

ATTACK OF THE POM-POM ZOMBIES

by Stephen Murray

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STORY of the PLAY

It's the 1960s, a big nuclear blast to the past! School's out for the summer, and the teenagers of Ocean View High are ready to surf, sun and have some fun. Their favorite hangout is Barnacle Betty's Surf Club, which happens to be right next door to the evil Ivana Ratnik's nuclear power plant. But ooops! Cindy Sue, the head cheerleader, accidentally gets some nuclear slime on her hot dog instead of pickle relish, and soon the beach is overrun with pom-pom wielding zombies! Her all-American boyfriend, the beatniks, the nerds and a tough girl-gang named the Barracudas rally their forces to save the beach from the atomic attackers. A sci-fi spoof of those bubbly beach blanket flicks of the '60s. (A musical version of this play is also available.)

CAST of CHARACTERS

(7 m, 16 w, 5 flexible, extras)

CINDY SUE MURDOCK: Ocean View High's head cheerleader and prom queen. First cheerleader to become a zombie.
ROGER SPAULDING: Cindy Sue's steady boyfriend, student council president, star running back on football team, expert surfer and all-American guy.
WENDY "WEENIE" WIENERMAN: Nerdy waitress at Barnacle Betty's Surf Club. Class valedictorian.
MELVIN: Nerdy cook at Barnacle Betty's and water boy of the football team. He has a crush on Weenie.
MYRON: Nerd extraordinaire. Looks up to Melvin.
PICKLE: A strange nerd.
GERTRUDE: Nerd, waitress, and spelling bee champion.
WALDO: A nerd bearing a strange resemblance to a hidden cartoon book character.
MUFFY: Captain of the Hopeless High cheerleading squad.
BETSY: Captain of the NoName High cheerleading squad. Often seen in public with a bag over her head.
SPIKE: Tough leader of the all-girl gang, the Barracudas.
SLICK: Barracuda 2nd in command.
GRUNT: A monosyllabic Barracuda.
WEASEL: A Barracuda.
PINKY: A Barracuda.
LAVERNE: Cindy Sue's friend, an Ocean View cheerleader. Moose's girlfriend.
SHIRLEY: Cindy Sue's friend, an Ocean View cheerleader. Has a crush on Zeke.

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BARNACLE BETTY: A crusty old woman. Owner of the pirate-themed restaurant, Barnacle Betty's Surf Club. Misses her long lost beau, the Skipper.

ZEKE LaROCK: Ocean View quarterback. Perfect hair, dream date of every girl on Santa Muerto Beach.

MOOSE: Large burger-loving offensive lineman of the Ocean View football team. Zeke's bodyguard.

PANDORA SPOCKS: Beatnik leader, poet and dancer.

WANDA SMALL, MEDIUM AT LARGE: A beatnik with amazing (?) psychic powers.

NEBRASKA: Beatnik poet and bongo player.

PAISLEY: Beatnik poet (female).

MONROE: Beatnik poet (flexible).

IVANA RATNIK: Evil and greedy owner of the power plant.

PROTON: Ivana's incompetent assistant (flexible).

NEUTRON: Ivana's even more incompetent assistant (flexible).

SKIPPER: Very brief walk-on part at end of show.

EXTRAS: Hopeless High and NoName High cheerleaders, additional nerds, beatniks, Barracudas, OVHS cheerleaders and football players.

SETTING

Outdoor eating area of Barnacle Betty's Surf Club, a pirate-themed hot dog stand with tables, chairs, etc. The stand itself should have a closed off area with a working door. The backdrop can be an ocean scene with the Santa Muerto Nuclear Power Plant visible in the distance.

PROPS

NONAME CHEERLEADERS: Paper bags.

BETTY: Pirate costume, chef and pirate hats for staff, hot dog.

WALDO: Red and white striped cap.

PROTON and NEUTRON: Gallon containers of green goo, three surgical masks.

BEATNIK: Bongos.

PAISLEY: Artificial flower.

WEENIE: Order pad and pencil; tray of food (hamburger, hot dog with relish); "Zombie Zapper."

CINDY SUE: Boy's class ring, tray of food, green makeup, sheet.

PANDORA: Box.

IVANA: Container.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: The scene is the outside of Barnacle Betty's Surf Club. WEENIE enters and, lit by a spotlight, speaks to the audience.)

WEENIE: *(Spookily, as if telling a ghost story.)* It was a long time ago, the summer after my senior year. The summer I had to save the world. All because of Cindy Sue Murdock, the most popular girl in school, prom queen, head cheerleader ... boy, she annoyed me! We were all sad the day she died, but after that Cindy Sue got even MORE annoying. Oh, I'm getting ahead of the story. It all started right after the last day of school. Everyone was going to hang out at Barnacle Betty's Surf Club. *(LIGHTS come up on set. CINDY SUE is on stage dressed in her cheerleader uniform.)* Of course, Cindy Sue was there ...

(LAVERNE and SHIRLEY enter enthusiastically. They are also dressed in cheerleader uniforms. None of the cheerleaders notice that WEENIE is there.)

LAVERNE and SHIRLEY: Cindy Sue!

WEENIE: *(To audience.)* ... and her cheerleader friends.

CINDY SUE: Laverne! Shirley! What's up? *(The CHEERLEADERS come together and greet each other.)*

WEENIE: And that's where the story begins. *(WEENIE exits.)*

LAVERNE: Like, we just saw Roger. He's got a brand new surfboard.

SHIRLEY: And he was talking to Zeke. Ooh, he's so dreamy.

LAVERNE: I think it's the first time in two years I haven't seen you and Roger together. Is everything OK?

CINDY SUE: Everything's fine. He's still my steady. *(Shows GIRLS a class ring on a chain around her neck.)* See, here's his ring.

SHIRLEY: So what's going on?

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CINDY SUE: I have a special summer project I am working on. And I need you to help me.

LAVERNE: Does it involve reading a book?

CINDY SUE: No.

LAVERNE: OK, I'm in.

SHIRLEY: Why don't you want to read?

LAVERNE: Why do you think we have summer vacation?

The brain needs rest after working hard all school year long. I want to get a fresh start in September. So I'm going to spend the whole summer without thinking at all.

SHIRLEY: What a great idea! I'll try it too! (*THEY stare blankly with their mouths slightly open.*)

CINDY SUE: Girls, my project.

LAVERNE and SHIRLEY: Oh, yeah.

CINDY SUE: This summer I want to do something important, something meaningful. I want to reach out to the less fortunate.

LAVERNE: The poor?

SHIRLEY: The homeless?

CINDY SUE: No. Underprivileged cheerleaders. As you know, Ocean View High has the best athletic program in the state.

LAVERNE and SHIRLEY: Go Otters!

CINDY SUE: We need to help those less fortunate cheerleaders who come from schools with losing teams.

Show them the ropes. Help bring some Otter spirit to their teams.

SHIRLEY: What a wonderful idea!

LAVERNE: You are a true humanitarian.

CINDY SUE: I've invited the pom-pom squads from two other schools to spend their summer vacation with us on Santa Muerto beach. Here they come now! It's Muffy and the squad from Hopeless High. (*MUFFY and the HOPELESS CHEERLEADERS enter.*) They led the state in team injuries last year. And Betsy and her squad from NoName High. (*BETSY and the NONAME SQUAD enter with paper bags on their heads.*)

LAVERNE and SHIRLEY: NoName High?

CINDY SUE: Their school has never won a game in any sport. They're too embarrassed to let anyone know where they're from. It's OK, girls, you can remove the bags now. *(NONAME CHEERLEADERS remove their bags.)* Welcome to Santa Muerto Beach, fellow cheerleaders. It may be summer vacation, but we're gonna cheer just like it's homecoming week.

HOPELESS & NONAME CHEERLEADERS: *(Lethargically.)*
Hooray.

LAVERNE: Come on, girls, where's the spirit?

SHIRLEY: How about some enthusiasm?

CINDY SUE: I think we should get started. Why don't you each show me one of your school's cheers.

MUFFY: *(Assembling her squad.)* OK. Like, here's one that's worked really well for us. Ready? OK! *(The cheer should be done poorly with the addition of some failed acrobatic feats.)*

HOPELESS CHEERLEADERS:

We're from Hopeless High and we're here to say.

Your team's probably gonna beat us today!

We're number two and we're second to you!

We're number two and we're second to you!

CINDY SUE: Thanks, I see we have some work to do. Let's hear from No Name High.

BETSY: This cheer is really bad, just like our team. *(All NO NAMES start crying.)*

CINDY SUE: Now stop that. Just show us what you can do.

BETSY: *(Suddenly cheerful.)* OK!

(The No Name CHEERLEADERS will attempt to make letters with their bodies. They are clumsy and unorganized.)

NO NAME CHEERLEADERS:

F - I - T - E, fight, team, fight!

F - I - T - E, fight, team, fight!

LAVERNE: I think you spelled it wrong.

SHIRLEY: I thought you weren't going to think.

LAVERNE: Oh, yeah. Good job!

CINDY SUE: Let's show them an Ocean View Otters' cheer.

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(The OTTERS' cheer should be rhythmic, enthusiastic, and highly stylized. Include claps, stomps, and the most sophisticated acrobatics your cast is able to execute.)

OTTERS:

You oughta, You oughta,
You oughta be an Otter

LAVERNE:

Tell your mother,

SHIRLEY:

Tell your father,

OTTERS:

That you oughta be an Otter.

CINDY SUE:

No one is hotter

OTTERS:

Than the O.V.H.S. Otters
Teeter totter, teeter totter
Yeah, you oughta be an Otter!

(SPIKE and the BARRACUDAS enter. They are a tough gang of girls.)

SPIKE: Look, it's the cheering rodents! *(BARRACUDAS laugh.)*

LAVERNE: Oh no, it's the Barracudas!

SHIRLEY: From Crosstown High!

SLICK: Relax, you dingalings, the beach is neutral turf.

SPIKE: We are all welcome here.

GRUNT: *(Speaking only in grunting noises.)* Unh. Unh.
Unh. Unh.

WEASEL: Grunt says she's hungry.

SPIKE: Me too. Is Betty's open yet? *(Pounds on door.)*
Hey, Betty! Open up, we're hungry!

(BARNACLE BETTY, a grouchy old woman, enters. She is wearing a Pirate costume.)

End of Freeview

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