

*Daisy
and
The Wonder Weeds*

*by
Jean Elliott Manning*

*Developed in part at The Next Wave Festival of New Musicals
Montreal, Quebec, Canada*

Characters

Note: minimum 12 actors can play 30 roles; all roles can be played by individual actors.

DAISY: female, late teens

DANDELION (aka, DANDY) adolescent male

VIOLET: female/

AUNT DEE: mature female /NETTLE (same actor)

JOSEPH: male/TOUR GUIDE/ CRABGRASS (same actor)

TREE: male/ DUNMORE/BURDOCK/RAGWEED/(same actor)

SIR PENT: male/HELMORE/MILKWEED (same actor)

MUCH MUCH MEGAMORE:male/CANADIAN THISTLE (same actor)

ROSE: female/MAYOR AGELESS EVERMORE (same actor)

FLOWER #1: female; LILAC, DELPHINIUM/CLOVER (same actor)

FLOWER #2: male: TULIP, DAYLILY, HERMAN (pigeon) (same actor)

FLOWER #3: female: DAFFODIL, DAHLIA, HONEY BEE (same actor)

Add Butterflies, Raccoons, Birds, etc., as desired

SONGS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. "Welcome to Megapolis" | Company |
| 2. "When Lilacs are in Bloom" | Daisy and the Flowers |
| 3. "Windy days" | Daisy and Flowers |
| 4. "Weeds" | Weeds and Flowers |
| 5. "Get the Picture" | Megamore, Dunmore, Evermore, Helmore |
| 6. "Keep Wishing" | Daisy, Dandelion, Flowers, Weeds |
| 7. "When Lilies are in Bloom" | Summer Flowers and Weeds |
| 8. "Always Enough" | Company |
| 9. "Dance of Distracted Gardeners" | Weeds, Aunt Dee, Megamore |
| 10. "This is My Home" | Aunt Dee, Herman, Violet, Daisy |
| 11. "Why do the Wild Weeds Come?" | Daisy, Tree and Weeds |
| 12. "Chemical Nightmare" | Nettle and Company |
| 13. "Power of a Flower" | Violet |
| 14. "I'll be Back" | Crabgrass and Weeds |
| 15. "My Favorite Intention" | Dandy, Daisy, Flowers, Weeds |
| 16. "Always Enough" (short reprise) | Flowers and Weeds |
| 17. "Spirit of the Garden" | Company |

(Possible extra song not yet in script: "Listen to the Drums" Flowers and Weeds)

SCENE ONE: AUNT DEE'S DOWNTOWN GARDEN- DAWN- "WELCOME TO MEGAPOLIS"

In mythical Megapolis, somewhere between Oz and Detroit, the rosy fingers of dawn creep across Aunt Dee's downtown garden.

A solitary sunbeam falls on DAISY as she wakes from winter's sleep. Still a tender bud, she stretches luxuriously, then listens...We can almost hear soft voices singing on the breeze.

Confused, Daisy rouses TREE, majestic and wise, growing nearby.

DAISY

Ding dong! Ding dong!

TREE

(reluctantly opening one eye)

Who's there...

DAISY

It's Daisy!

TREE

So it is. Daisy....atdawn. Please go back to bed. It's been a long winter....

(Tree snoozes a moment, but cannot ignore Daisy staring at him relentlessly.)

DAISY

Forgive me, Tree. I know it's early but....Do hear that mysterious sound on the breeze?

(We HEAR singing voices, barely perceptible)

TREE

(listens in a half doze)

Trucks on the boulevard, yes. Sirens on the Avenue, for sure. Mysterious sounds on the breeze?... NO. Not since they bulldozed the ... wait!WAIT!

(The voices grow louder....)

TREE (CONT'D)

(fully awake, excited)

Hip hip halleluia! Could it be? ...Dare we hope? DAISY! The Spirit of the Garden still grows!...Right smack dab in the middle of Megapol-

(We HEAR a door squeak open, then footsteps on the path...)

TREE (CONT'D)

(looking toward the sound)

Uh, oh, she's heading out!

(calling to HERMAN, ace carrier pigeon, sleeping nearby)

HERMAN! Our Gardener is LEAVING THE GARDEN!

(HERMAN wakes with a COO!)

HERMAN

COO!....Helmet, helmet, where's my... GOT IT!

(Fastening his helmet, Herman flaps furiously, then laboriously rises into the air.)

(Careening over the gate, he almost collides with a street light, then flutters after Aunt Dee.)

TREE

(shaking his head)

How that bird ever learned to fly is a mystery to me.

(calling)

Godspeed, Herman!

(watching anxiously)

I hope he can keep up. These days, our gardener tends to... wander...

(We follow Herman as he wings after Aunt Dee across busy Boulevards and noisy streets.)

(Anxious CITIZENS rush to and fro, jostling to buy OXYGEN at a corner dispenser.)

(At a busy crosswalk, a light flashes, "Run for your life!")

(Swept across with the stampeding crowd, Aunt Dee frowns at MEGAMORE TOWERS overhead.)

(Once across, she turns a corner, then stops dead in her tracks. Confused, she looks right, then left.)

AUNT DEE

Herman! Something's wrong! Where did the PARK go? Where AM I?

SONG: "WELCOME TO MEGAPOLIS" : COMPANY

CITIZENS

WELCOME TO MEGAPOLIS, WELCOME TO OUR
HONK HONK, BEEP BEEP CONCRETE CITY
WELCOME TO OUR BIG BRAND NEW MEGAPOLIS

AUNT DEE

(speaks to a Tour Guide)

Can you direct me to the bank?

TOUR GUIDE

I CAN SEE YOU'RE A TOURIST
FROM OUT OF TOWN

AUNT DEE

(speaks)

No, I was born here!

TOUR GUIDE

(sings)

YOU'LL NEED A MAP TO HELP YOU GET AROUND
FORGET THE OLD METROPOLIS
IT'S ALL BEEN REARRANGED
THANKS TO MISTER MEGAMORE
EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED

CITIZENS

WELCOME TO MEGAPOLIS
WELCOME TO OUR HONK HONK,
BEEP BEEP GRIDLOCK CITY
WELCOME TO OUR NEW IMPROVED MEGAPOLIS

AUNT DEE

NOW THE MUSEUM IS A BRAND NEW CASINO
WE USED TO HAVE A PARK
WHERE DID THE PARK GO?

CITIZENS

NOW IT'S A FREEWAY
AND THERE'S NOT A PARK IN SIGHT
AND THANKS TO MISTER MEGAMORE
IT HAPPENED OVERNIGHT

NOW MAIN STREET LOOKS A LOT
LIKE VEGAS OR RENO
WE USED TO HAVE A VIEW
WHERE DID THE VIEW GO?
NOW THERE'S A CONDO
WHERE THERE USED TO BE A VIEW
AND THANKS TO MISTER MEGAMORE
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO

(MR. MUCH MUCH MEGAMORE enters with
HELMORE, his body guard.)

MEGAMORE

WELCOME TO MEGAPOLIS
WELCOME TO OUR DOWNTOWN CORE

CITIZENS
(angrily)

IT'S ONE BIG GIANT PARKING LOT
AND ONE BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG
BIG BIG BOX STORE
AND ANOTHER MEGA HIGH RISE

MEGAMORE

I'VE GOT PLANS FOR MORE

CITIZENS

AND ANOTHER SPRAWLING STRIP MALL

MEGAMORE

I'VE GOT MALLS GALORE

CITIZENS

AND ANOTHER AND ANOTHER
AND ANOTHER AND ANOTHER

AUNT DEE

BENEATH THE STREETLIGHT,
BESIDE THE BUS STOP
WE NEED A MIRACLE
UP THERE ON THE ROOF TOP

AUNT DEE AND HERMAN

BESIDE THE NEWS STAND,
BELOW THE SIDEWALK
BETWEEN THE CRACKS
WHERE THE WEARY CITY FEET WALK

AUNT DEE, HERMAN, CITIZENS

ON EVERY SIDE STREET
WE NEED A DOWNBEAT
WE NEED A MIRACLE
ALIVE IN EVERY HEART BEAT
DOWN IN THE METRO
OH YOU'LL HEAR THE SOUND GROW

(LIGHTS up on TREE and DAISY singing stage
right.)

DAISY

HOLD ON, HOLD ON MEGAPOLIS!

TREE

THE SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN GROWS
IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY
THE SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN KNOWS
EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED

TREE, HERMAN, AUNT DEE

A TENDER SEED IS GROWING UNDERGROUND
AND EVERYWHERE THE GARDEN GROWS

COMPANY

CONCRETE CANNOT KEEP US DOWN!
WELCOME TO MEGAPOLIS, WELCOME TO OUR
HONK HONK, BEEP BEEP FREEWAY CITY
WELCOME TO OUR BIG BRAND NEW MEGAPOLIS

AUNT DEE AND HERMAN

DON'T LET THAT HIGH RISE GET YOU DOWN
MEGAPOLIS IS MY HOME TOWN

COMPANY

WELCOME TO MEGAPOLIS, MY HOME...
HONK HONK BEEP BEEP CONCRETE CITY!

(END OF SONG)

(Entering the BANK, Aunt Dee hands a check to
DIDMORE DUNMORE, banker.)

AUNT DEE

I'm here to pay off my mortgage ... in FULL!

(Aunt Dee hands him a check.)

DUNMORE

Congratulations!

(She turns to leave...)

DUNMORE (CONT ' D)

Don't forget your receipt!

(Dunmore places the receipt in an ENVELOPE,
then hands it to her with a smile.)

AUNT DEE

Silly me! All these years I've saved for this moment! ...Thank you, thank you!

(Hugging the envelope to her heart, she exits,
almost colliding with Megamore.)

MEGAMORE

Aunt Dee!

AUNT DEE

(tosses the ENVELOPE in the air)

Nephew.... Megamore!

(Herman catches the envelope mid-air.)

MEGAMORE

(eying Herman)

What brings you downtown?

AUNT DEE

(evasive)

Very ...important business.

MEGAMORE

What KIND of business?

AUNT DEE

(glares at him)

None of YOURS, nephew.

MEGAMORE

Having a senior moment, Auntie?

AUNT DEE

I'm a little under the weather, if you must know. And if you weren't my nephew, I'd tell you where to go. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO OUR CITY? You've bulldozed every single park in town!

MEGAMORE

I'm a developer. I ...develop.

AUNT DEE

You OVER-develop! But I don't have time to discuss it now...

(glancing at her watch)

Joseph is coming for a photo shoot to celebrate my ...retirement.

MEGAMORE

Retirement? WONDERFUL! Time to downsize! Take a vacation! Get rid of that overgrown garden of yours. Honestly, Auntie, you look exhau-

AUNT DEE

(holds up her hand to silence him)

Nephew. I have been teaching young children for thirty-five years. It's a miracle I can still remember my middle name. Worse, I am SOUL SICK to see what you and Mayor Evermore are doing to our city. Thank goodness I still have a garden that needs -

HELMORE

(interrupting)

Boss has BIG plans for your-

(Megamore muffles Helmore.)

MEGAMORE

What Helmore means is...I'll visit soon.

AUNT DEE

(glaring at Helmore)

Good. It might bring back fond memories. Come, Herman; we've got to get back to the garden.

(Herman swoops dangerously close to Megamore's head; he ducks.)

(Aunt Dee exits; Herman flutters behind.)

MEGAMORE

(to Helmore)

She's up to something.

HELMORE

Your Aunt talks to pigeons?

MEGAMORE

She saved him when he fell out of his nest; now he guards her like a hawk.

SCENE TWO: AUNT DEE'S GARDEN- MID-MORNING - "WHEN LILACS BLOOM"

Lights up on Aunt Dee's downtown Garden in full bloom, still beautiful despite rotting logs, untrimmed hedges and ivy covered walls.

We see an ornate Garden Gate near a street light stage left.

From the porch of Aunt Dee's modest Victorian house, a path leads to the Lily Pond, stage right, where Tree basks in the sun.

A tree house (raised platform) nestles in Tree's branches.

Looming in the background, MEGAMORE TOWERS.

Sleepy SPRING FLOWERS unfold their blossoms; a DAFFODIL yawns, then bursts into bloom with TULIPS and LILACS.

Daisy, now in full bloom, fluffs her radiant petals, then nudges VIOLET sleeping nearby.

DAISY

Wake up, Violet! It's a brand new...

(OOF! A flying plastic bag hits Daisy squarely in the face. She flails. Violet struggles to free her.)

VIOLET

Hold on, Daisy! I'll free you!

(ROSE, Queen of the Flowers, enters. All curtsy as she glides regally across the lawn.)

ROSE

(pointing at a bare patch near Tree)

EGADS! Is that a BARE patch on our... almost... perfect LAWN?

(She swoons. Flowers frantically fan her.)

ROSE (CONT'D)

(staggering to her feet)

No time for EMOTION; we must REHEARSE! The photographer from Glossy Gardening Magazine arrives TODAY! Places everyone!

(Daisy careens across the stage, still entangled in the plastic bag.)

ROSE (CONT'D)

(glares at Daisy)

Violet! Do something! That bag MUST go!

(As Spring Flowers promenade in a showy display...)

(Violet chases Daisy back and forth...)

SONG: "WHEN LILACS ARE IN BLOOM"

SPRING FLOWERS

IN OUR BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN GARDEN
WHEN THE LILACS ARE IN BLOOM
ALL THE AIR IS FILLED WITH FRAGRANCE
AND THE SCENT OF SWEET PERFUME

(We hear a truck roar by. FLOWERS cough.)

FLOWERS

IN OUR BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN GARDEN
WHEN YOU HEAR THE SONGBIRDS SING

DAISY

(flailing)

Help!

FLOWERS
(ignoring Daisy)

IT COULD BE APRIL OR IT COULD BE MAY
YES, IT'S PROBABLY EARLY SPRING

DAFFODILS AND WHIPPOORWILLS
TRILL WHILE THE TULIPS TRILL ALONG
WHILE THE BUGS EAT THE FLOWERS
AND THE BIRDS EAT THE BUGS
ON OUR ALMOST PERFECT LAWN

(Violet tackles Daisy; they roll across the lawn.)

(Distracted Flowers continue their parade.)

WHEN PHOTOGRAPHERS COME CALLING
FROM GLOSSY GARDENING MAGAZINE
IN OUR BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN GARDEN
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN SPRING

FLOWERS (CONT 'D)
(whispering as Rose inspects them)

ROSE IS LIKE A ROSE THAT'S BLOOMING
BUT ROSE SHOULD BE BLOOMING
IN THE MIDDLE OF JULY
BUT THE CALENDAR SAYS IT'S NOT EVEN JUNE

ROSE
(dons sunglasses)

Keep smiling!

(Flowers don sunglasses, then pose.)

FLOWERS AND ROSE

WHEN PHOTOGRAPHERS COME CALLING
 FROM GLOSSY GARDENING MAGAZINE
 DESPITE THE ZANY WEATHER WE'VE BEEN HAVING
 IT'S A BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL,
 BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN SPRING

(END OF SONG)

(Spring Flowers pose in an 'arrangement'.)

(Violet pulls Daisy, still entangled, into it.)

ROSE

Say 'Bees'!

ALL

'Bees'!

SCENE THREE: IN THE GARDEN -MORNING- "WINDY DAYS"

*Suddenly, SIR PENT, wizened garden snake,
 barges through the flower 'arrangement.'*

SIR PENT

Out of my way! Out of my way!

(He adjusts his faux fangs, then his MEDICINE
 POUCH slung over one shoulder.)

(Sir Pent stumbles over Daisy; they flail.)

(Flowers gossip among themselves..)

TULIP

Sir Pent is just a garden snake..

DAFFODIL

Who worked magic long ago...

LILAC

Sir Pent is just a 'has been'!

ALL FLOWERS

And those fangs of his are... FAUX!

(Violet finally frees Daisy and Sir Pent.)

(Sir Pent HISSES; Daisy jumps. Sir Pent slithers to Tree.)

DAISY

Nice running into you too, Sir Pent!

(to Violet)

Free at last! Thank you, Violet! I didn't know life under a plastic bag could be so... bleak. You're my very... best ... friend.

VIOLET

Daisy, I'm your only friend. Except for Tree, of course.

(Daisy and Tree exchange a friendly wave.)

DAFFODILS

(to Daisy)

What were you doing under that bag, listening to your VOICES?

TULIP

Why would Glossy Gardening want to photograph a WILD flower who hears voices?

(Hurt, Daisy turns away.)

VIOLET

She doesn't hear voices! She hears.... um...

(to Daisy)

What exactly do you hear?

DAISY

Frequencies.

LILACS

How weird is THAT? What in the world are 'frequencies'?

DAISY

I wish I knew. I'll add it to my list.

(Daisy pulls out a long list that falls to the ground.
She writes...)

DAISY (CONT'D)

(to Violet)

You know, Tree believes the Spirit of the Garden still grows in Megapolis.

VIOLET

(hugging Daisy)

Silly Daisy! That's just an urban myth.

(Haughty flowers LAUGH at Daisy.)

SONG: "WINDY DAYS"

FLOWERS

(sing)

SHE'S SO BIZARRE, WE THINK SHE'S CRAZY
ROSE IS A ROSE, BUT A DAISY
IS A DAISY... IS A DAISY!

TREE

(to Daisy)

Pay them no mind; you blew here for some wonderful reason.

DAISY

(hugging Tree)

Maybe that's why I love windy days.

SONG: "WINDY DAYS" (DAISY AND THE FLOWERS)

DAISY

(sings)

WINDY WINDY DAYS
 I LOVE THESE WINDY WINDY DAYS
 WHEN EVERY BIRD AND BEE IS REARRANGING
 THE WHOLE WIDE WINDY WORLD IS AMAZING
 ON THESE WINDY AFTERNOONS
 WHEN CLOUDS COME BOUNCING LIKE BALLOONS
 I WISH THAT EVERY FLOWER AND TREE
 THAT'S SINGING WOULD TELL ME WHAT THE WIND
 MIGHT BE BRINGING

WAY UP HIGH, WISH I COULD SEE
 A CLEAR WINDY SKY FLYING OVER ME
 WINDY SKIES OF BLUE
 WON'T YOU PLEASE COME TRUE
 I WISH PATIENTLY ON WINDY DAYS LIKE THESE

MOST DAYS I CAN'T COMPLAIN
 EACH NEW DAY IS A WIDE-EYED WONDERLAND
 NO DAY IS QUITE THE SAME
 I DO MY DANCING IN THE SUN,
 I DO MY DREAMING IN THE RAIN

(Daisy twists her petals, listens. We hear buzzing
 bees, bird song, sirens and traffic.)

DAISY (CONT'D)

AND ON WINDY WINDY DAYS LIKE THESE
 HOW I WISH I COULD HEAR SWEET HARMONIES
 CITY SIDEWALK SYMPHONIES WITH HUMMINGBIRDS
 AND BUMBLEBEES
 DEEP DOWN I KNOW MY WISH WOULD GROW

(To the flowers)

IF ONLY YOU WOULD WISH WITH ME

(Flowers shake their heads, 'No!')

NO?...Oh. OH HOW I WISH YOU'D WISH WITH ME
 WINDY WINDY SPRINGS
 PLEASE GIVE MY WINDY WINDY WISHES WINGS
 HELP ME GATHER MY WISHES IN A BIG BOUQUET
 THEN THROW THEM TO THE WIND
 AND WATCH THEM FLY AWAY
 ONE BRIGHT WINDY DAY

(END OF SONG)

ROSE

But ...where is our Gardener?

DAFFODIL

She's been gone for far too long!

TULIP

Leaving a BARE patch ...

LILACS

On our almost perfect lawn!

(Flowers gaze anxiously at the BARE patch on the lawn near Tree.)

SCENE FOUR: AUNT DEE'S GARDEN- "WEEDS"

Aunt Dee enters, visibly upset as she talks on her flip phone.

Herman, panting, flutters behind with the ENVELOPE in his beak.

AUNT DEE

(on her flip phone)

But, Florrie! Why didn't you TELL me the bank FORECLOSED? ... And you can't afford a lawyer? Look, you and the kids come stay with me ANYTIME. We'll think of... of... something.

(She closes her flip phone, stares into space.)

VIOLET

Herman! What took you so long?

HERMAN

I found her wandering under the off ramp...

ROSE

Again?

HERMAN

She was looking for Mrs. Florentino's garden;... it's an off ramp now.

(Stunned silence.)

(Flowers exchange worried glances.)

ROSE

Another garden ...gone?

LILACS

It's nothing!

DAFFODILS

Don't THINK, don't THINK, don't THINK!

(Herman drops the ENVELOPE containing the receipt into Aunt Dee's hand.)

AUNT DEE

(with joyous relief)

Oh, thank you, Herman, you splendid bird! I almost forgot! What would I do without...

(She puts the envelope in her pocket, then suddenly notices Daisy.)

AUNT DEE (CONT'D)

Oh! My! Goodness! Look... who's... here!

(Basking on Rock, Sir Pent preens, waiting to be petted.)

(But Aunt Dee walks past him to water ...Daisy.)

(Sir Pent HISSES.)

TREE

(whispers to Sir Pent)

Don't be jealous, old friend. She's not ... herself.

SIR PENT

(glaring at Aunt Dee)

Jealous? ME? "Sir Pent the Sage?" No, what I feel deep down is RAGE.

(gazing at High Rises on the horizon)

Dithering and dawdling, she's gone most every day...

While shadows creep across the lawn....and our garden wastes away!

(A High Rise pops up on the horizon, casting a shadow on the lawn.)

AUNT DEE

(removing her hat)

Announcement! Announcement! I'm HOME dear ones! For good! I know you can't understand me, but it makes me feel better pretending you can. I want you to know, now that I'm ...retired... I have wonderful plans for our garden!

(Tree nudges Sir Pent, who scowls despite this news.)

AUNT DEE (CONT'D)

(spying the bare patch near Tree)

Oh, dear. I wonder what I was planning to plant on that bare patch?

(checking her wristwatch)

It will have to wait! Joseph's almost here!... Time for TEA!

(She enters the house. Flowers GASP.)

DAFFODIL

But that bare patch on the lawn needs seeds!

ALL FLOWERS

If our gardener doesn't garden, all we'll get is ...

(Without warning, DANDELION pops up on the bare patch near Tree.)

DANDELION

WEEDS...!

(He ROARS, then LAUGHS. Flowers SHRIEK.)

DANDELION (CONT'D)

(to the Garden)

I love to do that! You are afraid, non?

DAISY

I am NOT!

(Dandelion spins round to spy Daisy.)

(His mouth falls open. We HEAR VIOLINS and TINKLING bells.)

DANDELION

I... I... Bonjour. You are so lovely to meet me. I mean, I..

DAISY

Who ARE you and WHY are you here?

(CLOVER pops up.)

CLOVER

We're here on a VERY important mission! We came to ...

(Dandelion (now referred to as "Dandy") muffles Clover.)

DANDY

What Clover means is... I heard you call.

DAISY

Who called?

DANDY

You called.

DAISY

I didn't call.

(Violet tugs on Daisy's petals.)

VIOLET

(whispers)

Daisy? When you were under that plastic bag? You called... a lot.

DAISY

I... Oh.

(to Dandy)

Well. I may have called, but I did not call ...YOU.

DANDY

(bowing)

And here I am! A champion for a Daisy in distress! Call me 'Dandy'.

(He winks at Tree, scoops up dry earth, then frowns.)

DANDY (CONT'D)

(to the garden)

The soil is impacted, but VOLUNTEERS are on the way! Welcome my companions, the Wild Weeds!

*

FLOWERS

(shrieking)

AGHHHHHHDFH!!!!

SONG: "WEEDS"

DANDELION

I'M THE CHAMPION OF THE WILD WEEDS
 DANDELION'S THE NAME
 I CONFESS I LOVE TO DRIVE
 THOSE GARDENERS INSANE

DEEP DOWN I KNOW THEY LOVE ME
 FOR WHEN I BLOOM AND SPROUT
 IN THE DEWEY DAWN ON THEIR PERFECT LAWN
 I CAN HEAR THEM SCREAM AND SHOUT

FLOWERS

WEEDS! WEEDS! WILD AND WICKED WEEDS
 A'CREEPING AND A'CRAWLING
 AND THEY GROW WHEREVER THEY PLEASE

DANDY

BEFORE YOU SNEER, WE'RE HERE TO TELL YOU
 WHAT THIS GARDEN NEEDS IS
 //DIGGY DIGGY DON DIGGY DIGGY DEE!
 DIGGY DIGGY DEE DON WEEDS//

WEEDS

WE CAME BY SHIP, WE CAME BY STORM
 WE BLEW HERE ON THE WIND
 BY BOAT, BY BIRD, BY BUFFALO TURD
 WE BLOOMED, THEN BLOOMED AGAIN

UNDERNEATH THE OFF-RAMP
 BY THE DITCH WHERE NO ONE GOES
 IN THE CONCRETE CRACKS
 BY THE RAILROAD TRACKS
 WHERE NO ONE EVER GROWS

WEEDS, WEEDS!

WILD AND WONDERFUL WEEDS
 NO ONE REALLY LIKES US
 BUT THE BIRDS AND THE BUZZING BEES
 SO GIVE A CHEER, THE WEEDS ARE HERE
 TO BRING YOU TO YOUR KNEES,
 WE'RE DIGGY DIGGY DON DIGGY DIGGY DEE!
 //DIGGY DIGGY DEE DON WEEDS//

NETTLE

WHEN YOUR TUMMY ACHES
 WHEN YOU'RE FEELING BAD
 WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY, WHEN YOU BLEED
 I'M EDIBLE AND MEDICINAL
 NETTLE'S WHAT YOU NEED

CANADIAN THISTLE

BET I CAN CLEAN YOUR LIVER
 MAKE IT CLEANER THAN A WHISTLE
 AND I'M ALWAYS UP FOR HOCKEY, EH,
 CAUSE I'M CANADIAN THISTLE

DANDY

HE SHOOTS, HE SCORES!

BURDOCK

IN JAPAN THEY CALL ME 'GOBO'
 I'M STICKY AND I'M SWEET
 HEY, I INVENTED VELCRO!
 I'M BURDOCK, NICE TO MEET YOU

MILKWEED

THE MONARCHS ALL ADORE ME
 I'M A MILKY WEED ALL OVER

CLOVER

BUT WATCH OUT FOR THE BUMBLEBEES
WHEN YOU'RE ROLLIN' IN THE CLOVER

BURDOCK

(To the Tulips)

Tulips are from the old country too; if WE are 'aliens,' then, so are YOU!

(Tulips shriek.)

(CRABGRASS, a red-neck hillbilly weed pops up.)

(Spying Rose, he straightens his red bandana.)

CRABGRASS

WHO CAN GROW THROUGH ASPHALT?
AND WHO CAN SPLIT A ROCK?
CRABGRASS GROWS THROUGH CONCRETE
AND COVERS THAT PARKING LOT

(Rose faints. Flowers fan her.)

DANDY AND CRABGRASS

WE'RE DIGGERS AND WE'RE DIVERS
WE'RE NATURAL SURVIVORS
WITH ROOTS AND SHOOTS
AND LEAVES LIKE THESE
WHO NEEDS FERTILIZER?

ALL WEEDS

GO AHEAD AND CALL US UGLY
GO AHEAD AND CALL US BAD
DEEP DOWN WE KNOW WE'RE LOVELY
AND YES, IT MAKES US SAD
WHY GET SO EXCITED?

LIFE SHOULD NOT BE SO STRESSFUL
 ARE YOU FEELING JEALOUS
 ‘CAUSE WE WEEDS ARE SO SUCCESSFUL?

(Aunt Dee greets JOSEPH, flamboyant
 photographer, at the Gate; he aims his camera at the
 Flowers.)

(Daisy and Flowers strike a pose. To their horror,
 the Wild Weeds lean in to be photographed.)

WE'RE WEEDS! WEEDS!
 WILD AND WONDERFUL WEEDS!
 WE'RE VOLUNTEERS AND PIONEERS
 AND GROW WHEREVER WE PLEASE
 SO COME A LITTLE CLOSER,
 NOW GET SET, PREPARE TO SNEEZE!
 THE WHOLE WORLD IS OUR GARDEN
 THAT'S WHY THEY CALL US
 //DIGGY DIGGY DON DIGGY DIGGY DEE!
 DIGGY DIGGY DEE DON WEEDS//

(END OF SONG)

(Despite herself, Daisy applauds enthusiastically,
 catches herself, then pretends to swat a fly. Flowers
 glower in icy silence.)

(Aunt Dee grabs gardening SHEARS, prepares to
 clip off Dandy's head.)

(Suddenly, HONEY BEE throws herself at Aunt
 Dee's feet, begging in pantomime for Dandy's life.)

(Aunt Dee hesitates; Dandy offers her a leaf; she
 chews ...)

AUNT DEE

I must admit; dandelions are ...delicious!

(hesitating)

WAIT! Any Giant Hogweed or Kudzu lurking about?

(At the mention of Hogweed, Burdock YELPS.)

(Weeds huddle, then shake their heads ...NO!)

AUNT DEE (CONT'D)

(posing with Weeds and Flowers)

In that case, everybody say ...'Bees.'

(Distraught Flowers pose with grinning Weeds.)

(Joseph snaps a photo.)

WEEDS AND FLOWERS

"Bees!"

AUNT DEE

(to Joseph)

Time for tea?

JOSEPH

Time for tea!

(As the sun sets behind Megamore Towers, Aunt Dee and Joseph enter the house.)

(Flowers gnash their teeth; Weeds YAWN as they sleepily hum 'diggy diggy don' in the Weed Patch.)

(NOTE: For the remainder of the show, we see the Weeds constantly humming, digging and working the soil.)

(Dandy waves at Daisy; Daisy ignores him. Violet waves back.)

(Slithering from under a rock, Sir Pent whispers in Daisy's ear.)

SIR PENT

Take heed, the summer's just begun.
The flowers are DOOMED; the weeds have come!

SCENE FIVE: ON THE GLOFF COURSE: MORNING: "GET THE PICTURE"

Lights up on the GLOFF COURSE next to Aunt Dee's garden.

*Megamore and MAYOR AGELESS
EVERMORE, her face stretched beyond belief,
enter with Didmore Dunmore, banker.*

*Helmore follows carrying GLOFF
clubs (inflated plastic bats or Styrofoam tubes).*

Megamore hands Dunmore a club.

MEGAMORE

Dunmore! Glad you could join us! Nothing like a game of Gloff to sharpen the predatory instinct. AH, springtime in Megapolis. Who knew bulldozing entire neighborhoods to make way for shoddy condos could be so... invigorating? Meet Mayor Ageless Evermore, running for re-election.

(winking to the Mayor)

Didmore Dunmore is our new man at the bank.

MAYOR

I adore big banks! High finance! Predatory lending! Fraudulent foreclosures....

(Dunmore drops the ball.)

DUNMORE

(coughs)

Actually, Mayor, ... uh....fraudulent foreclosures are... illegal.

(Megamore picks up the ball, hands it to Dunmore.)

MEGAMORE

TEAM players! That's how I redeveloped this town. What WAS Megapolis before I got hold of it?

DUNMORE

(places the ball, prepares to swing)

A once-livable city now in the grip of rampant over-develop-...?

(Megamore grabs the club from Dunmore, prepares to swing.)

MEGAMORE

I'll tell you! A hodge podge of unsightly, unsanitary... neighborhoods! Blocking my highways, impeding my off ramps! Swelling! Spreading! More ...More ...

(swings)

MORE!

MEGAMORE (CONT'D)

And I never sleep.

MAYOR

Cheer up, Meggie dear! Before you grabbed it, this was a nothing but a public park open to absolutely everyone. NOW, thanks to you...

MEGAMORE

(admiring his domain)

It's a gated gloff course with armed guar- ..AhAh...

(Megamore's face contorts; he feels a sneeze coming on; he stumbles blindly across the course.)

(Helmore, waving a handkerchief, chases Megamore.)

DUNMORE

(calls to Megamore)

Allergies, Mr. Megamore?

(Mayor Evermore pulls Dunmore aside, whispers...)

MAYOR

He almost won the 'Greed Cup.'
But then he felt a sneeze.
He swang, but missed his final shot...

(She points at Aunt Dee's garden across the hedge.)

MAYOR (CONT'D)

Now he blames those flowers and trees.

(Dunmore shudders.)

(Megamore, sniffing, returns, then BLOWS his nose. All jump.)

MAYOR (CONT'D)

(offers medication, which he downs)

Close call, Meggy! Don't demolish another city block before we foreclose on it! Ha ha!

MEGAMORE

(to Dunmore)

Did I mention I own every single vacant lot in Megapolis? Including THAT one?

(Megamore points at Aunt Dee's garden.)

DUNMORE

Um... Your Aunt's garden?

MEGAMORE

My Aunt's garden, as you call it, will soon be MY vacant lot, thanks to YOU.

DUNMORE

(trembling)

Slight problem, Mr. Megamore? Uh, this morning your Aunt came to the bank? We had a nice chat, she's a lovely person. And then... she ...uh... well... she paid off her mortgage. In full. Legally your Aunt owns that property ...free and clear.

MEGAMORE

(grabs Dunmore by the collar, growls)

You don't get the picture, do you Dunmore. The Mayor and I have plans for that garden, and 'legal' has nothing to do with it.

SONG: "GET THE PICTURE"

MEGAMORE

WE'RE BORED WITH ALL OUR MEGAMALLS
OUR SHOPPING MARTS, OUR MEGASPRAWLS
WE'RE BORED AND NOW WE HAVE A BIGGER PLAN

MAYOR AGELESS EVERMORE

YES, WE'RE GOING RESIDENTIAL
CAUSE WE SEE THE HUGE POTENTIAL
IN THE FUTURE OF THE URBAN CONDOVAN

MEGAMORE

WHEN WE BULLDOZE ALL YOUR HOUSES
YOU WON'T HAVE TO MOVE TOO FAR
YOU CAN BUY A BRAND NEW CONDOVAN
AND MOVE INTO YOUR CAR

MEGAMORE AND MAYOR

GIMME GIMME MORE MORE MORE
GREED IS GOOD BUT MORE IS BETTA,
GIMME GIMME MORE MORE MORE
GREED IS GOOD CAUSE I SAY SO

GIMME GIMME MORE MORE MORE
DON'T FORGET OUR FAVOURITE MOTTO
IF WE WANNA MAKE A BUNDLE
THEN THAT GARDEN HAS TO GO

DUNMORE

BUT, WHERE WILL THEY PARK?

MEGAMORE

IN A HIGH RISE PARKING LOT.

DUNMORE

HOW MANY DO YOU PLAN TO BUILD?

MAYOR EVERMORE

WE PLAN TO BUILD A LOT

DUNMORE

A THOUSAND?

MEGAMORE

MORE!

DUNMORE

A MILLION?

MAYOR EVERMORE

MORE! A BILLION WOULD BE NICE
WE'LL NAME IT SOMETHING
REALLY COOL, LIKE 'PARKING PARADISE'

MEGAMORE

WE'LL BUILD A WORLD OF CONDOVANS
NEW CONDOVANS FOR ALL
THEN PARK THEM IN OUR NEW GARAGE
A THOUSAND STORIES TALL

MEGAMORE, EVERMORE AND HELMORE

GET THE PICTURE? GET THE PICTURE?
OOOEEE OH HONK HONK HONK HONK
GET THE PICTURE GET THE PICTURE
OOWEE OH OUT OF MY WAY! OUT OF MY WAY!

MEGAMORE

(sings to the Mayor)

IF I GO BROKE WILL YOU BAIL ME OUT
WILL YOU BAIL ME OUT, WILL YOU BAIL ME OUT?

MAYOR AGELESS EVERMORE

IF YOU GO BROKE, I'LL BAIL YOU OUT
AND THEN YOU'LL GET YOUR BONUS

MEGAMORE AND MAYOR

GIMME GIMME MORE MORE MORE
 GREED IS GOOD BUT MORE IS BETTA
 GIMME GIMME MORE MORE MORE
 GREED IS GOOD CAUSE I SAY SO

GIMME GIMME MORE MORE MORE,
 DON'T FORGET OUR FAVORITE MOTTO
 IF WE WANNA MAKE A BUNDLE
 THEN THAT GARDEN HAS TO GO

(to Dunmore)

IF WE WANNA BUILD A BIG GARAGE
 THAT GARDEN HAS TO GO

MAYOR EVERMORE AND HELMORE

GONNA NAME IT 'PARKING PARADISE'
 THAT GARDEN HAS TO GO
 GET THE PICTURE GET THE PICTURE
 GET THE PICTURE GET THE PICTURE
 GET THE PICTURE GET THE PICTURE
 THAT GARDEN HAS TO GO

(Megamore, the Mayor and Helmore exit dancing.)

(Dunmore is left holding the bag.)

SCENE SIX: IN THE GARDEN-MORNING "KEEP WISHING"

In the early morning mist, Daisy and Violet stretch and yawn.

We hear Weeds snoring and mumbling 'diggy diggy don' in their sleep.

Violet waves to the weeds.

DAISY

(whispers to Violet)

Is he still there?

VIOLET

Wow! Your champion has grown.

DAISY

He's NOT my champion! Pretend he's just another... 'wild edible.'

(Dandy pops up beside Daisy.)

(A gust of wind pushes Daisy and Dandy together.)

(Dandy catches Daisy in his arms.)

DANDY

Whoopsie Daisy! See? Even the wind conspires to bring us together!

(Daisy pushes Dandy away, straightens her petals.)

DAISY

Really? ...I don't think so.

DANDY

(bows)

Whatever wish your wish may be...the Daisy flower can wish on ME.

DAISY

Wish on an invasive WILD flower?

VIOLET

Daisy? Aren't YOU technically a 'wild flower?'

DAISY

(glares at Violet)

Iwell...technically... maybe.

VIOLET

(to Dandy)

I think he's sincere. I'll ask him: Daisy wants to know if you hear...

(Daisy muffles Violet.)

DANDY

Frequencies on the breeze? Well, maybe..... What do they sound like?

(We hear music to “SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN”)

(Daisy gazes into the great beyond.)

DAISY

Like rain drops tinkling in the boundless blue...

(Dandy listens intensely, nods...)

DAISY (CONT 'D)

Or bluebells babbling in the great beyond...

(swiveling like a satellite dish)

But mostly they sound like ‘Aaaaahooooombaaaaa! Aaaaahooooombaaaaa!’

VIOLET AND DANDY

WOW.

DAISY

Perhaps you heard the rumor that the Spirit of the Garden still grows in Megapolis?

VIOLET

(laughing)

For the last time, Daisy! Spirits don't grow DOWNTOWN!

DANDY

Your voices- I mean, your ‘frequencies’ could be saying something important about the soil or even... the weather. Did you know your petals are...perfect?

DAISY

(brightening)

...Perfect?

DANDY

For picking up high end frequencies. Where as I hear-

DAISY

YOU HEAR FREQUENCIES TOO?

DANDY

Me? No. I hear ...'tha-thunk, tha-thunk'.... rising from my roots. My roots are very ...vigorous.

(Daisy sneaks a glance at Dandy's manly leaves.)

DAISY

I just wish I knew what it all means...

DANDY

Wait! Did you wish on me?

DAISY

No.

DANDY

Did too.

DAISY

Did not.

VIOLET

Daisy wishes day and night on her star up there.

(Violet points at the street light overhead.)

(Dandy gazes up at the streetlight.)

DANDY

I...um... Sorry, but ...that's a....streetlight.

(Awkward silence. Daisy rubs her eyes, squints at the streetlight.)

DAISY

(shakes Violet)

Why didn't you TELL me?

VIOLET

I'm sorry, Daisy, but.....you probably need... glasses.

(Daisy digests this revelation.)

DAISY

Well, THAT explains why my wishes rarely, if EVER, come true.

(She throws her 'wish list' to the ground.)

DAISY (CONT'D)

I plan to give up wishing by ...JULY!

DANDY

But, you can't! You mustn't!

(Dandy accidentally DROPS his own wish list.
Daisy scoops it up, then reads...)

DAISY

(overjoyed)

You have a wish list TOO?

DANDY

(tucking it into his pocket.)

Doesn't everyone? But THIS list is of NO interest WHATSOEVER to ANYONE but ...moi.

DAISY

Tell me: do your wishes always come true?

DANDY

Not all of them.

DAISY

Then why do you keep wishing?

SONG: "KEEP WISHING"

DANDY

I'LL TELL YOU WHY I KEEP WISHING
I'LL TELL YOU WHY I DO
ONCE IN A WHILE IN A BLUE BLUE MOON
WONDER WISHES COME TRUE
WE'LL NEVER KNOW UNTIL WE TRY
JUST HOW HIGH A WISH CAN FLY

AND I'VE BEEN WISHING
FOR SOMEONE TO WISH WITH
SOMEONE TO WISH WITH LIKE YOU
AS LONG AS WE KEEP WISHING
SOMETHING WONDERFUL'S BOUND TO COME TRUE

DAISY

I'LL TELL YOU WHY I KEEP WISHING
 WISHING IN MY DREAMS
 ONCE IN A WHILE EVERY SPRINGTIME OR TWO
 I DREAM SUCH WONDERFUL THINGS
 I DREAM THAT WE CAN SEED THE STARS
 GROW MEADOWS ON THE MOONS OF MARS

DAISY AND DANDY

AND I'VE BEEN WISHING
 FOR SOMEONE TO WISH WITH
 SOMEONE TO WISH WITH LIKE YOU
 AS LONG AS WE KEEP WISHING
 SOMETHING WONDERFUL'S BOUND TO COME TRUE

DANDY

WISH ON EVERY TREMBLING STAR YOU SEE
 AND IF YOU EVER LOSE YOUR STAR
 YOU CAN WISH ON ME

DAISY AND DANDY

WE'LL NEVER KNOW UNTIL WE TRY
 JUST HOW HIGH A WISH CAN FLY
 SOMETHING WONDERFUL'S BOUND TO COME TRUE
 AND THAT'S WHY I KEEP WISHING

COMPANY

WE'LL NEVER KNOW UNTIL WE TRY
 JUST HOW HIGH A WISH CAN FLY
 AND THAT'S WHY I KEEP WISHING

(END OF SONG)

(Dandy leans close to Daisy, hoping for a kiss...)

(Entranced, they drop their lists to the ground.)

(Sir Pent enters, scoops up both lists.)

SIR PENT
(reading to the audience)

I KNEW IT!
What those wild flowers fail to mention
At the top of these two lists
Both Daisy and Dandelion
Wish to KISS and to be KISSED!

(Suddenly, Crabgrass pulls Dandy aside.)

CRABGRASS
Hey! You ARE planning to tell Daisy the whole story, right?

DANDY
Of course. I'm her champion!

CRABGRASS
Champion, my crabgrass.

(Crabgrass and Dandy bow to Tree.)

(Suddenly, SUMMER FLOWERS burst into
bloom.)

SCENE SEVEN: IN THE GARDEN: "WHEN LILIES ARE IN BLOOM"

*Spring Flowers remove spring hats, then don
SUMMER FLOWER hats (Daylily, Delphinium,
Dahlia) in a showy display.*

SONG: "WHEN LILIES ARE IN BLOOM"

SUMMER FLOWERS

IN OUR BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN GARDEN
WHEN THE LILIES ARE IN BLOOM
WHEN THE AIR IS HOT AND HEAVY
WE'LL BE WILTING BY HIGH NOON

IN OUR BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN GARDEN
 WHEN EVENING SONGBIRDS FILL THE SKY
 IN OUR BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN GARDEN
 IT'S PROBABLY MID-JULY

(Weeds sing along.)

WEEDS and FLOWERS

THOUGH THE AIR IS HOT AND STICKY
 ALL THE SUMMER FLOWERS ARE PRETTY
 IN OUR LOVELY DOWNTOWN GARDEN IN JULY!

(END OF SONG)

(Horrified Summer Flowers SHRIEK.)

DAHLIA

They grow with wild abandon!

DELPHINIUM

They don't grow where they should!

DAY LILY

If those Wild Weeds keep on blooming...

(RAGWEED pops up, strikes a Napoleonic stance.)

RAGWEED

There goes the neighborhood!

ALL FLOWERS

(horrified)

RAGWEED!

RAGWEED

I flew here on the wind!

(awkward silence)

For somewonderful ...reason....?

(Violet shrinks as Ragweed blocks her sun.)

DAISY

That doesn't give you permission to barge in.... UNINVITED!

VIOLET

Like you did, Daisy?

(Daisy contemplates these words for an uncomfortable moment.)

DAISY

Okay. Look. I admit. Weeds aren't ALL bad. We love the Bees that Clover brings, don't we everyone?

(Flowers nod.)

DAISY (CONT'D)

But, now it's buzz... bzz ... bzz' all the live long day! And Senor Milkweed, although everyone enjoys your bilingual Monarch butterflies from Mexico...

MILKWEED

O la, gracias.

DAISY

De nada. ...You are driving the Delphiniums to distraction! And as for YOU, Crabgrass!
(softening, to Crabgrass)

I confess I have come to admire your crabbiness. We all know where we stand with Crabgrass, do we not?

(The Flowers nod grudgingly.)

DAISY (CONT'D)

(to Dandy)

But when YOUR companions steal Violet's SUN, things have gone ONE flower TOO far!

WEEDS

Oh yeah?

FLOWERS

YEAH!

WEEDS

SAYS WHO?

FLOWERS

WE DO!

(Weeds and Flowers square off on opposite sides of the stage.)

(Rose suddenly jumps into the fray.)

ENOUGH!
ROSE

SCENE EIGHT: IN THE GARDEN: "THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH"

ROSE
(sings)

ENOUGH OF THIS FUSSING AND FIGHTING
IT'S MORE THAN THIS RED ROSE CAN BEAR

It is?
FLOWERS
(speak, aghast)

ROSE
(sings)

INSTEAD, WE MUST THINK OF UNITING
CONTEMPLATE COMPROMISE IF WE DARE

Never!
FLOWERS AND WEEDS
(shout simultaneously)

ROSE
(sings)

THOUGH THE WEEDS HAVE INVADED OUR GARDEN

FLOWERS
WEEDS!

ROSE
THOUGH I TREMBLE ON THE BRINK OF DESPAIR

FLOWERS

HELP!

ROSE

I REMEMBER THE WORDS
THAT A WISE BEE ONCE TOLD ME
HERE'S WHAT THAT BEE DID DECLARE!

VIOLET

(speaks)

Tell us, your Highness!

ROSE

(sings)

THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH WHEN YOU SHARE AND
YOUR HEART FEELS LIGHTER THAN AIR
WON'T YOU HAVE SOME AND PASS IT AROUND
THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH

THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH WHEN YOU SHARE WHEN
YOU DO, YOU SHOW THAT YOU CARE
JUST APPLY THIS HYPOTHESIS
I PROMISE YOU'LL SEE
JUST HOW MIRACULOUS SHARING CAN BE
THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH WHEN YOU SHARE

SIR PENT

(speaks)

That's ridiculous!

ROSE

(speaks)

And I'm quoting verbatim!

(sings)

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING
WHEN YOU'RE SHARING
YOUR SHARE IS SHRINKING
YES, IT'S TRUE YOU'LL HAVE LESS THAN BEFORE
BUT THE MIRACLE IS, YOU'LL ALSO HAVE MORE
MORE OF A FEELING THAT GROWS AND IT GROWS

FLOWERS

IT TICKLES MY TUMMY, THEN TICKLES MY TOES

ROSE

THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU'LL FIND
YOURSELF FLOATING ON AIR

FLOWERS

WE'RE FLOATING ON AIR

ROSE AND FLOWERS

THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH

SIR PENT

ONLY LOSERS PRETEND THAT THEY CARE
SILLY LOSERS GIVE MORE THAN THEIR SHARE
ONLY FOOLS THINK THAT SHARING IS NICE, HA!
THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT'S WRONG
WITH THIS SONG

(Megamore and Mayor Evermore sing to one side.)

MEGAMORE and MAYOR

(sing)

ONLY DREAMERS THINK GIVING IS GREAT!
SILLY DREAMERS GIVE MORE THAN THEY TAKE!
THEY PRETEND LOVE IS STRONGER THAN HATE!
BIG MISTAKE!

(Ragweed blows his pollen toward Megamore.)

MEGAMORE

THAT'S WHY I SHARE THEAH... AH... AH...!

(The Mayor thrusts a hanky under Megamore's nose
just in time.)

FLOWERS and WEEDS

WHEN WE CLING AND WE CLUTCH
 AND WE HOLD ON TOO MUCH
 OUR HEARTS GET CONSTRICTED AND COLD

WEEDS

IF YOU LOOSEN YOUR GRIP AND GIVE JUST A BIT
 THAT'S WHEN YOUR HEART WILL UNFOLD

FLOWERS AND WEEDS

WE'LL BE BLOOMING! WE'LL BE BLOOMING!

(Ragweed leans aside; sunlight falls on Violet.)

ALL

THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH WHEN YOU SHARE
 AND YOUR HEART FEELS LIGHTER THAN AIR
 JUST APPLY THIS HYPOTHESIS
 I PROMISE YOU'LL SEE
 ALL WE CAN LEARN FROM THAT GENEROUS BEE!

DANDY AND DAISY

THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH

MEGAMORE AND SIR PENT

NEVER ENOUGH!

ALL

ALWAYS ENOUGH! ALWAYS ENOUGH
 WHEN YOU SHARE!

(END OF SONG)

SIR PENT AND MEGAMORE

(shout in unison)

That's... ridiculous!

ROSE

I declare a truce between the Flowers and the ... "wild edibles."

(Weeds cheer! Flowers muster a feeble smile.)

CRABGRASS

(bowing to Rose)

Wise words from the Queen of Angiosperms in full sun or dappled shade, sandy soil or mixed clay-

(Dandy jerks Crabgrass aside.)

DANDY

Hey!Are you flirting with Our Lady Rose?

CRABGRASS

Never mind that! When are YOU going to tell Daisy the REAL reason we came?

DANDY

When the time is ripe! I am her... champion!

CRABGRASS

Then act like one!

(Dandy and Crabgrass bow to Tree.)

BY THE POND

(Sir Pent approaches Daisy with a watering can.)

SIR PENT

May I?

(Daisy nods. Sir Pent waters her.)

DAISY

Why thank you, Sir Pent. I've never seen your friendly side before. This summer has been such a... revelation.

SIR PENT

Daisy, Daisy! Little Daisy, don't be so naive!

I have feelings way down deep that you would not believe.

(whispers as he points at Dandy)

A friendly word of warning: do you truly understand?

Dandelion has a SECRET.... and a hidden mystery plan.

(As she spies Dandy whispering to Tree.)

(Troubled, Daisy counts her petals in silence: ‘He loves me, he loves me not’...)

SCENE NINE: IN THE GARDEN- DAY- “DANCE OF DISTRACTED GARDENERS”

Aunt Dee trudges on stage, waving good-bye and pushing a wheel barrow piled high with gardening tools.

AUNT DEE

Good bye, Florrie! Good bye, children! Come stay ANYTIME! No no no, don’t worry about the lamp! Or the TV or the hall table....

(With a SIGH, she digs into her pocket, then pulls out a letter.)

AUNT DEE (CONT'D)

(reads)

Dear Ms. Dee, Thanks for inviting our class ..we had fun.... lost my ball in the weeds.....If you find it, PLEASE call my Dad ... Jonathan from Mrs. Orwell’s class.

(Squaring her shoulders, Aunt Dee wheels the barrow toward the Weeds.)

(Lifting various tools from her barrow, she is distracted by Weeds who sweep her into the dance.)

DURING THE DANCE:

(Megamore barges through the Garden Gate brandishing Glossy Gardening Magazine.)

(He points at the Weeds, then at the cover.)

(Aunt Dee grabs the magazine, proudly waves it; The Garden CHEERS!)

(Megamore is swept into the dance, until....)

MEGAMORE

ENOUGH!!

(END OF DANCE)

(All abruptly stop dancing.)

MEGAMORE (CONT'D)

This is not a GARDEN, it's aMEADOW!... Infested with noxious, invasive..... Ah...
Ah.... Ah.....

(Tree offers Megamore a hanky.)

(Megamore, without thinking, takes it... BLOWS,
then does a double take.)

SCENE TEN: IN THE GARDEN: "THIS IS MY HOME"

AUNT DEE

(sings)

OH, WHAT A STUBBORN IMPOSSIBLE MAN
HOW CAN I TELL HIM SO HE'LL UNDERSTAND

AUNT DEE (CONT'D)

(speaks)

What happened, nephew? You grew up in this garden! Don't you remember swimming in
the pond? The day you built our tree house? How you loved the... fireflies?

MEGAMORE

(suddenly nostalgic)

Twinkling in the evening by the pond..

AUNT DEE

(sings)

THIS IS MY HOME, I BELONG HERE
AND THIS GARDEN KNOWS
IT'S HERE THAT I MUST STAY
THIS IS MY HOUSE, I WAS BORN HERE
ALL AROUND ME IS THIS SONG

AUNT DEE, DAISY, HERMAN, VIOLET, TREE

AND IF YOU LISTEN WITH YOUR HEART
YOU'LL HEAR IT SAY. THIS IS MY HOME
THIS IS YOUR HOME TOO...
THIS IS MY...

(Forgetting the words, Aunt Dee falls silent.)

HERMAN, DAISY, VIOLET, TREE

HOME!

(END OF SONG.)

MEGAMORE

WAIT. You're trying to TRICK me. I don't WANT to remember!

AUNT DEE

(angry)

I remember the PARK with WOODS and TREES that YOU chopped down... for a GLOFF course? I'm angry and overwhelmed and..

MEGAMORE

All the more reason to sign over this garden to MOI.

AUNT DEE

NEVER! I've seen what you've done to our neighborhood!

MEGAMORE

You leave me no choice. You're breaking the Megapolis Weed Control Laws! Expect the Weed Control Squad first thing tomorrow morning!

AUNT DEE

You wouldn't DARE!

MEGAMORE

Just WATCH me.

(Megamore exits, slamming the Gate.)

(Aunt Dee shakes her fist at the Garden Gate.)

AUNT DEE

This garden belongs to ME now! And I've got the receipt to PROVE it!

(She pats her pocket.)

(Sir Pent, reading in the grass, looks up from his tome.)

(Suddenly, a ball rolls from under the Weeds.)

(Aunt Dee smiles, picks it up, waves to Tree, then exits.)

SCENE ELEVEN: IN THE GARDEN - EVENING- "WHY DO THE WILD WEEDS COME?"

Upon hearing Megamore's threats, Flowers and Weeds GASP in horror.

FLOWERS

Weed killer? Tomorrow morning? Oh no! Oh no! Oh NOOOOOOOO!

(Weeds, gathered around Tree, look up from a garden plan they have been studying.)

BURDOCK

(to the flowers)

You hot house petunias don't have to worry! It's the WEEDS they're after!

(Awkward silence.)

HONEY BEE

Perhaps. But weed killer hurts us... all.

(Herman and Honey Bee reach for each other.)

ROSE

Honey Bee is right. EVERYONE in our garden is in peril.

(Daisy glares at Dandy.)

DANDY

Daisy I'm... I'm sorry. We never meant for this to happen! Please, I-

DAISY

(to Dandy)

Sir Pent warned me about you! Why did you come? WHYWHY?

DANDY

(at a loss)

Tree! Please tell her... ?

(Daisy, sobbing, turns to Tree.)

SONG: "WHY DO THE WILD WEEDS COME?"

DAISY

(sings to Tree)

WHY DO THE WILD WEEDS COME
SO BRAZEN AND SO BOLD

TREE

OH ME, OH MY, MY LITTLE ONE
THEIR STORY'S SELDOM TOLD

DAISY

WHY DO THE WILD WEEDS LAUGH
AND SING THE DAY AWAY

TREE

THEY SING AND TOIL AND HEAL THE SOIL
AND THEN... THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY
BUT FIRST THEY MOCK
YOUR BEST LAID PLANS
THEN THEY STEAL YOUR SUN
FORGIVE THEM IF
THEY BREAK YOUR HEART
BEFORE THEIR WORK IS DONE

BLESS THE WILD WEEDS WHEN THEY COME
 BLESS THEM WHEN THEY GO
 THEY LIVE AND DIE MY LITTLE ONE
 SO MIGHTY TREES MAY GROW

(A shimmering 'spirit forest' of majestic Trees rises
 from the mist.)

WEEDS

WE COME TO SING THE TREES
 SHIMMERING GROVES
 OF GLIMMERING LEAVES
 OAK AND ASH AND HICKORIES

WE COME TO SING THE TREES
 DAPPLED DANCING CANOPIES
 BEECH AND BIRCH AND MAPLE TREES

WE COME TO SING THE TREES
 MIRACLES AND MAJESTIES
 PINE AND PEAR AND POPLAR TREES

WE COME TO SING THE TREES
 TOWERING EMERALD TREASURIES
 EVERGREENS AND ELDER TREES.

(END OF SONG)

TREE
 (to Daisy)

Daisy, ...I... called the weeds.

YOU?
 DAISY

TREE
 I was lonely. I wanted companions. But the soil was disturbed and the Weeds...

DANDY
 It's called 'natural succession.' First we pull up nutrients from below, then we make room
 for small shrubs, then larger shrubs and eventually...

BURDOCK
 A wood!

THISTLE

A grove!

CLOVER

A.... forest!

(The Weeds lift their leaves to reveal SEEDLINGS
growing beneath.)

DANDY

Allow us to introduce Sweet Chestnut, Red Cedar, Winterberry, and a little Cherry tree.

(The Garden GASPS with delight!)

DAISY

You've been growing little baby SEEDLING TREES? But why didn't you tell us?

CRABGRASS

(glaring at the Flowers)

Not EVERYBODY approves of our landscaping improvements.

(Flowers hem and haw, mumble apologies.)

DAISY

(sheepishly, to Tree)

Forgive me, Tree, I didn't realize how lonely you must be.

(to the seedlings)

Welcome to our garden, little ones! You blew here for many wonderful reasons.

(to the Weeds)

I owe the Weeds an...apology.

(Weeds mumble 'that's OK, not to worry', etc.)

ROSE

(defiantly, to the Garden)

All better? Good. Because TOMORROW we face the Weed Killers! Who's with us!

ALL

We ARE!!

(As the Sun sets behind Megamore Towers, Flowers
and Weeds huddle to plot their resistance.)

SCENE TWELVE: IN THE GARDEN- MORNING- "CHEMICAL NIGHTMARE"

The Garden prepares for battle.

*Commander Rose, adjusting her WWI helmet,
shouts orders.*

ROSE

Battle stations, everyone!

(to Herman and Honey Bee)

Can we count on the Birds and the Bees?

HERMAN

(salutes, ruffles his tail feathers)

We're ready, m'Lady!

HONEY BEE

(salutes)

"The hands can't hit what the eyes can't see." to quote the great Cassius Clay.

NETTLE

Bring'em on!

CRABGRASS

We ain't afraid!

BURDOCK

Chemicals cannot kill me!

NETTLE

Bring'em on!

OUTSIDE THE GARDEN GATE:

(Megamore enters. Helmore follows dressed in a
full Hazimot suit. He lugs a tank of WEED
KILLER.)

MEGAMORE

You know what to do. Spray them ALL!!

HELLMORE

(mumbles through his mask)

Mumble mumble... dandelions? I love.. mumble dandelions!

MEGAMORE

Well, I HATE dandelions!

(Helmore clumsily points the nozzle at Megamore.)

MEGAMORE (CONT'D)

(flailing, waving his hanky)

Watch out, you idiot! Get spraying or.. you're FIRED!

(Megamore exits.)

(Helmore waddles into the garden.)

NETTLE

(to Helmore)

Hey... YOU!

HELMORE

Mumble mumble..?

NETTLE

Yeah, YOU!

SONG: "CHEMICAL NIGHTMARE"

NETTLE

YOU THINK A LAWN SHOULD BE
A PICTURE OF PERFECTION
AND HEAVEN HELP THE LOWLY WEED
THAT FAILS INSPECTION
BEFORE YOU SPRAY
THAT POISON SPRAY
HEY, LISTEN UP! THE WEEDS
HAVE GOT SOME FINAL WORDS TO SAY

WEEDS

BEFORE YOU SPRAY YOUR POISON
WE HAVE A LITTLE QUESTION
IF WHAT YOU SPRAY IS SAFE
WHY DO YOU NEED PROTECTION?
WHY THAT RESPIRATOR AND A MASK?
(MORE)

WEEDS (CONT'D)

ARE YOU TERRIFIED
 YOU COULD GET A RASH
 IT'S A NIGHTMARE,
 IT'S A CHEMICAL NIGHTMARE // STOP IT//

WEEDS (CONT'D)

YOU THINK IF YOU SPRAY THE WEEDS
 THAT WEEDS WON'T LIVE MUCH LONGER
 WELL, WE'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU
 IT ONLY MAKES US MUCH STRONGER
 YOU SHOULD LEAVE
 THAT POISON ON THE SHELF
 EVERY TIME YOU SPRAY ME,
 YOU SPRAY YOUR...
 CHEMICAL NIGHTMARE,
 IT'S A CHEMICAL NIGHTMARE

CRABGRASS

YOU CALL THIS ...'LAWN CARE'?"

WEEDS

STOP IT! STOP IT!

HERMAN

IT'S STICKING TO YOUR HAIR
 IT'S STICKING TO YOUR SLEEVE
 IT LINGERS IN THE AIR

WEEDS

REMEMBER NOT TO BREATHE
 ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE BREATHING
 IT COULD BE JUST THE FLU
 BUT THEN AGAIN, NO TELLING WHAT
 THOSE CHEMICALS CAN DO!

DAISY

SORRY ABOUT YOUR LITTLE DOGGIE
 SORRY THAT HE DIED, BUT WHEN YOU
 SPRAYED YOUR LAWN LAST WEEK
 HE SHOULD HAVE STAYED INSIDE

CLOVER

RUNNING DOWN THE DRAIN
 IN THE RUN OFF, IN THE RAIN

BURDOCK
 IN THE RIVERS AND THE STREAMS
 IN YOUR NIGHTMARES, IN YOUR DREAMS

THISTLE
 IN THE WATER THAT YOU DRINK
 THE WATER'S TURNING TOXIC

ALL
 CAN'T YOU HEAR THE FROGGIES
 AND THE FISHES SCREAMING
 STOP IT! STOP THOSE CHEMICALS!

WEEDS
 ONE DAY THE WIND COULD SHIFT
 I PRAY YOU WAKE UP SOONER
 THAT TOXIC DRIFT COULD LEAVE
 YOUR LANDSCAPE LOOKING LUNAR
 SO GO AHEAD AND SPRAY
 IF YOU INSIST
 BUT IF YOU DO...

(Helmore aims the nozzle at Rose.)

(Crabgrass dives in front of her.)

(Helmore sprays Crabgrass mercilessly.)

WE WILL RESIST
 NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA
 YOUR CHEMICAL NIGHTMARE,
 NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA

(Rose rips Helmore's mask off.)

(We hear BUZZING. Helmore swats unseen Bees.)

(We hear Herman's "Battle COO!")

(Looking up, Helmore winces, then wipes his eyes.)

(In a final assault, Ragweed releases his pollen...)

(Helmore, wheezing and sneezing, flees.)

YOUR CHEMICAL NIGHTMARE

(MORE)

WEEDS (CONT'D)

NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA
 //HEY YA HEY YA HEY YA HEY YA//

(END OF SONG)

(CHEERS!)

ROSE

(extending her hand to Crabgrass)

You saved my LIFE! I will be forever grateful...

(MORE CHEERS!)

CRABGRASS

(kissing her hand)

M'Lady. But I wasn't alone...Ragweed was there...

ROSE

Bravo, Ragweed!

RAGWEED

It all makes sense now...I found my life's purpose!

DAISY

Don't forget Herman and Honey Bee!

HERMAN

(kneeling to Honey Bee)

When I couldn't see, you guided me! Honey Bee, will you marry me?

(Herman sweeps Honey Bee into a smoldering
 WWII Victory Day KISS. It goes on for a while.)

SCENE THIRTEEN: IN THE GARDEN: SAME : "POWER OF A FLOWER"

(Sir Pent barges between Herman and Honey Bee.)

SIR PENT

(sneering)

Don't celebrate too soon,
 There's more!

(MORE)

SIR PENT (CONT'D)

You've won the battle,
Not the war!

DAISY

That DOES IT, Sir Pent! Why are you so bitter all the time?

SIR PENT

(points at Dandy)

Better be bitter than trust a Weed!
Do you know what plans he's got?
This dandelion will leave you
'Cause Dandelion loves you... NOT!

(All eyes on Daisy, who has been counting her
petals: 'he loves me he loves me not.')

(Awkward silence.)

ROSE

WRONG QUESTION! How does Daisy feel about HIM?

CRABGRASS

She loves him, obviously.

DELPHINIUM

Any flower can see that.

DAHLIA

Since the beginning! The question is... how much?

(Daisy and Dandy exchange sheepish glances.)

DAISY

...A lot.

DANDY

(outburst of enthusiasm)

...MORE than THAT!

(CHEERS and congratulations.)

HONEY BEE

Time for 'the talk'?

(Herman nods, then pulls out a botanically correct drawing of a flower. Honey Bee points at the labelled parts.)

HERMAN

(to Daisy and Dandy)

When two flowers love each other very very much...

SIR PENT

Oh, STOP!

DAISY

YOU stop! I wish I knew what they have to say...

SIR PENT

ASK YOUR PARENTS!

DANDY

(to Sir Pent)

You're just JEALOUS because our gardener has forgotten all about you!

SIR PENT

(seething)

Perhaps. But we need something more than Daisy's ridiculous wishes to save the LAST... garden ...in Megapolis.

(He points at High Rises popping up around them.)

(The Garden gasps.)

DAISY

Herman, is it true ? Is THIS the last garden in Megapolis...?

HERMAN

For once... the reptile is right.

(We HEAR children weeping.)

VIOLET

(to little flowers)

Don't despair, little ones! Remember the power we possess!

SONG: "POWER OF A FLOWER"

VIOLET
(sings)

IT SOUNDS SO SIMPLE AND YET
IT'S ALL TOO EASY TO FORGET
THE POWER OF A FLOWER

PLEASE REMEMBER
THE POWER OF PERFUME
ONE FRAGRANT LITTLE FLOWER
CAN CHEER A COLD AND LONELY ROOM
WITH EVERY BLOSSOM YOU SHARE
YOU HEAL A HEART, YOU BLESS THE AIR
THAT'S THE POWER OF A FLOWER

VIOLET (CONT'D)

PLEASE REMEMBER THE POWER OF A WORD
WHEN VOICES RISE IN ANGER
A TENDER WORD CAN STILL BE HEARD
IT'S THE BRAVE WHO REMEMBER
IT TAKES COURAGE TO BE TENDER
THE POWER OF A FLOWER

DAISY, VIOLET, FLOWERS AND CHOIR

THOSE DAYS THAT HIGH RISE SEEMS SO TALL THOSE
SMOGGY DAYS YOU FEEL SO SMALL
YOU REMIND THIS WEARY WORLD
THERE'S A LOVE THAT GROWS US ALL
WHATEVER YOU DO
I'M BEGGING OF YOU
REMEMBER ALL THE POWER
OF A TENDER LITTLE FLOWER

(END OF SONG)

SCENE FOURTEEN: IN THE GARDEN. "I'LL BE BACK"

Without warning, Crabgrass suddenly collapses.

ROSE

Oh, no! Crabgrass has turned... yellow!

(Everyone gathers round Crabgrass.)

DANDY

Hang on, 'ole buddy! We need you!

CRABGRASS

(coughs)

I guess Weed Killer finally got me! Tell worm and slug, no chompin on me! I'm full of poison now.

ROSE

Don't die, Crabgrass!

(Rose kneels beside him.)

CRABGRASS

(Fishes a poem from his pocket)

I wrote a (cough) poem.

(clears his throat)

If only Rose would love me! It's tearing me apart
I'd love my Rose with all I got, her thorns stuck in my heart!
I'd bleed and bleed if I had blood, and then I'd bleed some more
I'm stuck on Rose 'cause thanks to Rose, I know what bleeding's for!

ROSE

Why, *Digitaria Ciliaris*, I never knew...

(Flowers and weeds exchange confused glances.)

ROSE (CONT'D)

'*Digitaria Ciliaris*' is his LATIN name.

(All 'ooooo' and 'ahhhhhh' in admiration.)

DAISY

(to the garden)

Did you know that in 1849, the U.S. Government imported Crabgrass to be forage for ruminants?

(Flowers and Weeds exchange puzzled looks.)

BURDOCK

Ruminants: Cows, sheep... Anyone who eats grass.

(Louder OOO's and AWWWWW's ...)

VIOLET

And that's not all! Tell them, Crabgrass....

CRABGRASS

(enjoying the attention)

If there's an oil spill, I can... SUCK IT UP!

(Gasps of admiration.)

ROSE

It must be said! Crabgrass is a phyto-remediator and uncommonly ...bold!

CRABGRASS

(brightening)

I am....?

(staggering to his feet)

So, you think you've seen the last of Crabgrass?

SONG: "I'LL BE BACK"

CRABGRASS

I'LL BE BACK ONE SUNNY DAY
 THOUGH YOU MAY DO YOUR BEST
 TO MAKE ME GO AWAY
 YES, YOU MAY THINK
 I'M DEAD AND GONE
 BUT I'LL BE BACK
 ONE DAY IN SPRING
 TO PROVE YOU WRONG

YOU CAN HACK ME, YOU CAN HOE ME
 YOU CAN PULL ME UP, AND MOW ME
 YOU CAN STOMP AND SQUISH ME
 TILL I'M FLAT

SO I'LL SAY GOODBYE FOR NOW,
 (MORE)

CRABGRASS (CONT'D)

ADIOS, AMIGOS, CIAO,
I'LL SAY GOODBYE FOR NOW,
BUT I'LL BE BACK

DEATH DON'T SCARE ME
DEATH IS BUT
A CHILLY WINTER'S DREAM
MY ROOTS ARE DEEP
MY LOVE IS STRONG
AND MY SOUL BELONGS TO SPRING

WEEDS

HE'LL BE BACK ONE DAY IN JUNE
THOUGH YOU MAY THINK THAT
HE'LL BE COMING BACK TOO SOON
NO, CRUEL DEATH CAN'T KEEP HIM DOWN
CAUSE HE'S A WEED
AND WEEDS WILL RISE UP FROM THE GROUND

STOP YOUR MOANING AND YOUR GROANING
THOUGH HE MAY BE COLD AS STONE BECAUSE...
HE'S JUST PRETENDING TO BE DEAD

HE MAY BE GIVING UP THE GHOST
BUT IF YOU LISTEN TO HIM CLOSELY
HE'S NOT REALLY DEAD,
JUST MOSTLY, LIKE HE SAID

WEEDS (CONT'D)

HE'LL BE BACK
ONE SUNNY DAWN
HE'LL BE BACK CAUSE
NO ONE STAYS TOO DEAD FOR LONG

CRABGRASS

I WILL RETURN ONE HAPPY MORN
I'LL RISE AGAIN AND TELL THE WORLD
I'VE BEEN... REBORN!

WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT
I'LL BE RESURRECTED
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME
AND COUNT ON THAT

(Crabgrass gives Rose his bandanna. She dabs her eyes.)

SO I'LL SAY FARE THEE WELL
WITH A SHOUT AND WITH A YELL
I'LL SAY FARE THEE WELL,
BUT I'LL BE BACK

WEEDS

HE'LL BE SINGING
HALLELUIA I WAS DEAD,
BUT THEN I FOOLED YA! SINGING..
HIP HIP HALLELUIA I'LL BE BACK

CRABGRASS

WHEN I RETURN AGAIN,
I'LL BE SPEAKING MANDARIN
(speaks)

... Nin hou ma... Shei shei!

(sings)

I'LL SAY GOOD-BYE FOR NOW,
BUT I'LL BE BACK

(END OF SONG)

(Crabgrass collapses for good.)

(Rose weeps; Weeds tenderly carry him off.)

SCENE 13- IN THE GARDEN- LATE AFTERNOON

Megamore storms into the garden.

MEGAMORE

(to Aunt Dee)

You think you're so smart! My man Helmore had to be... decontaminated!

(The Garden CHEERS)

(Herman takes a bow.)

AUNT DEE

Serves him right, big bully.

(Megamore aims his spray can at Tree ...)

(Aunt Dee stands in front of Tree.)

AUNT DEE (CONT'D)

Don't you DARE! This is MY property now.

MEGAMORE

Wrong. The bank owns this property.

AUNT DEE

Not anymore. I paid off my mortgage. In full!

MEGAMORE

Really?When?

AUNT DEE

(faltering)

You saw me! When I was downtown.... at the bank! I met a nice man who ...

MEGAMORE

Strange. According to the bank, you never paid your mortgage. And now the bank has decided to... foreclose.

AUNT DEE

(searching her pockets)

But I have the receipt... right here... I....

(She empties her pockets. Nothing.)

MEGAMORE

There you go imagining things... again! Confess! You didn't 'retire' from teaching! You were FIRED because of you've got ... dementia!

AUNT DEE

That's not true! I'm just ... under stress and overwhelmed... I...

MEGAMORE

Pack your bags, Auntie! Tomorrow morning, I'm moving you into a-

(Aunt Dee kicks Megamore in the shins.)

MEGAMORE (CONT'D)

Ow!!!

(Megamore limps to Tree, then sprays an orange stripe on his trunk, a death sentence.)

(The Garden GASPS.)

(Joseph enters in a rage.)

JOSEPH

Get out, you conniving thief! Dee has friends who LOVE this Garden. We won't let you get away with this!

MEGAMORE

(to Aunt Dee)

I WAS going to invite you to the Ground Breaking Ceremony for Paved Paradise High Rise Parking Lot!.... But now, you're NOT INVITED!

(to Joseph)

And neither are YOU!

(Joseph hustles Megamore out the gate.)

JOSEPH

(slamming the gate)

Get lost, you greedy garden grabber!

(to Aunt Dee)

Dee! Are you OK?

AUNT DEE

It was right here in my pocket! The paper that proves that I...I...paid everything...What's WRONG with me, Joseph? Do I have ... dementia?

JOSEPH

I don't think so. Last night, I had a dream... and by some uncanny coincidence, I found a post on 'GlueTube.' I'll tell you all about it-

AUNT DEE

Joseph, I'm so sorry about Glossy Gardening Magazine.

JOSEPH

(sobbing in Aunt Dee's arms)

That magazine was my... BABY! But now that Megamore is bulldozing all the gardens...

AUNT DEE

Never say die! We've got until tomorrow morning...

JOSEPH

(musters a faint smile)

You're right. We don't have time for drama. We'll look for that receipt after some camomile-

AUNT DEE

Camomile?... What's ...camomile?

(Joseph stares at Aunt Dee, grief stricken...)

AUNT DEE (CONT'D)

Gotcha!!

(laughs)

Seriously. Enough with the camomile. I want something DIFFERENT.

JOSEPH

(laughs)

Okay, okay, I get the picture.

(Joseph and Aunt Dee enter the house.)

SCENE FIFTEEN: IN THE GARDEN - NIGHT- "FAVOURITE INTENTION"

Amid flickering fireflies, we hear CRICKETS.

Flowers and Weeds solemnly gather round Tree.

*All gasp to see Dandy's HAIR, now a puffy
GLOBE.*

TREE

(addressing the garden)

The time has come. We must gather together with one heart for one purpose. Time to call...

DAHLIAS

Ghost Busters!

DAY LILY

The fire department!

TREE

The Spirit of the Garden.

DELPHINIUM

But no one has heard the Spirit of the Garden since they bulldozed the park.

DANDY

Ask Daisy. She hears it all the time.

(All eyes on Daisy)

DAHLIAS

Why should we listen to a WILD Flower and a WEED?

DAISY

Dahlia, GO BACK TO BED! Let the WILD FLOWERS and WEEDS save this garden!

(Crickets.)

VIOLET

(high-fiving Daisy)

You go, girl!

NETTLE

That's our DAISY!

DAY LILY

Can I be a 'wildflower'?

(Dandy helps Daisy twist her petals 'just so'.)

DAISY

(to Dandy)

I wish... I wish... I knew which frequency to tune into.

DANDY

Keep wishing!

(They lean close to kiss...)

(Tree clears his throat. Daisy and Dandy jump.)

TREE

SPEAK, Spirit! How can we save our garden?

(Weeds YAWN, Fireflies twinkle; we hear
Crickets.)

(Burdock dozes off, then wakes with a SNORT.)

(Little by little, we HEAR tinkling bells, fairy song,
cosmic chimes..)

DAISY

(in a trance)

Ahhhhhhooooombaaaaa! Ahhhhhhhooooombaaaaa!

VIOLET

Translate, Daisy, translate!

DAISY

When you're hungry, call for pizza!

Call us pronto, we deliver!

(Herman's eyes light up.)

HERMAN

Pizza!?

(Daisy faints; Dandy catches her.)

DANDY

Whoopsie, Daisy!

(The Garden GROANS.)

DAISY

(waking)

What.... what happened?

DANDY

Your petals got crossed, that's all.

BURDOCK

Maybe we should call the “Spirit of the Off ramp...”

DAISY

It’s NO USE! Sir Pent was right! Wishing alone won’t save us!

DANDY

Keep wishing, Daisy! This time, focus on your favorite intention...

SONG: “FAVORITE INTENTION”

DAISY

(sings)

I WISH THAT I COULD CLIMB THAT HIGH RISE,
IT’S NOT THAT TALL
I WISH THAT I COULD GROW RIGHT UP
AND OVER THAT GARDEN WALL
DID I FORGET TO MENTION
MY FAVORITE INTENTION
WISH I COULD GROW THIS WORLD
A GARDEN GREEN

DANDY

KEEP WISHING!

DAISY

AND JUST BEYOND THAT FLASHING BILLBOARD
WISH I COULD SEE THE VIEW
AND JUST BEYOND THAT SMOGGY HAZE
WISH I COULD SEE A SKY OF BLUE
I’M A DREAMER ON A MISSION
ASKING ANYONE WHO’LL LISTEN

DAISY AND DANDY

WON’T YOU HELP ME
WELCOME IN THE SPRING
WE MAY BE WILD AND CRAZY
BUT WE’RE WISE ENOUGH TO KNOW
EVERY LITTLE WISH WE WISH
IS A SEED WE SOW
THAT’S BOUND TO GROW

(Dandy reaches up, gathers his puffy hair into a bouquet, then offers it to Daisy.

(She hugs it to her heart, then turns to the audience)

DAISY

Please wish with me?

DAISY AND DANDY

CALLING ALL YOU WIDE-EYED DREAMERS
 CALLING EVERYONE WITH WINGS
 ALL YOU STARRY-EYED BELIEVERS
 AND EVERYONE WHO SINGS
 WON'T YOU LIFT YOUR SHIMMERING BLOSSOMS TO THE SUN
 HELP US WISH THIS WORLD A GARDEN BLESSING EVERYONE

(END OF SONG)

(Closing her eyes, Daisy BLOWS Dandy's seeds;
 they soar into the air.)

(For a magic moment we hear tinkling bells,
 celestial strings, angel choirs.)

(Daisy's eyes pop open.)

DAISY

Call the Flowers and Wonder Weeds! I have a wonder plan!

(Daisy whispers to Dandy, who whispers to Violet
 etc. in a 'daisy chain.')

(Rose, at the end of the chain, turns to whisper to...)

ROSE

(overjoyed)

CRABGRASS!

CRABGRASS

(flexing his muscles)

Told you I'd be back! And now, I'm a SUPERWEED!

(The Garden celebrates the risen weed.)

(Suddenly, to everyone's surprise...)

DAISY

Sir Pent!... Sir Pent!

(Sir Pent looks up from an ancient TOME.)

SIR PENT

Leave me alone.

DAISY

Please. Help me with this message from the great beyond?
“To heal forgetful gardeners, this is what to do!
Brew a magic mystery drink, a wonder tea... for two!”

SIR PENT

RIDICULOUS!

(Daisy turns away in despair.)

(Sir Pent returns to his TOME. Reading, his EYES
grow WIDE.)

(Frantically flipping pages, he GASPS.)

SIR PENT (CONT 'D)

WAIT! You're in luck. I'll help ...under ONE condition.

(He whispers in Daisy's ear. She nods 'Yes.')

(Sir Pent rips a page from the TOME, SLAMS it
shut.)

(The Garden JUMPS.)

HERMAN

(aside to Daisy)

Why are you trusting HIM?

DAISY

(whispers)

He's got the RECIPE!

REPRISE: MUSIC: “THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH WHEN YOU SHARE”

(The Moon rises over an anxious Garden.)

(Sir Pent gathers petals from Flowers and Weeds,
then stirs them into a smoldering cauldron.)

(Honey Bee offers a teaspoon of HONEY.)

(When all are asleep and no one is watching...)

(Sir Pent slips a pinch from his medicine pouch into
the boiling cauldron.)

HERMAN

Every move you make, I'm watching you, sneaky SNAKE! What did you put in that pot?

SIR PENT

Bitter tears? Vanilla extract?... A dash of lemon zest?
I'll NEVER tell my secret! You'll simply have to ...GUESS.

(END OF REPRISE)

SCENE 15: GARDEN: THE NEXT MORNING "SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN"

Morning breaks on a bustling garden.

*Over a podium a banner reads: "Paved
Paradise High Rise Parking Lot."*

*Joseph enters, adjusts the name tag on his multi-
colored coat. He speaks into his cell phone.*

JOSEPH

Joseph Rosenblatt here, streaming LIVE from Aunt Dee's downtown Garden, with our
new podcast, "Make it Stop."

(Dumore, still carrying a Glof bag, enters.)

(Joseph interviews Dunmore.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Here's Didmore Dunmore from the Bank of Megapolis. Our listeners want to know: why did you fraudulently foreclose on entire neighborhoods forcing people to move into their cars?

DUNMORE

I never did that! There must be some mistake!

(Mayor Evermore enters.)

MAYOR EVERMORE

Of COURSE he did! LOCK HIM UP!

DUNMORE

(throwing down the Gloff bag.)

I won't hold your bag any more!

(to Joseph)

Let me tell you what's REALLY going on...

(While Dunmore and Evermore SHOUT in pantomime into Joseph's phone...)

(Aunt Dee sprints across the lawn in her tie-dyed tee shirt, camouflage pants and straw hat.)

(She climbs Tree.)

JOSEPH

(looking up from his interview)

Breaking news! ... Our very own Aunt Dee has occupied her Tree House and refuses to come down! Do you have a message for our listening audience?

AUNT DEE

You can inform my garden-grabbing nephew that I'm not... I'm not, no, I WON'T!

(Aunt Dee unfurls a banner reading: "Hell no, we won't go!")

(We hear CHEERS.)

HIDDEN IN THE FERNS:

(Herman dips a large goblet into the cauldron.)

SIR PENT

Make sure there's enough for TWO!

HERMAN

(hands him the Goblet, then whispers to
Daisy)

Why is HE delivering the wonder tea?

DAISY

(whispers)

I promised him the second cup!

(Furious, Herman turns to go...)

(Sir Pent PLUCKS a feather from Herman's tail.)

(Herman attacks Sir Pent in a RAGE.)

HERMAN

YOU pushed me out of my NEST!

SIR PENT

YOU should THANK ME!

HERMAN

Don't PRETEND to be the GOOD guy!

SIR PENT

At least you can ALMOST fly. What a joke...

(Daisy pries them apart.)

DAISY

...NOT... the... TIME!

(Herman exits in a huff.)

(Sir Pent tucks the feather behind his ear, then
begins to shed his skin...)

DAISY (CONT'D)

(to Sir Pent)

Sir Pent... I...um...Are you shedding yourskin?

SIR PENT

Today is a very... special... day.

DAISY

Of course it is. Sorry I mentioned it...Um....What a wild and wacky summer we've had so far, wouldn't you agree?

SIR PENT

Horrible. Terrible. DON'T sing about it.

DAISY

OK, no singing... But after all we've been through... and despite that awful HISS of yours...I just wanted to say..

SIR PENT

What.

DAISY

I believe your intentions are ... probably... noble. I've learned a lot about intentions lately. And one more thing.

SIR PENT

Spit it out.

DAISY

Deep down, I know... you love this garden.

(Gazing into the goblet, he admires his reflexion.)

SIR PENT

You have no idea ...

BY THE GARDEN GATE:

(Megamore and Mayor Evermore address the crowd from the podium.)

MAYOR AGELESS EVERMORE

(at the microphone)

FREE PARKING!! Isn't that what Megapolis WANTS? What Megapolis NEEDS?

(Spying Aunt Dee in the tree house, Megamore grabs the microphone.)

MEGAMORE

(to Aunt Dee in Tree)

Aunt Dee! Get DOWN this minute! You're gonna LOVE your new facility. The food is edible, and they only lock you in at NIGHT!

(to the crowd)

She's got dementia. What's the problem?

MAYOR EVERMORE

(grabs the microphone)

Bla bla... bla.... RE-ELECTION! Bla bla... bla bla bla...BlaBla... Bla!! Paved Paradise High Rise Parking Lot!

MEANWHILE, AS THE MAYOR DRONES ON....

(Sir Pent climbs Tree; he almost drops the Goblet.
The Garden GASPS; he continues his climb.)

(Sir Pent offers Aunt Dee the goblet.)

AUNT DEE

(grabbing the goblet, drinking lustily)

Thank you very much. I could use a drink.

(We hear tinkling bells, angel choirs; Aunt Dee
shudders, dances a happy dance, then GRINS.)

AUNT DEE (CONT'D)

(embracing Sir Pent)

Sir Pent! Sir Pent, it's YOU!! I've been neglecting you for AGES! Will you ever forgive me?

(Sir Pent shakes his head 'NO!')

(He grabs the goblet.)

MEGAMORE

(to the agitated crowd)

My Aunt didn't pay her mortgage; so naturally, the BANK is repossessing.

AUNT DEE

That's a lie! I paid my mortgage in FULL!

MEGAMORE

Then, where is the receipt?

AUNT DEE

I.... I....

(Sir Pent triumphantly waves the receipt.)

SIR PENT

I have the treasure that you seek!
I stole it just in time.
And once I drink this Wonder Tea
The Garden will be MINE!

(Mayor Evermore climbs Tree, grabs the receipt,
stuffs it in her mouth, then SWALLOWS.)

MAYOR EVERMORE

FAKE NEWS!... There never WAS a receipt!

(Sir Pent HISSES in the Mayor's face.)

(Mayor Evermore SCREAMS, then scrambles
DOWN as Megamore climbs UP.)

MEGAMORE

Oh, get a grip! Who's afraid of a harmless garden snake!
(climbing Tree)
Call the Bulldoz-... Ah.... Ah...Ah!

(Megamore's face contorts.)

JOSEPH

Take cover! ... He's gonna SNEEZE!

(The Crowd cowers...)

(Megamore flails; his mouth opens wide.)

(Sir Pent lifts the Goblet to drink, when suddenly,
we hear Daisy's voice RINGING FORTH!)

DAISY

PLEASE, Sir Pent!... SAVE! OUR! GARDEN!

(For an agonizing moment, Sir Pent hesitates,
then...)

(He pours Tea down Megamore's gaping mouth.)

(The Garden GASPS. After an agonizing moment...)

(A curious expression dawns on Megamore's face.)

JOSEPH

(into his microphone)

What MIRACLE is this?! Has Megamore's legendary SNEEZE been short-circuited by a ...Garden Snake?? But bulldozers are at the gate! Is this the END of our Garden home?

(We hear the ROAR of a Bulldozer.)

(More tinkling bells, angel choirs)

MEGAMORE

NO!!

(All GASP as the BULLDOZER falls silent.)

MEGAMORE (CONT'D)

I mean... this IS my Aunt's garden, after all, and suddenly I feel LOVE and INSPIRATION and...

(drinking the last drops from the Cup)

My allergies have ...disappeared! Tree, I blamed YOU, when all this time, I was allergic to my own GREED! WHAT is in this TEA???

(turning to Aunt Dee)

Auntie, will you ever forgive me?

AUNT DEE

Will you restore City park?

(he reluctantly nods 'yes')

Restore the river under the freeway? And add a bike path?

(nods yes)

Install solar panels on every building in Megapolis?

(He shakes his head 'NO!'then a reluctant 'yes.'

They share an awkward hug.)

(The CROWD goes wild with applause.)

JOSEPH

A truly unexpected turn of events! Aunt Dee, would you please share YOUR vision with our listeners...?

AUNT DEE

(whipping out her long wish list)

Thank you. I have always wanted to be Mayor!Ha ha, that was a joke.

(MORE)

AUNT DEE (CONT'D)

But seriously, I've always wished for a community garden in my own front yard, with a Cafe called "Lawn to Table" where my neighbors can garden, cook and earn a little cash. Once we get that going, we could organize a FIREFLY FESTIVAL with veggies and berries and dancing and music and..

(Aunt Dee continues her speech in PANTOMIME.)

(Lights fade.... then rise on Joseph who continues his pod cast.)

JOSEPH

Yes, dear listeners... that was "The Day we Turned It All Around." Not surprisingly, Mayor Evermore lost her reelection after voters wrote in Aunt Dee, who declined but urged Didmore Dunmore to run. It turns out, Dee didn't have dementia; she was suffering from Solastalgia, despair brought on by the thought of losing her home.... The cure? Love and GARDENING! Meanwhile, Megamore's change of heart reverberated around the world! Cities are tearing up highways, day lighting rivers and streams, while urban forests are springing up like ...

(Lights up on Dandy and Daisy as they prepare to depart with their belongings in a handkerchief.)

DAISY

Come with us, Violet! We're wildflowers! We can grow almost anywhere.

VIOLET

Thank you, Daisy, but my roots are here. Besides, I want to welcome the natives when they return... Black-eyed Susan, Joe-Pye Weed and Sassafras! Promise you'll be back?

(A gust of wind blows everyone together.)

DAISY

First thing next spring! With thevegetables!

FLOWERS

NOOOOOOOOOO! NOT...VEGETABLES!

SONG: "SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN" - COMPANY

TREE

THE SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN GROWS
 IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY
 THE SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN KNOWS
 EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED, HERE COMES A MIRACLE

DAISY

EVERY FLOWER TELLS A STORY
 EVERY FLOWER TELLS A TALE
 BEYOND THE POWER AND
 THESE DREARY CITY STREETS
 HERE COMES A MIRACLE
 DON'T LET THAT HIGH RISE GET YOU DOWN
 HOLD ON MEGAPOLIS
 SOMETHING'S GROWING UNDERGROUND
 AND I CAN HEAR IT SINGING...

COMPANY

HIP HIP HOORAY, HERE COMES A MIRACLE
 HIP HIP HALLELUIA, IT'S A BRAND NEW SPRING
 WINTER'S ALMOST OVER
 LISTEN TO THE SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN SING

DAISY AND DANDELION

EVERY FLOWER HAS A PURPOSE
 HAS A PURPOSE AND A PLAN

ROSE AND CRABGRASS

AND IN THE CENTER IS A TENDER MYSTERY
 WE MAY NEVER UNDERSTAND

DAISY

BUT WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES AND LISTEN
 ABOVE THE TRAFFIC AND THE NOISE
 I CAN ALMOST HEAR THE SPIRIT SINGING

COMPANY

HIP HIP HOORAY, HERE COMES A MIRACLE
HIP HIP HALLELUIA, IT'S A BRAND NEW SPRING
WINTER'S ALMOST OVER, LISTEN.....!

BENEATH THE STREET LIGHT
BESIDE THE BUS STOP
HERE COMES A MIRACLE
WAY UP THERE ON THE ROOF TOP,
BESIDE THE NEWS STAND,
BELOW THE SIDEWALK, BETWEEN THE CRACKS
WHERE THE WEARY CITY FEET WALK
A TENDER SEED IS GROWING UNDERGROUND
AND EVERY WHERE THE GARDEN GROWS
CONCRETE CANNOT KEEP US DOWN

(Rising from the cauldron, Sir Pent spreads his
WINGS, then flies into the sky...)

HIP HIP HOORAY, HERE COMES A MIRACLE,
HIP HIP HALLELUIA , IT'S A BRAND NEW SPRING
WINTER'S ALMOST OVER LISTEN TO THE SPIRIT OF
THE GARDEN... SING!

THE END

