

**The Legend of the**

**BULLYPROOF™**

**Shields**

**A**

**Rap'n Roll OPERA**

by  
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# The legend of the **BULLYPROOF™** Shields

*A series of shields stretch across the valance above the stage each adorned with its own animal spirit: Bear, Unicorn, Lynx, Lion, Yak, Porpoise, Raven, Otter, Owl and Fox. Around the Shields are the letters: "B.U.L.L.Y. P.R.O.O.F."*

*PROLOGUE: Before the curtain opens, "Pops," an old stage hand, arranges a puzzle on a table, perhaps made of a cable-spool or an old crate . It is by a small park bench, shaded by a large prop tree at the corner of stage right. Anxiously looking around, he addresses the audience.*

## POPS

*(ad lib, sounding like a real announcement)*

Excuse me folks. I'm sorry about this, but could you please check around your seats -- this puzzle -- it's a prop for the final scene -- we're missing a piece. It looks like this -- *(He picks up a couple of puzzle pieces from a large cable-spool table.)* Could be back that way. *(He points; audience shuffles around looking.)* Or maybe by one of the aisle seats over there.. Might be a red piece. *(Examines a puzzle piece)* Or maybe yellow. *(Shuffles through puzzle pieces)* Black? White? It's really crucial... Tell you what. We gotta get on with the show. So, I'll put the rest of the puzzle together. Then we'll figure out what's missing. Again, thank you. *(He sits down on the bench and works the puzzle.)*

*House lights go down and curtain opens. A large screen (rear screen projection if available) displays projected settings using slides and/or film clips.)*

*PROJECTION: The 'hood -- street scene*

*FOREGROUND: Zack Little - is telling his troubles to Juan while others hang out in the background.)*

ZACK

Out by the school yard J.J. hit me with a stick,  
Runnin' down the boulevard, some cop is on me quick,  
I cut through the alleyway, give 'em all the slip,  
Safe at home 'n m' bro' gives me a kick!

*(whining)*

My boss says I'm a slacker  
My gal puts me down.  
Some drug-crazed attacker  
Tries to mow me down.

Nicked, tricked, whipped, 'n kicked.  
Why, oh Lord, on me have they picked?

JUAN

Hey Zack.  
Don't whine and despair.  
You gotta be strong,  
You gotta beware.

Let's start with J.J. Tuff-fist  
We'll settle the score.  
He's the meanest and gruffist  
So we'll smash him to the floor.

Zack

Revenge!  
That'll taste sweet  
Avenge!  
But... what if we get beat?

*BULLY REFRAIN is heard:*

CHORUS (O.S. - off stage)

*(menacing)*  
B! U! L! L! Y!

CHOIR (o.s.)

*(whispering, almost an echo)*

P.R.O.O.F. Shield

CHORUS (o.s.)

B.U.L.L.Y.

CHOIR (o.s.)

*(whisper, almost heavenly)*

P.R.O.O.F. Shield

POPS

When the Bully's got you down -- flat down on the ground,

'n they stomp you, whop you, push you all around

Who you gonna call on?

Who's gonna care?

Who's gonna protect you?

Who's gonna dare?

*A medicine wagon rolls down the street into the 'hood. Well, it's not really an old fashioned horse-drawn medicine wagon -- it's been updated into a huge TV set on wheels being driven by DR. GUN. On the TV screen is a poster from a violent movie -- perhaps a Schwarzenegger film. Dr. Gun's headpiece is a large paper maché gun barrel -- projecting forward. He begins a show, like a snake oil salesman drawing a crowd.*

DR. GUN

Step right up, folks.

Lend me your ear.

Your troubles are over

Dr. Gun is here.

I've got a fine product

To wipe away fears --

You'll get respect,

Put a stop to their jeers.

*Dr. Gun whips out one of his elixirs --  
tinfoil-covered bottles with a gun-like look.  
He addresses Zack.*

It'll make you a man  
'Stead of some poor jerk.  
The name of my elixir is  
"Violence Works!"

*Turning to crowd*

Buy one to put in your purse.  
You never know when you'll face the worst.  
Buy one to protect your home,  
So you'll feel safe when you're home alone.  
Buy one -- go ahead. Spoil your child.  
When he takes it to school, all the kids'll go wild.  
Buy billions to protect your nation.  
Glory Hallelujah -- what a salvation!  
It's a fine elixir, an all-around fixer.

*He strokes elixir bottle, wields it like a gun*

It's sleek. It's cool.  
You gotta have this tool!

*He rat-a-tat's the elixir bottle at the crowd  
as if it were a machine gun. Then holds it  
out to Zack.*

**ZACK**

I don't know. I'm not sure it's right...

**DR. GUN**

Go ahead kid. You'll be cool -- outtasight!

Join the crowd,  
Don't miss out on the fun.  
Be a man,  
You'll never have to run.

Here's a testimonial from a man who used to be a wimp. But then he took my elixir. And now, just look at him:

*He points to the movie-poster  
Schwarzenegger. The poster speaks*

### SCHWARZENEGGER-TYPE CHARACTER

Bad Guys?  
Don't be queasy.  
Use a big gun.  
No problem. It's easy.

*(Or the sound person can play a tape of  
Shwarzenegger's voice from one of his  
videos saying "Hasta la vista baby").  
Zack, Juan, and many others are impressed,  
rush up waving their money, crowding  
around to buy "Violence Works" elixirs.  
Jasmine holds back; she picks up a booklet*

### JASMINE

Hey guys! You gonna listen to this sleazy quack? Why Dr. Gun's nothing but a snake-oil salesman. Selling you some cure all that ain't gonna do a darn thing for you. It'll probably kill you.  
Look at this -- a study  
Done across the nation.  
Says 50 to one -- that gun  
'll be your own ruination.  
You buy it for safety, for gratification,  
But it ain't gonna save you from extermination.  
It's you, your buddy, or your relation  
Who's gonna get killed in that situation.

### DR. GUN

Who you gonna believe. Me?  
Or some bleeding-heart dame's imagination?  
Come on 'n buy,  
It's the latest sensation!

*The buying flurry continues, the boys  
playing with their elixir bottles like they are  
machetes, grenades and machine guns.  
Offstage we hear the sound of a car revving  
its engine and a backfire.*

Juan

It's J.J. Tuff and his gang. Now's our chance, man.

*Zack and Juan look at each other with glee. They fire their elixir bottles making gunshot sounds. Return bullets ping off a fire hydrant, and shatter a window. Sounds of car wheels squealing.*

Zack

I think we got'em on the run now! We sure showed him who's boss.

*Takes another shot. A blast of return fire. Juan is hit, falls, dying in Zack's arms.*

ZACK

Oh God!

*Sound: The car screeches away. A hubcap rolls on stage and lands at Jasmine's feet. Juan's mother comes running out into the street and sees Juan's lifeless body. She shrieks and wails. Zack is covered with Juan's blood, sobbing.*

*A gleeful Dr. Gun dances ratlike as he turns his stage-coach around, revealing the other side of the TV stage -- a hearse.*

*Dr. Gun laughs sickeningly as he, with Pop's help, loads Juan's body in the hearse. Everyone is in pain. Dr. Gun trots the hearse toward off-stage, firing a gun aimlessly as he goes. Juan's mother clings to the fleeing hearse.*

DR. GUN(Slyly)

Yeah, you got me boy.  
Yeah, I got you, boy.  
I'll kill yo' mamma then your pa  
Then your baby brother, too.  
You're next on the list  
'cause killin's all I do.

*Zack is dancing to avoid the stray bullets.*

ZACK

Don't shoot. Stop!  
I don't need you.  
Filthy old flop!

*He throws the elixir after him. We hear it  
shatter off stage.*

You can't build,  
You can't create,  
My best friend's dead.  
I hate all your hate!

*Dr. Gun's hearse is gone*

SAL

Deek, Sasha, Jimmie Lee, and Tito  
And now Juan -- Who's next?  
I hope its not my *Querido*.

*She bats a worried eye at Zack*

Jasmine

Dr. Gun?  
He's got us in his trap.  
If I had my way  
I'd melt him into scrap!

*She picks up the hubcap that rolled off the  
drive-by shooting car.*

Sal

He's impotent, obsolete.  
Self destructive too.  
If we bet on Dr. Gun,  
We're all bound to be blue.

*Repeat BULLY REFRAIN.*

ZACK

Then who we gonna turn to?  
Who's gonna care?  
Who's gonna save us?

*(silence, no answer)*

Please, don't leave me midair.  
C'mon.

*People look around, helpless. Jasmine  
frisbees the hubcap to Zack. He catches it,  
then holds it up like a medieval shield.*

ZACK

*(calls out)*

Hey, I got an idea.. I'll get me a Bullet-proof shield!  
Then I'd be: *(raps)*  
Safe, secure, I'd be the one who's bad!  
No one could hurt me  
I'd drive 'em all mad.

POPS

I'll tell you, man...  
Some dude 'd just shoot you in the face.  
Soon as your shield was in another place.  
There's no place to hide.  
Those who tried have died.  
You'll be runnin', cringin'  
Hidin' in your room.  
You'll think you're safe  
'til it all goes boom!

*Offstage we hear the jingling bell of a Good  
Humor ice cream truck.*

JASMINE

I've had too much pain for one day.  
I'm gonna get me a popsicle.

Various Voices

Me too. Yeah. Chill out. Cool my chords.  
*Others exit, leaving Zack pleading.*

ZACK

Hey, wait up....  
Who am I gonna call on?  
Who's gonna care?

*No one listens. He raps to his own face  
reflected -- distorted -- in the hubcap.*

Who's gonna protect me?  
Who's gonna dare?

*Alone, Zack wanders in the street.*

Oh Momma, Oh Momma,  
I don't know what to do,  
The gun cut you down--  
Gone. I was only two.

*Tears drip on the hubcap. He pulls out a  
rag and begins to polish it off. Suddenly he  
is taken aback by the reflections that only he  
sees in the hub-cap.*

ZACK (cont'd)

Huh?  
Some kind of animals in rings.  
Far out Indian things --  
Reflected right in this old hub  
but only when I polish & rub  
(tilts hub)  
This one looks like a lion on a drum  
but I can't see where it's coming from.

*( He looks everywhere but up at the shields  
on the valance )*

I don't see no unicorn or bear  
or lynx or fox anywhere???

MOM (v.o. - Voice Over)

Zack baby?

*Zack looks around for the voice, then sees  
something new in the hub that we don't see -  
- the image of his mom.*

ZACK

*What now?*  
*(looking into glowing hub)*  
Oh Momma, Oh Momma.  
That couldn't be you.  
You died and went to heaven.

*(angrily)* The mom I hardly knew.

*His mom's voice answers . A second rather dim stagelight picks up a bag lady shuffling onto the edge of the stage, picking up trash and putting it in her shopping cart. Over her shoulder she carries a large, sooty, Santa-type sack.*

MOM (V.O.)

Child, listen.  
I don't have long.  
I'm sorry I left you.  
Poor son -- I broke your song.

ZACK

*(Sighs)*  
I don't *hate* you for dyin'  
If I said so, I was lyin'.  
I love you forever.  
Please. Don't go. Not ever.

MOM (V.O.)

I've been achin'. Heart-breakin'.  
Feelin' for my boys.  
Now I'm here to bring you  
Some old friends -- your toys.

*Zack doesn't see the old bag lady dumping out her sack behind him.*

ZACK

Ain't got no time for playin'.  
Hear what I'm sayin?  
What I need's a shield  
So I won't be killed.

MOM (V.O.)

You're holdin' in your hand,  
The answer you demand:  
BULLY PROOF Shields  
your old friends 'll help you wield.

*Zack stares into the shiny hubcap. Suddenly the stage goes dark and the BULLY PROOF shields looming above flash with thunder and lightening. The spot lights come back on. Zack is staring, awe-struck, into the hub. The bag lady is gone, but behind Zack is her sack crumpled atop a pile of grungy stuffed animal toys.*

ZACK

*(looking into hubcap, puzzled)*

I must be seeing things --  
It's those same weird rings  
Is this some kinda magic  
that your angel visit brings?

MOM (V.O.)

"Turn around and you're two,  
Turn around and you're four,"  
Turn around, take a look  
See? There on the floor.

*Zack turns, sees grungy pile of toys.*

ZACK

Litter. Trash.  
These bums are getting brash.

*(kicks pile. spreading animals across stage)*

MOM (V.O.)

Balderdash!  
That's not trash.  
Hold your tongue.  
Think -- before you lash.

*Zack looks closely. Suddenly stunned.*

ZACK

No way!  
Couldn't be!  
You guys were history.

*(He picks up a worn teddy bear.)*

Hey! My little Bear  
My break-dancing Bear  
Gee, I must be dreamin',  
Beyond believin'.

*(joyous)*

Me and this bear  
We'd dance everywhere  
We didn't have a care...

*(sadly)*

But now look. You're threadbare.

MOM (V.O.)

Let yourself be little.  
Let the hard shell fall.  
You had the solution to your riddle  
Before you could even crawl.

The voice from in these toys  
Will help you, my son,  
A wisdom for brave boys  
That's stronger than the gun.

*Sound of a motorcycle from stage left*

Oh oh! Here come's your first test, son  
I'm outta here, so you do what must be done.

*PROJECTED SCENE: Still in the 'hood  
traffic on street.*

*A MOTORCYCLE enters*

BIKER BOMBER

You crazy, man? Standing in the street?  
Outta my way! You  
Lip-puckerin'  
Mucous-duckin'  
Up-chuckin'  
Mud trucker...

*Biker runs over a toy*

ZACK

Hey, watch it buster! You're running over some of my old toys.

*Zack, angry, raises the hubcap as if to throw it at the cyclist. Cyclist reacts by revving his engine as if to run him down.*

### BIKER BOMBER

*(sneers)*

Toys? Why You're nothin' but a  
Mud muckin'.  
Seer-suckin'  
Corn-shuckin'  
Chicken-chucker.

*Roars engine. Comes at Zack slowly, menacingly, backing him across the stage. Zack thinks better about throwing the hub cap. Instead rubs it with the bear. Motor silences. Cyclist freezes. Stage goes black. The Bear Shield over the stage glows in spotlight. Flash of light. Smoke (or dry ice steam). Bear toy transforms into a man with a bear mask. Zack astonished.*

### MOM (V.O.)

Bust-out Bear busts out! Yes!

*Pops hold up a "B" card.*

### BUST-OUT BEAR

*(Break dancing)*

Bustout from that old fighting trap  
Violence ain't where the power's at.  
Do the unexpected, throw 'em a curve  
Chill, tell a joke, show a new kinda nerve.

### ZACK

What's that?  
I just bust out from the fight?  
Wait for things to cool,  
Then I make things right?

### BUST-OUT BEAR

That's right. Disconnect.  
Create a surprise.  
Don't do what they expect  
Think of something more wise.

*A spotlight shines on the frozen cyclist.*

ZACK

But, this dude is hot on my tail.  
What's the word? Sure it won't fail?

BUST-OUT BEAR

Break away from the current tizzy.  
When he's mad, he ain't rational, is he?  
Try an end run. Let him keep busy.  
Don't get sucked in, or he'll drive you dizzy.

ZACK

I get it!  
I could face him head on, brace for the crash.  
But what would it prove, just to get smashed?  
Instead I could step out of his path.  
Come back and talk when he's cooled from his wrath.

BUST-OUT BEAR

Go for it!

*Light flash. Smoke. Bear disappears, Stage goes black. When lights come back, cyclist is near stage left, roaring toward Zack. Instead of confronting the motorcycle, Zack steps aside, directing the motorcycle by, like a traffic cop. The momentum carries the cycle off stage right Stage goes black. Pop holds up a sign reading "Next day." Spotlight on motorist, Now sitting at a counter, drinking coffee, reading newspaper. Zack walks up.*

ZACK

Hey, motorcycle man.

HELL'S ANGEL TYPE 'CYCLIST

He y, you're the kid I almost ran over.  
I gotta thank you kid. If you hadn't  
gotten out my way, I'd a hated myself  
the rest of my life. Sorry 'bout the  
scare. I was just about outta my  
mind. Horrid day. You see, it was  
like this;

*Zack joins him for a cup of coffee*

My chic caught me makin' a pass,  
Bounced me out on my stinkin' grass.  
And I was rushin' to get to work,  
so I wouldn't be fired by Boss Jerk.

*Lights go down as his voice fades off.*

*REPEAT BULLY REFRAIN*

*PROJECTED SCENE: Dark alley.*

*LOMAN menaces Zack with a giant needle.*

LOMAN

*(meanly)*

Man, I hurt. I need a fix.  
And I'll fix one for you, too.  
Gimme your cash -- no tricks.  
At least a hundred or two.

ZACK

O Lord! Why me?  
I sure don't need  
This catastrophe!

*Zack grabs another toy -- a unicorn -- and  
rubs it on the hub.*

MOM (V.O.)

Steady, rub the hub.  
Give it all you got.  
You're getting there, bub.  
Yeah, that's the spot.

*The background and bully freeze. The  
Unicorn Shield glows in the spotlight as*

*Pops holds up the "U" card. POOF! A unicorn appears -- a symbol of wit and knowledge. She is a woman with a wild snow-white mane and a unicorn mask. She dances like a painted carousel-pony going up and down and round and round. Magical carnival music.*

Understanding Unicorn understands!

### UNDERSTANDING UNICORN

Understand the behavior - what's the motivation?  
Use your head and heart to navigate the situation.  
*(prancing around Loman)*  
Travel underneath the surface that rages  
To find scars and hot-buttons this conflict engages.

Pressure builds,  
When love can't flow.  
Steam capped in a cooker  
Is surely gonna blow.

So let's pretend that we're a bomb squad  
And Loman is the bomb.  
Watch it! Don't press his button  
Or trip his trigger.  
What's happening on the inside?  
Study. Examine. Figur'.

Feel for what this man's been through.  
Think of how the system has beat him down.  
Powerless, penniless, in the gutter,  
Seeing wealth and power all around.

### ZACK

What, that excuses him messin' with me?

### UNDERSTANDING UNICORN

Not at all:  
To understand is not to endorse.  
You gain power when you know the source.

Like a scientist who studies a rat in a maze  
Know cause and effect -- what lead to his craze?

A permanent stranger in his own land.  
An exile oppressed 'till he wants to shout  
Forsaken. He'll never be in command.  
And here come Mr. Drug -- promisin' an out.

Anger explodes if left inside.  
Probe the pain. You'll turn the tide.

*Zack walks around the "frozen" Loman,  
examining him.*

ZACK

You mean this monster I face  
Hurts inside? Like me?  
He's chained where he's at?  
Helpless? Can't set himself free?

UNDERSTANDING UNICORN

Now you're sensing his desperation  
Getting right inside his shoes.  
Touch the soul of his creation.  
You'll be so strong you will not lose -- I hope!

ZACK

Me too.

*With a puff of smoke the Unicorn is gone  
and the scene unfreezes. Zack faces Loman,  
sympathetic.*

Hey, it must be rough  
Stayin' tough,  
When all around  
they beat you down.

LOMAN

They taught us this was the land of the free,  
Opportunity, hope and democracy.  
But from where I stand, crushed to my knees

These words ring with hypocrisy.

ZACK

Man, the problem is you've lost your roots.  
You think nobody counts but guys in suits?  
If you want to start over, take on a new role.  
You've got to find away to take back control.

LOMAN

Lord, I don't need one more lesson,  
No young squirt with my head a messin'.  
Just gimme the dough for my pain to lessen,  
Standin' here - ME - is just too distressin'.

ZACK

That's the whole point. You are somebody special inside. You've been disconnected from your culture, victimized. Trod on like a piece of doggie doo. Given the screw. But man, you could make it if...

LOMAN

*(trying to fight, collapsing into tears)*

Look, I just need my fix!  
So boy, don't you get sly.  
Just the cash, man, quick!  
Or else you gotta die.

ZACK

Look at yourself:  
Mr. Drug's hooked you like a fish  
Flip floppin on his line,  
Served up steamin' on his dish.  
One more soul on which to dine.

LOMAN

Mr. Drug's mean  
But for cryin' out loud,  
It's so hard to come clean.  
Tried it once, for my lady, Jean.

ZACK

You beat Mr. Drug? Oh man, you really quit?

LOMAN

For my woman once. But when I slipped -- she split.

ZACK

He stole your woman  
He stole your pride.  
Mr. Drug's so mean  
He'll steal your inside.

LOMAN

I know I'm a slave.  
Don't have a doubt.  
Wish I could be brave,  
But instead -- I just flip out.

ZACK

My friend Ron can help you ditch that vulture.  
He'll help you discover the buried roots on your culture.

Loman

I'm almost afraid to listen to you -- I might start buyin' it.

ZACK

Ron runs a real good rehab.  
Help you heal that heavy scab.  
Come on buddy, take my hand,  
Liberate your inner man.

Loman

Hey, man, you've hit it right.  
Seen inside my inner fright.  
You're a buddy. You're alright! !  
Sorry, man -- I don't wanta fight.

*Loman stands up, breaks his syringe, and  
trashes it.*

ZACK

All right! You're going to make it man!

*They give each other a high 5 and both walk off stage together. Stage darkens.*

**BULLY REFRAIN**

*PROJECTED SCENE: Living room after a party. On the stage floor are pizza boxes strewn around, streamers trashed, etc. SAL, Zack's girl friend, is mad.*

**SAL**

I saw the way you looked at Mary Lou.  
And now you expect me to make eyes at you?  
I suppose you 'spect me to clean this mess too?  
I'm through! Sick of you. I'm tired of being blue.

**Zack**

Why all the huffin' and puffin'?  
I didn't do nothin'!

**SAL**

I've had it, kid.  
I saw what you did.  
Can't take it no more.  
Gonna even the score.

*Sal smacks at him with a pizza box. Zack, retreating, rubs the hub with his Lynx.*

**ZACK**

What's the L?  
Give it to me quick,  
Before my crazy gal Sal  
Whacks me with a stick!

**MOM (V.O.)**

Listening Lynx has got an "L" for you.

*POOF! SAL freezes and a cat-like woman with a mask appears -- and slinks around the room. The Lynx shield glows in the spotlight and Pops holds up an "L" card.*

LISTENING LYNX

Listen, I got a secret to tell.  
What I got to say will ring a bell.  
Listen up and listen good.  
What she wants is to be understood.

*(pounces near Zack)*

Listen with your ears,  
Listen with your eyes,  
Behind her words -- guess what? --  
A surprise!

ZACK

I'm worried that I got her mad,  
I messed up and now I feel bad.  
I wanna be her friend, she's the best girl in town,  
But I never know what to do when she's 'round.

LYNX

*(strokes "frozen" Sal's hair from her eyes)*

When little things don't get heard  
They build and build --  
'til it gets absurd.

ZACK

But, I was listenin'  
To her complainin'.  
Didn't make no sense to me.

LYNX

If you really want to know what's going down,  
How to get behind her surface frown,  
Try tuning in to her inner fear.  
You just might discover something dear.  
*Listen* with your heart as well as your ears  
Behind the anger you'll hear doubts and fears.

But before you begin  
Find a silence within,  
Come from a centered space --  
A place of grace.

To listen with your heart,  
Allow your inside to clear,  
Be wide open,  
Start to really hear.

*Zack sits down amidst pizza boxes, takes a deep breath, and centers. Scene unfreezes*

SAL

You think you can party and have all the fun?  
and leave me to clean up -- boy you better run.

*Swings box. Zack doesn't flinch..*

ZACK

I can see you're upset,  
I want to understand why.  
So talk to me, I'll listen.  
C'mon, princess, let's try.

SAL

I could'a been a Princess  
But you -- you're no Prince!

ZACK

OK, sometimes I have been a jerk.  
Ain't done my share of the work.  
Made you feel diss'ed  
No wonder you're miffed.

*Sal, surprised that he isn't arguing, smiles.*

Maybe I haven't paid enough attention --  
It's like I've been in a fog.  
I'd like to be a Prince,  
But I'm stuck in this frog.

*He hops around the stage croaking like a frog. Sal tries to keep a straight face.*

SAL

I suppose you expect from me a kiss  
To change you into the Prince I miss?

ZACK

Don't wait for me  
To be your shining knight.  
Inside you are a Princess,  
But kiss me anyway. Alright?

*She goes to kiss, but draws back*

SAL

Guess I'm not such a pretty sight,  
When I scream and yell  
And pick a fight...

ZACK

Hey, we've both messed up  
Each in our own way.  
Let's work on it, make up.  
Talk it out. What'a you say?

*She kisses his cheek. They laugh. And hop  
off together like frogs. Stage darkens*

**BULLY REFRAIN**

*PROJECTED BACKGROUND: Tough  
neighborhood, gangstas. Zack wears hub  
cap like breast armor -- a knight. J.J. Tuff  
and his gang surround Zack, menacingly.  
JJ swings his gold bat, his trademark --  
letting his underlings do his dirty work. J.J.  
Under another set of circumstances he could  
be a successful baseball player -- or youth  
leader. His gang menaces Zack:*

JJ's Gangsters

Whap.  
Bap.  
Ratatatat!

On this  
Turf  
We fight for all we're  
wurf..

J.J. TUFF

Batter up  
Batter down  
I'm the king  
of this town.

Tell him, boys,  
at strike out time,  
what we do  
with such slime.

JJ's Gangsters

Boom.  
Doom.  
We send you to your  
tomb.

*Zack backs off and reaches in his sack. J.J.  
Tuff whips out a gun, expecting a shootout.*

J.J. TUFF

The bases are loaded  
and so is my gun  
Want your head exploded?  
Try messin' with my "fun."

*Instead of a gun, Zack whips out his toy  
crowned lion. J.J., can't help but laugh.  
Zack rubs the lion on his hub. Background  
action freezes, the Lion Shield glows as  
Pops holds up an "L" card.*

Mom (V.O.)

Loving Lion loves to help.

*POOF! Loving Lion appears. Loving Lion  
is a big man like Martin Luther King --  
wearing a lion's mask and a crown.*

LOVING LION

When you were little,  
You thought it was a riddle.

When you heard folks talking  
Of Martin Luther King.

You played that your Lion  
Was the one they called the King.  
And now I'm back again  
To help you do your thing.

To master nonviolence,  
Take it straight from my heart:  
Love the doer and know the deed is just a stunt  
Look for the good, what's beneath the cold front.

ZACK

Love the doer -- you mean JJ Tuff?  
C'mon! Look for the good? You  
must be kidding.

While I know it is an honor  
To have you spring from my toy,  
I just got no love  
For that creepy J.J. boy.

LOVING LION

It's difficult at first, it's true,  
But now I find lovin's all I do.  
In each child is the seed of genius  
An inner core that's good.  
We're all born pure,  
Not a streak of meanness.  
No one's born a gangsta' hood.

ZACK

Okay, okay.  
This dude's tryin' to cut me down,  
And you say inside him there's good to be found?  
I'm not sure that I really buy it.  
But if you say so, I'll go ahead and try it.

*Takes a deep breath, centers. Puff of smoke.  
Lion gone. Scene unfreezes.*

J.J. TUFF

Damn! Scram!  
Or I'll chop you into Spam.

*(waves knife)*

ZACK

Cut me some slack  
MacK.  
Lay off your attack.  
Don't take no kinda' brain  
To ram a dude with a knife,  
Or give pain  
To a brother,  
Or fill the world with strife!

J.J. TUFF

Shut up Mudabugga,  
Don't give a damn what you say.  
You looked at me wrong, sucka,  
And now you gotta pay.

ZACK

Why waste your skill  
On a simple kill?  
I can think of something  
That'll give a bigger thrill.

J.J. TUFF

*(menacing with a club)*

I'm the batter,  
You're the ball.  
When your brains splatter  
I'll feel ten feet tall.

ZACK

*(unflinching)*

You swing a mean bat.  
Playing ball's where its at.  
You could make a college team

Ever think of that?

*(Tuff drawn in, despite himself)*

J.J. TUFF

Next month a scout's comin'  
But he won't look my way  
School ain't where I'm hummin'  
So they won't want me to play.

ZACK

*(stepping away from the gang)*

Something tells me you could go far.  
You have it in you to be a big star.  
Come and join our tutoring club  
With our help I know you won't flub.

J.J. TUFF

*(taking Zack further aside)*

Here on the street  
I make 'em dance to my beat.  
But in the great big world?  
Hey, down the drain I'd swirl!

ZACK

Aw, C'mon!  
You're fine.  
'Don't have t' be  
No Einstein.

J.J. TUFF

You really think so?  
Boy, I don't know,  
But anyway, Zack  
I'd like you in my pack.

Zack

Oh, yeah. Sure. But...

JJ Tuff

*(loudly)*

Listen up men  
We got fresh meat.  
Zack's our new man  
In the gang that can 't be beat..

*Zack, taken aback, looks not all too pleased.  
But the gang members surge around him..*

JJ's Gangsters

Hang with our mighty homies  
and don't you get the roamies.  
Cause we'll mess up your face  
If ya dare to stray off base.

Zack

Well, thanks... I'm honored, but... but... but...

*The gang swirls around Zack and dances off stage, expecting him to follow. He just stands there. Stage darkens. BULLY REFRAIN.*

*PROJECTED SCENE: Electronics store.  
Zack is unloading boxes of computers and radios. He dances as he works. Boss Man glances at his moves. Zack, getting into the beat, accidentally drops a box.*

BOSS MAN

Second time you missed.  
I 'm really pissed!  
Of mistakes, I 'm tired.  
Get your stuff. You're fired.

*Boss hands him a huge pink slip. Zack reacts with anger, but stuffs it. Dejected, he reaches for his stuff. He pulls out the hubcap and a stuffed Yak, an ox-like creature in Tibetan attire. He rubs it on the*

*hub. Boss and other workers freeze in place.*

MOM's (vo)

Listen, son, to Yin Yang Yak. And "yakity yak, don't talk back."

*POOF! Yin Yang Yak appears. Dressed like a Chinese emperor with a Yak mask. Yak brings a huge gong with a Yin/Yang symbol on it. The Yak shield glows as Pops holds up the "Y" card.*

YIN/YANG YAK

Yin Yang is the word I bring. (*Bong*)  
All at once you cry and sing. (*Bong*)

ZACK

Boss man here,  
He's got no heart.  
Had it in for me  
From the start.

YIN/YANG YAK

Yin/Yang (*Bong!*)  
Means Opportunity in crisis...

YIN/YANG YAK

Yin and Yang - don't let them war inside,  
Balance opposites - the stress will subside.  
Opportunity springs from crisis.  
Our male and female both energize us.

ZACK

Hey, I ain't got no girl in me.  
I'm all man, can't you see?

YIN/YANG YAK

Male and female.  
Happy and sad.

Free and jailed.  
Good and bad.

*(Bong!)*

Hot and cold.  
Right and wrong.  
Mud and gold.  
Weak and strong.

*(Bong!)*

All these opposites  
Are inside of us.  
If we embrace them  
They energize us.

ZACK

Hey, Yin Yang Yak,  
I'm beginning to catch your drift.  
Sometimes my inside's a warrin' rift.  
Thought I was crazy, but now I know it's keen.  
to check out both sides and all that's between.

YIN/YANG YAK

*(A pause)*

Good!

*(Bong!) Zack takes a deep breath and centers. The scene unfreezes. Zack faces Boss Man.*

BOSS MAN

I'll make of you a lesson  
So the others will work.  
Maybe they'll stop their messin',  
No more to shirk!

ZACK

Look, I was about to tell you to stuff it.  
Tell you -- it wasn't my fault!  
But when I looked deeper --  
My anger screeched to a halt.

Hey, it's true.  
I *have* been draggin' my feet.  
I guess I felt jealous --  
Stuck here on the street.

Maybe you could teach me  
How to make it all work?  
I could listen and learn  
And not be such a jerk.

*Boss surprised. Sees Zack's not kidding.*

BOSS MAN

*(Laughs)*  
I'm surprised.  
Pleased!  
You made amends.  
Good.  
Now our conflict ends.

*Zack could quit while he's ahead.  
Instead...*

ZACK

Boss, there's something I gotta say. It's not what you want to hear.  
Listen. You're great at organization. But what about motivation?

This makin' an example --  
Spreading fear that you'll trample?  
Do you think you really motivate  
By dishing out such a sample?

If you want the guys to really shine,  
Find in each a spark divine.  
When you light that special spark  
We'll work for you -- dawn till dark!

*Boss, impressed, tears up the pink slip and  
takes Zack under his wing.*

BOSS MAN

I can see you are a bright one.  
You learn quickly. Advance.  
So, I'll tell you what I'll do, Son.  
Give you one more chance.

Try you as a foreman,  
You spark their inner seed.  
If it work's -- your plan --  
We will both succeed.

*(Smiles)*

ZACK

Yo, boss! You alright!  
Those words really hit the spot!  
I'll work with all my might,  
And give you all I got!

BOSS MAN

I'll teach you the business -- how it's run. Then you teach me -- how to  
dance. Okay?

ZACK

Rad!

*They dance off the stage. Stage Darkens  
B.U.L.L.Y. letters flash around the BULLY  
PROOF shields.*

POPS

And now we have spelled Bully.  
Half the secrets of the shields.  
When you've heard it fully  
Great power you will wield!

*Bust-out Bear, Understanding Unicorn,  
Listening Lynx, Loving Lion, and Yin/Yang  
Yak dance onto the stage. Mom's voice calls  
out: "Bust-out Bear Busts Out,  
Understanding Unicorn Understands. etc.*

*As the dance number ends, Pops addresses the audience.*

POPS

If you want to change position  
Or break from this rendition,  
If you want an acquisition  
Of drink or of nutrition,

If your bladder's ready for emission  
There's a room for that condition.  
So as you're probably wishin'  
It's time for intermission!  
I'm going fishin'.

*INTERMISSION*

ACT II (of II)

*Pops walks in front of the curtain with a fishing pole and a fish. He doesn't notice the bloodied knife stuck in the large prop tree.*

POPS

Welcome back. Keep an eye out for that puzzle piece.

*Zack walks up, wearing his hub-shield, and carrying a bag with his five remaining toys.*

ZACK

Hey, Pops. I got a problem.

POPS

's up?. hasn't that Bully Proof shield been working?

ZACK

Yeah. (*Thrusts toys out of bag*) Maybe too good. All of a sudden J.J. Tuff wanted to be all buddy buddy.

POPS

So?

Zack

So? So? So he wanted me to join his gang.

POPS

And did you?

ZACK

Well. Sort of. But then Sal got all over me. And I started thinking about Juan. Geez, I wish I could bring him back. I still can't believe he's dead.

POPS

And?

ZACK

And I sent J.J. a letter. A nice letter and all. But I told him I couldn't be in no gang. Do you think he'll be really mad?

*Zack, not looking where he is walking,  
almost bumps into a knife and note in tree.*

Zack

Wha?

*Pops takes the note and reads it.*

POPS

From J.J. Tuff.

*(reads)*

"Baseball trick. Nice try. Flattery sucks. Now you die."

Ahh. Yes, I'd say... he's really mad. But that's good. He's venting. Expressing his feelings instead of keepin' 'em all bottled up inside.

ZACK

Yeah, and the moon is made of green cheese. Isn't there some way we can cork 'em up?

POPS

Seriously, now, you did the right thing. Stick to your guns. I mean, stick to your no guns.

ZACK

So what else did he say? (He grabs the note and reads)

"Me 'n my boys -- we'll be back. To launch our custom Zack attack."

*Zack slumps. Pops takes letter.*

POPS

*(Reads, incredulous)*

"Call all the reinforcements you can muster. Lot of good it'll do you. Good-bye, buster." He signed it: "Kiss-o-death, J.J. Tuff."

*Pops is shocked and concerned.*

Maybe if I'd have stayed,  
Instead of going fishing,  
I could have done something  
to prevent this demon-ition.

*Unhooks fish. Tosses it.*

Let me get you outta town.  
Maybe call the cops.  
Let me help protect you, lad.  
Until this madness stops.

ZACK

No, Pops, I'm not a boy anymore.  
I've tasted something more.  
It's time to implement the plan  
For me to be a man.

*Zack turns and talks to his bag of toys,*

Okay, guys. Lay it on me. It's trainin' time. And I'm going to need all the rest of you to coach me on this one.

*Curtain opens. SCREEN: Porpoises frolic. Whale/water New Age MUSIC. Zack rubs toy Porpoise on shield. POOF! Picturing Porpoise appears, Pops' fish in her mouth. She is an earth-mother type, with a porpoise nose, porpoise earrings, porpoise handbag -- everything. She sways to the mellow*

*music like the projected porpoises.  
Porpoise shield glows. Pops holds up a "P" .*

ZACK

Hey, Picturing Porpoise,  
You remember us?

PICTURING PORPOISE

Swimming with the nautilus!  
Playing games with ol' Octopus!

*She starts to replay one of the old games,  
tossing the fish to Zack. But he lets it drop.*

Hey, where's my baby's zest?  
Why the fallen crest?

ZACK

I'm still alive  
But not for long.  
Tomorrow I fear  
I may be gone.  
Hey, you got a way to arm me?  
So J.J. Tuff won't harm me?

PICTURING PORPOISE

Picture in your mind a positive outcome  
Believe in the dream and it will be done.  
Meditate, visualize, plant a seed that will flower  
For our visions and thoughts all have power.

Picture the outcome you'd like to see.  
Protect and empower his humanity.

ZACK

Picture the outcome I'd like to see?  
Empower J.J. -- in a new way to be?  
What for? What's it worth?  
I'd rather see him crumble --  
Tumble, stumble  
Off the face of the Earth!

### PICTURING PORPOISE

Many folks bully their enemy.  
Make 'em feel small.  
But you're really much safer  
If you make him secure and tall.

As a porpoise I know if I feign like a shark,  
I endanger myself from forces quite dark.  
But if I let folk know they're not in peril,  
They play -- more fun than monkeys in a barrel.

Protect the bully's security  
To protect your own.  
The desperate and scared  
Are the most dangerous, it's known.

ZACK

Okay.  
I'm trying to picture J.J. Tuff  
Acting like a decent human being.  
That's hard when the guy's so rough  
And so darn disagreeing.

### PICTURING PORPOISE

I harmonize my breath  
With the rhythm of the wave.  
Floating near the surface  
Of this peaceful enclave.  
I watch the sand settle  
And the beauty float by,  
'til the image within  
Is crystal clear as the sky.

ZACK

Yeah, I really feel it,  
Here beneath the sea.  
I wish I could take it  
Home with me.

*Picturing Porpoise gives him a gift -- a  
meditative ocean in a bottle. She shakes it.*

## PICTURING PORPOISE

When your thoughts are all a whirling  
And the light just can't get through.  
Sit and watch the sands a swirling  
'til the light comes shining through.

*Picturing Porpoise dances. Rides waves of laughter. Spreads joy. Lights down. Spot on Zack staring into bottle. Sand settles, light shines through jar. Zack settles.*

*BULLY REFRAIN - much softer now, like mystical sirens on a distant shore, blending into native flute music.*

*Zack, still staring into the jar, rubs his raven toy against the Hub. POOF! Respectful Raven springs to life -- a tribal dancer in feather dress. Raven Shield Pops holds up "R" card. PROJECTED SCENE: Tribal dancers around a fire at sunset. DRUMBEAT. Respectful Raven passes black feathers over Zack, mesmerizing him. Drumbeat continues.*

## RESPECTFUL RAVEN

I am Raven,  
Messenger of mystery --  
Honor the great spirit  
And our ancestors in history.

You will earn the right to taste life's magic,  
And touch the place beyond the tragic.  
They call me Respectful Raven.  
Here's the message I've been savin':

Respect the bully, yourself, and Mother Earth.  
In each of these -- you'll find great worth.  
We all need love and recognition,  
With power from above, that's ammunition.

*Zack catches on and carries on.*

ZACK

I honor you for that admonition.  
And thanks for the shields from deep tradition.

RESPECTFUL RAVEN

The shield the warrior carries  
Speaks of inner strength,  
Promoting in each tribe or nation  
Harmony, healing and good vibration.

Shields tell stories of bravery and vision  
Armed only with spiritual ammunition:  
Humility -- sacrifice of self for mission,  
Bringing peace to a world in transition.

To dance the Sun into the light.  
To bear pain. To stand for right.  
To live with joy and might  
This is the way we win the fight.

Joys balance our flowing tears.  
Sacred silence is music to our ears.  
Solemn ceremony, irreverent clowning.  
The shield's balance keeps us from drowning.

Wear your shield in solemn mirth.  
Honor your dreams -- the power of birth.  
Respect yourself, your foe, and Mother Earth.  
In each embrace you'll find great worth.

*Raven dances on one side of the stage,  
pounding drum. Zack, on the other side of  
the stage, gets into the beat.*

Here's a vision quest for you  
A dream -- a guide for what to do.  
Imagine in a cloud of mist  
JJ Tuff is shakin' his fist.  
He raises his spear to increase your fear

To make you think the end is near.

Now imagine that spear becomes a feather  
Blow away your fear like windy weather.  
Without your fear that bully holds dear  
He has no power to control - it'll disappear.

ZACK

*(Stepping out of the dance momentarily)*

This is a terrific vision you've given me, Raven. I sure wish it could come true in real life.

RAVEN

If you keep dreaming the dream  
And dancing the dance,  
All will come  
Just take the chance.

*Zack jumps back into the frenzy of the dance. He picks up the toy Otter and uses its tail to pound the hubcap shield like a drum.*

*POOF! Original Otter appears -- a large woman with an otter tail. The PROJECTED SCENE splits. One side is still the natives dancing around a fire. The other is a slide of a church -- a pulpit where the preacher plays the drums and the cantor an electric guitar.*

*Otter is rocking and rolling to revival-style music -- which irritates Raven. He beats his drum louder to drown her out. Irritated, she sings even louder.*

*It looks like a confrontation is brewing, but Otter catches herself, and quite purposefully starts to pound out a few beats in harmony with Raven's drum.*

*Raven responds in kind -- and soon the two different music styles are blending. The frowns turn into joyous smiles. Soon they are both laughing and having a great time.*

### ORIGINAL OTTER

Feel it in your bones.  
Gimme five, I say!  
Discover new tones,  
Both of you can play.  
When it's either you or me,  
A loser's game it's bound to be.  
So...  
Originate a win win win way  
Don't make a loser or we'll all pay.  
Only if you, I and the planet all win  
Can the peace that comes be genuine.

*She swirls Zack back into the Dance. As they whirl, he rubs the owl on the shield. POOF! The Owl now lights up in the shield, as Pops holds up another "O" card. PROJECTED SCENE: Earth floating peacefully, lonely, in outer space. A soaring owl, floating on widespread wings, descends out of the void.*

### OVERSEEING OWL

Overcome the dark by shining a light.  
Rise above being wrong or even right.  
True power comes from a higher sight.  
Tune into the universal might.

Oversee the chaotic fray,  
From a wider vision, a wiser way:  
From a distance we all look like one  
A spiritual power brighter than the sun.

### ZACK

Overseeing Owl, what'd you say?  
Sailing above the world this way?

### OVERSEEING OWL

I've been watchin' from high  
Up in the sky.  
I tell you --  
There's no lines to divide us.  
One race.  
One planet.  
One place.  
One heart beating inside us.

*All letters lit except final F.*

### ZACK

Hey old friends  
You guys are great.  
Lots of good mends  
For violence and hate.

You've given me a good talkin'  
Still my knees are knockin',  
I'm scared to face J. J. Tuff.  
But if I run, it'll be twice as rough. What am I gonna do?

*He rubs the toy fox on his shiny "shield" and  
POOF! Fearless Fox springs to life with  
her fox tail, ears and nose. The Fox Shield  
glows as Pops holds up the "F" card.*

### FEARLESS FOX

Fear attracts attacker  
Like honey does a bee.  
When I dance the victim's dance  
I bring bad down on me.

### ZACK

Sure, I'm supposed to be brave  
But inside I'm still afraid.  
Inner peace I surely crave,  
But I got the fear and it just won't fade.

## FEARLESS FOX

Everybody's scared --  
It gets the adrenaline pumpin'.  
If you use that special energy  
You'll find a power that's really somethin'.  
Channel it into a commanding presence,  
Focus on your goal.  
Face your opponent's essence,  
Dare to meet his soul.

So if you want to strike a chord  
And not be bled and gored,  
Remember these words:

Fearless, strong, and way aboveboard,  
The true hero stands tall,  
Without weapon or sword.

*SOUND: Rumbling in background. Mist and smoke rise, filling the stage.*

*PROJECTED SCENE: Again in the 'hood . Smoke clears. Zack sits on a crate -- alone with pile of toys and hub cap -- exactly as before he first rubbed the hubcap. Hears rumble. Looks around. Rubs a stuffed animal on shield. Nothing happens. Has he been dreaming?*

*Rumble draws closer. J.J. Tuff leads tough looking gang. The old bullies -- Loman and others -- are there, but not with clown-like props. Instead they are seriously armed and dangerous -- guns drawn, knives flashing. Heart-pounding music. Zack gets centers in an Aikido stance.*

**J.J. TUFF**  
(chilling voice)

Alone, huh?  
Yo' buddies chicken?  
Can't take a lickin?  
They don't wanna die --  
Just stay home 'n get high.

*His gang members laugh cynically.*

ZACK

I'm not alone  
Not really, boys.

*(plays with Bust-out Bear)*

I was just reminiscing  
With my old stuffed toys.

J.J. TUFF

Toys?

*(cynical laugh)*

I fight men,  
Not little boys.

*He signals to his henchmen. Two take off to do J.J. Tuff's bidding. J.J. sneers:*

I'll take care of you. After I clean up this garbage.

*He viciously stabs his knife into Bust-out Bear and holds it up.*

Ashes, ashes, we all fall down.

*Throws the bear to ground. Stomps it. Beheads it, scattering its stuffing, leaving knife in its back. Zack shaken, gains his composure.*

ZACK

Ouch!  
That hurt.  
You found my hot button. Right?  
The one you think 'll make  
Me mad enough to fight?

Big deal. Come on, Tuff.  
What kind of game are you playing?  
Where's it gonna get you?

What's the cost you're paying?

TUFF

*(nods, henchman thrusts knife at Zack)*

I'm going to bury you six feet deep.

ZACK

Like you buried yourself?  
Put your soul to sleep?  
Do you ever feel dead inside,  
Tuff? Unable to weep?  
Come on Tuff, own up!  
Take the leap...

*Tuff, enraged, slashes at the stuffed animals*

You're wasting your talents  
Huffin' and puffing.  
Cutting up fabric,  
Ripping up stuffing.

I thought you were bigger than that.

*Tuff charges at Zack with his knife. With an adroit Aikido movement, Zack uses Tuff's own energy to floor him. Then helps him up.*

Come 'on tough guy  
Quit playing the game.  
You're wasting your life  
And what a shame!

*The two henchmen return with Sal kicking and screaming.*

SAL

Help me, Zack! Save me, quick!

*Nasty Roy, henchman, threatens Sal's throat with a meat cleaver. Zack reaches down and pulls the knife out of the stuffed bear. J.J.'s men take a combat stance -- thinking they've finally goaded him to fight.*

ZACK

A big bruiser like you  
Gonna snuff a chick?  
Come on man,  
You makin' me sick.

*(Zack puts the knife to his own throat.)*

If you want a hostage,  
I'm your man.  
I ain't scared to die --  
Just free my friend.

*As he talks, he walks with himself as hostage  
over to Roy, gently placing his own throat  
by J.J.'s cleaver blade -- freeing Sal.*

Nasty Roy

*(Surprised, but trying to keep his upper grip.)*  
Shall I waste him boss?  
Chop, scramble and toss?

J.J. TUFF

Go ahead, do it.  
No, wait,  
What's the use?  
There ain't no point to it.

I can hurt him.  
I can kill him.  
But it ain't so thrillin'.  
It's downright unfulfillin'  
When he seems so willin'.

It's like he cast a spell.  
Can't you see? He's free.  
I'm in a cage.  
Trapped in my rage.  
And he's so much cooler than me.

Being a Bully  
Ain't that much fun.  
Takes a lot of work 'n  
You're always on the run.

Lookin' at this dude here,  
Don't it seem sour?  
I got all the guns and knives,  
But I still can't make him cower ?

We say we mean, and  
We bad.  
I look at this dude here.  
Hey, he's badder'n bad.

I'm a big man when I flash my piece.  
With my gang, my size increase.  
But could I face the coming doom?  
Alone, unarmed, from womb to tomb?

Am I bad enough to follow this dude?  
To live my life in gratitude?  
To let go of my attitude?  
Heavy stuff. Takes fortitude.

I'm scared.

ZACK

Hey, Man, admitting what you did?  
Is so courageous it blows my lid.  
When that click happens inside  
What awakens in you is another side.

*J.J. Tuff gives Zack a jive hand-slapping  
greeting. Pops and the various onlookers,  
sensing the danger is over, come out from  
hiding to watch what's going down.*

In honor of my best friend Juan  
Who, bless his soul, is now gone,  
I want to give you this special gift  
To celebrate the end of our rift.

*Stage goes dark, spotlight lights shields as  
MUSIC SOARS. Stage lights come back up  
and Zack hands J.J. Tuff the hub cap shield.*

When you have experienced its magic  
Pass it on to one whose life is tragic.

J.J. TUFF

I'm your man.  
I'll do what I can.  
I'll go back to school  
Where this'll be totally cool.

*The others cheer. J.J. holds hub like a shield*

I'll use it when I'm in a rut  
I'll use it to save my butt.

POPS

That's not big enough.

J.J. TUFF

What you talkin' about man?

POPS

Why not save the great outdoors?  
Bring world peace, or stop the wars?

J.J. TUFF

The suits change the world --  
They got all the perks.  
Not us poor folks,  
We just worthless jerks.

POPS

A poor man in a loin cloth  
Gave the world something quite handy:  
"Satyagraha" - the strong force.  
His name was Mahatma Gandhi.

ZACK

And a poor black preacher  
Did a world-changing thing.  
They called him a jerk

But he knew he was king -- Martin Luther King!  
*Walks closer to Tuff.*

You see,  
The world ain't run  
By just one kinda being.  
We all gotta wake  
To a new kind of seeing.

J.J. TUFF

Yeah, we could get folks thinkin'  
About what each of us can do.  
To keep us all from sinkin',  
We're all Spaceship Earth's crew.

Everybody  
*(exchanging hand slaps, ad lib comments)*

All right! etc.

POPS

When your life seems in peril  
And you're facing a colossus.  
Decide to save the world  
You'll save yourself in the process.

*J. J. Tuff lifts Zack's arm- victory salute.*

ZACK and J. J. Tuff

*(sing)*

We've got a better way -- than fight or flight.  
We've got the power -- rooted in what's right.  
Tuned to channel -- insight!  
Flashing inner light.  
We're the rad dudes with  
The dyna-kinda "might"

*Now all the animal characters and bullies  
also come forward to fill the stage.*

Everybody

We've got a better way -- than fight or flight.  
We've got the power -- rooted in what's right.

Tuned to channel -- insight!  
Flashing: inner light.  
We're the rad dudes with  
The dyna-kinda "might".

### POPS

*(speaking, directly to audience)*

Which brings us to the puzzle piece. Did any of you find what's missing?

*Pops holds up a red puzzle piece.*

*Respectful Raven starts to dance as slides  
flash on of icons from rich tribal cultural  
heritage.*

### Respectful Raven

When you want integrations  
Of wind, spirit and mother earth,  
Then turn to tribal nations,  
Wisdom keepers of native birth.

*Pops works in a black puzzle piece .*

*Original Otter gives him a hug and starts  
singing with feeling that's palpable -- as  
spiritual African cultural icons flash on the  
screen.*

### ORIGINAL OTTER

I got that feeling,  
It's got me reeling.  
A deep healing  
In my soul.

Hearts romancing,  
Freedom advancing.  
We are dancing  
Towards our goal.

*A brown piece. Fearless Fox comes forth.*

### FEARLESS FOX

Your Hispanic friends will teach you  
How to be brave.

We've earned how to tough it  
From cradle to grave.

*Pops holds up a white piece., then places it  
in the puzzle .*

J. J. TUFF

White folks were explorers  
From many ethnic lands.  
Fleeing from oppressors  
Many bravely took their stands.

*Pops adds a yellow piece to the puzzle.  
Yin/Yang Yak bongs the gong.*

YIN/YANG YAK

The East brings discipline of the martial arts,  
Control of mind and body give great starts.  
Make one whole from the Yin and the Yang  
From an ancient source this wisdom sprang.

*A pink piece fits in. Then a blue.*

SAL

Women tend to feeling, nurturing and dance.

Zack

Men tend to figurin' and takin' a stance.

POPS

It's not like feeling is better than figuring, or singing beats meditating.  
Or any traits are worse than or better than any other. The point is this:

ZACK

All are crucial to the whole.  
All have traits we can extol.  
Contribute your thing, from deep in your soul.  
All voices must sing toward humanity's goal.

POPS

All the colors of the rainbow  
Are crucial for to mend.

The puzzle ain't whole  
'til we're all in the blend.

*(speaks directly to audience)*

So, what about that crucial piece?

FEW MEMBERS OF AUDIENCE

*(Arranged in advance.)*

Me. I'm the crucial piece.

POPS

That's right. 'Member, it doesn't matter if it's a tiny, tiny piece. The puzzle ain't whole without it. Is it? So let me hear everybody say it now.

MANY Shouting from AUDIENCE

I'm the crucial piece!

POPS

Still 2 or 3 voices missing out there. Everybody now.

EVERYONE

I'm that crucial piece!

POPS

You got it!

*Last crucial piece is tossed up from a prearranged member of the audience. Pops puts it in the puzzle. Tilts the table top to show the audience: A beautiful rainbow over planet earth. Rainbow puzzle is now projected on screen. Everybody dances.*

***Curtain Call:** Actors come out and take bows as audience applauds.*

POPS

You want more?  
You want an encore?  
Well, dang,  
Better let 'em have it, gang!

*Curtain opens to Juan lying lifeless in a  
stretcher pulled out of the sagecoach hearse.  
Juan stirs. Opens his eyes.*

JUAN

Who can I turn to?  
Who's gonna care?  
Who's gonna save me?  
Who's gonna dare?

J.J. TUFF  
*(entering)*

You are.

JUAN

Huh?

J.J. TUFF

You are. With this gift:

*He frisbees him the hubcap shield.*

JUAN

Wha??

J.J. TUFF

It's a Bully Proof Shield.

JUAN

A Bullet Proof...

J.J. TUFF

No, man. You ain't listenin'.

A *Bully* proof shield. B.U.L.L.Y.P.R.O.O.F. A Bully Proof Shield.

*More characters gather on stage.*

ZACK

C'mon gang. He missed out on it -- having to play the role of my dead friend. So let's spell it out for him. BUST-OUT Bear, Gimme a B!

*Song starts ( BULLYPROOF demo cassette  
tape -- second track has the music only.)*

### BUST-OUT BEAR

**B**ustout from that old fighting trap  
Violence ain't where the power's at.  
Do the unexpected, throw 'em a curve  
Chill, tell a joke, show a new kinda nerve.

### CHORUS

You gotta' be BULLYPROOF!

### UNDERSTANDING UNICORN

**U**nderstand the behavior - what's the motivation?  
Use your head and heart to navigate the situation.  
Travel underneath the surface that rages  
To find the scars and hot-buttons this conflict engages.

### CHORUS

You gotta' be BULLYPROOF!

### LISTENING LYNX

**L**isten with your heart as well as your ears  
Behind the anger you'll hear doubts and fears.  
When little things don't get heard  
They build and build 'till it gets absurd.

### CHORUS

You gotta' be BULLYPROOF!

### LOVING LION

**L**ove the doer and know the deed is just a stunt  
Look for the good, what's beneath the cold front.  
We're all born with a seed of genius,  
A deep down soul that's free of meanness.

### CHORUS

You gotta' be BULLYPROOF!

### YIN YANG YAK

**Y**in and Yang -don't let them war inside,  
Balance opposites - the stress will subside.

Opportunity springs from crisis.  
Our male and female both energize us.

CHORUS

You gotta' be BULLYPROOF!

PICTURING PORPOISE

*Picture* in your mind a positive outcome,  
Believe in the dream and it will be done.  
Meditate, visualize, plant a seed that will flower  
For our visions and thoughts all have power.

CHORUS

You gotta' be BULLYPROOF!

RESPECTFUL RAVEN

*Respect* the bully, yourself and Mother Earth,  
In each of these you'll find great worth.  
We all need love and recognition,  
With power from above, that's ammunition.

CHORUS

You gotta' be BULLYPROOF!

CHOIR

We've got a better way than fight or flight.  
We've got the power rooted in what's right.  
Tuned to channel insight!  
Flashing inner light,  
We're the rad dudes with  
The dyna-kinda "might."

ORIGINAL OTTER

*Originate* a win win win way  
Don't make a loser or we'll all pay.  
Only if you, I and the planet all win  
Can the peace that comes be genuine.

CHORUS

You gotta' be BULLYPROOF!

OVERSEEING OWL

Overcome the dark by shining a light.  
Rise above being wrong or even right  
True power comes from a higher sight.  
Tune into the universal might.

CHORUS

You gotta' be BULLYPROOF!

FEARLESS FOX

Fearless, strong, and way above board  
The true hero stands tall without a sword.  
We know that fear attracts attack,  
Now our shield can turn it back!

CHORUS

You gotta' be BULLYPROOF!

*Everyone breaks into joyous dance & song*

ALL SING

"B" is for Bustout.  
"U" Understand.  
"L" is for Listen, and  
"Love throughout the land.  
"Y" is for Yin /Yang.  
Now, we'll take our stand  
No Bully can beat our mighty band.

B - U - L - L - Y (I'll tell you why)

"P" is for Picture  
the outcome you demand.  
"R" for Respect  
the Earth on which we stand.  
"O" can you originate  
a brand new plan?  
Come and join our mighty band.

Overfly high above evil  
Like the starfleet command.  
The love/truth high ground  
Will win the upper hand.  
"F" is for fearless  
The courage to withstand.  
Now you have the PROOF which you demand

Bully Proof Shield  
Bully Proof Shield  
No one can beat our mighty band.

*THE END really just the beginning*

A note on staging: The suggested rear-screen projected slides can be snapshots taken around your town or pictures from your local library. When rear screen projection isn't possible, an ordinary screen can just be set to one side of the stage to project the scene changes. For more elaborate productions, the slides can be interspersed with film projection.

Future Wave invites you to submit copies of any slides used to help future productions. We also request video-taped copies of any performances. All performances must have the written permission of the author -- and may be royalty free if you qualify under a specially negotiated contract. Thank you.

Performances require payment of a small royalty. For information, or a copy of a longer version incorporating international peace issues, please contact:

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