

TOYS

A family musical for Christmas or any time!

A musical play by Cenarth Fox. © Copyright Cenarth Fox 1977

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Published by FOX PLAYS

ISBN 0 949175 07 2

Orchestrations & Backing CD

Toys is scored for piano, guitar, bass, percussion, drum-kit, flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets and trombones. These band parts will give your production a real boost and are for hire. There is also a marvellous CD with both rehearse and perform versions of the score.

Production Package

Groups staging a FOX PLAYS show receive support in the form of free production notes (set-design, costumes, lighting, props, etc) and with musicals, a free set of all the lyrics for chorus members. There is also a video of the show plus some colour photos.



TOYS staged by Ozrij 1977

www.foxplays.com

**Some reviews of this popular musical staged by adults,
primary, middle and secondary schools and youth theatre**

In pure entertainment terms *Toys* is hard to beat. It was a high energy, fast-paced production and the obvious enjoyment of the actors proved infectious to its appreciative opening night audience. Fine, family entertainment.

South Grafton HS

There is always something delightful about a group of performers who obviously enjoy acting as much as the audience likes watching. *Toys* is a treat for young and old alike. *Toys* is a show not to be missed.

Shepparton Theatre Arts Company

Another successful production thanks to the script! *Toys* went extremely well. "The best ever" was one comment. Thanks again for a great show.

Singleton PS

A lot of fun with some serious messages, *Toys* tackles issues of prejudice, justice, love and life.

Methodist Ladies College

A highly entertaining production with an underlying message of care and co-operation. Audiences were delighted by the witty script and the singing and dancing. *Toys* is a visual delight that captured audiences of all ages.

KooWeeRup HS

This enchanting musical is truly a family show. It operates on different levels with entrancing entertainment for children but many serious and topical issues for adults.

Alpha Theatre

A wonderful musical, our best ever production

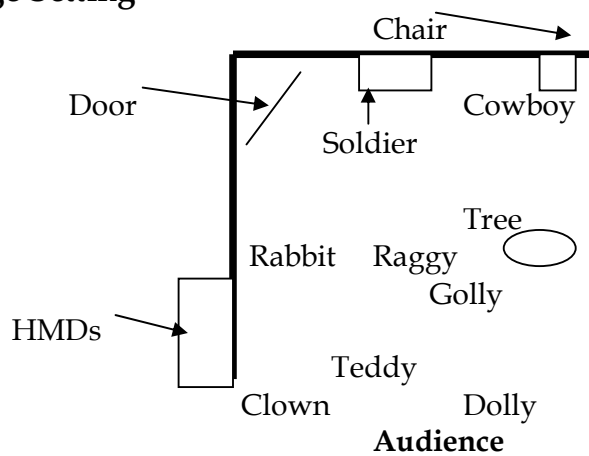
Port Pirie Youth Theatre

2 TOYS

Setting

A lounge-room on Christmas Eve. Santa has just delivered many beautiful presents which are placed around the room. But these are no ordinary presents. Everything is huge. There's a sentry-box for Soldier, a pretty box for Dolly, a colourful box for Clown, some human's pencils, a large toy-box for the old toys and lots more. Several small (and solid) presents are placed around the tub holding the giant Christmas tree. The trunk soars up through the stage roof. A huge human's chair is upstage. Cowboy is propped on the huge chair. Your set could look like this.

Stage Setting



Characters

Ted E. Bear - aggressive, bossy, prejudiced, brave, respected, fallible

Cowboy - honest, genuine, coward, heart-of-gold, easily led, friendly

Rabbit - nervous, easily scared, needs friends, timid, shy

Golly - kind, diligent, sincere, likes Raggy, stands up for himself

Dolly - fuss-pot, selfish, self-centred, snobbish, speaks her mind

Clown - practical-joker, always joking, silly, loves games

Soldier - a bit boring, too straight, NCO status, plays it by the book

Raggy - cheerful, friendly, cares for others, likes Golly

Floppy - a hand-me-down Raggy

Moppy - a hand-me-down Golly

Sloppy - a hand-me-down Dolly

Hoppy - a hand-me-down Rabbit

Whoppy - a hand-me-down Clown

Soldiers - small group like Soldier but with different coloured sash

Cowboys & Cowgirls - small group in Western garb [*Annie Oakley & Wyatt Earp*]

Indians - small group of Red Indians

TOYS 3

Musical Numbers

1.	Overture	Orchestra
2.	Toys	Principals
3.	Escape	Principals
4.	Entrance of the Toy Soldiers	Orchestra
5.	Saloon-Bar Rag	Orchestra
6.	Toys (Reprise)	Company
7.	Dear Santa	Raggy
8.	It's What's Inside	Company
9.	It's What's Inside (Interlude)	Orchestra
10.	It's What's Inside (Reprise)	Company
11.	Good Lookin'	Dolly, Ted, Cowboy & Soldier
12.	My Heart's In The Right Place	Hand-Me-Downs
13.	Entr'acte	Orchestra
14.	Execution	Orchestra
15.	Forgive and Forget	Company
16.	I'm Sure of You	Raggy & Golly
17.	Have A Go	Company
18.	Curtain Calls	Company
19.	Playout	Company

No. 1 - Overture

(The curtain rises. The lights come up. It's Christmas Eve. Santa has delivered several beautiful presents. We can only just see them. The room is dimly lit. Moonlight streams in from a window. The TOYS are still. They wear large name-tags [gift-tags] and when removed, indicate the toy is now alive. Silence. Stillness. Pause. Without moving, TEDDY speaks in a loud whisper)

Teddy Cowboy? Cowboy? Can you hear me?

(TEDDY removes his tag and comes alive. He can't find COWBOY and the darkness confuses him. He moves to DOLLY by mistake and whispers as he unties her tag)

Teddy I thought Cowboys knew all about ropes and things. If I have to help you with ... *(DOLLY comes alive, pops forward and fusses)* Dolly!

Dolly Keep away. Don't touch me. Ohh. *(She fusses over her hair etc)*

Teddy Be quiet. I'm looking for Cowboy.

Dolly Is my ribbon straight? What about my bow? I need a mirror.
(DOLLY looks for a mirror, TEDDY looks for COWBOY but "finds" GOLLY. TEDDY begins to remove GOLLY'S tag but is interrupted by a now-curious DOLLY)

Dolly What are you doing, Teddy?

Teddy *(Keeps working)* Mind your own business.

Dolly *(Annoyed)* You can't undo presents. Stop that at once!

Teddy *(Almost there)* I have to find Cowboy and ... *(GOLLY comes alive)*
Golly!

Golly *(Full of beans)* Hi ya Ted ol' toy. What's happnin'? I know. We're havin' a party.

4 TOYS

Teddy *(Mild panic)* Be quiet. There's no party.
Golly Great idea. A Christmas party for all the toys. *(Tells the world)* I love part ... *(A furious TEDDY gags GOLLY)*
Teddy *(Hisses at scared GOLLY)* I'm looking for Cowboy.
Golly *(Released. Whispers)* Oh I get it. A party for Cowboy.
Teddy *(Explodes)* No! Will you shut up, you *stupid* toy! *(DOLLY & GOLLY shocked)*
Dolly *(Furious)* Teddy! How *dare* you speak like that!
Teddy I'll speak how I like. *(Points at GOLLY)* Especially to him!
Soldier *(Undoing his tag)* I say! *(TRIO turn)* Any trouble over there?
Teddy Soldier! *(SOLDIER comes down, GOLLY greets him)*
Golly No trouble Mister Soldier, *(Salutes)* sir. Just a li'l ol' party.
Clown *(Pops out of box)* Party! I love parties! *(TEDDY despairs)*
Soldier I'll get the lights.
(SOLDIER moves to light-switch. He must stand on a present. It may take time)
Teddy *(Shaking)* Please, please. There is no party!
Clown *(At TEDDY)* Who's it for?
Teddy No-one. There's no party!
Dolly Yes there is. It's for Cowboy.
Clown Yippee! Let's go and find him.

(GOLLY, DOLLY and CLOWN are excited. They move to RAGGY and remove her tag. TEDDY non-plussed, shakes with despair. Full, bright lights come up. TEDDY more agitated. SOLDIER re-joins party)

Golly *(As RAGGY comes alive)* Raggy!
Raggy Oh. Hello Golly and ... *(Sees the OTHERS)* my, what's happened?
Clown We're having a party for Cowboy. Come and help us find him. *(Excited, RAGGY joins OTHERS crowding round RABBIT. They work on the tag)*

Teddy You're making a terrible mistake. If you don't stop now, I'll ... *(OTHERS call "Surprise". RABBIT gets a fright and scampers upstage. GOLLY goes after RABBIT. The OTHERS think it's funny but TEDDY is fuming)*

Teddy See what you've done. You've frightened Rabbit. You bullies.
Golly *(Bringing RABBIT back)* It's okay, Rabbit, it's okay. Just relax.
Rabbit I'm scared. Please don't frighten me, I scare very easily.
Raggy *(Comforts RABBIT)* Sorry Rabbit. We didn't mean any harm.
Soldier I'll protect you.
Clown *(Excited, bubbling)* And wait'll you hear our news.
Teddy Don't listen to them. They should be back as presents.
Soldier Well how come you're out?
Dolly He's looking for Cowboy.
Clown That's right. It's Cowboy's birthday. *(OTHERS excited)*
Teddy *(Angry)* It's not Cowboy's birthday!

Cowboy *(Removing tag)* Somebody lookin' fur me? *(EVERYONE turns)*

TOYS 5

Toys *(Huge surprise)* Cowboy!
Teddy *(At last)* There you are. *(COWBOY comes down)*
Cowboy What's all the noise about pardners?
Raggy *(Hugging him)* Happy birthday, Cowboy. *(OTHERS crowd round)*
Cowboy Hey, hey, hold y'horses. Mighty kind of y'all but there's somethin' real important y'oughta know. *(Pause)* It ain't me birthday. *(TOYS groan with disappointment. TEDDY seizes the opportunity)*
Teddy See, I told you.
Clown *(Mortified)* But I love parties. Please Cowboy, say it's your birthday.
Cowboy Y'want me t'tell a fib? *(TOYS shake heads and say "No")*
Golly *(Breaks the gloom)* Birthday or not, Cowboy, would y'like a party?
Cowboy *(He'd love a party)* Y'darn tootin' I would. *(TOYS excited again)*
Teddy *(Re-panics)* But if you have a party, you'll wake the humans. *(TOYS laugh at TEDDY. Every TOY knows that humans can't hear toys talk)*
Soldier Come on Ted, you know better than that.
Golly You know humans can't hear toys.
Teddy *(Straw-clutching)* But we don't need a party.
Clown Who cares? Let's just have one. *(TOYS excited. TEDDY calls)*
Teddy You can't have a party without a reason. *(TOYS saddened. Pause)*
Rabbit There is a reason. It's Christmas Eve. *(TOYS delighted)*
Golly Hands up those who want a party? *(TOYS raise hands, RABBIT two. TEDDY does nothing)* Against? *(TEDDY raises a hand and is heckled)*
Raggy Come on Teddy, don't spoil it.
Rabbit Please Teddy.
Teddy *(Pause)* I'll have to think about it. *(Sigh from OTHERS. TEDDY wanders DL thinking)* If we have a party, you've got to let me sing.
Golly *(Thrilled)* Of course Teddy. Everyone can sing!
Teddy *(Pause. Smiles)* Okay, *(Loud)* let's sing!
(MUSIC BEGINS. EVERYONE cheers)

No. 2 Toys

Principals *We're toys who love to play and do so while we may
Though night time is the right time when the humans go away.
To play is such a breeze, we love to trick and tease
Though many humans, any humans always make us freeze.
(TOYS freeze. TEDDY moves about assuring them everything's okay)*
Teddy It's okay. We're safe. The humans are all asleep.
Principals *We toys have joys that no humans know about
Tis fun to run*
Teddy *Hey, you wanna hear me shout?*
Principals *It's great when late, try dancing around the floor*

Teddy

Look out! Look out! There are humans at the door!

6 TOYS

(TOYS panic and scatter. TEDDY points at them and laughs)

Teddy Tricked you. Tricked you. Only joking. Ha, ha. *(etc)*

Toys *(Recovering)* Oh Teddy ... That's not funny ... Trickster ... *(etc)*

Principals

*We're toys who love to play and do so while we may
Though night time is the right time when the humans go away.
To play is such a breeze, we love to trick and tease
Though many humans, any humans always make us freeze.*

(As before, the TOYS freeze. COWBOY moves around telling them it's okay)

Cowboy Relax pardners. This is your friendly sheriff speakin'. Relax.

Principals

*Oh me, oh my, we love doing what we do
Right now and how, I like it here with you.
Just smile and sing, there's nothing you have to hide*

Cowboy

Look out! That shout! There's somebody outside.

(TOYS panic and scatter. COWBOY points at them and laughs)

Cowboy Hey, hey. Tricked y'all, pardners. I was only kiddin'. *(etc)*

Toys

(Recovering) Oh, Cowboy ... Smarty-pants ... I'll fix you ... *(etc)*

Principals

*We're toys who love to play ...
We are the toys, we are the toys,
We are the toys, we are the toys (Repeat)
The toys, the toys, we are the toys
We are the toys.*

(EVERYONE collapses. The song was fun but hard work. They're happy)

Golly

Gosh dat was fun. What d'ya say, toys? (Happy agreement)

Raggy

(Thrilled) Aren't you glad we did it, Teddy?

Teddy

(Begrudgingly) Yeah. I guess it was okay.

Clown

(Sings this line a la opera) Wah! I love singing. (Laughter)

Rabbit

You know something. I'm not frightened anymore.

(RABBIT congratulated)

Soldier

Merry Christmas, everyone.

Toys

(Lots of happiness) Merry Christmas!

Teddy

(Stretches) Time to be presents again. I'll fix your tag, Dolly.

Dolly

(Fussing) Oh all right, but be careful. (TOYS replace tags)

Rabbit

Can't we play another game?

Golly

Not now, Rabbit. The humans'll be here soon. (TOYS return to places)

Teddy

(Helping DOLLY) We'll play again tomorrow night.

Clown

But we won't be presents then.

Dolly

I'll have my own doll's house with my own special bed.

Cowboy

(Innocent enthusiasm) Gee willikers, any room fur me?

TOYS 7

Dolly *(Snaps)* Certainly not. *(Carries on showing-off)* I'll have my own bath, my own vanity, my own mirror, my own everything!

Raggy But no-one to play with.

Dolly So? Who cares? Anyway, your games are silly. *(TOYS protest)*

Soldier I saw you singing before, Dolly. *(OTHERS agree)*

Teddy *(Interrupting)* All right, time for tags. Come on. Everyone make yourself a present. *(TOYS reluctantly put final touches to themselves as presents)*

Cowboy *(Crossing to TEDDY)* Say Ted, her special bed sounds mighty fine.

Teddy *(Pushing him)* Get back to your place. And be quiet. *(Looks around then whispers)* This time, be ready.

Cowboy Be ready? *(TEDDY shushes him. COWBOY whispers)* Oh, right. Gotcha.

(TEDDY creeps around checking on the TOYS. Each says "Goodnight" or "Merry Christmas" repeated by an impatient TEDDY. He waves a paw in front of some faces to make sure they're a present. Satisfied, TEDDY beckons to COWBOY who tip-toes over, stumbles and is grabbed by TEDDY)

Teddy *(Panic whisper)* You crazy galoot!

Cowboy Sorry, Ted. Guess I tripped. *(GOLLY sighs. COWBOY grabs TEDDY in fear)* What was that?

Teddy Golly, stupid. Now stay here. *(TEDDY creeps over to GOLLY)*

Cowboy *(Whispers)* What's happnin'? *(TEDDY returns fuming)*

Teddy Will you be quiet? *(COWBOY speechless)* We can't afford another mistake. Right, they're all presents. Come on, it's now or never. *(TEDDY sets off creeping DL. COWBOY hasn't moved. Pause. COWBOY calls)*

Cowboy *(Whispers)* Ted. *(TEDDY turns and fumes)*

Teddy *(Furious whisper)* What now?

Cowboy I furgot m'lasso.

Teddy Leave it. Just get moving.

Cowboy I can't leave m'lasso, Ted. I feel kinda ... undressed.

Teddy All right, all right. But hurry up! *(COWBOY creeps back to his spot and looks for the lasso. He holds it aloft)*

Cowboy Here it is, Ted.

Teddy Good. I might need it to string you up.

(COWBOY with lasso creeps to TEDDY. As he passes RABBIT, GOLLY sighs again, COWBOY draws his gun and spins around. RABBIT comes alive and sees gun. RABBIT mimes a scream and sets off upstage like a frightened human - again. TEDDY goes after her)

Rabbit *(Mutters away)* I'm frightened, I'm frightened. Please don't hurt me. Please don't ... *(Continues)*

Teddy It's okay Rabbit. (*RABBIT babbles away*) Please Rabbit. Please be quiet. (*RABBIT keeps babbling. TEDDY panics and screams*) Rabbit!

8 TOYS

(This blast turns RABBIT to stone, mesmerizes COWBOY and wakes the TOYS. They come alive and remove their tags. What's going on?)

Toys What's going on? ...What was that? ... etc

Teddy Please be quiet, Rabbit. Cowboy and I are trying to escape.

Rabbit (*At the top of her voice*) Escape!

(TOYS - not COWBOY & TEDDY - whisper "Escape" one after another. The word races around the room. TEDDY turns to see EVERYONE up and about. Flustered, he moves to them. MUSIC BEGINS)

Teddy No, it's not true. We're only playing a game! No! Please!

No. 3 Escape

Principals *Teddy, no, no Teddy, Teddy no. Teddy, no, no Teddy, Teddy no.*

Teddy *I can go where I want to go. You can't make me stay here and so.*

Principals *Don't start that old story again the plot's so thin*

Don't fight us or we'll fight you and you know we'll win.

Teddy *Why pick on me, why pick on me? Leave me alone just let me be.*

Principals *You did all this you crept out and made us look fools*

Now you try to run off and break all Santa's rules.

Teddy, no, no, Teddy, no, no.

Teddy, no, no, Teddy, no, no. Teddy no!

(COWBOY could join the other TOYS in this song in condemning TEDDY only because he's stupid and doesn't know any better. However, immediately the song ends, TEDDY and COWBOY are surrounded and bombarded with questions from some very angry TOYS. Don't pause for applause)

Golly Escape Teddy!

Soldier Whose orders?

Clown Not funny.

Raggy Why Teddy?

Dolly How awful!

Rabbit Escape Teddy?

Toys Escape Teddy? (*Louder*) Escape Teddy?

(TEDDY rises. Attack is the best form of defence. He is fierce and angry)

Teddy Yes, escape, escape, escape! (*TOYS are frightened. Pause*)

Rabbit I'm getting frightened again. (*TOYS regain composure*)

Golly Toys can't escape, Teddy. They have to stay with humans.

Teddy Well I'm different.

Soldier If Santa finds out, you'll be in serious trouble.

Dolly I'm going to tell, Santa. I'm going to dob you in. (*She would too*)

Teddy (*Sarcastic*) Good one, Dolly. First you have to escape and that's illegal!

Raggy I think you owe us an explanation, Teddy. (*OTHERS agree*)

Teddy I owe you nothing. Now clear off. Cowboy and I are going to escape.
(*OTHERS murmur "Cowboy" and all turn to him*)

9 TOYS

Cowboy (*Reluctant*) Ah ... I ain't goin', Ted.

Teddy (*Fuming with disbelief and anger*) What?!

Cowboy I changed me mind. I don't wanna escape. (*Sic*)

Teddy All right you stuffingless cowboy, I'll escape by myself.

Soldier (*Grabs TEDDY who struggles*) No Ted, we won't let you.

Teddy Let me go! Take your paws me this instant!

(*GOLLY grabs TEDDY'S other arm*)

Golly (*Emotional*) Toys never escape, Ted, never, ever, ever.

Clown (*Helping subdue TEDDY*) And you're not going to be the first.

Teddy (*Struggling*) Let go. Let go you stupid toys, I'm doing this for you!

(*The struggle continues then stops suddenly. The TOYS are confused*)

Soldier (*Releasing TEDDY*) Did you say "for us"?

Teddy (*Adjusting his clothes*) Yes. For all of you. (*TOYS puzzled*)

Rabbit I don't understand.

Teddy None of you understand. None of you think. If you cared about other toys, you'd know the rules are being broken.

Clown What rules?

Teddy The Toy Rules of course. (*Louder*) One!

(*TOYS except CLOWN spring to attention. This drill they know by heart. It's ceremonial. CLOWN'S a bit slow on the uptake. As drill proceeds, CLOWN remembers and has just about caught up when they finish*)

Toys Toys must never be left out in the rain.

Teddy Two!

Toys Broken arms and legs must be replaced.

Teddy And three!

Toys Hand-me-downs must only be given to nice humans.

Clown But those rules are for humans, not toys.

Teddy Exactly. And what happens when humans break the rules and still receive toys from Santa? Well? I know for certain, toys are being smashed! (*TOYS gasp*)

Dolly (*Angry*) Why haven't the elves told Santa?

Raggy Perhaps there aren't enough elves.

Teddy Perhaps Santa doesn't care. (*Hostile reaction*) Well if the humans are mistreating their toys, how come we were delivered? (*Pause*) Something is definitely wrong.

Rabbit (*OTHERS stunned*) I'm definitely getting frightened again.

Teddy If I can escape to the North Pole, I can tell Santa and ...

Clown (*Taking control*) The North Pole! What's wrong with the flag pole? Much easier to climb. Or the totem-pole. (*CLOWN does brief Indian war-dance. COWBOY draws guns. CLOWN back into spiel*) That's it!

Totem-pole. Dead-easy to find. Just follow the arrows. Arrows, totem-pole. Get it?

10 TOYS

(CLOWN falls about laughing. The OTHERS were taken in by CLOWN'S gusto but their interest turns to disgust. They groan at the terrible joke. TEDDY continues)

- Teddy** If I can reach the North Pole, I can tell Santa about toys being mistreated. Do you want to be left out in the rain?
- Toys** No.
- Teddy** Do you want to lose an arm or leg?
- Toys** *(Louder)* No.
- Teddy** Then I must escape. *(Emphatic)* I must tell Santa.
(Pause. The TOYS are ashamed. TEDDY was doing this for them)
- Soldier** Sorry I grabbed you, Ted.
- Golly** Me too, Ted. Real sorry.
- Raggy** It's a very long way to the North Pole, Teddy. Can you really make it?
- Rabbit** I'd be scared going all that way ... and on my own.
- Teddy** Well I did have a travelling companion *(Scathing look at COWBOY)* but he seems to have turned yellow - on the inside. *(COWBOY gives sheepish grin)*
- Raggy** I'd like you to escape, Teddy.
- Dolly** So would I.
- Clown** Me too. *(EVERYONE supports TEDDY)*
- Soldier** We all support you Ted but it does seem very risky.
(Long pause. TOYS don't know what to say. TEDDY is thinking, wanders to one side)
- Teddy** *(Brainwave)* I know. We can *all* escape. *(TOYS are stunned)*
- Golly** All escape! *(TEDDY excited, what a great idea)*
- Teddy** We can help each other, work as a team. What do you say?
- Rabbit** *(OTHERS speechless)* I'm frightened.
- Clown** I used to escape from a cannon.
- Teddy** It makes sense. The more who escape, the better the chance of someone reaching Santa.
- Dolly** *(Suddenly upset)* I can't travel by myself.
- Rabbit** *(Petrieved)* Oh yes. What if a human catches me? *(TOYS tense, afraid)*
- Teddy** *(Calming them)* I know it sounds scary but the frightened toys can go with the brave toys. We can form teams.
- Soldier** Yes and my troop of soldiers can protect the frightened toys.
- Teddy** Troop of soldiers? What troop of soldiers?
- Soldier** *(Proudly)* Why, my fellow foot-sloggers, of course.
- Toys** What? *(SOLDIER proudly summons his fellow-soldiers)*
- Soldier** *(Calling out-front)* Company ... quick march! *(MUSIC BEGINS)*

No. 4 Entrance of the Toy Soldiers

11 TOYS

(The back of SOLDIER'S sentry-box slides/swings open and 4-8 [or 48] soldiers dressed exactly the same as SOLDIER but with a different coloured sash or belt, march out in single file, rifle on shoulder. The last soldier could be tiny but just as stiff and straight as the others. They march across the front of the stage forming a line/s DR. The TOYS are impressed and chat excitedly)

Soldier Company ... halt. *(Soldiers stop, facing the wings) Left (or Right) ... turn!* *(Soldiers turn to face the front. Proudly SOLDIER indicates and TEDDY moves to and inspects the troop. TEDDY could attend to some minor dress imperfection on one or two soldiers. SOLDIER follows TEDDY carrying a raised sword or baton a la ceremonial routine. OTHERS buzz with excitement)*

Teddy *(Inspection complete)* Very impressive. I'm sure we'll be safe with this lot.

Cowboy Hey, just a minute, Sheriff. You'll need more than cavalry out there. What about injuns? *(TOYS buzz. What's going on?)*

Toys Indians!

Cowboy That's what I said. Injuns.

Soldier This isn't the wild west.

Cowboy An' don't furgit the cowboys.

Toys Cowboys!

Cowboy And cowgirls!

Toys Cowgirls!

Cowboy I got me a whole posse right here.
(COWBOY whistles. MUSIC BEGINS)

No. 5 Saloon-Bar Rag

(From the wings or a present with saloon-doors come 4-8 [or 48] cowboys/cowgirls and indians. The cowboys/girls are firing their six-guns making the sound with their mouths - "Pow, pow" "p'ching, p'ching" etc. The indians mime firing arrows. The warring factions spread across the stage and the TOYS cower and take cover. COWBOY thinks it's great. It's just a game to the cowboys/girls and indians (C&I). Choreograph the fight. Some are wounded but fight on. TEDDY calls to COWBOY)

Teddy Cowboy ... Cowboy, stop them. Stop them!

(COWBOY is having a ball but does as TEDDY commands. He fires in the air. This sounds like a real gun - starting pistol or sound effects. The battle stops instantly. The C&I mix with one another freely and mime discussing the battle DL. They're all good friends. The TOYS begin to recover)

Teddy This is crazy. Cowboys and girls and indians killing each other!

Cowboy No Ted. That's what the humans make 'em do. In their toy-box they're all good buddies. *(To C&I)* Right guys 'n gals?

C&I *(Full of good cheer)* Right, Cowboy!
Teddy Are you mad? We're trying to escape.

12 TOYS

Cowboy Great. The injuns can scout and the cowboys and girls ride shotgun.
(TEDDY pauses. The TOYS buzz with excitement)

Golly Sounds mighty fine to me. Da more da merrier. *(OTHERS excited)*
Teddy *(Agrees but with caution)* Okay, they can escape. *(C&I thrilled)* But no cattle rustlin', card games or fire-water! *(C&I sad - this is bad news)*

Cowboy *(Confidential)* Hey Ted. How about baked beans? We love beans.
Teddy *(Agrees reluctantly)* Yes, yes, you can eat beans. *(COWBOY is thrilled and relays the news to the C&I who are delighted. They buzz with excitement, the TOYS chat excitedly)* All right, settle down. *(Noise stops. TEDDY speaks with feeling)* Now we're all agreed Santa must be told. Some toys are getting a raw deal. This must stop. Agreed?

Toys *(Fired up)* Yes!
Teddy Well come on, *(Louder)* let's hear it for the toys. *(MUSIC BEGINS. Big cheer)*

No. 6 Toys Reprise

Company *We're toys who love to play and do so while we may
Though night time is the right time when the humans go away
To play is such a breeze, we love to trick and tease
Though many humans, any humans always make us freeze.
We are the toys, we are the toys,
We are the toys, we are the toys. (Repeat)
The toys, the toys, we are the toys
We are the toys.*

(Song ends and EVERYONE is excited and buzzing. TEDDY take control)

Teddy Okay, we must escape in teams. Dolly, you go with the soldiers.
Dolly Just a minute. I'm not sure I can trust those soldiers.
(Soldiers stand on their dignity. DOLLY is adamant. TEDDY more so)

Teddy Do as you're told. *(Soldiers happy, DOLLY displeased)* Cowboy, you and y'mates look after Clown and Rabbit. Raggy, you stick by me.
(TOYS are buzzing and move to named groups, shake hands with those they don't know. DOLLY does so with reluctance. She's a snob)

Teddy Now before we escape, I want the house searched. Provisions. Anything we can use for our trip.

Cowboy *(Thrilled)* Hey, rustlin'! *(To C&I)* Rustlin' guys! *(C&I whoop)*
Teddy Everyone. Get cracking! *(They move off noisily)* And be quiet! *(They move off whispering with excitement)* Raggy, I want a word.

(TEDDY takes RAGGY DL and mimes their plan of escape. The OTHERS are jamming up UR. They can't open the door. SOLDIER comes down)

13 TOYS

Soldier (Saluting) 'Scuse me, Ted. Bit of bother with the door.
Teddy (Not happy) Oh, do I have to do everything? (To RAGGY) You wait here.

(TEDDY goes upstage and supervises the door-opening. SOLDIER follows. A small present is dragged over and a toy climbs up to reach the door-knob. TEDDY gets EVERYONE to push. After some heaving, the door flings open and the TOYS fall through and off-stage UL. Most scamper off. Once the door is open, the exit needs to be swift. Of course it could be an unseen door and all this business would be mimed. TEDDY guides the TOYS off-stage and goes with them to see they're on the right track. GOLLY has slipped away from them and comes down to RAGGY who attends to her present)

Golly Raggy. (She gets a small fright and turns)
Raggy Oh Golly. You gave me a fright.
Golly Who is you escapin' wid?
Raggy I'm going with Teddy. Isn't he brave?
Golly Yes but ... (GOLLY is worried) I don't have nobody.
Raggy Oh that can't be right. Teddy probably forgot and ...
Golly He didn't forget. He don't like me. He wants me to stay behind.
Raggy (Laughs at GOLLY'S silly mistake) No. Teddy's not like that.
Golly He told me to shut up.
Raggy (Shocked) He didn't!
Golly And he said I was stupid.
Raggy (Even more shocked) But that's dreadful.
(GOLLY almost breaks down during this next speech. RAGGY comforts him)
Golly I didn't deserve it, Raggy and I don't wanna be left behind.
Raggy There, there, I'm sure Teddy will let you escape.
Golly (Pulls back angry) Teddy doesn't like me because I is black.
Raggy (Confused) But that's not a reason.
Golly Teddy says black toys is different and I has to go away.
Raggy But we're all the same. We all have arms and legs and stuffing and ...
Golly Teddy says my colour is wrong.
Raggy Don't be silly.
Golly (Pathetic) I thought I'd change my colour. Den maybe Teddy'll like me.
Raggy (Horried) Change your colour!
Golly I could paint myself and be white or blue or green.
Raggy (Firm advice) Now you listen to me, Golly. You will not change your colour. You're perfect. We love you just the way you are.
Golly But if I'm black, Teddy won't let me escape.
Raggy Well see about that. (TEDDY re-appears upstage) He can't make you ... (RAGGY sees TEDDY) Teddy. I'd like a word.

Teddy (Coming down) I haven't finished with you.
Raggy (Almost demanding) Why can't Golly escape?

TOYS 14

Teddy (Snaps back) Who says? I'm not stopping him.
Raggy You haven't given him a team.
Teddy He can go by himself. Now hurry up and pack.
(TEDDY turns and moves away. RAGGY is furious. She stamps her foot)
Raggy That's disgraceful, Teddy. (TEDDY stops, turns slowly. He's angry)
Teddy How dare you speak like that. I'm in charge. It's my idea and if you're not careful, I'll leave you behind.
(RAGGY upset, grabs TEDDY'S arm)
Raggy Oh please Teddy, I want to go. But ... I'd like Golly to come with us.
Teddy Well don't look at me. I'm not stopping him.
Raggy (Excited) Then he can join our team.
Teddy No way. I'm not escaping with a black toy.
Raggy (Angry) Then it's true. You *did* say awful things about Golly.
Teddy (Nasty. Points at GOLLY) He's a show-off and a smarty-pants.
Raggy No he's not. He's friendly and fun and he's my friend.
Golly And Santa made me.
Raggy That's right. Santa made Golly.
Teddy (Nasty) Well he made you wrong.
Raggy (Furious) Teddy!
Teddy And when I reach Santa, I'll tell him you're a show-off.
Golly (Getting wild) Just who do you think you are, Teddy?
Teddy (Grabs Golly) Don't you threaten me.
Raggy (Separates them) Stop it! Stop it at once.
Golly What's behind this big, bossy act?
Teddy Nothing, Show-off, and I am not bossy!
Raggy Yes you are. You're bossy and rude and mean.
Golly We're all toys, Teddy.
Raggy And that's all that counts.
Teddy Well I know black toys show-off. (Moves upstage) And I'm going to make sure Santa finds out. So there ... (Stops at edge of stage) Show-off! (TEDDY storms off-stage after the other TOYS)
Golly (Pause. Softer) I'm sorry Raggy. I didn't mean to drag you into all this.
Raggy I'm glad you did, and I want to help you.
Golly But you think Teddy's right?
Raggy (Shocked) Oh no, of course not. But, I wonder why Santa made you black? I mean, why are some of us white or yellow or pink or black?
Golly Who knows? Who cares?

Raggy Maybe Santa made black toys for black humans. Maybe you shouldn't be here.
Golly But Santa delivered me here.

15 TOYS

Raggy *(Thinking aloud)* Perhaps by mistake. *(GOLLY devastated. RAGGY gets brainwave)* I know. I'll ask him.
Golly Ask him!? But you mightn't reach da North Pole and even if ...
Raggy No. Now. I'll ask Santa right now.
Golly *(Confused)* But he's gone, he won't be back till next Christmas.
Raggy Golly, I believe there's an elf here. Do you? *(Pause. GOLLY nods)* Santa always leaves an elf behind to see if the humans are nice to us on Christmas Day.
Golly But the elf can't talk to toys, not away from da North Pole.
Raggy But the elf can hear. I'll ask the questions the elf can take to Santa. We can find out why we're different and if what Teddy says is true.
Golly *(Not certain)* You seem pretty sure.
Raggy *(Hopeful)* Oh yes. Santa will hear me. He'll send someone or something will happen. Santa cares for us, he wants us to be happy. You believe that?
Golly I think so ... and I would like to know if it's okay to be black.
Raggy I'll ask Santa right now. *(GOLLY embarrassed)*
Golly *(Backing away)* I'll see if I can help the others. Good luck and whatever happens, I'll always like you. *(GOLLY exits UR. RAGGY waves and calls after him)*
Raggy Thanks. I'll do my best. *(She looks around, is nervous and clears her throat)* Dear Santa. *(Pause)* Dear Santa. *(Despairs and talks to herself)* Oh perhaps there's no elf. *(Summons up the courage)* No, I promised Golly. *(Strongly to front as lights dim)* Dear Santa. *(MUSIC BEGINS)*

No. 7 Dear Santa

Raggy *Dear Santa, is it right to talk about the colour of a toy?
Does it matter if I'm not the same as Rabbit or as Clown?
Does it matter if I'm white or yellow, black or red or brown?
Does it matter that Teddy can put Golly down?
Dear Santa, is it right?
Dear Santa, is it right to laugh about the body of a toy?
Do you worry if we're fat or bony, tall or short or thin?
Do you worry if our hair is long, can this be a sin?
Do you worry that Golly is dressed in black skin?
Dear Santa, is it right?
Please tell me, I believe in what you say
And I'll try and do the very best I can
Please help me, you encourage us to pray
Santa please, Santa please, Santa please, oh please.*

Dear Santa, you're my friend
Only you can tell me what I need to know
Don't forget me, little Raggy, see I find it hard to speak

16 TOYS

Don't forget me cos without you I'm so helpless, I'm so weak
Don't forget me and really the truth's all I seek
Dear Santa is it right? Dear Santa is it right?

(RAGGY is alone, looking into space, waiting, hoping. Suddenly the lights come up and the silence is shattered as a frantic RABBIT and a distressed DOLLY burst into the room. They rush down to RAGGY)

Rabbit Ooh, help. Help. Raggy, anyone. Help. Help. *(Continues)*
Dolly Raggy, you must help us. *(Distress continues)*
Raggy What's happened?
Dolly It's Teddy, poor Teddy.
Rabbit It's awful, it's awful, you've gotta help.
Dolly A terrible accident. He might be finished.
Raggy *(Suddenly panics)* Oh no! It wasn't Golly was it? Did Golly do it?
(GOLLY enters and comes down. RAGGY hasn't seen him yet)
Rabbit Poor Teddy. I've never been scared like this before.
Golly Raggy, sorry I left you alone.
(RAGGY goes to GOLLY and lets fly. He grabs her flailing hands)
Raggy Golly, how could you? It's wrong, wrong, wrong!
Golly *(Confused)* Sorry Raggy. I didn't mean to be black.
(Struggle stops as TEDDY enters carried by the C&I. OTHERS enter. TEDDY groans throughout. Ham! He is gently placed DL on a present and everyone except GOLLY crowds around. The Soldiers, C&I move back a little. RAGGY rushes to TEDDY)
Raggy Teddy you must forgive him. *(TEDDY groans)* He didn't mean it.
(Another groan) I know he didn't mean it.
Soldier Please remain calm, Raggy. Any unnecessary noise will frighten the horses.
Raggy But it's my fault. It's all my fault.
Clown It's nobody's fault. Teddy fell down the stairs.
(Big groan from OTHERS)
Raggy *(Pause. Stunned)* Fell down the stairs?
Cowboy *(Big gesture)* Yes m'am. He wuz a tumberlin' tumbleweed.
(TED groans)
Dolly *(Has recovered)* Yes, I saw everything. Teddy was showing off.
(Huge groan from TED. RAGGY moves to GOLLY, DR. OTHERS close around TED)
Raggy I'm very sorry, Golly.
Golly Dat's okay.
Raggy I'm sorry for hitting you and even more sorry for thinking you hurt Teddy.

Golly Dere's no harm done. Well, not to me.
Raggy Will you ever forgive me?
Golly Of course. You ain't done nuttin'.

17 TOYS

Raggy *(Pause)* Golly, I did talk to Santa. I asked if it was all right for us to be yellow and white and black and ...
Golly *(Eager)* Did anytin' happen?
Raggy *(Excited)* Yes ... *(Suddenly sad)* I ran over and hit you.
Golly *(Laughing)* Hey, dat's okay. C'mon, let's help Teddy.
(They move to TEDDY where the action continues complete with groans)
Clown *(Sad)* I think it's the end for Teddy.
Soldier He's badly wounded and has lost some stuffing. He needs a transplant.
(Buzz of excitement from TOYS. This is serious)
Rabbit I'm frightened. I don't like hospitals.
Dolly Well he can't escape looking like that.
Cowboy *(Just a suggestion)* I guess we could give up the excape. *(Sic)*
(TOYS react strongly. They don't like the idea. They want to continue)
Soldier We're not giving up. We must obey orders.
Golly We gotta fix Teddy. If he's sick, he can't escape and Santa never delivers broken toys. *(TOYS agree)*
Cowboy *(To TEDDY)* Hang in there, pardner. You're gonna get fixed and I'm gonna help. *(Huge groan from TEDDY. Doctor Cowboy? Oh no!)*
Soldier What type of stuffing does he have?
Clown A lot. He's very fat.
Dolly He must have the right stuffing. Everything must match.
Soldier Right, hold him Cowboy. You too Golly. *(To TEDDY)* This'll hurt me more than you, Ted. *(Liar)*

(COWBOY and GOLLY hold TEDDY. SOLDIER removes stuffing. TEDDY gives enormous groan. The TOYS are anxious. SOLDIER moves DR with the stuffing. The principals follow but glance back to TEDDY)

Soldier Who has stuffing like this?
Raggy Not me.
Clown It's not funny stuffing so it can't be mine.
Dolly *(With contempt)* Urgh. That's last season's. Couldn't possibly be mine.
Rabbit *(Timid as always)* I'm not sure. It might be mine.
Raggy No Rabbit. I saw Santa making you. It's not yours. Or mine.
Cowboy Shucks, nobody out west got that stuffin'.
Soldier No soldier either. So it looks like Teddy ... has to die.
(TOYS shattered. Pause. GOLLY speaks quietly but with strength)
Golly No he don't. I's got dat stuffin'. *(TOYS delighted)*
Raggy Golly!

Soldier Are you sure, Golly?
Golly Sure I's sure. Here. Look at dis.

18 TOYS

(GOLLY reaches inside his chest and removes some stuffing. He winces with pain and the OTHERS suffer with him. SOLDIER takes and compares the two pieces. He smiles)

Soldier Exactly the same. *(Excitement from OTHERS)* Well done, Golly. Now we can operate.
(They move to TEDDY but stop suddenly when GOLLY calls)

Golly Hold it! *(Pause)* Ain't you folks forgettin' somethin'?

Soldier *(Checking)* Ah, doctor, stuffing, patient. No. All set.

Golly *(Louder, more adamant)* Whose stuffin's dat?

Clown *(Excited)* Oh I get it. A guessing game. *(GOLLY ignores CLOWN)*

Golly Since when has a li'l please an' thank you gone outa style? II mean it might be nice to ask before y'pinch half me insides.
(Silence. Pause. The TOYS are ashamed at having forgotten their manners)

Rabbit Sorry Golly.

Dolly We didn't think you'd mind.

Golly Well I do. He's been pretty mean to me. And rude.

Soldier Look, Golly. This is important. It's a matter of life and death.

Cowboy Gotta help y'pardner, pardner.

Clown Come on Golly, be a sport.

Raggy *(Final plea)* Oh please, Golly. *(Pause. A plea)* Please.

Golly *(Pause. Gives in because of Raggy)* Well ... okay.
(TOYS are delighted. They rush over to TEDDY. RAGGY goes to GOLLY)

Raggy *(Very happy)* Oh Golly, isn't it wonderful?

Golly He's pretty lucky, you know. After what he said about me.

Raggy No, you don't understand. This is our answer. Santa arranged this to answer our questions. *(GOLLY doesn't understand)*

Golly Santa pushed Teddy down da stairs?

Raggy *(Amused)* Only so you could help him. I asked Santa if colour or shape or size were important. And this is his answer.

Golly *(Starting to get the picture)* So Santa likes me?

Raggy You, me, Teddy. Everyone. *(Thrilled)* Santa loves us all.
(They hug one another with happiness. TEDDY, meantime, has been surrounded by the TOYS who've just finished telling him the good news about the transplant. With a gruff blast, TEDDY forces the TOYS back and struggles to stand. They're shocked by TEDDY. RAGGY and GOLLY join the OTHERS)

Teddy No! Never, never, never! *(He sways and is helped)* Leave me alone. I'm still a good toy.

Soldier Teddy, you're seriously wounded.

Clown You can't escape like this.

Teddy I can escape. I can ... *(He collapses. Many TOYS help him sit)*

Cowboy Take it easy, pardner.

Dolly You look terrible!

19 TOYS

Teddy *(In pain. Admits defeat)* Maybe I have lost some stuffing. Maybe we'll have to postpone the escape. *(Buzz of disappointment from TOYS)*

Soldier Whatever we do, Teddy, you *have* to be fixed.

Raggy Golly can help you.

Teddy *(Bitter)* I don't need him.

Dolly Only Golly has the right stuffing.

Teddy *(Tries another tack)* I've changed me mind. You lot escape, I'll stay behind.
(TOYS confused, uncertain)

Rabbit I'll be scared without you.

Cowboy Hey pardner, you're part of t'posse.

Soldier It's no use, Ted. You're reporting sick and that's final.

Teddy *(Snaps at SOLDIER)* You deaf or something? I'm *not* escaping.

Raggy But you're broken, Teddy.

Dolly And Santa never delivers broken toys.
(Pause. TEDDY is beaten on every argument. He clutches at straws)

Teddy I can *try* to escape.

Toys *(Strong)* No!

Teddy I can *pretend* I'm all right.

Toys *(Louder)* No!

Teddy *(Despairing)* Then I have to get fixed?

Toys *(Forceful)* Yes!

Teddy But I don't like black toys. They show-off.

Dolly You're the show-off.

Raggy Teddy, you have to understand.

Teddy *(Angry again)* I don't *have* to do anything.

Soldier You have to get fixed. *(TOYS support this. "That's right")*

Golly Listen Teddy. I know you don't like me though why I ain't sure. But I is sure about one ting. I'm black on da outside and you is yella. But underneat' Teddy, we is da same.

Teddy *(Snaps at GOLLY)* Showoff!

Golly An' you can shout 'n stomp forever but nuthin', nuthin's gonna change da fact dat we is da same. *(TEDDY threatens but backs off as GOLLY pours it on)* An' furdernore, da most important part of any toy is not dere colour but what's under dat colour. *(MUSIC BEGINS)* It's what's inside dat counts Teddy, it's what's inside.

No. 8 It's What's Inside

Golly *You can shout until you're hoarse and make a million racist claims*

*You can torment me and torture me and call me awful names
You can pick on me and pester me and say dat I'm to blame
But underneath my furry friend, we is both da same*

20 TOYS

Company *Dey is both da same, dey is both da same
Dey is both da same.
It's what's inside of you dear old Teddy
That the world outside can see.
It's not your nose and it's not your clothes
But it shows through your personality.
And what's inside of you dear old Teddy
Well you never, never, never can hide
Cos what's inside comes out dear old Teddy
What counts is what's inside.
It's what's inside, it's what's inside
It's what's inside, it's, it's what's inside
What counts is what's inside
You cannot hide, you cannot hide
It's, it's what's inside.
Side. It's what's. It's what's.
It's what's, it's what's in, in, in. Inside.*

Raggy Colour means nothing, Teddy. We're all important. We're all the same.

Teddy *(TEDDY tries one last alternative)* Listen, why don't I hide?

Soldier *(Angry)* Teddy, if you don't volunteer for this operation, you'll face a court-martial and possibly worse.

(Gosh. What could SOLDIER mean? EVERYONE is serious. TEDDY surrenders)

Teddy Oh all right. But hurry up and *be careful!*

No. 9 It's What's Inside Interlude

(The operation takes place during the musical interlude. The stuffing is taken, from GOLLY'S back, and carefully carried under escort from the soldiers and C&I before being placed inside TEDDY. The stuffing is passed carefully along a line of TOYS across the stage. GOLLY sits on a present DR, TEDDY lies, groaning on a present DL. GOLLY suffers much more than TEDDY but it's big brave TED who does all the groaning. EVERYONE is concerned. RABBIT races to and fro, checking and hoping/hopping - paws crossed of course. Time the operation so that it finishes as the music ends. When it's over, RAGGY goes to GOLLY. The OTHERS help TEDDY)

Raggy How do you feel, Golly?

Golly *(Feeling his missing stuffing)* Not bad. Not bad at all.

Raggy *(Hugs her hero)* Oh Golly, you're wonderful. *(They chat)*

Soldier Come on Ted, up you get. *(Groaning, TEDDY rises)* Easy.

Cowboy You're lookin' fine, pardner. (*TEDDY is still being helped*)
Dolly Fix your buttons, Teddy. (*Buttons adjusted*) That's better.
Teddy (*Miserable*) I feel awful. I've never had an operation.

21 TOYS

Rabbit (*Thrilled*) Oh Teddy, now you can be a present again.
Teddy (*Instant transformation*) Present! No way. I'm leading the escape!
(*MUSIC BEGINS. Big cheer from COMPANY*)

No. 10 It's What's Inside Reprise

Company *It's what's inside of you dear old Teddy
That the world outside can see
It's not your nose and it's not your clothes
But it shows through your personality
And what's inside of you dear old Teddy
Well you never, never, never can hide
Cos what's inside comes out dear old Teddy
What counts is what's inside
It's what's, it's what's
It's what's, it's what's in, in, in, inside.*

(*TOYS are bubbling, TEDDY'S all fired up, even GOLLY'S happy*)

Teddy We're wasting time. Everyone prepare to escape. (*Hubbub increases*)
Raggy (*Calling*) Wait Teddy! You've forgotten Golly.
Soldier He can come with us.
Cowboy Shucks no. We want Golly with us. (*EVERYONE requests GOLLY*)
Teddy Silence! (*TOYS settle*) How can squabbling toys escape? (*TOYS
ashamed*) I'm in charge and I'll pick a team for Golly.
Soldier (*Saluting*) Aye, aye, Ted. We await your command.
Teddy Golly goes with ...
Clown Hold it! This calls for an introduction. (*Big speech*) Mister Bear,
Mister Golly, distinguished guests, fellow presents, toys and
toylettes.
Toys Toylettes?
Rabbit What's a toylette?
Clown (*Full of glee*) It's a wee toy. (*Thinks it a great joke*) Get it? Toylette. Wee
toy. Ah (*CLOWN dies laughing. TOYS groan - again!*)
Teddy Will you stop clowning around. All this toyfoolery is wasting time.
(*CLOWN suitably chastised*) Now Golly ...
Golly Yes Ted?
Teddy You go with Raggy. (*RAGGY thrilled*)
Golly (*Can't believe it*) And you?
Teddy (*Gruff throwaway*) Yes, and me. (*Loud to all*) Now come on. Where are
those provisions? Check the whole house. We need maps,

compass, tickets, soap, needle and thread, Santa's phone number - everything. The sooner you're back, the sooner we go. Now get cracking!

23 TOYS

(Excited TOYS exit UR discussing what they'll find - TEDDY'S operation, the escape, etc. Talk, talk, talk. The door is slightly ajar so the exit is simple and swift. TEDDY is exhausted and sits DL, resting on a present. DOLLY remains upstage, fussing. She looks around then moves to TEDDY)

Dolly Teddy. *(TEDDY gets a small fright)* I want a word.
Teddy *(Weary)* Not now. I'm resting. Go and look for things.
Dolly This is important.
Teddy So's my rest.
Dolly I've got a problem.
Teddy You can't even spell "problem".
Dolly I don't expect you'll understand but I need some information.
Teddy *(Stronger)* We're going to the North Pole, not on the teddy bears' picnic.
Dolly I don't care if we're flying to the moon. I must look my best.
Teddy Bully for you.
Dolly How many outfits will I need?
Teddy *(Can't believe it)* How many outfits?
Dolly *(Calmly continues)* Yes and do you think *one* beauty-case will be enough?
Teddy *(Stunned further)* One beauty-case!
Dolly And will the hairdressers have hot-rollers?
Teddy *(Shaking head in disbelief)* Dolly, listen to me. Out there is the big, wide world of danger and trouble. Maybe even death. You'll need courage, guts, determination, skill, *(Build it)* perseverance, cunning, luck, pluck, *(Faster)* bravado, strength, heroics and an *(Builds to a shout)* undying belief that you are going to make it. *(DOLLY listens emotionless. TEDDY is exhausted)*
Dolly *(Pause)* I know all that but there's still a problem.
Teddy *(What this time?)* Oh yeah? Like what?
Dolly My hair-dryer doesn't take batteries.
(TEDDY despairs, drops his head in his paws. COWBOY and SOLDIER enter UR)
Soldier *(Concerned)* Ted. *(He and COWBOY come down. DOLLY moves DR)*
Cowboy Pardner, what's up? You been scalped?
Teddy *(Recovers a little. Indicates DOLLY)* This dear toy is about to start a death-defying mission and now she tells me ...
(TEDDY goes off into short giggle a la going gah-gah)
C'boy/S'dier What?
Teddy *(Almost crazy)* Her hair-dryer doesn't take batteries. *(TEDDY whimpers, it's all too much. SOLDIER and COWBOY are dismayed but not like TEDDY)*
Cowboy *(Genuinely upset)* Shucks, Miss Dolly, that's terrible.

Soldier That's dreadful. *(Gets idea)* Hang on. Maybe our field troop's got a portable generator. *(TEDDY'S despair is building into rage)*
Cowboy Yippee that's jurst dandy, Soldier. *(Pause)* Say, what's a gen-p' tato?
Soldier No, no. Gen-er-a-tor.

23 TOYS

Teddy *(Explodes. Has gone bananas)* Portable generator!
Soldier Yes, Ted. In basic training we run a cable from the main ...
Teddy *(Still crazy)* I know what it is. What I don't know is why I'm lumbered with peanut-brained lulus like you two! *(SOLDIER and COWBOY offended)*
Cowboy Hey now, easy pardner.
Teddy *(Fuming)* This is mission-impossible, into-the-valley-of-death stuff and *(Pointing at DOLLY)* she's worried about her Shirley Temple hair-do.
Dolly *(Fights back)* And why not? What's wrong with taking pride in your appearance!
Soldier Exactly. Spit 'n polish.
Cowboy Y'darn tootin'. A cowboy has a bath, once a year!
Teddy But what's the use of lookin' beautiful if you're smashed to smithereens?
Soldier I think that's *blown* to smithereens, Ted.
Teddy Smashed, blown, who cares?
Dolly I care. And so should you. Brush your fur, Teddy.
(She brushes his arm. The OTHERS join this tack and TEDDY is taken over)
Cowboy Polish them paws, partner. *(COWBOY polishes)*
Soldier Shine those shoes, soldier.

(SOLDIER points and TEDDY, almost in a trance, rubs his foot on the back of his leg. He's been brainwashed)

Dolly Big or little occasion, Teddy, you've gotta look ... *(Chord)* your ... *(Chord)* beeeeeest!
(NOTE: The MUSIC BEGINS as indicated by the word "Chord". The tempo isn't fixed in the first bar. The word "best" is drawn out as the music takes off under it at the correct tempo. Lights go nightclubbish. It's a fun number. Plenty of life)

No. 11 Good Lookin'

Dolly *Some dollies live for money, some dollies live for fame
Some love to splash, lots 'n lots of cash, life to them is just a game.
Some dollies pick on pleasure, party on till very late
Go let 'em rage, stompin' on a stage
Life for me is lookin' great.*
Soldier *Some soldiers turn out lazy, some soldiers turn out dumb
Some never try, me oh me oh my, life for them is oh so glum.*

*Some soldiers stick with sloppy, never have a plot or plan
Go let 'em flop, like a messy mop
Life for me is spick 'n span.
Good lookin', good lookin', such a pretty sight*

24 TOYS

Quartet

*Good lookin', good lookin', everything is right
Good lookin', good lookin', fashion dynamite
Good lookin', good lookin', got me lookin' good tonight.
Some cowboys live for whisky, some cowboys live for cards
Some live for dice, any kinda vice
Soon they need a lot-a guards.
Some cowboys take on rustlin'', some fight and remonstrate
Go let 'em brawl, go watch 'em crawl
Life for me is shootin'' straight.*

Cowboy

*Some teddies duck their duty, some teddies shirk their share
Some stride a fence, never makin'' sense
Mumble, grumble, sit 'n stare.
Some teddies lack the courage, stand up and counted be
Not so this toy, to know's a joy
Big 'n brave for all to see.
Very good looking tonight!*

Teddy

(Repeat the chorus, dance and give it heaps. Wheeee! Immediately the song ends, the lights return to normal. The OTHERS return with nothing. TEDDY issues an order)

Teddy Right. In your teams. Line up. Soldier, their reports.
(The TOYS form three groups. DOLLY is with the soldiers DC. COWBOY, CLOWN and RABBIT are with the C&I DL and RAGGY and GOLLY are together near TEDDY DR. SOLDIER checks the two main groups, RAGGY and GOLLY and then salutes TEDDY)

Soldier *(Ceremonial)* All present and accounted for, sir!

Teddy *(Returns salute)* Very good. Now, what about provisions?

Soldier *(Still at attention)* Soldiers report no sign of the enemy, sir!

Teddy *(Impatient)* Yes, forget all that stuff. What goodies did they grab?

Soldier *(Still at attention)* No goodies grabbed, sir! *(OTHERS impressed)*

Teddy *(Annoyed)* I told them, I *ordered* them to collect provisions.

Soldier *(Very proper)* Looting's against regulations, sir!

Teddy *(Groans)* Oh. *(Indicates C&I)* Well what about them? They're not shy of the odd bushwhack or rustlin'.

Cowboy *(Coming down)* Great news, Ted. The injuns surrounded a wagon-train out back in the prairie. There was wagons full of all kinda proviz-e-ons. It wuz like takin' candy from a baby.

Teddy So where's the candy?

Cowboy Ah, well, just as the injuns went a-swoopin' in fur t'kill, along came the cavalry an' ...

Teddy The cavalry!
Cowboy Yep. Them's the good guys who wear fancy coschooms.
Teddy *(Furious)* I know who they are. And I suppose the cavalry drove the indians away and you've got no provisions.

25 TOYS

Cowboy *(Genuinely impressed)* Hey, how did you know that?
(Hubbub from OTHERS. TEDDY looks in dismay, shakes his head and wanders DR. The TOYS chat amongst themselves. COWBOY and SOLDIER return to their groups. GOLLY, prompted by RAGGY, approaches TEDDY)

Golly Teddy.
Teddy *(Speaks without turning)* Go away.
Golly I got me a question.
Teddy *(Still without turning)* I said, "Go away".
(GOLLY looks at RAGGY. EVERYONE is watching TEDDY. RAGGY urges GOLLY)

Golly *(Blurts it out)* Why is we escapin'?
(TEDDY turns slowly. He's quietly fuming. Pause. RAGGY tries to explain)

Raggy What Golly means is, are you sure some toys are being mistreated?
Teddy So now I'm a liar? *(EVERYONE protests "No" "Of course not" etc but TEDDY continues his attack)* I am a very important toy and I have definite proof some toys are torn, tatty and tossed aside. *(Huge shock. This is a terrible fate)*

Rabbit I I'm getting frightened.
Golly *(Gentle but persistent enquiry)* But how do you know?
Raggy Yes, Teddy. Who told you?
Floppy *(From inside toy-box)* We did. *(All except TEDDY are stunned. Pause)*
Dolly *(Nervous)* Who spoke?
Teddy *(Sarcastic. Mimicking FLOPPY)* It was just little old me.
Raggy *(Pause. Nervous)* There's someone here.
Rabbit *(Petrified)* I'm frightened, I'm extremely frightened.
(RABBIT panics and the OTHERS catch the fear. SOLDIER moves to TEDDY)

Soldier A patrol, Ted. I'll send a patrol. *(COWBOY rushes over)*
Cowboy Now hold y'horses. My injuns kin track a posse daed easy.
Soldier My soldiers, Ted.
(COWBOY and SOLDIER mime their dispute. All the TOYS chat excitedly. DOLLY looks towards the toy-box and sees the lid open very slowly)

Dolly *(Pointing)* Look!
(EVERYONE stops talking and turns to where DOLLY is pointing. The lid opens a little bit more. Perhaps add a creaking sound. The TOYS are scared and cling to one another. Pause. Suddenly SOLDIER barks an order)

Soldier Company ... *(Soldiers form a line facing the toy-box and prepare their rifles as SOLDIER commands)* ... at one hundred paces ... independent firing ... *(One soldier is a bit too keen and needs a reprimand)* ... wait for it ...

Cowboy *(All fired up)* Okay you guys, head 'em off at t'pass.
(The C&I rush towards the toy-box, guns and bows and arrows at the ready. The soldiers are in formation, the C&I back-up the soldiers. A million weapons point at the toy-box. Many TOYS are C ready to defend the OTHERS who retreat CL/UL clinging to each other in fear)

Teddy (Normal voice) Excuse me. (Pause) I say, excuse me.
Soldier (Calling back) Not now Ted, we've got a battle.
Teddy (Calling) Ah, would all those toys, that's right, *toys*, in the toy-box, please show themselves.

26 TOYS

Soldier (Shattered) Toys?
Cowboy (Dumbfounded) Toy-box?
(Pause. EVERYONE looks at the toy-box. Slowly FLOPPY'S head appears)
Floppy (Very friendly) Hello. (TOYS buzz with interest. Weapons are lowered)
Teddy (Still calling) And the others. (MOPPY'S head appears)
Moppy Hello. (Another friendly soul and the TOYS start to relax)
Sloppy (Pops up) Hello. (A big smile. The TOYS respond. Weapons are put away)
Hoppy (Head appears) Hello. (A wave and a smile. HOPPY joins the line-up)
Whoppy Hello. (The TOYS chat excitedly about these "new" toys)
Teddy (Calls over the hubbub) Well come on. Let's be havin' you.
(Pause. The TOYS in the toy-box look at one another then suddenly take off. With glee and gusto, the five hand-me-down (HMDs) toys come down to earth. They could abseil, slide, roll, jump, swing, dive, whatever is safe. The TOYS scatter. The HMDs land in a higgledy-piggledy pile C/DC and are surrounded by wide-eyed TOYS. The HMDs think it's a great joke and laugh and tease one another)
Teddy Back-off, give them room. (The TOYS retreat, the HMDs start to untangle themselves and form a sloppy line) Time for introductions.
(The HMDs introduce themselves. They are happy, friendly and well-worn)
Floppy Floppy.
Moppy Moppy.
Sloppy Sloppy.
Hoppy Hoppy.
Whoppy And Whoppy. (Big buzz from the TOYS. CLOWN inspects WHOPPY)
Clown You look like a ... Say, do you play games?
Whoppy Me? Play games? Oh no. (Points behind CLOWN) Look!
(CLOWN turns, WHOPPY mimes kicking CLOWN'S backside.. CLOWN jumps, turns and realises it was a game. CLOWN and WHOPPY laugh like mad and warmly embrace)
Rabbit (To HOPPY) Excuse me. Have you ever been frightened?
Hoppy Ahh. Only when I'm not scared.
(RABBIT pauses thinking. Oh. HOPPY sounds like RABBIT'S type of toy. They move to one side and mime an animated chat)
Dolly (Looking down her nose at SLOPPY) Would you mind not staring?
Sloppy (Arms extended and huge smile) It's me. Cousin.
Dolly (Mortified) Cousin! How dare you!
Sloppy Remember me? I was the pretty one.
Dolly Was is right. Go away.
Sloppy Don't be like that. We all grow old you know. (DOLLY scoffs) Once your human dumps you, you'll be nice 'n sloppy like me. (DOLLY is revolted)

Soldier (Stunned) Y'mean, all you toys were once brand new?
Floppy Just like Raggy. (RAGGY and FLOPPY greet one another)
Moppy An' just like Golly. (MOPPY and GOLLY greet one another)
Cowboy Then how come y'all bin fightin'?

27 TOYS

Sloppy No fight, Cowboy. This is human wear 'n tear. (TOYS are shocked)
Rabbit (Shocked) Humans did that?
Hoppy Oh we're the good ones. You should see the toys left out in the rain.
(TOYS horrified)
Whoppy Some without arms or legs. (Horror. TEDDY moves to calm things)
Teddy Thank you secondhand toys. I think we can ...
Floppy Ah, excuse me, Teddy.
Teddy Don't interrupt. It's because of you we're going to escape.
Moppy We know and we're most grateful.
Sloppy But please don't call us secondhand.
Hoppy The humans still love us - lots and lots.
Whoppy It's the toys in the bottom of the toy-box or those left outside
who've been forgotten.
Soldier According to regulations, you're secondhand.
Floppy Oh no, we're H M Dees. (Buzz from TOYS. "What are H M Dees?")
Moppy That's us. Hand-Me-Downs. (TOYS buzz again)
Sloppy We're broken, worn, torn ...
Hoppy And a little bit frightened ... sometimes.
Whoppy But don't be fooled, folks. (MUSIC BEGINS) In one particular place ...
HMDs (Happy) We're perfect.

No. 12 My Heart's In The Right Place

HMDs *Just because our suits have lost their sparkle
Just because our bones are bent and broke
Just because our style makes you all resile
Doesn't mean that we're not o - kay, listen
Just because our pose is less than perfect
Just because our shape is seldom straight
Just because our guise wouldn't win a prize
Doesn't mean that we ain't great.
Our heart's still in the right place
Even though we've lost some stuffing
Our heart's filled up with good grace
This is true we sure ain't bluffing
We mean well, care for all toys
And although we come apart
Our heart's still in the right place
In the right place is our heart.*

(Dialogue during the song)
Floppy Rag dolls are raggy and I'm a ragged Raggy. But *(Indicates heart)* here I'm good as gold.

28 TOYS

Moppy My curls ain't curly. My teeth ain't pearly. *(Indicates heart)* But y'all know I'm hearty.

Sloppy My dress, my hair, my ribbon, my bow, my nails, my shoes, well, no dolly's perfect. Oh, *(Indicates heart)* but right here, I'm a knockout.

Hoppy I'm scared to hop, my ears both flop, I'm called a sop. But stop. *(Indicates heart)* It's still on top.

Whoppy I've copped a whack or three when living life with glee. But blows or throws, I've kept the pose, *(Indicates heart)* the secret's here, you see.

Company *It's the heart, it's the heart, it's the heart, it's the heart (HMDs dance and repeat the chorus. The TOYS are won over. The HMDs are full of fun and happiness. They're all heart. TEDDY speaks over the hubbub)*

Teddy Now someone asked how I heard about humans hurting toys.

Golly *(Slightly ashamed)* Yeah an' I is very sorry Ted.

Raggy We do trust you, Teddy. Don't we? *(Others agree)*

Teddy Thank you. And without further ado, let's get ...

Soldier Hang on, Ted. *(TEDDY can't believe another interruption)* What about these second-handers?

Sloppy *(Annoyed as are all the HMDs)* Oh not again. Please, we aren't second-hand.

Teddy They can escape too. *(TOYS buzz)* The more the merrier.

Moppy Sorry Ted, no can do. *(Sudden silence. Pause)*

Whoppy We'd like to escape but we're already committed.

Dolly *(Looking down her nose)* Obviously not to us.

Floppy *(Shocked)* Goodness, Dolly, you couldn't be more wrong.

Hoppy We told Teddy in the first place.

Moppy We belong to a human and once you make a promise to live with them, well ..

Teddy A promise is a promise. Yes we know.

Whoppy You're still new toys, without an owner. There's no obligation.

Soldier But when the humans find us gone, they might get very upset.

Hoppy Yes but your mission is so important you just *have* to tell Santa.

Rabbit Even if we get scared along the way.

Moppy We'll be okay. And remember, our heart's still in the right place.

Floppy And when you've gone, we'll all be thinking of you.

Teddy Thank you H M Dees. We appreciate your help and kindness. But now we must depart. *(SLOPPY is suddenly distressed. TEDDY is interrupted AGAIN)*

Sloppy *(Panics)* Oh no! The humans! *(Slight panic amongst TOYS)* The little ones! *(The other HMDs suddenly remember)*
Teddy *(Angry and confused)* What little ones?
Whoppy *(Distressed)* Our owners.
Moppy We heard them say they'd sneak down before dawn. *(TOYS panic)*

29 TOYS

Soldier Down here? In this room?
Floppy Yes. This room. To look at you. *(Panic increases)*
Hoppy I'm scared. I'm going home. *(HOPPY scrambles back into toy-box)*
Whoppy Me too. *(All the HMDs rush back to the toy-box. It might mean them going round the back to climb up a hidden ladder in order to appear at the top again)*
Teddy *(Calls over the confusion)* Calm down! Everyone be quiet! *(TEDDY ignored. He realises and tries a different tack)* Back to your presents. Quickly!

(More confusion as the TOYS go back to their presents. SOLDIER rushes up and switches off the main light. Soldiers and C&I disappear whence they came, the main TOYS struggle with their tags, the HMDs are climbing onto and into the toy-box. Lots of noise, complaining, etc. There must be a flurry of activity and noise. When the main light goes out, we're back to the original lighting. It makes things even more scary and EVERYONE reacts with greater fear and distress)

Teddy *(Getting ready)* Hurry up. We can escape later.
Dolly *(Distressed)* My tag's not straight. Somebody help me. *(She fusses)*
(RAGGY races over and helps DOLLY then darts back to her position. CLOWN stops fixing his tag and wanders back into the centre. He's grinning from ear to ear)
Clown I'd just like to say this is the best game I've ever played.
Teddy *(Worried)* Clown! Get back.
Clown *(To HMDs)* Great joke, Whoppy. You're the best.
Whoppy *(Can't believe CLOWN thinks it's a game)* It's no game, Clown. It's real.
Golly Look out! Here they come.
Toys *(Panic-struck)* Clown!

(CLOWN suddenly realises and nearly dies. CLOWN swivels, slips and scrambles back to his place. Oh boy. TEDDY whispers fiercely, "Hurry". Other TOYS are in place, HMDs peer over the top of the toy-box and CLOWN finally gets into position. Pause. Silence. Sound effects begin. A door creaks. The HMDs duck and the top of the toy-box drops. On tape or live on a P.A. system we hear young voices)

Child 1 Shhh. I think Santa's been. Shine the torch over there.

(A small follow-spot, representing a torch, comes on. It starts on one side of the room and moves slowly inwards. The TOYS are frozen with fear. The torch passes slowly but keeps moving. It passes RABBIT, stops, then re-traces its path. It returns to RABBIT and stops. We see RABBIT'S terror. Pause. RABBIT starts to crack. She crunches her face, opens her mouth. She is just about to scream when there is a total BLACKOUT)

30 TOYS

ACT TWO

No. 13 Entr'acte

(The curtain rises. Dim lights rise as they did at the beginning of the play. There is no time lapse. In fact we actually go backwards. The HMDs are peering out of the toy-box, CLOWN has just arrived back in his spot. The sound of a door creaking is heard, the HMDs drop out of sight and the lid of the toy-box drops. On the P.A. we hear a child's voice)

Child 1 Shhh. I think Santa's been. Shine the torch over there.

(As before, a small follow-spot is switched on beginning on one side. It repeats its passage across the room. The TOYS are frozen in fear. The light passes RABBIT, stops then re-traces its path. Again RABBIT'S face contorts and she is about to scream)

Voice 2 Stop! We promised Mum we wouldn't look till morning. Come on, back to bed. *(Voice 1 is not happy)*

Voice 1 Oh all right. Spoilsport. *(Follow-spot is killed)*

(Creaking-door heard again. Silence. The children have gone. The TOYS are not sure. Nobody moves. Pause. TEDDY quietly removes his tag, comes alive and looks around quickly. He crosses to the box of human's pencils, (by the tree) removes one, (it's about a metre long) and on a greeting card (from a present by the tree) he moves DC, kneels and writes quickly. He mutters as he writes. From time to time he glances about but the TOYS are still presents. He finishes writing and reads his handiwork. Don't take too long over this business)

Teddy *(Reading)* Dear Santa blah, blah, blah ... and serve you as best I can. Your obedient toy ...

(TEDDY is about to sign the note but stops. Suddenly SOLDIER comes alive and coughs. TEDDY hastily puts card and pencil behind himself as SOLDIER creeps over)

Soldier *(Whispers)* Ted? Is that you?

Teddy *(Whispers. Covering up)* Shhh. I think they've gone.

Soldier How come you're down here?

Teddy Ah ... I'm checking for booby-traps.

Soldier *(Excited and surprised)* Booby-traps!

PAGE BREAK

40 TOYS

(The TOYS are stirred by TEDDY'S song and fiery speech. They want to escape)

Others Yes!

(Atmosphere electric as EVERYONE repeats the chorus during which minor suitcases, sacks, bags, etc are given to the TOYS by the HMDs. With the soldiers and C&I right behind, the TOYS march off DL singing proudly and defiantly. Without a trace of being superstitious, DOLLY raises her cute umbrella. The HMDs are singing full gusto and clamber onto presents etc as the song nears its end. Time it well so that the exit begins just as the last few bars are being sung. The HMDs wave enthusiastically and the curtain quickly falls)

No. 18 Curtain Calls

Chorus *We're toys who love to play and do so while we may
Though night time is the right time when the humans go away
To play is such a breeze, we love to trick and tease
Though many humans, any humans always make us freeze.*

HMDs *Our heart's still in the right place even though we've lost some stuffing
Our heart's filled up with good grace, this is true we sure ain't bluffing.
We mean well care for all toys and although we come apart
Our heart's still in the right place, in the right place is our heart.*

Company *You've got to have a go, you owe it to yourself, come on and see it through.
You've got to have a try, goodbye is what you say to doubts, excuses too
You've got to have a fling and cling to faith in all the things that you can do.
You've got to soldier on, anon or out on show you've got to have,
You've got to have a go.
The toys, the toys, we are the toys. We are the toys!*

(The soldiers and C&I take their bows during the first-time singing of TOYS. The HMDs take their individual bows during MY HEART'S IN THE RIGHT PLACE. The principals take their bows during HAVE A GO)

No. 19 Playout

ENDS

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