

CAFE CINDERELLA - stage musical synopsis

Teen Josie's 'coming of age'. London, early 1960s.

Young policeman DAVE waits impatiently with his guitar. He takes off his helmet, loosens his jacket...

Larky DINO is the late arriving singer...

Their D-Beats band sing "CAFE CINDERELLA..."

*Welcome to the show, show we're putting on
A little bit of drama, little bit of song
A roller-coaster of hopes and fears
Kaleidoscope of laughs and tears*

*All about a cafe Cinderella
A happy sad cafe Cinderella
Lost and found, lost and found, lost and found*

STREET

JOSIE shimmies to the music of a little radio pressed to her ear, singing to herself. She pauses to mimic the fashion model on a winter sales poster..

She encounters spivvy STEVE outside Milo's Novelties. Steve beckons her inside. "So you're the little helper with jukebox repairs. I'm taking over the business." Dismayed, Josie turns away...

She sees her mum SADIE flirt with Steve. She sings "LADY SADIE..."

*She's my mum, Lady Sadie
Has a twinkle in her eye
Works in a bar, loves to have a good time*

*She's my mum, a little bit crazy
We live above the Wash and Dry
With the barrow boys clatter, chatter chatter chatter
And the rattle as the trains go by*

*But where is my dad?
My old dad Sailor Joe*

*My amazing mum, Lady Sadie
Has a passion to please
Loves to be flattered, loves to be squeezed
Life and soul, if you know what I mean*

*Now she's found a lodger man
Says to call him Uncle Steve
He's all hanky-panky, bet you can believe
He's a bloomin' tease*

*But where is my dad?
He sent a letter from Havana
It's eighty-one degrees*

Sadie spots Josie, "Josie love, get us fish and chips. You, me and your Uncle Stevie. Off you go. No rush."

Josie sighs to herself, "Another flippin' uncle."

WEST END

Images of Piccadilly lights and performers (a magician, a Hamlet, a comic, an opera singer, a burlesque dancer...)

As The D-Beats sing "*THRILL OF THE NIGHT...*"

*Are you getting ready, ready for the sights?
Bustle busy rush of people to the Piccadilly lights
Pall Mall, Soho, Leicester Square
Well do you love
Do you love the thrill of the night?*

*Hear the West End buzzing, everybody on the go
Catch a movie and a Chinese, cabaret, supper club show
Toffs and all type of goodtimers, all the ladies who delight
Well do you love
Do you love the thrill of the night?*

*Are you culture crazy, do you like song and dance?
Do you love the foggy monlight?
Coppers chasing villains
Clowns club hopping
And lovers holding hands, romance*

*Let's have another nightcap Daphne, here's a jazzy little bar
Everybody fascinating, take you as you are
Living it up with the high-life at the midnight hour
Well don't you just love the thrill?
Love the thrill of the night*

*Feel a little woozy, just a little tight
Looking for a taxi to get home alright
Hoping to remember, never to forget
Well do you love
Do you love the thrill of the night?*

A toff tries to hail a taxi with champagne bottle in hand. He shouts up to the moon and stars, "Hello, anybody out there?..."

Dino abandons the band to join his tearaway pals Rocker and Ted. They pick-pocket the toff and saunter away, laughing...

They bump into a kitbag-laden merchant sailor. He curses them...

JOSIE'S HOME

He's Josie's dad SAILOR JOE, on a surprise return for her sixteenth birthday, with the latest pop records from America. He hears Latin dance music...

He finds wife Sadie dancing with Steve, circling in passionate embrace. He threatens a knife. It flashes at Steve as he scrambles to escape. But Sadie slumps to the floor with dying gasp. Josie witnesses in horror...

Sound of a steam train rattling close by, with lights reflecting.

CHURCH HALL

Mortified, Sailor Joe bundles Josie into a moonlit hall. "An accident I swear. Promise you saw nothing. Gives me a chance to get away." Josie is abandoned...

Sound of a police whistle. PC Dave chases a thief into the hall. A silver tray and candlestick clatter to the floor. Dave recognises his singer, "Dino you prat. You and your stupid gang. When are you gonna wise up?" Dino shrugs, "Just having a laugh..."

They see Josie, rigid in shock, oblivious to them.

CAFE

They take her to GRACE'S cafe. "Can't get a word out of her. Better with you than a cell overnight." Grace fusses, "Another stray, poor thing. You can do with a meal no doubt. And I've a nice attic room just about your size..."

There's a jukebox and a bandstand. Dave picks up a guitar, Dino has some scribbled lyrics, "Here's another verse." They sing about a 'glitter glam girl', their differences forgotten.

DOCKLAND

Sound of ships' horns. Images of foggy moonlit docks. A policeman patrols by torchlight. He sings "SAILOR JOE..."

Sailor Joe

On the run from what he did

Did he get away on a steamer hid?

He'd have been a fool to hang around

Around his neck a rope

If we catch him, judge and jury condemn

And send him down

Down

Sailor Joe

Sailor Joe

Lord help him

LIGHTS FADE

POLICE STATION

Image of police lamp over entrance...

Sound of children chanting, "Are you gonna catch Sailor Joe?..."

A detective questions Josie about the tragedy of her mum. Clearly a crime of passion, and her dad Sailor Joe had the motive. But Josie is defiantly loyal. She has no idea where he is. She hardly speaks. "All I saw was Mum lying there. Never was so still...."

Steve is released on bail. Josie turns on him, she can't hold back. "He was the cause." Steve protests, "I was just being sociable." He brazenly offers to help Josie. "Any way I can." Grace warns, "Best way is to stay away." Dave bundles Steve out.

CAFE

Grace gives Josie a job as a waitress, adjusting a uniform for her. "What's done is done. Your dad's escaped back to sea no doubt, and you've a fresh start. So show off your smile and you'll feel better too."

ATTIC BEDROOM (CAFE)

Josie is alone with an old 'Smoochy and Grace' music hall poster and a few show costumes on mannequins...

She 'talks to Mum'. "I miss you terrible. All your fun and games." But she remembers the whispers and lies of her mum's affairs too. She vows to avoid all the perils of passions. She'll live her life only in dreams, inspired and comforted by pop songs...

She sings "RAGGEDY BLUE..."

*I'm just a nobody, nobody knows
Lost in a limbo, never going back home
Bye bye*

*Thought I was happy, didn't realise
The passions all around, the whispers, the lies
Why why?*

*I'm broken up inside
And I'll have to hide
Let the good old, bad old world
Pass me by*

*Memories of Mother, always a show
Another gin and a giggle, just a minute ago
Bye bye*

*Gone is the sailor, took a life, couldn't stay
Didn't mean it I'm sure, left his tears then away
And I'm feeling so*

*Raggedy blue
Raggedy blue
Raggedy blue*

LIGHTS FADE

CAFE

Dave (out of uniform) brings a box of Josie's things from her old home. She's grateful but seizes her diary, embarrassed. Dave is only interested in her records. "Can't get them here." He checks the jukebox. A perfunctory check. He knows it's not working...

Dino enters, announcing with teasing PA voice the imminent arrival of "The winner, Miss Better Bread, carnival queen." Dave keenly anticipates, "Angie." Dino glances out, "Oh, she's gone..."

Dave shrugs off the tease, but Dino has news from Angie. "Says she's been talent spotted, got an audition for something or other. A stripper?" Dave threatens a fist...

They argue over the future of the band. Dave is too committed to his police career, Dino is bound to end up in jail like his dad. Josie is fascinated as their creative instincts take over, working some more on the 'glitter glam girl' song. They toy with the phrase 'talent spotted'...

Josie can't help quietly fancying Dave...

He reacts to a distant police whistle. Dino mock surrenders, "Not me guv..."

Dave feels obliged to respond to the whistle, but glam ANGIE sashays in, loosening her coat, revealing an usherette uniform. Dino taunts, "Oi Brenda, give us a choc-ice." Angie snaps back, "Angeline to you." Dino provocatively frisks her. "Where's your torch?" Dave threatens again, Dino saunters out...

Angie's audition is for a TV commercial. She persuades Dave to help practise her 'Maltesers' line...

Josie examines the jukebox while giggling at Angie's efforts. Angie resents, but Josie is recovering her spirit...

LIGHTS FADE

Grace tests Josie about her interest in Dave. "He's a good sort, but hooked on Angie and her ways, for now. And you've all the time in the world to find who's best for you..."

A grandiloquent singing voice distracts them...

*He's a charmer debonair
Entertained most everywhere...*

Flamboyant SMOOCHY makes a grand entrance in coyote fur coat, gesturing with cigarette holder. Followed by his well-travelled steamer trunk...

Smoochy hugs delighted Grace. They reminisce about their time together in showbiz, telling Josie, "We were top of the bill..."

They entertain her with a brief "CHARMER DEBONAIR" song-and-dance, until Smoochy clutches his back. Grace offers her magic massage. She's 'carried a torch' for Smoochy ever since she quit the stage. And now he needs to give up the stage, maybe for management.

STREET

Opportunist Steve opens a suitcase on sprung legs, singing "GOTTA PUT OUT OR YOU DON'T GET NOTHING." He hustles clockwork bunnies. "See the bunny jump..."

Seeing Angie, he offers fancy lingerie from the suitcase. "Have a look. Genuine French. Give you a fitting if you like." Angie retorts, "Get lost..."

Approaching, Josie mimics Angie's flouncy walk. But she stops short on seeing Steve...

A newspaper boy shouts, "Where's Sailor Joe? Latest!" He taunts Steve, "He'll be after you. They can't hang him twice." Steve retorts, "Don't be daft, he's long gone." He hopes. He glances about and makes a furtive retreat...

Josie retreats too, in turmoil, vivid memories stirred. She bumps into Dino, pushing a 'Freddie's Flowers' market barrow. Dino tries to cheer her with a bunch of flowers, "For a smile..."

Hunky, pompadoured young RICKY struts by. Dino calls out, "Oi, you still with Carl Twanger's band?" Ricky is proud, "No mate, going solo." Dino mocks, "Yeah? Who as? (gestures 'showbiz') Ricky Rascal? Ricky the Brickie? Ricky Dick?" Ricky sneers, "Ricky in the hit parade."

CAFE

Josie gives the flowers to Grace, with thanks for all her support. But she can't hide her despair. Grace counsels, "No sense looking back. You've got your whole life ahead, lucky you..."

Smoochy is alerted from a snooze. "Josie with a long face? We can't have that. He sings "BOUNCE BACK" with Grace, while careful to avoid further injury...

*There's no point moping if your world's gone flat
No point moping, you can't do that
Bounce back, bounce back, bounce back*

*The best way of coping is to have the nack
The best way of coping is bouncing right back
Bounce back, bounce back, bounce back*

*Don't you stay glum
Don't you stay sad
Put on a smile
Bet you'll be glad*

*Because there's no point moping
No point moping
Better to be bouncing
Bouncing back*

Josie is embarrassed and energised. She hugs Grace, she kisses Smoochy. Left alone, she determines to fix the jukebox.

Dave and Angie bustle in, arguing. Angie presses Dave to forget police duty and accompany her to a showbiz party. "It could be my big break." Dave resists. She tries a suggestive tone, "We don't have to stay." She finally challenges, "If you really love me." Dave relents. They bustle on out...

Josie sighs, "Call that love?" She sings *"TRULY"* to herself...

*When will I begin, when will I begin
The crazy, crazy game of love?
What a state I'm in, what a state I'm in
Too much I'm thinking of*

*Is everything a spin, everything a spin
In the crazy, crazy game of love?
With the giving and taking, all the heart-breaking
Will I be strong enough?*

*I was witness to a crime of passion
Caught up in a terrible scene
Family lost with the slip of a knife
Maybe I should live in dreams*

*Cos Truly truly truly
Am I ever gonna trust somebody
Truly truly truly
Am I ever gonna give my love?
Ever gonna give
Ever gonna give
Ever gonna give my love?*

She's overheard by Smoochy. He 'asides', "The girl can sing. Not much to look at but she has a certain girl next door charm..."

He turns to Josie, "Want to meet the next pop sensation?" Josie shrugs.

PHOTO STUDIO

Lights flash. Ricky poses as a heart-throb Regency buck with a microphone. He mimes to his power ballad, *"IT'S NOT A SIN"*. Smoochy coaxes more emotion. "Give it the passion. You're Ricky Romeo, every girl's hot dream." Josie observes, amused, embarrassed...

Ricky steps away. "I dunno Smooch, over-doing it a bit. The missus won't like it." Smoochy is alarmed, "Married?!" Ricky shrugs, "And two kids, what of it?" Smoochy despairs. "Sorry Ricky, forget the teen idol business. Forget cashing in on the pop craze. You've just become a PR nightmare." Ricky clenches a fist. "Whadyasayin'?"

CAFE

Band rehearsal. No Dino. Dave suspects Carl Twanger wants him as Ricky's replacement. Smoochy hides a black eye behind sunglasses. He challenges Josie to sing. She shrinks back. Grace is protective, "Not everyone wants to be famous..."

Dino breezes in with a fab electric guitar for Dave, special price. Dave is relieved to see him, but suspects the guitar is 'hot'. Dino glares, "Always the copper. I've had enough." Dave tests, "Well go on, clear off." Josie fears the worst, but Dino counters, "It's my band as much as yours..."

Smoochy provokes them. "Amateurs! When will you get serious. When will you write a hit song? (To Dino) Do you want to be a joker all your life?..."

Dino snaps, "What's it to you?" He shrugs at Dave, "The geezer's right. We're just part-timers, but that's how I like it. No-one's gonna push me around." He starts away. Dave is speechless...

Josie challenges Dino, "You have a show tonight." He retorts, "Who cares?" Grace confronts him, "We all care. Why waste your talent? Poor Josie's been through hell but she has faith in you and the band. Don't let her down..."

Dino pauses, respectful of Grace. He turns to Dave, indicating Josie. "Shall we? For the little lady?" Conflict forgotten, they sing upbeat "*LET IT GO...*"

*How do you do Cafe Cinderella
Quiet as a mouse, busy as a bee
Tell me is it true things are getting better
With a steady routine and a new family*

*Trouble trouble trouble
You had a terrible blow*

*So now's the time to make your mind
And put the past behind
Let it go*

*Better get along, forget your sorrow
(Too late for tears, embrace tomorrow)
Show off your smile and scare away the bogie-man
(Scare the bogie-man)
Well are you gonna be a cosy home-maker
A busy working girl, maybe mover-shaker
All you've gotta do is be the best you can*

*Trouble trouble trouble
You lost your happy home*

*So now's the time to make your mind
And put the past behind
Let it go, let it go
Let it go, let it go, let it go*

Josie is embarrassed and thrilled, until Angie sashays in. A cue for the band to tease about her showbiz ambitions, singing "*GLITTER GLAM ANGELINE...*"

*She's a glitter glam girl, used to be Brenda
A glitter glam girl, carnival queen
A glitter glam girl
Now she's Angeline*

*Yes a glitter glam girl, formally Brenda
A talent spotter's got her on a fame game dream
A glitter glam girl
Now she's Angeline*

*See her at the pictures up and down the aisle
She'll give you what you fancy boobadidi boom style
Such a glitter glam girl, popcorn and choc-ice
Glitter glitter glam girl, a wiggle and a giggle*

*With a head full of dreams
Now she's Angeline*

Angie basks in the attention, flirting with Dave. Josie despairs.

CAFE BACKYARD

Josie puts out rubbish. She 'talks to Mum' again, wondering if she was ever in love. "Real love. Or was it all just a laugh, chasing thrills? Is that the best way to get along?..."

A shadowy figure observes. Sailor Joe. Desperate to comfort Josie but fearful of her response, and of being spotted.

CAFE

No Dino at the cafe gig. Dave is frustrated enough to give up the band. But Angie intrigues him about a potential backer, keen to get into show business. A chance for Dave to quit the police instead...

Still no Dino. Smoochy announces Josie as a fresh new talent. She's put on the spot. "Me? Sing in public? Never been so bold." Retreating in panic she clonks Angie with her waitress tray...

Their catty fight propels Josie onto the bandstand. Emboldened, she acquits herself well enough, singing "JUKEBOX CRAZY..."

*I'm so happy dancing
When I hear the jukebox play
So happy dancing
When I hear the jukebox play*

*Select A-five suddenly alive
The place is jumping with the rocking jive
Select B-ten play the record again
Bebop doowop doowop (she's a dancer)
Bebop doowop doowop (she's a dancer)*

*I'm so happy dreaming
When I hear the jukebox play
Dream, dreaming, dreaming
When I hear the jukebox play*

*Then I come alive
Jukebox crazy*

*Yes I come alive
Jukebox crazy...*

Angie flounces out. But Dave and late arriving Dino encourage Josie. She sings "WHERE'S THAT BOY?" with Dino...

*Where's that boy, where's that boy?
Is he gonna show?
Where's that boy, where's that boy?
Is he gonna show?*

*We said let's go to the pictures
We said let's meet at eight
But where's that boy?
We're on a date*

*Is he my love, is he my beau
Or am I just a fool?
Is he gonna show, or should I go?
I don't know what to do*

*We said the Picture Palais
The Picture Palais at eight
But where's that boy?
We're on a date, and I'm shivering*

*Where's that girl, where's that girl?
Is she gonna show?
Where's that darling girl?
Is she gonna show?*

*We said let's go to the flicks
We said let's meet at eight
But time is flying
Getting so late*

*(spoken) Did we say the Empire? She could be at the Palais.
Better catch that bus.*

Josie: Oh here at last, charmed I'm sure

Dino: So what happenend to West Side Story?

Josie: You fancied Psycho

Dino: La di da, couple of Charlies

Josie: You are

Dino: Come on, let's go have a drink

Sailor Joe disrupts the show, chased on through by a police sergeant. Josie screams, "He's my dad! Let him go!" Dino 'accidentally' blocks the sergeant. Sailor Joe escapes...

Josie finds a letter in her hand.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

CAFE

Another day. Josie, morose, re-opens Sailor Joe's letter, but puts it back in the envelope without reading...

Sound of his voice. "I love you Josie. Just wanted to say goodbye, proper like. Sorry about your mum. She had her needs. She was pushed I swear. I'll send you more records if I can..."

Josie sings "*FEELINGS AND FEARS*", hoping for peace of mind...

*Ever so sad at what's been done
Suddenly a ray of sun
Hoping all the clouds will blow away
Cos there's been a troubling lot to worry
Demons looming all in a flurry
Feelings and fears every day*

*I just have to find
Some kind of peace of mind, I pray*

*Thank you, thank you my new friends
For patching me up and helping to mend
Now I guess I'll get along OK
I'll give a smile and try to blend
I'll even laugh but I can't pretend
Feelings and fears every day*

*Yesterday fears
Please, please, please disappear*

*I just have to find
Some kind of peace of mind, I pray*

*Cos feelings and fears every day
Feelings and fears every day*

DOCKLAND

Sound of ship's horns. An upturned dinghy...

A policeman's torch shines as he passes by, singing "*ANYBODY HERE SEEN SAILOR JOE?...*"

*Has anybody here seen Sailor Joe?
Anybody here seen Sailor Joe?
Did he go to ground or did he stow?
Did he sneak away on the high seas wandering?
Sailor Joe
Sailor Joe*

A whisky bottle rolls from under the dinghy. Followed by a tramp cautiously squeezing out. Sailor Joe, in a bad state.

STREET

Dave and Dino feast on fish and chips. They consider fitting Josie into their show for a couple of songs. She demurs, "Don't mind me. I'm not a proper singer anyway..."

They're fascinated to see novelty cut-outs being carried by - a space-rocket and two space-suits. Followed by Smoochy. He takes a space-suit and greets through the open visor. "Opportunity knocks. A chance to prove yourselves, and cash in on the pop craze while it lasts..."

He wants Dave and Dino to adapt their 'Rocket To The Moon' song. "It could be a hit as a novelty romance." Dino supposes he's joking. Smoochy presses, "You and Josie as astronaut lovers." Josie giggles. Dave is dismissive, "It's our show closer. A rocker. Can't mess with that..."

Smoochy is relentless, "Don't be losers. I can get you an audition for Saturday Pops, but you need a gimmick." Dave challenges, "Telly? You're having us on." Dino sneers, "Won't catch me looking daft." Smoochy accuses, "No drive, no ambition. I'll find another band..."

Dave and Dino are stung. They'll think about it...

Smoochy bitterly confides to Josie, "Seems I'm wasting my time. Maybe I should move on, go back to the stage." Josie is concerned, "You can't abandon Grace." Smoochy admits, "Oh I love her to bits, but I'm poor goods for settling down, footloose to a fault."

CAFE

The space-rocket and space-suits are on display. Josie enters, taking an electrical valve from its box. She bumps into a porter's barrow, beside Smoochy's steamer trunk. She frowns and pushes the barrow out of sight...

She nimbly inserts the valve in the back of the jukebox. She switches on. The jukebox lights up...

Rocker and Ted rush in and fight to use it. Josie tries to stop them. They taunt and grope. "Not much of her." Dino defends her. Knives flourish. Dino is cut. Josie brandishes a knife from the counter, incensed by the stupid violence. She screams to stop...

Rocker and Ted flinch. They saunter away, laughing to cover their moment of cowardice...

Josie stares at the knife in her hand, trembling, astonished at her action. "Madness." Dino comforts, joking, "Join the gang..."

Josie tends to Dino's wound. "Plain crazy to waste your time with them. Focus on the band, and give Grace and Smoochy a chance too." She believes Smoochy's 'Rocket' song idea is vital for him to stay and maybe settle down with Grace...

Dino admits Grace has always been supportive. But he's rebelled against the world ever since his mum died in a hit-and-run. Then his dad was sent to prison for armed robbery...

Bowing to Josie's concern he vows to give up the gang. He places a foot on his knife and snaps it in two. Josie hugs him in delight. He'll do the 'Rocket' song in honour of Grace. Josie is thrilled, "But what about Dave?" Dino is firm, "Out-voted, two to one..."

He saunters away, blowing a kiss. He sings "*WHAT TO DO?*" confused about his sudden, romantic interest in Josie...

*She's a pretty fine girl
A little blue
Got me kind of dizzy
Yeah kind of dizzy about
What to do*

*I've been looking for thrills
In my getaway shoes
But I'm tripping and tumbling
Tripping and tumbling
What to do?*

*What to do, what to do
About the little darling?
Yes I'm reeling
What to do, what to do, what to do?
Are we headed for romance?
Are we headed for romance?*

*I've been looking for laughs
Playing the fool
But could it be time to listen to my heart?
I'm all overcome about
What to do
I'm all overcome about
What to do*

ATTIC BEDROOM (CAFE)

Josie writes in her diary. "Dino means well. I could quite fancy him. Though Grace believes Dave is my Mr Right, if he only knew it. It's obvious who's the Mr Right for Grace. Anyway (flourishing money), she's given me a bonus for fixing the jukebox..."

She discards the diary and eagerly flips through teen magazines, singing upbeat "*WHO WILL I LOVE?...*"

Images of teen mag fashions, beauty tips, hair styles and 'boy meets girl' cartoon strips...

People say I'm bouncing back
People say I'm on the right track

*Time to be positive, my life to live
 Step out of the shadows, my love to give
 So I wonder who will I love
 Strong and tender, sharing the love
 Only kind of loving I'm dreaming of
 Only kind of loving I'm dreaming of
 I won't be put upon, and no fancy fling
 I'm ready for romance, but only the real thing
 And so I wonder who will I love
 Strong and tender, sharing the love
 Only kind of loving I'm dreaming of
 Only kind of loving I'm dreaming of
 (Tragedy) I had to hide
 (Tragedy) But I'm done with crying*

STREET / PILLAR BOX

*I feel good inside
 I'm bouncing back*

Josie has a spring in her step, feeling good and looking good with new clothes and hair style...

She circles the pillar-box...

*I won't be put upon, and no fancy fling
 I'm ready for romance, but only the real thing
 I wonder, wonder who will I love
 Wonder wonder
 Wonder wonder who will Iove
 I wonder wonder*

She sees Angie mince by, arm in arm with Dave, glam as ever...

She stops short, jealous, deflated, doubting her own modest new look. She hides from their view behind the pillar-box...

Dave quizzes, "So who's this bloke who wants to back the band?..."

Angie faces him, "Is that all you care about? Your flippin' band?"

"You know I'm daft about you..."

"I know you're daft..."

She allows a kiss and a squeeze...

Josie slips away, hoping not to be noticed...

Angie pulls from Dave's embrace, "I'm off to the photo shoot." Dave is sour, "Showing off again?" Angie chides, "Perfectly decent."

LIGHTS FADE

Dave is perched on a market stall, a copy of Melody Maker in hand. Ricky complains about Smoochy leaving him stranded. "A no-hit wonder, for now."

Dave supposes he'll be back with Carl Twanger." Ricky is downbeat. "No chance. Back on the building site more like. Carl's got the hump with me. Wants Dino." Dave laughs, "Wish I could say good riddance..."

Ricky ventures, "So do a swap. Me for Dino..."

Dave shrugs, "He's too good to lose. And we're writing our own songs now."

Ricky starts away, "Well think about it..."

Dave opens his Melody Maker to read...

A 'copycat Angie' walks by, unsteady on high-heel shoes. She's Josie, now dressed extra glam, trying to impress. But she lacks Angie's sheer flauntability...

She glances back but Dave shows no interest...

She stumbles. Dave is alerted, "You alright love?" He doesn't recognise Josie. She shies away, "I'm OK..."

Voice of Angie, "Oh, there you are." Dave is slow to respond, "Took your time." "Come on, let's celebrate. I'm gonna be in Picture Parade..."

Alone, Josie hobbles back to the market stall. She climbs onto it, takes off a shoe and rubs her ankle. She hunches, head in hands, broken in spirit...

Sound of Steve singing, "*See the bunny jump, see the bunny jump...*"

Approaching, he spots Josie. "Hey doll, what's up?" He's ignored. "Lost your voice? Can't have you upset can we, a little darling like you." He peers closer. Josie snaps, "Clear off, leave me alone..."

Steve persists, "Tell you what we'll do. Get you a drink to warm you up." He takes Josie's arm. Indignant, she jumps off the stall, minus a shoe...

Steve offers her shoe, teasing with it, "Well do you want my help or... Josie? That you?..."

She grabs her shoe, but Steve grabs her with sudden urgency, "Where's your dad? Has he escaped back to sea? Has he?! Tell me! He's a loony, I need to know..."

Josie tries to shake him off. Steve lets her go. He leaves her to fiddle with her shoe, but artfully intrigues, "Did you know your mum wanted a divorce?" Josie is startled, "What?..."

Steve glances back, "Come on, there's a lot you don't know. I was just a bit of fun on the side..."

LIGHTS FADE

PUB ANTE-ROOM

Josie sits, disenchanted, in an old armchair by a hatstand. Steve plies her with Babychams and 'pick me up' pills, and memories of Sadie. "She wanted to marry a car dealer from Stockwell, for your sake. A bit of stability. But she had a passion for life alright, did Sadie. God bless her..."

A barmaid clears glasses. Steve orders, "Same again, and a cigar." Josie sways a little. The barmaid eyes her, concerned...

Steve coaxes Josie to relax. "Here have another pick me up." Josie doesn't respond. Steve urges her down to Brighton with him, on jukebox business. "A chance to get away for a bit. It's your line of work, you'll love it. And all that sea air too. Do you a world of good..."

The barmaid is wise to Steve's 'grooming'. She alerts mobster Tommy Nutt. He throws Steve and his pills out. "Dirty low life..."

Josie slumps back in the armchair.

LIGHTS FADE

Sounds of gangsters in the bar, singing "*NEVER ENOUGH*." Becoming a "*Happy birthday Chappie Cole...*"

The hatstand is overloaded with coats. Josie wakes up, emerging from under more coats piled on the armchair...

She sees Tommy brief Dino about a little job for his gang. A warehouse raid. "A test for you bunch of lemons." As they leave Josie gasps, "Dino, you promised." She ducks out of sight as Dino reacts, confused...

Alone, Josie dusts herself down. She's a mess and can't find her own coat...

She hides again as Dave bustles Angie in. He's mad at her for bringing him to the potential backer - crime boss Chappie Cole. "I'm a cop, remember?" Angie jibes, "Well be a loser then." Dave storms out, pushing past vain, strutting Chappie, who only has eyes, and hands, for Angie...

STREET / POLICE BOX

Josie sneaks away in an oversize gangster coat and hat. A gun falls from a pocket. It fires...

Sound of mobsters chasing, accusing. "Hey pal, you've been spying on us?... We'll fix you... Chuck you in the river..."

Dave dashes to rescue the mystery figure, confronting the unseen mob. He's out of uniform but blows his police whistle...

He hides Josie in the blue-light police box. Voices from inside...

"Wow, Dave, thanks..."

"Josie?! What the hell have you been up to?..."

"Nothing much..."

"Call that nothing? Mixing with Chappie Cole's mob?..."

Emerging, Josie evades Dave's scrutiny, embarrassed at how she must look. "No harm done, if that's what you mean." She turns and falls into his arms, exhausted. He hugs her. "Crazy girl."

ATTIC BEDROOM (CAFE)

Josie 'confides to Mum'. "You'd just laugh it off, but I'm so embarrassed. Can't even write in my diary. Trying to impress Dave, all dolled up. Then that despicable Steve and his pills. Then chased by Chappie Cole's mob, and Dave to the rescue. He was mad with Angie. Maybe he'll dump her. Wishful thinking."

CAFE

Dave sings "SECRET ANGEL", about suddenly falling in love with Josie...

*I must confess about a secret angel
 Didn't really notice before
 I should have known it and I hope I ain't blown it
 Chance to love and adore*

*Yes I have to confess I'm falling, falling falling
 Sweet revelation, caught me by surprise
 So Cupid if you're stalking I hope you hear me talking
 I just realised*

*I'm in a spin, all in a blur
 Came out of the blue*

*And my heart says boom boom
 Boom boom
 (Falling for an angel)
 Falling falling
 B-b-b-b boom boom
 (Falling falling)
 Yes I'm falling falling*

Falling all in love with you

He glances up (at Josie's attic room...)

He's surprised by Grace. She smiles, "Well, about time." Dave is embarrassed, "For what?" Grace glances up too. Dave is defensive, "Too young, even if I do fancy her, even if she fancies me." Grace chides, "And you don't want to hurt her I suppose." Dave admits, "Too much on my mind with the band. Maybe we should do that Rocket audition..."

Josie emerges, yawning and stretching. Suddenly concerned on seeing Dave. "Thanks Dave for, y'know... you must think terrible of me." They're both romantically on edge. Dave challenges, "Why did you have to dress like a tart?" Josie snaps back, "Well you're going out with one." "Yeah?" "Yeah..."

Dino sneaks in. His gang were arrested on the warehouse raid. He needs an alibi. Dave despairs, "You deserve what you get." But Dino assures he wasn't on the raid. He hugs Josie. "Imagined I heard your voice, like a warning. So I pulled out." Josie is thrilled...

Dave is jealous of their sudden intimacy. But he offers a trade, "An alibi for the 'Rocket' audition. We need a break, and nothing to lose." Dino shares a glance with Josie, "That's what I'm here for..."

Josie's delight is short-lived...

Sailor Joe staggers in. Dizzy from a bloody head wound. He drops a knife. He confesses to Josie, "That bastard Steve. I heard he was after you. I've done for him alright. But he's done for me..."

Josie tries to comfort him. He's fading fast. He's sorry he can't send more records. He wishes her all the luck in the world. He dies in her arms.

LIGHTS FADE

CAFE

The space-rocket and space-suits cutouts are stacked against the counter. Smoochy's steamer trunk is on the porter's barrow. Grace is tearful. Smoochy tries to mollify her. He says Josie is in no state to sing the 'Rocket' song, and he's been offered a show in Lisbon. A chance to get away from the wretched weather...

Josie overhears and is shocked into action. She assures she's OK now. She seizes the space-rocket cutout. She's energised, "Let's do it!"

Josie and Dino rehearse "*ROCKET TO THE MOON*", with Smoochy as animated action guide. "It's TV, mostly close-ups..."

*We've never been to the U S of A
Never on a ferry to France
But we had a seaside holiday
And we have a fine romance*

*We get around on the BSA
Yeah we have a thrill or two
Just won a competition on a Breki Flakes box
Guess where we're going to*

*On a rocket to the moon
Rocket to the moon
Rocket to the moon*

*Dino: Suddenly we're flying out to Florida
Had to pack a suitcase quick
Madeleine supposed I was having a laugh
(Stop that teasing, you're just a lunatic)*

*Josie: Tripping in a bus out to Cape Canaveral
Such a big surprise
Ten nine eight seven six five four three
Wow what a crazy prize*

*On a rocket to the moon
Rocket to the moon
Rocket to the moon*

Dino pantomime kisses Josie. Dave snaps, "Can't kiss in a space-suit." Dino retorts, "You can in a novelty song..."

The police sergeant stomps in. He arrests Dino for the warehouse job. Josie pushes between them, "He wasn't there!" She turn to Dave, squeezing his hand. Dave's integrity is at stake. He mutters, "Can't have been." The sergeant is dismissive, "We've got him on another caper. A jewelry job..."

He turns to Dino, "Your gang has ratted on you." Dino groans, "Yeah? Some pals." He dodges away. Sergeant shouts, "You can't hide forever..."

Smoochy pleads with the sergeant, gesturing at the space-ship, "Dino has talent. We're rehearsing a song for Saturday Pops." Grace pleads too, "Give him a chance." The sergeant is suddenly star-struck, "Well I never. Smoochy and Grace, from my courting days..."

Smoochy seizes the moment. He leads Grace into a song and dance. He stiffens in pain. "Dino is my protégé. My big hope to be saved from ruin. Grace and I can look forward to a fresh start. We hope to be married." He embraces Grace. She plays along. Josie is thrilled for them...

Surprise as Dino returns, offering his hands for cuffing. "Too much hassle going on the run." Josie exhorts, "But let him do Saturday Pops first." Smoochy beseeches, "Such potential..."

The sergeant sighs, and offers his notebook to Smoochy and Grace. "If you wouldn't mind, autographs for the missus." He warns Dino, "Best keep out of sight til you're done." He turns to Dave, "And not a word to the gov'nor." He starts out, murmuring, "Smoochy and Grace, well I never..."

Josie is concerned for Dino. He shrugs, "Overdue for a bit of jail time. Maybe I'll write some songs." He eyes Dave, "And you look after Josie while I'm gone..."

They jostle and tease her. "What do you want with a jailbird?" "What do you want with a lousy copper?..."

They sing "*BOOBADIDI BOOM BOOM...*"

Boom boom b-boom b-boom

Boobadidi boom boom

Is she gonna be my baby?

Boom boom b-boom b-boom

Boobadidi boom boom

Is she gonna be my girl?

I only knew her just to say hello

But all a sudden she moves me so

All the hugging and the kissing

All the love we could be giving

Yeah yeah yeah boobadidi boom boom

Boom boom b-boom b-boom

Boobadidi boom boom

*Is she gonna be be be be be
My sweet lady?
Boom boom b-boom b-boom
Boobadidi boom boom
Is she gonna be my darling baby?*

*Could be romancing tomorrow night
A cosy bistro and candlelight
All the hugging and the kissing
All the love love love we could be giving*

*Boom boom b-boom b-boom
Boobadidi boom boom
Is she gonna be my baby?
Boom boom b-boom b-boom
Boobadidi boom boom
Is she gonna be my girl?*

Josie escapes them, laughing...

She sees Grace and Smoochy, still in warm embrace. Grace beams, "He's just proposed." Smoochy beams, a little bemused, "Have I?" Grace nudges him. Smoochy beams, "I've just proposed..."

Josie claps her hands in delight...

Grace turns to her. "And you've done very well, considering..."

Dave and Dino echo the thought, still teasing. "Hasn't she done well." "Doing very well..."

They sing celebratory *"SHE'S DOING VERY WELL, CONSIDERING..."*

Becoming ensemble...

*She's doing very well, considering
Doing very well indeed
She's doing very well, considering
She's doing very well indeed*

*Josie was abandoned, shaken by a storm
Like a rag doll, tossed aside
A dagger put an end to the innocence
All the love she knew was lost*

*So she's doing very well, considering
Doing very well, back on her feet
She's doing very well, considering
Doing very well indeed*

*JOSIE: Yes I got lucky with Dave and Dino
Took me to the Rendezvous
A brand new beginning with Grace and Smoochy
I hope that you all get lucky too*

*I'm doing very well, considering
(A lot of love love love)
(A lot of love love love)*

*She's doing very well, considering
(Doing very well indeed) Bouncing back
(A lot of love love love)
(A lot of love love love)*

*She's doing very well, considering
Doing very well, got the blues beat
She's doing very well, considering
Doing very well, yes indeed*
