

Plays for Young Audiences

A PARTNERSHIP OF SEATTLE CHILDREN'S THEATRE AND CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY - MINNEAPOLIS

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Harriet's Halloween Candy

Adaptation by
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Based on the Book by
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Music and Lyrics by
Chad Henry

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Cast of Characters

- HARRIET the dog
- TINA the beaver
- WALTER the dog.....also plays LUANNE the pig
- GEORGE the rabbit.....also plays ANNABELLE the dinosaur
- ED the rat.....also plays ANNABELLE'S MOTHER, a dinosaur
- MOM.....also plays MRS. HOOZIT a poodle and MRS. BELLRINGER
- DAD.....also plays MR. WIDGET and MR. WACKERTACKER

ACT I

SCENE ONE

HARRIET'S street. Three house fronts, all different, with colorful doors and windows. HARRIET, wearing a black witches cape, skips gleefully out of her house. She pulls a witches hat out of her trick-or-treat bag and puts it on.

HARRIET

It's Halloween! It's Halloween! It's Halloween! My favorite holiday! Nothing can get me down! Not even my two-year old brother who just took a hammer to my Whirly-Twirly Horseshoe Game and broke it!

DAD

(inside the house)

Harriet!

HARRIET

Not even my father who might be mad because...

TINA, the beaver, enters in an elaborate and unintelligible costume.

TINA

Harriet!

HARRIET

Hey Tina! Wow! You're costume --- I'm speechless!

TINA

Thanks, Harriet. It was a labor of love.

GEORGE, the rabbit, enters in his costume. He stares open mouthed at TINA'S.

GEORGE

Shiver me timbers!

HARRIET

George! Why does your going as a pirate not surprise me.

TINA

Or me.

LUANNE enters in her costume.

LUANNE

Or me.

HARRIET

Luanne! Look at you! You're royalty!

LUANNE

Love the costume Harriet!

GEORGE

Witchiness becomes you.

ED enters in his costume. He's having trouble seeing.

HARRIET

Who's the big cheese?

GEORGE

Who do you think would go as a piece of cheese?

ED

It's me. Ed.

GEORGE

Only a new boy rat.

TINA

There's nothing wrong with going as a piece of cheese! I think it shows imagination.

DAD
(from inside)

Harriet!

TINA

Uh oh.

HARRIET

Not to worry! Cause...

(singing)

IT'S HALLOWEEN
IT'S HALLOWEEN
IT'S HALLOWEEN
MY FAVORITE HOLIDAY
TIME TO PUT MY COSTUME ON
AND FLY MYSELF AWAY

HALLOWEEN, HALLOWEEN, HALLOWEEN
MY NUMERO UNO NIGHT
IT'S SO SWEET
TO TRICK OR TREAT
OH, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN -- CANDY!
ON HALLOWEEN
HALLOWEEN ---

THE GANG

HALLOWEEN, HALLOWEEN, WE CAN BE ---
WHATEVER WE WANT TO BE
WE WILL BE THE WEIRD
AND WILDEST
CREW YOU'VE EVER SEEN ---

HALLOWEEN, HALLOWEEN, HALLOWEEN
IT'S FUN TO FEEL SO FREE
PAINTING FACES
GOING PLACES
THAT WE'VE NEVER BEEN
ON HALLOWEEN!

HALLOWEEN...

GEORGE

HERE I COME THE PIRATE KING!

THE GANG

(HALLOWEEN)

LUANNE

I'M THE QUEEN OF EVERYTHING!

THE GANG

(HALLOWEEN)

TINA

I CAN BE MY FANTASY

THE GANG

YEAH (?!), ON HALLOWEEN

HARRIET

I'LL FLY HIGH UPON MY BROOM

THE GANG

ROUND AND ROUND THE TOWN WE'LL ZOOM

ED

NO *ONE* WILL RECOGNIZE US

THE GANG

'CAUSE *WE'RE* IN OUR *DISGUISES!*

HALLOWEEN, HALLOWEEN, HALLOWEEN ---

OUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY

WE'LL TRICK OR TREAT

THE FOLKS WE MEET

AS WE ROCKET DOWN THE STREET

THE WEIRDEST, WILDEST

CREW YOU'VE EVER SEEN

IT'S HALLOWEEN

HALLOWEEN

HALLOWEEN!

DAD

(yelling from offstage)

Harriet!

TINA

Oh dear....

LUANNE

I ah... forgot my glittery, trick-or-treat bag. I'll catch you at Mrs. Hoozits!

LUANNE runs off.

HARRIET

Not to worry, Tina, I'm a witch now, remember? Witches can handle Dads. But what exactly are you?

TINA
(shocked then worried)

You mean you can't tell? Oh dear...

HARRIET

Oh sure, I can...

ED

Of course, we can...

ED swings his cheese head around
dangerously as he attempts to find a clear line
of vision.

HARRIET

You look like...a... a...big green...

ED

Grape...

HARRIET

Yeah, grape! Being squashed by a...

TINA

Oh dear.

ED

Not a grape!

HARRIET

A...a...grapevine...being squashed by a...

GEORGE
(pantomiming digging at his nose)

Looks like a hairy, green booger ...being stepped on by a...

TINA

I'm supposed to be a beanstalk! That's the bean. Not a...oh....and that's the giant's foot. He's
on his way down-- I think I better go home and change.

ED & HARRIET & GEORGE

No you don't!

HARRIET

Your costume's great -- now that you explain it, especially.

ED

I think yours is the coolest one of them all.

GEORGE

Of course, he can't even see.

DAD

(inside, unseen)

Harriet!

TINA

Oh dear...

DAD

(from the window)

There you are!

HARRIET'S father comes out of the house.
He's dressed as a turkey and carrying a huge
pacifier.

DAD

Did you throw your brothers pacifier in the fish tank?

HARRIET

Only after he took a hammer to my Whirly-Twirly horseshoe game and broke it.

DAD

I don't care what he did. That's no excuse for bad behavior. You're older than he is. You're supposed to set an example.

HARRIET

Dad, how would you feel if someone took your favorite ---

DAD

Maybe you're not old enough to go trick or treating without me.

HARRIET

But Dad you promised this year that I could!

DAD

That was before the 'aquarium incident'. We'll have to ask your mother.

MOM

Ask your mother what?

MOM leans out of the window with a broken Whirly-Twirly horseshoe. She is dressed as a pilgrim.

HARRIET

You made me share my things with Walter and look what he did!

MOM

Well, you have to watch him.

DAD

I'm sorry, Tina, but I can't help noticing your interesting costume. What exactly are you?

GEORGE

It's what you think she is that's important.

DAD

Oh. Well. You look like... help me out here, honey...

MOM

She looks like...a...a...tree...

DAD

With a foot on top....

MOM

A tree decorated with an ornament....

DAD

A Christmas tree ornament. Is that an angel foot?

TINA

(visibly upset)

No! No! No!

MOM

Rex, Tina is Jewish! That's not a Christmas tree. It's a...a...burning bush with dreidel, right? I'm wondering about the significance of the hairy foot?

TINA

It's the giant's foot! I'll see you guys later.

DAD

Oh...

DAD AND MOM

THE GIANTS FOOT!

TINA

There's nothing Chanukah about it.

DAD

Right. It's great Tina. Well, I think it's time for you kids get going.

HARRIET

On our own?

DAD

On your own.

HARRIET & THE GANG

Yeah!

MOM

Wait a minute, there are a few rules to remember. Stay on this block. Be back by seven-thirty. And Harriet, share your Halloween candy with your brother when you get home.

HARRIET

But Mom candy is my passion!

MOM

I know that honey dog...

HARRIET

Then why do I have to share it with Walter?

MOM

Because he's the younger brother you look out for, and he's too little to go trick or treating.

Walter comes to the door wearing only a diaper. He is an incredibly large toddler.

GEORGE

(shocked)

He doesn't look so little.

MOM

I meant to say young. He's too young to go trick or treating.

WALTER

Goo goo ga ga. Yum. Yum. Yum.

HARRIET

But --

MOM

No buts. This Halloween you are going to master the art of sharing young Lassie, or --

HARRIET

(under her breath)

Witches shouldn't have to share.

DAD

Well, this one better, or next year, she's going to go as Santa Claus and hand out all her toys.

GEORGE

Excuse me, Mr. Bonedigger, but I couldn't help noticing. You're dressed as a turkey.

HARRIET

Don't remind me.

DAD

Ah yes! Gobble, gobble, gobble! This would be my wife's idea.

GEORGE

The pilgrim.

MOM

You noticed! I do so love Thanksgiving.

ED

But Thanksgiving isn't until November.

MOM

That's just around the corner!

GEORGE

Yeah, but on Thanksgiving you don't get to dress up in a costume. At least we don't at our house.

TINA

I wish my parents would dress up for Halloween.

HARRIET

Not like a turkey, you don't.

MOM sniffs.

MOM

Honey, you're up to bat.

DAD sniffs. MOM exits.

DAD

Come on Walter, it's time to change your diaper.

WALTER

No!

TINA

Go on Walter, I can even smell it from here.

GEORGE

And let me tell you this is not making our day.

DAD shuffles a protesting WALTER back in the house.

DAD

Have a good time!

HARRIET & THE GANG

We will!

There is a burst of chatter from the GANG.
Suddenly the night seems to grow darker.
An owl screeches. Jack-o-lantern lights come on. Silence descends.

THE GANG
(singing)

HALLOWEEN IS NOT SO FRIENDLY
WHEN IT'S DARK AND FRIGHT'NING
WHEN THE WIND COMES HOWLING
WHEN THERE'S THUNDER AND THERE'S LIGHTENING
IT'S A SCARY NIGHT
A VERY SCARY NIGHT
OO OO
OO OO

LOOK! IS THAT A SKELETON, ALL
CLICKING, CLACKING, CREEPING?
EVERYWHERE THERE'S MONSTERS

WISH I WAS IN BED AND SLEEPING!
IT'S A SCARY NIGHT
A VERY SCARY NIGHT
OO OO
OO OO

(flashlights under faces)

I DON'T LIKE THIS MURKY DARKNESS
FLASH YOUR FLASHLIGHT, LET IT SHINE
ARE THOSE REAL GHOULS AND VAMPIRES?
OR JUST TRICK OR TREATIN'
FRIENDS OF MINE?

I WAS FEELING PRETTY CHEERFUL
NOW MY KNEES ARE SHAKING
HOLD MY HAND---I'M FEARFUL
HALLOWEEN'S A NIGHT FOR SHRIEKING!
IT'S A SCARY NIGHT
A VERY SCARY NIGHT!
OO OO
OO OO

MRS. HOOZITS Halloween lights come on,
They are garish and glitzy and banish the
darkness.

Mrs. Hoozit's!
GEORGE

My next-door neighbor!
HARRIET

We made it!
TINA

Yeah!!!!!!
THE GANG

HARRIET
(To Ed) She usually gives out Sticky-Wicky Mints, and Globby-Gobos.

GEORGE rings the door-bell.

TINA
Last year she had crunchy, chocolate Zibbernuts too.

GEORGE

She has to give out good treats, or nobody would put up with --

MRS. HOOZIT, the poodle, opens the front door. She is in curlers, a housecoat and wears cats eye glasses.

THE GANG

TRICK-OR-TREAT!!!!!!

MRS. HOOZIT

Oh my my my my my. So many visitors. All to see little me. Who do we have here? A witch...and a pirate. And a...a...hmm...

ED

(quickly)

Beanstalk!

HARRIET

That's the giant's foot.

MRS. HOOZIT

Well, you children get more imaginative every year. Come in, come in, all of you. I want to get a picture. HOWARD!!! TURN OFF THAT DARN TV AND GET DOWN HERE!!! AND DON'T FORGET TO BRING THE CAMERA!

The children give each other a look, but file onto the front porch as requested. All except ED who cannot get his large cheese head through the screen door. He tries it front ways, sideways and in between, until he finally gets himself stuck.

ED

Oh, bother.

MRS. HOOZIT

Move a little closer. Good. Now, smile ghoulishly!

There are a series of flashes and poses from the group. All the kids have forced smiles.

MRS. HOOZIT

Wonderful. Can't wait to add these photos to my special Halloween album. Last year, Harriet, your scarecrow costume left straw all over the mat. I have pictures.

HARRIET

Sorry.

MRS. HOOZIT

I also have a picture of your parents dressed up like Indian corn. Your mother does love Thanksgiving.

HARRIET

Well, we really better be going Mrs. Hoozit.

GEORGE

It's getting late and this is only our first house.

MRS. HOOZIT

Your first house! Did you hear that Howard? They choose us to be their first house. I'll note that in gold in the album. Now wait a minute. Don't forget your candy. Here's some for you. And you. And you. And for you too.

The group is desperately trying to leave, but ED blocks the way. They push at him en masse.

TINA

(overlapping)

Come on, Ed!

GEORGE

(overlapping)

You big cheese!

HARRIET

(overlapping)

Move out of the way!

TINA

(overlapping)

I can't breath!

LUANNE

(overlapping)

You're blocking the door!

GEORGE
(overlapping)

Forget about getting your candy!

TINA

Underneath!

One by one they crawl out between ED'S
legs. ED is still stuck fast. MRS. HOOZITS
stands holding her camera.

MRS. HOOZIT

And who may I ask is this?

ED

Ed. We moved into Ralph's old place.

MRS. HOOZIT

Did you? Well, I hope your mother saw fit to repaint the hallway. It's the most dreadful shade
of green, I think I have ever seen.

LUANNE
(whispering)

We have got to unstick him! She'll prattle on forever.

MRS. HOOZIT

Move a little to the right. I'll take your picture.

ED

I'm afraid, I can't. I...ahem...seem to be stuck.

MRS. HOOZIT

Now that is certainly unique. HOWARD GET A LOAD OF THIS. THE NEW BOY IS A BIG
CHEESE AND HE'S STUCK IN THE DOORWAY!!!!

HARRIET

Grab a hold.

The group forms a fire line. Some hold hands
some hold tails. They give it several tries.
Still ED does not budge.

GEORGE

Mrs. Hoozit, do you think you could throw your weight into it too?

MRS. HOOZIT

But how will I snap the picture? Oh, all right. I suppose I should clear the doorway for the next bunch of trick-or-treaters. Our house is a must do, after all.

GEORGE

One! Two! Three!

The group gives another tremendous pull as MRS. HOOZIT throws in one big shove. ED goes flying.

LUANNE

Are you okay?

ED

I...I...think...so...

TINA

Here. Let me help you up.

GEORGE

Wow, your cheese head didn't even come off.

LUANNE

I think maybe you better stay away from houses with porches.

ED

Good idea.

TINA

If it were up to me, I'd skip Mrs. Hoozit's house all together. But she gives us tomatoes from her garden, so my mother says I'm obliged.

GEORGE

Come on. Let's hit the next one.

The group moves off with ED following slowly, hands out in front of him. On his way, he manages to walk into a bush. Beat. HARRIET enters.

HARRIET

If I'm going to have to share my candy with Walter, and stay on this block, I'm going to have to go to houses twice.

HARRIET rings MRS. HOOZIT'S bell.

MRS. HOOZIT

Harriet, you came back to see the photos!

HARRIET

(singing)

MORE
PLEASE GIVE ME MORE
SOME MORE FOR ME---
I MEAN MY BROTHER
MORE
ANOTHER PIECE
WOULD BE SO NICE
AND THEN ANOTHER
DON'T YOU SEE?
IT'S NOT FOR ME---
IT'S FOR MY FAM'LY
WHO IS POOR
GIVE ME MORE
GIVE ME MORE, MORE, MORE!

I'M BEGGING PLEASE
DOWN ON MY KNEES
DON'T MAKE ME FREEZE
HERE AT YOUR DOOR
GIVE ME MORE
GIVE ME MORE MORE MORE

PLEASE GIVE ME MORE
A COUPLE MORE
SO FAR MY STASH IS AWFUL MEASLY
HEY YOU
HOW 'BOUT A FEW
YOU COULD AFFORD
IT VERY EASILY
I'M BEGGING PLEASE
DOWN ON MY KNEES
DON'T MAKE ME FREEZE
HERE AT YOUR DOOR
GIVE ME MORE
GIVE ME MORE MORE MORE

WHEN YOU GOT A BRATTY BROTHER
WHO ALWAYS TAKES YOUR STUFF
YOU GET A FUNNY FEELING
THAT YOU NEVER GET ENOUGH

AND YOU FEEL KIND OF HOLLOW
AND YOU FEEL KIND OF SMALL
AND YOU FEEL LIKE YOU NEVER
CAN HAVE ANYTHING AT ALL

YOU'VE GOT A WHOLE
BUNCH IN THAT BOWL
AND I AM FEELING
AWFUL NEEDY
HERE IS MY SACK---
I'LL PUT SOME BACK
IF I GET ACK-
CIDENTI'LLY GREEDY
I GET DEPRESSED
WHEN I GET LESS
SO JUST SAY YES
AND DON'T GET SORE
GIVE ME MORE
(I'M BEGGING PLEASE)
GIVE ME MORE
(DOWN ON MY KNEES)
GIVE ME MORE
(I'M GETTING FLEAS)
AND MORE AND MORE
(I'M GOING TO FREEZE)
GIVE ME ONE OR TWO OR THREE OR FOUR
MILLION
MORE

MRS. HOOZIT

Oh! Oh! Of course, dear, of course. Candy to share with Walter. That is so sweet. Here. Take one of these. Come to think of it you, you better take two. Better yet... take all of this.

MRS. HOOZIT dumps a giant bowl of
colorful, oversized candy into Harriet's bag.

HARRIET

Thank you.

MRS. HOOZIT

Now, don't forget to snap a picture of your brother when he gets chocolate all over his face!
Harriet runs off with a guilty look.

Time passes. The night grows darker. In the
distance we hear muted and tired voices...

THE GANG
(offstage)

Trick-or-treat!

ED

Well, I think I've had enough of a cheese experience for one night.

GEORGE

We have too.

TINA

George!

GEORGE

Nothing personal. I just don't like cheese.

ED

Yeah, Right.

GEORGE

I don't! I'm lactose intolerant.

TINA

You are not lactose intolerant. You drink milk everyday.

LUANNE

Lactose intolerant! Cut us a break!

ED

See you all later.

LUANNE

Good night, Ed.

TINA

Thanks for coming with us.

TINA gives GEORGE a nudge.

GEORGE

Yeah. Thanks.

ED

Good night.

On his way out, ED bumps into HARRIET who enters dragging her bag, which is now so heavy with candy she can no longer lift it.

Ed!
HARRIET

Sorry, Harriet, I'll see you tomorrow.
ED

Ed walks into a garbage can. There is a loud crash.

And I do mean see.
ED

ED exits. The gang enters.

What time is it, anyway?
TINA

Almost seven-thirty.
LUANNE

I should go home too.
TINA

Last house.
LUANNE

GEORGE knocks. HARRIET joins the group.

Who lives here anyway?
GEORGE

I don't know. They just moved in.
LUANNE

GEORGE knocks again.

The mailbox says: Gene Widget, D.D.S.
TINA

D.D.S.?
LUANNE

MR. WIDGET

Yeah. Yeah. Coming.

MR. WIDGET throws opens the door. He dressed in full dentist regalia, replete with a large mirror on his forehead.

THE GANG

TRICK-OR-TREAT!!

MR. WIDGET

(over music)

Ah hah! Caught you red handed begging for candy. But cavities is what you'll get. Little black holes in your teeth that get bigger and bigger and bigger. Your parents will be calling at two am. "Little Johnny's got a toothache." "My precious Sarah is in tears."

ROT ROT
ROTTEN TEETH IS WHAT YOU GET
YOU GET A LOT OF ROT
FROM EATING CANDY
(HERE!)

ROT ROT
YOU GET CAVITIES A LOT
CAVITIES YOU BET
FROM EATING SWEETS
(GO AHEAD)

AND SOON I WILL BE DRILLING
AND YOU'LL GET A NICE NEW FILLING
SO HELP YOURSELF TO HALLOWEEN TREATS!
(TAKE A BUNCH)

ROT(ROT)ROT(ROT)
HERE YA GO, AND THANKS A LOT
YOUR TEETH WILL GO TO POT
FROM EATING CANDY
(CANDY, CANDY, CANDY)

HERE, PAL!
HAVE ANOTHER, LITTLE GAL!
YOU'LL NEED A ROOT CANAL
EVENCHALLY

FOR THE SWEET YOU EAT TONIGHT IS
TOMORROW'S GINGIVITIS
SO HAVE ANOTHER BUNCH OF CANDY ON ME---
IT'S FREE!
HAVE A HEAP, HAVE AN OODLE, HAVE A LOT
LET ME GIVE YOU ALL I'VE GOT
GO AHEAD, FILL-ER UP AND WATCH YOUR TEETH
ROT!

THE GANG

ROT ROT ROT THANKS ALOT
ROT ROT ROT THANKS ALOT

(drifting away)

Good-bye, Gene.

MR. WIDGET

WHY DO THEY JUST SAY "GOOD-BYE, GENE!"
WHEN I MENTION DENTAL HYGIENE?
NEVER DO THEY SMILE AND SAY "THANKS A LOT!"

GEORGE

Actually we just did. Twice.

MR. WIDGET

I'LL BE SHOUTING HIP HOORAY
WHEN YOUR MOLARS ALL DECAY
EAT A SWEET TODAY AND WATCH YOUR TEETH ROT!

The children stand staring at the candy he's
thrown in their bags. They watch warily as
GEORGE tastes one.

TINA

Do you think its okay to eat it?

GEORGE
(munching his)

It doesn't taste like sugar free.

HARRIET

He was weird.

LUANNE

Do you think that was a costume?

TINA

If he's a real dentist, why didn't he give out apples?

HARRIET

Or toothbrushes?

GEORGE

He likes spreading tooth decay. It's good for business.

LUANNE

I would never go to a dentist like him.

MR. WIDGET sticks his head out the window .

MR. WIDGET

And don't forget to brush before bedtime!

MR. WIDGET slams his window shut.

TINA

That's it. I'm going home.

LUANNE

Me too.

HARRIET

See you at school!

TINA

See you, Harriet.

LUANNE

Thanks for hanging.

HARRIET

Manyana.

GEORGE

Whatever.

HARRIET waits until everyone goes off. Then
drags her heavy bag of candy back to MR.
WIDGET'S.

HARRIET

I don't know if seconds here are a good idea.

MR. WIDGET appears in the window.

MR. WIDGET

I'LL BE SHOUTING HIP HOORAY
WHEN YOUR MOLARS ALL DECAY!!!

HARRIET

Never mind.

MR. WIDGET slams his window shut.
HARRIET drags her candy home. ED
enters, walking with hands out in front of his
face.

HARRIET

Ed! I thought you went home.

ED

I did. I mean I'm trying to. Harriet, do you think you could help get this thing off? It's kind of stuck.

HARRIET

Sure.

HARRIET helps ED off with his cheese head.

ED

Whew! What a relief. Look at the stars. I'll never cover my head again. I feel as though I've missed Halloween.

HARRIET

And I'll miss it next year if I don't get home on time. Do you mind helping me with my bag?

ED

Wow! You got a lot of candy. I didn't know there were that many houses on the block.

HARRIET

You just have to know where to look.

ED

Wow.

HARRIET

Where's your bag, anyway?

ED

Lost. I'm not sure where. I keep bumping into bushes.

HARRIET

(hurriedly)

Well, this is where I live. Thanks, Ed. I really appreciate it. And I'm sure you'll find your trick-or-treat bag on the way home.

HARRIET goes to her door, then turns back.

HARRIET

Oh, and if I can give you... help with your math homework or something, just ah... let me know.

ED

(dryly)

Thanks, Harriet, that's just what I was hoping you'd share.

HARRIET's door opens. MOM comes out.

MOM

There you are, Harriet. Do you know what time it is?

HARRIET

I had to help Ed take off his cheese head.

ED

She did.

MOM

Well that was nice of you. You're the new boy in Harriet's class, aren't you?

ED

Uh huh.

MOM

Did you have a good Halloween?

ED

Uh...

MOM

Get lots of candy, I hope.

ED

Uh...

HARRIET

Well, I better go in and say hello to Walter. Good night, Ed.

MOM

Tell your mother she should stop by. And here. One more trick-or-treat sweet from me.

MOM throws ED a candy. Ed lights up.

ED

Hey, thanks!

MOM smiles and closes the door. A look of bliss comes over ED'S face as he eats his one and only piece of Halloween candy. Then ED drags his cheese head home.

End of scene.