

# The Greatest Show

Junior Script  
by

Mike Horth and Jan Porter

Ideal Cast Size 43

Speaking Roles 30

Minimum Cast Size 33

Duration (minutes) 60

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**CAST LIST**

*In the following list the bracketed number shows the number of spoken lines each character has.*

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

***The Pickle Family***

*Herbert Pickle	(75)
Petunia Pickle	(20)
Lily Pickle	(44)
Branston Pickle	(46)
Professor Pickle	(25)
*Mrs Tickle	(33)

***The Troupe***

Buffalo Bill	(1)
Maximus Girder	(5)
Gladiator 1	(2)
Gladiator 2	(1)
Victor Chatterson	(5)
Vagabond Charlie	(9)
Harry Houdidit	(13)
Coco	(1)
Cookie	(1)
Scamp	(0)
Lady	(0)
*Cat 1	(0)
*Cat 2	(0)
*Cat 3	(0)
Dungo	(0)
Flea 1	(3)
Flea 2	(3)
Flea 3	(2)

***The Baddies***

*Dr Horace Heckle	(37)
*Mr Tyrus Snide	(32)
*Colonel Obadiah Blastpipe	(47)
*Ronnie Ratfink	(29)

***Audience/Members of the Crowd***

Ibis	(16)
Mercure	(16)

***Inventors/ Members of the Crowd***

*Donald Dufflecoat	(4)
*Mrs Longlegs	(3)

***Others***

*Flossie Dentures	(35)
Lord D'Enture	(7)
Policeman 1	(0)
Policeman 2	(0)
*Ragamuffin 1	(1)
*Ragamuffin 2	(0)
*Ragamuffin 3	(0)
*Ragamuffin 4	(0)
*Cog 1	(1)
*Cog 2	(0)
*Cog 3	(0)
*Cog 4	(0)

### SPEAKING ROLES BY NUMBER OF LINES

***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.***

*Herbert Pickle.....	Showman .....	75
*Obadiah Blastpipe .....	Steampunk megalomaniac.....	47
Branston Pickle.....	Son, exhibits performing fleas .....	46
Lily Pickle.....	Daughter, exhibits singing cats.....	44
*Dr Horace Heckle.....	Disreputable 'quack' doctor .....	37
*Flossie Dentures .....	Aristocratic runaway .....	35
*Mrs Tickle.....	Housekeeper .....	33
*Tyrus Snide .....	Disreputable 'quack' doctor .....	32
*Ratfink.....	Obadiah's henchman.....	29
Professor Pickle.....	Inventor and exhibitor of scientific curiosities .....	25
Petunia Pickle.....	Wife and melodramatic artist .....	20
Ibis.....	Audience and member of the public .....	16
Mercure .....	Audience and member of the public .....	16
Harry Houdidit.....	Escapologist.....	13
Vagabond Charlie .....	Ventriloquist's dummy .....	9
Lord D'Enture .....	Flossie's father .....	7
Victor Chatterson .....	Ventriloquist.....	5
Maximus Girder .....	Strongman.....	5
*Donald Dufflecoat.....	Inventor and member of the public .....	4
*Mrs Longlegs.....	Inventor and member of the public .....	3
Flea 1.....	Member of the Flea Circus .....	3
Flea 2.....	As above .....	3
Flea 3.....	As above .....	2
Gladiator 1 .....	Member of the troupe .....	2
Coco .....	Clown .....	1
Cookie .....	Clown .....	1
Buffalo Bill.....	Member of the troupe .....	1
Gladiator 2 .....	Member of the troupe .....	1
*Ragamuffin 1 .....	Heckle and Snide's helper.....	1
*Cog 1.....	Obadiah's minion.....	1

***Non-speaking roles: \*Cats 1-3 (who also play wild animals 1-3); Dungo (member of flea circus); \*Ragamuffins 2-4; Policemen 1-2; \*Cogs 2-4; Scamp and Lady (performing dogs).***

**SUGGESTED CAST LIST FOR 33 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.***

*Herbert Pickle.....	75
*Obadiah Blastpipe.....	47
Branston Pickle.....	46
Lily Pickle.....	44
*Dr Horace Heckle.....	37
*Flossie Dentures.....	35
*Mrs Tickle.....	33
*Tyrus Snide.....	32
*Ratfink.....	29
Professor Pickle.....	25
Petunia Pickle.....	20
Ibis.....	16
Mercure.....	16
Harry Houdidit..... Also plays Policeman 1.....	13
Victor..... Also plays Lord D'Enture.....	12
Vagabond Charlie..... Also plays Policeman 2.....	9
Gladiator 1..... Also plays Flea 1.....	5
Gladiator 2..... Also plays Flea 2.....	4
Maximus Girder.....	4
*Donald Dufflecoat.....	4
*Mrs Longlegs.....	3
Flea 2..... Also plays Lady.....	3
*Ragamuffin 1..... Also plays *Cog 1.....	2
Coco.....	1
Cookie.....	1
Buffalo Bill.....	1

***Non-speaking roles: \*Ragamuffins 2-4 (who also play \*Cogs 2-3); Scamp (who also plays Dungo); \*Cats 1-3 (who also play wild animals).***

**CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE****Scene One**

Herbert  
Lily  
Vagabond  
Branston  
Prof  
Victor  
Buffalo Bill  
Maximus  
Harry  
Cats 1-3  
Scamp  
Lady  
Cookie  
Coco  
Mrs Tickle  
Petunia  
Ratfink

**Scene Two**

Heckle  
Snide  
Ragamuffins 1-4  
Ibis  
Mercure  
Mrs Longlegs  
Donald  
Ratfink

**Scene Three**

Mrs Tickle  
Lily  
Herbert  
Petunia  
Branston  
Ibis  
Mercure  
Flossie  
Cats 1-3  
Scamp  
Lady  
Cookie  
Coco  
Gladiators 1-2  
Maximus  
Prof

**Scene Four**

Cogs 1-4  
Heckle  
Snide  
Ratfink  
Obadiah

**Scene Five**

Cookie  
Coco  
Ibis  
Mercure  
Herbert  
Branston  
Fleas 1-3  
Dungo  
Harry  
Petunia  
Lily  
Victor  
Mrs Tickle  
Buffalo Bill  
Maximus  
Vagabond  
Prof

**Scene Six**

Heckle  
Snide  
Flossie  
Mrs Longlegs  
Donald  
Ibis  
Mercure  
Ragamuffins 1-4  
Branston  
Lily

**Scene Seven**

Donald  
Mrs Longlegs  
Mrs Tickle  
Cogs 1-4  
Ratfink  
Obadiah  
Heckle  
Snide  
Lily  
Branston  
Flossie

**Scene Eight**

Cog 1 (If no backdrop)  
Prof  
Petunia  
Ratfink  
Heckle  
Snide  
Obadiah  
Lily  
Branston  
Flossie  
Lord D'Enture  
Policemen 1-2  
Ibis  
Mercure

**Scene Nine**

Prof  
Petunia  
Branston  
Herbert  
Lily  
Mrs Tickle  
Flossie  
Lord D'Enture



**LIST OF PROPERTIES**

**For properties marked with an asterisk see pages 16 and 18 for further information and photocopiable resources.**

**Scene One**

\*Flea circus tin ..... Branston  
 Chair ..... Victor  
 \*Juggling props ..... Clowns, Cats and Dogs  
 Lasso (hoop on a stick) ..... Buffalo Bill  
 Dumbbells ..... Maximus  
 Metal tea pot and cups ..... Mrs Tickle  
 Bicycle pump ..... Prof

**Scene Two**

Table ..... Snide  
 \*Sandwich boards ..... All Ragamuffins  
 \*Tray containing packets of potions ..... Ragamuffin 4  
 Piece of paper ..... Ratfink

**Scene Three**

Chairs x2 ..... Ibis and Mercure  
 Juggling props ..... Clowns and Dogs  
 Flower squirter ..... Cookie  
 Extending handkerchief ..... Coco  
 Large jam jar with lid ..... Branston  
 \*Toy wild animals x3 ..... Cats  
 Sword ..... Maximus  
 Giant magnet ..... Prof

**Scene Four**

\*Boxes with metallic pipe work designs x6 ..... Cogs 2,3,4  
 Rope ..... Cog 1

**Scene Five**

Juggling props ..... Clowns  
 Chairs x2 ..... Ibis and Mercure  
 Magnifying glasses x2 ..... Ibis and Mercure  
 \*Straitjacket, rope (leg tie), belt and chains ..... Harry and Petunia  
 Pimple poultice packet..... Lily

**Scene Six**

Table..... Snide  
 \*Tray containing moustache boxes, false teeth boxes and potions ..... Flossie  
 \*Mask on a stick of the Kaiser moustache ..... Snide  
 \*Kaiser moustache ..... Ragamuffin 1  
 \*Handlebar moustache ..... Ragamuffin 2  
 \*Hungarian moustache ..... Ragamuffin 3  
 \*Walrus moustache ..... Ragamuffin 4  
 \*Mask on a stick of mouth with bad teeth ..... Flossie  
 \*Mask on a stick of mouth with beautiful teeth..... Flossie

**Scene Seven**

Chair..... Obadiah  
 Chair..... Ratfink  
 Table and wad of bank notes..... Cog 1  
 \*Miracle button fastener..... Donald Dufflecoat  
 \*Patented spider trap..... Mrs Longlegs  
 Feather duster ..... Mrs Tickle

**Scene Eight**

\*Table with mechanical instruments on it..... Prof  
 \*Silent movie placards x8 (If not using backdrop)..... Cogs  
 Cup of tea ..... Petunia  
 Bunch of keys ..... Obadiah  
 Tin of fleas ..... Flossie  
 Giant magnet ..... Branston

**SCENE ONE:                      PICKLE’S TRAVELLING SHOW**

*(Title backdrop.)*

**TRACK 1:                                      OPENING**

*(Enter Herbert who hurries up the centre aisle onto the stage then looks at his fob watch. Dialogue continues over the music to ‘...where’s Branston?’)*

**HERBERT:**                      *(Exasperated)* Where is everybody? It’s almost time to go. *(Looks around)* Lily?

*(Lily enters from left ‘carrying’ Vagabond, who slumps onto the floor next to her like a doll. She stands next to Herbert.)*

**LILY:**                                      Here Dad!

**HERBERT:**                                      Good, where’s Branston?

*(Branston enters from right holding a tin containing his flea circus, and stands the other side of Herbert.)*

**BRANSTON:**                      Here Dad.

**HERBERT:**                      Right, where is your mother?

**LILY:**                                      Mum says she’s just finishing her hair.

**HERBERT:**                      What about Prof?

**BRANSTON:**                      He’s still locked up in his lab. He said he’s having some technical problems.

**TRACK 2:                                      SFX METALLIC CRASH**

*(Professor Pickle staggers on stage looking harassed.)*

**PROF:**                                      There is something wrong with the balance lever. I need more time on it...

**HERBERT:**                                      Well, that’s going to have to wait. Now what about the troupe? Surely they are ready?

**VAGABOND:**                      *(Without moving)* Of course we are ready!

**BRANSTON:**                      Who said that?

**LILY:**                                      It was Vagabond!

**BRANSTON:** I didn't know you'd had ventriloquist training, Lily?  
**LILY:** That wasn't me.  
**VAGABOND:** *(Without moving)* Branston, your fleas are escaping!

*(Everyone jumps back and checks themselves. Branston panics and checks his tin.)*

**VAGABOND:** Just kidding!  
**LILY:** Victor! Where are you? He is such a good ventriloquist he can throw his voice when he's not even in the room!  
**HERBERT:** Victor, the joke's over, get the troupe over here! *(Calls crossly)*  
 Petunia! She must be ready by now!  
**VAGABOND:** Nope, she'll be doing her makeup!

*(Enter Victor carrying a chair; Buffalo Bill; Maximus; Harry; three cats; Scamp; Lady; Cookie; Coco and Mrs Tickle. They carry their props. The Troupe move about the stage and audience enacting the instructions in the box below whilst the dialogue continues. Once the song begins, they join in with the singing.)*

**Clowns:** *Juggle scarves*

**Buffalo Bill:** *Demonstrates his lasso*

**Maximus:** *Strong man poses with dumbbells*

**Harry:** *In straitjacket, wriggles about*

**Cats and dogs:** *Dance with ribbons*

**Mrs Tickle:** *Flask and cups in a bag – offers refreshments and generally 'mothers' everyone*

**VICTOR:** *(Placing the chair next to Lily)* Thanks for sprucing up Vagabond; I'll take him now. *(He sits Vagabond on the chair.)*  
**LILY:** I've patched his jacket, painted his face and washed his hair.  
**VAGABOND:** *(Standing up as if worked by the Ventriloquist)* Because I'm worth it! *(He flicks his hair out of his eyes as in the shampoo advert.)*  
**HERBERT:** He's as bad as Petunia! I'm starting without her.

LILY: She'll be waiting for her nail varnish to dry.

*(Enter Petunia, with fingers spread, blowing on her nails to dry them.)*

PETUNIA: How do I look, darlings?

VAGABOND: My dear, you look quite charming, but you really should get Lily to do your hair, she was absolutely marvellous with mine.

PROF: I've got a new invention to help with that! *(He produces a bicycle pump and pumps it towards Petunia's nails.)*

**TRACK 3:** **SFX WHEEZY BELLOWS**

PETUNIA: *(Shrieks)* Take that wind bag away! It will ruin my hair! *(She steps back and bumps into Vagabond.)*

VAGABOND: Ouch! I might be a dummy, but I have feelings you know!

PETUNIA: Sorry Victor... I mean Vagabond.

HERBERT: *(Exasperated)* Are we all quite ready? *(Calls everyone together.)*  
Let's get this show on the road!

**TRACK 4:** **GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD (SONG)**

*(Backdrop changes to reveal brightly coloured show trailers and wagons with 'Pickle's Perambulating Palace of Performers' clearly signed.)*

ALL: COLLECT YOUR KIT AND CABOODLE,  
WE AIN'T TRAVELLING LIGHT;  
THERE'S A WORLD OUT THERE  
AND WE'RE LEAVING TONIGHT.  
GOT LOTS OF MILES TO TRAVEL  
AND WE DON'T WANNA WAIT;  
GOT SOME PLACES TO VISIT  
AND WE MUSTN'T BE LATE.

GRAB YOUR HAT AND COAT,  
PUT YOUR GLAD RAGS ON;  
THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE –  
PASS THE MESSAGE ALONG.  
THE BAGS ALL PACKED  
AND THE LUGGAGE STOWED?  
ALL THE WAGONS HITCHED?  
SO WE'RE READY TO ROLL!

WE GOTTA GO, GO, GO,  
CREATE A SHOW, SHOW, SHOW.  
YOU GOTTA KNOW, KNOW, KNOW  
WE'LL GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD.

**HERBERT:** Come on let's go! Let's get this show started!

FORGET YOUR CARES AND YOUR WORRIES,  
WE'LL GET RID OF THOSE FROWNS.  
WATCH THE WILD WEST SHOW  
OR HAVE A LAUGH WITH THE CLOWNS.  
COME ON DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE,  
WE'RE GONNA HAVE SOME FUN;  
WE'RE ONLY HERE FOR A WEEK,  
THEN WE'RE MOVING ON.

WE GOTTA GO, GO, GO,  
CREATE A SHOW, SHOW, SHOW.  
YOU GOTTA KNOW, KNOW, KNOW  
WE'LL GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD.

WE'RE HERE TO ENTERTAIN YOU NOW;  
PERFORM OUR SHOW THEN TAKE A BOW!

WE GOTTA GO, GO, GO,  
CREATE A SHOW, SHOW, SHOW.  
YOU GOTTA KNOW, KNOW, KNOW  
WE'LL GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!

*(Music continues, whilst characters sway to the music.)*

**HERBERT:** Ladies and Gentlemen, introducing...

*(Characters step forward and take a bow.)*

**HERBERT:** ...Ventriloquist Victor Chatterson and Vagabond Charlie!  
...Harry Houdidit, escapologist!  
...Cookie and Coco, our resident clowns!  
...Maximus Girder, the strongest man in Staffordshire!\* (***Insert name of own location here.***)  
...Buffalo Bill and his Wild West Show!

WE GOTTA GO, GO, GO,  
 CREATE A SHOW, SHOW, SHOW.  
 YOU GOTTA KNOW, KNOW, KNOW  
 WE'LL GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD.  
 WE'LL GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD.  
 WE'LL GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!  
 YEAH!

**TRACK 5:**                    **GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD PLAY OFF**

*(Exit cast to play off, apart from Lily and Branston.)*

**BRANSTON:**            *(Looks at the backdrop)* Pickle's Perambulating Palace of Performers! Can't say I like our new name. It's very over-the-top!

**LILY:**                    Dad's trying to make us sound as amazing as possible; there is a lot of competition for more sensational and unusual acts. He's heard about other shows going out of business.

**BRANSTON:**            Really?

*(Enter Herbert, Petunia, Mrs Tickle and Prof.)*

**HERBERT:**            Well, here we are, our first stop in Tamworth\* *(\*Insert name of own location here.)* Once we are set up, we can start performances tomorrow.

**PROF:**                    Well, I can't do the automaton act, it's still not fixed.

**HERBERT:**            Why is it taking so long?

**PROF:**                    *(Sheepishly.)* Well, I've actually been working on something else.

**MRS TICKLE:**        Yes, and making a right mess of the trailer. It takes me all my time to keep it tidy.

**HERBERT:**            But we need the automaton now! You know how the audiences love scientific inventions.

*(Enter Ratfink in a dark, hooded cloak who moves across the back of the stage and listens to the conversation unseen by the rest of the cast.)*

**PROF:**                    But wait till you see what I'm working on. It will make our fortune: no more worries about going out of business!

**HERBERT:**            Well, I'll believe it when I see it. But we now have a gap in the programme without the automaton. *(He walks away worrying.)*

**PETUNIA:**            I could do a maiden in distress routine. *(Striking a melodramatic pose)*

HERBERT: *(Not listening)* Uhh? You want a new dress?

PETUNIA: *(Crossly)* No! HP... you are not listening!! You are always worrying these days!

*(Exit all as Ratfink moves downstage.)*

**TRACK 6:            OMINOUS MUSIC / WE'VE GOT THE CURE PLAY ON**

RATFINK: *(Addresses the audience in typical panto villain style.)* So...a secret invention that will make their fortune? *(Rubbing his hands together)* This is just what we have been looking for. The Colonel will be very pleased! *(Evil laugh)* Wah ha ha ha!

*(Exit Ratfink.)*

**SCENE TWO:                            THE QUACK DOCTORS**

*(Backdrop – Heckle and Snide's wagon.)*

*(Enter Heckle.)*

HECKLE: *(Addressing the audience)* Pickle's Perambulating Palace of Performers! Only a showman could have thought up that one! And he's going to bring us lots of customers! *(Calling and beckoning offstage)* Quick! Get the stall set up. We are in for a busy day with the show here!

*(Enter Snide with a table, and four Ragamuffins wearing sandwich boards who have a tray containing boxes and packets for sale. They set out the table and parade around the stage with their sandwich boards advertising their wares during Heckle's introduction below. Enter Ibis and Mercure, Donald Dufflecoat and Mrs Longlegs who stroll up and down the stage examining the wagons depicted on the backdrop. They then approach the stall looking at the products.)*

HECKLE: *(Addressing the public)* Ladies and Gentlemen, Dr Horace Heckle and Mr Tyrus Snide are pleased to announce their arrival in this wonderful town.

SNIDE: We are patronised by the elite, the clergy, the gentry and the principal inhabitants of the county, not to mention old Mr Bloggs down the road who has a terrible case of the squits!

RAGAMUFFIN 1: Yuk, too much information!



**TRACK 7:                      WE'VE GOT THE CURE (SONG)**

*(During the song Ibis, Mercure, Donald and Mrs Longlegs listen and look interested as if commenting on the products that are being advertised.)*

**RAGS 1 AND 2:**      QUACK, QUACK, QUACK, QUACK,  
QUACK, QUACK, QUACK, QUACK.

**HECKLE & SNIDE:** DO YOU SUFFER FROM CARBUNCLES?  
PRONE TO PIMPLES ON YOUR FACE?  
HAVE A BILIOUS DIGESTION?  
FIND IT HARD TO STAY AWAKE?  
YOU COMPLAIN OF PALPITATIONS,  
KNOW THE PAIN OF RAGING GOUT–  
TRY OUR TRUSTED EMBROCATIONS,  
THEY WILL SORT YOUR PROBLEMS OUT.

**HECKLE, SNIDE  
& RAGS:**              WE'VE GOT THE CURE,  
WE'VE GOT THE REMEDY.  
THERE'S A PRODUCT WITH YOUR NAME ON IT,  
WE GUARANTEE.

THERE'S SO MUCH YOU'LL WANT TO BUY;  
COME ON OVER, DON'T BE SHY.  
WE'VE GOT THE CURE,  
WE'VE GOT THE REMEDY.

*(Ragamuffin 4 holds up a 'pimple remedy' box with a cheesy smile.)*

**IBIS:**                      I say – they've got pimple remedies!

**MERCURE:**              They shouldn't make such rash promises!

*(Both laugh.)*

**IBIS:**                      Can you hear ducks?

**MERCURE:**              Yes, it's those salesmen – they're quacks!

**RAG 1:**                      WE'VE GOT BILE BEANS FOR THE LIVER,  
**RAG 2:**                      WE'VE GOT SNAKE OIL FOR THE GLANDS,  
**RAG 3:**                      ARSENIC WATER FOR COMPLEXIONS  
**RAG 4:**                      AND SOME CREAM FOR WARTY HANDS.

**HECKLE & SNIDE** WE CAN HELP YOU LOOK MUCH YOUNGER,  
RAISE THE SPIRITS, CLEAN THE BLOOD.  
WE'LL RESTORE YOUR HEALTH AND VIGOUR  
SO YOU'RE FEELING RATHER GOOD.

**HECKLE, SNIDE:** WE'VE GOT THE CURE,  
**RAGS:** WE'VE GOT THE REMEDY.  
THERE'S A PRODUCT WITH YOUR NAME ON IT,  
WE GUARANTEE.

THERE'S SO MUCH YOU'LL WANT TO BUY;  
COME ON OVER DON'T BE SHY.  
WE'VE GOT THE CURE,  
WE'VE GOT THE REMEDY.

**HECKLE:** One more time!

WE'VE GOT THE CURE,  
WE'VE GOT THE REMEDY.  
THERE'S A PRODUCT WITH YOUR NAME ON IT,  
WE GUARANTEE.

THERE'S SO MUCH YOU'LL WANT TO BUY;  
COME ON OVER DON'T BE SHY.  
WE'VE GOT THE CURE,  
WE'VE GOT THE REMEDY.  
WE'VE GOT THE CURE,  
WE'VE GOT THE REMEDY.

**HECKLE:** *(Approaches Mrs Longlegs with a small box in his hand)* Now madam, why don't you try this miracle powder? It gets rid of grey hair instantly!

**MRS LONGLEGS:** How dare you! I don't have grey hair. It's just my natural silver blond!

**HECKLE:** *(To Donald)* What about you sir? What can I help you with? *(Donald whispers in his ear.)* Ah yes, we can deal with that discreetly! *(He shouts to Snide who has remained behind the stall.)* Mr Snide, can you pass me the extra-large bottle of anti-flatulence tonic?!

**DONALD:** Don't bother! *(He exits angrily)*

*(Enter Ratfink.)*

**RATFINK:** Good evening, gentlemen. Am I correct in thinking you are Dr Horace Heckle and Mr Tyrus Snide?

**HECKLE:** At your service, sir!



- MRS TICKLE:** *(Wriggling uncomfortably as if she has caught fleas)* The more's the pity!
- HERBERT:** They are really our pets, and my daughter Lily looks after them all. We are a family business.
- FLOSSIE:** *(Wistfully)* Your family? Ah well, I'll keep looking.
- HERBERT:** So sorry, young lady. I hope you find something soon.
- MRS TICKLE:** Come along dearie, you look tired out. Let me make you a nice cup of tea before you head off.
- FLOSSIE:** *(Gratefully)* Oh, thank you.

*(Exit Flossie with Mrs Tickle.)*

- LILY:** I feel really sorry for her, she looks so sad, and when you mentioned the family, I thought she was going to cry.
- PETUNIA:** And did you see the quality of her clothes? She's quite posh and well-to-do. Why is she looking for work?
- HERBERT:** I know, it's very strange – looks like she's fallen on hard times.
- BRANSTON:** Or maybe, she ran away from home?
- HERBERT:** Well, there's nothing we can do to help I'm afraid. And we have a show to perform right now!

*(Exit Lily, Branston, Petunia.)*

**TRACK 9:                      CIRCUS PLAY ON / UNDERSCORE**

*(Fade as dialogue below finishes; segue Track 10.)*

- HERBERT:** *(Moving to the front of the stage in 'Showman mode')* Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Pickle's Perambulating Palace of Performers! We have a superbly splendid show, and to make the 'purrfect' start, put your paws together to welcome Lily Pickle and the Purrwell Singing Cats.

*(Enter Lily and the Cats during Herbert's dialogue. The Cats stand downstage centre, and Lily stands to one side in order to conduct them.)*

*(Exit Herbert)*



HERBERT: Well, what a treat that was! Who'd have thought it – singing cats!

**TRACK 12: CLOWN MUSIC AND PLAY OFF**

HERBERT: *(Announcing)* And now, especially for the boys and girls, we have our comical clowns Cookie and Coco!

*(Exit Herbert. Enter Cookie and Coco: Cookie with a flower that squirts water, Coco with an extending handkerchief in his pocket. The clowns bump into each other, then Cookie squirts water at the audience and Coco enacts the handkerchief routine, pulling out the very long handkerchief. At the wasp buzz, Cookie starts to bat away imaginary wasps which appear to head for the flower. The two clowns exit to the play off, escaping the wasps. Enter Herbert over the play off.)*

HERBERT: Ladies and Gentlemen, put your hands together once again for the hilarious Coco and Cookie!

HERBERT: The performing wasps were kindly provided by Branston Pickle and his Insect Circus.

IBIS: What did I tell you?

MERCURE: What?

IBIS: Branston Pickle!

MERCURE: And his sister piccalilli

IBIS: They're all named after chutney!

*(Both laugh. Enter Branston hurriedly with a large jar labelled 'Jam'.)*

BRANSTON: Sorry to interrupt, I've just got two more wasps to collect; they flew off in a huff when I only offered them sugar water. *(He moves around the stage waving his jam jar.)*

**TRACK 13: SFX WASPS/ GLADIATOR PLAY ON**

BRANSTON: Here Busby!

*(Branston captures the wasp putting his hand over the top of the jar.)*

BRANSTON: Good, that's one. (Calls loudly in a cajoling voice) Stingerella! I have your favourite flavour, strawberry!

***(Branston lurches in a different direction and captures Stingerella in the jar. He puts the lid on. Exit Branston.)***

**HERBERT:** ***(Over drumroll.)*** And now Ladies and Gentleman, in a change to our advertised show, we have a re-enactment of the Roman amphitheatre starring our very own strongman. Please give a big thumbs up for the Gladiators!

***(Enter Maximus and two gladiators. Maximus stands centre stage with his back to the audience, head down in a strong pose. The two gladiators circle anxiously waiting to fight. Exit Herbert.)***

**GLADIATOR 1:** Prepare to fight, slave! Who are you? I will have your name!  
**MAXIMUS:** ***(Turns around slowly and menacingly)*** My name is Maximus Biceptius, Sixpackius Girder and I will have my vengeance on this stage or the next! ***(flexes muscles)*** No beast will frighten me!  
***(Cowers at cat miaow below)***

**TRACK 14:** **SFX CAT MIAOW / GLADIATOR FIGHT**

***(Cats enter as lions and tigers. They carry a soft animal toy each e.g. snake, monkey etc. and circle the Gladiators threateningly. The Cats move towards the Gladiators as if stalking them. They ‘attack’ the Gladiators, handing over the soft toy, then back off and prowl around the perimeter of the stage, gradually getting closer again to the Gladiators. The Gladiators wrestle with the toys and hurl them to the ground. Maximus holds his up above his head in a strong man pose before throwing it onto the ground. The music ends. Enter Professor in a white coat and gladiator helmet carrying a giant magnet.)***

**GLADIATOR 1:** ***(Panting)*** Who else dares to enter into gladiatorial combat?  
**PROF:** My name is Professaurus Pickleonus.  
**GLADIATOR 2:** Select your weapon! Quickly!!  
**PROF:** Actually, I already have it! My giant magnet! ***(Shows it to the audience)*** I can’t stand fighting and I’ll put a stop to this!

***(He holds up his magnet.)***

**TRACK 15:** **SFX MAGNET**

***(All the Gladiators rush towards him and ‘stick’ to the magnet. The Cats back off afraid of the magnet. Prof leads the Gladiators and Maximus offstage, stuck to the magnet. SFX Fade as required.)***

**IBIS:** *(Thumbs up)* Pickleonius! Pickleonius !

**MERCURE:** Those gladiators seem very **drawn** to the professor! Ha, Ha!

**IBIS:** You could say he was the **main attraction**!

*(Both laugh. The Cats look at the audience, shrug, pick up any discarded soft toys and exit.)*

**TRACK 16:** **FANFARE**

*(Enter Herbert.)*

**HERBERT:** That's all folks! Hope you enjoyed the show. Our next performance will feature Ventriloquist Victor Chatterson with Vagabond Charlie; Buffalo Bill and his Wild West Show; Harry (get me out of here) Houdidit as well as Branston Pickle and his famous Flea Circus. See you again soon!

**TRACK 17:** **CIRCUS PLAY OFF INTO THE ENGINE SHEDS**

*(Exit all to play off.)*

**SCENE FOUR:** **OBADIAH BLASTPIPE**

*(Industrial steampunk backdrop. Enter Cogs 2-4 at the back of the stage doing a robotic routine to the music that resembles machinery movements. Enter Cog 1 walking backwards holding a rope that appears to have an animal attached to it offstage. Enter Heckle and Snide.)*

**SNIDE:** What is this place?

**TRACK 18:** **SFX ELEPHANT TRUMPETING**

**COG 1:** Steady Dumbo! Yikes! *(He is 'dragged' off stage)*

**HECKLE:** If I'm not mistaken, wasn't that Dumbo the Intelligent Elephant?

**SNIDE:** The Intelligent Elephant?

**HECKLE:** Yes, the elephant that is supposed to be able to count by stamping its feet.

**SNIDE:** Oh yes, it disappeared... the papers said it had packed its trunk and said goodbye to the circus!





**COGS:** HE'S BAD, BAD, BAD, OBADIAH B.  
HE LIVES A LIFE OF NOTORIETY.  
HE'S WORKING HARD ON MANY EVIL PLANS.  
BLASTPIPE IS A MENACING MAN.

**OBADIAH:** YOU SEE, I'M POWER DRIVEN;  
FORCEFUL-YOU'LL CONCUR.  
MY MASTER PLAN INVOLVES THE HELP  
OF FIENDISH SABOTEURS.  
BE WARY; I'M SCARY,  
I'LL FLY INTO A RAGE.  
DON'T EVER DISAPPOINT ME. I'LL BLOW  
MY PRESSURE GAUGE!

**COGS:** WHOA-OH  
**OBADIAH:** O-B  
**COGS:** WHOA-OH  
**OBADIAH:** THAT'S ME.  
**COGS:** WHOA-OH  
**OBADIAH:** YOU'LL SEE – IT'S A WACKY FACTORY!

**COGS:** WHOA-OH  
**OBADIAH:** O-B  
**COGS:** WHOA-OH  
**OBADIAH:** THAT'S ME.  
**COGS:** WHOA-OH  
**OBADIAH:** OH, YOU'LL SEE. I'M OBADIAH B.

*(Cogs return to the back of the stage and continue the repetitive movements.)*

**OBADIAH:** Colonel Obadiah Blastpipe at your service.  
**HECKLE:** Good evening, Colonel.  
**OBADIAH:** I guess you must be wondering why I have set up this little meeting?  
**SNIDE:** Yes. Our expertise is in cures and remedies, not mechanics and steam. *(Indicating the industry around him)*  
**OBADIAH:** Well fella, you are looking at more than mechanics and steam. You are looking at the final stages of my master plan, to build the greatest show on Earth, in Space and across the Universe!  
**HECKLE:** *(Sarcastically)* Oh, you don't need to be modest with us!  
**RATFINK:** Gentlemen, the Colonel is about to cause the collapse of every circus and travelling show in the world!  
**OBADIAH:** You'd better believe it fellas. Just a few more shows to take care of, and a few more err...acquisitions, then I'll be ready to launch my Great Steampunk Spectacular!

**RATFINK:** All our new inventions and acts will make any other show look pathetic. That is, if there are any other shows left!

**HECKLE:** But why do you need us?

**OBADIAH:** Well, because you are... *(He hesitates, choosing his word carefully)* entrepreneurs. *(Heckle, Snide and Ratfink nod heads with him each time he says the word 'entrepreneur' throughout this speech.)* ...I know you think the same way as I do being an... entrepreneur myself. You don't mind stretching the rules a little bit for the sake of... entrepreneurial risk...and you have something I need for my...entrepreneurial plan.

*(Heckle and Snide nod enthusiastically together as if in total agreement.)*

**HECKLE:** Absolutely! Seems quite reasonable to me!

**SNIDE:** Oh yes! Just one thing... what's an... entrepreneur? *(Snide nods head again)*

**HECKLE:** *(Irritated)* Ignore him! What is it that we have that you need?

**SNIDE:** Have anything you like; we have a wide range of...entrepreneurial *(nods head again)* products.

**HECKLE:** *(Through gritted teeth)* Be quiet, Snide.

**OBADIAH:** Location, location, location.

**SNIDE:** Phil and Kirsty?

**HECKLE:** *(Nudging him crossly)* Concentrate!

**OBADIAH:** You pitch your stall right outside Pickle's travelling show. People are used to seeing you there...

**SNIDE:** So?

**RATFINK:** You could easily slip into Pickle's trailers without being seen and perform a few ...er...entrepreneurial tasks *(All nod heads again)* for us.

**OBADIAH:** Like I said, I have a few more shows to take care of and a few acquisitions to make!

**HECKLE:** *(Eagerly)* That would be no problem for the right *(Rubs his fingers suggesting money)* ...entrepreneurial reward! *(All nod again)*

**OBADIAH:** Well, y'all, I think we have a deal. Let's go into my office and discuss the fine details.

**SNIDE:** Entrée *(indicating offstage)* preneurs!

**TRACK 20:** **OBADIAH PLAY OFF / CIRCUS PLAY ON**

*(Exit all.)*