

ACT IScene One - first day at
Super School

We're in a school corridor. There's a number of posters and different classrooms like "Levitation" and "Hostage Negotiation" Music starts for Everyday Superhero. Captain Marvellous enters, wearing a big long overcoat. Nigel enters from other side. This is a duet between the two of them. Nigel gets the self-deprecating bits. Cap takes the "I'm so great" lines. Year 7s and Cap sing I'm just your average etc.

NIGEL

Every morning I wake up just the same
Another victim of ordinary fame
I don't see myself as invincible
It's not true at all

Cap and Nigel throw off their coats to show superhero costumes.

CAP AND NIGEL

I'm just your average ordinary everyday superhero
Trying to save the world, but never really sure
I'm just your average ordinary everyday superhero
Nothing more than that, that's all I really am

Year 7s come on during the next verse.

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

Just a day job that's someone's gotta do
It's kinda hard when everyone looks up to you
Try to make it look easy, gonna make it look good
Like anybody would

YEAR 7S, CAP AND NIGEL

I'm just your average ordinary everyday superhero
Trying to save the world, but never really sure
I'm just your average ordinary everyday superhero
Nothing more than that, that's all I really am

Enter Jeff, Igor and Teds.

JEFF, IGOR, TED

I'm just like everybody else
After all the hype it's hard to tell
I keep my game face on so well

YEAR 7S, JEFF, IGOR, TED

They're just your average ordinary everyday
superhero

They're trying to save the world

They're just your average ordinary everyday
superhero

Trying to save the world

Enter rest of Supers.

INVISIBLE MAN

I try to hide my true identity

But no one knows it's only me

ALL HEROES

We're just your average ordinary everyday superhero

Trying to save the world, but never really sure

We're just your average ordinary everyday superhero

Nothing more than that, that's all we really are

We're just your average ordinary everyday superhero

We're trying to save the world

We're just your average ordinary everyday superhero

We're just your average ordinary everyday superhero

Trying to save the world, but never really sure

We're just your average ordinary everyday superhero

Nothing more than that, that's all we really are

*They leave during this, leaving Igor Stage Left
and Cap doing one final pose.*

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

(Obviously not meaning it)

I'm just your average ordinary everyday superhero

Cap exits, as:

*Enter Joss and Zack. They don't see Cap. They
look lost.*

JOSS

Is someone meant to be meeting us? I have no idea
where we're meant to be.

ZACK

Seriously. Whose parents tell them their new school
is "a secret"? There. Grab that guy.

*Igor starts to cross the stage. They step out
in front of him.*

IGOR

Hey there. I don't know you two. New?

ZACK

Yeah. We just moved here. Dad got a job in the city and it was easier for us to come here.

IGOR

I almost cared what you said for a second there. No, just kidding. It's a good time to get here really. We're almost ready for Manifestation.

JOSS

Mani-what?

IGOR

You'll find out. Anyway. I'm Igor. I'm head of the Henchmen and Sidekick's Union.

ZACK

The WHAT?

IGOR

Henchmen and Sidekicks. Those people with no super powers. Or sometimes really stupid super powers. The Amazing Gavin, for example, has the ability to change any type of food into Brussels Sprouts. Not an overly useful skill, you must admit. But he does get regular sidekick work.

Zack and Joss stare at each other. Zack walks off stage, walks back on.

ZACK

Nope. It definitely says High School, not Nut House. Is this pick on the new kids time?

JOSS

Seriously. That's not cool.

IGOR

Go look at the sign again.

Joss leaves this time. Comes back on.

JOSS

It says "Super Powers High School"

ZACK

Mum and Dad have some serious answering to do.

IGOR

You didn't know? That's hilarious!

ZACK

On Reflection, it was a bit strange having to tweak the nose of that statue and travelling through that secret passage...

IGOR

Man, you need a little bit of an introduction then. Hang about. I have some lackeys here somewhere.

JOSS

Zack, what's a lackey? Is it a henchman or a sidekick?

IGOR

Oh no. Lackeys are what I get. Only supers get henchmen or sidekicks. Ah, here they are! Hey you lot. We have new blood. Joss, Zack, these are my lackeys. As for the school, what's not to get? You come here to learn how to be super. We learn politics -

PROFESSOR JEFF

- How to deal with grumpy world leaders for fun and profit.

IGOR

Yes, thank you Jeff. Where was I? Politics, Physics -

PROFESSOR JEFF

- How to stop a falling aeroplane without killing everyone inside!

IGOR

That's ENOUGH, Jeff. All that stuff anyway. But before that, we have the Manifestation. And for the rest of High School, you're split into Supers and Norms. Supers learn saving the world type skills, and us Norms concentrate on Public Relations and Escapology.

Igor looks off stage and sighs.

IGOR

Right, gentlemen. There's only one thing more you need to understand. Along with us Norms, there are two main factions at Super High: The "Heroes" are

(MORE)

Igor (CONT'D)

organized into a back-slapping self-love fest called the United League Force. The "Villains" have gone for the more ambitious World-Dominating Squad. Here they come now, the posers.

From one side of the stage, Nigel (whose name will change constantly throughout the show) enters. The band play a riff from Back in Black. From the other, Captain Marvellous appears. The band play a riff from I need a Hero. Each of them have a couple of Hero brethren and a couple of henchmen/sidekicks.

ZACK

Umm, what was that?

IGOR

Theme music. Ignore it, you'll get used to it. C'mon. Let's go.

Igor goes to leave, but is stopped by the Captain.

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

Where are you off to, Igor you rascal? Stay, I might need you for something. Ah! New blood!

NIGEL

Hands off, Muscle-head. You can't just go around nabbing all of the new students. There's such a thing as free will, you know!

BATS MAN

His name's Captain Marvellous, Doom Watcher. Don't you forget it!

NIGEL

It is Lord Doom now, you blithering Bat freak. Igor, are you sure this Bat Man isn't one of your side-kicks? He certainly must have passed Butt-kissing and Sycophancy with flying colours!

BATS MAN

It's BATS man. I can control BATS. What use would I be if I could only control one Bat? BATS Man. Sheesh. You wanna get me sued?

IGOR

Look, Captain, Nigel, er, I mean, your Lordship. I should go and get these two settled in. Tour the facility and all that.

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

Good job. Can't have these two heroes running around like chickens with their heads cut off. Look after 'em for us until the Manifestation.

NIGEL

Ha. At least ONE of them looks to have more brains than is needed to parade around in tights, saving kittens from trees. I'm sure they realise that the world of Villainy has more to offer.

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

That's IT! Every time, you have to have a go at the tights. See these muscles? Nicely wrapped up in these tone-defining leggings? These muscles are going to put you right through that wall!

INVISIBLE MAN

(under his bandages)

Mmmph mmm mm mpph!

NIGEL

Yeah, like he said. Try and die, Marvellous. I'll blind you with my light-bending powers!

Marvellous flexes, Bats Man readies some bats. The Invisible Man tries to find the end of his bandages, and Lord Doom AKA Nigel raises his arms and the lights go mad. Igor grabs Zack and Joss and makes a run for it. Black out. End scene.

Scene Two - Manifestation

Professor Jeff is playing... er working with an electrical contraption of some sort or another. Ted is also there, fiddling with some apparatus. The lab is very "mad scientist". Every now and then Jeff tries a mad cackle.

PROFESSOR JEFF

Mwahahahahah! No, that's not quite right. Ha ha hee hee ha HAHAAHAHA! Erg. Definitely not. Hoo hoo hoo hoo. No.

Igor leads Zack and Joss into the lab.

PROFESSOR JEFF

AAAAA hah hah hah hah hah! Hmm. Better.

ZACK

What's he doing?

IGOR

Practising his evil laugh. He figures that with a proper evil laugh, and some decent inventions, he might get out of the Henchman business and get into the WDF.

PROFESSOR JEFF

Heee hee hee ha ho hooo mwahahahahahahahaha! Oh, hi guys.

IGOR

Jeff. Laugh's coming along?

PROFESSOR JEFF

Not quite there. It just takes a bit of practice.

JOSS

And what's this? Some kind of Death Ray?

PROFESSOR JEFF

Umm, no. At the moment, it makes toast. Nice toast though!

IGOR

I'm sure it is. Aren't you meant to be Henching for the Gigantic Blob today?

PROFESSOR JEFF

No. He cancelled. He lost a couple of kilos over the weekend and he's binge eating now to get the weight back on.

IGOR

I wish they'd let me know these things. You try and provide a service to a bunch of ego maniacal super beings and they don't even have the courtesy to let me know. The Incredible Bee could have used a sidekick today. Instead, the last I saw of him, he was having his head flushed down the toilet by Yogi Beret, that French kid. Ah well, on with the plot. You two.

JOSS

Us two?

IGOR

Indeed. Before the fight, I was going to tell you about the Manifestation. Jeff, you can help out. SuperPowerPoint me.

Jeff starts up the SuperPowerPoint, giving visuals to what's being said.

IGOR

Parents send their kids here because there is a certain prestige involved in being Super. Of course, only about one in a hundred people can Manifest powers of some kind or another. And only a tiny number of those end up at one of these schools. Jeff?

Jeff presses a button. A map of the world comes up.

IGOR

Every world power has their own Super School. You'll meet Roboto Man, our Japanese exchange student, at some stage. All of the schools train their heroes to be a world-saving or world-dominating force to be reckoned with. After all, it's cheaper than nuclear weapons.

JOSS

Hang on. World dominating? Why would a school teach students to be evil?

PROFESSOR JEFF

Well, they don't really. It's a side-effect of being super. Some people just prefer ruling the world to saving it. And you've seen our so-called "heroes". They're not "good" as much as "not into wearing black". Most of the teachers consider "evil" to be more of a phase.

IGOR

Yeah, some argue that there's no such thing as good or evil. Even GreatMan used to dress in black and hatch plots when he was younger. He says now he was just experimenting and everyone was doing it.

ZACK

Can we get back to the Manifestation?

IGOR

Yes. Sorry, of course. I get side-tracked. So. Parents send their kids to school here. They learn the basics. And then comes Manifestation. That's what you two are up to now.

JOSS

Yeah, but what is it?

IGOR

OK. OK. Keep your tights on. Once a student is ready, they are taken into the Room and bathed in Gamma radiation. Then you're taken through a series of tests to see whether you've Manifested, and if so, what your powers are.

ZACK

Tests? But we haven't studied!

PROFESSOR JEFF

Oh no, these tests are more along the lines of being shot, having large weights dropped on you, being dropped into the piranha pit, that sort of thing. Not something you can study for, really.

TED

Don't forget about the flamethrower.

ZACK AND JOSS

WHAT??

IGOR

He's kidding... Mostly. Look, as I said before, most of us don't Manifest at all. If you don't have powers, you'll just end up with a top-class education. Norms from this school have an instant acceptance into almost any law enforcement, scientific or government position they want. But if you do Manifest...

ZACK

Yes?

IGOR

Well, you'll have to pick a side. There aren't many Supers that can get away with being neither a Hero or a Villain. They just sort of suck you in. And then of course you'll start to lord it over us Norms...

JOSS

Of course we won't!

IGOR

Yeah, well, we'll see. So, are you ready? Don't worry, the manacles are more for our protection than for yours.

*Joss and Zack give each other a terrified look.
Igor leads them to the podium, straps them in.
Light show, animation of the Manifestation
chamber.*

*Year 7 dance to Jeff and Igor doing We Can
Transform Ya - Chris Brown and Lil Wayne*

Or! Weird Science by Oingo Boingo

JEFF AND IGOR

(Weird science) Plastic tubes and pots and pans Bits
and pieces and Magic from the hand We're makin'

(Weird science) Things I've never seen before Behind
bolted doors Talent and imagination

(Weird science) Not what teacher said to do Makin'
dreams come true Living tissue, warm flesh

(Weird science) Plastic tubes and pots and pans Bits
and pieces (and) Bits and pieces (and)

CHORUS

(Bits of) my creation--Is it real? It's my
creation--I do not know No hesitation--No heart of
gold Just flesh and blood--I do not know

From my heart and from my hand Why don't people
understand My intentions Oooh, weird
Weird science!!

(Weird science) Magic and technology Voodoo dolls
and chants Electricity We're makin'

(Weird science) Fantasy and microchips Shooting from
the hip Something different We're makin'

(Weird science) Pictures from a magazine Diagrams
and charts Mending broken hearts (and makin')

(Weird science) Something like a recipe Bits and
pieces Bits and pieces

Video insert: Joss and Zack walk into the Manifestation chamber. There's lots of lights, zappy noises, screams and skeletons showing through the flesh, then all goes dark.

Scene Three - Manifested

On stage are a number of items meant to test a Super's abilities. One thing is a car, or a giant weight. There are helmets, a flame thrower, other stuff. Zack and Joss wander on, followed by Igor and Professor Jeff. A big sign points off, saying "Piranha Pit"

ZACK

(Looking backwards)

There really is a piranha pit back there.

PROFESSOR JEFF

Yup. Do you feel a certain kinship with the little beggars? We could chuck you in for a quick nip, if you think...

ZACK

No! I mean, no, I don't feel like that's my power.

PROFESSOR JEFF

Too bad. It's been awhile since they've had anything to eat.

IGOR

OK. Here's the testing room. Basically, you can play with anything. Try some stuff out. See if there's anything here you can do that you couldn't before. Shall we start with the Flame-thrower?

JOSS

Ah, no, I don't think so! Maybe I have super strength?

Joss goes over to the car, bends correctly at the knees, and lifts with all his might. Which turns out to be not much might at all. Zack puts on a helmet which makes a slow whining noise of absolute failure. During this, The Invisible Man (play I aint got No Body) comes on with Nigel (Back in Black). Captain Marvellous (Holding out for a Hero) comes on from the other side, with Roboto Man (play Mr. Roboto) tagging along.

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

Hi there Igor. Testing our new Manifesters?

IGOR

Captain. Yes. No luck so far.

ROBOTO MAN

火炎放射器を試みたか。(kaen housha ki o kokoromi ta ka?)
(make flame-thrower motions)

IGOR

No. They're quite averse to it, for some reason.

ROBOTO MAN

臆病 な (Okubyōna)
(he spits in their direction)

NIGEL

(to Joss)
How's it going?

JOSS

(trying to use mind powers on a
tangle of rope)
No luck so far.

NIGEL

Have you ...

JOSS

NO! I have NOT tried the Flame-thrower.

NIGEL

Fair enough, fair enough.

INVISIBLE MAN

Mmph mm bff mmm rrnnna pmffff?

JOSS

Oh, for... No! I am NOT getting in the piranha pit!
Will you just BACK OFF?

*Against his will, The Invisible Man starts
staggering backwards, leaving the stage. There
is a huge splash, some piranha chomping sounds
and some muffled screaming.*

NIGEL

Heyyyyy. Mind control. Nice one! Oh, Igor, could
you...?

IGOR

Sure.

He runs off the stage. There is a sucking, slurping noise, and the piranha attack stops.

JOSS

Mind control. Really? Cool! Is that a good power, Lord Doom?

NIGEL

I am Dark Bender now. Lord Doom was a bit pretentious. A good power? Yes, Mind Control has excellent applications for Villainy.

JOSS

Oh, er. Umm, I hadn't thought. I mean, I don't really want to...

NIGEL

Don't make up your mind now. Just give it a shot. Maybe. Maybe on your brother?

JOSS

(grinning)

Heh. That could be fun. Hey, Zack. Jump on one leg!

Zack starts jumping on one leg.

ZACK

Hey. What? What's happening? Joss, stop it!

JOSS

Just a sec. Maybe after you... become a chicken!

ZACK

Nooo - buckawk! Cluck! CLUCK!

IGOR

That might not be such a good idea...

JOSS

No. You're right. Not as good as, say, pick up that car!

IGOR

No! He'll rupture something... oh. Wow.

While Igor is talking, Zack walks straight over to the car, bends over and lifts it high above his head. Maybe, if we can make that happen.

JOSS

Wow. Zack, you did it!

ZACK

I did it? I'm.. I'm holding up a car!

IGOR

Yes, but if you didn't have that ability, you would have torn your back open with the effort of doing what Joss told you to do. Joss, you know the saying: With great power comes great responsibility.

NIGEL

But more importantly, with no risk, there is no reward!

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

And don't forget, too many cooks spoil the broth!

EVERYONE

What?

ZACK

It's OK. I have super powers. I can lift up a car!

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

Excellent Hero power there, young Zack!

JOSS

(to Igor)

Just how old does the Captain think he is?

IGOR

Ignore him. It's a hero thing.

NIGEL

Well then! Two Supers in one batch! I don't remember the last time that happened. Anyway, I should go and check on the Invisible Man. It's hard to give someone stitches when you can't see the bite marks. I'll see you two at the rally.

ZACK

The rally?

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

Tomorrow. Lunchtime in the cafeteria. Until then!

ROBOTO MAN

(waving goodbye)

じゃ、またね (Ja mata, ne!)

IGOR

They're right. Manifesting takes it out of you. Go and rest, get a good meal into you. We'll see you at lunch tomorrow. You can ignore our table now, I guess. Jeff! Ted!

Igor, Ted and Professor Jeff head off.

ZACK

Well. That happened!

JOSS

It did, yes.

(he yawns)

I think we should take their advice. Early to bed. I wonder what this rally is?

ZACK

No idea. Well, some idea. There's a good chance it's a rally of some sort. I am STARVING! Lifting cars really takes it out of a chap.

JOSS

I think the mind control is what's making me tired. OK, then, let's get out of here.

Exit Joss and Zack stage left.

Scene Four - super bullies

Ted and Jeff enter the corridor.

TED

Well, good for them, I say. Two supers in one batch. That's pretty good!

JEFF

And you're not in the slightest bit jealous?

TED

Oh yeah, I'm so jealous I could spew.

JEFF

Thought so. Well, we went through Manifestation. We don't have powers. Not much we can do about it.

Pause

TED

Isn't there though? I mean, really, who's to say we didn't get powers in the Manifestation? Maybe we just haven't... Um,

JEFF

Manifested? Seriously, Ted, that's the whole point of the name. You get zapped, you manifest. Even if it's just changing veggies into Brussels Sprouts. We didn't manifest.

TED

S'pose so. Still, we might have gotten an internal power. We might just be late bloomers...

JEFF

You might be kidding yourself. We're not too badly off here. I'm almost done creating a whole new branch of physics. You have that multi-million dollar sponsorship from McDonalds. This place is good, except for... Oh no.

From one side comes the Blob - I'm thinking the Fat Albert theme tune, but maybe not these days. Maybe Fat Bottomed Girls. From the other we have Distractor - an Evil Clown - Funhouse by Pink.

BLOB

Heyyyy! We have Norms!

DISTRACTOR

Man, they get in everywhere, like cockroaches!

TED

So what was your theme music again, Blob?

BLOB

Shut up, peon. Hang on, these are some Norms with nothing to do!

JEFF

No, actually, we have to...

BLOB

I think we need to get them some work.

JEFF

No, really guys, Igor wants us to...

The Blob reaches down the back of his Sumo suit and with a lot of wriggling, pulls out the

biggest, brownest pair of underwear you've ever seen. Is this even possible with a sumo suit? Probably not.

BLOB

Washing for you gentlemen! That should take the rest of the day, no problems. Come on, Distractor.

TED

Wait. Distractor? What sort of name is that for an evil clown?

DISTRACTOR

I'll show you. It's my special power. You see, I-
LOOK OVER THERE!

Ted and Jeff turn to look. Distractor punches Ted in the stomach.

DISTRACTOR

See? Super power!

JEFF

Hey, you can't do that! The union of Sidekicks and Henchman say that we're only working for you as long as you're treating us with the respect that we deserve!

BLOB

Yep. And that's the respect that you deserve. Stupid Norms. Watch out! I might just sit on you!

Blob hops towards them, threateningly. Jeff flinches. Ted is holding his stomach. The bullies trot off, pleased with themselves. Jeff throws the underwear to the ground.

JEFF

How. How DARE they? Stupid Norms? That Blob- I'm pretty sure the fat has eaten his brain!

TED

The closest he'll ever come to a brainstorm is a light drizzle.

JEFF

Yeah, if brains were rain, he'd be a desert.

TED

And that skeleton. What sort of name is Distractor?

JEFF

What sort of *Power* is Distractor?

TED

Well, we both looked.

JEFF

Yes, but who decided that he had a power? Or did he just dress up in a skeleton suit and tell people he was Super?

*Ted and Jeff look out into space, thinking.
Then they slowly look at each other.*

TED

Look, I, ah. I have to go. I'll catch you later.

JEFF

Yes, ok. I also have some work to do. Very important. I'll see you soon.

They both hurry off.

Scene Five - The Rally

There are two podiums set up. The heroes podium and the villains podium. There is a small table to the side, with Sidekicks written on it in black texta. Igor is behind the Sidekicks table. He's arguing with Nigel, occasionally pointing at Distractor and the Blob.

Super Heroes (Roboto Man, Captain Amazing, She-Man and Bats Man) are at a table on one side. Villains (a tattered Invisible Man, Distractor and the Incredible Blob?) are at a table on the other, eating lunch. Nigel heads back to the table.

NIGEL

All ready for the Rally?
(lots of nods)

Look. I've just had a word with Igor. He says a couple of you miscreants have been bothering the Norms. If I'm allocated The Amazing Gavin, the Brussels Sprouts guy, because you have annoyed Igor, I'm going to snap, and you lot will be on the receiving end. So cut it out!

Zack and Joss enter.

BATS MAN

Hey, those new guys are here.

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

Go grab the one that can lift cars. I can't imagine we can do anything with the mind controller. He just looks shifty.

INVISIBLE MAN

Mmm fm̄ ma erm ffffpr̄m.

NIGEL

Ah, yes, there they are. That Joss looks like he has potential. Grab him for me, would you Blob?

JOSS

There's Igor. Let's go say hi.

Before they can get to Igor, they are firmly nabbed and hustled over to separate tables. With apologetic looks at each other, the brothers separate.

NIGEL

Joss! Good of you to join me. Want to make sure you have a good seat for the rally.

JOSS

Yeah, OK. Good. So, er. Am I still calling you Dark Bender?

NIGEL

Dark Bender? Ah, the very idea!

(pause for laughter from his cronies)

No, I am called Night Blind. Someone pointed out that Bender was less than flattering.

JOSS

Ri-ight. So, are you really evil?

NIGEL

Evil? No! We act only on the noblest goals. The world is in a complete mess and we have the power to make that right. Those "heroes" call us evil because we don't shirk our responsibilities. If we have to hold a few countries to ransom to achieve clean green energy across the globe, well, that's a small price to pay!

JOSS

But what about laws? What's right?

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS (CONT'D)

better than the Norms, of course, but that means we have to set a good example. They look up to us. Admire us. Love us. Treat us like GODS! Ahahahahahahaaaa... Oh, sorry. I don't know where that came from. And of course, in payment for that worship, we keep them safe. According to the status quo.

(gets right in Zack's face)

Remember the babies...

(and relaxed)

Of course, you'll hear most of this at the rally. Looks like we're about ready to go.

Heroes and Villains stand at their podiums. Year 7s troupe in to attend the rally. Igor stands up from behind his little table and addresses the crowd.

IGOR

Gentlemen! Could I have your attention please? Thanks. OK, we're here today, as we do every year, to listen to the propogand- I mean, the clever arguments from both Heroes and Villains, as to why you should become a part of their organisations. Some might suggest that this world would be a better place if we worked together, Supers and Norms, for the betterment of the whole world. However,
(looking over his shoulder at Captain Marvellous)

Others have stated very succinctly and with much posturing that we should stick with the way things are, and so I hand you over to the Supers to present their case.

Igor steps down and Captain Marvellous and Nigel make a dash for the stage. Nigel gets there first, but Marvellous shoves him neatly out of the way.

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

Greetings citizens and future heroes! You know, everyone knows what we heroes stand for. Truth, Justice, full-length mirrors in all public areas. My own chiselled good looks and heroic nature should convince you that being a hero is simply the right thing to do! All you have to remember is If it Aint Broke, Don't Fix it, and if someone tries to break it, we'll pound 'em into the ground. Ow! Fine, I'm getting off!

During this, Nigel has been concentrating a beam of light right between Captain Marvellous' eyes. By the end of the speech, he's had enough, and leaves. Some of the crowd cheer, the villains and some of the crowd hiss and boo. Nigel takes the stage.

NIGEL

Listen to that absolute rubbish! "if it aint broke". Only someone with a brain the size of an amoeba...

The Heroes look at each other, wondering what an amoeba is.

NIGEL

... could possibly think that this world we live in isn't broken! People live in poverty and starvation. Companies are slowly destroying the environment. And nobody is doing anything to stop it! It's not a difficult solution. Just stop companies from producing the harmful chemicals. Feed the poor. It's that easy. And what is stopping us? Ineffective, powerless governments, more interested in being re-elected than in solving problems. Supers are the solution. When we are more interested in helping people than posing for pin-up posters, we can change the world! Breaking stupid rules isn't Evil, it's necessary. Join us and save the planet!

There is cheering and booing. Igor stands up again as Nigel stands down.

IGOR

Right then. Of course, if you aren't Super, then your lot in life is pretty fixed, your choices are made. But otherwise, you all have some interesting choices to make. Hero or Villain, anarchy and avarice or posturing and product placement? The choice is yours.

Dollyrots - Marvellous music starts. The year 7s are doing something worshipful, changing attentions between the Cap and Nigel.

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

I've got the new style, uh oh
And I'm walking down your street
I'm on your speed dial, you know
The one everyone wants to meet

NIGEL

I always tell you how cool you dress
It's cause I'm fashionably socialised
You're smarter, better, no the best!
Just look at me

BOTH

I'm a leader, I'm a winner, and I'm cleaner
'Cause I'm awesome
I don't need you 'cause I'm neato and I beat you
'Cause I'm awesome
That's right!

NIGEL

They say I'm gifted, uh huh
Well I'm a certified prodigy
I'm gonna own you, uh huh
I'm gonna bring you to your knees

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

I always tell you how smart you are
It's cause my brain is really supersized
You're an academic superstar
Just look at me!

BOTH

I'm a leader, I'm a winner, and I'm cleaner
'Cause I'm awesome
I don't need you 'cause I'm neato and I beat you
'Cause I'm awesome
Here we go!

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

Got a career plan, uh huh
Gonna make lots of money
And bought a self tan, uh huh
Don't I look healthy?
(flex)

NIGEL

(sarcastically to the Cap)
I always tell you how great you smell

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

It's 'cause I'm naturally deoderised
I'm stronger, faster and can spell

NIGEL

(to the audience)
JUST LOOK AT ME!

BOTH

I'm a leader, I'm a winner, and I'm cleaner
'Cause I'm awesome
I don't need you 'cause I'm neato and I beat you
'Cause I'm awesome

*At the end of the song, Everybody troops off,
Heroes one way, Villains the other. Zack and
Joss are left on stage. They look at each
other, look to their respective groups.
Finally, Zack shrugs and turns, leaves to join
the heroes. Joss shakes his head and troops off
after the Villains. Blackout.*

End Act I

ACT 2Scene Six - the fight

Opening of Act II: Prisoner of Society. Year 7s are being ordered around by Supers. The Supers leave for a moment, the Year 7s look around, then point to the band to start the song.

YEAR 7S

Well we don't need no one to tell us what to do
Oh yes we're on our own
And theres nothing you can do
So we don't need no one like you
To tell us what to do

We don't refer to the past
When showing what we've done
Our generation gap
Means the war is never won
The past is in your head
THE FUTURE'S IN OUR HANDS!

Cos I'm a brat
And I know everything
And I talk back
Cos I'm not listening
To anything you say

Heroes come back, Year 7s quickly get back to work, singing:

And if you count to 3
(one, two, three)
You'll see it's no emergency
You'll see I'm not the enemy
Just a Prisoner of Society

(GO!)

Musical interlude, Heroes forcing 7s to work, then leave for:

Well we don't need no one to tell us what to do
Oh yes we're on our own
And theres nothing you can do
So we don't need no one like you
To tell us what to do

We don't refer to the past
When showing what we've done
Our generation gap

(MORE)

Year 7s (CONT'D)

Means the war is never won
 So we don't need no one like you
 To tell us what to do

*Heroes come on here, hear what the 7s are
 saying and are obviously not happy about it.*

Cos I'm a brat
 And I know everything
 And I talk back
 Cos I'm not listening
 To anything you say

And if you count to 3 (one, two, three)
 You'll see it's no emergency
 You'll see I'm not the enemy
 Just a Prisoner of Society

Society, Society Society, Society Society!

*Year 7s are chased off by Supers, who then come
 back on slowly, here and there, forcing a Year
 7 to do some work. Heroes and Villains are
 wandering the stage, with Zack and Joss one in
 each group. They spot each other, make excuses
 and meet in the middle of the stage as the
 others depart.*

JOSS

Hey.

ZACK

Hey. It's been awhile.

JOSS

Yeah. How are classes going?

ZACK

Not bad, not bad at all! I'm really liking Body
 Training. I can leap relatively small buildings with
 a single bound. And Law is actually quite
 interesting. I never knew just how dangerous
 Jaywalking could be!

JOSS

Phah. Yeah, OK. I'm enjoying myself as well, thanks
 for asking. Hostage Negotiation is really
 interesting when seen from the other side. A little
 bit too easy when you have mind powers and can just
 make the police hand over their helicopter and the
 keys to the Mint.

ZACK

You're learning to steal?

JOSS

No-oo. Not to steal as such, just getting a grounding on both sides of the situation. I see your Costume Design classes are going well.

ZACK

I am NOT doing Costume Design. I got a Norm to do it for me. Not a bad job, actually.

JOSS

Isn't that a bit elitist? Making the Norms do your work for you?

ZACK

So that wasn't you I saw ordering those Year 7s around with heavy machinery strapped to their back?

JOSS

That. That's different. It was research. They were learning something.

ZACK

Keep believing that. So you didn't go far beyond the basic black package for your costume I see.

JOSS

It's not JUST black.

ZACK

Of course, of course. It's very villainous. Well done.

JOSS

Hey! Look, I know you chose to just accept things instead of thinking about how the world really is.

ZACK

You mean, I've decided to work for the society we live in instead of trying to tear it down?

JOSS

You know what I mean. I mean that you just hang about waiting for something to happen. I saw some kids walking around wearing a t-shirt with your face on it!

ZACK

Really? Cool! I mean, I have no idea what you're talking about. You, Brother, are getting just a little bit too judgemental.

JOSS

And you, Brother, are seeming more and more self-righteous every time we meet.

ZACK

Come here and say that!

JOSS

What, so you can pound me with your big muscles? I don't think so.

ZACK

Right, then. I'll just have to come and get you!

JOSS

Stay right where you are!

ZACK

Argh. Stupid mind powers. Luckily, one of the tricks the Captain has taught us Heroes is basic mind blocking. Just have to let my mind go blank...

JOSS

Not a problem for you then. Whoa. Damn, it's working! No, wait, leave me alone!

Zack lifts Joss up over his head, or something more able for our actors to do. Igor enters and sees them fighting.

IGOR

Hey! You two, cut that out. Stop acting like the super morons that pretend to run this school.

Zack lets Joss down. They look at Igor.

ZACK

Did you just call us morons?

IGOR

What? No, not you two. You're my friends. I meant those narcissistic heroes and conniving villains. Oh.

JOSS

Oh indeed. You're standing here with a conniving villain and a narcissistic hero. What did you think the costumes meant?

IGOR

That you were doing better than expected in Costume Design classes? Yeah, I know, I'm sorry. I just wanted to see how you guys were getting on. And apparently, it's not great.

JOSS

What do you mean it's not going great? I am coming tops in all of my classes, especially Realistic Ransom Demands. And Zack here can apparently jump... what, port a-loos?

ZACK

Bite me, Brain Boy.

IGOR

No, obviously your classes are doing fine. But you have to be careful not to buy into the whole Villain/Hero culture. You two have an opportunity to be really great! Not heroes, or villains, just Super Men. But you can't fight each other.

ZACK

We can't... Look, we're doing fine. We don't need a Norm telling us what to do.

JOSS

Zack!

IGOR

Ah, and so it starts.

JOSS

No, he didn't mean that Igor, seriously.

IGOR

No no, he meant it. I'll just bow to you two and get back to my Normal people duties shall I?

JOSS

I didn't say anything.

IGOR

Yeah, but you didn't stop anything either, did you? I saw those Year 7s, carrying all those components for your Mind Control computer. Even Jeff carries his own lab equipment.

JOSS

But that's what Year 7s are for!

IGOR

No! That's what you Supers use them for! All these skills and powers, and all you do is use them to boss us around! And you two: "Oh, we'll never do that!" Well guess what, you're no different to the rest of them now. Go and rule the world, or ruin it, or whatever. Master, Master.

JOSS

But.. Oh fine, if you're going to do that. It's just racist! Speciesist! Powerist? Bad manners!

Exit Igor

JOSS

And you! Everything would have been fine if you hadn't opened your fat mouth!

ZACK

Yeah? Everything would have been fine if I'd pummelled you into the ground before he got here! Come here.

Oasis medley.

ZACK

Today is gonna be the day that I'm gonna throw it back to you

By now you shoulda, somehow, realized what I'm gonna do

I don't believe that anybody feels the way I do about you now

JOSS

I'm free to be whatever I

Whatever I choose

And I'll sing the blues if I want

I'm free to say whatever I

Whatever I like

If it's wrong or right it's alright

Igor comes on with a few year 7s or choir.

IGOR

All my people right here, right now

D'you know what I mean?

Yeah, yeah

All my people right here, right now

D'you know what I mean?

Yeah, yeah

All my people right here, right now

D'you know what I mean?

Yeah, yeah

Yeah, yeah

Yeah, yeah

ALL THREE

(Combination of next verses sung
together depending on skill.)

Igor: I don't really care for what you believe

So open up your fist or you won't receive

The thoughts and the words of every man you'll need

Get up off the floor and believe in life

Noone's ever gonna ever ask you twice

Get on the bus and bring it on home to me

End of song, Zack rounds on Joss again.

JOSS

Be a chicken!

ZACK

What? Nooooo-cluck. Cluck-cluck blank!

*While Zack's trying to blank his mind, Joss
backs away to the other side of the room. Zack
comes back to himself.*

ZACK

Get back here! Hang on, what's this?

(reaches into his pants, pulls out an egg)
Oh, you are going DOWN!

Exit Zack.

Scene Seven - Evil Plot

We are in the Evil Lair (the Library with Library crossed out and Evil Lair written underneath on a piece of paper). The weekly meeting of the W.D.S. is about to get under way. The place is littered with as many villains as we can afford.

JOSS

What I don't get, is if we don't want to be seen as Evil, why we keep using the word on all of our signs.

INVISIBLE MAN

Wmff tknmm up bc.

JOSS

Yeah, but WHY are we taking it back?

Invisible Man shrugs.

JOSS

Yeah, never mind. So what's this meeting about then?

NIGEL

All right, fellow Dominators. Let us have some order. Yes yes, come on, sit down. You too, Mr. Arachno. I mean it. On a chair, if you please. And stop playing with your food. It's undignified.

A fly-suited Year 7 takes this opportunity to escape.

NIGEL

Oh. Sorry, Arachno. Anyway, Invisible, can you take minutes?

INVISIBLE MAN

Mmm. Hw r u crmm udr?

NIGEL

No need to take that tone. It's not EVERY day. It just has to be the perfect name! Put me down as Dark Rainbow. What? It's meant to be IRONIC, OK?

(he shuffles through his notes)

Anyway, today's agenda items: 1. a new banner for the guild hall. 2. Secret knocks. Apparently some of you are getting them wrong, which has led to some very unfortunate incidents with the Morse Code society. 3. The ultimate doom of the United League Force. 4. The upcoming non-costume dance with the girl's school. 5.

JOSS

Hang on, what??

NIGEL

Yeah, I know. It's always exciting to spend some time with the fairer sex, but-

JOSS

No, I mean, the ultimate doom of the ULF! What do you mean by "ultimate doom" exactly?

NIGEL

We really should go through these agenda items in order. We haven't even passed the minutes from last meeting yet.

JOSS

No way. Last meeting it took forty-five minutes to decide on a colour for the new table of doom! What's this about the ULF?

NIGEL

Oh, very well. All those in favour of dealing with the demise of the ULF?

Almost unanimous Ayes!

NIGEL

Against?

INVISIBLE MAN

Mph!

NIGEL

Is that just because you'd have to cross out the agenda and the minutes would look messy?

INVISIBLE MAN

Mph!

NIGEL

Over ruled. Get scribbling. OK. We all know that the tension between us and the Force has been getting worse over the past few weeks. They are starting to believe that they should be putting a stop to villainy, when we all know that we have just as much right to practise our methods as the heroes do. So we're going to end the whole thing in one fell swoop!

BLOB

Is this the Death Beam thing again, Nige? Cos that was a useless plan last time. I was pulling shrapnel out of my blubber for weeks!

NIGEL

No. And that plan would have worked... if it wasn't for those meddling kids!

BLOB

What?

NIGEL

Nothing. Look, this is a work of genius. And to introduce this work of genius... Oh hang on. Damn. Can everyone please pretend there is an agenda item... umm, 2.5. Item 2.5: Introduce new Squad member. And now I can glare triumphantly at Joss for forcing me to address agenda items out of order. Because the massive brain behind this ingenious scheme is... our newest member, Professor Jeff!

There are unhappy rumblings. Jeff enters, nervous.

INVISIBLE MAN

Bf 'ff's m mmm!

NIGEL

I know, by most standards, Jeff would be considered normal. He doesn't destroy things with his thoughts. He can't suck people through walls. But he has convinced me that he has a hidden Super power: He is a super brain!

PROFESSOR JEFF

Terribly super. With my mind, and Science, I can achieve many of the feats that Supers take for granted! Not to take away from your own special

(MORE)

PROFESSOR JEFF (CONT'D)

skills in the slightest, of course! Thank you for accepting me into your little group. In honour of the occasion, I have given up my regular, Norm identity, and shall now be known as Professor Terrible! Mwahahahahahahaahaaaaaaa!

Somewhere around here could go the They Might Be Giants Science song. Look it up.

BLOB

Nice laugh.

NIGEL

Yes, good cadence, a satisfying finish.

JOSS

But you're just Jeff. You're not evil?

PROFESSOR JEFF

Oh, hi Joss. Still just Joss, is it? Ah well, never mind. Not evil?

Music starts. When you're Evil.
When the Devil is too busy

And Death's a bit too much

They call on me by name you see

For my special touch

To the gentlemen I'm Misfortune

To the ladies, I'm Surprise

But call me by any name

Any way it's all the same

Year 7s enter.

I'm the fly in your soup

I'm the pebble in your shoe

I'm the pea beneath your bed

I'm a bump on every head

I'm the peel on which you slip

I'm a pin in every hip

I'm the thorn in your side
Makes you wriggle and writhe

And it's so easy when you're evil
This is the life, you see
The Devil tips his hat to me
I do it all because I'm evil
And I do it all for free
Your tears are all the pay I'll ever need

While there's children to make sad
While there's candy to be had
While there's pockets left to pick
While there's grannies left to trip down the stairs
I'll be there, I'll be waitin' round the corner
It's a game, I'm glad I'm in it
'Cause there's one born every minute

And it's so easy when you're evil
This is the life, you see
The Devil tips his hat to me
I do it all because I'm evil
And I do it all for free
Your tears are all the pay I'll ever need.

JOSS

Ok. You're evil. You're a real bad ass.

BLOB

He's a Terrible Ass! Done my washing yet, Professor?

JOSS

Never mind him. What's your plan?

PROFESSOR JEFF

Yes, the plan.

(looks to Nigel, who nods)

Right. Yes. I, in my Terrible Genius, have invented a completely new form of physics! It is based on the idea that Proverbs and sayings have a real world effect on humans, and furthermore, on Supers.

Incredulous mutters.

PROFESSOR JEFF

No, seriously. In actual laboratory tests, using SCIENCE! I have documented several cases of Old Wives Tales changing the actual physical universe in ways that conventional physics cannot explain. For instance, have you ever tried strapping a piece of buttered bread to the back of a cat and then dropping the cat? Buttered bread always lands butter side down, and cats always land on their feet! Poor puss is still revolving just a metre from the ground in my lab.

I have pictures of this.

DISTRACTOR

OK, fine, but how will this help us?

PROFESSOR JEFF

What we are going to do, is lure the entire League into one room. Once they are inside, I can activate the screen walls and project a kettle, slowly heating onto each and every wall! SCIENCE! BOOM!

Confused murmurings.

JOSS

Umm. And?

PROFESSOR JEFF

And? Isn't it obvious? Everyone knows that a watched pot never boils! With this pot on every wall in the room, being fed eye contact from hundreds of web cameras, it can NEVER boil. The entire room will become a room where TIME STANDS STILL! Then all we have to do is stick a Do Not Disturb sign on the handle and the League is out of our hair, forever! We can do it! WITH SCIENCE!
Mwahahahahahahaaahahahaahaaaaa.

NIGEL

Well, thank you for that Professor! A round of applause I think!

Confused, sporadic applause.

NIGEL

As you can see, this plan is both fool-proof - which is good when dealing with Heroes - and completely safe for us Villains. A win-win situation. And now, we can get on with the rest of the agenda items.

PROFESSOR JEFF

Could I be excused please? I should really get going on this.

As Jeff wanders to the other side of the stage, Joss jumps up and joins him. The meeting goes on silently in the background.

JOSS

Jeff. Jeff? Oh, all right, Professor Terrible.

PROFESSOR JEFF

Yes?

JOSS

What's going on? Why are you helping defeat the League? You were doing well as a Norm.

PROFESSOR JEFF

Nobody does well as a Norm! Igor is the only one with even the slightest bit of influence. The rest of us take orders and run tasks at your whims. The only way out was to become a Super. And here I am!

JOSS

But the ULF. Do you really want to be responsible for the deaths of so many people?

PROFESSOR JEFF

Hey, they're not dead. They're just... resting. Are you worried about your brother? Last I heard, he wanted to break you in two. Something about an egg.

JOSS

Yeah, he's pretty PO'd. But I don't want to see him frozen in time forever!

PROFESSOR JEFF

Look, Joss, this is what we do! The Squad tries to defeat the League. The League beats up on the Squad. We're the bad guys. What did you think was going to happen?

JOSS

I dunno. I guess it just seemed like a game. Pick a side, like barracking for a footy team.

PROFESSOR JEFF

Yeah? Well, time to pay your membership then. Get on board, or get lost, cos for us, it's real life.

Professor Terrible walks off, leaving Joss looking back at the Villains. Fade out, end of scene.

Scene Eight - Heroic Plan

We're in the United League Force Headquarters. Or rather, the Canteen - for easy snacking during meetings. Again, plenty of Heroes - probably some from last scene, with different masks on. Also, She-Man, Bats Man, Captain Marvellous, Roboto Man and Zack.

ZACK

Don't we have an actual meeting room?

SHE-MAN

We do, but here has nibbles. I like Nibblies.

ZACK

Look, don't take this the wrong way, but... are you sure you're super?

SHE-MAN

What do you mean?

ZACK

Well, as far as I can see, you're a guy. In a dress.

SHE-MAN

Look, inside me, I have the Beautiful, Feminine power of every woman who ever lived! I can channel the special skills of Jean of Arc or Katy Perry with a simple thought. Don't tell me I don't have powers!

ZACK

Look, I'm sorry, I've just never seen it! Can you show me?

SHE-MAN

No. I can only Manifest under extreme stress, like when we're about to go into battle. But then, I fight like a GIRL! Apparently, when I'm stressed or angry or afraid, instead of pumping adrenaline into my system, my body dumps a load of oestrogen instead. Instant transformation. I don't like people watching though. It's kinda weird.

ZACK

It would be. Oh look, the Captain is ready to go.

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

Attention, Leaguers. It is time to get this meeting under way. You know I hate anything to do with paperwork, but rules are rules. Zack, you're on paperwork duty.

ZACK

Paperwork duty?

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

Anything to do with paper. There's a pile of it over here. Make it work, there's a good lad.

ZACK

Oh kay... Right. I have an agenda. We have to go over the-

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

Oh no, you misunderstand me. I don't want to DO any of the paperwork stuff. You'll need to make that bit up. Get to it, pronto.

ZACK

Uh..

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

Well done. Right then, the important bits. Well the important bit. Those World-Dominating Squad lunatics have got to go! Last week, one of them snuck a red sock into our Hero wash. Every single pair of Heroic White undies are now PINK! Which is why I have had to wear this pair for a week.

General ewwww.

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

Luckily our brains trust have come up with a clever solution to the problem of the Villains.

BATS MAN

Does it involve Bats?

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

No, Batty, it doesn't.

BATS MAN

Awww.

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

I don't properly understand it myself. Let me pass you over to them, to explain it properly. Here is Teds!

Two Heads enters. He has a Paper Cut-out of a head attached to his shoulder.

TWO HEADS

Captain, how many times do I have to tell you, it's not Teds, it's "Two Heads". As in, Two Heads are better than one. In my case, my second head is slightly out of phase, existing in this reality in only two dimensions, hence why he is looking slightly flat. But be assured, we can quite happily communicate with each other, giving us twice as much brain power as the next, Normal person.

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

Incredible. Go ahead, Teds.

TWO HEADS

It's Two Heads! Now in general, Hero powers tend towards simple skills - extreme strength and invulnerability for example. You are a straightforward bunch. But our enemies are sly, sneaky. They don't play by the rules, which is why they are so hard to predict. I am sorry, gentlemen, but if you want to defeat the Villains, you have to act like a Villain.

ZACK

You mean, like break the rules? Because I don't think I'm OK with that.

TWO HEADS

No, no, of course not. Well, nothing major. We just need to beat the Villains at their own game. Trick them into a situation where we can be rid of them forever.

ZACK

I don't think I'm OK with "forever" either.

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

Zack, think of the babies...

ZACK

To hell with the babies!

A loud gasp from everyone in the room.

ZACK

I'm thinking of my brother.

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

Your brother who made you lay an egg!

ZACK

Yes, well, that doesn't mean I want him dead!

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

Well, you can't always get what you want. I heard that somewhere. Your brother, *whatsisname*, made his choice. Now you need to make yours.

ZACK

I am NOT choosing to let my brother die!

Zack stands up and storms out. Then he storms back in.

ZACK

You know that "Two Heads" is just a Norm with a paper mask stuck to his shoulder?

Zack storms out again.

TWO HEADS

A Norm? Of all the preposterous ideas! If I was Normal, I couldn't possibly think up a plan like this! Now listen...

End scene. Fade out.

Scene Nine - Another
confrontation

Zack and Joss run onto the stage - An empty corridor.

JOSS

Zack! You're OK!

ZACK

Yes, of course. Why, shouldn't I be?

JOSS

No, yes. Oh, look. I can't tell you. You'd just go running back to them.

ZACK

What? What's happening? No, I wouldn't. I mean. I've left the Heroes.

JOSS

Really? I left the Villains. They, well, they're going to do something. And I don't agree with it.

ZACK

Same here. It might even work. Cap's got that Brainy Norm Ted coming up with a plan. He has a fake head.

JOSS

Huh? Nigel has Jeff.

ZACK

Ha. So only when they resort to using Normals do they have any sort of success with their plans.

JOSS

Yes. I don't think Powers promote thinking. We're too busy doing things.

ZACK

So let's think through this one. And then do something. What can we do? If we let them go, they'll destroy each other, and probably half of the school.

JOSS

Well... OK. No, how about... No, that's stupid.

ZACK

I know! No I don't.

ZACK AND JOSS

AHA!

JOSS

Are you Aha'ing about the same thing I'm Aha'ing about?

ZACK

Can we assume so, and have you go first, just in case?

JOSS

Well, if it took a Norm to come up with the plan to stop the Heroes...

ZACK

And a Norm to create a plan devious enough to take out the Villains...

JOSS

Then I'd say we need a Norm to stop the lot of them.

ZACK

Who would have thought.

Igor enters, sees the boys, spins and starts to exit.

ZACK

No! Wait, Igor. I'm sorry!

Igor pauses.

JOSS

Yeah, I'm sorry too. Look, we've done some stupid things. Let our powers go to our head.

ZACK

But we've quit the Supers now. And we need your help.

IGOR

Ha. You need help from a Norm?

JOSS

We need help Specifically from a Norm. You're the only one who can stop Jeff-

ZACK

-and Teds

JOSS

- from destroying all of the supers, and probably the school.

IGOR

Jeff?

JOSS

Or Professor Terrible, as he likes to be known. He's come up with a way to freeze all of the Heroes forever. Using "Science!".

ZACK

I have no idea what Teds is doing. I got out of there before he gave away his plan. But he was almost certainly a Norm - a regular person - with a photo of a head stuck to his shoulder.

IGOR

Ah, TEDS. Of course. He's one of mine as well. Destroy the school, you think? OK. You know, I'm quite happy to let Supers handle Super problems, but when it comes to battling Norms, well then, that sounds like a job for... well, for me! Let's round up the troops. I have a cunning plan.

JOSS

It seems to be catching.

End scene. Black out.

Scene Ten - Double-crossers

The "Lab". Lots of zappy things, including two ominous Death beam type contraptions. You know, grey, circles, ending in a ball that should look like it can zap electricity? That's the stuff. Sign saying "piranha pit" Igor enters, holding Jeff by one ear and Teds also - a real one, not a photographic one. Zack and Joss follow.

IGOR

Right you two. This has gone on long enough. We're ending it now. How many times have I told you not to play with the Supers? They break too easily.

PROFESSOR JEFF

Yes, Igor.

TWO HEADS

Yes, Igor.

IGOR

Now, I've had enough of this whole super fighting thing. We're going to sort it all out right now. Zack, Joss, have you done your bit?

ZACK

They're on their way.

JOSS

Same here.

IGOR

Right. Jeff, Teds, take those switches. Do what you're told, and I'll let you come and work for me again. You don't want to know about the alternative. OK, people, show time.

Enter Heroes on one side and Villains on the other side. Can we do something where each band member tries to play a different theme tune? They see each other, see Joss and Zack, see Igor. Pennies drop all over the place.

NIGEL

Joss you little traitor! You've betrayed us to the Heroes!

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

We've been tricked! By one of our own. Shame on you Zack!

NIGEL

Quick! While we've got the element of surprise, we can still take them!

SHE-MAN

Aaargh!

He runs off the stage, screaming all the while

SHE-MAN

(off-stage)

Don't look at me! Don't look at me. Don't-

The screams slowly double as the boy scream disappears and a new girl scream appears.

SHE-MAN

(off-stage)

Aaaaaaaaarghrrrrrahhhhh! That's better!

She runs back on. She-Man is now really a woman! (I'm sure we can steal one from somewhere).

SHE-MAN

OK. I'm ready. With the strength of a German swimmer and the willpower of Oprah Winfrey. Let me at them!

All of the boys stop and stare.

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

I thought... Wow, I thought you were just faking it. Wow.

SHE-MAN

Focus, gentlemen! This is my power. Make good use of it!

The Heroes attack. Invisible Man rips off his bandages to be invisible from the head up. Bats Man fires a bat, which gets Someone with no more speaking lines and they fall offstage into the piranha pit. At the last minute, Zack jumps in and grabs Captain Marvellous. Joss focuses on Nigel.

ZACK AND JOSS

Stop!

NIGEL

What are you doing? I can't move!

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

You are strong, young Zack. But not strong enough to stop me from doing ... THIS! Oh. You are. Very well.

NIGEL

What do you want? It would seem that even though you have me -

(he motions desperately with his eyes, trying to get someone to sneak up behind him)

- my World-Domination Squad can still - GET HIM!

Still holding Nigel with his mind, Joss throws out a hand and all of the other Villains freeze.

JOSS

Nice try, Nigel.

NIGEL

It's The Spreading Shadow!

IGOR

It's Mud, if you keep this up. I was willing to let this go, as long as you Supers were mucking about with your scheming and your posturing amongst yourselves. But now you're involving my Norms, as more than just gophers and lackeys, and I have to step in and solve this like I have to solve everything.

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

What are you talking about? You're just a Norm. What do you do?

IGOR

Oh, more than enough. I match sidekicks and henchmen to the specific skills of you heroes. I know what each group is doing at any one time. I'll admit that I lost the plot a bit when it came to Jeff and Teds, but I was feeling a bit let down when my promising proteges blew me off for a life of costumed capering.

ZACK

Again, very sorry.

IGOR

So now you're done. No more huge battles. No more wiping out the enemy. No more Norms in stupid costumes.

TWO HEADS

Hey.

IGOR

Are you kidding me?

TWO HEADS

Yeah, OK.

NIGEL

What makes you think you can pull this off? When we break through Joss's mind control, we'll simply have a bit of a culling around here. Norms are only allowed at Super School so that we Supers have someone to do our jobs for us.

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

And to adore us.

NIGEL

If you're becoming unmanageable, we'll have to re-think our open door policy and start recruiting Norms that are a little less - strong-willed.

JOSS

Can you hear yourself right now? This isn't being a Villain, this is just... bad! You gotta know: I'd do anything to stop you hurting my friends.

ZACK

Ditto. Righto Igor. We're in all the way.

IGOR

You sacrifice much, young ones. Norms, zap 'em!

With Zack holding the Captain, and Joss doing likewise to Nigel, Teds and Jeff flick the switches on the Unmanifest beam. Special effects fill the stage. The lights turn off, normal light returns. Our heroes (and villains) are on the ground.

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

That... That actually hurt! It's been a few years since anything's hurt me! Ow. It's an interesting feeling.

NIGEL

Argh. My eyes. It's so bright. Let me just turn down the lights... nothing's happening! What's going on?

Zack and Joss stand up, helping each other, and move over to Igor.

IGOR

You asked me what I can do? I have a couple of the most brilliant minds in the country working for me. Brilliant, un-modified, Normal but genius. For years we've worked on the assumption that sooner or later, you Supers would get out of control. And we came up with a solution: The UnManifester.

CAPTAIN MARVELLOUS

No offence, but that's a shocking name!

IGOR

Agreed. But it works. Anyone in the path of the beam is stripped of any powers forever. The Manifesting beam won't work on you again. You, Captain, and you Nigel, are completely normal.

BATS MAN

But that means... Zack and Joss are normal as well!

SHE-MAN

And that also means, there's a gap in the Super Power Power Structure. Bags I leader.

BATS MAN

What? No I...

SHE-MAN

BAGS-ED!

The Villains look at each other. Invisible Man removes his gloves, also invisible, everyone takes a threatening pose.

IGOR

No! No more Super Battles. Work it out properly, or I'll be coming to visit with the UnManifester. For now, Joss and Zack need rest. Captain - or should I say Napoleon - and Nigel need to get changed out of those ridiculous clothes, and then report to the school counsellor for post-super-therapy. All of you, get out of here, OK?

Mumbling, supers leave, Nigel and Herbert are ushered out by Teds. Jeff takes care of Joss and Zack.

IGOR

Heroes. Pah! Who'd want to be one?

He walks to the exit. Stops.

IGOR

Up up and away? No, ah well.

With an attempted, failed jump into the air, he sighs and wanders off the stage. Blackout.

Scene Eleven - Norms Rule, OK?

School hall. Everything's Normal. Joss is on-stage, gesturing off-stage.

JOSS

(to off-stage)

Watch that. No, it's heavy. Careful, that's right, bring it this way... Good job.

*There is a massive pile of something,
ridiculously heavy, being carried across the
stage, by a pair of legs.*

JOSS

Good job WonderMan. Just set it up in the gym.
Great.

Enter Zack.

ZACK

Hey Joss. Keeping the Supers busy?

JOSS

Best way of keeping them out of trouble. How 'bout
you?

ZACK

Flat out. I just finished the web site for Igor.
Hire-a-hero is an absolute hit. Arachno is just back
from doing a pest control job, and I think I heard
that the anatomy went well. Distractor is quite
educational, when you censor him.

JOSS

Excellent. So... You miss your powers?

ZACK

I don't know whether I had them long enough to miss
them. No, I don't think so. It was fun as it lasted.
You?

JOSS

No, although I was looking forward to never having
to buy eggs again.

Zack whacks him. Igor comes on.

ZACK

Web site's up, boss.

IGOR

Excellent. Thanks Zack. Just in time too. The new
recruits will be turning up soon.

*Year 7s start wandering on, in small groups,
chatting.*

JOSS

So, are we going to continue Manifesting Supers?

IGOR

Of course. That's why we get students coming here.
And the rest of the world is still educating Supers.
We have to keep up. But hopefully, they will be more
than just super-powered egomaniacs, what with this
community improvement program you came up with.

ZACK

Well then, we probably should get this lot under
control. Oi! You lot. Line up. OK, Igor, they're all
yours.

*And end the show with Feeling Good - Muse (or
Buble).*

IGOR

Birds flying high
You know how I feel
Sun in the sky
You know how I feel
Breeze driftin' on by
You know how I feel
It's a new dawn
It's a new day
It's a new life
For me
And I'm feeling good
I'm feeling good

JOSS AND ZACK

Fish in the sea
You know how I feel
River running free
You know how I feel
Blossom on a tree
You know how I feel

It's a new dawn

It's a new day

It's a new life

For me

And I'm feeling good

CAP AND NIGEL

Dragonfly out in the sun you know what I mean, don't
you know

Butterflies all havin' fun you know what I mean

Sleep in peace when day is done

That's what I mean

And this old world is a new world

And a bold world

For me

For me

ALL

Stars when you shine

You know how I feel

Scent of the pine

You know how I feel

Oh freedom is mine

And I know how I feel

It's a new dawn

It's a new day

It's a new life

It's a new dawn

It's a new day
It's a new life

It's a new dawn
It's a new day
It's a new life
It's a new life
For me

And I'm feeling good

I'm feeling good
I feel so good
I feel so good

*Leading to credits and bows (we need a hero)
and all of the other stuff that ends the show.
We probably should have the hero entry music
for heroes and villains during the credits.*

The End.