

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



Baby Boom

by Stephen Drape

EXTRACT

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" BABYBOOM! "

CAST LIST

- Joy Brown - Teenager from 19**
Warren Burrows - Teenager from 19**
Dr Meddlesten - Head of Kiddymart General Hospital in the 21st
century (M or F)
Sister Stitch - The worst nurse in the universe
Ozzy Ozone - Radioactive patient
Dr Eva Carey - Obstetrician
Dr Adam Alsop - Pediatrician
Deidre Crisp - Time and Motion Manager
Dr Dimencha - Psychiatrist
Dr Tucker - Diet Expert
Dr Skinner - Transplant surgeon
Dr Feelgood - Anaesthetist and Plastic Surgeon
Nurses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 [and their clones which they play
themselves]
Ollie Offcut - Disfigured patient
Pearl Gates - Patient obsessed with staying young
P.M. - Fat prime minister patient (M or F)
Larry Loon - A happy psychiatric patient
A Porter.
CHORUS OF BABIES (AND THEIR PARENTS AND THEIR GRANDPARENTS)
CHORUS OF 20th CENTURY TEENAGERS
21st CENTURY CHORUS

Scene 1 - THE PRESS LAUNCH

[BIG FANFARE AS CHORUS COME ON AND SING OPENING NUMBER]

'FANFARE FOR THE FUTURE'

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE
 GOODBYE TO THE PAST
 WE HOPE IT'S GONNA SUIT YA
 WE HOPE IT'S GONNA LAST

WE ARE MERELY SHADOWS
 OF YOURSELVES TODAY
 SOUNDING OUT A WARNING
 IF YOU COME OUR WAY

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU COULD MAKE IT
 AND HOPE THAT YOU CAN STAY
 SAY HELLO 21ST CENTURY
 GOODBYE YESTERDAY

[AT END OF SONG DR MEDDLESTEN ENTERS TO GREAT APPLAUSE AND TAKES TO THE PODIUM.]

DR MEDDLESTEN- I'm the Head of Kiddymart General Hospital and my name is Dr Meddleston. I'm here today to say goodbye to yesterday. Why?

Because Kiddymart gives you the future today! The 21st Century is moving on to bigger and brighter things but we mustn't be afraid. After all, I'm still an old-fashioned doctor at heart.

I still love the smell of a patient after nose surgery. .

I love it when a patient who's got water on the brain comes to me, and I cure them with a tap on the head.

I love the whirring sound of an artificial ear being bolted to a patient who is deaf.

I love the sight of yucky, gooey blobs -- after we get them fit again. (TAT

P.M. LOOKS UNCOMFORTABLE)

I love the sight of a blind patient when they give me the eye.

I love the joy I created when I gave a woman a voice after years of silence -- and upon his request I took her husbands ears away.

But enough about me! We are gathered here today on this suspicious occasion to celebrate a great day in the field of medical science and the history of Kiddy mart. So I would now like to introduce our special guest to say a few words and cut the ribbon. I would like you to give a Huge, Gigantic, Massive, Round- (Dr M notices the P.M. is upset with these words) er round of applause for our beloved Prime Minister Sparrow!

[SPARROW TAKES THE STAND WITH SOME DIFFICULTY.]

P.M. SPARROW - Aaaaahhhh, g'day! Kiddy mart is this countrys top baby producer. Many great institutions have produced tin lids and rug rats for our great nation over the years. Mc Kiddies, Safekidway and Kids New World have all done well. But it's Kiddy mart that has proved to be the true leaders in their field. (MODERN PRAM IS WHEELED ON. P.M. IS GIVEN LARGE SCISSORS ON VELVET CUSHION) Today we celebrate the one zillionth Puny People Pod off the Kiddy mart production line. (P.M. IS GIVEN BABY CONNECTED TO PRAM BY LONG CURLY UMBILICAL CORD)

I declare this Puny People Pod or P P P; as they're often known because they do a lot of that; to be a brand new member of this fabulous century!

(P.M. CUTS CORD AND TOSSES BABY AWAY. IT'S CAUGHT BY A NURSE. CROWD CHEER.)

That's all from me folks. But before I go I want to remind you of my motto. "You can trust Prime Minister Sparrow -- I'm as straight as an arrow!" Thankyou.

[AS P.M. LUMBERS DOWN STAND IS WHISKED AWAY AND WE FIND OURSELVES IN KIDDYMART LABORATORY]

SCENE 2 - IN THE LAB

DEIDRE CRISP [TO MEDDLESTEN] - Remember boss, you've got just a few minutes to show the P.M. around the premises. And for goodness sake, don't mention the P.M.'s weight!

[MEDDLESTEN HURRIES OVER TO WHERE P.M. HAS STARTED TO CHECK OUT LAB.]

DR MEDDLESTEN - I'm sorry P.M., I hope you didn't have a big wait.

[P.M. LOOKS UPSET.] I'd like you to meet some of my magnificent medical staff.

These first two doctors are a little strange in that they have dedicated their lives totally to medical science. This is our Obstetrician, Dr Eva Carey; [EVA WIPS OUT A HUGE WOODEN SPOON AND PRESENTS IT TO THE P.M.]

DR CAREY - I'd like you to have this gift. I used it in the first batch of babies I ever whipped up. Sorry if it's a bit large. [P.M. UPSET. OTHERS GLARE BUT DR CAREY REMAINS OBLIVIOUS]

DR MEDDLESTEN - And this is our Pediatrician, Dr Adam Alsop.

DR ALSOP - I'm pleased to meet such a famous person as you Prime Minister. P.M. - Have you delivered any famous men or women into the world Dr Alsop?

DR ALSOP - Ah, no famous men or women, no. Just little babies.

DR MEDDLESTEN - Yes, well. [MOVING THE P.M. ON] These next four doctors are doctors after my own heart. This is one of the world's greatest psychiatrists, Dr Dimencha. He has a brilliant, sensitive way with his patients.

DR DIMENCHA [VERY FRIENDLY] - How ya goin' fat stuff? Gees, you're as big as a blimp aren't you? [P.M. GETS UPSET AND TAKES A CALMING PILL]

What's the matter? Are you super sensitive about how enormous you are? Here's my card. Come and see me sometime blubber gutts! And we'll work on building up your confidence up.

DR MEDDLESTEN - Here's Dr Tucker, our expert on [MUMBLES SOMETHING BEHIND HAND]

P.M. - What's that? Expert in what Dr Meddlesten?

DR MEDDLESTEN - Expert in [RELUCTANTLY] Eating Disorders Specialising in people who are slightly larger than people who are

greatly smaller.

DR TUCKER - Don't worry Prime Minister, even though you're a teensy weensy bit overweight, you should still live to sixty years old.

DR MEDDLESTEN - How old are you P.M.?

P.M. [UPSET] - Sixty!

DR TUCKER - See, I told you!

DR MEDDLESTEN [COVERING QUICKLY] - And last but not least there's our world famous Transplant Surgeon, Dr Skinner. [DR SKINNER STEPS OUT FROM BEHIND EVERYONE IN A WHITE COAT COVERED IN BLOOD. DR SKINNER THEN HOLDS OUT ARM TO SHAKE HANDS BUT NO HAND PROTRUDES FROM THE COAT SLEEVE]

DR SKINNER - Oh sorry! [FOLDS SLEEVE BACK TO REVEAL HAND. SHAKES WITH P.M. AS THEY DO SO DR SKINNER BEGINS TO ADMIRE THE QUALITY OF THE P.M.'S HAND, CHECKING IT OUT LOVINGLY AND PURRING LIKE A CAT. THE P.M. SUDDENLY GETS THE DRIFT AND HASTILY WITHDRAWS HAND.]

DR MEDDLESTEN [COVERING] - Dr Skinner works very hard. Too hard. I sometimes think - he needs help.

DR SKINNER [EYING THE P.M.'S PAW] - I sure could do with a hand!

DR MEDDLESTEN - And last , and maybe least, there's our resident expert in putting people to sleep during operations faster than any man on Earth. Our doctor with the drug for every bug; our resident Anaesthetist, Dr Feelgood.

P.M. - How do you put people to sleep so fast Dr Feelgood?

DR FEELGOOD [LONG PAUSE] - Well.... basically.... I use.... an incredibly dynamic drug. [LONGER PAUSE . EVERYONE IS BORED]

In....stant....aneously people who are normallyviv acious andex itable are put to sleep just like when your head is hit.... by a large bum p. [ALL ARE NOW ASLEEP WHEN DEIDRE STORMS BACK ON AND SCREAMS AT A FEW SLEEPING NURSES NEAR TWO BEDS WITH BODIES COVERED IN A SILVER FOIL]

DEIDRE - Nurse Bell. [LOUD] Nurse Bell! [LOUDER] Wake up you ding a ling!!! [N6 [Nurse Bell] AND N1 WAKE UP] Dr Meddlesten gave firm orders this morning to clean up this lab.[INDICATES TWO WEIRD TROLLEYS WITH SILVER CANOPIES]What are these things doing here?

NURSE 1 - They're C.O.T.s. Cryogenic Organ Tanks - Frozen bodies. This one had a birthday yesterday and so we sang it a special song.

DEIDRE - How does it go?

N6- Well the first line begins - "Freeze a jolly good fellow".

DEIDRE - Read the charts nurse.[SLIDE COMES UP OF GIRL IN CONSERVATIVE HAIRDRESSERS UNIFORM]

N1 - Name- Joy Louise Brown. Age - 18. Gender - Female.

Occupation - Hairdresser at the Hairway To Heaven Beauty Shop in the High st. Cause of admission to hospital - Car accident.

Treatment on admission - Emergency operation performed, success unknown. Apparently some other operation was performed on both [INDICATES OTHER COT] these people by Dr Meddlesten. It seems the details have been wiped from the file. The operations developed complications so they froze the bodies into suspended animation.

A few years ago they were reclassified and labelled Cryogenic Organ Tanks to be cut up for basic organ and limb transplants. It seems to this point of time neither has been used. Now the name on this tank is

DEIDRE - These bodies were frozen in 19**! Their Use By Date has expired and so they're now old stock. What's in that room? [NURSES SHRUG] Quick, get them in there before the P.M. gets over here.[NURSES GET ONE OF THE C.O.T.S IN THE ROOM OFF THE SIDE OF THE STAGE BEFORE N6 MAKES A LOUD NOISE THAT WAKES EVERYONE UP. P.M.AND ENTOURAGE ARRIVE BEFORE THE SECOND COT HAS BEEN MOVED. DEIDRE TRIES TO DIVERT THEIR ATTENTION.]

DEIDRE - Welcome Prime Minister! I'm Kiddymarts Time and Motion Expert and my name is Deidre Crisp. I'm Dr Meddlesten's right hand woman so to speak and I've arranged a little treat for you.[SEATING EVERYONE. AS ALL SIT A PORTER COMES ON AND HANGS A SIGN ON DOOR WHERE THE C.O.T. HAS BEEN PLACED. NO ONE NOTICES BUT SIGN READS 'SAUNA'] .One of our new baby lines is really designed for the harsh conditions of today. And one of the early prototypes has reached maturity so we'd like you to meet him. Ladies and gentlemen we give you --- Ozzy Ozone!

[ENTER A MAN WITH SHINY DARK SKIN, WEBBED FEET, UMBRELLA HAT AND WRAPAROUND MIRROR SUNGLASSES. * SONG - "OZZY OZONE" *

" OZZY OZONE"

WHEN OUTSIDE IS A NO GO ZONE
YOU NEED AN OZZY OZONE

MY NAME IS OZZY OZONE MY SKIN IS VERY BROWN
IT PROTECTS ME FROM THE VIOLENT RAYS THE SUN BELTS DOWN
THE POLAR ICE HAS MELTED THE GROUND HAS TURNED TO MUCK
THAT'S WHY MY FEET ARE WEBBED AND I WADDLE LIKE A DUCK

WHEN YOU GO AND TEAR A HOLE IN THE ATMOSPHERE
YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY A PRICE AND THE PRICE IS DEAR
THE CHILDREN OF THE FUTURE MIGHT GROW UP TO LOOK THIS WAY
WE SHOULD HAVE TREATED BETTER THE WORLD IN WHICH THEY PLAY

DR MEDDLESTEN - And now, just for you your immenseness...[HE REALIZES
HIS MISTAKE]...er Ozzy and all the staff are going to do a little number just
for you.
[BIG PRODUCTION NUMBER EXPLAINING GENETICS AND HOW KIDDYMART
WORKS. * SONG - *]

"THE DANCE OF LIFE"

CHORUS 1

IT'S THE DANCE OF LIFE THE DANCE OF LIFE
DOIN' THE DA DA DANCE OF LIFE

WAY BACK IN TIME YOUNG ADAM AND EVE GAVE BIRTH TO THE FIRST
BABY
OR WAS IT A PREGNANT APE THAT FELL TO THE GROUND OUT OF HER TREE
WHATEVER IT WAS A MUM AND A DAD BROUGHT THAT HUMAN INTO LIFE
AND EVER SINCE WE'VE KEPT IT GOING LEGALLY WITH MAN AND WIFE

AND WHETHER YOU WERE BLIND OR FRIENDLY OR TOUGH AND JOINED THE
MARINES
IT ALL CAME ABOUT WITH SIGH OR SHOUT AS YOUR PARENTS JOINED THEIR