

Hanno Pantwo:

The Rodfather

**Deuy (The Narrator)**

**Gareth (Zoo Night Guard)**

**Jackov (Zebra)**

**Morris (Giraffe)**

**Helga (Hippo)**

**Hanno (Lion)**

**Zak (Peacock)**

**Rod (Ex-Security Guard)**

**Kid (Literally Just a Kid)**

**Karen (Zoo Security Guard)**

## ACT 1

## 1. LIGHTS UP ON A LOAN FIGURE ON STAGE.

**NARRATOR**

Previously on 'Hantomime': Hanno the Lion was depressed that he was held captive, and wanted to experience freedom, especially over Christmas. His friends, Jackov the zebra, Helga the hippo, and Morris the giraffe tried to cheer him up, but failed. MEANWHILE, old security guard, ROD, retired, and trained his night guard replacement, Gareth. Gareth is an idiot. Taking advantage of Gareth's incompetence, Hanno broke out of the zoo, leading his friends to track him down with Gareth and Rod ALSO tracking them down.

Let's see, what else happened. Helga and Jackov flirted a bit, but that was weird so we probably won't revisit that. Gareth and Morris met, Gareth seemed a bit in love with Morris (#NoHomo), but Morris was pretty chill about it. Hanno scared a kid and realized maybe he shouldn't be free. They found Hanno, and then Rod found them. He tried to tranquilize the animals but Gareth jumped in the way to save Morris. Someone said something and they all went back to the zoo together as friends to have Christmas dinner, and promised to do

the same thing every year.  
They also decided to blame  
the wolves for the chaos,  
because screw wolves, am I  
right?

To be honest, I'm doing this  
recap from memory, but I  
think that's everything  
important...and by important I  
mean "going to be referenced  
in this one".

Also, writing these in rhyme  
is both hard, and not worth  
the pay off, so I'm not doing  
that this time.

Anyway, stay tuned for: Hanno  
Pantwo: The RodFather

LIGHTS FADE.

2. EXT. ZOO ENCLOSURE. EVENING.

The zoo has just closed for the day. HANNO, JACKOV,  
HELGA, MORRIS, and GARETH are bringing a table and chairs  
on stage in preparation for their now annual Christmas  
meal.

**GARETH**

Now that the zoo is closed  
and everyone's gone- we can  
get ready for our annual  
Christmas meal!

**JACKOV**

We know, we're all here! Why  
are you explaining what we're  
doing when we all know?

**MORRIS**

(in a knowing tone)  
It's an expositional tool  
used by lazy writers to let  
the audience know what's

happening without putting in any effort.

**JACKOV**

What are you talking about?  
We literally JUST  
acknowledged that there is no  
audience, because everyone  
just went home!

**HELGA**

Just leave it, Jackov.

**JACKOV**

(obviously annoyed)  
Don't call me that- I go by  
Jack now!

**MORRIS**

Makes sense, we did mine that  
joke pretty hard last year!

**JACKOV**

Giggity.

**HELGA**

So the name Jackov is too  
immature now, but you keep  
making cheap innuendos?

**JACKOV**

(shrugs)

**HANNO**

Come on guys, it's Christmas  
time! Let's not get down on  
each other.

(Music starts playing)

Christmas time is a time to  
sing,  
That's what Christmas is for

**MORRIS**

Christmas can even be a  
Hannakuh thing,

That's what Christmas is for

**HELGA**

And for a huge percentage of  
this God-fearing planet,  
It's about the birth of Jesus  
Chr-i-ist!

**HANNO**

Buuut, for the rest of us  
it's still a good time,  
To remember that it's good to  
be nice

**JACKOV**

Music and cookies and liquer  
and trees,  
That's what Christmas is for,

**GARETH**

Video games for two straight  
weeks,  
That's what Christmas is for

**MORRIS**

Hanging out with the people  
you love,  
And saying-

**MORRIS AND GARETH**

'I love yooooou!'

**EVERYONE**

That's what Christmas is  
That's what Christmas is  
That's what Christmas is for!  
(The song ends in a big  
crescendo the holds their  
final poses for a few  
seconds)

**ZAK**

Okay...what was that? Why did  
you guys all just burst into  
song like that? And did one  
of shout about a...Christmas

pterodactyl?

**HANNO**

(Shrugging)

It's Christmas. Last year we had a big adventure, and then we had a meal, and decided to do it all again this year!

**MORRIS**

A sequel.

**ZAK**

The same again as last year?

**HANNO**

Yeah, but even bigger and better

**MORRIS**

And with updated jokes

**GARETH**

Who are you anyway?

**ZAK**

I'm zak...I'm part of the new peacock enclosure.

**JACKOV**

(to GARETH)

How do you not know that- YOU WORK HERE!

GARETH looks embarrassed

**MORRIS**

It helps with exposition

**HANNO**

Guys, we're starting to fight again- lets just get on with the meal

They finish bringing in the table and all the chairs and all take a seat. One seat remains empty.

**HANNO**

Why's there an empty seat?  
Who's missing?

**HELGA**

Yeah, where's Rod?

**GARETH**

Oh yeah, he had a meeting, he told me to let you guys know he was going to be late

**JACKOV**

(sarcastically)  
Well, thanks for passing on the message

**GARETH**

(missing the irony and feeling pleased with himself)  
You're welcome

**HELGA**

Well while we're waiting we might as well start on the crackers

Everyone grabs a cracker and pulls it with someone else

**GARETH**

(unravelling the joke)  
I love the jokes in these things:  
What's E.T short for?

EVERYONE looks like they are trying to think of the answer

**HANNO**

Duuno, what is E.T short for?

**GARETH**

(confused)  
...He's got little legs?  
(EVERYONE groans at the bad  
joke)  
I don't get it! What's having  
little legs got to do with  
E.T?

**ZAK**

Well, E.T's legs are little  
aren't they?

**GARETH**

You mean the alien?

**HELGA**

Yeah, so that's why he's  
short

**GARETH**

But what's that got to do  
with the letters?

**HANNO**

That's the joke!

**GARETH**

OHHHHH...no, wait, I still  
don't get it

**JACKOV**

How are you this thick?

At this point ROD walks in, saving GARETH from his  
embarrassment

**ROD**

Hi everyone, sorry I'm so  
late, just got out of a  
meeting with the board.

**HANNO**

How was it?



**ROD**

Well, to be blunt: we're sausaged.

**HANNO**

What? How?

**ROD**

They want to shut down the zoo. They don't think it's profitable enough.

**ZAK**

What's that got to do with sausages?

**MORRIS**

It's just something we do instead of swearing- just go with it.

**HANNO**

How can they say we're not profitable enough?

**ROD**

Someone on the board was trying to convince them that the village puts £350 million into the zoo every year, and that if we didn't we'd be able to put that money into other things

**HELGA**

Like what?

**ROD**

Like Nigel's Home Stores

**HELGA**

What's that?

**ROD**

It's a shop in town. It was

set up by a guy called  
'Nigel'. It's a play on  
British Home Stores- you  
know, BHS

**HANNO**

So this would be NHS?

**ROD**

Exactly, the argument is that  
they will have the £350  
million to invest in NHS, and  
things like that

**HANNO**

That's ridiculous

**HELGA**

Yeah, us being here means the  
local shops get AT LEAST that  
much back from tourists

**MORRIS**

Not to mention the  
improvements it's lead to in  
transport

**JACKOV**

And increases in employment

**ZAK**

And all the money the zoo  
puts into the community

**GARETH**

AND...

(trying to think of something  
to add)

I haven't said anything in a  
while

EVERYONE stares at GARETH for a moment

**HANNO**

Is there anything we can do?

**ROD**

I don't think so. They took a vote. It was 52% in favour of shutting the zoo.

**JACKOV**

That's bull-sausage!

**HELGA**

That's so close

**ROD**

Well, the general attitude was leaning the other way, then they were reminded of those wolves that escaped last year, and run amuck. There were a few people on the fence that were scared enough that that would happen again, and think we need to be more careful about allowing dangerous animals into our community.

**JACKOV**

By banning all animals? But that doesn't make any sense?

**HELGA**

Next they'll be wanting to close our bookshop!

**MORRIS**

Borders?

**HELGA**

Yeah! Next they'll be wanting to close Borders!

**HANNO**

Wait, you said it was because of the wolves that finally pushed people to vote to close the zoo?

**ROD**

(looking grim)  
That's right

**HANNO**

(the guilt settling in)  
But it wasn't really the  
wolves that did it. It was  
us...it was me.

As the reality of the situation sinks in EVERYONE is left  
in a stunned silence.

**HELGA**

We've got to do something

**ZAK**

It doesn't sound like there's  
much that we can do, if what  
Rod said is right, the  
decisions been made!

**GARETH**

What if we all voted to have  
a revote?

**JACKOV**

How would that help? 52% of  
people would still just vote  
not to revote.

**GARETH**

It was just a suggestion

**HELGA**

Well we should do SOMETHING

**ROD**

Helga's right. We can't sit  
down and do nothing. I think  
Gareth might be onto  
something-

GARETH suddenly leaps back, looking for the thing that he  
is "on". ROD doesn't pause for the distraction.

-we can't officially move forward with anything for three months. It allows for the village people to appeal the decision.

**HANNO**

(Starting to lighten up again)

So we've got three months to try and change their minds?

**ROD**

Exactly. I'll use that time to try and swing the people on the fence back in our favour.

**HANNO**

And we need to go out all out to make sure the people of Kidlington want to keep us around.

**GARETH**

How will going out help? That's what got us into this mess!

MORRIS puts a hand on GARETH'S shoulder and shakes his head sympathetically

**HANNO**

We'll do every we can to make sure that people come and visit us, and when they do that they want to come back!

**JACKOV**

How are we going to do that?

**ZAK**

It should be easy now that we've got the peacock enclosure: I am really beautiful.

**HANNO**

We all just keep doing what we're doing, but we will do it the best we can.

**MORRIS**

We'll be busier than Dylan's phone on summer camp

**HELGA**

We have literally no idea what you're talking about

**MORRIS**

Yeah, it was for them  
(indicates the audience)

EVERYONE else peers into the audience, they look confused, apparently not seeing the audience

**JACKOV**

Why does he always get like this at this time of year?

**HANNO**

I think we can do this guys:  
I think we can save the zoo!

EVERYONE cheers.

EVERYONE FILTERS OFF TALKING EXCITEDLY. LIGHTS FADE.

3. EXT. ZOO ENCLOSURE. DAYTIME- JUST BEFORE OPENING.

**HANNO**

Okay guys, we all know what we're doing?

**JACKOV**

Yes, they walk in, we attack and eat all of their faces.

**HELGA**

Give it a rest, Jack. You

know he's nervous about this.

**JACKOV**

That doesn't mean that we  
can't follow instructions  
after being given them a  
million times

GARETH runs in. His shirt is tucked in, but poking out of  
his zipper.

**GARETH**

Sorry I'm late, did I miss  
much

**JACKOV**

Okay. Most of us.

**GARETH**

Pardon?

**HANNO**

Nothing, we were just  
finalising the plan and make  
sure we all know what we're  
doing.

**GARETH**

Perfect, I've been practicing  
all night!

**HELGA**

Errrr, practicing?

**GARETH**

(happily)  
Yeah!

**ROD**

(off-stage)  
Okay guys, into position:  
here they come

The "customers" for the day come in. The audience now

represents the customers. HANNO breaks into a dance, twirling his tail seductively and making suggestive beckoning motions at members of the audience. ZAK starts voguing and modelling. JACKOV starts pooping. HELGA pulls out a rope and starts skipping. MORRIS stands there, deep in thought. For some reason, GARETH starts doing lunges. This carries on for a while, everyone focused on their own activity.

**HANNO**

(noticing GARETH and walking over to him)

What are you doing?

**GARETH**

I'm doing my part- I'm entertaining the visitors!

**HANNO**

You're not an exhibit at the zoo. You work here. No-one is looking at you!

**GARETH**

Yes they are!

**HANNO**

That's because your shirt is sticking out of your zipper!

GARETH corrects this, looking highly embarrassed. Trust me. Nothing about what you are doing is attracting attention for the right reason.

GARETH leaves looking really sorry for himself.

**HELGA**

(walking over to HANNO)

Hanno, that was really mean.

**JACKOV**

(joining them)

Yeah, that was a real sausage



move.

A KID runs over to HANNO

**KID**

Mummy, look a lion! Lion, do the roar!

**HANNO**

(Ignoring the kid)  
Guys, we've got a job to do here. In case you've forgotten, I'm trying to save the zoo, not Gareth's feelings!

**KID**

Do the roar.

**HELGA**

But if you isolate everyone to do it, what are you saving?

**KID**

Do the roar.

**HANNO**

Wow, so deep. Thanks for the advice. Now can I get back to work?

**KID**

Do the roar.

**JACKOV**

Why are you being such a sausage hole about this?

**KID**

Do the roar.

**HANNO**

BECAUSE IT'S ALL MY FAULT THE

ZOO IS CLOSING, SO I HAVE TO  
SAVE IT.

**KID**

Do the roar.

HANNO suddenly snaps, turning and roaring in the kids  
face. Everything else stops, and EVERYONE stares at HANNO  
shocked. The silence hangs for moment. The KID starts  
crying. HANNO runs off, ashamed.

LIGHTS FADE.

4. EXT. ZOO ENCLOSURE. EVENING- AFTER CLOSING.

HANNO, HELGA, MORRIS, JACKOV, and ZAK are all on stage  
looking dejected.

**ROD**

(walking on stage)  
Well. That could have gone  
better.

**JACKOV**

Gone better? It was a  
complete-

**MORRIS**

(overcutting the impending  
use of bad language)  
SAUSAGE

**JACKOV**

-show. There's no coming back  
from that.

**HELGA**

(realising how miserable  
HANNO is, and trying to get  
JACKOV to realise he's being  
insensitive)  
It wasn't THAT bad

**JACKOV**

Are you kidding? After that show, even a sausage sandwich is more popular than us.

**ZAK**

Yeah, but sausage sandwiches are delic-oh wait, I get it.

**HELGA**

It's really not that bad. We've come back from worse!

**JACKOV**

Yeah right! Even Jesus couldn't come back from that one.

**HELGA**

Jack, seriously. Shut up!

**JACKOV**

Why?

**HANNO**

Yeah? Why should he? He's right! We're screwed. And it's all my fault.

**HELGA**

No, it's not. Besides, there's still time with the board. Right, Rod?

**ROD**

(scratching his head, and sounding hesitant)  
Welll, I suppose anything's possible!

**HANNO**

See. Even trying to encourage me, he can't muster much hope. It's over.

**ROD**

I didn't say that. It's not over, until it's over.

**ZAK**

Makes sense.

**HELGA**

We can still do this! We just need to work harder!

**HANNO**

We tried that. I gave it my all, and I cracked under the pressure. I messed it up for all of us, and as a result, we're even deeper in the sausage. Not only that, but it's MY fault we're even in this situation in the first place. You guys are better off without me!

HANNO leaves to the protests of everyone else. They go to follow him, but as he's leaving, GARETH enters looking excited, and trips over his own feet, sprawling across the floor. The gang gathers around GARETH, making sure he's okay, and in the confusion, HANNO slips away.

**GARETH**

I'm okay. I'm okay.

**HELGA**

(Looking around and seeing that HANNO is gone)

Guys, he's gone.

**GARETH**

No I'm not. I said I'm fine!

**JACKOV**

(also looking around)

Not you, you idiot! Hanno!

**GARETH**

Where's he gone?

**MORRIS**

He thought our case was hopeless, and thought it was his fault. So he left feeling sorry for himself. But he'll be back.

**HELGA**

I wouldn't be so sure. I've never seen him that low before, and he seemed pretty revolved in leaving. What makes you think he'll be back?

**MORRIS**

Because his name is in the title of the pantomime and we're only just reaching the end of act one!

HELGA, JACKOV, ZAK, and ROD are all staring at MORRIS like he's mental

**GARETH**

(standing up and dusting himself off, oblivious to MORRIS' weird comments)  
That's what I came to tell you! We're not going to have to close- that's what I came to tell you!

**ZAK**

(sounding skeptical)  
I know I'm new to this group, but I can't say that you've said much so far that's got me excited about a plan coming from you.

**JACKOV**

I hate to say it, but we've

not exactly got many options.

**HELGA**

Yeah, we might as well hear him out.

**GARETH**

Well, I was thinking about being caught with my fly down earlier, and how embarrassed I was. Then it hit me: we need to catch them with their fly down!

**JACKOV**

Okay. I was wrong. It wasn't worth hearing him out.

**ZAK**

How will seeing them with their zipper down help us?

**GARETH**

No. It's an idiom! An expression! We don't need to literally catch anyone with their fly down. What I mean is that we can hack into the computer, and not only find out who it is on the board that's pushing to close the zoo, but we can also find out what they've got against the zoo, and persuade them to stop this campaign against us!

**JACKOV**

That's...actually not a bad idea

**ROD**

Guys, wouldn't we be better off sticking to the plan? Do any of us even know how to hack? I mean, it's a plan

from GARETH!

**HELGA**

We've got nothing to lose  
from trying it!

**ZAK**

Plus I look really good in  
black.

**MORRIS**

Makes sense from a narrative  
point of view!

**HELGA**

Okay guys, let's go!

They all run off stage, excited.

LIGHT'S FADE.

5. EMPTY STAGE.

THE NARRATOR enters

**NARRATOR**

Is Hanno gone forever?  
Will the gang's plan work?  
Will GARETH be the one to  
save the day?  
Can any of them actually hack  
a computer?  
Will the acting get any  
better in the second half?  
Find out next act, on  
HANTOMIME!

LIGHT'S FADE.

6. EMPTY STAGE.

THE NARRATOR enters

**NARRATOR**

(as if reading the news)  
Good evening ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the *(insert time here)* news. I'm currently standing at the Kidlington zoo, where earlier this evening news came in that the zoo might be closing. The animals at this establishment banded together in a brave attempt to prevent this from happening, and to maintain the quality of life they had established since arriving here. The plan, however, failed, and a desolate Hanno the lion has left the zoo forever, feeling helpless and alone. In a last-ditch attempt, a dimwitted zoo guard has come up with a plan to save them all. Stayed tuned for more updates on this story as it unfolds.

THE NARRATOR walks off stage.

LIGHT'S FADE.

7. INT. ZOO OFFICE. DOES A ZOO HAVE AN OFFICE? DOESN'T MATTER, NO-ONE READS THESE THINGS AWAY. WHEREEVER THE COMPUTER IS AT THE ZOO. STAFF ROOM?

GARETH walks in acting all "stealth", he is humming the mission impossible theme tune, and rolling, and crawling around as if he is avoiding lasers, and sneaking around. This goes on for some time. MORRIS and ZAK walk in behind him, casually.

**ZAK**

What are you doing?

**GARETH**

Being stealth!



**ZAK**

(looking around)  
From what? There's nothing  
here!

**GARETH**

(looking a bit embarrassed)  
Well it doesn't hurt to be  
careful!

**MORRIS**

Come on guys, we've got a job  
to do, which way from here,  
Gareth?

**GARETH**

Definitely right!

**ZAK**

The only options are left or  
straight ahead!

**GARETH**

Oh. Ummm, straight ahead, no  
left, no straight ahead.  
Wait...I don't know.

**ZAK**

How can you not know? You  
work here!

**GARETH**

Because the other workers  
don't let me hang out here,  
they always make me stay  
outside!

**MORRIS**

That's so mean! Why?

**GARETH**

Probably because I spend all  
my time talking to animals.  
It's not exactly mentally  
healthy!

**ZAK**

(cuttingly)  
It's not great for our mental health either.

**MORRIS**

Let's just go this way. If it's not right, we'll just retrace our steps.

They all walk off stage.

LIGHT'S FADE.

8. EXT. A STREET IN KIDLINGTON. NIGHTTIME.

HANNO sits by himself looking forlorn

**HANNO**

I can't believe I've ruined everything! It's all over because of me. How could I be so stupid? Not only have I ended the chance that we might get to stay up, I got caught up in my own emotions and left! How is that going to help anything? The zoo is screwed, I've left and have no where to go, which is exactly the issue that started this whole mess last year, and now, I'm expositing to myself! This whole thing is a sausage nightmare!

(sigh)

I can't exactly go back though. It's my fault they're in this mess, they must hate me! I guess I just need to resign myself to the fact that from now on...I'm all by myself.

All By Myself starts playing in the background, HANNO sings along, sobbing.

All by myself,  
 Don't wanna be,  
 All by myself,  
 Anymore.

All by myself,  
 Don't wanna live,  
 All by myself,  
 Anymore.

HANNO breaks down into tears, with the music still playing.

LIGHTS FADE.

9. INT. THE BUILDING THAT MORRIS, ZAK, AND GARETH WERE IN PREVIOUSLY. THE ONE THAT MIGHT BE A STAFF ROOM/OFFICE. NIGHTTIME.

MORRIS, ZAK, and GARETH are all looking lost.

**GARETH**

It's got to be around here  
 somewhere

**ZAK**

You've been saying that for  
 an hour

**GARETH**

And it's still true!

**ZAK**

You are such an idiot! This  
 building is so small, AND YOU  
 WORK HERE- how are we lost?

**MORRIS**

Shut up you guys!

**GARETH**

Yeah, you tell him, Morris-  
 leave me alone!

**MORRIS**

No, someone's coming, be quiet.

They try to hide, but they're in a corridor so it doesn't really work. KAREN walks on stage.

**KAREN**

Gareth?

**GARETH**

No.

**KAREN**

Gareth, what are you doing here with these animals?

**GARETH**

We got lost.

**KAREN**

You got lost? How did you end up here?

**MORRIS**

Gareth, who is she? Can she help us?

**GARETH**

That's Karen, she's the new Mexican security guard.

**ZAK**

Wow. I mean, at the risk of being "that guy" is the fact that she's Mexican really that important?

**MORRIS**

It's a reference, the audience love it.

**ZAK**

Okay...

**GARETH**

And in answer to your question, let's find out; Karen- do you know where the main computer is?

**KAREN**

Yes, it's just through that door.

(indicating)

**GARETH**

Great! Thanks!

GARETH, MORRIS, and ZAK all head in the direction she pointed. KAREN stops them.

**KAREN**

Woah, what are you doing? I can't let you guys just traipse into the main office...especially as two of you are animals!

**GARETH**

But, this is really important!

**KAREN**

I'm sorry, this is literally my job!

ZAK pulls MORRIS and GARETH aside

**ZAK**

Don't worry guys. I've got this!

ZAK starts strutting around. He is literally peacocking to try and attract KAREN. It works.

**KAREN**

Wow...um, could anyone give me a hand putting these tomahawks back in the shed?

**ZAK**

I'll help you out with that.

ZAK and KAREN walk off stage together.

**MORRIS**

Okay, the way's clear, let's go!

**GARETH**

This is just like that film...fantastic four

**MORRIS**

How is this anything like that?

**GARETH**

There was just four us!

**MORRIS**

(stares incredulously for a moment)  
C'mon, lets get going.

They both run off together.

LIGHTS FADE.

10. EXT. ZOO ENCLOSURE. NIGHTTIME.

JACKOV is sat there, unconcerned. HELGA is pacing.

**HELGA**

What is taking them so long, they should have done it by now!

**JACKOV**

Relax, what could have gone wrong?

**HELGA**

It was plan by Gareth!

**JACKOV**

Yeah, sorry, let me correct that statement: what could have gone right!

**HELGA**

That's exactly what I'm worried about!

**JACKOV**

I wouldn't worry- as you say, it's a Gareth plan, they probably haven't even found the building yet!

**HELGA**

I just don't feel right about it, and I feel so helpless sat here, not able to do anything about it.

**JACKOV**

AS you said, we can't do anything about it, so why stress?

**HELGA**

There's just so much happening! The zoo's closing, Hanno's gone, and our only plan for survival is in the hands of GARETH- a man who thought Game of Thrones was a documentary!

**JACKOV**

It'll come together though- it always does!

**HELGA**

And this time at least we've got Rod and Gareth on our side! We've never really had that before.

**JACKOV**

Yeah...I'm not sure how much solace that is, but at least you're right. C'mon, let's get back to work!

They head off stage.

LIGHTS FADE.

11. INT. ZOO OFFICE.

MORRIS and GARETH burst into the room.

**GARETH**

Sausage, I thought this was going to be it

**MORRIS**

It is it- the computer is right there!

**GARETH**

Oh...right! Now all I need to do is hack into it

GARETH sits at the computer and starts typing furiously.

**GARETH**

I've managed to reroute the firewall, and engage the proxy through a backdoor VPN.

**MORRIS**

Do you have any idea what you're talking about, because I'm pretty sure that was just a load of computer words in a random order!

**GARETH**

No, whoever used the computer last just didn't sign out! Okay, if we look back through



the e-mails, we should be able to see started this whole mess with the board.

GARETH types some more.

**GARETH**

(GARETH's mouth falls open)  
Oh. My. Gosh. You've got to be sausage kidding me!

**MORRIS**

What is it? Did you see their browser history?

**GARETH**

No. The person who did this, it was-

**ROD**

(walking in and pointing a gun at them both)  
Me.

**GARETH**

Rod. Why are you doing this?

**ROD**

Why am I doing this? Are you kidding? I poured my whole life into this sausage zoo, and what for? Every day of my life, I came here. Every hour of the day, I thought about my job. I worked hard, I was the best! And what do I have to show for it? A sausage pension package that barely covers my mortgage! And not only that, but my wife needed me, and I was here. I left to take better care of her, but it was too late, and now she's gone. She's gone because this place sucked away all my attention, and I

had nothing left to give to her. I did it because all the money that was spent on bringing you filthy animals into the country, could have been spent, could have been spent on healthcare, and that extra money could have helped Tory.

**MORRIS**

Rod, what are you talking about? You've been blinded by your pain!

**ROD**

NO! I finally see the truth, and it's too late for you to do anything about it!

**GARETH**

You're wrong, we'll tell everyone what your plan is!

**ROD**

(indicating the gun)  
What do you think this is for?

**GARETH**

Hmmm. Good point.

**MORRIS**

We're not the only ones who know we're here though. Zak's with us. He's off distracting Karen right now, but he'll be here any moment now, and he'll rescue us, and put a stop to all of this!

**ROD**

Oh really? KAREN!

KAREN enters, she has ZAK tied up as a prisoner.

**ZAK**

I'm really sorry guys- she pulled out the rope, and I thought 'Great!' but then she tied me up and dragged me in here!

KAREN shoves ZAK to stand with MORRIS and GARETH, ROD keeps his gun trained on all of them.

**GARETH**

We still have Jack and Helga, they know we're here, and they'll come and get us out if we don't show up by morning!

**ROD**

Good point. Karen, go and sort out the Hippo and the Zebra.

KAREN exits.

**ROD**

And with HANNO gone, and the rest of you held here, the zoo will be just a few birds, a couple of penguins and the reptile house. Pretty soon people will stop coming, and the board will have to shut the zoo. You guys have just made my job so much easier!

ROD cackles manically.

LIGHTS FADE.

12. EMPTY STAGE.

NARRATOR enters.

**NARRATOR**

So, I know what you're

thinking: 'this is meant to be a pantomime! It's meant to be funny, and light, with songs, and jokes. This is dark!'

Well kids, that's life sometimes! I mean, this is quite dark, but it's got some funny bits in, right? We had a couple of songs! We've got another one coming up in a couple of scenes! And a lot of the darkness is just reflecting real life! I mean, Rod's wife was called Tory because he's clearly a Brexit-pushing conservative- did you get that reference? Pretty funny right!

Anyway, try to remember it's all just a bit of fun, and we'll try to keep it that way!

LIGHTS FADE.

13. EXT. ZOO ENCLOSURE. NIGHT TIME.

HELGA and JACKOV are still waiting, but they're starting to get tired. HELGA is still pacing. JACKOV is sat on a bench.

**JACKOV**

Look, will you calm down? They said not to worry until morning, and it's barely even night time!

**HELGA**

I know, it's just so nerve-racking not knowing what's going on! Our fate is in the balance, and we have no way of knowing how they're doing. And now we don't even have

the distraction of the zoo  
being open!

**JACKOV**

Helga, you're more on edge  
than Kim Jong-un, get some  
rest.

**HELGA**

But I want to find out how  
it's gone as soon as they get  
back

**JACKOV**

Look, just go to sleep, I'll  
stay up, and as soon as  
they're back, I'll let you  
know.

**HELGA**

(yawning)

Thanks, Jack- I am pretty  
tired.

HELGA lies down on the bench next to JACKOV and falls  
straight to sleep. JACKOV settles in to keep watch. KAREN  
sneaks in behind JACKOV. A rousing game of "she's behind  
you" strikes up with the audience. Every time KAREN  
manages to hide, avoiding detection by JACKOV.  
Eventually, KAREN gets behind JACKOV and knocks him out  
with a bat.

LIGHTS FADE

14. EXT. A STREET IN KIDLINGTON. NIGHTTIME

HANNO is sat by himself.

**HANNO**

I don't get it. I ran away, I  
learnt my lesson. I sang a  
sad song: why has no-one come  
to pull me out of my funk  
yet? I was SURE they would  
have come by now!

**NARRATOR**

(walking on stage)  
It's because there's no-one  
left

**HANNO**

(startled)  
Who are you?

**NARRATOR**

Im the narrator, my name is  
Deus Ex Machina...you can call  
me "Duey".

**HANNO**

Okay, Duey. What do you mean  
there's no-one left, are the  
others in trouble?

**DUEY**

Yes. They would have come to  
save you- they really care  
about you, but they're a bit  
tied up at the moment

(laughs)

You'll find that really funny  
in a minute- they've all been  
kidnapped by Rod, and his  
accomplice, Karen, and it's  
up to you to save them.

**HANNO**

Me? Save them? I've only ever  
made things worse! I can't do  
anything right! If I got ot  
save them, they'll probably  
end up dead.

**DUEY**

Or worse, expelled.

**HANNO**

Expelled? From what?

**DUEY**

It was a Harry Potter

reference, look, don't worry about that, you need to worry about saving them. As I said, they really care about you. I know that they wouldn't worry about messing up, or not being good enough before rushing of to save you...again. They'd put everything else aside to get you out of whatever kind of mess you were in! Hell, they're in this mess, because they were trying to tie up the loose ends from the mess that you made last year.

**HANNO**

But... I'm scared

**DUEY**

You should be. But this isn't something you should do because you can, it's something you should do because you can't not do everything you can to save your friends. So you need to put on your big boy pants, and lion the sausage up. What d'you say?

"No Way" starts Playing

**HANNO**

My mind is racing, but my  
heart, it beats faster,  
I'm in control, commander and  
master,  
Lady Fate, creating disaster,  
But she ain't the boss of me,

Head on collision with a  
catastrophic setback,  
Makes you either want to get  
lost, or get back,  
I choose the latter; let's

not forget that,  
 We hold the cards this time,  
 so there's no need to bitch  
 or whine!

There's no way,  
 I'm gonna take another  
 option,  
 No way I'm gonna settle with  
 a loss!  
 No way I'm gonna sit around  
 and watch,  
 There's no, no way...

There's no way,  
 You're gonna find me in the  
 background,  
 No damn way you're gonna see  
 me satisfied!  
 No way they're ever gonna  
 make me back down,  
 No, no way...

#### **DUEY**

Home field advantage,  
 The upper hand is ours,  
 So the game is on!

The clock ticks,  
 But we've got our tricks  
 To fuss with and fix what's  
 wrong!

#### **HANNO**

Let's wake up and go, guys,  
 Take out the bad guys,  
 Break out your mad eyes—

#### **HANNO AND DUEY**

YEAH!

We'll take it on together,  
 We're stronger and we're  
 better  
 And if there's a problem--  
 "Ha"--Whatever!



There's no way  
 We're gonna leave it up to  
 chance,  
 There's no damn way we're  
 gonna go without a fight!  
 No way you're gonna see us on  
 our ass,  
 There's no, no way...

There's no way  
 We're gonna settle with  
 sorrow,  
 Leave right now if you think  
 this ain't real!  
 Today, not waitin' for  
 tomorrow!

No, no way there's no way,  
 No, no way there's no way,  
 No, no way there's no way,  
 There's. No. Waaaaaaay!

SONG ENDS. LIGHTS FADE.

15. EXT. OUTSIDE THE MAIN OFFICE. NIGHT TIME.

KAREN is guarding the door to the main office. DUEY and HANNO are on stage, hidden from KAREN.

**DUEY**

Okay, that's the one that  
 that's working with Rod.

**HANNO**

Why would she team up with  
 him? What's she got against  
 us?

**DUEY**

She's allergic to animals, so  
 she wants to get rid of you  
 all.

**HANNO**

That doesn't make ANY sense!

Why would she get a job here then? How do you even know all of this?

**DUEY**

I dunno- I'm the narrator. Whatever I say becomes true, so even if that isn't true, it is now! Here's the plan, I'll go talk to her, then you sneak up behind her. That will make her sneeze and drop her gun, which I'll then grab. We'll then tie her up, and steal her walkie talkie. Then, when you're in position, I'll radio Rod to come out here, and you go in, and save your friends.

**HANNO**

Will that really work?

**DUEY**

I just said it didn't I?

DUEY walks over to KAREN

**DUEY**

I think I'm lost

**KAREN**

I'd say so- the zoo's closed, you're going to have to leave.

**DUEY**

Oh, I'm really sorry, I must not have heard when the zoo was closing, could you please show me out.

As KAREN is explaining to DUEY how to leave the zoo, HANNO sneaks behind her, causing her to sneeze, and drop the gun. DUEY quickly grabs the gun and points it at KAREN.

**DUEY**

See, I told you it would work! Now, grab her walkie, and tie her up.

HANNO takes KAREN off-stage. DUEY follows.

LIGHTS FADE.

16. LIGHTS UP. INT. THE OFFICE. NIGHT TIME.

MORRIS, GARETH, ZAK, HELGA, and JACKOV are all tied up. ROD is holding them all hostage.

**HELGA**

You'll never get away with this!

**ROD**

Oh, don't be so dramatic. What is this, some cheesy film?

**MORRIS**

Kind of. More of a crappy pantomime.

**ROD**

Anyway, I've already got away with it. The board's meeting first thing tomorrow to discuss the worrying matter that for the second year in a row, all the lead attractions have escaped from the zoo.

**JACKOV**

I thought they didn't know about last year?

**ROD**

Actually, they did. I told them that you all escaped with the wolves, and that the wolves were the only ones I

wasn't able to round up. They applauded me as a hero, while I've been setting you guys up all year!

**HELGA**

You're disgusting

**ROD**

No- I'm a hero. And in 12 hours, the world will see you the way I do: a plague on this great village.

KAREN'S voice comes in from off-stage, clearly broadcasted from the walkie talkie.

**KAREN**

Err, boss, we've got a situation out here, can you out front pronto. Over.

**ROD**

(into the walkie)  
I'm on my way. Over.  
(to the animals)  
I'd tell you to stay put, but It's not like you're going anywhere.

ROD exits. Moments later HANNO pops his head round the corner.

**HANNO**

(whispering)  
Is the coast clear?

**EVERYONE**

HANNO!

**HANNO**

SHHHH!!! Don't shout or Rod will hear you. Look, we don't have much time before he's back. We've tied up Karen,

but it won't take long before Rod realises that, and he'll come straight back here knowing that something is up. What I need is for you to distract Rod while, then I'll take him out from behind.

**GARETH**

I've got just the thing- it's sure to confuse him!

**HANNO**

Are you sure- well, I hope so, here he comes!

HANNO jumps behind something to hide. ROD and KAREN run in. ROD's still holding his gun, they're both a little out of breath.

**ROD**

HA! You're all still here!

**ZAK**

As you said, where would we go?

**ROD**

Someone's attacked Karen, obviously they know you're here.

**KAREN**

It was that lion

**HELGA**

Hanno? It can't have been- he left!

**GARETH**

Hey, Rod, why are E.T's legs short? SAUSAGE, I mean, what's E.T short for?

**ROD**

He's got little legs.

**GARETH**

(disappointed)

What? How did you get it so quickly?

HANNO suddenly bursts out from his hiding place. ROD quickly turns and shoots him. HANNO collapses to the floor.

**HANNO**

OWWWW! Sausage! Why did I think that that would work? This hurts so much!

**ROD**

You're a fool. You thought you could change any of this, just by wanting it enough? That's not how life works.

**HANNO**

That's it! We need Duey!

**JACKOV**

Who is Duey?

**ZAK**

Is he one of those three ducks?

**HANNO**

No, he's the Narrator!

**ZAK**

The what?

**MORRIS**

That guy who keeps showing up and needlessly explaining what we've just seen happen!

**JACKOV**

How do you know him?

**MORRIS**

I just know stuff!

**HANNO**

Anyway, anything he says, happens! If we get him to come here, he can save us. We all just need to call his name. On three everyone: 1...2...3...

**EVERYONE**

DUUEEEYYY!!!!

DUEY walks on stage. ROD points his gun at DUEY.

**DUEY**

And then Rod lowered his gun.

ROD lowers his gun, looking bewildered, as if it's against his will.

**DUEY**

What's up, Hanno? What do you need?

**HANNO**

We're in a bit of a mess here, we need you to describe a way to get us out of this.

**DUEY**

Okay...let's see.

As DUEY describes situations, the characters act out what is being described.

**DUEY**

And then, Rod slowly started to raise his gun. It looks like he's aiming it at Duey

again, but then it keeps rising until it's pointing at his own head. And then he-

**EVERYONE**

NO!!

**DUEY**

What?

**HANNO**

Too dark!

**HELGA**

Waaaayy too dark!

**JACKOV**

You can't just kill people, that's murder.

**ZAK**

Yeah, kind of illegal.

**DUEY**

Eurgh. Fine.

(thinking for a moment)

Okay, got it. Everyone started spontaneously dancing.

Saturday Night start playing. EVERYONE except DUEY jumps up into a line and starts dancing along.

**HELGA**

(after a few times doing the dance)

How exactly is this supposed to help?

**DUEY**

(laughing)

It isn't, but it's soo funny! Alright, alright, they all stop.



EVERYONE stops dancing.

**DUEY**

Hmm, let's see. Okay, I think I've got it. And then, Rod turns around and walks away, taking Karen with him, never to be seen by the rest of the gang-

**HELGA**

Wait, what if he has a change of heart

**ZAK**

Or we need to foil his plans again

**MORRIS**

Or if it makes narrative sense for him to pop up again next year

**DUEY**

Okay- never to be seen again by the gang unless they need to for the next pantomime.

ROD and KAREN walk off-stage unceremoniously.

**JACKOV.**

Well. That was surprisingly easy.

**ZAK**

Yeah. Almost disappointingly so.

**HELGA**

We're not out of the woods yet, what about the board?

**DUEY**

I've got this: and with Rod no longer pushing the board,

they all unanimously decided  
to keep the zoo open.

**HELGA**

Well then. I guess that's  
that.

**HANNO**

Ummm, guys. I hate to be all  
"me, me, me" but I'M BLEEDING  
OUT HERE!

**JACKOV**

Oh sausage- yeah.

**GARETH**

I've got this

GARETH pulls out an orange bandanna.

**GARETH**

Good job we gave these out to  
everyone last year!

GARETH ties the bandanna around HANNO'S wound.

**HELGA**

Well guys, same again enxt  
year?

**JACKOV**

Of course, but do we have to  
invite this guy  
(indicates DUEY)

**ZAK**

Yeah, it's a bit boring when  
he can just solve everything  
by saying it.

**MORRIS**

He is very overpowered.

**HANNO**

Guys, guys, guys. If we've learnt anything from Rod, it should be that we should have superior attitudes and exclude people. Having said that, yeah, this guy did sort of create an anti-climax, so maybe we shouldn't invite him.

**DUEY**

I'm right here, guys!

**HELGA**

(ignoring DUEY and raising a toast)

For saving the zoo, and keeping us employed, here's to us!

**EVERYONE**

(also raising imaginary glasses)

TO US!

**DUEY**

(Stepping forward and addressing the audience)

Well, another panto is done, and everything's wrapped up nicely! Thanks for staying with us, and for most of you not falling asleep! We hope you've enjoyed it as much as we have, although hopefully you all appreciate a proper hero when you see one, rather than writing them off as a literal Deus Ex Machina, and accuse them of being an anti-climax...not that I'm bitter or anything! Anyway- see you all next time!!

LIGHTS FADE.