

AT THE BANDSTAND!

ANNOUNCER: Greetings all you cats and kittens out there in TV land! It's time for the hippest, the heppiest, the most happenin' dance party on the air. So gather 'round the tube as Splish Splash Bath Products proudly presents . . . AT THE BANDSTAND!

SONG: "AT THE BANDSTAND!"

(during the song)

CINDY: Hurry girls, it's on!

BARB: I get the couch!

JUDY: Me, too!

PEGGY: Shh! I can't hear.

LAVERNE: What are we watching?

CINDY, BARB, JUDY, & PEGGY: Laverne!

(during the song)

DARLENE: Hello ... Yes, Daddy, I'm watching right now...Oh, really? A special announcement? ... I can hardly wait!

ROBIN: Thank you, thank you very much. This must be the most enthusiastic, most outrageous, and best-looking studio audience on television!

(pointing to a female audience member) Especially you, little doll—I dig those bobby socks.

KIDS: (getting him back on track) Robin!

ROCK: Let's kick off tonight's show by meeting our featured Bandstand Kids!

(The Kids applaud and cheer.)

ROBIN: First up—she's America's sweetheart, and a black belt in Tae Kwon Do... Betty Jo Riley!

(As Robin introduces each Kid, they run downstage and wave.)

BETTY JO: I break wood, not hearts!

CINDY: (commenting on the show) She seems nice.

ROCK: Next—our resident motor head, and a drag race champion ... Brock McGreggor!

BROCK: (cheerfully) I failed my driver's test twelve times!

PEGGY: That's better than you, Laverne.

LAVERNE: Hey!

ROBIN: She's the girl next door... for real, she's my neighbor... Janice Hopkins!

JANICE: (smiling) My mom says we should move.

JUDY: (talking to the TV) Move to my street, Janice!

ROCK: This guy's the quarterback of the football team, and vice-president of the knitting club ... Carl St. Clair!

CARL: (bragging) I made this sweater myself.

BARB: Is that cashmere?

ROBIN: A world-class yodeler, and three-time winner of the hog calling contest at the county fair... Evelyn Finklestein!

EVELYN: (yodels) Oh-de-lay-ee, oh-de-lay-ee, oh-de-lay-ee hoo! (calls) Suey!

SKIPPYPAWS: Meow.

DARLENE: Quiet down, Skippypaws.

ROCK: Our very own dynamic duo ... I can hardly tell them apart... the Miller twins!

MICHAEL: (not amused) We look nothing alike.

MARK: (confused) We're not even related.

LAVERNE: (clueless) It's like I'm seeing double.

ROBIN: At the Bandstand's dance captain, and resident comedienne ... Patty Pokowski!

PATTY: (performing) How many TV show hosts does it take to change a light bulb? ...

ROCK: (interrupting)... And everyone's favorite heartthrob, a crooner with a voice of gold and eyes of blue ... it's Jumpin' Johnny James!

JOHNNY: (with a wink) Hi.

(Cindy, Barb, Judy, Peggy, and Lave me go crazy for Johnny. Cheering, screaming, swooning, etc.)

BARB: Be still my heart.

CINDY: He's the most!

ROBIN: Now it's time to board the train to Coolsville, and get this show on the road. What d'ya say, kids?

(The Kids applaud and cheer.)

ROCK: But first, you're watching At the Bandstand, and we're your hosts. I'm Rock!

ROBIN: And I'm Robin. Together we're ...

ROCK and ROBIN: Rock n' Robin!

SONG: "ROCKIN' ROBIN"

ROBIN: What a blast! You Bandstand Kids sure know how to rock!

KIDS: (ad lib.) Thanks, Robin. You know it, Rock. Back at ya, daddy-o!

ANNOUNCER: (to camera) And there's a lot more of that to come, including a special announcement for our viewers at home.

JUDY: Neat-o! I wonder what it is.

PEGGY: Don't keep us in suspense, Mr. Announcer!

ROCK: But before we get to all that, let's bring out the last member of our cast.

ROBIN: This little lady's a prima ballerina at Miss Vicky's School of Dance, and everyone's favorite roller-skating waitress ... Wanda Jean Hannigan!

(Wanda enters, on crutches. The Kids applaud.)

WANDA: (dejected) Hey, everyone.

CINDY: Oh, no! That's Johnny's partner.

ROCK: Gosh Wanda, looks like you've suffered an unfortunate mishap. Can you give us the scoop?

WANDA: Well, I was working the lunch shift-over at Bob's Burger Palace on Rt. 55, delivering an extra large order of big burgers with a side of Bob's cheesy fries.

LAVERNE: Mmm, Bob's cheesy fries.

WANDA: So just as I was picking up some speed, the new girl, Polly Sue, spilled her tray of chocolate malts. Now normally, I can maneuver on a pair of roller skates like nobody's business, but let me tell you, when my wheels hit that puddle of chocolate syrup and ice cream, I was a goner!

ROBIN: Ooo, bummer.

WANDA: Yeah, I really wiped out. Like ... splatsville!

DARLENE: What a klutz.

SKIPYPAWS:(laughing) Sss.

ROCK: So what's the story, morning glory? How long do you expect to be on those crutches?

WANDA: Dr. Goldberg said it'll be ten weeks 'til I can put on my dancing shoes and return to the show.

ROBIN: Tough break, kid.

WANDA: Yeah, it's no fun being on these crutches. But the insurance settlement is super swell!

CINDY: I wonder who will dance with Johnny.

BARB: (teasing) Bet'cha wish it were you, don't ya, Cindy?

CINDY: Who wouldn't?

ROCK: Listen up, ladies—now that Wanda's out, Johnny needs a new partner. Isn't that right, Johnny?

JOHNNY: (moving downstage) That's right, Robin. Goin' stag is a drag!

SONG: "SAVE THE LAST DANCE FOR ME"

CINDY: I think Johnny's gonna sing!

JUDY: Oh, I hope he'll sing!

DARLENE: Finally, something good, Skippypaws.

LAVERNE: (enthralled) I'm on Cloud Nine!
BARB: In Seventh Heaven.
CINDY: He's soooo dreamy.
ROBIN: That's the stuff, Johnny. Just listen to the ladies swoon!
(Bandstand Kids girls swoon on cue.)
ROCK: And that brings us to our big announcement, folks. Mr. Announcer?
DARLENE: Here it comes, Skippypaws. Just like Daddy said.
ANNOUNCER: At the Bandstand and Splish Splash Bath Products proudly present the Shake, Rattle and Roll Dance-Off! (addressing the Bandstand Kids)
Tell us the rules, Kids.
JANICE: Participants must be girls between the ages of 12 and 18.
CARL: No previous dance experience necessary.
PATTY: Contestants should be no taller than Johnny, which is about... (looking at Johnny and gesturing) this tall.
EVELYN: Soprano voices preferred. But altos are fine, too.
MICHAEL: Parties affiliated with At the Bandstand, or this television station, are not eligible to compete.
MARK: Parties affiliated with Splish Splash Bath Products are encouraged to!
BETTY JO: At the Bandstand is not responsible for dance injuries, hairdo mishaps, or scuffed saddle shoes.
BROCK: Winner must be able to cut eighth period on Wednesdays for practice.
ROBIN: So there ya have it kids, YOU could be the next Bandstand Kid, and dance with our very own Jumpin' Johnny!
(Cindy, Barb, Judy, Peggy, and Laverne cheer and applaud the great news.)
BARB: Can you believe it!?
JUDY: A chance to be a Bandstand Kid.
PEGGY: And dance with Johnny.
CINDY: It's a dream come true!
LAVERNE: Which one's Johnny?
CINDY: Laverne! He's only the niftiest, neatest, nicest boy there is.
JUDY: Not to mention the best singer and dancer on the show!
CINDY: He's an angel to me.

SONG: "JOHNNY ANGEL"

PEGGY: (pointing to the TV) The show's back on!

ANNOUNCER: ... and our Shake, Rattle and Roll Dance-Off begins soon! So put the kibosh on what you're doin', get yourself dolled up, and boogie on down to the studio.

LAVERNE: Cindy, you have to try out.

CINDY: Me? Why?

JUDY: You're the best dancer. Everybody knows that!

CINDY: You really think so?

BARB: Of course. We all saw you at the sock hop.

CINDY: But, I ...

PEGGY: Don't have a cow. You're going.

LAVERNE: And we're coming with you!

(Judy, Barb, and Peggy ad lib. agreement and excitement.)

ANNOUNCER: Now it's time to introduce our contest judges. Starting with At the Bandstand's wobbly waitress, Wanda Jean Hannigan.

(The Bandstand Kids applaud enthusiastically for Wanda.)

WANDA: (waving) Hello again, everybody.

JUDY: I hope we get to meet her!

BARB: I hope Cindy gets to take her place.

ANNOUNCER: And the owner and CEO of Splish Splash Bath Products, Raymond C. Worthington, III.

(The Bandstand Kids applaud politely for Worthington.)

WORTHINGTON: It's a pleasure to be here. And may the best girl win!

DARLENE: I know I will.

SKIPPYPAWS: (agreeing) Meow, purr.

DARLENE: That's right, Skippypaws.

JUDY: Do you realize who that is?

CINDY: Who?

JUDY: That's Darlene Worthington's father.

LAVERNE: Who's that?

PEGGY: You know. The rich girl with that "Skippypaws" cat.

CINDY: Do you think SHE'D show up for something like this?

BARB: Let's hope not!

SONG: "SH-BOOM"

DARLENE: Well, Miss Maisie Skippypaws, looks like I've got a competition to enter.

SPIPPYPAWS: Meow?

DARLENE: Of course you can come along. After all, I want you to be there when I win that dance-off and make Johnny my own.

(during the song)

ANNOUNCER: And now, back to our terrific Bandstand Kids!

DARLENE: Do you like my hair up or down, Skippypaws?

SKIPPYPAWS: Meow.

DARLENE: (gloating) Look at me, Skippypaws. I'm fab!

SKIPPYPAWS: Purr.

CINDY: They said to get dolled up. I can't go like this.

JUDY: What do you mean, Cindy? You look nice.

CINDY: I want to look PERFECT.

BARB: Here, put on my necklace. It really matches your outfit.

PEGGY: And take my cardigan.

JUDY: Tie this scarf in your hair. It's just right!

LAVERNE: Wanna wear my lucky ring? I had it on when I aced that geometry test.

PEGGY: You got a C, Einstein.

LAVERNE: (proudly) I know!

(They huddle around Cindy, helping her dress. When they finish, Cindy steps out and does a twirl.)

CINDY: How do I look?

BARB: Beautiful!

PEGGY: Like a winner.

JUDY: Johnny will love it.

(The girls exit stage left, headed to the show.)

ANNOUNCER: ... but before the dance-off begins, a word from our sponsor.

(The Bandstand Kids overact as they perform the stylized commercial.)

EVELYN: Gosh Patty, your hair sure does glisten in the sunlight!

BETTY JO: Yeah. What's the secret behind those shiny locks?

PATTY: Thanks, girls. Why, it must be my new Ultra-Shine Shampoo, with luscious lathering lotion.

(2 BOYS hold up an official logo sign as the group responds in unison.)

SPLISH SPLASH COMMERCIAL BOYS: ... by Splish Splash Bath Products!

MARK: (holding a toothbrush) Aw nuts, looks like I've run outta toothpaste. How will I ever get Patty to notice my smile?

MICHAEL: (handing Mark a tube) Here, try my Minty Mouth Foaming Toothpaste. It's how I keep THESE pearly whites bright.

(2 BOYS hold the sign up again.)

SPLISH SPLASH COMMERCIAL BOYS: ... by Splish Splash Bath Products!

CARL: (dancing awkwardly with Janice, as if at a prom) I don't think I've ever smelled a sweeter perfume than yours, Janice. What is that terrific floral scent?

JANICE: (flattered) Oh, Carl. You must be referring to my Buds to Suds Bath Soap, now available in five fragrances.

(2 BOYS hold the sign up once more.)

SPLISH SPLASH COMMERCIAL BOYS: ... by Splish Splash Bath Products!

SONG: "SPLISH SPLASH"

ROBIN: Thank you, Kids! And thank YOU, Splish Splash Bath Products.

ROCK: Don't touch that dial folks, the dance-off is next after a quick word from some of our other, (to Worthington) less important sponsors.

ANNOUNCER: Okay, we've got three minutes to get set people. Let's move!

(During the next lines, the cast and/or stage crew prepares for the competition, removing furniture from Darlene's room and Cindy's house, and setting up a judges table with two chairs. At some point, Worthington and Wanda take their seats at the table. But first, the girls enter, an excited gaggle.)

JUDY: We're here! We're really here!

BARB: Can you believe it?

PEGGY: Somebody pinch me.

(Laverne pinches Peggy.)

PEGGY: Ouch! It's just an expression, Laverne.

LAVERNE: Sorry.

CINDY: Look! Robin is coming over here!

ROBIN: Hey, what's buzzin', cousin? Are you girls dancing in the competition?

BARB: (pointing at Cindy) She is.

ROBIN: (addressing Cindy) And what's your name, doll?

JUDY: (interrupting before Cindy can answer, talking fast and shaking Robin's hand the whole time) That's Cindy Sullivan, she's our friend, we watch your show every week, I can't believe I'm actually meeting you, I'm Judy, I'm your biggest fan!

ROBIN: It's a kick to meet you, Judy. Now, how 'bout givin' me my hand back?

PEGGY: (stepping in to pull them apart) Don't mind her, she doesn't get out much.

ROBIN: Nice of you to make an exception for me. Good luck, Cindy. Enjoy the show, girls. (He walks away.)

JUDY: (swooning) I think I'm gonna faint!

LAVERNE: Just relax and breathe, (demonstrating a breathing exercise) In and out ...in and out...

(The girls huddle around Judy. Darlene and Skippypaws enter and cross to the judges table.)

DARLENE: Hello, Daddy.

WORTHINGTON: Hello, kitten. So glad you made it.

SKIPPYPAWS: Meow.

WORTHINGTON: (baby talk) Aw, Miss Maisie Skippypaws.

SKIPPYPAWS: (hissing) Hhhh.

DARLENE: (privately) Is all of this really necessary, Daddy? Do I actually have to audition?

WORTHINGTON: It's just a formality, sweetheart. Play along.

ANNOUNCER: Here we go, gang. We're back in three, two, (gestures one).

ROCK: Welcome back, home viewers! Do you know what time it is?

KIDS: What time is it. Robin?

ROCK: It's time to shake, ...

KIDS: Shake!

ROBIN: rattle, ...

KIDS: Rattle!

ROCK & ROBIN: and ROLL!

KIDS: ROLL!

ROCK: Let's meet our contestants. First up, a little lady who watches the show every week ...Cindy Sullivan! (Everyone cheers and applauds enthusiastically, especially Cindy's friends.)

PEGGY: (getting carried away) Let 'em have it, Sully!

ROBIN: And contestant number two, a girl whose closest friend is feline ...Darlene Worthington.

(Everyone applauds politely.)

ANNOUNCER: Okay, take your places everyone. And away we go!

SONG: "SHAKE, RATTLE and ROLL"

ROBIN: You're first, Cindy. The Kids'll teach you the moves!

ROCK: You're up, Darlene. Show us what'cha got!

ROCK & ROBIN: All together now. Give it all ya got!

ROBIN: Way to go, girls! You nearly blew the top off this joint. Now let's see what the judges have to say. Mr. Worthington?

WORTHINGTON: Well Robin. I think it's obvious—Darlene was born to be a Bandstand Kid!

(Everyone reacts with whispers.)

ROCK: Okay. (sarcastically) Thank you for that... fair and impartial vote. And who do you pick, Wanda?

WANDA: I'm voting for Cindy. She's the best dancer.

(More reactions.)

ROCK: (thrown off a bit) Um, looks like we've got a tie, folks. I'm not sure how we should handle this.

PEGGY: I'll choose the winner!

BARB: Let us decide.

DARLENE: That's not fair!

WORTHINGTON: Perhaps Skippypaws should choose!

SKIPPYPAWS: (agreeing) Meow.

LAVERNE: Cats can't vote!

JUDY: Let the home viewers call in.

JOHNNY: Well, she'll be my dance partner. Can I pick?

ROCK: That's actually not a bad idea. What do you think, Kids? Should we let Johnny decide?

KIDS: {ad lib.} Yes! Of course. Sure! You bet. Why not?

ROCK: Alrighty then. Looks like it's up to you, Johnny. Whaddaya say?

(Johnny thinks for a moment and then breaks into song, the staging of which makes it clear that he has chosen Cindy.)

SONG: "GREAT BALLS OF FIRE"

ROCK: We have a winner! Let's hear it for our newest *At The Bandstand* kid . . .

ROCK & ROBIN: Cindy Sullivan!

(Everyone cheers and applauds as Cindy moves center)

ROBIN: Congratulations, kiddo! Do you have anything you wanna say?

CINDY: Wow, what an honor! This is just so cool. I'd like to thank my friends Judy, Barb, Peggy, and Laverne.

(Judy, Barb, Peggy, and Laverne cheer.)

CINDY: And I promise to do my very best to fill Wanda's shoes. Her dancing shoes, that is!

ROCK: Let's introduce you to your Bandstand partner. Johnny, come over here and say hello.

JOHNNY: Hey, Cindy. Your dancing was really swell.

CINDY: Aw, gee. Thanks.

DARLENE: Ew! Can you believe this, Skippypaws?

SKIPPYPAWS: (shrugging) Meow.

ROBIN: And we haven't forgotten about you, Darlene. As first runner-up, you're going home with a year's supply of Splish Splash Bath Products!

DARLENE: (disgusted) Oh please! We don't actually use that stuff!

WORTHINGTON: Darlene!

DARLENE: It's true, Daddy. I wouldn't even use it on Skippypaws.

SKIPPYPAWS: (agreeing) Meow.

ROBIN: (trying to get the show back on track) Let's thank our judges, Wanda Jean Hannigan and Raymond C. Worthington!

WORTHINGTON: This is the last time you'll ever see me at this rinky-dink show. I'm officially withdrawing my sponsorship. And without me, you'll be off the air in a week!

ALL: (ad lib.) Oh no! What'll we do? That's horrible. No show?

WANDA: Don't count on it, Mr. Worthington. I have a new sponsor.

WORTHINGTON: Who?

WANDA: Me.

ROCK: (genuine) Oh, that's very nice, Wanda, but this is an expensive operation. Where will you get the money?

WANDA: Remember that generous insurance settlement I mentioned from Bob's Burger Palace?

KIDS: Yeah?

WANDA: Well, how does this sound? ... At the Bandstand, presented by Wanda's Burger Palace.

ROBIN: (delighted) Sounds like we have a new sponsor!

(Everyone applauds and cheers as Robin and Wanda shake hands.)

ANNOUNCER: Well, I afraid that our time is up, folks! Tune in next time as Wanda's Burger Palace proudly presents . . . At The Bandstand!

SONG: "AT THE BANDSTAND! FINALE"

ROCK & ROBIN: And we're your hosts

ROCK: Rock!

ROBIN: and Robin!

ROCK & ROBIN: And that's the word from the bird! See you next week on . . .

ALL: AT THE BANDSTAND!

DARLENE: I've had enough of this. Take me home, Daddy.

WORTHINGTON: Whatever you say, sweetheart. I'll bring the car around.

DARLENE: (starts to exit, then turns back) Come along, Skippypaws.

(Skippypaws looks at Darlene, looks at the kids, looks back at Darlene and finally turns her nose in the air, indicating that she is not leaving.)

DARLENE: Oh, never mind! (she exits)

BARB: (thrilled) What a day!

JUDY: (star-struck) Robin touched my hand!

PEGGY: And you'll never wash it again!

LAVERNE: Too bad we missed our favorite TV show.

BARB, JUDY & PEGGY: Laverne!