

The 50s Musical



It Happened at the Snack Bar

Book, Music & Lyrics

by

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IT HAPPENED AT THE SNACK BAR
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Characters

Nick - Good looking, popular, and he knows it. He likes Polly, but won't show it because the other guys don't approve.

Polly - Sweet, innocent, attractive, destined to be very popular, but unfortunately is now just another Freshman girl.

Scott - Looks a little like Sal Mineo. He's prone to exaggeration about his love life, especially about - Jackie.

Jackie - She's pretty, and popular. She likes Scott, but sometimes finds it hard to put up with his exaggerations.

Bud - Head cook at the snack bar. Philosophical, weird, likes people.

Billy - Bud's assistant, tries hard to pattern his life after Bud. Reads cook books for pleasure.

Principal - The usual female authority type. Can be played by one of the other characters.

The Homework Club

Cyndi - Looks remarkably like Doris Day, a bit spoiled, she thinks she knows everything, in a nice sort of way.

CC - More than just a little 'spacey', she probably gets messages from the world beyond.

Cheli - A liberated woman and a bit of a tom-boy. Fun and very likeable.

Julie - Sarcastic, but sweet. Always reading fan magazines and swooning.

Randi - Unsure of herself and unaware of her own talents. She wishes she were pretty and popular. She likes Joe.

The Guys

Tom - Big, athletic, a bit dense. Lunch is his favorite subject and food is his passion.

Joe - A little obnoxious, but quite likeable. Always teasing Nick and the Freshman girls. He likes Randi.

Skip - Cars are his thing. He's Tom's best friend. Definitely not a scholar.

The Freshman Girls

Polly - See above.

Rachel, Amy, Jenara - Awkward, naive, talkative and excited about everything. Typical frosh, they stick together all the time.

The Sophomore Girls

Allison - Cute and boy crazy. She idolizes Tom.

Laura - Tom-boyish, but sure to be a knock-out. Very outspoken.

Jennifer - Everybody's best friend. Always tries to keep Laura from putting her foot in her mouth.

Cadi - Very interested in boys and other people's business.

THE TIME:

The late 1950s.

THE PLACE:

Bud's school snack bar

THE SET:

The set is a brightly colored collection of snack bar benches and tables. Off to one side is a sign with an arrow pointing off stage reading "cafeteria." Upstage center there are three snack bar service windows and a big sign that reads, "Bud's Snack Bar."

Throughout the show, cast members will be getting food and drinks from these windows. All of the set pieces should be strong enough to support dancing and the regular physical action.

SCENE 1 - FALL

As the houselights fade, from offstage we hear a jazzy theme reminiscent of “West Side Story” being vocalized a capella by the cast. Then as the side lights play up, the cast enters, snapping their fingers to the beat. They strike a pose and the vocals cut.

SCOTT: (CENTER, TO AUDIENCE) No, this ain’t “West Side Story.”

SKIP: Heck, man, this ain’t even New York.

CHELI: What this is, is a snack bar.

BUD: (PROUDLY) My snack bar.

EVERYONE: Our snack bar.

CYNDI (AS PRINCIPAL): The school’s snack bar. (THEN AS IF GOING INTO A DEDICATION CEREMONY) ...and it gives the school board and the P.T.A. and, of course, me personally, a great deal of pride to dedicate our new snack bar. Specifically designed as an adjunct to our school cafeteria, a place where our students can socialize and eat the kinds of food... that only they can understand.

EVERYONE APPLAUDS AND THE PRINCIPAL EXITS, RETURNING MOMENTARILY AS ONE OF THE KIDS.

NICK: Ya see, life was a lot different for kids in the fifties.

JACKIE: Elvis was king!

JOE: And PRINCE was the name of your dog. (OTHERS LAUGH, JOE BOWS)

JENARA: Television screens were only this big. (SHOWING WITH HER HANDS)

RANDI: The news was only on once a week.

POLLY: And there weren’t any shopping malls.

RACHEL, ALLISON AND AMY: (SHOCKED) No shopping malls!?! That’s unbelievable!!

TOM: But, there were bigger problems, too.

CC: Clearasil hadn't even been invented yet.

BILLY: Movies had gone up to fifty cents!

LAURA AND JENNIFER: The Russians had got...the BOMB!

JULIE: (SARCASTIC) People trusted the president.

NICK AND CADI: No wonder kids needed a place to get away from it all.

EVERYONE: A place to call our own!

BOYS: A place to cruise chicks.

GIRLS: A place to gossip.

BOYS: A place to be cool!

GIRLS: A place to play hard to get!

TOM: (WITH FRIES AND COKE) A place to eat!!!

EVERYONE: Our snack bar!!!!

SONG: AT THE SNACK BAR

BOYS: When you're feelin' kind-a low,
 There's a place that you can go.
 It's the coolest little spot
 Where the music is hot-hot-hot!!

 You can make the scene,
 Meet a beauty queen,
 Catch some fries and a coke,
 You can go for broke!

 You don't need a car,
 Cause it ain't that far
 To the snack bar!
 To the snack bar!

GIRLS: If you wanna get a date,
 Grab your shoes and don't be late.
 And if you look like Sandra Dee,

You'll get a Fabian or Bobby Vee.

Be sure to fix your hair
And don't be square,
Just sip a drink
And give a wink.

Guys from near and far
Will think you're a star,
At the snack bar!
At the snack bar!

ALL: You can "pony" to the music
On the old juke box

SOLO #1: I like a tune
That really rocks!

ALL: Do the "mashed potato"
'til you almost drop.
C' mon to the snack bar
We can do the "loop" and "bunny hop"

DANCE BREAK

ALL: We will meet 'cha there at 12 o'clock
So, get ready cause we're gonna rock.

SOLO #2: I've got some gossip that's really hot,
SOLO #3: If it's what I think it is, you'd better not!

ALL: We can all be cool,
And forget about school
So cruise on by,
And get ready to fly

Cause we'll all go far
And we'll be the star
At the snack bar!
At the snack bar!

THE CAST GREETES EACH OTHER AS IF THEY HADN'T SEEN EACH OTHER ALL SUMMER, AS THEY HEAD TO THEIR AREA OF THE SNACK BAR. THE CAST FREEZES IN A TABLEAU AS BUD AND BILLY CROSS DOWN CENTER AND SPEAK

DIRECTLY TO THE AUDIENCE.

BUD: (A LITTLE ROD STERLINGISH) It's the first day of a new school year. A day to discover, a day to prepare... a day to get acquainted.

BUD SNAPS HIS FINGERS AND THE CAST UNFREEZE AND GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS.

SCOTT: ...and so, I said to her, "Listen, Doll, I am currently available for the dance Friday night. And with a little persuasion by the right party, I might just go with them."

NICK: And she said...

CROSS FADE TO THE GIRLS

JACKIE: And I said, "I wouldn't go out with you if I was dying and you were Dr. Kildare."

(GIRLS LAUGH)

CC: Oh, no. YOU didn't say that?

CROSS FADE TO THE BOYS

SCOTT: Yeah, she said she was dyin' to go out with me. But, she had to stay home Friday, cause, uh, her doctor told her to, or somethin'.

NICK: Aw, that's too bad.

SCOTT: Yeah, but, she begged me to take her out next weekend. Really, on her knees, she begged me.

CROSS FADE TO GIRLS

CC: He was on his knees? How simply fabulous!

JACKIE: Yeah, but I told him it would be a cold day in "you knowwhere" before I'd go out with him on that stupid motor scooter of his.

CROSS FADE TO BOYS

SCOTT: So, I told her, I'd consider it,...if it wasn't too cold. Then she downright pleaded for me to give her a ride on my Cushman. I told her I couldn't, I had class.

CROSS FADE TO GIRLS

JACKIE: That guy has no class!

SCOTT: She even said I was “dreamy”.

JACKIE: He’s so boring, he puts me to sleep. You know, I think he tries to look like Sal Mineo.

SCOTT: Yeah, and she said, I remind her of Sal Mineo and Marlon Brando.

JACKIE: And he talks like he’s got marbles in his mouth.

CC AND NICK: So, are you going to go out with him/her?

SCOTT AND JACKIE: ...maybe.

THE OTHER GUYS AND GIRLS ALL CAT CALL AND LAUGH IT UP.

SCOTT, SKIP, TOM AND NICK ARE AT A BENCH DOWN LEFT. CHELI, C.C. CYNDI AND JACKIE ARE CENTER. JENARA ENTERS, OBVIOUSLY A FRESHMAN, STARING MYOPICALLY AT HER SCHOOL MAP AND LOOKING VERY OUT OF PLACE.

JENARA: (CROSSING TO A GROUP) Hi, uh,... could you tell me where the snack bar is? (CHECKS HER SCHOOL MAP)

CHELI: (STIFLING A LAUGH) Yeah, sure, it’s right over there. (POINTING OFFSTAGE SOMEWHERE)

JENARA: (PUTTING ON HER GLASSES) Oh, thank you very much. (SHE MEANDERS OFF IN THE DIRECTION CHELI POINTED AS THE OTHERS LAUGH AT HER)

CHELI: Freshman! (OTHERS LAUGH)

CYNDI: What a dork!

TWO MORE FROSH, RACHEL AND AMY, SKIP IN AND TRY TO SIT AT THE CENTER TABLE.

RACHEL: Oooh, I’m so excited.

AMY: Me too, it’s my first day in high school.

RACHEL: Oooh, here's a nice table we can sit at.

AMY: Wow, this is so much fun!

JOE: Hey, you can't sit there. This table is reserved for upper classmen.

JULIE: Yeah, can't you read, or something?

AMY: Read what?

JOE: (QUICKLY PUTTING A SIGN ON THE TABLE THAT READS "NO FROSH" WITHOUT THEM SEEING HIM) This sign right here, see? (THEY STARE AT THE SIGN) You want me to help you with some of the bigger words?

RACHEL: (EMBARRASSED) Oh, we're really sorry.

AMY: Yeah, we didn't know this table was reserved.

THEY STAND UP AND LOOK TO SEE IF THERE'S SPACE AT ANY OF THE OTHER TABLES. SIMULTANEOUSLY, KIDS AT THE OTHER TABLES PUT SIMILAR SIGNS OUT ON THE TABLE TOPS.

RACHEL: Well then, where are we supposed to sit?

RANDI: Freshmen aren't allowed to sit anywhere.

SKIP: Yeah, not even in the bathrooms.

OTHERS LAUGH AS AMY AND RACHEL EXCHANGE WORRIED LOOKS.

JOE: Look, they believed ya!

SKIP AND RANDI: (TEASING) Freshman!

ANOTHER FROSH, POLLY, ENTERS AND CROSSES TO NICK, WHO TRIES NOT TO NOTICE HER.

POLLY: Oh, hi Nicky, isn't the first day of school just too confusing? What classes do you have? Is this the snackbar?

OTHER BOYS HAVE CONVERGED AROUND NICK DURING THIS AND ARE TEASING HIM.

TOM: Ooooo, Nicky, is this the snack bar?

BUD AND BILLY CROSS OUT OF THE SNACK BAR TO LOOK AT THE ACTION.

SKIP: It's so confusing!!!

JOE: So, how do you know this,...FRESHMAN, huh, NICKY?

NICK: Uh, she's just a friend of my little sister. Uh, why don'tcha go over there with the rest of the freshman girls, Polly.

POLLY: Okay, sure. (LOOKS HURT AND CROSSES)

AS THE OTHER UPPERCLASSMEN CONTINUE TO TEASE POLLY, SHE CROSSES TO THE BENCH WHERE RACHEL AND AMY ARE SEATED, LONELY AND OUT OF PLACE.

JENARA: (REENTERING) Hey, this is the snack bar.

JOE: Duh, what a genius.

OTHERS: Freshman...freshman...freshman!...freshman!!!

SONG: FRESHMAN GIRLS

GIRL #1: I can't stand it anymore!
GIRL #2: Why do they treat me that way!?
GIRL #3: Can't they see I'm something more?
GIRL #4: I never get to stay!

ALL: We get treated lower than
The nuts do by the squirrels!
Life has locked us in a can
Labeled, "Freshman Girls"!

ALL 4: Freshman girls, freshman girls,
Won't someone try to get to know us
Out of place, it's hard to face,
And no one wants to show us.

Can't they see that we're not all that fat?
And can't they see that we're not all that flat?
It's really no great pleasure,
To be an undiscovered treasure.

(JOE GRABS A MIC, SPEAKING) The nice thing about freshman girls, is if ya ever need something flat ta write on, there's always their chest.

ALL 4: Freshman girls, freshman girls,
 As popular as Jack the Ripper!
 Underclassed, we're always last
 A Cinderella, with no slipper!

No one listens to a word you say,
They just roll their eyes and walk away.
Pretending we're not there,
Doesn't anybody care?

All the cool boys
Think we still play with toys.
They'd never chance
Asking us to a dance.

As hard as we try,
We can't catch a fly.
It's truly miserable,
Being invisible!

(CHELI GRABS A MIC, SPEAKING: What's the difference between freshman girls and garbage? Garbage gets taken out once a week!!)

Freshman girls, freshman girls,
Why is it that I'm a freshman girl?
Freshman girls, freshman girls,
It should be a crime to be a freshman girl!

Freshman girls, freshman girls,
Why is it that I'm a freshman girl?
Freshman girls, freshman girls,
It should be a crime to be a freshman girl!

AFTER THE SONG, A SMALL GAGGLE OF GIRLS SURROUND A TABLE DR THEY APPEAR TO BE READING A TEEN FAN MAGAZINE, OOOHING AND AAHHHING OVER THE BEEFCAKE. SIMILARLY, A GROUP OF BOYS ARE HUDDLED DOING THE SAME AT A BENCH DL. SOME OF THE GIRLS PART, REVEALING THE ACTION WITH THE MAGAZINE ALLISON HOLDS DREAMILY.

CADI: Ohhhh, where did you get this magazine?

LAURA: This is so exciting! Look at those gorgeous hunks of masculine masculinity!

ALLISON: They're all so dreamy!!!

JULIE: I've got to have a copy of this!!!!

RANDI: (TURNING A PAGE) Ohhh, Ricky Nelson!!!

ALL THE GIRLS SCREAM LIKE EXCITED FANS.

JACKIE: (TAKES MAGAZINE AND TURNS PAGE) Bobby Vinton!! ALL GIRLS SCREAM AND PANT AGAIN.

CC: (TAKES MAGAZINE AND TURNS PAGE) The Beach Boys!!!!

WILDER SCREAMS FROM THE GIRLS.

CHELI: (GRABS MAGAZINE AND TURNS PAGE. DOES A TAKE) Neil Sedaka!?

ALL THE GIRLS START TO SCREAM, BUT CATCH THEMSELVES BEFORE THEY DO.

CYNDI: (GRABS MAGAZINE AND TURNS PAGE) Ohhhhh!!! Elvis Presley!!!!

THEY ALL GO CRAZY, FAINTING INTO A HEAP OF MUSH. THE LIGHTING CROSSFADES TO THE BOYS AREA -DL. THEY ARE STILL GROUPED AROUND SO THAT THE AUDIENCE CAN'T SEE WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING AT.

NICK: Man, where did you get this!!!? VAHVAHVAHVOOM!!!!

BILLY (IN APRON): I've heard about this, but I've never actually seen one before!

SCOTT: Look at that! Isn't she beautiful!!!??

SKIP: She's something alright! Look at that body—I can hardly stand it, guys!!

JOE: Man, would I like to get a feel of one of those!

THEY PART, REVEALING WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT - A MODEL CAR.

TOM: (PICKING UP THE MODEL WITH ADMIRATION) The 1955 Studebaker Golden Eagle. What... a... car!!!

NICK: Man, what I'd do to have wheels like that!

TOM: What I'd do to have any kinda wheels!

SKIP: I think every guy in America should have a car!! It should be in the Constitution, or something.

JOE: (PUTTING HIS HAND OVER HIS HEART) YEAH!!,...one nation, under God,...

ALL: (THEY ALL STAND MOMENTARILY IN THE "PLEDGE" STANCE WITH JOE)
With liberty, and four-on-the-floor, for all!!!

SONG: GOTTA GETTA CAR TONIGHT!!!

(DURING THE SONG, ALL THE BOYS JOIN IN, PANTOMIMING DRIVING THEIR FAVORITE CARS, AS THE GIRLS SET UP CARDBOARD CUT-OUTS OF THE FRONT GRILLS OF 1950s CARS, AT THE TABLES AROUND THE STAGE .AT THE END OF THE SONG, AS THE REST OF THE CAST IS JOYOUSLY JOY-RIDING, BUD AND BILLY ENTER AS MOTORCYCLE COPS, RIDING COMICAL, CARDBOARD CUT-OUT MOTORCYCLES, WITH RED FLASHING LIGHTS. THEY PULL THE REST OF THE CAST OVER TO GIVE THEM A SPEEDING TICKET, JUST AS THE SONG ENDS.)

HEAVENLY VOICES: Chev... T-bird... Ford... Studabaker. We need a car.

TOM: When I gotta date and I can't be late,
There's one thing that I really hate,
I say, "Dad, can I borrow the car tonight?"
He says, "Son, you're mom needs it, to go to the fights."
I need it, I want it, I gotta getta car tonight!

BOYS: Woody... Convertible... Coupe... Hard top...
Gimmie some wheels, so I can get to the hop...
We need it, we want it, we gotta getta car tonight!

SKIP: Debra Sue said that I could do,
Any ol' thing that I wanted to.
She said, "Meet me at the drive-in at a quarter to nine."
I said, "Sure enough babe, that'll be just fine!"

BOYS: I need it, I want it, I gotta getta car tonight!
We can cruise down Main,
We can park at "the Lane"
We can get real far,
But we need a C-A-R!!

DRIVING BREAK.

BOYS: We would drive real slow
By the chicks we know.
They'd hop-in
And off we'd go.

Everyone would know that we were cool,
We'd be the envy of the whole school.
We need it, we want it, we gotta getta car tonight!

ALL: (PRAYING) Give us a Chevy or a Mercury...
SKIP: Even an Edsel would be fine with me!

ALL: We need it, we want it, we gotta getta car tonight!!
(REPEAT)

AFTER THE SONG, SOME OF THE KIDS HEAD OFF TO CLASS, OTHERS GO TO GET FOOD AT THE SNACK BAR WINDOWS, OTHERS HEAD BACK TO THEIR TABLES. THE FOUR FRESHMAN GIRLS ARE ABOUT TO GO OFFSTAGE, WHEN JENARA SPOTS AN EMPTY TABLE UL.

JENARA: Hey look! An empty table!!

RACHEL: Oh wow, a real place to sit!!

THE GIRLS EXCITEDLY HEAD TOWARD THE TABLE AND ARE JUST GETTING COMFORTABLY SEATED, WHEN JOE PASSES BY, CATCHES THEM OUT OF THE CORNER OF HIS EYE, STARES AT THEM MENACINGLY. ALL HE HAS TO DO IS CLEAR HIS THROAT.

JOE: Aahhem...

THE FOUR GIRLS NEATLY STACK UP THEIR BOOKS, WITHOUT ANY QUESTIONS AND HEAD TO THE FRESHMAN BENCH DL. JOE SMILES AND CONTINUES TO THE SNACK BAR WINDOW. CHELI, CC, CYNDI, JULIE AND RANDI ARE DOING THEIR HOMEWORK AT THEIR TABLE. CYNDI IS DOING HERS ON HER OWN AND ALL THE OTHERS ARE COPYING HER WORK, COMICALLY.

CC: This Algebra stuff is really hard.

RANDI: It's useless.

JULIE: Yeah, just tell me when we'd ever use this "modern math" junk!

CHELI: Yeah, no kidding!

CYNDI: Ladies, don't you know, that you have to take algebra now to get into college?

RANDI: Who cares?

CC: Yeah, who's goin' ta college, anyway?

CHELI: (REFERRING TO CYNDI) Probably "Madame Einstein" here.

CYNDI: And what are you going to do? Go to Beauty College?

CHELI: Oh, sure.

JULIE: Nah, they probably wouldn't take her.

CHELI GIVES JULIE A SHOT.

CC: (OFFENDED) And just what, may I ask, is so wrong with going ta Beauty College?

CYNDI: Nothing. I was just making an intellectual comparison, that's all.;

CC, JULIE AND CHELI ARE PUZZLED BY WHAT CYNDI JUST SAID.

CC: Oh.

RANDI: I'm not going to any kinda college. High school is high enough for me.

JULIE: (PONDERING OVER HER ALGEBRA) Yeah, who can understand this stuff?

CYNDI: Ladies, it's not that difficult. (SHE PICKS UP JULIE'S BOOK AND READS) "The reflexive property of mathematics: (PAUSE) A is equal to A "

THERE IS A PAUSE AS THE OTHERS EXCHANGE GLANCES.

CC: That's too deep for me.

JULIE: P.E. is too deep for you.

CC: Oh, yeah?

RANDI: Well, if Princess Cyndi here didn't have Albert Schweitzer for a daddy, she wouldn't be so good at it either. (OTHERS AGREE AND COPY)

CYNDI: I'll have you know, that Daddy doesn't help me at all. He doesn't believe in it.

CHELI: What is he, an atheist or something?

CYNDI: (TAKES ON ATHEIST) No—he's just always left that kind of thing to Mummy.

RANDI: Oh, your Mom helps you with you algebra?

CYNDI: That's right, Dearie.

CC: (PICKING UP CYNDI'S LUNCH BAG WITH NEATLY DRAWN FLORAL PATTERNS ON IT) And does she make you these cute little lunchies?

(CYNDI NODS AFFIRMATIVELY)

RANDI: And, I'll bet she picks you up right on time, every day?!!

CYNDI NODS.

CHELI: And does she read you bedtime stories?

CYNDI: Not anymore.

JULIE: Well, what is she, Doris Day or something?!

CYNDI: (THINKS) In a lot of ways... I guess she is.

CYNDI SINGS, THE OTHERS DO BACK-UPS AND SING MOCKING VERSES. IT'S REMARKABLE HOW MUCH CYNDI LOOKS LIKE DORIS DAY.

SONG: I'VE GOTTA MOM LIKE DORIS DAY

CYNDI: I've gotta mom like - Doris Day.
She reminds me of her in many ways;
She's honest,
She's bright,
She's almost always right.
A mom like Doris Day.

I've gotta mom like Doris Day.
She's as clever as she is pretty.
She cooks,

She cleans,
She should be up there with the queens,
And she's just like Doris
She's just like Doris Day.

GIRLS: (ANGELIC) Ah—ah—ah

GIRLS: She's gotta mom just like Doris Day,
And it really makes us kinda sick!
She's sweet,
Not a nag,
She makes us want to gag!
Won't someone put her away?
What a piece of perfection,
Who could deny her this?

She's an angel,
She's a saint,
I wonder what the heck she ain't.
And she's just like Doris
She's just like Doris

BRIDGE: Day after day,
She whiles the time away;
Doing housework and homework, too
And polishing each and every shoe.

There's no other
What a mother!
Can't you see,
Just what she means to me?!

ALL: I've (she's) got a mom, like Doris Day!
She's perfect in each and every way.
She sews,
She sings,
Look at all the joy she brings,
Cause she's just like Doris,
Yes, she's just like Doris,
She's just like Doris Day!

BLACKOUT.

<End of excerpt>