

# ✧ Tir Na n-Og ✧

## ✧ Land of Youth ✧

### Prologue

*Bran and Nechtan run on stage in a physical and belligerent manner*

**Bran**            We're young

**Nechtán**        We're cool

**Bran**            We're tough

**Nechtán**        You fools!

**Bran**            Lager?

*Bran chucks over a can*

**Nechtán**        Yeah

**Both**            We're Men!

*They open their cans (which fizz) with panache*

**Bran**            Knives at the ready

**Nechtán**        We'll slit your throat

**Bran**            Cross us

**Nechtán**        Cross us?

**Bran**            If you dare!

**Nechtán**        He's the leader, I'm the tough guy

**Bran**            We meet every evening down the pub

**Nechtán**        Then on with the lads to case the club

**Bran**            The disco's crap

**Nechtán**        But the bar stays open

**Bran**            We earn our dosh  
**Nechtan**        And spend it  
**Bran**            How  
**Nechtan**        We  
**Bran**            Please  
**Nechtan**        And if you're old, we hate you  
**Bran**            scorn you  
**Nechtan**        If you're old  
**Bran**            You're wrinkly  
**Both**            Past it!  
**Nechtan**        (*half singing*) You belong to yesterday  
**Bran**            Now it's our turn  
**Nechtan**        we're the young lads  
**Bran**            we're the rulers  
**Nechtan**        Here's our castle  
**Bran**            I'm the king  
                    In this world we want a good time  
**Nechtan**        just a good time  
**Bran**            Randy good time  
**Nechtan**        In this life we have a good time  
**Bran**            nothing  
**Nechtan**        else  
**Both**            matters  
**Bran**            So on down the club  
**Nechtan**        where the beer's expensive  
**Both**            But they sell it all night

**Bran**           Where the girls are sad

**Both**           But they sell all right

**Bran**           I'm Bran

**Nechtan**       I'm Nick

**Bran**           So watch it!

**Nick**           Cause-

**Both**           we're bored!

**Youth**         Have you tried the new club – the in club – the Cabaret!  
Specially made ~ for real men like you.  
It's an all night rave ~ for steel men like you

**Nechtan**       Little shit

**Bran**           Jumped up zombie

**Nechtan**       Go away or we'll smash your head in

**Youth**         Just you try me

**Nechtan**       Now you've had it

**Youth**         Macho macho can't catch me

*They chase him into the Auditorium*

## **Scene 1 – The call**

*As they leave the stage, they are intercepted by the waitresses*

**Wench A&B**   We're the spirits of the café

**Wench A**     Wait here while we find a seat  
You could say we are immortal

**Wench B**     Would you like a bite to eat?

**Wench A**     Near the window or the band, sir?  
Here we've got a table laid

**Wench B**     Gannymedes and serving wenches  
All are members of our trade

**Wench A**     We'll provide you food and water

**Wench B** Turn it into prawns and wine  
Burgers baps and stuffed potatoes  
**Wench A** Basket chicken's more our line

*Bran and Nechtan push past and continue their chase*

**Wench B** P'raps you'd like a juicy cocktail  
**Wench A** Vodka, ice and rotten egg  
**Wench A&B** We're the spirits of the café  
Here to bring you down a peg!

*Youth reaches the stage again*

**Youth** Hey! Macho Men - I'm as good as you! My Name's Youth – I'm on the fix of a lifetime. Want some?

**Nechtán** We'll take some

**Youth** Take 'em away – they're all yours, boss

**Banshee** Why Hello – come on in – make yourself at home. We love new faces here. Welcome to the Cabaret of Youth

**Nechtán** What is this joint?

**Bran** Who are you

**Nechtan** You're nothing but an old slag

**Bran** Old bag

**Nechtan** Old slag

*The cabaret comes to them*

**Banshee** Youth, it's great, isn't it – remember it do you, any of you? – I know it's a long way back, but try. Here at the Cabaret of Youth, we're all young

**Nechtan** You're all weird!

**Banshee** Now let me guess, you came here to see-

**Bangers & Mash** (*Singing from the tables, to 'Stars & Stripes'*) Bit of skirt bit of skirt see some skirt – bit of skirt bit of skirt see some ski-rt-

**Banshee** You want to watch it you know – we've got idiots planted all over this audience. Are you all comfortable – all got a drink – all happy? That's the main thing. We're not here for very long, so you got to be happy. Come on – enjoy yourselves! These days you've got to be young, healthy and enjoying yourselves or no-one wants to know - it's the cult of Youth. You got to be young, or you're no-one

**Custard** Yeah man

**Prunes** Too true buster

**Bangers** You gotta get real

**Mash** We're so hip

### **Song – in this world you gotta be young – cabaret number**

We pull our gear on as we sharpen up our faces  
We fill our pockets with disposable cash  
Don't care a monkey's if you think we're junkies  
We are the winners whose game is confident ~ so confident  
In this world you gotta be young

We're right behind you when you're peering in the mirror  
We're overtaking – Look! We've stepped in your shoes  
Our star is soaring, but you're sad and boring  
Worn out old has-beens of no damn consequence ~ no consequence  
In this world you gotta be  
In this world you gotta be  
~ Cool ~ Fun ~ Stupendous

So turn up the heat till we're frying fast  
The future will take care of dying fast  
For we don't give a damn  
~ Life's a bloody scam  
~ Young ~ Young  
You gotta be Young  
You gotta be Young

We spend the money so the advertisers love us  
We make the running in our culture today  
We spin the fashion, the music the passion  
Worship our freedom an easy attitude - such latitude  
In this world you gotta be young

We're right behind you when you're peering in the mirror  
We're overtaking – Look! We've stepped in your shoes  
Our star is soaring, but you're sad and boring  
Worn out old has-beens of no damn consequence ~ no consequence  
In this world you gotta be  
In this world you gotta be  
In this world you gotta be  
In this world you  
In this world you gotta you gotta be  
YOUNG!

**Youth**            You gotta be young – like me. I'm young and you're not. Tough that, isn't it. Life's kinda tough that way. Want some?

**Nechtan**        What is it?

**Youth**            Youth

**Nechtan**        How much?

**Youth**            Try some first – see if you like it

**Bran**             You won't hook us

*Bran has taken out a comb and is combing his hair*

**Youth**            You're hooked already

**Banshee**        Hooked on youth. Let's face it – we're all hooked. Look at this guy, worried about his looks. Any of you going bald yet? Yes, you (*Bran stands*) I count the hairs in my comb occasionally. Sometimes I think I am and sometimes I think I'm not.

**Nechtan** I count the hairs up my nose occasionally. Sometimes I think I am and sometimes-

**Youth** I count the hairs on my-

**Bran** Let's go. There must be something more to life than this poxy cabaret

**Banshee** Something more. . . something more to life. There must be something more. You know that feeling, don't you – we all get it, especially on Monday morning at about 7 am.

**(Banshee)** Something More – there must be Something More to life than this, and you vow to chuck it all in, live in a commune and take up yoga? But you don't. You get up just the same as you always do, and you peer at yourself in the mirror in the bathroom and think – who is this old fart.

*Bran continues drinking*

**(Banshee)** What Biceps!

**Bran** Eh?

**Banshee** Your biceps are gorgeous

**Bran** *(Enthusiastically)* You think so?

*Bran strikes a pose*

**Banshee** What thighs!

**Bran** The admiration of an older woman

**Banshee** Not as old as you think! You should watch you don't grow old yourself

**Bran** I'm young

**Banshee** And getting older. Want to go on a trip?

**Bran** What?

**Banshee** Have you noticed how they become almost civil when you talk to them as individuals? It's only when they're together that the hormones really flow

**Bran** What are you on about

**Banshee** A trip for youth

**Youth** That's me

**Banshee** Tell them, squirt!

**Youth** This is the story of Bran, the ever young, who in the distant days of heroes, sailed the Irish seas of the west to find something more-

**Bran** There must be something more to life than this poxy cabaret

*The Chorus erupt from the floor, with everyone doing their own bit. It degenerates into a riot. The following is all together*

**Mrs Stooge** (*hitting him*) Are you calling me old?

**Stooge** No, I'm calling you ancient

**Mrs Stooge** How could you!

**Stooge** It's only the truth

**Mrs Stooge** What about you, you old toad

**Stooge** Cabbage!

**Bangers** I say I say I say, how do you tell a fast cake

**Mash** I don't know, how do you tell a fast cake?

**Bangers** S-gone

**Mash** I say I say I say, how do you get sixteen elephants into a taxi?

**Bangers** I don't know, how do you get sixteen elephants into a taxi?

**Mash** On a piece of paper

**Prunes** I hate that sort of man, don't you

**Custard** Tidy ones

**Prunes** Precious, I call it

**Custard** They hang their socks neatly on the chair



**Prunes** They must be gay if they do that  
**Custard** Real men throw their clothes in a filthy heap on the floor

*Mr and Mrs Stooge scuffle, and a table is knocked over. Bran rises through them, as the Banshee sorts them out*

**Bran** I leave the noise  
The swirling tearing world  
The clamour of advisers  
The riot of enjoyment  
I walk across the wall  
My fortress wall  
Into silence

**Nechtan** Hey – that’s quick.  
You’re on it already!  
Did she give you some?  
Or have you got to pay?

**Youth** Bran, tiring of the sports in his Great Hall, walked out onto the deserted ramparts of his castle, and sat in the long dry grass where the wind swirled from the sea-

**Banshee** Eternal youth – we all want it don’t we. Spending all evening eyeing up the possibilities, then throwing it all away by throwing up in the taxi.

**Bran** Silence!

**Banshee** The arrogance of the young.

**Bran** Silence

**Youth** What he’s trying to say is-

**Bran** Silence

**Banshee** And into the silence of his mind I shall insert desire. Desire for youth

**Bran** Silence to escape the world ~ just as I am. Perhaps I can be young for ever ~ no creaking illness slipping on me unawares. . . no death

**Banshee** It’s funny how growing old always leads you in the end to death – now there’s an awkward bugger. I’m sure you’d like to avoid him if you could. Why not join the growing rage and freeze your body once you’ve snuffed it – what a great idea!

**Bangers** I say I say I say, what do you call a man who freezes his body

**Mash** I don't know, what do you call a man who freezes his body?

**Bangers** A strawberry

**Mash** A strawberry?

**Banshee** Yeah! Sit there in the chilled meat department for a thousand years till some mad scientist reconstitutes you, and you find your brain's turned into one of those mushy strawberries they stick on pavlovas

**Nechtan** She's a nutter

**Bran** This can't last

**Nechtan** Bran, you're wasted – what's the matter?

**Youth** I am younger, he is older

**Bran** That's the matter – I can't last

**Youth** Don't you see – he's nearly past it

**Nechtan** One day soon

**Bran** I'll find I'm slower

**Nechtan** Loose your teeth

**Youth** Go old and wrinkly

**Nechtan** Legs collapse

**Youth** Your brains fall out

**Nechtan** One day soon

**Bran** I'll lose my senses

**Banshee** It's the youthfulness of the flesh that appeals to the young. I suppose they don't have much in the brain department at that age that's worth hanging on to. Well, if it's perpetuating the flesh that thrills you, why not-

**Prunes** I say I say I say, what do you call a man who's had a clone made of himself

**Custard** I don't know, what do you call a man who's had a clone made of himself?

**Prunes** A sheep

**Custard** Eh?

**Bangers & Mash** Baa!

**Banshee** That's it – clone up with Dolly the sheep! The memories in your brain wouldn't be yours of course, but that might not be such a bad thing in your case!

**Youth** Hey man! Grab the idea – Youth beyond the end of the world

**Bran** Everlasting, unchanging youth

**Banshee** *(to audience)* Right! And then what happens? Don't tell them, but the sun grows and grows and the Earth fries to a cinder. You move on in space to another planet then another – and the universe expands and expands and expands, and it gets bloody cold, and there you are living for ever in an expanding soup of protons - each one a light year from the next. Sounds exciting that – I can't wait.

**Youth** But just at the moment, we don't care

**Banshee** They only think of their beautiful youth

**Bran** I don't want to die

*Banshee walks behind Bran and starts massaging his shoulders. He appears not to see her*

**Bangers** I say I say I say, what do you call an insurance policy against death?

**Bangers & Mash** *(together)* Religion!

**Bangers** Boom Boom!

**Banshee** The old ones are the best

**Bran** I don't want to die

**Banshee** *(mesmerising)* Then come with me where wounded men find peace and women are relieved from pain. Follow soothing music to the Far West.

Bran, Bran, listen to me Bran;  
Listen to the music in the hollow of your head.  
Bran, Bran, listen to me Bran;  
Listen to the goddess who will offer you her all.  
You will say what I say  
You will go where I go

You will want what I want  
You will do as I do  
Bran, Bran, listen to me Bran;  
Listen to the music in the hollow of your head.

**Youth** When Bran woke up outside his castle, something glinted in the grass at his feet

*Nechtan hands Banshee a golden branch*

**Banshee** Here is the bough  
The Golden Bough  
Follow, follow the Golden Bough  
Follow it into the Land of Youth  
Follow it on past the End of Time

Right, that's him under, anyone else want to submit to my heavenly hypnosis?

*Banshee leads Bran in a very matter of fact manner onto the stage*

**Stooge** You wouldn't get me with your mumbo jumbo

**Mrs Stooge** Go on Stooge, show her what you're made of – you wouldn't go under like that bloke she's just had

**Bran** I'm not under

**Mrs Stooge** Then why're you on stage, love!

**Bran** Because it's my Castle, my Hall, my Banquet, my Stage, and you are my Subjects

**Nechtan** What've you done to him?

**Youth** Fixed him up some Youth

**Mr Stooge** Where did you get that branch from?

**Bran** As I was sitting on the walls of my castle, I heard the magic music of the Land of Youth, and a beautiful woman came before me, bearing this bough.

**Prunes** I knew there'd be a woman in it somewhere

**Custard** We know his sort, don't we

**Prunes** Oh yes we know his sort

**Custard** As smooth as oil on top

**Prunes** And all hot rumpty tumpty underneath

**Bran** The woman whispered promises of endless youth – all was beauty uncorrupted, shining steel in frozen time

**Bangers** What you need me old fella is a good piss-up

**Mash** Yeah, you've been looking peaky lately

**Bangers** All stressed up – you worry too much

*Bangers and Mash manhandle Bran, bouncing him between them*

**Mash** Come on lad – join the party – have a few beers – get em down you

**Bangers** Eye up the girls

**Mash** Get em down you

**Bangers & Mash** You're having a good time

**Bran** Not really

**Bangers** Come on man, get wicked

**Mash** Get moving – wiggle your bum – it's a monstah party

*Bangers and Mash force Bran to dance*

**Bran** I don't hear any music

**Bangers** You don't hear any music? Hey! What you on ?

**Bran** Youth

**Bangers** Gees, what a nerd

**Mash** You're bleedin' sick man

*They bop, silently for a bit longer*

**(Mash)** You know he's right about one thing though?

**Bangers** What's that?

**Mash** *(With his hands over his ears à la headphone)* My music's a load of old pony – what's yours like

**Bangers** High Energy! Hang on, I'll have a listen. . . No, you're right – mine's pony too.

**Mash** Where did you get this stuff from? I reckon it's just aspirin

**Bangers** It cost me loads

**Mash** Must be okay then

*They bop off stage*

**P R Person** Excuse me Sir, could I take a moment of your time?

**Bran** Eh?

**P R Person** Thank you for your co-operation, Sir

**Bran** You what?

**P R Person** It is really very much appreciated

**Bran** I never said—

**P R Person** I am doing a survey on behalf of YOUF! PLC

**Bran** Did you sneeze?

**P R Person** Yes, we at YOUF! PLC really believe in getting down where the action is, to find out what makes our potential clients really buzz, so we can sell them lots and lots. Could you tell me sir, what would you say was your main ambition in life? a, to make money, b, to make money, or c, to make money?

**Bran** To sail with the Golden Bough into the future

**P R Person** To deal in futures – and in gold too – a notoriously tricky end of the money market. Wow, that just goes to show how sophisticated youth is today. I'll tick that in the 'making money' box, if I may. And what would you like to be in twenty years time? a, rich, b, very rich, or c, very very humongously rich?

**Bran** To be the same as I am now

**P R Person** Wow! That means you must be very very humongously rich already. Congratulations, sir!

**Bran** Piss off

**P R Person** Thankyou sir, Thankyou

**Bran** Look, are you selling something?

**P R Person** No, no sir, I'm researching for our new product – Power Deodorant, the underarm dressing that doesn't pull punches. Would you like a scratch and sniff sample?

*P R Person gives Bran a sachet and returns to her table, writing on her clipboard.  
Bangers and Mash bop back, eyeing Bran up and down*

**Banshee** Follow, follow the Golden Bough

Follow, follow over the sea

*Youth takes the branch and leads Bran*

**Youth** This branch tells me of a distant isle  
Where sharp snow melts into spring  
Where golden birch buds burst  
And all is growing

There I lie on sun-warmed gentle slopes  
Beneath the greening hedges, chaffed by a noisy brook  
Following with smiling eye, birds wheeling coastwise to a sea  
Where ancient coves glisten in the rocks

There, though I watch for an eternity,  
When I turn for home,

The air is filled with the music of people

**Banshee** Bran, Bran, follow me Bran  
Follow the bough, the golden bough  
Follow it into the Land of Youth  
Follow it on past the End of Time

**Bran** My isle knows no death, disease, destruction  
My isle ~ is out ~ of time

**Banshee** Hey, he's well gone. Bet you didn't realise I was such a good  
hypnotist. Anyone else want to come up here and be transported to  
the isle of their dreams? It's cheaper than the air fare

**Mrs Stooge** Stooge will, won't you Stooge.

**Stooge** Not likely

**Mrs Stooge** Go on man – show her what you're made of. You resist all my  
advances, so it shouldn't be difficult to resist hers.

**Stooge** No

**Mrs Stooge** Go on! She'll never do you like she done that prat

**Stooge** No

**Banshee** Thankyou sir for volunteering

**Stooge** I never



**Banshee** Just look carefully at this golden bough, sir. Concentrate on the leaves, sir, concentrate... Hey, you could be a star!

**Stooge** It's got canker

**Banshee** I'm sorry?

**Stooge** Your apple tree's got canker

**Mrs Stooge** Little knobbly bits

**Stooge** You want to do something about that, you know

**Mrs Stooge** Stooge is very good at treating apple canker

**Stooge** I gives it a good spray with tar wash

**Mrs Stooge** Just before the buds burst

**Stooge** Yes that's right – just before the buds burst, otherwise-

**Banshee** Really. Most interesting

*Mr & Mrs Stooge continue their conversation in undertones*

**(Banshee)** Now, I need some more of you – especially men (*indicating Bangers and Mash*) You two can join in to keep the numbers up. I need lots of men. No, really I do, because these Celtic myths were all about men. We women just sat in the background and bred. (*She gives Bangers and Mash a twig each to look at*) But don't worry, we'll get our own back on them, eh girls? So if we're going to take this guy to the Land of Youth, we have to find a gang of lads to go with him. (*She grabs Nechtan by the scruff of the neck*) You'll do

**Nechtán** Oh no, not me!... I'm still Young!... You don't need me!... I'm not taking your pills!

**Banshee** All aboard for the Land of Youth

**Nechtán** What have you done to Bran?  
You've turned him into death!  
Keep your hands off! Leave me!

*Banshee gives him a branch too*

**Banshee** Look at this

**Nechtán** Don't you see! Bran can't last. But I can ~ I'm young

**Banshee** Bollocks

**Prunes** What about us

**Custard** Yes, what about us

**Youth** You're women. You're not wanted. It says in my book, that Bran sailed with thirty chosen men

*During the following, Banshee, in the background is apparently catechising her chosen group*

**Prunes** I say I say I say, what do you call a reactionary old misogynist?

**Custard** I don't know, what do you call a reactionary old misogynist?

**Prunes** A Celt

*Pause*

**Custard** A Celt what

**Prunes** A Celt. . . . .ic Myth

**Custard** Boom boom.

**Banshee** But fear not, girls – they'll need us in the end. Keep your legs crossed, and sooner or later they'll come running. Eternal life won't be worth much to them if we don't figure in it.

So forward men  
Follow the bough  
Follow the bough to eternal youth

*Banshee and Youth, holding the golden bough, lead the men, pied-piper fashion, leaving the girls behind.*

**Prunes** Look at that! Men being hypnotised by a stick

**Custard** A what!

**Prunes** A stick!

**Custard** We can do that

**Prunes** Wulla wolla toodle day  
You will now do what I say

*Custard adopts some item of masculine clothing!*

**Custard** Ah I'm hypnotised, I'm hypnotised

**Prunes** You don't know when you're hypnotised, stupid

**Custard** Ah I'm not hypnotised, I'm not hypnotised

**Prunes** Good afternoon, ladies and gentleman. For my demonstrations on hypnosis this afternoon, I am going to use a perfectly normal man. Here is one I prepared earlier. Now I have pre-programmed him to respond with a different action each time he hears certain different words. I shall just switch him on. Thus-

*(Prunes leans over and passes her hand across Custard's face. Custard lights up. In the following two lines, Custard responds with a continuous series of bizarre actions, ending up in a ridiculous position. This must indeed make fun of men)*

**(Prunes)** Man... Woman... Pub... Lager... Vodka... Football... Car...  
Mates...

The Man overtook the woman driver and drove to the pub in his car for a lager with his mates.

**Banshee** Thankyou for that little demonstration of my art. Forward Men!

**Bangers** *(Very mechanically)* I say old chap, where did you get that lovely big stick from?

**Mash** *(Mechanically)* It's a jolly fine weapon!

**Nechtan** *(Mechanically)* Rather!

**Bran** As I was sitting on my castle wall, I heard the music of the land of Youth

**Youth** A Company of strangers will come to the island of Spring  
They will hear sweet music swelling from the stones with a thousand  
voices  
They will see our silver shore

**Banshee** For at last they have reached the isles of youth, the isles of the blest,  
the Islands of women

**Youth** Fortune is with them and Death is banished  
For them there will be no ebb tide

*The men follow Banshee, apparently in a trance, with Prunes and Custard as laughing onlookers*

**(Banshee)** Bran, Bran, follow me Bran,  
Follow me on to the Land of Youth

Follow the bough, the golden bough,  
The bough that will keep you from death and decay

**Bran** Driven, always driven by an insatiable desire, the desire to beat the setting sun. The desire to go West.

## **Journey Song**

**Chorus 1&2** We must journey on to where we will go  
**Women** Who knows, where our life will lead  
As time drips by, day by day, who knows  
Journey on

**Chorus 3&4** We must journey through our ocean alone  
**Men** Who knows where the wind will blow  
As waves swirl by, hour by hour, who knows  
Where we shall be tonight

**Tutti** Who knows where the wind will blow  
As waves swirl by, hour by hour, who knows

**Chorus 1&2** Who knows  
Journey on

**Chorus 3&4** We must journey through our ocean alone  
Who knows where the wind will blow  
As waves swirl by, hour by hour, who knows  
Where we shall be tonight

**Tutti** Who knows, how our life will end  
As time drips by, day by day, who knows?

**1 Women** Always Journeying through our mind, we must go  
**3 Men** Through the oceans of the west wind, we must go  
**1** Always Journeying through our mind, we must go  
**3** Through the oceans of the west wind, we must go  
**1** Always Journeying through our mind, we must go  
**3** Through the oceans of the west wind, we must go  
**1** Always Journeying through our mind, we must go. My  
**Both** Land farewell

**2 Women** I—am tied to this fable – Westward I go  
**4 Men** I—am restless and troubled – Westward I go  
**2** I—am tied to this fable – Westward I go  
**4** I— am restless and troubled – my dear  
**Both** Land farewell

## **Scene 2 – The Journey**

**Youth** Wasting no time, Bran gathered together thirty sailors that very night, and they left in the dawn of the day, rowing without rest, skimming through the white crested waves

**Nechtan** Where are we going?

**Youth** You're going on a voyage  
You're sailing on a quest  
Two gullible fools two innocent fools  
Are going on a quest

**Nechtan** Come on Bran! They're all cracked here. Let's go, mate

**Bran** We are going – going on a voyage

**Bangers** Going?

**Bran** Yes going

**Nechtan** Going where – to look for tits? Going Where?

**Bran** To look for Youth

**Mash** Going where?

**Stooge** Who knows

**Youth** Who cares

**Bangers** We're going with Bran

**Mash** We're leaving this joint

**Nechtan** We're finding somewhere new

**Banshee** That's right boys, follow the mob, do what they do, go where they go, be where they are. Follow the mob it's the best course – you'll never never be left behind.

Isn't that just typical of men?

**Bangers** One goes

**Mash** We all go

**Youth** We're off to find a new fix

**Bran** A new club

**Nechtan**      A new rave

**Youth**        The fix of Youth

**Banshee**      The Land of Youth

**Bran**          Move move

**Nechtan**      Move move

**Bangers**      Let's

**Mash**         Go

**Bangers**      Out the door

**Mash**         Join the new club down the road

**Bran**          Row row

**Youth**        Row row

**Bangers**      Down the street

**Mash**         To the new fix

**Nechtan**      The new rave

**Youth**        The Island of Youth

**Bran**          Come on lads! Row!

**Youth**        Row

**Bangers**      Row

**Mash**         Row

**Stooge**        *(to Eton boating song)* We're all lads together!  
How does it go?

*Banshee sings to Eton Boating song. Stooge joins in as he remembers the words.  
Mrs Stooge looks disgusted*

**Banshee**      Oh the sexual life of a camel  
Is stranger than anyone thinks  
At the height of the mating season  
He tries to-

**Tutti**         *(shouted, drowning out Banshee & Stooge)* Row!

**Banshee & Stooge** -the sphinx

**Stooge** Oh but the Sphinx's-

*Mrs Stooge claps her handbag over Stooge's mouth*

**Bran** Rowing. Rowing our boat, moving backwards to the Isle of Youth. Facing backwards we move forward with each stroke. Youth is shadowy. Youth, we pass through – minute by minute, never older, never moving yet we pass through.

**Stooge** Which accounts for the hump on the camel  
And the Sphinx's inscrutable smile

**Nechtan** You're bleeding nuts

**Youth** They left in the dawn of the day, rowing without rest

**Bran** Row ~ Row ~ Row ~ Row ~  
Over the shimmering sea ~ we row  
The old world dips behind our oars  
Row ~ Row ~ Row ~ Row ~

**Banshee** Follow, follow the golden bough  
Follow it in your quest for youth  
Follow it over the crystal waves

**Youth** Early on the third day of the voyage, a wave rushed upon them, pouring forth Manannan Mac Lir, the god of the sea, foaming in his sea-horsed chariot ~ and all around him, Wonders

**Bran** Who are you

**Custard** Just listen to them – who are we!

**Prunes** We're ladies from another planet, boys

**Custard** The likes of us you'll never see again

**Prunes** We've just stepped out the UFO, haven't we girls

**Custard** Left it parked round the corner so you wouldn't spot us coming

**Prunes** We pulled off our tentacles

**Custard** And put on the make-up

- Prunes** You see streets to bruise along
- Custard** Cold streets to spray with testosterone like strutting tomcats
- Prunes** We see catwalks to parade upon
- Custard** Teeming rivers of life
- Prunes** Where's the magic in our world today?
- Custard** Here's the lottery – turn one pound into five million
- Prunes** There's magic
- Custard** Join the competition – win the car
- Prunes** The free holiday. There's magic
- Mrs Stooge** 500 telly channels in the living room
- Prunes** There's magic
- Custard** Follow our UFO
- Prunes** Aliens who brought life to the planet
- Mrs Stooge** Ghosts who go bump in the night
- Prunes** There's magic
- P R Person interrupts with clipboard. Prunes and Custard swirl off*
- P R Person** Excuse me, ladies, could I have a moment of your time?
- Custard** Oh yes, I love filling in these form things
- P R Person** I'm doing a survey for 'Little Green Men and Friends' PLC. We've recently bought up the rights in little green men, in order to market them more effectively. We cover a full range of products - little green men soap, folders, footballs, toilet rolls – you name it, we market it.
- Prunes** I thought you wanted to ask us some questions
- P R Person** Of course, madam, of course. I was just filling you in on the background. You see, there's an enormous amount of money to be made at the moment, playing on peoples' credibility, and pandering to their wish to believe in something greater than our own humdrum existence. Their wish to believe that their must be more to life than getting stuck in the traffic. You could say that an interest in little green



men is serving a human craving for the supernatural that used to be filled by religion.

**Prunes** I thought you were doing a survey

**P R Person** Oh I am, madam I am (*sobs*) You must excuse me, but it gets so terribly tedious filling in these little boxes, and just occasionally I go mad and use words of my very own – my very own dear words... But I forget myself (*pulls herself together*) Could you tell me madam, do you believe in little green men: a, very much, b, a little or c, it's a load of old cobblers – oh dear I'm doing it again – or c, not at all.

*She starts to gather pace without waiting for answers, and is led off by Prunes and Custard, sadly shaking their heads*

**(P R Person)** Do you think that little green men come from: a, Mars, b, a hitherto unexplored part of the universe, or c, the planet Zog? Do you think little green men should appear from: a, a flying saucer, b, a number 39 bus, c, Lady Penelope's breasts? Do you think a little green man bath toy would be: a, highly desirable, b, get thrown out of the bathroom window by the kids, or c, get stuck up your bum when you sat on it in the bubbles? Do you think that little green men... aagh!

*The girls swirl off around the auditorium to regroup as the island of joy.*

**Banshee** Yes Folks, join the occult – it's big business now. It's the latest buzz. Forget religion – New Age Man here we come! This is the big time mystical experience for all.

People believe in UFOs but not sea monsters. Now that strikes me as weird

**Youth** (*Hippy delivery*) Hey man, I'm Mananan, the god of the sea. All around where you see foam, I see flowers. Your swelling ocean is a verdant plain, peopled by my creatures. My gentle salmon leap as lambs. About your prow, an oak wood, about your stern, an orchard grove where blossom, fruits and golden leaves will never fall. Man...

**Nechtan** An island – I can see an island

**Rowers** Land Ho!  
Avast me hearties!  
Blistering Barnacles!  
Scrub the poopdeck!  
Furl the foretops'!  
Feather your rowlocks!  
Belay your bowlines  
*And other such pseudo nautical claptrap*

*The group on the island of joy (all those who are not rowing) have moved out to the auditorium doors, and forming a laughing gaggle, begin to approach the stage. Those on the island of joy are continually laughing at their own jokes*

**Youth** (*Clowning and shouting to them as they approach*) Hello! This is Bran. He has been at sea for three days. He is looking for the Island of Youth

*This produces an explosion of laughter*

**Bran** I am Bran. My companions and I are looking for the Island of Youth

*More laughter. This time they point. Bran checks his flies*

**Nechtan** Hey girls, what's the joke?

*They continue to laugh and point. The men pose, becoming more and more macho in their posing. The girls laugh more and more – pointing and exploding in gusts of laughter*

**Nechtan** What you on?

**Prunes** Happy

**Custard** Happy

**Mrs Stooge** We're so happy

**Prunes** We're Happy happy happy

**Youth** I think they're happy

**Custard** Happy happy happy

**Stooge** About what?  
**Prunes** We're Happy  
**Stooge** But you must be happy about something  
**Custard** We're so so happy  
**Bangers** I'm sure your bleedin' happy – but what about  
**Prunes** Happy happy happy  
**Mash** You can't just be happy you-  
**Custard** Happy happy happy  
**Stooge** It's nice to see them happy  
**Bran** (*pushing Stooge*) You chat them up then. Find out what they're on about

*Stooge joins them and immediately collapses in laughter*

**Nechtan** I never saw them give him anything

### Laughing song

Men	Cool it	What's the fuss	You're clean gone
Women	Ha ha ha	Tee hee tee hee	
Men	Where the hell is this place	We are looking for youth	
Women		Ha	
Men	Is this the way? Have we to pay to stop you?		
Women		Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha	
Men	We're the most superior team—		
Women	Dooby	doowap	
Men	of rowers human masculinity's seen		
Women	Ha!	Dooby doobop	Harraty—
Men	What the bloody hell do you mean— by all this laughing		
Women	Ha!	Dar booby ba	Yamahah
Men	haven't you anything sensible up in your brains		
Women		Ba! badah	

|Men Don't you find laughing just addles your brains — into a mush  
|Women bah! Ba! Badah Bah Ha!

|Men Can't you hear how stupid you sound,  
|Women Dooby Doowap! Ha!

|Men your cackling turns our senses round and around.  
|Women Dooby Doowap Riddley ree

|Men Can't you shut up! Just you shut up!  
|Women Tee hee hee

|Men Shove your head in a bucket that's six feet underground  
|Women Yabah bah

|Men Blast you! You're driving us all mad, you're so bleeding sad  
|Women Ba da Ba dah Ha! Yada

|Men Can't you give your doo waps a rest?  
|Women bah ba da bah

|Banshee Keep it up girls  
|Women Ha—

|Men Dooby dooby doowap doowap—  
|Women Dooby doowap

|Men please tell us how to get your doowaps to stop  
|Women Ha! Dooby doobop Harraty—

|Men If you don't we'll give you the top— for all this laughing  
|Women Ha! Dar booby ba Yamahah

|Men Listen before we get physical – punch in the face!  
|Women Ba! badah

|Men No way to treat the girls – punch in the face! We're warning you!  
|Women bah! Ba! Badah Bah Ha!

|Men You have driven us to extremes—  
|Women Dooby Doowap! Ha!

|Men of passion with your inarticulate screams  
|Women Dooby Doowap Riddley ree

|Men Can't you shut up! Just you shut up!  
|Women Tee hee hee

|Men You should be locked away in a suffocating harem  
|Women Yabah bah

|Men Blast you! You're smug conceited laugh, makes us want to barf  
|Women Ba da Ba dah Ha! Yada

|Men Come here and we'll chuck down your neck  
|Women bah ba da bah

|Banshee That's the job girls!  
|Women Ha—

*Instrumental*

|Men Can't you shut up! Just you shut up!  
|Women Riddley ree Tee hee hee

|Men Shove your head in a bucket that's six feet underground  
|Women Tee hee hee

|Men Blast you! You're driving us all mad, you're so bleeding sad  
|Women Ba da Ba dah Ha! Yada

|Men Dooby dooby doowap doowap – makes us want to give you the chop  
|Women Yah— buddy ha! Yah— buddy ha!

|Men Blow you up until you go pop! Kick you down a hell of a drop! —  
|Women Yah— buddy ha! Yah— buddy ha! —

**Banshee** Ah, it's so nice to see people happy. They've achieved their aim in life. They've reached their Nirvana – they're happy. Don't you envy them, I mean don't you really envy them? They've nothing to worry about. Anyone here want to join them? Anyone want to give up his life of trial and despair and join their endless happiness? No? What's the matter with you?

**Bran** Pointless bloody vegetables! Let's go.

**Youth** There's no happiness without grief. Beauty without ugliness. Life without death, macho man

**Banshee** Nor youth without old age. Lesson Number one for Mr Bran

**Nechtan** Here's another club

**Bangers** Do they sell vodka?  
**Mash** Do we go in?  
**Bran** Wait  
**Banshee** Hello lads, I'm the bouncer – coming in?  
**Bran** What's the club?  
**Banshee** Let me tempt you – first drink's free  
**Nechtan** Come on Bran  
**Bran** Wait.  
**Nechtan** Why?  
**Bran** Perhaps those laughing tarts came out of here  
**Nechtan** First drink's free?  
**Banshee** First drink's free.

*Nechtan goes towards Banshee, Bran stops him, Banshee grabs Bran*

**Banshee** Caught you now, so in you go  
**Bangers** I've never been bounced in to a club before  
**Banshee** Welcome to the cabaret of Endless Youth

## **The Achievement**

**Nechtan** Haven't we been here before?  
**Banshee** This is the Land of Youth. Of course you've been here before  
**Youth** When you were young, Dickhead!  
**Nechtan** No I mean just now  
**Bangers** No  
**Mash** Don't think so  
**Bangers** This looks different  
**Mash** Everyone's much younger here

*Bangers and Mash observe the Innocents*

**Nechtan** I was here just now

**Banshee** Of course you were. You were young just now, so this is where you stay

**Nechtan** I stay here forever!

**Youth** Yeah it's so great to be young  
Here, forever must you stay  
In this poxy cabaret

**Banshee** Come on boys! What are you waiting for. Grab a partner and watch the cabaret! The Cabaret Of Endless Youth. Here we are always happy. Here you have the drinks you want when you want. Here you play the games you want when you want. Here you have the girls you want, when you want. And no spoil-sport can ever accuse you of wasting time, because here, ladies and gentlemen, time has ceased to exist

**Bran** So we have conquered time?

**Banshee** As long as you stay at the Cabaret of Endless Youth, the world can do what it likes. Here, we don't give a toss for the world.

**Youth** We're having a good time

**Bangers** Time for money

**Mash** Time for women

**Stooge** Time to spray the apple trees

**Bangers** Time for booze

**Mash** Time for love

**Youth** Ooh!?

**Bran** Time for nothing – for here there is no time

**Banshee** Time for a smoochy number from Mr Bran!

**Song of time**

**Bran** World without end is a long long time, but I'm there  
All I intend to be so sublime, can now happen

There is time for hope  
There is time filling our future lives

Time never knows where it's going to, time is blind  
Stubbornness shows in its cruelty, unrelenting

We are locked up in time  
Prisoners of our time  
Trapped in our universe

**Banshee** See, I said that was a smoochy one, didn't I – just the right note to send you to the bar. They need your money there as well you know, so don't stint the rounds. I'll just freshen myself up with a couple of gins and see you back here in ten minutes

## Interval

**Banshee** That's it, are we all back here bright eyed and bushy tailed, all had a drink and a wee?

**Wench A&B** We're the spirits of the café  
Have you had a restful chat?

**Wench A** Was the whisky warm and tasteless?

**Wench B** Was the beer a trifle flat?

**Wench A** Have you set the world to rights—  
Philosophised a glass of wine,

**Wench B** Caught the latest brand of gossip,  
Thrown your pearls before the swine?

**Wench A** Now the interval is over,

**Wench B** Devil to the wind let's spend;

We shall charm the evening onwards -

**Wench A** Death will get you in the end

**Wench B** Cabaret is to your liking?

**Wench A** Had enough to drink and eat?

**Wench A&B** We're the spirits of the café,  
Leave a tip or you're dead meat!



- P R Person** Excuse me sir, could I take up a moment of your time? I am conducting a customer survey on behalf of Tir Na n-Og PLC
- Mash** Go on
- Youth** Of course it could take a million years to question you and it wouldn't matter, because it would still be only a moment of your infinite time
- Mash** A million years!
- Youth** Give you something to do. Stop you getting bored. Hello sir, I'm from customer relations. Tell me, how did you find your first thousand years in the Land of Youth?
- Mash** I've only been here five minutes
- Youth** Only a million years - hell, that's nothing
- P R Person** He's joking sir, time doesn't exist here. Shall we start? What partner would you like
- Mash** I'm sorry
- P R Person** Male or female
- Mash** Do I get to choose her?
- P R Person** Male or female, Sir?
- Mash** What do you think!
- P R Person** You can never tell nowadays, sir
- Mash** Female
- P R Person** Hair colour?
- Mash** What!
- P R Person** Blonde, brunette, mousy-
- Mash** This is ridiculous
- P R Person** If you say so sir. We'll come back to that later
- Youth** In a million years

- P R Person** How would you like to spend your time
- Mash** Don't I get a chance to do everything if I live forever?
- P R Person** That's up to you sir, but I need to know your preferences, so our customer servicing department is well prepared. Can you give it to me in percentages?
- Mash** Women 50%, Sleeping 50%
- P R Person** Are those activities consecutive or in parallel?
- Mash** My 'activities' as you call them are usually in parallel – I don't like the sound of consecutive – it's too formal
- P R Person** Then you have only used up 50% of your time – anything else you fancy? Sport? Long country walks? Cold showers?
- Mash** Lager 30%, more women 80%, stuffing my face 60%, women 90%—
- P R Person** That's rather a lot of women – 220% in fact
- Mash** Good
- Youth** They could have anything they wanted, and time flowed past without a ripple. They forgot their homes, their friends, their families, their duties, their old lives... They forgot everything except the pleasure and comfort of the Island Of Women.
- Bran** This is it – the Land of Youth
- Bangers** Here's the life
- Mash** No more strife
- Stooge** Forget the wife
- Bran** This is it  
When we're rested, we shall do great things
- Nechtan** I tell you it's no different to before
- Bran** But this time, nothing here will change
- Nechtan** It's boring if it doesn't change
- Bran** If you change, you grow towards your death
- Nechtan** If you change you live

**Youth** If you change you turn all wrinkly, old and past it

**Nechtan** Not for ages

**Youth** Just you wait

**Bran** Where's your spirit? Don't forget that I'm the boss

**Nechtan** You're the boss

**Bran** You're in my gang

**Nechtan** I'm in your gang

**Bran** If I lead then you must follow

**Nechtan** I must follow

**Bran** We are tough

**Nechtan** We are wicked

**Youth** You are sad!

**Bran** I have saved you from destruction  
Now your youth will never die

**Nechtan** We're the young ones

**Youth** I don't age

**Bran** Time has stopped

**Nechtan** It's left us gasping

**Banshee** Follow follow the golden Bough  
The Bough that gives you Eternal Youth

Oi You lot! Up here  
You, Bran I shall choose for myself  
Want a drink? A bag of crisps? A cheese butty?

**Bran** We walk the island in a dream  
Like sleepwalkers we follow the women  
In a great hall, a feast is laid  
An everlasting feast  
The plates overflow as we stuff ourselves

**Prunes** Well what do you reckon to this lot, now we've got 'em forever

- Custard**      *(Indicating Bran)* This one's nice
- Banshee**      Keep your hands off – he's mine
- Custard**      Ooh, sorry I'm sure. *(Indicating Mash)* This one'd be okay if he grew a bit younger
- Youth**        I'll help him grow younger
- Nechtan**      Why's he wrinkly?
- Mash**         This is the age I have chosen to remain. Women prefer mature men to spotty youths.
- Banshee**      That's right, here you remain the age you want to be. What did you expect at the Cabaret of Endless Youth? That you'd all turn into babies? They don't have much fun! No, you stay the age you want to be. Most men prefer to stay in their twenties when they have the greatest capacity for sport, booze and women – or think they have!
- Stooge**        I've got a great capacity. I've decided to stay as a teenager.
- Nechtan**      You don't look like a teenager
- Stooge**        But I am, I am. Look at me bop! Look, I've got such attitude
- Youth**        What attitude, man?
- Stooge**        Attitude man, attitude. Dig it man. I'm ~ the ~ real ~ thing man!
- Youth**        My god
- Stooge**        Come here darling! Want a snog?
- Mrs Stooge**   Behave yourself!
- Bran**          We eat and drink till creaking, we stagger to a bed, led by girls  
In the morning – see! Another feast is waiting  
Music, drinking, games and women  
Round about our world we go
- Banshee**      Come on Girls, let's show em! Here at the Cabaret of Youth we have achieved the greatest goal of human endeavour. We last forever, we never age, our fun-filled cabaret goes on and on
- Youth**        And on and on
- Nechtan**      What do you do
- Banshee**      Enjoy ourselves

**Nechtan** Like those girls we met in the street who never stopped laughing?

**Banshee** They were brainless. Here we have class. We know how to have fun that means something

**Youth** Our fun is deeply serious

**Bran** Here we can ponder the meaning of life, with an everlasting future

**Prunes** So it doesn't matter if we leave the pondering till tomorrow

**Custard** And enjoy ourselves today

**Prunes** Because we have all the time in the world

**Custard** We can be serious tomorrow

**Youth** And tomorrow never comes

**Banshee** Because time does not exist here

**Nechtan** But this is meant to be the land of youth

**Banshee** It is, it is

**Bangers** At last we're young again

**Mash** Our wrinkles drop away

**Bangers** I've got my rollerblades

**Mash** I've got my discman

**Bangers** We're so Young

**Mash** We're So Damn Young

**Youth** I am young – look at me

I'm a stag  
I'm a flood  
I'm a wind  
I'm a hawk  
I'm a thorn  
I'm a spear  
I'm a salmon  
I'm a lure  
I'm a hill  
I'm a boar

I'm a rock  
I'm a seal  
I'm a breaker  
I'm a tide

Free as air, I choose what I shall be today—  
I race the foam flecks on my windswept ship  
I fight the dragon to its gloomy lair  
I scale the monarch of the forest trees  
And soar with eagles through the mountain snows

I am young – look at me

In my island, golden chariots rise with the sun  
In my island, horses pound upon the steaming shore  
In my island, fields of sport stretch far across the plain

I'm a stag  
I'm a flood  
I'm a wind  
I'm a hawk  
I'm a thorn  
I'm a spear  
I'm a salmon  
I'm a lure  
I'm a hill  
I'm a boar  
I'm a rock  
I'm a seal  
I'm a breaker  
I'm a tide  
I am free

**Bran** But I shall catch you – everlasting youth is mine

**Youth** You may chase me, but you will not catch me  
I am the March hare, springing from the hillocks

**Bran** I am the greyhound, legs and teeth

**Youth** I am a wren, flitting in the Summer hedgerows

**Bran** I am a falcon, streaming from the sky

**Youth** I am an Autumn mouse, creeping in the cellar

**Bran** I am a tomcat, sharp as steel

**Youth** I am a trout, skulking in its icy pool

**Bran** And I the sharp otter, swift ensnaring

**Youth** Round the seasons

**Bran** Round the year

**Youth** Ever growing

**Bran** Ever changing

**Youth** Ever living

**Bran** Ever dying

**Youth** Ever Young

**Prunes** What they on about?

**Custard** I don't know, what they on about?

**Prunes** That's not what being young is

**Custard** Never heard a word about fashion

**Prunes** Or boys

**Custard** Or zit cream

**Prunes** Look at them two over there

**Custard** Eyeing us up

**Prunes** Play hard to get

**Custard** You're always hard to get

**Prunes** No I ain't, not if I want to be got

**Mrs Stooge** Ooh you devil!

**Custard** Play the come on

**Prunes** Then shut up like a clam

*Prunes and Custard beckon to the men*

**Banshee** That's the right attitude. We've got them in our power. See – I knew they could not do without us for long. This is the club the men have to come to. They need us now, in their Paradise. We shall make them happy. We shall make them so bloody happy! Just watch everyone,

just watch how frigging happy we shall make them in our Everlasting Paradise! There can be no Paradise without Women!

## **Song of Everlasting Pleasure**

**Chorus 1&3** Happy etc

**Chorus 2&4** Happy etc

**Youth** Fabulous to see them enjoy themselves  
You must agree that it makes the sun shine  
Rowdy and free they deploy themselves  
In a splendid use of time that is theirs forever

Stuff their ample bellies and you will see  
Super intelligence radiating  
They've banished hell to sobriety  
You don't care about a thing when you've satisfaction

*Refrain*

**Youth** I'm on this bloody cabaret turn. What am I doing? Must get out!

**Chorus** You all must agree  
We are happy

**Youth** A never ending cabaret turn, round and round and round, must get out!

**Chorus** It's lovely to see  
We are happy

**Youth** We are all insane, can't you see? Watch it!  
You might catch it!

**Chorus** You all must agree,  
It's lovely to see  
A cabaret that's happy

**Youth** Amorously loose they feel Cupid's peck  
They've no excuse to feel sad and lonely  
Artistic use of their intellect  
Keeps them bubbling and free with creative talent

Do I get the feeling that you dissent?  
Is all my spiel just a load of moonshine?  
Gosh! Do you really think merriment  
Is a pointless waste of time, not a way to glory?

*Refrain as above*



**Youth** Don't they all appear to be idiots?  
Their stupid leer turns my blood hard boiled  
Pointless and drear they are idiots  
Have they thrown away the world for this senseless laughing?

**Chorus 1&3** Happy etc

**Chorus 2&4** Happy etc

*Youth speaks peaking over playout to Nechtan who has broken out of the tableaux and has been doing some maintenance work on a chair*

**Youth** Boring, aren't they. Why not try counting. You'll find it passes the time

**Nechtán** Counting?

**Youth** Yes – it gives you something to do. Here, use this

*Youth hands Nechtán a flip board and he counts the happys*

**Nechtán** Do they ever get to the end?

**Youth** In a few million years. I just let them get on with it. It helps them pass the time – and by the time they get here, boy do they need something to pass the time. Have you ever seen such a stupid bunch of prats in all your life? And this is their Paradise! Being Happy! Forever! Funny things, humans. I'm glad I'm not one... Want a piece of chocolate...? Look at them out there. They're getting bored as well. Yes you are. I can tell! You're all fidgeting and looking to see how much of your pint is left. Don't worry. It'll end in a few million years, like I said... Then they'll go on to the next verse. Makes a change that. Any of you lot know any jokes? They can't be worse than ours...? Oh well then, you'll have to put up with mine etc etc

**P R Person** Tell me Sir, could I spare a moment of your infinite time?

**Nechtán** Infinite bollocks

**P R Person** I'm only doing my job

**Nechtán** Then go and do it somewhere else

**P R Person** It may have escaped your notice, but I am the only person who has got a job here – everyone else is too busy enjoying themselves

**Nechtán** I'm not

**P R Person** Ah that leads me to my questionnaire. Tell me sir, are you enjoying yourself here in the Land of Youth?

**Nechtan** Clean your ears! I've just said I'm not

**P R Person** I'm sorry sir, but it is most important that I stick to the strict order of questions on this form.

**Nechtan** Tough tits

**P R Person** Why are you not enjoying yourself?

**Nechtan** It's boring

**P R Person** Oh dear, I don't have a box to tick for boring – will 'lack of sufficient opportunities for legover' do?

**Nechtan** Suit yourself, but it's boring boring boring

**P R Person** How could your time here be improved?

**Nechtan** By getting the hell out

**P R Person** I'm afraid I don't have a box for that, either sir

**Nechtan** Well you know where you can stick it then

**P R Person** But I don't – that's just the trouble

**Nechtan** Want a punch?

**P R Person** And why do you find it so er, what was the word?

**Nechtan** Boring

**P R Person** Ah, boring

**Nechtan** Because nothing frigging happens

**P R Person** Which would you like to see more of – Drinking, Eating, Sport or Women

**Nechtan** I'm bored with them all. Get up – have a good time. Go to bed – have a good time. Get up – have a good time. Go to bed – have a good time. Day after day after day after day for ever and ever and ever. What's the point?

**P R Person** I give up – I just don't seem to have the right box to put you in

*Banshee butts in, with Bran on her shoulder*

**Banshee** Your problem is that you've lost your capacity for enjoyment – unlike your friend here

**Nechtan** I want to go back to the old club – at least we had a few fights there, to liven things up

**Banshee** Don't even think about going back to the old club. You will regret it

**Nechtan** Why?

**Banshee** This club is better. You will never be the same if you return to your old club. You will lose your life of joy forever

**Nechtan** My life of boredom

**Bran** Enjoy yourself, Nick, that is what we braved our voyage for. We have given up our old life, and embraced eternal Youth

**Nechtan** You're embracing the same old bag as before

**Bran** I have found youth, I shall live for ever  
The stars come and go, but I shall live on

**Nechtan** Live for what?

**Bran** Give it a rest – Don't hassle! One day soon, I shall leave this life of pleasure

**Youth** And devote myself to deep thought, man.

**Banshee** Hey Nick, what's your problem  
Everything you want is here

**Bran** Hey Nick, just relax –  
You can be forever happy

**Banshee** Hey Nick – cool it gently  
Find a girl and sort it out

**Nechtan** Bran, I thought you were a leader

**Bran** I'm the boss

**Nechtan** No

**Bran** Why

**Nechtan** You have led me to this dump

**Bran** I have led you

**Nechtan** Round and round  
Round and round  
Round and round  
What's the point

**Bran** In this world we want a good time

**Banshee** just a good time

**Bran** Randy good time

**Banshee** In this life we have a good time

**Bran** nothing

**Banshee** else

**Bran** matters

**Nechtán** But it does it does! Bran

**Bran** Yes

**Nechtán** You said that you would save the world  
Find us youth and save the world

**Bran** I shall do it tomorrow

**Nechtán** Oh yes?

**Bran** I've plenty of time

**Nechtán** Time for what? Time to do the same thing over and over again

**Banshee** Why not, if it's nice?

**Nechtán** Boring, sick and sad

**Banshee** Over and over

**Bran** For ever and ever

**Youth** Amen

**Bran** Come on Nick, let's enjoy ourselves a bit

**Banshee** Before you get down to work

**Bran** We've found this wonderful land

**Banshee** Where the Cabaret is endless

**Bran** Now we live forever

**Youth** You can think forever

**Bran** Now we live forever

**Youth** Nothing is impossible

**Bran** We're brill

**Youth**            We're fab

**Bran**              We're good

**Youth**            We're bad

**Bran**              Love us

**Youth**            If

**Bran**              You dare

**Youth**            We are everything you want, man

**Bran**              We've been everything there is—

**Youth**            A million lifetimes

**Bran**              As an artist

**Youth**            A million lifetimes

**Bran**              As a writer

**Youth**            A million lifetimes

**Bran**              Playing music

**Youth**            Solve the worlds problems

**Bran**              Think the world's thoughts

**Banshee**          Endless fun

**Nechtan**          Endless bollocks

**Banshee**          Aren't you overdoing that as a swearword?

**Nechtan**          No, I like the sound of it

**Banshee**          Oh well, if it turns you on...

**Nechtan**          So you can do anything

**Bran**              Yes

**Nechtan**          Because you have forever to do it

**Bran**              Yes

- Nechtan** That's no big deal
- Bran** I shall achieve the world
- Nechtan** You shall achieve bollock all. Anyone could do anything if they had forever to do it. So what!
- Banshee** But there's no need to start yet – enjoy yourself forever at this cabaret first
- Bran** And why not. I have gained youth, so I shall enjoy it
- Nechtan** You've changed – I don't know you no more
- Youth** Quite right – if you live forever, your life so far is as nothing at all. So whoever you are now, does not matter at all  
By the time you reach infinity, you will be someone quite different
- Nechtan** Come on lads, who is bored. Who will leave this dump and come back to our old club
- Bangers** No
- Mash** No
- Stooge** No
- Men** No, we like the crack here
- Stooge** This version of the missus is much better than before
- Bangers** The Guinness is good
- Mash** I'm entertained – I couldn't ask for more
- Nechtan** Entertained – entertained for a billion years – then what?
- Youth** Another billion and another. Youth will always be. I shall always be
- All except Nechtan** We like it here
- Nechtan** You normal boring people! Don't you want to do anything ever again? Let me out!
- Banshee** Impossible. You can't go out there without your friends – it's not safe
- Nechtan** Won't anyone come with me?

*Much head shaking from everyone*

**(Nechtan)** *(Indicating Stooge)* Hey weirdo, aren't you getting arsed off with the scene yet?

**Stooge** I really find this rather fun

**Nechtan** But what about your apple trees – do they need spraying? Is the gas off. Was the car locked? *(Ponderously)* Have you watered the geraniums?

*Pause*

**Stooge** My god I left the cat shut in

**Nechtan** And you – do you fancy a stroll? It wouldn't hurt to take the air  
Do you think someone will nick your job at your old cabaret

**Mash** Shit! Do you think so?

**Bangers** It wouldn't hurt to poke our head in

**Mash** Let's take the women with us

**Stooge** I left it shut in the living room

**Youth** It'll rip up the sofa and wee on the floor *(Banshee looks daggers)*

**Stooge** It'll scratch the wallpaper and eat the goldfish

**Mrs Stooge** And the missus will murder you

**Bangers** They'll give our job to an upstart

**Mash** A modern alternative comic

**Bangers** The sort that uses 'fuck' as punctuation

*(Chanted)*

**Nechtan** Bran, Bran, we're going Bran

**Stooge** Just to see how things are ~ at home

**Bangers** Just to see how the old club is doing

**Nechtan** To see our old mates, our old streets, our old fights

**Mash** We'll be back in a moment



**Bangers** As soon as we can

**Bran** I've led you over the sea  
I've led you past many wonders  
I've led you to the Land of Youth

**Banshee** Bran, Bran, listen to me Bran  
Listen to the banshee who has given you your craic  
Stay~ Here~ This is the only joint  
You will all be busted if you try to journey back

Besides, it's after time. If you go anywhere else, you'll be locked out

**Nechtan** We'll go

**Bran** No

**Nechtan** Down the street

**Bran** Who's the boss?

*Pause*

**Bran** Who's the boss?

**Banshee** Believe me folks when I tell you there's no club to beat this for crack  
in the universe. You'll regret it if you go somewhere else – Don't say  
I didn't warn you

**Nechtan** I'm going – I've had enough. The lager's better at home

**Bangers** We're going for the ride

**Mash** For a change

**Bangers** With the tide

**Youth** Follow, follow the flow of the streams  
If everyone does it you'll not hear the screams

**Stooge** I'm going to let the cat out

**Bangers** I say I say I say, what do you call a load of old cobblers

**Mash** I don't know, what do you call a load of old cobblers

**Bangers** This joke

**Mash** Boom boom

- Banshee** Yes folks, here it's Endless fun, endless games, endless jokes and endless sex. Stay here with us in the Cabaret Of Eternity.
- Nechtan** No
- Banshee** Where's your spirit? This is where you belong. We must stay so you must stay.
- Nechtan** No
- Banshee** Nowhere else interests us. It does not exist
- Bran** We'd be fools to leave. Everything we want is here
- Nechtan** Nothing I want is here. I've done it all
- Youth** Homesickness flooded through Nechtan. Longing for his old life, he reminded others of what they had lost, and stirred such trouble with the men that finally, Bran agreed to take him home.
- Banshee** Home? Home? Where is home. Home is here in the Cabaret. If you leave, beware. If you leave our happy cabaret, the world will change around you. If you go back to an ordinary Cabaret, nothing will satisfy you. If you set foot inside an ordinary cabaret, you are as good as dead
- Bangers** Oh we won't set foot inside it – we'll just peer through the window – we just want to see how they're getting on without us
- Mash** Not well. It'll be difficult to replace someone of our calibre
- Bangers** We'll have a laugh and come straight back
- Stooge** And I'll just let the cat out
- Bangers** Come on, Bran, we won't be long
- All men except Nechtan** We'll come straight back
- Banshee** Follow follow the golden bough  
Dragging you back through the ocean of time  
You've sold your soul for your youthful vow  
And all that was ~ has vanished
- Remember, sonny Jim, If you set foot inside any of our competitor's clubs then— (*makes throat cutting sign*) you won't be allowed back in here
- (*To Youth*) Keep an eye on them, Squirt

## The Return

**Bran**            Come on Men. If we've got to go back to the last dive to keep Nick happy, let's do it in style. Man the Gunn'! Feather your rowlocks!—  
And...  
We're off!

*They group together and lurch drunkenly along*

**(Bran)**            Row row row row  
Over the crystal sea we row  
Through the land of Mananan's beasts  
On past the groves of—

**Banshee**        *(Interrupting over the top)* All right, all right, cut it out. We've done this bit before. I think that lot have got the message. Speed it up, Squirt!

**Youth**            Leaving the Island of Youth, they rowed across the sea for three days until they reached the coast of Ireland at a place called Brandon Point, where the rocks pile from the sea, and kittiwakes and gannets soar

*The men peer at the Banshee, Girls and Audience.*

**Prunes**            I say I say I say, what 's the difference between a seagull and a baby?

**Custard**           I don't know, what is the difference between a seagull and a baby?

**Prunes**            One flits across the shore and the other—

**Custard**            Boom boom

**Bangers**           Er, no, don't like the look of this one

**Mash**             It was much more fun where we were

**Bangers**           Jokes were better

**Nechtan**           It's the same – the same club – I can't escape – You've tricked me

**Banshee**           Why Hello – come on in – make yourself at home. We love new faces here. Welcome to the Cabaret of Youth

**Nechtan**           What is this joint?

**Bran**             Who are you

**Nechtan**           You're nothing but an old slag

**Bran** Old bag

**Nechtan** Old slag

*The cabaret comes to them*

**Banshee** Youth, it's great, isn't it – remember it do you, any of you? – I know it's a long way back, but try. Here at the Cabaret of Youth, we're all young

**Nechtan** You're all weird!

**Banshee** Now let me guess, you came here to see-

**Bangers & Mash** (*Singing from the tables, to 'Stars & Stripes'*) Bit of skirt bit of skirt see some skirt – bit of skirt bit of skirt see some ski-rt-

**Nechtan** Stop it! Stop it! This is the same club

**Banshee** I'm sorry, I don't understand

**Nechtan** We've just left this club. We were going home to our old club

**Banshee** Have you been drinking?

**Nechtan** I was with you a few seconds ago you stupid freak!

**Banshee** Never seen you before in my life, darling

**Bran** I'm terribly sorry about my friend. I'll take him home

**Nechtan** Everywhere we go it's the same bleeding club!

**Bangers** Who's this git?

**Mash** I dunno

**Stooge** Never seen him

**Bangers** Says he knows us

**Mash** Swears he knows us

**Stooge** Never seen him  
Look! There's me missus  
Hello Missus

**Nechtan** Hey you idiots  
I was with you

I came with you from the club

**Bangers** From what frigging club you dozo

**Stooge** What a weirdo!  
There's me missus  
Hello Missus!

**Bran** Come on Nick, you must be high, man

**Youth** No he's Nechtan  
You have got his name all wrong  
Listen to our oldest tale

**Bran** I am Bran, son of Febal. I left Ireland a year ago, but now I have returned

**Banshee** We know no-one of that name here, but we have heard tales of Bran, son of Febal – Bran the navigator, who many hundreds of years ago set out to seek a magic land – the Land of Youth. He has not been heard of since, but the Voyage of Bran is one of our oldest tales

**Bran** Then we are doomed to sail the seas for-ever. For the woman of the Sidhe told us not to set foot again in Ireland, or we would turn to ash and be as if we had been dead a thousand years.

**Banshee** The woman of the Sidhe is always right. I should know

**Bran** Come back, Nick. Back to the new club.

**Nechtán** No

**Bran** You must come. You don't belong here any more.

**Nechtán** Let me go. Let me go home

**Youth** Home. Home. What is home?  
Home is earth, but earth went long ago  
Earth, earth, where is earth?  
Fried up, died off  
Vaporised to dry ash and a few dead comets  
Follow our humanity out across the universe  
Join the new lot in the sky  
We may live a little longer  
Before we dissolve into oblivion

**Bran** If you enter you'll regret it  
Remember the words of the Banshee  
Don't go back to earth – it's dead

- Nechtan** I'm human  
Humans die  
They don't live forever  
They're not meant to
- Youth** Nechtan could bear it no longer. He leapt over the prow of the boat and waded ashore, but as his foot touched the earth-
- Bran** I'm going back to the Cabaret. Bye, Nick
- Banshee** Welcome back, Bran. You weren't out long, were you. I thought our charms would soon bring you back. So you see. Ladies and Gentlemen, our cabaret really is too good to miss. Even this steetwise poser's returned. We must be the best in town
- Nechtan** Bran, don't go back to her, stay out here
- Banshee** Who is that eejit? I'm surprised the bouncers let him in
- Bran** I don't know
- Nechtan** Bran, Bran
- Bran** Don't know you mate. Must have the wrong bloke. Sorry!
- Nechtan** Bran!
- Bran** I wish he'd go away
- Youth** That's it then Nechtan. None of them recognise you now except me – but then I would, because I'm Youth and you're still young
- P R Person** Excuse me sir, could I have a moment of your time
- Nechtan** Piss off
- P R Person** Thankyou sir. I'm doing a survey for 'Life Expectancy Incorporated', and I wondered if you could tell me how many years you would like to stay in the following age groups: One year old to ten year old?
- Nechtan** Piss off
- P R Person** You can answer any number you like, sir. Eleven to Twenty?
- Silence*
- (P R Person)** My form will accept any number from one to infinity. Twenty one to Thirty?
- Youth** Ten years in each?

- P R Person** But you'd live ten years in each age group anyway!
- Nechtan** Exactly
- P R Person** But surely you'd like to be young a little bit longer – to live a little bit longer? That'd be nice, wouldn't it
- Nechtan** Human's don't live forever  
They're not meant to
- Youth** You'd not be human if you did – that's for sure. In the end, the very end, the very very end, it's the only way out.

### **Song of a changed World**

- Nechtan** While lovers sing of home,  
Time has lingered on,  
But cannot bring us back to ourselves.
- Despised deranged and mad;  
All is danger now,  
For unseen change has crept over my world.  
The land is empty where once lay friendship;  
Ashes are plentiful – burnt out people;  
I'm going home—
- I'm going home for good;  
Going home is good;  
And when I'm home, all the earth will be mine.  
My time is past and I want no other;  
Life should be fast and new every day.  
I can't last so I'm going home.
- Youth** One step forward, and you will have reached the shore. Step to me,  
and you are home.
- Banshee** Follow the Bough, the Golden Bough  
Follow it back to the land of Youth
- Nechtan** No

*Nechtan takes a step forward into Youth's outstretched arms and gradually crumples as if asleep. Youth lets him gently down onto the stage*

*There is a pause. Banshee waits for him to move, but he doesn't*

**Banshee** Well, ladies and gentlemen, after that moving little song from— from a person we don't know, it's time for another turn from – Bangers and Mash

**Bangers** I say I say I say, why did the monkey fall out of the tree

**Mash** Haven't we had this one before?

**Bangers** Of course we've had this one before. When you live forever, even the jokes repeat themselves

**Mash** Boom boom?

*Mash trips over Nechtan*

**Bangers** He's a bit in the way of our act

**Mash** Had too much of the big E

**Bangers** Shouldn't we move him

**Mash** Doesn't look very well

**Bangers** Not at all well

*The following should be as realistic as possible, with whispered half heard conversations. Everyone drops right out of character*

**Prunes** What's the matter with him?

**Custard** He was okay a moment ago

**Bangers** Let's see

*The Cabaret turns examine him. Banshee looks, but then turns to address the audience over the following with a series of ad lib tasteless jokes*

**Prunes** *(half heard)* Ambulance

**Custard** I'll ring

*Custard leaves*

**Prunes** Dead

**Bangers** Dead?

**Prunes** Well you listen

*There is some discussion amongst the cabaret artists, pointing and scuffling.*



*Bangers and Mash lift him to the side*

**Bangers** (half heard) Better not move him much till the ambulance comes

**Mash** Has someone rung?

**Prunes** Yes

**Mash** What do we do?

**Bangers** We'll have to leave him there

**Banshee** Sorry about that, ladies and gentleman. I'm afraid there's nothing more we can do for him. We have rung for an ambulance. Still back to more cheerful things since you have all come here to enjoy yourselves tonight. Are you all comfortable – all got a drink – all happy? That's the main thing. We're not here for very long, so you got to be happy. Come on – enjoy yourselves! These days you've got to be young, healthy and enjoying yourselves or no-one wants to know – it's the cult of Youth. You got to be young, or you're no-one

**Cabaret Turns** Yeah man  
Too true buster  
You gotta get real  
We're so hip

### **Song – in this world you gotta be young – cabaret number**

We pull our gear on as we sharpen up our faces  
We fill our pockets with disposable cash  
Don't care a monkey's if you think we're junkies  
We are the winners whose game is confident ~ so confident  
In this world you gotta be young

We're right behind you when you're peering in the mirror  
We're overtaking – Look! We've stepped in your shoes  
Our star is soaring, but you're sad and boring  
Worn out old has-beens of no damn consequence ~ no consequence  
In this world you gotta be  
In this world you gotta be  
~ Cool ~ Fun ~ Stupendous  
So turn up the heat till we're frying fast  
The future will take care of dying fast  
For we don't give a damn  
~ Life's a bloody scam  
~ Young ~ Young  
You gotta be Young

You gotta be Young

We spend the money so the advertisers love us  
We make the running in our culture today  
We spin the fashion, the music the passion  
Worship our freedom an easy attitude - such latitude  
In this world you gotta be young

We're right behind you when you're peering in the mirror  
We're overtaking – Look! We've stepped in your shoes  
Our star is soaring, but you're sad and boring  
Worn out old has-beens of no damn consequence ~ no consequence  
In this world you gotta be  
In this world you gotta be  
In this world you gotta be  
In this world you  
In this world you gotta you gotta be  
YOUNG!

**Youth**            You gotta be young – like me. I'm young and you're not. Tough that, isn't it. Life's kinda tough that way. Want some?

**Bran**             What is it?

**Youth**            Youth

**Bran**             How much?

**Youth**            Try some first – see if you like it

*The jolly song continues, gradually degenerating into laughter so we end with them all laughing and being happy happy happy, ignoring the moribund form of Nechtan.*

