

NODA Presents

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

A pantomime tale

Written by

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This script is published by

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SYNOPSIS

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

In order of appearance

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

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

ACT ONE

PROLOGUE

The Story So Far

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

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

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

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

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

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

The light dims on Electra and lights on Grace.

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

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

Lights swap between Grace and Electra.

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

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

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

SONG *BIG SAM'S*

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

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

Belle and Kelle enter SL, out of the Bistro.

Belle Hello Daddy.

Kelle Hello Daddy.

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

Belle And you too Daddy. I have missed you.

Kelle Have you brought me back a present?

Big Sam I might have something for you.

Kelle You've bought me a hat!

Big Sam No!

Kelle You've bought me a bag!

Big Sam No!

Kelle You've bought me a car!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kelle We were just talking about you!

Cecile Let's 'ope eet waz somsing nice for a change.

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

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

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

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

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

Dame Ella moves forward to address the audience.

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

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

She is wearing a piece of fur around her neck.

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

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

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

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

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

Audience Yes!

Dame Ella I thought you might!

Dame Ella feels in her pockets.

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

Audience Yes!

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

Audience Yes!

Dame Ella throws sweets to the front row.

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

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

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

Dame Ella carefully bats the sweets out to the back.

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

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

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

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

Frederick Such a tragic situation.

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

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

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

Frederick turns to audience.

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

Audience Yes.

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

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

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

Frederick looks at Jasper and shrugs his shoulders.

Frederick What should I ask them to shout?

Jasper Well what are boys and girls used to shouting?

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

Jasper Well, what do Mums and Dads shout?

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

Jasper Really?

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

Jasper That's brilliant! Should we practice?

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

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

Audience Yes!

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

Audience Yes!

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

Audience DON'T PICK THE ROSE!

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

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

They begin to exit CSL.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ben You owe Evil Electra £500.

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

Stan Good.

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

Ben Well whose money have you got?

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

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

Ben I've got £100.

Stan And I've got £10

Dame Ella Well lend me that money for a while.

Ben When do we get it back?

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

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

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

They both hand over the cash to Dame Ella.

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

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

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

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

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

Stan Quite right too.

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

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

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

Ben Seven.

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

Ben No, but my parents had twenty children.

Dame Ella How many?

Ben Twenty.

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

Ben Thirty-one.

Dame Ella looks at the audience and raises an eyebrow.

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

Ben My father's ninety!

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

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

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

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

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

Dame Ella Goodbye!

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

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

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

Cecile Aren't you well?

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

Cecile And didn't you notice?

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

Cecile You 'ave ze headache because of ze 'ours you work. It cannot be good for you.

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

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

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

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

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

Cecile Zat iz good news.

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

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

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

Cecile Can I 'elp you?

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

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

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

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

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

Chorus Three What else do you have on the menu?

Cecile We 'ave a continental breakfast.

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

Cecile Zat ees sree an a 'alf Euros.

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

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

Cecile **(Sighing)** 'Ow much 'ave you got to spend?

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

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

Chorus Three That sounds lovely! Thank you Miss!

Cecile moves away, passing Stan and Ben.

Stan Excuse me, Miss.

Cecile Oui? 'ow may I help you?

Stan I'd like to order.

Cecile Certainly, Sir. What can I get you?

Stan I'd like a quicky, please.

Cecile **(Outraged)** 'ow dare you.

Cecile slaps Stan across the face and goes back into Big Sam's.

Ben What's wrong with her?

Stan I don't know.

Big Sam enters from SR.

Big Sam Hello everyone. Welcome to Great Big Sam's Bistro! (**Moves across to the chorus**) I have just been to the Post Office to collect my lottery winnings!

Chorus One How much did you win?

Chorus Two Did you get the jackpot?

Big Sam I got four numbers. Twenty Seven Euros! (**Laughs jovially and looks around**) But don't tell my daughters. One of them will be particularly upset. Now then, what can we interest you in today?

Chorus Three It's alright, we've ordered toast thank you.

Big Sam (**Almost overwhelmed**) Toast! At this rate with my Bistro and lottery winnings, I'll be able to retire when I'm Eighty! (**Laughs**).

Big Sam moves over to Stan and Ben.

Big Sam Hi you guys. Welcome to Big Sam's Bistro. Everything ok?

Stan Well I'd quite like to order, if that's alright.

Big Sam (**Clicking fingers**) Of course my friend. Cecile, please take this order.

Cecile enters, sees and reluctantly approaches Stan. Big Sam moves away.

Cecile Bonjour, Sir. What can I get for you?

Stan (**Referring to the menu**) Mademoiselle, I would like a quicky!

Cecile, once again takes offence, slaps his face and storms off inside. Manuel appears from the Bistro carrying three trays.

Manuel Here we are. Order for toast.

Chorus One Over here!

You have reached the end of this perusal, to view the entire script please contact NODA on 01733 374790 or email info@noda.org.uk