

GRAEae

REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL

A RAUCOUS MUSICAL FEATURING THE HITS OF
IAN DURY AND THE BLOCKHEADS

Reasons to be Cheerful

An Easy Read Story



About the play

	<p>Reasons To Be Cheerful is a play. This is a story told by people acting on stage.</p>
 	<p>The words the actors say will be shown on different parts of the stage.</p> <p>You might see people in the audience wearing headphones. They are listening to someone saying the movements of the actors. This is called audio description.</p>
	<p>There is music in the play. The music is quite loud. Sometimes the characters might shout.</p>
 	<p>The play happens in 1981 in a pub called the Old Red Lion in Essex.</p>
	<p>This play is about some people putting on a play. Some of the actors will pretend to be different people during the story.</p>

The Characters

	<p>I am Vinnie. I work in a supermarket. I love Ian Dury and the Blockheads. Me and my friends have written a play.</p>
	<p>I am Colin. I am Vinnie's best friend. We work at the supermarket together. I'm a punk. I hate my boss!</p>
	<p>I am Janine. I am friends with Vinnie and Colin and I work at the supermarket, too.</p>
	<p>I am Nick. I am Vinnie's friend. In the play Vinnie wrote, I play his boss called Dave. When I am pretending to be Dave I wear a false arm. I play in the band, too.</p>
	<p>I am Pat. I am Vinnie's mum. I look after Vinnie's dad when he is ill. I used to work at the supermarket.</p>
	<p>I am Debbie. I made up all the dances. I sign some of the things people say and sing in the play.</p>
	<p>I am Bill. I am Vinnie's dad's friend from work. In Vinnie's play, I play his dad, Bobby. When I'm playing Bobby, I put my dark glasses on and sit in a wheelchair. Bobby is very ill.</p>

The Band

		I am Vinnie's Cousin Joey. I helped get the band together. I play the keyboards and sing.
		I am John. I sing. Loudly!
		I am Paula. I play the drums.
		I am Nixon. I play the bass guitar.
		I am Paul. I play the guitar.
		I am Louis. I play the saxophone.
		I am Pickles. When I am on the phone I am describing what is happening on stage to blind people in the audience.

The Story

ACT 1 Scene 1



Vinnie welcomes everyone to the Red Lion. Vinnie and his friends have made a play to remember Vinnie's dad. Vinnie introduces everyone on stage.



SONG Reasons to be Cheerful, Part 3. This song is about lots of things that make you happy.



Ian Dury and the Blockheads are doing a concert at the Hammersmith Odeon. Vinnie and Colin really want to go.



Vinnie and Colin go to Vinnie's house.

Vinnie's mum and dad, Pat and Bobby, are there. Bobby is very ill.



Vinnie asks his dad if he bought them tickets to the Ian Dury concert. He forgot to buy the tickets.



SONG: What A Waste

Scene 2



Vinnie and Colin are at work at the supermarket. Their boss, Dave, says he has tickets to the Ian Dury concert.



Colin teases Vinnie. Colin thinks Vinnie fancies Janine. Janine is Dave's girlfriend.



SONG: Clevor Trever

Scene 3



At Vinnie's house, Pat and Bobby argue. Bobby has cancer and Pat is finding it hard to care for him.



SONG: Plaistow Patricia. This song starts with some strong swear words being shouted very loudly.



Pat tells Bobby she needs to take him to a hospice. Pat is finding it too difficult to care for Bobby at home.

Scene 4



In the pub. Vinnie and Colin still cannot get tickets to the concert.

 	<p>SONG: Billericay Dickie. This song is about a man who has lots of girlfriends. Dave sings this song.</p>
	<p>At the supermarket. Dave is boasting about all the women he has had sex with. Janine overhears him and gets upset.</p>
  	<p>Colin thinks Vinnie should ask Janine out.</p>
	<p>SONG: Crippled With Nerves. This song is about someone being too scared to do things.</p>
<p>Scene 5</p>	
	<p>At the supermarket. Pat goes to the supermarket to try to get her old job back. Bobby is going into the hospice.</p>
	<p>Vinnie and Dave have a fight.</p>
	<p>Janine and Dave have an argument. Janine steals Dave's concert tickets.</p>
	<p>SONG: Sex and Drugs and Rock and Roll.</p>

	<p>Vinnie, Colin, Janine, and Bobby all get in Pat's car. They start to drive to London to go to the Ian Dury and the Blockheads concert!</p>
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	<p>INTERVAL - there is a break in the play now. It will be about 15 minutes long.</p>
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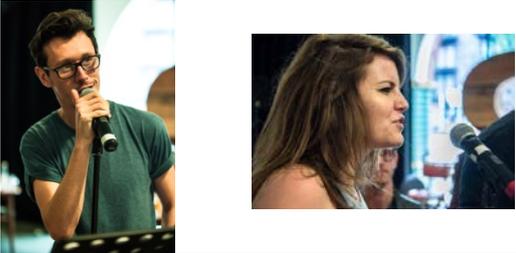
ACT 2 Scene 1

	<p>Vinnie, Colin, Janine, and Bobby are in the car. They crash into another car. Their car breaks down. They don't get to London. They get stuck by the seaside.</p>
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	<p>Vinnie, Colin, Janine and Bobby go to a beach hut.</p>
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	<p>SONG: Wake Up and Make Love With Me.</p>
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	<p>Bobby and Pat used to come to this beach hut when they were younger. It is very special to Bobby.</p>
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 	<p>SONG: England's Glory. This is about lots of things that are very English.</p>
	<p>Bobby, Vinnie, and Janine talk about different things. Janine tells Bobby she is disabled.</p>
 	<p>SONG: Spasticus Autisticus. This song starts very suddenly and loudly.</p>
 	<p>Vinnie finds some of Bobby's old records and leather jacket. Bobby talks about when he was young.</p>
	<p>SONG: Crippled with Nerves (second time)</p>
	<p>Bobby talks to Janine.</p>
	<p>Vinnie wants to tell Janine he fancies her, but he is scared to.</p>

	<p>Vinnie, Bobby, and Janine worry about what Pat will do when they all go home.</p>
	<p>John shouts. He wants to play Blockheads.</p>
	<p>SONG: Blockheads</p>
	<p>Bobby and Vinnie talk. Bobby asks Vinnie to look after Pat after he dies.</p>
	<p>SONG: My Old Man.</p>
	<p>Bobby and Colin leave Vinnie and Janine alone together for a while.</p>
	<p>SONG: Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick.</p>

Scene 2



Pat and Dave arrive at the beach hut. They have been looking for everybody all night.



Pat is very angry. Pat and Bobby talk. Pat remembers how much fun they used to have together.



Janine tells Dave she doesn't want to be his girlfriend any more.



Bobby talks about seeing his hero, Gene Vincent, walking along the beach.

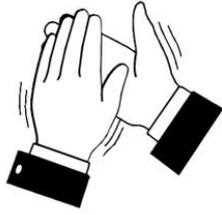


SONG: Sweet Gene Vincent



Vinnie has created this play to celebrate his dad's life.

The End



The end. The actors will take a bow.



ENCORE: This is when the band and cast come back on stage to sing another song.

SONG: If It Can't Be Right
Then It Must Be Wrong