

CINDERELLA

A PANTOMIME BY

STEPHEN DUCKHAM

c 2015 (Revised)

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NODA LTD
 15 The Metro Centre
 Peterborough PE2 7UH
 Telephone: 01733 374790
 Fax: 01733 237286
 Email: info@noda.org.uk
www.noda.org.uk

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CINDERELLA

CAST (in order of appearance.)

FAIRY GODMOTHER
 CINDERELLA
 BUTTONS
 BARON HARDUP
 GORGON) The Ugly Sisters
 ZOLA)
 DANDINI) The Prince's servant
 PRINCE CHARMING
 SNATCHIT) The Broker's Men
 GRABBIT)
 MAJOR DOMO

CHORUS OF VILLAGERS AND GUESTS OF PRINCE CHARMING

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

SCENE 1 THE OFFICE OF 'FAIRY GODMOTHERS DOT.COM'
 SCENE 2 OUTSIDE HARDUP HALL
 SCENE 3 A STREET
 SCENE 4 OUTSIDE THE ROYAL LODGE
 SCENE 5 THE SISTERS' BOUDOIR
 SCENE 6 THE KITCHEN AT HARDUP HALL

ACT TWO

SCENE 1 ON THE WAY TO THE BALL
 SCENE 2 THE PALACE BALLROOM
 SCENE 3 ON THE WAY HOME
 SCENE 4 THE KITCHEN AT HARDUP HALL
 SCENE 5 BEFORE THE WEDDING
 SCENE 6 THE PALACE BALLROOM

Please note – there are alternative sequences to Act 1 Scene 5 and Act 2 Scene 3. Please find them in the Appendix at the end of the script.

Production notes:

The settings are not complicated in this pantomime. If facilities allow Act 1 Scenes 2,4,6 and Act 2 Scene 2 can be quite elaborate. A gauze is effective for Act 1 Scene 1 and this can be used again for Act 2 Scene 1. In both cases a bleed through to the next scene adds to the production. If this is not possible, running tabs will work just as well.

The second part of Act 1 Scene 6 (the transformation) can be the woodland scene (Act 1 Scene 4) without the Lodge piece.

A front cloth (or tabs) can be used for Act 1 Scene 3 and Act 2 Scenes 3 and 5, and for the Boudoir, if a cloth is not available, use the tabs again with furniture set in front.

Notes on Characters:

Most of the characters in the story are represented as we know them. CINDERELLA, BUTTONS and the BARON are fairly standard, but it is up to the actors and director to add any little characteristics they might find appropriate.

The Sisters should always be over the top with their mannerisms and costumes. Comedy must always show through and the evil side of their characters should never overtake them. If possible GORGON should be played by a tall, thin actor and ZOLA by a short and 'rounded' one! Their names, of course, may be changed to any current popular duo.

Going against tradition I believe that men should play the PRINCE and DANDINI, as this is a love story rather than an adventure story, but again it is up to the discretion of the director – and the amount of men available.

SNATCHIT and GRABBIT should be different from each other in appearance, but neither one is a leader. Each one is always looking to the other for guidance.

The FAIRY GODMOTHER is a departure from the usual as technology has taken over! Always play her for laughs – and with a heart of gold. Her first costume should be a practical modern suit/day dress in design but light in colour and possibly with a little sparkle in the texture. She wears a full-length black cloak for the 'old lady' scene covering a traditional 'Fairy Godmother' gown for the transformation and throughout Act Two.

MUSIC

The placing of the 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 the ballads. Always cover scene changes and action scene with music.

I hope you enjoy doing this version of 'Cinderella' and have great success with your production.

Stephen Duckham

ACT ONESCENE 1 THE OFFICE OF 'FAIRY GODMOTHERS DOT.COM'

[A front gauze scene with a sign that reads "Fairy Godmothers dot com". A desk is DR. and contains various files, a mobile phone and an ipad. A distinctive ring tone of the mobile phone is heard as the lights come up. The FAIRY GODMOTHER enters R. SHE is not dressed as a traditional Fairy Godmother but wears a more modern outfit. SHE answers the phone.]

F G *[Posh telephone voice.]* Hello, Fairy Godmothers dot.com. Dot speaking! How can I help you? *[In HER ordinary voice.]* Oh hello chief, yes, I got back yesterday. No problems with the Sleeping Beauty; she and the Prince tie the knot next Saturday! Yes it all went off very well, although I did get a few scratches from those brambles and thorns! *[SHE rubs herself in a delicate place.]* O K, I'll let you have a full report. Bye. *[SHE sits at the desk and looks at a file, and then SHE notices the audience.]* Oh hello! What are you all doing here? *[SHE stands and crosses to the front of the stage.]* Do you need a Fairy Godmother because that's what this business is you know? *[SHE point to the sign.]* Fairy Godmothers dot. com! I'm Dot! One of the senior ones and that on the phone was the chief F G upstairs. There're not many of us left now. We're a bit of a dying trade, so to speak. I say, have any of you got a Fairy Godmother? No? Well why don't I be Fairy Godmother to all of you? Would you like that? *[Audience reacts.]* Wonderful! But first I need to know all you names. *[SHE crosses back to the desk, sits, opens a file and picks up a pen.]* Why don't you shout them out and I'll write them all down. After three. One, two, three. *[Audience shouts out and the FAIRY GODMOTHER scribbles away.]* I didn't quite get them all. Could you shout out again? A bit louder this time. One, two, three. *[Audience shouts again and SHE scribbles furiously.]* That's great. I've got them all now! *[The phone rings again. SHE picks it up.]* Hello. Oh! *[SHE covers the mouthpiece and speaks to the audience.]* It's the chief again. *[Into the phone.]* What am I doing now? Well, I thought I might take a short break. I've not had any time off in months. Oh I see. Just a moment. *[SHE picks up another file.]* Yes, it's here on my desk. What, straight away? Isn't there anyone else..... No, it's all right; I'll deal with it. Bye. *[SHE puts the phone down.]* Apparently there's a young girl by the name of – *[SHE looks at the file.]* – Cinderella who is going to need some help. This is where I come in. The chief wants me to go to where she lives and assess the situation. You know, help her find some happiness; see if there is a Prince hanging around that she could marry. That sort of thing. *[SHE starts to pack her bag with the following items.]* Now let me make sure I've got everything I need. Mobile phone, ipad! We're very high tech now you know. No need for a wand any more. I've got a magic spell app down-loaded on here! *[After a thought.]* I know, why don't you come with me – see how I go about things. Would you like that? *[Audience reacts.]* Splendid. Our first stop is the home of Cinderella's father, Baron Hardup. Here we go then, hold onto your hats!

[SHE waves her hand and the lights come up behind the gauze showing the company in position for the beginning of Scene 2. The desk is pulled off R and the FAIRY GODMOTHER exits. The gauze and sign fly out as the scene changes to.....]

SCENE 2 OUTSIDE HARDUP HALL

[A full stage with various buildings. The gates of Hardup Hall are seen on stage left and an Inn is on stage right. As the lights come up the CHORUS is on singing the opening number.]

OPENING NUMBER – CHORUS & CINDERELLA

[During the number CINDERELLA enters with a basket full of food and greets the crowd.]

- CINDERS Morning everyone.
- ALL Hello Cinderella.
- 1st MAN You're out and about early.
- CINDERS I've been to market to buy food for a special meal tonight. Father's coming home and I'm so excited.
- [SHE finishes the number with the CHORUS.]*
- 1st WOMAN You say the Baron's coming home today? He's been away for a long time.
- CINDERS Yes, over a year. Our family had fallen on hard times, so daddy went off to seek his fortune.
- 2nd MAN And is he coming home a rich man?
- CINDERS I don't know. I've only had one postcard from him in twelve months and that was last week. It was from France and said he was coming home with two big surprises.
- 2nd WOMAN That means he has made his fortune and is bringing you a whole new wardrobe from Paris.
- CINDERS Oh do you think so? Wouldn't it be wonderful?
- BUTTONS *[Calling off.]* Cinders? Cinderella?
- CINDERS Buttons. I'm back. *[BUTTONS enters from the Hall.]*
- BUTTONS Hello Cinders.
- CINDERS Hello Buttons. I've got everything for tonight's meal.
- BUTTONS Here let me help you. *[HE takes the basket and it drops to the floor like a stone taking him with it. ALL laugh.]* Goodness! How much food have you bought? There's enough to feed the whole town.
- CINDERS I want everything to be perfect for when daddy gets home.
- BUTTONS Well you just go inside and get yourself ready for his arrival. I'll see to this.
- CINDERS But there's so much still to do.

- BUTTONS Don't you worry. I'll make sure everything gets done. Besides, I'm sure I can get some help from our friends here. *[The CHORUS starts to creep off.]*
- CINDERS Well if you're sure.
- BUTTONS Of course I am.
- CINDERS Thank you Buttons. I don't know what I would do without you. *[SHE kisses him on the cheek and exits into the Hall with her basket.]*
- BUTTONS *[Swooning.]* Oh Cinders – and I don't know what I would do without you. *[HE comes out of his daydream.]* Right now you lot, any volunteers to scrub the floors? *[HE looks around and sees the CHORUS has gone.]* Well would you look at that. Bloomin' marvellous! You certainly know who your friends are. *[HE speaks to the audience.]* Hello. Are you all new to the town? *[Audience reacts to all the following.]* And are you all going to be around for some time? And would you all like to be my friends? And help me with all the housework? What do you mean "no"? You're as bad as this lot up here! Oh I don't mind. I'd like you to be my friends. You seem a nice bunch. In fact you seem so nice that every time I come on I'll shout, "How are you?" and you shout back – "Bloomin' marvellous, Buttons"! Will you do that? Let's see if you remember. How are you? *[Audience reacts.]* Well you don't sound all right; in fact you sound down right sick! Now come on, throw back your heads and let's hear you. How are you? *[Audience reacts.]* That was a quick recovery! Oh we're going to get on just fine. *[There is a loud honking of a horn from off stage. BARON HARDUP enters up right on some form of transport.]*
- BARON Does anyone know how to stop this thing? *[HE travels across the stage and off up left. We hear a loud crash and HE re-enters. Around his neck is a wheel or a part from whatever he was travelling on. HE also carries some battered old cases.]* Oh my journey has come to an abrupt end!
- BUTTONS *[Looking off.]* Baron! There's a big hole in the garden wall!
- BARON Well I always did want a larger rear entrance!
- BUTTONS I beg your pardon?
- BARON Here, help me extricate myself from this will you Buttons? *[BUTTONS helps him remove the wheel.]* Thank you.
- BUTTON It's good to have you back Baron. How was your trip?
- BARON Very eventful. But I'll tell you all about it later. Where is my darling Cinderella?
- BUTTONS She's in the Hall. I'll call her for you. *[HE crosses to the Hall gates and calls off.]* Cinders, there's a surprise for you out here.
- CINDERS *[Off.]* Surprise? What sort of surprise? *[SHE enters and sees the BARON.]* Daddy! *[SHE runs to him and embraces him.]* Oh I'm so pleased you're back safe and well.
- BARON Cinders. I have missed you.
- CINDERS And I've missed you.

BARON Buttons, would you mind taking the cases in for me while I have a word with Cinders?

BUTTONS Of course, Baron. [*HE exits into the Hall with the cases.*]

BARON Let me look at you. Ah, you've grown even more beautiful since I last saw you.

CINDERS Daddy, tell me all about you trip. Have you come back with your fortune?

BARON No dear, I've come back with couple of misfortunes!

CINDERS Whatever do you mean?

BARON Well it's like this. My travels took me all over and eventually I arrived in the South of France.

CINDERS The South of France? [*Slightly wary.*] You mean all those gambling casinos?

BARON Yes. And I was doing really well. My luck was in and I was winning at everything. And then.....

CINDERS Oh dear, I knew there would be an "*and then*"!

BARON And then I saw her!

CINDERS Her?

BARON Yes. The Baroness Voluptua! She was standing by the roulette wheel, but the only thing spinning was my head. We were married the next day and went cruising on the Mediterranean for our honeymoon. She was so happy she went overboard – literally! She was never seen again. I returned to shore a widower and it was then that I met Gorgon and Zola.

CINDERS Who?

BARON Gorgon and Zola, her two daughters.

CINDERS Daughters? Do you mean to tell me I have two stepsisters?

BARON Yes dear. The two *misfortunes* I mentioned!

CINDERS Where are they?

BARON I left them at the station supervising their luggage. They've spent all my money on new clothes. I'm as poor as I was when I left. Oh Cinders, I couldn't even afford to buy you a present.

CINDERS Oh don't worry about that. I'm just glad that you're home.

BARON I've been a very foolish old man, haven't I? Can you ever forgive me?

CINDERS Of course. Come on, I know what you could do with, a nice cup of tea. [*THEY exit into the Hall. The SISTERS are heard shouting off stage.*]

- GORGON Hello! Step-popsie, where are you? *[THEY enter. GORGON is pushing an enormous trunk crammed full of clothes. The lid is up so that the audience cannot see ZOLA, who is inside it. SHE wears a very flamboyant hatbox for a hat that is seen above the lid. GORGON has an equally ludicrous looking hat and, of course, they both have outrageous costumes.]* We've finally arrived. Zola! Zola, where are you?
- ZOLA *[Popping her head up.]* Here.
- GORGON What are you doing in there you fat oaf? I thought the trunk was heavier than when we left France.
- ZOLA *[Getting out of the trunk.]* Who are you calling a fat oaf, you great streak of nothing!
- GORGON *[Looking at the Hall.]* Don't tell me this is where we're going to live.
- ZOLA Hardup Hall. Yes, this is the place.
- GORGON Oh what a decrepit looking dump. Not at all what we're used to.
- ZOLA It's disgusting. In fact Gorgon dear, it's the most disgusting sight I've ever seen.
- GORGON *[Looking at the audience.]* No it isn't dear, that is!
- ZOLA What?
- GORGON *[Pointing to the audience.]* That lot down there. Have you ever seen anything like it?
- ZOLA Who are they? Rent a mob?
- GORGON It's like freak night at Madam Tussauds!
- ZOLA What are they wearing? Have they no dress sense in this town?
- GORGON Look at the women. Look at their make-up. See that one over there, what has she done to herself? *[SHE indicates her own face.]* Look dear – look and learn!
- ZOLA Well one thing's for sure, we'll be the most attractive things in this trashy town.
- GORGON But what about the men?
- ZOLA Oh Gorgon dear, the men don't look too bad! I bet there're a few hunks out there.
- GORGON *[Getting excited.]* Do you think so?
- ZOLA I do.
- GORGON Shall we have a look?

ZOLA Yes let's. *[THEY go into the audience and find a man. THEY play up to him, fight over him and ask him his name. THEY will refer to him throughout the performance. At the end of this sequence they ask him which one of them is the most beautiful. THEY make their way back onto the stage still arguing.]*

GORGON Listen, if I had a face like yours I'd put it on a wall and throw a brick at it.

ZOLA And if I had a face like yours I'd put it on a brick and throw a wall at it!

GORGON Listen hatchet features, just wait 'til the boys at – *[Local night-club.]* – get a load of this figure. *[SHE vamps across the stage to a drum accompaniment.]*

ZOLA Yes, I should think there'll be a mad dash – for the door!

GORGON You know the trouble with you is you're jealous of my beauty!

ZOLA Jealous? I'll have you know I've had music written about my beauty. *[To the band.]* Hit it boys. *[The band plays a very discordant version of a song typifying beauty.]* Put a sock in it or I'll come down there..... *[GORGON starts sniffing the air.]* What is it dear? Are your sinuses playing up again?

GORGON It's.....it's...It's the scent of a man!

ZOLA A man?? Is it – *[Name of man in the audience.]*

GORGON No. It's.....*[THEY move around sniffing. BUTTONS runs on from the Hall.]*

BUTTONS *[To the audience.]* How are you? *[Audience reacts. The SISTERS spot him.]*

BOTH It's – *[Name of current pop star.]*

ZOLA Hello!

BUTTONS Ooooooh – er!

GORGON He's a bit short isn't he?

ZOLA There's nothing wrong with short men as long as they have big feet!

GORGON Yes. And you know what they say about men with big feet.

ZOLA They've got big shoes! *[The SISTERS are now either side of BUTTONS.]*

BUTTONS Who are you?

GORGON We're the answer to all your dreams.

ZOLA She's more of a nightmare!

GORGON Give us a kiss.

ZOLA Yes come on, give us a kiss. *[THEY pucker up and move in towards him. HE runs up stage and they kiss each other.]*

GORGON *[Wiping her mouth with the back of her hand.]* Errrrr.....

ZOLA Yuck! *[THEY round on him and back him towards the Hall.]*

GORGON You tricked us.

ZOLA Led us on. *[The BARON enters.]*

BARON What's going on?

GORGON *[Childlike.]* Oh step-popsie, that awful man has taken advantage of us.

ZOLA *[Very dramatic.]* Used us like puppets and then cast us aside.

BARON Who? Buttons?

BUTTONS I never touched them Baron. Honest.

SISTERS He did.

BUTTONS I didn't, did I kids? *[Audience reacts. "Oh yes he did – Oh no he didn't" sequence. Towards the end of it CINDERELLA enters. GORGON sees her and screams.]*

GORGON Ahhh! Who is that?

BARON Cinders, meet Gorgon and Zola. Girls, this is your stepsister, Cinderella.

ZOLA What? That pathetic looking bunch of rags is our stepsister?

CINDERS *[Moving towards them.]* I'm very pleased to meet you.

GORGON Ahh, it speaks!

ZOLA Oh this is too much. How can I, a renowned beauty who's so delicate and sensitive and dainty and fragile and charming

GORGON *[Aside to her.]* All right dear, don't overdo it!

ZOLA have a hideous looking thing like that for a stepsister. *[SHE starts to swoon.]* Oh I think I'm going off! Yes I am, I'm going to faint. It's the shock of it all! *[SHE collapses against BUTTONS.]*

GORGON Oh dear, she needs something to bring her round. *[SHE goes to the trunk.]*

BUTTONS Yes, a stick of dynamite!

GORGON *[Bringing out a bottle of gin from the trunk.]* Here you are dear, have a swig of this. *[ZOLA drinks and immediately revives.]* How are you feeling?

ZOLA A little better. *[Takes another swig.]*

GORGON You need something to take your mind of this dreadful episode. I know, how about a shopping trip?

ZOLA *[Clapping her hands with glee.]* Oh yes!

GORGON We'll deal with this little problem later. *[To BUTTONS.]* You. Take our things to our rooms. *[To BARON.]* Come along step-popsie, there's something we need from you. *[THEY start to exit into the Hall.]*

BARON *[Following.]* What's that?

ZOLA Your credit cards! *[And they are off. BUTTONS starts to push the trunk towards the gates.]*

CINDERS Oh Buttons, what am I going to do? I've only just met them and already they hate me.

BUTTONS Don't you worry Cinders, I'm here and I won't let them do anything to you.

CINDERS Buttons, you are a darling. Whatever would I do without you? *[SHE kisses him on the cheek and exits into the Hall.]*

BUTTONS *[In a daze.]* Oh I think I'm in love! Everything is going hazy! *[HE staggers happily around the stage with his eyes closed.]*

FANFARE

[CHORUS start to enter.] I can hear music all around me. *[DANDINI enters and crosses down to the side of BUTTONS who turns and speaks to him with his eyes still closed.]* Will you marry me?

DANDINI I beg your pardon?

BUTTONS *[Flustered.]* Oh! I – er. Who are you?

DANDINI *[With an air of the 'James Bond' and a smile towards the audience.]* The name's Dini. Dan Dini! I am squire to His Royal Highness Prince Charming.

BUTTONS Ohhhhh!

DANDINI Now would you please get out of my way?

BUTTONS *[Backing off and bowing.]* Terribly sorry your honour, I didn't mean to ask you to marry me! *[HE exits, pushing the trunk.]*

DANDINI *[Addressing the CHORUS.]* Good and loyal citizens, as you know today is the birthday of our beloved Prince Charming. It is his wish to address you all personally. *[Announcing.]* His Royal Highness, Prince Charming.

FANFARE

[PRINCE CHARMING enters and crosses down centre. ALL cheer.]

PRINCE Good day to you all.

ALL Good day, your Royal Highness. Happy birthday etc.

PRINCE Thank you my friends. I felt I had to come and see you all in person and thank you for all the good wishes and gifts I have received at the palace. I was so

overwhelmed by your kindness that I have decided to celebrate my birthday with you all. Dandini please read the proclamation.

DANDINI At once your Highness. *[HE takes out a scroll and reads.]* His Royal Highness Prince Charming wishes it to be known that today there will be a double celebration in honour of his birthday. Firstly, this afternoon there will be a garden party at the royal lodge on the edge of the royal forest to which you are all invited. Tonight there will be a grand ball at the palace at which His Highness will choose a bride from all the eligible ladies of the land. *[A buzz of excitement.]* Invitations will be delivered later today. *[ALL cheer.]*

SONG & CHORUS (PRINCE, DANDINI & CHORUS)

[At the end of the number, the CHORUS exit chattering about the celebrations.]

PRINCE That went off very well, Dandini.

DANDINI Yes your Highness. You must be looking forward to all the celebrating.

PRINCE I am to a certain extent. I just wish I weren't on duty all the time. I have to watch what I say, be careful who I talk to.

DANDINI It's not as bad as all that. Think of all the pretty girls trying to catch your eye.

PRINCE That's where you're so lucky. At least you can be sure it's you they are interested in, not your money or a title. Sometimes I wouldn't mind being in your shoes I can tell you.

DANDINI Well I wouldn't find your shoes a bad fit either. If I were a Prince I'd give parties every night and a royal ball every other week!

PRINCE *[Laughing.]* Only every other week?

DANDINI Well I would need some time to recuperate. Yes, I think I could take to the royal life quite easily.

PRINCE *[Getting an idea.]* In that case you shall.

DANDINI I don't understand.

PRINCE We'll change roles. Just until the ball tonight. We're about the same size so if we change jackets and you have the royal seal I'll bet no one will notice the difference. You can officiate at this afternoon's garden party - I never did care for all that idle chit-chat - and I can be a free man for a few hours. What do you say?

DANDINI Your Highness, you're on!

PRINCE *[Pointing to the Inn.]* Come on, we can change in here. *[THEY exit into the Inn. The voices of SNATCHIT and GRABBIT are heard off.]*

SNATCHIT This is the way.

GRABBIT Are you sure?

SNATCHIT *[Entering, looking at a map.]* Absolutely. I've got a map. *[HE walks around the stage whilst reading the directions.]* Take a right turn into the High Street, second left at the butchers, third right by the job centre, along the road to the square and we're there.

GRABBIT *[Entering.]* Where?

SNATCHIT Here! *[THEY bump into each other. GRABBIT falls down.]*

GRABBIT Owww! *[HE gets up.]* Are you sure you've got it right? Read the letter again.

SNATCHIT I know I'll read the letter again! *[HE takes out a letter.]* To Messers. Snatchit and Grabbit, bailiffs to the local council. Dear sirs, I've a little job for you. Please go to Hardup Hall, home of Baron Hardup and collect the rent arrears for the last fifteen years. If no rent is forthcoming you must confiscate all his furniture and belongings and evict him.

GRABBIT Oh dear, oh dear. Poor old Hardup.

SNATCHIT Yes, it's too bad. Still if the council says we must do it, I suppose we must.

GRABBIT I suppose so. But where is Hardup Hall?

SNATCHIT Well it should be round here somewhere. I've never been in this part of town before. This is the posh end!

GRABBIT Oh you mean a bit like – *[Local up market district.]*

SNATCHIT Yes

GRABBIT *[Pointing to the Hall.]* I wonder if anyone here knows where it is.

SNATCHIT Let's ask. *[THEY cross towards the Hall gates as the SISTERS enter.]*

GORGON Ooooh look Zola, it can't be!

ZOLA It is, it is!

GORGON It's – *[THEY give the name of two well know personalities, MP's etc.]*

ZOLA They're a handsome pair, aren't they dear?

GORGON Yes. Not as handsome as *[Name of man in audience.]* – but they'll do!

ZOLA Hello boys, what are you doing in this part of town?

SNATCHIT We're looking for

GORGON You've found us!

GRABBIT No, we're looking for Baron Hardup.

ZOLA What do you want him for?

SNATCHIT Fifteen years back rent!

GRABBIT And if he doesn't pay up, he will be evicted and all his belongings confiscated!

GORGON What – everything?

SNATCHIT Yes, so do you know where Hardup Hall is?

SISTERS No!! *[The SISTERS start to lead SNATCHIT and GRABBIT away from the Hall.]*

GORGON Never heard of it.

ZOLA It's nowhere around here.

GORGON But we live not too far away. Why don't you come back with us?

SNATCHIT What?

ZOLA How would you two big strapping lads like to escort us weak and defenceless maidens back to our boudoirs?

GRABBIT Er – no thanks! *[THEY start to exit DR.]*

GORGON Wait! We don't even know your names.

SNATCHIT Snatchit.

GRABBIT Grabbit.

SISTERS We thought you'd never ask! *[THEY chase the BOYS off DR. The PRINCE and DANDINI enter from the Inn. They have changed coats and DANDINI is wearing the royal seal.]*

PRINCE There. How do I look Dandini – I mean your Royal Highness?

DANDINI *[In a regal voice.]* Most dashing young sir! Now, your first duty of the day is to deliver the invitations to tonight's ball. You'll find them in the right hand pocket.

PRINCE *[With an exaggerated bow.]* Very good your Highness.

DANDINI I'm off to see how the preparations are getting on for the garden party. I shall see you later. *[The PRINCE bows again. THEY both look at each other and laugh. DANDINI exits.]*

PRINCE So for a time I'm a free man. Free to go where I please, say what I like and meet whom I choose. Free also to take a look at all the eligible young ladies who will be at tonight's ball. So I'd better get on with delivering these invitations. *[HE crosses towards the Hall as CINDERELLA enters.]* Oh hello.

CINDERS Hello.

PRINCE I am Prince – er Prince Charming's valet, Dandini. May I ask who you are?

CINDERS Cinderella.

PRINCE What a beautiful name. Do you live here?

CINDERS Yes, with my father, Baron Hardup.

PRINCE A Barons daughter. But I don't recall seeing you at court.

CINDERS Oh I'm afraid we don't get to court. Father has been away for some time. He only returned today.

PRINCE *[Looking at the invitation list.]* That must be why his name doesn't appear on the list of families invited to the ball at the palace tonight.

CINDERS A ball at the palace?

PRINCE Yes, in celebration of my – er the Prince's birthday.

CINDERS Oh how wonderful. I've never been to a ball before.

PRINCE Then I shall arrange to have your family invited – on one condition.

CINDERS What is that?

PRINCE You allow me to be your escort and dance every dance with me.

CINDERS But sir, you hardly know me.

PRINCE That's not true. We've met a hundred times before.

CINDERS Where?

PRINCE On desert islands, on snow-capped mountains and on windswept beaches!

CINDERS *[Laughing.]* But I've never been to any of those places.

PRINCE Surely you've dreamed of them and of being there with someone special?

CINDERS *[Looking at him. Mesmerised.]* Yes.

PRINCE So have I.

DUET – PRINCE AND CINDERELLA

[At the end of the number they are in each other's arms. The lights fade and the scene changes to.....]

SCENE 3 A STREET

[Front cloth scene. SNATCHIT and GRABBIT run on looking behind them.]

- SNATCHIT Have we lost them?
- GRABBIT I think so. Oh what an awful experience. I didn't know the female sex could be so frightening!
- SNATCHIT Don't you ever watch 'Loose Women'?
- GRABBIT No!
- SNATCHIT Anyway we've still got to find Hardup Hall. Here's someone, we'll ask him.
[The BARON enters.] Excuse me, we're looking for Hardup Hall, do you know where it is?
- BARON I should say I do, it's been in my family for years.
- GRABBIT Are you Baron Hardup?
- BARON Yes, my boy. What can I do for you?
- SNATCHIT You can pay your rent arrears for a start!
- BARON What?
- GRABBIT We're the bailiffs and we've come to collect.
- SNATCHIT And if we don't collect we'll be confiscating your belongings and evicting you!
- BARON But you can't. What about my family?
- GRABBIT I'm afraid they'll have to go too.
- BARON But this is monstrous! I'll barricade myself in, go on hunger strike and fight to the death! You'll never separate a nobleman from his castle!
- SNATCHIT We can do anything we like.
- GRABBIT There's nothing on earth that can stop us performing our duties.
- GORGON *[Off.]* Yoo – hoo!
- SNATCHIT Well, maybe one thing! *[The SISTERS rush on and grab the BOYS. During the following the BARON makes his escape and exits.]*
- ZOLA You didn't think you could get away from us that easily did you?
- GRABBIT Well – yes!
- GORGON Silly boys. It's no use playing hard to get, we're very fast you know.
- SNATCHIT You said it!

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