



Spy School

The Seventh Department

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Music by
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A one act comedy musical for ages 9-13

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CHARACTERS

24 Characters as written (+ offstage 'Voice')

Additional 'Agents' can be added for a larger cast (make up suitable names and share lines as required)

Some 'Agent' characters can be removed for a smaller cast (reallocate lines as appropriate)

All characters can be played male or female

The Rookies (Wannabe Spies)

Bogbean

Foxglove

Milkweed

Voice - The welcoming voice of Spy School (offstage)

Top Spies

Father Christmas - Top person in charge of Spy School

Easter Bunny - Number 2

Snax - The tea & snacks person (actually from the Department of Undercover Agents). A super cool top spy.

Department of Geeky Gadgets

Agent Gizmo

Agent Gubbins

Agent Gimmick

Department of Cool Posing

Agent Prairie Dog

Agent Penguin

Agent Peacock

Department of Sneaking-like-a-Sheep

Agent Prowls-like-a-Pigeon

Agent Creeps-like-a-Crab

Agent Lurks-like-a-Lizard

Department of Cunning Disguises

Agent Garbo

Agent Wiglet

Agent Fancy

Department for the Prevention of Alien Species Taking over the World

Agent Eeep

Agent Burrp

Agent Zigzig

Department of The Cookie Crumbles at Noon

Agent The Jelly has Set

Agent The Toast has Landed

Agent The Teapot is in the Nest

SCENE 1: Rookies

****MUSIC CUE: SUSPENSE MUSIC (if used)**

BOGBEAN, FOXGLOVE and MILKWEED enter nervously and stand in front of tabs/curtains (if possible) and look around

The light is very dim

They each clutch a piece of paper

MILKWEED: Is this the right place?

BOGBEAN: I'm not sure. My instructions just say "The cat scratches at the door".

FOXGLOVE: Let me see that. Wow! Creepy. Mine says "The dog sniffs the tree". What does it mean?

MILKWEED: It's obvious what it means. (*BOGBEAN and FOXGLOVE look confused.*) It's in code, just think about it logically. (*BOGBEAN and FOXGLOVE look at each other, still confused and stare at their pieces of paper.*) The real question is ... why did we come? In fact, can we go now? I've changed my mind, I'm just not ready for this (*Starts to walk away*)

BOGBEAN: (*Pulling MILKWEED back.*) We should at least give it a try. We've already been assigned our 'Rookie Code Names', although I never really saw myself as a bog plant, I was hoping for something a bit cooler.

FOXGLOVE / MILKWEED: Bond?

BOGBEAN: I was thinking maybe 'The Purple Shadow'. (*Strikes a 'mysterious spy' pose and promptly trips up and falls over.*) Well, maybe not. Who wants a clumsy spy called Bogbean?

FOXGLOVE: Oh, come on you two. We can do it! We are destined to be top spies and I'll make sure we all get through the training, just stick by me. (*To MILKWEED*) What does yours say?

MILKWEED: (*Reading*) "Go up the high street, first left at the roundabout, carry on for what seems like forever until you reach the secret old house on the desolate moor near the abandoned mine under the forbidding skies of doom".

BOGBEAN: Oh. So why don't we do that?

MILKWEED: Like I said, it's code.

BOGBEAN. (*Confused*) Right .. yes of course. Code.

FOXGLOVE: Wait! Stay still and be quiet. I heard something. (*In a panic to stay still BOGBEAN manages to bump into the others, tread on toes etc. They make a lot of noise*)

A spotlight shines on BOGBEAN, FOXGLOVE and MILKWEED and they freeze

The VOICE is offstage and would be good if it could be either amplified somehow or just very loud

VOICE: (*Deep and menacing*) This is the voice of darkness and despair.

MILKWEED: Whaaat? (*Jumps behind FOXGLOVE for protection*)

VOICE: Only kidding.

FOXGLOVE: (*Bravely*) Who are you?

VOICE: I ask the questions! Now ... who am I?

BOGBEAN: We don't know. Honest we don't!

VOICE: Oh dear. Ummm. Well, you seem badly informed for Rookie Spies but we'll carry on anyway. You must be the new bunch .. umm .. let me see .. ah yes .. Bogbean?

BOGBEAN: Yes, I think that's me.

VOICE: Foxglove?

FOXGLOVE: Errr, that's me. I was wondering actually if I might have a different code name - something like ..

VOICE: Don't tell me. Bond.

FOXGLOVE: Well, yes actually. How did you

VOICE: ... guess? (*Sighs heavily*) Can't imagine. No, we always name our Rookies after flowers. Then, if you make it through the training you get picked. Get it? (*Chuckles*) Whoever heard of a flower called Bond? Silly idea ... and lastly, Milkweed.

MILKWEED: Yes. Unfortunately I am now called Milkweed.

VOICE: Jolly good! Well now, you new "bunch" of Rookies - get it?

BOGBEAN / FOXGLOVE / MILKWEED: (*Resigned*) Yes, we get it.

VOICE: Welcome to Spy School!

*Tabs open to reveal FATHER CHRISTMAS, EASTER BUNNY and all the AGENTS.
(If tabs aren't being used the rest of the cast can run on as the lights come up)*

SCENE 2: Spy School

MUSIC starts and the ROOKIES stand in the centre of a roomful of strange looking AGENTS. SPIES is sung by everyone on stage except the ROOKIES. Dance / movement opportunity for everyone or just for a small group of dancers.

SONG – SPIES

We're spies
We live incognito
In disguise
We're the best
At saving the world
Always on a quest
You won't see us on the street
We're not the ones you want to meet
We don't chat or even tweet
'cause we are never indiscreet
But prepare your alibis
Because we're spies

We wear ties
Our dress code dictates
We accessorise
We look good
Would you be like us
If you only could?
With our secret hiding places
And our multi-purpose braces

Trilbies, gadgets and briefcases
We look cool in all the chases
And we win the fashion prize
Because we're spies

Don't tell lies
We can tell if you do
We can hypnotise
Spill the beans
Hand over the plan
Tell us what it means
Give us all your information
All your secrets in relation
To your life and occupation
Without a moment's hesitation
We never compromise
Because we're spies

We're in disguise
We analyse
Demobilise
And stabilise
We scrutinise
And mesmerise
Then vaporise
Deodorise

But we don't apologise
Because we're SPIES
Because we're SPIES

After the final group pose the AGENTS congratulate each other noisily.
EASTER BUNNY creates a louder noise (bell, trumpet ..anything) everyone stops and pays attention to FATHER CHRISTMAS and EASTER BUNNY who are standing on a platform in the middle. EASTER BUNNY has a clipboard.

FATHER CHRISTMAS: Welcome everyone to this fine training establishment for spies.

EASTER BUNNY: Code Name 'Spy School'.

FATHER CHRISTMAS: As you know I am in charge here.

EASTER BUNNY: Number One. Code Name 'Father Christmas'.

FATHER CHRISTMAS: Thank you Number Two.

EASTER BUNNY: Code Name 'Easter Bunny'.

FATHER CHRISTMAS: Today we welcome our three new Rookies to day one of training.

Everyone cheers. The ROOKIES look rather embarrassed and nervous.

FATHER CHRISTMAS: (*Addressing audience*) However, this is a secret organisation. So when you lot leave you will remember nothing. Do I make myself clear?

*The audience respond (probably not very loudly)
Everyone on stage stands with hands on hips and looks out at the audience.*

ALL: Do we make ourselves clear?

*Hopefully, the audience respond enthusiastically and loudly!
Meanwhile SNAX enters and stands by FATHER CHRISTMAS*

FATHER CHRISTMAS: That's better! *(SNAX whispers something to him)* Take over please Easter Bunny. I believe the kettle has boiled.

FATHER CHRISTMAS and SNAX exit.

BOGBEAN: Is that code for 'the secret plan is ready to be put into operation'?

EASTER BUNNY: No, it's code for the kettle has boiled and it's time for a cuppa!

MILKWEED: *(To BOGBEAN)* Don't show us up, not everything is code.

FOXGLOVE: *(Loudly)* We would just like to say that we're happy to be here and we're ready for our first mission Ms/Mr Bunny *(use as appropriate)*

The Agents giggle at this

MILKWEED: No, no, we're not! I mean, we are happy to be here .. obviously ..

BOGBEAN: But we're not really spy material .. errr ..yet.

MILKWEED: No, not yet. In fact ..

BOGBEAN: We're not really ready to be here .. really .. not ready

MILKWEED: But soon .. maybe ..

FOXGLOVE: But we are ready! We are destined to be the best spies ever! We'll prove it .. any mission you like.

MILKWEED / BOGBEAN: WHAT?

All the Agents stare at them.

MILKWEED: He doesn't mean that .. don't listen.

BOGBEAN: He's overexcited.

FOXGLOVE: No I'm not.

MILKWEED / BOGBEAN: Yes you are!

EASTER BUNNY: *(Enjoying teasing the Rookies)* A mission ... so soon? Well, how very keen of you. I wonder if we have any going spare at the moment. Ummmmm. Let me see. *(Consults notes on clipboard)*. Agent Gizmo, start the introductions while I sort out our 'best spies ever' with a dangerous mission worthy of their talents.

All the Spies laugh at the embarrassed Rookies. FOXGLOVE is not sure why they are laughing, MILKWEED and BOGBEAN glare at FOXGLOVE.

Then the Agents introduce themselves to the Rookies. This is an opportunity for each Agent to demonstrate their skill with actions or items appropriate to their character. The Agents are grouped together in 'departments' and could dress in similar fashion for easy identification. As each group carries out introductions they approach the Rookies and work around them. The effect should be fast, funny and very confusing for the poor Rookies.

AGENT GIZMO: Yes Easter Bunny. *(To ROOKIES)* Agent Gizmo. Department of Cool Gadgets. *(AGENT GIZMO produces a seriously cool and strange looking gadget).* Observe the effects of my latest invention. I call it the jelly-leg-abulator.

AGENT GIZMO points the jelly-leg-abulator at BOGBEAN'S legs and 'fires' – it has the result of turning BOGBEAN'S legs to jelly and causing him/her to wobble and stagger around

AGENT GUBBINS: Agent Gubbins. Radar, radio and small devices that fit in the heel of your shoe, down your socks and in your ear. This one I call the Cool-mover-tron

AGENT GUBBINS produces something invisible and pops it in FOXGLOVE'S ear who immediately starts to demonstrate cool dance moves.

AGENT GIMMICK: Agent Gimmick. Fast stuff. Rockets. Things that go 'bang' *(produces a strange looking gadget and presses a button)*

A loud bang makes the ROOKIES jump in fright, FOXGLOVE loses the 'thing' in his ear and comes to a stop, MILKWEED holds BOGBEAN up.

BOGBEAN / FOXGLOVE / MILKWEED: Wow!

AGENT PRAIRIE DOG: Agent Prairie Dog, Department of Cool Posing. Like this ... *(demonstrates with a prairie dog pose that the ROOKIES can't take their eyes off)* Useful for times when you want to blend in and go unnoticed.

AGENT PENGUIN: Agent Penguin. Demonstrating the Super cool spy walk. *(Walks towards them penguin style.)* Not for beginners though. I would suggest you start with ducks.

AGENT PEACOCK: Agent Peacock. Get noticed! *(Struts towards the Rookies in flamboyant fashion).* This is the way you enter casinos and posh hotels – but only if you have a reservation – otherwise it requires advanced sneaking techniques.

When AGENTS PRAIRIE DOG, PENGUIN and PEACOCK are together they immediately strike a 'spy pose' or even a quick succession of 'spy poses'.

BOGBEAN / FOXGLOVE / MILKWEED: Cool!

During this the Agents from the Department of Sneaking-like-a-Sheep' sneak up behind them. As they introduce themselves they jump out and surprise the Rookies. If you have any places to hide they can leap out from there or use other Agents to hide behind. They always move as their name might suggest and stand as if they are hiding behind a lamp post.

AGENT PROWL-LIKE-A-PIGEON: Agent Prowls-like-a-Pigeon, Department of Sneaking-like-a-Sheep. You'll never see us. We embody stealth and sneakiness.

AGENT CREEPS-LIKE-A-CRAB: Agent Creeps-like-a-Crab. Now you see me. *(Hides somewhere)* Now you don't.

AGENT LURKS-LIKE-A-LIZARD: Agent Lurks-like-a-Lizard. *(Mysteriously)* You'll find me in the lounge. I'll be watching you ...

AGENTS PROWL-LIKE-A-PIGEON, CREEPS-LIKE-A-CRAB and LURKS-LIKE-A-LIZARD go back to their places in a way their names might suggest (not at all sneaky in fact). The Rookies are suitably bewildered.

BOGBEAN: But sheep don't sneak.

AGENT PROWL-LIKE-A-PIGEON: Have you ever turned around suddenly and noticed a sheep standing behind you?

BOGBEAN: Errr no.

AGENT PROWL-LIKE-A-PIGEON: Exactly!

BOGBEAN / FOXGLOVE / MILKWEED: Right ..

As they watch the next group of Agents arrange themselves around a large box/basket containing disguises. They change their appearance a few times during the following.

AGENT GARBO: (*Suitably disguised with hat and sunglasses*) Agent Garbo, Department of Cunning Disguises. Strangely attractive but you'll never guess I'm a spy.

AGENT WIGLET: (*Sporting a wig and beard*). Agent Wiglet. For all your wigs and facial hair requirements.

AGENT FANCY: (*Wearing something outrageously theatrical*) Agent Fancy. Masquerade Balls are my speciality. You can't beat a disguise that stands out in a crowd.

AGENTS GARBO, WIGLET and FANCY end their introduction with a group pose.

MILKWEED: That's scary.

BOGBEAN: Agreed.

FOXGLOVE: Apart from the shades. Shades are cool.

AGENT EEEP: Agent Eeep. Department for the Prevention of Alien Species Taking over the World. (*Starts 'scanning' the Rookies with a gadget and making the scanning noises*) Eeeeeeeeeee ne ne ne.... beeeeeeep...etc.

The Rookies yelp and jump about as if they are being tickled as the scanning device is used.

AGENT BURRP: Agent Burrp. Alien Immigration and Integration Officer. Anything to declare? (*The ROOKIES look nervously at each other*). Only kidding!

AGENT ZIGZIG: Agent Zigzig. Languages. Aspeeee – doo – weeeeeny – di – di – di – blaaaa.

BOGBEAN, FOXGLOVE & MILKWEED are left clinging to each other trying to recover from the scan. They are unable to speak properly.

MILKWEED: (*Struggling to talk*) Waaaa nii din tooas eees

AGENT ZIGZIG: (*Appraising Milkweed's command of 'alien' language*) Very promising. This one shows a basic understanding of the common street talk of the Bongwellians.

AGENT THE JELLY HAS SET, AGENT THE TOAST HAS LANDED and AGENT THE TEAPOT IS IN THE NEST sidle up to them in turn during the following before disappearing quickly in a furtive manner.

AGENT THE JELLY HAS SET: Agent The Jelly Has Set, Department of The Cookie Crumbles at Noon. The boat is leaving but the crew are not on board.

AGENT THE TOAST HAS LANDED: Agent The Toast Has Landed. The heat is on and the flowers are wilting.

AGENT THE TEAPOT IS IN THE NEST: Agent The Teapot Is In The Nest. The beans aren't jumping. Repeat. The beans aren't jumping.

BOGBEAN / FOXGLOVE / MILKWEED: Ohhh – kay

EASTER BUNNY: Right! I have it. Your first mission at Spy School and one, I hope, worthy of you fine Bunch of Rookies.

MILKWEED: Foxglove, what have you got us into?

BOGBEAN: Maybe we could just all take a break and think about this in a sort of cowardly way?

MILKWEED: Yes, like NOT going on a mission.

BOGBEAN: At all.

FOXGLOVE: It'll be fine, just stay cool. We're ready Ms/Mr Bunny.

EASTER BUNNY: You have just met the six departments of Spy School. There is a Seventh Department ... somewhere. In order to locate it you will need to use all the talents you have, some you don't have and a few you know nothing about. So, just to be fair, you will be given a short training session before you start. You will report back here by .. ummm .. shall we say noon with the precise location of the Seventh Department. Synchronise watches!

Everyone except the ROOKIES looks at their watches (which should be in a variety of strange places) whilst a listening to a sound effect of a large clock chiming / talking clock.

EASTER BUNNY: That's it. Good luck Rookies!

EASTER BUNNY exits giggling.

SCENE 3: Training

MUSIC starts

MILKWEED: Training? Missions? We're not ready Foxglove!

BOGBEAN: We've only just arrived!

FOXGLOVE: *(Not actually very confident)* It'll be easy, you'll see. We are going to be good!

MILKWEED: Easy? You think we can be spies, just like that?

BOGBEAN: We haven't got a chance Foxglove. It's just pie in the sky.

SONG: PIE IN THE SKY

The song is sung by all the Agents. You can also allocate lines to particular Agents if you wish. Dance or just moves with the lines are needed to illustrate the skills the Rookies must learn. For now the Rookies watch the Agents' demonstration, which should be slick and clever.

Spying is easy
You can get there if you try
So practise what we tell you
It's not pie in the sky

You gotta move like a cat
Disappear just like that
Practise stalking like a fox
Keep a radio in your socks
Stay in disguise with a wig
Don't drop your thingamajig
Just look cool in all the bars
Watch out for aliens from Mars

Spying is easy
You can get there if you try
So practise what we tell you
It's not pie in the sky

You gotta break all the code
Or the buildings explode
Just stay calm and get it right
Don't get into a fight
Be alert like an owl
You'll see aliens on the prowl
Trap them with your trapper
Or just zap them with your zapper

Spying is easy
You can get there if you try
So practise what we tell you
It's not pie in the sky

You gotta pose and look cool
Get in disguise don't be a fool
Turn your gadgets up to max
Learn to sneak, hide your tracks
Remember all of your code
You're now in super spy mode
When the aliens attack
Stay on the job and watch my back

Spying is easy
You can get there if you try
So practise what we tell you
It's not pie in the sky

A 'pulse' of music continues underneath the following action as the AGENTS attempt to teach the ROOKIES the skills they need. The ROOKIES barely have time to absorb one lesson before the next comes along. The sequence should be chaotic and fun.

AGENT GIZMO: First, you'll need a gadget or two. These corridors can get dangerous around break time. The jelly-leg-abulator is way too advanced. But, I can give you one custard spray gun between you, unloaded of course. *(Hands over a large whacky looking bright yellow gadget.)* Completely useless, but it looks scary.

AGENT PRAIRIE DOG: You'll need all the posing you can get on this mission. Copy me. *(Poses like a Prairie Dog.)* Not bad *(adjusts the ROOKIES poses as required.)*

AGENT PROWL-LIKE-A-PIGEON: Sneaking lesson number one – follow me! *(AGENT PROWL-LIKE-A-PIGEON demonstrates the pigeon prowl.)* Get those heads bobbing around, loosen up your shoulders.

AGENT GARBO: You'll need hats of course. I would suggest these *(hands over 3 silly looking hats and ROOKIES stare at them.)* You place them on your head for the best effect. *(They put the hats on.)*

AGENT EEPP: Try not to get into conversation with anything that, deep down, you know should not be talking. Like buckets, sandwiches or door handles.

AGENT THE JELLY HAS SET: Remember. It takes two to tango, three is one too much and makes a tangled tango at noon.

AGENT GUBBINS: You'll be needing my latest radar device, but instead I'm issuing you with your own

ballpoint pens. It's the write thing to do.

AGENT PENGUIN: Whenever you need to move quickly, but with style, this is how it's done. (*Demonstrates the penguin walk.*) Walk this way Rookies. (*They all walk like a penguin.*)

AGENT CREEPS-LIKE-A-CRAB: But when you need to creep you adopt the crab position. Like this. Sideways ... always sideways. (*They creep like crabs.*)

AGENT WIGLET: Wigs or facial hair is a must – especially as we all know what you look like. You'll need disguises if you're to move unseen through the building. Staying anonymous is crucial. (*Hands out wigs and/or facial hair. The ROOKIES stare at them.*) You wear them. It works better that way. (*They put them on.*)

AGENT BURRP: You'll need some basic Venusian in case you run into problems with Venusians. They get a bit feisty when they're hungry. Repeat after me “armie-zimzik-nooooo-plingey”. It means “The canteen is on Level Three”.

BOGBEAN / FOXGLOVE / MILKWEED: Arrmie-zimzik-nooooo-plingey

AGENT BURRP: You can wave your arms about if you like

BOGBEAN / FOXGLOVE / MILKWEED: Will that help?

AGENT BURRP: No.

AGENT THE TOAST HAS LANDED: Don't forget. The action is hottest closest to the radiator. And .. a moon at noon is midnight.

AGENT GIMMICK: You're going to need something that makes a loud noise, always useful in a diversion. This small fluffy toy should do the trick. (*Throws the small fluffy toy and shouts 'BANG' loudly. Produces another three.*) Now you try. (*Hands over the fluffy toys.*)

BOGBEAN: (*Throws fluffy toy*) BANG!

FOXGLOVE: (*Throws fluffy toy*) BANG!

MILKWEED: (*Throws fluffy toy*) BANG!

AGENT PEACOCK: You may need to make an entrance – try it like this. (*Struts and walks in flamboyant fashion.*) Come on Rookies, get strutting. (*They strut.*)

AGENT LURKS-LIKE-A-LIZARD: Lurking is a big part of spying. This is how you do it. (*Demonstrates the lizard approach to staying very still and alert and the ROOKIES join in.*)

AGENT FANCY: Never underestimate the benefits of some extra lace and frills. (*The AGENTS from DISGUISES fit each ROOKIE with some fairly theatrical costumes pieces.*) Ah, yes. You are going to be totally unrecognisable.

AGENT ZIGZIG: Mayie-quintonk-defoonsin?

BOGBEAN / FOXGLOVE / MILKWEED: (*Waving arms around*) Arrmie-zimzik-nooooo-plingey!

AGENT ZIGZIG: I believe they have it!

AGENT THE TEAPOT IS IN THE NEST: (*Loud announcement*) The flowers are ready to bloom. Repeat. The bloomin' flowers are ready!

Music starts up for the reprise.