

# Director's Notes

Script	7
Piano-Vocal Score	35
Licence Application Form	89
Index	90

## SUMMARY

Zack's Zoo is due to open, but he refuses to open the gates to the public until all the animals have passed their Standard Animal Tests. The animals, meanwhile, are behaving in far from 'standard' ways – and some of them are downright wacky!

Joe Public and his friends are tired of waiting for the zoo to open, so they stage a protest. To prove the animals aren't ready to be seen, Zack lets the 'Publics' in to observe the testing process – but Joe and his friends love the quirky animals just as they are, and think this zoo is the best ever! Joe suggests renaming it 'The Zany Zoo' so that people will know what to expect.

Once Zack sees the animals in a new light, he stops trying to standardise them. He even apologises for not appreciating their individuality, and declares: 'The Zany Zoo is opening right now!'

**CAST LIST** *Minimum cast of 24 (with some doubling and no hyenas), ideal cast 30-40, but easily extends to 60+*

### Zookeepers

Zack	Central character - the person in charge of the zoo. Obsessed with meeting what he thinks are the public's expectations. Stickler for rules, conformity etc.
Zeb & Zoë	Zack's helpers. <i>(could be merged into one part)</i>
Kieran & Kaye	Junior keepers. <i>(could be merged into one part)</i>
<b>The 'Publics'</b>	<i>Scripted as two groups of four, but may be more or less, according to cast size.</i>
'J' Publics	<b>Joe, Jessie, Josh &amp; Jemma Public.</b> Joe and Jessie have most dialogue.
'M' Publics	<b>Matt, Misha, Mark &amp; Maddy Public.</b> Matt and Misha have most dialogue.

### Animals *(in order of appearance)*

Chimpanzees (3+)	Lively, cheeky, obsessed with keeping the zoo clean. <i>(Ideally 5 chimps.)</i>
Veggie Alligator	Vegetarian. Cute and harmless! Very little dialogue.
Fish (3+)	Styled as synchronised swimmers <i>(non-speaking parts)</i>
Fishy No-Swim	Can't swim at first, but learns to do so. Cute! Ideally a smaller child.
Sid Spangle	Supremely confident! Well connected in showbiz, stylish, smooth operator.
Tigers (3+)	Cheerleaders, Sid Spangle's groupies. <i>(Ideally 5 tigers.)</i>
Tina Tippytoes	Far too slim for an elephant as she keeps fit doing ballet.
Hyenas (3+, optional)	A chaotic rabble who laugh noisily. <i>(Ideally 5 hyenas.)</i>
Mama Llama	Came from an Italian circus where she learned to love Italian cooking. Italian accent.
Spiders (3+)	Resentful that they are disliked, and plotting to take over the world with a world-wide web.

### Extras

Animals	Any kind suitable for zoo: giraffes, zebras, kangaroos, penguins, lions, etc.
People	Reporters, photographers, visitors <i>(to appear during 'It's A Zany Zoo')</i> .

## CASTING TIP

The characters with the most dialogue are Zack, Zeb and Zoe, followed by Joe, Jessie, Matt and Misha. The other two parts that need careful casting for character are Sid Spangle and Mama Llama.

**Note:** When the 'Chorus' are referred to, e.g. for singing purposes, this implies all those not involved in the main action at any given time, or all other than soloist.

## PROPS

General	Large sign reading : 'Zack's Zoo - Opening Soon', and on the reverse reading: 'Zoo Now Open!' Sandwich board for final scene, 'No.1 Attraction!'
Zookeepers	Table and three chairs; clipboard and pen; reception bell and buzzer.
Chimpanzees	Cleaning equipment: mop & bucket, broom, feather dusters, spray polish, etc. Vacuum cleaner if possible.
Veggie Alligator	Shopping bag/trolley with vegetables mentioned in the song. Carrot to chew.
Publics	Vouchers. Placards with slogans, e.g. 'Open Up Now!' 'Let Us In!' etc.
Mama Llama	Cooking equipment. Some dough to knead and slap back and forth. Pre-made pizza (real or fake).

## COSTUMES

### People

Zookeepers	Ideally boiler suits or dungarees and suitable hat (similar to the one on the front cover). All should be the same colour for ease of recognition. Zack should have a collar and tie under his to indicate that he's the boss.
Publics	Ordinary clothes, but colour code 'J' Public and 'M' Public in contrasting tones.
Reporters	Tabards over ordinary clothes, with 'PRESS' on the back; camera, notebook.

### Animals

Animal onesies are the simplest solution, but otherwise simply dress children in correct colours for their animals, and use face paint and ears on headbands.

Chimpanzees	Black-brown clothing with light brown 'chest' patch and ears, bare feet. Yellow household gloves (optional).
Fish	Coloured leotards / T-shirts & leggings, ideally including synchronised swimming items, e.g. swimming hats to tone in with outfit, and nose clips (optional).
Fishy No-Swim	As Fish, but in contrasting colour and with 'L' plate and water wings to attach when he begins to swim.
Mama Llama	Light brown clothing with woolly trim and banana-shaped ears on headband. Apron (perhaps red, or with Italian flag colour scheme).
Tina Tippytoes	Tutu and ballet shoes. There are some great elephant onesies available, but otherwise use grey leggings, and leotard, and a grey hood with large pink-lined ears, trunk and tusks attached.
Tigers	Tiger facepaint, tigerskin leotards and leggings. Cheerleader style skirts and pompoms.
Sid Spangle	Showbiz-style sequinned tailcoat, black top hat and cane. Bow tie with stars and stripes. Facepaint as a tiger.
Spiders	Black sweatshirt with two extra pairs of 'legs' (stuffed tights) attached, with strong thread / string joining extra legs to the arms so they will move when waggled. Big black spectacles. Black beanie hat with hair tucked in & fake eyes attached.

# Director's Overview

## **Song - THERE'S A ZOO NOT FAR FROM YOU**

⦿ **Track 1 / 13**

Zack the zookeeper won't open his zoo because he thinks the animals won't meet people's expectations. The public ('J' Publics & 'M' Publics) are clamouring to get in, and Joe Public challenges Zack, waving a discount voucher that's due to expire very soon. Zack insists that the animals will be ready when they've passed their Standard Animal Tests. He shoos the 'Publics' away, then finds that Zeb and Zoë have bad news: the cleanliness-obsessed chimpanzees have escaped and caused problems in the skunk enclosure. Zack, Zeb and Zoë go off in search of the chimpanzees, but no sooner have they gone than the chimps appear, armed with dusters and brooms, and complaining about the dirt and litter.

## **Song - OO-OO-OOVERING THE JUNGLE**

⦿ **Track 2 / 14**

Zack, Zeb and Zoë return, and send the chimps back to their enclosure with a reprimand. The Standard Animal Test for chimpanzees does not include cleaning! Zack sets about testing all the animals. Those that fail are heading for the circus.

## **Song - VEGGIE ALLIGATOR**

⦿ **Track 3 / 15**

Veggie Alligator fails his Standard Animal Test on the grounds that he's not a carnivore, and therefore 'not a proper alligator'. Kieran and Kaye bring on the Fish to be tested.

## **Incidental - AQUARIUM (extract from Carnival Of The Animals)**

⦿ **Track 4 / 16**

The Fish are doing very well in their tests until Kieran & Kay point out that Fishy No-Swim can't swim. However, during the song he learns to do so.

## **Song - LITTLE FISHY NO-SWIM**

⦿ **Track 5 / 17**

Now that all the fish can swim, they've passed their SATs! Zack is delighted, but then the tests are disrupted by the 'Publics', who march on with placards, protesting that they want the zoo to open immediately. Their parents paid good money for their vouchers! What's more, they disapprove of animal testing on the grounds of cruelty. Zack defends the SATs, and allows the Publics to stay and watch. Next up are cheerleading Tigers, announcing the arrival of the one and only Sid Spangle, an old hand in showbiz.

## **Song - MY NAME IS SID SPANGLE**

⦿ **Track 6 / 18**

Although the Publics love the Tigers, they're nothing like the fierce creatures they should be, so Zack writes them off as only fit for a circus. Undeterred, Sid Spangle and his Tigers leave with heads held high: at least they'd be valued in a circus. Next is Tina Tippytoes, far too elegant and athletic to pass the SATs for elephants.

## **Song - TINA TIPPYTOES**

⦿ **Track 7 / 19**

Zack is relieved when the hyenas pass their SATs with flying colours: they look like dogs, are very intelligent and laugh a lot. But Zack is about to be disappointed again, because next up is the llama.

## **Incidental - LLAMA'S ENTRY MUSIC**

⦿ **Track 8 / 20**

Mama Llama arrives with cooking equipment, appearing to think she runs a restaurant! Joe Public is impressed; he and Matt order a pizza.

## **Song - IN MAMA LLAMA'S RISTORANTE**

⦿ **Track 9 / 21**

Although Mama Llama has won the Publics' hearts, she fails the SAT for llamas. Zack's resolve begins to falter when the Publics protest: 'The llama has to stay!' Next up are the spiders. Zack insists they are fascinating creatures, but everyone shrinks in disgust when they appear. The spiders, however, have had enough of being treated with such disdain and are plotting revenge!

*(contd. overleaf)*

**Song - A SPIDER'S LIFE**

⦿ Track 10 / 22

The 'Publics' think the Spiders don't belong in a zoo, but Zack is sure they will pass their SATs easily, which they do. Things seem fine until the Chimpanzees reappear to clean up cobwebs left by the Spiders! Exasperated by his chaotic zoo, Zack stalks off and Zeb and Zoë go to fetch him back. Meanwhile, there is a confrontation between Chimps and Spiders during which Sid Spangle happens to pass by. The spiders are refusing to budge.

**A Capella - We Shall Not Be Moved**

*Not on CD*

At this point Sid Spangle intervenes. Having heard the Spiders in fine voice, he hires them to be in his show! Meanwhile, the Publics are really enjoying the wackiness of these animals; Josh and Jemma Public think it's the best zoo ever.

The Fish swim through just as Veggie Alligator is passing by. The cheeky Chimps take the opportunity to tease little Fishy No-Swim. 'Look out! Behind you!' they shout, putting Fishy No-Swim into a panic. But Joe Public swiftly reassures Fishy that he won't be eaten as this alligator prefers pizza. On the mention of pizza, both Mama Llama and Tina Tippytoes promptly appear! Tina, Fishy and Veggie follow Mama Llama to get a pizza, and the Chimps sweep behind them as they leave.

Zack, Zoë and Zeb reappear. The 'Publics' enthuse about what a great time they've had, how brilliant the zoo is and how interesting and unique the animals are. Matt Public thinks people will love the zoo. Joe Public suggests that if it is renamed 'The Zany Zoo', everyone will know what to expect. At last the Zookeepers are persuaded. Zack says: 'The Zany Zoo is opening right now!'

**Song - IT'S A ZANY ZOO**

⦿ Track 11 / 23

The Zookeepers are delighted because everyone does love the zoo. Zoë realises they had forgotten how to accept their animals for who they are. Zack apologises for this being his fault. 'All of you are wonderful in your own way,' he says. 'The Zany Zoo is here to stay!' Everyone celebrates.

**Song - FINALE / CELEBRATE DIVERSITY**

⦿ Track 12 / 24

**Suggested Basic Positioning**

**(This illustration is for a cast of 60+, all on stage throughout)**

