

NODA PANTOMIMES

PRESENT

Cinderella

An original story of a poor girl
made good!

By

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Welcome to Robleo Productions!

Welcome to our first pantomime written by us, Rob Fearn and Leo Appleton. Although this is our first foray into writing, on this scale anyway, we both have many years' experience of treading the boards at an amateur level so hopefully understand what amateur groups are looking for.

After working in and on a number of pantos we both decided that it would be good to see if we could come up with a fairly original slant on the story of Cinderella. This we hope we have done whilst retaining the humour and zest that this story usually provides.

All the original characters are there with opportunities to style your production as you wish. It can be grand and lavish with a fantastic set and all the magic tricks you need to create a splendid transformation scene or done on a parish hall stage with limited funds and space. This script should suit both and is scalable either way.

We had great fun writing it and there will be more so if you like this one watch out for others coming shortly. In the meantime I hope you enjoy it.

Thanks

Rob & Leo

Characters in order of appearance

Fairy Godmother (F)

A female part, should be able to sing but is not necessary as the song is optional. A Fairy Godmother with a soft heart, what else!

Vanelia (M / F)

One of the Ugly Sisters. Traditionally a male part but could be played by a woman. She is supposed to be the elder of the two. Played as a 'Dame' and is required to sing and dance.

Enormia (M / F)

The other part of the Ugly Sister duo. As above, a male part but again could be played by a female.

Cinderella (F)

Not your normal Cinderella as she has a bit of spirit and some funny lines. Should be able to sing and dance.

Stepmother (F)

The traditional 'baddy' of the piece. Although not a huge part has enough scenes and lines to make the audience boo and hiss.

Buttons (M)

His character should be bright and bouncy. He has a soft spot for Cinders and this comes out in the show. Should be able to sing and build rapport with the audience.

Queen (F)

Appears mainly with the King and has a duo so should be able to sing or at least put a song across. She is prone to 'spoonerisms'.

King (M)

Works mainly with the Queen and many of his lines bounce off her. He is prone to forgetfulness although is clearly not ailing.

Lord Chamberlain (M)

He should be quite pompous and comic as well as his lines support this.

Dandini (M) or (F)

Works mainly with the Prince and has a love interest, Lady Rachel. A bit of a fop, prone to burst into poetry at a moments notice much to the displeasure of the Prince.

Prince (M) or (F)

Would work well as either male or female. A strong character with lines that bounce off Lord Chamberlain and Dandini. Should be able to sing and move.

Princess Ethelreda (M)

As their looks are slighted we wrote this and the following two other Princesses with males in mind and would be good small parts for males to play and have some fun with as well as doing something else, perhaps in the chorus.

Princess Ermintrude (M)

As Princess Ethelreda

Princess Ethereal (M)

As Princess Ethelreda

Lady Isabel (F)

Small female part could be combined with chorus

Bouncer 1 - Don (M)

Small comedy male part – could be combined with Chorus

Bouncer 2 - Ron (M)

As Bouncer 1

Lady Jane (F)

As for Lady Isabel

Sally, Betty, Winnie (F)

Small female parts – almost cameos! Could be combination of Ladies Isabel and Jane and Chorus work – but these are three distinct parts

Lady Rachel (F)

A small female role who eventually ends up with Dandini. Is seen in other scenes (Ball, Court) but only speaks in the last scene with Dandini. Should be able to sing and move

Cat (M or F)

Appears in kitchen scenes with Cinderella and should be able to move 'cat like'.

Baron Hardup (M or F)

This is the foil for Buttons and the source of the main audience involvement and worked well in the local production. He can be anybody even a stagehand as he only ever moves across the stage and off. This character was deliberately left unseen and unspoken as it also provides the reason for Cinders situation.

Chorus

Where would we be without them? Integral to the whole show and supports the main characters from which you will draw the minor characters (unless you are blessed with bodies!).

Props

Ball of wool for cat

Puppet Mice / plus Mouse a torium (*a small puppet theatre (or some such thing) where the mice can come out and interact with Cat and dance to songs*)

Wood basket / Wood for basket.

Sweeping brooms (*about three*).

Wand for Fairy Godmother.

Letter Box on string.

Enormous corset.

Cups / saucers / Teapot.

Feather duster / duster.

Gloves / Hat for Step Mother.

Biscuits

Massive hanky for Lord Chamberlain

Sword / Daggers for Prince / Dandini and Lord Chamberlain

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Hanky for Prince

Hack hat / microphone for Buttons

Bag for Baron Hardup

Invitations for chorus and three for Stepmother and Ugly Sisters plus invitations to tear up

Spinning wheel / basket of wool to spin

Dressing table / table plus jewellery / make up

Laundry basket of washing

Pumpkin

Glass slipper / sparkly shoes

Two Thrones

Table for food / pretend food or otherwise

Cushion or plinth for glass slipper

Bucket for Baron Hardup

A wrapped up brush for present

Basket / box to put Cinders in

PRODUCTION NOTES

Transformation scene

The transformation scene, coach and Cinderella's dress is written so it can either be done on stage or off, in a simple way or complex depending on the availability of the necessary stage or props.

Scenery

Again, this can be scaled as appropriate for the stage involved. When it was first performed there were two painted scenes: Cinderella's kitchen and the Ballroom. All other scenes took place in front of black tabs or the main front curtains.

Song sheet

As appropriate

Characters

They are all indicated on previous pages and noted whether they are male or female. When the show was first performed the 'Princesses' roles were taken by women. However, for best effect these should be men or at least the last princess to come on should be a man.

Puppets

The mice were small stuffed toy mice attached to the end of a tripod made of coat hangers and these were pushed through a black curtain (*In what we called the Mouse a torium*) and danced at the end of this tripod (*the flex in the metal from the coat hangers made them bounce and jiggle*) in their small theatre much to the amusement of the young children (and adults) in the audience.

Sound Effects

The use of sound effects is not necessary but does add to the whole show for the magical elements and particularly the clock striking twelve. Many sounds can legitimately be lifted from the internet such as the sound of the clock striking and perhaps the magical tinkle and even the sound of carriages arriving at the ball.

ACT 1

Scene 1

(Scene opens on a kitchen scene with Cinders cleaning up sweeping and generally tidying up. Possibly singing an opening song. Should be reasonably upbeat if sung. Light is not fully up. Cinders' cat is on stage and generally doing cat things, perhaps chasing a ball or playing with some wool etc. There is a table with some crockery on it and a number of chairs or a bench. Also a wood basket. There should be some brooms propped up. To the other side of the stage is a little theatre with mouse holes where the mice appear throughout the show. After a short time Fairy Godmother appears on stage at the front and lit by a follow spot).

Fairy Godmother *(Wanders onto the stage. Cinders can't see her).* Hello boys and girls, and welcome to our lovely kingdom, the beautiful and happy Kingdom of Hedonia – well I say happy, but not everyone is happy *(turns to look at Cinderella – encourages an aaah from the audience)*. This is where our story starts and this, boys and girls, is Cinderella. She's the one with the brush. Poor Cinderella, she lives in the household of her father and stepmother and her ugly *(catches herself)* - I mean her stepsisters. Cinderella has lived here since her mother died from a very rare case of over-acting, *(peers out into the audience)* we do have a doctor in the house tonight don't we? Cinderella's wicked Stepmother very kindly allows her to sleep on the kitchen floor and gets her to do all the cleaning, the washing, the ironing, and the cooking. Her father Baron Hardup hardly seems to notice the situation as he is rarely seen around the house anymore devoting more and more time to the fruitless errands of the wicked Stepmother. But, Cinderella does have some very good friends, there is Cat, who is devoted to her, and the mice of course, who often keep her company in the kitchen. Also the ever faithful Buttons who you will meet later and then there is me *(turns to walk off stage then returns realising she has forgotten something)* what was that, who am I, oh sorry I forgot to say, I am Cinderella's Fairy Godmother. *(She waves her wand and the lights brighten to show the whole scene behind as the Fairy Godmother exits).*

(Cinders picks up wood basket and exits. Shouts from off stage as Ugly Sisters enter looking for Cinders).

Vanelia Where is Cinderella, that dreadful girl, I need my toe hairs curling?

Enormia *(On stage)* Cinderella, come here quickly! I need a hanky I'm going to sneeze. Ahh Choooo! *(Too late)*.

Enormia *(Wiping hands on dress)*. Oh too late. *(Laughs to herself)*.

(Cinders enters with basket of wood for fire)

Vanelia *(Enters wearing a letter box around her neck)* Oh there you are Cinderella, you are so lazy, have you not done the fire yet?

Cinders *(Rushing around in response to their commands)* Erm...

Enormia Where is my breakfast?

Vanelia Haven't you washed my slimming corset? (*Holds up an enormous corset*).

Enormia (*Engaging Vanelia for a big joke*). Have you let the dogs out?

Enormia and Vanelia together sing Who let the dogs out, who let the dogs out, then collapse laughing at themselves into the chairs and put their feet on the table.

Cinders (*Hands on hips taking the joke politely*). We have a few mice and a cat, (*Couple of mice stick their heads out and squeak Cat jumps after the mice who disappear*). But you know we don't have any dogs.

Stepmother enters

Stepmother (*Kissing the sisters on the cheeks*). And how are my beautiful daughters this morning? (*To Cinderella dismissively*). Make me a cup of tea Cinderella. (*Shoo cat out of the way*). Ten and a half sugars and make sure the milk is skimmed I'm looking after my figure. Enormia dear, why are you wearing a letter box around your neck?

Enormia Well, Mother, I am expecting a letter and I need to go out later on, so I don't want to miss the postman.

Stepmother and Vanelia nod their approval, Cinderella shakes her head. They turn their attention back to Cinderella critiquing her cleaning. Cinderella is dusting the kitchen. Cat is following her round

Vanelia (*Pointing to the ceiling*). You've missed a bit Cinderella, I can see a speck of dust over there.

Stepmother Cinderella we do have standards you know and if you ever want to be as beautiful and popular as your stepsisters then you do need to make more of an effort.

(To the audience whilst Cinders and the Ugly Sisters are busying themselves making work for her).

Well, don't you think my girls are absolute darlings and that Cinderella is such a (*thought*) plain child? Oh yes, my girls are going up in the world. Ever since I tricked Baron Hardup into marrying me our prospects have taken a turn for the better and look (*indicating Cinders*), I inherited a cleaner (*she laughs*) perfect (*audience reacts here*). Of course keeping Baron Hardup out of the way has been so easy. The fool falls over himself to please me. Yesterday, I sent him for a left handed hammer and a long stand. He was gone for hours! (*More audience reaction*).

(To Cinders) Now, you silly girl, what have you done with my gloves?

(Buttons enters unnoticed except by Cat who moves towards him).

Enormia *(Pointing to the floor).* There's some dirt on the floor as well Cinderella.

Vanelia *(Continuing the tirade, pointing to a corner).* And a cobweb in the corner.

Stepmother Get my hat, Cinderella, I will not tell you again. *(Cat jumps up and gets it and gives it to Cinders).*

Enormia *(Drops a biscuit).* Oh look I've dropped my biscuit. Clean it up Cinderella, there's a love.

(Cinderella is running around trying to complete all the tasks. She gives Stepmother her hat and Stepmother exits).

Buttons *(Quite irate).* What do you two think you are playing at? Can't you see Cinderella has enough to get on with without doing all the housework and without you two lazy oafs making more work for her?

Enormia *(Both exit with a huff, affronted).* Well I never, we'll see you later *(pause)* Cinderella!

Vanelia *(As she exits to the audience).* Did you see the way that Buttons looked at me? He fancies me, he does!

Buttons I am sorry, Cinders, perhaps I shouldn't have said anything but you shouldn't let them treat you like that. What would your father Baron Hardup say? I am sure he would do something if he knew they treated you this way. Where is he anyway?

(All the while Cat is wandering round the stage doing 'cat' things).

Cinders He's just popped down to the village to get Stepmother's wart cream!! But he would probably do whatever Stepmother would want him to but that's him all over, never around! Oh I don't mind the work Buttons, I'm just so grateful that they have taken us in and we are warm and well-fed, well maybe not well-fed but, well, fed.

Buttons *(Now being stern).* Cinderella, you must stand up for yourself if they are mean to you and you must not let them talk to you in that way.

(Cinders gets upset and begins to sob then runs off stage. Cat follows Cinders off).

Buttons *(Moves forward to the front of the stage and starts to talk to the audience).* Oh dear I think I was a bit harsh with Cinders? I didn't want to upset her, it's just that I get so angry at the way her Stepmother and those wicked stepsisters treat her and her father. Cinders is beautiful and kind and I do really love her, I do. I would like to tell her how I feel but I don't seem to have the courage. I know, maybe I

could buy her a present to cheer her up. I wonder what I could get her. Maybe some sweets, oh that would be nice, but no, her sisters would only steal them. What about a new dress? No her evil stepmother would never let her wear it. Have you got any suggestions? (*Audience are then encouraged to help Buttons*) Yes, well, some of those are very helpful, if a bit odd, especially from you (*points to person in audience*). I know, I will have to think of something that will really cheer her up. I am going to have to go now but I need your help with something. I have been trying to talk to Baron Hardup to tell him how awful the stepmother and the sisters are treating Cinderella. It's just that he seems so busy at the moment running around doing goodness knows what! So when you see him (*Baron Hardup walks on behind Buttons, places a parcel on the table or some other such business*) you'll know him, he is wearing (*at this point a description to fit costume of Baron Hardup*). So, if you see him I want you to shout "Buttons the Baron". (*Audience hopefully will then shout and Baron Hardup disappears off stage as Buttons looks round*). We haven't started yet! Right let's have a practice.

(*Baron Hardup comes back on, audience react, probably "he's behind you"*).

That's great that is, no you can stop now. No he's not there, really! No, this is just a practice. What is he really there? (*Baron Hardup disappears once more. Buttons looks off*). Gosh, you're right, I better get after him. Don't forget, if you see him shout!

(*He exits*). (*Blackout*).

(*End of scene*).

Scene 2

(*The scene opens on the palace court. The entire chorus are present. A big chorus number ensues. The King and Queen enter with Lord Chamberlain. At the end of the song the chorus exit leaving the King, Queen and Lord Chamberlain on stage to discuss the fate of the Prince*).

Queen Oh, I do love how the courtiers just seem to burst into song sometimes for no apparent reason, it's like being in a musical!

King (*His thoughts are elsewhere*). Mmm, yes, fascinating (*looking off stage as the courtiers leave bemused by it all*). (*Surprised when he sees the Queen*). Ah, my Queen. (*Like seeing her for the first time that day*). How beautiful you look this very fine day.

Queen Yes I do rather. Are you feeling better?

King Feeling better? Oh feeling better, yes my love. It must have been the kippers this morning I think one of them was still flapping!! Now then where is that son of mine, Raymond?

Queen Richard!

King Yes, that's what I said, Roger

Lord Chamberlain My liege, (*bows*). Your son Richard is out hunting yet again with his valet! If only he devoted as much time to finding a bride then your kingdom would be secured.

King Yes, well it's good that he lets of a bit of steam I suppose.

Queen Steam!! He is positively boiling over!! Oh, it's just that he is cho soosy when it comes to girls.

Lord Chamberlain Cho soosy, ah yes, so choosy. Well perhaps we can push him in the right direction. It's not that there aren't Princesses available Your Majesty, indeed I have a list here of some of the most eligible. If only we could get him to meet them in the right surroundings I am sure that he would lose his heart to one of them.

King Let me see the list. Number one, Ethelreda mmmmm! Number two, Ermintrude. Number three, Ethereal, that's a lot of E numbers. Well, so long as these are the best, then my Lord Chamberlain we must send out invitations to them to come and visit us and let's hope at least one of them captures his interest if not his heart eh? eh? Make it so.

Lord Chamberlain Yes, Your Majesty.

(Lord Chamberlain exits and King and Queen move forward to in front of tabs).

Queen Well for the sake of the crown, his King and country he needs to make his mind up one way or the other or we must make up the beer doys mind for him.

King Beer doy! What or who are you talking about?

Queen Your son Richard and him getting married, remember?

King Ah yes, Rupert, I remember. (*thought*) Do you recall where we first met?

Queen Yes. (*Looking far off wistfully*)

King Good, where was it? (*Forgotten again!*)

Queen (*Irritably*). It was at your father's estate. A warm summer breeze was blowing and we were all lancing on the dawn, I mean dancing on the lawn. Such fun! Then I was introduced to you. From there it all went downhill!

King (*Completely not sure at all*). It's not all been bad though has it? We have had some fun times haven't we?

Queen Oh yes.

King Oh thank goodness! (*Still not quite sure but glad she remembers*). I do remember the day we were married though, Blue skies, lots of pretty girls (*Queen harrumphs*), b- b- but of course none prettier than you my love.

Queen Yes, it was a beautiful wedding. I suppose we do complement each other.

King No, no I complement you, you just correct me. (*After a short thought*). But I think I like it that way. (*Audience ahhhhh moment*).

(*Possible song for the King and Queen*).

(*End of song*) (*Blackout*)

(*End of scene*).

Scene 3

(*Later on in the Palace Court, full stage. Dandini and the Prince enter together*).

Dandini So you have heard, my lord, about your parent's plans to find you a bride?

Prince Oh, my loyal friend, I do not want to marry for convenience or to secure our wealth, I want to marry for love and unfortunately my parents are determined to marry me off at the earliest opportunity to the first pouting princess who walks through the castle gates.

Dandini (*Wistfully*). Ah, yes my lord love!

Prince (*Questioningly*). Dandini?

Dandini (*Returning back to reality*) Yes, my lord?

Prince Are you feeling alright?

Dandini Yes, my lord, of course, why do you ask?

Prince Because when I mentioned love you went off into a little dream world.

Dandini (*In a daze again*). Ah yes, my lord love!

Prince You're doing it again.

Dandini Was I? I hadn't noticed.

Prince Dandini, this is just a wild stab in the dark, but have you met anyone, shall we say perhaps a young lady recently that may have turned your thoughts to love?

Dandini (*Enthusiastically*). Oh my lord how did you guess? You are so clever. (*Dandini then goes off into his own world and spouts poetry*).

For there is one, she's my heart's desire.

Her beauty and gentleness are all I require.

She walks like an angel and sings like a Queen.

She has her own teeth but they could do with a clean.

Prince Have you been writing love poems by any chance Dandini?

Dandini Oh, my lord, you are right again. How do you know these things?

Prince I have my ways. So what is stopping you and this young lady from being together? She is a lady isn't she?

Dandini My lord, of course she is a lady. (*Off again!*)

Oh were it so simple

I could hold her forever

In the rain or the sun or the snow

(Falteringly knowing that there is no other real rhyme here).

Or ... in fact in any other ... sorts of er.. er.. weather.

Prince Ok Dandini, enough of the poems now. So, what is stopping you from marrying this girl?

Dandini She is a lady of the court and I am not permitted to marry her unless I have a title, which as you know, my prince, is not the case.

Prince This is quite a problem, my friend, but sometimes we must let fate take its course.

(Possible song for Prince and Dandini after which the Prince and Dandini are interrupted by the Lord Chamberlain and Buttons who enter).

Lord Chamberlain (*Big bow*). Your Highness, I crave your indulgence. As you are aware the king and the queen are rather keen that you take a bride before you are much older. To that end I have invited a number of eligible maidens, nay princesses from our neighbouring kingdoms for your consideration. They are waiting without.

Prince (*Begins to interrupt petulantly*). Then I shall jolly well wait within. I thought I made it perfectly clear to anyone who would listen that I will only marry for love!

Lord Chamberlain Sire that may well be the case. But in order for that to happen two things have to take place. Firstly, you actually have to talk to a person of the female persuasion and secondly you have to let love take its course. So, please Your Highness, please give these fair maidens a chance.

Dandini He has a point, my lord! Can it hurt to see what the other kingdoms have to offer? After all, you have not had a great deal of luck with your own!

Prince Very well. If I have to go through with this I might as well get it over with. (*With a bit more thought, an aside to the audience*). I suppose I might be fortunate, who knows. Alright my dear Lord Chamberlain bring in the first victim.

Lord Chamberlain Buttons go and fetch the first vict'... er er princess (*in a stagewhisper*) but dim the lights.

Buttons Dim the lights? (*Looks of stage at the princesses*) Why? Oh yes dim the lights! (*The lights can go down a bit*).

(*Buttons goes off and brings on the first princess. Princess Ethelreda appears very sleepy and tired and on occasions nods off with the odd bouts of snoring*).

Lord Chamberlain Your Highness may I present Princess Ethelreda of Prestonia (*or some other local place with 'onia' on the end*).

Prince My lady (*catches sight of the Princess who has now turned fully at the audience she is not an attractive sight*) Your er er er beauty takes my, er, breath away (*to Lord Chamberlain in an aside*). In fact if you have any oxygen I need it now!

Princess Ethelreda My Lord you are indeed a flattererrrrrr (*She falls asleep*).
Zzzzzzzzzzz.

(*Lord Chamberlain nudges the Princess*).

Princess Ethelreda (*Wakes up with a start and shouts out as if waking from a dream*). Where's the cream cakes?

Prince Madam! (*Taken aback*). Am I boring you already?

Princess Ethel No its just I am so sleepy. (*Big yawn*).

Button (*To Dandini with his thumbs up*) This is going well!

(*Dandini stares at him incredulous*).

Prince Have you travelled far from your kingdom? Surely you have rested on the way?

Princess Ethelreda No. Generally (*Yawn and stretch*), I need at least 14 hours... (*Trails off and falls asleep again*).

Prince (*In a hushed tone and a look to all on stage*) Sssshhhh. Then let me disturb you no longer.

Lord Chamberlain (*Takes the arm of the Princess and escorts her off*). Come my dear, the cream cakes are this way.

Prince Well, Dandini, what did you make of that?

Dandini It could have been worse Sire, though I am not sure how!

(*Buttons has gone off and is bringing in the next princess and handing over to Lord Chamberlain*).

Lord Chamberlain Your Highness may I introduce Princess Ermintrude of Fairovia. (*Another local place name with 'ovia' on the end*).

Princess Ermintrude Ah Ah Ah Ah Choooo (*big sneeze and blow of the nose on a massive hanky*). Thank you for inviting me to your lovely pa, pa, ah ah choooo!! (*Another blow of the nose*).

Prince (*Looking round at others, not quite sure what to make of all this*). My dear, you seem unwell?

Princess Ermintrude No, it is my allergy I just can't stop sneezing. Ah ah ah choooo! (*Big blow of nose, again*). I have had it since I was a little girl Your Highness, ah chooo (*Straight into the face of the Prince*).

(*Dandini produces a big hanky for the Prince*).

Prince (*Takes hanky from Dandini to mop his face*). Thank you I must insist that our physicians see you before you leave.

Princess Ermintrude (*Very spoilt*) Leave! But I've only just arrived.

Prince Nevertheless, leave you must.

(*Buttons takes Princess Ermintrude's arm at a distance and with protestations leads her off as though she might give him something very catching. She sneezes for effect as she goes off*).

Lord Chamberlain (*Indicating off stage*). Well Your Highness, this is the last we have to offer, but I fear the worst!

Prince Worst! Good heavens is this possible? (*Incredulous*).

(*A commotion from the wings as Buttons brings in Princess Ethereal who is very grumpy indeed*).

Lord Chamberlain Your Highness, may I introduce Princess Ethereal from the Principality of Martonopia. (*Or another local place with 'opia' on the end*).

Princess Ethereal About time! I have been sitting waiting to be introduced for ages with nobody for company other than Sleepy and Sneezzy.

Prince And of course this would make you Grumpy!

Dandini (*To whoever will listen as he thinks he is very witty*). We only need another four like this lot and we could do a whole new panto.

Buttons You mean another three.

Dandini Why?

Buttons (*Indicating audience*). 'Cause all this lot out there are Dopey!
OooOOOOOooooo!!

Prince (*Getting back to the matter in hand and making the best of it*). Was your journey to our country pleasant?

Princess Ethereal The road was dusty, the carriage uncomfortable and the people along the way not very polite.

Prince I am sorry you found it so. Surely, we have the best roads in all Christendom?

Princess Ethereal As we say in our country the best road in Hedonia is the one that leads to Martonopia.

Dandini / Buttons (*To audience*) oooooOOOOooooo!!!

Prince But, my lady, if that was the case why would you make such a journey?

Princess Ethereal My father said I had to marry but I only want to marry for love but I am sorry, I could never marry anyone as plain as you.

(*The Princess sweeps off the stage. Lord Chamberlain looks at the others and he goes off after the Princess placating her*).

Prince Plain? (*Getting louder*) Plain? She called me plain. (*Clearly annoyed*).
Dandini, how would you describe me, quickly!

Dandini (*Quickly*). Handsome, bright, interesting.

Buttons (As *quick*). Dashing, daring, cuddly? Cuddly!! (To Audience). Did I really just say that?

(Looks from Prince and Dandini and they then carry on).

Prince The whole thing is just impossible. All this for what? Leave me now. (Dandini and Buttons exit. The Prince is suddenly inspired). Well, I don't care what my mother and father say I will find the one I love if it takes forever!

(Possible song for the Prince).

(Blackout, tabs in).

(End scene).

Scene 4

(Button enters in front of tabs).

Buttons Well that didn't go very well did it? (Pause). No, no, not the singing I meant the princesses. I do wonder if the prince is too demanding. I mean they didn't look that bad to me, nothing a good shave and a bit of wax wouldn't put right. But I guess it's better to marry for love than for money? Don't you agree? (Points at a man) Well I can tell that you agree, you definitely married for love (points at the woman) money for you. OK, Hands up who married for love? Well that's a fair few hands up, but who married for money? What no one, when we did this in (an affluent local part of the country or local area) they all put their hands up! Well, I will be marrying for love, (looking forlorn) if I could only build up the courage to tell her that is. Well, I've heard that the king and queen summoned the prince after he turned down the three (stresses) beautiful princesses. They are not happy that he didn't choose any of them. (Putting on a reporters hack hat and producing a microphone and speaking in his best BBC reporters voice). But we are expecting an announcement from the palace at any minute.

(The curtains open on the palace court. Chorus are chattering excitedly. A fanfare is heard and then the royal party enter. The Lord Chamberlain addresses the crowd).

Lord Chamberlain Citizens of Hedonia, pray silence for your king and queen.

King Friends, subjects, Hedonians lend me your ears. (Turns to Queen). Who wrote this?

Queen Never mind, just get on with it, this is the pun fart.

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