-over anyway? S'alright for our Bobby.

**Old Timer 1** Aye, it was a bit different in our day .

**Old Timer 2** You can say that again, we didnt have time to grow our hair, too busy fighting t' Kaiser or dodging Hitlers bombs. Imagine going over the top in those shoes .....be shot by our own flippin side. Aye nothings the same, pound notes and ten pences when there was nothing wrong with pounds shillings and pence. It's November now so we'll soon have that girly-boy screaming 'IT'S CHRIIIIIIIISSSSTTTMAAAS' all over the TV like last year. Sinatra, Crosby, Matt Munro, Jimmy Reeves - proper singers, better than that rubbish anyhow.

**Old Timer1** These Party 6's arent too bad though

*He helps himself to a pint, drinks it down in one and burps loudly.*

**Old Timer2** Just bigger isn't it?

**Old Timer1** Yeah, six times bigger. Anything that's six times bigger than normal must be good.

*Old timer 2 shuffles uncomfortably on the settee making him rethink.*

Except for piles of course.

**Old Timer2** Still a martyr to them eh?

**Old Timer1** Aye. I was alright until JFK got shot, that's what did it.

**Old Timer2** I don't think you can go around blaming JFK for your piles mate

**Old Timer1** No, it's true. I was watching it through Rumbelows' window, you know the one on the high street and I was so flabbergasted when it happened I just had to sit down. Course, I sat on the wall outside and it was November. Recipe for disaster really.....

*Old Timer1 goes into thought*

.....I imagine they look like clackers hanging off your arse, what do you think?

**Old Timer2** How would I blinkin' know, I cant see my arse can I?

**Old Timer1 B**right blinkin' red things, sore as buggery

**Old Timer2** If you say so. ..Kids toys have proper changed too, so much to choose from these days with your Weebles, the Barbie Dolls, Hot Wheels, Space Hoppers - remember when we were kids? None of that stuff then, just a few marbles to play Gullies with.

**Old Timer1** Oh yeah, Gullies that takes me back a bit, what did you have to do again?

**Old Timer2** Get a marble in a gully

**Old Timer1** Oh yeah

**Old Timer2** Aye**,** everything's changed, nothing the same

*Violin intro to 'Sign of the Times' , Spotlight only on Old Timer2*

*Old Timer2 sings to himself*

**"Sign Of The Times"**

Mondays   
There's been some changes in my life.  
A supersonic return flight.  
It's a sign of the times.  
  
Mondays  
We've seen a man upon the moon.  
The 21st century's coming soon.  
It's a sign of the times.  
  
Turn on the radio - turn up the VHF on your stereo.  
Turn on the TV show - in multicolour 625 video.  
These are the TV times.  
These are the Radio Times.  
  
Mondays  
Beware Big Brother in '84  
Test tube babes are being born  
It's a sign of the times.   
  
Lazy days  
We leave the 70's far behind, for close encounters of every kind  
It's a sign of the times.   
  
Turn on the radio - (turn on your radio) turn up the VHF on your stereo.  
Turn on the TV show - (turn onto stereo) in multicolour 625 video.  
It's the computer age   
Now its the silicon craze  
  
Returning to base from a day out in space will be easy I know (returning returning)   
And when all's said and done, halfway up to the sun will be all systems go  
Say hello to the Mondays.........  
  
Turn on the radio - (turn on your radio) turn up the VHF on your stereo.  
Turn on the TV show - (turn onto stereo) in multicolour 625 video.  
These are the TV times. (x-ray vision, video mind)  
These are the Radio Times.   
  
It's a sign of the times  
It's a sign of the times  
It's a sign of the times   
It's a sign of the times  
  
(x-ray vision, video mind)  
(Freaky energee-ee-ee-ee)

**Old Timer2** I've had enough of this, turn it over will you mate, Morecombe and Wise are on in a minute.

*Old Timer 1 gets up and stuggles to TV to turn it over, struggles back and reseats himself.*

*As the two old timers watch tv, the audience see the tv flicker, sthere is silence - then all of a sudden:-*

**Old Timer2** Tea Urn

*(Laughs to self)*

Tea Urn.

*Close Curtain*

*On the curtain/screen plays old B/W cine movies together with the sounds associated with the image where appropriate, it is a reversing timeline.*

*Selected Movies/Pictures of*

*The Moon Landing 1969 - Sound Neil Armstrong - 'This is one small for man, one giant leap for mankind.*

*The Beatles breaking America - Beatlemania - Screaming girls through 'Love Me Do'*

*JFK Shooting*

*Elvis gyrates on the Ed Sullivan Show*

*Roger Bannister breaks four minute mile.*

*Ghandi Assasinated*

*Auschwitz Survivors (silence)*

*Firebombing of Dresden*

*D Day*

*Japan attack on Pearl Harbour*

*Battle of Britain / Winston Churchill Speech*

*Family Round the Radio -Neville Chamberlain "From Midnight tonight we are at War with German"*

*King Edward V111 Abdicates*

*Bonny and Clyde killed by Police*

*First Mickey Mouse Cartoon*

*Flapper Dresses in Style / Charleston Music & Dance*

*Russian Czar Nicholas II and His Family are Killed*

*Battle of the Somme*

*Charlie Chaplins' First Appearance as the Little Tramp*

*Archduke Ferdinand Assasinated*

*Titanic Sunk*

*The final image on the curtain is the year 1904*

**Scene 2**

*Open Curtain*

*Back to back, terrace housing, cobbled street 1904. (Trafalgar Street)*

*Kids are playing out, short trousers.*

*Cyril, Stan and Bert are playing marbles(Gullies)*

*Cyril flicks his marble toward a manhole, all three boys follows its path intently.*

**Stan** Missed!

**Cyril** It was close though weren't it?

**Bert** My turn.

*Bert throws, again, it is intently watched.*

**Stan** No chance. It's miles off.

**Bert** Bums! I've never got a gully in all the time I've been playing.

**Stan** That's cos you're a bit thick Bert, it takes brains this game you know. Watch me.

*Stan takes his throw, follows it.....*

**Stan** Yes, get in there, a gully to nowt!

**Bert** Yer lucky bugger

**Cyril** Stop swearing Bert.

**Bert** Buggers not swearing, 'Bastard's' swearing

**Stan** Yeah, bastard is definitely swearing

**Cyril** And bugger is too.

*Cyril has his next throw*

Damn, missed again. Still one behind.

*To the side of the stage Jane and Charlotte enter the street and start playing Hopscotch, they are noticed by Stan.*

**Bert** This one's going in this time

**Cyril** As if..

*Stan moves over to Jane. while Bert takes his throw*

**Stan** Oi you?

**Jane** What?

**Stan** If I show you mine will you show me yours?

**Jane** No.....Me Mum says all a girls needs to see from a man is his bank balance - whatever that means.

**Stan** Suit yourself then....Is it cos you like Cyril?

**Jane** Not telling yer.

**Stan** It is though innit?

**Jane** Said I'm not telling yer

**Cyril** *(Shouts over)* Cmon Stan, we're waiting man.

*Stan returns and gets ready to throw.*

*Enter Ernest who runs to the group, he is excited.*

**Ernest** Can I have a go Cyril, let me have a go. C'mon let me have a go.

**Cyril** No yer can't

**Ernest** Oh, why not?

**Stan** Cos yer brother says you can't, that's why. Oooooooh close that one....Your throw Bert.

**Ernest** Awww, c'mon, let's have a go. Don't be tight.

**Cyril** No! Go and find some one your own age to play with. Just cos we're brothers dun't mean you can follow me round

*Throughout Bert takes his throw and misses.*

**Ernest** I'm only two years younger than you, in two years I'll have caught up and I'll be nine too. C'mon, let's have a go.

**Stan** He's as daft as him *(motions toward Bert).* Cyril, it's your turn.

**Cyril** Right here goes, time to get back in the game

*Cyril throws, misses*

Damn. Missed again. That's our kid putting me off that.

**Ernest** I never did Cyril, I wouldnt do that

**Stan** Watch this, are you watching? ...........Get in. Another right in the middle, look.

**Cyril** I'm two down now. Go on your go.

*Cyril hands the marble to Bert*

**Stan** I've nowt to worry about here.

*Bert takes his turn and misses again.*

**Bert** Bottom and bums!

**Stan** Told yer I'd nowt to worry about.

**Ernest** I bet I could get a gully.

**Cyril** Right, give us that marble Bert, enough is enough.

**Ernest** I'll do it for you Cyril, I'll get it in the hole. Let me Cyril, go on let me.

**Cyril** No Chance

**Ernest** Go on Cyril, let me Cyril, I'll do it for yer

**Cyril** Oh alright if it'll shut yer up! Just one go though and then home.

*Cyril throws a marble to Ernest, he tries to catch it but drops it.*

*Cyril shakes his head, dismayed.*

*Ernest squats and concentrates. Marble thrown, all watch avidly*

**Stan** It's in!

**Cyril** Never!

**Ernest** Told yer I'd do it for you Cyril. Told yer!

**Bert** Bugger

**Cyril** I said stop swearing Bert.

**Bert** Buggers not swearing, Bastard's swearing

*Jane and Charlotte approach*

**Jane** Can we have a go?

**Cyril** Don't think so, gullies' for boys.

**Stan** *(Mocking)* Oooooh, its your girlfirend Cyril.

**Cyril** She's not me girlfriend.

**Bert** She is though. Me Mum says.

**Cyril** Don't care, I don't like girls - I like marbles and conkers and spiders and stuff

**Stan** You do like her. I've seen you talking to her at school

**Cyril** So...?

**Ernest** He dosen't like girls, do you Cyril?

**Stan** He does. He'd like to kiss her wouldn't yer Cyril? Kissy kissy kissy

**Cyril** Sod off

**Ernest** Stop picking on our Cyril or else I'll bash yer

**Stan** Who you? You're three foot nowt, you couldn't bash anyone

*Ernest rolls up his sleeves and goes to punch Stan, Stan physically bigger places his hand on Ernest's head easily holding Ernest off while Ernest punches the air beneath Stan repeatedly.*

**Jane** Stop fighting, me Mum says it's stupid cos nobody wins.....Can't see your Ernest ever winning this one Cyril

*Cyril lifts Ernest off the ground by grabbing him round the torso and swings him 180 degrees out of harms way before dropping him.*

**Cyril** Behave yourself.

**Charlotte** Do you want to play Hopscotch with us? We've only just started

**Bert** No

**Stan** Dont think so, I'd rather wear me Mums' bloomers.

**Jane** We're playing Gullies, don't care what the boys say, I'll get me own marbles if I have to.

*Mrs Brewster exits the house and comes storming over shouting*

**Mrs Brewster** Cyril and Ernest Brewster get in that house, your father will be home soon.

**Cyril** Yes Mum.

**Ernest** What's for tea though Mum?

**Mrs Brewster** Bread and Jam same as yesterday, then its bathtime. I've already got the bath in front of the fire.

*They get up to leave, backs toward audience, walking slowly back home,*

**Cyril** Baggsy going in the bath first.

**Ernest** Oh, he always goes in first though Mum.

**Cyril** Yeah cos I like to wee in it before you get in

**Ernest** Mum, tell him.

*Door shuts*

*Rest of cast leave*

**Scene 3**

*Door Opens*

*As young men Cyril and Ernest walk out. They are fixing the front window.*

**Cyri**l Can't wait to get my hands on that pint. Been a scorcher today

**Ernest** Aye been a hot one alright. I'm just having the one cos I'm meeting Charlotte later.

**Cyril** You two are inseperable, how long you been together now?

**Ernest** Since we were eleven, she had a bag of pear drops and I had some chewed liquorice sticks, swapsies and the rest is history.

**Cyril** Five years man and boy, what next, marriage?

**Ernest** Nah, you and Jane will get hitched before we do. Just move it that way a little will yer Cyril I can get the putty in then.

**Cyril** Maybes, I dont think Jane will ever be ready for that step though, too busy with those suffragettes. I just don't get it. Votes for women? You'll be telling me they'll have sliced bread someday, that'll never happen either.

*Stan and Bert walk up ready for the pub.*

**Stan** Ready lads? Let's go and sink a few.

**Cyril** Two minutes and we'll have this finished.

**Ernest** What do you two make of it all, women's right to vote n stuff?

**Bert** Dunno, that lass chucked herself under King's horse to make her point so they must mean business.

**Stan** I blame bra's meself.

**Ernest** Eh?

**Stan** Yeah bra's, this has all happened since women started wearing bra's. Should take em off I say, oh aye

**Cyril** Dirty bloody sod.

**Stan** I might be a dirty sod Cyril my friend, but the girls love it.

**Cyril** Charm personified I'm sure.

**Bert** He's like the bangin' man aren't yer Stan?

**Stan** I've had a few, thats all I'm saying, a gentleman never tells.

**Ernest *(****Joking)* What is the secret of Stan's success hey? Is it his handsome looks, or his job as toffee nosed Insurance man?

**Cyril** Aye, doesnt have to sweat down at t'Railway yard like the rest of us.

**Ernest** Or is it that new aftershave from the barbers' (*Sniffs at Stan's neck)* , or is it that his Mum's got an indoor bog now, or is it -

**Stan** Alright comedian, enough of the mickey taking. If you wanna know how to make girls give it up then just tell them what they wanna hear. Thats all, just tell em what they wanna hear. It's 1913, things are bloody changing, havent you noticed? Women want to be promised the earth cos they can bloody well have it now.

**Bert** I don't know about that, but I'm getting a thirst on just listening to you all drone on. I'm parched. Can we go down to The Trumpet or not?

**Cyril** Aye, lets go for that pint.

**Scene 4**

*Two 1913 parlours. The first one is Charlotte's.*

*Lights Up.*

*Ernest enters the parlour, takes his cap off. Takes a seat next to Charlottes' as if he's done this a thousand times before. Gives Charlotte a peck on the lips*

**Charlotte** Had a good day?

**Ernest** Aye not so bad, there's rumbling down at t'yard about another strike though

**Charlotte** What for?

**Ernest** Just better money, lads say we deserve it, say the bosses have had their day.

**Charlotte** I've heard there's some down at t'factory going on strike too over that lad that got killed.

**Ernest** Earnshaw, aye he was a good lad he was, life's cheap innit?

**Charlotte** Not for much longer hopefully.

**Ernest** How's your day been love?

**Charlotte** Well, all the girls were in fits of giggles today cos we had a delivery.

**Ernest** Yeah... And?

**Charlotte** We got these.....

*Charlotte unfurls a condom in front of Ernest's face.*

Direct from Germany they are, they usually come in the Southern branch but they ended up in ours today.

**Ernest** *(Stunned)* It's a condom.

**Charlotte** Who's the bright spark then?

**Ernest** *(Looks worried toward audience)* Ruddy big innit?

**Charlotte** Not that big Ernie.

**Ernest** What're you doing with it anyway?

**Charlotte** Well five years is long enough dont you think?

**Ernest** You mean-

**Charlotte** Yeah, I mean....

**Ernest** What, tonight?

**Charlotte** No Christmas Eve, when do you think Ernest Brewster? It's about time you made a dishonest woman of me.

**Ernest** Well yeah, but er, how er ....should I just jump on or do we do other things first?

**Charlotte** A little romance if you please, tell you what, we can practice the Waltz again

**Ernest** Oh no, not dancing. I'm rubbish at it.

**Charlotte** You're not that bad, take my hand.

*They join together in front of the settee*

Come on, back straight, knees loose, one -two- three, one- two three, one-two-three

*They dance around the settee, looking lovingly into each others eyes as if they are the only people in the world, as they do so, Ernest sings to Charlotte*

**'coz I luv you'**

I won't laugh at you when you boo-hoo-hoo coz I luv you  
I can turn my back on the things you lack coz I luv you  
I just like the things you do mmm,  
don't you change the things you do mmm  
You get me in a spot and smile the smile you got and I luv you  
You make me out a clown then you put me down I still luv you  
I just like the things you do mmm,  
don't you change the things you do mmmm  
  
When you bite your lip you're gonna flip your flip but I luv you  
When we're miles apart you still reach my heart how I love you  
I just like the things you do mmm,  
don't you change the things you do mmm,  
Only time can tell if we get on well coz I luv you  
All that's passed us by we can only sigh hihi coz I luv you  
I just like the things you do mmm,  
don't you change the things you do mmm.

*As the dance and song end-Charlotte throws herself on the settee.*

**Charlotte** Go on then, jump on.

*Lights Out*

**Scene 5**

*Lights Up on Jane's Parlour (Same parlour)*

*Cyril enters and seats himself, Jane is sat reading a book, silent, unapproachable.*

**Cyril** How do love?

*Jane doesn't respond*

Jane?

**Jane** Yes.

**Cyril** Well...did you? Did you go to town?

**Jane** Yes, why?

**Cyril** God, does it always have to be so bloody difficult, you know what I'm asking

**Jane** Well if I was arrested I wouldnt be here now, would I? Trust me, it wasn't for the lack of trying Cyril. Many women did get carted off by the facist scum.

**Cyril** You set fire to the Church, what did you expect?

**Jane** The Church is against our right to vote, they are casualties because they support an unelected regime.

**Cyril** They were voted into Government!

**Jane** Not by me!

**Cyril** All I'm trying to say is that you cannot change anything from inside a prison cell Jane. It just makes these women criminals, nothing more.

*Jane recoils in horror.*

**Jane** You're ridiculous Cyril Brewster, its a statement, its a necessity, we are political prisoners not robbers or murderers. When're you going to understand that its not just a game or fantasy in our 'tiny - little- womens minds', it's our right.

**Cyril** I know but -

**Jane** But nothing Cyril. We've been a courting for three years but it seems we're going backward not forward, your stuck in your ways where it's a Victorian ideal where women should never be heard except in the bedroom.

**Cyril** It's not that honestly Jane, it's just-

**Jane** Yes, go on, just what is it Cyril? I've heard it all before, I shouldnt be doing this, I shouldnt be doing that. Either you're with me Cyril or you're not, you need to decide...

**"In For A Penny"**

Do you remember the night in September  
The two of us laid in the hay  
Do you remember the day in December  
And how we got carried away  
  
If you're in for a penny  
You gotta be in for a pound  
Oo 'Cos over and over  
You play me that old fashioned sound  
So look around.

*Jane pulls Cyril from the settee by his lapel, sings into his face.*

Did you discover that Oo I'm a lover  
When we took a tumble or two  
Where you surprised when you tried me for size  
You bit off more than you could chew  
  
If you're in for a penny  
You gotta be in for a pound  
Oo 'Cos over and over  
You play me that old fashioned sound  
So look around. Play the refrain  
Play it and play it and play it again...

*Jane pushes Cyril toward the door, one nudge into his chest at a time.*   
  
Do you remember the night I surrendered  
You wanted to paint me in oils  
Owh you are tender do you remember  
The sleepers could hear me for miles  
  
If you're in for a penny  
You gotta be in for a pound  
Oo 'Cos over and over  
You play me that old fashioned sound  
So look around. Play the refrain  
Play it and play it and play it again...

Jane *(Spoken)* You gotta be in for a pound

*At the door, Jane give Cyril the final push out and slams the door shut.*

*Lights out*

**Scene 6**

*Street Night. Ernest is leaving Charlottes' house, saying goodbye at the front door, he holds her hand and gazes at her as if in a dream*

**Ernest** I feel like I'm floating or something

**Charlotte** Oooh happy with ourselves are we?

**Ernest** That was the best thing ever, it should be bottled or something.

**Charlotte** Well dont expect it every night, it's only because Mum and Dad are at Aunty Gladys' that we got the house to ourselves.

**Ernest** There's always Old Tom's shed

**Charlotte** Hey, what sort of girl do you take me for

**Ernest** Ah-ha, I know now what sort of floozy you are.

**Charlotte** Cheeky Beggar, go on get off before I have to clip you around the ear

**Ernest** See you tomorrow then?

**Charlotte** Of course, when do we not see each other?

**Ernest** Okay, tomorrow then, love you

**Charlotte** Love you too

**Ernest** Go on then shut the door.

**Charlotte** No you go first

**Ernest** No you first

**Charlotte** No, you go first

**Ernest** Okay

*Ernest doesn't move*

**Charlotte** Go on then

**Ernest** Love yer

**Charlotte** Love you too, but go.

**Ernest** I'm going

*Ernest doesn't move*

**Charlotte** Right

*Disappears for a few seconds reappears with a broom and shoo's Ernest away with it.*

**Charlotte** Go on get out of here.

*Shuts Door*

*Night*

*Ernest walks a few steps, happy as - Sudden Stop*

*At the end of the street Stan and Jane have appeared from Jane's house, kissing.*

*Stan then notices Ernest, forcing Jane and Stan to part.*

*Jane looks suitably guilty*

**Stan** It's not what it seems mate

**Ernest** Yeah it is

**Jane** It's just-

**Ernest** What!?..What Jane? Told you what you wanted to hear did he?

**Jane** Please don't tell Cyril, it's a mistake.

*Ernest gets close into Stans face and stares menacingly, he doesn't glance at Jane when he talks to her.*

**Ernest** Leave Jane...leave us now.

*Jane disappears back into the house.*

**Stan** *(Mocks)* Oooh hello there hard man....

*Ernests' menacing stare doesn't receed, Stan gets serious*

Jane doesnt want him anymore, she's moved on.

**Ernest** So you just thought you'd move on in there, some friend you are. How long have you known our Cyril now eh.... how long eh?

**Stan** Alright Ernie, thats enough mate.

*Stans pushes Ernest back astep.*

Look, it's obvious that Jane is going to want me over Cyril so just get over it eh? ....She's a red blooded woman.

**Ernest** Red blooded woman, who the fu- who do you think you are? Some bloody Casanova or summat?

**Stan** If you've got it mate then you can't deny it. Jane wants a proper man, someone who looks out for her interests and she looks out for my interests if you know what I mean

**Ernest** I wanna batter the living daylights out of yer right now.

**Stan** *(Scoffs)* Who you?..You'd have no chance, someone your size-

*Ernest punches Stan, taking him by surprise. The venom in Ernests punch knocks Stan to the floor.*

*Ernest kicks out, with each kick to Stans stomach, a reason*

**Ernest** That's for our Cyril,

*Stan groans, another kick*

That's for me

*Another Groan, another kick*

*(Upset)* And that's because I can't tell our Cyril.

*Exit Ernest*

*Stans sits up, in pain and wipes away the blood from his mouth*

**Stan** I owe you one Ernest. I'll put in in the bank for later

Darkness.

**Scene 7**

*Sound of wedding bells. Interior. Trumpet Public House*

*Ernest and Charlotte have just got married, she is heavily pregnant. The congregation throw confetti on them as they walk in. Cheers all round, Cyril congratulates his brother.*

**'Find yourself a Rainbow'**

(Instrumental Piano plays in the background)

**Cyril** Well done Ernie, you were always destined to be together, a few years early won't hurt. What do you say Jane?

**Jane** You look beautiful Charlotte and you're so handsome Ernest. I'd marry you myself if Charlotte hadn't got to you first.

**Ernest** Thanks Jane

**Charlotte** You two will be next.

**Jane** Well, you never know. Stranger things have happened.

**Bert** Pint Ernie?

**Ernie** Yes thanks

**Bert** Pint Charlotte?

**Charlotte** Maybe just a lemonade thanks. *(Taps her stomach)*

**Bert** Oh yeah.

*Stan joins them*

**Stan** So how's the happy couple then?

*Doesn't wait for an answer*

This is Daisy by the way.

**Daisy** Nice to meet you

*Greetings all round*

**Bert** Here yer go Ernie

**Ernie and Charlotte** Thanks

**Stan** Get us one in Bert, got to get some in before war breaks out.

**Jane** Oh I dont think they'll be a war Stan.

**Charlotte** I agree with Jane, there's no need.

**Stan** Don't you read the papers love, tensions are rising all over Europe. This Austrian fellow getting himself shot is just making everything worse. Dont worry about it though, Germany's been spoling for a fight for years now so lets give the buggers a bloody nose. It wont last long, we'll batter 'em alright.

**Charlotte** Well my Ernie wont be fighting anyone, will you Ernie?

**Stan** Course he'll be joining up, its his duty to his country, I will, Bert and Cyril will won't we lads?

**Bert** I'm with you Stan.

**Ernie** Well, we'll see. It hasn't happened yet has it? I'm sure it wont so no need to fret

**Charlotte** We've got the little one don't forget

**Ernie** Its our wedding day, lets just enjoy it yeah

*Charlotte reluctantly agrees*

**End of Act 1**

**Act 2**

**Scene 1**

*Recruitment Centre*

*War/Enlisting propoganda dot the walls*

*A Sergeant is taking recuits details, a doctor is measuring the height and chest size of men. There is a buzz about the place as eager men join up in celebratory mood.*

*Enter Stan, Bert, Cyril and just behind them Ernest*

**Stan** Well here we are then. I'm ready for them, what say you Bert.

*Slaps Bert on the back*

**Bert** Yeah, I'm ready for em too Stan, we'll be home soon though won't we Stan

**Stan** Thats what they say, it'll all be over by Christmas, it says it here in the paper.

**Cyril** Makes you wonder why they need so many men then, doesn't it?

**Stan** Cos we want to batter em, that's why. It's our time, a few months away and we'll be coming back home as heroes, trust me the women will lap it up

**Cyril** That's most of our street right there, makes you wonder who'll be bringing the coal in when they're gone.

**Stan** When we're gone Cyril?

**Cyril** Yeah, when we're gone.

**Stan** (To Ernest) How about you young un?

*Ernest Shrugs*

**Cyril** He's not old enough, he needs another couple of years on him yet

**Stan** Old enough to be a father though.

**Cyril** Thats got nowt to do with it. Charlotte would have your guts for garters if you joined up Ernie, you need to stay here with her mate.

**Ernie** Yeah I know

**Corporal** Cyril Brewster, follow me please

**Another Corporal** Bert Chandler

**Bert** Here Sir, ready to serve sir.

**Corporal** Just follow me son.

**Stan** So, stopping here with the ladies then Ernie?

**Ernie** Dunno

**Stan** I would've put you down as one of the heroes in this war Ernie, lad like you not afraid to have a go. Still I suppose this war's for men, not for kids

**Ernie** I'm not a kid

**Stan** Okay mate calm yourself down. Look, I get it, you have to stop here and look after the missus and little Jack. Pity what he's gonna think off you when he gets older though mate. .......

*(Noise of a chicken)*

**Ernie** I'm not a chicken

**Stan** Proof's in the pudding - Me? Im off for a few months in another country, new horizons, new experiences. Sure beats that job on the railways doesnt it? Better pay too. A couple of months off the back breaking work you do with a bit of money put away for that lady of yours and the kid. If I were you I'd give it some pretty serious thought.

Stan leaves as the Corporal calls his name.

*Ernie gives it some thought and approaches a spare Sergeants Desk.*

*He takes off his cap and stands to attention*

**Ernie** I'd like to enlist Sir, like to do my duty for King and Country

*The Sergeant looks at him sceptical*

**Sergeant** And how old are you son?

**Ernie** Seven-Nineteen Sir

**Sergeant** Oh yeah?.....Sign here.

*Ernie bends to sign*

**Sergeant** *(Shouts, ready to trip him up)* Date of Birth now private!?

**Ernie** Er... Seventeenth of January 1896 Sir

**Sergeant** 1896? ... You sure

**Ernie** Erm...I meant 1895 Sir.

**Sergeant** Course you did.

*Sizes him up for battle*

So, what's your name new recruit

Ernest, Ernest Brewster.

**Scene 2**

*Int. Street. Day*

*Soldiers leaving 'party'*

*Stan stands in the background trying to chat up two unattached women*

*Berts Mums spits on her handkerchief and wipes Berts face*

**Berts Mum** There you go love, cant have you going off to war with a dirty face.

**Bert** Thankyou Mum.

*Cyril holds Jane in his arms, kisses her passionately, more passionately then ever before*

**Jane** Wow, I didnt know you had it in you.

**Cyril** Its always been right here Janie (touches his heart) . You're my girl

**Jane** And you're my man

**Cyril** Look, before we get the call, we are alright aren't we?

**Jane** What?... What d'you mean?

**Cyril** You know, like erm...I think we're okay, I think we have been since that massive

argument last year

*Jane looks guilty*

**Jane** Its behind us now. I shouldnt have been so angry, I made mistakes, stupid mistakes but I've grown up alot since then.

**Cyril** You've mellowed Jane Simpson

**Jane** No I havent. It's just we have those Germans to fight now, not each other. Just make sure that you come back in one piece or they'll be hell to pay

**Cyril** I'd better come back then

**Jane** Yes you'd better.

*They kiss passionately again.*

*Ernest and Charlotte*

**Ernest** Come on love, we'll be going soon,

**Charlotte** So?

**Ernie** So you dont want me going off to War with this bad feeling between us

**Charlotte** Your right about one thing Ernie...I dont want you going off to War

**Ernest** I'll be back soon honest love, I have to do this, for you and for Jack. I want the best for all of us

**Charlotte** I think we'll have to disagree whats best for us Ernie

**Ernest**  You know what they say, it'll be all over by Christmas

**Charlotte** Mmm, but which Christmas? To see you go just tears me apart Ernest. You're all I've ever known, all I ever wanted to know.

**Ernest** I know love, it hurts me too

**Charlotte** We need you home sweetheart......Listening?

*Ernest nods in agreement*

*Charlotte wipes a tear away from her cheek, pulls herself together*

**Charlotte** And watch yourself with those women down south. Proper tarts they are. I've heard about all about them from the wives down the fish market.

**Ernest** I'll be on my best behaviour honest.

**Charlotte** Everyday?

Ernest Course, everyday.

Everyday when I'm away  
I'm thinking of you  
Everyone can carry on  
Except for we two.  
  
And you know that our love  
And you know that I  
And you know that our love won't die.  
  
And it won't even show  
And no-one will know  
One little wave  
To say you'll behave  
It won't even show  
How far love can go.  
  
Everyday when I'm away  
And there's been a few  
Every land I need a hand  
To help me come through.  
  
And you know that our love  
And you know that I  
And you know that our love won't die.  
  
And it won't even show  
And no-one will know  
One little wave  
To say you'll behave  
It won't even show  
How far love can go.  
  
And you know that our love  
And you know that I  
And you know that our love won't die.  
  
And it won't even show  
And no-one will know  
One little wave  
To say you'll behave  
It won't even show  
How far love can go.

(Off) The shout to fall in line and march on

**Ernest** Time to go love

*Charlotte tears start to ease down her face*

Come on love, dry your eyes, I'll be back before you can finish a gobstopper

*Charlotte pulls herself together again.*

**Charlotte** Sorry. I just need to get used to it, for six years I've seen you everyday and now when I talk to you you wont be there

**Ernest** Talk to me and I promise wherever I am I will hear you, I'm here in spirit, I'll never leave your side I promise. Look.....I've got to go.

**Charlotte** Yeah love, bye

*They kiss goodby, each one not wanting to let go.*

**Bert** *(Holds out his hand)* Bye then Mum, see you soon

**Bert's Mum** Come here you great big lumox

*Bert's Mum grabs hold of him and hugs him as tight as she can. Eases off*

You get off now soon and remember to eat your greens.

**Bert** Do I have to mum?

**Mum** Yes you do.

*Bert goes to leave, stops, deep breath*

**Bert** I#m a bit scared Mum

**Mum** So am I love but I know you're a brave lad and that you'll do your best

**Bert** Yeah, I will.....Do you think I'm one of those pacifiers Mum

*Stan overhears*

**Stan** Well you're some kind of dummy mate, come on pick up your stuff and lets get

going or else we'll miss the bloody war.

The four pair up and set off to War

**Scene 3**

*Somme Outer Trench, Distant noise of shelling*

*Ernest is cleaning his rifle, Bert is smoking a cigarette while reading a letter*

**Bert** Says here that your Jack has started talking now Ernest

**Ernest** Aye, I got a letter from Charlotte saying the same, he wont be saying Daddy soon though will he? Says that she's started work in the munitions factory too.

**Bert** Not front line is it? Mum says it makes the ladies turn yellow ont' front line

**Ernest** From what she was saying she'll be working on the lathes. Can you imagine that, before the war she wouldn't even know what a spanner looked like, never mind a lathe

**Bert** I dont know what a lathe looks like either

*Takes a drag on his cigarette*

.....Going out tonight?

**Ernest** Nah I'm on duty in the morning so dont want a late night, saving me money an all, thats what Im here for anyways

**Bert** Yeah?

**Ernest** Well its not the fine dining or formal social scene is it Bert?

*Enter Cyril with empty kettle*

Cyril Tea Ern?

*Laughs*

Tea Ern *(Laughs again)...*get it? Tea Ern?

**Ernest** It's not even funny. No one would even think its remotely funny, I'd stick to the day job if I were you.

**Cyril** This is my day job, making tea to fill in the time

**Bert** Can I have one please Cyril. Are you going into town tonight?

**Cyril** I am, if it's just to break up this tedious monotony it's worth it, d'you know how many times I've counted those sandbags? ...Too many times.

**Bert** I think I'll go, but Im not drinking any of that wine stuff, its awful. Stan always drinks it

**Cyril** Stan always does everything in town, it'll be the same tonight no doubt. Mind he can afford it now he's a Corporal

**Ernest** Pah! Absolute disgrace making him upto a Coropal, it's just because he was an insurance man in blighty instead of working on t'railways like us. I think he only got the commission because three others bought it last time we were at the front.

**Cyril** Doesnt matter how he came by it, he's still our senior so we do what he says

**Ernest** Oh I'll do what he says alright, doesnt mean I have to agree with it though.

**Cyril** Anyway, do you want a cuppa or not, it's like asking to lend two bob.

**Ernie** Aye, course I want a cuppa.

**Cyril** Good I'll do this and then I'll count those sand bags.

**Scene 4**

Int. Munitions Factory

*The 'hiss' of Steam Lathes*

*Jane and Charlotte work at the side of each other. The work is repetetive and they carry out their duties automatically while they talk*

**Jane** Hey, are you coming out tonight? It's Sadie's leaving do.

**Charlotte** Well I shouldn't, but I will

**Jane** Good lass. I'm going despite what Cyril says, I'm not his property.

*Two women turn up for work, they have 'yellowish' skin.*

*Jane and Charlotte stop and watch them as they enter the stage and walk past them*

**Jane** Morning Ada, Morning Gladys

**Ada & Gladys** Aye, Morning

**Jane and Charlotte together *(****After Ada and Gladys exit)* Canaries.

*Giggle*

**Jane** So have you heard from Ernest lately, Cyril said it was boring in his last letter.

**Charlotte** Yeah Ernest said that too, I'd rather them be that than at the front, you cant die of boredom can you?

**Jane** Well there's never a dull moment here anyway? I've heard that there's two women in this room who are sleeping with Oddjob Gordon

**Charlotte** Really?

**Jane** Yeah, Im guessing Brenda and Daisy are the guilty floozies

**Charlotte** Yeah? ....And how would you know that?

**Jane** It's easy - they're smiling

**Charlotte** I could never do that to Ernest.

*Jane remains silent sparking interest*

**Charlotte** Have you erm....ever erm-

**Jane** What?

**Charlotte** You know....with another man?

**Jane** Well, its not something I'm proud of. Just a stupid mistake, one big stupid mistake.

**Charlotte** Does Cyril know?

**Jane** D'you think we'd still be together? You know what he's like, stuck in his ways.

**Charlotte** True......Was it anyone I know?

**Jane** Stan.

**Charlotte** Stan?.... Stan Stan?

**Jane** Yes Stan.

**Charlotte** Yuk thats disgusting, I think I'm gonna be sick

**Janes** He's not that bad, cheeky sod

*Laughs*

**Charlotte** What was it like anyway? I cant imagine having 'that' heaving on the top of me

**Jane** Oh it was over in minutes and I made a cup of camp in that time too. Oh, and er..his ding a ling a ling lingy thing (demonstated with a wave of pinky)

*Laughs again*

Ciggie?

**Charlotte** Thanks

*Both stop to spark up*

**Jane** Still, I do miss it. Even the dolly is starting to look appealing at the moment

**Charlotte** Same here but I use this.

*Makes sure the coast is clear then pulls out a metal phallus from her tunic pocket*

**Charlotte** I made it with the lathe, I've even scribed his name on it too.

**Jane** Inspects it

**Jane** Cute

**Charlotte** I was going to make a wooden one but -

*Jane and Charlotte both suck in through teeth*

**Together** - Nah.

*Enter Gordon, 50's sweaty*

**Jane** Oooh hello Gordon

**Gordon** Morning Ladies

**Jane** Say you're looking rather tired Gordon, are you getting enough sleep love?

**Gordon** I'm feeling fine thank you.

**Jane** Oh right, make sure you're eating your dumplings, you need to keep your strength up - as well as other things

**Gordon** What?

**Jane** Oh, nothing love

Gordon leaves

**Scene 5**

*French Town. Cafe. Int. A Whorehouse.*

*Ladies in little attire. Soldiers are having drinks being taken to rooms off. Bert, Stan and Cyril enter, pay a franc to a madam and get seated at a table. In one corner there is a queue building for access to a room*

**Stan** I love this place, I've had her and her and her. I think I'll try that little beauty tonight.

*Waitress arrives, Cyril holds up his fingers*

**Cyril** Two Wines One Beer please miss.

**Stan** Just on the booze again tonight Cyril?

**Cyril** Yep thanks

**Stan** You want to get yourself in there, its allowed when you're away from home you know. It's an unwritten rule, even the vicar says you can.

**Cyril** No thanks.

**Stan** You Bert?

**Bert *(****Adamant)* No I'm not....they scare me.

**Stan** More for me then.

*Lights up a cigarette.*

*A different waitress drops off the drinks and winks at Cyril, leaves*

**Stan** Did I just see that, did she just wink at you mate?

**Cyril** Her names Simone, I know her quite well now.

**Stan** And?

**Cyril** Andshe lives a couple of miles down the road with her Mum and Dad.

**Stan** You're a dark horse, are you in there or what?

**Cyril** Shut up man, we talk that's all. It *is* allowed you know.

**Stan** Talk?

**Cyril** I know its a weird concept for you mate, but it does happen.

*Stan picks up his glass*

**Stan** Cheers, here's to the next one to die

**Bert & Cyril** Cheers

*Bert down his pint in one and burps loudly*

**Bert** Another please miss

*The waitress acknowledges the request*

**Stan** How's your lass mate you haven't mentioned her for a while?

**Cyril** Nope, we're having a bit of a set too.

**Stan** Oh aye?

**Cyril** Yeah, she's out nearly every night apparently instead of being at home where she

should be.

**Stan** You'll work through it mate.

*Simone puts down the beer for Bert and leaves, Stan admires her bottom as she walks away*

**Stan** That is one sweet woman, d'you think she's for hire

**Cyril** *(Angrily)* Course she isnt you stupid bugger she's a proper lady. Leave it.

**Stan** Alright mate, I was only asking.

*Bert picks up his pint and downs it on one as Stan and Cyril look on.*

*He burps loudly again.*

**Stan** Right that's me ready, I'm off. See you later lads....

*Stan exits with one of the whores, off stage*

**Bert** I'm going to find a waitress for another beer, Stan is usually back before I can drink one.

*Bert gets up and exits off stage.*

*Cyril is then quickly joined by Simone, throws herself dramatically on the chair*

**Simone** Ah ah, alone at last English.

**Cyril** Hello again, how are you today?

**Simone** Ah you know, war is war. Fortunately no shells have hit the village in the last few days so we are okay.

**Cyril** I'm sorry

**Simone** What for?

**Cyril** For this...all this, no woman should be subjected to this horror.

**Simone** You are funny English. most of the men here are only after one thing. You, you're very different, I see love in your soul.

*She touches his hand forcing his to decide if he should leave it there or pull away.*

*He leaves his hand in place.*

**Cyril** I'm er....I have a girl back home Simone

**Simone** I know Cyril. I have someone too, I hope he will come home to me someday, the same as you hope to go home too, but people like you and I Cyril we are lonely people. This war has taken away everything that we ever knew and loved. It has been two years since he left, is it so bad if I find solace in the arms of another, just for one night? You are a beautiful man English, not just here *(motions to his face)* but here *(touches his chest).* I will be in room 2 if you need me..

*She leaves and enters room 2.*

*Cyril struggles with his conscience.*

*He gets up and walks slowly to the room door, hesitating along the way, hand on door the leaver stops. Turns away from door.*

**"I Win, You Lose"**

You can try  
Taking me out of my home town  
You can't take my home town out of me  
Oh oh oh I win you lose  
You can make  
You can make fun of my background  
When there's nobody else around  
Oh oh oh I win you lose  
I win you lose  
We all walk the narrow line  
And all get the seven year itch  
We all thing we're doing fine  
Miles apart  
It's getting harder to take the strain  
I'm only human and I feel the pain  
Oh oh oh I win you lose  
Shame on me  
Infidelity on the brain  
Too many promise I'll go down the drain  
I win you lose  
I win you lose  
Hey there ain't  
Ain't no place like my home you see  
Nobody's gonna make a monkey o'me  
Oh oh oh I win you lose

Exits stage.

Off I win you lose  
Off I win you lose

**Scene 6**

Int. Trumpet Pub

*It is full of women, it is rowdy, piano music in background which is the intro to*

***'Mama Mama Weer all Crazy'***

*Jane and Charlotte are among a group of women sending off a friend.*

*Jane grabs her short from the bar and downs in one.*

**Jane** Your turn

*Charlotte grabs hers and downs her also.*

**Jane** (to barman) Another

*The drink is quickly delivered*

**Jane** *(To the rest of the Girls)* Bottoms up!

**The Girls** And Knickers down!

*The rest of the girls down their drink in one*

Jane sings

**"Mama Weer All Crazee Now"**

I don't want to drink my whiskey like you do  
I don't need to spend my money but still do

Don't stop now a c'mon  
another drop now c'mon  
I wanna lot now so c'mon  
That's right, that's right

Jane / Ensemble  
I said Mama but we're all crazy now  
I said Mama but we're all crazy now  
I said Mama but we're all crazy now  
  
A you told me fool fire water won't hurt me  
A you tease me and all my ladies desert me

Don't stop now a c'mon  
another drop now c'mon  
I wanna lot now so c'mon  
That's right, that's right

Jane / Ensemble  
I said Mama but we're all crazy now  
I said Mama but we're all crazy now  
I said Mama but we're all crazy now  
  
I don't want to drink my whiskey but still do  
I had enough to fill up "H" Hill's left shoe  
  
Don't stop now a c'mon  
another drop now c'mon  
I wanna lot now so c'mon  
That's right, that's right

Jane / Ensemble  
I said Mama but we're all crazy now  
I said Mama but we're all crazy now  
I said Mama but we're all crazy now  
  
Mama mama mama mama oh yeah...

**Jane** God that was good. Ladies, gather round. C'mon, time to say a few words.....Sadie, you've been with us for the last twelve months and although we work for twelve hours every single bloody day I can say, hand on heart that your sandwiches and cuppas have really made our shifts there a pleasure. Once you're gone we're left with big Mavis's stale bread and weak tea so you'll be sadly missed. Truely though you're a diamond love and we'll be gutted to see you go but happy that you and George are starting a new life in Morecombe. Hopefully he'll be back soon but until then our Charlotte's made you a little going away present. Ta- Da

*She reveals the Phallus and hands it to a stunned Sadie*

*Sadie blushes*

**Sadie** Oh no I've got my George for that.

**Jane** Only Joking love, that's Charlottes'. No we've got you a proper Tea service, we all had a whip round and even skingy Dave from behind the bar put a few shillings in.

*Sadie is presented with the tea set*

**Sadie** Oh thankyou, I dont know what to say

**Charlotte** Nothing to say Sadie. Just enjoy yourself.

**Sadie** Better give me that back then!

*Sadie grabs the phallus back*

*The group laugh*

**Jane** Hey it's a beauty that you know. She's even inscribed her Ernest's name on it, look.

**Sadie** Oh yeah, Little Ern.

**Jane** And she's so bloody good on that lathe you can't see the join. Better than any man she is.

*Rushed entry from Berts Mum*

**Jane** Mabel?

**Mabel** Sorry to spoil the party love but I've got a letter from Bert....I had to read between the lines but it says they're sending them to the front tomorrow.

*Silence.......*

**Charlotte** I feel sick

**Jane** It'll be alright love

**Charlotte** No it wont, I know it wont. Look at how many men they lost when they sent them over a few weeks ago. Its going to happen to Ernest isn't it? I can feel it Jane, I can feel it.

**Jane** Thats just the nerves love, we all feel them. Have another drink to steady them. Just drink that down and take a few deep breaths

*Charlotte drinks a shot*

**Jane** Well?

**Charlotte** Yeah you're right, I'm just being silly aren't I? Sometimes I just can't help myself feeling and saying stupid things. Thanks for calming me down Jane, you're a life saver.

**Jane** Don't mention it, you just look after yourself, you need to be at your best for when Ernest comes home. We'll have a party to end all parties when Ernest, Cyril, Bert and even that toad Stan all come walking down Trafalgar Street in their civvies

**Charlotte** Yeah I know, I was just being...you know.

**Jane** I know. C'mon lets have another drink, this time to the lads.

**Scene 7**

*The sounds of war, shelling, yelling, gunfire.*

*Lights on*

*Ernest writing in the trench, soldiers getting ready for war to the side, imminent.*

**Ernest** (VO)

My darling Charlie, well it's finally happened, we've finally moved closer to our mates over the other side. I'm sure I can see the pointy hats bobbing up and down every so often, I think I'll get one for our Jack. It feels different this time we're here, noisier, a lot noisier ....except for when they do the roll call in the morning and no-one answers to a name they call out, bloody silent then.......could hear a pin drop. When they call 'Brewster, Ernest' I reply as soon as possible, that way I can make sure I'm still alive and kicking. The weather here in these chuffin woods is wet wet and more wet, there are trees near us but I cant hear any birds singing in the morning. They say we might be moving soon, I'm sure you know what I mean. Our Cyril says that everything will be alright in the end but if anything does happen just remember me, remember me to Jack and remember me in your dreams, for if we're parted then I will have just a short amount of time until we're reunited, while you shall have such a long journey before we can dance together again.

*Cyril approaches*

**Cyril** Take it for sending Ernie, looks like we're going soon.

**Ernest** Yeah yeah I know

*Gets up to take his letter- stopped by Cyril*

**Cyril** Listen, you be careful out there, stay behind me yeah? If I couldnt stop you coming over then I'll be buggered if I'm going to let you bite one out here.

**Ernie** You be careful too, I love you Cyril

**Cyril** *(awkward pause)* Yeah, me too...you know.

*Ernie nods.*

**Scene 8**

Theatre - Complete Darkness

*War simulation*

*The smell of Cordite fills the room, together with lingering odour of poison gas, rotting sandbags, stagnant water and mud.*

*The deafening noise of explosions, machine gun fire, the cries of wounded men, whistles, orders shouted from commanding officers is intertwined with flashes of harsh bright light simulting exploding shells and gunfire. Within the cacophony of sound we hear Stan detailing Cyril, Bert and Ernie to follow him to safety.*

*Lights*

*Wooded area*

*Cyril, Bert, Stan and Ernie lay low, seperated from their regiment. Sparse sounds of shooting in the background.*

**Stan** We've got to get back to the unit, we need a scout

**Cyril** I'll go, I'm the logical choice

**Stan** No, I want Ernie to take this on

**Cyril** Don't talk wet man, he's a kid

**Ernie** I don't mind going Cyril, I can do it.

**Stan** He's the fastest

**Cyril** Fastest doesn't mean best Stan, I'm you're man.

**Stan** Look, I said I want Ernie to go. That's an order.

**Cyril** *(reluctant)* Sure... Sir.

**Stan** Ernie, head North - North West and see what you can find.

**Cyril** You be careful Ernie, make sure that you keep your wits about you and be careful before you go running into any open areas yeah?

**Ernie** I know what I'm doing Cyril

**Cyril** I'm just telling yer Ernie. I've seen too many kids die out here, I dont want you to be another.

**Ernie** I'll be fine, you worry too much.

**Stan** Right, off you go.

*Ernest leaves*

*Same location, lighting changes day to evening...*

Silence the breaking of a branch somewhere makes Bert jumpy - guns at the ready.

**Bert** What was it Stan?

**Stan** Probably just a fox , out looking for food

**Cyril** Hours he's been gone, should've reached base by now.

**Stan** Hopefully they'll send out for us.

**Bert** I like foxes, hope he finds something to feed his family here

**Stan** Why dont you throw him some of your rations Bert, just to make sure

*Bert fiddles with his ration tin - Stan stops him*

**Stan** I was joking you idiot

*Loud sudden shout and breaking branches noise in the wooded area ahead of them Stan automatically opens fire, he is followed by Bert.*

*Scream of a man being shot, Ernest stumbles out of the woods holding his torso, falls*

*Cyril jumps up and runs over*

**Cyril** Oh my god, you've shot him

**Stan** *(Shocked)* It er - he shouldn't have been coming at us like - I didnt mean to - It wasn't meant to be like that.

*Cyril gets to Ernest and cradles his head in his arms*

**Cyril** Cmon Ern, Cmon. Hang on in there mate...

*He is frantically trying to stem the flow of blood*

*(Toward Stan and Bert, Panicked*) Call for help someone please! Dont just stand there!

*Stan and Bert are unable to do anything*

**Cyril** Dont close your eyes Ernie, please dont close your eyes. I love yer man.

*He pulls Ernie closer like a mother nurturing a child*

Cmon Ernie, please Ernie, please. .....Cmon Ernie, I'll let you play marbles mate, we can play all the time Ern, cmon Ern, cmon................oh no......no......God no.....

*Cyrils grip on Ernie is slowly released, there is almost silent crying, just the trapped pain of a man in agony, heavy sobbing as tears fall from his cheeks.*

*Bert and Stan are stunned to the spot, Bert takes of his helmet and holds it to his chest*

**Bert** Permission to swear Stan?

**Stan** Permission granted

**Bert** .....Bastard

**Scene 9**

Int. House

*On a settee Charlotte reads the death inform letter becoming more and more anguished, beside her is the ensemble Noddy who plays acoustic 'How does it feel?'*

*(Over 'How does it Feel') Charlotte allows the pages from the letter to fall to the ground, it means nothing and signifies her emptiness. She picks up a photograph, looks at it lovingly, kisses it and then strokes it gently. She holds the photo to her breast and hugs it tight, then tighter. She looks up for assistance but seems to find none. Her distress is complete as the song comes a conclusion......*

**"How Does It Feel?"**

How does it feel runnin' around round round  
how does it feel watchin' from upside down  
'cos many years from now there will be new sensations  
and new temptations  
How does it feel  
  
How does it feel right at the start  
and how does it feel when you are thrown apart  
'cos many years from now there will be new elations  
and new frustrations  
  
How does it feel? Oh! Oh!  
Do you know know know what it's like to be searchin' in your own time  
all your attempting experimenting all on the climb  
do you know know know what it's like to be searchin' and suddenly find  
all your illusion, all your confusion all left behind  
  
How does it feel turnin' away  
and how does it feel facing another day  
'cos many years from now there will be newer poisons  
and new horizons  
  
'cos many years from now there will be new tomorrows  
and still some sorrows

*Underscore 'How does it Feel'*

**Ernest** *(VO)* I will have just a short amount of time until we're reunited, while you shall have such a long journey before we can dance together again

*Ernest in his smartest uniform enters the stage, he is dancing the waltz, alone. Charlotte has her back to him and is still distressed, he dances over to the settee and holds out his hand to Charlotte, as her eyes meets his, her face lights up and a smile appears. She takes Ernests' hand.*

*Music bridges to 'Everyday' underscore*

*Ernest (VO)* And you know that our love, and you know that I, and you know that our love *...(whisper)* won't die.

*Ernest gently eases Charlotte to her feet, they kiss and then they dance the Waltz again and the pain pales away.*

**Final Scene**

*The two old timers enter the stage*

**Cyril** Well that's another Morecombe and Wise show over, what's on next?

**Bert** Tommy Cooper

**Cyril** That's okay, I like a bit of Tommy -Not like that-

**Bert** -Like that!

*Both laugh*

**Bert** Jack coming over later?

**Cyril** Aye, Jane's just making some of them new fandangled Prawn Cocktails now,

fancy stopping for a bite?

**Bert** Aye, dont mind if I do

**Cyril** He's bringing over Ernie and Ernie Junior too

**Bert** Your young un would have been proud of him

**Cyril** Yeah he would.

**Bert** Dark days back then werent they Cyril?

**Cyril** Grim. Ernie gone, Stan gone. Very sad indeed.

**Bert** Aye. When Stans' missus shot him in 1921 I dont think there was any surprise there.

**Cyril** Nah, she had been having it away with that insurance man for at least two years and wanted rid of him.

**Bert** What goes around comes around eh?

**Cyril** Aye......Bugger this Bert, I know Tommy Coopers' a laugh and all that, but when people can't meet their bills, when there's no work around, when there's no smiles and everyone's as miserable as sin people just wanna let their hair down and have a good time - And the only people that can do that is these girly boys on BBC 2.....

*Enter Ensemble Slade*

*Concert Style*

**"We'll Bring The House Down"**

We'll bring the house down  
  
Woh oh oh oh oh  
Woh oh oh oh oh  
Woh oh oh oh oh  
Woh oh oh oh oh  
  
Turn the megawatts way up loud  
Send an Earth tremor thru the crowd  
C'mon, heads down shakin', c'mon  
120 In decibels  
A rock an rollin' with armpit smells  
C'mon, heads start shakin', c'mon  
  
I said  
We'll bring the house down  
We'll bring the house down  
We'll bring the house down  
You're gonna get it  
You're gonna get it  
You're gonna get it  
Yow!  
  
Headbangers don't buy no soul  
All they wanna do is rock'n'roll away  
Let the bass blow you away  
Imaginary playing heavy riffs  
No diminisheds or fancy fifths  
C'mon, heads down shakin', c'mon  
  
We'll bring the house down  
We'll bring the house down  
We'll bring the house down  
You're gonna get it  
You're gonna get it  
You're gonna get it  
  
Woh oh oh oh oh - oh oh oh oh oh  
Woh oh oh oh oh - oh oh oh oh oh  
We'll bring the house down - oh oh oh oh oh  
We'll bring the house down - oh oh oh oh oh  
  
*[Guitar solo]*  
  
Ohhh  
Days later your ears are still ringin'  
No voice from shouting and singing it out  
Sweat it and get it out  
  
We'll bring the house down - oh oh oh oh oh  
We'll bring the house down - oh oh oh oh oh  
We'll bring the house down - oh oh oh oh oh  
You're gonna get it  
You're gonna get it

*(Enter Cast)*

*Into*

**"Run Runaway"**

Hold on!   
I like black and white  
(Dreaming of black and white)   
You like black and white   
Run run away   
  
See chameleon   
(Lying there in the sun)   
All things to everyone   
Run run away   
  
If you're in the swing   
(Money ain't everything)   
If you're in the swing   
Run run away   
  
See chameleon   
(Lying there in the sun)   
All things to everyone   
Run run away   
  
If you gotta crush   
(Don't beat about the bush)   
When I gotta crush   
Run run away   
  
See chameleon   
(Lying there in the sun)   
All things to everyone   
Run run away   
  
Oh now can't you wait  
(Love don't come on a plate)   
Oh now can't you wait   
Run run away   
  
See the chameleon   
Lying there in the sun   
All things to everyone   
Run run away   
  
Run run away   
Run run away   
Run run away

**"My Oh My"**

I believe in woman, my oh my  
I believe in lovin', my oh my  
Don't a women need a man, try and catch one if you can  
I believe in woman, my oh my  
  
We all need someone to talk to my oh my  
We all need someone to talk to my oh my  
Ya need a shoulder to cry on, call me I'll be standing by  
We all need someone to talk to my oh my  
  
We all need a lot of lovin' my oh my  
Yeah, a whole lot of lovin' my oh my  
I can lend a helpin' hand if you ain't go nothing planned  
We all need some lovin' my oh oh my  
  
So let's all swing together my oh my  
We can all swing together my oh my  
You've got troubles on your own, no need to face them all alone  
We can all swing together my oh my  
  
So let's all pull together my oh myyyyyy....

The Play ends and we all go home for a nice cup of tea.

'Everyday' The Musical Copyright M C Caswell