

MYSTERIOUS THEATRE 337

THE GREATEST SHOW IN THE GALAXY

By Stephen Wyatt

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Riff writing credits at bottom of document

OPENING TITLES BEGIN

STARFIELD ZOOMING

STUFF FLYING RANDOMLY

SYLVESTER'S FACE

HE WINKS

DOCTOR WHO

THE GREATEST SHOW IN THE GALAXY

BY STEPHEN WYATT

PART ONE

LOCATION: BIG TOP

THE RINGMASTER ENTERS TO THE CHEERS OF THE CROWD, AND CRACKS HIS WHIP. THEN HE DOES A QUICK TAP DANCE AND STARTS HIS RAP.

RINGMASTER

Now welcome folks, I'm sure you'd like to know, we're at the start of one big circus show. There are acts that are cool and acts that amaze. Some acts are scary and some acts will daze. Acts of all kinds, you can count on that, from folks that fly to disappearing acts. There are lots of surprises for the family at the Greatest Show in the Galaxy! So many strange surprises, I'm prepared to bet, whatever you've seen before, you ain't seen nothing yet.

LOCATION: TARDIS

Gaudy.

All right, who threw the rice?
Why is the TARDIS in a ball?

Boo! Boooooo!
He's hot for you, he just winked at you.

Pee Wee's Big Top?

Was the whip JNT's idea?

Now welcome folks, I'm sure you'd like to know, we're at the start of this 3-3-7 show. Our actors are fools, yet they still amaze, sometimes they are scary, sometimes in a daze. Lines of all kinds, you can count on that, from jokes that are fly, to some that are crap. There are lots of surprises so join our family, at the Greatest Show in the Galaxy! So many strange surprises, you can see we're wacked, whatever you've heard before, you ain't seen nothing yet!

Yo, does MTV still rap or did they stop?

THE DOCTOR IS PRACTISING JUGGLING WITH THREE CRICKET BALLS AND THE AID OF A BOOK CALLED JUGGLING FOR THE COMPLETE KLUTZ.

ACE

Professor?

SOME CLOTHES GET THROWN THROUGH THE INTERIOR DOOR.

DOCTOR

Yes?

ACE

Have you seen my Nitro Nine?

DOCTOR

Isn't it in your rucksack?

ACE

Yeah, but where's my rucksack?

DOCTOR

Interesting question.

ACE EMERGES ON HER HANDS AND KNEES WITH A LONG SCARF AROUND HER NECK.

ACE

Things don't just vanish.

DOCTOR

No.

ONE OF THE THREE BALLS UP AND DOESN'T COME DOWN AGAIN.

LOCATION: LANDING BAY

A LANDING PLATFORM BY A LARGE BILLBOARD ADVERTISING THE PSYCHIC CIRCUS - THE GREATEST SHOW IN THE GALAXY - STARTS SPOUTING SMOKE, THEN A THREE WHEELED MOTORCYCLE APPEARS, RIDDEN BY A MAN WITH VERY LARGE WINGS ON HIS HELMET. HE DRIVES IT OFF THE RAMP THEN OPENS A SIDE POD AND TAKES OUT A HOT BURGER IN A BUN,

He must be the Doctor, I hear the Dr Who theme.

(cough)

He's there for the Genesis concert.

THEN BITES INTO IT WITH RELISH.

LOCATION: TARDIS

A CURIOUS SIX LEGGED GIZMO WITH TWO SMALL SOLAR PANELS AND AN ANTENNA ON ITS HEAD APPEARS. THE DOCTOR IS ON A STEP LADDER HUNTING FOR HIS BALL IN THE CONSOLE ROOM CEILING.

DOCTOR

What's that peculiar noise?

ACE

What peculiar noise? I don't hear any peculiar.

THEY NOTICE THE GIZMO.

DOCTOR

How extraordinary.

HE COMES DOWN THE LADDER.

DOCTOR

It materialised inside the Tardis. Just the kind of thing you'd expect to see in this part of the galaxy.

THE GIZMO TRUNDLES ACROSS THE FLOOR TO THE CONSOLE.

ACE

Is that just what you'd expect too, Professor?

DOCTOR

Not entirely, no.

THE GIZMO THEN SLAPS A LEAD ONTO THE CONSOLE AND THE SCANNER STARTS UP WITH AN ADVERTISEMENT.

ADVERT

Yes, it's festival time at the Psychic Circus, the Greatest Show in the Galaxy! So why not come along and have the time of your life with the nonstop action of its glittering circus ring. There's big prizes

Mmmmmm... play-doh burger.

She was doing Mel cosplay!?

You can skip this ad in 5 seconds...

Don't click on it!

ACE

No, I don't believe it. Junk mail. Used to get loads of this stuff through the letterbox and now we're being bombarded with it inside the Tardis.

DOCTOR

Yes, junk mail gets everywhere.

ADVERT

If you want to watch or you want to compete, there's a great time for you on the planet Segonax. The planet has easy access via our special polyportable landing bays.

ACE DISCONNECTS THE GIZMO.

DOCTOR

Oh, Ace, I thought you'd have been interested in the circus.

ACE

No, kid's stuff. I went once. Didn't even have any tigers. It was naff and it was boring. Apart from the clowns, of course.

DOCTOR

What, you found them funny?

ACE

No, creepy.

DOCTOR

I think you're being very unfair. A lot of the acts in the circus require a great deal of skill and courage. That's something you should appreciate. Anyway, I rather fancy entering the Festival talent contest myself.

AND STARTS TO PLAY A PAIR OF SALAD SPOONS ON HIS LEG.

ACE

Oh no, not the spoons again.

THE GIZMO REATTACHES ITSELF.

(Junk mail) Latest Google innovation.

If it's spam, that means that thing is a spambot.

If it's a Google ad, it's a Google-bot.

They're watching the trailer for this episode?

Professor, you ARE a circus.

They all float down here...

Don't go for her chest.

ADVERT

Scared?

ACE

What?

ADVERT

Scared to come to the Psychic Circus?

ACE

No.

ADVERT

Scared to take part?

ACE

No, course not.

ADVERT

Well, if you are, then go ahead, ignore me. I quite understand.

ACE

I don't believe it. Junk mail that talks back.

DOCTOR

Shall we just fling it away and forget about it? I mean, I'm sure the Psychic Circus isn't scary at all. It's just a device to get us to go.

ACE

Okay, you win, junk box. I'm not scared of anything.

LOCATION: SEGONAX

A YOUNG MAN AND A GIRL RUN ACROSS THE ROUGH, DRY GROUND. HE FALLS. HE IS WEARING A YELLOW JACKET WITH LOTS OF FROGGING ON IT, WHILE SHE IS IN A LACY FLORAL DRESS.

FLOWERCHILD

Come on, we can't give up now.

BELLBOY

They'll catch us, I know it. They'll drag

Psychic Circus, qu'est-ce que c'est, fa fa fa fa, fa fa fa fa fa far better run run run run run run away...

(at all) Is that where the Doctor gets his Psychic Paper?

Professor, where's my baseball bat?
Why Doesn't Ace Care, a film by Bell Labs.

Rose!

us back to the circus.

FLOWERCHILD

Oh, Bellboy, please. You promised.
You know it's down to us now. We're
the only ones left to fight. Come on.

*A BENTLEY HEARSE CRUISES ALONG THE
SKYLINE. IT STOPS AND THE PASSENGER
WINDOW WINDS DOWN TO REVEAL A
WHITE-FACED CLOWN IN UNDERTAKERS
CLOTHING. HE GETS OUT AND LOOKS UP
AT A PAIR OF KITES IN THE SKY, FLYING
WITHOUT THE AID OF STRINGS. HIS
COMPANION ADJUSTS A CONTROL IN THE
CAR AND THE KITES SWOOP AWAY. THEY
FOLLOW.*

*MEANWHILE, BELLBOY AND THE
FLOWERCHILD ARRIVE AT THE DUNES. THE
KITES FLY OVERHEAD.*

BELLBOY

Flowerchild, look. Your kites, your
beautiful kites.

*THE TARDIS MATERIALISES ON THE ROCKY
SHORE. THE DOCTOR AND ACE COME OUT.*

LOCATION: SHORELINE

DOCTOR

So this is Segonax. Not quite the green
and pleasant land we'd been led to
expect. Still, I've had good reports of
the friendliness of the natives.

ACE

Don't see these landing bays, Professor.

DOCTOR

Oh, I expect that's for those not
fortunate enough to possess a Tardis.

ACE

So now where?

DOCTOR

I'll ask for directions over there.

Just like the white winged dove sings a song
sounds like she's singin' oo oo oo.

Are those the kites of Rassilon?
It's That Girl, starring Marlo Thomas.

And that's the Radio Shack joystick...of
Rassilon.

The Kite Game by Activision, now for the
Atari 2600!

Buy now and get two copies of the E.T. game
for free!

(Segonax) No it's not, it's the BBC quarry.

Ruffians, scoundrels, cannibals, scaliwags,
doable barkers... the usual wacky bunch.

LOCATION: BY THE SNACK STALL

THEY HEAD FOR A SNACK STALL IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE AS THE TRICYCLE RIDER DRIVES ALONG A DUSTY TRACK, THROWING THE REMAINS OF HIS BURGER OVER HIS SHOULDER.

DOCTOR

Good afternoon. I'm the Doctor, this is my friend Ace.

THE LADY STALLHOLDER LOOKS UP FROM PEELING A TURNIP. EVERYONE SAY HI! TO THE FORMIDABLE PEGGY MOUNT.

STALLHOLDER

What sort of costume do you call that?

DOCTOR

I don't understand.

STALLHOLDER

And her's is no better. We don't want your type around here.

SHE PUSHES BETWEEN ACE AND THE DOCTOR. HIS HAND GOES INTO SOMETHING GUNKY ON THE STALL, POSSIBLY THE PLAUP FROM VULPANA AT 30 EPSY.

DOCTOR

Ah, and what type might that be?

STALLHOLDER

Weirdos. You can tell them at a glance, you know.

ACE

Friendly natives, eh, Professor?

DOCTOR

Let's not be hasty.

THE STALLHOLDER USES A SHARP CLEAVER TO CHOP A MELON.

LOCATION: SHORELINE

Yuck! Gluten free!

I can't tell the difference between Whizzo Butter and this dead Macra.

I regret nothing!

FLOWERCHILD

There's no choice.

BELLBOY

No. The kites will track us forever.

FLOWERCHILD

One of us must get there.

SHE KISSES HIM, THEN TAKES OFF A LARGE CIRCULAR EARRING.

FLOWERCHILD

I want you to have this.

BELLBOY

Thanks. Look, I'll wait here awhile and see if I can find a longer route round. I shall draw them after me.

FLOWERCHILD

No silly risks, now.

BELLBOY

Go on. Go on.

LOCATION: SEGONAX

THE KITES HANG MOTIONLESS. THE CLOWN GETS OUT OF THE HEARSE.

CLOWN

They can't have lost them.

THE KITES MOVE.

CLOWN

I thought not.

MEANWHILE -

BELLBOY

Come on, kites. Find me.

LOCATION: BY THE SNACK STALL

ACE IS DIGGING HER FINGERS INTO THE SOFT INNARDS OF A LARGE FRUIT.

ACE

Just like the white winged dove...

(kiss) Hey, no hanky panky...

Is he Adam, or just an Ant?

Adam Ant and Stevie Nicks sitting in a tree, k-i-s-s-i-n-g...

First comes Goody Two Shoes, then comes Stand Back, then comes their love child Justin Bieber.

These are not the kites you are looking for.

NSA drones or Amazon drones?

...bring back my shirt!

Yuck. Do we really have to eat this muck?

DOCTOR

Elementary diplomacy, my dear Ace. She apparently thinks we're a pair of undesirable intergalactic hippies. We must try and convince her we're nice, clean-living people who eat up all our fresh fruit and pay our way.

ACE

Paying good money for this muck is daylight robbery. Do I have to finish it?

DOCTOR

Every last bite. Besides, we want the charming lady to tell us how to find the circus, don't we. Delicious, madam. Quite delicious.

LOCATION: SEGONAX

BELLBOY SHOUTS UP AT THE KITES.

BELLBOY

Come on, then! It's me, Bellboy. It's who you're looking for, isn't it? What are you waiting for? Come on!

FLOWERCHILD HAS GOT TO A PAINTED BUS WITH A PICTURE OF BELLBOY ON IT AND THE SLOGAN THE ROAD IS OPEN AND THE RIDES ARE FREE ON IT. ALSO GIVE SOME MONEY. SHE GOES INSIDE.

LOCATION: BY THE SNACK STALL

STALLHOLDER

More?

DOCTOR

Er, no. Delicious but extremely filling. I'm sure you will have gathered by now, dear lady, we're not the kind of hobblidhoy and vagabonds you such exception to. Indeed, as I said before, I'm known as the Doctor.

STALLHOLDER

River fruit from Alzarius?

Looks more like creamed corn.

(hippies) Aren't you?

Can't I get some bacon with it, at least? Mmmmm... bacon.

It tastes like my cat's breath.

No it's not, she knows you're lying.

And what happens to Ace when she vomits it all back up?

Hello... is it me you're looking for?

(fart noises)

Some people will call themselves anything.

DOCTOR

Yes, well, be that as it may, we would appreciate your help. You see, we're looking for

THE NOISE OF THE TRICYCLE CUTS THE AIR AS IT DRIVES DOWN THE TRACK.

STALLHOLDER

Here comes another one of your lot.

ACE

Look at that ace bike, Professor.

THE BIKE PULLS UP IN A SERIES OF BACKFIRES, AND ACE RUNS OVER.

ACE

Need a hand? I reckon it could be a stuck valve.

NORD

Get lost.

ACE

It's a great bike.

NORD

Go on, hop it, before I get angry.

ACE

Well, if you don't want to save yourself some time, then it's up to you. Course, it could be a valve

NORD

I've told you, girl, get lost! Or I'll do something horrible to your ears.

ACE

Suit yourself. I hope your big end goes.

STALLHOLDER

He'll be going there. They all go there, you know.

DOCTOR

Like he calls himself an actor?
Oooh, you're mean.

Sons of Backfirechy.

Peter Gabriel here is about to start singing "Watcher of the Skies".

Ha ha ha ha! Uh, what?

Go where?

STALLHOLDER

The Psychic Circus. All the riff-raff go there. All the infernal extraterrestrials like him. Monopods from Lelex, Doctors.

DOCTOR

I don't understand. You say that he's going to the circus?

STALLHOLDER

Of course. Everyone of them who's up to no good goes there. We locals wouldn't touch it with a barge pole.

DOCTOR

Is it far, this appalling spectacle?

STALLHOLDER

Miles and miles. Why do you suppose he's got that noisy monstrosity polluting the countryside? Here, you're not thinking of going there, are you?

DOCTOR

Not a vague idea, no. Just a moment, would you excuse me?

THE DOCTOR GOES OVER TO ACE AND NORD.

DOCTOR

Ace, any chance of a lift, do you think?

ACE

Worth a try, I suppose. He doesn't look after that bike, you know. If only he'd let me

DOCTOR

Yes, yes, never mind, Ace. Let's concentrate on getting a lift to the circus. Excuse me. If you're going to the circus, I wonder if could possibly give

NORD

Do you want me to do something

Gastropods from Jaconda...
Nibblonians from Vergon 6...
Vulcans from... uh... Vulcan...

You mean you LOCAL – singular? You appear to be the only one.

(miles and miles) And I would walk five hundred miles and I would walk five hundred more...

She likes him.

unpleasant to your face?

DOCTOR

No, not really, no.

NORD

No one rides with me! For I am Nord,
Vandal of the roads.

LOCATION: PAINTED BUS

*FLOWERCHILD GETS OFF THE BUS
CARRYING A CASH BOX, AND TRIES TO
OPEN IT. A DARK CLOTHED FIGURES
FOLLOWS HER OUT AND GRABS HER
ROUND THE THROAT.*

CONDUCTOR

Hold tight please.

LOCATION: SEGONAX

DOCTOR

Well, there's nothing like a nice walk in
the countryside.

ACE

And this is nothing like a nice walk in
the countryside.

*THE HEARSE COMES DOWN THE TRACK
TOWARDS THEM.*

DOCTOR

Now, now, now, it could be worse. You
could be carrying that heavy rucksack
of yours.

ACE

Yeah, what about my rucksack,
Professor? What did you do with it?

*THE HEARSE SOUNDS ITS HORN AND THE
DOCTOR PUSHES ACE OUT OF THE WAY AS
IT DRIVES STRAIGHT BETWEEN THEM
WITHOUT SLOWING.*

DOCTOR

They seem to be in rather a hurry.
Looking for customers.

Heheheh. He said Nord.

So that's what happened to the Partridge
Family bus.
She's trying to open up her Caboodles case.

Worst peripheral vision ever.

FURTHER ON.

ACE

Well, I wouldn't be so chuffed if I kept getting visitors like Nord the Vandal, I suppose.

DOCTOR

That's true. But then, how do they expect a hard case like him to going to the circus anyway?

ACE

Maybe he got conned, like I was.

DOCTOR

Something evil's happened here, I can feel it.

ACE

To do with the circus?

DOCTOR

Who knows.

ACE

Doctor, look.

ACE POINTS OVER THE RIDGE TO A CAMPSITE.

LOCATION: CAMPSITE

A SILVER HAired MAN IN KHAKI AND WEARING A PITH HELMET IS SURVEYING THE LANDSCAPE WITH BINOCULARS. EVERYONE SAY HI! TO THE WONDERFUL T P MCKENNA. HIS YOUNG FEMALE COMPANION HAS GREEN HAIR AND IS EXAMINING A METAL ARM STICKING OUT OF THE SAND.

CAPTAIN

I was probably the first person to visit the valley for several millennia, at the very least. So something like this, which for the ordinary dull old stop-at-home might seem quite extraordinary, is just run of the mill as far as I'm

(Sylv's voice) No, not Doctor Look, Doctor WHO.

He looks PITHED off.

concerned. Well, of course since you've never been

MAGS

Captain.

DOCTOR

Greetings. I'm the Doctor and this is my friend Ace.

CAPTAIN

And I am Captain Cook, the eminent intergalactic explorer. You happen to have heard of me, old boy?

MAGS

And I am Mags.

ACE TOUCHES THE ARM AND THE HAND SNAPS SHUT.

LOCATION: OUTSIDE THE CIRCUS

A CLOWN IS BALANCING ONE-FOOTED ON A WIRE WHEN NORD DRIVES UP.

NORD

Oi, white-face. White-face! Where do I park for the gig at the Psychic Circus?

THE CLOWN WOBBLER AND SORT OF GESTURES THATAWAY, SO NORD DRIVES TOWARDS THE BIG TOP. A LARGE RINGED MOON HANGS IN THE DAYLIGHT SKY.

LOCATION: CAMPSITE

MAGS POURS TEA FOR THE CAPTAIN AND THE DOCTOR. THE CAPTAIN HAS A CHINA CUP, THE DOCTOR HAS A TIN MUG.

CAPTAIN

Mmm, delicious. My own special blend, of course. I take it everywhere. Bet you can't guess the blend, eh, Doctor?

DOCTOR

Well, I could be wrong, of course, but isn't it from the Groz Valley of

I am the very model of a modern Major-General, I've information vegetable, animal, and mineral...

It looks to me like you can park anywhere you want.

I think the real car park was full of Doctor Who sets, so he figured there was no place to park.

Melogothon?

CAPTAIN

Good. Very good.

ACE

I'll give you a hand.

DOCTOR

Oh, Ace, wait a minute.

CAPTAIN

Were you ever on Melogothon,
Doctor?

DOCTOR

Well as a matter of fact, I was.

CAPTAIN

The frozen pits of Overod are worth
seeing, of course, though much
overrated, I feel. All right for the
trainee explorer. Old hands like myself
need something a bit more exotic.

DOCTOR

Why come here, then?

CAPTAIN

Sorry, old boy?

DOCTOR

I said, why bother to come here?

CAPTAIN

Well, I'm told the Psychic Circus is
quite an interesting little show,
particularly at this time, when
everybody turns up to compete in the
Festival. Yes, besides, she wanted to
come.

DOCTOR

Do you often travel together?

CAPTAIN

Of late, yes. I found her on the planet
Vulpana. Between you and me, old
boy, she's rather an unusual little
specimen.

It's Ace's turn to clean the litterbox.

DOCTOR

Of what?

CAPTAIN

Ah, that would be telling, old boy.
What about yours?

DOCTOR

I never think of Ace as a specimen of anything.

CAPTAIN

Keep your shirt on, Doctor.
Everything's a specimen of something.
Take that robot over there, for example.

ACE

What do you reckon, Professor?

DOCTOR

I suppose it was buried for some good reason.

ACE

Well, maybe we'll find out what that reason was, eh, Professor?

*THE NOW UNCOVERED ROBOT SUDDENLY
TILTS UPRIGHT, KNOCKING MAGS OVER
AND GRABBING HER LEG.*

ACE

Gordon Bennett!

*LASER'S SHOOT FROM ITS EYES, HITTING
THE CAMP STOOL AND SENDING THE
DOCTOR TUMBLING. HE RUSHES TO HELP
FREE MAGS.*

DOCTOR

Quick. Help, Captain.

THE CAPTAIN KEEPS SIPPING HIS TEA.

CAPTAIN

You don't often see one like that, do you.

DOCTOR

Yes, PLEASE keep your shirt on. We don't want to see topless Radagast.

Kill all outdoor furniture!

I've seen ones like this quite often
enough, thank you very much.

ACE

Do something! I've got it.

*ACE PICKS UP A SHOVEL AND HITS THE
ROBOT'S HEAD. IT STOPS. THE DOCTOR
HELPS MAGS GET OUT OF RANGE.*

CAPTAIN

Well, well. More tea, perhaps?

LOCATION: SEGONAX

*THERE IS A NEW ARRIVAL - A GEEKY LAD IN
ROUND GLASSES ON A MOUNTAIN BIKE, AT
THE LANDING BAY.*

*MEANWHILE THE CONDUCTOR DRAGS
FLOWERCHILD'S BODY AWAY, LEAVING
BEHIND HER OTHER EARRING.
THE HEARSE FOLLOWS THE KITES.*

LOCATION: BY THE SNACK STALL

BELLBOY STAGGERS UP.

BELLBOY

Excuse me.

AND FALLS DOWN.

STALLHOLDER

You can't lie down there, you know.

THE HEARSE PULLS UP.

BELLBOY

At last.

CLOWN

Where's the girl?

BELLBOY

She'll have reached there by now.

CLOWN

If she has, she'll regret it.

THE CLOWN AND HIS COMPANION DRAG

She looks around for something to hit it with –
then picks up the shovel RIGHT IN FRONT
OF HER.

Stop dragging my... stop dragging my... stop
dragging my body around!

Where do you suppose the gas station is on
Segonax?
I think there's a BP around the corner from the
circus tent.

THE BELLBOY AWAY.

STALLHOLDER

Is there no end to you weirdos?

LOCATION: PAINTED BUS

CAPTAIN

It's obviously some sort of shrine. I saw one much like this on Dioscuros.

DOCTOR

A shrine or not, I can't help feeling something sinister happened here.

CAPTAIN

I wonder you manage to explore anything. Everything seems to alarm you so.

DOCTOR

Not everything. I trust my instincts, and you may recall they're not always wrong.

ACE

Oh, come on, Professor. Let's go and explore.

CAPTAIN

I agree with your young friend. Let's explore.

LOCATION: ON THE BUS

ACE

Here, look at this.

CAPTAIN

I say. Well, well, well, it is quite something.

ACE

Wonder if it still goes.

CAPTAIN

Yes.

DOCTOR

Ace, I wouldn't.

AS ACE SETTLES HERSELF BEHIND THE STEERING WHEEL, THE ROBOT CONDUCTOR COMES THROUGH A CURTAIN TOWARDS THE BACK OF THE BUS.

CONDUCTOR

Any more fares, please? Any more fares, please? No standing inside. Hold tight, please.

THE CONDUCTOR TURNS THE HANDLE OF ITS TICKET MACHINE, AND AN ENERGY BOLT ZOOMS UP TO THE SUN ROOF.

CAPTAIN

I say, steady on, old chap.

CONDUCTOR

Fares please. Hold on tight. Ding, ding.

CAPTAIN

No, no, no, you've got it wrong, old boy. He's paying the fares, not me.

THE CAPTAIN DISEMBARKS RAPIDLY.

CONDUCTOR

Any more fares?

DOCTOR

I would like a ticket, actually. I'd like a there and back off peak weekend break supersaver senior citizen bimonthly season with optional added facilities a free cup of coffee in a plastic glass a crocodile sandwich and make it snappy, you mechanic moron!

THE ROBOT DROPS ITS HEAD.

DOCTOR

If I might take a look at that ticket machine of yours?

THE ROBOT HOLDS IT UP.

DOCTOR

Ah, yes.

What happens behind THAT curtain?

Can I check your con badge please?

That was easy.

*THE DOCTOR TURNS THE HANDLE AND
ZAPS THE ROBOT. BANG!*

DOCTOR

Just the ticket.

LOCATION: TICKET OFFICE

*THE TICKET OFFICE IS STRICTLY SPEAKING
A SMALL CARAVAN INSIDE A TENT HOUSING
VARIOUS ADVERTISING BOARDS OF THE
CIRCUS'S TRIP TO VARIOUS PLANETS. IT IS
LINKED TO THE BIG TOP BY A CORRIDOR
WITH WALLS OF BILLOWING CLOTH. THE
CLOWNS DROP BELLBOY AT THE FORTUNE
TELLER'S FEET.*

MORGANA

What have you done?

CLOWN

Not nearly enough.

MORGANA

We need him.

CLOWN

He'll have to be punished, Morgana.

*THE CLOWN REMOVES HIS BLACK CLOTHES
TO REVEAL HIS SILVER COSTUME.*

BELLBOY

Flowerchild?

MORGANA

No.

BELLBOY

Flowerchild.

MORGANA

Where is she?

CLOWN

He still thinks she may have escaped.

MORGANA

Listen, Bellboy, I

CLOWN

Save your breath. Take him back in the ring. He knows what's waiting there.

BELLBOY

No. No. No! No! No!

BELLBOY IS DRAGGED AWAY BY CLOWNS.

MORGANA

What if a visitor arrives now?

CLOWN

If they come, they come.

LOCATION: PAINTED BUS

CAPTAIN

Letrepos, for example. Sights like this are every day.

DOCTOR

Some people can't bear to be proved wrong.

ACE

He'd have let tinhead do you in.

DOCTOR

Oh, let's not bear a grudge. He can't help being a pompous, selfish, self-satisfied meddler.

ACE

Hmm. Mags might be okay if he wasn't around.

DOCTOR

If a little odd.

ACE FINDS FLOWERCHILD'S EARRING.

ACE

Doctor, look.

DOCTOR

Do you like it?

ACE

Yeah.

Circuses? Bread? The Ants?

(grudge) Or grudge a bear.

Stevie Nicks was here.

DOCTOR

Well, if the keeper's not here, the finder has it.

ACE

Ace.

SHE PINS IT ONTO HER JACKET.

ACE

What do you reckon happened here, Professor? Were the people in this bus attacked on their way to the circus?

DOCTOR

Presumably. Whoever attacked them, destroyed them and wrecked the bus.

ACE

And the evil you felt, was that the bus conductor?

DOCTOR

Yes, I think so. Anyway, whoever left him here on guard's gone now. Perhaps millennia ago.

ACE

Nothing to do with the circus being scary?

DOCTOR

I'm afraid I think not. No, that was all just good publicity.

ACE

Pity. It might have made it more interesting. Are we still going there then?

DOCTOR

Yes. I feel just in the right mood. And after two brushes with death in one day, I hope you might be.

ACE

If you say so, Doctor.

DOCTOR

She knows her name!
Great, now spell it.

Oh yeah, because that bus conductor was REALLY evil.

No, I think the evil he felt was the script!

Two brushes... please brush 3 times a day.

Ah, so, Doctor. You can remember.

LOCATION: OUTSIDE THE CIRCUS

THE CAPTAIN'S JEEP DRIVES PAST A MAN ON STILTS.

CAPTAIN

On one of my trips to ? there was a whole planet with moronic dog's heads submerged in mud.

LOCATION: BY THE SNACK STALL

THE GEEK ON THE BIKE PEDALS UP.

WHIZZKID

Hi!

STALLHOLDER

Hello, young man. Just arrived from the landing port?

WHIZZKID

That's right.

STALLHOLDER

Oh, you've no idea what a relief for me it is to see such a nice, clean, respectable young man, after the riff-raff I usually have to deal with. Can I help you at all?

WHIZZKID

Yes, please. Could you tell me the way to the Psychic Circus?

THE STALLHOLDER'S SMILE FADES AWAY.

LOCATION: TICKET OFFICE

CLOWN

The show is about to start.

MORGANA

I've seen enough already.

CAPTAIN

Greetings, my good woman. This is the Psychic Circus, isn't it?

We must be in the Itchy lot. What, no tram?

(clown on stilts) Is that Colin Baker?

That's exactly what the producer said.

What, did she think he was there to go to the Psychic Library?

The Psychic Post Office?

The Psychic Museum of Modern Art?

So have we!

MORGANA PUTS ON A TRANSYLVANIAN ACCENT.

MORGANA

Why yes, that's right.

CAPTAIN

Ah, sounds like things are going well.
Come along, Mags.

MORGANA

But er

CAPTAIN

But what?

MORGANA

You can't go in just now. There is a speciality act being rehearsed.

CAPTAIN

All the better, my dear.

MORGANA

No, you don't understand.

THE CLOWN APPEARS, LAUGHS, AND GESTURES FOR THE CAPTAIN AND MAGS TO ENTER.

CAPTAIN

Thank you, my good fellow. Thank you.

LOCATION: OUTSIDE THE CIRCUS

THE DOCTOR AND ACE WALK PAST A CLOWN ON A TALL UNICYCLE.

DOCTOR

Not as far as we feared. Look.

ACE

I still think clowns are creepy.

DOCTOR

Nonsense.

THE RINGMASTER ENTERS THE BIG TOP

That clown's wearing Adric's pajamas!

AND CRACKS HIS WHIP AS THE CAPTAIN AND MAGS COME IN. THE FUNERAL CLOWNS DROP BELLBOY INTO THE RING. WE WATCH MAGS' FACE AS A FLICKERING LIGHT STARTS UP AND BELLBOY GROANS. MAGS SCREAMS. OUTSIDE WE CAN ONLY HEAR THE ENTRY OF THE GLADIATORS MUSIC AND OCCASIONAL CHEERS.

DOCTOR

Listen, they're having a good time in there.

ACE

Don't you hear it?

DOCTOR

Hear what?

ACE

That screaming.

THE RINGMASTER USES A WHITE SOUND DEVICE TO MASK MAGS' SCREAM.

DOCTOR

I can't hear anything.

ACE

I was sure I heard

DOCTOR

Oh, you're just making excuses because you don't like circuses.

ACE

No. No, it's not that.

DOCTOR

Well, are we going in or aren't we?

PART TWO

LOCATION: TICKET OFFICE

THE CLOWN COMES OUT AND WAVES TO THE DOCTOR AND ACE, THEN GOES BACK INSIDE.

Oh, it's not THAT bad.

He's got a mute button for her?

Look, she's a CE.

What's a CE?

I dunno. Clown Eviscerator?

Hope so, it'll make the episode good.

Thiiiiiiissss waaaayyyy!
I wonder where that fish has gone!
You did love it so.

CLOWN

Two more.

MORGANA

Right.

LOCATION: OUTSIDE THE CIRCUS

ACE

I did hear it, that screaming.

DOCTOR

But not now.

ACE SHAKES HER HEAD.

DOCTOR

So we can go in?

ACE

Yeah, okay.

DOCTOR

Your enthusiasm's overwhelming.

LOCATION: TICKET OFFICE

MORGANA

Welcome one and all to the Psychic Circus.

ACE TURNS TO LEAVE BUT THE DOCTOR PULLS HER BACK.

DOCTOR

Ace, you promised. I'm the Doctor and this is Ace. I must apologise for my young friend.

MORGANA

Oh, it is no problem. All of us around here believe in letting our feelings hang out. I mean, there is no point in getting uptight, now is there?

ACE SEES THE CLOWN WATCHING AND BECOMES TENSE.

ACE

I don't believe this.

Your fake accent is offensive to me!

MORGANA

That is why we got into circuses in the first place.

DOCTOR

We?

MORGANA

The founder members of the Psychic Circus.

DOCTOR

Ah, I see.

MORGANA

We were really into personal expression and the Circus gave us a chance to develop ourselves by expressing our individual skills.

THE DOCTOR SEES THREE KITES WITH EYES PAINTED ON THEM.

DOCTOR

I wonder if you've a special skill, if I might enquire.

MORGANA

Fortune telling. Would you like to see the future?

MORGANA TURNS OVER THE TOP CARD ON HER TAROT PACK. IT IS THE HANGED MAN, SYMBOL OF MAJOR CHANGE. THE DOCTOR DOES NOT TURN ROUND TO LOOK AT IT.

DOCTOR

Not just yet.

THE FUNERAL CLOWNS CARRY THE ROBOT BUS CONDUCTOR BACKSTAGE ON A STRETCHER.

DOCTOR

The Psychic Circus has grown into quite a sizeable operation, by the looks of it.

MORGANA

I prefer bread.

I am deeply offended that they didn't cast a person of ethnicity in this role.

You'll be on hiatus for 6 years, then get shot the INSTANT you visit America, then get replaced by Paul McGann.

The greatest show in the galaxy.

*THE DOCTOR LOOKS AROUND THEIR
COLLECTION OF ADVERTISING POSTERS.*

DOCTOR

Quite so, yes. My, you have travelled, haven't you? The planet Othris, the Boriatic Wastes, Marpesia and the Grand Pagoda of Cinethon.

MORGANA

Yes, we used to have a great time in the old days, going from planet to planet. But we've really got settled in here since

DOCTOR

Since?

MORGANA

Well, you have to hang up your travelling shoes and stop wandering sooner or later, don't you?

DOCTOR

So I've been told. Personally, I just keep on wandering.

RINGMASTER

Will you please take your seats, thank you.

DOCTOR

Ace?

ACE

Yes, Professor?

DOCTOR

Well, are we going in or aren't we?

MORGANA

You're sure you want to go in?

DOCTOR

Yes, that's why we came here in the first place.

MORGANA

If this is the Greatest, what do you think the WORST show in the Galaxy is like?

Look, I don't know how to put this, but

THE CLOWN COMES OUT.

MORGANA

Of course, go right in. Do your own thing. Enjoy yourselves.

DOCTOR

Thank you. Oh, tickets. We forgot to buy some tickets.

MORGANA

Tickets?

DOCTOR

To go in.

CLOWN

Ha ha! You're in already.

NOISES OF A MASSIVE CROWD CHEERING.

DOCTOR

Oh. Sounds as if you're doing really good business.

CLOWN

This way, please.

THE CLOWN SEES FLOWERCHILD'S EARRING ON ACE'S JACKET AS SHE PASSES HIM.

LOCATION: BIG TOP

IT IS DARK AND QUIET AS THE DOCTOR AND ACE ENTER. THEY WHISPER TO EACH OTHER.

ACE

Professor.

DOCTOR

Yes?

ACE

I can't see a thing.

DOCTOR

Go ahead and clown around a bit.

Hey! Who turned out the lights!

'Scuse me, pardon me, scuse me, pardon me.

(Yes?) Was that YOUR hand?

Neither can I.

ACE

And the cheering's stopped.

DOCTOR

Perhaps we're between performances.
Let's see if we can find a seat.

THE DOCTOR FEELS HIS WAY TO THE STANDS AND CLIMBS THE STEPS. HE STUBS HIS TOE.

ACE

Found somewhere to sit, Professor?

DOCTOR

That's one way of looking at it, if we could see. Over here.

(get out flashlight)

ACE

What?

DOCTOR

I said, over here.

THEY SETTLE DOWN.

DOCTOR

In a moment our eyes'll get used to the darkness.

ACE

Assuming there's anything worth seeing.

THERE IS A RUSTLING NOISE NEARBY.

DOCTOR

Listen.

ON THE ROW ABOVE THEM SITS A 1950'S FAMILY, FATHER, MOTHER AND A LITTLE GIRL BETWEEN THEM. THEY ARE EATING A NOISY SNACK.

GIRL

Daddy. Daddy.

DAD

Oh, Father of Mine, Mother of Mine, and Daughter of Mine.

What?

GIRL

I want an ice cream.

DAD

You've already had one.

GIRL

But Daddy.

DAD

I told you once and I'm not going to tell you again. Now shut up and eat your popcorn.

DOCTOR

We're not alone.

ACE

Yeah, but it looks like it's just us and them. What a con. I mean, where's Mags and the Captain?

DOCTOR

Perhaps they haven't arrived yet. Who knows? Anyway, I'm going to have an ice cream.

MUM

They should be starting up again soon. Have a crisp, Father.

DOCTOR

Greetings. Not many in today, are there. Are you regulars or is this your first visit, too? Let me introduce myself. I'm

THE MOTHER HOLDS OUT THE BAG OF CRISPS.

DOCTOR

Oh, thank you very much. Delicious.

THE CIRCUS MUSIC STARTS AND THE LIGHTS COME UP.

ACE

Professor. Professor, it's starting.

Of Mine.

I want a pony!

I want a golden goose!

I want a squirrel and I want it now!

Of Mine.

DOCTOR

Well, it's been a pleasure.

THE DOCTOR RETURNS TO SIT WITH ACE AS THE RING FILLS WITH TUMBLING AND JUGGLING CLOWNS.

DOCTOR

Remarkable.

ACE

If you like this sort of thing.

DOCTOR

No, no, I mean the memorial stones.
Do you see them? Look.

PLACED AT INTERVALS AROUND THE RING ARE OLD CARVED STONES. THE RINGMASTER ENTERS AND THE CLOWNS FREEZE.

RINGMASTER

Now welcome folks, I mean that from the heart, because the Greatest Show is about to start. It's happening right here before your very eyes and one thing's for sure, you're in for quite a surprise. But then, nothing's quite as it seems to be at the Greatest Show in the Galaxy.

THE RINGMASTER ADJUSTS THE CONTROLS IN THE BACK OF ONE CLOWN AND IT DOES A SOMERSAULT.

RINGMASTER

Now welcome folks, we've got a brand new act. He's a real find and no doubt that's a fact. He'll entertain you, he'll make you stare, and our great new act is seated over there!

THE SPOTLIGHT FALLS ON THE DOCTOR.

DOCTOR

Oh, thank you, but

RINGMASTER

Come on, Doctor. Don't be shy.

Bozo's Circus is on the air!

This circus is SO great that they only need one ring. None of this "three ring circus" stuff for them!

Gotta dance!

Uhh... what?

DOCTOR

Well, I'm not really sure that I should.

RINGMASTER

Oh, no false modesty. We know you're good.

DOCTOR

Well, this is most unexpected. Are you sure you want me?

RINGMASTER

There's no mistake, Doc. Come on in. Feel free.

ACE

Don't go, Professor.

DOCTOR

Why, what harm could it do?

RINGMASTER

Exactly. But the decision's up to you.

*WEARING A BIG GRIN, THE DOCTOR
PUSHES PAST ACE AND HURRIES DOWN
THE RING, TO CANNED APPLAUSE.*

ACE

No, Doctor!

*THE DOCTOR HAS BARELY GOT INTO THE
RING WHEN THE CLOWNS START
THROWING THEIR CLUBS PAST HIM, FRONT
AND BACK.*

DOCTOR

Well, you certainly didn't waste any time. I had expected to see what the opposition was up to before I put myself forward for the talent contest.

*ACE TRIES TO RUN OUT OF THE BIG TOP
BUT IS SURROUNDED BY CLOWNS BEHIND
THE SEATING WHERE THE DOCTOR
CANNOT SEE.*

DOCTOR

But since you insist.

Don't make me watch you perform.

Whatever you do – NO SPOONS!

RINGMASTER

Oh, we do, but no doubt you'd like to get yourself prepared first.

DOCTOR

Well, yes, I

RINGMASTER

Let me show you and your charming assistant to your dressing room.

DOCTOR

Oh, thank you very much. Ace!

CLOWN

Where did you find that earring?

ACE

Are you a robot too?

CLOWN

No.

ACE

Pity.

CLOWN

So tell me where you found it.

ACE GETS AWAY.

CLOWN

After her.

LOCATION: BACKSTAGE

RINGMASTER

Right this way, Doctor.

DOCTOR

Thank you very much, but where's Ace? I don't think she

RINGMASTER

Oh, she'll be coming.

CAPTAIN

Iniphitus, where the Galvanic Catastrophods are not what they were.

Hot Topic.

RUN AWAY!

*THE DOCTOR LOOKS THROUGH TO WHERE
THE CAPTAIN IS DRINKING TEA AND
TALKING AT A BORED NORD WHILE MAGS IS
STARING AT NOTHING.*

CAPTAIN

No, but they're still worth a look if
you're doing a tour of the southern
nebula and have an eon or two to spare.
You. Well, well.

DOCTOR

Captain Cook, I presume. So you had
arrived after all.

CAPTAIN

But of course. Come and join us,
Doctor. It's one big happy family here,
eh, Nord?

NORD

Except when you're gassing on.

DOCTOR

Well, I don't really think I

CAPTAIN

Nonsense, we're having a ball here.

DOCTOR

Very well then. Mags. Do sit down,
Doctor.

*MAGS GIVE UP HER SEAT NEXT TO THE
CAPTAIN AND POURS OUT SOME TEA.*

DOCTOR

Thank you very much.

CAPTAIN

Yes, there we are. Comfy?

DOCTOR

Yes.

CAPTAIN

That's the spirit.

BARS SLIDE DOWN OVER THE ENTRANCE,

(Mags) I'm so bored. So, so bored. OMG I am
bored.

*THEN THE CURTAINS ARE ALL PULLED
BACK TO REVEAL THAT THE QUARTET ARE
ACTUALLY IN A -*

LOCATION: CAGE

CAPTAIN

Anything the matter, old chap?

DOCTOR

It's a trap! I've fallen into a trap! I've
fallen for it.

CAPTAIN

Yes, I know, old boy. Never mind.
Have some tea. A very similar thing
happened to me once, you know.

*ACE USES THE PIN OF THE EARRING TO
SLASH THE BILLOWING FABRIC OF THE
BACKSTAGE CORRIDORS AND HIDE FROM
THE PURSUING CLOWNS.*

DOCTOR

Why?

CAPTAIN

Why what?

DOCTOR

Why let me be trapped? It's so
pointless. I could have saved you, Nord
and Mags.

CAPTAIN

I wouldn't be too sure about that,
Doctor. These circus chappies are
pretty smart customers for all their let it
all hang out mumbo jumbo.

MAGS

Maybe we could have escaped if we'd
made a break for it there and then. If
only you'd

CAPTAIN

Now, now, Mags. No use in getting
upset, and that's an order.

DOCTOR

Oh, oh, it's a TRAP! Oh, no, I am TRAPPED!

(tearing noise) That sounds a bit rude.

(just when she starts to peek) Push! Push!
Come on, push harder! Breathe!

Nothing can save Nord.

What about you? I mean, why didn't you speak up?

NORD GROWLS. THE DOCTOR GROWLS BACK.

DOCTOR

What kind of answer's that?

CAPTAIN

Save your energy, Doctor. You'll soon see why. Anyway, all of us in here have developed a survival philosophy, which is why we welcomed you in.

DOCTOR

What is all this, then? I thought there was a talent contest going on.

CAPTAIN

Well, yes, but in a way it's more like a survival of the fittest.

A MAN IN A SUEDE JACKET PUSHES A BROOM ROUND THE OUTSIDE OF THE CAGE.

CAPTAIN

Oh, that's Deadbeat. Yes, he does odd jobs about the place, makes the tea for me, things like that. Don't bother too much about him, though. Fellow's mind's completely gone.

DEADBEAT

Gone. Gone. Oh really gone. All really gone down the road again.

LOCATION: TICKET OFFICE

ACE SNEAKS OUT AND HIDES BEHIND THE KITES WHILE MORGANA LAYS OUT TAROT CARDS. THE RINGMASTER COMES UP TO HER.

RINGMASTER

Well?

MORGANA

We have to talk.

Please translate.

It's just that there isn't any talent.

First, someone gets voted off the island...

Randy Quaid?

Randy Quaid IS Willie Nelson.

You ready? Y'all ready for this?

LOCATION: CAGE

*NORD TRIES TO GRAB THE CHUCKLING
DEADBEAT.*

NORD

Get out of it! I hate your sort, cos I'm Nord, see? The toughest infernal extraterrestrial there is.

DOCTOR

What a fool I've been.

CAPTAIN

Frankly, old chap, I have to agree.

DOCTOR

I should have listened to Ace.

CAPTAIN

Number one rule of the intergalactic explorer, Doctor. If you hear somebody talking about good vibes and letting it all hang out, run a mile.

MAGS

We didn't.

CAPTAIN

That's beside the point.

DOCTOR

What happens in there?

CAPTAIN

In where?

DOCTOR

In the ring, during the talent contest.

CAPTAIN

Something pretty nasty.

RINGMASTER

Next contestant ready, please.

CAPTAIN

Oh, here, Nord.

NORD

What?

CAPTAIN

Remember our agreement?

NORD

Eh? Oh, yeah, course.

CAPTAIN

Well, heads, heads or tails?

THE CAPTAIN HOLDS OUT HIS CLENCHED FISTS TO NORD.

NORD

Tails.

THE CAPTAIN SLAPS A COIN ONTO HIS LEFT FIST.

CAPTAIN

Heads.

NORD

So?

CAPTAIN

You're on next.

NORD GRABS THE CAPTAIN BY THE THROAT.

NORD

I ain't going on next!

CAPTAIN

But we all agreed, didn't we, Mags?

MAGS LEAPS ON NORD'S BACK AND HE LETS GO OF THE CAPTAIN.

CAPTAIN

Good girl.

THE CLOWN ENTERS.

CAPTAIN

He's next, I believe.

CLOWN

Get him ready.

TWO ROBOT CLOWNS FETCH NORD.

DOCTOR

You were lucky, Captain.

CAPTAIN

Not really. I got a whole set of these silly little nick-nacks from some bug-eyed monster when I was on the planet Leophantos.

TWO HEADS ON ONE AND TWO TAILS ON THE OTHER.

CAPTAIN

Like I said, Doctor. Every man for himself here.

THE CLOWN GIVES THE DOCTOR THREE JUGGLING CLUBS BEFORE HE LEAVES WITH NORD.

DOCTOR

What am I supposed to do with these?

CAPTAIN

Practise juggling, I suppose. Your chances of survival in the ring are better, of course, if you keep them entertained.

DOCTOR

Why, do they let you out again?

CAPTAIN

No, but you last longer.

THE DOCTOR DROPS THE CLUBS.

LOCATION: OUTSIDE THE CIRCUS

WHIZZKID PEDALS UP TO THE STILT-WALKER.

WHIZZKID

All right?

I could fall in love with you, you're so much like me.

If that's true, there's absolutely no hope for you.

Colin Baker again!

AND Matt Smith!

THEY WAVE AT EACH OTHER.

LOCATION: TICKET OFFICE

ACE IS EAVESDROPPING.

MORGANA

Just think of all those tickets we've sold. Does that make you feel good? It wasn't always like this, was it. Not before we came to this dreadful place. We used to have fun. We were free spirits then.

RINGMASTER

We are now.

MORGANA

You think so? It feels more like we're part of a machine.

RINGMASTER

Look, we're not leaving, if that's what you mean.

MORGANA

We must!

RINGMASTER

You keep saying that, but you haven't gone, have you?

MORGANA

I tried, but

RINGMASTER

Listen, just as long as they keep on coming, and they will, no doubt of that, we are a success. Don't you understand? An intergalactic success. Now, the others, they couldn't take the pace, that's all. Bellboy, Deadbeat, Flowerchild, the rest. Don't you understand? They wanted to live in the past, the old lazy way. Not us. We'll make the Psychic Circus known everywhere.

MORGANA

Known for what?

Welcome, my son, welcome to the machine.

(success) An *intergalactic* success? Make up your mind, are you the Greatest Show in the Galaxy, or the Greatest Show in ALL Galaxies? Stop confusing us!

THE CLOWN ENTERS.

RINGMASTER

Well?

CLOWN

That new pair worry me. The girl that escaped had one of Flowerchild's earrings.

RINGMASTER

Have they found the girl?

CLOWN

Not yet, but she can't have gone far. I'll search for her myself.

RINGMASTER

Yeah, you do that. Make sure you find her.

THE RINGMASTER LEAVES.

MORGANA

And Bellboy?

CLOWN

Let's hope he's learned his lesson, shall we? We'd better get him back to work. Bellboy made them all. Bellboy can repair them.

MORGANA

But will he ever be able to

ACE TOUCHES A KITE, WHICH STARTS CHIMING. SHE KNOCKS IT OVER TRYING TO SHUT IT UP AND RUNS ROUND THE TICKET OFFICE WITH THE CLOWNS IN PURSUIT. THEN WHIZZKID COMES IN.

WHIZZKID

Hello. This is the Psychic Circus, isn't it?

MORGANA

Yes, that's right.

WHIZZKID

Is that Barack Obama?

Or you're no longer Secretary of State!

They should have kites with ears, too.

Welcome, my son...welcome...
Shhh.

Oh great! I've come halfway across the southern nebula to be here. I want to enter the talent contest. I know all about the Psychic Circus, you see. In fact, I'm your greatest fan.

ACE RUNS THROUGH THE TENTED CORRIDORS UNTIL SHE ENTERS A ROOM WHERE BELLBOY IS TIED TO A WORKBENCH.

LOCATION: CAGE

NORD HAS BEEN DRESSED IN A STRONGMAN'S LEOPARD SKIN COSTUME OVER HIS BIKER LEATHERS.

NORD

I'll show you. Easy. Easy!

THE CLOWNS TAKE NORD OUT.

DOCTOR

It frightens you, doesn't it, Mags?

MAGS

Oh, he'll be fine. Just like the other one was.

DOCTOR

You saw what happened in there?

MAGS

So?

DOCTOR

Aren't you going to tell me about it?

MAGS

See for yourself!

CAPTAIN

Don't bother Mags, Doctor, will you? You have to be careful with these rare specimens.

DOCTOR

What do you mean?

CAPTAIN

She can finally get some ACE time. Oh yeah. I've seen movies that start like that. In Nick's video collection?

Is she playing Mags as a sullen teen?

You'll see.

LOCATION: WORKSHOP

ACE

Look, I'm trying to help you, but you're not making it very easy. Can't you at least tell me what

HEAVY FOOTSTEPS OUTSIDE.

ACE

Great. Don't tell them, will you?

ACE HIDES BEHIND THE WORKBENCH AND THE CLOWN ENTERS. BELLBOY RECOILS IN FEAR.

CLOWN

Learnt your lesson, eh, Bellboy? No more running away now. Good, because I've got some important repair work for you to do. The Conductor's been damaged. That girl must be somewhere.

LOCATION: BIG TOP

NORD ENTERS AND DOES A GOOD SNATCH AND GRAB ON A BARBELL. THE FAMILY LIFT SCORE CARDS - THREE 9S.

RINGMASTER

A man of might is Nord. And now he'll go for broke by making all you laugh with his most favourite joke.

NORD

Eh? What, do a gag? Like a joke? Yeah, well, I'm coming down like on the Psychic Circus tonight on the way

THE SCORECARDS ARE THREE ZEROS AND THE CANNED CROWD BOOS.

LOCATION: CAGE

THE ZAPPING NOISE CAN BE HEARD AND THE STROBING LIGHTS SEEN.

(visual gag) Take my ad... VISE.

They are *easily* pleased.
But the Russian judge gives him a 2.

Two peanuts were walking down the strasse...

The only cards they have are 9s and zeroes.
Wait, you haven't heard the punch line yet!

DOCTOR

Is this what you saw before?

MAGS

Not exactly, but just as bad.

THERE IS A PEAL OF THUNDER THEN A BIG FLASH, AND SMOKE. THE RINGMASTER PICKS UP A PIECE OF CHARRED LEATHER FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE RING TO CANNED APPLAUSE.

DOCTOR

Would you let something like that happen to you?

MAGS

Would you?

LOCATION: TICKET OFFICE

WHIZZKID

It must be awfully exciting working for the Psychic Circus, Morgana. Particularly when you did your tour of the Boreatic Wastes. I think that most of your admirers would agree with me that that was one of your finest ever gigs. Well, in so far as you can tell from the posters

MORGANA

Would you like to be getting along inside?

WHIZZKID

You mean I can go in, just like that?

MORGANA

Yes. Go right now, please.

WHIZZKID

Oh wow!

LOCATION: CAGE

THE DOCTOR IS PRACTISING HIS JUGGLING WITH MAGS.

CAPTAIN

Now, IN comes the pantomime horse!

Mags.

MAGS

What?

CAPTAIN

It's not going to work. I remember when I was on the baleful plains of Grolon, I

MAGS

I don't care.

DOCTOR

Ready?

MAGS AND THE DOCTOR GO TO THE CAGE DOOR, WHERE A PAIR ROBOT CLOWNS STAND GUARD.

DOCTOR

I believe I'm on first.

MAGS

No, I'm ahead of you.

DOCTOR

No, you're not.

MAGS

No, I am.

DOCTOR

I insist on going out first.

MAGS

Oh no, you don't.

DOCTOR

Oh yes, I do!

LOCATION: BIG TOP

THE RINGMASTER ENTERS.

RINGMASTER

Now listen folks, we have a great new act. He's a real find, there's no doubt that's a fact. He'll entertain you, he'll make you stare, and our great new act

OK, I'm game if you are!
We'd better come up with a safe word...

And now for my State of the Union address.

is seated over there!

THE SPOTLIGHT FINDS WHIZZKID.

MUM

I hope he's better than the last one.

DAD

Couldn't be much worse.

GIRL

Mum, Mum.

MUM

Shut up and eat your popcorn.

LOCATION: CAGE

DOCTOR

Look, I insist in going on first.

MAGS

I told you, I am.

DOCTOR

I am!

THE CLOWNS COME OVER AND THE DOOR SLIDES UP. THE DOCTOR AND MAGS KNOCK THEM OUT WITH THE CLUBS.

DOCTOR

Join the club. Captain?

CAPTAIN

No thanks, old boy. I'll sit this one out.
Goodbye, Mags.

MAGS

Bye, Captain.

LOCATION: OUTSIDE THE WORKSHOP

CLOWN

That's it. Take it back to the bus.

ACE WATCHES THEM LEAVE. DEADBEAT COMES UP BEHIND HER AND WON'T LET HER PAST. THEN THE CLOWN GRABS HER.

That was a BRILLIANT plan, PERFECTLY executed. I'm impressed.

That they were able to escape from that cage?

You mean the cage that they could have simply tipped over?

Oh. Stop ruining Doctor Who for me.

Aww. He'll get a new companion.

Girl pretty. Condo like.

CLOWN

Let me entertain you.

LOCATION: BIG TOP

WHIZZKID

Well, I have to say it's a real thrill for me to be here at the Psychic Circus. I've collected all your posters, you know.

LOCATION: CAGE

RINGMASTER

Have you now?

WHIZZKID

From all your venues. And also I've got some very interesting

THEY SEE THE CLOWNS LYING ON THE FLOOR. THE CAPTAIN SMILES AT THE RINGMASTER.

LOCATION: BACKSTAGE

RINGMASTER

Oh Doctor, oh Doctor, have no fear. Calling the Doctor. There's no escape. Repeat, there is no escape.

MAGS

Won't they take no for an answer?

DOCTOR

No. Oh, we should have made straight away for the open air, I suppose.

MAGS

Look.

THEY ARE BY A LARGE STONE STRUCTURE.

DOCTOR

How extraordinary. They're just like the stones in the Big Top. Fascinating. I wonder how long they've been here?

MAGS

Maybe they were always here.

Looks like someone's got his new companion already!

Since the set designers put them there?

DOCTOR

That thought had occurred to me. Let's investigate.

MAGS

Oh! Can you see it?

DOCTOR

See what?

MAGS

That moon sign.

MAGS TURNS AWAY FROM THE TWIN CRESCENTS IN THE STONE LINTEL.

DOCTOR

The moon? Why does it frighten you? Tell me.

MAGS

Don't ask. Just lets get out of here.

LOCATION: WORKSHOP

THE CLOWN MANHANDLES ACE INSIDE A STURDY TRAILER WITH PSYCHIC CIRCUS ETCHED INTO THE GLASS IN THE DOOR.

ACE

Pasty face.

CLOWN

Don't like clowns, eh? After some time in here, you'll tell me what I want to know.

THE CLOWN LEAVES, LOCKING THE DOOR. ACE IS TRAPPED WITH A LOAD OF APPARENTLY DEACTIVATED ROBOT CLOWNS.

ACE

Is any one there? Come on, you don't scare me.

A HAND GRABS AT HER ARM. SHE GETS AWAY FROM IT, BUT BEHIND HER BACK ANOTHER ROBOT STARTS TO MOVE.

I just don't like croissants.

OK, send in the clowns! Oh don't bother, they're here.

What is this, John Wayne Gacy's basement?

It's Kamelion!

LOCATION: STONE CHAMBER

MAGS

It's weird. I don't understand.

THEY COME TO THE EDGE OF A DEEP WELL.

DOCTOR

Oh, nasty little booby trap, that. That is, if it is a booby trap. Still, there's certainly no way forward.

MAGS

Is it a well?

DOCTOR

One way to find out.

HE DROPS THE CLUB HE IS CARRYING INTO THE PIT. IT SWIRLS DOWNWARDS THEN A BRIGHT EYE APPEARS AT THE BOTTOM.

DOCTOR

That eye, I've seen it before. Of course, it was on the kites at the entrance hall. Fascinating. Somehow, somewhere down there is the answer to all that's going on at the Psychic Circus.

CAPTAIN COOK APPEARS BEHIND THE DOCTOR AND MAGS WITH A PHALANX OF ROBOT CLOWNS.

CAPTAIN

Ahem. Awfully sorry to butt in like this, old boy, but I'm afraid you're wanted. You're the next one due on in the ring.

PART THREE

LOCATION: STONE CHAMBER

MAGS

Why did you bring them here?

CAPTAIN

Survival of the fittest, old girl. Don't

Cliff!

So he drops it straight down, and the special effects department decides it should be spinning. Brilliant.

Eye eye eye! Eye eye eye! Eye eye eye!

It's the Eye of Melody.

Huh?

Instead of the Eye of Harmony.

Ugh.

Eye of Horus?

No, Eye of BORE us.

tell me you never came across that on the planet Vulpana?

DOCTOR

But we were on the edge of discovering the secret of the Psychic Circus. Doesn't that interest you at all?

CAPTAIN

Frankly, no, old chap. Anyway, what's going on seems pretty clear to me. Anybody dumb enough to get into the ring gets killed.

LOCATION: WORKSHOP

TWO ROBOTS ARE SLOWLY ADVANCING ON ACE AS SHE STRUGGLES WITH THE DOOR KNOB.

ACE

Just because I said I don't like you, I'm certainly not scared of clowns, okay? Got that, tinhead? I said, got that, tinhead?

ACE BACKS UP AGAINST THE FAR WALL, THEN GRABS AT ONE ROBOTS HAND. THE WHOLE ARM COMES OFF. SHE'S JUST ABOUT TO USE IT AS A CLUB WHEN THE ROBOTS STAGGER AND STOP. SHE PUSHES ONE OVER. BELLBOY IS COWERING IN A CORNER.

BELLBOY

Oh, I'm sorry. That shouldn't have happened. I must have fallen asleep.

ACE

We've met before. Don't you remember me?

LOCATION: OUTSIDE THE STONE CHAMBER

THE DOCTOR AND MAGS ARE ESCORTED OUT. MAGS TURNS TO SEE THAT THE STONE OVER THE MOON SYMBOL HAS MOVED, AND NOW THE CRESCENT IS NEARLY FULL. MAGS SNARLS. THE CLOWNS ALL TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO HER.

(edge) Oh, edge, I get it. Ha ha.

That was a very pithy thing to say. He never seems to get pithed off.

We sing in praise of total war... against the Saracen we abhor...

I don't think it's Kamelion, looks more like C3PO. This must be Star Wars Episode II Attack of the Clowns.

(removes arm) Sophie Aldred and Calculon in A Farewell to Arms. Stupid clockwork droids. Noooooo! Come see... the tears... of a clown...

Clowns to the left of me, jokers to the right...

I dunno, clowns just follow me around a lot.

CAPTAIN

Mags, now please. Not now. Not yet!

THE DOCTOR TAKES THE OPPORTUNITY TO RUN.

LOCATION: BIG TOP

MUM

I don't think much of this, Father.

DAD

Nothing's happening, is it.

MUM

Not that I can see.

GIRL

Mum, Mum!

MUM

What is it?

GIRL

I'm bored.

DAD

There's no point in going on, dear.
We're all bored. Something has to happen soon.

LOCATION: BACKSTAGE

THE CAPTAIN AND MAGS ARE UNDER ESCORT.

CAPTAIN

After all I've done for you, the Doctor gets away and you and I are going back to the guardroom.

MAGS

You were lucky.

CAPTAIN

Yes, I suppose you're right. I'm still in one piece. You would have given us the full works. Still, the old team of Mags and the Captain stuck together as

I blame Moffat.

I still want a squirrel.

(full works) The full works, happy ending included?

usual. As a matter of fact, it reminded me of that time of Fagiros, when the Architrave of Batgeld was showing me his early collection of Ganglion pottery

LOCATION: TICKET OFFICE

THE DOCTOR TAKES ANOTHER LOOK AT THE KITES WITH THEIR EYE MARKING.

DOCTOR

Of course, of course.

HE STEPS INSIDE THE LITTLE CARAVAN CUM TICKET OFFICE AND GAZES INTO MORGANA'S CRYSTAL BALL. IT TURNS RED AND THAT SAME EYE STARES BACK AT HIM.

DOCTOR

Things are beginning to get out of control quicker than I expected.

HE HIDES UNDER THE COUNTER AS DEADBEAT COMES OUT OF THE BIG TOP. HE GOES TO THE CRYSTAL BALL, CLUTCHING A LARGE PENDANT WITH THE SAME EYE DESIGN.

DEADBEAT

No, no.

AND RUNS AWAY AGAIN. THE DOCTOR MOVES TO FOLLOW HIM, PAUSING AT A POSTER.

DOCTOR

Fun for all the family? I don't know how they've got the nerve.

LOCATION: WORKSHOP

BELLBOY TAKES FLOWERCHILD'S EARRING FROM ACE.

BELLBOY

Oh, my Flowerchild. They murdered you with a robot I made.

ACE

You're sure that's what happened?

(Batgeld) Batgeld! Na na na na na na...

A horse is a horse...

I see Lisa and Carl and Johnny and Debbie...

...and missing episodes...

Randy Quaid is bewitched, bothered, and bewildered.

Classy place. Nagel print on the wall.

BELLBOY

There can be no doubt. Every robot, every clown in the circus I made and maintained, for this. And even now they won't let me die. They need me.

ACE

You mean you're the only one who knows how?

BELLBOY

Each of us, each of us in the circus, we all had one circus skill we learned, and mine was this.

ACE

This control unit's brill.

BELLBOY

Have it.

ACE

Really?

BELLBOY

Yes. It controls that, and the full scale version I made.

A MODEL OF THE ROBOT ACE AND MAGS DUG OUT OF THE SAND. ACE MAKES IT MOVE ITS ARM.

BELLBOY

Careful. That activates the laser eyes. It was to have been my masterpiece, but like everything else it was, it was abused and went wrong. We had such high ideals when we started. We shared everything and we enjoyed making people happy. If we had a problem we'd all just sit round and talk it through. Oh, we were so happy. At least, I think we were.

LOCATION: BACKSTAGE

DEADBEAT STOPS.

DOCTOR

(happy) Like PROPER hippies!

He *totally* wants to kiss her.

Hello, Deadbeat. Fancy meeting you here. Small world, isn't it. It frightened you to see that eye, didn't it. It means the powers behind it are on the move again. Something happened to you here. You haven't always been like this. Did you try and find something out? Were you punished? Can you understand anything I'm saying? Well, there's one thing I do know, Deadbeat. You're not going to give me away to the others. Are you?

DEADBEAT SHAKES HIS HEAD.

DEADBEAT

I wouldn't. I wouldn't.

DOCTOR

Lead on, Deadbeat.

LOCATION: BIG TOP

THE FAMILY HAVE FINISHED THEIR PACKETS OF CRISPS AND ARE NOW HOLDING CHOCOLATE ICE LOLLIES.

DAD

You know, I could get quite cross about this.

LOCATION: CAGE

WHIZZKID

Oh wow, is that Captain Cook, the famous intergalactic explorer and

CLOWN

Quiet. Where's the Doctor?

CAPTAIN

He gave us the slip.

CLOWN

He did what?

CAPTAIN

He gave us the slip. A similar thing happened to me in the Bay of Paranoia on Golobus.

(isn't it) No, it's a small TENT.

(to you here) No Howard, don't turn out the light!

What'd you call me?

Just follow Randy Quaid.

Where do they *get* that stuff?

He's cosplaying the Eleventh Doctor.

(slip) Slip? Mags isn't wearing a slip. Come on, you can see everything!

CLOWN

I don't care what happened on Golobus.

CAPTAIN

Your loss, old boy. Anyway, it was all her fault.

MAGS

Hang on a minute.

CAPTAIN

I imagine you'll have to put her into the ring next as some sort of punishment.

CLOWN

No.

CAPTAIN

Oh, found someone else, have you?

CLOWN

Yes.

CAPTAIN

Really. May I enquire who?

CLOWN

You.

WHIZZKID

Excuse me, but you are Captain Cook the famous intergalactic explorer. I've got maps at home showing all your journeys and a piece of one of your old shoes I bought in a souvenir shop

CAPTAIN

Will you leave me alone!

LOCATION: TICKET OFFICE

MORGANA IS STARING INTO HER CRYSTAL BALL WHEN THE RINGMASTER ENTERS.

RINGMASTER

Hey, hey, Morgana, Morgana. Hey, baby, you were long gone.

MORGANA

Nobody does, except Golan.

(explorer) Hooray for Captain Spaulding, the intergalactic explorer...

Nnnnnnnnoooooo...

Reply hazy try again.

I'D like to be long gone.

Look. It's here, now.

RINGMASTER

What do you mean?

MORGANA

What we found. What we serve. It'll
always be here now, waiting for us to

RINGMASTER

Don't come with all that now.

MORGANA

Don't pretend you don't see it!

RINGMASTER

Look, I've got an empty circus tent in
there right now. I don't want to talk
about anything else.

MORGANA

Well, send in another act.

RINGMASTER

I will, baby, just as soon as I can.

Send in the god damn clowns!

THE CLOWN ENTERS.

CLOWN

The Doctor's escaped. Your idiot of a
Captain failed us.

RINGMASTER

All right, send him in the ring.

CLOWN

It's arranged already, but I'm more
worried about the Doctor. He's
dangerous.

RINGMASTER

Well, let's go find him, then.

CLOWN

I'll go find him. You get back in the
ring.

RINGMASTER

Hey, just a minute, man

MORGANA

Quiet, both of you! Look, it's showing him to us.

THE CRYSTAL BALL SHOWS THE DOCTOR FOLLOWING DEADBEAT THROUGH THE CURTAINED BACKSTAGE PASSAGEWAYS.

RINGMASTER

But he's with Deadbeat.

CLOWN

Then he must be stopped at once.

LOCATION: WORKSHOP

BELLBOY

Oh, the kites she made, beautiful kites, every colour of the rainbow. All different shapes and sizes. And they use them to watch us and trap us and keep us here. So they destroyed her work and then they destroyed her.

ACE

It'll be all right, Bellboy. I'll get you out of here.

BELLBOY

Why should I want to get out of here? It's gone. The fun, freedom of being what you want to be, all of it. Don't you understand?

ACE

Yes. Look, I'm sorry. We can't stay here forever, can we. I've got to find the Doctor for a start.

BELLBOY

They took everything that was bright and good about what we had, and buried it where it will never be found again.

ACE

I don't understand. Who's they?

BELLBOY

The ones who run the circus. The ones

Hey, I didn't know that thing was hooked up to the security system.

Hey, I didn't know we HAD a security system!

(and sizes) But mostly KITE shaped.

That's a Microsoft product for ya.

(about what we had) and Steven Moffat ruined everything!

you've met. There wasn't just them,
there was some. There was.

*BELLBOY PINS FLOWERCHILD'S EARRING
BACK ONTO ACE'S JACKET.*

BELLBOY

Flowerchild and, and Peacepipe, and
Juniperberry, and, and Deadbeat. No,
he wasn't Deadbeat then, he was er, he
was, he was. It's gone.

*THE CLOWN LEADS FOUR ROBOTS
BACKSTAGE. A SHADOW APPEARS AT THE
GLASS DOOR AND RATTLES THE DOOR
KNOB.*

ACE

They're coming to take me to the ring,
Bellboy. They may need you to repair
the robots, but I'm just trouble. Making
a bit of a mess of opening the door,
aren't they? It can't be that difficult.

BELLBOY

Oh, maybe, maybe it is the end after
all.

*THE DOOR OPENS, AND DEADBEAT AND
THE DOCTOR ENTER.*

ACE

Doctor!

DOCTOR

Deadbeat, I take it all back.

ACE

You're absolutely right. Clowns can be
creepy.

DEADBEAT

Sift the dreams in your mind.

BELLBOY

King.

DEADBEAT

You'll be amazed

(Peacepipe) and Joint and Bong and Blunt and
Cannabiscuit and 420...

And Dancer and Prancer and Comet and...

Where are they going?
Clown college.

(mess) Well, they haven't done that in Clown
College yet, they've only done the getting-in-
the-car thing.

Radagast!

BELLBOY

Kingpin! That was your name.
Kingpin.

LOCATION: CAGE

CAPTAIN

So you've always been interested in the
Psychic Circus, have you? Sit down.

WHIZZKID

Oh yes, of course.

CAPTAIN

Ah.

THE CAPTAIN POURS THE TEA.

WHIZZKID

I've never been able to visit it before
now, but I've got all sorts of souvenirs.
Copies of all the advertising satellites
that have ever been sent out. All the
posters. I had a long correspondence
with one of the founder members too,
soon after it started. Although I never
got to see the early days, I know it's not
as good as it used to be but I'm still
terribly interested.

RINGMASTER

Two minutes, Captain.

CAPTAIN

Thank you, Ringmaster. No doubt you
dream of having the ultimate Psychic
Circus experience as soon as possible.

WHIZZKID

Sorry?

CAPTAIN

You ache for the moment when you
can do your own act within that
sawdust covered magic circle.

WHIZZKID

Oh, yes, of course. I mean, there's no
real danger, is there, really.

So he's actually based on Peter Capaldi?

(Ringmaster) He's supposed to say "Thank
you two."

CAPTAIN

Only for those without resource or imagination or panache. I'm sure you have all those qualities.

WHIZZKID

Well, I really don't know.

CAPTAIN

Come, come, dear boy, don't be so absurdly modest.

MAGS

Don't listen to him.

WHIZZKID

But this is one of my heroes, Captain Cook, the intergalactic space explorer.

CAPTAIN

Exactly. And shall I tell you what I'm prepared to do for you as a special favour?

WHIZZKID

What?

CAPTAIN

Postpone my brief moment of glory in the ring so that you may enjoy the unforgettable experience before me, far beyond the bouncing Upas trees of Boromeo or the singing squids of Anagonia.

WHIZZKID

Are you sure you can bear to let me go in first?

CAPTAIN

It is a sacrifice I am prepared to make.

LOCATION: WORKSHOP

DEADBEAT

The dreams. Sift the dreams. When the mind's divided the body screams.

BELLBOY

Yes, some of it's coming back now.

He called me a "doable barker" earlier, which I think is a term of endearment!

I'll do *anything* for you, lad. ANYTHING.

(now) I think it's a Bob Dylan song.

Not all of it. He was Kingpin. He was the one who persuaded us to come here. There was something he wanted, something he knew about. And we all trusted him, and

DOCTOR

Something went wrong?

BELLBOY

Yes. Something went very wrong. It's this place, you see. It does things to you.

DOCTOR

And a friendly hippy circus was turned into a trap for killing people.

BELLBOY

Yes. Even our own kind. That was after Kingpin was no longer Kingpin. Something went. Something went with him and

DOCTOR

And the well?

BELLBOY

What well?

DOCTOR

You don't know anything about a well with an eye peering out from inside?

BELLBOY

No.

ACE

An eye, like the one of Flowerchild's, like the ones on the kites.

BELLBOY

No, not any more.

DEADBEAT

Don't look in the well. The eye gives you promises of heaven or hell.

ACE

He's off, he's gone. I knew people like

(very wrong) ...and they had to film in tents in the car park.

Three eyes in one kite room make you sound a rather egotistical young lady.

him in Perivale.

DOCTOR

Listen, Ace.

ACE

What to?

DOCTOR

The answers. You know what happened, don't you, Deadbeat?

LOCATION: BIG TOP

THE CLOWNS TUMBLE INTO THE RING.

MUM

At last.

RINGMASTER

Now welcome, folks. I'm sure you'd like to know we've got a brand new act for your circus show. Now welcome please with all the warmth you can, the Psychic Circus' greatest fan!

WHIZZKID ENTERS TO CANNED APPLAUSE.

WHIZZKID

This is the most exciting day of my life. My dream come true. I'm standing in the ring of the Psychic Circus.

LOCATION: CAGE

MAGS

You've sent that poor boy out to his death.

CAPTAIN

Nonsense. He may be a great success.

THE FAMILY GIVE HIM A SCORE OF THREE ZEROS.

CAPTAIN

So it just goes to show you never can be certain.

WHIZZKID SCREAMS, AND THE THUNDER

I've run out of crisps.
I've run out of beans!

Whip it! Whip it good.

ALL: Ooooooooooooooh!
Ood!
Ooooooh wow.
Shut up, Neil.

AND LIGHTNING CRASH.

CAPTAIN

As I said, survival of the fittest.

*THE RINGMASTER PICKS UP THE BENT AND
CRACKED REMAINS OF WHIZZKID'S
SPECTACLES TO WILD CANNED APPLAUSE.*

LOCATION: WORKSHOP

DOCTOR

Deadbeat, if we take you to the well,
can you show us what it did?

DEADBEAT NODS.

ACE

How do you know it's not all a con,
Professor?

DOCTOR

Well, he brought me here to you and
Bellboy. He must have done that for a
purpose.

ACE

Not if your brains are that scrambled.

DOCTOR

Ah, now there's something there, Ace. I
saw it when he looked into the crystal
ball.

ACE

You're just an aging hippy, Professor.

DOCTOR

There might be something in that, yes.
Anyway, we'd better be going.
Bellboy?

BELLBOY

Er, no.

ACE

Come on, Bellboy.

BELLBOY

No, I think the chief clown will be here

That'll hurt in the morning.

Thank goodness he's gone. The episode can
only get better from here.

That was all that was left of him? A little
smear?

Isn't that all he was to begin with?

Who does he think he is, Popeye?
mrmmsmmsmrmmm

after you and I could delay him for a while. I'd be pleased to make myself useful.

ACE

But Bellboy?

BELLBOY

You still don't understand, do you. Everything I loved has gone. There's no point in living on to do work I hate.

DOCTOR

So be it, then, Bellboy. Come on, Deadbeat. Or should I call you Kingpin? We've got work to do.

ACE

Bye now, Bellboy. All the best. Oh, and er, thanks for this.

THE ROBOT REMOTE CONTROL.

LOCATION: OUTSIDE THE WORKSHOP

BELLBOY

Bye, Ace. Goodbye, Kingpin, Doctor.

LOCATION: TICKET OFFICE

MORGANA SPEAKS TO THE EYE IN THE CRYSTAL BALL.

MORGANA

The acts will keep on coming now, we promise, and no one will ever go near the bus again. Those who remain are your servants to do with as you wish. No, I never wanted to resist your power.

LOCATION: WORKSHOP

CLOWN

Where are they?

BELLBOY

I don't know. I don't care. It's all destroyed, you know that. Oh, you were a wonderful clown once. Funny,

(Bellboy) So be it?! Bellboy basically says he's going to commit suicide and the Doctor says "So be it"?!

(All the best) Say hi to the Ants for me.

It's an eye, not an ear, what are you talking to it for?

Maybe it reads lips.

inventive.

THE CLOWN SLAPS BELLBOY.

CLOWN

Quiet.

BELLBOY

I'm not helping you any more, you see.

BELLBOY USES A CLOWN REMOTE CONTROL TO ACTIVATE ALL THOSE IN THE WORKSHOP.

CLOWN

Take care, Bellboy.

BELLBOY

Come on. Come on. Deal with me as you dealt with Flowerchild.

CLOWN

You're crazy.

BELLBOY

Come on. Come on! Come on!

LOCATION: STONE CHAMBER

DEADBEAT GETS TO THE WELL WITH THE EYE FIRST.

DEADBEAT

No. I can't do it.

ACE

Come on, Kingpin. Nearly there. Hold on, please.

DOCTOR

Now, Kingpin, show us what you did when you first saw the eye.

DEADBEAT HOLDS OUT THE AMULET AND SHUTS HIS EYES. THEN HE COLLAPSES.

ACE

Great stuff, Kingpin.

DOCTOR

...not quite as violent...

Smack my bitch up.

He's not clowning around, is he.

Suicide by clown?
It's a fun way to go.

(On clown hand gesture) Sunshine!

I, I, I! I, I, I!

He must have used that medallion to
summon the powers that lurk here.

ACE

And it did this to him.

DOCTOR

Yes.

ACE

I wish I had some Nitro Nine to lob
down there. Hang about. The mirror
here, it's an eye.

DOCTOR

Yes, that eye seems to play as a
reminder, only with the eyeball
removed by someone or something.

ACE

And hidden.

DOCTOR

In the bus.

ACE

Where Flowerchild died trying to get it.

DEADBEAT

Shall be free. We shall be free. We
shall be free. We shall be free.

I shall be released!

LOCATION: CAGE

CAPTAIN

Calm down, Mags. There'll be some
more contestants along soon. We're
doing very well.

MAGS

That poor boy.

CAPTAIN

Us or him, Mags. And before you get
too high and mighty, remember where
you'd be without me. Dead with a
bullet in you on the planet Vulpana. A
silver bullet.

MAGS

I know that, Captain, but you didn't do it for me, you did it for yourself. I only wish I knew what you were after.

CAPTAIN

All in good time, Mags. All in good time.

LOCATION: STONE CHAMBER

DOCTOR

It's so tantalising. I'm so close to understanding it all and yet so far.

ACE

So we'll have to get hold of that other bit of mirror.

DOCTOR

Exactly. Now, you take Kingpin back to the bus and find it, but be careful.

ACE

Hang on a bit, Professor. This is all going a bit too fast for me. I'll fetch it, no problem, but what about you?

(fast for me) Oh, me too.

DOCTOR

I'm going back to the ring.

ACE

Are you off your head?

DOCTOR

The Psychic Circus needs acts. If they've got me then perhaps they won't worry about you two for the moment.

ACE

Sometimes I think it's you that's crazy, not Deadbeat here.

DOCTOR

Anybody remotely interesting is mad in someway or another.

LOCATION: BIG TOP

DAD

I don't know where they find these acts,

do you, Mother?

MUM

Never seem to get any better, do they,
Father?

LOCATION: BACKSTAGE

*THE DOCTOR WALKS PAST A ROBOT
CLOWN.*

DOCTOR

I believe you've been looking for me.
I'm wanted backstage.

LOCATION: CAGE

DOCTOR

Greetings, Captain Cook. Mags. You
will be pleased to hear that the greatest
act in the galaxy has returned to the
fold.

CAPTAIN

Jolly good show, Doctor.

MAGS

But Doctor, I helped you to escape.

DOCTOR

I know, Mags, and I haven't wasted the
time you bought me. And I have
returned with an idea. I suggest that
this time we all three work together.

MAGS

Meaning?

DOCTOR

Up to now all the people in the cage
have been played off against each
other, and of course some people are
cleverer at preserving themselves than
others.

CAPTAIN

Luck of the draw, old boy.

DOCTOR

Not entirely. What I'm proposing is that

They finally found a use for the castoffs for
the Sixth Doctor costume.

we all three go into the ring. Three for one and one for three. That should throw a very big hammer into the works.

MAGS

I'm with you, Doctor. And so's he.

CAPTAIN

Now just a moment, Mags.

MAGS

Aren't you, Captain.

ACE HELPS DEADBEAT CRAWL OUT FROM UNDER THE TENT AND RUN AWAY FROM THE CIRCUS.

LOCATION: BIG TOP

RINGMASTER

Now welcome, folks, not one act but three, to the Greatest Show in the Galaxy, the Galaxy, the Galaxy.

THE DOCTOR, MAGS AND THE CAPTAIN ENTER THE RING. THE CAPTAIN WHISPERS TO THE RINGMASTER.

CAPTAIN

Sorry, everyone. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, but before we start I would like to make one small request from stage management. A special lighting effect.

MAGS

No.

CAPTAIN

Could you perhaps give us that old devil moon effect.

A CRESCENT MOON SHINES DOWN ON THE RING.

MAGS

No! No!

MAGS FALLS TO HER KNEES AND BEGINS TO

Hey, I thought we'd find the car park!

Crescent moon is devil moon?

SNARL. THE DOCTOR BACKS AWAY.

CAPTAIN

You really were extremely stupid this time, Doctor. I told you she was an unusual specimen. The growling, the snarling, reaction to the moon. Surely you should have guessed?

MAGS' EYES ARE YELLOW, AND HER TEETH AND NAILS ARE LARGE AND SHARP. EVEN THE RINGMASTER AND THE ROBOT CLOWNS HAVE GOT OUTSIDE THE RING.

THIS GOES ON FOR QUITE A LONG LONG LONG LONG TIME. LOTS OF FOOTAGE OF SNARLING MAGS, AND EVEN MORE SHOTS OF MAGS CIRCLING. AND SNARLING, DON'T FORGET SNARLING.

RINGMASTER

Captain!

HE THROWS HIS WHIP OVER TO THE CAPTAIN, WHO USES IT.

CAPTAIN

I hate it when this happens. She can't control herself, of course, and like all her kind she'll destroy whatever comes in her path. Which, I'm afraid, in this case has to be you.

THE FAMILY GIVE THIS ACT A SCORE OF THREE NINES.

CAPTAIN

This circus is only the half of it, you see, old chap. These hippy fellows weren't quite so dumb as they look. Did you come here just for the fun of it? Well, some of them did, but they're all dead.

THE LITTLE GIRL'S EYES GLOW GREEN.

LOCATION: PAINTED BUS

A PAIR OF ROBOT CLOWNS DELIVER THE REPAIRED BUS CONDUCTOR.

I didn't know stage lights could turn werewolves.

Oooh. Were-sluts.
She's broken out in contact lenses!

Hungry like the wolf... hungry like the wolf

(one of the closeups) Learn to swallow your tomato soup, girl!
Or use a napkin, at least.

She's on the hunt, she's after you!

Dial 999.
No, that's the old number. Here's the new number: 0118 999 881 999 119 725 ... 3.

Oh you've got green eyes, oh you've got grey eyes, oh crap you've got pinkeye.

That's the Magic Bus, right?

CONDUCTOR

Could I see your tickets, please.

LOCATION: BIG TOP

CAPTAIN

We experienced explorers know all about making the most of our discoveries. The powers here can be harnessed by those intrepid enough to grasp the opportunities. Myself, for instance.

DOCTOR

Those powers destroyed Deadbeat.

CAPTAIN

Yes, but he was like you, Doctor, none too bright in the old self-interest stakes.

THE DOCTOR DODGES MAGS' ATTACK, AND THE CAPTAIN USES THE WHIP TO KEEP HER AWAY FROM HIMSELF.

CAPTAIN

Stop it, Mags. This werewolf is extremely dangerous.

DOCTOR

You're meddling with things you don't understand.

CAPTAIN

No, Doctor, you are. Once you're out of the way, I shall make my deal with the powers that be, whoever they may be.

LOCATION: TICKET OFFICE

THE CLOWN AND MORGANA ARE USING THE CRYSTAL BALL.

MORGANA

She's taking Deadbeat to the bus.

CLOWN

In that case, they're also taken care of.

LOCATION: BIG TOP

(on Mags) Who's a cute little puppy? Who's a pretty doggy then, hm?

CAPTAIN

I remember once visiting the gold mines of Katakiki

DOCTOR

Captain Cook!

CAPTAIN

What?

DOCTOR

You're not only a scoundrel and a meddling fool, but you're also a crushing bore.

CAPTAIN

I'm afraid you've really done it this time, old boy. Mags!

IN TRUE ERROL FLYNN STYLE, THE DOCTOR CLIMBS SOME SCAFFOLDING THEN SWINGS ACROSS THE RING ON A ROPE TO GET AWAY FROM MAGS.

LOCATION: PAINTED BUS

DEADBEAT

Search, search, search for the truth.
Search it out, search it now.

LOCATION: IN THE BUS

ACE IS SEARCHING AROUND THE DRIVERS SEAT UNTIL SHE FINDS A SWITCH BEHIND A PEDAL THAT OPENS A COMPARTMENT CONTAINING CASH BOX.

ACE

This must be it.

LOCATION: PAINTED BUS

DEADBEAT

Search it now.

ACE BANGS ON THE WINDOW FROM THE INSIDE.

ACE

SHUT THE FUCK UP!

Like this episode.

Wow, this is the best circus act evar.

Give some money. That's what I want.

The truth shall set you free.

Kingpin, I've found it!

THE CONDUCTOR LOOKS OUT FROM HIS CURTAINED OFF COMPARTMENT AT THE BACK OF THE BUS.

LOCATION: BIG TOP

THE DOCTOR IS UP ON A CATWALK AROUND THE RING AND SO IS MAGS.

DOCTOR

Mags! Mags! Do you hear me? Mags!

THE CAPTAIN KEEPS CRACKING THE WHIP AS THE CLOWN AND MORGANA ENTER. MAGS REACHES THE DOCTOR AND GOES FOR HIS THROAT.

DOCTOR

Mags, when you're like this, this isn't in your nature, you have to destroy everything that crosses your path. I don't believe that. Mags!

THE DOCTOR USES THE ROPE TO SWING BACK ACROSS THE RING TO WHERE THE FAMILY ARE SITTING. THEY ALL STAND UP AND THEIR EYES GLOW GREEN. A HIGH PITCHED SOUND MAKES THE DOCTOR TUMBLE BACKWARDS DOWN THE SEATING AND INTO THE RING, WHERE MAGS IS WAITING.

DOCTOR

Mags! Mags! Wait, wait. I need your mercy, but you don't have to kill.

MAGS TURNS TO THE CAPTAIN.

CAPTAIN

Come on, Mags. You can trust me. You know that, don't you? Once he's out of the way we can split the proceeds. Do it for me, do it for your old pal the Captain. You know you'll enjoy it. I order you to. I order you to!

MAGS LEAPS ON THE CAPTAIN.

Pratfall?

No. A prat ... falling.

Liks I said... best circus act evar!

DOCTOR

No, Mags! No!

LOCATION: PAINTED BUS

ACE COMES OUT OF THE BUS WITH THE CASH BOX.

DEADBEAT

Search, search, search for the truth.
Search, search, search

ACE

You've got to try and help me, Kingpin.
I can't get it open.

DEADBEAT

Search, search, search for the truth.

ACE

What I'd give for my chemistry set
now.

*THE CONDUCTOR COMES OUT OF THE BUS
BEHIND ACE'S BACK.*

DEADBEAT

Search, search, search for the truth.

ACE

Come on, Kingpin. Do try and
concentrate a bit.

*DEADBEAT LAUGHS AS THE CONDUCTOR
GRABS ACE'S HEAD AND PULLS HER UP.
SHE DROPS THE BOX.*

CONDUCTOR

Tickets, please. Tickets, please.

*THE CONDUCTOR'S FOOT STEPS ON THE
BOX, AND IT OPENS.*

CONDUCTOR

Tickets, please.

*ACE STRUGGLES TO GET THE ROBOT
REMOTE CONTROL OUT OF HER JACKET
POCKET, AND THE CONDUCTOR KNOCKS IT
OUT OF HER HAND.*

What just happened?

Well I think Mags just gobbled the Captain.
Probably fulfilling his dream but not in the
way he was hoping for.

Is that an Alf lunchbox?

“Why won't it go off, Mike?”

Oh I hope he didn't damage the thermos too
badly.

CONDUCTOR

Tickets, please.

ACE

Kingpin! Please!

WHILE ACE BRUISES HER ELBOW TRYING TO HIT THE CONDUCTOR, DEADBEAT TAKES A SMALL BLUE EYE FROM THE BOX AND PUTS IT ON HIS MEDALLION.

ACE

Kingpin, do something!

DEADBEAT

I remember now! It's beneath the cap.

THE CONDUCTOR THROWS DEADBEAT TO THE GROUND.

ACE

What?

DEADBEAT

Knock its cap off!

ACE DOES.

ACE

Now what?

DEADBEAT

Bellboy put a button that said Request Stop. Press it!

ACE

What?

DEADBEAT

Press the button!

ACE STRUGGLES TO REACH THE CONDUCTOR'S HEAD, AND HITS IT. IT LETS HER GO AND STARTS FLAILING AROUND. THERE IS A HIGH-PITCHED NOISE.

DEADBEAT

Now stand back.

I said ADRIC! THREE! THREE! SEVEN!

Push the button, Frank.

It's a Rockem Sockem Robot!

ACE

What?

DEADBEAT

Stand back, quick.

ACE CRAWLS AWAY THEN GOES BACK FOR THE ROBOT REMOTE BY ITS FEET.

DEADBEAT

No! Get away! Quick!

KABOOM GOES THE BUS CONDUCTOR.

ACE

Now we're getting somewhere. You really are Kingpin, aren't you.

DEADBEAT

Yes, thankfully. But no one's safe until we get this medallion back to the Doctor.

LOCATION: BIG TOP

MAGS HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL AND THE CAPTAIN IS CARRIED OUT OF THE RING ON A STRETCHER, PITH HELMET ON HIS CHEST.

DOCTOR

Come on, Mags. We've got to run away, now.

THE CLOWN AND MORGANA TRY TO BLOCK THEIR PATH, BUT MAGS SNARLS AT THEM AND THEY MOVE ASIDE QUICKLY.

DAD

We want more.

DOCTOR

Mags!

THEY DIVE THROUGH THE SLIT IN THE CLOTH THAT ACE MADE WITH FLOWERCHILD'S EARRING ALL THAT TIME AGO.

RINGMASTER

Oh, she hit the Asplode button instead.
Off with his head!
You knocked his block off!
He blowed up real good.

Run away! Run away!

...because 14 episodes a season isn't enough!

Er, another act's coming soon, folks.
You can believe me.

*THE LITTLE GIRL SPEAKS WITH A VERY
DEEP VOICE.*

GIRL

Another act now.

DAD

We want more.

MUM

We need more.

MORGANA

You haven't played fair with me.

RINGMASTER

Listen, we've done everything we're
supposed to do, right?

THE CLOWN SNEAKS TO THE ENTRANCE.

MORGANA

I had my doubts, but I came through in
the end.

RINGMASTER

There are going to be other visitors.

GIRL

We need more.

DAD

You have no one left to give.

MUM

Except yourselves.

RINGMASTER

No!

*THE CLOWNS WHEEL ON A PAIR OF
LAUNDRY BASKETS.*

MORGANA

Please, more acts are on the way, I
promise you.

Tough! You get Sherlock instead!

And we want voice changers too!

THE CLOWNS PUSH THE RINGMASTER AND MORGANA INTO THE BASKETS. THERE IS A HIGH-PITCHED WHINE THEN THE BASKETS ARE OPENED UP AGAIN. ONLY THE RINGMASTER'S TOP HAT REMAINS.

LOCATION: BACKSTAGE

DOCTOR

Something dreadful's happening in the ring. Things are getting out of control quicker than I expected.

DAD

Calling the Doctor. Calling the Doctor.

DOCTOR

Nothing will satisfy them but my presence.

MAGS

I'm coming back in there with you.

DOCTOR

No. You must run and get Ace and Deadbeat.

MAGS RUNS OFF.

DOCTOR

I must prepare for my entrance. Never keep your audience waiting.

THE CLOWNS CHASE MAGS OUTSIDE, THEN THEY HEAD FOR THE HEARSE. DOWN IN THE WELL, THE EYE GETS BIGGER.

LOCATION: TICKET OFFICE

A WIND STARTS TO BLOW.

DOCTOR

I'm coming. Open a pathway for me. Once small step for mankind, one great leap, or words to that effect.

THE DOCTOR PULLS APART THE CANVAS ENTRANCE TO THE CIRCUS AND STEPS INTO A KALEIDOSCOPE WORLD OF NOISE AND COLOUR. HE FIGHTS HIS WAY THROUGH

You know, I'm tired of all these people getting out of the episode before WE do. It's not fair.

Isn't that Rassilon's voice?
Calling Dr Howard, Dr Fine, Dr Howard.

Quick! Get into the clown car!

More like a clown hearse.

Oh, a clearse.

Em! Tornado's a comin'! Where's Dorothy?

It is happening again.
My god. It's full of stars.
Stupid tinsel!

WITH GRITTED TEETH TO -

LOCATION: ARENA

A SEMI-CIRCULAR SAND FLOOR, GREY STONE WALLS WITH ONE GRILLED DOORWAY, AND THREE LARGE FIGURES SITTING ON THRONES LOOKING DOWN.

DOCTOR

And here we all are at last. I'm surprised you brought me here. It must be very difficult for you, trying to exist concurrently in two different time spaces. I know the problem myself. No wonder those memorial stones looked familiar. The Gods of Ragnarok, I presume.

LOCATION: BY THE SNACK STALL

THE STALLHOLDER HAS HITCHED THE STALL TO HER HORSE AND IS MANOEUVRING IT TO TURN ROUND. MAGS JUMPS OVER THE HITCH AND KEEPS RUNNING.

STALLHOLDER

Don't you frighten my horse like that, you hippie weirdo.

THE HEARSE HAS TO STOP AND SOUND ITS HORN.

STALLHOLDER

Shut up, circus riff-raff. You don't own this planet, you know.

LOCATION: ARENA

DOCTOR

How many people have you destroyed, I wonder, before Kingpin was lured down here. Poor Kingpin. That's what you like, isn't it. Taking someone with a touch of individuality and imagination, and wearing them down to nothingness in your service.

DAD

Will these psychic winds be so mighty as to lay low the mountains of the earth?

(crawling in) Is that cat litter?

Yes, we can hear you just fine up here, sound carries beautifully. We had an acoustic engineer design the place for us.

So there are TWO natives on this planet. I bet the *horse* is actually the dominant life form.

Must get to other side of quarry!

Quarry?

Cory. Story. Allegory. Montessori.

Enough.

MUM

You have said enough.

DOCTOR

Enough? I've hardly started. I have fought the Gods of Ragnarok all through time.

THE DOCTOR LOOKS AT HIS WATCH.

DAD

You are in our true time space now, Doctor. There is no appeal beyond its confines to any other.

DOCTOR

Don't tell me what you want me to do. Let me guess. Now let me see. You want me to

DAD

Entertain us.

MUM

Entertain us.

DAD

Or die. So long as you entertain us, you may live.

MUM

When you no longer entertain us, you die.

DOCTOR

Predictable as ever, Gods of Ragnarok. As I think it's been said before, or was it after? Anyway, you ain't seen nothin' yet.

THE DOCTOR LEANS AND SWINGS ROUND AT A REMARKABLE ANGLE.

LOCATION: SEGONAX

ACE AND DEADBEAT MEET MAGS.

ACE

Have you seen our brother, the Melkur?

In other words, time to put a ferret down your trousers and hammer a nail up your nose. But if you play the spoons again, you die.

Well at least the rules seem pretty simple.

There's Dorothy.

Hey, Mags! Where's the Doctor?

MAGS

Back at the circus.

ACE

So you're on your own now?

MAGS

Not exactly. Look.

HERE COMES THE HEARSE. MAGS SEES THE COMPLETED MEDALLION.

MAGS

That's what they're after.

DEADBEAT

Oh, I might have guessed.

ACE

So how do we get it back to the Doctor? Oh, dumbo! Not you two, me. I've got an idea. Come on!

MAGS

Wrong way!

ACE

Not for this. Come on, Kingpin!

LOCATION: ARENA

THE DOCTOR HAS A TABLE IN FRONT OF HIM, WITH A LARGE PAN AND ITS COVER.

DOCTOR

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen, for that overwhelming reception. And now, I would like to begin like life, at the beginning. But how did life begin? Was it with a chicken or was it with

DAD

What?

THE DOCTOR PRODUCES AN EGG FROM HIS MOUTH AND PUTS IT IN THE PAN. THEN A SECOND ONE WHICH GOES INTO HIS HAND

Just Dumbo?
Yeah what about Pinocchio?
Bambi?
Snow White?

(first egg) Who would have expected THAT to happen?
(second egg) There was absolutely no

AND DISAPPEARS.

MUM

Don't try our patience.

SHE THROWS A LIGHTNING BOLT NEAR THE DOCTOR.

DAD

Don't play games.

DOCTOR

You're not interested in beginnings.

You're only interested in endings.

LOCATION: CAMPSITE

MAGS

Oh no, not that thing again. Come on.

DEADBEAT

Dumbo. Bellboy's robot.

ACE

Dead right, Kingpin.

THE THREE HIDE BEHIND THE ROBOT AS THE HEARSE PULLS UP AND THE CLOWNS RUN OUT.

CLOWN

Bellboy's greatest mistake. What a place to choose. You may have the Eye again, Deadbeat, but you won't use it. You know that. You're not strong enough! You weren't before.

DEADBEAT

At least I tried. You just gave in.

CLOWN

Yes, and I shall get my reward. Last chance, Deadbeat. We really believed in all that talk of peace and love

ACE

This thing had better work, or I'll kick its head in.

ACE JABS AT THE REMOTE CONTROL.

precedent for THAT!

It's the insane clown posse, of course.

(strong enough) See these juggling pins? Wait til you see where they're going to be shoved!

What's so funny 'bout peace, love, and understanding?

F'king Duracell my ass! Work!

AFTER A FEW MOMENTS, THE ROBOT LASERS ONE OF THE ROBOT CLOWNS, THEN THE OTHER THREE. FINALLY IT KILLS THE CLOWN HIMSELF AND KEEPS FIRING AS ACE KEEPS PUSHING BUTTONS. THEN IT GOES QUIET.

MAGS

For a moment I thought you weren't going to be able to make it stop.

ACE

Funny you should say that.

DEADBEAT

He used to be a great clown.

ACE

I've never liked clowns.

LOCATION: ARENA

TO THE STRAINS OF NARCISSUS BEING PLAYED ON A VIOLIN, THE DOCTOR PRODUCES A LENGTH OF ROPE AND TIES THE ENDS TOGETHER.

DOCTOR

What, no complaints? No arguments? No thunderbolts?

THE ROPE FALLS INTO A SINGLE LENGTH WITH THE KNOT STILL IN IT.

DAD

No, Doctor.

MUM

We're not concerned that you're playing for time.

THE DOCTOR HAS UNTIED THE KNOT AND IS NOW FASTENING THE TWO PIECES OF ROPE TOGETHER. THEN HE STANDS ON A LOOSE END AND PULLS IT INTO A SINGLE PIECE OF ROPE AGAIN.

DAD

We have a saying.

Way to go, Ace! Way to kill the circus!
Way to kill FUN!

The Great Clown Massacre of '337.

Is this leading somewhere?

Yeah, to the end of the episode. Sadly not there yet.

I can't tell if they like the act or not, what with their stony expressions.

Plus, they're not holding up 9s or zeroes.

DOCTOR

Let me guess. Give yourself enough rope and you hang yourself.

THE DOCTOR LOOKS AT HIS WATCH AGAIN.

LOCATION: CAMPSITE

ACE

Kingpin.

DEADBEAT

I only hope we make it in time. The Doctor's stronger than I ever was, but even he can't hold out against them forever.

MAGS, ACE AND DEADBEAT GET INTO THE HEARSE.

ACE

He'll have a good stab at it, though.

LOCATION: ARENA

DAD

You are nearing the end, Doctor.

DOCTOR

A piece of rope has two ends, Father Ragnarok.

THE DOCTOR COILS THE ROPE INTO THE PAN. THEN HE PRODUCES A LONG CANDLE FROM HIS HANDKERCHIEF AND LIGHTS IT WITH A FLAME APPARENTLY FROM HIS PALM. HE PUTS THE LIT CANDLE TO THE PAN WITH BURSTS INTO FLAMES, BRIEFLY PUTS THE COVER OVER IT TO EXTINGUISH THEM AND REMOVES A SNAKE FROM IT. MUM THROWS A THUNDERBOLT.

MUM

Feel the rain, Doctor.

DAD

Feel the chill in your bones.

THE DOCTOR TURNS AROUND AND THE SNAKE TURNS INTO HIS UMBRELLA. HE

No, it goes: We're at the end of our rope.

Is that Lake Silencio?
Where's River Song?
Underwater.

How come Ace doesn't drive?
Because she's been drinking heavily between shots.

He's a flamer now?

Snaake! A snaaaake! Oh, it's a snake!
Badger badger badger badger...

Don't touch the Mara, you don't know where it's been. I mean, since being inside Tegan.

Ooo-er.

PUTS IT UP JUST BEFORE THE DOWNPOUR STARTS.

LOCATION: BY THE TICKET OFFICE

THE WIND IS STILL HOWLING. ACE STOPS TO LOOK AT THE CRYSTAL BALL.

DEADBEAT

Ace, quick! Come on!

LOCATION: ARENA

THE DOCTOR IS ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE FROM A STRAIT-JACKET WHILST HANGING BY HIS ANKLES FROM A ROPE.

DAD

Doctor.

DOCTOR

Yes?

DAD

You are trifling with us.

DOCTOR

Really? I thought I was entertaining you.

HE GETS THE STRAIT-JACKET OFF.

DAD

You are on the brink of destruction, Doctor. We want something bigger, something better.

DOCTOR

Do you now?

LOCATION: BIG TOP

DEADBEAT, MAGS AND ACE RUN INTO THE DESERTED RING.

ACE

The Doctor must be here somewhere.

DEADBEAT

Well, he may already be in the Dark

Here comes the rain again, falling on my head like a memory...

Finally got around to the Hanged Man.

Circus with the Gods. If so, there's only one way we can reach him.

MAGS

The stone chamber.

ACE

And the medallion?

DEADBEAT

Yeah. We must be careful. They're bound to sense its presence.

LOCATION: ARENA

THE DOCTOR IS BACK ON HIS FEET.

DOCTOR

Do I have your full attention?

HE CHECKS HIS WRIST WATCH.

LOCATION: TICKET OFFICE

DEADBEAT

You do realise that they'll try anything to stop us?

ACE

Yes. Let's go.

BEHIND THE ADVERTISING BOARDS, THE CAPTAIN SITS UP FROM THE STRETCHER AND PUTS ON HIS PITH HELMET.

LOCATION: ARENA

DOCTOR

The climax of my act, Gods of Ragnarok, requires something you do not possess in great abundance. That is, imagination. And it starts with a piece of metal. This piece of metal once belonged to a sword, and that sword belonged to a gladiator.

THE DOCTOR THROWS THE PIECE OF METAL INTO THE AIR, WHERE IT TRANSFORMS INTO A GLADIUS, AND THEN A LONG SWORD DROPS INTO HIS HAND.

No comment.

Including flashing colored lights and turning on large fans.

Not a scratch on him.

(That is) Hair.

Russell Crowe?

DOCTOR

And that gladiator fought and died in
this ring to entertain you.

LOCATION: STONE CHAMBER

DEADBEAT STOPS AT THE WELL.

ACE

Go for it, Kingpin.

*BUT THE EYE IS STARING BACK UP AT HIM.
HE BACKS AWAY.*

MAGS

Kingpin, please.

ACE

Well, one of us had better try.

*DEADBEAT HOLDS OUT THE MEDALLION
AND SHUTS HIS EYES. THE CAPTAIN HITS
HIM IN THE KIDNEYS AND CATCHES THE
MEDALLION AS HE FALLS.*

CAPTAIN

Perhaps I might relieve you of that.

MAGS

Captain, I thought you were dead.

CAPTAIN

I am, my dear. I am.

LOCATION: ARENA

DOCTOR

I have fed you enough, Gods of
Ragnarok, and you found what I have
to offer indigestible. So I have taken
myself off the menu. La comedia e
finita.

DAD

We command you.

MUM

You cannot stop.

The Trollenberg Terror is on its way up the
pit.

DOCTOR

I already have.

DAD

Then you will die.

DOCTOR

Probably not. It's all a matter of timing, don't you know.

THE DOCTOR POINTS THE SWORD TO THE GROUND.

LOCATION: STONE CHAMBER

ACE

Oi, sarcophagus face!

THE CAPTAIN TURNS AND MAGS KICKS THE MEDALLION OUT OF HIS HAND AND INTO THE WELL. IT LANDS ON THE SWORD AND THE DOCTOR USES IT TO REFLECT THE GODS' LASER BOLTS BACK AT THEM. THE EYE IN THE WELL GROWS.

DEADBEAT

Quick.

CAPTAIN

You know, when I was on the planet Periboea, I met someone who walks around when he was already dead. I must say, as an experience I'd say it was very overrated.

THE CAPTAIN FALLS INTO THE WELL.

THE GODS ARE FIRING AT THE DOCTOR, THEIR BOLTS REFLECTED BACK BY THE MEDALLION.

LOCATION: TICKET OFFICE

DEADBEAT

Look. Get down!

THE CRYSTAL BALL EXPLODES. IN THE ARENA, THE GODS STOP FIRING LASER BOLTS AT THE DOCTOR. THE WALLS CRACK AND BUCKLE. THE DOCTOR

He's got three eyes.

Makes him seem a rather egotistical God.

Hey, we got awesome aim.

Do you think he'll be back in the next season of The Walking Dead?

(walls crack) Is the Malus coming?

THROWS THE SWORD AND MEDALLION AT THEM THEN RAISES HIS HAT AS THE WHOLE PLACE FALLS APART THE GODS COLLAPSE. THE BIG TOP CRUMPLES AS THE ARENA DISINTEGRATES. THE DOCTOR WALKS OUT AND DOESN'T FLINCH AS AN EXPLOSION OCCURS JUST BEHIND HIM.

LOCATION: SEGONAX

A HUGE RED PILLAR OF SMOKE CLIMBS TO THE SKY. THE STALLHOLDER SPEAKS TO HER HORSE.

STALLHOLDER

It's what I've always said. No consideration for those of us that live here.

LOCATION: OUTSIDE THE CIRCUS

DOCTOR

Enjoying the show, Ace?

ACE

Yeah. It was your show all along, wasn't it?

MAGS

The Captain really is finished now, isn't he?

DOCTOR

Yes. But you're just about to start.

DEADBEAT

Doctor, I've been thinking.

DOCTOR

What better way for a circus to begin than with a wonderful act.

ACE

Yeah, really wonderful. Nice one, Professor. You'll knock them dead.

MAGS

That's just what I'm afraid of. What if I can't control it?

Please do not throw swords at me.
I never knew Styrofoam made so much noise.
It does when Dick Mills is working the knobs.
Heh. He said knobs.
Poor Gods of Ragnastyrofoam.
Help me, I'm crumbling! What a world!

Watch out for pink fallout. It'll turn you gay.

Oh, NO, it's not over? Just starting?
Kill me.

DOCTOR

Oh, you can, Mags. You already have.

DEADBEAT

What about it, Doctor? You and Ace.
Join Kingpin's new circus and travel
the galaxy with us.

DOCTOR

Thank you, Kingpin, but I'm afraid
we've got other galaxies to travel. And
besides, I find circuses a little sinister.

SHHHHHEEEEEEEEEEEWWWWW

You can train yourself with Lucky Charms,
the moon shapes are really small.

So...almost everyone died, again. What a
cheery episode.

(Come out from behind screen to take
applause... if there is any.)

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