

REVISION FOR 2015 PRODUCTION

Kids Court **LIBRETTO**

Principal Roles (in order of appearance)

Floor Manager
Francis/Frances, the Production Assistant
Donovan, the chief of Security
Judge Trudi
Plaintiffs' Attorney
Master H. Fairlawn
Miss G. Fairlawn
Defense Attorney
Mrs. Fairlawn, stepmother of H. and G. Fairlawn
Barbara Strother, an aging soap opera star
The Celebrity Agent
Johnny Strepp, a young actor
Britney Smears, a young actress
Agnes Patterson, an elderly infirm lady

Supporting Roles

Security Guard Soloists 1–7
Kid Soloists 1–17, 5a–5d
(Kid Soloists 9–13 and 16 must be Jury Members, and
Kid Soloists 14–15 and 17 must be Studio Audience)
Stage Hand Soloists 1–14

Choruses

Kids (children without changed voices and small women),
made up of:
- Studio Audience and
- Jury Members
Stage Hands
Security Guards

Kids Court

Act I

[As the audience enter the theater, the curtain is up, showing an empty television studio ten minutes before the commencement of the show. There are two main entrances left and right. One leads to the dressing rooms and the other to the outside world. This entrance has two lights above it which will flash in cases of emergencies and a large lever to one side of it which opens the outer (unseen) doors. Stage Hands enter and start erecting the rest of the set. Two sets of bleachers are already in place on either side of the stage to contain the studio audience. A large raised bench where the judge will sit is also already there. To one side of this is the jury box and on the other the witness stand. Tables and chairs are brought on and set up for the clients and the attorneys. Someone else is sweeping up. Water and glasses are set up on the judge's podium, and the counsels' tables. One of the last things to arrive (possibly during the opening chords of the overture) is a large banner erected behind the judge's desk. It reads "Kids Court". It should all be done in a very leisurely manner.]

1. OVERTURE **(Instrumental)**

[When the music of the overture starts, the Stage Hands are caught up by it and start to dance. Some perform a stately minuet; others waltz around the stage with a chair for a partner. At a given moment in the music the Stage Hands' foreman enters and points angrily at his/her watch. In response, the Stage Hands return hurriedly to their work, replacing the chairs and putting everything in order in time for the company's Floor Manager (FM) to enter with his headphones about his neck and carrying a clipboard. He has his arm around Frances, the Production Assistant (PA) and is in the middle of a racy anecdote. During the following speech, the PA becomes aware that there is an audience in the theater.]

2. ABOUT LAST NIGHT **(Floor Manager [FM], Frances [PA], Stage Hands 1-2 , Guard 1)**

FM: *[spoken]* What a night it was.

What a sight she was.

So I says to her,

"I'm this big TV producer,"

And 'though it really isn't true, sir,

She began to take the bait.

2. ABOUT LAST NIGHT (cont'd.)

FM: And as she started getting looser,
I says to her....

PA: *[spoken]* Wait!

FM: *[spoken]* Wait? Wait?
Believe me, Frances, "Wait" would be the last thing
That I would ever say.
What I actually said was...

[PA puts her hand up to FM's mouth to quiet him, then gestures to audience]

PA: Skip it for the moment.
This is a family production, and
There's people sitting out there in the audience.

FM: *[looks, suddenly aware of audience]* Hey!
What the heck!
You people shouldn't be here.
Frances, better go and give security a shout.
This TV studio isn't open to the public.
Frances, get security and throw these people out.

[shouted to offstage] Security! Security!
[The PA takes the FM aside and cautions him to keep his voice down.]

PA: Not so fast,
They look kind of important.
They could be with the sponsors.

FM: *[gasps]* The Sponsors!
[The FM gives the audience a more careful look.]

PA: Well, you never know.
They could be VIPs or friends of the actual producers.

FM: Thank you for the warning, Frances.
[to the audience, all smiles] Welcome to the show.

Guard 1 and SH 1-2: Welcome to the show.

FM: It's nice to see so many friendly faces.
I know you're gonna have a really wonderful time.
Excuse me now, but we have got to take our places.
[as he turns away he whispers to the PA] Find out who let these
bums in,
Their tails ain't worth a dime.

[The PA exits.]

3. SECURITY
(Donovan, Floor Manager [FM], Security Guards)

[Security Guards march in led by Donovan, their chief.]

Donovan:

Did I hear someone yelling
for security,
Security,
Security?

Guards:

Ah,
Security,
Ah, security,
Ah, security.

Don't need a second telling,
we're security,
Security, security.

Ah,
Security,
Ah, security, security.

Guards: We are all that stands between yourself and chaos,
So you've got no right to bad-mouth or downplay us,
When you bear in mind the lousy wage you pay us.
We're security, security.

Donovan: If the studio is ready to begin,
We will open up the doors and let the little monsters in.

FM: Go ahead, Mister Donovan.

Donovan: *[spoken]* Okay boys,

It's time once more for us
To do our duty,
As security,
Security.

Guards:

Ah,
Security,
Ah, security,
Ah, security.

An audience is not
A thing of beauty
For security, security.

Ah,
Security,
Ah, security, security.

Donovan: But when that audience is children mainly,
It's a cinch that things are gonna go insanely.

Guards: Watch your peace and quiet vanish down the drain de-
spite security. Security.

[Two security guards march to the back of the hall where the door to the studio is located. There they prepare for the entrance of the studio audience. A mob of children scream and chant "T.V." offstage.]

Kids: *[screaming excitedly]* YAAAAAY! TV, TV, TV!

4. KEEP IT DOWN
**(Donovan, Guards 2–4, Kids Chorus, Security Guards,
Stage Hands [SHs])**

[The children begin to enter, but are halted by the Guards and silenced when Donovan blows a referee's whistle.]

Guards: *[shouted]* Keep it down!

[The guards circle the kids and drive them into the center of the stage like sheep dogs into a tight circle. The Stage Hands re-enter cautiously.]

Donovan: I'm only gonna say this once,
So freeze and pay attention.
I gotta face you little runts
Despite my apprehension.
Why I suffer this affront's
Beyond my comprehension
And doubt. Hey-ho.

Guards: So take a tip.

Donovan: Yeah take a tip,
And try to understand,
You misbehave and you'll get zip.
In fact you'll all get canned.
So button up those little lips
And march to our command,
Or out you go.

Guards: Obedience and discipline, compliance and submission
Is what you'll have to give us if you want to gain
admission.
So show us now your tickets or you ain't gonna see the
show.

Guard 2: For you're in this century's most hallowed place,

Guard 3: The holiest of holy space,

Guard 4: Our most sacred edifice,

Guards: A TV Studio.

[The guards remove their hats and bow their heads in reverence. The kids have calmed down now as they look around them in awe. During the song they will show their tickets and take their places on the bleachers. The music is accompanied by an angelic choir of Stage Hands singing absurdly high soprano vocalizations.]

SHs: Ahhhhhhhhhhh.

5. WE WANT TO BE ON TV

(Kids 1–2, Donovan, Kids Chorus, Security Guards [GDs])

Kids: We're here. We're here.
Our hearts are beating like a drum,
Parumpapum.
We've waited all our lives,
And now we are here.

We're all just so excited.
Forgive us if we scream. *[They scream.] AAAHHH!!*
But since we were in diapers,
We've only had one dream.

There's always been a TV.
We sat for hours before it.
It entertained us daily.
No wonder we adore it.

We want to be on TV.
We really want to be there.
We want to be on TV
Where everything is real.
To be so close to the show where you are all
supposed to
Let everything hang out and scream and shout
And say exactly what you feel.

We want to be outrageous.

Kid 1: *[spoken]* I eat worms.

Kids: We want to cause disgust.

Kid 2: *[spoken]* I chew my boogers.

Kids: The dream is so contagious,
We're feeling fit to bust.

We are about to go
On a reality TV show,
Because for us the TV is as real as we'll ever know.

[The second half of the song is repeated with interjections from the chorus of security guards.]

Kids: We want to be outrageous. We want to cause disgust.	GDs: You are in a hallowed place, So put that tongue back in your face.
The dream is so contagious, We're feeling fit to bust.	We have a dream as well, A dream of shooting you into outer space.

5. WE WANT TO BE ON TV (cont'd.)

Kids: We are about to go On a reality TV show, Because for us the TV is as real as we'll ever know, ever know. Yes, the TV world's as real as we'll ever know.	GDs: How we hate this mob! More, we hate this job! It's as real as you'll ever know. Yes, the TV world's as real as you'll ever know.
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Donovan: *[shouted]* Sit down!!!

[The children rush to find places on the bleachers and sit down. Donovan and his men congratulate each other on a job well done.]

6. FABULINI

(Frances [PA], Floor Manager [FM], Kids 3–4, Donovan,
Stage Hands [SHs], Guards [GDs], Kids Chorus)

[The PA re-enters.]

SHs and GDs: Ahhhhhhhhh.

PA: Five minutes to showtime.

Kids: *[reverentially]* Five minutes to showtime.

[The FM appears wearing a smarter jacket but still carrying his clipboard.]

FM: Hi there everybody. Are you ready to make magic? You say
“yes”.

Kids: Yes.

PA: Louder.

[spoken] Yes!

Kids: Yes.

FM: Fabulini!

Anybody here who hasn't seen the show on TV? Yes or no?

Kids: No.

PA: Is it no?

Kids: No.

FM: Fabulini!

[begin counterpoint]

Kid 3: I haven't seen this show before.

No. No.

I haven't seen this show before.

6. FABULINI (cont'd.)

Kids: You haven't seen this show before?
I can't believe it. Wow!
I can't believe you haven't seen this show before.

PA: You haven't seen this show before?
I can't believe you've never seen this show before,
Never seen this show before.

[end counterpoint]

FM: Wow, wow and double wow!
Just where have you been living? Planet Mars?

Kids: Mars?

PA: That's a joke.

Kids: Oh.

FM: Fabulini!

Kid 4: *[shouted]* I live on Mars...

Donovan: You're ugly enough, Martian.

PA: Just let it drop.

Kid 4: *[spoken]* You mean me?

PA: No, the cop.

Kids: Fabulini!

FM: Okay everybody, for the Martian's sake, let's take it from
the top.

Kids: Where?

PA: From the top.

Kids: Right.

FM: Fabulini!

7. KIDS COURT 1

(Floor Manager [FM], Frances [PA], Kids 5–8, 5a–8a, Kids Chorus)

Kid 5: If you feel deprived, or
If you feel mistreated,
If you think that people aren't playing fair,

Kid 5a: Then there is one place you can go
If you want justice,
For justice is there.

Kid 6: If you feel despised, or
If you're feeling cheated,
If a friend has got some candy they won't share,

7. KIDS COURT 1 (cont'd.)

Kid 6a: Then there is one place you can come to as a final resort,
And that place is...

All Kids: Kids Court.

Kid 7: Here's where kids are important,
It doesn't matter how small.

Kid 7a: Whether you're tiny or in your teens,
It's justice for all.

Kid 8: Here's where people will listen.
Here's where you get the space

Kid 8a: To get back at those who've trod on your toes,
So step up and state your case.

All Kids: If you've got a grudge
And if it's real deep-seated,
Here's the very place to let it get some air.

All: Where law and order is a spectator sport,
And the name of that place is,
Whatever the case is,
The judicial space is
Kids Court.

8. SHOWTIME

**(Frances [PA], Floor Manager [FM], Judge Trudi, Donovan,
Stage Hands [SHs], Kids Chorus, Security Guards)**

PA: Ten seconds to showtime.

SHs: Nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one.

[Lights on the set flash, and a fanfare rings out.]

FM: Kids Court is now in session.

Kids: In session.

Guards: It's depressin'.

FM: And your judge for today
Who will say yea and nay
Has got the greatest resume.

PA: She's here to do her duty,
She's a thing of beauty,
With the hottest legal mind in the profession.

8. SHOWTIME (cont'd.)

Guards: It don't do to get snooty
With our own courtroom cutie,
So ev'rybody rise for
Judge Trudi!

All Kids: *[getting to their feet and shouting excitedly]* Judge Trudi!

[The judge enters clicking her fingers a la Peggy Lee in "Fever".]

Trudi: Hello, Donovan.

Donovan: Hello, Your Honor.

Trudi: HmMMM.....Hello, boys.

Guards: Hello, Your Honor.

[It's obvious that they are all crazy about her. She sashays around the stage in a seductive fashion.]

Trudi: Hi, kids.

Kids: Hello, Your Honor.

9. HAVE GAVEL, WILL TRAVEL

(Judge Trudi, Security Guards, Kids Chorus, Stage Hands)

Trudi: I love being a judge,
I love dispensing justice.
It's just as I dreamed it ought to be.
Sitting way up there,
I am the center of attention.
I can set you free, or I can keep you in detention.

I go here and there,
Dishing out decisions.
Yeah, the legal life's the only one for me.
And I'll never budge
From being a judge, yeah.
Have gavel,
Will travel.

Guards: She loves being a judge,
And she is totally impartial.
In part, she'll agree with what you say.

9. HAVE GAVEL, WILL TRAVEL (cont'd.)

Trudi: But every now and then,
A case comes up before me,
And I just throw it out because the people simply bore me.

Guards: But she's very fair,
Straighter than an arrow.

Trudi: Yes, it's true that I'm supreme in every way.

Guards: And she'll never budge
From being a judge, yeah.

Trudi: Have gavel,
Will travel.

Guards: She's our judicial diva.
She's our number one date.
We'd do anything for her.

Trudi: But I make 'em wait...
While I de-liberate.

ALL: When she's in her robes,
She feels so really special.

Trudi: Especially when the case is open wide.

ALL: Totally immune
To any intervention.

Trudi: Just present your briefs...

[spoken a la Mae West] ...and I will give 'em my attention.

ALL: The law is her life,
And when she's on her death bed...

Trudi: My final words will be "Well, I tried."
I'll never budge...

ALL: She'll never budge...

Trudi: No, I'll never budge...

ALL: No, she'll never budge
From being a judge, yeah.
Have gavel,
Will travel. She'll travel and
travel
And travel
And travel...

Trudi: Never budge
From being a judge, yeah.
Have gavel,
Will travel.....

9. HAVE GAVEL, WILL TRAVEL (cont'd.)

[By now Trudi has ascended to her bench. She snatches up her gavel.]

Trudi: I'm all done travelin'.
Time to start gavelin'.

ALL: Time to start gavelin' , yeah!

Trudi: Yeah! *[WHAM!]*

[She bangs her gavel on the bench, and the song ends. The "CHEER" light comes on and the kids dutifully respond. Judge Trudi acknowledges the cheers and then silences them by banging again with her gavel.]

10. CHOOSE A JURY

(Trudi, Floor Manager [FM], Kids 9–15, Guard 5, Donovan, Jury Kids Chorus [Jury], Non-Jury Studio Audience Chorus [Aud], Stage Hands [SHs], Security Guards)

Trudi: And the first duty of the court is to choo-hoo-hoo-hoo-hoose a jury.

ALL (Soprano and Bass):
And the first, a jury,
to choose a jury.

ALL (Alto and Tenor):
And the first duty of the
court is to choose a
jury.

ALL: A jury, a jury, to choose a jury.

FM: On the back of your tickets, you may find a star.
If you do, you're on the jury.

ALL (Soprano and Alto):
On the back of [y]our
tickets[, find a star],

ALL (Tenor and Bass):
On the back of your
tickets, you may find a
star.

And we/you are on the jury.

If you do, you're on the jury.

[Various kids leap to their feet on discovering a star on their ticket.]

Kid 9: I got a star, a star, a star, a star, a star,

Kid 10: I got a star, a star, a star, a star,

Kid 11: I got a star, a star, a star,

Kid 12: I got a star, a star,

Kid 13: We got a star,

Kids 9-13: So we are on the jury.

Guard 5:
Then come on down.
So come on down.

ALL except Aud:
The jury,
We/You are the jury.

10. CHOOSE A JURY (cont'd.)

[The lucky Jury Kids clamber and push their way through the others until they reach the stage floor. Some of the kids are delayed for a while by jealous kids who resent their success; maybe one or two try to snatch a ticket from its owner.]

Kid 14: *[wail]* I've lost my ticket.

Aud: And we don't have a star.

Kid 15: *[wail]* I've lost my ticket.

Aud: And we don't have a star.
Bogus.

GDs and SHs: Come on down.

Jury: We are the jury.

Aud: Baloney.

GDs and SHs: Come on down.

Jury: We are the jury.

[Eventually the Jury Kids reach the stage floor where they gather around the guards, pointing out their stars and thumbing their noses at the other kids, who shake their fists in retaliation.]

ALL except Aud: *[to Non-Jury Kids]*
That's how it goes,
So up your nose,
You so and sos.
You got the hose,
And we/they got chos-en.

ALL except Aud: We/They are the jury.
Aud: Bogus.

ALL except Aud: We/They are the jury.
Aud: Boo.

ALL except Aud: We're/They're the jury.
Aud: Boo.

ALL except Aud: We're/They're the jury.
Aud: *[shouted]* Boooooooooo!

Donovan: The sign isn't on yet, so...

Kids: *[yelled]* We know...
ALL: So keep it down.

Donovan: *[spoken]* Right.

11. CASE NUMBER ONE
(Trudi, Donovan, Stage Hands [SHs], Kids Chorus,
Security Guards)

OPTIONAL:

Trudi: *Now that the jury is sworn in
And everyone's in place,
I ask you, Mister Donovan,
To call the court's first case.*

[Donovan steps forward and prepares to read from a folder.]

SHs: *Call the first case.*

END OPTIONAL

*[The Stagehands exit in the direction of the dressing rooms as if to
summon the various protagonists.]*

Donovan: Case number one, Fairlawn versus Fairlawn.
Two kids accuse their stepmom
Of trying to bump them off.

[Hansel and Gretel enter with the Plaintiffs' Attorney.]

Donovan: See where they come, the kids and their attorney.
Although the tale is corny,
It doesn't do to scoff.

ALL: Although the tale is corny, it doesn't do to scoff.

[The Stepmother enters with her attorney.]

Donovan: And here's the accused, the children's stepmother.
The sister and the brother
Both say that she's the one
Who plotted their death, and they seek retribution.
So I say in conclusion,
"Let justice now be done."

ALL: So we say in conclusion, "Let justice now be done."
Amen.

*[Donovan steps back. There is mumbling in the audience. Trudi silences
it with a couple of bangs from her gavel.]*

12. I LOVE KIDS

(Trudi, Plaintiffs' Attorney [Plaint], Floor Manager [FM],
Frances [PA], Donovan, Kids Chorus, Security Guards)

Trudi: Will Counsel for the plaintiff
Address the court with his/her opening statement?

[The Plaintiffs' Attorney rises, oozing with charm.]

Plaint: Yes, I'd love to.
[He/she turns to the jury] Members of the jury...
I've no wish to curry favor,
But I love kids.

[The cheer light lights up, and the kids cheer in response. It goes out, and they stop immediately.]

Kids: *[cheering]* Yaaaay!!

Plaint: Just let me stand here and savor the flavor
Of all you kids.

[The cheer light lights up again, and the kids cheer in response. It goes out, and they stop immediately. The Plaintiffs' Attorney turns the attention of the audience to Hansel and Gretel, who look sad and lost.]

Kids: *[cheering]* Yaaaay!!

Plaint: My clients are there,
This innocent pair,
With rosy cheeks and tousled hair,
The gentlest lambs you could find anywhere,
Just like all you kids.

[Repeat lights business. The kids' cheering this time should be especially raucous.]

Kids: *[cheering]* Yaaaay!!
He/she loves kids.

Plaint: *[shouted]* I love kids!

[Repeat lights and cheers.]

Kids: *[cheering]* Yaaaay!!
He/she loves kids.

Plaint: *[shouted]* Yes I do!

[Plaintiffs' Attorney points to the stepmother.]

12. I LOVE KIDS (cont'd.)

Plaint: And there sits the monster-ous villain
Whose fiendish plot showed she was willin'
To stop at nothing short of killin'
These two fine kids.

[The boo light comes on, and the kids give themselves up to an animal roar of boos. The light goes off, but the kids continue to boo. Judge Trudi bangs her gavel and shouts for silence.]

Kids: *[shouted]* Boooooo!!

Trudi: *[WHAM!]* Silence! *[WHAM!]* Silence! *[WHAM!]*
I will have silence!

[Silence is achieved.]

FM: You kids must pay attention to the lights above your head.
When they are flashing, it's okay for you to wake the dead,

PA: But when those lights go out, as your Floor Manager has
said,
The noise must lapse.

Guards: So shut your lousy traps.

Trudi: Donovan.

Donovan: Yes, Your Honor!

Trudi: *[spoken]* Boys.

Guards: Yes, Your Honor.

Trudi: Before we begin,
I'll make a point of order.
You're bordering on being in contempt.

Guards: *[spoken]* What?

Trudi: The way you treat those kids,
I find it reprehensive.
You all must make an effort
To use language less offensive.

Trudi: So don't say "shut up";
Say "Please may we have silence?"

Guards: *[spoken]* What?

12. I LOVE KIDS (cont'd.)

Trudi: I am warning you to mind your P's and Q's.
From now, I'll expect
A bit more respect.

Guards: *[under their breath]* Aw, screw it!

Trudi: Just do it!

Guards: *[spoken morosely]* Yes, Your Honor.

13. GRATEFUL

(Trudi, Hansel, Gretel, Defense Counsel, Kids Chorus)

Trudi: Call the plaintiffs to the stand.

[Hansel and Gretel rise and address the audience.]

H and G: At last we have a chance,
Oh cruel and wicked world,
To tell the circumstances
And events that have unfurled.

Defense: Objection.

H and G: We're grateful to Kids Court
Who's given us a voice.
And once you've heard our sad report,
You'll make the only choice, the only choice.

Defense: Objection. Objection.

H, G, Kids: And once you've/we heard/hear our/their sad report,
You'll/we'll make the only choice.

14. OBJECTION

(Defense Counsel, Judge Trudi, Kids Chorus)

Defense: Objection, Your Honor, objection I say.
As Defense Counsel, I'm feeling verklempt.
Those little creeps fill me with fury.
I've never seen such an outlandish attempt
To dazzle and hoodwink a jury.

14. OBJECTION (cont'd.)

Defense: Their obnoxious performance is out of line.
If it's part of the record, remove it,
For those little swine through their teeth are both lyin',
And as sure as I stand here, I'll prove it.

[The kids boo the Defense Counsel.]

Kids: *Boooooo!*

[Defense Counsel marches up to the jury and stares them straight in the eye. Trudi's gavel causes them to silence. WHAM! WHAM! WHAM!]

Defense: And as sure as I stand here, I will prove it.

Trudi: Your objection's sustained, but I have to exhort
Defense Counsel to watch what you're saying.
It's vital that you are aware in this court
Of the image that you are conveying.

Referring to plaintiffs as "creeps" and "swine",
These are epithets you should not utter.
'Cause things will be civil in this court of mine.
You can keep all your insults for the gutter.

Kids: You can keep all your insults for the gutter!

15. THE PLAINTIFFS TESTIFY

**(Trudi, Donovan, Hansel, Gretel, Plaintiffs' Attorney [Plaint],
Defense Counsel, Stage Hands [SHs])**

Trudi: Swear in the plaintiffs.

[Donovan approaches with a copy of the TV Guide and a card. He hands the guide to Hansel.]

Donovan: Place your left hand on the TV Guide.
Raise your right hand, and read this card.

SHs: *[sung off-stage]* Oooooo...

H and G: We swear by all the networks' might,
By satellite and cable,

15. THE PLAINTIFFS TESTIFY (cont'd.)

H and G: To tell the whole truth, and if not quite,
Then as much as we are able.

Trudi: *[to H&G]* Please be seated.
[to Plaintiffs' Attorney] Counsel, you may proceed.

[Hansel and Gretel sit as their Counsel approaches them.]

Plaint: You are Hansel and Gretel Fairlawn.

Hansel: That's true.

Gretel: That's true.

Plaint: *[pointing]* And over there is your wicked stepmother.

Gretel: *[nodding]* Boohoo.

Hansel: *[nodding]* Boohoo.

Defense: Objection, objection, objection, I say.
Just look at them shed phony tears.
This is the worst performance by far and away
That I've seen in this courtroom in years.

Trudi: Sit down now, Counsel, you are overruled.
There's no reason witnesses have to be schooled
In method acting...

Defense: ...but I am not fooled
By these two bratty kids.

[Trudi bangs her gavel. WHAM! WHAM!]

Trudi: *[to Defense]* Pipe down, and get back in *[to]* your place...
[spoken to Plaintiffs' Attorney] Counsel...
Kindly continue with your case.

[The Defense Counsel resumes his/her place.]

**16. COMMERCIAL 1: FAMOUS SEAMUS
(Floor Manager [FM], Stage Hands 3-6)**

FM: *[stepping forward]* But before he/she recommences,
This portion of the trial is brought to you by the
following sponsor.

[Downstage four soloists (Stage Hands) enter in Irish costume.]

16. COMMERCIAL 1: FAMOUS SEAMUS (cont'd.)

SH 3: Sure you know that Mother Ireland is the home of
haute cuisine.

'Twas us taught France the little that it knows.

SH 4: But now we've brought the best of Irish cooking to
these shores,
And ev'ryday our reputation grows.

[The rest of the Stage Hands enter with dancers from opposite sides of the stage, led by two of their number pushing supermarket shopping carts loaded down with food.]

SH 5: So if you love your food, my friend, and want the very best,
I will tell you where to point your shopping cart.

SH 6: You'll never need a four-leaf clover when you come to shop
At famous Seamus Flaherty's Food Mart.

[As each item is named, they rummage through the contents to find it and display it.]

SH 3: You'll find...Sausages, lima beans, paté, salami,

SH 4: Egg mayonnaise, curry sauce, tofu, pastrami,

SH 3: Tamales, risotto and peppermint tea,

SH 4: And it's all of it Irish as Irish can be.

SH 5: There's broccoli, butterscotch, waffles, spaghetti,

SH 6: Paprika, burritos, piccata, Brown Betty,

SH 5: Plus chicken tandoori and béchamel sauce

SH 6: And authentic'ly totally Irish of course.

SH 3: Tomatoes, tostados, granola, zucchini,

SH 4: Beef stroganoff, chicken supreme, tortellini,

SH 6: Prawn vindaloo, kishke and coconut tart,

SH 5: You'll find it at Flaherty's Famous Food Mart.

[The dancers do an Irish jig.]

ALL SHs or guest soloist:

But the thing that'll make you be smackin' your lips
Is Beanfields fam'ly-owned bean and rice chips.
You can get seven flavors, they're tasty, they're thin,
From O'Glidden, O'Braude, O'Glidden, and kin.

Gluten-free, dairy-free, egg-free, and peanut-free,
Wheat-, fish-, and shellfish-, and soy-free, and tree nut-free.
Only thing not free, it's got a price tag,
So go out in the lobby and purchase a bag!

16. COMMERCIAL 1: FAMOUS SEAMUS (cont'd.)

- SH 4:** So now just you remember when you're feeling hollow,
SH 6: There's only one place if you're wanting to wallow
SH 3: In real Irish cooking that comes from the heart.
SH 5: It's Fabulous Flaherty's Famous Food Mart.

[As the dancers and singers bow and exit with the shopping carts, the applause sign comes on. Judge Trudi bangs with her gavel. As the applause dies, the Plaintiffs' Attorney rises.]

17. BARBARA 1

(Frances [PA], Plaintiffs' Attorney [Plaint], Defense Counsel, Trudi, Barbara Strother)

- PA:** We'd like to thank our sponsors for that lively little ruction.
But let us now move on to our dramatic reconstruction.
Plaint: To play the crucial role of the villainous stepmother...
Defense: I object.
Trudi: Sustained.
Plaint: ...We have the famous soap opera star, the lovely Barbara Strother.

[Barbara Strother enters looking glamorous and acknowledges the greeting of the crowd. She blows kisses in the direction of the audience and jury. Applause light goes on, and all clap wildly.]

Barbara: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you all so much.
From the bottom of my heart, I thank you, I thank you.
Your welcome gives me such a glow.
It's nice to see you here and know you still remember.
It's been ten long years since they sacked me from that lousy TV show,
And now the days grow short as you approach September.

Barbara:	ALL (low):	ALL (high):
But now I'm back amongst you all	Everyone has a story,	If only you will listen.
And basking in your smiles today.	Everyone has a story,	Everyone has a story,
My days in rehab now are all forgotten,	If only you will listen,	Everyone has a story,
Because I'm playing the kind of role that actors	If only you will listen,	Everyone has a story.
Always love to play.	Everyone has a story.	

17. BARBARA 1 (cont'd.)

Barbara: A character who's selfish, mean and rottennnnn.

Defense: Objectionnnnn.

Trudi: Sustainnnnned.

18. BARBARA 2

**(Barbara, Defense Counsel, Trudi, Plaintiffs' Attorney [Plaint],
All Choruses)**

Barbara: But first you must imagine, and I know it must be hard,
That I'm that dowdy creature over there.

[points to the Stepmother]

Defense: Objection.

Trudi: Sustained.

Barbara: And I am in my kitchen doin' my regular routine,
Abusing little children in my care.

Defense: Objection.

Trudi: Sustained.

Plaint: And I object to your objection,
To your annoying interjection.
It makes my day the same way as a root canal infection.

Now Barb'ra and the kids'll show
What ev'rybody did, and so
We'll learn the truth about this sad affair.

[shouted] Sing with me now!

ALL: Let's watch them reenact the past.
We'll hear each sordid fact at last
And know the truth about this sad affair.

[Hansel and Gretel get down from the witness stand to tell their story.]

**19. IT WAS A MORNING
(Hansel, Gretel, Barbara)**

[Hansel and Gretel produce yo-yos and start playing with them. As they continue with their tale, the Stepmother turns to her counsel shaking her head. They go into a muted discussion.]

Hansel: It was a morning like any other.

Gretel: And I was playing with my darling brother.

19. IT WAS A MORNING (cont'd.)

H and G: We tried so hard not to bother stepmother,
'Cause she had one of her migraines that day.

[Barbara enters dressed as a dowdy frump and pushing a trolley on which are a multitude of bottles of pills. Ignoring the children, she works her way through the bottles, swallowing pills by the handful.]

Gretel: She had tried asp'rin and Advil and Tylenol,

Hansel: Doxepin, Zomig, Aleve and Butalbital,

H and G: Percocet, Vicodin, codeine and Demerol,
But her headache would not go away.

We walked on tiptoe and spoke softly as we could.
We did our best to be as quiet as a mouse.

[Hansel drops his yo-yo. The noise makes Barbara swing round to them: she screams in anger and stalks off-stage pushing the trolley.]

But she lost her temper, just like we feared she would,
And minutes later, she dragged us from the house.

[Barbara enters carrying their coats. She flings them at the kids and they put them on reluctantly.]

Barbara: Off to the woods, little children, to the woods.
Go to the woods, little children, to the woods.
Come on with me, and we'll explore it,
Mother Nature, you'll adore it.
To the woods, little children, to the woods.

[She mimes leading the children through a dense forest, following a zigzag track. The children follow, trembling.]

Barbara: Through the trees, little children, through the trees.
Off through the trees, little children, if you please.
You'll find it's quite a bit more roomy
Where the woods are dark and gloomy.
If you please, little children, through the trees.

H and G: So we went, Heaven help us, yes we went, yes we went.
We had no notion of that woman's true intent.
Though we knew we shouldn't oughter,
Like two lambs to the slaughter,
On we went, Heaven help us, on we went.

19. IT WAS A MORNING (cont'd.)

[They have reached a clearing and so stop moving. The stage darkens so that Barbara and the children are in a small pool of light.]

Barbara: Hide and Seek, little children, Hide and Seek.
It is a game, little children, Hide and Seek.
And if you close your little eyeses,
You'll be due for some surprises.
Close your eyes when you're playing Hide and Seek.

[They turn their backs on Barbara, place their hands over their eyes and count to twenty while Barbara sings the final verse. A second pool of light opens up onstage and Barbara moves away from the children and into it.]

Barbara:	H and G:
Now I'm gone, little children, yes, I'm gone.	One, two, three, four,
You are alone, little children, from now on.	Five, six, seven, eight,
I will be free of aggravation When you perish of starvation.	Nine, ten, 'Leven, twelve,
You'll be dead, little children, dead and gone.	Thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen,
You'll be dead, little children, dead and gone.	Seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty.

[With a maniacal peal of laughter Barbara trots offstage and the second pool of light vanishes.]

Barbara: *Ah ha ha ha ha ha!*

H and G: *[spoken] Ready or not, here we come.*

[They turn around looking for their Stepmother. There is a moment's silence.]

20. GUILTY 1

(Gretel, Hansel, Kid 16 [Jury foreperson], Trudi, Donovan, Jury Kids Chorus [Jury], Non-Jury Studio Audience Chorus, Security Guards)

Gretel: *[spoken fearfully] Mother.*

Hansel: *[ditto] Mother.*

20. GUILTY 1 (cont'd.)

[They collapse sobbing into each other's arms.]

Both: *Waaaah!*

[The lights come up onstage, and the foreperson of the jury (Kid 16) stands.]

Kid 16: That's enough, more than enough.
 We've reached a verdict. It's time to get tough.
 She's guilty as charged, she's guilty without
 An infinitesimal shadow of doubt.

[The entire jury stands.]

Jury: That's enough, more than enough.
 We've reached a verdict. It's time to get tough.
 She's guilty as charged, she's guilty without
 An infinitesimal shadow of doubt.

Kid 16 and All Kids (Round):

 Pass the sentence, stop wasting time.
 This woman is guilty as charged of the crime.
 Pass the sentence, stop wasting time.
 This woman is guilty as charged [of the crime].

[Judge Trudi bangs her gavel and shouts for silence.]

Trudi: *[WHAM! WHAM! WHAM!] Silence!*

All Kids: This woman is guilty as charged of the crime.

Trudi: *[WHAM!] Silence!*

Guards: *Sit down!*

Trudi: *[WHAM!] Silence! [WHAM!]*

Guards: *Sit down! Sit down!*

[The kids lapse into silence.]

Trudi: *[spoken sternly] Children!*

 If I have any more of this, out you go.
 This trial isn't over till I say so.
 If you can't sit quietly, you'll leave the show.
 That's the deal on the table, so yes or no?
 Is your answer yes or no?

[Quietly at first, but with growing confidence, the kids respond and begin to return to their seats.]

20. GUILTY 1 (cont'd.)

Kids: We want to be on TV.
We'll turn our voices off.
Without the slightest whisper,
Without a single cough.

Trudi: What a lovely lot of kids.
I'd be so grateful if you did.
Just what I want to hear,
You know it's music to my ears.

Kids: At last we have been seen
Upon the glorious TV screen,
And now that we are here there's no way we'll ever
get enough.
Don't you scoff.
Now that we're on TV, you will never get us off.

Donovan: Sit down!

21. GINGERBREAD HOUSE 1

(Plaintiffs' Attorney [Plaint], Trudi, Gretel, Hansel, Kids Chorus)

Trudi: Please proceed.

Plaint: When we last heard you were in...

Gretel: We were in a forest dark and dreary.

Plaint: And, as darkness fell, what happened then?

Hansel: We grew terrified and weary.

Plaint: And then?

Hansel: Then suddenly in a clearing we saw a most amazing sight.

Gretel: At first we thought we were dreaming, then we hollered with
delight.

[From the side of the stage a flat painted to represent the gingerbread house sidles on. It has a low practical door.

N.B. When the flat is turned around, it is painted to resemble a kitchen and the door of the house is now the door of the oven.]

Hansel: It was a gingerbread house.

It had a candy cane roof,

Gretel: And the chimney was built out of lollipops.

H and G: It had chocolate floors,

And there were butterscotch doors,

And the handles were made of lemon drops.

21. GINGERBREAD HOUSE 1 (cont'd.)

H and G: And there were licorice drainpipes, peppermint mainpipes,
With a green jellybean hedge.
You'll never, ever, ever go hungry or be underfed
If you live in a house made of gingerbread.

Kids: Licorice drainpipes, peppermint mainpipes,
With a green jellybean hedge.
You'll never, ever, ever go hungry or be underfed
If you live in a house made of gingerbread.

Hansel: We took one look at that house
With all the candy and such,

Gretel: And right away we started drib-bl-in'.

H and G: We didn't give it a care,
We both decided right there
That this wasn't a time for quib-bl-in'.

H and G: In our excitement, we took a bite.
Boy, it tasted great. So we ate and ate and ate,
And if you are hungry, then it's like we said:
You should live in a house made of gingerbread.

Kids: In their excitement, they took a bite.
Boy, it tasted great. So they ate and ate and ate
And if you are hungry, then it's like they said:
You should live in a house made of gingerbread.

Gretel: As we settled down to our sweet repast,

Hansel: We didn't notice how much the time had passed,

H and G: 'Cause everything on the house was so deli-cious.
When we think back upon it now,
I guess we both realize as how
We should have been just a little bit more suspi-cious.

While we were lunching, chewing and munching,
Our fate was sealed, though it was concealed
From us, and it is a miracle we are not dead,
Having dined on the house made of gingerbread.

Kids: While they were lunching,
chewing and munching,
Their fate was sealed,
though it was concealed

H and G: It's a wonder
We're not dead,

21. GINGERBREAD HOUSE 1 (cont'd.)

Kids:

From them, and it is a miracle
they are not dead,
Having dined on the
house made of gingerbread.

H and G:

When we ate the
House of gingerbread.

Hansel and Gretel
Thought they would settle
In the house of gingerbread
And maybe go to bed.

Ba ba da ba da ba da, etc.

Gretel: Then from inside an eerie voice cried.

Hansel: It was so creepy that we were consumed with dread.

[From behind the house, we hear the voice of Barbara as the witch.]

22. BARBARA 3 (Barbara)

Barbara: Who is out there nibbling? Nibble, nibble, nibbling?

[The door of the house opens, and Barbara steps out in the role of the witch with a very obvious false nose which she now lifts.]

Barbara: It's me again, it's Barb'ra, and I play a second role,
A woman who is near senility.
The character's a loser, but I will achieve my goal
Of showing you my versatility.

[Replacing the nose, she returns to character.]

23. BARBARA 4 (Barbara, Hansel, Gretel)

Barbara: Who's that nibbling? Who's nibbling? Is it some little boy
or girl?
Don't be afraid of me. I promise you I'm harmless.
I'm just a lonely little widow who has retreated from
the world,
Because with every passing day it grows more charmless.

23. BARBARA 4 (cont'd.)

Barbara:

So call me "granny", little dears.
Eat up, and I'll be with you
shortly.
Your unexpected visit's such a treat.
And I am going to feed you up until
You both are plump and portly,
And then, and only then, will granny eat.

ALL:

Ooo...

Aah...

[She exits with a fiendish cackle.] Ha ha ha ha ha!

H and G: So we ate, Heaven help us, so we ate, yes we ate,
And not a crumb of food was left upon our plate.
But then as we grew sleepy,
Things began to get real creepy,
But by then we both agreed it was too late.

[Barbara returns triumphantly pushing a large cage on wheels. She hustles the children inside it. She then turns the house flat around, revealing the kitchen and the oven door.]

Barbara: In the cage, little children, in the cage.
Disobey me, and you'll throw me in a rage.
Before I get a chance to taste you,
I think it best to baste you
With some gravy and perhaps a little sage.

[She cackles again with laughter as the Floor Manager steps forward.]

Barbara: Ah ha ha ha ha ha!

24. COMMERCIAL 2: THE PULVERIZER

(Floor Manager [FM], Stage Hands 7–11, Trudi, Stage Hands [SHs], Security Guards, Kids Chorus)

FM: Since we've moved into the kitchen,
This portion of the trial is brought to you by the
following sponsor.

[Dancers (Stage Hands) enter dressed in bobby socks. This is a forties-style big band number and should be dressed accordingly. They each have a weird-looking kitchen gadget in their hands. Barbara flounces off in high dudgeon. Hansel and Gretel are shepherded back to the table by the Plaintiffs' Attorney.]

24. COMMERCIAL 2: THE PULVERIZER (cont'd.)

SHs: Perhaps you have a lot of kitchen gadgets.

Non-SHs: Kitchen gadgets.

SHs: But here's a new one you can't do without.

Non-SHs: Do, do without.

SHs: It's got a catchy name, The Pulverizer.

Non-SHs: Pulverizer.

SHs: And pulverizing's what it's all about.

Non-SHs: All abou-wow-wout.

SHs: You got to...

Do, do, do the Pulverizer.

Do, do, do the Pulverizer.

Do, do, do the Pulverizer.

Don't you sup till you mash it up.

Do, do, do the Pulverizer.

Do, do, do the Pulverizer.

Do, do, do the Pulverizer.

It's so great to annihilate.

SH 7: If you have trouble with your teeth
And find it hard to gnaw,
Use this to mash your T-bone steak,
Then suck it through a straw.

SHs: Do, do, do the Pulverizer.
Do, do, do the Pulverizer.
Do, do, do the Pulverizer.
It's no use until it's juice.

SH 8: You'll never take out trash again,
'Cause nothing goes to waste.
Just dump it in here, count to ten
And mmm, what is that taste?

SHs: Do, do, do the Pulverizer.
Do, do, do the Pulverizer.
Do, do, do the Pulverizer.
Join the rush to turn out mush.

SH 9: The recipes
you also get
We know you'll wanna try.

SHs: Do the Pulverizer,
Do the Pulverizer,
Do the Pulverizer,
Do the Pulverizer,

Kids Court Act II

25. PRELUDE TO ACT II (Instrumental)

[The curtain rises on an empty stage. A kid sticks his/her head around the pros arch and surveys the scene. He/she enters cautiously and then turns around and gestures to another group of kids who enter staring about them. They examine the gingerbread house, trying to pick the sweets off and are disappointed that they are fake. The first kid by this time has climbed onto Judge Trudi's podium and now picks up the gavel. Pretending to be the judge, he/she bangs the gavel and shakes a finger as though admonishing the other kids. At first the kids find this funny, but suddenly Donovan rises up behind the kid with the gavel, his whistle in his mouth. The other kids stop laughing and back away. Following their line of sight, the kid with the gavel turns and sees Donovan who leans down till they are staring at each other face to face. Donovan blows his whistle and snatches the gavel from the kid, who leaps down, and they exit pursued by Donovan still holding the gavel. Mid-stage he stops and looks at the gavel in his hand. Realizing his mistake, he turns back and replaces the gavel on the bench. He then looks about him with satisfaction, straightens his uniform and tie and is about to exit with dignity when the kid sticks his head around the corner and thumbs his nose at him. Donovan blows his whistle again and chases off after the kid, almost colliding with Hansel and Gretel's attorney who enters with his/her arms around his/her clients' shoulders. A guy with a briefcase and a sharp suit follows them out and lurks in the background. The Stage Hands are refilling the water on the counsels' table and checking out the gingerbread house, etc.]

26. ON THE OTHER HAND 1 (Plaintiffs' Attorney [Plaint], Hansel, Gretel, Celebrity Agent, Stage Hands [SHs])

Plaint: Have you had enough pop? Have you had enough candy?

Gretel: Everything's super.

Hansel: Everything's dandy.

Plaint: *[spoken]* Good!

Here is your modus operandi:

Just keep the pressure a-comin'. Never let it flag.
Show no shred of mercy to that miserable hag,
And I'll stake my reputation that this case is in the bag.

26. ON THE OTHER HAND 1 (cont'd.)

[The stranger now steps forward and makes a courtly little bow. He is a celebrity agent.]

Agent: Before the trial reconvenes, I'd just like to convey
How deeply touched I've been by all the things I've heard
you say.
Your story is so moving, gee, it really hit me hard.
By the way, I run an agency, and here is my business card.

But I'm not here to make a deal. I've really nothing planned.
That's not the purpose of my spiel,
But on the other hand...
If you wanna make some dough from what the two o' you
been through,
Then I'm the guy for you.

You've a story to tell, and I can help you tell it.
You've a story to sell, and I can help you sell it.
When the people of this country see your little shining faces,
OPTIONAL:
You and me, I guarantee, are going places.

*I'm not here as a businessman. I want to be your friend.
Through thick and thin, I'll be your fan until the bitter end.
So let's not talk of movie rights or money from the books.
And ignore your lawyer, s/he's uptight:
That's why s/he's giving me dirty looks.*

*I'm simply here 'cause I care a lot. I'm making no demand.
Don't give the cash a second thought.
But on the other hand...
This here contract is the first step on a golden ladder which
Could make you filthy rich.*

*There are millions to make, and I can help you make 'em.
There's confessions to fake, and I can help you fake 'em.
If you'll only sign this contract, we will each hold all the aces.*
END OPTIONAL

You and me, I guarantee, are going places.
I'm like a faithful dog, you see. Just put me through my
paces.
You and me, I guarantee, are going places.

26. ON THE OTHER HAND 1 (cont'd.)

- SHs:** The other hand, on the other hand,
The other hand will take you places in a style most obscene,
In a jumbo jet, or better yet, in a hummer limousine,
- SHs:** Or a boat that's crossing Jordan, take you to the promised
land,
And the ticket for your passage is in the other hand.
- Plaint:** My clients have no interest in what you now propound.
- Agent:** Aw, get off your high horse, bubbelah. There's plenty to go
round.

[During the next refrain the agent persuades Hansel and Gretel to sign the contract he hands them, ignoring the lawyer's protestations.]

- SHs:** Play the game, don't be so dumb.
Carpe manum alterum,
And seize life by the other hand.

27. KIDS COURT 2

(Trudi, Donovan, Security Guards, Kids Chorus)

[The court reassembles with Donovan and the Security Guards ushering the kids back into their seats and Judge Trudi getting on to her podium.]

- Kids:** If you feel deprived,
Or if you feel mistreated,
If you think that people aren't playing fair,
There is one place you can come to as a final resort,
And that place is Kids Court.

Kids: *[loud cheering]* Yaaaaay!!

Trudi: *[WHAM! WHAM! WHAM!]* Let everyone be silent.

Kids: *[disappointed]* Awww...

Donovan: Will you kids just shut up?!

Kids: *[more disappointed]* Awww...

Guards: Shut up!

[frustrated yelling] Shut up! Shut up!

Trudi: *[shocked and disappointed]* Donovan!

What did I say about saying "Shut up"?

Donovan: About saying "Shut up"?

Trudi: That's right, saying "Shut up".

27. KIDS COURT 2 (cont'd.)

Donovan: *[to his fellow Security Guards]* What did she say about saying “Shut up”?

Guards: I think she said we should shut up.

Trudi: *[spoken]* Now you got it.

Donovan: In that case...
Judge Trudi, whom we’d rather not annoy, says
You shouldn’t make those naughty little noises,
So we’d love it if you were obedient girls and boyses
And help us all to do our jobs.

Guards: We will smother you with kisses and embraces
If you prove yourselves to be worthy of high praises
By tripping quickly over to your places,
Sitting down and clamming up your gobs.

28. PLEASE CONCLUDE

(Trudi, Plaintiffs’ Attorney [Plaint], Kid 17, Barbara, Hansel, Gretel, Security Guards)

Trudi: Please conclude the presentation of your case.

Plaint: Benificent judge, munificent jury, magnificent kids.

Kid 17: *[spoken]* We love you too, Mister/Missis Prosecuting Counsel!

Plaint: *[recitative]* If you will remember,
This vile woman had lured these poor children into the
woods,

[The Defense Attorney rises to protest and then thinks better of it.]

Plaint: Knowing full well that eventually
They would fall into the hands of an evil flesh-eating witch.

[With a fiendish cackle Barbara re-enters again as the witch, now wearing a chef’s hat and apron and carrying a large book entitled “How to Serve Children”.]

Barbara: That’s me. That’s me. That’s me, me, me, me, me, me, me, me,
me, meeeeeeeeeeeee.

[Hansel and Gretel resume their positions inside the cage from Act One.]

28. PLEASE CONCLUDE (cont'd.)

Hansel and Gretel: And we are back inside the cage.
Barbara: Yes, back inside the cage.

**29. ITTY-BITTY CHILD
(Barbara, All Choruses)**

Barbara: *[fiendish cackle] Ah ha ha ha!*

Now let me see.
How shall I cook the children?
What shall I make of them?
Shall I roast them, fry them or toast them?
What a delicious dilem-ma.
Quite so many options.
It could drive a gourmet wild.
There is no food quite so versatile

OPTIONAL:

As an itty-bitty child.

[again cackling] Ah ha ha ha ha ha!

*How shall I cook the children?
Which is the kindest cut?
Shall I joint them, perhaps anoint them,
Smothered in garlic and but-ter?
Recipes by thousands
Leave a person quite beguiled.
There's nothing quite so succulent*

END OPTIONAL

As an itty-bitty child.

Some people rave about chicken,
Others are mad about steak.
Some cannot live without puddings,
While others could live on just cake.
But as to my favorite vittle,
My answer's already been filed.
It won't come as news
That I'll always choose
A plate of delectable child.

[again cackling] Ah ha ha ha!

*How shall I cook the children?
How shall I make them taste?*

*[musing thoughtfully] With potatoes, maybe tomatoes?
Possibly baked in a pas-try.*

29. ITTY-BITTY CHILD (cont'd.)

Barbara: Sadly my eating habits
Often have been reviled,
But I will never cease to eat
While still alive and on my feet.
There is no food makes me feel replete
Or smells so good and tastes so sweet.
There's nothing on this earth can beat...

ALL: *[shouted] An itty-bitty child!*

Barbara: *[shouted] Yummy!*

[The witch acknowledges the applause and then opens the big oven door and tends to it with a poker, etc.]

**30. GINGERBREAD HOUSE 2
(Hansel, Gretel, Barbara, Trudi, Kids Chorus)**

Hansel: While she was singing her song,
I had the urge to cry out
That I was a boy, not a piglet.

Gretel: I took a clip from my hair,
I stuck it in the lock there,
And then I began to wiggle it.

H and G: If we could pick it, break or unstick it,
We could get home safe to bed
Instead of winding up in the gut of that ugly old nut,
The witch who lives in the house made of gingerbread.

Kids: If they could pick it, break or unstick it,
They could get home safe to bed
Instead of winding up in the gut of that ugly old nut,
The witch who lives in the house made of gingerbread.

Hansel: Just then we both heard a click.
We knew the lock was undone.

Gretel: Now all we had to do was to make a break.

H and G: We tiptoed up to that goat *[gesture at Barbara]*
And raised our hands, but please note
That we weren't about to play patty-cake.

30. GINGERBREAD HOUSE 2 (cont'd.)

H and G: She was distracted, so we both acted.
Into the fire she sped...

[Barbara emits a dramatic descending scream as she is pushed inside the oven door, which is closed after her.]

Barbara: AAAAHHHH!

H and G: ...And once we slammed the oven door shut,
We knew that we'd kicked the butt
Of the witch in the house made of gingerbread.

Kids:	H and G:
She was distracted,	We are
so they both acted.	happy
Into the fire she sped,	that she's dead.
And once they slammed	
the oven door shut,	No more
They knew that they kicked	witch
the butt	
Of the witch in the house	in the house of
made of gingerbread.	gingerbread.

Kids with H and G:
No more witch in the house of gingerbread.

[The cheer sign comes on and the court cheers in response.]

Kids: *[shouted]* Yaaaaay!

[Barbara reappears, removing her false nose and taking a bow. The Plaintiffs' Attorney signals, and a little girl runs on and presents her with a huge bouquet. Barbara embraces Hansel and Gretel and blows copious kisses to the jury and the court. The Stage Hands meanwhile trundle the gingerbread house offstage. The sign goes out, but the kids continue to cheer. Judge Trudi hammers for silence. Still blowing kisses, Barbara exits reluctantly, being dragged off by the little girl and a couple of Stage Hands. The kids in the audience cheer in approval. Judge Trudi hammers the bench with her gavel until the children are reduced to silence.]

Trudi: [WHAM! WHAM! WHAM!] Silence!
[WHAM! WHAM! WHAM!] Silence!
[WHAM! WHAM! WHAM!] I will have silence in my court!
[WHAM! WHAM! WHAM! WHAM!]

**31. DISCIPLINE
(Trudi, Security Guards)**

Trudi: It is time you heard the case for the defense now,
So don't you dare cause any more offense now.

Show me that you've got a bit of common sense now
By sitting still and listenin'.

Guards: Listenin'.

**32. COMMERCIAL 3: ACCIDENT, WHAT ACCIDENT?
(Defense Attorney, Floor Manager [FM], Guards 6–7, Stage Hands)**

[The Defense Attorney gets gravely to his feet.]

Defense: Learned judge, noble jury,
And members of the audience,
The case for the defense...

[He is about to continue when the Floor Manager leaps forward.]

FM: ...Is brought to you by the following sponsor.

[The Defense Attorney throws his arms in the air and sits in disgust as the Guard soloists enter, dressed as lawyers and wearing Mexican sombreros.]

Guards 6 and 7:

If you have had an accident for which you're not to blame,
You can go and get a lawyer who will make your pers'nal
injury claim.

You owe it to yourself, so let's have no recriminations.
There's millions to be made by suing all the mighty
corporations.

But what if your evidence is weak?
Then we are the firm that you should seek...
Out.

[Two large fake piñatas are lowered from the flies. "Accident?" is painted on one and "What Accident?" on the other. The piñatas should be suspended from two wires each so that the slogan always faces the audience. Other dancers and Stage Hands wearing blindfolds enter with sticks (made of some non-dangerous substance). They try to hit the piñatas, which rise and fall above their heads but only succeed in hitting each other. At the end of each chorus, someone is lying unconscious on the stage. Their photograph is taken and then they are carried off on a stretcher. The other participants should also show injuries so that at the end of the number, they limp off using the sticks as crutches.]

32. COMMERCIAL 3: ACCIDENT, WHAT ACCIDENT? (cont'd.)

GDs 6 & 7: Accident? What Accident?

SHs: If you want compensation,
Remember that name.

GDs 6 & 7: Accident? What Accident?

SHs: You want us on your side
When you're making a claim.

GDs 6 & 7: We get you the dough

The other guys owe.

SHs: Because we cause your accident

And capture it on video.

GDs 6 & 7: With what's at stake,

You can afford no mistake.

SHs: The time and place is up to you.

You even choose which limb to break.

GDs 6 & 7: Accident? What Accident?

SHs: You know you can trust us,
We're regular guys.

GDs 6 & 7: Accident? What Accident?

SHs: When we do your accident,
There's never a surprise.

OPTIONAL:

GDs 6 & 7: *One trouble with most accidents is that they're unobserved,
And it makes it very hard for you to get the money that is
deserved.*

*So when our client says the time and place that he would
prefer,*

*Our filming crew is there and waiting for the accident to
occur.*

Don't wait around till you are ambushed.

Why fall when it's easy to be pushed?

[cry in falsetto] Aye!

END OPTIONAL

Accident? What Accident?

SHs: If you are short on ethics,
We'll get along fine.

GDs 6 & 7: Accident? What Accident?

SHs: We'll saw part of your chair leg.
With luck you'll hurt your spine.

GDs 6 & 7: Your case has more clout

When you're eating out...

SHs: ...If we place roaches in your food.

You'll win your case without a doubt.

32. COMMERCIAL 3: ACCIDENT, WHAT ACCIDENT? (cont'd.)

GDs 6 & 7: And if you choose,
We'll use this nifty ruse.
SHs: We'll grease a public building stairway.
There is dough in ev'ry bruise.

GDs 6 & 7: Accident? What Accident?
SHs: You'll be traumatized,
Satisfaction's assured.
GDs 6 & 7: Accident? What Accident?
SHs: And if by chance you die,
We'll make sure you're well-insured.

Guards 6 and 7 and Stage Hands:
And if you accident'lly die,
We'll make sure you're insured.

[Massive shouting and sombrero throwing. The applause sign lights up as the singers exit. Judge Trudi bangs with her gavel.]

33. THE DEFENDANT TESTIFIES 1
(Trudi, Donovan, Stepmother, Defense Attorney,
Stage Hands [SHs])

Trudi: *[spoken]* Moving right along,
Let the defendant take the stand.

[She does, and Donovan hands her a copy of the TV Guide.]

Donovan: Read this oath as you raise your right hand.

SHs: *[sung from off-stage]* Ooooo...

[Donovan and the Guards exchange exasperated looks at hearing yet again the "heavenly choir".]

Stepmom: I swear by Fox and CBS,
HBO and NBC,
By ESPN and PBS
To be true as I can be.

SHs: *[sung from off-stage]* Ahhh...

[Repeat of Donovan and Guards business.]

Trudi: Please be seated. Counsel, you may proceed.

33. THE DEFENDANT TESTIFIES 1 (cont'd.)

[The stepmother sits as the Defense Attorney approaches.]

Defense: These kids say you abused them.

Stepmom: Not true. Not true.

Defense: They say you tried to lose them.

Stepmom: Again, not true.

Defense: You claim to love them dearly.

Stepmom: I do. I do.

Defense: Well, someone's lying, clearly.

Stepmom: Don't you know who?

Defense: The jury must decide at length what is and is not real.

So go ahead and tell them now exactly how you feel.

Their mother died, you took her place.

Stepmom: No, that I never could.

But I did my best and tried to love them as a mother should.

34. HOW HARD I TRIED (Stepmother)

Stepmom: Nothing I did was good enough,
No matter how I tried.
I gave them all the love I had.
They weren't satisfied.
Try as I might to reach their hearts,
They always turned aside.
Nothing I did was good enough,
No matter how hard I tried.

No words were ever wise enough,
No matter what I said.
Each time that I reached out to them,
The further away they sped.
I tried to make the best of things,
Though many tears were shed.
Nothing was ever good enough,
No matter what words I said.

I read to them in bed each night.
I made for them their favorite food.
I bought them toys and treats, we went on trips,
But it was all misunderstood.

No sacrifice was great enough,
No matter how I cried.

34. HOW HARD I TRIED (cont'd.)

Stepmom: Each time that I expressed my love,
They told me that I lied.
As time went on, I realized
That something inside had died.
No sacrifice was great enough,
No word was ever wise enough,
I knew I'd never love enough,
No matter how hard I tried.

[At the conclusion of the song, the applause light comes on. The kids in the bleachers applaud half-heartedly. The Plaintiffs' Attorney rises to his/her feet.]

35. THE DEFENDANT TESTIFIES 2 (Plaintiffs' Attorney [Plaint], Stepmother, Defense Attorney)

Plaint: Excuse me if I treat that sad confession with derision.
And jury, please take note that she had reached the firm
decision
That she could never love enough, love enough.
[points to stepmom] Is that not precisely what you said?
And so instead of loving them, you hated them instead.

Stepmom: No, no, no. That's not at all what I meant.
Nothing I did was good enough,
Despite my best intent.

Defense: It's time to show the jury how this love worked out in
practice.
We have a little scene devised and call upon to act this
The talent of two young performers, fresh and controversial.
They've been in movies, miniseries and the odd
commercial.
So put your hands together please and make a loud report,
And welcome Johnny Strepp and Britney Smears into this
court.

36. JOHNNY AND BRITNEY (Johnny Strepp, Britney Smears, Defense Attorney, Stepmother, Plaintiffs' Attorney [Plaint], Trudi, Hansel, Gretel, All Choruses)

[The "APPLAUSE" and "CHEER" signs go on as the two young actors dressed identically to Hansel and Gretel enter and acknowledge the cheers. A couple of kids approach the two stars with autograph books but the Guards pick them up bodily and carry them back to their seats.]

36. JOHNNY AND BRITNEY (cont'd.)

Johnny: Thank you. Thank you.
I love you all to death.

Britney: Me too. Me too.
You take away our breath.

J and B: Such adoration of us is so satisfying to observe,
Especially when we know we both deserve it.

ALL: They find our adoration more rewarding to observe
When they are confident they both deserve it.

Defense: I ask you now to tell us,
And I hang on every word,
On the morning that it happened,
Exactly what occurred.

Stepmom: *[spoken thoughtfully]* Well...
The kids had decided to bunk off school.

Plaint: Objection.

Trudi: Overruled.

Stepmom: My protests all were met with ridicule.

Plaint: Objection.

Trudi: Overruled.

Stepmom: They lazed around all morning playing video games,
Eating peanut butter sandwiches in bed.
And when I tried to get them out to take a little air,
They looked at me with pity and they said:

J and B: Don't want to go nowhere.
Don't want to do nothing.
Just want to enjoy our home sweet home.
So give us some space now.
Get off of our case now.
Get out of our face now,
And leave us alone.

Britney: Don't order us around now, or boss us.

Johnny: We're not recruits, and you ain't no sarge.

Britney: You may have married dad, but don't you dare cross us.

J and B: You'll never, ever, ever, ever be in charge.

Don't want to go nowhere.
Don't want to do nothing.
Just want you to leave us both alone.

36. JOHNNY AND BRITNEY (cont'd.)

Johnny: Get out of our hair now.
Britney: Just give us some air now.
Johnny: You haven't a prayer now,
J and B: You mis'erable crone.

[There is a gasp from the audience at this final insult. Hansel, Gretel and the Plaintiffs' Attorney are on their feet.]

Hansel, Gretel, and Plaintiffs' Attorney:
[shouted] Objection! Objection!

Trudi: *[spoken]* Overruled. Please proceed.

Stepmom: *[spoken thoughtfully]* Well...
I fin'ly convinced them both to take a walk.

H and G: She forced us.
Trudi: That's enough.

Stepmom: I thought I might give them both a nature talk.

H and G: She's lying.
Trudi: Enough stuff.

Stepmom: While on the walk, I must confess I took a little pride,
Giving names to every single plant and tree.
But when I asked them questions just to see what they had
learned,
They answered with disdain and mockery.

J and B: We're sick of your moanin'.
We're sick of your groanin'.
Your silly old lectures stupefy.
You're wasting your breath now.
You bore us to death now.
You're Lady Macbeth now,
So crawl off and die.

Johnny: We hate the countryside and all it stands for.

Britney: We hate you even more and we repeat,

Johnny: You try to be our mom, but just understand, you're

J and B: Not even fit enough to wash our mother's feet.

We really despise you.

We'll de-humanize you.

You think you are something, but you're not.

Britney: It could be genetic

Johnny: That you're so pathetic.

36. JOHNNY AND BRITNEY (cont'd.)

Britney: Your love is synthetic.

J and B: It means diddly-squat.

Plaint: I must protest the slander of these children you project.
That they would talk like that, my friend, is patently absurd.
In dealing with your client they've shown great respect.

Defense: With respect, I can't say that is what we all have heard.

Congenital liars,
These kids have conspired
To blacken this decent woman's name.
They're strangers to truth now.
Don't blame it on youth now.
They're both so uncouth now,
They should die of shame.

Plaint: *[spoken]* Objection! Objection!

Trudi: *[spoken]* Sustained. Counsel,
Before you start another rant like that one,
I'll have Donovan and his guys throw you out first.
So just continue with your reconstruction.
I ask the jury kindly ignore that rude outburst.

Defense: I stand corrected.
[to the stepmom] Please proceed.

Stepmom: *[spoken thoughtfully]* Well...
My lectures never have been well-received.

Gretel: You said it.

Hansel: We dread it.

Stepmom: I never get angry. I am never peeved.

Gretel: She's awful.

Hansel: Unlawful.

Stepmom: So I suggested we should play a game of Hide and Seek.
I felt sure they'd benefit from exercise.

[She pretends to be playing the game by closing her eyes. Britney and Johnny tiptoe off stage.]

Stepmom: They went away to hide, and that's the last I saw of them,
Until they came back spreading all these lies.

36. JOHNNY AND BRITNEY (cont'd.)

Defense: I gather you're saying
That while you were playing,
The pair of them ran away from you.
The witch was a fable.
Those kids are unstable.
I hope I've been able
To prove that it's true.

Plaint: Are we to understand that is her story?
She says the children just ran away?

Defense: These are the facts that I place before ye,
And when you tell the truth, that's all you have to say.

Plaint: You ask us to swallow
A story so hollow.
My clients would choke on the attempt.
I'm asking the jury
To share in my fury
And look on this spuri-
ous Tale with contempt.

ALL: *[all shouting] Boooo!*

Defense: Before I fight this slander, I would like to call back
Our two young stars, whose talent is immense.

[The two actors return and take bows.]

Defense: To Johnny Strepp and Britney Smears, we thank you from
the heart:
You've really made the case for the defense.

[There is a smattering of half-hearted applause.]

37. INSULT TO THE COURT/GUILTY 2

**(Plaintiffs' Attorney [Plaint], Trudi, Jury Kids Chorus [Jury], Non-
Jury Studio Audience Chorus [Aud], Stage Hands, Security Guards)**

Plaint: Defense? Defense? You call this a defense?
I call it an insult to the court.

All Choruses:

It is, it is, it is[, it is] an insult to the court.
It is, it is, it is[, it is] an insult to the court.

37. INSULT TO THE COURT/GUILTY 2 (cont'd.)

All Choruses: It's no defense, but an insult,
And this insult has resulted
In the feeling we're insulted.

[Johnny and Britney, sensing trouble, exit hurriedly.]

Trudi:	All Choruses:
Counsel for the defense,	It is an insult, it is,
Have you nothing more to say?	it is, it is, it is, it is,
You hear the court is hardly	It is an insult, it is,
in your favor.	it is, it is, it is, it is.
Your client's in big trouble, and I	It is an insult, it is,
feel I must convey,	it is, it is, it is, it is,
You're gonna need a miracle	It is an insult, it is,
to save her.	It is an insult.

All Choruses:
His/her poor defense is an insult,
And his/her insult has resulted
In the feeling we're insulted.

[The jury rise to their feet.]

Jury: That's enough, more than enough.
We've reached a verdict. It's time to get tough.
She's guilty as charged, she's guilty without
An infinitesimal shadow of doubt.

[The kids in the audience cheer in approval and get to their feet to march around the studio. Judge Trudi, Donovan and the Security Guards try to subdue them.]

Jury and Aud (Round):	Plaint:
Pass the sentence, stop wasting time.	It's an insult
This woman is guilty as charged of the crime.	to the court.
Pass the sentence, stop wasting time.	I call it
This woman is guilty as charged[of the crime].	an insult to the court.

[They wind up in a menacing group around the Defense table. The Defense Attorney put his arms defensively around the stepmom. Judge Trudi bangs with her gavel.]

Trudi: *[WHAM! WHAM! WHAM!] [Shouted] Silence!*

37. INSULT TO THE COURT/GUILTY 2 (cont'd.)

[Donovan and his men hustle the kids back to their seats.]

Kids: This woman is guilty as charged of the crime.

Trudi: *[WHAM!] Silence! [WHAM!] Silence! [WHAM!]*
I have warned you kids now again and again.
You know very well my position.
This trial isn't over till I say "when",
And I ask for your final decision.

I admit that this case appears open and shut,
And the chances are slim for acquittal,
But I'll let the defense provide more evidence,
Or present some reproof or rebuttal.

[spoken] Well, Counsellor,
This is your last chance.

38. MY LAST WITNESS

(Defense Attorney, Plaintiffs' Attorney [Plaint], Trudi)

Defense: Thank you, Your Honor.
I'll make them all sorry they ever dared to question my
fitness.
To prove it, I call to the stand my last witness.

Plaint: Objection, Your Honor, we've had no warning
That he meant to call somebody new.
Besides all the facts in this case have been stated, and
It's time that the jury withdrew.

Trudi: *[shouted] What?!*
I'll be the judge of that, if you don't mind.
It's I who's in charge of the jurors.
*[to the Defense Attorney] You're sure that this witness will help
your client's case?*

Defense: Your Honor, I never was surer.

Trudi: Okay, I'll allow it, but don't take all day.

Defense: Thank you, Your Honor. I'd just like to say...

39. COMMERCIAL 4: PINKY BENDER (Floor Manager [FM], Stage Hands 12–14, Stage Hands, Kids Chorus, Security Guards)

[The Floor Manager and the Production Assistant step forward.]

39. COMMERCIAL 4: PINKY BENDER (cont'd.)

FM: ...That this portion of the trial is brought to you by the following sponsor.

[Everyone groans and returns to their places.]

Non-SHs: *Awww...*

[The Defense Attorney sits back down beside the stepmother and comforts her as a group of athletes (Stage Hands) bound onto the stage, each carrying in one hand a small metal spring. Stage Hand 12 steps forward to begin the commercial dressed in leotard and sports gear. If there are enough of them, they each might have a letter from the word "Pinky Bender" printed on their back and at the climax of the song they could get in the right order so that when they turn around the name of the product is revealed.]

SH 12: Hi there, everybody. It is time to exercise,
Because of course a perfect body's something we all prize.
Today we hope you'll join with us as we try to connect
With a little body part that nearly everyone neglects.

I'm sure you're all familiar with the cheesy merchandise
That costs a bloody fortune to perfect your buns or thighs.
If you are tired of shelling out, my friends, you are in luck.
The item we're promoting here will only cost a buck.

SHs: *[very squeaky]* A buck?

Non-SHs: Did you say a buck?

SHs: Plus nineteen ninety-five shipping and handling.

[She produces a little piece of bendy wire not much bigger than a hairpin.]

SH 12: And now here it is. Everybody can take heart.
Now for just a buck, you can exercise that most-neglected
body part.

[She attaches it to her pinky finger and starts the demonstration.]

SHs: You got to bend, stretch, bend that pinky.
Bend it all day long.
You got to stretch, bend, stretch that pinky.
Make it big and strong.

39. COMMERCIAL 4: PINKY BENDER (cont'd.)

SHs: Ree-lee work that pinky.
Put it to the test.
Let's make that pinky finger big and
Stronger than the rest.

SH 13: When I was just a little girl, I hated my physique,
Because my little finger always seemed so small and weak.
If I was asked to tea, it always knocked me for a loop,
'Cause when I tried to lift the cup, it always seemed to droop.

[The rest of the Stage Hands produce pinky benders and do the exercise along with the soloist.]

SHs: So we

OPTIONAL:

*bend, stretch, bend that pinky.
Bend it all day long.
That's why we stretch, bend, stretch that pinky.
Make it big and strong.*

END OPTIONAL

Exercise that pinky.
Really go for game.
Then you can proudly lift a teacup
With no sense of shame.

SH 14: As I grew up, I suffered myriad derisive looks.
I couldn't lift the canvas bag in which I kept my books.
Then Dina showed me Pinky Bender. Now that I'm aware,
I am buying lots of books at Porter Square!

[The audience in the court joins in the final two choruses.]

OPTIONAL:

ALL: *Because we bend and stretch and bend that pinky,
Bend it all day long.
Stretch and bend and stretch that pinky,
Make it big and strong.*

SHs: *You really got to work that pinky.
Put it to the test.*

ALL: *[shouted] Let's make that
Pinky finger, pinky finger stronger than the rest.*

END OPTIONAL

ALL: You got to bend and stretch and bend that pinky,
Bend it all day long.
Stretch and bend and stretch that pinky,
Make it big and strong.

39. COMMERCIAL 4: PINKY BENDER (cont'd.)

SHs: No doubt you want to have a pinky
Stronger than a horse.

ALL: *[shouted]* You got to
Pay your buck and start to try the Pinky Bender course.

[The athletes bound off-stage as the applause sign flashes. Judge Trudi bangs with her gavel and achieves silence eventually. The Defense Attorney rises.]

**40. AGNES PATTERSON TESTIFIES
(Defense Attorney, Donovan, Agnes Patterson, Trudi,
All Choruses)**

Defense: I call to the stand Mrs. Agnes Patterson.

Donovan: He calls to the stand Mrs. Agnes Patterson.

ALL: Who the heck is Agnes Patterson?

Defense: This fine lady here.

[An elderly woman with her foot in large bandages is pushed onstage in a wheelchair. As soon as she sees Hansel and Gretel she points at them in a fury.]

Agnes: It's them. It's them. Those murderous little brats.

Trudi: Madame please control yourself.

Agnes: But it's them. It's them.

[to Hansel and Gretel] You treacherous little rats.

[She hobbles towards Hansel and Gretel who hide behind their attorney. The judge halts her attack.]

Trudi: Will you please control yourself?

Agnes: *[to Trudi]* Apologies, Your Honor, but you must understand
The ordeal through which I have been put.
If I hadn't managed to get free when I did,
Then I wouldn't have a toe on either foot.

Trudi: Donovan, swear her in before we all get disbarred.

Donovan: Please raise your hand and read what's on the card.

[Agnes takes the TV Guide in her hand and reads.]

Agnes: I swear by Oprah Winfrey to
Tell the truth and not pretend.
And if I find I don't have a clue,
I can always call a friend.

40. AGNES PATTERSON TESTIFIES (cont'd.)

Trudi: *[to Defense Attorney]* Counsel, you may proceed.

Defense: You are Mrs. Agnes Patterson?

Agnes: I am, that's true.

Defense: And will you tell the judge and jury
Just what you do?

41. DROWNED AT BIRTH

(Agnes, Plaintiffs' Attorney [Plaint], Trudi, Defense Attorney, Hansel, Gretel, All Choruses)

Agnes: I run a little candy store and gift shop in the woods.
I've been in business on that spot for years.
I make a modest living selling cards and sundry goods,
Like homemade sweets and handmade souvenirs.

My life was uneventful, some would say a little dull,
But I was happy in my candy store.
But that was all to alter on that fateful afternoon
When those two vipers slithered through my door.

Some children should be drowned at birth,
And that applies to them.
To let those nasty little thugs grow up would be
An unwise stratagem.
They nearly were the death of me,
And that you surely must condemn.
I won't rest till I hear a choir
Sing their requiem.

SHs and GDs: Ah...

Plaint: Objection.

Trudi: Overruled.

Defense: Please proceed.

[From either side of the stage a Stage Hand wheels on a television set and switches it on.]

Agnes: The afternoon was quiet and the customers were few.
I thought I'd make myself a cup of tea.
I went into the back room where I put some on to brew.
I watched the shop with my CCTV.

[On the TV screens we see the actions described shot from above as if on a CCTV camera.]

41. DROWNED AT BIRTH (cont'd.)

Agnes: That's when I saw them enter. They were shifty, they were sly.
I watched them with unerring vigilance.
I saw them taking products off the shelves, and they would try
To hide them in their jackets and their pants.

Plaint: Objection.

Trudi: Overruled.

Defense: Please proceed.

Agnes: I went out and confronted them. Neither one of them would atone.
I said that I was calling the police.
I went into the stockroom where I keep a mobile phone,
But they followed me as silently as meece.

Trudi: *[spoken]* As what?

Defense: *[spoken]* Meece, Your Honor.

Trudi: *[spoken]* Oh meece, right.

Agnes: I have a giant freezer where I keep my frozen goods.
You'll never guess what those two monsters did.
They stuffed me like a sausage in that freezer, those two hoods,
And when I screamed they shut and locked the lid.

Hansel, Gretel, and Plaintiffs' Attorney:

[shouted] Objection!

ALL: *[shouted]* Overruled!

ALL: Some children should be drowned at birth,

Agnes and Tenor/Bass: And that applies to those. **Soprano/Alto:** And that applies to, that applies

ALL: If they protest that they are innocent,
Then it is nothing but a pose.

Agnes:

Chorus:

When I was in that freezer,
Boy, I very, very nearly froze.
It really is a miracle
That I've got any toes.
My anger grows and grows.
Those little so and sos.
I'll punch them in the nose.

Ahh..
Ahh...

Some children should be drowned at birth,
And that applies to those. And that applies to those.

41. DROWNED AT BIRTH (cont'd.)

[The "APPLAUSE" sign comes on and everyone with the exception of Hansel, Gretel and the Plaintiffs' Attorney cheer. Agnes gets up unsteadily and bows to the crowd. The Stage Hands remove the TVs.]

42. CASE DISMISSED (Trudi, Agnes)

Trudi: Let me get this clear, Mrs. Patterson.

Agnes: *[spoken]* Your Honor?

Trudi: Have you at any time been a witch?

Agnes: *[spoken]* A which?

Trudi: And have you ever owned a gingerbread house?

Agnes: *[spoken]* Well, son of a...

Believe me, Your Honor,

It's just a tiny little store in the middle of the woods.

The walls are made of logs, the roof made of tin.

Trudi: And do you have an oven that you use for cooking little kids?

Agnes: Your Honor, I'm a vegetarian.

Trudi: In light of this new testimony, it is clear to me
Stepmother's been very badly dissed.

It's obvious the children have been telling lies quite blatantly.
So I'm happy to announce, "case dismissed".

[The "CHEER" sign goes on and the court cheers. The stepmother embraces her attorney. The off-stage company enter to add their congratulations. Judge Trudi hammers for silence. Hansel and Gretel try to tiptoe away but are stopped by a couple of guards.]

Trudi: I'd like to thank the jury for their close attention and their
work.

The care that they have shown is unique.

And now I ask a court official to arrest those little twerps,
And we'll put them both on trial next week.

[More cheers as Donovan marches forward and grabs Hansel and Gretel. The Agent emerges from the crowd and approaches the stepmother.]

43. ON THE OTHER HAND 2

(Agent, Hansel, Gretel, Agnes, Donovan, Defense Attorney,
Plaintiffs' Attorney [Plaint], Trudi, Jury Kids)

Agent: Now your ordeal is at an end, and I'd just like to convey
How deeply touched I've been by all the things I've heard
you say.

Your story is so moving, gee, it really hit me hard.

By the way, I run an agency, and here's my business card.

OPTIONAL:

But I'm not here to make a deal. I've really nothing planned.

That's not the purpose of my spiel.

But on the other hand...

*If you wanna make some money from the trauma
you been through,*

Then I'm the guy for you.

END OPTIONAL

Hansel: Wait a sec, you're OUR agent.

Gretel: We've a contract. You agreed.

Agent: Your stepmom has a better story,
Something folks will pay to read.

Agnes: Me too. I've a story.
Frostbite nearly took my toes.

Agent: Very good, you've got a contract
When you turn it into prose.

Donovan: Me too, me too. I have a story.
I'm the muscle on Kids Court.

Agent: That might need some illustrations.
In the meantime, hold that thought.

Defense and Plaintiff:
Us too, us too. We got tales
Of cases won and lost.

Agent: *[shaking his head]* Lawyers' stories rarely
Cover publication costs.

Trudi: Me too, me too. I got a story:
Twenty years up on the bench.

Agent: I think that we can work out something.
Come on down, you legal wench.

*[As Judge Trudi gets down from the bench, Barbara, Johnny and Britney
rush back on.]*

Barbara, Johnny and Britney: Us too, us too.

We've a thousand stories we could sell.

Stepmom: Some are fact [true] and some are fiction.
Everybody has tales to tell.

44. EVERYONE HAS A STORY

**(Stepmother, Agent, Donovan, Agnes, Plaintiffs' Attorney [Plaint],
Defense Attorney, Hansel, Gretel, Johnny, Britney, Barbara, Trudi,
All Choruses)**

Stepmom: Everyone has a story,
If only you will listen,
Though it may not be a glori-
ous tale like those of old.
It may be unpresuming,
Quiet and unassuming,
A little flower blooming,
A summer cold.

Ev'ry minute something happens,
Happens all around you,
Though it may not make a snappy
Anecdote or two.
The little things in life
Add up to something wonderful and new,
The fascinating story all about you.

ALL: Da, da, da...

Agent: Ev'ryone has a story,
If only they would tell it.

Donovan: Yes, and even if it's boring,
Please lend them an ear.

Agnes: Small talk is worth pursuing.
Ask them how their folks are doing.

Plaint: If there's trouble brewing,

Defense: You're there to hear.

H and G: Paying attention really matters,

J and B: And it doesn't cost a fortune.

Barbara: Even in the dumbest chattering,
Some sense breaks through.

Trudi: And when they've had their say,
It's then your turn to tell them all anew,
The fascinating story all about you.

ALL (Soprano, Alto, Bass):
Ev'ryone has a story,
If only you will listen,

ALL (Tenors):
Ev'ryone has a story,

44. EVERYONE HAS A STORY (cont'd.)

ALL (Soprano, Alto, Bass):

Though it may not be a
glori-
ous tale like those of old.
old.
It may be unpresuming,
Quiet and unassuming,
A little flower blooming,
A summer cold.

ALL (Tenors):

Though it may not be a
glori-
ous tale like those of
old.
It may be unpresuming,

Just a flower blooming,
Or a summer cold.

ALL:

Ev'ry minute something happens,
Happens all around you,
Though it may not make a snappy
Anecdote or two.
The little things in life
Add up to something wonderful and new,
The fascinating story all about you,
The fascinating story all about you,
About you, all about you.

45. KIDS COURT 3

**(Floor Manager [FM], Frances [PA], Guards 6–7, Stage Hands 3–14,
Kids Chorus, Stage Hands, Security Guards)**

[Floor Manager and the Production Assistant step forward.]

FM:

Ladies and gentlemen, that's a wrap.
You've been a wonderful crowd.

PA:

You really made the program swing.
You've really done us proud.

FM:

And thanks to our generous sponsors, too.

PA:

We value their support.

*[Representatives of the four commercials step forward in costume
brandishing the product or a printed slogan.]*

GDs 6 & 7: Accident, what accident?

SHs 3–6: At Fabulous Flaherty's Famous Food Mart.

SHs 12–14 and half the remaining SHs:

Stretch and bend and stretch that pinky,
The Pinky Bender Course.

SHs 7–11 and the rest of the SHs:

Do, do, do the Pulverizer.
Do, do, do the Pulverizer.
Do, do, do the Pulverizer.

45. KIDS COURT 3 (cont'd.)

FM: If you're free, come back and see
The best TV...

ALL: Kids Court.

PA: It's the show of shows,

FM: And though we may be biased,

BOTH: It just has to be the greatest ever seen.

Kids: All we wanted was to be on TV,
And that's where we've been.

Sop/Alto: It's on ev'ry week.

Come on, apply for tickets,

And you'll see yourself upon the little screen.

ALL: This is where the innocent and guilty cavort,
And the name of the place is,
There's plenty of spaces,
There's nothing replaces
The cases on Kids Court.

[The lights in the boxes overhead go crazy as the company take their bows.]

**46. GINGERBREAD HOUSE ENCORE
(Company)**

ALL: It was a gingerbread house. It had a candy cane roof,
And the chimney was built out of lollipops.
It had chocolate floors, and there were butterscotch doors,
And the handles were made of lemon drops,

And there were licorice drainpipes, peppermint mainpipes,
With a green jellybean hedge.

You'll never, ever, ever go hungry or be underfed
If you live in a house made of gingerbread.

Licorice drainpipes, peppermint mainpipes,
With a green jellybean hedge.

You'll never, ever, ever go hungry or be underfed
If you live in a house made of gingerbread,
When you live in a house of gingerbread. *Yay!!!*

THE END