



AL'S ADVENTURES IN WASTELAND

A world musical
for children

Script and Lyrics by
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Music by
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Electronic tracks by **Luigi Mastandrea**
Based on an idea by **Michele Francipane**

CHILDREN'S LIBRETTO

Scene 3

There is a lot of traffic noise.

A video image of Tokyo can be seen.

People are wearing face masks to guard them against the air pollution.

Al on mic.:

These earthlings look very strange. They all seem to have something on their faces. It looks as though they are breathing masks- very odd. I thought that the Earth Planet had air that the humans could breathe in... I must do some more investigating!

Three characters now come onto the stage: Japanese woman, Japanese man and the Traffic Cop in between them.

SONG 3: PROUD TO BE IN JAPAN

Japanese Man, Japanese Woman and Traffic Cop:
Stop and start, stop and start

Japanese Woman:

**I shop at supermarkets and I like to use my car,
I travel to the nearest one, it is not very far,
I pack my plastic bags with food, enough for everyone,
And then I drive my car back home, living here is fun!**

ALL:

**Japan's a special country
Japan, it's the best,
The problem is the smog is here
And gets onto my chest!**

They all start coughing!!

Japanese Man:

I travel to the factory where we all make Toyota,
 It's great to work within a team that makes this special
 motor,
 It's really fuel efficient with technology supreme,
 I think our modern Japanese car really is a dream!

ALL:

Stop and start, stop and start
 Stop and start, stop and start
 Stop and start, stop and start, that is what we do all day,

Traffic Cop:

Stop and start, Stop and start,
 Stop and start, stop and start, that is what I do all day.
 The cars, the buses and the trucks all travel round this way,
 Stop and start, all travel round this way
 I wear a mask to stop the fumes from entering my nose,
 But keeping traffic flowing well- it keeps me on my toes!

ALL:

Stop and start, stop and start, that's what we do all day,
 Stop and start, Stop and start, all travel round this way,
 Stop and stop and stop and stop and...

Japan's a special country
 Japan, it is the best,
 The problem is the smog is here
 And gets onto my chest!
They all start coughing!!

Japanese Woman:

I pack my plastic bags with food, enough for everyone,
 And then I drive my car back home, living here is fun!

Japanese Man:

**It's really fuel efficient with technology supreme,
I think our modern Japanese car really is a dream!**

ALL:

**Stop and start, stop and start
Stop and start, stop and start**

**Japan's a special country
Japan, it's the best,
The problem is the smog is here
And gets onto my chest!**

ALL + Children:

**Japan's a special country
Japan, it's the best,
The problem is the smog is here
And gets onto my chest! (4 times)**
(free coughs!)

All the Japanese characters freeze.

Al:

*briefly appears at the side of the stage,
very down-hearted:
Well that wasn't what I expected. Change of mood- now more upbeat
again:
Ah well... time to move on... where shall I go next?*

*Lights dim and the **TRAVEL MUSIC III** starts up.
The light chase indicates that the spaceship is travelling.*

Scene 4

Music depicts an under sea world.

The stage is black, but lit by ultra-violet lights.

Actors enter carrying fluorescent, flat shapes, representing sea creatures. They move as though being propelled by under-sea waves.

Al enters wearing fluorescent goggles and snorkels. He explores all around him.

He moves to a spotlighted area to lead the children in singing.

Al removes his mask and snorkel to sing with the children- he can breathe underwater, of course, because he is an alien!

An alternative option to these images, is to use a video sequence before Al starts to lead the singing.

Al removes his mask and snorkel to sing with the children- he can breathe underwater, of course, because he is an Alien!

SONG 4: THE WORLD UNDER THE SEA

(Sung by children in the audience led by Al.

Echo by Alto, Tenor and Bass)

Children:

So silently, (A, T, B: So silently)

A world exists beneath the sea.

No sun to light, no stars to guide,

No clouds that drift, no moon that hides.

But down below, (A, T, B: In water's dark)

Swim fish and turtle, whale and shark.

Sea urchins and the seaweed sway,

As if listening to songs so far away.

A, T, B:

Crabs peer around with eyes on stalks

Children:

What would they say if they could talk?

A, T, B:

And scuttling sideways in this eerie land

Children:

They bury themselves beneath the sand.

So silently, (A, T, B: So silently)

A world exists beneath the sea.

No sun to light, no stars to guide,

No clouds that drift, no moon that hides.

A, T, B:

Crabs peer around with eyes on stalks

Children:

What would they say if they could talk?

A, T, B:

And scuttling sideways in this eerie land

Children:

They bury themselves beneath the sand.

What would they say?

What would they say?

As the lighting changes and the fish swim off a new character comes to the stage.

Tim the Turtle is slowly moving- the music is still continuing at this point.

As he gets to centre stage it becomes apparent that he has a plastic carrier bag stuck in his mouth and it is impeding his breathing.

Al moves forward to meet him and begins to talk.

Al:

Hello! You're quite a beautiful monster of a creature, aren't you! I see that you like to take life slowly! My name's Al. *Goes to shake hands, Tim offers his flipper.*
How are you?

Tim The Turtle just looks up at him.

What's that you've got in your mouth? It looks like a plastic bag. Oh dear. *Getting anxious:* It seems to be stuck in your throat! It seems to be stopping you from breathing... oh no! I'd better pull it out. I'd better be really careful- I don't want to hurt you...
Here I go... one... two... three... *easing it out... it comes out and he falls onto his bottom.*
Phew!- It's out! You alright?

Tim The Turtle:

Thank you. I've had that thing stuck in my throat and haven't been able to eat anything for days- I'm so grateful that you helped me. My name's Tim. Tim the Turtle.

Al: Pleased to meet you, Tim. But what I don't understand is how you got into such bad shape with the plastic bag. How on earth did it get here? I've seen the Human Earthlings using them, but I didn't know that you sea creatures used them as well.

Tim: No- we don't use them- they just get here when the humans throw them away.

Al: Well it wasn't very sensible of you to try and eat it, was it!

Tim:

It wasn't like that! I didn't try to eat it- I was just swimming with my mouth open and it just, sort of, flowed in! And since then, the more I tried to get rid of it, the more stuck it got!

SONG 5: TIM THE TURTLE'S SONG

**We're always safe here in the deep,
We're safe to swim or glide or creep.
We're safely hidden here below
In waters dark as indigo.**

**Upon the land I cannot run
I stumble along in the burning sun
Our eggs are buried deep in sand
Our eggs that we've laid upon the land.**

**And now I need to shout out loud!
To put a stop, a final stop!
To start a revolution!
To stop all this pollution!**

**Discarded bags for us to eat
And tangled nets that catch our feet
and bottles, cans and broken tins
that snag our shells and tear our skins.**

All the actors slowly enter on scene as though they are the start of a supportive crowd. Al conducts the children's choir.

Tim + Tenor and Alto:

**A place that's safe to live to breath
Where we are always at our ease
A place where we can lay our eggs
A place where we can have our nest**

**A place that's safe and free from harm
A place that will not cause alarm
A place that's home and gives no danger
From man or child or passing stranger.**

Al + Children:

Oooh... Oooh... Oooh... Oooh... Oooh...

A place that's safe to live and breath,
Where we are always at our ease
A place that's safe to live and breath,
Where we are always at our ease

A place that's safe to live, to breath,
Safe!

Al: Well look after yourself Tim- I've got to go now, but I'll be thinking about you!
Take care! Goodbye! I must continue on my travels!

Blackout. All exit- light chase for travel music.

TRAVEL MUSIC IV

Scene 6

*A Gang of workers with chainsaws marches onto the stage...
They are dressed in orange boiler suits and they carry wood-cutting
equipment such as an axe or chainsaw over their shoulder.*

SONG 8: WOOD IS WHAT YOU WANT!

3 Workers:

*They enter beating the rhythm on wooden sticks,
children do the same rhythm.*

**Wood, wood, wood, wood's what you want!
Wood, wood, wood, wood's what you want!**

**You want a dining table?
You want a dining chair?
You want an extra stool or box?
We'll give you wood to spare.**

**Wood, wood, wood, wood's what you want!
Wood, wood, wood, wood's what you want!**

**Tables for the garden
And chairs to place around
You want an extra 2 or 3?
We'll cut another tree down!**

**Wood, wood, wood, wood's what you want!
Wood, wood, wood, wood's what you want!**

**Who cares about the climate?
Who cares if we may 'fry'
What's CO2 emissions?
The environmentalists' LIE!**

TIMBER!

**Our farmers like the spaces,
They like their cash-rich crops
Another field you want us to clear?
We'll cut another tree!**

(possibly echoed by children):

**Wood, wood, wood, wood's what you want!
Wood, wood, wood, wood's what you want!**

**Ignore the climate!
Ignore emissions!
Ignore the climate!
Ignore the climate!
'Cause Wood, wood, wood, wood's what you want!**

All exit.

Al:

Now seen standing in a down-spot.

Oh dear! This isn't good.

I think that I will have to make contact with THE SPACE CONTROLLER.

He takes out his 'phone to make a call.

Space Controller on mic.: Hello?

Al:

breathlessly: Hello Space Controller.

I'm in The Amazon Rain Forest and I've just witnessed some terrible destruction. They are cutting down all the trees- it seems such a terrible waste.

S. C.: Yes.

Al: But don't you realise that they are destroying the Ozone Layer?

S. C.: Yes.

Al: But aren't you worried? Don't you see the problem?

S. C.: Yes, of course I can see the problem.

Al: What do you mean you can see the problem?

S. C.: I mean that I can see straight down to the problem.

Al: Sorry sir, I still don't understand you.

S. C.: I mean that I can see the problem down on earth- I can see you on your 'phone- I can see straight through... THERE'S A HOLE IN THE OZONE LAYER!

*There is a total blackout and Al is on his journey again.
Light to trace the journey is seen.*

Rosa: And they could help their friends to help them!

Dragging an old computer from the Waste Mountain– as if to connect it to the Internet.

Danny: Well, we could call out to children all around the World to help us create a Children's Army! A Children's Army for Change!

Mario: Yes! We will mobilize a WHOLE WORLD ARMY OF YOUNG PEOPLE to help us SAVE THE PLANET!

Children's choir led by Rosa start to sing.

FINALE: THE CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE

ALL + children:

Oooh... Oooh... Oooh... Oooh... Oooh...

The Children are our future
We know that and agree
If children make decisions
Our Planet will be green. (2 times)

It's children who'll make the difference
It's children who are wise,
We'll understand the problems
And open up your eyes.

The Children are our future
We know that and agree
If children make decisions
Our Planet will be green.

**We'll re-create our systems,
So we won't need oil fuel,
We won't allow such wastage
And we'll teach our friends in school.**

**We'll learn to protect our planet,
We'll teach respect of the sea,
We'll stop the ice-caps melting,
And try to plant more trees.**

**The Children are our future
We know that and agree
If children make decisions
Our Planet will be green. (2 times)**

Al:

**So now my Space Adventure, is coming to an end,
We all have lots to think about, our wasteful ways to end.
We've looked at earth's resources and the troubles we
have made,
But if we work together OUR PLANET WILL BE SAVED!**

Rosa, Danny and Mario

**Everyday things don't make our lives simple,
And do not create our future dreams,
They develop new problems not solutions,
And build a nightmare, so it seems!**

**We always use our transport
We use it every day
And if we used our feet instead
Our planet will be saved!**

We now know we've all been wrong,

**We have not taken care of precious Earth,
We'll understand and try to put it right.**

**Living on this Planet is the life we've always known,
So treasuring its values is the lifestyle to be grown.
We'll save and care and care and save,
We know that's how we should behave
We'll save and care and care and save,
We know that's how we should behave
Caring for this Planet is a job we all must share!**

Al: That is fantastic!

Mario: So will you trust us to get on with it?

Al: If you are sure that you all can do it!

Danny: Sure? Of course we're sure! Especially as you've got me...
'SUPERDAN' on the job! *Reveals t-shirt with logo of SUPERDAN.*

Al: Well... in that case... NO PROBLEM!

The 3: Hooray!!!

Al: So now I must go back and report to The Space Controller all about my mission.

I will tell him that I have found:

A planet that is OUTSTANDING!

A planet that is PHENOMENAL!

A planet that will be the one which WILL SECURE THE HOPE FOR OUR FUTURE!

I had begun to think that everything was lost, but now I have faith in you... and - to audience - all your friends.

Al:

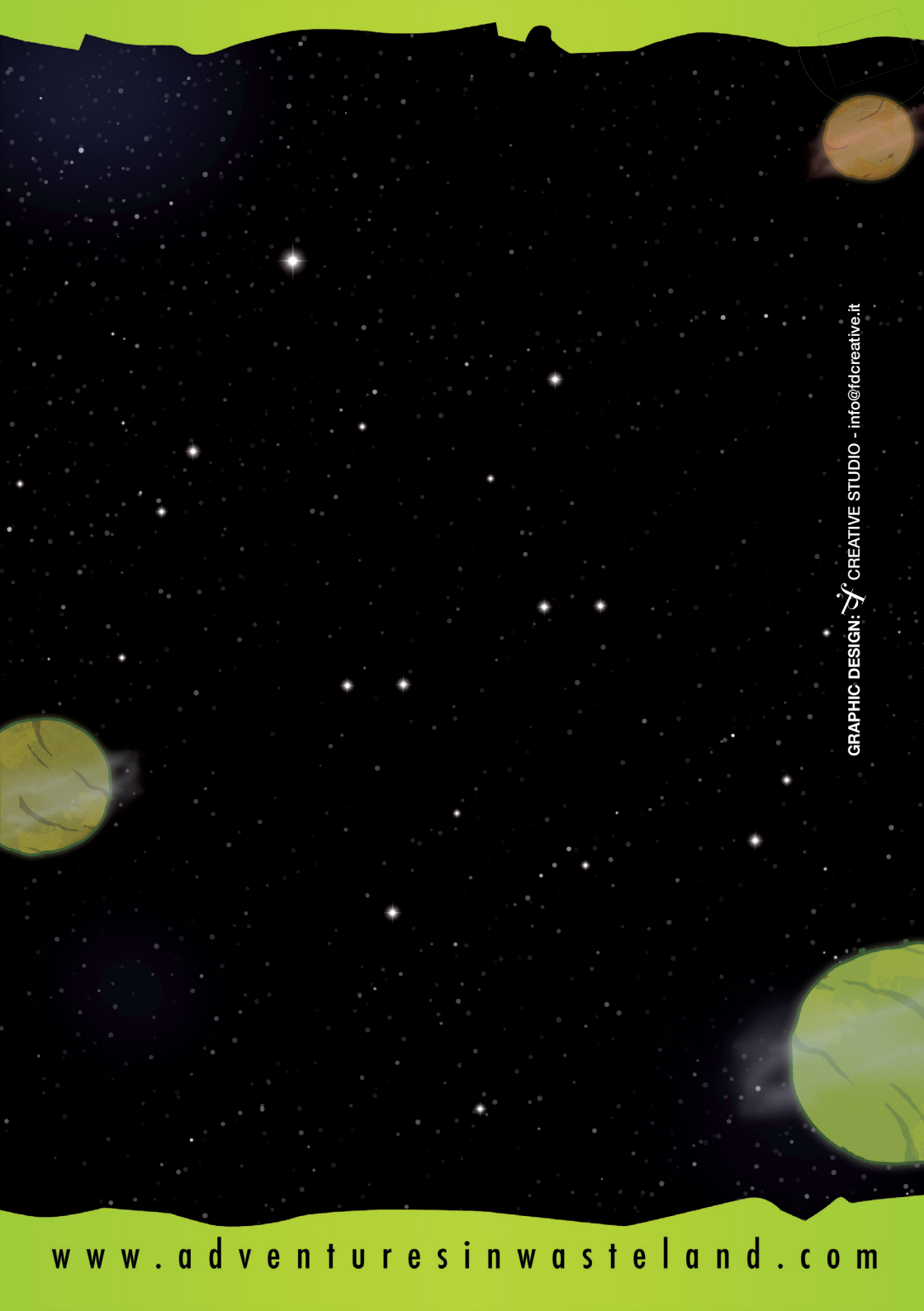
GOODBYE, my friends.
GOOD LUCK, my friends.
BE SAFE, my friends.
But remember this... I'll BE BACK!!!

ALL + children:

The Children are our future
We know that and agree
If children make decisions
Our Planet will be green! (2 times)

Al exits quickly, the others say goodbye to him.
There is the light chase and as he disappears from view.

BLACKOUT/CURTAIN.



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