

NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT...

DICK
WHITTINGTON
BY
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DICK WHITTINGTON

By Mark Llewelin

Characters:

Dick Whittington

Alderman Fitzwarren

Alice Fitzwarren

Fairy Bow Bells

King Rat

Wanda Whittington

Tommy, the cat

Emperor of Morocco

Gorilla

Chorus: Servants, Townspeople, Sailors, Gorilla, Rats and Mice.

Act One:

1. On The Road To London.

2. London Town

3. Fitzwarren's Store

4. A London Street

5. Fitzwarren's Store

6. On The Road To London

Act Two:

1. Fitzwarren's Store.

2. The Jolly Dodger

3. King Rat's Lair.

4. Dick's Cabin.

5. The Emperor of Morocco's Palace.

6. London Town

DICK WHITTINGTON

By Mark Llewelin

ACT ONE:SCENE 1: THE ROAD TO LONDON

AS THE CURTAIN RISES, IT IS MORNING. THERE IS BIRDSONG. A FIGURE LIES BENEATH A TREE SNORING. THERE IS ALSO A TENT. BELLS CHIME IN THE DISTANCE. SLOWLY, THE FIGURE STIRS. IT IS DICK. HE STANDS. A FEW BARS OF MORNING MUSIC.

DICK: Oh, good morning! STRETCHING What a night that was ó we walked all day to get here. HE TURNS Oh look ó over there in the distance - that must be London! Oh Tommy! Tommy!

TOMMY ENTERS WEARING CHEF'S HAT.

Tommy look ó London Town!

TOMMY LOOKS THEN WHISPERS IN HIS EAR.

You have? A full English cooked breakfast? Where?
TO AUDIENCE: Tommy says he's rustled up a full English cooked breakfast! He's so clever! He's not only great at mice catching but a superb friend. Say hello to the boys and girls Tommy. TOMMY WAVES And boys and girls, say hello to Tommy. THEY DO That's great ó now we're all friends. Oh, hang on, I haven't introduced myself ó I'm Richard Whittington, but you can call me Dick for short, all my friends do. And Tommy and I are on our way to London from our home in Gloucester ó we're seeking fame and fortune. I didn't fancy going on X Factor (*or other talent show*) so here we are!

TOMMY RUSHES OFF AND PUSHES ON A HOSTESS TROLLEY ON WHICH SITS A PLATE OF FOOD.

That's wonderful Tommy!

THE TROLLEY IS PARKED NEAR THE TENT. DICK & TOMMY TURN THEIR ATTENTIONS TO THE HORIZON.

Look Tommy ó there's Big Ben and St Paul's. Oh, I know we've done the right thing by travelling to London to seek our fame and fortune. You'll see!

THE SAUSAGES ARE SLOWLY BEING PULLED OFF THE PLATE INTO THE TENT. TOMMY NOTICES & SIGNALS TO DICK.

Oh, my breakfast! Mother!

WANDA (OFF): What? What's up out there?

DICK: You're stealing my breakfast!

WANDA (OFF): I haven't pinched anything but not a sausage! NOISES OF HER EATING They're very nice though!

DICK: Mother! She is a one! She's not up yet otherwise I'd introduce you to mum boys and girls but you'll have to wait until later. She'll be putting her face on.

TOMMY WHISPERS TO HIM.

Tommy says we're in for a long wait then! Oh look everyone but here come the children of London on their way to school!

CHORUS ON.

NUMBER of Chorus (first part)

CHORUS OFF.

DICK: Oh Tommy but the time has come. Let's go into London Town. Are you coming mother?

DICK AND TOMMY PREPARE TO FOLLOW THE CHORUS.

WANDA (OFF): Wait for me!

SCENE 2: LONDON TOWN:**THE CHORUS ARE ABOUT THEIR WORK.**

NUMBER ó 2 nd part

ALICE ENTERS CARRYING FLYERS WHICH SHE DISTRIBUTES.

CHILD: What's this all about Alice?

ALICE: My father's new shop opens for business tomorrow ó and he's having a sale.

CHILD: We know your dad ó what is it? - a penny off?

CHILD 2: Yes, one for the price of two?

ALICE: I hope he's changed his ways. Really ó read all about it!

SHE SPINS ROUND AND BUMPS INTO DICK WHO HAS JUST ENTERED.

ALICE: Oh, excuse me. Stranger.

DICK: Well, hello!

SHE HANDS HIM A FLYER & EXITS IN A HURRY.**TOMMY ENTERS.**

DICK: Did you see *her* Tommy? If all the London girls are like that ó well, I'm going to enjoy myself!

CHORUS 1: You're new round here, aren't you?

DICK: That's right ó Richard Whittington and my cat Tommy. Pleased to meet you.

CHORUS 1: A pleasure I'm sure! What are you doing here?

DICK: Looking for work actually.

CHORUS 1: Well, you might be lucky but this cat, well, there's no call for cats in London.

DICK: He's a great mouser.

CHORUS 1: Oh, haven't you heard? There are no mice in London. Not these days.

THE CHORUS EXIT.

DICK: No mice? Oh dear Tommy, you might have to get a job as a cook after all. Now, where's mother got to?

HONKING OF HORN.

Oh, here she is now!

WANDA ENTERS IN FULL CAMPING GET-UP.

WANDA: Ooh do you know, my feet are in ribbons. It's no life for an old middle aged lady this traipsing all the way from (*local town*) to London in the hope of finding fame and fortune. RUBS FEET I'm not as young as I used to be Dick. I mean look at me. I've got more hair in me ears than on me head! When I bend down I try and think of something to do whilst I'm down there just to make the trip worthwhile. Come and help me unload me knapsack love.

DICK HELPS HER.

Maybe I'm a fool to meself or maybe I didn't need to bring all this but or

DICK: What have you got here? Pots and pans. Firelighters and Firecrackers.

WANDA: Clothes and curlers. Make-up and mud packs. Shoes and slippers.

DICK: The only thing you didn't bring was the kitchen sink!

WANDA: Ah!

ENTER A CHORUS BOY WITH A SINK.

Thank you love. Over here.

PUTS SINK DOWN & WAITS.

Have you any change Dick? A tip love. Tip him.

DICK: Never take advantage of an old lady or that's a tip for you.

CHORUS BOY OFF.

WANDA: Less of the old lady or I think I was in there. Oh love, so here we are or London Town. It's just like home or filthy and full of strangers. You know, when I was a little girl I often dreamt of coming here or

DICK: So did I mum, so did I. Not when I was a little girlí í í

WANDA: Ah, but you had the courage to live out your dreams ó eh, here we are love! In London!

NUMBER Dick and Wanda
(During which Wanda plays the kitchen sink which has a pipe attached to it.)

WANDA: Now then, we have to find some lodgings ó a place to rest our weary heads tonight. And a job ó *we* need a job donøt *you*.
ASIDE I mean, Iøm too old óheød have to get a job. Wonøt he!

DICK: As long as weøre together mum, I donøt care. This is the beginning of the rest of our lives!

ENTER ALDERMAN FITZWARREN ON BIKE.

FITZWARREN: Clear the way! Clear the way! Mind out the road madam or Iød have to treat you as a roundabout!

WANDA: I beg your pudding!

HE COMES TO A HALT.

FITZWARREN: I do apologise ó I didnøt realise it was a senior citizen.

WANDA: A senior citizen? Are you suggesting Iøm over the hill?

FITZWARREN: Of course not ó but youøve a pretty good view of the valley.
DISMOUNTING Alderman Fitzwarren at your service.

WANDA: Wanda Whittington ó widow of the parish. Pleased to diddle you Iøm sure.

FITZWARREN: And this is?

WANDA: My soní ..brotherí ..son Richard and his cat Tommy.

DICK: Call me Dick.

FITZWARREN: May I kiss your hand?

WANDA: Why? Is me face dirty?

HE KISSES HER HAND.

FITZWARREN: You will have to excuse my hurtling across the street like that ó I was late for the speed dating session at the Dog and Trumpet.

- WANDA: The Dog and Trumpet?
- FITZWARREN: Yes, it's where they have the picture of (*politician's name*) over the mantelpiece to keep the kids away from the fire.
- WANDA: That should work. I've not had the pleasure of we're just arrived in town. I say of you look a well of uh, well loaded of sort of a man. You wouldn't have some rooms for rent would you?
- FITZWARREN: Rooms? Why yes of tomorrow I open my new general stores and I have two rooms available for rent right over the shop.
- WANDA: Over the shop? Why that's perfect.
- FITZWARREN: What rent had you in mind?
- WANDA: Very little. Maybe a little on account. On account of us being a bit basic at the moment. I haven't even got a bank account of they won't let me have one because I don't know me mother's maiden name. I'm a walking tragedy.
- DICK: We were hoping to work for our rent.
- FITZWARREN: I tell you what of I'll let you have the two rooms if Wanda, you will work alongside me in the store and Dick, if you will act as my delivery boy.
- WANDA: Well, that's marvellous.
- DICK: What about Tommy?
- FITZWARREN: I'm sorry; I can't have a cat in the shop. No, sorry my boy but Tommy's out on his own! Now then Wanda of you come with me! OF THE LUGGAGE Is this all yours?

WANDA & FITZWARREN EXIT.
TABS IN BEHIND DICK & TOMMY.

- DICK: Tommy, I don't know what to say.

TOMMY WHISPERS IN HIS EAR.

Are you sure? Well, I'll settle into our new lodgings and you stay around here of I'll fetch you some food and some milk as soon as I can. Is that alright?

TOMMY NODS.

Good. Farewell then friend!

DICK EXITS. TOMMY SETTLES DOWN. KING RAT ENTERS.

KING RAT: I thought I smelt a cat ó mangy flea ball! Cats are my sworn enemy and when I over-run London with rats then this city will become mine. Cats or no cats! LAUGHS Oh, they may think that theyøve killed off us rats and mice but weøve just been waiting, biding our time. LAUGHS Hey Tommy ó your owner gone and left you in the gutter has he? Promised you food and milk has he? They all say that Tommy, thatø the last youøll see of him!

NUMBER King Rat

SCENE 3: THE STORE:

THERE IS A LARGE COUNTER & A SAFE.

ENTER FITZWARREN & WANDA.

FITZWARREN: Well Wanda, this is it ó opening day for my new shop.

WANDA: It's lovely ó all brand new. State of the art.

FITZWARREN: Yes, it's been a lot of hard work ó cost a fortune it did. Thank goodness I've got staff I can trust.

WANDA: Oh absolutely ó I did all my training at Netto (*or local supermarket*) you know. I'm marvellous with that scanner thing SHE BLEEPs and I love stocking up and announcing.

FITZWARREN: Announcing?

WANDA: Yes. Price check on aisle 3 please ó how much are these corn plasters Carol? Ooh and I love asking if they've got a club card and offering to pack and then not doing it. I'm great at all that!

FITZWARREN: Ooh, I almost forgot ó I've got your overall here.

BRINGS OUT OVERALL.

WANDA: Oh ó lovely! I'm more used to the latest fashions. PUTS IT ON. But if you insist -

FITZWARREN: It's got your name on it. Here ó

WANDA: That says Windy.

FITZWARREN: Ah! Well, never mind. And the shop name here look ó

WANDA: Oh yes ó Harolds.

FITZWARREN: My first name.

WANDA: I thought there already was a Harolds in London. That's a coincidence is that, my husband he was called Harold. Harold Whittington. Dick's dad you know.

FITZWARREN: But you're a widow now?

WANDA: One step away. He's not dead or anything ó but he will be if I get my hands on him so we say he's good as gone. Worse thing I ever did marrying him ó I was a pretty young thing you know, known throughout the county I was. A right corker

you'd say. Yes, ask anyone in (*County*) if they knew Miss Wanda Trembler or they all did.

FITZWARREN: I'm sure!

WANDA: Yes, then I went and met Harold Whittington and I gave up being a Trembler. Not that I'd turn the clock back or no, for years it's just been me and my boy and I like that. Oh yes, I do!

FITZWARREN: Well, I'd better go and make sure Dick is alright in the delivery office.

WANDA: You do that or I'd get ready for opening at 9.

FITZWARREN EXITS.

Oh, haven't I landed on my feet or working in a lovely shop. It means I don't have to go far to do me shopping. Oh, that reminds me or I'd better choose something to cook for the Alderman's tea. I know or I'd bang on the counter and see what falls off the shelf. SHE DOES. A TIN FALLS. Oh, cat food or well, never mind. He won't know or he didn't last night.

CLOCK STRIKES.

Ooh it's nine o'clock or time for the grand opening. Where's the Alderman? Ooh, do you think I should open up on my own? What if there's a rush? Ooh or here goes then.

UNLOCKS DOOR. NOTHING.

Ooh that's alright then!

ENTER THE CHORUS.

CHORUS 1: Do you sell soap?

WANDA: Yes.

CHORUS 2: Do you sell cloths?

WANDA: Yes.

CHORUS 2: Do you sell water?

WANDA: Yes.

CHORUS 1: Do you do ham?

WANDA: Do we do ham? ASIDE: Has she been watching another show?

ENTER DICK & FITZWARREN.

FITZWARREN: Ooh, you opened up without me.

WANDA: Just getting the crowds warmed up.

FITZWARREN: Well, ladies and gents ó welcome to Fitzwarrenø General Store, Post Office, Dry Cleaners, Washerie and Nosherie, Corner Shop and Emporium! I am Alderman Fitzwarren and this is my new assistant Wanda Whittington. Nee Trembler!

WANDA: Pleased to be diddling you all Iøm sure. Weøre the Rita and Norris of it all (*or other TV shopkeepers*). You know Fitzy, Iøve a feeling that weøre meant to be together ó like Fern and Phil, Richard and Judy, Flanagan and Allen ó ASIDE Thatø one for the grannies! Like Charlie and Camilla. (*replace any of these with more up-to-date double acts if desired*).

DICK: I can see the resemblance.

WANDA: Cheeky!

WANDA AND FITZWARREN ARM IN ARM.

FITZWARREN: You think thereø a chemistry brewing?

WANDA: I can smell something.

FITZWARREN: Can you feel it Wanda?

WANDA: Not at these prices. Saucy! What Iøm trying to say Fitzy is ó

NUMBER Wanda and Fitzwarren

FITZWARREN: Now youøve gone and down it, youøve gone and got me gander up. Iøm all energetic and Iøve got the wind in me sails ó

WANDA: I told you I could smell something.

FITZWARREN: Iøm feeling impetuous ó devil may care. I could do something dangerous like unhook Fern Brittonø (*or other large lady*) bra.

DICK: You could black out (*neighbouring town*).

FITZWARREN: I know what Iøll do - weøve got a sale on ó just for today. So Iøll slash me prices - 8% off everything under a pound.

WANDA: Donø let your generosity run away with you.

FITZWARREN: Well, feel free to browse! Alice is out with the leaflets so we should have a good crowd all day. Dick, you'd better get on the bike ready for making deliveries.

DICK: Yes Alderman.

FITZWARREN AWAY.

WANDA: Ooh Dick, I don't know if I can cope with crowds like this ó I shall be all of a dither.

DICK: Don't worry mum, I think Alderman Fitzwarren might have a gleam in his eye for you.

WANDA: For me? COY Do you think so? PUFFS HERSELF UP Ooh, now you mention it he has been paying me rather a lot of attention. I shall have to change into my battleship dress.

DICK: Battleship dress?

WANDA: Yes ó top decks cleared for action!

FITZWARREN JOINS THEM.

FITZWARREN: Well, everything seems to be going well. Dick, I think you might have to go and make some deliveries.

DICK: Aye aye Alderman.

DICK HUGS WANDA. SHE GIVES HIM A FISH.

WANDA: STAGE WHISPER For Tommy's lunch!

DICK OFF.

Ooh Alderman, tell me ó how long have you been widowed?

FITZWARREN: It's very sad ó my late wife Fanny Fitzwarren, she died from drinking milk.

WANDA: Milk?

FITZWARREN: Yes, the cow fell on her.

THE CHORUS EXIT.

FITZWARREN: Come again soon ó sale must end Friday. ASIDE It's like DFS ó we'll have another one Saturday.

ONE CHILD RUNS BACK IN.

CHILD: Excuse me miss ó

WANDA LOOKS AROUND.

WANDA: Oh me? How kind. Yes?

CHILD: Can I have an ice cream cone please.

WANDA: Ice cream?

FITZWARREN: Oh I haven't shown you, have I? We have the most wonderful ice cream maker ó I got it off Ebay. Very cheap.

WANDA: Really?

FITZWARREN: Now then young sir, what flavour can we get you?

CHILD: Banana please ó with syrup and nuts.

FITZWARREN: Very well. Now watch carefully Wanda, this is what you do. It's wonderful.

HE PRODUCES A LARGE CONE & HOLDS IT UPSIDE DOWN OVER THE COUNTER. THERE IS IN FACT A LARGE HOLE IN THE COUNTER AND CONCEALED IN IT IS A STAGE HAND WHO MAKES IT ALL HAPPEN.

Right, to get it working you have to say: I scream for ice cream, we all scream for ice cream.

STARTING UP NOISE.

Right, banana ice cream if you please.

YELLOW FOAM SQUIRTS UP INTO THE CONE.

And some syrup if you please ó you have to be nice to it!

SYRUP SQUIRTS UP INTO CONE.

And if you don't mind, a sprinkling of nuts.

NUTS SQUIRT UP INTO CONE.

There you are - £7.49 please.

CHILD PAYS & EXITS.

WANDA: Well that's a marvellous machine.

FITZWARREN: I'm glad you think so. Now, I'd better go and see how we're doing in the stores!

FITZWARREN EXITS AS KING RAT ENTERS.

WANDA: Oh, a customer.

KING RAT: Good morning.

WANDA: Hello there cheeky, how can I be of service to you?

KING RAT: Good lord 'o it's Anne Robinson's *(or other fearsome TV star)* granny.

WANDA: We've just opened this morning 'o we've got food and fashions, gifts and goods, sweets and surprises, tea and trinkets 'o or ice cream.

KING RAT: Ice cream? It is rather hot in here.

WANDA: We've got this marvellous new machine 'o it's from Ebay. I'm from up north you know 'o we have our own version called Ebay-gum! Can I tempt you to a lick?

KING RAT: It's about all you can tempt me to.

WANDA: What flavour?

KING RAT: Cheese please.

WANDA: I'm not sure we do that one but we can but see. The customer is always right and all that rubbish.

TAKES OUT CONE.

Cheese flavour please.

NOTHING.

Ooh, hang on 'o I have to switch it on. Let me think 'o oh yes, I scream for ice cream, we all scream for ice cream.

STARTING NOISE.

Ah yes, we're firing on all cylinders now.

HOLDS CONE UPSIDE DOWN OVER HOLE.

Cheese you said. Cheese and anything ó onion?

KING RAT: Just cheese please.

WANDA: Fine. Cheese flavour if you please.

YELLOW FOAM SHOOTS OUT INTO CONE.

Nuts?

KING RAT: If you please.

NUTS SHOOT OUT BEFORE SHE HAS TIME TO PUT THE CONE OVER.

WANDA: Never mind. That's £17.12 please.

KING RAT TO ONE SIDE. DICK ON.

DICK: I've done all the deliveries mum ó and given Tommy his fish.

WANDA: You have been busy in such a short time. Hey, do you want an ice cream?

DICK: Not really.

WANDA: Oh! I thought you might like to see this machine working ó it's great fun. All you do is shout out I scream for ice cream, we all scream for ice cream ó

MACHINE STARTS.

- and then you tell it what flavour you want but you have to be polite.

DICK: No, I still don't want one.

WANDA: Spoil sport. I was looking forward to getting you some banana flavour if you pleased.

FOAM SQUIRTS UP INTO HER FACE.

KING RAT: HOLDS HIS CONE OUT More nuts if you please!

NUTS SQUIRT UP INTO HER FACE.

You know, I should have had some syrup if you please.

SYRUP SQUIRTS UP INTO HER FACE.

DICK: Mum! What will Alderman Fitzwarren think when he gets back?

WANDA IS TERRIFIED & SHE CLEANS HER FACE FRANTICALLY.

FITZWARREN (OFF): Are you alright in there Wanda & don't forget what to say: I scream for ice cream, we all scream for ice cream.

MACHINE STARTS.

WANDA: Ooh, that's it & on the go again. How do you stop it?

KING RAT: Plug the hole!

WANDA: Plug the hole - he's right!

SHE JUMPS ONTO THE COUNTER AS IF SITTING ON THE HOLE.

WANDA: Now, nobody say a flavour & not strawberry, banana or cheese if you please!

FOAM SQUIRTS UP AROUND HER.

WANDA: Oh, nuts!

EVEN MORE.

SHE IS SAT THERE COVERED IN FOAM.

KING RAT MOVES CENTRE & TAKES A POSE. LIGHTING CHANGE, DICK & WANDA FREEZE.

KING RAT: I can see I'm dealing with a right pair of simpletons. Now, before I launch my plan to take over London I need to get rid of this Tommy the cat once and for all. You see, cats hate rats and rats hate cats & and Tommy is the last little moggy left in these parts. So, how to get rid of Dick and Wanda and their mangy little Tom. I know & now where's Fitzwarren's safe.

GOES TO SAFE & KICKS IT. DOOR OPENS. TAKES OUT MONEY BAG.

Ah yes, no one likes a thief. If I plant Fitzwarren's money on Dick then sooner or later he's going to be thought of as a robber and he'll be kicked out of town alright. You'll see.

PLANTS BAG IN DICK'S POCKET.

LAUGHS I love it when a plan comes together!

KING RAT EXITS. LIGHTING CHANGE. THEY UNFREEZE.

DICK: Mother! Look at the mess in here!

WANDA: It's alright, we'll clean it up before Fitzwarren gets back and ó

FITZWARREN AND ALICE ENTER.

BOTH: Oh my!

WANDA: There's an explanation! I just said I scream for ice cream and we all scream for ice cream and ó

MACHINE STARTS.

Ooh! Just don't say banana please!

FOAM SQUIRTS OUT.

SCENE 4: A LONDON STREET:**KING RAT ENTERS.**

KING RAT: Ding dong bell, pussyø in the well! LAUGHS Ah, we have some laughs down the sewers with that one. Eh, eh? Ding dong bell ó

TOMMY ENTERS.

Now then, whatø this? That mangy old mog - still around is he?

TOMMY SITS & ALICE ENTERS.

Oh now, this is all we need ó Little Miss Sugar Plum herself.

ALICE: Hello Tommy ó it is Tommy, isnø it? Dickø cat.

TOMMY NODS.

May I take a seat with you?

TOMMY NODS. ALICE SITS.

Itø a lovely day isnø it? The sunø been shining, fatherø new shop has opened ó and itø a great success.

TOMMY LOOKS DOWN IN THE DUMPS.

Well, youøre not looking so cheery I must say.

TOMMY WHISPERS IN HER EAR.

Oh I see, well father isnø keen on cats and with the shop and everything ó

TOMMY WHISPERS AGAIN.

Well, thatø true ó you could guard the stores against rats and mice. I could speak to father ó and it would make Dick happy. I do like him! Alright Tommy Iøll ó I tell you what, letø ask the boys and girls. Boys and girls, what do you think? Should I ask father if Tommy can come and live with us too? Oh, thatø settled then ó come on Tommy, you come with me.

THEY STAND.

You know, just when things are looking down, you put on a brave smile and ó

NUMBER Alice and Tommy

AT CONCLUSION, ALICE & TOMMY EXIT.

KING RAT: Oh, give me a bucket someone! Oh the little bluebirds and the lovely rays of sunny sun sunshine ó they make me puke! Time to put my next plan into action! You like Dick and Wanda I suppose ó well, you just watch me destroy them once and for all! LAUGHS.

SCENE 5: FITZWARREN'S STORE:

AS BEFORE EXCEPT THAT THE ICE CREAM HAS BEEN CLEANED UP.
DICK IS TALKING TO FITZWARREN.

DICK: I'm so sorry Alderman, I'm sure mother just got carried away with herself.

FITZWARREN: Yes, well. It's a good job I've got a soft spot for that lady ó she's quite unique you know. I've never seen another woman like her.

DICK: No, you can say that again.

FITZWARREN: I am quite bowled over with her. You know, the late Mrs Fitzwarren was rather bow-legged. Yes, we used to hang her over the backdoor for luck. So, compared to her any filly who can walk in a straight line is a catch. Now where is your mum, she must have had time to change by now.

WANDA ENTERS.

WANDA: Here I am ó this is my American dress. One yank and it's off.

FITZWARREN: Well, you look ravishing ó I could almost eat you.

WANDA: Now he says that ó after I've wiped all the ice cream off. I'm sorry about that Fitzy. May I call you Fitzy?

FITZWARREN: Call me whatever you like ó you gorgeous creature.

HE GOES TO KISS HER AS THE DOOR OPENS, SHE LEANS FORWARD & HE FALLS OVER.

ALICE & TOMMY ENTER.

ALICE: Father!

WANDA TURNS TO HIM, HE'S NOT THERE, SHE LOOKS AROUND,
STEPPING OVER HIM.

WANDA: He was here a minute ago.

HE STANDS.

Oh, there you are. Look what the cat's dragged in.

FITZWARREN: I told you not to bring that cat in here.

- ALICE: But Tommy's all alone out there and he offered to guard the stores against the rats and mice.
- FITZWARREN: Rats and mice? There are *no* rats and mice down in the stores. No, the answer's definitely a no. Animals should be kept outside.
- WANDA: What if he gets a cold?
- FITZWARREN: A cold?
- WANDA: Oh yes 'o we had a rabbit once and he got a cold.
- DICK: That's right 'o we wrote a poem about it, didn't we mum.
- WANDA: We did 'o I had a little bunny, his nose was rather runny, but please don't think it's funny, because it's snot.
- FITZWARREN: No! And that's my final word on the matter. Now, it's time to shut up the shop.
- WANDA: Oh, my favourite part of the job 'o pay day!
- FITZWARREN: Yes! GOES TO SAFE Now, I've got the wages safely put away in here OPENS IT In a little blue bag. Just a minute 'o it's gone. I've been robbed, I've been filched, I've been 'o and I never felt a thing.
- WANDA: Someone's whipped me wages? Snaffled me salary?
- FITZWARREN: Yes!
- WANDA: But I've been here behind this counter all day.
- FITZWARREN: You're right 'o it must have been an inside job.
- MUSIC STING.
- FITZWARREN: No one leave the shop 'o I want you all to empty your pockets.
- WANDA: Empty my? Why, I've never been so insulted since someone asked to see my OAP bus pass on the number 69.
- ALICE: Were you going all the way?
- WANDA: Given half a chance. Very well, here 'o EMPTIES HER POCKET
- FITZWARREN: GOES THROUGH IT A ticket for Take That at the (*local venue*) concert 1992 'o what lovely boys. Very obliging.

Lipstick, eye shadow, lip gloss, moisturiser, false eyelashes, mascara and blusher.

WANDA: My instant repair kit.

FITZWARREN: Come on Dick ó you next.

DICK EMPTIES HIS POCKET. THE BAG OF MONEY COMES OUT.

FITZWARREN: Thatø it! Thatø the missing money, the lifted loot.

WANDA: Dick! What have you done?

DICK: Mum, I didnø steal it.

ALICE: Well, how did it get there?

DICK: I donø know! Really, I donø!

FITZWARREN: Well, this is the last straw ó I want no more talk from you young man, the evidence speaks for itself. You must pack your bags and get out immediately.

WANDA: Oh Dick ó good luck!

FITZWARREN: And you ó the lot of you, Dick, Wanda and Tommy. Get out ó Now!

WANDA: Just when I was getting the hang of your Mr Whippy anø all!

FITZWARREN: Get out! *(Maybe in 'The Apprentice' style)* Youøre fired!

SCENE 6: ON THE ROAD TO LONDON:**BELLS ARE RINGING. TOMMY & DICK ON CARRYING CASES.**

DICK: Oh, I'm sorry Tommy ó I didn't steal the money. Honestly I didn't.

THEY SIT.

We'll rest a while whilst mother makes her way up Highgate Hill.

FLASH. FAIRY BOW BELLS APPEARS.

FAIRY: Don't be alarmed Dick and Tommy, don't worry. My name is Fairy Bow Bells and I am here to help you in your time of need. We all have a Fairy Godmother you know ó and I am yours. Look, there was something going on that you don't know about ó wasn't there boys and girls?

FLASH. KING RAT APPEARS.

Talking of which, here he comes now!

KING RAT: You stupid boy and your tatty old moggy, you're half way there ó now keep going and get out of town!

FAIRY: Be careful, he's evil and he wants to overrun London with rats and mice.

KING RAT: And I will ó as we speak they're on their way,

FAIRY: That is unless Dick and Tommy save the day. You've forgotten about me and my magic. Look, Tommy and Dick, I can send you back to London and give you a helping hand to repair your reputation. You didn't steal the money, I know that. It was him ó King Rat. So, are you up for a challenge?

KING RAT: Oh, what now?

FAIRY: Leave it to me ó Dick, listen for the bells to chime and they will send you a message. Don't forget ó Bow Bells will be chiming for you!

KING RAT: You stupid Fairy ó you think that'll stop me? Just you watch!

THEY EXIT.

DICK: Crikey!

ENTER WANDA.

WANDA: Climb every mountain í í follow every dream í í .you could have waited for me our Dick. What are you looking like that for ó like youøve seen a ghost?

DICK: Because something amazing happened. That over-grown, mutant Mickey Mouse and a fairy kind of a creature just appeared to us.

WANDA: I knew Iød have to be careful in these parts ó an attractive young lad and his young-ish, rather well preserved mother ó why, anything could come of us! HITCHES SKIRTS UP If we wait long enough!

DICK: No mum, you donøt understand ó the fairy ó Fairy Bow Bells was her nameí ..

BELLS BEGIN TO CHIME.

WANDA: Bow Bells? Thatø the bells of Bow Church you can hear right now love ó

DICK: They have a message! She said so! Listen!

BELLS: Turn again Whittington ó turn again. Thrice Lord Mayor of London.

DICK: Did you hear that?

WANDA: I did ó I did. Turn again Whittington ó thrice Mayor of Loní í you know what that means Dick, donøt you? Iøm going to be Lord Mayor of London. Me! Wanda Whittington!

DICK: No, no, the message was for me ó she said so.

WANDA: You? A young lad like you? PUFFS UP Oh no, itø me alright. Oh I shall look fabulous in me velvet and ermine. And me dad always said I had a triangular shaped head ó perfect for me tricorn hat. Well, weød better go back now.

DICK: Back to London?

WANDA: Yes, Iøve got Mayoral duties to see to. I need measuring for me chain ó and I donøt mean a loo one either. Come on! About turn!

DICK: Iøm sure this canøt be right!

WANDA: You heard the old clanger herself ó I am going to be rich; I am going to be famous!

ENTER CHORUS.

WANDA: Have you heard the news? They are going to chain me up!
With a Mayoral ó oh forget it!

NUMBER The Company

CURTAIN.

ACT TWO:**SCENE 1: FITZWARREN'S STORE:**

THE STORE IS EMPTY & CLOSED UP FOR THE NIGHT. THERE IS A LOUD BANG THEN SLOWLY THE CHORUS AS RATS & MICE ENTER, WITH MUSIC UNDER, FROM ALL THE ENTRANCES. THEY SWARM EVERYWHERE. KING RAT APPEARS FROM BEHIND THE COUNTER.

KING RAT: That's it my little vermin ó eat everything, take over everything. By morning London will be mine! LAUGHS.

KNOCKING AT DOOR.

What's that?

WANDA (OFF): Fitzzy! Fitzzy! It's your little Wanda Wanda Woo!

KNOCKING AGAIN.

FITZWARREN: ENTERING Who is it at this time of night?

HE SEES ALL THE RATS.

What on earth? Rats! SCREAMS

WANDA (OFF): I don't look that bad!

HE RUSHES TO THE DOOR & WANDA ENTERS.

WANDA: It's me love ó your little Wanda Whittington. Nee Trembler. Look, I've got some great news í í í . SEES RATS I think you've got a vermin problem.

FITZWARREN: Nothing gets past you.

WANDA: But this is dreadful ó in your new shop an' all.

FITZWARREN: If only I hadn't thrown Tommy out!

WANDA: It's your lucky day! Tommy! Dick!

TOMMY & DICK IN. TOMMY CHASES THE RATS AWAY. HE JUMPS BEHIND THE COUNTER & APPEARS, ON HIND LEGS PINNING KING RAT AGAINST THE WALL.

DICK: Oh, it's you!

KING RAT: You may have got me this time Whittington but don't think it's over yet!

KING RAT MAKES A RUN FOR IT & ESCAPES.

FITZWARREN: Thank goodness! How can I repay you?

DICK: Alderman Fitzwarren, I know you don't believe me when I tell you that I didn't steal your money ó but I didn't, I swear to it. Tell him boys and girls! SHOUTS Please, give us another chance ó we'll do whatever you want.

FITZWARREN: Well, I am a warm-hearted, forgiving sort of a chap. HE OUTSTRETCHES HIS ARMS, INADVERTENTLY CUPPING ONE OF WANDA'S BREASTS. SHE MOVES HIS HAND THEN THINKS BETTER OF IT & PLACES IT BACK. And I try and see good in people. Tommy has saved the day so I *will* give you all another chance as you ask. I have to travel to Morocco to buy goods for the shop ó why don't you and Tommy come with me. I could do with a mate and ship's cat.

WANDA: Well, *I* was hoping to be your mate Fitzy!

FITZWARREN: Oh, I couldn't ask you to join us Wanda ó it's men's work! Come Dick, let's talk it through. And you Tommy!

DICK, FITZWARREN & TOMMY EXIT.

WANDA: It's men's work!!! And I'm left here all alone. Oh mind you, I'm going to be Mayor of London aren't I? Wanda Livingstone Whittington, Lord Mayor! That means I'm rich ó oh what can I spend the money on? I might have that David Beckham (*or other wealthy star*) round to give me some tips ó I won't get a nanny of course, they only sell your story to the papers. I might have wall to wall carpets in the flat ó I might have some on the floor too. Ooh, and I'll have one of those chairlift things save me walking. It'll be fabulous.

ENTER ALICE.

Oh hello Alice.

ALICE: Hello Wanda. I'm so glad you and Dick are back.

WANDA: Well I'm pleased too.

ALICE: I've become very fond of your son.

WANDA: Have you? Oh that's exciting ó he's a good boy and I don't believe for one minute that he stole that money from your father.

- ALICE: Neither do I. Dad's asked him and Tommy to join him on a sea voyage.
- WANDA: I know 'o I wanted to go along too. Get to know old Fitzy a little better.
- ALICE: Well why don't you join them?
- WANDA: He says it's men's work.
- ALICE: Rubbish! I tell you what 'o you want to spend time with dad and I want to spend time with Dick so why don't we both smuggle ourselves on board? We could disguise ourselves as sailors and once they've left the harbour there's nothing they can do about it.
- WANDA: Sailors? I'd rather be an Admiral! That's a brilliant plan though! We'll pass ourselves off as shipmates. You and I, I and you, me and thee! It's girl power, isn't it?

NUMBER Wanda and Alice

SCENE 2: THE JOLLY DODGER:FITZWARREN AND DICK ENTER.

FITZWARREN: And this is the Jolly Dodger!

DICK: A beautiful ship sir, beautiful. And which way is Morocco?

FITZWARREN: Well, its ó

DOESNØT KNOW ó MUCH FLAILING OF ARMS. BOTH ARMS IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.

Thataway!

DICK: Marvellous! Well, Iød better go and unpack.

FITZWARREN: Iød call one of the crew! Crew!!

CHORUS ON AS SAILORS.

Ah there you are. Could you show Dick to his bunk shipmates!
You see Dick; Iøm fluent in all this nautical lingo. Splice yer
main brace and piddle your spinnaker! Ah yes, the ocean
waves, eh!

ONE OF THE CHORUS LEADS DICK OFF.

FITZWARREN: Ah yes, thereø nothing like the salty sea air up yer hooter!

GOES TO BLOW HIS NOSE - HONK OF HORN.

Itø clearer already!

TOMMY RUNS ON.

Ah there you are Tommy ó now, Iød get one of these salty sires
to show you to your bunk.

HE SUMMONS A SAILOR WHO LEADS TOMMY OFF.

Well, time to cast off I should think! Shiver me timbers, lift me
anchor and head off in ARMS AGAIN thata direction! Well,
what are you doing just standing there ó get on with it!

HOOTER AGAIN.

NUMBER The Company

FITZWARREN: Ah yes, the open sea ó HE WAVES ó the bracing air does you the power of good! HE BREATHEs IN DEEPLY AND SUFFERS A COUGHING FIT. Now, Iœ better review the ratings. Line up sea mates!

THE CHORUS LINE UP. THE LINE STRETCHES OFF ONE SIDE OF THE STAGE. FITZWARREN BEGINS AT THE OTHER END. HE MARCHES ALONG GIVING HELPFUL ADVICE: Smarten up son, put that hat straight etc. HE REACHES THE END WHERE IT GOES INTO THE WINGS.

Now hang on, whatœ this? You all need to shuffle up thata way!

THEY ALL MOVE TWO STEPS IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION & IT ALL COLLAPSES. WANDA (IN FALSE BEARD) AND ALICE ARE ON THE END.

Thatœ better ó you two! Hang on, you two look familiar.

WANDA: Rear Admiral Poopy Poopdeck sir reporting for work on the Jolly Todger.

FITZWARREN: Dodger.

WANDA: Whatever takes your fancy. Whatever floats your boat. And this is my nephew Peter Poopdeck. And weœre right Pooped!

FITZWARREN: The Poopdecks? SCRATCHES HEAD I donœt recall those names on the crew list. Are you sure youœre supposed to be with us? You look a little POKES WANDA podgy Poopdeck, to be a seafaring fella.

WANDA: Donœt you poke me you - FALSE BEARD COMES OFF

FITZWARREN: Wanda! Alice! Stowaways!

ALICE: Oh listen father, we can explain ó we just wanted to be with you and Dick.

FITZWARREN: Never mind that, whoœs minding the shop?

ALICE: Ah!

WANDA: We got a couple of locals on day release from (*local college*). Oh Fitzy, just think of the positives ó I can cook all your favourite dishes and ó

FITZWARREN: Thereœs another problem ó all the bunks are taken. You two will have to share with ó

WANDA: I bagsy your bunk Fitzy! And she can bunk up with our Dick.

FITZWARREN: Oh no! Alice can sleep in my cabin and you can share with Dick. And Tommy.

WANDA: Ah, always the bridesmaid and never the bride.

HORN BLAST. ALICE EXITS.

Ooh, what's that?

FITZWARREN: It means it's time for lifeboat drill! And we need a volunteer!

WANDA: Does it mean being with all these lovely sailors?

FITZWARREN: Yes.

WANDA: I'm game if you are!

FITZWARREN: Very well. Bring on the lifeboat.

CHORUS BRING ON A BOAT OR DINGHY WHICH IS PLACED CENTRE.

Right, now then so we all pretend we're about our business and you, Wanda, will wait until the whistle goes and then you scream for help.

WANDA: And will one of these hunky sailors come and rescue me?

FITZWARREN: That's the idea.

WANDA: Smashing! I'm loving life on the Jolly Bodger already.

FITZWARREN: Dodger. Right, off you all go then.

SAILORS HEAVE HO A BIT. WHISTLE. WANDA SCREAMS. A FEW OF THE CHORUS GO AND MAN HANDLE HER TOWARDS THE BOAT.

WANDA: Ooh Captain!

FITZWARREN: Yes?

WANDA: This one's really giving me a going over!

FITZWARREN: Really? Sailor Shawshank, do not be so rough with Mrs Whittington. Nee Trembler.

WANDA: Could you tell him off twice please.

FITZWARREN: Twice? But he only did it once.

WANDA: I know ó but I was thinking of letting him have another go.

FITZWARRREN: Really! I can tell youøre not from a sea-faring family.

WANDA: No youøre wrong, my father was a sea dog, he seldom came home.

FITZWARRREN: Youøre sure he wasnøt a dirty dog who never came home?

WANDA: Actually, you remind me of the sea.

FITZWARRREN: Rough but calm and deep underneath?

WANDA: No, you make me sick. LAUGHS

FITZWARRREN: Really? WHISTLE Off we go lads ó in the boat, rescue the damsel.

THEY MAN HANDLE HER INTO THE BOAT.

WANDA: Now what?

FITZWARRREN: (TO AUDIENCE) I think the boat should sink. Donøt you?

WANDA: What was that?

FITZWARRREN: The boatøø got a puncture! Emergency! May Day!

WANDA: Oh dear, weøre taking in water. Water! Water! Weøre taking in water!

FITZWARRREN: Water?

CHORUS THROW A BUCKET OF WATER IN.

More water! Sheøø taking in more water!

ANOTHER BUCKET.

WANDA: Iøam going to the very bottom of the leagues! Just like (*local football team*). Maybe not that low!

FITZWARRREN: Oh yes, sheøø sinking all right!

ANOTHER BUCKET OF WATER.

Now she wants rescuing from the boat! Whoøø going to give her the kiss of life?

ALL THE SAILORS BACK OFF.

WANDA: Hey! I'm a good catch I am. And I'm a lovely kisser ó I was well known for siphoning petrol from tanks in the war.

FITZWARREN: I will save you Wanda.

WANDA: Won't one of them young ones do it? Oh, go on. SHE PURSES HER LIPS. THEY RUN OFF.

FITZWARREN: Oh soggy maiden, allow me!

SHE STANDS, FITZWARREN KISSES HER HAND.

WANDA: You know Fitzzy, there's many a good tune played on an old fiddle.

FITZWARREN: Depends how your strings are plucked.

DICK & TOMMY ON.

DICK: Oh mother! What have you been up to? Shipmates!

THE CHORUS ON TO CLEAR THE BOAT AWAY.

I think you'd better go to the cabin and change!

WANDA: Thank goodness I was only wearing this old thing ó I call it my Tupperware outfit. I haven't got a lot, but what I have got; by gum does it keep it fresh! See you later Fitzzy!

SHE EXITS.

FITZWARREN: Now, I wanted to have a word with you Dick ó it's about the cargo we're collecting in Morocco.

DICK: Oh yes?

FITZWARREN: It's like this ó

THEY EXIT FOLLOWED BY TOMMY.

SCENE 3: KING RAT'S LAIR:**FLASH. ENTER KING RAT.**

KING RAT: Oh my goodness, so the whole lot of them are heading to Morocco are they? What a bunch of no-hopers they are! Don't you hiss and boo me or you know what rats like eating for their teas, don't you? Children! And the noisier the better or oh yes, the loud ones taste much nicer, thank you! Nice and crunchy! Now then, to think through my plans! Ah yes, I know or

FLASH. FAIRY APPEARS.

Oh no, it's her or old Miss Twinkle Toes!

FAIRY: Yes it is. And I'm watching you Ratty!

NUMBER Fairy and King Rat

SCENE 4: DICK'S CABIN:

THERE ARE TWO BEDS AND TWO DOORS. THERE ARE SUITCASES AND HAT BOXES EVERYWHERE. ENTER WANDA (IN DRESSING GOWN) AND A SAILOR WHO CARRIES TWO MORE CASES.

WANDA: You are a good boy. If you'd like to put those with the rest thank you!

SAILOR DOES SO & EXITS.

Now I've just got to get unpacked and then I can get off to bed. Now, where to begin.

SHE OPENS A CASE & THROWS THE CLOTHES OUT. THEN ANOTHER.

Ooh, I've more stuff than my cousin Camilla. *She* did well for herself ó married an heir to the throne. His dad owns a toilet business.

DICK ENTERS.

DICK: Mother! What's all this!

WANDA: Well, I didn't know what the weather was going to be like, did I?

DICK: But this is my cabin too!

WANDA: Give me a hand then ó let's move all this into the bathroom.

DICK: What bathroom?

WANDA: Ooh, it's not much like the brochure. I suppose there's no bingo an' all.

DICK: Come on!

HE OPENS THE DOOR & THEY THROW EACH CASE OUT. CLOSSES DOOR.

WANDA: You are a good boy. Will someone wash and iron it and hang it in the hold?

DICK: You'd be lucky to see any of it again!

WANDA: You're right. We'd get all new in Morocco. Well, it's time for beddy bye byes. Yes, we're off up the wooden hill to Bedfordshire. Well, who's going to get changed first?

DICK: Mum, I'm not changing in front of you ó I'm 21.

WANDA: I've seen it all before love! Who do you think fed you and burped you and - LOOKS AT HIM. You're right love 'o you go out there and change and I'll change in here and when you're ready you knock on the door.

DICK: Very well.

DICK EXITS.

STRIPTease

WANDA IS WEARING SEVERAL LAYERS OF CLOTHING. AS THE MUSIC BEGINS AND THE LIGHTING DIMS, SHE TWIRLS CENTRE STAGE UNTIEING THE BELT ON HER DRESSING GOWN. SLOWLY SHE WRIGGLES THE GOWN OFF. UNDERNEATH SHE WEARS A SIMILAR GARMENT, BUT A LITTLE SHORTER. SHE DOES THE SAME WHILST DANCING ACROSS THE STAGE. SHE IS NOW IN A SHORTIE NIGHTIE. SHE TURNS UPSTAGE CROSSING HER ARMS IN FRONT OF HER SO THAT HER HANDS ARE VISIBLE OVER HER SHOULDERS. SHE PULLS THE NIGHTIE OVER HER HEAD IN A SWIFT MOVEMENT. SHE IS NOW IN AN EVEN SHORTER ONE. SHE TURNS TO FACE THE AUDIENCE.

WANDA: Not bad for an old 'un!

THE FINAL NIGHTDRESS IS IN FACT A LONG RUN ROLLED UP AROUND THE BOTTOM. AS THE MUSIC STOPS SHE ROLLS IT DOWN.

WANDA: You didn't think you were going to see any more than that, did you? At these prices! You must be joking!

THERE IS A HOOD WHICH SHE PULLS UP.

WANDA ENDS UP IN A NIGHTDRESS AFFAIR WITH FEATHER TRIMMED HOOD. GETS INTO BED & SWITCHES LIGHT OUT. KNOCK ON DOOR.

WANDA: Come in love, I'm all decent!

DOOR OPENS 'o GORILLA ENTERS.

Goodnight love!

SHE ROLLS OVER & BEGINS SNORING. GORILLA LOOKS ROUND & CLIMBS INTO BED WITH WANDA. SHE STOPS SNORING.

Ooh, is that you Fitzy? Oh, you are a cheeky monkey!

KNOCK ON DOOR.

Oh, come in love 'o we're both decent. Just.

DICK ENTERS.

Is that you Dick?

DICK: Yes mum. Good night!

DICK INTO HIS BED.

WANDA: Nighty night! WHISPERS: Fitzzy, you'dl have to keep quiet in case our Dick doesn't like it.

DICK SNORES. KNOCK ON DOOR.

WANDA: Who the heck's this now? Come in!

FITZWARREN ENTERS.

WANDA: Sorry, we're full up.

FITZWARREN: Who the heck's in here?

WANDA: I know 'o that's what I said love. Who is it?

FITZWARREN: Where are you my little turtle dove? Are you ready for me?

WANDA: Oh I am. Right!

FITZWARREN: Right!

FITZWARREN TURNS RIGHT TOWARDS DICK'S BED.

WANDA: - ooh, you do feel all warm and lovely.

FITZWARREN: Have I got a surprise for you!

FITZWARREN INTO DICK'S BED.

WANDA: Next time I'dl get a revolving door fitted, eh Fitzzy?

FITZWARREN: Absolutely!

WANDA: Nighty nighty!

WANDA SNORES. DICK WAKES.

DICK: Hello! Who's this? Alice?

FITZWARREN: I say! No it's not Alice.

FITZWARREN SITS UP.

It's me ó Alderman Fitzwarren! Who's this?

DICK SITS UP.

DICK: Dick Whittington ó you're in my bed!

WANDA: What's all the commotion? SITS UP Fitzzy, what are you doing in his bed?

FITZWARREN: I thought it was your bed!

DICK: You ó and my mum?

WANDA: Never mind that ó if you're in Dick's bed because you thought it was my bed and I was in my bed with who I thought was you ó

FITZWARREN: Who's in your bed with you?

GORILLA SITS UP, LOOKS AT WANDA, SCREAMS & RUNS OUT.

WANDA: You don't get this on Cunard. Well, not at these prices. Is no one going to defend my honour?

FITZWARREN: Of course I will!

CHASE MUSIC STARTS. FITZWARREN OUT OF DOOR A.

DICK: And so will I mum!

DICK OUT OF DOOR B. GORILLA IN DOOR A.

WANDA: Oh lumey, he's back, he's back ó he's back for more!

WANDA JUMPS ONTO BED.FITZWARREN IN DOOR B. SHOOS GORILLA WHO EXITS THROUGH DOOR A. FITZWARREN OUT BEHIND HIM.

WANDA: I'm not staying here for more!

WANDA EXITS THROUGH DOOR A. DICK ENTERS THROUGH DOOR B. LOOKS AROUND & EXITS THROUGH DOOR B. WANDA IN DOOR A FOLLOWED BY GORILLA. SHE STOPS TO LOOK AROUND. TURNS TO SEE GORILLA. HE SCREAMS AND RUNS OUT OF DOOR B. WANDA EXITS THROUGH DOOR A. FITZWARREN THROUGH DOOR B. DICK THROUGH A. THEY COLLIDE. CROSS AND DICK EXITS THROUGH B. FITZWARREN SITS ON END OF BED. WANDA IN DOOR A.

SHE SITS NEXT TO HIM. GORILLA IN DOOR B. SITS NEXT TO THEM AND PUTS ARM ROUND FITZWARREN. FITZWARREN SCREAMS AND EXITS THROUGH DOOR A. GORILLA SHUFFLES ALONG. WANDA PUTS ARM AROUND GORILLA. THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND SCREAM. GORILLA EXITS THROUGH DOOR A. WANDA EXITS THROUGH DOOR B. DICK ENTERS THROUGH A. FITZWARREN ENTERS THROUGH B. THEY COLLIDE AND FALL ONTO BED. GORILLA ENTERS THROUGH B AND STANDS CENTRE. WANDA IN THROUGH A WALKING BACKWARDS. WANDA DOUBLE THROUGH B WALKING BACKWARDS. THEY BOTH COLLIDE WITH GORILLA. HE DOES DOUBLE TAKE, THEY DO DOUBLE TAKE. DICK & FITZWARREN SIT UP & DO DOUBLE TAKE. EVERY ONE SCREAMS. BLACK OUT.

SCENE 5: THE EMPEROR OF MOROCCO'S PALACE:

THE EMPEROR SITS IN A BIG THRONE. A SERVANT IS AT HIS FEET. ANOTHER ENTERS WITH A SCROLL.

SERVANT: Sire, this was delivered to the palace gates for you.

EMPEROR: Well, go on ó what does it say?

SERVANT: Nothing sir ó HOLDS IT TO HIS EAR ó I think you have to read it.

EMPEROR: Oh good lord! Well, thick-wit, read it then!

SERVANT: UNFURLS IT To the Emperor of Morocco, the Emperor of Morocco's Palace, Emperor Street, Morocco.

EMPEROR: It's come to the right address at least.

SERVANT: Sire, we beg to inform you that at noon today your palace will be over-run with rats who will eat you and your court out of house and home. With no food you will starve and I will gradually do the same to all your people. I will become the new Emperor of Morocco ó unless ó you pay me 3 million ringetts within the next hour. Signed, King Rat.

EMPEROR: I've never heard the like! King Rat!

SERVANT: Yes, King Rat!

EMPEROR: I will not be blackmailed like this!

DOOR BELL.

EMPEROR: Go and see who that is.

SERVANT: It could be ó oh no, the Avon lady comes on Mondays.

EMPEROR: Just go and answer the door!

SERVANT EXITS.

I have been on the throne for thirty years! I know! And this is the most impudent thing ever! Now, when I get my hands on that rat -

KING RAT HAS ENTERED. THE EMPEROR BACKS TOWARDS HIM.

- I shall stand up to him and demand he takes his filthy vermin elsewhere!

HE BACKS INTO THE RAT. RAT PUTS HIS HANDS ON HIS SHOULDERS.

KING RAT: Will you?

TURNS EMPEROR AROUND.

EMPEROR: Oh, I wasn't talking about you! Now then, yes, well ó we'd better see about these demands. I am a King you know.

KING RAT: And so am I. Now let me make this clear King. I and my mice and rats are ready and waiting to over órun your kingdom. King or no King, there'll be no land to rule. Three million is what I want. That'll buy a lot of cheese. Please.

EMPEROR: I can't raise that kind of money ó but I do have a few cases of cheddar in the cellars ó oh and some Dairylea slices.

KING RAT: I don't think you're taking this seriously. Let me show you something! CLAPS HANDS.

RATS & MICE ENTER.

EMPEROR: I see!

DOOR BELL.

Oh, who's this now? I'm sorry to interrupt Ratty but a King has lots of things to see to you know. My life is one longí .

SERVANT ENTERS.

SERVANT: Your Royal Highness ó

EMPEROR: Yes?

SERVANT: Your guests sire. Shall I show them in?

EMPEROR: Why not!

ENTER FITZWARREN AND DICK.

Ah, Fitzwarren old chap.

KING RAT: Oh lordy, it's Little and Large.

DICK: Richard Whittington your Highness!

DICK BOWS.

EMPEROR: An honour ó any friend of my old pal Fitzzy is a friend to me.

DICK: And is this over-grown rodent a friend too?

EMPEROR: No. I'm being blackmailed. This rat is vowing to over-run my Kingdom.

DICK: I think I can help there sire.

EMPEROR: If you can rid me of this threat my boy then well, I shall have to reward you.

DICK: Ratty!! You asked for it! Tommy we need you!

ENTER TOMMY. HE CHASES THE RATS AWAY. BACKS KING RAT INTO A CORNER.

EMPEROR: And what do you plan to do with him?

DICK: We can have him killed sire, if you like.

EMPEROR: I never enjoy putting anyone to death ó but in this case í .

FLASH. ENTER FAIRY.

FAIRY: Dick, Tommy ó perhaps I can help you here. With a bit of magic, a shake of my wand even, I could make Ratty see the error of his ways ó and become good. If that's what you'd like.

DICK: Sounds good to me!

FAIRY CASTS SPELL.

FAIRY: With all my powers, make King Rat forget his evil ways and become a big furry softie! GIGGLES

MUSIC, LIGHTING CHANGES. KING RAT SPINS ROUND. HE SKIPS AND LOOKS JOLLY.

KING RAT: Ooh, I don't know what's come over me ó I feel kind of funny.

FITZWARREN: First time all night.

KING RAT: I feel all light and bright and ó ooh, like Graham Norton (*or other camp celebrity*) on a sunny day.

DICK: Oh no! Thank you Fairy ó I'm not sure whether I didn't prefer him when he was nasty.

ENTER WANDA AND ALICE LOADED WITH SHOPPING BAGS.

WANDA: I'm sorry we're late 'cos they had a sale on in Poundland. Thank you for the use of your credit card Fitzy.

HANDS CARD BACK & KISSES HIM.

FITZWARREN: Ooh Wanda, you have the skin of a baby.

WANDA COOS.

EMPEROR: A baby elephant maybe.

DICK: This is my mother 'cos Wanda Whittington.

FITZWARREN: Nee Trembler.

EMPEROR: Ah, I think I've read about you.

WANDA: Might have been in Heat (*or other tabloid magazine*).

DICK: And my girlfriend, Alice Fitzwarren.

FITZWARREN: My daughter.

EMPEROR: Well ladies 'cos your son and his cat have saved me.

FAIRY COUGHS.

Oh, and this Fairy too of course. Yes, well, Dick and Tommy must be rewarded. How would you like this old chest 'cos

WANDA: Is he being personal?

EMPEROR: No. This old chest 'cos

SERVANT PUSHES ON CHEST.

DICK: Well, thank you!

WANDA: Have you not got anything better 'cos an old sofa or someut?

EMPEROR: I was offering you this old chest and its contents 'cos

SERVANT OPENS IT TO REVEAL GOLD & JEWELS.

DICK: Wow!

WANDA: Take it love, take it!

NUMBER The Company

SCENE 6: LONDON TOWN**CHORUS ON AND INTO REPRISE OF NUMBER. CHORUS EXIT.****ENTER FITZWARREN.**

FITZWARREN: Oh what a marvellous day it is. On the way back to London I gave Dick my permission to marry Alice. Well, he *was* rich, wasn't he? He's invested some of his lolly in the business too. Oh, and Wanda and I are engaged -an all. In fact, today is the day of both our weddings! Marvellous isn't it. Of course, as I always say, you only know what it's like to sleep in a single bed when you're married!

ENTER KING RAT CARRYING SHOPPING BAGS.

KING RAT: Good morning Alderman.

FITZWARREN: Morning Ratty. He's turned over a new leaf ó working for us now.

KING RAT: Looking after Wanda. I'dl have to dash ó this is her shopping you know!

FITZWARREN: More shopping? She'dl have me bankrupt before I know it. What's she been buying now?

KING RAT: Well ó INTO ONE BAG ó this is her new leather mini-skirt. PRODUCES IT.

FITZWARREN: Oh I say. She's not intending to wear that is she? It's all creased.

KING RAT: It's distressed leather. Made from anxious cows.

FITZWARREN: If she wore that I'd be distressed and she'd be practically undressed. What else's she got?

KING RAT: There's this!

PRODUCES PAIR OF BLOOMERS. TURNS THEM ROUND ó THERE'S A PAIR OF BLACK HAND PRINTS ON THE BACK.

FITZWARREN: Ah, the coalman's been!

KING RAT: I'dl have to be off!

KING RAT OFF.

FITZWARREN: It's a jolly old day for a wedding, isn't it? Ooh, I tell you what 'o why don't we have a wedding day sing-a-long? I know 'o let's all have a lovely sing song with half of you singing first time round and the other half doing it the second time round. Well, we like to come up with something new here. Now, what shall we sing 'o something you all might know!

YOU HAVE TWO ALTERNATIVES 'o EITHER BRING ON THE WORDS OF AN ORIGINAL SONG (YOU COULD EVEN PRINT THE WORDS IN THE PROGRAMME) OR GO WITH SOMETHING LIKE -GET ME TO THE CHURCH' FROM -MY FAIR LADY' FITZWARREN SINGS THE VERSES AND HE CONDUCTS THE AUDIENCE TO JOIN IN WITH THE CHORUS, WHICH MANY WILL KNOW.

That was marvellous.

CHORUS MEMBER ON.

CHORUS: Alderman, you have to come quickly.

FITZWARREN: What's all the rush? Where's the fire?

CHORUS: Don't you know what time it is?

FITZWARREN: Time? Time? No, what's the time?

CHORUS: It's time for you to get married.

FITZWARREN: Married?? Good lord! So it is! See you later boys and girls!

THEY EXIT.

CURTAIN OUT (IF IN) TO REVEAL FULL STAGE. THE MUSIC CONTINUES AS: THE CHORUS ON, DOWN STAGE, BOW, MOVE TO THE SIDE. THIS HAPPENS WITH ALL THE ACTORS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER: Gorilla, Emperor of Morocco, King Rat, Fairy Bow Bells, Alderman Fitzwarren, Tommy, Wanda Whittington. THEN, FINALLY, TOGETHER, Dick and Alice. WHEN THEY'VE BOWED, EVERYONE MOVES IN AROUND THEM. MUSIC STOPS.

WANDA: Well, you know what comes now don't you? I get to be Mayoress of London. It's the bit I've been looking forward to.

FAIRY: You? No, Wanda, didn't you listen to the bells? Turn again Whittington, thrice Lord Mayor of London 'o

WANDA: Wanda Whittington, that's moi! Come on love; bring that lovely gold chain on! Let's be having it now!

A MEMBER OF THE CHORUS PRODUCES THE CHAIN OF OFFICE.

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FAIRY: No Wanda ó Lord Mayor not Mayoress or Lady Mayor!

DICK STEPS FORWARD.

The legend tells that it is Richard who gets the chain.

KING RAT: Well that was obvious ó to anyone with half a brain.

DICK: And I accept the great honour bestowed on me so nice ó

CHAIN IS PUT OVER HIS HEAD.

FITZWARREN: My son-in-law becomes the mayor ó not once but thrice!

WANDA: Well alright then ó maybe me lugholes played a trick!

KING RAT: Or she's just dim - and a bit thick!

WANDA: Hey! So our story is over, we wish you good cheer!

DICK: Yes, thank you for coming ó and see you next year!

CURTAIN.

INTRODUCTION:

A very British story ó and probably the only pantomime firmly based on a true story. There was a Richard Whittington and although details have changed or been blurred there are still elements of his life in today's script. I've tried to remain true to the traditional plot although there is no 'silly boy' character as I decided to build up the relationship between the Dame and the Alderman instead. Personally, I think King Rat (and there's no reason why he can't become Queen Rat!) is the most frightening panto villain for small children. I think therefore, it requires careful casting and playing ó what's the point in all the kids running out crying on his first entrance?

TECHNICAL:**Act One:****Scene 1:**

Birdsong: Use a sound effects recording to set the scene.

Tree: Dick is asleep under the tree ó you could use an artificial Christmas tree.

Tent: Either a proper set up tent or a frame or table with a sheet over it.

Bells: Either live or a recording.

Morning Music: A few bars of *Morning Has Broken* ó or if there are no live musicians, it can be cut.

Trolley: A small hostess trolley on wheels, on which is a plate of pretend sausages. The string from the sausages should already run into the tent before it's wheeled on. You'd need someone in the tent but it doesn't have to be Wanda.

Scene 2:

Flyers: Some A5 pieces of paper for Alice to hand out.

Honk of horn: Live or recorded.

Sink: A real one or if you can make a papier mache one, even better. I've suggested that Wanda could play it ó this can be cut. But, if you attach a pipe to the sink's plughole you can make a trumpet sound or if you have a full band, she could mime to a real instrument.

Bike: A real one for Fitzwarren to ride on.

Scene 3:

Counter: A large table with a front to it, or a cover. There needs to be a hole in the top for the ice cream routine. Someone will be sat under it and using squeeze bottles filled with coloured foam or cream they shoot the ice cream, nuts and syrup upwards.

Safe: A large box painted up to look like a safe.

Overall: This is so that Wanda doesn't get too wet.

Clock chimes: Live or recorded.

Shelves and tin: You could do this by having a lightweight shelving unit on stage with some boxes and tins on it. If you dress it properly you could have someone hidden behind it who pushes the tin off at the right moment.

Fish: A cut-out one.

Cones: For the ice cream gag you need cones which could be real or made from card.

Starting up noise: The audience have to be told that the machine is starting so we need a noise that is the same every time ó this could be a recording of something like an old car starting or you could make something live.

Money: The child pays for the ice cream with some coins.

Money bag: A fancy bag tied with cord.

Scene 5:

Pocket contents: Wanda empties her pockets ó just give her a handful of small items.

Scene 6:

Bells: Live or recorded.

Cases x2: A suitcase each for Dick and Tommy.

Act Two:

Scene 1:

Loud bang: Could be done with a drum.

Knock at door: Do that live backstage.

Scene 2:

Honk of horn: Live or recorded.

False beard: Wanda needs something large and funny on elastic.

Boat: This could be any kind of inflatable dinghy.

Whistle blow: Perform that live.

Buckets of water x3: These shouldn't contain much water at all. You could even fill with lots of strips of blue and white cellophane to create the look of water.

Scene 3:

Flash x2: Either use pyrotechnics, a lighting effect or cut them.

Scene 4:

Beds and covers x2: You do need them for the scene and two people have to fit in each bed. They could be created using rostra.

Suitcases and hat boxes: Whatever you can find and we just need the impression that Wanda's brought a lot of luggage.

2x cases: The sailor brings two on. One needs to contain clothing.

Scene 5:

Scroll: Rolled light card.

Flash x1: Again, cut if necessary.

Shopping bags: Wanda brings these on on carriers stuffed with newspaper.

Credit card: A small piece of card.

Chest of jewels: A large box with a smaller box inside on which you place old necklaces etc.

Scene 6:

Shopping bags: King Rat brings these on (use the ones from scene 5).

Leather Skirt: A leather mini.

Pair of Bloomers: A nice big pair with black handprints on the reverse.

Gold chain: You could use discs of gold card fastened together with clips.

SONGS:

Here are some suggestions for songs you might use:

Act One:

Scene 1:

The Chorus: *London Is London* (from the musical *Sherlock Holmes*) or *Lambeth Walk*.

Scene 2:

The Chorus begin the scene by concluding the number from scene 1.

Dick and Wanda: *Close To You* or *I Only Have Eyes For You*.

King Rat: Theme from *Minder* (Lyrics could be changed to 'I Could be so bad for you' etc) or *Hit The Road Jack* (change the name to Dick) or *Bad*.

Scene 3:

Wanda and Fitzwarren: *I Wanna Be Loved By You* or *Some Like It Hot*.

Scene 4:

Alice and Tommy: *Let the Rest of the World Go By* or *Into Each Life Some Rain Must Fall*.

Scene 6:

The Company: *Everything's Coming Up Roses* or *Let the Good Times Roll*.

Act 2:**Scene 1:**

Mice/Rat entrance: Reprise the music from King Rat's number.

Wanda and Alice: *Spice Up Your Life* or *Woman* (both by The Spice Girls).

Scene 2:

The Company: *What Shall We Do With The Drunken Sailor* or *There's Nothing Like A Dame*.

Scene 3:

Fairy Bow Bells and King Rat: *Don't Rain On My Parade*.

Scene 4:

Striptease: *The Stripper* ó it has to be really.

Chase: The theme to *Dick Barton*.

Scene 5:

The Company: *The More I See You, Money, Money, Money* or *The Coffee Song*.

Scene 6:

Song sheet and walk-down: *Get Me To The Church On Time*.

SCENERY:

Here are some ideas of how you could stage the show, particularly aimed at those with modest budgets and venues:

Act One:

1. On The Road To London: This could be performed in front of tabs but you will need to have the tent in situ.
2. London Town: Full stage. Could be performed in front of curtains. The tabs come in towards the end of the scene to allow re-setting for the Store.
3. Fitzwarren's Store: Full stage with counter and shelves.
4. A London Street: Again, you can use the tabs for this if necessary.
5. Fitzwarren's Store: Back to full stage.
6. On The Road To London: It would be nice to use a decent amount of stage. You could bring a curtain or cloth in in front of the counter or light the downstage area in greens.

Act Two:

1. Fitzwarren's Store: Full stage.
2. The Jolly Dodger: A cloth or curtain dressed with some barrels and rope for the deck. You will need a bit of space for the dinghy routine.
3. King Rat's Lair: Another tabs or front cloth scene.
4. Dick's Cabin: The most complex setting ó you will need two beds and two doors. This could be done with a full piece of scenery being flown in and the beds set in front or at the simplest, using some folding screens you could form two entrances with a screen between them and two beds in front.
5. The Emperor of Morocco's Palace: A front cloth scene ó or tabs.
6. London Town: Full stage, same as in act one.

COSTUME IDEAS:

Bigger companies will have their own ideas and will be able to allow for costume changes however, at its simplest, this is what you could use:

Dick Whittington: Depending on whether he's played by a male or female, trousers or tights, boots and a jerkin with belt.

Alderman Fitzwarren: Black buckled shoes, white tights or long socks, dark trousers cut and elasticated below the knee, a shirt with cravat, coat and tricorn hat.

Alice Fitzwarren: A full dress with her hair in a pretty bow. She needs a sailor's outfit for act two, scene 2.

Fairy Bow Bells: A full, glittery dress, tiara and wand.

King Rat: Black boots and britches, black shirt and coat (with a tail attached to the back), black gloves and a pair of ratty ears. He'll need a mask or rodent make-up.

Wanda Whittington: She first appears in camping kit - that's a woolly hat, coat, boots and a rucksack stuffed with things and with saucepans, rolled up mats etc hanging from it. She'll then remove that and wear a full brightly coloured dress for the rest of the first act. In the second half she needs a sailor's outfit of white trousers and top.

Then she changes into her dressing gown under which she wears several layers of comic underwear for the strip routine. From scene 5 she needs to be back in her dress.
Tommy, the cat: A furry cat costume with mask or feline make-up. He needs a chef's hat for his first entrance.

Emperor of Morocco: Turban, slippers, pantaloons, blouse, sash tied at the waist. All in rich fabrics.

Gorilla: Furry dark suit with mask or make-up.

Chorus: Townspeople, Sailors, Servants, Rats and Mice: As townspeople they should wear either full skirts and blouses in bright colours or trousers and jerkins. You may even be able to stretch to some mop caps or tricorns. As sailors - light white trousers and tops with blue detailing. As servants (you don't need many) - turbans, pantaloons and blouses with sashes. As rats and mice - dark trousers and tops with tails attached and rodent masks.

THE CHARACTERS:

Some tips on playing them:

Dick Whittington: Either played by a male or female, Dick is a swash-buckling hero. With lots of thigh slapping, Dick is confident and swaggering.

Alderman Fitzwarren: A bumbling shopkeeper desperate to find love. He thinks he's a great sailor - but knows nothing!

Alice Fitzwarren: Our heroine - pretty, kind and loving. She's a good daughter, falls in love with Dick and forms a team with Wanda. A thoroughly nice girl.

Fairy Bow Bells: A Disney-esque fairy who radiates good.

King Rat: Perhaps the most horrid panto villain of all. Until he turns good of course! Has some comedy to do and needs a rapport with the audience. I don't like to see him played too nasty as he's always frightening to the kids in the audience and you don't want too much crying.

Wanda Whittington: Played by a Male or female, she's larger than life, very mumsy and as desperate for love as Fitzwarren. All the kids in the audience have to love her.

Tommy, the cat: Tommy saves the day - he's the hero of the piece.

Emperor of Morocco: He doesn't appear until late on but he's a vital role - not quite the full shilling he's still an Emperor so must be confident.

TOPICALITY:

Throughout the script you'll find chances to add in local references - audiences always enjoy a mention of the local pub, football team and so on and it's usually a

guaranteed laugh. You'll also find the occasional topical reference to TV personalities and so on ó obviously, as time passes since this script was written the topicality of these references will wane. However, the same jokes have been used for decades with the current Prime Minister's name or the current famous TV chef's name added in ó jokes about Fanny Craddock gave way to Delia Smith then to Jamie Oliver ó but the gag stayed the same so please, simply update the reference.