

ACT I

LECTURER #1

Scene 1: A High School Auditorium

(The year is 1936. We're in a high school auditorium, somewhere in America. The set is a simple affair, the most notable feature being that it is covered with sensationalistic 1930's anti-marihuana newspaper headlines. It is the scene of a local theatre presentation—all sets should have a cobbled-together "homemade" feel. In the original production, this effect was obtained by making key props and set pieces from cut pieces of thin wood embellished with two dimensional "pen-and-ink" images that evoke 1930's anti-drug editorial cartoons. Lights up on the LECTURER, a severe-looking gentleman in a conservative 30's-era suit. He is the Master of Revels for the evening, the man who wrote and directed this "play within a play." Right now, he stands at a simple wooden podium, a 48-star American flag prominently displayed behind him.)

START

LECTURER

Good evening. I'd like to thank everyone for braving the weather and coming out here tonight. Over the years, the Benjamin Harrison High School auditorium has been home to numerous functions—graduations, for example, our annual Christmas Pageants, the Drama Club's much-lauded presentation of "Green Grow the Lilacs."

(Prompts polite applause.)

But no purpose this room has ever served is more important than the one which brings us together this evening.

(Pulls out a letter.)

One month ago, 5 November, 1936, I received a letter from no less a luminary than Harry J. Anslinger, Chief of the newly-formed Federal Bureau of Narcotics. It is one of thousands of identical letters posted to concerned community leaders across the nation. In these letters, Mr. Anslinger urges—no...commands us—to take up arms against a leafy green assassin. An assassin of youth.

(Pauses to enjoy the shock.)

You are about to witness a re-enactment of true events, brought to life by the reunited cast of "Green Grow the Lilacs," once again under the humble direction of yours truly. As you can see, no expense was spared in the mounting of this presentation...the content of which may startle you.

(The LECTURER leans over the podium dramatically.)

It would not have been possible, otherwise, to sufficiently emphasize the frightful toll of the new drug menace which is destroying the youth of America in alarmingly increasing numbers. Marihuana...

MUSIC 1: REEFER MADNESS

... is that drug—a violent narcotic, an unspeakable scourge...the real Public Enemy #1!

CREEPING LIKE A COMMUNIST
IT'S KNOCKING AT OUR DOORS
TURNING ALL OUR CHILDREN INTO
HOOLIGANS AND WHORES

VORACIOUSLY DEVOURING
THE WAY THINGS ARE TODAY
SAVAGELY DEFLOWERING
THE GOOD OL' USA

END