

# MET PANTO

# 2024

Met Department Panto 2024

*[Intro Song: Le Festin (with kazoos)]*

## ACT I

### SCENE 1

**Characters:** NARRATOR, UNDERGRAT 1,2,3,4, REMI, HOSKINS

**Cast:** Eme, Thea, Gabi, Sarah, Rosie, Jake, Douglas

*[Lights up on stage as REMI sits at a desk, typing, surrounded by UNDERGRATS.*

*Lights turn blue – Slide: ACT ONE.]*

**Narrator Remi:** Good evening one and all. Welcome to the 2024 Meteorology department pantomime! Tonight, we will be travelling through the world of rats, researchers, and restaurant reviewers, in the story of Stratatouille. To kick off proceedings, allow me to introduce myself. This handsome fellow [Gesture to Remi on stage] is me; Remi. What's my problem? First of all, I'm an undergrad. Which means life is hard. And secondly, I have a highly developed talent in research and paper-writing. Which means I don't fit in at all with the other undergrads. That's why things are pretty turbulent around here.

*[Points to the UNDERGRATS, who are still frozen around the computer. REMI sighs]*

In fact, I should probably just tell you the whole story.

*[SLIDE]*

*[The blue lights change back to regular, undergrads sitting around table strewn with books and papers.]*

**Undergrat 1:** Ugh, I hate physics!

**Undergrat 2:** This is awful! Couldn't Professor Zestbrook and Professor Eclair Ryder have made this easier on us?

**Undergrat 3:** Yeah, why do I need to know about entropy to predict the weather? All I've ever wanted was to give the weather forecasts on BBC.

**Undergrat 4:** Cirrusly! I'd settle for ITV or even Channel 4!

**Remi:** *(Clearly deep in thought scribbling equations on a piece of paper.)* Hmm, this is really interesting.

*[All the other UNDERGRATS turn towards REMI with a look of concern and shock.]*

**Undergrat 1:** Interesting??? What are you even doing?

**Remi:** *(Looks up from his work.)* What, me? Oh, I'm just beginning to understand the concept of moist static energy. It's so much less dry than last year's introductory modules!

**Undergrat 2:** *(With a look of disbelief)* Uh, huh.

**Undergrat 3:** Don't know about you all, but I'm going to let ratGPT do my work and head to Mojos now.

**Undergrat 4:** Yeah, let's go! Mojos is so much better than Park House; it's got snakebites!!!

*[All the undergrads begin to collect their many papers and books which are strewn across the table.]*

**Remi:** You guys go ahead. I'm going to get started on this paper I've been thinking about writing.

**Undergrat 1:** *(Drops their bookbag.)* A paper??? What's wrong with you?

**Undergrat 2:** Yeah, we all know undergrads can't write papers. That's for academics, and maybe a PhD student every now and then.

**Undergrat 3:** I don't think journals even accept papers written by undergrads like us.

**Undergrat 4:** There's *snow* way they would! But that's assuming we could even write one! I mean, look at us? What is there I could write that would be interesting to a real scientist? I can't even do second-year physics.

**Remi:** But there's always little topics that no one's covered before... I'm sure there's something I could pick up. You know, like how moist static energy could be used to improve droplet microphysics in a convection-resolving model.

**Undergrat 1:** Cloud droplets? Who cares Remi? Don't let Professor Zestbrook *cloud* your judgment! If no one's written about that before, it's because no one cares!

**Undergrat 2:** You think you're more of an expert than you are, don't you Remi? Well, I'll tell you what you are. You're an undergrat, just like the rest of us. And undergrats don't publish papers. We barely get by writing essays and taking exams. And then we enjoy the little leftover time we have at the end of the day at Mojos—

**Undergrat 4:** —they do snakebites!

**Undergrat 3:** Let's go, everyone.

*[The UNDERGRATS finish collecting their things and exit, leaving REMI sitting sadly at the table alone.]*

**Remi:** *(To himself/the audience)* Maybe they're right. I guess I am just an undergrat. But I have bigger fish to fry! So many things that I want to share with the rest of the meteorological community! I wish I could just write a paper!

**[SONG: PLEASE STOP ME NOW]**

*[Suddenly, PROF HOSKINS enters the stage and sits down across from REMI. – SLIDE of HOSKINS]*

**Hoskins:** But Remi, maybe you can write a paper!

**Remi:** *(Looks up in surprise.)* But Prof Hoskins, from *Fluid Dynamics of the Midlatitude RATmosphere*, *[NEXT SLIDE]* you're retired! What are you doing here?

**Hoskins:** I'm only a figment of your imagination!

**Remi:** Oh. Well, I've been thinking about writing a paper! But the undergrats said that I can't do it.

**Hoskins:** Don't you remember what I always said in *Fluid Dynamics of the Midlatitude RATmosphere*?

**Remi:** Never forget to write down the units?

**Hoskins:** No, the other thing I always said: anyone can be a scientist! Well, you're someone. And you know a few things about meteorology. So even if you may just be an undergrad, you can still do publishable research if you put your heart into it.

*[HOSKINS exits the stage, and REMI is left to think to himself as the lights fade.]*

## **SCENE 2**

**Characters:** Narrator, PhD Student 1,2,3 Linguini

**Cast:** Eme, Danqing, Blair, Ieuan, Andrea

**Narrator Remi:** Meanwhile, in the BH coffee area *[SLIDE]*

*[Scene opens in the coffee area of the Brian Hoskins building. Multiple PhD students are casually sipping away at their coffee and tea when LINGUINI enters the room with a laptop. HE's clearly had a rough day.]*

**PhD Student 1:** Is everything all right, Linguini? You don't look too good.

**Linguini:** Yeah, I'm fine PhD Student 1. Just came from my supervisor meeting. It didn't go too well. I'm not sure if I'm really made for this kind of work. Now they want me to write a paper.

**PhD Student 2:** Aww, no need to worry. None of us knew what we were doing when we first started our PhDs either. Writing a paper is like forecasting: impossible to get it just right, and everyone criticises it anyway!

**Linguini:** I don't know. I just feel like there's so much barometric pressure. And I feel like I came in knowing less than everyone else.

**PhD Student 3:** You'll be fine. Maarten Am-brown sauce will let you ketchup in no time with that second edition textbook of his! *[SLIDE]*

**Linguini:** Well, I hope you're right! I'm going to get to work on my first plot.

*[Linguini codes for a few moments while the OTHERS sip their coffee.]*

**PhD Student 1:** Well, I suppose it's time we got back to the office. We've been at this coffee break for a couple hours now and it's only twenty minutes till lunch. Got to get *something* done for my meeting this afternoon!

*[The other PHD STUDENTS grumpily mumble their agreement, and THEY all exit. REMI goes over to LINGUINI's laptop and begins typing]*

**Remi:** Well, this is interesting. Must have been left here by a PhD student. *(HE sits down and begins to scroll through the code.)* But this is some of the worst Python code I've ever seen!  
*[SLIDE]*

*[ON POWERPOINT: variable names? "Thingy\_1" and "forgot\_this\_oneEarlier"? , REMI continues to peruse the code for a few minutes.]*

I'm sure whoever wrote this wouldn't mind if I just changed the colorbar to something a little more colourblind friendly. There. That's better. And the icing on the cake...

*[LINGUINI comes back into the coffee room.]*

**Linguini:** Ah, there's my laptop. Hey, who are you?! Why are you using my computer?

**Remi:** *(Presses the run button one more time and hastily puts down the laptop.)* Oh, I'm sorry. I just saw your code and wanted to have a look at what you're doing.

**Linguini:** Well, it's not much.

**Remi:** *(Laughs)* That's true!

**Linguini:** *(Slightly offended)* Who are you anyway?

**Remi:** Sorry, my name's Remi. I'm an undergrad. Are you a PhD student?

**Linguini:** Yeah. I'm Linguini. *(Takes a look at Remi's modified code.)* Hey, you've fixed my plot. This is great! How did you do this?

**Remi:** *(shrugs)* Just fixed a few quick bugs that I noticed. Hope you don't mind. But you really could stand to improve your code writing skills.

**Linguini:** Yeah, I know. I'm a PhD student now, but I really don't feel like I'm good enough. My coding is terrible, and my meteorology is down to surface level! I don't know how I'm ever going to publish anything.

*[HE puts his hands over HIS face and sits down, as if HE's about to cry.] [AWW SIGN]*

**Remi:** You're going to write a paper?? Do you think I could help?

**Linguini:** Well, I don't know. How would we even begin to work together?

**Remi:** Hmm, let's see. Well, I could set up a remote SSH tunnel into your computer and access your code and plots remotely.

**Linguini:** SSH? Wasn't that last year's panto?

*[BOTH exit the stage happily.]*

*[Song: Come on Remi]*

## SCENE 3

**Characters:** PhD Students 1, 2, Remi, Linguini, Pete Dinners, Ted, Brian, Bob, Sue, Emily, Supervisor, Narrator

**Cast:** Danqing, Blair, Jake, Andrea, Hette, Guy, Ben H, Elliot, Niamh, Rosie, Catherine, Eme

*[Scene opens in LINGUINI's PhD office. Several PHD STUDENTS are sitting at their desks, working. REMI and LINGUINI enter from offstage.]*

**Linguini:** Okay, well this is my office. It's freezing, but it'll have to do.

**Remi:** *(Looks around.)* I think we can work with this. It's far more gourmet than the second floor of the library anyway.

**PhD Student 1:** Hey Linguini, who's this rat?

**PhD Student 2:** You didn't bring an undergrad in here, did you?

**Linguini:** *(In a panic)* Uh... this is...

**Remi:** I'm thinking about doing a PhD after I graduate, so I asked him to show me what the PhD offices look like.

**PhD Student 2:** *(Suspiciously)* I guess we'll allow it. *[Returns back to THEIR work.]*

**Linguini:** So, yeah, I guess there's not much to see. This is my desk, and, uh, yeah, just ignore those old coffee cups. I'll deal with them later.

*[Bell rings]*

**PhD Student 1:** Hey, WCD's starting now. You guys coming?

**PhD Student 2:** Yeah!

**Linguini:** I'm just going to join from online... got a bit of work to catch up on.

*[Other PhD students leave. REMI and LINGUINI sit down in front of LINGUINI's computer on the left-hand side of the stage to watch WCD.]*

*[SLIDE]*

**Pete Dinners:** *(In a sports announcer voice)* Welcome to the first session of WCD – the Weekly Cuisine Discussion! I'm Pete Dinners, your host for this half of the term...

*[SIGN: SEMESTER]*

**Audience:** Semester!

**Pete Dinners:** "Semester, okay." ...and I'll be introducing today's special guest squeakers. First up, presenting the weekly review, we have Professor Ted Shepherd's Pie! *[SLIDE]*

**Ted Shepherd's Pie:** I'll be talking about my storylines — they're a delicacy popular all across Europe. It's all about the salt signal-to-pepper noise ratio!

**Pete Dinners:** Hmmm, real food for thought Ted. And next is Dr. Brian Lo-Calorie Sweetener! *[SLIDE]*

**Brian Lo:** By day, I work on the PARACHUTE (*PARmesan and ArtiCHoke glUTinous ricE*) project, but legends say that by night I crawl through the Met Office UM code, frying bugs and bad coordinate systems wherever they introduce inaccuracies into the forecast recipe.

**Pete Dinners:** Following that, we'll be hearing from Professor Bob Plant-based Vegan Alternative! *[SLIDE]*

**Bob Plant-Based:** I'll be talking about research into the "grey calzone," a dangerous area of weather models most forecasters would stay far away from by using pasteurisations. But I'm not afraid of explicit confection simulations.

**Pete Dinners:** Way to sweeten it up Bob! And then, a short presentation from Professor Sue Grey Poupon Mustard! *[SLIDE]*

**Sue Grey-Poupon Mustard:** I'll go through my mastery of the "Sting Jet", it's a hot pepper phenomenon which few dare to acknowledge for its true power. Even Dr Oscar Martinez-Avocado can't *guac* it!

**Pete Dinners:** One pepper to rule them all, am I right Sue? And finally, we'll conclude with next week's forecast from Professor Emily Black Forest Gateau! *[SLIDE]*

**Emily Black:** I may seem like any other NCEO (*SCREEN*) member, but recently my research in drought and heat waves with the TamSalsa satellite is served to tables far beyond the reaches of Reading and the UK. *[SLIDE]*

**Remi:** Wow, that's cookin'! I'm excited to be involved in such an avant-garde meteorology kitchen!

**Linguini:** Speaking of which – this is the perfect opportunity to get you logged in to my computer.

*[REMI and LINGUINI set up a ssh key on LINGUINI's computer. Supervisor appears in doorway and REMI hides.]*

**Linguini:** Hang on, what are you doing?

*[SIGN: It's behind you!]*

**Supervisor:** Well, Linguini, what do you have to say for yourself? It's already been three hours since our meeting. How many plots have you made?

**Linguini:** (*Nervously*) Well Supervisor, I haven't got many plots yet, but I've started on this code to read in the CheesyDF files you sent this morning based on the recipes on the cfpython site.

*[Screenshot of CFpython code recipes on the screen]*

**Supervisor:** (*Barges past LINGUINI to look over HIS shoulder.*) Let me see. (*Reads for a few seconds.*) This is awful, Linguini! You are absolutely cooked. Didn't you ever learn how to write a for soup? Did you not learn anything in Hilary Beef Wellerton's module - Numericalorie Modelling? *[SLIDE]*

**Linguini:** Uh...

**Supervisor:** (*A bit more compassionately.*) Well, you are in your first week, after all. But you need to start building your Python skills very quickly, or you're not going to get this PhD baked in time.



**Linguini:** Okay, let me cook.

**Supervisor:** You have three hours to rewrite that code in a more digestible way.

*[SUPERVISOR exits the room without waiting for a response.]*

*[SLIDE]*

**Linguini:** Well, this isn't going to be good.

*[Remi crawls from under desk]*

**Remi:** Oh, don't worry. This is a perfect chance for me to try out my new ssh connection to your computer. I can write a script to read in those files in no time!

**Linguini:** Oh, there you are! After all, I—

**Remi:** *(Interrupting)* Done! *[rings bell]* Bon appetit!

**Linguini:** Wait, you mean, you've already done what my supervisor asked me to cook up in the next three hours?

**Remi:** Yes, chef. Piece of cake.

**Linguini:** Then what are we going to do now?

**Remi:** Well, we could cook up some actual research!

*[REMI working hard LINGUINI chilling in the back, background music?]*

**Linguini:** I guess we'll have to stop just about now. My supervisor will be back any minute.

*[Right on cue, a knock comes at the door. REMI hides under the desk, and the SUPERVISOR enters.]*

**Supervisor:** Well, have you gotten that CheesyDF file read in?

**Linguini:** Yes, chef. Piece of cake. Have a look!

**Supervisor:** Let me see here... Wait a minute – is this saying what it looks like? Why, you've just proven the entire concept of PV to be wrong! This is revolutionary! How did you manage to attain this level of skill so quickly?

**Linguini:** Uh, I just used my uh...mouse?

**Supervisor:** So, I underestimated my own supervising skills! This is an excellent code recipe you've written, Linguini. With a little more seasoning, it could certainly be turned into a *Nature* paper.

**Linguini:** Really?

**Supervisor:** Yes, really. Would you like to co-author a paper based on this with me?

**Linguini:** Sure!

**Supervisor:** (*Hesitates for a moment*) But I still can't believe you got so good so quickly! Maybe we should start off with a conference presentation. Then we can turn it into a paper if all goes well. I suggest we submit this as an abstract to RAGU [SLIDE] .

**Linguini:** Looks like we've got a recipe for success!

**Supervisor:** Yes, indeed - but don't forget, every soufflé can still fall if you leave the oven door open...

## [SONG: THE MIDDLE]

[Lights on narrator.]

**Narrator Remi:** As Linguini prepares for his RAGU presentation, we all know it's Remi doing the actual work. Will Linguini give a successful presentation? Will Remi continue to evade capture? When will topical departmental events appear in the script? How many PhD students can you fit in a cupboard? Stick around to find out. But before the interval, a word from our sponsor

[ROBBY VIDEO ON SCREEN]

# ACT TWO

## SCENE 4

**Characters:** NARRATOR, SUPERVISOR, LINGUINI, SESSION CONVENER, REMI

**Cast:** Eme, Catherine, Riccardo, Ben H, Jake

**Narrator Remi:** Welcome back everyone. Where did we leave off? Ah yes, the Reading Met kitchen is thriving, research money from UKRI *[SLIDE]* is flowing in. Linguini has been working with yours truly, Remi the undergrat, and together, we disproved PV! *[GASP SIGN]*

*[SLIDE]*

My, my, who saw this coming?! With such amazing findings Linguini submitted an abstract to RAGU along with his supervisors. Today, we've just arrived at the first day of the conference in Paris. I snuck onto the Eurostar, but I hid back in the hotel to avoid discovery by Linguini's supervisor.

*[RAGU Session one side with Linguini, other side Remi at laptop with walkie talkie.]*

*[SLIDE]*

**Supervisor:** Linguini? Have you put on weight? You've really let yourself go...

**Linguini:** Uh, no...

**Supervisor:** Anyway - do you think you're ready for this, Linguini? You'll really bring home the bacon for the met department!

**Linguini:** Sure, this will be great. I mean, we're sure it's all correct, right?

**Supervisor:** Yes, from a scientific point of view, certainly! But make sure you don't bite off more than you can chew.

*[Supervisor walks to the side of the stage as Session convenor comes onstage]*

**Session convenor:** And that concludes the previous presentation, “On Weather,” by Dr. Andy Apple Turnover *[SLIDE]*. And next, we’ll be hearing from a PhD student, Linguini, who has joined us from the University of *Reading* (*pronounced incorrectly*) and will be speaking on his ground-baking work on nullifying the past fifty years of theory on ratmospheric dynamics. I know we’ve all been looking forward to this, the crowds packed in like sardines! Welcome Linguini.

*[SLIDE]*

**Linguini:** (*Nervously*) Okay. Just give me a moment to load my presentation. *[Pretends to fiddle with the computer while he takes out a walkie talkie and winks at the audience.]*

**Remi:** (*Over the walkie talkie*) Okay, first, thank them all for coming, (over)

**Linguini:** Thank you all for coming (over). I’m very gateau, er, glad to speak to you today. I hope you’ll find this work very interesting.

**Remi:** Next slide. Tell them about RATmospheric dynamics, over

**Linguini:** Yes, so as you can see, the RATmosphere is dynamic. (*Awkward pause.*)

*[SLIDE]*

**Remi:** Next slide. And now talk about past work on the subject of PV, over

*[SLIDE]*

**Linguini:** And for many years, now, you’ve been using Parmesan Vorticity, or PV, to understand and describe it. But you’ve all been wrong!

**Remi:** Next slide, over

*[SLIDE]*

**Audience:** [SIGN: Gasp] *[GASP]*

**Linguini:** I think this slide is self-explanatory.

**Linguini:** And I would give you some conclusions, but this will be left as an exercise to the reader. This concludes my talk for today. *I [emphasised]* did all this work myself, with some input from my supervisor at the University of Reading.

**Remi:** *(Still over the walkie talkie)* What!?!? You did all the work??

**Linguini:** *(Into the walkie talkie.)* Hush! Not now, Remi!

**Session convener:** Who are you talking to, Linguini?

**Linguini:** Oh, sorry, I just...had something stuck in my throat.

**Session convener:** Ummm, okay Linguini... Stick around because up next, we have David Ferrero-Rocher talking about ocean spiciness.

*[SLIDE]*

*[LINGUINI shuts walkie talkie off. REMI remonstrates, but now he's completely silent. Lights fade on stage, which is cleared off as the light shines on REMI.]*

## SCENE 5

**Characters:** Narrator, Undergrat 1,2,3,4 Remi, Sue, Hilary, Bob, John M

**Cast:** Eme, Thea, Gabi, Sarah, Jake, Rosie, Niamh, Karan, Elliot, Laura

**Narrator Remi:** *[SLIDE]* That was the last straw for me. I had spent months of work on that project, never asking for credit. But Linguini went out of his way to say he'd done the whole thing himself! Well, from that moment, I knew I had made the wrong choice in deciding to work with him.

*[Lights come back up onstage. The other undergrats come back on and REMI walks over to meet them.]*

*[SLIDE]*

**Undergrat 1:** Well, look who it is! Remi, I thought you were in Paris!

**Remi:** Well, my days hiding behind Linguini's desk are over. That piece of pepperoni is basking in the glory of my hard work! It's like he's forgotten who did everything!

**Undergrat 2:** That's terrible! Are you gonna teach him a lesson?

**Remi:** A lesson? The lecturers here didn't seem to have any luck teaching him fluid dynamics of the ratmosphere and oceans...

**Undergrat 1:** No! I mean we'll get revenge! Something big, something unthinkable, something unbelievable...

*[Undergrat 3 enters, mug in hand]*

**Undergrat 3:** Don't tell, but I just took a teabag from the cupboard without paying... Do you think I'll get kicked out?

**Remi:** I've got it!! We'll take the whole MONEYBOX! They won't be able to buy coffee, nobody will be able to pay for their tea, the whole department will collapse!

**Undergrat 2:** Delightfully devilish, Remi...

**Undergrat 4:** Look! The coffee room's empty! There's no time to waste!

*[SLIDE]*

*[Run around lots, and they come back in holding money box prop]*

## **[SONG: MONEY, MONEY, MONEY]**

*[maybe at the end can do a cute little open it up and there are sweets inside to throw for audience?]*

**Undergrat 3:** What a thrill! I haven't felt a rush like this since stealing the milk money from Harry Pitt!

**Undergrat 4:** Guys we need to make like a banana and split! The staff meeting is almost over we can't let them see us! If we go through Harry Pitt, I saw some tv screens looking loose and ripe for picking....

*[STAFF leave staff meeting]*

**Sue Gravy:** Wow Hilary Beef Wellerton, what a good meeting. There's nothing more exciting than a deep dive on using machine learning to link the 528 line to ice cream consumption!

**Hilary Beef Wellerton:** I completely agree, Sue Grey-Poupon Mustard. Time to make a tea - I hope NCAS have left out some cake again, what say you, Bob Plant-Based Vegan Alternative?

**Bob Plant-Based:** This'll make you laugh, guess who's remembered some money for the coffee fund today!... But wait.... where's the money box?! Oh look! Here comes John Meth-coq-au-vin

*[JOHN walks on stage with a spotlight]*

*[SIGN: APPLAUSE]*

*[SLIDE]*

**John Meth-coq-au-vin:** Dear staff and students in Meteorology,

I am very disappointed to report that there have been two thefts from the coffee room in the last month, and the blue coffee room cash tin was stolen in the last theft.

This is sad, especially in the context that the cash from coffee/tea payments has been collected in the same place in the kitchen for the last 27 years without incident.

As a result, there will be no cash in the coffee room. We will still operate a reduced refreshment scheme.

*[SIGN: AWW]*

## **SCENE 6:**

**Characters:** NARRATOR, PhD STUDENT 1, LINGUINI, PhD STUDENT 2, PhD STUDENT 3, SESSION CONVENER, SUPERVISOR, KERI PICKLE, REMI

**Cast:** Eme, Danqing, Riccardo, Blair, leuann, Ben, Catherine, Milica, Jake

*[RAGU setup again, Linguini is front of the audience, without Remi]*

**Narrator Remi:** It seems like things are really going downhill in Brian Hoskins. But back at RAGU, Linguini has to answer questions from an expectant crowd, and now can't rely on my help...

**PhD Student 1:** How will this change our understanding of the Courgette stream?

**Linguini:** Courgette stream? Uhhh.... I'm not really sure -

**PhD Student 2:** Will your work improve corn-ado predictions?

**Linguini:** Uh, probably? I don't think I really know...

**PhD Student 3:** Can we still use isobar-BQs to map out weather patterns?

**Linguini:** Sorry? What's an isobarBQ?

*[audience murmurs and has become sceptical]*

**Session convenor:** It seems like Linguini isn't quite ready for questions yet. I can see the effort you've put into this, and the work itself seems solid. However, your grasp of the material is more... decorative than foundational. Presenting it yourself could undermine the quality, so perhaps consider passing it to someone who can do justice to the details.

*[Linguini collapses in a dejected pile, audience leaves, and we switch to a supervisor meeting]*

*[SUPERVISORS OFFICE]*

*[SLIDE]*

**Supervisor:** What happened out there Linguini? You gave a fantastic presentation but made a dog's dinner of the questions. It was like you suddenly stopped understanding everything you were presenting!

**Linguini:** I don't know!

**Supervisor:** And why were you speaking to yourself at the end? ... Linguini. I smell a RAT.

**Linguini:** Okay okay! This semester I had a lot on my plate and got help from the undergrad, Remi.

*[SIGN: GASP!]*

**Supervisor:** An undergrad helped you?

**Linguini:** It was more like... he did everything.

**Supervisor:** This isn't acceptable! How could this have happened in our department?!? We need to take a stand, do something... Something big, something unthinkable, something unbelievable...

*[Lecturer walks in]*



*[SLIDE]*

**Keri Pickle:** Hello all, it's me Keri Pickle, just got back from being on strike, how are you?

**Supervisor:** Oh, Keri Pickle, you're a genius! We'll go on strike!!!

*[Supervisor, Lecturer and Linguini run off stage. The stage is empty for a few seconds, and then Remi wanders in.]*

*[LIGHTS CHANGE]*

**Remi:** With no staff in the department, it sure is quiet... And I wish I could work on a paper again!

*[Linguini slowly wanders in]*

**Linguini:** Remi? Is that you? I'm so sorry for everything, I got meal deal wrapped up in the excitement and forgot who did all the work.

**Remi:** It's alright Linguini, I got carried away too. Working on that paper was so much fun, and I wish we could finish it...

**Linguini:** There's no one in the department left to supervise us though! It's far too much work for us to do alone. I suppose there are the other undergrats, but how could we ever convince them to work together on a paper!

**Remi:** *[pulls out money box]* We could always convince them with... free tea and coffee?

**[SONG: 500 Miles]**

## **SCENE 7**

**Characters:** NARRATOR, REVIEWER 2, ASSISTANT, REMI, BRIAN HOSKINS

**Cast:** Eme, Ankit, Karan, Jake, Douglas

**Narrator Remi:** The undergrats and Linguini and I worked together to write a paper, and after a good few hours of work, we were ready to submit it to *Nature: Valley Bar*. *[SLIDE]* We decided to title it as, 'On the non-existence of PV in the Upper Courgette Stream'. Here we hand over to Reviewer 2 to see how things are coming along.

[SLIDE]

[REVIEWER 2 walks onstage [SIGN: BOO]. He sits down at his desk and begins to type away furiously. After a few moments, his assistant appears onstage carrying the paper.]

**Reviewer 2:** What is it, my assistant?

**Assistant:** It's Reading University, Reviewer 2!

**Reviewer 2:** What are they doing now? Another 1% of solid waste being kept away from landfills?

**Assistant:** No, it's...

**Reviewer 2:** Won another sustainable university of the year award?

**Assistant:** No...

**Reviewer 2:** Getting into financial trouble again? What is it? Spit it out!

**Assistant:** It's becoming popular again!

[OTHERS OFFSTAGE: *Oh no it isn't*]

**Assistant:** Oh, yes, it is!

**Reviewer 2:** POPULAR!? How can Reading be popular again?

**Assistant:** It's the work of a new PhD student called Linguini, sir. He's given a presentation at RAGU about PV, and everyone is talking about it!

**Reviewer 2:** (*Grumpy*) Hmm... I don't recall coming across any papers from this "Linguini."

**Assistant:** That's just it, sir. You've gotten a request to review his paper which he's just submitted to the journal *Nature: Valley Bar*.

**Reviewer 2:** In *Nature: Valley*, eh? Well, I'll give it a look.

[*Paper aeroplane thrown on stage. Assistant quickly runs off stage.*]

**Reviewer 2:** Now, now everybody, I know I've got a bad rap but really, I'm only trying to preserve the integrity of science. Should I have a look at this?

[SIGN: YES]

**Reviewer 2:** Should I really?

[SIGN: YES]

*[Picks up the aeroplane and reads out title of Remi's paper. He paces around, his expression shifting from skeptical to impressed.]*

**Reviewer 2:** Ok, ok I've had a look. This... this reminds me of my first paper submission. I remember how nervous I was, how I poured everything into that draft.

**Reviewer 2 recording** *(while typing)*: In many ways, the work of a reviewer is easy... We risk very little yet enjoy a position of authority over those who offer up their work and themselves to our judgment. We thrive on major and minor revisions, which are both fun to request and easy to serve up. We love to get people to cite our papers.

In the past, I made no secret of my disdain for King Sir Professor Brian Hoskins's famous motto: "Anyone can research." But I realise that only now do I truly understand what he means. Not anyone can become a great scientist. But a great scientist can come from anywhere.

It is difficult to imagine more humble origins than those of the genius now studying at the University of Reading, who is, in this reviewer's opinion, nothing less than the finest scientist in Berkshire.

I will be visiting Reading soon, hoping to hear more.

*[ON SLIDE] "Publish with no changes."*

*SIGN: APPLAUSE*

*[REVIEWER 2 walks offstage and REMI walk onstage]*

**Remi:** so I said you should really watch out for those risotherms!

*[A paper aeroplane gets thrown onstage]*

**Remi:** Look, the reviewers' comments have arrived!!!

*[REMI opens up the paper aeroplane to see a blank piece of paper]*

**Remi:** Shiit *[NOTICEABLE PAUSE]* -ake mushrooms!! No corrections!

*[Another paper aeroplane flies onstage]*

**Remi:** *[READS OUT NEXT AEROPLANE]* 'Please cite this paper by Reviewer 2 et al'. .... Oh crumbs, how am I going to do this!

*[BRIAN HOSKINS comes onstage jangling keys in his hand]*

**Brian Hoskins:** Oh, it's ok Remi! You'll be alright. Your work on disproving PV has revolutionised the field, I actually disproved it back in 1992 but I was in far too deep by then. As a reward I hand over the keys to the Brian Hoskins building, hereby known as the Remi the Undergrat building. Good luck with central room bookings! You're now in charge of everything and I'm looking forward to what you produce next. I hear your next work is HOT TO GO.

**[SONG: HOT TO GO]**

*[Fin SLIDE]*

**[Thanks]**

*[Credits SLIDE]*

*[all cast leave stage and come back on for bows]*

### Signs:

- Semester
- It's behind you
- Oh no it's not
- GASP
- AWW
- BOO
- YES
- Applause