

(FRANK, RITA, BOB, DOROTHY and JANICE enter)

FRANK Welcome to the 1960 Andover Mardi Gras.

RITA There are bales of straw in the High Street.

DOROTHY A merry-go-round for the little ones.

JANICE Stalls where you can buy bags of confetti to chuck over people.

BOB By midnight you'll be able to write your name in the stuff.

FRANK Best of all - we have dancing to the latest hit sensation - Chubby Checker.

*(They dance to Let's Twist Again)*

DOROTHY I live for dancing.

FRANK Friday night, the Fiesta.

RITA The Blue Notes.

FRANK Trumpet.

BOB Trombone.

JANICE Someone serious looking playing the piano.

DOROTHY It's music to dance to - a waltz, a foxtrot.

RITA A pop song if you were lucky.

*(FRANK and DOROTHY dance)*

JANICE Saturday night the old TA drill hall.

FRANK Marty Wilde.

DOROTHY John Leyton.

RITA Gerry & The Pacemakers.

JANICE Boys keep asking me to dance. I always say yes. They'll offer to walk me back home and we'll have a kiss at the door but I won't go out with them again. It will be a different boy each time. I don't know what people think.

**FRANK** Toni's alleyway.

**JANICE** Waiting for the last bus.

**RITA** The boys saying goodnight to their girls.

**BOB** Rows of entwined girls and boys up against Kennedy's wall.

**DOROTHY** What would our parents say?

**BOB** There's always a lot of noise on the last bus home.

**RITA** Mr Razey would scratch his head, and sometimes on a tight bend shout "hold tight!"

**DOROTHY** When we reach my stop, there's a long road to run up. Mr Razey will stay with the lights on until I'm out of sight.

*(DOROTHY and JANICE exit)*

**FRANK** Andover was very different then.

**BOB** A lot of us had the old Hampshire country accent - a bit like you still get down Bristol way.

**RITA** Being born in Andover didn't make you an Andoverian. Your parents had to be born here too.

**BOB** The Advertiser used to have a weekly competition, Recognise someone prominent from their silhouette.

**RITA** We knew each that well.

**FRANK** I liked that.

**RITA** It was so boring.

*(FRANK, BOB and RITA exit. DOROTHY and JANICE enter)*

**DOROTHY** People say that it's all cafes nowadays, but Andover has always been full of them. If there were four of us girls, just one of us would buy a frothy coffee. Another would buy in the next café. One coffee, four girls. No-one minded.

**JANICE** That's the life. Tour the cafes, see what lads there are.

**DOROTHY** Try and chat them up if we fancy them.

**JANICE** Only try?

**DOROTHY** End up at Toni's.

*(The MAJOR enters)*

**MAJOR** I'm sure you young ladies will be willing to sign the petition.

**DOROTHY** What petition?

**MAJOR** To keep Andover the way we like it.

**JANICE** Who wants it any different?

**MAJOR** Haven't you heard about the overspill threat?

**DOROTHY** No. What's that?

**MAJOR** They're going to bring in twenty thousand Londoners.

**JANICE** Twenty thousand? That's more than there are of us.

**MAJOR** See what I mean by threat? There's a meeting at the Guildhall. Come along and make a stand.

*(CHAIRMAN and ALDERMAN enter)*

**CHAIRMAN** Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. We're here tonight to listen to the arguments for and against overspill. Alderman, will you tell us why you are in favour?

**JANICE** Do we want overspill?

**DOROTHY** No, no, no!

**CHAIRMAN** Please, Ladies and gentlemen. Let everyone have their say.

**ALDERMAN** It's not that I want it, Mr Chairman. The fact is we need it. Andover's dying.

**JANICE** Never.

**ALDERMAN** Shut your eyes if you want, but outsiders see a run-down town, badly in need of repair.

**DOROTHY** It's a lovely town.

**ALDERMAN** For us it is. What about our children? They have to leave because there isn't work for them.

**JANICE** Bring in jobs.

**ALDERMAN** We've tried hard enough. But employers look round the town and say 'it's all very nice, but there's nothing here.' They want more shops; somewhere to go for a swim; the things you expect from a modern town.

**JANICE** Build them.

**DOROTHY** You're the council.

**ALDERMAN** We don't have the money.

**DOROTHY** On our rates?

**CHAIRMAN** Please, everyone - let the Alderman present his case.

**ALDERMAN** Yes, our rates are high. A shilling above the national average. But that's barely enough. Our costs are getting bigger; Andover's not. It's as simple as that. I love our quiet little town, but we need overspill if we want to preserve it.

**DOROTHY** How's that going to help?

**ALDERMAN** There's no space left in London. The only way a business can expand is to take its workers and move to an overspill town.

**JANICE** We don't want slum dwellers.

**ALDERMAN** This is an entirely separate scheme. The newcomers will be ordinary people, like you and me.

**DOROTHY** Bringing their own jobs?

**ALDERMAN** That's correct.

**DOROTHY** That won't help us find work.

**ALDERMAN** Expanding firms take on extra staff. People like you. And the beauty is, London will pay for everything - houses, factories, amenities.

**JANICE** London's full of immigrants. They're shifting them down here.

**DOROTHY** Janice!

**JANICE** It's what someone told me.

**CHAIRMAN** We won't have prejudice in Andover, thank you very much.

**ALDERMAN** If someone wants to put in a shift, I say welcome to Andover.

**DOROTHY** How will you know?

**ALDERMAN** We'll have checks in place to weed out any scroungers.

**JANICE** So you say.

**ALDERMAN** Andover's in decline. If we don't do something to stop that we'll be no more than a large village. That's no future for our children. For their sake, support overspill.

**CHAIRMAN** Major, you oppose the overspill scheme.

**MAJOR** I most certainly do.

**JANICE** Do we want overspill?

**DOROTHY** No, no, no!

**MAJOR** I've nothing against incomers, wherever they come from, but twenty thousand of them? We'll be swamped. They'll change the whole character of the town.

**ALDERMAN** For a better one.

**MAJOR** Andover suits me as it is.