

**STUFF AND NONSENSE AT CHRISTMAS**

A MUSICAL IN 2 ACTS

Script, Additional Song Words and Music by **JOHN MILLS**Additional Script Consultancy from **ADAM ELMS**Inspired by the Nonsense Poems of **EDWARD LEAR****ACT 1 SCENE 1: MR C'S GROTTO****'Hello Mr C!' (Mr C.)**

*(Well-stocked and festive Christmas Grotto with touches of daring and flounce. A sign saying 'Four More Sleeps 'Til Christmas')*

*Music starts for #01 Main Theme - Instrumental*

**MR C.**

*(Enters jingling bells, wearing Christmas overalls which have signs of hard work e.g. paint, glue, glitter. Speaking over the music)* Stuff and Nonsense At Christmas. Ho! Ho! Ho! It's nearly Christmas. Whoopee! Mr C. here with the latest weather report .... Brrr, Rudolf says it'll be a rosy-cheeks sort of day! Ho! Ho! Ho! I've mincey pies fresh in the oven. Sprig of mistley-toe in my hair. Give us a kiss! *(Airkiss)* Fluffy reindeer slippers for cosy toesies. *(To AUDIENCE)* Come closer. Listen. I've been keeping an eye on things around here. There's some nonsense going on which I'm not very happy with! Ho! Ho! Ho! Let's take a look! *(Moves to his 'Happy Place')*

**ACT 1 SCENE 2: OUTSIDE MR LEAR'S HOUSE****'Meet Hootie, Fossie and Mr Lear' (Hootie Owl, Old Foss & Mr Lear)****HOOTIE OWL**

*(A cold and rainy Winter's day. Enters strumming his guitar)* Brrr! T'Whit T'Whoo-Hoo! No fun busking in this wind. Brrr! *(Singing)* Silent Night, Holy Night! All is ... *(spoken)* c..c..c.cold! Whoo-Hoo, enough of this! It's nearly Christmas for goo-hoo-oodness sake. Something more jolly! *(Sings short extract from 'Song #18 The Owl And The Pussycat')* '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 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', prrr, if you like.

**HOOTIE OWL**

'Fossie', I like! T'Whit T'Whoo, very pleased to meet yoo-hoo. *(Offers jellybean from packet)* Would

you like a jellybean? Blue or green? Crunchy on the outside, squidgy in the middle. Just like me!

**OLD FOSS**

No thankyou, Hootie. But a hot milk would be heavenly, with sticky-squidgy dollops of marshmallows and double-clotted-cream. Oooh!

**HOOTIE OWL**

Fossie that's quite a picture you're conjuring there!

**OLD FOSS**

Brrr! A day for pink fluffy thermals.

**HOOTIE OWL**

Whoo-Hoo, another enticing picture. A song for you, Fossie?

**OLD FOSS**

Prrr. That would be lovely, but I ought to get home. I'm housekeeper to Mr Lear, in that big house over there. He's been off travelling and due home sometime before Christmas, and I'm so behind with everything. Cards, presents, food and decorations for the tree. So much to do. Gotta go. I really love your singing. Goodbye, Hootie. (*Exits*)

**HOOTIE OWL**

But, T'Whit, T'Woe-oh-oh! She's a beauty. Ah well! (*Singing*) Silent Night, Holy Night.

**MR LEAR**

(*Enters carrying a heavy suitcase and wearing his reindeer scarf. To AUDIENCE*) Hello everyone!

**HOOTIE OWL**

Someone approaches. Heavy suitcase, eh? Going far?

**MR LEAR**

Coming back. Been travelling far and wide. I have swum in the warmest of seas and the very coldest of lakes you can imagine.

**HOOTIE OWL**

I did a study tour through Germany in my You-oo-outh! (*In DR CALICO'S voice*) I am imagininz. zhee bluez lakes of Bavaria.

**MR LEAR**

Not sure it was (*Mimicing accent*) Bavaria. You've a very good accent!

**HOOTIE OWL**

Thank-yoo-hoo, 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. (*Adoringly*) Whoo-Hoo!

**MR LEAR**

Brrr! So cold. Good job I've got my reindeer scarf to keep me warm. It's a present from Old Foss. I wear it wherever I go, in the bath, on holiday, on the beach, too! Flippers, stripey swimsuit and reindeer scarf. What a sight!

**HOOTIE OWL**

What a sight!!

**MR LEAR**

Bit like a comfort-blanket, I suppose. Anyway, gotta get home! Goodbye. (*Exits into his house*)

**HOOTIE OWL**

(*To AUDIENCE*) Whoo-Hoo Fossie! Marshmallows, squidy dollops of double-cream and fluffy pink thermals! Fossie, you Dreamboat, I have to meet with you again. But how? (*Sings*) The Moon, The Moon. (*In DR CALICO's voice*) Vait a minutz! I havz an ideaz taking zhee shapes in my headz! Yez, yez, such a cunning planz! Hmmz, what sort of disguisz would be best? (*Exits*)

**ACT 1 SCENE 3: MR LEAR'S STUDY****'Meet the Tumbly Jumblies' (*Old Foss, Mr Lear & Jumblies*)****MR LEAR**

(*Enters, hangs up coat but keeps scarf on.*) 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. (*Laughs*) Was missing my Tumbly Jumblies .. and it's good to see you too, Fossie.

**OLD FOSS**

It's been freezing here these last few days. I'll lay the fire after I've put the kettle on for a nice cuppatea. (*Exits*)

**MR LEAR**

Make that a lapsang souchong please, Fossie. (*Sing-song*) Lapsang souchong rhymes with Pooh-Pong! Such a poet! (*Calling out*) Fossie, I've changed my mind, please make that a Poo-er tea from China! (*Laughs*) Poo-er tea, sometimes I'm just too naughty for words!

**MR C.**

(*Jingling bells, calling from his 'Happy Place'*) Ho! Ho! Ho! Mind your language please, Mr Lear! There are grown-ups in the audience, and you know how sensitive they can be! Ho! Ho! Ho!

**MR LEAR**

(*MR LEAR settles at his desk*) Hello Mr C.

**MR C.**

Hello Mr Lear! Happy 'Nearly-Chrissymas'. Exciting times, eh?

**MR LEAR**

Oh yes, sooo exciting! Makes me feel like having a w...!

**JUMBLIES**

(*Calling loudly, unseen.*) We're here.

**MR LEAR**

(*Looking around*) Aha, my tumbly Jumblies, I wondered when you'd try and make an appearance.

**JUMBLIES**

(*Calling loudly*) Yippee for Christmas!

**MR LEAR**

Yippee for Christmas! Fluffy slippers, silly jumpers, woolly socks and glitter, glitter, glitter!  
Jumblies, you want to come out to play?

**JUMBLIES**

*(Calling loudly)* It's nearly Christmas!

**MR LEAR**

Come out then, out from inside my head, my lovely tumbly Jumblies! *(n.b. MR LEAR goes strangely whoozy/unwhozy at the start and end of every 'nonsensing')* No need to push, Jumblies!  
Ouch, ooh! Watch those elbows! Out you come. Another 'nonsensing', hooray!

**JUMBLIES**

*(Appear as tumble of bodies. AD-LIB)* Happy nearly-Chrissymas. Deck the halls. We wish you a etc.

**MR LEAR**

Hello, Jumblies!

**JUMBLIES**

Happy holidays! We're baaack!

**MR LEAR**

Goodee! I'm gonna have a 'nonsensing' – letting my imagination go wild! *(Whoozy movement)* I've got that whoozy feeling again, Jumblies!

**JUMBLIES**

It's just stuff and nonsense!

**Music starts for #02 It's Just Stuff And Nonsense**

**MR LEAR**

Yes, yes, yes, my tumbly Jumblies, it is stuff and nonsense!

**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 SO GLAD!

**JUMBLIES**

HE'S SO GLAD!

**MR LEAR**

I'M NOT SAD!

**JUMBLIES**

HE'S NOT SAD!

**ALL**

IT'S JUST STUFF AND NONSENSE TO ME!  
THERE'S SINGALONG SONGS AND 'TAP-YOUR-FEET' SONGS  
OUR HAPPIFUL EAR-WORMS ARE FREE,

WE'VE YONGHY 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**

I'M SO GLAD!  
 I'M NOT SAD!

**JUMBLIES**

HE'S SO GLAD!  
 HE'S NOT SAD!

**ALL**

IT'S JUST STUFF AND NONSENSE TO ME!

**MR LEAR**

I'M SO GLAD!  
 I'M NOT SAD!

**JUMBLIES**

HE'S SO GLAD!  
 HE'S NOT SAD!

**ALL**

IT'S JUST STUFF AND NONSENSE TO ME! JUST STUFF AND NONSENSE TO ... ME!  
*(Applause and JUMBLIES AD-LIB excitement)*

**OLD FOSS**

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

**JUMBLIES**

Hellooooo, Old Foss. We're baaaaack!

**OLD FOSS**

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**

Settle down, Jumblies, Mr Lear is excited enough about Christmas without you adding to it! Why are you here?

**JUMBLIES**

Happy holidays!

**MR LEAR**

They missed my 'Nonsensings', of course! And I missed their 'funsense!'

**JUMBLIES**

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

**OLD FOSS**

High time you went back there!

**JUMBLIES**

Noooo!

**OLD FOSS**

For some new adventurings?

**JUMBLIES**

Nooooo!

**MR LEAR**

Noooo! They'll have adventurings with me over Christmas. Such fun we'll have with all my 'Nonsensings!'

**OLD FOSS**

You and your adventures! What about poor little me? Although, prr, (*Sings*) The Moon, The Moon! (Speaking) That Hootie Owl this morning, lovely voice! Prrr.

**MR LEAR**

What's that Fossie? Something about a 'Sooty Towel?'

**OLD FOSS**

Nothing, nothing, (*Dreamily*) Hootie Owl.

**JUMBLIES**

(*Singing*) Happy Holidays!

**OLD FOSS**

Mr Lear, please, please keep your Jumblies under control inside your head!

**JUMBLIES**

(*Singing*) We're walking in a Winter ...

**OLD FOSS**

Quiet Jumblies! Mr Lear, I fear there's trouble brewing.

**MR LEAR**

Why?

**OLD FOSS**

The signs are clear. You're all getting so very over-excited, and I'm getting ... a headache!

**MR LEAR**

Shall I call a doctor?

**OLD FOSS**

No, no need. A quiet cuppatea and curl up by the fire should sort me out.

**JUMBLIES**

(*Shouting*) A quiet cuppateeeeeee! Yes pleeeeeease!

**OLD FOSS**

Hssss. Deal with them, Mr Lear! Cuppatea where are you? (*Exits*)

**MR C.**

(*Enters jingling bells, carries an Elf on the Shelf. Calls from his 'Happy Place'.*) Ho! Ho! Ho! I'm watching you, Jumblies, and I don't need anyone being sick with excitement. Calm down and take a deep breath. Are you behaving yourselves and helping Old Foss around the house where you can? (*JUMBLIES look sheepish. To AUDIENCE*) Are you? How about you, children? Being helpful? I do hope so, 'cos the Elves and me ... we're watching you! Ho! Ho! Ho! (*MR C continues talking to the Elf on the Shelf*)

**MR LEAR**

Jumblies, I think Old Foss is a teensy bit upsetful with us (*Laughs*) Into-my-head, then out-of-my-head no wonder I'm over-excited. How I love my 'Nonsensings!' (*Unwhoozy movement, and sits at his writing desk*)

**JUMBLIES**

(*Exit. AD-LIB*) Oof, ouch, tight squeeze, bony elbows etc