

# JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

Based on the book by Roald Dahl

#1 – PRE-SHOW FX: Ocean Waves, Seagulls

## PROLOGUE – A Pack of Actors

#2 - RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES

*(As the music begins, the LADAHALORDS enter, cross to the ghost light CS and begin to sing)*

## RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES

**LADAHALORDS:**

COME WITH ME TO SEE SOMETHING STRANGE UNFOLD  
HEAR THE WEIRDEST TALE THAT WAS EVER TOLD  
FROM THIS RARE DEPICTION – SOME WILL SWEAR IT’S FICTION  
YET, EACH PECULIAR TWIST THAT I TELL IS TRUE  
AND YOU SHALL SEE IT IN PLAIN VIEW!

RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES – MARVEL AS MAGIC IS ON DISPLAY  
RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES – ALL MIGHT SEEM TRAGIC, BUT THEN IT’S OKAY!  
POOF! A NEW SURPRISE! *(Remove the ghost light)* RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES!

*(Circus-like but not too frantic)*

BUCKLE UP, WE’RE OFF ON A BUMPY RIDE!

*The COMPANY enters from every possible entrance: stage left, stage right, the house.*

**COMPANY:** *(Silly)* LA-LA-LA LA-LA, LA-LA LA-LA-LA!

*(LADAHALORD and JAMES meet and sing together Center Stage)*

**LADAHALORD & JAMES:** WHERE A MAGIC SPELL AND A BOY COLLIDE!

**COMPANY:** *(Silly)* LA-LA-LA LA-LA, LA-LA LA-LA-LA!

*The INSECTS and INSECT PUPPPETS are revealed in a clump)*

**LADAHALORD:** PLUS, OUR STORY FEATURES . . .

**INSECTS:** TONS OF CRAZY CREATURES!

**LADAHALORD:** AND –

**SPKER, SPONGE:** TWO ATROCIOUS AUNTS EVERY CHILD WILL FEAR – OH DEAR

**LADAHALORDS:** WHO KNOWS WHAT MIGHT APPEAR?

**ALL:** RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES!

**EARTHWORM:** SCRUMPTIOUS AND SCARY ADVENTURES START!

**ALL:** RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES.

**SPIDER, CENTIPEDE:** CHILDREN, BE WARY IF YOU’RE FAINT OF HEART!

**LADAHALORDS:** WE’VE GOT JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH THAT FLIES –

**ALL:** A PACK OF ACTORS ALL IN DISGUISE!

**LADAHALORDS:** SO LET THAT CURTAIN RISE!

**ALL:** RIGHT BEFORE – RIGHT BEFORE – RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES!

# SCENE ONE – Meet the Trotters

## #3 – Rhinoceros and Matron Nurse

*JAMES enters with a bucket and shovel for the beach. Soon followed by TWO FIGURES: a PLEASANT LOOKING MAN wearing distinct, horn-rimmed glasses low upon his nose; and a warm, LOVELY WOMAN who is smartly dressed. These are JAMES' parents.*

**LADAHLORD:** Meet James Henry Trotter. Up until this time he'd had a happy life, living with his mother and father in a house beside the sea.

**LADAHLORD:** There were always plenty of other children for James to play with.

**LADAHLORD:** And there was the sandy beach and the ocean to paddle in.

**LADAHLORDS:** It was the perfect life for a small boy.

*During the above, MRS. AND MR. TROTTER hug JAMES and then wave him off to the “beach” SL. (During this time, JAMES must change into a different outfit to indicate the passage of time) MR. AND MRS. TROTTER notice something troublesome in the distance directly in front of them.*

*KARL KREATOUR enters with the ZOO CROWD.*

**KARL KREATOUR:** Look out! It's a rhino! Escaped from the Zoo!

*The ZOO CROWD screams and runs in panic.*

*The RHINO PUPPET Charges towards MR. AND MRS. TROTTER, who disappear from view OSR. After the unseen carnage is complete, the ZOO CROWD enters and crosses the stage in panic.*

*JAMES enters SL, carrying a sad little suitcase. At the same time, the MATRON NURSE enters SR, her face is pale, and her hair pulled back in a tight bun or a snood. She wears black eyeglasses and orthopedic shoes with a small heel. Her red lipstick matches the Red Cross prominent on her uniform.*

**MATRON NURSE:** (Entering) James Henry Trotter?

**JAMES:** Where am I to go?

**MATRON NURSE:** They've found a family to take you in.

**JAMES:** But, I don't have any family.

**MATRON NURSE:** You've got two aunts. They live in Dover. You do everything they ask of you.

**JAMES:** Yes, Mum.

**MATRON NURSE:** Come along. We'll have to hurry if we're to make the train.

*The MATRON NURSE and JAMES exit.*

## #4 – RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES (Reprise)

*LADAHLORD enters and places a sign-post DR, reading, DOVER TRAIN STATION, ENGLAND.*

# SCENE TWO – The Train Station in Dover

## RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES (Reprise #1)

**LADAHALORD:** (Magical)

RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES – TWO ATROCIOUS AUNTS EVERY CHILD WILL FEAR. OH, DEAR!

*JAMES and the MATRON NURSE enter. SPIKER and SPONGE enter as LADAHLORD exits.*

**SPIKER:** There he is!

**SPONGE:** Oh, my dear, lovely cousin!

**SPIKER:** Nephew.

**SPONGE:** Nephew! Oh my dear little nephew, **Jack!**

**JAMES:** It's *James*.

**SPIKER:** Oh, **Jeff!** How we've missed you!

**SPONGE:** *(To MATRON NURSE)* He does come with some sort of payment, doesn't he?

**SPIKER:** A boy his age can eat his weight in food twice a day.

**MATRON NURSE:** *(Reading the paperwork)* You'll be paid 27 pounds a week to care for the boy.

**SPIKER, SPONGE:** Huzzah!

**MATRON NURSE:** *(Clearing throat)* Well, goodbye.

*The MATRON NURSE exits and LADAH LORD removes the train-station sign, as the CURTAIN OPENS, reviling SPONGE and SPIKER's overgrown garden and bare Peach Tree in front of the 'Cottage on a Hill' flat in the background. It is quite broken and run-down.*

**SPIKER:** *(To MATRON NURSE as she exits)* Don't worry. He'll be taken care of.

## #5 – Welcome to the Family

### SCENE THREE – Welcome to the Family

**SPONGE:** *(To JAMES)* Welcome to the family, you disgusting little beast.

**JAMES.** Is this where you live?

**SPIKER:** You see that cottage on the top of the hill? That's where me and Sponge live.

**JAMES.** Where will I stay?

**SPONGE:** In the dirt cellar.

**SPIKER:** We only claimed you 'cause we need some help around here.

**SPONGE:** Have the li'l beast cut down that old peach tree. *(SPIKER retrieves axe)*

*JAMES notices something on the horizon.*

**JAMES.** I see my friends playing in the distance. Do you think we could visit the seashore?

**SPIKER:** *(Returning with axe)* Not when there's work to be done. You're our little monkey now. Take this ax and chop down that rotten peach tree.

**SPONGE:** And kill every creepy-crawly thing you find!

**SPIKER:** And should you **think** of running away, just remember –

**SPIKER, SPONGE:** We're the only family you've got. Ha!

*SPONGE and SPIKER tromp off.*

## #6 – Ladybug and Grasshopper's Entrance

*A LADYBUG PUPPET enters, followed by a GRASSHOPPER PUPPET.*

**JAMES:** Who's there? *(JAMES spots the LADYBUG PUPPET)* Don't be afraid, lady bug.

*The LADYBUG PUPPET hesitates, not quite sure what to do.*

**JAMES:** I promise I won't hurt you. Come on.

*The LADYBUG PUPPET flies to JAMES.*

I see you too Grasshopper. Join us.

*The GRASSHOPPER PUPPET hops to JAMES.*

## #7 – ON YOUR WAY HOME

**JAMES:** This is no place for the two of you. You can leave anytime you want.

I can't leave, because – I have no place to go –

# ON YOUR WAY HOME

*(Sings)*

WHERE DO YOU GO WHEN YOU'RE FLYING AWAY?

WHERE DO YOU GO WHEN THEY CAN'T MAKE YOU STAY?

*JAMES gently picks up the GRASSHOPPER PUPPET.*

OVER THE GARDEN, AND SCRAPING THE TOPS OF THE TREES. ON YOUR WAY HOME –

*JAMES releases the GRASSHOPPER PUPPET, sending him safely off-stage.*

ON YOUR WAY HOME –

AND WHEN YOU GET THERE, IS IT PERFECT?

AND WHEN YOU GET THERE, IS A FAMILY WAITING FOR YOU?

I CLOSE MY EYES, AND SEE THEM LAUGHING, TELLING JOKES, PLAYING GAMES

*JAMES gently picks up the LADYBUG PUPPET.*

ALL OF IT TRUE –

HOW WOULD THEY FEEL IF YOUR FRIEND JAMES

CAME ALONG TOO?

*JAMES releases the LADYBUG into the air.*

*She flies gorgeously off stage, leaving JAMES alone.*

ON YOUR WAY

HOME –

## SCENE FOUR – A Book of Spells

### #8 – Hello James!

*JAMES picks up the axe, sighs, and crosses towards the Peach Tree.*

**JAMES:** *(Raising the axe)* I'm really sorry about this –

*(One of the LAD AHLORDS suddenly appears from behind the Peach Tree)*

**LAD AHLORD:** *(Entering)* Hello, James!

**JAMES:** *(Staring at LAD AHLORD and afraid)* Who are you?

**LAD AHLORD:** Unimportant! Who. Are. You? James Henry Trotter –

*LAD AHLORD stands and begins to cross slowly towards JAMES.*

**JAMES:** . . . I? I . . .

**LAD AHLORD:** And there it is!

**LAD AHLORD:** *(Entering)* Ha! Henry James Trotter!  
This **bag**, right here, contains something remark-u-lous!

**LAD AHLORD:** Are you willing to reach into  
the great unknown and find out what's inside?

**JAMES:** I . . . I don't know.

**LADAHLORD:** (*Entering*) Come on James! Only you have the power to change your life.

**LADAHLORDS:** What's it going to be, James?

*JAMES looks at LADAHLORDS and then at the back.  
Then thrusts his hand deep inside the bag.*

**JAMES:** It's just a book!

**LADAHLORD:** (*Whispering*) Ah, but what's inside the book, James?

**JAMES:** (*Reading*) It's full of recipes . . . but very strange ingredients.

**LADAHLORD:** Not recipes – potions and spells!

**LADAHLORD:** Now, you must choose a spell from the book!

**LADAHLORD:** Devour the potion!

**LADAHLORDS:** And unbelievable things will happen to you!

## #9 – SHAKE IT UP

# SHAKE IT UP

*Magical swing*

**LADAHLORDS:**

OPEN WIDE AND CRAWL INSIDE THE SKIN OF SOMETHING NEW  
IF YOU BELIEVE WHAT'S UP MY SLEEVE, I'LL SPIN A SPELL FOR YOU  
THEN ZIPADEE-ZIP, A MAGICAL TRIP, YOUR TROUBLES ARE SKIPPING TOWN  
ONCE THE BUBBLIN' BROTH IS FROTHING THICK, THEN GOBBLE IT QUICKLY DOWN  
SHAKE IT UP, SHAKE IT UP!

**JAMES:** SHAKE IT UP, SHAKE IT UP?

**LADAHLORD:** MIX AROUND AND AROUND!

**JAMES:** MIX AROUND AND AROUND?

**LADAHLORD:** HEAR THAT BOP THAT PIPING POPPING SOUND –  
GIVE A TWIST AND TURN –

**JAMES:** GIVE A TWIST AND A TURN?

**LADAHLORD:** LET IT BRIM, LET IT BURN –

**JAMES:** LET IT BRIM, LET IT BURN?

**LADAHLORD & JAMES:** WE'RE GONNA WHIP THAT POTION UP  
THEN GOBBLE IT DOWN, GOBBLE IT DOWN

**LADAHLORD:** Okay James, what's it going to be?

**JAMES:** I choose this one! Slithering crocodile tongues!

**LADAHLORD:** Ooo, a connoisseur! First we'll need these. (*He plucks hairs from JAMES' head*)

**JAMES:** Ouch!

**LADAHLORD:** Precisely ten hairs from your head. Now, we must gather the rest of the ingredients and put them in here. Got it?

**JAMES:** Got it!

*The GARDEN CHORUS begins to come to life. During the following, an oversized bottle labeled 'Rare Osaki Juice' appears, and JAMES gathers it. Then, an oversized can labeled 'Sloppy Joeys' appears, JAMES places that can into the bag.*

**ALL:**

SHAKE IT UP, SHAKE IT UP  
MIX AROUND AND AROUND  
HEAR THAT BOP THAT PIPING  
POPPING SOUND –

GIVE A TWIST AND A TURN  
LET IT BRIM, LET IT BURN  
WE'RE GONNA WHIP THAT POTION UP  
THEN GOBBLE IT DOWN, GOBBLE IT DOWN

**RESPONSE:**

SHAKE IT UP, SHAKE IT UP  
MIX AROUND AND AROUND

GIVE A TWIST AND A TURN  
LET IT BRIM LET IT BURN

*During the following, LADAHLORD gestures wildly, commanding LADYBUG PUPPET and GRASSHOPPER PUPPET to enter the stage*

**JAMES:** Look!

There are green things wiggling in the bag!

**ALL:** SHAKE IT UP, SHAKE IT UP, SHAKE IT UP

**LADAHLORD:** (To JAMES)

Those are the slithering crocodile tongues!

**ALL:** SHAKE IT UP, SHAKE IT UP, SHAKE IT UP!

**LADAHLORD:**

Which means the magic is working, James!

**LADAHLORD:** Now listen closely. You must add exactly seven drops of well water to this bag and then drink the entire potion in one gulp.

**LADAHLORD:** But remember, whomever the slithering crocodile tongues meet first –

**LADAHLORD:** Be it fish or fowl!

**LADAHLORD:** Beast or bug!

**LADAHLORD:** Twig or tree!

**LADAHLORDS:** That will be the one who receives the full power of their magic.

**JAMES:** (Mesmerized) The full power of their magic.

**LADAHLORD:** (Calling) Now go! Go, James! Go!! (LADAHLORDS exit)

**ALL:**

GIVE A TWIST AND A TURN  
LET IT BRIM, LET IT BURN

**RESPONSE:**

GIVE A TWIST AND A TURN  
LET IT BRIM LET IT BURN

**ALL:** YOU'RE GONNA WHIP THAT POTION UP, THEN GOBBLE IT DOWN, GOBBLE IT DOWN  
GOBBLE IT DOWN, GOBBLE IT DOWN, GOBBLE IT –

*JAMES trips and falls, spilling the contents of the bag which slither about the stage as chaos ensues.*

**JAMES:** (Kneeling on the ground) No!!!! Stop! Stop! You're supposed to be for me. You're supposed to help me. Please! Come back! Please?

## SCENE FIVE – The Peach Grows

### #10 – Spiker and Sponge Reveal

*Thunderclap and lightning reveals SPIKER and SPONGE standing behind JAMES. They wear garish bedtime robes concealing fancy dresses.*

**SPONGE:** Get up at once!

**SPIKER:** Where have you been?

**JAMES:** I was –

**SPONGE:** Didn't you hear us calling?

**SPIKER:** We've been up all night!

*The PEACH grows in the Tree.*

### #11 – The Peach Grows #1

**SPIKER:** Sponges! Look! Up there! In the peach tree!

**SPONGE:** What is that?

**SPIKER:** It's a peach?!

**JAMES:** Whomever the magic reaches first –

### #12 – The Peach Grows #2

**SPIKER:** Look, it's growing!

**SPONGE:** That is one large peach!

**JAMES:** I'd say it's a Giant Peach.

### #13 – The Peach Grows #3

**SPIKER:** There it goes again!

**SPONGE:** Smell it! It's ripe! Let's get a shovel and dig out a big hunk of it to eat!

**SPIKER:** No, Spongy, not yet!

**SPONGE:** What's the use of a giant peach if we can't eat it?

**SPIKER:** People will pay money just to look at it! Follow my lead.

## SCENE SIX – Peach-Mania

### #14 – See the World's Largest Peach!

*In an instant, SPIKER AND SPONGE change from wearing robes to wearing very fancy – but also very tacky – dresses. SPIKER pulls out a bullhorn and begins to speak into it.*

**SPIKER:** Ladies and gentlemen, step right up and see the eighth wonder of the world!  
Just one shilling to see the world's largest peach!

**JAMES:** Aunties! There are reporters at the gate!

**SPONGE:** Reporters?

**SPIKER, SPONGE:** Bring 'em on!

*REPORTERS enter dressed in black suits and hats, complete with press insignias.*

**REPORTER:** What a peach! Tell the readers of the Herald News all the juice!

**IDA WALTERS:** The world may not know who you are now, but they will!

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Hey Ladies! Smile for the camera!

*SPIKER AND SPONGE pose for their picture.*

*The REPORTERS exit, as the LADY'S GARDEN GUILD enters, dressed in flowery frocks complete with floral hats and clutching their pearls.*

**PRESIDENT DAISY:** *(To SPIKER and SPONGE)* Good morning!  
*(Dainty)* Meet The Ladies' Garden Guild.

**BITSY BOTANA:** We're here to salute that fabulous fruit!

**THE LADIES GARDEN GUILD:** *(Applauding)* “Oh yes!”, “Isn't it amazing?”, etc.

*PRESIDENT DAISY pulls cash from her purse as we hear a helicopter fly overhead. JAMES exits R.*

**SPIKER:** It'll cost ya.

**PRESIDENT DAISY:** *(Handing money over to SPIKER)* We're humbled and thrilled to be here.

**THE LADIES GARDEN GUILD:** “I know I'm excited to be here”, “I can't wait to see the peach!”, etc.

**SPIKER:** *(Snatching money from PRESIDENT DAISY)* It's in the back.

*(The LADIES GARDEN GUILD exit to get a closer look at the PEACH. SPIKER turns to SPONGE)*  
Sponges! Look!

**JAMES:** *(Enters R)* A helicopter just landed! They say they're from Hollywood!

**SPIKER, SPONGE:** Hollywood?

*BUZZ and a HOLLYWOOD AGENT enter.*

**HOLLYWOOD AGENT:** Sweetie, Baby, Cookie, Honey. What would you say to a three picture deal?

**SPIKER, SPONGE:** Yes please!

**HOLLYWOOD AGENT:** Just sign these contracts.

**BUZZ:** Need a pen? *(Handing SPIKER and SPONGE a pen)*

*SPIKER AND SPONGE sign business contracts.*

**HOLLYWOOD AGENT:** Love it! Work it! Let's get rich!

**BUZZ:** *(Taking pen from SPIKER and SPONGE)* Thank you, ladies!

**HOLLYWOOD AGENT:** *(Exiting with his arm around BUZZ)* I'm telling you, Buzz, there's money on that tree!

**SPIKER:** Sister, are you thinking what I'm thinking?

**SPONGE:** We're gonna be gajillianaires!

**SPIKER.** All we've gotta do is deliver that peach.

**JAMES.** Do you think we could move to the seashore?

**SPONGE.** We ain't doing nothing.

**JAMES.** But, it was me that made the peach grow.

**SPIKER.** Keep your clever little lies to yourself.

**JAMES.** But, I did make the peach grow.

**SPONGE.** Now, you listen to me, James. From now on you will sleep outside and guard our peach.

**SPIKER.** And should you think of running away, just remember –

**SPIKER, SPONGE:** We're the only family you've got. *(They exit laughing)*

## #15 – We're the Only Family You've Got

*JAMES is on the ground, after falling to his knees in defeat.  
He then notices a door-knob on the PEACH*



**JAMES:** What's this? A doorknob? On a peach? Where could that lead?

*JAMES turns the knob, which creates a very small opening into the PEACH.  
He reaches a hand into the opening.*

## #16– Entering the Peach

**JAMES:** It's rather sticky – Oh, dear, my arm – It's stuck. Auntie Sponge! Auntie Spiker!  
*JAMES tries to free his arm by using his other hand. Unfortunately for JAMES,  
this only causes both arms to become stuck inside the PEACH.*

Help! Anyone! Help!!!

*JAMES' entire body is lifted from the ground as he is drawn inside the PEACH. He  
kicks his legs and panic, but it's of no use, the PEACH completely consumed him.*

## SCENE SEVEN – Inside the Peach

### #17 – Insect-rouctions

*JAMES hears scurrying in the darkness as INSECTS move towards him from all directions.*

**JAMES:** Hello? (A beat) Hello?

*JAMES standing face-to-face with human-sized INSECTS, dressed inappropriately pithy British finery.  
It's quite a startling sight to behold. The insects stare at JAMES in silence.*

**LADYBUG:** Look who's here!

**GRASSHOPPER:** My good boy, we've been waiting for you!

**EARTHWORM:** The only thing I'm waiting for is dinner. I'm starving –

**CENTIPEDE:** Everyone's famished! We need food!

**SPIDER:** But, whatever are we to eat?

*The insects all look to JAMES for advice. JAMES misinterprets their gaze, thinking they mean to eat him.*

**JAMES:** You're not going to eat me?!

*The INSECTS all roar with laughter. Saying things like,  
"Oh dear, oh dear!", and "What an awful thought!"*

**GRASSHOPPER:** I'm afraid there's a bit of a misunderstanding.

**LADYBUG:** We wouldn't dream of hurting you. You're one of the crew.

**SPIDER:** You mustn't be frightened, little boy. You are one of us now.

**CENTIPEDE:** Little boys are the worst of his kind!

**SPIDER:** (Ignoring CENTIPEDE) Proper introductions are in order.

**LADYBUG:** I will go first. After all, I am a lady. The Lady, Bug.

**JAMES:** I'm James Henry Trotter.

**GRASSHOPPER:** How do you do? I'm Grasshopper.

**SPIDER:** And I'm Spider.

**EARTHWORM:** (His back to JAMES since he can't see very well) And I'm Earthworm.  
(JAMES shakes EARTHWORM'S hand. EARTHWORM screams) Ahhhhhh! What was that?!

**JAMES:** It was just me, shaking your hand.

**EARTHWORM:** I'm afraid I can't see very well.

**CENTIPEDE:** *(Face-to-face with JAMES)* And I'm Centipede. Think of me as the guy who's going to eat you while you're sleeping.

**JAMES:** What are you?

**GRASSHOPPER:** We're insects. At least we were insects.

**SPIDER:** Until we ate the green things.

**LADYBUG:** Now I'm afraid we're something quite different.

## #18 OUR ADVENTURE BEGINS!

*The PEACH lurches forward, causing JAMES and the INSECTS to fall to the ground.*

# OUR ADVENTURE BEGINS

**ALL:** Whoah!!!

**EARTHWORM:** What was that?

**CENTIPEDE:** The stem broke!

**LADYBUG:** The peach! It's starting to roll down the hill!

**GRASSHOPPER:** Hold on everyone!

*A loud rumbling sound is heard as SPIKER and SPONGE enter.*

**SPIKER:** *(Calling)* James! James Henry Trotter?

**SPONGE:** You'd better be guarding our Peach!

**LADYBUGS:** *(Entering):* RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES –

**SPIKER:** What is that noise?

**LADYBUGS:** That noise was the Giant Peach, rolling rediculously towards Spiker and Sponge! They tried to run, but the peach was terrorificly faster! It rolled right over them!

*FARM ANIMALS enter.*

The Peach went through fences and field frightening farm animals of all shapes and sizes!

*FARM ANIMALS scatter.*

And then the Peach veered left, heading directly towards the village! Where it crashed right through the walls of one of the world's most famous factories!

*OOMPA LOOMPAS and WILLY WONKA enter.*

**OOMPA LOOMPAS, WILLY WONKA:** OOMPA LOOMPA DOOM-PA-DEE – Ahhhhh!

**LADYBUG:** Now this building happen to be a Famous Chocolate Factory, but that's another story. Back to the peach!

**INSECTS, JAMES & CHORUS:** RIGHT BEFORE –

**LADYBUG:** The peach reached the chalky Cliffs of Dover!

**INSECTS, JAMES & CHORUS:** RIGHT BEFORE –

**LADYBUG:** It's soared right over the edge of the cliffs!

**INSECTS, JAMES & CHORUS:** RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES!

*The COMPANY exits, leaving JAMES and the INSECTS in a pile on the floor.*

# SCENE EIGHT – On the High Peach

**GRASSHOPPER:** Is everyone alright?

**SPIDER:** I'm okay.

**EARTHWORM:** I'm not sure.

**CENTIPEDE:** (*His face very close to LADYBUG*) Ah! I'm seeing spots!

**JAMES:** (*Laughing*) You're seeing ladybug!

*SPIDER helps CENTIPEDE separate from LADYBUG.*

**LADYBUG:** I shall never be the same again.

**SPIDER:** James, would you be a dear and climb up top and take a look?

*JAMES emerges on the top of the PEACH, just underneath the stem.*

**JAMES:** Whoah! You must come up and see it for yourselves.

## #19 Top of the Peach

*GRASSHOPPER climbs up, followed by LADYBUG, SPIDER and CENTIPEDE.  
EARTHWORM stays behind.*

**GRASSHOPPER:** Unbelievable!

**LADYBUG:** Impossible!

**SPIDER:** We're floating in the ocean!

**EARTHWORM:** What?!

**JAMES:** I'm afraid we find ourselves in a rather awkward position.

**EARTHWORM.** We'll drown!

**JAMES:** But we are not sinking at all.

**GRASSHOPPER:** Where do you suppose we're heading?

**LADYBUG:** Definitely France!

**SPIDER:** Then we should be across the channel and on dry land in no time at all!

**GRASSHOPPER:** Drifting like this reminds me of my younger days!

Not a care in the world! Nobody to answer to but my fiddle.

**EARTHWORM:** But we've no food! No water!

## #20 – FLOATING ALONG

*GRASSHOPPER plays a fiddle lick, which leads into the song.*

# FLOATING ALONG

*Breezy, bouncy swing – cut time feel*

**GRASSHOPPER** (*Sings*):

JUST CATCH THIS TUNE AND SING IT WITH ME  
WE'LL SET OUR SAIL FOR NOTHING BUT SEA  
NO PLACE WHERE WE GOT TO BE, SO GO –

WE'RE TUMBLING OFF WHERE NOBODY'S BEEN  
HOW TRUE ADVENTURES ALWAYS BEGIN  
TAKE A RIDE ON THE TIDE, BOBBIN' HIGH DIPPIN' LOW

NO DIRECTION, A MAP IS NEVER BETTER THAN  
DRIFTING OFF WITHOUT A PLAN, ALL WE NEED IS A SONG  
AT THE INTERSECTION – WHERE OCEAN MEETS THE SKY

**EARTHWORM:** WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!

**GRASSHOPPER:** FOLLOW ME AND FLOAT ALONG!  
FLOATING ALONG –

**LADYBUG, JAMES:** FLOATING ALONG –

**LADYBUG, SPIDER, JAMES, GRASSHOPPER:**  
LA, LA, LA, LA – LA, LA, LA, LA FLOATING ALONG –

**GRASSHOPPER:** WHAT COULD GO WRONG? SINGING A SONG –

**LADYBUG, SPIDER, JAMES, GRASSHOPPER:**  
LA, LA, LA, LA – LA, LA, LA, LA FLOATING ALONG –

**GRASSHOPPER:** Now, all we've got to do is make some sails, fix a rudder  
and we'll be across the English Channel in no time at all!

**EARTHWORM:** This peach will never make it to France!

**CENTIPEDE:** The Worm's right.

**LADYBUG:** *(Changing the subject)* It's not a proper ship unless it has a flag!

**CENTIPEDE:** *(Sarcastically)* And I left all my flags at home.

**LADYBUG:** Take my extra bloomers! They'll do in a pinch!

*LADYBUG hands GRASSHOPPER a pair of bloomers from her hard shell purse.*

**EARTHWORM:** You've got extra bloomers?

**LADYBUG:** A lady **always** carries extra bloomers.

**GRASSHOPPER:** And away we go!

*During the following, JAMES raises the flag/bloomers high above the Crow's Nest.*

**LADYBUG, SPIDER, JAMES, EARTHWORM, GRASSHOPPER:**  
FLOATING ALONG – FLOATING ALONG

**CENTIPEDE:** *(Mocking)* BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH – BLAH BLAH BLAH – FLOATING ALONG

**LADYBUG, SPIDER, JAMES, EARTHWORM, GRASSHOPPER:**  
LA, LA, LA, WHAT COULD GO WRONG SINGING A SONG? LA, LA, LA, LA, LA, LA, FLOATING ALONG!  
LA, LA, LA, LA, LA, LA LA LA LA – LA, LA, LA, LA, LA, LA LA LA LA – LA, LA, FLOATING ALONG!

## SCENE NINE – Eating the Peach

### #21 – An Oceanic Journey

**EARTHWORM:** Shouldn't we be there by now?

**LADYBUG:** James, do you see a landmark of any kind?

**JAMES:** I'm afraid – *(a realization)* the current has swept us out to sea!

**EARTHWORM:** What?! An oceanic journey?! What are we to eat?

**CENTIPEDE:** I say we eat the human.

**SPIDER:** Nobody is eating anyone.

**JAMES:** *(Quietly)* There is something we could do.

**GRASSHOPPER:** What's is it, James?

**JAMES:** We could eat the peach.

**SPIDER:** What a clever idea.

**EARTHWORM:** Eat the peach? We'll sink!

**GRASSHOPPER:** We'll ration servings.

**CENTIPEDE:** Stand back, I'm diggin' in!

**LADYBUG:** Just a moment. Lets us do this properly. Grasshopper, would you mind playing?

**GRASSHOPPER:** I'd be delighted.

## #22 – FLOATING ALONG (*Reprise*)

*GRASSHOPPER picks up his fiddle and begins to play as the other INSECTS and JAMES begin to eat.*

### **FLOATING ALONG (*Reprise*)**

**CHORUS:**

FLOATING ALONG – FLOATING ALONG

LA, LA, LA, LA – LA, LA, LA, LA FLOATING ALONG –

WHAT COULD GO WRONG SINGING A SONG? LA, LA, LA, LA, LA, LA, FLOATING ALONG!

LA, LA, LA, LA, LA, LA LA LA LA – LA, LA, LA, LA, LA, LA LA LA LA – LA, LA, FLOATING ALONG!

## #23 – Transition Back to Spiker and Sponge

### **SCENE TEN – A Getaway for Spiker and Sponge**

**SPIKER:** That peach nearly killed me!

**SPONGE:** The thing ran right over us!

**SPIKER:** And then it rolled far away.

**SPONGE:** Spikers, the boy?! What's to become of him?

**SPIKER:** We've got bigger problems than the boy. We still have to deliver on those movie contracts we signed. Kinda hard to keep the promises we made without a Giant Peach!

**SPONGE:** This is bad, Spikers.

**SPIKER:** It's worse than bad. We could go to jail.

**SPONGE:** I can't go to jail!

**SPIKER:** Sponges, we gotta get out of here before anyone misses that peach.

## #24 – Police Siren & Helicopter

*We hear a police siren followed by a helicopter.*

**SPONGE:** Too late, Spikes!

**SPIKER:** Are those police cars?

**SPONGE:** And helicopters!

**SPIKER:** We'll need to pack up our junk and make a get-away.

**SPONGE:** I'll grab the rest of the cash. Where we going?

**SPIKER:** We'll book a cruise to the Bahamas!

**SPONGE:** Splendid idea, Spikes. We both could use a vacation!

## #25 – Getaway Playoff

# SCENE ELEVEN – Nightmare & Lullaby

## #26 – James' Nightmare

*JAMES is sleeping beneath an oversized PEACH LEAF. He is having the nightmare.*

**JAMES:** *(Talking in his sleep)* Mum . . . Dad . . . *(JAMES sits up with a start)* No!!!

*LADYBUG, GRASSHOPPER, SPIDER AN EARTHWORM cross to JAMES.  
CENTIPEDE is sleeping on the opposite side of the PEACH.*

**LADYBUG:** James dear, it's alright.

**SPIDER:** You were having a bad dream.

**JAMES:** I have them all the time.

**EARTHWORM:** I don't like scary dreams either, James.

**LADYBUG:** James, you haven't said anything about your parents. Where are they?

**GRASSHOPPER:** They must be very worried about you.

*JAMES becomes silent, staring at the ground. SPIDER, LADYBUG  
and GRASSHOPPER sense something is very wrong.*

**SPIDER:** James, it's alright. You can tell us.

**JAMES:** My parents were in a horrible accident, and now they're – gone.

## #27 – EVERYWHERE THAT YOU ARE

# EVERYWHERE THAT YOU ARE

**LADYBUG:** James, your parents are with you always.

**JAMES:** They are?

**LADYBUG:** Of course they are.

*(Sweetly – like a lullaby):*

SOMEONE LEAVES – WHO KNOWS WHY? AND YOU NEVER SAID GOODBYE  
BUT ONCE WE GO – WE'RE NOT GONE – WE KEEP LIVING ON AND ON  
SHE WHISPERS IN THE BREEZE – HE'S WAVING FROM A STAR –  
THEY ARE WITH YOU – EVERYWHERE THAT YOU ARE – HMM MMM

**LADYBUG, SPIDER, GRASSHOPPER, EARTHWORM:**

NOTHING'S LOST ONCE YOU FOUND  
THEY'RE IN EVERY BREATH AND SOUND

**GRASSHOPPER:** WHEN YOU'RE BRAVE

**EARTHWORM:** WHEN YOUR TRUE

**SPIDER:** THAT'S THE PART OF THEM IN YOU

**LADYBUG:** IF YOU CAN JUST BELIEVE – IT'S BEAUTIFULLY BIZARRE

**LADYBUG, SPIDER, GRASSHOPPER, EARTHWORM:**  
HOW THEY'RE WITH YOU – IN EVERYTHING THAT YOU ARE –

**GRASSHOPPER:** FEEL THEM THERE

**LADYBUG:** AND EVERYWHERE

**LADYBUG, SPIDER, GRASSHOPPER, EARTHWORM:**  
IN EVERYTHING THAT YOU ARE – HMM MMM

# SCENE TWELVE – Deck of the Queen Mary

## #28 – Spiker & Sponge Take a Cruise

*LADAHLORD enters, dressed as a Porter.*

**LADAHLORD:** *(As a Ship's Porter)* Welcome ladies, and thank you for choosing the *Jewel of the Seas* for your transatlantic journey. Here we are, two of our best seats. May I get you anything?

**SPIKER:** A double fizzy!

**SPONGE:** And bring me some nuts. I'm nibbly.

**LADAHLORD:** Right away. *(Noticing something in the distance)* Wait a minute. What's that?!

**SPIKER:** What's what?

**LADAHLORD:** Out there! Floating on the ocean.

**SPIKER:** *(Looking into binoculars)* Why – that looks like – a Giant Peach.

**SPONGE:** That's our peach –

**SPIKER:** And that's James!

**SPONGE:** *(Gobsmacked)* So what are we going to do, Spikes?

**SPIKER:** Sponges, my dear, we've got to –

**SPONGE, SPIKER:** Follow that peach!

*SPIKER, SPONGE and LADAHLORD exit.*

## #29 – Follow That Peach

# SCENE THIRTEEN – Trouble on the High Peach

## #30 – Sharks & Seagulls / The Peach Flies

**CENTIPEDE:** *(Spotting something in the ocean)* Look! Over there!

**EARTHWORM:** What is that?!

**JAMES:** They're sharks!

**INSECTS:** Sharks?!

**JAMES:** Hundreds of them! And they're coming this way!

*Sounds of SEAGULLS swarming is heard.*

**SPIDER:** And look, Seagulls!

**EARTHWORM:** I'm terrified of seagulls!

**LADYBUG:** Is there nothing we can do?

**JAMES:** Spider, is your web strong?

**SPIDER:** The strongest in the world.

**JAMES:** Perfect! We'll loop Spider's web around the seagulls' neck, and then we'll tie the other end to the stem of the peach.

**CENTIPEDE:** How are you going to get those seagulls down here?

**JAMES:** *(Pointing to EARTHWORM)* Bait!

**EARTHWORM:** I find that term incredibly insensitive.

*The INSECTS look pointedly at EARTHWORM.*

All right. I'll do it for James.

**JAMES:** Thank you, Earthworm. Action stations everyone!

**CENTIPEDE:** This is never going to work!

**JAMES:** Hey Seagulls, over here!

**EARTHWORM:** Please don't let them peck me.

**JAMES:** Here comes the first one. Got 'em!

**GRASSHOPPER:** Well done, James.

**EARTHWORM:** It only just missed me!

**CENTIPEDE:** Come and get it, Seagulls!

**EARTHWORM:** Oh, I don't like this at all.

**LADYBUG:** Don't worry, Earthworm. We won't let them hurt you!

**JAMES:** Got 'em!

**SPIDER:** Here, take some more of my web.

**JAMES:** Got 'em!

**INSECTS:** Hooray!

**LADYBUG:** Hey Seagulls! Bring along all your friends!

*The rest of the SEAGULLS flock to the EARTHWORM.*

**JAMES:** Quick! Help me tie the rest of the seagulls!

**GRASSHOPPER:** A few more should do it!

**SPIDER:** We're almost there!

**CENTIPEDE:** Look out!

**LADYBUG:** Here we go!

**GRASSHOPPER:** Hold on boys!

*The SEAGULLS squawk as JAMES triumphantly ties the web rope to the stem of the PEACH.*

*LADYBUG reveals a small-scale PEACH and flies the PEACH to the sky. Exits.*

**LADYBUG:** It worked! We're flying! We're actually flying through the clouds!

**JAMES:** We are flying! On the most wonderful airplane in the entire world.  
Isn't it remark-u-lously fan-tas-mariffic!

**GRASSHOPPER:** It is indeed remark-u-lously fan-tas-mariffic!

*The INSECTS and JAMES are spread-out about the deck of the PEACH, individually taking in the amazing sights before them. CENTIPEDE has climbed up the side of the PEACH, alone.*

## **SCENE FORTEEN – Flying Over New York City**

**EARTHWORM:** Everyone! Look!



**JAMES:** That's the *Empire State Building!* We traveled across the entire Atlantic Ocean to New York City!

**LADYBUG:** Isn't that remarkable?

**EARTHWORM:** We're safe! Safe at last!

*Suddenly, search lights fill the sky.*

**SPONGE:** *(On bullhorn)* You there! On the Peach! We're here with the commander of the United States Air Force! Surrender at once!

**JAMES:** That's Sponge!

**SPIKER:** *(Taking the bullhorn)* You have three seconds to return our Peach!

**SPIKER:** Three! Two! One!

**LANDLORD, NEW YORKERS:** LOOK! A NEW SURPRISE!!

**LANDLORD:** *(as pilot)* Ladies and gentlemen, this is your pilot speaking, we're about to make our final descent into New York's JFK International Airport. To your right you'll see the Empire State Building and in front of us you'll notice a giant peach flying directly – towards – us!

**JAMES:** The plane sliced right through the silken strings!

**LADAHLORD:** The Peach plummeted towards the Earth! Women screamed –

**SCREAMING WOMEN:** Aah!

**LANDLORD:** Strong men said things like –

**JAKE:** I guess this is it, Joe.

**LANDLORD:** And –

**JOE:** Yep.

*The miniature Giant Peach sails across the sky and lands on the Empire State Building.*

**LADAHLORD:** And then – BAM! The Peach landed on the spire of the Empire State Building!

**LUCILLE VAN CUYK OLSTEIN:** Look up there! It's a Giant Peach!

**BUNNY MCKENZIE THE THIRD:** It's stuck on the Empire State Building!

### #32 – Spiker and Sponge's Entrance

*SPIKER and SPONGE enter.*

**SPIKER:** *(Arms outstretched)* Dear! Darling! Sweet Nephew James!

**SPONGE:** It was very naughty of you to steal our peach.

**SPIKER:** And now, you and the peach are coming home with us, forever!

**SPONGE:** After we fumigate the bugs, of course. Hehehehahaha!

### #33 – Spiker and Sponge Get Their Peach

*SPIKER and SPONGE pull out two fumigator nozzles and begin to cross menacingly towards the INSECTS, spraying mists of poison teasingly in the direction of the INSECTS as they cross.*

**SPIKER, SPONGE:** Here buggy, buggy, buggies...!

**JAMES:** *(Standing up to SPIKER and SPONGE)* Stop! Stop it right now. You are mean, nasty, horrible people. And you will not hurt my family.

*An odd rumbling is heard as if something very large is slipping.*

**SPIKER:** Our Peach!

**SPONGE:** It's falling!

*Big chunks of wet and sticky PEACH pieces suddenly dropped from above,  
barely missing SPIKER and SPONGE.*

**SPIKER:** Run for your life!

*SPIKER and SPONGE run off-stage.*

**SPIKER, SPONGE:** Aah!!!

*We hear the sound of bones being crushed.*

*Music punctuates the reveal of SPIKER and then SPONGE'S legs from underneath the PEACH.  
SPIKER and SPONGE and killed like the Wicked Witch of the East.*

*JAMES crosses to SPIKER and SPONGE.*

**JAMES:** Is it wrong that I don't feel sad?

**GRASSHOPPER:** Of course not.

**LADYBUG:** How do you feel, James?

**JAMES:** I feel . . . relieved.

## #34 – WELCOME HOME

# WELCOME HOME

*Funky gospel – cut time*

**JAMES:** Those two monsters can never hurt anyone ever again.

*(Sings)* WE HELD ON THROUGH THAT STORM  
THE CLOUDS HAVE FINALLY PARTED AND WE'RE SAFE AND WARM

**GRASSHOPPER, LADYBUG:** TAKE A BREATH. SING A SONG.  
FINALLY WE LANDED RIGHT WHERE WE BELONG

**CENTIPEDE:** UNWIND

**EARTHWORM:** UNPACK

**CENTIPEDE, EARTHWORM, SPIDER:** WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE YOUR BACK

**ENSEMBLE:**

WELCOME HOME, WELCOME HOME, WELCOME HOME, WELCOME HOME, MY FRIEND  
YOU WERE LOST ON THE SEA BUT YOU'RE SAFE HERE WITH ME TILL THE END  
WE'RE STAYING RIGHT HERE.  
BUDDY, NOW AIN'T THAT SWELL?  
WELCOME HOME!

**JAMES:** And this family of ours went on to do some remarkable things –

**CENTIPEDE:** I became a world-famous designer of famous shoes!

**SPIDER:** I used my web to build the most amazing **bridges** the world has ever seen!

**EARTHWORM:** And I became a social activist,  
forming B.A.I.T. (Bugs Against Insensitive Terminology).

**GRASSHOPPER:** Grasshopper and Ladybug got married and had many, many children of their own.

**ENSEMBLE:** WELCOME HOME.

**LADYBUG:** But always thought of James as their first born son.

**ENSEMBLE:** WELCOME HOME.

**LANDLORD:** And when James grew up, he traveled the world telling children everywhere about his Amazing Adventures on the Giant Peach.

**ENSEMBLE:** WELCOME HOME.

**LADAHLORD:** And that, my dear audience, is exactly what you have just seen.

**ENSEMBLE:** WELCOME HOME

**LADAHLORD:** I told you it was all true.

**ENSEMBLE:** WELCOME HOME. WELCOME HOME

**LADYBUG, GRASSHOPPER:** JUST LIKE A FATHER AND A MOTHER

**ENSEMBLE:** HOME. WELCOME HOME

**CENTIPEDE, EARTHWORM, SPIDER:** JUST LIKE A SISTER AND A BROTHER

**ENSEMBLE:** HOME. WELCOME HOME. OH, WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE EACH OTHER.  
DON'T CARE WHERE YOU GO – YOU CAN ALWAYS COME BACK HOME  
WELCOME HOME, WELCOME HOME, WELCOME HOME, WELCOME HOME MY FRIEND  
WE'RE ALONG FOR THE RIDE AND WE'LL STICK BY YOUR SIDE TILL THE END  
WE'RE STAYING RIGHT HERE. DOESN'T IT FEEL REAL SWELL?  
WELL, WELL, WELL, WELCOME HOME!

## #35 – CURTAIN CALL

# CURTAIN CALL

*The company exits.*

# THE END

## #36 – Exit Music – FX: Ocean Waves with Seagulls

