

Scene 3

(The action moves to the office of the Slippery Slopes Activity Centre. On the wall is a scruffy sign which reads, 'SLIPP Y SLOP S A TI TY CE TRE' as some letters are missing or hanging off! A computer sits on an untidy office table, surrounded by some chairs and a tatty sofa – see staging suggestions/furniture. A shabbily-suited manager paces the floor while four bedraggled instructors, three dirty cooks and a bandaged odd-job man lounge around.)

- Manager** They'll be here in half an hour! Are we ready, team? This season *must* go without a hitch. If we have to give another refund we'll be well and truly sunk!
- Instructor 1** Ha! A bit like that boatload of kids we took out onto the lake last year! Mind you, because the baths and showers weren't working, that sinking was their only opportunity for a proper wash!
- Manager** Which reminds me Stan, did you check the plumbing?
- Odd-Job Man** Don't you worry, boss. Nearly all the leaks have been sorted, we're up to fifty percent of toilets now flushing and almost every bathroom has at least one bath or shower with warm-ish water.
- Manager** Great work Stan! Now, mealtimes; have we plenty of fresh supplies in? We absolutely cannot run out of food.....again!
- Cook 1** We've got loads stocked up, boss. The freezers are bulging! They're so full we can't shut the doors!
- Cook 2** Which might explain the puddles on the floor and the smell in the kitchen. That food should really be kept cold. The last thing we need is another case of food poisoning!
- Cook 3** Well how about we store some of the food in the dormitories? The temperature in there at night regularly gets close to zero.
- Manager** Good idea! Right Stan, make sure you take the glass out of some of those dormitory windows, so it doesn't get too warm.
- Odd-Job Man** Consider it done.
- Manager** Excellent! This is real progress. Now, what about the activities the children will be doing?
- Instructor 2** Got it covered, boss. The usual 6am five-mile hike over the hillsides will be a daily event.
- Manager** OK. Just one thing though, the air ambulance *has* been given advance warning this time, hasn't it? I think their crew felt a little overstretched last year with our continual phone calls.
- Instructor 2** Don't worry boss, all the emergency services have been notified and will be on high alert over the next five days.

Instructor 3 As for the team-building activities we've laid on, the first one is hole-digging! The children will work in teams of eight to dig holes and at the end of four hours the team with the deepest hole wins!

Odd-Job Man But won't that mean we'll have lots of holes all over the place?

Instructor 3 Which brings us to our next team-building activity....*hole-filling!* Basically, the children work in teams of eight to.....

Manager Yes, I get the picture. That sounds fine, but won't they be doing anything that might be considered a bit more 'value-for-money'?

Instructor 4 Well, there is the raft-building challenge. Using materials available to them the children will construct a working raft that can get their team across the lake in one piece. Well, that's the plan.

Manager Excellent! You know, for the first time in years I feel confident about a school party coming to visit. I tell you, with the negative publicity we've received in the past, to the general public Slippery Slopes must have seemed like....well, like a complete circus!

Song Roll Up, Roll Up *(CD track 4 & 17, lyrics p28)*

(Whole cast, led by the Slippery Slopes staff.)

(As the song finishes the staff sit down again and lounge around, as Mr Sharp and Miss Blunt lead the children on. Their number can be as many as you like, though ideally no fewer than eight. They all carry rucksacks. The manager rushes forward to meet them.)

Manager Ah! You must be the party from *(insert school name)*. Welcome to the Slippery Slopes Activity Centre!

Mr Sharp Thank you. I'm Mr Sharp and this is Miss Blunt. I must say, you're a bit off the beaten track here. It took us ages to find you.

Miss Blunt It's put our bus driver in a really bad mood. Mind you, he was hardly full of the joys of spring when we set off!

Manager Well you're here now. Right, first things first, let's get these children to their dormitories. When they've unpacked and freshened up, we have a lovely meal prepared for them. *(to the other staff who are still lounging around)* Well come on you lot....!

(The instructors, cooks and odd-job man spring into life and escort the excited children off-stage. The manager follows them. Mr Sharp and Miss Blunt are left alone. They gaze at their surroundings.)

Mr Sharp So, what do you reckon?

Miss Blunt I don't know, but I've a feeling I'm going to need a long holiday when all this is over!

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