

a mouth watering fantasy

by

Jan McLean

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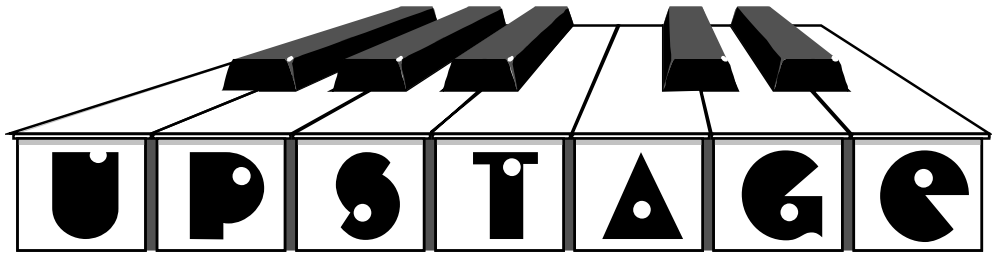
Doug Williams

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productions

present

**CHOCOLATE
BLOCK**

a mouth watering fantasy

Music: Jan McLean

Script: Jan McLean, Neil Jackson, Peter Hill & Doug Williams

Lyrics: Jan McLean, Neil Jackson, Peter Hill & Doug Williams

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CHOC A BLOCK

was first performed in September 1999 at Karralika Theatre, Melbourne, by
Bimbadeen Heights Primary School

APPLICATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE

of

CHOC A BLOCK

should be made to the publisher

UPSTAGE Productions

Tel: 03 9726 8316 or Fax: 03 9727 4644

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PRODUCTION NOTES

CHOC A BLOCK

CHOC A BLOCK

is suitable for Upper Primary or Lower Secondary students.
It can be readily adapted for either large or small groups.

CHARACTERS

CHOC A BLOCK CLUB

Blue

- Head Smartee

Yellow, Brown, Green, Red

- Leading Smartees

Fudge

- Computer nerd

Cherie Ripe

Poli Waffle

Daryl Lee

Timm Tamm

Violet Krumbel

- Team leaders of the Smartees

Team 1 & Team 2

- Members of Violet Krumbel's team

Thyme Out

- Club time-keeper

T.V. CREW

Sam Smooth

- Globe trotting reporter

Clapper

BLOCK A CHOC HEADQUARTERS

El Niño

- Head Bad Guy

Flaik

- Assistant Bad Guy

Professor Sy Clone

- Weather scientist

Klinker

- Warehouse worker

Lindsay

- Semi-trailer Driver

Secretaries 1, 2, & 3

Workers A & B

PLANTATION PEOPLE

Toby Le Rone

- Head of Cococabean operations

Flipper

Nipper

- computer (non-) experts

Gunner & Slimy

- Colonial henchpersons

GROUPS

SMARTEES ... Choc A Block Club Members

CHOCOLATE BULLETTES ... El Niño's additional workers

CARNIVAL PEOPLE in Cococabean

CHOC-A-BLOCK DANCERS

COLONIAL HENCHMEN

TELEVISION CREW

SCENES

SCENE 1..... In the Choc-A-Block clubhouse
SCENE 2..... In Block-a-Choc headquarters
SCENE 3..... In the street
SCENE 4..... In Cococabean
SCENE 5..... In the Choc-A-Block clubhouse
SCENE 6..... In Block-a-Choc headquarters
SCENE 7..... In Cococabean

PROPERTIES

SCENE 1

Clubhouse sign (Choc A Block Club) and furniture, computer and chair, 'fruit boxes'/crates, 'gong', school bags, large size dice, knife, fork and tray

SCENE 2

Warehouse sign (Block A Choc Headquarters), boxes/cartons/crates of chocolates, giant weather changing machine with appropriate sign and an obvious handle, computer and chair, large wall mounted graph, elevated platform as a 'command centre'

SCENE 3

Street light, two Fire Escape exits or signs to indicate fire escapes are just off stage in the wings, signs for street names and directions to the airport and housing estate which are in opposite directions

SCENE 4

Tropical-style plants, carnival sign and other carnival decorations, outdoor tables and chairs, computer and chair under a large shade umbrella, TV camera and other paraphernalia for TV crew such as a clapper board and microphone

SCENE 5

As for Scene 1

SCENE 6

As for Scene 2, pizza boxes

SCENE 7

As for Scene 4 except computer is missing, flux capacitor

Note: At several places the text refers to particular commercial chocolate sweets available in Australia. Substitute locally available names where appropriate. You may also like to change some character names to play on the words of local products.

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THE SCRIPT

CHOC A BLOCK

SCENE 1

IN A WAREHOUSE ATTIC ON QUALITY STREET. IT LOOKS LIKE A KIDS' CLUB HOUSE - POSTERS, SIGNS (SUCH AS "CHOC-A-BLOCK CLUB: - KEEP OUT!"), JUNKIE FURNITURE MADE FROM FRUIT BOXES ETC. THE ATTIC EFFECT IS POSSIBLY CREATED BY A LADDER UP FROM UNDER STAGE AS AN ENTRANCE, OR BY A WINDOW VIEW OF THE SKYLINE OF A CITY, OR BY AN ENTRANCE 'CHUTE' THROUGH WHICH CHILDREN CRAWL TO ENTER THE ROOM. THERE IS A SECRET FEEL ABOUT THE ROOM.

THERE IS A COMPUTER IN ONE OBVIOUS CORNER WITH A NERD KID FOCUSED ON THE SCREEN. SCHOOL BAGS ARE DISCARDED IN ANOTHER CORNER.

A FEW KIDS ARE ARRANGING BOXES IN A SEMI-CIRCLE READY FOR A MEETING. THERE IS AN OLD FRYING PAN HANGING TO THE SIDE WITH A LEVER PERCHED ABOVE IT LIKE A GONG.

FX: GONG SOUNDS THREE TIMES.

ALL STOP AND FACE THE ENTRANCE(S) TO THE CLUBHOUSE.

BLUE SMARTEE: (SHOUTING) Take a break ...

ALL (FROM BELOW): Take a Kit Kat.

BLUE SMARTEE: Come on up Smartees.

HEAPS OF KIDS COME STREAMING INTO THE CLUBHOUSE. THEY ARE EXCITED AND ANIMATED WITH EACH OTHER. COMMENTS SUCH AS:

"TGIF" ... "WHAT?" ... "THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY."

... "STOP PUSHING" ... "KEEP PUSHING."

... "IT'S GREAT TO BE AT CLUB AGAIN."

... "YEAH IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE WE LAST MET."

AS THE LAST OF THE MEMBERS ARRIVE BLUE SMARTEE SPEAKS:

BLUE: (STEPPING FORWARD) And who are we?

ALL: We're the Smartees.

BLUE: And our club is?

ALL: Choc-A-Block!

CHEERING

BLUE: Is everybody here?

ALL: Yeah Bluey.

BLUE: What night is it?

ALL: Friday night!

BLUE: And what is Friday night?

ALL: Friday night is chocolate night.

SONG 1: "FRIDAY NIGHT IS CHOCOLATE NIGHT"

YELLOW: (STEPPING FRONT CENTRE) All stand for the chocolate oath! Hands on tummies.

ALL STAND WITH BOTH HANDS ON TUMMIES AND SAY AFTER THE LEADER AS FOLLOWS:

BLUE: I love chocolate in my tummy ...

ALL: ... I love chocolate in my tummy.

GREEN: I will honour the wrapper...

ALL: ... I will honour the wrapper.

RED: I will lick the cream ...

ALL: ... I will lick the cream.

BROWN: And cheerfully I say ...

ALL: ... Eat chocolate, ... drink chocolate, ... forever more! YEAH!!

BLUE: (STEPPING FORWARD IN SERGEANT MAJOR FASHION AND READING FROM CLIPBOARD) Roll call! Places everyone!

LEAD SMARTEES MARCH TO FRONT OF STAGE AND MAKE A LINE FACING THE AUDIENCE. OTHER SMARTEES HUSTLE BACK BEHIND THE SEMI-CIRCLE OF BOXES. WHEN A PERSON HAS THEIR NAME CALLED THEY MARCH VIGOROUSLY TO THE FRONT, SALUTE THE LEADERS, WHO REMAIN FACING THE AUDIENCE, AND STAND ON A BOX. THERE ARE 5 BOXES ALTOGETHER.

BLUE: (IN VERY COMMANDING SERGEANT MAJOR FASHION) Right! Listen up you lot! Cherie...

CHERIE RIPE: ... Ripe

BLUE: Poli ...

POLI WAFFLE: ... Waffle

BLUE: Daryl ...

DARYL LEE: ... Lee

BLUE: Timm ...

TIMM TAMM: ... Tamm

BLUE: Violet ... (NO ANSWER BUT ALL THE SMARTEES LOOK AROUND FOR VIOLET) ... Violet ... (NO ANSWER) ... (DROPPING INTO A KID'S VOICE) ... Awww, c'mon Violet you're not playing properly. You're supposed to say ... Krumbel. Remember next time. (REVERTS TO SERGEANT MAJOR VOICE) Now, everyone ... line up behind your leader!

SMARTEES SHUFFLE AND PUSH TO THEIR PLACE BEHIND THEIR LEADER. WHEN THE TEAMS ARE ARRANGED THE MEMBERS OF EACH HAVE THE SAME COLOUR T-SHIRT. IT IS OBVIOUS TO EVERYONE EXCEPT THE LEAD SMARTEES (WHO ARE STILL FACING THE AUDIENCE) THAT A TEAM IS MISSING.

TIMM TAMM: (WAVING HAND IN AIR) But ... But ... Bluey ...

YELLOW: (DISMISSIVELY WAVING OVER HIS SHOULDER) No time. We're running late. We have to start the chocolate game. Keep going Bluey.

BLUE: Cherie Ripe! Bring on the dice!

CHERIE RIPE NICKS OUT.

TIMM TAMM: (WAVING HAND IN AIR) But Bluey I've been trying to...

CHERIE RIPE RETURNS WITH A GIANT DICE.

GREEN: (DISMISSIVELY WAVING) Oh, not now Timm. We've just started. Keep going Bluey.

BLUE: Yeah, yeah I'm trying ... OK. Poli Waffle bring on the knife.

POLI WAFFLE NICKS OUT.

TIMM TAMM: (WAVING TWO HANDS IN AIR) But Bluey I've been trying to...

POLI WAFFLE RETURNS WITH A GIANT KNIFE.

BROWN: (DISMISSIVELY WAVING) Come on Timm, you've been told to keep quiet. Button up and stop interrupting. Next call Bluey.

BLUE: Right. Daryl Lee get the fork.

DARYL LEE NICKS OUT. TIMM TAMM IS OBVIOUSLY IN A HUFF.

BLUE: All right Timm Tamm *now* it's your turn. Get the tray.

DARYL LEE RETURNS WITH A GIANT FORK.

TIMM TAMM: (SOOKING ALL THE WAY) Yeah OK. It won't do you any good. You'll see ... (DISAPPEARS OFF STAGE).

BLUE: (RUBBING HIS HANDS WITH GLEE). Now for the best bit. Violet Krumbel! Go get ... the chocolate!!

BLUE SMARTEE TURNS DRAMATICALLY ON HIS HEELS AS HE SAYS THE WORD CHOCOLATE. AT THE SAME TIME TIMM TAMM RETURNS WITH THE TRAY.

TIMM TAMM: I'd like to see that. There *is* no Violet! There is *no* chocolate!

BLUE: (IN QUESTIONING DISBELIEF) No chocolate!?!
YELLOW/RED: (TURNING) No chocolate!
GREEN/BROWN: (TURNING) No chocolate!
ALL: No Chocolate!!!
TIMM TAMM: See. I have been trying to tell you. Violet and the team haven't arrived with the chocolate.
RED: (INCREDULOUSLY) But they're breaking the rule. (INDIGNANTLY) Rule three, sub-section four says the Chocolate Collecting Team will never be late!
BROWN: No one's ever been late before.
FX: GONG SOUNDS.
GREEN: Saved by the gong. There's Violet now. Everyone ...
ALL: Take a break ...
VIOLET C: (OFF STAGE IN A DEJECTED VOICE) ... Take a Kit Kat ... If I could find one.

VIOLET AND HER TEAM ENTER AS KIDS ON STAGE LOOK AT EACH OTHER IN BEWILDERMENT.
BLUE: (SUSPICIOUSLY) What do you mean ... *If* ... you could find one!?!
VIOLET C: (WITH FLAT EXPRESSION) I couldn't find a big block of chocolate anywhere.
GREEN: (REACHING AROUND BLUE SMARTEE) Well what about a little block of chocolate?
VIOLET C: (WITH FLAT EXPRESSION) No little block of chocolate.
RED: (REACHING AROUND GREEN SMARTEE WHO IS STILL REACHING AROUND BLUE SMARTEE) Well what about Mars Bars?
VIOLET C: (WITH FLAT EXPRESSION) No Mars Bar.

BROWN: (REACHING AROUND RED SMARTEE WHO IS STILL REACHING AROUND GREEN SMARTEE WHO IS STILL REACHING AROUND BLUE SMARTEE) Freddo Frogs then?

VIOLET C: (WITH MORE EXPRESSION) I am telling you that the shelves are empty!!! There is even a sign up saying "Sorry no chocolate available". There wasn't even any cooking chocolate.

TEAM 1: (A PERSON IN VIOLET KRUMBEL'S TEAM) We even went to every shop in town. No chocolate!

TEAM 2: (WITH GREAT DRAMA) It's as if ... there is no chocolate left ... anywhere.

ALL SIGH DEEPLY.

ALL: No chocolate!

SONG 2: "LIFE WITHOUT CHOCOLATE"

BLUE: (NOTICING THAT THE NERD KID HAS BEEN AT THE COMPUTER IN THE CORNER ALL THROUGH THE MEETING) Fudge! Did you hear that? We're facing a night without chocolate and all you can do is stare at that computer screen!

FUDGE: (LOOKING UP FROM HIS COMPUTER FOR THE FIRST TIME) Eh, eh! Oh yeah, sorry Bluey. I wasn't paying attention. There's something really strange happening on all my chocolate web sites. There doesn't seem to be any chocolate!

ALL: Duh!

TIMM TAMM: Talk about thick Fudge.

BLUE: Yeah thanks Fudge. We know there's no chocolate left in town.

FUDGE: No chocolate left in town! I'm talking global.

POLI WAFFLE: Global. You mean all around the world?

FUDGE: Yeah all around the world. I have logged into every site with chocolate, just like I do every other Friday night. And tonight every one of them is asking "Where's The Chocolate!?" It's as if ... there is no chocolate left ... anywhere.

SONG 3: Reprise "LIFE WITHOUT CHOCOLATE"

- FX: COMPUTER SOUND.
- FUDGE: Hang on. I've got something coming in. Oh it's only one of those emails again.
- BLUE: What emails?
- FUDGE: It's the umpteenth one I've had that starts off "Attention headquarters@operation.block-a-choc". Someone must be messing up because our address is headquarters@operation.choc-a-block. I thought they might explain something about the chocolate shortage, but they only talk about weather stuff like cloud density and rainfall and drought.
- BLUE: Give us a look. (MOVES TO THE COMPUTER) Where are they sent from?
- FUDGE: Some place in South America.
- BLUE: (LOOKING AT THE SCREEN AND READING ALOUD) El Niño ...
- POLI WAFFLE: (INTERRUPTING)... Oh no, not another problem being blamed on *that* weather pattern.
- BLUE: ... Cloud density 25% in the north and 45% in the south. Perfect conditions for harvesting beans, if the weather changes. Awaiting instructions.
- POLI WAFFLE: Is that it? Just tell them to harvest their stupid beans. As long as it's not spinach. I hate spinach.
- FUDGE: See! Nothing to do with the chocolate shortage.
- BLUE: Hmmm ... but why attention it to block-a-choc?
- FX: GONG SOUNDS LOUDLY.
- THYME OUT: Time out gang. It's 5:30, it's Friday night and we all have to get home for tea.
- TIMM TAMM: Might as well. We haven't had any chocolate to eat here.
- BLUE: This is a crisis! We have to go home now, but I am calling a special meeting for tomorrow morning ten o'clock. We have to find out what is happening to our beloved chocolate or this club won't exist. Go home. Watch the news. Read the papers. See what you can find out. Our world will be choc-a-block again!

ALL: Yeah!!!

**SONG 4: Reprise "FRIDAY NIGHT IS CHOCOLATE
NIGHT"**

BLACKOUT

END SCENE 1





THE LYRICS

CHOC A BLOCK

FRIDAY NIGHT IS CHOCOLATE NIGHT

Words: Jan McLean

Music: Jan McLean

INTRO

CHOC A BLOCK (x 4)

VERSE 1

There's a club in town that's the best around.
It's Choc A Block. Yes Choc A Block.
We have a date and we can't be late.
At Choc A Block. Yes Choc A Block.
We meet each week for a chocolate treat
At the club house here in Quality Street.
And you can bet that we feel all right
'Cause Friday night is Chocolate night.

INTERLUDE

Friday Night ... Chocolate Night (Repeat)

VERSE 2

We're the Smartees and we love to party
At Choc A Block. Yes Choc A Block.
We come to eat our chocolate sweets
At Choc A Block. Yes Choc A Block.
It doesn't matter if it's dark or light
Crunchy or smooth, it's a tummy delight.
And you can bet that we feel all right
"Cause Friday night is Chocolate night.

INTERLUDE

Friday Night ... Chocolate Night (Repeat)

BRIDGE

Swing those hips do the Peppermint Twist,
Rocky Road Baby, twirl your wrist.
Kick up your heels do the Freddo Frog leap,
And rap to the beat with your Kitty Kat feet.
Move your partner do the Bounty Line
Dance
Float like an alien in a Mars Bar trance.
Do-Se-Do to the Polly Waffle jig,
It's toe-tapping time at this chocolate gig

REPEAT VERSE 1

CODA

FRIDAY NIGHT ... CHOCOLATE NIGHT
FRIDAY NIGHT ... CHOCOLATE NIGHT
AT CHOC A BLOCK ... YEAH!

