

A Eurovision Song Contest Adventue - PART 2

Connie: Welcome to the Armchair Adventures Travel Agency, journeys of the imagination. I'm Head Travel Agent and Host, Connie!

Music: Armchair Adventures theme tune

Connie: Guten tag, dobrogo dnya or bonne nuit, wherever you're listening from adventurers (or similar). The voices of this episode's special guest adventurers are...

Adventurers say their names.

Connie: Hi Everyone!

Children: Hi Connie!

Connie: You, too, can star in an episode of Armchair Adventures as one of our special guest adventurers. All you need to do is ask your grown up if you can join the Armchair Adventures fanclub on patreon. For more info, simply head to the Armchair Adventures website, that's www dot armchair dash adventures dot co dot uk, and click on the Adventurer fan club page!

Connie: On an Armchair Adventure we can go anywhere we like from the comfort of where we are right now, so they're perfect for everyone, no matter what age you are. Restart. Call. Now.

SFX phone ringing

Scene 6

Music: Dance

Connie: Adventurers, you've joined us for a dance-off between the adventurers and the customers. They're all ready. Let's dance!

Ready, Steady, go!

SFX customers and adventurers dancing

Hazel: Go Guys!

John Get with it!

Hazel: Go Steve Go Steve! Go Baby!

Steve: Don't spin round too fast love.

Ada: Point to the birds, right, then left.

Pat: Wind the bobbin.

Pauline: Kick the ball, right, then left.

Jan: Pick the fruit and put it in the basket.

Connie: Woohoo! Look at you all go!

So, to recap. We're now in London – the latest stop on our adventure to learn about the Eurovision Song Contest... and what makes a great contest performance... that unites everybody!

At school, there's going to be a Spring Song Contest, that will hopefully bring all of the students together again, and I want to make sure that my performance helps to do that!

Connie: Wow, that's a great jive!

Jan: I was jive champion at high school!

Connie: I can tell!

So, we started our adventure in Switzerland, where the first Eurovision Song Contest was held, and we realised that part of what makes a great performance, is when the artists express their identity through amazing costume designs!

John OG: Ouch, watch my feet!

Connie: Then we arrived in Sweden, the home of ABBA, arguably the most famous Eurovision contestants! I sang with two other singers and our harmonies reminded us about teamwork and everyone being included.

Next, was London. Where we saw that dancing plays a big part in bringing people together, like the dance crazes that we can all learn!

Then, I got a call from the Head of the Selection Committee for Eurovision in the UK, asking us to be on standby to perform because this year's entry, Olly Alexander, has lost his voice! And the gang were all encouraging me and then Uncle Chris took the phone and said yes.

Unc. Chris: Sorry, not sorry!

Connie: John! I didn't know you could moonwalk?! Amazing!

Unc. Chris: Stand back everybody.

Connie: Are you going to breakdance, Uncle Chris?

Unc. Chris: I am. I think it's time.

SFX customers and adventurers stop dancing

Connie: Ok. Let's make some room.

Customers start clapping a beat

Unc. Chris: Here goes!

SFX breathless sound of Unc. Chris getting himself in a knot

Connie: Uncle Chris! Are you alright?

Music: Dance needle scratches to a stop

Unc. Chris : Yes! Could somebody please unknot my right leg from my arm?

SFX unknotting

Connie: Haha. So, I really want the school contest to be a success and help the students come together again.

But first, we need to write a song, sort our costumes, choreograph a dance routine and rehearse!!!

And, on top of the school contest, we also have to perform for the UK in the Eurovision Song Contest!

Arghhhhh!!!

Lily: What's the matter, Connie?

Connie: I'm scared we aren't going to be ready, the performance won't be good enough, the school contest won't work to make everybody friends again and I'll show myself up in front of my year at school, the nation – and the world! What if I come last on live TV?

Pat: You won't come last.

Cyril: Nobody wants "Nil points"!

Connie: What's that?

Pauline: Zero.

Kenny: Zilch.

Jan: Nothing!

John OG: French for zero points.

Connie: No, I really don't want "nil points"!

Unc. Chris: The legendary TV host of Eurovision in the UK, Terry Wogan – before your time, Connie – used to say (Wogan impression) "It's supposed to be bad. And the worse it is, the more fun it is!"

Connie: That's not helping, Uncle Chris!

Ada: It's ok. We just need to come up with a contest-winning performance!

Connie: That will make all of my year group be friends again!! No big deal!!
Arghhhhhhh!

Unc. Chris: Come on, it's going to be fine!

Connie: Right, we need to get cracking! First things first, a song! What are we going to write about?

Steve: Most songs are about love.

Linda: Or losing love?

Pat: ABBA's Waterloo was about an historic war!

Cyril: And Bucks Fizz's song was about indecision.

Connie: I can relate to that one!

Unc. Chris: Alright, Connie, it's under control. I know where we're going next.

Connie: You do? Where to?

SFX pressure release sound of coach door opening

Unc. Chris: Hop aboard, everybody, and you'll see!

SFX the gang climbing up and helping each other onto the bus

SFX entering the bus – funky sfx used with limo for showbiz adventure

Unc. Chris: Ready?

Everybody: Let's go! See you later, London!!

SFX pressure release sound of coach door closing

SFX magical, twinkly, whizzing, speedy sound of tour bus travelling fast

John: And we're off!

Scene 7

Music - tour bus horn beeps a magical, European tune (this could be a version of the Eurovision fanfare – Te Deum, Marc-Antoine Charpentier or Austrian anthem?)

Unc. Chris: Are you the last one?

John OG: Yep!

SFX pressure release sound of coach door closing

SFX several footsteps walking

Pat: Where are we now?

Linda: It's like The Sound of Music!

Cyril: The Hills are alive!

SFX yodelling

Unc Chris: Yodellayoh yodellayoh yodellay hee hooo!!!!

Connie: What was that?

Unc. Chris: The yodellers were asking what time it is. I was telling them it's just gone 2!

Connie: Wow! Can you all yodel?

Everybody: Yodelling.

Connie: Adventurers?

SFX Ding

Adventurers: Yodel-ay, yodel-ay, yodel-ay hee heee!

Connie: Skills!

SFX cathedral bells

Ada: It's beautiful. It has an enormous river.

Music: Blue Danube

Kenny: Pretzels.

Hazel: Waltzing!

SFX cuckoo clock

Walter: Are we in Austria?

Unc. Chris: Yes!

Ada: Lovely!

Unc. Chris: I'm hoping this might help give you some ideas for what your song could be about, Connie.

The message of the Eurovision is one of unity, acceptance and diversity.

Austria's winner in 2014 was Conchita Wurst. Conchita was a bearded drag queen, who sang a powerful opera pop song about accepting people as they are.

Connie: Sounds amazing! I really want to write about something I'm passionate about.

Unc. Chris: Definitely. It's a great opportunity to write about a cause that's important to you.

Pauline: For all of Europe to hear!

Anne: Do you have any ideas yet, Connie?

Connie: We've seen all of these wonderful parts of Europe and learned so much about what made their acts special and brought audiences together.

Music is for everyone, speaking any language. It's inclusive. I want our song to represent that.

Unc. Chris: The slogan for this year's contest is 'United by Music'.

Connie: That's it!!! That's exactly what this song should be about! Music is something that everybody can enjoy.

Let me write that down!

SFX Cobbie scribbling notes in a notepad

Pauline: And people from all over the continent enjoy music together, when they're watching The Eurovision song contest!

Connie: I've got it! I can see our performance!

Pat: Go on then, Connie!

Connie: First of all, we need a strong beat, that gets everybody in the groove...

SFX Twinkling magic wand

Music: What follows, is an ethereal, instrumental version of the song

Music drum beat starts

Connie: Then, some meaningful lyrics about people being united...

SFX Twinkling magic wand

Connie: Let's build a chain across the world...

Let's bring together every boy and girl.

John OG: Great lyrics, Connie!

Connie: Some harmonies...And a catchy melody that everyone will remember...

SFX Twinkling magic wand

Music - singing above lines in harmony

Walter: That's sounds beautiful, Connie.

SFX Twinkling magic wand

Music - Riff from song

Steve: I'm gonna be singing that all year!

Pat: A proper ear worm, that!!

Connie: Now we need a dazzling costume, something that everyone in the school can wear, but that we can all make individual, to express our own personalities! I've got it! Tracksuits! And we choose the colours, so

we're all similar, like a team, but also unique! All the colours of the rainbow...

Pauline: Mine will be an indigo top and violet bottoms.

Anne: I'll have a yellow top, because I'm always sunny!

Kenny: I'll have a red top and blue trousers.

SFX Twinkling magic wand

Connie: What will your tracksuit colours be, adventurers?

SFX ding

Adventurer: Golden and orange!

Adventurer: Mine would be cyan.

Adventurer: Rainbow.

Adventurer: Yellow and pink.

Adventurer: A green top and pink pants.

Connie: They're great! And, last but not least, a dance routine...

SFX Twinkling magic wand

SFX the group dancing

Connie: Join in, adventurers! Follow the customers' moves!

SFX Ding

Ada: Point to the birds, right, then left.

Pat: Wind the bobbin.

Pauline: Kick the ball, right, then left.

Jan: Pick the fruit and put it in the basket.

Connie: That's it! Everybody should be able to learn that, so we can all dance together.

SFX a firework type explosion of the glitter cannon

Customers celebrating woohoo.

Connie: Phew! Have I missed anything?
Cyril: Nope!
Lily: That looks like everything to me!
Connie: Then we're ready for the Eurovision!

Customers cheer

Scene 8

SFX tour bus comes to a stop and pulls up the brakes

Steve: We're here.
Hazel: Wow!
Pat: People outside, greeting us off the coach.
Jan: Fans and banners!
Cyril: Some security, with a metal detector.

SFX Ghostly echo of a crowd still to arrive

Linda: I'm so excited for the audience to see your performance, Connie!
Connie: Me, too! I definitely feel ready to share it now!
Unc. Chris: Ok! Let's get what we need from the bus.

SFX unpacking the gear from the tour bus

Hazel: Move that over there
Linda: Pass the Glitter
Walter: Don't forget the wigs

Connie: While we're getting everything we need, let's pause our journey of the imagination to hear from another podcast I think you'd like!

ADVERT

Connie: Right, let's get back to our journey of the imagination and see if everybody's ready!

SFX unpacking the gear from the tour bus

Elsa: Hello? Can I help you?

Connie: Hi! Yes, I'm Connie. We're here for the dress rehearsal.

Elsa: Oh, Connie! Didn't you get my message?

Connie: What message?

Elsa: Oh, I'm so sorry. Olly's got his voice back.

Connie: Oh! Well, that's good news.

Elsa: It's good and bad news. He's well again, and can sing. But, of course, that means we no longer need you to perform in the contest. I'm so sorry, Connie. I realise this will be very disappointing for you.

Connie: That's ok. We've had an amazing adventure! It was an honour to help.

Elsa: I'm so sorry again. I wish we could have two entries in the contest.

Connie: Please don't worry.

Unc. Chris: Ok, everybody, let's get everything back on the bus!

Connie: Yep! Home time!

SFX packing the gear onto the tour bus

Hazel: That's a shame

John: Yep a little bit of bad luck

Kenny: We've had a nice time haven't we.

Walter: Don't lose the wigs.

Linda: Are you ok, Connie?

Connie: Yeah , I'm fine! We really have had a great adventure!

Hazel: The song is going to blow everyone away at the school contest!

Walter: And help to bring all of your year group back together again.

Connie: Exactly! I'm so excited for it! The Eurovision would have only been a bonus!

SFX pressure release sound of coach door opening

SFX the gang climbing up and helping each other onto the bus

SFX entering the bus – funky sfx used with limo for showbiz adventure.

Everybody: Absolutely! It's been a fantastic experience! What a day!

Unc. Chris: Everybody buckled in?

Everybody: Yep!

Unc. Chris: Then off we go!

SFX pressure release sound of coach door closing. The magical engine revs

SFX shouting sound from outside the window

Elsa: Connie!! Wait!!

SFX knocking on the window

Elsa: Connie!

Connie: Ooh, hang on, Uncle Chris! Elsa is shouting after us!

SFX pressure release sound of coach door opening

SFX Elsa climbs onto the bus

Elsa: (A little out of breath) Sorry everyone... I've had an idea! I'm so sorry to see you go home after all the hard work you've put in. I was thinking... Although we only need one entry for the UK, the contest still has a slot for a guest artist... and I wondered if you'd be interested? You'd be performing in the break. It's a big deal! Madonna, Justin Timberlake, Riverdance have done it before. And now you! What do you think? Would you do us the honour?

Connie: Oh, wow! What do you think, everyone?

Everybody: Yes!! Of course!! Go for it!!

Connie: Well, that sounds like it's decided. Great, yes, we'd love to!

Elsa: That's brilliant, thank you!

Unc. Chris: Ok! Everybody off!

SFX pressure release sound of coach door opening

Customers all cheer

Scene 9

Music - The fanfare theme of the contest, Te Deum, Marc-Antoine Charpentier from the stage

SFX Connie and the gang are backstage.

Linda: (whispering) How are you feeling, Connie?

Connie: (whispering) I'm ok, thanks. Are you?

Walter: I'm a bit nervous.

Connie: For me?

Lily: Yes! Me too!

Connie: Oh, don't be! I'll be ok!

Hazel: This is going out on live TV!

Steve: Oh, don't say that!

Linda: It's just new and unknown, that's all.

Cyril: I know. I don't like new and unknown!

John OG: Please be quiet. I think I might be sick!

Connie: Honestly, it's fine!!! Please don't worry, folks! It's going to be ok. I'm well prepared. I'm just going to imagine that I'm singing to all of you, my friends. And that there's nobody else out there!

SFX talking in cans – “interval act go”

Runner: Ok, Connie. We're ready for you.

Connie: Thank you.

Everybody: You can do it girl!

Runner: Ready? 3, 2, 1.

SFX audience clap Connie and the customers' entrance.

SFX A hush

*Music: 'United by Music' Song – a fusion of European music,
inspired by their adventure*

*You might be from a different place
You might support a different team
You might speak a different language
You might have a different history*

*But there are many things
That can bring us together
Together in harmony
So it's time to open our eyes,
Yeh Realise,
We're better in unity*

*Let's build a chain across the world
Let's bring together every boy and girl*

*Come together let's be united,
Woah...yeh let's go!
With love we won't be divided,
Woah...yeh let's go! X 2*

*You might listen to different music
And food tastes different wherever you go
You might have different traditions
Or where your from you might wear different clothes*

*But there are many things
That can bring us together
Together in harmony
So it's time to open our eyes,
Yeh realise,
We're better in unity*

*Let's build a chain across the world
Let's bring together every boy and girl*

*Come together let's be united,
Woah...yeh let's go!
With love we won't be divided,
Woah...yeh let's go! X2*

Rap:

*We've got to remember
Our differences a small
And we've got music
There a none at all
So let's come together
Forever in hand
Yeh You and me
(Over land and sea)
United we stand*

SFX Audience clapping and whooping

SFX Audience clapping and whooping from backstage

Elsa: Well done, Connie! You were absolutely amazing!

Connie: Thank you. It was brilliant.

Steve: What a buzz!

Pat: The crowd were electric!

Connie: Thank you for the opportunity!

Elsa: Thank you for again for being on standby and then for agreeing to entertain our audiences.

Connie: Thank you, Thanks everybody. You were fantastic!

Pat: You were! It was incredible.

Connie: I couldn't have done it without all of your help. I can't believe we did it! What a challenge! It showed me that if you work together, you can make anything happen!

Steve: As long as you have a good group around you, you can work under pressure.

Linda: That's right, Connie. Working together in harmony is a bit like the message of the Eurovision.

Connie: And I hope that message will come across in our School Song Contest, too. I hope our performance will bring the year together again, singing the chorus, dancing the moves and copying our costumes! I hope that everybody's hard work will make the contest a success and we'll all be friends again. United in Music!

Anne: I'm sure everybody at school will have as great a time as we did! Music is so good for the soul.

Pauline: It's a beautiful thing to lose yourself in and to remind you what's important!

Jan: Absolutely!

Lilly: Well said!

Connie: And now it's time to say goodbye to our journey of the imagination and get back to reality.

The customers all say goodbye

Connie: End. Call. Now.

SFX phone down

Connie: Lovely.

Ian: This was a Made By Mortals production, generously funded by the Arts Council of England.

THE END