

**BEAUTY**  
**& THE**  
**BEAST**

A Pantomime by  
Stephen Duckham

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## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

### CAST

Rose Fairy	
Horridana	A Sorceress
Beauty	
Panisse	Her Father
Madam Lotte	
Charlie	Her son
Prince Rowan/The Beast	
Thomas	His Servant and Friend
Fifi	A Chambermaid
Henri	The Gardener
Renee	The Innkeeper
Jacques	A Servant
Moaning Martha	
Messenger	
Double for the Beast	

Chorus of Villagers and Castle Servants

(Note: The part of the Innkeeper, Renee, can be played by a female. The name can be changed to Yvette.)

### SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

#### ACT ONE

SCENE 1	A ROSE BOWER
SCENE 2	THE VILLAGE OF PRETTYBELLE
SCENE 3	A CORRIDOR IN THE CASTLE
SCENE 4	THE VILLAGE OF PRETTYBELLE (A year later)
SCENE 5	A CORRIDOR IN THE CASTLE
SCENE 6	THE WOODS NEAR THE CASTLE
SCENE 7	THE TERRACE GARDEN OF THE CASTLE
SCENE 8	A ROOM IN PANISSE'S HOUSE
SCENE 9	A CORRIDOR IN THE CASTLE
SCENE 10	THE GREAT HALL OF MIRRORS

#### ACT TWO

SCENE 1	HORRIDANA'S DOMAIN
SCENE 2	THE TERRACE GARDEN
SCENE 3	A CORRIDOR IN THE CASTLE
SCENE 4	THE LONG GALLERY IN THE WEST WING
SCENE 5	A ROOM IN PANISSE'S HOUSE
SCENE 6	THE TERRACE GARDEN
SCENE 7	A CORRIDOR IN THE CASTLE
SCENE 8	THE CASTLE BALLROOM

## PRODUCTION NOTES

Although there are quite a number of scene changes in *Beauty and the Beast*, the staging of the pantomime can be quite simple with just a few adjustments.

The script calls for four full sets, one half set, three front cloths and a set of black tabs. If front cloths are a problem the black tabs can be used with a few additions.

Obviously the more lavish you can make the production the better, but if space and facilities are limited the following may prove useful.

The Village, the Terrace, the Great Hall of Mirrors and the Ballroom are all full sets. The Great Hall can double as the Ballroom for the Finale if another set is impractical.

The three front cloths are The Corridor in the Castle, Panissee's House and the Woods. The Woods is only a short scene and could be played on tabs. The Long Gallery is the half set, but this can be played on the Terrace scene with a few alterations to the script. Act One Scene 1 and Act Two Scene 1 can be played on tabs.

### BEAUTY'S NIGHTMARE (Act Two Scene 5)

If space and facilities allow it would be an advantage if this sequence were played on a more spacious scene than the front cloth of Panissee's House. After the lights fade down to a pin spot on Beauty stage right, the back cloth could fly or wipe to reveal a black backing, star cloth or the Terrace. This would give the dancers and principals extra room for the dance. At the end of the sequence, as Beauty is waking up, the cloth would fly back in and the lights return to the main scene.

## CHARACTERS

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Beauty       | Just as her name suggests. Must be a strong actress able to cover a wide range of emotions and possess a fine lyrical singing voice.   |
| Prince Rowan | A handsome leading man. Requires a strong singing voice. Could be played as a Principal Boy, although it is essential that the make-up for the Beast be strong and masculine. A full head mask and hair is the best effect as long as the actor can speak and sing clearly through it. There is plenty of time to change from Prince to Beast and back using the Double. |
| Horridana    | A strong determined woman. She should be quite beautiful, but with startling facial features and make-up to give the impression of being more the Sorceress than the girl next door.   |
| Madam Lotte  | The Pantomime Dame. Full of comedy and a good rapport with the audience. As many changes of costume that the actor and the wardrobe department can cope with. Outrageous and comic. Never get away from the fact that it is a man in a frock!  |
| Charlie      | Good comic timing. Has to be able to sing and have a good sense of knock-about.  |
| Panissee     | White haired, absent minded father to Beauty. Able to play comedy and pathos well. Small amount of singing, but not essential.   |
| Fifi         | Girlfriend to Charlie. Flirtatious. Good sense of comedy and needs to be able to sing well.  |

- Thomas            Servant and friend to the Prince. Strong actor with ability to play comedy and sing. Age could be between 25 . 40.
- Renee/Yvette    The Innkeeper. An older actor/actress nearer to Panisset's age.
- Rose Fairy        Charming and sensitive. The design of her costume should represent a rose.
- Henri              Castle servants. Part of the Chorus. Ages up to mid 30s
- Jacques
- Messenger      Small featured part in the Chorus.
- Moaning Martha A cameo role whose lines may be divided between Chorus Members if so required.

As with the original fairy-tale, the story has a French feel about it. I suggest that you *don't* use French accents with the possible exception of Fifi. If the actress playing the role can achieve a more comic character without the loss of clarity, then by all means try it.

### MUSIC

The placing of musical numbers and who sings them is suggested in the script, but it is up to the director to decide what to use. A word of advice: Pantomime audiences . particularly the younger members . like the story to keep moving, so don't make the musical sequences too long, especially ballads.

A song sheet specially written for this script is available from NODA.

I hope you enjoy doing this version of *Beauty and the Beast* and have a great success with your production.

Stephen Duckham

ACT ONE  
SCENE 1 A ROSE BOWER

*[The scene is either a front cloth showing a profusion of roses or a curtain, with acting areas down right and left. The ROSE FAIRY is discovered down right holding a white rose.]*

ROSE FAIRY Beautiful, isn't it? A white rose, each petal perfect in every detail. I am the Rose Fairy. My very existence is centred around this bloom. By day I watch that it is well watered and not battered about by too many storms, and by night I make myself as tiny as a bee so that I am able to curl up and sleep inside its petals. I love this flower and over the years I have watched as it has brought joy and happiness to so many people. One person in particular who is passionate about roses is a charming young Prince by the name of Rowan.

*[The mood changes and HORRIDANA enters down left in a green spot.]*

HORRIDANA *[In an irritated mood.]* Rowan! You speak of him with too much familiarity.

ROSE FAIRY Horridana!

HORRIDANA Princess Horridana to you. And keep that wretched flower away from me . I get Hay Fever.

ROSE FAIRY You seem very angry.

HORRIDANA And so I should be. For too many years I have waited for Prince Rowan to cast his eyes in my direction. In a treaty drawn up by our fathers, we have been betrothed since birth. It is time to put an end to the waiting.

ROSE FAIRY What do you mean?

HORRIDANA When he returns from his travels I shall insist that we be married at once . *[With mock serenity.]* – and so preserve the harmonious atmosphere that exists between our two countries.

ROSE FAIRY Are you so sure that he is ready to settle down?

HORRIDANA *[Back to her demanding voice.]* Ready or not he must keep to the bargain.

ROSE FAIRY But love cannot be forced. It is delicate . like the petals on this rose. Slowly they take shape until one day they form into a perfect flower. The same applies to love. Day by day it grows between two people until . *[SHE is cut short by HORRIDANA.]*

HORRIDANA Oh cut the poetry! Love has had twenty-one years to form between Rowan and myself . more than enough time to blossom and bloom! But if he should renege on the arrangement he will feel the full force of my wrath.

ROSE FAIRY Horridana .

HORRIDANA Yes I, Horridana, have all the powers handed down to me by my ancestors to transmute and change anyone or anything I please. Nothing and no one shall stand in my way. So be warned my handsome Prince . make your decision quickly. And for your own sake, let it be the right one. For if I am spurned in

favour of another then all too soon the world will see how quickly the man can become the beast.

*[No doubt the audience will 'boo' and SHE gestures and curses them as SHE exits.]*

ROSE FAIRY *Oh dear, I do hope that Prince Rowan will be all right. Horridana is not a woman to be scorned. She does indeed have powers that few know about. But as I am a protector of this delicate flower, so I shall endeavour to watch out for all those who hold it dear to them – especially Prince Rowan.*

*[SHE smiles at the audience and begins to exit as the lights fade and the scene changes to .....]*

## SCENE 2 THE VILLAGE OF PRETTYBELLE

[A typical village square and one that lives up to its name. There are shops and houses dotted around and to stage right is an Inn. Stage left we see the exterior of PANISSE's establishment. He is a merchant and purveyor of fine goods and wines. As the scene starts the annual fete . sponsored by PANISSE . is about to begin. Bunting and flags are hanging from some buildings and there are various stalls up stage. The CHORUS of villagers is out in all its finery ready to start enjoying the fete. RENEE, the INNKEEPER, is also part of the group.]

### OPENING CHORUS

[During the number BEAUTY, PANISSE's daughter enters and joins in with the singing. At the end of the number two CHORUS members stretch a ribbon across the centre of the stage in readiness for the opening of the fete.]

- RENEE *[To BEAUTY.] Where's your father, Beauty? We can't start the fete without him. [MOANING MARTHA, the village grouch steps forward.]*
- MARTHA Yes. Where is Panisse? Never here when you want him.
- BEAUTY He should be here any minute. *[ALL start calling "Panisse".]* He was checking his speech. You know how absent-minded he gets.
- MARTHA It's not his speech we want. *[Points to the ribbon.]* It's his scissors. *[ALL laugh. BEAUTY crosses to the store on stage left and calls inside.]*
- BEAUTY Come on father. We're waiting for you.
- PANISSE *[Off stage.]* Coming. *[HE enters from the store. HE is a white-haired man with a cheery disposition. In one of his coat pockets is a pair of scissors and in the other is a rolled up speech. HIS glasses are perched on top of his head.]* Beauty, my dear I can't seem to find my glasses. You haven't seen them have you?
- BEAUTY They're where they always are, father. On top of your head. *[SHE takes them from his head and hands them to him.]*

PANISSE Oh, silly me. *[To the CHORUS.]* Hello all. What are you waiting for?

MARTHA You! You great fool.

PANISSE Really. How nice.

BEAUTY They're waiting for you to open the fete.

PANISSE The fete! Of course. I'd forgotten. Now where's my speech? *[HE puts his glasses back on the top of his head and searches for his speech.]*

RENEE Isn't that it in your pocket, Panisse?

PANISSE Ah yes. I knew I'd put it somewhere safe. *[HE takes it out and looks at it. HE can't read it.]* Oh dear now where are my glasses.

BEAUTY *[Pointing to his head.]* Father.

PANISSE *[Reaching for them.]* Oh yes! *[HE puts them on, clears his throat and starts to read.]* It is with much regret that I received news of Great Aunt Nellie's passing!

MARTHA *[Surprised.]* Now what's he on about?

BEAUTY Father, that's not your speech.

PANISSE Oh no. It a letter to your Great Uncle Archibald. So sad about aunt Nellie. *[To the CHORUS.]* She died of exposure you know waiting for a - *[Name of railway or bus service.]*

RENEE Get on with opening the fete.

MARTHA Open it? It'd soon be time to close it!

MAN Come on Panisse, we want to start enjoying ourselves.

PANISSE *[Crosses to the MAN.]* Hold on there young woman!

MAN What? *[On hearing a MAN'S voice, PANISSE puts the glasses back on top of his head to see who he is talking to.]*

PANISSE Oh! Sorry about that.

BEAUTY Why don't you forget about the speech, father, and just open the fete?

PANISSE Very well. Where are the scissors?

BEAUTY In your other pocket.

PANISSE Oh yes. Of course. *[HE takes out the scissors and goes to cut the ribbon. Because of his eyesight he misses and cuts the belt of a MAN holding the ribbon. The MAN'S trousers fall down. Everyone laughs.]* Oh dear. I am sorry. Where are my glasses?

ALL On top of your head. *[PANISSE puts on his glasses.]*

- PANISSE I declare this year's fete well and truly open. *[HE cuts the ribbon. ALL cheer and begin to enjoy the fete. During the next dialogue the CHORUS exits.]*
- MARTHA About time too!
- BEAUTY Come on father, let's try your hand at the lucky dip.
- PANISSE Much as I would like to, I'm afraid I haven't a lot of time to spare. I'm expecting a delivery from the port. My ships should have docked two days ago and all my new goods despatched straight away.
- BEAUTY That's wonderful, but surely you can take a little time off?
- PANISSE I really should be here when they arrive. But you go off and enjoy yourself and I'll join you later.
- BEAUTY All right. Don't be too long. *[SHE gives him a quick kiss and follows the others off.]*
- RENEE You have a lovely daughter there, Panisse.
- PANISSE Yes. And the image of her mother, bless her. *[RENEE turns to go into the Inn.]* Oh by the way, you haven't seen anyone with my shipment from the port, have you?
- RENEE No . sorry. The only people to arrive are some travellers who have stopped by for some refreshment. *[HE exits into the Inn.]*
- PANISSE Oh well, I shall just have to be patient. *[HE heads for the Inn as MADAM L'ESCARGOT BIDEET CHEMISE SANS CULOTTE enters. SHE is a jolly, buxom woman and known as LOTTE. SHE and PANISSE collide.]*
- PANISSE Oh I'm sorry young man!
- LOTTE It's a long time since anyone called me young!
- PANISSE *[Quickly putting on his glasses.]* Oh I do beg your pardon madam.
- LOTTE Well it's a long time since anyone called me a madam! When's your next appointment with . *[Local optician.]*
- PANISSE I really should wear my glasses more often.
- LOTTE Oh that's all right. And who might I be *distressing?*
- PANISSE *[Indicating his store.]* I am Monsieur Panisse, a merchant and purveyor of fine goods.
- LOTTE Really.

- PANISSE And what brings you to our village?
- LOTTE My friends and I are just passing through on our way home. We've been on a little tour. Rome, Athens, Paris . *[Neighbouring town.]*
- PANISSE Well I hope you enjoy your stay. It's our annual village fete today.
- LOTTE Oh good. I'll try my hand on the test your strength I usually ring someone's bell!
- PANISSE I bet you do.
- LOTTE *[Giggling.]* Saucy man! *[SHE gives him a push and HE goes flying.]*
- PANISSE *[A little shocked.]* Well, if you'd excuse me.
- LOTTE Why, what have you done? *[PANISSE hurries into his shop. LOTTE addresses the audience.]* Hello there. Are you visiting as well? *[Audience reaction.]* Nice little place, isn't it? Mind you I'm used to something a bit grander. You see I live in a castle! Do any of you live in a castle? *[Audience reaction. SHE picks out one man.]* Oh you do, sir? What's it called? The Queen and Castle! Well the one I live in is a little more up market than that. You see I'm Madam L'Escargot Bidet Chemise Sans Culotte . but that's a bit of a mouthful so you can call me Lotte. I'm nurse, housekeeper, private secretary, and personal confidant to His Royal Highness, Prince Rowan. *[SHE claps her hand to her mouth.]* Oh but I shouldn't have told you that. You see we're travelling incognito. I would have preferred travelling in a private jet, like other Royals . but we're in a horse and carriage parked round the back! You won't say anything, will you? *[Audience reaction.]* Oh ta ever so. You see Prince Rowan is betrothed to Princess Horridana of our neighbouring kingdom . and a right horrid Anna she is too. They've been betrothed since birth and she's pushing him to tie the knot. I don't think he's that keen, so he decided to have one last burst of freedom before having to settle down. Poor lamb . he's not a happy bunny. But he has to fulfil his obligations or who knows what might happen. Anyway, enough of all that. I'm very pleased to meet you all. Bon jour! *[SHE looks at the audience.]* Well come on. You're supposed to say %Bon jour+back. It's a custom we have over here! Would you like to try it? *[Audience reaction.]* Now say %Bon+ *[Audience responds.]* Now say %our+ *[Audience responds. SHE doesn't think much of their pronunciation.]* That sounded a bit odd! You have to shape your lips like this. *[SHE purses her lips in a comical fashion.]* Jour! Now you do it. *[Audience responds again, LOTTE picks out a woman in the audience.]* That's right dear . purse them, purse them!! *[Ad lib with audience.]* That's better. Now once more . all together. Bon Jour. *[Audience responds.]* Splendid. Well have you talking the lingo in no time. Now every time I say Bon jour, you say Bon jour Lotte. OK? *[Audience responds.]*
- CHARLIE *[Off.]* Mum. Mum . where are you?
- LOTTE Oh look out. That's my son, Charlie. He helps me at the castle. Well when I say help . *[To ladies in the audience.]* . you know what I mean girls? Men around the house are less than useless. By the time you've explained what you want doing and shown them how to do it, you may as well have done it yourself! You know what I mean, don't you misses? Charlie takes after my late husband. He used to be a shift worker. When I mentioned work he'd shift. *[LOTTE moves up stage as CHARLIE enters down right carrying a brown*

*paper bag. HE is a pleasant lad, if a little slow at times. HE doesn't notice LOTTE at first and addresses the audience.]*

CHARLIE Mum! Oh where has she got to? *[HE spots the audience.]* Oh hello. I'm looking for my Mum. She's a biggish woman, with a deepish voice and mannish hands . . . and a very weird dress sense! Ring any bells? You haven't seen her have you? *[The audience will react and CHARLIE ad libs with them.]* She's over here, is she? *[HE points left and crosses.]* No she's not! Are you having me on? *[Audience reaction.]* It's more likely she's over there in the pub? *[HE crosses to the Inn and looks through the door.]* No, can't see her. *[LOTTE crosses down beside him.]* You can't miss her . . . she stands out in a crowd. *[HE turns round and bumps into LOTTE.]*

LOTTE *[In a booming voice.]* You were saying?

CHARLIE Oh hello Mum!

LOTTE I'd give you a hello! Have you done all the chores I gave you?

CHARLIE Yes.

LOTTE Checked to see if the horses have been watered?

CHARLIE Yes.

LOTTE Secured all the luggage?

CHARLIE Yes.

LOTTE Cleaned all the sweet wrappers out of the carriage?

CHARLIE Yes.

LOTTE Picked up my new supply of sweets for the rest of the journey?

CHARLIE *[Giving HER the bag.]* Here they are.

LOTTE *[Looking in the bag.]* Oh, but some of these have got hard centres. You know they're no good. They play havoc with my dentures.

CHARLIE Sorry Mum. I forgot. Shall I go and change them?

LOTTE No there isn't time. *[Looks at the audience.]* I know, we could give them to our new friends out there. *[To audience.]* Would you like that? *[Audience reaction.]* All right then. Here you are. *[THEY throw sweets into the audience. At the end of the sequence, CHARLIE speaks.]*

CHARLIE Are we going home now? We've been away for such a long time and I'm missing my little Fifi.

LOTTE *[To the audience.]* That's his girlfriend before you start making up your own jokes! She works as a chambermaid at the castle. Everyone likes her. She's very popular . especially with the men!

CHARLIE That's what I'm worried about. It's not that I don't trust her, but she just very kind hearted and sometimes I think people take too much advantage of her. *[LOTTE gives the audience a knowing look.]* But all that will change when we are married.

LOTTE And when will that be?

CHARLIE Very soon. I told her that when I got home we would tie the knot. Then we would settle down in our own little house.

LOTTE Does that mean you won't be living at the castle any more?

CHARLIE That's right.

LOTTE You won't be helping me with all the chores.

CHARLIE I'm afraid not.

LOTTE You won't be under my feet twenty four hours a day?

CHARLIE *[Shaking his head.]* Uh-uh.

LOTTE *[Grabbing HIS hand and pulling HIM up stage.]* Let's get the carriage! *[To the audience.]* See you later. *[THEY exit up right as PRINCE ROWAN and THOMAS (his servant and friend) enter from the Inn.]*

ROWAN Well, that was a welcome break, Thomas.

THOMAS Indeed it was your Highness. But we ought to be on our way if we are to make the castle by nightfall.

ROWAN Yes, I suppose so. Although I do wish we could extend our tour for just a little longer.

THOMAS But we've been away for over two months, sir. Your bride to be will be growing more and more impatient.

ROWAN Don't I know it. She's been growing impatient ever since kindergarten!

THOMAS Cheer up, sir. Married life can't be all that bad.

ROWAN *[Smiling.]* That's good coming from someone who's been keeping most of the eligible girls at the castle waiting for far too long.

THOMAS I don't know what you mean.

ROWAN Don't play the innocent, Thomas. You should think about settling down.

THOMAS Plenty of time for that, sir.

ROWAN I wish I could say the same. I'd give anything to be able to have the freedom you have.

DUET . ROWAN and THOMAS

*[End of number the stage darkens slightly and HORRIDANA enters down left.]*

HORRIDANA        So here you are, Rowan. Enjoying yourself while I wait at home alone.

ROWAN        Horridana! What are you doing here? How did you know where we were?

HORRIDANA        *[Mysteriously.]* I have ways. I know your every move and how you have been putting off returning to the castle.

ROWAN        Oh no . I just -

THOMAS        *[Helping him out.]* His Highness wanted to see as many of the neighbouring Kingdoms as he could before settling down to affairs of state.

HORRIDANA Before settling down with me you mean.

THOMAS        *[Under his breath.]* You said it!

HORRIDANA *[Raging.]* What was that?

THOMAS        Nothing, your Highness.

HORRIDANA I am tired of being treated this way. *[To ROWAN.]* Come home at once and let us fulfil the agreement laid down by our fathers.

ROWAN        *[Trying to placate her.]* We were just preparing to leave. Lotte and Charlie are checking on the horses.

HORRIDANA Then let there be no more delay. I will be at the castle making preparations for our marriage when you get home. *[SHE exits left, snarling at the audience.]*

ROWAN        Oh Thomas, what am I going to do? If I don't go through with this marriage all ties with our neighbours will be severed. There could be war and years of misery for everyone.

THOMAS        And if you do go through with it?

ROWAN        There will be years of misery for me. *[The sound of the VILLAGERS returning to the square is heard.]*

THOMAS        Why don't I go and check on the horses and you enjoy a few minutes at the fete?

ROWAN The condemned man's last hours of freedom you mean? *[THOMAS smiles at him and starts to exit up right as some of the CHORUS MEN enter with BEAUTY. ROWAN moves down right.]*

1<sup>st</sup> MAN Come on Beauty, let me take you on the Ghost Train.

BEAUTY You did that last year and came out shaking like a leaf! *[The OTHERS laugh.]*

2<sup>nd</sup> MAN How about a ride on the Tunnel of Love?

BEAUTY And what would your wife say? *[More laughter. ROWAN notices BEAUTY for the first time.]* I must find my father. I want him to enjoy the fete.

MEN All right. See you later. Etc. *[THEY exit as BEAUTY turns and almost bumps into ROWAN. There is a musical sting and THEY freeze as the ROSE FAIRY enters down right.]*

ROSE FAIRY *[To the audience.] Now I know I shouldn't interfere, but I can't stand by and see Rowan resign himself to a life with Horridana – especially if there may be someone more suitable, more in tune with his own views on life, waiting to blossom!* *[SHE makes a pass and the couple unfreeze.]*

BEAUTY *Oh, I am sorry.*

ROWAN *No. It is I who am sorry. Sorry we've not met before.* *[For a moment their eyes are transfixed. The ROSE FAIRY smiles at the audience and exits. BEAUTY finally breaks the moment.]*

BEAUTY I'm looking for my father. An elderly man, probably with glasses perched on the top of his head. You haven't seen him, have you?

ROWAN I'm afraid not. What is your name?

BEAUTY My father calls me Beauty.

ROWAN What an excellent taste he has in names.

BEAUTY *[Starting to move away.]* I really ought to find him.

ROWAN Please don't go. I'm only here for a short while. I would be honoured if you would let me take you on the Ghost Train . or even the Tunnel of Love.

BEAUTY *[Turning back to him.]* But sir, you don't ò ò

ROWAN *[Stopping her.]* Don't say, you don't know me+ I know that you have a beautiful name to go with a beautiful face. And that's all I need to know.

BEAUTY But ò ò

ROWAN Rowan. My name is Rowan.

BEAUTY Rowan. It reminds me of a rose. My favourite flower.

ROWAN Mine too. You see. We already have so much in common. *[THEY both laugh.]*

DUET . ROWAN AND BEAUTY

*[At the end of the number ROWAN and BEAUTY move down left as THOMAS enters up right.]*

THOMAS *[Crossing to ROWAN.]* Everything is ready, your Highness.

BEAUTY *[Taken aback.]* Highness?

ROWAN I'm afraid so. I have been travelling with my friends and we are about to return home.

BEAUTY *[Moving away.]* Oh.

THOMAS We should be on our way, your Highness . if we are to be home by nightfall.

ROWAN Of course. I'll be just a moment. *[HE moves back to BEAUTY.]* I promise I will return in the next few days . if you would like me to.

BEAUTY *[Smiling.]* I would like that very much. *[LOTTE enters surrounded by some of the MEN. SHE carries a large stick of candyfloss and a cuddly toy she has won at the fete. The rest of the CHORUS follow on. RENEE comes out of the Inn.]*

LOTTE *[To audience.]* Bon jour. *[Audience responds.]* Well I must say you boys know how to show a girl a good time! I've been wooed on the Waltzers, pinched on the Pirate Ship and tampered with in the Tunnel of Love! I'm sorry to be leaving.

ROWAN *[With a look at BEAUTY.]* I too am sorry to be leaving. *[CHARLIE comes running on.]*

CHARLIE Are we going?

LOTTE If we must.

ROWAN *[Quietly to BEAUTY.]* Until we meet again, which I know will be soon.

*[ROWAN, THOMAS, LOTTE and CHARLIE all exit up right. BEAUTY follows a step as PANISSE enters from the store and crosses to her.]*

BEAUTY Goodbye.

PANISSE Who were you saying goodbye to?

BEAUTY *[Looking away.]* Oh just someone I met at the fete. *[Back to PANISSE.]* Any sign of your shipment?

PANISSE I'm beginning to get rather worried. It should be here by now. *[A MESSENGER enters down right.]*

MESSENGER Panisse? Where is Panisse? *[The CHORUS point him out. From this point the CHORUS continue to enjoy the fete and do not listen to the following*

*conversation. The MESSENGER crosses to PANISSE.] Panisse, I'm afraid I have some bad news.*

PANISSE My shipment?

MESSENGER All gone! A terrible storm at sea. The ships and all on board were lost.

BEAUTY *[Comforting PANISSE.]* Father.

PANISSE Nothing saved?

MESSENGER The news is vague, but it seems all is lost. I'm so sorry.

PANISSE What am I going to do?

BEAUTY You must not worry father. We'll get through this somehow.

PANISSE Oh Beauty, what would I do without you?

VILLAGER Is everything all right, Panisse? *[PANISSE puts on a brave face not wanting to dampen the spirits of the villagers.]*

PANISSE Yes, yes. Fine. Continue enjoying the day.

#### ENSEMBLE NUMBER . CHORUS

*[During the singing PANISSE grows increasingly distressed at the news and BEAUTY helps him into the store. At the end of the number the lights black out and the scene changes to .....*

#### SCENE 3 A CORRIDOR IN THE PRINCE'S CASTLE

*[A front cloth scene. CHARLIE enters right.]*

CHARLIE Well here we are back home. I can't wait to see Fifi again. We've been apart for so long she's bound to have missed me. When she sees me she'll throw herself at me and smother me in kisses. *[FIFI enters left and listens to what he is saying. SHE is a very pretty girl and a terrible flirt.]* Then she'll tell me how much she has missed me and beg me never to leave her side again. She'll say how irresistible I am and how she never wants to be with anyone else.

FIFI And how I couldn't care less if you never came back.

CHARLIE *[Not realising she is there.]* And how she couldn't care less if I never ò ò ò . FIFI!

FIFI Not one letter. Not one post card. Not a word do I hear in all the time you've been away.

CHARLIE But Fifi, we've been travelling constantly. I never had a chance to write.

FIFI            So you couldn't be bothered to think of me here. Not knowing if you were in any danger, if you were lost in a forest or been attacked by wild animals.

CHARLIE        But Fifi õ õ õ

FIFI            And not once thinking how I was. If I was lonely . if I was worried sick.

CHARLIE        Oh I knew you'd be all right.

FIFI            *[With a toss of her head.]* Too true I was all right. *[HENRI, the gardener, enters right and crosses left.]* Oh hello Henri.

HENRI          Hello Fifi. Great film we saw the other night.

FIFI            *[Flirting with him.]* Yes.

HENRI          Must do it again sometime. *[HE exits left.]*

CHARLIE        Must do what again sometime?

FIFI            A group of us went to the pictures the other night. That's all.

CHARLIE        *[Suspicious.]* Really! *[JACQUES, a male servant enters right and crosses left.]*

FIFI            Hello Jacques.

JACQUES        Hello Fifi. Fab disco last week. You're a great dancer. Let me know when you next have a night off. *[HE exits left as SHE waves and blows him a kiss. CHARLIE is giving her a stern look.]*

FIFI            You don't think I was going to sit pining away for you, do you?

CHARLIE        You didn't have much time to by the sound of things!

FIFI            *[Turning away and folding her arms.]* Well if you were out there enjoying yourself, why shouldn't I?

CHARLIE        But Fifi I was always thinking about you.

FIFI            *[Not believing him.]* Really.

CHARLIE        Yes . really. I bought you lots of presents.

FIFI            *[Changing and smiling.]* You did? Where are they?

CHARLIE        Not so fast. Don't I get a welcome home kiss first?

FIFI            Well. I suppose so. *[HE closes his eyes and puckers up. SHE kisses him on the forehead.]* Now where are my presents? *[SHE starts to search HIM.]*

CHARLIE        Don't! You're tickling me. *[LOTTE enters.]*

LOTTE          Bon jour. *[Audience responds.]* What are you two up to?

CHARLIE Not a lot!

FIFI Welcome home Lotte. How was your trip?

LOTTE Oh Fifi, it was a great adventure, wasn't it Charlie?

CHARLIE Yes. We saw a lot of famous landmarks. The Eiffel Tower in Paris.

LOTTE The Acropolis in Athens.

CHARLIE The Coliseum in Rome.

LOTTE But my favourite was *[SHE names an unlikely local place or shopping mall.]* in *[SHE name local town.]*

CHARLIE *[Rolling his eyes.]* Yes, I really enjoyed myself there!

LOTTE But it's nice to be home. *[The stage darkens and HORRIDANA enters left.]*

HORRIDANA And it's about time! *[ALL cower away.]*

LOTTE Oh it's . *[SHE names a female TV character.]*

HORRIDANA Mind what you say, or when I'm mistress of this castle you may find yourself languishing in the dungeons. Where is Prince Rowan?

*[ROWAN enters right followed by THOMAS.]*

ROWAN *[Without enthusiasm.]* Horridana. How nice to see you again.

HORRIDANA A more affectionate greeting for your bride to be would not come amiss.

ROWAN *[Crossing to her.]* Horridana. We need to talk in private.

HORRIDANA Nonsense. We need to set a date for our wedding. Your servants will need to make arrangements.

ROWAN *[Defiantly.]* There are no arrangements to make.

HORRIDANA What?

THOMAS Perhaps we should leave, your Highness.

ROWAN No. This has to be said so you may as well all hear it. *[HE faces HORRIDANA.]* I'm sorry Horridana, but there won't be a wedding. It would be wrong to marry you when I am in love with somebody else.

HORRIDANA *[Furious.]* What is this treachery?

ROWAN Forgive me, but I have to do what my heart dictates.

HORRIDANA How dare you treat me, Horridana, the Sorceress this way?

OTHERS *[Amazed, each one except LOTTE repeat the word:]* Sorceress??

LOTTE You know there a terrible echo in here!

HORRIDANA Yes. I have powers beyond imagining . as you will now witness.

LOTTE What does she mean?

CHARLIE She's going to turn us into something horrible.

FIFI *[Grabbing hold of CHARLIE.]* Charlie, I'm scared.

MUSIC FOR FIRST TRANSFORMATION

*[The music starts and continues through the following sequence. It should enhance HORRIDANA'S curse with musical stings.]*

HORRIDANA And well you may be. *[To ROWAN.]* You say you are in love with someone else. Then let us see if she returns your love. *[SHE makes a pass and ROWAN doubles up in pain.]* For the pain and deceit you have caused I curse you. *[SHE makes another pass.]* From this moment on you will be changed from a handsome Prince into a hideous beast.

THOMAS No! Stop this. *[HE moves forward but HORRIDANA makes another pass that throws him back.]*

HORRIDANA This castle will become enchanted, but it will also become your fortress. Your servants will remain here with you. No one will be able to leave. Everything you want will be provided for you . except the love of another. *[SHE makes another pass and ROWAN falls to the floor.]*

LOTTE You can't do this. *[CHARLIE and FIFI help ROWAN to his feet. At this point he should be near an exit ready to change with a Double.]*

HORRIDANA I can do anything I wish. *[SHE makes another pass and ROWAN screams in pain.]*

THOMAS You must lift this curse.

HORRIDANA If, by the remotest possibility, someone should say and *mean* the words *I love you*- then and only then will the curse be removed.

ROWAN *[Gasping for breath.]* Horridana . please.

HORRIDANA Change your mind now and you will be spared.

ROWAN I won't.

HORRIDANA *Then suffer this terrible fate.* *[The lights on the stage fade to leave HORRIDANA in a spot stage left. The OTHERS exit.]*

ROSE FAIRY [Entering down right in spot] *Horridana. No!*

HORRIDANA [SHE chants a spell. During the following the BEAST DOUBLE enters.]

*I call on my powers to strengthen this curse*

From which you will never be released.

Only the words I love you truly spoken

Will return the Prince from the Beast.

[A spot centre stage comes up to reveal THE BEAST (DOUBLE). HORRIDANA gives an evil laugh and exits left. The BEAST lets out an agonising roar. The ROSE FAIRY holds out a white rose for him, but he turns away in despair as the lights fade and the scene changes to ò ò ò

#### SCENE 4 THE VILLAGE OF PRETTYBELLE . A YEAR LATER

*[A sign hangs outside PANISSE'S store saying "CLOSING DOWN. EVERYTHING AT HALF PRICE". BEAUTY stands outside the Inn with RENEE. The VILLAGERS are about to start the annual fete and they sing a short reprise of the opening number. MARTHA is with them.]*

#### REPRISE . CHORUS

*[A short reprise of the number that opened scene 2. Before the number comes to an end PANISSE enters from the store. BEAUTY crosses to him.]*

MARTHA Oh here he comes. Late again . as usual!

BEAUTY Father, they are waiting for you to open the fete.

PANISSE Oh, I'm really not in the mood, Beauty.

BEAUTY But you've always done it. It's a tradition.

PANISSE Because I was a figure of importance in the village. Now look at me. Forced to sell everything off to make ends meet. I'm not worthy to do the job. *[To the RENEE.]* Renee, would you do it for me?

RENEE If that's what you want, Panisse.

PANISSE Thank you.

RENEE My friends, Panisse is not feeling too good today and has asked me to declare the fete open. *[There is some mutterings in the crowd.]* So, I declare the fete open! *[There is general rejoicing, albeit muted, and the CHORUS begins to exit.]*

BEAUTY Father you don't look well. Why don't you go and lie down?

PANISSE I'm all right. You go and enjoy yourself.

BEAUTY Oh, I'm not really in the mood for the fete, either.

PANISSE You're still thinking of that young man you met here a year ago.

BEAUTY *[Trying to make light of her feelings.]* No, not at all.

PANISSE My dear, I know you better than you think. Every day for the last year you have looked in vain at every visitor that arrived in the village, hoping that it would be that handsome fellow.

BEAUTY He said he would return. He promised.

PANISSE Promises are easily broken when made on the spur of the moment.

BEAUTY I'm being foolish, aren't I?

PANISSE Of course not. But you mustn't dwell on the past.

BEAUTY Oh father, I feel so ashamed. Here I am thinking about myself when you have so much more to worry about.

PANISSE The only thing I worry about is you.

BEAUTY Then let neither of us think of our problems and enjoy the day.

PANISSE You go ahead. I think I will go and have that rest. *[HE kisses her on the cheek and exits into the store.]*

SONG . BEAUTY

*[As the song finishes the voice of the MESSENGER is heard off right.]*

MESSENGER *[Off.]* Panisse. Panisse, where are you? *[HE runs on carrying a newspaper.]*

BEAUTY What's the matter?

MESSENGER Where is your father? I have important news.

BEAUTY He's lying down. I'll call him. *[SHE crosses to the store as RENEE and members of the CHORUS start to enter.]* Father. Father come here, there is important news.

RENEE What's going on?

MESSENGER I've just come from the port . wait #il you hear. *[PANISSE enters.]*

PANISSE Did somebody want me?

MESSENGER Panisse, quickly read this. *[HE gives him the newspaper.]*

PANISSE *[Squinting at the paper.]* %Woman who takes in washing on Monday and Tuesday is looking for somewhere to hang out Wednesday and Thursday.+

MESSENGER No! Not that. Further down the page.

PANISSE I can't quite make it out. Where are my glasses?

ALL On top of your head!

PANISSE Oh yes. *[HE puts them on and reads.]* %We reported a year ago that, due to a violent storm at sea, all the merchant ships and their contents were lost. It now appears that one survived and has been undergoing repairs in the port of Cadiz. It is now on its way home and should dock any day.+*[ALL respond excitedly to the news.]* Beauty, this could be one of my ships. I must go to the port immediately.

BEAUTY Oh father. I knew something would turn up. I'll go with you.

PANISSE No, no. I'll be fine. But I will bring you back a present. What would you like?

BEAUTY I just want you back safe and well.

PANISSE Don't worry, I can take care of myself. Now come on tell me what you would like.

BEAUTY Well, if it's not too difficult to find, what I would really like is a white rose.

PANISSE A white rose? Is that all? *[SHE nods.]* Very well, a white rose it is. Now I must be off.

MESSENGER You can take my horse.

PANISSE That is very kind. I will see you are recompensed on my return.

RENEE I'll get you some food for the journey.

PANISSE Thank you.

1<sup>st</sup> MAN Good luck, Panisse.

MARTHA *[Still the grouch.]* Let's hope you get your cargo. It's about time you had some new things to sell!

PANISSE *[Ignoring her.]* Thank you all, my friends. Now please . . . enjoy the fete!

REPRISE (any of the previous fete songs)

*[The COMPANY resumes singing as PANISSE bids goodbye to BEAUTY and exits. ALL wave to him as the lights fade and the scene changes to .....*

SCENE 5 A CORRIDOR IN THE PRINCE'S CASTLE

*[The front cloth again. As the lights come up HORRIDANA is discovered on stage left.]*

HORRIDANA        So, a year has passed since I was spurned by Prince Rowan. I wonder if his confinement in this castle has weakened his determination to ignore the commitment made by our fathers. His hideous appearance means that he won't be able to face anyone who doesn't know what happened. But here he comes. Let's see whether he has changed his mind. *[The BEAST enters right.]* Greetings.

BEAST        What are you doing here?

HORRIDANA        Can I visit an old friend, Prince Rowan?

BEAST        Not Rowan. I am called Beast now.

HORRIDANA        Very well. And may I say how well you are looking!

BEAST        Do not think you can provoke me by your jibes. You are not welcome here.

HORRIDANA        I only called to see if you had decided to repent and fulfil your obligations.

BEAST        Never. You are wasting your time. Now go and leave me in peace.

HORRIDANA        You will never be at peace confined here in your prison and doomed to remain a Beast forever.

BEAST        *[Roaring.]* Get out.

HORRIDANA        I'd go. But one day you will beg me to return and release you from this life of misery. *[SHE laughs and exits left.]*

BEAST        How I detest that creature. *[HIS voice softens.]* Oh Beauty. How I wish things were different and that I could see your face again. But I know it is hopeless. You could never love me as I am. *[LOTTE and THOMAS enter right.]*

LOTTE        *[To audience.]* Bon jour. *[Audience responds.]* Ah, there you are dear.

BEAST        What is it?

THOMAS        There is a storm brewing master, and I understand from the servants that there is a man lost in the woods. He's heading this way.

BEAST        I don't want strangers here.

LOTTE        But he's very bedraggled. He could be near to death. Couldn't we offer him shelter?

BEAST      Oh very well. But don't make contact with him. Let the enchanted castle take care of his needs.

THOMAS    Very well master. I'll attend to everything. *[HE exits.]*

LOTTE      Won't you at least talk to him? You've not spoken to anyone from outside for a year.

BEAST      *[Roaring.]* No! I will see no one, and no one must see me in this sorry state.

LOTTE      Oh come on, it's not as bad as all that. You know that with a bit of work to the hair and a little bit of titivation, you'd hardly notice the difference. *[SHE glances at the audience knowing her idea is wide of the mark.]*

BEAST      I know you are trying to humour me, but it won't work. A Beast I am and a Beast it seems I must stay. *[HE exits.]*

LOTTE      Oh dear. I don't know what else to do. If he won't see anyone then it will be impossible for someone to fall in love with him. Oh that awful Horridana. She makes *[Insert TV female character known to be evil.]* seem like a pussycat! *[HORRIDANA enters left.]*

HORRIDANA      Be careful of what you say, Lotte.

LOTTE      Madam L'Escargot Bidet Chemise Sans Culottes to you. *[She makes as if pushing her teeth back.]*

HORRIDANA      Remember that I am a powerful woman.

LOTTE        Yes, I can see your muscles bulging! *[To audience.]* She was in the running for Mrs Universe last year! *[LOTTE does some muscle exercises. The audience laugh and HORRIDANA sneers at them.]*

HORRIDANA        Silence! *[To LOTTE.]* You've seen what I did to Rowan for turning against me. I could easily do the same to you . although I think nature has already done the job for me!

LOTTE        *[Open mouthed.]* Ohhhhhh! I . I'm not standing here to be insulted.

HORRIDANA        Well pull up a chair!

LOTTE        Oh I'm so upset I'd have to go for a tramp in the woods. *[An afterthought as SHE leaves.]* I wonder if he's still there. *[SHE exits.]*

HORRIDANA        Day by day I will wear down Prince Rowan's resolve. Very soon now he will realise that he has no alternative but to consent to our marriage. *[SHE lets out an evil laugh as the lights fade and the scene changes to .....*

## SCENE 6 THE WOODS NEAR THE CASTLE

*[Front cloth or Black Tabs.]*

MUSIC . STORM

*[A great storm is raging. The sound of wolves howling is heard in the distance. PANISSE enters left looking around very frightened.]*

PANISSE Help! Somebody. Oh dear I don't know where I am. This storm started and my horse bolted. I wish I'd never set out for the port. When I got there all my cargo had been taken by the bailiffs to pay off the debts I had. I'm returning home as poor as when I left. [More thunder and lightning.] Help! Is anyone there? [The wolves howl again. Various ANIMALS enter and in dance form taunt PANISSE. HE is about to be attacked by them when a series of lights appear on stage right. These are lanterns carried by what seems like white-gloved hands. (This can be an effect or some of the CHORUS in black with white gloves. Possibly in UV.) The ANIMALS back away and the hands beckon PANISSE to follow them. The ROSE FAIRY enters with the lights down right to show PANISSE the way. HE hurries towards them and they all exit right. The lights fade and the scene changes to .....

## SCENE 7 THE TERRACE GARDEN OF THE CASTLE

[To the left side of the stage is a window opening onto the terrace from the castle. A wall runs across the back and in the distance we see the countryside. Up right is a trellis with a beautiful display of red and white roses. Centre stage is an ornamental stone bench. The areas down right and left are kept free for props to appear. A practical hose reel stands by the fence with a short hose attached. The storm has now subsided and HENRI is tending the roses. FIFI is dusting the bench with a feather duster.]

FIFI                    *Oh Henri, you have such a wonderful way with the roses.*

HENRI                *Thank you.*

FIFI                    [Dusting a little nearer to HIM.] *You have such clever green fingers.*

HENRI                [Slightly embarrassed.] *Oh not really.*

FIFI                    [Grabbing HIS hand.] *Look at those hands. So big and yet so tender. [CHARLIE enters and sees HER holding HENRI'S hand.] Like your heart I shouldn't wonder. Big and tender! And beating away just like mine. [She pulls his hand to her heart. CHARLIE'S mouth drops open.]*

HENRI                *Oh Fifi, you always say the sweetest things.*

FIFI                    *Oh no.*

HENRI                *Oh yes.*

CHARLIE             *Oh my! What a pretty picture!*

FIFI [Jumping and moving from HENRI.] *Charlie! I was just admiring the roses.*

CHARLIE [Through gritted teeth.] *I can see what you were admiring.* [HE grabs HER and pulls her away from HENRI then speaks to HIM.] *And you better keep your hands on your flowers – [HE picks up the end of the hose pipe.] - or else I might find a new use for this!* [He starts to chase HENRI around the stage with FIFI protesting. As THEY dodge HIM, HE gets wound up in the hose. THEY are all in a ridiculous pose as the BEAST enters and THEY all freeze.]

ALL *Good afternoon, Sir.* [HE grunts and nods to them.]

FIFI *Just clearing up, Sir.* [SHE grabs the end of the hose and pulls it. CHARLIE spins like a top and disappears off stage. FIFI curtsies to the BEAST and follows him off. HENRI continues tending the roses.]

BEAST *After a storm they look so fresh.*

HENRI *Indeed, your Highness. As always they are a stunning display.*

BEAST *Treat them carefully. There are very special to me.*

HENRI *I will look after them with my life, Highness.* [THOMAS enters from the castle.]

THOMAS *Sir, the stranger is approaching.*

BEAST *I do not want to see him. I do not want anyone to see him. Let him recover and hopefully leave us in peace.*

THOMAS *As you wish.* [THOMAS and HENRI bow and exit into the castle. The BEAST gently touches a white rose then, sensing someone is near, HE exits. After a second PANISSE enters right and looks around. HIS glasses are again on the top of his head.]

PANISSE [Calling.] *Hello. Anyone around? Hello there. That's funny. I'm sure someone led me here, yet no one answers.* [HE looks around again.] *This is a beautiful garden, but I wonder who lives in this castle? I hope someone comes soon – after all my travelling I could really do with some food and something to drink.*

[There is a lighting effect and a table laden with food appears down left and bumps into him.]

*Oh I do beg your pardon, Madam.* [HE puts on his glasses.] *Oh I say. Where did that come from? All my favourite food.* [HE picks up items and starts eating.] *This is very hospitable of whoever lives here. I wish I could meet them and thank them.*

[LOTTE looks out from the window. SHE beckons and THOMAS, CHARLIE and FIFI appear beside her.]

LOTTE [In a whisper.] *Bon jour.* [Audience responds.] *Look, we have a guest.*

CHARLIE *Who is he?*

LOTTE *I don't know, but he looks familiar.*

FIFI *I don't recognise him.*

LOTTE *I'm sure I've seen him somewhere before.*

CHARLIE *Should we introduce ourselves.*

THOMAS           No. The master said we were to keep out of the way.

[THEY move back into the castle. PANISSE has been eating quickly.]

PANISSE           *Oh, that's better. Still no one about. I shall have to be on my way now the storm has subsided. I don't know what I shall tell Beauty. She was expecting me to return home with a cargo of fine silks and satins. How I wish I had something to take back. [Another lighting effect and a large open chest full of beautiful silks and satins appears from stage left.] My goodness! I can't believe my eyes. Where did that come from? [HE crosses to the chest and starts to pull out the materials.] All the goods from my shipment. Everything I was expecting - and more. This is unbelievable. It's as though someone was reading my mind. [He calls out.] Thank you - whoever you are. I only wish I could thank you personally, but I must be getting back. My daughter will be anxiously waiting for me. [HE starts to pack the chest when he remembers his promise to Beauty.] Beauty. She asked me to bring her back a white rose. I nearly forgot. [HE notices the roses and crosses to them.] Such beautiful roses - and so many. I'm sure the owner of this castle could spare one. [HE plucks a rose from the trellis. There is a lighting effect and standing in the window of the castle is the BEAST. He lets out a great roar and PANISSE turns in terror.]*

BEAST           Who gave you permission to take one of my roses? *[HE crosses down to PANISSE.]* Was it not enough that I made you welcome in my castle and treated you kindly? And now you show your gratitude by stealing my flowers. But your insolence shall not go unpunished.

PANISSE       *[Dropping to his knees.]* My lord, have pity on me. I am not ungrateful but after all your kindness I could not guess that so small a thing would offend you.

BEAST           Hold your tongue if you can offer me nothing but flatteries and false titles. I am not ~~my lord~~ my lord. I am the Beast and your words will not save you from the death you deserve.

PANISSE       *[Cowering away.]* Please my lord . I mean Beast. It was only one rose. I intended it not for myself but a present for my only daughter.

BEAST           That is no excuse. You took advantage of my kindness. Now you must pay.

*[LOTTE, THOMAS, CHARLIE and FIFI run on.]*

THOMAS       Master, please think about this.

BEAST           Do not interfere.

LOTTE          But he's only a poor merchant. He meant no harm.

PANISSE       Thank you.

LOTTE         *[Flirting.]* Have we met somewhere before? You don't go to . *[Local Bingo Hall or Cinema.]* . on a Monday night, do you?

CHARLIE       Mother.

LOTTE         Well, I never forget a face.

BEAST         Silence. I will deal with this matter in my own way.

THOMAS       Sir, if I may have a word. *[HE crosses left with the BEAST. The OTHERS follow.]* If you harm him you will only be playing into the hands of Horridana.

- LOTTE            Thomas is right dear. This isn't like you. She may have changed the way you look, but don't let her change your kind heart.
- FIFI              He's an old man sir, please show him mercy. *[The BEAST looks at them then across at PANISSE who is still trembling.]*
- BEAST            Very well. *[HE crosses back to PANISSE.]* I will forgive you - but on one condition. You took something that is most precious to me, therefore I require the same from you. Send your daughter to me.
- PANISSE        Heaven forgive me, but how can I promise such a thing? On what excuse could I do that?
- BEAST            No excuse is necessary. She must come of her own free will or not at all. But if she won't come you must . . . or suffer a painful death. *[HE takes a ring from his finger and hands it to PANISSE.]* Turn this ring on your finger three times and you will be back in your home. Give it to your daughter and tell her of my wishes. She may return here the same way.
- PANISSE        *[Taking the ring.]* But sir . . .
- BEAST            *[Holding up his hand.]* Take what I have given you and go now . . . before I change my mind. *[HE points to the chest. PANISSE, still holding the rose, crosses to it and looks at the others. THEY indicate he should do what the BEAST commands. HE puts on the ring and turns it three times. There is a lighting effect and blackout. When the lights return PANISSE and the chest have disappeared.]*
- LOTTE            Well after all that excitement I think we could all do with some refreshment. Come on Fifi . . . put the kettle on! *[SHE pulls out a bottle of gin as she exits into the castle followed by CHARLIE and FIFI.]*
- THOMAS        Thank you sir. I'm sure you have done the right thing.
- BEAST            Have I Thomas? I don't know what I'm doing any more. When the least little thing upsets me I behave in the most inhuman way. I behave like an animal.
- THOMAS        Sir, don't torture yourself like this. Things may have changed . . . but inside you are still the same person. *[HE bows and exits.]*
- BEAST            *[To himself.]* Am I? Will I ever be the same again? Will I ever see . . . her again?

SONG . BEAST

*[At the end of the song the lights fade to blackout and the scene changes to . . . . .]*

SCENE 8 A ROOM IN PANISSE'S HOUSE

*[Front cloth scene. BEAUTY is sitting alone on a stool stage right. After a moment PANISSE enters left. HE is carrying the white rose.]*

PANISSE Beauty.

BEAUTY Father! [*SHE runs to him.*] Oh father, I was so worried. You've been gone for so long.

PANISSE Beauty, I can't tell you what a joy it is to be home and see you again.

BEAUTY What happened? Did you get your cargo?

PANISSE I did, but at a terrible price.

BEAUTY What do you mean?

PANISSE I got to the port only to find that my creditors had confiscated my cargo in lieu of the outstanding debts. On my way home I got lost in a storm and came upon a castle where I hoped to find shelter.

BEAUTY And did you?

PANISSE Yes, and a lot more. The castle seemed enchanted. Everything I wished for appeared. Food, drink and even my lost cargo. I was about to leave when I remembered your desire for a single white rose. Dozens bloomed on the castle terrace and so I picked one. [*HE hands her the rose.*] That's when he appeared.

BEAUTY He?

PANISSE A ferocious beast. He accused me of stealing his rose and condemned me to death.

BEAUTY [*Horrified.*] Oh father I would never have asked for the rose if it meant you were put in such danger. At least you managed to escape.

PANISSE But the worst is yet to come. He spared my life on the condition that the one thing I hold dear in all the world was sent to him.

BEAUTY I don't understand.

PANISSE He wants you to join him at the castle . . . of your own free will.

BEAUTY And if I don't go?

PANISSE Then he will carry out his threat to me. [*BEAUTY looks at the rose.*]

BEAUTY Then I must go to him.

PANISSE Beauty, no.

BEAUTY Do you think I could stay here knowing what would happen to you?

PANISSE But I am an old man. You have your whole life in front of you.

BEAUTY And it would mean nothing without you. *[SHE looks at the rose again and holds it up in front of her.]* I will meet this Beast. I will find out why he takes pleasure in destroying the lives of good and honest people.

PANISSE Beauty, I can't let you do this.

BEAUTY Father I must. Who knows, I may be able to soften his heart and he will let me return to you.

PANISSE Beauty .

BEAUTY How do I get there?

PANISSE *[Giving her the ring.]* Place this on your finger and turn it three times. *[SHE takes the ring and puts it on.]*

BEAUTY Don't worry, father. We'll be together again soon. I promise. *[THEY embrace.]*

PANISSE Oh my darling daughter. What have I brought you to?

BEAUTY Until we meet again.

#### **MUSIC – TRANSITION TO THE CASTLE**

*[Music starts as BEAUTY turns the ring. There is a lighting effect and a blackout. BEAUTY exits and the scene changes to .....]*

SCENE 9 A CORRIDOR IN THE CASTLE

*[The front cloth flies in and as the lights come up LOTTE enters.]*

LOTTE Bon jour. *[Audience responds.]* Splendid! You're leaning fast. You know I was just going to pop down to . *[Name of local store.]* . to get a bag of my favourite sweets. Yes, I've eaten the last lot. *[Looking at her figure.]* Does it show? *[SHE reacts to someone in the audience.]* What do you mean not arf? Cheek! Anyway, as I was saying I was just going out for some sweets when I realised that I hadn't got any money. I'm absolutely skint. Broke! Without dosh. Not a penny to my name. And that's because I lent my no good, worthless son ten quid last week to go to the pictures. He wanted to take Fifi to see . *[SHE says the name of the latest blockbuster film.]* It's about time he paid me back. *[SHE looks off.]* Here he is now. I'll ask him for it. *[CHARLIE enters.]*

CHARLIE Hello Mum.

LOTTE Ah, just the person. Remember that ten quid I lent you.

CHARLIE *[Vaguely.]* Ten quid?

LOTTE Yes. Well I want it back.

CHARLIE What for?

LOTTE Some swe - - *[SHE thinks again.]* It's for the housekeeping.

CHARLIE Sorry Mum, I haven't got it.

LOTTE But you were paid at the weekend.

CHARLIE I know, but I spent all my wages on the new . *[Name of best selling CD.]*

LOTTE Typical! Now what am I going to do?

CHARLIE Hang on a minute. I have an idea. *[FIFI enters.]* Fifi, could you do me a great favour and lend me ten quid?

FIFI What for?

CHARLIE Well I know how much you wanted . *[Mentions to CD.]* . and I was going to get it for you, but I'm a bit short!

FIFI Oh, Charlie. How sweet of you. *[To LOTTE.]* Isn't he just the sweetest thing?

LOTE *[Rolls her eyes.]* Sickly sweet!

FIFI I haven't got ten on me, but I could lend you five.

CHARLIE Great. Thanks very much. *[FIFI gives him a five pound note from her bosom – blows him a kiss then exits.]* Here you are Mum, here's five pounds and I still owe you five.

LOTTE I won't forget. *[CHARLIE gives her the five pound note and exits.]* Well it's better than nothing I suppose. *[Holding the note up SHE turns to exit as THOMAS enters.]*

THOMAS Ah, Dame Lotte. Is that the ten pounds I lent you last week for sweets?

LOTTE *[Stuttering.]* I . er . I. It's only five.

THOMAS *[Taking the note.]* Not to worry. You can give me the rest later. Thanks very much! *[LOTTE is lost for words and with a trembling bottom lip to get sympathy from the audience, exits.]* Now I can treat myself to a leg wax and facial! *[Or something equally topical. CHARLIE enters.]*

CHARLIE Ah Thomas. Remember I bet you that . *[Local football team.]* . would lose again last week?

THOMAS Yes.

CHARLIE Well they did! So you owe me a tenner!

THOMAS I've only got five.

CHARLIE *[Taking it.]* That'll do. You can give me the rest later. *[CHARLIE crosses the stage as LOTTE re-enters.]*

LOTTE I've just been thinking .

CHARLIE Ah, Mum. I owe you a fiver don't I?

LOTTE *[Slightly suspicious.]* Yes.

CHARLIE Well here it is. *[He gives her the note.]* Now we're square.

LOTTE Right. *[SHE crosses to THOMAS.]* Thomas, I owe you five pounds.

THOMAS Yes.

LOTTE Well here it is. *[SHE gives him the note.]* Now we're square.

THOMAS Right. *[HE crosses to CHARLIE.]* Charlie, the rest of that bet I owe you.

CHARLIE Yes.

THOMAS Here it is. *[HE gives CHARLIE the note.]* Now we're square. *[HE exits as FIFI enters and sees CHARLIE with the note.]*

FIFI Ah Charlie. You've got the five pounds you owe me. *[SHE takes the note and pops it down her bosom as SHE exits.]*

CHARLIE *[Completely confused.]* Hey, just a minute. *[HE runs off after her.]*

LOTTE I'm not quite sure who won that round! All I know is I'm still without my sweets. *[SHE goes to exit as the lighting effect that ended scene 8 happens again.]* But what's this? *[As the lights return BEAUTY is standing on stage.]* Oh, my dear. You came.

BEAUTY Who are you?

LOTTE I'm Madam L'Escargot Bidet Chemise Sans Culotte, but please call me Lotte . . . and I bid you welcome to the castle.

BEAUTY Welcome to the prison you mean.

LOTTE Oh it's not as bad as all that. And my master has given you the freedom to go where you please.

BEAUTY I want to go home . . . to my father.

LOTTE I know dear. Perhaps in time.

BEAUTY Where is the master of this castle? Where is the Beast?

LOTTE *[Hesitating.]* He is not available at the present. But let me introduce you to some of the staff. *[SHE calls off stage.]* Come on you lot. Come and meet our guest. *[CHARLIE, FIFI and THOMAS enter.]*

BEAUTY I am not a guest. I am a prisoner.

LOTTE No, you mustn't think like that. And we want to be your friends, don't we gang? *[ALL agree.]* Let me introduce you. My son Charlie.

CHARLIE How do?

LOTTE Fifi, the chambermaid.

FIFI *[Bobbing a curtsey.]* Pleased to meet you miss.

LOTTE And Thomas. He's the Pr . . .

THOMAS *[Quickly stopping LOTTE from saying who he is.]* I'm here to make sure you are comfortable. *[BEAUTY has ignored them.]*

BEAUTY I can only be comfortable in my own home. A home where I am loved.

LOTTE Bless my heart, I know how you feel. But in time I'm sure you will grow to like it here. We've all learned to cope since . . .

THOMAS *[Stopping her again.]* Since you are here, why don't we show you around? Fifi, take our guest to her quarters.

BEAUTY Am I to be locked up? Fed on bread and water?

FIFI Oh no miss.

LOTTE You are free to wander anywhere and ask for anything you like.

BEAUTY Except my freedom.  
FIFI If you would like to come this way miss. *[FIFI moves to the exit and reluctantly, BEAUTY follows.]*

LOTTE *[As BEAUTY passes.]* We will try to make your stay here a happy one.

BEAUTY I know you all mean well and I am grateful for your kindness. *[SHE exits with FIFI.]*

LOTTE Oh it's enough to break your heart.

THOMAS You don't think in time she could learn to love the Prince and break the spell?

LOTTE Oh dear Thomas. That sort of thing only happens in fairy tales! *[SHE exits. THOMAS goes to follow when the BEAST appears on the other side of the stage.]*

BEAST Thomas.

THOMAS *[Turning.]* Sir. She is here.

BEAST So I see. Thomas, I can't believe what has happened. It's her.

THOMAS I don't understand, Sir.

BEAST It's Beauty. The girl I met in that village a year ago. The one I promised to return to before I fell foul of Horridana's curse.

THOMAS Then everything can be all right again. Once she knows who you are the spell will be broken and everything will be as it was.

BEAST You are forgetting the terms of the curse. Someone, without knowing who I really am must say and mean I love you to release me from this misshapen form. By my own folly the one person I wanted to share my life with despises me.

THOMAS But in time, sir. When you get to know each other .

BEAST Time! Time you say? We will need a dozen lifetimes.

THOMAS You won't know unless you meet with her. *[The BEAST thinks for a moment and then turns to THOMAS.]*

BEAST You may be right. What have I got to lose? Tell her I will meet her in the Great Hall of Mirrors.

THOMAS Should she be told that the mirrors are enchanted? That they will show her whatever she wants to see?

BEAST Yes.

THOMAS Very well, Sir. *[HE bows and exits.]*

BEAST *[Heartbroken.]* Oh Beauty. What have I done? What have I done?  
*[The lights fade and the scene changes to ..... .]*

#### SCENE 10 THE GREAT HALL OF MIRRORS

*[A beautifully decorated room which is dominated by three large mirrors in the back wall. They show no reflections and are black until they light up to reveal whatever is asked of them. (Note: If there is only room on the stage for one mirror this will serve just as well. All the visions can come and go through it.) A gilt chair stands to one side of the set. FIFI is dusting and after a moment JACQUES enters.]*

JACQUES Fifi. Busy as ever?

FIFI I have to dust everywhere. The master wants the whole castle cleaned from top to bottom.

JACQUES *[Pointing to a high spot.]* I think you have missed a bit up there.

FIFI It is too high for me to reach.

JACQUES Stand on that chair. Here, I'll help you.

FIFI Oh you are so kind. *[SHE stands on the chair and starts to dust. JACQUES steadies her by holding her waist. CHARLIE enters and sees them.]*

CHARLIE *[To the audience.]* Look at that! As soon as my back is turned . *[HE clears his throat. FIFI turns and sees him.]*

FIFI Oh Charlie! *[SHE falls into the arms of JACQUES.]*

CHARLIE And what, may I ask, is going on here?

FIFI I was only doing a bit of dusting.

CHARLIE Where? Behind his ears?

JACQUES *[Putting HER down.]* I'd better be off. *[HE exits quickly.]*

CHARLIE I can't leave you alone for one minute.

FIFI *[Crossing and putting HER arms around HIM.]* Of course you can.

CHARLIE But you're always hanging around with other men.

FIFI They are just friends. You know there's no one else in the world for me . but you.

SONG . FIFI AND CHARLIE

*[During the song FIFI manages to win him over. After the number THEY embrace and run off as LOTTE enters.]*

LOTTE Bon jour. *[Audience responds.]* Very good. You're getting better all the time! I've been showing Beauty around the castle and this is the last room. I'm sure she's going to be impressed. *[SHE calls off.]* Here we are dear. *[BEAUTY enters.]* The Great Hall.

BEAUTY *[Looking around. Impressed.]* It is magnificent.

LOTTE In times gone by there used to be wonderful balls and parties in this room. Dozens of guests enjoying themselves.

BEAUTY But not any more.

LOTTE No.

BEAUTY And why is that?

LOTTE I'm afraid, my dear, it's not my place to tell you.

BEAUTY Why not?

LOTTE Well you see sometime ago . *[SHE is about to launch into telling BEAUTY what happened when THOMAS enters.]*

THOMAS I'd attend to our guest now, Lotte .

LOTTE Yes of course. I'd be around if you need anything.

BEAUTY Thank you. You are all so kind. *[LOTTE stifles a sniff and exits.]*

THOMAS I have been instructed by my master to tell you that these mirrors will show you anything or anyone you wish to see. Just ask.

BEAUTY And what of your master? Do I ask a mirror to show me him?

THOMAS He will meet with you shortly. Meanwhile please content yourself with the pleasures of the castle. *[HE bows and exits.]*

MUSIC . THE MAGIC MIRRORS

*[Music begins as BEAUTY slowly crosses to the first mirror.]*

BEAUTY Mirror, show me my village and my friends.

*[The first mirror lights up and we see part of the village of Prettybelle. The CHORUS is happily enjoying the fete. THEY spill out of the mirror and surround BEAUTY and SHE joins in the dancing. As the dance comes to an end the CHORUS disappears and the picture in the mirror begins to fade. BEAUTY moves to the second mirror.]*

Mirror, show me my father.

*[The second mirror lights up and BEAUTY sees PANISSE sitting alone in the house. HE starts to sing a sad song but part way through his voice starts to falter. BEAUTY joins in and THEY finish as a duet.]*

SONG . PANISSE AND BEAUTY

*[As the song ends the lights fade in the second mirror.]*

Dear Father. How I miss him. But the third mirror. What shall I ask of it? If it will show me anything I wish . I wonder . *[SHE stands in front of the third mirror.]* Mirror, show me Prince Rowan.

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*[The third mirror lights up and the DANCERS as GUESTS AT COURT spill out and perform a dance. The GUESTS wear masks of various kinds and the theme of the dance is a ROSE DANCE. The ROSE FAIRY brings ROWAN and BEAUTY together during the dance. BEAUTY removes the mask covering ROWAN'S face. SHE is happy at seeing him again and they dance.*

*NOTE: If required BEAUTY and ROWAN can reprise part of their scene 2 duet.*

*Partners change and just as BEAUTY is about to turn and dance with ROWAN again she finds he has disappeared and his place taken by the BEAST (DOUBLE). SHE recoils from him as the DANCERS vanish into the mirror and its light fades. The ROSE FAIRY watches from down right until the end of Act 1.]*

BEAST *[Voice over. ROWAN off stage.]* Good evening Beauty.

BEAUTY Good evening Beast.

BEAST Have you come here of your own free will?

BEAUTY Yes.

BEAST And are you willing to remain here?

BEAUTY Yes. If that is your wish.

*[The music builds to a crescendo as BEAUTY curtsies to the BEAST. HE crosses and raises her. THEY stare at each other as the curtain falls on Act One.]*

ACT TWO  
SCENE 1 HORRIDANA'S DOMAIN

MUSIC . OPENING ACT TWO

[This scene can be played on tabs. As the scene opens the ROSE FAIRY is standing stage right looking at the white rose in her hand.]

ROSE FAIRY So Beauty has finally met the Beast. Brought together by the white rose they both admired so much. But the happiness that should surround them is not there because of Horridana's wicked curse. Only time will tell if Beauty is able to see through the hideous shell that imprisons the man she once fell in love with. But I should not be here. This is Horridana's domain. She does not take kindly to intruders. Although I am protected against her foul magic it would not do to anger her even further. The malediction she has cast on Rowan is bad enough . anything more would destroy all chances of his future happiness.  
*[SHE exits as HORRIDANA enters left.]*

HORRIDANA What is this? That girl from the village brought to the castle. Is Rowan trying to trick me? *[SHE calls.]* Rowan. Rowan I wish to speak to you.

*[The BEAST enters stage right.]*

BEAST What is it Horridana? Haven't you tortured me enough? Leave me in peace.

HORRIDANA What is that girl doing in the castle?

BEAST Because of the curse you have put on me, my whole character is changing. I grew angry with a stranger who tried to steal one of my special roses and demanded he forfeit his daughter or his life. She is here of her own free will.

HORRIDANA But she is my rival.

BEAST She can pose no threat. By your insidious terms she may not know who I am.

HORRIDANA *[Smiling.]* No, that is true. So I ask you again . accept our betrothal and fulfil your obligations.

BEAST *[Roaring.]* No. Never.

HORRIDANA *[Furious.]* You think that by keeping the girl here there is the remotest chance of her falling in love with you?

BEAST She has been given everything that her heart desires.

HORRIDANA But it's your heart that is at stake here. *[SHE taunts him even more.]* If you relent and let her leave your heart will break into a thousand pieces and you will perish.

BEAST If I can't have her then I care not what happens to me.

HORRIDANA Fool. Your fate is sealed. You are doomed. *[With an evil laugh SHE exits left. The BEAST holds his head and lets out a mournful howl and exits. The ROSE FAIRY enters and watches him go.]*

ROSE FAIRY Not doomed Beast, not yet. While there is love in your heart the chance of true happiness is always at hand. Beauty has settled in to life at the castle and made many friends amongst the servants. Let us take a look at what she is doing at this moment.

*[The lights fade as the scene changes to .....*

## SCENE 2 THE TERRACE GARDEN OF THE CASTLE

*[The same as in Act One. The lights come up and the CHORUS of CASTLE SERVANTS are showing BEAUTY many fine clothes and jewellery. CHARLIE, FIFI and THOMAS are also there. BEAUTY seems more relaxed and happier than when we last saw her.]*

### NUMBER . CHORUS, LOTTE, FIFI, CHARLIE, THOMAS AND BEAUTY

*[During the number LOTTE enters in an outrageous dress – much to the amusement of ALL.]*

LOTTE *[To the audience.]* Bon jour! *[Audience responds.]* Oh my dear, what have you got there?

BEAUTY Presents from the Beast. I've never had such lovely clothes. But these dresses can all be for me.

LOTTE Yes they are dear. *[Indicating what SHE is wearing.]* Even this one if you like it!

CHARLIE Mother!

*[The song continues. At the end of the number LOTTE crosses to BEAUTY.]*

LOTTE The Master wants you to have everything you desire.

BEAUTY Not everything Lotte.

LOTTE Tell me dear, how are you two getting along?

BEAUTY Well in the month I have been here we have been getting to know each other a little better. But I am still at a loss to know why he insists I stay. If we were true friends I would visit often. There would be no need to keep me here against my will and I could see my father again.

THOMAS I'm afraid the master has his reasons, but he must tell you in his own good time.

FIFI *[Holding a silk scarf.]* Now miss, Charlie and me have decided it's time to play a game. How about blind man's buff?

BEAUTY Oh I would like that.

CHARLIE Good, it's your turn for the blindfold! *[ALL laugh and agree.]*

MUSIC . BLIND MAN'S BUFF

*[FIFI puts the blindfold on BEAUTY and turns her around three times. BEAUTY tries to catch various members of the COMPANY. The BEAST enters and watches the game. After a moment HE signals that they should all leave, which they do. Left alone BEAUTY turns and catches him. The music stops.]*

BEAUTY Ah, got you. It's Charlie. No . Fifi. No . *[Feeling his hair.]* – I think it's Lotte  
ō ō ō

BEAST *[Quietly.]* It's me, Beauty. *[SHE pulls off the scarf and takes a step back.]*

BEAUTY *[Flustered.]* Oh I'm sorry. We were just playing a game.

BEAST It used to be one of my favourites.

BEAUTY Used to be?

BEAST *[Finding an excuse.]* When I was younger.

BEAUTY Oh. *[There is an awkward moment.]* I had better go. *[SHE crosses towards the exit.]*

BEAST Please don't. *[SHE stops.]* I was hoping to share some time with you. Get to know you better.

BEAUTY But we have so little in common.

BEAST That's not true. We have a great deal in common. *[Moving towards the roses.]* A love of roses for one thing.

BEAUTY *[Looking at the roses.]* They are beautiful.

BEAST They have bloomed here since I was a boy. *[HE stops himself. SHE looks up, querying what he has said.]* for as long as I can remember. *[SHE moves away – puzzled by his manner.]* I also have a wonderful collection of paintings and books. You may make use of them whenever you please.

BEAUTY I don't understand. There is a side to you that seems so tender, so loving, so human. and yet you hold me here against my will.

BEAST Believe me, if I could turn back time I would. I should never have forced you to come here.

BEAUTY Then why *am* I here?

BEAST *[Turning away.]* Please don't ask me. It is impossible for me to explain.

BEAUTY I know nothing about you and yet you ask for my friendship.

BEAST I do want to be your friend, Beauty. more than anything.

BEAUTY *[Staring at him.]* Something in your voice. sounds so familiar. As though we have spoken before.

BEAST *[Turning away.]* Perhaps we have.

BEAUTY What was that?

BEAST Maybe in another time. Another place.

BEAUTY What do you mean?

BEAST Nothing. *[Turning back and changing the subject.]* I have a present for you.

BEAUTY But you have given me so much already.

BEAST This is special. *[HE takes out of his pocket a jewel-framed hand mirror.]* This mirror will show you anything or anyone you wish to see.

BEAUTY Like the ones in the Great Hall?

BEAST Yes, but this is just for you to use wherever you are.

BEAUTY To see the people of my village, my father and someone .

BEAST Yes?

BEAUTY Someone special. *[THEY are staring at each other. SHE looks away.]* Thank you.

BEAST Now I should leave you to enjoy the rest of the day with your friends here in the castle. *[HE signals off stage and the CHORUS re-enters with LOTTE, CHARLIE, FIFI and THOMAS.]* Please continue your game. *[HE turns to go.]*

BEAUTY *[Taking his hand.]* Would you stay . and join us? *[BEAST stops. LOTTE, CHARLIE, FIFI and THOMAS smile hopefully at each other.]*

BEAST *[Turning and looking at HER hand in HIS.]* I think not.

LOTTE *[Stage whisper and a nudge to BEAST.]* Stay! Stay!

BEAST Well . perhaps. For a few minutes.

LOTTE Now we've all been learning a new song. It's played on *[Local radio station.]* all the time. Would you like to hear it?

BEAUTY Very much.

LOTTE All right gang. Here we go.

SONG AND CHORUS

*[THEY all perform the latest popular song, if possible with a dance routine that becomes comic with LOTTE, CHARLIE and FIFI. (FIFI can flirt with the MEN much to CHARLIE'S annoyance.) At the end of the number ALL gather round BEAUTY.]*

BEAUTY    Look everyone. *[SHE shows them the mirror.]* It is a present from your Master.

FIFI    It's beautiful.

CHARLIE    Look at all those jewels.

LOTTE    I bet there are a few carats there.

CHARLIE    They're not carrots . they're diamonds!

LOTTE    It's no good talking to you . you're half witted.

CHARLIE    Well that's an improvement.

LOTTE    What do you mean?

CHARLIE    Yesterday you said I was brainless! *[ALL laugh.]*

BEAUTY    Would you like to see where I live? *[ALL say "yes, very much" – etc.]*

### MIRROR MUSIC

*[Musical stings accompany the following mirror images.]* Mirror, show me the village of Prettybelle.

*[The mirror glows and ALL admire the image.]*

LOTTE Oh, I remember that place.

BEAUTY Really? You've been there? *[The BEAST catches LOTTE'S eye and shakes his head.]*

LOTTE Perhaps not. All those little villages look alike.

BEAUTY Not mine. It's the loveliest place on earth. And now I'll show you someone I met there and who I hope to meet again someday. Mirror show me Prince Rowan. *[The mirror glows again. ALL gasp and look towards the BEAST who turns away.]* What's the matter?

LOTTE *[Covering up.]* Oh nothing dear. We're all stunned. He's very handsome. I mean look at that physique. Those distinctive features. Those muscles rippling away . just like . *[SHE names a famous person known for his good looks. The BEAST clears his throat which stops her.]* Yes . very nice!

BEAUTY And very kind. I do hope to see him again.

FIFI Oh I'm sure you will. Now is there anyone else you want to show us?

BEAUTY My father. He's very dear to me. Mirror show me my father. *[The stage lights drop slightly as the mirror glows and shows BEAUTY her father.]* Oh!

THOMAS What is it.

BEAUTY     *[Getting distressed.]* It's father. He looks so ill. Oh no, there's no one looking after him. What am I to do? Oh father.

LOTTE       Don't upset yourself dear. I'm sure it's nothing serious.

BEAUTY     But he's ill. I know. Just look at him . so pale. *[SHE looks directly at the BEAST.]* I should be with him. *[In tears SHE runs into the castle. The CHORUS starts to exit leaving LOTTE, THOMAS, CHARLIE and FIFI.]*

LOTTE       Oh Sir, she's in such a state.

THOMAS     You have to let her go back to her father.

BEAST       If I do and she doesn't return, I will perish. It is part of Horridana's curse.

LOTTE       But if you keep her here she will grow to hate you. Let her go and she will see what a kind, unselfish person you are. *[ALL look pleadingly at HIM.]*

BEAST       Very well. Thomas, bring her to me.

THOMAS     At once sir. *[HE exits.]*

BEAST       Please leave me. *[The OTHERS exit and the BEAST moves up to the roses. After a moment BEAUTY enters. SHE is still tearful.]*

BEAUTY     You wanted me?

BEAST Beauty, I can refuse you nothing. You may go to your father.

BEAUTY *[Surprised.]* You mean it?

BEAST Yes. But I hope you will return. I don't demand it any more . but I hope. *[Taking a rose from the trellis.]* Take this as a reminder of me.

BEAUTY Thank you. Thank you so much.

BEAST Please don't forget me Beauty

BEAUTY Of course I won't.

BEAST Turn the ring on your finger.

*[SHE kisses him on the cheek. THEY look at each other for a moment then SHE turns the ring on her finger three times. There is a lighting effect and when the lights return the BEAST is standing alone, touching his cheek where SHE kissed him.]*

REPRISE . BEAST (song from Act One scene 7)

*[HE sings a short reprise. At the end the lights fade to black out and the scene changes to .....*

SCENE 3 A CORRIDOR IN THE CASTLE

*[HORRIDANA is standing on stage left. As the lights come up SHE roars with laughter, delighted in the knowledge that BEAUTY has gone.]*

HORRIDANA        So, Rowan has relented and let the girl go back to her home. What a fool he is to think that she will return to him. He has sealed his fate. I knew all along that his hideous looks would never soften the girl's heart. And now she's gone and with her any chance of breaking the spell. *[SHE laughs again.]* But then I am not an unreasonable person. I might just give him another chance. Maybe now he will reconsider his position and accept the inevitable. *[BEAST enters right. HE is completely devastated at losing BEAUTY.]* Your highness, why so sad.

BEAST        You know why.

HORRIDANA        Not able to keep the love of your life close by you?

BEAST        *[Wearily.]* No more, Horridana.

HORRIDANA        Couldn't wait to get away, could she?

BEAST        Stop taunting me.

HORRIDANA        The sight of you must have repulsed her so much .

BEAST     *[Roaring and rushing at her.]* One more remark and I'll destroy you.

HORRIDANA        There! Showing your true colours. Behaving like a wild beast. Remember I hold your fate in my hands. Do anything to harm me and you are doomed.

BEAST     I'm doomed anyway.

HORRIDANA        Not if you acquiesce to my terms.

BEAST     Never.

HORRIDANA        Fool! Do you think for one moment that she will return to you?

BEAST     *[Defiant.]* I know she will. *[HORRIDANA roars with laughter.]* She will!

HORRIDANA        Fool! Fool! Fool! That was your last chance. Nothing and no one can save you from an agonising death. *[She roars with laughter again and exits left.]*

BEAST     *[Calling off stage.]* Thomas. Lotte. Everyone. I need you right now.

*[THOMAS, LOTTE, FIFI and CHARLIE enter right.]*

LOTTE     Bon jour. *[Audience responds.]*

THOMAS You called us, Sir.

BEAST I want you to prepare the grandest banquet and the finest entertainment to surprise Beauty when she returns.

FIFI Oh a party. *[Very excited.]* We haven't had a party in ages.

CHARLIE When will she be back?

BEAST *[Trying to sound positive.]* Soon. Very soon. I'm sure of it. *[HE exits.]*

LOTTE Come on then, let's make a start. There's a lot to be done.

THOMAS You don't think he's hoping against hope, do you? Beauty was very keen to get home.

LOTTE If it helps keep his spirits up then we'll do exactly what he asks. Besides as Fifi says . *[Imitating FIFI.]* – we haven't had a party in ages.

FIFI We have to practice the song I've written. It'll be just the thing for the entertainment and I want you all to join in.

LOTTE I'm afraid I don't have time. I've got to prepare the food and I want you all to help.

FIFI But you need to conduct us.

THOMAS *[Who is standing to one side.]* If I may make a suggestion.

OTHERS *[Facing him.]* What?

THOMAS Why don't we do both jobs at the same time?

CHARLIE How?

THOMAS The Long Gallery in the West Wing would be perfect to set up a kitchen table and also hold a singing rehearsal.

LOTTE *[Smiling.]* What a good idea.

THOMAS Fifi and I will get everything organised.

LOTTE Yes, you do that. *[THOMAS and FIFI exit.]* Oh I love parties. I remember my first.

CHARLIE Oh no, we're back in the realms of fantasy!

LOTTE Don't be cheeky.

CHARLIE Sorry Mum.

LOTTE I can remember when I had my first drink. It was a sherry.

CHARLIE Pale?

LOTTE No, just a schooner!

CHARLIE I prefer a good pint of Guinness

LOTTE Oh no. Champagne. Champagne is my drink. We're very alike you know.

CHARLIE Really?

LOTTE Yes. Bubbly. Sophisticated. And drunk all over the world! Come on we've got work to do.

*[The front cloth rises on to .....]*

#### SCENE 4 THE LONG GALLERY IN THE WEST WING

*[A cloth with windows and portraits etc. Stage right is where the kitchen table is set and stage left is where the music rehearsal will be held. As the lights come up THOMAS and the CHORUS are setting a kitchen table. On it and under it are all the items needed for the following scene including a very large mixing bowl. On the off stage end of the table is a prop microwave with a*

*door and a false back so that the mixture can be replaced by the finished cake. A small stool is nearby. LOTTE and CHARLIE walk into the scene.]*

THOMAS Thank you all. Now if you will take your places over there . *[HE points to stage left.]* .  
ready for our maestro.

*[FIFI enters from stage left. SHE is carrying a music stand and music, which SHE places in front of the assembled CHORUS. The CHORUS all take music sheets.]*

LOTTE We need to do some warm-ups first.

CHARLIE Oh right. I know all about those. Everybody follow me. *[HE stands centre and starts to do some 'jumps'. The CHORUS starts to join in.]*

FIFI *[Stopping him.]* No. Not like that.

CHARLIE Oh you mean like this. *[HE starts to do some press-ups – getting tired very quickly.]*

LOTTE Charlie, I meant vocal warm-ups.

CHARLIE *[Collapsing on the floor.]* Oh, I see. *[HE stands.]*

LOTTE *[To the CHORUS.]* I want to concentrate on scales. *[CHARLIE runs to the table and picks up some weighing scales.]*

CHARLIE No problem, I've got some here. *[Holds up scales.]*

FIFI Not those scales. She means musical ones.

CHARLIE *[Putting scales back.]* Sorry.

LOTTE Everyone start with Doh.

CHARLIE *[Pulling a pile of dough from under the table.]* Here it is! *[He drops it into the bowl.]*

LOTTE Not that dough! A musical doh. *[SHE sings a very long note. There is the sound effect of breaking glass that stops HER. ALL sing up the scale. CHARLIE is out of tune and holds the last note on. EVERYONE winces at the sound.]* Charlie, you're out of tune. You need to be higher. Try it once again, everyone. *[ALL sing the scale again. CHARLIE gets the small stool and stands on it. This time HE holds the note on singing falsetto. EVERYONE groans.]* Charlie, I think you had better stick to the baking.

CHARLIE Don't you like my singing voice?

FIFI I'm afraid you are to singing what . *[Name of boxing champion.]* . is to ballet dancing. *[CHARLIE hangs his head and climbs off the stool. HE will no doubt get an audience sympathy vote.]*

LOTTE You start on the baking.

CHARLIE But I don't know what to do.

LOTTE I'd shout out the instructions.

CHARLIE All right. *[HE crosses to the table.]*

LOTTE Now then let us take a look at the song. It's in B flat everyone . B flat.

CHARLIE OK. *[He lies flat on the floor.]*

FIFI Charlie, what are you doing?

CHARLIE She said be flat.

LOTTE I'm talking about the key of the song.

CHARLIE *[Getting up.]* Oh. Well what do I do first?

LOTTE You put the flour in the bowl.

CHARLIE Right. *[HE puts the bag of flour into a bowl.]*

THOMAS Are we going to start now?

LOTTE Yes. *[Picking up baton from the music stand.]* Now everyone we want plenty of *spirit* in this.

CHARLIE Spirit. Right. *[HE picks up a large bottle of gin and pours it into the bowl, then takes a drink.]*

LOTTE We must perform it well for the Master. Don't want to look like a load of lemons.

CHARLIE Load of lemons. *[Tips a bag of lemons into the bowl. Then takes another drink of gin.]*

FIFI It's a real swinging number.

LOTTE Exactly.

CHARLIE Eggs. *[Throws a carton of eggs into the bowl and takes another drink. By now he is starting to get slightly merry.]*

LOTTE Now watch the beat . it's quite fast.

CHARLIE Beat it fast. *[HE starts to beat the mixture in the bowl. The OTHERS start the song.]*

NUMBER . LOTTE, FIFI, THOMAS AND CHORUS

*[This can be any popular nursery rhyme. Not too long as it has to stop after each verse. During the first part CHARLIE continues to beat the mixture and take the odd drink of gin. LOTTE conducts.]*

LOTTE      *[After first verse.]* Not bad, but we got out of time . just a little bit.

CHARLIE    Little bit of thyme. *[Picks up a jar labelled "Thyme" and tips a large amount into the bowl. Then takes another drink.]*

FIFI I always find it useful to beat time with your foot.

LOTTE      Good idea. Beat it with your foot. *[CHARLIE looks up – shrugs – puts the bowl on the floor and stamps his foot in it.]* Charlie, what are you doing?

CHARLIE    Beating it with my foot . like you said.

LOTTE      Not you. The singers. *[Points to the table.]* Use that spoon. *[CHARLIE staggers back to the table and picks up the spoon and bowl.]* Now let's repeat and beef it up a bit.

CHARLIE    Bit of beef! *[The singing starts again and CHARLIE takes a joint of beef from under the table and throws it into the bowl.]*

LOTTE      *[Over the singing.]* Keep the beat.

CHARLIE    I'm keeping it, I'm keeping it! *[It is now getting harder to beat what is in the bowl. The bowl is moving all over the table. HE takes another drink of gin and drops to his knees. The bowl falls off behind the table and HE picks it up. NB. This is a different bowl with thick slosh mixture in. The singers have now finished a second time.]*

LOTTE        Much better. Take a break. *[SHE crosses to the table.]* How's the mixture coming along?

CHARLIE    *[Very drunk.]* Fabulous!

LOTTE        *[Dipping her finger in the mixture.]* Well it's certainly got a tang to it. I think it's ready for the microwave! I'll hold the dish and you pour. *[SHE picks up a dish and HE picks up the bowl. HE staggers about while pouring the mixture and SHE has to keep adjusting HER position to get it all in. This is finally accomplished without spilling a drop.]* Now pop it in for as long as it takes us to sing the song again. *[HE does so as SHE crosses back to the OTHERS. Without realising it SHE has picked up the wooden spoon instead of the baton.]* Once more from the top. *[The song starts again. As SHE conducts bits of mixture fly at the CHORUS. THEY try to dodge them. After putting the cake in the microwave CHARLIE takes another drink and collapses behind the table. At the end of the song the microwave bell goes off and CHARLIE sits up.]*

CHARLIE    Round two! *[HE stands and takes the finished cake out.]*

LOTTE        Well done everyone.

FIF I think we should do it one more time and maybe our friends out there would like to join in. *[SHE indicates the audience.]*

LOTTE        What a good idea. *[To the audience.]* Would you like that? *[Audience reaction.]* That would really put the icing on the cake.

CHARLIE    *[Slurring his words.]* Put the icing on the cake!

LOTTE Here we go, one last time. *[The singing starts again. CHARLIE gets out an icing bag and ices the cake. As the singing finishes HE carries the cake towards the LOTTE. It should look as if SHE is going to get it in the face.]* Oh look everyone, Charlie has finished the cake. *[SHE takes it from him. HE is still lurching from side to side. FIFI comes down beside him.]*

FIFI Oh my clever Charlie. It's absolutely splendid. *[SHE slaps him on the back and his face goes in the cake. The lights blackout and the scene changes to .....]*

#### SCENE 5 A ROOM IN PANISSE'S HOUSE

*[PANISSE is sitting in a chair stage right looking very pale. BEAUTY is with him and giving him something to eat. On a small table next to the chair is the white rose in a glass vase and the magic mirror.]*

BEAUTY There father, that's better. You are growing stronger every day.

PANISSE Oh Beauty, it's so good to have you back home. I never thought I would see you again. I was sure that terrible Beast would keep you a prisoner for the rest of your life.

BEAUTY I was never really a prisoner. From the day I arrived he treated me like a guest. Everything I wanted he provided. As the days went by we got to know each other and, do you know, he isn't as ferocious as he looks. He's very gentle and kind.

PANISSE *[Amazed.]* Gentle and kind? Huh! He terrified me with the look in his eyes.

BEAUTY But behind those eyes there is a sadness. Something is troubling him deeply and I couldn't help feeling that I was a part of that trouble. There was a reason I was there . more than just because you took the rose. *[SHE crosses to the rose on the table.]* But the rose is important. I just wish I knew why.

PANISSE Well you are here now and I'm never going to let you go again. *[RENEE is heard calling off stage.]*

RENEE Hello. It's me . Renee. Anybody there?

BEAUTY In here Renee. *[RENEE enters left. HE is carrying a large bottle of wine.]*

RENEE Just called in to see how the patient is today.

PANISSE A lot better.

RENEE Then I'm sure you'd like this. *[Holds up the bottle.]*

PANISSE I'm not sure I'm well enough for a game of skittles!

BEAUTY *[Pointing to his glasses which are still on top of his head.]* Glasses father!

PANISSE *[Putting them on.]* Oh, wine! Many thanks.

RENEE      We were all very worried about you Beauty. Up in that castle with that terrible beast.

BEAUTY     But he wasn't terrible. Quite the opposite.

RENEE      Well it nearly broke your poor father's heart thinking he was never going to see you again.

PANISSE    She's back now and everything is fine again. But she's been working too hard these past few weeks looking after me. *[To BEAUTY as HE stands.]* Sit here a while and rest. Renee and I. *[Holds up bottle.]* are going for a game of skittles!! *[ALL laugh. PANISSE and RENEE exit right. BEAUTY yawns and sits in the chair. SHE looks at the rose and touches it tenderly.]*

MUSIC . BEAUTY'S NIGHTMARE

*[Music starts to accompany the following sequence.]*

BEAUTY     Oh Beast, how I wish I knew what was troubling you. If only you would tell me I am sure I could help. *[SHE yawns again and starts to fall asleep.]* I know you're not as ferocious as you look. Something deep inside is. *[Yawns again.]* – hurting you. Tell. me. Would. you. tell. me. *[And SHE is asleep. The lights have faded down to a pin spot on BEAUTY that stays throughout the sequence. HER facial expressions change as the nightmare unfolds.]*

*(NOTE: If it is possible, at this point the back cloth could fly out to reveal a nondescript setting, star cloth or perhaps the Terrace scene allowing a larger space for the following sequence. At the end of the nightmare the cloth flies back in.)*

*[On stage right ROWAN appears. The dialogue is the same as their first meeting.]*

ROWAN *[Looking out front.]* Rowan. My name is Rowan.

BEAUTY *[Voice over.]* Rowan. It reminds me of a rose. My favourite flower.

ROWAN You see. We already have so much in common. *[Two DANCERS enter stage left carrying armfuls of white roses. THEY dance around ROWAN. The ROSE FAIRY enters right and becomes part of the dance. ROWAN continues speaking.]* I promise I will return . if you would like me to.

BEAUTY *[Voice over.]* I would like that very much. *[The DANCERS continue dancing as ROWAN slowly disappears off left.]*

ROWAN *[As HE leaves.]* I promise I will return . I promise . I promise ò ò ò

*[More DANCERS now enter carrying roses. THEY move to one side to reveal the BEAST (DOUBLE.). HIS sudden appearance in her dream disturbs BEAUTY.]*

BEAUTY *[Muttering.]* Beast ò ò ò

BEAST *[Voice over.]* Why did you leave me, Beauty?

BEAUTY Beast ò ò ò

*[The dance becomes wilder. One by one the DANCERS exit and then return with more armfuls of roses, but now they are wilting and turning colour as though they were dying.]*

BEAST Remember me, Beauty . *[There is a flash of lightening on stage left and HORRIDANA appears. BEAUTY is very distressed at this. HORRIDANA makes some gestures and the BEAST starts to double up with pain.]* Remember me ò ò ò *[HORRIDANA leaves as the DANCERS whirl around the BEAST. The dance builds to a climax and the lights on stage left blackout. BEAST and DANCERS exit and in the darkness we hear BEAUTY call out in her sleep.]*

BEAUTY No! Beast! No! *[The lights return as PANISSE runs on. During the blackout the white rose on the table has been changed for one that is wilting.]*

PANISSE Beauty. What is it?

BEAUTY *[Waking and standing.]* The Beast. There is something wrong.

PANISSE Calm yourself. You've been dreaming.

BEAUTY No. I must go to him.

PANISSE Beauty . no!

BEAUTY I must father. He needs me.

PANISSE It's too dangerous. *[BEAUTY sees the rose.]*

BEAUTY Look! *[Quietly.]* He's dying.

PANISSE How can you be sure this is not a trick?

BEAUTY *[Picking up the mirror.]* Show me the Beast. *[The mirror light glows.]* Look father. I must go to him at once. *[SHE looks at the ring and starts to turn it.]*

PANISSE *[Stopping her.]* You are not going back there alone. I am coming with you. *[He takes her arm.]*

BEAUTY *[In a panic.]* Very well, but we must go now. *[SHE turns the ring and there is a lighting effect and blackout. The scene changes to .....]*

#### SCENE 6 THE TERRACE GARDEN OF THE CASTLE

*[In the darkness we hear various voices.]*

BEAST *[V.O.]* Beauty. Beauty, where are you? Help me Beauty.

BEAUTY *[V.O.]* I am coming Beast.

HORRIDANA *[V.O.]* You are doomed. Nothing can save you now! *[Cackle of laughter.]*

BEAST *[V.O.]* Beauty.

*NOTE: If more time is required to set the Terrace scene the Corridor front cloth or tabs can be used with the following dialogue –*

\*\*\*\*\*

*[The lights come up and BEAUTY runs on followed by PANISSE.]*

BEAUTY Oh Beast, where are you?

PANISSE *[Out of breath.]* Beauty, not so fast.

BEAUTY But I have to find him . before it's too late.

PANISSE Why is it so important?

BEAUTY I don't know . I just know it is. He needs me . more than ever. And I . I need him.

PANISSE Need him?

BEAUTY Yes. Oh where can he be?

PANISSE Perhaps he's outside on the terrace.

BEAUTY Of course. The roses. He'll be with the roses. Hurry father . we must hurry.

PANISSE You go on. I'll catch you up.

*[BEAUTY runs off as PANISSE continues across the stage. The cloth or tabs fly out.]*

\*\*\*\*\*

*[As the lights come up the BEAST is lying on the stone bench. HE is covered in a cloak and is near to death. (NB. This is ROWAN covered by the cloak ready for the transformation.) THOMAS and LOTTE are beside him.]*

BEAST *[Very weak.]* Beauty.

THOMAS Shed! come back, Sir.

LOTTE Is there any change. *[THOMAS shakes his head.]*

BEAST *[Hardly audible.]* Beauty.

BEAUTY *[Off stage.]* Beast, I'm here. Where are you? *[SHE runs on.]* Beast!

MUSIC UNDERSCORE . SECOND TRANSFORMATION

LOTTE I knew you'd come. I knew it.

*[BEAUTY runs and kneels beside the BEAST. The OTHERS gather upstage as CHARLIE and FIFI join them.]*

BEAUTY Oh Beast, please don't die. I'm back and I'll never leave you again.

BEAST *[HIS voice is very weak.]* Beauty . why did you come back?

BEAUTY Because . *[Faltering.]* – because I love you.

*[The music builds and a swirling lighting effect starts around the BEAST. We see ROWAN'S hand appear from under the cloak and then a leg. Slowly the cloak covering him slips away and HE stands up transformed back as the PRINCE. The lights return. BEAUTY stands staring at him. The ROSE FAIRY enters down right to watch the scene.]*

BEAUTY You!

ROWAN I promised you I would return.

LOTTE *[Jumping up and down wildly.]* It's happened. The spell is broken. Everyone. The spell is broken. *[The CHORUS enters.]*

ROSE FAIRY Yes. The spell is broken by true love that has triumphed over evil.

LOTTE *[Turning to see her.]* Oh hello! Who are you?

ROSE FAIRY I am the Rose Fairy. Guardian of these lovely flowers and of all who find beauty in them.

LOTTE Really. *[Looking at the ROSE FAIRY'S costume.]* I say, that's a most unusual frock. I do like it. Did you get it from . *[SHE mentions a well-known local ladies clothes shop.]*

BEAUTY I don't understand. How did this happen.

ROWAN        Not long after we met I was placed under a terrible curse by a wicked Sorceress and doomed to remain a Beast unless someone could love me.

BEAUTY        And I broke the spell?

ROWAN        Yes. *[The stage darkens and HORRIDANA enters left. SHE is wearing a black cloak. ALL recoil away from her.]*

HORRIDANA        So the spell is broken, but don't think you can escape me that easily. I told you I wouldn't allow you to humiliate me with your rejections. If I can't have you . no one shall.  
*[She raises her hand. ALL move forward.]* Stay back. For what he has done you will all now perish.  
*[SHE starts to chant a spell.]*

This foolish Prince whom I despise

Has brought about your quick demise.

*[Pointing at ROWAN.]*

The love you've found has come too late

The dye is cast and seals your fate.

*[SHE raises HER hand to cast the spell and as SHE does so BEAUTY moves forward.]*

ROWAN        Beauty. No!

*[BEAUTY takes out HER magic mirror and holds it in front of HORRIDANA as SHE makes a magic pass. The spell is reflected back to HORRIDANA who screams in pain. The lighting goes wild and when it returns to normal HORRIDANA has gone. Only HER cloak is left lying on the floor.]*

ROSE FAIRY        Beauty, you've done it. The mirror reflected the spell. You've destroyed  
Horridana. *[ALL cheer. PANISSE enters – out of breath.]*

PANISSE    *[HIS glasses on top of HIS head.]* Are we too late?

LOTTE        No. We're free. *[SHE grabs hold of PANISSE and whirls him around.]* We're free.

PANISSE    Young man, will you please put me down!

BEAUTY      Father. Glasses!

PANISSE    *[Putting his glasses on. Smiles at LOTTE.]* Oh. Sorry Madam.

LOTTE        You know I'm sure we've met before. *[HE puts his glasses back on his head.]*

PANISSE    Beauty, are you all right?

BEAUTY      Yes father.

PANISSE    Who is this young man? I thought you came back for the Beast? Where is he?

BEAUTY      Father this *is* the Beast.

PANISSE    Oh no it isn't.

OTHERS *[No doubt the audience will join in.]* Oh yes it is! *[The business is repeated.]*

PANISSE Well I'm glad you told me. *[To ROWAN.]* I beg your pardon, Sir.

ROWAN No need. I owe you my thanks. You kept your promise and Beauty kept hers and so broke the cruel spell which released me from that hideous creature.

PANISSE Glad to be of service.

ROWAN And now sir, may I formally ask your permission to marry your daughter? *[Looks at BEAUTY.]* If she will accept me of course.

BEAUTY With all my heart.

PANISSE Well, you've got your answer.

CHARLIE Now we have really got something to celebrate.

LOTTE Ohhh yes! And I've got a new frock I bought in . *[Local store.]* . sales!

PANISSE *[Squinting at LOTTE.]* What is a man doing wearing a frock??

BEAUTY Father .

ALL *[Shouting at PANISSE.]* . glasses!

MUSIC . REPRISE (Possibly the song that opened Act 2)

*[At the end of the number the lights fade and the scene changes to .....]*

SCENE 7 A CORRIDOR IN THE CASTLE

*[As the scene opens FIFI is with THOMAS, JACQUES and HENRI.]*

FIFI Oh I'm so pleased that everything is back as it was.

JACQUES Yes. Now we can go to the new disco at *[Name of local disco.]* this weekend?

FIFI Perhaps.

HENRI Or catch another movie?

FIFI Maybe. *[CHARLIE enters and hears this.]*

THOMAS What about trying *[Local restaurant.]*? They say the food's great.

FIFI *[Teasing.]* I shall have to think about it.

BOYS Oh Fifi!

CHARLIE You heard the lady. And she'll be thinking about it for a long time. *[The BOYS turn to see CHARLIE and then back off towards the exit.]*

HENRI Oh! We'll be off then. *[HE exits.]*

JACQUES See you around. *[HE exits.]*

THOMAS *[As CHARLIE begins to advance on HIM.]* I'll . . . I'll see if the Prince needs anything. *[HE runs off.]*

CHARLIE Fifi, I've got something very important to say to you.

FIFI *[Meekly.]* Yes Charlie.

CHARLIE You've got to behave yourself.

FIFI Yes Charlie.

CHARLIE You've got to stop all this flirting.

FIFI Yes Charlie.

CHARLIE You've got to settle down and marry me.

FIFI Yes Charlie.

CHARLIE You've got to spend the rest of your . *[Realising what SHE has said.]* . what did you say?

FIFI Yes Charlie!

CHARLIE You will? You'll marry me?

FIFI Of course. What a long time it's taken for you to ask me. *[THEY embrace as LOTTE enters.]*

LOTTE Bon jour. *[Audience responds.]* Hello, what's going on here?

CHARLIE    Mother, we're getting married.

LOTTE      Oh wonderful. Another new frock!

FIFI I must go and tell the others. *[To CHARLIE.]* See you soon . you handsome brute! *[SHE exits.]*

LOTTE      *[To the audience.]* I think she ought to borrow Panissee's glasses!

CHARLIE    *[In a daze.]* Oh I'm so happy . I think I can hear music all around me.

LOTTE      That's good as it's time for the song sheet!!

*[THEY ad lib into the song sheet number.]*

SONG SHEET

*[At the end of the number THEY exit as the lights fade to blackout and the scene changes to  
.....]*



SCENE 8 THE CASTLE BALLROOM

FINALE

*[As the music starts and the lights come up the CHORUS is discovered on stage. THEY take their bow and then the rest of the COMPANY enters in the following order.]*

MESSENGER, HENRI, JACQUES and RENEE

ROSE FAIRY  
HORRIDANA  
THOMAS  
FIFI  
CHARLIE  
PANISSE  
LOTTE

CHARLIE Three cheers for Prince Rowan and his Beautiful Bride.

*[ALL cheer as ROWAN and BEAUTY enter and take their bow.]*

PRINCE ROWAN AND BEAUTY

*[The FULL COMPANY bow.]*

THOMAS This age-old story now is told  
To everyone both young and old.

ROSE FAIRY No more spells or things to fear,

HORRIDANA But I'll be back again next year!

FIFI *[Holding up her hand.]* My finger has a ring you see

CHARLIE *[To FIFI.]* So now you've eyes for only me!

PANISSE My dream to see my daughter wed,  
Where are my specs? .

ALL - they're on your head!

LOTTE A happy ending to say the least .

BEAUTY The tale of Beauty .

ROWAN . and the Beast.

FINAL CHORUS

[The ENTIRE COMPANY sings a last verse and wave ~~u~~goodnight to the audience as the curtain falls.]

End Of Act Two