

Theatre in the Quarter

# ***BEST DAYS OF OUR LIVES***

A reminiscence for Blacon

**Script and lyrics by Helen Newall**

**Music by Matt Baker**

**Choreography by Homegrown Dance Theatre led by Julia Williams**

Presented at Chester Cathedral, September 2015

The piece involved a community chorus of sixty people, a band of six musicians and three actors: Francis Tucker, Rachael Rae and Judy Jones, and the reminiscences of past and present staff and pupils from the schools in Blacon, and over 300 pupil performers:

- Dee Point Primary
- JH Godwin Primary School
- Highfield Community Primary School
- The Arches Community Primary School
- St Theresa's Catholic Primary School
- Blacon High School

The play was accompanied by scenographic projection created by Andy Davies and Dee Video.

## **1 SONG I: MORNING [RACHEL]**

Dawn is breaking.  
The darkness is falling away.  
The stars are setting  
And here comes another day.  
Yesterday is a memory  
Tomorrow has not yet been lived.  
But today I'm waking  
Into a place that I love...

## **2 SCENE: MORNING**

JUDI	The early dawn light is creeping over the houses,
RACHEL	The morning birds are singing in the gardens.
FRANCIS	And Mr Barnes the milkman steers his way round the Poets, his crates rattling and clinking as the float hums past the slinking stop-out cats and early birds, and he plants silver topped bottles onto all the steps.
JUDI	The lights are coming on.
RACHEL	In the Camp.
FRANCIS	In the three towers.
JUDI	Down the Parade.
RACHEL	Children are roused.
FRANCIS	Dreams are doused.
JUDI	Your breakfast's ready! Come on, get dressed!
RACHEL	Your shirt's pressed!
FRANCIS	And yawning and complaining, they stuff toast into mouths and limbs into knotted sleeves.
RACHEL	And it's a tangle of navy blue knickers and vests and pants and grey skirts, blue shirts, and black shorts and ties and red jumpers, green jumpers, blue jumpers, and knitted cardigans with too long arms, and big grey socks, and shiny Clarks shoes with complicated laces and blazers and badges and bags full of books and pump bags, and broken

biros, and screwed up bits of paper with secret messages on, and forgotten homework, and Pokemon and Loom Bands and Crazy Bones.

JUDI                      Time to get going: you'll be late!

RACHEL                Ready, Mum!

FRANCIS                I'm off, Dad!

RACHEL                Bye Gran!

JUDI                      See you later!

FRANCIS                Have a good day, kid.

RACHEL                And off we go, walking with our friends, to school.

### **3 SONG II: BLACON [CORE & CHOIR]**

Dream with me through Poets Corner  
Run past the playground, and City Farm  
Play in the cornfields, far from the murmur  
Of traffic and buses, for this is home.

Cathedral names and Welsh town roads  
Australian places, camp and Parade  
This is Blacon. this is home  
Past and present, light and shade

This is Blacon  
Isn't it great – our whole lives ahead of us  
This is Blacon  
A time to create the future's out there for us  
This is Blacon  
Time for us all to remember  
And look forward  
And build a great place together  
What a dazzling time is coming to be

Blakon Hill, where there were fields  
And thirteen houses for all the folk  
Then came the camp, where now there's towers  
Schools and churches, trees and flowers.

Auckland Road and Wordsworth Crescent  
Saxon Way and Exeter Place  
This is Blacon. this is home

Past and present, time and space

**4 SCENE: REGISTERS & ASSEMBLY**

FRANCIS	Adams
RACHEL	Here sir!
JUDI	Barker
FRANCIS	Yes miss
JUDI	Jones
RACHEL	Yes Miss Dickinson
FRANCIS	Walker
RACHEL	Sir!
JUDI	Assembly! Line up! Single file! No talking! Don't run! You may sit!
RACHEL	The very important record player monitor carefully drops the needle onto the black vinyl record to play stirring music.
FRANCIS	Small children play huge cellos.
JUDI	Very slowly.
FRANCIS	And then the headmaster sings like Pavarotti.
JUDI	Don't laugh!
RACHEL	I laugh.
FRANCIS	Detention for you, boy!
RACHEL	And we sit cross-legged on the parquet floor.
JUDI	Hymn books and hankies.

FRANCIS	We will now sing hymn number something, omitting verses four and seventy three.
RACHEL	All things bright and squeaky recorders, while the manky lost property hangs forlornly over the gym bars for all to see, and the embarrassed claim never to have seen it before.
FRANCIS	It's not mine!
RACHEL	But your name's in it!
JUDI	And now a stirring talk. We must be kind to our neighbours. And to kittens. Notices. Well done to the netball team. Chess Club at lunchtime. Dance Club too. Well done to the football team. Book Club and Needlework Club after school. Now straight to lessons, children, and no dawdling!
RACHEL	And we dawdle to our lessons. And on the way we are kind to our neighbours And to kittens.
JUDI	Good morning Class.
ALL	Good morning Miss Dickinson.
FRANCIS	Mr Metcalf is strict but he smiles.
RACHEL	Miss Fazey is not at all lazy. We love Miss Fazey.
FRANCIS	And Mr Davies and his choir sing like angels.
JUDI	Shoes off! Plimsolls on! PE in the school hall! Vest and shorts, and put out mats in case of a fall!
FRANCIS	Miss Roberts gives us charcoal, but it smudges over our faces not the paper.
JUDI	And Miss Dickinson presses wildflowers into sugar paper books.
RACHEL	Colour in the Tudors, cut out the Romans, stick down the Victorians.
JUDI	What is the capitol of Peru?
FRANCIS	Now turn to page 32

## **5 SONG III: BEST DAYS [CORE & CHOIR]**

Biff and Chip and chalk and hymns  
Pegs and pump-bags, Kings and Queens,  
Angels' silver tinsel wings  
Playtime, dinnertime, eat your greens!

Parquet floors and skipping ropes  
Eggs and spoons, and microscopes  
Cotton wool and sugar paper, glitter and glue  
In lost property: one school shoe.

Best days of our lives  
With everything ahead of us  
Best days of our lives  
Alive with fresh-faced longing  
Best days of our lives  
Forever  
Best days of our lives  
Forever

Glass bottled milk and the seven times table  
Chips and spam fritters, and copy out the label  
Make a volcano: spell tornado!  
Clay pots and ink-splots, and handfuls of play-doh!

Rose-queens and football, and trips to the zoo  
Bus trips to Delamere, and who loves who?  
Conkers and dandelions and daisy chains  
Chess club, swimming lessons, sums to do.

## **6 SCENE: PLAYBUS**

JUDI	Meanwhile out on Clever Road, a double decker Crosville bus, painted blue with an octopus on the back, is parking up.
RACHEL	The Playbus is here!
JUDI	And the mothers and the grans and the toddlers of Blacon are coming aboard and climbing the curly stairs to play with the sandpit and the water tray and the toy farm and the playhouse and the picture books.
FRANCIS	And when Mr Dutton the driver is eighty, we sing Happy Birthday on the bus, and his cake is a furnace of little flickering flames.

RACHEL	And in the lunch breaks, Mrs Davies reads the tea-leaves in the upturned cups.
JUDI	I see small journeys. I see a tall dark handsome stranger. I see a golden future.
RACHEL	Story time, children!
FRANCIS	Once upon a time, in a land far away, there lived a king, a queen, a mouse, a horse that could talk, a little girl, a little boy, and their adventures are just beginning.

### **7 SONG IV: PICTURE BOOKS [Group A]**

Look at the pictures  
What do you see?  
I see oceans and castles  
And mountains and trees.

Pictures of pirates  
And unicorns too.  
Stories and poems  
In red, green and blue

I turn the pages  
I open my eyes  
And on every page  
There's another surprise

Look at the pictures  
What do you see?  
I see oceans and castles  
And mountains and trees.

### **8 SCENE: BREAKTIME**

FRANCIS	Break-time with thick milk sucked through clammy straws from tiny glass bottles.
RACHEL	And dinner time on big tables set out in the hall.
JUDI	And Mrs Kerr the cook, and Ann, Debbie and Rose, and Mrs Patton, Mrs Stokely, Mrs Pallin and Mrs Bromfield wield great big ladles and lift great big steaming trays of mashed potato
FRANCIS	And baked beans

RACHEL	and semolina with a dollop of jam in the middle
FRANCIS	and peas and spam fritters
RACHEL	and chips and rhubarb crumble
FRANCIS	and custard and sausages
RACHEL	and gravy and steamed pudding.
FRANCIS	We love school dinners!
RACHEL	I don't!
JUDI	Then its cartwheels and handstands on the field,
FRANCIS	rolling down the hill,
JUDI	playground tag,
RACHEL	and hanging upside down on the climbing frame,
FRANCIS	and conkers and footie,
RACHEL	and cats cradle and skipping.
CHORUS	<p>One two three four five  Once I caught a fish alive  Six seven eight nine ten  Then I let him go again.  Why did you let him go?  Because he bit my finger so  Which finger did he bite?  This little finger on the right!</p>

## **9 SONG V: NURSERY RHYMES [Group B]**

Playtime, playtime,  
 What a lovely day time  
 Games with friends  
 In imaginary places  
 Playtime, playtime,  
 What a lovely day time  
 Making up stories  
 Pulling funny faces  
  
 Race you to the lamppost



Tick you're on!  
Watch this magic penny  
Look it's gone!  
Playtime, playtime,  
What a lovely day time  
Swapping our stickers  
And having some fun.

## **10 SCENE: NATIVITY**

JUDI                      Goodness me, it's the end of September! We better start rehearsing for the Nativity Play. Shepherds, put on your tea towels and try to look surprised when the angels say hello. And Peter: don't do that with your crook. Everybody?

CHORUS                Lo! What is that in the sky? Lo! We are sore afraid!

JUDI                      Sheep! Try to look frightened! And don't baaa too loudly.

CHORUS                Baaaaaaaa!

JUDI                      Angels!

CHORUS                Yes miss!

JUDI                      It's your line!

CHORUS                Sorry Miss! Lo! We bring you tidings of great joy.

JUDI                      Flutter your arms and twinkle your tinsel.

CHORUS                Lo! A child is born! Hurry to the stable where you will find him wrapped in swaddling bands.

JUDI                      Shepherds?

CHORUS                Lo! Let us hurry!

JUDI                      Star of the East? Where is the Star of the East?

FRANCIS                Gone to the loo, Miss.

JUDI                      Miss Franklin, would you be so kind as to read in the line?

RACHEL                Lo! I am the Star of the East! Twinkle twinkle! You three kings must follow me!

KINGS	We three kings will follow you.
JUDI	Watch the steps kings, don't trip.... Oh dear! Could someone get some ice for Balthazar's head?
KINGS	Lo! We have followed the star. We bring gold, Frankenstein and myrrh.
JUDI	Mary, put Jesus's head back on, and don't fidget. Where's Joseph?
FRANCIS	Lo! He's got chicken pox, Miss.

### **11 SONG VI: AWAY IN A MANGER [CORE & CHOIR]**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed.  
 The doll that plays Jesus has a wobbly head  
 We're all in our dressing gowns, there's tinsel galore  
 And the donkey we borrowed has weed on the floor.

The teachers are happy, our parents shed tears.  
 And Christmas is sparkling, with glitter and cheers.  
 The hay is quite scratchy, there's glue in our hair  
 But we'll remember forever, these moments we share.

### **12 SCENE:**

JUDI	Easter comes and goes in April showers And cotton wool bunnies and tissue paper flowers
RACHEL	Happy Easter, Miss! I've brought you an egg.
JUDI	How kind, dear. Now have we all got our swimming things? Into a line to get on the bus.
FRANCIS	And it's a big double decker with a spirally staircase and steamed up windows. And it takes us the Chester City Baths.
RACHEL	And then it's into the little cabins by the side of the pool to struggle into our swimming suits.
FRANCIS	And then we bob up and down, gasping and gulping in the turquoise water under the glass roof.
JUDI	Time to get changed!

RACHEL                      Why is it so hard to get our things back on when we're damp? There's shivery skin and knees and elbows at awkward angles in the cramped cabins.

JUDI                          Hurry up, Susan!

RACHEL                      I've lost my knickers, Miss!

JUDI                          Miss Redfern, would you get Susan some more from the spare knicker cupboard?

FRANCIS                      I love swimming! I love running! I love beanbags!

### **13 SCENE: SPORTSDAY**

FRANCIS                      (*Puts pretend sports mic to mouth....*) Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to our annual sports day. And weather permitting, we've got a wonderful afternoon of sport ahead of us. We have the wheelbarrow race, that marathon test of endurance and co-ordination, and of course the Parents' Dash, where the old rivals David's dad and Mary's Dad will go head to head, with newcomer Josh's Uncle. And then at 2.30pm, the sack race. But first up we have the Egg and Spoon Race, and the competitors are lining up now, looking in peak condition. John has been a little bit off form this season, his eggs have just not been sticking to the spoon, what do you think about his chances, Rachel?

RACHEL                      Well, yes, Francis, but at last month's try outs he was looking strong, so I have every confidence we're going to see some fight from him today. In the last few weeks he's got a new spoon and a new technique, so I don't think he's going to let this race slip out of his hands so easily.

FRANCIS                      But newcomer Susan won her heats with ease.

RACHEL                      She's looking very good. She got a personal best in the heats, so I think John could be in for some real competition.

FRANCIS                      And as they line up... tensions are high... a silence falls over the field... The official raises her flag. And they're off, and Colin takes an early lead with Susan not far behind, but John is on the outside still looking strong. And Oh! Colin's lost his egg, and Susan takes the lead, but look! Look! On the outside, Julie is appearing from nowhere, Julie from Mrs Redfern's class is taking the lead with a very

wobbly egg. She's striding out, but John is catching up, and Susan's found a last minute burst of speed. It's neck and neck, spoon against spoon, as they race for the line, and it's a photo finish, people! A photo finish! And as we wait for adjudication, let's interview Julie at the trackside. Julie, where did that burst of speed come from?

JULIE Well, I've been training really hard this season, and it all came together on the day. I was just hoping to place today, so I'm really pleased with how it went.

FRANCIS Excellent! And with that crack of lightning and peal of thunder it's back to the classrooms, everyone!

#### **14 SCENE: SUMMER FAIR**

JUDI And then the long hot summer term stretches out before us like a mountain to climb before the last day of term. Come on, children we must prepare For our annual summer fair, Set out the tables, put out the chairs Time to get busy selling our wares

RACHEL The Blaon Festival on a sunny day, A parade round the streets, then a dog display, Samba bands, pompoms and history groups, Tame birds of prey, and morris dance troupes

JUDI And tables are laid out all over the field, and covered with gingham cloths and heaped with sweets, cakes and soft mounds of rumblly jumbly second hand stuff.

RACHEL There's a tombola, rolling full of tempting tickets that might win you a prize.

JUDI Number 67? Butterscotch toffees! Number 32: a lovely packet of brillo pads. Number 14: a knitting bag.

RACHEL How about the raffle. First prize: turquoise bath salts. Second prize a box of Milk Tray. And third prize: a dusty bottle of pink wine that comes back each year.

FRANCIS And the ever-popular attraction, the Soak the Teacher Stall. Form an orderly queue! Hey! No fighting back there, you'll all get your go! Ow! And don't throw the sponges so hard!

JUDI	There are craft stalls with pincushions embroidered by the grans, and knitted tea cosies and silk flowers and painted pebbles.
FRANCIS	Stalls selling tea and scones and cream and jam.
RACHEL	Have your nails painted.
JUDI	Guess how many sweets in the jar.
FRANCIS	Give us a clue, miss!
JUDI	I couldn't possibly!
RACHEL	Have a sit in a vintage fire engine.
FRANCIS	Have a pony ride.
RACHEL	Have a twirly ice cream with a flake in, or a great big cloud of pink candyfloss.
JUDI	Home time! See you all on Monday for the last week of term!

### **15 SONG VII: SUMMER [GROUP C]**

Schools out! Hang about.  
 Footie on the street.  
 Long hours. Rain showers  
 Happiness complete.  
 When the summer's over  
 We'll be friends forever.  
 When the summer's over  
 We'll remember this.

Days of fun  
 And carefree laughter  
 Sunshine happy ever after

Ice cream. Fun fair scream  
 Laughing like a fool.  
 Nature park. After dark.  
 Blaon kids are cool.  
 When the summer's over  
 We'll be friends forever.  
 When the summer's over  
 We'll remember this.

## **16 SCENE: SCHOOL TRIPS**

JUDI                      No lessons today children. It's the school trip.

R & F                     Brilliant!

JUDI                      Line up everybody! In pairs. Hold hands. We're crossing the road. Look both ways!

FRANCIS                We sit on the steamed up bus clutching plastic bags stuffed with macs and packed lunches and bottles leaking lemonade.

RACHEL                I've forgotten my sandwiches, Miss!

JUDI                      Sit down when the bus is moving.

FRANCIS                Are we nearly there, yet?

RACHEL                And we arrive at The Blue John Mines

FRANCIS                At Chester Zoo

RACHEL                Llain Farm,

FRANCIS                Knowsley Safari Park

RACHEL                Prestatyn Beach

FRANCIS                And we peer at the blue john

RACHEL                It's not very blue, sir.

FRANCIS                And mess about in kayaks

RACHEL                It's very wet, miss.

FRANCIS                And pull faces at the monkeys.

RACHEL                And they pull them back.

FRANCIS                Miss! Look at Jonathan!

JUDI                      Jonathan! Get out of the penguin enclosure at once!

R & F                     And we get back on the bus for a singsong on the way home.

## **17 SONG VIII: TEN GREEN BOTTLES [Core & Choir]**

Ten green bottles hanging on the wall  
Is a very lovely song to sing, it drives the teachers mad.  
But what a lovely day on the beach despite the lashing rain  
What a lot of adventures everybody's had.

Nine green bottles hanging on the wall  
Is a very lovely song to sing, it drives the teachers mad  
Are we nearly there yet, miss, Sir I'm feeling travel sick  
What a lot of sandwiches everybody's had.

Eight green bottles hanging on the wall  
Is a very long song to sing, it drives the teachers mad.  
And now we're tired and sleepy, and dozing in our seats  
And being back in Blaenau makes us glad.

## **18 SCENE: TRAIN CRASH**

FRANCIS                      Sir? That plaque that hangs in the school entrance.

JUDI                         What about it?

FRANCIS                      Why does it say Do good, Fear nothing?

JUDI                         There's a story there. It commemorates a very sad time. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1971, there was an accident. And two children, aged 10, from Benson Road School in Birmingham lost their lives. They had just spent the day happily at the seaside and were on their way home from a school trip, when the train accident happened. The children here wrote to them.

FRANCIS                      Dear children of Benson Road Primary, we were so sorry to hear about the accident. We hope you feel better soon. Best wishes from the children of Dee Point Primary.

JUDI                         And they wrote back.

RACHEL                      Dear children of Dee Point Primary. Thank you for your letters. We are feeling better, although we are still very sad about Catherine and Wayne. Best wishes from the children of Benson Road School.

JUDI                         And they came to visit. And they brought this plaque to thank us for our concern, and two silver birch trees, one

for Catherine, and one for Wayne. And we planted them together in the grass outside our school.

**19 SONG IX: DO GOOD [Rachel]**

Two trees  
Shade the grass  
From the heat of the sun  
In a July sky.  
And in the breeze  
Their rustling leaves  
Whisper to us:  
'Do good  
Fear nothing.'

**20 SONG X: SUNRISE AND SUNSET [Actors]**

Sunrise and sunset  
People come and go  
The neighbourhood's still here  
Changing with the years

Sunrise and sunset  
People come and go  
Staying in our hearts  
Though we're far apart.

Sunrise and sunset  
People come and go  
I'll remember them  
I'll remember here  
Forever.

**21 SCENE: HOMETIME**

JUDI                      It's the last day of school, children. And it's hometime. Let's pack away our things.

RACHEL                And in a flurry of excitement, we tidy the exercise books into chaotic piles. We put the sticky pencils back into the jam jars on the windowsills, and the scissors into boxes. We wind up the wool, and pick up the rulers and the Lego and the scales and the stickle bricks and pop them back into their boxes.



FRANCIS                    We put away the Romans, and we pack the dinosaurs into cupboards, and stack the Tudors back on their shelves, and cram the Industrial Revolution back into its bag, and fold up The Rivers of Great Britain.

JUDI                        Time to wash the paint off our hands and the glue off our knees. Time to wipe the papier maché out of our eyebrows, and the French verbs from our ears. Time to brush the flour from our jumpers and the sums from our hair.

FRANCIS                    Now we stack our chairs on the tables and stand patiently waiting for the big hand to click past the last long minute before the bell goes.

JUDI                        Let us think in a quiet moment before we go what we have learned today.

RACHEL                    I didn't learn anything at all today, Miss.

JUDI                        Yes you did, Susan. Your mind is a whole centimetre bigger than when you arrived this morning.

FRANCIS                    The bell!

JUDI                        Have a lovely summer. And we'll see you all back next year. No running! Time to go.

RACHEL                    Time to walk out in an orderly fashion, out into the sun. Into the rain. Into the wind. Into the world. Into the afternoon: that lazy crazy hungry time between school and tea.

FRANCIS                    Walking home. Kicking stones. Counting cats.  
Buying sweets and comics, and having chats.  
Taking a selfie. Sending a text. Tagging a friend.  
And sometimes it seems like the summer will never end.

RACHEL                    And in the long July evenings, the kids chase round the roads on bikes. And gather by the lamppost to grow up a little more, and the school years feel like they're forever, but we wonder a little what life's like after.

FRANCIS                    When I grow up I'm going to be free...

RACHEL                    When I grow up I'm going to be amazing...

JUDI                        When I grew up I realised it was such a short and lovely time...

## **22 SONG XI REPRISE: BEST DAYS [Core & Choir]**

Biff and Chip and chalk and hymns  
Pegs and pump-bags, Kings and Queens,  
Angels' silver tinsel wings  
Playtime, dinnertime and eat your greens!

Parquet floors and skipping ropes  
Eggs and spoons, and microscopes  
Cotton wool and sugar paper, glitter and glue  
In lost property: one school shoe.

*Best days of our lives  
With everything ahead of us  
Best days of our lives  
Alive with fresh-faced longing  
Best days of our lives  
Forever, forever  
These were the best days of our lives*

Glass bottled milk and the seven times table  
Chips and spam fritters, and copy out the label  
Make a volcano: spell tornado!  
Clay pots and ink-splots, and handfuls of play-doh!

Rose-queens and football, and trips to the zoo  
Bus trips to Delamere, and who loves who?  
Conkers and dandelions and daisy chains  
Chess club, swimming lessons, sums to do.

*Best days of our lives.....*

And it takes forever for the home time bell to ring  
We run out together and forget everything  
End of day, home to play  
Sleep and then we're on our way to school  
Best days of our lives

## **23 SCENE: GHOSTS**

JUDI                      Shadows lengthen over the line where the trains used to  
run, and the runners jog.

FRANCIS                And the locals have a laugh and a banter, clinking glasses  
of golden beer at The Highfield Pub.

RACHEL                There's a ghost in the pub, you know.

FRANCIS	Things get rearranged.
JUDI	And memories get retold.
FRANCIS	That time when we built dens
JUDI	I used to collect field mice in the cornfield
RACHEL	And frogs
FRANCIS	And spiders
JUDI	We used to play houses on the building site with brick settees, and mud pies for teas, and we pushed little Silver Cross prams full of dollies
RACHEL	And that summer it rained so much the stream was flooded and we fished in big puddles in the woods.
FRANCIS	And snow fights and bike rides and scooping tadpoles into jam jars.
RACHEL	And picking flowers for Miss Dickinson to squash into her book:
JUDI	That's a buttercup, and this is clover, and scarlet pimpernel and marsh marigold.
FRANCIS	I remember the cows coming home down Saughall Road from the meadows.
RACHEL	The oaks and the hawthorn all in flower.
JUDI	And Blacon House Farm
FRANCIS	The larks in the air
JUDI	The hares running in the lane.
RACHEL	And snogging in the dark by the school.
FRANCIS	And school discos. A sweaty mass of lads and lasses swaying to the seventies beat.
JUDI	Do you remember that girl having a times tables competition with the teacher, and she won?

FRANCIS	And when Mr Martin picked Jimmy for the swimming gala, and Jimmy was keen and he had a go, but he couldn't swim a stroke, and Mr Martin had to dive in to save him!
RACHEL	And the television on wheels. Remember that!
JUDI	And the silver man who came down from space and taught us to read.
FRANCIS	And the register monitor. I always wanted to be the register monitor, and they never let me do it.
RACHEL	I wonder why!
FRANCIS	And walking the Henderson Mile round the school field.
JUDI	And do you remember when we rescued that injured magpie and it flew around classroom till it got better and we released it.
FRANCIS	And when we made the Eiffel Tower out of lollypop sticks!
JUDI	That's the closest I ever got to the Eiffel Tower!
FRANCIS	It's good to remember. To look back
RACHEL	But it's good to look forward too.
FRANCIS	To the new school buildings
JUDI	To the Blacon Festival
RACHEL	And the new Parade Enterprise Centre.
JUDI	And the Blacon Awards for our community heroes.

**24 SONG XII: REPRISE: BLACON [CORE & CHOIR]**

Dream with me through Poets Corner  
 Run past the playground, and City Farm  
 Play in the cornfields, far from the murmur  
 Of traffic and buses, for this is home.

Cathedral names and Welsh town roads  
 Australian places, camp and Parade  
 This is Blacon. this is home  
 Past and present, light and shade

*It's all changed. It's all different now.  
But what a brilliant time it was  
It's all changed. It's all different now.  
What a dazzling time is coming to be.  
What a dazzling time is coming to be.*

Blakon Hill, where there were fields  
And thirteen houses for all the folk  
Then came the camp, where now there's towers  
Schools and churches, trees and flowers.

Auckland Road and Wordsworth Crescent  
Saxon Way and Exeter Place  
This is Blacon. this is home  
Past and present, time and space

*It's all changed. It's all different now....*

This is Blacon  
Isn't it great – our whole lives ahead of us  
This is Blacon  
A time to create the future's out there for us  
This is Blacon  
Time for us all to remember  
And look forward  
And build a great place together  
What a dazzling time is coming to be

## **25 SONG XIII: LET THE CHILDREN PLAY [CORE & CHOIR]**

Walk these streets  
Hear the children playing  
Listen to their singing  
Notice what they're saying

They are the world yet to come  
They are the story still to be told  
They are the beat of the living drum  
And their dreams are magic and their visions are gold

Let the children play  
Let the children sing  
Let the children play  
Let their voices ring

When you grow up  
Where will you go?  
When you grow up

Birthday cakes  
Fun and celebrations  
Hopes and fears  
Dreams and aspirations

Let the children play  
Let the children sing  
Let the children play  
Let their voices ring

Hopes and dreams  
And sights to see  
Plans and schemes  
And things to be  
When I grow up...  
When I grow up...

Night is falling.  
With the fading light.  
The stars are appearing  
Here comes the night.

Yesterday is a memory  
Tomorrow has not yet been lived.  
But tonight I remember  
The place that I love  
That nurtured me  
That made me who I am  
Tonight I dream of the child I used to be  
And I sleep