

## A Brief history of nits! By Sid River

**Background** A comic take on getting nits including a mad professor, psychotic nit nurse, neurotic mother and cave people. Originally written as a short sketch in a larger, commercially bought "end of year six" play. Could be used for the same purpose or as part of an assembly etc. Works better with suggested music added.

Parts	Description
Prof. Scratch-lightly:	Documentary presenter in the BBC style of David Attenborough.
Cave mother:	Stone age housewife. Big mad wig, animal skin, apron and broom. "Nits" in hair (brown paper cuttings).
Rocky:	Stone age boy. Big mad wig, animal skin, inflatable club. "Nits" in hair (brown paper cuttings).
Rocketta:	As Rocky but female.
Cave father:	Stone age Dad. Big mad wig. "Nits" in hair (brown paper cuttings).
Uncle Crawley:	As Dad.
Off stage voice:	Henry VIII type voice.
Squeamish girl:	Runs on cringing and crying, although she does have to pick up a severed head.
Donny 1,2 &3	Young skinny boys in high PE shorts and vests. Donny Osmond/70's style wigs.
Matron:	Scary nit nurse. Most effectively boy in drag with high heels and blond wig. Loud and high pitched voice.
Referee:	Wresting match referee with whistle and black and white striped top who runs on to count someone out.
Nit mother:	Snobbish parent on school gate. Can't bear news that daughter has nits!
Child:	Unfortunate victim of nits and above mother. No words, just crying.

### Notes

Music is suggested where appropriate and you may want to pad out the scene a bit if you are using it on its own.

## A brief history of nits!

*An empty stage, possibly with a microphone on a stand to one side. Theme music suitable for a documentary plays (a good idea is to use an old theme tune to a past TV show) and Professor Scratch-lightly enters and bows several times. He walks to the microphone as the music fades. He remains here throughout scene.*

Professor S: Hello, and welcome to Bananarama, err I mean Panorama. Tonight, we examine a phenomenon that has plagued mankind since the dawn of time. I am Professor Scratch-lightly and this is.... *(scratches head)* A Brief History of nits.

*Music plays again or use theme from Flintstones or Adams family or something similar. Caveman family enters with wild wigs and "nits" (paper cuttings) in their hair.*

Professor S: In the time of early man, nits (or more correctly, head lice) were not considered a problem. Everybody had them. In fact, the more you had, the more popular you were, as prehistoric lice were an invaluable source of protein at a time when a family could go months between mammoth kills.

Cave mother: Rocky, Rocketta, wash your hands and fetch your father from the potting shed. Uncle Crawley will be here in a moment for tea.

Rocky: Uncle Crawley's coming for tea! Fandabbydozey!

Rocketta: Yeah wicked! I love it when Unc. comes to tea. Everyone eats well.

*Uncle enters dramatically with huge hair and lots of "nits"*

Uncle Crawley: Hi kids. Lice and a slice anyone!

*All start picking and eating from Uncle's hair*

Rocky: Yum, Lice-cream and crawl berry flavour!

Rocketta Lice pudding flavour!

*Father enters like Uncle Crawley.*

Cave father Now children, don't be mean. Share the feast with all of our guests *(gestures to audience)*.

*All run to front of stage and shake hair, flicking as many "nits" as possible on the front row of the audience.*

*Cave people exit, possibly to the music that they entered with.*

Professor S: *(scratching head)* Now, when man became more civilized and better fed, a head full of lice became less desirable. In fact, it is said that the real reason that Henry VIII had Ann Boleyn beheaded was because she was breeding seven new species of bonce-bug under her hat.  
*(continues to scratch more feverishly)*

Off-stage voice: Off with her head!

*Papier-mâché head rolls on stage, cringing girl runs on and picks it up by the hair squeamishly. She runs off stage carrying the head at arms length.*

Squeamish girl: Ugh! Ugh! Yak! Horrid horrid horrid!!

Professor S: Hmm Yes...! When schools were invented, head-lice became a real problem and the various authorities had to come up with a workable solution. Sheep dip was too expensive so shaving the head became the only solution. However, from the 1950's to the 1970's when Donny Osmond hair styles became the norm, evil school governors all across the land came up with a much more sinister solution. The dreaded curse of the NIT NURSE!

*Sound of thunder/lightening and some suitable music. As the music fades, 3 long haired (wigs) boys enter in PE shorts and vests and line up looking very nervous.*

Donny 1: I can't take this any more. The waiting is worse than the inspection!

Donny 2: Inspection! This is nothing short of torture. I vote we make a run for it.

Donny 3: Yes, we could leg it across the field and join the foreign legion.

*Boys hear a "coo-ee" call off stage.*

Donny 1: Oh no, its Matron. I need the toilet!

*Matronly nurse bursts through curtains/door on to stage. She howls like an animal and stands there flexing her muscles and waving a large syringe/thermometer.*

Matron: It's too late for that now my boy, Matron's here! It's time to make you clean, clean, clean you poor unfortunate waifs. *(grabs first boy by the hair and yanks it around like a wrestler. Holds him in a head-lock and searches for nits)* Let's see what your made of! Aha! Just as I thought, filthy vermin!

*She takes out large thermometer/syringe from belt and starts hitting the boy on the head (make sure its only cardboard or soft rubber!), who collapse to the floor. Referee runs on and counts him out*

Referee: *(Shouting and counting with large arm movements)* ONE-A, TWO\_A, THREE\_A... YOOOUUUUR OUT!!

Matron: *(Shouting and over-excited)* Who's next for Matron!

*Next boy faints and the last Donny screams and begins a "Benny Hill" style run with small steps, off the stage and around the audience. Chase music to accompany (The Benny Hill music "Yakkety Sax" is great for this!) Matron pursues in same way on high heels, waving thermometer/syringe and pausing occasionally for breath. Chase continues until both exit. Two "stage hands" come on stage and drag off the fainted Donny.*

Professor S: *(still scratching)* Thankfully, today, the European Court of human rights has outlawed such barbaric practices and now those unfortunate children who contract head-lice are sent home with an informative letter so that modern, understanding parents can treat the problem sensibly and medically.

*Mother and daughter enter from opposite sides of stage. Daughter hands a letter to mother, smiling. Mother reads it and expression changes to horror!*

Nit mother: What's this...? YOU'VE GOT WHAT!! *(Grabs girl by the hair)* How could you! Get in that shower! Dad, fetch the tweezers and the bleach! What will the neighbours say. How can I ever hold my head up in a PTA meeting ever again. *(leaves stage, dragging daughter off with her)* The shame. The shame!

*Matron puts head round door/curtain and cackles in an evil way.*

Matron: Ha Ha HA!!

*Thunder and lightening.*

**THE END**