

# The Time Machine

*'Once Upon A Time.....'*

@John Duff 1993

## Running Sheet (1)

### **ACT ONE**

Scene: **The Time Machine**

The Professor explains his latest invention to the group of Time Travellers

Song One 'Journey Through Time'

The Time Machine takes off for the Age of the Dinosaurs

### **ACT TWO**

Scene 1: **The Age of Dinosaurs**

The Time Travellers encounter two dinosaurs that seem surprisingly ahead of their time.

Song Two 'Here Come the Dinosaurs'

Scene 2

The Travellers return to the Time Machine. Randall accidentally pulls the 'big lever' without the controls having been set.

### **ACT THREE**

Scene 1: **Ancient Rome**

The Time Machine lands in Ancient Rome. Caesar is bored and looking for some entertainment when the travelers arrive. Randall offers to lead the group in a 'line dancing' demonstration.

Song Three 'Hootenanny'

Scene 2

Once again Randall starts the machine with no concern for their destination.

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## Running Sheet (2)

### **ACT FOUR**

#### Scene 1: **Medieval England**

Arthur, Guinevere, Merlin and the Knights are bored with their lot, when the travelers arrive. In order to save them from use in Merlin's newest potion, Guinevere suggests that they offer to join Arthur in his favourite activity – playing 'Rockee Around The Tablee'.

Song Four 'We Are The Knights'

#### Scene 2

The Time Travellers surreptitiously make their way back to the machine. The Professor says his goodbyes to Guinevere and ..... Randall mistakenly starts up the machine again.

### **ACT FIVE**

#### Scene 1: **Early Australia**

The machine has landed in early Australia, during the time of the bushrangers. The Professor is feeling his age and drifts off to sleep. The Kelly gang 'bail up' the travelers.

Song Five 'Bail Up!'

#### Scene 2

Joey reluctantly checks in vain for weapons amongst the travelers. Not convinced, Ned enters the machine; he accidentally pushes Randall into the 'big lever' – thus starting up the machine. The Professor awakens to find that Ned Kelly is on board and stuck with them as they travel, once again, to an unknown destination.

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## Running Sheet (3)

### **ACT SIX**

#### Scene 1: **1950's Prom Night**

The machine lands in the 50's amongst rock'n'roll fever. The Professor decides to impersonate Buddy Holly and the dancers 'come alive'.

Song Six 'You Can Rock'n'Roll I'

### **ACT SEVEN**

#### Scene 1: **The Moon**

The Travellers 'land' on the moon and notice the Apollo 11 Space Module. Wendy is besotted by the Professor and his eccentricity. She wonders if he feels the same.

Song Seven 'Over The Moon'

Wendy is rudely awoken from her dreams by Randall. She then, encounters The Man In The Moon, who encourages her not to lose sight of the magic of ideas and imaginings.

Song Eight 'You've Got a Friend'

#### Scene 2

As Neil Armstrong is about to take his first steps, Ned tries to 'bail him up'. However, the travelers convince him otherwise and he returns to the Time Machine.

### **ACT EIGHT**

#### Scene 1: **Back to the Future – The Underground**

The Time Travellers are under the mistaken impression that they have returned home, until they hear strange 'beeping' and various other mobile phone noises. Randall has mistakenly gone forward a century to 3008. Two strange futuristic creatures emerge and cover them with netting.

Song Nine 'Take These Chains'

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## Running Sheet (4)

### **ACT EIGHT cont'd**

#### Scene 2

The Professor tries to talk to the two creatures, who can only converse using 'textspeak'. They allow the travelers to return to their own time and try and rectify the environmental damage which has led to the devastation of the earth.

### **ACT NINE**

Scene: **The Time Machine**

The Travellers are on their way home. Randall organizes for Ned to be 'dropped off' back in his own time – however as King Arthur is heard in the background, this appears to have been as successful as his other destination attempts!

The Professor sets the dials this time and finally the travelers arrive home. The Professor decides to his sights on environmental research rather than time travel

Song Nine 'Journey Through Time'

**THE END.**

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## CAST (1)

### THE TIME TRAVELLERS

#### **THE PROFESSOR**

Brilliant, but slightly mad, scientist (aka 'Doc' in 'Back to the Future')

#### **RANDALL ASHCROFT**

Representative from Bain, Bain & Bain

Randall is a 'can do' kind of guy. Unfortunately his self confidence is as odds with his knowledge of time travel. He tends to panic ahead of time and his clumsiness causes all sorts of problems

#### **SANDY PAIGE**

Representative from Safeway

Sensible and generally maintains a cool head throughout.

#### **WENDY BILLARTON**

Representative from Cole/Myer

She is rather anxious at times (often with good reason). Wendy is rather more idealistic than Sandy

### THE DINOSAURS

#### **TYRONE**

The rappin' cool Tyrannosaurus Rex

#### **STEGGY**

As above, but a Stegosaurus of few words.

### ANCIENT ROME

#### **JULIUS CEASAR**

The typical high-handed emperor.

#### **CLEOPATRA**

The 'right hand' person to Julius, but a little more perceptive and compassionate.

#### **GUARD (BRIAN)**

He has a penchant for country and western music - and line-dancing

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## CAST (2)

### MEDIEVAL ENGLAND

#### **KING ARTHUR**

He is King of England – but easily bored and petulant when the fighting action wanes. He looks to his knights for entertainment.

#### **LADY GUINIVERE**

A Queen - well aware of her charming manner and its effect on others.

#### **MERLIN**

The famous sorcerer, always on the look out for contributors to his potions.

#### **SIR GWAIN**

One of the knights – he has become impatient with the King and his self-indulgent ways.

#### **SIR LANCELOT**

One of the knights – he is rather eager for a spot of jousting.

### EARLY AUSTRALIA

#### **NED KELLY**

The typical outlaw – ‘gung – ho’ and always expecting a conflict, even in the most unlikely situations.

#### **DAN KELLY**

Ned’s brother – simply does what Ned tells him to do.

#### **JOEY BYRNE**

Another member of the Kelly Gang. He is becoming tired of being asked to perform the menial tasks.

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## CAST (3)

### ON THE MOON

#### **THE MAN IN THE MOON**

Is he a figment of Wendy's imagination or a whimsical showman?

#### **NEIL ARMSTRONG**

The first astronaut to set foot upon the moon – understandably annoyed by attempts to ruin his 'moment in time'.

### THE FUTURE

#### **TXT**

A futuristic character who converses by texting on his mobile phone

#### **MSN**

A futuristic character who acts as the 'screen' for TXT, by holding up cards displaying the messages.

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## SCRIPT

### ACT ONE

Set:           **The Time Machine**

*The Professor is explaining the details of his latest invention, The Time Machine. It is positioned stage-left. The time travelers are poring over its workings.*

Professor:   Well, ladies and gentlemen, as you can see this is my latest technological breakthrough. With this machine I am able to travel the vast expanses of the world from way back into the past, right through to the future .... and if there be .... Beyond! Haaaaaa ha ha haaaaaa!

*The Professor is prone to slipping into these mad bursts of maniacal laughter, which he continually corrects, so as not to alarm or worry his guests.*

Sandy:       Professor, what do you think are the advantages of a machine that can travel through time?

Professor:   My dear Ms. Paige, a person of your professional standing should be able to recognize at once the advantages of being able to travel the vast expanses of time. Perhaps one can learn and discover things that may, in turn, aid the world in its struggle for survival and freedom in this day and age.

Randall:     So, what you are proposing with this latest invention of yours is that we shall all be able to travel back and forwards in time ..... as we wish?

Professor:   No! What I am saying, is that with this 'Time Machine', we shall all be able to travel back and forwards in time ..... as we wish.