

# GREASE UK:

'They don't know 'bout us' or 'Thoughts of yesterday'

Valerie Goodwin

Setting: 1980s England

Cast:

1. Johnny: was with Janice, but goes off with Julie
2. Sharon
3. Susie: Tracy's little sister, has a twin 'Sophie'
4. Carole
5. Lynne
6. Tracy: Susie's sister, mysteriously disappears
7. Marie
8. Carly: Johnny's little sister and Susie's friend
9. Karen: Carly's friend
10. Janice: was Johnny's g/f at first
11. Julie: takes Johnny from Janice then dumps him for Gordon
12. Mum: Of Tracy and Susie
13. Teacher Mrs Mumford
14. Granny Grimes
15. Ben ( was going out with Tracy)
16. Dan
17. Tom
18. Zak

Most parts can be doubled, and only Johnny needs to be a boy.

More parts can be added. Also 'dance' scenes and party scenes have as many persons on stage as wished.

SONGS:

1. Electric Dreams, Human league
2. Chip shop , Kirsty Mc Coll
3. It's my party and I'll cry if I want to, various
4. Sign of the Times, The Belle Starrs
5. They don't know 'bout us' Kirsty Mc Coll
6. Jilted John
7. Should I stay or should I go, Clash
8. Don't you want me baby? Human league
9. Terry' Kirsty McColl
10. Thoughts of Yesterday, Strawberry switchblade

Opening number:

## *Life in a Northern Town?* **Electric Dreams?**

*"We gotta get out of this place, if it's the last thing we ever do"*

*'Should I stay or should I go?' The Clash.*

*Johnny and the girls dance.*

### *INTRO SCENE*

Sharon: This is us in 1981. And we're all falling in and out of love, falling out with each other, growing up, growing apart and growing older. It's rainy old England. We wish it wasn't!

Susie: Yeah... we wish we lived in the U. S of A.

Tracy: I don't. And neither does Johnny. Do you Jon?

Johnny: I have it \*pretty good\* just now, being me... being here... right now. With about a ton of hair gel and ... I might even be wearing mascara.

Carly: AND you have all these... fans. Except I aint one of 'em.

Johnny: Durr, that's cos you're my little annoying sister.

Carly: Not so much of the little.

Johnny: No, that's true... you're actually a little on the chubby side...and obviously the good looks all came to me, you hit every branch when you fell out of the ugly tree.

Karen: Don't be mean Johnny. Carly's my best friend.

Johnny: Your ONLY friend, dontcha mean.

Oh darling why'd you talk so fast  
Another evening just flew past tonight  
And now the daybreak's coming in  
And I can't win and it ain't right  
You tell me all you've done and seen  
And all the places you have been without me  
Well I don't really want to know  
But I'll stay quiet and then I'll go  
And you won't have no cause to think about me

There's a guy works down the chip shop swears he's Elvis  
Just like you swore to me that you'd be true  
There's a guy works down the chip shop swears he's Elvis  
But he's a liar and I'm not sure about you

Oh darling you're so popular  
You were the best thing new in Hicksville ...  
With your mohair suits and foreign shoes  
News is you changed your Pick-up for a Seville  
And now I'm lying here alone  
'Cause you're out there on the phone  
To some star in New York  
I can hear you laughing now and  
I can't help feeling that somehow  
You don't mean anything you say at all

There's a guy works down the chip shop swears he's Elvis  
Just like you swore to me that you'd be true  
There's a guy works down the chip shop swears he's Elvis  
But he's a liar and I'm not sure about you

There's a guy works down the chip shop swears he's Elvis  
Just like you swore to me that you'd be true  
There's a guy works down the chip shop swears he's Elvis  
But he's a liar and I'm not sure about you  
I said he's a liar and I'm not sure about you  
I said he's a liar and I'm not sure about you  
He's a liar and I'm not sure about you

Marie: Never mind all that; what are you wearing to my party, Carly?

*Girls all start telling each other what they'll wear to the party. Shoulder pads- leg warmers- hair scrunchies-ra-ra skirts; stretchy dresses...white high heels*

*Janice: I hope this works out better than my last party.*

***(Flashback to party)***

#### **SCENE ONE : JANICE'S PARTY**

***Janice:*** *This is my 16th birthday party. It oughta be a flippin' ace party. Just look at us! Sharon looks like Madonna, Susie, Carole and Lynne look like Bananarama, Marie looks like Olivia Newton –John. Carly and Karen look like Pepsi and Shirlie. Tracy and Julie look like Human League, y'know, the singers. We all look completely WOW!*



Janice: I was gonna be getting engaged to Johnny. He didn't know that yet, but it was, like, in my stars. Cos I'm Scorpio and he's Capricorn and it said so in that day's horoscopes. (*she goes off to get some bottles. Girls wait for her to leave, then gossip about her*).

Marie: (to audience) I always knew Johnny wasn't right for Janice.. He's Capricorn, see. And she was Scorpio. But then, Scorpio are really difficult, cos, they've got this, darkness. And unpredictable, given to violent mood swings. See? It says here, in my book, 'Love, You and The Stars' (*shows book, they all pass it round*).

Carole: (*shows book*) My Perfect Match is Taurus. 'Taurus Men are big hearted, ardent and passionate. Bad points: They are possessive and jealous, and do not like to hear 'No'. ....Hmmm. Actually I don't know any Taurus. Except Ryan, and I hate him. Geek.

Karen: (*reading from book*) It says here: Capricorn Men know where they are going, and they are aiming for the Top. If they have you in their sights- watch out! Bad points: A single track mind and a tendency to be stubborn. They hate to be tied down and resist a girl who is too clinging. They like to feel free; wait for them to talk about rings! They want a woman who is undemanding and fun.

Julie: I TOLD Janice that. I said, Janice - did I see you trying out your signature the other day in German? You were writing Janice Agnew- but you're not actually married to Johnny are you? Your name is Janice Larcombe- unless I have been in a coma for the last nine years. I said, Janice, don't you remember what it says in the book- And she told me to butt out, what did I know about her and Johnny? They were MEANT for each other.

Sharon: And even then, I was a bit freaked out by how she was about him, like.....desperate. Like he was more important than, well, anything. Like, if we'd arranged to go out, but then Johnny Rang? It was oh, get lost Sharon. It was oh, Sharon, Jon's got to take his Nan's dog

to the vet, so I can't come round your house. Sorry! And then, she hangs up. I don't even get to reply! And so , I'm less important than Johnny's dog. Not even HIS dog! Great.

Susie: After all, we were best friends for 9 years. And when I needed her, it was, oh, sorry Susie, but , after all, you'll be in love one day, and then you'll understand. Huh!

Lynne: Yeah. But I thought , I could tell Johnny was not as mad keen as she was. You don't see him writing her name on his hand, or talking about getting a tattoo. I said to myself- look, I even wrote it in my diary; (*shows diary, reads from it:*) I am soo worried that when Johnny and Tracy finally.. y'know.. it is going to be all over. Most boys only Want One Thing.

Tracy: And then Janice is going to be really really hurt. Poor Janice. Luckily she has me and I will be there for her.

Susie: After all, I said; you've only been going out with him- how long is it? And she said- ten months, 3 weeks and 2 days. I always count 'Going Out' months in 4 weeks-es. But, I said, you ought to count them in 5 weeks. Cos hardly any months have got 28 days, have they?

Tracy: God, she's a lucky cow. I told her. He is gorgeous. And everyone fancies him.

Sharon: He looks a lot like, um, Marc Bolan, cos my Mum's got his poster in her bedroom, on the inside of the wardrobe. Yeah. And also, a bit like Elvis Presley, when he was in films.. Not how he looks now, cos he's really Old. Or Dead.

**Back to the party: Dancing to 'Ride a white swan' or ' Bananarama' Venus' or other track, similar. Scene plays out as per the lyrics of the song.**

~~~~~SONG HERE

“It's my party and I'll cry if I want to”

Song lyrics:

Nobody knows where my Johnny has gone  
Julie left the same time  
Why was he holding her hand  
When he's supposed to be mine?

It's my party, and I'll cry if I want to  
Cry if I want to, cry if I want to  
You would cry too if it happened to you

Play all my records, keep dancing all night  
But leave me alone for a while  
'Til Johnny's dancing with me  
I've got no reason to smile

It's my party, and I'll cry if I want to  
Cry if I want to, cry if I want to  
You would cry too if it happened to you

Oh, Julie and Johnny just walked through that door  
Like a queen with her King  
Oh what a birthday surprise  
Julie's wearin' his ring

It's my party, and I'll cry if I want to  
Cry if I want to, cry if I want to  
You would cry too if it happened to you

Oh it's my party, and I'll cry if I want to  
Cry if I want to, cry if I want to  
You would cry too if it happened to you



Sharon :( *to audience, after Janice has run off stage*):.....Julie's had her tongue hanging out for him for months, always waiting around to jump out in his path, she knew his timetable off by heart. We thought: As if he'd look at her twice! She didn't even wear a bra. Tsk.( *shakes head, arms folded*).

Lynne: And short!- and , those awful shoes, trying to look taller, but she just looked- ridiculous. All off balance, she couldn't really walk in them.

Karen: And whenever I was round at Janice's there's that little shrimp Julie, wanting to borrow Janice's earrings, or skirt, or....BE Janice. Especially; Be Jon's Girlfriend.

Marie: Yeah but girls, look. Look. Cos; although Sophie's Virgo she's not all bad. It just wasn't meant to be for Jon and Janice. Just like it predicted in Love, you and The Stars.

Song here:

As I lie here thinking of you  
I realize that nothing is new  
Lying in my bed thinking of you  
I realize nothing is new  
You say you love me but want success  
I say you're lying, nothing has changed  
This is the sign of the times  
Piece of more to come  
This is the sign of the times  
Time to be alone  
This is the sign of the times  
Piece of more to come  
This is the sign of the times  
Time to be alone

We're strong in bed  
You're weak in love  
You give me nothing  
More than a shove  
I walk alone now thinking of you  
I realize now nothing is new  
This is the sign of the times  
Piece of more to come  
This is the sign of the times  
Time to be alone  
This is the sign of the times (The sign of the times)  
Piece of more to come  
This is the sign of the times  
Time to be alone  
Why do we go on with this useless love-affair?  
When it seems to me that you don't really care  
I realize now nothing is new  
Time to live my life without you, without you, without you  
I sit alone now wondering about you  
I'm living my life, what do you do?  
You say you want me but need success  
I want your love boy, want nothing less  
This is the sign of the times (The sign of the times)  
Piece of more to come  
This is the sign of the times  
Time to be alone  
This is the sign of the times (The sign of the times)  
Piece of more to come  
This is the sign of the times  
Time to be alone

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***Scene TWO 'At home'***

Granny Grimes, Mum, Tracy, Carly, Susie, Sophie.

Mum: Back then we watched telly and we knew everyone was watching the same things at the same time. So next day at the bus stop you'd be: 'Did you see Del Boy and Rodney last night?'

Carly: (*as if watching it on the TV*) 'Michael Jackson's hair got on fire'.

Granny: Wonder what Morecambe and Wise 'll do for their Christmas special this year?

Mum: When I was working at Marks I'd get back on a Saturday and watch The Generation Game..(*does her Bruce impression*) 'Good game good game, let's see what's on the conveyer belt.. cuddly toy, griddle and sandwich maker, electric blanket'' oooh.

Susie: we were all swapping on swap shop and wearing those jumpers and a load of us had mullets.

Granny: Laughing at 'All Allo' and going : It is I, Leclerc. The madonna with the big..

Sophie: 'Tales of the unexpected' (*all get up and do the dance and sing the song*).

Mum: So where's Tracy?

Granny: Back in my day it wasn't 'where's Mavis' cos I'd be there, washing up and putting all the young 'uns to bed.

Carly: When was your day, Gran, was it before cars? Did you ride to school on a horse?

Sophie: Sidesaddle, 'cos of the crinoline.

(*Granny does that 'clip round the ear' gag, a fake blow to the head, laughing though*)

Sophie: She's round Ben's. Isn't she?

Susie: No no no, you're behind the times, Ben is the ex.

Mum: What's that? Since when?

Granny: Who's ex? Ex directory?

Carly: No! Ben and Tracy- they've been together since..since..before Abba!

Mum: Yes, I thought maybe they'd be up the aisle next and I'd be getting myself a new hat, like Cilla.

Granny: Isle? Like Isle of Dogs I s'pose.

Susie: It's Zak now.

Sophie and Carly: ZAK??!!

Mum: Who's this Zak? And why all the shocked faces?(*girls all exchange looks but no answers*)

Granny: That bath is going to overflow in a minute, she's been running it for the past hour and a half. Is Benny Hill on tonight? I could do with a laugh.

More song:

This is the sign of the times (The sign of the times)  
Piece of more to come  
This is the sign of the times  
Time to be alone  
This is the sign of the times (The sign of the times)  
Piece of more to come  
This is the sign of the times  
Time to be alone  
This is the sign of the times (The sign of the times)  
Piece of more to come  
This is the sign of the times  
Time to be alone  
This is the sign of the times (The sign of the times)  
Piece of more to come  
This is the sign of the times  
Time to be alone

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**Scene TWO ( b): Outside the bathroom**

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Mum . Carly.And Sophie, Tracy's little sister ( or Susie)

Mum: ( outside bathroom door) Trace?

Susie: Can I borrow your lip gloss?

Mum: Tracy? Are you in there?

Susie: What you doing all this time? I've been waiting to get in there for an hour!

Carly: I'm wetting meself out here!

Mum: Trace? Are you in the bath? Don't use up all my Body Shop Papaya bath oil! And leave some hot water for someone else! ( *stomps off*)

Susie: I can hear you- stop running the hot tap!

Carly: Trace? Zak was on the phone for you just now. I told him to pee off. (*laughs*) Not really. I mean not really on the phone.

Susie: I would've told him to pee off though. He's a dope head. A druggie!

Carly: He is. He is, Trace. You could have anyone, honest. What'd you see in him? And he doesn't care about you, Trace. I saw him, his tongue down Becci's neck at the youth club on Friday night, lashed up of course. Her I mean.

Susie: And he was totally out of it too; and then they were trying to get on the roof later, and shouting their bloody stupid heads off. And last month, when they crashed that car- their brother's car, was n't it?

Carly: You know Rob's mad for you? You could have Rob, or Dan- he loves you too.

Susie: And Nick told me the same. Ben still waits for you after Science, every Tuesday lunch time, when he comes out of his Biology lesson, there he is, waiting for you, like a lost sheep. His eyes, all sad. And holding his text book against his chest, and trying to look cool.

SONG: They don't know 'bout us

Song:

Tracy: (*sings*)

You've been around for such a long time now  
Oh maybe I could leave you but I don't know how  
And why should I be lonely every night  
When I can be with you  
Oh yes you make it right  
And I don't listen to the guys who say  
That you're bad for me and I should turn you away  
'Cos they don't know about us  
And they've never heard of love

I get a feeling when I look at you  
Wherever you go now I wanna be there too  
They say we're crazy but I just don't care  
And if they keep on talking still they get nowhere  
So I don't mind if they don't understand  
When I look at you and you hold my hand  
'Cos they don't know about us  
And they've never heard of love

Why should it matter to us if they don't approve  
We should just take our chances while we've got nothing to lose

Baby

There's no need for living in the past  
Now I've found good loving gonna make it last  
I tell the others don't bother me  
'Cos when they look at you they don't see what I see  
No I don't listen to their wasted lines  
Got my eyes wide open and I see the signs  
But they don't know about us  
And they've never heard of love

No I don't listen to their wasted lines

Got my eyes wide open and I see the signs  
But they don't know about us  
And they've never heard of love