

NODA Presents

CINDERELLA

by
Peter Denyer

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A NOTE FROM THE WRITER

Considered by many to be the most perfect pantomime of all, "Cinderella" is always a popular title and a guaranteed success at the box-office! Unlike other subjects it contains only one "immortal" - The Fairy Godmother, villainy is left in the hands of The Ugly Sisters and The Stepmother Baroness. The introduction of the latter character who is almost pure evil means that more comedy can be got from The Sisters, who are vain, stupid and spiteful rather than bad. The other problem with the story is that not a lot happens after the end of the ball scene! In this version we have a version of the "ghost gag" in which Buttons takes his chance for revenge on The Sisters.

The part of the story where Prince Charming and his manservant Dandini pretend to be each other is well-known feature of "Cinderella" and I think this works best if Dandini's accent is a lot less classy than that of The Prince. When both are trying to imitate the other's style of speech there is a much better opportunity for comedy. The crucial relationship in the show is that between Cinderella and Buttons, they both love each other, but sadly for Buttons she only loves him "like a brother" - her romantic longings are for The Prince. There will be a lot of sympathy for Buttons in the kitchen scene when he learns his feelings are not reciprocated but this will not matter if Cinderella is genuinely upset by hurting him.

Good Luck!

PETER DENYER

OTHER TITLES AVAILABLE BY THE SAME AUTHOR FROM NODA

ALADDIN AND HIS WONDERFUL LAMP

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

MOTHER GOOSE

ROBIN HOOD AND THE BABES IN THE WOOD

SINBAD THE SAILOR

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

THE SNOW QUEEN

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

This script, like all Peter Denyer Pantomimes, was originally produced by Kevin Wood with a professional cast. Over the years the structure and dialogue were adapted to suit the requirements of the many star actors who appeared in the show. In 1997, at the invitation of NODA, the scripts were subjected to a cleansing process returning them to something like their original form, removing the quirks demanded by particular actors, and adding stage directions and technical tips, thereby making them more suitable for licensing. During the 1998/99 Season there were over sixty productions by amateur societies. Following their comments and suggestions, the scripts were revised again in 1999, and again in 2000. This latest version is based on the 2007 production at the Richmond Theatre, which starred Nigel Havers as Baron Hardup.

We thought you would be interested to know a little about the background to the piece, and the various actors who have played the roles. So we've trawled through the archives and come up with this potted history. This version of CINDERELLA was first produced at The Orchard Theatre Dartford in 1988. Since then it has been seen at The Connaught Theatre Worthing; The Theatre Royal Brighton; The Wyvern Theatre Swindon; The Anvil Basingstoke; The Marlowe Theatre Canterbury; The Wycombe Swan and The Gordon Craig Theatre Stevenage and The Richmond Theatre.

Over that time, amongst the many fine actors that have appeared in the show, were the following notable performers:

Buttons	Norman Wisdom, Matthew Kelly, Peter Duncan, Mark Curry, Bradley Walsh, John Pickard and Gary Wilmot
Cinderella	Bonnie Langford, Martine McCutcheon, Linda Lusardi and Leila Birch
Fairy	Barbara Windsor, Deborah Watling, Anna Wing and Lynette McMorrough
Sisters	Gorden Kaye, Richard Cawley, Roger Kitter, Dave Lynn and Dave Lee.
Baron Hardup	Nigel Havers

ABOUT THE WRITER

PETER DENYER has been writing for the theatre for more than thirty-five years, he has also directed many plays, musicals, and pantomimes, and in 1986 became the Artistic Director of Kevin Wood Pantomimes. Peter's pantomimes have been hailed as the best in the field, and his scripts cover the full canon of titles. Each Christmas there are countless presentations, making Peter one of the "most produced writers" in the country. But in fact, it was as an actor that Peter became best known to the general public, with over two hundred television appearances to his credit. He is probably best remembered as the dopey Dennis in *Please Sir!* and *The Fenn Street Gang*, Michael in *Agony*, and Ralph in *Dear John*. Peter moved into 'semi-retirement' four years ago, but having recharged his batteries is again working as a freelance writer and director. Two years ago he joined the Creative Team of First Family Entertainment and this year wrote the scripts of *Peter Pan*, with Henry Winkler, at The Victoria Theatre, Woking; *Cinderella* at The Richmond Theatre, with Nigel Havers. He also wrote and directed *Snow White* at the Wimbledon Theatre, starring Ross Kemp and Bobby Davro. What is not so well known, is that Peter's love and life long connection with the stage began as a seventeen year old amateur with the Erith Playhouse back in the mid-sixties. In producing these scripts for your use, he feels he has gone some way to completing the circle.

CAST LIST**Principal Roles**

Buttons	-
Cinderella	-
Baron Henry Hardup	-
The Baroness	-
Grizelda Hardup	-
Mona Hardup	-
Prince Charming	-
Dandini	-
The Fairy Godmother	-
The Chamberlain	-

Chorus

Villagers	-
Courtiers	-
Servants	-
Fairies	-
Guests	-
Children	-

LIST OF SCENES

ACT ONE

PROLOGUE

SCENE 1: THE VILLAGE OF MUCH IDLING

SCENE 2: THE EDGE OF THE FOREST

SCENE 3: A CORRIDOR AT HARDUP HALL

SCENE 4: THE ROYAL HUNT

SCENE 5: THE STORYBOOK

SCENE 6: THE KITCHEN AT HARDUP HALL

SCENE 7: THE FAIRY KINGDOM

ACT TWO

SCENE 8: THE ROYAL BALLROOM

SCENE 9: THE CORRIDOR AGAIN

SCENE10: THE KITCHEN AT HARDUP HALL

SCENE 11: THE SONGSHEET

SCENE 12: THE ROYAL PALACE

ACT ONE

THE PROLOGUE

MUSIC CUE 1: OVERTURE SEGUES INTO 11 CLOCK CHIMES.

LX CUE 1: LIGHTS UP ON THE CLOTH/TABS.

On the eleventh chime...The FAIRY GODMOTHER enters, in a state of confusion...

FAIRY: Ooh! I nearly didn't make it then! Only just in time
 You have to be so careful when the clock begins to chime.
 Well, goodness me! What do I see? A lot of girls and boys!
 (I 'spose I should have guessed as much when I heard all that noise)
 How kind of you to come along and be with us today
 I promise you all, a "Fairy-tale" before you go away
 Like all Good Fairies, as you will see, I'm very good at "spelling"!
 There's only one thing I like more - and that, is story-telling...
 For you see, it's so useful, when you have to speak in rhyme
 To know that you can always start with..."Once upon a time"...

MUSIC CUE 1a: FAIRY UNDERSCORE (INSTRUMENTAL)

A child was born, a pretty girl, her heart so sweet and true,
 Everyone loved Cinderella!...And I'm sure that you will too!
 Although she was an only child, no sister and no brother,
 She did have one advantage, me...her Fairy Godmother!
 Then one sad day her mother died
 Poor Cinderella cried and cried
 And as she watched her father grieve
 Cinderella swore she'd never leave
 But it wasn't an easy life, you see
 For they weren't as rich as they used to be...
 Anyway...for the moment, that's all you need to know
 So, to the village of Much Idling, we now shall go...

The FAIRY GODMOTHER waves her wand and exits as...

LX CUE 2: BLACKOUT.

CLOTH/TABS OUT.

LX CUE 3: LIGHTS UP REVEALING...

SCENE ONE**THE VILLAGE OF MUCH IDLING****MUSIC CUE 2: SONG: CINDERELLA, VILLAGERS and CHILDREN**

CINDERELLA: Morning, everybody!

ALL: Morning, Cinderella!

CINDERELLA: I love winter days like this! It may be cold and frosty, but when the sun shines – it makes everything sparkle like diamonds!

VILLAGERS: You're right!/It does!/Everywhere's sparkling!/Etc.

CINDERELLA: I'm so glad it's a beautiful morning – because my father's coming home today. He's only been away for a month – but I've missed him so much,

VILLAGER 1: Where's Baron Hardup been, Cinders?

CINDERELLA: He's been to see his brother, Lord Moneybags.

VILLAGER 2: His brother is Lord Moneybags?

CINDERELLA Yes - his older brother – the one who inherited the family fortune.

VILLAGER 1: Your father's always broke

VILLAGER 2: He's nearly as poor as us!

The VILLAGERS cheerfully agree.

CINDERELLA: We may not have much money, but we're happy together! I love my father very much – and if ever we do feel down, we've always got Buttons to cheer us up.

VILLAGERS: That's true!/He's as mad as a hatter!/He always makes me laugh!/Etc

CINDERELLA: That's who I came here looking for, but I can't find him anywhere! Will you help me find him?

VILLAGERS: Of course we will!/No problem!/Anything for you, Cinders Etc .

CINDERELLA: (*To The AUDIENCE*) Will you help me, too?...Well, will you? Thank you very much. Come on then... all together one, two three...Buttons! ...Buttons!

ALL exit looking for BUTTONS.

LX CUE 4: FADE TO BLACKOUT.

**FX CUE 1: POWERFUL MOTOR BIKE APPROACHING AND
SCREECHING TO A HALT.**

LX CUE 5: LIGHTS UP REVEALING...

BUTTONS – he is pushing a supermarket trolley which has a large flashlight fitted to the front. Inside are various boxes. He sounds the air-horn again.

BUTTONS: Hiya, Kids!...Oh come on, come on – anticipate! My name’s Buttons – so when I shout “Hiya, Kids!” you’ve got to shout “Hiya, Buttons!”

BUTTONS repeats as necessary.

Great! I work at Hardup Hall, you know – for Baron Hardup. He’s coming home today so I’ve been doing a bit of shopping...I’ve bought lots of stuff...I got this...*(Takes out a large, expensively wrapped box)*...you’ll never guess what it is?...No - it’s a box! And this...? *(Takes out an identical box)*...is a match box!...*(Takes out a large circular white box)*...What about this one?...No...a pill box!...And this?...*(Holds out, horizontally, a column-shaped box, with capital and plinth)*...Wrong again!...*(Turns it vertically)*...It’s a pillar box! And this?...*(Takes out an oblong, white box and rotates it: on consecutive sides are written the words “Dear”, “Sir”, “Yours”, “Truly”)*...It’s obvious – it’s a letter box! What about this one?...*(Takes out a large, plain, cardboard box with “CRISPS” written on it)* You’re getting better! It is indeed a bumper box of crisps! Does anyone out there like crisps?...Right – you shall have some! *(He turns the box upside down...a single packet of crisps falls out. He taps the box, shakes it and looks inside it)* ...I don’t know about Walkers – I think these crisps have done a runner! No problem – you don’t mind sharing, do you?...OK...*(Claps his hands together, bursting the bag and smashing the crisps – then throws the bag into The AUDIENCE)*...Go on! Giving is good!! I spent so much on those boxes they gave me a free gift...*(Takes a book out of the trolley)*...this book - it’s called “Nursery Rhymes For Today”...*(Reads)*...

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall
The structure of the wall was incorrect
So he won a grand on Claims Direct

Jack and Jill went to town
To buy some chips and sweeties
Now he can’t keep his heart rate down
And she’s got diabetes

Mary had a little lamb
Her father shot it dead
Now Mary takes her lamb to school

Between two bits of bread

That's quite enough of that!

BUTTONS puts the book back and pushes the trolley offstage.

BUTTONS Have you met Cinderella yet?... you have!...Isn't she lovely?...Shall I let you into a secret?...You have to promise not to tell...well, I think I love her!...That's our secret, right?...You won't tell anyone...?

CINDERELLA enters behind BUTTONS.

BUTTONS: Specially, Cinderella...you must never tell her...O.K.?...Cinderella must never know...

CINDERELLA: What must I never know, Buttons?

BUTTONS: Ah!! That...that...that it's Thursday! (*Or whatever day it is*)

CINDERELLA: I know it's Thursday, Buttons.

BUTTONS: Oh...I thought it was a secret...

CINDERELLA: Sometimes, Buttons, you're really strange.

BUTTONS: (*Besotted*) Thanks, Cinders...so are you...

CINDERELLA: Have you forgotten my father's coming home today?

BUTTONS: No I haven't – and I hope he's managed to borrow some money off his brother...I haven't been paid any wages for nearly a year!

CINDERELLA: He'll pay you as soon as he gets back, I'm sure...

The BARON is heard calling from offstage...

BARON: Cinderella! Cinderella!!

BUTTONS: That sounds like him now...

MUSIC CUE 2a: BARON'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)

BARON HARDUP enters.

BARON: Cinderella! My dear, dear girl!

CINDERELLA: Father!

CINDERELLA runs to The BARON: they embrace.

BUTTONS: How do, Baron!

- BARON: Ah, Buttons...good to see you, my dear chap!
- The BARON salutes, BUTTONS returns the salute and pokes himself in the eye.*
- BUTTONS: Ow!
- CINDERELLA: How did you know where I was, Father?
- BARON: I was driving back to Hardup Hall when some of the villagers stopped me; they were looking for you, Buttons...
- BUTTONS: A lot of people are...most of them have got warrants...
- BARON: *(To CINDERELLA)* They told me you were here...
- CINDERELLA: What happened to the carriage - you spent our last sovereign hiring it?
- BARON: Ah! Well I sent it on to the Hall, because...er...because inside, is your special surprise...
- CINDERELLA: A special surprise?!
- BUTTONS: Don't tell me you've come back with a sack of gold or a chest full of treasure?!
- BARON: Not quite...though it's true my brother did make a fortune in the City.
- BUTTONS: Oh...insider dealing?
- BARON: No, he ran the Starbucks at Canary Wharf...but Pret A Manger opened next door - and now he's down to his last million.
- CINDERELLA: So he couldn't lend you any money?
- BARON: No – but he came up with a splendid idea. He knew of a wealthy widow, with two girls of her own...who was looking for a titled husband! I thought it was a brilliant scheme so, without even seeing the woman, I agreed to marry her the next day...so, my dear, that is your special surprise...you have a stepmother...
- CINDERELLA: A stepmother...?
- BARON: Yes...and two stepsisters as well...I hope you aren't upset with me?
- CINDERELLA: Of course not...you've looked after me on your own since I was a baby, I think it's wonderful that you've married again...and I'll have two sisters as well – we can be one, big happy family! *(Embraces him)*
- BARON: I do hope so...
- BUTTONS: You pulled a bit of a stroke there, Baron...all I can say is "Good Luck".

BUTTONS shakes The BARON's hand.

- BARON: Thankyou you, Buttons – I have a feeling we may all need it.
- BUTTONS: What do you mean?
- BARON: Well, when I saw my new bride-to-be in the church next day it all seemed fine...she had a shapely enough chassis...
- BUTTONS: Steady on, now!
- BARON: She was wearing a lovely large hat...with a veil...and then....
- BUTTONS:)And then...?
- CINDERELLA:)
- BARON: And then she threw back the veil...and...
- BUTTONS:)And...?!
- CINDERELLA:)
- BARON: I was expecting a ray of sunshine...I got a thunderstorm!

FX CUE 2: THUNDERCRASH.
LX CUE 6: DRAMATIC STATE.

The BARONESS Enters US. She throws back her veil: BUTTONS and CINDERELLA recoil with horror at the sight..

- BARONESS: Henry!
- The BARONESS moves DC and points to her side.***
- Here!!
- The BARON moves to her.***

- BARON: Yes, my dear.
- LX CUE 7: SLOW RESTORE TO A LOWER STATE.**

- BARONESS: Henry Hardup...I want an explanation!
- BARON: Concerning what, Hermione?
- BARONESS: You sent me by carriage to what you said was “Hardup Hall”...I think you meant it was hardly a hovel!
- BARON: The house does need a bit of a makeover, I confess...
- BUTTONS: (*Aside*) It's not the only thing!
- BARONESS: Then the coachman drove off and left me standing there...

- BUTTONS: *(Aside)* Who can blame him?
- BARONESS: Then...when I knocked on the door, there were no servants around to let me in...what is the meaning of this?
- BARON: Ah, well, you see...all the staff have got the day off.
- BARONESS: All of them?! How many staff do you have?
- BARON: Let me see, there's...and...there's...er...er...Buttons. *(Indicates him)*
- BARONESS: That?!...That apology for a human being is your entire staff? Is it something to do with Community Service?
- BUTTONS: I look forward to being abused by you, ma'am. *(Salutes her and sticks his finger in his eye again)* Ow!
- BARONESS: You will be. What about 'Miss Lockjaw'...?
- The BARONESS indicates CINDERELLA, who is frozen in horror.*
- What does she do?
- BARON: Oh she isn't a servant, Hermione...this is my little girl, my Cinderella – I told you all about her...
- BARONESS: But you said she was pretty...you obviously forgot to add the words 'ill-mannered'.
- CINDERELLA: *(Recovering her poise)* I'm so sorry, Stepmother, I am delighted to meet you...*(She curtseys to The BARONESS)*
- BARONESS: So you should be.
- CINDERELLA: I shall do everything I can to make you and my new sisters happy here.
- BARON: Cinderella is a wonderful cook, you know.
- BARONESS: I would hope so - but that won't be all she has to do! My girls are far too elegant and refined to do anything for themselves – you'll have to be their maidservant too.
- CINDERELLA: I'll be happy to help them.
- BARONESS: And of course you'll have to look after me...so you can start by going back to Hardup Hall and running me a bath.
- BARON: I'm sure Buttons could do that for you.
- BARONESS: Certainly not! He may not be much of a man, Henry - but he is not coming anywhere near my bathroom!

BUTTONS: That won't be a problem, I promise you.

CINDERELLA: Where are my sisters.

BARONESS: They had too much luggage to fit into the carriage, so they came by train. You can go to the station and help them, Bottoms.

BUTTONS: My name is Buttons!

BARONESS: Whatever! Off you go, girl!

CINDERELLA: Yes, stepmother.

CINDERELLA exits.

BARONESS: Henry! Heel!

BARON: Yes, my dear...

The BARONESS exits, followed by The BARON who, as he goes, shrugs helplessly at BUTTONS.

LX CUE 8: STATE BRIGHTENS.

BUTTONS: She called me Bottoms! That's a bit cheeky! Well I'm not walking all the way to the station. Cinders' new sisters will have to pass this way. Let's hope they're nothing like their mother. I expect they'll be really nice, don't you? Yes they will!...They're bound to love Cinders, aren't they?...No-one could be as bad as the Baroness, could they? Just you wait and see...

MUSIC CUE 2b: SISTER'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)

MONA and GRIZELDA enter through the auditorium, weighed down with suitcases, bags, parcels etc. They cause a commotion among The AUDIENCE. BUTTONS watches them in disbelief.

MONA: This way Grizelda – it can't be much further to Hardup Hall!

GRIZELDA: Why are all these people sitting down in the street – is it some sort of demo?

MONA: Watch it, you! He was trying to pinch my parcel, Sis!

GRIZELDA: You don't normally complain...Ooh! This one's more your type.

MONA: In what way?

GRIZELDA: He's a man and he's breathing!

MONA: You can talk! Here's one for you – you've always fancied a toyboy, haven't you?

- GRIZELDA: Ooh yes! How old is he?
- MONA: About seventy-five...
- MONA and GRIZELDA have now reached the stage, one DSR and the other DSL. As they pause for breath BUTTONS, DSC, speaks...***
- BUTTONS: Sorry boys and girls – you were right! They are as bad as their mother!
- MONA: Ooh! Look at this one, Sis...who are you then, chunky?
- BUTTONS: I'm Buttons, I'm a handyman...
- GRIZELDA: Sounds useful! I wonder if...(Sings) "a handyman can..."?
- BUTTONS: I work up at Hardup Hall...
- GRIZELDA: Really? That's where we're coming to live!
- MONA: Who's a lucky boy then?! Now, I am Mona Hardup...soon-to-be-discovered-superstar! But most people call me Moan!
- GRIZELDA: That's because she never stops whinging! And I'm the Victoria Beckham look-alike - Grizelda Hardup! But my friends call me Grizzle!
- MONA: Most people call you Grisly! Now, make yourself useful, Buttons, and call me a cab!
- BUTTONS: O.K. – You're a cab!
- MONA: I meant, get me a taxi!
- BUTTONS: I can't do that!
- GRIZELDA: Why ever not?
- BUTTONS: (*Stage whisper*) They haven't been invented yet.
- SISTERS: Ah!
- GRIZELDA: Well if we've got to walk there, we need a rest first - so you can take all this luggage with you...
- MONA: Be careful now – most of my stuff is designer label...Primark, Matalan – that sort of thing.
- MONA and GRIZELDA pile their luggage into BUTTONS' arms.***
- BUTTONS: As I'm doing all this portering - I hope I'm going to get a tip?
- GRIZELDA: Of course, I'll give you a tip, Buttons...come here...

BUTTONS goes to GRIZELDA.

GRIZELDA: The tip is - don't mess with me!!

GRIZELDA stamps on BUTTONS' foot - he hops about in silent agony.

GRIZELDA: Now, get back to Hardup Hall and make sure our baths are drawn.

MONA: Our beds are turned down.

SISTERS: And our dinners are on the table!

BUTTONS: Right! You're drawers are down, your beds are on the table and your dinners are in the bath...got it!

BUTTONS exits.

GRIZELDA: Here, Moan...when we were coming through that crowd out there, did you notice a terrible smell?

MONA: It's hardly surprising, Grizzle – look how many children there are...
ergh!

GRIZELDA: But you love children, don't you Moan?

MONA: Indeed I do! I adore children...I just don't know if I could eat a whole one!

The SISTERS laugh.

GRIZELDA: Poor, deprived creatures - they don't know who we are, do they?

MONA: Well, we've never been introduced, but they know we're the Beautiful Sisters...don't you?

The AUDIENCE will reply "No!"

SISTERS: Oh, yes we are!...**(Oh, no you're not!)** Oh, yes we are!...**(Oh, no you're not!)** We are! We are! We are!...**(You're not! You're not! You're not!)** We are! We are! We are!...**(You're not! You're not! You're not!)** We are! **(You're not!)** We are! **(You're not!)** We are! **(You're not!)**

GRIZELDA: And I'm the most beautiful...aren't I? **(No!)**

MONA: Not even they are that stupid!! I'm the most beautiful, aren't I? **(No!)**

GRIZELDA: You can forget the fellas, Moan - I'm the one with everything a man desires...

MONA: Yes – a beergut and tattoos!

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GRIZELDA: Why you -

The SISTERS begin, as the sometimes do, to engage in a rather juvenile, pawing, cat-fight.

MONA: Let's not quarrel, Grizzle! You'll meet Mr Right one day.

GRIZELDA: I think I already have...(Points at someone in The Audience) that bloke down there keeps winking at me...

MONA: (Looks out) He's not winking – he's got a nervous tic! Never mind – even if he doesn't fancy you – you've always got me!

GRIZELDA: That's what I find so depressing!

MUSIC CUE 3: SISTER'S SONG

LX CUE 9: STATE FOR SONG.

At the end of the number...

SISTERS: Aren't we adorable...?...(No!!)...Get lost!!

GRIZELDA and MONA exit DL.

LX CUE 10: BLACKOUT.

CLOTH IN.

MUSIC CUE 3b: FAIRY ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)

LX CUE 11: LIGHTS UP DSR.

Enter The FAIRY GODMOTHER.

FAIRY: What horrid girls those sisters are! As a Fairy I suppose I really shouldn't say this - but they do get up my nose! Anyway...don't you worry, I'll look after Cinderella For what she needs to do, is to find the right fella Right now there's a Prince in the forest, so that's where we will go All I must do is wave my wand...

The FAIRY GODMOTHER waves her wand...

LX CUE 12: LIGHTS REVEALING...

SCENE TWO

THE EDGE OF THE FOREST

FAIRY: ...And here we are!...See you later...cheerio!

The FAIRY GODMOTHER exits. DANDINI enters.

DANDINI: Come along, your 'ighness - there's only a couple of miles to go now.

Enter PRINCE CHARMING.

PRINCE: I know, Dandini, I know...every step of the way my heart gets heavier.

DANDINI: Why? We've been livin' abroad for three years - I'm lookin' forward to gettin' home and seein' all me mates again.

PRINCE: Well, I never had any friends...

DANDINI: Thanks a lot!

PRINCE: I mean...until you came to work for me, Dandini. I was brought up in a Royal Palace, with a private tutor, and everyone bowing and scraping to me – that's why I wanted to go to University in France. Somewhere I wasn't known, somewhere I could just be me.

DANDINI: Well I'm glad we're back, I never did get on with that French food. I want some proper English grub...pizzas, kebabs – a nice curry.

PRINCE: All I know is that now my Father's died, I'll have to take on all the duties of state. All those endless meetings, and hundreds of documents to sign.

DANDINI: We all 'ave our little crosses to bear, sir...it must be very 'ard on the wrist...(Mimes signing)...Be grateful you're not David Beckham!.

PRINCE: I know it's not hard work, Dandini - but it's so boring! Can't you understand? I just want to be free of all this...royal protocol! If it was just for a day I'd like to be an ordinary, boring sort of person...someone like you, Dandini.

DANDINI: Thanks! (*Aside*) I dunno know why they call him "Charming"!

PRINCE: I didn't mean it like that! But don't you see - your life is much richer than mine.

DANDINI: Can't say I've noticed - I'm always skint! I'd change places with you any day!

A 'ting' from the Drummer as The PRINCE has his idea.

PRINCE: That's it! We'll change places, for a day - I'll be you and you can be me - and then you might have some sympathy for the problems of a Prince!

DANDINI: And you'd know what it was like to be a servant!

PRINCE: I'd like that.

DANDINI: Don't be daft - it would never work!

PRINCE: Why not?

- DANDINI: Well, you've got fair hair!*
- PRINCE: You've got fair hair!
- DANDINI: You've got blue eyes!*
- PRINCE: You've got blue eyes!
- * Or whatever physical characteristics are the same.*
- DANDINI: Women really fancy you!
- PRINCE: Well...two out of three's not bad. Look, we've been out of the country for ages - no-one knows what either of us looks like!
- DANDINI: That's true...but you talk all funny!
- PRINCE: What do you mean "all funny"?
- DANDINI: Well...not proper, like what I do!
- PRINCE: I could talk ...(*Overdone imitation*)..."Proper like what you do".
- DANDINI: Not bad...a bit Dick Van Dyke...but not bad. The thing is - could I talk like you?
- PRINCE: It's easy to talk like a member of The Royal Family – I'll show you. All you have to do is answer three simple questions.
- DANDINI: O.K. Fire away.
- PRINCE: What do we breathe?
- DANDINI: Er...air.
- PRINCE: Yes...what grows on our heads?
- DANDINI: ...Hair.
- PRINCE: Exactly...and wolves live in a...?
- DANDINI: ...Lair.
- PRINCE: Now put them together...
- DANDINI: ...Air-hair-lair...?
- PRINCE: Air-hair-lair! (*Holds out his hand*)
- DANDINI: Air-hair-lair! (*They shake hands*)

PRINCE: That was wicked! Listen - tomorrow, in this very forest, there is to be a Royal Hunt to celebrate my homecoming. It's the ideal time for you to make your royal debut... "your 'ighness" ...*(Bows to DANDINI)*

DANDINI: Thankyou, my good fellow.

PRINCE; Now all you have to do is...*(Gives him the Royal Sash)*...put this on. There - you look just like a prince. *(He takes DANDINI's arm)*. Come on, Dandini, we can go -

DANDINI: Er...excuse me! *(Shrugs him off)* I think you're forgetting your place, my good fellow...

PRINCE: *(Bows)* I beg your pardon, your Royal 'ighness...*(Aside)*...He's better at this than I am...it's scary....

DANDINI: Was I going over the top?

PRINCE No! It's great! You are now...The Prince!

MUSIC CUE 4: DUET: PRINCE and DANDINI.

LX CUE 13: BLACKOUT.

FRONTCLOTH IN.

LX CUE 14: LOW STATE.

MUSIC CUE 4a: FAIRY ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)

Enter The FAIRY GODMOTHER.

FAIRY: Those naughty boys have changed about, what a thing to do!
It's a good job we all heard them - or we wouldn't know who's who!
At least we know where the Prince will next appear -
At the Hunt: I'll make sure that Cinderella's near.
So what I'm going to do, is leave Cinders a note...
Here's one I prepared earlier...

The FAIRY GODMOTHER takes a note from her bodice.

.....Still warm...this is what I wrote
It' may be a little short - but should give her the subtlest of hints...
"A Royal Hunt in the Forest tomorrow, there you'll meet your Prince!"
I'll leave this message for her, so she'll know where to go

The FAIRY GODMOTHER pins the note to a convenient flat.

It's "To the woods!" for Cinders - that's where she'll meet her beau!

The FAIRY GODMOTHER exits

MUSIC CUE 4b: SCENE CHANGE (INSTRUMENTAL)

LX CUE 15: LIGHTS UP REVEALING...

SCENE THREE**A CORRIDOR AT HARDUP HALL**

Enter BUTTONS.

BUTTONS: Cinders! Cinderella !! Oh, Hiya, Kids!...Have you seen Cinderella? ... I'm not surprised - since Grizelda and Mona arrived we've been given so many jobs to do...Hello...what's this? More junk mail!...

BUTTONS takes the note and reads it.

BUTTONS: "A Royal Hunt in the forest tomorrow - there you'll meet your Prince...?"

The BARON enters behind BUTTONS.

Who can this be for...?

The BARON taps BUTTONS on the shoulder: he jumps.

BUTTONS: Ah! I wish you wouldn't do that!

BARON: What are you up to?

BUTTONS: I've just found an odd note...

BARON: I've heard you sing, Buttons – you found a lot of odd notes!

BUTTONS: No! This note.

BARON: What does it say?

BUTTONS: It's about a Royal Hunt...

BARON: Roy Lunt? Roy...Lunt...? No, never heard of him!

BUTTONS: Not Roy Lunt! "A Roy-al Hunt"!!

BARON: Ah!

BUTTONS: It says my Prince will be there?

BARON: Your prints? Oh...it's a reminder from "Supasnaps"!

BUTTONS: Not those sort of prints! (*Gives The BARON the note*) A Royal Prince!

BARON: (*Reads*) Oh, I see...who can this note be meant for? It's certainly not for me!

BUTTONS: I hope it's not for me...!

END OF PERUSAL SCRIPT