

Final Draft

'The Bomb Site Playground'

Eclipse Youth Theatre @ Half Moon Theatre

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The Idea is the story follows a group of children who live on the same street. We watch their day on the 'Bombsite Playground' in 1950.

Outline:

Opening Street / Roy and the boys / Debs and social club / Coronation / End

Street Scene Opening

'Down in the East End as audience enter into 'Morning Soundscape'

(Only light on street)

3 families frozen in position. Use blocks and skipping ropes to mark off houses and street. Use wooden door.

Walking down the street are two milkman and post lady – door goes with them deliver to mums

two women going to work,

one policeman,

one newspaper girl

Newspaper girl: (with door) Wake up, get your papers!

(Play music –uptempo piece)

Dads open and close newspaper

Mums start cooking

Winter - cue for all to yawn and eat.

Mum and dad leave and go to work (leave apron and newspaper)

Kids come to front door.

All exit say hello to each other and play.

Side people enter houses and use props to begin play

All play using props.

*Danny and maria stand on stage, **music down low**. They start, all mime play.*

Danny: So this is our street. Mrs Brown collecting her milk. Kids out playing. You see there's not much traffic so the street is our playground. We play out all day and nobody worries.

Maria: This is our street. I love it, I always know where my friends are, you never have to knock for them, they are just out.

Continue playing. When following activity is mentioned bring it to life. Danny and Maria stay on stage. Each activity needs talking/sound. Playful.

Danny: We love playing marbles. Me and my friends could roll them all day.

Maria: Me and my friends would play 'beds' we get blankets and make a bed outside our front door, lay in them, wake up and cook.

Danny: I love making model aeroplanes and throwing them off the top of our jubilee building block. It takes like 3 or 4 minutes to reach the bottom.

Maria: We love finding what we can, all these houses that were bombed, they are almost like our playground. A bin lid is a shield and a bit of wood is a sword.

Danny: We throw playing cards at the wall and count the ones that land face up!

Maria: My favourite is hopscotch and skipping.

Everyone begin hopping and skipping.

(back to front)

Danny: We have the best days

Maria: On our bombsite playground! *All Play.*

Old lady: Oi you lot, scatter! Get out of here! Come on!

Few Kids: Sorry Mrs Brown.

Everyone scatter

(Spotlight front)

Roy and the boys

Boy: So I'm Roy and I live at number 42. I like to cause a bit of trouble on the street. You see I love playing run out with my friends but the other day it all went a bit wrong.

(Lights up on street)

(Play narration)

Feet in to choose person who is on it. Stack two boxes and hide behind, play hide and seek – roy on stage to jump across, others all stand facing stage to see him fall. Slowly fall down the line, then all turn forward and gather together to call down stage left.

"When I was young we used to play a game called run out, the idea was one person, we all ran out and they had to find us, well you see just after the war, when the war had finished, London was completely bombed and loads of bombsites, warehouses, where we lived, and so we used to use that as a kind of playground. If you like, we would go and hide and they tried to look for us you know, and if they saw you, they tap you on the shoulder, and then you run out.

There was one instance, opposite where I lived in jubilee buildings there was a wharf there called colonial wharf, and it was bombed so you could walk out onto the jetty, and there was the river and we would play out on that.

This one day we were playing and I went through the wharf and there was a big opening that you could jump out onto the jetty and I run through and jumped and I jumped too short, and instead of going through the window and onto the jetty, there was a hole in the window which I didn't realise and I went straight down and I must have gone down about 15 feet"

(2 spotlights on each side of stage. Roy down hole on one side and group tunnel on other side. Switch between)

Everyone: Roy, is that you down there?

Roy: Help! I fell down!

1 child: Are you hurt?

Roy: No I've landed on some sugar sacks, it's so sticky down here and it smells like rum!

1 child: Ok we will get you a rope

Feed rope down

Rope comes from above other side of stage

Roy: Ok I've got it, start pulling

Everyone: PULL

He re-joins group.

Roy: Thanks guys

Winter: Were you scared?

Roy: Of course I wasn't. Right let's play.

(Fade lights, play transition 'Uptempo Music')

Debs and her social clubs

Rebecca: So I'm Debs and I live at number 49. I love this street, there is always so much going on. I love going to club with my friends, I've made friends for life there. It's just down the road it's the Jewish social club I go to every Thursday. Today's Thursday, let's go!

(Play Jewish music as intro)

(During wizard of oz part play theme track to underscore.)

Group act out the sketch

(After sketch – fade lights, Music transition – uptempo track.)

Queen's Coronation

Child: So this is my house, number 46. Today the whole street are coming to our house, it's the Queen's coronation and we are the only ones with a TV. It's going to get pretty crammed. I just hope they've bought enough sausage rolls!

One by one family's enter x4. Mum and dad get more annoyed as more enter.

First family bring on door

Father: Hello,

Family: We are from number 47 etc.

Mother: Come on in.

Family: Thank you.

Hello we are from number 48 etc.

Hello we are from number 49 etc.

Last family don't want to come in – dad says:

'come on, your not missing this moment in history'

Hello we are from number 50 etc.

(Play recording of our coronation broadcast,)

Act along to narration. Pass out sausage rolls, do salute, hip hip hooray x 3

Child: Right lets go play, mum can we play?

Mum: Yes sure, dinner is at 6

Child: Let's go.

All leave, big train of people leaving, takes a long time. Mother and father are exhausted.

Father: I look forward to the day when everyone has a TV.

Mother: If that ever happens!

Move door off stage

Kids outside playing – talking about coronation. The next section, they role play the coronation using random street objects.

Kal: *(gets a long cloth to use as a robe)* – Look at me I'm the queen

All: Yeah we are the soldiers *(pick up wood swords and march to form a line on the street)*

Kal: *That's it bow to me please.*

All bow as queen passes

Elizabeth: *(finds dustbin lid)* This is your crown! I now crown you the queen!

All make a fanfare sound

Kal: Where's my throne?

Make a throne seat and carry the queen down the street

All clap and cheer as the queen passes and does the royal wave.

(Play 'down in the east end' quiet and by the end of the next section fade up)

Back into street setting like the start playing.

7 children say aloud.

Child: So that's our street.

Child: Our good ole east end street.

Child: At a time of darkness and bomb site playgrounds. Society used it, it was colourful and exciting. It was happy and playful.

Child: Clubs where we felt we belonged.

Child: Clubs made us feel safe. Clubs where we made our friends.

Child: Our good ole east end street.

Child: Our bombsite playground.

(Fade lights. Track loud)

END.

Props list

3 x Flat caps

3 x Aprons (1950)

3 x Newspapers and 3 rolled up newspapers

3 x Glass milk bottles

1 x Policeman Hat

Old letters in a bundle for a postman to deliver

2 x old briefcases

Moveable wooden door frame

Rope from ceiling and same coloured rope in a black bucket.

Red White Blue bunting

Dustbin lid

Random bits of old wood

Old dirty material

1950 television or a wooden box that can represent a TV.

Brown Skipping Ropes x 2

Old lady wig and walking stick.

Pack of standard playing cards

Paper aeroplanes already made x4