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SCENE TWELVE - The Palace Theatre - Backstage

MASON: We're late. You should have driven faster.

DEWEY: Not with all of you in the van.

SUMMER: Careful, Mr Schneebly. You're starting to sound responsible.

DEWEY: Remind me why you're here?

SUMMER: I'm the manager. We're booking our first show. Where else should I be?

DEWEY: That's fair.

ZACK: I thought we were playing against other schools.

DEWEY: Later. First, we go up against the big boys.

MARCY: They're gonna laugh at us

DEWEY: I don't understand. Why would they?

ZACK: Because we don't know what we're doing?

LAWRENCE: Because we don't look like rock stars. We look like geeks.

DEWEY: Now, listen! What you've got is what everyone wants, and that's talent! And as for looking like a rock star, did Mama Cass look like a rock star? She weighed three hundred pounds but when she was on stage, people worshipped her! She was a goddess!

SUMMER: What happened to her?

DEWEY: She choked to death on a ham sandwich. But that's not the point.

LAWRENCE: What is the point, Mr Schneebly?

DEWEY: Let me put it like this: If we don't make the cut, we don't play in The Battle. If we miss The Battle, our project is shot. You won't get into Harvard and we'll all be failures. But no pressure.

SUMMER: You heard him. Let's get set up.

An official is standing on stage, looking at his watch.

DEWEY: I'm trying to find Jeff Sanderson.

JEFF: I am he.

The KIDS are amping up.

DEWEY: They said you're in charge here?

JEFF: I was in charge.

DEWEY: What do you mean?

JEFF: The auditions have finished. We only had a couple to see this morning. That one was the last and now the bill is filled.

He catches sight of the CHILDREN.