

CINDERELLA

A PANTOMIME BY

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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 frontcloth (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~~! 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, 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! Oh Dot! One of the senior ones and that on the phone was the chief F G upstairs. There's 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? Oh 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. Blooming 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'd shout, 'How are you?' and you shout back . 'Blooming 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 your trip. Have you come back with your fortune?

BARON No dear, I've come back with a 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 ò ò ò

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's 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'd be a mad dash . for the door!

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

ZOLA Jealous? I'd 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'd come down there 'o 'o *[GORGON starts sniffing the air.]* What is it dear? Are your sinuses playing up again?

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

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

GORGON No. It's 'o 'o *[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.]* Errrrrr 'o 'o

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 ò ò ò

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

ZOLA ò ò ò 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'd 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 Ohhhhhh!

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'd 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 ð ð
- 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!

ZOLA We've decided that as we are new to this town you two should take us on a tour of all the exotic night-spots.

GRABBIT What, you mean . *[Name of local night-club.]*

GORGON Is that where all the available men go?

SNATCHIT I suppose so.

ZOLA Are they all big and hunky like . *[Name of man in the audience.]*

GRABBIT I don't know, you'd better ask him. *[There is a bit of chat with the man in the audience during which the PRINCE enters with some invitations and crosses in front of the SISTERS. THEY freeze for a moment, look at each other and then make a dash for him.]*

GORGON *[One side of the PRINCE.]* I say handsome, what's your hurry?

ZOLA *[On the other side.]* Hands off, I saw him first!

PRINCE Ladies please, do you know who I am?

GORGON *[Seductively.]* No, but I'd like to find out!

PRINCE I'm Prince . *[Catches himself again.]* . Charming's valet, Dandini.

ZOLA Oh, a man with royal connections, just my type.

GORGON Your type is any man who's breathing!

ZOLA One more crack like that and I'd knock your false teeth out.

GORGON I haven't got false teeth.

ZOLA Yes you have. And your mouth is so big you have to keep them in the spare room.

GORGON It's a lie. I keep them in the fish tank!

PRINCE *[To SNATCHIT and GRABBIT.]* Gentlemen, are these *persons* with you?

SNATCHIT Certainly not.

GRABBIT They're all yours. *[SNATCHIT and GRABBIT exit.]*

GORGON *[Grabbing the PRINCE again.]* We've not introduced ourselves. My name's Gorgon, but you can call me Gory.

ZOLA I'm Zola and you can call me anytime!

PRINCE Much as I'd love to stay and talk with you I'm afraid I have a very busy schedule today. I have all these invitations to deliver.

GORGON Invitations?

ZOLA What are they for?

PRINCE The ball at the palace tonight. Didn't you know about it?

GORGON No, no.

ZOLA *[Digging her in the ribs.]* Of course we did! It just slipped our minds. We have so many invitations, one tends to forget. We'll take two.

PRINCE I'm afraid I shall have to check if you are on my list.

GORGON Of course we're on your list. Our family is one of the most intoxicated in the county!

PRINCE And which one would that be?

ZOLA Why the Hardups of Hardup Hall.

PRINCE You're related to Baron Hardup?

GORGON Yes, we're his inebriated daughters!

PRINCE Daughters? But you can't be. I mean I thought he only had one daughter.

ZOLA No ducky, two. *[Pointing to GORGON and herself.]* One . two.

PRINCE But isn't there someone by the name of Cinderella?

GORGON Cinderella? *[SHE glances at ZOLA.]* Cinderella?

ZOLA Cinderella? No, there's no one of that name at the Hall.

PRINCE But I was sure, no, no.

GORGON Unless that's the name of one of the scullery maids. We have so many.

ZOLA *[Taking two invitations out of his hand.]* So these must be for us. Thank you very much.

GORGON And you tell that Prince that I'll be expecting him to dance the night away with me.

ZOLA No dear, you can't dance. You know the doctor told you to keep off your bunions!

GORGON And what about your varicose veins? *[To the PRINCE.]* Do you know her legs are like the map of the London underground!

ZOLA Cheeky cat!

PRINCE If you'll excuse me ladies, I really must get on. Goodbye.

GORGON Not goodbye.

ZOLA O reservoir! *[The PRINCE exits.]*

- GORGON Zola, I've just thought, what are we going to wear?
- ZOLA Oh yes. I've got to have something stunning. Something dark and sultry that can show off my figure and slip off easily.
- GORGON How about a black bin liner! *[THEY exit as BUTTONS enters from the other side of the stage.]*
- BUTTON How are you? *[Audience responds.]* Look, there they go . King Kong and Godzilla! What a frightful pair and they've really got it in for Cinderella, treating her like a servant, always at their beck and call. Well I'm going to watch out for her. They can't treat my girlfriend like that. Well she's not really my girlfriend. Not yet. But I'm going to ask her out . soon. Very soon. When I've plucked up the courage. I'll say . I'll say %Cinderella ò ò ò ò
- [CINDERELLA enters.]*
- CINDERS Hello Buttons. Did you call?
- BUTTON *[Spinning round.]* Ha! Oh, er no! I said er . %hey fella!+
- CINDERS Who to?
- BUTTONS That man.
- CINDERS What man?
- BUTTON Er ò ò oh he must have gone!
- CINDERS Buttons are you feeling all right?
- BUTTON Fine. Just fine and how are you?
- CINDERS Oh Buttons I'm so excited, I've been invited to the ball at the palace tonight.
- BUTTONS Really?
- CINDERS Yes, isn't it wonderful? My first ball.
- BUTTONS So you'd want someone to go with?
- CINDERS Well as a matter of fact ò ò ò
- BUTTONS Because I could rearrange my busy schedule and take you if you would like.
- CINDERS Oh Buttons, that's very kind of you, but I couldn't put you to all that trouble.
- BUTTONS Oh it's no trouble ò ò ò ò
- CINDERS *[In a bit of a dream.]* Besides, I met this wonderful man today who has asked to be my escort for the evening.
- BUTTONS I'd be only too pleased ò ò *[HE realises what she has said.]* You met a man?
- CINDERS Yes. He was so tall and handsome and distinguished.

BUTTONS *[Stumbling over his words.]* Tall õ õ handsomeõ õ

CINDERS He told me his name. Dandini - and youd never guess who he is.

BUTTONS *[Still stumbling.]* Tall õ õ handsomeõ õ

CINDERS He is valet to Prince Charming.

BUTTONS Oh! How nice.

CINDERS He is. Oh I canq wait to see him again. Arenq you happy for me Buttons?

BUTTONS *[Bottom lip trembling.]* Ecstatic!

CINDERS I must get back to the Hall and start preparing for tonight. Id see you later.
[SHE exits. BUTTONS looks dejected.]

BUTTONS Iqe done it again. Iqe missed out on telling her how I feel. Now sheq met this Dandy bloke Id never get a look in. I might as well pack my bags and leave.
[The FAIRY GODMOTHER enters.]

F G Donq do that Buttons.

BUTTONS Who are you?

F G *[Giving him a card.]* My card.

BUTTONS Fairy Godmother of Fair Godmothers dot comq

F G Iqn Dot! Iqn also Cinderellaq Fairy Godmother.

BUTTONS Cinderellaq? But you donq look like a Fairy Godmother. Whereq your fancy dress?

F G Iqn saving that for later. This is my travelling outfit.

BUTTONS Cor! This is too much to take in one day. Iqn off.

F G No Buttons, you canq leave now. Cinderella needs you.

BUTTONS No she doesnq. Sheq got some fancy dandy!

F G It may be written in the stars that she should love another, but if youqe not there to watch over her, her whole life could be ruined.

BUTTONS Youqe her Fairy Godmother, why donq you do something.

F G In our organisation Iqe only got grade B status and only have certain powers over a limited period of time.

BUTTONS When do you get to grade A?

F G I take my exams in a monthq time. Wish me luck.

BUTTONS Good luck, Dot!

F G So that's why I need your help. You can keep watch over her all the time and with those two stepsisters making her life a misery she's going to need a good friend.

BUTTONS But õ

F G Come on, what do you say?

BUTTONS Well . oh . all right.

F G Super! I knew I could count on you.

BUTTONS I wouldn't do this for anyone.

F G I know and as a special thank you I'm going to make you a grade D Fairy Godmothers mortal assistant!

BUTTONS Cor, thanks Dot!

F G Buttons, I think you and I are going to get on just fine.

DUET . FAIRY GODMOTHER AND BUTTONS

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

SCENE 4 OUTSIDE THE ROYAL LODGE

[This is a woodland scene with the entrance to the lodge on stage right. The full CHORUS is on. DANDINI enters from the lodge and joins them.]

COMPANY NUMBER

[At the end of the number DANDINI is down centre and a member of the CHORUS approaches him.]

MAN What's all this Dandini, why are you wearing the Prince's Royal Seal?

DANDINI Oh, er His Royal Highness has asked me to deputise for him while he attends to affairs of State. Tea is just about to be served; come along everyone, into the lodge. *[The CHORUS exit. DANDINI looks around and sees the PRINCE entering.]* Ah, your Royal Highness.

PRINCE No no, remember I'm just a humble servant until tonight.

DANDINI Of course. How is your day going, Dandini?

PRINCE Extremely well until a few minutes ago.

DANDINI Oh?

PRINCE I've delivered all the invitations and in doing so met the most wonderful girl.

- DANDINI Really Sir?
- PRINCE At least I thought she was. She told me she was the daughter of one Baron Hardup, but later, when I met his two other daughters, they denied all knowledge of her. It seems she could be one of their scullery maids.
- DANDINI A scullery maid?
- PRINCE I can't understand why such a lovely girl would want to make up such fanciful stories. Pretending to be someone she isn't.
- DANDINI If you'd excuse me Sir, wasn't that what you were doing?
- PRINCE *[Making excuses.]* But that's different!
- DANDINI Is it?
- PRINCE Ah well, I suppose I shall have to wait until tonight to find the girl of my dreams. It's a pity. She was so very different from all the others I have met.
- DANDINI Are you sure you wouldn't like to return to Royal duties, your Highness?
- PRINCE No Dandini. You seem to be doing very well in my place. I'd continue with my few hours of freedom. Now hadn't you better attend to your guests?
- DANDINI Yes, I suppose I had. *[Acting as the Prince.]* Would you care to take tea with me first, my good man?
- PRINCE *[With mock deference.]* No thank you, your Highness. I think I will enjoy the peace and quiet of the woods for a little longer. *[THEY bow to each other. DANDINI exits into lodge. The PRINCE looks around him and turns up stage. The lights dim and the FAIRY GODMOTHER enters dressed in a cloak and hood. SHE freezes the PRINCE.]*
- F G Hello again. It's me! *[HER mobile phone rings.]* Oh excuse me, it must be the boss. *[SHE answers it.]* Hello. Yes boss? Well Cinderella's meeting with the Prince went off as I planned, but I didn't reckon on the meddling of those stepsisters to mess things up. I'm going to put plan B into action and show him what a kind and loving girl she is. Yes, I know time is getting on. Oh, here she comes now. I'd let you know how things go. Bye. *[SHE puts the phone away and speaks to the audience.]* Now, watch this for a bit of acting! *[SHE waves her hand and the lights change back. CINDERELLA enters carrying a bundle of sticks and doesn't see the PRINCE who hides himself up stage and watches. The FAIRY GODMOTHER puts the hood of her cloak up and stumbles towards CINDERELLA.]*
- CINDERS Oh here let me help you.
- F G *[In an old woman's voice.]* Oh thank you my dear. My legs are growing very weary.
- CINDERS Have you come far?
- F G I don't really know. I've been walking through these woods looking for a few sticks to light my fire with. It grows so cold these nights.

CINDERS Here take this bundle I've collected. I can easily find some more.

F G Oh no, I couldn't do that.

CINDERS Please, I insist. *[SHE gives her the bundle of wood.]*

F G This is so very kind of you.

CINDERS Not at all. Now please hurry home or you could easily come to harm.

F G Thank you so much. One day very soon you shall be rewarded for your kindness.

CINDERS Please dear lady, I want no reward.

F G You have dreams, I can tell. Dreams you think won't come true. But they will, believe me, they will. *[With a big wink at the audience, the FAIRY GODMOTHER exits.]* Goodbye Cinderella.

CINDERS *[After a beat.]* But wait, how did you know my name?

PRINCE *[Having watched this scene, moves down stage.]* Hello again.

CINDERS *[Turning.]* Dandini. What a lovely surprise.

PRINCE I saw what you did for that old woman. It was a very unselfish gesture.

CINDERS Oh it was nothing and I can easily gather some more.

PRINCE Do you often come into the woods gathering sticks?

CINDERS Now and again when Buttons needs them for the fire. Buttons is a sort of servant come valet come everything else at the Hall.

PRINCE Really? And you help him?

CINDERS All the time!

PRINCE Cinderella, there's something I need to ask you

BUTTONS *[Off.]* Cinderella.

CINDERS Over here, Buttons. *[HE enters also carrying a bundle of wood.]*

BUTTONS Did you manage to find some sticks?

CINDERS I did, but I'm afraid I gave them to a poor old lady. I'll soon get some more. Buttons I want you to meet Dandini. *[Quietly to him.]* you know the one I told you about.

BUTTONS *[Warily.]* Oh yes.

CINDERS Dandini, this is my good friend Buttons.

PRINCE How do you do?

- BUTTONS *[Through clenched teeth.]* I'm very well thanking you very much!
- CINDERS *[To BUTTONS.]* Dandini is arranging my invitation for the ball tonight. Isn't he wonderful?
- BUTTONS Charming!
- PRINCE Yes? *[Catching himself.]* I mean yes, here it is. *[HE gives her an invitation.]*
- CINDERS Oh thank you so much. I can't wait until tonight. *[THEY are gazing at each other.]*
- BUTTONS Cinder, we had better get this wood back to the Hall and light a fire, or the Baron won't have any hot water for his bath.
- CINDERS Yes, of course. *[To the PRINCE.]* Until tonight. *[SHE exits looking back at him. BUTTONS glowers and growls with clenched teeth and fists. Thinks better of it and exits.]*
- PRINCE I can't understand it. Seeing her again I know I feel something for her. Why does she pretend to be someone she isn't?

SONG . PRINCE

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

SCENE 5 THE SISTERS' BOUDOIR

[The scene is a front cloth. There are two dressing tables on the right and left of the stage. The SISTERS enter each carrying a large bag full of shopping. They are wearing large loose fitting coats over their strip costume]

- GORGON Oh all this shopping has quite worn me out.
- ZOLA Perhaps you ought to have a lie down dear.
- GORGON Yes, I could do with catching up on my beauty sleep.
- ZOLA Catching up? It'd be more like a chase!
- GORGON Ha, you can talk. You've got more lines on your face than Clapham Junction!
- ZOLA You can sneer all you like, but when I hook the Prince tonight it'd knock that smile right off your mush.
- GORGON Hook the Prince? The only way you'd hook the Prince is with a rod and line! No, when he sees me walk in he'd be speechless.
- ZOLA Yes, he'd be having a panic attack!
- GORGON I'm not listening to any more insults, I need Cinderella to help me get ready for tonight.

ZOLA So do I. *[SHE calls.]* Cinderella!

GORGON *[Also calling.]* Cinderella!

ZOLA Where is that lazy good for nothing? *[Yelling.]* Cinderella!! *[CINDERELLA comes running on.]*

CINDERS Did you call me, Zola?

ZOLA No, I called you Cinderella! *[SHE giggles.]*

GORGON Call? With a voice like that I think they've just opened Tower Bridge!

ZOLA Yes I did call. I want you to run my bath. And make sure the water is the right temperature. Not too hot and not too cold. My delicate body is very sensitive and has to be handled with care.

GORGON Funny, that's just what the milkman said!

CINDERS I'll do it right away.

GORGON Before you do that I want you to iron my gown for the ball.

CINDERS Yes Gorgon.

ZOLA *[To GORGON speaking across CINDERS.]* I want her to run my bath.

GORGON She can do that after she's done my ironing.

ZOLA Listen slug features, she's to do my chores first, I'm the eldest.

GORGON Well there's no contest there.

ZOLA Oh shut your mouth there's a bus coming!

GORGON Ooooooh, are you saying I've got a big mouth?

ZOLA Second only to the River Thames!

GORGON Why you ð ð *[THEY argue across CINDERELLA who puts her hands over her ears and crosses away.]*

CINDERS Oh stop it, both of you. *[The SISTERS stop and slowly turn to look at her.]*

SISTERS Ooooooh!

ZOLA And what's the matter with you?

GORGON Yes. Who rattled your cage?

CINDERS You're making so much noise arguing, I don't know what to do first.

ZOLA *[Very quietly.]* Making a noise? Did you hear what she said sister dear?

GORGON *[Calmly.]* I most certainly did sister dear.

ZOLA We don't argue, do we?

GORGON Never a cross word has ever passed these lips.

ZOLA *[As THEY both cross towards CINDERELLA.]* And we'd thank you to keep a civil tongue in your head. A grubby little kitchen maid talking to us like that.

GORGON What an upstart. She'd be telling us she's going to the ball next.

CINDERS But I am.

SISTERS What??

CINDERS *[Slowly.]* I'm . going to the ball.

GORGON Oh don't make me laugh. Who ever heard of such a thing? You, going to the ball.

CINDERS But I am.

ZOLA You haven't even got anything to wear.

CINDERS Well I was hoping you might lend me one of your gowns.

GORGON Lend you one of our gowns?

ZOLA Are you out of your mind?

GORGON I've never heard of anything so preposterous in all my life.

ZOLA *[Grabbing hold of CINDERELLA'S arm and twisting it.]* Now get out of here and run my bath.

GORGON *[Twisting her other arm.]* And iron my gown.

CINDERS Ow, you're hurting.

SISTERS *[Shouting at her.]* Get on with your work. *[BUTTONS enters.]*

BUTTONS *[To the audience.]* How are you? *[Reaction.]* Here, what's going on?

ZOLA How dare you enter a lady's boudoir unannounced.

GORGON Men are never allowed within these walls.

BUTTONS That's not what the milkman said!

ZOLA *[To man in the audience.]* Oh *[Name.]*, it's not true.

GORGON Don't believe him!

BUTTONS Are you all right, Cinders?

ZOLA Of course she's all right

(From this point to the end of the scene there is an alternative version in the appendix to the script)

- GORGON And she's got work to do. *[To ZOLA.]* Come along dear, we can't waste any more time. We've got to make ourselves beautiful for the ball. *[THEY cross towards their screens R & L.]*
- BUTTONS It's tonight you know, not in a month's time! *[The SISTERS toss their heads and go to their dressing tables.]* Are you sure you're all right? *[CINDERELLA nods, wiping away a tear.]* Why don't we pop down to the kitchen and have a nice cup of tea.
- CINDERS Thank you, Buttons. I do love you. *[SHE kisses him on the cheek and exits.]*
- BUTTONS *[Reeling.]* Oh, if only she meant it for real.
- [HE follows her off. The SISTERS move the dressing tables so they are next to each other centre stage, looking through the mirror frame straight towards the audience.]*
- GORGON *[Looking into the mirror and screaming.]* Ahh! Who's that?
- ZOLA *[Looking over GORGON's shoulder into her mirror.]* It's me.
- GORGON Thank goodness. I thought it was me! Oh all that to-do has quite upset me. I don't know if I've got the strength to get ready.
- ZOLA *[Sitting at her dressing table.]* Oh of course you have.
- GORGON It's that wretch, Cinderella. She gets me so wound up. *[GORGON starts hyperventilating.]*
- ZOLA Now now dear, calm down. Don't upset yourself. Come on now, nice big breaths.
- GORGON *[To the man in the audience.]* I've got nice big breaths haven't I *[Name.]?*
- ZOLA Why don't you try that new foundation cream you got from the Pound Shop!
- GORGON Oh yes. It will help to enhance my inner beauty. *[SHE starts to apply a small amount of cream.]*
- ZOLA And hide your outer wrinkles!
- GORGON I think you are confusing my laughter lines with those crow's feet of yours.
- ZOLA *[Pulling the skin around her eyes tight.]* I don't have crow's feet!
- GORGON No, they're more like a vultures!
- ZOLA *[Smiling sweetly at GORGON.]* I think you have missed a bit dear.
- GORGON *[Looking into her mirror.]* Have I? Where?
- ZOLA *[Pushing GORGON'S face into the pot of cream.]* There!

- GORGON *[Slowly raising her face.]* Thank you dear. Let me help you with your face powder. *[SHE takes a large powder puff and grinds it into ZOLA'S face so it is completely white.]*
- ZOLA *[Spluttering.]* You're so generous with your assistance. Let me help you apply your lipstick. *[She takes a large red lipstick and draws an exaggerated mouth around GORGON'S.]*
- GORGON *[With false charm through gritted teeth.]* My dear, your eye-liner is barely visible. Allow me. *[SHE picks up a large black eyeliner and draws big eyebrows on ZOLA'S face.]*
- ZOLA *[Losing control.]* Why you'd ..
- [They now start fighting with anything they can lay their hands on. The BARON enters.]*
- BARON Girls, are you ready?
- [They both turn to face him covered in make-up, powder and cream.]*
- BOTH Yes popsie!
- [The BARON stares in amazement as the lights black out and the scene changes to.....]*

SCENE 6 THE KITCHEN OF HARDUP HALL

[This is a half set with doors R & L. The left door is to the outside, the right door to the rest of the house. There is a window up stage of the left door. A large fireplace is U C with pots and pans hanging from it. In front of the fire is a rug and some fire irons. Right of centre stage is a table and two chairs. A large cupboard big enough for two men to stand inside is up left. Other items required later are also on the set. BUTTONS is just finishing making the tea.]

- BUTTONS *[To the audience.]* How are you? *[Audience reacts.]* Those sisters have really upset Cinderella. She deserves better, but it seems like not going to be the one to give her what her heart desires. If only things were different. Oh Cinderella, Cinderella o o *[SHE enters R.]*
- CINDERS Yes Buttons?
- BUTTONS Oh . er - tea's ready.
- CINDERS Thank you. *[SHE takes a cup and drinks.]* Oh Buttons, what am I going to do? I've got my invitation to the ball, Dandini will be expecting me and I can't go.
- BUTTONS *[Pouring his tea.]* Why not?
- CINDERS I've got nothing to wear.
- BUTTONS Oh?

- CINDERS I mean nothing fit for a grand occasion like tonight. Oh it's not fair ò ò *[The BARON enters R just as BUTTONS is about to drink his tea.]*
- BARON Ah tea! Just what I need. *[HE takes the cup from BUTTONS.]* What's not fair? *[HE takes a drink.]*
- CINDERS Oh Daddy, I haven't got anything to wear to the ball tonight.
- BARON But you must have. What about that pretty little blue dress? I always liked you in that.
- CINDERS Daddy I had that for my high school dance. It's years old.
- BARON Really? How time flies! You know I always think of you as my little Cinders. *[CINDERELLA turns away holding back the tears. BUTTONS nudges the BARON and indicates he should say something.]* You know there is something you could wear. A beautiful dress - *[CINDERELLA turns and looks at him.]* - that was once worn by the prettiest girl in the world. Your mother. I fell in love with her the moment I set eyes on her. It's still in the cupboard up in my room. Why don't you go and try it on?
- CINDERS Oh Daddy, do you mean it?
- BARON Of course.
- CINDERS Oh thank you, thank you. *[SHE kisses him and runs off R.]*
- BUTTONS *[Wiping away a tear.]* That's a wonderful thing you've done Baron.
- BARON I wish I could do more for her. Oh Buttons, we've made a bit of a mess of my life. What with the debts we've got on this place; the bailiffs ready to pounce at any minute and on top of that getting lumbered with those two step daughters who are spending money like it was going out of fashion.
- BUTTONS I know what you mean. We've got a few problems of my own.
- BARON Problems? But why haven't you come to me before. How can I help?
- BUTTONS Well my salary for the past two years would be a start.
- BARON *[Flustered.]* Ah, yes. Well now we've been meaning to mention that ò ò
- BUTTONS Oh don't worry Baron.
- BARON You're not thinking of leaving us, are you?
- BUTTONS Leaving? Where would I go? No, I couldn't leave. Besides I have to be here to look after Cinderella.
- BARON Yes, you're very good to her. You've become like brother and sister, haven't you?
- BUTTONS *[With a sigh.]* Yes, that's just what we've become.
- BARON Anyway, tonight I'm going to the ball and forget all my troubles.

- BUTTONS Who knows, you may even meet a rich widow.
- BARON As long as she doesn't have any daughters! Come on, you can help me get ready. *[THEY exit R. At the same time SNATCHIT pops his heads through the window.]*
- SNATCHIT All clear. There's no one about. *[HE starts to turn his head as GRABBIT appears and they bump foreheads.]* Owww! Be careful!
- GRABBIT Sorry.
- SNATCHIT We'll start confiscating items in here first. You go in and start passing it out to me and I'll put it on the wagon. And don't forget to check everything on the list.
- GRABBIT Right you are. *[HE disappears from the window and enters through the left door. SNATCHIT stands in the doorway. GRABBIT crosses to one of the chairs, picks it up and passes it to SNATCHIT who takes it away.]* One chair. *[While this is happening, BUTTONS enters through right door and sees them. HE silently calls to the BARON who also enters. THEY quickly confer as GRABBIT is checking his list. BUTTONS crosses behind GRABBIT and exits through the door left. The BARON crosses to the table and hides underneath unseen by GRABBIT. GRABBIT picks up the second chair]* Another chair. *[HE hands it to SNATCHIT who has returned. At the same time BUTTONS passes the first chair through the window to the BARON who puts it back in its place. This continues with various other pieces such as the rug, fire irons, pots and pans with the action getting faster and faster. Eventually all the furniture is back in place. The BARON shakes BUTTONS hand through the window and exits R. BUTTONS stands for a moment looking through the window as SNATCHIT enters L.]* That's the lot! *[HE puts his list away and they both turn to see everything back in place and do a "take". BUTTONS smiles to himself, does a thumbs up to the audience and disappears.]* But I don't understand!
- SNATCHIT There's something very strange going on here, Mr Grabbit.
- GRABBIT You're right Mr Snatchit. *[The SISTERS are heard shouting off stage.]*
- SNATCHIT It's those two man-eaters! Quick, hide. *[THEY run to the cupboard and hide inside as the SISTERS enter R. They are wearing long cloaks.]*
- GORGON Cinderella. Where is that little good for nothing? *[SHE calls.]* Cinderella!
- ZOLA I want her to check my hair is all right. I asked my hairdresser what sort of wave I should have and he said tidal!
- GORGON I just asked my hairdresser for a wash and blow and he sent me to the laundrette! *[CINDERELLA enters in a pretty if simple gown. SHE is carrying her invitation.]*
- CINDERS I'm ready. *[The SISTERS look at her and gasp.]*
- GORGON What have you got on?
- CINDERS It's a dress of my mother's. Father said I could wear it to the ball.

ZOLA You intend to go to the ball in that?

CINDERS Yes. Do you like it?

GORGON Like it??

ZOLA It's . it's õ õ Oh Gorgon, I think I'm going to have a turn!

GORGON Now steady on dear, it's not all that bad.

ZOLA What?

GORGON *[Patronisingly to CINDERELLA.]* Do you mind if we give you a teeny weeny bit of advice. *[SHE gives a big wink to ZOLA.]*

ZOLA *[Catching on.]* Oh yes, from two people who are right at the top of the ladder in haute couture!

CINDERS Who's that?

SISTERS Us of course.

GORGON You see dear, it's the belt.

ZOLA Yes. Belts are out. *[SHE rips off the belt from CINDERELLA'S dress.]*

GORGON And to be really chic you must adopt what they are wearing on the catwalks of Paris this year. The one sleeve look. *[SHE rips a sleeve off.]*

ZOLA Of course on the catwalk of Milan it's the no sleeve look. *[SHE rips off the other sleeve.]*

GORGON And in California it's so hot they're hardly wearing anything! *[THEY both rip the front panel of the dress and roar with laughter. CINDERELLA bursts into tears and runs towards the door.]*

ZOLA Oh Cinderella, what is that in your hand?

CINDERS My invitation.

GORGON Her invitation. *[THEY cross to either side of her.]*

ZOLA *[Slowly.]* Rip it up.

CINDERS What?

GORGON You heard her. Rip it up.

CINDERS But without it I'll never get into the ball.

ZOLA You've got it in one. Now rip it up. *[THEY are bearing down on her and slowly she tears the invitation in half.]*

GORGON And again. *[CINDERELLA tears it in half again. THEY both roar with laughter as CINDERELLA runs out crying.]*

ZOLA That's put an end to her little game! *[The BARON enters dressed for the ball. BUTTONS follows him.]*

BARON What's the matter with Cinderella?

GORGON Oh some last minute adjustments to her dress.

ZOLA She'd follow on later.

GORGON Have you got our invitations?

BARON *[Holding them up.]* Yes.

ZOLA I'd take them.

GORGON No I will. You always lose tickets.

ZOLA I've never lost a ticket in my life.

GORGON You lost the tickets to the Chippendale show!

ZOLA No I didn't.

GORGON Yes you did and we missed seeing all those big muscly men like . *[Name of man in audience.]*

BARON I'd keep the tickets. If we don't leave now the ball will be over before we get there.

ZOLA Yes, come on. I mustn't keep the Prince waiting.

GORGON Listen Sleeping Beauty, you won't stand a chance when he slaps those Royal peepers on me. *[THEY exit L arguing.]*

BARON Make sure Cinderella is all right will you Buttons. She looked quite upset to me.

BUTTONS Don't worry Baron. I'd take care of her.

BARON Right. I'd be off then. See you later. *[HE exits L.]*

BUTTONS *[Calling through door R.]* Cinders. Cinders you'd better hurry, they're all leaving. *[CINDERELLA enters R wiping away her tears. She is back wearing her usual dress and carries her torn invitation.]* Here, why aren't you ready?

CINDERS Because I'm not going to the ball.

BUTTONS Why ever not?

CINDERS The Sisters ruined my dress and made me tear up my invitation. Look. *[SHE shows him the invitation and bursts into tears again.]*

BUTTONS Why those two o ò Oh don't cry. There's bound to be another ball you can go to.

- CINDERS I don't care about any other ball. It was this one I wanted to go to. He'd be waiting for me.
- BUTTONS Oh, you mean Fancy Dandy.
- CINDERS Dandini, yes. Oh I've never felt so unhappy.
- BUTTONS I wish there was something I could do to cheer you up. *[HE gets an idea.]* I know why don't we have our own ball right here?
- CINDERS Oh but it wouldn't be the same.
- BUTTONS You just leave things to me. Now first of all you need a dress. *[HE picks up the tablecloth.]* Here we are, a beautiful dress made from the finest fabrics. *[HE ties it around her waist.]* Now jewellery. All the grandest ladies have jewellery. *[HE gets a string of carrots and a colander. HE puts the carrots around her neck.]* There, an eighteen carrot necklace. *[HE puts the colander on her head.]* and your diamond studded tiara! *[HE picks up a tablemat.]* And a fan, a lady must have a fan.
- CINDERS *[Taking the table mat and half smiling.]* Buttons, you are sweet but.
- BUTTONS Wait! I haven't finished yet. You must have a coach to travel to the ball in. *[HE puts the two chairs to the left side of the table to use as horses. Then HE leads her by the hand to the right side on which she sits as though in a coach. SHE puts the torn invitation on the table. BUTTONS sits on the left side as a coachman. HE calls to the imaginary horses.]* Giddy up there! *[HE talks in a "posh" voice.]* What a lovely night for a ball don't you think so milady?
- CINDERS Quite lovely.
- BUTTONS Oh look at the palace all lit up, just like something out of a fairy tale. Here we are. *[HE talks to an imaginary footman.]* What's that my good man? An invitation? Do you know who this is? This is the Princess Cinderella. She doesn't need an invitation. Yes, I should think so. Now kindly stand aside. *[HE gets down and helps CINDERELLA off the table.]* What an absolutely stupendous ballroom, don't you think so milady?
- CINDERS *[Now playing along and enjoying herself.]* Oh, stupendous.
- BUTTONS And all these important guests. There's Lord and Lady Curtain and their daughter Annette! And the honourable Mr. Key and his son Don! *[Introducing Cinderella.]* May I present her Royal Highness Princess Cinderella? *[To a "butler".]* What's that? Would I like an aperitif? No ta, I've got me own! *[HE points to his teeth. CINDERELLA laughs.]*
- (NB If you wish to cut the following duet, pick the action up at *)*
- Oh listen, they're playing my favourite song. Would milady care to take a spin around the floor?
- CINDERS Thank you Sir Buttons, I would be delighted.

DUET - BUTTONS & CINDERELLA

[As the music starts HE bows and SHE curtseys. HE sings and SHE joins in. If possible SNATCHIT and GRABBIT could open the cupboard door unseen by BUTTONS and CINDERELLA and act as a backing group. At the end of the number THEY close the door and leave the two dancing. BUTTONS bows to her.]

*[*SHE then turns away looking sad again.]*

BUTTONS Cinders?

CINDERS *[Taking the colander off.]* Oh Buttons, it's not the same. I know you're trying to cheer me up, but it's not the same. *[SHE cries quietly and crosses to sit by the fire with HER back to the door L. During the following SHE takes off the rest of the things BUTTONS gave her. BUTTONS eases to stage left putting his hands in his pockets.]*

BUTTONS *[To himself.]* I don't know what else to do to cheer her up. I'm running out of ideas. *[HE takes out the FAIRY GODMOTHER'S card.]* What's this? Of course. She said I was to call her if Cinderella needed her . and I think she needs her right now. *[HE crosses to the window, waves the card and calls in a loud whisper.]* Oi! Dot. I could do with a bit of help down here. *[Nothing.]* Yoo-hoo! *[Still nothing. HE shouts.]* Oi! Dot!

CINDERS *[Looking round.]* What's the matter Buttons?

BUTTONS *[Looking away from the window.]* Oh nothing. A bit of a cough, that's all. *[CINDERELLA looks away again. When BUTTONS turns back to the window the FAIRY GODMOTHER'S head appears. HE jumps with fright.]* Gor blimey! Do you have to creep up on people like that?

F G Sorry. Did you call?

BUTTONS Yes. We've got major problems here.

F G I was afraid something like this would happen. Leave things to me, but don't go too far away. I shall need you again.

BUTTONS Roger. Over and out. *[The FAIRY GODMOTHER disappears and BUTTONS crosses to stage right. There is a knock at the left door.]* Someone at the door Cinders. *[CINDERELLA looks at him as HE exits right. SHE crosses to the door left and opens it. The FAIRY GODMOTHER is standing there still dressed as the old woman.]*

CINDERS Hello, it's the old lady from the woods, isn't it? But what are you doing here?

F G I've come as I promised to reward your good deed to me.

CINDERS That's very kind of you, but there's no need.

F G Oh but there's every need. Remember I spoke of your dreams? Tell me what they are.

CINDERS To go to the ball and dance with someone very special.

F G Then I shall make those dreams come true.

- CINDERS It's impossible.
- F G Nothing is impossible to me. *[SHE throws off her cloak and stands there as the traditional FAIRY GODMOTHER.]* I am your Fairy Godmother!
- CINDERS I didn't know I had a Fairy Godmother.
- F G Oh everyone has got one and I'm yours. Now quickly, there's no time to lose. We must get you to that ball.
- CINDERS But how?
- F G Well first I shall need a few things. Have you something in the kitchen that is large and round?
- CINDERS There's a pumpkin fresh from the market this morning.
- F G The very thing. I would never have thought to use one of those! And can you rustle up some white mice?
- CINDERS I think there are some in the trap. I was going to take them to the woods tomorrow and release them.
- F G What a thoughtful girl. Well tonight they will be needed to do a very important job. Run and fetch them.
- CINDERS But o o o
- F G Now don't start asking questions. Time is flying by so fast. Quick, bring everything here. *[CINDERELLA exits through right door. The FAIRY GODMOTHER pulls her mobile phone and dials.]* Hello, chief? It's me. Yes, plan B is working fine. Our subject should be leaving for the palace shortly. Yes, yes I'll let you know how things go. No I won't forget the twelve o'clock rule. O K, talk to you soon. *[SHE switches off as CINDERELLA enters with a pumpkin and a cage containing some mice and a rat.]*
- CINDERS Will these be all right? There was a rat in the trap as well.
- F G Oh splendid, we can use him. Put them down over there. *[CINDERELLA puts them in front of the fireplace.]* Now the other thing I need is a couple of lizards.
- CINDERS I don't think we have any lizards.
- F G Never mind, I know what we can use instead. *[SHE waves her hand and SNATCHIT and GRABBIT enter from the cupboard in a trance and exit stage left.]* There now, I think that will do the trick, so to speak.
- CINDERS Trick?
- F G Yes my dear. I'm going to work some very special Fairy Godmother magic and make all your dreams come true. *[SHE casts a spell.]*
Pumpkin, mice and two white mice
A rat from infestation.

Change yourself within a trice
To Cinders transportation.

BALLET

[The lights fade down as the Ballet begins. CINDERELLA crosses to a downstage corner of the stage and watches as the FAIRY GODMOTHER works her magic. If U.V. lighting is used the dancers, in black, remove all the props and the scene changes to a woodland scene with the coach and horses, a coachman and SNATCHIT and GRABBIT as rear footmen. The pieces of the invitations are put back together and handed to the FAIRY GODMOTHER. If the U.V. lighting isn't used then the dancers perform the tasks as fairy helpers of the FAIRY GODMOTHER. During the dance CINDERELLA swaps with a double so as to change into her ball gown. The double stands with her back to the audience. The whole Ballet should be as magical as possible. When the transformation is complete the FAIRY GODMOTHER moves down to CINDERELLA'S double.] And now for your dress. *[SHE makes a magic pass and the lights blackout. The double changes places with CINDERELLA who is now dressed in a beautiful ball gown. The lights return.]* Gorgeous, even if I do say so myself! This is one of my most successful jobs. I'm sure the chief will be pleased. Now there is just one more thing. *[A JUNIOR FAIRY enters holding a cushion on which sits a pair of glass slippers.]* Take these glass slippers. *[The FAIRY helps her put them on.]* They are made of magic crystal and you must take very special care of them.

- CINDERS Oh I will and thank you, a million times thank you. *[BUTTONS enters.]*
- BUTTONS Cor, strike me pink!
- F G If that's what you want. *[SHE raises her hand.]*
- BUTTONS No!
- CINDERS Oh Buttons isn't this wonderful. *[HE shrugs.]* Aren't you happy for me? *[HE half shakes his head.]* But now I can go to the ball. *[HE shakes his head.]* And see Dandini again. *[BUTTONS almost passes out.]*
- F G Now Buttons, this is Cinderella's destiny so you must be happy for her. And I have a special task for you. Go on ahead to the palace and tell them to announce the arrival of the Princess Crystal.
- BUTTONS Me? Go to the ball? *[The FAIRY GODMOTHER nods. HE beams with happiness.]* Now you're talking! *[HE exits.]*
- F G *[Handing her the invitation.]* Before you go I must tell you something of the utmost importance. My magic will only last until the last stroke of midnight, so you must leave the palace before then. After midnight everything will revert back to how it was. Your coach, your horses, your gown will all disappear. Don't forget that, will you my dear?
- CINDERS No I won't. And thank you again. *[The dancers lead HER to the coach.]*
- F G Remember. Twelve o'clock.

CINDERS Goodbye Fairy Godmother.

F G Goodbye Cinderella. *[SHE turns to the audience.]* And good hunting! *[The coach starts off with CINDERELLA waving from inside. The FAIRY GODMOTHER starts to use her mobile phone to report in. The music builds as the curtain falls on Act One.]*

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO
SCENE 1 ON THE WAY TO THE BALL

*[This is the same front gauze use in Act One Scene 1. As the Act opens the BARON followed by GORGON and ZOLA enter from some part of the auditorium. They chat to members of the audience, asking the way to the palace etc. The SISTERS make a play for the man they picked out in Act One. Eventually they all arrive on stage.
 (NB. If going into the audience is impractical, the whole of this sequence can be done from the stage.)]*

- BARON Oh do hurry along girls or we'd never get there.
- GORGON Coming step-popsie.
- ZOLA We just wanted to make sure *[Name of man.]* will be at the ball.
- GORGON He's saving the last waltz for me.
- ZOLA Well he told me he would take me onto the terrace in the moonlight and show me the stars.
- BARON Castor and Pollux?
- ZOLA Are they going to be there?
- BARON Oh do come on.
- GORGON *[To the man.]* I'd be at the bar. Mine's a G and T.
- ZOLA And mine's a pint of Guinness! *[All THREE exit. BUTTONS enters from the opposite side of the stage.]*
- BUTTONS How are you? *[Reaction.]* Well here I am, ready to have Cinderella announced as the Princess Crystal. Didn't she look lovely? I hope she has a good time, even if it is with that rotten old Dandy and not me. Still, I did promise Dot that I would do all I could to help, so I'd better get on with it. *[The FAIRY GODMOTHER enters.]*
- F G Yes you had Buttons.
- BUTTONS Oh you gave me a fright. You're always turning up unexpectedly.
- F G That's part of the training. Now go and arrange for the announcement. She'd be here at any moment.
- BUTTONS All right, all right, keep your wings on! *[To the audience.]* See you at the ball. *[HE exits.]*
- F G Nothing must go wrong tonight. This is my big chance to become a grade A Fairy Godmother. I'd better just report in. *[SHE uses her mobile phone.]* Hello, chief? I'm outside the palace and everything is going to plan. Yes I'm just about to go into the ballroom and see who's there. No, there have been no hitches so far, but I'm going to stick around just in case. O K, I'd talk to you later. Bye. *[SHE hangs up.]* Now, let's see what's going on inside. *[SHE*

waves her hand and the lights come up behind the gauze on a glittering ballroom scene. The gauze rises and we are in

SCENE 2 THE PALACE BALLROOM

[A very ornate ballroom with a staircase centre. A large clock dominates the top of the staircase. It shows eleven o'clock and during the scene moves to twelve. The GUESTS are there chatting to one another. DANDINI is with a group. A MAJOR DOMO is at the top of the stairs. MUSIC is underscoring.]

MAJOR DOMO *[Announcing.]* My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen. His Royal Highness, Prince Charming.

FANFARE

[PRINCE CHARMING enters at the top of the stairs and descends. HE addresses the ensemble.]

PRINCE My dear friends, it is so good to see all of you here. I hope you all enjoy yourselves and make this a night to remember.

SONG - PRINCE, DANDINI & CHORUS

[HE starts the song that develops into a full COMPANY number. At the end of the number the MAJOR DOMO makes another announcement.]

MAJOR DOMO The Baron Hardup and his daughters Gorgon and Zola. *[The BARON enters and comes down the stairs followed by the SISTERS who are still wearing their cloaks.]*

BARON *[To the PRINCE.]* Your Royal Highness, it is a pleasure to be here on such a special occasion.

PRINCE *[Horrified at seeing the SISTERS again.]* I'm so pleased you and your family could attend.

GORGON *[Mistaking the PRINCE for DANDINI.]* Watchya Dandini me old mate!

ZOLA Where's His Royal Effluence then?

BARON Girls, what are you talking about? This is His Royal Highness.

GORGON What?

ZOLA He told us he was some equerry or something.

BARON I don't care what star sign he is, this is Prince Charming.

GORGON *[Curtseying.]* Oh your Washup, it's so good to see you again.

ZOLA *[Also curtseying.]* Your Royal Detergent, I'm at a loss for words.

BARON That'd be a first.

- PRINCE Ladies, would you care to remove your cloaks, or would you be stopping?
- GORGON Of course we are stopping. Wait till you see my frock, you would believe your eyes.
- ZOLA My little number will knock your socks off. *[Music as the SISTERS parade round the stage and eventually drop their cloaks revealing the most outrageous gowns. Everyone stares in disbelief. The MAJOR DOMO collects the cloaks and exits with them.]*
- BARON *[To the SISTERS.]* You didn't tell me it was fancy dress. *[FAIRY GODMOTHER enters and "freezes" the scene.]*
- F G I am going to work some of my magic and make myself invisible. That way I can have a little fun with the guests and keep an eye on Cinderella. She will be arriving any minute. *[SHE crosses amongst the GUESTS.]* Now let's see who we have here. *[SHE makes comments about various people including the SISTERS and their appearance. At the end of this sequence SHE crosses back D R.]* Well now it's time to let them get on with the ball and for the arrival of the Princess Crystal. *[SHE waves her hand and exits. The GUESTS "unfreeze".]*
- PRINCE *[Crossing to DANDINI.]* Dandini, make sure that gruesome twosome are kept well away from me.
- DANDINI I'll do my best your Highness, but who are they?
- PRINCE Baron Hardup's stepdaughters. Remember I told you about them and how they knew nothing of another daughter.
- DANDINI Ah yes, the one you met whilst doing my job.
- PRINCE Exactly.
- DANDINI Do you think she will attend the ball?
- PRINCE I don't know Dandini. Part of me hopes she will if only to find out who she really is. *[THEY turn to talk to other guests.]*
- GORGON I say Zola, it's a bit of all right here isn't it?
- ZOLA Yes. They tell me the Prince's balls get bigger every year!
- BARON Now girls do behave yourselves and remember to address the nobility correctly when you meet them.
- GORGON What do you mean?
- BARON Well for example over there is Lord Sainsbury. *[HE points out into the audience.]*
- ZOLA Hello Lordy!
- BARON No, no. You say your Lordship.

- ZOLA Your Lordship. *[SHE curtseys.]*
- BARON And over there is Viscount Asda.
- GORGON Vissy, how about going wild in the aisles?
- BARON No, no. You say your Excellency.
- GORGON Your Excellency. *[SHE curtseys.]*
- BARON And over there is the Duke of Tesco. *[ZOLA goes to call but the BARON stops her.]* To address him properly, say your Grace.
- ZOLA *[Tapping the 'DUKE' on the shoulder.]* For what I am about to receive!
- GORGON *[Moving closely to the PRINCE.]* I say Princey dear, how about you and me tripping the light fantastic together?
- ZOLA *[Also crossing in.]* Just a minute Miss Desperateq I think Iqn promised the first dance.
- PRINCE Iqn sorry ladies but I do have to speak to Baroness De Sousa over there.
- GORGON Whoq she?
- PRINCE *[Fumbling for words.]* Sheq er õ õ
- DANDINI *[Coming to the rescue.]* Your second cousin.
- PRINCE My second cousin. Havenq seen her in years. Please excuse me. *[HE crosses to a group up stage.]*
- GORGON *[To DANDINI.]* It looks as though Iqn just about to make your night, hot lips! *[SHE whisks DANDINI away and they exit.]*
- ZOLA Well I donq know! Come on step . pa, itq you and me against the world. *[SHE drags the BARON off.]*
- FANFARE
- MAJOR
DOMO *[Announcing from the top of the stairs.]* The Princess Crystal.
- [CINDERELLA enters and moves to the top of the stairs. SHE is followed by SNATCHIT and GRABBIT who, still in a trance, wait at the top of the stairs as SHE descends. The PRINCE moves from the group to meet her at the bottom. Everyone watches CINDERELLA from the moment she arrives.]*
- PRINCE Princess. May I welcome you to the castle?
- CINDERS Thank you.
- PRINCE I am Prince Charming.
- CINDERS *[Taken aback.]* The Prince? But õ õ *[SHE curtseys.]* Your Royal Highness.

PRINCE *[Raising her.]* Is this your first visit to the palace?

CINDERS It is indeed, your Highness.

PRINCE And yet I have the strangest feeling we have met somewhere before.

CINDERS Maybe we have.

PRINCE But where?

CINDERS Perhaps on a desert island, a snow-capped mountain or even a windswept beach.

PRINCE Such romantic places. I'm sure I would have remembered. No matter, meeting you here has made this evening complete for me. May I have this dance?

CINDERS I would be honoured, your Highness.

DANCE AND SONG . PRINCE AND CINDERELLA

[The music comes up and EVERYONE dances. During the dance the PRINCE starts to sing. CINDERELLA joins him in duet as the lights dim down on the rest of the company who continue to dance quietly in the background. At the end of the number the lights come back up and the MAJOR DOMO makes another announcement.]

MAJOR DOMO Your Royal Highness, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen. Refreshments are being served in the Ruby room.

PRINCE May I escort you in? *[SHE takes his arm and ALL exit except SNATCHIT and GRABBIT who come down the stairs.]*

SNATCHIT Here Mr Grabbit, what's going on?

GRABBIT I dunno. One minute we was hiding in the Baron's kitchen and the next minute . woosh!

SNATCHIT Yes, woosh! Here we are dressed up in these fancy clothes and attending on some Princess. Mind you, it's a bit of all right here, ain't it?

GRABBIT Yes, a bit of all right.

[BUTTONS enters.]

BUTTONS *[To the audience.]* How are you? *[Audience reacts.]* Hello you two.

GRABBIT What are you doing here?

SNATCHIT More to the point, what are we doing here?

BUTTONS You're both part of the plan.

GRABBIT What plan?

BUTTONS Oh it's too complicated to explain. We've just got to make sure the Baron's stepdaughters don't mess things up.

SNATCHIT Do you mean to say they're here as well?

BUTTONS Yes.

GRABBIT In that case we're off.

BUTTONS No, you can't go yet, you have to attend the Princes Crystal. Now get back to your posts.

SNATCHIT But o o o o

BUTTONS I've got to go and report to the boss. *[HE exits. The SISTERS are heard off.]*

GORGON I'm going back to see if any more men have arrived.

ZOLA Good idea, this lot are a dead loss.

GRABBIT Quick, here they come. *[THEY dash up the stairs and pose like statues at the top. The SISTERS enter.]*

GORGON Oh dear, no one. Only *[Name of man.]*. Are you enjoying yourself?

ZOLA You don't fancy a dance, do you?

GORGON Or a stroll in the moonlight? *[Hopefully the man will react. GORGON continues talking to him.]* Do you know 95% of the men in *[Name of town.]* are unfaithful? The other 5% got a letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury . do you know what it said? *[The MAN should react in the negative.]* Need I say any more!

ZOLA This evening is turning out to be a big disappointment. Who's the Prince with now?

GORGON *[Looking off.]* Some strange Princess no one has ever heard of.

ZOLA *[Seeing SNATCHIT and GRABBIT.]* Just a minute, sister dear, don't those statues look familiar to you?

GORGON Yes, but I can't quite place them. *[THEY move to the MEN.]*

ZOLA They look like those two bailiffs we met earlier today.

GORGON Are you sure?

ZOLA Positive. I never forget a face, do I *[To the man.]?*

GORGON *[HER face is right in front of SNATCHIT.]* Now you come to mention it there is a slight resemblance.

ZOLA *[Staring straight at GRABBIT.]* Mind you, statues are never like the real thing. *[SHE pokes him as SHE speaks.]* The nose is always too big or the chest is never as broad. *[GRABBIT reacts when SHE is not looking at HIM.]*

- GORGON Although I wouldn't mind a life sized statue of *[Current pop idol.]*, preferably a working one. *[THEY move back down the stairs. SNATCHIT and GRABBIT start down the stairs and try to creep off.]*
- ZOLA The likeness is amazing though. *[THEY turn to look back at the MEN who freeze again.]*
- GORGON That's odd. I thought they were at the top. *[THEY continue down stage and the MEN move again. The SISTERS turn and the same thing happens.]*
- ZOLA Is it my imagination or have those statues moved?
- GORGON *[To the audience.]* Have you seen them move? *[SNATCHIT and GRABBIT both mimes to the audience to shout "no". THEY are now at the bottom of the stairs.]*
- ZOLA *[Going back to inspect GRABBIT.]* There's something fishy going on here, *[SHE turns to look at GORGON and a feather in HER headdress tickles GRABBIT'S nose.]* don't you think so Gorgon?
- GORGON Very fishy indeed. *[GRABBIT sneezes.]*
- ZOLA It's them!
- SNATCHIT Run for it! *[THEY dash off pursued by the SISTERS. The COMPANY starts to enter. Among them are CINDERELLA, PRINCE CHARMING and DANDINI.]*
- PRINCE *[Moving down stage with CINDERELLA.]* Princess Crystal, meeting you has made my birthday complete.
- CINDERS Your Royal Highness, being here tonight is a dream come true for me.
- PRINCE The more I look at you the more I'm sure we have met before.
- CINDERS How strange, I also feel our paths have crossed, although it wasn't a Prince I encountered . more a servant or equerry.
- PRINCE *[Suddenly puzzled.]* What was that? *[Before SHE can answer DANDINI crosses to the PRINCE.]*
- DANDINI Your Royal Highness. To celebrate the occasion of your birthday may we make a special presentation? *[There is a drum roll and a huge birthday cake is wheeled on. EVERYONE applauds. DANDINI takes a large knife from behind the cake and offers it to the PRINCE.]* Perhaps Your Highness would care to cut his birthday cake.
- PRINCE What a wonderful surprise. Thank you all very much. *[HE plunges the knife into the cake and there is a loud scream from inside. A false top opens and SNATCHIT and GRABBIT are seen inside. The SISTERS enter.]* What on earth?
- GORGON There they are! *[THEY make a dash for the cake and a chase starts. The cake falls apart and the MEN and the SISTERS are surrounded in the middle of the stage.]*

- DANDINI What is the meaning of this? How dare you behave like this in front of his Royal Highness? *[To the MAJOR DOMO.]* Have these persons ejected from the palace immediately.
- MAJOR DOMO Yes sir. *[Using his official stick HE pushes the four off stage. The SISTERS protesting all the way.]*
- PRINCE *[Laughing.]* I must say Dandini, you do come up with the most unusual surprises!
- DANDINI I apologise most sincerely your Highness.
- PRINCE No need. I think we all found it most amusing. And now I think it is time for more dancing.
- DANCE MUSIC
- [The dancing begins again. During the whole of this scene the clock has move on to just before twelve. As the dance reaches its climax the clock starts to chime midnight. On the first stroke the action freezes and the lights change to hold CINDERELLA in a spot. The FAIRY GODMOTHER appears.]*
- F G Cinderella, remember. At midnight the magic starts to fade.
- [SHE disappears and the lights change back. The music continues but CINDERELLA breaks from the PRINCE.]*
- PRINCE Princess Crystal, what is the matter?
- CINDERS I have to leave.
- PRINCE But you can't. I have so much to say to you.
- CINDERS *[Hearing the chimes nearing twelve.]* I must. Please don't try and stop me. *[SHE runs up the stairs and off as the last chime rings out. BUTTONS appears down stage left watching all that happens.]*
- PRINCE Dandini. Go after her. *[The dancing has now stopped as DANDINI runs up the stairs just in time to see a double in Cinderella's original dress run across the balcony and off. BUTTONS exits in a hurry.]*
- DANDINI *[From the top of the stairs.]* She's gone your Highness. There was no one up here except a scullery maid.
- PRINCE A scullery maid? *[For a moment HE is lost in thought.]* But I don't understand. How can she just disappear like that? I can't lose her so soon after first meeting her. Are you sure there's no sign of her Dandini?
- DANDINI None at all, Sir. *[Picking up a glass slipper from the stairs.]* But look at this. She seems to have left her slipper behind.
- PRINCE Bring it to me. *[DANDINI crosses to the PRINCE and hands him the slipper.]* A search of the entire land must be organised and I wish a royal proclamation to be issued. Let it be known that whomsoever this slipper fits shall be my

chosen bride. *[HE holds the slipper high as the lights fade and the scene changes to*

(There is an alternative to Scene 3 if you prefer to give any children in the company more to do. Please see Appendix 2 at the end of the script)

SCENE 3 ON THE WAY HOME

[The scene is the same front cloth as Act 1 Scene 3. The FAIRY GODMOTHER enters D R on the phone.]

- F G Yes boss, I know. Yes I did warn her about the twelve o'clock rule. Well love is blind. You know how it is. Oh, you don't know how it is. Anyway, I think she got out just in time. I'm waiting for my assistant to give me an update; he was there as the clock struck. Yes I'll keep an eye on things. Yes, I'll keep you informed. Bye. *[SHE puts phone away.]* Honestly, I wish these things had never been invented. *[BUTTONS comes racing on from down right.]*
- BUTTONS *[To the audience. Very much out of breath.]* How 're you? *[Audience reacts.]*
- F G Buttons, did you see what happened?
- BUTTONS *[Gasping for breath.]* She 's dancing 's the Prince 's clock 's twelve. She ran. The Prince 's looking for her! I ran 's coach 's horses 's all gone! Mice everywhere! Me 's here! *[HE collapses onto the stage.]*
- F G Oh dear, I hope she gets home before the others. Buttons, you must run back to the Hall as fast as you can. *[HE raises his head and looks at her aghast.]* Oh come on, you're a young man.
- BUTTONS *[Slowly getting up.]* And ageing fast!
- F G She'd need all the support she can get.
- BUTTONS If this is what it's like being a Fairy Godmothers assistant, I think I'd go back to being a general dogsbody.
- F G Come along, no dawdling.
- BUTTONS But Dot 's 's
- F G Our work isn't over yet. *[SHE pushes him off stage right and follows him off. SNATCHIT and GRABBIT enter left. THEY are back dressed in their usual clothes.]*
- SNATCHIT I don't know, what is going on today?
- GRABBIT What's happened to our fancy clobber?
- SNATCHIT I dunno. There was this blinding flash on the last stroke of midnight and we end up like this.
- GRABBIT Ever since we tried to evict old Hardup nothing has gone according to plan.

- SNATCHIT You're right. There have been a couple of weird things around here. *[The SISTERS enter.]*
- SISTERS You called?
- GRABBIT Oh no it's those two again. Haven't you caused enough trouble tonight?
- GORGON What do you mean 'caused enough trouble'?
- SNATCHIT Getting us thrown out of a Royal Ball.
- ZOLA So what? I've been thrown out of better places than that.
- GORGON Yes, the *[Name of local pub.]* for one. *[The BARON enters.]*
- BARON What happened to you two? I only went to spend a penny and when I got back you'd gone.
- ZOLA Oh step . . . popsie, there was no point in staying. Not a decent fella in sight.
- GORGON No. No one worthy of our attentions.
- BARON *[Smiling to himself.]* Yes. I noticed the Prince was very attentive to that Princess Crystal.
- ZOLA I can't think why. Such a pathetic little creature.
- GORGON Very pale. And so thin. Nothing but skin and bone.
- ZOLA Who was she anyway?
- BARON I've no idea. Although I couldn't help feeling I knew her from somewhere. And it was so odd how she suddenly disappeared from the ball.
- ALL Disappeared?
- BARON Yes. There was some disturbance; gatecrashers trying to wreck the ball someone said. *[The MEN and the SISTERS look away feigning innocence.]* Then it chimed midnight and the Princess disappeared.
- GORGON Ah ha! It was *her*. She was the gatecrasher.
- ZOLA Princess indeed. I bet she was nothing but a commoner trying to muscle in on the Prince.
- BARON Well whoever she is she's a very pretty girl. No wonder the Prince was smitten.
- GORGON Smitten? What nonsense. He was looking at me the whole time her was dancing with her.
- ZOLA Yes dear, he couldn't believe his eyes. It was me he was secretly waving to. I shall be expecting a note from the palace any day saying that he can't wait to see me again.

- BARON Who are you two kidding? The only girl for the Prince is that Princess Crystal. *[The SISTERS toss their heads in disgust.]* Anyway, I can't stop here all night; it's time we were all in bed.
- GORGON But step-popsie, the night is still young.
- ZOLA And we're still beautiful! *[THEY both make eyes at the MEN.]*
- BARON *[Looking at the SISTERS – with a shake of his head.]* I shall have to lay off the Jack Daniels! *[HE exits.]*
- GORGON Oh look Zola, we're all alone with the men of our dreams.
- ZOLA Where? *[GORGON nudges her.]* Oh yes. Hello boys.
- MEN Goodnight girls.
- GORGON *[Crossing with ZOLA to stop them leaving.]* Oh but you can't go yet. We need two big strapping lads to see us safely home.
- ZOLA And when we get home we'll invite you up to our boudoir for a night-cap.
- GRABBIT I don't drink.
- GORGON I've got a new waterbed.
- SNATCHIT I get seasick.
- ZOLA *[Getting annoyed.]* Oh you're all the same. I suppose you fancied that Princess Crystal as well.
- GRABBIT Ah, now you're talking.
- SNATCHIT What a girl.
- GORGON You men are such beasts!

QUARTET . GORGON, ZOLA, SNATCHIT AND GRABBIT

[At the end of the number the lights fade out and the scene change to

SCENE 4 THE KITCHEN

[It is next morning and CINDERELLA is sitting sadly at the table. SHE sings a short reprise of the Ballroom duet.]

SHORT REPRIS OF ACT 1 SONG (CINDERELLA)

[The BARON enters R. as she wipes away a tear.]

- BARON Good morning Cinders. I'm so sorry you missed the ball last night.

CINDERS Oh but I didn't.

BARON What?

CINDERS *[Catching herself.]* I mean Buttons and me had our own ball right here.

BARON Oh I see. It was quite an evening. There was this Princess who nobody had seen before. *[HE looks at her.]* She reminded me of someone, but I can't think who. She was a bit like - *[HE looks closer.]* No, these old eyes are playing me tricks.

CINDERS Well I'm glad you had a good time.

BARON It was all right I suppose, although your stepsisters were a handful. Quite an embarrassment at times.

GORGON *[Off.]* Cinderella!

ZOLA *[Off.]* Lazy girl. Where are you?

BARON Oh dear, here they come. I'm off. See you later Cinders. *[HE exits L.]*

CINDERS Poor father. If only I could tell him what really happened. *[CINDERELLA seems lost in thought as the SISTERS enter R.]*

GORGON Ah, there you are. Day dreaming as usual.

ZOLA Shirking your work again. Take that. *[SHE pushes CINDERELLA.]*

GORGON And that. *[SHE pushes her and CINDERELLA falls over.]*

ZOLA *[Putting a foot on CINDERELLA.]* And that .

GORGON *[Doing the same.]* . and that.

SISTERS And that.

CINDERS What are you doing?

GORGON Well you're our stepsister, aren't you?

ZOLA So we'd step on you! *[THEY both shriek with laughter as CINDERELLA moves away.]*

CINDERS What have I done?

GORGON Oh listen to her. "*What have I done*". What have you done? Nothing by the looks of things.

ZOLA This kitchen is a mess. And where's my breakfast? You know I can't start the day without my fruit and fibre and a piece of toast.

GORGON And a bottle of Guinness.

ZOLA And a bottle of . here, I don't drink Guinness first thing in the morning. It's half a cider if you must know!

GORGON *[To CINDERELLA.]* And why don't you tidy yourself up?

ZOLA Tidy yourself up.

GORGON Do something with your hair.

ZOLA Do something with your hair.

GORGON Put some make-up on.

ZOLA Put some make-up on.

GORGON Your face is plainer than hers is.

ZOLA Your face is plainer than mine is . here what do you mean, plainer than mine?

GORGON Well just look in the mirror dear. That first flush of youth did leave a number of years ago.

ZOLA I'd have you know this face is classic. It's got that lived in look.

GORGON Lived in? It's got squatters! *[CINDERELLA giggles at this.]*

ZOLA And what are you giggling at? You're an embarrassment to have around. You look such a drab little mess.

CINDERS *[Looking down at her plain dress.]* I don't. *[To the audience.]* Do I? *[The audience responds.]*

SISTERS Oh yes she does. *[This continues until BUTTONS comes running on from L.]*

BUTTONS *[To the audience.]* How are you? *[Response.]* Have you heard the news?

GORGON What news?

ZOLA What's going on?

BUTTONS The Prince is in the Town Square.

ZOLA I knew he'd come for me sooner or later.

GORGON In your dreams.

BUTTONS He's searching for the mysterious princess who disappeared from the ball last night. She left behind a glass slipper and he has declared that whomsoever it fits shall be his bride. *[The SISTERS gasp.]* He is visiting every house trying to find her.

GORGON *[Rushing to the door L and calling.]* Look no further Princey, I'm here.

ZOLA *[Pulling her away from the door.]* Out of the way fatso! *[SHE calls.]* It's my slipper; I knew I'd lost it somewhere. *[THEY exit squabbling and leaving the door open.]*

BUTTONS *[Quietly.]* It's yours, isn't it Cinders?

CINDERS Yes.

BUTTONS And when the Prince comes here, you'd try the slipper on and it'd fit. *[SHE nods.]* And then you'd marry him *[HE gets a little tearful.]* and become a Princess.

CINDERS Oh Buttons, aren't you happy for me?

BUTTONS No!

CINDERS Buttons.

BUTTONS Well yes, of course I am. But you'd leave here and forget all about me.

CINDERS Forget you? How could I ever forget you? You are my dearest friend. You will come and live at the palace.

BUTTONS Me? Live at the palace? Do you really mean it?

CINDERS Of course. If it hadn't been for all your help, I would never have been the Princess Crystal.

BUTTONS I'd go and pack right away.

CINDERS Buttons don't say anything to anyone just yet.

BUTTONS Don't worry Cinders; it'd be our secret. *[THEY exit R. The SISTERS slowly put their heads around the open door L. THEY have heard everything.]*

GORGON Cinderella. The Princess Crystal?

ZOLA I don't believe it. I just don't believe it! *[THEY move back into the kitchen.]*

GORGON But she can't be. I mean . how?

ZOLA We left her here. No dress - no invitation.

GORGON Oh sister dear, you know what this means. No Royal Prince for either of us.

ZOLA *[Thinking.]* Not necessarily.

GORGON What do you mean?

ZOLA When the Prince arrives he'd try the slipper on each lady in the house.

GORGON Yes.

ZOLA Each lady he sees.

GORGON Yes.

ZOLA So if a certain lady isn't around o o

GORGON o o she can't try it on o o

BOTH o o o and can't marry the Prince.

GORGON Oh at times Zola dear you just excel yourself.

ZOLA You're too kind.

GORGON *[Calling sweetly.] Cinderella. Could you possibly spare us a few moments?*
[CINDERELLA enters R.]

CINDERS Did you call me?

ZOLA Yes dear! Do you think you could give us a hand?

CINDERS What with?

GORGON That old room at the end of the East Wing. We thought we'd brighten it up a bit and we'd like your help.

CINDERS The East Wing? But no one ever goes there.

ZOLA Exactly. So they won't find the Princess Crystal locked up in there, will they?
[THEY grab CINDERELLA. One of them puts a hand over her mouth.]

GORGON Especially not the Prince. *[THEY drag her off. The FAIRY GODMOTHER enters from down right.]*

F G Oh dear, what a rush. Do you know I had such a late night I overslept this morning. Now has anything been happening? Have I missed anything?
[Audience responds.] What? Oh no! If the boss gets to hear about this I'll never get promotion. Now where is my assistant? Buttons! Buttons!
[BUTTONS enters with a suitcase.]

BUTTONS All packed. *[Sees the FAIRY GODMOTHER.]* Oh, hello Dot.

F G Buttons where have you been? Everything has gone horribly wrong.

BUTTONS No it hasn't. The Prince is on his way. He'll find Cinderella and they'll all live happily ever after.

F G Except he won't find her because those two stepsisters have locked her up somewhere.

BUTTONS What?

FANFARE

[Music is heard announcing the arrival of the PRINCE.]

F G I must make myself scarce.

- BUTTONS Can you work some magic and sort it out?
- F G Not until Cinderella has tried on the slipper and been reunited with the Prince. It's the rules of the Fairy Godmother business. Her fate now lies in your hands Buttons. *[SHE crosses and exits quickly D.R.]*
- BUTTONS Oh dear I shall have to move fast. *[HE crosses to the right door. It opens and the SISTERS enter followed by the BARON.]*
- GORGON And where do you think you are going?
- ZOLA The Prince is arriving and you must stay here in attendance.
- BUTTONS But õ õ õ *[There is a knock at the left door.]*
- BARON Open the door Buttons. *[BUTTONS opens the door and DANDINI enters.]*
- DANDINI His Royal Highness, Prince Charming. *[ALL bow and curtsey as the PRINCE enters. A FOOTMAN holding a royal blue cushion bearing the glass slipper follows him.]*
- PRINCE Good day to you all. I think you know why I'm here.
- GORGON You've found my slipper. So good of you to return it.
- ZOLA What do you mean ~~your~~ slipper? It's mine. Something as dainty as that could only be made for petite feet like mine.
- DANDINI His Highness has decreed that all the ladies in the land must try on the slipper until the one to whom it belongs is found.
- GORGON Look no further, you've found her.
- DANDINI If we could try it on.
- ZOLA You can try it on with me anytime!
- DANDINI Please!
- GORGON *[Sitting on a chair.]* Me first! Go on . slip on the slipper. *[DANDINI takes the slipper and kneels beside GORGON. SHE holds out her foot.]*
- DANDINI If you could remove you sock! *[GORGON starts to pull her sock off. It is enormous and in the end everyone is helping pull it off. BUTTONS has got the end and disappears off through the door. DANDINI tries to fit the slipper.]*
- GORGON There seems to be something stopping it going on.
- ZOLA Yes dear, they're called toes! Come on out of the way. It's my turn. I'm sure I can get my foot in the crystal slipper.
- GORGON All together now . you couldn't get your foot in the Crystal Palace! *[ZOLA sits and produces a false leg from beneath her dress. DANDINI fits the slipper.]*
- DANDINI It fits.

PRINCE What?

ZOLA It fits, it fits! I'm going to be a Princess. Where's my *tarara*.

DANDINI *[To the PRINCE.]* I'm sorry your Highness, but the slipper does fit.

GORGON Just a minute, this can't be right. *[Pointing to ZOLA'S legs.]* One leg is full of varicose veins and the other . *[SHE pulls off the false leg.]*

ALL Is false!

ZOLA Oh I haven't got a leg to stand on!

PRINCE Is that everyone in the house who attended the ball?

ZOLA Yes.

BARON I'm afraid so.

PRINCE Come along then Dandini, we must continue our search. *[THEY turn to go. DANDINI replaces the slipper on the cushion.]*

BUTTONS *[Off.]* Wait!

DANDINI What was that?

GORGON *[Standing in front of the right door.]* Nothing.

DANDINI I thought I heard a voice.

ZOLA *[Also standing in front of the right door.]* It's the woodworm. They do make such a noise munching away. *[There is a lot of banging on the door and then with a mighty push BUTTONS forces the door open and sends the SISTERS sprawling.]*

BUTTONS There is one more person who should try on the slipper. *[HE stands to one side and lets CINDERELLA enter.]*

PRINCE Cinderella!

BARON Yes your Highness, my daughter Cinderella.

PRINCE But could it be? My mysterious Princess?

DANDINI Would you please sit here and try on the slipper. *[CINDERELLA sits.]*

GORGON *[Aside.]* Oh it's going to fit, I just know it.

ZOLA *[Aside.]* Not if I've got anything to do with it. *[SHE bumps into the FOOTMAN and the cushion and slipper go flying into the wings. There is a sound of splintering glass.]* Oops . butterfingers!

BARON It's shattered into a million pieces.

DANDINI Now we'll never know if it fitted her.

BUTTONS But the slippers are Cinderella's. I saw her wearing them.

ZOLA Prove it.

CINDERS Wait. I can!

GORGON What? *[CINDERELLA runs off through the right door.]*

BARON Where is she going?

ZOLA To buy a tube of super glue I expect.

BUTTONS *[Looking off.]* She's coming back.

BARON She's coming back.

GORGON She's coming back.

ZOLA She's coming back.

DANDINI She's coming back.

CINDERS *[Entering.]* I'm back! *[SHE holds up the other slipper.]*

PRINCE The other slipper.

BUTTONS Try it on.

BARON Try it on.

SISTERS Try it on. *[THEY realise what they have said.]* No!! *[CINDERELLA sits and DANDINI fits the slipper.]*

PRINCE I've found you at last. *[CINDERELLA and the PRINCE embrace. The FAIRY GODMOTHER enters D.R. SHE is dressed as she was at the beginning.]*

F G Cinderella, you've finally found your Prince.

CINDERS Oh Godmother, thank you for everything. *[To the others.]* It was my Godmother who arranged it all.

SISTERS Godmother!!

PRINCE Well, I hope you're going to arrange that Cinderella never leaves my side again.

F G Your Royal Highness need not worry about that. She will be with you forever. Fairy Godmothers dot.com guarantees to give you a happy ending. But Cinderella, there's someone else who helped in all of this. *[SHE looks across at BUTTONS.]*

CINDERS Buttons, my own darling Buttons. Thank you. *[SHE kisses him on the cheek.]*

BUTTONS Oh! *[HE collapses into the arms of the SISTERS and looks up at them.]* Ugh! *[HE stands quickly.]* And what about these two? They did everything they could to stop Cinderella finding happiness.

DANDINI And they tried to obstruct your Royal Highness.

BARON And they've been a pain in the backside ever since I laid eyes on them. *[The SISTERS fall to their knees.]*

GORGON Oh mercy. We didn't mean it.

BARON Then why did you do it?

ZOLA Because we hated her for being so beautiful .

BARON And?

GORGON - and we're so o o o

BUTTONS Go on . say it.

SISTER Ugly!! *[They cry very loudly.]*

CINDERS I forgive you. I'm so happy I couldn't be angry with anyone.

GORGON *[Standing.]* Oh thank you.

ZOLA *[Also standing.]* We'll never do anything like it again, we promise.

PRINCE I will also pardon you for what you have done . on one condition.

SISTERS Anything.

PRINCE That from this day on you will attend Cinderella and do everything she commands.

SISTERS Oh we will, we will! *[At this point the left door opens and SNATCHIT and GRABBIT enter. THEY don't notice the PRINCE.]*

SNATCHIT All right Hardup, your time is up.

GRABBIT Pay up, Hardup, or everything goes, Hardup!

DANDINI What seems to be the trouble here?

SNATCHIT He's hard up!

GRABBIT A little matter of fifteen years rent arrears.

DANDINI Oh is that all? *[HE snaps his fingers and the FOOTMAN produces a chequebook.]* Will a cheque from the Royal Household do?

SNATCHIT/GRABBIT Eh? *[THEY turn and see the PRINCE.]* Oh! *[THEY collapse into the arms of the SISTERS who hang on to them.]*

- GORGON They've fallen for us at last!
- ZOLA Once more into their breeches dear friends, once more!
- SNATCHIT/
GRABBIT Ugh!!
- F G Well, finally everything seems to have been taken care of. Now all I have to do is report in. *[SHE takes out her mobile phone and as SHE dials, exits D R.]*

REPRISE - PRINCE, CINDERELLA AND OTHERS

[THEY sing a short reprise of their Act 1 duet or the PRINCES' first song with the others on stage providing a vocal backing. At the end of the number the lights fade and the scene changes to ...

SCENE 5 BEFORE THE WEDDING

[The scene can be played on tabs, a cloth or the gauze. The gauze is effective to bleed through at the end of the scene into the finale.

Any combination of characters can take part in this scene. BUTTONS usually does the song sheet with either the BARON or DANDINI, but with the involvement of the FAIRY GODMOTHER an effective alternative is to use her and BUTTONS. The format can be left up to the performers and the director. If the FAIRY GODMOTHER and BUTTONS are used the following dialogue could start the scene.]

- F G Oh boys and girls I'm so excited. I've just heard that I've passed my exam and I'm now a grade 4 Fairy Godmother. *[Audience reaction.]* And because of the Cinderella result business is booming. The chief is so pleased that he has decided to advertise on the TV and the internet! He's also asked me to come up with a TV jingle! Isn't that wonderful? Would you like to hear it? *[Audience reaction.]* OK. Here goes.

SONG SHEET

(Please note: If you wish to use this song the music is available from NODA)

When a secret wish you're hoping for
Is far from coming true.
Don't delay, call right away,
Fairy Godmother is for you.

[SHE sings the song. BUTTONS enters and joins her and they decide it would be fun to have a backing group and invite some children out of the audience onto the stage. The SONG SHEET sequence then follows at the end of which they wave goodbye to the audience and the lights fade or bleed through to the finale.]

SCENE 6 THE PALACE BALLROOM

[The CHORUS and DANCERS are on and perform a short dance to start the finale. THEY all come down stage and bow. The PRINCIPALS then take their calls in the following order.]

SNATCHIT AND GRABBIT
 BARON HARDUP
 DANDINI
 FAIRY GODMOTHER
 GORGON AND ZOLA
 BUTTONS

FANFARE

PRINCE AND CINDERELLA

[ALL take a company bow.]

DANDINI And so at last our story ends

BUTTONS With everyone the best of friends.

SNATCHIT Weqe back to work with jobs to do,

GRABBIT While keeping clear of you know who! *[Pointing to SISTERS.]*

BARON My bills are paid and what is more
 I have a royal son-in-law!

GORGON With no Prince for us the future\$ bleak,

ZOLA Hey . *[Name of man in audience.]* - are you free next week?

PRINCE *[To CINDERELLA.]* With you beside me everythings\$ all right.

F G So all that remains is to say . *[HER phone rings.]* Oh not again!!

ALL Goodnight.

FINAL NUMBER

CURTAIN

APPENDIX 1

Alternative end to Act 1 Scene 5

This can be used if you prefer not to have a messy make-up scene but a comic strip routine and song by the Sisters. This sequence doesn't require dressing table but instead two screens.

- GORGON And she's got work to do. *[To ZOLA.]* Come along dear, we can't waste any more time. We've got to make ourselves beautiful for the ball. *[THEY cross towards their screens R & L.]*
- BUTTONS It's tonight you know, not in a month's time! *[The SISTERS toss their heads and go behind the screens.]* Are you sure you're all right? *[CINDERELLA nods, wiping away a tear.]* Why don't we pop down to the kitchen and have a nice cup of tea.
- CINDERS Thank you, Buttons. I do love you. *[SHE kisses him on the cheek and exits.]*
- BUTTONS *[Reeling.]* Oh, if only she meant it for real. *[HE follows her off. The SISTERS re-enter wearing dressing gowns.]*
- GORGON Oh all that to-do has quite upset me. I don't know if I've got the strength to get ready.
- ZOLA Oh of course you have.
- GORGON It's that wretch, Cinderella. She gets me so wound up. *[GORGON starts hyperventilating.]*
- ZOLA Now now dear, calm down. Don't upset yourself. Come on now, nice big breaths.
- GORGON *[To the man in the audience.]* I've got nice big breaths, haven't I *[Name.]?*
- ZOLA That's right, now just relax and imagine you're floating ò ò . floating.
- GORGON *[Almost in a trance and then panics.]* Help, help!
- ZOLA What is it?
- GORGON I can't swim!
- ZOLA Oh really ò ò
- GORGON I'm sorry Zola. It's that Cinderella. She really gets up my nose. I hate her. I loathe her.
- ZOLA I know. But all that is going to change. We're going to get rid of her.
- GORGON Yes, we're going to get rid of her because she's so ugly and we're so beautiful, aren't we? *[Audience reacts again.]*
- ZOLA Oh shut up you lot! You're just jealous because we're young and gorgeous.

GORGON Yes, and to stay looking young and gorgeous there's one thing to remember .

DUET - SISTERS

[During the number they do exercises and aerobic moves. Toward the end the music become strong and rhythmic and THEY go into a strip routine. This can end any way that the actors or director chooses. As the number finishes, the lights black out and the scene changes to

Pick up in the script at Act 1 Scene 6

APPENDIX 2

Alternative to Act 2 Scene 3

This scene can replace the scene in the script if you prefer to use children in the company.

SCENE 3 THE STREET

[The scene is the same front cloth as Act 1 Scene 3. The FAIRY GODMOTHER enters D R on the phone.]

F G Yes boss, I know, but I don't think last night was a complete disaster. Yes I did warn her about the twelve o'clock rule. Well love is blind. You know how it is. Oh, you don't know how it is. Anyway, I think she got out just in time. I'm waiting for my assistant to give me an update; he was there as the clock struck. Yes I'll keep an eye on things. Yes, I'll keep you informed. Bye. *[SHE puts phone away.]* Honestly, I wish these things had never been invented. *[BUTTONS enters left.]*

BUTTONS *[To the audience.]* How are you? *[Audience reacts.]*

F G Buttons, tell me everything that happened last night?

BUTTONS Oh you're not going to believe it!

F G Tell me . and quickly!

BUTTONS Quickly? Right, here goes. *[HE says the next part in one breath.]* We got there and everyone dancing around. Prince very charming, Sisters a pain in the you know where as usual. Cinderella arrives. Meets fancy Dandy, only he's not fancy Dandi, he's the Prince. They dance. Clock strikes twelve. She ran. The Prince looking for her! I ran. Coach o horses o all gone! Mice everywhere! I looked for her. Nowhere in sight. Ran home. It started to rain. Got soaked to the skin. Thoroughly cheesed off and want to resign as Fairy Godmother's assistant! *[HE gasps for breath.]*

F G But you can't. Cinderella needs you now more than ever. Oh come on, you're a young man.

BUTTONS *[Still out of breath.]* And ageing fast!

F G I need to think what to do next. Go back to the hall and whatever you do, don't let Cinderella out of your sight. *[SHE exits.]*

BUTTONS Ohh, she's getting as bossy as those two sisters!

[The CHILDREN enter.]

1st CHILD Hello Buttons.

BUTTONS Hello kids.

2nd CHILD Did you have a great time at the ball last night?

BUTTONS Well it was different!

3rd CHILD I wish I was old enough to go to the ball.

BUTTONS They'll be plenty of time for balls and parties when you are older!

NUMBER . BUTTONS AND CHILDREN

[At the end of the number the lights fade out and the scene change to

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(Pick up in the script at Act 2 Scene 4)