

## Uncle Crumble's Mad Machine!



An original musical Comedy By Freddie Green  
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Running Time: 45 mins

### SUGGESTIONS FOR PERFORMING THIS PLAY:

No musical experience is necessary! Most schools simply play the CD and the children sing along. The CD contains copies of the songs with and without vocals. If you prefer to use a pianist, sheet music is included as a free extra in the package. This show is designed to be instant and easy to stage. It is not suitable for schools who have a background of very sophisticated drama productions.

CAST:	Dad	Servant
Narrator 1	Grandma	Strongman
Narrator 2	Grandpa	Acrobats
Mark ( a selfish 11 year old boy)	Uncle Crumble	Belly Dancers
Sally (his rude friend)	Angie (a hippy)	Gladiator
Ben (Mark's rude little brother)	Larry (a hippy)	Fido the lion
Jenny (His hypochondriac sister)	Rock Concert Compere	Jasper the lion
Mum	Raving RocoDiles Rock Band	Tinface the robot
	Caesar	Pupil 1
	Cleo	Pupil 2

CD LISTING:

TRACKS 1-19 FOR PERFORMANCE: NO VOCALS  
 TRACKS 20-38 WITH VOCALS-FOR SONG REHEARSALS

- 1 and 20 Song- Mark is My Boyfriend
- 2 and 21 Song- Grandparents' Song
- 3 and 22 Song- Uncle Crumble's Mad Machine
- 4 and 23 SOUND EFFECTS- Mad Machine out
- 5 and 24 SOUND EFFECTS- Mad Machine in
- 6 and 25 Song- The Windmill Dance
- 7 and 26 SOUND EFFECTS- Mad Machine out
- 8 and 27 Fiddle Music
- 9 and 28 SOUND EFFECTS-Mad Machine in
- 10 and 29 Song - Jenny, You're a Wet Weed!
- 11 and 30 Acrobat Music
- 12 and 31 Belly Dance Music
- 13 and 32 Song- What Shall we do with the Prisoners?
- 14 and 33 Lion Music
- 15 and 34 SOUND EFFECTS-Mad Machine Out
- 16 and 35 SOUND EFFECTS- Mad Machine In
- 17 and 36 Song- Tinface the Robot
- 18 and 37 SOUND EFFECTS- Mad Machine Out/In
- 19 and 38 Finale- Uncle Crumble's Mad Machine  
Uncle Crumble's Mad Machine

SCRIPT SAMPLE

**Scene 1: Mark, Jenny and Ben's House. (Sally is visiting.)**  
**Mum, dad, grandma and grandad sitting at a table.**

NARRATOR 1: This is the story of four horrible children. They are terribly terribly selfish. They have no manners. They are always fighting. It's Mark's birthday. The grown-ups have arranged a birthday party for him. But the children are so selfish, they don't even want a party. Mark is always squabbling with his friend Sally. Jenny thinks its funny to pretend she's ill when she isn't. And Ben. Well, Ben is just a pain in the neck!

(ENTER MUM)

MUM: Mark! Sally! Ben! Jenny! Come downstairs! It's nearly time for the party! Hurry up!

(ENTER MARK AND SALLY, MARK IS PLAYING WITH A WRESTLING FIGURE. SALLY HAS A BARBIE DOLL)

SALLY (SOPPILY) Oh Barbie, Barbie my beautiful baby!

MARK : Huh. I see you've got your grotty old doll again. Tatty old thing.

SALLY: Look who's talking. You've got a grotty old doll, not me. (STICKS HER TONGUE OUT)

MARK: (HIGHLY INSULTED) Doll? Doll? This isn't a doll. It's the Rock! He's well wicked man. He's not a doll. Come here. I'm gonna pull the head off YOUR doll!

SALLY: Gerroff! (START FIGHTING) Oh, Mark, you're such a bully! But I still love you!

SONG \*\*\*\*\* MARK IS MY BOYFRIEND \*\*\*\*\*

NARRATOR 1: See what I mean? Mark and Sally are so horrid to each other. They're always fighting. And Jenny and Ben are no better. Look, here they come now.

(ENTER JENNY AND BEN, SQUABBLING)

JENNY: (To DAD) : Boo hoo! He's being rude! And I've got such a bad cold. And an earache. And a headache! And I've got a sore throat! And HE called me names!

BEN (To JENNY): Shut up., stupid. There's nothing wrong with you. I never called you names. You wet weed! Big ears! Spotty Clotty!

DAD: (CROSSLY) Be quiet the pair of you! Come and sit down. Stop calling your sister names. And Jenny. You must *not* keep pretending you're ill. It's not funny.

GRANDMA: Behave yourselves, children. We're having a lovely birthday party in a minute. Lots of songs. Lots of games. Your uncle will be here in a minute. (THE KIDS LOOK GLUM) What's the matter? Don't you want a party?

MARK, BEN, SALLY, JENNY: No, it's so boring.

GRANDMA (To AUDIENCE): These children don't want a Christmas party. Do you like parties? Yes, so do I.

GRANDPA: I suppose you just want to play computers or watch the telly!

KIDS: Yeah!

GRANDPA: (to AUDIENCE): You like parties, don't you?

AUDIENCE: Yes!

GRANDMA: You don't know how lucky you are. When I was a girl, we didn't have a telly.

GRANDPA: That's right,. When I was a boy, there weren't any computers. We had to make our own fun.

\*\*\*\*\* SONG: GRANDPARENTS SONG \*\*\*\*\*

NARRATOR 1: There's a knock on the door. It's the children's uncle. He's bound to cheer them up. You see, he's a very special uncle. He's an inventor! Come in, uncle Crumble.

(ENTER UNCLE CRUMBLE)

ALL: Hello Uncle Crumble!

UNCLE CRUMBLE: Hello everybody. Hope I'm not late for the party. I've been working on my new invention.

DAD : I hope it's better than your last invention. (To AUDIENCE) :He made a bird scarer for my garden, (WITH ACTIONS) First it hopped around on one leg. Then it jumped up and down. Then it whistled and steam came out of its ears. Then it fell in my garden pond. The birds loved it.

UNCLE CRUMBLE: Don't worry. My new invention is fantastic. (TO AUDIENCE) Do you want to see it?

ALL: Yes!

UNCLE CRUMBLE: Oh no you don't! (TWICE) O.K. Here it is! My mad machine! It can take you wherever you want to go! It's a sonic fission date travel converter!

ALL: A *what*?

UNCLE CRUMBLE: A time machine of course! (To MARK) Hey. Don't touch that button! You don't know what it does yet!

BEN: A time machine! That's batty!

SALLY: A time machine! That's barmy!

JENNY: A time machine! That's crazy!

MARK: A time machine! That's BRILLIANT!

\*\*\*\*\* SONG: UNCLE CRUMBLE'S MAD MACHINE \*\*\*\*\*

MARK: What does this button do, Uncle Crumble?

UNCLE CRUMBLE: Agggh! Don't touch that! The machine isn't finished yet!

(TOO LATE. FLASHING LIGHTS. \*\*\*\*\* ELECTRONIC NOISES \*\*\*\*\* . LIGHTS FADE. EXIT ALL.)

Uncle Crumble's Mad Machine  
Scene 2: A Park, near a bandstand, 1967

NARRATOR 2:The mad machine has taken those horrible children to another time! It's now 1967! Loud music! Hippies! Flared Trousers! Flower Power! Ban the Bomb! Look! Here come Angie and Larry, two hippies from the 1960's.

(ENTER LARRY AND ANGIE. WEARING HIPPIY CLOTHES- LONG HAIR WITH FLOWERS, MINISKIRT OR KAFTAN,SANDALS, BEAD, FEATHERS, BELLS, FLOPPY HATS)

ANGIE:. Hi, man. Whatcha doing man?

LARRY: Oh just groovin' along in my beads and my flares, man.

ANGIE: Yeah man. Too much. Peace. Love. I can dig those crazy beads, man.

LARRY: Whatcha doing today man?

ANGIE: Oh just groovin along in my miniskirt, man. There's a free rock concert in the park, man. Are you coming?

LARRY: Far out! Let's go....Wow. Unreal! Heavy! What's that noise, man?

\*\*\*\*\* ELECTRONIC NOISES \*\*\*\*\* ENTER MARK, SALLY, BEN, JENNY

LARRY: (To JENNY) You're a funny looking chick! Where did you come from?

JENNY: I'm not a chick. I'm a girl. If I was a chick I'd go cluck cluck. Where are we? What year is it?

ANGIE: Cosmic, man! This is the park of course. And the year is 1967.

JENNY: (TO LARRY) Why are you wearing those funny trousers And why have you got flowers in your hair?

LARRY (INSULTED): Funny trousers? These are flares man! And I like wearing flowers in my hair. Don't you?

JENNY: No, they give me hay fever! Atchoo! The pollen gets right up my nose! Atchoo!

BEN: (to JENNY) You get right up my nose Jenny. You're always moaning. Why don't you cheer up?"

LARRY: I know how to cheer you up! Let's listen to the free rock concert.

BEN: Rock concert? I never knew rocks could sing!

JENNY: I just want to go home and take my teddy to bed! ALL: Stop moaning Jenny!

(ALL SIT IN FRONT OF THE "STAGE". ENTER COMPERE.)

COMPERE: One two. One two. testing. Testing. Ladies and jellymen! I mean - er- Ladies and jellybeans! No, that's wrong...Ladders and gentlemen...No, that's not right...Labels and jellybellies! No...Aha! Got it! Ladies and gentlemen. Will you please welcome the greatest musical act of all time. The fabulous, the marvellous, the sensational RAVING ROCODILES!

RAVING ROCODILE LEADER: Love and Peace! Peace and Love! What a groovy audience! Here's our first number. One, two, a-one,two three four.

\*\*\*\*\*SONG : THE WINDMILL DANCE \*\*\*\*\*

MARK: What a racket! Let's get out of here!

JENNY: What a good idea. I keep telling you. I want to go home. I want to take my teddy to bed!

\*\*\*\*\*ELECTRONIC NOISES\*\*\*\*\*  
EXIT KIDS. EXIT ALL

### **SCENE 3:**

**A PALACE IN ANCIENT ROME. CAESAR AND CLEO ARE RECLINING ON CUSHIONS BEING FANNED BY A SERVANT WITH A LONG FAN ON A POLE.**

NARRATOR 2: The mad machine is working again. The children think it is taking them home. But they don't know how it works. I wonder if they will get home. Let's see.

CAESAR: (Lovingly) Oh, Cleo!

CLEO: (Lovingly) Oh, Caesar!

CAESAR: Oh, Cleo, Cleo my love!

CLEO: Oh, Caesar, Caesar, my love! You're so handsome.

CAESAR: I know! (YAWNS, AND FALLS ASLEEP)

CLEO: (To AUDIENCE) What a bighead. These emperors are all the same. (To AUDIENCE): Oh, I'm so pretty. I'm going to be the queen of Egypt. You all think I'm GORGEOUS don't you?

AUDIENCE: No!

CLEO: Oh yes you do! (TWICE) Grr...Watch it, or I'll feed you to the lions. (TO CAESAR:) Oi. Wake up you silly emperor. You think I'm gorgeous, don't you?

CAESAR: Yes my dear. I'll play you a love song on my fiddle if you like.

\*\*\*\*\* FIDDLE MUSIC, CAESAR MIMING AND DANCING \*\*\*\*\*

CAESAR: I'm the best finest fiddle player in Rome! May the Gods strike me dead if I'm not!

\*\*\*\*\* ELECTRONIC NOISES \*\*\*\*\* ENTER MARK, SALLY, JENNY, BEN

CAESAR: Aggggh! I didn't mean it! The Gods have come to strike me dead! Spare me, spare poor old Caesar!

MARK (TO OTHER KIDS): Gosh this isn't home! I think we're in Ancient Rome.

CLEO: Servant! Wine for our guests! Wine for our guests!

(SERVANT DROPS FAN AND RUNS AROUND WHINING)

CLEO (To SERVANT): What are you doing?

SERVANT: I'm whining. You told me to whine for your guests!

CLEO: Idiot! Go and get some wine. Everybody knows Gods drink wine.

NARRATOR 2: The mad machine has taken the children to Ancient Rome. Caesar thinks they are Roman Gods. They all sit and have food and drink wine. They are enjoying themselves. All apart from Jenny. She doesn't like wine. She says she's got a cold and wants orange juice instead.

JENNY: I've got a cold and a runny nose now! I want to go home. I want to take my teddy to bed!

BEN: Stop moaning Jenny. Don't be such a wet weed!

\*\*\*\*\* SONG: Jenny, You're a Wet Weed \*\*\*\*\*

CAESAR: You can't go home yet, Gods! Come and be entertained! Bring on the STRONGMAN!

(ENTER STRONGMAN)

STRONGMAN: Thank, you, Thank, you, Thank You! I shall first attempt to bend this thick iron bar with my bare hands! (BENDS A PIECE OF HOSEPIPE, TO RAPTUROUS APPLAUSE)

Thank, you, Thank you, Thank you! Now, I shall break this solid rock into little pieces! (BREAKS PIECE OF POLYSTYRENE) Thank you, Thank You, Thank You! And now, I will use my bare hand as an axe! I shall chop this wood in half with my bare hand! (KARATE CHOPS A PIECE OF BALSAM WOOD, HELD BY CAESAR) Thank you, Thank You, Thank You. I shall now attempt to lift this heavy dumb-bell above my head for 10 seconds. Help me count. (HOLDS UP DUMB-BELL FOR 10 SECS, AUDIENCE COUNTS TO 10)

(EXIT STRONGMAN TO HUGE APPLAUSE)

CAESAR: Pathetic.. Bring on the ACROBATS!

\*\*\*\*\* ENTER ACROBATS \*\*\*\*\*

CAESAR: Huh. Bring on the belly dancers!

\*\*\*\*\* ENTER BELLY DANCERS \*\*\*\*\*

## END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE

In the next scene they go to a school of the future, run by the despotic “Tinface the Robot”



## UNCLE CRUMBLE

This year's Key Stage 2 performance of, 'Uncle Crumble,' was an enormous success. Some teachers and parents even suggested that it was the best ever. This was the first performance where all children from all 8 classes were involved. The team work and commitment demonstrated by the children is to be applauded. The level of dedication displayed by the children was clearly evident in the 3 magnificent performances.



The 'Strong men' - Just some of our wonderful performers

# Uncle Crumble's Mad Machine

The lower juniors became time-travellers in this year's exciting production, *Uncle Crumble's Mad Machine*. All of Upper I and Lower II took part in the show which saw the main characters dash through history and beyond, visiting Ancient Rome, the Sixties and a futuristic Gateways. The two performances were enjoyed by parents, friends and pupils from Gateways and other local schools.



## Hundreds lap up show

 [Print Article](#)

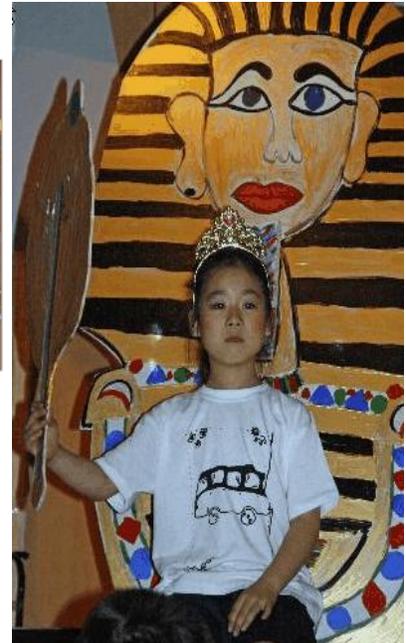
**Senior pupils at Law Primary School tripped the light fantastic last week to raise funds for their spring residential camp at Loch Insh, near Aviemore.**

Some 99 children from P7 put on a stunning musical performance of 'Uncle Crumble's Mad Machine' to packed audiences in the school dining hall.

The effort is expected to raise a healthy three-figure sum towards transport costs of the April 8-11 camp.

Said principal teacher, Alison Barbour: "It was a real team effort and I would like to thank everyone who helped out."

Choreographed and directed by staff led by Mrs Barbour, the youngsters gave a total of five performances to the rest of the school and to around 400 parents and friends last Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.



## Uncle Crumble's Mad Machine



It kept us in fits of laughter. We sang "Uncle Crumble's Mad Machine", it takes you where you've never been..." all the way home that night!

The juniors of the British School in Colombo and their teachers surpassed all limited with the production of "Uncle Crumbles Mad Machine" which hit the boards of the Lionel Wendt Theatre last week.

The play itself centered around a common plot. Four kids, two boys and two girls. Who as expected couldn't stand the sight of each other. Forced to attend a party they all dislike, they submerge themselves in gloom.

That is, until Uncle Crumble appears. Uncle Crumble was cleverly portrayed and brings uninvited his new invention to the party. No one is permitted to touch it, for it is a Sonic Fission Date Time Converter, a Time Machine guaranteed (or so he says) to transport one through time. The kids simply have to have a go and the Lionel Wendt was soon in pitch darkness. Eerie Music and a smoke filled the hall and soon the kids and the contraption had entered a new time and place. A park in the grooving 1960's was their first stop. Three Flower People entered the stage. And their antics soon had the audience roaring with laughter. They were ideally attired and effectively brought out the underlined theme of the 1960's - "Peace Man, Peace!"

As the kids appear the Raving Rockodiles make their entrance. Doing their thing in headbands, bead chains and a large electric guitars. But Jenny (the younger of the two girls) brings everyone back in perspective by saying that her teddy needs to go home to bed. And it's back to the Time Machine. This time Mark makes a mistake and the kids end up in Ancient Rome.

