

PLAYS FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

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

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Lyle the Crocodile

Based on Lyle, Lyle Crocodile and The House on East 88th Street
by Bernard Waber

Adapted for the Stage by
Kevin Kling

Music by
Richard Gray

Lyle the Crocodile was first presented by The Children's Theatre Company for the 1990-1991 season.
2010 revision and music composition commissioned by Seattle Children's Theatre

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CHARACTERS:

LYLE

MR. GRUMPS

HECTOR P. VALENTI

MR. PRIMM

JOSHUA

MRS. NITPICKER

TWO MOVING MEN

TWO FIREMEN

TWO GUARDS

TWO CROCODILES

88th STREET KIDS

88th STREET NEIGHBORS

LORETTA THE CAT

SCENE ONE

EXTERIOR EAST 88TH STREET

HECTOR

(Takes three deep breaths with his nose on each exhale) (Deep breath) Ahhhhhhhh. (Deep breath) Ahhhhhhhh. (Third one) New York. Ahhhhhhhh. New York, I am in love with you. Hallo. My name is Hector P. Valenti, star of stage and screen. But, then it seems everyone in New York is a star of stage and screen. I speak five languages. English abest. And I love New York. Listen. (Cop car or honking horn) We call that the New York mating call. The sounds of love. (CAR CRASH) Hear that? Two people have just met and will no doubt fall in love. New York. Sooooo much to love.

SOMETHING IS ALWAYS HAPPENING

HECTOR

SOMETHING IS ALWAYS HAPPENING IN THE
GREATEST OF ALL CITIES
SOMETHING IS ALWAYS GOING ON IN THE
TOWN THAT NEVER SLEEPS
YOU CAN GET A / SLICE-A PIZZA
A-NICE-A PIZZA
AND EAT IT WALKING DOWN THE STREET
YOU CAN WEAR YOUR / PURPLE SPATS
AND NO ONE BATS YOU AN EYE
YOU CAN TRY TO CATCH A / YELLOW CAB, BEFORE A
FELLOW GRAB IT AWAY FROM YOU (HE SAYS, “___”)
THEN YOU SAY “THE SAME TO YOU!”
AND YOU FEEL LIKE YOU BELONG
THEN YOU BURST INTO SONG

ALL

SOMETHING IS ALWAYS HAPPENING IN THE
GREATEST OF ALL CITIES
TAKE A BITE OF THIS BIG, BIG APPLE
YOU’LL FIND IT IS SWEET

HECTOR

OH, I LOVE THE HAPPY FACES

ALL

ALL THE NOISE AND TINY SPACES
THAT YOU FIND IN THIS OASIS
OF CONCRETE

HECTOR

The smells. Woooo, the smells. If I close my eyes in New York City. I can tell you exactly where we are. Sausage Pizza? Little Italy - bon journo. Dim sum. Chinatown - ni hao? And oh, there is nothing like a garbage day bouquet. Mmmm, be still my heart. But, it's the people make us great. Nobody, no how, no way is nothing like a New Yorker.

DON'T BELIEVE ME JUST ASK A NEW YORKER
AND HE'LL SAY-

SOLOIST

IT'S THE BEST OF ALL THE CITIES
WE ARE BLESSED IN EVERY WAY

HECTOR (and TWO WOMEN)
FROM THE SUBWAY BELOW (FROM THE SUBWAY BELOW)
TO THE SCRAPING SKY ABOVE

HECTOR
FOR BEST OF ALL TO ME IT'S A CITY OF LOVE

MOVING MAN 1
(OFFSTAGE) Hey, ya jerk, watch where ya standing.

HECTOR
A common New York greeting. Hallo to you too, my friend.

MOVING MAN 1
(OFFSTAGE) Look out, you wanna get killed?

HECTOR
No, but thank you for asking.

ALL
YOU CAN TRY TO CATCH A / BROADWAY SHOW
OR PLAY IN THE SNOW
SIMPLY TAKE YOUR PICK

HECTOR
OR LIKE THE ROCKETTE'S LINE UP AND KICK!
AND YOU'LL FEEL LIKE YOU BELONG

ALL

AS YOU BURST INTO SONG

(Big finish!)

SOMETHING IS ALWAYS HAPPENING IN THE
GREATEST OF ALL CITIES

TAKE A BITE OF THIS BIG, BIG APPLE

YOU'LL FIND IT IS SWEET

HECTOR

ALL THE THRILLS OF LIFE YOU'RE AFTER

ALL

ALL THE NOISE AND SMELLS AND LAUGHTER

HECTOR

THERE'S A STORY, SONG AND DANCE ON EVERY STREET

ALL

EVERY STREET

OH, I LOVE THE HAPPY FACES

ALL THE CROWDS IN TINY SPACES

THAT YOU FIND IN THIS OASIS

OF CONCRETE

(Moving truck backs in)

HECTOR

Ah, here we are. In all of New York, this street is my favorite. And this is the house on 88th street and this is the story about a very good friend of mine named Lyle. Lyle the crocodile. Aha, a moving van. It seems the house on 88th Street will not be empty for long.

(SONG ENDS)

(THE NOISE IS HEARD)

Wait there is a noise coming from the house. A very strange noise.

SCENE 2

PRIMMS HOUSE INTERIOR

MOVING MAN 1

Well lady, the perfectly preserved potted pistachio plant is the last thing in the truck.

JOSHUA

Mom.

MR. PRIMM

Honey bunch, I can't seem to find my pipe.

MRS. PRIMM

Look in the box marked "kitchen."

MOVING MAN 1

Where do you want the couch, lady?

MRS. PRIMM

Right over there, please.

JOSHUA

Mom.

MRS. PRIMM

Just a minute Joshua.

JOSHUA

Do you mean an adult minute or a real minute?

MRS. PRIMM

No. That's all wrong. Try how about over there.

MR. PRIMM

Hon, it's not there.

MRS. PRIMM

Try "spices and automotive."

MR. PRIMM

Spices and automotive?

JOSHUA

Mom.

MRS. PRIMM

That's not right either. How about over there?

MOVING MAN 1

That's where we started.

MR. PRIMM

I can't find it anywhere. I'm simply helpless without my pipe. Oh, this is the worst move ever.

MRS. PRIMM

No. No. NO. This is all wrong.

MOVING MAN 1

Lady.

MR. PRIMM

Sweetheart

JOSHUA

Mom.

MRS. PRIMM

What!

(The noise happens again.)

MOVING MAN 1

Did you hear that?

MOVING MAN 2

Yeah. *(Noise. Noise)* It stopped.

MOVING MAN 1

Silence.

MOVING MAN 2

Yeah. It's eerie.

(The couch drops on MOVING MAN 1's foot).

MOVING MAN 1

Owww. You dropped the couch on my foot. You jerk.

MOVING MAN 2

You're the jerk. You broke the eerie silence.

MOVING MAN 1

Like I'm gonna be silent with a 5000 pound couch perched on my toe. You're the ...

MOVING MAN 2

I'm the...No uh uh. You. You.

MOVING MAN 1

Uh uh, no, no, you. You're the

(The noise)

MOVING MAN 2

There it is again.

MRS. PRIMM

It's only a little thunder.

MOVING MAN 1

Yeah right thunder.. blue sky. Oooo, look at the time. Uh, we have to go now lady.

MOVING MAN 2

We have to go. Uh ... run for our lives.

MOVING MAN 1

Yeah, that's it, we have to go run for our lives. So, if you'll excuse us...

(They exit. Tires squeal. Truck roars off; Lyle Enters)

MRS. PRIMM

Josh, honey, time for lunch. Time to wash those grimy hands

(Mrs. Primm goes to the bathroom door.)

(MUSIC sting. She reaches the top of the stairs and looks in the bathroom. The lights come up on Lyle in the tub. Mrs. Primm closes the door and steps out into the hall. She screams, but nothing comes out.)

MR. PRIMM

What is it Apple cheeks?

(She whispers in his ear).

MRS PRIMM

A Crocodile.

MR. PRIMM

A Crocodile? That's impossible, crocodiles aren't indigenous to New York. Now an alligator perhaps, but even so...

(Mrs. Primm shoves Mr. Primm into the bathroom. Lyle is caught in a compromising position, and immediately and tastefully covers up with a towel.)

MR. PRIMM

Oh, uh, hullabaloo, pardon me my good...uh....man.

(He calmly goes back into the hallway.)

MR. PRIMM

I've got to hand it to you angel blossom, you were right. That is most definitely ...

MR. & MRS. PRIMM

A Crocodile!!!! Aghhhh!!!!

(They run out of the bathroom in a panic. MRS. PRIMM goes to the window. MR. PRIMM goes to the phone still in one of the boxes. The phone isn't hooked up. The cord drags behind him as he circles the couch.)

HELP!

MR. PRIMM

OPERATOR?

UH-OPERATOR, PLEASE...

HELP!

MR. & MRS. PRIMM

HELP!

MR. PRIMM

Great Zeus, there's no answer!

MRS. PRIMM

The windows won't open. They must be painted...shut.

MR. PRIMM

OPERATOR?
PLEASE! UH-OPERATOR, PLEASE...
HELP!

MR. & MRS. PRIMM

HELP!

MRS. PRIMM

It's no use. We're goners.

MR. PRIMM

WILL HE TEAR US APART?

MRS. PRIMM

WILL HE SWALLOW US WHOLE?

MR. & MRS. PRIMM

WILL HE SCRATCH US?
PERHAPS, LEAVE A SCAR?

WE ARE GONERS FOR SURE
HELP!
NO LONGER SAFE AND SECURE
HELP!
ALL RIGHT, A TAD IMMATURE...
HELP!

MRS. PRIMM

I love you Joseph.

MR. PRIMM

I love you, lotus lips. Operator.

MR. & MRS. PRIMM

Goners.

(There's a knock at the door. Joshua opens it and there stands Hector P. Valenti. He hands Joshua a letter.)

HECTOR

Hallo. I hope the moving day it goes smooth as baby bottoms for you. *(Hands Joshua a letter).*
Oh. And this will explain everything about the crocodile.
(He tips his hat and closes the door.)

JOSHUA

Here Dad, this will explain everything about the crocodile.

MR. PRIMM

Thank you my son.

THE LETTER

(MR. PRIMM opens letter and reads along with HECTOR's singing. HECTOR sings with mucho passion while MR. PRIMM reads without emotion.)

HECTOR (w/ MR. PRIMM)

PLEASE-A BE KIND TO MY CROCODILE
PLEASE-A? FOR ME
HE'S THE GENTLEST OF CREATURES
AND WOULD NOT HURT A FLEA
HE'S A SENSITIVE ARTIST
TAKES A BATH AT 2 OR 3
HE CAN PERFORM SOME TRICKS I'M SURE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN
I SHALL RETURN.

CORDIALLY,
HECTOR P. VALENTI

HECTOR

(Knocks) STAR OF...

MR. PRIMM

Oh...

MR. PRIMM & HECTOR

STAR OF STAGE AND SCREEN

(MUSIC ends.)

MRS. PRIMM

We can't have a crocodile. I don't even know what they eat.

MR. PRIMM

P. S.

MR. PRIMM and HECTOR

He will only eat Turkish caviar.

(MUSIC ends again.)

MRS. PRIMM

Turkish caviar? What crocodile eats Turkish caviar?

MR. PRIMM

P.P. S.

MR. PRIMM and HECTOR

His name is Lyle.

(MUSIC ends again.)

MRS. PRIMM

Lyle? Caviar? Honestly, call the realtor, Joseph. I will not have a crocodile in my bathroom. There was no crocodile in the bathroom during the open house...

JOSHUA

Don't worry Mom, he's not in there anymore.

MR. PRIMM

Good.

JOSHUA

He's on the stairs.

(Lyle comes out of the bathroom and down the stairs. The Primms huddle together for safety. Lyle does various tricks. First spinning a ball on his nose; going in a door one place, coming out another, walking on his hands, etc... After each trick the Primms clap at first very tentatively, then more vehemently. His final trick is met with "bravos," but then Lyle goes into the Primms' boxes.)

MRS. PRIMM

He's in our stuff, Joseph. Do something...

MR. PRIMM

(Looks at her a while). Shoo. Stay out of there... Look here, my good crocodile... those are private things. Private. P.R.I...

(Lyle comes toward the Primms. They recoil in horror.)

JOSHUA

Now you did it Dad.

(Lyle holds something out.)

MR. PRIMM

It's my pipe. Look hon. Perhaps we judged the old boy all wrong.

JOSHUA

Yeah, can he stay, Dad huh? Can he, huh? Can he, huh? Huh, can he?

MR. PRIMM

It's really up to your Mother, Joshua. What do you say Mrs. Primm, can he stay? Can he, huh? Can he, huh? Huh, can he?

MRS. PRIMM

Well, he'll have to help around the house and we'll have to do something about breaking that Turkish caviar habit and it's a trial basis only, if he doesn't work out or one of use gets eaten then it's off and...

JOSHUA

Hooray! Hooray for Lyle!

MR. PRIMM

Hooray! Hooray for Mrs. Primm!

MRS. PRIMM

Why Joseph, did you call me by my name?

MR. PRIMM

Why, yes, I suppose I did.

MRS. PRIMM

Oh, Joseph.

MR. PRIMM

Oh, Mrs. Primm.

JOSHUA

Oh brother.

SCENE THREE
88TH STREET

HECTOR

(MUSIC under) And that is how Lyle the Crocodile came to live with the Primm family. As you now know, it was I, Hector P. Valenti, who left Lyle for the Primms. Before this, Lyle and I had traveled the world. We performed the palaces of kings and the haylofts of farmers. Wonderful times. Alas, good times do not last forever and people stopped coming to see us. I couldn't afford this Turkish caviar, so I decided to leave Lyle in New York, the city of love, on the best street with the very best family. I think Lyle will do fine with the Primms don't you? Yes. But I must admit, I will miss him very much. Farewell Lyle.

SCENE FOUR
JOSH'S ROOM

MRS. PRIMM

Josh. Josh, honey, sweetheart, can I come in?

JOSHUA

Sure. Look my new room.

MRS. PRIMM

Its very nice, Josh, you know we love you.

JOSHUA

Yeah. I love you too.

MRS. PRIMM

And we've always tried to be fair.

JOSHUA

Uh oh, this isn't starting well. What is it, mom?

MRS. PRIMM

Well, now remember you wanted Lyle to stay.

JOSHUA

Yeah. Of course.

MRS. PRIMM

And there are boxes everywhere and he has come as such a surprise and this is really the only room and...

JOSHUA

Wait, woah, stop. I see where this is going.

MRS. PRIMM

Lyle will simply have to stay here with you. There I said it.

JOSHUA

Share? My room. Share?

MRS. PRIMM

Yes share.

JOSHUA

But it's my room.

MRS. PRIMM

I know.

JOSHUA

Mine. Not for sharing. It's not like a stick of gum or a pizza. It's where I live.

MRS. PRIMM

Honey we can't just kick him out on the dark street.

JOSHUA

I can.

To Lyle, fluffing a pillow

Put that down.

MRS. PRIMM

Look at him.

JOSHUA

I still can.

MRS. PRIMM

No you can't, now you two are just going to have to make it work.

JOSHUA

No Mom. *(Lyle picks up baseball mit)* Put that down.

MRS. PRIMM

Please Josh. For me. Ok?

JOSHUA

Mom, not fair.

MRS. PRIMM

Goodnight Josh, I love you. Goodnight Lyle.

JOSHUA

I'll share my room with you, Lyle, but I don't have to like it. I never wanted to move to new york, I loved our old house I had great friends a big yard the one and only thing I had to look forward to was this room and now that's gone. Ahhhhh. The injustice.

Put that down.

Lyle, The first thing you have to do is leave my things alone. here's a quick clue on the things I care about.

PAJAMAS

IF I LIKE SOMETHING, I'LL HAVE A PICTURE OF IT
ON MY PAJAMAS
MY PAJAMAS TELL YOU ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW
I'VE GOT RACING CARS, MOVIE STARS,
TYRANNOSAURUS REX'S,
AND COWBOYS FROM TEXAS

IF I LIKE IT, YOU'LL SEE IT
ON MY PAJAMAS
MY PAJAMAS ARE THE WINDOW TO MY SOUL
ALL SORTS OF FAVORITE SPORTS
BASEBALL TEAMS? I GOT EMS
MICKEY MANTLE, TOPS AND BOTTOMS.

IF I ENJOY IT, THEN, BOY, IT'LL BE
ON MY PAJAMAS
MY PAJAMAS SHOW YOU ALL THAT I ADORE
I'VE GOT BEARS AND FROGS, SNAKES AND DOGS
KOALAS AND KANGAROOS
TOUCANS AND COCKATOOS
ON THE CLOTHES IN WHICH I SNOOZE
A PASSEL OF PAJAMAS, I GOT PILES AND PILES!
BUT ARE THERE ANY PJ'S HERE WITH CROCODILES?

"No I don't think so, nope. What's that telling you?"

I USED TO HAVE OTHERS MAYBE WHEN I WAS YOUNGER
BUT I OUTGREW THOSE PJ'S RATHER FAST
THE THINGS WE LIKE AS BABIES
THEY ALL TURN INTO MAYBES

AND THAT PHASE? WELL, IT DIDN'T SEEM TO LAST

SO STICK TO THESE RULES, MR. CROCODILE,
AND WE'LL HAVE
PEACE UNTIL YOU'RE DONE PASSING THROUGH
AND MAYBE SOMEDAY IF YOU'RE LUCKY
THERE WILL BE A PICTURE OF YOU.

Good night.

(with a sneer)

Roommate.

(MUSIC ENDS. Lights out.)

HECTOR

It seems not everyone on 88th street is ready for my friend Lyle to stay. I am sure the rest of the neighborhood will love Lyle. At least I hope they will. Hmmmmm maybe it's best I stick around a while, help my friend. With Hector P. Valenti on his side what could possibly go wrong?

SCENE FIVE
PRIMMS HOUSE, INTERIOR

(Josh sits at table. Lyle points at his paper)

JOSHUA

I know.

(Lyle points again)

I know. Um.

(Lyle points.)

What?

(Lyle points again)

Oh yeah I see. I did it.

(Lyle shakes his head)

I'm done mom, can I go out and play?

MRS. PRIMM

Are you finished with your homework?

JOSHUA

Yes.

MRS. PRIMM

We want you to be ready when you start your new school.

JOSHUA

Yes. It was easy. *(To Lyle)* Shhhhh.

(MS. NITPICKER RINGS DOORBELL),(IT PLAYS "NEW YORK, NEW YORK")

MRS. PRIMM

Lyle, will you please answer the door?

(LYLE: ME? Alright. He smoothes his apron, puts down his feather duster, adjusts his look, and opens the door.)

MS. NITPICKER

Greetings! You must be Mrs. Primm. My name is Nancy Nitpicker, and I'm here on behalf of the East 88th Street neighborhood Welcoming committee to welcome you to our neighborhood. Welcome.

MRS. PRIMM

Well Ms. Nitpicker what a pleasure and honor...

MS. NITPICKER

(AS SHE BARGES IN SNIFFING ABOUT). Yes...mmmm. Yes, I'm sure it is. Mmm. Here, this is my tuna and tater tot surprise.

MRS. PRIMM

Thank you. *(She opens the casserole and all jump)*. What a lovely...dish.

MS. NITPICKER

It's called tupperware. It's the future.

MRS. PRIMM;

I see. Oh, this is my son Joshua. And this is Lyle. Josh, Lyle, this is Ms. Nitpicker. Please excuse me. *(exits)*.

MISS NITPICKER

Hello Joshua

JOSHUA

Nice to meet you.

MS. NITPICKER

Oh, charmed. *(As Lyle kisses her hand)*. There's something not quite right here, but I can't seem to put my finger on it. My nitpicking senses are tingling.

MRS. PRIMM

(Returning). Hors d'Oeuvres?

MS. NITPICKER

No, that's not it.

MRS. PRIMM

Hors d'Oeuvres, Ms. Nitpicker?

MS. NITPICKER

Oh to eat thank you. Thank you.

MRS. PRIMM

Lyle made them.

MS. NITPICKER

Really, mmmmmm. Yummy.

MRS. PRIMM

He loves helping out with the chores. You know, I only had to show him once how to make up the bed. He folds towels, feeds the bird, and when he sets the table there's always a surprise.

JOSHUA

Oh no, he's perfect. I'll never have my room back.

MS. NITPICKER

Something smells fishy.

(Josh points at Lyle)

MRS. PRIMM

Well, it can't be Lyle, for thankfully, he has learned to eat something besides Turkish caviar. There was a while there I thought we would never get him off the stuff. Oh, sometimes as a treat we still give him a bite and a warm bath, and he is happy as a bird.

MS. NITPICKER

Mmmmmm. Tell me more about this Lyle.

MRS. PRIMM

He is wonderful company.

MS. NITPICKER

Yes.

MRS. PRIMM

We take him everywhere.

MS. NITPICKER

Interesting.

MRS. PRIMM

He is a good sport. Everyone loves him.

MS. NITPICKER

I see.

MRS. PRIMM

Why, people everywhere stop and talk to him.

MS. NITPICKER

Uh huh.

MRS. PRIMM

They say he is the nicest crocodile they ever met.

MS. NITPICKER

Crocodile. That is it. He's a crocodile. Nitpicker you've done it again.

MRS. PRIMM

He is such a delight. Don't you agree?

MS. NITPICKER

No, Mrs. Primm, I'm afraid that a crocodile in the neighborhood will simply never do. Not on 88th street anyway.

JOSHUA

Wait a minute! He's not that bad.

MS. NITPICKER

(Lyle pours her some tea). Thank you...I'm afraid it...

MRS. PRIMM

Lyle.

MS. NITPICKER

Lyle, will simply have to go back to New Jersey or wherever it is crocodiles come from. Well, my work is done here...

MRS. PRIMM

Josh.

JOSHUA

Very nice to meet you Ms. Nitpicker.

(Lyle kisses her hand)

Why, Ms. Nitpicker, he likes you.

(MUSIC starts)

MS. NITPICKER

What? Me? He likes me?

JOSHUA

Yes.

MS. NITPICKER

Why. Why does he like me...

MRS. PRIMM

He quite simply likes you for what you are.

MS. NITPICKER

You're kidding. Well, isn't that something. Likes me for what I am. No one has ever...

LIKEABILITY

LIKEABILITY?

I'VE GOT LIKEABILITY?

YOU MEAN, INVITE-ON-A-HIKE-ABLE,

SHARE-A-BIKE-ABLE

LIKEABILITY?

I'M PAL-AROUNDABLE?

IT'S ASTOUNDABLE

A WOMAN LIKE ME

BRINGS FEELINGS OF GLEE –

THE THOUGHT IS PROFOUNDABLE!

THERE'S A SMILE DIRECTED IN MY DIRECTION

CROCODILE, YOU'VE BROUGHT OUT MY SCHOOL GIRL COMPLEXION

LIKEABILITY...

I'VE GOT LIKEABILITY!

THIS NEW TRAIT I HAVE I HIGHLY RECOMMEND

'CAUSE I'M LIKEABLE AND I'VE MADE A NEW FRIEND

I don't know what to say, you big green thing you... Well, look, I'm all aglow.

CAMARADERIE?

WE'VE GOT CAMARADERIE?

YOU MEAN, DOING-POTTERY,

WINNING-THE-LOTTERY

CAMARADERIE?

AND I'M BEFRIENDABLE?

PARTIES-ATTEND-ABLE?

I'M FEELING A DART

MY COLD, LITTLE HEART

TURNS OUT TO BE MENDABLE

THIS NEW CONFIDENCE IS SOMETHING I MIGHT HAVE TO TRY ON

YOU SEE, THERE'S A GENTLEMAN THIS LITTLE

GAL'S HAD HER EYE ON

AND LIKEABILITY...

I'VE GOT LIKEABILITY!

I'M NO LONGER A JUDGEMENTAL FUDDY-DUDDY

'CAUSE I'M LIKEABLE AND I'VE FOUND A NEW BUDDY!

What? What? Me, a dance? Oh...Lyle.

(LYLE and MS. NITPICKER dance around the room - ala Fred and Ginger.)

MRS. PRIMM

What were you saying about Lyle?

MS. NITPICKER

Well, only that we should have a tea so everyone can meet Lyle and see how sensitive and intelligent he is...and that he likes me!

MS. NITPICKER

THERE'S A SMILE DIRECTED IN MY DIRECTION
LYLE...I'VE GOT NOT ONE SINGLE OBJECTION
LIKEABILITY!
WE'VE GOT LIKEABILITY!
HOW LIFE-CHANGING, HOW BOLD
JUST TO BE TOLD
YOU'VE GOT... LIKEABILITY!

SCENE SIX

88TH STREET, EXTERIOR

(The scene shifts to exterior 88th Street. When the scene shifts, different groups of people pop up to watch the parade.)

HECTOR

Hot a dogs. Get 'em while they're hot a dogs. Hot a dogs. Hallo. It is me again. Hector P. Valenti, star of stage and screen. I used my extensive acting training to land this job as a wienie salesman. Now I can keep a sharp eye on Lyle.smart huh? Hot a dogs...get your hot a dogs

(MRS PRIMM, JOSH, LYLE AND MS NITPICKER COME OUT OF THE HOUSE)

JOSHUA

Who are all these people?

MR. PRIMM

It looks like a parade.

HECTOR

I love it, another parade in NEW YORK for no good reason...Hot dogs...
Hello, peace to you too my friends I am solid with your cause.
Up with people Down with a the man.

MRS. PRIMM

Wave everyone.

JOSHUA

Hi.

(In the middle of the parade MR. GRUMPS steps into the picture, holding LORETTA. Thunder and lightning. The parade screeches to a halt, on thunder.)

MR. GRUMPS

Well, well, well...what do we have here? Look Loretta, a parade. I hate parades.

MS. NITPICKER

Mr. Grumps, hheellooooo!

MR. GRUMPS

Hello Ms Nitpicker. You're looking unnaturally cheerful.

MS. NITPICKER

Yes , yes I suppose I am.

HECTOR

That is Mr. Grumps...where he goes there is a bad day following like a puppy on a leash. Notice. Mr. Grumps always has a face that makes him look like he just stepped in something, which in New York, is very possible, but a person doesn't have to look that way.

MR. GRUMPS

What is this?

JOSHUA

His name is Lyle, Sir. He is a crocodile.

MR. GRUMPS

Oh drivel and spew, I have no use for a crocodile, unless maybe as a pair of SHOES, or as a SUITCASE, or an AFTERSHAVE KIT. (*He laughs a haunting, scary laugh*). It feels so good to laugh, and it aids digestion. Come my precious. Tropical riff raff.

(THEY EXIT)

MS. NITPICKER

Good bye, Mr Grumps. Good bye, Lyle.

MRS. PRIMM

Oh Lyle, we all love you.

MR.PRIMM

You're still aces in my book.

MRS.PRIMM

Come on I'll make you a cup of Ovaltine.

JOSHUA

Mom can I stay out and play.

MRS. PRIMM

Are you finished with your homework?

JOSHUA

Yes

MRS. PRIMM

You start your new school tomorrow.

JOSHUA

I know.

MRS. PRIMM

I suppose but be careful, it is the fifties, Its almost getting to where you don't want to leave a child out at night all alone. Alright, watch him Lyle.

JOSHUA

Mom. I'm not a little kid any more. I don't need anyone to 'watch me'.

MRS. PRIMM

This is not up for debate. Lyle?

JOSHUA

School tomorrow. Only thing worse than school is a new school.

(Lyle nods)

I know. I like school, my old school. I bet this one is boring. Can you stay back? Further, further, further. Okay, that's as close as you can be.

The kids won't even know who I am.

For all they know I could be

Raised by giants, captured by pirates, heir to the throne, I can be anyone I wanna be.

Kids!

Uh oh. They look mean. Lyle?

(They start to go into the house. Lyle goes in. Josh is stopped by Kids)

KID 1

Hey

JOSHUA

Hey

KID 1

Who are you?

JOSHUA

Josh.

KID 2

Hey Josh. That's bubble, I'm double bubble.

KID 4

Hiya.

(She blows a bubble)

KID 3

What's buzzin cousin?

KID 1

That's Filbert.

JOSHUA

Hey Filbert

KID 3

Hey man, like those threads are the bees knees.

JOSHUA

I only speak English.

KID 3

I'm hep I'm hep...

JOSHUA

Alright.

KID 2

So Josh, do you jump?

JOSHUA

What?

KID 4

Jump.

JOSHUA

I don't know.

KID 1

You don't know?

JOSHUA

No.

KID 3

That's fractured

KID 1

Watch my man...and learn. Bubble, Double Bubble. Filbert, you nut. Come on.

BEST PET AROUND

KID 1

I GOT A PUPPY DOG

OTHER KIDS

SHE'S GOT A PUPPY DOG

KID 1

I GOT A PUPPY DOG
HE'S MY BUDDY

OTHER KIDS

WHAT'S HIS NAME?

KID 1

BUDDY BOY'S HIS NAME
MY PUPPY DOG'S THE BEST PET AROUND

KID 2

I GOT A TWEETY BIRD

OTHER KIDS

SHE'S GOT A TWEETY BIRD

KID 2

I GOT A TWEETY BIRD
SHE'S MY SWEETIE

OTHER KIDS

WHAT'S HER NAME?

KID 2

SWEETIE PIE'S HER NAME
MY TWEETY BIRD'S THE BEST PET AROUND

(A third kid takes a turn.)

KID 3

I GOT A GUINEA PIG

OTHER KIDS

SHE'S GOT A GUINEA PIG

KID 3

I GOT A GUINEA PIG

SHE'S MY DEARIE

OTHER KIDS

WHAT'S HER NAME?

KID 3

DEARIE DELL'S HER NAME
MY GUINEA PIG'S THE BEST PET AROUND

KIDS

Come on Josh.

JOSHUA

I don't know.

KIDS

Give it a try.

(JOSHUA joins in.)

JOSHUA

UM...I GOT A CROCODILE

OTHER KIDS

HE'S GOT A CROCO...WHAT?!!!!

(The MUSIC abruptly stops. Scene continues...)

JOSHUA

His name is Lyle.

KID 1

Yeah, right.

JOSHUA

Really, come out Lyle

ALL

Whoa.

KID 3

Subterranean, whoa, he's like a crazy lizard, right?

JOSHUA

A crocodile.

(Lyle blows a bubble)

KID 2

I like him.

KID 4

I like him too.

KID 1

Hey what's he doing?

(Lyle picks up the rope)

JOSHUA

Are you sure?

(Lyle nods)

JOSHUA

He wants to jump.

KID 3

Rightio daddio.

KID 4

Go Lyle go Lyle

Coffee and tea

Come on Lyle jump with me

ALL KIDS

Lyle Lyle crocodile

How many teeth in that smile

One two three four five six seven....

KID 1

Whoa Lyle you're the most

JOSHUA

What about me?

Josh.... **KID 2**

You got a crocodile! **ALL KIDS**

Yeah, I sure do. **JOSHUA**

(Kids cheer)

(MEOW,MEOW...MEOW)

Look everyone a kitty cat. **JOSHUA**

Don't make any sudden moves. **KID 2**

Its Mr. Grumps' cat...Loretta. **KID 1**

(MUSIC starts.)

Like Beware. **KID 3**

Why? It's just a kitty cat. **JOSHUA**

That's what you think **KID 1**

She's purring. **JOSHUA**

(JOSHUA moves in to pet the cat.)

Don't!!! **ALL KIDS**

Step away from the cat. **KID 1**

YOU THINK, SHE'S SO PRETTY
WHAT A PRETTY KITTY

AND SO IT BEGINS...

ALL KIDS