

NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT

Dick Whittington

BY
Bradford & Webster

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DICK WHITTINGTON**Cast List**

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| DICK WHITTINGTON | Principal Boy. The young hero. Traditionally played, usually by a female. |
| ALICE FITZWARREN | Principal Girl. A slightly spoiled, but sweet and attractive young girl. |
| SARAH, THE COOK | A traditional panto dame. Warm-hearted, fun & flirty. Always on the look-out for a rich husband. |
| IDLE JACK | Sarah's son. Very lazy & .. and not very bright! Needs to have a good rapport with the audience. |
| ALDERMAN FITZWARREN | Wealthy businessman. Father of Alice. |
| TOM | A cat, with character. Mute, yet expressive. |
| KING RAT | A mean and nasty rat. Traditional panto %baddie+. |
| ROT & STENCH | Henchmen to King Rat. Dim-witted comedy duo. |
| FAIRY BOW BELLE | Traditional panto fairy. |
| CAPTAIN | Captain of Fitzwarren's ship the %Everythings\$ A Groat+. |
| QUEEN MEGABAZOOMA | South American Queen. |
| HIGH PRIESTESS | The Queen's grovelling servant. |
| STENCHESS | An attractive female. Is supposed to be %Stench+in disguise . but obviously isn't! (one scene only) |
| HARRY & DORA | Friendly London couple. They persuade Dick not to leave London. |
| RATS | A group of young rats, played by small children. |

CHORUS ROLES of Londoners, Sailors and Courtiers

Plenty of opportunities for dancers to perform

Scenes and Staging**ACT I****Warm Up**

This is front of tabs.

Scene 1 Old London Town

Full stage scene. %Old Town+backcloth.
Some market stalls, perhaps?

Scene 2 The Sewers

Front of tabs or front cloth scene. Easily created, using subdued lighting (with a greenish tint), a smoke machine and possibly, a gobo.

Scene 3 The Kitchen of the Fitzwarren House

A full-stage scene. A table and chairs set centre. The safeqwill need to be set upstage (but not too obvious).

Scene 4 The Attic of the Fitzwarren House

A front cloth or tabs scene. A book-flat could be used (high at the centre, lower at the sides, with beams painted on) to give the impression of an attic room. This scene also requires a %wardrobe+ with a false (curtained) back.

Scene 5 The Kitchen of the Fitzwarren House

A full stage scene. As for Scene 3.

Scene 6 A London Street

A front cloth or tabs scene. It is a full-company scene, so allow as much space as possible.

ACT II**Scene 7 The Kitchen of the Fitzwarren House**

A full stage scene. As for Scene 3.

Scene 8 The Road out of London

A front cloth or tabs scene. Donq forget the traditional %mile marker+stone.

Scene 9 A Hallway in the Fitzwarren House

A front cloth or tabs scene.

Scene 10 On Board Ship

A full stage scene. A %Ship\$ Deck+back cloth, if possible. Or add props to give the impression of a ship\$ deck.

Scene 11 Under the Sea

This is an optional UV scene. Mid-stage black tabs or cloth, if available. (See Additional Notes).

Scene 12 On the Sea

A front cloth or tabs scene. Keep it simple! %Ocean+and %Seagull+sound effects will help.

**Scene 13 The Palace of Queen
Megabazooma**

A full stage scene. South American style! A central staircase works well, if possible.

Song Sheet

Front of tabs

**Walk-Down and Bows
ACT ONE**

Full stage. Rio Carnival+party!

Warm Up

JACK enters front of curtains. He is carrying a small electric bar heater. He puts the heater down and stands in front of it.

JACK

Hello boys and girls! Are you looking forward to the show? Oh, I am. It's got some great characters in it. It's got Dick Whittington ... well of course it's got Dick Whittington it wouldn't be called Dick Whittington if it didn't have Dick Whittington in it. And who else is there? There's me, of course. I'm Jack ... some people call me Idle Jack!... but I'm not really idle ... no, I'm ... I'm just saving my energy for when I might really need it. Tomorrow, maybe, or the day after that or ... But, anyway, what was I doing? Oh yes, I remember ... oh!

JACK looks around (but not behind him)

JACK

I was sure I brought it on. Have any of you seen it? A heater. A little one.

AUDIENCE
Behind you!

JACK
Sorry what?

AUDIENCE
Behind you!

JACK
You'd have to shout a bit louder.

AUDIENCE
Behind you!

JACK
Oh no it isn't!

AUDIENCE
Oh yes it is!

JACK
Oh no it isn't etc.

JACK eventually turns round to see the heater and jumps in surprise.

JACK

Well, would you believe it? It was there all the time. Well done! You're all right, you lot. Hey, tell you what, whenever I see you, I'll shout, %all right kids!+..... and then you can shout %All right Jack!+..... Do you want to have a practice? OK then. Pretend like just come on ALL RIGHT KIDS!

AUDIENCE

All right Jack.

JACK

Brilliant! Right then, do you know if there's anywhere around here I can plug this in? They've asked me to do the warm up, you see. Now that's a very important and responsible job, that is, warming up the audience before the show and they don't ask just anybody I think maybe I should have brought a bigger heater ... though perhaps if you all snuggle around it you should be OK

SARAH enters carrying a pan with a hole in the bottom.

SARAH

Ja-ack!!

JACK nearly jumps out of his skin.

JACK

Blimey, mother, where did you come from? I nearly jumped out of my skin. Boys and girls, this is my mother, Sarah. Say hello, mother.

SARAH

Hello mother. Now then, you idle, good-for-nothing so-and-so, someone's left one of my best pans on the hot stove. It's ruined ... and I want to know who did it. Have you got anything to say for yourself?

Jack looks worried. He crosses his fingers.

JACK

Er õ it wasn't me.

SARAH

And you expect me to believe that, do you?

JACK

Oh, mother, don't be cross. Hey, I know what'll cheer you up! I bet if you said hello to the boys and girls, they would say %hello Sarah+really loudly. That'll make you smile.

SARAH

Oooh, I don't know.

JACK

Go on mother. You know you want to.

SARAH

Oh, you know what would be even more fun

JACK
What, mum?

SARAH
If I shouted hello boys and girls and the boys and girls shouted %WHAT\$ COOKING,
SARAH?!+Would you do that for me, boys and girls, shout %what\$ cooking Sarah?+? Come
on, let\$ have a go. HELLO BOYS AND GIRLS!!

JACK & ALL
What\$ cooking Sarah?????!!!!!!
SARAH smiles.

SARAH
You\$e right. That\$ cheered me up no end.

JACK
Shall we do it one more time. Even louder this time.

SARAH
Go on, then. Hello boys and girls!

JACK & ALL
What\$ cooking Sarah?!!

SARAH
A great big apple crumble. And it\$ all for me ò Well, we can\$ stand around here all day
chatting, we\$e got work to do. Come on Jack, back to the kitchen.

JACK
Oh, no, I can\$ mum I\$n busy.

SARAH
Busy? You? That\$ be the day. What exactly are you doing?

JACK holds up the heater.

JACK
Isn\$ it obvious?

SARAH
Er ò .. no

JACK
They\$e asked me to warm up the audience. I was going to use this.

He holds up the heater again.

SARAH
You\$e as daft as you are idle, Jack. You\$e two sandwiches, eight mini rolls and a can of pop
short of a picnic. That\$ not how you %warm up+an audience.

JACK

I know. I just said that.

(to audience) Didn't I just say that?

(to Sarah) I was just saying I'd never get them properly warmed up with this little thing. Tell you what, you wait here and keep them interested while I go and get a bigger heater.

SARAH

No Jack, you dimwit! You don't warm the audience up with a heater.

JACK

You don't?

SARAH

No, you don't.

JACK

So you mean you tuck them in with a great big blanket

SARAH

No

JACK

You give them each a pair of gloves and a woolly hat? How many do we need ...

JACK starts counting the audience.

JACK

One, two, three um er

SARAH

No!

JACK

No?

SARAH

No.

JACK

Oh ...

SARAH

Oh, for heaven's sake.

SARAH grabs the heater from JACK.

SARAH

Come on, let's get out of here, the show's about to start.

JACK looks round in a panic.

JACK

Oooh, blimey, is it? Oh, see you later then, everyone. Hope you enjoy the show.

Scene 1 Old London Town.

JACK sneaks back on carrying something.

JACK
All right, Kids!

AUDIENCE
All right, Jack!

JACK puts his finger to his lips. He places the "something" centre stage. It is a large cut-out number "eight". JACK stands proudly next to it.

SARAH (off stage)
Jack!!! Ja-ack!!!!

SARAH enters.

SARAH
For heaven's sake Jack, will you stop wandering off when there's work to do and what on earth is that?

JACK
This, mum? **This** is the opening number!

JACK grins.

SARAH
The ...

JACK
... opening number!

SARAH
The opening number????!!!!!! Right, that's it, you're for it.

SARAH goes for JACK, who picks up his number, runs round the stage, and exits, with SARAH in hot pursuit.

OPENING SONG %London Medley+. chorus (a short medley of "London" songs)

Song ends. Lights low. Chorus freezes as Fairy enters

FAIRY BOW BELLE enters, carrying a wand and a large "Dick Whittington" book. Spotlight.

FAIRY
Welcome, welcome one and all to a tale of a young man little more than a boy who set out one day, full of hope, from his humble home, carrying with him only his dreams and

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one of those strange little bags on a stick that people always seem to carry when they leave home you'd have thought a sturdy rucksack would have been much more sensible but, if he wants a bag on a stick *(She shrugs)*

(She opens the book, looks down at it, then looks up again, and closes the book)

Do you know the story? I had to get this out of the library. I'm not really supposed to be here, you know. I was all lined up to be Cinderella's Fairy Godmother - now that's a real part for a fairy, that is - and then they gave it to that Tamzin Burrows McCutcheon woman from that awful TV soap EmmerEnders Streetside, or whatever it's called - Nobody seems to want a real fairy any more, but there you go ...

(She opens the book again)

Anyway, here he is here is our boy our hero ... our Dick Whittington!

Dick has entered through rear auditorium door. FAIRY indicates towards auditorium. Dick steps forward into spotlight in front of stage. He turns to face the audience, his face a mixture of bewilderment, apprehension, exhilaration and excitement (go on, try it).

FAIRY

Look at that face ... is that not the face of a boy whose heart is full of dreams? And what dreams! Do you want to know what they are? Then listen carefully

DICK

... and I want a Playstation 3 and an AppleMac and an Iphone and a date with

FAIRY looks down at her book quickly, looks up shocked, coughs loud and long and walks over to Dick and stamps hard on the stage behind him, then returns to stage right.

DICK

To London I must go, where the streets are paved with gold, where there are dreams to be discovered! Where my future, my fortune, my destiny awaits me!

FAIRY

That's more like it. Good for you, Dick. Off you go.

DICK heads off out of side auditorium door. FAIRY closes her book.

KING RAT enters stage left.

KING RAT

Oh, isn't that just soooooo sweet? I could throw up.

FAIRY

Well, what a surprise. And what do you want you you ... you rat!

KING RAT

I think you'd find it's KING Rat ... and don't you forget it.

KING RAT starts to follow DICK's trail but stops, sniffs and returns to centre stage.

KING RAT

And who was that then, my dear, another of your pet projects?

FAIRY

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Oh, can't you just leave well alone.

KING RAT

Surely, you know me better than that? If I see well+the one thing I can't do is leave it alone.

FAIRY

You'd never get this one.

KING RAT

Oh, won't I?

FAIRY

No, you won't for he is good and pure and honest all the things you don't understand and will never understand.

KING RAT

Good and pure and honest oh my! Good and pure and honest oh my!

FAIRY

What are you doing?

KING RAT

I'm mocking you. But to tell you the truth, it's not that much fun. I'd much rather be ruining this good, this pure, this honest young man.

FAIRY

You can't. You couldn't.

KING RAT

Can't? Couldn't? Oh? Oh!!!!?????!!! Is that a challenge my pretty little fairy foe? Are you challenging me over the future of this ... this boy this hero this Dick Whittington?

FAIRY

No I

KING RAT

Too late. I accept. And mark my words, your honest lad's purity will be flushed down the sewer with his dreams before the curtains open on Act Two. Ha ha ha ha ha

KING RAT exits laughing.

FAIRY

Oh dear, that didn't go as well as I'd hoped. But do not worry for, as well as being good and pure and honest, Dick is also strong and I am sure he will win the day. Wait, I think I hear him arriving in Old London Town.

Chorus "unfreezes". DICK enters and strides to centre stage. He stands heroically. Maybe a burst of Eastenders+theme tune?

DICK

London! London Town at last. I've been walking for days and now I'm here.

*DICK takes a deep breath of London air. He starts coughing and hacking.
DICK looks around. He is not that impressed.*

DICK

Call that fresh air. You know, I think I've changed my mind. I don't like the look of this place. I'm off back to the village.

DICK turns to go off.

FAIRY steps forward. Everyone freezes.

FAIRY

Oh, dear! I had a feeling I was going to have problems with this story.

*FAIRY waves her wand. Lights come up. Chorus mime again, more lively now. Fairy exits.
HARRY and DORA come forward to stand each side of Dick, chorus follow, very friendly.*

CHORUS

Welcome (*shakes Dick's hand*) / Hello / What's your name? / (*child*) Want to play?

HARRY

Hello, young fella. Strike a light, apples and pears, me old china.

DICK

I beg your pardon ...

DORAH

Don't mind him. He hasn't been the same since he had a walk-on part in EastEnders. Good morning to you.

DICK

Hello. I'm Dick. Dick Whittington.

DORA

Up from the country are you, Dick? Come to town to seek your fortune?

DICK

Yes, exactly. How did you know?

HARRY

Little bag on a stick. Bit of a give away.

DICK

Oh, yes, I suppose so. But actually I was just thinking about going back to the country.

HARRY

Blimey mate, you've only just got here!

DICK

I'm just not sure if it'll work out.

HARRY

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Sure it will work out! With a bit of luck!!

SONG %With a Little Bit of Luck. Harry, Dora & Chorus

DICK

Maybe you're right ...

DORA

Of course we are! See you later, Dick!

All exit, except Dick.

DICK

Bye! Well, this certainly is a friendly town. I think I will stay after all.

FAIRY peeps out from stage right.

FAIRY

Thank goodness for that.

(Fairy exits)

DICK

Hello boys and girls. You all seem very friendly too. I'm feeling a bit peckish. I think it's time for breakfast.

DICK sits on a barrel, centre stage, opens his bag and takes out a hunk of bread. As he is about to take a bite, some rats scurry out from stage left and crowd around him, stretching their arms up. DICK holds the bread up in the air.

DICK

Shoo! Go on, shoo! You nasty little rats, shoo! Shoo!

The rats carry on crowding around DICK's feet. TOM the cat enters and coolly strolls towards centre, then stops and coughs.

TOM

Ahem!

The rats freeze, slowly turn to look towards TOM, then jump and scamper off and exit stage

DICK

Gosh, thanks. I can't stand rats. Nasty dirty smelly things.

TOM is a cool cat. He simply smiles to himself and sits a little away from DICK and starts to clean himself. DICK looks at his bread, then at TOM and holds the bread out towards him.

DICK

Would you like to share my breakfast? It isn't much but it's all I have.

TOM turns, looks at DICK for a moment then nods gently and coolly begins to pad over. DICK gives TOM half the bread.

DICK

There you go, puss.

TOM turns and frowns at DICK.

DICK

Oh, sorry. Don't like being called puss, then?

TOM shakes his head.

DICK

But I don't know your name. I suppose I could guess.

TOM sits back and smiles.

DICK

Is it Whiskers?

TOM shakes his head.

DICK

Is it Ginger?

TOM looks at himself. He is not ginger. He shakes his head.

DICK

Is it Millicent?

TOM turns sharply to look at DICK, looks down, scowls and shakes his head.

DICK

Is it Fluffikins Kugelschreiber the third?

TOM raises an eyebrow.

DICK

Sorry, that was a bit of a long shot. How about no, that would be too easy it wouldn't be that would it? Is your name Tom?

TOM grins and nods furiously. He goes over to DICK and rubs his head against DICK'S knee. DICK scratches TOM's head.

DICK

Well, it's a pleasure to make your acquaintance, Tom. My name's Dick. Dick Whittington. Thanks again for scaring away those rats.

TOM looks around and starts to pad off.

DICK

Oh, are you off then? See you around, Tom.

TOM waves and exits.

DICK

Well, I'd better get going. I'm on my way to Alderman Fitzwarren's house. I hope to be taken on as his apprentice. I've got my letter of introduction.

DICK lifts an envelope out of his bag and holds it up. He puts it in his jacket pocket.

DICK

And what else have I got in here? Oooh, my life savings.

DICK holds up a tiny coin.

DICK

A note from my mum.

DICK holds up another envelope. He also puts that in his jacket pocket.

DICK

And what's this?

DICK picks up some neatly folded material. He shakes it out. It is a pair of underpants. He flusters and nearly drops them then puts them back in the bag.

DICK

And some ... er ... clean underwear. Thanks mum! Right, I'd just pack up all this lot and then I'd be off.

As DICK is packing up, KING RAT enters stage left with a few little rats in tow. He encourages a reaction from the audience

KING RAT

And you lot can keep quiet! So this is our boy, our hero, so good and pure and honest. Well, we'd soon put a stop to that.

KING RAT goes round behind DICK in the hope that someone will shout "behind you"

DICK

What sorry?

AUDIENCE

Behind you!

DICK

Really?

DICK turns to look, sees KING RAT and jumps. KING RAT moves forward.

DICK

Gosh, where on earth did you come from?

KING RAT

You don't want to know. Good morning to you, my dear sir. Do you know of anywhere I could put up this poster? (*he unravels a poster with the words "Good, pure, honest boy wanted"*) You see, I'm looking for a good, pure and honest boy for a very important position in my, shall we say, commercial empire. He would be extremely, did I say that quite clearly enough, **extremely** well paid. Why, young sir, you wouldn't happen to be good and pure and honest, would you? You certainly look the type (*he sneers*)

DICK

Well, yes, as a matter of fact, I am good and pure and honest ...

KING RAT

Oh, really what a coincidence.

DICK

But I'm afraid I already have a job or, at least, I hope to have a job I'm on my way there now as it happens.

KING RAT

Wait just a moment. You ... are a ... poor person. I'm offering someone someone exactly like you the opportunity of a lifetime with as much gold as you could safely tuck down your trousers and loads of other really great stuff. And you're turning it down?

DICK

Absolutely ... because I already have this other

KING RAT

Yes, yes, yes but this job of yours can't possibly be as fabulous as the one that I am offering. You would be perfect for this job. It's yours if you want it.

KING RAT tries to do some hypnotism thing with his fingers. It has no effect.

DICK

It is very kind of you to take this trouble but Alderman Fitzwarren is one of the most respected merchants in Old London Town and he is expecting me. I am afraid I must say no to your offer.

KING RAT looks down at his fingers. He wiggles them at his own face, goes bleary eyed then shakes his head with a start and pushes his hand away.

DICK

Right, I'd be off then.

KING RAT becomes more menacing.

KING RAT

Oh no, I don't think so. You don't get away that easily, Master Dick Whittington.

DICK

How how did you know my name?

KING RAT
Oh, I know many many thingsō .

TOM enters

KING RAT
Aaaaargh! get that flea-bitten beast away from me!

KING RAT leaps backwards.

DICK
This is Tom, he's very friendly.

KING RAT
I hate cats!!!!!!!!!!

DICK
You hate cats? Hold on if you hate cats, then that must make you a a mouse.

KING RAT
Yes, yes what?! No! I'm a rat, not a tiny little mouse. Oh dear, honest but not that sharp. In fact, I am **King** Rat ... emissary of evil and enemy of all that is good and pure and honest. Oh, and one more thing I never lose, so you might as well give up now. You cannot defeat me!

DICK and TOM look at each other.

DICK
Oh yes we can!

KING RAT
Oh no you can't!

DICK
Oh yes we can!

KING RAT
Oh no you can't, can't, can't!

DICK
Oh yes we can, can, can!

KING RAT
Can't, can't, can't!

DICK
Can, can, can!

Can-can music starts and dancers come on. KING RAT, DICK and TOM are gobsmacked. Dancers dance off.

KING RAT

You haven't seen the last of me, Whittington! Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ...

KING RAT exits left.

DICK

Well, he wasn't very nice, was he? But everyone else seems very friendly, especially you Tom. Would you like to come with me to Alderman Fitzwarren's house? I could do with a companion.

TOM nods. They set off across the stage.

Blackout.

Scene 2 The Sewers

Little rats milling about. Perhaps a big black throne in centre.

KING RAT's two henchrats, ROT and STENCH, enter.

ROT

Blimey, Stench, I'm starving. Look, I'm wasting away (*points to stomach*)

STENCH

Yeah, all right, Rot, keep yer tail on.

ROT

Ere, Stench, why don't we nick some sweets from the kids? We could eat those.

STENCH

Hmmmmmm? Nah, I'm not hungry. I've already had something.

ROT

You never. Aw, that's just not fair. What did you have?

STENCH

Leftovers.

ROT

Leftovers? Leftovers of what?

STENCH

Leftovers Leftovers of leftovers.

ROT

All right, but what was it originally?

STENCH

Hard to tell.

STENCH picks up a small pan from the floor. He sniffs it. It smells terrible.

STENCH

There's some left in here, do you want it?

ROT

I don't know, what is it?

STENCH sniffs it again.

STENCH

Bean soup.

ROT

OK, so it's been soup, but what is it now?

STENCH

Look, do you want it or not?

ROT

I'm not just eating any old rubbish.

STENCH

But that's what you're supposed to do Rot, you're a rat.

ROT

Yeah, well, I've got to be careful, I got food poisoning last week.

STENCH

Food poisoning!!!!?????

ROT

Well, I've got a delicate constitution I'm not feeling too good, Stench, I reckon I'm coming down with something.

STENCH

What is it this time?

ROT

You know, I reckon I've got the plague, I know I have.

STENCH

You're a rat. You're supposed to have the plague. We've all got the plague.

KING RAT enters.

KING RAT

Ah, Rot and Stench. (*rotten stench*)

STENCH

Yeah, sorry about that.

STENCH wafts his hand about. RAT sits on throne.

KING RAT

Curse that Dick Whittington! But I'll get even with him and his little cat too. Then I'm going after that fairy and, once she's gone, the city will be mine! I'll be the Lord Nightmare of London! ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha.

ROT and STENCH look at each other then start laughing too.

KING RAT holds up his hand to stop them.

KING RAT

Well, did you manage to find anything out about him, this Dick Whittington?

ROT

Oh yes, we did, sir.

STENCH

Certainly, yes sir.

ROT

Yeah, we followed him underneath the road in the sewers and listened at the grates. He's been talking to that mangy old cat, telling him his life story. I mean, as if the cat can understand what he's saying. Ridiculous. Next they'll be having us believe that animals can talk and ...

STENCH hits him.

ROT

.... um ... er yeah er ... anyway. Sorry, forgot.

STENCH

Yeah, anyway, what we found out is he's good and pure and honest and he's going to work for that old Alderman Fitzwarren fella.

KING RAT

I told you that, you idiots! More, I want more. His hopes, his dreams, his weaknesses.

STENCH

Oh, right, sorry, um yeah *(He turns to ROT)* what else?

ROT

Um oh yeah, he said that one day he hopes to be Lord Mayor of London

RAT

Yesssss! Got him. Not so pure. He craves power.

ROT

..... so that he can er help the poor and underprivileged.

KING RAT

Rats!!!!!!

All the little rats look up at KING RAT.

STENCH

Oh, and he wants to make huge amounts of money

KING RAT

Aha! Avaricious.

STENCH

.... so he can ... er give it away to the ... er poor and er underprivileged ...

KING RAT

Rats! Rats! Rats!!!!

ROT

Oh, yeah, and he wants to keep goldfish.

KING RAT

Goldfish, eh? Hmmmmmm that could be a red herring.

ROT

No, he definitely said goldfish (to STENCH) didn't he?

STENCH

Oh yes, definitely goldfish, sir.

KING RAT

Silence! Imbeciles! I must think. He must have a weakness. What can it be?

STENCH

There was one other thing, sir.

KING RAT

Yes, yes, what is it?!!

STENCH

He hopes to find true love, sir.

KING RAT

True love? Pah!

ROT

Sir? What is true love, sir?

KING RAT looks at ROT, he is hit by a wave of ROT's stench and KING RAT wafts his hand in front of his face.

KING RAT

Nothing you'd ever have to worry about, my dear Rot. But wait

I wonder I ō wonder.

STENCH

What is it, sir?

KING RAT

I think I have a plan. Listen closely. All we need is a blonde wig and a pair of false ...

Blackout.

Scene 3 The Kitchen of the Fitzwarren House

JACK is sitting reading a magazine. He looks up, is surprised, and jumps to his feet.

JACK
ALL RIGHT KIDS!!!

AUDIENCE
ALL RIGHT JACK!!!

JACK
You didn't half make me jump. I thought it was my mum coming in.

JACK sits back down, puts his feet up. SARAH bustles in.

SARAH
Jack!!!

JACK, in his hurry to hide his magazine, falls off his chair. He stands up, flustered.

JACK
Hello mum!

SARAH
Didn't you hello mum, me, you lazy so-and-so. Someone, and I'm not mentioning any names, has let the budgie out of its cage, tied a feather duster to its feet and let it fly around the sitting room in an attempt to get out of the dusting.

JACK
Ulp!

SARAH
And it's dropped little presents all over the nice clean floor.

JACK
(fingers crossed) It wasn't me, mum. Honest.

SARAH
Ooooooh, I give up.

SARAH notices the audience.

SARAH

Hello boys and girls.

JACK & AUDIENCE

What's cooking, Sarah!!!??

SARAH

Well, nothing yet but I'm about to get started. Welcome to my kitchen. Well, when I say **my** kitchen ... it's Alderman Fitzwarren's house, so I suppose it's **his** kitchen but oh, never mind. Jack? Have taken the rubbish out yet?

JACK

I was just about to, mum.

SARAH

Of course you were, dear. Do it now!

JACK

Yes mum.

JACK picks up the bin and goes to the front of the stage and makes as if to throw the rubbish over the audience.

One ... two Just as he is about to empty it, SARAH sees him.

SARAH

No no no! Jack, how many times do I have to tell you, don't throw the rubbish out of the window, it will attract the rats.

JACK

(tuts) OK mum.

SARAH

And don't just throw it out of the front door into the street, either.

JACK

Yes mum, no mum.

JACK exits with bin.

SARAH

Oooh, that boy. The only reason he doesn't pick his nose is that he can't be bothered.

JACK enters, followed by DICK, who is covered in rubbish, and TOM.

JACK

Er, mum, there was someone at the door.

SARAH

Oh, uurrgh, oh dear. Are you sure it's someone, Jack? Looks more like something.

JACK

I um

JACK holds up bin.

SARAH

I thought I'd seen it somewhere before (*she hits JACK*) I told you to

DICK is picking rubbish off himself.

DICK

Good day to you. Is this the Fitzwarren household?

SARAH

Yes, it is. Can I help you?

DICK

Well, you can stop throwing rubbish at me for a start! I have come to be taken on as an apprentice.

JACK

Oh, thank goodness for that, I was worried you might be someone important.

DICK

I have a letter of recommendation.

DICK pulls letter from pocket and hands it to SARAH.

SARAH opens it, starts reading and begins to giggle, then laughs out loud. She shows the letter to JACK who also starts to laugh.

DICK (to JACK)

What's so funny?

JACK

I don't know, I can't read.

SARAH gets a hold of herself. She holds the letter out towards DICK.

SARAH

This is not a letter of recommendation.

DICK

I'm sorry, I think you'd find that it

SARAH (*reading*)

Dear Dick, make sure you always wear clean underwear, don't forget to wash behind your ears, don't talk to any strange men, don't talk to any strange women, and especially don't talk to any strange people if you're not sure whether they are men or women and

DICK snatches the letter off SARAH.

DICK

Ahem! I do apologise, it's from my mother. I have got a letter somewhere, I really have.

SARAH

Of course you have, dear.

*DICK starts searching about his person for his letter as SARAH and JACK watch.
ALDERMAN FITZWARREN and his daughter ALICE enter stage right.
They are both carrying bags from posh shops.*

ALICE

Oh Daddy, Daddy, thank you for taking me shopping. These clothes, they're all so beautifully, lovelily pretty.

FITZWARREN

They ought to be. Prices they're charging nowadays. I can remember when you could get a three piece suit for a groat and still have enough left over for fourteen pints of Old McSprout's Bellybloater.

ALICE

Oh Daddy, you're so funny.

ALICE hugs FITZWARREN.

FITZWARREN

Am I?

SARAH turns and sees ALDERMAN FITZWARREN.

SARAH

Good afternoon Alderman Fitzwarren, sir.

FITZWARREN

Sarah. Jack. And who's this fine young fellow?

*ALICE sees DICK and goes all goo-goo eyed.
DICK finally pulls out his letter of recommendation.*

DICK

My name is Dick Whittington, sir. I hope to be taken on as your apprentice. I have a letter of recommendation.

DICK hands over the letter to FITZWARREN, who opens it.

FITZWARREN

Apprentice, eh? Ah, it's from my cousin up north. I haven't seen him since I moved down to London. That was years ago ... Eeee, those were grand days. Back then, you knew where you stood the men were real men.... (*FITZWARREN looks DICK up and down*) the women were real women (*FITZWARREN looks SARAH up and down*) and ah well, no use crying over spilled milk when you can sell it as shop-soiled at 30 per cent off

FITZWARREN looks at letter.

FITZWARREN

Right then, I suppose I could do with an apprentice, though I suppose you will want paying for the privilege of being apprenticed.

DICK

Your cousin said I could expect a penny a month, sir.

FITZWARREN

A penny!!!! I can remember when you got three apprentices for nowt and still have one left over to clear out the horses. A penny, eh? I shall have to think about it ... sometime in the future maybe. I presume you have met Sarah, my housekeeper, and her idle son, Jack. This is my delightful daughter, Alice.

DICK steps forward to greet ALICE.

DICK

How do you

He sees her, it is love at first sight.

DICK (cont)

.... do, Alice?

ALICE

Dreamy. Just dreamy.

FITZWARREN

What on

Oh no, that's enough of that! Sarah, find young Whittington something to do to keep his mind occupied. Alice, upstairs! Stop making eyes at the hired help.

FITZWARREN exits.

ALICE and DICK stare at each other maybe sing a song?

FITZWARREN (off stage)

Alice!!!!!!!

ALICE turns to exit, looking back to Dick sopfully.

Blackout.

Scene 4 The Attic of the Fitzwarren House

DICK and JACK are sitting, cleaning shoes ...well, DICK is cleaning shoes and JACK is just lounging about.

There is an open wardrobe centre stage with more shoes in it.

JACK looks up.

JACK

All right kids?!!!

AUDIENCE

All right Jack!

JACK (to DICK)

Will you slow down. You're too quick, Dick. You'd make mum really cross.

DICK

Cross? Why?

JACK

Well, if you finish cleaning Alice's shoes too quickly she might realise that I haven't been pulling my weight. It usually takes me two or three weeks to clean all Alice's shoes. I like to pace myself.

DICK

Look, Jack, you do what you want but I am being paid to work.

JACK

You're being paid?!?!???

DICK

Well, when I say being paid, I'm working on the promise of being paid ... sometime in the future maybe. I think that's what he said. But, anyway, just being close to Alice is enough payment for me.

JACK

Yes, yes, I get the picture. Don't go on about it. Just clean the shoes.

JACK leans back and folds his arms and looks into the distance. DICK carries on cleaning shoes.

STENCH enters at the side of the stage, he calls back into the wings.

STENCH

Will you hurry up before they smell us.

ROT enters. He is carrying a blonde wig and a red dress.

STENCH

What? You're not dressed? What's the matter with you? King Rat is going to kill us!

ROT

I'm sorry. I can't do it. I'm sure I'm not well and red just isn't my colour.

STENCH

And that's what you're going to tell the boss is it? What do you think he's going to say? Don't worry about it, my little Rot, you have the rest of the day off, put your feet up?

KING RAT enters. ROT sees him, STENCH has his back to him.

STENCH

.... it's no big deal, take it easy, ruined my plans for the whole year but, hey, never mind? You think?

ROT taps STENCH.

STENCH

What?

STENCH turns to see KING RAT. STENCH jumps.

ROT and STENCH

Hi boss.

KING RAT

So, is it done? Is it finished? Did you get him?

ROT

Well not exactly boss.

STENCH

We haven't really got going yet.

KING RAT

Oh, really? And why is that?

ROT

It's this dress sir, red is really not my colour.

KING RAT

No problem. Stench, put on the dress.

ROT happily hands the dress and wig to STENCH.

STENCH

But I you he I'd really rather not, sir.

KING RAT

Now!!!!!!

STENCH

Yes sir, right away, sir.

STENCH starts to put on the dress over his costume.

KING RAT

Not here! Behind there. Have some dignity.

KING RAT gestures STENCH into the wings.

Almost immediately, STENCH, a voluptuous blonde in a red dress and heels enters (obviously not STENCH in a wig).

STENCH

Does my bum look big in this?

KING RAT

Just get over there.

STENCH

What about the other one?

KING RAT

All right, all right.

KING RAT wiggles his fingers in the direction of JACK. JACK stands.

JACK

For some reason I suddenly feel the need to go for a walk.

JACK exits.

KING RAT

Now get on with it. We'll be back here.

KING RAT and ROT exit to wings.

DICK is shining the last shoe.

DICK

There finished.

DICK picks up the shoes, carries them to the wardrobe and puts them on the floor inside. As he is bending down, STENCHESS sashays over. She throws a nervous glance back to the wings.

STENCHESS

Hiya Dick.

DICK looks up and jumps.

DICK

Um er hello ... er ... miss er hi where did you er ...?

STENCHESS

Oh, I was just passing and I thought I'd pop in to see you. So ... Dick ... tell me, do you come here often?

DICK

What, me? What, here up in the attic? Er

STENCHESS

Oh Dick of all the attics in all the houses in all the world, you had to walk into mine

DICK

Oh, I didn't realise this was your

STENCHESS

Word is you're looking for love Dick well, I'm here for you but I must tell you, I have expensive tastes.

DICK

Well, that's me out then. I'm poorer than poor Peter McPoor of Poorsville, the poorest town on the poor road out of Poor City.

STENCHESS

But Dick surely old Alderman Fitzwarren leaves a bit of spare ... cash ... lying about, that a clever young man with his wits about him can

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DICK

Good lady what are you suggesting?

STENCHESS

I may be good ... but I'm no lady ... Oh, come here ... Dick ... give me a hug. I'm sure I can convince you

DICK backs off.

DICK

That certainly is an interesting perfume you're wearing.

STENCHESS

Oh, do you like it?

DICK

No, not really. But the fact of the matter is I'm already in love.

STENCHESS

Oh ... Dick

STENCHESS opens her arms wide, expecting a hug.

DICK

No, not with you, with Alice.

STENCHESS

You mean to say I've been wasting my time?

DICK

Fraid so.

STENCHESS

(scowls over to the wings) Well, I wish someone had told me earlier.

ALICE *(off stage)*

Dick, are you up there?

DICK

That's her, that's my Alice *(he looks STENCHESS up and down, then panics)* Alice?! Oh dear. She can never understand. You'd better get out of here!

DICK takes STENCHESS over to stage left. There is no way out. He takes her over to stage right.

ALICE *(off stage)*

I thought you might like some refreshment.

DICK

Quick. In here.

DICK shoves STENCHESS into the wardrobe and closes it, standing in front of the door. ALICE flutters in carrying a tray, which she puts down on a stool.

ALICE

Hello, my dear, dreamy Dick, have you been working ever so ever so hard up here?

DICK

Yes, um, Alice, Jack and I have finished cleaning your shoes.

ALICE looks around.

ALICE

But where is idle little Jackikins?

JACK enters.

JACK

Well, that was the strangest thing. I've never done that before. Going for a walk? I don't know what came over me.

JACK sits down.

ALICE

Dear dreamy Dick tells me you've cleaned all my shoes, Jack. I can't wait to see them, all bright and shiny. Where are they?

DICK

Um I don't know.

ALICE

Oh? Really?

DICK

Oh absolutely.

JACK

So, you didn't put them back in the wardrobe, then, Dick?

DICK

Um I can't remember.

ALICE

Oh, Dick, you silly billy ... let's just open it up and have a look.

DICK

Um I don't think that's a good idea, Alice.

JACK stands.

JACK

You're not hiding something in there, are you, Dick.

DICK

Um ... no um, of course not.

SARAH enters.

SARAH

Oooh, hello boys and girls.

AUDIENCE

What's cooking, Sarah!!????

SARAH

I've got some lovely strawberry muffins in the oven. They should be ready in about 10 minutes. And they'll be gone in about 12! Yum yum! Oh, hello Miss Alice. (*SARAH looks at each of them in turn*) Am I missing something? What's going on?

JACK

Well, Alice wants to look at her shiny clean shoes.

ALICE

Oh yes I do. I really do, Sarah. Really.

SARAH

Riiiggghht

JACK

But Dick's hiding something in the wardrobe.

SARAH

Hiding? Really why?

JACK

So he won't let her look.

DICK

I am not hiding anything in the wardrobe.

JACK

Well then, let's have a look at these shiny shoes.

JACK strides forward, DICK covers his eyes as JACK throws open the wardrobe doors. STENCH is standing timidly in the wardrobe, a red dress and blonde wig lie unnoticed on the floor.

ALICE

Eeeeeek, a rat! Save me, Dick!

ALICE throws herself at DICK's manly (?) chest.

SARAH

Eeeeeek, a rat! Save me, son!

SARAH throws herself at JACK. He nearly topples over.

DICK
Tom!

ALICE
Dick!
DICK
Hurry!

TOM arrives, chases STENCH around the stage and into the wings, STENCH emerges, followed by KING RAT and ROT, all being chased by TOM who chases them round the stage.

DICK
See them off Tom!

KING RAT
Get that nasty cat away from me!

STENCH & ROT
Help!!!! Shoo!!! Gerroff!!!! Gedardovit!!!! etc!!!!

STENCH, ROT and KING RAT run offstage.

ALICE
Oh, Dick, my hero!

ALICE hugs DICK. FITZWARREN enters.

FITZWARREN
What on earth is going on? Alice! What are you doing hugging that **poor** person?

ALICE
Oh Daddy, dreamy Dick saved me. He daringly disposed of a dozen dastardly, dirty rats.

JACK
There were only three, actually.

ALICE
Well, it seemed like there were more. It was terribly terrifying, daddy.

FITZWARREN
Well, I take my hat off to you young Dick (*goes to raise hat, realises he is not wearing it*) Oh dear, I appear to have left it downstairs. (*notices TOM*) What's that cat doing in here? I thought I told you to keep it in the yard.

DICK
Oh, I am sorry

ALICE

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Oh darling Daddy, talented Tom was the one who scared off the rats. They're both my heroes.

FITZWARREN

Well, I take my hat off to you both erö . you'd have to imagine it
(puts his arm around DICK's shoulders) You really are a fine and upstanding young man, young Dick. You don't get many apprentices like you in a pound, I can tell you not that I'm paying you a pound, mind I wouldn't want you to get the wrong idea.

DICK

Oh, of course not, sir.

FITZWARREN

Grand. I think perhaps you and Tom are ready for a little more responsibility. I can see a bright future ahead for you, young Dick. Oh, I can, I really can, I can, I can.

Can-can music starts, dancers come on – short “Can Can”. Everyone else exits shaking their heads.

Blackout.

Scene 5 The Kitchen of the Fitzwarren House

DICK is pouring a bowl of milk for TOM, who is sitting on the floor.

DICK

End of another hard day, eh Tom? A hard day, but a good day.

FITZWARREN enters with ALICE in tow. DICK stands.

DICK *(to TOM)*

You'd better go out into the yard, Tom. Good boy.

FITZWARREN

No, no, Tom can stay. This concerns him too. Young Dick, I've been looking through the warehouse books. You've done a grand job re-organising the place. And, Tom, you've cleared the warehouse of every single rat. I feel I should take my hat off to myself. It was a stroke of genius taking you two on.

DICK

Thank you sir I think.

ALICE

Daddy

FITZWARREN

What is it, my sweet?

ALICE

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You said

ALICE gestures towards DICK.

FITZWARRREN

Oh yes, my daughter has reminded me that I did say I would think about paying you. How much did we say? A farthing a month, was it?

ALICE
Daddy!

DICK
I believe we said a penny a month, sir.

FITZWARRREN
Of course we did here we are then (*pulls out his purse and counts out some coins onto the table*) One, two there you go, young Dick.

ALICE
Daddy!!!!

FITZWARRREN
What? What is it now, my delightful daughter?

DICK
Sir, I think Alice is trying to tell you that I have been here for three months, not two.

ALICE
Quite!

FITZWARRREN
Yes, yes, of course you have (*hands over another coin*) three

ALICE
That's better daddikins.

FITZWARRREN
Now then, young Dick. I have something very important to tell you. You have proved yourself a very responsible and trustworthy young man so I am giving you this.

FITZWARRREN hands over a key. ALICE is excited.

ALICE
Oh, Daddy!!

DICK
What is it?

FITZWARRREN
It's the key to my safe.

DICK

I didn't realise you had a safe, sir.

FITZWARREN

Exactly! It's a very safe safe. I've had it for years. The family jewels have been locked up in there since ... oh ... since young Alice here was born. And there's all my gold and other valuable things as well. I'm giving you this key because Alice and I are going out this evening and, if the house burns down, you must take the valuables out and carry them to safety.

DICK

Yes sir, of course, sir. So, where is the safe?

FITZWARREN

Unfortunately, Dick, for insurance purposes, I can't tell you that. I'd like to ... but I can't.

DICK

But then ... how do I?

FITZWARREN

Don't worry young Jack knows where it is Anyway, must be off. Lord Mayor's banquet, don't you know. Maybe I'd take you along one day, young Dick.

FITZWARREN and ALICE exit.

DICK

Well Tom, I reckon this is all down to you. You're my good luck charm. With you around, nothing can go wrong. I feel a celebration is in order. With my new-found wealth, I'm going to go down to the fishmongers to buy you a barrel full of fish. Or maybe two.

TOM grins and gives DICK the thumbs up. JACK enters.

JACK

All right kids??!!!!

AUDIENCE

All right Jack!!!

ALICE enters with her coat and hat on.

ALICE

Oh, darling dreamy Dick, I'd much rather be staying here with you.

DICK

I know Alice, but I'd be here when you return

JACK

All right, all right, break it up, we've seen enough, we get the picture.

FITZWARREN (*off stage*)

Alice!!!!!!

ALICE leaves, turning to blow a kiss to DICK before she exits. DICK, slightly embarrassed, blows one back and ALICE catches the kiss in a very, very soppy way and holds it to her heart. Alice exits.

JACK
Oh perleeeaaaase!

SARAH enters.

SARAH
Hello boys and girls.

DICK & JACK & AUDIENCE
What's cooking Sarah?!

SARAH
Well, I'll show you. And I'm glad you two are here. You can help me prepare the food for tomorrow. I've already started on some of the puddings.
SARAH lifts some dishes from under the counter as DICK goes to the side to put on an apron.

SARAH
Profiteroles the Alderman's partial to anything with profit in it! Spotted dick

JACK
Yes, he's over there ha ha ha ha

SARAH
Oh, very funny, we didn't see that one coming.

DICK hasn't heard the joke. TOM shakes his head sadly, continuing to do so as the joke progresses.

DICK
What's so funny?

SARAH
Never mind him, it's just that I've made some spotted dick, Dick.

DICK
Spotted dick dick?

SARAH
Not spotted dick dick, Dick, just spotted dick, Dick.

DICK
OK not spotted dick dick dick, it's spotted dick dick.

SARAH
I never said it was spotted dick dick dick, Dick.

DICK

I didn't

SARAH

... and it's not spotted dick dick, Dick.

DICK

Yes, I

SARAH

.. it's just spotted dick, Dick.

DICK

Spotted dick dick.

SARAH

No!

JACK

Just tell him it's spotted dick, Mum.

DICK

Spotted dick mum?

SARAH

I'm trying to tell him it's spotted dick, Jack.

DICK

Spotted dick jack?

SARAH

Stop it!!!!!! (*sighs*) Dick, this is spotted dick

Pause.

JACK

We should've just had jam roly poly.

SARAH

Ooooõ .. enough of this õ .you two can help me make the cream pies. Here are the pie dishes and here is the cream

SARAH hands out shaving foam cans with "CREAM (honest)" written on them. She has one herself. TOM takes a close interest. Very close.

SARAH

Be off with you, Tom. Altogether now one two three SQUEEEEEEEZE!

They fill the dishes with cream.

SARAH

Now then, after you've done them, you have to carry them all the way over to the other side of the kitchen.

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JACK
Why, mum?

SARAH
..... because you do, that's why.

SARAH sets off carrying her cream pie. TOM is following her in the hope that she will drop it. The boys each make another pie.

SARAH
And for heaven's sake, be careful.

SARAH trips herself up and her face goes in the cream. She drops the dish, Tom goes over to it, sits down, picks up the dish and pretends to eat the "cream". DICK and JACK laugh.

SARAH
Oh, so you think it's funny, do you.

DICK & JACK
Yes.

SARAH
Right! wait a moment does this cream smell funny to you?

DICK and JACK smell it.

DICK & JACK
No.

SARAH
Are you sure? Have a closer smell.

DICK and JACK lean over their pies. SARAH comes up between them and holds her hands above their heads. She winks at the audience.

SARAH
Shall I?

As SARAH tries to push the boys heads into the cream, they move out of the way and SARAH's hands go in the pies.

SARAH
Oh, now look what you made me do!

JACK
Sorry mum.

DICK
Yes, sorry Sarah, we promise to be more careful. What shall we do with these other pies?

SARAH
They need to go over there.

JACK
Oh dear, I'm worried that I might make more mess if I carried it all the way over

SARAH
Oh, for goodness sake. Just give it to me, then.

DICK
What did you say?

SARAH
And you too, just give it to me.

DICK
Are you sure?

SARAH
Yes, yes, I'm asking for it.

JACK
Well, you said it, mum.

Both JACK & DICK hit SARAH with the other two pies.

SARAH
Ooooooh, now look at me! You naughty boys! I'm going to have to get cleaned up.

SARAH exits.

JACK
Oh, I love making a mess, me! Here, Dick, watch me juggle with eggs!

JACK picks up some eggs. DOORBELL rings.

JACK
Oh, I wonder who that is.

DICK
Well go and see, Jack, and you clear up this mess.

DICK and TOM exit.

JACK
Oh yes, that's going to happen.

JACK sits down, puts his feet up and starts trying to balance an egg on his nose or something.

KING RAT appears behind him as if from nowhere.

KING RAT
Ah, shut up, you lot.

JACK looks round, jumps, falls off his chair, gets up again.

JACK
Who are you?

KING RAT
Names are not important, Jack.

JACK
You're not selling double glazing are you ... ?

KING RAT
No.

JACK
.... because you'd be wasting your time

KING RAT
Well I'm not.

JACK
.... listed building you see. Can't help you.

KING RAT
I am NOT selling double glazing. What I am selling are labour saving devices. You wouldn't be interested in any ... labour saving devices, would you IDLE Jack?

JACK
Abso-flippin-lutely! What have you got?

KING RAT
Oh, that all depends on what you can afford.

JACK
Um ah I haven't got any money.

KING RAT
I didn't think you would have, somehow. But surely Alderman Fitzwarren has money.

JACK
Oh yes, lots of it, but he keeps it safe.

KING RAT
Safe, eh? And where does he keep it safe?

JACK
In a safe.

KING RAT

Yes, yes but where is this safe?

JACK
I can't tell you.

KING RAT
You don't know.

JACK
Oh, I know, but I just can't tell you.

KING RAT
Fine! but, if you needed to, you could get some money from the safe.

JACK
Oh no, I couldn't do that.

KING RAT
Oh, I just hate it when people have morals.

JACK
It's not that ... well it is but I can't open it anyway, I don't have a key.

KING RAT
The key ... of course

JACK
Dick's got a key but

KING RAT
Dick! Dick Whittington has a key? ... marvellous!

JACK
For someone who thinks names aren't important, you seem to know everyone's around here.

KING RAT
Yes, whatever but Dick Dick can open the safe.

JACK
No.

KING RAT
What!?!??? But you said he had the key.

JACK
Yes, Dick's got a key but he can't open the safe, he doesn't know where it is.

KING RAT
All right!!!! Just let me get this straight in my head.

Pause, as he thinks it through

KING RAT

OK. Now then, Jack, would you like to try out one of my labour saving devices. No charge ...

JACK
You bet!

KING RAT pulls a pendulum from his pocket. He holds it up in front of JACK and starts it swaying.

KING RAT
Watch the pendulum.

JACK starts watching the pendulum. His head follows the swinging.

KING RAT
Keep your eyes on the pendulum.

JACK
I am keeping my eyes on the pendulum.

KING RAT
You are feeling sleepy.

JACK
I am feeling sleepy.

KING RAT
You are under my power.

JACK
I am under your power.

KING RAT
You will do anything I tell you.

JACK
I will do anything you tell me.

KING RAT
You will stop repeating everything I say.

JACK
I will stop repeating everything you say.

KING RAT
You will!!!! that's better. Now then, I am putting a sleeping draught in this lemonade.

KING RAT empties a sachet into a jug of lemonade. It fizzes.

KING RAT
When Dick gets back, offer him a drink. Then we'll just see what happens. Am I not just the evilest thing you ever saw!!!!???? Ha ha ha ha ha haooh, here he comes. Better hide.

KING RAT hides. DICK enters.

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DICK

That was strange. There was no-one there, but there was an extremely bad smell, a real rotten stench. It was oddly familiar but I couldn't see anything that it might be. Tom's patrolling around the premises to try to find out what it is.

JACK

(in a hypnotised voice) Would you like a drink, Dick?

DICK

No thanks, Jack hold on, for a moment there, I thought you asked me if I would like a drink.

JACK

Would you like a drink, Dick?

DICK

Well, would you believe it? Idle Jack is offering to make me a drink. In that case, yes, Jack, yes, I would love a drink.

JACK pours DICK a drink. DICK drinks it.

DICK

Well, that was lovely, Jack, I

DICK slumps down on a chair, unconscious. KING RAT leaps out.

KING RAT

Ha!! Got you! Now then, Jack, take his key and open the safe and then we'll see how this good, this pure, this honest boy will fare when he's caught with his fingers in the till!!! Ha

As KING RAT talks, JACK takes DICK's key and opens up the safe.

JACK takes a money bag and some jewellery from the safe and goes to put it in Dick's pocket.

KING RAT, laughing, exits stage.

Short blackout. Jack exits.

Lights up. FITZWARREN and ALICE enter with TOM. DICK is still slumped in his chair.

The safe is open and empty. FITZWARREN notices that the safe is open.

FITZWARREN

But, wha wha the safe is open. Has there been a fire? (*looks up and around*) No, the house is still here. (*sees DICK. Shakes Dick awake*) Whittington! Wake up, lad!

DICK

(Stands up) Oh, hello, sir, did you have a good time?

FITZWARREN

Never mind about that. Have you opened the safe Dick?

DICK

No, of course not, sir. How could I? I don't know where it is.

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DICK turns and sees the safe door open.

DICK
Oh dear. I

FITZWARREN
There's something in here.

FITZWARREN goes to the safe. He picks out a hanky.

FITZWARREN
It looks like a hanky.

FITZWARREN shakes it open. It has the word DICK written across it. TOM puts his hand over his eyes.

FITZWARREN
Isn't this yours, Dick?

DICK
Um, I

DICK puts his hands to his bulging pockets. He is surprised to feel they are bulging. His eyebrows hit the ceiling.

ALICE
Dreamy Dick, what have you got in your pockets?

DICK puts his hands in his pockets. He pulls out a bulging bag with a pound sign from one and some jewellery from another.

DICK
But how?
FITZWARREN

Dick Whittington, you are nothing but a common thief! To think I trusted you.

SARAH enters.

SARAH
What's going on?

ALICE
Oh Dick oh Daddy oh Sarah.

ALICE turns and sobs into SARAH's cleavage.

DICK
You must believe me, I don't know what has happened. I would never steal from you ... or anyone.

FITZWARREN

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Your fine words can't help you now, boy, you've been caught red handed. I'm calling the police.

FITZWARREN looks around. There is no phone.

FITZWARREN

Sarah, shout out of the window.

ALICE turns, her face red with tears.

ALICE

Daddy, no, please, no oh, why, Dick, why? How could you? To think I I Oh, Dick.

ALICE puts her head back into SARAH's cleavage.

FITZWARREN

I hope you are satisfied, Whittington. Not only are you a thief, but you have broken my daughter's heart. However, she has asked me to spare you so I will. But you must leave this house now and never return and take your cat with you! and if I ever see you again

DICK

Sir Alice I

FITZWARREN

Go! Now!

DICK looks at FITZWARREN, then at ALICE, then exits, followed by TOM.

Blackout.

Scene 6 A London Street

A few Londoners are milling about. DICK and TOM enter. DICK's looking a bit dazed.

HARRY

Evening Dick. Evening Tom.

DICK

What, oh yes, evening.

DORA

You look a bit peculiar, Dick. Are you all right?

DICK

No I'm doesn't matter.

DORA

You're not moping after some girl are you, Dick?

DICK

Yes, well, I suppose I am.

HARRY

You don't want to worry about that, Dick. You're a fine fellow. She'll come around.

DICK

Well, I'm not sure.

DORA

Of course she will. What do you think, Tom?

TOM shrugs and shakes his head.

DORA

Oh dear, that bad eh? So where are you off to tonight then, Dick? See you've got your little bag on a stick.

DICK

Oh, I'm going back to the country.

DORA

Leaving town? Are you mad? Going off to the boring old country when you could be living here in this bustling metropolis?

HARRY

Actually, I've often thought about moving to the country. The tranquil beauty, the ...

DORA

(to Harry) Oi, don't say that. We've got to stop him leaving. How're we going to finish the story if he goes back to the country? How's he ever going to get the girl and defeat the bad guy?

HARRY

(to Dorah) Oh yeah, sorry! *(to Dick)* Back to the country? Are you mad?

DICK

Nice try, but I really have to go.

HARRY

Oh, come on Dick, think of all the fun we could have. Come on kids, shall we try to cheer him up?

SONG / DANCE %Tap Your Troubles Away+(or similar)

DORA

So, what do you think, Dick, are you going to stay?

DICK

No ... sorry I can't.

HARRY

Oh, dearō ..Bye, then, Dickō . Tom. And good luck!

INTERVAL

ACT TWO

Scene 7 The Kitchen of the Fitzwarren House

The safe is now closed again.

SARAH enters carrying a mop and bucket.

SARAH

Hello boys and girls!

AUDIENCE

What's cooking Sarah??!!!

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SARAH

Well, to tell you the truth, nothing. I'm feeling a bit down this morning. We all thought Dick was so nice.

ALICE enters a little bleary eyed wearing a dressing gown.

SARAH

Oh, hello Miss Alice. And how are you this morning?

ALICE

Oh Sarah, I hardly slept a wink. I just can't believe that dreamy Dick is really dastardly Dick.

ALICE sits down.

SARAH

Oooh, I know ... Dick Dastardly õ .sackun-fackun-rackun! How about some breakfast?

ALICE

No, I couldn't.

FITZWARREN enters.

FITZWARREN

Well, I've counted all the money ... and the jewellery and the ornaments and the cutlery and the well, suffice it to say, he hasn't taken anything. Nothing's missing. Not a thing.

FITZWARREN sits.

SARAH

How about some breakfast, sir?

FITZWARREN

I don't think I could eat anything, Sarah.

JACK enters all cheery.

JACK

Morning all. All right kids!!!!???

AUDIENCE

All right Jack!!!

JACK

Ace!! What's for breakfast ma, I'm starving. You know, I don't think I've ever slept better. I had a peculiar dream, though. I dreamt that this nasty old rat hypnotised me into drugging Dick and then made me take Dick's key and empty the safe into his pockets.

ALICE, SARAH and FITZWARREN turn slowly to look at JACK.

JACK

What?

ALICE stands.

ALICE
Oh, Daddy!

FITZWARREN stands.

FITZWARREN
Oh Alice, what have I done?

SARAH
Dick is innocent after all.

JACK
Is somebody going to tell me what is going on?

Blackout.

Scene 8 The Road out of London

*A sign points to London.
FAIRY enters carrying book and wand. She opens the book.*

FAIRY
Now then, let me see. Ah yes, this is a very important point of the story a turning point, you might say. This is the road out of London. Dick should be coming along at any moment.

FAIRY stays Stage Right. DICK and TOM enter.

DICK
Thanks for coming with me, Tom. It's not going to be much fun back in the village, though. There aren't even that many rats to chase. And, of course, Alice won't be there. Oh, my Alice. What am I going to do, Tom? I think we should have a bit of a rest ò . We've got a long journey ahead of us ò .

DICK and TOM sit down and quickly go to sleep. Lights change.

SONG (optional) *Bridge Over Troubled Waters*+~ Chorus of *Wood nymphs*+

FAIRY
Turn again, Dick Whittington, this tale is far from done. Turn again Dick Whittington, one day to be Lord Mayor of London See your future, Dick. See it.
Lights change. DICK wakes.

DICK
See ò my future ò see ... see ... I've decided Tom. I'm not going back to the village! I'm heading back to London! I'm running away to sea to make my fortune and then I'm going to return and claim Alice as my bride!

TOM looks at DICK, then at audience, and shrugs. DICK and TOM exit.

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FAIRY

What? Running away to sea? Is that in here?

FAIRY checks book, turning a few pages.

FAIRY

I wish people would keep to the story! Oh well, I suppose it's better than nothing.

KING RAT enters.

KING RAT

Hey you, Fairy! What do you think you're doing? I never thought I'd see the day when a fairy would stoop so low as to cheat. Turn again, Dick Whittington, blah-di-blah-di-blecch.

KING RAT puts his finger in his mouth.

FAIRY

That's not cheating. Anyway, you can talk. I know what you did with the safe.

KING RAT

Yes, well, I'm supposed to cheat. I'm the bad guy, remember. Anyway, it's too late, the game is over, I've won. Dick has been sent away in disgrace.

FAIRY

Are you sure it's over? Really? Didn't you forget to do something when you hypnotised Jack?

KING RAT

Forget what? What did I forget?

FAIRY

Did you tell him that he wouldn't remember anything when he woke up?

KING RAT

Aaarggh! I always forget that bit. What an idiot! Don't tell me he's told them already. He has hasn't he? All that hard work and effort. All right, OK, fine, the game's still on. It'd just take a little longer, that's all.

Blackout.

Scene 9 A Hallway in the Fitzwarren house

SARAH enters.

SARAH

Hello boys and girls!

AUDIENCE

What's cooking, Sarah????!!!!

SARAH

A huge big chocolate cake! You know, it's so big that I don't think even I could eat it in one sitting.

She sees an envelope. She picks it up.

SARAH

Miss Alice! Mail for you!

ALICE rushes in.

ALICE

Is it Dick? Is Dick here?

SARAH

What? Oh, no, sorry, when I said mail, I meant as in post, not male, as in a man.

ALICE

Oh.

ALICE takes the envelope from SARAH and opens it. She pulls out a letter, as in the letter "A"

ALICE

It's a letter.

SARAH

How peculiar.

ALICE pulls out a letter, as in a piece of paper with writing on it.

ALICE

It's from Dick!

SARAH

How wonderful!

ALICE

He's running away to sea.

SARAH

How awful!

ALICE

Oh, Sarah, I'll never see him again.

ALICE drops the letter.

SARAH

How sad!

ALICE

Unless *(thinks)* I've decided, Sarah, I'm going to run away to sea as well to find him.
Farewell London!

ALICE rushes off.

SARAH

How am I ever going to explain this to her father? *(thinks)* I won't have to if I run away to sea as well. Farewell kitchen!

SARAH rushes off. FITZWARREN enters.

FITZWARREN

Sarah?! Alice?!

JACK enters.

JACK

All right kids!???

ALL

All right Jack!

FITZWARREN

Say, young Jack, you haven't seen Sarah and Alice have you?

JACK

(looks around) Nope.

FITZWARREN

Oh dear. They seem to have disappeared. What's this? *(picks up DICK's letter from floor and begins to read it)* It's from Dick he's run away to sea and, if I know my daughter, she's run away to sea as well, to try to find him

JACK

.... and, if I know my mother, she's run away to sea as well, to avoid having to explain to you that your daughter's run away to sea to find Dick.

FITZWARREN

Well, then, it's clear what we must do I must run away to sea, to find my daughter, who's run away to sea to find Dick, who's run away to sea because everybody thought he was a thief which is partly my fault.

JACK

.... and I must run away to sea to find my mother, who's run away to sea to avoid having to explain to you, that your daughter's run away to sea to find Dick, who's run away to sea because everybody thought he was a thief which is also partly my fault as well.

FITZWARREN

One of my ships, the *Everything's A Groat*, is sailing on the tide, Jack. If we hurry, we might catch it.

FITZWARREN and JACK rush off.

KING RAT enters.

KING RAT

Well, isn't this just perfect. They've all run away to sea and I get this lovely big house all to myself. With any luck, none of them will ever make it back. But dare I trust to luck? It's never done me any favours before. And why am I asking you, you miserable insignificant bunch of snivelling humans? Perhaps I should follow them just to make sure they never come back. Hmmmmm. Rot! Stench! We're going on a cruise.

KING RAT exits.

Scene 10 On board ship

SONG *On The Navy*+or something nautical ~ Chorus of Sailors

Captain forward. Dick follows

CAPTAIN

Second mate Whittington ... come and help sort out my charts. Leona Lewis (*update, as required*) was at the top last week, you know. And then you can help me plot a course across the great ocean to the west.

DICK

But captain, I thought we were heading south east, towards the Barbary Coast.

FAIRY enters with open book.

FAIRY

Yes, that's what the book says you end up in Morocco.

CAPTAIN

Bad time in the Moroccan ports the customs officers are revolting.

DICK

Oh, you mean they're taking industrial action, protesting against their working conditions.

CAPTAIN

No, no, no, lad they smell, they pick their noses, they never wash their hands after going to the loo ... they're really revolting. I'm taking no chances, decided to head west instead.

FAIRY

But you can't! It's down here in

CAPTAIN and DICK wander off.

FAIRY

Fine! Don't mind me! (*slams book closed and stomps off in a huff*)

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KING RAT (*off stage*)

Psssst. Here kitty kitty kitty. Want a nice piece of fish? here you go.

A fish is thrown onto the stage. TOM goes over to it, sniffs it, picks it up, goes to front corner of stage, sits and starts eating. He then goes all stiff, his legs go woozy and he and collapses.

Two sailors come out of the crowd. They are both wearing dodgy false beards. It is ALICE and SARAH, who hasn't made much of an effort to disguise herself apart from the beard.

SARAH

Hey kids, look it's me, Sarah. Hello boys and girls!

AUDIENCE

What's cooking, Sarah!!!

SARAH

(screwing up her face) Fish

We're in disguise. Ooooh isn't it exciting! And we've found Dick.

ALICE

Oh, Sarah, doesn't he look dashing! Handsome in his uniform. I can't wait to give him the biggest hug. Can I give him one now?

SARAH

No, Miss Alice, you certainly can't! We must wait until we reach shore. I can't imagine what might happen if the crew found out there was a woman on board.

ALICE

Oh I suppose but at least I know he's safe.

SARAH is fiddling with her beard.

ALICE

Oh, Sarah, do leave your beard alone. It will fall off if you play with it too much.

SARAH

But it's so itchy. I've a good mind to just pull it off.

ALICE

But then the crew might find out that you're a woman

SARAH

Oh ... I'm prepared to take my chances.

A couple of other sailors in dodgy beards, FITZWARREN and JACK, approach.

ALICE

Look out, someone's coming.

FITZWARREN

Excuse me, my fine strapping fellow, you wouldn't happen to have seen a young woman on this here ship, would you? Er matey?

SARAH

A woman, er on this ship? Don't make me laugh hargh hargh hargh (*coughs and splutters*) Ahem we haven't seen a woman since we left port, have we Alice?

ALICE nudges SARAH.

SARAH

Sorry ... I mean, have we Alan?

ALICE (*silly deep voice*)

Absolutely not.

FITZWARREN

Oh dear. Looks like they're not on board after all, Jack.

JACK

Isn't sure we'll find them soon, Mr Fitzwarren, sir.

ALICE does a double take.

ALICE

Daddy?!? Is that you?

FITZWARREN

What? Alice? My little Alice? Oh, I've been so worried about you.

They hug.

ALICE

Oh daddy, I've missed you.

FITZWARREN

But where is Sarah? Did she not come with you?

SARAH

(*pulls down her beard*) I am here Mr Fitzwarren, sir. Oh, Jack.

JACK and SARAH hug.

FITZWARREN

Marvellous disguise, Sarah, you had me completely fooled.

ALICE

And we have found Dick. Isn't it wonderfully wonderful! We can all be together again!

FITZWARREN

Not so hasty, my delightful daughter, I fear we must remain disguised until we reach port.

Yes. Look, Daddy and Jack ...

DICK

Oh, Mr Fitzwarren, sir, Jack, Alice, of course I forgive you. Is Sarah not here? Did you leave her to look after the house?

SARAH is of course standing in front of him wearing a huge ridiculous frock and a huge ridiculous beard.

SARAH

Here I am. Oh Dick, we're so sorry.

They all remove their beards. SARAH sobs a little.

DICK

Oh Sarah, that's all right. Look, we should be happy, we can all go home again

SARAH

Oh, I'm so happy I could ... I could

SARAH goes to stern of boat (apron of stage), puts on chiffon scarf, summons STAGE CREW with electric fan, stands in "Titanic pose"

SARAH

Look Jack, I'm flying

JACK

Oh, mother! Please behave!

JACK gets his mother down.

DICK

That's OK it's a happy ending it's

KING RAT leaps onto the stage following by ROT and STENCH and loads of little rats who are all dressed as pirates.

KING RAT

Aha-ha-ha-ha! Not so fast my recently rehabilitated friend!

ALICE

Oh Dick!

ROT

Arrrrgh!

STENCH

Jim lad!

KING RAT turns to look at ROT and STENCH.

KING RAT

Just a minute what are you doing?

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ROT
Weqe pirates! Ha-haarrgh!

KING RAT
Pirates?

STENCH
Yeah, pi-rats ... get it? Pi-rats!

KING RATS
Give me strength oh, of course, silly me youqe pie-rats.

ROT
Pi-rats! Yeeaaaah!!

KING RAT heads to wings.

KING RAT
Well if you want to be pie-rats, you need one more thing to complete your costume.

KING RAT is handed a cream pie.

KING RAT
Thank you so much.

KING RAT walks back to ROT and STENCH.

KING RAT
You canq be a pie-rat without a pie.

KING RAT holds up pie.

ROT
Ulp! It was his idea.

ROT points to STENCH.

KING RAT
Really?

STENCH
Um

KING RAT hits ROT in the face with the pie.

KING RAT
I hate tattle tales now then, where was I, oh yes ha-ha-ha-ha-hah!

DICK
You!? It was you, wasnq it. It was you who

KING RAT

Yes, of course it was me I hypnotised Jack and blah-di-blah-di-blah

SARAH

You fiend!

KING RAT

Thank you, madam. But that's all water under the bridge, now. Or should I say water that's rushing in through the holes that my little rats have gnawed in the side of your ship.

CAPTAIN

That can't be good.

KING RAT

No, it is not good, it is downright evil! Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha.

CAPTAIN

Is he all right?

DICK

Tom!!!!

KING RAT

Don't think he'll be coming to your rescue today. I've already dealt with him. And just to make sure you never reach your destination, I shall whip up a storm that will send this sorry vessel to the bottom of the sea.

SARAH

Oh my!

KING RAT starts whirling about with his hands in the air, laughing maniacally.

Lights start to flash, the sound of thunder.

ALICE, JACK, SARAH and FITZWARREN huddle together in the middle of the stage.

DICK

(shouting) But King Rat, surely if the ship sinks, you'll drown as well?

Thunder stops.

KING RAT

Oh yes, I hadn't thought of that. A drowned King Rat. Ah well, it's a chance I'm willing to take. Off we go again!

KING RAT starts dancing about again, the thunder starts, lights flashing.

KING RAT

Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!!!!!!

KING RAT exits followed by other rats.

CAPTAIN

Abandon ship! Man the lifeboats!

The rest of the crew exits.

ALICE, DICK, JACK, SARAH and FITZWARREN stagger from one side of the stage to the other as if the ship is being tossed by the waves. CAPTAIN just stands centre stage and leans one way and then the other. DICK staggers forward.

DICK

Come on captain, there's one lifeboat left, we have to leave now.

CAPTAIN

No, young Whittington, it is my duty to go down with my ship.

KING RAT nips back on unseen and drags ALICE off.

ALICE

Dick!!!!

DICK turns. ALICE has gone.

DICK

Alice!!!! No!!!!!!

Blackout.

Scene 11 Under the Sea

Drowning JACK is rescued by mermaid.

MUSICAL NUMBER (Works well as a UV scene)

NB This scene could be left out if it is difficult to accommodate in your venue (but remember to alter the following scene numbers)

Scene 12 On the Sea

"Waves" big enough for Jack to hide behind (use flats, or fabric "sea" pulled taut across the stage)

ROT and STENCH are sitting on a piece of driftwood.

ROT

Some cruise! I don't think much of the accommodation.

STENCH

Well, at least it gets us out in the open air.

ROT

There's a bit too much air for my liking. And a bit too much water.

STENCH

You're not wrong. Just think what would happen if we fell in.

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ROT

Oh heck! I hadn't thought of that. I bet it's freezing ... I'll catch my death of cold.

STENCH

No, I didn't mean that

ROT

Oh, double heck, you mean we might get clean!!!!

STENCH

No, I mean we might get eaten by sharks.

ROT

(Pulling his feet up) Oh triple heck!!! I really hadn't really thought of that!!!!

STENCH

Don't rock the boat, you big baby.

ROT

Its not a boat!!!!!! If it was a boat I wouldn't be so worried. It's a tiny piece of driftwood! *(Standing up)* We're stuck on a tiny piece of driftwood in the middle of a huge, big, massive, gigantic ocean!

STENCH

Sit down! sit down, you're rocking the boat. Anyway, it could be worse.

ROT

(Sits down) Worse!!!????? How could it be worse!!!!?????

STENCH

Well, we could be stuck in the middle of this huge, big, massive, gigantic ocean **without** a piece of driftwood.

ROT

Oh yes, I suppose

STENCH

And at least King Rat isn't here.

ROT

True.

STENCH

And we're got each other. You never know, we might end up somewhere nice like the Bahamas or Quarndon *(replace with name of local affluent area)*.

Rot and Stench "drift" across stage, and exit

DICK, SARAH, FITZWARREN and TOM are sitting in a small inflatable boat all wearing maroon capes. The lifeboat "floats" across stage, to centre.

A hand appears behind a wave (JACK'S hand). He waves.

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DICK
Look, what's that in the sea?

SARAH
It's just a little wave.

JACK's head appears.

JACK
All right kids!

AUDIENCE
All right, Jack!

JACK
Help, Mum, Dick, pull me in.

JACK is pulled into the boat.

SARAH
Jack, where on earth have you been? Too idle to get rescued, I don't doubt.

JACK
No, mum, you'd never believe it, I was with this mermaid and oh, she was beautiful, and she kissed me and I could breathe under water and then

SARAH
You're right. I don't believe it.

JACK
But, Mum

FITZWARREN
Look young Jack, we've got more important things to worry about than your daydreaming. We've lost Alice.

JACK
Oh oh dear. Well, you'd lost me but you found me again so maybe ...

SARAH
Yes, thank you, dear. He's right, Mr Fitzwarren, sir, she may have just gone on another lifeboat.

FITZWARREN
I hope you're right.

JACK
And anyway ... what are you all wearing?

ALL
We've been marooned!

SARAH

Look, why don't we try and cheer ourselves up. What about a nice game of I spy.

DICK, FITZWARREN and JACK groan.

SARAH

I'll go first. I spy with my little eye something beginning with S.

JACK

Sea?

SARAH

(excited) No!

DICK

Sky?

SARAH *(deflated)*

Yes. Your turn, Dick.

DICK

I spy with my little eye something beginning with S.

FITZWARREN

Sky?

DICK

No.

JACK

Sea?

DICK

Yes. Your turn.

JACK

I spy with my little eye something beginning with S.

SARAH

Sea?

JACK

(worried) No

DICK

Sky?

JACK stands and points.

JACK

(still worried) No shark!!!!!!

“Jaws” music. A shark fin enters, glides past the boat. The five huddle together. “Shark” exits on the other side.

FITZWARREN
That was close.

DICK stands suddenly.

DICK
I spy with my little eye something beginning with B!!!!!!

SARAH, JACK, FITZWARREN and TOM look skyward.

JACK
A bird?

DICK
No, *(points out front)* a beach, look!!

FITZWARREN
Man the oars! Safe at last!

SARAH
(peering) Any idea where it is?

FITZWARREN
None at all.

SARAH
I hope it's not too foreign. I'm not very good at foreign languages. I only know one word.

JACK
Really? What's that, Mum?

SARAH
I'd really rather not say it's French. If I tell you, the boys and girls might think I'm being rude to get a cheap laugh.

JACK
But Mum, if you don't tell me, how am I ever going to learn?

SARAH
Oh, all right then, Jack, it's ... oui

SARAH puts her hand over her mouth.

JACK
Wee?!???

SARAH takes her hand away etc.

SARAH

Oui.

JACK
Wee wee?

SARAH
Oui oui.

JACK
Um, you said wee wee, I'm telling

SARAH clouts JACK.

Blackout.

Scene 13 The Palace of Queen Megabazooma

Palace - South American. Mayan, Aztec, you know the kind of thing.

Perhaps a Musical Number, which includes the grand entrance of the Queen?

QUEEN and her HIGH PRIESTESS are standing by throne. Courtiers around stage.

HIGH PRIESTESS

Is this them? Yes, here they come. Big smiles everyone. We need to create a good first impression.

QUEEN

Excuse me, oh High Priestess, whose palace is this? Oh, yes, it's mine, isn't it so, if there's any

HIGH PRIESTESS

(awful toadying) Oh, I am dreadfully sorry, your majesty, yes, of course it is, I humbly prostrate myself at your feet and

QUEEN

That will do!

HIGH PRIESTESS

I ...

QUEEN

Be quiet.

HIGH PRIESTESS

I was just

QUEEN

Not another word! This is my throne, my palace, my kingdom! I am the centre of attention here! You're lucky I don't send you to clean out the llamas All right, bring them in.

DICK, TOM, JACK, SARAH and FITZWARREN are brought in.

SARAH
Hello boys and girls!

AUDIENCE
What's cooking, Sarah?!

SARAH
Not a sausage. All my pots and pans went down with the Everything's A Groat. Blimey, this place looks a bit exotic!

QUEEN coughs very loudly and takes a deep breath, opens her arms wide and

HIGH PRIESTESS
Welcome! Welcome to the palace of the great Queen Megabazooma!

With one of her outstretched hands, QUEEN covers HIGH PRIESTESS's mouth.

QUEEN
Greetings, oh mysterious strangers, are you celestial messengers delivered to us on magical winds to do the bidding of the Great Sun God or did you just get lost?

DICK
Oh great Queen, please, can you help us?

HIGH PRIESTESS
(over the top) A request! A request! A plea for help to our great, our majestic Queen. Sound the fanfare! Fire the salute! Unfurl the banners!

QUEEN
All right, High Priestess! That will do! You're making an exhibition of yourself. Overacting like that isn't going to get you any more lines. *(to DICK)* Young man, what is it that you want?

DICK
We have lost we are looking for a girl.

QUEEN
A girl? Girls we have. We have more girls than at which you can shake a stick. Men, not so many ... in fact ... none.

SARAH
Oh, that's a shame.

QUEEN
They all went off one day and never came back.

SARAH
The rats!

QUEEN
Oh, we have rats no men, just lots of rats.

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HIGH PRIESTESS

Sometimes it's hard to tell the difference.

QUEEN

Yes, thank you, High Priestess!

DICK

We are looking for a particular girl, your highness Alice. She's about this tall and is the most beautiful girl you will ever have seen in your entire life.

QUEEN

What??? More beautiful than me????

DICK

Er perhaps just a little.

QUEEN

Well, we have never seen anyone round here who is more beautiful than me, have we, High Priestess?

HIGH PRIESTESS

Um no, your highness. Of course not.

QUEEN

Sorry, can't help you, then. Bye.

FITZWARREN

Oh no, what are we going to do? My poor Alice. I'd give up oh a reasonable amount of my vast fortune just to have her back here now.

SARAH

Oh, great Queen. I have a question.

HIGH PRIESTESS

(over the top again) A question! A question! A question for our great, our majestic Queen. Sound the fanfare! Fire the salute! Unfurl the banners!

QUEEN

High Priestess!!! *(she holds up a yellow card)* I will not tolerate overacting. Sit down! Any more and it's the llamas for you!

(to Sarah) Yes, brightly coloured one. What is your question?

SARAH

I was just wondering, why did all the men go?

QUEEN

Ah ... well

SARAH

Did the pub get Sky Sports Extra and Setanta, so it could show Premiership football 24 hours a day, seven days a week?

QUEEN

No, it wasn't that

SARAH

Did they enter the twilight world of DIY never to be seen again?

QUEEN

It wasn't that either To tell you the truth, it was partly my fault. The city has been infested with rats for many years. I told the men to go and find me a solution and not to come back until they had. You know, it was one of those things you say, I was having a bad day and they took me literally.

DICK

Why didn't you just get a cat?

QUEEN

What's a cat?

DICK

Tom's a cat.

QUEEN inspects TOM.

QUEEN

Very nice, but not exactly a substitute for a man, though, is it?

DICK

No, your highness, cats get rid of rats, they're very good at it.

QUEEN

You're joking.

JACK

No, if he were joking, he'd say my dog's got no nose.

QUEEN

How does it smell?

JACK

Terrible.

SARAH

Shut up, Jack!

JACK

Oui oui.

JACK giggles. SARAH clouts JACK.

DICK

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Oh, great Queen, if we help you get rid of the rats, will you help us to find Alice?

QUEEN

If you get rid of the rats, I will not only help you find Alice, but will give you riches beyond the dreams of mortal men.

FITZWARREN

I have to warn you that's quite a lot.

DICK

So where are the rats?

QUEEN

We don't know where they live but they always come out and steal our food when we are having a banquet.

DICK

Well then, perhaps we should have a banquet and set a trap for them

QUEEN

I have an idea. We should have a banquet and set a trap for them.

HIGH PRIESTESS

A trap!! A trap!! Our great Queen.....

QUEEN

Right that's it! *(holds up a red card)* You, llamas, now!!

HIGH PRIESTESS

Oh dear.

HIGH PRIESTESS exits sulking. QUEEN shakes her head.

QUEEN

You just can't get the staff Now we shall have a banquet. *(claps her hands)* Food! Immediately!

SONG or MUSIC as food is brought out and laid on the floor.

DICK

Right, Tom, you hide behind there and wait until all the rats have come in and then you can round them up.

TOM nods and hides.

Rats enter and chase around scaring the courtiers. A bit of chasing & screaming.

DICK

Now, Tom!

TOM leaps out and chases the rats around the food.

TOM chases rats off to rear wings in a long line, they come back on through central wings, chasing HIGH PRIESTESS, who is carrying a mop, and the courtiers scatter again.

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HIGH PRIESTESS leaps to side to cower behind QUEEN.

TOM chases rats around food again.

TOM then steps to the side and watches the rats continue to race around in a circle, shaking his head.

TOM then jumps out in front of the first rat. All the rats jump and run the other way.

TOM turns as the rats approach and scares them again so they all fall over and cower on the floor.

DICK

Well done, Tom!

TOM celebrates.

QUEEN

Yes, my plan was very good.

KING RAT suddenly appears at the central doorway. More screams, boos etc

KING RAT

Not so fast!!

DICK

You!

KING RAT

Yes, me! What are you going to do about it, sonny!?

DICK

Get him, Tom!

KING RAT

I don't think so!

Before TOM can move, KING RAT pulls ALICE into the doorway beside him.

KING RAT

Look what I've got!

DICK

Alice!

ALICE

Dick!

FITZWARREN

Alice!

ALICE

Daddy!

JACK

Alice!

ALICE
Jack!

SARAH
Alice!

ALICE
Sarah!

KING RAT
All right, all right! There'll be time enough for that later, if you do as I say. First, tell your mangy feline friend to back off. Let the rats go and the girl won't get hurt.

QUEEN
Is this the girl?

FITZWARREN
Yes, my daughter, Alice.

QUEEN
I suppose she is quite pretty ...

DICK
You'll never get away with it, King Rat.

KING RAT comes forward, bringing a struggling ALICE with him.

KING RAT
Oh, that's where you are wrong. I've got away with a lot worse than this. Remember the Poll Tax? That was me. Keith Harris and Orville? Me. And bank holiday roadworks!

DICK
OK, we get the idea, just get on with it.

KING RAT
Yes, all right! And now you and your cat will leave this land forever... I like it here, better climate than back home I can feel a takeover coming on. If you are good and do as you're told, I'll send Alice back to you, all tied up with a pretty bow. But if you defy me then I cannot be held responsible for the consequences.

ALICE
Don't listen to him, Dick!

KING RAT
Oh, but I think you should, young Dick Witless. Listen and listen well, for one day I shall return to Old London Town. I shall raise an army of rats and march on the city to claim the crown of England for myself!!!!

SARAH

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He's mad!

FITZWARREN
He's crazy!

As KING RAT speaks, he doesn't notice that TOM has slunk off to the back of the stage.

KING RAT

Mad am I, madam? Yes, well, maybe I am, but you shall rue those words, and you old man. For when I am King Rat the first of England, it will be the rats who will walk the streets of London Town with their heads held high and the people who will crawl along in tunnels under the ground, eating garbage from our dustbins and

TOM appears at KING RAT'S shoulder.

TOM
Boo!

KING RAT
Aaaaargghhhh!

*KING RAT loses his grip on ALICE, who runs to DICK.
TOM starts to stalk KING RAT, who backs away.*

KING RAT

No, no, no! I'd got a really good ending worked out where I get everything. This isn't fair! Why can't the bad guy win for a change?

KING RAT turns to run. TOM gives chase. They run around in circles and then KING RAT goes behind a drape. The drape is pulled away and KING RAT is behind bars.

KING RAT
Rats!!!

ALL
Hurray!!!!

ALICE
Oh Dick, you were so wonderfully wonderful. So were you, Tom!

DICK
Oh, Alice, I was afraid I'd lost you. We've all been so worried about you.

FITZWARREN

I was more upset than that time I lost a five pound note down the back of the sofa.

QUEEN
Take all these rats away and cage them.

The rats are led away.

QUEEN
This calls for a celebration! Bring on the dancing girls!

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HIGH PRIESTESS

Your highness, don't you remember? The dancing girls are refusing to perform until the men return.

QUEEN

Oh yes. Oh dear.

DICK

Your highness, I think I can get you some dancing girls.

HIGH PRIESTESS

You? Where from? I don't believe you. You can't.

DICK

Oh yes I can, can, can!

Can-can music starts, can-can dancers enter dancing. Everyone joins in (kind of) this time. QUEEN steps forward.

QUEEN

Wait! Stop! I've just realised. Now that the rats have gone, the men will return.

HIGH PRIESTESS

Are you sure your highness?

QUEEN

Yes, I forecast that they will return tonight.

HIGH PRIESTESS

Really?

QUEEN

At just about half past ten. Now that really is cause for a celebration!

SONG / DANCE ~~to~~ Raining Men.+

Music ends. QUEEN looks about. FAIRY enters with book.

QUEEN

Oh well, wouldn't be the first time the forecast was wrong.

FAIRY

Can we get back to the plot, please?

DICK

Oh, sorry. Alice, will you marry me?

ALICE

Yes, yes, dearest dreamy Dick, I will.

FAIRY

Finally! Thank you!

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FITZWARREN

Congratulations to the pair of you. Now, it's back to London for the wedding and ... oh, the ship. How do we get home?

QUEEN

Is there a problem? Can you not return the way you came?

DICK

We came on board the merchant ship Everything's A Groat which sank in a great storm

CAPTAIN enters.

CAPTAIN

Hello you chaps. See you made it. Well done.

DICK

But, captain, what are you doing here? Didn't you go down with the ship?

CAPTAIN

I would have done, young Whittington, had the ship gone down. But those rats had gnawed two holes in the hull and, as fast as the water poured in through one, it poured out through the other, so she stayed afloat. Unfortunately, we just crashed into the harbour wall. It'll take months to repair.

FAIRY

Oh, well, it looks like we're stuck. Well, you know what they say ... If you can't beat them
(throws book into handy rubbish bin).... join the party!

SHORT REPRISE *It's Raining Men+*

Blackout.

SONG SHEET

JACK enters.

JACK

All right kids!

AUDIENCE

All right Jack!

JACK

Yeah! I'm brilliant cost there's going to be a big party! Lots of singing, lots of dancing, lots of girls! I'm on my way there now. But, tell you what, now I'm here, why don't we have a bit of a sing-song? I know that you've been dying to flex your vocal cords!

ROT and STENCH enter.

STENCH

Wow, this is lovely. Much nicer than grotty old London Town.

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ROT

And the climate's much healthier. I feel better already oh, blimey!

JACK

What are you doing here?

STENCH

We were ...um ... hold on, what are you doing here?

JACK

We were about to sing a song with the boys and girls.

ROT

Oh yeah! Can we join in, can we, can we, please, please??

JACK

Oh, I suppose so

JACK is hit by the stench.

JACK

... as long as you stay all the way over there.

JACK wafts hands about and winces.

JACK

I know, you sing with that side

(Sing-song competition)

JACK

Anyway, we've got that party to go to ò . See you later, boys and girls!

JACK < ROT & STENCH EXIT.

Walkdown & Bows

FAIRY

It's time to leave our new-found friends
 Though the tale is far from done
 So here's a shortened version of the end
 To leave time for party fun

The men, they returned to the palace
 They all helped to fix-up the boat
 So our heroes could go back to London
 On the way everything's A Groat+
 The horrid rats were put away
 And soon they were forgotten

KING RAT

But I promise you that I'll be back

ROT & STENCH

And next time we'll be more rotten!

FAIRY

Tom was declared a hero
A Rat-Catcher Supreme
And Dick, he married Alice

ALICE

Oh Dick, you're such a dream!

FAIRY

And Dick became Lord Mayor
Not once, or twice, but thrice!
And so, a happy ending
Which is always rather nice!

Let's party!

FINALE SONG Hey Baby+

Additional Notes

Music Content

Your choice of music is important; choose songs that are suited to your company and your audience. In general, it is best that songs are well-known and kept fairly short. Up-tempo songs work well, but you will usually need to include at least one slower ballad, or love song. It is likely that most of your audience will be familiar with chart music, rather than musicals. Whatever you choose, remember that the performance of any copyright music (including those suggestions made in this script) is subject to permission and payment of royalties. The Performing Rights Society licenses most popular songs and also collects royalties.

Optional Ultra Violet Lit Scene

An **Under the Sea** type of musical number can be very effective using ultra violet lighting:-

Various types of fish and sea creatures can be made. If you paint both sides, you can **swim** them back and forth across the stage. To add dimension to the fish and other creatures, enhance fins and tails with chiffon and net fabric (paint with UV fabric paint). Attach black rods to the bottom of each fish, so that they can be held above the operators' heads.

A very effective octopus can be made fairly easily, the **body** of which, fits over a child or smaller dancer, the attached **legs** then reaching almost to the floor. If the **legs** are all attached around a black hoop, the operator will be able to move them, making the creature look more **alive**. Remember to include cut-out eyes or mouth, covered with black net, so that the operator can see!

The octopus, or any similar **worn** over the person's costume, will need to be situated at the front of the action. Always ensuring that the operators in black are behind any UV-painted object!

Whatever props you decide to use, paint them with an undercoat, followed by two coats of UV reactive paint. The operators must be dressed completely in black, including hoods, socks and gloves. Usually, it is best to use dancers for this job, as they are more nimble, with good spatial awareness. Use simple but well-timed choreography. Let your imagination take over!

The Mermaid will also need to keep downstage. If you want her to **swim**, she can lie on a blacked-out trolley, pushed by an operator. To light her face, set a small battery-operated light, facing upwards, at the front of the trolley. No smiling, though ~ UV lights make teeth look green!

Jack must be downstage of the mermaid. He can have his clothing edged with UV fabric paint, or use **Black Light Spray** to make fabrics glow under UV light.

NB When using UV reactive paint, make sure that there are no gaps in the paintwork (or any paint where it shouldn't be!). Use a sufficient number of UV lighting tubes. Ensure that all other light sources are switched off (including the musicians' lights). And a UV scene must have a black background!