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PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION BEFORE PLANNING YOUR PERFORMANCE

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General Guidelines

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- Perform a musical up to 5 times in one academic year, to a public audience, within your school.*
 - Reproduce song lyrics on paper or for display on interactive whiteboards or similar screens.
 - Photocopy the script and score for the cast to learn lines, and musicians to play the songs.
- * **If you are performing outside of your school premises, for example in a local theatre, please contact us as further conditions apply. For more information, visit www.edgyproductions.com/licences**
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Audio and Video Recordings

If you wish to make an audio or video recording of the performance of any of our musicals, you will need an additional **recording and duplication licence** from Edgy Productions. This will also allow you to make and sell copies of your recordings if you wish to do so. We no longer request that you pay a commission to us on the money you raise from the sale of recordings.

File Sharing

You are not permitted to share any of our copyrighted material, either in printed form, on disc or in digital file format, with anyone who is not a pupil or teacher within your school or organisation. We will take immediate action should an incident of illegal file-sharing be reported or discovered.

You can, of course, phone or email us for advice – we are more than happy to discuss all your licensing needs.

Tel: 01858 288081
Email: info@edgyproductions.com

PERFORMANCE LICENCE APPLICATION FORM

For any performance of any part of ‘**Santa’s On Strike KS2**’ to an audience other than staff and children (eg. to parents), a valid performance licence from Edgy Productions must be held. Please note, your PRS, MCPS, CCLI or similar local authority-issued licence does not cover you for this.

Unless you purchased an instant performance licence and/or a recording & duplication licence when you bought this production pack, please ensure you complete and return this form at least 28 days before your first performance:

- by post – Edgy Productions, 8 Roman Way, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7PQ
- by FAX – 0845 833 33 49
- by email – info@edgyproductions.com

The performance licence will permit the holder to do the following:

- Perform a musical up to 5 times in one academic year, to a public audience, within your school.*
- Reproduce song lyrics on paper or for display on interactive whiteboards or similar screens.
- Photocopy the script and score for the cast to learn lines, and musicians to play the songs.

Contact name:

Name of school / organisation:

Address:

..... **Postcode:**

Tel: **email:**

Number of performances: **Performances Dates: from** **to**

By ticking, select one of the performance licence options below:

Standard Performance Licence ☐ **£30.00** *(including VAT)*
(no admission charged and no tickets sold)

or

Performance Licence with charges ☐ **£36.00** *(including VAT)*
(admission **is** charged and/or tickets **are** sold)

☐ * Tick if you are performing outside your school premises, for example in a local theatre, as further conditions apply – see www.edgyproductions.com/licences

If you are recording any performance, and/or selling copies of the recording, you will **also** need a recording and duplication licence.

Recording and Duplication Licence ☐ **£30.00** *(including VAT)*

By ticking, select one of the payment options below:

☐ **I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Edgy Productions Ltd**

☐ **Please send me an invoice for £.....** *(payment terms 30 days)*

Writers rely on payments from public performances for their livelihoods. Please ensure they receive their dues.

INTRODUCTION

The legend of the Loch Ness Monster is something that we’ve all grown up with. Over the years, sightings of ‘Nessie’ have caused lots of excitement and controversy, and everyone seems to have an opinion about whether or not she really exists! This wonderful production, from the pens of Glaswegian Mick Riddell and his colleague Bridget Burge, fans the flames of the legend and throws a whole lot of musical fun into the mix for good measure!

Plot Summary

Following the introductory song (***‘Drumnadrochit’***), we meet the hapless Katie Allbright and her fellow reporters at the rural newspaper, the Diddlesbury Gazette (***song – ‘This Media Merry-Go-Round’***). Displeased with the recent calamities caused by Katie whilst reporting on local events, her editor sends her ‘out of the way’ where she can’t get into any more trouble! She is dispatched to the small town of Drumnadrochit, on the shores of Loch Ness, to cover the story of a recent sighting of the legendary Nessie.

On arriving in Drumnadrochit, with no expenses budget, Katie pitches a tent down by the waterside. From here she witnesses the comings and goings of some interesting characters, in particular three wizened old locals (Malcolm McPhee, Maggie McDougal and Mo McDonald) who are ‘guardians’ of the loch and of the legend in which it is shrouded. (***song – ‘The Guardians’ Song’***). They entertain a group of schoolchildren and their teacher with tales of Nessie, and McPhee explains how, as a young man, he gave up his sweetheart, Agnes, to dedicate his life to being a guardian. (***song – ‘Make It All Worthwhile’***). The calm lochside atmosphere is soon shattered by a group of loud American tourists who, despite wanting to see a bit of culture and history, complain about the portion sizes in the local tea-rooms, and demand to know when Nessie will be making an appearance so they can snap her with their expensive cameras! (***song – ‘The Good Ol’ USA’***).

However, it is the arrival of the famous legend-busting scientist, Cecil Franklin Pyke, which causes the biggest stir. (***song – ‘Scientists’***). Announcing that he and his research assistants are here to prove once-and-for-all that Nessie does not exist, the future of Drumnadrochit and the locals who rely on the legend is thrown into uncertainty. We learn that once upon a time every loch in Scotland was home to a monster, but one by one they had disappeared. They had drowned in the waters of doubt and disbelief; a situation brought about by science and a modern world that has little imagination. (***song – ‘The Monsters’ Cry’***). Will Nessie, the last remaining monster, suffer the same fate now that Cecil Franklin-Pyke is in town?

Or will a strange, fantastical experience at the water’s edge mean that Katie can breathe new life into the legend of Nessie before it’s too late? Dare she even speak of what she’s seen? (***song – ‘Help Me To Find A Way’***). Will people, in particular her editor at the Diddlesbury Gazette, think she’s lost her marbles? (***song – ‘A Wee Bit Doolally’***). Well, with surprises and twists right to the bitter end, the outcome of this fishy tale is far from certain!

CHARACTERS

(Speaking parts in order of appearance)

Mr/s Farthington – *editor of the Diddlesbury Gazette*

4 Reporters

Katie Allbright – *bumbling would-be investigative journalist*

Guardians of Loch Ness:

Mo McDonald

Maggie McDougal

Malcolm McPhee

Young McPhee

Agnes – *his sweetheart*

Miss Taggart – *a teacher*

6 Children

6 American Tourists

Professor Cecil Franklin Pyke – *legend-busting scientific genius*

4 Scientists – *his research assistants*

4 Locals

Nessie

*(Ensemble characters for featured scenes, songs and choreography, if
numbers allow)*

More: Reporters

Children

Tourists

Scientists

Locals

Scene 1

*(As the **intro music** plays (track 10) the cast enters and stands to sing the opening song.)*

Song Drumnadrochit *(track 1 & 11, lyrics p18)* *(Whole cast)*

*(As the **intro music** plays again (track 12) positions are taken for the first scene. If possible, the backdrop to the main stage should depict the iconic image of the shores of Loch Ness, with the famous ruins of Urquhart Castle, as shown on the front cover. A town sign reading ‘Drumnadrochit’ should also feature in the scenery. In front of the main stage, or on a smaller stage to one side, the office of a small, rural newspaper is set up – see staging suggestions/scenery. As four reporters sit at desks typing, Editor Mr (or Mrs) Farthington enters.)*

- Mr Farthington** Ok you lot, let’s have it. What earth-shattering stories have you uncovered that will catapult the Diddlesbury Gazette into the major league? Give me some top scoops that will put us up there with the Daily Mail!
- Reporter 1** Erm....well, Mr Farthington, the carpet factory’s moving to new premises on the industrial estate.
- Reporter 2** There’s the installation of new traffic lights on the high street.
- Mr Farthington** *(sarcastically)* Hold the front page! This is momentous!
- Reporter 3** The council have decided to do weekly rather than fortnightly bin collections. That’s a real breakthrough!
- Reporter 4** And the Year 2 class at St Paul’s school are getting a new hamster. It’s a story with a real ‘aah’ factor.
- Mr Farthington** That is not what I want! Can’t one of you uncover a spy network, or stumble across a plot to hijack a train carrying gold bullion?!
- All reporters** What? Here in Diddlesbury?

(The telephone rings (track 13). Mr Farthington answers it.)

- Mr Farthington** Diddlesbury Gazette, the editor, speaking.....Katy Allbright? Yes, she's a reporter here.....yes.....what? Oh no! My deepest apologies, Mrs Hatford! I’ll deal with her personally. Goodbye! *(putting the phone down)* Honestly! You couldn’t make it up!

- Reporter 1** We’re reporters, Mr Farthington. We usually do make it up!

(Katie Allbright enters the office. She wears glasses and appears a bit clumsy – she bumps into a table! All but Mr Farthington snigger.)

- Katie** Whoops-a-daisy! Sorry I’m late Mr Farthington, I was.....
- Mr Farthington** Katie, I sent you out on a simple job yesterday, to cover the *wedding* of Lord and Lady *Batford*, did I not?
- Katie** (*sheepishly*) Erm....yes?
- Mr Farthington** So why did you end up at the *funeral* of Mr *Hatford*, walk up to his widow and ask, “So, who’s the lucky man?”, then gather everyone together for a photograph and say, “Why the long faces? Let’s have a few smiles!”
- Katie** Whoops!
- Mr Farthington** What am I running here? A newspaper or the Beano? You lot call yourselves serious journalists? I think you *all* need a large dose of ambition!

Song This Media Merry-Go-Round (*track 2 & 14, lyrics p19*)

(*Reporters, supported by the whole cast*)

- Mr Farthington** Right Katie, you’ve always said you wanted to be an investigative journalist, so I’m sending you north!
- Katie** You mean to Upper Bottomley! (*insert name of local place*)
- Mr Farthington** No. You’re off to Drumnadrochit, on the banks of Loch Ness.
- Katie** Drumna...what? Loch Ness? Why?
- Mr Farthington** Apparently there’s talk of a recent sighting of the Loch Ness monster. See what you can dig up.
- Katie** But there's no such thing as the Loch Ness monster!
- Mr Farthington** In which case you’ll be back before you know it! Now, I’ve heard it can get a bit chilly up there, so remember your scarf and gloves! Bye bye Katie!
- (*Katie exits, looking sorry for herself.*)
- Reporter 1** Why are you sending her up there, Mr Farthington? Has there really been a sighting?
- Mr Farthington** Of course not! She’s right, there’s no such thing as the Loch Ness monster! But with her out the way at least she can’t cause any more chaos in Diddlesbury! Ok, thinking caps on; where might we find a secret spy network.....?

(*As the **intro music** plays again (track 15) the lights come down. The desks are cleared from in front of the main stage, or from the small stage to one side if this is an arrangement you have used. Fade the music when ready.*)

Scene 2

*(To **Scotland The Brave** (track 16) the lights come up. A tent – see staging suggestions/scenery – now occupies the smaller side stage if you have one set up, or sits at the side of the main stage. Katie sits by it, wearing waterproofs!)*

Katie It’s a shame the Gazette’s budget couldn’t stretch to a B&B! Oh well, this is cosy I suppose. Ok, a quick forty winks, then I’ll get on with finding out what’s been going on round here.

(As Katie removes her glasses and lies back in the tent, the three old guardians of the loch enter, followed by a group of school children and a teacher, Miss Taggart– see staging suggestions/costumes. The children sit listening to the guardians who stand centrally on the main stage. As they start to speak, Katie peeps out of her tent, puts her glasses on and starts writing notes on a pad. NB – Katie’s note pad, which she has throughout, could have her lines written on as there are quite a few for her to learn.)

Mo McDonald Now children, my name is Mo McDonald. This is Malcolm McPhee and Maggie McDougal. We are your guides for today, and would like to welcome you and your teacher to Drumnadrochit on the shores of Loch Ness.

Maggie McDougal This beautiful loch, so deep and so mysterious, stretches from Fort Augustus to the narrows of Bona Ferry.

Malcolm McPhee And we three are its guardians. Look, these are our medals of office *(showing off the medal round his neck)*. It’s our responsibility to preserve the beauty and majesty of the loch.

McDougal We also make sure that its ‘legend’ is passed down through the generations. You know what I’m talking about, don’t you?

Children The Loch Ness monster!

McDonald Aye, dear old Nessie. Throughout the years people claim to have seen her, but only we guardians know her secrets.

Child 1 Who saw Nessie first?

McDonald St Columba, in the year 565 AD. He was on the banks of the loch with his friends, when suddenly out of the water came Nessie! Without a flicker of an eyebrow Columba said....

McDougal “Think not to go further great Beastie, nor touch thou that man! Quick! Go ye back!” And with that Nessie fled!

Child 2 Did he really say that Miss McDougal?

McDougal Between you and me Laddie, he probably said, “AAAGGHHH!”

Miss Taggart Perhaps you could explain to the children how you became a guardian of the loch and of Nessie’s legend.

- McPhee** Well, Miss Taggart, many of our ancestors were guardians, so we learned the secrets of the loch as children. However, you can only become a guardian by special invitation.
- Child 3** And who gives you this special invitation?
- McDonald** Why, Nessie herself will invite you to become a guardian! That’s what happened to us. I know some would say we’re a wee bit potty, but we know what we’ve seen and heard.....

Song The Guardians' Song *(track 3 & 17, lyrics p20)*

(The Guardians, supported by the whole cast)

- Child 4** So there’s no other way of becoming a guardian? What if you just really, really want to be one?
- McDougal** That’s not how it works, Lassie. *(turning to McDonald and McPhee)* Remember that Hamish McGarrigal?
- McPhee** Who could forget Hamish McGarrigal? Many years ago he walked up to us, bold as brass, demanding to be a guardian, because he said he had a photograph of Nessie!
- Child 5** A *real* photo of Nessie?
- McDougal** No. He’d used some old tyres and rubber tubing. We exposed him as a fake and he threw a real wobbly, shouting ‘You people have haggis for brains!’ He then fled Drumnadrochit, declaring that one day he would return and have his revenge! We’ve not seen Hamish McGarrigal in thirty years!
- Child 6** You’ve been guardians for thirty years! Have you ever had jobs?
- McDonald** This *is* our job, you cheeky wee scamp! We make ends meet by making and selling these little model monsters....*(taking one out of a pocket)*....like this.
- Miss Taggart** Right children, we really must be going, so stand up and get into line. Say goodbye and thank you to the guardians..... *(aside)* before they try to sell us something!
- Children** Goodbye. Thank you!
- (As the school group exits, Katie crosses over to the guardians, notebook in hand. The guardians look at her suspiciously.)*
- McDonald** And who might you be, Lassie?
- Katie** *(nervously)* Err ...hello! I’m Katie Allbright, an investigative journalist. I overheard your chat with the children and was wondering whether I could ask you a few questions.....please?

McDougal An ‘investigative journalist’! So, what are you investigating?

Katie Well, the mysteries of Loch Ness of course. So, did I hear right? Have you really been guardians for thirty years?

McPhee Aye, you heard right. I’ve given the best years of my life to Nessie, and at great personal sacrifice.

McDonald & McDougal Oh! Here we go again!

Katie (*scribbling*) Sacrifice? What sort of sacrifice?

McPhee My beautiful Agnes. We were engaged to be married. I can’t believe I gave up the love of my life for a monster.

McDonald Ha! You mean you gave up a monster for the love of your life!

McPhee (*ignoring the comment*) I remember it as if it were yesterday.....

*(To the sound of a **harp** (track 18) signifying a memory, a young McPhee and Agnes enter in front of the stage. She is distraught and he tries to console her.)*

Young McPhee But Agnes, I cannot deny my destiny. Nessie has called to me.... I’m to be a guardian!

Agnes You’re a fool, Malcolm McPhee! The Loch Ness monster doesn’t exist! But I exist, I’m real and I’m here!

Young McPhee But Agnes, this is such an honour! How can I turn it down?

Agnes What about me? What about us? Please, don’t do this.....

Song Make It All Worthwhile (*track 4 & 19, lyrics p21*)
(*Young McPhee and Agnes*)

(As the song ends Agnes pulls off her engagement ring and throws it to the ground.)

Agnes Malcolm McPhee, if you think I’m waiting around for you to see sense, you’re mistaken. It’s over. (*She runs off, sobbing.*)

Young McPhee Agnes! Agnes! Come back.....

*(Young McPhee bows his head, turns and exits in the opposite direction. To the sound of the **harp** again (track 20) the action returns to the main stage.)*

Katie So Mr McPhee, what became of Agnes?

McPhee Who knows? She left Drumnadrochit and I’ve not seen her since. (*reflectively*) I sometimes think I made a mistake.... maybe I didn’t really see Nessie all those years ago.....maybe I gave up Agnes for nothing more than a voice in my head....

McDonald Ahem! Well, I suggest we call it a day before we hear any more of this nonsense. Come on you two. Goodnight Miss Allbright. *(turning towards the water)* Goodnight Nessie!

(The Guardians exit. Katie sits in front of the tent and makes some more notes.)

Katie Hmmm, interesting! It appears that a guardian of the loch is having doubts about the monster’s existence. Well, that’s been an exciting first day. Let’s see what tomorrow brings.....

*(As the **intro music** plays (track 21) the lights come down to show the end of the day and Katie lies back in the tent. Fade the music before the next scene.)*

Scene 3

(As the lights come up, the peace is shattered by the arrival of a mixed age-group of American tourists, laden with Nessie souvenirs – see staging suggestions/props and costumes. As they stand shouting at each other, Katie emerges bleary-eyed from her tent and puts her glasses on to watch them.)

Tourist 1 Alright y’all, stand together for a photograph...*(they jostle for position)*....that’s right....c’mon, kids to the front.... everyone to the left a bit...*(pointing at the castle ruins on the backdrop)*...I don’t want that ol’ pile of bricks in the background....Hey, Junior, why are you fidgeting? Stand still won’t ya!

Tourist 2 But Pop, I can’t stop shivering. Scot-land sure is a mighty cold place!

Tourist 3 And I’m hungry! The breakfast they served in that quaint lil’ol’ tea-room wouldn’t feed a sparrow. They didn’t even have pancakes!

Tourist 4 And I can’t stand that porridge stuff they gave us! That’s not a meal! Look at me, *(patting an ample paunch)* I’m wasting away!

Tourist 5 Honey, when is the monster thing gonna appear? I don’t wanna be hanging round all day to see that varmint.

Tourist 1 Well the brochure did say that she’s not seen that often, so I wouldn’t be holding your breath now. C’mon, please can I get this photograph. Can’t y’all just stand still?

Tourist 6 Hang on one cotton-picking minute there! What d’you mean ‘not seen that often’? I met a guy outside the hotel last night, who said he was that monster’s agent. He said if we got here early we could get the kids a ride on its back! He sold me two tickets at 300 bucks a piece to do just that. Looky here.....*(waving a pair of tickets!)*

Katie *(approaching)* Erm...good morning. I gather from your accents that you’re visiting ‘Scot-land’ *(mimicking the accent)* from abroad. I’m a journalist writing about Loch Ness, and I just wondered what you thought of the place.

Tourist 5 A journalist, eh? Well, put this in your paper.....

Song **The Good Ol' U.S.A.** *(track 5 & 22, lyrics p22)*
(Tourists, supported by the whole cast)

Tourist 4 *(looking out at the loch)* We’re kidding ourselves. It’s obvious there ain’t no such thing as the Loch Ness monster. I say we hit the town and try and find us a steak house. *(to Katie)* It was good speaking with you, Miss. Bye now.

(The tourists exit as loudly as they entered. Katie waves after them.)

Katie *(mimicking again)* Have a nice day! *(making notes)* So, yet more people who doubt Nessie’s existence.....

(The three guardians enter, very flustered and agitated.)

McDonald Oh no! We’re doomed! We’re doomed I tell you!

Katie Whatever’s the matter?

McDougal Cecil Franklin Pyke, the world famous legend-busting scientist, is here in Drumnadrochit! He’s come to prove that Nessie doesn’t exist!

McPhee And when Cecil Franklin Pyke ‘proves’ something, people tend to believe him!

McDonald We’re doomed!

(A bearded Cecil Franklin Pyke enters, with an entourage of fellow scientists all wearing white lab coats. One of the scientists is an elderly woman wearing sunglasses – we’ll find out why later! Drumnadrochit locals enter and stand at the side to listen, as does the school party from scene 2. The guardians and Katie stand by the tent. One of the scientists steps forward to introduce Pyke.)

Scientist 1 People of Dru...Druna....DrochnaLoch Ness, I introduce to you the eminent, scientific genius who proved that the beast of Bodmin was nothing more than an over-fed sheep which had lost its way.... Professor Cecil Franklin Pyke!

(Pyke steps forward, to muttering and one or two muted hand claps.)

Pyke Thank you for your enthusiastic welcome. Ladies and gentlemen, my team and I are here to conduct extensive scientific research on, and under, the waters of Loch Ness. By tomorrow morning we will have gathered conclusive evidence that the legend of the monster is nothing but a lie!

Local 1 How do you plan to do that then?

Scientist 2 With cutting-edge technology.....

Scientist 3 ...with highly-developed research tools.....

Scientist 4 ...with drive and ambition.....

All Scientists ...WITH SCIENCE!

Song Scientists *(track 6 & 23, lyrics p23)*
(Scientists, supported by the whole cast)

Pyke Those of you who once-and-for-all wish to know the scientific truth about Loch Ness, I suggest you gather here tomorrow morning and I shall make a public presentation of my findings. *(to the scientists)* Come! There is work to do!

(Pyke and entourage exit. Katie takes out a mobile phone and dials a number.)

Katie Mr Farthington! I’ve got that scoop you’re after! There’s to be an earth-shattering scientific announcement here in Drumnadrochit, and guess what....I’m the only journalist here! The Diddlesbury Gazette is heading for the big time!

McDonald Well, Lassie, I’m glad you find it so exciting. Maybe you should spare a thought for the rest of us.....

*(As the **intro music** plays (track 24) Katie sits by her tent and starts writing more notes. Everyone else exits, all except the teacher, Miss Taggart, who approaches Katie. Fade the music when ready.)*

Scene 4

Miss Taggart *(calling to her class)* Play nicely by the water children. I won’t be a minute. *(to Katie)* So, I gather you’re a reporter.

Katie An ‘investigative journalist’ actually, and this story is going to jump-start my career! It’s fantastic!

Miss Taggart But have you thought of the consequences of this ‘fantastic’ scientific breakthrough?

Katie How do you mean?

Miss Taggart I’ve spent my whole life round here. I grew up with the legend of Nessie. Ever since I started teaching, many years ago, I’ve brought my pupils on field trips here, to soak up that legend and to feed their imaginations. But now Professor Pyke may well put an end to all that.

- Katie** Yes, he does seem rather keen on doing so.
- Miss Taggart** Well, my dear, he’s done it many times before. Once it was believed that every loch in Scotland was home to a monster. For example, there beyond the Abriachan Hills is Loch Morar. Morag the monster lived there!
- Katie** Morag the monster? Really?
- Miss Taggart** Aye. Like I said, we believed there were monsters in every loch. But over the years Cecil Franklin Pyke presented finding after finding, claiming they didn’t exist. He was so convincing that people stopped believing, until one by one each monster was no more.
- Katie** And now Nessie’s the only one left that some still believe in?
- Miss Taggart** Aye, she’s the last monster in Scotland, but by tomorrow Professor Pyke will have destroyed her too. I don’t know whether or not I truly believe in her, but one thing’s for sure; this place won’t be the same without her.....

Song The Monsters' Cry *(track 7 & 25, lyrics p24)*
(Miss Taggart and children, supported by the whole cast)

- Miss Taggart** And what about the people whose lives depend on the legend? Those old guardians, the locals with souvenir shops and guesthouses....and my pupils? Just something for you to think about when you write your story my dear.....

*(Miss Taggart exits, leaving Katie alone. She takes off her glasses and puts them on the floor. She rubs her eyes wearily. The lights fade and we hear the sound of gentle waves over **atmospheric music** (track 26). Katie becomes nervous. She feels around for her glasses, but flustered she can’t find them.)*

- Katie** Who’s there? I said who’s there?

(Nessie appears! There are various ways her appearance can be represented – see staging suggestions/Nessie. Nessie’s following lines should be read by a child off-stage, preferably into a microphone with a deep reverb.)

- Nessie** I think you know who I am, Katie Allbright!
- Katie** *(shaking)* No! It can’t be.....I’m just imagining things?
- Nessie** Listen carefully. This may be the last anyone will ever hear of me, for I fear my time has come. For centuries I have lived in this loch; many believed in me and so I flourished. But now few believe and I am slowly drowning in the waters of doubt!
- Katie** But what about your guardians? They believe.

Nessie When the scientist speaks, then even *they* may doubt me!

Katie I don’t understand. Why don’t you just appear to everyone?

Nessie Don’t you see? I am a magical creature. If I were to appear to *everyone* that magic would be gone. There would be no mystery.....and no legend. It is this that keeps me alive!

Katie But why tell *me* this? What can *I* do?

Nessie She’ae furloue, Katie Allbright. She’ae furloue.
Note – this is pronounced Shee – eye – fur – low (as in allow)

(Nessie disappears. Katie finds her glasses and, putting them on, looks for Nessie.)

Katie What does that mean? What do you want from me? NESSIE!

Song Help Me To Find A Way *(track 8 & 27, lyrics p25)* *(Katie)*

(Katie attempts to write in her notebook but is struggling to find the words.)

Katie I can’t do this. I can’t announce that I’ve spoken to Nessie!
What will people say? No, my mind’s made up....I’m
leaving Drumnadrochit at daybreak.

*(As the **intro music** plays (track 28) Katie lies down in the tent. Fade the music when ready for the next scene.)*

Scene 5

(As the lights come up Professor Pyke, holding a large roll of paper, enters triumphantly with the scientists. He stands centre-stage as the locals, the school party and American tourists enter and gather. The sorrowful guardians then enter, but stand aside of the crowd. Mr Farthington and the Gazette reporters turn up and stand by the tent. Katie emerges, bleary-eyed as usual.)

Katie Mr Farthington! What are you doing here?

Mr Farthington Well Katie, I couldn’t risk you messing up this scoop of a lifetime, so I’m here with the team to make sure a proper job gets done! So, when’s this announcement happening?

Reporter 1 Any moment now! Look, he’s getting ready to speak!

Pyke *(stepping forward)* Ladies, gentlemen and children of Drumnadrochit, overseas visitors, and esteemed members of the press, may I welcome you to this historic, scientific public declaration. After extensive research we can now present categorical, irrefutable evidence which proves.... **THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS THE LOCH NESS MONSTER!**

(The tourists, scientists and reporters ‘whoop’ at this statement, while the children and locals mutter between themselves. The guardians fall to their knees.)

All Scientists *(admiringly)* Oh! What a genius!

McDonald Oh Nessie! Dear Nessie! Is there no one who can save you?!

Katie *(rushing forward with a sudden change of heart)* STOP!
STOP! Nessie does exist! She came to me last night! She spoke to me!

(There is a short pause as everyone looks at Katie astonished. Then all but the guardians and Miss Taggart burst out laughing.)

Mr Farthington Katie, really! I knew you were a bit ditsy, but that’s just ridiculous! You need a holiday....a very long holiday!

Tourist 6 We paid good money to see that scaly critter, and still she didn’t show up! What makes you so special?

Local 2 You’re an outsider? Why would she show herself to you?

Scientist 1 Let me guess, she had a small head, long neck and big fat body?

Katie Well...it was dark and I didn’t have my glasses on, but yes....

Scientist 2 And I bet she was wearing a tartan bonnet too! Ha! You’ll be telling us you believe in leprechauns next!

Song A Wee Bit Doolally! *(track 9 & 29, lyrics p26)* *(Scientists, Tourists, Reporters, Locals and Children.)*

Pyke *(holding aloft the roll of paper)* But now we must proceed with the presentation of the evidence. I have here a.....

Katie Wait! When Nessie spoke to me she said something which I didn’t understand. It was.... ‘She’ae furloue’.

(A sustained chord is then heard (track 30) signifying a change in mood. The locals, Miss Taggart and the guardians gasp.)

Local 3 What? Say that again!

Katie ‘She’ae furloue’. She said ‘She’ae furloue’. What does it mean?

Miss Taggart It’s Caledonian, an ancient Scottish language spoken at the time of Columba. ‘She’ae furloue’ means ‘guard my secrets’.

Local 4 There’s no way she could have made that up! How would she know those words without hearing them from.....

Guardians NESSIE! SHE **HAS** SEEN NESSIE!

(There is excited chatter amongst the crowd. Annoyed, Pyke unrolls his paper showing complicated charts, equations, tables, graphs etc.)

Pyke But I have scientific proof that it’s all nonsense. *(shouting)*
HONESTLY! YOU PEOPLE HAVE HAGGIS FOR BRAINS!

(A hush descends.)

McDougal Hang on! The last time that someone told us we had ‘haggis for brains’ was thirty years ago, and that someone was.....

Locals and Guardians HAMISH McGARRIGAL!

(The locals grab Pyke and bring him to the front. McDonald pulls Pyke’s beard and it comes off! All gasp, including the scientists... except the one wearing sunglasses.)

McDonald Hamish McGarrigal! So this is what you’ve been up to all these years! Fabricating evidence to destroy the legends of all the monsters in Scotland. *(ripping up the paper)* But why?

Pyke/McGarrigal You know very well why! Those years ago when you denied me my position as a guardian, I vowed to have my revenge! Well this was to be it, and I’d have got away with it if it hadn’t been for that meddling reporter!

(To booing, the locals ‘escort’ Pyke/McGarrigal off stage. All the scientists follow, heads bowed in shame, except for the one wearing sunglasses.)

Mr Farthington Now *that’s* a scoop! Fake scientist almost destroys 1500 years of Scottish folklore! We need to get an exclusive interview.....

(Mr Farthington and the reporters exit, shouting questions at McGarrigal. The confused tourists also exit. Miss Taggart indicates to her pupils that they should go and play while she waits behind for a moment. The children exit, leaving only Katie, the guardians, Miss Taggart and the elderly female scientist who steps forward and removes her sunglasses.....it’s Agnes!)

Agnes Hello Malcolm McPhee.....it’s been a long time.

McPhee Agnes?!.....My Agnes?!...But....what?...How?...Why?...You...? You’re one of McGarrigal’s cronies?

Agnes I’m so sorry! When you chose the monster over me all those years ago, I was hurt and angry. I needed to prove to myself and to you that you made the wrong choice. Helping McGarrigal destroy the legend forever seemed like the only thing I could do. Can you ever forgive me?

McPhee Oh Agnes, it’s me that should ask you for forgiveness. I’ve never stopped thinking about you.....

McDonald & McDougalor talking about you!

- McPhee** *(going down on one knee)* Will you marry me Agnes?
- Agnes** Malcolm McPhee....of course I will. But what about Nessie?
- McPhee** *(turning to the guardians)* My friends, it's time for me to take my leave of the loch. I've given most of my life to Nessie and now I want to spend the rest of it with Agnes.
- McDonald** Nessie will understand, McPhee. You go with our blessing.
- (McPhee takes off his medal of office and hands it back to McDonald. The guardians shake hands then McPhee and Agnes step back for a private chat.)*
- Miss Taggart** Well, you're now one guardian down. Does this mean I won't be able to bring so many children to visit the loch in future?
- McDougal** Well, that all depends on one certain person....eh Katie?
- Katie** Sorry? Me? How do you mean?
- McDougal** You're the saviour of Loch Ness, Katie Allbright! Nessie spoke to you. She invited you to become a guardian.
- McDonald** She'ae furloue....guard my secrets....remember?
- Miss Taggart** Oh Katie, what do you say? Stay in Drumnadrochit and be a guardian of the loch.
- (As Katie thinks, the whole cast gathers on the stage.)*
- Katie** Hmmm....I must admit, the journalist career has been a bit...well...up and down. Maybe I'm not cut out to be a roving reporter?
- Mr Farthington** You can say that again!
- Katie** So.....YES! I'd be delighted!
- (As everyone cheers, McDonald places McPhee's medal of office round her neck.)*
- McDonald** Katie, may I officially welcome you to Drumnadrochit, and to your new life. I hope you'll be very happy here with us!
- Katie** In this beautiful, mysterious, wonderful place, how could I not be?
- (Over the opening bars of the reprise of 'Drumnadrochit' there are more cheers.)*

Song Drumnadrochit *(track 1 & 31, lyrics p18)*
(Whole cast)

THE END

Drumnadrochit

Verse 1 Are you just passing through?
Maybe stay a week or two?
There are wonders here to find
If you have an open mind.
And if you seek surprise by the waterside,
Drumnadrochit is the place to be.

Verse 2 Well there are songs of old,
Many stories have been told
'Bout the waters of Loch Ness –
Well you're bound to be impressed!
So for a ringside seat and a monster treat,
Drumnadrochit is the place to be.

*There are some who think
That Nessie's just a fantasy,
But she's been spotted many times
Throughout the centuries.
Just cast your eyes around the loch
And you will plainly see
That everybody here is a believer.....*

Repeat verse 1

Are you just passing through.....

*In the shadows of the castle
Where the eagles fly,
You can hear the haunting echoes
Of a time gone by,
When every loch in Scotland
Kept a creature on the sly,
But now there's just one left, and that is Nessie.....*

Repeat verse 1

Are you just passing through.....

Repeat Drumnadrochit is the place to be.

*Music by Mick Riddell
Lyrics by Mick Riddell and Bridget Burge
Additional music & lyrics by Andrew Oxspring*

This Media Merry-Go-Round

Verse 1 If you yearn one day to earn
Your living as a journalist,
Well there’s a rule of thumb that you’ll
Need to follow - here’s the gist:
Make sure your eyes are open wide,
Keep your ears to the ground,
Act on a whim, go out on a limb
In this media merry-go-round.

Verse 2 As you know some days are slow,
There’s not a lot to fill the pages.
That’s your cue to bend the truth,
Why not try to be ‘creative’!
Weave a bit of make-believe
All to confuse and confound.
Fiction or fact, who cares about that
In this media merry-go-round?

Chorus *God bless this fine profession, an honourable one
Truth and virtue – second to none!
The news we must deliver, as everybody knows.
Read all about it– that’s how the story goes!*

Verse 3 So, in time, you’ve reached your prime,
And never need to seek a story.
All the news just comes ’cause you’ve
Influence and power and glory!
Every line you ever write
Is guaranteed to astound,
Now you’ve got fame, and you’re a big name
In this media merry-go-round.

Chorus *God bless this fine profession.....*

Repeat *The news we must deliver, as everybody knows.
Read all about it– that’s how the story goes!*

The Guardians' Song

Verse 1 One day, when I was three,
My father sat me down on his knee.
He said, “I saw a monster!
She was twenty metres high
And she was staring,
In fact she was glaring down at me!”

Verse 2 Later, when I was ten,
My father told me that story again.
He said it was my destiny,
A Guardian I must be.
No hesitation,
It's been my vocation ever since then!

Chorus *Legends come and legends go,
But Nessie's has survived,
And that's why we are guardians,
To keep her tale alive.
If anyone should want to prove
That this is all a lie,
Let them just try it,
For we will deny it.....every time!*

Verse 3 Now we're long in the tooth,
And not as sprightly as in our youth!
But we have had a lifetime
Full of wonder and delight.
Some say we're potty,
A little bit dotty,
But we know the truth!

Chorus *Legends come and legends go.....*

*Music & lyrics by Mick Riddell
Additional lyrics by Andrew Oxspring*

Make It All Worthwhile

Verse 1

(McPhee) My dream has always been
To play my own small part in history
The time has come, and now it seems
That I must take this great opportunity.

Chorus

(McPhee) *I'll take my place...*
(Agnes) *You'll take your place...*
(McPhee) *And stand with pride...*
(Agnes) *And stand with pride...*
(McPhee) *And give my heart and soul
To achieve my goal,
And make it all worthwhile.*

Verse 2

(Agnes) But what am I to do?
I dreamt we'd spend our lives together.
Yet there's a voice calling to you,
And it may come between us forever.

Chorus *I'll take my place...*

Verse 3

(McPhee) My Love, when truth's revealed,
Then from all fear and doubt we will be free.
I will return, your heart to heal,
And hope that you will be here awaiting me.

Chorus

(McPhee) *I'll take my place...*
(Agnes) *You'll take your place...*
(McPhee) *And stand with pride...*
(Agnes) *And stand with pride...*
(McPhee) *And give my heart and soul
To achieve my goal,
To end my days with you.*

The Good Ol' U.S.A.

- Verse 1** We've just arrived in Scot-land
On a big ol' aeroplane,
To get us some culture and history.
The first thing that we've noticed
Is there's a lot of rain,
And maybe we're not dressed appropriately! Yee hah!
Our nylon socks and sandals
And loud Hawaiian shirts
Are what we usually wear on holiday,
'Cept we call it 'vacation'
'Cause that's the proper word
That we use in the good ol' U.S.A! Yee hah!
- Verse 2** We've been to every gift shop
And bought our souvenirs
Of that ol' scaly varmint in the loch.
There's baseball caps and tee-shirts
And bumper stickers here,
And cuddly toys and sticks of Nessie rock. Yee hah!
We've visited the tea rooms,
But haven't been impressed
With the portion size that came our way.
The calories on offer
Are considerably less
Than we get in the good ol' USA! Yee hah!
- Verse 3** We've got expensive cameras
With which we hoped to shoot
The monster, but so far we ain't seen jack.
We even paid her agent
A great big pile of loot
To give our kids a ride upon her back! Yee hah!
Well this ain't quite the standard
Of service we expect,
And no-one's even said 'Have a nice day!'
We can't wait till we're jumping
Aboard that jumbo-jet
To head back to the good ol' USA!
To head back to the good ol' USA! Yee hah!

Scientists

Verse 1

(Scientists) Scientists study from dawn until dusk,
We strive to discover the truth.
Looking down microscopes, staring at slides,
Cutting up dead things to see their insides.
(All) To see their insides?!

Verse 2

(All) Using long words that no one can pronounce,
And calling things by Latin names.
Gobbledegook that goes over our heads,
We’d rather watch the X-Factor instead.
(Scientists) ‘Cause you’re all brain-dead!

Chorus

(All) *Chemistry, Physics and biology,
Dissecting and probing in laboratories,
Working to prove all their hypotheses,
To find fame and glory like celebrities....*
(Scientists) *But with PhDs!*

Verse 3

(All) Using equipment worth millions of pounds,
It’s cutting-edge technology!
Gizmos and gadgets that flash, buzz and beep –
It costs a lot to make one giant leap!
(Scientists) Well, knowledge ain’t cheap!

Chorus *Chemistry, Physics and biology.....*

Instrumental *(during which the scientists examine specimens in test-tubes and make notes on clipboards.)*

Chorus *Chemistry, Physics and biology.....*

(Scientists) *But with PhDs!
We gained them with ease!
A little respect, if you please!*

*Music by Mick Riddell
Lyrics by Bridget Burge & Andrew Oxspring*

The Monsters' Cry

Verse 1 One night when I was dreaming
I heard the strangest sound,
The sorry cry of monsters
Was heard from all around.
‘Farewell, farewell’ I heard them say,
‘For now we take our leave.
The day is now upon us,
No more do you believe.’

Verse 2 I heard the angry crash of waves,
Through howling wind and rain,
The monsters of the Scottish lochs
Were never seen again.
But then it seemed a hundred thousand
Voices filled the air,
As one by one the call was made
By children everywhere.....

Chorus *Come back, come back,
Come back home.
Will you come back, come back,
Please come home.
Come back, come back,
Come back home.
Will you come back, come back,
Please come home.*

(in unison)

One night when I was dreaming I heard the strangest sound, The sorry cry of monsters Was heard from all around.	<i>Come back, come back, Come back home. Will you come back, come back, Please come home.</i>
‘Farewell, farewell’ I heard them say, ‘For now we take our leave. The day is now upon us, No more do you believe.’	<i>Come back, come back, Come back home. Will you come back, come back, Please come home.</i>

*Music & lyrics by Mick Riddell
Additional lyrics by Andrew Oxspring*

Help Me To Find A Way

Verse 1 Wish I could find a way.
Wish there was someone who was with me today
With open eyes and heart and mind, but
I think I know what they’d say.
Why have you chosen me?
I’m not that someone you want me to be.
A simple soul neither brave nor bold, so.....

Chorus *From deep inside I’m sorry,
So sad, so melancholy.
Can’t find the words I want to say –
Help me to find a way.*

Verse 2 The truth is hard to bear.
Could I be dreaming or is something out there?
Can I deny a monster’s cry, well.....

Chorus *From deep inside I’m sorry.....*

The northern winds that make me shiver
Are calling me to sow the seeds of mystery.

Instrumental *(during which Katie paces the stage, thinking deeply.)*

Chorus *From deep inside I’m sorry.....*

Repeat *Help me to find a way.*

A Wee Bit Doolally!

Verse 1 Katie, how can you say
You’ve heard the monster’s song?
Can you see anything
Without your glasses on?
Could it possibly be
That you have got it wrong,
Or you’re stringing us along?

Verse 2 Did old Nessie get close
And stare into your eyes?
Was she big as a tree
Or only half the size?
Was she beautifully slim
Or plain with thunder-thighs?
Are you prone to fantasize?

Chorus *Goblins, pixies and elves,
Bet she’s friends with them all!
Hangs about with leprechauns
And yetis ten feet tall!
Lock her in a padded cell,
Throw away the key –
She’s a wee bit doolally!*

Verse 3 We’ve all heard it before,
And here we go again;
Small head, long in the neck
And plenty at the end.
Please do tell us how we
Can be a monster’s friend!
Katie’s going round the bend!

Chorus *Goblins, pixies and elves.....*

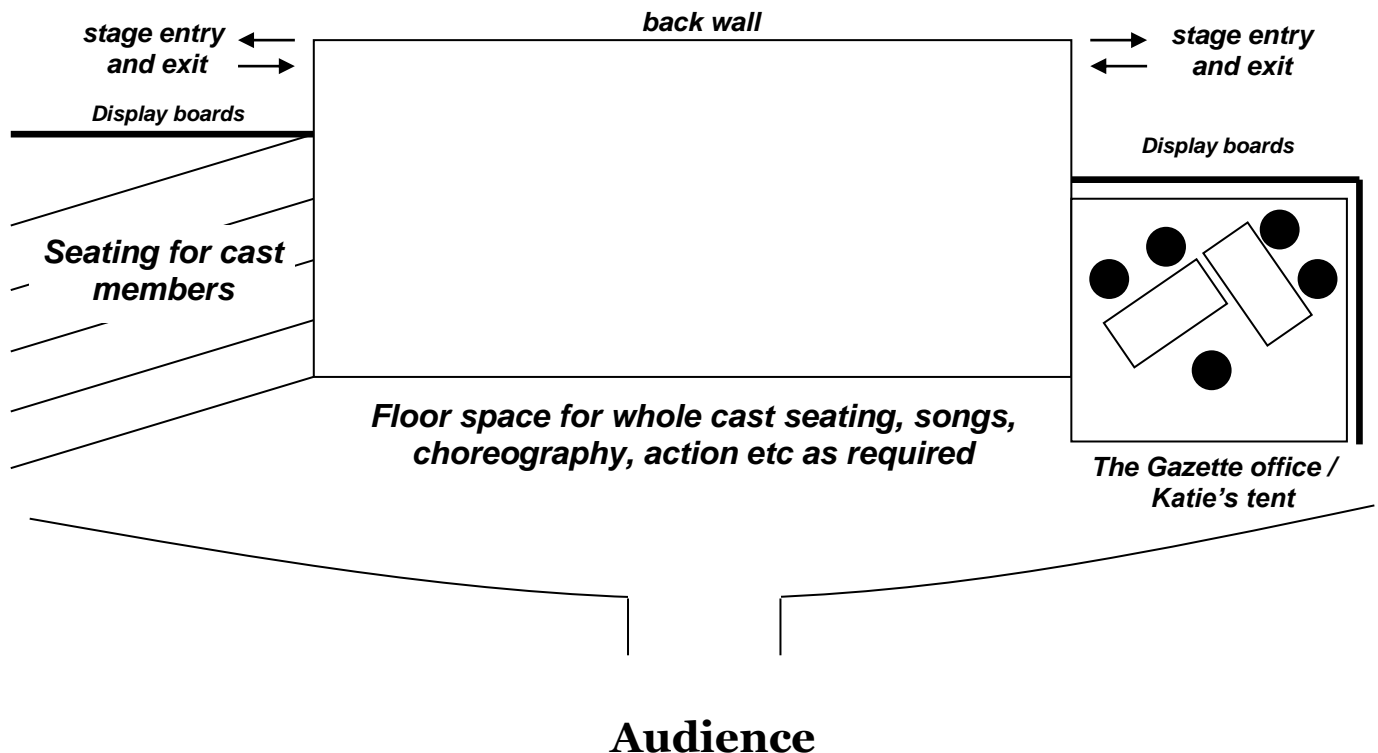
Repeat Chorus

Repeat *She’s a wee bit doolally!*

*Music by Mick Riddell
Lyrics by Bridget Burge
Additional lyrics by Andrew Oxspring*

STAGING AND PRODUCTION SUGGESTIONS

We suggest a staging layout similar to this, which will allow all the cast to be on view all the time, and to be heard during all the songs. Actors and groups seated to the side will easily be able to move into and out of prominent positions for their featured songs, dialogue or choreography. For the entrance and exit of individual characters, space can be made behind display boards either side of the main stage or a ‘channel’ can be created through the audience. If you prefer not to have a side stage, the Gazette office can be set up (then cleared from) in front of the main stage, and Katie’s tent can stand at one front corner.



- **Scenery and furniture** – The main backdrop could depict scenery similar to that on the cover of the production pack, namely a grassy bank, the loch itself, mountains and a promontory with the famous ruins of Urquhart Castle. There should be a town sign (either free-standing or part of the backdrop) reading ‘Drumnadrochit’. The display boards behind the seated cast members could be a continuation of this, while behind the Gazette office stage there could be oversized tabloid front pages with mundane news stories similar to those mentioned in scene 1. For scene 2 these boards could be rotated to reveal more loch-side scenery. The Gazette office need only comprise one or two tables (from a classroom) and 4 chairs, which can easily be moved after Scene 1. Katie’s tent can be a small, free-standing child’s play tent – it doesn’t matter if her feet stick out when she lies down!

- **Costume** – A list of individual character costume suggestions can be found on page 29.
- **Nessie** – The simplest way to represent Nessie would be with a cut-out head and neck that emerges above the display board behind Katie’s tent. This could be detailed with features or, in the dimmed light, simply be a dark silhouette. If you are using an interactive whiteboard on the back wall, you could show a suggestion of a shadow of the monster or perhaps an artistic interpretation created by the children. Alternatively, to maintain some mystery, using a strong light situated at the back or side of your hall you could cast a Nessie-shaped shadow onto the back wall or stage floor. However, semi-darkness and the actor’s voice (preferably into a microphone with a deep reverb) should create enough of an atmosphere to suggest Nessie’s appearance without the audience actually seeing anything.
- **Props** – The Gazette reporters could be working on laptops. They’ll then need cameras and notepads for the final scene Katie will need a pen and large notepad – her lines could be written on this as cues. The school children and teacher could carry rucksacks, and the guardians will need small model monsters. Agnes will need a ring to take off and discard. The tourists should be laden with carrier bags containing the items described in their song, and have cameras and binoculars round their necks. Pyke will need a rolled up chart displaying graphs, charts equations etc.

Character	Number of spoken lines	Singing solo	Costume Suggestions
Mr Farthington	16		Shirt & tie. Trilby hat. Overcoat & press badge for the last scene.
Reporter 1	5		Smart suit/shirt & tie. Trilby hat if male. Overcoat & press badge for the last scene.
Reporter 2	2		Smart suit/shirt & tie. Trilby hat if male.
Reporter 3	2		As Reporter 2
Reporter 4	2		As Reporter 2
Katy Allbright	37	1 song	Glasses, cagoule, woolly hat, wellies.
Mo McDonald	20		Traditional Scottish costume – tartan kilts, ghillies (shoes with laces coming up the socks), white shirt/blouses, sash or shawl & a bonnet. Prominent medal of office on ribbon round the neck.
Maggie McDougal	15		As Mo McDonald
Malcolm McPhee	14		As Mo McDonald
Young McPhee	3	2 verses	Shirt, waistcoat & flat cap
Agnes	6	1 verse	White flowing lace dress or similar
Miss Taggart	12		Grown up outdoor clothes.
Child 1	3		Their own school clothes
Child 2	3		As child 1
Child 3	3		As child 1
Child 4	3		As child 1
Child 5	3		As child 1
Child 6	3		As child 1
Tourist 1	2		Hawaiian shirts, shorts, baseball caps, open-toed sandals with socks.
Tourist 2	1		As Tourist 1 – A couple could be ‘padded out’ to give a little extra weight
Tourist 3	1		As Tourist 1
Tourist 4	2		As Tourist 1
Tourist 5	2		As Tourist 1
Tourist 6	2		As Tourist 1
Prof. Cecil Franklin Pyke	6		White lab coat, false beard or moustache
Scientist 1	4		White lab coat
Scientist 2	4		White lab coat
Scientist 3	3		White lab coat
Scientist 4	3		White lab coat
Local 1	2		Everyday clothes with maybe wellies
Local 2	2		As local 1
Local 3	2		As local 1
Local 4	2		As local 1
Nessie	5		Cut-out head and neck