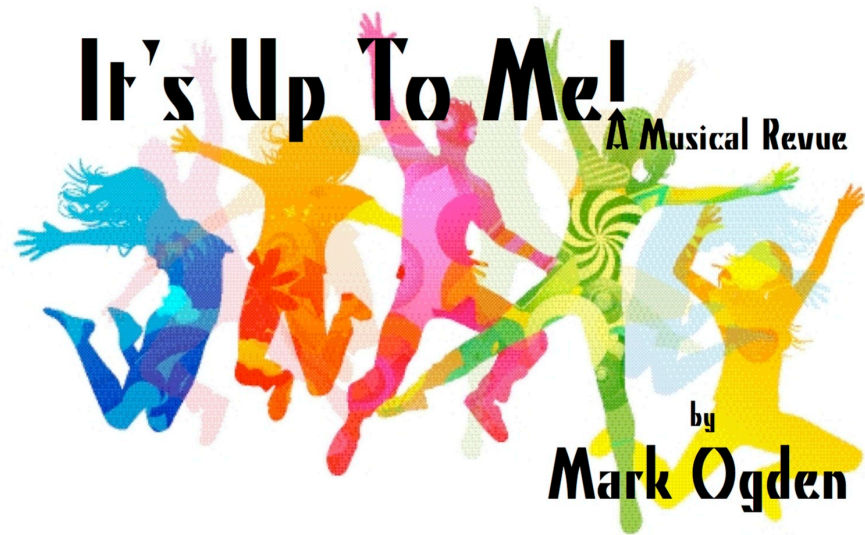


PRODUCTION SCRIPT



Newport, Maine

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IT'S UP TO ME

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Characters -- 1M 2W 7boys 10girls 1dog(played by either gender)

Adults

Hugh **Hardy** -- Contractor, Scout Master

Connie Hardy -- Wife, Mother, Civic Volunteer

Valerie Gardner -- Her sister, a divorcee

Kids

Andrea -- Artsy Girl

Bobby -- Energetic Boy

Betty -- Future Homemaker

Brittany -- Rich Girl

Derek -- Mischievous Boy

Duff (Hardy) -- Inventor, Middle Child

Jennifer -- Cheerleader

Julie (Hardy) -- Sensible, Serious Student

Kelly -- Anchor Girl

Kristy -- Spritely Girl

Lance -- Cool, muscular Boy

Meredith -- Sheltered Girl

Nicole -- Spoiled Girl, Lance's Sister

Roger -- Laid-back Boy

Shelly -- Anchor Girl

Snarf -- The Hardy's Dog

Todd -- Jock

Tommy (Gardner) -- Valerie's Strong-willed Son

The script has contributions by 2 authors other than Mark Ogden: Sue Cox and Dawna Kenworthy

IT'S UP TO ME A Musical Revue by Mark Ogden. 1M 2W 7boys 10girls 1dog(played by either gender) about 90 minutes. Unit setting with many locations suggested by props and furniture, contemporary costumes. **(Perfect for Middle Schools, Junior High Schools, High Schools, Youth groups)** Based on Dr. Abraham Maslow's "Hierarchy of Needs", this is a fun approach to a serious subject. Welcome to the typical American neighborhood where eighteen kids of all ages, kids of all kinds, are learning to identify their needs and taking responsibility for filling them. Well, they're supposed to be taking responsibility, but a few of them are dodging it at every turn. Some are trying to escape completely! Their quest for self-discovery has been stifled by the discovery of drugs. They're not your kids! Or are they? We encourage families to see this show together for an educational, enjoyable way to help create a happier, healthier world! **Order #3165**

It's Up To Me

Synopsis of Scenes and Musical Numbers

PART A --

#1 -- What Do You Need? (chart) Ensemble

PART B (The Red Zone) – PHYSICAL NEEDS

#2 -- Because She Loves You (Chart & Piano) Ensemble

#3 -- Science (Chart & Piano) Duff

PART C (The Orange Zone) – SAFETY AND SECURITY NEEDS

#4 -- We're The Good Guys (Chart & Piano) Ensemble

#5 -- Everybody Always Does His Best (Chart & Piano) Hardy

#6 -- What's A Penguin's Protection (Chart & Piano) Val & Ensemble

PART D (The Pink Zone) – LOVE AND BELONGINGNESS NEEDS

#7 -- Gift of Love Ensemble

#8 -- Love Is Loving (??) Todd, Roger, Val, Ensemble

#9 -- These Days (??) Shelley, Kelley, Julie

PART E (The Yellow Zone) – ESTEEM NEEDS

#10 -- I Like Myself (3) (Piano) Ensemble

#11 -- Meet The Elite (??) Betty, Jennifer, Small Group

PART F (The Green Zone) -- SELF-ACTUALIZATION -- BECOMING FULLY HUMAN

#12 -- Ask Any Mirror (??) Hardy

#13 -- Who Are You? (2) (Piano) Ensemble

#14 -- Someday Ensemble

#15 -- Because She Loves You (reprise) Val

#16 -- Winner (Chart & Piano) Meredith & Ensemble

PART G (The Grey Zone) -- COGNITIVE NEEDS (TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND)

#17 -- Help Yourself (Piano) Lance & Ensemble

#18 -- One Of A Kind (Piano) [One of a Kind (Chart)] Duff & Ensemble

PART F (The Blue Zone & Violet Zone) -- AESTHETIC NEEDS (TO APPRECIATE BEAUTY)

#19 -- What Do You Need? (Reprise) Hardy, Connie, Val &

Ensemble

#20 -- Finale: It's Up To Me (Piano & Chart) Ensemble

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- It's Up To Me! by Mark Ogden

Part A -- *[Enter the Ensemble]*

MUSICAL #1 -- WHAT DO YOU NEED?

ENSEMBLE:

WE ALL HAVE NEEDS THAT MUST BE FILLED.
WE ALL HAVE NEEDS WE CAN'T IGNORE,
NEEDS THAT LEAD US NEAR AND FAR.
LET'S DISCOVER WHAT THEY ARE...

HARDY, CONNIE, VAL:

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO SURVIVE?
TELL ME WHAT MAKES LIFE WORTH LIVING.
WHAT LETS YOU KNOW YOU'RE ALIVE?
WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL?

CONNIE:

TELL ME YOUR HOPES AND YOUR DREAMS.

VAL:

TELL ME YOUR PLANS AND YOUR SCHEMES.
TELL ME THE SECRETS THAT SLEEP IN YOUR SOUL

TRIO:

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO SURVIVE?
WHAT DO YOU NEED?

TOMMY: *(holding up a red card displaying a #1)* Mommy, I'm hungry!

KRISTY: *(an orange card with a #2)* Mrs. Hardy, Susie Anderson says she's gonna beat me up.

BOBBY: *(a pink card with a #3)* Valentines! Yuck.

MEREDITH: *(a yellow card with a #4)* Run for office? I could never run for office.

JULIE: *(a green card with a #5)* Dad, I've finally decided -- I'm either gonna be a truck driver or a ballerina.

HARDY: Why not both?

DUFF: *(a blue card with a #6)* Dad, where can I get some deuterium?

HARDY: Some what?

DUFF: Deuterium. For my science project.

ENSEMBLE: *(derisively)* Science? Ugh. Yuck. Gross, etc.

DEREK: Tell us all about it, Einstein.

HARDY: Okay, we'll get some. It's not radioactive, is it?

ANDREA: *(with a violet card with a #7)* Mrs. Gardner, that picture is crooked!

DEREK: *(coming down center)* You're probably wondering what all those cards and colors and numbers mean.
Well, tough. We're not gonna tell ya'.

KELLY & SHELLY: *(never precisely in unison)* Yes, we are.

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- *It's Up To Me!* by Mark Ogden

SHELLY: There once was a doctor named Dr. Abraham Maslow -

ANDREA: A doctor named doctor -- that's good.

KELLY & SHELLY: Don't interrupt.

LANCE: They're always repeating themselves.

KELLY & SHELLY: No, we're not.

LANCE: See?

SHELLY: Dr. Maslow said that there are seven different levels of needs.

ENSEMBLE: *(again displaying the numbers)* 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7!

KELLY: He called it a high archy of needs.

BETTY: A hierarchy.

KELLY: Thank you, Betty.

SHELLY: There are physical needs -- like air, water, food

NICOLE: And lip-gloss.

BOBBY: *(headed for the bathroom)* They're colored red -- 'cause if you don't take care of 'em quick, it's an emergency!

[BOBBY exits. Note: BOBBY gives the pink card to BETTY prior to this speech.]

KELLY: Then there are security needs.

ROGER: *(taking the orange card from KRISTY)* They're orange.

TODD: Because it's important to be safe. You need a roof over your head and a ferocious watch-dog in the backyard.

SNARF: Yip. yip, yip.

ANDREA: You mean like Snarf? He's ferocious all right.

BRITTANY: Of course, there's nothing as secure as having money. Lots and lots of money like my parents do.

NICOLE: Brittany, where'd you get that out fit. It's really rad.

[They cross stage-right)

JENNIFER: Hey, money isn't everything. Money can't buy happiness.

DEREK: That depends on what makes you happy.

[He crosses to BRITTANY and NICOLE]

SHELLY: Then there are love needs.

ENSEMBLE: Woo, woo!

BOBBY: Girls! Yuck.

LANCE: *(squeezing KELLY & SHELLY)* Girls! Yes.

BETTY: It's pink because love is like babies and roses.

NICOLE, BRITTANY & ANDREA: And lip-gloss.

KRISTY: And Valentine's Day.

[She takes the pink card from BETTY and offers it to BOBBY who has re-entered upstage. He recoils]

BOBBY: Thanks, but no thanks!

[KRISTY is crushed -- slightly]

KELLY: *(gesturing back to KRISTY)* Then there are esteem needs.

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- It's Up To Me! by *Mark Ogden*

MEREDITH: Esteem? What's that?

TODD: You know, like a steam engine.

ANDREA: Wrong!

JULIE: It means that people like you -- and you feel good about yourself.

HARDY: It certainly does!

JENNIFER: And it's yellow because yellow is the color of friendship.

TOMMY: Mommy, I'm hungry!

VAL: *(phone in hand)* Just a sec. I'm talking to Aunt Marge.

KELLY: And we've still got three more levels to talk about.

TOMMY: I don't care. I'm hungry!

DUFF: So am I. Those other levels will just have to wait because food is #1. Food is top priority.

ROGER: That's true. You can't worry about love and stuff when you're famished.

TOMMY: And I'm famished!

Part B -- The Red Zone -- Props and costume accents become conspicuously red.

DUFF: Hey, Mom, what's for lunch?

CONNIE: *(wearing red rubber gloves and wielding a toilet brush)* What do you want?

DUFF: I don't know. Hot dogs.

CONNIE: There are some in the fridge.

DUFF: No, you do it.

CONNIE: Duff, I'm kinda busy right now.

DUFF: You never make lunch anymore. You always used to make lunch.

CONNIE: You're fully capable of putting a hot dog in the microwave. Or just make a peanut butter sandwich.

DUFF: I don't want peanut butter. I want you to make lunch like you used to!

MUSICAL # 2 -- BECAUSE SHE LOVES YOU

CONNIE: Okay, okay. I'll make you a -

(reconsidering)

Wait a minute! No, I won't.

WHEN YOU WERE JUST A LITTLE BABY,
YOU NEEDED CONSTANT CARE
WHEN YOU WERE JUST A HELPLESS BABY,
MAMA WAS ALWAYS THERE.
BUT NOW YOU'RE SO MUCH BIGGER.
YOU CAN REACH MOST ANY SHELF.
SO MAMA'S GONNA DO YOU A FAVOR
AND LET YOU GET IT YOURSELF.
MAMA'S GONNA DO YOU A FAVOR.

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- It's Up To Me! by *Mark Ogden*

MAMA'S GONNA LET YOU GROW.
MAMA'S GONNA TRY TO BE BRAVER
AS SHE GRADUALLY LETS YOU GO.

DUFF: But Mom...

CONNIE:

BECAUSE SHE LOVES YOU.
BECAUSE YOU'RE READY.
MAMA'S GONNA LET YOU -

BETTY: Duff, it's so easy! You just get out the peanut butter
AND THEN YOU GET OUT THE JAM.

KIDS:

GET OUT THE JAM.

AND THEN YOU OPEN THE BREAD.

OPEN THE BREAD.

AND THEN YOU GET OUT THE BUTTER.

GET OUT THE BUTTER.

OR A LOW-CALORIE SPREAD.

LOW-CALORIE SPREAD.

AND THEN YOU OPEN THE DRAWER

OPEN THE DRAWER.

AND TAKE OUT A KNIFE

TAKE OUT A KNIFE.

ALL:

AND SOON YOU'LL HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE!

BETTY:

YOU SIMPLY OPEN THE JARS.

KIDS:

OPEN THE JARS.

AND THEN YOU SLATHER EACH SLICE.

SLATHER EACH SLICE.

AND THEN YOU SQUASH 'EM TOGETHER.

SQUASH 'EM TOGETHER.

AND THAT SHOULD SUFFICE.

THAT SHOULD SUFFICE.

BUT THERE'S ONE LAST THING

ONE LAST THING

AS YOU CAN GUESS

AS YOU CAN GUESS

ALL:

DON'T FORGET TO CLEAN UP THE MESS!

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- It's Up To Me! by Mark Ogden

CONNIE: Yes!

DUFF: Hey, Betty, why don't you make me lunch?

TODD: No, Duff, or you'll have to marry 'er!

CONNIE: You kids, run along now. We're not running a cafeteria.

[The ENSEMBLE exits]

DUFF: Please, Mom

CONNIE:

MAMA'S GONNA DO YOU A FAVOR.
MAMA'S GONNA LET YOU GROW.
MAMA'S GONNA TRY TO BE BRAVER
AS SHE GRADUALLY LETS YOU GO.

DUFF: Then I just won't eat!

[He storms out]

TOMMY: *(a tantrum)* Mommy, Mommy, Mommy!

VAL: *(still on the phone)* What?

TOMMY: I'm hungry!

VAL: *(to "Marge")* Listen, I've gotta go. I'll call you later.

(to TOMMY)

Okay, Tommy, what do you want?

TOMMY: Hot dogs.

VAL: Hot dogs it is.

[Off they go]

CONNIE: *(sadly, but resolutely)*

BECAUSE SHE LOVES YOU.
BECAUSE YOU'RE READY.
MAMA'S GONNA LET YOU GO.

[Applause. She sits, reminiscing. Lights up on DUFF working with his chemistry set.]

MUSICAL # 3 -- SCIENCE

DUFF:

WHY DOESN'T ANYONE ELSE LIKE SCIENCE?
I THINK IT'S CHALLENGING.
I THINK IT'S FUN.
WHY DOESN'T ANYONE ELSE LIKE SCIENCE?
IT'S KINDA WEIRD TO BE THE ONLY ONE.

I WANNA FIT IN.
I WANNA BELONG.

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- It's Up To Me! by *Mark Ogden*

IF EV'RYONE ELSE THINKS IT'S STUPID,
THEN I MUST BE WRONG.

I WANNA HAVE FRIENDS.
I WANNA BE COOL.
I WON'T BE THE FREAK OF THE SCHOOL.

[He chucks the chemistry set in the closet]

Science? Who needs it?

[He exits]

Part C -- The Orange Zone -- All props and costume accents are orange.

KRISTY: *(entering, rubbing her arm)* Mrs. Hardy, what am I gonna do. Susie Anderson just bit me!

CONNIE: Bit you? Why?

KRISTY: We were fighting and she bit me.

CONNIE: Why were you fighting?

KRISTY: 'Cause she thinks I'm the teacher's pet -- and she said that next time she's gonna rearrange my face!

CONNIE: Well, she is bigger. Maybe you should just avoid her.

KRISTY: Avoid her? How? I think I'll ask Mr. Hardy what to do.

CONNIE: Well, I'm sure he'll have an answer.

KRISTY: *(exiting)* I like my face the way it is!

[Enter KELLY -- and SHELLY with the orange card. Exit CONNIE]

SHELLY: Level #2 is safety and security needs.

KELLY: *(taking the card)* It's a beautiful, wonderful world, my friends, but unfortunately, there are also a few dangers. There are fires, floods, plane crashes, stock market crashes, etc., etc. If you want to know more about disaster and tragedy, just watch the five o'clock news.

SHELLY: *(taking the card)* The good news is that there are a lot of good people who help keep us safe and secure. People like -

BOBBY: *(wearing a blue cape and an orange fireman's hat)* Fire Man!

ROGER: *(blue cape and safety patrol gear)* Police Man!

TOMMY: *(blue cape and carrying a plunger)* Plumber Man!

KELLY: They may seem like ordinary people, but they're really superheroes!

MUSICAL #4 -- WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS

TODD: Don't forget Banker Man!

SHELLY: And Anchorwoman.

DUFF: *(blue cape and carrying newspapers)* And Newspaper Man!

ENSEMBLE:

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- It's Up To Me! by Mark Ogden

WE DON'T LOOK FOR TROUBLE.
TROUBLE JUST COMES TO US.
WE FIX IT ON THE DOUBLE.
THERE'S NOTHIN' TO DISCUSS . . .
WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS
PROTECTORS OF THE UNIVERSE.
WITHOUT US GUYS
THINGS WOULD ONLY GET WORSE.
THINGS WOULD ONLY GET WORSE.

KELLY: *(with a microphone)* And who are you?

JULIE: I'm Congresswoman.

SHELLY: And of course, you're Crime Dog.

SNARF: Ruff!

KELLY: And all of you?

JENNIFER: Taxpayers! What else!

ENSEMBLE:

WHEN YOU NEED PROTECTIN'
WE ARE THE ONES TO CALL
WHEN SOMETHIN' NEEDS CONNECTIN':
THERE IS NO JOB TOO SMALL.

[Enter DEREK, NICOLE, LANCE, BRITTANY and ANDREA stage right]

WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS
PROTECTORS OF THE UNIVERSE.
WITHOUT US GUYS
THINGS WOULD ONLY GET WORSE.
THINGS WOULD ONLY GET WORSE.

TODD: The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good guys to do nothing!

ENSEMBLE:

WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS.
WE ARE ALWAYS ON THE MOVE.
THANKS TO US GUYS
THINGS WILL ALWAYS IMPROVE.
THINGS WILL ALWAYS IMPROVE!

[Pose, applause. The 'good guys' exit]

DEREK: Gee, Duff, are you still into cartoons?

DUFF: *(embarrassed, removing his cape)* Uh -- no!

BRITTANY: Good -- 'cause they're so lame.

ANDREA: I gave up capes when I was seven.

NICOLE: I wish we could get somebody to take us to the Mall.

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- It's Up To Me! by Mark Ogden

BRITTANY: No, let's go three-wheelin'.

(bragging to DUFF)

I just got a new Yamaha and it's so cool.

DUFF: I just got my allowance.

DEREK: Hey, well, then you can come with us.

[The OTHERS protest]

In case we need gas money.

HARDY: *(entering from behind them)* Hey, what're you guys doin'?

ANDREA: Hanging out.

HARDY: Lame idea.

NICHOLE: Mr. Hardy, will you take us to the Mall?

HARDY: What for?

ALL: To hang out.

HARDY: You've gotta come up with a better reason than that. Hey, ya wanna help me fix my roof?

[They quickly decline]

That's okay. I can handle it. I'm Construction Man!

DUFF: Aw, Dad! Hey, Dad, can I go three-wheelin'?

HARDY: Where?

DEREK: The sand dunes. Where else?

HARDY: Well, how soft is this sand?

DUFF: Whataya mean?

HARDY: I mean wear a helmet!

DUFF: I can go? All right!

HARDY: And don't be too careful. Parents always say 'Be Careful', but if you don't take a few risks, if you don't make a few mistakes, how are you going to learn? How are you going to grow? Just be smart, okay? Protect all those brains in there. Be smart. be creative.

[He crosses to stage left]

NICOLE: Your Dad is weird.

[The 'Group' starts out]

DEREK: Nobody wears a helmet.

[They exit]

HARDY: Maybe I do seem weird, but really, the only real security in life is to be secure in yourself. There are no guarantees, only opportunities. And you learn by doing. Fairly often you learn what you're doing is dumb. Or maybe I should say 'unwise'. You learn that what you're doing is unwise. And I consider that a major breakthrough ! Think of all the people who are so afraid of change that they just stay dumb.

MUSICAL # 5 -- EV'RYBODY ALWAYS DOES HIS BEST

On the other hand, sometimes you take a risk and discover that it was very wise. Don't stare at me that way; it happens! Oh, and here's something else you'll probably think is weird...

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- It's Up To Me! by Mark Ogden

EV'RYBODY ALWAYS DOES HIS BEST.
NOW THINK ABOUT IT.
EV'RYBODY ALWAYS DOES HIS BEST.
WHY DO YOU DOUBT IT?

LET'S SUPPOSE YOU'RE AT A BIRTHDAY PARTY.
LET'S SUPPOSE YOUR DIET IS AT STAKE.
IS IT THE LACK OF DISCIPLINE THAT MAKES YOU SAY
"I THINK IT'S BEST TO HAVE A PIECE OF CAKE?"

No! It's not "lack of discipline". It's lack of awareness. At that particular moment you're saying to yourself -- Gee, I don't want to offend the hostess. Or disappoint the children. Or be a party-pooper. And so you eat the cake. For a very good reason. Other people may call it an excuse, but to you, at that particular moment, it's a reason. And so your diet takes second-priority. It drops down a rung on your ladder of needs. Sometimes it escapes your awareness completely. But do you see what I mean? Do you see how it works?

EV'RYBODY ALWAYS DOES THEIR BEST
IN THEIR AWARENESS
EV'RYBODY ALWAYS DOES THEIR BEST
IN TOTAL FAIRNESS.
SOMETIMES WE ARE AT THE MERCY OF OUR SENSES
SOMETIMES WE FORGET THAT THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES.

BUT THERE ALWAYS ARE.
YOU CAN GO TOO FAR.

BUT LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES
IS THE SOLUTION I SUGGEST
IT'S REALLY TRUE
THAT EVEN YOU
ALWAYS DO,
YOU ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST.

Don't you?

[Applause. HARDY exits. Enter KRISTY in a karate outfit from SL. Enter CONNIE from SR]

KRISTY: *(practicing her chops and kicks)* Ha-yah! Ha-yah!

CONNIE: Kristy, what's all this?

KRISTY: Mr. Hardy suggested karate. That it's up to me to protect myself. Ha-yah!

CONNIE: Who needs my advice?

VAL: *(entering from SR)* Connie, have you got a minute?

CONNIE: Sure, Val, what's up?

VAL: Steve wants to take Tommy to Disneyland.

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- It's Up To Me! by Mark Ogden

KRISTY: Disneyland! Wow!

CONNIE: Great.

VAL: For three months!

KRISTY: Three months! Wow! Who's Steve?

CONNIE: Steve's my ex-brother-in-law.

VAL: My ex-husband.

KRISTY: Hey, you're sisters. I didn't know that.

CONNIE: Yep, we're sisters.

VAL: And this is a sisterly conversation.

KRISTY: Oh! Sorry. See you later.

[KRISTY starts out.]

VAL: I don't know what to do -

KRISTY: *(exiting)* Ha-yah!

VAL: *(after a reaction)* I don't know what to do. I asked him who was going to take care of him when he was at work and he said his company's got a day-care.

CONNIE: What does Tommy say?

VAL: He's thrilled.

CONNIE: Well, there are pluses and minuses.

VAL: Don't tell me there are pluses and minuses. Tell me what to do.

CONNIE: Oh, no! 'Cause if it doesn't work out, I'll get the blame.

VAL: That's better than me getting the blame.

CONNIE: It's your baby.

[Enter TOMMY]

VAL: *(immediately stooping to tie his shoe)* You're right. He is just a baby. He's just too little to go.

CONNIE: That's not what I meant.

VAL: *(suddenly defensive)* You think I'm overprotective, don't you?

CONNIE: Overprotective? You?

[Enter MEREDITH. In the background we see her set up an easel and begin coloring in a cut-out of a penguin]

TOMMY: Mom, have you ever ridden a whale?

[Surreptitiously, enter HARDY]

Well, I'm going to. Because Daddy said that at Sea World they have a big pool where people ride whales.

VAL: Well, Tom, only certain people ride the whales

TOMMY: And they have a place where you can walk around and meet penguins. And Mommy-

HARDY: Said Tommy.

TOMMY: Penguins are nice.

They live next to Santa Claus out on the ice.

It just isn't fair that the polar bears snatch 'em.

The polar bears eat 'em whenever they catch 'em.

VAL: You're right.

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- It's Up To Me! by Mark Ogden

HARDY: She replied.

VAL: That's what polar bears do, but Tommy, a polar bear has to eat, too.

HARDY: Then suddenly Tommy was lost in reflection.

TOMMY: Do penguins, do penguins have any protection?

MUSICAL #6 -- WHAT'S A PENGUIN'S PROTECTION?

VAL: Of course, they do!

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A PENGUIN SWIM?
WELL, A PENGUIN CAN SWIM FAST.
WHEN A HUNGRY, HUNGRY BEAR GOES AFTER HIM,
HE TAKES OFF WITH A BLAST.
HE STREAKS AWAY AT LIGHTNING SPEED-0
IN HIS FLASHY WATERPROOF TUXEDO.
AND TO PROVE THAT MOTHER NATURE CARES,
THERE ARE LOTS MORE PENGUINS THAN POLAR BEARS.

HARDY: Then Tommy's green eyes flashed in sudden elation.

He felt very good about Mom's explanation.

And then after chasing a stray recollection –

TOMMY: I like zebras, too. What's a zebra's protection?

VAL: Oh, that's easy.

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A ZEBRA RUN?

[Enter the COMPANY singing. LANCE displays a cut-out of a zebra]

ENSEMBLE:

WELL, A ZEBRA CAN RUN FAST.
WHEN A HUNGRY, HUNGRY LION GOES AFTER ONE,
THAT LION IS SOON OUTCLASSED.
THEY ALL WEAR DIFFERENT STRIPED PAJAHMAS,
BUT THE BABIES RECOGNIZE THEIR MAMAS.
AND TO SHOW THAT MOTHER NATURE'S TRYIN',
THERE ARE LOTS OF ZEBRAS TO EV'RY LION!

CONNIE: Now Tommy's first innocent question became

A 'let's-see-how-smart-Mommy-is' kind of game.

TOMMY: So what about skunks?

HARDY: Tommy grinned with affection.

TOMMY: A skunk has a stripe, but is that its protection?

VAL: You're trying to trick me, aren't you?

ENSEMBLE:

HAVE YOU EVER SMELLED AN ANGRY SKUNK?
WELL, AN ANGRY SKUNK SMELLS BAD.

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- It's Up To Me! by Mark Ogden

AND A HUNGRY, HUNGRY FOX IS DOWNRIGHT SUNK
WHEN THAT LI'L GUY GETS MAD.

[LANCE displays a skunk cut-out]

IF THERE'S A SKUNK, DON'T TRY TO PET IT.
THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD WILL SOON REGRET IT.
TO INSURE THAT SKUNKS HAVE LOTS OF ROOM
MOTHER NATURE GAVE THEM HER BEST PERFUME.

HARDY: Now Tommy was having exceptional fun as he needed his Mom to perfection,

TOMMY: And what about porky-pines? They seem so shy. Do porkies have any protection?

VAL: One of the best!

ENSEMBLE:

NEVER TRY TO CATCH A PORCUPINE.

[LANCE displays a porcupine. Enter SNARF holding up his paw and yelping]

'CAUSE THEIR QUILLS CAN GIVE YOU WELTS.
WHEN A HUNGRY, HUNGRY WOLF GOES OUT TO DINE,
HE LOOKS FOR SOMETHING ELSE!

[JULIE crosses to SNARF and extracts the quills from his paw which he then sits licking. She returns to the Choir]

THEY FLIP THEIR TAILS FOR TARGET PRACTICE.
THEN THEY TRY TO IMITATE A CACTUS.
THO' THEIR MEAT MIGHT BEAT THE BEST IN TOWN,
A WOLF COULD NEVER JUST WOLF ONE DOWN.

HARDY: They giggled and laughed while the laundry got done.

Mom tried to be sunny and clever and fun.

CONNIE: She wanted to treasure that bright afternoon. His little boy question would end all too soon.

HARDY: He kept naming creatures without predilection.

CONNIE: Like pandas

TOMMY: Hey, Mom, what's a panda's protection?

VAL: Now let's see:

[JULIE brings out a huge plush panda]

I HAVE NEVER SEEN A PANDA BEAR,
BUT I KNOW THEY EAT BAMBOO.
BUT THE FORESTS OF BAMBOO ARE GETTING RARE
AND PANDA BEARS ARE, TOO.

THEY'VE LOST THE LAND THAT NATURE GAVE 'EM
SO IT'S UP TO HUMANKIND TO SAVE 'EM.
SO WE PUT THE PANDAS IN THE ZOO
AND WE ALWAYS KEEP THEM IN GROUPS OF TWO.

TOMMY: In groups of two? How come?

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CONNIE: He whined.

HARDY: And Mommy answered,

VAL: Never mind!

HARDY: Let me just mention that pandas aren't bears.

They're actually giant raccoons -

ENSEMBLE: But who cares?

VAL: And that's enough questions. Don't ask any more.

I've got to get ready and go to the store.

HARDY: But after a moment of deep introspection, Tommy got to the point –

TOMMY: Mommy, what's my protection?

VAL: You mean you don't know?

CONNIE: He started to shrug -

HARDY: Then she grabbed him and gave him the world's biggest hug!

CONNIE: Overprotective. Underprotective. Motherhood? Piece a cake!

TOMMY: I getta go to Disneyland. I getta go to Disneyland!

VAL: That's true. You do. Next year.

TOMMY: No! This year!

VAL: *(sweetly)* Next year.

TOMMY: This year!

VAL: Tommy, you're just not old enough to be away from Mommy for that long.

TOMMY: *(exiting angrily)* This year!

CONNIE: Takes after his Dad a bit, doesn't he?

VAL: That's reason #2 he's staying right here!

HARDY: Well, there are pluses and minuses.

VAL: *(grabbing the panda)* Who asked you?

Part D -- The Pink Zone -- All props and costumes accents are pink.

MUSICAL #7 -- GIFT OF LOVE

ENSEMBLE: *(coming forward)*

IS THERE ANYTHING AS STRONG AS LOVE?
NO, THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN TAKE ITS PLACE.
WHAT A HUNGRY, HUNGRY HEART NEEDS PLENTY OF
ARE THE SMILES ON SOMEONE'S FACE.

CAN YOU NAME ANOTHER CREATURE THAT CAN CLAIM
LOVE AS ITS FINEST FEATURE?
AND TO HELP US BE A NOTCH ABOVE
MOTHER NATURE GAVE US THE GIFT OF LOVE.

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[To button the number, KRISTY holds up the pink #3 card. Applause]

DEREK: Yes -- Love! That warm, wonderful feeling you get when a hot chick goes by.

JENNIFER: That's not love. It's a Diet Pepsi commercial.

KELLY: It's infatuation! And it belongs back there on Level One.

BETTY: Right. That kind of love is just an appetite.

HARDY: Real love is the unifying, harmonizing, attracting force of the Universe!

DUFF: Aw, Dad, give it a rest.

HARDY: Man, you're no fun anymore. Hey, listen, how's your science project coming?

[The ENSEMBLE disperses except for 'the Group']

DUFF: *(lying)* Fine.

HARDY: Wanna show it to me? Or is it top secret?

DUFF: Top secret.

HARDY: *(exiting)* Can't wait to see it.

LANCE: I thought you decided not to do it.

BRITTANY: That's the secret!

DEREK: Hey, Lance, you gonna get a date to the game or not?

LANCE: Yeah, I am.

NICOLE: With who?

LANCE: I dunno. Julie maybe.

BRITTANY: Julie who?

LANCE: *(pointing to DUFF)* Julie -- his sister.

ANDREA: No offense, but she's so straight they use her to mark football fields.

LANCE: I think she's cute.

BRITTANY: She still sells Girl Scout cookies.

LANCE: *(exiting)* Well, maybe I wanna buy some!

DEREK: *(mocking)* Maybe I wanna buy some. Come on, Duff, let's blow this Bible School.

[They go off to one side]

NICOLE: Brittany, let's go to your house.

[The girls cross upstage]

DEREK: *(producing a cigarette)* Hey, Duff, got a light?

DUFF: Where'd you get that?

DEREK: From Eric. All his friends smoke.

DUFF: Really?

DEREK: Let's go over behind the fence.

DUFF: I dunno. Smoking's bad for ya'.

DEREK: You are such a wimp sometimes.

[He exits]

DUFF: *(debating for a second)* Wait, Derek. Wait up!

[DUFF follows. The girls converse upstage as BRITTANY displays a poster of some nearly

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naked model. KELLY and SHELLY enter to observe]

BRITTANY: Look at my new poster.

NICOLE: Tom Cruise!

(or whichever poster-boy it is)

I love him! He's so hot!

ANDREA: Wouldn't you love to marry somebody like that?

KELLY: Listen to that garbage.

SHELLY: She thinks that if some Prince Charming falls in love with her, it will somehow make her a Princess.

KELLY: Well, it won't. Love has to be earned.

[Enter MEREDITH, BETTY, JENNIFER and KRISTY]

MEREDITH: Yeah, but earning it is such hard work.

BETTY: Wouldn't it be nice if you could just buy it at the grocery store?

JENNIFER: Guess what?

(pointing at the 'poster girls')

They think you can!

[The poster girls exit]

KELLY: They spend all their time and money making themselves attractive -

SHELLY: And don't do anything to make themselves lovable.

KRISTY: How do you make yourself lovable?

CONNIE: *(entering with a bucket)* Most people think they're not loved enough. They can't quite seem to fill their emotional buckets.

[She shows that the bucket is bottomless]

They go thru' life wishing that someone would love them, unconditionally, just like their Mamas did. Of course, sometimes their Mamas didn't. Which is very sad. But even so, if you're waiting around for somebody to come and fill your-bucket, I got news -

[Enter JULIE with a bag of dog food (really Cocoa Puffs) and SNARF carrying his bowl in his teeth]

JULIE: Mom! Duff forgot to feed Snarf again.

CONNIE: He's forgetting a lot of things lately.

(exiting)

Thanks for remembering.

JULIE: It's okay, Snarf. At least I love you.

[She pours the 'dog food' into his bowl and he chows down. Enter LANCE]

LANCE: Hey, Julie, if you're not busy Friday night, do you wanna go to the game?

JULIE: With you?

LANCE: Yeah.

JULIE: You mean -- like a date?

LANCE: Yeah.

JULIE: I'd really like to, but I can't date till I'm sixteen.

LANCE: *(astonished)* You're kidding!

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JULIE: Sorry. Thanks for asking. Come on, Snarf.

[They exit]

LANCE: Bummer!

[Enter VAL and TOMMY]

VAL: Good morning, Lance.

LANCE: *(exiting)* Good for who?

TOMMY: Mom, at least I love you.

VAL: At least?

TOMMY: Yeah, even if Daddy doesn't. I love you this, this, THIS much!

VAL: *(hugging him)* Well, so do I.

TOMMY: Now can I go to Disneyland?

VAL: Tommy, come here. Mommy needs to explain something.

[Enter TODD, ROGER and BOBBY in cowboy hats with pink bandanas around their necks.

BOBBY rides a stick-pony]

TODD: Come on, you guys, if we don't practice this, we'll look like fools at the Fair.

ROGER: We already look like fools.

TODD: Now you know the deal -- my Mom said if we do this, we can ride all the rides all we want.

BOBBY: Then let's practice!

ROGER: *(finishing off a doughnut)* Just a sec

TODD: Uh-one, uh-two, uh-one, two, three -

MUSICAL #8 -- LOVE IS LOVING

TODD:

LOTS A PEOPLE
THINK THAT LOVE IS OUT THERE,
THAT LOVE IS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE
AND IT GETS 'EM NOWHERE.

ROGER:

LOTS A PEOPLE THINK LOVE IS JUST ATTRACTION.

TODD:

BUT THEY GET NO SATISFACTION UNTIL THEY TAKE SOME ACTION.

TRIO:

BUT LOVE ISN'T SOMETHIN' YOU SHOULD TRY TO GET.
LOVE IS SOMETHIN' YOU SHOULD TRY TO GIVE.
HERE'S A LITTLE SECRET: LOVE IS LOVING.

LOVE ISN'T SOMETHIN' YOU SHOULD TRY TO FIND.
LOVE GETS STARTED IN YOUR HEART AND YOUR MIND.
YOU CAN STOP YOUR SEARCHIN' 'CAUSE LOVE IS SHOWING LOVE.

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VAL:

DON'T TALK LOVE; SHOW LOVE.
DON'T MOCK LOVE; GROW LOVE.
LET IT BLOOM EV'RYWHERE THAT YOU GO.

WORDS AREN'T PLAYTHINGS.
LIFE LIES BETWEEN THEM.
DON'T SAY THINGS;
MEAN THEM.
IF YOU CARE, THEN LET YOUR LIGHT GLOW.
SHOW LOVE.

TRIO:

LOVE ISN'T SOMETHIN' YOU SHOULD TRY TO GET.
LOVE IS SOMETHIN' YOU SHOULD TRY TO GIVE.
HERE'S A LITTLE SECRET: LOVE IS LOVING.

VAL:

DON'T YOU KNOW?
SURE YOU KNOW -- IT'S AN OLD CLICHE
THAT LOVE ISN'T LOVE TILL YOU GIVE IT A WAY TO BREAK FREE.
WITH LOVE YOU CAN BE ALL YOU WANT TO BE.

SO DON'T LEND IT; GIVE IT. DEFEND IT;
LIVE IT ALL THE WAY -- EV'RY DAY OF YOUR LIFE SHOW LOVE.

[Enter, MEREDITH, KRISTY, JENNIFER and BETTY as cowgirls carrying a banner that says 'County Fair Talent Show']

ENSEMBLE:

LOTSA PEOPLE ARE LONGING FOR AFFECTION,
BUT BECAUSE THEY FEAR REJECTION,
THEY MAKE THE WRONG CONNECTION.
(clapping, encouraging the audience to clap along)
BUT LOVE ISN'T SOMETHIN' YOU SHOULD TRY TO GET.
LOVE IS SOMETHIN' YOU SHOULD TRY TO GIVE.
HERE'S A LITTLE SECRET: LOVE IS LOVING.

LOVE ISN'T SOMETHING YOU SHOULD TRY TO FIND.
LOVE GETS STARTED IN YOUR HEART AND YOUR MIND.

(slower)
YOU CAN STOP YOUR SEARCHING
'CAUSE LOVE IS LOVING.

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VAL:

LOVE IS LOVING.

ENSEMBLE:

LOVE IS SHOWING LOVE!

[They raise their hats. Applause. As they exit, enter BRITTANY, ANDREA and NICOLE dressed in sexy, hot pink outfits]

NICOLE: Oh, you guys, we look so hot!

ANDREA: Yeah, some guys are gonna get lucky tonight.

BRITTANY: Right, but remember, we stay together. Don't leave me alone like last time.

[As they exit, SHELLY, KELLY and JULIE in classic, pastel pink dresses come to center. The 'Talent Show' banner is still in the background]

22 more pages to the end