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The Blue Crystal

by Nick Perrin

Scene One Zarcon Warriors

[EARTH ADULTS 1 & 2 stand Downstage R. & L. respectively. ZARCON WARRIORS stand in a group upstage. WARRIOR LEADER is Downstage Centre, and speaks over the song intro.]

ZARCON WARRIORS

(☉ Track 1 / 15)

Warrior Leader

Zarcon warriors! Arm yourselves!
We must prepare to invade Planet Earth.
The Blue Crystal will soon be ours!

[WARRIOR LEADER moves to join the front of the group. As each WARRIOR shouts out his/her word, he/she brandishes a fist, except for when WARRIOR 7 shouts 'Destroy', when all WARRIORS brandish fists.]

Warrior 1 Infiltrate!
Warrior 2 Confuse!
Warrior 3 Panic!
Warrior 4 Disarm!
Warrior 5 Attack!
Warrior 6 Invade!
Warrior Leader Destroy!

All INFILTRATE, CONFUSE,
PANIC, DISARM
ATTACK, INVADE,
DESTROY!
(repeat)

[If using the backing track, there is a 10-bar interlude before the 'Zarcon' chorus. During this time the WARRIORS can slowly step in formation, or move threateningly among the audience.]

With each word, WARRIORS step rhythmically in formation.

ZARCON WARRIORS NEVER DIE
ZARCON WARRIORS RULE THE SKY
WE'RE BRAVE AND FEARLESS, STRONG AND BOLD
STAND TOGETHER YOUNG AND OLD.
(repeat)

*[Exit ZARCON WARRIORS, marching, Stage Right.
ARAVIS – cloaked – enters surreptitiously Upstage Right, crosses
the stage to steal the Blue Crystal from the spaceship area.
This done, she exits to her base position among EARTH PEOPLE.]*

EARTH ADULT 1 It's the year 3029. Light years away from Earth on planet Zarcon, fearsome warriors are planning an invasion.

EARTH ADULT 2 Meanwhile, on Planet Earth, trouble is brewing.

Scene Two The Problem On Earth

[EARTH PEOPLE gather in casual groups, muttering ad lib. Enter SCIENTISTS, looking worried, bustling about with clipboards, discussing earnestly. SCIENTISTS 1 & 2 are Downstage, facing out, examining an imaginary screen in front of them, chewing pens, making notes. Enter GRAMMY Downstage Left.]

GRAMMY *(importantly)* Good morning. I'm Grammy, your Hologram News Reader, with news from all around the universe.

[EARTH PEOPLE gather in front of GRAMMY to listen.]

And here's the latest! We've picked up a signal from deepest hyperspace.

EARTH PEOPLE *(sharp intake of breath, then muttering to each other ad lib)*
From deepest hyperspace?
What could that be?
That's never happened before. *(etc.)*

GRAMMY It seems that an alien race from Planet Zarcon has stolen the precious Blue Crystal.

EARTH PEOPLE *(gasp in disbelief, then react ad lib)*
No! That's awful! Disaster! *(etc.)*

[The SCIENTISTS begin to show an interest, miming discussion.]

GRAMMY The Blue Crystal is the primary component in the planet's control centre. Without it, all support systems will malfunction! Life on Earth – as you know it – will cease!

EARTH PEOPLE *(gasp, then react ad lib)*
We're doomed! That's terrible! What are we going to do?!

GRAMMY The Zarcons have given you a week – yes, one week – to surrender the planet. If you do not, they will occupy it by force, and all life on Earth will be destroyed. *(with a big smile)* Have a nice day!

[Exit GRAMMY, to return during the song. EARTH PEOPLE return to previous group positions, muttering ad lib. Two EARTH CHILDREN rush to the SCIENTISTS.]

EARTH CHILD 1 *(alarmed)* Did he say the Blue Crystal has been stolen?

EARTH CHILD 2 *(tugging on SCIENTIST 1's sleeve)* Does this mean the control centre won't work?

SCIENTIST 1 *(soothingly)* OK. We'll try to explain the position as simply as we can. The macro editor has been de-activated, causing digital sync problems.

SCIENTIST 2 The glimmer is in a new parameter and the spectrum analyser has corrupted the universal serial interface.

SCIENTIST 1 Interface report, number 3?

SCIENTIST 3 The timestretch factor has blown the space time bandit and the quad speed interface card has crashed.

SCIENTIST 1 Number 4?

SCIENTIST 4 The vertical riser has disk fragmentation and the CPU utilisation on the motherboard has malfunctioned.

SCIENTIST 1 Number 5! What is the condition of the Integrator disks?

SCIENTIST 5 The Integrator disks have disintegrated and the master fader has finally and cataclysmically... *(pause)* ...faded!
[ALL look at each other, puzzled.]
In a word – IT'S BUST!

EARTH CHILDREN That's two words!

SCIENTIST 4 & 5 *(tutting disapprovingly)* How childish!
[EARTH CHILDREN giggle.]

SCIENTIST 3 The question is, do we surrender now, or wait for the Zarcons to attack?

SCIENTIST 2 Neither! Those are terrible options.

SCIENTIST 1 There is another option. We get the crystal back!

SCIENTIST 2, 3, 4, 5 *(muttering in agreement ad lib)* Yes. Absolutely. I agree. Quite right.

EARTH CHILDREN But how?

SCIENTIST 1 There's only one person capable of leading such a mission.

EARTH CHILDREN *(excited)* Captain Tor!
[SCIENTISTS nod.]

SCIENTIST 2 Of course. I'll call him right away.

[SCIENTIST 2 taps communication device on wrist and mimes conversation for a few moments. All EARTH PEOPLE – including ARAVIS, ZED & THEA – move into song performing position. GRAMMY re-enters and moves to centre during introduction. Everyone should use big sweeping gestures to indicate CAPTAIN TOR when he enters during the second chorus.]

DID YOU HEAR THE NEWSFLASH? (☉ Track 2 / 16)

All DID YOU HEAR THE NEWSFLASH?
 THE MODULE'S LOST ITS DRIVE.
 THE BACK-UP DISK IS BROKEN
 HOW CAN WE ALL SURVIVE?
 THE ZARCONS HAVE THE CRYSTAL.
 OUR FUTURE'S LOOKING GRIM.
 WE NEED A MEGA EFFORT
 TO PLUG OURSELVES BACK IN:

CAPTAIN TOR...
 ALL THE HOPES OF THE WORLD
 REST ON YOU!
Group REST ON YOU
 (repeat)

ALL make grand sweeping arm gesture to indicate that they expect CAPTAIN TOR, Stage L. When he doesn't appear they shrug, lean forwards straining to see him appear.

All OUR DATA BANK IS EMPTY,
 OUR MEMORY'S BEEN CUT SHORT.
 NO LONGER CAN WE COUNT ON
 OUR HARDWARE AS WE THOUGHT.

 THE INTERNET HAS CRUMPLED,
 NO SURFING ANYMORE.
 THERE MUST BE SOME SOLUTION
 TO STOP A ZARCON WAR:

CAPTAIN TOR...
 ALL THE HOPES OF THE WORLD
 REST ON YOU!
Group REST ON YOU.
 (repeat)

As before.

All THE MONITOR IS EMPTY.
 THE SCREEN IS LOOKING BLACK.
 HOWEVER ARE WE GOING
 TO GET THE CRYSTAL BACK?
 THE PROGRAM'S BEEN DELETED,
 THE MICRO'S HAD ITS CHIPS.
 ONE NAME KEEPS RETURNING
 TO EVERYBODY'S LIPS:

CAPTAIN TOR...
 ALL THE HOPES OF THE WORLD
 REST ON YOU!
Group REST ON YOU.
 (repeat)

CAPTAIN TOR enters, Stage L., with a hero's wave to acknowledge the people.

All REST ON YOU.