

NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT...

CINDERELLA

BY

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CINDERELLA

By Mark Llewelin, Roy Barraclough & John Jardine

CHARACTERS:

In order of appearance:

Dandini
Prince Charming
Buttons
Cinderella
Fairy Godmother
Britney)
Kylie) Ugly Sisters
Desert Orchid (can be played by chorus)
Baroness Stoneybroke
Squire Snatchall

Townspeople, guests, ghost, Cindersødouble, royal staff, flunky, radio announcer and animals.

SCENES:

Act one:

1. The Royal Forest
2. Picture Gallery at Stoneybroke Hall
3. The Kitchens at Stoneybroke Hall

Act two:

1. The Palace Ballroom
2. Outside the Palace
3. The Kitchens at Stoneybroke Hall
4. Outside the Palace
5. The Church Belfry (optional scene)
6. The Palace Ballroom

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ACT ONE:

1. THE ROYAL FOREST:

HUNTING TYPE [NUMBER] WITH CHORUS IN HUNTING GEAR.

CHORUS: Look everyone, here comes Dandini.

ENTER DANDINI.

DANDINI: Hello my friends, how's the hunt going?

CHORUS 1: Not so bad.

DANDINI: My master the Prince will be joining us at any moment - don't forget, when he arrives let's give him a rousing cheer.

CHORUS 2: Is it true that he plans to announce his engagement soon?

DANDINI: I don't know where you heard that from. The Prince has said that he will only marry for love and so far he hasn't met the girl of his dreams.

CHORUS 3: And does she have to be a princess?

DANDINI: Not that I know of - no, just someone whom he loves and who loves him back.

CHILD: Perhaps he'll choose one of us.

DANDINI: I think perhaps you're a little too young.

CHORUS 1: And what about you Dandini - when are you to be married?

DANDINI: I'm waiting for Miss Right too.

CHORUS 3: Yes, I met Miss Right ó I just didn't know her first name was Always

FANFARE.

CHORUS 4: It's the Prince, the Prince!

DANDINI: Three cheers for his Royal Highness, Prince Charming!

PRINCE ENTERS.

PRINCE: Thank you loyal subjects. Well Dandini, how's the hunt going?

DANDINI: No sign of the fox sir.

PRINCE: Well, don't be down hearted, on a lovely day like today everyone should be happy - including the fox.

NUMBER - REPRISE

CHORUS EXIT.

PRINCE: Dandini.

DANDINI: Sire?

PRINCE: Don't go for a moment, I'd like a word with you.

DANDINI: What is it sire?

PRINCE: I'm worried Dandini, as you know my advisors are constantly telling me that I ought to get married soon - for the good of the kingdom.

DANDINI: That presents no problem, why, any girl in the realm would be delighted to be your bride.

PRINCE: Yes, and that's just the trouble. I want a girl who loves me for myself not because I'm a royal prince. It's alright for you Dandini, if a girl says she'll marry you at least you know it's you she loves not the wealth and position that comes with you.

DANDINI: I don't know how to take that. But I tell you what, if I have it so easy, why don't you change places with me?

PRINCE: What?

DANDINI: Change places. Just for one day, see if it helps.

PRINCE: Done! It's a great idea - I'll pretend to be you, no power, no money, no position - just me!

DANDINI: I was only joking sir, you're not serious surely?

PRINCE: I am, and there's no time like the present. So here you are, take my cloak PASSES CLOAK OVER Now come on, give me yours.

THEY EXCHANGE CLOAKS.

DANDINI: But this is silly, I couldn't be a Prince.

PRINCE: No, no, this is the best idea you've had in a long time. Now, you are Prince for a day and I am your servant. Now, come on - follow me!

DANDINI: Just one moment.

PRINCE: Yes?

DANDINI: Aren't you forgetting something?

PRINCE: I don't think so - what?

DANDINI: You're the servant now right? Well, you walk behind me.

PRINCE: I, I...

DANDINI: At all times! Now my good man, follow me!

THEY EXIT.

ENTER BUTTONS STRUGGLING WITH BASKETS.

BUTTONS: What kind of a diversion is this? Through the woods? All deserted with no one about and....SEES AUDIENCE Oh hello, my name's Buttons. Hey, since you all look a friendly lot would you do me a favour? Would you shout out -Hiya Buttonsøevery time I come on? Oh thanks, let's have a go. REHEARSES IT That's great. I work up at the Hall for Baroness Stoneybroke - what a horror she is. If there was a medal in the Olympics for nastiness she'd have the gold. She looks like Anne Robinson (*or similar feared TV star*), mind you, she's nothing compared to those dreadful daughters of hers - Kylie and Britney - what a pair of gasbags, they're so full of hot air I ought to match them up with a balloon! Mind you, I'd work up there for nothing. Oh yes I would, OH NO YOU WOULDN'T ETC I would - just to be near Cinderella, she's their step sister and she's lovely! I'm in love with her and I don't care who knows it. I love her more than my last Rollo! Well, I can't stand around gossiping, I've got to get back to the Hall - I'm taking the laundry back. Here, do you want to have a butchers? PULLS OUT BLOOMERS WITH BLACK HANDS ON I see the coalman's been! PULLS OUT TWO BRIGHTLY COLOURED ODD SOCKS I can't believe it, I've a pair exactly the same as these! PULLS OUT HUGE CORSET This is Britney's - reminds me of that film Mission Impossible! Well, I'd better be off - see you later kids!

EXITS. FOX ENTERS AND SITS BY TREE.

ENTER CINDERELLA PUTTING FIREWOOD INTO BASKET.

CINDERS: Oh it's no use, I'm so tired, I shall have to rest for a moment. There's so much work to be done and everyone's so unkind to me - except Buttons of course. Dear Buttons, I don't know what I'd do without him to cheer me up. Oh dear, if only things were different.

SEES FOX. HUNTING HORN OFF.

CINDERS: Oh Freddie - quick, hide under here -

LETS HIM HIDE UNDER GREENERY.

NUMBER Cinderella or Cinderella and children. KIDS CHORUS COULD COME ON AS FOREST ANIMALS FOR IT. <u>DURING IT, THE FAIRY DISGUISED AS AN OLD WOMAN ENTERS.</u>

CINDERS: I must finish collecting these sticks quickly and get home to make the supper before my stepmother and sisters get back from the hunt.
NOTICES OLD WOMAN Poor old lady, collecting sticks at her age. She hasn't many either. Here - let me help you.

FAIRY: Thank you my dear, it's not easy when you're all alone.

CINDERS: No, of course it isn't. Here, take my sticks. OFFERS HERS I'm younger, I can soon gather some more.

FAIRY: Oh no, I couldn't do that - it must have taken you a long time to collect so many.

CINDERS: Come on, I insist.

FAIRY: I'll not forget your kindness my dear, one day I will try and repay you.

TAKES STICKS.

CINDERS: Oh, don't worry about that - I'm glad to have been able to help. Come along, let me carry your sticks to the edge of the forest and then I can come back for some more!

FAIRY: Thank you my dear, what is your name by the way?

CINDERS: Cinderella.

FAIRY: What an unusual name. Well Cinderella, I shan't forget your kindness to me. You've been a friend so sweet and kind!

THEY EXIT.

BRITNEY IS PUSHED ON BY DESERT ORCHID ON WHOM KYLIE CLINGS FOR DEAR LIFE. THEY END UP IN A HEAP.

BRITNEY: We'll never catch the fox at this rate Kylie. I thought you said this old nag was fast.

KYLIE: Well, he always finishes his milk round by twelve.

BRITNEY: Oh the disgrace, the humiliation, one horse between the two of us.

KYLIE: And to think, I've always had a good seat for a horse.

BRITNEY: You've always had a good seat for an elephant.

KYLIE: Now don't start, don't start.

DESERT ORCHID IS LEANING ON THE SCENERY, LEGS CROSSED.

BRITNEY: By the look of him, he's no intention of starting up again.

KYLIE: We'll have to put him through his paces. Stand up - stand up!

BOTH PEOPLE IN HORSE STAND TO ATTENTION.

KYLIE: Not like that. Get down, get down.

BOTH PEOPLE LIE DOWN. THE REAR ONE ROLLS OVER.

BRITNEY: Now look what you've done - he's gone and died on us.

HORSE TRIES TO STAND. UGLIES HELP IT UNTWIST.
HORSE UP.

KYLIE: Come on Dessie, shape yourself. You're not fit, you're not fit.

BRITNEY: That makes two of you. A bit of training's what's needed. Come on, running on the spot.

UGLIES DO THIS DOWNSTAGE. HORSE UPSTAGE - OUT OF WHICH COME
TWO HANDS MAKING HORSE NOISES WITH COCONUTS.

BRITNEY: Very good, very good.

KYLIE: He's almost as fit as us. Well, I think that's enough for now. Didn't he run well! OH YES HE DID BUSINESS.

BRITNEY: We know you ran well Dessie.

HORSE SHAKES HEAD.

BRITNEY: But we heard you.

HORSE SHAKES HEAD. BRITNEY GOES TO HIM, HE WHISPERS TO HER.

KYLIE: What did he say?

BRITNEY: Coconuts!

KYLIE: And the same to him.

BRITNEY: That's the trouble with you - you're always too quick to take offence.

KYLIE: To take a what?

BRITNEY: Take a fence, take a fence!

HORSE NEIGHS. TO HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW MUSIC HE RUNS RIOT. STOPS.

KYLIE: Now look what you've done - you've cast his mind back to his show jumping years.

BRITNEY: Oh yes, he had that nasty fall - and that was just getting him out of the horse box. Oh look, someone's dropped a sixpence!

BENDS TO PICK IT UP - HORSE KICKS HER.

BRITNEY: Kylie, you are a nasty piece of work.

KYLIE: What's up now?

BRITNEY: You just kicked me up the -

HUNTING HORN OFF.

KYLIE: Ooh look, someone's dropped a shilling -

BENDS TO PICK IT UP - HORSE KICKS HER.

KYLIE: Well, I don't believe it! Fancy booting me up the bum!

BRITNEY: I never touched you, I wouldn't waste me shoe leather. You can be very bad minded our Kylie. It's ever since you went out with that fella from the Knackers Yard.

HORSE RUNS RIOT AGAIN.

KYLIE: Now look what you've started.

HORSE EXITS.

KYLIE: That's the last we'll see of him. We'll have to finish the hunt on foot. Now, where did they go?

FOX OUT TO POINT THEM OFF.

BRITNEY: Thank you!

THEY EXIT. CINDERELLA APPEARS.

CINDERS: Just a few more sticks then I must hurry home. My stepmother and sisters will be so angry if I'm late.

PRINCE ENTERS WATCHING HER.

PRINCE: What a lovely girl. Can this be the one I've been waiting for? I must meet her. GOES TO HER May I be of assistance?

CINDERS: Oh sir, you startled me.

PRINCE: Forgive me, I was just walking past and It isn't every day one meets such a lovely looking girl, I felt I had to speak to you.

CINDERS: I'm only a poor servant girl.

PRINCE: WITH WINK TO AUDIENCE Well, I'm only a servant too - Dandini, servant to His Royal Highness Prince Charming.

CINDERS: I'm confused - I feel as though we have met before.

NUMBER 6 reprise with forest animals

PRINCE: When can I see you again?

CINDERS: It's impossible, they would never allow it.

PRINCE: They? Who are they?

WE HEAR THE UGLIES OFF.

CINDERS: Oh my goodness, I must go quickly. Goodbye.

SHE EXITS.

PRINCE: Wait, I

ENTER DANDINI BEING CHASED BY BRITNEY AND KYLIE.

BRITNEY: Oh your Royal Highness, your beautitude, what I wouldn't give for half an hour behind the bike sheds with you.

KYLIE: Ignore her Princey. What you need is someone younger and prettier, like me. I have the skin of a baby!

BRITNEY: A baby elephant maybe. You fast cat!

THEY FIGHT.

DANDINI: Ladies, ladies - how can I choose between two such ravens as yourselves, I must have time to make up my mind.

KYLIE: Do you want to phone a friend?

BRITNEY: Fifty, fifty?

KYLIE: I'll give you such a sloshing in a moment!

PRINCE: Could I have a word with you sire?

KYLIE: Buzz off you.

BRITNEY: Yeah, get lost fish face!

DANDINI: Excuse me just a moment - matters of state.

MOVES AWAY.

PRINCE: It's happened Dandini - I've just met the girl of my dreams.

DANDINI: What? - one of these two?

PRINCE: No. She was here just now, before I could even get her name she vanished. What am I to do? How am I ever going to find her again?

DANDINI: I know - give a grand ball at the palace and invite everyone in the realm, rich and poor alike. In that way the girl you speak of is bound to be amongst the guests.

PRINCE: Great idea. See to it that the invitations are sent out forthwith - if not sooner.

DANDINI: I think that's your job - as servant!

PRINCE: Oh, this infernal deal!

THEY EXIT FOLLOWED BY THE UGLIES.

BRITNEY: Princey, come back!

2. THE GALLERY AT STONEYBROKE HALL:

FOUR PORTRAITS HANG IN FRAMES.

ENTER BUTTONS.

BUTTONS: Hiya kids! REACTION That's great. Well, welcome to Stoneybroke Hall and here we have the Stoneybroke ancestors. I'll tell you one thing - they're no oil paintings! Now, first of all we have Sir Lancelot Stoneybroke, he was only five foot four - yes, he was the shortest knight of the year. They get no better so make the most of them. Then, Lady Godiva Soneybroke, she managed to scrape a bare living. This was painted by Buffacheli - he always painted in the nude. No, actually - sometimes he kept his socks on. Next we have Rear Admiral Horatio Stoneybroke, he's sunk a few in his time. THE FIGURE IN THE PICTURE HOLDS A PINT OF BEER. THANK YOU TAKES PINT OUT OF PICTURE AND DRINKS IT. PUTS EMPTY GLASS BACK. And finally in this rogue's gallery - Mona Stoneybroke ó and a right moaner she was anøall. Now then, they've all left a bob or two you know but this lot, they've spent the lot. Theyøve squandered their squillions, messed up their millions and trifled with their trillions. Theyøve not a penny to their name, CONSPIRATORIALLY they've not paid the rent for months. In fact, Squire Snatchall has threatened to have them evicted unless they cough up - or until Baroness Stoneybroke consents to be his wife.

BARONESS: (OFF) Buttons!

BUTTONS: Talk of the devil!

BARONESS ON TO FUNERAL MARCH.

BARONESS: That's the first tune I've enjoyed all night. Now then Buttons, you lazy, loafing, loathsome, layabout!

BUTTONS: That's an L of a list!

BARONESS: You've no time to stand about here giving away the family secrets, there's work to be done. And Buttons - make certain that perniciously pretty step-daughter of mine does more than her share. Oh I do love to be nasty!

SQUIRE (OFF):Coe! Baroness!

BARONESS: Oh no, it's that old goat Squire Snatchall. Still, I'd better butter him up or we're going to be thrown onto the streets.

ENTER SQUIRE.

SQUIRE: Ah there you are, my little bird of paradise.

BARONESS: Buttons, get about your duties!

BUTTONS EXITS.

SQUIRE: Ah Baroness, at last we are alone - by ourselves - just the two of us - you and me - never to be parted - one on one ó

NUMBER Squire and Baroness

SQUIRE: Now then my little lioness - HE GOES TO PUT HIS ARM AROUND HER & SHE MOVES AWAY.

BARONESS: Yes indeed. Tell me Snatchall, what if anything, is on your mind?

SQUIRE: Nothing that you can't put right with a few sweet words.

BARONESS: Sweet words? Oh alright then - sugar, syrup, sweeteners. How's that do you?

SQUIRE: No, no, no, that's not what I mean. I'm talking about your arrears.

BARONESS: There's no need to be personal.

SQUIRE: No, I'm in love with you Baroness, that's the top and the bottom of it.

BARONESS: Will you leave my bottom out of it.

SQUIRE: What I mean is - marry me and let us walk down life's joyful path together.

BARONESS: I'd sooner walk down the M1.

SQUIRE: Marriage is full of surprises!

BARONESS: So is the M1.

SQUIRE: Now listen here Baroness. Don't try my patience too far - I'm not one to be made a fool of. Either you marry me or you're out of here - lock, stock and barrel.

BARONESS: You can take my lock, you can take my stock - but you ain't getting your hands on my barrel.

SHE EXITS.

SQUIRE: Me thinks the lady doth protest too much. I'll try again tomorrow!

3. THE KITCHENS:

CINDERELLA'S IN SITU, LEANING ON HER BROOM.

NUMBER Cinderella

UGLIES ENTER. CINDERELLA IS SWEEPING.

BOTH: Cinderella, Cinderella!

BRITNEY: Here she is, doing nothing as usual.

KYLIE: She needs a lesson that one - a real good hiding.

THEY PULL HER HAIR.

BRITNEY: That'll teach you, singing when you should be cleaning!

KYLIE: Yes, you're really in the cart you are - and not the D'Oyle Carte neither.

CINDERS: Please sisters, I only stopped for a moment.

BOTH: Oh, she only stopped for a moment!! You are the weakest link ó shove off.

CINDERS: Why are you so cruel to me? I am your sister after all.

KYLIE: Half sister. Mummy is not your mummy.

BRITNEY: Yes ó and we are the ones who got all the good looks genes.

CINDERS: Really! You want to stand where I am standing.

BRITNEY: Yes well, get upstairs and make the beds, polish the floors, clean the windows and do the ironing.

KYLIE: Sweep the carpets, dust the lampshades, Hoover the attic and feed the rabbit.

BRITNEY: And can you put my electric blanket on please!

CINDERS: And when I've finished?

BOTH: Do ó them ó all ó again!

CINDERS EXITS.

BRITNEY: Well that put her in her place.

KYLIE: Yes. TO AUDIENCE: Mind you, I'm not like that really - I'm only doing it to keep *her* quiet.

BRITNEY: Oh, pleading for sympathy are we? This'll go on all night now, needs to be loved, her social worker said.

KYLIE: Let's not fight - we need to be like a pair of bras. Put on a united front.

BARONESS ENTERS.

BARONESS: Ah, there you are my pretties.

THEY LOOK AROUND.

BARONESS: I mean you, you fools. My beautiful little butterflies! TO AUDIENCE: Not only a good mother, a great liar too. Now, listen to me my darlings, do as I say and I'll buy you some more of those ugly pills you like so much. TO AUDIENCE: Working, aren't they. Squire Snatchall has just left but he's coming to call again - will you prepare something rather special for lunch. I don't want to trust it to Cinderella, she might mess it up on purpose and I've had to let Chef Ramsay (*or surname of TV chef*) go. I mean, I like a good curse as much as the next woman but really ó he doesn't know any words with 5 letters in them.

KYLIE: Well I can't do it - I've got my dancing class, so far I can only do one dance. It's the hokey cokey but at the moment it's more cokey than hokey.

BRITNEY: She likes putting it in when she should be taking it out. I'll do it mummy, I make a wonderful casserole.

BARONESS: You can do it together. So it's over to you - Butch Casserole and the One Dance Kid!

BARONESS EXITS.

KYLIE: Your casserole *is* dreadful. Let's look in the cookery book.

BRITNEY FETCHES THE BOOK WITH 'OK OK' ON IT.

BRITNEY: Ok, ok.

OPENS BOOK SO THAT IT READS 'COOK BOOK'.

BRITNEY: Now let's see. Coq au Vin.

KYLIE: I know what that is - a chicken on a lorry!

BRITNEY: Ploughman's lunch. First find a ploughman! Shepherd's pie?

KYLIE: You can't get their crooks in the oven.

BRITNEY: I know - switch the radio on - we'll get the recipe of the day. I'll go and get the things.

KYLIE SWITCHES RADIO ON. BRITNEY BRINGS ON TROLLEY.

RADIO: (local team) 20, (rival team) 0. And now for the recipe of the day. Today our recipe is for tasty chicken pie. First of all we need to make the pastry. Take one large bowl.

KYLIE: PULLS OUT SMALL ONE One large bowl.

RADIO: No, no, larger than that.

KYLIE: PULLS OUT LARGER ONE Larger than that.

RADIO: Good. Now take one cup of flour.

BRITNEY: One cup of flour. HANDS IT TO KYLIE.

RADIO: Place in the bowl.

KYLIE: Place in the bowl. PUTS CUP IN BOWL.

RADIO: Not the cup as well you twit.

BRITNEY: Not the cup as well you twit.

THEY THROW FLOUR AT EACH OTHER.

RADIO: Next, add one pinch of salt.

BRITNEY: HOLDING UP LARGE SALT SHAKER How much is one pinch?

RADIO: Show her Kylie!

KYLIE: Hold it over the bowl. PINCHES HER BUM, BRITNEY JUMPS AND THE WHOLE TIN OF SALT GOES IN.

BRITNEY: Now look -

KYLIE: I'm only doing what he's telling me to do!

BRITNEY: Well, you can stop it! TO AUDIENCE: She goes too far!

RADIO: Now take a large jug of water and sprinkle it on.

BRITNEY HANDS OVER LARGE JUG OF WATER.

KYLIE: What do I do with it?

RADIO: Sprinkle it on Kylie.

BRITNEY THROWS IT OVER KYLIE. KYLIE POURS SOME WATER IN.

RADIO: Now knead it. Knead it, knead it. Are you kneading it too?

BRITNEY: Don't answer him Kylie, dirty monkey!

RADIO: Now you go out to the larder and fetch in your little chickens. Two small ones are best.

BRITNEY: Quick - we've got to go to the larder.

THEY EXIT.

RADIO: Put the chicken in the pie and heat for one hour. And there's another recipe at the same time tomorrow. And now Doctor Henry McHenry gives advice to new mothers on bathing babies. Hello, this is something we can do together -

ENTER UGLIES WITH CHICKENS.

RADIO: Have you got your little chickens there? Ladies, are we ready?

BOTH: Yes, yes.

RADIO: Right, hold your chickens in your arms and rock them gently to and fro. Now before placing them in the bowl make sure they are free from wind. Place them over your shoulders ladies and pat his little back! THEY DO SO Put a little water in the bowl. THEY PRODUCE A SECOND BOWL AND POUR WATER IN SO THEY HAVE ONE EACH. Now place the little ones in the water - aagh, gently does it - did you remember to test the water with your elbows first? THEY LOOK AT THE RADIO THEN AT EACH OTHER. PLUNGE ELBOWS IN. Now your chickens are in the water make sure you splash water over their little parts.

KYLIE: Are you sure this is right Britney?

BRITNEY: Well it seems a bit funny to me. I'm just thinking of Jamie Oliver (*or young TV chef*) doing it.

KYLIE: Doing what? You dirty minx.

RADIO: Now that your little chickens are wet all over get the liquid soap ready.

KYLIE: Liquid soap?

RADIO: The success of the operation depends entirely on working up a good thick lather.

BRITNEY: It won't taste so hot but at least it'll be clean.

RADIO: Now rinse its little head. Take a nice clean towel and wrap your little chicken up. THEY DO Pat him all over, hold him in the air and give him a shake THEY DO Why not share a little joke with him.

KYLIE: Who's a pretty boy then.

BRITNEY: There was an Englishman, an Irishman and a ...

KYLIE: You know what Britney, it seems a shame to eat him now.

RADIO: Now lie him on his back, lift up his little legs and dust him down. THEY DO - FLOUR GOING EVERYWHERE. And remember, keep him warm. THEY THROW THEM INTO THE BOWLS AND SLAM THEM IN THE OVENS QUICK. And that dear listeners, is how to bath a baby.

BOTH: Bath a baby?

KYLIE: You stupid thing. I'm going to -

DOORBELL.

BRITNEY: Who can that be, calling at this time of day.

KYLIE: Well, it can't be the milkman, he's already been. PATS HER HAIR.

BRITNEY: You sly cat.

ENTER BUTTONS.

BUTTONS: His Royal Highness's

BOTH: Ooh!

BUTTONS: ...servant, Dandini.

ENTER PRINCE.

KYLIE: It's that fella from the woods - Dan, Dan, the servant man.

PRINCE: Good evening girls, is the Baroness at home?

BUTTONS: I think she's playing away all week. At least, her boots aren't in the hall.

ENTER BARONESS.

BARONESS: Any more of that Buttons and I'll kick you right into touch. Now sire, you wanted me.

PRINCE: I'm here on behalf of Prince Charming to issue invitations to the royal ball. Now, how many tickets will you require?

BARONESS: A ball? Three.

BUTTONS: Five.

KYLIE: Three.

BUTTONS: Five. Any advance on five? No - five it is. Sold!

PRINCE: Very well, five. COUNTS THEM OUT TO BARONESS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Thank you and goodnight.

BARONESS: Hang on, you're forgetting your place. You exit by the servant's door.

KYLIE: Haven't you ever watched Upstairs Downstairs numbskull?

PRINCE EXITS.

BUTTONS: Cinderella, Cinderella.

CINDERELLA ENTERS.

CINDERS: Yes Buttons, what is it?

BUTTONS: The prince's servant has been with tickets for the ball - one for each of us.

BARONESS: Oh no he didn't. OH YES HE DID ETC. Silence! There's one for you Kylie, and one for you Britney, and one for me ... GIVES THEM OUT.

SISTERS: We're going to the ball, ey ay adio, we're going to the ball.

THEY EXIT.

BUTTONS: But he gave you two more tickets - one for me and one for Cinderella.

BARONESS: -Oh, there's two more tickets - one for me and one for Cinderella!ø Are there really? Cinderella, would you like a ticket to go to the ball?

CINDERS: Oh yes please, I'd like that more than anything in the world.

BARONESS: And what about you Buttons?

BUTTONS: Thank you Baroness, I'd like to keep Cinders company.

BARONESS: Here you are then -

SHE GIVES THEM THE TICKETS.

BUTTONS: Oh, thank you Baroness.

BARONESS: Now tear them up. If you don't I will.

BUTTONS: But -

BARONESS: Go on, tear them up.

THERE IS A STAND OFF. BARONESS NEVER CRACKS AND EVENTUALLY THEY DO TEAR THEM UP.

BRITNEY RUSHES ON.

BRITNEY: Mummy, the ball, the ball - it's tonight!

BARONESS: Tonight? Then we'd better get ready. Fast!

EXIT BRITNEY AND BARONESS.

BUTTONS: Come on Cinderella, it's not as bad as all that. Is it?

CINDERS CRIES.

BUTTONS: Come on Cinders, don't cry. Just remember you've always got me to look after you. I í .. (he mimes ÆLove youØ)

CINDERS: What would I do without you Buttons?

SHE KISSES HIM.

BUTTONS: She kissed me! Cinders, do you like me at all, when I say ÆlikeØI...., do you?, do you?, just a little bit?

CINDERS: Of course I do Buttons, I like you a lot.

BUTTONS: Wha-hey! Cinders, will you do something for me?

CINDERS: If I can.

BUTTONS: Would you come and sit next to me on the table?

CINDERS: Of course I will Buttons.

THEY SIT SIDE BY SIDE.

BUTTONS: MOUthing TO AUDIENCE: She loves me too! HE SWINGS HIS LEGS Hello!

CINDERS: Hello!

NUMBER Cinderella and Buttons

CINDERS: You haven't told me why you wanted me to sit next to you.

BUTTONS: I like you Cinderella - I like you a lot.

CINDERS: I like you too.

BUTTONS: What I wanted to say to you was - wi...., wil...., will you marry me Cinderella?

CINDERS: That's the nicest thing anyone's ever said to me.

BUTTONS: Will you then?

CINDERS: I'm very fond of you Buttons - but I can't marry you.

BUTTONS: Why not?

CINDERS: Because I'm in love with someone else.

BUTTONS: Oh. PAUSE. HE GULPS. I see.

CINDERS: Oh Buttons!

BUTTONS: So um, who is this chap then?

CINDERS: I've only met him once. He's called Dandini - he's the servant to the Prince.

BUTTONS: He was here - tonight. It was him who came with the invites. So, you don't love *me* - because of *him*.

CINDERS: I do *love* you Buttons - I love you like a brother.

BUTTONS: Really? Like your Big Brother?

THEME MUSIC STING.

BUTTONS: (INTO GEORDIE ACCENT) Cinderella and Buttons have been talking in the kitchen whilst the others are getting ready for a night out. HE LAUGHS. STOPS. (*If Big Brother is no longer topical – cut the*

previous line) I see. Well, I'm very happy for you. So we're stuck here for the night - all on our own.

CINDERS: Yes.

BUTTONS: Do you want to have our own ball - you know, pretend.

CINDERS: Well I...

BUTTONS: You can be the beautiful Princess PUTS TABLE CLOTH ROUND HER and here's your carriage. PUTS CHAIR ON TOP OF TABLE and where's your....

OLD LADY APPEARS. LIGHTING GOES DOWN.

BUTTONS:tiara. What's going on?

OLD LADY: Magic my children ó that's what this is. Cinderella, do as Buttons bids you ó make a tiara from some tin foil. Go to the pantry and fetch it.

CINDERS: Wait a minute!

CINDERELLA EXITS. WHEN SHE RETURNS IT IS A DOUBLE WEARING A TIN FOIL TIARA.

BUTTONS: Your Highness, your carriage awaits!

CINDERS CLIMBS ONTO THE TABLE TOP AND TAKES HER SEAT.

BUTTONS: But old lady ó I don't understand ó

OLD LADY: You wanted to pretend, didn't you? Pretend you were at the royal ball?

BUTTONS: Yes.

OLD LADY: Let me help you - (WAVES WAND)

LIGHTING CHANGES AGAIN - A MIRRORBALL STARTS.

BUTTONS: - I'm the handsome Prince dancing on my own waiting for that special Princess to walk into his life.

OLD LADY WAVES THE WAND. FREEZE.

FAIRY: Dear Cinderella, earlier you were so kind,
A way to repay you now comes to mind,
You thought me an old lady, just another,
But now you must know, I'm your Fairy Godmother!

SHE PULLS OFF HOODED CLOAK TO REVEAL HER TRUE SELF.

FAIRY: Buttons, go into the yard and collect a pumpkin and some mice.

BUTTONS EXITS.

FAIRY: We'll have you to the palace in just a trice.

BUTTONS BACK - PLACES ITEMS ON TABLE UNDER CHAIR.

FAIRY: Now help Cinders down - there's not much time, it's a bit of a race,
And so clear the things to the side - for magic, I need some space!

THEY MOVE THE TABLE WITH THE STUFF ON TOP. BUTTONS EXITS.
CINDERELLA STANDS CENTRE.

FAIRY: And now my dear, there is one thing you must remember, my magic
spell will only last until midnight so you must be away from the ball
and back home by then otherwise everything will return to the way it
was. Come, my dear, we must waste no time - of all the powers
invested in me, on the power of good I call, transform these things as I
requested, and Cinderella shall go to the ball!

FLASH LIGHTS AT AUDIENCE - DURING WHICH THE DOUBLE EXITS.
TRANSFORMATION - CINDERELLA IS NOW CENTRE IN HER COACH.

CINDERS: I can't believe it, is it really me?

FAIRY: It certainly is - your kindness is repaid! But don't forget what I said -
be back by midnight.

CINDERS: But where's Buttons?

BUTTONS ON IN FOOTMAN'S GARB. MUSIC BEGINS.

BUTTONS: This isn't quite what I had in mind!

FAIRY: Have a wonderful evening! You see Cinderella - you shall go to the
ball!

CURTAIN.

ACT TWO:

1. THE PALACE BALLROOM:

CHORUS DO NUMBER.

PRINCE AND DANDINI ENTER.

PRINCE: Well Dandini, what's it like to be a servant again?

DANDINI: Oh much more fun sire. And are you happy to be Prince once more?

PRINCE: I can only tell you that Dandini when all the guests arrive.

DANDINI: Oh she'll be here sire, everyone is here tonight.

FLUNKY: Squire Snatchall and Baroness Stoneybroke.

THEY ENTER.

BARONESS: TO DANDINI Your Highness!

SQUIRE: No, no, this is his Highness!

BARONESS: But you're the one who came with the invites.

PRINCE: Me madam?

BARONESS: Oh I shall have to get my eyes seen to - I'll pop down to (*local optician*) in the morning.

SQUIRE: Do forgive the old vampire, she's just a little batty.

PRINCE: You are most welcome. There will be dancing in here and in the State Room there's a running buffet.

SQUIRE: In that case we'll see if we can catch it.

THEY EXIT.

FLUNKY: Her Imperial Ugliness the Right Honourable Kylie Stoneybroke.

ENTER KYLIE. SHE TRIPS ON THE LAST STEP.

KYLIE: TO PRINCE I thought you'd be here - anywhere where there's free food.

DANDINI: Madam, this is Prince Charming.

KYLIE: But I thought

FLUNKY: Sire, tipped for success by the Pig Breeders Gazette and numerous sailors in Portsmouth, Her Ugliness Britney Stoneybroke.

ENTER BRITNEY. IF THERE'S A HANDRAIL SHE SLIDES DOWN THAT.

BRITNEY: Hello fellas, is that a proclamation in your pocket or are you pleased to see me?

PRINCE: Neither.

BRITNEY: I wasn't talking to you.

DANDINI: But this is the Prince.

KYLIE: I think I've been duped.

DANDINI: Try syrup of figs.

ENTER BARONESS AND SQUIRE.

BARONESS: Ah, there you are my prize poodles. I'm having a very trying day.

SQUIRE: Really?

BARONESS: Oh yes, the butcher tried, the baker tried and I can't tell you about the candle stick maker. This takes me back - I used to be the belle of the ball.

SQUIRE: Yes, then you lost your clanger.

FLUNKY: His Royal Highness Prince Buttoni.

ENTER BUTTONS.

BUTTONS: Hiya kids.

FLUNKY: Ladies and gentlemen, there will now be a display of fireworks in the garden.

BUTTONS: There'll be a few in here very soon. ASIDE She's on her way kids!

BARONESS: What do you think you're doing here and where did you get these clothes?

KYLIE: I knew him when he had nowt.

NUMBER - REPRISE DURING WHICH THE PRINCE EXITS.

FLUNKY PUSHES DRINKS TROLLEY PAST.

SQUIRE: My dear Baroness, would you like a tiny tincture?

BARONESS: Terribly tempting!

FLUNKY: Soft drinks are free - alcoholic, £1 a shot.

SQUIRE: Just the one then.

FLUNKY POURS DRINK.

SQUIRE: What is it?

FLUNKY: It's a special brew - we call it the drink of truth.

BARONESS: The drink of truth?

FLUNKY: Yes, take just one sip and you will be compelled to tell the truth.

SQUIRE: The truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

FLUNKY: That's what it says on the tin.

BARONESS TRIES IT.

BARONESS: It tastes of petrol.

FLUNKY: Now ain't that the truth.

FLUNKY OFF.

PRINCE ENTERS.

DANDINI: Any sign of her sire?

PRINCE: No Dandini, it's as I feared - she isn't coming.

DANDINI: Come and dance sire, take your mind of it.

PRINCE: No thank you Dandini, I know we dance together when we're alone but not in front of the guests -

DANDINI: No sire, you misconstrue. In fact, you've been misconstruing all night.

PRINCE: I'll try those syrup of figs! Oh I see - you want me to dance with one of these!

IMMEDIATELY ALL THE GUESTS STOP AND SMILE AT HIM.

DANDINI: It's rather like Crufts sir.

BARONESS: Let me partner you scrumptious lumptious.

KYLIE: No mummy, I can give him a go on the Gay Gordons.

BRITNEY: Yes well Kylie - as if you should be so lucky, lucky, lucky.

PRINCE: Now let me see -

THEY SCRAMBLE ABOUT.

FLUNKY: Her Royal Highness Princess Crystal.

CINDERELLA ENTERS.

KYLIE: Look at her - she's going to drive me out of my mind.

SQUIRE: Well you won't have far to go.

PRINCE: Princess Crystal - welcome, I am Prince Charming. This is like a dream - you remind me so much of someone else and yet you can not possibly be she.

CINDERS: The feeling is mutual and yet the man you remind me of was a servant not a Prince.

PRINCE: Come, let us talk on the terrace.

THEY EXIT.

BARONESS: Who is she?

KYLIE: Never mind that - who does she hope to be?

BRITNEY: Crystal indeed - more Everest Windows (*or local double glazing company*) if you ask me. And I wore my new royal knickers an' all.

BUTTONS: Your royal knickers?

BRITNEY: Yes, they're made from a union jack.

BUTTONS: Don't they chafe?

BRITNEY: Yes. I'm going to have to take the flag pole out.

SHE REMOVES EXTENDING POLE FROM HER SKIRT.

SQUIRE: Good Lord!

FLUNKY: Dinner is served.