Dennis
Arthur
Mother

SJOE #3

SCENE FIVE

[Mud Village]

(ARTHUR rides in with PATSY. DENNIS GALAHAD enters behind a small traveling mound of mud. He has a trowel and is mining for mud.)

ARTHUR

Over! Old woman!

DENNIS

Man!

ARTHUR

Man, sorry. What knight lives in that castle over there?

DENNIS

I'm twenty seven.

ARTHUR

What?

DENNIS

I'm not old!

ARTHUR

Well, I can't just call you 'Man.'

DENNIS

Well, you could say 'Dennis.'

ARTHUR

Well, I didn't know you were called 'Dennis.'

DENNIS

Well, you didn't bother to find out, did you?

ARTHUR

Look…I did say I was sorry about the 'old woman' thing, but really, from behind you do look like…

DENNIS

What I object to is that you automatically treat me like an inferior!

ARTHUR

Well, I *am* king...

DENNIS

Oh, king, eh, very nice. And how'd you get that, eh? By exploiting the workers. By hanging on to outdated imperialist dogma which perpetuates the economic and social differences in our society! If there's ever going to be any progress…

MOTHER

Dennis, there's a lot of good mud over there. Oh how d'you do?

ARTHUR

How do you do, good lady.

MOTHER

How d'you do. I'm Mrs. Galahad, widowed mother of Dennis, married to Nobby the Cretin, dropped dead last Tuesday, which does leave me sadly available.

ARTHUR

I am Arthur, King of the Britons.

MOTHER

King of the who?

ARTHUR

The Britons.

MOTHER

Who are the Britons?

ARTHUR

Well, we all are. We are all Britons and I am your king.

MOTHER

I didn't know we had a king. I thought we were an autonomous collective.

DENNIS

You're fooling yourself. We're living in a dictatorship. A self-perpetuating autocracy in which the working classes….

MOTHER

Oh, there you go, bringing class into it again.

DENNIS

That's what it's all about. If only people would…

ARTHUR
Please, please good people. I am in haste. Who is your lord?

MOTHER
We don't have a lord.

DENNIS
We're an anarcho-syndicalist commune. We take it in turns to act as a sort of an executive officer for the week…

ARTHUR
Yes.

DENNIS
…but each decision of that officer has to be ratified at a special biweekly meeting…

ARTHUR
Yes, I see.

DENNIS
…by a simple majority in the case of purely internal affairs…

ARTHUR
Be quiet!

DENNIS
…but by a two-thirds majority in the case of more…

ARTHUR
Be quiet! I order you to be quiet!

MOTHER
Oh! Order, eh? Who does he think he is?

ARTHUR
I am your king!

MOTHER
Well, I didn't vote for you.

ARTHUR
You don't vote for kings.

#6 THE LADY OF THE LAKE