

Stand and Deliver!

A Family Pantomime

By Mick Gaunt

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Stand and Deliver. A Family Pantomime

Cast

John Carter	Principal Boy
Polly Fisher	Principal Girl
Kitty Fisher	Dame
Bobby 1	Custom & Excise Man
Bobby 2	Custom & Excise Man
Dick Turpin	Highwayman
Squire Hawkins	Lord of the Manor and Local MP
Grime	Squire's Henchman
Harry Carter	Villager
Will	Younger Villager
Charlie	Younger Villager
Jenny	Younger Villager
Tom	Younger Villager
Sue	Younger Villager
Sally	Younger Villager

Act 1 Scene 1. Village and Dock scene.

(Smugglers and Villagers seen carrying contraband across stage. They are happy and carefree.)

(Suggested song, DIVIDING THE PLUNDER. STORMFRUN. Adapt the words to suit.)

John. Look lively lads! We've got to get these goods away quickly.

Harry Aye John, and just you make sure one of them Kegs of Rum is stashed in my cottage.

John Polly, keep a sharp eye for those Custom and Excise men

Polly No sign of them John. I reckon if they are looking for us they will be at Prussia Cove.

John Off-loading here directly into the village seems to have given them the slip again tonight.

Harry Well that the last of it off the Ship John.

John Yes get it taken through the tunnels to the cave as quickly as you can,

(Whistle blows off stage, shouts heard)

Bob 1 There they be.

Bob 2 We've got them this time.

Bob 1 After them.

Bob 2 Hold it right there, we've seen you.

John Quickly everyone, as quick as you can, I'll try to put them off the track. *(All exit to wings.)* Get out of here.

(Two Bobbies dressed like 'Peelers' with tall Top Hats, rush on from the back of hall. Harassing the audience etc. with ad-libs as they do.)

Bob 1 Where did they go? (*Stamps his foot in frustration*) Oh! I really wanted to **arrest** someone!

Bob 2 You lot seen any smugglers? (*To audience*)

Bob 1 Woe betide you if you don't tell us. (*John ambles across stage carrying a fishing rod*) Here be one of 'em. (*Grabs him*) I got him Bob.

John Hold on what you doing?

Bob 2 Ah John Carter, reputed to be the King of Prussia. We've caught you this time!

John Hold on a second lads, I'm just off to do a spot of fishing.

Bob 1 A likely story!

Bob 2 Where's the contraband?

John Contraband?

Bob 1 Contraband!

John Contraband?

Bob 2 Contra,,,, just a minute we've done that already!

Bob 1 Search him for the goods.

Bob 2 What's that?

John A fishing rod.

Bob 1 Ah! Well he'll be using it to hook goods from a rowing boat waiting below the Quayside.

John Which rowing boat? There's no boat there. (*Aside*) I hope it's gone.

Bob 1 We've got him 'Bang to Rights' this time. **Our first ever arrest!**

Bob 2 (*Looks to wings*) Hold on. He's right, no boat.

John I tell you I'm off on a fishing trip.

(A Highway man enters, complete with mask, pistols, dagger, Tricorn hat and all the usual trappings. Dick Turpin always wears his mask and hat when he is the Highwayman. When he is John Palmer he should not.)

Dick **Stand and Deliver!**

Bob 1 What the?

Bob 2 Oweer!

Bob 1 Who are you. What do you want?

Dick I'm Dick Turpin.

Bob 2 Dick Tiepin?

Dick Turpin, Turpin!

Bob 2 Sorry! Sorry!

Dick I'm the deadly Highwayman. Your money or your life.

Bob 2 Take my life, I'm saving up for Christmas.

Bob 1 Look here my good fellow. You can't rob us we are licensed Custom and Excise men.

Dick You're on the Kings Highway. I'm a Highwayman, so I can rob whosoever I please! So there!

Bob 2 But I thought Highwaymen only attacked at night!

Dick **Oh no!** I don't do the night shift! I only work in the afternoons, that's why it's called Daylight Robbery. Your money or your life.

Bob1 You'll regret messing about with us

Dick Probably, *(looks at watch)* 'cause the Pub's just opened! Hand over your cash.

John Excuse me, Sir. Does that include me, I'm just a poor fisherman hoping to catch his breakfast! I've no money.

Dick You're not with these two then?

John No. They have just stopped me saying I'm a 'Free Trader'.

Bob 1 You mean a Smuggler.

Dick *(Aside to audience)* This is where I do my 'goody, goody' bit and say, *(Big flourish)* "Be off with you then, I only rob from the rich and give to the poor!"

John Thank you chum. Right I'll see you again lads. *(Exits)*

Dick Right you pair. What's yer names?

Both Bob.

Dick And you?

Both Bob.

Dick What? Like a Two Bob Piece or a Florin? *(To audience)* Sorry kids, you won't know about them?

Bob 1 I'm Bob 1 and he's Bob 2.

Bob 2 We are 'Peelers' or 'Bobbies', you see.

Dick Oh right. Now hold up your sticks - this is a hand out.

Bob 2 No I think you've got that wrong.

Dick Have I?

Bob 2 Yes. It's hold up your hands this is a stick up.

Bob 1 I don't suppose you've had much success as a Highwayman, with that sort of approach?

Dick Not a lot no, I've been very unfortunate. *(Sobbing and very sad)*

Bob 2 I'm not surprised!

Dick A robbery in Epping Forest went wrong and I had to gallop away on my speedy steed Black Bess. A load of your lot, 'Peelers and Bobbies' were chasing me.

Bob 1 What happened?

Dick Bess was too fast for them all and we left them far behind.

Bob 2 They've probably not had the training we've had. You see we are licenced to **arrest** someone!

Bob 1 But we are still waiting to!

Dick But there's more bad news I'm afraid. *(Very sad)* Bess collapsed and died after all her efforts. It's very, very, sad! *(Milk audience)* Oh It's worse than that! *(Much worse.)* Yes, I'm afraid Black Bess is dead!

Bob 1 Oh dear, poor little lamb.

Dick No, no, she was a horse! Anyway, that's enough of me. Your money of your life.

Bob 1 We don't have any money either, we work for the Government.

Bob 2 That's right and we're not even on the minimum wage.

Bob 1 My Mum can't even get a Council Flat!

Dick Why are you doing this job then?

Bob 2 Well our Boss, Squire Hawkins, Lord of the Manor and local MP says he'll make things far worse for us if we don't stop the Smugglers

Dick Don't you mean 'Free Traders'?

Bob 1 That's what they call themselves, but he says they are depriving him of his rightful Duty Tax. Not only that he already taxes 80% of what they earn in his Mines!

Dick Sounds a nasty sort to me.

Both Oh he is, he is!

Dick Right here's what I'll do, I'll let you go providing you can tell me where I can get hold of a horse.

Bob 2 Well the only person around here with a horse is Widow Fisher.

Bob 1 I understand it's going cheap

Bob 2 No, no! Horses go Neigh, chickens go Cheap!

Dick and Bob 1 Shut up!

Dick Where will I find this horse?

Bob 1 Through the village till you come to the Fish and Chip Shop.

Dick Cheers. Okay you're free to go, make sure you have some money next time I see you. *(Exits and they follow him off)*

Bob 2 Come on, I wonder what he'll make of Widow Fisher's 'Beauty'.

(Passage of time. Lights down and then back.)

Scene 2 *(same setting)*

(Dames music, "There is nothing like a Dame" as she enters)

Kitty Well hello everybody, oh it's so nice to see me! *(Poses)*
I expect you are wondering who I am, well I'm Kitty Fisher, I run the local Fish and Chip Shop. Yes that's what I'm down too these days, but in my younger years I used to be quite famous in High Society. *(To lady in audience.)* That's London High Society not the Musical dear! Yes I'm sorry to say I'm not as young as I once was. I'm approaching 50!

Stage Crew *(Shouts)* From which direction?

Kitty Watch it! *(To audience)* Now I think we can be good friends so when I come on I'll shout 'Hello everyone' and you can wave and shout like this, 'Hiya Kitty', *(Large waves with both arms)* Right little practice, 'Hello everyone'.

Aud. *(Waves)* Hiya Kitty.

Kitty Yes, that's so good. So that's me, **Catherine Maria Fisher**, *(Poses)* but now they call me Widow Fisher. That's right dear, I'm all alone now! But I've had quite a few husbands. My

last one went out one morning to catch some fish for our breakfast and he was gone so long, I was worried sick. We'd not got mobile phones in those days either you know!

I waited and waited but he never came back, *(Sobs)* never came back, *(Sobs)* I was so worried, I didn't know what to do. In the end, I had to make my own coffee and rustle up some baked beans.

Do you know someone told me after my last husband died, to get a dog! It's not the same though is it, let's face it. I mean after twelve months being together dogs are usually still pleased to see you!

So here I am all alone, that is apart from my daughter Polly. You've already met her, isn't she beautiful? Takes after me, you can tell, can't you? *(Poses)* Anyway, she helps me with the Fish and Chips, and I give her a hand at the local school. Oh, I love those kids you know, never been able to eat a whole one though!

So here I am all alone, **all alone**, wasting away. Mind you everything's still working! When I was starting on my career, yes dear **career**, my Mother gave me some good advice, she said, you always have to keep them guessing, so whatever you do when you go to bed, leave some item of clothing on. **So, I always wore my hat!** Yes, I'm sure there's a few more miles on the clock. Do you fancy a spin round the block young fellow? *(To man in audience.)*

Oh, isn't he handsome? He looks a bit Italian like Giacomo Casanova. Now he was a big friend of mine too. Oh, I've always loved Italian men, *(pause)* French, Spanish, Swizz, Greeks and all those Czechs. **Some paid cash of course!**

What's your name dear, come on tell Kitty don't be shy. *(Get his name, let's say Fred).*

Now I'm going to sing you a little song entitled "She was only the Vicar's daughter but a man never Pastor!

Suggested song.

Holding Out for a Hero. Bonnie Tyler.

Dick *(Enters at end of song.)* **Stand and Deliver**

Kitty That's what I was doing, dear!

Dick What?

Kitty Standing and delivering. A song!

Dick No, no! I want your money.

Kitty Haven't got any.

Dick What's with this village? Is everyone poor?

Kitty Yes dear, that us.

Dick I shall have to search you. Hands in the air. *(He feels all over her body and she loves it.)* No, I have to agree, you've no money.

Kitty Are you sure? Would you like to have another look? *(Holds arms up again).*

Dick No you've not got any money.

Kitty But if you were to do it all again I could use my 'Chip and Pin Card'. What's your name Sweetie?

Dick Dick Turpin

Kitty Dick Tulip?

Dick Turpin. Turpin!

Kitty Sorry. Sorry! Anyway, **I like the name!**

Dick I'm the deadly Highwayman. *(Poses)*

Kitty You look quite nice to me dear. Don't look very deadly.

Dick *(Takes his Mask and hat off.)* No, I suppose not. I'm too kind to be a Highwayman really.

Kitty A sensitive highwayman, and you look even better with your mask off. I like a sensitive man. *(To audience)* You know, someone who doesn't feel sick when I kiss them!

Dick You see, I only rob from the rich and give to the poor.

Kitty Oh a sort of Robin Hood. It'll never catch on! Well I'm poor, what do you think you could give me. *(Suggestively)*

Dick What had you in mind!

Kitty Have you got anything I might be interested in? Mind you be careful what you say because **(Fred)** already has his eye on me.

Dick Enough of this banter. We'll be here all day if we don't get on, and the Director won't be very pleased. I'm looking for Widow Fisher.

Kitty Then look no further, **for I am she!** *(Large sweeping bow.)*

Dick Good. Now I understand that you have a horse.

Kitty Yes, **'Beauty'**.

Dick *(To audience)* I was going to steal it, but, I understand it is going cheap. *(Stops her from saying it.)* No! Don't do the joke about a chicken we did it earlier!

Kitty Yes, I think we do can a trade. With Polly spending more time at the school I need some extra help in the Fish and Chip shop and you look just the man for the job! *(To audience)* **In fact any man fits the part!** But first I want you to come to my party.

Dick Oh I like parties.

Kitty There will be lots of beer to drink.

Dick Oh I like beer.

Kitty Loud music. Rocking and Rolling to 'The Stones'.

Dick Oh I like rocking and rolling.

Kitty Then there will be lots of **adult** fun games.

Dick Oh I like **adult** fun games.

Kitty Kissing and hugging.

Dick Oh I like kissing and hugging.

Kitty And, of course, Jockey Knock?

Dick Oh I like What's Jockey Knock?

Kitty It's a bit like Postman's Knock but with more horseplay!

Dick Okay, what time shall I arrive.

Kitty Anytime at all dear, **there will just be the two of us!** *(Suggestively)*

Dick Now, what about the horse? Is it a fast horse?

Kitty Oh yes, you should see how fast it runs when it wants its oats! So, come along, I need to get back to the Chippy.

Dick What sort of things will I be doing o help?

Kitty Well you've got a sharp dagger there so you can peel the Potatoes, but your first job will be to update the price of our Pies. I'm not charging enough they are only a £1 each and have it on good authority that in the Chip Shops in Trinidad, Jamaica and Barbados, Steak and Kidney pies are £2, Beef and Ale pies are £1.90 and a Chicken and Mushroom pie is £1.80.

Dick Really?

Kitty Yes! Those are the 'Pie Rates' of the Caribbean.

Dick *(To audience)* I promise you they don't get any better! Just one thing Kitty, If I'm coming with you I think we'd better tell everyone my name is John Palmer. *(Taps his nose)* Got it?

Kitty Got it! (*Taps Dick's nose*) Come along I'll introduce you to my 'Beauty'. (*If audience laugh here.*) Hey, they are making up their own jokes now! (*Both Exit.*)

(Blackout end of scene)

Scene 3. Woodland area.

(Harry, Polly and John enter)

Harry Yes, it was a bit too close for comfort John, we only just got our stuff away in time. It was a good job you distracted them long enough for us to get through the secret tunnels. How did you manage it?

John Well I had a bit of help from a Highwayman who turned up just as they were going to arrest me.

Polly What a masked man waving his guns? Oh dear, was he frightening?

John No, not really. He seemed a bit 'flakey', and not sure what he was doing. I think he sees himself as a bit of a Robin Hood type. Robbing the rich and giving to the poor. When he realised I was just a local villager he let me go.

Harry What about Bob 1 and Bob 2.

John I don't think he will hurt them they are as skint as the rest of us!

Polly They are not bad lads either, I feel for them. Lord Hawkins bullies them and has them in the palm of his hand.

John He's got his finger in every fraudulent scheme around. We just can't prove it. And being an MP in a 'Rotten Borough' where he owns all the households means he can get away with anything.

Harry He'll throw them out of their cottages if they don't do his dirty work.

Polly If he didn't pay such a pittance to the Miners and hike the tithes and taxes up to such a high level we wouldn't have to resort to smuggling.

John I've told you before Polly, we are 'Free Traders'.

Harry Ha, ha! It's a pity Lord Hawkins and Hanging Judge Jefferies don't see it that way.

John Well at least the Westminster Parliament are trying to help the poor and needy. They have stopped kids working down the mines more than 9 hours a day.

Polly And, introduced school education for them.

John You and your Mother are doing a fine job teaching them to read and write.

Polly Helping me has given her another interest since Father died.

Harry We'd better give the others a hand distributing our stuff to the villagers.

Polly I can come and help till it's time for School. *(Both exit.)*

(Passage of time. Lights down and then back.)

Scene 4. (Same setting.)

(Squire Hawkins and Bob 1 & Bob 2 enter)

Sq So, they have outwitted you again have they. Doesn't take much doing, does it?

Both No Boss!

Sq I wonder why I bother paying you!

Bob 1 You don't!

Sq Perhaps not, but I do own your cottages and if you don't put a stop to all this smuggling you'll be out 'Lock. Stock and Barrel'

Bob 2 'Aint got any!

Sq What?

Bob 2 Locks, stock or barrels.

Sq Shut up! Now are you quite clear on your position. You are poor stupid peasants, but I'll let you be my right hand, men.

Bob 1 But we can't both be a right hand, man!

Bob 2 One of us will need to be a left hand, man!

Sq Oh this is hard work! Look, you will be my key allies, sidekicks, but woe betide you if you let me down, I'll have you drummed out of the Service and thrown out of your cottages onto the street. Just so we all know the situation, any other breach of discipline and I'll throw you in gaol too! Do you understand?

Both No, your Lordship.

Sq No worries! I want you for your muscle not your brains. **Do you understand?**

Both Yes, your Lordship.

Sq Oh that is so good, because you see, *(gently said)* I just want us to be one big happy family, so if your moral does not improve you will be **flogged!** Now we need a plan. I must find out when their next consignment is due and which Beach they intend landing it on. This

smuggling is affecting my profits so I've had to put up rents, tithes and taxes. Now how are we going to do that?

Bob 1 Er, perhaps we should ask them.

Sq Don't be stupid, they won't tell us that, but, wait a minute the kids might.

Bob 2 Do you want us to get hold of some of the kids and torture them? *(To Bob 1)* They could be our first arrest!

Sq No. That won't work.

Bob 1 We could make them sit and watch repeat showings of Dad's Army!

Sq Shut up! The easiest way is to send in spies. Infiltrate their inner sanctum.

Bob 1 Spies! You mean someone like 007 James Bond? Make sure they are shaken not stirred!

Sq Now our stupid Government has stopped all the little brats in the village from working over 9 hours a day in my Mines. It is affecting all my profits! He's also sending them to school for 2 hours a day as well. Whoever heard of filthy little snotty nose brats being educated. They'll be wanting cakes and creams teas next!

Bob 2 So how's that going to help us then?

Sq Shut up and listen! This is the plan.

Both The plan!

Sq They finish work in the Mines and then go to Polly Fisher's school for 2 hours.

Both Yes, yes.

Sq And, so will you.

Bob 1 What?

Sq Go to school.

Bob 2 What for?

Sq So you can listen to what they are talking about.

Bob 1 Oh that won't be interesting, they'll be going on about who fancies who, and what's in the latest pop charts.

Bob 2 Who's going to win 'The Voice' and what's the latest gossip from Strictly Come Dancing.

Sq No, no. They are bound to have heard their Fathers talking at work, and will know when the next shipment is due.

Bob 1 Are you sure?

Sq Yes!

Bob 1 But they will recognise us.

Sq Not if you dress up as kids yourselves.

Bob 2 What go to lessons?

Bob 1 Why not. It will do you good. You're illiterate.

Bob 1 Hey watch it you. I'd hit you for that if I knew what it meant.

Sq Shut up! Oh, what a brilliant plan, and it was all my own idea. Don't you think it's a brilliant plan?

Aud No.

Sq Oh, yes it is! Etc. etc. Shut up! You need to catch the smugglers.

Bob 1 They call themselves Free Traders!

Sq They're **smugglers!** Shut up! Get on with it.

Bob 2 *(As they Exit)* Here Bob, I don't want to be a Physic

Bob 1 Physic?

Bob 2 Yearh, he said we were his physic's!

Bob 1 Sidekicks! Fool! *(Exit)*

Sq *(To audience)* Oh dear, oh, dear. Me a man of such standing, high ambitions and of course intelligence, having to depend on a couple of idiots like that. One wonders how they managed to pass the entrance exam to be Customs and Excise Men. Now what to do?

Hm! One does have to at least be **seen** going through the proper legal channels.

Of course, those two idiots are likely to mess up so I've got a backup plan. My Head of Estate and loyal henchman Grime, has already infiltrated the gang. Once he finds out where they are hiding their contraband, I'll steal it from them. Then I've got the best of both worlds, haven't I? Ha. Ha, a wonderful idea. Don't you agree?

Aud No.

Sq Oh, yes it is.

Aud Oh, no it isn't.

Sq Go boil your heads Ha, Ha, ha. *(Exits)*

(End of Scene.)

Scene 5. Village and Docks. A few days later.

(Kitty and Polly enter.)

Kitty Hello everyone. *(Waves)*

Aud *(Waves)* Hiya, Kitty.

Polly Well that was a nice response Mother. Oh, that's a nice locket.

Kitty My new fellow gave it to me.

Polly Not another new fellow!

Kiitty He's lovely.

Polly Sounds nice. What's his name?

Kitty Dick, er, er, John Palmer. *(To audience)* Shh!! He's always bringing me little trinkets he's say he's picked up.

Polly Ah! *(To audience)* That's making sense now!

Kitty Lovely chap with a heart of gold.

Polly Mother have you heard about all the villagers who have found gold coins on their doorstep?

Kitty Oh that happened to me this morning, I found a bag of gold coins.

Polly Who from?

Kitty I don't know but there was a note, it said "For Kitty. Really enjoying myself, I know you like Czech but I only have cash!". *(To audience)* That's a reference to an earlier joke, dear! You should have been paying attention!

Polly Who sent it?

Kitty No idea! *(Winks)*

Polly You've no idea? Well will you tell this person, who you don't know, and no idea who it is, just to be very careful.

Kitty Why is that dear?

Polly Squire Hawkins is leaving so stone unturned to find the Highwayman who has been robbing his coaches. It might be a good idea if it was to stop for a while!

Kitty Right dear. I'll tell Dick ... er, er, the person, whoever it is, that is, should I ever get to find out! But I now I really need some help from you? *(Aside, stage whisper.)* Excuse me, what happens next?

Polly Haven't you got a script?

Kitty Well yes, but I dropped a cup of coffee all over this page! Tell you what I'll borrow one from the Stage Manager. *(Exits)*

(John, Harry, Grime enter)

Grime Thanks for letting me be part of your band John, hope I can help you with the 'Free Trading'.

John I'm sure you can.

Harry Your help unloading the other day was much appreciated.

Grime I've heard there's another delivery on the way, when are you expecting it?

John Well that's something we don't talk about until the day it's due. That way there is less chance of the Custom & Excise men finding out.

Grime Yes that would make it a bit difficult, but we could always *(Runs finger across throat)* Quirk!

John **No!** That is definitely not the way we work at all.

Harry Forget about that idea altogether, or we will be parting company.

Grime Fine, fine. I was only kidding! I'll see you later. *(Exit)* Give me a shout when the next delivery is due.

Polly I'm worried about him.

Harry He's just a bit keen on the thought of adventure and excitement I think Polly.

Sq *(Enters. He is ogling Polly all the time.)* Ah the Carter Brothers and oh I say '**Ding Dong**' the lovely Polly Fisher. Well "**Hello**" Miss Fisher.

Polly Squire. *(Very short.)* I think we should be moving on John.

Sq Oh you not leaving are you my dear? I thought we'd have a little tate-e-tate. Perhaps you'd care to join me for tiffin in the local Pub.

Polly Out of the question! *(Exits with Harry and John starts to follow)*

Sq Don't go Carter I need your help. I say, look here, are you sure a man of your breeding should be seen with the likes of Polly Fisher?

John I beg your pardon!! And you are still asking for my help?

Sq No offence old chap but we superior people have to keep to our station in Society. You are top dog around here so perhaps you could tell me where the Highwayman robbing all my coaches is hiding?

John Someone is stealing all the taxes you have collected?

Sq Yes, I know that! I have just told you so!

John But, I don't know. It's certainly not one of the local villagers.

Sq Well despite all your faults I do know you tell the truth. Tell me how did you get the title King of Prussia?

John It's just a nickname because I'm from Prussia Cove in Cornwall.

Sq Oh! Nickname! *(It dawns on him.)* So, you are not aristocratic then?

John Oh no, I'm just from a small fishing community.

Sq Oh! *(Aside)* **That changes everything!**

John Well I must be off Squire. Good luck finding your highwayman. *(Exits)*

Kitty **It's School time!** *(Enters ringing the school bell and walks across the stage and back off.)* Time for school children. Hurry along now. School time!

(Grime enters passing Kitty on the way.)

Grime I waited till it was safe. Has he gone? *(Head gag)*

Sq I said **not** to contact me! Well what news have you?

Grime Someone is stopping your coaches in the forest, taking your taxes we collected, and here's the best bit, giving the lot back to the poor.

Sq Look, I know all this!

Grime Yes, but I thought we'd bring this lot down here up to speed. *(Audience)*

Sq What other news have you?

Grime Another coach has been stopped and robbed your Lordship. That make six in the last two days!

Sq So! What are you doing about it man? Well?

Grime There's not a lot I can do, and I'm afraid these robberies are having an effect on your finances your Lordship. Your accounts do not look as good as they ought to be.

Sq So you have failed me! How can a highwayman evade you and all my security?

Grime Well he just disappears into the forest. It is very thick and dense my lord.

Sq It's not the only thing round here that's thick and dense! You'd better do something about it **and quickly**. When you catch him. I'll hang him from the Gibbet and leave him for the crows! (*Evil laugh*). Who can this insolent highwayman be?

Grime No one knows, it's a stranger. It's not '**The Lone Ranger**', but he does wear a mask!

Sq What other news? How have you got on with the smugglers? It had better be better news?

Grime Well I **have** managed to join their gang but they are not telling me much at the moment.

Sq Just keep at it and don't contact me again until you have some good news. You go that way and I'll go this. (*They all Exit but opposite to what he said.*) **(End of Scene.)**

Scene 6. Schoolroom.

Suggested Song. Pink Floyd. Another Brick in the Wall.

(*Kitty rings the bell and children start to appear on stage. Dancers as St Trinians, Children involved, fighting, pea shooters, paper aeroplanes general mayhem.*)

Kitty Hello everybody.

Aud (*Waves*) Hiya Kitty.

Kitty Settle down please, settle down please. Please be quiet boys and girls. Can we have some silence please. (*No response to any of this*) Time for a little tact and diplomacy, that's all that is needed. **SIT DOWN AND SHUT UP!** (*Immediate silence.*)

(*Charlie enters and tries to creep in without being seen.*)

Kitty Charlie! I've seen you. You're late, you should have been here at 4.00 o'clock.

Charlie Why, what happened!!

Kitty Nothing happened! Sit down! Now call 'The Register'

Charlie (*Stands up shouts*) The Register.

Tom (*Rushes in.*) I've just had a Ploughman's lunch! Hide me!

Kitty Why?

Tom Well I think he wanted it himself!

Kitty Sit Down! I can't be bothered with this any more. Anyone who isn't here shout I'm not here, Miss. No? Right.

Kitty Where's Johnny Brown?

Jenny He's absent.

Kitty **I was aware of that**, but he's not here today either.

Tom We've got a letter from his mum. (*Hands letter to Kitty, who reads*)

Kitty Jonny hasn't come, because he hasn't been. I've given him something to make him go, and when he's been he'll come. Well that seems straightforward. Now you two children were late, why was that?

Sally I missed the school bus.

Kitty But we don't have a school bus.

Sally That would be why I missed it then!

Kitty Sit Down! And where were you yesterday.

Will I forgot to come because I'm losing my memory!

Kitty When did that start?

Will When did what start?

Kitty Sit Down! (*To audience*) Oh, I do wish Polly would hurry up. I shall have to improvise with the lessons till she arrives. Who likes poetry?

Sue Yeah, I do, I writ me own.

Kitty (*Whinces*) Writ me own? Writ me own? Where's your grammar?

Sue She's at home with Granddad.

Kitty Look. We write, she writes, I write, they write.

Charlie OK you all write, but she writ this one.

Will Anyway, we should not be at school today.

Kitty Not at school? Why not?

Will (*Said very dramatically*) Because it's raining and that means we can't go out to play at break time and that's the only time, we young minds, eager to learn, with great hopes of the future, can socialise properly. And to socialise properly is essential for our physical and emotional development. Therefore, we cannot channel our energy in a constructive manner. Hence, with all this extra energy, we start thinking about improper and useless things. So, of course for us to ensure the betterment of our inner selves it is essential for us to have social discourse. So, you see Miss Kitty, this is not a day to come to school.

Kitty Say that again.

Will Because it is raining ...

