

NODA Presents
**BEAUTY AND THE
BEAST**

A pantomime tale

Written by

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SYNOPSIS

This script allows for the set and costumes to be lavish or simpler if performed by a smaller group on a tighter budget. I had always worried about the difficulties of casting young, dashing males as a beast, so this script has a twist to allow for older actors to play key parts in the tale. Beauty and the Beast is not one of the stories originally associated with traditional pantomime, but it does translate well because of its clear structure of Good versus Evil. This Pantomime was winner of the Wharfedale Festival of Theatre, Pantomime section in 2010. It was hugely enjoyable to perform as it ticks all the boxes for story, fun, laughter, music and that all important slapstick.

In order of appearance

- FAIRY GRACE** Female . She acts as the story teller. Opposite to the ~~h~~addieq She keeps the story going and is pivotal in the rescue of the villagers from the castle. Singing required.
- EVIL ELECTRA** Female . She really is a nasty piece of work. Not necessarily a witch, perhaps more ~~u~~oyalq. but certainly evil. She is responsible for the imprisonment of the Beast. Singing required.
- MANUEL** Male . Comedy part. He is a Spanish waiter who works for Big Sam. He lives with Dame Ella, and to earn extra money also helps her in her bakery. He is totally in love with Cecile. Singing and comedy timing are essential.
- CECILE** Female . A sexy French waitress who works for Big Sam. Keen on Manuel. Singing essential.
- BIG SAM** Male - Belle and Kelle's father. Idea based on ~~S~~wedish Chefq He is a jolly fellow who owns the Bistro. Does not necessarily have to be a singer.
- BELLE** Female . Principal girl. A young, beautiful and gracious daughter of Big Sam. She is gentle and kind hearted, even able to ~~f~~allqfor the Beast. Singing essential.
- KELLE** Female - Belle's sister. Complete contrast in any way you can! An element of freedom in the role but she should be spoilt, demanding and lack all of the qualities Belle possesses. Does not necessarily have to be a singer.
- DAME ELLA** Male . A traditional Pantomime dame. She is a cook, who owns her own bakery and cake shop. She needs comedy timing to be able to carry off the breakfast routine in Scene Three. Should be able to carry a tune.
- FREDERICK** Male or Female - Valet to Prince Jasper. A loyal servant who supports the Prince though his adventures. No solo, but is part of the chorus singing.

- PRINCE JASPER** Female - Non-identical twin of Julius/Beast. A traditional principal boy whose life has been destroyed by Evil Electra. Finding courage, he sets off to fight for the freedom of the people he loves. Singing essential.
- BEAST** Male - Non-identical twin of Jasper. Only in Act Two and not seen in human form until the final scene.
- STAN DUPP** Male or female . One half of the comedy duo and employee of Evil Electra. Jailer, rent collector. Required to sing
- BEN DOWN** Male or female - The other half of the duo and also an employee of Evil Electra. Also jailer and rent collector. Required to sing.
- WISE OWL** Child part - Singer and dancer. A part which can introduce a chorus member to the ranks of principal.

ACT ONE

PROLOGUE

The Story So Far

In front of the curtains. Fairy Grace enters and stands in a spot, stage right.

Fairy Grace Children and parents, to each, one and all.
Welcome tonight to this performance hall
Our pantomime for you is full of laughter and song
So sit back and relax as the story moves along

My name is Fairy Grace and a tale I must relate
So please switch off your mobile phones so you can concentrate
The story that I bring to you, at first may seem quite tragic
But as the evening slips along, you'll see it is quite magic.

Enter Evil Electra through the curtains, moving to stage left, lighting her up as the spot dims on Fairy Grace.

Evil Electra Magic!?! (**Sneers**) There's only one kind of magic you'll see
The most evil kind . produced all by me
Tonight you'll watch a story unfold
about a Prince who thought himself bold

I cannot allow anyone in this place
to believe they are bolder than me, Fairy Grace
Those who are foolish enough to fall prey
to my evil spells, yes they'll rue the day
they ever thought they were better than me
Sit back in your seats, watch the story, you'll see

The light dims on Electra and lights on Grace.

Fairy Grace Evil Electra is right with her story
It is her intent to receive all the glory
In her quest to rule the whole of our land
She cruelly killed, by her wicked hand
the King and the Queen, who did gracefully rule.
She spared both their Princes, but why, when she's cruel?

One Prince was so timid, she cast him aside
She saw him no threat, he ran far to hide
The other Prince bolder, had an arrogant streak
So using her magic turned him into a freak.

Lights swap between Grace and Electra.

Manuel Hello boys and girls. My name is Manuel and I am a waiter at Big Sam's. I am from Barcelona and I must admit I am getting home sick. I write to my family and tell them I save up to go home to visit. Manuel will return to Barcelona.

Cecile **(Rushing to Manuel's side)** Oh Manuel, please do not go. What would I do without you to talk to?

Manuel I shall work hard Cecile and then you and I shall go to Barcelona together. Now come, we need to open the Bistro. Señor Big Sam must see that we work hard.

SONG *BIG SAM'S*

The Chorus enter during the song. At the end of the song, Manuel and Cecile work at the tables. Big Sam enters SR. He is carrying a newspaper.

Big Sam Oh thank you everyone. What a welcome **(Laughs jovially)**. And welcome is what you all are. This is my Bistro. There was a gap in the market. **(Laughs)** Here it is. Great Big Sam's Bistro.

Belle and Kelle enter SL, out of the Bistro.

Belle Hello Daddy.

Kelle Hello Daddy.

Big Sam My girls. How have you been? It's lovely to see you.

Belle And you too Daddy. I have missed you.

Kelle Have you brought me back a present?

Big Sam I might have something for you.

Kelle You've bought me a hat!

Big Sam No!

Kelle You've bought me a bag!

Big Sam No!

Kelle You've bought me a car!

Belle Kelle, that's just being greedy. And besides which, cars haven't been invented yet!

Big Sam No, no, no. I haven't actually bought you anything.

- Kelle But you said you had something for me.
- Belle Presents aren't everything.
- Kelle Speak for yourself.
- Big Sam Please girls. Don't bicker. It's actually news I've got for you. Here, look at the paper.
- Belle **(Taking the paper from him and reads)** Local restauranteur, Big Sam.
- Big Sam **(Proudly)** That's me! Big Sam! Aged 33!
- Kelle Well that's a lie! There were so many candles on your birthday cake last year it nearly set off the smoke alarm!
- Belle **(Carries on reading)** Local restauranteur, Big Sam has had a win on the Euro Millions! Oh Daddy, I'm so happy for you!
- Kelle So am I. Now you can buy me all the presents I've ever wanted.
- Big Sam Isn't it exciting? I've never won anything on the lottery before. I'm going straight down to the Post Office to collect my winnings.

Big Sam exits SL. Manuel and Cecile can be seen serving at the tables.

- Belle **(To Kelle)** It is wonderful news isn't it?
- Kelle I'd say. Once I'm rich, I'd be irresistible **(glancing back towards Manuel)**. And in particular to him!
- Belle Do still fancy Manuel? You know he's only got eyes for Cecile.
- Kelle With all the hours he works at Dad's and then helping Dame Ella prepare all her cakes and pies on an evening, he must have a massive wad of money in the bank.
- Belle There's more to life than money. What about a man with a gentle heart, or a quick wit?
- Kelle You can't squeeze a gentle heart and you can't grab hold of a quick wit. Belle, it's all about the money!

Kelle moves back towards Big Sam's and Belle follows.

- Belle Hello Manuel, hello Cecile.
- Cecile Ah, bonjour Mademoiselle Belle.
- Manuel Olà Señorita Belle.

Kelle We were just talking about you!

Cecile Lets hope eet waz somsing nice for a change.

Belle Come on Kelle, we've still got our chores to do.

Belle and Kelle enter Big Sam's. Dame Ella enters SR from her shop, sweeping the front.

Dame Ella Ooo . Manuel! Those cakes you made this morning have risen a treat.

Manuel Thank you Dame Ella. I was particularly light fingered today!

Dame Ella You can say that again! **(To audience)** Two dozen chocolate buns were heading for my shop today. After Manuel had finished, I ended up with a baker's dozen. Still, he's a good boy.

Dame Ella moves forward to address the audience.

Dame Ella He works so hard. All day, slaving away at Big Sam's and then here with me. I let him off his rent, because he does so much here for me. I shouldn't though. I'm really struggling to make ends meet. I'd borrow money from a pessimist if I could find one. They don't expect it back.

Anyway, hello! Boys and girls. Mums and Dads. My name is Dame Ella.

She is wearing a piece of fur around her neck.

Do you like my outfit? Well it is a little cold outside. That's why I'm wearing this bit of fur around my neck. **(Pulls a face)** Oh . excuse me . I'm going to sneeze. Ahō ahō TISHOOO!

The piece of fur around her neck is attached to a nylon strung and the fur is pulled off stage.

Oh well, fur's fur! I'd still be nice and warm. Look, I'm wearing thermal bloomers! I bought these from [*insert name of local shop*]. It's amazing what they've got in the back of their shop! And, I've got a silk bra **(to someone in the audience)** and no, I shan't be showing you that! I am famous for two things . my cakes and my dumplings **(hitches up her bust)**! Don't you think I've got a lovely figure? 36 . 24 . 36. Why are you laughing? I didn't tell you I measured myself in inches! Not a bad figure for a girl of 28 is it?

Would you like to see some of my dumplings? **(To a specific audience member)** Please Sir! There are children present. Please keep your comments to yourself.

(Addressing the whole audience) Would you like to see my dumplings?

Audience Yes!

Dame Ella I thought you might!

Dame Ella feels in her pockets.

Dame Ella Ooh, what's here? Oh no, I forgot to put the dumplings in my apron. Look, I've only got sweets. Will sweets do instead?

Audience Yes!

Dame Ella Are you sure? I can't hear you

Audience Yes!

Dame Ella throws sweets to the front row.

Dame Ella Well that's the front row taken care of.

***(I would advise checking with the theatre before embarking on the following.)**

Dame Ella Now the back! **(Sees a racket waved from the wings)** Ooo . what a good idea! Anyone from Health and Safety here? No? Good!

Dame Ella carefully bats the sweets out to the back.

Dame Ella Fifteen love! Thirty love! Forty love! Game, set and match to Dame Ella! Anyway, I can't stand about here all day talking to you lot. I've got buns in the oven!

Dame Ella goes back into her shop. Enter Prince Jasper and Frederick.

Frederick Sir, I wish you wouldn't always look so sad.

Jasper And I wish you wouldn't always call me Sir. How many times do I have to tell you? That part of my life is well and truly over.

Frederick Such a tragic situation.

Jasper There's no use dwelling on it Frederick. The day Evil Electra killed my parents was the day I realised I had to truly grow up and take charge. Julius was always the stronger of us, but too hot headed . to his own cost.

Frederick What actually happened that day, Sir? **(Quickly realising)** I mean, I mean ð I don't know what I mean.

- Jasper Just call me Jasper.
- Frederick It just doesn't feel right.
- Jasper Well, you'd better get used to it. I don't ever see it changing?
- Frederick Well? What happened?
- Jasper It was just as it always was. Julius, unable to keep his mouth shut, just kept arguing about how unjust everything was. No-one should ever be able to overturn the rightful heirs to a country. He just wouldn't stop. I tried to reason with him. He wasn't always so hot-headed, but she just brought out all the very worst in him.
- Frederick What happened then?
- Jasper There was no way Electra would allow him to demonstrate such a temper. There was a flash of light and suddenly Julius was on his knees. Something had happened.
- Frederick What?
- Jasper That was the worst part of it. **(Sadly)** I couldn't look. I saw nothing, but heard an almighty roar. The door flew open behind me and I never saw Julius again.
- Frederick What on earth had she done to him?
- Jasper As I said, I never saw. She only said one thing to me before she let me go. I had to look after the white roses if I were to ever know that Julius was safe. I don't really know what she meant, but the only white roses I know of are here.
- He moves to SL. There is a trellis of white roses in full bloom.**
- Frederick Well there certainly doesn't look as though there is anything wrong with those. They really are beautiful. Perhaps you really ought to consider how best to take care of them. You never know what Electra truly meant.
- Jasper You're right. I do keep them well fed and watered, but what if someone should pick them?
- Frederick Well why don't we ask the boys and girls?
- Jasper Ask them what?
- Frederick To help. If they see anyone trying to pick any of the roses, they can shout out and stop them.

Frederick turns to audience.

Frederick Will you help us? **(Addressing the audience)** If you see anyone picking one of these roses, will you tell us?

Audience Yes.

Frederick Well, I say that's not very convincing is it? You either want to help the Prince or not.

Jasper **(Exasperated)** I've told you not to call me that!

Frederick But they need to realise how important this is. How important you are. Now please, **(to audience)** if you see anyone at all touching that rose bush, I want you to shout 'õ õ' I want you to shout 'õ ..

Frederick looks at Jasper and shrugs his shoulders.

Frederick What should I ask them to shout?

Jasper Well what are boys and girls used to shouting?

Frederick Oh, I don't think we should go down that line. I've heard what boys and girls shout these days and I really don't like it!

Jasper Well, what do Mums and Dads shout?

Frederick Ah, I know just what Mums and Dads would shout! They would shout something like 'Don't pick your nose!'

Jasper Really?

Frederick Absolutely! Let's just change it to 'Don't pick the rose!'

Jasper That's brilliant! Should we practice?

Frederick
Jasper) **(Encouraging the audience)** DON'T PICK THE ROSE!

Jasper Every time you see someone who is trying to pick one of those white roses, you need to shout out. Will you do that?

Audience Yes!

Jasper Louder! I want to know that you really will help us. **(Shouts)** Will you help us?

Audience Yes!

Jasper Then let's hear it! **(Shouts louder)** DON'T PICK THE ROSE!

Audience DON'T PICK THE ROSE!

Frederick Oh I say, that's fabulous. **(To Jasper)** That must cheer you up!

Jasper It certainly does. I'm still not quite sure how it will help, but I certainly feel more confident about it.

They begin to exit CSL.

Frederick I have a feeling that things will certainly look up now, Sir.

Jasper What have I told you about that, Frederick? Don't call me Sir. Please just refer to me as Jasper.

Frederick I'm sorry, Sir. It's just that I keep forgetting, Sir.

As they exit, Stan and Ben enter from the back SR. As they walk down to CS, Dame Ella comes out of her shop.

Stan Good morning Dame Ella. We've come to collect your rent.

Dame Ella Rent? But you were only here last month.

Ben Yeh! And you didn't pay then either did you?

Dame Ella Well now then, it's not my fault. I was a little short. I don't have a solution, but I do admire the problem.

Stan Let's hope you've had a growing spurt in the last few weeks. **(Holds hand out)** Rent!

Ben You owe Evil Electra £500.

Dame Ella Yes, and I'm quite willing to pay.

Stan Good.

Dame Ella But I haven't actually got any money of my own.

Ben Well whose money have you got?

Stan We don't care whose money it is as long as you pay!

Dame Ella Very well then. Have you any money with you?

Ben I've got £100.

Stan And I've got £10

Dame Ella Well lend me that money for a while.

Ben When do we get it back?

Dame Ella On my honour, if you are not happy with the transaction, I'll return it immediately if not sooner.

Stan (**Looks at Ben**) That sounds good enough for me.

Ben (**Looks at Stan**) And me.

They both hand over the cash to Dame Ella.

Dame Ella Now, will you kindly accept £110 on account of my debt to her most Evilness, the Evil Electra?

Stan You can't pay with that! It's our money.

Dame Ella You said it didn't matter whose money I paid with.

Ben It doesn't. So long as it isn't ours.

Dame Ella In that case, as you're not satisfied with the transaction, I will return your cash as promised.

Stan Quite right too.

Dame Ella I'll just count it out to make sure it's all there. Who will accept it?

Ben I will. (**Holds hand out**)

Dame Ella Very well. Now then, one, two three, how many years have you been in this job?

Ben Seven.

Dame Ella Eight, nine, ten, have you any family?

Ben No, but my parents had twenty children.

Dame Ella How many?

Ben Twenty.

Dame Ella Twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three, how old are you?

Ben Thirty-one.

Dame Ella looks at the audience and raises an eyebrow.

Dame Ella Thirty-two, thirty-three, thirty-four.

Ben My father's ninety!

Dame Ella (**Looks knowingly at the audience**) Ninety-one, ninety-two, ninety-three.

Stan That's nothing, my Grand Mother lived until she was a hundred and five!

Dame Ella One hundred and six, one hundred and seven, eight, nine, ten. There you are. That's all your money back and there's no harm done.

Ben Thank you very much. You're a real lady.

Stan It's been nice doing business with you. Goodbye.

Dame Ella Goodbye!

**She tucks the money into her bra and enters her shop.
Stan and Ben go across to sit in Big Sam's. Manuel and Cecile enter from Big Sam's SL. He is clearly 'down'.**

Cecile What iz ze matter Manuel. Come on, spill ze beans.

Manuel No no! No spill beans. Manuel just cleaned up.

Cecile Aren't you well?

Manuel Oh Cecile, I have a terrible headache. Señor Big Sam, he shout very loud at me. He said Manuel, didn't I tell you to notice when the soup boiled over?

Cecile And didn't you notice?

Manuel Si, I notice. It was half past three!

Cecile You have ze headache because of ze hours you work. It cannot be good for you.

Manuel But we go to Barcelona! I need money to get us there.

Cecile If you are not well, you need to go to ze doctor.

Manuel I go see doctor. He gave me full medical check up. They x-rayed my head. I ask doctor if it showed anything. He said absolutely nothing.

Cecile I am sorry. Iz zere anysing else ze matter?

Manuel The doctor, he told me to go jogging. He said that jogging every day would add ten years to my life.

Cecile Zat iz good news.

Manuel No, it is not. I went jogging yesterday and now I feel ten years older.

Dame Ella comes out of her shop to shake a cloth.

Cecile We must get on with some work. Come on.

She enters Big Sam's. Manuel sighs and watches her.

Manuel She is lovely.

Dame Ella Are you day dreaming again, Manuel?

Manuel I think Cecile is the girl for me. I fed up of going to dance after dance and not find the right girl for Manuel.

Dame Ella So your dancing days are over?

Manuel Si, the last dance I went to I met a beautiful girl. We got on very well.

Dame Ella What happened?

Manuel She took me to one side.

Dame Ella Yes! Then what did she do?

Manuel She left me there! No, Manuel say goodbye to all other girls. Cecile is the only one for me.

Dame Ella goes back into her shop.

SONG

TO ALL THE GIRLS I'VE LOVED BEFORE

At the end of the song, Manuel goes into Big Sam's. Enter three chorus.

Chorus One I'm starving!

Chorus Two So am I. I didn't have any breakfast this morning.

Chorus Three Well, why don't we get something to eat?

Chorus Two Sounds good to me. Look in Dame Ella's window. I say, those cakes look really nice.

Chorus Three But cakes aren't particularly healthy for breakfast.

Chorus One I agree. We really shouldn't eat cake for breakfast. Why don't we go to Big Sam's and have a proper breakfast?

Chorus Two Look (**Holding out money**) I can afford to pay. I've just got my first week's wages from my paper round for [*Insert name of local shop*].

Chorus Three Come on then, let's go order.

They go to sit at a table in Big Sam's Bistro. Cecile enters. Stan and Ben are still reading the menu.

Cecile Can I help you?

Chorus Two Yes please. We'd like to order some breakfast.

Cecile Of course. What would you like. We can offer full English.

Chorus One Ooh, that sounds good. **(To Cecile)** How much is that?

Cecile Eet ees cheap at half the price. Today, eet ees only Five Euros.

Chorus Two **(Quietly to the other two)** I think that's out of my price range.

Chorus Three What else do you have on the menu?

Cecile We have a continental breakfast.

Chorus One Oh, that sounds good. How much is that?

Cecile Zat ees sree an a half Euros.

Chorus Two **(Again to the other two)** That's still a bit expensive.

Chorus One What is the cheapest thing you have on the menu?

Cecile **(Sighing)** How much have you got to spend?

Chorus Two I've only got one Euro. I'm sorry, I don't earn much.

Cecile I know you. You work for [*Insert name of local employer*] to pay you more. I have toast and jam. Eet ees home-made an very delicious. **(Looks around)** for you . one euro!

Chorus Three That sounds lovely! Thank you Miss!

Cecile moves away, passing Stan and Ben.

Stan Excuse me, Miss.

Cecile Oui? How may I help you?

Stan I'd like to order.

Cecile Certainly, Sir. What can I get you?

Stan I'd like a quicky, please.

Cecile **(Outraged)** How dare you.

Big Sam moves from chorus up to Manuel and looks at the trays.

Big Sam No, no, no. Manuel . there is too much jam (**pointing**) on those trays.

Manuel Que?

Big Sam I said, there is too much jam, on those trays.

Manuel (**Realising**) Oh no, Señor Sam. (**Nods**) Uno, dos, tres!

Big Sam What?

Manuel It is not . on, doze, trays.

Big Sam What?

Manuel It is not . on, doze, trays. It is Uno, dos, tres (**nodding at each tray as he says it**). (**Repeats**) Uno, dos, tres!

Big Sam Oh for goodness sake, Manuel. I'd never be able to make a profit at this rate. You should only put one pack of jam on each tray.

Big Sam takes some packs of jam off each tray and Manuel goes to serve them to the chorus. Dame Ella enters from her shop.

Dame Ella Cooeee! Sam! (**Waving**)

Big Sam Ah, Dame Ella, how nice to see you. Would you like to join me for a drink?

Dame Ella Lovely! Not too early for a glass of wine, is it?

Big Sam It's never too early. (**Showing her to a seat**) Here, take the weight off your feet. (**Shouts**) Manuel! Manuel!

Manuel runs on.

Manuel Si, Señor Big Sam.

Big Sam Ah Manuel, would you fetch the list of wines please.

Manuel Si Señor!

Manuel just stands there.

Big Sam The list of wines!

Manuel Si!

Still stands there, motionless.

Big Sam The list of wines. **(Pause)** Vino!

Manuel Ah, si.

Manuel begins to exit and Big Sam grabs him.

Big Sam No, no! The list!

Big Sam point to the next table where there is obviously a wine list.

Big Sam There . that list!

Big Sam keeps pointing as Manuel looks all around, except at the list. He is very confused.

Big Sam **(Very agitated and still pointing)** There! Look. There!

Eventually Big Sam picks up the list and gives it to Manuel.

Big Sam Look, the list!

Manuel **(Takes the list from Big Sam)** Si Señor. **(Gives it back to Big Sam)** The list!

As Big Sam gestures with the list, Manuel runs off.

Big Sam There we are Dame Ella. Take a look at our selection of fine wines.

Cecile enters again.

Stan Excuse me Miss, can we order?

Cecile Oui! As long as you are no longer rude.

Stan But I don't mean to be. **(Shows her the menu)** I only want this. **(Points)** A quicky!

Cecile **(With a look to the audience)** I think you will find zat is pronounced Quiche, Sir!

Stan Sorry.

Ben What is this, Miss? **(Points at the menu)** Prune Cacktoil.

Cecile Zat is Prawn Cocktail.

Ben Ooh nice. I like Prawn Cocktail. And Crib Basque?

- Cecile Crib Basque . eet ees fish soup.
- Ben I'd have the Prune Cacktoil! (**Looks back at his menu**) Now . Perk carousel. Is that pork?
- Cecile Oui! Pork casserole.
- Ben That sounds nice. Does it come with a smile?
- Cecile Eet comes wiz ze cabbage or ze green beans.
- Ben Oh, a smile? extra then is it?
- Cecile You'd get one eet you eat all your cabbage!
- She takes the menu off him and goes back inside.
Jasper and Frederick enter USL and move DCS.**
- Jasper (**To Big Sam**) Excuse me Sir, Is Belle at home?
- At the very same time Belle and Kelle enter from Big Sam's. Belle goes to greet Jasper and an unwilling Frederick is accosted by Kelle.**
- Kelle (**Drags him**) Come on, you can buy me a coffee. Although I can really afford my own. My father has just won the Euro Millions!
- Frederick Oh, lucky me!
- Belle Hello Jasper. How are you?
- Jasper I'm fine. You?
- Belle All the better for seeing you! Kelle has been driving me mad!
- Jasper You shouldn't be so hard on her. It must be lovely to have your sister around.
- Belle Believe me. I think it would be lovely to be an only child. She can be so much trouble.
- Jasper (**Quietly, away from Belle**) So was Julius, but I still miss him.
- Belle You sometimes seem so distant Jasper. As though your thoughts are far away. I sometimes feel like that.
- Jasper And what do you do?
- Belle Don't laugh, but I go out of the village towards the castle and speak to the wise old owl. She's always full of good advice.

Jasper Do you know Belle, that's just what I love about you the most, it's the little stories you tell to try to cheer me up.

Belle It's not a story. I do talk to the wise old owl . honest!

Jasper You do make me so happy Belle. Happier than I think you realise.

SONG *IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU*

SCENE TWO

At the edge of the Village

**In front of the curtains. The rose trellis must be visible.
Enter Fairy Grace through the curtains and stands SR.**

Fairy Grace It is just as I predicted, I can only offer you the reassurance that these people are strong and brave. They will fight to make sure that evil is always overcome. Before that happens, you need to understand a little more .

Fairy Grace stands well out of the way SR for the following action. Kelle and Big Sam enter.

Kelle But you said you'd won the lottery.

Big Sam I did win the lottery!

Kelle Twenty Seven Euros! That's it!

Big Sam They don't pay out much for four numbers these days, you know.

Kelle But Twenty Seven Euros. That'd hardly buy me anything.

Big Sam Presents aren't everything my dear. Why can't you be more like Belle?

Kelle Huh! **(Mimicking)** Oh Daddy, I don't want any presents. I'm quite happy with fresh air and beautiful flowers.

Big Sam **(Shaking his head)** I sometimes wonder how on earth I could have such different daughters.

Kelle It wouldn't do for us all to be the same. I'm going back home. **(To her father)** Twenty Seven Euros! Won't even keep me in face cream.

Kelle exits back through the curtains.

Big Sam **(Sadly)** No dear. What am I going to do with that girl? She'd be on my hands for ever . I can't see me finding a suitor for her. Now

Belle, she is a completely different story. I think that young man she is friendly with has a bit of a soft spot for her.

He looks SL and sees the roses.

Big Sam What beautiful flowers. White roses have always been one of Belle's favourites.

He moves to pick one.

Audience DON'T PICK THE ROSE!

Big Sam Don't worry . I only want one. **(He picks one of the roses)**

Evil Electra enters through the curtains and Big Sam jumps in shock.

Evil Electra You are a thief. How dare you steal my roses? Somebody was meant to be taking care of them. **(She looks around for Jasper.)**

Big Sam I had no idea they were yours.

Evil Electra What excuse do you have for stealing my roses?

Big Sam I didn't realise these flowers belonged to anyone. I do apologise.

Evil Electra **(Sneers)** Your apology will not save your life. I shall kill you for this.

Big Sam **(Knees knocking)** Kill me? Surely not for picking one flower.

Evil Electra Then give me one good reason why I should spare you?

Big Sam I was only picking one rose for Belle.

Evil Electra Belle? Who is this Belle?

Big Sam She is my youngest child - as lovely as this flower herself. She loves all beautiful things because she is as kind and gentle as she is pretty.

Evil Electra You seem to have a great love for this Belle.

Big Sam **(Pleading)** Please don't take the life of this girl's father.

Evil Electra I will spare your life on one condition.

Big Sam And that is?

Evil Electra You must bring to my castle, within the next 24 hours, the first creature you see after we part.

Big Sam **(Turning to audience. He contemplates.)** The first creature I see. Well, I'm just on my way out for a walk in the countryside. I'm bound to bump into some sheep in the fields. In fact I'm sure I'd see a sheep before any other creature. The farmer wouldn't miss one sheep! **(Looking back to Evil Electra now happy.)** I agree.

Big Sam leaves the stage, quite happy and quietly chuckling to himself.

Big Sam Here sheepy sheepy! Come to Daddy **(To audience)** You're lucky she doesn't mean you when she says the next creature I see. **(A jolly laugh as he exits through the audience).**

Fairy Grace is lit as Evil Electra moves to her usual SL position.

Fairy Grace I don't know why you have to be so wicked Electra. The world would be such a nicer place if everyone were kind to each other.

Evil Electra Nicer place? This is a wonderful place as it is.

Fairy Grace Maybe for you. Particularly in a castle which isn't really yours.

Evil Electra Now now Fairy Grace. Anyone would think you were jealous. People respect me for my power.

Fairy Grace Your power is used to kill and maim.

Evil Electra A mere side issue. The audience show in their kind reactions how popular I actually am.

The audience hopefully hiss and boo!

Evil Electra You see how they respond to me. Just to show you I've decided to make you my new project.

Fairy Grace You really don't have to do that.

Evil Electra Oh, it would be my pleasure.

SONG

POPULAR

At the end of the song, the spots dim on Fairy Grace and Evil Electra so they are barely visible. Big Sam enters back through the audience. As he gets on the stage, Belle appears through the curtains and taps him on the shoulder.

Belle Daddy?

Big Sam **(He turns to look at her immediately)** No! Please **(Looking at Evil Electra)** No!

Evil Electra (Laughs evilly)

Blackout

SCENE FOUR

Dame Ella's Kitchen

As the scene starts, Dame Ella and Manuel are sat at the kitchen table. They are eating cereal. The radio is situated in the background. This dialogue is useful to use names and locations of specific audience members.

Radio Announcer And good morning listeners. Welcome to Radio [*Insert name of location*]. The news this morning includes a new report just in. Mrs Smith from Main Street recently visited Paris and fell off a bridge. We have been told she went in Seined. It has also been reported that Mr Jones has been for a sauna in a room full of white tiles and steam. He lay down in the middle of the floor, stark naked and when the steam cleared, he found he was in [*Insert name of local fish shop*].

Now we have a request for some music from Mrs White.

This is an excellent mime routine and can be something newly choreographed or a take on a more well-known piece.

MUSIC

BREAKFAST ROUTINE

Dame Ella Come on Manuel, there's just time to bake a batch of cakes before you go to work. Right, let's start with a little flour.

Manuel Si, a little flower.

Manuel runs to fetch a rose. The audience will hopefully shout – DON'T PICK THE ROSE!

Manuel (To audience) Oh . be quiet! (He gives Dame Ella a rose)

Dame Ella What's that?

Manuel A little flower.

Dame Ella No that kind of flower . what sort is it anyway?

Manuel It is a chrysanthemum.

Dame Ella No it's not, it's a rose.

Manuel No no. It's a chrysanthemum.

Dame Ella It's a rose.

Manuel It's a chrysanthemum.

Dame Ella Alright then. Spell Chrysanthemum.

Manuel Que?

Dame Ella Spell Chrysanthemum.

Manuel Okay. Is a rose.

Dame Ella Stop messing around Manuel. Now I need some currants. Oh dear. I forgot to buy some. I'm sure I haven't got any.

Manuel Si, si Dame Ella. I get you currants. You wait.

He exits and returns with some currants in his hands.

Manuel Here. Lovely currants. **(He tips them into the mixing bowl)**

Dame Ella Well that's good. I didn't think I had any. **(Puts some of them into her mouth)** I love currants. Where did you find them?

Manuel I find a secret store behind the rabbits. **(Does a rabbits ears impression).**

Dame Ella **(Spitting out the currants)** You silly little man. I haven't had a shock like that since I stood on a piece of my fruit cake and a current ran up my leg.

Knock at the door. A chorus enters holding two cakes.

Chorus Dame Ella?

Dame Ella Yes dear, what can I do for you?

Chorus My mum says, can you decorate these for my birthday party this afternoon?

Dame Ella Of course my dear. Come and put them down on the table. What time is your party?

Chorus Four o'clock.

Dame Ella Then come back at three and I'll have them ready for you.

Chorus Thank you. **(Exits)**

Manuel What lovely cakes!

Dame Ella Would you like to help me decorate them?

Manuel Si Dame Ella. We must make them into the most fabulous cakes for the birthday party.

Dame Ella Fetch the cream from the fridge.

Manuel fetches two cans of cream from the fridge.

Manuel Here is cream.

Dame Ella Now I shall decorate the first one and if you watch what I'm doing you will be able to decorate the second one. Ok?

Manuel Ok!

Dame Ella now changes her accent to one which is not dissimilar to Jamie Oliver.

Dame Ella Right, first grab your bit of cake. I've got a right pukka one here. Grab a old of the old squirty cream. You can buy this at any local store. Dead cheap.

Manuel Si, any local store.

Dame Ella Give it a good old shake.

Manuel Si, shaky shaky shaky.

Dame Ella Now then what you have to do is grab the old cake stand and as you turn it, give the squirty cream a bit of a squeeze. How you doing Manuel?

Manuel Si. I turn and I squeeze.

Dame Ella Keep going me old mate (**sticks her finger in the cream and licks it**). Cor blimey . just have a taste of that!

Manuel, copying Dame Ella, puts his finger in the cream but instead of licking his own finger, offers it to Dame Ella – misses and pokes her in the eye.

Manuel (**Jumps aside**) Oh I am so sorry Dame Ella.

Dame Ella Just what do you think you are doing?

Manuel I do just as you say, but I miss your mouth.

Dame Ella You stupid man. You were meant to lick your own finger.

Manuel Que?

Dame Ella demonstrates by sticking her own finger in Manuel's cake and putting it in her mouth.

Manuel Ah! I see. **(Puts finger in his cake and offers it to Dame Ella)**

Dame Ella No, no, no.

She picks up a cake and threatens to throw it at him. As she does, Manuel ducks.

Dame Ella Stand still.

Manuel No!

Dame Ella threatens again.

Dame Ella Stand still.

Manuel No!

They begin a bit of cat and mouse – aiming and ducking which they take out into the audience. As soon as they do, the curtains close.

Dame Ella Come here!

Manuel No!

They finally exit through the audience.

SCENE FOUR

In the Village

In front of the curtains until the scene has changed from the kitchen. Kelle enters through the audience carrying shopping bags, as Jasper enters SR and walks across to look at the roses.

Kelle Huh! Twenty Seven Euros. Have you seen this little lot (**shaking her bags**). I need a lot more than Twenty Seven Euros to pay for this.

She sees Jasper and walks over to him.

Kelle You're that boy who keeps calling for my sister.

Jasper I'm sorry?

- Kelle You. Don't you keep calling round to go walking with my sister?
- Jasper If you mean Belle, then yes, I do.
- Kelle Why are you always so miserable? Every time I see you, you look
 . well just sad.
- Jasper No reason.
- Kelle And you're always messing around with those roses.
- Jasper I like roses. I want to take care of them. Look, they're wilting. They
 mustn't die. I mustn't let them die.
- Kelle **(Confused, she moves SL to talk to the audience)** I don't know
 what my sister sees in him.
- Jasper It wouldn't do for us all to be the same.
- Kelle Certainly not!

**He exits as Cecile enters through the curtains, passing
her on the way.**

- Cecile Bonjour Sir!
- Jasper What? Oh . hello!

Cecile goes over to Kelle. SL.

- Cecile What iz ze matter wiz ðm?
- Kelle I don't know what Belle sees in him. I've always found him to be
 miserable.
- Cecile But zey look like an handsome couple, do zey not?
- Kelle Talking of handsome, have you seen Manuel today?
- Cecile Oh zat boy. Æ works so hard zat when we do go out together, æ
 just can't be bozzered. Last night we arranged to go dancing and
 æ's so tired æ turns up to take me out in his work outfit. Æ had soup
 stains all over ðs shirt. Sometimes all he cares about ees ðs work
 and making enough money to go back to Barcelona.

**The stage should now be a full set. Manuel is sat at one
of the tables – head down, fast asleep.**

- Kelle I don't know why you complain about him. I think he's absolutely
 adorable.

Kelle picks up her bags to go inside Big Sam's. She passes the sleepy Manuel.

Kelle Hello Manuel.

Manuel **(He sleepily raises his head from the table) Que? (And then goes back to sleep.)**

Cecile Manuel! Look at you!

SONG *THE BOY DOES NOTHING*

At the end of the song, Big Sam enters from his Bistro. He is distraught.

Big Sam **(Wailing)** Oooooohhhhhh! Booooo Hoooo!

On hearing him, Kelle enters from the Bistro, Dame Ella enters from her shop, Jasper and Frederick along with the chorus enter from various places. They are all confused.

Cecile What is the matter? Here, come and sit down.

Big Sam It's Belle.

Kelle What's matter with her? She isn't in her room.

Big Sam Booooooo Hoooooo!

Kelle Oh for goodness sake father. Stop crying and tell us what has happened.

Big Sam It was Evil Electra.

Jasper **(Suddenly coming forward)** What's that you say?

Big Sam Evil Electra has taken Belle. She caught me picking one of the white roses. To spare my life she said I had to take Belle to the castle. Belle insisted that I do as she said.

Jasper Oh no. This is my fault. She told me I had to look after those roses. She trusted me.

Kelle Who?

Jasper Evil Electra.

Cecile You know her?

Jasper Yes, unfortunately I do.

The front two entrances should be available. There are bars to represent jail at the front of the stage.

SONG

JAILHOUSE ROCK

At the end of the song, Beast enters SL and roars. The chorus all run to the back of the cell, in fear.

Beast (Roars) Stay back!

Enter Stan and Ben

Ben Oh look. Beast is entertaining our visitors.

Stan It's not often you see a cage full of humans with a Beast on the outside looking in.

Beast Beast hungry!

The chorus scream again.

Ben Quiet you lot. There isn't one among you who would satisfy the appetite of this beast. **(Moving over to Beast)** Here, go back to your room and I'll send the cook with your supper.

Beast Beast hungry! **(Shouting at Ben who jumps)** Big portion!

Stan Of course a big portion. Whatever you say Mr Beast **(Leads him SL)** Now off you go back to your room.

The Beast stops in front of the audience and roars. The lights 'in the cell' dim, so chorus can exit silently.

Ben Take position over there. **(Points SR)** Evil Electra has given strict orders that these prisoners should be carefully watched.

Stan Stan, what did you do before you came to work here?

Ben Me? I was in the army. There was a war and all able bodied men got called up. I said that I'd be no good as a soldier. I've got one leg longer than the other.

Stan And what did they say about that?

Ben They said it didn't matter. The ground was very uneven where they were sending me.

Stan Did you get your stripes?

Ben I got my Sergeants stripes.

Stan How did you manage that?

Ben I worked hard. I started off as a Lieutenant.

Stan So you got a commission?

Ben No, just a salary! I did regret was that I only had one life to give to my country.

Stan **(Puzzled)** Why was that?

Ben Well, if I had have had two, I had have felt much safer. I did get sent back home after I got wounded.

Stan Where did you get wounded?

Ben In the Dardanelles.

Stan Oooh . that must have been painful.

Ben Anyway, enough banter. Straighten yourself up. You never know when Evil Electra will turn up to inspect us. Does your uniform fit alright?

Stan Well the jacket's not too bad - but the trousers are a bit loose under the armpits!

Evil Electra enters quietly SL. Stan sees her.

Ben **(Standing to attention)** You should be grateful that thanks to Her Evilness you are provided with a uniform.

Stan **(Slouching and picks at his nails)** I tell you what though . . .

Ben **(To alert Stan)** Pssstt!!

Stan No no. I don't need to. Anyway, what I was going to say was about these shoes.

Ben Shhhh!

Stan **(Confused, but accepting, and whispers)** These shoes are really, really waterproof.

Evil Electra moves to stand behind Stan. He is unaware.

Ben Oh good grief.

Stan Yeh! When it rains, not one drop leaks out of them!

Evil Electra You, are a pathetic excuse for one of my guards. What gives you the right to complain about the uniform I have provided you with?

Stan finally snaps to attention.

Ben Begging your Evilnessq pardon, and with due respect, do allow me. **(screams at Ben)** You horrible excuse for an employee of Evil Electra. If you are not careful, you will join this lot in the fizzer. Now, stand to attention.

Evil Electra strolls across the stage.

Evil Electra I hear we had a slight disturbance last night.

Ben Only a minor one if I might say. Some of the locals appeared a bit upset by the fact that the daughter of the Bistro owner was brought here.

Evil Electra I don't know why. He agreed to it. It was his punishment for picking my roses. Show me the prisoners.

The chorus have gone and now in the cell are Manuel, Cecile, Belle, Dame Ella, Jasper and Frederick.

Evil Electra Ah, my dear prisoners. How nice to see you all.

Belle You only wanted me. Why are you punishing all the others?

Evil Electra Surely I am entitled to protect my own property?

Jasper But it's not really your property, is it?

Evil Electra My dear boy. I thought you sensible and therefore have already spared your life once. It seems my judgement was wrong.

Jasper I was younger then, and obviously more foolish.

Evil Electra You may live, or not live, to regret your change of action.

Jasper I can no longer accept your brutal ways. You killed my parents.

Evil Electra Maybe you would like to share the same life as your brother?

Jasper Julius? Where is he? What have you done to him?

Evil Electra **(She laughs evilly)** Guards . I think our guests maybe hungry. Give them bread and water!

She exits SR, laughing as she goes. Stan and Ben look at each other. Ben gestures SL and they both exit to get the food.

SONG

CLOSE EVERY DOOR

At the end of the song, Fairy Grace enters.

Fairy Grace Don't worry friends. Help is on the way.

Cecile What do you mean. Everyone attacked the castle last night. Zere is no-one left in ze village.

Fairy Grace Not quite the case. Big Sam and his daughter Kelle couldn't quite keep up with the rest of you.

Manuel But how will they rescue us?

Fairy Grace It will very much depend on the bravery of young Belle here.

Belle Me? But what do I need to do?

Fairy Grace Just follow your heart Belle. You will make the right decisions.

Enter Stan and Ben.

Stan Here, who are you and what do you think you are doing?

Fairy Grace **(Quickly)** I am the new housekeeper. Didn't Evil Electra tell you?

Ben **(Suspicious)** No she didn't say anything. What are you doing talking to the prisoners?

Fairy Grace She sent me to tell you that the young girl should be released and sent to the rooms in the West Wing.

Stan Evil Electra said that?

Fairy Grace Yes. The girl came to the castle of her own free will . not like the others. I am to take her there immediately.

Stan **(To Stan)** Isn't the West Wing where the Beast lives?

Ben **(Nodding)** Well, we won't have to feed him for a while.

Fairy Grace She said immediately!

Ben Ok. Ok. Ben, release her.

The jail keys are hung on the front flat. Stan goes off SR and there is the sound of the cell door being opened and re-locked. Ben fetches Belle and hangs up the keys.

Fairy Grace You can leave me to it. I have no need of any assistance.

Ben shrugs his shoulders and exits SR.

Jasper Belle, please be careful.

ALL Bye! Be careful! Don't do anything dangerous!

Fairy Grace Come on, my dear. Follow me.

Belle and Fairy Grace move in front of the curtains as they close.

Belle Where are you taking me?

Fairy Grace To the West Wing my dear. As I said.

Belle But where is in the West Wing?

Fairy Grace Oh it's much nicer than being in jail.

Belle What will happen to all my friends?

Fairy Grace They'll be quite safe. As I said to you, as long as you are brave and continue true to what you believe, then there will be a happy ending. Now come on, follow me.

They both exit through the curtains.

SCENE SIX

The West Wing

**A suite of rooms in the castle where the Beast lives.
The Beast is holding a mirror.**

Evil Electra Do you see it?

Beast **(Sadly)** Yes.

Evil Electra I gave that rose bush to your brother and told him to look after it. He failed.

Beast The roses are dying.

Evil Electra I warned him to be careful. If that rose bush dies, then so will you.

Beast Why are you doing this?

Evil Electra I told you all those years ago that I would give you two chances to survive. If your brother continued to care for the white rose bush, you would continue to live.

Beast This is not living!

Evil Electra You are alive are you not?

Beast Am I expected to live like this forever?

Evil Electra That was the second chance I gave you. If someone could genuinely love and care for you as a Beast, then the spell will break and you will be released.

Beast Who could care for me looking like this?

Evil Electra Precisely! **(Laughing)** One of my better spells I think! And with the rose bush dying as we speak, it doesn't look as though you've got long left!

She exits SR laughing evilly. Belle enters, SL, looking frightened. She sees the Beast and screams.

Beast **(Roars)** Who are you? What are you doing here?

Belle Your housekeeper told me I was to stay in these rooms.

Beast I mean what are you doing at the castle?

Belle My father was caught picking a flower for me. It was only meant as a present. I do so much like roses.

Beast Which roses?

Belle From the white rose bush at the edge of our village. He didn't realise it belonged to Evil Electra. She told him she would spare his life if he brought her the first living creature he saw after her. **(Sadly)** That was me. But at least my father is safe.

Beast **(Furious)** So it is your fault the rose bush is dying.

Belle **(Frightened)** Why do you say that. It was only meant as a present.

Beast **(Shouting)** He was stealing! **(Quietly and with feeling)** That rose bush is my life. **(Roars)** I should kill you for this.

Belle No! Please.

SONG *MERCY*

Beast Everybody hates me.

Belle I don't hate you. It's just that you are a little scary.

Beast I'm ugly. No-one likes the Beast.

Belle I'm sure it's just because they don't know you. The wise old owl once told me that it doesn't matter what a person looks like, it's what's on the inside that matters.

- Beast Who is this wise old owl?
- Belle She lives at the edge of the woods between the castle and the village. I often go to talk to her. You must be very lonely here all alone. What do you do all day?
- Beast Nothing. I walk around the garden. I miss my old life.
- Belle What in particular?
- Beast **(Suddenly angry)** Why all these questions? There is nothing you can do to help. My fate is decided . once your father picked that rose for you.
- Belle But he didn't know. He wouldn't have done it otherwise.

Belle notices a music box on the side.

- Belle What's this?
- Beast It was my mother's. It's the only thing Evil Electra would let me keep. I suppose it is there to remind me of how lovely my life once was and how I threw it all away.
- Belle **(Opening it)** May I?

She opens the box and the music starts.

- Belle It's beautiful. Do you want to dance?
- Beast Me? Dance with you?
- Belle Come on, it'll be fun.

After a few bars of the music, Beast stops dancing and closes the music box.

- Beast I have something important to ask you.
- Belle Please don't spoil this wonderful moment.
- Beast But I have to say this to you. I have to know.
- Belle What if you don't get the answer you want?
- Beast Nonetheless . I have to ask. Will you marry me?
- Belle No, I'm sorry, I can't.
- Beast Of course. How could anyone love *õ* this?

Belle It has nothing to do with what you look like. Do you really think I am that shallow? I can sense that you are a kind and gentle person inside, and that's what matters to me. There is someone back home that I care deeply about.

Beast Then you must return to him.

Belle But what about my friends in jail?

Beast I will make sure that they are all released. Evil Electra is only truly bothered about one person. Me.

Fairy Grace enters.

Fairy Grace It's time for you to leave now Belle

Belle But how can I leave him like this? What will happen to him?

Fairy Grace You have made your choice.

Beast suddenly groans and clutches at his chest.

Fairy Grace Here, take this mirror . it's enchanted. When you look at it you will be able to make sure that the Beast is well. Now, quickly Belle. We'll get the others on the way out.

They both exit SL. Enter Evil Electra SR. She looks at the Beast who is quite obviously 'fading'.

Evil Electra My, my. What a pathetic sight. Did you really believe a beautiful girl like that would ever fall in love with something like you?

Beast What do you know about love? You're evil.

Evil Electra I know plenty about love. For example, I love being evil.

She laughs and exits SR. The Beast goes over to the music box, opens it and listens to the music. His head hangs low. The curtains close and the music continues until the next scene is ready.

SCENE SEVEN

The Castle Door

The curtains open to reveal only the door to the castle. The door has a face, which is one of the chorus members. Big Sam and Kelle enter through the audience.

Big Sam **(Panting)** Come on. We'd never catch them up.

Kelle What do you mean catch them up? We were never going to catch them up.

Big Sam If you'd have been prepared to set off when everyone else did, we wouldn't have been left behind.

Kelle You know I can't leave the house without getting ready first.

Big Sam Look, we're here now.

They are now in front of the castle door.

Kelle Well go on then. Knock on the door.

Big Sam But what if someone answers it?

Kelle Isn't that the point?

Big Sam After you.

Kelle Oh, for goodness sake.

Kelle knocks at the door. The door answers! Eyes remain shut.

Door Yes?

Big Sam Who said that?

Kelle I don't know. I can't see anyone.

Big Sam Knock again.

Kelle does so.

Door Yes?

Big Sam I still can't see who said that. **(To audience)** Can you see anything.

Kelle They don't seem to be particularly helpful.

Big Sam Maybe it's one of them calling out.

Kelle Was it? Was it one of you?

Audience No! Door!

Big Sam What? I can't hear you.

Audience Door!

Kelle Someone said it was the door. What? This door? **(Points)**.

Audience Yes!

Kelle Oh don't be silly.

Big Sam Maybe they're not.

Kelle **(To Big Sam)** Oh yes they are!

Big Sam **(Conducting the audience)** Oh no we're not!

Kelle Oh yes you are!

Big Sam **(Conducting the audience)** Oh no we're not!

Kelle Are!

Big Sam **(With audience)** Not!

Door **(With eyes open this time)** They're not you know.

Big Sam and Kelle scream and jump to the side.

Big Sam Oh my goodness. A talking door.

Door Not so strange in my world. What can I do for you?

Kelle We've come to . . . **(To Big Sam)** What should I say to him, er her, er . the door!

Big Sam I don't know. I've never spoken to a door before. Well just say that we've come to join the others.

Door The others?

Kelle Yes . the others who came here earlier.

Door Oh, yes. Rather a rowdy bunch I thought. I've a few bruises from their attempts at entering the castle.

Big Sam Do you know where they are?

Door They were captured immediately by Evil Electra and put into jail. No plan of action if you ask me.

Big Sam Where is the jail?

Door If you enter the castle, turn left, down the stone steps and you'll find the jail.

Kelle So, how do we enter the castle?

Door Knock on the door!

Kelle But I did that!

Door Knock nicely!

Kelle (**Impatiently**) I did!

Big Sam Stand aside and let me knock.

He knocks on the castle door.

Door Yes?

Kelle Oh for goodness sake.

Big Sam Kelle, please be quiet. Please may we enter the castle?

Door Of course you can. Why didn't you ask sooner?

The door opens, creaking and Big Sam and Kelle walk into the castle. The castle door is removed. Steps are heard and the curtains open to reveal everyone, including the chorus, in the jail.

SONG

ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE

During the song, Fairy Grace takes the keys from the hook and everyone is released. Everyone is helped to freedom by Big Sam and Kelle. They all exit as the song progresses.

SCENE EIGHT

The Village

In front of the reds.

Stan Well, that's us part of the two million unemployed.

Ben I'd rather be unemployed than wait to see Evil Electra's face when she realises all the prisoners have escaped.

Stan I agree. I'm not just doing any kind of job though I've held some very important posts in my time.

Ben Like what? When you were delivering mail to [*Insert name of important local person*]?

Stan At one time, I had hundreds of people under me.

Ben That was only because you worked at the cemetery.

Stan Be that as it may, I'm used to being in control of people.

Ben You certainly weren't when you covered as lollipop man. Those kids from [*Insert name of local school*] ran rings round you.

Stan I'm amazed at your cheek.

Ben I'm amazed at your nose. Look at the size of it!

Dame Ella enters through the reds.

Dame Ella Good day gentlemen. Haven't we met somewhere before?

Stan I don't think so. (**Aside to Ben**) here, Ben, wasn't she one of those prisoners?

Ben I think you're right. Mind you, she can't be mad with us . we let her go!

Stan True! (**To Dame Ella**) We're not from round here. We're job hunting.

Dame Ella Job hunting, you say? Now there's a coincidence, I'm looking for someone to run my cake shop. Do you have any experience?

Ben Well we have worked in the kitchen up at the castle.

Dame Ella So would you say you had the credentials?

Stan No ma'am. It's just the way he walks.

Dame Ella How's your pastry?

Ben You name it and I can make it.

Dame Ella Choux.

Ben (**Winks at Stan**) Only if you show me yours first!

Dame Ella Pardon?

Stan It's just his little joke. Ask him another.

Dame Ella Flakey?

- Ben Yes, but it doesn't affect my baking!
- Dame Ella You sound as though you might be the kind of people I'm looking for. When can you start?
- Stan Now!
- Dame Ella Right, I'll put you on a two week trial. Come on.

The three of them exit. The curtains open to reveal the village. There is a new shop in the middle to be unveiled. The rose bush is dying. Cecile and Manuel are busy at the Bistro.

- Cecile Oh Manuel, I am happy everything worked out alright. I was very worried when we were all in zat jail.
- Manuel Si Cecile. Manuel will never get to Barcelona if he is in jail.
- Cecile Look at the roses. Zey are nearly dead. Why was no-one looked after zem?
- Manuel The boy who is always with Belle takes care of them. But now Manuel will take over. Si, Manuel will bring the roses back to life.

Belle enters from the Bistro. She is carrying the mirror.

- Manuel Ah, Señorita Belle. **(Manuel goes to join her).**
- Cecile **(To audience)** He is a keen gardener, Manuel. I have seen him watering his vegetable garden sree times a day. At breakfast, he goes amongst ze cauliflowers and sprouts. Zen, before dinner, he goes between ze onions and leeks. Zen, when he has been to ze pub for a drink, he goes amongst ze cabbages and peas.

Manuel brings Belle forward to join Cecile. She is looking into the mirror.

- Cecile Why do you look so sad? I would have sought you too would be happy to be away from zat castle.
- Belle I am Cecile, but I met someone there and I am worried about him. This mirror shows me how he is. He looks so weak, I'm sure he is dying. I must go to him.
- Manuel But it's not safe. What about your family, your friends?
- Belle You don't understand. I must go. **(She hands the mirror to Cecile)** Here. **(She begins to exit USR)** Please don't worry.
- Cecile Oh my goodness, her farzer will kill us. I can't believe she ees going back.

Fairy Grace enters.

Fairy Grace Don't worry about Belle. She is a sensible girl with a good heart.

Manuel **(Panicking)** But what will Señor Big Sam say. He will be very cross that we let her go.

Big Sam enters from the Bistro.

Big Sam What will I be very cross about?

Manuel I know nothing!

Cecile Belle has set off to go back to ze castle.

Big Sam What does she want to go and do a thing like that for? **(He starts to cry)** Boo hoo!

His crying brings out the other villagers – Dame Ella, Kelle, Jasper and Frederick.

Dame Ella What on earth is all the noise about? I was trying to get some beauty sleep.

Kelle Too late for that. Why are you crying father?

Big Sam Boo hoo!

Cecile Belle has gone back to ze castle.

Manuel I know nothing!

Jasper But why? What on earth would make her do a thing like that?

Fairy Grace There is something she still has to do there.

Fairy Grace takes the mirror.

Fairy Grace I gave her this enchanted mirror. It showed her that someone back at the castle needed her help. You too will be able to see.

Frederick **(Taking the mirror)** It's her. You can see her in the mirror. She's stood at the edge of the forest, talking to someone. I can't see who.

Kelle That'd be that stupid owl she keeps going on about. **(Snatches the mirror)** She's walking up the hill now.

Jasper Who could she possibly need to help?

Fairy Grace Remember your roses?

Jasper moves over to the rose bush.

- Jasper (Sadly) They're dead. I didn't look after them properly.
- Fairy Grace Not quite. To save them, you will need to show the same strength of character as Belle.
- Frederick (To Jasper) Why don't we follow her.
- Fairy Grace No, this is something she needs to do on her own.
- Kelle (Looking into the mirror) Ugh!
- Cecile (Taking the mirror) Ugh!

One by one they all take the mirror and look – having the same reaction, except Big Sam who only cries harder. Jasper is the last to take the mirror.

- Jasper Who is that creature? He looks so frightening, yet somehow so feeble. I can see Belle . she is caring for him. She's she's she just kissed him.
- Fairy Grace Then his spell will be broken.
- Jasper (Still watching) It's my brother. It's Prince Julius.
- Kelle Prince! You're a Prince?!
- Fairy Grace Belle has shown that to her, beauty is more than skin deep. She has shown love where others have failed to do so.
- Jasper Love?
- Fairy Grace Yes, - love. You also need to show a similar strength.
- Jasper I understand now. In order to have the safe return of my brother I must give up the only other thing I hold dear to me.
- Kelle Ooooh, does that mean you're free?
- Jasper I'm sorry, there was only one girl for me.
- Big Sam Kelle, behave yourself. It's time you took a leaf out of your sister's book and loved for the right reason.

Frederick takes the mirror from Jasper.

- Frederick Sir, they are returning.

The roses begin to 'blossom' again. This is easily achieved if they are on wires and strings, allowing them to drop down, then raise.

Frederick Look, the roses. They're alive.

Belle and Julius enter.

Big Sam **(Running to embrace Belle)** My dear child. I was so worried about you.

Belle I'm sorry, I had to go back. I saw the Beast was dying. It was my fault because I said I couldn't marry him. But when I kissed him, and told him that I would marry him, he changed into a Prince.

Julius Belle is the only person who looked beyond my hideous exterior. She saw that I had a kind and caring side. It broke the spell.

Dame Ella **(To audience)** I know what you're thinking! **(To Julius and Jasper)** Excuse me, but I thought you were twins.

Julius We are.

Jasper Non identical! Obviously!

Evil Electra enters.

Evil Electra You fools. You may have found a way to break the curse I put on that poor pathetic Prince, but that is only a sample of the nastiness I can display.

Fairy Grace Your reign is at an end, and the Princes shall return to their rightful place . the castle.

Evil Electra You make me laugh. One spell from my wand will transform you all into the most hideous creatures.

Fairy Grace By all means try!

Evil Electra **(Waving wand – but nothing happens)** I don't understand.

Fairy Grace Not everything you buy on Ebay is good value. I'd ask for a refund if I were you!

Evil Electra Curses. **(She throws the wand on the floor and exits)**

Jasper Aren't you going after her?

Fairy Grace Don't forget, I have the mirror! It means that I'd always know where she is!

Belle moves downstage on her own and gives a big sigh. Manuel sees and follows her.

Manuel Belle . what is the matter. You look very unhappy.

Belle I shouldn't be so unhappy, but I didn't go back to the castle to find love. I went because I cared. I didn't want the Beast to die which is why I said I'd marry him. I actually preferred him as the Beast.

Kelle is hovering and listening to the conversation.

Kelle Listen here sister, make your mind up will you. You can't have both Princes. Here, you . Fairy.

Fairy Grace Yes?

Kelle Does it actually matter which Prince she marries?

Fairy Grace No, I suppose not. There's nothing in the actual story to say she has to marry the Beast.

Kelle Well there you go. You (**points to Jasper**) have him.

Belle runs to Jasper.

Jasper Oh Belle.

Kelle And I shall have you! (**Grabs hold of Julius**) I do hope you've kept some of your beastly side.

Dame Ella Is everyone happy now? (**Takes Big Sam by the arm**) Can we make our announcement now?

Cecile Oh my, are we to hear the wedding bells?

Dame Ella No! Cash registers.

Cecile What do you mean?

Big Sam We've been planning this for a while. (**Looks at Dame Ella**). Manuel and Cecile . I want you to take over the running of the Bistro, with a wage rise of course!

Manuel Señor Big Sam, what can I say. Gracias, gracias. (**He shakes Big Sam's hand and bows as he moves backwards**).

The Town Crier enters as do the chorus to see what is happening.

Town Crier Oyez! Oyez! Recession is over. New businesses are opening.

Big Sam Tell them who!

Town Crier I'm coming to that! Well known, local celebrity ò .

Dame Ella Oooh, that's me!

Town Crier Shhh! (**Looking at Dame Ella**) Well known local, opens new business with Big Man. Oooh, sorry, Big Sam!

Big Sam Would someone please do me the honour of unveiling our new venture.

**The sign is unveiled to show 'Sam N Ella's Takeaway'.
Everyone cheers.**

Dame Ella Here we are. Takeaway menus. Full range of dishes offered. Free delivery within a five mile radius.

Belle I'm so pleased everything turned out for the best. It's just as the wise old owl told me.

Kelle Why have we never seen this wise old owl? Are you sure she exists?

Belle Of course she does

Kelle Oh no she doesn't!

ALL Oh yes she does!

Kelle Oh no she doesn't!

Belle Oh yes she does!

**Belle goes to the side of the stage and whistles. The
Wise Old Owl peers round the flats. Then enters.**

SONG

SHAKE YOUR TAIL FEATHER

SCENE TEN

Sing-a-Long

Ben I'm glad we're employed again. I can't do without having any money.

Stan Me neither. Did I tell you I've got a new bike!

Ben A new bike? No, you never told me. Where did you get that from?

Stan I got it from a new lady friend.

Ben A new lady friend? Why would a new lady friend want to give you a new bike?

Stan Well, she came up to me and she said %Would you like to go for a bike ride, Ben?+So I said, %Certainly+. So then she said %Would you like to ride down a country lane, Stan?+So I said %Certainly+.

Stan looks at audience.

Stan I don't know why she wanted to go down a country lane at ten o'clock at night. It was pitch black and you couldn't see a thing in front of you.

Ben I bet you liked being down a country lane at that time of night. I bet you had a good time!

Stan Oh, we did! We ended up gazing up at the stars.

Ben I'm not talking about gazing up at the stars. I'm talking about after that. What happened then?

Stan She said %Stan, would you like to sit down on this bench?+So I said %Certainly+.

Ben Oh I say, sitting down with a girl on a bench down a country lane . I bet you were pleased!!!

Stan Yes, I was. My feet were killing me.

Ben So what happened then?

Stan She said %Would you like to put your arms around me Stan?+ So I said, %Certainly+.

Ben So you put your arms around her?

Stan I did! Then she said . %Stan, here we are alone, down a country lane, sitting on a bench and gazing at the stars . just you and me, and I think you're the most handsome man I've ever met! You're so good looking and I love you so much, well, you can take anything you want!+

Ben **(Amazed)** So what happened next?

Stan I took her bicycle!!

Ben Enough of the jokes. We're here for the most important bit of the Pantomime. In front of us, are members of the TUC.

Stan Yes . TUC. Totally Unrehearsed Choir.

The usual business of the song. If a true competition is required, then one side can sing 'When the Saint's go marching in' against the other side singing 'Swing low, sweet chariot'. The words fit the same tune.

SINGALONG

FINALE

YOU CAN'T STOP THE BEAT

SONG SUGGESTIONS

OVERTURE

Tale as old as time

This will set the scene nicely, as the younger audience will be expecting more of a 'Disney' tale.

I AM WHAT I AM

Evil Electra and Fairy Grace

A good 'battle' song which allows each character to stamp their authority on the proceedings.

BIG SAM'S

Opening Chorus number including Manuel, Cecile and Big Sam.

This song is a great re-work of the 'Bugsy Malone' song, Fat Sam. The words are re-written to fit the scene and can be found at the end.

**TO ALL THE GIRLS I'VE
LOVED BEFORE**

Manuel

The Julio Iglesias classic which allows Manuel to deliver the song in the style of his character.

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU

Jasper, Belle, Kelle, Frederick, Manuel, Cecile and Chorus

The McFly classic brings some more modern music to the tale and allows for a lovely harmony.

POPULAR

Evil Electra

From the musical 'Wicked'. Allows Evil Electra to musically gain the upper hand over Fairy Grace.

BREAKFAST ROUTINE

Dame Ella and Manuel

The well-known take on this is from Morecambe and Wise using the music, 'The Stripper'. Any suitable music with a comedy routine will suffice.

THE BOY DOES NOTHING

Cecile

Another more modern song which is a great number to bring on the dancers of the group.

DO YOU HEAR THE PEOPLE SING

Jasper, Big Sam, Manuel, Cecile, Dame Ella, Frederick, Kelle and Chorus

A rousing battle song from 'Les Miserable' which will lead the group to the Castle. A strong ending to Act I.

JAILHOUSE ROCK

Stan, Ben and Chorus

A rousing beginning to Act II. A real toe tapper.

CLOSE EVERY DOOR

Belle, Jasper, Manuel, Cecile, Dame Ella, Frederick

A poignant moment where the group consider their future. With the right singers, this song will offer a great contrast to some of the other numbers, leading to the more sensitive part of the production.

MERCY

Belle

The words to this lend themselves beautifully to the situation Belle finds herself in.

ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE

Dame Ella, Manuel, Cecile, Jasper, Frederick, Fairy Grace, Big Sam, Kelle and Chorus

A great song to get the audience to join in with the whistles.

SHAKE YOUR TAIL FEATHER

Wise Owl, Belle, Jasper, Kelle, Frederick, Julius, Fairy Grace, Big Sam, Dame Ella, Manuel, Cecile and Chorus

A perfect way to bring in 'The Wise Old Owl' and finish the story with a popular song.

SINGALONG

Stan and Ben

My suggestion is hen the Saints go marching in/Swing low, sweet chariot. The tune is the same for both and it is a good way to have an audience competition.

YOU CAN'T STOP THE BEAT All

A very popular finale when the stage show and film of Hairspray became popular.

SUGGESTED LYRICS FOR BIG SAM'S

Anybody who is anybody will soon walk through that door
 At Big Sam's, you can, it's easy
 Always able to find you a table there's room for just one more
 At Big Sam's, you can, it's easy

Once you get here feel the good cheer
 Like they say in the poem
 Big Sam's ain't humble
 But it's your home sweet home
 Plans are made here
 Games are played here
 I would write me a book
 Each night astounds you
 Rumours are a-buzzin
 Stories by the dozen
 Look around your cousin at the news we're making here

Anybody, who is anybody will soon walk through that door
 At Big Sam's, you can, it's easy

Once you get here feel the good cheer
 Like they say in the poem
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Anybody, who is anybody will soon walk through that door

At Big Sam's, you can, it's easy

SUGGESTED LYRICS FOR SHAKE YOUR TAIL FEATHER

Well I heard that you're the fellow who did not believe
That I lived in the neighbourhood
Now I'm here I'm gonna show you some dancing
Cause I've come out from my home in the wood

Well you know that the boogaloo is out of sight
and the shingaling's the thing tonight
If you get everyone to come join me
I'm gonna show you how to do it right

Do it right (U-huh)
Do it right (Do it right)
Do it right
Do it right
Do it right
Aaah

Twistin', shake it shake it shake it shake it baby
Hey we gonna loop de loop
Shake it out baby
Hey we gonna loop de la
Bend over let me see ya shake your tailfeather
Bend over let me see ya shake your tailfeather
Come on let me see ya shake your tailfeather
Come on let me see ya shake your tailfeather