

Pollyanna by Eleanor H. Porter
Adapted by Bill Scurato

Scene 1

Flashback:

Aunt Polly is standing downstage center facing upstage
Each of the following speeches is delivered front, from various points and levels.

Ensemble: "Be glad, be glad, be glad it went that way"

Lights up on Mrs. Snow and Millie

Ens. 1: We came because we're so sorry about what happened.

Millie: We think so much of Pollyanna.

Mrs. Snow: Her visits made me feel so much better. Is *she* any better?

Ens. 2: She taught us the game, and that made all the difference

Lights change

Widow Benton: I just heard the awful news. I'm so sorry. Pollyanna encouraged me to find some joy in my life....please tell her I wore blue today.

Lights change

Rev. Ford: ...and I was worked up for a real fire and brimstone sermon to ignite the fear in my congregation. But Pollyanna told me of the "Happy Verses"... Over 800 scriptures beginning with "rejoice" or "be glad" or "reach out for joy" Well, my relationship with my flock improved from that day on. God bless Pollyanna.

Lights change

Mrs. Peyson: I hope Pollyanna will be all right. I need her. This whole town needs her. We've had some tough times. But Pollyanna...sweet Pollyanna...kept telling us not to give up. She was right. Things are better now. Please tell Pollyanna how much we love her.

Light change to Aunt Polly-- ensemble sings refrain.

*Ensemble: Cause the things you think will be bad for you
Might turn out to be OK*

Nancy: The whole town has come to love Pollyanna...in such a short time it seems. And now everyone is so worried about her. My name is Nancy, and I work for Miss Polly Harrington. It seems like only yesterday that Miss Polly told me the news.....

Aunt Polly: (Swatting flies) Nancy, I need to speak with you. (More swats)

Nancy: Yes..ma'am.

Aunt Polly: Nancy, you and Martha will need to prepare for a new resident to our household.

Nancy: Yes..ma'am. And may I ask who that might be?

Aunt Polly: My niece, Pollyanna Whittier.

Nancy: Oh...how nice!

Aunt Polly: It's not really nice Nancy. It's not nice at all. It is, however, my (swat) duty.

Nancy: Your duty.?

Aunt Polly: Oh, yes. You see she is the daughter of my late sister. Her father recently passed away as well. So you see, I am her only living relative. It is therefore my *duty* to provide her with a home. I trust that you will make all the necessary arrangements.

Nancy: Yes, Ma'am. Is she to stay in a room near yours?

Aunt Polly: No...put her in the upstairs bedroom.

Nancy: In the attic, Ma'am? But it gets so terribly hot up there.

Aunt Polly: (Emphatically) In the upstairs bedroom, Nancy!

Nancy: Yes, Ma'am. *Song: For Pollyanna*

“For Pollyanna”

Polly:

It's a duty, understand it
I'm not thrilled to have her come
I'm her one and only relative, you see
So I'll forge ahead and do it
Make the sacrifice so true

So there'll be no guilty feelings over me.
There'll be no guilty feelings over me.

With Ensemble:

Home for Pollyanna
My responsibility
Home for Pollyanna
Duty done by me.

Nancy:

Understanding it's my duty
It's exciting, glory be
A younger person living here at last
I wonder what she looks like
Are her eyes of brown or blue
And I wonder if they twinkle when she laughs
I wonder if they twinkle when she laughs

With Ensemble:

Home for Pollyanna
My responsibility
Home for Pollyanna
Duty done by me.

Martha:

Well perhaps it is her duty
But I wonder why it's mine
A pesky little brat to bother me
I'll be picking up her clothes
And I'll be scrubbing out her ears
There's a lot more work for me it's plain to see.
A lot more work for me it's plain to see.

With Ensemble:

Home for Pollyanna
My responsibility
Home for Pollyanna
Duty done by me.

Individual Ensemble Members on each line:

Will she like to swim in summer

Will she like to sled in snow
 Would she rather pick a daisy or a rose
 Will she like a dog named Rover
 Or a kitty cat named Gus
 I can't wait until she's here and then we'll know
 Can't wait until she's here and then we'll know

All

Home for Pollyanna
 My responsibility
 Home for Pollyanna
 Duty done by me.

Nancy: (Steps out) So I went to town to meet Pollyanna, along with several from Miss Polly's staff...my helper Martha....

Martha: Well, all I can say is...this brat better not give me a hard time. It's bad enough we'll have another mouth to feed and another room to clean....with no extra pay I'll guess. She'd better not give me any trouble.

Nancy: Old Tom/Tina, our gardener....he's been with the Harringtons for years.

Tom/Tina: I remember Pollyanna's mother...Jenny. Lovely Jenny...such a nice girl. Pleasant disposition. Not much like her sister in *that* way.

Nancy: And Tom/Tina's son, Tim. He's our handyman...and kind of cute...if I do say so.....

Tim: (Car horn FX) I'd love to get behind the wheel of one of them new fangled auTom/Tinaobiles.

Nancy: Cute...but a little weird.

Tim: They say you can crank 'em up to 12 miles an hour. Can you imagine travelin' that fast?

Nancy: Like I said...a little weird. Pretty soon, Pollyanna arrived.

Pollyanna enters. Nancy smiles and waves. Pollyanna runs into her arms.

SECTION 2

Pollyanna: Oh, I'm so glad to see you. I've been thinking about meeting you for days. You're so beautiful. And Vermont is beautiful too. I'm so very happy to meet you, Aunt Polly.

Nancy: Oh, I'm not your Aunt Polly, dear. I'm Nancy...I work for your Aunt. And this is Tom/Tina, Tim, and Martha...

Tom/Tina: Miss.

Tim: Hello!

Martha: Hm!

Pollyanna: Aunt Polly didn't come to meet me?

Nancy: Oh, she wanted to dear...she really did.

Tom/Tina: She's really looking forward to seeing you.

Nancy: Yes, but she couldn't get away this morning because she had some important.....reading to do.

Pollyanna: I see... Well, that's OK. (deliberate) I'm disappointed she's not here, but I'm glad that I'll be meeting her soon.

Martha: Huh?

Pollyanna: I'm just glad that I'll be meeting her soon. It's just a little game I play. Thank you all for coming for me. I'm very glad to meet you.

Nancy: And we, you, right?

Tom/Tina: Indeed.

Tim: Yes, ma'am.

Martha: Hm!

Nancy: Now, let's get you to your new home. (Tom/Tina, Tim and Martha lead her off. Aunt Polly enters.) When we got home, Pollyanna finally got to meet her aunt. It was a very interesting encounter.

Pollyanna: Aunt Polly?

Aunt Polly: Hello Pollyanna. Welcome. (extending her hand)

Pollyanna: (Running to her and embracing her) Oh Aunt Polly, hello. It's so wonderful to meet you. You have a beautiful house. You must be very rich. I'm so lucky.

Aunt Polly: (Pushing her off) Pollyanna. I prefer that physical displays of affection be kept to an absolute minimum.

Pollyanna: (Pulling back) Oh..I see. Well, as my father would say....I can be glad to look forward to such a minimum occasion.

Aunt Polly: Yes. Now, Pollyanna, Nancy will take you upstairs to your room. Dinner is at six.

Pollyanna: Aunt Polly, as rich as you are, do you have ice cream everyday?

Aunt Polly: How absurd. No, Pollyanna....not every day. In fact, never!

Pollyanna: Oh, I see. Well, I guess I can be glad that by not eating ice cream, I'm not likely to get a sTom/Tinaache. That's what my father used to say.

Aunt Polly: Pollyanna. I want to make one thing perfectly clear. I have no interest, whatever in what your *father* used to say. I would strongly urge you to forget about him and begin your life anew! I hope you understand that. Now Martha will ring the bell for dinner. Don't be late. Nancy? (Aunt Polly exits.)

Nancy: Yes. This way miss. (She leads Pollyanna away.) I led Pollyanna to her room. It was dark, hot and musty.

Pollyanna: Oh....this is....nice. I'm glad it's not too big, because I don't have anything to put into a big room. So because I have nothing, this room is perfect for me. Don't you think, Nancy?

Nancy: You have an interesting point of view. The room will be nicer when we can open the window. Your Aunt has ordered a screen and when it arrives we'll be able to air the room out, without letting in any flies. Your aunt is obsessed about keeping flies out of the house.

Pollyanna: (Sadder) I see.

Nancy: (She puts her arm around her) Oh...it won't be so bad. Your Aunt is really very...dutiful. I'm sure you'll be happy here.

Pollyanna: I know...but she doesn't want me to talk about my father. And I loved my father and my mother. And I miss them. And talking about them makes me feel better.

Nancy: Well, then you can talk to me about them. And Tom/Tina and Tim and even Martha. And all the other people here who work for your Aunt Polly.

Pollyanna: Really. Well, the best thing is the game.

Nancy: The game?

Pollyanna: Yes, the Glad Game. My father taught it to me. You see, one Christmas I was hoping and praying to receive a doll in the mission barrel. Instead, all I found was a pair of crutches. My father said, well at least you can be glad that you don't need the crutches. From then on we always looked to find the good side of things. That's The Glad Game.

Nancy: What an interesting game. I like that, I think. But I'm not quite sure I understand...

Song: The Game

Pollyanna:

It's a game that I made up with my Dad
And it's lots of fun to play
It will help you find all the best in times
And make bad times go away.

I went out to play on a nice Spring day
And I met a brand new friend
But the rain came down so we ran inside
And we talked until storms end.

Be glad. Be glad.
Be glad it went that way.
Cause the things you think will be bad for you
Might turn out to be OK

Once I tried to bake Dad an apple pie
For he loved to eat them so
But I made mistakes and it looked a mess
But we laughed from head to toe

All:

Be glad. Be glad.
Be glad it went that way.
Cause the things you think will be bad for you
Might turn out to be OK

Pollyanna: Now you try it:

Nancy: Okay. I'll try.
 If there's one thing bad that I hate to see
 It's the Monday morning slack.

Pollyanna:
 But the good thing there is the fact you know
 They'll be six days 'till it's back

All:
 Be glad. Be glad.
 Be glad it went that way.
 Cause the things you think will be bad for you
 Might turn out to be OK

All:
 It's a game that she made up with her Dad
 And it's lots of fun to play
 It will help you find all the best in times
 And make bad times go away.

Be glad. Be glad.
 Be glad it went that way.
 Cause the things you think will be bad for you
 Might turn out to be OK

SECTION 3

Scene 2

Pollyanna criss-crossing the stage meeting and greeting.

Nancy: Over the next few days Pollyanna explored the little town of, Beldingsville. She had a happy smile and a warm greeting for everyone she met.

Pollyanna: Hello...I'm Pollyanna. I'm so glad to meet you.

Kid 1: Hello Pollyanna.

Kid 2: Where'd you get that dress?

Pollyanna: From the Ladies Aid. My Aunt Polly Harrington says it's ugly...and I shouldn't wear it in public. But I like it.

Kid 1: Yeah...me too.

Kid 2: Nice to meet you Pollyanna.

Pollyanna exchanges greetings with several other townsfolk. She then encounters Pendleton.

Pollyanna: Hello sir. Beautiful day isn't it? Aren't you glad it's such a beautiful day?

Pendleton walks right by her, ignoring her.

Nancy: That's Mr. John Pendleton, the richest man in town. He's even richer than Miss Polly. And I guarantee you he doesn't eat ice cream everyday either. He's a cranky, unpleasant man who speaks to no one. Tom/Tina, the gardener says, there's a story there.

Tom/Tina: (Appearing in light) Mr. Pendleton wasn't always like this. He used to be a happy-go-lucky kind of a guy. But something happened...something definitely happened to make him sour....of course it's not my place to say.

Nancy: The talk of the town is that John Pendleton has a skeleton in his closet. (SFX)
Eventually Pollyanna found her way to the house of Mrs. Snow. Aunt Polly told Pollyanna it was her duty to visit the sick and spread some good will. Pollyanna had no idea what she was in for.

Scene 3

Pollyanna knocks

Millie: Yes?

Pollyanna: (Very pleasant) Hello. I'm Pollyanna Whittier. I'm Miss Polly Harrington's niece. I've come to visit Mrs. Snow.

Millie: Oh, you have, have you? Well, I wish you luck. She's in there.

(Pollyanna moves to a very dark area of the stage. Mrs. Snow is in her wheelchair)

Pollyanna: Hello? Hello? Mrs. Snow?

Mrs. Snow: (Grouchy) Who is it? What do you want?

Pollyanna: It's Pollyanna Whittier, Mrs. Snow. I'm Miss Polly Harrington's niece. I've come to visit with you today. I'd like to try to cheer you up.

Mrs. Snow: Do you have any idea how ill I am. You can't cheer me up. Nobody can!

I Won't Cheer Up

Mrs. Snow:

I'm so dizzy can't you see it
 And the whole room's spinning 'round
 And my stomach feels like it's about to burst

I can hardly bend my elbow
 And my knees are in such pain
 But the spasms in my back are even worse

I'm so weak and I'm so ill
 I won't cheer up and never will.

Millie: joining her for repeat:
 She's so weak and oh so ill
 She won't cheer up and never will.

Millie:
 When I try to get moving
 Get her up and off the chair.
 She just screams and squawks and yells at me to quit.

So I try to make her comfy
 And I bring her tea and scones
 She scoffs and whines and goes into a fit.

Mrs. Snow:
 I'm so weak and oh so ill
 I won't cheer up and never will.

Millie: joining her for repeat:
 She's so weak and oh so ill
 She won't cheer up and never will.

Pollyanna:
 I'm so sorry you don't feel well
 And I hope you're better soon
 But there's one thing that I'm very glad to see

Mrs. Snow:
 So you're sorry I don't feel well
 And you hope I'm better soon
 What exactly are you glad about for me

Pollyanna:

You're alive hip hip hooray
Yes, you're alive this lovely day

Millie: (joining repeat)

You're alive hip hip hooray
Yes, you're alive this lovely day

Mrs. Snow: joins third repeat with:

I'm so weak and oh so ill
I won't cheer up and never will.

Pollyanna: I've brought you some calve's foot jelly Mrs. Snow. Yum! Yum!

Mrs. Snow: Hmm. I'd rather have some lamb's broth.

Pollyanna: Oh, yes. I was told you always wanted something you weren't given. I'm so sorry you're ill.

Mrs. Snow: Do you have any idea how many winks of sleeps I had last night?

Pollyanna: Uhm...twelve?

Mrs. Snow: None!

Pollyanna: Hmm, not one wink of sleep....well that's not much. Let's see, how can we play the game with that?

Mrs. Snow: What game?

Pollyanna: The Glad Game. Now let's see. You can be glad that you didn't lose any time sleeping, when there are so many other things to do! Isn't that lucky?

Mrs. Snow: That's a silly game.

Pollyanna: Oh, look at your pretty hair. Would you like me to comb it? (She starts) Now you can see my freckles.

Mrs. Snow: Hmm!

Millie: Oh, my goodness.

Mrs. Snow: Millie! How do you like my hair?

Millie: It's lovely.

Pollyanna: I'll come and see you again, Mrs. Snow. Keep thinking about the game. 'Bye 'Bye. (No response.) 'Bye 'Bye., Mrs. Snow. (She waves and the wave is returned by Mrs. Snow.)

Scene 4

Pollyanna skips away, again criss crossing Pendleton.

Pollyanna: Hello again. It's still a beautiful day don't you think? (She steps in front of him to block his way.) Don't you think it's a lovely day?

Pendleton: I suggest you find someone your own age to talk to.

Pollyanna: I would if I could, but so far I haven't come across anyone my age. Look at that bush. Don't you think it's shaped like a peacock? Huh? What's your favorite smell?

Pendleton: Good day. (He moves on. Jimmy, who has been watching, steps out)

Jimmy/Jenny: Cinnamon! That's my favorite smell. Cinnamon!

Pollyanna: Oooh! I love the smell of cinnamon. I'm Pollyanna Whittier. My aunt is Miss Polly Harrington. I'm new here.

Jimmy/Jenny: I'm Jimmy Bean. I'm an orphan. But the orphanage doesn't have room for me anymore. Are you rich?

Pollyanna: I'm not, but my aunt is.

Jimmy/Jenny: Maybe she could adopt me. I'd work for my keep.

SECTION 4

Pollyanna: I don't know. Aunt Polly is just getting used to having me around. I don't know if she's ready to add someone else to her household.

Jimmy/Jenny: Oh. Sure. I understand.

Gianna: (entering with other orphans) Hey, Jimmy. Where'd you get off to?

Jimmy/Jenny: I'm looking for a place to stay. They're kicking me out of the orphanage

Pollyanna: Why are they doing that?

Jimmy/Jenny: They don't have enough room. I was the last one in, so I'm the first one out. This is Pollyanna. She's rich.

Hortense: Hi Pollyanna. What's it like to be rich?

Pollyanna: I don't really have any idea. I've always been very poor. It's my aunt who is rich.

Jimmy/Jenny: I wish I was rich!

Gianna: Me too.

John/JoAnn: Me three!!! (All laugh)

Song:

When Your Rich

When your rich you have ice cream with every meal
Think of ice cream with every meal
Topped with marshmallows, cherries and chocolate sauce.
What a sweet and delicious deal.

Ride your pony to school in the bright sunshine
Take an elegant coach in rain
Buy new clothes from the store any time you choose
Take a trip riding on a train.

I'm rich. I'm rich.
I hope someday I'm rich.
Cause it beats being poor in an orphanage
Pollyanna with you, I'll switch.

Think of having a doll of my very own
Yes, a doll I could name Renee
She'd be wearing a dress made of gingham plaid
We could play all the live-long day.

I'm rich. I'm rich.
I hope someday I'm rich.
Cause it beats being poor in an orphanage
Pollyanna with you, I'll switch.

As for toys, I could buy anything I choose.
 Also marbles and games galore
 I would never be bored 'cuz I'll have it all
 I'll be happy forevermore.

I'm rich. I'm rich.
 I hope someday I'm rich.
 Cause it beats being poor in an orphanage
 Pollyanna with you, I'll switch.

Pollyanna:
 I have never been rich, not a single day
 I've been poor, just as poor as you.
 And my Aunt may be rich, but she 's not that glad
 To be honest she seems real blue.
 Be glad. Be glad.
 Be glad it went that way.
 Cause the things you think will be bad for you
 Might turn out to be OK

Ensemble
 I'm rich. I'm rich.
 I hope someday I'm rich.
 Cause it beats being poor in an orphanage
 Pollyanna with you, I'll switch.

All
 Cause it beats being poor in an orphanage
 Pollyanna with you, I'll switch.

Pollyanna: (To Jimmy) You know? All the Ladies Aid women are rich. I'll bet one of them will adopt you

Scene 5

Nancy: So Pollyanna appointed herself an emissary on a quest to find a home for Jimmy/Jenny Bean. Without her Aunt's knowledge, she appeared at one of their meetings.

Ladies Aid: Mrs. Bouregard, Mrs. McGillicutty, Mrs. Hoffinfeffer are meeting with Rev. Ford.
 Pollyanna enters unseen.

Mrs. Bouregard:.....it's so important to further subsidize our commitment to the mission....

Mrs. McGillicutty:...no--the church roof...the roof must be our priority.

Mrs. Hoffinfeffer: The weathervane on Main Street is creakingcreaking very badly. I'd wager it could be heard in the next county. We must have it repaired.

Mrs. Bouregard: The mission in Bombay is in the most dreadful of financial states. Our help is urgently needed

Rev. Ford: Ladies, please....

All argue at once

Pollyanna: Excuse me.

Mrs. McGillicutty: And what about the ladder?

Mrs. Hoffinfeffer: Oh, yes...we must commission a ladder to have proper access to the town hall bell tower.

Mrs. Bouregard: India, I say. India! India! India!

Mrs. McGillicutty: Why are you so obsessed....

Pollyanna: Might I speak!!!

Silence

Rev. Ford: Has your aunt sent you?

Pollyanna: No. I'm here on my own. I know a lot about Ladies Aid. They used to help me all the time. But today, I've come to you about my friend Jimmy/Jenny Bean. He's/She's an orphan who has lost his/her place at the orphanage. He's/She's all alone and needs someone to take care of him/her. Someone has to show him/her that the world is a good place...a happy place. He/She needs to learn that life is a wonderful gift. One of you nice rich ladies must have a place in your home for Jimmy/Jenny Bean. He's/She's willing to work for his/her place.

Various ad libs...mostly negative.

Rev. Ford: Well, ladies, perhaps we could help this young man/lady from our town.

Mrs. Bouregard: Miss, can you tell us how this boy/girl got into such a mess?

Pollyanna: He/She didn't ask to be in this situation. It's not his/her fault.

Mrs. McGillicutty: Hmm. Well, I guess we've all heard that before.

Pollyanna: Please....Jimmy's/Jenny's more important than some stupid weather vane!

Mrs. Hoffinfeffer: Young lady, perhaps your aunt needs to explain to you the heavy burdens already extended to our funds.

Song: *A Burden*

Rev. Ford:

This young girl is making sense here
And I think it well conceived
That we help this young man, Jimmy/Jenny
Get his lot in life relieved

We could put the weather vane on hold
A ladder I could build
But the mission in New Dehli
We might now leave unfulfilled

Ladies:

But the burdens, the burdens,
The burdens we assume--
Must always make us look so grand
Like daffodils in bloom

Mrs. McGillicutty:

My cousin in South Burlington
Has promoted my good deeds
He boasts about the works I've done
My dignity exceeds

Mrs. Bouregard:

My husband's family marvels
How so fortunate is he
As he's found a wife so noble
Helping those across the sea

Mrs. Hoffinfeffer:

And I know a place in heaven
Is for sure awaiting me

If I let the whole world know
All that I sacrifice you see

Ladies:

So we're sorry Pollyanna
Your friend Jimmy/Jenny has to wait
He just doesn't suit our burdens
As of now. It's time we ate
Oooh! Cookies!!!!

Oh the burdens, the burdens,
The burdens we assume--
Must always make us look so grand
Like daffodils in bloom
(Mouths full of cookies)
Must always make us look so grand
Like daffodils in bloom

The ladies eat and ad lib gossip. Pollyanna exits, encounters Jimmy.

Scene 6

Jimmy/Jenny: (Calling) Pollyanna!

Pollyanna: I'm sorry Jimmy/Jenny. They weren't interested.

Jimmy: That's OK. At least you tried.

Pollyanna: They have a lot of heavy burdens extended on their funds.

Jimmy: I understand.

Pollyanna: Weathervanes....ladders....the mission in Bombay....oh fiddlesticks!

Jimmy: What?

Pollyanna: They just didn't care about anything but stuffing their faces with cookies. But I'm not giving up Jimmy/Jenny. There has to be a good home for you somewhere...

Voice: Help! Help!

Jimmy: Did you hear that?

Pollyanna: Yes....someone is calling for help. I think it's coming from over there....

Voice: Help!

Jimmy/Jenny: Here. Here he is.

Pollyanna: (Recognizing Pendleton) I know this man. (To Pendleton) Hello...do you remember me? I asked you what your favorite smell was.....remember?

Pendleton: Yes...I remember. Can you help me?

Pollyanna: Yes of course.

Pendleton: Go into town and fetch Dr. Chilton. Bring him here. Tell him that John Pendleton has broken his leg.

Pollyanna: Oh, you poor dear. It must be dreadfully painful.

Pendleton: Yes, yes it is. Now will you do it?

Jimmy/Jenny: I know Dr. Chilton. I'll run into town and fetch him.

Pollyanna: Good Jimmy/Jenny. I'll stay here and keep Mr. Pendleton company.

Jimmy/Jenny: I'll be back in a flash.

Nancy: So as the boy ran after Dr. Chilton, Pollyanna tried to make John Pendleton comfortable. She propped up his head, and tried to teach him the Glad game.

Pollyanna: At least you can be glad you didn't break both legs. That would be really bad. This way, you still have one leg that is perfectly fine. I'll bet you're really glad about that aren't you?

Pendleton: (less than convincing) Really glad. Who are you?

Pollyanna: I'm Pollyanna Whittier, sir. I'm Miss Polly Harrington's niece.

Pendleton: Polly Harrington's niece. Oh, my goodness. (He is becoming emotional)

Pollyanna: What is it Mr. Pendleton? Is the pain getting worse?

Pendleton: No child. Was your mother's name Jenny?

Pollyanna: Why, yes sir. Jenny Whittier. She went to heaven five years ago. Did you know her?

Pendleton: Yes....yes I did.

Jimmy/Jenny: Pollyanna! I've got the doctor!

Chilton: Good grief John. What happened.

Pendleton: I'm not as sure of foot as I once was, Robert. I fell head over keister.

Pollyanna: But he sure is glad that he didn't break both legs. Aren't you Mr. Pendleton?

Pendleton: Yes. I sure am glad about that.

Chilton: And who are you young lady?

Pollyanna: My name is Pollyanna. Pollyanna Whittier.

Pendleton: She's Polly Harrington's niece.

Chilton: (He's caught off guard) Polly Harrington. Hmm. Well, Miss Pollyanna. It's a pleasure to meet you. You and Jimmy/Jenny here have done a very good deed today. A very good deed.

Scene 7

Nancy: So our girl Pollyanna was a bit of a hero to the town crank, Mr. John Pendleton.

Tom/Tina: I'll say it again. Mr. Pendleton wasn't always a crank. He used to be a really nice man.

Nancy: Well, what happened?

Tom/Tina: Oh....it's just not my place to say.

Martha: Just because someone is occasionally cranky...that doesn't make them a crank!
(Pollyanna enters) Does it?

Pollyanna: Of course not Martha. Of course not. May I have a jar of calves foot jelly?

Martha: For Mrs. Snow?

Pollyanna: No...I wanted to take it to Mr. Pendleton.

Martha: That crank? You'd better ask your Aunt Polly about that.

Pollyanna: OK, Martha. Thank you. You look lovely today. (She exits)

Martha: I guess she's not such a brat after all.

Tim: (Entering with bouquet) Excuse me Nancy. These are for you.

Nancy: (Somewhat surprised) Thank you Tim. They're lovely.

Tim: (Sheepish) Lovely as you Nancy.

Both are a bit embarrassed

Tim: I picked them on the way back from looking at the mayor's new motorcar. I'll tell you Nancy. Talk about lovely. That auto is the most beautiful thing I've ever seen. (Nancy exits in a huff.) What??!!

Scene 8

Pollyanna: (Running in) Aunt Polly? Hello Aunt Polly, you look very nice today. Have you ever thought about letting your hair down. May I comb out your hair Aunt Polly?

Aunt Polly: (Taking pause) Such silliness. Pollyanna....you need to work on your deportment for entering a room.

Pollyanna: I do?

Aunt Polly: Yes, you certainly do. Now, what can I do for you?

Pollyanna: Martha said I need to ask your permission to bring a jar of calve's foot jelly to someone.

Aunt Polly: Well, that sounds like a dutiful gesture Pollyanna. There may be hope for you yet. Now, who is to be the recipient of your good will.

Pollyanna: Mr. Pendleton.

Aunt Polly: (Surprised) What?! John Pendleton?

Pollyanna: Yes, ma'am. He broke his leg and Dr. Chilton said he could use some cheering up.

Aunt Polly: (Shocked) Dr. Chilton. Robert Chilton? You spoke to Robert Chilton?

Pollyanna: Is it all right Aunt Polly? Please?!

Aunt Polly: I suppose so. But, Pollyanna, you must make it clear to Mr. Pendleton that the jelly is a gift from *you*.....and that *I* had nothing to do with it. Is that understood?

Pollyanna: Yes, Aunt Polly. Oh, thank you Aunt Polly! (She hugs her. Aunt Polly pulls back. Pollyanna remembers the rule about physical displays) Oh..sorry Aunt Polly. (She exits)

Scene 9

Nancy, Tom/Tina, Martha & Tim

Nancy: We were all surprised at Aunt Polly's reaction.

Martha: I didn't think Miss Polly even knew that old grouch.

Tim: Have you ever seen Pendleton's motorcar? It's the berries!

Nancy: Maybe you should pick some flowers for him! He might let you sit in his stupid old motorcar!

Tim: Nancy!!

Nancy: I think...I think she does know him.... I think she knows him very well. I always heard a rumor that Miss Polly was once engaged to be married....but something happened and it fell apart. I'll bet she was engaged to Mr. Pendleton. She was, wasn't she Tom/Tina? Wasn't she?!

Tom/Tina: (Pause)....of course it's not my place to say.

Nancy: Oh, drat!

Pollyanna enters with jelly

Pollyanna: Well, I'm off.

Nancy: Good luck dear.

Martha: See if you can find out if old man Pendleton was ever engaged to your aunt.

Nancy: Martha!

Martha: Well, why not. Don't you want to know?

Nancy: Yes, of course, but... Pollyanna, if the subject of Aunt Polly happens to come up...maybe you could...

Pollyanna: Mr. Pendleton and Aunt Polly? Wow!!!! (She's off)

Scene 10

Nancy: So Pollyanna set away on her visit to Mr. John Pendleton.

Pollyanna knocks

Gertrude: (Not very friendly at all) Yes!!! May I help you?

Pollyanna: Oh, hello. I brought this calvesfoot jelly for Mr. Pendleton.

Gertrude: Hmm. All right, I suppose. Who may I say brought it.

Pollyanna: Pollyanna, ma'am. I was hoping I could visit with Mr. Pendleton.

Gertrude: I'm sorry, little girl. But Mr. Pendleton is not to see anyone. No one at all. Especially, annoying little girls.

Pollyanna: Oh.....I see.

Dr. Chilton: (Emerging from within) Hello there!

Pollyanna: Hello Dr. Chilton. I brought some jelly for Mr. Pendleton. But this....lady says I can't see him.

Gertrude: I'm not about to let some child scamper about and disturb Mr. Pendleton.

Dr. Chilton: Now, Gertrude. I think Pollyanna is just what the doctor ordered.

Gertrude: But....

Dr. Chilton: And since I'm the doctor. I think you'd better let Pollyanna in.

Gertrude: Hmm! Well, all right. But don't be long Missy. (She exits)

Dr. Chilton: Gertrude is Mr. Pendleton's housekeeper. She's just a little overprotective. Go on to the back hall. He's been asking about you. I'm off to visit Mrs. Snow.

Pollyanna: Give her my best, won't you?

Dr. Chilton: Yes, indeed. Oh, Pollyanna, how is your aunt today?

Pollyanna: She's fine, Dr. Chilton. Did you want me to give a message?

Dr. Chilton: Well, uh...no...no message. Take good care of my patient.

Pollyanna: Yes, Dr. Chilton.

Nancy: So Pollyanna entered Mr. Pendleton's room. She was surprised to see him sitting up.

Pollyanna: Hello Mr. Pendleton. You look like you're feeling a lot better.

Pendleton: Well, look who's here. My heroine. I'm very glad to see you dear.

Pollyanna: I'm very glad to see you too. It's fun to be glad, isn't sir?

Pendleton: Glad again. How is it you are always glad?

Pollyanna: Well, for one thing, it beats being sad or mad...don't you think. Here sir. I brought you some calvesfoot jelly.

Pendleton: How very thoughtful. Was this your aunt's idea?

Pollyanna: Oh, no sir. Aunt Polly wanted me to be sure to let you know that she had absolutely nothing to do with it.

Pendleton: I'm not surprised

Pollyanna: (Plotting) Have you.....known Aunt Polly for a long time?

Pendleton: Oh, yes....a very long time. But I don't wish to spend our visit talking about her.

Pollyanna: It's just that.....All right, Mr. P.

Pendleton: (Chuckles) I have something for you too. A little thank you gift for helping me so well. (He hands her a box. She opens it and pulls out a shimmering glass necklace. LFX & SFX)

Pollyanna: My, it's beautiful. It's the most beautiful thing I've ever seen.

Pendleton: Of, course you're a little young to wear such jewelry. I bought it many years ago for someone else...someone of whom you remind me.

Pollyanna: Oh, I think I know who you mean.

Pendleton: You do?

Pollyanna: (Holding up the necklace) Goodness, look at the colors?

Pendleton: It's acting as a prism reflecting the light of the sun.

Pollyanna: Like a rainbow. It's so lovely.

Pendleton: I'm *glad* you like it.

Pollyanna: Mr. Pendleton. (A statement) The person you bought this for was my Aunt Polly, wasn't it.

Pendleton: What? No Pollyanna, not your aunt.

Pollyanna: Oh, it's just that I had heard that you were once engaged to Aunt Polly, and that you were very happy then, but something went wrong.

Pendleton: (Lightly chuckling) No Pollyanna. You've got it a little bit wrong.

Pollyanna: I do?

Pendleton: I was not engaged to Polly Harrington. I was engaged to Jenny Harrington.

Pollyanna: Jenny Harrington?

Pendleton: Your mother, Pollyanna. I loved her very much. And I think she loved me too, for a while. But then she met your father....and she broke my heart. They got married and left town. I never saw her again. But I've never stopped loving her.

Pollyanna: Oh, Mr. Pendleton (She hugs him)

Pendleton: Child, you've sparked a memory in me that gives me a reason to live. I would like you to come and live with me. Let me adopt you and let me raise you as my heir.

Pollyanna: But Aunt Polly.....

Pendleton: I have just as much right to share your life as she. I loved your mother, Pollyanna. I built this house to share with her. It's a good house, but it's never been a home. If you came here, it would finally be a home, Pollyanna.

Pollyanna: But Aunt Polly has been so good to me. I could never leave her. That would break her heart.

Pendleton: Pollyanna.....

Pollyanna: But I do know someone who needs a home. Jimmy/Jenny Bean would be proud to be your son/daughter, sir.

Pendleton: I want you, Pollyanna....only you. Will you at least ask you aunt? Please?

Pollyanna: Mr Pendleton----

Pendleton: Please!

Pollyanna: All right.....yes. I'll ask.

Pendleton: Thank you.

Pollyanna: I'd better be off now. Good day, Mr. Pendleton. Thank you for the necklace.

Song: Lament

Pendleton:

A necklace bought so long ago
 Meant for the woman I loved so
 And as this child has come along
 My heart revives what once was gone

To choose. To choose.
 Oh, child I beg you choose.
 To give my life the will to live
 Oh, child I beg you choose.

Scene 11

Pollyanna scurries in.

Aunt Polly: Pollyanna, you're late. Dinnertime has come and gone and you were nowhere to be found.

Pollyanna: I'm sorry Aunt Polly. I was visiting with Mr. Pendleton and the time went whizzing by.

Aunt Polly: Pollyanna you must learn to be respectful of the rules of my household. It is your duty to do so. Do you understand?

Pollyanna: Yes'm.

Aunt Polly: Now, get ready for supper. Nancy is keeping your plate warm for you in the kitchen. (She turns to leave)

Pollyanna: Aunt Polly! (Polly turns to her.) I love you, Aunt Polly. (Pollyanna runs to Aunt Polly and embraces her.)

Aunt Polly: (Straightening up) Pollyanna, I've told you how I feel about this sort of thing. Now, go to the kitchen for your supper. (Aunt Polly exits)

Song: To Choose

A home that's full of joy and glee
With all the things that need to be
But most of all it's plain to see
Someone to love and care for me.

To choose. To choose.
Why is it I must choose?
To share my life with one so dear
I'm not sure who to choose.

(Scene 11 A)

Nancy: The next day Pollyanna received a message that Dr. Chilton wanted to see her. (Pollyanna reads note and exits) As she started off for his office in town, I got a visit from Mr. Motorhead.

Tim: (Carrying a bigger bouquet of flowers) Hello there Nancy.

Nancy: Hello Tim.

Tim: These are for you.

Nancy: Well, they certainly are....big.

Tim: Yes. (As if reciting) They're as big as my affection is for you Nancy.

Nancy: Really. Well, that's a very nice thought Tim. I feel a certainaffection for you too.

Tim: You do!!! That's wonderful Nancy.

Nancy: But Tim, did you pick these on the way home from looking at somebody's motorcar?

Tim: Oh, no Nancy. I made a special trip to Miller's Meadow and picked each flower especially for you.

Nancy: Really? Well, that's very nice, Tim.

Tim: Nancy, would you like to take a walk with me?

Nancy: Now?

Tim: Sure why not?

Nancy: Why not indeed. (Tim extends his hand. Nancy takes it)

Song: Nice Day For A Walk

Tim:
When the sun is high

Nancy:
When the wind is true

Tim:
When the grass is green

Nancy:
When the sky is blue

Tim:
If I like you

Nancy:
And if you like me

Tim:
It's nice day

Nancy:

It's a very nice day

Both:

It's a perfect day to take a walk.

Tim:

When the leaves are full

Nancy:

When the birds are high

Tim:

When the flowers bloom

Nancy:

When the fish swim by

Tim:

If you like to talk

Nancy:

If you think it's fun

Tim:

It's nice day

Nancy:

It's a very nice day

Both:

It's a perfect day to take a walk.

Tim:

I'll admit you caught my eye a long, long time ago.

Nancy:

And how to make me laugh out loud you always seem to know

Tim:

When the sun is high

Nancy:

When the wind is true

Tim:

When the grass is green

Nancy:

When the sky is blue

Tim:

If I like you

Nancy:

And if you like me

Tim:

It's nice day

Nancy:

It's a very nice day

Both:

It's a perfect day to take a walk.

Scene 12

Pollyanna: Hello Dr. Chilton. You wanted to see me?

Dr. Chilton: Yes, Pollyanna. Thank you for coming. Mrs. Snow is in need of medicine and I'm needed at the hospital. Would you be so kind as to bring Mrs. Snow's medicine to her?

Pollyanna: Why certainly Dr. Chilton. I'd be happy to. You have a very nice house.

Dr. Chilton: Perhaps.....rather sparse really.... not much of a home.

Pollyanna: Now you sound like Mr. Pendleton. He says that it takes a women's touch or the presence of a child to make a home.

Dr. Chilton: I suppose he's right about that.

Pollyanna: Why aren't you married Dr.?

Dr. Chilton: (Hesitant) Well.....I did love somebody once. But it didn't work out.

Pollyanna: Why not?

Dr. Chilton: Who can say. Some forgotten argument I suppose. Stubbornness on my part and hers.

Pollyanna: I thought Mr. Pendleton loved my Aunt Polly. But I was wrong. He told me so.

Dr. Chilton: What did he say?

Pollyanna: He said he loved my mother, before she met my father. He wanted me to come and live with him. But I could never leave Aunt Polly. She's been so good to me.

Dr. Chilton: Here's Mrs. Snow's medicine. Thank you Pollyanna.

Pollyanna: Your welcome Dr. Chilton. Goodbye. (She starts out)

Dr. Chilton: Pollyanna....

Pollyanna: Yes, Dr.?

Dr. Chilton: It was *I* who loved your Aunt Polly. Goodbye Pollyanna. (He exits)

Pollyanna: Wow!

Nancy: Pollyanna was so excited by Dr. Chilton's revelation, she took off like a butterfly in a daffodil patch. She couldn't wait to get home to tell us the news. She wasn't really paying attention where was going...and as she ran across Brickman Road, she failed to notice the oncoming motor car. (SFX....Blackout)

Scene 13

Tom/Tina: We were all was in shock. Little Miss Pollyanna had touched the lives of everyone in this town.

Martha: We got her into her bed, waiting for her to wake up. Miss Polly never left her side.

Nancy: When Pollyanna finally opened her eyes she had no idea what had happened to her.

Lights up on bedroom. Pollyanna opens her eyes.

Aunt Polly: You're awake. Oh, thank goodness.

Pollyanna: Aunt Polly?

Aunt Polly: Yes, dear. I'm right here. I'm so glad you're awake..... I love you Pollyanna. I love you so much. (She hugs her)

Pollyanna: You do love me, don't you Aunt Polly.

Aunt Polly: Oh, yes. I do. I do. (emotional)

Pollyanna: Aunt Polly, what happened to me?

Aunt Polly: You were hit by one of those dratted motor cars.

Pollyanna: I was? (panicking) I can't feel my legs!

Aunt Polly: Oh, I think perhaps they're broken. They're sure to mend. I've sent for the doctor.

Pollyanna: Dr. Chilton?

Aunt Polly: No Pollyanna, not Dr. Chilton. My doctor is Dr. Warren.

Dr. Warren: Well, here I am. Another patient to cure. That's what I do. I've been at it for many and many a year now. And I'm still as sharp as a stone. A stone? Hmm I guess stones can be sharp. Anyhow, I haven't lost a step ina day or two. (Laughs) No sir, not me. I'm a Scott you know..... from strong durable stock Scott.....I mean Scott scotch.....Scott stock! Is that what I mean? That's what I mean.....I think. Where am I? Who am I?

Martha: Dr. Warren?

Dr. Warren: Yes...that's who I am. Dr. Warren.

Martha: Thank heaven you've come.

Dr. Warren: Thank heaven indeed. I'll fix you all up my dear. (He takes Martha's wrist) Let me just take your pulse.

Martha: What are you doing. Dr. Warren I'm not the patient. You're here to see Pollyanna. Please follow me.

Dr. Warren: Of course...I knew that. I was just lightening the mood. Everyone seems so gloomy around here. (He enters Pollyanna's room)

Aunt Polly: Dr. Warren, thank heaven you've come.

Dr. Warren: My pleasure. (Stethoscope on Aunt Polly's back) Now take a deep breath.

Aunt Polly: No, Dr. Warren. You're here to see my niece, Pollyanna.

Dr. Warren: Oh, yes of course. (He moves the stethoscope to Pollyanna) Hm. (moving the scope around) Hm. Hm. Well she seems perfectly fine to me. What a sweet young lady. She's probably just caught a bug. She'll be fine in a day or two.

Aunt Polly: Dr. Warren..she was hit by a car. She has no feeling in her legs!

Dr. Warren: Oh. (realizing) Oh! Well maybe I should take a look at her legs.

Aunt Polly: Indeed!

Dr. Warren: (Warren examines Pollyanna's legs) Hm. Miss Harrington, would you step this way.

They step away from Pollyanna

Aunt Polly: What is it doctor? Are her legs broken?

Dr. Warren: I'm afraid it's far more serious than that. From what I can determine, the girl has suffered irreparable nerve damage. We'll call in a specialist, of course, but in my opinion, Pollyanna will never walk again.

Pollyanna: (Who has heard every word) Aunt Polly! Aunt Polly!

Aunt Polly runs to Pollyanna who is crying uncontrollably

Song: The Happy Verses

Rev. Ford: Brothers and sisters. By now you have all heard the terrible news. Sweet Pollyanna, who has become such a cherished members of our community has confronted a terrible accident, which has left her with serious injuries. As you know, my friends, Pollyanna always tried to find the good in everything. She consistently sought reasons to be glad. It was Pollyanna who emphasized the happy verses. So as we join together in petitioning her recovery, let us keep her positive spirit in the forefront of our prayers.

Rev. Ford:

Happy is he. Happy is she
To find....find the joy in life
We come, we go
Our hearts to grow
And keep,,and keep the joy in life

Ensemble:

We come, we go
 Our hearts to grow
 And keep...and keep the joy in life

Rev. Ford:

Blessed are the pure of heart,
 for they shall see God.

Rev. Ford:

Exalt and sing and praises ring
 The glory, glory life has found
 Reach out and touch those close to you
 With peace, peace and love abound

Ensemble:

We come, we go
 Our hearts to grow
 And keep...and keep the joy in life

Pendleton:

Miss Polly, please tell Pollyanna that I took her suggestion and adopted Jimmy Bean. Maybe the news will make her feel a little better.

Ensemble:

We come, we go
 Our hearts to grow
 And keep...keep the joy in life

We come, we go
 Our hearts to grow
 And keep...keep the joy in life

Scene 14

Pendleton: Have you attempted to contact Polly Harrington?

Dr. Chilton: Yes, I left a note at her door. No response.

Pendleton: Yet you think Pollyanna may be helped.

Dr. Chilton: Yes, I studied with a doctor in Baltimore who has had some success in treating nerve damage. Of course there would be no guarantee.

Jimmy enters with a tray of coffee

Jimmy/Jenny: Good morning Dr. Chilton. Father.

Pendleton: Thank you Jimmy/Jenny.

Dr. Chilton: Yes, thank you son/daughter. It seems this new arrangement is working out rather fine.

Jimmy/Jenny: Yes. I'm very happy.

Pendleton: As am I.

Dr. Chilton: That's wonderful.

Pendleton: Robert, what would the chances be that Pollyanna might walk again, undergoing your friend's treatment.

Dr. Chilton: No one can say. And the treatment is quite painful.

Pendleton: It would be cruel to raise false hopes. And I suppose there are worse things than spending one's life in a wheelchair.

Dr. Chilton: Still, if there's chance she might walk again.....but no...given my past with Polly Harrington, it would be just too awkward to approach her.

Jimmy/Jenny: Hogwash!!!

Dr. Chilton: I beg your pardon.

Jimmy/Jenny: Hogwash!!! Hogwash!!! And just for good measure.... Double Hogwash!!!

Pendleton: Jimmy!!! Don't be rude.

Dr. Chilton: Indeed!

Jimmy/Jenny: But this is total nonsense. Pollyanna would barf her lunch if she could hear such talk. Who cares how awkward you might feel in approaching that crazy aunt of hers. If there's

any chance....any chance at all..that you can help Pollyanna, you must go to her. And you must go to her now!!!! (Awkward pause) Go!!!! (Chilton starts out)

Blackout

Scene 15

Dr. Warren: Now, Pollyanna, I want you to close your eyes, and visualize yourself walking through the tall grass in the meadow. Now listen carefully. Do you hear the birds and the crickets? Isn't it a lovely scene?

Aunt Polly: Dr. Warren, are you sure this is helpful? It seems a bit bizarre.

Dr. Warren: As a matter of fact, Miss. Harrington, I'm not sure. I'm not sure at all. In fact, I'm not sure of anything. I just thought I would give it a try.

Dr. Chilton enters. Aunt Polly rises and glares at him.

Dr. Chilton: I've come to examine Pollyanna

Pollyanna: Hello Dr. Chilton. I'm so glad to see you.

Aunt Polly: But Dr. Warren is our family doctor. And....he has the situation well in hand.

(Dr. Warren has been shuffling playing cards and they all drop in a heap)

Dr. Chilton: Yes, I can see that. Polly I need to speak with you in private. (He exits down steps. Aunt Polly hesitantly follows) Polly, you and I cannot let our history stand in the way of getting this girl the help she needs.

Aunt Polly: But....

Dr. Chilton: You and I were afraid to take a chance, once. And so we've spent our lives being miserable. Your sister stepped up and took a chance, and though her life was short....she made the most of it. And she gave us Pollyanna. We can't deny Pollyanna the chance to live her life to fullest, just because we were afraid. We can't do it Polly.

Dr. Chilton:

Long ago the world was new
 You looked at me. I looked at you.
 And in your eyes I saw my life
 But then my joy was torn to strife

Aunt Polly:

I saw in you a glor'ious dream
A noble Knight, or so you seemed
I thought my world with you was true
Then you were gone, my life was blue.

Dr. Chilton:

How did it happen?

Aunt Polly:

What did I say?

Both:

Did we allow fear to stand in our way?

Dr. Chilton:

Now again the world is new

Aunt Polly:

You look at me. I look at you.

Both:

And in your eyes I see a glow
Another chance for love to grow.

Aunt Polly: (Moving up the stairs) Dr. Warren...your services here are no longer needed.

Dr. Warren: Oh? Oh! Well, to tell the truth, I've been hearing that a lot lately. The best to you dearie (He hugs Pollyanna) I'm off to a billiard tournament now. Lots of similarities between practicing medicine and shooting pool, you know. Yes...well goodbye all. (He's out)

Dr. Chilton: Now, Pollyanna. We're going to Baltimore. You'll not have an easy time of it. But if you can stay positive, I think you'll have a good chance of walking again.

Pollyanna: Oh, Dr. Chilton, I'm so glad you came, I'm very, very glad.

Scene 16

During the following the townsfolk are assembling.

Nancy: So Dr. Chilton left for Baltimore with Pollyanna that very night. Pollyanna was gone a long time....almost a year. But she's coming home today. The whole town has come out to welcome her home. You see, Pollyanna's upbeat view of life has spread to everyone and has been so very, very good for all who she touched.

Tim joins Nancy. Aunt Polly and Dr. Chilton appear. Mrs. Snow and Millie enter along with Pendleton and Jimmy. Rev. Ford enter with the Ladies Aid. Widow Benton and Mrs. Payson also appear. Pollyanna makes a cautious but deliberate entrance to the middle of the scene.

Reprise: The Happy Verses

All:

We come, we go
Our hearts to grow
And keep...and keep the joy in life

It's a game that she made up with her Dad
And it's lots of fun to play
It will help you find all the best in times
And make bad times go away.

Pollyanna:

Be glad. Be glad.
Be glad it worked that way.
Cause the things you think will be bad for you
Might turn out to be OK

All:

'Cause the things you think will be bad for you
Might turn out to be OK