

ZOO

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ACT ONE

Scene 1: Air Raid

[We are somewhere in Berlin in the closing weeks of WW2. It is dawn. Air raid sirens. Panic as people run on and off the street. Stefan wanders around calmly gazing at the sky. People see Stefan, stop, stare then hurry on for their own safety. Some people try to get him to move.]

[SPOKEN]

BERLINER 1: They're coming!

BERLINER 2: Get to the shelters!

BERLINER 3: The bombing has started!

BERLINER 4: Save yourself!

[Repeated as necessary to build the atmosphere of panic. Gertrude enters and tries to pull him away.]

GERTRUDE: [Grabbing his shoulders, shouting into his face] Madman They're here! You'll get us both killed!

[Stefan continues to stare about him, apparently unaware and unconcerned.]

GERTRUDE: [Shouted, barely audible above the soundtrack] Have it your own way, I'm not getting killed for you!

[She runs off leaving Stefan. He is now the only person on the street.]

[SPOKEN]

STEFAN: See the lights across the sky, I remember the lights of other times. Criss-cross patterns too bright to watch. I was frightened by the noise they made, my father was shocked to see me sweat. I didn't like the words he used, words from home beneath the lights.

[THE MODEL enters and picks her way delicately through the rubble. She play-acts a fashion parade turning this way and that so her dress can be seen from all perspectives]

[SPOKEN]

You see me now? alone and small
Towering shapes across the sky
Catching lights in tinselled wigs
She looked at me, I took the blast
I collapsed into a spinning ball
She caught my eye and left it burned
Do you see me now in a foreign land?

[SUNG]

Swirling dresses, dazzling styles
Luscious fabrics, gorgeous clothes
Thrilling sounds, fragrant smells
Flaunting fashion all around.

[SPOKEN]

One model had huge eye lashes
Long, heavy, laced with gold
I fell in love completely then
A Romeo of nine years old

[SUNG]

Swirling fabrics, dazzling clothes
Luscious dresses, gorgeous styles
Fragrant sounds, thrilling smells
Flaunting through the fashion round

[SPOKEN]

My father took me to see her
She held my hand and smiled
I stared up at her motionless
Transfixed and totally beguiled

[SUNG]

Swirling clothes, dazzling fabrics
Luscious styles, gorgeous dresses
Flaunted sounds, fashioned smells
Thrilling through the fragrant round

[SPOKEN]

She handed me her radio
Exotic plastic dial
Turned it with my little finger
It was so delicate. Wondrous!

[SUNG]

Swirling styles, dazzling dresses
Luscious clothes, gorgeous fabrics
Fashioned sounds, flaunted smells
Fragrant through the thrilling round

[SPOKEN]

Novelty is necessity
In fashion she told me
A new gimmick, the eye catcher
Without this we shrivel and die

[SUNG]

Swirling dresses, dazzling styles
Luscious fabrics, gorgeous clothes
Thrilling sounds, fragrant smells

Fashion on the merry-go-round

[The planes arrive overhead. Bombs fall and find their targets. Stefan seeks shelter under some sheets of tin. The Model continues to flaunt her frock. A bomber is heard crashing to earth very close, engines screaming. When the smoke clears we see the wreckage. The Model has gone. Buck climbs out of the wreckage immaculate in his uniform. He Lights up a cigarette. After a drag or two he wanders over and pushes the cigarette between Stefan's lips. Stefan stubs it out on a rock.]

[Buck lights another cigarette and takes out a guide book]

[SUNG]

BUCK:

This all makes me sad, it hurts my eyes to look
We used to love this town, we had a trip in mind
Now look at this, it's all messed up
And we keep flying, flying, flying, flying, flying, flying
Flying on broken glass

From fourteen thousand feet you get a better view
The problem used to be they had no real respect
They chopped down trees, they laid down roads
While we kept flying, flying, flying, flying, flying, flying
Flying the drop site haze

[SPOKEN]

BUCK: You people need to know a thing or two about defence,
We've all been burned, it's your turn now to build your fortress walls.
The key is preparation, that is the lesson of the past.
Remember Noah in the water, and the example he set,
It's too late to make arrangements when your dying in your beds.
He knew about defences Noah, he knew to build them high.
He knew when to fight and where to run, and he ran into the hills.
You've got to take his good example, this place is going to burn.
Get something between you and danger, don't whistle in the wind.

[Buck seems to notice for the first time the way in which Stefan removes and then meticulously extinguishes each cigarette that is forced between his lips.]

He regards him with curiosity]

[SUNG]

BUCK:

The bible has it there about this Noah's wall
He built it up so high to stop the judgement flood
But nervous bulls will make disputes
Then water's running, running, running, running, running, running
Running through shattered boards
Things don't turn out that way, turn out the way we plan
We learn to play the rules or take it on the chin
Without a wall you lose your skin
The guns come firing, firing, firing, firing, firing, firing
Through the breach they've made

[Buck presses another cigarette on Stefan and watches again as Stefan stubs it out. With great ceremony Stefan extracts a crumpled dogend from inside his clothing and places it between his lips. Buck searches for matches]

So take this book I brought, I flew it in with me
The city's all in here, it's all in black and white
That's how it looks above at night
When we come flying, flying, flying, flying, flying, flying
To the party town

[Buck wanders off searching for recognisable landmarks. Stefan begins to read slowly from the guidebook.]

[SPOKEN]

STEFAN: The best time of day for viewing the gardens is 8 o'clock in the morning. You should make sure to be there as the day is beginning. And don't forget to take your handy pocket guide with you.

[There are now propaganda leaflets falling thickly to the ground accompanied by the sound of rain. Stefan begins to tear out the pages of the guide book as he reads. Each page is torn out, read and then cast to the ground amid the falling pamphlets. His reading merges with a background chant - many voices reading extracts from Genesis (chapter 6), all slightly out of sync.]

(6.17) And behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the Earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under Heaven; and every thing that is on the earth shall die. But with thee will I establish my covenant;

and though shalt come into the ark; Thou, and thy sons, and thy wife and thy sons' wives with thee.

(6.5) And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

(6.7) And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

(6.11) The earth was also corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence..... And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them, and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

(6.14) Make thee a dam of rock and stone ... and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is the fashion thou shalt make it of. The length of the dam shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits and the height of it thirty cubits.

[The scene ends in darkness. There is just the sound of rain falling heavily.]

Scene 2: BONUS and EVALD think of a zoo

[The scene opens on a spacious but dingy office. Bonus sits at a desk. Evald stands behind the desk holding some papers.]

[SUNG]

BONUS:

My eyes were shut
What did I do?
Is that my name
On that form?

EVALD:

Yes, that's your name

BONUS:

Were, show me where?
Is this it here?
It's not clear

EVALD:

Lucky for us
It's clear enough
Everyone knows it
It's our potent sign

BONUS:

What's all this trash?
Why's it still here?
You know your job
Throw it out!

EVALD:

I know my job
I won't forget
How could I now?

You know why

BONUS:

Memory is strange
It plays such tricks
But tell me your story
The one that I love
Tell me your story
The one that I love

[SPOKEN]

EVALD: What story, what do you mean?

BONUS: You know, the one about the dustcart horse.

EVALD: It is of no interest.

BONUS: I'll be the judge of that, tell it!

EVALD: I've told it too many times already, no.

BONUS: I order you. Now tell it or you'll be sorry.

EVALD: Not again, please.

BONUS: Tell it now!

[SUNG]

EVALD:

Dire emergencies needed swift action
Choices are limited when there is war
Hitch up the wagon there's no time for niceties
Hitch up the wagon and clear up the shit

Hitch up the wagon to anyone close to it
Horses are scarce, anybody will do
Nobody argues, it's dustcart or Leningrad
Beast in Berlin or a corpse in Ukraine

Everyone's happy that Evald is fixing it
Cartloads of muck disappear over night
Army recruitment's kept sweet with free cigarettes
Keep out of sight till the fighting has ceased

BONUS:

If I had been the boss
I'd have you shot, I'd have you finished
Safely hid behind the lines
While comrades were fighting and dying in droves

[REPEAT verses 2 and 4 together]

[SPOKEN]

BONUS: That's enough signatures for today. Throw all this away. You've ample skills for the disposal trade now there's no war for you to evade.

[SUNG]

EVALD:

There's one more thing

BONUS:

Why, what is that?

EVALD:

This crazy man
With the dogs
He rounds them up
Locks them away
People are scared
He's not safe

BONUS:

What do you want?
Me, lock him up?
Maybe I'll shoot him
Is that what you'd like

EVALD:

He crosses lines
Shows no respect
It can't go on
They'll object
He'll cause a storm
Make them react
Drag us all down
Start a war!

BONUS:

Don't be so scared
I like his style
A gentle eccentric
He does no-one harm
Should we assist him?
A man with a dream

A man with a vision is rare in this city
A man with a dream mustn't be undermined
We'll go and help him achieve his ambition
We'll go there and help him develop a zoo

EVALD:

How can he build a zoo
There's nothing left, it's hardly essential
Food and homes are what we need
We can't spend our time on a crazy young man

[REPEAT last two verses together]

[Bonus and Evald go off to find Stefan]

Scene 3: BONUS and EVALD inspect the zoo.

[Bonus and Evald arrive at the entrance to the bombed-out army camp. There is an observation tower complete with searchlight astride the open gate. Stefan appears.]

[MUSIC STARTS]

[SPOKEN]

BONUS: [to EVALD] Is this him?

EVALD: Yes, he's the one in the picture.

STEFAN: [to nobody in particular] The animals are locked in, nobody comes here now.

GERTRUDE: [speaking from the tower] His mind's gone, you won't get any sense from him.

BONUS: We want to look around.

GERTRUDE: With who's authority do you come here?

EVALD: Who are you? Come down from there.

GERTRUDE: I'm his wife, I look after him now.

STEFAN: [Again to nobody in particular] There's nothing for anybody here, it's just wasteland.

BONUS: We must investigate. Why do you want all these animals?

[SUNG]

STEFAN:

They all need to be together
So their safety is assured
Shielded from the rising waters
So their safety is assured
Shielded from the rising waters
Now they're all together their protection is assured

BONUS:

Why do they need such protection
When the war finished months ago

EVALD:

The file told us he was a madman
Now we know the file is right

STEFAN:

Fighting starts when there is danger
We protect them from themselves
Hunger breeds disputes amongst them
We protect them from themselves
Hunger breeds disputes amongst them
When there's danger we can help protect them from themselves

BONUS:

How can they need such protection
When there's peace now on every front

EVALD:

The file tells us he's just a madman
This confirms the file's quite correct

GERTRUDE:

Why do people think it's crazy
When we try to safeguard life
All you soldiers cease to function
When there's nothing in your sights
Half the population's slaughtered
How can you pass by a chance of massacre like this?

EVALD:

I think he's plying games with us
This man is playing games with us!

BONUS:

What's wrong with playing games my friend
We must have fun, we must play games
This man is showing us the way
Showing us how the seeds are sown
Imagination and inspiration
That's how to make it work

EVALD:

What can be done with this wrecked site?
There's nothing left to salvage here
BONUS: How feeble minded you've become!
Vision is what is needed now
Help me to visualise the plan
Set out the boundaries of the plot
A demonstration, a presentation
That's how we'll get our zoo

GERTRUDE:

Maybe I can help you if you can't envisage it
I have vision, I can help describe the image in your head
If you underestimate my skills you will frustrate your plans
Only the winners dare to dream
I can help you build the zoo

BONUS:

Come Evald, show me round our zoo
Where each exhibit will be placed

EVALD:

I have no head for schemes like this

BONUS:

Show me where the elephants will be

EVALD:

I can't imagine, give a clue

BONUS:

Elephants need housing in grand style
Accommodation with ostentation
Visitors will flock to see

[Repeat GERTRUDE verse and BONUS/EVALD verse together]

[At the end of this verse, realising that EVALD is a lost cause, BONUS climbs up the tower to join GERTRUDE]

[SPOKEN]

BONUS: OK, so you have your own plans. Show them to me.

GERTRUDE: From here, comrade, you can see every inch of the place, every detail. The total area is one kilometre.

BONUS: Only one kilometre?

GERTRUDE: Below us is the elephant house, here the magnificent beasts eat, sleep and earn their keep.

BONUS: How many males and how many females?

GERTRUDE: Four of each, and keepers by the score. Behind the elephant house we see the pond of snakes.

[BONUS tries the searchlight which to his surprise lights up brightly. He swings the light around trying to pick out the landmarks that are being pointed out to him.]

BONUS: Ah, the snakes, how tempting they are. I see your pond has steam rising from it.

GERTRUDE: Yes, of course. It must be kept at 99 degrees.

BONUS: But wait!

[The light has picked out STEFAN standing mutely below. BONUS leans over to get a better look]

[SUNG]

BONUS:

What is this, some form of cattle
That has strayed in the midst of our zoo
It looks very fat, shall we eat it?
Dine on it and clean its bones

GERTRUDE:

If you look more carefully you'll see this beast has cow disease
When you look attentively you'll see the blankness in the eyes
This will not assuage our hunger
This was never fit to eat

[BONUS motions to EVALD to take hold of STEFAN]

BONUS:

Find me a good size artery
They'll be plenty to eat for all

[EVALD to STEFAN]

EVALD:

I'm sorry but my boss intends to use you as a source of food

GERTRUDE:

Be careful that your stroke is firm

[STEFAN exits]

[GERTRUDE swings the light on EVALD]

BONUS:

Now you've let him run away from us
How could you let him get away
Look me in the eye and tell me how he came to slip your grasp
Slip your grasp without a fight

[STEFAN returns leading THE MODEL by the hand. He turns to face

BONUS]

STEFAN:

Fighting starts when there is danger
We protect them from themselves
Hunger breeds disputes amongst them
We protect them from themselves
Hunger breeds disputes amongst them
When there's danger we can help protect them from themselves

[SPOKEN]

STEFAN: Please, take my daughter. She is completely innocent. You will enjoy eating her.

[BONUS intrigued, climbing down]

BONUS: So now he brings his daughter out. Shine the light over here so that I can see what's going on.

[GERTRUDE shines the light directly into BONUS's eyes blinding him.
BONUS falls to the ground]

Not on me, on her!

[BONUS pitches wildly around complaining that he is blinded. EVALD begins to lead him away]

Now listen to me. This zoo will open without any further hitches. Mister Stefan is in charge. All future arrangements will be made through him. No doubt my driver will now try to put me into the river - watch out for the tidal wave!

Scene 4: The opening ceremony

MUSIC STARTS

[The scene begins with an explosion of activity. People scurry about stretching tape barriers between all available points creating a birds nest of yellow. Some of the barriers suggest the walls and buildings of the zoo, others suggest sectorisation. The crowd is made up of workers who put up barriers and the watchers who get pushed around, gradually becoming trapped in the all-encompassing web. The workers sing while making preparations.]

CHORUS:

Our system alone is full of youth and keen vitality
Sweeping the world with the momentum of an avalanche
Our system alone is full of strength and high ability
Sweeping the world with all the force of a thunderbolt
Our system conquers all because of true objective law
Independent of man's will, the wheel of history

[REPEAT]

[As the chorus comes to an end, word is sent to show BONUS in. He duly arrives escorted by EVALD. Both are dressed in military uniform. They are guided towards the observation tower by a worker. Their progress is limited since there is now no direct route. They must wend and weave their way through a maze of tape. Finding that their progress is nil, BONUS takes out a large pair of ceremonial scissors and snips out a gap in one of the barriers. This enables the cluster of dignitaries to pass through. A worker repairs the tape immediately.]

[The chorus ends and the crowd suddenly freezes Spot on BONUS and EVALD only.]

[SINGING]

BONUS:

I can see you've worked hard
Our Stefan's quite a case
I hope you've kept him pure
You've not corrupted his ideals

EVALD:

You can be assured of that
We have the perfect working deal
It's not been difficult to work
He understands our point of view

BONUS:

You found the dogs good homes
And Stefan didn't intervene?
We need a steady hand
He's too unstable for our plans

EVALD:

I believe he is our man
With every change of heart I'm sure
He's more consistent all the time
He can be trusted to hold the line

[The crowd unfreezes as suddenly as it froze. BONUS and EVALD continue their journey to the watchtower. The scissors have to be resorted to several times more.]

BONUS:

Do we know what he will say at the ceremony
I can't be happy not knowing his script

EVALD:

He tells me he's offering praise to the people
He'll offer his praise for their love of the zoo

BONUS:

I would like to have seen what his speech is to cover
In case there was something I wanted to change

EVALD:

He said he would only say three or four sentences
Words that would hardly take up a full page

[BONUS and EVALD have now reached the watchtower. They climb up to the platform where they find Stefan and Gertrude waiting for them. The crowd below continues to struggle with the maze.]

BONUS: [SPOKEN to EVALD] Well I suppose his speech will demonstrate how far he is to be trusted!

[BONUS takes the microphone and scans the crowd preparing to address them. The crowd gradually gives him its attention.]

[SINGING]

BONUS:

Comrades below, feast with your eyes
This glorious day join the dominant class
Celebrate here the greatest of feats
The opening of our magnificent zoo
No-one can doubt its grandiose scale
There's nothing abroad which can match our great skill
Men will come here from all round the world
To see the achievement of our workers state
Born out of struggle, forged with our blood
We worked without cease to establish our zoo
The zoo is our symbol of greatness to come
The greatness achieved when the workers unite

[BONUS receives a roar of approval from the crowd.]

[SPOKEN]

BONUS: Before I declare the zoo officially open, I have great pleasure in introducing your new general manager who will say a few words to you.

[BONUS steps back and indicates to STEFAN to come forward. Before he has time to stop her, GERTRUDE comes forward and takes the microphone. THE MUSIC DROPS VERY LOW.]

[SPOKEN]

GERTRUDE: Greetings, comrades. From the start everyone must understand, rules must be recognised. Unless we are well prepared we will lose everything we've planned for. Each separate animal has individual needs, they cannot form a united class. But there must be no unequal rights, all must share the same rewards. This truth is inalienable. The question that must be confronted is, where animals must be placed? Should we house them together or maintain isolation? If we were born in a perfect world we'd all live in harmony. But our zoo cannot ignore the existing realities: the possibility of inter-species hostility. This is a result we cannot allow. The zoo must divide into a number of parts.

For each class of animal we will have a regional divide. Inhabitants will have to remain on the appropriate side. We will make arrangements to discourage trespass. This will be the only way to preserve safe conditions in the zoo. If we were to cram every specimen together, fights would break out and damage would be done. If the barrier was breached, we would all drown in the flood.

[BONUS begins to get agitated by the speech and begins to take issue with STEFAN.]

We must imprint on our memories the names of the regions that divide up the zoo. We must all be ready to give identification if asked where we are going. If we don't know our regions we might be shot as a tiger in the wildebeest's region.

[As GERTRUDE continues unabated, BONUS indicates to EVALD to get her away from the microphone. A struggle ensues during which, GERTRUDE continues to speak.]

Each region will be a microcosm of security. The residents will know that their limits are defined. The borders will be impassable. Some, I know, will say that this is not the way in the wild, but from a scientific view the zoo is the safest environment. It is a far better place to thrive in. This fundamental principle will help us reach our goal.

Of course these things will affect our lives and some may try to resist change. But the zoo will be an education, a demonstration of the truth of our system. Fairness breeds equality

[EVALD finally manages to get GERTRUDE away from the microphone. He bundles her off the watchtower. BONUS takes the microphone.]

BONUS: [Speaking] So, now, that leaves me the great honour of declaring this zoo officially OPEN!

[BONUS takes out his scissors and snips the wire from the microphone. He holds up the two ends triumphantly. At the base of the tower, EVALD restrains GERTRUDE who is furious to have been cut off in the middle of her speech. EVALD enlists the help of a couple of workers who use yellow tape to bind GERTRUDE securely to one of the legs of the tower. The CHORUS becomes the Internationale.]

CHORUS:

Our system alone is full of youth and keen vitality
Sweeping the world with the momentum of an avalanche
Our system alone is full of strength and high ability
Sweeping the world with all the force of a thunderbolt

[SUNG TOGETHER WITH THE INTERNATIONALE]

Our system alone is full of youth and keen vitality
Sweeping the world with the momentum of an avalanche
Our system alone is full of strength and high ability
Sweeping the world with all the force of a thunderbolt
Our system conquers all because of true objective law
Independent of man's will, the wheel of history

Sweeping all before its power
Sweeping through the world with strength
Independent of man's will
Unaffected by man's whim
Conquering all before its force
Conquering through objective law
Relentless with its forward march
The wheel of history

CHORUS:

Arise ye starvelings from your slumbers
Arise ye criminals of want
For reason in revolt now thunders
And at last ends the age of cant

Now away with all your superstitions
Servile masses arise, arise
We'll change forthwith the old conditions

And spurn the dust to win the prize

Then comrades come rally and the last fight let us face
The Internationale unites the human race
Then comrades come rally and the last fight let us face
The Internationale unites the human race

[As the scene comes to a climax BONUS and STEFAN wander around freeing entangled watchers with the magic scissors. Some of the watchers are concerned for GERTRUDE and make tentative moves to free her. BONUS distracts them away, cutting off lengths of yellow tape and organising a maypole-style dance.]

ACT TWO

Scene 5: The Rich Zoo

[The scene begins with another fashion show. THE MODEL arrives on the bonnet of a gleaming Trabant. Her outfit is predominantly made up of fruit. She mimes to a banal advertising jingle badly.]

MODEL:

Oranges for vitamin C
Apples are for calcium Y
Apricots for rosy cheeks
Pears maintain the lines of supply

Pineapples for vitamin C
Lemons are for calcium Y
Plums and grapes for healthy skin
All maintain the lines of supply

FEMALE CHORUS:

Oranges for vitamin C
Apples are for calcium Y
Apricots for rosy cheeks
Pears maintain the lines of supply

Pineapples for vitamin C
Lemons are for calcium Y
Plums and grapes for healthy skin
All maintain the lines of supply

[Towards the end of this, a small party made up with GERTRUDE, EVALD, STEFAN and BONUS arrive. GERTRUDE and STEFAN wear zoo keeper's uniforms. The fashion show lighting is suddenly gone. GERTRUDE is escorting BONUS on a tour of inspection of the zoo. STEFAN wanders along

moodily at the rear. EVALD carries a large grate which he sets down before the audience. The party peer through the grate at the 'animals' beyond.]

[SUNG]

GERTRUDE:

Move to a position where view's unrestricted
You may think it's vacant, but the beasts are hidden.

BONUS:

You're the zookeeper we're in your hands

GERTRUDE:

People always disregard directives given
If the lion house is closed not many pay
On this tour you'll not miss any little detail
Look inside this cage and tell me what you see

[SPOKEN]

BONUS: Now I can put my classification skills to the test. We can see what I have learnt from western television. Let me hazard a guess as a layman.

[SUNG]

GERTRUDE:

Folds of flesh beneath the chin inflate for fighting
Coal black marks of poison sacks tucked under flaps

BONUS:

{What's its name I need help to recall}

Warmest blood and smallest ears, eyes pricks of light with
Jaws that slowly open then shut tight light traps

GERTRUDE:

Sits in deepest thought but we note just its empty
Head it takes on any shade but we see only
Grey an amateur will only see a para-

Site an ugly beast that creeps to kill its prey

[SPOKEN]

STEFAN: You say this one creeps. How can that be. Its eyes are shut and it's perfectly still. Surely it's sleeping.

BONUS: It's on the tip of my tongue

STEFAN: I can't see the point in finding names for lumps of dormant flesh!

BONUS: Asleep or awake, once classified you keep your name.

[SUNG]

GERTRUDE:

Would these animals remain alive in any
Other world apart from this one we've made here
Would they look so sleek and trim so sound in mind and
Limb if we had left them to their fate elsewhere
If we took away the wall protecting them and
Us do we know what would happen to our charges

STEFAN:

{Could this be why it stinks of decay?}

GERTRUDE:

Do they realise how much they have to thank us
Perfectly sealed in and shielded from all harm

[SPOKEN]

BONUS: [To EVALD] Perhaps we should move on? There must be many more animals to see.

[SUNG]

STEFAN:

True we need a change of scene this keeper's in a trance
She thinks all's perfect here, each toad's a prince

BONUS:

{You're the zookeepers we're in your hands}

STEFAN:

Leave her to admire her work, what do you say?
Then I propose we go and view our fine giraffes

GERTRUDE:

Would these animals remain alive in any
Other world apart from this one we've made here
Would they look so sleek and trim so sound in mind and
Limb if we had left them to their fate elsewhere

STEFAN:

True we need a change of scene this keeper's in a trance
She thinks all's perfect here, each toad's a prince

BONUS:

{You're the zookeepers we're in your hands}

STEFAN:

Leave her to admire her work, what do you say?
Then I propose we go and view our fine giraffes

[The group start to move off again continually staring at parts of the audience
as if looking into animal cages]

MODEL:

You'll allow me to stay here I couldn't learn a thing
I've seen them on TV, I know them well
How productive to have nothing out of reach
And what a thrill to see up high and down below
You can catch giraffes on late shows when you're in the bath
You choose from two or twenty channels now
If the series gets repeats you catch it when you can

If it's on satellite you use your dish

STEFAN:

You have made the point quite well, what is there left to say
About giraffes that we don't know right now
Tell me, though, how do you choose when you've got twenty
Channels at your fingertips for you to view

MODEL:

Choice is automatic everything we see's imported
If it's wildlife we will keep it on
If it's boring hit the switch and change the channel
That's the easy way to learn about giraffes

STEFAN:

Ten channel TV for lions and crocodiles
Ten channel TV to keep them awake

BONUS:

We'll have to import the sets in large quantities
No cost's too high for the pride of the zoo

BONUS: }

We must think about this more, the possibilities

EVALD: }

And opportunities we can exploit
That's the thing I love the most about this zoo
The creativity of keepers we appoint

BONUS:}

They'll make sure each cage is dressed in neon

EVALD:}

They'll make sure each one resembles halos round the stars

MODEL:}

Gleaming shopping windows camouflaged as cages
Highest tech solutions, foremost in the world

[SPOKEN]

EVALD: It will be arranged, I have the contacts leave it all to me.

MODEL: He is our perfect servant. He does a perfect job.

[All continue to peer at a section of the audience through the grate held up by
EVALD.]

GERTRUDE: These giraffes will soon be famous throughout the world. There
are none as tall as these.

BONUS: What I find is remarkable is their vitality. You led me to believe that
we'd find them all fast asleep.

STEFAN: [indicating THE MODEL] It's her, she makes the difference. They
know they must compete with her.

BONUS: The zoo demonstrates the depth of our campaign. Foreigners may
write us off but this really makes them think. They think we lead desperate
lives, but then we show them this!

STEFAN: The zoo certainly plays a role in the black market - [offers fruit
generally] please feel free to help yourself. Now we're used to how much the
beasts can make, we amaze the foreigners by showing them the deals we
can negotiate. But how many see the paradox? Although the system is a
complete success there is not one spark of life in the eyes of the
beneficiaries.

GERTRUDE: The international community acknowledges our efforts, the
quality of our security network. Nothing is spared when it comes to the
welfare of our charges. Comrade Bonus has not come here to listen to
complaints. There are more animals to show him, it's time we moved on.

[SUNG]

STEFAN:

Now you've summed it up exactly this place has no heart
It's time to move it on, it has no soul
Using it as a show window doesn't work and that's
What it's become you said yourself you know

Used for dreaming the exotic and providing
Fodder for the fools, amusement for the scum
Sealed inside these borders, gazed on from afar
Is it so startling that the animals despair

Yes, it looks perfect when viewed from the distance
Of course it looks flawless from outside the wall
Closer we see there is nothing but surface
The beasts have no interest in fucking at all!

GERTUDE:

How he thinks he knows that mating's ceased to happen
No-one knows the giraffe as well as that
STEFAN: If you'd open up your eyes and look around
You'd see the animals' misfortune for yourself

[SPOKEN]

EVALD: [Leading the way and setting the grill down again in front of another section of the audience] And now we come to the spectacle that demands a spirited audience, our famous, internationally known, imported elephants.

BONUS: [To the MODEL] Don't get too close to the cage, there is a terrible smell!

[SUNG]

GERTRUDE:

This great beast you see before you
Causes us enormous bills to half the city's vets

BONUS:

Why so still, can he not hear us?

STEFAN:

There's no easy method to reveal what's in his mind
With my expert eye I read him
Though inert his eyes divulge he's helplessly amused

GERTRUDE:

Perhaps he's tired

BONUS:

Perhaps he's listless

STEFAN:

Though mighty is the elephant, advantages are small
His prodigious memory retains an image
His horizons reach beyond the zoo's enclosing wall

[SPOKEN]

EVALD: Perhaps the party should move on?

BONUS: No! This must be the climax! These elephants are so strong, I find them almost beautiful. [To GERTRUDE and STEFAN] You must surely be proud and fulfilled to be the keepers of the keys.

[SUNG]

GERTRUDE:

Yes, my destiny is here surrounding us
Are my achievements spread as far as you can see
Equality across the region is my constant goal
Equality will justify the cause

STEFAN:

But we must accept the war is won

Equality is here in this our happy family

BONUS:

Why decry your progress here?

STEFAN:

Don't get me wrong, I've interests to pursue
Which make me equal you!

BONUS:

Now you're beginning to sound like the Stefan of old
Always stirring and making a scene

STEFAN:

Please excuse my little foibles I know there's no room
For making trouble, unity's the deal
You must know that I'm a strong supporter of your team
A great admirer of your pompous plans

BONUS:

Have you ever thought about retiring
Do you understand how quickly people can be lost
If my memory serves me well you have a file six inches
Thick, a perfect reason for your fall

STEFAN:

Also recall the extent of my influence
My work's respected throughout the whole world

[BONUS begins to shove STEFAN back. THE MODEL approaches, takes
BONUS by the hand and leads him away. BONUS shouts at STEFAN as he
is lead off.]

BONUS:

Don't you think it's quite irrelevant, of no concern,
I don't have time to play your little games
I don't need to bug your phone to know your thinking
Every word I have on you comes from your girl

[The jingle is repeated as BONUS exits with THE MODEL]

FEMALE CHORUS:

Oranges for vitamin C
Apples are for calcium Y
Apricots for rosy cheeks
Pears maintain the lines of supply

Pineapples for vitamin C
Lemons are for calcium Y
Plums and grapes for healthy skin
All maintain the lines of supply

[REPEAT]

Scene 6: Escaping to the East

[The stage is empty except for a large wooden crate. We hear the muffled sound of a drill and almost immediately something bursts through the front of the crate. The drill is retracted and another hole is driven through. The noise of this brings STEFAN and GERTRUDE onto the scene. They watch the process in amazement.]

[SPOKEN]

STEFAN: What in heaven is this?

GERTRUDE: Another delivery.

STEFAN: Get the details quickly!

[GERTRUDE remains where she is. STEFAN throws his arms up and exits briefly, returning with some papers.]

Its origin is a town in China. There is no order form. The papers are illegible.

GERTRUDE: Shall I split the seal?

STEFAN: Yes, get it open without delay.

[STEFAN uses a hammer to tear off the top of the crate. BUCK appears holding a large, cordless drill. He switches the drill off.]

[SUNG]

BUCK:

It was meant to be for crises,
I don't know the rules, what counts.
It felt like the oxygen was running out, I had to move
It was for emergencies, the oxygen was running out

GERTRUDE:

You're supposed to be a load from China
Who are you, what does this mean?

STEFAN:

I should be amused by this,
I should split my sides at this

GERTRUDE:}

You're supposed to be from China
What are we to make of this?

STEFAN:}

I should be amused by this
I should really split my sides

BUCK:

I assumed you'd know
It seemed the world knew my delivery details
But my coming seems to be a shock
There must have been crossed wires
My arrival seems to cause surprise
There must have been crossed wires

[SPOKEN While GERTRUDE and BUCK sing]

STEFAN: [Taking the drill] Can I take a look at this?

[SUNG]

GERTRUDE:

You should tell us what you want
We are completely in the dark
BUCK: It's the birds, of course,
I'm here to see your birds, to watch their habits
I'm now internationally respected
For my work with birds

[SPOKEN]

STEFAN: [Still examining the drill] How does it work? Do you have instructions?

[SUNG]

BUCK:

Published observations say you have a matching pair

GERTRUDE:

We have to look at your resources
We don't deal in fruit here anymore

BUCK:

Can I ask some questions?
Have you gathered useful data yet?

[SPOKEN]

STEFAN: Is it simply a matter of pulling the trigger? I have a long-term interest in power tools.

[STEFAN starts up the drill. He is delighted with it and shows it to GERTRUDE] Amazing! We have heard all about these things, but I've never actually seen one. I'd like to put it to immediate use! Is that so strange? Am I being impolite? Allow me to play with my beautiful new toy!

BUCK: It's only a drill, there's not much to play with. I got it from the last man I saw, he said it might come in useful.

STEFAN: [Excited] Shall I use it on you? [He points the drill towards BUCK's mouth.] Care for some dental work?

BUCK: No, really my dental hygiene is fine.

[They begin to struggle]

STEFAN: Excellent for plaque! Brilliant for gums! I can do your fillings with a

flick of the wrist!

[BONUS arrives.]

BONUS: [shouting above the climax of the music] What is happening? [at normal level] Someone tell me what's going on here.

[SUNG]

STEFAN:

Another delivery, a rare gift from abroad
Perhaps you could assist us to explain this priceless find

[BONUS takes the drill from STEFAN]

BONUS:

Of course! This is splendid, I thought there'd be delay
This is indeed a great relief, I feared there'd be delay

BUCK:

I'm pleased to discover someone knows who I am
Perhaps we can meet now to finalise the plans

[SPOKEN]

GERTRUDE: You must not set foot outside the crate. Remain exactly where you are.

BUCK: What?

[SUNG]

GERTRUDE:

You need to know, it's not your interest to protest
If we look, I doubt you exist
You've come illegally, arrived like a tramp
You've no permit, no entry stamp

[BONUS takes the drill in both hands, American-cop style, and aims it into the

middle of the audience]

BONUS:}

It plagued my thoughts I would forget the day there'd be
No little secret to betray
My famous confidence knocked down to size
Four empty pockets, no first prize
It plagued my thoughts I would forget the day there'd be
No little secret to betray

STEFAN:}

Please take this man, please take this man and disappear
He's a thing you want to hear
I reject your illegal scams
I wait my turn in traffic jams
Please take this man, please take this man and disappear

GERTRUDE:}

You need to know, it's not your interest to protest
If we look, I doubt you exist
You've come illegally, arrived like a tramp
You've no permit, no entry stamp

BUCK:}

I'm pleased to find someone who knows just who I am
Now I can finalise my plans
Now I can hope that I finalise plans

[SPOKEN]

BONUS: What is the crazy dog-collector on about today?

STEFAN: We have the goods awaiting collection in the original packaging.

BONUS: I have no interest in this man, he can go back by return of post.
They had to send a carrier to protect the fragile goods.

GERTRUDE: He can stay there on condition that the lid is re-nailed.

STEFAN: Apologies my friend, she's sealed your exit, you have no option but to comply.

BUCK: Will someone get me a telephone, I have to make a call.

BONUS: Amazingly, it seems unscathed, it's in perfect working order. Can you believe how quiet it is, I can hardly hear a buzz.

STEFAN: Let's not ignore the look of the thing, that too deserves some praise.

BONUS: The design is superb. It feels wonderful. It leaves me in adaze.

STEFAN: And it runs on thin air, like the birds on the wing. That's the genius of our cousin's engineering. Let's show our admiration!

BONUS: Is this another one of your games?

STEFAN: But let's be honest with ourselves, we have reason to admire this marvellous concoction of plastic and metal.

[SUNG]

BONUS:

This perfect gift, I'll give my lover
Your daughter's day, we'll give together
I'll gain her trust, she's too suspicious
Was that your plan? Or is it madness

STEFAN:

She doesn't need drills
She doesn't need drills

BONUS:

How do you know. We're only married
I can only guess. Your view's not valid

STEFAN:

She has no love of drills
They have no possibilities

[BONUS examines STEFAN's ears, threatening to pierce them with the drill]

BONUS:

She's not like you, always complaining
She'll start a trade, maybe try piercing
It's very quick, perhaps you'll try it
A tiny hole, you must have seen it

STEFAN:

She has no time for drills
They are just liabilities

BONUS:}

I'll soothe your fears if it's confusing
The right contacts do all the smoothing
I'll soothe your fears if it's confusing
The right contacts do all the smoothing

STEFAN:}

She has no time for drills
They are just liabilities
She has no time for drills
They are just liabilities

[STEFAN turns and leaves. BONUS follows on quickly. GERTRUDE looks at
BUCK standing in the crate. Blackout.]

Scene 7: Slaughtering the animals

[A large cage stands in the centre of the stage. STEFAN paces around inside it rehearsing arguments against himself and his life. His lips move and words can just be heard. GERTRUDE stands to one side watching. EVALD arrives.]

[SPOKEN {entry on first drum beat}]

EVALD: How is the sick animal today?

GERTRUDE: Worse.

EVALD: Still pacing I see.

GERTRUDE: He doesn't get more than one hour's sleep.

[SUNG]

STEFAN:

He doesn't eat
He doesn't sleep
His body's wasting
At a frightening speed
His appearance has changed
He looks a fright
His smell's disgusting
And his hair is going white

[SPOKEN]

EVALD: He paces the cage from morning to night?

GERTRUDE: The cage is protection against the winds of the world. He thinks it will save him from poison in the air.

EVALD: He's getting a look that spells danger to me. Shouldn't we let him out?

GERTRUDE: As a matter of fact I was about to lock him in.

[SUNG]

STEFAN:

Her favourite scheme
She locks the fools in
But he doesn't mind imprisonment
That's the funny thing
He doesn't want to leave
He built the cage himself
He constructed his own cage
With his own hammer and own nails

[SPOKEN]

GERTRUDE: He needs absolute solitude.

STEFAN: [Angrily] She said it herself. She's practised this cure. Why can't you share her native intelligence?

EVALD: I'm sorry. I'm easily confused. Everything is changing, I'm only slowly adjusting.

STEFAN: Every year another revolution.

[SUNG]

EVALD:

You should take a walk around
Feel the frustration
Too much has been promised
Too little realised
The region is collapsing
Our achievements are ignored
The future's here too quickly
We may have to go abroad

[SPOKEN]

STEFAN: This is all ancient history. You think I don't know how things are starting to go? I don't need to march up and down the road, I was there at the start of the trip. Why should I celebrate our arrival?

[SUNG]

GERTRUDE:

We need to do something with the beasts
They're becoming more unsettled by the hour

STEFAN:

Who cares? Why not just let them go?
They're irrelevant we now don't need the zoo

EVALD: [Moving into the cage]

Your wrong, you should take a look outside
You're a natural leader of men
You could become a catalyst
But all you do is lock yourself away

GERTRUDE:

We must find a solution for the animals
Action is required to keep the integrity of the zoo
Look at the mess they've created
Why should they get some kind of special deal at all
They have a duty to work like all the rest

[SPOKEN]

EVALD: Which animal problem does she want us to solve?

STEFAN: She believes all the animals should be immediately incarcerated.

EVALD: I don't understand what's come over her.

STEFAN: She's in the grip of a mind fever. One minute she insists we must revere them, the next they are all worthless drones.

[MUSIC CHANGES. STILL SPOKEN]

EVALD: But can't she see what's happening? The old restrictions are beginning to break down. The escape route is widening by the minute and our difficulties are ending.

STEFAN: She only sees that as failure. To her what's opening up is a drain. It's carrying off the life blood of the region, she's determined to seal the wound.

[GERTRUDE locks the cage door]

GERTRUDE: Something has to happen, we don't want animals roaming loose across the town. We've put years into the region, we can't sit by and watch it collapse.

[EVALD tries the door]

EVALD: The cage is tearing at the seams. Before long there will be new horizons, we'll have the whole world at our door.

STEFAN: He's telling us the truth, we simply have to wait. Soon investors will be pounding on the door.

GERTRUDE: Have you forgotten the last time they were pounding at the door. Maybe they had the right idea after all. When you have a rubbish problem it does no good to hide your head in the sand.

STEFAN: Are you saying I'm hiding my head in the sand? Is that it, is that your view?

EVALD: There's no time for you to have a dispute, there are decisions to be made.

GERTRUDE: No doubt I will have to show him the way. That's expected. If something unpleasant needs doing, I'm the one who has to hold the gun.

[SUNG]

GERTRUDE:

You'd both stand by and watch it
Watch while the region's in flames
What a great occasion, what circus!
Snap of the past, a Disney display.
What splendid freak attraction
What great financial appeal

We can charge a fortune to see it
Come and gawp at our defects and flaws

STEFAN:

What's the difference,
Except the circus changes hands
What can we do for the beasts
Except to teach them how to be clowns
EVALD: Dreams are about to come true
The old guards don't know what to do
The border region's bursting with leaks
The past is over, everything's changed

[GERTRUDE points a gun menacingly at EVALD]

GERTRUDE:

Why are they all obsessed with escaping?
What do they think they are going to find?

[SPOKEN]

EVALD: I would like to get out. Please open the door. I have jobs I must do.
Bonus will be missing me by now.

GERTRUDE: I'm protecting you from the bombardment. I'm saving your lily-
white hands from work.

[GERTRUDE exits]

EVALD: She's leaving with the keys! Now what are we supposed to do
Stefan, get up and think.

STEFAN: What would you have me do?

EVALD: She had a gun. What is she doing with the gun?

STEFAN: She wants to stem the breach.

EVALD: For christ's sake get us out of here, I can't stand to be locked in.

[STEFAN shrugs, brings out his hammer and begins to batter the cage. As he is doing this a shot rings out.]

EVALD: What was that?

STEFAN: Does the banging hurt your ears?

EVALD: You heard it, she's shooting!

STEFAN: [Unperturbed, hacking the cage door off its hinges] That's it! Now we can clear up the mess together.

EVALD: [With mounting panic] I can't stay, I must attend to Bonus.

[There are more gunshots. STEFAN turns on EVALD waving the hammer at him and grabbing his arm.]

STEFAN: You think she will let you slip away? She's busy sealing off all the exits. Don't you want to stay and help us sort things out?

[STEFAN lets go of EVALD. EVALD makes a dash for it. STEFAN catches him and pulls him back towards the cage. Taking his hammer he nails the tail of EVALD's coat to the wall of the cage. EVALD tries to tug his coat free but only succeeds in ripping the cloth. By this time

STEFAN has another nail in somewhere else. The process continues and EVALD gradually rips his own clothes to shreds. Gunshots continue to be heard at regular intervals.]

EVALD: Stop this stupid game!

STEFAN: You really shouldn't worry, it's not games we want to play. You've misunderstood, I won't let her get to you. With me you're safe. I have a weapon of my own, a powerful machine, useful on the battle ground.

[SUNG]

STEFAN:

There's an understanding between us that she won't forget
We've agreed to keep at least one each of every kind of beast
Here's a perfect specimen to honour our deal
Would you say you're still a dray,
I think you're now more like a bull

[STEFAN manoeuvres EVALD into the battered cage and hammers a nail through his shoe and into the floor]

Powerful trunk like armoured tank
The perfect trophy of its kind
I'll protect my trophy
I've got just the method now in mind

[STEFAN continues to demolish the cage. EVALD shields his head with his hands as bits of wood fall on him.]

Scene 8: Unification

[The Wall in its final hours. A triumphant noisy crowd is assembled. THE MODEL appears parading along the wall. She is wearing a caricaturesoldier's uniform: green shorts, gun over the shoulder etc. There are lustful roars. She is backlit by spotlights from the far side of The Wall. She strikes a pose sitting on the edge of the very centre of The Wall, facing the crowd with legs slightly parted. She blows kisses and accepts handshakes.]

[The CHORUS sings from the zoo side of The Wall]

CHORUS 1:

Sesame opens The Wall
Jump over, join the party
Tear down The Wall, the others fall
A rush and a push and the land is ours

[Another CHORUS chants from the other side of The Wall]

CHORUS 2:

Let them go so they can serve
Let them go so they can serve

CHORUS 1:

Sesame opens The Wall
Jump over, join the party
Tear down The Wall, the others fall
A rush and a push and the land is ours

CHORUS 2:

Let them go so they can serve
Let them go so they can serve

CHORUS 1:}

Sesame opens The Wall

Jump over, join the party
Tear down The Wall, the others fall
A rush and a push and the land is ours

CHORUS 2:}

Let them go so they can serve
Let them go so they can serve

[During this STEFAN arrives on the scene riding on EVALD's back. EVALD is forced to climb up onto the wall. He waves to the crowd but receives no attention. The CHORUS stops but the noise and activity continues. STEFAN addresses the crowd.]

[SUNG]

STEFAN:

This roaring sea is coming through
It must not break on fragile shore
Don't smash the welcome
Too many waves destroy us all

The people on the other side
May not be ready for the rush
We must have sympathy
They've been misled by false reports

They believe in threats of destruction
They built the wall to dam the flood
They live habitually in fear
But learnt that no-one lives without water

All experiments are over
We must show them we're their brothers
Stone must smash before us
We must decimate The Wall!
We must decimate The Wall!

[STEFAN's final words are taken up by the crowd for a moment. He gazes at the sky. Someone in the crowd hands THE MODEL the portable drill and a bottle of wine. She waves them aloft as a large pole is brought and applied to the wall as a battering ram. It is pounded into The Wall between THE

MODEL's legs. The CHORUS on the other side of The Wall starts to sing and is joined by the other CHORUS on the zoo aside.]

CHORUS 2:

Freude, schuner Gutterfunken,
Tochter aus Elysium,
Wir betreten feuertrunken,
Himmlische, dein Heiligtum!

CHORUS 1:

Sesame opens The Wall
Jump over, join the party
Tear down The Wall, the others fall
A rush and a push and the land is ours

[REPEAT AS NECESSARY]

VOICE:

We are the champions, my friend
And we'll keep on fighting to the end
We are the champions, we are the champions
No time for losers, yes, we are the champions
Of the world.

CHORUS 1:}

Sesame opens The Wall
Jump over, join the party
Tear down The Wall, others fall
Rush and a push, rush and push
Rush and push, rush and push
And it's ours

CHORUS 2:}

Freude, schuner Gutterfunken,
Tochter aus Elysium,
Rush and a push, rush and push
Rush and push, rush and push
And it's ours

[STEFAN fights to the rear of the crowd and watches the proceedings. The Wall is finally breached and THE MODEL disappears as the crowd surges through to the west. There is an explosion of camera flashes accompanied by the sound of hundreds of dogs barking, Soon STEFAN is left alone on the eastern side of The Wall. THE MODEL reappears standing in the hole look through to the west.]

[SPOKEN]

STEFAN: Don't look back, whatever you do now, face forward. There's no need to be scared, you're safe, the dogs are muzzled now. I have to stay, there's an appointment for me to keep. I'm happy now.

[THE MODEL turns and approaches him]

THE MODEL: You are alone, what can you do? We must survive.

[She holds the drill to his head and then forces the bottle of wine between his lips. He takes huge gulps, chokes and splutters]

THE MODEL: You don't drink? You never said.

STEFAN: I know your name, I'm sure I do.

[She makes him drink more. She touches him with the drill. He becomes inebriated. They dance. She fondles and stimulates him. He lies on the ground]

STEFAN: I remember now. Some things you said.

THE MODEL: Don't try to speak.

STEFAN:

Every year,
Something new,
Doesn't matter what,
A risky gimmick,
That is good,
Or a sexy look,
That is fine,
But it must be new,
The latest thing,
Or the party's through,

You've never seen,
You never thought,
You won't believe it,
You're going to love it

THE MODEL: Stop!

[The fireworks begin and a voice is heard from the other side of The Wall reciting "Ozymandias" through a police megaphone.]

I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said: "Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert...Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And half wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on those lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed:
And on the pedestal these words appear:
My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair!"
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.