

PROPHECY

Draft One

Prologue

A COURTROOM. Prophets and prophecies on trial.

- ① The JUDGE and his ENTOURAGE arrive – Long beards on stilts, much formal pomp. The CLOWNS act as the court gofers - ushers, clerks, shorthand experts and general dogsbodies to the JUDGE. It is their job to oil the wheels of court procedure and maintain silence in the court. But being CLOWNS they do this in an exaggerated, at times comic and at times menacing, manner.

The court establishes itself. The JUDGE's podium. Two areas for the witness-defendants.

(Perhaps University of Mid Glam bring a body of legal evidence into being in an invisible library)

The Moment of pomp and circumstance ends as the JUDGE bangs his gavel.

JUDGE I declare my court in session.

The CLOWNS enforce silence and respect.

JUDGE The charge!

- ② The CLOWNS rummage through the library for the charge. The charge - written in the big book - is held before the JUDGE.

JUDGE All seers, prophets and visionaries, from the birth of humankind until this day -

CLOWN turns the page.

JUDGE - will stand trial for seeing, prophesying, envisioning -

CLOWN turns the page.

JUDGE - and sharing their sights, prophecies and visions -

CLOWN turns the page.

JUDGE - with those who will listen and believe, but -

CLOWN turns the page.

JUDGE - having raised expectation, fostered hope and, -

CLOWN turns the page

JUDGE - with their prediction of the End of the World at the end -

① He gestures to the CLOWN to turn the page. The page is missing. CLOWNS search for the page. Eventually a clown finds it and passes it down the line to the JUDGE who grabs it angrily.

JUDGE -of the second millenium, engendered fear, this court demands proof that what the prophets prophesy has any shred of truth. Bring forward the prophets so charged and state and let them state their case.

② One by one, the rogues gallery of PROPHEETS throughout history are paraded before the JUDGE.

Some appear as mugshots on screen with voice over.

Some, labelled with name and date, are brought on by the CLOWNS.

Some run on enthusiastically and bellow warnings.

Some behave mystically as we expect mystics to behave.

Some chant as monks and nuns might chant.

Initially we hear their words as PROPHEETS speak and repeat their individual sound bites (*in italics*). Gradually the babble increases in volume.

EMMA KUNZ (SWITZERLAND - 1938) There will be planes shaped like pencils that will take men into space and by so doing punch holes in the atmosphere, letting in lethal *cosmic rays that will kill millions*.

ST JOHN (PATMOS - 1st CENTURY A.D.) And behold I saw, and behold, a pale horse: *and he that sat upon him his name was Death: to kill with sword, and with famine, and by the wild beasts of the earth.*

REGINA (GERMANY - EARLY - 20th C.) King and Emperor will disappear, and another will lash th whip. An iron crown is for thee, the German nation, and it will press and weigh heavily on thee *for many years to come*.

MOTHER SHIPTON (YORKSHIRE - 16th C.)
And men will die of thirst before
The oceans rise to mount the shore:
And lands will crack and rend anew
You think it strange, it will come true.

MARIA TAIGI (ITALY - 1835) And Christ came and showed a great plague from above; annihilation of most of the human race from *cosmic rays through holes in the sky*.

CASSANDRA (TROY - 2000 B.C.)
Cry Trojans, cry. Lend me ten thousand eyes

And I will fill them with prophetic tears.

GIACCHINO DE FIORE (CALABRIA - 12th C.) From the Age of the Father to the Age of the Son, we now embark on the Age of the Holy Spirit which will blossom only after *apocalyptic violence and destruction*.

BERTINE BOUQUILLON (ST. OMER - 19th C.) And when the AntiChrist shall come is in the Latter Days. These days are at the end of Second Millenium, *when he shall herald the Apocalypse*.

VIKING (NORWAY - 500 A.D.) The serpent is shaken with tremendous rage, tremble and quakes on the Ocean's slimy floor 'til mountains shake and rocks tumble and mortal men are killed and shades crowd the path to hell. *The sky begins to stretch and breaks in half*.

ISAIAH (ISRAEL - 900 B.C.) The earth reels like a drunkard, it sways like a hut in the wind: so heavy upon it the guilt of its rebellion that it falls - *never to rise again*.

NOSTRADAMUS (FRANCE - 1555) Within the world death and cries are heard, death is awaiting them through weapons, fire and famine. *For several nights the earth will shake*.

POLISH MONK (WARSAW - 1790) There will come in the year 2000, The Day of the Lord, who will judge both the living and the dead. Stars and Comets will fall from above, the Earth will be set ablaze with lightning, and *the Old Earth will pass away*.

RUTH MONTGOMERY (WASHINGTON D.C. - 1979) Those who can reach safety will see the earth's surface tremble, shudder and, in some places, become a sea of boiling water as *the oceans pour onto the land*.

WHITE FEATHER (HOPI BEAR CLAN - 1958) There are signs that a great destruction is coming.... you will hear of the sea turning black and many living things dying because of it. *The sea will turn black*.

STURE JOHANSSON (SWEDEN - 1980) If a human being abuses holy connections he creates total disharmony. *He will throw himself into the pit of the abyss*.

MERLIN (BRITAIN - 500 A.D.) *The stars shall turn away their faces and confound their usual course. Corn shall wither at their malign aspects, and there shall fall no dew from heaven.*

ZECHARAIAH (ISRAEL - 160 B.C. Their flesh shall rot while they are standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets and *their tongues will rot in their mouths*.

The babble becomes unbearable. The JUDGE bangs his gavel and the noise subsides to

a threatening murmur.

JUDGE You all predict disaster, destruction, apocalypse. But apocalypse, when? Where? I demand concrete evidence. Times and dates and places.

The PROPHEETS mutter, mumble, chant, shout and display various dates between 1999 and 2012 and vaguish remarks like -

PROPHEETS The End of the Second Millenium.
After the second Great Conflagration there will be a third.
As the Twentieth Century turn to the Twenty First,
Where the waters meet the mountains.
When the sky is pierced.

JUDGE bangs his gavel again,

JUDGE Silence in court! What were those dates again?

The Prophets all mutter, mumble etc. Again. Immediately the JUDGE bangs his gavel. They fall silent. The JUDGE sighs.

JUDGE When precisely are you saying -

A voice calls out from the audience. Until he officially becomes part of the court in Scene 5, the INTERPRETER should pop up here and there in the audience, or perhaps on other parts of the set. Perhaps by the time he is invited into the court he should be a popular figure, voicing the irritation of the audience with the bumbling JUDGE, but humouring him until he seizes power as the people's champion. A parallel route to that taken by a rabble rousing demagogue like Mussolini.

INT They predict the End of the World will happen between the years 1999 and 2012.

JUDGE Silence in my court. Muhurrumph.

He poffs and indicates to the CLOWNS to make a note of those dates.

JUDGE Between 1999 and 2012 apparently. So, all of you tell me -

The PROPHEETS look at him expectantly, ready to mumble, chant and shout again.

JUDGE No. Just. Easier if... You. Yes you. And you. The rest of you go. These two will speak for and represent you. Then maybe we'll get somewhere.

① The CLOWNS take the ALCHEMIST and the PEASANT to their allotted places. The other PROPHEETS are hustled off, mumbling, chanting and shouting. The ALCHEMIST takes from under his robe and extraordinary array of charts,

divining objects, cards, machines and chemical gubbins. He flicks his fingers at a pair of CLOWNS who unveil and bring on, scientific equipment, astrolabes etc.

The PEASANT sits simply on a stool. Occasionally she clears her throat and nose as loudly and unpleasantly as she can. A belch or fart may cut across the solemnity that the JUDGE is trying to impose.

JUDGE Good. Now perhaps we'll get some sense. Prophecy. You are a prophet?

The ALCHEMIST stares at the JUDGE. He produces a smoking chemical flask from beneath his cloak and passes his hand through the smoke. He places it on a tripod.

JUDGE Yes or no?

ALCH For years past I have predicted -

JUDGE Yes or no.

ALCH - a long time in advance, what has afterwards come to pass -

JUDGE We'll take it as read that you are.

ALCH - come to pass, and in particular regions attributing the whole accomplishment to divine power and inspiration, also other unfortunate and fortunate occurrences have been pronounced with accelerated promptitude which have since happened in other parts of the world -

JUDGE But what does all that mean?

The ALCHEMIST glares at the JUDGE.

ALCH - for I was willing to maintain my silence and to pass over matters that might prove injurious if published not only as relates to the present time, but also for the most part of future time -

JUDGE Talk plain English!

ALCH *Nolite sanctum dare canibus neque mittatis margaritas vestras ante porcos, ne forte conculcent eas pedibus suis, et conversi dirumpant vos.*

The CLOWNS don't understand this but the JUDGE obviously does.

JUDGE And just what do you mean by that?

ALCH 'Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast your pearls before the swine, lest haply they trample them under their feet, and turn and rend you.'

The CLOWNS are appalled by this insult to the JUDGE.

JUDGE I know what it means.

ALCH The words of the true saviour -

JUDGE ① But just what do you mean by addressing that it me?

The JUDGE bangs his gavel

JUDGE Failure to respect the court.

② A CLOWN takes one of the ALCHEMIST's charts and rips it in two. The ALCHEMIST turns on the CLOWN, raises himself to his full height as though to strike him with terrible magic. His eyes blaze and his hands breathe smoke.

ALCH Romans 12. Verse 18.

JUDGE What? What's that?

The INTERPRETER calls out from the audience.

INT Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord.

JUDGE Who? What?

INT Romans 12. Verse 18.

JUDGE Quiet. You. And you. Order in this court.

The ALCHEMIST does not weaken his position. The CLOWN whimpers and immediately mimes sewing the chart together again.

JUDGE Enough from you.. Yes, you. (THE ALCHEMIST)

③ The CLOWN has conjured the chart together again. He hands it obsequiously to the ALCHEMIST, who subsides. The CLOWN scuttles off to join the others, but being a CLOWN has taken another chart. They pass it along the line of CLOWNS, each tearing it in half and half again until the last one makes it whole again. But being a CLOWN he/she flings it into a bucket and it goes up in flames - or some sort of similar prank.

JUDGE I can't get any sense out of him. What have you got to say for yourself?

The PEASANT speaks directly and simply.

④ PEASANT As man nears latter century
Three sleeping mountains gather breath

And spew out mud and ice and death
And earthquakes swallow town and town
① In lands to me as yet unknown..

The CLOWNS scratch their heads.

JUDGE This isn't getting us anywhere. The Court demands to know why you always prophecy disaster and destruction? How do you know it will happen? What methods do you use in divine that such disaster will come to pass? And above all how can you prove that what you say is true?

BLACKOUT

PART ONE**One The Origin of the Species (Dance)**

(IAN'S GROUP; MAKE MUSIC NOW; LIVE CAMERA)

MAN EMERGES FROM THE PRIMORDIAL SOUP.

DEATH IS INTRODUCED AND WATCHES.

Two Back to the Court

Sudden lights up on the JUDGE.

JUDGE But how can you.... I mean you are, it seems, an educated man.... albeit exotic, but to all intents and purposes a man of science. How can you, and others of your kidney, believe this prophecy mumbo jumbo?

① INT It makes perfect sense to me.

JUDGE bangs his gavel.

INT As a man of science, as an alchemist, mystic and -

JUDGE Silence that man!

② The CLOWNS hunt the the INTERPRETER. But he has disappeared.

JUDGE I asked you, sir. You!

Three Man looks at the sky and waits for something to happen (Dance)

(DANCEMAKERS)

MAN LOOKS UP AT THE SKY SOMETHING TO HAPPEN.

THE HEAVENS COME TO LIFE IN A SON ET LUMIERE OF STARS AND SPHERES.

The ALCHEMIST's voice comes over the action.

③ ALCH All things that are to happen can be prophesied by the lights in the sky at night, which are natural, coupled with the spirit of prophecy
Although the Almighty God alone knows the eternity of the light which proceeds from himself, I say frankly to all whom he has wished to reveal his immense magnitude, that it is a hidden thing manifested divinely by two means to the understanding of he who prophesies.
One means is by infusion, displaying the supernatural light to he who

predicts by astronomy, making it possible to predict through inspired revelation.

The other is the fixed participation of the divine eternity; by means of it, the Prophet comes to judge what has been given him with his divine spirit, through God the Creator and his natural intuition.

Four Clowns as Trainee Astrologers (Clowns)

- ① Clowns experiment with astrology eg they muck about with telescopes, trying to follow instructions and getting things all the wrong way round.

ALCH (VOICE OVER CONTINUES) The planet Mars will finish its cycle. Some will assemble in Aquarius for several years, others in Cancer for an even longer time. Now by means of the supreme power of Almighty God, we are led by the Moon; before she has completed her entire circuit, the Sun will come and then Saturn. For according to the signs in the heavens the reign of Saturn will return; so that, all told, the world is drawing near an anaxagoric revolution.

At the end of the sequence, a new Clown appears with a sign: THE END OF THE WORLD IS NIGH

Five Back to the Court: the Interpreter intervenes

JUDGE 'Anaxagoric Revolution' What....? Look it up.

- ② The CLOWNS open the big book and look the word up for him. The INTERPRETER appears in the court.

INT From the ancient Greek *anax-agera* meaning a mob without a leader.

JUDGE You again!

INT You know Ancient Greek?

JUDGE Double first in Classics I'll have you know.

INT Of course. Balliol, wasn't it.

JUDGE Yes. How...?

INT A legend in your own time. Word travels.

JUDGE Well, it would.

INT Or might the word derive from the philosopher, Anaxarogas, who predicted the end of the world through fire and water.

The JUDGE, glad at last to be in the comfy, double bluffing stinkhole of flattery, semantics and etymology, is momentarily seduced.

JUDGE Yes, yes, the teacher of Pericles, I knew that. But here -

① He inspects the book that the CLOWNS hold out.

JUDGE It says here that he might have meant to say *anaragonic* .

② The INTERPRETER leans over the JUDGE's shoulder.

INT I see. 'Something that brings about destruction'.

JUDGE That would make some sense.

The PEASANT belches loudly. The JUDGE remembers where he is.

JUDGE Order. Order. There will be no further eructation in my court.

The INTERPRETER begins to go.

INT Glad to be of help.

JUDGE Yes. Yes... Now.... Wait.

③ He beckons the INTERPRETER over.

JUDGE You understood what he was talking about.

INT Yes.

The PEASANT lets out a rip snorting fart.

JUDGE There will be no flatulence in my court. Not until after lunch at any rate.. So... What was he talking about then?

④ INT It was perfectly clear..... your honour. You see before you an alchemist, a man of science and divination, a prophet. His insights come from deep thought and close study. From the entrails of sheep, with cards or pentacles, through self administered potions or mind relaxing drugs, by close examination of the stars and a deep affinity with the four elements, he sees what you and I cannot.

JUDGE But why?

INT To guide our steps into the future.

Th ALCHEMIST takes notice for the first time and shakes his head.

JUDGE And what he sees will happen?

INT He predicts cataclysm: imminent apocalypse unless we mend our ways. But will take his warning and mend them?

The ALCHEMIST is clearly troubled by this interpretation.

① INT But most of all he shows us a purpose in our lives, gives humankind a ladder to reach for the heavens. A foundation on which we can create, each of us, his place in the grand scheme of things.

ALCH No.

JUDGE I see. A set of rules. A framework.

ALCH No!

INT Not a framework that restricts -

JUDGE A trellis! Up which we climb, like a clematis.

ALCH No!!

JUDGE All right a or a rambling rose -

INT Or a sweet pea?

JUDGE Oh yes.

INT Perhaps -

ALCH I do not try to provide anything for mankind! I am a prophet because I have to be. I have no choice but to see what I see. I am compelled to do what I do because I have been chosen.

The ALCHEMIST goes back to his divination.

JUDGE I thought we were beginning to get somewhere. What does she think?

The PEASANT belches horribly.

JUDGE I said -

PEASANT All words.

JUDGE What?

② PEASANT Just words. It's not about words. Not about toys.

She glares at the ALCHEMIST's equipment.

PEASANT Truth. That's all it is. It's about truth.

Six The Beginning of Worship and Ritual (Dance, Circus)

(DANCEMAKERS, IAN'S GROUP, SPLOTT STATE CIRCUS)

- ① THE BEGINNINGS OF WORSHIP AND RITUAL.
THE ARRIVAL OF FIRE
THE BEGINNINGS OF WHIRLING AS A WAY IN TO TRANCE

During this the PEASANT speaks Mother Shipton's words.

PEASANT For those who live the century through
In fear and trembling they shall do.
Flee to the mountains and the dens
To bog and forest and wild fens.

A fiery dragon will cross the sky
Six times before the earth shall die
Mankind will tremble and frightened be
For the six heralds in this prophecy.

For seven days and seven nights
Man will watch this awesome sight.
The tides will rise beyond their ken
To bite away the shores and then
The mountains will begin to roar
And earthquakes split the plain to shore.

- ② Seven Back to the court: "Too Vague!!!"

JUDGE But it is all ^{too} vague! When and how! Names, Dates, Places.

INT At 8.25 p.m. on December 9th 1977 in Cardiff, the World will begin to implode. What do you do with that information. You've got five minutes. What do you do?

JUDGE L...L... Clarify. What's your argument?

INT It is not always appropriate to be specific. When the time comes the right people, the perceptive, good and worthy people will understand. They will know what need be done to avoid the cataclysm. Nothing is determined; we have free will. You're still sceptical.

③

- ④ The CLOWNS seem to be under the ALCHEMIST's spell. They approach him formally.

JUDGE What's happening now?

INT Please. Be quiet. He needs to prepare himself for the moment.

JUDGE What moment?

INT The moment of vision.

Eight Images of Nostradamus

The ALCHEMIST undergoes an elaborate dressing ritual at the hands of the CLOWNS before approaching his water font. He is a great showman. He speaks his prophecies in French. On a voice-over, several conflicting simultaneous translations. The INTERPRETER tries to interpret the translations into soundbites that the JUDGE can understand.

ALCH Le tout etre prédit par afflation de divinité, et par le moyen de l'esprit angélique inspiré à l'homme prophétisant, rendant ointes de vaticinations, le venant à illuminer etc.

TRANSLATORS (VOICES OVER) All is predicted through divine inspiration, and by means of the angelic spirit with which the man prophesying is inspired, rendering him anointed with prophecies, illuminating him, moving him before his fantasy through diverse nocturnal apparition. With astronomic calculations certifying the prophecy in the daytime, there is nothing more to the holiest future prediction than free courage. You must see that I find by my calculations, which are according to revealed inspiration, that the sword of death is now approaching us, in the shape of pestilence, war more horrible than has been now in three lifetimes, and famine. This famine will fall upon the earth, and return there often, according to the words *I will visit their iniquities with a rod of iron, and I will strike them with blows. I will trample them and, break them, and how not pity.* And thousands of other events will come to pass, because of floods and continual rains, as I have set forth more fully in writing my other prophesies, setting forth the places and times so that men coming after may see them, knowing the events that have occurred infallibly. This we have noticed in connection with some others, speaking more clearly. For although they are written under a cloud, the meanings will be understood. When the time comes for the removal of ignorance, the event will be cleared up still more.

INT Prophecy is a divine gift.
 Apparitions at night backed up by calculations by day.
 His inspirational has been is backed up by calculations to show -
 that pestilence, disease and famine, more horrible that the world has
 known.

And no mercy will be extended until -
until we have suffered, been trampled and broken by the Lord.
And he has set these down in his writings -
Wrapped in allusion and clouded in mystery -
but those who wish to will find meaning in them.

JUDGE I can't hear. I cannot even understand what you're saying.

A babble of voices, noise and interpretation become confused and impossible to understand leads straight into -

Nine The Underdogs: The End of the World is Nigh

The Underdogs join in the confusion with their rap.

End of PART ONE.

PART TWO**Ten The Woman's Ritual**

Out of the sudden silence haunting music I heard. It continues through the action. Occasional jarring notes affect the PEASANT physically. She is led by VESTAL CLOWNS towards the Oracle. Ritual dressing, smoke. DEATH is in attendance. The seductive voice of the INTERPRETER comes over - maybe he begins in the style of Tom Fleming at a Westminster Abbey funeral.

INT (voice over) Seven centuries before Christ,
Where The God Apollo slew a python with his bare hands,
On the slopes of Mount Parnassus at Delphi,
The first Pythia took her place.

Year on year a woman known for purity,
And blessed by madness, that's the special gift of heaven,
Would sit upon the tripod stool
To play The Oracle.

The fate of all her daughters to the present day
Is branded mad, malign or touched,
If witches speak of truths we dare not hear,
Then kill the messenger.

The PEASANT enters a trance and sits on her divining stool. The INTERPRETER has positioned himself as priestly intermediary.

INT Possessed by knowledge that she could not know
Her priest, known also as the holy one or prophet,
Could help explain, interpret what she said
And stand between her and the seeker after truth.

Dancers spin slowly. Web ropes spin slowly. The PEASANT starts to see.

Eleven Beautiful visions of progress

Prophecies about inventions are whispered or sung by different voices, live, on tape, on video. While, in front of the PEASANT -

MAN MAKES MACHINES AND LEARNS TO FLY.

As the beautiful music continues, it occasionally jars. These jarring sounds cause the PEASANT pain.

STATIC TRAPEZE ROUTINE TELLING THE STORY OF FLIGHT.

VOICES:- In water, iron then shall float
As easy as a wooden boat.

In nineteen hundred and twenty six
Build houses light of straw and sticks.

Beneath the water men shall walk
Shall ride, shall sleep and even talk.

Over this whispered/sung rhythm of progress the INTERPRETER gives a brief synopsis for the JUDGE.

INT She sees, as many visionaries have seen what will be made before it has been invented. Roger Bacon etc.

Orit – do we need names and dates at this point, or will it mess up the mood of what we're trying to achieve?-

VOICES:- When pictures seem alive with movements free
When boats like fishes swim beneath the sea,
When men like birds shall scour the sky
Then half the world deep drenched in blood shall die.

We clearly hear the last line. It brings on the PEASANT's first major terrified spasm in.

JUDGE What has she seen?

INT I do not have the gift. I can only interpret what she wishes us to know.

Twelve Beautiful visions of war and destruction

The music changes. The PEASANT starts to twitch and groan.

THE DANCERS AND WEB ROPES SPIN FASTER.

The vision becomes disjointed, uneasy.

THOSE ON THE TRAPEZES TRY TO STOP WHAT THEY CAN SEE, BUT CAN'T STOP IT.

(CANTON CIRCUS) UV SEQUENCE OF WEAPONS OF DESTRUCTION
ENDING IN MUSHROOM CLOUD AND TENS OF WHITE CROSSES
APPEARING.

(GOSPEL CHOIR) THE DEAD REAPPEAR AS ANGELS IN THE SKY

The Clowns start to panic about what they have seen. They stir up pandemonium amongst the audience

JUDGE Quit. Stop this. Stop this now.

The CLOWNS slowly turn and stare at him.

JUDGE It's you. And you. All of you self styled prophets and visionaries. You say you have the gift of foresight. And yet everything you see ends in...in... disaster, calamity, even the destruction of our planet, the End of the World. Surely some of you have seen something good, happy, positive? Haven't you? Think on. When I come back I want to feel that there is hope.

Thirteen The Interpreter's Vision

The JUDGE wraps his robes around him and is on his way out. He looks back at the CLOWNS. The CLOWNS turn slowly to look at the INTERPRETER. Who stands next to the PEASANT's divining stool.

JUDGE This way.

The CLOWNS look to the INTERPRETER for guidance.

INT (TO THE CLOWNS) I do not have the gift.

The CLOWNS turn and stomp out with the JUDGE.

The INTERPRETER goes to sit on the PEASANT's ⁱⁿdivining stool. A final image of him, alone with his thoughts. He has clearly had an idea.....

End of PART TWO.

Interval.

PART THREE**Fourteen Carnival: Images of Salvation**

CRYSTAL BALL ROLLING.
 SPHERES BEGIN TO ROTATE.
 A TRANCE / DREAM MOMENT.
 PATUA DESCEND FROM THE SKY / CRAWL FROM THE EARTH IN A
 CARNIVAL OF IMAGES OF SALVATION.
 THE COMING OF THE LOST WHITE BROTHER.

May need a moment's explanation of the arrival of Cortes and the cross. It depends on what exactly PATUA have done.

E.g. JUDGE So they saw ther image of a circle turned into a cross.

INT Exactly that.

JUDGE But didn't know what it represented, why it happened or what the consequences would be.

Fifteen Clowns save the world

Clowns play false messiahs and crucify each other

INT Not all visions of salvation are what they seem.

JUDGE So it's up to us to pick and choose which is true.

INT Our destiny is not fixed: we can change course.

The JUDGE bangs his gavel to get the CLOWNS back in line.

Sixteen Back to the Court: Prophets are useful

INT All prophecy needs interpretation. Its value is to show us the way forward or to warn us of impending doom. The prophets prophecy for our sakes -

ALCH No!

INT And we must pay heed. She may have foreseen the End of the World heralded by holes in the sky. Are these holes made by beings from beyond our universe? Are they made by missiles from Earth itself? By our own thoughtless destruction of the ozone layer? A true interpreter will ponder this and understand.

JUDGE So which is it, Ponderer?

INT Listen! You ask too many questions. If I am the one who understands, it makes clear sense to heed what I say. A natural leader listens to visionaries: he hears their words and uses them to point the way towards happiness and salvation of the rest of you.

ALCH How can you understand us when we do not understand ourselves.

INT You are but channels for a greater power.

ALCH No!

INT You see, they hold no interest as individuals, only for what is shown through them.

JUDGE So why do they see what they see?

INT That is of no importance. Prophets do not ask what we can do for them, but what they can do for us.

The PEASANT farts.

JUDGE What was that?

The JUDGE bangs away at his gavel.

JUDGE That's it. I've had enough of this behaviour -

The INTERPRETER takes the gavel.

INT Listen! You might learn something.

JUDGE Give me -

The INTERPRETER bangs the gavel.

INTERPRETER Silence!

The JUDGE beckons to the CLOWNS. The CLOWNS make a tentative move towards the INTERPRETER but he bangs his gavel. This stops them.

INT If we listen to what they say we will know what to do. If only I can hear the truth of what they say, then you must listen to me. For your own sakes. For your children's sakes.

Seventeen Willows High School

A VISION OF TECHNOLOGY BRAINWASH.
THE RISE OF LITTLE BROTHER.
ALL THE CHILDREN ARE DEAD.

Eighteen The development of Ritual (Dance)

RITUALS MADE OUT OF WORSHIP GESTURES.

Nineteen Images of dystopia and oppression

UNIVERSITY OF MID GLAM - STYLISED SEQUENCE OF OPPRESSOR-
OPPRESSED
POLITICAL VISIONARIES LEADING TO 'I HAVE A DREAM' MARTIN
LUTHER KING

INT And while the dreamers tell their dreams we simple men must listen.
Those of us not blessed with insight can understand the needs of our
age, the truth of what surrounds us in the material world. By taking up
the vision of the seers and thinking through the steps our world need
take, we stand astride the mystical and material worlds. However
weak the individual may feel when compared with the omnipotence and
will of Destiny, yet at the moment when he acts, as Destiny would have
him act, he takes on immeasurable strength. Then there flows through
him that force which has marked all greatness in the World's History.
He knows that it is not the work of man alone.

Twenty The creation of the master race

DOUBLES TRAPEZOID WILD SEX IN THE SKY LEADS TO IMAGES ON
SCREENS OF BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE BEING REPLICATED AT INFINITUM

INT A man who knows his duty is to stand above the crowd when the hour
comes, is responsible solely to the mission placed upon him. And
anyone who interferes with that mission is an enemy of the people.
Each one of you must declare for or against.
Destiny drives the mission. The mission is sacred. Each person must
come to accept that his own ego is unimportant when compared with
the the existence of the whole people and the success of the mission.

Twenty One Ritual gestures become saluting – adoration of the leader

DANCEMAKERS RAVE STYLE GESTURES AND HYSTERIA LEAD TO MASS SALUTE.

INTERPRETER on the oracle as Big Brother continuing his speech.

INT Let us march with giant steps through history into the future in the clear knowledge that the freedom of the mind and will of a nation are to be valued more highly than the mind and will of the individual. One Mind. One Will. One Destiny.

Twenty Two The prophets protest

INT For some the stars are merely spots of light. Their dreams are dreams that die with dawn. But it is given to me to feel your pain. I have the strength of mind to take up the burden of your hopes. I know your destiny. Our destiny. I have the sight.

ALCH You do not!

INT You are with us or against us. Where do you stand?

PEASANT With the Truth.

INT There is only one Truth that need concern you. Look about you. I am your Truth.

The ALCHEMIST and PEASANT are troubled to the point of pain by this.

INT Silence them. They may speak only through me.

JUDGE (LOOKING IN THE BIG BOOK) But this is not legal.

INT I am the law. No prophets, no judges, no books!

Twenty Three Book Burning

FIRE SWINGING ROUTINE WITH BURNING BOOKS AND BURNING THE PEASANT AS A WITCH
THE CLOWNS DROWN THE ALCHEMIST IN HIS OWN FONT.
PEOPLE TRY TO ESCAPE UP TRAPEZE ROPES. FIRE MOVES INTO THE SKY

Twenty Four The Court is overturned

THE JUDGE TRIES TO INTERVENE. HE BANGS HIS GAVEL USELESSLY. HE IS SHOT.

Twenty Five The Great Dictator caresses the nation

Stillness.

The INTERPRETER takes his place as judge and jury, prophet and power. He relaxes and fondles the head of the beautiful boy (DEATH?)

INT So much easier when we all know where we stand. Or in my case sit.

The CLOWNS laugh.

There is the option of a vote, but since we're all on the same side, what point? It only leads to abuse, point scoring and brown envelopes.

The CLOWNS laugh. The INTERPRETER muses.

And the silence. Just the seductive sound of my own voice. Basking in the warm glow of your esteem. Nothing to regret in the past. Nothing to wish for in the present. Nothing to fear in the future. The future. No prophets to tell us whether there'll be jam tomorrow.

He asks the CLOWNS.

Are there?

The CLOWNS indicate 'If you say so'.

Or is there one special prophet who can tell us what we want to know?

The CLOWNS wheel out a huge metal mask with TV monitors for eyes. At first the INTERPRETER's image is on its eyes but then it switches to focus on members of the audience.

Calmly he bids things to happen – a song, a dance, whatever. What do we have for him to bid?

Twenty Six The prophets fights back

AFTER THE DANCE/SONG AND OUT OF THE SILENCE, A LONE VOICE IS HEARD. A MAN ON A SOAP BOX TRIES TO SPEAK.

The CLOWNS are shocked. They look to the INTERPRETER – should they kill him? The INTERPRETER is amused – he applauds the silly man.

ANOTHER PROPHET APPEARS, THEN ANOTHER, THEN ANOTHER – SOAP BOX PROPHET TRAMPETTE ROUTINE BUILDS.

The INTERPRETER ceases to be amused. The clowns march in with riot shields and truncheons. The soap box routine becomes 250 people speaking their minds : a Tower of Babel.

Twenty Seven The Rumbling begins

A rumbling sound. The earth begins to shake. The cliffs rock.

The giant Puppet emerges from the earth amidst loud crashings and falling stones. Big loud music. The Giant Puppet opens its mouth – prophecies spew forth... Chaos. The crowd and history has won.

The CLOWNS are no longer the INTERPRETER's Praetorian Guard, they have changed sides. The INTERPRETER has lost control. He is hung upside down by the CLOWNS and the crowd.

Death caresses him.

Blackout

Epilogue The next step...

Silence. Spotlight glows on DEVELOPING MAN in his flowerpot. Death leads him forward. We discover who DEATH is as he ascends to the heavens to watch and wait. DEVELOPING MAN starts to move forwards. Lights build to reveal that he is at the centre of a web attached to the rogues gallery of prophets and through them, to the history of humanity.

He starts to move slowly forward. The audience are trapped within the web and must move with him. He moves towards the great unknown....blinding white lights and pyros.

The End.