

GROSSBUSTERS: The Monster Musical

Junior Script
by
Craig Hawes

Ideal Cast Size 57

Speaking Roles 49

Minimum Cast Size 31

Duration (minutes) 75

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CAST LIST

N.B. In the following list, the bracketed number shows the number of spoken lines each role has.

An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

The Grossbusters

*Felix F Finkleman (34)
 *Igor J. Spandex (30)
 *Bungle T Spoon (24)
 *Skid E. Pants (29)

The Monsters

*Monica McMonster (38)
 Elton Monster (13)
 Fred Ex (8)
 Boomer (6)
 Blitz (6)
 Muffin (7)
 Bagel (7)
 Jenzy (4)
 Sigma (4)

The Normaltons

*Mayor Dudley Dullsworth (51)
 Milton Middling (33)
 Average (4)
 Bland (3)
 Common (4)
 Mundane (3)
 Plain (3)
 Regular (3)
 Standard (3)

The Heroes

*Norman Normal (95)
 *Nibs (63)

The Fanacker Gang

*Fifi Fanackapan (75)
 Quibble (24)
 Tweak (24)

The B.U.M. Brigade

Maximus Gluteus (29)
 Rumpster (4)
 Tootles (2)
 Wigglecheeks (2)
 Fudgebut (2)
 Moonie (2)
 Cracklepants (2)
 Fluffbum (2)
 Windypops (2)

The Normtroopers

Biggins (1)
 Marbles (1)
 Noodles (1)
 Spats (1)
 Winkle (1)
 Slapjack (1)

The Gloopers

Sloppy (0)
 Sludge (0)
 Muckie (0)
 Drip (0)
 Squidge (0)
 Blobster (0)
 Gumdrops (0)
 Squirt (0)

The P.A.N.T.S. Agents

Agent A (41)
 Agent U (11)
 Agent R (8)
 Agent Y (6)
 Agent O (5)
 Agent I (5)
 Agent C (5)

SUGGESTED CAST LIST FOR 57 ACTORS

N.B. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

*Norman Normal	95
*Fifi Fanackapan	75
*Nibs	63
*Mayor Dudley Dullsworth	51
Agent A	41
*Monica McMonster	38
*Felix F. Finkleman	34
Milton Middling	33
*Igor J. Spandex	30
Maximus Gluteus	29
*Skid E. Pants	29
*Bungle T. Spoon	24
Quibble	24
Tweak	24
Elton Monster	13
Agent U	11
Agent R	8
Fred Ex	8
Muffin	7
Bagel	7
Agent Y	6
Boomer	6
Blitz	6
Agent C	5
Agent O	5
Agent I	5
Jenzy	4
Sigma	4
Average	4
Rumpster	4
Common	4
Bland	3
Mundane	3
Plain	3
Regular	3
Standard	3
Tootles	2
Wigglecheeks	2
Fudgebut	2
Moonie	2
Cracklepants	2
Fluffbum	2
Windypops	2
Biggins	1

Marbles	1
Noodles.....	1
Spats.....	1
Winkle	1
Slapjack	1
Sloppy	0
Sludge.....	0
Muckie.....	0
Drip	0
Squidge.....	0
Blobster.....	0
Gumdrop	0
Squirt.....	0

SUGGESTED CAST LIST FOR 31 ACTORS

N.B. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

*Norman Normal	95
*Fifi Fanackapan	75
*Nibs	63
*Mayor Dudley Dullsworth	51
Agent A	41
*Monica McMonster	38
*Felix F. Finkleman	34
Milton Middling	33
*Igor J. Spandex	30
Maximus Gluteus	29
*Skid E. Pants	29
*Bungle T. Spoon	24
Quibble	24
Tweak	24
Elton Monster/Agent C	18
Muffin/Bagel	14
Fred X/Agent I	13
Boomer/Blitz	12
Agent U	11
Jenzy/Sigma	8
Rumpster/Wigglecheeks/Moonie	8
Agent R	8
Common/Standard	7
Tootles/Fudgebut/Fluffbum	6
Bland/Regular	6
Agent Y	6
Mundane/Plain	6
Agent O	5
Average	4
Sloppy	0
Sludge	0

With this reduction, some lines will need to be adapted or rearranged, especially where characters are mentioned by name but covered by other actors.

CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE**Prologue**

Normal Parent
Normal Child
Monster Parent
Monster Child
Grossbusters
Chorus

Scene One

Normaltons
Norman
Nibs
PANTS Agents

Scene Two

PANTS Agents
Norman

Scene Three

Normaltons
Middling
Mayor
Gloopers
PANTS Agents
Normtroopers
Quibble
Tweak
Fifi
Chorus

Scene Four

Monica
Muffin
Bagel
Jenzy
Sigma
Boomer
Blitz
Fred Ex
B.U.M. Brigade
Elton
Norman
Chorus

Scene Five

Grossbusters
Nibs
Gloopers

Scene Six

B.U.M. Brigade
Norman
Chorus
Monica
Muffin
Bagel
Boomer
Blitz
Jenzy
Sigma

Fred Ex
Elton
Nibs

Scene Seven

Mayor
Middling
PANTS Agents
Normaltons
Fifi
Quibble
Tweak
Normtroopers
Grossbusters
Nibs
Gloopers

Scene Eight

Monica
Muffin
Bagel
Norman
Jenzy
Sigma
Boomer
Blitz
B.U.M. Brigade
Elton
Nibs
Grossbusters

Fred Ex

Scene Nine

Grossbusters
Normaltons
Normtroopers
Fifi
Quibble
Tweak
Norman
Nibs
Boomer
Blitz
Monica
Muffin
Bagel
Jenzy
Sigma
Fred Ex
B.U.M. Brigade
Elton
Mayor
Middling
Gloopers
PANTS Agents
Chorus

LIST OF PROPERTIES

Normal Blanket	Large Slamazon Box
Monster Blanket	B.U.M. Placards
Clapperboard	TNT Detonator
Megaphone	Grossbusters' Emergency Phone
Music Blaster	Grossbusters HQ/ Normsville sign
Newspaper	Grossmobile
Packet Of Spicy Crisps	Cheese Costume
Litter Picker	Slimeade Power Spray (Water Pistol)
Traffic Cones	Super Squirter (Larger Water Pistol)
De-Flavouring Spray	Mega Squirter (Fire Hose)
Radiation Box	Kazoos
Lectern with microphone	McMonsters Crate
Slime Splats	Unhappy Meal Bag
Feathery Fans	Slappy Meal Bag
Monster Detector	Zappy Meal Bag
Green Silly String	Chocolate Splats
Rubbish Chute of Doom	Store Card
Monster Street Signpost	Hypnotic Glasses
Monster Street Dumpster	Normaliser
Muffin/Bagel Puppets (If used as part of the character)	Red MINGA Caps
Elton Monster Puppet (If used as part of the character)	The Wall
Elton's Dustbin/Piano	Wall Bricks
	B.U.M. Blaster

LIST OF PROPERTIES IN EACH SCENE**Prologue**

Normal blanket Normal child
 Monster blanket Monster child
 Megaphone Felix
 Clapperboard Bungle
 Music blaster Igor

Scene One

Newspaper Common
 Packet of spicy crisps Plain
 Megaphone Agent A
 Traffic cones Agents Y and C
 De-flavouring spray Agent I
 Litter picker Agent U
 Radiation box Agents R and O

Scene Two

No properties required

Scene Three

The Rubbish Chute Of Doom On stage (set)
 Lectern with microphone On stage (set)
 Slime splats Gloopers
 Feathery fans Quibble & Tweak
 Monster detector Norman
 Green silly string Gloopers

Scene Four

Monster Street signpost On stage (set)
 Monster Street dumpster On stage (set)
 Elton's dustbin/piano On stage (set)
 Muffin/bagel puppets (If used as part of the character) Muffin, Bagel
 McMonsters meal bags Jenzy & Sigma
 TNT detonator Boomer, Blitz
 Large Slamazon box Fred Ex
 B.U.M. placards B.U.M. Brigade
 Elton Monster puppet (If used as part of the character) Elton

Scene Five

Grossbusters' emergency phone..... On stage set
 Grossbusters HQ/Normsville sign..... On stage set
 Grossmobile On stage set
 Cheese costume..... Nibs
 Monster Detector Igor
 Slimeade power spray (water pistol)..... Felix
 Super squirter (larger water pistol) Bungle
 Mega squirter (fire hose)..... Skid

Scene Six

Monster Street signpost..... On stage (set)
 Monster Street dumpster On stage (set)
 Elton's dustbin/piano On stage (set)
 Kazoos..... B.U.M. Brigade
 Placards..... B.U.M. Brigade
 Elton monster puppet (If used as part of the character)..... Elton
 Muffin/Bagel puppets (If used as part of the character) Muffin, Bagel
 TNT detonator Boomer, Blitz
 McMonsters' crate Fred Ex
 Unhappy meal Set inside McMonsters crate
 Slappy meal..... Set inside McMonsters crate
 Zappy meal..... Set inside McMonsters crate
 Chocolate Splats Jenzy & Sigma

Scene Seven

Lectern with microphone..... On stage (set)
 Store card Middling
 Hypnotic glasses Fifi
 Normaliser Normtroopers

Scene Eight

Monster Street signpost..... On stage (set)
 Monster Street dumpster On stage (set)
 Elton's dustbin/piano On stage (set)
 Elton Monster puppet (If used as part of the character)..... Elton
 Muffin/Bagel puppets (If used as part of the character) Muffin, Bagel
 TNT detonator Boomer, Blitz
 Music blaster Skid
 Large Slamazon Box Fred Ex

Scene Nine

The Wall On stage (set)
Normaliser On stage (set)
Lectern with microphone..... On stage (set)
Red MINGA caps..... Quibble, Tweak
TNT detonator Boomer, Blitz
Bricks..... Grossbusters
B.U.M. Blaster Maximus

PROLOGUE**TRACK 1:** **MUSIC - OVERTURE**

(As the House Lights dim, the Overture music begins. The curtain rises to reveal eerie lighting. A flash of lightning and a Vincent Price-style voice begins...)

TRACK 2: **MUSIC - PROLOGUE #1**

VOICE: There are tales too terrible to tell,
Of things that slither, things that smell!
Of monstrous beasts beneath your bed,
And frightful fiends inside your head!
So, bolt your doors and lock them tight -
For something monstrous is coming tonight!

(A Normal Child and a Monster Child are stood as if tucked in bed, holding a blanket in front of them up to their chins. Each child is having a bedtime story read to them, but we don't see the parents; we just hear their voices. The children look up high into the audience to listen to their parents.)

NORMAL PARENT: Now remember, darling. If you hear scratching from the wardrobe, or oozing under the bed, beware - it could be... a monster!

NORMAL CHILD: *(Looking around nervously.)* "A... a m-m-m-monster?"

NORMAL PARENT: *(Scarily)* Yes. Vicious fangs, terrifying horns and glowing eyes. Growling, howling, oozing slime!

NORMAL CHILD: Aaaarrgghh! *(The child throws the blanket over their head.)*

NORMAL PARENT: *(Happily.)* Sweet dreams, dear!

(Light changes to focus on the Monster Child.)

MONSTER PARENT: Now remember, my little monster... if you hear a strange silence, or smell air freshener, beware - it could be... a normal person!

MONSTER CHILD: *(Gasps.)* "A normal person?"

MONSTER PARENT: *(Scarily.)* Yes! They sneak under your bed... filing tax returns! Ironing socks! Arranging kitchen utensils in alphabetical order!

MONSTER CHILD: Aaaarrgghh! *(The child throws the blanket over their head.)*

(Track 2 fades out.)

MONSTER PARENT: *(Happily.)* Sweet dreams, dear!

TRACK 3:**MUSIC - PROLOGUE #2**

(Both children stay hidden under their covers as the eerie narrator is heard once again.)

VOICE: So, little children, rest your head
Ignore the horrors beneath your bed!
These nightmare creatures of your dreams
Will soon be real when they hear your screams!
Mwa-ha-ha-ha-ha!

(Both children lower their sheets to scream.)

NORMAL CHILD: Aagghh!

MONSTER CHILD: Aagghh!

(As the scream echoes, a spotlight hits centre stage. A silhouette appears. Grossbuster Felix strides on with a megaphone.)

FELIX: *(Shouting.)* Cut! Cut! Cut!

(The other three Grossbusters, Igor, Bungle and Skid, enter from behind the bed carrying props – a clapper board and a music blaster machine. The children exit with their bedding over their heads.)

BUNGLE: Don't you mean *(Miming, claws in the air.)* 'Slash, slash, slash?'

FELIX: No, Bungle, I don't mean 'slash, slash, slash!' I mean 'Cut!'

IGOR: What's wrong, Felix? Do we need more screams? More smoke? More slime?

SKID: *(Sounding nervous.)* I told you guys about this in rehearsals. This opening is really scary!

IGOR: Oh, toughen up, Skid - this is a monster musical! It's supposed to be a bit scary!

SKID: A bit? Two blokes have left screaming, a granny in Row C's being revived with a Fruit Pastille, the lighting guy's currently breathing into a paper bag, and someone in the front row... well... *(Leans forward, peers into the audience, grimaces.)* ... let's just say we need a mop!

BUNGLE: But it was really cool! Lots of creepy, gratuitous slime, terror and screaming!

IGOR: It's what discerning and cultured theatre audiences want these days.

FELIX: No, it isn't! You know what our audience *really* wants?

SKID: Refunds?

BUNGLE: Too late, sorry!

FELIX: No, they want to meet the real stars of this show – us! The Grossbusters, the most magnificent monster hunters! Led by me, fearless Felix F. Finkleman! ***(He poses.)***

TRACK 4: **MUSIC - STING #1**

IGOR: Technological genius, Igor J. Spandex! ***(He poses.)***

TRACK 5: **MUSIC - STING #2**

BUNGLE: Monster Zoologist, Bungle T. Spoon! ***(He poses.)***

TRACK 6: **MUSIC - STING #3**

SKID: And resident coward, Skid E. Pants! ***(He poses with a hand on his rear and a silly pout on his face.)***

TRACK 7: **MUSIC - STING #4**

FELIX: This is OUR musical, and we need our own opening number!

IGOR: A synth-fuelled 80s anthem!

BUNGLE: Written just for us!

SKID: ...and bearing absolutely no resemblance whatsoever to any other, similar, theme song!

IGOR: You mean something like this?

(He hits the play button on the music blaster. The lighting changes and the chorus enter.)

TRACK 8:**SONG - GROSSBUSTERS**

FELIX: THERE'S A GROWL AT THE WINDOW!
THERE'S MONSTER UNDER YOUR BED!

IGOR: HEAR THE HOWL OF THE WIND BLOW!

ALL: IS IT REAL, IS IT JUST IN YOUR HEAD?

BUNGLE: DRIPPING SLIME ON THE CEILING?
CREEPY CRAWLIES UNDER YOUR TOES?

SKID: GOT A SPINE-CHILLING FEELING?

ALL: YOU BETTER CALL THE GROSSBUSTERS!
WHEN YOU'VE GOT MONSTERS IN THE CITY!
GROSSBUSTERS!
JUST CALL THE TEAM THAT'S TOUGH AND GRITTY!
GROSSBUSTERS!
WE'LL GET THOSE FREAKY, FURRY MONSTERS
ON THE RUN! ON THE RUN! ON THE RUN! ON THE RUN!

ALL: THERE'S A GROWL AT THE WINDOW!
THERE'S MONSTER UNDER YOUR BED!
HEAR THE HOWL OF THE WIND BLOW!
IS IT REAL, IS IT JUST IN YOUR HEAD?

DRIPPING SLIME ON THE CEILING?
CREEPY CRAWLIES UNDER YOUR TOES?
GOT A SPINE-CHILLING FEELING?

YOU BETTER CALL THE GROSSBUSTERS!
WHEN YOU'VE GOT MONSTERS IN THE CITY!
GROSSBUSTERS!
JUST CALL THE TEAM THAT'S TOUGH AND GRITTY!
GROSSBUSTERS!
WE'LL GET THOSE FREAKY, FURRY MONSTERS
ON THE RUN! ON THE RUN! ON THE RUN! ON THE RUN!

(The Grossbusters perform their middle section rap, as the chorus face them, turning to the audience and striking cool poses each time they shout 'Gross'.)

FELIX: IF THERE'S SOMETHING GREEN
LOOKING QUITE OBSCENE
AND IT'S DRIPPING ON YOUR HEAD...

ALL: GROSS!

IGOR: IF YOU DON'T FEEL WELL
'CAUSE A FRIGHTFUL SMELL
IS WAFING FROM YOUR BED...

ALL: GROSS!

BUNGLE: IF YOUR GRANDAD GROWS
SEVEN EXTRA TOES
AND HE'S CLIMBING UP THE WALL...

ALL: GROSS!

SKID: IF YOUR GRAN LAYS EGGS
AND SHE GROWS SIX LEGS...

GROSSBUSTERS: THEN WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

ALL: GROSSBUSTERS!
WHEN YOU'VE GOT MONSTERS IN THE CITY!
GROSSBUSTERS!
JUST CALL THE TEAM THAT'S TOUGH AND GRITTY!
GROSSBUSTERS!
WE'LL GET THOSE FREAKY, FURRY MONSTERS
ON THE RUN! ON THE RUN! ON THE RUN! ON THE RUN!

GROSSBUSTERS!
WHEN YOU'VE GOT MONSTERS IN THE CITY!
GROSSBUSTERS!
JUST CALL THE TEAM THAT'S TOUGH AND GRITTY!
GROSSBUSTERS!
WE'LL GET THOSE FREAKY, FURRY MONSTERS
ON THE RUN! ON THE RUN! ON THE RUN! ON THE RUN!

WHEN YOUR BACK'S AGAINST THE WALL
TELL US WHO YOU'RE GONNA CALL?
GROSSBUSTERS!

(Blackout.)

TRACK 9: **MUSIC - GROSSBUSTERS PLAY OFF**

SCENE ONE**TRACK 10:** **MUSIC - NORMSVILLE #1**

(The tidy town square in Inner Normsville. The NORMALTONS of Normsville are frozen in three groups Stage Left, Centre Stage, and Stage Right. We hear gentle music and a radio announcer's voice reading an advertisement for the city of Normsville.)

VOICE: Say, friend, are you tired of chaos, colour, and things that go bump in the night? Well golly, have we got the place for you! Welcome to Normsville - where everything's pleasantly predictable!

(The first group comes to life.)

AVERAGE: Good morning, Mr. Bland. And how are we today?

BLAND: Absolutely normal, thank you, Mr. Average. And you?

AVERAGE: Oh, totally normal, Mr. Bland, thanks for asking!

BLAND: Have a normal day!

(The first group freezes.)

TRACK 11: **MUSIC - NORMSVILLE #2**

VOICE: Live life the Normsville way! No mess, no mayhem! Just sensible shoes, symmetrical smiles and the comforting hum of conformity!

(The second group comes to life.)

COMMON: *(Waving a newspaper and shouting.)* Normsville News! Normsville news! You don't want to miss today's top story, Mr. Mundane!

MUNDANE: Why, what's happened, Mr. Common?

COMMON: Absolutely nothing! Everything's totally normal!

MUNDANE: Oh, wonderful! I'll take one!

(The second group freezes.)

TRACK 12: **MUSIC - NORMSVILLE #3**

VOICE: Yes, in Normsville, our shirts and personalities are safely tucked in, just as nature intended! Spontaneity? Not on our watch! Because in Normsville, being different just isn't done!

(The third group comes to life.)

PLAIN: Lovely weather we're having, Mr. Regular!

REGULAR: Yes, the same as yesterday, Mr. Plain!

STANDARD: And every other day before that! It's all just so...

ALL: ...normal!

(All three groups move together to form a 'choir' they freeze in position.)

TRACK 13: **SONG - NORMSVILLE #4**

VOICE: So, pack up those personalities, leave your individuality at the border, and come on down to Normsville!

(The Normsville choir sings.)

ALL: IF YOU'RE WEIRD — JUST GO AWAY!
NORMSVILLE'S NEAT AND HERE TO STAY!
NORMSVILLE!

(Norman Normal enters from stage left as everyone turns to greet him!)

NORMAN: Morning, all!

ALL: Morning, Norman!

TRACK 14: **MUSIC - FREEZE**

(Nibs enters from stage right. A lighting change as everyone freezes and Nibs addresses the audience.)

NIBS: Norman Normal of Normsville was proud to say he was perfectly normal, thank you very much. He looked normal. He smelt normal. He listened to normal music and ate normal food. And he did it all really normally. How do I know? Because I'm his best mate...

(Norman approaches Nibs as the other Normaltons move to one side and face the back.)

NORMAN: Nibs! What are you doing here?

NIBS: Just introducing you, Norman, my normal neighbour. My average amigo! My predictable pal!

NORMAN: Yes, that's me, totally normal!

NIBS: Although...

NORMAN: *(In a stern warning tone.)* Nibs!

NIBS: ...you do have that little problem, don't you?

NORMAN: Nibs! That's a secret! If I'm going to fit in around here, I have to be like everyone else! Normal and plain!

PLAIN: *(Holding out a bag of spicy crisps.)* Fancy a crisp? They're normal and plain!

REGULAR: Wait a minute!

STANDARD: These aren't normal and plain!

AVERAGE: They're...

ALL: *(Looking straight at the audience.)* ...spicy!

TRACK 15: **MUSIC - SNACK ALERT**

(Suddenly, alarms blare and red lights flash. A booming voice echoes.)

VOICE: WARNING! WARNING! UNUSUAL FLAVOUR DETECTED!

(The Pants Squad (Protection And Normalisation Taskforce Squad) burst onstage – Agents A, U, R, Y, O, I, and C – moving like they're about to handle a nuclear crisis. Agent A holds a megaphone, Agent U holds a litter picker, Agents R and O are carrying a radiation box, Agents Y and C carry traffic cones and Agent I carries the de-flavouring spray. They roll and creep stealthily like secret agent ninjas, then line up in order. Agent A, the Chief, addresses the crowd through his megaphone.)

AGENT A: Step away from the snack! Step away from the snack!

(The Normaltons gently and fearfully place the packet of crisps on the floor and creep backwards away from it as if waiting for an explosion.)

AGENT A: The Protection and Normalisation Taskforce Squad are here!
PANTS Squad, move out!

AGENT U: *(Moves forward to check the crisps.)* Sir! Spicy crisps confirmed – they're... *(Looking straight at the audience.)* ...flavoured!

AGENT R: We've got a level five tangy situation here!

(Agents Y and C run forwards placing their cones either side of the packet of crisps and standing in front of the Normaltons with their arms out as if to protect them as Agent Y speaks.)

AGENT Y: Containment protocol! Repeat, containment protocol!
AGENT O: Sir, permission to bag and quarantine the crisps.
AGENT A: Permission granted, Agent O. Agent I, neutralise that flavour!
AGENT I: *(Using spray bottle.)* Deploying de-flavouring spray!

TRACK 16: **MUSIC - SPRAY & COLLECT**

(Agent I sprays the crisp packet like toxic waste, and whilst everyone holds their breath in anticipation, Agent U slowly and carefully lifts it up with the litter picker and places it into the radiation box helped by Agents R and O. As they shut the lid, everyone gives a huge sigh of relief.)

AGENT A: Normsville's normal once again, thanks to PANTS! The Protection And Normalisation Taskforce Squad!
NORMALTONS: Hooray!
AGENT C: *(Holding his ear as if receiving information through an earpiece.)* Sir, we've got reports of someone wearing loud trousers in the library!
ALL: *(Comically over-dramatic.)* Aagghh!
AGENT A: Good grief! Prepare the Shush Shields, the PANTS are off... to the library!

TRACK 17: **MUSIC - PANTS PLAY OFF #1**

(The Pants Squad and Normaltons exit over the music, leaving Norman and Nibs alone.)

NORMAN: There, Nibs! You, see? If PANTS get their knickers in a twist about a slightly flavoured potato-based snack, what would they do if they ever discovered my secret. That I, Norman Normal, Normsville's most normal resident, is actually...
NIBS: *(Dramatically.)* ... a monster!

TRACK 18: **MUSIC - DRAMATIC CHORDS #1**

NORMAN: Shush, Nibs!
NIBS: *(Dramatically whipping Normans hat off.)* With horns...

TRACK 19:

MUSIC - DRAMATIC CHORDS #2

NORMAN: Stop it!

NIBS: *(More dramatic still pulling Norman's tail out from under his jacket.)* ...and a three-foot, furry tail!

TRACK 20:

MUSIC - DRAMATIC CHORDS #3

NORMAN: *(Grabbing hold of his tail.)* Not here in public, Nibs! This tail's the reason I could never go to school.

NIBS: Why?

NORMAN: (*Wagging tail.*) I was always wagging it!

NIBS: Rubbish! It's cool to be different. Just tell 'em straight! I'm a freak!
I'm unique! Get used it!

NORMAN: Being a monster is not cool, Nibs.

NIBS: Rubbish! You're my greatest discovery, thanks to The Monster Spotters Monster Book of Monsters. I took the 'Is Your Mate A Monster?' quiz and you ticked all the boxes. Horns, furry tail, faint whiff of sprouts...

NORMAN: *(Snatching his hat back from Nibs.)* I don't smell of sprouts!
(Then putting his horns and tail away under his clothes again.)
Anyway, I have to keep all that hidden if I'm going to get this new job!

NIBS: What new job?

NORMAN: I'm going to join the Protection And Normalisation Taskforce Squad!

NIBS: PANTS? You're going to join PANTS? I'm not sure that's a great idea, Norm.

NORMAN: Oh, come on, Nibs, picture it! Me... *(Strikes heroic pose.)* ...in PANTS!

NIBS: *(Disgusted.)* No thanks, it's not an image I want to think about, really. Well, I just hope you know what you're doing.

NORMAN: Of course I do, Nibs! A secret monster joining a squad who detect things that aren't normal. **(To audience.)** What could possibly go wrong?

(Blackout.)

SCENE TWO**TRACK 21:****MUSIC - PANTS INTERVIEW**

(PANTS HQ. The Agents of PANTS are stood in a line in order (A, U, R, Y, O, I, C); Agent A addresses them.)

AGENT A: Right, Agents of PANTS. Time for roll call! *(Saluting.)* Agent A!

AGENT U: *(Saluting.)* Agent U!

AGENT R: *(Saluting.)* Agent R!

AGENT Y: *(Saluting.)* Agent Y!

AGENT O: *(Saluting.)* Agent O!

AGENT I: *(Saluting.)* Agent I!

AGENT C: *(Saluting.)* Agent C!

AGENT A: Now, I need to talk to you.

AGENT U: *(Stepping forward.)* Yes Sir?

AGENT A: Not you, U! All of you! We have a new candidate coming this morning, so behave yourselves. And remember, who's in charge?

ALL: You!

AGENT U: *(Happily.)* Oh, thanks everyone!

(Norman enters and stands next to Agent A.)

NORMAN: I'm here for the job interview!

AGENT A: Welcome to PANTS! The Protection and Normalisation Taskforce Squad!

AGENT U: But we shortened it to PANTS.

AGENT R: Which was a good idea...

AGENT Y: ...initially!

AGENT O: It is a great honour get into PANTS.

AGENT I: But not everyone fits into PANTS.

AGENT C: We're the first in our families to get into PANTS!

AGENT U: *(Raising a hand.)* My two brothers were sportsmen.

AGENT A: *(To Norman.)* A pair of boxers!

AGENT R: *(Raising a hand.)* My two sisters were lawyers.

AGENT A: *(To Norman.)* A pair of briefs!

AGENT Y: *(Raising a hand.)* And my parents illegally imported small, colourful birds.

AGENT A: *(To Norman.)* Budgie smugglers! Now, I'm in charge, so I have a superior alphabetical codename.

NORMAN: Ey?

AGENT A: That's right! Very perceptive, you'll fit right in. And here's the rest of the squad. *(Pointing at himself.)* Agent A. *(Pointing down the line.)* And U, R...

(The PANTS Agents salute as their names are called, but Norman misunderstands.)

NORMAN: *(Facing the front proudly.)* Norman!

AGENT A: Y....

NORMAN: Because it's my name!

AGENT A: ...O, I, C!

NORMAN: Good, glad we cleared that up! Now, can I join?

AGENT U: Loads of people want to join us agents.

NORMAN: Is there a queue?

AGENT R: No, he left.

AGENT A: Now, if you join, you'll need an Agent Codename.

NORMAN: Why?

AGENT Y: *(Cross.)* No, I'm Y!

AGENT A: I mean a new letter codename. You must choose one.

AGENT U: Why do I have to choose one?

AGENT A: *(To U.)* Not you, U! *(To Norman.)* You! You must choose a letter!

NORMAN: Ah!

AGENT R: *(Cross.)* You can't be R, I'm R.

NORMAN: No, I meant 'I see'.

AGENTS I/C: *(Cross.)* No, that's us!

NORMAN: Oh!

AGENT O: *(Cross.)* And that's me!

NORMAN: I'm confused with all these letters.

AGENT A: You are, are you? Oh, I see why!

AGENTS O/I/C/Y/U/R: *(Stepping forward crossly.)* That's us!

NORMAN: Look, why don't I be agent P?

ALL: Agent P?

AGENT U: We've never had a 'P' in our PANTS before.

AGENT R: Yes, we've been desperate for a 'P' for ages!

AGENT A: Very well, Norman! To be agent 'P' in PANTS, answer these three questions! What's the plural of 'I'?

NORMAN: We!

AGENT A: What's the French for 'yes'?

NORMAN: Oui!
AGENT A: What's Scottish for 'small'?
NORMAN: Wee!
AGENT A: *(Pointing at Norman dramatically.)* You're in!
ALL: Hooray!

(Blackout.)

SCENE THREE

TRACK 22: **MUSIC - PANTS PLAY OFF #2**

(Normsville Town Square. The Normaltons of Normsville are gathered to listen to Middling, who is stood behind a small lectern with a large microphone attached to the top.)

MIDDLEING: Normaltons of Normsville, gather round and pay attention to a rather dull and uninspiring speech from the Mayor of Normsville – the moderately mediocre Dudley Dullsworth!

TRACK 23: **MUSIC - MAYOR PLAY ON**

(Mayor Dudley Dullsworth enters to a quiet and sensible round of applause from the Normaltons and stands by his lectern to address the crowd.)

MAYOR: Thank you, Middling. Normaltons of Normsville....

TRACK 24: **SFX - MIC SOUNDS**

(Middling interrupts, testing the microphone by tapping it and making it squeal.)

MIDDLEING: Testing, testing, one, two, three. Check, check! How now brown cow!

(The Mayor pushes Middling away.)

MAYOR: Stop fiddling, Middling! Normaltons of Normsville! I, Mayor Dudley Dullsworth, am here to reassure you that the city of Normsville remains safe and normal! Any ridiculous rumours you may have heard are totally unfounded and untrue.

MIDDLELING: *(Into the microphone, loudly.)* That's right, folks, they are totally unfounded and untrue. *(To the Mayor.)* Er, what's totally unfounded and untrue, Sir?

MAYOR: The ridiculous rumours, Middling!

MIDDLELING: *(Into the microphone, loudly.)* Oh yes, of course, the ridiculous rumours! *(To the Mayor.)* What ridiculous rumours, Sir?

MAYOR: Stop drivelling, Middling! The rumours that our city is being threatened by the grossest, scariest creatures of all time.

MIDDLELING: Supply teachers?

MAYOR: No, monsters!

ALL: *(Screaming and clinging on to each other.)* Arghh!

MIDDLELING: *(Desperately.)* Oh no, Sir! I don't want to be gobbled up by monsters. I'm young, I'm innocent, with my whole life ahead of me! Why me? Why me? *(He sobs hysterically on the Mayor's shoulder.)*

MAYOR: Stop snivelling, Middling! I've just told you there ARE no monsters!

MIDDLELING: *(Instantly upbeat.)* Oh, that IS good news, Sir!

MAYOR: Trust me, we're perfectly safe here in Normsville!

TRACK 25: **MUSIC - MONSTER RUN #1**

(Everyone at the front is still as the Gloopers run across the stage behind the Mayor chased by the PANTS Squad.)

MAYOR: Where everything is always normal, peaceful and calm!

TRACK 26: **MUSIC - MONSTER RUN #2**

(The PANTS Squad run across the stage behind the Mayor, chased by the Gloopers.)

MAYOR: Where there's never any disruption, excitement or panic!

TRACK 27: **MUSIC - MONSTER RUN #3**

(The Gloopers enter, unseen by the Mayor, armed with bright green slime splats. The Normaltons look terrified.)

MAYOR: And absolutely, categorically, cross-my-heart-o-logically no....

ALL: *(Pointing at the Gloopers and shouting in horror.)* Monsters!

TRACK 28:**MUSIC - SLIME ATTACK**

(The Gloopers run around everyone causing them to panic; they spread bright green 'slime splats' over the set, props, and cast. They throw or stick soft fabric or vinyl splats onto walls and costumes while others spray short bursts of green silly string. Green lighting can enhance the effect as the stage becomes covered in slime. Agent A enters, joining in with the mayhem. The Gloopers exit at the end of the music. The Normaltons look dazed, examining the slime all around them in utter disgust.)

MIDDLEING: Oh, no, Sir! Normsville's become a slime scene!

MAYOR: Agent A, you're supposed to protect us! Where's the PANTS squad?

AGENT A: I'm sorry, Mayor, all my agents have been slimed too.

MAYOR: You mean...?

AGENT A: Yes, Sir! *(To the audience.)* PANTS are down!

MIDDLEING: Oh no! Oh no! What are we going to do? What are we going to do?

MAYOR: Stop whittling, Middling! How on earth do I know? It's not as if a solution is going to just drop out of the sky!

TRACK 29:**MUSIC - FANACKACHOPPER**

(All hold onto their wigs and hats and point upwards into the sky as we hear the sound of an enormous helicopter hovering above the city. It is the Fanackachopper! We overhear the pilot's request for landing.)

VOICE 1: Normsville Control, this is Fanackachopper requesting clearance for landing!

VOICE 2: Fanackachopper, you are clear to land!

(Enter the Normtroopers, striding in formation like secret agents, fingers pressed to earpieces, scanning the area. They push everyone to the sides like VIP bodyguards, barking short commands.)

BIGGINS: Clear the perimeter!

SPATS: Step aside, citizens!

MARBLES: Stay behind the line!

WINKLE: Area secure!

NOODLES: All clear!

SLAPJACK: Cue the Fifi fanfare!

TRACK 30: MUSIC - QUIBBLE & TWEAK PLAY ON

(A short fanfare as Quibble and Tweak enter carrying large feathery fans and address the crowd.)

QUIBBLE: Normaltons of Normsville!
TWEAK: Prepare to meet the answer to all your problems!
QUIBBLE: The most influential Influencer on YouTube!
TWEAK: The most famous face on Facebook!
QUIBBLE: She's in with the in crowd and down with the kids!
TWEAK: She's up for the task and out of her mind!
QUIBBLE: It's the fabulously fantastic...
TWEAK: ...fantastically fabulous...
QUIBBLE & TWEAK: ...Fifi Fanackapan!

TRACK 31: MUSIC - FIFI FANFARE #1

(A stylised fanfare as Fifi Fanackapan enters in a flurry of fabulous glitz and glamour.)

FIFI: Yes, 'tis I - Fifi Fanackapan! The Queen of Clean! The Baroness of Bland! Your last hope in this hideous, slime circus you call a city.
MAYOR: Who is this woman and why is she meddling, Middling?
MIDDLING: It's Fifi Fanackapan, Sir! She's very good, isn't she?!
FIFI: Fingers on lips! ***(Everyone puts their fingers on their lips.)***
 There's no time for small talk. I'm here to save Normsville! You seem stunned. Don't worry, that's normal. Though normal is exactly the problem around here, isn't it? Monsters in the streets. Slime on the pavements. ***(Doing hand actions.)*** Yuck, yuck, yuck!
QUIBBLE & TWEAK: ***(Repeating hand actions.)*** Yuck, yuck, yuck!
FIFI: And a leader who's limp as a lettuce! ***(Doing hand actions.)*** Weak, weak, weak!
QUIBBLE & TWEAK: ***(Repeating hand actions.)*** Weak, weak, weak!
MAYOR: Well, I don't know who you are, but I think that's a little bit...
QUIBBLE: Don't know who she is? This is Fifi Fanackapan! She went viral on TikTok!
TWEAK: ***(To the audience.)*** And she's still on the antibiotics!
QUIBBLE: She has her own range of underwear –
TWEAK: Fanackapants!
QUIBBLE: She's released a hit album! She's released a bestselling book!

TWEAK: And she's just released a range of pungent fragrances.

QUIBBLE: *(Wafting hand.)* No, sorry, that was me.

FIFI: Fingers on lips! *(Quibble and Tweak obey. Fifi grabs the Mayor by the front of his shirt, pulls him close and speaks directly into his face.)* Dullsworth, you're too soft!

MAYOR: *(Turning head to the audience.)* Too soft?

MIDDLING: That's offensive!

FIFI: You're too wet!

MAYOR: *(Turning head to the audience.)* Too wet?

MIDDLING: That's offensive!

FIFI: And you're too weak!

MAYOR: *(Turning head to the audience.)* Too weak?

MIDDLING: That's a fortnight!

FIFI: *(Pushing the Mayor away.)* But I'm different! I became a legend in my last city. What did they call me, Quibble?

QUIBBLE: They called you 'Grumpy Knickers'!

FIFI: Yes, they called me 'Grumpy Knick'... what? 'Grumpy Knickers'?

TWEAK: Or 'Cruella Crankypants'.

QUIBBLE: Or 'Nagatha Crusty'.

TWEAK: Or 'The Moaning Lisa'.

FIFI: No, they didn't! They called me 'The Best', plain and simple!

QUIBBLE: Yes, because she's the best!

TWEAK: And she's plain and simple!

FIFI: Fingers on lips! You see, I'm tough on slime, tough on the causes of slime! And when it comes to defeating monsters, I slay!

QUIBBLE & TWEAK: Literally!

FIFI: You need someone who can clean up this city. And if anyone can, Fifi Fanackapan can!

(Over the introduction Quibble and Tweak hold their feathery fans around FIFI'S body like a picture frame.)

TRACK 32: SONG - FANACKAPAN CAN

FIFI: *(Spoken.)* AT FIRST YOU WERE AFRAID,
YOU WERE PETRIFIED!
BUT NOW YOU FIND YOUR FAITHFUL FIFI BY YOUR SIDE!
AND I'VE SPENT SO MANY NIGHTS
THINKING UP THE PERFECT PLAN!
FOR IF ANYONE CAN,
FIFI FANACKAPAN CAN!

(The music changes to a fast tempo as the chorus enter.)

FIFI: MY NAME IS FIFI; I'M THE BEST OF THE BEST!

CHORUS: SHE IS THE BEST!

FIFI: I'M BOLD AND BEEFY IN A BULLET-PROOF VEST

CHORUS: SHE WEARS A VEST!

FIFI: I'LL SEND THE FREAKY MONSTERS BACK TO THEIR NEST!

ALL: IF ANYONE CAN THEN FIFI FANACKAPAN CAN!

FIFI: I DON'T FEEL PITY 'COS I'M COLD TO THE BONE!

CHORUS: COLD TO THE BONE!

FIFI: I'M TOUGH AND GRITTY AND I'M SETTING THE TONE!

CHORUS: SHE SETS THE TONE!

FIFI: I'LL MAKE THE CITY ONE BIG MONSTER FREE ZONE!

ALL: IF ANYONE CAN THEN FIFI FANACKAPAN CAN!

CHORUS: OH, FIFI, WE'RE DOWN ON OUR KNEES!
AND WE'RE BEGGING YOU PLEASE!

FIFI: I CAN HELP YOU FOR JUST A SMALL FEE...

CHORUS: *(Chanting.)* FIFI FANACKAPAN! FIFI FANACKAPAN!
FIFI FANACKAPAN CAN, CAN, CAN!

(A comical Can-Can dance ensues, with the chorus singing la-la to the melody.)

CHORUS: LA LA, LA-LA-LA-LA LA LA, LA-LA-LA-LA
LA LA, LA-LA-LA-LA LA!

FIFI: LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA!

CHORUS: LA LA, LA-LA-LA-LA LA LA, LA-LA-LA-LA
LA LA, LA-LA-LA-LA LA, LA-LA-LA-LA!

(As the music becomes quieter, Fifi addresses the crowd.)

FIFI: So, who can whack the weirdos and fry the freaks?

CHORUS: *(Shouting and punching the air.)* Fifi!

FIFI: Who can splat the slimeballs and crush the creeps?

CHORUS: *(Shouting and punching the air.)* Fifi!

FIFI: And who can do it all before teatime?

CHORUS: *(Shouting and punching the air.)* Fifi!

CHORUS: HER NAME IS FIFI; SHE'S THE BEST OF THE BEST!

FIFI: I AM THE BEST!

CHORUS: SHE'S BOLD AND BEEFY IN A BULLET-PROOF VEST

FIFI: I WEAR A VEST!

CHORUS: SHE'LL SEND THE FREAKY MONSTERS BACK TO THEIR NEST!

ALL: IF ANYONE CAN THEN FIFI FANACKAPAN CAN!

FIFI: I'LL LEAD THE WAY 'COS I'M THE HEAD OF THE CLASS!

CHORUS: HEAD OF THE CLASS!

FIFI: DO WHAT I SAY, DON'T GIVE ME NONE OF YOUR SASS!

CHORUS: DON'T GIVE HER SASS!

FIFI: AND JUST OBEY OR I'LL BE KICKING YOUR...

CHORUS: *(Screaming.)* Aagghh!

ALL: IF ANYONE CAN THEN FIFI FANACKAPAN CAN...!

CHORUS: *(Chanted.)* F-I-F-I-F-A-N
A-C-K-A-P-A-N!

FIFI: *(Spoken.)* Fifi-fie-foe-fum!
Watch out monsters here I come!

ALL: FANACKAPAN CAN!
FANACKAPAN CAN!
FANACKAPAN CAN!
FIFI FANACKAPAN SHE CAN, CAN, CAN!

TRACK 33: **MUSIC - FANACKAPAN PLAY OFF**

(The chorus exit over the music as Fifi, Quibble, Tweak, Mayor and Middling gather in the office on one side of the stage, and Norman and Nibs meet at the opposite side by the Rubbish Chute of Doom. As one group speaks the other side freezes.)

MAYOR: Now look here, Miss Fancypants...

FIFI: Fanackapan!

MAYOR: You sing a good song, but Normsville's already protected by the Great Wall of Normality!

MIDDLEING: Yes, that wall keeps all the freaks and monsters out of Inner Normsville!

FIFI: Well, it's not working very well, is it Mr. Mayor, because **(Shouting into his face.)** you've got monsters in your city!

(The office group freeze as Norman and Nibs continue on the other side of the stage. Lighting change.)

NORMAN: **(Excited.)** We've got monsters in our city, Nibs! I thought I was the only one! This is brilliant!

NIBS: **(Worried.)** Brilliant? Everyone's on alert after those monsters. You know what they'll do to you if they discover you're a monster? You'll be chucked down The Rubbish Chute of Doom!

(Norman and Nibs freeze as the office group continue on the other side of the stage. Lighting change.)

FIFI: The Rubbish Chute of Doom?

MAYOR: Yes, if anything strange manages to slip into Inner Normsville, we have our super-fast disposal system!

MIDDLEING: Anything weird gets sent down the chute, over the wall and through to the other side!

(The office group freeze as Norman and Nibs continue on the other side of the stage. Lighting change.)

NORMAN: The other side?

NIBS: Yes, a terrifying wasteland full of weirdoes, monsters and oozing slime.

NORMAN: You mean... **[local town]**?