

August 18, 2023 — TINKERTOWN

PERUSAL SCRIPT

TINKERTOWN

Where creativity comes to life!

Book and Lyrics by
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Music and Lyrics by
C. Michael Perry

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TINKERTOWN!

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ORDER #3376

TINKERTOWN! — Where Creativity Comes to Life! *Book and Lyrics by Coni Koepfinger, Music and Lyrics by C. Michael Perry.* About 60-minutes. Cast Size: 3 principal players (1f, 1m, 1either + ensemble of 6-9) TINKERTOWN is a place of ideas... For in this imaginary land we meet three very creative characters, Travis Tee – inventor, tinkerer, thinker, and toymaker extraordinaire; and his two assistants, Gadget, the engineering mastermind and Sprocket, the mechanical genius. It seems that Travis has forgotten how to think! How will anything get done? Everything has stopped! Nothing can be made anymore if Travis can't think! For everyone knows you must be “a thinker if you want to tinker!” Help arrives via a rocket fueled by children’s creative energies and once they arrive... the sheer excitement ignites Travis into “super-thinking”! It rekindles the creative spark that gives him ideas to start tinkering once again. Six 2-3 minute songs will carry the audience beyond the threshold of adventure and into the journey. Visual needs can be kept minimal, focus will be on the organic creative stimuli to encourage audience to think about the process of creation while they are yet emerged in it. **ORDER #3376**

CAST:

TRAVIS T. TOYMAKER— m

GADGET — f

SPROCKET — m

ENSEMBLE: (The Sprockettes) (a mix of children and teens)

CHIMES —f

CORKY — m

WHEELIE— m or f

NUTTY— m or f

SPRINGER— m or f

SNAPPER— m or f

SPINNER —f

COG — m or f

THINGAMABOB — m

NOTE: The name “Travis” may be altered to local ethnicity, if desired. All genders but Travis and Gadget are fluid.

SONGS:

#1 — Tinkertown! — Travis and Ensemble

#2 — Imagination! — Travis

#3 — Apparatus Stew — Ensemble

#4 — Ready To Fly — Gadget

#5 — Think and Do Calypso — Gadget, Travis, Ensemble

#6 — Pure Invention — Travis & Ensemble

TINKERTOWN!

MUSICAL #1 — TINKERTOWN

(THE STAGE IS DARK, [SFX: or MUSIC:] INTERMITTENT ODD MECHANICAL ROOM SOUNDS creating an erratic but insistent rhythm. All the CHARACTERS are turned off, frozen in place, au vista scene. TRAVIS enters... beginning to turn them on, one by one, as he speaks.)

TRAVIS: AH YES!!!! Today, we begin again! Perhaps my greatest invention yet!

(MECHANICAL CHARACTERS begin coming to life, getting into the rhythm.)

Good Morning! Gadget, time to wake up! You too, my friend Sprocket! Hello Wheelie, Nutty... Time to create again! Oh, I have so many ideas... I just can't wait to create today! Ah yes! What a lovely thought!

ENSEMBLE:

TINKERTOWN, TINKERTOWN

WE BUILD ROBOTS, BUZZERS, SWITCHES,

GADGETS, GIZMOS, SUPER GLITCHES!

TINKERTOWN, TINKERTOWN

TINKERTOWN, TINKERTOWN

WE MAKE SURE TO GET THINGS MOVING!

BACK AND FORTH, AND READ COGS GROOVING!

TINKERTOWN, TINKERTOWN

THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE IDEAS WAKE UP —

IMAGINATION LIVES ON AIR!

THIS IS WHERE WE MAKE PLAY UP.

THIS IS WHERE WE TAKE PLAY UP A NOTCH OR TWO —
TO RECREATION EXTRAORDINAIRE!

EV'RYTHING, EV'RYTHING,
EV'RYTHING, EV'RYTHING IS IN

TINKERTOWN, TINKERTOWN

ROLLING, STROLLIN FUN-FILLED ROLLICK.

AWESOME PLACE, IT'S MADE TO FROLIC!

TINKERTOWN, TINKERTOWN - TINKER -TINKER -TOWN

(SPROCKET and GADGET end up on the end of the stage, TRAVIS is working furiously at his SENSATION-CREATION MACHINE, upstage center. CHIMES, CORKY, WHEELIE, NUTTY, SPRINGER, SNAPPER and SPINNER go offstage and end up behind the audience.)

SPROCKET: Gee, it's great to be back at work again, Gadget... I mean, vacation is cool, but there's nothing quite like the school of life to get things going again.

GADGET: Especially when you enjoy your work. We're two very lucky characters to be able to do the kind of work we love.

SPROCKET: The truth is, it works both ways, I mean... You gotta do what you love and you gotta love what you do.

GADGET: And we work for a pretty nice guy, too. I mean, Travis is not only the best toymaker and one of the greatest inventors in the world... But he's a really nice guy.

SPROCKET: Yeah, just look at him go to work... Tinkering away... It's amazing where he just gets all those ideas... Out of the blue... I mean, he's an inspiration to us all.

GADGET: Yessirree... He sure is...

SPROCKET: Yep, we come to work start on a project, and all of a sudden I get so caught up in the work process, the creativity starts to flow and, well, it feels so good!

SPROCKET: Well, speaking of work... We'd better get moving and grooving...

(As he stands there is a sudden [**SFX:**] KA-BOOM followed by a [**SFX:**] LOUD BANG.

TRAVIS runs off backstage, behind his machine.)

GADGET: He even makes me want to make things

TRAVIS : Oh no! What's going on here? How can this be? The thinking machine is empty... Bone dry, Hmmm, perhaps if I try to lift this lever... Oh, noooooooooooooooooooooo...

(SPROCKET and GADGET are thrown to either side of the stage and TRAVIS comes out in a panic.)

MUSICAL #2 – IMAGINATION

TRAVIS T. TOYMAKER:

I'VE LOST IT...IT'S GONE...

I'VE LOST IT...NOW I'LL NEVER-EVER, NEVER, *NEVER!*

I'VE GOT IT... I THINK

I HAVE IT! ...HERE IT'S THAT AND THERE IT'S THIS...*OH NO!!!!*

I CAN'T THINK, I CAN'T THINK.

I REMEMBER IT, BUT I CAN'T THINK.

THIS WON'T BLINK! THAT WON'T WINK!

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO START TO FINISH THIS.

GOSH THIS STINKS ...REALLY STINKS.
MY HEARTt? IT SI-I-I-INKS.

I USED TO MAKE THE MOST MAGICAL THINGS!
CARS THAT FLEW AND TRAINS ABLE TO SING.
I USED TO LOVE TO SIT AND SEE;
WATCH CHILDREN'S FACES LIGHT WITH GLEE!
I USED TO. I USED TO.

IMAGINATION LEADS TO CREATION.
IT WALKS AHEAD INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING WHAT HAS BEEN BEFORE.
IMAGINATION TAKES US THROUGH LIFE — A SIMPLE GIFT FROM ME TO YOU
MY HEART IS BREAKING, BEATING FAST,
BUT WILL THE ENERGY PULSING IN ME EVER LAST?

IMAGINATION, PURE INSPIRATION...
I'VE HAD IT BEFORE. IT OPENED THE DOOR
IMAGINATION!

(Feeling defeated, TRAVIS reluctantly puts on his hat and coat and goes out the back door. Disappearing backstage.)

GADGET: Oh, no!

(Rises)

What do we do now, Sprocket? What do you think happened? I've never seen him like that!

(Crosses to SPROCKET, helping him to his feet.)

Wow, he looked so sad. W-w-w-hat are we gonna do?

SPROCKET: *(standing)* Not sure...

(Brushes himself off)

Let's investigate!

(Goes to the machine, starts tinkering around.

[SFX:] the levers and switches he uses)

Not this, definitely NOT this one! Ahhhh... Maybe, maybe... Maybe....

GADGET: *(shouts)* SPROCKET, I'M AFRAID... Let's just wait... What if if we make it worse! What if it really blows up! What if, what if, what if...

SPROCKET: *(Turns around abruptly and takes GADGET by the shoulders, shouting at her)* So what!

GADGET: What's that supposed to mean?

(COG and THINGAMABOB rush in not paying any attention to what they just walked into, they are in their own world.)

COG: *(bragging, running ahead)* Look, look! I'm finished with my project! I'm finished with my project!

THINGAMABOB : Hey, wait, Cog... Mine's finished too!

COG: Oh-oh, Thingy... Think we may have walked into a bad scene here.

THINGAMABOB: Yes, yes, we did.

(SPROCKET flashes them a quick glance)

(To SPROCKET)

Oh sire!

(Trying to change the mood)

You'll be so proud of me!

COG: *(congused)* Uh- da.....Are you guys fighting about something here?

SPROCKET: *(to COG)* No! Just having a little meeting of the minds here

(Turns to GADGET)

I mean, Gadget, you need stop your worrying and turn your "What ifs" into "So whats!" my friend!

(Turns back to THINGY & COG)

So you two are finished already! You are such swell apprentices! Put your projects aside for a moment though... We're got a major malfunction here! Travis just did something here that caused a great big explosion.

(spins GADGET around)

We've got top turn things around here..... If you want to make things better, you've got to start somewhere! And fear does no good at all...

(Goes back behind the machine)

It's gotta be here somewhere....

(Looking, searching)

Hmmmmmm... Lets see...

THINGAMABOB: *(follows SPROCKET)* By Jove, I think I get it! Splendid idea! Sprocket! You are so bright! I am absolutely honored to be your apprentice!

GADGET: What are you looking for back there in the machine? If he lost his ideas, it's not going to still be back there, Sprocket.

COG: Yeah, I don't get it... Someone 'splain it t'me. Huh. Huh. Willya?

(To GADGET)

What are you looking for Sprocket?

SPROCKET: The answer....

GADGET: The answer to what?

SPROCKET: The answer to the problem!

GADGET: But if you don't know what the problem is, how can you know what you're looking for?

SPROCKET: Oh, it will come to me... Always does... Just gotta have a little faith in the unexplained!

GADGET: *(to COG)* I'm a little confused.

COG: Makes two of us, boss. Makes two of us!

SPROCKET: *(flipping switches, suddenly finds one that's stuck)* Uh huh! Just as I thought... Uh huh! Uh-huh! Thingamabob, here, hold this up....

THINGAMABOB: *(obeys)* Here I am, Johnny on the spot! Allow me, Sire.

(Following Sprocket's every move.)

Brilliant, Sire Sprocket! Absolutely brilliant!

SPROCKET: Thanks, Thingamabob... Your support is always so helpful.

GADGET: What? What? What on earth are you doing, Sprocket?

COG: *(steps to take a closer look)* Ah ha! Oh, I get it now... Oh, no... Not good. Definitely NOT good.

SPROCKET: Just like Travis said before...

GADGET: What? What's the problem?

SPROCKET: Fresh outta ideas! The turnmaster is stuck because the think-tank has gone dry. Stuck!

(Pulls GADGET downstage and into the audience)

Okay, Gadget... Let's just take a fresh look at things. Okay? I mean... The way we usually do things just isn't going to happen now. Travis is gone off, he doesn't have a clue on what to do now. You know, it's about time we quite relying on him. It's time we start thinking for ourselves.

(Slaps her on the back.)

Let's take a whole new perspective...

GADGET: But how? We got to *do* something! And we don't know what to do!

SPROCKET: Gadget, Cog, Thingamabob... There are three ways to get something done! #1- Do it yourself! #2- Give help. #3- Get help!

GADGET: So what do we do?

SPROCKET: We go out there, and there, and everywhere to explore new possibilities... We get help! We ask others for their ideas... There's a whole new world of imagination just waiting to be explored.

THINGAMABOB: Wise choice, sire! #3 ... I would have selected the very same.

COG: This is cool. Totally coolness.

GADGET: What exactly are we going to do?

SPROCKET: Uh, uh, uh....

GADGET: Well...

SPROCKET: Look around... Open your eyes, now open your mind to new possibilities...

GADGET: This is very risky... I liked the way we used to do it.

SPROCKET: (*looks at Cog and Thingamabob*) Well we'll start with you and you....

(*Takes them by the hands*)

Then perhaps we add a few...

(*[SFX:] A BELL CHIMING -SPROCKET looks out into the audience.*)

Hey Chimes, is that you I hear chiming out there?

CHIMES: That's why they call me Chimes, Sprocket!

(Entering with the SPROCKETTES)

Hear all my friends, too. We're all in tune for a little merriment & music making!

SPROCKET: Well, well... Just in time. Well, seems we are always in the same rhythm. Come on along,
Chimes, chime in whenever you like...

CHIMES: Alright, Sprocket... And I'm bringing my friends here along too!

SPROCKET: Fantastic, Chimes. You're always right on cue, ready to harmonize and splendorize ... Hip
hop jazzersize and reorganize... It gets me going every time!

THINGAMABOB: Oh, oh... So creative, Sire...

COG: But really what are *we* supposed to do?

SPROCKET: We make, we make stew!

GADGET: Stew?

THINGAMABOB: Stew...

COG: Stew?

SPROCKET: Yeah, that's it... Apparatus Stew!

(Laughs)

Don't they say a friend in need is a friend indeed!

CHIMES: I just happened to be passing through... Actually, I hear the distress call. I mean, I heard Travis,
explosion and thought you might need some encouragement.

SPROCKET: Well, we are certainly glad to see you! You and your friends are just in time to help us make a

little stew ... We've got some little "behind the scenes" , uh, er, technical difficulty here in Tinkertown.
But! We think we've found a way to get the creativity flowing... To get the things here "Unstuck"!

COG: Hey, you guys maybe can help us get things going again. It always helps if somebody helps!

CHIMES: Absolutely, it'll make it easier, for sure! And it'll be fun too! Sure... Just show us how to play!

Let me introduce you to all my friends...

(CHIMES introduces CORKY, WHEELIE, NUTTY, SPRINGER, SNAPPER, and SPINNER.)

MUSICAL #3 – APPARATUS STEW

HOW CAN WE GET THINGS GOING-GOING...

HOW DO WE START TO THINK?

WAIT A SECOND, SIT BACK RELAX...

WE'LL GET THE FACTS, AFTER WE MAKE OUR THINKIN' DRINK!

A PINCH OF THIS AND A PLOP OF THAT...

THIS STUFF TASTES SO COOL.

HERE, TAKE A SIP;

IT'S GOOD FOR YOU

(Spoken)

Hmmm, Hmmm, Hmmm, Hmmm, Hmmmmmmmm, Huh!

YUMMY, YUM-YUM IN THE TUMMY, TUM-TUM. YES, IT'S TRUE

HERE'S WHY WE MAKE IT:

THE EARTH? WE'LL SHAKE IT

WHEN WE MAKE THAT APPARATUS, APPARATUS STEW!

WHAT YOU PUT IN IS WHAT YOU GET OUT.

JUST THROW YOUR IDEAS IN:
A HOPE, A WISH, A DREAM OR TWO!
I'LL THROW MINE IN! THAT'S WHAT WE DO.
THAT WILL MAKE THIS THINKIN'-DRINK, THIS DRINKIN'-THINK,
AND IN A WINK
WE'LL HAVE OUR APPARATUS, THAT SWEET APPARATUS,
APPARATUS STEW!

(Spoken)

Here we go now...

(During a twelve bar underscore: ALL variously pluck a hair; lean to the side and pump a thought out of their ear by hitting it with their palm, spit, sneeze, cough, laugh[catch it and throw it in], cry tears and drop them in, toss in a photo, etc.)

Alright you guys got the idea... Let's stir it...

(Grabs GADGET & throws HER into it. GADGET shakes and spins, like an egg-beater.)

YEAH, NOW YOU SHAKE IT UP!
A LITTLE DAB OF MOTOR OIL
A TOUCH OF HOT SAUCE — MAKE IT BOIL!
GRAB THE SOCKS OFF YOUR FEET.
BREAK UP A BIG CHOCOLATE SWEET!
USE A BIT OF STYLE TO STIR IT IN.
A FLOURISH AND A SMILE WILL WIN!
THE BOOK YOU READ LAST NIGHT
WITH ALL THOSE THOUGHTS OF FUN OR OR THOUGHTS OF FRIGHT,
A BIT OF WHAT YOUR MOM ONCE SAID
STILL RUNNING THROUGH YOUR HEAD!
THAT SHOULD WAKE IT UP!

NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THINGS GOING-GOING!
NOW WE DON'T HAVE TO WAIT!
NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THE JUICES FLOWING
NOW, WE WON'T HESITATE!
ALL TOGETHER. NOW IS THE TIME
LET'S DRINK OUR LITTLE DRINK,
AND OH THE THOUGHTS WE'LL THINK
WHEN APPARATUS STEW
SLIPS DEEP INSIDE OF YOU
AND GIVES YOU THINKS SUBLIME!
APPARATUS STEW!

(TRAVIS staggers onstage, disarrayed and confused. He then starts to work behind his machine.)

TRAVIS: *(mumbling)* Errrr... one..... One times two... plus the cog of the sprocket, Oh no..... It's no use!
(Looks around in despair)
Absolutely no use anymore!

SPROCKET: Travis! Look! Hey, we just made apparatus stew. With all of our energy in motion we made up a creative potion!

GADGET: Travis, you need ideas... Please...
(Frantic)
...try some stew.

COG: Come on!

GADGET: It just might work, Travis!

TRAVIS: STEW? How can you talk about stew?!? I gotta think. I can't think about anything else now! Oh this is just awful...I can't think of anything! Don't bother me now!!

(While exiting)

I HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO THINK AGAIN!

(TRAVIS works behind the machine, then totally drops out of sight.)

COG: Hey Travis, were ya goin'?

(To Sprocket)

What, what can we do about Travis?

(EVERYONE chimes in, questioning the situation.)

SPROCKET: Don't worry guys. WE still got our imaginations! Don't we!

EVERYONE: Yes, we do!

SPROCKET: Sure we do!

(Changes focus)

Hey, Yeah ... And just feel all our apparatus stew bubbling away. If we can do that well then I bet we can figure out how to get Travis back in the creative im-a- gin-a-tive groove.

THINGY: How right you are sire Sprocket. Absolutely on target.

GADGET: Just wait a second, it's one thing to get the creative juices flowing, but we were just playing around. How can having fun help Travis? Let me think about this. This is all going too fast here. Let me get my notebook.

(Wandering)

Now where did I put that. Oh, look at this mess....

SPROCKET: Put that notebook back in your pocket! We need to brain-storm here not to brain-form. If we

let our imaginations flow there's no telling where we can go.

GADGET: (*annoyed*) So what? We are going to take a journey through our imaginations? I just don't think we have the....

SPROCKET: You are a genius! That is absolutely brilliant. That's exactly what we'll do. We'll take a journey through our imaginations.

GADGET: Do what? what do you mean. All I said was....

SPROCKET: So, give me another idea. You beautiful brainiac you! (*daring Gadget*) Come on First thing that comes to your mind.

GADGET: (*dazed and confused*) Huh? Give me a minute.

COG: Oh, don't think about it!

THING: This is so exciting. I feel that creative energy. I could just burst. Let's see first thing that comes to my head...

COG: Cuisinart!

ENSEMBLE: Huh?

COG: Yep! First thing came that came to my head.

(Defending)

That's what you said.

12 more pages to the end