

The Crowbot - Summer Show 2015

Professor: Hello Ladles and Gentlemen, Goys and Birls, and welcome to the grand unveiling of York Maze's latest gadget, The Crowbot 5000!! I think that deserves an "ooh" doesn't it? (*encourage audience to "ooh"*). Pathetic. My name is PPPProfessor PPPPete/Penelope PPPPearcy, here's my card (*Shows a giant card/whiteboard with the full name printed as PPPProfessor PPPPete/Penelope PPPPearcy*) and I have spent the last umpteen years working on a new invention to tackle Farmer Tom's crow problem. After many ppppprototypes I believe that I can now claim to be the answer to Farmer Tom's dreams. Or rather, my invention can be. They would be strange dreams indeed if I were the answer to all of them. I have created super robotic scarecrow, developed at my Foundation of Amazing Robotic Technology (*writes out the acronym FART*). You are very lucky indeed that you have happened to visit the Maze on the very day that it is due to be revealed. However, before the unveiling takes place, and seeing as it's such a momentous occasion, I have taken the liberty of hiring a band to help to whip us into a frenzy. Not just any band though, oh no, please welcome Yorkshire's biggest pppparty band; Corn Direction!

One adult and two children, primed before the show, are encouraged onto stage with inflatable guitar, drumsticks and trumpet. They mosh to a pre-recorded track that has solo parts, introduced by the professor. The adult has the trumpet and when his solo spot comes along there is an elongated fart noise.

Yes, well, it seems they were just full of hot air after all. Please give them a round of applause. So now, the moment you have been waiting for. As you will know, York Maze has had a constant problem with crows eating the maize. Farmer Tom has encouraged visitors to shout out a two word catchphrase to get rid of the crows. What was it again? (*Audience shouts: "Get Lost"*) Do you mind, I'm trying to rack my brains here, what did they say (*"Get Lost"*) There really is no need to be so rude, it'll come to me in a

minute, what do they shout? (*Get Lost*) Ah, I remember, it's "Get Lost". I'm surprised you couldn't remember that yourselves.

However this clearly hasn't worked, along with all of his other desperate methods. It seems the crows still rule the roost, so to speak. Therefore the time has come to reveal the most effective crow deterrent yet. Behold, my Crowbot 5000

(Just as he is about to remove the sheet from the Crowbot, the scarecrow enters through the crowd.)

Scarecrow: Wait! Hold it! Objection! Excuse me, can I squeeze through etc.

Professor: What is going on there? Do you mind, this is a VIPPPP; a very impppportant ppppppresentation.

Scarecrow: No, I'm sorry, I can't let this happen.

Professor: Who are you?

Scarecrow: I represent the British Union of Member Scarecrows (*Writes down the acronym BUMS*) and this proposed robot of yours contravenes clause 75342 of the Rights for Scarecrows Act of 1976.

Professor: What? You're making that up.

Scarecrow: That might be true, but there are literally tens of scarecrows employed here at York Maze who will be out of work if you roll out this robot of yours. You can't replace scarecrows with machines! Whatever next? Before we know it you'll be replacing actors with animatronics and puppets.

Professor: Well it certainly might put these ppppoor ppppeople out of their misery.

Scarecrow: No I'm sorry, I won't stand for it.

Professor: By all means sit down then. Listen, the fact is that you don't actually scare the crows, and if you don't scare the crows then effectively you have no name! You just while away the hours, conferring with the flowers, consulting with the rain.

(tune from Wizard of Oz song)

Scarecrow: Yeah but....*(momentarily goes into song and dance routine)* my head I'd be scratching while my thoughts are busy hatching if I only had a brain! *(Professor clears throat.)* Sorry. The fact remains, we can't allow the Rise of the Machines to take place. I saw it in a film once and it wasn't a pretty sight. Nobody should have to endure Arnie Schwarzenegger past his prime.

Professor: You know what, you're quite right.

Scarecrow: I am?

Professor: Of course. The place to lodge a complaint is just through here.

Scarecrow: Oh, thanks very much.

Professor leads Scarecrow through a door then bolts it three times. He then turns back to the audience, dusting his hands.

Professor: Now where was I?

Scarecrow: *(Entering)* What are you doing?

Professor: Ah. Those locks don't work then. Sorry, did I show you through the wrong door. I believe Farmer Tom is actually through there if you want to have a word with him? *(points to small opening in a wall).*

Scarecrow: Through there? Are you sure? Very well then.

Scarecrow leans in to the hole and the Professor pushes him in. He seals another door as the scarecrow enters from the side.

Scarecrow: Are you trying to get rid of me?

Professor: Listen you can't stay here. This is my life's work, all ready to have its sheet removed.

Scarecrow: I can see I'm going to have to call for back up.

Professor: Very well, feel free to use my phone.

Scarecrow: Oh, thanks.

Scarecrow goes to dial phone situated on a counter. Professor hits him with a hammer.

Scarecrow: Are you trying to knock me out?

Professor: That was the idea.

Scarecrow: That could have hurt you know. *(falls unconscious - offstage onto crashmat that is behind the counter).*

Professor: *(Waits to check it has worked this time).* Right then, where were we. I don't usually condone violence but you see nothing can now get in the way of my propposed ppplans and my pppending pppresent..oh you know what I mean. Here we go then, after three; 3,2,1....Ta-Dah!!!

LXQ1 (O/S) Crowbot comes to life as the curtain is withdrawn

Professor: Now don't be alarmed, he may be terrifying for crows but he's perfectly safe to small humans. Now, let's see what he can do...

LXQ2 (O/S) Pre-recorded Crow Dialogue as puppets appear

Russell: What a minute, wait a corn pickin minute.

Sheryl: What have we here, Russell, what have we here.

Russell: I don't rightly know Sheryl, I don't rightly know. But it doesn't sound good does it.

Sheryl: It doesn't sound good, it does not sound good.

Russell: Stop saying everything twice Sheryl.

Sheryl: Sorry Russell, sorry.

Professor: Aha, specimens to help demonstrate the effectiveness of my Crowbot, how pppppperfect. Preppppare to be pppppetrified!

LXQ3 (O/S) Crow dialogue into Crowbot "Get Lost" etc.

Russell: You don't scare us.

Sheryl: No, you don't scare us!

Russell: It'll take more than a robot to frighten us. And even if you scare us, you'll never scare the Crow Man.

Sheryl: Yeah, you'll never scare the Crow Man.

Russell: Sheryl. You're repeating me now!

Sheryl: ...repeating you now. Yeah. Sorry.

Russell: Let's tell 'em about the Crow Man. Hit it;

Flying at you

Through a dusty Maze

Juicy sweetcorn

He will eat always

And if you trying

To make him fly

You'll get trouble

And this is why

He's the Crow Man etc.

Sheryl does the instrumental bit of this - all pre-recorded. Ends with the uncovering of the Crowbot by the Professor. It launches into movement and flashing eyes, saying "Get lost you pesky crows" and Sheryl and Russell make scared cawing sounds and disappear.

Professor: Excellent, the Crowbot works a treat. The Maze will be rid of all crows before you can say PPPPProfessor PPPPete/Penelope PPPPPearcy, and you can ppppprobably say that faster than me! And as for this Crow Man they were singing about, I don't suppose he will be a match for my Crowbot, in fact I doubt he even exists!

Now then, it's time to see just how much my invention can really do.

Scarecrow: *(Entering - rising from where he was knocked out)* What's going on here? I must have fallen asleep. What's this?

Professor: It's too late my friend. The Crowbot has been unleashed. Take it away Crowbie!

LXQ4 (O/S) Crowbot launches into "Get Lost etc"

Professor: If you weren't before then you're certainly stuffed now!

Scarecrow: *(Holding up some straw)* Worse than that, it seems to have knocked the stuffing out of me! Well it may be that the Crowbot is good at scaring away the crows, but I bet it can't do all the other things that we scarecrows do around here.

Professor: Such as?

Scarecrow: Well, we often help Farmer Tom by washing his pants

Professor opens a compartment on the Crowbot frame revealing a washing line with oversized (pink spotted? York Maze logo?) y-fronts attached to them.

Professor: Already taken care of. That's a year's worth of pant wearage for Farmer Tom right there.

Scarecrow: OK, well we also help to make the staff cups of tea.

Professor opens another compartment with a coffee machine and a mug ready prepared

Professor: One lump or two?

Scarecrow: Ah but, I bet metal mickey wouldn't clean the toilets like we do!

LXQ5 (O/S) Toilet flush and crowbot raising toilet brush

Professor: Ta dah! You must admit he makes quite a splash!

Scarecrow: That's it then. We're finished. Outdone by a machine.

(Scarecrow walks off sadly - encourage an "ahh".)

Thank you for that "Ahh". Without an "ahh" I'm just a ScareCow and that's even worse!

(As he goes past the crowbot he kicks it then holds his foot in agony as he removes some straw from his shoe.)

This is the final straw! *(Walks off beaten, then changes his mind)*
You know what. I'm not going down without a fight. I bet that Crowbot can't cope as well as us scarecrows with the elements of a typical Yorkshire Summer.

Professor: What are you talking about?

Scarecrow: I challenge the Crowbot to a duel. Three tests to see how we cope with Heat, Wind and Water. The winner is the one that copes the best.

Professor: You're on. Here's a chance to show just how pppppperfect my creation is.

Scarecrow: I'll need to recruit two more scarecrows for my team, who shall I have...

Scarecrow picks two members from the audience, one adult and one child, and places straw hats on their heads.

Scarecrow: Right, now that I have my team we can begin, what's the first test?

Professor: Very well, for your first test I will replicate the heat of the sun with this super advanced heat gun. *(Holds up a Nerf Gun)*. It appears the budget was used up on the robot. However, this may not look much but when it comes to providing heat this should be A Nerf! Fear not though, you should be safe enough from its deadly rays out there *(shoots pellet into audience)* Oh, sorry!

Scarecrow: Right, stand back team, I'll take this one.

Professor: Ready, here we go...

The heat gun is pointed at the Scarecrow

Scarecrow: Ahhhh, I'm melting I'm melting!!

Professor: Now it's the turn of my Crowbot, here we go;

LXQ6 (O/S) The heat gun is pointed at the Crowbot. It launches into a song and dance of Shine - "Oh come on, feel the light, on my face, let it shine just let it Shiine, Let it Shine."

Professor: One nil to the Crowbot I believe.

Scarecrow: Never mind team, we can still win this.

Professor: Next it is the wind test. First I will subject the scarecrows to this leaf blower to simulate adverse windy weather. Ready, here we go.

Leaf blower blown at the three scarecrows.

Professor: How did you fare?

Scarecrow: Well one of my team certainly has a problem with wind!

Professor: Now let's see, can the Crowbot cope with the wind?

LXQ7 (O/S) The leaf blower is pointed at the Crowbot and it sings "The answer my friend, is blowing in the wind. The answer is blowing in the wind"

Professor: Two nil to the Crowbot! Onto the final test, water! Let's see first how the crowbot deals with this water pistol....

LQX8 (O/S) The Professor fires a small water pistol at the crowbot who launches into "Let the stormy clouds chase, Everyone from the place, come on with the rain I've a smile on my face, I walk down the lane, with a happy refrain, Just singin', singin' in the rain"

Professor: I think that's fairly conclusive. Now then, as there are three of you I think it would be only fair to use a larger amount of water. Firstly I'll ask you to all stand in this tin bath, to minimise the clear up. And then we'll throw this bucket after three; 1,2, 3

Professor throws what he suggests to be a full bucket of water at the scarecrows, but in fact it only has a small amount in it.

Professor: Admittedly you coped rather well with that. But then I wouldn't really soak you would I?!

Grabs a super soaker and sprays the scarecrows and the audience

Let's say a huge thank you, as they leave the stage, to our willing volunteers. However, the overall winner is the Crowbot 5000! I will clear up these props, by which time expect you and your scarecrows to be gone from York Maze!

Professor removes props from stage and goes to operate one of the crow puppets

Scarecrow: That's it then, there really is no need for me anymore! (*Encourage an "aaaah"*) I'm sadder than that. (*Encourage louder "aaaah"*) Not that sad!

LXQ9 (O/S) Enter Russell and Sheryl

Russell: Oi, scaredycrow!

Sheryl: Over here, scaredycrow!

Russell: You can't give up that easily. You haven't lost yet!

Sheryl: Yeah, you can still win.

Russell: We don't want you replaced by that heap of junk, we rather like our little battles.

Sheryl: Yeah, though mainly because we always win.

Russell: Shut up Sheryl. Unplug that Crowbot thing and come over here while we explain the plan.

Scarecrow: I'm not sure I should trust you crows, but ok let's give it a try.

LXQ10 (SR) Scarecrow unplugs the Crowbot - it makes a "power down" sound and goes limp.

LXQ11(O/S) Crows;

Russell: So, here's the plan; when that professor returns, you challenge the Crowbot to one more test. A test to see who scares us the most. We will pretend that we're not scared by the Crowbot at all and that you scare us mightily.

Sheryl: Mightily, yeah.

Russell: You got that, ok?

Sheryl: OK?

Russell: OK?

Sheryl: OK?

Russell: Sheryl.

Sheryl: Yeah?

Russell: Shut up.

Sheryl: OK!

Crows leave

Scarecrow: Well, it's worth a try. Better just plug this back in.

LXQ12(SR) *Crowbot powers up as it is plugged back in*

And where are my two helpers to join in for one more test?

*Invites the two volunteers back onstage. Or two new ones?
Professor enters.*

Professor: Have you not gone yet?

Scarecrow: No, in fact we challenge the Crowbot to one more, all important test. A test to see who can scare the crows the most.

Professor: Oh ppplease. You? Be more scary than my Crowbot? Pigs might fly!

Scarecrow: No but they can certainly race - come along and see them at
.....*(times of pig racing)*

Professor: Very well if you insist on a final test, but you will be no match for my Crowbot.

Scarecrow: Excellent! *(goes to exit)*

Professor: Where are you going?

Scarecrow: Oh I think I can leave it up to my friends here to scare the crows sufficiently *(exits to puppets)*

Professor: *(To volunteers)* You think you can scare the crows do you? Well I'll let my Crowbot go first but we will need to wait for some crows first. Oh look, here are two, as if on cue! Right then Crowbot, take it away...

LXQ13(O/S) Crows have appeared. Crowbot launches into "Get Lost you Pesky Crows" The crows pretend not to be frightened.

Russell: *(Shaking)* Oh, that doesn't scare us!

Sheryl: *(Hiding behind Russell)* Oh no, I'm not scared. No no no, not scared in the slightest!

Professor: What? But I don't understand. They must be super tough crows. Very well it's your turn, but you haven't got a chance. See if you can make scary noises and frighten them away. Ready, go!

The volunteers make scary sounds - hopefully! If not, professor encourages them

Professor: Oh that is rather scary actually!

LXQ14(O/S) Crows

Russell: Oh no, far too scary, I'm off.

Sheryl: Oh I am so scared I must fly!

Crows exit. Crowbot cannot cope with this and malfunctions; "Not scary, can't compute", and shuts down/explodes!

Professor: No!! My life's work! My baby! *(hugs the Crowbot)*

Scarecrow enters

Scarecrow: You did it! How can I ever thank you. *(Gives them a medal?)* Please give it up one more time for my excellent team!

Volunteers head back to audience

Thanks for restoring the status quo, and thank you for watching our little show. Have a great day at York Maze, bye for now!!

Richard Kay 2015