

Name _____ Date _____

Spotlight on Performance Script

Dance, Dance, Dance

Costume/Prop Suggestions

Aunt Gloria should be dressed conservatively with gigantic glasses and hair in a tight bun. She needs to be wearing some type of coat that she can later remove to reveal hip clothing from the 1960s. Kim and Chris can be male or female kids and should be dressed up to date and casual. All of the mannequins should be dressed in 1950s or 1960s attire. Their costumes should be “over the top” and could include poodle skirts, long 1960s wigs, Nehru jackets (stand-up collars), and so on. Have cast members check out their own parent’s and grandparent’s attics to see what kind of treasure troves they can find.

Set Suggestions

Create an attic for the set. All that is necessary is lots of cardboard boxes stacked high, an old turntable, and vinyl records (for display only).

Script Begins

(Please note: All characters can be played by either males or females. Aunt Gloria would become Uncle Glenn, and so on.)

Kim: Chris, I never knew one attic could hold so much...stuff.

Chris: What is all this stuff?

Kim: Boxes and boxes and boxes of...

(As they move one of the boxes, a room full of frozen mannequins is revealed. They are immediately frightened out of their wits.)

Kim and Chris: AHHHHHHHHHHH!

(They fall all over themselves trying to get away. They can even start falling over the mannequins; however the mannequins must remain perfectly stiff. Unison screaming happens intermittently as the chaos ensues. This scene should be comedic, not frightening. Finally, the girls and guys realize that what they are seeing are mannequins and they settle down and silently stare at each other.)

Chris: *(after the silent pause)* Kim, I remember now that Aunt Gloria used to work as a window dresser for some big store downtown. I guess these were some of her ...”dressings.”

Kim: I could have used a little warning, Chris.

Chris: Yeah, like I thought about it before now. Well at least the shock is over. Nothing more weird than this can happen now.

Kim: Well, I guess I'm just a little bit ... *(searching to find the word)* unnerved.

Chris: Kim, it was your idea to volunteer us for cleaning out Aunt Gloria's attic.

Kim: Chris, we are getting paid... by the hour.

(Both of them looking around in bewilderment)

Chris: We're gonna be rich.

Kim: Not if we don't get started.

Chris: OK, let's dig in.

Aunt Gloria: *(from offstage)* If you guys need anything, let me know. Hang in there. Some of that stuff has been up there over fifty years.

(Chris starts opening up a large box and pulls out a turntable.)

Kim: What is that?

Chris: Wait a minute. I've seen one of these before. Some documentary about the fifties. It's a table turner.

Kim: *(sarcastically)* a table turner?

Chris: No wait a minute, it's a tune turner, no a table tuner, no it's a tuner table. No, I've got it. It's a table turner tuner.

Kim: No, it's a... a...

Kim and Chris: *(excited and relieved in unison)* A turntable.

Chris: That's it. It's a turntable.

Kim: A turntable. I have heard of that.

Chris: On this documentary it seems like you put these black circular things with grooves on it...

Kim: *(interrupting)* I know. I know. They're called records!

Chris: You're right. Records... that's it. I think this whole setup is like an ancient predecessor to the MP3 player.

Kim: Could be.

Chris: Okay, now, we've got to figure this out. I'm smart enough. I was in the chess club. I can figure this out.

Kim: *(holding up plug)* I think we need to plug it in.

Chris: Brilliant. I'm amazed at our astounding grasp of the obvious.

Kim: I think we ought to work for NASA.

Chris: Okay, let's find an outlet.

Kim: Found one.

(Kim plugs it in.)

Kim and Chris: *(incredulously in unison)* It works.

Chris: Kim, hand me one of those black groovy things.

Kim: *(sarcastically making fun)* Black groovy things. Have you entered the 1960s?

Chris: Okay, I mean one of those black things with grooves on it.

Kim: *(reaching in another box, finding a record and handing it to her)* Here.

(Chris puts the record on the turntable and drops the needle on. The music begins and all the mannequins come to life. It's an instant dance party.)

<p><i>Song 1: At the Hop, p. 306</i></p>

(At the end of the song, the mannequins freeze.)

Kim: What was it you were saying about how nothing weirder than this could happen today?

Chris: Did we just... I mean. Did I just have an out of body experience or were we just like dancing around with these mannequins?

Mannequin 1: *(At first moving and speaking a little stiffly, but then loosening up)* Don't deny it. The music moved you. It moved me.

(Slowly all of the mannequins begin to unfreeze as though they are coming back to life.)

Mannequin 2: It moved me too.

Mannequin 3: Me too.

All Mannequins: Yeah, me too *(and so on)*.

Mannequin 1: *(starting to sound sad)* It's been such a long since we've been able to *(almost crying)* boogie.

Kim: I'm so sorry.

Mannequin 1: I'm so happy to be dancing again. *(to Kim and Chris)* Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Kim: We didn't really do anything. We just plugged in the tuner table turner.

Chris: *(correcting her)* turntable.

Kim: yeah, turntable.

Mannequin 1: Oh, but it means everything to me. Thank you. Thank you. thank you.

Mannequin 4: Enough already. We are glad you're here, but let's cut out all the thank you's and have some more music. Hey, can you play that tune about Cajun music? Something about Louisiana...

(Chris and Kim are going through the records)

Mannequin 4: I think it's something like "Down at the..."

Chris, Kim and Mannequin 4: *(excitedly in unison)* "...Twist and Shout!"

<p><i>Song 2: Down at the Twist and Shout, p. 308</i></p>
--

Aunt Gloria: *(from offstage)* You guys doing okay up there?

(All the Mannequins say "shh" as if they don't want Aunt Gloria to know that they have been raising a ruckus.)

Chris and Kim: We're doing fine, Aunt Gloria.

Chris: Why don't you want Aunt Gloria to know that you're *(quoting Mannequin 1)* "boogying"?

Mannequin 1: You see, Gloria used to love to rock and roll. We all danced in the windows every night after hours. But after the store closed and Gloria became a computer programmer, she seemed to forget about us. *(almost starting to cry)* I'm afraid we might be an embarrassment to her now.

Chris: An embarrassment, no way. I think she'd love to reconnect with you guys.

All Mannequins: I don't know. I'm not so sure about that *(and so on)*.

Kim: Well, we'll see.

Mannequin 3: This is best day I've had in almost fifty years. I was afraid I'd lost it.

Mannequin 4: Lost it? No way. You're better than ever.

Chris: Lost what?

Mannequin 2: Once you've got it, you've got it and we've got it.

Kim: Got what?

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Song 3: We Got the Beat, p. 310</i></p>

Kim: I really do like this antique music.

All Mannequins: *(obviously offended, in unison)* Antique?

Kim: *(realizing that she has offended them)* I don't really mean antique. I mean old...no

Mannequin 4: I think what you're trying to say is that you love classic rock and roll.

Kim: That's exactly what I was gonna say.

Mannequin 4: *(still steaming a bit from the antique remark)* Whatever.

Mannequin 3: The pop music you listen to and the dances you do all have their roots in our music and dance.

Mannequin 1: I remember when there seemed to be a new dance every day. There was always a great rock and roll song and we'd always find just the right moves.

Mannequin 2: I'll never forget the first day I heard the song "Locomotion." We played it over and over and over. I'm surprised there were any grooves left on that record. We danced till our feet were killing us.

(Kim has found "The Locomotion" record and starts to put it on the turntable.)

Mannequin 2: *(continuing)* I can almost hear it now.

(Chris drops the needle.)

<i>Song 4: The Locomotion, p. 312</i>
--

Mannequin 1: Some folks might think we're antique...

Mannequin 2: Some folks might think of us as being from a different century.

Mannequin 4: We are from a different century.

Mannequin 3: True, but hey, we've still got some happy feet.

All Mannequins: We've still got it.

Aunt Gloria: *(from offstage)* Guys, are you still doing okay?

Chris: Aunt Gloria, could you come up here for just a minute?

Aunt Gloria: Sure, just a second.

(All of the mannequins look anxious.)

Mannequins 4: Come on guys. You can still shake it up.

Kim: Chris, put that needle down.

<i>Song 5: Twist and Shout, p. 314</i>

(Aunt Gloria enters in conservative coat, and glasses—with hair in a bun. Once she sees what's going on, she removes her coat transforming her into a 1960s rock and roll dancing, fun-loving teenage girl. She dances with the mannequins.)