



(GREEN) PEACE CHILD

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

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 United States of America

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The White House, Buntingford, U.K. SG9 9AH

(GREEN) PEACE CHILD

FIRST Draft Script

by

David Woollcombe

from an idea by David Gordon

With songs

by

David Gordon

Based on the original "Peace Book"

by

Bernard Benson

INTRODUCTION

Like every *Peace Child* musical, this version is designed to empower and educate the young people who rehearse, re-write and perform it. That's right – 're-write' it: I do believe I am the only playwright in the world whose first instruction to the cast is: "*Tear up my script and re-write it!*" We also encourage you and your cast to write new songs too if you can and want to: "*We want this world to survive for ever!*" was written by an inspired, Polish cast member. Of course, I am flattered when casts perform my whole script, word for word. Flattered, but disappointed. For the point of *Peace Child* is that every cast feel ownership of their own special performance of it. And to ensure that you all make some changes, you will notice that I have not given the lead characters names. They are called "The Boy" and "The Girl" throughout. So, at the very least, give them names – preferably the names of the young people playing them. In that way, they will feel empowered to believe that they are the children of the story. With a computer, it is very easy to search and replace Boy / Girl with a proper name.

But I want you to go further - much further: the Study Guide that (will) accompanies this script goes into much greater depth about the issues raised and, because it is web-based, it will be updated with new information as we receive it. It is an invitation to your students/young people to improvise around the story – developing new characters or adapting the ones presented here. New scenes can be added or adapted: for the UK, I wrote the scene between the President of the Mining/Energy Company between the young people and the UK Prime-Minister. And, of course, we encourage you to translate the script, (+ songs too though that is harder!) Upload your translations on to the www.peacechild.org website so that others who speak your language can use it. By going through this process, your cast's knowledge and understanding of the climate change issue will rise geometrically. And – for me – that is as important as selling tickets and doing a knock-out show.

Also, for those of you who have done *Peace Child* before, you will notice that the young leads are considerably older than those of the original version: 17-21 rather than 11-14. This allows the characters to address the complexities of climate change in much more detail than younger children would be able to: if you are uncomfortable with that – go ahead! Drop the complex science! Drop the love scene with the song '*Dreamer*' (*you may want to drop it anyway if you find the scene mushy and unconvincing!*) Make the whole play work for younger children: improvise the ideas and scenes with them. Let them make it their own: you/they will quickly see where the story needs to go – and you/they will find a myriad of ways to get there using far less complex language. Some teachers will balk at the idea of a school strike: fine! – think of

something else the young people can do to get the world's attention. Bernard Benson, author of the original *Peace Book*, had the children of the world holding a hunger strike! That may be a bit strong for some of you – but it has the same effect.

As with every *Peace Child*, we allow you to perform the play royalty-free, in a non-commercial environment like a school, Faith centre or youth club. Of course, we need you to reciprocate: if, as we hope, you upload your version or translation on to the website, you are signalling that you are happy for other producers to draw on your work royalty-free. This will enable those other producer/directors to learn from how you have adapted the story and build their performances on the back of your work! Also – you will note that there is space on the website for you to upload production stills, press reviews and your own production notes too should you wish. (*New producers, if you do draw on this material, do acknowledge their authors and casts in your playbills!*)

All this will have the effect, I hope, of enabling your young cast – and their audiences – to feel ownership of this story and, I hope, will sear the lines that they speak on their minds for ever. For, like the Cold War in the original *Peace Child* story, this is an issue we have to resolve if our world is to survive for ever. And – it will not be done through protest; it will not be done by one or two of us acting alone. It can only be done when all of us – youth, children, politicians, industrialists, parents – work together to act in a way that respects the needs of future generations.

David R. Woollcombe, Buntingford, Easter Sunday 2008

PS. If you do want to contribute part of the proceeds from your show's ticket sales, we invite you to make a contribution to Peace Child's Be the Change Youth-led Development Action Fund (@ www.peacechild.org/btc) This supports young people in the world's most disadvantaged areas do community-improvement projects costing up to \$1000.

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. Gentle, lovely sounds – no music yet: The Story-teller comes on – enjoying the beauty of the place:

S T Welcome to my world! A world teeming with Life! Look at the forest over there – trees standing tall – reaching to the mountains behind them, and there is snow again at the top! Glaciers are growing again – the water is clean – fish are returning to our lake. And the air! – ah! The air – is as it should be: CLEAN!! It wasn't always thus, you know – back at the beginning of this century, we almost lost it: I remember a time when we had to wear gas masks in the city – when a thing called Global Warming threatened to wipe out all life on our beautiful planet. But – as you can see – we saved it! Today, in the summer of 2056, the prospects for our planet – and everything that lives upon it – looks pretty good! Sorted! So – how did we do it? – that's the story we're going to tell you now – but it all starts here: in Nature! (*Breathes in deeply!*) Mmmmm – isn't that good?! Feel it! Love it! Rejoice in it! Save it!

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

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

S T Well done, you lot! Didn’t they do well – let’s give them a big hand! You can relax now – you’ve done your bit. You can just sit back, relax and enjoy the show!

The Dancers Exit. The younger children gather round the Story-teller, asking questions:

Child 1: Why are we here?

Child 2: Teacher said this is the most important lesson of our lives!

S T Well it is: what was that song you just sang all about?

Children Paradise!

Child 3: Noses!

Child 4: Hands!

S T That’s right – PARADISE!! That’s where we all live – and our eyes, our noses and our hands tell us that it is so. And the lesson you are going to learn today is that we must keep it that way. Because it is amazing how quickly we can destroy Paradise and turn it into a Hell. We nearly did – and we are going to hear the story of how we saved it – how we re-built Paradise in the Garden of Eden Nature has built for us.

Child 1: Who did save it?

Child 2: We never hear about the people who actually did it?!

S T That’s because ALL of us did it – everyone played their part, and – you know what – they were led by young people. Because it was the young people who saw what was happening to the planet that they were growing up on – and that, unless they did something, they weren’t going to have a planet left to live on!

Child 3 So they Did?

S T They DID!!

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.

2: 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 comes on, watching the people – who seem to her completely crazy. She taps the boy who calls himself a 'hippy' – on the shoulder. He turns to look at her, smiling in a goofy way:

Girl What's this all about? What are you doing here?
Boy It's a demo – Green Warriors: climate change!
Girl But why the stoopid song?!
Boy It's not a 'stoopid song'! It's a great song! It's fun! You're not from here, are you?
Girl No –
Boy Well - come along! Find out what it's all about! It's important...
Girl 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 the Keynote Speaker comes on – a wild, hippy-looking young guy (Jake). He calms the crowd and speaks:

Jake: It's good to be alive, isn't it?! Sunshine – summer day – but we are here today 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 – Mumbai – London – Liverpool – New York! It's happening folks! 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 White House by the end of next week. Let's Do It!!

The Crowd cheer and march back on stage singing:

3: 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.. The boy and the girl come on last, talking:

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

Girl Sure! Weird – but kinda cool!

Boy So are you gonna fill in some petition forms?

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

Boy 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??

Girl China!

Boy 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. The Boy and the Girl 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 Martin:

Martin: 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.

Youth 3: *(from Martin's side)* Why do you bother if you feel it's all so hopeless

Jake 'Cos there's got to be another way! And unless we look at the reality of the situation – we are never gonna find it. Look – 2 degrees of Global Warming is now only a matter of weeks, at most months, away. Dangerous Climate Change is upon us – and we are doing NOT ONE THING about it, seriously. None of us – we are heading towards 5.5 degrees 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 of where we are going won't change.

Martin: You could start by stopping smoking...

Jake: *(laughs)* Don't you start!

Girl *(quietly)* What's 'mitigate'?

Boy It's...

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

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

Jake China, eh? Well –

Boy 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, young man! 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. And ask her what she's going to do about it?

Girl I – I don't know what you're talking about.

Martin Don't take him too seriously! His bark is worse than his bite – and China is doing some wonderful things: there's that whole carbon neutral city outside Shanghai – and you're making the world's cheapest solar voltaics. There's a lot of good things coming out of China....

Jake And there's a lot of brown coal too -

Youth 4: - not to mention a complete rape of Africa....

Boy I don't see where you're going with this?! Why bicker and fight? We all know the answers – low carbon development, carbon neutral and carbon positive houses, factories – ground-source heat pumps everywhere. So – why don't we just get on with the campaign.

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)*

4: 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!

Martin (*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?

Martin: 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!

Martin: But things are much easier if you start with the faith that things can be fine. Listen -

5: I believe

Martin **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.**

Martin **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!

*The stage divides into two parts – those who are with Martin, singing I Believe – and those that side with Jake, singing a reprise of World, antiphonally with them. The songs end. **Black Out.***

Scene FOUR: The Commitment

Lights come back up. The crowd have gone. The Boy and the Girl sit in exactly the same place – looking a bit glum. The girl seems in shock. Silence. Finally, the boy breaks it.

Boy You mustn't let Jake get to you...

Girl Mustn't?! He already did. He as good as said my country is killing the planet. That hurts – surely you can see that hurts?

Boy It's also not true – and not what Jake said. Your country may be the biggest polluter, but, as Martin said, it also has the greatest potential to help turn things around.

Girl So why didn't I hear anything about this when I was growing up? I did 18 years of school and university in China, and not one of my teachers ever mentioned anything about global warming – or dangerous climate change. Why? Why do I have to wait until I come to America and meet a crazy, wacky, scruffy bunch of kids on the street to learn the most important lesson of my life?

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

Girl 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?

Boy Yes! Yes – of course. You got it! Brilliant! – you're a genius! It took me weeks to understand, and you've got it in just a few moments. So what are you going to do?

Girl I am going to think for a while. I am going to read some books – which you will recommend to me. You're going to help me, aren't you?

Boy Of course. Happy to –

Girl Well take that dopey look out of your eyes: this is hard work – a mission. A campaign – not some mushy excuse for relationship stuff.

Boy Of course. I wouldn't dream of it in any other way...

Girl So what's the bottom line here? What's the single thing we all agree upon?

Boy Saving the planet?!

Girl No – no: we all know that the planet will be fine. It's the people and the animals that are under threat.

Boy Our whole civilisation. Everything humanity has created these last millennia.

Girl That's heavy stuff. I was looking for something rather more simple. A question – like “Do we all really want to commit suicide?”

Boy That's heavy too. How about turning it around. “We want to live!”

Girl That's good. That's very good – that's the baseline marker: *(sings)*

6: I WANT TO LIVE I

Girl *(Sings)*

I want to live, I want to live

The right to live my life

I want to search far and wide

Have the right to wonder why

I want to fly through the air

Like a bird in the sky,

I want the chance to see the world

What I am before I die.

Boy *(Sings)*

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
The right to grow old..

BOTH (*Sing*) I want to live, I want to live
The right to live my life
I want to search far and wide
Have the right to wonder why
I want to fly through the air
Like a bird in the sky,
I want the chance to see the world
What I am before I die.

Girl So – are you coming?

Boy Of course! But what about Jake and the others...

Girl Don't worry about them. We're going to do our own thing – and we're going to do it better!

Boy How old are you?

Girl A whole lot younger than Jake! So I have a whole lot more of my life to lose if we don't crack this thing. Come on, let's get started! *Exit*

INTERLUDE

S T (*returning*) And so began 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! – direct, simple, attention-grabbing! “You WRONG – me RIGHT!” Lines drawn in the ground – “You're either with me, or you're against me...” No middle ground! 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.

The Boy and the Girl come out on stage – roped up. They hold a big banner between them rolled up. They look nervous:

Boy This is stupid – it's really, really dangerous!

Girl I know – that's why it will make an impact!

Boy We might die!

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

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

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

Boy Sure – whatever...

Girl 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.

Boy Oh – My – God!
Girl Amazing!
Boy What’s amazing? – people may be dying down there!
Girl So – they shouldn’t be driving. Driving cars kills the planet!
Boy Everybody drives.
Girl I don’t.... I never will

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

Boy How are we going to get back up?
Girl 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:

7: 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?

Girl 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?!

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

Boy What it is costing us – right now! Every day!

Girl 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.
 Girl It's NOT a silly point! It's the message the world needs to hear!
 Boy How many do you think died?
 Policeman Ten – maybe more. No word, yet, on casualties....
 Boy *(to the girl)* 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 – mercifully, 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: exposure!

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!

Family Interlude

The Boy and his little brother and sister sit at home, drinking sodas in the den, watching TV. The back of the TV is facing the audience, so the audience don't see or hear what they are watching:

Lil'bro Why are you on TV again?
 Boy Listen – shut up! Everybody knows who I am now?!
 Lil' sis You mean you're famous?
 Lil'bro Like the Simpsons?
 Boy Not like the Simpsons. We're getting somewhere.
 Lil'bro Who's the girl? Is she you're girlfriend?
 Lil' sis She's very pretty...
 Boy She is NOT my girlfriend. She's just a very talented activist – and good spokesperson for the movement.
 Lil' sis You're moving somewhere?
 Lil'bro Don't move! Stay here with us!

Boy I have to move about the country quite a bit now: Montana next week! We're mobilising against Global Warming...

Lil' sis Why?

Boy So you have a world to live in when you grow up?

Lil'bro You mean we might not?

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

Lil' sis That's Global Warming?!

Boy That's Global Warming!

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

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

Boy Right.

Lil' sis Well - thank you !

Boy You're welcome!

Lil'bro I like that you're famous

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 mining for coal to supply five new power stations – which were wholly-owned subsidiaries of the mining company!

The Boy and the Girl come back on at the head of the chorus, dressed as for the Demo. Jake is there – but there is no sign of Martin.

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

Girl 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 storage technology so that it doesn't pollute.

Youth (1) What is carbon capture?

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

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

Boy Money! CCS is expensive so – if they are not forced to buy it – they won't!

Girl Unless we *persuade* them!!

Boy And that's why we're here!

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

Boy 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 circles them, round and round – until the suits realise they cannot get out.

Suit (1) Call security, will you! These people are trespassing on my company's property.

Suit (2) Evict them – by force if necessary.

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

Suit (1) President, to you young lady, I am the President of this Corporation.

Girl Well – Mr President – we would like the opportunity to meet with you.

Suit (1) (*Nervously, looking round – seeing his means of escape*) In my office – I think I have time on Thursday – shall we say 4 o'clock?

Boy 4 o'clock will be just fine.

Suit (2) May we go now, then?

Girl *(Bowing elaborately; creating the gap in the circle!)* Be my guest! **They leave – Exit**
Boy We did it!! – wa-hey!! *(The crowd all cheer and wave their fists!)*
Girl Don't get too excited. One hurdle crossed - 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 SIX: Meeting with the Enemy

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 children 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!!

Boy 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?

Girl What right do you think you have to destroy the planet? You are planning to build five new coal-fired power stations in the next two years – and none of them use Carbon Capture and Storage technology...

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!

Boy In Norway and Germany, there are coal-fired Power Stations that have been running for four years using CCS with almost zero emissions. What more proof do you need?

Girl Your problem, sir – is that you are only interested in money. You don't care whether the planet lives or dies. Climate change – global warming – you think these are issues pedalled by eccentric hippies barrelling around the country, getting in the way

of your profits. We're here to tell you that we are not going to let you destroy the planet just so you can show a healthy financial bottom line to your share-holders. There's an environmental bottom line too – and you need to start reporting on that to your share-holders.

President How you gonna make me?!

Boy By talking to you – by asking you nicely.

President Then I am going to tell you, in the nicest possible way, NO! Piss off! Get off my property. I report to my share-holders and my customers – not a bunch of snotty-nosed wankers worrying about the birdies. This company has brought prosperity and jobs to thousands of people in this County – and we're keeping the lights on in thousands of homes and factories across this state. What are you achieving with your stupid, dumb protests? A few headlines – which a few people are going to read, laugh at and chuck in the trash. Get real kids – you've got lives to lead, families to bring up. You need to get out of your jeans, wash your hair and get yourselves jobs!

Girl Let's try this another way - *[Music – she sings]*

8: Mr President

Girl **Mr President – does the press write the truth?
You are killing the world
with the things that you do?**

Boy **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, with all that 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!**

Boy(2) **Mr President, is it true what I read,
This world will be dead
Because of your greed?**

Girl(2) **Mr President, can it be what it seems
You care nothing for children,
Nor for love, nor for dreams?**

Boy(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!

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

Boy **Announce to us all**

Both **You are changing your ways -**

All **To save our world!**

Boy You see, sir – we didn't come here today to attack you, to drive you into a corner. We want you on our side: we know you need legislation to introduce the CCS and that you can't do that without a level playing field for all power companies. Your share-holders are not going to allow you to spend millions of dollars installing CCS if other companies don't have to 'cos they would carry on polluting and making bigger profits while you lose out because you care about saving the planet. The legislation is coming up in Congress – but the government won't listen to us. They would listen to you – if you outline the steps we have to take.

President And what steps are those precisely? – to come to Washington, sit down in front of the Energy Committee and ask them to impose conditions on my industry that will cost us millions of dollars and double the electricity bills of everyone who might vote for them?!

Girl Yes – that's precisely what we want you to do: because we are working to get a hearing at that committee! We want our country to commit to the international targets. Why can't you see you're on the wrong side of history here? The smart people are already investing in renewables – building windmills all over the place, and investing in solar voltaics. 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.

Boy - and almost certainly destroy the planet. Don't you understand?? If we burn all the coal and oil in the ground today – it will shoot global warming way beyond the 2 degree threshold for dangerous climate change, and fry everything.

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

Boy Do you have children, sir?

President I have two fine boys who are shaping up well to take over the business! And I have a baby daughter. Flossie! Ah, Flossie – she'll be the death of me!

Girl No, sir! You'll be the death of Flossie unless you take on board what you're doing here. It's starting already – people being driven off their islands because of rising sea levels; pretty soon, low-lying countries like Bangladesh are going to be uninhabitable. Our Southern States are going to be intolerably hot – and people are going to be moving North in droves. If you were smart, you would stop tearing up

these mountains for open cast mining – and start preparing real estate for the environmental refugees.

Boy It is happening now, sir! You have to join with us to take a stand. For Flossie’s sake – and for all the sons and daughters of your shareholders.

Girl Can’t you see?! You would become a national – an international – hero! “*Coalman sees the light – helps to save the planet!*” Instead of being the bad guy in all this – demonized and vilified in the press all over the world – you would be the new American Hero, leading the way to a bright, sustainable future! Live the dream, Sir! Clean, sustainable energy – warming the homes in this valley and around the world for generations. Bringing prosperity we can live with – not profits that will kill us all. That’s a dream worth investing in, isn’t it?!

Boy Come on, sir. You can do it!

President (*whispers*) I can’t!

Girl Yes you can - come to Washington!

9: I’m Sorry

President I’m sorry - (*sings*)

I'm sorry - I wish I could
But I can't, it's too late
I've gone too far to change my ways
To undo what I have done!

Forgive me, you may be right
It all may happen some future time
But I am helpless on my own
To undo what has been said -

It's an impossible dream
One I'd love to share!
An impossible dream
If only I could dare

I'm sorry, what can I do?
If only I was young – young like you
It seems so simple, it could be done
To close a coalmine, to catch the sun!

Powerless though I am
To change my world that's locked in chains
I have a heart, I am a man
I want to live – to live like you -

The Impossible Dream!
It’s one I long to share!
An Impossible Dream -
(*spoken*) If only I could dare.....

President (*firmly*) But I can’t! And I won’t! I wish you well, kids. I’m not the man you’re looking for. There are plenty of other mining companies – you can go bother them. They may have the kind of conscience I lack. I know my share-holders – the big ones anyway: they’re going to think I’ve gone soft in the head if I start talking to them about this climate change shit and renewables.... Hell, most of them contributed to

that Global Climate Coalition that funded all that science to prove you guys wrong. I'm not your man, kids – so now you're going to have to let me show you the door.

Girl So that's it? The end – no further discussion?

President Correct! Which part of 'No!' did you not understand?

Boy And what if we refuse to go?!

President Law enforcement will come and remove you. And you can sit outside our gates for a thousand years and nothing will change.

Girl Except the planet, sir! Except the planet. Look into your daughter's eyes when you get home tonight – and tell me tomorrow, you made the wrong decision.

He laughs and Exits. Lights fade on the President's office behind them and his desk and chair are moved off behind him. The Boy and the Girl come forward downstage, bewildered.

Girl I can't believe it. We failed.

Boy What are we going to tell the press?!

Girl 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!

Boy A fair few headlines.

Girl Hot air – titillation for the masses. Nothing concrete.

Boy There are other companies we can try – like he said.

Girl His was the most likely: he's facing a lot of local protest. No – face it! It's over. We failed.

Boy Well – I'm not giving up. We've had a setback, that's all. Everyone has setbacks!

Girl 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.

Boy I'll think of something. Come on – let's go home. ***They exit***

Scene SEVEN: Defeat and the Nightmare

The Press are waiting for them – rushing forward as try to get off the stage:

Press **Have you gotta story? – We bet you gotta story!**
Front Page story! – definitely headline news!

Boy Sorry guys – no story!

Press (*Aghast!*) – No story – what's the deal? What's the news?

Girl No news. The guy said no. End of story!

Press You're not ... giving up?!

Boy Of course not! That's just one asshole! We'll be back – watch us!

Girl The guy's not an asshole: it's just 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 it will be easy for him to change.

Boy But we need time to reflect – to plan our next step. That's all for now. Thank you!

The Press shuffle off – disappointed. The kids look equally disappointed.

Jake You wrong, girl – that guy is a serious asshole. You shoulda kicked his butt more to the press. He certainly kicked your's –

Girl 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! You make a great team – and the press loves you. You have to keep going!

Boy We'll see – I think she needs some time on her own, now. We'll come see you in a day or so, OK?

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

Girl (putting out her hand to shake 'good-bye') So – I guess that's it! Thanks for the ride – it's been fun.

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

Girl Things to do – papers to write – people to see.

Boy Just like that: it's over! Us...

Girl There never was an 'us' – I told you, remember...

Boy Yeah – but...

Girl Yeah but nothing. Have a nice life! I'll see you around *She exits*

The Story-teller comes on, with the group of little kids, watching the Boy crouch, crest-fallen:

Boy (sings – softly – a cappella)

**I 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....**

Story-teller (to the children) That was me! I was that boy – and I don't think I've ever been more down than I was at that moment: I realised that that funny, funky Chinese girl was the love of my life – far more important to me than saving any planet. And she had just walked out on me – I was nothing to her! What do you do?

Kid (1) You go after her!

Kid (2) Tell her!

Kid (3) Never let her go!

S T Oh – you are so smart! I did none of those things. I sat – and I brooded. I really felt my life was over at that point. For she was right – nothing was going to change through protest – a closed coal mine here; a bankrupt business there. Small-scale – nothing! But as I looked down the highway of my life – I remember thinking: there's nothing I can do – about her, or about saving the planet! I was at the end of my rope!

Kid (4) But if you want something very very much – isn't there always a way you can get it?

S T Not always, kid! Bad things happen – but on balance, more good things happen than bad – and that's why we are alive today, and things are getting better for the planet. It helps to have faith in a higher power. At that point, I had none. But things change! Look....!

Music starts – deep, sinister – the Boy lies down: the Story-teller and his group draw back as figures, clad in black, fill the stage with the Boy's 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 draw the girl in. She is swept up in the violence, torn apart by it, subsumed within it.

10: 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's 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

Scene EIGHT: Reflect and Re-group

The Boy jerks awake. He is scared – but more peaceful music calms him. The Girl walks on – in place of the rags and black she had been wearing during his dream – she is now dressed in smart clothes – Sunday best! For church.. He watches, astounded, as she kneels to pray:

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

Boy goes off and comes back with Martin. The chorus re-assembles, singing:

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....

Martin and the Boy talk discreetly down stage right, watching her:

Martin That, my friend – is a lady of faith!

Boy Is that important?

Martin Are you crazy? Of course! If you look at this thing rationally, like Jake and the others – you would have to conclude that saving the planet is a lost cause! No way can we draw people back from the brink. But – if you have faith – if you believe that we are not on our own here, if - like Prince Hamlet you believe “*There is a divinity that shapes our ends rough hew them as we will....*” – then you can see a way out of the fix we’re in! And that’s very comforting: because, between you and me, I don’t see a politician on this planet who has a clue how to sort this thing out! [*The Boy moves to speak to the Girl – Martin stops him*] – No, let me speak to her....

Martin (*to the Girl*) You never told us you were one of the faithful: are you a Christian?

Girl Wasn’t it obvious? Catholic – English medium Jesuit college. That’s how I got to speak English: that’s how I got here...

Martin But your faith is important to you?

Girl Yes – at times like these. But I’m not really a Christian – I’d like to believe but there’s so much crap going on, I really don’t think God’s doing a very good job. And why set yourself up for conflict with the Muslims – whose faith seems much stronger I’m a Muslim – and there is no conflict! All the major religions are teaching us the same thing – to love, to forgive, to care for the planet and each other, to heal the sick, care for the most vulnerable. Abraham, Ibrahim – he is the source of three of the great religions – Islam, Judaism and Christianity! We need to recognise that – far from dividing us – religion connects us all.

Girl I’d love to believe that – but where is God in all this? Young people going around blowing themselves up and killing innocent people.

Martin He – or She – is working it out! I do not believe that God has a plan to wipe humanity off the face of the planet. That’s the only thing that keeps me going – and I think that you know that all this protest we have been doing – all this attack, attack, attack – hate, hate, hate! – hasn’t gotten us anywhere. So – we have to think again: and that’s what you are doing. And that’s great. But you have a friend who cares very much for you – and I think, right now, you need all the friends you can get.

The Boy comes forward. She goes quickly to him, and hugs him.

Martin God – and friends – and the followers of every Faith all working together: we can crack this thing! I believe that! Are you a Christian, boy?

Boy Not so’s you’d notice! I was brought up Catholic – but I haven’t been to Mass for years!

Martin What’s the one thing you remember from your Catholic upbringing?

Boy The Lord’s Prayer, I suppose. And I might just remember the Creed –

Martin Let’s stick with the Lord’s Prayer – and I will show you how we Muslims believe pretty much exactly what you Catholics do! What does it say now ?

Boy Our Father – which art in heaven

Martin Allah – (*etc, we need to work this out in Arabic!*) -

Girl Hallowed be thy name

Martin (*a quote from the Koran in Arabic!*) -

Boy Thy Kingdom Come –
 Martin *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic!)* -
 Girl Thy Will be done
 Martin *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic!)* -
 Boy On Earth
 Girl – as it is in Heaven
 Martin *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic!)* -
 Boy Give us our daily bread
 Martin *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic!)* -
 Girl And forgive us our trespasses
 Martin *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic!)* -
 Boy As we forgive them, that trespass against us
 Martin *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic!)* -
 Girl And lead us not into temptation
 Martin *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic!)* -
 Boy But deliver us from all evil
 Martin *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic!)* -
 Girl *(singing!)* For thine is the Kingdom
 Martin *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic!)* -
 Boy *(singing!)* The Power and the Glory
 Martin *(a quote from the Koran in Arabic!)* -
 Boy/Girl *(singing!)* For ever more – Yes
 Thine is the Kingdom
 The Power and the Glory
 For ever and ever – AMEN!
 Martin Let's sing this thing!

Together they sing the Lord's Prayer with the Arabic quotes from the Koran woven in between the lines, sung by Martin and other members of the chorus. They all join in at the end singing the final four lines, first in English, then in Arabic, each twice.

12: OUR FATHER

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 song rises to an awesome climax – the entire chorus singing their faith on stage, Martin with the Girl and the Boy either side of him at the centre. Hold at the end for a tableau.

BLACK OUT

- INTERMISSION -

A C T T W O

Scene NINE: Meet the Scientist

The Girl, the Boy and Martin stand in a triangle across the stage – talking to the audience: Martin is up stage centre, the Girl down stage left; the Boy down stage right.

Boy We all agree: the time for protest is over. The only way we are going to save the planet is if each of us reduces our consumption of energy and stuff – just lives every day in a more sustainable way: eating less meat, travelling less, switching off lights and taps, recycling, buying Fair Trade. If all us do that – and vote for politicians who legislate for sustainable lifestyles – we can save the planet.

Girl People are too set in their ways to make the changes we need; so are businesses and governments. And it's too late anyway: I'm afraid we have gone too far: some of the finest minds on the planet believe we have lost the fight to save the planet. The only thing to do now is to make the winding down of Planet Earth in the least painful way possible. It would take a miracle to save it now – and I don't believe in miracles....

Martin I do! If we can lead the people back to Faith – back to God – Allah! – they will pursue the values that save this planet for future generations. We can do it – I know we can!

The Scientist – wearing a white coat – comes on followed by the chorus, taking their seats at the back of the stage. He comes down stage centre...

Scientist I know we can too! But I think God could use a little help from people like me: the scientists!

The Boy the Girl and Martin look at him incredulous.

Scientist You haven't even thought about me, have you?? In all your lobbying and protest, you forgot to talk to the one group of people who can realistically help the planet out of the mess you have put it in.

Girl But – we were told that techno-fixes were a distraction.

Scientist Some – maybe! But you yourselves were urging that power company to use CCS – Carbon Capture and Storage – to mitigate the pollution of coal-fired power stations.

Boy Yeah – but CCS is hardly new!

Scientist It's an old idea – but, you were wrong: it hasn't been tested in a full-scale commercial application – not in Germany, Norway or anywhere. We have a lot of work to do, we scientists – but we are confident that we can find the solutions. IF – you, the people – support us. And – not an insignificant point – if you, the young people – start studying science a little more seriously than most of you are at the moment.

Girl Science is boring!

Scientist Not as boring as losing the planet!

Girl Fair point – but what do you want us to do?

Scientist Become one of us! Be an Inventor!!

13: INVENTIONS

Make a wheel, then spinning it round
It may carry the world
Make a fire – yes building it high till
I 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....

- Boy So – technofixes are not a distraction!
Scientist They are the solution, my friend! Or a big part of the solution – in my opinion! Why don't you come see the Planetary Dashboard – I am setting it up at a school near here – where they are doing a Model United Nations. I think you would be interested!
- Girl What's a Model United Nations?
Boy What's a Planetary Dashboard?
Martin What's a technofix?
Scientist - and you call yourselves 'Green'?! Right! – is there anything you do know?? Come - let me give you some answers!

They EXIT

Scene TEN: The Model United Nations

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 Red Light Bulb 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. A podium is set up down stage right. A young man, dressed very formally in a suit, comes and speaks at it:

- Student: Hallo – and welcome to the Grover Cleveland High School Model United Nations! This the fourth one we have held – and each year, it gets better and better, doesn't it?!(*the chorus cheer: Yes!*) This year – we have chosen to focus on what the UN Secretary General calls the 'defining challenge of our time': Climate Change! And to help us understand this incredibly complex issue, we are very fortunate to have with us one of the leading members of the International Panel of Scientists working for the

UN on Climate Change. Thank you!

The Scientist comes on with a large sheaf of papers. He is partly the mad scientist – partly the voice of reason in the show. His science is authoritative – his attitude is one of complete friendship and identification with the children. If we were doing this in Europe, he would be Irish.

Scientist Thank you for inviting me! And I have brought along with me a couple of young people whose faces you may have seen protesting the climate change issue in your newspapers. Yeah – give them a big hand. They have certainly helped to publicise these issues. But – today – I want to tell you: ONE - what's happening with climate change and TWO – equally important – what you can do about it!! And I think our two young friends may have some thoughts on that too, won't you?! (*They nod nervously.*)

Scientist: So – let's take a quick canter around what we know about climate change! The world is getting warmer – we know that. Look how that graph has gone rocketing up these last few years. What causes this? Well – we use a measure called cppm – carbon parts per million: and that is what it was a hundred years ago – that's what it is now – and that is what it will be in 2050 – if we do nothing about it. Right now, we are measuring about a 1.89 degree rise in average global temperature. Looking at the cppm – we can see that by 2050 – we will have a 5.5 degree increase in global warming. So – what will that do to the planet? Hard to tell exactly – but look what almost two degrees has done already: the icecaps are melting – so fast we are now looking at a merchant shipping route across the Arctic from London to Tokyo, Pacific Islands disappearing beneath the waves – thousands of people dying from heatwaves, hurricanes and floods.... All a direct result of climate change. So – that is all at 1.89. The scientific consensus is that 2 degrees of global warming is the trigger for “Dangerous Climate Change” – where that figure of ‘thousands dead’ will become ‘millions dead’ – and so that's what we want to avoid.

The solutions are well-known to us scientists: stop building coal-fired power-stations; use wind-farms, solar farms, nuclear – drive less, fly less, eat less meat – stop cutting down the forests – that's a cause of about a quarter of global warming. Feed cows food that makes them less flatulent – you laugh: methane from cows is responsible for about 10% of global warming. And now – with this Planet Dashboard – we can measure all how much they're farting – and all the other indicators on a daily basis! Look – the number of coal-fired power-stations – decreasing; the number of airmiles flown by passengers – increasing! Geometrically! – that needs work. Number of houses with ground source heat pumps – rocketing upwards! Excellent news! Each one saves 20 tons of carbon in its working life! Number of deaths due to flooding? – not so bad this week! Number of vegetarians worldwide? Rising fast – that's good! Number of hurricanes – down last year. Also good.... You get the picture?! We are going in the right direction on a lot of this stuff – so – general prognosis. Good – keep it up – BUT we all have to do sooooo much more – and for that, we are going to need legislation! So – your challenge here – is to go away and figure out what that legislation should be – and then we shall put the indicator here on the dashboard – and see how fast your governments all implement them. Understood?

All Yeah!

This – essentially – is a laser-light or stamp-board light-show – using the gallery of indicators from the website to indicate where we are at with each of the major indicators. If you think it is very boring, you can cut it – or set it as a Rap song, or do something to liven it up – with dance or mime. The indicators can be checked as a homework assignment – all the web links will be in the Study Guide website and the powerpoint graphs are easy to update with new information. Go for it! This is the heart of the climate change story – your job is to make it as entertaining and impactive as you can! However you do it, for the show - it works for the kids: the Model UN guy is really into it – he takes off his tie, slings his jacket over his shoulder and goes to the podium:

Student That! – that is brilliant! You have all that information on the hand-outs – and you can always come back here to check any part of it with our scientist here. So let’s head off to our sub-committees, right?

All Right! *They start to exit*

Student Back here in 40-minutes for first de-brief!?! *They exit*

Girl That is absolutely brilliant!

Boy Why isn’t it on every website, every day?

Scientist It is now!

Girl Where??! I’ve not seen it! It should be on every news channel?!

Boy Every news bulletin – on the hour every hour!?

Girl It’s not classified information, is it?

Scientist Of course not! We’ve tried to sell it – through the UN and all sorts. Fact is, no one is really interested.

Girl That’s insane! – you’re measuring the chances of us saving all life on this planet – and the media barons are only interested in giving us the Dow Jones and the weather?!

Boy How sick is that!?

Girl So what do we do now?

Boy Can we go and join them?

Scientist I don’t think you should – Let them surprise you with what they come up with. Let’s go take a cup of coffee and wait for them to get back.

Girl I was only going to listen – I wasn’t going to tell them what they should do!

Boy No – but you’re too well-known as a crazy-brilliant activist: they would try to impress you rather than figure out a practical course of action. I’m with you! Let’s do coffee!

He goes off with the Scientist. The Girl thinks a bit – then follows them. They exit

INTERLUDE:

S T So what do you think they came up with?

Student(1) A bunch of solutions to climate change?

S T Well – Yes! But first they did Peace Deals on the Middle East, Kashmir, Southern Sudan, Cyprus, Armenia / Azerbaijan, Western Sahara, Chechnya. Tibet....

Student(2) All sorted! - you can’t save the environment if people are fighting wars!

S T Education for all!

Student(3) If you can’t read and write, how are you expected to learn the science of the environment;

S T Lo-carbon development! –

Student(4) First you have to figure out: what does it mean?? It means the greening of development aid – not just throwing money at poor country governments to spend as they please;

Student(5) It’s the transfer of the best in green technology so that they can leap-frog the old technologies and fill their countries and their economies with the very best in cutting edge, sustainable technologies.

S T And all those little bits of legislation that you wanted to combat climate change?

Student(6) The Legislation is all drafted: all part of a recommendation paper to governments on their Energy policy!

S T Security Council??

Student(7) Yes! All of this was endorsed and mandated by the United Nations Security Council – which agrees to take on Environmental Security as its major new role – as well as inviting India, Brazil and South Africa to join as permanent members – without veto power!

Girl Wa-hey! – all that in the time it took for us to have a cup of coffee?!

Student(8) It’s not hard if you all want to succeed!

Boy So – what’s the deal on the Middle East?

Student(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.

- Student(7) The trick is sorting out the real estate issues – and that needs to be done by referendum and negotiation.
- Girl OK - ?! What about the education for all?
- Boy We've been talking about that for fifty years!
- Student(2) It's all about full-on peer-to-peer education: each-one-teach-one! It worked in Cuba and Nicaragua. It can work everywhere else as well!
- Girl Brilliant! I can buy into that...
- Boy How you gonna pay for all this?
- Student(8) That was my group: for a start, youth-led development and peer-to-peer teaching costs about a tenth of normal professional development. But if we need more development welfare grants, we agreed a Tobin tax + carbon cap and trade package – which takes care of the climate change crisis too.
- Boy Cap and Trade?
- Girl Cap and Trade? – contraction and convergence.... Come on! Cap the emissions – trade the balances. You call yourself a climate change expert....!!
- Boy So?! – how am I supposed to know everything: I didn't learn this stuff in school!
- Girl Neither did I! – I taught myself...
- Boy Right! So what happens now?
- Student(1) What do you mean?
- Boy What do you do with all that great stuff you've come up with?
- Student(2) Well – we send it off to some address in New York City, I think.
- Student(3) Essentially nothing happens now with it! We go back to school, and get on with our real work!
- Girl What's more "real" than saving the planet?
- Student(4) SATs!
- Student(5) Getting your college admission!
- Girl 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??
- Student(1) Look – get real! This is just a bit of fun – very educational and interesting and all that, but it's extra-curricular! The real stuff – math, science, history, languages – that's what gets you into college. Get's you a good job!
- Student(2) For what's worth, I agree with you: we all do! That's why we do it in our own time: but rules is rules, eh?! Teacher knows best...
- Girl Teachers don't know sh....
- Martin (*coming in – interrupting her*) Here you are! I have some good news – some very, very good news!
- All What?! What?!
- Martin The press are looking for you! They want a quote...
- Girl But what's the news??
- Boy What happened??
- Martin There's been a breakthrough in Copenhagen: they have all agreed the formulas for the global carbon trading system!
- Girl Brilliant!
- Martin People are reporting: "Climate Change? – job done!"
- Scientist (*Coming forward*) That is very, very, very good news!! Everything else can flow from this!
- Boy An excuse for a celebration!?! In 20 years, our beloved politicians have been able to agree one part of one of 8 agreements a bunch of bright young people drew up in 40 minutes.
- Martin Come on! – don't be so cynical. We have got to count our blessings! Celebrate the small advances – **Sing!** (*sings*)

14: SING

Martin (*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 -

Student(1) (*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-

Student(2) (*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 -

Student(7) (*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 ELEVEN: The PANIC Button

The Scientist stoops over his planetary dashboard – manically fiddling with buttons and looking up at the dials which come up on the big screen above him. 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 the Boy and the Girl come on, arm-in-arm - laughing.

Scientist Oooh! Arm in arm now, are we?! (*the Girl drops the Boy's arm and moves away*)

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

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

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

Boy What - ?

Scientist The end of civilisation as we know it! The end of the world.....

Boy Ach! C'mon! It's all on the mend – just last week, you were saying that the indicators

were all ‘moving in the right direction!’

Scientist Yeah – but nothing like fast enough: we’ve broken the two degree threshold – we are now into the realm of ‘dangerous climate change’ – and anything can happen. Human beings are pretty crap at trying to beat nature at her own game: when we tinker with things, most often they turn round and bite us on the bum later on. And that’s what happening with the climate: I am starting to measure geometric changes – self-reinforcing patterns of weather that will cause the climate change spiral to accelerate downwards faster and faster. I think it’s time to hit the PANIC button.

Girl No – but wait a minute: the politicians – the private sector – even our old mining company boss! – everyone’s on our side now.

Boy There’s got to be something we can do!

Scientist I have no idea what. That’s the problem – we’ve gone too far! We’re over the tipping point. From here on in, things can only get worse. Unless –

Girl/Boy Unless what - ?

Scientist Unless we get a worldwide revolution. We get the whole world acting as one human family to crack this thing. As the top – indeed – the only global priority!

Girl What do you mean?

Scientist I mean no more of this Chinese trying to fudge the issue: “You’ve been polluting in the USA for the last two hundred years. That means we have 180 more to go...!” Sorry, but that’s bullshit: we *all* have to stop polluting NOW!

Boy Sure – lo-carbon development: we’re all committed to that.

Scientist Committed – yes! But we’re not doing it: we’re talking a 20-year window to turn it round. My indicators are telling me it needs to be turned around tomorrow!

Girl So – go ahead. Hit the Panic Button.

Boy What will happen then?

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

Boy But who will it reach? How big is the network?

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

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

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

Boy So would it help to wait a week?

Scientist No! – things would get worse.

Girl So do it now! – let’s 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 the song emerges. The Scientist + Girl + Boy and Chorus sing as Dancers come out 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. The Girl, the Boy and the Scientist watch amused. Martin and Jake join them:

Martin More to the point – what are *you* going to do?
 Boy I think we've done enough, don't you?? People are going to get sick of us, rabbitting on. I think it's time to give it a rest – get back to our studies. I've got exams coming up at college and...

Girl Will you shut up!!! Will you just shut your mouth??!! What do you mean "Exams coming up...." This is the biggest test of your life, and you're just going to walk away from it?

Jake She's right...

Boy She's always right...!

Martin I would agree – if I could think what we could do that would make a difference!
 Boy Exactly!! (*getting his own back on the girl!*) If you come up with intelligent suggestions, I will happily get involved. My point is – there is no further point in flinging banners of power station cooling towers. People have gotten the point! – they know what's going on! I'm not doing that again. I'm going to get my degree then go into politics and get laws passed that will force everyone to lower their carbon footprint. And I'm going to start with me – I've got this carbon calculator which measures everything I do and shows me how to reduce my personal footprint...

Girl Good for you! But it's not enough. We have the media! We have notoriety! We must use it.

Boy/Martin/Scientist: (*shouting in exasperation!*) But how!
 Girl (*shouts*) I'm working on it!!

BLACK OUT

Scene TWELVE: A moment's peace

Go back to the paradise lighting of Scene ONE. The Boy and the girl are sitting with a picnic basket beside them. The Boy'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?
 Lil' Sis Yeah – why can't we come back here tomorrow!?
 Boy 'Cos you have to go to school!
 Lil' Bro I hate school! Why can't we have a school right here –
 Lil' Sis - where we can play all the time?
 Girl Not a bad idea!
 Boy 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!

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

Girl Why?

Boy What do you mean! Why??!!

Girl Just asking. What's this essay you're dumping me for this evening??

Boy Napoleonic War: "Compare the psychology of Bonaparte' leadership at the Battles of Jena and Waterloo..."

Girl (*explodes*) You're kidding me, right??!! Tell me you're joking??!!

Boy Why would I be joking? I'm a history major – I have to do a module on the Napoleonic Wars: it's very interesting...

Girl 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!

Boy It's a good point. It's crazy the way those kids at the Model UN said that what they had learned there wasn't 'real' – but how do you change that?

Girl I don't know – I'm a chemistry major! More useful than history, but that's not the point....

Boy We could have a school strike - ?

Lil' Bro School strike!! School Strike – we're not going to school any more!

Lil' Sis We refuse!!

Girl YOU – ARE – BRILLIANT!! That's it! We can organise a worldwide school strike –

Boy - and tell the politicians that we are not going back to school until the teachers teach us about how to win the one crucial battle we have to win in our lifetimes!

Girl Climate Change – it has to be at the heart of every school curriculum: everything relates to it – science, economics, - even history if you think about it.

Boy I've never studied it..

Girl But you could.

Lil' Bro Why is climate change so important?

Lil' Sis Because they say so!

Girl Yeah – but it's the detail: why is two degrees such an important number??

Lil' Bro If the planet warms up by more than two degrees – we get more hurricanes...

Girl You've been listening to your brother too much.... Most kids don't know that!

Lil' Sis I don't!

Boy But you'd join a school strike to have the right to learn, wouldn't you?

Lil' Sis Of course – but you never 'splained why it's so important??

Girl It's a matter of life and death for us – and for all living things?

Lil' Bro All the animals and trees will die if we don't stop it?

Lil' Sis This pretty river will dry up – and all the flowers will die?

Boy Yep!

Girl - and, unless we all learn how to stop climate change happening, it will kill all of this!

Lil' Bro That's terrible!

Boy But it won't happen because my friend and I won't let it happen. The hell with my essay – we're have to plan how we're going to get the young people of the world out on a school strike!

Girl Later! An idea like this needs time to grow a bit. Let's enjoy the afternoon first. This is what life's about – sunshine, butterflies, warm grass – flowers – look...

16: SOMEWHERE THERE'S A PLACE

Girl (*sings*)

Somewhere there's a place for people to be
 To be what they want to be
 To say what they want to say
 To live their lives in peace

Boy (sings)

Somewhere there's a town for people to live
To live how they wish to live
To give all they want to give
To live their lives in peace

Boy & Girl (sing – the children dance around them)

So take yourself down to where the sun is shining
Come on down to where the wind is blowing
Roll on down to where the air is clean
and grass is fresh and green
To a little old town where people are smiling
The wine is red and children are laughing
Hearts are warm, and minds are free to roam
That place is waiting to welcome you
That place is waiting to welcome you

Boy (sings)

Somewhere there's a house for people can love
To love all they wish to love
To give all they wish to give
To live their lives in peace

Girl (sings)

Somewhere there's a place for people to be
To be what they want to be
To say what they want to say
To live their lives in peace

Boy & Girl with the children (sing)

So take yourself down to where the sun is shining
Come on down to where the wind is blowing
Roll on down to where the air is clean
and grass is fresh and green
To a little old town where people are smiling
The wine is red and children laughing
Hearts are warm, and minds are free to roam
That place is my home, that place is my home
That place is my home, Yes - this place is Home

The little children dance off through the auditorium –

Boy Don't go too far!!

Lil' Bro Just to the edge of the wood....

Lil' Sis We're going to find a Unicorn!!

Boy Take care!

Girl You're great! Do you know that?!

Boy We're a good team.

Girl We are: we complement each other. You have the ideas –

Boy You get them done....

Girl I do – with your help! (*She kisses him. He kisses her back. Then recoils – amazed!*)

Boy Why?! – what hap- ...? Talk about climate change! you hotting up!?

Girl I like you – you like me! Why shouldn't we kiss each other?

Boy You mean – there is an us now?!

Girl Why not? I can't imagine doing any of this without you

Boy (*suddenly very serious*) I cannot imagine a moment of my life without you in it!

Girl That sounds pretty serious.
Boy I am!
Girl Don't be. Let's just be fun. I like you. You have the best ideas!

17: DREAMER

Boy *(Sings)*
Dreamer - you are my dreamer!
Lady - you are my love!
You are everything I ever dreamed I'd have

Girl *(Sings)*
Dreamer - you are my dreamer!
Boy - you are my friend
We'll always be together
Though this world may end

Boy *(Sings)*
Where-ever I go - I'll watch over you
Where-ever life takes us, I'll be with you!
Dreamer - you are my dreamer!
Lady - you are my love!
You are everything
I ever dreamed I'd have

Girl *(Sings)*
Dreamer - you are my dreamer!
Man - you are my friend
I'll always be beside you
Until the end

Boy/Girl *(Sing)*
Love is the answer - Faith makes us strong
Heaven our reason - tomorrow we're gone
No plans to make - nowhere to run
Never stop trying - reach for the sun

Girl *(Sings)*
Love is the answer - Faith makes us strong
Heaven our reason - tomorrow we're gone

Boy *(Sings)*
Woman my woman, girl my friend
We'll be together until the end

They stand - looking into each other's eyes - holding both hands. **BLACK OUT**

Scene THIRTEEN: The School Strike

The Scientist Returns. His Planetary Dashboard is set up at the Back of stage. Music - "I Gotta Story" - as the press come back in force and sit on chairs across the stage. 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!

- Scientist I can confirm that Australia is now 100% - Thailand is up to 72% - and Malaysian compliance with the school strike call now stands at 44%.
- Press (1) Still no information from China??
- Scientist No responses.
- Girl *(coming on with the Boy)* I'm sorry too! I'm working on it - I just came from the Chinese Embassy – and I made it clear to them: this is a question of global security. As such, they, as a permanent member of the UN security council, should take the lead in supporting the youth of the world who seek to secure their future. They were very positive! Expect some very good news from the People's Republic shortly..."
- Boy But the other message I want you to put out very strongly is that, although we are calling for a school strike, we 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 and what we can all do to prevent it. Teach your family to enjoy vegetarian food – keep those lights switched off, have NOTHING on stand-by – repair those bicycles and use them – and public transport. Never use that car – and use the Planetary Dashboard codes to measure your own carbon footprint. We want every family that has a student on strike to reduce their carbon footprint by half – by the end of the strike. And – you know what – that's more important than most of the lessons you will learn in school!!

As the boy 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 the boy for his final line!

- Boy So – how's it looking on the dashboard?? Any changes!
- Scientist 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!
- Girl 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 –
- Boy 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 -
- Girl That's a promise!
- Boy 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 meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the children's ideas – and end the School Strike!!"
- 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 Security Council

The Boy and the Girl 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 the UN security 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. I am pleased to declare this session Open! – and invite them to address us:
- Girl It is an awesome honour to speak to you in this sacred temple of ‘security’. Security – I love that word! It is something we human beings seek from the moment our mother holds us in her arms and leads us to her breast for our first meal – to the moment that we die – hopefully in the warm embrace of family lovingly around our bed... Security – human security, food security, water security, security of our human rights – security of our person from violence or harm... These are the most cherished aspects of our human condition. And climate change threatens all these aspects of ‘security’ – which is why we called you here today. We need to learn in our schools about what is happening – and, more important, we need to learn how to adapt and mitigate its effects. Why? – let’s put it this way...

18: PAVEL’S SONG

- 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.

Boy & Girl (sing)

Let's join our hands together
Let's make Peace throughout our World!

S G Well – may I be the first to thank and congratulate you for that most moving presentation. I have sat in this room many hundreds of hours and I don't think I have ever been moved to tears by a presentation. Members – you have the young people's ideas, draft conventions and treaties before you. They have now set the context for them. Comments please?

Diplo (1) I would like to identify my mission with the comments of the Secretary-General. We have some concerns about the treaties – but I think we can discuss them in the committee discussions to follow;

Boy (under his breath to the girl) What committee discussions? No one told us about that?

Diplo (2) I think we can all agree that the children's concerns are well-founded. Their concerns are our concerns – and indeed, in this very room, we have spent many hours discussing them.

Boy That's the problem – you only discuss them: why do you never take any action!!

Girl And why do you keep calling us 'children'?!

Diplo (3) Hearing a rumour that the youth were going to do a musical presentation this morning, I have taken the liberty of inviting a group of Industrialists and businessmen – representatives from the engine room of the economies on which the prosperity of all of us depend – to present an opposing point of view – in a similar musical format:

Biz Man Well thank you, kind sirs, for this amazing opportunity. I hate to throw cold water on this hot Love Fest you guys are having with these very attractive young people but me and my colleagues feel that some one has to give it to these kids straight. So 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 start 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 and we resume in ten minutes. Thank you! *(he slaps the gavel – and they all EXIT)*

During the song, the singers and dancers, dressed very formally in suits and ties, jig around the stage like rock stars – to the great amusement of the diplomats, and the shock-horror of the young

Girl What was that all about??

Boy Listen – you have not seen me angry before, but – look at me: I am shaking with anger!! These greedy, money-grubbing bastards! They haven't a clue!! They're IDIOTS!! And the fate of our planet is in the hands of these bozos!??

Youth (1) They think we're kidding – they're taking it as a joke!

Youth (2) An opportunity for a bit of fun....

Youth (3) *(going through the papers on the desk)* Look at this: Instructions from Foreign Office: "On No Account allow serious consideration of the children's treaties. They are unrealistic, whimsical and potentially explosive..."

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

Youth (4) They're just going through the motions to get the strike over...

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

Youth (5) Worse: they are prepared to kill us – kill all life on this planet for the sake of their precious profits....

Youth (6) We have to stop them!

Youth (7) But what can we do??

Boy Well? – Look – that sign says "USA" – and I know I can do a better job of representing the USA than that dickhead!

Girl That sign says China

Slowly, they filter down to the chairs around the horseshoe table. Youth (1) goes to the head.

Youth (1) Will you elect me your chair – all those in favor *(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.

Boy I move the climate change education agreement. Do I have a seconder?

Youth (1) I want to second that from the chair – on behalf of the whole world!

Girl Does it include the power of the Security Council to enforce binding compliance on all UN member states?

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

Youth(1) All those in favor?

All raise their hands. Youth (1) slaps the gavel:

Youth (1) Agreed! Next - ?
 Youth (2) I move our Middle East Peace Treaty. Do I have a seconder?
 Boy *(raising his hand)* The USA!
 Youth (1) All those in favor? *(all raise their hands; the gavel smacks down!)* Agreed! Next - ?
 Youth (3) I move all our other Peace Treaties and the UN Standing Army Police Force to enforce them, and protect everyone's human rights as stated in the Universal Declaration. Seconder?
 Girl Ironic, eh?! The People's Republic of China!
 Youth (1) All those in favor? *(all raise their hands; the gavel smacks down!)* Agreed! Next - ?
 Youth (4) What about the Tobin Tax – and the authority to the UN to raise direct taxes?
 Youth (5) I second that!
 Youth (1) All those in favor? *(all raise their hands; the gavel smacks down!)* Agreed! Next - ?
 Girl What else? – we're running out of time here –
 Youth (6) Shall we go for the Personal Carbon Quota scheme?
 Youth (3) Remind me?
 Youth (6) Instead of just countries agreeing to cap and trade
 Youth (7) - each individual citizen on the planet could cap and trade
 Youth (8) 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;
 Boy Did we do the numbers on that one?
 Youth (1) We did: like Tobin, it ended up hugely beneficial if we could enforce it.
 Girl A big 'If'!
 Youth (3) 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!

Youth (1) Seconded by the entire global family. Ladies – Gentlemen –
 Girl Wait! – we have another: Equal Rights for Women! Equal Pay – universal ratification of CEDAW! I so move – seconder?
 Boy United States!
 Youth (1) All those in favor? *(all raise their hands – he slaps down the gavel)* Agreed! Gentlemen, Ladies – I hear the diplomats returning. I think we should prepare ourselves...

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

S G What the - ? What's going on here??!
 Boy We decided we'd help things along a bit –
 Girl - get done in the coffee break what you might take 40 years to do!
 Youth (1) 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!
 Youth (2) Yeah! – embarrassing isn't it: now we know you have been sent here 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.
 Girl No wait! You have to understand. You were children once – you looked forward, as we do, to lives filled with happiness, children, love, security! I have heard lawyers call your lack of action on climate change an 'intergenerational crime' you're committing against us - the youth of the world! We should sling you in jail for murdering our future. Instead – all we ask you to do is to talk to us – listen to us! And be the best you can be – not the worst you can be....

20: REACH OUT

Boy (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!

Girl (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!

In whispers, each of them starts going through the agreements, pointing out the important parts. The diplomats ask questions – it is a dialogue: they are engaged. 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. The Story-teller comes on, watching, amused – a little sad. He turns to the audience to explain to the audience, and his group of small children, what happened next...

S T That was it! That's where it started: at the UN Security Council. 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 industrialists who came and did that stupid song. They were the pits – but, you know, once they got going – it was they who built up the eco-friendly industries that area now the engine of our new economies. Every one has talents – and what we did helped them harness their's in a good way. We became good friends!

Child(3) And the girl?

Child (4) Did you marry her?

S T That's for me to know and you to find out! As I told you at the beginning, this is not about me and her: this was 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 – you were the leaders

Child (6) You made it happen!

S T 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?

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 those very institutions I thought I hated! But – you see – schools are different now: they teach the things you need to know – as well as the history and traditional stuff. Teachers and children work together – 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 crabbiere 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 children of the past come forward with the diplomats to join the children of 2056 with the Story teller. The table is cleared away and 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, jublations,
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