INTRODUCTION (to be read by one of the narrators)

Welcome to The Bee Musical – an amusing story of life in a beehive. Bees are fascinating creatures as we all know, but as well as producing honey and beeswax, do you know just how important they are as part of the food chain? Bees are responsible for pollinating a third of the crops grown for human consumption. Consequently, anything that affects the welfare of bees can have a frightening impact on global food production. Environmental threats to bees are multiplying and soon the situation could become critical. Our story highlights this issue in a humorous, and we hope entertaining, way.

SCENE 1
IN THE HIVE

The bees are crouched in a large group apart from guards 1 & 2, who are standing. Mr Waxworth and Dennis are to the right of the stage. The Queen Bee is back stage, as are the drones, Grumble, Tumble, Jumble and Guards 3 & 4.

NARRATOR

Mr Waxworth and his son Dennis were mad about bees. They had lots of hives at the bottom of their garden. One lovely summer’s day, Mr Waxworth and Dennis put on their white bee suits and their bee hats ready to walk down to their favourite beehive. The guard bees at the hive were having a busy day. They had already scared off two blackbirds and a woodpecker that morning. Who was it this time?

MOUSE

Good morning guards!

GUARDS 1 & 2

Good morning mouse.

MOUSE

How is the honeycomb looking?

GUARD 1

Wouldn’t you like to know? Last winter when you hibernated in here, you ate nearly all our precious honeycomb and ruined our hive.

MOUSE

But it was so cold outside and the honey was so delicious!

GUARD 2

The Queen Bee was very angry, but this year we’re building up our defences and putting a mouse guard on for the winter, so you won’t get in!

MOUSE

Oh bother!

The little mouse scuttles off and on come Mr Waxworth and Dennis.

GUARDS 1 & 2

Halt, who goes there?

MR WAXWORTH

It’s only Mr Waxworth and Dennis.

DENNIS

Morning bees!

GUARD 1

Morning Mr Waxworth. Things are very busy in the hive today.
Mr Waxworth carefully lifted the lid of the hive. *Mr Waxworth mimes opening a giant lid above the crouching bees and then all the bees stand up.*

**ALL BEES** *(Loudly) BZZZZZZZZZ!*

**WORKER BEE 1** *(Shouting over the buzzing) Can’t talk Mr Waxworth, we’re busy.*

**LITTLE BEES** Busy, busy, busy, busy!

**WORKER BEE 2** We’ve got honeycomb to make.

*As the job requests are put out, groups of bees buzz off in different directions.*

**WORKER BEE 3** *(Loudly) More wax for the honeycomb.*

**WORKER BEE 4** Water for the hive!

**WORKER BEE 5** Store the pollen!

*A group of Worker Bees take ‘pollen’ out of the baskets attached to their knees and store it.*

**WORKER BEE 6** Make honey!

**WORKER BEE 7** Air circulation please!

*Another group of Worker Bees flap their wings as fast as they can.*

**WORKER BEE 8** Better feed the babies.

*The Little Bees fly over to the ‘larvae’ to feed them.*

**HEAD WORKER** Clean the hive!

*A third group of Worker Bees appear with sweeping brushes and busily sweep the hive.*

*Song 1. BUZZIN’  CD track 1/10*

**NARRATOR** With all that work going on, the bees were getting hungry. It was time to send out the Nectar Team! May I introduce to you the Head of Operations. Here she comes, it’s Tumble Bee.

*Tumble Bee cartwheels on to the stage.*

**TUMBLE BEE** Morning everyone, what a lovely day! All present and correct?

**ALL WORKER BEES** Present and correct!

*Jumble Bee enters looking very scruffy with extra big baskets attached to her knees, which overflow with pollen that should have been stored.*

**TUMBLE BEE** Jumble Bee, you’re late again!

*Jumble Bee shuffles into line with the other workers.*
TUMBLE BEE  Right, let’s go and find some nectar.

ALL BEES  *(Punching the air)* Flower power!

WORKER BEE 1  But we’re waiting for Grumble Bee. Where is she?

WORKER BEE 2  She’s practising her speeches again. *(Calling)* Grumble Bee!

NARRATOR  All the bees in the hive loved their work and never moaned… except for one. Grumble Bee was never quite satisfied. She wanted to do something more impressive, like be an actor or an astronaut. More than anything else, she just wanted to feel important.

GRUMBLE BEE  ‘We know what we are, but know not what we may be’.* Are we just little buzzy things that don’t matter?

TUMBLE BEE  Grumble Bee, we’ve got work to do!

GRUMBLE BEE  Oh work, work, it’s a bee’s life.

TUMBLE BEE  OK Nectar Team, are we feeling fit?

NECTAR TEAM  Bzzzzzzzz!

TUMBLE BEE  Have you got the buzz?

NECTAR TEAM  *(Louder)* Bzzzzzzzz!

TUMBLE BEE  Let’s go!

*Grumble Bee sits down looking grumpy as the Nectar Team buzz off without her.*

NARRATOR  Grumble Bee was very fed up. She really didn’t see the point. *Why* was all this hard work so important and how could it possibly make *her* important?

GRUMBLE BEE  ‘Double, double, toil and trouble’** Why do we work? it’s such a puzzle.

*The following song is sung by Grumble Bee and the rest of the bees who aren’t in the Nectar Team.*

**Song 2.  I WANT TO FEEL IMPORTANT  CD track 2/11**

Grumble Bee and the rest of the bees leave the stage.

SCENE 2  
IN THE GARDENS

*The flowers come on stage.*

NARRATOR  In the gardens and the fields below, the flowers were waiting for the bees.

*Hamlet, Act 4, Scene 5 /  Macbeth, Act 4, Scene 1*
PURPLE FLOWER My pollen’s overflowing today.

YELLOW FLOWER Oh I know what you mean, it’s really messing up my petals!

BLUE FLOWER Those bees are taking their time.

PINK FLOWER Yes, and I smell so gorgeous this morning that you think they’d be here by now.

WHITE FLOWER Well I wish they’d hurry up. They need to collect all this pollen as it’s starting to get up my… a… a…

NECTAR TEAM (Interrupting the sneeze) Bzzzzzzzz!

ORANGE FLOWER Oh listen, here they are. Come on everyone, look glamorous!

Song 3. THE NECTAR TEAM CD track 3/12

SCENE 3 BACK AT THE HIVE

All the bees come on stage except for the Queen Bee.

NARRATOR The Nectar Team arrived back at the hive with as much nectar as they could bring and as much pollen as they could carry in the pollen baskets on their knees. Grumble Bee watched them arrive triumphantly and wished that she had something to be triumphant about. There were also rumbles to be heard from the Nectar Team. Some bees felt that Grumble Bee should be helping with the pollen instead of wasting time practising her speeches.

WORKER BEE 3 Who’s Shakespeare anyway?

WORKER BEE 4 It’s pure laziness.

GRUMBLE BEE I’m going to see my friend Mr Waxworth. I know when I’m not wanted!

Grumble Bee folds her arms and with an injured air leaves the stage.

NARRATOR Meanwhile, the work wasn’t over. There was more nectar to be collected and a new team of bees was preparing to go on the next nectar-collecting expedition.

HEAD WORKER ‘Bee’ Team at the ready!

The Bee Team line up.

BEE TEAM LEADER Where can we find flowers, Tumble Bee?

BEE TEAM How will we know which way to go?

TUMBLE BEE Only the waggle dance will tell!
NECTAR TEAM  Watch our dance and you’ll see.

The Drone Bees clap their hands and jump up and down excitedly.

DRONE 1  This is my favourite bit. I’ve got six left feet, but I love to watch a good boogie!

TUMBLE BEE  Nectar Team, get ready for the Bee-Bop!

Song 4.  BEE-BOP  CD track 4/13

The Drone Bees clap and whoop wildly.

DRONE 2  Such talent! 10 out of 10!

BEE TEAM LEADER  Thank you, Tumble Bee. It’s this way everyone!

ALL DRONES  Good luck!

The Bee Team buzz off the stage followed by the Nectar Team and the rest of the bees.

SCENE 4
AT MR WAXWORTH’S HOUSE

NARRATOR  Whenever Grumble Bee felt sad, she could always rely on her friend Mr Waxworth to cheer her up. It seemed that he was the only person who really understood her.

Grumble Bee comes on stage and knocks on an imaginary door. Mr Waxworth comes on stage and ‘opens’ the door.

MR WAXWORTH  Hello dear Grumble, what can I do for you?

GRUMBLE BEE  Hello Mr Waxworth, I’m feeling a bit blue. I just don’t see the point in all this nectar business and now I think the other bees wish I’d just buzz off!

MR WAXWORTH  You know, Grumble, we’re all important. Everyone has their part to play. I’m sure the other bees will see that we’d be lost without you.

They all exit the stage.

SCENE 5
MEETING THE QUEEN

NARRATOR  Meet the drones. They spend a lot of time flying about and waiting for the Queen of the hive. They all want to marry the mysterious Queen Bee.

Guards 3 & 4 enter. The drones, flapping their wings, come hurriedly on to the stage and kneel down on one knee. They look anxiously towards the Queen Bee as she enters. The Queen Bee appears, dressed in finery with a crown on her head and a small mirror in her hand. She does the royal wave to the audience with a rather haughty facial expression.
GUARD 3 Make way for the Queen!
GUARD 4 Make way!
GUARDS 3 & 4 Make way!

_The Queen Bee looks into her mirror and sighs._

QUEEN BEE Mirror, mirror, make it snappy, how can I find a decent chappie?

_The drones jump up and down excitedly, waving their hands._

ALL DRONES Me! Me! Pick me!
QUEEN BEE Mirror, mirror in my hand, who’s the most Bee-eautiful in the land?

_The drones run up to the Queen and fall dramatically to their knees._

ALL DRONES You are! You are, Your Majesty!

_The drones flap their arms and ‘fly’ around the Queen who ‘flies’ at walking pace with a haughty expression, waving one hand slowly, avoiding them, and holding the mirror in her other hand. The drones all talk at the same time._

ALL DRONES Be mine / Pick me / Marry me, Your Majesty, etc.

_The drones congregate to sing the following song._

Song 5. **BEE MINE**

QUEEN BEE Oh, it’s hard being so popular! I think I’m going to have to make a ‘bee’ list. (_She sweeps dramatically off stage._)

SCENE 6

THE HUNGRY BEES

Queen Bee lies back on a lounger. Two worker bees massage her feet; another massages her shoulders. All of the other worker bees buzz loudly as they get on with their chores.

NARRATOR As some of the worker bees attended to the Queen, the others buzzed about their chores the whole day long.

_All the bees, including the Little Bees, buzz loudly._

QUEEN BEE (_Holding out her glass and shouting above the buzzing_) More royal jelly please! What’s that racket? Keep it down – I’m having some ‘me’ time.

_The buzzing stops._

NARRATOR But as the sun was setting…

DRONE 3 (_Shouting_) They’re back. The Bee Team’s back!

DRONE 4 Good, we’re starving. (_There is a sudden loud buzz from all the bees_)