

This play 'Turn That Frown Upside Down' was written to celebrate World Smile Day on October 2nd.

There was so much material I had to leave out – there will undoubtedly be sequels!

I hope everyone enjoys it. Here are some extracts:

Cast (19 – 26)

Narrator

Grumpy Young Girl 1 (alias GYG1)

Grumpy Young Girl 2 (alias GYG2)

Grumpy Young Boy 1 (alias GYB 1)

Grumpy Young Boy 2 (alias GYB2)

(Collectively known as GYP – Grumpy Young People)

(See Production notes at back for*1 suggestions on how these four can be presented, and cast numbers)

Seven Children from Sound of Music

Quotation Children (Qs: 1-7)

Proverb Children (Ps: 1 – 7)

Music 1 What a Wonderful World – Louis Armstrong

(Enter 2 grumpy young girls, alias GYGs, and 2 grumpy young boys, alias GYBs, holding their hands over their heads)

GYG1: What a din!

GYB1: Somebody turn off that music!

GYG2: Yeah! I've got a headache!

GYB2: Me too! And it's getting worse by the minute!

(Enter Narrator)

Narrator: (Coughing) Er excuse me! But hasn't anybody told you what day it is today?

GYG1: Not Monday, I hope. Worst day of the week!

GYB1: Nah! Every day of the week's bad when you're having to spend it at school!

Narrator: Enough! Where did you lot crawl from? The wrong side of bed perhaps?

(Falls about laughing)

GYG2: (Sarcastically) Oh! I see we have a joker in our midst!

GYB2: (Sarcastically) Oh! What fun!

Narrator: Now, come on, you miserable lot! This really won't do!

(Pauses and looks towards rest of cast)

Looks like we're gonna have to tell them what day it is. Let's hear it

Cast: (Shouting) World Smile Day!

(Everyone holds up a smiley face)

Narrator: And what do we do on World Smile Day? We

Cast: (Shouting) Smile!

GYG1: You've got to be kidding!

GYB1: Is he for real?

GYG2: What a fool!

GYB2: Hasn't anyone told him it's not cool To play the fool!

Narrator: Oh I get it!

GYG1: I *doubt* it!

Narrator: Oh, I think I do!

(Turning to rest of cast)

Looks like we have a bit of a challenge this morning! So, what are we going to do, gang?

Cast: (Shouting) Turn that frown,

(Everyone frowns)

Upside down!

(Everyone beams)

GYP: (Together) No way!

Narrator: (Stroking his chin) We'll see! So, what makes the rest of you smile?

(GYP group sit down, scowling, whilst seven children from The Sound of Music stand up and sing – either original version, or *2alternative version – see Production Notes)

Music 2 My Favourite Things: Sound of Music

(Singers return to seats, as rest of cast applauds enthusiastically – with the exception of GYP group, who shake their heads and make other derogatory gestures)

Narrator: (Scratching chin) Hmm. You lot certainly *are* difficult to please. So, let's try some inspiring words ..

(Line of children with quotations, each stepping forward one at a time)

Q1: If you want to be happy, be!

Q2: If only we'd stop trying to be happy we could have a pretty good time!

Q3: What a wonderful life I've had! I only wish I'd realized it sooner!

Q4: Some pursue happiness, others create it!

Q5: Happiness will never come to those who fail to appreciate what they already have!
In other words, be happy with what you've got!

Q6: You cannot always have happiness, but you can always give happiness!

Q7: Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself.

All Qs: (Jumping up and down) Jumping for joy is good exercise!

(Qs sit down, GYP stand up and mimic previous 'jumping for joy' actions)

GYG1: (Gasping for breath and sitting down heavily, scowling) Jumping for *what*?

GYG2: (Scowling in disgust) More likely to make you all hot and smelly!

GYB1 & 2: (Holding noses) Ugh!

Narrator: (Sighing) You know, *you* are the *sad* ones!

GYP: (Together, indignantly) *Us*?

Narrator: Yes, *you*! Of all the things you wear, your *expression* is the most important! So

(Turning to cast)

What do we need to tell them?

Cast: (Shouting together) Turn that frown, upside down!