

SALAD DAYS OVERVIEW

Music by Julian Slade. Lyrics by Dorothy Reynolds & Julian Slade				
Opened May 1, 1954 at the Old Vic Theatre, (Bristol). Transferred to London to become the longest running musical of the era. It has been revived several times.				
SYNOPSIS				
Salad Days is a light-hearted, comedy musical set in London in the 1950's. The story revolves around Jane and Timothy. Jane is in search of marriage, Timothy in search of a career. It is a magic piano called Minnie that takes them on an adventure by compelling people to dance and be happy. The result is a wealth of comical situations and a jolly musical.				
SCENE	ACTION	Song #	Title	Singer's)
ACT I				
1	The University. The show opens with a Tramp busking at a small piano (#1) just before the two main characters, Timothy and Jane, are graduating from university. The opening chorus (#2) is sung. Left on their own Timothy and Jane start putting University life behind them. They arrange to meet later in the Park in London then sing a duet (#3). .	1	Opening Music	Instrumental
		2	The Things that are done by a Don	Jane, Timothy & Dons
		3	We Said We Wouldn't Look Back	Jane & Timothy
2	The Breakfast Room. Back at home Timothy and his family are having breakfast and they are instructing him to go and visit his four respectable uncles and chose himself a career. His mother, father and aunt sing (#4).	4	Find yourself Something To Do	Father, Mother, Aunt Prue and Timothy
3	The Park. Jane sits waiting in the Park (where a lot of action takes place) and sings to herself (#5) thinking about finding herself a husband. Timothy arrives and the comedy begins with their marriage being decided out of the blue to avoid being stuck with someone on her Mothers list of eligible bachelors. A tramp also turns up and pays them 7 pounds a week to look after a piano (pee-aah-no) called Minnie for a month. This means Timothy will have a job and Jane will have got married. The tramp starts to play. Timothy and Jane are compelled to dance and sing (#6). They decide to hide Minnie in a garage after first testing Minnie out (#6a).	5	I Sit In The Sun	Jane
		6	Oh, Look at me, I'm Dancing!	Jane & Timothy
		6a	Oh, Look at me, I'm Dancing! - Reprise	Jane
4	The Beauty Parlour. Jane's mother (Lady Raeburn) undergoes beauty treatment at the salon, whilst discussing Jane etc on two 'phones. It is played as a slapstick scene with Helouise and her assistant running around and working on Lady Raeburn, who is the only one to speak.			
5	The Park. PC Lancelot Boot meets Rowena from Gusset Creations and tries unsuccessfully to fix up a date. Meanwhile, J&T are in the park to go busking with Minnie. Neither has told their parents about getting married or about Minnie. Jane's mum is arranging her a party and Tim is lined up to visit Uncle Clam at the Foreign Office. A passing Bishop is compelled to dance when they play Minnie (#7). He tips them half a crown. A mute clown (Troppo) appears and is willing to protect Minnie, live in the garage and be their collector. Soon everybody in the park is dancing and singing (#8).	7	Bishop's Dance	Instrumental
		8	Oh, Look at me, I'm Dancing! - Reprise	Ensemble
6	The Foreign office. Uncle Clam grills Fosdyke (his attaché) who has been dancing in the park. Timothy arrives and discovers that everything is very secret. Cue for a song and dance (#9)	9	It's Hush Hush	Uncle Clam, Fosdyke & Timothy

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7	The Inspector' Office. PC Boot arrives to report the Piano to the Inspector who is baffled. Using a selection of recorded dance music the Inspector makes Boot demonstrate the dances being performed in the park, with the Inspector as a partner. Boot wants to resign. The Inspector wants to join in.			
8	The Park. Jane meets up with an old friend, (Lord) Nigel Danvers. He reveals the Minister of Pleasure and Pastime wants to ban the piano. Nigel plots to catch the minister enjoying himself at a nightclub, The Cleopatra, where he goes to see the singer, Asphynxia. Tim arrives worried that he has just been photographed by the press with Minnie. Jane leaves with Nigel for the Nightclub. Soon everyone is out of breath as they sing and dance while Timothy plays Minnie (#10). ACT I - CURTAIN.	10	Out Of Breath	Ensemble
ACT II				
1	The "Cleopatra" Nightclub. The Manager sings (#11) followed by two Arms Dancers. Jane and Nigel arrive and meet Fiona who is there with a press photographer friend but who falls for Nigel. The Minister arrives Fiona tempts the Minister to a dance but loses out to a plate of egg and chips before any good photos can be taken. Asphynxia arrives and performs a song (#12)	11	Cleopatra	The Manager
		11a	Cleopatra - Reprise	Instrumental
		12	Sand In My Eyes	Asphynxia
2	Night Frontcloth. Outside again Jane & Nigel find Timothy and discover the Minister is one of Timothy's uncles, Augustine Williams. Nigel offers to call of his campaign. Timothy joins it. To stop Nigel pursuing Jane they tell him of their marriage. Nigel is disappointed but they decide to sing a jolly song (#13) just the same.	13	It's Easy To Sing	Jane, Timothy & Nigel
3	The Park Café Terrace. Overheard by Troppo, the minister berates PC Boot for not finding the piano whilst reading extracts from a comic. Timothy goes with Troppo to collect Minnie. Jane meets Fiona for a trip to Gusset Creations. Nigel arrives and they teach Nigel's song (#13a) to Fiona . They all meet up again and have to hide Minnie from the Minister who asks for their help in finding the piano. They deny all knowledge until Fiona (who does not understand the plot) accidentally gives the game away. PC Boot tries to arrest them but they claim the piano is lost so there is no evidence. Soon everyone is after the piano and they sing (#14).	13a	It's Easy To Sing - Reprise	Jane, Fiona and Nigel
		14	We're Looking For A Piano	Ensemble
4	Frontcloth. Timothy discovers that Troppo really has lost Minnie. Troppo mimes that it vanished while his back was turned and that he suspects some children. They leave to break the news to Jane at Gusset Creations and search on route to an instrumental reprise of the Piano song.	14a	We're Looking For A Piano - Reprise	Instrumental
5	The Dress Shop. Jane, Nigel and Fiona are welcomed by Ambrose Gusset. Rowena comperes the Summer Collection of absurd creations and It all goes wrong as she mixes up who is modelling what. Troppo and Tim arrive to break the news. They split up to find Minnie leaving Ambrose a quivering wreck. Everybody sings a reprise of the piano song (#14b)	14b	We're Looking For A Piano - Reprise	Ensemble

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6	Frontcloth. Jane meets the Tramp who is not angry at the loss of Minnie. He is sure she will be found by 4 o'clock on this, the last day their period minding Minnie. Jane sings a reflective song (#15).	15	The Time Of My Life	Jane
7	The Park. Jane updates Tim and Troppo on the Tramp. As they rue the lack of a search helicopter, a flying saucer arrives. A blonde, spaceman called Electrode emerges. Tim feints. Electrode telepathically invites them to tea in the saucer with Uncle Zed, who offers to help find Minnie using his saucer.			
8	Frontcloth. Nigel is concerned about Jane. Fiona is after Nigel. They meet the Tramp and get him to help find Minnie, Jane and Tim.			
9	The Flying Saucer. Timothy, Jane, Troppo, Electrode and Uncle Zed fly over London looking for Minnie. They sing (#16). Zed tells of his astral adventures and the discovery of Planet Zed. Jane & Tim decide to honeymoon there. Eventually they spot Minnie and bale out to find her whilst singing a reprise of the Saucer Song (#16a).	16	The Saucer Song	Jane, Timothy and Uncle Zed
		16a	The Saucer Song - Reprise	Jane, Timothy and Uncle Zed
10	Frontcloth. Tim and Jane's mothers meet and sing a duet about the problems of understanding their children (#17).	17	We Don't Understand Our Children	Timothy's Mother and Lady Raeburn
11	The Park. The Minister promises Boot promotion for finding Minnie. Boot proposes to Rowena. The Mothers arrive in time for Tim & Jane to almost get arrested. Uncle Zed arrives and is introduced. Tim plays the piano and the minister fails to dance as they discover it is a fake. The Tramp arrives with the real Minnie and everyone sings and dances (#18). The Tramp is revealed as "the one they don't mention" - Tim has been working for one of his uncles all along. The Minister is now very happy and decides he can't arrest them as he has also now danced to Minnie. Jane and Tim confess their marriage and so ruin the plans for the party. Everyone pairs off and some of them decide to visit Planet Zed. Nigel and Fiona take over minding Minnie and are to perform at the Royal Garden Party that very afternoon. Troppo stays with Minnie. Nigel practices on Minnie as they all sing (#19). Timothy and Jane are left to reflect on the past month and sing (#20)	18	Oh, Look at me, I'm Dancing! - Reprise	Ensemble
		19	Oh, Look at me, I'm Dancing! - Reprise	Ensemble
		20	We Said We Wouldn't Look Back - Reprise	Jane & Timothy

There is no known video of this show although it was reportedly televised some time ago.

I will produce rehearsal CD's. There are also 2 CD's of the show available from www.Amazon.co.uk or www.Dresscircle.co.uk: -

	CATALOGUE NUMBER
London Revival Cast recording (Elizabeth Seal, Sheila Staefel) - Simplifies harmonies and omits some songs. (Avoid the cheaper cut down version, which cuts many songs out).	CDTER 1018
BBC 40th Anniversary recording (Roy Hudd, Tony Slattery, Prunella Scales, Linda Barron, Timothy West, Leslie Phillips etc). Musically more complete with full harmonies. Running order and limited dialogure have been re-sequenced and re-edited for radio.	EMI 7243 5 55200 2 9