

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

**BY
DAVID SWAN**

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Author's Preface

Although there have been various 'ordinary' stage versions of *Beauty and the Beast* in the past, it has never been successfully dressed-up as a pantomime ... it doesn't fit comfortably or wear any of the traditional conventions with ease. For example, the story consists almost entirely of the two characters with no obvious potential for a dame, a comic duo, a chorus, etc. And particularly, there is no fairy and no baddy. The beast itself, embodies *both* good and evil and the tension in the original fairytale is purely psychological: the fear that the heroine has for the monster ... and not without reason, for he does actually *kill* people!

My solution to the problem was to start by polarising good and evil into two separate characters but keep them one and the same. Puzzled? It's a question of twins, as you'll discover ... not only can an ugly exterior belie the heart within, the converse is also true!

The Disney studios were obviously faced with similar problems when translating this deeply symbolic, *adult* fairytale into an animated adventure for *children*. Their success in doing so has popularised the title and consequently helped pave the way for this new stage version. But ...

*This is not a Disney rip-off
Pantomime's not animation
Real performers are alive
Not cartoon imitations.*

Hopefully, you'll get as much fun out of performing this panto as I did writing it. And if you care to dig a bit deeper, perhaps you'll discover that the symbolic nature of the original fairytale has been enhanced rather than lost ...

David Swan

April 1993

I would like to thank the following people whose belief, inspiration and positive input kept me going through an often difficult period in the production of this script: Maureen Allen, Richard Glass, Brian Halliday, Danny Kerr, Maybel King, Colin Peter, Allan & Ruth Shedlock, Tony Swan and my mother, Pat. Thanks also to Michael Mulligan for practical assistance with the set-design.

Suggestions For Musical Numbers

The songs listed below are suggestions only. Any appropriate numbers can be used as an alternative. Please note that although some of the numbers from Walt Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* might be suitable, the performance rights are strictly limited and the author cannot therefore advise their use. Also note that none of the numbers are intended to be performed in their entirety as this would make the show far too long. Numbers taken from musical shows are listed directly under the song title followed by the composer and lyricist in brackets. Sheet music for the songs suggested here are available from NODA. Authorization to use any copyright songs must be obtained from: **The Performing Rights Society Ltd., 29-33 Berners Street, London W1P 4AA.**

Number 1	Wilkommen <i>Cabaret (F. Ebb / J. Kander)</i>
Number 2	Please Don't Eat The Daisies <i>(J. Lubin)</i>
Number 3	Hit 'Em On The Head (<i>alternative: "Bigger Isn't Better", Barnum</i>) <i>Mac & Mabel (J. Herman)</i>
Number 4	Let Me Be Your Sugar Baby <i>Sugar Babies (A. Malvin)</i>
Number 5	If Mama Was Married <i>Gypsy (J. Styne / S. Sondheim)</i>
Number 6	Penny A Tune <i>Rags (C. Strouse / S. Schwartz)</i>
Number 7	Do You Hear The People Sing? <i>Les Miserables (A. Bloublil & C. Schönberg)</i>
Number 8	Overture to "Gigi" <i>(A. Lerner / F. Loewe)</i>
Number 9	Gigi (Gaston's Soliloquy) <i>Gigi (A. Lerner / F. Loewe)</i>
Number 10	One Brick At A Time <i>Barnum (C. Coleman / M. Stewart)</i>
Number 11	Nothing's Gonna Harm You <i>Sweeney Todd (S. Sondheim)</i>
Number 12	Shall We Dance? <i>The King and I (R. Rogers / O. Hammerstein)</i>
Number 13	You'll Never Get Away From Me <i>Gypsy (J. Styne / S. Sondheim)</i>
Number 14	Parade Of The Wooden Soldiers <i>(L. Jessel / B. McDonald)</i>
Number 15	The Apache Dance <i>Any Tango Music</i>
Number 16	The Can Can <i>Orpheus in the Underworld (Offenbach)</i>
Number 17	Something Wonderful <i>The King and I (R. Rogers / O. Hammerstein II)</i>
Number 18	Frere Jacques <i>Traditional</i>
Number 19	The Night They Invented Champagne <i>Gigi (A. Lerner / F. Loewe)</i>
Number 20	There's No Cure Like Travel / Bon Voyage <i>Anything Goes (C. Porter)</i>

Characters

Fairy Rosé	<i>the red rose fairy</i>	(F)
Widow Bonbon	<i>a sweet shopkeeper, dame</i>	(F)
Sherbet	<i>her son</i>	(M)
Candy	<i>her eldest daughter</i>	(F)
Flossy	<i>her youngest daughter</i>	(F)
Nosey Parker	<i>chief traffic warden</i>	(M/F)
Kirby Crawler	<i>trainee traffic warden</i>	(M/F)
Jasper	<i>the bad twin, prince & king</i>	(M)
Casper	<i>the good twin, prince</i>	<i>(same performer)</i>
Beast	<i>the enchanted prince</i>	(M)
Dr. Tootle	<i>a melody merchant</i>	(M)
Bonnie	<i>his daughter, principal girl</i>	(F)
Gigi	<i>their horse</i>	(M/F)
Tracey	<i>a modern girl</i>	(F)
Enchanted Castle	<i>voice only</i>	(M)

Chorus & Dancers: Local Village Characters, Various Monsters, Can-Can Girls

Scenes

Prologue The Twin Princes - *front of tabs*
Act One The Village of Cabaret - *full stage*

Act Two - The Enchanted Castle
Scene 1 The Beastly Banquet - *full stage*
Scene 2 The Ghastly Gateway- *link scene*
Scene 3 The Secret Ballroom - *full stage*
Scene 4 The Haunted Passage - *link scene*
Scene 5 The Nightmare Nursery - *full stage*
Scene 6 The Snake Pit - *link scene*
Scene 7 The Hall of Statues - *full stage*
Scene 8 Songsheet - *front of tabs*
Finale The Champagne Wedding - *full stage*

NB: all the above scenes in Act Two are designed to be performed on the one set which is repositioned to create each new setting. This is described fully in the Production Notes. It is possible to perform this conventionally with the use of scenic front and back cloths.

Description of Characters

Fairy Rosé. Though a magical character, she is more earthy than fey. She represents love, as symbolised by the red rose. A voluptuous and rather tempestuous tinkerbelle.

Widow Bonbon. Her comic character comes out of being an obsessive mother rather than the usual "man-hungry vamp": she is soft-centred and cuddly, not brazen and lecherous. This Dame is intended to appeal more to the children than adults.

The Bonbon Kids, are adults forced to dress and behave like children by their mother. They would like to break free but her apron strings are made of steel! Sherbet, Candy and Flossy are a comic trio who provide the main link with the audience.

The Traffic Wardens are a dimwit duo and can be of either sex. Nosey Parker is an officious, meddling bureaucrat ... it's more than his jobsworth to give an inch. Kirby Crawler is a t.w.i.t. (traffic warden in training). A chance to get your own back for all those parking tickets!

The Twin Princes, are played by the same performer and are equally handsome on the outside. **Jasper** is the embodiment of evil, though he makes an attempt to keep up appearances by being devilishly debonair. We do not see much of **Casper**, at least in human form. Although he is an identical twin, it must be remembered that he is the embodiment of goodness and the performer's appearance must change to reflect this.

Beast. He is frightening because he is monster and tremendously ugly, not because he is ferocious. His clumsy, gangling, gentle, kind and very stupid. In character, he is more similar to the Cookie Monster in *Sesame Street* than to the Beast of the Disney film. His appearance is entirely optional but the performer should not be hampered by a full-face mask.

Dr. Tootle. A zany, old rogue and loveable conman. He is a wonderful patter merchant and was probably an accomplished ladykiller once upon a time.

Bonnie is pretty but definitely not dumb. She's travelled the world with her father and has had to have her wits about her to keep him out of trouble. However, even the smartest heroine sometimes makes mistakes. But faced with a handsome King and an ugly Beast, which would you choose?

Gigi. Has far more to do than is usual for a pantomime horse, appearing throughout the show and taking an important role in events. A challenging part, not just a one-off comic turn!

Tracey is a modern girl, supposedly from the audience. She should be brash, self-possessed and cheeky.

The Enchanted Castle is voice only but as you will see, is a real performer in this show. Dr. Tootle can double-up in this role if necessary.

Act One Prologue

Front of tabs. Stage right is a practical rose bush which stays in position throughout the show. It has large red blooms which can be "plucked". See Production Notes - Appendix A for details.

Blackout. Magical sounds & spotlight on the rose bush: enter FAIRY ROSÉ behind it. She wears a scarlet, diaphanous costume, with a petal-shaped skirt, and carries a wand with a glittering red heart at the tip instead of the usual star. She stops beside the bush and inhales the perfume.

Rosé: Ahhhh! My favourite flowers ... still blooming beautifully after hundreds of years! Do you know what kind they are? *(if weak response, shield eyes, peer into the auditorium and ask "Hello? Is there anybody out there? Oh good." then repeat the question and pretend to hear an incorrect answer from the front row)* Daffodils? They're yellow and they don't grow on bushes, silly! *(to rest of audience)* What are they? Roses, that's right. *(curtsey as if the next introducing herself)* The red rose of love. I'm glad they're still growing here *(raises wand)* because that means you're all going to have a happy ending. But not just yet. *(lowers wand and looks grave)* Lot's of wicked things happen first. *(moves to centre)* So keep a look out and help whenever you can. Will you do that?

Audience: Yes.

Rosé: Good. This story began so long ago that everyone's forgotten what **really** happened. Except me, course. Fairies never forget. *(waves her wand and the lights come up slowly)* Once upon a time, there were two brothers.

Two performers enter right and left. The left-hand brother is PRINCE JASPER and the right-hand brother, PRINCE CASPER. Both must be of the same stature so that they look identical ... same costume, same hair, etc. Both faces are hidden by identical masks, covering the entire face. See Production Notes.

FAIRY ROSÉ gestures left and right to introduce them as they enter.

Rosé: Prince Casper and Prince Jasper. Or is it the other way round? *(The brothers move either side of FAIRY ROSÉ and take up identical "mirror image" poses)* Twins, you see! On the *outside* so identical that no-one could tell them apart. But on the *inside* ... *(touches her heart)* ... they were as different as day and night. *(be careful not to point out which is which)* One brimming over with love and kindness and the other shrivelled up with evil and hate. Sometimes a handsome face can hide a beastly heart. But which is the bad one? *(Princes put their hands on their hearts)* Can you tell me? *(short pause)*

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for audience response) No, of course you can't. Not just by looking. But you're about to find out!

(Solemn music. A PAGE enters right with a crown on a velvet cushion and walks slowly to centre in time with the music)

Rosé: One day the old king, their father, died. *(brothers mime wiping tears from masks with handkerchiefs)* Everyone was very sad. *(she looks from one to the other)* Well, not everyone ... one of them was very glad! *(PAGE sets crown down centre stage. To PAGE)* Run along! You're far too young for the next bit. *(PAGE runs off right)* Now, as you all know, you can have two princes ... but there can only ever be one king. So which one would it be?

(A drum roll. The princes stand either side of the crown and slowly extend their hands)

Rosé: This one? Or this one?

(Suddenly JASPER pushes the other away, ripping off his mask at the same time. A cymbal. CASPER clutches his heart as if wounded)

Jasper: Keep your filthy mitts of my crown! *(snatches up crown and moves left. A green spotlight on him)*

Rosé: Ah-ha ... now we see him in his true colours. *(moves right)*

Jasper: It's mine! All mine! *(kisses crown fervently)*

Rosé: *(encouraging audience)* Boo!

Audience: Boo!

(CASPER turns away fearfully. Behind him, the tabs partially open to reveal a white screen)

Jasper: *(sweetly)* Don't turn away. There's nothing to fear. I'm not going to hurt you, brother dear.

(CASPER runs on the spot)

(viciously) You can't escape, you stupid clot!

(gesturing) Your feet are frozen to the spot!

A "boing". CASPER staggers, his feet glued to the ground. He struggles for a moment and then drops to his knees, head down and buried in his hands. A spotlight is switched on upstage, brightly illuminating the screen. BEAST is behind the screen in an identical pose ... it should appear as if BEAST's silhouette is CASPER's enormous shadow. They move in unison during the spell. Eerie music. NB: this silhouette transformation is not obligatory, see Production Notes.

Jasper: Once beloved? Now dead scary!

Silken skin? Now rough and hairy!

(CASPER/BEAST feel faces, elbows out to side)

Skilful hands? Now clumsy paws!

(CASPER/BEAST spread arms, fists clenched)
Polished nails? Now scratching claws!
(CASPER/BEAST open hands and flex fingers)
Perfect teeth? Now gaping jaws!
(CASPER/BEAST stand sideways open mouth)
Princely voice? Now grunts and roars!
(CASPER/BEAST clutch throat. BEAST roars)
Lightning strike! Change every feature!
(CASPER doubles up in pain. BEAST raises arms)
Make him a snarling, fearsome creature!

Light off behind screen & tabs close. Strobe light. CASPER runs across the stage looking for somewhere to escape. He runs back again, disappears into wings right and is replaced immediately by BEAST who moves about for a few moments gesticulating wildly and then drops to his knees, head down. Strobe off.

Jasper: That completes the transformation,
And now it's time for my coronation!

(JASPER lifts the crown up in both hands over his head, laughs wickedly and exits left)

Rosé: *(encouraging audience)* Boo!

Audience: Boo!

(FAIRY ROSÉ goes to BEAST)

Rosé: In the savage breast beats a heart that's true. *(she touches him)*
I'm Fairy Rosé ... how do you do?

(BEAST looks up and audience see him for the first time. He makes pleading gestures)

Beast: *(normal voice)* Help me!

Rosé: Alas ... I cannot set you free
His evil power's too strong for me.
(BEAST sobs and rubs away tears)
Please don't cry. Things could be worse. *(pause)*
There's one way to undo the curse.

(As she makes magical passes over him with her wand, JASPER peeps on from the other side)

Rosé: Roses are red, so don't be blue:
Someday true love will come to you.
(She makes magical passes over the rose bush)
She'll pluck a magic flower in bloom
And give it to her chosen groom.

Jasper: We'll see about that! *(exits)*

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Beast: *(rising)* Nobody would ever marry a monster like me! *(cries and groans, head in hands)*

Rosé: *(of audience)* With the help of all your friends
Goodness will triumph in the end.
(to audience) You will help us, won't you?

Audience: Yes.

Beast: *(to audience)* It's no use. *(sobs again)*

Rosé: *(to audience)* Oh dear, I can't bear to see him so miserable. What am I going to do? I know! He'd be much happier if he didn't remember who he was.
(waving wand) Until the day that your set free
I take away your memory.

(She touches him with the wand. He immediately stops crying and guffaws stupidly and jumps up down pointing at her)

Beast: Pretty lady!

Rosé: Hello. Who are you?

Beast: Me ... Beast! *(laughs and skips offstage)*

Rosé: It worked! Now ...
Time's going to fly in this the-atre!
So hold on tight till five years later!

Whirring sounds effects and flashing lights. She waves her wand around wildly and the tabs open behind her on Scene One: all the players are frozen in position. Stage lights slowly up behind her as she backs away right.

Rosé: Our story is one of fear and romance

And it all starts off in this village in France ...

She flicks her wand. A cymbal. The players move and Scene One begins as FAIRY ROSÉ exits behind the rose bush.

Act One
Scene 1
The Village of Cabaret

A higgledy-piggledy cluster of quaint, medieval-style buildings, with brightly painted shutters and doors, surrounding the village square. No scene changes are required in this Act, so the setting should be visually interesting and as intricate as possible.

One of the buildings is Madame Bonbon's sweet shop with a sign reading "Bonbon Boutique". It has a practical door and a sumptuous display of sweets in the window.

There is a small 'island' centre stage which could be a fountain, or a circular flower bed, a statue or an old fashioned lamp post. This serves as a "traffic-roundabout" for the performers and the direction of flow is indicated by the traffic sign - i.e. a blue circle with a white arrow pointing stage-left.

As far upstage as possible is a parking area, delineated by white lines on the stage and a blue & white "P" parking sign. There are two double-yellow lines across the front of the stage, i.e. face on to the audience so that they are visible.

Onstage for the opening number: the chorus of VILLAGERS and SHERBET, CANDY & FLOSSY, the Dame's children. Though adults, the three of them are dressed like children.

Musical Number 1
Wilkommen
Ensemble

Substitute the dialogue sections of the original song with:

(In phoney French accents)

Sherbet: Welcome to ze village of Cabaret. *(waves)* Bonjour mes enfants.

(He stops, disappointed by the lack of reaction and shrugs to CANDY & FLOSSY)

Candy: Not a very friendly lot, are zay?

Flossy: Maybe zay do not parlez ze Français?

Candy: Spreken sie Deutsch?

Flossy: Parliamo Italiano?

(CANDY & SHERBET drop the phoney French from here and speak in English with a strong local accent)

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Sherbet: Do you speak *English*?

(Preferably, substitute all mentions of English with name of local dialect, e.g. "Cockney", "Scouse", "Geordie", "Glaswegian", and insert a few colourful local expressions into their dialogue where appropriate)

(ALL put hands to ears)

Audience: Yes. *(Repeat question if weak response)*

Candy: No problem! We can do it in any language.

Sherbet: This is the world's first Euro Panto. *(ALL poke tongues out at audience)* You see? It's a show of many tongues!

Song continues. Second dialogue insert:

FLOSSY rants fluently in French, sticking her tongue out, wagging it, pulling it with her fingers, slapping the side of her face:

Flossy: Ah non! Je ne parle pas Anglais. Sacre blue! C'est trop difficile! Mon Dieu!

Candy: Speak *English*!

Flossy: I can not. My tongue ... she is not clever like yours. I wish ... I wish ... ach! How you say? I wish I was ... a smarty pants!

(Tinkling bells: enter FAIRY ROSÉ. They can't see her: ALL look skyward as if wondering where the noise is coming from)

Rosé: *(to audience)* Fairies listen to all your wishes
(to FLOSSY) I grant you a pair clever breeches!

(FLOSSY clutches skirts, startled)

Flossy: *(local accent)* What happened? *(lifts skirts to reveal a large pair of bloomers decorated with "Smarties")* Look ... Smartie pants!

All: Oo-la-la!

Flossy: *(to audience)* And I'm speaking *English* just like you. Brilliant!

Song continues to it's conclusion

(The song ends. SHERBET, CANDY and FLOSSY move forward to talk the audience. The VILLAGERS move unobtrusively behind them, gossiping, sitting on the island, going into the shop(s), etc. See Appendix A - Chorus)

Sherbet: *(seriously to audience)* Before we start, I've got an important announcement. Is there anyone in here tonight called "Sherbet"? *(scans audience and spotlights scour the auditorium)* No? Well, do any of you know a guy called "Sherbet"?

Audience: No.

Sherbet: *(taps himself)* Well you do now. *(laughs)* I know it's a daft name ... but it's not my fault. Mama called me that when I was a tiny baby all dressed up in a *yellow romper suit with pink bows on it. (Substitute description of his present childish costume. Looks at his clothes: double-take)* Yes, a bit like this one. I don't think she realises I'm a grown man now. *(going to shop)* This is Mama's Bonbon Boutique.

Candy: "Sweet Shop" to you.

Flossy: Do you like sweets? *(audience responds)* Well she might let you try some later.

Sherbet: She named me after one of her favourite ... Sherbet. *(waving)* Hello, boys and girls.

Audience: Hello, Sherbet.

Sherbet: Louder! Hello boys and girls.

Audience: Hello, Sherbet.

Sherbet: *(bowing)* Enchanté! And these are my two ugly sisters. *(CANDY hits him: drum thud)* I mean, older sisters.

Candy: She called us after sweets as well.

Sherbet: Yes ... *(points at CANDY)* Humbug and Gobstopper! *(FLOSSY hits him: drum thud)*

Candy: No! I'm Candy.

Flossy: And I'm Flossy.

(They hold out their hands to be kissed by the audience)

Both: Enchanté. *(Short pause as they wait for a response)* No manners! Huh! *(turn their backs huffily)*

Sherbet: They can't help being foreign. *(to audience)* You're in France now, so every time a lady says "enchanté" and holds out her hand, you've got to kiss it. Like this. *(makes loud kissing noise)* Can you do that? Good. Wait for my signal. *(holds up hand)*

(CANDY and FLOSSY face the audience again)

Candy: I'm Candy.

Flossy: And I'm Flossy.

Sherbet: When I tell you ...

Both: Enchanté! *(hold out hands as before)*

Sherbet: Ready. Aim. Fire!

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(SHERBET and AUDIENCE make loud kissing noises. CANDY & FLOSSY wipe their hands. All female VILLAGERS step forward. At the same time TRACEY, a girl planted in the audience, comes forward to the stage. There should be something distinctive about the way she's dressed, like a baseball cap and shell suit, so that she can be easily identified later in the show...)

- Candy:** What sloppy kissers!
- Sherbet:** Don't forget. Every time you meet a lady. And wait for the signal.
- Ladies:** Enchanté. *(They hold out hands)*
- Sherbet:** Ready. Aim. Fire! *(Loud kissing noises from audience. TRACEY climbs onto stage, near rose bush)* Great!
- Candy:** *(pointing to TRACEY)* What's she doing?
- Flossy:** She can't come up here.
- Sherbet:** She must have got carried away with all the kissing.
(TRACEY reaches out to pick a rose. Shocked reactions)
- Candy**
& Stop her!
Flossy
(SHERBET dashes to the rose bush and pulls her back)
- Sherbet:** Hands off!
- Tracey:** I want one for my boyfriend. *(waves into auditorium)* Hi Jason.
- Sherbet:** Blooming cheek! You can't pick those.
- Tracey:** *(defiantly)* Can!
- Sherbet:** Can't! Can't!
- Tracey:** Can! Can!
(Quick burst of Can-Can music dancers come on kicking from the wings)
- Candy:** Stop! No! That dance is far too dangerous. Save it for later.
(Dancers "tut" and exit. TRACEY returns to bush and reaches out)
- Sherbet:** Stop! You don't understand ... that's a magic rose bush.
- Flossy:** Yeah. Pick one of those and the Beast will get you!
- Tracey:** *(to audience)* We're not frightened. We've seen him, haven't we?
- Audience:** Yes.
- Flossy:** He'll bite you to bits.
- Candy:** He'll rip you to shreds.

Sherbet: He'll gobble you all up!

Tracey: Rubbish.

Musical Number 2
Don't Eat The Daisies
Ensemble

Short rendition. Change lyrics to "Don't Pick The Roses" and substitute lines with:

"Don't get devoured! There's magical powers in flowers ... so just keep away and please don't pick ..." etc. The song ends. TRACEY picks a rose.

Tracey: Got one Jason!

Thunder and lightning. Horrified reactions as an impossibly long, hairy arm reaches out from behind the rose bush as TRACEY speaks. The arm looks nothing like that of the real Beast.

Tracey: *(to ALL)* You see. I haven't vanished. There's nothing to be frightened of. You're all a bunch of scaredy-cats.

The hand touches her. She shrieks as she is dragged backwards. Brief blackout and flash. Lights returned: she's vanished.

Sherbet: *(to audience)* Did you see that?

Flossy: Wasn't it awful!

Candy: The Beast got her.

If anyone from the audience disagrees at this point, ask them to explain ... "What?" "I don't understand." "Say that again". Then get back to the script with the following.

SHERBET: Wait a minute. Settle down. Now just say "yes" or "no". Is there something fishy's going on? Right! Well we'll get to the bottom of it in the end. In the meantime ...

Sherbet: I tell you what, boys and girls ... will you help us? I think you'd better keep your eye on this rose bush in case anyone else vanishes. Will you do that?

Audience: Yes.

Sherbet: If anyone touches it, you shout "No Picking!" at the top of your voices.

Candy: Good idea.

Flossy: What do you shout?

Audience: No picking!

Sherbet: That'll never scare them off. You've got to scream it out. What do you shout?

Audience: No picking!

Sherbet: That's better.

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NOSEY PARKER and KIRBY CRAWLER enter on sneaky tip-toes and reach out to touch the rose bush. They can be of either sex but as written, Nosey Parker is male and Kirby Crawler is female. They wear french-style traffic warden uniforms and carry baguettes which they use as truncheons.

Audience: No picking!

Sherbet: Thanks, boys and girls. *(to WARDENS)* Keep away from there.
(The WARDENS turn to face him and blow their whistles)

All: Oh no!

Sherbet: It's *(mock French ...)* les tra-feeek war-den! *(to audience)* That's like your traffic wardens only they boss people about instead of cars.

Nosey: Move along there!

Kirby: No waiting!

Background music: frenetic. The WARDENS direct the 'traffic' with hand-signals and whistles. Carefully orchestrated confusion as everyone moves quickly around the stage, bumping into one another.

Nosey: Not that way! No entry! I'll not tell you again. Not so fast. Stop when you're told to. I'm warning you.

Kirby: *(at the same time)* Keep to the right! No overtaking! You can't park there. Do as you're told.

All: *(variously, at the same time)* I want to go that way. I was here first. Ouch, you trod on my foot. Watch where you're going. Out of the way. Stop shoving. *(Etc ... give everybody something to say so that there is a cacophony of voices)*

ALL end up squashed together en masse: FLOSSY is at one side of the group, bent over with her bottom protruding; SHERBET is in the middle and CANDY is at the other side.

Nosey: *(bellowing)* Halt! *(blows his whistle and everyone stops)* You pathetic pedestrians! *(jumping with rage)* I hate traffic jams! *(pointing in CANDY's general direction)* Look at this bottle-neck!

Candy: *(feeling neck)* How dare you!

Kirby: *(pointing in FLOSSY's general direction)* And look at the size of this tailback.

Flossy: *(clasping bottom)* Don't be rude!

Nosey: *(brandishing booklet)* You must obey the Walkway Code! You've got to keep moving!

Kirby: Yes, go with the flow!

Sherbet: *(looking around)* Who's "Flo"?

Flo: *(hand up)* That's me!

Sherbet: I'll go with you then.

(He takes FLO's arm and move clockwise around the roundabout)

Nosey: Stop! *(blows whistle & they stop)* Can't you read the sign? *(pointing at roundabout sign)* It means you've got to go round this way. *(moves hand anti-clockwise)*

Sherbet: Round this way? *(moves hand anti-clockwise)*

Nosey: Yes.

Sherbet: Alright. *(ALL turn anti-clockwise on the spot)*

Nosey: No, no, no ... it's a roundabout!

Flossy: Oh goody, we love roundabouts!

Candy: *(tugs at his sleeve)* Can I have the horsey, mister? Giddy-up! *(mimes going up and down on a carousel horse)*

Flossy: I want the fire-engine! Ding-a-ling! *(mimes driving and ringing bell)*

Carousel music and change to "fairground" lighting. CANDY and FLOSSY go clockwise round the roundabout. SHERBET and a couple of the villagers join them. The others wave and giggle. KIRBY CRAWLER shakes her head and makes "they're all loony" gesture to audience: fore-finger to temple.

Candy: Wheee! This is fun!

Sherbet: *(waving at audience)* Hello Mum!

NOSEY PARKER watches for a few moments, hands on hips, tapping his foot furiously. He blows whistle.

Nosey: Stop! *(Music off & lights to normal. SHERBET stops and the others barge into him)* Where do you think you are ... Euro Disney? *(whacks SHERBET with their baguettes: wooden knocking. They all fall down. Consulting code book as they get up)* Let's see. "Pedestrian Penalties..." Here we are: "going the wrong way round a roundabout" ... ten pounds please!

Others: Ten Pounds!

Sherbet: That's Walkway Robbery!

Nosey: I'm only doing my job. *(sniggers aside)* Heh heh!

Kirby: *(holding out hat for money)* Come on. Cough up! *(they cough over her and she wipes his face)*

Nosey: *(to other villagers)* Get moving you lot!

Some of the VILLAGERS move in single file anti-clockwise round the roundabout and exit. Others move into the 'Parking Area'.

Beauty and the Beast

From this point on for the rest of Act One, unless otherwise indicated, VILLAGERS arrive onstage and move about, obeying the 'traffic regulations', or park, or go into shops and then leave the stage again ... the aim being to provide background colour.

Meanwhile, SHERBET has taken money from his purse, put it in the hat and moved D.S. to speak to the audience. The others pay their fines and join the traffic flow.

Sherbet: *(to audience, closing purse)* Those two are a real pain in purse. *(puts purse in back pocket)* Always persecuting us poor pedestrians. *(NOSEY PARKER moves behind him)* They've even got *pedestrian* eyes ... they look both ways before they cross. *(pulls ugly face)* Ha ha ha!

Nosey: *(to SHERBET)* What do you think you're doing?

Sherbet: *(startled)* Oo-er!

Nosey: Can't you see the double yellow lines? *(KIRBY CRAWLER joins them, with hat off)*

Sherbet: Where did they come from?

Kirby: We painted them last night.

Nosey: New traffic regulations. By order of his Supreme Majesty, King Jasper the Just. The lines mean ... *(forcefully)* "No Waiting Allowed"!

Sherbet: I'll wait *quietly* then. *(covers his mouth)*

Nosey: It means ... *(bellowing)* "No Stopping!" *(whacks him with baguette: wooden knocking)*

Kirby: You're only allowed to park where it says. *(points to 'Parking Area' which is now filling up with VILLAGERS)*

Sherbet: *(indicating audience)* But I can't chat to all my friends from way up there.

Nosey: *(peering at audience)* Mon dieu! The place is full of brats. Move along!

Kirby: Yeah, buzz-off! No stopping!

Sherbet: *(thinking quickly)* They're not breaking the law. That's ... that's a People Park out there. *(if theatre has circle add "a multi storey people park")*

Nosey: Rubbish.

Sherbet: It's true. You've all paid to come and park your bottoms on those seats, haven't you?

Audience: Yes.

Nosey: I suppose they'll have to stay then. *(to audience, waving booklet)* But break any of the rules and ...

Both: ... we'll get you.

Sherbet: Boo!

Audience: Boo!

NOSEY PARKER goes to whack SHERBET with the baguette, he ducks and goes U.S. to squash into the 'Parking Area'. KIRBY CRAWLER gets hit on the head by mistake: wooden knocking.

Kirby: *(rubs head)* Oo-yah!

Nosey: I'm Nosey Parker ... Head Traffic Warden.

Kirby: And I'm Kirby Crawler. *(proudly)* I'm a "twit".

She turns and spreads cloak so that the audience can read the large letters on it: TWIT.

Nosey: That's right. *(points to letters with baguette)* A "Traffic Warden In Training".

Kirby: Enchanté! *(extends her hand for audience to kiss)*

Sherbet: Ready. Aim. Fire! *(audience blows kisses and KIRBY CRAWLER simpers)*

Nosey: Don't be nice to them.

Kirby: What should I do?

Nosey: Take off your hat and I'll show you. *(KIRBY CRAWLER removes hat)* This! *(hits her on head with baguette and goes straight into song)*

Musical Number 3 *Hit 'Em On The Head* Nosey Parker & Kirby Crawler

Juniors dressed as traffic wardens can be used in this number if desired instead of in Musical Number 4. Also, if you find this slapstick number a bit violent for your tastes an alternative is given in Appendix E.

SHERBET and the VILLAGERS join in the slapstick routine, moving out of the 'Parking Area'. The song ends. WARDENS wave their baguettes and ALL scuttle back to 'parking area'.

Nosey: *(to audience)* We're off.

Kirby: But we'll be watching you. *(Exit. ALL move out of the 'Parking Area', grumbling)*

Candy: They're ruining the show.

Flossy: We can't sing and dance squashed in there.

Candy: *(at front)* And we're not allowed to stop here.

Sherbet: *(of audience)* Our pals will help. *(to audience)* If you see the wardens, shout "Nosey Parker"! Will you do that?

Beauty and the Beast

Audience: Yes.

Sherbet: What do you shout?

Audience: Nosey Parker!

Sherbet: Louder!

Audience: Nosey Parker!

Candy: And what if I touch this? *(reaches for rose bush)*

Audience: No picking!

Flossy: And if I say ... “Enchanté”? *(holds out hand and audience kisses it)*

Sherbet: They’re quick learners, aren’t they?

Candy: The best *current day* audience we’ve had this week!

(The WARDENS tiptoe on at opposite side, miming “shsh” to audience with their fingers to their lips)

Audience: Nosey Parker!

(SHERBET and the VILLAGERS quickly dash back into the Parking Area. The WARDENS turn to look)

Both: Rats!

Kirby: No law breakers!

Nosey: Better luck next time. *(they exit)*

Sherbet: Have they gone again?

Audience: Yes.

(SHERBET, CANDY & FLOSSY move D.S.)

Candy: Thanks a lot, boys and girls.

(WIDOW BONBON's head appears in the sweetshop door)

Bonbon: Yoo-hoo! Sherbet? Candy-Flossy? Where’s mama’s little babies?

All Three: *(ironically)* Babies? Ugh!

Bonbon: *(entering)* Yoo-hoo! *(spots them)* Ah! *(points)*

Sexy music. She wiggles downstage going around the roundabout en route. She carries a handbag. Her main costume for this scene is hidden beneath a lightly velcroed outer layer of identical coloured plain fabric: see Production Notes for costume details. Once she has passed, the VILLAGERS move out of the ‘Parking Area’.

Bonbon: *(still pointing)* There you are! Didn’t you hear me calling you?

Sherbet: Yes, but you’re always telling us not to answer back.

Bonbon: *(smacks SHERBET)* Pull your socks up, you scruffy lump.

(FLOSSY picks her nose. CANDY sucks thumb)

Sherbet: Yes, Mama. *(does so)*

Bonbon: *(smacks FLOSSY)* Stop picking. And look at your face ... it's filthy! *(spits loudly on a hanky and wipes her face)*

Flossy: Owwww!

Bonbon: Keep still!

Flossy: We're not babies any more.

Bonbon: 'Course you are. *(turns to Candy)* Now then missy, do you need your nappy changing? *(Goes to lift her dress. CANDY backs away)*

Candy: I haven't worn nappies for twenty years. *(or however long is believable!)*

Bonbon: Do you need the potty then?

Candy: Mama! *(pointing at audience)* You're embarrassing us.

Bonbon: Jumping jelly beans the place is choc-a-block. Do you know who I am? Hands up those who've seen me before. *(no response)* Hands up those who never want to see me again. *(ALL onstage put hands up to prompt audience)* I see we're going to be great friends! I'm Widow Bonbon. Enchanté. *(holds out her hand)*

Sherbet: Ready. Aim. Fire!

Audience blows kisses. CANDY and FLOSSY are behind BONBON ... they pull the outer garment off to reveal a costume covered in big red lip-marks.

Bonbon: Ugh! Not very good shots are you? My frock's soaked. It's my hand you want. Try the other one. *(offers other hand)* Enchanté.

Sherbet: Ready. Aim. Fire!

Audience kisses. Her hand appears to be knocked back by the force of the kisses. Unseen by the audience, she quickly sticks a large pair of red lips on the back of her hand and then displays it to audience.

Bonbon: Wowie! Bull's Eye. Look at that. You're good at kissing hands ... as a special reward, you can try my "cherry-lips". *(purses lips)*

All: Oo-la-la!

Bonbon: I meant the sweets. Cheeky monkeys! *(looks in handbag)* No, I haven't got any "cherry-lips" left ... have a few toffees instead. *(tosses some into the audience)* Here you are. Catch. A few up the back there. *(etc)* Who else wants some?

(BEAST enters at the back of the auditorium)

Beast: Me! Me! Me!

Beauty and the Beast

Bonbon: Who's that?

Beast: Me loves toffees. Gimme, gimme, gimme.

Bonbon: *(calling off stage)* Get a light on there. We can't see.

Spotlight light picks out BEAST. ALL onstage shriek, step back, shiver and shake, knock knees, etc.,

Beast: Toffee-toffee, yum-yum. *(rubs tummy and moves forward to edge of stage)*

Bonbon: Arrgh! Get back. *(jumps into SHERBET's arms)* Don't worry Sherbet, Mama will protect you.

Beast: Sherbet? Me loves sherbets. *(Reaches out. SHERBET shrieks and drops BONBON and runs U.S.)*

Bonbon: *(getting up & raising handbag)* You great big ugly monster. Take that!
(Goes to hit him. BEAST grabs handbag)

Beast: Oooo ... fanks! *(running off with handbag)* Yummy yummy yum yum. *(exits at back of auditorium. Spotlight off)*

Bonbon: *(to audience)* Is it gone? Thank goodness. It pinched all my toffees. Never mind ... I've got lots of other sweets for sale in my shop. If you want any, just pop in and spend a penny.

All: Oo-la-la!

Bonbon: Don't be rude! *(to audience)* Mind, you could do that ... even my bathroom's *en suite!* Ha ha! *(producing long sheet of paper)* Yes. I heard you were coming today, so I've stocked up with all your favourite sweets. You name 'em and I'll tell you if they're on the list.

Sherbet: Have you got any "Snickers" on?

All: Oo-la-la!

Bonbon: *(adjusting skirts)* Mind your own business. *(to audience)* Come on, what sweets do you like the best? *(You're aiming for "jelly-babies" but if nobody calls them out, fake a couple...)* "Mints"? I've got mountains of mints. "Fruit gums"? I've got drums of gums! "Jelly Babies"? Oh yes! *(wiggling)* I've got the most gi-normous, jigglely jelly babies in the world. Do you want to see them?

Audience: Yes.

Bonbon: And so you shall!

She claps her hands. "Boing" sound effects as the JELLY BABIES bounce out of the sweet shop and line up at the front: the smallest juniors with costumes of various colours and matching make-up to represent the different flavours. NB: for obvious reasons, "blackcurrant" should be deep purple and not black. As they bounce, the other

characters onstage nod their heads up and down. If you use the juniors in Musical Number 3, there is an alternative "Chippendale" suggestion in Appendix E for this Number.

Bonbon: *(to audience)* Don't they look delicious? Which flavour do you favour? What colour do you like best? Red? *(RED BABY bounces forward and gives audience thumbs up. The other JELLY BABIES cry)* They don't like being left out. *(encouraging audience)* Ahhh!

Audience: Ahhh!

Sherbet: What a lot of cry babies!

Bonbon: *(to other JELLY BABIES)* Cheer up! *(to audience)* The boys and girls like all the colours. *(to audience)* Don't you?

Audience: Yes.

Bonbon: And the mums and dads love you too, don't you?

Audience: Yes!

(ALL bounce happily as RED BABY rejoins the line. OTHERS watch, heads nodding)

Bonbon: *(preening herself)* Mmm. Sounds like there's lots of *dads* in tonight. Makes me wish I was a jelly baby. *(wobbles)* Then all you fellas'd love me too. Fancy a nibble?

Sherbet: *(encouraging audience)* No!

Audience: No!

Bonbon: You don't know what you're missing ...

Musical Number 4
to tune of "Let Me Be Your Sugar Baby"
Widow Bonbon & The Jelly Babies

If you need a kick
Come and take your pick
From a Dame that's got the lot!
All of my confection
Is sheer perfection
So come into my shop ...

Let me be your jelly baby,
You're little Love Heart, your Pick n' Mix!
Let me be your jelly baby,

Beauty and the Beast

Your liquorice allsorts, your candy sticks!
Let me be your toffee bonbon!
Your nougat! Your Milky Way!
I've got sweetness to vend
If you've pennies to spend
On jelly babies today!

Let me be your jelly baby,
Your little fruit gum, your lollipop!
Let me be your jelly baby,
Your dolly-mixture, your chocolate drop!
Let me be your toffee apple!
Your sherbet! Your candy floss!
Give your tastebuds a treat,
You need something that's sweet:
Jelly baby, baby, babies like us!
(The song ends)

Bonbon: Off you go now. *(they start to bounce off)* Jump back into the jelly-jar. *(to audience)* Aren't they sweet?

(Enter BEAST)

Beast: Jelly babies! Me love jelly babies. *(As he lumbers around the stage, ALL scream and exit. Sadly to audience)* Oh dear. Time on time. Me come. Run away. Nobody love poor beast. *(wipes away tear and exits)*

(BONBON pops head on)

Bonbon: Is it gone?

Audience: Yes.

Bonbon: So's everybody else. Never mind. We can have a nice little chat on our own. I've introduced myself. Now it's your turn. Tell me everything about you ... your names, where you come from, what schools you go to ...

(WARDENS appear at side of stage and tiptoe towards her)

Audience: Nosey Parker!

Bonbon: How dare you call me a "nosey parker". *(walking up and down)* I was only asking a few polite questions. Oh? You weren't calling me names? Well what's the matter then?

Nosey: *(blows whistle)* Halt!

Bonbon: What's wrong?

Nosey: Pull over! Pull over!

Bonbon: *(looking at costume)* No ... it's a bodice.

- Nosey:** You're on the doubles.
- Bonbon:** I haven't touched a drop. *(to audience)* Not even a wine-gum.
- Kirby:** Can't you see the double yellas?
- Bonbon:** Double fellas? *(tapping NOSEY PARKER)* There's only one. *(he hits her with baguette: drum thud, she staggers)* Oh ... I'm seeing double now alright.
- Nosey:** Illegal parking! *(to KIRBY CRAWLER)* Give her a ticket!
(KIRBY CRAWLER writes a ticket)
- Bonbon:** A ticket? Goody! What are we going to see? There's *current film/panto* on at the *local cinema/theatre*. *(aside to audience)* And it's a lot better than this rubbish.
- Kirby:** Here you are. *(slaps a self-adhesive ticket on her)*
- Bonbon:** What's that?
- Kirby:** Your fine.
- Bonbon:** Yes, I am thanks ... how are you? *(double take as removes ticket)* How much???
- Nosey:** Twenty nickers! *(holds hand out impatiently)*
- Bonbon:** I've only got one pair and I'm hanging on to them. *(To KIRBY CRAWLER, dead chatty)* Or rather, they're hanging on to me. Those new non-slip knickers, you know, with the *all-day* waist band ... "guaranteed to stay up as long as you do".
- Kirby:** *(impressed)* Fantastic!
- Bonbon:** No, elastic.
- Nosey:** That's a twenty pound fine!!
- Bonbon:** *(moves away)* I'll pay you later.
- Nosey:** *(stopping her)* On the spot!
- Bonbon:** Oh alright! *(whips banknote from cleavage and grips NOSEY PARKER's nose with it)*
- Nosey:** *(nasal)* What are you doing??
- Bonbon:** You said "on the spot" and there's a big one right on the end of your nose! Ha ha! *(KIRBY CRAWLER whacks her with baguette: wooden knocking. She lets go and rubs her head)* Ooo-yah!
(KIRBY CRAWLER snatches banknote and puts it inside hat)
- Nosey:** We'll be back!
- Bonbon:** Boo! *(Exit WARDENS)*

Beauty and the Beast

Audience: Boo!

Sound of car horn & sports car engine. Enter two servants carrying a flashy sedan chair with a crown symbol on the side. There is no floor in it ... we can see JASPER's legs walking underneath. The curtains on the windows of the chair are all drawn. The chair is carried on at great speed, goes round the roundabout: revving engine and screeching tyres. BONBON has to jump out of the way to avoid it. It screeches to a halt at front of stage, side on to the audience. Servants collapse, panting. JASPER tugs opens the door facing the audience and jumps out. He is now costumed in black and silver and wears the crown.

Jasper: *(to audience)* Greetings, peasants!

Audience: Boo!

He folds his arms until they stop then sticks his foot out towards the audience.

Jasper: Enchanté!

(BONBON encourages audience to blow raspberries)

Jasper: How dare you. Don't you know I'm King now? King Jasper ... the Just!

Bonbon: Yes... "just" a pain the neck.

Jasper: *(turning quickly)* Who said that?

Bonbon: I mean ... let's give the King a big cheer! Hip hip. *(behind her hand, encouraging audience)* Boo!

Audience: Boo! *(etc)*

Jasper: I get the feeling nobody likes me.

Bonbon: We prefer your twin brother, Prince Casper. *(looking about)* Where is he?

Jasper: He's er ... er ... he's got a cold.

Bonbon: We haven't seen him for five years ... it must be a bad cold.

Jasper: It is ... beastly! *(laughs)*

Bonbon: *(suspiciously)* Nothing's happened to him, has it?

Jasper: *(crossing fingers, shaking head at audience)* Of course not. *(audience react)* I can prove it. *(indicates sedan chair)* He's here with me.

Bonbon: *(going to sedan)* Oh good. Yoo-hoo, Prince Casper. *(goes to pull aside curtain)*

Jasper: *(tugging her away)* Don't do that. He's ... er ... he's fast asleep. I'll go and wake him and tell him that you want to see him.

JASPER goes in the back door of the sedan and emerges almost immediately through the front wearing a white cloak and a white, plumed hat. He yawns and stretches.

Bonbon: There you are, Prince Casper.

Jasper: Widow Bonbon. *(kisses her hand)* Enchanté. My twin brother, King Jasper, said you wanted to see me?

Bonbon: We just wanted to check that you were alright.

Jasper: *(to audience)* I'm fine. As you can see. *(beams at audience)* Hello, boys and girls.

Bonbon: *(aside, to audience)* What's wrong? *(audience responds)* I can't understand when you all shout at once. Do you mean ... that isn't Prince Casper? Are you sure? Right! *(moves to JASPER)* We want to see King Jasper.

Jasper: Certainly, I'll tell him. *(goes through back and comes out front of sedan without cloak and wearing crown. Nastily)* What do you want?

Bonbon: *(to audience)* Now are you satisfied? No? *(to JASPER)* We don't think Prince Casper's inside there at all.

Jasper: Oh yes he is.

Bonbon: *(encouraging audience)* Oh no he isn't. *(repeat once more)* Prove it! Let's see you both together.

Jasper: Easy! *(he gets into sedan and slams door and immediately pokes out head with hat on)* I'm Prince Casper and I'm here. *(ducks inside and head pokes out with crown on)* And I'm King Jasper and I'm here too. *(ducks inside)*

Bonbon: *(to audience)* That's alright then. It isn't? How do you know there aren't two people inside there? Only one pair of feet? Are you sure? *(as kneels down to look, a JASPER lowers a second pair of false legs and steps out the back)* You're right! Only one pair of feet.

Jasper: *(behind her)* What are you doing?

Bonbon: *(startled)* Oh! Just checking. *(looks puzzled, points to sedan, points to JASPER's legs, points back at the sedan again and shrugs to audience)* I give up. I'll see you later.

As she exits into the sweetshop, JASPER opens the front of the sedan and waves the false legs at the audience, laughing uproariously. Enter WARDENS on tip-toe as JASPER turns his back, bending to put the legs back inside.

Audience: Nosey Parker!

Both: Gotcha!

They whack his bottom with baguettes. The straightens and bangs his head.

Jasper: *(turning)* What do you think you're doing?

Nosey: *(pointing at yellow lines)* Double double.

Kirby: You're in trouble.

Nosey: Twenty pounds please!

Beauty and the Beast

Jasper: *(nonchalant)* Don't be silly, I'm the King.

Nosey: It's the law.

Jasper: I make the laws, stupid.

Kirby: We're only doing our jobs, sir.

Nosey: Twenty pounds!

Jasper: Listen, you numskulls ... I'm your boss so all the money belongs to me. Use your loaf!

Nosey: Use my loaf?

Jasper: Yes. *(NOSEY PARKER whacks him with baguette)* Oo-yah.

Nosey: Twenty pounds please!

Jasper: If I give you twenty pounds, you'll only have to give it back. So let's forget it.

Nosey: More than my jobsworth.

Kirby: *(nodding)* Jobsworth!

JASPER grits his teeth, growls and stamps his feet for a moment, then gets himself under control and takes money from pocket.

Jasper: Very well, there you are. *(gives banknote to NOSEY PARKER)*

Nosey: *(saluting)* Thank you, sir. *(gives it to KIRBY CRAWLER)* There you are.

Kirby: *(saluting)* Thank you, sir.

Jasper: Now give me the money.

Nosey: *(saluting)* Yes, boss. *(to KIRBY CRAWLER)* Give him the money.

Kirby: *(saluting)* Yes, boss. *(gives it to JASPER)*

Jasper: And the rest.

Kirby: What?

Jasper: *(furious)* The fines, the cash, the dough, the bread!

Kirby: Give you the bread?

Jasper: Yes! *(KIRBY CRAWLER hits him with baguette: wooden knocking)* Oo-yah! *(JASPER snatches her hat. She covers her head but he only pulls the money out and hands the hat back)* Good. *(to sedan carriers)* Take me back to the Enchanted Castle and step on it. *(puts one legs inside chair)*

Kirby: Step on it?

Jasper: Yes! *(she stamps on his foot)* Oo-yah! *(hops inside and closes the door. The sedan chair moves, jerkily at first as he is still hopping)* Faster!

Sports car noise. They move away at great speed. NOSEY PARKER blows whistle)

Nosey: No speeding! Stop!

WARDENS exit chasing after sedan chair. SHERBET, CANDY and FLOSSY tiptoe out of the sweet shop carrying a suitcase.

Sherbet: *(to audience)* Hello boys and girls.

Audience: Hello, Sherbet.

Candy: Shshshsh! She'll hear us!

Flossy: We're running away ...

Bonbon: *(appearing)* Where do you think you're going? *(during next she clutches her heart in pain)*

Sherbet: We're not babies any more, Mama.

Flossy: We're grown ups

Candy: It's time we got jobs.

Sherbet: Got married.

Flossy: Left home!

Bonbon: *(getting handkerchief out)* You can't leave your poor old mother ...

All Three: We can!

Bonbon: *(tearfully)* Can't, can't ...

All Three: Can, can ...

Quick blast of "Can Can" music. Dancers appear from the wings kicking their legs.

Bonbon: *(to dancers)* Not yet! *(dance stops)* You'll give the game away. *(to audience)* Everything will be revealed later.

All Three: Oo-la-la! *(Exit disappointed dancers)*

Bonbon: Where was I? Oh yes. *(Doleful music as she weeps and moves towards rose bush. The kids mime her words and mimic her gestures, nb. not the asides)* Leave your poor old mother after all I've done for you? Working my fingers to the bone! *(cheerful aside to audience)* This gets them every time. *(laying it on thicker)* Oh, alas, alack ... I'm all alone in the world. *(cheerful aside)* They'll be begging me! *(wailing)* Nobody loves me any more. *(encouraging audience)* Ahhh!

Audience: Ahhh!

Bonbon

& *(hands on hips)* I'm a lot more heart-broken than that. Ahhhhhh!

Kids

(BONBON realises that they are taking the mickey)

Beauty and the Beast

- Audience:** Ahhhhhh!
- Sherbet:** We're off. *(they start to go)*
- Bonbon:** *(melodramatic)* In that case ... I might as well end it all. *(reaches out to rose bush)*
- Audience:** No picking.
(SHERBET, CANDY and FLOSSY drop the suitcase and dash to restrain her)
- Candy:** What are you doing, Mama?
- Bonbon:** I'll pick a rose then the Beast'll get me and then I won't be a burden to you any more.
(They drop to their knees and plead)
- Candy:** Don't do it!
- Flossy:** We'll never leave you, Mama. Never!
- Bonbon:** Promise?
- All Three:** Cross my heart and hope to die!
- Bonbon:** *(to audience)* Works every time. *(barges through them, knocking them down)*
Saps! See you later. *(picks up suitcase and exits to shop)*
- Candy:** She did it again!
- Flossy:** We'll never escape.
- Sherbet:** *(brain-wave)* Unless ... if she had someone else she wouldn't need us any more, would she?
- Flossy:** A new dad! Brilliant!

Musical Number 5
If Mama Was Married
Sherbet, Candy & Flossy

- Candy:** If only we could find a suitable suitor.
- Flossy:** Fat chance!
- Sherbet:** Yes, she's no spring chicken. *(to audience)* This year there was so many candles on her birthday cake, we all got sunburnt.
- Bonbon:** *(head appears)* I heard that! *(disappears)*
- Candy:** *(lowering voice)* She's got *some* things that men would admire.
- Sherbet:** Yes ... big muscles and a hairy chest!

Candy: A madman might marry her.

Flossy: I wish! *(moves slowly towards rose bush, picking her nose)*

Tinkling bells: enter FAIRY ROSÉ at opposite side. CANDY & SHERBET react to the bells and look skyward.

Rosé: *(to audience)* Did someone make a wish? *(audience responds)* Who was it? *(audience responds. She points)* Her again! *(moves to FLOSSY)*

Candy: *(to audience)* What's that tinkling noise?

Sherbet: *(to audience)* Where's it coming from? *(audience responds)* What is it? Never!

Candy: *(to SHERBET)* What did they say?

Sherbet: They said it's a fairy tinkling!

Candy: Oo-la-la! *(They look in every direction but not at FAIRY ROSÉ)*

Flossy: I wish we could find a fella who'd fancy her. *(picks nose)*

FAIRY ROSÉ snatches the wish from the air and releases it in the direction of the rose bush.

Rosé: Catch a wish ... and then it's granted:
Roses bloom where love is planted.

DOCTOR TOOTLE enters U.S. He is a sprightly old man outlandishly dressed in a costume of many colours. He looks around curiously and moves to rose bush.

Rosé: A perfect stranger this way comes ...
He's just the suitor for their Mum.

She exits as DOCTOR TOOTLE arrives at rose bush.

Tootle: Ah! My favourite flowers. *(touches roses)*

Audience: No picking!

FLOSSY stops picking nose and puts hands behind back guiltily. TOOTLE backs away from bush.

Flossy: I wasn't!

Tootle: *(bumps into FLOSSY)* Excusé moi.

Flossy: *(startled)* Where did you come from?
(CANDY & SHERBET join them)

Tootle: Me? I come from the best town in the universe ... where everybody's bold and brave and dead brainy.

Flossy: Where's that?

Tootle: *Local Town!! (encourages audience to cheer)* Hooray!

Beauty and the Beast

Audience: Hooray!

Tootle: Enchanté mademoiselles. (*kisses CANDY & FLOSSY's hands*)

Sherbet: Wait a minute. If they're so brainy, how come they don't parlez the français, like you?

Tootle: Ahh ... but I'm of French extraction. (*to audience*) My grandfather was a Parisian dentist! Ha ha! (*laughs insanely, moving upstage and looking around*)

Sherbet: (*finger to temple*) He's nuts!

Flossy: Bonkers!

Candy: Mad! (*double take*) Hey! (*to audience*) Do you think he'll like our Mama?

Audience: Yes.

Sherbet: How can you be so sure? (*get audience response*)

Flossy: A fairy granted my wish? Wow!

Sherbet: I feel like calling him "Daddy" already.

Tootle: (*calling off*) This way Bonnie. (*returns D.S.*)

Bonnie: (*voice off*) Coming Daddy!

All Three: (*dismayed*) Daddy?

Candy: You're already married!

Tootle: (*sorrowful*) My wife is no longer, alas.

Sherbet: No longer a lass? What is she then?

Tootle: No more!

Sherbet: Well, I only asked!

Tootle: I am a widower. There's just me and my daughter now.

Flossy: Perfect!

Candy: Let's fetch Mama!

CANDY & FLOSSY dash into the sweet shop as BONNIE enters. She is leading GIGI, the pantomime horse, who is pulling a small cart.

Bonnie: Giddy up. This way. That's it. Whoa!

TOOTLE unhitches the cart and turns it away from the audience, fiddles with the contents and erects a banner. As this is being done, SHERBET makes the following comments and BONNIE reacts offended, as if he is speaking of her ...

Sherbet: (*to audience*) Corr! What a smasher! So shapely. Isn't she gorgeous? Beautiful legs too. (*Wolf whistles. BONNIE leads GIGI forward*) Look at the way she moves! Oo-la-la!

- Bonnie:** I beg your pardon?
- Sherbet:** (*innocently patting GIGI*) What's she called?
- Bonnie:** (*realising mistake*) Oh, my horse? "Gigi".
- Sherbet:** I know it's a gee-gee but what's her name?
- Bonnie:** "Gigi". Say hello, Gigi. (*GIGI holds out front hoof and whinnies*) That's horsey talk for "enchanted"
- Sherbet:** In that case. (*kisses her hoof. GIGI rests her head on his shoulder*)
- Bonnie:** She likes you.
- Sherbet:** Ahhh. (*strokes her nose*)
- Audience:** Ahhh.
- Bonnie:** (*leading GIGI to front*) Come and say hello to the girls and boys, Gigi. (*GIGI looks at audience and backs away, shaking*) Sorry. She's been nervous ever since we came to France.
- Sherbet:** What for? We *like* horses.
- Bonnie:** Exactly!
- Sherbet:** Oh I see! It's alright, Gigi. No-one in Cabaret's going to *eat* you.
- Bonnie:** That's a relief. (*GIGI trots happily D.S.*)
- Sherbet:** (*of audience*) And they're all from **local-town**.
- Bonnie:** (*to audience*) I thought I recognised some of you. Look Gigi, there's...
- Use some relevant information you have about the current audience, names, school parties, brownie packs, etc., ... "they're from my old school", "I used to belong those brownies", "there's my next door neighbours" and so on. Don't drag it out though! The idea here is to give a personal touch to the show: there's plenty of time to 'say hellos', announce birthdays, etc. during the Songsheet. GIGI wanders away towards rose bush.*
- Bonnie:** (*link with above*) Remember me? I'm Bonnie. (*waves*) Hello.
- Sherbet:** That's not how we do it in France.
- Bonnie:** Of course not. I mean ... (*holds out hand*) Enchanté.
- Sherbet:** Ready. Aim. Fire!
(*Audience blows kisses. GIGI tries to eat a rose*)
- Audience:** No picking!
- Bonnie:** Gigi, don't eat those. (*leads her back to centre*) Come and say "enchanted" to everybody. (*GIGI holds out hoof*)
- Sherbet:** Ready. Aim. Fire!

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Audience blows kisses. Enter CANDY & FLOSSY dragging BONBON, newly attired, from the sweet shop.

Candy: There he is, Mama.

Flossy: You've got to meet him. *(TOOTLE turns)* Isn't he a dreamboat?

Bonbon: More like a shipwreck. I thought you said he was handsome?

Candy: His face has got a ... a lived-in look.

Bonbon: Yes ... like pigs have lived in it.

Flossy: *(tugging TOOTLE)* This is our mother ... Widow Bonbon.
(BONBON holds out her hand contemptuously and turns her head away)

Tootle: Enchanté. *(kisses her hand)* Dr. Tootle at your service.

Bonbon: You're a doctor? I get this terrible pain in the back every time I ...

Tootle: *(interrupting)* Not that kind ... I'm a Doctor of Music.

TOOTLE turns cart round. The banner reads "Doctor Tootle Musical Medicines". Use the cart occasionally as a podium for Tootle. During the next section, the VILLAGERS return to the stage a few at a time.

Others: Music?

Tootle: Yes. *(fast pace)* If your mouth is unmelodic
And your tongue can't do the trick
If your lyrics are lethargic
And the words get on your wick
If your rhythms are spasmodic
Like a tock without a tick
If you're horribly harmonic
And your song is sounding sick
If your choruses are chronic
And your vocal chords all stick
What you need's a music medic:
Call for Doctor Tootle ... quick!

Candy: A Music Doctor!

Flossy: You're wasting your time here. *(to audience)* We're wonderful singers, aren't we?

Sherbet: *(encouraging audience)* No.

Audience: No.

Candy: Cheek. Of course we can sing.

Tootle: Ahh ... but do you know how to sing properly?

Candy

& *(singing off key)* "Properly ..." *(hold note)*

Flossy

Tootle: *(grimacing)* What heavenly voices! *(CANDY & FLOSSY grin)* Like nothing on earth! *(CANDY & FLOSSY are mortified. To BONBON)* How about you Madame? Can you sing?

Bonbon: Can I sing!!! *(aside to audience)* Like a mermaid can do the splits. *(to TOOTLE)* I once sang for a Royal Command Performance. *(aside to audience)* They commanded me to stop. *(to TOOTLE)* I can hold a note longer than Barclay's Bank. *(shrieking a few high notes)* La la la laaaaaaa! *(ALL wince and cover ears, etc)* You see ... I've got a beautiful soprano voice.

Tootle: That's not soprano. You've got a falsetto.

Bonbon: *(folding arms under bosom)* How dare you ... they're real.

All: Oo-la-la!

Bonbon: I meant my teeth. *(to TOOTLE)* Yes, I've studied with the greatest singers. I spent five years under Pavarotti.

Tootle: No wonder you're flat! *(BONBON flounces huffily away. To SHERBET, VILLAGERS and AUDIENCE)* And what about the rest of you? *(gets magnifying glass from cart)* I'll give you a quick musical examination. Open your mouths, stick out your tongues and sing "Ahhh".

All: Ahhh! *(TOOTLE scans everybody with magnifying glass)*

Tootle: Not high enough. Open your mouth and throw yourself into it. "Ahhh".

All: Ahhh!

Tootle: *(shaking head)* Terrible!

Sherbet: What's wrong, Doctor?

Tootle: It's worse than I thought ... you're all suffering from bad case of varicose vocals. *(ALL clutch throats and gurgle)* There's only one cure ...

Sherbet: A tongue transplant?

Tootle: No. What you need is Karaoke Candy. *(displays a giant packet of "Tunes")*

All: Karaoke Candy?

Musical Number 6

Penny A Tune

Tootle & Bonnie

Beauty and the Beast

- Tootle:** Penny a tune, penny a tune
Lyrical lozenges
Flavoured by stars
Trapped in a tube
Buy one today and you're sure to go far ...
- Tootle:** Magical tunes
- Bonnie:** Karaoke ...
- Tootle:** Magical tunes
- Bonnie:** Real karaoke ...
- Tootle:** Get a new voice for your favourite song
Music from the charts
On the tip of your tongue
All for a penny a tune
- Tootle & Bonnie** You'll hit all the high notes
Just chew one and cheat
Give 'em the tasty tongue test
They're not just a gimmick
'Coz after just one lick
You'll find you can mimic the best
Mouth-watering music: a hit single sweet
For just a penny a tune
If you wanna sing
But they call out the cops:
Suck one of these
You'll be Top of the Pops!
You'll get a voice that'll make the fans swoon
For only a penny a tune.
(Continue music/beat in background during following section)
- Tootle:** Yes, folks, "Tunes" help you croon more easily!
- Bonbon:** *(outraged)* Now wait a minute! I'm the only sweet-seller allowed in this village. I've got the monopoly.
(TOOTLE lifts a "Monopoly" game from cart)
- Tootle:** So have I. *(laughs and tosses the box back. BONBON moves aside, huffed. To VILLAGERS)* Yes, folks, the world's first Karaoke Candy!
(GIGI tries to eat rose again)
- Audience:** No picking!
- Bonnie:** Don't eat the roses, Gigi.
- Tootle:** She can eat one of these instead. *(BONNIE takes a normal size tube of "Tunes" to GIGI)* Nothing is hoarser than a horse ... *(GIGI whinnies)* of course. But with just one penny tune she'll sound like her favourite star.

BONNIE feeds GIGI a sweet. She chews. Song play-back: first two lines of "A Four Legged Friend". GIGI mimes. Amazed reactions and applause. The song continues. The VILLAGERS buy packets of "Tunes".

Tootle: Songs and rhymes and jingles
Old and new, folks
Usually a quid but just a penny for you

Bonnie: You don't have to be a faker

Tootle: You can be a tonsil shaker

Both: Your record breakin'
Hit song makin' dream
Is comin' true!

All: Ahh
Doctor Tootle's got the remedies
Gol-den Ol-dies
All wrapped up in sweet melodies
Flat as pancake or frogs in the throat
He's gonna help you get rid of that croak
Hit the right note ...

Tootle
& Just a penny a tune!

Bonnie

The song ends. Various VILLAGERS step forward, pop a "Tune" in the mouth and mime to short bursts of well known performers most famous songs.

Please don't be tempted to overdo this as it will hold up the action and the joke will wear thin. Three or four "Karaoke" demos are sufficient and no more than two of three lines of an easily identifiable song should be used. Select performers to contrast with the song ... for example, a small boy miming to Elvis or a crotchety old lady miming to Tina Turner. One of the songs selected should be currently in the charts. Also, they don't all have to be individual singers: they could be groups of singers miming together, eg. to The Andrews Sisters, a pop group, an opera chorus.

After each mime section, the performers exit in raptures. None of the VILLAGERS should be left on stage at the end: any not used for the mimes should follow the other performers off, clutching their packets of "Tunes" excitedly.

Tootle: (moving cart U.S.) Right, Bonnie ... let's pack up and get out of here quick!

Bonnie: Yes, Daddy.

During the next section, BONNIE moves U.S. with GIGI and packs the cart, not paying any attention to what is going on. She also fixes a large false moustache to the horse's snout: make sure this isn't seen by the audience until later ...

Candy: (pulling TOOTLE D.S.) You're not going?

Flossy: (of BONBON) You two haven't even got acquainted yet.

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Bonbon: I'm not having anything to do with him. Stealing my customers. *(to TOOTLE)*
I amazed at your cheek!

Tootle: I'm amazed at your nose ... look at the size of it!

Bonbon: Why you!

TOOTLE and BONBON mime an argument with each other, obviously very insulting, pulling faces, poking out tongues, etc. Whilst they are doing this, SHERBET, CANDY & FLOSSY move forward and speak to the audience.

Flossy: You said the fairy granted my wish!

Candy: Then why hasn't he fallen in love with her?

Sherbet: Are you sure there was a fairy?

Audience: Yes.

Sherbet: *(pointing at TOOTLE)* Well I wish he'd hurry up and sweep Mama off her feet.

FAIRY ROSÉ enters quickly. Preferably, each of her following lightning appearances should be from a different place.

Rosé: Granted!

She waves wand, a cymbal and she exits as TOOTLE quickly gets a broom from the cart and knocks BONBON off her feet.

Candy: You got it wrong. I'll say it. I wish ... I wish he'd fall head over heels for her.

Rosé: *(appearing)* Hey presto! *(waves wand, a cymbal and she vanishes)*

TOOTLE immediately drops the broom, falls down and rolls head over heels. BONBON points and laughs.

Flossy: That's not right. Let me see ... I wish he'd fall madly in love with Mama.

Fairy: *(appearing)* Abracadabra! *(waves wand, a cymbal and she vanishes)*

TOOTLE instantly leaps up, laughs insanely, grabs BONBON's hand and kisses up her arm.

Tootle: Ma cheri! Mon amour! My little jelly baby!

Bonbon: *(over)* Stop it. Please. Doctor Tootle!

Tootle: Call me Octavius. *(puts arms around her)*

Bonbon: Octavius? Octopus more like. Arms off! *(breaks free and backs away)*

Sherbet: It worked!

All three: Hooray!

Tootle: *(stalking her)* I'd like to drink champagne from you slipper. *(aside to audience)* But I don't think I could manage eight pints. *(laughs insanely)* Ha ha ha!

Bonbon: You're mad!

Tootle: That's right ... when I was in Paris I fell off a bridge and went "in Seine" *(laughs insanely)* Ha ha ha! *(grabs BONBON)*

Bonbon: *(breaks away)* Get off! *(exits running)*

Bonnie: *(coming D.S.)* We're ready to go, Daddy.

Tootle: Come back, my sweetie bon-bon! *(exits after BONBON)*

Bonnie: Oh no! We've got to get out of here.

Sherbet: What for?

Bonnie: The Karaoke Candy!

Flossy: Oh yes ... let's try some.

(They move towards the cart. BONNIE stops them)

Bonnie: No, no ... don't eat it!

Candy: Why not? Everyone else has.

(GIGI moves D.S. towards the rose-bush)

Bonnie: It's got side-effects. It doesn't just change your voice, it changes ... other things.

Sherbet: What things?

(GIGI goes to eat roses on bush)

Audience: No picking!

Sherbet: *(dashing over)* Don't eat those, you naughty girl. *(GIGI looks at him and then faces the audience)* I mean boy. *(double take)* Hey, she's grown a moustache!

Bonnie: Exactly!

The VILLAGERS re-enter quickly, grumbling angrily. All the females and children are wearing beards or moustaches. All the men have plastic bald-wigs. BONNIE and GIGI hide at the side.

Villagers: *(variously, spoken together)* Where is he? Wait till I get my hands on him. Look at me. This is terrible. I'll wring his neck. What a con. I want my money back. Get Dr. Tootle! *(etc, etc)*

Fifi: Look at us. We won't dare show our faces again!

Candy: *(parting the beard)* You won't have to ... no-one'll see them.

Emile: *(patting head)* I used to have lovely wavy hair.

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Sherbet: *(to audience)* And now it's waved him goodbye. *(man sobs)* Cheer up. Think of all the money you'll save on shampoo.

Flossy: Yes. All you need now's a duster.
(BONBON dashes on shrieking)

Bonbon: Save me. He's stark staring bonkers.
(TOOTLE runs on)

Tootle: I'm coming to get you!

Fifi: There he is!

Tootle: *(to audience)* Uh-oh!

Emile: Get him!

TOOTLE exits the way he came, hotly pursued by the VILLAGERS. Daylight fades slowly into sunset from this point.

Bonbon: Phew! That was close shave. Come along, children. Time for beddy-byes.

Candy: Awww. Do we have to?

Flossy: It's not even dark yet!

Sherbet: I want to play a bit longer.

Bonbon: Do as you're told! Say night-night!

All Three: *(to audience)* Night night.

Bonbon: Properly!

All Three: *(to audience)* Night night. *(kiss loudly in their direction)*

BONBON ushers them through the sweet shop door and hangs a "closed" sign up. BONNIE moves across front of stage. GIGI follows.

Bonnie: Oh dear, Gigi. I hope they don't catch Daddy. *(GIGI shakes her head and looks offstage. To audience)* What are we going to do? Have you got any ideas?

(WARDENS sneak on)

Audience: Nosey Parker!

Bonnie: I only asked.

Nosey: Gotcha! What are you doing here? *(points at double yellow lines)*

Bonnie: Waiting for my father.

Kirby: Waiting?

Nosey: Loitering!

Bonnie: I'm worried about him!

Kirby: Worried?

Nosey: Discontented! "Loitering with discontent"! Clamp her!

NOSEY PARKER holds her. KIRBY CRAWLER gets 'wheel-clamp' from wings and puts it on her feet. The clamp has a nylon line attached so that it can be moved later.

Bonnie: What are doing? Let go of me.

(GIGI returns and bites KIRBY CRAWLER's bottom)

Kirby: Oo-yah!

Bonnie: *(to audience)* I can't move. *(to NOSEY PARKER)* Release me.

Nosey: Not till you pay your fine. *(holds out hand)* A hundred and twenty pounds.

Bonnie: I'll never get that much.

Nosey: Then you'll never get free! Ha ha ha! *(BONNIE prompts audience to "boo" if necessary. GIGI bites his bottom)* Oo-yah! Who parked that pony here?

Bonnie: I did.

Nosey: It's causing an obstruction. *(to KIRBY CRAWLER)* Tow it away!

Kirby: Yes, boss. *(hangs a number plate round his neck: "TOW 1" and leads GIGI away)*

Bonnie: *(tearful)* You can't do that.

Nosey: *(imitating her)* I can.

Bonnie: You can't, you can't.

Nosey: I can, can!

Blast of "Can-Can" music. Bearded Can-Can dancers come on from the wings, kicking their legs. NOSEY PARKER blows his whistle.

Nosey: Halt! No kicking allowed on the streets! *(Can-Can dancers exit, disgruntled)*
Come along, Kirby Crawler. *(move to exit at opposite side)*

Bonnie: Boo!

Audience: Boo!

Nosey: *(to audience)* Oh be quiet. We're only doing our job. *(they exit sniggering)*

Bonnie: *(struggles to move)* Oh dear, everything's going wrong. *(trying to be cheerful)*
Still, things couldn't get any worse, could they?

Enter BEAST U.S. snuffling towards the abandoned cart.

Beast: Yummy yummy yummy.

Bonnie: I can hear something. *(tries to turn around but can only face front)*

BEAST takes giant "Tunes" packet from cart. BEAST is eventually going to "swallow" the whole packet. This 'effect' will be achieved by him standing sideways to the audience

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next to the wings or a gap in the scenery, such as a window, opening his mouth and pushing the packet vertically down the upstage side of his body. The packet is taken by someone off-stage.

Beast: Sweeties! Me love sweeties! *(struggles to open packet and moves towards gap)*

BONNIE questions the audience: most of the replies required are simple "yes" or "no". If they get carried away she should quieten them with "I can't hear you if you all shout at once", etc.

Bonnie: Who is it? What? A beast? What kind ... pussy cat? A doggy? Is it a big beast? Oh no! What's it doing? It's got the "Tunes". *(BEAST swallows the packet: gulping noises)* Now what's happening? Swallowing the whole packet?

He straightens up and rubs his tummy: a loud burp.

Beast: Very tasty.

Bonnie: *(quaking)* He'll probably swallow me next ...

BEAST hiccups a couple of times, straightens up suddenly, holds out his arm operatically, opens his mouth and mimes to a short extract from "Nessum Dorma", moving D.S. as he does so.

Bonnie: What a beautiful voice!

Beast: Fanks! *(She sees him and screams)*

Bonnie: Help! A monster!

Beast: Me no monster ...

Enter JASPER U.S., cracking a whip at BEAST, who cowers and backs away. BONNIE cannot see JASPER yet.

Jasper: Get away from her. Get back to the dungeons where you belong! *(exit BEAST, whimpering)*

Bonnie: *(to audience)* Who's that? *(audience responds)* A King? Is he good-looking? No? *(JASPER moves into her line of sight)* You fibbers ... he's gorgeous!

Jasper: What have we here? A beautiful maiden and all alone. What's your name, wench?

Bonnie: Bonnie, sire.

Jasper: *(kissing her hand)* Enchanté Bonniesire. I'm King Jasper, the Just.

Bonnie: Just what?

Jasper: *(grinning)* Just ... kind-hearted and ever so good. *(to audience)* Aren't I?

Audience: No! *(he shakes fist at them)*

TOOTLE dashes on breathlessly.