



DOGS
The Musical

STAGING THE
PRODUCTION

BY

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DOGS SYNOPSIS

Jo and Lee take their dog, Digger, for a walk in the snow and let him off the lead so that he can scamper about. Digger runs off and gets lost. The children search and search for him. They go home in tears without him.

When Digger realises he is lost, he tries to find his way back but the snow has covered his tracks.

Luckily, on that cold night, Digger makes friends with Ross, another dog. He is taken to meet a group of stray dogs that live in a barn. They agree to give him shelter for the night. Sadly, an evil dog-catcher comes to round up the strays and nearly snatches Digger. With the help of his friends, he manages to escape.

Then Digger shelters with a group of Travellers that take pity on him. They feed him and allow him to sleep by their campfire until it is time for them to move on.

Next, he visits a touring circus where Digger is forced to join a performing dogs act. The poor dogs have to appear in silly clothes and do stupid things. They are very embarrassed. Digger helps them organise a protest against this humiliation. The next time the performing dogs appear at the circus, they are ready to tell the world how they feel.

Fortunately, Digger's family has come to see the show. Soon they are reunited and return back home. However, Digger discovers that the family has another dog now. Fortunately, it is his old friend Ross, so all is well again.

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CHARACTER PARTS

Narrators (Split the part into 4)	737	Every scene	Solo or group songs
Digger	342	Every Scene	I'm looking for the sun
Jo	208	1,3,7 & 8	Somewhere in the night - duet
Lee	209	1,3,7 & 8	If I don't find Digger & Somewhere in the night - duet
Mum	127	1,3,7 & 8	
Dad	102	1,3,7 & 8	
Snitch	235	4	Snitch's Song
Snatch	43	4	
Mistress of Ceremonies	256	7	
Barn Dogs		4	Snitch the Dog Catcher
Ross	174	2,4 & 8	
Sheba	54	4	Happy Girl
Boxer	87	4	
Bruno	23	4	
Marshall	90	4	
Nan	118	4	
Patch	83	4	
Rocky	91	4	
Rosie	72	4	
Rover	46	4	
Van dog 1	22	4	
Van dog 2	16	4	
Van dogs	10	4	
Spangled Ladies		5	Spangled Ladies
Anna	22	5	
Gina	53	5	
Maria	36	5	
Rachel	38	5	
Rosetta	81	5	
Simone	26	5	
Carlos- Spanish guitarist	16	5	Carlos's Guitar Music (He pretends to strum a guitar)
Performing Dogs			It's a dog's life
Dodger	54	6 & 7	
Frisky	77	6 & 7	
Fru Fru	90	6 & 7	
Hooch	60	6 & 7	
Shaggy	53	6 & 7	
Trix	57	6 & 7	
Derek - Trainer	55	6 & 7	
Sylvie - Girlfriend	42	6 & 7	

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION. COSTUMES AND MAKE-UP

Characters	Description
Narrators	Storytellers. Could read their part but would look better if they learned it and acted their role.
Digger	Main character. Labrador dog that gets lost. Bit naïve
Digger's Family- Mum, Dad, Jo and Lee	Very unhappy that their lovely dog has gone missing. Jo & Lee are junior aged children. Jo is older sister.
Snitch	Leading role for a comic actor. Evil dog-catcher. Unkempt .
Snatch	Not very bright. Repeats everything that Snitch says.
Mistress of Ceremonies	Loud voiced, confident compere,
Barn Dogs	A collection of 10 stray dogs with sad tales to tell. They protect Digger when the dog-catcher tries to take him away.
Ross	Digger's best friend, also a Labrador. Caring and streetwise.
Sheba	Flirty, glamorous dog. Annoys the other Barn Dogs with her vanity.
<u>Carlos and the Spangled Ladies</u>	Carlos and the 6 Spangled Ladies are kind to Digger. They feed him and let him sleep by their campfire until they move on. The girls dance a Spanish dance for him.
<u>Performing Dogs</u>	The 6 dogs hate dressing up in pom poms and bows and are embarrassed to perform. Their Trainer Derek neglects them because he is busy chasing his girlfriend Sylvie about all over the place. Sylvie is kind to the dogs and looks after them.

Costumes :

Actors: Family- modern outdoor and indoor day clothes. **Dogs** - Leotard (with patches stitched on), leggings, tails and dog-ear headbands.
Snitch & Snatch – dirty, ragged trousers & shirts. **Carlos** – frilly shirt, black trousers & waistcoat + sombrero. **Spangled ladies** – Bright skirts & tops, big ear-rings.
 Circus characters: **Strong woman** - Leopard skin leotard. **Magician** -Flowy dress.
Tumblers – leotards with sparkly bits sewn on & leggings. **Lion Tamer** - Sparkly waistcoat, frilly shirt, black trousers & tall yellow hat with yellow stars. **Lions** – yellow leotards & leggings with tail and lion head-dresses. **MC** -Top hat and tails, white shirt & black trousers. **Clowns** – typical brightly coloured baggy clothes. **Performing dogs** – white leotards & leggings, pom poms and bows plus sunglasses for the final scene.
Choir: Black or white tee shirts with a Bone Badge. Black or white Dog Ears stapled onto headbands.

Make- up: Fur coloured faces with black noses, whiskers and eye outlines. Sparkly make-up for dancers and circus characters. Moustaches for the men.
 Scars for Snitch and Snatch.

Check that children are not allergic to make-up!

AUDITIONS

Use the excerpt below if you want, or choose your own!

Read the story to the children first. Give them a couple of chances to read through the lines! For those that cannot read well, give them a simple line to repeat so that they can feel included!

Pick those children whose voices can be heard at the back of the hall for your speaking parts!

The children are looking at photos of their dog.

Lee: **Look I found a couple of pictures of Digger when we were on holiday last year.**

Jo: **Let me see. *(She looks as well.)* Oh Digger, please come home!**
(She kisses the photograph.)

Lee: **Do you think if we stare at his photo and think hard enough about him, he'll hear us and we can guide him back?**

Jo: **Yeah. Let's look out of the window and send messages to him!**

SONGS and MUSIC

PHOTOCOPIABLE SONG SHEET

CD with:

- SONG VOCALS CD FOR PRACTICE
- SONG BACKING TRACKS FOR ACTUAL PERFORMANCE
- LINK-UP MUSIC
- CIRCUS ACTS MUSIC

MUSICAL SCORE

SONGS in order of appearance:

If I don't find Digger, I'll die – Lee Solo / Choir

I'm looking for the sun – Digger solo / Choir

Somewhere in the night – Children + Choir

Home's the place - Choir

A happy girl – Sheba solo/ Choir

Snitch, the Dog Catcher – Cast & Choir

Snitch's Song – Snitch Solo

Spangled Ladies - Choir

The circus is coming – Choir

It's a dog's life – Performing Dogs

FINALE: Dogs are for life - Cast & Choir

CIRCUS ACTS MUSIC

Strong woman,
Clown Music

Tumbling Tornadoes,
& Lion Tamer Music

Magic Music,

DANCE

Happy girl - Solo performance from Sheba or a team effort with the Barn Dogs . The children will probably come up with some interesting ideas if they stick to interpreting the lyrics.

Spangled Ladies - A simple folk dance works well for this.

Songs can be solos or backed by choir.

All stage performers that are singing need to have a simple routine for each song so that they don't look wooden.

SCENERY and PROPS

Suggested Backdrop: Snow scene – winter farmland.

Scene One Fireplace, couch, telephone on table

Scene Two Village Clock – showing 11 o'clock

Scene Three Two beds with covers
Photo album + 2 photos children with dog
Window Frame

Scene Four Bales of Hay
Snitch's Black & White Van with trailer for
Van Dogs

Scene Five Caravan, Campfire, Clump of Grass prop,
Guitar,
Bowl of dog food

Scene Six Dog Cage
Bowls of dog food

Scene Seven Circus Notice Board
Bed of nails, Dumbbells, Iron bar, Directory
Rabbit in a Hat, Playing Cards, Magic Table,
Cabinet with Knives.
Buckets, Brooms, Torn up paper (imaginary
water), Custard pies
Hoop and whips
5 pairs of Sunglasses

Scene Eight Fireplace