HULA HOOPS AND HALOS

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Based on an idea by Scott Keys

Music and Lyrics by Scott Keys

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STORY OF THE PLAY

It's the '50s, so come join the kids as they hang out at the local diner in this heavenly hit-of-a-musical comedy! But for Betsy Harding, it's all work and no play. Since her mom passed away, Betsy has her hands full running the family diner, minding her little sister, competing with her all-star athletic brother, and taking care of her toy-inventing father. She doesn't have time to be "a typical teen."

Enter Angela, a tough-talkin' angel-in-training, sent down to earth to earn her halo. Once Angela starts waiting on tables and spewin' diner slang, Betsy finds she finally has time to enjoy life. She even gets a date to the prom with the school heartthrob, Chip, but he dumps her when she starts acting like every other girl in a poodle skirt. Between Angela and Johnny, the rebel-without-a-clue, Betsy learns about being true to yourself.

This '50s style score includes the divine do-wop number, "Heavens to Betsy"; the drive-in ditty, "Wheels and Reels and a Full Moon"; the hilarious "The Hardings Need a Guardian Angel"; and the daredevilish dance number, "The Hellion Hop." One interior set.

SETTING

Dudley's Diner in Centerville, USA, in the '50s. The diner has a counter and swiveling stools, behind which is a soda fountain (which no one ever uses) and a pass-through to the kitchen. On one side are booths and a brightly colored jukebox. Tables with chairs are also set up in the space. There is a swinging door to the kitchen between the counter and the booths; there is also a regular door to Pop's workroom. On one side there is a large window and a door with a ringing bell that is the main entrance to the diner. On the other is a hallway leading to the bathrooms and the stairs to the Hardings' living quarters. A pay phone is nearby.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(7 m, 7 w, 3 flexible plus Chorus)

***POP (DUDLEY) HARDING:** A widower, inventor, shop owner. Father to Betsy, Scooter and Stretch.
BETSY HARDING: Teenager who wants to belong.
SCOOTER HARDING: Betsy's tomboyish little sister.
STRETCH HARDING: Betsy's big brother, athletic.
ANGELA: Angel on a mission.
CHIP: Nice guy, interested in Betsy.
***CINDY:** Stretch's girlfriend.
ALICE: Classmate of Betsy.
DOREEN: Another.
LOUISE: Another.
JOHNNIE B.: Fonzie type, very cool rebel.
LIEUTENANT #1: Johnnie's cohort.
LIEUTENANT #2: Another.
RANDY: Member of the Junior League.
MOLLY/WALLY: Another.
P.J.: Another.
***MILTON HASBRO:** Local toy manufacturer.
CHORUS: Junior League, nice girls, nice boys, jocks, various customers.

***Indicates non-singing role.**

***Note:** If you can't cast the Junior League perceptibly younger, they should be perceptibly shorter than the rest of the cast.*

COSTUMES

Pop wears a cardigan. Alice, Doreen and Louise wear full skirts that match each other except in color. Johnnie B. and his lieutenants wear jeans turned up at the hem, high-tops or boots, white T-shirts (with and without breast pockets) and matching leather jackets. Stretch and his jock friends wear jerseys and/or letter sweaters. Stretch also changes into a sports jacket and tie (geek) and later into a leather jacket/lieutenant's clothes (greaser). He also wears part of a tuxedo. Chip and the nice boys and girls wear nice clothes - buttoned shirts and dresses in plaids and ginghams. Betsy's clothes are plainer without the full silhouette of the nice girls' dresses; she also wears a waitress's uniform and later the ultimate 1950s ensemble: saddle shoes, a poodle skirt, a pink angora sweater, a scarf tied around her neck and a bow in her hair. For the prom scene, she wears a prom dress concealed under a waitress uniform top. Angela wears tight pedal pushers, a pink top and high heels except when she is posing as a mysterious man, with a beard, floppy hat and tattered, flowing coat, and as a fairy godmother in a tacky gown with a wand. The tomboyish Junior League - male and female - are dressed in jeans with the hems rolled up, saddle shoes and buttoned, short sleeve shirts.

PROPS

SCOOTER: Comic books, toys, Barbie doll.

BETSY: School books, apron, change, waitress cap, order pad, tray, dust pan, whisk broom, mop, and pail.

JUNIOR LEAGUERS: Toys, hula hoops (one of which is yellow), air rifle, pogo stick.

POP: Mousetrap, "Popular Mechanics" magazine, large inflatable punching bag clown, large piece of tubing, board, metal pail, hula hoop, pebble, rolling desk chair.

ANGELA: Apron, order pad, wand, halo.

STRETCH: Class ring.

CUSTOMERS: Money.

MISCELLANEOUS: Pick-up bell, plates of food, glasses, drinks, clock, salt and pepper shakers, sugar bowls, ketchup bottles, mirror ball.

SONGS

Act I

Scene 1

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS - Chorus and Betsy.
HEAVENS TO BETSY - Alice, Doreen, Louise.
WHEELS AND REELS AND A FULL MOON - Johnnie B., Alice, Doreen, Louise, and Chorus.
LIKE EVERYONE ELSE - Betsy.

Scene 2

CAPTAIN ZOOM THEME - Scooter and Junior League.
DINER SPEAK - Angela, Betsy, Chip, Chorus.

Scene 3

TEENAGE HEAVEN - Angela with Alice, Doreen, Louise.
DOO WOP DIZZY - Angela, Stretch, Betsy, Chorus and Junior League.

Act II

Scene 1

THE HARDINGS NEED A GUARDIAN ANGEL - Angela.
HEAVENS TO BETSY (Reprise) - Chip with Alice, Doreen and Louise.
THE HELLION HOP - Johnnie, Lieutenants, Chorus.

Scene 2

LIKE EVERYONE ELSE (Reprise) - Betsy.
PROM FROM HELL - (Dance/scene) Betsy, Chip, Chorus.

Scene 3

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS (Reprise) - Betsy, Angela, Chorus.

Act I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: It's a Friday afternoon. SCOOTER is sitting on the floor surrounded by her comic books and her "Junior League" FRIENDS and some of their toys. One of them idly twirling in a yellow hula hoop. A MYSTERIOUS MAN is sitting at one end of the counter. BETSY rushes into the diner, slamming her school books on the counter.)

BETSY: Pop! Pop! Are you in the kitchen? *(Exasperated)* Are you in the workshop? *(To the MAN.)* Did you see a man with a cardigan go in there? *(MAN mutters an answer and gestures vaguely to the workshop. BETSY swings around the counter and grabs her apron and waitress cap.)* Scooter, pick up your stuff; they're right behind me.

SCOOTER: Do I gotta?

BETSY: Captain Zoom is just as powerful in the apartment. You and your friends...scoot! *(The BELL rings and the noise of a lot of students begins, as does the MUSIC.)* Holy Pete!

(BETSY grabs her order pad as the STUDENTS enter and fill every conceivable space. The JUNIOR LEAGUE and SCOOTER run off to the apartment. The one with the yellow hula hoop puts it carefully behind the counter. Betsy circulates through this, taking orders, listening to gossip, and getting ignored. She picks up orders from the pass-through each time the pick-up bell rings. MYSTERIOUS MAN can wander to a booth, but there should be the impression that he watches all of the scene.)

SONG: CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

ALL: *(Sing in a round.)*

Refrain

HERE AM I,
HANGING OUT WITH MY
CIRCLE OF FRIENDS FROM CENTERVILLE HIGH.
THE FUN NEVER ENDS!

AROUND THE TABLE, OR INTO A BOOTH WE CRAM

SOLO: *(Sings.)* TO COMPLAIN ABOUT HOMEROOM

End of Freeview

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