



**SPEND
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Easy Read





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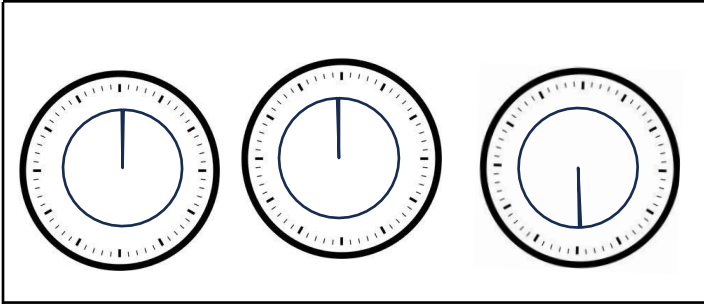
is a musical about Viv Nicholson who won £152,319 on the football pools in 1961.



13 actors perform in the musical.
The musical is performed **indoors** in the main theatre.

There is a 7 piece band who play instruments to accompany the actors.
They are not onstage.
They are outside the theatre in a black hut with windows.
The drummer is in a separate booth

Performance Information



Part 1 is 1 hour & 5 minutes
Interval is 20 minutes
Part 2 is 1 hour & 5 minutes

TOTAL 2 hours 30 mins



The play is performed '**in the round**' which means that the audience sits in a circle around the action on stage.



You can come and go from the show. If you need to leave, it is **okay to go and come back**.

During the play, there will be people around who you can **ask for help** if you need.



You are **allowed** to make as much **noise** as you like.

The actors really enjoy it when you **clap** and get **excited**.

About SPEND SPEND SPEND



It is a musical written by Steve Brown and Justine Greene.

It is set in 1995 in Castelford, West Yorkshire. Viv is telling us her memory of her life from growing up to winning the money in 1961 to being a beautician in 1995.

What were the football pools?

The football pools were a competition where you would guess the scores for the association football matches (like the league now) that were played on a Saturday. The more you got right the more you would win.



The **floor of the stage is a mirrored floor**. Different bits of furniture are brought on throughout to show different places.

Above the stage is a large silver structure that shimmers. Out of it a number of objects will hang – such as a mirror ball, a large cheque, four ladders, a birdcage, a pub sign, a welcome home sign, a model airplane.

Scene by Scene

There is a no phones allowed announcement by one of the Salon Mystique beauticians. Once she leaves the stage a large cheque flies in and singing starts.



ACT 1, Scene 1, 1961

Flashback to Young Viv receiving a cheque for £151,000.

Bruce Forsyth is there.

Young Viv wears a silver dress. Photographers are taking her photo.

Older Viv enters, she is Viv in 1995 and she tells us how much she won in 1961.

Young Viv reaches for the cheque and says "I'm going to spend!" the cheque sets on fire and flies out. It is a controlled flame but you might hear a pop sound as it is lit.



Act 1, Scene 2 The Street (1995)

On her way to work people are all talking about Viv.

She avoids the news reporter by saying she's late for work.

Act 1, Scene 3

Salon Mystique, Castleford, 1995



The three beauticians sing about their lotions and potions.

A housewife enters who they make over and she leaves looking more glamorous.

Mrs Waterman arrives and is waiting for Viv, who is 15 minutes late.

Viv arrives and is about to start Mrs Watermans beauty treatment when Sue (Viv's granddaughter) comes running in.



Sue tells Viv that she has won some money on the lottery.

As Sue leaves all excited this reminds Viv of how she felt when she won her money on the football pools.



Act 1, Scene 4

The salon changes and we see Young Viv late for work.

Act 1, Scene 5
Castleford Cinema, 1952



We are in Viv's memory of when she was 16 working at the cinema.

Viv sees the men who used to come to the cinema to see her and her boss Mr Balcombe. They can't see her.

They sing about how beautiful Viv is and wish she was their girlfriend.

Young Viv arrives, a bit late for her shift.

The men hand her notes that they have written her.



Young Viv reads a note, referred to as 'Billy Do's.'

She has one from Matt. She isn't sure what it means, but he finds her attractive.

They leave together to go and get chips.



Act 1, Scene 6
Outside The Miner's Arms

A bunch of men are thrown out of the pub for being drunk. They sing about how proud they are to be from Yorkshire and how they'll take care of everyone. One of the men is Viv's Dad, George.



Young Viv and Matt arrive eating chips. Young Viv tells Matt to go so he doesn't meet her dad.



Viv remembers how great it was living in Castleford in the 1950's.

The people of Castleford sing and dance together.

Viv remembers the funeral of the little boy Billy Barstow. The town came together.

George, Viv's dad, is drunk and the men carry him home.

They leave George on the doorstep for the night. In the morning he shouts to his wife, Liz, and Young Viv to let him in. Liz, Viv's mum throws his ration book and sandwiches at him. He goes to hit the door down. **This is represented by a loud piercing noise. We will make this quieter.**



Act 1, Scene 7

We are in Young Viv's bedroom. Her mum gives her a jam sandwich and leaves.

Young Viv dreams of having a boyfriend.

Her dad enters to ask her to get him some money. She refuses.

Young Viv makes a man out of her sandwich and he appears. His name is Johnny Love. He brings her love letters.



The 2 Viv's read the love letters that she keeps under her mattress.

Dad enters so Young Viv hides them. He finds the letters, rips them up and is angry with Young Viv. He raises his arm at her. ***Loud piercing noise that will be at a quieter level***

Johnny Love goes.

Young Viv remembers Matt (one of the boys from the cinema) and he appears from inside the bed. They kiss and get into bed together.

Viv sings about different names for sex.

There is a confetti drop from the silver glittery structure that has a small pop sound.



Act 1, Scene 8

Young Viv is excited about having sex with Matt and what this means for her.

At the end of the scene she is 6 months pregnant at the age of 16.



Act 1, Scene 9

Special Day, Church

At the church Young Viv and Matt get married, though Young Viv isn't sure it's the right thing to do. Even her dad tries to stop it.



Act 1, Scene 10

Matt & Viv's backyard

Young Viv is scrubbing the yard when Johnny Love appears with Keith, the next door neighbour. He carries a green oar.

Young Viv sees Keith and falls in love with him. They flirt with one another.

Keith lives with his Gran. His Gran reminds Young Viv that she is married and that Keith is younger than her.

Young Viv tells Matt to go and get himself some fish & chips. She takes the baby to her mum.

Young Viv leaves the baby with her mum, she lies and says she has to work. But she goes to the dancehall as she wants to meet a man and have some fun.



Act 1, Scene 11
The Crystal Ball Dance Hall, 1954

At the crystal ball dance hall couples meet and dance.
Johnny Love sings

Keith is there. Young Viv arrives.
They find one another and dance.



Act 1, Scene 12
They go outside in the snow and head home.

Act 1, Scene 12a
Matt sees them as they arrive home. Him and Keith argue.
Young Viv tells Matt she is leaving him for Keith.
Matt leaves.

Viv tells us how she divorced Matt and married Keith.
Keith was a miner.



Act 1, Scene 13
John Collier Song
Miners, who were called John Colliers, and their wives sing about how hard they all had to work.

Ladders come from above.

Act 1, Scene 14 (The Win)

33, Kershaw Avenue.

Young Viv and Keith's house. 1961

Young Viv and Keith have little money. The rent man bangs at the door. They ignore him. They decide to go to the pub and spend their last £2 having fun. As they get ready Keith listens to the radio. Two footballers appear acting out the football results.

Keith has guessed all the pool results correctly.

George enters to check their ticket.

They have won!! They dream about what they will do with the money.

It takes two days for their win to be confirmed.

loud bang noise which will be quieter

Act 1, Scene 15

Spend Spend Spend

Lots of people dressed in silver arrive. They are awarded the cheque by Bruce Forsyth.

They dance with shopping trolleys and throw money into the audience.

Young Viv flies up on a large champagne bottle.

INTERVAL

Young Viv comes back down and is escorted off.





Act 2, Scene 1

The Miner's Arms, 1961

The people of Castleford practice singing Welcome Back Home. Young Viv and Keith appear wearing gold clothes and pushing a shopping trolley.

They give drinks to everyone.

An old lady appears begging for money. She is revealed as a fraud.

People start asking them for money and it makes them feel uncomfortable.



Act 2, Scene 2

Keith buys Young Viv a car. It's a pink car. They enjoy driving in it.

Young Viv starts to feel uncomfortable and asks Keith to take her away to some place else.

An estate agent appears.

Act 2, Scene 3 Garforth



The estate agent shows them around Garforth. It's very different to Castleford.

The couples are all wearing pastel colours and are synchronized.

Young Viv and Keith move into one of the houses and call the house Ponderosa.

The Garforth people are not keen on Young Viv and Keith. They don't make them feel very welcome.



Keith's bank manager appears and tells Keith he is spending too much money too quickly and that he has little money left.

The bank manager gets Keith to sign his will.



Young Viv and Keith have lots of parties at their house with their neighbours. Even a policeman joins in.

Young Viv sees Keith with another woman and she asks everyone to leave the house. She tells Keith to take her away. Somewhere far away.

Act 2, Scene 4
The skies and New York



A small airplane hangs down and an air hostess appears.

Young Viv & Keith arrive in New York. They are shown to their hotel room by a bellboy.



Act 2, Scene 5
A luxury New York hotel room

Keith enjoys watching Bonanza on the colour TV and drinks from the bottles of champagne.

Young Viv sings about how they have been around New York and drinking.



Act 2, Scene 6
Back at their house in Garforth

Their maid Inez is tidying up when Keith arrives home. She leaves them alone and takes the postcard that Young Viv had been writing in New York but had forgotten to post.

Keith has a birdcage. He shows it to Young Viv. A mirror ball represents a canary. They sing together.



Viv tells us how the canary fixed their marriage.

Johnny Love appears and dances with Viv.



Act 2, scene 7

The next day Young Viv and Keith drive their own cars. Young Viv bumps her car but is okay.

She is back home when a police officer arrives. He tells her that there has been an accident and that Keith is dead. Young Viv collapses and is taken off by Inez.

Keith walks across the stage towards Johnny Love. Him and Viv have a moment together as if saying goodbye.



Act 2, scene 8

Keith's funeral

The bed is wheeled off the stage by the funeral attendees.

Young Viv enters wearing all in black. She sings with Viv about missing Keith and who will love her now.

Liz and George comfort her.



A tax man and bank manager arrive to collect money owed to them by Keith. They demand that she pays them £10 per week.



Act 2, scene 9 1972

The bank manager calls Young Viv on the phone. He talks to her about the money she is spending as it is too much. Young Viv stops him from pestering her by selling her story to a newspaper called 'The People.' He is sent to another office down South.



Act 2, Scene 10

***Judge's voice booms from above
This will be at a lower volume**

We find out that Young Viv is now Mrs Wright. She has remarried.



Act 2, scene 11

Viv tells us about her next three husbands.

There are scenes of domestic violence. It reminds her of her Dad George.

***There is a loud piercing noise in this section but it will be at a lower volume.**



Act 2, Scene 12

Back in court, 1972

The voice of the judge is heard. Young Viv answers his questions, not truthfully, and he ends up giving her £34,000. She has to pay £14,000 into trust fund for her children and she has £20,000 given back to her.



Act 2, scene 13

Young Viv enters with a suitcase and puts on a furry coat. She has opened a shop but it's not doing very well. She spends all her money and is in debt.

The bailiffs arrive and take items from her house. They take her pink car. She gets a gun to threaten them. They take the gun from her. The bailiffs take her son's Batmobile too.

The head bailiff goes to take the canary cage but decides to give it to Young Viv.

Young Viv sings about the canary and it reminds her of Keith and to be strong.



Act 2, Scene 14 **Viv's Sitting Room, 1983**

Young Viv is dressed like Viv. She is hiding behind a sofa from her new boyfriend. She has lied to him about her name so he calls her Sue. They enjoy being with one another but keep being interrupted by her daughter and son. The new boyfriend is confused as Young Viv said she was aged 33 but her son is too old for that to be the case.



Viv admits she has lied, she's really 47. And she tells him that she is 39 and not called Sue. He realizes that she is Viv and this makes him nervous as the men all call her a murderer. He leaves.

Viv is upset.

There is a knock at the door and it is two Jehovah's Witnesses. They chat to Viv about their beliefs. Viv decides to join them.



Act 2, scene 15 **Salon Mystique, 1995**

Viv goes to unmask a customer but it isn't Mrs Waterman. She has the wrong one.

Mrs Waterman is pleased with her facial.

Sue runs in and shows what she bought with her lottery win – it was only for £15. Viv is relieved.



Act 2, Scene 16 Kershaw Avenue, 1994

Viv tells us about revisiting the old house where her and Keith lived before they won all the money.

She sees Young Viv and Keith dancing. She dances with Keith before they leave.

It reminds Viv of good times.

THE END

The actors will bow. You can clap and make noise.



After they have taken their bow Joe, who plays George, will do a short speech about donating money to the arts pot fund.

The actors will all sing Spend and money will fall from the sky.

It is fake money. Pick one up and have a look. You may be surprised at whose face is on it. You can take one home.

Thank you

