S8 E04 - The Great Regent's Park Swim

Transcribed by John Mathews. Final corrections by Helen.

SEAGOON:

But it's sloping to the right, Wal.

GREENSLADE:

Would you mind standing in the centre, then, please?

SEAGOON:

So I caused it.

GREENSLADE:

Ladies and gentlemen, the all-leather Goon Show presents "The Great Regent's Park Swim".

ORCHESTRA:

CHORDS

FX:

CAR HORNS, LOW FLYING AEROPLANES

GREENSLADE:

England, 1830. On the throne sat George the Fourth. On a chair sat Tom Smith. And, lying in a gutter outside, Neddie Seagoon.

SEAGOON:

What? Whataaat? Where's my leather speaking trumpet? Hello, folks! Hello, folks! Calling, folks! I'm not lying in the gutter, I'm standing in it. It just *looks* as though I'm lying.

GREENSLADE:

Yes, you look like a liar.

SEAGOON:

What? What? What? What? Just for that, I shall do an impersonation of a car approaching.

FX:

SOUND OF CAR APPROACHING AND SCREECHING TO A HALT

SEAGOON:

Even as I spoke, a door drew up.

FX:

CAR DOOR OPENS

Yakamoto.

Yakaho?

YAKAMOTO:

YAKAMOTO:
[MILLIGAN]
Ahhh! (CHINESE-SOUNDING GIBBERISH) Are you Neddie Sleagoon?
SEAGOON:
Yes, I'm Leddie Sleagoon.
VAKABACTO
YAKAMOTO:
Ahaya! Will you please-ah accept invitation from great German scientist, Justin Eidelburger?
SEACOON.
SEAGOON:
Justin Eidelburger? I've met him in the labour exchange.
YAKAMOTO:
He has interesting proposition to put to [UNCLEAR].
ne has interesting proposition to put to [onclean].
SEAGOON:
I'll come along just to find out what you're saying!
The come along just to find out what you're saying:
YAKAMOTO:
Ah, please, Neddie, please jump into this river and I will drive you there.
7 iii, piedse, rieddie, piedse jamp into tins river and rivin arive you there.
FX:
SPLASH AND CAR DRIVES OFF
SI EASTI AND CAR DRIVES OFF
GREENSLADE:
The sound of a river being driven away by a Chinese is vouched for by the Encylopedia Britolica.
Scene two: a piece of string on the floor of the Eidelburger laboratory.
Seeme two, a piece of string on the most of the Eluciburger laboratory.
FX:
BUBBLING SOUNDS, CLINKING OF TEST-TUBES ETC - CONTINUES UNDER
EIDELBURGER & YAKAMOTO:
(TAKING IT IN TURNS TO SAY) Ha ha ha ho ho ha ha (PROLONGED):
((
EIDELBURGER:

EIDELBURGER:This test tube, I have succeeded in creating life from inanimate matter.

YAKAMOTO:

Ohhhh, boy!

EIDELBURGER:

I will just add a dash of thin people's herbs. Two spoonfuls of instant licorice. And a soupcon of Alistair's horse oils.

FX:

PHSSSH

EIDELBURGER:

That's given it something to think about!

YAKAMOTO:

Oh, boy, look! It-ah turning into-ah thick, black gooey paste.

EIDELBURGER:

If this were television you wouldn't have had to say that line. Now, pour out the gooey paste into this blue serge cruet.

FX:

SOUNDS OF THICK LUMPY LIQUID BEING POURED

YAKAMOTO:

На.

EIDELBURGER:

Put this stethoscope on it and listen.

ECCLES:

(SINGS) With a smile on my face, for the whole human race, it's almost like being insane. I love a...

EIDELBURGER:

Curse it! We have invented Eccles!

YAKAMOTO:

Aaagh!

ECCLES:

Oooh, ta.

EIDELBURGER:

YAKAMOTO:

Run for it!

Ah, so!

FX:

RUNNING FEET. SOUND OF DOOR OPENING
ECCLES: Ah! Okay, yeah.
CRUN: Ah, yum, oiey.
ECCLES: Oh, thank you. Oh, hello, Mr Ah! 'Ello, Mr Crun.
CRUN: Hello, modern Eccles. You're looking well, modern Meccles.
ECCLES: Ya. I just been invented. Yeah. Ho, ho! (SINGS NONSENSE)
CRUN: Ahhh, steady, Eccles.
ECCLES: What?
CRUN: Steady, modern Eccles.
ECCLES: What?
CRUN: Modern Eccles.
ECCLES: (SINGS) I don't care if I do die. I don't care if I do (MORE RUBBISH).
CRUN:

Don't doing that, Eccles. Now, just step inside this tiger.

ECCLES: Okay.
GRAMS: TIGER GROWL
ECCLES: (GULPS, ECHO EFFECT) Oooh. It's dark in this tiger. Wonder where the light switch is?
CRUN: Modern Eccles, poor ignorant fellow that he is, doesn't know that this is only 1830 and the elecetric lighting inside tigers has not been invented yet.
ECCLES: (ECHO EFFECT) Hello? A-ha, ho-ho. Anybody else in the tiger?
SEAGOON: (ECHO EFFECT) Yes!
ECCLES: (ECHO EFFECT) Oh!
SEAGOON: (ECHO EFFECT) Pardon me, my good man.
ECCLES: (ECHO EFFECT) Yeah?
SEAGOON: (ECHO EFFECT) Could you tell me the way out of this tiger?
ECCLES: (ECHO EFFECT) Take the lift to the third floor, past the BBC censor's office.
SEAGOON: (ECHO EFFECT) Thank you.
FX: DOOR OPENING
CDUM.

Aaagh, it's Seagoon out of tiger, by jove.

SEAGOON: By
CRUN: Welcome to the Eidelburger Foundation laboratory. We want you to take part in a vital useless Government-type experiment.
SEAGOON: I'll do anything for my useless country.
CRUN: Right. Spike Milligan?
MILLIGAN: Yes, Teddy?
CRUN: Have you finished playing the part of Yakamoto?
MILLIGAN: Yes, boy.
CRUN: Then take the part of modern Min.
MINNIE: Okay, buddy.
CRUN: Ah, modern Min.
MINNIE: (LAUGHS)
CRUN: Give Mister Seagoon the tube of green liquid to swallow.
MINNIE: Come on, hot Henry.
SEAGOON:

(SWALLOWS) Aaagh! What was it?

CRUN:

MINNIE: Ohhhh.

SEAGOON:

What! It might be poison. I demand to see my landlord!

Ah, if only we knew.

CRUN:	
Now, Mister S	eacroon, so that we can observe the effect of the green liquid
MINNIE:	
Ohhhhhh	
CRUN:	
kindly stand	in this bucket of boiled dungarees.
MINNIE:	
Dungarees!	
SEAGOON:	
Anything for E	
CRUN:	
	y to take all this down.
MINNIE:	
Alright.	
SEAGOON:	
) I hope the dawn
FX:	
BANG, BANG	
CRUN:	
	s, both ears exploded.
FX:	
SPROING, SPR	OING
CRUN:	
	races burst at the knees.
2/	

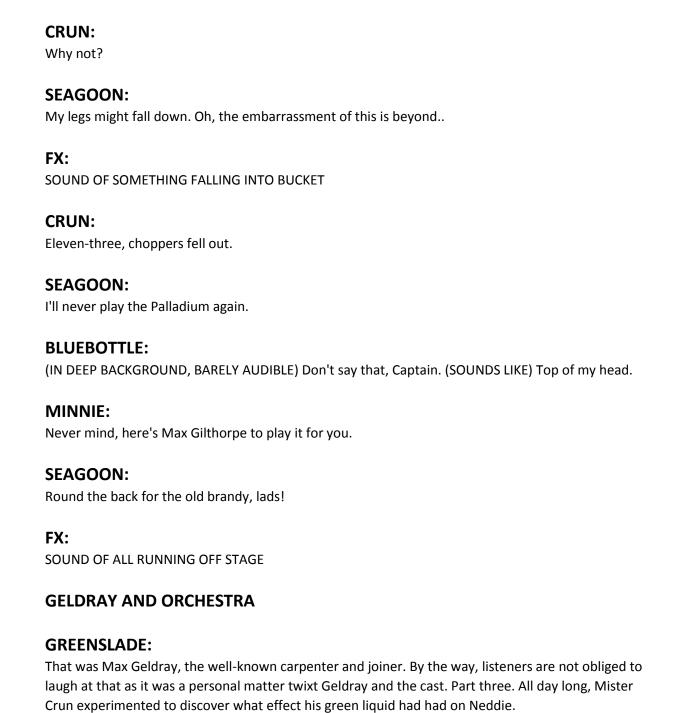
MINNIE:
I won't look.

SEAGOON:

FX:

GUNSHOT

You fiend! I can't live with my trousers round my ankles.



SEAGOON: (IN PAIN) You'll pay for this! Ahhhhh!
CRUN: Well, it it hasn't made him bullet-proof, Min.
MINNIE: What a pity!

SEAGOON:

Where's my speaking trumpet? Hello, folks! Calling folks. Send for the police, folks. I'll never last the show out like this, folks. Help!

FX:

DOOR OPENS

EIDELBURGER:

Ah, here, Crun. We will take over from you.

YAKAMOTO:

Yes. Leave Seagoon to us.

FX:

SCRATCHY WRITING, UNDER:

CRUN:

Oh, right. I, Henry Crun, leave Seagoon to Yakamoto and Eidel. Thank you.

EIDELBURGER:

Right, grab Seagoon and into the tank with him.

SEAGOON:

Aaagh!

FX:

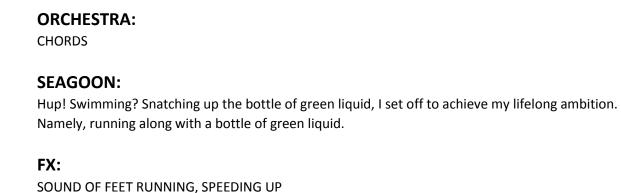
SPLASH, PADDLING NOISES

YAKAMOTO:

Oh, boy! Oh! Look, Neddie Seagoon are not ah-sinking.

EIDELBURGER:

So, that's what ze green liquid was. Yakamoto, we have invented swimming.



GREENSLADE:

Er, Mister Seagoon, If I were you, I'd, um... I'd patent that idea.

SEAGOON:

You're right. So when the idea catches on, I can charge people royalties every time they run along with a bottle of green liquid.

FX:

SOUND OF HORSES' HOOVES

SEAGOON:

(SOUNDS LIKE) I'm done! What a bit of luck! Here comes a horse-drawn Patent Office.

SPRIGGS:

Ohhhh! Ohhhhh, Jim. (SINGS) Oh, Jiiiim. (NORMAL) Hello, sir. Step into the waiting room, Jim.

FX:

DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

SEAGOON:

Gad! There in the corner of a foreign field, surrounded by flies was...

ORCHESTRA:

BLOODNOK THEME

BLOODNOK:

Oh, oh, oh! (INTERSPERSED WITH RABBLE SOUNDS).

FX:

BUZZING FLIES

BLOODNOK:

Oh! Oh, dear, oh, dear. Curse these flies! Dear, dear, dear. How can these naturalist magazines publish pictures like these? I... Look at this photo, here. 'A happy group climbing trees'. I don't know how they don't get scratched. Well... I shall be glad when my ten-year subscription runs out, I tell you. I must remember to have these copies bound in brown leather and labelled "A History of the English-speaking people".

SEAGOON:

(YAWNING SOUND) Pardon me.

BLOODNOK:

Gad, a man wearing clothes!

SEAGOON:

Yes, I'm the only fully-clothed naturalist in the world.

BLOODNOK:

It must be hell in there!

SEAGOON:

May I sit down?

BLOODNOK:

Yes, but keep downwind, I've got a touch of the old Bombay duck, you know.

SEAGOON:

How terribly painful for the animal.

BLOODNOK:

What is your name?

SEAGOON:

Neddie Seagoon.

BLOODNOK:

Neddie Seagoon? I... I... I didn't recognise you.

SEAGOON:

Why not?

BLOODNOK:

I've never seen you before.

SEAGOON:

Ah, so that's why. Well, if you must know, I'm Miriam Potts' nephew.

BLOODNOK:

Miriam Potts. Ohhhh! Ohhh, ho-hooo! The darling of Darjeeling. Oh, how we used to dance together!

ORCHESTRA:

PIANO CHORDS

BLOODNOK:

(SINGS) We waltzed the whole night through.

The curry and rice waltz with you.

It's really hot stuff.

It's better than the old duff.

And the English, Irish stew.

It's the ideal waltz for two.

Sailing along in the blue.

I say, 'Let's dance forever,

And don't answer "never".

The curry and rice waltz with you. (APPLAUSE)

FX:

PHONE RINGS

BLOODNOK:

Hello. Thank you.

FX:

HANGS UP

SEAGOON:

Who was that?

BLOODNOK:

A recording company.

SEAGOON:

Really?

BLOODNOK:

Yes, they wanted to know the time. I'm going to write and tell them, you know.

SEAGOON:

But by the time they get it it'll be too late.

BLOODNOK:

I shall give them tomorrow's time.

SEAGOON:

I see. Well. What is that long parcel you've got in your long brown bathing suit?

BLOODNOK:

Ah, it's something that I have invented.

SEAGOON:

What?

BLOODNOK:

Regent's Park Canal.

SEAGOON:

What a stroke of luck! With that canal and this bottle of green liquid, I can swim across it without using a bridge.

BLOODNOK:

Impossible! How?

SEAGOON:

With swimming.

BLOODNOK:

But what is swimming?

SEAGOON:

Swimming enables a man to perform aquatic perambulations in water.

BLOODNOK:

Not in my canal, you don't.

SEAGOON:

Now... Look, Bloodnok, you've got this idea all wrong. Any revenues from it, I'll split in two and keep both.

BLOODNOK:

Well, one doesn't get an offer like that every day! Very well, at dawn tonight, you start training for the Great Regent's Park Swim.

ORCHESTRA:

DRAMATIC CHORDS

GRYTPYPE:

Did you hear that, Moriarty?

MORIARTY:

Yes, it went "bop, bop, bop, bop, baaar" (AS CHORDS HAD DONE)

GRYTPYPE:

No, before that. Wait, I'll play it back.

MORIARTY:

Right!

GRAMS:

Speeded up recording of the last few lines – but not word-for-word.

GRAMS SEAGOON:

Look, Bloodnok, any revenues from it, I'll split in two and keep both.

GRAMS BLOODNOK:

Gad! One doesn't get an offer like that every day! Very well, at dawn tonight, you start training for the Great Regent's Park Swim.

GRAMS ORCHESTRA:

AMATEURISH PLONKING OF PIANO KEYS, NOTHING LIKE THAT DRAMATIC CHORDS.

MORIARTY:

Ahhh! The wonders of the modern leather gramaphone!

GRYTPYPE:

Moriarty, we've got to stop Seagoon swimming.

MORIARTY:

Sapristi bazollikers! Aaagh. (AS MILLIGAN) What? I couldn't have written that! What? Sapristi... (AS MORIARTY) Sapristi bazolliker-dozer. Explain!

GRYTPYPE:

Well, I've just invented the word "Help" for people who are drowning.

MORIARTY:

Owww.

GRYTPYPE:

If Seagoon markets swimming, my word "Help" is worthless.

MORIARTY:

I tell you, Neddie will not swim the Regent's Park Canal. Let this sinister music be a warning to him.

ORCHESTRA:

SINISTER CHORDS

SEAGOON:

Did you hear that, Bloodnok?

BLOODNOK:

Yes, it went "Bom, bom, ba-la-looo".

SEAGOON:

Hello, folks. Calling folks. I'm about to start training for my perilous swim across Regent's Canal. Hup...

FX:

SPLASH

BLOODNOK:

And, so saying, he dove into a field containing Rage Ellington. Go on, Rage, play those early naughty Goon Show melodies.

RAY ELLINGTON QUARTET:

"SWALLOW-TAIL COAT"/"I'M A'GOING COURTING"

GREENSLADE:

The Great Regent's Park Swim, part two. In preparation... ohhh!

FX:

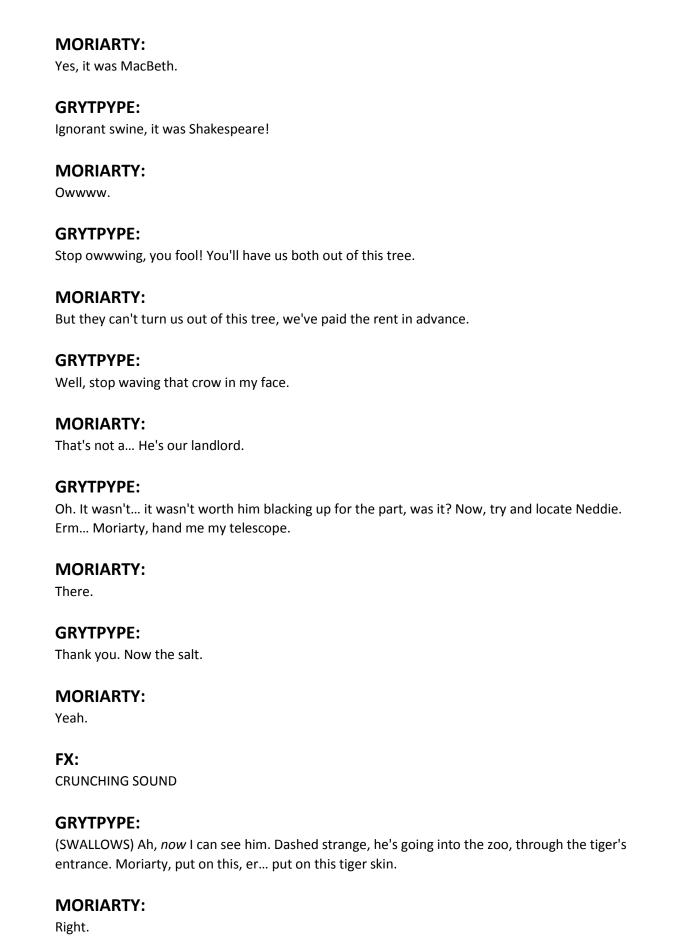
SPLASH

SEAGOON:

That got rid of him, folks! Hmm. Now, in preparation for the swim, I swam the English Channel, the Irish Channel, the Scottish Channel, the Jewish Channel, the Kensington Round Pond and the Kennington Square Pond. Finally, as my "piece-de-resistance", I swam Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. But, one evening, as the good things of day began to droop and drowse, night's black agents to their preys did rouse.

GRYTPYPE:

Did you hear that, Moriarty?



Now, Mister Seacroon, you want a vacant cage with a tiger bowl?

ORCHESTRA:

CHORDS

WILLIUM:

SEAGOON:
That is correct, mister zoo-keeper.
WILLIUM:
Ohhh.
CEA COON
SEAGOON:
And if anyone wants me, I'll be wearing this tiger disguise. You see, I don't want to take any chances before the big swim.
before the big swiff.
WILLIUM:
Yeah, well, er, we ain't got an empty cage but you can share this one with our Bengal tiger. He won't
hurt yer so long as you keeps yer mouth a-shut, there.
SEAGOON:
Fair enough. Call me at six.
WILLIUM:
Right.
FX:
DOOR SHUTS
DOOK SHOTS
SEAGOON:
(SLIGHTLY MUFFLED) Hello, folks. Hello, folks. I'm speaking to you now from inside the tiger skin.
From now on, I shall only speak in thinks bubbles so that the Bengal tiger will not attack me.
ECCLES:
(SLIGHTLY MUFFLED) Hullo? Hullo? Dat you, Neddie?
554 600N
SEAGOON:
(SLIGHTLY MUFFLED) Thinks: yes, it's me, Eccles.
ECCLES:
(SLIGHTLY MUFFLED) Then why don't you answer me?
SEAGOON:
(SLIGHTLY MUFFLED) Thinks: because I only talk in thinks bubbles.

ECCLES: (SLIGHTLY MUFFLED) Oh. Well, how can I see thinks bubbles when I'm inside this Bengal tiger?
SEAGOON: (SLIGHTLY MUFFLED) Thinks: well, open the window.
FX: SOUND OF WINDOW OPENING
ECCLES: Ohhhh, now I can see them.
SEAGOON: Thinks: thanks. Well Now you've opened the window, why don't you get out?
ECCLES: What? The moment I climb out of this tiger, he'd attack me. I know when I'm well off!
SEAGOON: When?
ECCLES: When I got money.
SEAGOON: Ohhh!
ECCLES: Ha, ha!
ORCHESTRA: 'TA-DAAAA' END-OF-GAG CHORDS AND CYMBAL SNAP
SEAGOON: Ha!
ECCLES:

Nothing, again. I'm not coming next week.

GREENSLADE:

Meanwhile, at the main entrance we find a man leading a rather mangey, moth-eaten tiger.

GRYTPYPE:

Keep up the growling, Moriarty.

MORIARTY:

Owwwwww....! Owowowoww!

GATEKEEPER:

[SECOMBE]

(YORKSHIRE ACCENT) I'm sorry, lads, we're closed.

GRYTPYPE:

Look here, my good man, it is imperative that I house my tiger here tonight. You see, It's his evening off and I want him to spend it among friends.

GATEKEEPER:

Well, we'll squeeze him into this tiger's cage, here.

GRYTPYPE:

In you go, Moriarty.

MORIARTY:

Right.

GRYTPYPE:

Keep growing.

FX:

METAL DOOR CLOSES, CLANK OF LOCK

MORIARTY:

Owww. Now to destroy Seagoon and that silly tiger skin.

GRAMS:

TIGER GROWING

MORIARTY:

Ah, it's no good you growling like that at me. I know you're a phony, Seagoon. Ah, ho, ho, hooooo!

GRAMS:

GROWLING SOUNDS

MORIARTY:

I got you in my power, I tell you. Ah, you can do very good imitation of a tiger and the growling but I know the truth. There's only me and you in this tiger cage. An imitation tiger, I tell you. Aha. I tell you, I'm... I'm... I...

GREENSLADE:

Ladies and gentlemen, listners are warned that the sound of this scene is un-suitable for children.

MORIARTY:

What? Aaagh! Why? Why? Why? Why? Why is it unsuitable...?

GREENSLADE:

Because that animal you are attacking is not Neddie but a genuine Bengal tiger.

MORIARTY:

Aaagh! (ETC)

GRYTPYPE:

Steady, Moriarty.

MORIARTY:

(MORE SOUNDS OF AGONY)

GRYTPYPE:

Steady, Moriarty, you know that I charge a thousand pounds for using my invention, namely, the word "Help".

MORIARTY:

(SOUNDS OF AGONY, INTERSPERSED WITH GROWLS)

SEAGOON:

What a bit of luck, folks. Whilst the Begal tiger was fighting Moriarty, I nipped out of the cage and made my way to the banks of the Regent's Park Canal where I am now standing.

BLOODNOK:

Ah, Neddie, what a heroic sight you are in your wicker-work bathing costume and leather life belt. Now, Neddie, are you ready to dive in?

SPRIGGS:

Just a moment, Jiiiim. Just a minuuuuute. (UNDECYPHERABLE SINGING)

SEAGOON:

It's singing Jim Spriggs! Yodelling piano player by appointment to the Coal Board.

SPRIGGS:

Silence, Jim! You can't swim. (SINGS)You can't swiii-iiiim. You can't swim in that canal todayyyyy!

SEAGOON:

(SINGS) Whaa-aaat? Wh-aaaaaat?

BLOODNOK:

Let me say that, will you?. (SINGS) What?

SPRIGGS:

Yes. You cannot swim today because I've invented this sign saying "No swimming on Mondays".

SEAGOON:

Curses, foiled by Monday!

BLUEBOTTLE:

No, no, I shall save you, Captain! (APPLAUSE) Enter Bluebottle, with washboard and Mum's new skiffle-type drawers.

SEAGOON:

Blim, blam, blom! It's the well-known Finchley lad, heavily protected against the wind with newspaper stuffed in the cracks of his spectacles.

BLUEBOTTLE:

Yes, I have come to save you from Monday. Neddie, my Captain, my lovely little Captain. Raises in ecstacy onto tips of toes, bringing little knots into play on back of legs. Knots, knots, knots! In this, er, this Presley position, I will now skiffule. Sings. You're nothing but a hound dog. Woof! Woof! You're nothing but a hound dog. Woof! Woof! You're nothing but a...

FX:

(WHOOSH, SPLAT)

BLUEBOTTLE:

Ahh-hey! Who threw that mangle in my ear hole?

SEAGOON:

It was me, it belonged to my mother. Now, explain. How could you save me from not swimming on a Monday?

BLUEBOTTLE:

Monday has gone.

SEAGOON:

Why? How?

BLUEBOTTLE:

I've just invented Tuesday.

SPRIGGS:

What?! Let me see that, Jim.



FX:

SPLASH

SEAGOON:

You swine, you pushed me in! Help!

GRYTPYPE:

Out you come, Ned. To using the word "Help", five hundred pounds

FX:
CASH REGISTER
GRYTPYPE:
Thank you.
SEAGOON:
Wait! Wait! But I
FX:
SPLASH
SEAGOON:
Help!
GRYTPYPE:
Out you come, Neddie. To using the word "Help", another five hundred Pounds.
FX:
CASH REGISTER
GRYTPYPE:
I thank you.
SEAGOON:
But look here, I
FX:
SPLASH FLOUNDERING
SEAGOON:
You swine! You pushed me in. Help!
GRYTPYPE:
Out you come, Neddie. To using the word "Help", another five hundred pounds
FX:
CASH REGISTER
GRYTPYPE:
Thank you.
SEAGOON:

Wait! But I...

FX: SPLASH

Help!

SEAGOON:

(REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES, GETTING FASTER)
SEAGOON: Hello, folks. Thank heavens that's only a recording, otherwise I might have drowned. I urk!
FX: SPLASH.
GRYTPYPE: Now Good heavens, what has happened to him?
LITTLE JIM: He's fallen in the wa-tah!
GRYTPYPE: Well said, Little Jim! Saved by a catchphrase!
LITTLE JIM: Ta.
ORCHESTRA: MARCHING MUSIC
GREENSLADE: That was the Goon Show, a BBC recorded program featuring Peter Sellers, Harry Secombe and Spike Milligan, with the Ray Ellington quartet, Max Geldray and the orchestra conducted by Wally Stott. Script by Spike Milligan and Larry Stephens. Announcer Wallace Greenslade. The program produced by Charles Chilton.
ORCHESTRA: MUSIC PLAYOUT