

"CINDERELLA"

Written by
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(2013 update by Peter Long)

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"Cinderella"

CHARACTERS

Cinderella.....A Poor Down-Trodden Girl
Baroness Harduppeõ õ õ õ õ .Cinderella's Wicked Step-Mother
Baron Harduppe.....õ õCinderella's Father
Begonia
õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ Cinderella's Ugly Step- Sisters
Wisteria
Buttons.....The Page at Harduppe Manor
Prince Charming.....Principal Boy
Dandini.....The Princes Valet
Pewer
& õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ .Two Neer Do Wells
Simpal
King William
õ õ õ õ õ õ õ Parents of Prince Charming
Queen Kate
The Fairy Godmother.....A Kindly Immortal

Also Featuring

Dancers
Sunbeams
Chorus

Character Descriptions

1: Cinderella:

(Female) Title role and Principal Girl. Cinderella is the down trodden young daughter of Baron Harduppe. Such a sweet and pretty girl she is treated as a slave by her wicked step-mother and her two step-sisters who make her life a misery at harduppe manor.

2: Baron Harduppe:

(Male) Cinderella's father, a rather pompous and full of his own importance type of character. He sees how his second wife treats Cinderella but does little to help. When he is in the company of his wife or her daughters he is reduced to a cringing wreck ..If only he would stick up for his own!

3: Baroness Harduppe:

(Female) The villain of the pantomime. Her evil ways are mostly directed at Cinderella, whilst she sees no wrong in her own two wicked ugly daughters. She twists the Baron around her little finger and often reduces poor Cinderella to tears.

4 & 5: Begonia and Wisteria Harduppe:

(Both Male) These characters are the dual Dames and Ugly Sister+roles. The grotesque and utterly unbearable step-sisters of Cinderella. The sisters tease and bully our poor heroine and set their sights on the visiting Prince Charming and his valet Dandini with comic results.

6: Buttons:

(Male) This is the comic lead. Buttons is the page at Harduppe Manor and the only one to stick up for Cinderella. Poor Buttons is also down trodden by the Harduppe family, but with his chirpy ways he helps Cinders to keep smiling and eventually helps her to overcome her misery.

7: Prince Charming:

(Female) Principal Boy. The Prince has travelled the country looking for a suitable bride, just when he thinks his search has been in vain he stumbles across the village of Stoneybroke and eventually meets the lovely Cinderella.

8: Dandini:

(Female) The Prince's equerry. Ever at the Prince's side Dandini is more of a friend of the Prince than his servant. He helps the Prince woo the fair Cinderella, whilst warding off the advances from the gruesome ugly sisters.

9 & 10: Pewer and Simpal:

(Both Male) Two near do wells These are the Brokers Men+type roles. Pewer is the more dominant of the pair and thinks he has the upper hand, but Simpal keeps bringing him down to earth. Their schemes do not go entirely to plan and their punishment is being paired off with the Ugly Sisters.

11: King William:

(Male) Prince Charming's father. Keen to marry off his only son he is delighted when the Prince finds a suitable girl, however, his snobbish side shines through when he discovers that Cinderella is a servant girl.

12: Queen Kate:

(Female) The Prince's mother. She is the ultimate snob, she wants her son to marry into other Royalty. She is not at all impressed with the Harduppe family and has to reluctantly invite them to the Royal ball.

13: Fairy Godmother:

(Female) Cinderella's saviour. A kind character, she appears on the scene when poor Cinderella is at her lowest. With her magic she ensures Cinderella's happiness and helps good conquer evil.

"Cinderella"

SCENES

ACT 1

Scene 1 õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ ..õ õ +The Village+

Scene 2 õ õ õ õ õ ..õ õ õ õ +The Enchanted Forest+

Scene 3 õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ ...+Harduppe Manor+

Scene 4 õ õ õ õ õ õ õ ..õ õ õ +The Summer Fete+

Scene 5 õ õ õ õ õ ..õ õ õ õ .. +Cinderella's Kitchen+

Scene 6 õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ ..õ õ ..õ +Off to the Ball+

INTERVAL

ACT 2

Scene 1 õ õ õ õ õ õ ..õ õ õ õ õ õ +The Royal Ball+

Scene 2 õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ +The Haunted Room+

Scene 3 õ õ õ õ õ õ +Harduppe Manor (Day Break)

Scene 4 õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ ..+Song Sheet+

SCENE 5 õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ ..+The Royal Wedding+

Walkdown

Grand Finale

OVERTURE.....THEN CURTAIN
ENTER FAIRY GODMOTHER STAGE RIGHT ON TABS

FAIRY GODMOTHER:

I am the pantomime immortal
And I'm here to help a dear sweet girl
It won't be easy but I'll do all I can..
As the story to you will unfurl.

All pantomimes need someone like me
To be the Panto story teller.
And tonight I have an important role...
As Fairy Godmother to poor Cinderella

Cinderella's deprived of the nice things in life...
The kind of things that young girls desire.
Pretty dresses and perfume and bows for her hair...
For all the young men to admire.

And so with the powers that I'm blessed with...
With magic, some old and some new
And I may have to ask for your help as well...
To make Cinderella's dreams all come true

EXIT FAIRY GODMOTHER STAGE LEFT

TABS OPEN FOR.....

ACT 1....SCENE 1...."THE VILLAGE"

....MUSICAL ITEM No 1....A LIVELY OPENING ROUTINE FEATURING DANCERS,
SUNBEAMS, CHORUS AND SOME PRINCIPALS INCLUDING BUTTONS.....AFTER
ROUTINE ALL STAY ON STAGE MIMING CONVERSATION IN GROUPS WITH
CROSSOVERS....BUTTONS COMES FORWARD...HE IS CARRYING A LONG
HANDLED DUST PAN AND BRUSH

BUTTONS:

(TO AUDIENCE)...Hello everybody!...welcome to Stoneybroke Village...my
name's Buttons...I'm the Page up at Harduppe Manor...Harduppe and Stoneybroke
eh?...that just shows you how things are around here!!... poor!!?...and what with all these
Government cuts things are really badō we had a burglary at the Manor last week someone
broke in and left an iPhone and a laptop.. it's a pity they haven't been invented yet nobody
knows what to do with 'emō and we've got to economise on mealsō at breakfast I have to
eat my cornflakes with a fork..it's true!... it saves a lot on milk... but we did have a square
meal last Sundayō have you ever tried to carve an Oxo cube?... Mrs Miggins at the village
shop keeps giving me some sweets so I put 'em in here (HOLDS UP SHOPPING BAG) I
save them for a special occasionō I'll tell you what I'll probably be safer if I hang it up here
(HANGS UP THE BAG AT SUITABLE POSITION STAGE LEFT)ō then you lot can keep your
eye on itō if anybody goes near the bag I want you all to shout Buttons!ō will you do that?...
lets have a practiceō (INTO PRACTICE BIZ)ō

Continued:

ō .That's great cause I don't trust that lot up at the Manor... my boss the Baron is alright I supposeō it's his new wife that's the problem!... her and her two daughters Begonia and Wisteria!... talk about ugly.. when they suck on a lemon the lemon pulls a faceō but there is someone at the Manor who's really special to me!... can you guess who it is? (AUDIENCE REACT BY SHOUTING CINDERELLA)ō yes that's right the *Baron's* daughterō how on earth did you know that?.. I think you've been here beforeō lovely sweet Cinderellaō I love her!!ō and the next time I see her I'm going to tell her!... Anyway...the Baroness has volunteered *me* to keep Stoneybroke tidy...as though I haven't enough to do!!!..(HE MAKES AS IF TO SWEEP UP LITTER)

VILLAGER:

Hey Buttons...you've missed some litter over here!...(THE CHORUS MISCHIEVOUSLY KICK AROUND SOME LITTER WHILST BUTTONS TRIES TO SWEEP IT UP TO MUCH LAUGHTER ENTER CINDERELLA STAGE LEFT REAR)

CINDERS:

(CROSS TO VILLAGERS)...Hey you lot!!!...stop teasing Buttons...he's my friend!

BUTTONS:

Thank you Cinderella, I'm glad somebody is on my side!... oh and by the way Cinderella there's something that I want to say to youō .. (WINKS TO AUDIENCE)

CINDERS:

Well what is it Buttons?

BUTTONS:

I want to tell you thatō (LOSES HIS BOTTLE)lō . I loō loō I er

CINDERS:

(GIGGLY) Oh Buttonsō you're so funny!...

BUTTONS:

Yesō that's it!... I loveō erō the way you laugh at me!...

BUTTONS ATTEMPTS TO SPEAK ROMANTICALLY TO CINDERS AMUSES OTHERS AROUND THEMō ENTER PRINCE AND DANDINI FRONT RIGHT UN-NOTICED BY OTHERS

DANDINI:

Well...Stoneybroke is certainly a happy village your Highness.

PRINCE:

Indeed it is Dandini...how is it that we have never visited this area before??.

DANDINI:

I didn't know the place existed sire...it was in a fold on the map...as a matter of fact, we came across it quite by accident! ...I must say sire, that on our many travels around the Kingdom in search for a suitable bride for yourself, this must be the only place left!

BARONESS:

(VOICE OFF CALLING)... Cinderella!... Cinderella!! ...where are you??!...there's work to be done!.

AT THE SOUND OF THE BARONESS THE VILLAGERS QUICKLY DISPERSE

BUTTONS:

Quick Cinders, it's your wicked Step-Mother the Baroness, come on let's leave with the others and she won't see you.

CINDERELLA EXITS WITH THE OTHERS INCLUDING BUTTONS

PRINCE:

As you were saying Dandini, Stoneybroke is a happy place...but there does seem to be strange goings on!...and who was that beautiful young girl?.

DANDINI:

Young girl sire?

PRINCE:

Yes, Cinderella...someone called her name and she ran off....she's quite the most prettiest girl I've ever seen.!

DANDINI:

Sorry sire, I didn't see her!...but surely we must now get back to the village stables and collect our horses.

PRINCE:

Yes I know...and it's back to the Palace...the King and Queen will be asking if I've found a bride yet...it's all very tiresome!!.

DANDINI:

Well you must admit sire...you have met some very nice girls on this trip.

PRINCE:

Yes I know...but they all stand and stare at me...or curtsy and bow...as if I was....

DANDINI:

(INTERRUPTING)...As if you were Royalty!...but sire...you are Royalty...and there is nothing you can do about that!.

PRINCE:

(AS IF THINKING)...Maybe there is something that I can do about it Dandini...you're not Royalty, are you?.

DANDINI:

Why no sire I am your humble servant... (BOWS) a commoner!.

PRINCE:

And there lies the answer!...you and I Dandini will change identities!.

DANDINI:

Oh all right...(THEN REALISES)...what!!!...you mean that you will be a humble valet...and I a Royal Prince!!.

PRINCE:

Got in it one old chap!...at least whilst we are away from the Palace...it's simple, I can't understand why I didn't think of it before!.

DANDINI:

(CONCERNED)...Now just a minute your Highness...I can't be you...I can't act like a Prince!

PRINCE:

Nonsense!...we grew up together Dandini...you know more about Royal protocol than I do... and stop calling me "Your Royal Highness"...from now on I am just plain old Dandini!!

DANDINI:

Do you really think that I could be you your Highness...er...I mean...Dandini!.

PRINCE:

Of course!...you're getting into the role already sire... come, let us return to the Palace...(HE MAKES TO LEAVE FIRST)

DANDINI:

(STOPS PRINCE)...Er...just one moment please!...Royalty first!...(HE JOKINGLY BRUSHES PASSED THE PRINCE...THEN AS HE IS ABOUT TO EXIT HE SEES THE SHOPPING BAG)...and what have we here then?... (AUDIENCE REACT)

ENTER BUTTONS TO AUDIENCE RESPONSE

BUTTONS:

Good day to you both!...can I be of assistance? ...Buttons is the name...I'm Page to the Harduppe family.

DANDINI:

Then you're just the fellow that we are looking for, isn't he Dandini?.

PRINCE:

Is he...er...your Highness?.

BUTTONS:

(STUNNED)...Your Hi...h...h...Highness!!!...(THEN TONGUE TIED)...you mean you're Prince Varmin and his *Chalet*?.

DANDINI:

Actually Prince *Charming* and his *Valet*.

BUTTONS:

(TONGUE TIED)...Sat's what I *thaid*...er...I mean...

DANDINI:

(INTERRUPTING)...It's quite all right Buttons...I realise it must make you nervous being in the presence of Royalty... (PUTS ON REGAL AIR)

PRINCE

(ASIDE TO DANDINI)...I say old boy...don't over do it!!.

DANDINI:

(TO BUTTONS)...You say you work up at Harduppe Manor my man?... (BUTTONS NODS).. .then please extend our apologies to the Baron and Baroness Harduppe, and tell them we are unable to visit then today owing to our schedule over running somewhat... come Dandini.we must collect our horses and return to the Palace!.(DANDINI EXITS)

BUTTONS:

(MAKING SURE THE "PRINCE" HAS LEFT)...A bit much some of these Royals, aren't they?...not a lot of time for 'em myself....what do you say Dandini?.

PRINCE:

What??...er...oh no...me neither...by the way Buttons, didn't I see you earlier with a rather beautiful young girl?...would her name be Cinderella!??

BUTTONS:

Ah yes...that's right, my sweet little Cinders.

PRINCE:

Your sweet little Cinders?...you mean?...

BUTTONS:

What?...oh no...she is like my little sister I suppose (BIG SIGH)...she'll be collecting flowers at the edge of the forest...we'll be passing near by... you'll probably see her again.

PRINCE:

Oh good!...I would very much like to meet her.

DANDINI RE-ENTERS

DANDINI:

Come along you two...you servants are all alike...always idling your time away gossiping... Dandini!, you have my horse to saddle...and you Buttons have a message to deliver to the Baron and Baroness Harduppe!.

PRINCE AND BUTTONS EXIT BOWING DANDINI FOLLOWS THEM AS THE PRINCE AND WITH A REGAL FLOURISHō . ENTER THE BARONESS

BARONESS:

(CALLING) Begonia!!...Wisteria!!...where are you my precious little cherubs??

ENTER BARON HARDUPPE HER MEEK HUSBAND

BARON:

No sign of them dear...are they here?.

BARONESS:

(NASTY)...Does it look as if they're here!!....they will still be at the beauticians...don't forget Prince Charming is paying us a visit...*you* would do well to smarten yourself up...and behave like nobility...don't forget, you're Baron Harduppe...it will be quite obvious to the Prince that *I* am the Baroness and that *my* daughters are suitable as prospective brides!!

BARON:

Oh well in that case, did my daughter Cinderella go to the beauticians?.

BARONESS:

(HORRIFIED)...What!!!??...Cinderella at the beauticians?...they can't work miracles!!...besides, she hasn't finished unblocking the drains yet!.

BARON:

That doesn't seem fair ...your daughters at the beauticians and my daughter cleaning the drains!!.

BARONESS:

Nonsense!...they are all treated the same!...it is just that Cinderella is so adaptable!!.

BARON:

(TIMID)...Er...yes dear...what ever you say!.

BARONESS:

Now come along, let us make ready for the Prince's visit....(SHE SEES SHOPPING BAG BUT DOESN'T APPROACH IT YET) ..I thought I told Buttons to keep Stoneybroke tidy...so what is this Old Bag doing here??!

BARON:

(SLOWLY TURNS TO LOOK AT THE AUDIENCE)...It's a question I ask myself every day!!

BARONESS: What's that you say?.

BARON: I said, ò Leave it to me ò I'll take it away ò

BARONESS:

No!, I'll sort it out myself...(SHE APPROACHES THE BAG...AUDIENCE SHOUT FOR BUTTONS)

ENTER BUTTONS

BUTTONS:

Oh it's you your Baronessness!.

BARONESS:

I thought I told you to keep Stoneybroke tidy!!...what's this old bag doing here?.

BUTTONS SLOWLY LOOKS AT AUDIENCE AND MAKES AS IF TO SPEAK

BARON:

(STOPS HIM)...I shouldn't go there if I were you Buttons!!.

BUTTONS:

Don't worry Baroness, I was just going to move it.

BARONESS:

Good!...see that you do!... (TO BARON)ò now come along you silly man ò

BUTTONS:

(AS THEY MAKE TO EXIT)...Oh by the way...I've to give you a message.

BARONESS:

(SNAPS)...Well???!!!

BUTTONS:

Er....I can't remember it!.

BARONESS:

Really!...I'm surrounded by idiots!....

EXIT BARONESS AND BARON...FOLLOWED BY BUTTONS SCRATCHING HIS HEAD AS IF TRYING TO THINK OF MESSAGE

TABS CLOSEō ENTER BEGONIA

BEGONIA:
(CALLING)...Come along Wisteria!

ENTER WISTERIA

WISTERIA:
Coming Begonia dear!.

BOTH SISTERS ARE WEARING OUTRAGEOUS COSTUMES

BEGONIA:
(REFERRING TO AUDIENCE)...Oh I say Wisteria, we've got company!.

WISTERIA: Ooooh yes...it's a good job we've been to the beauticians...(TO AUDIENCE PREENING)...can you tell?.

BEGONIA:
Who said no!!?... (PEERING INTO AUDIENCE)... It's a fact that beauty comes from within!

WISTERIA:
(SARCASTIC)ō Yes!...in your case from within bottles.. jarsō tubesō

BEGONIA:
You've got some room to talk using Polyfilla for your foundation!!

WISTERIA:
Oh sister dear...you know why we went to the beauticians, don't you?.

BEGONIA:
Yes...it was *two* for the price of one!!.

WISTERIA:
I know that, but I overheard ma-ma telling step-father that Prince Charming may be dropping in for tea!.

BEGONIA:
Oh yes...our first *brush* with Royalty!.

WISTERIA:
It'll be the brush *off* for you dear...but *I* will sweep him off his feet, because it's well known that the Prince Charming is searching for a *beautiful* bride!!.

BEGONIA:
Yes indeed...and when the Prince had *made* his choice... *you* sister dear can be my bridesmaid!... (THEY START TO SQUABBLE THEN INTO)

....MUSICAL ITEM No 2 FEATURING THE UGLY SISTERS WHO ARE JOINED BY THE DANCERS....AFTER ROUTINE DANCERS EXIT ENTER BUTTONS ON TABS UNSEEN BY THE UGLY SISTERS

BUTTONS:

(TO AUDIENCE AND INDICATES)...That's them... Cinderella's step-sisters Begonia and Wisteria...Ann Widdecombe and Nanny McFee...oh, and by the way...Wisteria is the *prettier* one!!!...work that one out if you can!!!

WISTERIA:

(SEE BUTTONS)...Ah there you are Buttons...have you finished cleaning the windows?

BUTTONS:

No...but when I've done 'em they will be up to my usual standard ... they'll sparkle...you'll be able to see your face in them...not that *you* two would want to see your face in them!!!

BEGONIA

(OFFENDED)...I *beg* you pardon!!!...Wisteria and I have just returned from the beauticians!

BUTTONS:

Were they shut?

WISTERIA: (IGNORING HIM)

We're gone for the girl next door look.

BUTTONS:

Yes I can see that!...(TO AUDIENCE)...We live next door to the zoo!!!

BEGONIA:

(AS SHE HITS BUTTONS WITH HER HANDBAG)... Watch it mush!!...anyway Buttons, Wisteria and I haven't time to dally with the likes of you.

WISTERIA:

Noõ we have to go and try on our latest Westwood collection!...

BUTTONS:

(ASIDE TO AUDIENCE) Westwood?!... more like Eastwoodõ Clint Eastwood!!

WISTERIA:

When ever Begonia and I are down in the dumps we treat ourselves to a new dress.

BUTTONS:

Down in the dumps eh?... I wondered where you got them from!

BEGONIA:

Watch it Buttonsõ Iõ have you know that *most* our clothes are from the top design houses in Milan.

WISTERIA:

Yes, even these day clothes of ours are from the top Italian designer *Driclioni*!!.

BUTTONS:

Get away with you!...Driclioni!!???

BEGONIA:

It's true...look at the label at the back of my collar!

BUTTONS:

(LOOKS CLOSELY AT COLLAR)...Dricioni????...it says here "Dry Clean Only"!!!

WISTERIA:

Oh what do you know about fashion Buttons!!?

BEGONIA:

Philistine!!!.

WISTERIA:

Isn't that our *German* designer dear?.

BEGONIA:

Who?.

WISTERIA:

Phyllis Stein!.

BEGONIA: Er...yes, come along dear...Prince Charming will be waiting for me!!.

THEY EXIT SQUABBLING

BUTTONS:

(TO AUDIENCE)...Ah yes...*that's* what I keep forgetting to tell them...the Prince *won't* be calling...oh well, won't they be disappointed?

BUTTONS EXITS GLEEFULLYō TABS OPEN FOR....

ACT 1....SCENE 2...."THE ENCHANTED FOREST"

ENTER FAIRY GODMOTHER

FAIRY GODMOTHER:

I'm here waiting for Dear Cinderella...
My advice I'm sure she will need.
She has to be wary of certain people
Of that I'm sure we've agreed.

(LOOKS OFF) Hush now!...Cinderella's approaching...
Now this is the start of my plan.
I'll pretend to be an old lady for a moment...
So she doesn't yet know who I am!

SHE GLANCES TO WHERE CINDERELLA IS TO ENTER THEN SHE EXITS

ENTER CINDERELLA WITH SUNBEAMS

CINDERS:

(TO SUNBEAMS AS THEY EACH HAND HER A FLOWER)...Thank you children...you've picked some lovely flowers for me, you've been a big help...the Baroness wants the Manor to look as colourful as possible for the Prince's visitō .you've made me so happy.

....MUSICAL ITEM No 3....FEATURING CINDERELLA AND THE SUNBEAMS....AFTER ROUTINE....

CINDERS:

Off you go now children...and thank you once again for your help.

SUNBEAMS SAY GOOD-BYE TO CINDERELLA AND EXIT

CINDERS:

(TALKING TO HERSELF)...I suppose I had better be getting back to Harduppe Manor...at least we've some nice flowers for the Baroness ...although she'll say she doesn't like them!...she never likes *anything* I do...oh how I wish that the flowers were for me...a gift from a handsome Prince.... (SHE PLAY ACTS AS THOUGH PRETENDING TO TALK TO SOMEONE)thank you...tell his Highness that the flowers are very nice...but I'm afraid I must decline his offer of dinner this evening, I have a *full* social diary for *many* weeks ahead.... (UNSEEN BY CINDERELLA... ENTER FAIRY GODMOTHER AS AN OLD LADY DRESSED IN CLOAK AND HOODCINDERELLA CONTINUES PLAY ACTING)...and now, if you will excuse me I have to call on my personal dressmaker and pick up several gowns and select one for tonight's ball....(SHE TURNS AND SEES THE FAIRY GODMOTHER....THEN EMBARRASSED)...oh! ..I'm terribly sorry...me, talking to myself like that...I don't usually....

FAIRY GM:

(INTERRUPTING)...It's all right my dear...I *often* talk to myself.

CINDERS:

Oh dear...is it the loneliness?.

FAIRY GM:

No... sometimes *I'm* the only one who~~d~~ listen ...but I'm sure that *you* will listen to me, won't you dear?.

CINDERS:

Yes, of course I will...but what on earth are you doing out here in forest all alone?.

FAIRY GM:

I'm afraid that I'm lost...my eyesight isn't what it was, and I think I took a wrong turning somewhere.. .could you direct me to the village my dear?.

CINDERS:

Why yes...it's back in that direction, from where you came...*I'm* going to Harduppe Manor myself...I'll walk some of the way with you if you like...(SHE MAKES AS IF TO GO WITH FAIRY GM)

FAIRY GM:

No no my dear, I'll be all right...you pick some more of those beautiful flowers.

CINDERS:

They are beautiful, aren't they?.

FAIRY GM:

They are indeed beautiful...and yet, the most beautiful flowers in the world could *never* match your beauty my dear...nothing could have more beauty than the fair *Cinderella*...good-bye my dear, and thank you.

EXIT FAIRY GODMOTHER

CINDERS:

(LOOKS TO WHERE THE FAIRY GM EXITS)...Good-bye...(THEN TO HERSELF)...I never even asked her name.....ENTER PRINCE AND DANDINI UNSEEN BY CINDERELLA.... and yet she knew *my* name...how strange...I wonder who...(SHE TURNS AND IS CONFRONTED BY THE PRINCE AND DANDINI...SHE GASPS AND DROPS HER FLOWERS ... THE PRINCE PICKS THEM UP FOR HER) ...Oh!!!...I'm so sorry...you see, there was this old lady, and she had lost her way, and I was just thinking out aloud...I wasn't really talking to myself... you see....

PRINCE:

(INTERRUPTING)...Please don't apologise...we should be the one's to apologise...for startling you like that!.

DANDINI:

Yes...we were just taking a short cut through the forest when we heard voices, so we came over to see who it was.

PRINCE:

Forgive me for asking...but, isn't your name Cinderella?.

CINDERS:

Yes it is...first the old lady knew my name...and now *you* sir...how could that be?.

PRINCE:

Well, I don't know about the old lady, but we saw you earlier, down in the village...then you ran off.

CINDERS:

Oh yes, I had to pick flowers for Harduppe Manorō you see, Prince Charming is due to call, although I don't suppose I'll get to meet him

DANDINI:

You'd meet him all right Cinderella...you see, you have actually *met* him...allow me to introduce myself...I am Prince Charming, and this...(PRINCE) ... is my valet Dandini.

CINDERS:

What!?!?...you mean *you're*...(THEN LOOKS AT THE PRINCE)...and *you're*!?!?...

PRINCE: Yes...I am Dandini...and the Prince has to *go* now...*don't* you your....er...*Highness*?.

DANDINI:

What?...er...oh yes...I have to go...matters of state and all that...it was nice to meet you Cinderella...(CINDERELLA CURTSIES)ō oh!, she's *curtsied* to me...(ASIDE TO PRINCE) ...I can get used to thisō .(DANDINI EXITS)

CINDERS:

Forgive me if I sound rude...but I'm so glad the Prince has gone...I could *never* engage in conversation with a *real* Prince...I feel much more at ease with the likes of you Dandini...you're a plain *servant* like me.

PRINCE:

What?...oh yes...a servant you *may* be...but plain *never*... your beauty will make you a perfect Princess...(REMEMBERING) ...I mean...Prince's valet's...er...girlfriend?.

CINDERS:

Me!??...your *girlfriend*!??...why, the way I dress would never allow me to walk out with you sir!.

PRINCE:

Then you shall have a *thousand* new dresses...(AGAIN REMEMBERING) ...well... er...as many dresses as a Prince's valet can afford...oh Cinderella, I just know that fate has sent you for me... don't *you* feel the same?.

....MUSICAL ITEM No 4...FEATURING CINDERELLA, PRINCE CHARMING AND DANCERS...AFTER DUET THEY ALL EXIT TOGETHER.....TABS CLOSE

SOUND F/X OFF OF STAGECOACH AND HORSES APPROACHING WHICH SLOWS DOWN THERE IS A THUD OR TWO AND THEN THE STAGECOACH CONTINUES ITS JOURNEY AS THE HORSES GALLOP AWAY

ENTER PEWER AND SIMPAL TWO WEARY AND DUSTY TRAVELLERS...PEWER IS CARRYING A SUITCASE

SIMPAL:

That Stagecoach driver could have slowed down a bit more when he took that last corner!.

PEWER:

Never mind...we got thrown off at the right place...according to my A to Z...(HE CHECKS IT)... Stoneybroke is but a stroll down that lane...(HE POINTS OFF)

SIMPAL:

Read that letter again we got from that Baron Harduppe chap, before we go any further.

PEWER:

(IRRITATED)...What, again!?...oh if you insist!...(HE TAKES OUT LETTER AND READS)..
."Dear Pever and Simpal,...Thank you for responding to my request for the services of Special Investigators...I will explain my reasons to you when we meetõ ..

PEWER:

(READS)... "I must say that I was most impressed with your two references..."

SIMPAL:

Two references???

PEWER:

Yes, I sent him one from the Head of MI5...and one from the Chief Constable of Greater London.

SIMPAL:

(IMPRESSED)...By heck!...I bet when he got them he was made up!.

PEWER:

He should have been...'cos I made 'em up!!.

SIMPAL:

What?... well I hope that he doesn't check up on it ...and look , have we got everything we need to convince people that we *are* private detectives??.

PEWER:

Well Simpal...there's one thing that every private detective needs...(HE OPENS SUITCASE AND TAKES OUT A HUGE PROP MAGNIFYING GLASS, WHICH WHEN HE HOLDS IT UP AS IF LOOKING AROUND THE AUDIENCE, THEY SEE WHAT APPEARS TO BE A LARGE MAGNIFIED EYE....HE MAKES AS IF TO LOOK UP AT BALCONY).... observe Simpal...that man on the third row of the balcony....his watch has stopped!.

SIMPAL:

(DOUBTING)...surely it's not *that* powerful...(TAKES GLASS AND LOOKS)...good grief, you're right...I presume you mean that Swiss made Rotary with a seven jewel movement... and waterproof to seven fathoms

PEWER:

(SNATCHING GLASS)...I think Simpal that you are going a little over the top... Come on let's go and meet this Baron chap I sense there's money to be made.

SIMPAL:

What ever you say (SEES BAG) hey I wonder who that bag belongs to?.

PEWER:

Well you're a Private Investigator!

SIMPAL:

Oh yes, so I will go and privately investigate it!!.

SIMPAL APPROACHES THE SHOPPING BAG...THE AUDIENCE SHOUT FOR BUTTONS

ENTER BUTTONS

BUTTONS:

Now then, who might you two be?.

SIMPAL:

Oh we are....

PEWER:

(INTERRUPTING)...Leave this to me Mr. Simpal... (THEN TO BUTTONS)...my name is Pever.. ..and my associate here is Simpal... (HE OFFERS BUTTONS A BUSINESS CARD)...our card!.

BUTTONS:

(TAKES CARD AND READS)..."Pever and Simpal... Primate Defectives"

SIMPAL:

(SHOCKED)...*Eh!!?*

PEWER:

(SNATCHES CARD FROM BUTTONS AND READS)...He's right!!..."Primate Defectives"...(TO SIMPAL)...and you said you'd ordered 5,000 of these!?? sort this printerout will you?...Primate Defectives indeed!...they make us sound like a couple of *Monkeys*!!.

BUTTONS:

(ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)...I'm saying nothing!

SIMPAL:

Well, now *you* know who *we* are, who are you?.

BUTTONS:

Well, I'm....

PEWER:

(INTERRUPTING AGAIN)...Don't tell me...(HE MAKES AS IF DEEP IN THOUGHT) ...your name is Buttons....and you are the Page at Harduppe Manor!!.

SIMPAL:

(IMPRESSED)...That was brilliant Mr. Pever...did you read his mind?.

PEWER:

No...I read the programme earlier!.

BUTTONS:

And what would two Primate Defect....er...I mean Private Detectives be wanting in the village of Stoneybroke??.

PEWER: That my dear Buttons, is between myself, Mr. Simpal here and your employer Baron Harduppe!.

SIMPAL:

(REPEATS)...Baron Harduppe!.

PEWER:

So Buttons...kindly take us to the Baron without delay.

SIMPAL:

(REPEATS)...Without delay!.

PEWER:

Yes, thank you Mr. Simpal...I think we can dispense with the echo!...please Buttons, lead the way to Harduppe Manor.

ALL THREE EXITō ENTER FAIRY GM ON TABS

FAIRY GM:

And so dear people our story moves on...
And poor Cinderellaϕ worn out.
Her Stepmother's no time for Cinders...
And sheϕ cruel, of that thereϕ no doubt.

Even the Baron's now starts to suspect her...
For to Cinders he's kind and protective.
He wants to ensure that sheϕ treated fair...
So he's hired two private detectives!.

So let's all go now to Harduppe Manor...
And have a look at what might transpire.
The Baron has to make the right choices for Cinders...

Or it's out of the frying pan into the fire!!.
FAIRY GM EXITS .TABS OPEN FOR....

ACT 1....SCENE 3...."HARDUPPE MANOR"

SET:...FULL STAGE....THERE IS A CHEZ LOUNGE SET SLIGHTLY STAGE RIGHT OF CENTRE...AND A TABLE SET STAGE LEFT OF CENTRE
CINDERELLA IS WEARILY DUSTING THE TABLE...SHE COMES FORWARD AS IF TO SHAKE THE DUSTER WHEN SHE SEES THE SHOPPING BAG...SHE REACHES OUT TO TOUCH IT...THE AUDIENCE SHOUT FOR BUTTONS

ENTER BUTTONS

BUTTONS:

Oh!...it's you Cinders...and what might *you* be up to?.

CINDERS:

It's this old shopping bag...shall I throw it out to the dustbin?.

BUTTONS:

Oh no!...don't do that...(PICKS IT UP)... this is my bag of sweets I'm saving them for a rainy day.

CINDERS:

(TAKES HOLD OF BAG AND LOOKS INSIDE)õ But there are lots of sweets in here Buttonsõ surely you're not going to eat them all!...

BUTTONS:

Well I don't know of anyone else who might want a sweet do you?

THEY BOTH LOOK AT AUDIENCEõ INTO SWEET GIVE AWAY BIZõ AFTER SWEETS

BUTTONS:

Oh Cindersõ you still look a bit down in the dumps

CINDERS:

I am Buttons...I've been up since first light õ dustingõ sweepingõ polishingõ ironing...making meals...washing up... cleaning out the grates...making up all the fires... and all on my ownõ I just wish that there were someone to help meõ

BUTTONS:

Perhaps if we wish really hard Cindersõ someone somewhere will send some help (TO AUDIENCE) will you all help us wish?... all cross your fingers and wishõ wishõ wish

CINDERS AND BUTTONS FREEZE ENTER FAIRY GODMOTHER WHO WAVES HER WAND OVER THE SCENE AND EXITS F/X:...SOUND AND LIGHTS AS IF SOME MAGIC IS WORKING ENTER A SUNBEAM DRESSED AS BUTTONS ..CINDERS AND BUTTONS ARE TOTALLY BEMUSED

SUNBEAM:

(AS A DRILL SERGEANT WOULD)...Buttons brigade...by the left...quick march!!.

ENTER ALL THE SUNBEAMS DRESSED AS BUTTONS...THEY COULD BE CARRYING CLEANING IMPLEMENTS, MOPS, ETC.

....MUSICAL ITEM No 5....TAP ROUTINE FEATURING SUNBEAMS, CINDERELLA AND BUTTONS....AFTER ROUTINE...

BUTTONS:

(TO SUNBEAMS)...O/K Buttons brigade...there's *work* to be done!...get to it!... (SUNBEAMS DANCE OFF)...well Cinderella, that's your help sorted out!.

CINDERS:

(MUCH HAPPIER)...Thanks Buttons...what *would* I do without you?.

BUTTONS:

Just keep smiling Cinders...(HE MAKES TO EXIT)... that's what I like to see....I'll see you later.

BUTTONS EXITS

CINDERS:

'Bye Buttons!...and thanks again!.

ENTER BARONESS

BARONESS:

And what are *you* looking so happy about my girl!?... you obviously haven't got enough work to do if you have time to stand about *grinning*!!.

CINDERS:

I'm sorry Step-Mother...I was just smiling at something Buttons said...

BARONESS:

(PUSHES CINDERELLA TO THE GROUND)...That's enough about Buttons...get down into the cellar where you belong, with all those cockroaches and spiders!!.

CINDERS:

But *why* Step-Mother!??

BARONESS:

Because *I* said so!, that's *why*!...and don't come back up until I call you!.

CINDERELLA EXITS IN TEARS

BARONESS:

That's sorted stupid Cinderella out....now, where's her Father, that ridiculous Husband of mine!?

EXIT BARONESS FRONT STAGE LEFT

BARON ENTERS FRONT STAGE RIGHT FOLLOWED BY BUTTONS

BARON:

Now, who did you say are here to see me?.

BUTTONS:

Well, they say they're private *defectives*!!.

BARON:

I think you mean detectives!??

BUTTONS:

No, you see I've met them!

BARON:

Look, show them in...oh, and...er...just keep this to yourself Buttons...(BARON GOES AND SITS AT HIS DESK)

BUTTONS EXITS AND QUICKLY RE-APPEARS

BUTTONS:

Oh by the way Baron...the Baroness is looking for you sir!

BARON:

She isn't, is she?...(ANNOYED) I hate that Womanõ pure and simple!

BUTTONS:

Yes, they are here as well....come in gentlemen.

ENTER PEWER AND SIMPAL

BARON:

Ah yes, the detectives...come in gentlemen.

PEWER:

Pleased to meet you Mr. Baron...(SHAKES HANDS)...my name is Pever and my associate is Simpal.

SIMPAL:

(TO PEWER) I wish youø stop saying it like that!... (THEN TO BARON) Would you like one of our cards?.

PEWER:

(PUSHES HIM BACK)...No he wouldn't!!

SIMPAL:

Well what are we going to do with 'em all?.

PEWER:

(IGNORING HIM)...How can we help you Baron Harduppe?.

PEWER:

(GLANCING OFF ACROSS EACH OTHER BIZ)...Well...I think that my Daughter Cinderella is being treated somewhat cruelly by her Step-Mother the Baroness, who of course is my second wife.

BUTTONS:

I *know* she's being treated cruelly...and not just by the Baroness, also by *her* Daughters the Ugly Sisters Begonia and Wisteria!!.

BARON:

Yes yes Buttons, that's enough...what we need is a professional approach to the matter.

SIMPAL:

Why, who are you getting in??

PEWER:

(CROSS)...He means *us* you fool!!.

BUTTONS:

But Baron, how are you going to explain these two (INDICATES TO PEWER AND SIMPAL)...to the Baroness?.

BARON:

Oh we'll worry about that when the Prince and Dandini have been and gone!.

BUTTONS:

(AS IF REMEMBERING)...Ahhh!...that's the message I had for the Baroness...the Prince and Dandini *aren't* coming, they've been called back to their Palace.

BARON:

Oh?...er...and does the Baroness know about this?.

BUTTONS:

Well...er...no...you see, I forgot to tell her.

BARON:

Well there we are then...there's the answer.

BUTTONS:

Is it???

BARON:

Yes...the Baroness has never met Prince Charming or Dandini...so, that is who these two gentlemen will become!.

PEWER & SIMPAL:

(TOGETHER)...What!????.

SIMPAL:

We can't impersonate Royalty, we don't even look Royal!.

PEWER:

(WARMING TO THE IDEA)...Er...just hang on a minute...I think / could carry it off!...as Prince Charming of course!.

SIMPAL:

Oh yes...I thought I'd have to be the lackey...anyway, what are we going to wear?.

BARON:

I know the very thing...(TO BUTTONS)...do we still have that trunk of costumes that we used for the new years party?.

BUTTONS:

Well yes...but they won't convince the Baroness if they're dressed as Batman and Robin!.

BARON:

No, there were lots of regal costumes...look, take them away and see what you can come up with!.

BARONESS:

(VOICE OFF)...Alfred!!...are you in there?.

BUTTONS HURRIEDLY USHERS PEWER AND SIMPAL OFF
ENTER BARONESS

BARONESS:

Ah there you are....and what are you look so guilty about!??

BARON:

Guilty dear?...*me*, never!.

BARONESS:

Don't forget the imminent arrival of Prince Charming and Dandini...are you prepared for it?.

BARON:

Oh yes...I'm prepared...(ASIDE)...I'm not sure about her!.

BARONESS:

Oh won't it be lovely to have young romance in Harduppe Manor again...Begonia and Wisteria and their two swains!.

BARON:

And what about Cinderella!??

BARONESS:

What?...oh...er...yes...er...Cinderella, her too of course...(ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)...never in a thousand years!!...(TO BARON)...yes, the romance will take *us* back to when I walked into your life!.

BARON:

Yesō I'd never forget it!!

....MUSICAL ITEM No 6...FEATURING BARON AND BARONESS....AFTER DUET...
ENTER BUTTONS

BUTTONS:

Begging you pardon Baroness, but there are two rather important gentlemen outside...they said you were expecting them... (BUTTONS GIVES A SECRET THUMBS UP AND WINK TO THE BARON)

BARONESS:

Ah yes...(THEN PREENS)...this is the moment that I've longed for...*Royalty* at Harduppe Manor!!...tell me Buttons, do I look like a lady who would be seen at Court?.

BUTTONS:

Oh yes Madam!...(THE BARONESS PREENS EVEN MORE....THE BUTTONS ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)...I can see her at Court all right...the "Old Bailey" for cruelty to Cinderella!!.

BARONESS:

Well don't just stand there Buttons!...show the Prince and his valet in....and then go down to the tennis courts and tell Begonia and Wisteria that I wish to see them!.

BUTTONS EXITS AND RETURNS WITH PEWER AND SIMPAL WHO ARE DRESSED IN SOMETHING A BIT LIKE REGAL WEAR

BUTTONS:

The....er...Prince Charming and Dandini milady!.

BARONESS:

(TO PEWER)...My dear Prince Charming, how good of you and your equerry to grace Harduppe Manor with your personage... my two *gorgeous* Daughters will be joining us shortly!

PEWER:

(ASIDE TO SIMPAL)...That's a bonus...two gorgeous Daughters eh!?

BARONESS:

Please your Highness...(POINTS TO CHEZ LOUNGE)...take a seat...let me pour you both a drink... *Sherry* all right?...*(THEY BOTH NOD IN AGREEMENT....SHE GOES TO TABLE AND POURS OUT TWO SHERRIES...SHE HANDS THEM TO PEWER AND SIMPAL)*...I think you'll like the Sherry...it was bought by my *Daughters*...mature...full bodied...and just a little nutty...

BARON:

(ASIDE) That's enough about your daughters!!...what's the *Sherry* like!?.

ENTER THE UGLY SISTERS...THEY BOUND ON WEARING OUTRAGEOUS TENNIS GEAR AND CARRY ENORMOUS RACKETS

BEGONIA:

(STRIKES A TENNIS POSE)...*Love* all!!.

WISTERIA:

Anyone for tennis!??

BARONESS:

(CLAPPING)...Girls girls!...settle down...you're in the presence of Prince Charming and his valet Dandini...(TO PEWER AND SIMPAL)...You'll have to forgive them...it's their unbridled energy and passion just *bursting* to get out!.

SIMPAL:

(ASIDE)...Yes!...from where I'm sitting it *definitely* looks as if *something* is bursting to get out!!.

BARONESS:

I'll just go and organise some food whilst you all get acquainted...I must remind your Highness that my Daughters are *both* single...although they could have married *anyone* they pleased.

BARONESS AND BUTTON EXIT

BARON:

(ASIDE)...It's just they didn't *please* anyone!.

SIMPAL STANDS UP AND THE SISTERS SIT EITHER SIDE OF PEWER

BEGONIA:

(TO PEWER)...Oh your Highness...we have a confession to make, we knew how difficult it would be for you to choose between us.....

PEWER:

(INTERRUPTS WITH A GRIMACE)õ Yesõ youqe *definitely* right there!.

WISTERIA:

We spun a coinõ and guess what?õ / won!...(SIMPAL STIFFLES A LAUGH)

BEGONIA:

But at the end of the day your Highnessõ which ever of us you reject can always fall into the arms of *Dandini* hereõ (SIMPALõ STIFFLED LAUGH TURNS TO COUGHS AND SPLUTTERSõ BEGONIA ROMANITICALLY MAKES UP TO SIMPAL)õ in fact Dandini, what would I have to give you to *kiss* me?!

SIMPAL:

THINKS FOR A SECOND)õ *Chloroform!!!*

BEGONIA:

Oh!õ I *love* a man who makes a joke of things.

PEWER:

He *wasn't* joking!.

ENTER BARONESS AND BUTTONSõ THEY ARE CARRYING A SMALL TRAY OF NIBBLES

BARONESS:

Here we are thenõ (TO PEWER AND SIMPAL)õ I hope that you two have been behaving yourselves.

WISTERIA:

Oh yes they haveõ *.unfortunately!!!*

BARONESS:

Come along girlsõ look after you guestsõ (SISTERS GO TO TABLE FOR FOODõ THEN BARONESS REFFERRING TO UGLY SISTERS)õ just look at those two your Royal Highnessõ Royalty if ever I saw it!õ just look at the way they *carry* themselves.

BARON:

Just be thankful that *you* two donõ have to carry ~~æ~~m!.

THE SISTERS STAY AT THE TABLEõ BUTTONS SERVES SOME FOOD FROM A TRAY

BEGONIA:

Eat up everybodyõ thereõ plenty for everyoneõ because Iõ on a dietõ in fact Iõ on *two* diets!.

BUTTONS:

Yes, ~~æ~~os she didnõ get enough to eat on *one* diet!!

THE BARONESS GOES TO BUTTONS SO THAT THE BARON DOESNõ HEAR

BARONESS:

Buttons! or you'll end up with the spiders and cockroaches with your silly little friend Cinderella! now *take* those pastries to our guests!

BUTTONS COLLECTS A PLATE OF PASTRIES FROM THE TABLE THEN TAKES THEM BACK TO PEWER AND SIMPAL

BARONESS:

(CONT/D~~o~~ ASIDE TO SISTERS)~~o~~ You know the old saying girls~~o~~ 'The way to a man~~s~~ heart is through his stomach'~~o~~ just listen, I bet they~~re~~ deciding which one of you to propose to~~o~~ (THEY ALL MAKE AS IF TO EAVESDROP ON THE CONVERSATION OF PEWER AND SIMPAL)

PEWER:

(REFERRING TO A PASTRY OFFERED BY BUTTONS)~~o~~ I think I prefer the smaller of the two, *smothered* in whipped cream!~~o~~ (MISUNDERSTANDING THE SISTERS AND THE BARONESS REACT GIDDILY)

SIMPAL:

(ALSO REFERRING TO PASTRIES)~~o~~ That~~s~~ all right then~~o~~ because I fancy the big tart with *nothing* on!!~~o~~ (THE SISTERS ALMOST SWOON)

BARONESS:

(OFFENDED)~~o~~ I beg you pardon!!~~o~~ (THEN REALISES)~~o~~ oh!, you were referring to the *pastries*~~o~~ (SOUND F/X~~o~~ DOORBELL)~~o~~ Buttons, answer the door~~o~~ (BUTTONS EXITS~~o~~ THE SISTERS GO BACK TO SIT WITH PEWER AND SIMPAL~~o~~ THE BARONESS LOOKS AT THEN APPROVINGLY) ~~o~~ well, I must admit, you make a *striking* foursome!.

BARON:

More like a *fearsome* foursome

BUTTONS RETURNS NERVOUSLY

BUTTONS:

Excuse me Baroness~~o~~ but~~o~~ er~~o~~ (HE DIRECTS HIS VOICE TO PEWER AND SIMPAL AND STRESSES)~~o~~ the *King* and *Queen* are outside, looking for their son *Prince Charming* and his valet *Dandini*!!!.

BARONESS:

(TO BARON) What, *more* Royalty~~o~~ a great day for this family, isn~~t~~ it dear?.

BARON:

(SARCASTIC)~~o~~ Yes, this is going to be a day we shall *never* forget!.

BEGONIA:

Oh yes~~o~~ goody goody~~o~~ we~~re~~ meeting our prospective in . laws already.

WISTERIA:

You mean *my* prospective in-laws my dear~~o~~ (THEY SQUABBLE)

BARONESS:

Buttons, don~~t~~ keep their Majesties waiting, show them in.

BUTTONS:

(LOOKS CONCERNED TOWARDS PEWER AND SIMPAL)~~o~~ Whatever you say ma~~am~~.

BUTTONS EXITSō THE UGLY SISTERS GO AND STAND WITH THEIR MOTHER AND LINE UP AS IF PREPARING TO MEET THE KING AND QUEEN

SIMPAL:

(ASIDE TO PEWER)ō You had better start thinking on your feet old pal!

PEWER:

Why?.

SIMPAL:

Because it sounds as if your *mum* and *dad* are here!!ō just act casual and make for the exit.

AS PEWER AND SIMPAL START TO SLOWLY SIDLE THEIR WAY TO THE DOOR THE KING AND QUEEN ENTER FRONT LEFTō THE BARONESS SEES THEM BUT DOES NOT REALISE WHO THEY ARE

BARONESS:

(TO KING AND QUEEN)ō Who on earth are *you* two!?!ō look, we already have a gardener and a housekeeper, so would you kindly leave *immediately*ō we're expecting the King and Queen at any moment!.

A CONCERNED BUTTONS ENTERS BACK LEFT

BUTTONS:

(IN A PANIC AND OUT OF BREATH SEES KING AND QUEEN)ō Oh *there* you are your *Majesties*!!

BARONESS:

(SHOCKED)ō Your *Majesties*!!!???

KING:

Yesō I am King William, and this is Queen Kateō (ALL BOW AND CURTSY)

BARONESS:

Oh your Majestiesō forgive my mannersō I *do* feel very humble!.

QUEEN:

(AS A PUT DOWN)ō Yesō you will feel humble in *my* presence, *most* people doō (LOOKING AROUND)ō I must say, this is a very nice *entrance* hallō shouldn't we go through to the *main* hall?.

BARONESS:

(EMBARRASSED)ō Erō this *is* the main hall your Majestyō .(ASIDE TO BARON)ō I told you we should have had a conservatoryō but oh no!ō you knew best!.

QUEEN:

(TO KING SNOBBISH)ō Rather quaint and bijou, don't you think dear?.

KING:

Yes indeedō (THEN TO BARONESS)ō but let's get to the reason for our visit Baroness Hard Luck!.

BARON:

(CORRECTS HIM)õ *Harduppe* actuallyõ Iqñ *Baron* Harduppe.

KING:

And there was me thinking you were the butlerõ now, we understand our son Prince Charming is due to call on you todayõ and we were hoping to catch up with him and his valet Dandini.

THROUGH THE CONVERSATION PEWER AND SIMPAL SLOWLY INCH THEIR WAY TO THE EXITõ AND AT THIS POINT SPRINT OFF

BUTTONS:

(LOOKING OFF AS THOUGH WATCHING PEWER AND SIMPAL)õ Well your Majesties, you had better get a move on, æos they are both sprinting across the lawn down the garden!.

QUEEN:

What on *earth* is the matter with both of them?.

BEGONIA:

I think theyqñ in loveõ arenqñ they sister dear?.

WISTERIA:

Yesõ they are playing hard to getõ but *we'll* catch them.

BEGONIA:

We certainly will!õ (THEY BOTH HITCH UP THEIR SKIRTS AND SET OFF AT PACEõ AFTER BEGONIA VAULTS THE CHEZ LOUNGE THEY EXIT

BARON:

(TO BARONESS)õ Whereqñ Cinderella dear?õ I would like to introduce her to the King and Queen.

BARONESS:

Oh sheqñõ erõ sheqñ erõ busy!õ (THEN TO THE KING AND QUEEN)õ well now your Majestiesõ whilst my *beautiful* daughters retrieve your son and his valetõ perhaps I can interest you in some refreshments?.

KING:

Oh yesõ most pleasant Baroness Yard Muck.

BARONESS:

Harduppe actually.

KING:

Yes quite.

BUTTONS:

Tea or coffee your Majesties?.

KING:

I think wedñ have coffee if itqñ all the same.

BUTTONS:

It *is* all the sameõ itqñ all *tea*!!.

QUEEN:

(RUNS HER FINGER OVER PART OF THE FURNITURE AND SHE SHOWS THE KING THE RESULT) "I think *not* dear, we will wait and have our %Royal Continental Roast+out of our *clean* Royal Doulton when we get back at the Palace!.

KING:

Perhaps you are right dear.

THERE ARE SOUNDS OF A SCUFFLE OFF
ENTER THE UGLY SISTERS WITH THE STRUGGLING PEWER AND SIMPAL

BEGONIA:

Here they are then, we caught up with them both crossing the flower garden!.

WISTERIA:

Yes, and we grabbed them both by the Hollyhocks!!! (BOTH PEWER AND SIMPAL GRIMACE)

KING: I tire of this tom-foolery! *where* is our son? because I have never before clapped eyes on *either* of these two, *er* *persons*!

QUEEN:

Nor I, these two are impostors!.

BARONESS:

What!!!? Buttons! throw these two *horrible* creatures out!.

BUTTONS:

My pleasure Baroness (HE MAKES AS IF TO THROW OUT THE UGLY SISTERS) "come on you two, let us have you out!.

BARONESS:

(STOPS HIM) "Not *those* two horrible creatures I mean, not my darling little daughters" (POINTS TO BOTH PEWER AND SIMPAL) "I mean *those* two!.

BEGONIA:

Oh mummy, can we keep them?.

WISTERIA:

Oh yes, just in reserve, in case we are not lucky enough to be chosen.

BARONESS:

Very well (TO PEWER AND SIMPAL) "I am not *usually* so accommodating, but on this occasion the choice is yours, you will either stay as my daughters' guests, or you will be *thrown* out by Buttons!.

PEWER AND SIMPAL:

(TOGETHER) "Buttons! throw us out!!.

BUTTONS MAKES TO THROW THEM OUT

BEGONIA:

Oh no you don't Buttons, they are just teasing.

QUEEN:

If you don't mind Baroness, we'll leave you with your domestic problems and if you've sorted them out by tomorrow, perhaps you will attend the Palace fete.

BARON:

Thank you your Majesty we would love to attend, and of course I'll bring my daughter Cinderella.

BARONESS:

Oh shut up Alfred!! it's Cinderella this, and Cinderella that! it's most tiresome.

KING:

And now, if you don't mind Baroness Barge Hook.

BARONESS:

Harduppe!.

KING:

Yes quite could your man here (MEANING BUTTONS) could show us the door, and the correct one this time!

BARONESS:

Buttons! do as his Majesty commands (BUTTONS, KING AND QUEEN START TO EXIT) I'll come along to wave you off the neighbours might see us all with a bit of luck (TURNS TO SISTERS AND PEWER AND SIMPAL) I'll deal with you lot later!.

EXIT BUTTONS, KING, QUEEN, BARON AND BARONESS

THE UGLY SISTERS AND PEWER AND SIMPAL COME FORWARD .TABS CLOSE BEHIND THEM THE SISTERS HUDDLE TOGETHER AND COYLY MIME CHATTERING

PEWER:

It won't be so bad especially if they've got a bob or two (THEY LOOKACROSS TO THE SISTERS WHO WAVE AT THEM) they aren't much to look at though, are they? but don't forget, we'll be *out* most of the day!.

.MUSICAL ITEM No 7 FEATURING THE UGLY SISTERS WITH PEWER AND SIMPLE .AFTER ROUTINE THEY ALL EXIT

ENTER FAIRY GODMOTHER ON TABS

FAIRY GM:

My powers are called for once again
To help Cinders but I'm unable to tell her.
Well not just yet, you see the time isn't right
And in any case, she's still down in the cellar.

But don't worry about her, it's not as bad as it sounds
She's asleep. And it's all for the best.
Buttons will awake her to help at the fete
So at least the child's getting rest.

Now I'm hoping that things will fall into place
The King and Queen are the ones to convince
Prince Charming in love with sweet Cinders

And soon Cinders will be in love with the Prince

FAIRY GODMOTHER EXITS

TABS OPEN FOR ð .

ACT 1 ð .SCENE 4 ð .THE SUMMER FETE+

SET: ð FULL STAGE ð CLOTH DEPICTING OUTSIDE ð THERE ARE SET PIECES AROUND THE STAGE AS FOR A SUMMER FETE

ENTER PRINCE AND DANDINI FROM OPPOSITE SIDES

DANDINI:

Good morning you Highness ð *you're* up and about early.

PRINCE:

Yes ð I've been waiting for the sun to come up ð I just haven't slept a wink.

DANDINI:

It wouldn't have anything to do with Cinderella, would it?.

PRINCE:

It has *everything* to do with Cinderella old friend ð what *am* I going to tell the King and Queen? ð after all, today was the day when I said that I would present my bride to be ð I've made my choice all right, but ð .

DANDINI:

(INTERRUPTS) ð But *how* do you tell the King and Queen that you are in love with a servant girl?.

PRINCE:

Exactly!!.

DANDINI:

Just don't say anything to them yet ð tell them that Cinderella is *my* sweetheart, that way she can come to the Palace at any time to see you ð after all, she does think that *you're* Dandini ð look, don't worry Sire, we'll work things out ð now you must excuse me, your father has given me the task of arranging today's garden fete ð I'll see you later.

DANDINI EXITS

PRINCE:

Yes, good day Dandini, and thank you ð (TO HIMSELF) ð with *true* friends like Dandini around, I'm bound to get over this problem ð I *do* hope that Cinderella will be able to come to the Palace fete ð I long to see her again.

ð .MUSICAL ITEM No 8 ð .FEATURING PRINCE CHARMING WHO IS JOINED BY THE DANCERS ð .AFTER ROUTINE ð . PRINCE AND DANCERS EXIT

CHORUS ENTER AS SIDE SHOW RIGGERS ð THEY MAKE AS IF PREPARING STALLS FOR FETE..ENTER KING AND QUEEN

QUEEN:

Oh William! I'm feeling *quite* giddy! today is the day when we will hopefully meet our future daughter-in-law! and *what* a thrill it will be for her to meet me!.

KING:

(SARCASTIC)! Yes! I bet the girl hasn't slept a wink.

QUEEN:

Probably not! oh just think! at last the Kingdom can celebrate a *Royal* wedding.

KING:

Yes dear! I remember *our* wedding! it seems like only yesterday! (ASIDE)! if it was tomorrow I'd cancel it!.

QUEEN:

(SENTIMENTAL)! Our wedding was a kind of fairy tale.

KING:

It was *indeed* a kind of fairy tale! *grim!!!*

KING AND QUEEN MIME CONVERSATION ENTER DANCERS AND SUNBEAMS GRADUALLY AND ALL ARE EXCITED TO BE THERE! THE BOW TO KING AND QUEEN THEN FORM GROUPS AND MIME TALKING

ENTER PEWER

PEWER:

Come on Simpall, let's have a look at you! it's taken you long enough to get ready! (TO AUDIENCE)! mind you, I did tell him to wear something special to impress everybody.

ENTER SIMPAL WEARING A LARGE WATERPROOF CAPE A SOUTHWESTER AND FLORAL WELLINGTON BOOTS

PEWER:

(SHOCKED)! What *have* you got on!?! I said wear something in keeping with a typical English Summer garden party!!

SIMPAL: I *am* wearing something in keeping with an English Summer garden party! (LOOKS AROUND)! now where's the Barbi?

PEWER:

(TO AUDIENCE)! Simpall by name! . you know the rest! .

ENTER UGLY SISTERS! THEY WAVE AT PEWER AND SIMPAL FROM AFAR! SIMPAL SEES THEM AND HIDES BEHIND PEWER

BEGONIA:

(CALLING)! Yoo hoo! I can see you naughty boys!.

WISTERIA:

Anyone would think you were trying to avoid us!.

PEWER:

Is it that obvious!?õ lookout Simpal, they're coming overõ

FAIRGROUND BARKER: Roll up!õ roll up!õ step this way to see the *ugliest* woman in the world!õ (THE UGLY SISTERS WALK PASSED THE BARKER TO JOIN PEWERõ .THE BARKER LOOKS AT THEN IN DISBELIEF)õ roll up!õ roll up!õ step this way to see the *third* ugliest woman in the world!!
PRINCE AND DANDINI ENTER

QUEEN:
(LOOKING BEYOND THEM)õ Well?õ don't keep us in suspenseõ where's your bride to be??.

PRINCE:
(KISSES HIS MOTHER'S HAND)õ Dearest motherõ the girl of my dreams is still out there somewhere!.

KING:
What's she doing out there?õ bring her in!.

PRINCE:
Well, when I say she's out thereõ I don't mean she's out *there*õ I meanõ .

DANDINI:
(INTERRUPTING)õ Hay fever!!!.

KING/QUEEN/PRINCE:
(TOGETHER)õ What???.

DANDINI:
Hay feverõ the Prince's intended brideõ she has hay fever!õ she can't *possibly* attend an outdoor functionõ the poor girl's eyes would be streaming by now!.

PRINCE:
(CATCHING ON)õ Why, that's rightõ nasty thing is hay fever!

QUEEN:
Spare me the details!õ I find myself quite confusedõ in fact, I think I have one of my headaches coming on!!.

KING:
There is only one thing left for me to do!õ I will arrange a Royal ballõ (TO PRINCE)
õ I trust this girl of yours hasn't got an allergy to ballroom dancing!?õ just to be on the safe side, I will invite every *eligible* woman in the Kingdomõ then my boy, if at the end of the evening you are *still* unattached, I will select a wife for youõ (TO DANDINI)õ arrange for the invitations to be sent!.

BEGONIA:
(WHO HAS BEEN EAVESDROPPING)õ Don't forget the invitations for my sister and !!.

BUTTONS:
(WHO IS PASSING WITH A TRAY OF DRINKS)õ The King said he would invite *eligible* womenõ not *horrible* women!!.

KING:
And now my loyal subjectsõ the Queen and I will now leave you, as there seems *little*

to celebrate! we do however look forward to seeing you all at the ball! (TO QUEEN AS THEY EXIT)! this headache of yours dear! do don't think that it could be hay fever, do you?.

KING AND QUEEN EXIT ! GUESTS LOOKED PUZZLED

DANDINI:

Don't worry everyone, the garden party *will* continue! (TO PRINCE)! isn't that so your Highness?.

PRINCE:

Why yes of course, no sense in wasting good food and wine! enjoy yourselves everyone!.

ALL START TO MINGLE AND MIMIC CHATTING

BARONESS:

(TO SISTERS)! Why aren't you two on the arms of the Prince and Dandini?! go over and talk to them!.

WISTERIA:

What can we talk about ma-ma?.

BARONESS:

Anything! for a start you can introduce Mr. Pewer and Mr. Simpall.

BUTTONS:

(AS HE PASSES)! They don't want throwing out just yet!.

BARONESS AND UGLY SISTERS ENGAGE IN MIMIC CONVERSATION

BARON:

(TO PEWER AND SIMPALL)! What progress are we making with your investigation?

SIMPALL:

What investigation?.

BARON:

Ah! excellent Mr. Simpall! you give the impression of a man who doesn't know anything!.

PEWER: That's not an impression Baron! he *doesn't* know anything! about *anything!!!*! .but fear not Baron, for we are progressing with our investigations.

BARON:

Oh, so you've got a clue?.

SIMPALL: I haven't a clue!

PEWER: *Everyone* knows that!.

THE TRIO CONTINUE WITH MIMIC AND SECRET CONVERSATION

BARONESS: (TO UGLY SISTERS)! Go on! get on with it! I want *Royal* blood in our family! (SHE PUSHES SISTERS TOWARDS THE PRINCE AND DANDINI)

BEGONIA:

(STUMBLES INTO THE ARMS OF THE PRINCE)õ Oh Princey!õ youq̄e so forward!!õ I do realise it must be very difficult to keep your hands off me, but you really *must* try!.

WISTERIA:

(PULLING HER SISTER AWAY FROM THE PRINCE)õ Forgive my sister your Highnessõ she was at the back of the queue when they gave out good mannersõ no doubt you would prefer *me* in your arms!?.

PRINCE:

Please excuse me ladiesõ but you seem to have the advantage over me!.

BEGONIA AND WISTERIA:

(TOGETHER GIDDY) õ Oooooh!õ promises promises!!õ

BEGONIA:

(AS BUTTONS PASSES)õ Buttons, make some introductions!.

BUTTONS:

Oh, all right!õ (HE SHAKES HANDS WITH THE PRINCE)õ pleased to meet you your Highnessõ and you Dandini õ (SHAKES HIS HAND)

WISTERIA:

Not *you*, you fool!õ introduce *us*!!.

BUTTONS:

Oh, all rightõ your Royal Highness, and Dandiniõ these twoõ erõ ladies???õ are the Hardupe sisters

BEGONIA:

(PUSHING BUTTONS OUT OF THE WAY)õ But you can call me Begonia your gorgeousness.

WISTERIA:

And you can call *me* anytime!õ *either* of you!õ you will have noticed that I am the prettier one!õ Wisteria is *my* name!.

DANDINI:

Two *very* unusual names.

BUTTONS:

Two *very* unusual ladies!.

PRINCE:

Yes indeedõ and those gentlemen over thereõ (INDICATES TO PEWER AND SIMPAL)õ are *they* your intended?.

BEGONIA AND WISTERIA:

(TOGETHER AND SAID QUICKLY)õ Oh no no no no!!!.

PEWER AND SIMPAL:

(TOGETHER AND SAID EVEN QUICKER)õ Oh no no no no!!!.

SIMPAL:

They are just sort of our groupies

BEGONIA:

We're *still* unclaimed jewels!.

BUTTONS:

Yesō all *dusty* and *tarnished!!!*

DANDINI:

Ladiesō may I suggest a stroll around the Palace lake?.

WISTERIA:

(SHE AND BEGONIA MAKE TO LINK UP WITH THE PRINCE AND DANDINI)ō Oh what a *lovely* ideaō and so romantic.

BEGONIA:

Yesō *perfect* for courting!.

PRINCE:

(SHRUGS THEM OFF)ō I think Dandini meant for you to have a stroll around the lake with your gentlemen friendsō we will *still* be here when you returnō (ASIDE)ō I *don't* think!.

WISTERIA:

Oh very wellō we'll take temptation out of your wayō (THEN TO BARONESS WHO IS OCCUPIED)ō ma-ma, we're just going for a little stroll around the lake with Mr.Pewer and Mr Simpal

BARONESS:

You're *what!!!*?ō and who's *stupid* idea was that?.

BEGONIA:

It's Prince Charming's idea actually.

BARONESS:

What a *wonderful* ideaō (TO SISTERS)ō it will put some colour in your cheeksō off you go then.

UGLY SISTERS EXIT WITH THE RELUCTANT PEWER AND SIMPAL

PRINCE:

(RATHER APPREHENSIVE)ō And *you* dear lady must be Baroness Harduppe?.

BARONESS:

(OFFERING HER HAND TO BE KISSEDō BUT IS ISN'T)ō I certainly am you Highnessō you knowō seeing my daughters with you just now, made me think that your search for a bride has endedō they were *born* to be Royal you know?.

DANDINI:

(TO THE PRINCE COMING TO HIS RESCUE)ō Oh lookō isn't that a friend of yours Sire?.

PRINCE:

Erõ what?õ oh yesõ (TO BARONESS)õ please excuse us for a moment Baronessõ (THEY HURRY AWAY)

BARONESS:

(TO THE DEPARTING PRINCE)õ I understand your Highnessõ us aristocracy have to spread ourselves evenly amongst the not so fortunateõ (THEN TO HERSELF)õ I *must* keep an eye on my darling little daughtersõ thereõ a definite *nip* in the airõ I donõ want them catching a cold on their *little* chests!.

BUTTONS:

(TO AUDIENCE)õ *I'm* saying nothing!!.

ENTER CINDERELLA WITH A TRAY OF DRINKSõ SHE GOES TO BUTTONS WHO IS NEARBY

BUTTONS:

Hello Cindersõ Iõ glad you decided to come out of the kitchenõ the fresh air will do you good!.

CINDERS:

Yesõ but isnõ that Dandini over there?õ heõ so good looking.

BUTTONS:

(SLIGHTLY JEALOUS)õ Good looking?õ arenõ / good looking?.

CINDERS:

(NOT LISTENING)õ I think Iõ falling in love with him.

BUTTONS:

(VERY SAD)õ I wish you would fall in love with *me* Cinders.

CINDERS:

(REALISES AND CUDDLES BUTTONS)õ Oh *Buttons*...donõ be sillyõ Iõ *always* loved youõ .just like a big brother!.

BUTTONS:

(CHEERING UP)õ Oh go on thenõ Iõ settle for thatõ Iõ better get these empty glasses back to the kitchenõ Iõ see you later.

BUTTONS EXITS

SOUND F/X:õ CRACK OF THUNDERõ STAGE DARKENS õ GUESTS REACT AS IF IT IS RAININGõ (POSSIBLE VISUAL LIGHTING EFFECT OF RAINDROPS HERE) UGLY SISTERS AND PEWER AND SIMPAL ALSO RETURN AS IF TO ESCAPE THE RAIN)

SMUGLY INDICATING ABOUT HIS OUTFIT TO AUDIENCE AS THEY ALL EXIT

SIMPAL:

Not so simple after all eh?

DANDINI:

Donõ worry ladies and gentlemenõ *please* make you way to the marquee, where refreshments will be served.

DANDINI AND THE PALACE GUESTS EXIT

THE PRINCE TURNS AS IF TO EXIT AND ALMOST BUMPS INTO CINDERELLA

PRINCE:

Whyõ it's Cinderellaõ I didn't know that you were hereõ how lovely to see you againõ
(FORGETS) õ I could have introduced you to my parents if I had known.

CINDERS:

Your parents??õ are *they* connected with the Royals?.

PRINCE:

Er...yesõ erõ I suppose they areõ listen Cinderella, there is *something* that I ought to tell
youõ you see I'm notõ .

CINDERS:

(INTERRUPTING)õ Dandiniõ shouldn't we go inside?õ it's turning into the most *dreadful* day.

PRINCE:

Dreadful day?õ never!õ meeting you again has turned it into a *beautiful* dayõ who's worried
about a drop of rain?!

õ MUSICAL ITEM No 9õ FEATURING PRINCE, CINDERS AND SUNBEAMSõ AFTER
ROUTINEõ .TABS CLOSE

ENTER FAIRY GODMOTHER ON TABS

FAIRY GM:

Soon there's a ball to be givenõ
For the Prince to select a bride.
Our poor Cinderella is still dressed in ragsõ
But soon in her finery she'll ride.

She'll discover that Dandini's the Princeõ
And if I'm right, it should fall into place.
For when they next meet in the ballroom tonightõ
She'll be dressed in her satin and lace!.

I must go prepare now, it's getting quite lateõ
To transform Cinderella is my duty.
From a down trodden girl, all dressed in ragsõ
She'll soon be a ravishing beauty!.

EXIT FAIRY GODMOTHER

ENTER UGLY SISTERS ON TABSõ THEY ARE EXCITED

BEGONIA AND WISTERIA:

(TOGETHER SINGING)õ We've got invitations for the Royal ball!.

BEGONIA:

Wisteria dearõ (HOLDS UP INVITATION)õ this *piece of pink paper* is my *passport to plentiful
prosperity*!!.

WISTERIA:

(AS IF SPLASHED BY BEGONIA SPITTING)õ Do you mind!?õ youq splash my invitationõ which happens to be very important to meõ as I keep reminding you sister dear, there is only *one* Princeõ and there is only *one* me!!.

BEGONIA:

Weq see about thatõ it depends whoq first to get readyõ first home gets the best frock!.

THE UGLY SISTERS EXIT SQUABBLING

TABS OPEN FORõ .

ACT 1õ .SCENE 5õ .CINDERELLAõ KITCHEN+

SET:õ .FULL STAGEõ CLOTH TO SUITõ TABLE WITH CLOTH ONõ CINDERELLA IS STAIGHTENING THE TABLE CLOTH

CINDERS:

(TO HERSELF)õ Iqñ afraid this is where I belongõ alone in the downstairs kitchenõ still, being alone gives me time to dream of better things.

õ .MUSICAL ITEM No 10õ FEATURING CINDERELLAõ SOLOõ .AFTER SOLOõ

ENTER BARONESSõ AND THROUGHOUT THE FOLLOWING DIALOGUE PEWER AND SIMPAL KEEP SECRETLY APPEARING FROM BEHIND SCENERY AS IF INVESTIGATING AND MAKING NOTES

BARONESS:

Havenq you *finished* this floor yet?!õ you little idle good for nothing!

CINDERS:

Sorry stepmotherõ itq because I helped with the garden feteõ Iqñe got behind with my choresõ Iqñe *nearly* finished it now.

BARONESS:

Well *nearly* isnq good enough my girl!õ Iqñe heard about you flirting with some boy or otherõ this should teach you not to idle your time awayõ (SHE EMPTIES RUBBISH ALL OVER THE FLOOR FROM A BUCKET)õ now get it cleaned up!!õ and when itq done to *my* satisfaction, you can help your stepsisters to get ready for the ballõ (SHE SUDDENLY SEES BUTTONS SHOPPING BAG AND GOES OVER TO IT)õ and what is this old thing *still* doing here?õ *who* does it belong to?õ (SHE MAKES TO LOOK AT ITõ .AUDIENCE REACT)

ENTER BUTTONS TO AUDIENCE REACTION

BUTTONS:

(NOT SEEING BARONESS)õ Oh, Iqñ glad Iqñe found you Cindersõ I wanted to talk whilst old droopy drawers the Baroness is out of the way!õ (CINDERS TRIES TO WARN HIMõ HE DOESNq CATCH ON)õ the Prince has sent *you* an invitation to the ball.

CINDERS:

(SHOCKED)õ The *Prince*?õ has sent an invitation for *me*?!õ it *can't* be true!.

BARONESS:

(STORMS OVER AND SNATCHES THE INVITATION FROM BUTTONS)ō It most *certainly* cannot be true!ō let me see thatō (READS ALOUD)ō +Prince Charming requests the pleasure of your companyō (TO BUTTONS)ō *who* in their right mind would get *pleasure*ō (REFERRING TO CINDERELLA)ō from the company of such a scruffy little wretch??!.

BUTTONS:

Please give her the invitationō *please* let her go to the ball!.

BARONESS:

Begonia and Wisteria are the only young ladies going to the ball from *this* houseō apart from myself of courseō and after the ball, the Prince will be announcing his engagement to one of them!ō maybe *then*ō (SHE SLOWLY TEARS THE INVITATION INTO SMALL PIECES)ō if you are *very* lucky, you can dance at the wedding!ō (SHE THROWS BITS OF TORN PAPER AS IF CONFETTI)ō now get on with your workō *both* of you!!.

BARONESS EXITS LAUGHINGō CINDERELLA STARTS TO CRY

BUTTONS:

(CONFORTING HER)ō Please don't cry Cindersō when *you're* sadō you make *me* sad!.

CINDERS:

(DRYING HER EYES)ō Oh Buttonsō for just a *fleeting* moment thenō I thought that I might be going to the ballō foolish of me really, because, if I *had* an invitation I just haven't got *anything* to wear!.

BUTTONS:

Listen Cindersō if you went just as you are, you would *still* be the belle of the ballō (THINKS TO HIMSELF)ō I'd tell you what I'd take you to the Ballō our ballō (BUTTONS CLEARS THE TABLEō WRAPS THE TABLE COVER AROUND CINDERS)ō Cinderellaō your carriage awaits. (HE LIFTS CINDERS ON TO THE TABLE AND MAKES AS IF THEY ARE IN A HORSE AND CARRIAGEō SHE LAUGHS HAPPILY)ō that's better Cindersō and do you know something?ō I feel happier too!.

ō MUSICAL ITEM No 11ō .FEATURING CINDERELLA AND BUTTONSō .AFTER ROUTINEō

BUTTONS:

I'm really sorry about the invitationō but don't give up yet Cinders something will turn up!

CINDERS:

Dear Buttonsō I don't think that it will!...

ENTER FAIRY GODMOTHER

FAIRY GM:

Don't be too sure my dearō

BUTTONS:

Blimey!!ō you made me *jump* out of my skinō who are you?ō and what do you want?

FAIRY GM:

Well, the door *was* openō I thought I might warm myself by your fire.

CINDERS:

(REALISES)õ I *know* youõ youõ the old lady from the forestõ the one that knew my name!õ how did you find me again?.

FAIRY GM:

Never mind that now my dearõ you know when I said that you would be repaid for your kindness?õ well that time has come, because Cinderella, Iõ your Fairy Godmotherõ and with the powers that I possess, I can ensure that you *will* go to the Royal ballõ

BUTTONS: Didnõ I tell you Cindersõ I knew something would turn upõ

CINDERS:

But Fairy Godmother, if I go to the ballõ what will I *wear*õ I canõ wearõ .

FAIRY GM:

First thing firstõ you must *travel* in styleõ
To begin there are things that we need.
A coach and a driver with two footmen behindõ
And a strong willing horse that will leadõ

But where will they come from, youõ probably askõ
The most ordinary things can be used.
A pumpkin, two Lizards, a Mouse and a Ratõ
You look doubting, puzzled and bemused.

Youõ see the pumpkin turn into a coach made of goldõ
And the Lizards to two footmen in green.
A liveried coachman the Rat will becomeõ
And the Mouse as proud a Horse as youõ seen.

The working clothes that youõ wearing will turn into laceõ
And youõ look like a lady of class.
Dripping in jewels and stockings of silkõ
And slippers that are fashioned of glass.

FAIRY GODMOTHER AND CINDERELLA COME FORWARD FOR TABS TO CLOSE
TO SET ACT 1 FINALE

FAIRY GM: (CONTINUED ON TABS)

There is one condition that I must point outõ
As deep into my magic I delve.
So please Cinderella now heed what I sayõ
You *must* leave the ball before *twelve*.

Now you must leave, your coach soon awaitsõ
(CINDERELLA EXITS FOR QUICK CHANGE)
For my magic has got to be done.
The things that Iõ mentioned, weõ have to collectõ
Which my helpers will bring one by one.

DURING THE NEXT VERSE SUNBEAMS AS FAIRY HELPERS WILL BRING ON THE ITEMS
IN ORDER AND TAKE THEM TO WHERE THE COACH WILL APPEAR

FAIRY GM:

The first is a pumpkin so round and so ripe
Then two Lizards from under a stone.
Now a Rat we acquired from the drains far below
And a Mouse that's been caged all alone.

We must all now wish that dear Cinderella
Has an evening full of pleasure and bliss.
Let us all hope now that my magic will work
All you children and parents please *wish!*!

SOME LIGHT AND SOUND F/X FOR THE MAGIC TO WORK

FAIRY GM:

With your help now my job is made easy
And events into place soon will fall.
I now can express in *traditional* style
Cinderella *will* go to the ball!

SHE BECKONS TO TABS THEN TABS OPEN FOR .

ACT 1 SCENE 6 OFF TO THE BALL

.MUSICAL ITEM No 12 .TO ACCOMPANY THE FOLLOWING SEQUENCE ..
ON STAGE STANDS THE GOLDEN COACH WITH DRIVER AND FOOTMEN DANCER
HAS A PLUMED HEAD DRESS AS A HORSE READY TO PULL THE COACH
CINDERELLA APPEARS IN HER FINERY AND IS ESCORTED BY BUTTONS TO HER
GOLDEN COACH SHE GETS IN AND STARTS HER JOURNEY TO THE BALL
BUTTONS FOLLOWS THE COACH WHICH DOES A COUPLE OF CIRCUITS AROUND THE
STAGE THEN EXITS AS CURTAINS CLOSE.

INTERVAL

ENTRANCE

CURTAIN

ACT 2 SCENE 1 THE ROYAL BALL

SET: BALLROOM CLOTH A STAIRCASE FOR ENTRIES DOWN STAGE RIGHT

.MUSICAL ITEM No 13 FEATURING DANCERS AS PALACE GUARDS WHO ARE
MUSTERING FOR THE ROYAL BALL .THIS IS A KICK ROUTINE .AFTER ROUTINE

ENTER KING AND QUEEN

QUEEN:

Oh Charles aren't ballrooms romantic places just think, this very night our only son will plight
his troth I think I feel a song coming on!

KING:

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Yes!õ I was *afraid* you might dear!.

õ .MUSICAL ITEM No 14õ .FEATURING KING & QUEEN DUETõ AFTER DUETõ .

ENTER DANDINI

KING:

Ah, Dandini, *just* the fellowõ the Palace ball, is everything going to plan?.

DANDINI:

Wellõ the Chef *eventually* got over his tantrumõ so now I think that everything is on scheduleõ the wine is coming up to room temperatureõ (LOOKING DOWN AT MUSICIANS)õ and weõ *sobere*d up the musiciansõ so yes your Majesty, I think that we can safely say that *all* we need now are some guests.

QUEEN:

Some of the guests are already hereõ theyõ been waiting in the reception roomõ (DANCERS AND CHORUS AS GUESTS START TO DRIFT ON)õ but as you can see, I have had to allow them to enter the ballroomõ but as yet there is *no* sign of Prince Charmingõ itõ just *not* good enough!!.

KING:

Calm down dearõ youõ only bring on one of your headachesõ oh, and by the wayõ did you send official invitations to that *dreadful* family that we had the misfortune to visitõ that Baroness *Lardcup*!!!.

DANDINI:

Harduppe!.

KING:

Yes quite!.

QUEEN:

I *did* invite themõ there was no way that I could get out of itõ still, we can always *ignore* them!.

BUTTONS APPEARS AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS

BUTTONS:

(ANNOUNCING)õ Your Majestiesõ ladies and gentlemenõ please welcome his Royal Highness the Prince Charming!.

PRINCE ENTERS AND DESCENDS THE STAIRSõ DANDINI GOES TO GREET HIM

DANDINI:

Iõ glad *you've* turned up your Highnessõ I had visions of *me* being *both* of us tonight!!õ by the way, am I back to being Dandini?.

PRINCE:

Yesõ I think that we had better drop the deception, as my future is now in the Kingõ hands.

DANDINI:

Yesõ their Majesties are not too pleased, and would like a word with you!.

PRINCE:

I thought they might see you later old friend (DANDINI MINGLES PRINCE APPROACHES KING AND QUEEN) you wanted to see me?.

KING:

Yes we do as you will have probably noticed, there are lots of eligible young ladies present tonight.

QUEEN:

And so in case this *phantom* girlfriend of yours fails to turn up we feel sure that there will be a girl amongst *this* gathering that will catch your eye.

KING:

So don't forget what I've said if you don't choose a wife I will!!.

PRINCE:

(MISCHIEVOUS) But father, you already *have* a wife!.

QUEEN:

Don't be flippant! you know perfectly well what your father means.

PRINCE: Mother! don't be serious all the time we are supposed to be *enjoying* ourselves!.

BUTTONS APPEARS AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS

BUTTONS:

(ANNOUNCING) Your Majesties ladies and gentlemen please welcome (READING FROM A CARD) Pewer and Simpal Adventurers Travellers Entrepreneurs four pounds of potatoes three tins of Heinz beans a packet of Ginger Nuts

PEWER ENTERS AND GRABS CARD FROM BUTTONS

PEWER:

(TO BUTTONS) Give me that it's my shopping list for Morrisons (HE LOOKS BACK FOR SIMPAL) come on, let's have a look at you (ENTER SIMPAL WEARING KHAKI BATTLE DRESS PEWER LOOKS HIM UP AND DOWN) what's *that* you've got on? I told you to wear that *Armani* suit!.

SIMPAL:

Armani suit??? I thought you said an *Army* suit I thought the *ball* was at the *mess*!.

PEWER:

On the contrary my dear Simpal looking at you, I think the *Mess* is at the *ball*! come on, you might just *pull* wearing a uniform

THEY DESCEND THE STAIRS AND MINGLE WITH GUESTS NEAR KING AND QUEEN

KING:

(TO PEWER AND SIMPAL) Good evening gentlemen I see that you *got* your invitations.

QUEEN:

(MIFFED) Umphh! if it had been up to me, you two wouldn't be here after that deception of yours.

PRINCE:

And just *what* deception was this then?.

KING:

It was when we were up at the Hall belonging to that Baroness Yard Muck!.

QUEEN:

Harduppe!.

KING:

Yes quite! the thing is, these two gentlemen were pretending to be yourself and Dandini although, I have to admit they *have* been punished for their deception they have been paired off with the Baroness's two daughters by the way, where are they?.

SIMPAL:

They were still making themselves *beautiful* when we left!.

PEWER: So that means we should see them about a fortnight next Thursday!!.

QUEEN:

(BITCHY) As *soon* as that? come along Charles, we really must mingle (THEY DO)

PRINCE:

(TO PEWER AND SIMPAL) By the way gentlemen, you say that you're staying up at Harduppe Manor I wonder? have you come across a young servant girl by the name of Cinder (HE IS INTERRUPTED BY BUTTONS ANNOUNCEMENT)

BUTTONS:

(ANNOUNCING FROM TOP OF STAIRS) Your Majesties ladies and gentlemen please welcome Baron and Baroness Harduppe (BARON AND BARONESS ENTER) and with them is the Baroness (LOOKS CLOSELY AT PAPER) what's this say? *beautiful* daughters? anyway, they're here!.

SOME INCIDENTAL MUSIC HERE, PERHAPS A PRETTY GIRL IS LIKE A MELODY+AS THEY COME DOWN THE STAIRS THE UGLY SISTERS ARE POUTING AND POSING AS THEY DO SO

BARONESS:

(AS THEY REACH FRONT AND CENTRE) Your Majesties and other important people like what I am may I introduce to the world, my two beautiful daughters

PEWER:

(GRIMACING) Somehow I don't think that the world is quite ready!!

PRINCE:

Welcome Baron and Baroness oh!, and of course your daughters but isn't there one of your party missing?.

DANDINI:

Yes there is I personally delivered six invitations to Harduppe Manor!.

BARON:

Was one of them forõ ..

BARONESS:

(INTERRUPTING)õ Shut up Alfred!õ go and get me a drink!õ (HE DOESõ WHILST HE IS OUT OF EARSHOT)õ I can assure you your Royal Highness, that all the people who qualify to attend this prestigious occasion are hereõ now, if you will excuse me, I must have a word with the King and Queenõ who knows?õ we may end up talking of weddings!õ (SHE CROSSES TO KING AND QUEEN)

BEGONIA:

(APPROACHES PRINCE)õ Oh your Highnessõ I bet you thought that we werenõ going to turn up, didnõ you?.

PRINCE:

Noõ but I think that Mr. Pever and Mr. Simpall were *most* concerned.

EVERYBODY LOOKS AT PEWER AND SIMPALL WHO ARE TRYING TO HIDE BEHIND OTHER GUESTS

PEWER:

(TO SIMPALL)õ Itõ no good, theyõ seen us, letõ grasp the nettle and go talk to them.

SIMPALL:

(TO PEWER AS THEY GO TO THEM)õ You know yesterday when I said that those twoõ (REFERRING TO THE UGLY SISTERS)õ couldnõ *possibly* be any uglier?.

PEWER:

Yes?.

SIMPALL:

I was *wrong*!!õ (TO SISTERS)õ good evening ladiesõ THEN REFERRING TO HIS UNIFORM)õ put me down on your dance card for a ~~an~~ military two step

WISTERIA:

Oooh Mr. Simpall õ or should I call you ~~A~~Montyõ!?õ you military types are so forwardõ but when it comes to dancing, Prince and Dandini get first choiceõ isnõ that right *Princey* darling?.

PRINCE:

(FLUSTERED)õ What?õ erõ why yes of courseõ but perhaps wedõ save the best until last.

BEGONIA:

(ASIDE TO WISTERIA)õ Such eloquence!õ but with all their fancy words, after a few more glasses of this ~~are~~ shampoo theyõ be *putty* in our hands.

WISTERIA:

Yes, but we had better not disappoint all the other young men here tonightõ remember dear, *beautiful* things are made to be shared.

SIMPALL:

(TO PEWER)õ I always feel daft as posh doõ like thisõ I never know what to talk aboutõ do you?.

PEWER:

Oh it's no problem to me, you see, the secret is you don't really talk about *anything*, listen to me, and you'll see how it's done.

ø .MUSICAL ITEM No 15:ø .FEATURING PEWER AND SIMPLE AND EVENTUALLY THE FULL COMPANYø AFTER ROUTINE ALL STAY ONø THE PRINCE IS NOW BACK WITH KING AND QUEENø WHILST DANDINI CHATS TO A GIRL

QUEEN:

(TO PRINCE)ø Look at Dandini, he seems to have quite taken to that girl, and look at you, *still* on your own!.

KING:

Yes, come on boy, there's *plenty* of pretty young girls, and I'm sure that all who were invited are here.

PRINCE:

You're probably right father, although I did send one *special* invitation, but I'm afraid it looks like it has been turned down.

BUTTONS APPEARS AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS

BUTTONS:

(ANNOUNCING)ø Your Majesties, ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the Lady Incognita (CINDERS)

ENTER CINDERELLA IN ALL HER FINERY ø SHE WALKS ELEGANTLY DOWN THE STAIRS ECORTED BY BUTTONSø ALL ON STAGE ARE AGOG

BUTTONS:

(ASIDE TO CINDERS)ø Cinderella, I thought that you had got cold feet and decided not to come, don't worry, you look sensational!.

CINDERS:

Thank you, but *please* don't tell anyone who I am.

BUTTONS:

Well, I think that you've sort of evened things out a bit now, (CINDERS LOOKS PUZZLED)ø well, you know Dandini?ø (CINDERS NODS)ø he *isn't* Dandini!ø he's Prince Charming!ø (CINDERS TURNS AS IF TO LEAVE)ø you can't leave now, there's nothing to worry about!ø especially now that you're Lady Incognita.

CINDERS:

Oh please don't go far away Buttons, I'm not sure that I can go through with this, (THEY CARRY ON QUIETLY CHATTING)

QUEEN: (REFERRING TO CINDERELLA)ø *Quite* beautiful!.

KING:

Quite charming!.

BEGONIA:

(CATTY)ø *Quite* common if you ask me!.

WISTERIA:

And no dress sense either!.

BARONESS:

Who *is* she?õ she looks familiar.

BARON:

(PUZZLED)õ Indeed she does!.

QUEEN:

(TO PRINCE)õ Go on thenõ go and meet herõ don't just stand there with your mouth openõ (TO KING)õ and *you* can close yours too!.

KING:

What?õ oh yesõ (TO PRINCE)õ is this the *special* invitation that you spoke of my boy?.

PRINCE:

I'm not sure fatherõ excuse me for a moment would you?õ .(HE GOES TO CINDERS)õ Lady Incognitaõ how good of you to comeõ and may I say how beautiful you look.

CINDERS:

(LOOKS TO BUTTONS FOR ENCOURAGEMENT õ HE GIVES HER A THUMBS UP)õ Why thank you Prince Charmingõ I must say, you have a beautiful Palace.

PRINCE:

Perhaps after the ball may I show you around?.

CINDERS:

(REMEMBERING)õ Erõ maybe some other time perhapsõ I have to leave before midnightõ or I'llõ erõ or I'll miss another engagement..

PRINCE:

Then there is no time to loseõ may I have the pleasure of this dance?.

CINDERS:

Why *certainly* Prince Charming.

õ .MUSICAL ITEM No 16õ .A WALTZ SEQUENCE FEATURING DANCERS WHO ARE PAIRED OFFõ KING/QUEENõ PRINCE/CINDERSõ PEWER/BEGONIAõ SIMPAL/WISTERIAõ BARON/BARONESSõ THE COUPLES WALTZ AROUND AN IN TURN DANCE ON THE SPOT FRONT AND CENTRE STAGE FOR THEIR DIALOGUEõ *STARTING WITH KING AND QUEEN*

QUEEN:

Oh Charlesõ I bet all the ladies are jealous of meõ spending all my time in the King's arms!.

KING:

Well, you're so unsteady on your feet when dancing, the ladies will think you're just come *out* of the King's Arms-õ (THEY WALTZ ON)

BARONESS AND BARON WALTZ FORWARD

BARONESS:

Oh Alfredõ it's years since you held me so close!.

BARON:

Yes dearõ by the way, is this dance an ~~excuse~~ me?q

BARONESS:

Yes, I believe it is.

BARON:

Oh good, *excuse me!*õ the bar's open!!.

BEGONIA AND PEWER WALTZ FORWARD

BEGONIA:

Tell me Mr. Peverõ is this waltz a St. Bernard?.

PEWER:

Yes, I suppose it must beõ because I *seem* to be dancing with a dog!!õ (THEY WALTZ ON)

WISTERIA AND SIMPAL WALTZ FORWARD

WISTERIA:

Oh Mr. Simpalõ I feel so comfortable dancing with you could I have the *last* dance

SIMPAL:

Why of courseõ in fact you're *having* it now!!õ (THEY WALTZ ON)

CINDERELLA AND THE PRINCE WALTZ FORWARD

PRINCE:

You seem to enjoy dancing Lady Incognita.

CINDERS:

Enjoy dancing?õ why, in *your* arms Prince Charming I could dance until daybreak!!õ (THEY WALTZ ONõ ENTER FAIRY GODMOTHERõ SHE BECKONS TO BUTTONS WHO IS STANDING NEAR BY)

FAIRY GM:

Pssst!õ (STAGE WHISPER)õ Buttons!õ can I have a word?.

BUTTONS:

(GOES TO HER LOOKING PUZZLED)õ What are *you* doing here?õ you'd get thrown out when they see you!.

FAIRY GM:

Don't worry Buttonsõ there is only *you* that can see me.

BUTTONS:

What do you want?õ don't go and spoil Cinderella's evening with one of your magic tricks!.

FAIRY GM:

I'm here to make sure that Cinderella's all rightõ
Because time is now passing by.
For the hour approaches when she has to be goneõ

And the curfew lay mentioned is nigh.

It's unusual for me to be out at this time
But I felt there was trouble ahead
I'd feel a lot happier if I was at home
With my cocoa all tucked up in bed!

So don't forget Buttons, it's now up to you
To remind Cinderella of the snags.
That on the stroke of twelve, things will be as they were
And the poor girl will be once more in rags!

FAIRY GODMOTHER EXITS

SOUND F/X .CLOCK STARTS TO CHIME TWELVE

CINDERS:

(STILL DANCING WITH THE PRINCE HEARS CHIMES AND PANICS) On no!! it's twelve o'clock already I will have to leave *immediately!* thank you for a lovely evening good-bye Prince Charming (BUTTONS HURRIEDLY DRAPES HER CAPE AROUND HER AND THEY SCURRY UP THE STAIRS AND EXIT

PRINCE:

(CALLING AFTER HER) Please don't leave! nothing can be *that* important Lady Incognita!.

ALL ON STAGE ARE STILL LOOKING UP THE STAIRS WHEN UNSEEN BY THOSE ON STAGE ENTER A CINDERELLA DOUBLE FROM FRONT STAGE RIGHT DRESSED IN RAGS SHE HURRIES DOWN FROM STAGE AND THEN RUNS UP TO REAR OF THEATRE AND EXITS DANDINI GOES UP THE STAIRS AS IF AFTER HER HE RETURNS WITH A GLASS SLIPPER WHICH HE TAKES TO THE PRINCE

DANDINI:

(TO PRINCE) She's disappeared into thin air! the only proof that she was ever here is this glass slipper.

PRINCE:

(TAKING SLIPPER) The *one* girl who could have shared my life has vanished what *am* I to do!?

KING:

You must use your initiative my boy.

QUEEN:

You have every resource at your disposal *find* the girl!.

PRINCE:

You're right! now hear this proclamation (HE HOLDS UP THE GLASS SLIPPER) Who so ever this crystal slipper does fit shall become my bride+

DANDINI:

I will help you search Sire!.

PRINCE:

We will search *every* house in the realm until the girl is found.

TABS CLOSE AS THEY ALL MAKE TO EXIT ð ENTER DANDINI ON TABS

DANDINI:

The Prince finds himself in a dilemma ð a week ago he had *no* girl in his life ð now he has *two*!! ð on the one hand there is the poor servant girl Cinderella ð on the other hand there is the elegant Lady Incognita ð the poor Prince has lost his heart to *both* of them!.
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ENTER A SUNBEAM IN NIGHT ATTIRE ð ..SHE BECKONS THE OTHER ON WHO ENTER

DANDINI:

Hey!..what are you lot doing up at this hour!?.

SUNBEAM:

We couldn't sleep for the noise ð what's been going on?.

DANDINI:

Well, it's nothing to worry *your* little heads about, so cheer up, and put a smile on your faces.

ð .MUSICAL ITEM No 17: FEATURING DANDINI WITH SUNBEAMS ð .AFTER ROUTINE ð

DANDINI:

Come on you lot ð back to bed!.

SUNBEAM:

Only if you'd read us a bedtime story.

DANDINI:

Come on then ð but only one!.

DANDINI AND SUNBEAMS EXIT

TABS OPEN FOR ð .

ACT 2 ð .SCENE 2 ð .+THE HAUNTED ROOM+

SET:- BLACK BACK CLOTH ð ..A FLAT WITH A PRACTICAL WINDOW ð .MOCK SINGLE BEDS ð .. ð .FOR GAG, A CANDLESTICK WITH A *LIT* CANDLE ON A LONG TABLE TO REAR ð .A SUITCASE IS SITUATED OVER TRAP OR TABLE WITH LONG CLOTH WITH ITS END INTO WINGS, THE TABLE WOULD HAVE A CUT OUT UNDER SUITCASE FOR PRODUCING ARTICLES PASSED UNSEEN FROM WINGS TO PRODUCE FROM SUITCASE

ENTER PEWER, SIMPAL AND BUTTONS ð .THEY ARE DRESSED AS IF STRAIGHT FROM BALL, WITH BALLONS AND STREAMERS OVER THEM ð .SIMPAL IS BLOWING A PARTY %SQUEAKER+

BUTTONS:

This way gentlemen ð I think you will be comfortable in here.

PEWER:

Can you tell us why we're being moved?... cos we were *perfectly uncomfortable* in the other room!?

BUTTONS:

The Baroness, in her wisdom, thought that *your* room was too near her *daughters* room and she thought that the temptation might be too great!

SIMPAL:

You what!?!?...that's the last place I should be tempted into!

BUTTONS: Well according to Wisteria and Begonia you two were both banging on their bedroom door last night!

PEWER:

Yes we were. But that was to get *out!*... (LOOKS AROUND) . Anyway, *this* room looks all right (LOOKS AROUND INCLUDING INTO AUDIENCE) . In fact it reminds me of home.

SIMPAL:

Does it?

PEWER:

Yes it's filthy and full of strangers.

SIMPAL

(GOES TO WINDOW) . What sort of a view have we got?... (HE OPENS WINDOW) .
SOUND F/X OF HIGH WIND...FOLLOWED BY A FACEFULL OF SNOW+(TORN PAPER)
THROWN BY AN UNSEEN STAGE HAND HE CLOSES WINDOW QUICKLY)

PEWER:

(UNAWARE OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO SIMPAL HE SPOTS THE SUITCASE) . Hey Simpal isn't that *your* suitcase over there?

BUTTONS:

Oh yes I forgot to tell you it arrived this morning, so I brought it up here.

SIMPAL:

Oh good I thought I'd lost it forever I'd check and see if anything is missing .(HE OPENS CASE AND STARTS TO CHECK)

BUTTONS:

(TO GAWED) . Oh, by the way there's something about this room that I forgot to tell you about.

PEWER:

Go on .

BUTTONS:

Well .apparently, the second Baron Stoneybroke was beheaded in this very room .exactly four hundred years ago tonight . And it's said that his ghost returns every year in search of his severed head!!.

PEWER:

(SARCASTICALLY).. Well *thankyou* for that snippetõ I feel a lot better for knowing that!....
(UNSEEN BY THOSE ON STAGE THE CANDLESTICK MOVES ACROSS THE TABLE AS IF UNAIDEDõ OF COURSE IT IS AN OUT OF SIGHT STAGE HANDõ .OH YES OH NO BIZ HERE)õ . *is* there a decent view from the window then Simpall?....

(HE GOES TO THE WINDOWõ SIMPALL RUBS HIS HANDS AND WAITS FOR PEWER TO GET A FACE FULL OF SNOWõ . PEWER OPENS WINDOW AND LOOKS OUT AND NOTHING HAPPENS)õ well, it's not a bad viewõ . And it's a *lovely* night as wellõ (CLOSES WINDOWõ THEN TO A PUZZLED SIMPALLõ haven't you unpacked yet?... come on Buttons, let's give him a handõ . (SIMPALL HANDS THEM SOME CLOTHING FROM SUITCASE)

BUTTONS:

There's no cupboards in here you knowõ where are you going to hang this lot?

SIMPALL

Don't worry, I've thought about thatõ (HE REACHES INTO SUITCASE AND PRODUCES A LARGE OLD FASHIONED HAT/COAT STANDõ HE THEN BRINGS OUT SEVERAL OTHER LARGE ITEMSõ e.gõ . TALL POTTED PLANTõ . SWEEPING BRUSHõ . IRONING BOARD AND ANY OTHER SILLY ITEMS YOU CAN THINK OF ETCõ .

BUTTONS:

You've got *everything* in there but the kitchen sink!...(SIMPALL REACHES INTO SUITCASE AND PRODUCES A KITCHEN SINK)

SIMPALL:

(CLOSES CASE)õ Phew!!... that was warm workõ it's stuffy in hereõ open the window please Buttonsõ (AGAIN RUBS HIS HANDS IN ANTICIPATIONõ BUTTONS GOES TO THE WINDOW AND OPENS ITõ NOTHING HAPPENS)

BUTTONS:

(TAKES A DEEP BREATH)õ Mmmm, lovely fresh airõ mind you, I'd better close it, I don't want you sleeping in a draughtõ . Right, I'd let you both settle inõ and don't forget, keep a watchful eye for the headless Baronõ and so I will bid you both *goodbye*õ . erõ *goodnight!!*

BUTTONS EXITS

PEWER:

Right Simpalõ I don't know about you. But all that *dancing* has fair worn me outõ I think I'd turn inõ (HE GETS INTO BED)

SIMPALL:

(GOES TO WINDOW)õ I'd just check the weather againõ (HE OPENS WINDOW AND GETS THE WIND AND SNOW ROUTINEõ HE SHUTS THE WINDOW QUICKLY)õ Good stuff this double glazing, isn't it?... (HE GETS INTO BED)õ õ what was that Buttons was on aboutõ you know, that *headless* chap?

PEWER:

Forget about itõ it's all nonsenseõ blow the candle out and shut up!... (HE DOES)

SIMPALL:

(IN THE GLOOM)õ Mr Pewer ????

PEWER:

What's up now?

SIMPAL:

Are you aware of a cold clammy presence?

PEWER:

Apart from you? *no!!!*

SOUND F/X EERIE FOOTSTEPS AND RATTLING OF CHAINS

SIMPAL:

Mr Pever???

PEWER:

What??

SIMPAL:

I can hear a chain rattling!!

PEWER:

Don't worry? it might be the Lord Mayor in the audience or, someone's been to the loo!!.

ALL GOES QUIET EXCEPT FOR PEWER AND SIMPAL SNORING? *SUDDENLY A HEADLESS FIGURE APPEARS*? UV EFFECT HERE WITH HEAD BLACKED OUT? IT SLOWLY APPROACHES THE SUITCASE? LIFTS LID AND PRODUCES A GHOSTLY HEAD WHICH IS SOMEONE WITH UV BODY BLACKED OUT

GHOSTLY HEAD:

Four hundred years? and at last I've found myself!... (BODY WAKES AWAY LEAVING HEAD SUSPENDED)? . Hey!!... wait for me!....(HEAD FLOATS TO BODY AND SETTLES UNDER ITS ARM)?

THE APPERITION EXITS

SIMPAL:

Mr Pever???

PEWER:

What???

SIMPAL:

Did you *hear* something?

PEWER:

Yes!... but I'm sure it was nothing to worry your *little head* about!!

TABS CLOSE TO A HIDEOUS GHOSTLY LAUGH

ENTER PRINCE CHARMING ON TABS

PRINCE:

(LOOKING ANXIOUS)? I just can't understand why Lady Incognita would want to run away?!? we seemed to get on so well together? the Palace guards are searching the grounds and surrounding villages? although it's almost an hour since she disappeared, and *still* no

newsō but come first light, I will carry out my proclamation to visit every dwelling in the Kingdom until the girl is found.

ō .MUSICAL ITEM No 18ō .FEATURING PRINCE CHARMING& SOLOō .AFTER ROUTINE HE EXITSō .

ACT 2ō .SCENE 3ō .HARDUPPE MANOR+(DAY BREAK)

STAGE LIGHT SLOWLY UP FOR DAY BREAK ō SOUND F/Xō SOUND OF COCK CROWō .
ENTER BUTTONS YAWNING AND STRETCHING IN HIS PYJAMAS

BUTTONS:

Oh!ō what a restless nightō I should never have eaten that lump of Stiltonō well, I suppose Iō better get breakfast started.

BUTTONS EXITS WEARILY AS IF INTO KITCHEN

SOUND F/Xō .SOUND OF REPEATED DOORBELL

ENTER BARONESS IMPATIENTLY

BARONESS:

Where& Buttons got to?ō fancy, a titled lady having to answer her own door!ō whatever next!?.

BARONESS EXITS AS IF TO ANSWER DOORō .SHE RETURNS WITH PRINCE AND DANDINI WHO IS CARRYING THE GLASS SLIPPER ON A CUSHION

BARONESS:

Oh your Highnessō to what do I owe this honour?.

PRINCE:

I am carrying out my proclamation by visiting every household in the realm that has *eligible* and *unmarried* daughtersō and I am *very* concerned, because I have to tell you madamō that *this* is my last call!.

DANDINI:

Will your daughters try on this slipper Baroness?.

BARONESS:

(EXCITED)ō But of *course* they willō the *last* call you say?ō Iō just call themō (SHE CALLS INTO WINGS)ō Whitney!ō Britney!ō come along my little cherubs!ō you *both* have visitorsō (THEN TO PRINCE AND DANDINI)ō they wonō be longō I expect that theyōe reading books on wedding etiquetteō I suppose they realise that this was inevitableō (PRINCE AND DANDINI LOOK AT EACH OTHER IN HORROR)

ENTER UGLY SISTERS AS THOUGH SHY

BEGONIA:

Why your Highness, *and* Dandiniō how *lovely* to see you again.

WISTERIA:

(SEES SLIPPER)ō Oh, and youōe returned *my* glass slipper!ō I wondered where it had got to?.

BEGONIA:

(PEEVED)ō No it isn't!!!ō it's *my* glass slipperō I bought them at Stylo!!ō .(THE SISTERS START TO SQUABBLE)

BARONESS:

(PULLING THEM APART)ō Girls!ō girls!ō the Prince and Dandini want you to try it on.

BEGONIA:

Why didn't you say so before mummyō (TO WISTERIA)ō our *lucky* day again sister dear!.

PRINCE:

You must *both* try on the slipper.

BARONESS:

And who ever it fits will become *Princess* Charmingō (ASIDE TO SISTERS)ō so make *sure* that it fits *one* of you!.

WISTERIA:

(CALLING)ō Buttons!ō Buttons!!ō (ENTER BUTTONS)ō Buttons, get me a chair will you?ō I'm about to put this slipper on.

BUTTONS GETS A CHAIR AND AN ENORMOUS SHOE HORNō THE PRINCE OFFERS THE SLIPPER TO WISTERIA WHO STRUGGLES IN VAIN TO MAKE IT FIT

BUTTONS:

It's no goodō it *won't* fit!.

WISTERIA:

(DESPERATE)ō I haven't *finished* yet!ō it will fit when I remove my stocking!ō give me a hand Buttonsō (GAG HERE WITH AN EXTREMELY LONG STOCKINGō BUTTONS ENDS UP IN AUDIENCE WITH THE TOE OF THE STOCKING WHEN IT EVENTUALLY COMES OFFō SHE TRIES THE SLIPPER YET AGAIN)

PRINCE:

I'm sorry Miss Wisteriaō the slipper *doesn't* fit you!.

WISTERIA:

(DISTRAUGHT)ō You're not as *sorry* as I am!.

BEGONIA:

(SHOVING HER SISTER OFF THE CHAIR)ō *And now* for the *true* owner of the glass slipperō (TO PRINCE)ō *and* your future *bride* you Highness!!ō (THE PRINCE WINCES AT THE THOUGHTō HE ATTEMPTS TO FIT THE SLIPPER)ō be carefulō I have *sensitive* feetō all that dancing at the ball has taken its tollō there was *one* particular dance that gave me a *very* sore foot!.

DANDINI:

Was it a *verruca*!?!.

BEGONIA:

No!ō I think it was a Military Two-Step actuallyō (WHITNEY OFFERS A DUMMY LEG FROM UNDER HER LONG SKIRTō THE PRINCE PUTS THE SLIPPER ON THE DUMMY FOOT)

PRINCE:

(HORRIFIED)õ It *fits!!!*õ the *slipper* fits!!!.

BEGONIA:

(JUBILANTLY SINGING)õ I'm going to be a Princess!!õ I'm going to be a Princess!!õ (SHE STANDS UP AND FORGETTING HERSELF WAVES THE DUMMY LEG IN THE AIR)

DANDINI:

*Really!!!*õ Miss Begonia!õ how *dishonest* of youõ why, for one moment I was *afraid* that the slipper really *did* fit!.

PRINCE:

(ASIDE TO DANDINI)õ Not as *afraid* as I was old friendõ (THEN TO BARONESS)õ it appears madam, that my search for the Lady Incognita has proved fruitlessõ *unless* of course, there is another girl in this house who is eligible

BARONESS:

What?õ oh noõ there's no one else!.

BARON:

(ENTERS RATHER ANNOYED)õ What's that you say?!õ .there's no *other* eligible girl in Harduppe Manor?õ oh yes there is!.

BARONESS & UGLY SISTERS: (TOGETHER)õ Oh no there isn't!!.

BUTTONS:

Oh yes there is!!.

INTO OH YESõ OH NO+BIZ WITH AUDIENCE

BARON:

Buttonsõ bring Cinderella here immediately!.

BARONESS:

Buttonsõ ignore him!.

BARON:

(ASSERTIVE)õ Be quiet woman!!õ *I'm* the master of this house!.

THE BARONESS LOOKS ALMOST AS SURPRISED AS THE BARON AT HIS ASSERTIVENESS

BUTTONS EXITS TO GET CINDERELLA

BARONESS:

(AS SHE TRIES TO USHER THE PRINCE AND DANDINI TO THE DOOR)õ Well, thank you for calling gentlemen õ I'm sorry to come on a wild goose chase!.

BARON:

Just a moment dearõ I think the Prince and Dandini should wait until Buttons returns.

WISTERIA:

Ohõ so we're waiting for silly Buttons to return.

BEGONIA:

Noõ there's nobody else of any consequence here!.

ENTER BUTTONS WITH CINDERELLA

PRINCE:

(POINTS TO CINDERELLA)õ Then *who* may I ask is that!?!.

BARON:

(PROUDLY)õ *That*, Prince Charming, is *my* daughter Cinderella.

PRINCE:

(GOES TO GREET HER)õ Yes I know, we've already met.

BARONESS:

Oh, Cinderella isn't good enough for the likes of you your Highness!.

BARON:

(CROSS)õ Cinderella is good enough for anyone!.

PRINCE:

I agree Baron Harduppeõ Cinderella is perfect for me!õ or should I sayõ Lady Incognita!?!?

CINDERS:

Oh Prince Charming!õ I'm so sorry for trying to deceive youõ as you can see, the Lady Incognita is no moreõ I am once again *poor* Cinderella!õ and now if you will excuse meõ I *must* get on with my workõ (SHE MAKES AS IF TO LEAVE)

PRINCE:

(STOPPING HER)õ My *dearest* Cinderella, I don't care what has happened in the pastõ all I care about is *you* and *me* and our future together!!õ (THEY EMBRACE)

DANDINI:

Excuse me Sireõ but I presume this is the girl!?!.

PRINCE:

Yes Dandiniõ this *is* the girl!.

DANDINI:

HOLDING SLIPPER)õ Then there is just *one* more thing your Highnessõ .

PRINCE:

Ah yesõ the glass slipperõ a mere formality Dandiniõ (CINDERELLA SITS AND THE PRINCE PUTS THE SLIPPER ON HER FOOT)õ there!!!õ it's a *perfect* fit!õ Cinderella will be my brideõ .that *is* of course, with your permission Baron Harduppe!?!.

BARON:

Of course you may marry her Prince Charmingõ (HE BECOMES EMOTIONAL)õ if only her late mother could be here today!õ .she would be *so* proud!.

WISTERIA:

(DISTRAUGHT SOBBINGõ AND OVERACTING)õ I'm devastated!õ what *am* I to do!?!?

BEGONIA:

(ALSO DISTRAUGHT AND SOBBING AND ALSO OVERACTING)õ Iqñ *shattered*õ who can we turn to???)õ (DISTRESSED)

ENTER PEWER AND SIMPAL

PEWER:

Sorry if this is a bad time everybodyõ but we just popped in to say cheerio.

SIMPAL:

Yesõ and erõ thanks for having us likeõ

BEGONIA:

(LOOKS LOVINGLY AT SIMPAL AND PEWER)õ .You are the *answer* to my prayers!!.

WISTERIA:

(TO PEWER ROMANTICALLY)õ Mr. Pever,*take* me in your arms!.

PEWER:

(BACKING OFF)õ Weø better be goingõ otherwise weø miss the stagecoach.

SIMPAL:

(FOLLOWING HIM)õ Yes, and there isnq another until tomorrow.

PEWER AND SIMPAL MAKE A HASTY EXITõ PERSUED BY THE PASSIONATESISTERS

ENTER KING AND QUEEN WITH LADY IN WAITINGõ THEY ARE ALMOST KNOCKED OVER BY THE FOURSOME

QUEEN:

(TO AN EMBARRASSED BARONESS)õ Your door was open, and we say the Princessø carriage outside.

KING:

(TO PRINCE)õ *Well* my boyõ did you *find* the mysterious Lady Incognita?.

PRINCE:

Yes fatherõ (INDICATES TO CINDERS)õ here sh is!.

KING:

(PUZZLED)õ But *she's* not a Lady, sheø dressed in *rags*?.

QUEEN:

(TO CINDERELLA)õ I think I have another headache coming on!.

PRINCE:

(TO KING AND QUEEN)õ Listen both of youõ *this* is Cinderellaõ she and Lady Incognita are the *same* person.

QUEEN:

(TO CINDERELLA)õ Then why child are you dressed like *that*??.

BARON:

Perhaps I should explain you Majesty

BARONESS:

(INTERRUPTS HUMBLE) No Alfred, I should answer that you see your Majesties, Cinderella is my *step*-daughter, she's the Baron's daughter it has always been *his* wish that we should bring the child up as our own and I'm afraid that I didn't carry out his wishes in fact, as you can see, I've treated her like some kind of *servant*!!.

CINDERS:

(FORGIVING) Step-mother please don't

BARONESS:

(INTERRUPTS) No dear let me finish I lavished all my thoughts and attention on my *own* daughters Begonia and Wisteria, whilst Cinderella has nothing and in truth, *she* is the rightful heiress of Hardippe Manor.

CINDERS:

(COMFORTING) Step-mother now that I am to marry the Prince, I shall have no need of Harduppe Manor it belongs to father, and it is a home for you and my step-sisters.

BARONESS:

(WIPING A TEAR FROM HER EYE) You mean that you can *forgive* us??.

CINDERS:

Of *course* I forgive you!

BARONESS:

(GOES TO BUTTONS) Oh Buttons Cinderella *forgives* us will *you* forgive us? (OVERACTING SHE SOBS NOISILY AND EMBRACES BUTTONS WHO VERY APPREHENSIVELY CONSOLES HER) *BUTTONS THEN QUIETLY EXITS*

QUEEN:

Now that our son Prince Charming has *found* his bride I can officially give my consent for Dandini to marry Lady Helena, my Lady-inWaiting here.

PRINCE:

Congratulations to you both you kept that quiet Dandini.

DANDINI: Thank you Sire (THEY BOW AND CURTSY)

KING:

And so Dandini if you are to marry the Queen's Lady-inWaiting, I will appoint you as my Equerry.

DANDINI:

Thank you your Majesty I am honoured to accept.

PRINCE:

That means that I will be needing a new valet (TO CINDERS) Cinderella do we know of anyone for the job?.

CINDERS:

(LOOKING AROUND FOR BUTTONS) I think that I know *just* the man (CALLING) Buttons!!.

ENTER BUTTONSō HE IS WEARING A LONG RAINCOAT, A FLAT CAP AND MUFFLERō HE IS CARRYING A BATTERED SUITCASE AS IF LEAVINGō HE MAKES TO GO DOWN INTO AUDIENCE

CINDERS:

Buttonsō *where* are you going?.

BUTTONS:

(GLUM)ō Iđ be on my way thenō there's nothing to keep me here nowō (PROMPTS AAAAHS FROM AUDIENCE)

CINDERS:

Buttons, donđ goō where will you stay?.

BUTTONS:

(STILL GLUM)ō Oh donđ worry about meō Iđ find a cardboard box somewhere for the Winterō (MORE AAAAHS FROM AUDIENCE)

PRINCE:

Donđ be *silly*ō you can stay at the Palace and work as my valetō Iđ pay you a guinea a week.

BUTTONS:

Well, if you're *sure* that you want me to stay.

CINDERS:

Of *course* we want you to stay!.

BUTTONS:

(SECOND THOUGHTS)ō A guinea doesnđ seem much though!.

BARONESS:

Then come back to the *bosom* of *my* familyō Iđ pay you *ten* guineas a week!ō you can be our butler, canđ he Alfred?.

BUTTONS:

(LOOKS AT BARONESS AND GRIMACES)ō Money isnđ *everything*!ō .(TO PRINCE)ō Iđ come and work at the Palace.

KING:

Right then, that's settledō I think we can safely say that we now have a happy endingō

BARONESS:

(AS IF UPSET) Ohō if only my daughters Begonia and Wisteria could find happiness!...

ENTER BEGONIA AND WISTERIA DRAGGING THE RELUCTANT PEWER AND SIMPAL

BEGONIA:

It's alright Mummyō we've found happiness!!.

WISTERIA:

Yes happiness was hiding in the woodsō but we found them!

BARONESS:

Oh how wonderful!... soon there will be a great day dawning for both our families!...

INTO MUSICAL ITEM No 17 FEATURING PRINCIPALSõ AFTER ROUTINE
BUTTONS COMES FORWARD THEN TABS CLOSE FOR SONGSHEET.

BUTTONS ON TABS READS OUT ANY BIRTHDAYS OR CELEBRATIONS ETC. OF PEOPLE
WHO ARE IN THE AUDIENCE ON THE NIGHT INCLUDING A SPOOF ONEõ .

BUTTONS:

Right it's your turn now to do some workõ . Will you help me to sing this next song which the
producer tells me that I've missed outõ . Well will youõ . (AFTER A POSITIVE RESPONSE
FROM THE AUDIENCE)õ you might as well because we've locked the doors so you'll have to!

INTO SONG SHEET ROUTINE WHERE THE AUDIENCE IS ASKED TO COMPETE AGAINST
EACH OTHER i.e. STALLS V CIRCLEõ LEFT V RIGHTõ BOYS V GIRLS ETCõ ENDING
WITH A FULL AUDIENCE SING-ALONG

õ MUSICAL ITEM No 18õ ON TABSõ FEATURING BUTTONS AND AUDIENCEõ .AFTER
SONG SHEET BUTTONS EXITSõ ENTER FAIRY GODMOTHER

FAIRY GM:

It's almost time to say goodnightõ
I've tried to alay all our fears.
Pantomime has always had a moral you knowõ
Amidst all the laughter and tears.

So remember the message that this story projectsõ
When wicked words or deeds might hurt you.
As Cinderella did to the bad Baronessõ
Show that forgiveness is the greater virtue!.

Before I leave I must mention the castõ
If it's just for their performance alone.
They're waiting now to receive your thanksõ
Goodnight my friends, have a safe journey home.

FAIRY GODMOTHER BECKONS CENTRE STAGEõ .TABS OPEN FORõ ..

ACT 2õ .SCENE 5õ .THE ROYAL WEDDING+

õ MUSICAL ITEM No 21õ .FEATURINGõ ..FULL COMPANY

WALK DOWN

AND

GRAND FINALE

FINAL CURTAIN