

The Keymaster

by Nick Perrin

with Ruth Kenward



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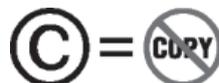
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Director's Notes

CAST

There are **five main characters** who are on stage throughout the show, as they travel between, and view, the scenes from history. **The historical scenes have cast sizes varying from 4 to 15+.** In addition a chorus is needed for the songs. This chorus can be made up of the scene actors, but can include as many other children as are available. It is possible to put on this very flexible show in many different ways:

- A class of 30 could present the whole show, sharing historical scenes between alternating groups, with costume changes made during the linking dialogue between main characters.
- Each historical scene could be taken by a separate class or group, making this an ideal show for large presentations.
- All the historical scenes are self-contained pieces that can be taken out of the context of the show and used for short assembly presentations, or the songs may be used independently.

MAIN CHARACTERS – required throughout the show

KEYMASTER	Starts out as a supply teacher, then transforms quickly into a quirky, eccentric character, very enthusiastic.
MAX	Interested, bright and sensible. Often refers to his dad.
SAMANTHA	Know-all, irritatingly smug.
BEN	Cheeky, impulsive. Pushes boundaries to the limits.
C-J (Carla-Jo)	Not very bright, but warm, caring and eager to please.

[The actors for historical scenes can be seated within the CHORUS during other scenes, if not doubling up.]

NORMANS - Battle of Hastings

COMMENTATORS 1 & 2	Sheepskin coats, shirt & tie, microphones, headphones.
NORMANS	6-8 children, pointy blue helmets with straight bits to cover the nose, tabards with blue cross down the front. (<i>non speaking</i>)
ENGLISH (Saxons)	6-8 children, pointy red helmets <u>without</u> straight bits to cover the nose, tabards with red cross down the front. (<i>non speaking</i>)
HAROLD	Dressed as a Saxon, but with a crown. (<i>one spoken line</i>)
WILLIAM	Dressed as a Norman, but with a crown. (<i>non speaking</i>)

TUDORS - Strange Remedies

DOCTOR	White coat / apron covered in gore.
PATIENT 1	Arms and/or chest covered with nasty red sores.
PATIENT 2	Face covered with nasty pus-filled blisters (from a joke shop!).
PATIENT 3	Very pale face, shadows under the eyes, coughing badly.
UNDERTAKERS 1 & 2	Wearing black. (<i>non speaking</i>)

STUARTS - Gunpowder, Treason and Plot

GUY FAWKES	Black cloak, knee length trousers, long socks, hat. Pointy beard.
SERGEANT	White tabard with black raven emblem. Helmet.
SOLDIERS 1 & 2 + extras	“ “ “ “ “ “

GEORGIANS 1 - 18th Century Smugglers

LANDLORD	White shirt, dark waistcoat, knee length trousers, long socks, short white apron, tankard and cloth.
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LORD GUTSWORTHY	Velvet jacket and knee length trousers in rich colours. Ruffled shirt, long socks, wig if possible. Purse.
SERVING MAID	Full skirt, short sleeved white shirt, white apron, mop cap.
VILLAGERS 1 & 2, + extras	Boys: Rough plain shirts, knee length trousers, knotted neckties, bare legs. Girls: as serving maid, minus apron and mop cap.
EXCISE MEN 1 & 2	Black breeches & jacket, white shirt with legal style square lapels.

GEORGIANS 2 - Industrial Revolution

JIM	Black breeches, shirt.
WORKERS 1/2 + extras	As Jim, maybe with flat caps, to be taken off when work starts.
RECRUITING OFFICERS 1/2	Long black jackets, white high collar shirts.
MANAGER	Knee length breeches. Ruffled shirt. Long waistcoat.

VICTORIANS - Children At Work

BOSESSES	Long black coats and trousers, top hats. Fancy waistcoats.
SERVANT GIRLS	Black dresses with white aprons and mob caps.
MINERS	Grubby shirts, breeches, bare feet or working boots.
CHIMNEY SWEEPS	Breeches, grubby shirts, waistcoats, caps, bare feet.
MARY	As servant girls, of which she is one.
MOTHER	Brown dress, blouse, waistcoat over. Mob cap. Rolling pin.
FATHER	Long black trousers, waistcoat, plain shirt.
PUB EXTRAS	As father, different waistcoats (muted colours), shirts.

EDWARDIANS - Votes For Women

WOMAN 1/2/3 + extras	Suffragettes wearing sashes with words 'Votes for Women' and carrying placards.
MAN 1/2/3 + extras	City gents, bowler hats and suits. Assorted 1920s-style clothing.
POLICEMAN	Old fashioned helmet if possible, truncheon.
SERGEANT	As policeman, but with stripes to go with his rank.
PHOTOGRAPHER	Tweed jacket. Camera with big round flash, tripod with cloth.
REPORTER	Casual jacket, trilby hat. Notepad and pen.
NEWSPAPER BOY	Flat cap. Sandwich board which reads 'Government Softens On Votes For Women'. Newspapers.

WORLD WAR 2 - Evacuees

EVACUEE	1940s overcoat with belt. Suitcase. Gas mask if poss, label around neck. School cap.
CHILD 1,2,3 + extras	1940s shorts or pleated skirt, shirts, tank top.

ESSENTIAL PROPS / SCENERY

The essential items are: Large old-fashioned style keys, each with a date on it in number form. Also a keyhole container – the Timelock! Could be a simple cylinder, or (ideally) a large hour-glass shape with a keyhole at the top, as shown on the book cover.

A raised platform should be placed upstage Centre, to serve a variety of purposes: e.g. Harold's position on the hill in 1066, overseeing platform for bosses in Victorian times ('Work Hard' song), etc. If doing the Victorian Melodrama a doll is needed to be the baby.

Other props / scenery are at the director's discretion; notes are given at the beginning of each scene and in costume notes. However very little is required, and much can be left to the imagination.

NARRATED VERSION

A version for Narrator (Keymaster) and Chorus is included in the Pupil Photocopy Master set. Different singing parts (solos/groups) are as the main script, but no acting / movement is necessary.

Director's Overview

Scene 1 In A Modern Day Classroom

SONG **HISTORY IS BORING / THE KEYMASTER** Ⓞ 1 / 13

A group of children, clearly bored with their history lesson, are monotonously chanting facts and dates, lead by a new Supply Teacher. Max, Samantha, Ben, and C.J. are in prominent positions. After the chorus the Supply Teacher exits and quickly transforms into The Keymaster. Showing them the keys, The Keymaster explains that these are the keys to history and when put into the time lock will take them back into the past. Although the children think he's crazy, they decide to play along. A key is inserted into the time lock. Each time this happens throughout the show, the Keymaster, Max, Samantha, Ben, and C.J. become Time Travellers (with lighting effects etc.).

SOUND EFFECT **TIME TRAVEL** Ⓞ 25

Scene 2 1066 - The Battle Of Hastings

Football match style commentary of the key events of the battle as they unfold, acted by Norman and Saxon groups.

SONG **THE BIG MATCH** Ⓞ 2 / 14

The Time Travellers reflect on what they have seen. The next key is put into the time lock. **(This pattern of dialogue occurs after each song)**

SOUND EFFECT **TIME TRAVEL** Ⓞ 25 / 26

Scene 3 1558 - Tudor Physicians

SONG **NEVER DRINK THE TUDOR WATER** Ⓞ 3 / 15

Three patients seek remedies from the Doctor for their ailments, with inevitable consequences!

SOUND EFFECT **TIME TRAVEL** Ⓞ 25 / 26

Scene 4 1605 - Guy Fawkes

SONG **GUY FAWKES HIDING** Ⓞ 4 / 16

A group of soldiers search for Guy Fawkes in the cellars of The Houses of Parliament. They capture, question and torture the traitor, before finally executing him.

SOUND EFFECT **TIME TRAVEL** Ⓞ 25 / 26

Scene 5 1714 - A Smuggler's Tale

SONG **THE MOONRAKERS** Ⓞ 5 / 17

Set in an old village inn - the villagers tell their smuggling secrets to the Lord of the Manor, Lord Gutsworthy, for a price! They act out events of how they fool the King's Excise men by pretending to be village idiots.

SOUND EFFECT **TIME TRAVEL** Ⓞ 25 / 26

Scene 10 20--? - Into The Future

The children are shocked and saddened by the devastation that they see. Predictions about the climate, the effects of global warming etc. have become a reality.

SONG

TOO LATE?

⦿ 11 / 23

It gradually dawns on the children that this is the future - it hasn't happened yet! They realise that it is they themselves who are the real Keymasters, as their actions are the key to their own future. They must go back and tell others what they've learnt.

SOUND EFFECT

TIME TRAVEL

⦿ 25 / 26

Scene 11 Back To The Present

The Keymaster has turned back into the supply teacher. All join in final song, declaring that they will try to make a difference to the future in their own lives – 'Let's make history!'

SONG

WE HAVE THE KEYS

⦿ 12 / 24