

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 but 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.

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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 brasic 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 Iø m 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 Iø m trying to say Fitzy is ó

NUMBER Wanda and Fitzwarren

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

WANDA: I told you I could smell something.

FITZWARREN: Iø m 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 Iø ll do - weøve got a sale on ó just for today. So Iø ll slash me prices - 8% off everything under a pound.

WANDA: Donøt 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 mountainí í í follow every dreamí 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.