

CAFE CINDERELLA - original stage musical

Teen Josie's roller-coaster rite-of-passage.

London, 1960. JOSIE loves pop music. She helps at Milo's Novelties with jukebox repairs, but spiv STEVE takes over the business.

Josie's dad SAILOR JOE returns from his travels for her sixteenth birthday, with the latest records from America. He finds his barmaid wife 'Lady SADIE' cavorting with Steve. His knife flashes at Steve, but it finishes Sadie.

Mortified, Sailor Joe abandons Josie in a moonlit church hall. "Say nothing. Gives me a chance to get away." Young policeman DAVE finds Josie in shock. He takes her to matronly GRACE at the Rendezvous Cafe for safekeeping.

Josie resists police questions. She's devastated about her mum but still loyal to her dad. It's supposed Sailor Joe has escaped back to sea. But he lurks in the shadows, hoping to make his peace with Josie. And Steve is still fearful.

Josie has a fresh start with Grace at the cafe. She vows to avoid all the perils of passions, to live her life only in dreams, inspired by her love of pop music. Dave's 'give it a go' pop band plays at the cafe. He's frustrated with larky singer DINO for chancing it with a tearaway gang. Josie is fascinated by their combative bond. She can't help fancying Dave, though he's hot for glam ANGIE.

Flamboyant SMOOCHY visits Grace. They were song-and-dance partners, top of the bill. Grace still 'carries a torch' but Smoochy resists settling down. He hears Josie singing to herself. He has ambition for Dave's band, with a novelty love song for Dino and Josie to sing. 'Rocket To The Moon.' He boasts, "I'll get you on TV. Saturday Pops." Dave distrusts his hustle, Dino refuses to look daft on telly. Josie has never sung in public but is keen for Smoochy to stick around, for Grace's sake.

Josie fixes the cafe's broken jukebox. Dino's gang fight to use it. Josie resists them. Dino defends her. Knives are out. Dino is cut. Josie screams to stop the madness. Dino likes her spirit. He's beginning to fancy her. Grace fears Josie may begin to like him. "Dave is your Mr Right, if he only knew it."

Josie has a make-over to impress Dave. But he's still hooked on Angie. Steve exploits Josie's misery with Babychams and pills, urging her down to Brighton, supposedly on jukebox business. A barmaid has him thrown out. Josie wakes up under a pile of coats at crime lord Chappie Cole's pub party. Dave rescues her and realises he's falling in love.

Sailor Joe finally reconciles with Josie, fatally injured having just 'done for' Steve. He collapses and dies in her arms. Josie is in shock again.

The band agree to rehearse for Saturday Pops. Nothing to lose, and it'll help Josie overcome her latest tragedy. But Dino is falsely arrested for a warehouse raid. Smoochy despairs. Josie rallies and helps gain a reprieve for Dino. She's bouncing back again. A positive influence on everyone, grateful for all the support, and with the prospect of true romance with Dave.