

FAR-OUT Synopsis

(* Note-musical numbers are noted in parentheses)

Dr. Arthur Axelrod, an optometrist and part-time astronomer/physicist, introduces the audience to McCarthyville, New Mexico; the time is 1958 (**PROLOGUE**). A mysterious meteor crash-lands in the desert, and the local teenagers wonder what it is (**THEY CAME FROM OUTER SPACE**). At the same time, Dr. Axelrod's geeky son, Milton, is mocked by the cool teens, led by Jeff, the high school's star quarterback, his girlfriend Lucille, and Sondra, the pretty girl-next-door. Milton wonders what it would be like to be cool (**THE POPULAR TEEN IN TOWN THAT EVERYONE LOVES**). Sondra thinks Milton could change if he wanted to, but Jeff disagrees (**WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET**).

Aliens arrive soon after the meteor lands: their Supreme Leader is a walking eyeball with lobster claws. They have come because earth is an eyesore to them; the remedy is to transform the population into mutants, and they begin by transforming Dr. Axelrod's fiancée into a cannibalistic zombie. The aliens want the optometrist, Dr. Axelrod, to help them (**WE'RE WAGIN' AN INVASION—YOU'LL BE SINGIN' THE BLUES**) by reviving an old invention of his that will convert humans to hideous monsters. When Dr. Axelrod refuses, the aliens stab him with a brain-draining needle and make him their malevolent pawn, and the transformed doctor relishes his abhorrent sensations (**YOU'D BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON ME**).

The next morning, Sondra reflects on Milton and Jeff, trying to decide which she likes better: Jeff is cool but mean, and Milton is sweet but nerdy (**I WISH I KNEW FOR SURE**). At school, Mrs. Dweedleheimer, a teacher, offers both students and theatre audience a lesson in civil defense preparedness (**THE DUCK-AND-COVER FUGUE**). As she ends her song, a boom is heard—an explosion in one of the toilets—perpetrated by Jeff, who then blames Milton.

At the malt shop, Jeff and the teens give Milton pointers on how to change his life for the better, with a patriotic production number (**BE A CLEAN-CUT EISENHOWER GUY**). Jeff then makes a pass at Sondra, but Lucille intervenes and attacks Sondra. Before a cat fight can ensue, Milton intercedes and saves her. Impressed that Milton came to her rescue, Sondra reveals the affection she feels for him, & agrees to accompany him to the Sr. Sock Hop (**DON'T YOU THINK IT'S AMAZING?**).

Later that night, Milton returns home to tell his father about Sondra, but the crazed doctor alters Milton into a hideous monster with a huge lobster-like claw (**ACT I FINALE**).

Act II begins at the Senior Sock Hop (**IT'S OUTTA SIGHT!**). Sondra enters alone. Milton-as-Monster crashes the party, (**THE SOCK HOP BALLET**) grabs Sondra, and escapes. Doctor Axelrod arrives, is flung to the ground by Milton, and reverts to his old self because Milton's blow dislodged the alien needle in his neck. He tells the teens about the extraterrestrial plot. They leave to find the town sheriff, and Dr. Axelrod returns to his lab to find a solution to the aliens (**FEAR DON'T MEAN DIDDLY**).

The sheriff doesn't believe the teens' aliens story. His friend, Colonel Drake, enters to reveal the military intelligence that the army has on the aliens and enlists the teens to help him (**NOBODY DOES IT LIKE THE U.S. ARMY**). Meanwhile, in the desert, Milton reveals to Sondra that he's been altered against his will. Sondra wants to know more (**WHAT'S THE STORY?**); she hasn't yet learned that he is the Milton she once loved.

Back in his basement lab, Dr. Axelrod is visited by the Aliens and Stella (**IT'S SUPPERTIME AT THE ZOMBIE BALL**). The doctor outsmarts the aliens as they limbo into his device, and are disintegrated. The Supreme Leader and Stella escape to his subterranean lair.

Meanwhile, in the desert, Sondra discovers that the "monster" is Milton and assures him that her devotion is undying and that their love will persevere (**AS LONG AS OUR LOVE STAYS ALIVE**).

Sheriff Gilroy, Cnl. Drake, and the teenagers find the Supreme Leader's secret base. Milton and Sondra arrive, to fight the Supreme Leader. Dr. Axelrod bursts in with a beaker of alien-toxic waste; Milton grabs it and throws it at the Supreme Leader, who is destroyed. (**ACT TWO FINALE**).

This final act also transformed many of the characters: Colonel Drake becomes a pacifist, Milton becomes like James Dean, and Jeff becomes a nerd. In celebration of this happy ending, Milton, Sondra and company count their blessings (**FINALE ULTIMO**).