



Back to the Blitz - Synopsis

Four modern-day kids (Jack, Charlie, Katie and Georgina) have a problem to solve: Jack's granddad is about to be evicted from his house by a merciless and evil landlord. The deeds to his house were mysteriously lost in the war. One day, after a street-dancing lesson, the four kids venture into an out-of-bounds shed in Jack's back garden. Unbeknown to them, the shed is in fact an old Anderson Shelter which transports them back to September 1940, the beginning of the Blitz, and the second wave of evacuations.

The four kids disguise themselves as "vackies" (evacuees) and meet a whole host of people including the very rough East End Boys, a local Dad's Army regiment, a fiery ARP warden and a loveable but rather ineffectual "Potato Pete". They also meet an enchanting young woman by the name of Molly. She holds the secret...

BACK TO THE BLITZ

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(Revised: 11/2/09)

CAST:

(in order of appearance)

CHARACTERS IN CAPITALS ARE LEADING ROLES

** denotes that characters need to be good singers*

Gang of school kids:

JACK (principal character – nice lad but not that bright)

CHARLIE (his side-kick, mega-bright, the sensible one)

KATIE (another brain-box, quite daring)

GEORGINA (tomboy, rivals with Katie for Jack?)

& A gang of street-dancing kids with instructor

GRANDDAD (Jack's paternal granddad)

MUM (Jack's mum)

ARP Warden (a control freak)

HEAD TEACHER in the 1940s (rather stuffy)

Evacuated children (approximately 20)

Evacuated teachers (as many as needed)
Mothers (to wish their goodbyes and to meet the “Fixer”)

Dad’s Army (approximately a dozen)
CAPTAIN OF DAD’S ARMY REGIMENT (think Capt. Mainwaring!)

POTATO PETE * (an entertaining & informative cartoon character; a lovable buffoon)
Dr Carrot (two sticks!)

East End Boys (approximately ten; absolute thugs)

The Fixer * (cool and cunning)

MOLLY * (grandad’s wife; lots of sobbing)

Landlord – (part of mafia gang?)

SONG ONE – SOMETHING’S NOT QUITE WHAT IT SEEMS
(ENTIRE CAST)

SCENE ONE – AT JACK’S HOUSE (PRESENT DAY)

Grandad and Jack on stage. Grandad is moaning.

Jack: Is it your back?

Grandad: No.

Jack: Is it your arthritis?

Grandad: No.

Jack: Is it your bowels?

Grandad: Oh, don’t be so rude! (*A la Frankie Howerd*)

Jack: Well, what is it then?

Grandad: Look! (*Showing Jack a document*) This is my eviction order. I’ve got two days to go before they chuck me out of my house. Jack, I’ve got nowhere to go! (*Sounding more and more desperate*) I can’t prove it’s my house; you see I lost the deeds back in the war. I put them in a very safe place but couldn’t, for the life of me, remember where. Oh, what to do? And I’ve so enjoyed being neighbours with you.

(Mum enters)

Jack: Mum, Grandad’s in a real old state.

(Grandad groans again)

Mum: Sorry?

Jack: Grandad’s in a real old state.

Mum: I know dear. Life can be very cruel sometimes, and very unfair.

Jack: But what’s going to happen to him? Why can’t he stay with us?

Mum: Well, there isn’t room and besides he...

Jack: He what?

Mum: He...*(Makes the sound of snoring behind her hand)*

Jack: Haven't they found a cure for that yet?

Mum: No. Look he's old enough to look after himself.

Jack: Mum? Do you like granddad?

Mum: Yes *(Said with no certainty)*

Jack: If he were your dad, I'm sure you'd let him stay.

Mum: Now that's not the point.

Jack: Yes it is. *(Indignantly)*

Mum: Now I must tend to my laundry.

Jack: You always change the subject.

Mum: No I don't.

Jack: Yes you do.

Mum: Jack, love, what would you like for your birthday?

Jack: Ooh, I'd really like a new X-Box 360 and could I... There you go again, changing the subject.

Mum: Look! I'm a busy single mum and you've got your dance class in... *(Looks at watch)* 20 minutes. Shouldn't you be on your way?

Jack: Ok, mum.

Mum: By the way, what sort of thing do you do in your "Street dancing" classes?

Jack: Oh, it's really cool stuff.

Mum: Can you show me?

Jack: No, not now. When we next have a performance you can come and watch me, if you want.

Mum: Oh, thank you.

Jack: *(Slipping on trainers & hoodie)* See you later, mum!

Mum: Yeah, bye. Take care!

Jack: Yeah. Love you.

Mum: Love you, too.

SCENE TWO – STREET DANCING CLASS

Instructor & dancers take to the stage.

At the end of the class, the instructor says: Now, you've all done very well. Give yourselves a clap. See you next week!

Jack: Okay. Who wants to come back to my place?

Charlie, Katie & Georgina: Yeah!

(Short walk to Jack's garden)

SCENE THREE - GANG DISCOVER AN OLD ANDERSON SHELTER

Georgina: Hey, what's in that old shed over there?

Jack: I don't know, but it's out of bounds.

Charlie: I've always wondered what's inside. Why is it out of bounds?

Jack: (Shrugs his shoulders)

Katie: I'm gonna have a little look.

Jack: Okay, but just a little look. *(Sounding apprehensive)*

Katie: *(Going inside)* There's something very strange about it.

