

## Green Hands

Each character is wearing a long winter coat and hat.

Tony is wearing very dark sunglasses. Each character is wearing a different set of gloves as follows:-

**Barra:** (Orange) Industrial rubber gloves

**Stephen:** (Black) Driving

**Grunt:** (Red) Boxing

**Alison:** Two different Glove Puppets

**Tony:** (Patterned) Oven Mitts

## **Green Hands**

BLACKED OUT STAGE.

SOUND OF MARCHING FEET - TEN SECONDS

LIGHTS UP

THE 'FIVE' APPEAR MARCHING AT FULL SPEED WITH THEIR BODIES PRESSED CLOSE TO EACH OTHER AND THEIR HANDS IN THEIR POCKETS. THEY MARCH IN A SQUARE ROUND THE EDGES OF THE SPACE. THEY STOP - PAUSE FOR THREE SECONDS - THEY SHUFFLE TO ARMS LENGTH FROM EACH OTHER AND PUT THEIR ARMS ON THE ONE IN FRONTS SHOULDER, HEADS ARE DOWN. THEY WALK SLOWLY FOR FIVE SECONDS. AGAIN THEY SHUFFLE BACK TO THEIR FIRST POSITION AND RESUME THE SPEED WALK FOR ONE MORE CIRCUIT ROUND THE SPACE. THEY HALT IN A LINE STEPHEN IN THE FRONT AND ALISON AT THE BACK. STEPHEN PUTS OUT HIS RIGHT HAND AND THE OTHER FOLLOW IN A RIPPLE EFFECT THAT GOES TO ALISON WHO PUTS OUT HER LEFT HAND AND THE RIPPLE COMES BACK DOWN THE LINE TO STEPHEN...

### **STEPHEN:**

Fall out. Break out the beach ball. Fun is expected.

VARIOUS MOANS FROM THE OTHERS.

BARRA AND GRUNT GO DOWN STAGE.

## **Green Hands**

TONY PRODUCES A BEACH BALL WHICH HE BLOWS UP  
AND THROWS IT TO STEPHEN AND ALISON.

### **GRUNT:**

I won't let you down Barra. I'll bash anyone who hurts you.

### **BARRA:**

Thanks Grunt. I'll come and play ball with you in a bit.

BARRA SHIVERS. HE SHAKES HIS HANDS AND STAMPS HIS  
FEET. THE SHAKING OF THE HANDS GETS STRONGER AND  
STRONGER AND THE GLOVES FLY OFF. BARRA RUBS HIS  
HANDS TOGETHER. HE LOOKS AT HIS HANDS - THEY ARE  
GREEN - DOUBLE TAKE - HE IGNORES HIS HANDS. HE  
EXAMINES THEM. HE HIDES THEM UNDER HIS ARMS. HE  
TAKES THEM OUT AND ADMIRES THEM. HE HEARS  
SOMETHING AND PUTS HIS HANDS IN HIS POCKETS. HE  
LOOKS ROUND FOR HIS GLOVES. HE SEES ONE AND TRYs  
TO PICK IT UP WITH HIS FOOT. HE LOOKS ROUND AND  
TAKES HIS HANDS OUT OF HIS POCKETS. HE BENDS TO  
PICK UP THE GLOVE...

### **GRUNT:**

GREENY! Barra's gone Greeny

## **Green Hands**

GRUNT HOLDS HIS HANDS UP IN A BOXER'S GUARD,  
SNIFFS, AND SHADOW BOXES.

BARRA PUTS HIS HANDS UNDER HIS ARMS.

THE OTHERS GO INTO A HUDDLE WITH THEIR ARMS  
AROUND EACH OTHER - BUT NOT TOUCHING. THEY  
WHISPER DIFFERENT LETTERS FOR BURSTS OF THREE  
SECONDS WITH A SECOND PAUSE BETWEEN EG "SSSSSS",  
BBBBBBBB....

### **BARRA:**

They're not mine. Yes they are. They're must have been gardeners  
in mum's family. It was Dad and his bloody roses - he's absorbed  
enough chlorophyll to breed a high street full of florists. My  
parents are Aliens - That's why I always got Red Dwarf videos at  
Christmas. I could always say I'm a painter - Landscapes...are my  
gloves? I can wear gloves for ever. They feel the same. They look  
similar. I could say I have sweaty hands and they attract moss.... I  
will end it here. I will walk out to sea and keep walking till you  
forget my name...has hands...every hand fits another hand. My hand  
is your hand. GLANCES AROUND AT THE OTHERS. HE  
STROKES HIS FACE. HE HOLDS HIMSELF AND SLOWLY  
TURNS ALL THE WAY AROUND - HIS HANDS STROKE HIS  
SHOULDERS. WHEN HE TURNS HE IS SMILING.

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**BARRA (cont.):**

I know it's my turn to pick on something - That Seagull.

"I remember when a seagull and his family moved next door to us in Watford. They kept themselves to themselves - lovely couple. But BIG but they were always eating fish and playing the Black Crowes a little loud."

"Send them back to where they came from. Back to the cliffs with you and create your own economy."

"Seagulls dear - have some more tea. Did you have a nice weekend?"

"I'm going round there and put a sack full of Tom cats through their letter box."

"They have proved that the gull brain is smaller than the human brain and they are not capable of rational conversation."

"Johnathon Livingston Seagull. I presume you's a joke. No a joke makes the moment lighter. You make us dirty."

**STEPHEN:**

Saddle Up.

THEY FORM THE LINE WITH BARRA AT THE BACK

**STEPHEN:**

Not you Barra. By the front quick march.

**Green Hands**

THEY MARCH OFF AROUND THE SPACE. BARRA IS  
MOTIONLESS. THE FOUR CONTINUE AND THEN STOP AND  
REPEAT THE SLOW WALK. THEY SPEED UP READY TO  
LEAVE. THEY STOP IN MID STRIDE.

**BARRA:**

STOP! You can't go anywhere without me.

**TONY:**

We can. I can see us being home in two to three minutes.

**ALISON:**

Put your gloves on Barra and then you can come with us. I've  
heard we're having double chocolate cake for tea.

**STEPHEN:**

Grunt.

GRUNT MAKES A GRUNTING NOISE.

**STEPHEN:**

That's your name not an instruction.

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**GRUNT:**

You Greenies are all the same. My old job was taken by a snotman. All Greenies smell.

**BARRA:**

Everyone smells Grunt. It's nature's way of telling you to start a Body Shop franchise.

**STEPHEN:**

Green is not the colour Barra. The past speaks to us and it says Green Hands have to wear gloves like the rest of us. We've all had fun haven't we?

EVERYONE EXCEPT BARRA MUTTERS AGREEMENT.

**STEPHEN:**

If the hand doesn't fit - cut it off.

OFFSTAGE - THE SOUND OF A BODY STIRRING. THE FIVE RESPOND IN INDIVIDUAL POSES. BARRA HUGS HIMSELF. STEPHEN POSES LIKE RODIN'S "THE THINKER". ALISON PUTS HER PUPPETS TO HER EARS AS IF LISTENING. GRUNT GOES INTO A SNIFFING FRENZY AND TONY ASSUMES THE POSTURE OF A SHIPS LOOKOUT.

**Green Hands**

**STEPHEN:**

We all have to go now. Barra put your gloves on now, now, now,  
now, now.

**BARRA:**

No.

**TONY:**

I have seen the light at the end of the tunnel and it says go without  
him.

TONY WALKS INTO THE BACK OF GRUNT AND SETS  
GRUNT OFF INTO A FIT OF SNIFFING.

**STEPHEN:**

Alison talk to Barra. the rest of you spread out in a bunch.

**ALISON:**

Sweet Barra you know it's for your own good. Think of the harm  
you are doing everybody. We all go through stages in this life and  
you are going through the rebellion one. Well you've had your  
rebellion. Now put your gloves on and be a good boy. That's the  
way things are.



**Green Hands**

TONY PICKS UP BARRA'S GLOVES AND APPROACHES HIM FROM BEHIND. GRUNT PINS BARRA'S ARMS AND TONY TRYS TO FORCE THE GLOVES ON BARRA'S HANDS.

**TONY:**

Play the straight man Barra.

STEPHEN JOINS IN THE STRUGGLE TO FORCE THE GLOVES ON BARRA. TONY FORCES A GLOVE ON STEPHEN.

OFFSTAGE - A YAWN.

THE FIVE REDO THEIR POSES IN DOUBLE TIME. STEPHEN REMOVES BARRA'S GLOVE.

BARRA RAISES HIS HANDS ALOFT

**TONY:**

We haven't the minutes for this Barra. It's half a dozen of one and...er...sixty of the others...no that's not...er...

**STEPHEN:**

Tony. Alison sit on Barra. Grunt put his gloves on.

**Green Hands**

BARRA IS FORCED TO THE GROUND AND IS SAT ON BY  
TONY AND ALISON.

**BARRA:**

Grunt do you remember your promise?

**ALISON:**

Now take a deep breath and it will soon be over.

**BARRA:**

Grunt's never break promises.

**GRUNT:**

What promise Snotty?

**BARRA:**

You said you would bash anyone that hurt me.

**GRUNT:**

OK.

GRUNT STARTS PUNCHING HIMSELF

**GRUNT:**

Take that...I warned you...this is for Barra...Take no prisoners...

**Green Hands**

**STEPHEN:**

Grunt stop enjoying yourself.

OFFSTAGE - SOUND OF A BODY STIRRING. ALL FIVE DO THEIR POSES.

STEPHEN GRABS ONE OF GRUNTS BOXING GLOVES AND REVEALS THAT GRUNT'S HAND IS RED. ALISON AND TONY'S STRUGGLE WITH BARRA INCREASES IN VIOLENCE.

**ALISON:**

Watch the birdy.

ALISON RAISES ONE OF HER PUPPETS. GRUNT PUNCHES THE PUPPET AND IS FLYS OFF WITH A LOUD SQUEAK. ALISON HAS A BROWN HAND. GRUNT REALISES HIS HAND IS RED AND REDOUBLES HIS EFFORTS AT BEATING HIMSELF UP. STEPHEN REMOVES A CARRIER BAG FROM HIS POCKET AND COVERS ALISON'S EXPOSED HAND. ALISON DOES NOT NOTICE HER BROWN HAND. GRUNT HAS CALMED DOWN AND IS LOOKING AT HIS HAND.

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### **GRUNT:**

How did I get that?

TONY FORCES BARRA'S GLOVE ONTO GRUNT'S RED HAND

### **BARRA:**

Grunt I never knew.

### **GRUNT:**

I never knew much but this.

### **ALISON:**

So my right hand doesn't know what my left hand shops. That's lovely.

STEPHEN REMOVES A GLOVE TO REVEAL A YELLOW HAND  
AND PUTS GRUNT'S BOXING GLOVE ON.

### **STEPHEN:**

The glove is on Barra. Time for a history lesson. Choose your weapon.

### **BARRA:**

I don't want to fight Stephen.

## **Green Hands**

### **STEPHEN:**

Choose any glove you like Barra or I'll bash you anyway.

BARRA IS LET UP. HE PICKS UP ALISON'S GLOVE PUPPET AND PUTS IT ON. STEPHEN AND BARRA CIRCLE EACH OTHER.

THEY GRAPPLE, FALL TO THEIR KNEES AND FORCE ONE ANOTHER TO THEIR KNEES AND EVENTUALLY INTO A PRONE POSITION WHERE THEY START TO ARM WRESTLE USING THEIR RESPECTIVE GLOVE. BARRA WINS BY FORCING STEPHENS GLOVE TO THE FLOOR AND REVEALS THE YELLOW HAND.

### **BARRA:**

You'll have to give up smoking Stephen. All hands on deck. The gloves are off.

EVERYONE EXCEPT TONY REMOVES THEIR REMAINING GLOVE

TONY HOLDS HIS HANDS LIKE A SURGEON WHO HAS JUST DISINFECTED HIS ARMS BEFORE AN OPERATION. ALISON AND GRUNT TAKE OFF ONE GLOVE EACH. TONY'S HANDS ARE ENCASED IN LACY MITTENS AND HIS HANDS UNDERNEATH ARE BLUE.

**Green Hands**

OFFSTAGE - A VERY LOUD YAWN

**BARRA:**

Saddle Up.

A LINE IS FORMED BEHIND BARRA. THEY CLAP IN RHYTHM  
AND DISPLAY THEIR HANDS ONE AFTER ANOTHER.

**TONY:**

I wonder if I could have...er...some more....

**BARRA:**

Time. We can wait.

GRUNT AND ALISON REPLACE TONY'S OVEN MITTENS.  
THEY CLAP THEIR RHYTHM WITH RENEWED VIGOUR.

**BARRA:**

All together quick March.

THEY SHUFFLE TOGETHER AND LEAVE THE SPACE AT FULL  
SPEED.

**-END-**