



GRACE MISSION – Script

By Len Cuthbert & Fynn Cuthbert

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GRACE MISSION

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Synopsis: *Grace Mission* is a musical about seven Grade 12 students in their final year of high school. The guys have a band and want to enter a big music contest but need one more guy to compete. The girls want to be part of it but don't have the musical talent, so they think. Enter O'Grady, a new student, the perfect addition to the guy's dilemma. But by the time prom night arrives, everything about O'Grady's past, present and future will have created enough chaos to leave everyone pondering the values of life, acceptance, and grace.

Instrumental Option:

Cast Lead: Newt plays a primary instrument and others can also play or just sing.

Orchestra Lead: Male cast members are singers accompanied by musicians. Janine must be able to play basic piano.

CAST (3M; 4F)

Male

NEWT: Male. Grade 12 student. The humble brain child of the music group. A primary musician who plays either piano or guitar. A good singer. Simple and likeable.

ACE: Male. Grade 12 student. A wit and wisecrack. Takes the abuse as much as he hands it out. He is a member of Newt's music group as a singer and/or instrumentalist.

CAYLE: Male. Grade 12 student. Stronger personality. The administrator of the group. Part of Newt's music group as a singer and/or instrumentalist.

Female

O'GRADY: (Spencer O'Grady / Gracie) Female. Grade 12 student. Dressed as a boy in the first scenes, with a hat, glasses. Interested in physics / aerospace.

HALI: Female. Grade 12 student. Dominant character and physically strong. Leadership skills. Dresses with class.

JANINE: Female. Grade 12 student. Naive, likeable, kind and slow to comprehend. Great singer and plays piano. Faithful friend to all. Energetic.

PAIGE: Female. Grade 12 student. Tough, protective, sarcastic.

SET

Two primary areas, a Music Practice Room and Lockers in the school hall are connected by any amount of space as needed for staging. The Music Practice Room is dominated (and decorated) by the guy's music group. A piano and any other instruments the group might use. A door connects the Music Practice Room to the School Hall. Hali's locker has a mirror on the outside. It has power connected to the inside to run a hair dryer and any other electrical necessities. Another locker is next to it that will eventually be occupied by O'Grady. A third area is open space that will become the stage for the prom scene in the latter half.

Length: 2 Hours

ACT 1

Scene 1 - Newt, Ace, Cayle

Music Rehearsal Room

♪ *No Time For Goodbye* (Newt, Ace)

Scene 2 - Newt, Ace, Hali, Cayle, O'Grady, Janine

School Hallway / Lockers - Music Rehearsal Room

♪ *The Girl Is Unique (Hali Shalevinski-Carmona-Berlitz)* (Ace, Newt)

♪ *This Is Just A Test* (Newt, O'Grady, Ace, Cayle)

Scene 3 - Paige, Hali, Janine, Ace, Cayle, Newt

School Hallway / Lockers

Scene 4 - Cayle, Hali

School Hallway / Lockers

Scene 5 - Cayle, Ace, O'Grady, Hali, Paige, Janine, Newt

Music Rehearsal Room

♪ *The Same Street* (Newt, O'Grady)

Scene 6 - Janine, Paige, Hali

School Hallway / Lockers

♪ *Revenge* (Hali, Paige, Janine)

ACT 2

Scene 1 - Newt, O'Grady, Cayle, Ace, Hali, Janine, Paige

Music Rehearsal Room

♪ *Face The Music* (Newt, O'Grady, Cayle, Ace, Hali, Janine, Paige)

Scene 2 - Cayle, Newt, Hali, Ace, O'Grady

School Hallway / Lockers - Music Rehearsal Room

Scene 3 - Newt, Cayle, Ace, Paige, O'Grady, Janine

Music Rehearsal Room - School Hallway / Lockers

♪ *You Play Piano?* (Janine)

Scene 4 - Hali, Janine, Paige, O'Grady

Music Rehearsal Room - Lockers

♪ *Houston, We Have A Problem* (Hali)

Scene 5 - Cayle, Newt, Ace, Janine, Hali, Paige, O'Grady

Music Rehearsal Room - Prom Stage

♪ *Janine's Audition* (Newt, Janine, Ace, Cayle)

♪ *The Slow Dance (Would You Be Mine?)* (Instrumental)

♪ *Grace Mission* (Newt, Cayle, Ace, O'Grady, Janine, Hali, Paige)

Scene 6 - Newt, Ace, Cayle, Hali, Paige, Janine

School Hallway / Lockers - Music Rehearsal Room

♪ *Bliss* (Instrumental - Newt)

Scene 7 - Ace, Hali, Janine, Cayle, Paige, Newt, O'Grady

School Hallway / Lockers - Music Rehearsal Room

♪ *No Time For Goodbye Reprise* (Newt)

♪ *Amazing Grace* (Janine, Hali, Paige, O'Grady, Ace, Cayle, Newt)

ACT 1

SCENE 1 - Music Practice Room

AS AUDIENCE MEMBERS ENTER: NEWT is walking about in the Music Practice Room working through lyrics and music. If flats are used for walls in the room, NEWT is rearranging Post it Notes or sheets on the wall like a storyboard, editing lines, humming tunes, keying a few notes. Other cast members are "other students" who meet in the hallway and are getting their packs and books from the lockers (dimly lit) to head home. NEWT sits and pieces it together as he plays through, "*That's the last time I saw her. No time for goodbye. The only dessert she offered. Was a slice of humble pie.*" When the house lights go down, NEWT begins the song. ACE enters during the last two verses and sings along and could accompany on his instrument.

NO TIME FOR GOODBYE

Music by Fynn Cuthbert; Lyrics by Len Cuthbert

*Relationships with girls just don't seem to work
They misinterpret clever wit for being a jerk
When I open my mouth and let words come out
They have no idea what I'm talking about*

*I met Caroline's dad just before our first date
He was impressed that I wasn't a minute late
He asked if I had secrets I should admit
I said I had kleptomania. But I usually take something for it
(Stop, wait for the audience to get it without breaking the fourth wall)*

*That's the last time that I saw her
No time for goodbye
The only dessert she offered
Was a slice of humble pie*

*Joanie and I met at a funeral manor
She was an end of life pre-planner
She handed me a coffin brochure to read
I told her it was the last thing that I would need
(Stop, wait for the audience to get it without breaking the fourth wall)*

(ACE enters / sings & plays along)

*That's the last time I saw her
No time for goodbyes
Her refusal to date
Caught me by surprise.*

*Relationships with girls just don't seem to work
They misinterpret clever wit for being a jerk
When I open my mouth and let words come out
They have no idea what I'm talking about*

ACE

(NEWT goes back to pondering his notes and rewriting. ACE looks through the music they just played)

This staying after school is starting to cut into my personal life. I have other things that I do other than this band you know. You may not think so, but I *do*. And this song you wrote, I don't get the lyrics in this one line. In two lines. Actually, the whole thing just isn't making sense. (Silence) This lyric here in this new song. I don't totally get it. Newt. Hey. Earth to Newt. Earth to Newt.

(ACE moves to a different spot in the room)

Can you hear me now? (moves) Can you hear me now? Never mind, I'll figure it out myself.

(ACE rereads it and then laughs. CAYLE enters)

Ha. I get it now. That's funny. Kind of brilliant. Actually, I'm kind of glad you didn't answer because it would have ruined the joke.

NEWT

Me too.

CAYLE

Okay. Where is it?

ACE

What?

CAYLE

Our sign for our band. Newt. Did you get it?

NEWT

Over there.

CAYLE

Where? Over where?

NEWT

There.

CAYLE

Could we narrow down the there to exactly where. Point, hot, cold, left, right ... something.

NEWT

(Looks up. Points)

There.

CAYLE

Yeh. I heard you say that the first four times. (Sees it) I have been waiting all day to see this.

(CAYLE picks up the package and begins to open it)
Sweet. This is our official band name. In print. Larger than life. Permanent and

(Disappointment)
you spelled nine with a number. Newt. What happened? Newt.

NEWT

What.

CAYLE

The name of our band is Nine Dots. Nine is supposed to be spelled out in a word. Not a number.

NEWT

You didn't tell me that. What diff does it make? Nine is a number. Not a word.

CAYLE

It is a word. What good is it with a number nine?

NEWT

It says the same thing. Besides, when you're listed alphabetically, it comes before everything else. And, when you're putting your name on the marquee it takes less space.

ACE

He's got a point.

CAYLE

He does. Never thought of that. Maybe it's not so bad with the number. 9 Dots. So, Newt. What did you think of the name?

NEWT

I didn't.

CAYLE

Didn't what?

NEWT

Think about it.

CAYLE

Oh. Well, you want to know where the idea came from?

NEWT

No.

CAYLE

Newt. This is our band name. Our image. It tells everyone who we are.

NEWT

Exactly why I didn't want to think about it.

CAYLE

You know where I got the name, right?

NEWT

An Ouija Board?

CAYLE

You got a problem with it?

NEWT

Did some kid swallow scrabble letters and poop this out in their diaper? Please. Tell me what it means. I can hardly wait.

CAYLE

That's a bit crass. You don't know? Are you kidding? Everyone knows what 9 Dots refers to. (Pause) The Nine Dots Puzzle? Ace. Have you ever heard of the Nine Dots Puzzle?

ACE

Yeh.

CAYLE

See.

ACE

After you told me.

NEWT

So why isn't the band called the Nine Dots Puzzle instead of just 9 Dots.

CAYLE

Because it could be called the Nine Dots Puzzle or the Nine Dots Problem or Nine Dots Challenge or The Nine Dots Creative Thinking Puzzle. It's all about the Nine Dots.

NEWT

Oh. Okay.

CAYLE

Ace. Show him the Nine Dots Puzzle.

ACE

(Ace uses the easel and draws the nine dots)

He won't get it.

CAYLE

No one gets it. That's the point. Not until you give them the clue.

ACE

Okay. Here it is. This will be hilarious.

He'll go nuts trying to do it.

CAYLE

Okay. Here's nine dots. Okay.

ACE

Okay.

NEWT

Without lifting the pencil, connect the nine dots using four straight lines.

ACE

Why?

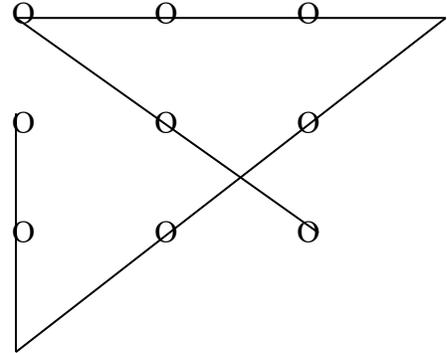
NEWT

Just try it. You'll see.

CAYLE

O-kay.

NEWT



You watch. He'll do it with five. First time. Everybody does that.

CAYLE

(Newt does the puzzle with four lines with no problem)

Whoa. Hold it. What are you doing?

NEWT

What's wrong?

CAYLE

Nothing's wrong. That's what's wrong. Where did you see this done before?

ACE

I thought you didn't know about this puzzle.

CAYLE

You've never seen this before?

NEWT

Seen what?

CAYLE

This puzzle.

NEWT

What puzzle?

CAYLE

You kidding me? You've never seen this? You're telling the truth.

ACE

Dude. No one does this puzzle.

CAYLE

Unless they think outside the box.

ACE

Literally. Newt. You actually think outside the box. Why did I even doubt you?

NEWT

Box?

CAYLE

The Nine Dots Box. To do this you have to go beyond the box like you did.

NEWT

What box?

CAYLE

What do you mean what box?

NEWT

There's nine dots.

ACE

Ha ha. That's funny. The box the nine dots are in. You weren't confined by the box.

NEWT

I have no idea what you're referring to. There's nine dots. I joined them with four lines. Now what? Where's the puzzle part?

CAYLE

That is the puzzle part. Until people are told to think beyond the box, they can't do the puzzle.

NEWT

So this is what you named the band after?

CAYLE

Yeh. We're an out of the box band. Don't tell me it's not brilliant.

NEWT

I'm trying to figure out why there're nine dots when there're only three of us in our band.

CAYLE

It's not about the dots. It's about the box. The box - why don't you get it?

ACE

He's beyond the box. This is hilarious. He didn't even think about it. He just did it. He did the nine dot puzzle with four lines.

NEWT

Could have done it with three.

CAYLE

Yeh. Right. You can't do it with three.

NEWT

Yes you can.

CAYLE

You really don't get this puzzle. How can you be so smart yet so dumb. You can't do it with three. People can't even do it with four.

ACE

Newt did.

CAYLE

Yeh but ... Newt's not exactly one hundred percent in the head.

ACE

So. Newt. Can *you* do it with three?

NEWT

Yes.

CAYLE

If you could do it in three, I'd buy you lunch in the cafeteria every day next week.

NEWT

You can't afford that.

CAYLE

I don't have to. Because you can't do it in three.

NEWT

Let's just say you buy me lunch for one day.

CAYLE

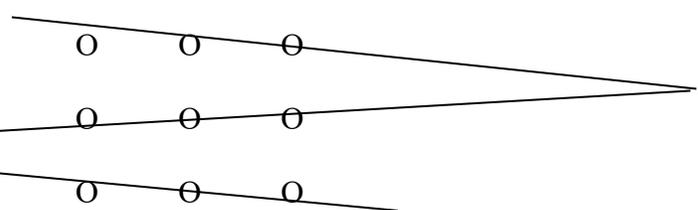
One? That's not a risk. What would be the point?

ACE

He's having mercy on you Cayle.

CAYLE

He knows he's probably going to lose.



NEWT

One day's lunch. That's it.

CAYLE

Fine. One day. I'll start placing my order now.

NEWT

(NEWT draws nine more dots, only larger. First line runs from the top of the top left dot, through the centre of the top centre dot to the bottom of the top right dot and continues to the right and then back, running across the top of the centre right dot, the middle of the centre dot to the bottom of the centre left dot and off towards the left. Continues to do the same for the bottom row)

As we all know, all dots have a thickness to them. So I run this line on a slight angle across the top, through the middle and along the bottom of these dots and then come back for the centre row and then come back for the bottom row. There. Three lines.

ACE

Just so you know Newt, the steak sandwich is the most expensive meal in the cafeteria and tastes delicious.

CAYLE

That is so freaking brilliant. Unbelievable.

ACE

Cayle. You just lost. You owe Newt lunch. Newt. You could have had lunch for the rest of the year.

CAYLE

This is so totally worth the cost of lunch. Wait until I use this one on the girls.

ACE

Oh man. I'll bet you probably can do it in two.

NEWT

Nope.

ACE

Newt. You just let me down.

NEWT

One.

ACE

What.

NEWT

One.