The Magic Mountain

was first performed at Smith's Hill High School on March 2, 2011, with the following cast:

ARISTOPHANES
ANGELA DULLARD
JAYNE SWAN
PENNY RIGHT
KELVIN KRUDD
ELLEN JONES
LONG JAWS, MR SAIGO
RUPERT SWEETHEART
HEIDI BUTTROSE
EDDIE MANURE
LENNY BACON
FRANNY BACON
TAYLA BACON
FAILYA BACON
MANNY HERNANDEZ
PACQUITA HERNANDEZ
AMELIE MAURESMO, RETINUE 2
TASSIE TIGER
DODO GIRL, RETINUE 4
JENNY GEORGE
GEORGE JENNY, JOHNNY
SCHWEINHUND, CHERISE
GOD A, GLOOP
GOD B, RETINUE 3, ZOB
GOD C, RETINUE 5, UI
DAVID, RETINUE 1
MARGARET
RAMONA
LOLA
MAGDALENA, CHORUS 1
PEDRO
VALENTINA, MYSTIC
CAMILA
ALEJANDRO, PHONY RABBITT
BABY PACQUITA

BROOKE RAYNER
ISABEL CRAWFORD
JAMAYA MASTERS
PIA TRICKETT
MARCUS O'TOOLE
ANDY BABIC
MICHEAL BURKE
MATT HARRINGTON
NINA BLAZESKA
NIC ORR
JESSE MARTIN-ALLAN
TESS FERGUSON-HOOK
ONDINE MANFRIN
BLAKE JURMANN
BLAKE GARCIA
ANGELA DIGIORGIO
LAUREN JONES
STEPHANIE MURRAY
KEELI ROYLE
AFFRICA HANDLEY
DIMI HAVADJIA
CLAIRE CRIGHTON
JENNA OWEN
GILLIAN BROOKER
BEC ELLIS
KATE PIMBLETT
GENEVIEVE KENNARD
LILY MONTGOMERY-PRIMMER
JOANNA LABA
MEG BEHL-SHANKS
JACOB HERBERT
PHEBE ROWLAND
HANNAH SCHMITZEN
HENRY ONGERTH
BREANNA MACEY
Act One

Darkness. A throne on stage. A guitar strums chords to the opening song, ‘Through an Open Gate’. Lights slowly up to reveal the NARRATOR & chorus, who sing.

CHORUS We're searching for a new land,
We're searching for a new home.
If nothing changes, we'll face our dangers
and there'll be no hope.

The water laps at our feet,
The sun beats down from the sky.
If there's no saviour to change our behaviour
Then we're all gonna die.

And we look for a way out,
'Fore it's too late.
Our horse is bolting through an open gate.
And we look for a way out,
'Fore it's too late.
Our horse is bolting through an open gate.

It's a pretty depressing, we know
Way to start the show,
But it's set in the future, if that doesn't suit ya
Then just give it a go.

We've only just enough time
To reach the mountain and climb.
Get out of Inertia, before it hurts ya,
Who said we could rhyme?

But we look for a way out.
'Fore it's too late.
Our horse is bolting through an open gate.
But we look for a way out,
'Fore it's too late.
Our horse is bolting through an open gate.

ARIST. Act One, Scene One. Welcome to the land of Inertia, which the dictionary defines as a country which continues in its existing state of rest or uniform motion unless it is changed by external forces like global warming. Inertia, the future, the Venice of the south, where rising water levels threaten our very survival and the presidency of Angela Dullard. Our disclaimer;

CHORUS All characters appearing in this work are fictitious. Any resemblance to real nations or persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.
ARIST. And only a fool would think otherwise. My name is Aristophanes, that's Greek. More importantly, I'm the last surviving frog. But how important that is time will only tell. Act One, Scene One, in which President Dullard learns that the government television network, the IBC, has made a sitcom about her life, At Home with Angela.

Exit ARISTOPHANES. ANGELA rises through a trap door, arms spread and yawning. She sits on the throne amidst waves lapping at her feet, provided by chorus with sheets of blue material.

DULLARD Inertians!

Nothing happens.

Service!

Servants enter immediately and begin fanning her, giving her a manicure etc.

That's more like it. Just because you live in Inertia doesn't mean that you have to walk around like doped-up slugs.

Enter JAYNE SWAN & PENNY RIGHT.

JAYNE President Dullard.

DULLARD Ah, Jayne Swan, Penny Right, what's news this morning?

JAYNE Refugees at Villawood Detention Centre begin hunger strike.

DULLARD Again? The inmates are running the asylum.

PENNY I think you'll find it's the asylum seekers running the asylum.

DULLARD Stop snorting, Penny, only pigs snort. Now, let me tell you about this horrible dream I just had that sea levels were rising and the water was lapping around my feet.

JAYNE Global warming?

PENNY An act of God?

DULLARD And now all I can think about is going to the toot-toot.

JAYNE That was no dream, President Dullard, look around you, water levels are rising.

PENNY A great flood, summon an ark!
DULLARD That’s just cloth being flapped around by actors with nothing better to do with their time. Away from me, you fools, I don’t need cheap props to serve as a narrative device.

PENNY But president, what about their union, Actor’s Equity?

DULLARD Don’t be so naïve, Penny, we haven’t had to worry about the unions since their leaders, Bill Lengthen and Greg Bombay joined the party. (To the chorus) Now, shoo, the lot of you.

CHORUS 1 But I haven’t finished your nails, yet, Angela.

All gasp in horror.

DULLARD What did you say?

CHORUS 1 I said, I haven’t finished your nails yet.

PENNY You don’t need the ‘yet’ if you haven’t finished them; it’s redundant.

CHORUS 1 Redundant?

JAYNE Yes, like the patriarchy, men wearing pants.

PENNY The separation of church and state.

DULLARD The idea of owning your own home.

They laugh.

But, after that, what did you say after that?

CHORUS 1 Nothing Beat. Angela.

Gasps from all.

DULLARD I beg your pardon?

CHORUS 1 Angela?

Gasps from all.

DULLARD Angela!

Gasps from all.

CHORUS 1 That’s your name Beat. Angela.

Gasps from all.
DULLARD  *(To the others)* Alright, we get the point. You’re beginning to sound like an emphysema ward. *(To Chorus 1)* But the point is…?

CHORUS 1  First Chorus.

DULLARD  The point is, First Chorus, First, that I, being your superior in every measurable way, may address you by your first name, First, but the President of Inertia requires a more formal appellation. Next thing you know, the IBC-

PENNY & JAYNE  The Inertia Broadcasting Corporation.

DULLARD  Yes, the IBC, will be making a sitcom out of me.

*Freeze. Lights snap down and curtains close. Lights up on front stage left. The Bacon family, LENNY, FRANNY, TAYLA & FAILYA are in front of the TV. LENNY is holding a remote.*

FRANNNY  Why’d ya turn off the telly, Lenny?

LENNY  I don’t care what you say, Franny, but I will not watch *At Home with Angela*.

FRANNNY  It’s satire, it’s supposed to be humorous.

LENNY  It’s about as funny as having a female president.

FRANNNY  What’s wrong with a female president? It’s about time someone with brains was in the Blue House.

LENNY  What’s got into you, Franny?

FRANNNY  I’ve just had enough of your sexist claptrap-

LENNY  I know what this is, it’s all those local government committees you’ve been joining. Tea, scones and down with men!

FAILYA  Mum?

FRANNNY  Not now, Failya. At least I’m trying to make a difference, Lenny Bacon. There’s a lot of right-thinking people that agree with my points of view.

LENNY  Points of view! Since when did a woman ever have more than one point?

FRANNNY  It’s men that only have one point and you’re thinking with it right now.

TAYLA  Eww, bleach my hair and call me stupid.

FRANNNY  Give me the remote, Len, I want to watch *At Home With Angela*. 
Lights down on the Bacon house and up on Dullard’s house. Same as before, save the NARRATOR, who’s holding a clapper board.

ARISTO. At Home with Angela, Scene Three, complication and plot development. And action!

JAYNE Making a sitcom out of you? You’re not that popular.

DULLARD Nor are personal secretaries with fresh mouths. Now, Penny, you used to be a nun, can I confide in you? You’re still into all that confidentiality mumbo-jumbo, yes?

PENNY It’s just me and, of course, the higher power.

DULLARD You don’t mean Beat. Kelvin Krudd?

JAYNE Look at me, I can speak Chinese.

DULLARD He’s got a head like a character out of South Park. Such a shame he’s dead.

PENNY & JAYNE But who killed Kruddy?

Horror stabs are heard. Lights down on Dullard residence and up on the Bacon house.

LENNY The standards at the IBC have fallen something shocking. I can’t watch another second of that trash. Listen, love, I don’t want to argue with you-

FRANNY Especially when you’re wrong.

LENNY It’s just that since you’ve been on the local council, you’re getting all feministical on me. And I just want me old Franny back.

FRANNY Your old Franny spends her days working her fingers to the bone in my fish shop and still finds time to cook and clean for ya when I come home, don’t I?

LENNY You know how to look after your old man, like a good Inertian woman should. Now how’s about we watch The Relocators, that reality TV show that gives customs experts five hours to relocate boat people-

FRANNY Good to see something’s being done.

LENNY And drops them off at offshore processing centres.

TAYLA They’re prisons, Father!
LENNY I’m not going to get into an argument with you over linguistics, precious.

TAYLA My name’s Tayla, Father. Precious is a sexist designation that went out with the dinosaurs and your job at Carpet Court.

LENNY I’m still the best Carpet Court Jester they ever had!

TAYLA You’re not funny any more, Father, and neither are processing prisons.

FRANNY We can’t have the country swamped with terrorists, Tayla.

LENNY Let me inform you, girly mouth, that my hard hours slaving my guts out at Carpet Court paid for your university fees.

FAILYA Mum?

FRANNY Not now, Failya.

LENNY Paying off the house would be a lot easier with one less head of hair to extend and if you moved out.

TAYLA Whatever.

LENNY Nineteen and still living at home; go figure. I’d had six jobs and two children by the age of nineteen and I was about to propose to your mother.

FAILYA But, Mum!

FRANNY Failya, not now.

TAYLA Children don’t leave home until they’re thirty, Father, anything else is just, like, so 1990s.

LENNY I’d have paid off the house long ago if you had’ve left home and worked at your mother’s fish and chips shop like any decent thinking young daughter would.

TAYLA So that’s what this is about, you want me to flip fish for a living!

LENNY Better than flipping between boyfriends like bloody Mata Hari!

FAILYA Mum!

FRANNY What is it, Failya?

FAILYA My finger’s stuck in my nose!

FRANNY You weren’t picking it, were you?
FAILYA  I wasn’t picking, Mum, honest. I was scratching.

FRANNY  Then how did it get inside your nostril?

FAILYA  It must have slipped.

LENNY & TAYLA  I’m going out.

FRANNY  Oh, no you’re not. Lenny? Tayla? All hands on deck. We have to remove that digit.

LENNY & TAYLA  Again?

FRANNY  Now stop whining and start pulling.

_They all link up in a chain and begin to pull on FAILYA’s finger. After much grunting and cussing, the finger pops loose._

LENNY  That’s my exercise for the day.

FRANNY  Isn’t it good to work together as a family unit, solving life’s problems?

LENNY  Sure is, muffins.

FRANNY  Now if only someone would stand up and do it for the Inertia.

LENNY  I think I know just the right councillor, sexy.

FRANNY  You’re the sexy one.

TAYLA  Make me gag and send me to Iraq!

FAILYA  Hey!

OTHERS  What?

FAILYA  I can smell again. Look at all this muck.

_The others hold up their fingers, look at them, each other and then wipe them on FAILYA, who sees it as a gesture of unity._

(Aw shucks-style) You guys.

FRANNY  How’s about we all watch _The Relocators_?

LENNY  You betcha, and I think you’ve made your point.

FAILYA  (Holding up his finger) I’ve made my point, too.
FAILYA starts scratching his butt.

FRANNY Now let’s all enjoy the show and if you’re very good, we can even watch *Lateline*.

TAYLA Oh, Tony Jones is such a spunkrat!

FRANNY That man floats my boat.

LENNY Now that’s something we can all agree on.

TAYLA & FRANNY look at LENNY suspiciously, who grins sheepishly. FAILYA continues scratching his butt.

FAILYA Dad, is there something you’re not telling me?

LENNY grabs the remote and clicks it. Lights snap down on front stage left and up on front stage right to reveal EDDIE MANURE.

EDDIE Hello, Inertia, I’m Eddie Manure, and this is *The Relocators*.

*Party Rock Anthem* by LMFAO plays.

Tonight we’d like to introduce you to a family of fobs; fresh off the boat people. People that want to enter our country illegally and change our good clean way of life. Not in Inertia, not on *Beat*. The Relocators.


This is Emmanuel Hernandez, his wife, Pacquita, and their family of eight children. Our relocators spotted them after they had sailed over forty thousand miles in a clapped out dinghy sold to them by a tabouli salesman named Ahmet in the back alley of an Egyptian souk. Was Ahmet really Egyptian, are Egyptians all sooks? And is tabouli really a viable alternative for a healthy green salad on a hot summer’s day? Not in Inertia, not on…

*A short stab of Party Rock Anthem* plays.

The Relocators. Let’s watch now as the action unfolds and our relocators apprehend these potential terrorists and their ill-gotten booty. And speaking of booty-

*Lights down on front stage right and up on front stage left.* FAILYA has his finger plugged.

FAILYA Mum?

*Lights down on front stage left and up on front stage right.*
MANNY Ah, Pacquita, finally we here in Inertia.
PACQUITA Look ninos, a sunburnt country and sweeping plains.
CHILDREN Oh, Don Bradman!
MANNY (Singing) For those who’ve come across the seas, Pacquita?
PACQUITA I know next line, (Singing) We’ve boundless plains to share!
CHILDREN Oh, Steve Irwin!
MANNY Who could imagine that tabouli salesman was telling truth?
PACQUITA I like tabouli, it’s viable alternative to green salad on hot summer’s day.
CHILDREN Oh, The Wiggles!
MANNY This is our new casa.
PACQUITA Mi casa as su casa, Manny.
MANNY Te amo, Pacquita.
PACQUITA Te amo, Manny.
MANNY Oh, Pacquita, I love when you speak Spanish.
MANNY dramatically kisses PACQUITA’s hand and arm à la The Addams Family.
CHILDREN (Teasing) Oooh!
MANNY Now, ninos, roll call.
*
The children line up in formation.
RAMONA Ramona.
LOLA Lola.
MAGDA. Magdalena.
PEDRO Pedro.
VALENTINA Valentina.
CAMILA Camila.
ALEJAND. Alejandro.
PACQUITA  Bebé Pacquita?

_No reply._

MANNY  Donde se, Bebé Pacquita?

BABY PACQUITA _appears, looking very nervous, but adorable._

BABY  Here, papa.

PACQUITA  Oh, bebé, you are so shy.

MANNY  You have to be loud to sing like Delta Goodrem.

CHILDREN  _In wonder_  Oh, Delta Goodrem!

PACQUITA  All the children are here in our new country, Manny.

EDDIE  That’s the sign! Relocators, work starts now!

_Party Rock Anthem plays. All at once, relocators appear from everywhere and capture the Hernandez family. The parents scream out the children’s names, who answer forlornly. They leave through various exits._

EDDIE  If this all seems harsh, not to worry. Coming up, the Hernandez family faces their greatest challenge on my new show, _Who Wants to be a Citizen_? But first, a word from our sponsors.

Exit EDDIE. _Lights up on NARRATOR._

ARIST.  Hello, Inertia, my name is Alan Killjoyce, CEO of Qantarse. You may know of me from such disputes as with the Pilots’ Association, TWU and the Aircraft Engineers Association. But at Qantarse, we’re still very much the Spirit of Inertia, the flying kangaroo, though whoever saw a flying marsupial? And I’m Irish, so what do I know about the spirit of Inertia?

_The Qantarse singers enter, dressed in white and holding candles, humming the song below._

But here at Qantarse; Questionable Aviators Now Trained At Singapore, we take very seriously our commitment to service the world, which is why our new frequent floater program, relocating boat people, is the fastest-growing industry in Inertia.

ARISTOPHANES & _The Qantarse singers sing:_

_We know of cities that never close down,_
Like Melbourne, Brisbane and Old Sydney town,
_But no matter how far you sail on the foam,_
You can’t call Inertia home.

*Exit Qantarse Singers. Lights up on the Dullard residency. Exactly the same position as at the end of the last scene, except that ARISTOPHANES is kneeling before DULLARD.*

DULLARD  Who killed Kruddy? Not me, that’s for certain.

PENNY  I think we both know the higher power I mean; the ones whose names shall not be spoken.

DULLARD  The ones that got me this job? The faceless men?

PENNY  No, the gods.

DULLARD  Oh him, her, it, them, do they even have a sex? Not much good for an agnostic, is it?

PENNY  You had something to confide in me?

DULLARD  It’s just that. *(To the others)* Excuse me, this is a private conversation, hmm?

ARIST.  My apologies, Lady President.

DULLARD  Wait on, there’s something funny about your voice, it’s all croaky and about to break. And your hands, they’re fabricky and green.

ARIST.  Ribbit.

DULLARD  You haven’t undergone a species change since the last scene have you?

ARIST.  Not at all, I’m just dressed for St Patrick’s Day, being Irish.

DULLARD  Very well, but it’s time to leave, hop to it.

*Hopefully, the audience will groan as the NARRATOR exits.*

What are all those groans?

JAYNE  It’s your people, President, they’re growing restless.

DULLARD  That makes twenty million of us. But Jayne, plain Jayne, uninteresting and vapid Jayne, I was going to I confess to Penny that I never realised that being President of Inertia could be so…boring.

JAYNE  Surely not.
DULLARD  And while I've been putting up a super-dooper brave front, I do understand that the sea levels are rising.

JAYNE       But you said it was just blue cloth!

DULLARD    You must have misheard me, Jayne.

JAYNE       Or you misspoke!

PENNY       Say ten Hail Marys, President!

DULLARD    Don't be such a bogan, Penny. The point is that I didn't come down in the last shower, but we may be washed away in the next one if I don't take action, move forward. It's the farmers I'm worried about.

JAYNE       Because they'll drown?

DULLARD    No, because they'll have all the prime oceanfront real estate when the rest of us go under, so to speak, the country will look like the inside of a donut.

PENNY       All holy?

DULLARD    Penny, you really are a feral.

JAYNE       I shouldn't worry about the farmers, Angela, the water will get to them too.

DULLARD    Absolutely spiffing! Ironic, isn't it? This will be the one time that the farmers are glad I forget them.

DULLARD  laughs deliciously.

    But with rising water levels come more people on boats, and people on boats are unpopular.

JAYNE       So as water levels rise, your popularity plummets.

PENNY       Like a pheasant in shooting season.

DULLARD    I have to get these water levels down, my presidency depends on it. Oh, what can I do? If only there was someone to help Inertia in its time of need.

‘We Don't Need Another Hero’ by Tina Turner plays. Enter PHONY RABBITT, dressed in a pair of red Speedos, a lifesaver’s cap and bunny ears. Cut music.

ALL       Not now, Rabbit!

RABBITT  slinks off, looking upset.
DULLARD  There’s no end to what some people will do for attention.

PENNY  President Dullard, I fear you have upset the gods.

DULLARD  Upset the gods? How for ever so?

JAYNE  You’ve upset the natural order, you’re illegitimate.

DULLARD  Illegitimate? My parents were married for five years before I was born. Those were the days when a man and a woman committed to a lifetime of diminishing excitement in order to perpetuate Inertia and raise a brood.

JAYNE  That wasn’t precisely what I meant.

DULLARD  These days every Tom and Dick, Sue and Prue, want to get married. That’s what I call upsetting the natural order. It’s like chopping down the family tree until all you’re left with is a stump.

PENNY  Times have changed.

DULLARD  Yes, and there’d be plenty of change left over on the budget bottom line if we didn’t also have the single parents’ pension.

JAYNE  It’s every person’s right to have a child on their own.

PENNY  Like an amoeba?

DULLARD  Oh Jayne, simple Jayne, ignorant Jayne, dropped at birth Jayne. I’m not so shallow that I don’t understand that there has to be a safety net, but does it have to catch everyone?

PENNY  The gods are upset.

DULLARD  Because I don’t enjoy a clear majority? Because I had to get into bed which a sackful of do-gooding independents?

PENNY  Yes, but also-

DULLARD  You’re saying that because I laid down with dogs that now I have fleas?

JAYNE  It’s more than that. It has to do with the elephant in the room.

DULLARD produces a stuffed elephant from behind her chair.

DULLARD  Fine, I’ll have it removed, but I have enjoyed every moment I’ve spent with you, floppy.

JAYNE  Not that elephant, President.
DULLARD  Not floppy?

JAYNE & PENNY  Not floppy.

DULLARD  You don’t mean?

JAYNE & PENNY  Yes.

DULLARD  But I didn’t stick the knife in Krudd’s back!

PENNY  But the gods won’t be happy until the person who did confesses.

DULLARD  Get me my mystic!

_The door opens, enter MYSTIC, who looks like a stick._

MYSTIC  Miss Stick at your service, President.

DULLARD  Not another sight gag! There’s more sight gags in this scene than you can point a _Beat_. Begone!

_Exit MYSTIC, led out by JAYNE._

JAYNE  President Dullard, the captains of big business, Rupert Sweetheart and Heidi Buttrose are here to see you.

DULLARD  Send them in and then leave us alone. You too, Penny.

JAYNE  This way-

_Enter RUPERT & HEIDI, barging their way past JAYNE & PENNY, who exit._

RUPERT  President Dullard, it’s imperative that we see you at once.

DULLARD  I’m not really dressed for it, Sweetheart.

HEIDI  President Dullard-

DULLARD  I’ve had a manicure and a pedicure, but my hair’s a mess and they keep dressing me in blue. I was getting lost amidst that water.

HEIDI  _Aside to RUPERT_ Shall we have her killed, Sweetheart?

RUPERT  _Aside to HEIDI_ Not yet, Percy, don’t eat the pie before it’s cooked.

DULLARD  But since you’re here.
RUPERT  Listen, Dullard, something needs to be done about this global warming fiasco.

HEIDI  You’ve buried your head in the sand for too long on this issue.

RUPERT  And now it’s lining up to smack your bot-bot.

DULLARD  What about the carbon tax?

HEIDI  A piecemeal solution.

RUPERT  And it only taxes the money-makers, the high end players.

HEIDI & RUPERT  Big business, us!

DULLARD  But you’re the ones that caused it!

HEIDI  Absolute piffle-

RUPERT  Balderdash-

RUPERT & HEIDI  And poppycock!

Enter SCHWEINHUND.

HEIDI  We have an independent scientist-

RUPERT  Independent, mind you-

HEIDI  Who stakes her reputation on alternative theorem.

HEIDI & RUPERT  Professor Schweinhund?

SCHWEIN.  Global warming is a myth. I have the statistics here (Rummaging in coat), no, that’s a bratwurst. Ah, ja, here we are, if temperatures are rising can you tell me, President, why places like Canberra, Norway, Sweden, Vancouver recorded their coldest temperatures on record last year? Even Idaho, and that’s not good for their potatoes. Nobody likes a shrivelled potato. Do you, Fräulein President, like your spuds shrivelled?

DULLARD  No-one does.

SCHWEIN.  No-one does. And I have more figures here (Rummaging in coat), no, that’s Limburger cheese. Limburger and bratwurst, what a match, like sauerkraut and your face!
DULLARD  But those are all cold climate countries, global warming starts at the equator and then heads down to the poles.

RUPERT  Much like your popularity.

HEIDI  Do behave, Sweetheart.

DULLARD  If it started in the cooler, first world countries, like the US and Europe, we would have fixed this by now. There's too much money riding on it.

SCHWEIN.  Too much money? I cannot be bought! (Aside to RUPERT & HEIDI) Make the cheque out to Schweinhund, if you would. (To DULLARD) Ah, so what we have here is a namby-pamby-

DULLARD  A namby-pamby?

SCHWEIN.  Ja, it's a scientific term, I wouldn't expect such a dullard to understand it. But a namby-pamby president who agrees with the Mayan calendar that predicts the end of the world in 2012.

DULLARD  You're twisting what I say.

SCHWEIN.  You have nothing to say! But Schweinhund speaks the truth, Schweinhund has integrity, Schweinhund cannot be bought-

RUPERT hands SCHWEINHUND an envelope.

Fifty thousand schmackers! That's a little more than I thought. But, I understand, you like to grease the palm. That's not innuendo, that's fact! Auf wiedersehn, Schweinhund is off to buy a jet ski!

Exit SCHWEINHUND.

DULLARD  See? Your very own expert knows that the floods are coming.

HEIDI  She's a crackpot.

RUPERT  A crackpot who says what we want them to say.

HEIDI  For money.

RUPERT  Speaking of money, with water levels girting more of our land-

HEIDI  Or less as the case may be-

RUPERT  We'll have no alternative but to invest offshore.

DULLARD  There won't be a shore at the rate we're going, Sweetheart.
HEIDI President Dullard, we have contingency strategies, aqua economics, ways of the future.

RUPERT But those are drastic measures.

HEIDI A quantum step.

RUPERT We didn’t support you in your climb to the top, just to have you drop off your perch.

DULLARD What are you implying?

HEIDI Presidents come and presidents go, but big business will stay afloat.

RUPERT We won’t go under, but others might.

HEIDI You can either help steer the ship-

RUPERT Or be tossed overboard with the rats.

DULLARD Are you threatening me?

RUPERT Oh no, Angela.

HEIDI Far from it, but let us be more overt.

RUPERT Make the waters recede or we’ll find somebody else to do it.

DULLARD Not?

‘What’s Love Got To Do With It?’ by Tina Turner plays. Enter PHONY RABBITT, dressed in a pair of red Speedos, a lifesaver’s cap and bunny ears. Cut music.

ALL Not you, Rabbit!

RABBIT slinks off, looking upset. The curtains start to close, DULLARD, HEIDI & RUPERT walk in front of them.

HEIDI Let’s go for a stroll, Angela.

RUPERT We find it helps stimulate the brain, in this case yours.

HEIDI We don’t want Phony Rabbit, we want somebody more Beat. simple.

DULLARD (Sarcastic) Good luck.

RUPERT Someone domesticated.

HEIDI Easy to train.
RUPERT Like a fish to water.

HEIDI Who won’t go to water when handling fish.

DULLARD You wouldn’t support her?

RUPERT It all depends on who will support us.

DULLARD How am I supposed to stop the water? It can’t be done by just one person!

HEIDI Remember Moses?

RUPERT If he could part the Red Sea then I’m sure the Indian Ocean shouldn’t be too difficult.

DULLARD Don’t you mean the Pacific?

HEIDI Good lord, no.

RUPERT No-one cares about the east.

HEIDI The mining-

RUPERT And the money-

HEIDI & RUPERT Are in the west.

HEIDI Lovely to have this chat, Angela.

RUPERT And blue’s such a swimming colour. (Chuckles) I meant, slimming.

HEIDI & RUPERT Ta-ta, Angela.

Exit RUPERT & HEIDI. Enter JAYNE & PENNY.

JAYNE Successful meeting, President Dullard?

DULLARD How did this all get so messed up? Remember a time when the party was all one big happy family, determined to make our mark and preserve the environment for years to come?

JAYNE But that was when Kelvin Krudd was leader.

PENNY Turn out the lights and call the lord!

DULLARD Just like Moses did! But where am I going to find a burning bush? Oh, Kelvin, those were good days, Swanny.
The three of them suddenly break into Swannie – ‘How I love ya, how I love ya, Swannie’. Then, just as suddenly, come back to normal.

Whatever happened to them?

Enter ARISTOPHANES.

ARIST. Freeze! What did happen to those days? Can Angela find a burning bush before it’s too late? And whatever happened to Kelvin Krudd? These questions and more will be answered as Ribbit Up Productions present our first motion picture, The Tragedy of Kelvin Krudd!

All exit. The curtains open and the film screens.

EXTERNAL. DAY.

Radio broadcast. LONG JAWS is in the clouds.

JAWS (V/O) Hello, Inertia, this is Long Jaws, coming to you from behind the golden microphone.

Images of President John being chased down the street are seen.

Well, did you see those so-called democracy freedom fighters, burning effigies of the former president? What a baying pack of protesters, the behaviour of these clowns was disgraceful, what a horde of hoboes, this ragtag bunch of individuals was, screaming for Kelvin 07 as he approached the capital.

We see KELVIN KRUDD, upon the steps of the Capitol, addressing the people.

KELVIN Hello, Inertia, my name’s Kelvin and I’m here to help.

Applause from the crowd.

Friends, it’s time to roll up our sleeves, put our noses to the grindstone, ‘cause when you’ve got your backs to the wall, it’s time to come out fighting.

We see the clouds.

JAWS (V/O) But I put it to you;

Wherefore rejoice? What conquest brings he home?
What tributaries follow him to Inertia,
To grace in his chariot-wheels from Peter Warren Automotive?
You blocks, you stones, you worse than senseless things!
Knew you not President John? Many a time and oft-

We see the following.
Have you climb'd up to walls, your infants in your arms,
And there have sat the whole day,
To see great John pass through the streets of Inertia:
And when you saw his chariot, a brand new Subaru WRX, but appear,
Did you not make an universal shout?
And do you now put on your best attire?
And do you now strew flowers, speak to my friend Geoff at the Flower Factory, Inertian natives half price 'til the end of March,
In Krudd's way that comes in triumph over great John's blood?
Shame, Inertia, shame!

*We now see KRUDD passing with his retinue.*

**JAWS (V/O)** Krudd!

**KRUDD** Ha! who calls?

**RETINUE 1** Bid every noise be still: peace yet again!

**KRUDD** Who is it in the press that calls on me?
Cry 'Krudd!' Speak; Krudd is turn'd to hear.

**JAWS (V/O)** Beware the Ides of March.

**KRUDD** What man is that?

**RETINUE 2** Long Jaws, the king of Inertian radio, bids you beware the Ides of March.

**KRUDD** Set him before me; let me see his face.

**RETINUE 3** Fellow, come from the throng; look upon Krudd.

**JAWS (V/O)** Nay, I speak from the fortress of irreverent logic.

**KRUDD** What say'st thou to me now? Speak once again.

**JAWS (V/O)** Beware the Ides of March.

**KRUDD** He is a dreamer; let us leave him: pass.

*The chorus begin chanting ‘Kelvin 07’. Zoom in on DULLARD, JAYNE & PENNY talking.*

**DULLARD** What means this shouting? I do fear, the people
Choose Krudd for their ruler.

**JAYNE** Ay, do you fear it? Then must I think you would not have it so.
DULLARD  I would not, Swan, Right; yet I love him well. But wherefore do you hold me here so long? What is it that you would impart to me?

PENNY  We know that virtue to be in you, Angela, As well as we do know your outward favour.

PENNY & JAYNE  Honour is the subject of our story.

JAYNE  We were born free as Krudd; so were you: We both have fed as well, and we can both Endure the winter’s cold as well as he.

_We see the following in flashback, on the beach._

PENNY (V/O)  Remember once, upon a raw and gusty day, The Greens chafing with his shores, Krudd said to you,

KRUDD  Darest thou, Angela, now Join with me in an emissions trading scheme, And stem the torrent with hearts of controversy;

JAYNE (V/O)  You plunged in and bade him follow; so indeed he did. The torrent roar’d, and you did buffet it And stemming it with hearts of controversy;

PENNY (V/O)  But ere you could arrive the point proposed, Krudd cried,

KRUDD  Help me, Angela, or I sink! And the greatest moral, economic and social challenge of our time along with me.

_Back to the present._

PENNY  And this man is now become a god, and Angela must bend her body, If Krudd carelessly but nod on her.

_We see the following in flashback._

JAYNE (V/O)  He had a fever when he was in Copenhagen, And when the fit was on him, I did mark How he did shake:

PENNY (V/O)  ’Tis true, this god did shake; His coward lips did from their colour fly, Alas, he cried,
'Give me some drink, Angela,'

Back to the present.

As a sick girl Beat. No offence meant.

None taken.

Ye gods, it doth amaze me-

That a man of such a feeble temper should
So get the start of majestic Inertia
And bear the palm alone.

Another chanting of 'Kelvin 07'.

Another general shout!
I do believe that these applauses are
For some new honours that are heap'd on Kelvin.

Why, woman, he doth bestride the narrow world
Like a Colossus, and we petty men, Beat. No offence.

None taken.

Walk under his huge legs and peep about
To find ourselves dishonourable graves.

Dullard and Krud: what should be in that 'Krudd'?
Why should that name be sounded more than yours?

What you would work me to, I have some aim:
What you have said, I will consider;
Till then, my noble friend, chew upon this:
Angela had rather be a Liberal
Than to repute herself a daughter of Inertia
Under these hard conditions as this time
Is like to lay upon us.

We are glad that our weak words
Have struck but thus much show of fire from Dullard.

Focus now on KRUDD.

Let me have women about me that are fat;
Yond Angela has a lean and hungry look;
She thinks too much: such women are dangerous.
RETINUE 4  Fear her not, Kelvin; she is a noble Inertian and well phat.

KRUDD  Would she were fatter! But I fear her not:  
She loves no plays and hears no music;  
Yet if my name were liable to fear,  
I do not know the woman I should avoid  
So soon as that spare Dullard.

Focus on DULLARD.

DULLARD  It must be by his death: but for my part,  
I know no personal cause to spurn at him,  
But for the general. He would be crown'd:  
How that might change his nature, there's the question.

We see the following with KRUDD climbing a ladder.

(V/O)  'Tis a common proof, that lowliness is young ambition's ladder,  
Whereto the climber-upward turns his face;  
But when he once attains the upmost round.  
He then unto the ladder turns his back,  
Looks in the clouds, scorning the base degrees  
By which he did ascend.

Back to the present.

So Krudd may.

JAYNE  Therefore think him as a serpent's egg  
Which, hatch'd, would, as his kind, grow mischievous,  
And kill him in the shell.

We see an egg being smashed in extreme close-up.

PENNY  Ma'am, there are men at the door,  
Who doth desire to see you.

DULLARD  Do you know them?

JAYNE  No, ma'am; their hats are pluck'd about their ears,  
And half their faces buried in their cloaks,  
That by no means I may discover them  
By any mark of favour.

DULLARD  The faceless men! Let them enter.

The faceless men enter.

Gentlemen, thank you for your pains.
MEN  All praise, worthy Angela!

INTERNAL. DAY.

CHERISE  What mean you, Kelvy-poo? Think you to walk forth? You shall not stir out of your horse, I mean house to-day.

KRUDD  Krudd shall forth: the things that threaten me Ne'er look but on my back; when they see The face of Krudd, they are vanished. Cowards die many times before their deaths; The valiant never taste of death but once.

CHERISE  But, Kelvy, what about my dream?

KRUDD  What dream, Cherise?

We see the following in flashback.

CHERISE (V/O)  I dreamt last night I saw your statue, Which, like a fountain with an hundred spouts, Did run pure blood: and many lusty Inertians Came smiling, and did bathe their hands in it: I beg you stay at home to-day.

Back to the present.

KRUDD  Fair shake of the sauce bottle, Cherise; It was a vision fair and fortunate:

We see the following in flashback.

(V/O)  My statue spouting blood in many pipes, In which so many smiling Inertians bathed, Signifies that from me great Inertia shall suck Beat. Reviving blood.

Back to the present.

CHERISE  Reviving blood.

KRUDD  How foolish do your fears seem now, Cherise! Give me my robe, for I will go.

CUT TO: KRUDD arrives at the capitol.

The Ides of March are come, Soothsayer.

The voice of LONG JAWS is heard from the clouds.
JAWS (V/O)  Ay, Krudd; but not gone.

Enter the Faceless Men.

KRUDD  Ah, boys, the masks are a little hairy-chested, but no-one’s Robinson Crusoe, how ‘bout a mask for your new president?

RETINUE 5  Speak, hands for me!

RETINUE 5  first, then the other masked conspirators disrobe KRUDD. A series of shots reveals KRUDD standing in a pair of Speedos.

KRUDD  Alright, I got your point, repeatedly. I’m yesterday’s hero. But who are you? Remove those masks so I can see my assassins. Please, I’m in a pair of Speedos, I mean what type of clown goes prancing about in a pair of budgie smugglers?

‘What Get is What You See’ by Tina Turner plays. We see PHONY RABBITT, jogging along the beach in slow motion, dressed in a pair of red Speedos and a lifesaver’s cap. Cut music.

Back to the Capitol.

ALL  Not now!

The Beach. RABBITT slinks off, looking upset.

Back to the Capitol.

KRUDD  Well, can I just say this, without throwing the fair go out the back door, could I have one last chance to speak to my people.

RETINUE 2  You shall, Kelvin Krudd.

RETINUE 3  You shall not in your speech blame us-

RETINUE 4  But speak all good you can devise of Krudd.

RETINUE 5  And say you do’t by our permission;

RETINUE 1  Else shall you not have any hand at all.

Laughter from the faceless men.

KRUDD  Be it so. I do desire no more.

The faceless men leave.

O, pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,
That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!
Woe to the hands that shed this costly blood!
Over my wounds now do I prophesy-
A curse shall light upon the limbs of men;
Domestic fury and fierce civil strife
Shall cumber all the parts of Inertia;
And Krudd, ranging for revenge,
Shall in these confines with a monarch's voice
Cry 'Havoc,' and let slip the dogs of war!

Film ends. Curtains close. Lights up on DAVID & MARGARET, front stage left.

MARGARET That was ‘The Tragedy of Kelvin Krudd’, part of Ribbit Up’s sixth production, The Magic Mountain, and, following up on the success of last year’s Hamlet, they’ve now turned their attention to the seedy world of politics in a modern adaptation of Julius Caesar.

DAVID The film is set in Inertia, where Kelvin Krudd, stoically played by debutant Marcus O’Toole, has just risen to the position of President, riding a wave of public goodwill based on his agenda of change.

MARGARET But nothing changes in Inertia, and the more Krudd wants things to change, the more they stay the same.

DAVID Cue entry for Angela Dullard, performed by the ever-reliable Isabel Crawford, who fears that Krudd’s meteoric ascent will lead him to forget those who put him in power-

MARGARET The faceless men-

DAVID And Kochie and Mel.

MARGARET And it is this hubris, his fatal flaw if you will, that stirs the energies of the plotters, led by Jayne Swan and Penny Right, strongly brought to the screen by Ribbit Up Production’s stalwarts, Jamaya Masters and Pia Trickett, to begin to turn the wheel against him and convince Dullard that she must betray her leader. But did she have a hand in their conspiracy?

DAVID Did she pull the trigger?

MARGARET You’ll have to see the rest to find out. David, what did you think of this movie?

DAVID I wanted to like it, Margaret, but there’s often something so insidious about recent remakes of Shakespearean classics. The text is altered, often truncated and directors find themselves only too willing to add in lines that reflect their insipid world views and not the spirit of the bard.

MARGARET But the performances were uniformly excellent.
DAVID     Agreed, but did we really need yet another cut scene of Phony Rabbit, bouncing along the beach in his budgies? And, although director, Kieran Hoyle’s cinematography is outstanding, I still can’t escape the feeling that this film was all shot on a high school budget. Margaret?

MARGARET Oh David, you’re missing the joy, as Shakespeare says, ‘thou should’st not have been old till thou hadst been wise’. Look, I really liked this film. Sure, some parts of it are cynical, but isn’t that what satire is all about; to hold the mirror up to nature? And I’m sure the audience that sees it will be as eager to find out as I was-

DAVID & Who duded Krudd?
MARGARET I’m giving it three stars.

DAVID     Me too, three stars. ‘The Tragedy of Kelvin Krudd’ screens locally this weekend-

MARGARET And ends this weekend. Next week-

Lights down on front stage left. Curtains open to reveal DULLARD sleeping on a throne. A burning bush extends through the trapdoor in front of her. Three GODS appear.

GOD 1     Angela?
GOD 2     Angela?
GOD 3     Angela!

DULLARD wakes.

DULLARD     The burning bush! Is that you, Kelvin?
GODS     We are not Kelvin, we are the gods.
GOD 1     I am the God of Love.
GOD 2     I am the God of Knowledge.
GOD 3     And I am the God of Vengeance.
GOD 2     We thought you were coming to see us.
DULLARD     I was just on my way.
GOD 2     You can’t lie to the God of Knowledge, Angela.
DULLARD     Alright, so I was just thinking about it.
You thought nothing!

God of Vengeance, settle.

I had to interrupt my busy schedule for this? Junior Masterchef’s on!

The fat kid wins.

God, I hate it when you do that. Oh, I’m the God of Knowledge, I know everything. I’m going to kill that fat kid.

But we love the fat kid.

And he’s going to get even fatter due to all the chocolate he eats and develop a paranoia complex due to his acne and he’ll become a hermit that swells to over two hundred kilos and win Pizza Hut’s home delivery customer of the year until one day he can’t raise himself off the toilet and they’ll have to bring in a crane and a forklift truck to get him to hospital where he’ll have his stomach stapled and reinvent himself as the spokesman for Subway until the day that he dies at the age of thirty two in a freak accident involving gaffer tape, an onion and a bucket of KFC.

Splendid. Let the little bugger live.

Has anybody ever told you that you’re just a little bit weird?

All of our creatures are just a little bit weird. We think weirdness has got a bad rap.

Weirdness is difference.

Weirdness is good.

Okay, you’re freaking me out a bit now. I mean, gods of love, knowledge and vengeance, you’re not real, right? This is just a dream.

The alarm clock’s gonna go off and I’m going to wake up and face the morning and do absolutely nothing like every other day.

That’s annoying.

You’re annoying.

I’m agnostic!

Oh, to be so young and so cynical. Just because you don’t believe in us doesn’t mean that we don’t believe in you.

But you shouldn’t have upset us.
DULLARD Just how have I upset you?

GOD 1 Some are born great-

GOD 2 Some achieve greatness-

GOD 3 And some thrust knives into the great one’s back!

DULLARD I have no idea what you’re talking about.

GOD 1 A sceptic.

GOD 2 A non-believer.

GOD 3 A doubting Angela.

GOD 2 Shall I tell you what’s going to happen to you?

GODS 1 & 3 No spoilers!

GOD 2 Alright, I’ll leave out the ending. As you may have noticed, the oceans are rising and soon, very soon, Inertia will be completely submerged, except for one place.

GODS The Magic Mountain.

GOD 1 You must lead your people and find the Magic Mountain before it’s too late. You will face two challenges along the way, dangerous examinations of your strength.

GOD 2 And should you reach the Magic Mountain, you will face one last test, the Test of Atonement.

GOD 3 One last chance for you to write your wrongs.

GOD 1 You do understand?

DULLARD The Test of Atonement, challenges, leading people to the Magic Mountain? Can do. Finally Inertia will be moving forward.

GOD 1 Goodbye, Angela, and good luck.

DULLARD Hey wait, there’s one thing more I need to ask; why are you making the waters rise if it’s going to result in people drowning?

GOD 1 We’re not, we’re just not stopping it this time.

GOD 2 It’s humanity that’s causing it.
GOD 1 You could be the only species on Earth that has deliberately willed your own destruction.

GOD 2 You can get back to Junior Masterchef now; I misspoke about the little fat kid?

GOD 1 God of Knowledge, you are so wicked.

GOD 3 So the fat kid can still lose? Goody!

GOD 1 See you on the way to the Magic Mountain, Angela.

GODS And have a nice day.

Exit GODS. Curtain closed. Enter ARISTOPHANES.

ARIST. So Angela’s moving forward at last and leading her people to the Magic Mountain. Meanwhile, Sweetheart and Buttrose are questioning whether Dullard’s got the bottle, has the ticker or will she pull a heartstring and limp off the field with only a minute to play? Maybe they’ve decided they need a new captain. Hold it. Can you smell what I smell? Is it pig? Is it pork? No, it’s bacon. Scene 10 in which Franny feels the need, the need to lead.

Exit ARISTOPHANES. Lights up on Front Stage Left and the Bacon house.

LENNY I won’t let you do it, Franny Bacon. Who’s going to run the fish and chips shop?

FRANNNY You can do it, Lenny. I’ve got bigger fish to fry.

FAILYA laughs.

LENNY I can’t do it all on me own.

FRANNNY I seemed to manage. Besides, Tayla can help you.

TAYLA Don’t be totally grody, I’m not working in no fish and chips shop.

FRANNNY You can be the face of the place, Tayla Bacon. Take a few orders, sell some squid, shark and snapper, and be on the advert for the shop we put on the TV.

LENNY & TAYLA The telly!

TAYLA I’d look bitchin’ on TV, Adriano could fix my hair and I’d become a star; do spots on Mel and Kochie.

LENNY No daughter of mine’s doing spots on Koch!
TAYLA But I’m not touching any fish!
FRANNNY You won’t have to, Failya can gut them all.
FAILYA Me?
FRANNNY Finally we’ll be able to put that finger to good use. Think you can fillet a fish, son?
FAILYA Sure thing, I’m gonna be a fish-fingerer!
FRANNNY And with the three of you working there together, it’ll be more of a family business than ever before, while I’m on the campaign trail-
ALL Bringing home the bacon!

*Lights down on front stage left. The theme from Who Wants to be a Citizen? plays. Curtains open and lights up on EDDIE MANURE & the HERNANDEZ family.*

EDDIE Welcome to Who Wants to be a Citizen? where, you may remember the Hernandez family all the way from the Ashmore Reef. I’m Eddie Manure and this is Manny, his good wife, Pacquita, and their eight kids. Why don’t you introduce them to us, Manny?

MANNY Ninos?

PACQUITA Roll call!

RAMONA Ramona.

LOLA Lola.

MAGDA Magdalena.

PEDRO Pedro.

VALENTINA Valentina.

CAMILA Camila.

ALEJANDRO Alejandro.

EDDIE And who’s our lucky last?

BABY You a bad man. You smile but your eyes are cold.

PACQUITA Pacquita!

EDDIE Her name’s Pacquita, too? How imaginative. But Manny, some of these foreign sounding names are a little difficult to get your tongue around. So what
do you say we just give the kids numbers, one through eight? After all, that’s what will happen if a miracle occurs and we let you into Inertia, your final destination.

RAMONA Escape is more important than destination.

CAMILA In old country, men with guns steal food.

EDDIE Well, that’s depressing; you’re really bumming me out. Get with the program, this is a happy show, suitable for children.

LOLA Bombs don’t know we children.

ALEJAND. Guards care not for children.

VALENTINA Guns don’t know we children.

MAGDA. Smugglers care not for children.

PEDRO Waves don’t know we children.

BABY Does anybody care about children?

EDDIE Of course we care about children, just not you.

Canned laughter.

Now, let’s go through the rules of the game. As you know, you’re here on a temporary protection visa, but get three questions right and you reach the first safety net of a temporary residency visa, get the next three questions correct and you hit the next safety net of permanent residency, get the next five hundred questions right and you become an Inertian citizen.

Canned applause.

So, are you ready to play?

MANNY Si.

EDDIE Not yet, Manny, I haven’t asked you a question, we’ll get A, B or C from you then. Shall we play?

BABY The Wiggles!

EDDIE Oh, isn’t she cute? But cute doesn’t get you citizenship. Not in Inertia. Let’s play!

The Let’s Play music sounds.

Question One: What do we commemorate on Anzac Day? Is it:
a. The Cronulla riots from 2005? Or is it-
b. Test match rugby league between Inertia and the Kiwis? Or perhaps-
c. The landing of the Inertian and The Land of the Long, White Cloud Army Corps at Gallipoli, Turkey in 1915?

You have thirty seconds.

PACQUITA  What do you think is right answer, Ramona, Lola, Magda-

EDDIE  Uh-unh, one to eight, remember?

PACQUITA  Scusi. Ninos, one to eight?

RAMONA  Si.

LOLA  Si.

MAGDA.  Si.

PEDRO  Si.

VALENTINA  Si.

CAMILA  Si.

ALEJAND.  Si.

BABY  Si.

PACQUITA  (To MANNY)  Si.

MANNY  (To EDDIE)  Eh?

EDDIE  Lock in A, Manny?

MANNY  Si.

EDDIE  Alright then, lock in C. And C is correct!

Canned applause.

Question Two. Which of these is a responsibility of Inertian citizens aged 18 and over?

a. To drink a yard glass with your mates and get absolutely ploppo? Or is it-
b. To take a Contiki cruise and forget things the next morning that you’ll regret for the rest of your life? I know we’ve all been there. Or perhaps-
c. To vote in elections? Or is it-
d. To lose your ‘P’ plates for driving recklessly endangering bodily harm?

Thirty seconds.
PACQUITA  When are they going to ask question about Delta Goodrem?

KIDS        D for Delta!

MANNY       Can you please get someone to translate these questions into Spanish?

EDDIE       No talkee Spanish, you’ll have to speak English. This is Inertia, not the United Nations!

_Canned laughter._

KIDS        D for Delta!

EDDIE       Lock in D?

MANNY       *(Deflated)* Si.

EDDIE       Lock in C? Then C it is, locked in. And C is correct!

_Canned applause._

It’s the responsibility of Inertian citizens aged 18 and over to vote in elections, though frankly we would have accepted any of the answers. Getting ploppo, having regrets and endangering bodily harm is all the Inertia way!

_Canned laughter._

Now to Question Three and your opportunity to reach the first safety net of a temporary residency visa. Which of the following is an example of equality found in Inertia?

a. Men and women have the same rights?
b. People can protest peacefully against government decisions? Or-
c. For those who’ve come across the seas, we’ve boundless plains to share?

Thirty seconds.

**ALL**        *(Singing)* For those who’ve come across the seas, we’ve boundless plains to share.

EDDIE       Lock in C?

MANNY       Que?

EDDIE       No, there’s no ‘K’ here, Manny, just A, B or C.

PACQUITA     *(Pronounced ‘eye’)* Ai, ai, ai.
EDDIE There’s no ‘I’, just A, B or C, what’s wrong with you people? Don’t you know the alphabet; it’s the fundamental blocks upon which our language is built. And to think I could have been the Bondi vet. How ‘bout you lock in C?

MANNY Si.

EDDIE ABC, it doesn’t matter, it’s a trick question. None of those answers are examples of equality found in Inertia. I’m sorry, but you lose! No temporary residency visa for you; you came here as fobs and you leave as bobs. That means you’re back on boat!

Canned applause and lots of streamers which continue until the end of the scene. The Hernandez family waves at the audience.

Give the Hernandez family a wave goodbye, people. They came, they saw, but we conquered! I’m Eddie Manure and you’ve been watching Who Wants to be a Citizen? Good night!

Lights down. Curtain close. Enter ARISTOPHANES.

ARIST. Now before you howl me down with cries of racism and xenophobia, take a moment to consider that’s the way things are done in Inertia. You can’t just rock up on the shores and expect to get in; unless you have money. Then you don’t come in a leaky boat, you touch down on the tarmac in a plane. But enough about them, at least they’ve got a family. What about me? It isn’t fair. I’ve had enough now I want my share. Oh well, at least I’ve got my health, thanks to the lack of French people in this play. Scene 12 in which the greenies hold a rally only to be thrown into chaos by the arrival of shock jock, big business and their new presidential candidate. Do I smell bacon?

A crowd gathers before the curtain for a rally. JAYNE & PENNY stand alongside GEORGE JENNY & JENNY GEORGE. ELLEN JONES is in the audience as are the survivalists, DODO GIRL & TASSIE TIGER, and RUPERT SWEETHEART & HEIDI PERCY.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome to the microphone, George Jenny and Jenny George from EcoAction.

Exit ARISTOPHANES.

JENNY Thanks for joining us today on the Procession of Principle. People, the evidence is all around you.

GEORGE Water levels are rising. It’s only days until the time that if you want to have a swim, you won’t go the beach-

JENNY You’ll go to your front yard.

ELLEN Alarmists!
JENNY    It’s now or never, friends, we need to plan a mass exodus on a scale not seen since the Israelites fled Egypt.

HEIDI & RUPERT         Holy Moses!

WORKER     What about the workers!

ELLEN      Scaremongering.

TASSIE     We’re all gonna die!

DODO       The end is night!

TASSIE     Huh?

GEORGE     We need to find higher ground.

ELLEN     Then you should have got a job so you could afford a house in Vaucluse or Hunter’s Hill rather than frittering away your time brainwashing decent, ordinary Inertians who pay their taxes and listen to my radio program, six to nine every morning on Do-Ya-Wee.

GEORGE     Is that?

JENNY & GEORGE Ellen Jones!

JENNY     What’s she doing here? She’s the mouthpiece for big business and the extreme right wing who want to do nothing but make lots of money and destroy the working conditions of decent Inertians.

WORKER     What about the workers!

RUPERT     Oh, would you shut up about the workers?

GEORGE     Look, it’s Rupert Sweetheart and Heidi Buttrose.

HEIDI     Those EcoAction slobs really are rather tiresome, Sweetheart, did you know they tried to stop my coal seam mining development near Kalgoorlie?

RUPERT     What on Earth did you do about it?

HEIDI     Offered them free beer and memberships at Fitness First; that got rid of them.

RUPERT     Good to see them back on the treadmill-

HEIDI & RUPERT Where they belong.
JENNY Hundreds of island nations are already underwater.

GEORGE Where will we send the boat people?

JENNY We'll all be boat people, George.

GEORGE Ooh, Jenny, I've always wanted to explore the high seas. I've got a ferry in the jetty and it's ready to sail.

HEIDI Shall we have him killed, Sweetheart?

RUPERT Heidi, you must wait until there's grass on the pitch before you play.

JENNY The Earth will be engulfed by the oceans like that terrible movie, Waterworld, from the 1990s.

*Lights up on DAVID, front stage left door.*

DAVID Appalling. One star. Margaret?

*Lights down on DAVID, up on MARGARET, front stage right door.*

MARGARET Agreed. One star.

*Lights down on MARGARET.*

JENNY Not only was it prescient-

GEORGE But it ruined Kevin Costner's career!

ELLEN At least he had a career, unlike you bunch of unwashed university Arts dropouts who need a good smack and a treatment for lice.

GEORGE I shampoo!

ELLEN Cooties everywhere, people. Beware of the cooties!

JENNY I don't think your presence here is doing anyone any good, Ellen Jones. This is the Procession of Principle.

ELLEN More like a Convoy of No Confidence, because that's what we have in regards to you, no confidence. Instead of whipping the people into a state of hysteria, why don't you whip us all up a little lunch?

GEORGE Like play lunch? I got my first kiss in the sandpit from Dimity Whittaker during play lunch.

JENNY Shush up, dimwit!
ELLEN   Yes, why don’t you play with your Tonka toys, while we re-establish calm?

ELLEN mounts the stage, followed by ARISTOPHANES, GLOOP, ZOB & UI.

ARIST.   Come on, Zob, Gloop and Ui.

UI       I thought I said I wasn’t wearing lyra.

JENNY    What are you doing, you can’t just come up here and manhandle us!

ELLEN    I’m not manhandling you, shorty. I’m a woman, I’m woman-handling you.

GEORGE   Aren’t you going to take me to dinner first?

ELLEN    Out with the EcoAction trash!

JENNY    (To GEORGE) I thought we were going to dinner!

JENNY & GEORGE are lead out by ARISTOPHANES, GLOOP, ZOB & UI.

ELLEN    It’s thirty eight past the hour, my comments brought to you by Mercedes, the company that benz over for you. Wet in Sydney, Perth, Brisbane and Darwin, floods predicted in Melbourne and Adelaide, but no great loss there. Friends, all this talk of water levels rising is getting me wet behind the ears. There is no problem. The President gave us a carbon tax, the tax we had to have. Why? Because the scientists say so? Well, we can all get a scientist to say what we want them to say, President. Just like the scientist I’d like to introduce to you now.

Enter SCHWEINHUND.

This is Professor Schweinhund from the Frankfurt Bureau of Meteorology and that’s a world renowned institution need I remind you. Professor, if you’d run the figures for us?

Schweinhund’s following speech is represented visually on scrolling paper.

SCHWEIN.   (Very quickly) Of the air we breathe, 0.04 is carbon dioxide, of which humans are responsible for 3 percent, 97 percent comes from natural sources like cows and pigs and other animals that like to play with their pooh. Of that three percent, Inertians are answerable for 1.5 percent. Times 0.04 percent by three percent by 1.5 percent and you will find that Inertians are responsible for 0.000018 percent of world-wide CO2 emissions. And that’s not a whole lot of hot-dogs.

ELLEN    There is no global warming problem. The real problem is that we are ungoverned. Angela or Ange-liar as some may like to call her, can’t control border protection, the spectre of Kelvin Krudd, and wasn’t he a success, nor
her EcoAction apparatchiks. The real problem is that we need an election now. And with that good-for-nothing off running marathons, triathlons and competing in Uncle Toby’s Ironman events in his Speedos, displaying what a perfect physical specimen he is- Beat. Maybe he is good for something. Beat. We as Inertians need to find a new leader, a leader with the power of big business behind them.

HEIDI &
RUPERT

ELLEN So, I give to you, all the way from Ipswich, Mrs Franny Bacon.

Franny’s Entrance music is played. A presidential-style greeting is given to the entrance of FRANNY, LENNY, TAYLA & FAILYA. The latter three are dressed like they just came from the fish shop. Cut music.

FRANNY I own a fish shop. It’s just a small business, but a successful one that’s run by my good husband, Lenny-

LENNY G’day.

FRANNY With my two kids, Tayla-

TAYLA You may have seen me on Kochie and Mel.

FRANNY And Failya-

FAILYA I like fish.

FRANNY People, I know times are hard, running a fish shop does that to you. Everyday as I wrap some fish, I look down on the papers that read of yesterday’s news-

TASSIE No-one wraps their fish in newspaper any more!

DODO They stopped doing that twenty years ago.

FRANNY We never did, we remember the old ways. And yesterday as I was wrapping more fish and looking down at all the doom and gloom in the Telegraph: local factory loses one hundred jobs-

WORKER What about the workers!

FRANNY Ellen Jones faces court on another libel charge.

ELLEN A fabricated fiction of falsified fiddle-faddle that is both egregious and erroneous.

FRANNY And riots at Villawood Detention Centre.
TAYLA  Mum, it’s a prison?

FRANNY  Please explain.

TAYLA  A prison and a detention centre are the same thing!

FRANNY  No, they’re not, one starts with a ‘p’ and the other a ‘d’.

LENNY  Fat lot of good that education didja; ‘bout as useful as pork pies on Good Friday.

ELLEN  Good Friday?

FAILYA  That’s fish day!

FRANNY  And as I was wrapping up fish, I was reminded of something that my mother told me when one day she was wrapping fish and looking at the paper. She said, ‘Well, Franny, if that’s the worst that the world can throw at us then plenty good is happening in plenty of places.’ And people, just as the water has come up, one day it’s going to go down, and that’s all this water rising climate change nonsense is.

ELLEN  And what’s wrong with water? 57 percent of our bodies are made up of water. Surely a little more’s a good thing.

FRANNY  Now I’m no polished politician, just a woman who’s had her fair share of life’s knocks. I’m no greenhorn, green thumb or green lantern, but I’m no fool neither and I don’t believe that Angela Dullard can lead us to the Magic Mountain.

ELLEN  And what happens when she gets there?

RUPERT  Four more years of her running Inertia into ruin-

HEIDI  Because of her kow-towing to folks like-

ELLEN & HEIDI & RUPERT  EcoAction and the independents.

FRANNY  It’s time for Inertians to take a stand and that’s why today I’m announcing the formation of the Inertia First party with me as its leader.

ELLEN & HEIDI & RUPERT  What can she offer-

FRANNY  -I hear you ask. I offer a fast-track to the Magic Mountain. Whoever follows me will arrive there and when Dullard turns up we can all exercise our
constitution right of one person, one vote, to vote her off the island forever! But that’s only if you want me-

ELLEN & HEIDI & RUPERT

FRANNY Do you really want me?

ELLEN & HEIDI & RUPERT

FRANNY Do you really, really-

TASSIE What if we don’t want to go?

DODO The end is night!

FRANNY Who said that!

TASSIE Dodo, we can stay and make a stand.

DODO And sell lemonade.

TASSIE No, in our survival bunker.

DODO You wanna make a lemonade stand in our bunker? I thought you said that was for the end of days?

TASSIE The end of days are now! Let’s split!

DODO Banana splits and lemonade? What’s got into you?

DODO & TASSIE slink away and exit.

FRANNY We’ll all go together. We’ll turn this Procession of Principle-

ELLEN This Convoy of No Confidence-

FRANNY Into the Leap of Faith! You’ve gotta believe in something, people, and I’m about as good as anyone. But, be warned, you’re either for us or against us.

ELLEN With Franny or against Franny.

WORKER What about the workers?

FRANNY A dissenter? What do we do with nonconformists, Ms Jones?
ELLEN  We introduce them to my tiny French friend.

Enter ARISTOPHANES.

ARIST.  French? My froggy legs!

Exit ARISTOPHANES. Enter AMELIE.

AMELIE  Where is the reprobate?

FRANNY  (Pointing) Over there!

AMELIE looks menacingly towards WORKER.

AMELIE  Come here, little boy. You know you want to.

WORKER moves towards AMELIE.

AMELIE  You miscreant, you degenerate! You make me want to stick my fingers down my throat and make sounds that vomit!

WORKER  But I just asked about the workers.

AMELIE  Work this!

AMELIE produces a gun and pistol whips WORKER, who falls instantly.

Now, does anyone else want to feel my butt?

Silence from all.

No-one will remain. Try to stay in Inertia and I will use my kinky methods of persuasion to make you leave. I will round up all non-conformists. Is that what you’d like? (To audience) Is that what any of you would like? ‘Cause that’s what I’d like.

AMELIE looks at WORKER.

He’s cute. Do you mind if I take him away to employ for my wicked purpose?

LENNY  You have an evil porpoise?

AMELIE  No, but one squeeze of my new toy will have him shouting, (Like a porpoise) ‘Argh! Argh! Beat. Outrageous.

FRANNY  Inertia First! Follow me on our Leap of Faith and I’ll take you to the Magic Mountain and rebuild Inertia to exactly the way it was. And have no doubts, people, I am in control.

A guitar strums chords to the song, ‘Through an Open Gate’. All sing.
CHORUS

We’re searching for a new land,
We’re searching for a new home.
If nothing changes, we’ll face our dangers
and there’ll be no hope.

The water laps at our feet,
The sun beats down from the sky.
We might have a saviour who’ll change our behaviour,
‘Cause we don’t wanna die.

And we look for a way out,
‘Fore it’s too late.
Our horse is bolting through an open gate.
And we look for a way out,
‘Fore it’s too late.
Our horse is bolting through an open gate.

Curtain.

End of Act One
Act Two

A guitar strums chords to the song, ‘Sail On, Sail Away’. Curtains open to reveal the HERNANDEZ family rowing across the seas. The chorus sing.

CHORUS
Here we are all alone,
The water’s risen and the birds have flown.
On the ocean like a bottle’s cork,
Oh we wish for someone just to talk.

Sail on, sail away,
Dreaming of a better place.
Sail on, sail away,
Searching for a quiet home to stay.

On we row through fog and mist;
Can’t believe it came to this.
The ocean speaks of lands afar,
Guided by a lonesome evening star

Sail on, sail away,
Dreaming of a better place.
Sail on, sail away,
Searching for a quiet home to stay.

MANNY
We must keep going.

PACQUITA
Manny, the ninos are tired.

MANNY
I know they’re tired, but if we stop rowing we may die.

PACQUITA
Don’t say that, they need rest. Ninos, are you tired?

RAMONA
Si.

LOLA
Si.

MAGDA.
Si.

PEDRO
Si.

VALENTINA
Si.

CAMILA
Si.

ALEJAND.
Si.

BABY
(Completely exhausted) Si.
PACQUITA Oh, bebé, come to Mama

BABY Come to Mama?

PACQUITA Si, bebé.

BABY PACQUITA climbs across the boat and into PACQUITA’S arms.

It’s okay, bebé, everything will be okay.

CHORUS Sail on, sail away
Dreaming of a better place
Sail on, sail away.
Searching for a quiet home to stay.

*The song finishes and the chorus exit.*

PACQUITA How long to go, Manny?

MANNY Kilometres, miles.

*El Hongo appears on the high seas. We can’t make out his face.*

PACQUITA Who is that?

MAGDA Is it god?

CAMILA Or devil?

EL HONGO Ship ahoy!

PACQUITA Santa Maria, mother of God.

EL HONGO No need to panic, friends. My name’s El Hongo and I’m here to help.

MANNY Pacquita, he speaks English and I can understand him with clarity.

PACQUITA Your English is suddenly better too, Manny.

EL HONGO El Hongo speaks many languages, even ones whose name sounds like a little orange fruit.

PACQUITA Kids, can you speak English?

RAMONA The-

LOLA Quick-

MAGDA Brown-
PEDRO Fox-
VALENTINA Jumps-
CAMILA Over-
ALEJAND. The-
BABY Lazy dog.

EL HONGO The famous pangram, you’re English is improving!

VALENTINA How is it that you don’t row?

PEDRO Papa says that if we don’t row we will die.

EL HONGO El Hongo is not a shark that dies if it stops swimming. El Hongo’s bones are made of calcium, not cartilage.

LOLA But you do not sink.

EL HONGO El Hongo has sunk before, but now he has his head above water and will ride a wave to victory.

MANNY You talk in riddles.

EL HONGO Metaphors, actually.

ALEJAND. Is this magic?

EL HONGO No, child, but El Hongo will lead you to a place of magic, a mountain so magical, that I call it the Magic Mountain!

ALL (Gasps) The Magic Mountain!

EL HONGO It is my home. Once I was Robinson Crusoe, but now I have my Fridays.

PACQUITA But we are not Fridays, we are Hernandez family.

EL HONGO It’s an allusion.

CAMILA An illusion?

MAGDA Aren’t you real?

EL HONGO No, a literary allusion, not an illusion, one starts with an ‘a’, the other with an ‘i’. What are you all, morons?

BABY PACQUITA begins crying.
And would somebody shut her up? I’m trying to be nice here.

MANNY You’ve made Baby Pacquita cry!

EL HONGO Then El Hongo will kiss it better. Baby Pacquita, would you like to sail with El Hongo?

BABY No.

EL HONGO Excellent! Let me lift you from that boat onto mine. (Struggling) Jeez, she weighs a ton.

After some struggling, EL HONGO & BABY PACQUITA are in the same boat.

Okay, Captain Pacquita, where would you like to go?

BABY The Magic Mountain.

EL HONGO Yes, and once we get there I have a special role for you all in our new society. Set sail for the Magic Mountain!

MANNY But we don’t have any sails.

PACQUITA It’s a metaphor, Manny.

EL HONGO Now you’re getting it. To the Magic Mountain!

ALL To The Magic Mountain!

They set off at a slow pace. The curtain slowly closes as they paddle away. After three seconds, the curtain re-opens. They have hardly moved.

EL HONGO (To audience) Amuse yourselves. This may take some time.

The curtain re-opens.

There’s nary a gust of wind.

Enter ARISTOPHANES.

But what is that? A frog! Blow, flatulent frog, blow!

ARISTOPHANES begins blowing the boat and the Hernandez family exit. The curtain closes and ARISTOPHANES steps in front of it.

ARIST. Sorry about all the gas. Those EcoAction folks sit badly on the gut. What’s worse is that you can’t just stop at one. Only joshing ya-
The curtain slowly opens. Enter DULLARD, SWAN, PENNY, GEORGE & JENNY on a sail boat.

- here they come with Angela, Penny and Jayne. Scene 14, in which Angela faces the first of the challenges, The Creek of Questions.

Exit ARISTOPHANES.

DULLARD How long until the Magic Mountain?

JAYNE I thought you were supposed to be leading?

DULLARD Oh Jayne, rural Jayne, teased at school Jayne, leaders don’t lead any more. You don’t see generals charging into battle before the troops in a war, do you?

PENNY But the gods told you to lead and that you would face dangerous challenges.

DULLARD Yes, alright. It’s just that my bunions and corns are inflamed by all this sea water. Something must be done. Who wants to give me a foot massage?

JENNY Not on your nelly.

DULLARD No, on my feet, why would anyone want their nelly massaged? Sometimes, Jenny, I don’t know what to make of you. George, you must be good with you hands, you spend so long with them out begging me for stuff.

GEORGE I like feet, odour eaters, toejam-

DULLARD (Thrusting a foot at him) Good, then rub like Aladdin at his lamp.

JAYNE What’s that ahead?

JENNY It’s a sign.

GEORGE What’s it say?

PENNY It says we have arrived at-

Enter GOD A.

OTHERS The Creek of Questions?

GOD A Yes, who would have thought you’d arrive at the Creek of Questions?

DULLARD Aren’t you the God of Love?

GOD A What makes you think that?
DULLARD Because you spoke to me in a vision and, even though I am leading my people to the Magic Mountain, I’m still an agnostic.

A bell rings.

GOD A You mean, somebody who doesn’t believe in us gods, but is too scared to accept the possibility that we may actually exist?

JAYNE What’s that bell for?

GOD A We are in the Creek of Questions, aren’t we?

JENNY What do you want with us?

GEORGE Can I stop massaging your feet now?

DULLARD Can you finish my pinky toe?

JAYNE Would you answer the question about the bell?

GOD A The bell? I could answer it like this, if you like? What do you think the golden rule is in the Creek of Questions?

PENNY That we’re not allowed to speak unless it’s in questions?

DULLARD Is this one of the challenges I have to face?

GOD A Wouldn’t you just think so? You get three chances and you know what happens if you don’t speak in questions?

JENNY The bell rings?

GOD A That’s right, and on the third time?

JAYNE What happens then?

GOD A You go plummeting to your deaths in the depths of the ocean and won’t that be fun?

DULLARD But how do we defeat you and continue on our crusade to the mountain?

GOD A By getting me to make statements instead of questions, including one in which I speak my name.

A bell rings.

DULLARD That wasn’t a question.
A bell rings.

GOD A A-ha! Neither was that.

A bell rings.

(Under her breath) Jesus wept, didn’t he?

DULLARD Why can’t you be nice to us, you are the God of Love after all, aren’t you?

GOD A Don’t you think you’re going to have to do more than that to make me reveal my identity?

DULLARD Why are you so defensive?

GOD A (High pitched) You call this defensive?

PENNY You call yourself a god?

GOD A Are you still on about that?

JAYNE Is there any other way?

GOD A Have you ever heard the expression, ‘that’s for me to know and for you to find out’? Now, what is this purpose of your crusade?

DULLARD You told me to lead my people to the Magic Mountain, didn’t you?

GOD A Then why are you sitting in the back?

DULLARD Where else can I get a foot massage?

GEORGE Would you like a foot massage?

GOD A Who’s got time for foot massages? Don’t you see the peril of your plight?

JENNY What’s a peril?

GEORGE What’s a plight?

GOD A What’s with all the questions?

DULLARD What makes you think you can defeat Angela Dullard, leader of the free world?

GOD A Oh, it’s leader of the free world now, is it?

DULLARD Have you got any better suggestions?
‘Nuthush City Limits’ by Tina Turner plays. Enter PHONY RABBIT, swimming in a pair of red Speedos and a lifesaver’s cap. Cut music.

PHONY  I’m here to help.

The bell rings.

PHONY  I’m Phony Rabbit!

The bell rings.

PHONY  (Stuttering and stammering) Yibbida-yibbida, that’s all folks! I can’t swim!

The bell rings continuously as PHONY RABBIT sinks to his demise.

DULLARD  Why did you have to do that?

GOD A  Did you really want him around?

PENNY  But isn’t he harmless?

GOD A  Don’t you think that he thinks that’s what he wants you to think?

JAYNE  Yes, but doesn’t a democracy needed a viable opposition?

DULLARD  Was your mother a smoker, Jayne?

GOD A  Shall we get back to the challenge? What else were you told that you would face on this quest?

DULLARD  You mean about the Test of Atonement?

GOD A  Isn’t there something you need to confess, Angela?

DULLARD  Like what?

GOD A  Like what were doing during the Ides of March?

DULLARD  When?

GOD A  You don’t know when the Ides of March are?

GEORGE  Are they are in March?

JENNY  Do you really have to be so stupid?

DULLARD  What about the Ides of March?
GOD A  Where were you the day that Krudd got dumped?
DULLARD  You can’t seriously suggest that I had anything to do with it?
GOD A  If you weren’t involved, then who was?
DULLARD  It’s so long ago, how can you expect me to remember?
GOD A  Why are you evading the issue?
JENNY  Isn’t that what politicians do?
GOD A  Why did you have him removed?
PENNY  What evidence have you got?
JENNY  Weren’t you the ringleader?
DULLARD  Why should I tell you?
GOD A  Because I am the God of Love! Oops.

* A bell rings and GOD A sinks to her demise. The others continue their voyage.*

GEORGE  Wasn’t she a bit freaky?
PENNY  Do we have to keep asking questions?
JENNY  Or have we passed the challenge of the creek?
DULLARD  Jenny, do you think EcoAction will ever seriously challenge me?
JENNY  Of course we will.

*All gasp.*

DULLARD  That wasn’t a question, Jenny, it wasn’t even a statement of fact. But it does mean we’re through.
JENNY  You want to break up our alliance?
DULLARD  Of course not, at least not until I have a clear electoral majority. Then you’ll be like an old newspaper used for wrapping fish.
JENNY  No-one wraps their fish in newspaper any more!
GEORGE  They stopped doing that twenty years ago.
DULLARD  And you’ve stopped massaging my foot. Be a good boy and reapply yourself with vigour.
GEORGE Where am I going to get vinegar?

PENNY & JAYNE & JENNY From a fish shop!

DULLARD A fish shop, indeed. The only good thing that ever came out of a fish shop was batter. Batter up, onward, ho!

The curtains slowly close on them. Enter ARISTOPHANES.

ARIST. But there’s more than batter that comes from a fish shop and it wants to batter you, Angela. And it smells like Bacon. Just on a side note, has anybody ever heard that ‘Smells Like Bacon’ was the original title for Kurt Cobain’s ‘Smells Like Teen Spirit’? Who would have thunk it? But all this talk of Bacon is just a ruse. Scene 15, where our bunkered down survivalists, Tassie Tiger and Dodo Girl are in for some unexpected company.

Exit ARISTOPHANES. TASSIE & DODO GIRL appear in their bunker, surrounded by two minute noodles.

DODO Halt, who goes there? Show yourself or we’ll shoot!

TASSIE Put down the water pistol, Dodo Girl.

DODO What for, Tassie Tiger?

TASSIE It’s just the fall of a sparrow.

DODO Can we eat it?

TASSIE ‘Course you can’t eat it, eating wildlife means killing and we’re not assassins, we’re survivalists.

DODO The end is night!

TASSIE Nigh, the end is nigh. Like, nearby, coming to a theatre near you.

DODO No need to get so snappy.

TASSIE I’m not getting snappy! It’s just that I don’t think you’ve fully come to grips with why we’re bunkered down sixteen feet below the Earth’s surface in this bunker.

DODO I just thought you liked me.

TASSIE I do like you, petal, it’s that I don’t want to commit to a full time relationship with the TEOTWAWKI just around the corner.
DODO    TEOTWAWKI?  
TASSIE  The end of the world as we know it.  
DODO    TEOTWAWKI? Sounds like a Maori word or something from Star Wars...wooky-wooky.  
TASSIE  It's an acronym.  
DODO    Oh, where are they from?  
TASSIE  Look, Dodo Girl, I need you to concentrate. According to the Mayan calendar, Nostradamus and other reliable sources on TEOTWAWKI, the world is about to end. That's why we're here in our B.O.L  
DODO    Big Ownsome Lonesome?  
TASSIE  No.  
DODO    Bad Odour Lingers?  
TASSIE  No.  
DODO    Back off, Loser?  
TASSIE  No, our bug-out location. That's why we're surrounded by Spam, Two minute noodles, water-purifiers, medical supplies and RM Williams.  
DODO    I thought you said it was just us two.  
TASSIE  You're starting to stress me out, Dodo Girl!  
DODO    Hey, what are these seeds for?  
TASSIE  Beat. They're for the future, like, in times when you stress me out.  
DODO    What, like pumpkin seeds?  
TASSIE  Something like that. All I know is that we'll be ready when the SHTF.  
DODO    SHTF!  

Enter AMELIE, holding a gun.  

AMELIE  SHTF!  
TASSIE  And I think it's going to hit the fan a little earlier than I thought.  
DODO    Huh?
AMELIE  Well my little bandicoots, my little rabbits, otters and rats, what do we have here? Are you wrapped up ready for romance or perhaps it is that you have the fright of my weapon. Are you frightened of my weapon? Don’t be shy, you can tell me if my weapon intimidates you.

DODO   Who are you?

TASSIE  How did you get in?

AMELIE  So many questions and not a polysyll, a polyssyll, a polysyllable among them. Sometimes I struggle with your ridiculous English lexicon, it’s outrageous.

DODO   You haven’t answered our questions yet.

AMELIE  *(Brandishing the butt of the gun)* Ah, a saucy girl, you want to feel the weight of my butt against your face?

DODO   No-

AMELIE  Against your face! *Beat.* Very well, I will answer your preposterous questions with a reply, a retort, a riposte that you may not like. My name is Amelie Mauresmo.

TASSIE  The French tennis player?

AMELIE  No, you think I have not heard that before! Your ignorance is outrageous. I am Amelie Mauresmo, *the* clandestine spy from SHTF!

DODO   You’re from SHTF!

TASSIE  I’ve never heard of you.

AMELIE  That is the point, dimwit. But I do play a mean game of tennis if I do say so myself.

DODO   Is that so?

AMELIE  I am a master of the baseline, but not so good at the net.

TASSIE  How come?

AMELIE  People always hit the ball over my head because I am so short.

DODO   That must be hard.

AMELIE  And I was able to enter because some fool had not activated your early detection system.

DODO   Oh, I’ll put my hand up for that one.
TASSIE: You imbecile, Dodo!

DODO: Sorry, Tassie.

TASSIE: Look, Mauresmo, what makes you think that us preppers are afraid of a Pollyanna like you?

DODO: Yeah.

TASSIE: We’ve survived WMDs, the NBN, ETS, the GFC-

DODO: KFC.

TASSIE: KFC?

DODO: There’s more than one use for their buckets.

TASSIE: Alright, KFC and the Digital Education Revolution.

ALL: Der!

DODO: And this is our B.O.L.

TASSIE: Our Bug Out Location, this place is our Alpha Strategy.

AMELIE: Then I suggest you find a beta strategy, ha-ha, a beta strategy, like better strategy, a pun on beta? You don’t understand puns? Sheesh, why do I bother? It’s outrageous.

TASSIE: And there’s two of us and only one of you.

AMELIE: Pistol, they’ve forgotten you. (Listen to the gun for a response) Say what, Mr Pistol? Call who? Oui, oui, I get your point. (To the others) You say there is only one of me and two of you but, (Calling off) Saigo!

Enter MR SAIGO, previously WORKER. He’s carrying a rucksack which he drops upon entry.

Saigo likes mademoiselles, the only thing he likes more are-

SAIGO: Two minute noodles!

SAIGO rushes for the noodles and begins eating them dry. After a moment, AMELIE starts hitting him to stop him from eating.

AMELIE: Bad Saigo, naughty Saigo, you wicked rascal. I didn’t call you here to stuff your face like a pig. Stop eating, Saigo. Where are your manners, this is outrageous behaviour. (To the others) I am sorry, I must watch his cholesterol. Saigo, I called you here to grab our prisoners.
TASSIE  Prisoners?

AMELIE  Yes, prisoners, didn’t you hear me the first time? Perhaps you should have your ears syringed. Saigo likes using the syringe, don’t you, Saigo?

SAIGO  I like to squirt.

AMELIE  Stop eating, Saigo and grab the noods!

SAIGO  grabs boxes and boxes of noodles.

DODO  What are you going to do with them?

AMELIE  It’s not the noodles you should be worried about, it’s the end of the world, n’est pas? And for too long Bacon, Jones and big business have used Mauresmo to clean up their trash. That can be fun, I mean, who doesn’t like shooting living things?

DODO  Like a sparrow?

AMELIE  A sparrow? No, I don’t like birds that fly Beat. Dodo. But I digress, Mauresmo will no longer be treated like a whipping boy, though that can be fun too, eh, Saigo?

SAIGO  does the booty dance and moans. AMELIE  picks up the rucksack.

AMELIE  Inertians think they’re so special, but what about the French? No, I will make my stand and they will all remember forever the day that Mauresmo came to the Magic Mountain.

TASSIE  What’s in the backpack?

DODO  It’s not-

AMELIE  How you Inertians say, ‘Snap, Crackle and Pop’!

TASSIE  So that’s what you’ve got planned.

AMELIE  Not a whimper, but a bang, Beat. and that can be fun too. So, now I ask you, if your bunker cannot hold me out, what chance does it have when the water comes? You must ask yourself, will you boom, boom shake the room with Mauresmo or drown like a crazy girl in a terribly old play?

TASSIE  If we help her, we could go down in history, Dodo Girl.

DODO  It’s boom and bang or bust.

TASSIE  This bunker has been like a home to us.
DODO  Wherever you go, Tassie, that's my home.

TASSIE  Alright, Mauresmo, we're with you.

AMELIE  (Holding out her hand) For history?

ALL  (Shaking hands) For history!

AMELIE  I knew you'd come in handy, we have a lot to carry to that mountain that they say is so magic. Saigo, lead the girls out, Mr Pistol and I shall follow.

Exit SAIGO, TASSIE & DODO. AMELIE lingers, then spots a stray packet of noodles and eats them.

Nothing wrong with my cholesterol. Outrageous.

Exit AMELIE. Enter ARISTOPHANES.

ARIST.  Is that Frenchie gone yet? Scene 16, the high seas and Franny Bacon and her One Inertia Party are speeding towards the Magic Mountain. But they hit an unexpected snag when they arrive before Angela at the Gods’ second challenge, The Sedentary Sea. Warning, this scene may depict cruelty to big aquatic mammals.

Exit ARISTOPHANES. Enter FRANNY, LENNY, TAYLA, FAILYA, ELLEN, RUPERT, HEIDI, EDDIE & SCHWEINHUND, through the audience. They're riding on the backs of whales.

RUPERT  I must say, Franny, riding a whale is infinitely more civilised than jet skis and row boats.

HEIDI  And some people, who we’re too culturally sensitive to name, may in fact stop eating them.

EDDIE  We shouldn’t be doing this, they’re an endangered species, the elephants of the sea. I’ll never get a gig on Bondi Vet if someone snaps me surfing.

FRANNY  Hang on, kids. How’re you doing, Tayla?

TAYLA  My hair! Adriano will never speak to me again.

LENNY  There’s plenty more fish in the sea, love.

SCHWEIN.  This is unnatural, riding on a whale should be abolished. How do you find it so easy?

FAILYA  It’s just like a big fish, and I like the slippery suckers.
ELLEN  Who would have ever thought you could this much fun outside of a rugby change room?

FRANNY  Wait on, stop the whales! Is that land?

ELLEN  Yes, and people!

_They grind to a halt._

What are all these people doing here?

LENNY  We must be near the mountain.

ELLEN  _To audience_ What a sorry, sordid, secretion of spectators you all are.

EDDIE  _To audience_ You didn’t get here in a clapped out dinghy sold by a tabouli salesman named Ahmet in the back alley of an Egyptian souk, did you?

HEIDI  _Aside_ Shall we kill them, Sweetheart?

RUPERT  _Aside_ What have I told you, Percy? You must wait for the sun to come up before you take off your clothes and get a tan.

TAYLA  _To an audience member_ Look at you, you’re a spunkrat.

FAILYA  _To an audience member_ Got any fish? _Beat._ Would you like some?

SCHWEIN.  It is exactly as the Mayans predicted, the end of the human race and a confluence of nations descending upon a mountain!

LENNY  How can you descend upon a mountain? I mean, I’m no geologist, but that sounds like a pretty tall story if you ask me.

FRANNY  Shut it, Lenny.

LENNY  Yes, dear.

FRANNY  Professor? Can you explain what you meant about a confluence of people?

SCHWEIN.  Ja, it means people from all countries, this is a microcosm of multiculturalism.

ELLEN  A miasma of multinationalist meandering mammals-

SCHWEIN.  Munching mouthfuls of macaroons, mung beans and mangelwurzel.

ELLEN & SCHWEIN.  Make mine meat!
ELLEN A maladjusted, malcontent mass of madmen mutilating the mainland-

ELLEN & SCHWEIN. Like mangy mutts!

FRANNY Well that's just sick! Do you mean that we're not all Inertians here tonight? *To an audience member* You there? What's the capital of Inertia?

_Hopefully, they respond ‘Canberra’._

No, it's not Canberra, it's manbra! *(or ‘no, it's not Sydney, it's not even Canberra, it's manbra!’ Or ‘Sydney? Which country did you grow up in? It's Manbra’ Whatever…improvise!)*

FAILYA I’m wearing a man-bra now.

LENNY Son!

FRANNY Shut it, Lenny!

FAILYA It holds me fish.

TAYLA Barf me out! *To audience member* Not you, Sweetheart.

RUPERT But I’m over here!

HEIDI Can we kill her?

RUPERT Stop going off half-cocked, Buttrose!

FRANNY Something must be done about this. We can’t have non-Inertians on the Magic Mountain.

LENNY You tell 'em, Franny.

FRANNY Shut it, Lenny! I know I’ve been called xenophobic in the past and I’ll accept that because I don’t know what it means but Beat. I’ll stand and fight for my country. I’m Inertian and proud of it. As Inertian as Vegemite, Foster’s and Ugg Boots.

HEIDI They’re not Inertian any more, we sold them.

FRANNY You what?

RUPERT It’s all about money, darling, the bottom line.

FRANNY I’ll give you a few lines on your bottom, Sweetheart!
ELLEN That’s right, corporal punishment. A few whacks on the backside never hurt anybody. Look at me, I got so many smacks at boarding school that I ended up begging for it.

FRANNY I think I got on the wrong boat. Never mind, I’m stuck with the lot of you now. But there must be some way to determine who gets onto the Magic Mountain and who doesn’t.

* A drum sounds. The GOD OF KNOWLEDGE & GOD OF VENGEANCE appear. *

GOD B We are-
GOD C That’s not important right now.
GOD B Welcome to the final challenge on your quest to the Magic Mountain.
GOD C The Sedentary Sea.
LENNY I need to sit down.
FRANNY Shut it, Len!
GOD B The Magic Mountain is for the pure of heart.
GOD C For those who haven’t visited the dark side.
GOD B And we’re glad that you’re all sitting comfortably.
GOD C On a chair or on a whale.
GOD B But we must join tonight to find the one.
GOD C The anointed.
GODS Your knight in shining karma.
GOD B Like the yin-
GOD C -and the yang.
GOD B We seek a leader with a little bit of good.
GOD C And a whole lot of bad.
GOD B Who amongst you is a leader?
OTHERS I’m a leader!
GOD C Not good enough.
GOD B  (To audience) People, each and every one of you has what it takes to lead within you. Many of you know who I am and know that I know. So on the count of three, we want everybody to leap to their feet-

GODS And we do mean everyone.

GOD B And shout-

GODS ‘I am a leader!’

GOD C And believe me, we’ll go harder on you if you don’t. There are many ways to embarrass an audience member and I’ve thought of some new ones just recently.

GOD B On the count of three-

GODS One, two, three!

OTHER I’m a leader!

H**o**p**e**ly, the audience will be up on their feet. If not, try once more, improvise some insults.

GOD C You actually look like followers if you ask me, but (Suddenly) don’t sit down! You’re about to face the challenge in the Sedentary Sea.

GOD B And, for those of you who don’t sleep with a dictionary next to their bed like weirdoes and playwrights, sedentary means sitting.

GOD C Oh, I thought it meant salty, like brine.

GOD B Enough about the playwright, already! Now, onto the challenge.

GOD C We’re about to give you a series of statements which you must answer truthfully.

GOD B You have a choice, whether to sit or stand.

GOD C The longer you remain standing, the more chance you have of becoming the leader. Understood?

The game of ‘Sit Down If’ begins, led by the GODS. Time should be given between each statement for the audience to sit or stand.

GOD B Then let’s begin. Sit down if your favourite colour is green.

GOD C Sit down if your birthday has a six in it.

GOD B Sit down if you’ve eaten McDonalds more than once in this last week.
GOD C  Sit down if you’ve ever gone for a week without a shower or bath.

GOD B  Those of you still standing next to people that sat down just then might take this opportunity to change seats. Sit down if you are wearing mismatched socks.

GOD C  That one was for all the radicals out there. Look at me, I’m so alternative I wear different coloured socks.

GOD B  And Chuck Taylors.

GOD C  And Doc Martens.

They laugh.

GOD B  Sit down if you think tabouli is a viable alternative to a green salad on a hot summer’s day.

FRANNY  Damn, I know that one. Indiana.

RUPERT  You can stay standing, Franny, in our line of work we find it necessary to do business with India.

HEIDI  The capital is New Delhi.

RUPERT & HEIDI  sit.

FRANNY  Another new deli? Those Indians are smart people, they’ve got a shop named that in every mall, even got into Woolies and Coles.

LENNY  So they’re the ones responsible for all that ethnic food.

TAYLA  But you like curries, Dad.

LENNY  Didn’t that university education teach you anything, Tayla? Maggi makes curry, it’s Inertian, straight out of the packet.

GOD C  May we resume the challenge?

LENNY  Sorry, go for your life.

GOD C  This one will test your honesty. Sit down if you’ve ever said something you regret on Facebook.

GOD B  Come on, ‘fess up, we can check.

They produce a laptop.
GOD C  We have our ways, Beat. Tayla?

TAYLA  But I don’t use Facebook, I’m a twitter girl.

GOD C  You got that half right.

GOD B  Next, sit down if you’ve ever wanted to host a TV veterinarian show.

EDDIE  Well, why wouldn’t I want to have my own vet show? I could call it Vet Desex, Neuters’R’Us, Spayed for a Day. My dreams, my hopes, all shattered.

EDDIE  sits.

GOD C  Sit down if you don’t think you’re a spunkrat.

TAYLA  *(To the audience member)* You can get back on your feet, hot stuff. *(Or if the audience member is still standing, ‘You just stay right where you are, hot stuff’)*

GOD B  Sit down if you can speak two or more languages.

FAILYA  Two or more languages? I struggle with one!

GOD C  Sit down if you find it hard to lie to others.

FRANNY  Sometimes you just have to lie to make people feel better about themselves. Like, *(To an audience member)* I love your hairdo.

LENNY  *(To an audience member)* Pink (or another colour) really is a masculine look.

TAYLA  *(With big eyes, to the audience member)* You’re so smart.

GOD B  Sit down if you don’t think Inertia’s the greatest place to live.

SCHWEIN.  Schweinhund. Deutschland uber alles!

SCHWEINHUN  sits.

GOD C  Sit down if you fiddle a lot and demand constant stimulation Beat. from fish.

FAILYA  Oh dammit, I was doing so good!

FAILYA  sits.

GOD B  Sit down if you think terra Inerti is a collective noun for all of our deadliest species.
ELLEN Blue-ringed octopi, funnel web spiders and white pointers should sound
terror into every Inertian! Raise the alarm!

ELLEN sits.

GOD C Sit down if you’re happy to sponge off others Beat. like your wife.

GODS Lenny?

LENNY Hey, I don’t sponge off the missus!

FRANNY You’re gonna be at work at seven thirty sharp in the morning, aren’t
you, Len?

LENNY Yes, dear.

LENNY sits.

GOD B Sit down if you’ve ever kissed your best friend’s partner.

TAYLA (To the audience member) Oh, this is so bogus!

TAYLA sits. The following two questions are for any audience members that may still
be standing. Bag of frogs for the last audience member standing.

GOD B Sit down if you’re not a character in this play.

GOD C Sit down if your name’s not Franny Bacon.

FRANNY is the last person standing.

FRANNY I win! I am the leader! Inertia First! Follow me to the Magic Mountain,
people.

GOD C Not so fast, Franny. There’s still two people standing.

FRANNY Where? They’re all on their backsides, their pit-toots.

GOD B I do believe that we’re still standing, Franny.

FRANNY Eh?

GOD C And no-one can become the leader unless we will bow before them.

FRANNY Oh, you tricked me, that’s just so Inertian.

GOD C Shall we continue?

GOD B Now for a hypothetical. You’ve scratched someone’s car in a parking
lot. Would you leave a note on the windshield-
GOD C Or would you speed away and hope no one saw you? Sit down if you would leave a note.

FRANNY No way, José, I might lose my no-claim bonus.

GODS Drats.

Enter DULLARD, JAYNE, PENNY, JENNY & GEORGE.

GOD B Ah, it looks like we have a new competitor.

DULLARD Sit down if you own a fish shop!

FRANNY I don’t own a fish shop, really, I sold it, it’s in my mother’s name, I donated it to charity, I wrote it off on tax, I-

DULLARD (Encouraging the audience) Sit down, Franny, everybody on three. One, two, three!

FRANNY (Pathetically) But I’m your leader.

DULLARD Not any more. Jayne? Penny?

JAYNE & PENNY assist FRANNY to sit and sit themselves.

(To the GODS) So we meet again.

GOD B We don’t know what you’re talking about.

GOD C We’d remember a face like yours.

DULLARD Shouldn’t you be ashamed of yourselves? Wasn’t it Shakespeare who said, ‘As flies to wanton boys are we to the gods, they kill us for their sport’?

GOD B Very witty, Dullard, but ‘there are more things in heaven and earth, Angela, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.’

DULLARD I am here to lead my people and yet you stand in my way. What is to be done about it?

GOD C You are now in the Sedentary Sea and you must pass the challenge-

DULLARD Enough, already. Sit down if you’re the Gods of Knowledge and Vengeance.

GOD B Suffering succotash!

GOD C Alright, you got us this time, but as I am the God of Vengeance, be warned, I’ll be back!
GODS start to leave.

DULLARD Not so fast, before you go you must show me the steep and thorny way to the Magic Mountain.

GOD B You want the Magic Mountain?

GODS Well here it is!


DULLARD The Magic Mountain! We have finally reached our destination, our quest is over and it has been I, good citizens of Inertia, not Francis Bacon, who has led you to safety. Join with me, brothers and sisters, and set foot on dry land and begin our lives anew.

DULLARD and the other cast members move towards the stage. The Hernandez family march to the front of the stage, barring the way.

MANNY Not so fast, Dullard.

PACQUITA You haven't passed customs, yet.

DULLARD Customs? What are you talking about? This is the Magic Mountain, not Sydney Airport!

MANNY Is there anything you want to declare?

PACQUITA Any little secrets you might be hiding?

DULLARD I don't keep secrets, I'm an open book and one that's moving forward!

PACQUITA How can a book move forward?

MANNY It's a metaphor, a bad metaphor.

DULLARD I demand to be let onto this mountain.

MANNY Sorry.

PACQUITA No can do.

DULLARD Please, I'm begging you, my people have come across the seas.

CHILDREN (Singing) For those who've come across the seas, we've-

RAMONA Have you got a temporary protection visa?
CAMILA  Or a residency visa?
DULLARD  I don’t need a visa, I’m the president of Inertia!
MAGSA.  This isn’t Inertia.
PEDRO  You hear that? She reckons she’s the president of Inertia.
LOLA  Whatever happened to Inertia?
VALENTINA  I think it sunk.
ALEJAND.  Just like her in the popularity polls.
BABY  Oopsies.
DULLARD  The bloody polls again! Listen, can I speak to someone in charge?
EL HONGO begins chanting loudly. The Hernandez family moves to the sides.
MANNY  El Hongo!
PACQUITA  El Hongo will speak!
DULLARD  El Hongo?
MANNY  It’s Spanish for mushroom.
PACQUITA  And what’s a magic mountain without a mushroom?
EL HONGO  El Hongo has been expecting you, Dullard.
DULLARD  Me?
EL HONGO  El Hongo has followed your voyage with great interest. His eyes are everywhere and have seen more of this world than any mere mortal, a world that is disappearing now like tears in the rain. For it is a sad day that you should come face to face with El Hongo. Children? Place Jones, the Bacons, Buttrose, Sweetheart, Manure and Schweinhund in detention.

The children do so, forcing them into a cramped prison.
LENNY  You’re putting us in prison?
EL HONGO  No, detention.
LENNY  What’s the difference?
EL HONGO  One starts with an ‘p’ and the other starts with a ‘d’.
ELLEN  Help us, Franny, say something.

FRANNY  I don't like it.

EL HONGO  El Hongo has admired you from a distance, Dullard. He has admired your strength of character and the empathy you share with your people.

EL HONGO & the Hernandez family laugh uproariously.

DULLARD  Why are you laughing at that?

EL HONGO  Have you seen your popularity in the polls?

DULLARD  Would everybody stop going on about the polls!

EL HONGO  There was a time when all loved you, well maybe loved's not the right word, respected, admired might be a wiser choice. But then something happened to change that.

DULLARD  I suppose you’d like to tell me what it was?

EL HONGO  Bring back the gods!

Enter GODS, led by ARISTOPHANES.

GOD A  You called for us El Hongo?

EL HONGO  I believe you have some unfinished business with this Dullard.

DULLARD  But I defeated you in the challenges!

GOD B  You can never defeat the gods.

GOD A  If it appears as though you have then it is simply us allowing you to believe this.

GOD C  Who’s agnostic now?

GOD A  Now that it’s payback time!

DULLARD  Payback time?

GOD A  You have a closely hidden secret that it is now time to confess.

GOD B  Only a full confession will allow you and your people onto the Magic Mountain.

GOD C  Denial will be answered in death.
GOD A What was your role in the removal of the former president, Kelvin Krud?

DULLARD I don’t recall.

GOD B Were you at the Capitol during the Ides of March?

DULLARD I have no recollection!

GOD C Did you dump Krud?

DULLARD No!

* A rooster crows.

GOD A The rooster croweth, though never in October.

ARIST. Cut to Margaret and David, ‘At the Movies’.

*Enter* DAVID & MARGARET.

DAVID Welcome back to our special screening of ‘The Tragedy of Kelvin Krud.’

MARGARET We pick up the action just after Krud’s removal from office.

DAVID And his promise to cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war.

BOTH Roll the tape.

*Lights down. The next section of the film now screens.*

EXTERNAL. DAY.

DULLARD *is at a podium, addressing the people after the removal of KRUDD.*

RETINUE We will be satisfied; let us be satisfied.

We will be satisfied; let us be satisfied.

DULLARD Then give me audience, friends.

RETINUE 1 I will hear Angela speak.

RETINUE 2 The noble Dullard is ascended: silence!

DULLARD Here comes Kelvin. Grace his speech which, By our permission, is allow’d to make.

DULLARD *stands to the side, KRUDD ascends to the podium.*
KRUDD

Friends, Inertians, countrymen, lend me your ears;
I come to bury Kr Rudd, not to praise him.
The evil that men do lives after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones;
So let it be with me. The noble Dullard
Hath told you Krudd was ambitious:
If it were so, it was a grievous fault,
And grievously hath I answer'd it.
Here, under leave of Dullard and the rest-
For Angela is an honourable woman;
Come I to speak at my metaphorical funeral.
I was your friend, faithful and just to you:
But Angela says I was ambitious;
And Angela is an honourable woman.
I hath brought economic stimulus packages to Inertia
Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill:
Did this in Krudd seem ambitious?
When the stolen generation cried, Krudd hath apologised:
Ambition should be made of sterner stuff:
Yet Angela says I was ambitious;
And Angela is an honourable woman.
You all did see that before the GFC
I spent money on the Digital Education Revolution or-

RETINUE 1

Was this ambition?
Yet Angela says I was ambitious;
And, sure, she is an honourable woman.
Here I am to speak what I do know.
You all did love me once, Kelvin 07:
O judgment! Thou art fled to brutish beasts,
And men have lost their reason. Bear with me;

KRUDD begins to cry, but they’re crocodile tears.

RETINUE 4  Methinks there is much reason in his sayings.

RETINUE 3  Kelvin has had great wrong.

RETINUE 5  I fear there will a worse come in his place.

RETINUE 2  ’Tis certain he was not ambitious.

RETINUE 1  Poor soul! His eyes are red as fire with weeping.

RETINUE 4  There’s not a nobler man in Inertia than K-Rudd.

RETINUE 2  Now mark him, he begins again to speak.
KRUDD  Yesterday the word of Kelvin might
    Have stood against the world; now stand I here.
    O masters, if I were disposed to stir
    Your hearts and minds to mutiny and rage,
    I should do Dullard wrong,
    Who is an honourable woman, along with the faceless men.

RETINUE 2  They are villains!

RETINUE 1  Who are the faceless men?

KRUDD  People, do you wish to know who were the faceless men that dudded Krudd?

RETINUE  (Chanting) Who dudded Krudd! Who dudded Krudd!

Flashback to the ‘assassination’ at the Capitol. RETINUE 5 first, then the other masked conspirators stab KRUDD. A series of shots reveals KRUDD standing in a pair of Speedos. Close-ups then on the conspirators removing their masks and revealing their identities: JAYNE, PENNY, ELLEN, RUPERT, HEIDI and, finally, DULLARD.

End film, back to live action.

DULLARD  Inertians, countrymen, hear me for my cause.
    If there be any in this assembly, any dear friend of
    Krudd’s, to him I say, that Dullard’s love to Krudd
    was no less than his. If then that friend demand
    Why Dullard rose against Krudd, this is my answer:
    Not that I loved Krudd less, but that I loved Inertia more.
    With this I depart, that, as I slew my best lover for the
    Good of Inertia, I have the same dagger for myself,
    When it shall please Inertia to need my death.

EL HONGO  That won’t be necessary.

EL HONGO removes his mask to reveal his identity.

ALL  Kelvin Krudd!

KRUDD  ‘Your best lover’, Angela?

DULLARD  You’ve always been my hot button issue, Kelvin. Can you ever forgive me?

KRUDD  Come here, Angela, I like a woman with a lean and hungry look.

They kiss…comically!

DULLARD  Oh, Kelvin!
KRUDD I wonder what Margaret and David would make of that?

Lights up on MARGARET & DAVID, kissing.

DAVID & Five stars!
MARGARET

Lights down on MARGARET & DAVID.

DULLARD But, Kelvy, what about your wife, Cherise?
KRUDD Don’t worry about it, Ange, the last I heard she’d run off with a German scientist.

Lights up on CHERISE & SCHWEINHUND kissing, but obviously it’s the same actor.

DULLARD Jayne, Penny, George, Jenny, come up here and join us on the left!
KRUDD (Indicating the Bacons etc.) But, Angela, what shall we do with them?
DULLARD Let ‘em rot.

Both DULLARD & KRUDD laugh and embrace.

GOD B Hold on, just a second!
KRUDD & DULLARD Eh?

GOD A We can’t allow this!
GOD B To forgive is to forget.
GOD C (To KRUDD) And didn’t you back-flip on the greatest moral challenge of our time?
KRUDD You misheard, I was at the Flower Factory and talking about the greatest floral arrangement of our time.

DULLARD Come on, Kelvin, fair shake of the sauce bottle.
KRUDD Alright, I admit it, I’ve made mistakes too. I should never have flip-flopped on climate change. Let ‘em up.

PENNY & JAYNE But they’re the right wing.
GOD A That’s right and you’re the left wing.
ANGELA But we want to destroy the right.

GOD A Have you ever seen a bird fly with only one wing?

GOD B And do you know what happens to a plane when it loses a wing?

GOD C It crashes.

GOD A You need both wings to fly a plane.

JAYNE And a democracy needs a viable opposition.

DULLARD Come up here, people and join us on the right.

LENNY You little ripper, I thought we were going to be stuck in there forever.

FRANYY Shut it, Len.

LENNY Shut it?

FRANYY Yeah, shut it and give me a kiss.

TAYLA How can you kiss when your mouths are shut?

FAILYA Here, let me show you.

FAILYA moves to kiss TAYLA, who freaks out.

LENNY No, Failya, like this.

LENNY & FRANYY smooch.

FRANYY Oh Lenny, you’re wasting your time in a fish shop.

GOD B So, we have the left wing and the right wing.

GOD A And the captains are happy in the cockpit.

GOD C But I think there’s room for one more.

KRUDD Not you?

GOD A No.

‘The Best’ by Tina Turner plays. Enter PHONY RABBIT in his red swimming trunks, through the trapdoor, who joins KRUDD & DULLARD in the centre. Cut music.

KRUDD So with everybody on board-

Enter DODO, TASSIE, AMELIE & SAIGO their bodies are strapped with something.
AMELIE    Not quite everybody.
ELLEN    It’s that crazy French woman!
ARISTOPHANES screams.
GEORGE    She’s turned into a terrorist-
JENNY    And is going to blow us all to pieces.
TASSIE    Stay where you are!
AMELIE    I think everybody will get quite a surprise by what we’re packing.
ELLEN    Head for the hills, Castle Hill, Pennant Hills, Rooty Hill, Hills Hoist! Run for your lives!
HEIDI    (Aside to RUPERT) Now can we kill someone?
RUPERT    Now would be a good time!
DODO    Don’t anybody move!
AMELIE    You want to kill me? That’s the way you want to treat me after everything I have done for you? But first, we will go out with a bang! Girls, Saigo, prepare to remove your coats!
KRUDD    This really isn’t necessary.
DULLARD    Don’t destroy our new world.
AMELIE    Destroy your new world, pah! We are here to feed it. Disrobe!

Everybody gasps as AMELIE, DODO, TASSIE & SAIGO open their coats to reveal packets and packets of Two Minute Noodles and Cocoa Pops strapped to their bodies.

Bang-bang, you’re fed. And you thought we were going to blow you up? Outrageous.
KRUDD    Come on join us, you guys.
TASSIE, DODO & SAIGO hop on board. ‘What About Me?’ by Moving Pictures begins playing. ARISTOPHANES & AMELIE sing along and move towards each other and embrace.
AMELIE    I am ze last French person.
ARIST.    I am ze last frog.
AMELIE &
ARIST.
Together we could make Beat. tadpoles!

RUPERT But you’re both girls!

HEIDI Oh, shut up, Sweetheart.

They smooch.

GOD A Now everyone’s on board.

GOD B Flying in the same direction.

GOD C And would you look at Angela and Kelvin, they can hardly keep their hands off each other.

GODS ‘Tis a marriage made in heaven.

KRUDD And now we really are together-

DULLARD There’s only one thing left to do, start-

ALL Moving forward.

ARIST. One, two, three, four!

CAST We were searching for a new land,
Searching for a new home.
We had to make changes, to face our dangers
And now there is hope.

Now we’d like you to know,
We’ve reached the end of the show.
Thank you for coming, you’ve been stunning,
But it’s time you should go.

‘Cause we looked for a way out,
‘Fore it’s too late.
Inertia’s riding through an open gate.
‘Cause we looked for a way out,
‘Fore it’s too late.
Inertia’s riding through an open gate.
‘Cause we looked for a way out,
‘Fore it’s too late.
Inertia’s riding through an open gate.

The End!