## BY

Ronald L. Meek.
71th Music by Verdi, Sullivan, R.L. Hutchens, and others.
THO'S H
Adolmaniacs
HIT $\quad$ Leader of the Vikings
BORING Minions
Vikings
Skallawag, Badegg, Grimm, Skrimm, Glumm, Badun, Skua, Swigg, Baldi, and Swage.
Trolls A chorus of ten.

## Ancient Britons

| NEV THE PEACEMAKER | Son of Ost |
| :--- | :--- |
| HADES | Diplomats |
| RUNNYMEDE | Boss of the Dinosaur Boys |
| TERRY DACTYL | A chorus of Ten |
| Druids | A chorus of Ten |

## THORE IT ALL HAPPENS

Spasm 1
Scene The landing stage at Adolmania
Time The bad old days

Spasm 11
Scene 1 The Cave of the Druids, the very ancient
Scene 11 Stonehenge, the abode of So Tight and the
Seven Dwharfies.
Time Still the bad old days.

IMPORTANT NOTE
The gudience is requested to note the fact that the characters in this play are purely fictitious and bear no resemblance whatsoever to any live person.

## ACT I

(The curtain rises on the landing stage at Adolmania. The backeloth shows the bank of a river with a Viking longboat moored to the right, and fields beyond with luxuriant trees, and in the distance wild and snow-clad mountains. The nearer bank of the river cannot be seen by the audience, as it is presumably hidden behind a neat stone wall, about eighteen inches high and built about three feet in front of the backcloth. The backcloth itself is not right at the back of the stage: see diagram showing the different stage settings.

At the centre of the little wall, towards the footlights, is a platform about four feet square, covered with red cloth, and two steps lead from it down to the stage.

In the midale of the platform is a large notice - "folcome to Adolmania" - but the effect of this is somewhat dampened by two other similar noticas eractea at either end of the wall "Poison Laid For Dawgs" - and "Trespassers ilill Be Persecuted."

The backcloth will probably have to be specially painted; the flats at the sides can be ordinary herbaceous ones; and the whole effect should be simple but striking.

The ides of the wall is that the coracles which sail in behind it should appear to be sailing on the river the other bank of which is seen on the backcloth.

When the curtain rises, ten Vikings and ten Trolls are discovered looking through telescopes, peering over one another's shoulders, etc. down the river to the left. They should be prettily grouped so that the audience may clap if it wishes.

The Vikings should wear some sort of long white robe, with tunics beneath, and silver helmets. They should carry battleaxes or similar weapons, which should not look like silvered cardboard. The dresses of the trolls may be left to the discretion of the producer, and we trust that in exercising it he will remember that the corridors of the Opera House are draughty. The trolls could with advantage have long flowing black hair.

The orchestra strikes up wildly the Drinking Song from "Traviata" and the Vikings and Trolls come down towards the footlights in order to sing the opening chorus.

The Vikings and Trolls should be chosen almost solely for their singing ability; the Vikings should be doubled with the Dinosaur Boys in Act 11.

CHORUS AND BALLET.
VIKINGS AND TROLLS
(Air - Drinking Song from Verdi's "La Traviata")
Oh we are the Vikings the scourge of the sea, And we savagely ravage the rolling main; If you had once witnessed our valour you'd flee If you saw us approaching again!

We're a strong and terrible throng, ha ha: For war and slaughter we long, ha ha! And this is our rollicking song, ha ha: And this is our rollicking song -

Oh we are the Vikings the scourge of the sea, And we savagely ravage the main!
(They execute a short ballet. This should be a strong virile German ballet, like the one at the baginning of "The Plutocrats." Above all, it should be short. The audionce will have soon at least five ballets in the preceding shows).

But though we're the Vikings the scourge of the sea
And we savagely ravage the rolling main, Te're really as tender as tendor can ba, And slaughtering drives us insano!

To shy at killing a fly, ha ha:
Wo're not at all anxious to die, ha ha!
And that is the reason we sigh, ha ha!
Then singing our rollicking song -
Oh we are the Fikings the scourge of the sea And we savagely ravago the main!
And we savagely ravage the main!
(The ballet is repeated. It ends with a bow or similar gesture to the audience, so that the latter may know when it is over).

Skyllawag When does our leader expect Nov the Peacemaker to

|  | arrive? |
| :---: | :---: |
| Badegg | By noon, Skallawag ... hi.t his coracle may have met with rough sea. |
| Grimm | Tell me, Badegg - why is Nev the Briton known as "The Peacemaker"? |
| Badegg | That is one of the sacred mysteries of the Ancient Britons, Grimm. Nev, is a merchant by profession, a politician by inheritrace, and a diplomat by the grace of God. But a peacemaker - no! How would our beloved Leader Hit be able to pursue his policy of subjugating the Universe were it not for the assistance of Nev? |
| Vikings \& Trolls | Our beloved Leader Hit: |
| (They per time. Th | Ada complicated and humourous salute in perfect |
| Skuea | But where is our divine Leader? |
| Skallawag | He should have been here hours ago. I think the bolt must have stuck. |
| Badegg | Te can always tell when Hit is coming - thunder always marks his approach. |
| Skallawag | Hush, Badegg! Do you not know it is forbidden to mention Marx? |
| (the Vikings \& Trolls give vent to a low hiss) |  |
| Badegg | True, I had forgotten. But I think, Skallawag - |
| Skallawag | Be careful - you know it is also forbidden to think. If our leader Hit - (he does the complicated gesture very quickly) - knew that you were actually thinking, you'd very soon find yourself in a Consternation Gamp. |
| Swigg (looking through a telescope left) Behold $\begin{gathered}\text { mouthrades - I see three coracles nearing the }\end{gathered}$ |  |
| Skua | It must be Nev and his friends: |
| (The Vikings and Trolls rush over left and gaze off stage) |  |
| Swige | Is that a sail above the foremost coracle? |
| Skallawag | No, my friend - that is the sacred umbrella of Nev, which in Briton is worshipped as a symbol for puerility in politics and denseness in diplomacy. |
| Swigg | But why does he keep his umbrella up when the sun is shining? |
| Skallawag | It is rumoured that Nev, is extremely afraid of becoming all wet. |
| Badegg | But stay - we must get raady to receive our revered Leader. He may be here at any moment now. Ha can fly as swift as the wind - he can make himself invisible - he is clothed with the powers of darkness - |
| Skallawag True, Badagg - let us bring in his throne. |  |

(Skallawag and Badegg go to the right of the stage and bring in Hit's throne. This consists of a large beer barrel, with a highly ornamented top, decorated with the mystic emblem of Adolmania - a swastika surrounded with four broad arrows, something like this:-

The Vikings all wear this emblem on the front of their tunics. Skallawag stands near the throne with his back to the audience, watching left, while Badegg and the other Vikings gaze off left. Picture).

| Badegg | They are nearing the landing stage. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Grimm | Truly they are of formidable appearance! Look a Nev's horrible bear-skin! |
| A Troll | Oh, lend me a telescope, quick! |
| Skua | Get away, woman! Has not our leader said that woman's only function is the recreation of the tired warrior? |
| The Troll | But Nev, is bound to be tired after his journey! |
| (A short peal of thunder is heard) |  |
| Badegg | Hark! Our Leader! |
| Grimm | He is coming! |
| (They crowd to the left of the stage, looking off) |  |
| Badegg | Look: Is that our Leader riding on that cloud? |

## Hit's voice Fools! I am here!

(The Vikings turn to the throne in amazement. There, on the throne, sits Hit, Leader of the Vikings, Skallawag having mysteriously disappeared. Details of this amazing transformation scene will be disclosed at rehearsals. Hit is dressed in a silver helmet like the other Vikings; his top half is clad in a brown shirt, bandolier, and black tie; the bottom half in a dinky little skirt. His moustache and hair are normal. He bristles with Adolmanian emblems).

Vikings \& Trolls Behold - the Leader!
(They do the complicated Adolmanian salute, ending with their right urms outstretched)

Hit
There are my minions? (Calls) Bubbles! Boring!
(Enter Bubbles and Boring left and right respectively. They perform the Adolmanian salute in unison)

Hit Have the proparations for Nev's welcome been complated?

Bubbles Your photo is in every room in his suite, Excellency. There is one pure Aryan woman installed in every room except the bedroom.

Hit Thy except the bedroom?
Bubbles

Hit
There are four in the bedroom, sire. And copies of your divina autobiography are strewn in profusion round the rooms.

Excellant. And you, Boring?

Boring | Military parades are scheduled to pass his window constantly |
| :--- |
| during his residence, Excellency, to impress our armed |
| strength on him. |

| Hit |
| :--- |$\quad$| But have we not too few soldiers to do that? |
| :--- |


| Hit The detachment is to march round the block again and again, |
| :--- |
| Sire. |$\quad$| A splendid scheme. |
| :--- |

front of the stage).

TRIO

## HIT, BUBBLES AND BORING

(Air - "Gama's Song" from Sullivan's'Princess Ida")
Hit In case you do not know me, I'm the leader of the land, I rule my people with a firm but philanthropic hand: My duties are not troublesome, for if $I^{\prime} m$ in a fix I always lay the blame on the naughty Bolsheviks! I cheer the people up when they are feeling rather blue By mercilessly slaughtering a Marxist or a Jew: But though I do my best for every Adolmanian, Yet everybody says. I'm such a disagreeable man, And I can't think why!

Chorus He can't think why!

## Bubbles and Boring



Chorus They can't think why!
Hit, Bubbles \& Boring
All Werre a celebrated trio born beneath a lucky star, We won our way to power by a little coup d'etat.
Hit I think of pretty little schemes -
Bubbles
Boring
Al1 And I get rid of anyone who dares to disagree!

Hit We hold a little pogrom and they like it very much!
Hit But though I do my best for every Adolmanian,
Bubbles
\& Boring Yet everybody says he's such a disagreeable man,
A11 And we can't think why!
Chorus They can't think why!
(They bow to the audience and to one another. Hit retires to his throne, and Bubblas and Boring stand on either side of it).

Grimm Nev is nearing the lanaing stage in his coracle, my leader.
Hit Good! I am ready for him. (Pause). Bubbles, do you not think it might be profitable if we performed some act of clemency in honour of $\mathrm{Nev}^{\prime} \mathrm{s}$ coming?

Boring But, my leader, that would double the population of Adolmania!

Bubbles The country's resources could not stand it, oh Hit!
(The orchestra strikes up "Rule Britannia")
Hit True, Bubbles. But see, here is Nev!
(The Vikings and Trolls crowd to the extreme left of the stage to allow the audience an uninterrupted view of the extraordinary craft which are about to sall in behind the wall.

Enter from the left, behind wall, one after the other, three large coracles. These coracles are ordinary wicker clothes baskets, drawn along on wheels by a rope behind the wall. In the first coracle sits Nev the Peacemaker, cross-legs; he wears an immaculate top hat, tie and morning coat; beneath the coat is a delightful bear skin, dangerously short; his legs and feet are very bare. He is holding an enormous umbrella over his head.

In the other two coracles sit Hades and Runnymede; they are dressed similarly to Nev.

All the trio are provided with child's wooden spades, with which they paddle ferociously.

Ith great difficulty they get out of their coracles, step on to the landing stage, and look round, beaming. They inspect Hit and Bubbles and Boring, and the Vikings, especially the Trolls; they look at the centre notice, and beam again. Business when they see the other notices.

At a signal from Hit, the Vikings and Trolls form up in a line from front left of the stage to the landing stage, and sing a chorus of welcome. No ballet is to be performed with this song.)

## CHORUS

## VIKINGS AND TROLLS

> (Air - Original Music)

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All hail, oh Nev, all ha1l!
Behold the British oracle
Arriving in his coracle,
All hail, oh Nev, all hall!
Te liquidate the folk who state
That Britons are but fools,
And welcome you the people who
Make Briton waive the rules!
Nary en
Aryan
In this State totalitarian
Doesn't welcome you - so
All hail, oh Nav, all hail!
Behold the British oracle
Arriving in his coracle,
All hail, oh Nev, all hail!
(The Vikings and Trolls do the Adolmanian salute. Nov tries to reply with tha same salute, but gets mixed up).
Nev (waving his umbrella) It's going to be all right this time:
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Hit $\quad$| Welcome to Adolmania, oh visitors from over the seas! |
| :--- |
| I trust that you have had a pleasant voyage? |

Nev $\quad$| By my sacred umbrella, Hit, these coracles are somewhat |
| :--- |
| confined! (Rubs bottom) But allow me to present my |
| colleagues - Hades (presents him) - and Runnymede - |
| (Presents him business). |

Hit (Impatiently) And the new cloths - you have brought the new cloths?

Nev New and rich cloths, oh Hit - never before seen on these shores. Fetch them, Hades.
(Hades fishes in one of the coracles, and removes a small carved trunk which he presents to Nev. If there is no room in the coracle for the trunk, it can be hidden behind the wall opposite to where Nev's coracle stops)

Hit I trust these new cloths are not too expensive, Nev?
Nev Oh, no - they are singularly cheap. And such rich texture, Hit - such finely woven and beautifully coloured material. But tell me - how have the cloths which I have already sold you worn? The Austrian cloth, for instance?

Hit The Austrian cloth is wearing very well, Nev, I thank you.
Nev And the Spanish eloth?

Hit It has a few rents in it, Nev, but they will be mended soon. No, it is not wearing so well, the Spanish cloth not half so well as the African cloth you sold to my neighbour Muss. (Pause) But this new cloth - what is 1t? I trust you came by it honestly - I would never buy stolen goods, you know:

Nev Of course not! I and my colleagues are the soul of honesty, like you. My friend, we have much in common. I think we ought to set up in partnership.

Hit Ah, what a partnarship that would be!
(Nev, Hit, Bubbles, Boring, Hades, and Runnymede come down to the front of the stage).

Nev Think of it! Nev and Hit and Co.:

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\frac{\text { HIT } \frac{\text { DUET }}{\text { AND NEV }}}{\text { (Air - Original Music) }}
$$

Nev and Hit
Oh listen, ye of low degree,
Oh hearken to us, bourgeoisie,
The humble and the courtiy!
Te want the populace to know
The firm of Nev and Hit \& Co.
Is starting business shortiy.
At our branch in Downing Street
Our raprasentatives will meet
Conservative and Tory;
In Italy our firm wili see
All those who can afford our fue,
Signora and Signori.

| Bubblos, Boring <br> Hades und <br> Runnymede | In short, for every dirty deed <br> You duren't yourself commit, |
| :--- | :--- |
| Just call at once on Hit and Nev, |  |
| And they'll accomplish it! |  |
| Por dirty work you all should go |  |
| At once to Nev and Hit \& Co. |  |

Nev \& Hit
Bubbles, Boring

| Hades and |
| :--- |
| Runnymede |

Thole chorus For dirty work we'll always go At once to Nev and Hit \& Co.?
(The humourous ballet is repeated by the sextette).
Nev und Hit

| Bubbles, Boring | In short, for every dirty deed |
| :---: | :---: |
| Hades and | You daren't yourself commit, |
| Runnymede | Just call at once on Hit and Nev, |
|  | And they'll accomplish it. |
|  | For dirty work you all should go |
|  | At once to Nev and Hit \& Co.! |
| Thole Chorus | For dirty work we'll always go |
|  | At once to Nev and Hit \& Co. |

(No ballet here. Hit returns to the throne, and Bubbles and Boring stand beside it. The other thres stand in front of the throne).
(Nev opens bag and takes out a roll of cloth coloured in black and white squares like a draughtboard)
Nev (impressively) Look at this, Hut - look at it! Let your eyes
feast on it and desire it, for it is beautiful! It is
the latest check cloth from across the sea-brought to
Briton by a band of wandering Phoenician merchants. It
will be very useful, Hit - it will wear well, and will be
a great step towards the completion of your collection.

Hit $\quad$| True, $N e v$. Let me feel it. (Nev allows him to feel the |
| :--- |
| cloth) Ah, how superb! It is finer than gossamer and |
| yet as strong as steel! How much is the check cloth? |

Nev Well, Hit, the sale of the check cloth is going to be a
littie more difficult than the sale of the other cloths.
You see, the people of Briton stupid dolts are saying
amongst themselves that I should not have sold you the
other cloths.

Hit But why, Nev?
Nev Oh, they have some silly idea that we don't really own
these cloths we are selling. Utterly absurd, of course,
but sometimes you have to take alittle notice of what
the poople are saying. It's an awful bore.

Hit It is, Nev. But then, what are you going to do?

| Nev | I'm going to meet you half way, Hit. I anticipated that you would wish to buy the check cloth, so I told the Britons that you were about to march to seize it by force. They wouldn't like that at all, but they wouldn't mind if I sold it to you, provided you gave ma a guarantee that your legions would not march. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Hit | I couldn't commit Adolmania to anything. |
| Nev | Oh, but you needn't say anything definite. You needn't actually guarantee not to make war - just a few words about friendship between the nations and desiring peace. The Britons love that. |
| H1t | I think I know what you want. Bubbles, fetch a copy of blurb number forty-four. |
| Bub | Blurb number forty-four it is, Sir. |

(Exit Bubbles, right)
Hit And if I sign this agreement, you will sell me the check cloth?

Nev I will give you the check cloth, oh Hit! The people of Briton will be so relieved when I tell them that you will not march that they will shower me with honours.
(Enter Bubbles, right)
Bubbles Blurb number forty-four, Str.
(Gives paper to Hit)
Hit
Fill this suit?
Nev
(Reads) "Symbolic desire"... "never to go to war against each other again"..."methods of consultation"..."assuring the peace of Europe"...- yes, that's wonderful! Here sign it!

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { (Taking quill pen from Bubbles i ear and signing) } \\
& \text { There you areb And now you (Pause) This is fun, } \\
& \text { isn't it? } \\
& \text { (Signing) Goods (Pause - then impressively - ) And } \\
& \text { here is the check cloth, oz Hitl: The crisis is overl }
\end{aligned}
$$

(Nev presents the roll of cloth to Hit. The orchestra strikes up suddenly and loudly - "Rule Britannia")

Hit Take this cloth, Boring, and guard it from harm. It is very precious.

Boring It will be safe in my tender care, oh Hitl
(Nev hands the signed paper to Hades and Runnymede, who examine it with interest)

Hades Another guaranteel Think what that's going to cost us for further re-armament

Hit And have you any other cloth, Nev, in your store? Perhaps an even richer cloth?
(Nev whispers to Hades and limanede. They giggle naughtily, and nod)
Nev (Impressively) What will you offer for this cloth, Hit?
(He opens the bag, like a magician, and displays a roll of red, white, and blue bunting. The viking gasp. Hit is staggered; the general effect is electric.)

Nev (Giggling) That gave them a turn, didn't it?
Hit You - you will really sell me that cloth?
Nev Oh well - it's very expensive, you know -
Hit (Dangerously) Perhaps it won't be necessary for you to sell it to me, Nev.

Nev What - what do you mean?
Hit Boring, seize him!
(Boring and some Vikings seize Hades, Runnymede, and Nev, who struggle)

Hades Here - I say, this is a bit thick!
Runnymede It really isn't cricket, damn it allf
Nev By my sacred umbrella, I shall order my Government to send a note of protest.

Hades No, don't do that, Nev old chap. We want to get out of this mess.

H1t One moment, my friends. Bubbles, fetch me disguise number four. (Bubbles exits left) Nev, you are not going to return to Briton - yet.

Nev Not - not going to return to Briton?

Hit No. I am going over in your stead - disguised as youb (To the Vikings) Let him follow later if he wishes. I have a little plan which I want to try out.
(Enter Bubbles with a moustache)

Hit (Sticking the moustache, which is exactly like Nev's, on his upper lip) Well, they didn't see through you, did they? As a matter of fact, I don't think any of them will notice the slightest difference.
(Boring puts the check cloth in the trunk, and places the trunk into a coracle. Bubbles and loring clamber into the foremost coracle. Hit removes Nev's hat, tie, and bear skin, and morning coat, and dons them himself, leaving Nev attired in a vest and a delightful pair of pink drawers. A Viking, seeing the awful sight, covers his eyes, turns away, and hands Nev his own cloak, which he dons. Hit takes Nev's umbrella, and, waving it to the Vikings, gets into the remaining coracle. The three Britons struggle wildiy, The Vikings and Trolls burst into their chorus, and the three coracles sall slowly off stage).

## CHORUS

## VIKINGS AND TROLLS

Oh, we are the Vikings, the scourge of the sea, And we savagely ravage the rolling main; If you had once witnessed our valour yould flee If you saw us approaching again.

Weire a strong and terrible throng, ha hal For war and slaughter we long, ha hal And this is our rollicking song, ha hab This is our rollicking song -

Oh, we are the Vikings, the scourge of the sea, And we savagely ravage the main.
(The scene is the Cave of the Druids, in Ancient Britain. Three quarters of the stage is used, and the back-cloth represents a gloomy, craggy cave interior. It is essential that the background should be almost black. The same side flats as in Act $I$ may be used. In the centre of the stage, towards the back, is a rough stone block serving as a table, and round it, on three sides, three stone forms. It is to be hoped that these articles will really look like stone. The light is dark, flickering, and gloomy.

Sitting on the stone forms, with their feet on the stone table, are ten ancient Druids, clad in the long robes, etc., which were the fashion in those days. The Druids should have long white bears (not made of tow and should speak in moderately ancient voices, with oxford accents.

The orchestra strikes up brightly "That Certain Age"; the Druids rythmically remove their feet from the table, and advance to the front of the stage, where they boom out the following chorus:)

## CHORUS

## THE DRUIDS

(Air - "That Certain Age")
We are Briton's acolytes, Reverent and sage; Philanthropic parasites of this ancient age!

Polltics amuse us.
Though they're not our bent:
We have ordered fifty cruisers
The safeguard what wetve lent.
We've a thirst for L.S.D. Nothing can assuage
Each a ruthless mortgagee
of this ancient age.
We are Britain's acolytes, Reverent and sage; Philanthropic parasites of this ancient agel
(The Druids on the extreme left and right of the line step forward to the footlights, and speak alternately through the music. At the conclusion of each verse, the remaining eight Druids execute a little ballet, stiff, jerky and humourous, lifting their skirts high)

1st Druid (speaking through music)
For Truth and Light we daily gearch, And, as befits our rank, We worship Sundays at the Church, And weekdays at the Bank!
(Ballet)
2nd Druid (speaking through music)
By a strange coincidence
Arranged by heavenly powers
Britain's vital interests
Are just the same as ours!

## 1st and 2nd Druids (speaking through music)

War against progressive foes
Relentiessly we wage,
And thus maintain the status quo
Of this ancient age!
(Brllet. The lst and 2nd Druids join the others).
Chorus
We are Britain's acolytes, Reverent and sage; Philanthropic parasites Of this ancient age!
(The Druids reseat themselves round the table. A tall Druid rises and speaks).

1st Druid Gentlemen - we are gathered together to discuss the present political situation. The peace of Ancient Britain is endangered, her honour and prestige are at stake, her proud place among the nations is threatened -

2nd Druid In other words, our vested interests are a bit rocky.
1st Druid Exactly. And are we to fail the Britons in their hour of need? Is the sacred trust which we are here to fulfil to be abused?

3rd Druid Well, is it?
1st Druid (A little taken aback) Yes - it probably is, But are we to be afraid of this Hit, this mountebank, this outrager of the peace of the world? Are we afraid to fling our legions against his and crush him?

4th Druid Yes, we are.
1st Druid You're quite right. And that, gentlemen, is the position In a nutshell. But before we decide whether it is to be peace or war, I think it is relevant to our enquiry to ascertain how many of us hold shares in armament firms. Will those who own any such shares please raise their right hands?
(The right hands of all the Druids, except the lst, are slowly raised)

5th Druid What - you have no shares?
1st Druid $I$ have no armament shares.
2nd Druid I always gave you credit for being one of the few of us with any brains, too.

Ist Druid I have no shares in any of the firms - but I am a managing director of them alld Well, gentlemen, is it to be peace or war?
(The Druids take a breath, purse their lips, and are about to shout "War" when Hit, disguised as Nev, with Bubbies and Boring, enters left. Boring is carrying the carved trunk containing the cloths)
Hit (Idyllically) Beace!
Druids What? Nev back! Whyl etc.
Hit Peace, I say! Look at this!
(He waves the agreement. Some of the Druids snatch at it). Hit Now, naughty, naughtyd Here you are - you may read it!
(He gives it to the first Druid who reads it avidly, the others peering over his shoulder)

2nd Druid Do you mean to say that Hit listened to the voice of reason?
Hit My dear fellow, how could he? It was I who was
2nd Druid True, Nev., true.
lst Druid (doubtfully) You know, welva. had a lot of these before. I doubt whether the people will like it. As soon as they crawl out of the holes they have dug, they may begin to think.

Hit But do we not pay the criers who announce the news? Can they not use sweet words about this deed - words like "honour" and "appeasement" - are they not beautiful words my friends? Let them go forth now to the people, and shout to them to come forth from their holes - Nev. the peacemaker has saved the world - Hit and the Vikings will not march! Our prestige is saved - friendship and comity among the nations - a triumph of British diplomacy! Tell them the old, old story - and they will sing in the streets, and shout "All hail, oh Nev the Peacemaker!"

Druids (Bowing and knocking their heads on the floor) All hail, oh Nev the Peacemaker!

Hit (to Bubbles \& Boring) How am I doing, folks?
Boring Gee, chief - you were swellb
Bubbles Introduce us, Hit.
Hit Here - get up, please - (coyly) - really, I am not worthy of such devotion. I want to remain always just plain Mr. Nev.
(The Druids rise)
Hit But let me introduce you to two Vikings who have come with me from Adolmania to help me in matters of state. Mr. Bubbles - Mr. Boring.
(Bubbles, Boring, and the Druids bow ceremoniously. Bubbles and Boring do the Adolmania salute).

Ist Druid Where, oh Nev, are Hades and Runnymede?
Hit Detained in Adolmania with foreign affairs.
lst Druid Are you sure it's not with fair foreigners?
Hit Indeed - that is slanderous! Surely you know Hades and Runnymede?
lst Druid Rxactly - we know Hades and Runnymedel
Hit But stay - in the joy of achievement we must not wholly lose our senses. While in Adolmania I discovered a plot!


| Nev $\quad \frac{I}{\text { I }}$ | I am here, Druids $S$ Stze the imposter! (Pause, the Druids laugh heartily) Well, what are you waiting for? (Pause) Do something, or (imitating Charlie McCarthy) I'll mow you down: |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1st Druid | Did you realiy think you could get away with that disguise? |
| Nev | Disguise? That:s my face: |
| 1st Druid | That shows he:s lyingl Come on, Druids |
| (They rush | h over to Nev and seize him. He struggles wildiy). |
| Nev | I must keep calm - I must keep calm - in this time of crisis - owl - don't pull my moustache, it grows there |
| Hit | Put him on the table. |

(The Druids lay Nev. on the table. He struggles, but the Druids hold him down).

Nev $\quad$| I can assure you that my appendix has already been |
| :--- |
| removed. |

(Hit opens the trunk and brings out the bunting)
1st Druid $H e$ won't lie still, Nev.
Nev $\quad$ I must sincerely protest with all my heart against this outrage!

Hit I shall hypnotise him with my sacred umbrella.
(He waves the umbrella over him, finally htting him hard on the head with it. Nev gives a convulsive shudder, and lies still)
lst Druid Are you ready, Nev?
Hit I am ready;
(Hit and the Ist Druid spread out the burtine, and cover Nev carefully with it. The Druids stand in a semicircle behind the stone table. Hit stands in front waving the umbrella mystically; the lights are lowered so that the cave is even darker and more gloomy; weird and unearthly music is heard).

SOLO AND CHORUS
HIT AND WE DRUIDS
Hit (half-singing, half-speaking through the intensely melodrama-$\therefore$-n $^{\text {music }}$

Rise from your grates
My awful slaves;
Come, shades trom bogs and ditches:
Here, dreadful hosts
Of gibbering ghostis -
Come, horrid hags and witches:
(As the Druids sing the following chorus, Nev's body, covered with the bunting, rises, with no apparent means of support, slowly into the air, and remains suspenced about three feet above the Druids, who slowly raise their arms in supplication. This is a well-known magical effect and is rairly easy of execution with the stage set in the manner described above).

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Hore, ureadfuz hosts
Ot gibbering ghoscs -
Come, horrid hags and witches!
So Tlght and tho Seven Dwharfies,
Take our saczinice:
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（During the next verse，Nev＇s body rises and falls slowly，the Druids following its movements with the in upraised arms．Hit waves the umbrella above and beiow the floating body．Dim thunder is heard in the distance）

## Hit

Assemble，crowds， Oi imps in shrouds，
Ye Ioethsome ghosts，protect usb
Come hither，sprites
$0 \hat{i}$ gloomy nights－
And grim and ghestly spectres：
Chorus
Come hither，sprites Of gloomy nights－
And grim and ghastly spectres： So Tight and the Seven Dwharfies， Take our sacrifice：
（Thunder．Hit suddenly pulls，ay the cloth from Nev＇s body．There is nothing there－Nev has lituraily vanished into thin air．There is a terrific peal of thunder，and after a few seconds，a complete blackout．

During the blackont，the Draids hastily remove the stone table and forms，and the blackcioth is lifted，to disclose Stonehenge，with a background showing a piain strewn with great blocks of stone．If it is found too expons．．ve to have another blackcioth painted，an impressionistic modern bacigground can be constructed with the aid of black curtains and stone blocks．Or perhaps two black curtains could be user，with a glimpse of the plain botween them．The details of the seene can，however，be le⿰氵亡 to the discretion of the producer．

There are sever ston blocks on the stage，irregularly shaped so as to represent part of Stonehenge．Paper coloured like stone may be obtained so that the＂stone＂walls，tabies，forms，and Stonehenge blocks may be mado roughiy rum wocd and covered with this paper．
Seated on the seven blocks of stone，in an attitude of sleep，are the Seven Dwharfies．The top half of these should be dressed in the costume of the film，and the bottom half in wharfies：pants and boots． All are extreme $y$ uall and fat．So Tight，dressed in the costume of the film，is fast asleep agairst the middie block．On either side of the Dwharfies lies a Dinosaur，curled up．These dinosaurs should be constructed on the lines of some prehistoric monster such as the Brontosaurus．The bodies are similar to that of Daisy the Bull in ＂The Plutocrats，＂and the necks each consisted of a long tube of white material stuffed with rags，and surmounted by a fearsome head． The necks contain a large stiok，winich protrudes into the body，and is worked by one or the two unfortunate people inside．The body can be hired；the head and neck can be very easily constructed．

The orchestra strikes up＂Whe Larnbeth Walk；＂So Tight wakes up，yawns， stretches，then sicmiy rises）．

So Tight Time to get up，men：Tim：fon your morning exerciseb
（The Dwharfies，and the Dinosaurs，uncurl sleepily．The Dwharfies slide dow on to tho stage cne oy one．To the tune or the Lambeth Walk，the Dwharfies，pinosaurs，and So Tight eccecute a ballet based on＂he Lambeth Walk．＂This should be short but very humourous）．

|  | $\text { HT, } \frac{\text { SONG AND BALLET }}{\text { DWHARFIES AND DINOSAURS }}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| So Tight (speaking through the music) |  |
|  | Wake me up, it's ten o'clock - |
|  | Come on Wheezy - come on Soct- |
|  | From your little beds arise |
|  | And take your morning exercised |
|  | Bumpy, Weepy, Soapy, too, |
|  | Scrappy, Hasful, all of you - |
|  | Let us take our morning stroll, |
|  | Come, Men: |
| Dwharfies | Every morning just at ten |
|  | So Tight wakes us up and then |
|  | You'll find us all |
|  | Doing the stonehenge Strolld |
|  | Every sleepy little man |
|  | Dances lightly as he can - |
|  | Just watch us all |
|  | Doing the Stonehenge Strollt |
|  | When it's a lovely morning, |
|  | When you're awake and yawning, |
|  | Why don't you have your fling too, |
|  | Dance, too, sing, too? |
|  | Watch us happy as can be |
|  | Gambol round so joyously |
|  | Just watch us all |
|  | Doing the Stonehenge Stroll! |

(They repeat the Chorus, and execute the Stonehenge Stroll again. During this, Nev enters, and watches amazed at the antics of So Tight and the Seven Dwharfies. At the conclusion of the dance, Nev stands, facing audience, his arms folded, with an intense expression on his face, waiting to be sacrificed. The Dinosaurs approach and sniff him; he does not see them. So Tight gazes intently at him; the Seven Dwharfies whisper together excitedly. The orchestra plays "Some Day My Prince Will Come." So Tight approaches Nev cautiously)

Nev Hurry up - get it over! (Nervously) We - British - are not afraid to die:

So Tight You are British, then? How nice:
Nev We like it. But please - please get it over. We British are always calm in moments of crisis.
(The Dinosaurs: heads are within three inches of his face, on either side. Nev turns and sees them, and gives a bloodcurding yell)

So Tight (to the Dinosaurs) Go away, dears. (The Dinosaurs slink back to the Seven Dwharfies.) (To Nev) It's quite all right, they're vegetarians.

Nev Hurry - do what you will with med
So Tight What - can it be that you are my prince?
Nev Pardon me - your what?
So Tight My prince, whom I have dreamed of so long? I knew he would come in the end: My darling: (She embraces him)

Nev Here . I say - please, my good woman - don't - I'm
afraid you're misconstruing - here, lay off please

(She embraces him again. The Dwharfies giggle, and consult together again. The Dinosaurs embrace also).

| Nev | My dear So - er - Miss Tight - |
| :--- | :--- |
| Scrappy | Well, men - I think it would be tactful - |
| Wheezy | If we gracefully retired - |
| Sock | So Tight, my dear - |
| Bumpy | We are going outside for a moment - |
| Weepy | In order to - |
| Soapy | See a man - |
| Hasful | About a Dinosaur ! |
| Dwharfies | Thank youl |

(The Dwharfies bow, and march out right, to the tune of the Lambeth Walk)

Nev This is awfult My good woman - you are labouring under a delusion - I am really Nev the Peacemaker - not Hit!

So Tight (cajoling him) Now, Hitty dear, don't be so sillyt of course, if you were really Nev, wetd call the Dinosaurs and start the sacrifice right away.

Nev $\quad 0 \mathrm{~h}, \mathrm{my}$ goodness! By my divine brolly! oh well - of course, if you insist - I am Hit, thent

So Tight of course you are, silly:
Nev I'm beginning to think I really am!
So Tight And you will love me till the end of your days?

Nev
But really, Miss Tight - I am married, you know -
So Tight Oh, but I'm sure you are broadminded. If not, the Dinosaurs will soon -

Nev (hastily) Oh, yes - I'm broadminded.
So Tight And in return for your love, do you know what I'm going to do?

Nev No, but I think I can guess!
So Tight I'm going to help you conquer Britaint The Dinosaur Boys are on my side - we can overthrow the Druids easily!

Nev (horrified) Oh, I couldn't - I couldn't do that
So Tight (nastily) You couldn't, eh? (Calls the Dinosaurs) Dennyt Dinaht
(The Dinosaurs advance menacingly towards Nev, pawing the ground. Nev hides behind So Tight, and the Dinosaurs chase him round her)

Nev Oh - take them away - I suppose I'll have to stretch a point.

So Tight (to the Dinosaurs) Go away, darlings - you shall have your dinner later.

Nev (mopping his brow) Oh, dearl Just like when I had that overdose of meads

So Tight Oh certainly - (tonelessly) - madly - passionately!
SOLO - NEV
WITH CHORUS OF DWHARFIES AND DINOSAUR BOYS'
(Air - Original Music)
I'm a highly respectable man,
And honour is always my goal:
All passionate dramas
Which mention pyjamas Offend my susceptible soull

I'm worshipped at afternoon teas, I'm a friend of the Vicar and Squire I labour all day For the Y.M.C.A. And I warble at night in a choirl

But I can't explain, dear, Why a smile from you, Or a soft caress, Can thrill me throught I'm quite unsentimental, But still I know it!s true Though I can't explain, dear That I love you.
(The chorus from "I can't explain, dear" is crooned in the traditional modern "blues" manner, with plenty of "bood-a-doops." During the second verse and chorus, the Dwharfies enter in tip-toe, followed by ten Dinosaur Boys, led by Terry Dactyl. The Dinosaur Boys wear cowboy-like leggings, and animal skins, and look extremely primitive. They form up in front of Stonehenge, and sit down, the Dwharfies on the side of the stage. We might as well mention that Terry Dactyl is a caricature of the well-known Pinto Pete,
and the Dinosaur Boys are the Ranchos. For this reason, they languidly hum the air of the chorus while Nev is singing it).

## CHORUS - DINOSAUR BOYS AND DWHARFIES

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But I can't explain, dear,
Why a smile from you,
Or a soft caress
Can thrill me throught
I'm quite unsentimental,
But still I know it's true -
Though I can't explain, dear,
That I love yout
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                    NEV
    I'm a highly respectable man,
From virtue I never have strayed;
I burble sea-shanties
In cute little panties,
And march with Boy Scouts on parade.
My mind is as pure as a lily;
I'm constructed of acid and ice;
I always avoid
The subject of Freud,
And I never make use of a viceb
But I can't explain, dear,
Why a smile from you,
Or a soft caress
Can thrill me throught
I'm quite unsentimental,
But still I know it's true -
Though I can't explain, dear -
That I love youl
DWHARFIES AND DINOSAUR BOYS
But I can't explain, dear, etc. etc.

So Tight (to the Dinosaur Boys) Hullo, boys - I'm so glad you've come. (Presenting Nev) Meet Hit the Viking, boys Hit, these are the Dinosaur Boys, and this is Terry Dactyl, their boss.

Terry (very deep Pinto Pete voice) I'm sure glad to meet you, stranger.
(Shakes hands. Nev winces)
Nev $\quad$ Oh - charmed, I'm sure - but really -
So Tight Hit wants to conquer Britain - and I've promised to help him. With the Dinosaurs on our side, we can win easily. You're with me, aren't you, boys?

Terry $\quad$ Friends of yours are always friends of ours, So Tight. The Dinosaur Boys always welcome you with open arms.
(The orchestra plays softly and slowly "Bring back my bonnie to me" and the Dinosaur Boys hum the refrain. The Dinosaurs sway gently, their heads resting in the arms of two of the Dinosaur Boys)

Terry Yes, when the dying sun sinks slowly over Salisbury Plain, and we've rounded up the Dinosaurs into the old corrals, then we like to sit together round the camp fire, and sing a bit, and - maybe, who knows? - dream a bit, too.
(Pause while the Dinosaur Boys hum the refrain)
And we welcome strangers with a shake of the hand and a cheery song, and we sit together in the flickering firelight and think of the days gone by and the faces we see no longer. Now, who's going to sing for our pal Hit this evening?

1st D. Boy
You sing to us, boss.
2nd D. Boy
You've got a swell voice, boss.
Terry (laughs with a deep belly laugh) Ha ha hal Well, I'll sing, then. As a matter of fact, I intended to all the time. I'll sing you a sad song, folks - the saddest song I know - the story of an old friend who we all used to love, and who has now passed over into the Great Unknown - Winifred the Wonder of the West

SONG - TERRY DACTYL
CHORUS OF DWHARFIES AND DINOSAUR BOYS
(Air - Original Music)
Oh, gather round and listen to the story, Of Winifred the Wonder of the West:
If a cowboy got ecstatic
She would draw her automatic,
And the verdict at the Inquest told the rest.
But Winnie had a wobble that was winsome,
Her face - it would have sunk a thousand ships -
And the cowboys got hysterics
And recited verse like Herricks
When they watched the gentle swaying of her hips.
Chorus She was Winifred the Wonder of the West, And she entered into every game with zest. Bullets wouldn't pierce her torso Like Diana's, only more so, She was Winifred the Wonder of the West.

A man from Texas came to visit Winnie,
And walked with her from dawn to set of sun:
He started out to woo her,
For he wanted to undo her,
But Winifred refused to be undone;
She took her automatic from her pinny,
And through her teeth she hissed "You dirty dawg!"
And she shot the man from Texas
In the chest and solar plexus,
And they came and took the body to the morguel
Chorus She was Winifred the Wonder of the West,
And people say she'd hairs upon her chest;
Bullets wouldn't pierce her torso,
Like Diana's, only more so -
She was Winifred the Wonder of the Westl
But she fell in love herself, did little Winnie,
With a cowboy with a captivating smile;
How she wished he would assault her
And lead her to the altar
But he dared to come no nearer than a milel So she pined away and miserably perished; There was silence in that rancho on the West, And despite the cowboys ${ }^{\text {a }}$ urgin
She remained the local virgin
When they buried her and laid her down to rest.

| Chorus | She was Winifred the Wonder of the West, |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | And she hid a heart of gold beneath her vest; |
|  | Bullets wouldn't pierce her torso - |
|  | Like Diana's only more so - |
|  | She was Winifred the Wonder of the West ${ }^{\text {d }}$ |
| Terry | Well, stranger, we're mighty glad to have seen you to-night, |
|  | And when you ride home over the plains, perhaps you'll |
|  | remember Terry Dactyl and his Dinosaur Boys, with laughter |
|  | in your hearts....and maybe you'll come again sometime.... |
|  | goodbye......goodbye... |
| Nev | But I'm not goingt |
| Terry | Well, neither are you, now Sorry, pal, it was just force of habit! |
| So Tight When can you get ready to attack the Druids, Terry? Now? |  |
| Terry | Now, if you wish it, So. |
| So Tight Come on then - unleash the Dinosaurst |  |
| (The Dwharfies wabble off right in perfect time, followed by the |  |
| Dinosaur Boys. At this moment Hit, Bubbles and Boring enter left. So Tight and the Dinosaurs dance out, and Nev is about to follow |  |
|  |  |
| them in the rear when Hit rushes across the stage and seizes him) |  |
| Hit Where are you going, Nev? |  |
| Nev | Oh, it's awful, awfull That awful woman fell for me - she thinks I'm you - and you're me - and she's going to conquer Britain for me - you - and kill all the poor Druids because she thinks I'm you - you're me - (wailing) oh, my goodness! Which of us is which? (pitifully) It's awfully confusingt |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Hit | I'm Hit and you're Nev but so Tight thinks you are me and |
|  | the Druids think I am you, and they're both wrong. That any clearer? |
| Nev (smiling) On, thanks awfully - that's much bettert (Suddenly - |  |
|  |  |  |
| don't know who I aml What on earth shall I do? |  |
| Boring Try to remember some details of your past. |  |
| Bubbles No - no - keep the party cleand |  |
| H1t Have you any identification marks? |  |
| Nev | Identification marks? (beaming) Why, yes, of course - I have a birthmark! |
| Hit | Where? (Pause) You may whisper if you wish. |
| (Nev whispers confidentially to Hit) |  |
| Nev Yes, it's on my |  |
| (He fumbles at his vest and tries to undo it) |  |
| Hit On your chest? Strange - is it anything like this? |  |
| (He opens his clothes, and demonstrates an Adolmanian emblem in Brown on his chest) |  |

(He opens his vest and shows exactly the same mark on his own chest)

decisions to be made, I'll take the helm, and you can quietly disappear.

Nev Why, that's just what I've always wanted to dob
Hit I've no doubt Miss So Tight will be glad to accommodate you during those periods.

Nev That suits me down to the ground.
Hit And when the Druids are running things - which happens most of the time - you can come back, and I'll amuse myself at Stonehenge. No one'll notice the difference.

Nev Bags first pop at Stonehenge, Hitty.
Hit Yes - I think I ought to be looking after things for a while. There's a little matter of some colonies $I$ want to fix up.

Nev (looking off right) Oh - look - here they are - So Tight and those awful Dwharfies - they're coming to look for me - I think I'd better be getting along, you know -

H1t Good Lie low for a while, Nevvy - then go to Stonehenge.
Nev I will, Hitty. Farewell, my brother!
(They embrace).
Hit Farewelld
(Nev walks across stage left. The orohestra, for the third time, strikes up "Rule Britannia")

Nev (Going off) I'm perfectly sure it's going to be quite all right this timed
(Exits left. So Tight, with the Dinosaurs trotting beside her, enters right, followed by the Dwharfies, and the Dinosaur boys?.

So Tight Where have you been, you naughty Hitty?
Hit Well, you see - I met these two gentlemen - my own men er - Mr. Bubbles, Miss Tight - Mr. Boring, Miss Tight.

Bubbles Charmed:
Boring Delighted!
Hit These gentlemen have already done our job for us.
So Tight You mean -
Hit They've conquered Britain for mi. I have it on excellent authority that it's going to be quite all right this time.

So Tight And you will stay here with me?
Hit I will, my darling. (They embrace) So chain up the Dinosaurs - they won't be needed - yetb Mr. Bubbles you will attend to the usual publicity. Mr. Boring do you think a pogrom or two would go amiss? And you people of Britain, be reassured, I shall carry on your old traditions - with a few consequential amendments, of course, and above all, I shall always respect the Great Peace brought to you by Nev the Peacemaker - the Peace
(The Dwharfies and Dinosaur Boys do the Adolmanian salute)
FINAL CHORUS
(To be written later)
CURTAIN

