

MARY Oh do shut up Nigel. I thought it was bloody marvellous – honest Dot I'm welling up here.

DOROTHY But will it work?

MARY Only one way to find out.

NIGEL Let's let the public in. That is the point of a public meeting after all. Denis if you would be so kind as to open the doors.

*We hear a VOICE from the back.*

DENIS I have opened the doors.

*DENIS walks down to the front.*

I'm afraid no one's come.

DOROTHY What? No one?

DENIS Well it's a cold night and you're up against Strictly...

*Pause as the bad news sinks in.*

DOROTHY So that's it then. There is to be no last appeal.

MARY Maybe people felt the last "Last appeal" was one last appeal too many?

DOROTHY They've given up on us.

NIGEL And so the final curtain descends...la commedia e finita...

DENIS Don't be so dramatic, Nigel.

NIGEL I thought that was the whole point?

MARY Maybe we should give it ten minutes.

DOROTHY I have given it ten years, Mary. Not to mention a second mortgage.

NIGEL If you need a shoulder to cry on.

*NIGEL places a consoling arm around DOROTHY's shoulders which she deftly removes.*

DOROTHY Thanks Nigel, but perhaps what I really need is to face the truth. Who am I kidding? Maybe no one wants to see us prancing about in fancy dress spouting words written hundreds of years ago.

DENIS Shall we all go home then? We could catch the end of Strictly...

MARY If we had a star people would come.

NIGEL Well actually I was described as the star of our Toad of Toad Hall...

MARY A real star Nigel. Someone who has been on telly or in films.

DOROTHY Mary might have a point.

NIGEL Is there no escaping celebrity culture?

MARY And if we got a star we could get publicity.

DOROTHY And if we got publicity we could get sponsorship.

DENIS That's sorted then.

MARY So who are we going to get?

NIGEL How about...nobody in their right mind?