

POUNDS OF LOVE

A story about JOHN POUNDS the
cobbler/teacher

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Act 1 Scene 1

Suggested scenery
Scaffold behind dark see through
drape. And JOHN POUNDS shop to one
side of the stage.

Sound

Ship building, hammering etc.

Suggested opening, good heavy dancing
to The Ragged Kids Hornpipe.

the dancers,

men and women, can be dressed for
working in dockyard.

In amongst the dancers, is young JOHN
POUNDS

[He is 15 years old good looking and tall, he is an apprentice shipwright]
[After music He stands chatting up the girls.]

FOREMAN

You managed to get here then
Master Pounds, now
get your self on the job.

[Exit]

YOUNG JOHN

POUNDS

Core what a life Bill I've only
just started work
and he wants to wear me out
already.

Bill

Yes, but I suppose we're lucky
to get the
apprenticeship shipwright job.
Here, did you see that Mary
Savage just now, I
could really fancy her, what with
that long red
hair she got. I might be
thinking to ask her to go
out walking with me some when.

YOUNG JOHN POUNDS

You don't want to go getting
yourself tide down
with any girls, you want to get
yourself some
living first, like seeing the
world and going to all
them places I keep hearing about from
them sailors, like China and
the Americas.

One sailor told me, [laugh] that
the Indian there give you a
haircut for free.

Bill

I've heard they take the rest of
your head as
well.

Music "This is
my life."

Young JOHN

POUNDS

No matter what they say, I want
to see the world
and live my life to its full.

SONG;- This is my life.

This is my life and I want to spend it
and to live it to it's full
and I'll do what nature tells me to
Even if I break a few rules

I want to get aboard a sailing ship
And sail the seven seas
Or walk the length Africa
Just to show the world I'm free
I've heard about the darkest jungles
Where explorers disappear
And the Indian drum a rumble
What all the white man fear
[shout]
I'm not frightened of anything
[sing]

They say that in Arabia
They have dance called the seven vales
So I'll go and get me some of that
And live in the sailors tale
They say they got these great black

bloke

Who guard them while your there
Who look at you like to cut your
throat

So you don't go to near

Bill

Core can I come with you John?

John

Of cores you can Bill, Just
think what fun we would
have but you must remember

Song continues;-

That this is my life and I want to
spend it

And live it to the full

And do what nature tells me to

Even if I break a few rules

Bill

We could go over to Jamaica

And get us a barrel of rum

Then get our selves a couple of girls

And have us a bit of fun

Perhaps we can go to Canada

where there's lots Eskimos

Where we can have a bit of a lark

Just kissing girls with our nose.

Bill and John

I've heard that in Australia
That they are finding lots of gold
So I think that I will get me some
Before I grow to old
I would like to find me a treasure
ship
That sailed on the Spanish main
And live the rest of my life in luxury
Until I go insane

Because this is my life and I want to
spend it
And live it to the full
And do what nature tells me
Even if I break a few rules

Foreman

[shouting] Come on you two lay-a-bouts
its about time you started work
instead of dreaming your head off,

come on we got all these blocks to fit. So you be getting your self up that scaffold and get on with it.

JOHN POUNDS

Blimey don't he go on, I suppose we better get on. Come on Bill I'll race you to the top.

[John and Bill climb up the scaffold racing, as they reach the top.]

Bill

[Cries out]

Look out John; the plank's not fixed!

JOHN POUNDS

[Cries out] Help me some one,
[Then there is a scream as John falls into the dock.]

Foreman

What's happened?

Bill

John Pounds has fallen of the scaffold

sir in to the dock.

Dockyard workers

Gather around John

Foreman

Oh lord I think he broken his back,
come on you lads lets make up a
stretcher and take him home,

Worker

Lift John on too stretcher

Foreman

Be careful we don't want to kill him.

John

[lets out a scream.

Workers

[When lifting the stretcher, start the
song.

Song

Can you see him now?

Can you see the boy?

So full of life so full of joy

Could you see his dreams?

Could you see what was there?
Could you see the gleam?
Could you see the flare?

He was so young and his heard full of
wonder

He would run around with vigor and
thunder

When he would run through the fields
Gathering up the day.

Then with of steel

He would clime the highest tree

Then to the clouds he would say

I'm not far away.

Can you see the boy. [exit]

Act 1 Scene 2

OLDER JOHN POUNDS

[Enters, from where the fall took
place. He is tall and well build He is
bent over almost too a right angle, he
has a heavy walking stick which
strikes heavy on the ground. He is
very rough and scruffy with untidy
hair. Some would call him ugly. He
never wore a coat just shirt with

sleeves rolled up and knee britches stockings and boots.

If he did wear a coat or a hat it was mainly going to church. He is carrying a bag of tools. He is about to open his shop door.]

PASSER BY

Day to you Mr. Pounds, how you fairing these days?

JOHN POUNDS

Well it be now 20 years that I've had me fall and I've feel none the worse for it thank you sir. Still can't stop ,lots to do.

PASSER BY

As you wish Mr. Pounds [exit].

BAKER

[From of stage]

Come back here with that bread you little wretch. Stop him some one, he's a thief. Stop him!

TOM a boy

[Runs on, he is carrying a loaf of bread. He is about 8 or 10 years old in ragged clothing and no shoes, not looking where he is going, runs straight into John, nearly knocking him over.]

JOHN POUNDS

[Grabs the boy and holds on to him if only from stopping himself from falling over] What you be at you young wagabond, you nearly toppled me over.

TOM.

[Starts too struggle]
Let me go you old cripple let me go,
Let me go! [then try to kick John.]

JOHN POUNDS

Now don't E be struggling I've not going to hurt E. Now what has you been doing to get you're self in such a state.

TOM

[Tries to break free from John.]
ain't done nothing' mister. Let me go
let me. go!

Baker

[Enter with two women out of breath.]

Good you've caught the little
beggar.

Woman 1

Yea. he went and pinched the bread I
was buying Let me have him, I'll ring
his blooming neck !

[All three try to grab boy.]

Tom

[struggle and tries to fight them off]

Get off get off you old hag.

[all the time trying to fight his way
off of John]

JOHN POUNDS

[Holds on to the boy. Take Tom out of
woman's reach.]

Now there's no need for the littlen to
be harmed.

Woman2

Then if you not let us see to him

we'll get the
beak.

Tom

[Starts crying with rage and
frustration.]

I've not want the beak Mister, please
let me go please. I've got to look
after me mum.

JOHN POUNDS

[Still holding boy.]

I've be thinking, going to get the
beak might be a bit harsh on the
youngen.

[Looking hard at the baker.]

I be knowing E don't I. I'se be
remembering you when you were a
youngen.

[Points at the Baker.]

Proper little rascal you were, always
on the
the heaving.

Baker

[Embarrassed]

Well them days we were hungry and we

had to.....

JOHN POUNDS

[Interrupting, pointing at the child.]

Then what be the difference,
ain't this one a
hungerin'?

Baker

Well I.....

JOHN POUNDS

Well what?

[Hand money to the baker]

Here take the price of the bread
and be off with you, and if
you've a mind to, do your self, some
thinking.

Woman

He will only be doing it again,
you mark my word!

Woman2

Yea he's bound to, it's in the
blood, his old mans a convict. I's
heard he's off to Australia ,and
good riddens I say.

Tom

[start to cry and shouts at the women]

You leave my dad alone you old
witch, he was only trying to feed
us!

Woman

Well I still say good riddens, I
got no time for thieves.

[Exit]

John Pounds

[Hits the boy around the head.]

TOM

Oww!! What you gone and done that
for!?

JOHN POUNDS

That's for pinchin' thing that's not
your'n. Now what were you be going to
do with that there lump of bread?

Tom

I was taking it home to me mum, they's
be hungry.

JOHN POUNDS

Well next time you's be
hungerin' ...What be your name then?

Tom

It's Tom mister.

JOHN POUNDS

And I'se be Mr. Pounds. Any way as
I'se be saying, next time you's be
hungering Tom, you come and see me. So
from now on you don't have to pinch
things, right?!

Tom

How you be doing that then? There's
lots in our place.

Drummer and Soldiers

[Enter followed by convicts, men women
and children, for Australia and People
are shouting abuse at the convicts.]

Suggested words.

Who's been a naught boy then? Go on
you thieving whelps.

Good riddens to bad rubbish I be
saying.

Go on you scum.

Drums from off stage

Song

Convicts song;-

Drum, drum follow the drum

Drum, drum they call us scum

Scum, scum follow the drum drum drum

For a loaf bread and a string of beans
We're sent to a land we have never
seen

We're torn from our families, which
gave us pain.

Being told we'll never be seeing them
again

Tell me why did my god give me breath
For since I've been born it been like
death

I've had to steal for every crumb of
bread

And now I'm in the ranks of the living
dead

What will happen to my wife and kids?
They will be punished for what I did

They will take me away on the evening
tide
And I'll leave these shores with out
my pride.

Chorus continues sing Drum Drum, after
convict is shot.

Tom

Soldier

[Pushes Tom away.] Get off you little
scum bag!

Father

[tries to stop the soldier.]

Get your hands off him!

Soldier

[Reacts by hitting father with
musket.]

Get back into line you scum, that's
the last time you'll be seeing him.

Drum, drum, follow the drum. [carry on
through following script until convict
is carried off.]

Father

[Try to escape from the line and grab Tom.]

Soldier
Stop or I'll shoot!

[Father will not stop]

Soldier
I warned you!
[Soldier shoots the father falls to his knees.]

Father[Sing/ shout]
Tell me why did god give me breath?
For since I've been born it's been like **death!**

[The father falls to the floor. Then struggles to his feet, tries too run]

Soldier [Fires at the convict.]

Father
[Crying]
I've had to steal for every crust of bread
And now I'm in the ranks, of the **DEAD.**

[Falls to the ground, dead.]

Soldiers

And don't any of you try it, else
you'll end up the same as him.

[Drag Tom away, then Drag the convict
off.]

JOHN POUNDS

[Gets a hold of Tom.]

Come on Tom you's can't be getting
your'n self into trouble. [Pointing at
the soldier angrily]Why did you have
too kill this boy's father, WHY!?

Tom

[Crying, go to mother who was
following the convicts
They killed my dad theys take him away
mum!!

JOHN POUNDS

[Gives Tom comfort.]

It's not fair that families be torn
apart cause
they's be hungry!

[go too Tom's mother.]

I'se be sorry to see your demise
misses, you know I can't help much

but I will make sure your'n kids will be fed and if you be finding yourself in a state you come and see me, but if you find that pride gets in the way you send Tom round.

Mother and Tom [Exit

Lemmon

[Enters, dressed in a skippers seagoing rig. With three children two of them girls.]

I see there be more for Australia then.

JOHN POUNDS

You's be knowing right Lemmon.

Lemmon

It's been said they could do a lot worse. I've been told by them that's been there, that it's not a bad place to live. Better than rotting in a dungeon they says.

JOHN POUNDS

I've heard the same, but it's the families I worry out.

[To the children.]
Hello my little ones you's come here
to help my
little Neffy to do some learning?

Lemmon

As I said John I' like them to do some
more schooling, mind you they have
done a bit and if it will help your
little nephew Johnny to get on with a
bit of Learning. Mind you they're a
rowdy lot.

JOHN POUNDS

As I be saying it be mainly to keep my
young Neffy
company he be a bit lonely and starts
to fidget.

Neffy /Johnny

[Small boy about 10 years, a cripple
and walks with a limp, enters from
shop goes to John.]

Lemmon

There be no doubt John, you be as soft
as butter with them kids.[To
Johnny]Hello young Johnny, you know my

kids be joining you with you're learning. [To John] When you reckon on starting John?

JOHN POUNDS

Well I's be thinking that its no time like now to start. Come on my little wagabonds, you's all go inside with Neffy and I'se be there shortly. [Shouts after the children as they go into shop]and don't you's go putting your'n hands on any of them there tools.

Lemmon

If my kids start too get the better of you, you's be giving them a good talking too.

JOHN POUNDS

I'se be saying Lemmon. If I let the kids get the better of me, then it would be me that would want a talking too. Now you go about your'n sailing and I'se be sending them too their home when there ready.

Lemmon

Right you are John I'll see you when I get back. [Exit.]

JOHN POUNDS

[Looks up]

Well lord if there be a learned man up there with not much to do, I'se be glad of his company.

Act 1 scene 3

[A few years later, inside the shop. There are one or two stools and an old armchair by the fire, which is at the back of the shop. The shop it's self is only 2 metres wide by 5m deep also in the shop, there are bird cages, bits of leather old boots and shoes. John sitting by his bench repairing an old boot. There are lots of very ragged and dirty children with bits of books and slates.]

Woman with child

Here she is Mr. Pounds, My little girl Emma. I Don't want to put you through any bother, as you seem to have a lot

of kids here now.

JOHN POUNDS.

I didn't want it this way, it just happened. Now don't you be worrying none your'n youngen will be alright with us. You go off to your work and I's be seeing you in a bit.

Woman

Thank you Mr. Pounds.[Exit]

JOHN POUNDS

[To Tom who is now a teenager.]

Tom you be fetching that there book you's got over to me, and do some reading from it.

[Takes a child to himself, puts his hand on her shoulder. Points at Tom.]

Now see that there young scallywag, that's Tom, you be standing by him and he will do some reading to you, and one day you's be as good as he is.

But before that, I's be seeing some of you wagabonds be going off too sleep so I think we be going outside for a bit in the fresh air, it might liven you up a bit and Tom you's be bringing

that there book with you and we can
have a story.

[All the children cheer and all rush
out into the street.]

Act 1 Scene 4

[Outside the shop.]

1st Child

Will you be telling about the cat and
the cat bulldog Mr. Pounds?

2nd Child

I'd like to hear about the dog and the
fiddle.

3rd Child

Is it about Robin Hood you be reading?

Song;-

music starts

Barney Owl.

JOHN POUNDS

Now, now me little wagabonds not all

at once. Tom you's be reading that
there book to us then.

Tom
[Read/sing story.]

4th child
Is it about the magic land Tom?

Tom
No, no, it be about a little
owl.

[People could gathering around, all
interested in the story Tom about to
tell and could be a song and dance
number even when John is talking.]

1st Child
Do you mean then that fly at the
darkness Tom?

Tom
That is the ones, but he is not any
old owl, this about a little fella
called **Barney**.

[song;-]
Now once in a deep, deep forest a long

tome ago
There lives a family of big-eyed owl
Just after the winter snow
Now one had a name of Barney
A little one was he
And just like other children
Into every thing he sees
So when he was on his own one night
He played around in jest
And got over excited and fell out of
his nest.

[Talk]

Down and down went Barney, he tried to
flap his wing
But he was only little and didn't know
how to fly
Then plonk! he hit the floor of the
forest, he weren't hurt much as he was
only a lightweight and the forest
floor was covered in leaves.
Well he sat there a little dazes for a
bit then looking around thinking what
he might be doing so knowing his mum
and dad will come and get him he
starts a bit of wondering in amid the
undergrowth and got so interested in
what he was seeing he'd not noticing
that time had gone by.

[To every body.] You's all remembering this!?

Everybody
Yeeeeeee

JOHN POUNDS

Right then lets see what you's learned.

Everybody
Sing first verse.

Tom

He be having such a good time he didn't notice his mum and dad looking for him and had given up thinking a fox had got him. Then it came to him that his parents weren't there and he starts a worrying, gets frightened and starts to cry. Now what he didn't know was.

[Sing]
There be two little mice come walking
by
And saw him on the ground
So they stared to tip toe softly

To frightened to make a sound
Then suddenly Barney saw them
And gave them such a fright
They looked at him he looked at them
And thought what a very strange sight.

John Ponds

[Shout] Are you learnin' this.

Everybody

[Sing]

Tom

Then Barney sees the mice but instead
of doing what other owls would do and
gobble them up, no he starts to run
away.

The little mice were quite taken back
by this and say to him, Why you's run
away, are you frightened of us?

Yes said Barney. Why that be daft said
one of the mice, you's supposed to eat
I'se. Barney looked at them and said
I'se not be wanting to do that. The
mice were you might say quite happy
about that.

Where do you come from said the mice.

Up there said Barney
Then started to cry again. O don't you
be crying said a mouse, then went over
and comforted him. The other mouse said
Do you want to be our friend, we
can look after you but you must
promise not too eat us. Thank you
said Barney, I promise.

[sing]

Now this is strange position
For an owl to be in
Cause he's gone and made friends with
What he would have for dins
They all thought it was funny
And all began to laugh
So they's played about and dances
about around
All hoping it would last.

JOHN POUNDS
Are you listening?

Everybody
Yeeee

Tom

Well just near by there was a hole in
the ground
Right under a great big tree
And out of it came a badger
To see what the noise could be
Hello, hello what's going on here?
I'm sure this will not do
Mice playing with an owl
O dear what a pickle and stew
I don't want to be a spoilsport
And stop you having your game
But soon he'll be a hungering
And things won't be the same.
Cause Owls don't eat the same as you
They like to eat mice and thing
So when his belly starts a rumbling
It won't just be wind.

Everybody

Once in a deep, deep forest.....

Woman

[Enters Rings bell by John's door.]

[Too one of the children.]

I told you to give Mr. Pounds them
shoes!

JOHN POUNDS

I'm sorry, All over, I'se be reading
the rest in time.

Everybody

Oooh!

[all disappointed]

Tom

[goes and stand by Lizzy, even put his
arm around her shoulder.]

JOHN POUNDS

[With a chuckle.]

I'se be thinking I'll be reading it
after we've been to Portsdown hill.

Child

[Excitedly.]

We be going too Portsdown hill Mr.
Pounds?

JOHN POUNDS

Well as it be spring, I'se be thinking
it's about time we had a outing.
Tomorrow might be about right.

Children

[Let out a cheer and get excited.]

JOHN POUNDS

[Lets out a hearty laugh.]
Now you's lot be off too your'n homes.
And you Tom ,you's be telling your'n
mother I'se be needing her too help
with the food.... Lizzy, you want too
be helping as well?

Liz

Yes please Mr. Pounds

JOHN POUNDS

I'se just be attending to this lady
first. I'se sorry to have kept you
waiting misses how can I'se be helping
you?

Woman

[Puts shoes on counter. she is an
abrupt woman.]
I don't know how you manage it Mr.
Pounds But I must say they all look
the happier for it.

JOHN POUNDS

Well teaching then scalawags in one thing, keeping them happy and out of trouble is some thing else.

Woman

I was thinking can you take my children on ,yours all seam to learn so well, I'll pay for it.

JOHN POUNDS

[In an abrupt manner.]

I'se only be taking in them littlen that cant afford it. I'se no room for them that can.

Woman

[Is taken back.]

I only thought.....

JOHN POUNDS

Now if I were to be taking on your'n youngen the other might be getting to the envy of your'n kid and I'se not be wantin' bad feeling, besides they's be a rough lot and they's be not good for your'n. Now what you's be wanting me to do with these shoes.

Woman

[Abrupt]

Oh just new heal. I'll be off then.

[Exit]

[It is later that evening. There are lots of people about, mainly drunkards, men and women. There are children and prostitutes standing outside the Worriers arms pub.]

[Later that evening]

Landlord

[From pub enters out from the pub with a drunkard

In tow and throws him into the street.]

Now get out and stay out, if you can't be paying then there be no drinking.

[Brushes his hand and exits back into pub.]

Music

[from pub.]

1st Sailor

[who has just been thrown out.]

Hi yea mate

2nd Sailor

Watcher Bill, you's got your'n self
chucked out then.

1st Sailor

What else is there too do?

2nd Sailor

Not much I suppose, the trouble is too
much of that grog rots your'n guts.
You still on the Victory then?

1ST Sailor

Where else, good ship she is.

[The prostitutes are really the
lowest, there is nothing nice about
them. They are fowl mouthed and
uncouth .]

Music

song;- Ere mate

[The music continues softly.]

[Prostitutes start to get around the
men.]

Sal

[She is you might say past it and haggard.]

Ere mate out for a good time then?

[Laughs loudly.]

Sailors

[Tries to avoid her.]

Sal

[Moves in closer.]

Come on mate it might be you last chance.

1st Sailor

Get off, I know I'm drunk but I 'm not barmey!

Song;-

Ere mate can I show you something?

Ere mate have you got the time?

Sailor

[tries too run away]

Sal

[Grabs sailor.]
Ere mate don't run away now
If you've got a shilling
You know I'm always willing

All Prostitutes
Ere mate can I show you some thing?
Ere mate have take a look at mine
Ere mate don't go astray now
If you lay your pay down
We'll find the place that I've found

Ere mate can I make you happy?
Ere mate give us half a chance
Ere mate come on, buy the brandy,
Don't you like my figure
Ain't no treasure chest that's bigger

Polka type of dance or as you like.
After dance change tempo Waltz.

Sal

[Waltz]
[Grabs sailor again and try to make
him dance.]
If you will waltz with me
I'll let you talk with me
Even when we do the skip

I'll teach you every thing and make
your old heart sing
So you can dance on your ship

1st.Sailor

[Manages to getaway from Sal.]

[Talk.]

Sal

Ere mate where'd you think you're
going?

Ere mate, [Pulling up her dress.]

It's my legs I'm showing!

So won't you be the piper that pays.

Sailors

[get to gather and laugh at Sal.]

[Talk]

Sal

Ere mate, tell me what's so funny

Ere mate let me see your money

Sailors

[Move away from Sal in a sloppy
drunken manner.]

Everybody

[Laugh at Sal]

Sal

[Go to sailors.]

Ere mate have you got a moment

Ere mate if that all it takes

Ere mate if you swim the Solent,
you can find a mermaid

And she's bound to come to your aide

[Here mate where you going.]

[Too audience in the same fowl way.]

What a bunch of stupid blokes! Cant
earn an honest living these days.

All women

[Then all exit in to pub.]

[Lots of noise from inside pub two men
enter out of pub with crowd and start
fighting.]

John Pounds

[Enter out of his shop, angry.] Be off
with you .it's scum like you that give
the town a bad name.[Razes his stick
too them]

Landlord

[Enters out of pub, drive them all off.] too John.]

Oh my gawd, I'm sorry for that Mr. Pounds. It's hard enough trying to keep order inside let alone outside.

JOHN POUNDS

I'se not be knowing why your'n sorry, when that there place of your'n be the down full of lots of what would be good people!

Landlord

[Look of desperation.
Don't be too hard Mr. Pounds
I.....

JOHN POUNDS

Don't be too hard? don't be to hard.? You's be the one that's being hard! Bringing' down the Neighborhood with all they's Drunkards and bad behaviour!

Landlord

Oh gawd. I try to do my best Mr.

Pounds

[Fall over drunkard on floor.]

Aahh! Flaming Drunkards.

**Music [This could be song and dance.]
Drunkards drunkards.**

JOHN POUNDS

[aggressively at landlord]

Then it be showing, your'n best is not
good enough. Look around your'n self
there be drunkard all over the place.

There's drunkards, The street is full
of drunkards

[sings Shouting]

Drunkard, drunkards there's drunkards
every where

There lying in the gutter

They're sleeping on the floor

They're hanging out the windows

And they're falling out the door

It would be so nice to walk out of my
door

With out the ugly sight of drunkards.

Oh I would find it happy, to meet a
jolly chappy

With out ten points inside of him

I would like to meet your friends
That don't drive me round the bend
And speak to me will out a sloppy
slurp
To meet some learned gents, to hear
some common sense
To have a peaceful night, with out the
dismal sight of

Drunkards, drunkards.....

Landlord

I know what you mean Mr. Pounds I some
times feel the same way as you. But
how can I get out of it.

Landlords wife

[Shouts from side off stage.]
Bert, Bert, get your'n self in here!!!

Landlord

Have you met the wife? She's the one
that rules my life
A tongue just like a knife inside of
me
[Hold on to neck.]
A grip just like a vice Which isn't
very nice

I would love to run away, to rest me
ears

How I'd like a coffee house
Where they never through them out
And go to bed at night, without the
need to fight with ...

Drunkards, drunkards my like is full
of drunkards
Drunkards, drunkards there's drunkards
every where
They're brawling in my attic,
They're all out there flaming heads
They're spewing in my parlour
And peeing in my beds
It would be so nice to walk our of my
store
Oh I do deplore the sight of
drunkards.

I've heard a mournful tale
That the fleet is going to sail
All the women here will wail
I'll think it be paradise,
To get out of this den of vice
I'd like to be some place
Where ladies wear white lace
To hear them talking proper

To wear the latest topper
To doze beside a brook,
And not have to look at.....

Landlord

Drunkards, drunkards our lives are
full of drunkards.
Drunkards, drunkards there's drunkards
every where

Landlord

They're living in my cellar and
climbing on my roof

JOHN POUNDS

They're kissing all the wenches, and
that is so uncouth

JOHN POUNDS and Landlord

It would be so nice to walk out of my
store

Oh I do deplore the sight of
drunkards, drunkards
They're drunkards every where
They're lying in the cutter
They're sleeping on the floor

They're hanging out the window
And falling out the door
It would be so nice
To walk out of my door
With out the ugly sight of drunkards.

Landlords wife
You coming in or ain't ya!

Landlord
All right, all right, I'm coming. [exit
into pub.]

JOHN POUNDS
[exit into shop. slams door behind
him]

Prostitute
[Enter, Prostitute with two very
ragged children with no shoes on 7
yrs. & 5yrs. they are pulling at the
woman's dress.]

Josie
Where are we going mum? I'm
cold.

Older Child/Sally

You going to leave us on our own again mum?

Josie

[start to cry]

I don't want to be on my own again, them nasty people frighten me.

Prostitute

[With a fowl tone.]

You'll be all right. You want to be fed don't ya. Then I's got to get us some money, So you'll just have to put up with it.

Sally

You going to do what you done the other night then?

Prostitute

Never you mind. Now Go on and get your self out of here, I'se come for you later.[exit.]

[Children are left all on their own. They sit on JOHN POUNDS door step, Sally raps shawl around her younger

sister.]

Sally

Never mind Josie I'll look after you, we won't always be cold and hungry, you see.

Josie

[Cry] Why don't mum want us Sal?

Sally

Oh. Don't cry Josie, She does want us really, I think It's because she ain't got no money and she says we're always hungry.

[Looks up at the sky.]

Look at all them stars Josie, ain't they bright, and don't they twinkle. I'd like to be up there twinkling with them .

[sing.]

Twinkle, twinkle little star how I wonder what you are.

[Talk]

I heard Angel lives up there. [pause]
I bet they ain't hungry and cold.

Josie

What's an angel Sal?

Sally

They's People that are all shinny and
has wings, and I's been told they can
do magic.

Josie

Do magic, core, wouldn't that be good,
just think what we could do if we were
angels Sal.

Sally

Yes. Just think of it Josie.

[sings]

If I were an angel I'd do lots of
thing for you
I would fly down from the sky
And give you lots of food
I would fly too that shop
At the Saturday fair
And ask god for some money
For some nice thing to ware
I would make you look pretty
With some nice ribbons in your hair
Them fly you to heaven
too show you what's there

[With a weep.] It's not fair.

Josie

[Cuddly Sally.] Don't cry Sal.
[Talk, hold hands to gather and look
up.] Can I be an angel as well Sal.?

Sally

Yeeee. Would you buy me some shoes
then?

Josie

If I were an angel I'd buy some shoes
for our feet
Not made from canvas
But all dainty and sweet
If I were an angel
I would buy us some keys
And go to the prison and set our daddy
free
I would go to our mum before she grows
old
And fill up her purse with silver and
gold.
[Cuddle up.]

JOHN POUNDS

[Open top half of door and looks outside with lantern. Light from inside shop makes him shine. Looks down.]

Now what's we be having here then?

Sally

We's sorry sir.

JOHN POUNDS

You's no need to be sorry, that's no place to be sitting in this cold. Now my little one you's be getting your'n self in to the shop and gets you warmed up by me fire, and by looks of E you's could do with some vitals in your'n bellies.

My little friend Liz will look after you's.

[Shout into shop.]

Lizzy, there be two youngen here, you's come and get 'em and I's be getting some soup on.

[Exit into shop]

[Children stand up and look to John.]

Josie
Is he an angel Sally?

Lizzy
[Enter from shop, takes children by
the hand and take
them into shop.]

Act 1 scene 5

[next day]

Opens inside shop with children
finishing off their
Food, there are two women fussing
about clearing up.

JOHN POUNDS
[helps put carrying sacks on older
boys backs then one on to himself.]
[too young children.]
I'se sorry you little ones can't come
but it might be to much for your'n
little legs, but in time you's be
coming.
[to the others.] Is everybody ready?

Children

[Answer with excitement.]

JOHN POUNDS

Right then, were going.

Music [There/we're off.]

[Lemmon, Parents and others are there too see them off and sing along with them.]

We're going ,we're going we're going
we're going,

Were going to the countryside

Up over Portsdown Hill

See the all the animals playing

And running in green fields

We're going to see the sun comes up

Into the deep blue sky

And watch the pretty little birds
learning how to fly.

We're going to see the skylarks

To hear how they can sing

And look how high they can fly

on their little wings

We're going to walk the hedge rows

even take a peak inside

Try not to fright the birds away

cause they are very shy.

We're going to the countryside, To
have some fun and games
We hope to climb some big old trees,
And hope to learn their names
We're going to gather up some flowers,
That grow in the early spring
Cause life is such a wonderful things
you'll always hear us sing.
Were going, were going..... {fade out.]

ACT 1 SCENE 7

[Scene Countryside]

Bill

[bumps into the girls]

Emma[twelve year old]

[Gives Bill a friendly hit,]You done
that on purpose, Billy Saunders.

Bill

No I didn't, it's you girls you's be
getting fat and you's be taking up to

much room.

Emma

Core what a blooming cheek.
[to the others]Come on lets get him!

Bill

[Exits Running.]

Children

[Exit after bill. Leaving Elizabeth
and Tom and JOHN POUNDS.]

JOHN POUNDS

You's be leaving us tomorrow Tom. Just
think it only seems like a short
time ago, that you ran into me with
that lump of bread.

Tom

[Enters with Liz]
Aye that Mr. Pounds, but it be a long
time though. Six year I think. Though
I's not want to go much.

JOHN POUNDS

Well you be a young man now, you's
done all your learning and you's got

all the world before you, now you got a chance to see some of it. Besides you's got too make room for some other little rascal.
[stretching.]My it be a good day.

Emma

[enters running.]
Mr. Pounds, Mr. Pounds ,Billy's gone and fallen in the river he climbed a tree and the branch brokeand he's all wet through to his skin.

JOHN POUNDS

Well has he now, who would have thought Billy could do a thing like that. I hope he's learned something from it.
Come on then let's see what the little wagabond has gone and done to himself.
[Exit with Emma holding her hand.]

Tom

[Follows John off.]

Liz

[Calls after Tom.]
I suppose your going too poke fun at

Billy then?

Tom

[From off stage.]

No I'm not, I was just getting something for you.

Liz

What's that then?

Tom

You'll see

[Enters Quickly with daffodils gives them on Liz. Then just as quickly go to opposite side of stage facing away.]

Liz

Why, Tommy Saunders, what are you doing? You've gone and given me flowers. Well I never thought I'd see the day. What ever made you do that?

Tom

They were there to be picked so I picked them and I gave them too you cause I like you, no other reason. Any way I was hoping

you might be liking me a bit.

Liz

Oh course I like you what a funny thing to say.

Tom

It's not funny, I wanted to say, ...like, you know, more than like you.... What else do a man give a girl flowers for?

Liz

[start teasing Tom.]
I don't know Tommy Saunders, it's the first time I've ever had them given to me.

Tom

I'm joining the navy tomorrow
[getting in a tizz.]
and I'll be away and I was ...I was hoping... I was hoping I can see you when I come home, you know.... it's like..... you know. Sailors have girls to come home too.

Liz

I've heard sailors got girls in all the ports and knowing you Tommy, you'll be know different you'll probably be to tired time you get home.

Tom
To tired, why?

Liz
[Giggle.] I'm sure, for what I've been learning, you'll soon find out.

Tom
[Annoyed]
Why you laughing at me? I's not thinking it's funny, I'm serious. I love you! [Panics and face away from Liz.]

Liz
[shocked]
Did you say what I thought you said Tommy?

Tom
You're not going to make me say it

again are you?

Liz

No, once must have been a strain. [Go to Tom.] but Tom I Love you in a funny sort of way.

Tom

[exited]

You do!?

Liz

Now don't you getting yourself all worked up, besides Mr. Pounds said, when you take on some ones love, you take on the responsibility for that love, and you're going away.

Tom

Yes I know that, but I am coming home again, and as we like each other like we do, I's be thinking you's be waiting a bit.

Liz

Who said anything about waiting? Waiting is for them that is older and to be getting wed, and lots of thing can happen , and besides I don't think

I'm ready, I want to Tommy. And besides I can't be sure of your promises.

Tom

What more can I say. You're the only one I know I've not much too give bue...

[Sings]

If the world were mine to give,
I'd give it all to you
Then we could share our every days,
and our night times too
But I've got nothing in this world,
Only the sky above
I'd like to give you the stars,
but **all I have is love.**

Liz

[try too run away, is stopped by Tom.]

Tom

Please don't run away from me, just for a moment, wait, let us stay here, Just the two of us alone, so close, so near,

It may take all of all of my strength
to hold you
And take all my love to keep you,
But I will, I'll give all my love to
you

Liz

[puts her hands over her ears, Tom
takes her hands away]

Tom

If the world were mine to give, I'd
give it all to you,

Liz

[Covers her face.] No I can't.

Tom

Then I have nothing.

Liz

No Tom, you have every thing

Song

Liz

I must run away from you,
because this moment has found us too
soon,
Like a daisy in the winter, midnight

at noon,
It will take all my strength to resist
you
And take all my love to refuse you
But in time I'll give all my love to
you.
If the world were mine to give,
I'd give it all to you

[Tom goes to hold Liz. But Liz pulls
away.]

Liz

[talk]
No not now, our love is too young to
be free.
But Tommy don't put your self out
reach.
[Hold each other.]

Tom and Liz

To gather we have found a love that is
for ever
So we must bid our time, well keep
waiting for the day
We will hide our love in amongst the
darkest shadows
And keep our love at bay, so for a

moment, stay with me I pray.

Liz

[Breaks away from tom crying then exit.]

Tom

[Shouts after Liz.] Lizzy please.

Liz

[Then softly.] I love you.
[Softly] If the world were mine to
give I'd give it all to you and
we would share our every
day

[exit as weeping]

John Pounds

[Enter with children.]

As I be saying, we learn all kinds of
things in this world and I's be
thinking you's just go and learned one
of them Bill.

Bill

I's not be knowing that branch were
not strong Mr.Pounds.

JOHN POUNDS

You do now Bill you do now. Here put
this sack on
else you catch a chill.

Bill
I's think I feel like a sack of
flower. [Laugh]

JOHN POUNDS
[Open bag.]
Right then, who wants something to
eat?

Children
We do! [All go to him.]

JOHN POUNDS
[Laughing]
All right, all right, you be thinking
I's not feed you. Not all at once now.
[Hands out food.] Where's Lizzie?

Emma
I saw Lizzie down by the stream Mr.
Pounds.

JOHN POUNDS
Well you better be getting her here

Emma, other wise all the food will be gobbled up by these young wagabonds. And where's Tom?.

Emma

[Exit]

Billy.

I'm not sure Mr. Pounds, but I thought I saw him going up the lane.

JOHN POUNDS.

That be the way home, why's he gone and done that for? He said nothing to me.

[Liz and Emma enter.]

Emma.

I found her Mr. Pounds, she's been crying.

Liz.

There's no need to be telling them Emma.

JOHN POUNDS.

[Looks at Liz kindly.]
Ah yes I'se be knowing. Them there
tears wouldn't be something to do with
Tom leaving us would it Lizzie?

Liz.

[Crying.] I'm sorry Mr. Pounds.

JOHN POUNDS.

There's no need to be sorry for
tears .

[to children.] You lot Can be taking
your'n victuals down by the river and
Bill, you stay away from the water .

[All children exit.]

JOHN POUNDS.

I'se not be knowing much about
feelings tween boysand girls, that
kind of thing don't come to I.Mind you
I'se had me moments before I had my
fall.But as I be seeing it, you and
young Tom as you might say, come to be
more than friends. Am I knowing right
Lizzy?

Liz.

That be so Mr. Pounds, he wants to start courting and things, I like Tom very much but I'm to young. I want to.....but.....

I don't know what to do, what with him going away and that.[Cry]

JOHN POUNDS

There, there, you's be having a good cry. Love is a Funny thing, I'se be thinking it be just like a rose. You watch them growing, first there comes the rose bud, it looks pretty enough but do you see butterfly's or bees around it? Coarse you don't cause they's be knowing they's not ready yet. They might come and have a look once on a while, but no, they's be waiting till the rose has it's self ready with it's petals all out and smelling so sweetly like. It's a part of nature, so why should we be any different .Now you compare that with you and Tom. He knows you's both be to young, but all he wants to know is you's be there when he comes home.

Liz.

I wanted to say yes but I got into a quandary.

JOHN POUNDS.

Ah well that be another part of nature none of us understand, we're always saying things we don't know the meaning of.

Liz.

I don't know Mr. Pounds, I'm not sure of things much, but no matter When I come to you, you've always got an answer.

JOHN POUNDS.

I'se not be knowing that Lizzy, all I know is here be an answer for every thing. Anyway I'se be thinking it be time to go [call to children.]
Come on my little wagabonds time to go home.

[Children enter not very happy.]

Bill

Oh, do we have too? We's be wanting to see the ducks and thing. [All children

grumbling]

JOHN POUNDS

Well as I be remembering Bill, you tried to swim with them any way we must be getting along, otherwise the darkness will get home before we do. So you all be packing up your'n bags now and start getting alone, I's be staying a bit, I'll be catching up with you in a a short time.

[Children Exit]

[Music for Right or wrong]

JOHN POUNDS

[Looking up]

[Talk]

I some times wonder what I'se be knowing about the things the children ask me. Do I give them the right answer?

[Sing /talk]

Am I right or am I wrong?

Do I stop or carry on?

O Lord are you there are you listening
to me?

Are you there when I pray ?

Do you put strength in all that I say?

Are you there by my side, with love?

Are you there when they cry
with their worry's of the day?

Or when they are lonely
and have forgotten how to play?

Are you there when I am beaten
and fumble with my words?

Are they then just a jumble

Do they stop and think
of what they have heard?

Perhaps they mumble, and pretend

Perhaps they laugh at my words,

Do they hear me?

[Talk/sing]

They treat me as their father

I don't know too much about that

The nearest I get to a family is, A
CAT.

Can you just imagine, me as a married
man

Look at the state I'm in

I'm rough, rough as a rusty can

And my looks are pretty grim
What woman would have me
No woman I would know
Can you imagine it or can you see
No,.....No I wouldn't bother if I were
you.
You might hit me so if you please let
it be
Or there again it might make you laugh
Ha,ha,ha
Are you still there lord ?
Are you still listening ?
Have I made you weep ?
Or have you got board and dropped of
to sleep?

Are my words to them just a reminder
of the state of their lives?
And how they survived before I arrived
Do I truly help them with their lives
in my hands?
Are my words then, like the sea upon
the sand ?
Do my words matter do they go down to
their souls ?
Will it really help them when they
grow old?

O lord do you hear me Am I right or am I wrong?

Do I stop now or do I carry on ?

O lord are you there are you listening ?

Are you there when I pray?

Do you put strength in what I say?

Are you there by my side with love?

Are you listening ? [Exit]

End of act one

Act two

[Many years later]suggestion
The scene could opens with a large Christmas card with a sweetshop in the middle. Christmas eve in shopping market. Better of People carrying their Christmas gifts. This should be a song and dance number. After the music the card is pulled to one side leaving the sweet shop and show the poor and destitute.

[Traders Enter, One trader pushes cart on and is made to upset all his wares on to the floor by ragged child. All ragged children and others make a grab at the food.]

Trader

[Tries too retrieve his goods.]
Get away you little beggars, leave it alone.

[Then threaten the one that bumped into him.]

You wait till I get you, you little..... I'm going to get the Beak to you.

[Then chase him off stage.]

Woman

[Takes food from child and bits into it showing her hunger.]

JOHN POUNDS

[Looking much older 70+, enters carrying a large sack, and is wearing a hat with a holly Rosary around it, and wearing a green cloak. Lets out a hearty laugh.]

Children [let out a cheer and run to JOHN POUNDS.]

Jack

[is about 16 years of age]
Look there's Saint Nick.

Jemmy [about 8 yrs.
old]

That ain't Saint Nick that's Mr.
Pounds

Jack

I'se be knowing that, but the holly
around his head makes him Saint Nick,
don't it.

Jemmy

Why!?

Jack

Oh forget it.

JOHN POUNDS

[Laughing]
Now don't E be getting here all at

once otherwise I'se not be knowing
what I'se be at.

[points to barrel]

Now you two wagabonds go and fetch me
that there barrel so as I can sit
myself down.

Polly[a frail girl.]

What you got in the sack Mr. Pounds?

JOHN POUNDS

Ahh wouldn't you like to be knowing,
but there I'se may be wondering
myself.

[Open sack.] Now what as we here?

[pulls out a large dish wrapped up in
a large muslin cloth.]

Ah yes Polly, now you's be reading
what it be saying on the
label.

Polly

Thank you Mr. Pounds. It be reading,
have a merry christmas
Mrs. Wilkins and family.

JOHN POUNDS

Now you's be taking that there present

to your'n mother Polly.

Polly

[Has trouble carrying it, mother comes to help.]

Here you are mum.

Mrs. Wilkins

[Undoing the knot.]

Jemmy

I'se a betting I'se know what it is.

Jack

Shut your self up then, let mum find out for Herself.

Mrs. Wilkins

[On finding out what's in the muslin, bursts into tears.]

Polly

[Puts arm around mother.]

What's the matter mum?

Mrs Wilkins

It's so much kindness that makes me cry Polly. Look there's enough here for the whole Christmas dinner. What can I say Mr. Pounds, thank you.

JOHN POUNDS

There no need too thank I ,what's in your'n eye is thanks enough. Anyway that's for all the help you's been giving me. And here's a happy Christmas to you Mrs. Jenner. [Handing her a hamper.]

Mrs Jenner

God bless you Mr. Pounds and a merry Christmas to you.

JOHN POUNDS

[Starts pulling out shoes from the sack.]

Come on you young rascals come and get your'n presents.

[Children gather around John. Every body has shoes except Polly.]

Polly

[Looking at the other with shoes.]
Ain't their shoes nice, but I'll be
having a nice Christmas dinner.
It would be nice too have a pair of
new shoes though, but it don't matter
does it mum, every one is happy now.
[she cuddles mum.]

JOHN POUNDS

[Opens sack.] Now what has I got here.
[Pulls out hoes.] Polly, you's be
coming here and read what the label
says, I'se not be reading it my self.

Polly

[Takes shoes.]
It reads. To little Polly Wilkins.
[jumps up and down]
There for me! Look I've got some new
shoes, and look
they got buckles on.
[Put shoes on.]

**Music [One two buckle my shoes] Song
and dance.**

Polly
Ain't they pretty mr. Pounds

Polly

One two buckle my shoe
Three four stamp on the floor
Five six chop up sticks
Seven eight close the gate
Nine ten big fat hen.

Children

One two I got a buckle on my shoe
Three four we can dance on the floor
Five six we can hop and skip
Seven eight we can kick our mate
Nine ten you're our friend

One two we all love you
Three four we're learning more
Five six our lives you fix
Seven eight we're your mates
Nine ten you're a gem.

John/children

If you want to grow up strong
Do things right and not things wrong
If you want them shoes to wear
Then you'll have to learn to share

[Children gather around John.]

Trader

[Enter with the beak/constable.]

Jack

It's the beak!

Trader

[Pointing at children.]

There they all are, the little
beggars.

[Children go behind John.]

Beak

Good day to you Mr. Pounds, I've had a
complaint From this gentleman
here ,that them there children went
and gobble up his bread and cakes.
Might this be true?

JOHN POUNDS

I'se not be knowing to much about that
sir, I'se not see them do that, but
what I do know is that some has
nothing inside them they gets it the
best way they can.

Beak

I know that Mr. Pounds, but getting food is one thing stealing it is something else.

Jack

[shouts] We's not steal it Mr.Pounds, it were rolling in the dirt.

Trader

I were pushed and before I could do anything about it they all grabbed it

JOHN POUNDS

Well as I see it you weren't able to sell it as it were rollin in the dirt.

Beak

[To baker.] Can you see the boy that done it sir.

Trader

He wouldn't stay would he, he were off like a shot. I see them, the lot of them were in on it.

Polly

[Upset.] I'se not be stealing Mr.

Pounds.

JOHN POUNDS

I know that Polly.[Get up of seat and catch a hold of Polly's hand Then slowly walk around the traders and shoppers, looking at them with a strong stare. They are not able to look him in the eyes. Then with a raised voice.]Tell me, why has e put these youngens into position where they have to be stealing to stay alive ,if it's stealing you be calling it!!

Trader

They're scum all of them. Nothings safe when they're around.!

JOHN POUNDS

Scum are they? Now, if you's a mine to,take a look at them families. What do you see? go on take a good hard look. What do you see, do you really see scum ?go on some one tell me.

[Every one is silent.]

well! can't any one see? Or are you all to shamed to say what your'n hardened heart wants to say? Then let me say it for you.

Destitution, hunger you see human being that hate the night cos hey know they will freeze, some will even freeze to death, and have you given a thought that some of their fathers and husbands had given their lives for

there Country, Do you care! No.

[with a loud shout]

Are you listening, Can you hear me!

[Music]

JOHN POUNDS

[spoken] Why do we begrudge them some thing to eat, even at the time when we are enjoying our Lord's birthday, would he had done the same. Would he had put up with all this wretchedness, NO! Tell me why there's so much poverty in a country that says It be Christian, WHY!

[Song]

Why is there so much squalor when the
country is full of health
Why are there children starving
while the rich are in good wealth
Why do these children suffer why do
they have to freeze
Why doesn't some one help them why
dose it fall on me.
I'll teach I'll clothe I'll feed them
I'll give them all that I've got
Cos I know as far as this country goes
these kids can go and rot.
So when you're strolling along a busy
street
And a retched child comes running
around your well shod feet
Don't hit kick and abuse them and make
them scream and cry
Because some day in the future, they
could be fighting by your side
Just remember they are human, and have
the right to live
Don't throw them in the gutter,
because they are ragged kids!
Why are there no children laughing, is
it a sin for them to smile
Why can't we make them happy, and make

their lives worth while

It's not much to ask for a measly
crumb of bread
or anything else you might throw away,
so at least they will be fed
I'm sure a smile would be welcomed,
you'll get a happy smile back
Try treating them with compassion, and
not a heavy handed whack
Just try a little charity , so just
look in your heart and give.
Just remember they are children that
only want to live

CAN YOU HEAR ME!

Beak

[To baker]

I've nothing to do here sir, I suggest
you take a little more care in the
future, no good comes from aggravating
a situation.[Exit]

Trader

Am I do get nothing. I hear what you
say Mr.pounds and I know what these
kids have to suffer, but I've got to
make a livingoh have a merry

Christmas.

[wags his finger at the children]
Next time you beggars be a wanting you
come around to my shop at the end of
the day ,you may be able to have some
of the left overs, just as well the
rats will only eat it, then you wont
have to giveme any trouble will you.
[Exit]

Sweet shop lady

[comes to her door.]
I also heard what you said Mr. Pounds,
forgive me, like every one else here I
just did not think, here take this
jar of sweets for the children your
right the lord would not have put up
with it.[puts hankey to face]
A merry Christmas to you all.
[exit with a tear .]

JOHN POUNDS

Thank you misses and a merry Christmas
to you.

[Trader and shoppers put food and such
into John's sack.]

Jack

carols]

JOHN POUNDS

[Laughs loudly, picks up the sack and exit followed by the children all singing.]

ACT 2 SCENE 2

[There is laughter coming from inside John's shop,
and there are people gathering around outside.]

JOHN POUNDS

[Loudly.]

Has you finished your'n beef and tatties ?

[Children all respond loudly,] Yes !

JOHN POUNDS

Right then, come along Jack, you's can

be helping me carry the plum pudding
in.

JOHN POUNDS

And you little wagabonds ,just you be
minding your'n selves a bit while
I'se go next door.

Jack and John
[enter from shop to next door.]

1st. Person
What's all the fuss about then?

2nd Person
Old John Pounds, he makes a giant plum
pudding every Christmas and there's
always plenty for every one. That's
why I'm here.

1st person
Here can I have some.[excitedly]

2nd Person
Yes, If you hang about a bit and when
them kids has stuffed them selves with
beef and spuds and there's not much
room left in them. They'll be plenty.

Woman/cook

[from next door] All ready for the pudding then!

JOHN POUNDS

Yes misses we be ready!

Cook

Right there it be, and you be handling that with care Mr. Pounds and you young Jack, I'm not wanting to be doing all this work for you to be dropping it in the dirt. NOW BE CAREFUL.

1st Person

It's coming, it's coming!

2nd Person

[Sniffing the air.]Core I can smell it from here, cant you feel it going down your'n gut.

John and Jack

[Enter carrying the pudding, it is in

a muslin suspended from a poll. The pudding about 3ft/1m long and about the same in diameter in the shape of a bolster.]

3rd Person

Blimey look at the size of that!

2nd Person

What a whopper!

Baker

You can say that again. Must be the biggest one I've ever seen.

Cook

Alright keep your hands off of it, you'll soon be getting some, after the kids that is!

[John and Bill carry pudding into shop]

Children

[all cheer.]

Music [What a whopper]

2nd Person

I'm going to say it again, what
a whopper
[song]
What a whopper, what a whopper
never seen a finer offering before
What a whopper what a whopper
It's the biggest Christmas pud I ever
saw.

Sailor

Well I've been round the world a bit
and had all kinds of grub
I once had a plate of shiskabab in a
Turkish pub
Then I went across to china and that
was very nice
Until they gave me two great lumps of
wood to eat a bowl of rice.
And I've eaten all kinds of vitals as
you can well believe
But to have a chunk of that Christmas
pud is the best I could receive.

What a whopper,

Baker

Now I am the local baker that I'm sure
you l know to well

How I like to keep the town supplied
with bread that's never stale
I like when I'm busy and I'm making
lots of dough
You'll often hear me singing when I
throw it to and throw
I don't mind a little competition as I
know it's all for the good
So I lay down my submission and grab
me some Christmas pud.

Constable

I never thought at this time of year
That any crowd would want to cheer
So I went over to investigate let me
see what's going on here
And then to my amazement the prose
dings were much more clear
I soon found out what the fuss was all
about When this pudding it did appear
So I thought I'd stretch my legs a bit
For the proceedings for me to see
Then nab my self some Christmas
Pud ,And say.....

[All]

You better come along with me.

What a whopper

JOHN POUNDS

[From inside shop.]

As you all had your'n fill?

People

[All go quiet.]

Children

[shout loud] Yes!

Child

I'm fit to bursting Mr. Pounds

JOHN POUNDS

[at door.]

I'se be wishing you all a happy
Christmas and I'se be giving you's a
welcome to share our Christmas
pudding.

People

[All cheer and sing "**What a whopper.**"
Then exit]

ACT 2 SCENE 3

[outside JOHN POUNDS shop, summer

time]

Child

Come on you lot now it's Summer we can
get out too
Beach.

Adult

Yes And I bet it want belong before
the beak is chasing you load of
ragamuffins.

Harry

We don't care what you call us mister
because.

All children

[sing ragged kids song]

We are the ragged kids and we live our
ragged lives

I have a ragged dad and he got a
ragged wife

We are ragged clothes and we eat our
ragged gruel

And we learn our ragged lessons at a
very ragged school

We don't care what life throws at us

We're never any fuss we's not the
upper crust
And when we walk down St. Mary's
street
Every thing in life is smelling
sweet..... Phew
We don't know where we'll get a bit to
eat,
We'll sleep out on the street, but
we'd love a bit of heat
And when we walk down St. Mary's
street
Every thing in life is smelling sweet

[All exit into shop]

ACT 2 Scene 4

[inside shop that is full of children]

Polly
[enter coughing]

JOHN POUNDS [
Hello Polly, come to join us then?

Polly
Look Mr. Pounds, [cough.] I stopped to

pick these pretty buttercups for your
70th birthday sir.

[Then continue coughing.]

JOHN POUNDS

My word is it June already? How did
you find out it's my birthday then?

Polly

Mr. Lemon told me

[try to laugh then go into coughing
fit.]

JOHN POUNDS

Your's be minding that cough Polly.
I's better be getting you something
for that later. These flowers be pretty
alright. I know a little about them
there buttercups, well not so much
about the buttercups, but more about
the Buttercup fairies.

[Some of the children laugh at the
statement.]

JOHN POUNDS

Don't E believe in fairies then?

Harry
I've never seen one.

Lizzy
I believe in fairies Mr. Pounds

Harry
Yeah you're a girl, your's all
believe in
That stuff.

JOHN POUNDS
Well I believe in fairies and I'm not
a girl.

Polly
I do too. I's be seeing them on my bed
when I's not well. I saw them last
night. So there. [cough]

JOHN POUNDS
Harry, I's be thinking your's better
take Polly home to her mother.

Harry
Yes Mr. Pounds

Polly

[coughing]

JOHN POUNDS

{To Polly} And you make sure to get your'n self tucked up in bed and tell your'n Mother I's be round with something nice and warm to eat.

Polly

Yes Mr. Pounds

[Harry and Polly exit.]

JOHN POUNDS

Right now we's be getting down to some work.

[to a boy sitting on stairs]

You there you rascal,

[Billy takes his time in coming.]

Here you curly dog. , when's you coming, stir your self lad. What you be at sitting there with nothing to do?

Billy [about 12 yrs.]

I'se not be doing nothing Mr. Pounds,
I'se be thinking.

JOHN POUNDS

Thinking are you. Well don't E be thinking too much else you be right off to sleep. What you be thinking about then?

Billy

Long division Mr. Pounds.

JOHN POUNDS

[beckon boy to himself]

Long division A, well you be coming here to do a bit of spelling then.

[John kindly, grabs Billy's hair]
what's this I'se have then?

Billy

My wig Mr. Pounds

JOHN POUNDS

My wig you rascal? Spell wig.

Billy

Spells it wrong V.i.g.

JOHN POUNDS

Wig lad spell wig not vig.

Billy
[spells it right]

JOHN POUNDS
[Gives Billy a blow on the
shoulder.] Right lad , what's I'se give
you?

Billy
A blow Mr. Pounds

JOHN POUNDS
Right now spell blow.

Billy
B-l-o-w.

JOHN POUNDS
Right , now where did I give you
the blow?

Billy
On the shoulder Mr. Pounds

JOHN POUNDS
Then spell shoulder

Billy

Tries to spell but fails

JOHN POUNDS

No boy you's blundering, try
again

Billy

Tries again and fails

JOHN POUNDS

You're a blunderer Joe. What are
you ?

Billy

A blunderer Mr. Pounds

JOHN POUNDS

Have a go again

Billy

[With help from John, gets it right]

JOHN POUNDS

[Gives Billy a good nature push.]
There that weren't so bad now go along
with you. [Points to Joe, who is
laughing.]

You's curly dog. What you be laughing
at Joe ?!

Joe

[a small curly headed boy.]

Billy Mr. Pounds.

JOHN POUNDS

You's be coming here then, lets see if
they's be laughing at you!

Joe

[Takes his time coming forward]

JOHN POUNDS

[speaks sharply]

When's you coming lad, come on stir
your'n self.

Joe

[Go forward with cheeky smile on his
face]

I'se here Mr. Pounds.

JOHN POUNDS
What's slops?!

Joe
What my dad wears Mr. Pounds

JOHN POUNDS
Spell slops!

Joe
[spells slops]

JOHN POUNDS
Any other sort of slops Joe?!

Joe
Yes Mr. Pounds ,that there in
the bucket.

JOHN POUNDS
Spell bucket!

Joe
[Spells bucket.]

JOHN POUNDS
Spell pump!

Joe

[big smile come across his face, he spells pump]

JOHN POUNDS

Good, now you's be taking that there bucket down to the pump and give it a good cleanin' and get some water.

Joe

[grabs the bucket.] Yes Mr. Pounds .

JOHN POUNDS

Joe, where's your'n slate?

Joe

I broke it Mr. Pounds

Jack

[who is now a teenager passes his slate to Joe.]

Here, you just as well have mine as I'm leaving.

Joe

[take slate from Jack and go to exit .]

JOHN POUNDS

[Sadly] Ah yes, you's be going then Jack.

[to Joe] You be minding that state remember who it be from and if you brake that one, I'se be taking my stick to E.

Joe

Yes Mr. Pounds. [Exit.]

JOHN POUNDS

[To Jack.] When's your'n starting your employment?

Jack

In the morning Mr. Pounds.

JOHN POUNDS

In the morning?! Then what you be doing here then!? Go on be off with you. You've go to get ready!

[All children go quiet.]

Jack

But.....

JOHN POUNDS

But what, your a man now and you's be doing your'n duty. Anyway you's be getting to big for the the schooling now. You's learned all your lessons now, so you should be proud to be going too be a civil servant.

Jack

[feeling uncomfortable.]

I wanted to say goodbye proper like.

JOHN POUNDS

Well say it then and then be off to you'n work.

Jack

[Go to door.]

Well I'll be saying it then.....Goodbye you lot.I'll be popping in too see you when I've got a moment.

[Get emotional. Then go quickly out the door with hands over his face to hide his crying.]

JOHN POUNDS

[Watches Jack go out, then mops his eyes with a bit of old rag.] God bless you Jack! [then pick up shoe] right Back to work.

ACT 2 SCENE 5

John Pounds

[Can be seen through shop window.]

Jack

[Enters out of shop and stand somewhat bewildered after being you might say, thrown out]

I've not be knowing what to say to him [Walking away from the shop ,then try to buck himself up.]

I don't need him any more...What's the matter with me, I should be glad I've left that school, if you like to call it that.... Anyway I don't need him.

NO I'm a man now, why should I need him ?

Music

"I don't need him."

Look at him sitting there

His skin as rough as leather
He's rough so rough
Then why am I bothering?
[Shout]
NO I don't need him
Then why should I care
He behaved like my father
That's something I've never had
The only thing that was missing was
I could never call him dad
[Shout]
Then why should I need too
[Sing]
I don't need him
His body is bent and broken
And his back is brawny and thick
And when he had a mind to
He would know how to use his stick
He used it on my hand once
It made me cry with pain
Then I'd loose temper
Which made him do it again
I don't need him, [Shout]NO!
He's hard so hard.
I remember once

[Talk softly] Yes I remember
I remember being starved and broken
When I was very small

And I thought that shivering in the
winter

Was to make tough and tall

When I saw the posh kids

With their clothing, all with shoes
and hats

I believed it to be sissy

HA!

I didn't need that

He found me down by the dockside

The dockside was my bed

They say that when he found me

I was nearly dead

[shout]

who was he to know[softly]...I said

I put my future in his hands

If I was left to myself

I would surely have run amuck

Living from minute to minute

Relying heavily on my luck

Being left to myself

I would have surely gone rotten

He saved me from myself

And stopped me being forgotten

[emotionally shout at John]

[Shout]

NOW..... I don't need you!!

[Exit]

JOHN POUNDS

[Enters from shop and call] Jack... Jack! I's not wantin' you to go... he's gone. [stamp stick] Why do I think it's right, to treat them like that when it be time for them to go. I know it be hard for them to leave, but I's be thinking. Do they know how hard it is for me. Do they know that every time a young scholar leaves.

[Sing/talk]

And when they look round at me
 And wave goodbye
 Do they see the strain in my face
 Do they see me cry
 Will they ever remember me after I
 have gone
 Will they hold their heads up high
 when writing words and write their
 songs
 Will they Say. **"John Pounds taught I".**

Act 2 scene 6 [winter new years eve.]

[Inside JOHN POUNDS shop]

JOHN POUNDS

I's be thinking as it's the new years
day to morrow some
of you need to be telling the time.
Hands up the ones who knows the
telling of the time then?

Cathy

[put hand up first.] I know the
telling Mr. Pounds.

[Other children put hands up.]

JOHN POUNDS

And do you know the date it be Cathy?

[Other children put up their hands,

Cathy

It be new years eve and it is the
thirty first of December 1838 you
learned me Mr. Pounds.

JOHN POUNDS

[laughing]

Oh so I did. Now there some that know
the time telling and there be some
that don't. Ah yes there be enough.
Can you remember how I learned you
then?

Children

Yes Mr. Pounds The ones that know form
line.]

JOHN POUNDS

Right then lets be teaching them that
don't be knowing. I's be starting you
off then. **Tick tock**, tick tock, tick
tock.....

Children that don't know the time join
in with John

Tick tock...You might want to continue
through the song.]

1st child

[Hold arms up and sings]

My name is twelve o'clock tick tock

I am the middle of the day

Some people have their dinner

Others go out to play

I am the very top of the clock

And I play the longest tune

I am the end of morning
And the beginning of the afternoon

Three children
[holding their arms to time.]
Our names are one two three o'clock
We are the hours past midday

With the big hand pointing at twelve
o'clock
And the small hand running away
We're not very pop-u-lar
And it's sad what people say
It's only one two three o'clock
Which makes it a very long day

Three children
[Hold arms to 4 5 and 6]
Our names are four five six o'clock
We are the end of the afternoon
It there we start the evening off
That never comes too soon
The people are happy to see us
For they know their work is done
And they know it's time to have some
tea
And perhaps a little fun

Children

[holding hands to 7 8 and 9 o'clock]
Our names are seven eight nine o'clock
We are the evening light
And we are those evening hours
That separate day from night
It's time to put the children to bed
And time to put out the light
And mums and dads get the kids out the
way
So they can have a kiss or a fight.

Two children

[Holding hands to 10 and 11 o'clock]
We are ten and eleven o'clock
And it's time to put out the cat
With the big hand still at twelve o-
clock
And the small one heading back
We are the time for every one
To get tucked up in bed
And for the cat to make a horrible
noise
Down on the garden shed.

One child or all children.

[Hands at 12 o'clock]
My mane is twelve o'clock tick tock

I am the middle of the night
And when some people hear me
They often shake with fright
As it's the time ghost's and goblins
Making the ones in bed
Put their heads down under their
sheets
So they can hide their heads

All children

So now we've been right round the
clock
And we hope you understand
Why clocks have got twelve numbers on
And the reason for their hands
There's a little more to be learning
And a little more to be seen
Like a quarter too and quarter past
And a half hour in between.

Children

[All laugh and cheer]

JOHN POUNDS

Right who hasn't been to the Sunday
school yet?

[some children put their hands up]

Boy

[Puts his hand up.]

I'se not Mr. Pounds.

JOHN POUNDS

Not you, you young scallywag, you's to rough for them there ladies at the Sunday school, you's be frightening them...Georgie ,yes you can go this week and you Cathy and I'se be giving you some nice dresses to ware.

Georgie

[a girl]

Thank you Mr. Pounds

Cathy

Thank you Mr. Pounds ,

[shyly]

I saw a lovely pink dress there Mr. Pounds.

JOHN POUNDS

Pink one, has we a pink one then? You been looking in the cupboard then.

[Both girl give a shy look and hide their faces.]

JOHN POUNDS

Well it's all the same to me, if you's be wantin' a pink one you can have it.[Laughs]

Both girls

Thank you Mr. Pounds [go to run up stairs]

JOHN POUNDS

Not yet, not yet. On Sunday.

Both girls

Sorry Mr. Pounds

JOHN POUNDS

There's no need to be sorry , sorry is for them that's done wrong not for being happy. Anyway looking at some of you, I'se be thinking we've had enough to day so you all be off now and we's be here tomorrow, and Ashton , your heel still hurting?

Child

[comes running in to the shop,
interrupted John.]

Mr. Pounds Mr. Pounds, Polly Wilkins
has just died.

JOHN POUNDS

Little Polly, dead!?! [shocked.try hard
to keep tears back] Poor little Polly.
I's only saw her yesterday. We must
pray for her, She'll be happier where
she's gone.Wont have to suffer any
more. Poor little thing. We all know
that God will look after her don't we.

All children

Yes Mr. Pounds.

JOHN POUNDS

I'll call round and see Mrs. Wilkins.
Poor Polly. I's be thinking As we
will be missing our little friend
Polly, we's be having the rest of the
day off.

[All children exit]

[Later that evening.]

John Pounds

[Go to the stove shake the kettle puts
it on fire
then sits down in arm chair.

Lemmon

[enters]you all right John?

John Pounds

Yes thank you Lemmon.

Lemmon

No young John then? Being it new years
eve I thought he be spending it with
you.

John pounds

He young, he don't want too be
spending it with a 72 year old. Any
way I's got myslf a plate of spats,
for a treat you might say.

lemmon

you be spending the new year by your
self then.
If so you just as well come round with
us then.

John Pound

I don't think so Lemmon. Kind of you to ask. But I's be thinking of having a nice cup of tea and settling down in my arm chair.

Lemmon

As you wish John as you wish. Well happy new year. [Exit.]

John Pounds

[settle in arm chair.Picks up book. Start too read it but sleep gets the better of him.

[The fire slowly goes out and the shop darkens. The
There is a sound of children laughing and chattering.

John Pounds

Wakes up with a start but drowsy]
Who's there..Is that you lizzy?... Must have been the ale house.
[Doz off again.]

Sound

Children playing and keep on going
until Tom enters]

John Pounds

]Wakes up again.] Who's there I say,
who's messing me?
What's going on?

A wind blow door open, and a bright
light shines through the door.

Tom

Is standing in door way with the light
silhouetting him.] [Call.] John
Pounds.

JOHN POUNDS

[Getting angry.]who might you be, and
why you in my shop ?

Tom

Don't you remember me? I'm Tom.

JOHN POUNDS

Tom, Tom who? and why should I
remember you, I've not know you. You

be leaving my shop else I'll be taking my stick to E. [grabs his stick and tries too get out of his chair.] why cant I move.

Tom

Because you're sort of dreaming Mr.Pounds Mind you, you can move if you be wanting to.

John Pounds

I'se want too.

Tom

Well go on then I not be stopping you.

John Pounds

[Pushes him self forward, Get closer too Tom.]

Tom

Can you see me better now Mr. Pounds. I'm Tom Saunders. I was one of your first scholars ,you clipped me around the ear once for pinchin' a loaf of bread, when my dad were shot.

JOHN POUNDS

[Thinking]

Tom..Tom Saundres? Why that were near on twenty years ago. You's fooling with me..I want no fooling. No no, you cant be. I's be knowing Tom, but as I remember, he died

Tom

You said to me once that no one dies, so why are you so surprised?

JOHN POUNDS

I'se be saying that but...I can see that it's you Tom.....[confused] then if I's be dreaming and your dead. Why's you here?

Tom

I've come back over here to show you some things Mr. Pounds.

JOHN POUNDS

Show me, show me what? you's ought to

be showing your'n self to Liz and your'n family not I. You's know about your little daughter Lizzy and her mother, didn't do her much good you getting your self dead.

Tom

I know, but I still look after them. You make a right old fuss of our Lizzy I'se noticed.

JOHN POUNDS

Why's you go and get your'n self dead?

Tom

I had no choice it were my time. I've left my family in good hands though what with you and old Mr. Lemmon.

[Sound, A boatswain's pipe]

JOHN POUNDS

What's that I be hearing,? sounds like a boatswain's pipe.

Tom

Right Mr. Pounds, look over there.

What do you see?

JOHN POUNDS

Why it's a ship. What's that doing there?

Tom

[Laughs] It's not really there, only it is if you know what I mean. I can let you see what ever you want . Look closely at the ship, look closely at the seaman with the stripes. Who do you see?

JOHN POUNDS

[try too see but find it hard.]
I'se not be seeing to well.

Tom

You remember Dick?

JOHN POUNDS

[surprised] Dick Saunders!?! Yes I's remember him. Proper little rascal just like you were.

Tom

Well that be him.

JOHN POUNDS

Dick Saunders !? well I Be... and look he's got good conduct stripes. Well I know'd he'd do well for himself. Look at him now, big strapping lad. Can he see me?

Tom

No but I's make it so if you want.

John Pounds

Wont that worry him a bit?

Tom

[laugh.] No he be dreaming now just like you are.

John Pounds

No he's not he's awake.

Tom

Look again. See he's sleeping now. [Call.] Dick saunders!

Dick

Aye. Who's calling me? [enter] Where

am I? Hang on I know this place.

Tom

Yes, you aught too Dick.[Pointing at John.] And there's some one you know.

Dick

[On seeing John,]why it's.. [then looses control and starts too weep.then gives John a hearty shake of his hand or a warm hug.] I'm not crying Mr. Pounds I'm so surprised too see you. I was dreaming and next I was in your workshop.

John pounds

[Find it hard too control emotions] I'se not believing my eyes.Is it rearly you Dick.And look at you with your'n strips.

Dick

Yes thanks to you Mr. Pounds, I would have nothing had it not had been for you.[wiping eyes.] are you rearly there Mr.Pounds or am I dreaming.

Tom

Both Dick.

Dick

[to Tom] Who might you be then?

John pounds

He be Tom, like you were Dick. One of my scholars

Dick

I'm still not believing in it all, but I'm glad too be meeting you Tom. [Shake Tom's hand.] You still got the kids Mr. Pounds.

John Pounds

Yes, the little wagabonds, and they're not different, just like you two were young rascals [Laugh.] I love em all though.

[There is a sound of a ships bell

Dick

I'm being pulled away.. buy Mr. Pounds
Buy Tom.

[then exit.]

John Pounds

Well , well young Dick Saunders, would you believe it.

Tom

I want to show you some more Mr. Pounds.

John Pounds

More. What more of me youngens?

Tom

Who do you see now?

Jack woods [Civil

servant.]

Yes I remember old Mr. Pounds.]

then step in to door way. [Hello you old villain. [Laughs again.] Remember me?

[Wave fist at John.]Well I remember you. You gave me a right old whopping once.[In a threatening manner.]I could whop you now.

JOHN POUNDS

I'se give no one hurt less they be deserving it!

Jack

[Walk in to shop.] Aye that be right enough. And I deserved every bit of it. Done me good though, I say that. You still don't remember me do you? I'm Jack Woods, and a civil servant. I remember you's getting me the job. Chucked me out the shop you did.

John pounds

[Looks a bit closer.]

Jack Woods. Young Jack? Why you were nipper. Proper little scallywag you were. All ways on the misbehaving you were. But look at you now. A well dressed man. With a good future by the looks of you. Would you believe it.

Jack

And if it were not for you Mr. Pounds. I'd probably goon too prison or Botany bay. [Takes John by the hand and

shake it warmly.] God bless you old man, bless you. I'm starting too wake Got too go. [Exit.]

John Pounds

[try hard too maintain composure.]

Sally

[From off stage. She is well dressed in her twenties.] Yoo hoo! Mr. Pounds where are you.

John Pounds

Is this another one tom?

Tom

[Points to entrance.]

Sally

[A smartly dressed lady bossing about three or four children]
Come on children, do try and take notice, there's so much to learn and you have only a short time to do so.... do try and make an effort Daniel. I had to when I was your age, and I considered myself very fortunate to have had the privilege to have been

taught by a fine man who charged us nothing.

He was not a teacher as such, but was an old cobbler.

Daniel

A cobbler? I thought they mended shoes miss Sally.

Sally

They do, but this one was very special.

Child

Why was he special Miss sally?

Sally

Well if it were not for him, a lot of people would not have learned to read and write. Now come along it's time for bed now. [Fade out]

Sally [call from of stage.]Yoo hoo.Mr. pounds!

[Takk no stop.]Mr. Pounds it is you, I wondered what was going on, I went too sleep and the next moment I was out side your shop. And look who else is

here

It's Tom. It is lovely too see you .But did not die Tom?

Tom

Yes but.[trying too get a word in.]

Sally

And look it's our lovely Mr. Pounds. Just too refresh your memory Mr.Pounds, you found my sister and me out side you shop door[Giggle] and we thought you were an angel. Remember?

John Pounds

[Try too speak.]

Sally

I am an assistant governess now in a big posh house out at Winchester, and it's all because you took us in that night. My sister Josephine is married now he is a

farmer with lots of land. I've got lots of children my self,not mine though.[with a giggle.] they belong

too my employer. I must go now, I can hear one of the children crying she's not well. [give John a kiss on the cheek.] Thank you Mr. Pounds thank you. Good by. Good by Tom. [exit.]

Tom

I'se a betting them kids has a hand fall with her.

JOHN POUNDS

{laugh} She's not changed much, she was always a little madam in the schoolin. I remember her, she worked hard she did she says she didn't want to be like her Mother. [Go too chair and sit down.]

Tom

There is a lot more I could show you but there are things to do.

[There is a sound of children of stage.]

Polly

Can we come in now Tom?

Tom

I nearly forgot about you lot. Come on then, mind not too wake him.

Polly

[Enter shyly with some children.]
Hello Mr. Pounds.

John Pounds

[Almost in shock.] It's Polly! Polly Wilkins. [loses control of emotions. holds his arms out too her.]

Polly

[Run too him J.Pounds and give him a hug.]

[Light, stars overhead]

[Children encircle John and are full of giggles and fun.]

Polly

We's be all happy now Mr. Pounds and I've lots of friends and some are from them countries you used too tell

us about.[hold hand of a child.]My
friend here
She/he. She/he did not have any food
to eat, she's /he's happy now and that
one comes from a place called
India and..

Tom

I be thinking we be here too
morning.Polly.We got too go soon. And
you all know what you've got too do.

Polly

Yes Tom. We's be seeing you soon Mr.
Pounds.

[Children exit, waving]

John Pounds

It was nice too see them Tom. Pity
it's only a dream.

[Is overcome with emotion.]

Tom.

Did you say only a dream. Your whole
life is your dream. What have just
seen is real, You created it all
All the children are with you in your

dreams. All the kids like me, that had no hope, and their families. Look how you helped them. Look at Dick Saunders, Jack And Sally. See how they have turned out. All because of that school you started.

John Pounds

School! I'se not start any school. That just happened. All they be wanting was help, and a start. So I'se give it too them, No more. I may have fed them a bit and..

Tom

Fed them! You kept most of them alive. Well whether you like it or not. That's what you will be remembered for.

John Pounds

Who's be remembering me . [Sit down in arm chair.]

Tom

The whole country, that's who. Your going too be quite famous.

John Pounds

I's not want too be famous, that for them that be rich and win wars and alike, not I. I'se not want the fame!

Tom

[Go too side of stage.] The stage then go dark.]

John pounds

[Shouting. Then wake up.] I'se not want the fame

No I'se not want it! No not I. [Try too stand up, put hand on chest.] I'se feeling a bit wobble [Fall back.]

[Light shine on John.]

Tom

[Calls too John.] Mr. Pounds! [get closer to John.] Mr. Pounds.

John Pounds

Is that you Tom? I must have dropped off a bit.

Am I still dreaming? [get hold of stick and stand up.]

Tom

You were. Your not now. And the first thing is there's no need for you to be standing like that anymore.

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JOHN POUNDS

Why not?

Tom

Well you don't have to be cripple any more. Go on straighten your'n self up.

JOHN POUNDS

Can I be doing that then? [Then with an effort, slowly straighten up. Let out a hearty loud laugh, even dance around. Then stop suddenly] If I's not be dreaming.

Tom

You've past over Mr. Pounds.

John Pounds

As I? [panic.]What will happen to my little wagabonds? Who's be looking after them then?

Tom

You don't have to be worry about them any more. You've done more than your bit in your life. Like that school you started. And whether you like it or not, that's what you will be remembered for. There are all ready people talking about what you did, and there will be a very famous man a Earl Shaftesbury who will carry on where you left off. And to ad to it they will name a school and a church after you. Now see and listen, what do you hear?

[Sound of children playing in a school play ground.]

Tom

Hear them kids playing happy in their school play-ground. There's lots more .Children will get free schooling and free meals. All because of you.

{stairs will enter to side of stage
and mist over stage.]

Polly

[Enters with some children down the
stairs.] Is Mr. Pounds ready now Tom?

Tom

Yes Polly. He's ready.

Polly,

[Take hold of John's hands.]
You've got to go now Mr. Pounds.

Music start "Were going."

John Pounds
Go, go where?

Polly

[pointing at the star above the
stage.] Up there too

your new home Mr. Pounds. [Then slowly
and stand on stairs with John.]

Music

"We're going"

The children left on stage

SING

We're going were going were going were going.

We're going to see the one
that make all the birdies sing

We're going to see the one
that make their tinny wings

We're going to see the one
that teach them how to fly

And going to the land where nobody
dies.

JOHN POUNDS.

[laughs loudly. Then with Polly clime
the stairs and exit.]

Children

[Every one march. Then slowly follow
Polly and John.]

We're going to see the rainbow
to see where they are made

We're going to see the sunshine
that's for ever and a day

We're going to see where children
have lots of fun and games

And we're going to see the green
fields
where it never ever rains.
[all exit up stairs.]

[The stag darken down. Lots of small
stars shin.]

Music" [in back ground.] "There's a new
star in the sky"

Polly Wilkinson

[Enter in a cloud. Down the stairs.]
I wanted to see you all before I go
and show you where we all live now.

[a large star shins over the stage.]

Can you see all them stars up there,
[pointing to the stars] don't it
look nice ,All them little stars are
my friends. And see that big new one,
that's Mr. Pounds. Don't it shine
bright? And it shines everywhere.
[Suggested; other children come down
the stairs, in behind Polly.]

Song Pounds of love

Polly

There is a new star in the sky
 Up above the chimneys way up high
 It is shining for you and me
 It shines across the world
 For all the boys and girls
 So they can learn and be free
 And it shines for us all
 To pick us up if we fall.

Polly and children

sing

With pounds of love and pounds of joy,
 he gave hope, To girls and boys,
 A big man, a big heart,
 gave each life, a brand new start.
 Ask yourself, can you be,
 as good as John, up above.
 Fill your life, fill your heart,
 with Pounds of love.

He gave love for every child,
 Walking lame running wild,
 He taught them to read and to write,
 But now that he's gone,
 We still see old John
 Search for his star day and night.
 And it shines above us all
 To pick us up when we fall.

With Pounds of love, and Pounds of
joy,
He gave hope to girls and boys
A big man, a big heart,
Gave each life a brand new start,
Ask your self can you be,
As good as John up above,
Fill your life, fill your heart,
With Pounds of love.

THE END