

# Scene 1

(As **intro music** plays (CD track 8) the lights come up on a side stage, which is made to look like the reception/waiting area of an office – see staging suggestions/scenery. We see an office door on which a notice is attached, reading 'INTERVIEW IN PROGRESS – DO NOT DISTURB'. Four 'interviewees', smartly dressed and carrying briefcases, nervously enter and sit on four chairs. After an awkward silence one speaks....)

**Interviewee 1** So, are you guys feeling as nervous as you look?

**Interviewee 2** Well, if I look like I'm about to pass out with fear, then yes!

**Interviewee 3** Me too. This is my first ever job interview and my stomach's doing somersaults! I don't think I'm going to keep my breakfast down!

**Interviewee 4** Well I couldn't even *manage* breakfast. It's my first interview too and I'm absolutely dreading it!

**Interviewee 2** I'm not ready for the world of work! It doesn't seem five minutes since I was at school, learning how to read and write.

**Interviewee 3** And how to tie shoelaces!

**Interviewee 4** And how to eat with a knife and fork!

**Interviewee 1** Yet here we are, all grown up. It's in situations like this when I wish I could just go back in time, to when life was much simpler.

**Int. 2, 3 & 4** (*sighing*) Aaaah! Just imagine.....

## **Song Do You Recall?** (CD track 1 & 9, lyrics p23)

(Whole cast)

**Interviewee 4** In some ways your first interview is like your first day at school.

**Interviewee 3** I don't remember going to the loo five times before my first day at school! This is far worse!

**Interviewee 2** Actually, when you think about it, there are quite a few similarities; new shoes, new haircut, new bag.

**Interviewee 1** Your mum making sure you've brushed your teeth, and checking you've got a hanky in your pocket.....

(All four reach into a jacket pocket and pull out a hanky.)

**All** (*smiling*) Good old mum!

*(The action moves to the main stage, where a father and son sit at the breakfast table – see p30. Dad reads the paper while the son eats his cereal, his school bag at his feet.)*

- Dad** Charlie, where's your mum?
- Charlie** She's getting Milly ready for school, Dad.
- Dad** Oh yes, it's your little sister's first day! I hope she's feeling OK.
- Charlie** Well, they'd better hurry up or we're going to be late. *(shouting)*  
GET A MOVE ON! IT'S TWENTY TO NINE!
- Voice from off-stage** *(sobbing)* But I'm scared! Can't we wait 'til tomorrow?
- Dad** Oh, come on. Everything's going to be fine. It's a lovely school.
- Voice** But what if the other children are horrid?
- Dad** Don't worry. They're all in the same boat. I promise it'll be fine.
- Voice** But what if the teachers are nasty? What if they shout?
- Charlie** Mrs Evans is a lovely lady. She was my teacher when I started.
- Voice** But I'm just not ready! I think we should wait until next year! Oh please can we wait until next year? Please, please, please, please, please!
- Charlie** It'll be fine. I'll be there. I'm in the top class this year so I can make sure nothing bad happens. Come on!
- (Milly enters in her new school uniform, carrying her bag, and it quickly becomes clear that it isn't her, but her mother whose voice we've heard!)*
- Milly** Oh do hurry up, Mummy! I can't be late on my first day at school!
- Mum** *(still off-stage)* No! Shan't!
- All** COME ON!
- (Mum enters, sobbing into a hanky.)*
- Mum** But she's so little! Look at her. She should be with me at home, where I can take care of her!
- Milly** Mummy!
- Mum** But what if your hair's not right? What if the other girls have theirs tied back, or in pig tails? They'll laugh at you!
- Charlie** No they won't! They're four years old! They won't even notice!

**Mum** But what if someone steals your packed lunch? You'll be hungry!

**Dad** They won't steal her packed lunch! There'll be lots of people making sure she's got everything she needs, and that she doesn't come to any harm.

**Mum** But what if she gets lost? That school is such a big place for little girls!

**Milly** Mummy, I've visited school twice now, and I know how to find my way around. I promise I'll be fine.

**Mum** But what if....

**Charlie** Mum!

**Mum** But ....

**Dad** Just go!

*(Charlie picks up his bag and, with the help of Milly and Dad, drags Mum off stage. Dad returns alone.)*

**Dad** *(calling after them)* Have a lovely day! See you at tea time!

*(Dad sits down and picks up his paper. Mum comes back on, looking a lot happier. Charlie and Milly follow her, looking annoyed.)*

**Mum** The car's got a flat battery. There's no way we'll make it in time now. She'll have to start school tomorrow!

**Milly** But it's a five minute walk! We'll get there if we hurry.

*(Milly and Charlie exit. Mum hangs back, sulking.)*

**Dad** Cheer up, Love. Just think, for the first time in years, you're going to have the whole day to yourself! And you know what that means....leisurely lunches with your friends, a chance to enjoy a bit of shopping, and best of all.....

**Mum** *(perking up)* Day-time telly! *(shouting to the children)* Will you two hurry up! We're going to be late!

*(Leaving Dad smiling, she hurries off as **intro music** plays (CD track 10). Fade the music as all stand and Mum, Milly and Charlie return to the stage for the next song.)*

## **Song My First Day At School** *(CD track 2 & 11, lyrics p24)*

*(Whole cast led by the family)*

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