

# **Zoom!**

Junior Script

by

Craig Hawes

Published by

**Musicline Publications**

**P.O. Box 15632**

**Tamworth**

**Staffordshire**

**B77 5BY**

**01827 281 431**

**[www.musiclinedirect.com](http://www.musiclinedirect.com)**

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**CAST LIST**

***N.B. In the following list, the bracketed number shows the number of spoken lines each role has.***

***An asterisk (\*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.***

***The Tortoises:***

* Toby Tortoise .....	(55)
* Shelly Tortoise.....	(38)
Crawl.....	(13)
Plod.....	(25)
Dawdle.....	(11)
Dilly .....	(18)
Dally.....	(23)

***The Hares:***

* Harvey Hare .....	(107)
Harold Hare .....	(16)
Hyacinth Hare .....	(25)
Happy .....	(3)
Harriet .....	(11)
Hip .....	(25)
Hop .....	(22)

***The Hedgehogs:***

Henry Hedgehog.....	(12)
Holly Hedgehog .....	(9)
Spike.....	(11)
Spiny.....	(10)
* Phil Fox .....	(61)
* Fred Fox .....	(50)
Reggie Rat.....	(15)
Lady Lucinda .....	(22)
Jenkins.....	(6)
PC Parsnip.....	(3)

***The Press:***

Jack Daw.....	(41)
Bill Budgie .....	(3)
Jenny Wren .....	(2)
Jerry Journal .....	(2)
Dan Daily.....	(1)
Sam Sunday.....	(1)

***The Office Workers:***

Mr. Beaver.....	(11)
Mr. Weasel .....	(3)
Mr. Badger .....	(9)
Mr. Ferret .....	(3)
Betty Bunny.....	(4)
Bunty Bunny.....	(5)

***The Merry Squirrels:***

Squirmy .....	(11)
Squinty .....	(5)
Squeaky .....	(6)
Squidgy .....	(5)
Squaddy .....	(2)
Squashy .....	(2)
Squeezy .....	(2)
Squelch .....	(2)

## SPEAKING ROLES BY NUMBER OF LINES

***N.B. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (\*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.***

* Harvey Hare .....	107
* Phil Fox .....	61
* Toby Tortoise .....	55
* Fred Fox .....	50
Jack Daw .....	41
* Shelly Tortoise .....	38
Hip .....	25
Hyacinth Hare .....	25
Plod .....	25
Dally .....	23
Hop .....	22
Lady Lucinda .....	22
Dilly .....	18
Harold Hare .....	16
Reggie Rat .....	15
Crawl .....	13
Henry Hedgehog .....	12
Dawdle .....	11
Harriet .....	11
Mr. Beaver .....	11
Spike .....	11
Squirmy .....	11
Spiny .....	10
Holly Hedgehog .....	9
Mr. Badger .....	9
Jenkins .....	6
Squeaky .....	6
Bunty Bunny .....	5
Squidgy .....	5
Squinty .....	5
Betty Bunny .....	4
Bill Budgie .....	3
Happy .....	3

Mr. Ferret.....	3
Mr. Weasel .....	3
PC Parsnip .....	3
Jenny Wren .....	2
Jerry Journal.....	2
Squaddy .....	2
Squashy.....	2
Squeezy.....	2
Squelch.....	2
Dan Daily .....	1
Sam Sunday .....	1

## CAST LIST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER (WITH LINE COUNT)

***N.B. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (\*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.***

Betty Bunny .....	4
Bill Budgie.....	3
Bunty Bunny .....	5
Crawl .....	13
Dally.....	23
Dan Daily .....	1
Dawdle.....	11
Dilly.....	18
* Fred Fox.....	50
Happy .....	3
Harold Hare .....	16
Harriet.....	11
* Harvey Hare .....	107
Henry Hedgehog .....	12
Hip .....	25
Holly Hedgehog .....	9
Hop.....	22
Hyacinth Hare.....	25
Jack Daw .....	41
Jenkins .....	6
Jenny Wren .....	2
Jerry Journal.....	2
Lady Lucinda .....	22
Mr. Badger.....	9
Mr. Beaver .....	11
Mr. Ferret.....	3
Mr. Weasel .....	3
PC Parsnip .....	3
* Phil Fox .....	61
Plod .....	25
Reggie Rat.....	15
Sam Sunday .....	1
* Shelly Tortoise .....	38



Spike.....	11
Spiny.....	10
Squaddy .....	2
Squashy.....	2
Squeaky.....	6
Squeezy.....	2
Squelch.....	2
Squidgy.....	5
Squinty.....	5
Squirmy .....	11
* Toby Tortoise .....	55

**CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE****Scene 1**

Betty Bunny  
 Bill Budgie  
 Bunty Bunny  
 Crawl  
 Dally  
 Dan Daily  
 Dawdle  
 Dilly  
 Harvey Hare  
 Henry Hedgehog  
 Holly Hedgehog  
 Jack Daw  
 Jenkins  
 Jenny Wren  
 Jerry Journal  
 Lady Lucinda  
 Mr. Badger  
 Mr. Beaver  
 Mr. Ferret  
 Mr. Weasel  
 PC Parsnip  
 Plod  
 Reggie Rat  
 Sam Sunday  
 Shelly Tortoise  
 Spike  
 Spiny  
 Squaddy  
 Squashy  
 Squeaky  
 Squeezy  
 Squelch  
 Squidgy  
 Squinty  
 Squirmy  
 Toby Tortoise

**Scene 2**

Happy  
 Harold Hare  
 Harriet  
 Harvey Hare  
 Hip  
 Hop  
 Hyacinth Hare  
 Jenkins

**Scene 3**

Fred Fox  
 Harvey Hare  
 Phil Fox

**Scene 4**

Betty Bunny  
 Bill Budgie  
 Bunty Bunny  
 Dan Daily  
 Fred Fox  
 Harvey Hare  
 Henry Hedgehog  
 Jack Daw  
 Jenny Wren  
 Jerry Journal  
 Lady Lucinda  
 Mr. Badger  
 Mr. Beaver  
 Mr. Ferret  
 Mr. Weasel  
 PC Parsnip  
 Phil Fox  
 Sam Sunday  
 Squaddy  
 Squashy  
 Squeaky  
 Squeezy  
 Squelch  
 Squidgy  
 Squinty  
 Squirmy  
 Toby Tortoise

**Scene 5**

Crawl  
 Dally  
 Dawdle  
 Dilly  
 Plod  
 Shelly Tortoise  
 Toby Tortoise

**Scene 6**

Crawl  
 Dally  
 Dawdle  
 Dilly  
 Hip  
 Hop  
 Plod  
 Spike  
 Spiny

**Scene 7**

All

**Scene 8**

Crawl  
 Dally  
 Dawdle  
 Dilly  
 Hip  
 Hop  
 Plod  
 Spike  
 Spiny

**Scene 9**

Crawl  
 Dally  
 Dawdle  
 Dilly  
 Fred Fox  
 Harvey Hare  
 Hip  
 Hop  
 Phil Fox  
 Plod  
 Spike  
 Spiny

**Scene 10**

Crawl  
Dally  
Dawdle  
Dilly  
Fred Fox  
Harvey Hare  
Hip  
Hop  
Phil Fox  
Plod  
Spike  
Spiny  
Squaddy  
Squashy  
Squeaky  
Squeezy  
Squelch  
Squidgy  
Squinty  
Squirmy

**Scene 11**

Crawl  
Dally  
Dawdle  
Dilly  
Fred Fox  
Harvey Hare  
Hip  
Hop  
Phil Fox  
Plod  
Spike  
Spiny  
Toby Tortoise

**Scene 12**

Crawl  
Dally  
Dawdle  
Dilly  
Fred Fox  
Harvey Hare  
Hip  
Hop  
Phil Fox  
Plod  
Spike  
Spiny  
Toby Tortoise

**Scene 13**

All

## LIST OF PROPERTIES

### Scene 1

Dressing gown.....	Jenkins
Financial newspaper.....	Jenkins
Go-kart, big enough for four, without steering wheel.....	Dawdle
Blanket/cover on the back seat of the go-kart .....	Dawdle
Steering wheel from the go-kart .....	Crawl
Handkerchief .....	Shelly

### Scene 2

Table set for breakfast, with plates, glassware, cutlery and flowers.....	Scene Prop
Carafe of juice .....	Jenkins
Bowl of nuts .....	Jenkins
Nutcrackers .....	Jenkins
Golf club and balls .....	Harold
Sweets.....	Jenkins
School book.....	Hip
Large bottle of pink bottle bath .....	Jenkins

### Scene 3

Large and heavy-looking sunflower in a pot.....	Fred
---	------

### Scene 4

Multiple desks, covered in papers .....	Scene Prop
One desk with a hole in it .....	Scene Prop
Telephones on the desks .....	Scene Prop
Paperwork .....	Betty or Bunty
Coat and briefcase .....	Harvey
Folders and clipboards .....	Badger, Beaver, Weasel & Ferret
Bunch of house keys .....	Squirmy
Notebook .....	Betty
Nail file.....	Bunty
Video camera .....	Members of the Press
Notebooks and pens.....	Members of the Press
Credit card .....	Harvey
Reporter's notebook .....	Jerry
Briefcase with a hole in one side .....	Henry
Large sunflower, removed from pot, as used previously .....	Henry
Wad of banknotes.....	Harvey

**Scene 5**

Blankets or bedding ..... Scene Prop  
 Small sofa ..... Scene Prop

**Scene 6**

Bedroom window frame, which could be achieved through lighting ..... Scene Prop

**Scene 7**

Video cameras/notebooks (*as used previously*) ..... Members of the Press  
 Binoculars with a strap ..... Reggie  
 Betting book ..... Reggie  
 Video camera ..... Bill  
 Small towel ..... Harvey  
 Placard with “Applause!” on one side and “Boo!” on the other ..... Badger  
 Assorted banners and placards with supportive slogans ..... The Crowd  
 Starting gun ..... Lucinda

**Scene 8**

Go-kart (*as used previously*) ..... Scene Prop

**Scene 9**

Signpost with moveable arrow, marked “Racetrack” ..... Scene Prop  
 Bush, large enough for two to hide behind ..... Scene Prop

**Scene 10**

Large box of dynamite sticks ..... Phil & Fred  
 Hats ..... Phil & Fred  
 Matches (used) ..... Fred

**Scene 11**

Two large buckets of glue ..... Scene Prop

**Scene 12**

Large spray bottle ..... Phil  
 Handkerchief or packet of tissues ..... Hyacinth

## **PRODUCTION NOTES**

Welcome to **ZOOM!** I am sure you will enjoy rehearsing and performing this musical comedy, but to aid you in your production it may be helpful to consider the following production notes.

### **CASTING**

The script is written for 44 speaking characters, as listed previously. These range from principal parts to small supporting roles. For productions with fewer cast members, condensing and doubling of characters is possible. This can be done in numerous ways, but the following example reduces the cast number to 25:

- Combine Spike and Spiny into one part (Spike)
- Combine Beaver, Weasel, Ferret, Badger into one part (Badger)
- Reduce Squirrels to three parts (Squirmy, Squishy, Squeaky)
- Reduce Press to two parts (Jack Daw, Jerry Journal)
- Double Harriet with Betty, Hyacinth with Bunty, Harold with Jerry, Jenkins with Badger and Happy with Jack and Reggie.

Of course, there are unlimited chorus parts who may be used as Evergreen Valley residents, office workers and race spectators, as well as an off-stage choir for backing on other songs.

### **COSTUMES**

Although the characters in the story are all animals, they are portrayed with human personalities and have human occupations. Full animal costumes (such as fur suits, masks etc.) should therefore be avoided in preference to costumes that suit the personality and occupation of the character. However, imaginative thought should be put into incorporating the animals' main features within the costume. For example, the Tortoise family work well with matching backpacks (as if they were a family of keen walkers), with brown and green colouring for costumes. The piece has a cartoon storybook nature and this would be enhanced through the use of bright, colourful costumes.

### **STAGING**

This musical is flexible enough to suit a wide range of venues and staging styles. Simple, abstract scenery such as large, bright flowers, plants and trees would work as well as complex interior and exterior sets. Our advice would simply be that the scenery and lighting are as bright and colourful as possible, again to enhance the cartoon storybook quality of the story and characters.

### **MUSIC**

All the music required to stage this production is found in the score and on the Backing Track CD and Audio Cassette. A vocal recording is provided as a guide and to enable the swift learning of songs. The backing tracks without vocals are ideal to use in rehearsals and performances, and the two scores provide additional flexibility if you have the luxury of a

live pianist. Although the solo songs are written for soloist only, directors may, if they wish, allow a choir to accompany or replace the soloist. This is often necessary if certain cast members are unable to perform the solo themselves fully or if a larger chorus or choir is required to be employed more fully throughout the show.

**AND FINALLY...**

This is a fun show to rehearse and perform, so enjoy yourselves and you can be sure that the audience will, too!

My best wishes for a successful and enjoyable production.

***Craig Hawes***

**TRACK 1:****OVERTURE**

***As the House Lights dim, the music begins and eventually swells as the curtain rises.***

**SCENE 1**

***It is sunrise in Evergreen Valley. The forest clearing, a meeting place for all the local residents, is currently deserted. Lights are dim and a spotlight fades up on Shelly as she enters and begins to sing.***

**TRACK 2:****BRAND NEW DAY**

**SHELLY:** AS THE SUN JUST BEGINS TO PEEP  
 ABOVE THE FIELDS AND TREES  
 EVERYONE'S WOKEN FROM THEIR SLEEP  
 BY SONGS OF BIRDS AND BEES  
 THE SILVER MOON AND STARS OF NIGHT  
 HAVE ALL BUT PASSED AWAY  
 AND LIFE IS STIRRING IN THE LIGHT  
 FOR IT'S A BRAND NEW DAY!

***As the music changes and the lights come up, the other characters and chorus members (apart from the Hares and Foxes) begin to enter, greeting each other and chattering merrily. Shelly moves amongst them as she sings.***

IN THIS EVERGREEN VALLEY  
 THERE'S A SMILE ON EVERY FACE  
 THERE'S A FEELING OF HAPPINESS  
 THROUGHOUT THIS SPECIAL PLACE  
 AND EVERY CREATURE GREAT OR SMALL  
 IS HERE TO WORK AND PLAY  
 SO COME AND JOIN US ONE AND ALL  
 FOR IT'S A BRAND NEW DAY!

**ALL:** LIGHT SHINES ACROSS THE VALLEY  
 SPREADING EVERY WAY  
 SO LEAVE BEHIND YOUR CARES AND WORRIES  
 IT'S A BRAND NEW DAY  
 SO LEAVE BEHIND YOUR CARES AND WORRIES  
 IT'S A BRAND NEW DAY!

***The characters freeze as the lights dim and Harvey enters in pyjamas, stretching & yawning. Jenkins hands him a dressing gown and a financial newspaper. He slowly walks through the scene and exits as the soloist sings.***



**SOLO:** HERE COMES HARVEY, HARVEY HARE.  
NICE PYJAMAS, GROOVY HAIR.  
PROUD AND BOASTFUL, DOESN'T CARE.  
HE LOVES MONEY, POWER TOO.  
COLD AND SELFISH, THROUGH AND THROUGH  
SORRY STORY, BUT IT'S TRUE!

*The dance resumes as the lights come back up and the song reaches its climax.*

**ALL:** LIGHT SHINES ACROSS THE VALLEY  
SPREADING EVERY WAY  
SO LEAVE BEHIND YOUR CARES AND WORRIES  
IT'S A BRAND NEW DAY  
SO LEAVE BEHIND YOUR CARES AND WORRIES  
IT'S A BRAND NEW DAY!

LIGHT SHINES ACROSS THE VALLEY  
SPREADING EVERY WAY  
SO LEAVE BEHIND YOUR CARES AND WORRIES  
IT'S A BRAND NEW DAY  
SO LEAVE BEHIND YOUR CARES AND WORRIES  
IT'S A BRAND NEW DAY!

*At the end of the song, everyone freezes. The stage slowly begins to clear as the Tortoise children enter. Plod enters, shouting directions to Dawdle who is pushing on a rather rickety go-kart. Sat inside are identical twins Dilly & Dally who pretend to be driving and commentating respectively. Toby is asleep under a cover in the back.*

**PLOD:** Excuse, me, mind your backs! Coming through! Come on, you lot, put your shells into it! Don't dawdle, Dawdle!

**DAWDLE:** I'm going as fast as I can, Plod! This thing's heavy!

**DILLY:** Vroom, vroom, vroom, etc... *(He continues to make appropriate engine noises)*

**DALLY:** And as the Tortoise-mobile turns the final corner and enters the last straight it zooms right past every other car in the race!

**SHELLY:** *(Crossing behind them)* Toby? Toby! Where are you? Toby! *(She exits)*

**DALLY:** Leaving the competition in a cloud of dust, there's simply no stopping the Tortoise-mobile as it speeds along the track!

**SHELLY:** *(Crossing back the other way)* Toby? Toby Tortoise? For goodness sake, where is he? Toby? *(She exits)*

**DALLY:** And with only seconds to go, there can surely be no doubt as to the champions of this Evergreen Grand Prix as the Tortoise-mobile darts towards the finish line!

**SHELLY:** *(Crossing to stand in front of the go-kart)* Has anyone seen your father?

- DILLY:** Screech!!
- DALLY:** Watch out - there's a mad woman in the middle of the track!
- SHELLY:** Don't be cheeky, Dilly!
- DALLY:** I'm, not Dilly, I'm Dally!
- DILLY:** Yes, *I'm* Dilly, silly!
- SHELLY:** Sorry, dears. Now, has anyone seen your father? I've not seen him this morning, he hasn't had his breakfast and if he's not careful he'll be late for work!
- DAWDLE:** The only thing I've seen all morning is the back end of this go-kart!
- PLOD:** We haven't seen Dad since last night when he was helping us fix our steering wheel on.
- DILLY:** ***(Suddenly realising that the steering wheel he should be holding is actually missing)*** Aghh! The steering wheel. It's gone! I knew something felt wrong!

***Crawl, the smallest and youngest of the Tortoise children, runs on holding a steering wheel.***

- PLOD:** There it is! Crawl, where have you been? I do wish you'd keep up!
- CRAWL:** ***(Giving the steering wheel to Plod)*** It's not my fault! I've got little legs.
- DALLY:** We're tortoises, Crawl. We've all got little legs!
- CRAWL:** ***(Crossly, with hands on hips)*** Well *mine* are littler than *yours*!
- SHELLY:** Yes, yes, dears, alright! Now please, help me find your father.

***They all face away from the go-kart, placed centre, and shout together.***

**CHILDREN:** Dad!

***Toby jumps up quickly in surprise from under a cover in the back of the go-kart, looking startled.***

- TOBY:** Aghh! Oh, it's you lot! I nearly jumped right out of my shell!
- CHILDREN:** Dad! / Oh there he is! / Hi, Dad etc.

***The children run to Toby and hug him. However, Shelly is not impressed and glares at him with her arms folded.***

- SHELLY:** Toby Tortoise! And just where do you think you've been?
- TOBY:** Oh, Shelly, dear! I'm sorry. Plod asked me to test out the suspension on their go-kart last night, so I was jumping and balancing on the bonnet. But I suppose I must have dropped off!

**SHELLY:** That's all very well, Toby, but you're late for work. You know Harvey Hare - if you're so much as a second late he'll dock you half a day's wages.

**PLOD:** Huh! Dad's the best worker in the whole company!

**DILLY:** That's right, Hare and Co would grind to a halt if Dad wasn't there.

**SHELLY:** It doesn't matter how fantastic your father is, you know what it's like... if your father doesn't work his fingers to the bone, Harvey will sack him, repossess the house, and then where will we be?... *(The children join in from hearing it so often)*

**&**

**CHILDREN:** ...out on the street with that hedgehog family looking down their noses at us!

*Shelly begins to sniff and gets out a hanky to wipe her nose and eyes. Toby puts his arm around her.*

**TOBY:** Oh, come on love.

**SHELLY:** Oh, I know! Just ignore me!

**CRAWL:** You're the best Dad in the world!

**DAWDLE:** But you'd better get a move on, Dad.

**DALLY:** Yeah, we wouldn't want those hedgehogs looking down their noses at us would we?

*They all laugh. Plod looks off stage and loses his smile.*

**PLOD:** Speaking of hedgehogs...

*The Hedgehog family enter. When they see the Tortoise family, Holly fusses over her children before walking over to talk. The Hedgehog children pull faces at the Tortoise children behind the adults' backs.*

**HENRY:** Morning Toby, morning Shelly. Wonderful day, isn't it?

**TOBY:** Hello Henry, Holly!

**HENRY:** Running a bit late, aren't you, Toby? Don't forget it's the press conference today.

**HOLLY:** That's right, it's your big day, isn't it dear. And tomorrow, you'll be elected Mayor - the first hedgehog ever to hold office! Spike and Spiny are bristling with pride!

*Spike & Spiny stop their face pulling and put on angelic smiles and poses for their mother.*

**SHELLY:** Don't count your chickens, Holly. Harvey Hare's quite an opponent, you know.

**HOLLY:** My dear Shelly, everyone knows my Henry will win the election. Why, this

time tomorrow night we'll be holding our victory party. Henry's bought me a new dress for the occasion. You're welcome to come along - I'm sure you'll be able to find... *(She looks Shelly up and down with obvious contempt for her shabby attire)* something suitable to wear. Perhaps a new apron!

*Holly laughs at Shelly, who glares furiously back. Henry and Toby, embarrassed, quickly step in.*

**TOBY:** Well, thank you, Holly, for your kind invitation. You can count on us to be there!

**HENRY:** Yes, well, we'd better get a move on - you, too, Toby!

**HOLLY:** Spike, Spiny - home!

*Henry exits, followed by Holly, Spike and Spiny who all give one last disapproving look and nod before walking off proudly.*

**SHELLY:** That Holly Hedgehog! She's so... so... prickly!

**CRAWL:** Do you really think Henry will beat Harvey Hare?

**PLOD:** A hedgehog! Beat Harvey Hare? What do you think, der brain?

**TOBY:** Enough of that you two.

**DAWDLE:** I hate those Hedgehogs - they're always picking on me!

**DILLY:** And us! Always telling us how slow we are.

**DALLY:** And how their go-kart is faster than ours!

**PLOD:** Well, that's not hard! We have the only go-kart in the world that's all "kart" and no "go". No prizes for guessing who's going to lose next week's Go-Kart Race!

**TOBY:** That's enough! Now you listen to me, Kids! Don't take any notice of those silly Hedgehog children. It doesn't matter how slow you are, it's what's under your shell that counts! Don't you remember what I've always taught you?

**TRACK 3:** **DADDY TORTOISE**

**CHILDREN:** LA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA LA

**TOBY:** THOUGH YOU MAY BE SHORT

**CHILDREN:** THOUGH YOU MAY BE SHORT

**TOBY:** HERE'S A LITTLE THOUGHT

**CHILDREN:** HERE'S A LITTLE THOUGHT

**TOBY:** LIFE IS DANGEROUS WHEN YOU ARE TALL  
'COS YOU'VE GOT MUCH FURTHER TO FALL  
NOT A PROBLEM WHEN YOU'RE SMALL!

**CHILDREN:** THAT'S WHAT DADDY TORTOISE TAUGHT US!

**TOBY:** LA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA LA  
THOUGH YOU MAY BE SLOW