

The X Factory

Junior Script

by

Gawen Robinson

Ideal Cast Size 50-60

Speaking Roles 31

Minimum Cast Size 25

Duration (minutes) 60 to 80

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CAST LIST

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.

Students of St Dithers

Davey	(53)
Izzy	(66)
*Joe	(34)
Fraser	(38)
*Emma	(33)
*Rachel	(34)

Staff of St Dithers

Mrs Crabtree	(59)
Mr Potter	(29)
Madam Onions	(14)
Mr Quaver	(19)
Miss Findley	(14)
Mrs Fudge	(11)
Mr Sprout	(15)
Wilf Sprocket	(32)
Gladys Overall	(25)

Superstar Announcers

Bant	(47)
Beck	(45)
Announcer	(3)

Superstar Teachers

*Simon Trowel	(82)
*Bruno Macaroni	(20)
*Craig Rebel-Cardboard	(34)
*Cherri Cola	(17)
*Will.I.Was	(23)
*Dusty Barrel	(20)

Ofset Inspection Team

Ms Grimshaw	(42)
Miss Blunt	(7)
Safety Inspector	(35)

Super-Talented Students

Sophie Le Brie	(13)
Daphne Gorgonzola	(5)
Chadwick Roquefort	(5)
*Jenny Lane	(12)

In addition to the Characters listed above, an additional Chorus will be required.

SPEAKING ROLES BY NUMBER OF LINES

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.

*Simon Trowel	82
Izzy	66
Mrs Crabtree.....	59
Davey	53
Bant	47
Beck.....	45
Ms Grimshaw.....	42
Fraser	38
Safety Inspector.....	35
*Rachel.....	34
*Joe	34
*Craig Rebel-Cardboard	34
*Emma.....	33
Wilf Sprocket	32
Mr Potter.....	29
Gladys Overall	25
*Will.I.Was	23
*Dusty Barrel	20
*Bruno Macaroni.....	20
Mr Quaver.....	19
*Cherri Cola	17
Mr Sprout.....	15
Madam Onions	14
Miss Findley.....	14
Sophie Le Brie	13
*Jenny Lane.....	12
Mrs Fudge	11
Miss Blunt	7
Chadwick Roquefort	5
Daphne Gorgonzola	5
Announcer	3

Non speaking roles: Students, Teachers and 'Super-Students' – as many as you wish! The addition of a Chorus sitting offstage is also recommended, if available.

SUGGESTED CAST LIST FOR 25 ACTORS

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.

*Simon Trowel	82
Izzy	66
Mrs Crabtree.....	59
Davey	53
Bant	47
Beck.....	45
Ms Grimshaw.....	42
Mr Sprout.....also plays Safety Inspector	40
Miss Findley.....also plays Gladys Overall ¹	39
Fraser	38
Chadwick Roquefort.....also plays Wilf Sprocket ²	37
*Rachel.....	34
*Joe	34
*Craig Rebel-Cardboard	34
*Emma.....	33
Mr Potter.....	29
*Jenny Lane.....also plays Sophie Le Brie ³	25
*Will.I.Was	23
Miss Blunt.....also plays Madam Onions ⁴	21
*Dusty Barrel	20
*Bruno Macaroni.....	20
Mr Quaver.....	19
*Cherri Cola	17
Mrs Fudge	11
Daphne Gorgonzola.....also plays Announcer	8

Notes:

¹This involves a quick change from Scene Eight to Scene Nine. Also, Miss Findley's line in Scene Eleven will need to be reallocated to another teacher character.

²This involves a quick change in Scene Eleven.

³The actor will need to read both parts as 'Jenny' in Scene Eleven.

⁴This will involve a very quick change in Scene Eleven.

CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE**Scene One**

Mrs Crabtree
 Mr Quaver
 Mr Sprout
 Ms Grimshaw
 Miss Blunt
 Mr Potter
 Mrs Fudge
 Miss Findley
 Madam Onions

Scene Two

Mr Potter
 Mrs Fudge
 Mr Sprout
 Miss Findley
 Madam Onions
 Mr Quaver
 Mrs Crabtree

Scene Three

Davey
 Izzy
 Fraser
 Joe
 Emma
 Rachel

Scene Four

Simon
 Davey
 Izzy
 Fraser
 Dusty
 Bruno
 Craig
 Emma
 Rachel
 Will.I.Was
 Cherri
 Joe

Scene Five

Bant
 Beck
 Bruno
 Dusty
 Craig
 Sophie
 Davey
 Chad
 Daphne
 Fraser
 Izzy

Scene Six

Bant
 Beck

Scene Seven

Bant
 Beck
 Jenny Lane
 Simon
 Cherri
 Will.I.Was
 Emma
 Rachel
 Joe

Scene Eight

Fraser
Izzy
Joe
Davey
Emma
Rachel
Mr Sprout
Mr Potter
Miss Findley
Mr Quaver
Madam Onions
Mrs Fudge
Extra characters as available.

Scene Nine

Wilf
Gladys
Safety Inspector
Announcer

Scene Ten

Fraser
Joe
Emma
Rachel
Izzy
Davey
Simon
Will.I.Was
Craig
Cherri
Bruno
Dusty

Scene Eleven

Simon
Sophie
Dusty
Will.I.Was
Bruno
Cherri
Ms Grimshaw
Daphne
Chad
Craig
Miss Blunt
Davey
Izzy
Emma
Rachel
Fraser
Mrs Crabtree
Joe
Jenny Lane
Mr Potter
Mr Sprout
Madam Onions
Miss Findley
Mrs Fudge
Gladys
Wilf
Mr Quaver
Bant
Beck
Safety Inspector
Extra characters as available

LIST OF PROPERTIES**Scene One**

Chairs for teachers and Offset inspectors..... Stage Props
 School piano/keyboard Stage Prop
 Clipboard Ms Grimshaw
 Enormous document file Miss Blunt

Scene Two

Large suitcase Mrs Crabtree
 Chairs/sofas as desired Stage Props

Scene Three

School letter..... Izzy
 School letter..... Emma

Scene Four

Talent show panel (with X Factory on) Stage Prop
 Chairs/stools for 'super' staff Stage Props

Scene Five

Talent show panel (with X Factory on) Stage Prop
 Chairs/stools for 'super' staff Stage Props
 2 fake hand held microphones..... Bant & Beck
 Large score cards showing 9 & 0 Dusty
 Large score cards showing 8 & 0 Bruno
 Large score cards showing 5 & 0 Craig

Scene Six

2 fake hand held microphones..... Bant & Beck

Scene Seven

Talent show panel (with X Factory on) Stage Prop
 Chairs/stools for 'super' staff Stage Props
 2 fake hand held microphones..... Bant & Beck
 Note pads and pens The Judges

Scene Eight

Cap..... Mr Sprout

Scene Nine

Chairs in disarray.....	Stage Props
Signed photos.....	Stage Props
Will's chair (gum underneath).....	Stage Prop
Broom.....	Wilf
Cloth/cleaning equipment.....	Gladys
Clipboard & pen.....	Safety Inspector
Tape Measure.....	Safety Inspector

Scene Ten

Dance costumes.....	Stage Props
Ripped costumes.....	Hidden on stage
Laptop/computer.....	Stage Prop
Hats, scarves and stockings.....	Rebels
Torches.....	Rebels
Pink (or brightly-coloured) stocking.....	Joe
Screwdriver.....	Joe
Scissors (large).....	Emma
Headphones.....	Fraser

Scene Eleven

Chairs (each side of stage).....	Stage Props
School piano/keyboard.....	Stage Prop
Ripped costumes.....	Stage Props
Laptop/computer.....	Stage Prop
Clipboards.....	Ms Grimshaw/Safety Inspector
Ripped costumes.....	Sophie & Super-Students
Various musical instruments.....	Dithers' Staff
2 fake hand-held microphones.....	Bant & Beck

PRODUCTION NOTES

STAGING

The acting area can vary according to the space available. It can be a conventional school stage or floor area, with staging built at the back of a floor acting space, or the action can be performed 'in the round' if desired.

Suggestions for scenery are given below. Backdrops can be as simple or elaborate as you wish. However, for a really easy solution and fuss free performance, instant scenery is now available with our digital backdrops: Project It! provides a different backdrop for EVERY scene change and is supplied in both a PowerPoint presentation and as individual JPG files.

Scene One – ‘St Dithers School Assembly’: This scene should look like a school hall and should (preferably) have a piano or keyboard to the side. It could have a backdrop of the St Dithers school logo or school memorabilia etc.

Scene Two – ‘St Dithers Staff Room’: This scene should look as much like a traditional school staff room as possible and can take place either in the centre with a few chairs added, or to the side of the main acting area.

Scene Three – ‘The Schoolyard’: This scene requires no scenery or staging as it is set in a schoolyard. Everyone is standing so it can be set in any open space available.

Scene Four – ‘The School Hall’: This scene is again set in the main school hall (similar to Scene One). This time, Simon Trowel and his team are leading proceedings, so a panel (as in a celebrity game show) would look good. This could be a very simple construction by using card with a design saying ‘X Factory’ on the front of it.

Scene Five – ‘Dance Auditions’: This scene requires an open space so that the dancing can take place. The judges/teachers can be sat behind the panel (similar to Scene Four) where they can sit during the actual auditions and produce their scorecards. The students who have been rejected can sit on the opposite side of the stage or to the front.

Scene Six: – ‘Interlude’: This is essentially a transition scene so that the vocal coaches can replace the dancers. Bant and Beck can be in front of the proceedings as the actors change places behind the panel (similar to the ones used in Scene Four and Five).

Scene Seven – ‘Vocal Auditions’: This scene again uses the panel for the judges/teachers as in the previous scenes. The chair that ‘Will.I.Was’ sits on, however, should be a swivel chair so that he can easily turn around when required (as in ‘The Voice’).

Scene Eight – ‘The Schoolyard’: This scene is similar to Scene Three, as it requires no scenery or staging. The old staff can enter from one of the wings as they are supposed to be outside the school gates. You might have something to represent the gate. A practical alternative might be to move this scene in front of the audition scene so that the panel desk can remain in place.

Scene Nine – ‘After The Auditions’: This scene should look like the aftermath of Scene Seven with the addition of bits of paper (if possible some signed photos of Simon) and rubbish strewn around the floor. You can make this look as messy as possible. It is important that the costumes (hanging up) and the laptop (or sound equipment on Will’s desk space) are left onstage so that the following scene can run directly on from this one.

Scene Ten – ‘Later That Night’: This follows on directly from the previous scene but with the lights slightly dimmed so that it looks like it is the evening. The costumes must be hanging up and the laptop needs to be on the set so that both can be tampered with. There should be places on the set where the rebels can hide.

Scene Eleven – ‘The Showcase’: The scene follows on directly from the previous night-time scene but must look bright and ‘glitzy’. The judges/teachers again sit behind their panel; Will must be next to his laptop/equipment. The old staff should be hidden behind the school piano/keyboard (preferably with musical instruments). Mr Quaver will mime playing the piano to Track 38.

CHOREOGRAPHY/MOVEMENT

- ‘The School Song’:** The students and staff should be sitting or standing still and should look bored. Mr Quaver should be positioned behind the school piano or something that looks like one.
- ‘Average’** During this song the teachers are in one group while the students form another. They should use strong, fist pumping type gestures to emphasise how they feel.
- ‘Average (Reprise)’:** The teachers are again protesting angrily but this time alone. A stage-side Chorus can also join in to increase the volume in the final chorus.
- ‘Rap Pack’:** Emma and Rachel need to adopt ‘hip-hop’ movements and actions during this short rap. They can follow the suggestion within the lyrics for things such as ‘Taking Selfies’, being on their phones and pointing in a rap style.
- ‘The X Factor’:** This song is lively and punchy and requires lots of posing and character acting from the soloists. During the chorus a suggestion would be for the cast to cross their arms on the words ‘X Factor’ and to move in a simple series of steps if you wish.
- ‘Tango 1’:** A short tango step featuring Bruno, who wildly dances around Dusty in a very entertaining, exuberant style.

- ‘Tango 2’:** A longer tango built around the plot where the celebrity teachers are judging the couples. Daphne and Chad are competent, if a little highly strung. Davey is very exaggerated in his movements much to Sophie’s annoyance, while Fraser and Izzy are just comically incompetent.
- ‘Blue Skies’:** This is a solo song and should be performed with as much character as possible by the performer (Jenny Lane).
- ‘Rap Pack Audition’:** Emma and Rachel are now joined by Joe who does his ‘own thing’ with as much exaggerated comedy as possible.
- ‘Be Alive’:** This song is a big chorus, show-stopping number and should feature some dance moves by the dancers. It has a driving, rock rhythm and would suit sharp, dynamic movements.
- ‘Brand New Day’:** This song has a positive, 80s feel (almost a Madness parody). It should have some simple steps and arm movements to emphasise the upbeat feel and lyrical content.
- ‘The X Factor (Reprise)’:** This short reprise is purely character-driven by the actors.
- ‘Brand New Day’ (Reprise)’:** This song starts with Mr Quaver and his colleagues on their instruments and develops into a big chorus number with movements similar to Track 32.

COSTUMES

This show gives you an opportunity to explore costumes from TV celebrity game shows and either modern or 80s dress to suit the style of the music.

- Mrs Crabtree:** Fairly dowdy, old-fashioned clothes for an elderly headteacher. She could have a long tweed skirt and smart blouse and possibly a cardigan.
- Mr Sprout:** Fairly traditional but not too smart. Perhaps Corduroy trousers and a jacket with elbow patches and a cap. He does not quite match.
- Mr Quaver:** Fairly old-fashioned but friendly-looking music teacher. He could look like an eccentric professor with glasses and a tweed jacket.
- Ms Grimshaw:** Very neat and efficient-looking but fairly gaudy (possibly very pink) and overdressed. Perhaps she might wear winged glasses and have bouffant hair. She could be similar to Professor Umbridge in Harry Potter.
- Miss Blunt:** Extremely smart with glasses. She is younger than Ms Grimshaw but just as efficient and sharp-looking, although less extravagant.

- Mr Potter:** As the deputy head, Harold Potter would have a suit and be very smart. He might have a neat moustache.
- Miss Findley:** Traditional P.E. teacher with tracksuit and pony tail. Possibly she would wear a whistle round her neck.
- Madam Onions:** She is fairly extrovert in nature and might wear fairly garish colours and large knitted cardigans and scarves.
- Mrs Fudge:** Very old, dodderly teacher who is hard of hearing. She would wear drab, grey clothes including a knitted cardigan and a hearing aid.
- Davey:** He might wear very current clothing (or trendily accessorised if using school uniform). He is a bit rebellious so use costume to reflect this.
- Izzy:** She is very bright and well organised and so would have neat clothes that are trendy but also tasteful. If uniform is being used she would wear it well.
- Joe:** He is the computer and gaming expert so he might wear a video game-based cap, hoodie or T-Shirt.
- Fraser:** Fraser is the slightly awkward one. He is mad on sport so might have a football top, hat or scarf. If wearing uniform he might be a little scruffy.
- Emma and Rachel:** These two characters are very trendy and slightly ‘chavvy’ in appearance. This might include make-up; big, exaggerated accessories and jewellery and ‘hip-hop’ style caps and hoodies etc.
- Simon Trowel:** Based upon a certain TV talent show celebrity he would wear a black T-Shirt (with possibly a black jacket) and black trousers with a very high belt.
- Dusty Barrel:** Based upon a certain dance-based TV show judge, Dusty is very glamorous and well-dressed with an evening dress and jewellery.
- Bruno Macaroni:** Based upon another dance-based TV show judge. He is Italian and very well-dressed with a sharp suit and skinny tie. He may wear a buttonhole.
- Craig Rebel-Cardboard:** Another character based upon a dance-based TV show judge. He wears a white shirt with a bow tie and a smart dinner jacket.
- Will.I.Was** Based upon a TV talent show judge and rap star, Will is extremely extrovert and wears very elaborate, fashionable clothing, usually a hat and a trendy street-type jacket. Usually endowed with rings and large jewellery.
- Cherri Cola:** Based upon another TV talent show judge and pop star, she is extremely glamorous with bright lipstick, elaborate jewellery and a choker necklace. She often wears a white jacket although anything glamorous will do.
- Bant and Beck:** These two characters are based on two famous Geordie TV game-show hosts and must look similar in the way they dress.

Typically they wear white shirts and ties with a dark suit but always the same as each other.

- Sophie Le Brie:** Must look well-dressed and wear expensive clothes. Should look fairly snooty and superior. Needs a simple 'ripped' costume for Scene Eleven (perhaps to go over base clothes).
- Daphne Gorgonzola:** Very superior and traditionally well-dressed in a really austere way. Also needs a 'ripped' costume for Scene Eleven.
- Chadwick Roquefort:** Extremely rich and neatly dressed, perhaps with an Aaron scarf around his neck. Also needs a 'ripped' costume for Scene Eleven.
- Jenny Lane:** Jenny is a very talented singer but not big-headed. She would wear more sober and ordinary clothing to reflect her modest nature. Also needs a 'ripped' costume for Scene Eleven.
- Wilf Sprocket:** Elderly caretaker, he would wear a very traditional work overall or brown coat and boots.
- Gladys Overall:** Elderly cleaning lady, she would wear a work overall and rubber gloves, and her hair would be tied up with a mop cap or perhaps a large ribbon.
- Safety Inspector:** Very official-looking either with a suit and a clipboard or perhaps smartly dressed with a Hi-Vis jacket on top for health and safety. Very neat and tidy.
- Announcer:** Only appears once and must look very official (perhaps like a BBC announcer). This part could be played by anyone from a teacher to a small child as an extra role.
- Chorus:** The chorus could be dressed either as a distinct group or perhaps in a theme such as 80s colourful outfits or brightly-coloured T-shirts. This is entirely up to you and how you want your show to look.

LIGHTING AND SOUND

Lighting

If stage-type lighting is available, good use could be made of colour, especially in the showcase and the audition scenes, and particularly during the songs. In scenes nine and ten you should attempt to dim the lights to give the effect of early evening and then dusk. The final scene should be the most dramatic in terms of lighting as this emulates a performance. When the performance goes wrong then very random lighting changes would look good, even if it is just turning the hall lights on and off.

Sound

All the music required to stage this production, including sound effects, can be found on both the Vocal and Backing CDs. This includes overture, songs, raps, and all play-on, play-off and underscore music.

As a general principal when playing back these tracks (particularly sound effects), it is best to use reliable media player software which automatically pauses playback between tracks. We recommend iTunes, which works on PC and Mac. It can be downloaded for free from <https://www.apple.com/itunes/>. This results in smooth and seamless playback of all sound cues for an entire show, and is often easier, more flexible and more reliable than using a CD player.

For learning the songs, a fabulous product called **Sing It!** is also available. In CD-ROM or download format, its simultaneous audio/visual presentation can teach the songs to the children without any teacher input. Children can use it at school or at home, saving you valuable time! Most schools use it in class on an interactive white board, or in the school hall on the overhead projector to allow full cast practice.

If Radio mics are available it is best to use them on characters that sing solo parts in songs. Also, if you are using microphones at all, always position them behind the line of main speakers to avoid unnecessary feedback.

Sound Effects (SFX), Songs and Scene Change Music

The sound effects in this show are specifically designed to enhance the mood of the piece although it is sometimes possible to adapt some of them if you prefer live sounds that you can create (e.g. applause and booing). Adapt them freely, if you like, and feel free to experiment with different sounds so that they fit your own production.

If you have the luxury of a live pianist, a full Performance Score is also available (Grade 6), containing songs and all incidental music including overture, play-on, play-off and scene change music.

Scene One – St Dithers School Assembly

- Track 1** (Music) – **Overture**
This is a traditional overture lasting just over a minute to allow the cast on to the stage and to introduce some of the themes to the settling audience.
- Track 2** (Song) – **School Song**
This follows directly from the overture and it is a short, traditional-sounding song performed by the whole staff and students of St Dithers. The chorus can also join in as students. Mrs Crabtree, who scolds Mr. Quaver for improvising in his ‘pop music style’, interrupts the song.
- Track 3** (Music) – **Dramatic Piano Music**
This is a short burst from Mr. Quaver to add drama to the Ofset decision.

Track 4 (Song) – **Average**
Song performed at the end of the scene by the split groups. The teachers form one group while the chorus and students form the other part.

Track 5 (Music) – **Average – Transition Music**
A short musical reprise of the previous song to cover the scene change.

Scene Two – St Dithers Staff Room

Track 6 (Song) – **Average (Reprise)**
Song performed at the end of the scene by the teachers who can be joined in the second stanza by the chorus.

Scene Three – St Dithers Schoolyard

Track 7 (Song) – **Rap Pack**
A very short rap performed by Emma and Rachel in exaggerated ‘hip-hop’ style. This should have lots of gestures and attitude.

Scene Four – The School Hall

Track 8 (Music) – **X Factory Theme**
This music is in the style of a TV music talent theme and is used as a transition to the new regime where Simon Trowel introduces the new ‘Super-Teachers’ to the new St Dithers students.

Track 9 (Song) – **The X Factor**
This is a strong character song that (if possible) should be started by Simon. It includes suggested solo parts although these may be freely adapted depending on the talents of your cast. The parts can be doubled if required and sung as an ensemble. The chorus join in later.

Scene Five – Dance Auditions

Track 10 (Music) – **Dance Theme**
This short transition theme (based upon a TV dance reality show) helps to introduce the next scene and allows the stage to be set up for the dance auditions. Audience participation would be good, such as cheering and clapping from the chorus and the cast.

Track 11 (SFX) – **Applause 1**
This (as with all the audience-based sound effects) can be used in conjunction with your chorus to create the effect of having a live studio audience. Hopefully your real audience will join in.

Track 12 (Music) – **Tango 1**
A short tango where the teachers demonstrate some moves to the students. Bruno wildly dances around Dusty in a very entertaining style.

- Track 13** (Music) – **Tango 2**
An extended version of the previous tango where the students attempt to copy the steps they have just seen, to comic effect.
- Track 14, 15 & 16** (SFX) – **Applause 2 & 3 / Booing 1**
More audience-based effects. (See Track 11)
- Track 17** (Music & SFX) – **Dance Theme Exit**
This transition music allows the set to be changed for the next scene.

Scene Six – Interlude

- Track 18** (Music) – **X Factory Theme 2**
A piece of transition music (including audience applause) that takes us into the vocal audition scene and allows the judges time to move into position.

Scene Seven – Vocal Auditions

- Track 19** (SFX) – **Applause 4**
Another audience-based effect. (See Track 11)
- Track 20, 21 & 22** (SFX) – **Ahh! 1, 2 & 3**
These are audience-based effects to enhance the dialogue.
- Track 23** (Song) – **Blue Skies**
This is a solo song (sung by Jenny Lane). This is designed to give a talented singer the chance to perform a solo song. A boy could play this role, if you prefer, by making minor changes to the script.
- Track 24, 25 & 26** (SFX) – **Booing 2 / Applause 5 & 6**
More audience-based effects. (See Track 11)
- Track 27** (SFX) – **Applause 7**
Another audience-based effect. (See Track 11)
- Track 28** (Song) – **Rap Pack Audition**
A short rap performed by Emma, Rachel and Joe for their audition.
- Track 29** (SFX) – **Buzzer**
This follows 'Rap Pack Audition' and is co-ordinated with the panel pressing their buzzers on the desk to show that they dislike the performance.
- Track 30** (Song) – **Be Alive**
Performed by the student cast and chorus as a rehearsal of their big showcase number. This should be energetic and lively.

Scene Eight – The Schoolyard**Track 31** (Music) – **Be Alive Play-Off**

This is a short transition into the schoolyard scene.

Track 32 (Song) – **Brand New Day**

This is a positive song featuring the rebels and St Dithers teachers. There is scope for the chorus to join in too with some movement, if required.

Track 33 (Music) – **Brand New Day Play-Off**

This is a short transition reprise of the previous song designed to allow time for you to set the next scene up.

Scene Nine – After The Auditions**Track 34** (SFX) – **Creepy Night**

This is a short transition from the previous scene to show a passage of time. It sets the mood for late evening in a deserted building.

Scene Ten – Later That Night**Track 35** (Song) – **The X Factor (Reprise)**

This is a short character-based reprise of the Super-Teachers' song. Again, it can be performed in any way you wish and parts can be doubled or sung together in groups.

Track 36 (Music & SFX) – **Transition Into The Showcase**

This is a short transition into the next scene (The Showcase). It allows the cast to enter and the stage to be set. It is lively and has applause to give the impression that it is a live performance.

Scene Eleven – The Showcase**Track 37** (Music) – **Showcase Track Messed-Up**

This is the song 'Be Alive' where the entire track has been sabotaged. This should sound and look chaotic as the students try desperately to sing and dance along until they are halted at the end.

Track 38 (Song) – **Brand New Day (Reprise)**

This song builds from a short instrumental intro (by Mr Quaver and his colleagues) into a big production number featuring the rebels, staff and the chorus.

Track 39 (Music) – **Finale and Bows**

This medley acts as music for curtain bows but feel free to join in and sing the segments of songs if you wish.

SCENE ONE: ST DITHERS SCHOOL ASSEMBLY**TRACK 1: MUSIC - OVERTURE**

(As the music plays the chorus can take up their positions. The Headteacher, Mrs Wilma Crabtree and the two Ofset inspectors sit in the centre while the teaching staff are seated together on her right. The students file in and sit on the opposite side of the stage, some can actually join the audience. Mr Ernie Quaver, the music teacher should be positioned behind the school piano or something that looks like one. He is playing the piano in the school song. As he plays the introduction everyone stands to sing.)

TRACK 2: SONG - SCHOOL SONG

ALL: HERE AT ST DITHERS
WE FOLLOW RULES.
TEACHERS ARE WITH US,
THEY ARE NO FOOLS.

FLOORS SHINE AND GLEAM
IN OUR LOVELY SCHOOL.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE BEAMING:
OUR SCHOOL IS COOL!

(On the final note Mr Quaver gets carried away on the piano and starts to 'jazz it up'.)

MRS CRABTREE: *(Firmly)* Mr Quaver!!

(He can't hear her as he is enjoying himself too much, so she walks over and thuds the piano lid shut.)

MRS CRABTREE: Mr Quaver! How many times have I told you? We are not a pop group!

MR QUAVER: *(Disappointed)* Sorry Mrs Crabtree, I just thought I'd...

MRS CRABTREE: *(Interrupting)* Stop quivering, Quaver. Your job is not to think, it is to obey!

(Mr Quaver looks crestfallen while Mrs Crabtree walks back to her position to address the assembled students and staff, who are now sitting down. Next to her the Ofset inspection team led by Mrs Imelda Grimshaw, look very stern. The teachers of St Dithers look nervous and try to lighten the mood by smiling and waving at the inspectors. They are routinely ignored.)

MRS CRABTREE: *(To the assembly)* Boys, girls and members of St Dithers staff; I have assembled you to share with you the final conclusion of our recent inspection. As you know, the Ofset team *(She points to them)* have recently carried out a full and thorough inspection of our beloved school and it is now my pleasure to hand you over to the chief inspector Ms Grimshaw and her assistant Miss Blunt.

(There is a loud booing noise from someone in the assembly.)

MRS CRABTREE: Who was that?

(Everyone points to one of the teachers, Mr Sprout, who looks at the floor in a guilty manner.)

MRS CRABTREE: *(In disbelief)* Mr Sprout! Is there really any need?

MR SPROUT: *(Ashamed)* I'm sorry, Mrs Crabtree.

MRS CRABTREE: *(Resuming her composure)* Over to you Ms Grimshaw.

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Standing up holding her clipboard)* Good afternoon, everyone. As Mrs Crabtree has kindly mentioned, I am here to deliver the verdict of the Ofset team concerning the performance of this school. It is our considered decision that this school is...

TRACK 3:

MUSIC - DRAMATIC PIANO

MRS CRABTREE: *(Standing up and shouting towards the piano)* Mr Quaver! I don't think dramatic music is appropriate in this particular instance, do you?

MR QUAVER: *(Nervously behind the piano)* I'm sorry Mrs Crabtree... I just thought...

MRS CRABTREE: *(Abruptly)* Mr Quaver!! *(To Ms Grimshaw politely)* Please continue.

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Looking confused)* As I was saying, we find your school to be... Average!

(The entire school including students and staff jump up and down cheering and giving each other hugs and high-fives etc.)

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Shouting above the noise)* Excuse me! *(Louder)* Excuse me!

(She shrieks so loud that everyone suddenly freezes in position.)

MS GRIMSHAW: Excuse me!!! *(Resuming her composure)* If you please... Whereas in the past being average would have been acceptable for a school such as your own, it is now a requirement that every school is outstanding.

MISS BLUNT: *(Standing nervously)* Outstanding.

(Ms Grimshaw nods at her to sit down.)

MRS CRABTREE: *(Confused)* Excuse me Ms Grimshaw, you told me earlier that we had a very good school.

MS GRIMSHAW: *(In a patronising manner)* Ah yes, you have, but unfortunately most schools have become very good, so you are now just average.

MISS BLUNT: *(Standing)* Average. *(She sits down immediately)*

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Really milking it)* Even schools that were previously outstanding are now just good and they will eventually become...

MISS BLUNT: *(Stands quickly)* Average. *(She sits down immediately)*

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Looking annoyed)* Thank you, Miss Blunt!

MR POTTER: *(Standing irritably)* But that makes no sense at all.

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Smugly)* Mr Potter, we are not here to make sense, we are here to judge you. And you have been judged...

MISS BLUNT: *(Quickly)* Average. *(She sits down looking pleased with herself)*

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Snatching a huge book from Miss Blunt)* Here is your policy document. *(She hands it to Mrs Crabtree)* Mull it over at your leisure.

MR POTTER: *(In disbelief)* Nothing like a bit of light bedtime reading!

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Smugly)* Anyhow, we shall return in six weeks' time and unless we are satisfied that your school has become outstanding, we will be forced to close you down.

MISS BLUNT: *(Joining in)* Close you down, we will.

MR POTTER: *(Dismayed)* But that's not fair!

MS GRIMSHAW: *(Slowly)* No, because fair is not acceptable, only outstanding is, ha ha ha; just my little joke! *(Miss Blunt laughs in an exaggerated manner)* Come along, Miss Blunt; we have people to see and places to close, ha ha ha! Oh, I amuse myself sometimes.

(They exit laughing their heads off. As the song starts the Staff all rise looking really annoyed.)

TRACK 4:**SONG - AVERAGE**

TEACHERS: WE'RE TEACHERS, NOT CREATURES,
WITH FEELINGS INSIDE.
DON'T BEAT US, MISTREAT US
OR CAST US ASIDE.
DON'T BLAME US OR SHAME US;
WE'VE STILL GOT OUR PRIDE,
BUT DON'T YOU EVER CALL US AVERAGE!

STUDENTS: WE'RE STUDENTS, NOT MUTANTS;
DON'T TREAT US LIKE FOOLS.
WE'RE PUPILS, WITH SCRUPLES,
WHO FOLLOW THE RULES.
DON'T BRUISE US, ACCUSE US
OF SPOILING OUR SCHOOL;
AND DON'T YOU EVER CALL US AVERAGE!

ALL: WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
ALL THAT WE DO IS MAGIC!
I'M NOT AVERAGE.
YOU'RE NOT AVERAGE.
CALLING US THAT IS TRAGIC.
WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
ALL THAT WE DO IS MAGIC!
DON'T YOU EVER CALL US AVERAGE!

TEACHERS:
WE'RE TEACHERS,
NOT CREATURES.

DON'T BEAT US,
MISTREAT US.

DON'T BLAME US
OR SHAME US.

DON'T YOU EVER CALL US
AVERAGE!

STUDENTS/CHORUS:
WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
ALL THAT WE DO IS MAGIC!
I'M NOT AVERAGE.
YOU'RE NOT AVERAGE.
CALLING US THAT IS TRAGIC.
WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
ALL THAT WE DO IS MAGIC!
DON'T YOU EVER CALL US
AVERAGE!

ALL: DON'T RAIN ON MY PARADE!

TRACK 5:**MUSIC - AVERAGE - TRANSITION**

SCENE TWO:**ST DITHERS STAFF ROOM**

(The teachers are all sitting and pacing around the staff room waiting for Mrs Crabtree. All of them are worried about the decision that has been made.)

- MR POTTER:** *(Pacing)* What are we going to do?
- MRS FUDGE:** *(Adjusting her hearing aid)* What did he say?
- MR SPROUT:** I can't afford to lose my job - I've got a wife and goldfish to support.
- MISS FINDLEY:** *(Worried)* What will happen to all the students if they close the school?
- MADAM ONIONS:** *(With a bad French accent)* Zay will all be sent to zat new super-school, 'St Inveen-zible', down ze road.
- MRS FUDGE:** *(Shouting)* Eh?
- MR QUAYER:** Oh, that place! Rumour has it that they have their own torture chamber for the kids who misbehave.
- MR POTTER:** *(Sarcastically)* So have we, your school choir - they're torture to listen to.
- MR QUAYER:** *(Defensively)* I'll have you know that the Head Governor described our spring concert as "heart-warming and outstanding".
- MR POTTER:** No, he actually said you'd given him heartburn and he wished that he'd been out-standing in the foyer.
- MRS FUDGE:** *(To Mr Quaver)* I suffer dreadfully from heartburn myself.
- MADAM ONIONS:** *(Annoyed)* Meester Potter, you very rude man!
- MR POTTER:** *(To Madam Onions)* And as for your, so called, language lessons...
- MADAM ONIONS:** I will ave you know, all my students can speak perfect French.
- MR POTTER:** Madam Onions, putting on a silly French accent does not mean that they can speak the language!
- MADAM ONIONS:** Zis is outrageous! Zis is how all Engleesh people speak abroad.
- MR SPROUT:** *(Making fun of her)* No eet iz not!
- MADAM ONIONS:** I didn't know you spoke French.
- MISS FINDLEY:** Well at least no one can doubt the excellence of my PE students.
- MRS FUDGE:** What did she say?
- MR QUAYER:** *(Loudly in her ear)* P.E.
- MRS FUDGE:** No thank you, I went before.
- MR POTTER:** *(Smugly)* Well, the Hockey team are certainly the strongest team in the league, they're propping up all the rest. *(Laughs at his own joke)* Ha ha ha! Harold Potter, you've still got it.
- MISS FINDLEY:** *(Indignantly)* Well, as a matter of fact, the Ofset team highlighted fitness as a major strength in the school.
- MR POTTER:** No, what they actually said was that at the mere mention of doing any work, the kids ran a mile!

MR SPROUT: At least you'll be OK, Potter, you could always get a job at Hogwarts!

(Everyone starts to laugh.)

MR POTTER: Now look here...

(A mass argument starts until Mrs Crabtree enters looking very glum. They stop suddenly.)

MRS CRABTREE: I have news from the Governor's meeting.

MR POTTER: Do they have a solution?

MRS CRABTREE: Yes.

MR SPROUT: *(Worried)* A decision has been made?

MRS CRABTREE: Yes.

MR QUAVER: *(Terrified)* I can tell we're not going to like this.

MRS CRABTREE: No!

MADAM ONIONS: I 'ave an 'orrible feeling about zis.

MRS CRABTREE: Oui!

MRS FUDGE: I told you, I've been!

MISS FINDLEY: *(Screaming)* Tell us what they said!

MRS CRABTREE: *(Calmly)* I thought you'd never ask. The problem is that we have been declared as an average school...

ALL: Yes?

MRS CRABTREE: With average students...

ALL: Yes? *(Getting louder)*

MRS CRABTREE: And average teachers...

ALL: Yes? *(Louder)*

MRS CRABTREE: And we have six weeks to become outstanding?

ALL: Yes? *(Even louder)*

MRS CRABTREE: Well, it's impossible!

ALL: *(Very worried)* Yes?

MRS CRABTREE: What I mean is, it's impossible with the staff and students we have here.

MR SPROUT: *(Trembling)* So, what are they going to do?

MRS CRABTREE: Simple, get rid of the lot of you.

MADAM ONIONS: I knew I wouldn't like it!

MR POTTER: What, all of us?

MRS CRABTREE: Well, our beloved Governors felt it would be easier to replace the average students with really talented ones.

MR QUAVER: *(Outraged)* But my choir has lots of....

- MR POTTER:** *(Interrupting)* Don't even go there, Ernie!
- MRS CRABTREE:** What they felt was that we should become a school for superstars of the future, the sort of young people who might end up on TV talent shows.
- MISS FINDLEY:** What, a sort of X factory?
- MRS CRABTREE:** Exactly.
- MR SPROUT:** With no average students at all?
- MADAM ONIONS:** Strictly?
- MRS CRABTREE:** Well, eventually! The Governors will allow some of our current students to stay until they can replace them with more able ones. It's not ideal but Rome wasn't built in a day.
- MR QUAVER:** Neither was my career!
- MR POTTER:** *(Bluntly)* But you're both ancient ruins now!
- MR SPROUT:** So what are we supposed to do?
- MRS CRABTREE:** Well, if I were you I'd start packing your bags; they want you all gone by tomorrow.
- MR POTTER:** *(Steaming)* This is outrageous! What about my pension?
- MR QUAVER:** My choir?
- MR SPROUT:** My goldfish?
- MRS CRABTREE:** I'm sorry, there was nothing I could do. The new team of supertalent-spotters is arriving tomorrow to audition the lucky few that have been chosen to remain.
- MR QUAVER:** *(Hopefully)* Can we audition too?
- MR POTTER:** *(Patting him on the shoulder)* I think that ship has sailed, Ernie.
- MRS CRABTREE:** No. Unfortunately the new teaching staff has been appointed and letters have already gone out to parents informing them of the students and teachers who are to leave our establishment.
- MADAM ONIONS:** Poor dears!
- MR POTTER:** Poor us!
- MR SPROUT:** Poor Flipper!
- MRS CRABTREE:** I'm sorry, but you need to go!
- MRS FUDGE:** What did she say?
- MISS FINDLEY:** *(Shouting in her ear)* She says you need to go!
- MRS FUDGE:** I already told you, I've been!
- MISS FINDLEY:** No! Oh never mind.
- MR POTTER:** *(To Mrs Crabtree)* What about you, Mrs Crabtree? Are you sacked too?
- MRS CRABTREE:** Actually I've been given a nice retirement settlement, so I shall wish you all good luck and I'll be off to my lovely cottage in the countryside to sit by my fishpond and relax. Farewell, dear former colleagues.

(She exits with a large suitcase.)

MR QUAVER: *(Annoyed)* It's all right for her.
MISS FINDLEY: *(Sarcastically)* With her cottage in the country!
MADAM ONIONS: And her feesh pond!
MR SPROUT: I wonder if she's got room for Flipper?
MR POTTER: Well I'm not going to stand for it.
MR QUAVER: *(Seriously)* Then let's sing in protest!

TRACK 6: **SONG - AVERAGE (REPRISE)**

TEACHERS: WE'RE TEACHERS, NOT CREATURES,
 WITH FEELINGS INSIDE.
 DON'T BEAT US, MISTREAT US
 OR CAST US ASIDE.
 DON'T BLAME US OR SHAME US;
 WE'VE STILL GOT OUR PRIDE,
 BUT DON'T YOU EVER CALL US AVERAGE!

TEACHERS:
 WE'RE TEACHERS,
 NOT CREATURES.

DON'T BEAT US,
 MISTREAT US.

DON'T BLAME US
 OR SHAME US.

DON'T YOU EVER CALL US
 AVERAGE!

STUDENTS/CHORUS:
 WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
 WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
 ALL THAT WE DO IS MAGIC!
 I'M NOT AVERAGE.
 YOU'RE NOT AVERAGE.
 CALLING US THAT IS TRAGIC.
 WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
 WE'RE NOT AVERAGE.
 ALL THAT WE DO IS MAGIC!
 DON'T YOU EVER CALL US
 AVERAGE!

ALL: DON'T RAIN ON MY PARADE!

SCENE THREE:**THE SCHOOLYARD**

(The next morning, Davey and Izzy, two of the returning students from St Dithers, are gathered in the schoolyard before the morning bell.)

DAVEY: *(Worried)* Have you heard the news?
 IZZY: *(Studying the letter in her hand)* It's ridiculous!

(Fraser and Joe arrive not knowing anything about it.)

FRASER: *(Confused)* What's going on?
 JOE: *(Looking around)* Where is everyone?
 IZZY: *(Outraged)* They've all been expelled.
 FRASER: What for?
 DAVEY: For being average.

(Two girls, Rachel and Emma join them. Emma is reading a letter.)

RACHEL: *(Shocked)* Hey, have you heard what's happened?
 EMMA: *(Pleased with herself)* Unbelievable! It's official, I'm above average!
 DAVEY: No, you just happened to be off during the last tests we did.
 RACHEL: *(Smugly)* I only passed 'cause I cheated.
 JOE: Who says crime doesn't pay?
 RACHEL: *(Laughing)* I swapped my paper with Suzie Toogood.
 FRASER: That's terrible!
 RACHEL: Serves her right, she's always showing off and calling me 'thick'.
 JOE: Her dad'll go mad; he's always boasting about his 'perfect daughter'.
 DAVEY: I guess she's not 'too good' to get kicked out!
 IZZY: *(Puzzled)* Hey, Davey, how come you got kept on? No offence mate, but you're not exactly the school genius, are you?
 DAVEY: I dunno, it could be because of my amazing dancing skills. *(He demonstrates one of his 'cool' moves)* I reckon I've got what it takes.
 IZZY: *(Sarcastically)* If that's what it takes, you can keep it.
 JOE: I've got a great singing voice, according to Mr Quaver.
 EMMA: He told my Aunty Doris that she had a voice like a bird, and he's right.
 RACHEL: Really?
 EMMA: Yeah, shame it's a crow!

FRASER: If we have to audition, what are you gonna sing, Joe?

JOE: I dunno; perhaps I might try *(He sings a song very badly out of tune)*

ALL: *(Making an X shape with their arms)* NEXT!!

JOE: Do you think I should pick a different song?

EMMA: Yeah, and a different voice if you can!

RACHEL: *(With her hand on Joe's shoulder)* Don't take this the wrong way mate, but it's been nice knowing you.

FRASER: I don't suppose I could get away with showing how good I am on FIFA?

DAVEY: *(Sarcastically)* Yeah, I can see that being mind-blowingly entertaining.

IZZY: *(Showing him the letter)* Look, the letter says we have to prepare a performing talent to show the judges what we can do.

FRASER: I can do impressions!

RACHEL: *(Doubtfully)* Can you?

FRASER: Yeah, watch this *(He puts his arms out and freezes)*

DAVEY: What on earth is that?

FRASER: *(Looking pleased)* It's a tree!

(They all groan and look away.)

JOE: *(To Emma and Rachel)* What are you two going to do for your audition?

EMMA: *(Pleased with herself)* We're doing a rap.

DAVEY: You're kidding!

FRASER: No way?

RACHEL: *(High-fiving Emma)* Yes way!

EMMA: Feast your ears on this, dudes!