

SYNOPSIS	
Scene 1	<p>Egypt is ruled by a cruel tyrant Pharaoh who sits impassively on his throne as the people come to him for help and advice. (Song/music 1: Prelude) He treats them with contempt and waves them away. A wise old Soothsayer sings a message of hope for Egypt; (Song 2: The Crocodile Pharaoh) preaching about a prophecy that tells of a kind and wise leader to come that will rule Egypt fairly and with compassion. The Crocodile Pharaoh will have a birthmark in the shape of a crocodile and will have the power to control the great and fierce reptiles of the Nile. The people sing of their own hopes for what the future Pharaoh will do for them but are harshly dispersed by the Royal Guards who are clearing a space for the Pharaoh’s brother, Bebnum.</p> <p>Bebnum makes his older brother look positively angelic in comparison. He is genuinely evil and is plotting to overthrow his brother become Pharaoh himself, however, the Pharaoh’s baby is the current heir to the throne and stands between Bebnum and his dastardly ambition.</p> <p>Bebnum has stolen the child from the palace and has commanded the guards and his long suffering assistant, Menkhat to leave him alone on the banks of the river. They hurry away and Bebnum takes the child from the moses basket to be thrown to the Nile crocodiles.</p> <p>Suddenly, the whistling of the Soothsayer can be heard and Bebnum hurriedly decides to hide the baby and basket in the rushes to evade detection. He hurries away and the Soothsayer arrives on the banks of the river to find a good spot to meditate. His meditations are somewhat short lived, however, as a strange and unpleasant smell distracts him and he investigates, quickly finding the baby.</p> <p>The Soothsayer checks the babies nappy and spots a birthmark which tells him that the baby is in fact the long awaited Crocodile Pharaoh. Realising the grave danger the child faces, he vows to find an adoptive family to allow the baby to grow old in safety in order to fulfil the words of the ancient prophecy...</p>
Scene 2	<p>Ten years have passed and the Pharaoh has grown old and weak, in no small part due to his brother’s skill with poisons. His family and servants live in fear of his dying as he has decreed that they are to be sealed into his pyramid with them to accompany and serve him in the afterlife. As the guards stand by the gates of the palace, a messenger hurriedly enters with grave news...the Pharaoh is Dead! (Song 3: Death of a Pharaoh) The people of Egypt sing of their mixed feelings, will they be better or worse off now? They hope this is the time that the legendary Crocodile Pharaoh will rise.</p> <p>Three Egyptian townspeople discuss their own feelings and worry that it looks likely that Bebnum will seize the throne. As they laugh about how he believes himself to be the Crocodile Pharaoh, but actually more closely resembles a snake or even a chicken, Bebnum and Menkhat appear behind them causing them to scurry away.</p> <p>Bebnum is unhappy that the people do not accord him the respect he feels he deserves. He sings of how they just “misunderstand” him (Song 4: Misunderstood) and actually, underneath his cruel exterior lies a “tender, loving man,” this is clearly untrue as he promptly orders the three Egyptians who were rude about him to be thrown to the crocodiles! Menkhat, somewhat in fear for his own life, reassures him that he is in fact a wonderful man and that maybe he just needs to prove his greatness to the people of Egypt.</p> <p>Bebnum decides to order the building of great pyramid in his honour, to be constructed by every man, woman and child in the country. Menkhat summons a messenger and gives the order to the people.</p>

<p>Scene 3</p>	<p>As the body of the Pharaoh lies alone at the embalmers workshop the Pharaoh’s ghost rises and looks around, puzzled that he is clearly not in the afterlife. He realises that Bebnun has finally finished him off but his musings are disturbed by the return of Intef the senior embalmer and his assistant, Bek. They are unable to see the ghostly ex-Pharaoh and go about their work, singing about the best way to prepare “The Perfect Mummy” much to the ghost’s horror as they rummage around with his organs, preparing his body for mummification. (Song 5: The Perfect Mummy)</p> <p>Intef tells Bek of the Pharaoh’s decree that his family and servants are to be sealed into the pyramid and Bek is horrified that someone could be so cruel and misguided. The ghostly Pharaoh begins to see the error of his ways and realises the futility of his order, wishing he could somehow change things to allow them all to live. Just as he is pondering his selfishness, Bebnun strides into the workshop to inspect the embalmers work. The ghost tries and fails to attack him but Bebnun cannot see or feel his attempts.</p> <p>Bebnun orders that the mummy be immediately sent to the palace ready for entombment the next day, despite Intef’s protestations that it needs another seventy days to be properly preserved. Bebnun leaves, avoiding another ghostly attack, and Intef helps Bek to load up the cart to take the mummy to the palace.</p> <p>When they leave the ghostly Pharaoh is left sitting thoughtfully alone. Anubis, the jackal headed god of the dead enters and tells him that his remorse has earned him a chance of redemption and a place in the afterlife after all, but the ex-Pharaoh is concerned for the welfare of his family and servants and requests a chance to tell the palace that he has changed his mind. Anubis is unhappy but grudgingly follows him to the palace.</p>
<p>Scene 4</p>	<p>Bek is lost. He has delivered the mummy of the Pharaoh but has somehow taken a wrong turning and now wanders aimlessly around the maze like corridors of the enormous royal palace. Desperately he tries a nearby door and finds himself in a bedchamber and is forced to hide when he hears the sound of approaching footsteps. The room belongs to Tia, a ten year old girl and the Pharaoh’s favourite handmaiden, now destined to be sealed into the pyramid with the mummy of her former Lord.</p> <p>Tia is talking with Kemsit, another servant girl who has been ordered to look after Tia during her final days as she is now considered greatly honoured. Kemsit asks Tia if she is frightened but Tia reassures here that she has always known this would happen and sings that she has spent a long time training herself to face her fears. (Song 6: Song of the Handmaiden)</p> <p>When Kemsit leaves, Bek reveals himself and reassures a startled Tia that he is not there to harm her. He tries to convince Tia that she should escape the palace and the fate that awaits her but she is unswayed, and remains determined to face her destiny.</p> <p>The Pharaoh and Anubis arrive unseen in the room and the ghost begs Anubis to make him visible to the children so he can convince Tia to change her mind. Anubis grudgingly agrees and the Pharaoh appears, one last time, before his subjects. Tia and Bek are shocked but listen to him whilst he explains he has changed his mind and that he no longer requires his family and servants to be interred with him in the tomb.</p> <p>The Pharaoh leaves with Anubis and the children attempt to escape the palace.</p>

<p>Scene 5</p>	<p>Meanwhile, work has begun on Bebnun’s great pyramid and, under the supervision of the Pyramid supervisor and his chief “Slave Master,” the Egyptian people have been rounded up and are working hard building the monument. They sing as they work in a vain attempt to lift their spirits. (Song 7: Build it High)</p> <p>While Intef the embalmer worries about Bek and his whereabouts, having not seen him since his ill fated palace delivery, the miser is so desperate to escape the hard labour of the building site he attempts to bribe the supervisor!</p> <p>The supervisor is implacable and instead leads his workers to the next site close to the banks of the river Nile.</p>
<p>Scene 6</p>	<p>Bek and Tia have escaped the palace and find themselves in a nearby alley, but as they attempt to catch their breath they are unaware of a royal guard creeping up behind them. The guard grabs them and threatens to return them to Bebnun who, he hopes, will reward him by making him a captain.</p> <p>The guard is so busy gloating he fails to notice Saba, a ten year old beggar boy, who has been sitting in his begging spot against a nearby wall. Saba creeps up behind the guard and hits him over the head with his bowl, causing him to release the children and collapse in an unconscious heap.</p> <p>The children ask Saba about his parents and he sings his life story. (Song 8: Life of Beggar) Tia and Bek ask him to escape with them and he agrees, having nothing to lose. They decide to head to the building site of the great pyramid where they plan to disguise themselves as workers.</p>
<p>Scene 7</p>	<p>Bek, Tia and Saba arrive at the building site and are warmly greeted by Intef who is overjoyed to see his apprentice again. The workers quickly dress the children in spare hooded cloaks and give them tools to help disguise them as fellow labourers just as the pursuing guards arrive at the site.</p> <p>The guards are shrewd and are not fooled for long by the disguises, the children realised they have been rumbled and run as fast as they can towards the banks of the nearby river. The guards attempt to grab them but are hindered by the “accidental” clumsiness of the workers who try their best to aid the escape.</p>

<p>Scene 8</p>	<p>The children find themselves trapped on the banks of the river with the guards closing rapidly, followed by the crowd of workers and, worst of all, the distant figures of Bebnun and Menkhat who have been alerted and now hasten towards them in a chariot. Their fate seems sealed but Saba notices a small boat tied to a nearby post and they desperately pile into it and push off into the fast moving waters of the Nile.</p> <p>Bebnun, Menkhat and the guards arrive too late at the riverbank, but one of the eagle eyed guards spot that the overloaded boat seems to be sinking rapidly. Bebnun rubs his hands with glee expecting the river’s crocodiles to do his work for him.</p> <p>The panicking children try to paddle to the opposite bank but the boat has filled with water and they are spilled into the dangerous waters. Ripples of water move rapidly towards them as the Nile’s deadly crocodiles close in for the kill, singing of their deadly intent as they swim. (Song 9: Crocodile!)</p> <p>Suddenly, when all seems lost and the reptilian jaws are just inches away, the King Crocodile calls the crocodiles to halt! Some strange force prevents their attack and he realises that it must be the presence of the fabled Crocodile Pharaoh. He quickly orders the crocodiles to raise the submerged boat, allowing the children to clamber aboard to be escorted to the river bank further along to where Bebnun waits, witnessed by the gathering crowd of Egyptian people that have assembled to watch the dramatic events.</p> <p>As the children clamber back onto dry land the King Crocodile proclaims the coming of the Crocodile Pharaoh and the crowd gasps in wonder. The Soothsayer steps forward to help the identification by looking for the birthmark but just as he is about to announce it, Bebnun bursts onto the scene closely followed by Menkhat and the royal guard.</p> <p>Bebnun demands that the guards seize Tia, Bek and Saba to hurl them into the waters of the Nile but the guards meekly refuse his order, pointing out that it would have no effect as one of them has the powers of the Crocodile Pharaoh. Bebnun flies into a rage and screams that HE is in fact the fabled Crocodile Pharaoh and that he has the birthmark, and not only that, he will prove his claim by demonstrating his power over the crocodiles.</p> <p>Menkhat tries in vain to dissuade his deranged master but Bebnun ignores him and purposely strides into the Nile where he is, predictably, eaten by the crocodiles. The Soothsayer once again steps forward and announces that the Crocodile Pharaoh is...</p> <p>...TIA!</p> <p>The crowd gasp and bend down to bow before her. Tia is bemused and insists they rise. The Soothsayer explains that he rescued Tia as a baby and delivered her into the safe hands of an adoptive family who worked as servants at the palace, where she grew up to also work as a servant. Tia listens and then vows to try her best to become a wise, fair and just Pharaoh, and offers well paid advisor jobs to Bek and Saba as a reward for their help and friendship.</p> <p>Saba leaps at the chance to escape poverty and live in the palace but Bek politely declines, explaining he would love to continue being friends but that he intends to carry on his work as an embalmer, instead asking Tia to offer the job to Menkhat. The people sing with happiness at the thought of the brighter future that Tia, their CROCODILE PHARAOH QUEEN, promises! (Song 10: Crocodile Pharaoh-reprise) (Song 11: Ancient Egypt)</p>
----------------	---

MUSIC AND DANCE GUIDANCE			
<i>ALWAYS USE THE VOCAL/PRACTICE TRACKS FOR REHEARSAL AND THE BACKING TRACKS FOR PERFORMANCE. BE CONFIDENT! YOUR AUDIENCE WANTS TO HEAR THEIR KIDS SING NOT THE ONES ON THE RECORDING!</i>			
SCENE	SONG/MUSIC	SINGING	DANCE
sc 1	1: Prelude	No singing	Try to encourage children to choreograph ideas for this in dance/ PE lessons. All children could work on this even if they won't be performing it
sc 1	2: Crocodile Pharaoh	Soothsayer solo then ALL join in	No dance needed although you're welcome to include one!
sc 2	3: Death of a Pharaoh	Messenger 1 solo then solo lines for Drunk, Old person, Ill person, Salesperson and Miser. Slaves 1,2 & 3 sing a line together	No dance needed although you're welcome to include one!
sc 2	4: Misunderstood	Bebnum solo to start then ALL join in.	No dance, although it is a good idea to choreograph some movement for Bebnum and Menkhat to stop them looking awkward on stage! <i>There is an option to include a choreographed beggar's dance at this point while Saba sings.</i>
sc 3	5: The Perfect Mummy	ALL sing.	Choreographed movement for Intef, Bek and Ghost related to the words of the song (see script.) After each chorus there is an instrumental part to allow them to walk around the table "Madness" style or perform a simple routine.
sc 4	6: Song of the Handmaiden	Tia solo then ALL join in.	It is a good idea to choreograph some movement for Tia to stop her looking awkward on stage. <i>There is an option to include a choreographed servant dance at this point while Tia sings.</i>
sc 5	7: Build it High	ALL sing. Opportunity for Pyramid supervisor and/or Slave Master to sing solo lines if required during the "If you're feeling weary..." section	Some choreographed "hand jiving" type movement would be good if time allows. Encourage children to devise some and teach it to the group.

sc 6	8: A Beggar’s Life	Saba solo. ALL join in.	No dance, although it is a good idea to choreograph some movement for Saba to stop him looking awkward on stage! <i>There is an option to include a choreographed beggar’s dance at this point while Saba sings.</i>
sc 7	— —	— —	— —
sc 8	9: Crocodile!	ALL sing. Then crocodile group section and King Croc solo section. ALL hum the chorus of “Crocodile Pharaoh” at the end when crocodiles lead children to the bank	Choreographed dance to fit with the words of the song. The crocodiles need to appear menacing during the verses and choruses and then “innocent and vulnerable” during their group “But we only want to eat...” section. They could link arms and sway during this or similar. The crocodiles should gradually move in closer to surround the children so they are about to attack when King Croc shouts “Wait a minute...STOP!”
sc 8	10: Crocodile Pharaoh (reprise)	ALL sing	No dance. Opportunity for choreographed swaying or similar?
sc 8	11: Ancient Egypt	ALL sing	No dance. Opportunity for choreographed “hand jive type” movement if required.
Finale/ Encore	Optional Medley	ALL sing	By this point you are probably past caring what they do!

PROPS AND SCENERY GUIDANCE		
SCENE	SUGGESTED PROPS	OPTIONAL BACKDROP
1	Pharaoh’s throne/chair , Pharaoh’s head dress , Drunk’s beer mug , Slaves chains , Miser’s money bag , Ill person’s hanky , Salesperson’s tray of goods , Guard’s spears (x2) , Soothsayers’s wooden staff , Old person walking stick and roll mat/towel , Bebnum’s moses basket and swaddled baby doll ,	General Egyptian landscape: desert, pyramids, sphinx etc. <i>(If required this could stay throughout the whole play)</i>
2	Guard’s sign reading “ TEN YEARS LATER ” Guard’s Spears (x2) , Menkhat’s clipboard and pen ,	Palace and palace gates
3	Sign reading: “ INTEFS: EMBALMER TO THE STARS! ” Cloth covered table , dummy in shroud , canopic jar(s) , pretend knife , brain , lungs , intestines , stomach , liver , small heart , big salt or pepper mill , cloth to stuff in (painted stuffed tights?), length of bandage , Anubis’ Jackal head and scales	Egyptian room interior
4	Optional Bed or basic furniture that gives the impression of a bedroom	Egyptian room interior (as scene 3)
5	Egyptian Tools , slavemaster’s whip , supervisor’s clipboard.	General Egyptian landscape (as scene 1)
6	Saba’s begging bowl (ensure it is not hard and heavy due to it being used to hit the guard’s head!)	Palace and palace gates (as scene 2)
7	Sign reading: “ COMING SOON: GREAT PYRAMID, ” Hooded cloaks x3 ,	General Egyptian landscape (as scene 1)
8	Free standing cardboard rowing boat , Bebnum’s shredded cloak	River Nile landscape

NON-SPEAKING CAST GUIDANCE		Scenes							
CHARACTERS	DESCRIPTION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Crocodiles	Essential crocodiles for singing and dancing during the final scene								x
Townspeople	Optional Egyptian men, women and children to act as chorus and dancers where required	x							x
Henchmen	Optional henchmen dancers to dance during Misunderstood		x						
Servants	Optional servant dancers to dance during the Handmaiden’s Song				x				
Beggars	Optional beggars to dance during Saba’s song “ A Beggar’s Life ”						x		

SPEAKING CAST LIST			Scenes								
CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION	LINES	SOLO	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bek	10 year old apprentice embalmer	35				x	x		x	x	x
Bebnum	Pharaoh's evil brother. Aims to be Pharaoh at any cost	28	song 4	x	x	x					x
Pharaoh/ghost	Bad Pharaoh but sees error of his ways when he dies	25		x		x	x				
Tia	Pharaoh's servant. Destined to be sealed in pyramid	25	song 6				x		x	x	x
Menkhat	Bebnum's assistant. Very loyal but not essentially bad	17		x	x						x
Intef	Senior embalmer	15				x		x		x	x
Saba	Street beggar boy. Helps Bek and Tia escape.	10	song 8						x	x	x
Guard 1	Royal guard	9		x						x	x
Guard 2	Royal guard	9		x						x	x
Soothsayer	Wise person. Rescues baby and finds safe home for it.	8	song 2	x	x			x		x	x
Egyptian 1	Townsperson	7			x			x		x	x
Egyptian 3	Townsperson. A little slow of thinking.	7			x			x		x	x
Anubis	Jackal headed god of the dead	7				x	x				
Egyptian 2	Townsperson	6			x			x		x	x
Salesperson	Egyptian wheeler dealer. Usually has tray of goods.	6		x	x					x	x
Guard 3	Royal guard	6							x	x	x
Supervisor	Pyramid site supervisor	4						x			x
Slave Master	Site supervisors security/bouncer	3						x			x
Kemsit	Servant girl given to Tia before her entombment	3					x				x
King Croc	King of the Nile crocodiles	3	song 9								x
Old Person	Very old person. Little hard of hearing	3		x	x			x		x	x
Miser	Very fond of money	3		x	x			x		x	x
Ill Person	Poorly Egyptian. Has perpetual cold	3		x	x			x		x	x
Messenger 2	Very loud, shouty messenger.	3			x						x
Slave 1	Egyptian slave	2		x	x			x		x	x
Slave 2	Egyptian slave	2		x	x			x		x	x
Slave 3	Egyptian slave	2		x	x			x		x	x
Drunk	Slurs words and staggers a bit	2		x	x			x		x	x
Crocodile 1	King crocodile's second in command	2									x
Messenger 1	Announces death of Pharaoh	1	song 3		x						

SCRIPT	
SCENE 1 (The Banks of the Nile)	<p><i>Scene opens on: Pharaoh (wearing Pharaoh headgear), Guard 1, Guard 2, Slave 1, Slave 2, Slave 3, Drunk, Old person, Miser, Ill person, Salesperson, Soothsayer all on stage</i></p> <p><i>“Song/Music 1: Prelude” and optional dance. Dance should depict the character of the Pharaoh (positioned centre stage) and his unkind treatment of slaves and people of Egypt. It should clearly show how unpleasant he is. When music comes to an end the scene is frozen in tableaux and the soothsayer comes out to the front of stage to sing the first verse of “Song 2: Crocodile Pharaoh” as a solo. The Egyptian people then “unfreeze” to sing the second verse then the Pharaoh and guards leave the stage and everyone sings chorus and remainder of the song.</i></p>
	<p>Song 2: The Crocodile Pharaoh</p> <p>(Soothsayer) Four thousand years ago in a desert land Irrigated by the river Nile. A Pharaoh ruled Egypt with a rod of iron, The people all considered him vile.</p> <p>(ALL faster) Four thousand years ago in a desert land Irrigated by the river Nile. A Pharaoh ruled Egypt with a rod of iron, The people all considered him vile.</p> <p>(All on stage) Pharaohs are all powerful, treated like gods In return they should be thoughtful and wise. This king was just arrogant, greedy and cruel No wonder he was thoroughly despised. (Pharaoh exits stage)</p> <p>The slaves and the people sang:</p> <p>(All) <i>We’re waiting for the Crocodile Pharaoh A legend oh so old. We’re waiting for the Crocodile Pharaoh The prophecy foretold...</i></p> <p>(All) The Crocodile Pharaoh will soon be here (Drunk) The Crocodile Pharaoh will bring me beer (Slaves 1, 2 & 3) The Crocodile Pharaoh will set us free (Old person) The Crocodile Pharaoh will fix my knee (Miser) The Crocodile Pharaoh will bring me gold (Ill person) The Crocodile Pharaoh will cure my cold (Salesperson) The Crocodile Pharaoh will help me sell (All) The Crocodile Pharaoh will rule us well!</p> <p>Rule us well! Rule us well!</p> <p><i>We’re waiting for the Crocodile Pharaoh A legend oh so old. We’re waiting for the Crocodile Pharaoh THE PROPHECY FORETOLD!</i></p>

	<i>Song ends and Guard 1 and Guard 2 re-enter shooping the crowd offstage.</i>
Guard 1	Move along now. Clear off!
Guard 2	Get out of here you worthless maggots...unless you want some of this <i>(holds up fists)</i>
	<i>Stage clears. Only Salesperson remains holding tray.</i>
Salesperson	Alright...Steady on! I'm just an honest businessperson trying to make a living.
Guard 1	Honest? Honest my foot! That jar of ointment you sold me the other day..."Osiris's Tears" you said!...cures all warts overnight...I still can't sit down 'cos I've got one the size a fig on my b...
Guard 2	<i>(interrupting)</i> That's enough. Too much information! Now get out of here. The Pharaoh's brother is coming and you know how he likes his space.
Salesperson	Oh right! I'm not hanging 'round here if he's coming. He's a nutter! I'm off...
	<i>Salesperson leaves stage in a hurry. Guard 1 and 2 remain.</i>
Guard 1	<i>(shouts offstage)</i> OK SIR...THE COAST'S CLEAR.
	<i>Pharaoh's brother; Bebnum and Menkhat his assistant enter stage. Bebnum is carrying a moses basket and is trying hard to shield the contents (a baby). He is clearly evil. Menkhat seems slightly uncomfortable working for him but is very loyal.</i>
Guard 2	<i>(snapping to attention)</i> We've moved everyone away sir...like you asked.
Bebnum	Ah...yes, so I see. Now leave us.
Guard 2	<i>(snapping to attention again)</i> YES SIR!
Guard 1	<i>(Nosily trying to look in basket)</i> What have you got there sir
Bebnum	<i>(angrily moving it away)</i> NOTHING!... I mean...nothing. It's just some...er...washing for the slave girls to wash <i>(angry again)</i> I don't pay you to ask questions. BE GONE!
Guard 1 and 2	YES SIR! <i>(they leave the stage. Guard 2 is still trying to look in basket. Bebnum still hides it from him)</i>
Bebnum	You too Menkhat. Leave me...I wish to pray here by the banks of the river Nile...alone!
Menkhat	There are dangerous crocodiles in the river sir. Please be careful it will be dark soon.
Bebnum	I will be fine. Remember I AM the Crocodile Pharaoh...they cannot harm me! I have the birthmark to prove it!
Menkhat	But sir! It's not real...I helped you paint it on!
Bebnum	IT IS REAL! I can feel the power surging through my veins. There is just one task I must complete for all the power to be mine! Now leave me.
Menkhat	<i>(bowing)</i> Yes sir.
	<i>Menkhat leaves the stage. Bebnum watches him go then moves to centre stage with the basket.</i>
Bebnum	At last the coast is clear! Finally, I can fulfil my destiny!

	<i>He puts down the basket and lifts out wrapped baby doll. He cradles it.</i>
Bebnum	Such a tiny thing...the Pharaoh's only child...all that stands between me and the throne of Egypt when my brother dies. Imagine everyone's sadness when they think you have been kidnapped by bandits in the dead of night...
	<i>He moves closer to the edge of the stage and lifts the baby up...</i>
Bebnum	All that remains is to give the famous Nile crocodiles a little bedtime snack...
	<i>He moves to throw the baby into the audience. Suddenly whistling can be heard offstage. Bebnum looks around startled.</i>
Bebnum	Curses! Someone's coming. They can't see me here and they'll hear the splash. I know, I'll hide you in the reeds. The crocodiles are sure to find you later.
	<i>He places baby in basket and hides the basket just offstage then rushes off. The Soothsayer enters from the opposite side still whistling and carrying a rolled up mat. He looks around then unrolls the mat at the front of the stage.</i>
Soothsayer	Here looks like a peaceful place for a spot of meditation
	<i>(he arranges mat and sits down on it in a cross legged meditative stance. He begins to hum...)</i>
Soothsayer	Ommmm! Ommmm! <i>(starts to wrinkle his nose)</i> Phhooar! What's that smell?
	<i>He gets up, sniffing, and moves towards offstage where the basket is.</i>
Soothsayer	It seems to be coming from over here...what's this?
	<i>He finds basket and lifts out baby. He sniffs it's bottom.</i>
Soothsayer	I think someone needs changing! Hang on... <i>(he pulls down the edge of the blanket to reveal the back of the baby's neck)</i> ...A birthmark...in the shape of a crocodile...I don't believe it! This is the Crocodile Pharaoh...at last! We need to keep you safe and I know just the place until you're older and can fulfil your destiny...
	<i>He carefully replaces the baby in the basket, picks it up and leaves the stage.</i>
SCENE 2 (Gates of the Palace)	Guard 1 and 2 enter. Guard 1 carries on a sign which reads "TEN YEARS LATER" and holds it up centerstage for the audience to read before taking up position guarding the gates. Guard 2 holds up a sign which reads "THE PALACE GATES" then joins Guard 1.
Messenger 1	<i>(shouts offstage)</i> OPEN THE GATES! <i>(messenger runs in)</i> OPEN THE GATES...I HAVE IMPORTANT NEWS...gather 'round and I'll tell you
	Slave 1, Slave 2, Slave 3, Drunk, Old person, Miser, Ill person, Salesperson, Soothsayer, Egyptian 1, 2 and 3 enter from either side to hear the news

	<p style="text-align: center;">3. Death of the Pharaoh</p> <p>(Messenger) Have you heard the latest news today? (All) What news? What news? I haven't heard the news! What news? What news? What news today? (Messenger) It doesn't seem possible that... (All) What you going on about? Tell me quick! This hesitant delivery is making me sick!</p> <p>(Messenger) You might want to take a deep breath first (All) Take a moment. Gather. Prepare for the worst. (Messenger) What I'm 'bout to tell you will mess with your head! Don't say I didn't warn you... (All) THE PHARAOH IS DEAD!!</p> <p>Group 1 chorus and Drunk, Old person, Salesperson Come on baby let the good times roll You know this news is so good for my soul. 'Cos the Pharaoh, the Pharaoh is dead! Yeah!</p> <p>Group 2 chorus and Miser, Ill person, Soothsayer Baby lost, the Pharaoh dead, What will happen now? We all suspect the Pharaoh's bro, killed them off somehow</p> <p>Group 3 chorus and Egyptians 1, 2 and 3 Have you heard the latest news? It will mess with your head. Don't say I didn't warn you the Pharaoh is dead.</p> <p>Group 4 chorus and Slaves 1, 2 and 3 We're waiting for the Crocodile Pharaoh A legend oh so old. We're waiting for the Crocodile Pharaoh The Prophecy foretold!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All (in unison) We're waiting for the Crocodile Pharaoh A legend oh so old. We're waiting for the Crocodile Pharaoh The Prophecy foretold!</p>
	<p><i>Everyone leaves the stage shaking their heads except for Egyptian 1, 2 and 3 who move to the front of the stage.</i></p>
<p>Egyptian 1</p>	<p>Well...it looks like we're going to end up with the brother as our new Pharaoh! Out of the frying pan and into the fire, eh?</p>
<p>Egyptian 2</p>	<p>I know what you mean. <i>(hushed tones)</i> You know they say HE had the baby killed... some people even say the baby WAS the Crocodile Pharaoh!</p>
<p>Egyptian 3</p>	<p>REALLY? How could they tell?</p>
<p>Egyptian 1</p>	<p>EVERYONE knows the Crocodile Pharaoh has an animal shaped birthmark on the back of their neck...</p>
<p>Egyptian 2</p>	<p><i>(looking at Egyptian 3)</i> Well...NEARLY everyone!</p>

Egyptian 3	What shaped animal is it?
Egyptian 1	<i>(sarcastically)</i> A giraffe!... <i>(pauses)</i> ...A CROCODILE you IDIOT...what do you think?
Egyptian 3	Oh...right. So what's so special about this Crocodile Pharaoh then?
Egyptian 2	<i>(looking dramatically into the distance-off the front of the stage. The other 2 Egyptians look that way too in a slightly puzzled way)</i> The Crocodile Pharaoh will lead us to a greater and fairer Egypt where we can all live in peace and harmony together...
Egyptian 1	<i>(to Egyptian 3)</i> You know...like in the song we were singing.
Egyptian 3	<i>(nodding)</i> Ah right...
Egyptian 2	<i>(more sadly)</i> I really wish we had a Crocodile Pharaoh...
Egyptian 1	Yes...the one we're getting now is more like a snake...slippery and poisonous!
	<i>While he is speaking Bebnum and Mekhat enter unseen to the Egyptians. Egyptian 1 and 2 turn and notice him and look worried. They try to attract Egyptian 3's attention but he carries on regardless...</i>
Egyptian 3	Or a chicken! Haha! Look at me! I'm Bebnum, the Chicken Pharaoh...
	<i>He clucks around the stage doing chicken impression until he sees and nearly bumps into Bebnum and Menkhat (carrying a clipboard) who have come onstage. He stops suddenly and slowly backs away...</i>
Egyptian 1, 2 & 3	RUN AWAY....Aaaargh!
	<i>They run offstage. Bebnum and Menkhat watch them go.</i>
Bebnum	See Menkhat, I told you the people don't appreciate me...I'm starting to think they don't like me much at all!
Menkhat	They did seem quite scared sir...I can't imagine why.
Bebnum	Nor me.
Menkhat	Perhaps they just can't see you for the kind, gentle man you really are.
Bebnum	Perhaps, Menkhat, perhaps...oh by the way, make a note to have those three thrown to the crocodiles in the morning will you.
Menkhat	Right away sir <i>(he makes a note on his clipboard)</i>
Bebnum	Now, what were we talking about? Oh yes, why DO the people hate me so much?
Menkhat	I can't imagine why sir. I think you are a wonderful man
Bebnum	<i>(nodding immodestly)</i> I know Menkhat, I know, but if the people won't LIKE me, perhaps we should emphasise my greatness and awe inspiring power...how could we do that?
	<i>They both pause and look thoughtful, stroking their chins</i>
	Song 4: Misunderstood

	<p style="text-align: center;">4. Misunderstood</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Bebnum)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1. Does anyone understand me? Do they know me I wonder? Does anyone know the life I lead? The pressure that I'm under? 'Cos even though no one else does cruelty like I can. Underneath this hard exterior, is a tender loving man.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHORUS <i>(All)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>So misunderstood...I'm sure I'm not that bad. So misunderstood...now they say that I'm half mad! And some misguided people criticised me for a while, But they found it hard to mock me...from inside a crocodile!</i> SO MISUNDERSTOOD!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(All)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">2. Can I make the people love me? Make them see how great I am! I really can't find an answer, I'm really in a jam. I'll make them build a pyramid, work their fingers to the bone. It'll be the greatest ever, a place to call my own!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHORUS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>So misunderstood...I'm sure I'm not that bad. So misunderstood...now they say that I'm half mad! And some misguided people criticised me for a while, But they found it hard to mock me...from inside a crocodile!</i> SO MISUNDERSTOOD!</p>
Bebnum	That's it Menkhat! I'll get them to build me a pyramid.
Menkhat	A pyramid sir?
Bebnum	Yes...and not just any pyramid. The biggest and most incredible pyramid ever.
Menkhat	But sir...we don't have enough slaves for such a big project.
Bebnum	That's not a problem. Give the order that every man, woman and child in Egypt is to have the choice to volunteer to help build it...
Menkhat	They won't make that choice sir...
Bebnum	...Or be thrown to the crocodiles!
Menkhat	I think they will be lining up to help...nothing like a bit of hard work to make people appreciate your greatness sir!
Bebnum	Absolutely...now, I must go and inspect the mummification of my brother's body. <i>(sarcastically holding his hand to his head)</i> I shall try my best to fight back my tears of grief...Menkhat, send out the messengers.
	<i>He leaves the stage. Menkhat watches him go and is then alone with his clipboard.</i>
Menkhat	<i>(shaking his head)</i> Totally mad! Oh well. I'd better do as he says otherwise it'll be me providing the crocodiles with their morning snack <i>(turns and shouts offstage)</i> MESSENGER!
	<i>Messenger 2 runs in from the other side of the stage and comes up behind Menkhat undetected.</i>

Messenger 2	<i>(shouts)</i> YES SIR!
Menkhat	<i>(jumping and holding his chest)</i> AAGH! I do wish you wouldn't keep doing that! Here... <i>(hands messenger the clipboard)</i> Take this message and proclaim it for everyone in Egypt to hear...
Messenger 2	<i>(shouts)</i> YES SIR!
Menkhat	And DO stop shouting!
Messenger 2	<i>(shouts)</i> YES SIR!
	<i>Menkhat shakes his head and they leave the stage.</i>
SCENE 3 (Embalmers workshop)	<i>Scene opens on a table covered with a sheet. A sign reads “INTEFS: EMBALMERS TO THE STARS” On top of the table lies a dummy wrapped in a shroud in the rough shape of body. Inside the chest cavity are the “organs” that will be mentioned and “removed” during the song. Behind the table is the Pharaoh’s ghost unseen to the audience. As the scene begins the Ghost rises from behind the table as if from the body. He stretches and looks around, seemingly unaware he is dead until he looks down at the body.</i>
Ghost	Oh! Looks like my devious brother got to me in the end after all...I thought that wine tasted funny.
	<i>He walks around the table admiring the body</i>
Ghost	I REALLY was a good looking Pharaoh!...Hang on...someone's coming. I need to hide...there's no time...Oh no they'll see me...
	<i>He stands still with his eyes tightly shut in the middle of the stage. Intef the embalmer and Bek the apprentice enter. They are unable to see the ghost and they walk either side of him oblivious to his presence. They start to examine the body on the table.</i>
Ghost	Don't mind me then! I WAS your Pharaoh! <i>(he goes over to them and waves his hand in front of their faces. They do not react)</i> I don't think they can see me! HELLO...CAN YOU HEAR ME?
Intef	<i>(not seeing ghost and shaking his head)</i> It's a big job this one, Bek. He's a right mess!
Bek	He didn't look after himself very well did he? Let himself go a bit.
Ghost	<i>(indignantly)</i> I BEG YOUR PARDON! I kept myself in excellent shape.
Intef	Too much fine food and wine that is lad... <i>(prods stomach of body)</i> Not so much a six pack there...more a keg!
Bek	How old was he boss? He looks ancient!
Ghost	Ancient? Those are boyish good looks.
Intef	I've no idea lad but he looks like he had a hard life. Well..we can't stand here all day chatting. We'd better get started...

*Song starts and they sing and act out the words in time to the music. In the **chorus** they could all march in time to the music around the table. In **verse 1** they could extract a “brain” from the head then “cut” the chest. During **verse 2** Intef opens up the chest and pulls out the “Lungs,” Intestines,” “Stomach” and “Liver” in time with the words, throwing them over his shoulder for Bek to gather up and put into the canopic jars. This part can be as simple or elaborate as required but provides good opportunities for visual comedy. In **verse 3**, Intef and Bek examine the small heart before returning it to the body and then in **verse 4** could pull out a big salt mill, stuff “linen” into the chest and wrap some bandages around. Throughout the song the Ghost of the Pharaoh should be looking on in horror at what is happening to his body and trying to gather up/stop them messing with it so much. When song ends, Intef and Bek should stand proudly and the ghost should sit down exhausted shaking his head in disbelief.*

5. The Perfect Mummy

1. Bring the body over here lets take a look
 First hook the brain out through the nose with a number seven hook
 A cut just on the left side, down there by the tummy
 Will bring you one step closer to your A1 Perfect Mummy!

CHORUS

*The Perfect Mummy,
 Oh yeah! That’s what I said.
 We’ve got this job all wrapped up,
 You’re in safe hands when you’re dead!*

2. Let’s get inside the body, have a good rummage around
 We’d best make sure we’ve counted all the organs that we’ve found.
 Lungs, intestines, stomach, the liver can’t be far
 Then dry and pack them neatly in the right canopic jar.

CHORUS

3. Can anyone remember what to do in this next part?
 Rinse with wine and spices and then replace the heart.
 It looks so small and shrivelled, this Pharaoh could not love
 Let’s return it to the body with a push and a shove.

CHORUS

4. Cover the corpse with salt and wait for seventy days
 Stuff it full of linen, folded many ways.
 Wrap head to toe in bandages, it’s really not that funny.
 Relax, admire a job well done, you’ve made the perfect mummy.

CHORUS x2

Intef	We’ve done a good job there lad. You’re really coming on now.
Bek	Thank you sir
Ghost	<i>(inspecting the body)</i> To be fair...that's some nice stitching
Intef	Yes, I bet there aren’t many ten year olds who can prepare a body for burial like you just have.

Bek	It just seems a bit of a waste of time though.
Intef	What do you mean lad?
Bek	Well...what the point of preserving the body when it's just being locked into a pyramid? Who's going to see it?
Ghost	<i>(looking thoughtful)</i> When you put it like that...it does seem a bit silly. Especially as I appear to be stuck here as a ghost!
Intef	The priests reckon it's important...they say he needs a well preserved body for the afterlife. Along with his wife, servants and all of his possessions...even his cats!
Bek	But...they're not dead!
Intef	Doesn't matter lad, the pharaoh ordered that they were all to be sealed into the tomb with him. Reckoned he'll need them in his next life.
Bek	But that's horrible!
Ghost	It does sound pretty bad, now I come to think of it.
Intef	Maybe so. But a Pharaoh can do what he wants! I think they give them poison for when they get inside the pyramid.
Bek	Why don't they run away?
Intef	That's the really sad thing...they've been brainwashed into thinking that it's their destiny to die with the Pharaoh. Such a waste of life.
Bek	It's just not fair. I wish we could do something.
Ghost	Actually, I wish I could do something about it. I feel sorry for my poor wife and servants..
	<i>Bebnum strides onto the stage full of self importance and begins to inspect the body. Intef and Bek stand to attention. The Pharaoh's Ghost sees him and looks angry...</i>
Bebnum	Have you finished messing with my brother's body yet? I want to get him in his pyramid and out of the way quickly...
Ghost	<i>(rushing at Bebnun)</i> YOU POISONING TRAITOR! <i>(he passes straight through/behind Bebnun and falls to the floor. Bebnun doesn't even notice.</i>
Bebnum	It's a bit draughty in here!
Intef	With respect sir. The mummy is prepared but we haven't finished bandaging and it needs to be left for seventy days.
Bebnum	I don't have time for that. Send it to the palace now. He can lie in state tonight and then we'll chuck him in his pyramid tomorrow with his snivelling wife and servants. Get them all out the way.
Ghost	That's my queen and servants you're talking about. You evil snake!
Bek	But sir. He'll start to smell if he's not properly seasoned.
Bebnum	It'll be fine. No one will notice. Now get him to the palace immediately. I have a pyramid build to supervise.
	<i>Bebnum strides offstage. The ghost tries to attack him again and passes through again, falling to the floor.</i>

Intef	Come on lad, we'd better do as we're told. Give me a hand to load him onto the cart then you can take him to the palace. You'll have to go alone 'cos my dodgy leg's playing me up again!
Bek	Ok sir.
	<i>The take the mummy by the arms and legs and carry it offstage. The ghost watches them go and sadly sits down on the table.</i>
Ghost	I wish I'd never given the order for all those people to be sealed in the pyramid. What a horrible person I was.
	<i>While he is sitting sadly, Anubis, god of the dead and the underworld enters slowly and stately wearing the head of a jackal. Ghost looks up.</i>
Ghost	Who are you?
Anubis	<i>(very grandly and full of self importance)</i> I AM ANUBIS...GOD OF THE DEAD.
Ghost	Why are you here?
Anubis	I AM HERE TO REWEIGH YOUR SOUL. YOU WERE DOOMED BY YOUR TERRIBLE ACTIONS AS PHARAOH TO WALK THE EARTH AS A GHOST AND BE DEVoured BY AMMIT THE SOUL EATER, BUT NOW YOU HAVE SHOWN REMORSE, YOU HAVE EARNED A SECOND CHANCE
Ghost	A second chance...but what about those poor people I sent to their deaths?
Anubis	YOU CAN DO NOTHING FOR THEM. THEIR LIVES HANG BY A THREAD...BUT EVEN AS WE SPEAK POSSIBLE SALVATION HEADS THEIR WAY...
Ghost	Not the Crocodile Pharaoh? My devious brother is already claiming to be that!
Anubis	I CANNOT SAY. BUT REST ASSURED, A CHOSEN ONE COMES...NOW WE MUST GO.
Ghost	Are you sure we can't do anything to help?
Anubis	NOTHING! NOW YOUR REMORSE HAS MADE YOUR SOUL LIGHTER THAN A FEATHER YOU MAY NOW ASCEND TO THE AFTERLIFE.
Ghost	I just feel bad...
Anubis	<i>(losing composure)</i> OH FOR GOODNESS SAKE! ARE YOU COMING OR WHAT?
Ghost	Just one thing I have to do first...then I'm all yours
	<i>Ghost walks briskly off stage. Anubis sighs and follows him.</i>
SCENE 4 (The handmaidens bedroom)	<i>Scene opens on stage set up as an empty bedroom. (No furniture is necessary for scene as long as audience can tell what it is) Bek comes onto stage and is clearly lost.</i>
Bek	NOW where are am I? Deliver the Mummy to the palace he said...he could have given me a map. This place is enormous.
	<i>He looks around a bit.</i>

Bek	I'm totally lost now. This looks like a bedroom...hang on someones coming. I'd better hide.
	<i>He hides at the back of stage. Tia, the dead Pharaoh's handmaiden, enters with Kemsit, a servant girl.</i>
Kemsit	Shall I help you get ready for the feast m'lady?
Tia	Can you stop calling me that, Kemsit. I'm no lady...I'm a servant just like you.
Kemsit	But not anymore m'lady...you have the honour of accompanying the Pharaoh to the afterlife. You have a blessed life now...
Tia	A very short blessed life I fear. Only today I heard that Bebnum has declared the pharaoh's funeral is to be tomorrow.
Kemsit	So soon! <i>(She put's her hand on Tia's shoulder)</i> Are you scared?
Tia	I have nothing to fear. I shall walk into the pyramid with my head held high. I vowed I would serve my Lord in this world and the next. Now please can you leave me alone to prepare for my last night in this world.
	<i>Kemsit leaves the stage. Song begins.</i>
	<p>6. Song of the Handmaiden</p> <p>1. My life has been obedience and servitude To cater to his every mood, I know I served him well and I'll receive my just reward For loyalty to my gracious Lord Pharaoh.</p> <p><i>And I will gladly follow him always He has my years, my months, my weeks, my days. If his path to death is dark I'll keep it lit My life is his to use as he sees fit.</i></p> <p>CHORUS <i>My Pharaoh was my world I dreamt someday I'd be his wife. My Pharaoh take me with you To the glorious afterlife.</i></p> <p>2. When it's time to go I'll face my fear with bravery With dignity I'll hold my head up high. Into the tomb, to seal me in beside my Lord I promise I won't be afraid to die.</p> <p><i>And I will gladly follow him always He has my years, my months, my weeks, my days. If his path to death is dark I'll keep it lit My life is his to use as he sees fit.</i></p> <p>CHORUS <i>My Pharaoh was my world I dreamt someday I'd be his wife. My Pharaoh take me with you To the glorious afterlife.</i></p>
	<i>Song ends. She sighs and begins to get ready. Bek comes out of hiding, startling her</i>

Tia	WHO ARE YOU? GUARDS! HELP!
Bek	<i>(Trying to quieten her)</i> Shush! Please!
Tia	What are you doing in here? Are you here to kidnap me?
Bek	No! I'm not going to hurt you. My name is Bek and I'm just a humble apprentice lost in the palace.
Tia	Well you can GET LOST again!
Bek	Believe me, I can't wait to get out of here...but you must come with me
Tia	Go with you? Why would I want to do that?
Bek	Because your long term prospects don't exactly look good if you stay here!
Tia	It's my destiny. It's what my Pharaoh wanted...
	<i>Pharaoh's ghost enters followed by Anubis who looks fed up. Bek and Tia cannot see him</i>
Ghost	<i>(to Anubis)</i> Can you make them see me...
Anubis	Just for two minutes...then can we PLEASE go. I do have a schedule you know.
	<i>Ghost turns back to Tia and Bek and they can suddenly see him. They immediately kneel down before him</i>
Bek and Tia	My Lord...
Ghost	Oh do get up, I don't have much time.
Bek	<i>(They both get up)</i> But aren't you...er...dead? I helped to mummify you!
Ghost	Yes my boy...dead as a doornail, poisoned by my darling brother...good job by the way...excellent stitching. I don't have time to explain right now but you both need to escape before the guards catch you.
Tia	But my Lord...I must serve you in the afterlife.
Ghost	I'll be fine, thank you. You have your own life to lead and I need you to try and make sure that my wife and other slaves aren't sealed in the tomb as well.
Bek	We'll do our best. Come on Tia, show me the way out...
Tia	I must do as my Pharaoh wishes...Goodbye my Lord.
Ghost	Goodbye...and thank you.
	<i>Tia and Bek leave the stage. Ghost and Anubis watch them go.</i>
Anubis	NOW CAN WE GO?
Ghost	Yes...I'm ready.
	<i>They leave the stage and the scene ends</i>

<p>SCENE 5 (The Pyramid Building site)</p>	<p><i>Scene opens on stage with a sign reading “SITE OF GREAT PYRAMID”. Slave 1, Slave 2, Slave 3, Drunk, Old Person, Miser, Ill person, Salesperson, Soothsayer, Intef, Egyptians 1, 2 and 3 all carrying tools and looking tired from working. Song starts.</i></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">7. Build it so High (Pyramid Song)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Keep on building, keep it rising to the sky To honour our new Pharaoh, gotta build it oh so high. Everyone must lend a hand, every man, woman, boy or girl The greatest pyramid so far, the tallest building in the world.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHORUS <i>Gotta build it so high</i> <i>Gotta build it so high</i> <i>Gotta build it so high</i> <i>Gotta build it so high</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">If you’re tired and rundown Don’t worry we have whips. We like to see you working hard No complaining, close those lips! Don’t ask us for breaks though Holidays or a pension scheme. You’ve got a job for life here So let me hear you scream!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hear you scream...! Hear you scream...!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHORUS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">REPRISE <i>We’re waiting for the Crocodile Pharaoh</i> <i>A legend oh so old.</i> <i>We’re waiting for the Crocodile Pharaoh</i> <i>The prophecy foretold...foretold!</i></p>
	<p><i>Song ends. Slave master (carrying a whip) and Pyramid supervisor enter stage.</i></p>
<p>Slave master</p>	<p>Come on you ‘orrible lot...back to work. This Pyramid won’t build itself you know.</p>
<p>Slave 1</p>	<p>But we’re tired</p>
<p>Slave 2</p>	<p>We haven’t slept for two days.</p>
<p>Slave 3</p>	<p>We’ve hardly eaten for a week.</p>
<p>Drunk</p>	<p><i>(slurring words)</i> We need to rest. I’m not in a fit state for this type of work!</p>
<p>Old person</p>	<p><i>(quavery voice)</i> I’m ninety five you know!</p>
<p>Supervisor</p>	<p>There’s nothing like experience...you’ll have this pyramid built in no time at all.</p>
<p>Miser</p>	<p><i>(sidles up to supervisor)</i> I’m so tired I’ll even pay you to set me free!</p>
<p>Supervisor</p>	<p>More than my life’s worth I’m afraid...the new Pharaoh pays me plenty anyway.</p>

Salesperson	I'm worried about my network of shops...
Slave master	Do you mean the tray around your neck?
Salesperson	Well yes...my stock won't sell itself.
Ill person	I've still got a terrible cold...ATCHOO!
Intef	Who IS running Egypt while we are all tied up here building this ridiculous pyramid? And has anyone seen my apprentice, Bek? I'm getting worried about him, he never returned from the palace.
Supervisor	He's probably been thrown to the crocodiles, that's usually what happens when anyone is around our new Pharaoh for long...
Intef	Poor Bek! I hope he's ok.
Slave master	NOW...LESS TALKING AND BACK TO WORK. We need to move down to the site closer to the river
Supervisor	It makes it easier to have you thrown to the crocodiles!
	<i>They all sigh and follow him, shuffling offstage. Scene ends.</i>
SCENE 6 (The Streets of Egypt)	<i>Egyptian street scene. Saba the beggar boy is hunched up and seated at the back of the stage with a bowl in front of him. Bek and Tia enter hurriedly and pause in the middle of the stage out of breath from running.</i>
Bek	I think we've lost the guards now...we should be safe here.
Tia	I still think I've made a mistake. I should go back
Bek	Don't you dare! You heard what the Pharaoh's ghost said. He wanted you to be safe.
Tia	I suppose so.
	<i>They haven't noticed but Guard 3 has come onstage and is creeping up behind them. He grabs them by the scruff of their neck.</i>
Guard 3	Now I've got you. You're in for it now. I'll get a fine reward from the Pharaoh for bringing you two back to the palace. Might even make me Captain!
Bek	Let go...you don't have to do this
Guard 3	I don't HAVE to do it...but I want to. Now stop struggling!
Tia	He'll have us thrown to the crocodiles now. <i>(to Bek)</i> I wish you'd left me in the palace.
	<i>Saba has got up, holding his begging bowl, and is creeping up behind the guard. He gets close and swings the bowl at the guard's head. The guard looks confused and then starts to sway, letting go of the children.</i>
Saba	Quick! Grab him and drag him over here out of sight!
	<i>Tia and Bek put guards arms over their shoulders and half drag him offstage. There can be a dramatic crash if required.</i>

Bek	Thank you!
Tia	But who are you?
Saba	My name is Saba and I am an orphan beggar boy on the streets of Egypt. I try to keep a low profile but I couldn't let him drag you off to the palace.
Bek	Thanks again. But how did you end up on the streets?
Tia	What happened to your parents?
	<i>Song starts. A Beggar's Life.</i>
	<p style="text-align: center;">8. Life of a Beggar</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I never knew my parents They died when I was young No one needs another mouth to feed, It's hard when you don't belong.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sleeping in the gutter on the dusty streets I've got no place to stay. No one sees you, no one cares Walk past and look away.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHORUS <i>I'm just a child a lonely boy Just want to find a home. The life of a beggar on Egyptian streets I feel I'm so alone. I'm just a child a lonely boy Please won't you take me home? Don't want to live like this no more I'm tired...so tired Of being alone.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">I guess it's my fate to die here On the streets where I was born. Nothing to eat and nothing to drink Shabby clothes tattered and torn I sometimes dream of the Crocodile Pharaoh Arriving to set us free. Why would anyone want to help A ragged wretch like me?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHORUS</p>
	<i>Song ends and Saba looks sad. Bek goes over and puts arm around him</i>
Bek	Hey cheer up...it could be worse.
Tia	Yes...you could be being chased by the whole of an evil Pharaoh's army!
Saba	I suppose. Anyway, what are you going to do?
Bek	We need to hide somewhere.

Saba	Everyone is at the Great Pyramid building site by the river. They dragged me there but I ran away.
Tia	We could go there and disguise ourselves as workers. That would give us chance to plan what we're going to do next.
Bek	Good idea. Come with us, Saba. Let's stick together.
Saba	I guess I've got nothing better to do. They'll be after me too when they find out I hit him. Let's go.
	<i>They leave the stage together. Scene ends.</i>
SCENE 7 (The Building Site by the Nile)	<i>Scene opens on stage with a sign reading "SITE OF GREAT PYRAMID". Slave 1, Slave 2, Slave 3, Drunk, Old Person, Miser, Ill person, Salesperson, Soothsayer, Intef, Egyptians 1, 2 and 3...short reprise of BUILD IT HIGH song chorus sung very wearily without backing music...</i>
All	<i>(very tired and slow)</i> Gotta build it so high...gotta build it...so...high...
	<i>Bek, Tia and Saba enter.</i>
Intef	<i>(seeing him and rushing to him)</i> BEK! Where have you been...I've been so worried.
Bek	No time to explain now we're being chased by the Pharaoh's guards...can you help us hide?
Miser	We have some spare clothes...
Ill person	...and tools.
Salesperson	You can dress up like us and they'll never find you.
Old person	I'm ninety five you know!
Slave 1	That's great but we need to move fast...
Slave 2	I think I can hear the Pharaoh's guards coming...
Slave 3	Quick...get into these clothes
	<i>They all help them into the cloaks with hoods. Just as they finish the three guards enter closely followed by Bebnun. Guard 3 has his head bandaged.</i>
Guard 1	ATTENTION!
	<i>They all shuffle into a semi-circle roughly standing to attention. The 3 children in disguise keep their hoods up and heads down.</i>
Guard 2	We have reason to believe that you might be hiding some escaped fugitives
Guard 3	Wanted criminals!
Egyptian 1	There's no criminals here
Egyptian 2	Just us hard working Egyptians

Old person	I'm ninety five you know!
Egyptian 3	...And one decrepit old man!
Guard 1	I'm not sure I believe you
Guard 2	Why are you three hiding your faces?
	<i>The three guards step forward and remove the three hoods at the same time</i>
Guard 3	IT'S THEM! GRAB THEM!
Bek, Tia and Saba	RUN!
	<i>They run off stage. The guards try to follow but the people on stage “accidentally” get in their way. Scene ends.</i>
SCENE 8 (The River Nile)	<i>The scene opens on the banks of the river. A sign reads “THE RIVER NILE.” There is a small boat in the centre of the stage “moored” to the river bank. It should be big enough for the children to stand behind and appear to be inside.</i>
Tia	What do we do now? <i>(she looks offstage)</i> I can see the guards and the Pharaoh...as well and they're getting closer.
Bek	<i>(also looking offstage)</i> All the people from the building site are coming too!
Saba	<i>(pointing at the boat)</i> LOOK! A boat! If we could get to the other side of the river we'd be safe.
Tia	Are you sure? It doesn't look very safe.
Bek	I don't fancy ending up as a crocodile's lunch!
Saba	Come on...it's our only hope! The guards are coming!
	<i>They get into the boat. Saba grabs an oar and they set off. Guards 1, 2 and 3 appear with Bebnum at the far right of stage.</i>
Bebnum	GUARDS! STOP THEM!
Guard 1	They won't get very far sir
Guard 2	That boat had a hole in it...
Guard 3	Look! It's starting to sink!
Bebnum	<i>(Shouting to the boat)</i> LOOKS LIKE THE CROCODILES ARE GOING TO DO MY WORK FOR ME! HAHA!
	<i>Bek, Tia and Saba look panicked as they see the boat sink (the cut out of the boat could fall flat) The crocodile dancers and King Croc enter and begin to circle the children who are centre stage with no boat. Song 9 “Crocodile” starts.</i>

9. Crocodile!

CHORUS

*Crocodile! Crocodile!! Crocodile!!! Crocodile!!!!
Look at that crocodile in the Nile!*

When you walk along the banks of the river
Keep away from the side.
A moonlit stroll might seem a good idea
But in the dark they like to hide
Don't put your foot on that floating log
I have a feeling, have a hunch
It might look harmless but watch your step
He's sizing you up for lunch!

CHORUS

(CROCODILES)

**But we only want to eat, gotta do something to survive.
Do you know how hard it is to keep reptiles of our size alive?
Oh, oh, oh, oh! Oh, oh, oh, oh! OH!**

*Crocodile! (Open up our jaws-see our gleaming teeth!)
Crocodile!! (Gonna snap them shut-pull you down beneath!)
Crocodile!!! (Don't try to swim away-admit it's a fair cop!)
Crocodile!!!! (Might be time to say your prayers...)*

(The crocodiles close in on the children for the kill...)

(KING CROC)

WAIT A MINUTE...STOP!!

**I sense that something isn't right,
A strange force stopping our attack.
I sense the one the prophecy foretold
With the power to hold us back!**

(ALL)

The Crocodile Pharaoh...The Crocodile Pharaoh's here!

***(ALL) We were waiting for the Crocodile Pharaoh
And In our hearts we knew.
The Crocodile Pharaoh wouldn't let us down
The prophecy's come true!***

*During the last chorus the crocodiles lift up the boat and then lead them around the stage and then back to safety. The crocodiles move to the side of the stage. The children are centerstage and the **whole cast** (all except Bebnum and Menkhat) assemble in a semicircle around the back of the stage)*

King Croc	One of these children is your Crocodile Pharaoh...we cannot harm them and we bow before their great power.
	<i>Crocodiles bow. Children look puzzled.</i>
Crocodile 1	But which one is it? Can't we eat the other two?
King Croc	Hush! You'll give us crocodiles a bad name...of course we can't.

Crocodile 1	Not even just an arm or a leg? Surely they won't miss that.
King Croc	NO! Come on. Let us leave.
	<i>The crocodiles leave stage left</i>
Salesperson	So how do we know which one is our new Pharaoh?
Soothsayer	Easy! We look for the birthmark on their neck. I will check now.
	<i>He moves forward and looks at each of the children's necks.</i>
Soothsayer	Well I never! The crocodile Pharaoh is... <i>(dramatic pause)</i>
	<i>Bebnum bursts onstage followed by Menkhat.</i>
Bebnum	What is the meaning of this? I am the Crocodile Pharaoh. These are imposters. Guards...throw them to the crocodiles.
Guard 1	But sir...the crocodiles won't eat them!
Guard 2	They have a special power.
Guard 3	One of them IS the Crocodile Pharaoh!
Bebnum	RUBBISH! I have the birthmark...look! <i>(he shows the back of his neck)</i> And now I will prove to you I have the power over crocodiles...stand back!
Menkhat	Er sir...are you sure that's a good idea?
Bebnum	Of course...they cannot harm me...I AM THE CROCODILE PHARAOH!
	<i>He strides offstage (stage left) into the Nile. There is the sound of splashing and crunching and Bebnum's shoes and shredded cloak are thrown back onstage. Menkhat picks them up</i>
Menkhat	<i>(A long pause...then calling offstage)</i> Sir...are you ok?
Soothsayer	I don't think he is...anyway as I was saying, The baby I rescued all those years ago and the true Crocodile Pharaoh is... <i>(dramatic pause)</i> ...TIA!
	<i>There is a gasp from all and then everyone on stage kneels down before Tia who stays standing.</i>
Tia	Please, get up...How can this be? I'm just a servant girl?
Soothsayer	No, Tia you are not. I rescued you when you were a baby and took you to a good family I knew who lived and worked at the palace. They had always wanted a child and were happy to take you in.
Bek	I can't believe it! You seem so normal.
Ghost	<i>(unheard and unseen by all)</i> I can't believe it! My daughter...all grown up. I thought I'd lost you
Saba	Thanks for rescuing us from the crocodiles but I'd better be getting back now... someone might steal my begging spot

Tia	Not so fast. If I am to be queen I will need trusted advisers. You and Bek have both shown great bravery in helping me escape. Come and live at the palace and work for me...I shall reward you handsomely!
Saba	That sounds great. I'll get my things.
Bek	Thanks for the offer but I quite like working as an embalmer. <i>(pointing at Menkhat)</i> This man here needs a new job although you might struggle to get a reference from his previous employer!
Menkhat	<i>(bowing low)</i> I would be proud to serve my queen.
Tia	<i>(to Bek)</i> Are you sure I can trust him?
Bek	I'm sure. He's a good man who has been unlucky with his choice of master.
Tia	Very well, the job is yours. Now we must celebrate. I think I'm going to enjoy being Pharaoh...
Miser	THREE CHEERS FOR TIA...PHARAOH QUEEN OF EGYPT!...HIP HIP
All	HOORAY!
Drunk	<i>(slurred)</i> HIP HIP!
All	HOORAY!
Ill Person	ATISHOO!
All	HOORAY!
	<i>Finale song starts: Come to Egypt/Crocodile Pharaoh reprise...All sing and soothsayer brings out the Pharaoh headdress and places it on Tia's head. All bow</i>
	<i>During this all whole cast comes onto stage and takes a bow.</i>

Finale 10. Ancient Egypt!

Come to Egypt...and stay a while
See Egyptian Crocodiles
That swimming in the Nile
One visit and you'll just want to stay!

Come to Egypt where a lot of culture began
There is no better place
To top up your tan
Egypt is a magical place!
Egypt is tremendous...yeah! yeah!
Egypt is amazing...yeah! yeah!
Egypt is spectacular...yeah! yeah!
Egypt is our favourite place!
(Repeat)

The Crocodile Pharaoh (reprise)

(Soothsayer) Four thousand years ago in a desert land
Irrigated by the river Nile.
A Pharaoh ruled Egypt with a rod of iron,
The people all considered him vile.

(ALL faster) Four thousand years ago in a desert land
Irrigated by the river Nile.
A Pharaoh ruled Egypt with a rod of iron,
The people all considered him vile.

(All on stage) Pharaohs are all powerful, treated like gods
In return they should be thoughtful and wise.
This king was just arrogant, greedy and cruel
No wonder he was thoroughly despised. **(Pharaoh exits stage)**

The slaves and the people sang:

(All) *We're waiting for the Crocodile Pharaoh
A legend oh so old.
We're waiting for the Crocodile Pharaoh
The prophecy foretold...*

(All) The Crocodile Pharaoh will soon be here
(Drunk) The Crocodile Pharaoh will bring me beer
(Slaves 1, 2 & 3) The Crocodile Pharaoh will set us free
(Old person) The Crocodile Pharaoh will fix my knee
(Miser) The Crocodile Pharaoh will bring me gold
(Ill person) The Crocodile Pharaoh will cure my cold
(Salesperson) The Crocodile Pharaoh will help me sell
(All) The Crocodile Pharaoh will rule us well!

Rule us well! Rule us well!

*We're waiting for the Crocodile Pharaoh
A legend oh so old.
We're waiting for the Crocodile Pharaoh
THE PROPHECY FORETOLD!*

