

# STUFF AND NONSENSE THE MUSICAL

INSPIRED BY THE NONSENSE OF EDWARD LEAR

Words and Music by JOHN MILLS

## ACT 1, SCENE 1: OUTSIDE MR LEAR'S HOUSE

### 'HELLO HOOTIE, FOSSIE AND MR LEAR'

(Hootie Owl, Old Foss & Mr Lear)

*(Outside a large Edwardian villa, Mr Lear's home. HOOTIE OWL enters strumming his guitar.)*

#### HOOTIE OWL

T'Whit, T'Whoo, let's try this one. *(Sings uptempo short extract from 'Song #10 The Owl and The Pussycat')*

'The Moon, the Moon how we danced by the light of the silvery moon! The Moon, the Moon how we danced by the light of the silvery moon!'

#### OLD FOSS

*(Enters in a rush)* Mee-ow. Such a beautiful tenor voice! You sing beautifully... er ... Mister ...?

#### HOOTIE OWL

T'Whit, T'Whoo! Hootie Owl ... and you are?

#### OLD FOSS

Old Foss, but you can call me 'Fossie' ... if you like.

#### HOOTIE OWL

'Fossie', I like! T'Whit T'Whoo, very pleased to meet yoo-hoo.

*(Offers sweet from packet)* Would you like a jellybean? I've got blue ones .. or green ones?

#### OLD FOSS

Oh .. no .. thankyou, Hootie. I need to be careful what I eat. Watching my figure, you know. Prrr.

#### HOOTIE OWL

T'Whoo-hoo, Fossie, I can see. Whoo-hoo! May I sing to you-hoo-hoo, Fossie?

#### OLD FOSS

Prrr. Lovely, but I really can't stop. I'm housekeeper to Mr Lear ... in that big house. He's been away travelling and is due home soon. So much to do. Sorry to leave. I really loved your singing. Goodbye, Hootie.

*(OLD FOSS exits into the house)*

#### HOOTIE OWL

T'Whit, T'Woe-oh-oh! Ah well!

*(MR LEAR enters carrying a very large suitcase and a lifebuoy over his shoulder)*

#### MR LEAR

Coming back. Been travelling far and wide. Wonderful. Thrilling. I feel so alive. I have breathed in the sweetest alpine air. Aaah! And I have swum in the coldest, bluest lakes you can imagine.

#### HOOTIE OWL

*(In DR CALICO'S voice)* Yez, I can imaginez. So bluez, zhee lakes of Bavaria perhapz?

*(In HOOTIE OWL'S voice)* T'Whit, T'Whoo, I did a study tour through Germany in my You-oo-outh!

#### MR LEAR

You've a very good accent!

#### HOOTIE OWL

Thank-yoo-hoo. Er, spare a copper or two-oo-oo, Mister ... er?

**MR LEAR**

Mr Lear. Edward Lear.

**HOOTIE OWL**

Ah! You live in that big house over there. I've just met your lovely housekeeper-cat, Fossie. Whoo-Hoo!.

**MR LEAR**

Well, here I am! With my lifebuoy to save me from drowning! A present from Old Foss. I need it with wherever I go. Well it was nice to meet you, but I've to get home!

*(MR LEAR exits into the house)*

**HOOTIE OWL**

T'Whoo-hoo! Home, for me too, I think. *(Airkiss)* Whoo-Hoo Fossie! I have to get to know you better. But how do I get inside the house?

*(In DR CALICO's voice)* Ah! I havz an ideaz taking zhee shapes in my headz!

*(Airkiss. HOOTIE OWL exits.)*

**ACT 1, SCENE 2: MR LEAR'S STUDY****'HELLO TUMBLY JUMBLIES'**

**(Old Foss, Mr Lear & Jumblies)**

**MR LEAR**

*(Enters through door straight into study and hangs up coat and lifebuoy etc.)*

I'm home! It's me! Old Foss, where are you? I'm home!

**OLD FOSS**

*(Enters flustered)* Mr Lear, it's you, sir. You're home early!

**MR LEAR**

Yes, I got the earlier steamer home.

**OLD FOSS**

I'll lay the fire after I've put the kettle on for a nice cuppatea. *(OLD FOSS exits)*

**MR LEAR**

Make that a lapsang souchong please, Fossie. Lapsang souchong ... rhymes with ... Pooh-Pong! Such a poet! I can't write when my hands are cold. More logs for the fire when you're ready, Fossie.

**JUMBLIES**

*(n.b JUMBLIES have noisy horn for entry and exits. Calling loudly from offstage)*

Mr Lear, we're here.

**MR LEAR**

Aha, my tumbly Jumblies, I wondered when you'd try and make an appearance. But don't come out yet, I'm not ready for you yet!

**JUMBLIES**

*(Calling loudly from offstage)* Helloooo Mr Lear!

**MR LEAR**

Hello Jumblies, I'm not ready to play, yet!

**JUMBLIES**

*(Calling loudly from offstage)* Helloooo Mr Lear!

**MR LEAR**

*(Laughing)* Come out then, out from inside my head, my lovely tumbly Jumblies!

*(n.b. MR LEAR goes strangely whoozy/unwhoozy at the start and end of a 'nonsensing'.)*

*JUMBLIES enter as a tumble of bodies.)*

No need to push, Jumblies!

**JUMBLIES**

*(ad lib)* Ouch, ooh! Watch those elbows! Out you come. Another ‘nonsensing’, hooray!

**MR LEAR**

Hello, old friends!

**JUMBLIES**

Happy holidays!

**MR LEAR**

I’m gonna have a ‘nonsensing’ – letting my imagination go mad! Great to see you again, Jumblies!  
*(To the AUDIENCE)* How I love having my mad little nonsensings’ with my Jumblies.

**JUMBLIES**

It’s just stuff and nonsense!

**Music starts for #01 It’s Just Stuff And Nonsense****MR LEAR**

Yes, yes, yes, Jumblies, It’s just stuff and nonsense to me, too!

**JUMBLIES**

HIS NAME’S MR LEAR. HE OFTEN GOES ‘QUEER’,  
FROM TOES TO THE END OF HIS NOSE.  
HIS ‘NONSENSINGS’ GIVE HIM TIN-GLE-ING FEELINGS,  
WHISPER ‘COS NOBODY KNOWS.

**MR LEAR**

MY BEST FRIENDS, THE JUMBLIES, SO VERY ‘TUMBLY’,  
WITH ME WHEREVER I GOES.  
THEY’RE MOST IN MY MIND, BUT POP OUT SOMETIMES  
DESERVING A SHOVE AND ‘HEAVE-HO!’

**MR LEAR**

I’M NOT MAD!

**JUMBLIES**

HE’S NOT MAD!

**MR LEAR**

I’M NOT MAD!

**JUMBLIES**

HE’S NOT MAD!

**ALL**

IT’S JUST STUFF AND NONSENSE TO ME!

**JUMBLIES**

WHEN EDDIE’S EXCITED HIS TROUBLES UNITE,  
WITH TROUBLES FROM NOSE TO HIS TOES.  
HIS ‘NONSENSINGS’ GIVE HIM ‘WHOOZYING’ FEELINGS  
WORRIES HE TRIES NOT TO SHOW.

**MR LEAR**

MY JUMBLIES MAY STUMBLE, NEVER WILL GRUMBLE,  
THEY LOVE ME AND REALLY DO CARE.  
IF I’M IN A BIND THEY HELP ME UNWIND  
WITH KINDNESS THEY’RE HAPPY TO SHARE.

**MR LEAR**

I’M NOT MAD!

**JUMBLIES**

HE’S NOT MAD!

**MR LEAR**

I’M NOT MAD!

**JUMBLIES**

HE’S NOT MAD!

**ALL**

IT’S JUST STUFF AND NONSENSE TO ME!

THERE’S SINGALONG SONGS AND ‘TAP-YOUR-FEET’ SONGS  
OUR HAPPY EAR-WORMS ARE FREE,

WE'VE POBBLE AND QUANGLE, OLD FOSS, HOOTIE OWL,  
 DR CALICO SCHEMING WITH GLEE.  
 WE'VE PRANCING AND DANCING ... LOVE AND ROMANCING,  
 MOMENTS TO MAKE US SO SAD ... (Boo Hoo!)  
 BUT MOSTLY WE'RE HAPPY, SO VERY LUCKY,  
 WE'RE STRONG AND DELIGHTFULLY GLAD!

**MR LEAR**

**JUMBLIES**

I'M NOT MAD!

HE'S NOT MAD!

**MR LEAR**

**JUMBLIES**

I'M NOT MAD!

HE'S NOT MAD!

**ALL**

IT'S JUST STUFF AND NONSENSE TO ME!

**MR LEAR**

**JUMBLIES**

I'M NOT MAD!

HE'S NOT MAD!

**MR LEAR**

**JUMBLIES**

I'M NOT MAD!

HE'S NOT MAD!

**ALL**

IT'S JUST STUFF AND NONSENSE TO ME!

JUST STUFF AND NONSENSE TO ... ME!

*(Applause and **JUMBLIES** excitement)*

**OLD FOSS**

*(Enters in a rush)* Mee-ow, what's all that caffuffle. Hsss. Oh, it's you, Jumblies!

**JUMBLIES**

Hellooooo, Old Foss. We're baaaaaack!

**OLD FOSS**

Mee-ow, yes, I can see. All that blue and green frizzy-dizzy stuff everywhere!

**JUMBLIES**

*(Singing)* Our heads are green and our hands are blue.

**OLD FOSS**

Mee-ow, now listen to me, Jumblies. You're not to get Mr Lear over-excited.

**JUMBLIES**

*(Singing)* Far and few, far and few are the lands where the Jumblies live.

**OLD FOSS**

Hsss, Jumblies, it's time you went back there!

**JUMBLIES**

Noooo!

**OLD FOSS**

For some new adventures?

**JUMBLIES**

Nooooo!

**MR LEAR**

Noooo! They'll have all the adventures they need now I'm back from my travels. Such fun we're going to have!

**OLD FOSS**

Mee-ow, you and your adventures!

**JUMBLIES**

*(Singing)* Our heads are green and our hands are blue.

**OLD FOSS**

Stop it Jumblies! Mr Lear, you'll get over-excited, the Jumblies are getting over-excited, and I'm getting ... Mee-ow, I'm getting ... a headache!

**MR LEAR**

Shall I call a doctor?

**OLD FOSS**

No, no, thankyou. I think I'll have a quiet cuppatea and curl up by the fire.

**JUMBLIES**

A quiet cuppateeeeee! Yes pleeeeee!

**OLD FOSS**

Hssss. Please deal with them, Mr Lear, I can't stand it any more! Cuppatea, where are you?

*(OLD FOSS exits)*

**MR LEAR**

Jumblies, better get back inside my head.

**JUMBLIES**

*(JUMBLIES exit)* Oof, ouch, tight squeeze, bony elbows etc

**Scene Change Music – extract from #02 The Jumblies****ACT 1, SCENE 3: MR LEAR'S STUDY****'GOING TO SEA IN A SIEVE'**

**(Mr Lear, Old Foss & Jumblies)**

**MR LEAR**

Time to write. Something jolly is required I think. But I need some inspiration!

**OLD FOSS**

*(OLD FOSS enters in a rush)* Meeow, Mr Lear, would you like a ....?

**MR LEAR**

Ah, Fossie, my muse! Thankyou, yes, ple ... Achoo! Phoo, oh no! Achoooo! They're back! My sneezes have come back! *(To SELF)* Just ignore them Edward!

*(n.b MR LEAR sneezes loudly and frequently through this scene and until end of Act 1, Scene 14)*

**MR LEAR**

Achoooo! *(Singing as he's writing)* They went to sea in a sieve they did ...

**OLD FOSS**

Mee-ow! What? They went to sea in a sieve? Nonsense!

**MR LEAR**

Ssh! Fossie! You're making me lose the thread in my head.

*(Singing)* Far and few, far and few are the lands where the Jumblies live. Achooo!

**OLD FOSS**

Mee-ow, let me get you a hanky-chiefy?

**MR LEAR**

Ssssh! Fossie! Sssssh, I can't concentrate.

**OLD FOSS**

Hssss. Mr Lear! Oh, you can be so ... so ... impatient! You can get your own hanky-chiefy if you're

**MR LEAR**

Achooo! Can't settle to anything! I know, I'll write a letter to Aunt Jobiska. Dear Aunt Jobiska ...

It's been such a long ... Achooo! ... time since I've written. Achooo! Oh dear, I've sprayed all

over the paper! Start again, Edward. Dear Aunt Jobiska, ... hmm, hmm, hmm ... sorry, it's been such a long time since my last letter. It's good to be home, achooo, but my sneezes have come back!

*(SFX boiler trouble and noisy gurglings! Increases in volume through this scene)*

Is that the kettle on, Fossie? No answer! Hmm. And as I write this ... horrible, borrible, bubbling sounds are heard ...

**JUMBLIES**

*(JUMBLIES enter)*

Slish, splash, splosh!

**MR LEAR**

Uh-oh! Another 'nonsensing' so soon? Oh my goodness! The frozen pipes have thawed and burst!! All the pipes are firing like water from cannons. Aaargh ... hey, Jumblies! Hey! Ooof! Hey! Ow! Ow! Ow! One of them's got my lifebuoy!! Hey, it's mine, give it baaaack!

**Music starts for #02 The Jumblies**

**JUMBLIES**

WE WENT TO SEA IN A SIEVE, WE DID, IN A SIEVE WE WENT TO SEA:

**JUMBL Y**

I FEEL SEA-SICK!

**JUMBLIES**

IN SPITE OF ALL OUR FRIENDS COULD SAY,

**SOLOS**

DAFT! SILLY! DUH! STUPID!

**JUMBLIES**

ON A WINTER'S MORN, ON A STORMY DAY, IN A SIEVE WE WENT TO SEA!  
AND WHEN THE SIEVE TURNED ROUND AND ROUND,  
AND EVERYONE CRIED, 'YOU'LL ALL BE DROWNED!'  
WE CALLED ALOUD, 'OUR SIEVE AIN'T BIG,  
BUT WE DON'T CARE A BUTTON! WE DON'T CARE A FIG!  
IN A SIEVE WE'LL GO TO SEA! 'COS WE'RE JUMBLIES!

**JUMBLIES**

FAR AND FEW, FAR AND FEW, ARE THE LANDS WHERE THE JUMBLIES LIVE;  
OUR HEADS ARE GREEN, AND OUR HANDS ARE BLUE,  
AND WE WENT TO SEA IN A SIEVE.

**JUMBL Y**

*(Spoken)* They sailed away in a sieve, they did,

**JUMBLIES**

IN A SIEVE WE SAILED SO FAST, WITH ONLY A BEAUTIFUL PEA-GREEN VEIL,  
TIED WITH A RIBBON BY WAY OF A SAIL, TO A SMALL TOBACCO-PIPE MAST;

**JUMBL Y**

AND EVERYONE SAID WHO SAW US GO,

**JUMBLIES**

'O WON'T THEY SOON BE UPSET YOU KNOW!  
FOR THE SKY IS DARK, AND THE VOYAGE IS LONG,  
AND HAPPEN WHAT MAY, IT'S EXTREMELY WRONG,  
IN A SIEVE TO SAIL SO FAST! BUT THEY'RE JUMBLIES!

**JUMBLIES**

FAR AND FEW, FAR AND FEW, ARE THE LANDS WHERE THE JUMBLIES LIVE;  
OUR HEADS ARE GREEN, AND OUR HANDS ARE BLUE,  
AND WE WENT TO SEA IN A SIEVE.