



KIDS ON STRIKE

for 350ppm

*- a musical adventure about how young people solve the problem
of Dangerous Climate Change -*

1st DRAFT Script
by David Woollcombe

Songs & Lyrics
by David Gordon

Adapted from "*The Peace Book*"
by Bernard S. Benson

Time: Summer 2056

Place: Somewhere in the World

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KIDS ON STRIKE

1st DRAFT SCRIPT by
David Woolcombe

With songs by **David Gordon**
and *Pavel Sydor and Ella Vitiuk*

Based on the original “Peace Book” by **Bernard S. Benson**

Dear Producer

Dear Cast Members

Dear Choreographer, music director, designer, back stage crew

Welcome to the wonderful world of Peace Child – and to the learning adventure that you will go through if you choose to produce this unusual musical. What follows is an “Interrogative Script” – a series of scenes and songs interspersed with questions and study ideas that will allow your young cast and your whole production team to discover how they’re going to solve the problem of global warming. Peace Child International’s mission is: ‘*empowering young people*’ So our challenge to all of you is to empower the young people doing your version of the musical to make it their own. They need to find a way to tell the story and make the point that young people can, and will, solve the problem of global warming. We don’t mind if you don’t use a line of this script or any of the songs: in the past, Peace Child musicals have been done just with mime – and sometimes just with a single drum in Africa. You don’t even have to call it *Kids on Strike* – or mention Peace Child. If reading this musical inspires you to put on your own show – your own musical, cabaret, dance show, rock concert, rap session or whatever – to get audiences thinking about the challenge of global warming, we will have done everything we want to do. It would be great if you put your script ideas up on the website – so that others may benefit from your experience. *(You need to be happy to relinquish all claim on royalties for non-commercial use! – in schools, faith & community groups etc. Should some one take your script from our website and try to put it on TV or on Broadway, PCI will ensure your copyright is protected and the appropriate royalty fee is paid to you.)*

The ONLY point here is to use music, dance drama and all the armoury of the creative arts to make people aware of the dangers of climate change – and the amazing opportunities we now face in the race to create the green economy. That’s PCI’s main take on the issue: don’t just depress your audiences with the negatives – excite them with the opportunities! Accentuate the positive!

If you want to use these scenes, this dialogue, these characters, these songs exactly as written here, we will be flattered. Thank you!! We know that it plays. We know that your audiences will get the message and have a good time. But we shall be disappointed – because if you only repeat the lines and songs written here, you will not deliver the excitement of the learning adventure that is the essence of Peace Child. *(Also – you will only do a very British musical – which is not much fun if you happen to be African or Palestinian or Vietnamese: you should do a version of the play that reflects your culture, your music, your dance, your drama.)* There are bits you will have to change: at the very least, you will have to update some of the information. And note that this script is a very time-specific: to be done in the build up to the Copenhagen Summit in December 2009. In January 2010, PCI will issue a new basic script.

Also the age of your young cast dictates the content: I have written for 12-18 year old principles, with a chorus of younger children, and a team of ‘elders’ to play the diplomats, corporation executives etc. But you can do it with a cast of just primary or just College or university kids. Each age group requires very different content – and the relationship between Luke and Lian, which I write for 16-18 year olds, will differ greatly.

Because Faith groups have a big role to play in the climate change debate, you will find discussions of faith in this script. This may be inappropriate, undesirable or impossible for you and your cast to include in your performance. (Alternatives are suggested in the script) But think before you throw them out: some of David Gordon’s most powerful songs relate to Faith. And, if we are going to crack the climate change problem, we are all going to have to work together across national, ethnic and religious lines. *Peace Child* started out as a play about making peace: peace is a pre-requisite for successfully tackling global warming.

There are a million ways to tell this story – but only one right way for you and your cast. If you are their teacher or director – do everything you can to enable your young cast to imagine that they are the children of this story, not some fictional fantasy kids. We want them to feel that this story of how kids crack the climate change challenge is real and entirely plausible. Indeed, we intend to prove it in 2009!

2009 Youth Post Carbon Future Campaign

Welcome to the 2009 Youth Post-Carbon Future Campaign. Launched on 1st January 2009, this campaign is about ensuring that by the time we get to 31st December of this year, we have done as much as humanly possible to ensure that our governments have reached agreement at the all important Copenhagen Climate Summit (Nov. 30 – Dec. 12) to ensure that the targets, legislation and vision are in place to ensure we have a world left to live on by the end of this century. Right now, as you know, it's not looking good: this campaign is about turning it around.

The campaign will, of course, expand and grow during the year: right now there are probably thousands of initiatives up and running, and planned, by young people like us who are concerned about the situation. We will do our best to network and link to this site all of the best, most practical, most ambitious and exciting initiatives that we hear about. All of us will work towards TWO important Days of Action and Learning:

Saturday October 24th 2009
Monday November 30th 2009

On Oct. 24th, we hope that you – the activists – will meet with each other, with the press, with school and college authorities and plan the Nov. 30th Day – when we want literally millions of young people around the world to stop what they are doing and teach every one, themselves, their friends, their communities, their business and municipal leaders exactly what is happening with climate change – and what they should expect from the Copenhagen Summit. Some are calling this the Global Kids Strike – and in a sense it is: we want to know what is going on and most of us, through our school lessons and college modules, don't get much of a sense of it. The science is complex – but not so complex it is beyond us. So – any institution of learning that does not allow us to take ONE DAY, on the start of one of the most important Summit Meetings in human history, to learn about the issues and understand what we should be expecting from this summit, is not a learning institution that we should want to be any part of – and therefore deserves to be Lukecotted. For that day, at least.

Chiefly, we want that Day of Learning and Action to be youth-led: the students decide the lessons, the workshops, the debates, the performances, the exhibitions, the parent / teacher events. Teachers will, of course, help – but it is our lives that Climate Change is threatening, and therefore we feel we should take a leadership role in understanding the challenges and what we have to do to address them. Now, during the year, we shall probably get many celebrities standing up to support our call for this Day: great! We need that to draw attention to the campaign. But know that, for us, the only true celebrity in this campaign is: YOU!! Your decision to stand up and be counted is the true act of heroism that we want all young people on this planet to follow. On October 17-19 this year, we were part of a campaign that got 113m people to stand up for the Millennium Development Goals and end poverty on this planet. This year, on November 30th, we want to get at least 350m young people to take a day out from normal school to learn about how climate change threatens to murder our future, and what action we need to take to prevent it.

Peace Child is promoting two other actions this year in support of the campaign:

1. Post Carbon Future – a book explaining what a world without fossil fuel would look like and how we are going to create it. Your contributions, thoughts, ideas would be most welcome! [Click here](#) for more information...
2. Kids on Strike – Peace Child, as you may know, is the title of a famous musical that brought the first Russian youth and rock stars to the USA on a Youth Exchange and helped to end the Cold War. KoS is our new musical about climate change – about how young people helped end that almost more dangerous hot war that humanity is waging against the natural environment of our planet – and winning quite comprehensively. [Click here](#) to download the scripts, scores, music tracks, production notes, press and poster materials – everything you need to create a fantastic production of the show in your school, college or with your community theatre group.

Both initiatives reflect Peace Child International's approach to climate change: not something to be depressed about, rather an opportunity to be grasped. A necessary change in our approach to life which will make the world, and all our lives, better, richer, more fulfilling and friend-filled while also being less polluting. Accentuate the positive is our approach: sure there are many things that are incredibly depressing about climate change – and we should know about them in order to get the attention of those around us. But, if we didn't think we have the capacity within the human family to crack this thing, it wouldn't be worth getting out of bed in the morning!

Scene List

ACT ONE

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Scene ONE: | Welcome to the Year 2056 |
| Scene TWO: | The Demonstration |
| Scene THREE: | Post-demo party |
| Scene FOUR: | Story-teller Scene |
| Scene FIVE: | Getting the Ink |
| Scene SIX: | The Chat Show |
| Scene SEVEN: | Family Interlude |
| Scene EIGHT: | Confronting the Enemy |
| Scene NINE: | In the office of the President |
| Scene TEN: | The Lian's Dorm Room |

- INTERMISSION -

ACT TWO

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Scene ELEVEN: | Dream Scene |
| Scene TWELVE: | Meeting on the Playground |
| Scene THIRTEEN: | The Model UN |
| Scene FOURTEEN: | The PANIC Button |
| Scene FIFTEEN: | A moment's peace |
| Scene SIXTEEN: | The School Strike |
| Scene SEVENTEEN: | The UN Climate Change Summit, Copenhagen, Denmark: |
| Scene EIGHTEEN: | Back to the Future - 2056! |

Cast List

- Lian
- Luke
- Jake
- Hassan
- Boff
- 8 x Youth
- Story-teller
- 8 x Children
- President of the Mining Corporation
- Aide
- Secretary General of the United Nations
- 4 x Diplomats
- 2 x Business Men
- Dance Troop – 6 to 10 dancers
- 2 x Vocal Soloists
- Chorus – 20 to 200 persons

TOTAL CAST: 59 to 243 persons

Song List

ACT ONE

- SONG 1: Paradise
- SONG 2: Look at Life
- SONG 3: I want to live in a Wigwam
- SONG 4: I Want To Live II
- SONG 5: World
- SONG 6: I believe
- SONG 7: If you close your eyes...
- SONG 8: I gotta Story
- SONG 9: Mr President
- SONG 10: I'm Sorry
- SONG 11: Father in the Sky
- SONG 12: Our Father

- INTERMISSION -

ACT TWO

- SONG 13: The Mire
- SONG 14: Inventions
- SONG 15: Sing
- SONG 16: Superman
- SONG 17: We want this world to survive for ever
- SONG 18: Petroleum Energy Complex
- SONG 19: Reach Out
- SONG 20: Peace Day

ACT ONE

Scene ONE: Welcome to the Year 2056

Silence - Bare stage with tiered risers at the back – lights come up, dappled greens, golds, reds – and natural sounds – the buzzing of flies, crickets, bird songs – a babbling brook. Maybe these images appear on a screen at the back of the stage. A note sounds and a young Lian and a young Luke (8-12) come out and sing:

Girl: **Come into my joy!**
Boy: **Come into my pain!**
Girl: **Come – you be a friend of mine!**
Boy: **I'll be the same! (repeat x 2 or 3 if you wish)**

Rippling sounds in the key of Song (1) – Paradise: young child dancers come on – and evoke the innocent spirit of the song – as Lian sings – the others joining in as the song builds:

SONG 1: PARADISE:

**Here is a world so beautiful and green
Where the sun is shining and the waters run clean
Here in this world where we all have to stay
A paradise, a heaven, where our heads we will lay
I am so smiling – eyes that seeing
I am so happy – ears that hear
I have a mouth for speaking, tasting
I have a nose to smell the air!
We are a people so happy - we say:
“We love this world and here we will stay”
We hear that voice deep inside our soul say
“Listen to the music of life’s sweet call!”
I am so smiling – eyes that seeing
I am so happy – ears that hear
I have a hand for touching, feeling
I have a mind to see that’s clear!
Here in this world where we all have to stay
A paradise, a heaven, where our heads we will lay**

During the song, the magical figure of the Story Teller comes on – the Master/Mistress of Ceremonies – the key figure in our show. S/he is dressed in a flowing robe – with a crown of flowers on his/her head. The children dance around him/her – perhaps using him/her to hold up ribbons like a may-pole. As the song ends, s/he walks forward leading the applause, congratulating the children. One of the children brings him/her a stool; another brings him/her a big Story-Book. S/he sits and talks to the children, who sit in a circle at his/her feet:

S T Well done – very good! I love it! Now we can begin....!
Child 1: Begin what?
Child 2: What’s this all about?
Child 3: Teacher said this is the most important lesson of our lives!
S T It is – but sometimes the most important lessons are not the ones you learn in a classroom. That’s why we’ve come outside – to the countryside! Nature!
Children Paradise?

S T Exactly!! It's wonderful, isn't it – the clean air, the sky, the flowers!

Child 4: It's a little cold, actually - !

S T Bah! – go and put a coat on! You're so lucky it can feel a little cold on a summer's day: if things had gone on as they were, we might have all been cooked!

Child 5: In the global Green-house?!

S T That's right – Good, good... Well I'm glad you're learning something about this – it will help you understand the story you are about to be told – a story we re-tell every day, on this Peace Day – the day on which humanity agreed to end its war on the natural environment and make a lasting peace with the Earth.

Child 6: It was the children what did it?

S T 'Who' did it! Yes, yes – it was.

Children: (*severally*) – who? Who?? - where were they from?? Where are they now?

S T They were from everywhere! That was what was so wonderful: the children of the world coming together as one global family – in a way that the adults never could. They knew that their world was in danger so, acting together, they saved it. But – we are getting ahead of ourselves. Listen – I hear the young people who are going to tell you the story – they are coming! Let's welcome them....

The Story-teller leads them off the stage. In a small theatre, they can sit in the front row of the audience - the Story-teller holding a microphone for the kids in subsequent scenes so the audience hears their voices. In larger theatres with wide stages, they can observe the action from the wings.

Music starts as the little children and audience applaud as the large troupe of older cast members leaps on to the stage, singing, dancing, and acting the lines of:

SONG 2: LOOK AT LIFE:

Look at Life - take a look around you
 Look at life, doesn't it astound you.
 See the colours of the rainbow
 Smell the fragrance of a flower
 Aren't we lucky you and I - you and I

Look at life, take a look around you.
 Look at life, doesn't it astound you

Young Luke picks a flower for the one he loves
 He sees the colours of the sky!
 And in the touch of the earth
 And in the rays of the sun
 And in the blueness of the sea
 So green the land living world.

Look at life doesn't it astound you
 Look at life everywhere around you

Take a walk on a Sunday
 Any moment you can spare
 In a park or an open space -
 You'll find it there

Life! - Life! - Life! - LIFE!

The children and the audience applaud uproariously at the end. The youth come forward acknowledging the applause – speaking directly to the audience:

- Youth 1: Thank you, Thank you very much! What a great audience –
- Youth 2: Brilliant! So – we’re here today to tell you the story of how we saved the world from catastrophic climate change? You all know what that is, don’t you?
- Youth 3: Doesn’t matter if you don’t – you will by the end of this story!
- Youth 4: Sitting here, in happy old 2056 – with the climate stable, poverty almost wiped out, and HIV-AIDS and all those terrible wars and plagues of earlier in the century wiped out, it’s hard to imagine the road our parents travelled.
- Youth 5: But we need to remember –
- Youth 6: ‘Cos those that forget history are condemned to repeat it!
- Youth 7: And – if we repeat that particular episode in history, we may not be so lucky next time around.
- Youth 8: So – let’s travel back in time to remind ourselves of the incredible story of how young people – Kids! – saved our world from almost certain catastrophe!
- Youth 1: Crank yourself back – squeeze yourself back down the years – through your own lifetimes, your parents lifetimes –
- Youth 2: All the way back to 2008! August 12th to be exact!
- Child 1: International Youth Day?!
- Youth 3: International Youth day! – exactly: it wasn’t as big a deal back then as it is now, but in many places, young people held parties, rallies, teach-ins...
- Youth 4: Our story starts at one of them....

Scene TWO: The Demonstration

Drums – crazy scene of a really wild, hippy out there Youth Demo, using the Cat Stevens song as a basis – but riffing off it, to use new lines, new ideas – some eco-related (eg. “I want to live in a clean world!” / “I don’t want to drive in a big car!” etc.) - but most just wacky, funny ideas (“I want to live in an egg-cup!” / “Ginger cats give me a head-ache!” etc.) The chorus come on in groups of three/four – sing their verse, then set off round the auditorium, waving their placards. There’s no need to use this song: in the first production, the cast just chanted: “Green Life Go!” – which worked for them, and the scene. Use your imagination – any kind of rap, chant, sloganising will get the point across....

SONG 3: I want to live in a Wigwam:

I’d like to live in a Wigwam, yes I’d like to live in a Wigwam,
I’d like to live in a Wigwam, And dance around the Totem pole
I’d like to live in an igloo, yes I’d like to live in an igloo
I’d like to live in an igloo - And fish round an ice-hole
I’d like to ride on a caravan, I’d like to take a ride on a caravan
Yes - I’d like to ride on a caravan,
And sit with the gypsies
I’d like to live on commune, yes I’d like to live on a commune
I’d like to live on a commune
And people would call me a hippy

The music and the chorus continue softly as a Young Asian girl, Lian, comes on, watching the people – who seem to her completely crazy. She taps the boy who calls himself a ‘hippy’ – Luke, on the shoulder. He turns to look at her, smiling in a goofy way:

Lian What’s this all about? What are you doing here?

Luke It’s a demo – Green Warriors: climate change!

Lian Oh! - but why the stupid song?!

Luke It’s not a ‘stupid song’! It’s a great song! It’s fun! You’re not from here, are you?

Lian No –

Luke Well - come along! Find out what it’s all about! It’s important...

Lian OK – (*she goes with him nervously as the next group comes on and sings!*)

I don’t want to live in a Palace, No I don’t want to live in no Palace
Oh I don’t want to live in a Palace
There’s too many empty rooms
And I don’t want to live in a barracks, don’t want to live in the barracks
Oh I don’t want to live in the barracks
And wake up to the bugle tune
I just like to live in a tree-hut, Yes I just like to live on a tree-hut,
I just like to live in a tree-hut,
And listen to the sound of the birds
I don’t want to live in a jail-house,
Don’t want to bide my time in no jail-house
No - I don’t want to live in no jail-house,
And be fed bread through the bars

When they are fully spread around the theatre, they sing the chorus, waving their placards:

I am glad I’m alive am I – I’m glad I’m alive
I’m glad I’m alive - I’m glad I’m alive
I’m glad I’m alive am !
We’ve got to get our heads up in the sky,
We’ve got to get our heads up in the sky,
We gotta get our heads up, gotta get our heads up
We’ve got to get our heads up in the sky
We’ve gotta get a heaven – to the sky
We’ve gotta get a heaven – get a guy
We’ve gotta get a heaven – gotta have a guy
We’ve got to get our heads up to the sky
I am glad I’m alive am I – I’m glad I’m alive
I’m glad I’m alive - I’m glad I’m alive

*The audience are encouraged to join in this happy, wacky demonstration – dancing in the aisles!
Then Jake comes forward, a wild, hippy-looking young leader of the demo. He calms the crowd:*

Jake: It’s good to be alive, isn’t it? Sunshine, summer day! But we are here this International Youth Day because we know this cannot last. Climate change, my friends, is upon us. Just this morning, a boat left the island of Tuvalu carrying the last of the islanders away as their homes disappeared under the waters of the Pacific – a direct result of sea-level rise caused by man-created climate change. Today – Tuvalu;

Tomorrow – Shanghai – London – New York – Calcutta! It’s happening! Dangerous Climate Change! And we are here today to tell our politicians: “WE WILL NOT VOTE FOR ANYONE WHO DOES NOT HAVE A SERIOUS STRATEGY FOR COMBATTING IT.” You have the petition forms – you know what to do: the demo is the fun part. Now get out and get those signatures. Two million to the Parliament by the end of next week. Let’s Do It!!

The Crowd cheer and march back on stage singing:

SONG 4: I WANT TO LIVE II

I want to live, I want to live
The right to live my life
I want to search far and wide
Have the chance to wonder why
**I want to learn all
the secrets the world has to give**
I want the chance to live my life
I want to live – I want to live!

I want to be, I want to see
A world that’s good and free
I want a home, someone to love
To share their life with me
I want to have and to hold
A child of my own
I want to live, I want to love
I want to live – I WANT TO LIVE!

The Chorus march back on stage, back to their seats on the risers at the back of the stage – their place through much of the action. Luke and Lian come on last, talking:

Luke So – what do you think?! Great group of people, aren’t they?

Lian Sure! Weird – but kinda cool!

Luke So are you gonna fill in some petition forms?

Lian Maybe – but I’d like to find out a bit more about it first.

Luke So – come along and meet the team: we’re having a post-demo drink in Jake’s flat – you can give us a whole new perspective on the issue from... ?? Where are you from??

Lian China!

Luke China! Ooof! Great – terrific!! I’m sure that you’ll be a... a - ? A great talking point!

They EXIT.

Scene THREE: Post-demo party

Bare stage. Silence. Then there is laughing and guffaws – and a rabble of the demonstrators come on. Luke and Lian come on at the back – and go to sit on the risers at the back. The demonstrators fling their placards into a corner – and look towards Jake who emerges from the crowd, thinking, smoking a cigarette.

Youth 1: So what do you think, Jake? Are we winning?

Jake: You’re kidding, aren’t you? What was it? – two thousand eight hundred –

Youth 2: - and twenty two...

Jake: 28-22: at this rate, it will take another 70 years to get all the people to be even aware that there’s a problem and by that time, the world will be well fried!

On the other side of the stage, a group is forming around another man – maybe an African, wearing traditional dress. We'll call him Hassan:

Hassan: Come on, Jake: do the math – 2822 getting a hundred signatures each: that's over a quarter of a million signatures. That's impressive.

Jake You know that won't happen! I'd be amazed if we get more than 10,000 by the end of the week.

Down the centre, a third group come in – around a younger kid with thick glasses, and a computer. He's called – variously – the Boffin, Boff, Boffy, Boffo – and he is usually right:

Boff He's right – our last demo had 2507 present and delivered only 11,093 signatures.

Luke So – what are you saying, Boff? – we should just give up?!

Youth 3: *(from Hassan's side)* Yeah - why do we bother if we all feel it's all so hopeless?

Jake 'Cos we don't know another way!

Lian *(under her breath)* 'Course there's another way...

Boff I've told you, Jake – focussing on Tuvalu and dying polar bears is not getting anywhere with the public: they just don't care! We've got to start mobilising around the positives of the post-carbon infrastructure – which we have to start building: ground source heat pumps and super-insulation for every home; electric transport infrastructure in ten years – tele-commuting to schools for all sixth formers in ten years; smart grids – and solar farms over the Sahara, wind, wave and tidal generators around the coast – all within a set time period. That would do it Jake! We know that enough energy to power every human installation for a whole year falls from the sun in just one day! But most people don't!

Youth 4: I understood about half of that, Boff!

Luke: The public's never going to get it...

Jake Exactly. We have to scare the living bejesus out of them! Tell 'em: 2 degrees of Global Warming is now only a matter of weeks, at most months, away. Dangerous Climate Change is upon us – and no one is doing a THING about it. Not seriously! We are sleep-walking towards 5.5 degrees of Global Warming at which point, every one agrees, humanity and 90% of the land species are over. Dead! Now we can mitigate until we're blue in the face – but the core truth is: we won't change.

Youth *(from the Boff's group)* What's 'mitigate'?

All Durghhh!

Boff: It just means reducing the amount of carbon we pump into the atmosphere – using less energy, basically.

Jake And it's a band-aid. No one's really gonna change their lifestyle!

Lian: You could start by stopping smoking...

Jake *(Looking round, noticing her)* Who's she?

Luke *(getting up)* She's new – she just joined the march, and she's going to help. She's from China....

Jake China, eh? Well –

Luke Don't go there, Jake! Just stop, right there! She's just joined us, and I'm trying to get her interested in...

Jake In your wicked romantic prowess! Ha! Good luck to you! But some day, you will have to discuss with her why her great nation has become the world's biggest

polluter, the most careless consumer of carbon resources, and the most reckless capitalist economy on the planet?

Lian You can ask me right now – and I'll tell you: until you - people in the rest of the world like buying our cheap goods. Our 7-12% growth rates are entirely driven by the rampant consumer greed of your countries!

Hassan Touché, Jake!

Lian - and China is leading in some areas: we are regulating for new buildings to have solar generation, researching electric transport – every kid I know back home has an electric scooter – and I haven't seen one of them here! We make the world's cheapest, most cost-efficient solar voltaics and we are building several carbon neutral cities as experiments....

Jake (*impressed, but unbowed*) What about the brown coal? – one new brown-coal-fired power station coming on line every week!

Youth 5: - not to mention a complete rape of Africa....

Luke Where are you going with this?! Why bicker and fight? We've got to work together on this, especially with China!

Jake Because it's not enough! – it's never ever going to be enough. It was different with the seals – show a picture of a cutesy seal with blood pouring from its head and everyone empties their wallets. Show a picture of politicians smashing the planet with a hammer and nobody gives a hot-damn! There is a sickness inside people's heads: they would prefer to commit suicide than give up their beloved car or meat and two veg dinners. (*music starts – deep, sinister*) Look at us – look at us all here. Look what we've done already - (*sings*)

SONG 5: World

World – look at the way we are
Look at the things we do
Look at the words we say
Life! – look at the way we live
Look at the love we had
Look at the things we've made

Gone, gone are all those lovely days
Gone are all the peaceful ways
All that's left is old and grey
And our world is fading
Our world is dying – today!

Hassan (*Sings*)
Can't you see the tide is changing?
Don't you know that truth is fading?
People coming out from under
Slowly rising to the thunder
Listen to the shouting people
Broken churches, broken steeple
There's no one for them to follow
Every one's a God tomorrow

Jake (*Sings*)
Can't you see the world is dying?
Repentant people all are crying
Law and order has been drowned
Chaos rules and has been crowned!

ALL (*Sing*)
World – look at the way we are

Look at the things we do
Look at the games we play
Life! – look at the way we live
Look at the things we build
Look at the love we've killed

Gone, gone are all those lovely days
Gone are all the peaceful ways
All that's left is old and grey
And our world is fading
Our world is dying – today!

- Youth 1 This is such a downer, Jake! We do all the prep work – posters, leaflets, fund-raising - we get hundreds of people out on the street, raise a lot of consciousness, get a lot of signatures – then we come back here and you make us feel like we're wasting our time. Why do we bother if the planet's shot whatever we do?
- Hassan: She's right, Jake! You may laugh at my faith – praying five times a day, going on the Haj and all that, but I tell you: you wouldn't find many Muslims agreeing with you that our world is dying today.
- Jake That's just the point! Your faith blinds them to what is actually happening: it wraps you up in cotton wool and pats you on the head and tells you: "Don't worry! Everything's going to be just fine! Daddy's here!" – Or, in this case, God! And until we all realise that it's not going to be just fine, we're all screwed. Muslims too!
- Luke But unless you believe you can change things, why bother to get up in the morning?
- Lian Exactly! Humanity's always found a way to deal with problems!
- Jake Huh! 'Problems'!! This is the end of the world we're talking about!
- Boffin But we have the technology to avoid dangerous climate change: we could stop it tomorrow if we had the political will and the courage to invest in change!
- Hassan: Things are much easier if you start with a little faith – faith in ourselves, faith in God. Listen - *(this is one of the songs you can drop if you wish. Just cut straight to the next speech)*

SONG 6: I believe

Hassan **If the sun lost its shine
And the trees started to die
Yes – I'd still be full of hope
I guess I know the reason why
If the wind grew too old
And the seas started to dry
Yes I would still be full of love
Don't ask – don't ask me why!
Yes I still believe in God
I still believe in us – his people!
And if you really want to know
I still believe in this His land.**

ALL *(Sing)*
**We believe in God
We still believe in us – his people!
And if you really want to know**

We still believe in this His land.

Hassan So don't turn your head away
Don't give up on who you are
Just keep on loving more each day
And the world will shine for you

I guess it's all in the mind
What you feel is what you see
So within your heart just sing these words
Come sing! – come sing with me!

ALL *(Sing)*
We believe in God
We believe in us – his people!
And if you really want to know
We still believe in this His land.

We believe in God
We believe in us – his people!
And if you really want to know

I believe – yes I believe
I believe – yes I believe
I believe in this His land!

Most of the group join with Hassan – singing the chorus. Jake, and a couple of others, stand aside, looking morose and unconvinced. Hassan comes forward

Hassan Oops! Look at the time! I've got to go – evening prayers! *(going to the Lian)* It's nice to meet you! How come you speak such flawless English?

Lian Convent-educated! Shanghai!

Hassan English medium? *(she nods)* – lapsed catholic?!

Lian No! like you: my faith is important to me – but from the other side...

Hassan Same side! Same God! – different prophet! I do look forward to seeing you again – *(going to Jake)* – and you, old misery guts! I love you like a brother, you know that!

Jake *(He hugs Hassan, reluctantly)* See you Thursday, Hass!

They all leave – except Luke, Lian and the Boffin:

Luke So – what do you think?

Lian About what?

Luke About – all this!

Lian *(deflecting the question – and going to the Boff)* You're amazing! How old are you?

Boff *(- says whatever age the actor/actress cast is -)*

Luke Nothing he can't find out, our Boff! Ask him anything – the population of Tanzania, the amount of water frozen in the Greenland ice-cap, what your mother had for breakfast – taps a few keys on his computer, and the boff has the answer!

Lian What a resource!

Boff You were pretty good too – standing up to Jake like that!

Luke That was amazing! No one ever answers back to Jake!

Lian I'm Chinese! We're proud of our country! But tell me, honestly, Boff: this global warming thing – is it really real? Is it really dangerous! I know a little about it from the TV and papers – but in China, no one really talks about it....

Luke/Boff You'd better believe it!

Luke This year, for the first time in thousands of years, you can sail around the North Pole – the ice-melt has been far, far faster than anyone thought it would be!

Boff There is no significant departure from the scientific consensus now. The world has seen the hottest temperatures of the last two centuries in the last decade – and there is no serious doubt that it is generated by human-generated carbon emissions.

Luke We're headed towards 2 degrees of global warming – at which point, the Arctic ice-cap is history. If it goes higher than that, the Greenland ice-cap has gone – and if we hit 4-5 degrees, the Antarctic's gone. And that's 10-15 metres of sea-level rise!

Boff Bye-bye London! Bye-bye Shanghai – New York, Boston, Bangladesh, the Netherlands.

Luke Worse – it will melt the mountain ice-caps – like in the Rocky Mountains of the USA and Canada: the Colorado river will dry up – so Bye-bye Los Angeles...

Boff No great loss, you might say: but if the Tibetan ice-cap goes, the snows that feed the Indus, the Brahmaputra, Mekong and Ganges rivers which feed and water a third of the world's population – will dry up. Then what? I figure you've got enough people in China already without another 2 billion marching North to share your land....

Luke And that's just the ice melt. Global warming will also cause extreme weather – more hurricanes, more cold winters, more hot summers –

Boff Ocean flip-flop – the reversing of the Gulf Stream which could bring about a new ice age in Northern Europe!

Luke Desertification, droughts – it's the people in the parts of the world that are already the poorest who will be worst hit!

Boff And it isn't even their fault: the average American consumes two hundred times what the average African consumes.

Luke But ultimately, if we do nothing: we'll all get screwed.

Boff Figure it like this: if you were standing on a rail road track and you thought you heard a train coming, you would step off the track, wouldn't you? You wouldn't wait around until the train was right on top of you to step off....?

Luke Especially if you were standing on the track with a bunch of children!

Boff We've got to get off this track and find a new one. The worst impacts of global warming won't all happen in our lifetimes – but if our generation doesn't do something about it right now, it will get harder and harder to avoid...

Lian And this is all happening because of coal-fired power plants?

Boff - and our drug addiction to our cars, long-haul flights, meat and exotic foods flown in from around the world...

Luke Cows fart methane – a powerful greenhouse gas! And we cut down the forests – laying waste to the only vegetation that can soak up the increased carbon.

Boff Deforestation causes about a quarter of global warming. The rest is down to us – our hopeless over-consumption and addiction to oil.

Lian So – what’s going to change all that??

Luke Massive public mobilisation!

Boff Making everyone aware of the problem – and of the solutions....

Luke Making people know that we can crack the problem!

Boff Protest!

Lian Peace!

Luke Love!

Lian Togetherness?

Boff Leadership. That’s what we really lack. No one’s going to listen to a nerd like me! You guys should get out there and lead this thing. You’re good together....

Lian What about Jake?

Boff Jake’s too – Jake’s just too weird!

Lian Hassan?

Luke No – Hassan’s a great friend and supporter: but he wouldn’t lead a movement like this.

Boff You have to do it!

Lian But – you’re crazy! I’m totally new to all this – I mean: I’ve just met and, yes! – you’ve taught me perhaps the most important lesson of my life. But I’m a greenhorn!

Luke Is that what you think this is? The Most Important Lesson of your Life?

Lian Learning that our planet is dying and that our generation is the one that’s going to have to save it? – I would say so, wouldn’t you?

Luke Yes! Exactly – you got it! Most people take months and years to get it –

Boff If they get it at all! Look – give it a go, will you?? Go away and think of something crazy spectacular to do, and then just do it. See what happens! You can’t do any worse than we’ve been doing...

Luke Will you try?

Lian I don’t know. I’ve got so much college work to do. I’m not sure that this is really me!

Boff Look –

SONG 7: If you close your eyes...

Now if you close your eyes
 You can be what you want
 And if you close your eyes
 You can feel deep in your soul.
 Don't you see, it's your destiny.
 Don't you see it was meant to be.

It's happening everywhere
 People waking up
 Together facing a great new dawn
 Reaching out for love

Do you believe in miracles
 Have faith in things unseen
 Take a good look around you now
 No! No it's not a dream!

So open up your eyes and fly
Beyond the skies
And open up your mind
You can see beyond your dreams
Now open up your heart
And behold – a brand new YOU!!

Lian OK – so this is what I’m going to do: I am going to go away and think about all this for a while. I am going to read some books – which the two of you will recommend to me. And then I’m going to propose a plan of action to you – which you will either approve, or tell me I’m out to lunch. Deal?

Boff/ Luke Deal!

Lian You got it!

They exit! Black Out

Scene FOUR: Story-teller Scene

S T *(standing up and facing the younger children)* Are you guys getting any of this?

Child 1 Sure – the world was getting hotter and Luke and Lian are going to stop it?

Child 2 What’s an ocean flip flop?

S T It’s complicated:– you know that hot water is lighter than cold water? Right – so this means that, in all our oceans, there are currents – flows of hot and cold water, going round and round – hot water rising to the top, cold water sinking to the bottom. So the Gulf Stream is a warm current that flows up from the equator until it meets cold water flowing down from the North Pole which turns it back South. Now when the Arctic ice cap melts, we were worried that it might flip flop around making the cold water flow directly down to Northern Europe – causing another ice age.

Child 3 But it didn’t happen?

S T Not yet! – but it might. That’s why we have to be so careful.

Child 4 What’s the Greenhouse effect?

S T It’s when the earth’s atmosphere acts like a greenhouse...

Child 5 What’s a green house?

S T A house made of glass – to grow tomatoes and vegetables...

Child 6 Why do you need a glass house ?

S T Because the glass let’s the warmth of the sun in – and doesn’t let it out.

Child 5 Why?

S T Because that’s what glass does!

Child 6 Why?

S T I don’t know why! It just does – that’s all. And when the atmosphere acts like a greenhouse, the world gets hotter.

Child 4 Like a tomato?

S T Yes – like a tomato ... Can we get back to the story now?

Child 3 Sure!

Child 2 What happened next?

Child 1 Did Luke and Lian fall in love?!

S T No - what followed was six weeks of the most high profile lobbying on global warming the world has ever seen. Up and down the country, these two young people went, inventing ever more startling stunts to catch the attention of the public. Protest! It all started on a motorway bridge and – as you will see – it generated a lot of hot air!

Scene FIVE: Getting the Ink

Projected Backdrop:– Motorway – a big ugly scar across the country side

Sound FX:– the roar of the motorway.

Luke, Lian and Boffo come out on stage – roped up. They hold a big banner between them rolled up. They look nervous:

Luke Right – definitely out to lunch! Very, very stupid! Really, REALLY dangerous!

Lian I know –

Boff That’s why it will make an impact!

Luke You’re not jumping!! We could get killed!

Lian I know – but if we die and the planet lives, we won’t have died in vain!

Luke I thought this was all about us NOT committing suicide - ?

Lian Look – do you want to do this thing or not?!

Luke Sure – whatever...

Boff Good luck!

Lian So - JUMP

They steel themselves – and then jump: the ropes tighten and they hang in mid-air above the stage stretching out the banner which says:

“We want to Live! Save the planet!”

Sound FX:– a cacophony of screeching tyres, smashes, crashes of a multiple motor-way pile-up.

Projected Backdrop:– Cartoon Images “BAM!” “SPLAT!” “BIFF!” “CRASH!” etc.

The kids hang there – looking down in horror at what they have created.

Luke Oh – My – God!

Lian Amazing!

Luke What’s amazing? – people may be dying down there!

Boff So – they shouldn’t be driving. Driving cars kills the planet!

Luke Everybody drives.

Lian I don’t... I never will

Sound FX:– Sirens – fire engines and ambulances arriving;

Luke How are we going to get back up?

Boff Don’t worry about that – look who’s coming!

First one comes on wearing a pork-pie hat with a Press Tag in it, carrying a camera

Pressman It’s a story! (he winks at the audience)

Then another comes on – then another – and another – until the young people are surrounded by the media singing:

SONG 8: I gotta Story

It's a story! – it may be a story!
Unusual story! – maybe even front page news!

Press (*individually – sing*) - Who are you ?
- Where you from ?
- Were you paid ?
- Who's the gang ?
- Where's the power ?
- What's the name ?
- Are you friends ?

Press (*together – sing*) - What's the game ?
- What's the game ??!
- What's the game ???!

Pressman 1 Outta my way, guys! That's a great image you set up for us, kids! Congratulate your media department from me!

He elaborately sets up a camera and takes a photograph. The rest dig out their cameras, singing:

Press (*together – sing*)

The Photograph, the Photograph
We've got to have the Photograph!
The photo! The Photo!
We gotta have the photo!

*They pause – there is a big flash – and the press run off with their story. **Exit Press***
A Policeman comes on looking at the kids sourly:

Policeman What kind of stoopid media stunt was that then?

Lian Young people exercising their civic right to have a planet left to live on when they grow up, sir! Two degrees of global warming will bring about dangerous climate change which will cause the deaths of millions of people and animal species....

Policeman I don't care about any of that shit! I've got a major incident down there involving 63 vehicles and God knows how many casualties. I've got six fire units, ten police, fourteen ambulance – have you any idea how much that costs?!

Lian Have you any idea how much it would cost to destroy the planet?

Boff Climate change will cost our generation trillions of dollars. Right now it's costing us several hundred million –every day!

Luke Put that in your full-cost accounting and see what the people say come election day!

Policeman You don't care, do you?! People may have died down there, but you don't care just as long as you get your name in the papers and make your silly point.

Lian It's NOT a silly point! It's the point the world needs to hear!

Luke How many do you think died?

Policeman Ten – maybe more. No word, yet, on casualties....

Luke (*to the Lian*) We could be tried for murder...

Policeman Yeah – but we'll have to get you down first. Let's be having you...

He, and a couple of others, grab the kids around their waists and lower them to the ground. Rolling up their banner, they are escorted off stage. The Story-teller returns –

S T Well happily, no one died: a few scratches - and a lot of smashed up cars and trucks that would not pollute the planet any more. The kids were let off with a warning – but their reward was that oxygen all protesters need: media exposure: INK!

Press (*Running on, singing*) -

It's a story! – we really gotta story!

Headline story! – Definitely front page news!

The Press cross their legs, and mime typing up the story(singing) -

A-tic-a-tac-a-shoo-ee!

A-tic-a-tac-a-shoo-ee!

A-tic-a-tac-a-tic-a-tac-a-tic-a-tac-a-shoo-ee!

A-tic-a-tac-a-shoo-ee!

A-tic-a-tac-a-shoo-ee!

A-tic-a-tac-a-tic-a-tac-a-tic-a-tac-a-shoo-ee!

The Press rip the story out of their typewriters and rush down the aisles, selling their newspapers -

Extra, extra, read all about it!

Headlines Headlines no doubt about it!

Extra, extra - read all about it!

Headlines, Headlines - take it home and shout it! (repeat x 2)

Projected Backdrop:– PCI will produce a gallery of images of ‘Save the Planet’ banners being unfurled at power stations, government buildings, military installations etc.

S T Our heroes went from stunt to stunt – carrying their own, personal media entourage with them! Ever more daring – ever more exciting! The public couldn't get enough of them. They even turned up on Oprah!

Scene SIX: The Chat Show

Projected Backdrop:– Create a Chat Show logo – and create a TV chat show set – with two chairs facing each other. The Chat Show host – dressed in a natty costume – welcomes them:

Chat Host Welcome to this very special edition of the { – ? – } Show! *[If the actress playing the role is called Claire Barton, it would be called ‘The Claire Barton Show’!]* I am delighted to be able to introduce you to two very special young people who have been electrifying the nation these last few weeks with their incredible stunts drawing attention to climate change. But who are they? What drives them? Let's find out!

[Luke and Lian walk on stage and take their seats.]

Chat Host Let's give them a big hand! (*applause – maybe have a floor manager rush on stage waving a big “APPLAUSE” sign*) Luke – let's start with you. How did you get involved in this movement?

Luke By accident, really: a bunch of my friends were going along to this demonstration – and it sounded like fun – bit of a laugh for a Saturday afternoon, so I joined them. And I got to be really good friends with the leaders of our local branch, Jake and Hassan, so I kept kind of hanging out with them...

Chat Host So it was a friendship rather than a grand passion for the issue?

Luke It was both – of course, without the issue, it wouldn't have made any sense. But I recognised that, if nothing else, our generation was going to have to learn how to live without oil – because it's going to run out in our lifetimes! And if we learned how to do that sooner rather than later, we'd get to stop global warming too. Win-win!

Chat Host What about you Lian: growing up in China, how much of an issue was climate change to you and your friends?

Lian Almost nothing. You see – in China, we have this one-child policy, so a massive amount of parent love is pressed on to you as a child – to do well at school, to get a place at a good university, to get a good job, marry a rich husband.... They pay for your extra tuition, and you feel a duty to do your best for your parents. If you get involved in side shows like climate change action, they think you have betrayed them. And they don't teach much about climate change in Chinese schools: we know it's a problem – and our government is working hard on a policy – but, until they tell us what that policy is, it is dangerous for Chinese children to protest too much.

Chat Host You mean you might end up in jail?

Lian It's possible – or you just might not get that place you hoped for at the university of your choice. I don't want you to get the impression that, if you step out of line, you're sent off immediately to the gulag – but, certainly, life is not as free as here. On the other hand, in a command economy like China, when they make the decision to convert from a fossil fuel economy to a solar hydrogen economy, they will make it much more quickly and more efficiently than anywhere else in the world.

Chat Host But right now – you're here, and you're doing these stunts – risking your life! Don't you worry about getting killed?

Luke Of course you do – but we are big on safety gear, and boy! - is it fun, some of it. And – we wouldn't be here talking to you about climate change if we hadn't done it.

Lian My father said you should live each day as though it was your last – that's the way to get the most out of life....

Chat Host So – whose fault is climate change?

Lian You – me! All of us who eat and breathe, drive and fly around this planet. We are all contributing....

Luke (*standing up and talking directly to camera/the audience*) But we would all stop if our governments forced to pay realistic Green Taxes and passed laws that would make it profitable to invest in a green, rather than a carbon, economy.

Chat Host I thought you were going to say it was all the fault of big business – share-holders wanting to maximise profits...?

Lian That's part of it – but I wouldn't want your audience to think that we are fighting industry: for us, industry is a big part of the solution. (*standing up and going alongside Luke*) Kids can do some things – but we cannot build the wind and solar farms, the smart grids, the network of electric 'gas stations.' Industry – business – is far and away the most efficient way of doing this. So we want all of you on our side: it's not a competition – it's a partnership we are looking for...

Lian With governments, pensioners – all nations, all religions, EVERYONE – coming together to overcome this problem that threatens our survival as a species. You remember 'War of the Worlds' – how the world came together when they were attacked from another planet? That's the way it is now! We haven't got time for wars now – all that military hardware can't fight off climate change! We have to invest in climate security! That's the priority now...

The lights go off on the Studio set – and come up on a couple of the smaller kids(drawn from the younger children's Storytellers group). They lye on the floor as though watching TV flicking through the channels on the remote. Luke walks off the set, and comes round behind them:

Scene SEVEN: Family Interlude

Luke Hey! – don't switch that off! That was me!

Lil'bro Why are you on TV again?

Luke Get used to it! Everybody knows who I am now?!

Lil' sis You mean you're famous?

Lil'bro Like the Simpsons?

Luke Not like the Simpsons.

Lil'bro Who's the Lian?

Lil' sis She's cute...

Luke She's from China! – and a very smart campaigner against global warming.

Lil'bro Why are you both so hot about Global Warming...?

Lil' sis Yes - why?

Luke Because I want you to have a world to live in when you grow up?

Lil'bro You mean we might not?

Luke If we carry on as we are, the world might get so hot, and so windy, you might not be able to live on it!

Lil' sis Because of Global Warming?!

Luke Because of Global Warming!

Lil'bro So you and that Lian are trying to stop it happening.

Lil' sis - so we have a safe, beautiful world to live in when we grow up.

Luke Right.

Lil' sis Well - thank you !

Luke You're welcome!

Lights fade on them, and come up on the Story-teller, downstage left:

S T Famous, indeed! But – they needed a success: something concrete to show that they had changed something. They heard a story of a mining company that had won a concession to tear up virgin forests to do open cast coal-mining for five new power stations – and make a whole lot of money!

Child 5 Why did people want so much money?

Child 6 We learn in school that money doesn't make you happy!

S T That's true: in the fifty years up to 2008, people tripled their incomes yet the 'happiness index' dropped every year. The richer people got – the unhappier they became.

Child 3 That's stupid

S T Very stupid – because they were destroying the planet to make money and it just made them all unhappier...

Child 4 Those people must have been really, really mad!

Child 2 Crazy –

Child 1 Bonkers!

S T Not really – just a little, how shall we put it, misguided!

Scene EIGHT: Confronting the Enemy

Luke, Lian, Jake, Hassan and the Boff come on at the head of the chorus, dressed for the Demo.

Luke 10,000 acres of some of the most beautiful woodland on God's green earth is going to be chewed up to get coal which – when it is burned – will destroy the lives of the children of those who will buy the energy. Where's the logic in that?

Boff There are two things here: first – the coal is freely available elsewhere in the world markets: it doesn't need to come from here. Second, if they have to build a coal-fired power station – why don't they build one with carbon capture and sequestration technology so that it doesn't pollute.

Youth (1) What is carbon capture sea-chest-rations...?

Boff CCS? – it's a process that takes the carbon out of the smoke from power stations, liquefies it, and stores it back under ground in old coal mines, or under the sea.

Youth (2) So why don't they install it?

Luke Money!

Lian CCS is expensive so – if they are not forced by law to buy it – they won't!

Luke Unless we *persuade* them!! And that's why we're here!

Jake No – we're here to get this company to support higher carbon taxes.

Lian Specifically to speak to lawmakers ...

Youth 3 Do you think they will?

Lian I sure hope so. First we have to get to see them...

Luke So – you know what you have to do, right?

Boff Let's do it

They link arms in a big circle round the stage so that when a group of men in suits come down the risers at the back. The crowd of young people circles them, round and round – until the suits realise they cannot get out.

President Call security, will you! These people are trespassing on my company's property.

Aide Shall we evict them, sir?

President Yes – by force if necessary.

Lian No need to be aggressive, Mr Chief Executive. We only want to talk with you.

President President, to you young lady, I am the President of this Corporation.

Lian Well – Mr President – we'd like the opportunity to meet with you.

President *(Nervously, looking round – seeking a means of escape)* In my office – I think I have time on Thursday – shall we say 4 o'clock?

Luke 4 o'clock will be just fine.

Aide May we go now?

Lian *(Bowing elaborately; creating the gap in the circle!)* Be my guest! **They Exit**

Luke We did it!! – wa-hey!! *(The crowd all cheer and wave their fists!)*

Lian Don't get too excited - now we've got to figure out what to say to him!

Jake Caucus! Let's get our heads down!

Pressman Let's get the photograph first!

The Press men push forward, singing:

The photo! The Photo!

We gotta have the photo!

The crowd pose with the children and Jake in front – a big flash! The Press men break out, singing:

**It's a story! We really gotta story!
Headline Story, definitely front page news -**

**Newsnight satellite, print it right,
Broad side, nationwide, any side!
Front page, centre-fold, get it sold!**

**Extra, extra - read all about it!
Headlines, headlines! - no doubt about it!
Extra extra don't go home without it!**

Front Page! Build it high!

Print it bold! Reach the sky!

Make 'em shout! Make 'em cry!

Children meet the President!

Scene EIGHT: In the office of the President

A large desk is set up with a Managing Director's chair. It is spotlighted. Low light comes up to illuminate the rest of the stage as the young people walk on. They wait – and the President of the Corporation strides in. He is extremely angry.

President You think you're pretty darn smart, don't you?! - barrelling round the country with your own personal press corps wreaking havoc on a legitimate business like mine. I don't know why you get off on this kind of thing but I am calling you in here to tell you to stop – 'cos you are costing me MONEY!!

Luke Ha! – money!

President Yes – M-O-N-E-Y. And if you don't back off – I'm going to bring the whole weight of the law down on you and get your pretty little asses thrown in jail! What right do you think you have to invade my property and tell me how to run my business?

Lian What right do you have to destroy the planet with those five new coal-fired power stations you're planning to build in the next two years? We understand you're not planning to put Carbon Capture and Sequestration in any of them!

President CCS?! You're kidding me, right? Do you have any idea how much that costs – and more to the point, the technology has not been proven!

Luke In Germany, there's one that's been running with CCS for four years with almost zero emissions. Our government is offering to support any company that agrees to run pilot tests: what's your problem?

Boff With CCS – your coal mines have got a future. Without it, your mines will be shut down in five years.

President Shut down, eh? Who's gonna make me??

Lian There's a meeting next year in Copenhagen – where governments are going to agree targets for carbon emissions which will require the closing down of all coal-fired plants within the decade.

Boff That's the only way we're gonna save the planet from catastrophic global warming – see here, this line going up into the red there... We've got to stop burning coal if we're gonna prevent that happening.

President So – you guys think you're going to put me out of business by talking climate change?! Climate change is a fantasy! This company is real! It has brought real prosperity and real jobs to thousands of people in this area. We're keeping the lights on in thousands of homes and factories across the region. What are you achieving with your stupid protests? A few headlines? Yesterday's news? Get real kids – get out of your jeans, get a haircut and make yourselves some money! *[Music –]*

Hassan Hmm. Let's try this another way – *[- he sings]*

SONG 9: Mr President

Hassan **Mr President – can't you see your mistake?
You are killing the world
For the profits you make?**

Lian **Mr President, can it be what it seems,
You care nothing for love,
You care nothing for dreams.**

Both **Mr President, is it true what I hear
Your profits are huge
But you all live in fear?**

All **Oh No! (Oh No)
It's plain to see (It's plain to see)
But so hard to understand,
That this life we all love
You are taking away, for the money you make!
Oh No! (oh no)
It's not fair! (it's not fair)
That you should have the right
For the sake of your pride,
You can make the world die
Without asking why
Oh NO!**

Luke **Mr President, is it true what I read,
This world will be dead
Because of your greed?**

Youth(1) **Mr President, can it be what it seems
You care nothing for children,
Nor for love, nor for dreams?**

Youth (2) **Mr President, won't you hear our small plea?
For the millions of children,
Make all your plants Green!**

All **Oh No! (Oh No)
It's plain to see (It's plain to see)**

But so hard to understand,
That this life we all love
You are taking away, with all that you do!
Oh No! (oh no)
It's not fair! (it's not fair)
That you should have the right
For the sake of your pride,
You can make the world die
Without asking why
Oh NO!

Lian **Mr President, it's a time to be brave!**

Luke **Announce to us all**

Both **You are changing your ways -**

All **To save our world!**

Hassan You see, sir – we didn't come here today to attack you, to drive you into a corner.

Lian We want you on our side: we know you need legislation to introduce the CCS. You won't do it unless all power companies have to: your share-holders wouldn't allow you to spend a cent installing CCS if other companies didn't have to as well, by law.

Jake As you know, this law is coming up in parliament –

President And we oppose it!

Boff And we want you to see what a mistake that is!

Jake We want you to go to the Committee and speak up in support of the legislation – persuading your fellow mining company presidents by showing them how much more money they can make by being the pioneers of the Green Economy.

President You want me to go to the committee and ask them to impose conditions on my industry that will cost us millions of dollars and double the fuel bills of everyone who might vote for them?!

Lian Yes!

President You're insane

Luke You'd create a leadership position for our government to take forward to the Copenhagen meeting!

Boff Our country would be a hero on this issue – on the right side of history for once!

Jake Smart people are already investing in windmills and such: that's where the profits are going to be made this century. Coal is a dinosaur!

President You don't know what you're talking about: there's three hundred years worth of coal in these mountains – and that'll keep me and my family in business for generations.

Luke - and almost certainly destroy the planet.

Boff You don't get it, do you?? (*referring to the laptop he always carries*) If we burn all the coal and oil in the ground today – it will shoot global warming way into the red here – way beyond the 2 degree threshold for dangerous climate change, and fry everything.

Lian Is that how you want to be remembered: *the man who fried the planet?!?*

Aide (coming forward) Correct! Which part of 'No!' did you not understand?
Luke And what if we refuse to go?!
Aide Law enforcement will come and remove you. I know him: you could sit outside our gates for a thousand years and neither he nor his successors will change their minds.
Lian The planet will, sir! The planet will!
Jake Indigenous people have a phrase for it: the planet will shake its fleas! It's doing so already – shaking off humanity like a bad case of head lice... And the biggest and the fattest of the louses that need to be shaken off is that asshole we've just met!
Boff The planet will still be here in a thousand years but your company – your company – absolutely will not.

Most of the kids troop off behind the Aide. Lights fade on the President's office. The desk remains. Luke, Lian, Jake and the Boff come forward downstage, dazed.

Lian I can't believe it. We failed.
Luke What are we going to tell the press?!
Lian The hell with the press! What we gonna do – our strategy is shot. All these months and weeks of protest, risking our lives, and what do we have: nothing. NOTHING!
Luke A fair few headlines.
Lian Hot air – titillation for the masses. Nothing concrete.
Luke Well – I'm not giving up. We've had a setback, that's all. Everyone has setbacks!
Lian I don't do setbacks. I don't do failure! I do success – and right now, I don't have any idea about how to turn this setback into a success.
Luke I'll think of something. Come on – let's go home.

They make towards stage Right, as the Press rush in from stage left, singing:

Press **Have you gotta story? – We bet you gotta story!**
Front Page story! – definitely headline news!
Luke Sorry guys – no story!
Press (Aghast!) – No story – what's the deal? What's the news?
Lian No news. The guy said no. End of story!
Press You're not ... giving up?!
Jake Of course not! That's just one asshole! We'll be back – watch us!
Lian The guy's not an asshole: we're stuck in a system that forces him to do what I think he knows to be wrong. We have to change the system – then he can change.
Luke But we need time to reflect – to plan our next step. That's all for now. Thank you!

*The Press **Exit** – disappointed. The kids look equally disappointed.*

Jake You wrong, Lian – that guy is a serious asshole. You shoudda kicked his butt more to the press. He certainly kicked your's –
Lian I know – and I hate it: this back and forth – confrontation – battling, fighting. I don't think I can do this any more, Jake! I am about done with protest.

Jake Done with protest! That's the dumbest thing I ever heard! You're good, gal – very good. One of the best I've seen – and your friend here is not too shabby either! With the Boff, you make a great team – and the press loves you. You have to keep going!

Luke We'll see – I think she needs some time on her own, now.

Jake Fine – see you around. But none of this talk about giving up! The planet needs you guys! **He exits**

Lian (*putting out her hand to shake 'good-bye'*) So – I guess that's it! I promised I'd go back to see my family. Now there's nothing to keep me here, I guess I'll go!

Luke But you'll be back in September!

Lian Yes – but who knows where you'll be then – where I'll be! I think I'm about done with all this....

Luke You mean - ... You really are giving up!

Lian Thanks for the ride – it's been fun.

Luke Just like that: it's over! I really wanted...

Lian I know what you wanted – and it's never going to happen. Sorry!

Luke Yeah – but...

Lian Yeah but nothing.

Boff I really want you to take this (*he fishes a CD-ROM out of his computer*) – it's the new programme I've been working on to help everyone visualise the state of the planet: show it to your friends back in China – professors, government officials – anyone! It's got all the UN data on it for every country – including the PRC.

Lian Thank you, Boff! You've been great! Really great! I feel I've let you down – really, really let you down. So – Sorry for raising your expectations! Good luck! Have a nice life! And I'll see you around. **She exits**

The Story-teller stands with the group of little kids, watching. Luke crouches, crest-fallen. Boff comes over and pats his friend on his shoulder, understanding:

Luke I really love her, Boff – and I never got to tell her.... And now I'll probably never see her again...

Boff You will! I know you will. You two were meant for each other. And the world needs pairs of people like you two!

Entr'acte (*The Lukes sing – softly – a cappella*)

Luke/Boff **We want this world to survive for ever
And all the people join their hands together
In a bond of love, kindness and friendship
We'll make peace here with the earth....**

Scene NINE: The Lian's Dorm Room

*As they sing, lights go on upstage: Lian **ENTERS** and starts packing a suitcase. The lights fade down stage as Boff and Luke **EXIT** at the end of the song.*

Lian is in an agony of indecision – wanting to pack and go home, but also wanting to stay and be with her friends – her special friend, Luke – whom she will not allow herself to admit she is fond

of. As she packs her things, she finds her Rosary. She walks forward, fingering it, looking to the heavens in search of answers. She drops to her knees and prays - singing:

SONG 11: FATHER IN THE SKY

Father in the sky
Won't you tell us who you are?
Won't you say a word to me - that I can understand
You have me in your hands

Father in the sky
Have you forgotten where we are?
The clouds grow darker every day
And I am so afraid
I never was so brave....

How can I carry on
And still believe in you
When every hope has vanished
Long ago - in spite of you

Hassan comes on, silently - watching. The chorus sits, singing the harmonies quietly:

How can we carry on
How can we face you now?
When everything we tried so hard
To do was lost somehow
How can we face you now?

Father in the sky
Have you forgotten where we are?
The clouds grow darker every day
And we are so afraid
We never were so brave....

Hassan comes forward: she's pleased to see him:

Hassan Sorry to burst in – the door was open!

Lian No – I was hoping you'd come round!

Hassan You don't think I would let you leave without saying 'goodbye!'

Lian Thank you! *(They hug)* How's Luke?

Hassan Not great – he's very fond of you....

Lian I know. I'm fond of him. Very fond – but I just had – I had to get away from all this!

Hassan I know –

Lian What am I going to do, Hass?! Just nothing makes sense any more!

Hassan Remember Prince Hamlet: "*There is a divinity that shapes our ends rough hew them as we will...*" Or, as John Lennon put it: "*Turn off your mind, relax and float down stream...*" I find it very comforting not to *think* too much at times like this. Just have faith: I don't believe our Father in the Sky has plans to wipe humanity off the face of the planet. I have faith that, in all this chaos we see around us, he – or she – is working things out. And I sure hope she is because I don't see a single politician alive today who has a clue how to sort it out.

Lian My faith is pretty weak, Hass: I'd like to believe - but there's so much crap going on, I don't think God's doing a very good job right now. If he is sorting things out, why has he set us up in this whole conflict with the Muslims – whose faith is so much stronger?

Hassan There is no conflict! I'm a Muslim and I love Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus: all the major religions teach us the same thing – to love, to forgive, to care for the planet, to heal the sick, care for each other – especially the most vulnerable. We need to recognise that – far from dividing us – religion connects us all.

Lian I'd love to believe that – but where is God in all this? Young people going around blowing themselves up, killing innocent people. I hate that –

Hassan So do I –

Lian - and I think that all this protest we've been doing – all this attack, attack, attack – hate, hate, hate! – It hasn't gotten us anywhere.

Hassan Right! So we have to think again: and that's what you are doing. Go see what they're doing in China – I hear that they are doing a lot and that the next 5-year plan is going to surprise us all.

Lian So – you think I'm right to go?

Hassan Of course – if Luke loves you, he'll still be here for you when you get back.

Lian You think so?

Hassan I know so.

Lian Tell him, will you?

Hassan I will. Now listen – I want to show you how we Muslims believe pretty much exactly what you Catholics do! Remember the Lord's Prayer?

Lian Of course: "Our Father – which art in heaven"

Hassan In Arabic, we say: *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic – which he translates to English)* – go on!

Lian Hallowed be thy name

Hassan *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic and in English)* -

Lian Thy Kingdom Come –

Hassan *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic and in English)* -

Lian Thy Will be done

Hassan *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic and in English)* -

Lian *(saying the words in the rhythm of the musical setting)* On Earth – as it is in Heaven

Hassan *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic and in English)* -

Lian Give us our daily bread

Hassan *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic and in English)* -

Lian And forgive us our trespasses

Hassan *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic and in English)* -

Lian As we forgive them, that trespass against us

Hassan *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic and in English)* -

Lian And lead us not into temptation

Hassan *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic and in English)* -

Lian But deliver us from all evil

Hassan *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic and in English)* -

Lian *(singing!)* **For thine is the Kingdom**

Hassan *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic and in English)* -

Lian (singing!) The Power and the Glory
Hassan (a quote from the Koran in Arabic and in English) -
Lian/Hassan (singing!) For ever more – Yes
Thine is the Kingdom
The Power and the Glory
For ever and ever – AMEN!

Together they sing the Lord's Prayer through twice – first time with the Arabic quotes from the Koran woven in between the lines. The second time through – they build it to an enormous climax!

SONG 12: OUR FATHER

Hassan/Lian Our Father – which art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy Kingdom Come – Thy Will be done
On Earth – as it is in Heaven
Give us our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive them, that trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from all evil
For thine is the Kingdom
The Power and the Glory
For ever more – Yes
Thine is the Kingdom
The Power and the Glory
For ever and ever – AMEN!

The chorus and cast join them singing this - the First Act Finale. Hold tableau.

BLACK OUT

- INTERMISSION -

A C T T W O

Scene TEN: Dream Scene

Music starts – deep, sinister. Lights – blue, sepulchral – come up on Luke sleeping on stage. In his dream, figures clad in black, fill the stage with the his nightmare. A voice sings: the figures dance to the song - stark images of violence and devastation appear on the screen and the stage. The dancers sweep Lian up in the violence: she is covered in filth – dressed in rags. The dancers tear her apart – destroy her, trample her. Everything is subsumed by the Mire.

SONG 13: THE MIRE

Like a wave that's pounding down around my head
Like the surge of lava from an erupting volcano
Hell has broken lose, and the earth is on the move
What way now that everything's upside down
It wasn't a bomb; it's the beginning of the end

The world gives us its verdict; it splits in two
As it prepares for war against me and you
A hurricane rises; twisters rage
Earthquakes rumble, tidal waves

Blind devastation, death is in the air
 The mire is upon us - Spreading all around us
 Descending like a plague - Oozes out, oozing its rage
 The mire is upon us - Creeping all around us
 Filling every space - Engulfing the whole human race

Winters' cold; summer's are all burning
 Hard rains are falling; drought has broken through
 The tide is rising; sun is rising too
 What way now there's nothing we can do
 Just sit it out waiting for the end

The world gives us its verdict; it splits in two
 As it prepares for war against me and you
 A hurricane rises; twisters rage
 Earthquakes rumble, tidal waves
 Blind devastation, death is in the air

Birds don't fly everything must die
 Riverbanks break flooding everywhere
 The earth is scorched, and nothing will survive
 Hell has broken lose, and the earth is on the move
 What way now, everything's upside down
 It wasn't a bomb; it is the beginning of the end
 Riverbanks break flooding everywhere
 Blind devastation death is in the air

The mire is here

Luke wakes up with a start. His Little sister stands over him:

Lil' Sis Were you dreaming?
 Luke Yes – yes.... Where am I?
 Lil' Sis Home, I hope!
 Luke Yes – of course! What time is it?
 Lil' Sis Time for you to get up and go to school!
 Luke Jeez! Is that the time?! Thanks, Sis – I gotta get going....

He leaps up and runs from the stage – whether in terror from the black clad figures who still lurk at the side of the stage, or from the need to get to school.

BLACK OUT

Scene ELEVEN: Meeting on the Playground

Lights come up on the Boff, sitting on a bench, mid-stage centre, tapping away at his laptop. Lian comes rushing in, holding Boff's CD in her hand. She sits down beside him and hugs him – Boff is astonished, both to see her – and by her abundant enthusiasm:

Lian Boff! – Oh Boff! – you are a genius! This is BRILLIANT!!
 Boff Lian!! You're back! How great to see you!
 Lian 'Course I'm back! And you – you've inspired me to start all over again!
 Boff So what's so brilliant?
 Lian Your Dashboard! It's all over China now – I made copies!! I hope you don't mind –
 Boff Of course not – it's a free download from the web, and you can access direct on
www.dashboard.net

Lian I didn't know: some places in China you can't get where you want on the internet. Anyway – my Dad works in the government, and he was so excited by it – he got me to show it to one of the top scientists in the Ministry of Environment, and the director of the Ministry of Education! They want the rights to translate it into Chinese! You're going to be a millionaire – and far more famous than I was....

Boff When did you get back?

Lian Yesterday – aren't you pleased, Boff? - your little web game is going to convert China to a green economy;

Boff It's not a game, Lian! All the data in there is down-loaded from the UN websites – it is the best data we have, and if you are looking at it on this (*holds up the CD-ROM*) – you're several months out of date. Things have gotten significantly worse.

Lian But Boff – it's the principle: when we get this on TV – and everybody sees what happens when you can project forward – ten, twenty, fifty – a hundred years into the future, everyone will understand why global warming is so serious.

Boff It's just a fun piece of animation based on simple numeric equations – it's not rocket science, Lian –

Lian Oh but it is! You've taken the most complicated scientific gobbledygook and translated it into language that even my Mum understands. My gran got it too, and my little sister. That's absolutely dead, bloody Brilliant!

Boff Well thanks. Have you seen the rest of the gang? Things have gotten pretty quiet around here since you left.

Lian No – I – I just got back....

Boff Luke's Head of School, now!

Lian Wow!

The Head of School comes on at side of stage with Jake and Hassan. He makes to run to Lian – but Hassan stops him:

Hassan Lian!! You came back!

Lian Of course I came back!

Hassan (*going and hugging her*) – Thank you! We missed you so much – (*Jake hugs her too – Luke is too gobsmacked to do anything except shuffle towards her slowly -*)

Luke You never wrote –

Lian Neither did you... (*she holds out her hand as if to shake his. He takes it and draws her into a hug. The others all applaud*) I hear you're head of school now?

Luke Well – with you not around, it was no contest!

Lian So what's up? When's the next demo?!

Hassan C'mon, Lian! We agreed before you left - the time for protest is over. We are working on our new strategy!

Jake Yeah – come and see! We're doing a Model UN today.

Lian What's a Model UN?

Hassan It's when students take on the role of Ambassadors of different UN member countries – and try to reach agreement on world issues.

Lian Sounds fun: tell me climate change is on the agenda?

Jake Of course! – and I'm representing China! I wish you'd been here – you'd have saved me a ton of research...

Boff - and I'm presenting the latest edition of the Planet Dashboard!

Lian Great!! Can I come along and watch - ?

Jake As long as you don't heckle from the back benches if I get things wrong about China!

Lian My lips are sealed! (*to Luke*) – so who are you representing?

Luke (*embarrassed*) I'm the Secretary General!

Lian Of course you are! – how silly of me! Head Boy, eh?!

Luke Welcome home, Lian! (*to the others*) Come on guys, let's get over there!

They exit – the Story-teller comes forward watching them go. The young children follow:

Story-teller Interlude:

Child 2 Why were they doing a United Nations meeting at a school?

S T It wasn't a proper UN meeting – it was a pretend UN – but young people, students, learn an enormous amount from doing it. I remember everything about the Model UN I did – and I represented Algeria!

Child 3 But you're not from Algeria!

Child 4 You don't even look like Arabic!

S T That's the point! I learned to think like an Algerian – just like Jake learned to think like a Chinaman – and that's very interesting. If we all stepped into each other's shoes a little more – and thought about what the world looks like from another country's point of view, the world would be a much happier place.

Child 5 So – I'm confused: which one does Lian love? The head boy or the muslim guy?

S T Is that all you're concerned about?? Which guy gets the girl?? I thought you were learning about climate change here??

Children We are – of course! – we are!

Child 1 But they're both really cute guys – and of course it's interesting which one she fancies most?

Child 2 I think she'll dump both of them and run off with the computer geek!

Child 3 You crazy!

Child 4 He's quite cute actually!

Child 5 And he's the one who's going to get really rich!

S T Shut up! – Shut up all of you – and watch the story! This is where it gets really important! [*They move back down to their seats where they sat for Act ONE*]

Scene TWELVE: The Model UN

The UN symbol descends upstage centre; beneath it, up stage centre, the Planetary Dashboard is set up: this is as elaborate a stage device as you choose to make it: it can be a single flat table with a large Red Knob at the back of it - you can then use the gallery powerpoints on the screen to reflect the information coming up on the Dashboard. Or you can create a sloping dashboard with all the dials and gauges the Scientist describes painted on it, along with flashing lights – a fairground facility that fills the whole of the upstage area – to which the Powerpoint charts are simply informative additions. The Boffin fiddles about – checking details – while the chorus sing and dance around him:

SONG 14: INVENTIONS

Make a wheel, then spinning it round
It may carry the world
Make a fire – yes building it high till
It burns to the ground
Make a blade and call it a spade
To dig through the earth

Creatures of Invention – yes we are Man!
Heading for destruction with our own hands
Nothing can stop us
We'll make our own star dust
Nothing can stop us...

So spin that wheel, faster and faster
It will carry us far
Stoke up that fire, yes higher and higher
Till it burns to the sky
Make a bow, put in an arrow
Let it fly through the world

Heading for destruction with our own hands
Plenty of money, more milk and more honey
Who needs to work?
But what of the spade, digging so hard?
What's left but soil and the earth?

We are Creatures of Invention – yes we are Man!
Heading for destruction with our own hands
The wheels are all turning
The fires are all burning
We're living for learning
Learning, learning, learning....

As the song ends, a podium is set up down stage right. Luke comes and speaks at it:

Luke: Hallo – and welcome everyone to our Annual Model United Nations! This year – we have chosen to focus our learning on what the UN Secretary General calls the 'defining challenge of our time': Climate Change! In a few months time, world leaders will be meeting in Copenhagen to agree the next round of climate change targets – and today, we are going to decide what we would do if we were in their position! To help us understand this incredibly complex issue, we have brought along our very own climate change scientist – Niall Atkinson, who we all know as our friendly, neighbourhood Boffin! – to explain it all on the Planet Dashboard:

Boff: Thanks, Luke! – so most of you know what's going on: the world's getting warmer – that's what that graph on the left shows: it measures carbon parts per million: and that is what it was two hundred years ago – before the Industrial Revolution. That's what it is right now – 387ppm. And that's what it will be in 2050 – enough to generate a 5.5 degree increase in global warming – Planet over! So – what you have to decide today and what our leaders will be deciding in Copenhagen in a couple of months time is: what level do we aim for to avoid catastrophic climate change. Some say 550ppm will be enough to crack the problem. Others say 450ppm is necessary – and some of the most respected scientists say 350ppm is what we need to aim for! They point out that current levels of global warming are already melting the icecaps and the glaciers. So we have to tighten our belts and get the ppm down to 350!

Luke Thanks, Boff! – But that’s not all that we need to do, today! We need to agree the international framework of carbon trading – and green taxes! And talk about Climate Change education – how we get the public to accept greater controls on human consumption. I have a ton of ideas on that – but so do all the countries that you are representing! So – get to it! If you need any facts, the Boff is here! Get to your committees and let’s get some kick-ass ideas on the table before lunch. Go for it!

Youth 1 Back here in 40-minutes for first de-brief!?

All Yeah!

All EXIT – except Lian, Luke & Hassan

A table and three chairs are set up downstage centre.

Lian 40 minutes! Time for a cup of coffee?

Hassan Sure! *(he goes off in search of coffee: Luke and Lian sit down at the table)*

Luke So – how’s the family?

Lian Great – it was good to see them! And – with that Dashboard – I think China’s ready

Luke Ready for what?

Lian Ready to embrace the Green Economy! Ready to build it – ready to lead the world into a technological revolution that will put smart grids and solar-hydrogen plants in every country in the world.

Luke They’ve got the work-force to do it!

Lian But they need the science from the rest of the world: no one has CCS technology yet in China. No one’s even talking about it!

Luke It’s not just CCS – it’s the carbon-trading; it’s the solar/wind electric transport infrastructure, the housing regulations, retro-fits to create zero carbon and carbon positive cities. It’s a huge job –

Lian - and: we’ve got to figure out the aid architecture to get the post-carbon infrastructure in the world’s poorest countries.

Hassan *(coming back with coffee)* Lo-carbon development: no one has a clue what that is!

Lian So – what are your priorities for Copenhagen?

Luke I don’t know! We’ll see what comes out of today: we’re definitely going to do something – and, now you’re back, we can start to think about a campaign.

Lian Campaign for what, though?

Hassan It’s really hard: there’s been so little publicity on the carbon-trading issue, it’s like no one really cares about it.

Luke It’s too complicated for people to get their heads around

Lian And everyone says: the European system’s been a disaster...

Hassan You’re sounding like the Boffin already!

Luke But we all agree – simple protest is not enough: we have to lobby government on things that they could do!

Hassan Knee-jerk opposition to everything they propose is just not going to get anywhere.

Lian We have to form alliances – get some industry chiefs on our side, trade unionists, UN folk, some politicians, scientists...

Luke There’s plenty of coalitions – but trying to get them to agree on a policy is like pulling teeth!

Hassan Yeah – that’s the challenge: even amongst the activists, no one agrees on anything!

Lian People are so dumb!

Luke Sure! – the world would be a whole lot better off without them!

Hassan And - here come some of the dumbest of them!

The kids troop back. Luke takes his position at the podium

Luke So – where are we getting to?

Youth 1 Seems like each committee agreed: 350ppm has to be the target!

Luke Unanimous

Youth 1 Unanimous

Lian That’s great - ! (*she leads a round of applause*)

Luke Anything else – Committee ONE?

Youth 1 Yeah! We reckoned that no one’s going to give a monkey’s about Climate Change if they are still fighting wars – so we reviewed the Peace Deals we agreed at our last Model UN: we endorsed the ones on the Middle East, Kashmir, Southern Sudan, Cyprus, Armenia / Azerbaijan, Western Sahara, Chechnya and Tibet....

Lian Tibet - ??! We’d veto any discussion of that in the UN!

Youth 1 Not in a sub-committee – they can talk about whatever they want!

Luke Thanks – Committee TWO?

Youth 2 Education for all! We figured, if you can’t read, how can you learn the science of the climate change and Lo-carbon development!?! You have to start with education for all!

Luke Great – Committee THREE?

Youth 3 We recommend the setting up of an Energy and Climate Security Council – with the power of veto and punitive sanctions over reckless polluters.

Luke Great idea – what about Committee FOUR?

Youth 4 We got our heads around the carbon trading issue – and came up with a whole bunch of ideas for a global carbon cap and trade system. You want me to read it?

Luke No! – this sounds like we’re all on good tracks – no duplication! Congratulations.

Lian Wa-hey! – all that in the time it took us to have a cup of coffee?! So – what’s the deal on the Middle East?

Youth 1 All in the joint defence insurance pact: governments democratically elected by their people in free and fair elections will benefit from the protection of a UN global police force which will protect them from internal rebellion or external attack.

Youth 7 Real estate issues to be sorted by negotiation and agreed by referendum.

Lian And how do you get the education for all?

Youth 6 It’s all about pyramid cascaded peer-to-peer education and literacy brigades: it worked in Cuba and Nicaragua. It can work everywhere else as well!

Lian Brilliant! – but how you gonna pay for all this?

Youth 8 Committee FOUR is looking at that: for a start, youth-led development and peer-to-peer teaching costs about a tenth of normal professional development. The carbon cap and trade package will raise about \$40 billion a year – more than enough for most LDC adaptation packages and solar / hydrogen energy infrastructures. For the rest, we propose a Tobin Tax on currency trading.

Youth 9 Can some one explain what is Cap and Trade?

Boff It's all about capping the emissions and trading the balances. But the trick is – getting the quotas right for each country at the get-go!

Lian Brilliant - so what happens now?

Luke We get back to our committees and finish up this drafting – so we have some solid papers to talk about at the General Assembly this afternoon! Let's go!! ALL EXIT

Lian No – I mean: what happens to all these great ideas you've come up with?

Luke Nothing! We store them in the archive so that next year's Model UN can build on them.

Lian Then what?

Hassan We go back to school, and get on with our real work!

Lian What's more "real" than saving the planet?

Luke A-levels! (*or SATs – or Baccalaureat – or whatever graduation exam you have!*)

Hassan Getting a place at university!

Lian Are you crazy??!! This is the most important work any of us will ever do! Our generational challenge. How can anything be more important than doing something with all these great agreements you have come up with??

Hassan That's not what this is about! It's fun but it's extra-curricular! The real stuff – math, science, history, languages: that's what gets you into college and get's you a good job!

Luke I agree with you, Lian: we all do! That's why we do it! We learn a ton from it. But we have to do it in our own time: rules is rules, eh?! Teacher knows best...

Lian Teachers don't know sh....

Boff (*coming in – interrupting her*) Hey guys! Breaking news – very, very, very good news!

All What?! What?!

Boff President Obama has announced his Green Economy package! And it's great!

Hassan Finally! We've only been waiting nine months....

Luke C'mon – Give the guy a break! These things take time. How good is it, Boff:

Boff Brilliant: end dependency on foreign oil in ten years. Complete solar electric infrastructure built in the same time scale. 3 million new jobs in the next five years – and two million more to follow. People are saying it's the most exciting American challenge since Kennedy said they would put a man on the moon in ten years.

Hassan They did that, didn't they?

Luke - and they'll do this too! Leaving Europe and the rest of the world for dust.

Lian Unless China comes through with something electrifying in Copenhagen!

Boff You really think they will??

Lian I know they will!

Luke I think this call's for a celebration – get everyone back here! Our committee hearings need to take account of this new information!

Hassan At last we have a leader who is making our world safe for us and our children!

Lian Yeah – but we're way ahead of him: I bet he hasn't got a handle on a fraction of the things that we've agreed here in the time it took for us to have a cup of coffee!

Hassan Come on! – don't be so cynical. We have got to count our blessings!

Luke Accentuate the positive - celebrate the small advances (*The others all return*) Come on, guys: Obama's delivering on the Green Economy! And we're celebrating! Let's Sing! (*They form a circle, break out the bubbly and toast their success!*)

SONG 14: SING

Luke (*Sings*)

- I do wish the world would sing!
I do wish the world would say
How they love to live and play
How they need each other's -

Hassan (*Sings*)

Peace! That is all we want to have,
That is all we want to share
Let us live our lives in peace
Oh let us give this life a chance to-

Youth 1 (*Sings*)

Love - it will help us all to sing,
It will teach us all to dance
I do wish the world would sing
I do wish the world would say -

Youth 2 (*Sings*)

How they love to live in Peace
How they love to sing and dance
All we need is one more chance
Won't you give us one more chance to -

All (*Sing*)

Love! - love is all I need
Love is all I want,
Love is everywhere!

Peace! - Peace is all I want
Peace is all I need,
Peace - everywhere!

Come into my joy,
Come into my pain,
Come - you'll be a friend of mine,
I'll be the same

(Repeat X 3)

Scene THIRTEEN: The PANIC Button

The planet dashboard remains on stage – and the Boff works on it typing away – peering at the screens – willing them to do what he wants. But they don't - one graph persists in nudging into the red – despite everything he does. A big red sign flashes “WARNING” “WARNING.” Finally, he gives up in frustration as Luke and Lian come on, arm-in-arm - laughing.

Boff Oooh! Arm in arm now, are we?! (*Lian drops Luke's arm and moves away*)

Luke I'm wearing her down! It's a tough job, but some one's got to do it!

Lian *(Glares at the Luke, looks at the Boffin)* So who put the toilet cleaner in your coffee?? Come on! – smile – it may never happen....

Boff I rather think it might. In fact, I think it just did - that's what worries me!

Luke What - ?

Boff The end of civilisation as we know it!

Luke Ach! C'mon! It's all on the mend – just last week, you were saying that the indicators were moving in the right direction after Obama's announcement.

Boff Yeah – but he's got a 10-year programme – and it's too late: we've broken the two degree threshold. We're now into the realm of 'dangerous climate change.' I don't know what to do – except hit the PANIC button.

Lian What's the Panic Button

Boff I made this list-serve – when I hit the button, they'll all get a press statement stating how this is the end of the world as we know it!

Luke But who will it reach? How big is the list-serve?

Boff Huge! The entire scientific community – the media and – of course – the politicians.

Hassan And what will they do?

Boff Nothing much, probably – but it will make me feel better!

Lian At least that shares the problem: you don't have to sit here worrying about it on your own. Go on – do it!

Boff I can only do it once: it's like crying wolf! It's not the kind of thing you can do every week.

Luke So would it help to wait a week?

Boff No! – things would get worse.

Lian So do it now! –

Luke We'll do it together!

*They put their three hands on top of each other and together slam them down on the big red Panic Button. Nothing – then suddenly, alarm bells start ringing around the theatre – the graphs go crazy – stars and zig-zags criss-cross across the screen. Out of the sound – the musical glissando of the start of **Superman**. The Boff + Lian + Luke and Chorus sing as Dancers come on stage, dressed in the suits of politicians, running around like headless chickens in panic:*

15: SUPERMAN

**Where you gonna run to, Superman?!
 Where you gonna hide, where will be your land?
 What you gonna say now, Superman?!
 Who'll be the fool in your masterplan?
 What you gonna do now, Superman?!
 What have you done to God's promised land?
 What have you done with this beautiful world?
 Where is your guiding star?
 What have you done with this God-given Grace?
 Who do you think you are?
 Yes – who do you think you are?
 Where you gonna run to, Superman?!
 Where you gonna hide? Where will be your land?**

We'll wake up one morning and the world will be gone
With all of our beautiful dreams

We had so many chances but we threw them away
And now we've sold our souls to the Devil's cause
How did we lose control?
And how we gonna pay the toll?

What you gonna say now, Superman?!
Who'll be the fool in your masterplan?
What you gonna do now, Superman?!
What have you done to God's promised land?
Where you gonna run to... - Superman?!

At the end, the dancers scatter through the audience, gabbling like mad, crazy people with no clue about what to do. Lian, Luke and the Boff watch amused. Hassan and Jake join them:

Jake More to the point – what are you going to do?

Luke I think we've done enough, don't you?? People are getting sick of us. I think it's time to give us a rest – get back to our studies. I've got exams coming up at college and...

Lian Now you're quitting?! I don't believe it! "Exams coming up...." How lame is that?! The biggest test of your life, and you're just going to walk away from it?

Jake She's right...

Luke You went away, right?! And I got to thinking: "*How am I really going to help crack this problem – not just be a pain-in-the-butt to everyone?*" And I reckon: I'm going to get my degree, go into politics and get laws passed that will force everyone to lower their carbon footprint, starting with me: the Planet Dashboard has a carbon calculator which shows you how to reduce your personal footprint...

Jake It's not enough, Luke!

Lian Nothing like enough! We have the media! We have notoriety! We must use it.

Boff At Copenhagen!

Jake Yeah – we've got to do something really massive for Copenhagen

Hassan (*raising his voice!*) Really, really massive!

Jake (*shouting!*) Blow your brains out kickass!

Boff (*Louder!*) But what??!!

Luke (*Shouting!*) What - ? What - ? What - ?!

Lian (*screaming!*) I'm working on it!!

BLACK OUT

Scene TWELVE: A moment's peace

Go back to the paradise lighting of Scene ONE. Luke and Lian are sitting with a picnic basket beside them. The Luke's little brother and sister are playing happily with each other, talking to their older brother when their game takes them past him.

Lil' Bro Why can't we do this every day?

Luke 'Cos you have to go to school!

Lil' Sis I hate school! Why can't we have a school right here –

Lian Not a bad idea!

Luke What would you do if it rained?

Lil' Bro We'd have a big tent – and go inside and eat peanut butter and jelly sandwiches!

Lil' Sis - with ice cream!

Luke You crazy – you know you have to go to school!

Lian Why?

Luke Whaddya mean - why??!!

Lian Just asking. What’s this essay you’re dumping me for this evening??

Luke Napoleonic War: “Explain the strategy of Bonaparte’ victory at Austerlitz?”

Lian (*explodes*) You’re kidding me, right??!! Tell me you’re joking??!!

Luke Why would I be joking? I’m a history major – I have to do a module on the Napoleon: it’s very interesting...

Lian Yeah – but don’t you see? That! – THAT!! Is the problem. Kids going through school will come out knowing more about battles fought two hundred years ago than the massive battle they will have to fight in their lifetimes!! Battling climate change!

Luke Good point – but how do you change that?

Lian I don’t know – I’m a chemistry major! You know most people still don’t know that Copenhagen’s happening...

Luke Yeah – there’s very little about it in the Press!

Lian Very little about it in school!

Luke Nothing – not in my classes –

Lian What can we do about that? -

Luke We could have a school strike - ?

Lil’ Bro Kids on Strike! – Kids on Strike!

Lil’ Sis We’re not going to school any more! Kids on Strike!!

Lian YOU – ARE – BRILLIANT!! That’s it! We can organise a worldwide school strike for Copenhagen -

Luke - and tell the politicians that we’re not going back to school until they agree the 350 parts per million carbon target!

Lian We can do more than that: we could have a complete shopping boycott – kids not buying any stuff – not going to the cinema, just staying home and learning how to win the biggest battle we face in our Lifetimes – against Climate Change!

Luke It could get some attention -

Lian Every kid in the world would join, (*turning to the audience*) – wouldn’t you?

Lil’ Bro Kids on Strike! – Kids on Strike!

All Kids on Strike! Kids on Strike!! Kids on Strike! Kids on Strike!!

The audience join in, building the chant! Louder and louder! Then silence – BLACK OUT

Scene THIRTEEN: The School Strike

Lights come up on the Story-teller coming forward -

S T So began the global Kids Strike – to save the world from dangerous climate change! Country by country, continent by continent – kids around the world joined in, refusing to take part in a society that seemed intent on killing itself – and denying them information about the situation – or all the possible ways to stop it! The Planet Dashboard became required viewing for kids all over the world! And the media!

The Planet Dashboard shows images of the world – and countries passing through with big numbers – millions reading off against each of them.

Music – “I Gotta Story” –

The press come back in force and sit on chairs being briefed by the Boff. All are different races – French, German, Chinese, Indian, African, Latin American. They all sing:

A-tic-a-tac-a-shoo-ee!

A-tic-a-tac-a-shoo-ee!

A-tic-a-tac-a-tic-a-tac-a-tic-a-tac-a-shoo-ee!

A-tic-a-tac-a-shoo-ee!

A-tic-a-tac-a-shoo-ee!

A-tic-a-tac-a-tic-a-tac-a-tic-a-tac-a-shoo-ee!

Boff I can confirm that Australia is in the lead with 100% out. Thailand is up to 72% - France: 68%; Sweden 52% and Malaysia - 44%.

Press (1) Still no information from China??

Boff Sorry - nothing!

Lian (*coming on with the Luke*) I’m sorry too! I’m working on it - I just came from the Chinese Embassy: we always knew they would never support a strike – but I think they are going to go one better! Expect some very good news from the People’s Republic shortly...

Luke The other message I want you to put out very strongly is that, although we are calling a school strike, we’re not – absolutely NOT – calling for a stop on learning. We want youth – all youth – to use this time to learn about the realities of climate change: get on the Planet Dashboard – check out your carbon footprint, and all the things you can do to reduce it! We want every student on strike to reduce their family’s carbon footprint by half!

As Luke is speaking, the microphone he is using fades down – and the press people sitting on the chairs across the stage are heard reading the translations of his text in different languages... a fun opportunity to bring all those bilingual students in your school and put them in the spotlight! Sound comes back to Luke for his final line!

Luke So – how’s it looking on the dashboard?? Any changes!

Boff It’s amazing! Everywhere we have high numbers of schools on strike – the carbon footprint is getting lower by the minute: it seems those kids back home are using the chance to teach their parents more sustainable lifestyles!

Lian Great – and we are only into the second week of the call! And we reckon 50% of the students in full-time schooling around the world are out on strike at this point –

Luke And the strike will end as soon as the governments of the world agree to discuss our ideas in a session of the UN Security Council -

Lian That’s a promise!

Luke A discussion – that’s all! No upfront commitments. That’s fair, isn’t it??

Press (2) (*Rushing in – very excited!!*) Ab! – Ab! – EEK!!! – you’re not going to believe this: (*reading*) “The Government of the People’s Republic of China have ordered a change in the schedule of the Copenhagen Summit to allow the leaders of the School Strike to present their ideas for stopping global warming!!”

Press (*as one!*) Incredible!!! (- repeated in Spanish, French, Russian, Chinese etc. -)

Press (*sing*)

It's a story! We really gotta story!

Headline Story, definitely front page news -

Newsnight satellite, print it right,
Broad side, nationwide, any side!
Front page, centre-fold, get it sold!

Extra, extra, read all about it!
Headlines Headlines no doubt about it!

Extra, extra - read all about it!

Headlines, Headlines - take it home and shout it! (repeat x 2)

*The Press rush down the aisles, selling their amazing story to the public **EXIT***

Scene FOURTEEN: The UN Climate Change Summit, Copenhagen, Denmark:

Luke and Lian are left on stage – as the lights change – the Big UN symbol descends at the back of the stage – and the diplomats dressed in their suits come in. They sit around a horseshoe table as though at a UN Summit council. The Secretary General sits at the apex of the table and raps his gavel:

S G Good morning everyone. We are gathered here at the request of the Chinese government to listen to the ideas of young people of our world – who, as we all know, will be the major victims of a failure to address the Climate Change challenge successfully – and the major beneficiaries should we succeed. I am pleased to declare this session Open! – and invite the young people to address us:

Lian It is an awesome honour to address your excellencies at this Summit which will decide the future course of World History. We stand at a crossroads – one way leads to prosperity, security in the green economy and a courageous decision to change the habits of the last 200 years to ensure we survive the next 200. The other way – well, I'm not here to talk to you about the other way.

Luke We called the world's young people out on strike because we wanted them to know the detail of what you are discussing here this week. And now they do know – all their eyes are upon you.

Hassan We – the young people of the world – are united in this appeal to you. United across national, ethnic, cultural, economic and religious barriers. We urge you to discover the same unity.

Lian The United Nations was set up to 'save succeeding generations from the scourge of war' – to secure our human rights, to provide food security, water security, personal security of our person from violence or harm... These are the most cherished aspects of our human condition. And climate change threatens every aspect of that 'security' – which is why we call for targets of 350ppm – and a 3 Trillion dollar Global Green Economy Investment Fund.

Diplo 1 Your demands transcend the frontiers of reason!

Diplo 2 My government does not set targets we know are impossible to meet. Others might – we do what we say we're going to do!

Lian Very admirable! But why are they impossible?

Diplo 3 \$3 trillion? – that's a good chunk of the world economy!

Diplo 4 10%! And 350 is way below what anyone at this table is considering...

Jake You were able to find \$3 trillion for that stoopid Iraq war which bought you a few short years of oil: sure you can find the same amount to build an energy infrastructure that will sustain us for centuries!?

Lian And 350ppm is the only sure way we can ensure our world survives: look how fast the Arctic is melting at 387ppm? You know that the targets you are discussing now are band-aids: why not be brave – do the right thing. *[music]* Look at it our way....

18: WE WANT THIS WORLD TO SURVIVE FOR EVER!

Soloist(1) (*sings*) All the time through the day and through the night
I think about my life in this world
So many times I've tried to find
A way to live my life - A way to ease my mind

Soloist(2) (*sings*) I know this world could die forever
And people are the reason why
Children and parents, lovers and poets
We just can't hear our planet cry!

Chorus (*sing*) We want this world to survive forever
And all the people
Join their hands together
In a bond of love, kindness and friendship
We can make peace with the earth

Soloist(3) (*sings*) So many people have died in wars
And we want that no one else should suffer - not again
We mustn't forget that many are poor
And half of our children lack even food!

Soloist(4) (*sings*) We know this world is a wonderful place
It's our home - where we live and where we grow!
I want to believe that this world can be
Peaceful, free - and happy home for all

Chorus (*sing*) We want this world to survive forever
And all the people join their hands together
In a bond of love kindness and friendship
We can make peace with the earth.

Luke & Lian (*sing*) Let's join our hands together
Let's make Peace throughout our World!

S G May I be the first to thank and congratulate you for that most moving presentation. Members – you have heard the young people's appeals – appeals shared by several in the Environmental movements lobbying delegates to this Summit. Any Comments?

Diplo (1) We disagree that schools do not teach about climate change. Our's certainly do.

Luke Climate change is not central to any one's curricula: in all our canvassing of young people around the world, we found a unanimous desire to know more of the detail.

Boffin And – even if they know a little of the science of global warming, none knows anything of the economics of building the post-carbon infrastructure. That is what we have all been learning about these weeks we have been on strike – and it's awesome!

Diplo (2) I congratulate you on the educational initiative – but civil disobedience does not win you friends in government. Can I have your assurances that, after today's meeting, you will call your action off?

Lian Can we have your assurance that you will agree the 350ppm target?

S G That's a question for the committee discussions...

- Luke *(under his breath to the Lian)* What committee discussions? No one said anything about committee discussions!?
- Diplo (3) I think we can all agree to congratulate the government of the People's Republic of China for allowing the children's concerns to be heard.
- Lian *(under her breath to Luke)* Why do they keep calling us 'children'?!
- Diplo (3) - but I think it's important for them to hear another point of view. With your permission, Secretary General, I would like to invite a group of businessmen – representatives from the engine room of the economies on which the prosperity of all of us depend – to present their views – in similar musical format:
- Biz Man Well thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen – children! - for this amazing opportunity. Me and my colleagues recognise that you guys are going to take some very important decisions here in Copenhagen – decisions that will affect the prosperity of every man jack of us living on this planet! 350ppm will destroy our economies faster than any glacier melt –
- Boff *(under his breath to the others)* - not if you invest in Green Economies....
- Biz Man - anything below 550ppm is curtains for all of us! So I am happy that you have given us the opportunity to give it to these kids straight. Here we go! Hit it, Jim - !

19: PETROLEUM ENERGY COMPLEX

- Biz (1) *(sings)* **You broke the generational contract!
Get back to school – 'n live by the rules!
We're out here trying to make money
Where the money all goes – I think that you know!**
- Biz (2) *(sings)* **Get back to your schools and get learning
How the money is made – you will make your grades!
Your mums and your dads and your teachers
Want success for you now – so don't make a row!!**
- All Biz Men *(sing)* **Oh - what a hopeless case you are!!
Your heads are in the clouds!
Oh - what a crazy lot you are!
School strikes should not be allowed!**
**Because – unless you get taught
To live by the rules
To do what you're told
You'll never get ahead!!!**
- Biz (3) *(sings)* **It's a petroleum energy complex
Get on and get trained – join this gravy train!
Get passionate about making money!
You're all in a state! – the climate can wait!**
- Biz (4) *(sings)* **You're out of your depth in this jungle
There's no one to blame – get on with the game!
If it ends up a horrible shambles
At least you've had fun – when your life is done!!**

During the song, the singers and dancers, dressed very formally in suits and ties, ham it up like rock stars – to the great amusement of the diplomats, and the shock-horror of the young people. As it ends, they shake hands with the diplomats who spontaneously applaud their presentation with whistles and cat-calls. The SG calls for order:

S G Thank you, thank you! Another first for this hallowed chamber, I am sure! And – happily – it takes us up to our coffee break, so colleagues can get their breath back! We resume in ten minutes. Thank you! (*he slaps the gavel – and they all EXIT*)

The kids remain – looking at each other, amused at the antics but a little shell-shocked

Lian What was that all about??

Luke Where are the grown-ups?!!

Boff If these are the people we’re trusting to save the world from climate change – we’re toast!

Lian The S-G seems like a nice guy

Hassan But here – look at this: (*going through the papers on one desk*) Instructions from Foreign Office: “*On No Account allow serious consideration of the children’s proposals...*”

Luke Bastards! – they never were going to do anything...

Lian They’re just going through the motions to get us to call off the strike!

Jake Durgh! Wouldn’t you have done that in their position. We shouldn’t have made any promises about ‘No Pre-conditions’

Lian They have betrayed us. They have betrayed every single person on this planet...

Youth (5) How can you trust anyone who is prepared to kill us – kill all life on this planet for the sake of their precious profits....

Youth (6) How can we stop them?!

Youth (7) We need a new set of negotiators –

Youth (6) We need new governments....

Luke (*grinning mischievously*) Well! – Look – that sign says my country. I know I can do a better job of representing my country than that idiot!

Lian That sign says China

Slowly, they filter down to the chairs around the horseshoe table. Hassan goes to the head.

Hassan Will you elect me your chair – all those in favour (all raise their hands. Nervously he picks up the gavel) I call this meeting of the Alternative United Nations to order!

He slaps the gavel.

Luke I move we agree our targets on 350ppm and the \$3 Trillion Green Economy Investment Fund. Do I have a seconder?

Hassan I want to second that from the chair – on behalf of the whole world!

Lian Does it include the power of the Security Council to enforce binding compliance?

Luke It does. We agreed that, didn’t we? (*they all nod*)

Hassan All those in favor?

All raise their hands. Hassan slaps the gavel:

Hassan Agreed! Next - ?

Youth (2) I move our Climate Change education bill!

Lian That every child is instructed in the science of, and solutions to, climate change from the day they enter primary school to the day they graduate university as a central part of their core, assessed curriculum! I second!

Hassan All those in favor?

All raise their hands. Hassan slaps the gavel:

Hassan Agreed! Next - ?

Youth (2) I move our comprehensive Peace Treaty – and global democracy insurance mechanism: the UN Standing Army Police Force ...

Youth (5) Was Kashmir part of that?

Youth (2) Everywhere – the treaty requires us all to agree! Do I have a seconder?

Luke *(raising his hand)* Me

Hassan All those in favor? *(all raise their hands)* – but this requires global agreement *(turning to the audience)* Do you support this motion? *(by a combination of getting the audience to say ‘Yes!’ and raise their hands he and the cast get the audience to unite in their call for peace! He smacks down the gavel!)* Agreed! Next - ?

Youth (4) I move all our agreement for the Tobin Tax – and giving the UN authority to raise direct taxes? Do I have a seconder?

Jake The United Kingdom!

Hassan All those in favor? *(all raise their hands; the gavel smacks down!)* Agreed! Next - ?

Lian What else? – we’re running out of time here –

Youth (5) I move the Personal Carbon Quota scheme -

Youth (2) Remind me?

Youth (5) Instead of just countries agreeing to cap and trade

Youth (6) - each individual citizen on the planet could cap and trade

Youth (7) Meaning that the average European or North American would pay the average African the equivalent of a week’s salary for the privilege of using their carbon quota;

Luke Did we do the numbers on that one?

Boffin We did: like Tobin, it ended up hugely beneficial - if we could enforce it.

Lian A big ‘If’!

Youth (5) Hey - let’s get the law in place here: we can worry about enforcement later. I move – do I have a seconder?

They all raise their hands!

Hassan Seconded by the entire global family. Ladies – Gentlemen –

Lian Wait! – we have another: Equal Rights and Equal Pay for Women! Universal ratification of CEDAW! I so move – seconder?

Luke Me!

Hassan All those in favor? *(all raise their hands – he slaps down the gavel)* Agreed! Gentlemen, Ladies – I hear the diplomats returning. Let’s prepare ourselves...

The Diplomats come in, led by the Secretary-General. They stop, astonished at the young people occupying their chairs at the Summit table.

S G What the - ? What’s going on here???!

Luke We decided we’d help things along a bit –

Lian - get done in the coffee break what you might take 40 years to do!

Hassan By which time, you’ll be dead and the world will be fried!

Diplo (3) This is outrageous – they’ve been looking through our confidential briefings!

Jake Yeah! – embarrassing isn't it: now we know you plan to agree absolutely nothing!

Diplo (1) Get these kids outta here! Call Security!!

Youth (5) No – we should call security: you are the ones who are committing the crime! You are destroying the world we want to live our lives on...

Diplo (2) Mr Secretary General: you must agree! This is a most shocking breach of UN security – you must allow us to eject these children immediately.

Lian No wait! You were children once. You looked forward to lives filled with happiness, children, love, security! Some lawyers call your failure to act on climate change an 'intergenerational crime!' We should sling you in jail for murdering our future. *(music)* Instead, we ask you to talk to us – to work with us! To be brave – to be visionary!

20: REACH OUT

Luke *(sings)*
Reach out for a star!
Come out from where you are
Show me what you can do
Believe in me, I believe in you!

Lian *(sings)*
Reach out for your dream
It's not as hard as it may seem
Together we can make it through
Together - me and you!

All Youth *(sing)*
Wake up - open your eyes,
This is our world, our paradise.

Youth (4) *(sings)*
Reach out, don't be afraid
Come on now, we'll find a way
There's a whole new world for us to see
There's a universe in you and me.

All Youth *(sing)*
Reach out, put your hand in mine!
Oh see! - see how we shine!
Together - we'll make it through,
Together me and you!

Don't be shy, just be yourself!
You are your greatest wealth!

Reach out for a star!
Come out from where you are
Show me what you can do
Believe in me, I believe in you!

Show me what you can do
Believe in me, I believe in you!

The song evaporates the tension – the young people reach out in love and affection to the diplomats, drawing them, by the end, back to their desks. They sit down alongside them, showing them their agreements – talking persuasively to them. The diplomats are bewitched. They listen.

Scene FIFTEEN: Back to the Future - 2056!

The Story-teller comes on, watching, amused – a little sad. S/he turns to the audience to explain to the audience, and the group of small children, what happened next... Through the scene, the youth and the diplomats continue to discuss in silence in the darkness at the back of the stage – the image is workmanlike. They are making progress – really listening to each other.

S T That was it! That's where it started: at the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit. The leaders of our world suddenly realised that we – the young people of that time – had a fair point: they listened to us! Can you imagine what an honour that was?? And it did them a lot of good because our generation has worked to strengthen and build up the United Nations like no other...

Child(1) What happened to the bad guys?

Child(2) The Dickheads!?

S T It's funny: I have not often hated a group of people so much as those business men who came and did that stupid song. They were the pits – but once the green economy got going – it was they who managed the investments, they who built up the eco-friendly industries that are now the engine of our new prosperity. Every one has talents – and what we did helped them harness their's in a good way. We became good friends!

Child(3) And Lian?

Child (4) Did Luke marry her?

S T Look – as I told you at the beginning, this is not about two personalities: this is about hundreds of millions of young people who took a stand – who said “*We are not going to be the generation that stands back and watches our planet die!*”

Child(5) But – *they* were the leaders

Child (6) *They* made it happen!

Child (1) It was YOU!! – you were Luke, weren't you? (*with a female storyteller who can be made up to look Asian, this line can be used to say she was Lian. Otherwise it can be dropped! And you can play with the Story-teller's denial as you wish!*)

Children Yes! – Yes! – must have been! You, you, YOU!!!

S T What if it was me?! You think that school strike happened because of just two people?? There were leaders all over the world – in every country, in every town, every village, every family! We all did our bit. Every child became a Peace Child!

Child(1) What job did you do then?

S T I became a teacher! Ha! I spend my young life beating up on schools – then the rest of it making a living by working in them! But – you see – schools are different now: they teach the things you need to know – as well as history and all the rest. Teachers and children work together now – because we know that children have every bit as much to teach us as we have to teach you.

Child (2) Don't be silly! - us teach you?!

Child(3) You are the teachers – we are the students, isn't it?

S T Wrong! All wrong! Have you learned nothing from this story?? Young people like you are an incredible resource – a fountain of knowledge and ideas and energy and skill and wonderfulness! What's different about today from the world I grew up in is that everyone – governments, teachers, private companies – show respect to young people. No longer are children told to be ‘seen and not heard’: children like you are seen and heard. And you must protect your future just as we fought for our's. That's

what we call a 'Peace Child' – some one who works, selflessly, to protect the planet so that it can be enjoyed by people not yet born. And that's why we celebrate Peace Day every year – to remind ourselves of the thousands – millions – of unborn souls waiting out there in the universe for their brief, magnificent vacation in this paradise we call earth! Sadly, some people get crabbiest as they grow older: I hope I didn't – that's why it's such an honour for me to share today with young people like you. You are the guardians of my future – just as I was in the past.

Come – let's celebrate Peace Day 2056!!!

The Youth of the past come forward with the diplomats to join the children of 2056 with the Story teller. The table is cleared away; the Paradise lighting returns as they dance and sing:

21. PEACE DAY

As I go through my years with
many thousand tears
I never see my guiding light
The clouds in front of me won't ever let me see
I've grown so weary of the night

I've tried so many times to read between the lines
But the words keep turning round
And a thousand fears keep ringing in my ears
And I'm so weary of the sound -

So give me Peace Enough,
Peace Enough, Peace Enough!

So give me peace enough, for peace of mind
Everything's coming up sunshine! (x2)

(Majestic) Peace Day, Peace Day we all say
Happy world. Happy Day.
Wear a leaf and show the way
Celebrating this peace day

(4 Bars) Peace Day, Peace Day we all say
Happy world, holiday.
Wear a leaf and show the way
Celebrating this peace day.

Peace Day, Peace Day sing and dance
It will be a big romance
People of the world as one
Peace Day, Peace Day has begun.

Celebrations, jubilations,
Laughter, shouting , lots of fun
Singing, dancing, take your partner
Happiness for everyone

Peace enough for all mankind
Healthy body, happy mind
Faith and love the world as one
Peace Day. Peace Day has begun

Come into my joy. Come into my pain.
Come you'll be a friend of mine

I'll be the same X 2
Come into my joy. Come into my pain.
(*slow*) Come you'll be a friend of mine.
I'll be the same.

THE END