



ZAZZIE Sings!

A New Musical by Fiely Matias & Dennis T. Giacino
based on the hit children's book 'Reebee Dedoo Dada' by Fiely Matias

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DIGITAL PERUSAL 'ZAZZIE SINGS!'

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ZAZZIE SINGS!

CHARACTER BREAKDOWNS

ZAZZIE

A talented cat who absolutely loves to sing - and is real good at it too! Otherwise timid and shy, Zazzie shines in the spotlight - a consummate entertainer when on the stage. Everybody's friend, kind, and forgiving. A quick and witty sense of humor. Inclusive, diverse, and non-traditional casting encouraged.

KIRBY

A lovable, high-energy rabbit. Zazzie's stage manager and best friend. The comic relief who often sings out of turn and cracks awkward jokes; a true physical comedian. Kirby is an adventurous dreamer who hopes to fly someday. Inclusive, diverse, and non-traditional casting encouraged.

ROZ

A rat with a penchant for being overly critical. As a matter of fact, Roz is the town critic, both theatrically and personally. Starting out as a bully, Roz, with the help of Zazzie, finds a true calling in life - dance! Inclusive, diverse, and non-traditional casting encouraged.

FRANKIE

Roz's minion, a swoon-worthy rat due to an over-abundance of goofy charm, charisma, incredible good looks, and velvety vocals. Always the lemming, he follows Roz's lead to a fault. Inclusive, diverse, and non-traditional casting encouraged.

DELILAH & HOPE

Twin gophers in loafers. Think the Abbot and Costello of gopher-dom, the Laurel and Hardy of the animal kingdom. These twins believe they are identical but are clearly not (ie. one taller than the other, perhaps). They do share, however, the same love of live theater and music; they are theatrical producers. Big-hearted and giving. *Note: The name of Delilah may be changed to Tobias depending upon casting. Inclusive, diverse, and non-traditional casting encouraged.

PADGETT

Leader of the trio of intensely nervous pigeons that cannot get enough live music and theater. Yes, The Pigeons Three are rabid fans of Zazzie - Z'adorers, if you will. Padgett often takes charge and is extremely book smart often quoting Merriam Webster's dictionary. Inclusive, diverse, and non-traditional casting encouraged.

PEYTON

A pigeon who is always caught in the middle of Padgett's (the boss) and Blaire's (the naysayer) disagreements - a true go-between. Finds it difficult to choose a side and make a decision - always the fence-sitter. A free spirit with a unique sense of logic. Inclusive, diverse, and non-traditional casting encouraged.

BLAIR

The self-proclaimed, somewhat sarcastic know-it-all of The Pigeons Three. Tends to be a bit of a party-pooper always at the ready with a sobering reality check. Witty, at times overly-critical but still a friend and Zazzie fanatic. Inclusive, diverse, and non-traditional casting encouraged.

CHORUS

A chorus of various animals playing a variety of roles are permitted. Whether it's a Squirrel, Opossum, Mice, Raccoon, Puppy, more Birds, more Rats - any animals one would find in a city alleyway will do! The number of chorus members is flexible. Inclusive, diverse, and non-traditional casting encouraged.

BAND

The band for *ZAZZIE SINGS!* consists of 3 instruments:

Piano/Keyboard
Electric Bass
Drums/Percussion

The show may be performed with Piano only.

INTERMISSION/INTERVAL

ZAZZIE SINGS! is performed without intermission.

ZAZZIE SINGS!

Musical Numbers & Characters

#1	SING, ZAZZIE, SING!	Kirby & Company	8
#2	I COULDN'T	Zazzie	14
#3	REEBEE DEDOO DADA	Zazzie, Kirby, Delilah & Hope, Pigeons	18
#4	AM I RIGHT?	Roz, Frankie, Company	24
#5	FOR THE BIRDS	Pigeons, Frankie, Kirby	33
#6	I COULDN'T (REPRISE)	Instrumental	38
#7	ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS SAY WHEN	Delilah & Hope, Zazzie	40
#8	IT'S OKAY TO FEEL BLUE	Delilah & Hope, Kirby	44
#9	REEBEE DEDOO DADA (REPRISE)	Kirby, Zazzie, Delilah & Hope, Frankie, Pigeons	48
#10	THE APOLOGY	Roz, Zazzie, Choir	53
#11	TELL 'EM YOU CAN	Zazzie, Roz, Frankie, Kirby, Pigeons, Delilah & Hope	61
#12	BOWS	Zazzie & Company	71
#13	EXIT MUSIC	Instrumental	72

PRE-SHOW:

SET: An alley in a large city. There is a small raised platform, perhaps a garbage can or a wooden box serving as a stage of sorts. The alley, which abuts a city park, may be suggested with minor set pieces or full-on by adding a city/park backdrop. Simple or intricate - either works!

TIME: Tonight; around 9pm local time for starters.

AT RISE: KIRBY enters; a full-of-energy rabbit with a high squeaky voice. The life of any party and everybody's friend. KIRBY carries a tall sunflower in a pot (which serves as ZAZZIE's microphone).

KIRBY runs on stage, setting the microphone; readying for the show, fixing set pieces, maybe a prop or two. KIRBY wears aviator glasses and a propellor beanie.

KIRBY

Busy busy - okay . . .

Fixes a set piece.

(happy with its placement)

Uh-huh.

Resets a prop and then turns and notices the AUDIENCE.

(to AUDIENCE)

Oh, hey everybody! You must be here for Zazzie's show! Y'know, Zazzie, the fantastically fabulous singing cat?! Oh, and my name is Kirby and I'm the stage manager for Zazzie's little shindig here but, as you can tell from my super-awesome get-up . . .

(referencing propeller beanie and goggles)

My true dream is to fly. I know, I know - rabbits can't fly. But they can dream can't they? And one day I dream to soar above the earth, up there in the deep blue of the sky! I want to hop in the footsteps of all the great aviators: The Wright Brothers, Amelia Earhart, Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong, and Tom Cruise in *Top Gun: Maverick*.

BEAT as KIRBY takes a big, sigh, lost in the dream.

(breaking out of the dream)

Oh, sorry - **what was I** talking about? Oh right - me! I was talking about me - Kirby! Okay, now along with being in charge of this extravaganza - I'm also Zazzie's best friend and biggest fan.

PIGEONS enter.

PADGETT

Hold up now, Kirby. We're big-time Zazzie admirers, too. The three of us have always been die-hard . . .

PEYTON, BLAIR

Wait for it . . .

PADGETT

Za-pporters!

PEYTON

Za-natics!

BLAIR

Z'afficionados! I even have the t-shirt.

BLAIR reveals Z'afficionados t-shirt beneath jacket.

KIRBY

Oh, look everybody. It's The Pigeons Three.

PADGETT

I'm Padgett!

PEYTON

I'm Peyton!

BLAIR

(disappointed in not having a name that starts with 'P')

And I'm Blair.

PADGETT, PEYTON

Pigeons in the house!

(with a roll of their tongues; doing their best pigeon coo)

Oh, coooooo!

DELILAH and HOPE enter. Though twin gophers, these two sibs look nothing alike!

KIRBY

It's always great to see some familiar faces at Zazzie's performances.

KIRBY notices the two GOPHERS.

KIRBY (CONT.)

Oh, and new ones! Hi - welcome to Zazzie's show. I'm Kirby - 'hoppy' to meet you. See what I did there?

DELILAH, HOPE

We did!

DELILAH

And we're 'hoppy' to meet you. I'm Delilah. And this is my twin sister, Hope.

HOPE

That's me!

DELILAH

That's her!

HOPE

That's right!

KIRBY

That's . . . amazing! I'm so glad to meet you both - wait, you two are twins?

DELILAH

Since birth!

DELILAH, HOPE

See the resemblance?

THEY pose in a twin tableau; all smiles.

KIRBY

Oh, cool.

DELILAH

And we're really excited to see tonight's show!

HOPE

Yes, we've seen the posters plastered all over town . . .

DELILAH

And decided . . .

DELILAH, HOPE

We should check it out!

DELILAH

Yup - we're newbies to the Zazzie scene. So, tell us more about . . .

DELILAH, HOPE

Zazzie, the singing cat!

KIRBY

Oh, well, you've come to the right rabbit. I've known Zazzie a looooong, looooong, time and . . . wait a minute, what am I doing? This is a musical. Instead of *talking* about Zazzie, I should be *singing* about her.

(to BAND)

Maestro . . . gimme a beat.

Cues BAND and begins to hop to the beat.

NO. 1 SING, ZAZZIE, SING!**KIRBY (CONT.)**

IN A BOX

ON A STREET

WHERE TWO ALLEYS MEET

LIVES A CAT THAT

DELILAH

That?

KIRBY

THAT JUST LOVES TO SING

HOPE

How exciting!

DELILAH

We can't wait!

KIRBY

AND EACH NIGHT

DELILAH, HOPE

Uh-huh?

KIRBY

AROUND NINE

DELILAH, HOPE

(a little more excited)

Uh-huh?!

KIRBY

ALL HER FRIENDS FORM A LINE

PIGEONS, DELILAH, HOPE

(yeah, we're ZAZZIE's friends)

Uh-huh!!

KIRBY

JUST TO HEAR OUR ZAZZIE

ZAZZIE enters, readying for her show. SHE greets everyone in the AUDIENCE with a wave and a smile; a consummate performer who loves to sing.

ALL (except KIRBY, ZAZZIE)

Zazzie!

KIRBY

SING

ALL OTHERS (except KIRBY, ZAZZIE)

SING SING

SING SING

KIRBY

SIIIIIII-ING!

NOW, WHEN ZAZZIE STARTS TO CROON

ZAZZIE

That's me!

KIRBY

UNDERNEATH THE SILVERY MOON

ALL (EXCEPT KIRBY, ZAZZIE)

Ooooo-oooo-oooo!

KIRBY

THERE'S A ROAR

ALL (EXCEPT KIRBY, ZAZZIE)

Roar!

KIRBY

WANTING MORE

ALL (EXCEPT ZAZZIE)
SING US YOUR TUNE ...

SING, ZAZZIE, SING!

PEYTON
I bought the Zazzie fridge magnet!

ALL (EXCEPT ZAZZIE)
SING, ZAZZIE, SING!

BLAIR
Well, I bought the Zazzie fridge!

ALL (EXCEPT ZAZZIE)
SING EVERYTHING FROM ROCK AND POP

KIRBY
(mimicking overly-dramatic opera voice)
TO OP'RA-ING

PIGEONS
And swing!

ALL (EXCEPT ZAZZIE)
SING, ZAZZIE, SING!

ZAZZIE
(operatic; pointing to KIRBY)
AH AH AH AAAAH

ALL (EXCEPT KIRBY & ZAZZIE)
SING, ZAZZIE, SING!

ZAZZIE
(operatic)
AH AH AH AH AH AH AAAH!

KIRBY
(operatic)
AH AH AH AH AH AH AAAH!

PIGEONS
YOU'VE GOT THAT THING THAT MAKES US LOVE YOU

KIRBY
I'M SO SWOONING ...

KIRBY takes a big, swooning sigh.

Ahhhh . . .

PIGEONS

UP ON THAT STAGE

DELILAH, HOPE

That stage!

PIGEONS

SHE'S ALL THE RAGE

KIRBY

Look! I'M GOOSEBUMPING ...

ING!

ING!

-NG!

ALL (EXCEPT ZAZZIE)

SING, ZAZZIE, SING!

KIRBY

Five minutes to showtime!

ALL (EXCEPT ZAZZIE, KIRBY)

SING, ZAZZIE, SING!

ZAZZIE

Thank you, five!

ALL (EXCEPT ZAZZIE, KIRBY)

SING, ZAZZIE, SING!

KIRBY

Time for vocal warm-ups.

ALL (EXCEPT ZAZZIE, KIRBY)

SING, ZAZZIE, SING!

ZAZZIE

(warming up now)

MI MI MI MI MI

ALL (EXCEPT ZAZZIE, KIRBY)

SING, ZAZZIE, SING!

ZAZZIE

(more warm ups)

Red leather

Yellow leather

ZAZZIE (CONT.)

Red leather
Yellow leather

Tabby tabby
Siamese
Himalayan
Tonkanese

ALL

Every kitty
Find your voice
It's almost showtime
Let's rejoice!

ALL (EXCEPT ZAZZIE)

SING
SING
SING

SING
SING
SING

ZAZZIE

(hits operatic high note)

Ah - ahhhhhhhhhhh!

PIGEONS, KIRBY

SHE'S A STAR

DELILAH, HOPE

Ooooooo!

PIGEONS, KIRBY

SHE'S A HIT

DELILAH, HOPE

Aaaaaah!

KIRBY

SHE'S SO GOOD THAT I COULD SPIT!

BLAIR

(to KIRBY)

Don't!

KIRBY, PIGEONS

SHE'S THE COOLEST CAT IN TOWN

KIRBY

SHE'S GOT THAT ZING!

ALL (EXCEPT KIRBY, ZAZZIE)

That zing?

KIRBY

THAT ZING-A-LING-A-LING-A-LING-A-LING-A-LIIIIIIING!

KIRBY, PIGEONS

SING, ZAZZIE, SING!

DELILAH, HOPE

SING, ZAZZIE, SING!

ALL (EXCEPT DELILAH, HOPE, ZAZZIE)

SING, ZAZZIE, SING!

DELILAH, HOPE

SING, ZAZZIE, SING!

ALL (EXCEPT ZAZZIE)

SHE'S GOT THAT RING
THAT CERTAIN PING

KIRBY

I AM FAN-BOY-ING - NG!

PIGEONS

SING, ZAZZIE, SING!

KIRBY, DELILAH, HOPE

SING A SONG
JUST A LITTLE DITTY

PIGEONS

SING, ZAZZIE, SING!

KIRBY, DELILAH, HOPE

AND WE'LL HUM ALONG

KIRBY

HER VOICE IS REALLY PRETTY!

PIGEONS

SING, ZAZZIE, SING!

KIRBY, DELILAH, HOPE

SING LOUD AND STRONG
IT'S A CONCERT IN THE CITY

ALL (EXCEPT ZAZZIE)

SING
SING
SIIIIIIING

ZAZZIE

(High note; riffing)

Ah - Ah - Aaaaaaah!

ALL (EXCEPT ZAZZIE, KIRBY)

SING, ZAZZIE, SING!

KIRBY

She just did.

ALL POSE ON FINAL DOWNBEAT.

KIRBY breaks the pose by welcoming ZAZZIE to
the stage with a flourish of silly hand gestures.
ZAZZIE watches with delight.

And noooooooooow . . . here's Zazzie!

ZAZZIE

Wow. I'm not sure I deserve all that but thanks, Kirby. And thank you all for coming to the alley for my show!

SHE cues the band.

NO. 2 I COULDN'T

BAND: Intro.

ZAZZIE (CONT.)

Now, as y'all know, I just love to sing!

PADGETT

(interrupting ZAZZIE)

Oh, and I like to fly.

KIRBY

I'd like to fly too!

ZAZZIE

That's why I got you that propeller beanie, Kirby.

KIRBY spins the propellor atop his beanie.

PEYTON

I like to do back flips when I fly!

BLAIR

I don't really like to fly at all.

BAND: Breakdown.

ALL do a take to BLAIR.

(explaining)

Too much work for very little pay-off. I prefer to take the subway to all my destinations.

BEAT, SILENCE, befuddled by this admission.

ZAZZIE

(trying to recover)

Oh . . . okay. And so . . .

SHE cues the BAND again.

BAND: Plays intro . . . again.

For my first number . . .

HOPE

(interrupting ZAZZIE)

I like to dig tunnels and eat tubers.

BAND: Breakdown.

Potatoes, carrots . . .

DELILAH

Root vegetables. Tubers!

DELILAH, HOPE

We like tubers!

ZAZZIE

(attempting to regain control; cueing the BAND)

I see. Um . . . and who *doesn't* like a good shallot?!

BAND: Restarts intro . . . yet again.

BLAIR

(raising hand)

That would be me.

BAND: Breakdown.

Though I adore vegetables, too much fiber bloats me.

ZAZZIE

Alrighty then . . . thanks for the TMI.

(thinking fast, SHE cues the BAND again)

Well . . .

BAND: One last try at the 'I COULDN'T' intro.

Between back flips and tubers and singing . . . and bloating, it's quite clear that each of us have different likes — various things that we're passionate about, things we love to do. For instance, well, I love to sing. But I didn't always.

I SING BECAUSE
MY FATHER WAS
THE LEADER OF A BAND

HE'D PLAY THE DRUMS
FOR TIPS AND CRUMBS
WHILE MOTHER PLAYED THE GRAND

I'D SIT BACKSTAGE AND LISTEN
I'D HANG ON EV'RY NOTE
THAT MY MOTHER AND
MY FATHER WROTE

NOW, MY MOTHER'S VOICE
WAS WAY UP HERE

SHE comically plays with the high note.

MY DAD SANG
REALLY LOW

SHE has fun singing really low, too.

ZAZZIE (CONT.)

AND THEY'D ASK IF I'D PERFORM WITH THEM
AT EACH AND . . . EV'RY SHOW

But . . .

I COULDN'T SING
CAT GOT MY TONGUE, PUN INTENDED
I HAD THAT STAGE-FRIGHTY THING
THAT KEPT ME FROM TAKING MY BOW

I'D-A' GIVEN ALL NINE LIVES
MY CAT NAPS AND YARN
IF I COULDA BEEN UP THERE TOO

BUT I COULDN'T SING AT ALL
THAT'S JUST SOMETHING THAT I COULDN'T DO

UNTIL ONE DAY
AT A MATINEE
MY DAD FORGOT THE VERSE

And . . .

MY MOTHER LOST
ALL THE LYRICS TOO
JUST TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE!

THAT'S WHEN I RUSHED ON STAGE
I SANG EACH WORD
AND WHEN THAT SONG WAS THROUGH . . .

I COULD SING

I mean . . . I sang the entire thing!

YES, I COULD SING . . .

I CAN SING!

ALL applaud the key change.

NOW I CAN SING
IT'S LIKE WEARING THE CAT'S PAJAMAS
FORGET THAT STAGE-FRIGHTY THING
THERE'S NO FEAR WHEN I'M TAKING MY BOW

AND I STILL HAVE ALL NINE LIVES

ZAZZIE (CONT.)

MY CAT NAPS AND YARN
AND I'M DOING WHAT I LOVE TO DO

I LOVE TO SING FOR YOU
AND IT'S MY FAVORITE THING
TO DO

000-000-000-000-000

FINAL DOWNBEAT.

ALL applaud.

Now, don't get me wrong, getting up on a stage still scares the Fancy Feast right outta me. Let's be honest . . . getting over your fears isn't always easy. But if you love what you do and believe in yourself . . . well, you'll always come up with a way to find your voice. And that's what this next little ditty is all about. Y'see . . .

NO. 3 REEBEE DEDOO DADA**ZAZZIE (CONT.)**

SOMETIMES I GET NERVOUS
SOMETIMES NOT SO MUCH
AND SINGING SONGS IN FRONT OF OTHERS
MAKES ME FRET AND SWEAT AND SUCH

AND I AM SURE WE ALL GET SKITTISH
SCAREDY CATS ARE WE

(To KIRBY)

Boo!

KIRBY screams. Then giggles when realizing it's a joke.

SO I'D LIKE TO SHARE A CATCHY RHYME
THAT'S ALWAYS WORKED FOR ME

IT'S PART GIBBERISH
QUITE FUN . . . AND GLIBBERISH

ALL laugh at ZAZZIE's made-up word.

IT'S A NERVE-DIFFUSING
STRESS-REDUCING
PHRASEOLOGY

ZAZZIE (CONT.)

And it goes . . . something like this . . .

REEBEE DEDOO DADA
 REEBEE DEDOO DA-DEE-E-E-E
 KEEP ON SINGIN' IT AND SINGIN' IT TO YOURSELF
 IN ONE-PART HARMONY- E-E-E

It goes . . .

REEBEE DEDOO DADA
 REEBEE DEDOO DA-DEE-E-E
 KEEP ON SINGIN' IT AND SINGIN' IT TO YOURSELF
 AND YOU WILL SEE
 THAT YOU WILL BE

Invincible and ready to take on the world!

YOU WILL BE FREE!

FREE FROM THE WORRY
 AND FREE FROM THE GRIEF
 NO MORE BITING YOUR FINGERNAILS
 WHILE YOU'RE SHAKING LIKE A LEAF!

SO HUM IT JUST ONCE
 OR SING IT ALL DAY
 I GUARANTEE
 THAT REEBEE DADEE
 WILL CHASE YOUR FEARS AWAY!

FAR AWAY!

ALL applaud the key change.

BAND: VAMP

Y'see - singing or humming 'Reebee Dedoo Dada' can make your fears, nerves, and self-doubt go so far away that you won't even remember that they were there in the first place!

Of course, the only thing better than singing 'Reebee Dedoo Dada' by yourself . . .

BAND: Music stops.

Is to sing it with a group!

(To AUDIENCE)

So, when I sing DADA, you sing DADA back to me. Got it? Okay, let's rehearse.

ZAZZIE (CONT.)

DADA

AUDIENCE, KIRBY

DADA!

ZAZZIE

Good. Let's try it again - nice and loud this time.

DADA

ALL

(leading the AUDIENCE)

DADA!

ZAZZIE

DADA!

ALL

DADA!

ZAZZIE

One more . . . DADA!

ALL

DADA!

ZAZZIE

Well, that sounded da-da-licious! Alright, here we go then . . . and remember, only when I sing DADA . . .

KIRBY

DADA!

ZAZZIE

That's my, Kirby. Okay, everybody . . .

BAND: Tremolo.

From the top!

REEBEE DEDOO DADA

ALL (EXCEPT ZAZZIE)

(cueing the AUDIENCE)

DADA!

ZAZZIE

REEBEE DEDOO DA-DEE-E-E-E
 KEEP ON SINGIN' IT AND SINGIN' IT TO YOURSELF
 IN ALL PARTS HARMONY-E-E-E

ROZ enters followed close behind by FRANKIE.
 THEY are the two most feared vermin in the city as
 ROZ is the local theater critic. THEY stand away
 from the mayhem, watching and listening.

KIRBY

Now me!

REEBEE DEDOO DADA

ALL (EXCEPT KIRBY)

DADA!

DELILAH, HOPE

Me too!

REEBEE DEDOO DADEEEE-E-E

PIGEONS

Me three!

REEBEE DEDOO DADA

ALL (EXCEPT PIGEONS)

DADA!

ZAZZIE

AND NOW WE'RE FEELING FREE

DELILAH, HOPE

NO ANXIETY

KIRBY

GONE'S MY TREMBLING KNEE

PEYTON

I'M TING-GL-ING WITH GLEE

BLAIR

LIKE DRINKING MATCHA TEA

DELILAH

JUST LIKE A MANATEE

PADGETT

AND I AM FROM TENNESSEE

HOPE

I THINK I'LL CLIMB THAT TREE

ROZ

Alright already!

BAND: Breakdown.

Reebee dedoo, da-don't 'cuz I am officially da-done with all dis!

Everybody stops and looks to ROZ.

FRANKIE

Yaaaah. We're da-done-done-done wid da-dis-dis-dis!! Right, boss?

ROZ

(side-eye to FRANKIE)

Yah, sure.

(turning her back on FRANKIE and facing the group)

Now, c'mon, my friends . . . really? Manatee, matcha tea, climbing a tree . . . for rhyme's sake!

Everybody stop with the Dr. Seussing here! Just because we're all cute little critters don't mean we have to rhyme.

FRANKIE

(rhyming)

At least not all of the time!

ROZ

Knock it off!

PADGETT

Who are you anyway, the town critic?

ROZ

As a matter fact, I am.

ALL gasp.

My name is Roz and my reviews are read alley wide.

General hubbub.

DELILAH

Oh, *that's* Roz the rat the reviewer.

HOPE

That's Roz the rat the reviewer? She hates everything.

PEYTON

Well, if that's Roz the rat the reviewer, who's that standing next to Roz the rat the reviewer?

FRANKIE

Thanks for asking. I just so happen to be . . .

ROZ

(cutting FRANKIE off)

Not important! That's just Frankie, my trusty minion who should always stand quietly.

BEAT.

Behind me.

FRANKIE slowly and as quietly as HE can (though it's not very quiet) tiptoes behind ROZ and gives his boss the thumbs up.

ROZ responds with a half-baked thumbs up in return and a sneer at FRANKIE.

And now, I am ready to render my review of tonight's "so-called" performance.

SHE waits for FRANKIE to bring out the review. When nothing happens . . .

(impatiently)

Frankie?!

FRANKIE pulls out a giant, heavy book of all of ROZ's reviews, opens to one of the pages, and holds it up for ROZ to read.

BEAT as ROZ reads silently, moving her lips. Then, finally . . .

F.

ALL gasp.

Minus.

ALL gasp even louder. General derision.

ROZ (CONT.)

Aaaaaaah . . . confusion. Contradiction. General derision — which, by the by, happen to be three of my most favorite words. Of course, it does seem, to my surprise, that not everyone agrees with my very generous and highly professional critique . . .

NO. 4 AM I RIGHT?

ROZ (CONT.)

So, allow me to elaborate . . .

I'M NOT THE KINDA RAT
WHO CAN STAND A SINGING CAT
MY DEAR, YOU'RE SLIGHTLY FLAT AND OFF-KEY

(to the group)

Am I right?

KIRBY

(not quite sure but standing up for ZAZZIE)

Uhh . . .

ROZ

(to ZAZZIE)

I'VE HEARD YOUR VOICE BEFORE
YOU SOUND LIKE A CREAKING DOOR
AND YOUR ACT IS QUITE A SNORE . . .

(to the group)

Is it me . . . or

SHE smiles as ZAZZIE cowers hearing
the negative review.

Am I right?

I CANNOT LIE, YOU SEE
SO LISTEN CLOSE TO DO, RE, ME
I'VE GOT A GOLDEN EAR AND THAT VOICE IS A FRIGHT!

ALL gasp.

SO LET'S ALL AGREE THAT

THIS MOUSER'S WAY OFF PITCH
MAKES MY EYES CROSS AND TWITCH

ROZ (CONT.)

AM I RIGHT?

AM I RIGHT?

AM I RIGHT?

BAND: Vamp.

Aaaaaah, I see that not everyone is on the same boat that I am rowing here. So, in the spirit of bringing the rest of you onboard, come closer.

ALL move closer to ROZ, except ZAZZIE.

Closer still.

THEY move closer.

Too close. You're making me feel uncomfortable.

BAND: Breakdown.

ROZ motions for the group to back up. THEY all take a step back.

Better. I feel like I can breathe again.

(making it up as SHE goes)

And, and . . . now you have a little more *room* to think for yourselves.

General agreement.

But perhaps . . . you need a little more 'help' to 'think' for yourselves, yah?

ALL agree as THEY begin to fall under ROZ's spell.

So, I brought in some back-up to help you 'think' . . . for yourselves, of course.

BEAT.

Hey back-up, that's you!

FRANKIE jumps up to talk to the group.

FRANKIE

Oh! That's right, that's me! Frankie!

BAND: 'Ding' on his smile and wink to the AUDIENCE.

PIGEONS swoon.

ROZ

I don't get it. That happens every time he cracks that smile. You can't explain it in a laboratory.

FRANKIE gasps in fear.

Oh. Sorry.

(aside to the AUDIENCE)

Trigger word. Laboratory.

FRANKIE gasps in fear again.

See?

Okay, minion - let 'em have it.

FRANKIE strikes a fighting pose. ALL recoil in fear.

No! Not that kind of have it.

(indicating the AUDIENCE)

There are witnesses. No, the singing kinda have it.

FRANKIE

(ad libbing excuses)

Oh yah, singing. But I'm not quite warmed up yet.

ROZ

Singing.

FRANKIE

(still ad libbing)

There's a frog in my throat.

ALL gasp.

No no, not an actual frog in my throat.

(clearing his throat)

I just gotta fire up the ol' pipes a bit.

ROZ

(patience gone)

Where's the singing?!

BAND: INTRO to second verse.

FRANKIE
THAT STRAY

ROZ
IN JUST ONE WORD
IS BETTER SEEN

FRANKIE
AND NEVER HEARD

ROZ
HER BEL-

FRANKIE
LOWING'S ABSURD . . .

ROZ
It's just wrong!
Am I right?

FRANKIE
HER MEWL-ING

ROZ
HURTS MY GOURD

SHE does two knocks on his head.

PERCUSSION: Cow bell on the knocks.

LIKE FINGERNAILS

FRANKIE
ON AN OL' CHALKBOARD

THEY do a quick, fingernails on a chalkboard
sound, screechy.

ROZ
SHE STRIKES

FRANKIE
A DREADFUL CHORD

ROZ
Give her the gong!
Am I right?

ROZ (CONT.)

I SPEAK THE TRUTH, YOU SEE
SO LISTEN UP . . .

FRANKIE

OOOOOOO
OOO-OOOOO

ROZ

(operatic)

TO MI, MI, ME

I'VE GOT THIS GOLDEN EAR AND THAT VOICE IS A BLIGHT

ROZ, FRANKIE

Oh!

ROZ

SO, LET'S ALL AGREE THAT

THIS STRAY'S OFF KEY, IT'S A DRAG
CAN'T SING HER WAY OUT OF

ROZ, FRANKIE

A PAPER BAG

AM I RIGHT?

AM I RIGHT?

AM I RIGHT?

ROZ

(aside to the AUDIENCE now)

THE MORE THAT I REPEAT MY TRUTH
THE MORE THEY'LL BELIEVE ME

(to ZAZZIE's friends on stage)

Would I deceive thee?

Not a chance!

No song and dance

WITH EV'RY TALE I TELL
YOU WON'T SEE MY NOSE GROW

Hey - I'm no Pinocchio!

(aside to the AUDIENCE again)

EXCEPT WHEN I AM SPEAKIN' - THAT'S WHEN -
THE TRUTH'LL GET SOME TWEAKIN'

FRANKIE, KIRBY, PIGEONS

WA-OOOOO!

ROZ

I'M JUST THE VERMIN WHO

FRANKIE, KIRBY, PIGEONS

(indicating ROZ)

And she . . .!

ROZ

SPITS IT REAL 'TIL MY FACE TURNS BLUE

FRANKIE, KIRBY, PIGEONS

(indicating ZAZZIE)

And she . . .!

ROZ

SOUNDS LIKE A BROKE KAZOO

FRANKIE, KIRBY, PIGEONS

(like on a kazoo)

WOMP, WOMP, WOMP

ROZ

Am I right? Eh?!

ZAZZIE's friends have given in to peer pressure and are now following ROZ and picking on ZAZZIE.

FRANKIE, KIRBY, PIGEONS

WA-OOOOO!

ROZ

AND WHEN THAT FURBALL APPEARS
TUNE HER OUT, COVER UP YOUR EARS
AM I RIGHT?

FRANKIE, KIRBY, PIGEONS

AM I RIGHT?

ROZ

AM I RIGHT?

FRANKIE, KIRBY, PIGEONS

AM I RIGHT?

ROZ

SHE SHOULD PACK IT IN AND GO FLY A KITE

ROZ (CONT.)

AM I RIGHT?

FRANKIE, KIRBY, PIGEONS

AM I RIGHT?

ROZ

AM I RIGHT?

FRANKIE, KIRBY, PIGEONS

AM I RIGHT?

ROZ

I'M ALL OUTTA RHYMES, SO LET'S CALL IT A NIGHT

AM I RIGHT?

FRANKIE, KIRBY, PIGEONS

Teach!

ROZ

AM I RIGHT?

FRANKIE, KIRBY, PIGEONS

Preach!

ROZ

AM I RIGHT?

FRANKIE, KIRBY, PIGEONS

Yes! Yes you're right!

ROZ

AM I RIGHT?

FRANKIE, KIRBY, PIGEONS

Yes! Yes you're right!

ROZ

AM I RIGHT?

FRANKIE, KIRBY, PIGEONS

Yes! Yes you're right!

ROZ

Truth is . . . I'm never wrong.

FINAL POSE.

ZAZZIE, overcome with watching her friends turn on her so easily due to peer pressure, exits, upset.

DELILAH and HOPE follow ZAZZIE off the stage.

KIRBY and PIGEONS look at each other in shock that THEY gave in to peer pressure.

ROZ (CONT.)

Okay then, now that the cat's gone away, this rat's gonna play.

FRANKIE

You're rhyming again, boss.

ROZ

Not this rat here, check your ear.

(realizing SHE is rhyming)

Oh. Eh . . . get a clue 'cuz that's just not true. Ai-yai . . .

(getting frustrated)

Look - I've had about enough - of all of this rhyming —

FRANKIE

(finishing the rhyme)

Stuff.

ROZ

Alright with the rhyming already! Let's just get outta here, Frankie, all this singing and dancing has got me real hungry.

SHE gets a whiff of something delicious.

Hey, Frankie . . . you catching that pungency that my rhinarium is olfactoring over here?

FRANKIE

Your rhinarium is ol-what-ering over there?

ROZ

I smell something. Read a book!

SHE sniffs the air again.

Ooooooooo - I'm getting a whiff of a two-week-old slice of pepperoni pizza with hints of mouth-watering mold. It's just around the corner and it's got my name on it.

FRANKIE

Oh, I love pizza, boss!

ROZ

I said it's got . . . *my* name on it. Nod, if you understand.

FRANKIE nods along with ROZ.

Good. Now, c'mon — chitty chitty bang bang, let's go!

FRANKIE

Okay, I'll be right there, boss . . . following behind you as always.

ROZ

Now *that* is music to my ears.

ROZ marches off emitting an evil, maniacal laugh.
SHE exits.

THEY all look at each other, feeling guilty having just bullied their friend, ZAZZIE.

ROZ reappears and delivers an even bigger crazed villain laugh. ALL are startled this.
SHE exits.

BEAT.

THEY all look at each other in a what-just-happened kinda way. ROZ suddenly returns one last time to launch into one last over-the-top, wicked, unholy laugh. THEY all jump again. SHE laughs and exits.

KIRBY

Hey, Frankie. Aren't you going to follow your rat boss? I mean, considering you just bullied my best friend and all.

FRANKIE

That's so interesting *that* you would say that . . . considering you also just bullied your best friend and all.

PADGETT

(to KIRBY, FRANKIE)

Yah, you two should feel really bad about ganging up on our best friend, Zazzie . . . and all.

PEYTON

Yah, really bad.

BLAIR

Incrementally bad. Like infinity bad. I feel so embarrassed for you two. Well, at least we managed to fly above the fray.

FRANKIE

Woah, woah, woah . . . really? Above the fray? I think you, you, you, Pigeon Blair, were right smack dab in the very bullseye of the fray. As a matter of fact, I seem to recall you singing along with me and the boss that your cat best friend couldn't "sing her way out of a paper bag" . . .

PADGETT, PEYTON

Yah!

FRANKIE

And that she sounds like a "creaking door" . . .

PADGETT, PEYTON

Yah!

FRANKIE

And a "broke kazoo."

PADGETT, PEYTON

Womp, womp, womp!

FRANKIE

Am I right?

PADGETT, PEYTON

Yah!

BLAIR

(incredulous)

Moouoooooi? Well, I never . . .

FRANKIE

Oh, I think you did.

BLAIR

Well . . . I mean . . . everybody was doing it . . .

BAND: Chord.

NO. 5 FOR THE BIRDS

PADGETT gasps at BLAIR's comment and points at him on the chord.

PADGETT

(to BLAIR)

WHY'D YOU PUT YOUR TRUST IN THAT RAT?

BLAIR

Uhhhhhhh . . .

PEYTON

(to BLAIR)

WHY WOULD YOU EVER DO THAT?

BLAIR

Ummmmm . . .

PADGETT, PEYTON

ZAZZIE'S OUR FRIEND

FROM BEGINNING TO END

AND STICKS AND STONES IS NOT WHERE IT'S AT

BLAIR

Well . . .

(to PADGETT)

I DISTINCTLY RECALL YOU WERE THERE

PADGETT

(realizing; feeling a little guilty herself)

Wellllll . . .

PEYTON

(to PADGETT)

I DISTINCTLY AGREE - I'M WITH BLAIR

PADGETT

Well . . .

(to PEYTON and BLAIR)

THERE WERE MORE THAN JUST TWO

YES, I'M REFERRING TO YOU

PIGEONS

YOU AND ME AND WE WERE UNFAIR

KIRBY

TO ZAZZIE

PIGEONS

WE THREE
EMBARRASSINGLY
ARE BIRDS OF A FEATHER
WHO FLEW MISTAKENLY

BLAIR

I'M A BULLY

PIGEONS

YES, WE THREE
FOLLOWED THE FLOCK
TO MAKE FUN OF AND MOCK
SOMEONE WHO
NOW FEELS BLUE

Ewwwww . . .

PADGETT

SO, HOW DO WE MEND THIS?

BLAIR

REPAIR AND UNBEND THIS

PEYTON

UPEND THIS AND

PIGEONS

MAKE THIS ALL RIGHT?

WE SHOULD GO FIND HER
WE SHOULD BE KINDER AND

DO WHAT WE CAN
TO BE BETTER WHEN
CHOOSING OUR WORDS

'CUZ BULLYING IS JUST FOR THE BIRDS

PEYTON

Wait a minute? Aren't we birds?

BLAIR

It's a saying. If something is 'for the birds' it means something is useless and unnecessary. An idiom.

PEYTON gasps in shock.

PEYTON

What did you just call me?

PADGETT

Actually, an idiom is a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words.

PEYTON

(still confused)

Oh. Well that clears it up.

FRANKIE

(exasperated)

HOW COULD I FOLLOW THAT RAT?

I ACTU'LLY LIKE THE VOICE OF THAT CAT

I'VE BEEN SUCH A LEMMING

ALWAYS HAWING AND HEMMING

I'M TIRED OF BEING THE GUY WHO DOES THAT

KIRBY

TO ZAZZIE

FRANKIE

I CAN BE NICER

MORE SUGAR THAN SPICE, OR

JUST LEARN NOT TO FOLLOW THE PACK

I CAN BE FULLY

MORE THAN A BULLY AND

THERE'S NO NEED TO BE MEAN

'CUZ IT JUST AIN'T MY SCENE

(to KIRBY)

HOW 'BOUT YOU?

KIRBY nods his head in agreement.

KIRBY

Yah . . .

ME TOO!

KIRBY, FRANKIE

Ewww!

FRANKIE

SO, HOW DO WE MEND THIS?

KIRBY

REPAIR AND UNBEND THIS

FRANKIE, KIRBY

UPEND THIS AND

ALL

MAKE THIS ALL RIGHT?

WE SHOULD GO FIND HER
WE SHOULD BE KINDER AND

DO WHAT WE CAN
TO BE BETTER WHEN
CHOOSING OUR WORDS

'CUZ BULLYING IS JUST FOR THE BIRDS

THE BIRDS

THE BIR-IRDS

BULLYING IS JUST FOR THE BIRDS

THE BIRDS

THE BIRDS

BULLYING IS JUST FOR THE BIRDS

THE BIRDS

THE BIRDS

THE BIRDS

THE BIRDS

PIGEONS

BULLYING IS JUST FOR THE

FRANKIE, KIRBY

BULLYING IS JUST FOR THE

ALL

BULLYING IS JUST FOR THE BIRDS

FINAL POSE as the PIGEONS squawk on the final beat.

BLAIR

(to PEYTON)

Now *that* is how one properly uses an idiom.

PEYTON

Great. Now I've been called an idiom twice!

KIRBY

I think the point here is that we all just need to be kinder to others. Oh, I can't believe I actually bullied my best friend. I've gotta find Zazzie and apologize. Pronto.

KIRBY exits. PADGETT, BLAIR, and FRANKIE follow.

PEYTON

Pronto? Now what does *that* word mean?

PEYTON runs after the OTHERS to help find ZAZZIE.

BAND: Plays final chord on PEYTON's exit.

NO. 6 I COULDN'T (REPRISE) (INSTRUMENTAL)

ZAZZIE slinks slowly onto the stage, sad that SHE was just bullied by her closest friends.

SHE arrives at her box on a street where two alleys meet, crawls inside, takes a big, deep sigh, and disappears into the box as SHE emits a soft, low-pitched, mournful meow.

DELILAH and HOPE pop onstage, searching for ZAZZIE.

DELILAH

(cocking head to listen)

Wait. Do you hear that?

HOPE

(cocking head to listen)

Yup.

DELILAH

(sniffing the air twice)

Do you smell that?

HOPE

(sniffing the air twice)

Yup.

DELILAH

Well, that smells and sounds like a . . .

ZAZZIE mewls from inside the box.

DELILAH, HOPE

(slowly; sadly)

Sad cat.

ZAZZIE mewls again.

HOPE

(pointing to ZAZZIE's cardboard box)

Over there!

THEY run over to the box. More (and bigger) mewling.

DELILAH, HOPE

(even slower and sadder)

Really sad cat.

HOPE

Zazzie? Oh, c'mon, Zazzie. We know you're in there.

DELILAH

And we saw what happened at your show tonight. Are you okay?

HOPE

And it's okay if you're not okay, we just just wanted to make sure that you were okay, okay?

ZAZZIE slowly rises up out of the box.

ZAZZIE

Well, I guess I'm okay.

ZAZZIE emits a big, defeated, sad mewl.

Alright, I'm not gonna lie . . . I'm really not okay. I mean, after tonight, it's quite clear that my friends don't believe in me anymore. Nobody believes in me anymore. / don't believe in me anymore.

DELILAH

But I believe in you. And so does my twin sister, here.

HOPE

That's me!

DELILAH

That's her!

HOPE

That's right!

ZAZZIE

Well, gosh . . . that's so kind of you . . . wait. You two are twins?

DELILAH

Since birth!

THEY pose again, like THEY did for KIRBY earlier.

DELILAH, HOPE

See the resemblance?

ZAZZIE

Oh, cool! And thank you for checking up on me and believing in me . . . I'm sorry. Here I am being all sad and gloomy and wallowy and I didn't even catch your names.

DELILAH

Well then, allow us to . . . throw them your way!

NO. 7 ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS SAY WHEN

DELILAH

I AM DELILAH

HOPE

MY NAME IS HOPE

DELILAH

WE ARE TWIN GOPHERS

BOTH

IN TWIN LOAFERS

HOPE

WE LOVE YOUR MUSIC

DELILAH

SO, TAKE A BOW!

BOTH

WE JUST SAW YOUR SHOW AND THOUGHT IT WAS
ABSOLUTELY A WOW!

DELILAH

(a la vaudeville comedy duo)

Hey Hope!

HOPE

(also going all vaudevillian)

Yes, Delilah?!

DELILAH

Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

HOPE

Wait. Let me check.

HOPE looks at DELILAH intensely, trying to
hear her thoughts. THEY are twinning now.

HOPE (CONT.)

Yup! Great minds . . .

DELILAH

Think alike! Hey, Zazzie . . .

ZAZZIE

(tentative but playing along)

Uh, yes, Delilah?

DELILAH

We have an idea!

HOPE

That we think will cheer you up!

ZAZZIE

Oh, that's so nice but I don't think anything could cheer me up. Not even this incredibly bouncy twin tune.

DELILAH

Oh well . . .

After a few moments of expecting the BAND to
SHE stops the BAND.

Enough!

(calming herself; making a pronouncement)

Never underestimate the power of a bouncy twin tune.

You see . . .

DELILAH

THERE'S A THEATER
IN THE PARK

HOPE

SITTING EMPTY
SITTING DARK

DELILAH

AND EMPTY THEATERS
NEED A CROWD

HOPE

A CROWD THAT CHEERS,
CHEERS REALLY LOUD

DELILAH, HOPE

ZAZZIE
THEY'LL BE CHEERING ZAZZIE
ZAZZIE, WE LOVE YOU

ZAZZIE

Oh, well, I'm not sure . . .

DELILAH

SO I WAS THINKING

HOPE

AND SO WAS I

DELILAH

THAT YOU SHOULD GO THERE

BOTH

DO A SHOW THERE

HOPE

JUST SING A NUMBER

DELILAH

OR TWO

HOPE

OR TEN

DELILAH

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF ALL PUBLICITY

HOPE

PAY THE RENT AND ELECTRICITY

BOTH

IT'S YOUR SHOW IT'S THAT SIMPLICITY

JUST

SAY

WHEN

ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS SAY WHEN!

FINAL POSE.

DELILAH

Oh, Zazzie, we'd love to put your show in that empty theater — y'know, present your act?

HOPE

Present your act - that's a fact!

DELILAH, HOPE

Yes, we want to present your act . . . Zazzie, The Singing Cat!

DELILAH

Y'know . . . kinda be like, I dunno, producers.

HOPE

(discovering her new passion)

Yah, producers!

DELILAH

(discovering her new passion)

Producers!

DELILAH, HOPE

We're producers!

ZAZZIE

Oh, I really appreciate your very kind offer and you should totally be producers . . . twin producers, that would be twin-tastic! But the thought of me getting back up on any stage after tonight terrifies me. I'm sorry but . . . I don't know if I'll ever climb out of this box again.

DELILAH

We get it, Zazzie.

HOPE

There's no rush.

DELILAH

It's okay to not be okay . . .

HOPE

Until you're ready to be okay. Okay?

NO. 8 IT'S OKAY TO FEEL BLUE

DELILAH

IT'S OKAY TO FEEL SAD

HOPE

IT'S OKAY TO FEEL BLUE

DELILAH

WHEN SOMEONE IS CONSTANTLY PICKING ON

HOPE

AND TEASING YOU

DELILAH

NOW SOMETIMES LIFE'S UNFAIR

HOPE

BUT YOU'RE STRONG, YOU'LL GET THROUGH, I SWEAR.

I swear.

DELILAH

SO, JUST TAKE A BREATH

HOPE

AND JUST TAKE YOUR TIME

BOTH

UNTIL YOU'RE FEELING READY
TO SING THIS SIMPLE RHYME

HOPE

And I think you know it really well . . .

BOTH

REEBEE DEDOO DADA

THEY hold, waiting for ZAZZIE to sing 'DADA.'
SHE doesn't.

DELILAH

Okay, okay, that's alright. Let's just try it again.

ZAZZIE nods that SHE's ready to give it a try.

HOPE

Okay, here we go.

BOTH

REEBEE DEDOO DADA

KIRBY enters followed by FRANKIE and the PIGEONS.

KIRBY

(interrupting)

Dada.

The music stops as KIRBY feels bad for interrupting THE GOPHERS.

KIRBY (CONT.)

Oh, I'm sorry, I just . . . well . . . oh, Zazzie . . .

PADGETT

Allow me, well-meaning, contrite rabbit. Y'see Zazzie . . . after all that we've been through . . .

PEYTON

I will make it up to you . . .

BLAIR

I promise you.

ZAZZIE

Re-really, Chicago?

PADGETT

And though . . . sorry seems to be the hardest word . . .

FRANKIE

And Elton John.

PEYTON

I'm sorry . . .

BLAIR

So sorry . . .

BLAIR, PEYTON

Brenda Lee.

FRANKIE

Who's sorry now?

KIRBY

I am.

PIGEONS, KIRBY, FRANKIE

We are.

BEAT as ZAZZIE considers the apology. SHE looks to the GOPHERS looking for guidance.

GOPHERS

Connie Francis was a musical legend.

ZAZZIE smiles, nods.

ZAZZIE

I have to admit, the fact that y'all went to such great lengths to come up with such an exhaustive Top 40 countdown of 'I'm Sorry' songs just to say I'm sorry - well, it's just . . . it's sweet.

BEAT.

ZAZZIE (CONT.)

And I hope this alley is covered by ASCAP.

Listen . . . my friends . . . I'm alright. Nobody worry 'bout me.

ALL OTHERS

Footloose!

BLAIR

(doing headbanger, rock hands)

Kenny Loggins! Yaaaaaaah!

ALL stare at BLAIR who has shown a sudden burst of emotion.

(realizing)

Oh.

BLAIR loses the rocker pose.

ZAZZIE

Though watching all of you jump on the bullying bandwagon really hurt . . . I understand. It's easy to get swept up in the frenzy of trying so hard to just to fit in and, well, now I realize that all that bullying wasn't really about me.

KIRBY

It was about us. We get it.

THEY all bow their heads, contrite.

ZAZZIE

And that's why your apologies mean so much to me. You owned up to it.

PEYTON

That's what friends are for?

ZAZZIE

And curtain on the song titles.

THEY all laugh.

Everyone makes mistakes. And mistakes . . . well, they can be fixed as long as both sides are willing.

KIRBY takes ZAZZIE's paw.

KIRBY

Thank you, Zazzie. You're the best friend a rabbit . . .

PIGEONS

And pigeons.

FRANKIE

And rats.

KIRBY

Could ever have.

BEAT.

9. REEBEE DEDOO DADA (REPRISE)**KIRBY (CONT.)**

Now, c'mon . . . whaddya say we all sing with you? Together. You've never let me give up on my dream of flying and I'm not about to let you give up on your love of singing. I got you. We all got you, no matter what.

REEBEE DEDOO DADA

ZAZZIE

(timidly; when the AUDIENCE finishes)

Dada.

ALL (EXCEPT ZAZZIE)

REEBEE DEDOO DA—

ALL (INCLUDING ZAZZIE)

DE-EE-EE-EE

KEEP ON SINGIN' IT
AND SINGIN' IT
TO YOURSELF
IN ALL PARTS HARMONY-E-E-E!

UNDERSCORING as KIRBY and ZAZZIE hug.

The scene and time change to ZAZZIE's sold-out concert in the park three weeks later.

BAND: Short drum roll; tremolo.

KIRBY

And now . . . making her grand return to the stage . . .

DELILAH

Appearing exclusively here at the New Amsterdam Theatre in the Park . . .

HOPE

Thanks to our Uncle Hamish . . .

DELILAH

Who is standing in the back . . .

HOPE

Collecting donations for next season's Broadway series . . .

DELILAH

Bringing you classic musicals, each featuring an all rodent cast . . . such as . . .

HOPE

Me and My Squirrel . . .

DELILAH

And . . .

HOPE

The Goodbye Squirrel . . .

DELILAH

And everyone's favorite . . .

HOPE

Funny Squirrel - featuring the real-life story of vaudeville comedienne . . .

BAND cuts out.

DELILAH, HOPE

Fanny Mice!

BAND: Cymbal crash as ALL applaud in excitement.

KIRBY

Now . . . please welcome back to the stage . . .

DELILAH, HOPE

Kicking off a thirteen week run . . .

KIRBY, DELILAH, HOPE

The one, the only . . .

KIRBY, DELILAH, HOPE

Zazzie!

ZAZZIE

REEBEE DEDOO DADA

ALL
DADA!

REEBEE DEDOO DA—

ROZ interrupts the song with very loud sobbing noises.

BAND: Breakdown.

ZAZZIE

One of these days we're actually going to finish this song.

ROZ enters. PIGEONS gasp.

PIGEONS

Oh no - it's the return of Roz!

FRANKIE

(dramatic cliffhanger; musically)

Bum, bum, buuuuum!

PEYTON

Roz! The town critic and big bad bully!

FRANKIE

(dramatic cliffhanger, musically bigger)

Bum, bum, buuuuuuum!

PADGETT

Look. She's crying. She hates Zazzie's music so much that she's actually crying!

FRANKIE

(dramatic cliffhanger; musically even louder)

Bum, bum . . .

ALL OTHERS

We get it!

FRANKIE gives everyone the thumbs up.

ROZ

(through tears)

Look . . . I got something to say. I'm crying because I think . . .

KIRBY

It doesn't matter what you think, Roz. We won't let you bully our friend, Zazzie, anymore.

DELILAH

Yah. Your words hurt.

HOPE

Yah.

HOPE begins to flinch randomly.

Ouch! Oh! Oh wow! Oooooo! Ow!

ALL look at HOPE, confused.

What?

(explaining)

That's Roz's words hurting me.

ZAZZIE

(interrupting)

Guys, guys - thanks. But I got this.

SHE takes a few steps toward ROZ.

Roz. You may not like my voice . . . heck, everybody in the world may not like my voice, but . . . it's *my* voice. Unique to *me*. And as long as I like it, and it doesn't hurt anybody else, well, that's all that really matters.

FRANKIE starts a slow clap.

I wasn't quite finished.

FRANKIE

(another thumbs up)

I knew that. I *knew* that.

ZAZZIE

(to ROZ)

Y'see . . . it's not only *your* voice in the room that counts, Roz. Everyone has a voice that needs to be heard, right or *wrong*. And we may not agree . . . on anything . . . but we still have to listen to each other and be more careful in what we say when we don't see eye to eye. One voice should never drown out all others.

BEAT.

There. I've had *my* say.

(excited; liberated)

And boy does it feel good!

ZAZZIE (CONT.)*(composing herself)*

Okay, Roz - you're up. The stage is yours.

ROZ

Oh. Um . . . okay. Well . . . what I've been trying to tell you is . . . well, it's your voice. I don't like it.

ALL gasp.

I love it! I'm crying because it's so beautiful - I absolutely *love* the sound of your vocal stylings!

ZAZZIE

Oh. But before . . . well, you made fun of my singing . . .

ALL (EXCEPT ROZ, ZAZZIE)

Yah!

ZAZZIE

Like literally did a whole 5-minute show-stopping, eleven o'clock number about how much you hated my voice.

ALL (EXCEPT ROZ, ZAZZIE)

Yah!

ZAZZIE

Catchy and entertaining . . .

ALL (EXCEPT ROZ, ZAZZIE)*(matter-of-factly)*

Yah . . .

ZAZZIE

But hurtful.

ALL (EXCEPT ROZ, ZAZZIE)

Yah!

ROZ

I know, I know.

(desperate to explain)

But I've been working on a truthful, redemptive monologue that may help you better understand me. Y'know, get a more layered idea about from whence all this evil comes.

(to the BAND)

ROZ (CONT.)

Hey, Piano Person, you got any music for this? Y'know - like a bed of meaningful sound whirling around me as I bare my soul to the masses here.

NO. 10 THE APOLOGY

BAND: Plays upbeat, bouncy music, perhaps the Gophers' song again (ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS SAY WHEN).

ALL (except ROZ) sway to the music.

ROZ (CONT.)

Yah, yah — not quite as melodramatic as I would've liked. How about we dial back the *Hello, Dolly!* and crank up the *Les Mis*?

The BAND begins 'THE APOLOGY.'

Okay then - 80s pop ballad it is.

(to ZAZZIE)

Y'see Zazzie, ever since I can remember, I've wanted to tread the boards. Y'know, sing, act . . .

(strikes a Fosse pose)

Dance. Make people smile and feel happy, like you do now, Zazzie. So, I took a whole smorgasbord of theater classes - but it was the dancing that fed my artistic appetite.

Y'see . . .

AS A CHILD

(striking a classical Shakespearean pose; Brit accent)

I WAS NO - SIR LAURENCE MOLE-LIV-EE-AY

(back in ROZ's own voice; melodramatic)

YES, IT'S A FACT

THAT I COULDN'T ACT

But girl - I COULD PAS DE BOURRÉE

AND AS A LITTY-BITTY KID

(imitating a belting Ethel Merman)

I WAS NO ETHEL VERMIN, NO

(back in ROZ's own voice; melodramatic)

I COULDN'T SING

JUST NOT MY THING