

Music No. 14b: CAR SHOWROOM

SCENE FIVE

A Ford Dealership showroom in Redbridge. A Cortina covered in a glitzy drape. PETROLHEADS mull around, PRESS. Lighting for a show.

HOPKINS Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the launch of the 1600E Cortina. The presence of the Minister today reflects the importance of Ford's manufacturing base to the British economy. Please welcome the Secretary of State for Employment, Mrs Barbara Castle.

(Applause.)

BARBARA CASTLE Thank you. Ford may be American but the Cortina is British! Designed by Roy Haynes, this new model, the 1600E, has a G and T engine, and a lowered suspension, I know how it feels –

(Laughter.)

Ford employs thirty thousand men in this country –

RITA – And women!

BARBARA – Yes, and women.

RITA And we women are paid less than the men!

MAN Shutup, will ya!

BARBARA We do have a dispute with the women at Ford, and we are losing nine thousand cars a week, that's nine thousand cars we could be exporting to balance our trade figures.

RITA Equal Pay and we go back to work!

MACER Equal Pay for women, are you mad?!

HUBBLE Go and live in Russia!

RITA I'm going nowhere mate!

HUBBLE I'm not your bloody mate. Don't mate me, mate!

MAN Can someone chuck her out!

BARBARA For Pete's sake can we have a look at this bloody car!

Music No. 15: CORTINA!

(Lights, music, dance, action. Think Pan's People but with additional boys. The message of the dance is that if you buy a Mark II Cortina 1600E you'll get laid. Cue undressing dance moves, girls losing dresses, and a dance gag of every time a girl sits in the driving seat she is dragged out and the man replaces her. The comedy maths on this would be – girl sits in driving seat / is removed by boy taking over; girl sits in driving seat / is removed by boy taking over; girl sits in driving seat and boy removes steering wheel and takes it to passenger seat. SANDRA could lead on this feminist agenda vis a vis the driving seat. Other gags would be reclining seats and legs in air. Could go very raunchy. Girls in the boot. Screen wash at climax of action. Post climax, suspension sinks and puffs of smoke come out of the engine.)

GIRLS
 BAH BAH
 BAH BAH
 BAH BAH
 BAH BAH DA! BOO!

CORTINA MAN
 IT'S THE CAR FOR ME
 IT'S THE CAR FOR YOU
 AFTER THE MARK ONE
 COMES THE . . .
 MARK TWO
 WELL YOU BUY A MARK TWO
 COS YOU KNOW YOU OUGHTA
 IT'S LIKE A MARK ONE,
 ONLY FRACTIONALLY SHORTER

GIRLS

 OOH
 MARK TWO, OOH

 FRACTIONALLY SHORTER

CORTINA MAN
CORTINA,

GIRLS
OOH

CORTINA MAN
IT'S LEANER AND IT'S MEANER

GIRLS
OOH

CORTINA MAN
CORTINA

GIRLS
OOH

CORTINA MAN
COMES IN WHITE OR CREAM-ER

GIRLS
OOH

CORTINA MAN + GIRLS
TWO-DOOR FOUR-DOOR

CORTINA MAN
IF YOU CAN AFFORD MORE

CORTINA MAN + GIRLS
LEATHERETTE'S THE ONE TO GET

CORTINA MAN
WOODEN DASHBOARD?

CORTINA MAN + GIRLS
YEAH YOU BET!

GIRLS

DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A
DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A
DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A
DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A
DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A
DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A
DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A
DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A
DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A

CORTINA MAN + GIRLS

CORTINA

OO WOO WOO WOO

RITA Sandra! What do you think you're doing?!

SANDRA Earning a living!

HUBBLE Oi! What's your problem?

RITA How long have you got?

SANDRA I can't live on two pound a week strike pay!

RITA No, Sandra! NO!

CORTINA MAN

SELF-ADJUSTING BRAKES
FOR THOSE TRICKY ROUNDABOUTS
BUILT TO REALLY LAST . . .

GIRLS

THREE YEARS!

CORTINA MAN

OR THEREABOUTS

GIRLS

OOH . . . OOH . . .

CORTINA MAN
IT'S SLIGHTLY SHORTER
BUT MORE ROOM INSIDE

GIRLS
WELL HOW THE HELL'S THAT POSSIBLE?

CORTINA MAN
IT'S NOW EXTRA WIDE!!
CORTINA,

GIRLS
OOH

CORTINA MAN
IT'S LEANER AND IT'S MEANER

HOPKINS (*To SECURITY GUARD.*) That woman there, I want her thrown out.

GIRLS
OOH

CORTINA MAN
CORTINA

GIRLS
OOH

CORTINA MAN
COMES IN WHITE OR CREAM-ER

GIRLS
OOH

CORTINA MAN + GIRLS
UPHILL, DOWNHILL,

CORTINA MAN
IT WILL GIVE A BIG THRILL

CORTINA MAN + GIRLS
 SEE THE WORLD SEE THE SIGHTS
 WITH TWILIGHT, NIGHT-SIGHT, SIDE HEADLIGHTS

GIRLS
 DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A
 DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A
 DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A
 DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A
 DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A
 DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A
 DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A
 DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A-DUB-A

CORTINA MAN
 COME ON, ACCELERATE
 JUST DO IT, WHY WAIT?
 BEFORE IT GETS
 MUCH TOO LATE,

CORTINA MAN + GIRLS
 SEIZE THE MOMENT,
 BABY, RIGHT . . .

GIRLS
 WOW, WOW, WOW, WOW,
 WOW, WOW, WOW, WOW,
 WOW . . .

CORTINA MAN
 CORTINA,

GIRLS
 DRIVING

CORTINA MAN
 IT'S LEANER
 AND IT'S MEANER

GIRLS
 MORE FUN THAN ARRIVING

RITA You're letting us down Sandra, you're letting yourself down!

SANDRA I'm getting fifty quid for an hour's work!

RITA You call this work? What about the other girls, where's your solidarity, Sandra?

SANDRA Solidarity? That ain't gonna pay the rent!

RITA We woman are paid 87 per cent of the male rate –

(SECURITY GUARD *tries to grab* RITA.)

Don't you touch me, get your hands off me!

SANDRA Oi! Leave her alone! She built this car, yeah, a woman!



HOPKINS You've started now, have you!?

SANDRA Yeah, I have. It ain't right paying women less than men.

CORTINA MAN
CORTINA

GIRLS
THERE'S NO SENSE IN DEPRIVING

CORTINA MAN
COMES IN WHITE OR CREAM-ER

GIRLS
AFTER ALL THE NINE-TO-FIVING

CORTINA MAN + GIRLS
CORTINA



HOPKINS Women don't do the
engineering.

SANDRA What are you gonna sit on
then, if there's no seats?
Your dick? You dick.

Music No. 15a: CORTINA! – Play Out

(Security guard makes a grab for RITA, but RITA gets away. End of scene.)

SCENE FIVE–A

Front cloth. SANDRA walking away from RITA.

RITA Sandra! Come here!

SANDRA You can't tell me what to do!

RITA This is exactly what they want. Us to start fighting amongst
ourselves.

SANDRA What is it you don't understand. I can't pay the rent.

RITA We're fighting for Equal Pay.

SANDRA If we get Equal Pay. It won't change nothing. It'll still be a shit
job, only a shit job with Equal Pay.

RITA That's not the point.