

Side Two.

CHRIS. Good evening and welcome to the Cornley Drama Society's production of J. M. Barrie's classic...

ROBERT. *Peter Pan!*

CHRIS. Please allow me to introduce myself; I am Chris, the director.

ROBERT. And I'm Robert, the codirector.

CHRIS. Assistant director. We're hugely excited to present *Peter Pan*, as this year we've managed to secure a much larger budget than usual, thanks to a sizeable donation from the uncle of one of our cast members, Max. This generous cash injection...

Max enters from the wings and stands, looking at the audience.

Thank you, Max, thank you, Max.

MAX. Thank you.

CHRIS. Thank you, Max.

Max goes.

This generous cash injection has meant that tonight's production will certainly outshine our rather underfunded Christmas show that Robert directed: *Jack and the Bean*.

ROBERT. In one of Chris' productions, due to an ill-timed haircut, Rapunzel had to be imprisoned in a bungalow.

CHRIS. Indeed, that was almost as bad as when Robert insisted on using a real cat in his production of *Puss in Boots*, which became

known amongst the company as *Puss Who Was Occasionally in Boots, but Often Refused to Wear His Boots* and then bit a child.

ROBERT. But this year everyone has come together, and we even have my young niece Lucy to play the Lost Boy, Tootles.

CHRIS. Who we are sure will overcome her chronic stage fright this evening. We have taken every possible precaution to ensure the smooth-running of the show.

ROBERT. Including a state-of-the-art radio headset for our actor Dennis to ensure he remembers his lines correctly.

CHRIS. He doesn't know a single line.

ROBERT. But we're feeling optimistic for tonight's family show.

CHRIS. It's not a family show, Robert, it's a proper play. For adults.

ROBERT. Of course it's a family show. Look at how many kids are in. Child. Child. Ugly child. Come on, give us a cheer if you're a child.

Children in the audience cheer, etc.

Great. Now give me a big boo for Captain Hook.

Children boo.

I love Americans, not afraid to be crass.

The company enter with placards and stand in a row behind Chris and Robert.

CHRIS. So, with no further ado, please put your hands together for...

ROBERT. *(Comes in too early.) Peter P...*

CHRIS. J. M. Barrie's...

ROBERT. *(Too early again.) Peter...*

CHRIS. Classic play...

ROBERT and CHRIS. *Peter Pan!*