

DICK WHITTINGTON
AND HIS CAT

(Copyright 2006)

by

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SCENES

Prologue		Tabs
<u>Scene 1</u>	Cheapside in Old London Town	Full set
<u>Scene 2</u>	Threadneedle Street	Tabs or Drop cloth
<u>Scene 3</u>	Fitzwarrenø Discount Store and Supermarket	Full set
<u>Scene 4</u>	Inside Fitzwarrenø House	Tabs or Drop cloth
<u>Scene 5</u>	Puddle Dock ó London Town	Full set
<u>Scene 6</u>	(a) Highgate Hill	Tabs or Drop cloth
	(b) Dick Whittingtonø Dream	Full set

INTERVAL

<u>Scene 7</u>	The Main Deck of the Good Ship -Heaving Stomachø	Full set
<u>Scene 8</u>	10 Degrees Longitude 35 Degrees Latitude	Half set
<u>Scene 9</u>	Somewhere on the Shore of Morocco	Tabs or Drop cloth
<u>Scene 10</u>	The Palace of the Emperor of Morocco	Full set
<u>Scene 11</u>	Back Home Outside the Guildhall	Tabs
<u>Scene 12</u>	Sir Richard Whittingtonø Reception	Full set

Music note: Play on and off music is brief on each occasion ó 12 bars maximum

CHARACTERS

	<u>Abbreviation</u>
 IMMORTALS	
Fairy Moonbeam	Fairy
King Rat	Rat
 MORTALS	
Dick Whittington	Dick
Tommy the Cat	Cat
Alderman Fitzwarren	Fitz.
Alice Fitzwarren (His daughter)	Alice
Idle Jack (Fitzwarren's apprentice)	Jack
Daphne Dumpling (Fitzwarren's housekeeper)	Dame
Bertie Blot (Eccentric solicitor)	Blot
Clarrie Clot (Eccentric solicitor)	Clot
Captain of the Good Ship Heaving Stomach	Capt.
Voice of Parrot	Pa
Emperor of Morocco	Emp.
Grand Vizier of the Emperor	Viz.
Princess of Egypt	Princess
Dancing Girls	Singing Girls
Kiddies Chorus	Singing Men (if available)

Music Cue

Overture (1)

Prologue Tabs

(Fanfare – Brass and Bells leading into special arrangement of ‘Turn Again Whittington’ (available from writers) played with pomp and ceremony until Fairy speaks, quieter mood from then on) (2)

Fairy *(Enter Fairy right)* Greetings mortals. Tonight a strange and wondrous tale (3)
I tell, of how a village lad, Dick Whittington by name, found fame and fortune in the busy town of London. Dick worked hard each day helping his father, the innkeeper. One day a wealthy merchant chanced to pass through the village. Dick thrilled to hear stories of famous London Town, where the stranger said the streets were paved with gold. Dick told the merchant of his hopes and ambitions. The merchant encouraged him. “Remember my boy,” he said, “Nothing ventured, nothing gain. Chance your luck and someday you may even be Lord Mayor of London.” When the merchant left, his words still kept ringing in Dick’s ears. “Lord Mayor of London, Dick Whittington – Lord Mayor of London.” How grand it sounded. Without more ado – Dick made up a stick and bundle and set off with his faithful friend Tommy the cat, for London Town. Let us follow him now on his adventure which is re-told for you just as it happened. *(Cut fairy music)*

(Crash and Flash – Enter King Rat left – rolls on cymbal) (4)

Rat Ha-ha!!! Tremble ye mortals how I hate you. For I am the sworn enemy of all other living things. Chief among my enemies I number Dick Whittington’s cat. This loathsome animal accompanies Dick Whittington in his quest for fame and fortune. I shall thwart them at every turn with all the evil means at my disposal.

(Alternate fairy music and cymbal for remainder of lines)

Fairy Not so fast, King Rat. Have you forgotten that my fairy powers will protect Dick on his long journey?

Rat You dare to challenge me fairy? We shall see who will triumph in the end. What chance have you, your country bumpkin and his cat, against me and my army of rats? Away!

Fairy Wrong shall never triumph over right. We shall meet again King Rat. *(Exit right)*

Rat A curse on all mortals. How I hate them. *(Crash effect as Rat’s fiendish laughter builds. Exit left.)*

FADE TO BLACKOUT

Scene 1

Full set

Cheapside in Old London Town*(Main feature of scenery "Fitzwarren's Discount Store" with working door)**(As opening number begins, tabs open and lights up. Dancing girls, singing girls, men as townspeople and officials. At the end of number all laugh and talk)* (5)

- Fitz Good morning, good morning, good morning ó enjoy this super morning at Fitzwarren's Supermarket.
- 1st Girl You're very cheerful this morning Alderman Fitzwarren.
- Fitz I'm two for the price of one and three-pence off my apricots. Business is good and my daughter Alice is the sweetest spoonful of sugar in London. Why don't you pay a visit to Fitzwarren's Discount Stores? Remember the discount on all foodstuffs is 20 per cent.
- 2nd Girl Per-haps *(All laugh)*
- Fitz Walk in ó walk round ó walk out if you wish, but bear in mind every time you buy two tins of red and white striped paint we give you a blue and yellow spotted paintbrush.
- 3rd Girl Why should we buy from you when we can always get it cheaper at Poundstretcher?
- Fitz Fitzwarren brings you the goods direct.
- 4th Girl Direct from where?
- Fitz Direct from Poundstretcher ó er, direct from my agents overseas at Casablanca, Cairo and Clacton. Step right up the marble staircase into the bargain basement on the third floor and see what I have to offer. I've umbrellas, Wellingtons, raincoats and sou'westers.
- 5th Girl But you've just said yourself it's a super day.
- Fitz Tomorrow ó who knows. It may be wet and windy.
- 5th Girl The only thing around here that's wet and windy is ó
- All Alderman Fitzwarren. *(Exit chorus laughing)*
- Fitz Bah!! If I wasn't an Alderman and a gentleman I'd tell them a thing or two. As a matter of fact I've never known trade so bad. Alice! Alice!
- Alice *(Off stage)* Coming daddy. *(Enter to play-on music. She runs to embrace him)* (6)
You're looking very fierce, daddy. What's the matter?

Fitz I find it hard to be polite and civil to the customers nowadays. Things have never been the same since your poor mother died. I don't know how I'd carry on without you.

Alice Cheer up, daddy. Remember your ship comes in today with new stock.

Fitz So it does. I'd forgotten. I feel better already. I must give instructions to my two assistants. Now where are they?

Alice I'll find them for you. Daphne, Daphne Dumpling, Jack, Idle Jack. *(As she exits)*

Jack *(Enter Jack)* Have you seen a fellow in a red coat, blue trousers and a cloth cap? *(or description of his costume)*

Fitz No.

Jack Blimey, I'm lost. *(Exit)*

Fitz Aahh! Daphne. *(Enter Dame)*

Dame Are you looking for me?

Fitz *(Pleased)* Yes, er ó

Dame Let me know when you find me. *(Exit)*

Fitz Come here ó both of you. *(Play on music Dame and Jack)* (7)

Dame *(Enter with Jack)* We're here.

Jack All three of us. *(Jack is carrying a large toy dog, points to it)*

Fitz Just a minute. What have you got there?

Jack It's my new pet dog. It's called Bonzo.

Fitz I don't care what it's called. You can't have a dog inside a food store. You'll have to leave it out here.

Jack *(To audience)* He says I can't take my dog into the store. *(Looking for sympathy)*

Audience Aw.

Jack He says I've got to leave it out here.

Audience Aw.

Jack Alright then I'll leave him over here. *(Puts him by proscenium arch on box about 1 meter high so all audience can see)* Now children, I want you to look after Bonzo for me. When I come on I want you to shout BONZO ó then I shall remember to

feed him and see he's alright. Will you do that? Let's have a practice. I'll go off and come on again. *(He does so and they practise several times)*

Fitz Have you quite finished? Why must I have two assistants who are fools?

Dame We take after you.

Fitz You're both next door to an idiot.

Both How do you do.

Fitz Tcha! Why aren't you two at work? *(Jack faints into Dame's arms)*

Dame Don't say that word, it upsets him.

Fitz What word?

Dame Work. *(Repeat business)*

Fitz Work? *(Repeat business)*

Dame Shut up.

Fitz We need to open some new branches ó but where? Give me some ideas.

Dame Wherever you go you'll need an advertising gimmick for that town.

Fitz How do you mean?

Dame We'll show you.

Jack *(Pulling down and flattening his hat)* What town's this?

Fitz I don't know.

Jack Preston. *(Pronounced Pressed-on)* What about this one? *(Changes his hat with Fitzwarren's)* Altringham.

Fitz I get the idea. *(Then the following business with suitable ad-lib)*

Dame *(Carrying a candle)* Kendal.

Jack *(Wearing a sailor's hat)* Crewe.

Dame *(With candle)* What's this?

Fitz Kendal.

Dame No. Wick.

Jack *(Eating apple)* Eton.

Dame *(Enters with candle and laughing)*

Fitz Kendal.

Dame No

Fitz Wick

Dame No ó Giggleswick.

Jack *(Enters with whole apple)*

Fitz Eton

Jack No. Nuneaton.

Dame *(In long wig)* Wigan *(Wig-on)*

Jack *(In long wig)*

Fitz Wigan

Jack No. Ayr.

Jack and Dame *(Dame has rubber glove held upside down – business Jack “milking”)*

Fitz I don’t know what town that could be.

Jack and Dame -uddersfield. *(Exit laughing to play-off. Followed by Fitz)* (8)

(Incidental music – Dick enters wearily, gazes round overwhelmed but disappointed at what he sees) (9)

Dick This must be London as sure as my name is Dick Whittington. But I thought the streets were paved with gold. I can’t see any gold, can you Tommy? *(Looks round for cat)* Tommy! Tommy! Where are you? *(Cat meows off stage, enters and flops down)* Yes, I know you’re hungry and thirsty, but we ate out last crust at dinner time and there’s certainly no milk for you.

(Alice enters from house to shake tablecloth. Cat tells Dick to leave it to him. Dick retires upstage. Cat snatches cloth and runs away a few paces with it.)

Alice Give me back that cloth at once you naughty cat. *(Cat clumsily folds it for her and gives it back)* Well, if you aren’t the cleverest cat in the whole of London. *(Cat preens himself)* I’ll fetch you a saucer of milk. *(Exits. Cat crosses to Dick and shakes hands over head like a victorious boxer. Alice re-enters with saucer of milk and cat greedily “drinks” milk. Alice watches. Cat bangs saucer to indicate he*

wants some more. *Alice picks up saucer*). Of course I'd get you some more. You must be starving. *(She strokes him)*

Dick It's very kind of you miss, but I shouldn't give him any more. He's too greedy.

Alice How you startled me, sir. I'd no idea anyone was watching. Is this your cat?

Dick He certainly is Miss ó er - er ó

Alice Fitzwarren ó Alice Fitzwarren.

Dick Miss Alice ó may I call you that? *(Alice smiles demurely)* My cat's name is Thomas, but you seem to have made friends with him already and all his friends call him Tommy.

Alice *(Bending down)* Hello Tommy.

Cat Meow!

Alice Give me a kiss to show we're friends.

Cat *(Bashful)* Meow! *(Then rather bashfully kisses her and scampers away embarrassed)*

Dick *(Aside)* I wouldn't mind changing places with Tommy.

Alice I beg your pardon?

Dick Er ó I said what a lucky cat Tommy is.

Alice You shouldn't really talk to me like that. Why, I don't even know your name.

Dick Dick Whittington at your service. *(Bows)* I'm travelling on the road to fame but I'm afraid I haven't gone very far along the road. Just at the moment I'm penniless and my only asset is my willingness to work.

Alice And your ambition brought you to London.

Dick Yes. They told me the streets were paved with gold. That was my first mistake ó to believe them.

Alice You see the name over the shop ó Fitzwarren. That's my father. If I speak nicely to him, he may be able to offer you a job. Would you be willing to do any kind of work?

Dick I'd do anything as long as it brought me near to you. *(Duet Dick and Alice, (10) towards end of number following dialogue through music)*

Alice Would you like to walk down to the docks with me to see if there's any sign of daddy's ship?

Dick Wouldn't I just. *(They link arms but cat separates them, stands on his hind legs and takes their hands in his paws)*

Alice *(Laughing)* It looks as if Tommy is coming along as chaperone. *(They finish singing number as all three exit)*

(Enter Blot and Clot, two eccentric Solicitors, to play on music. (Cuckoo Waltz). They wear black top hats and morning suits but with black tights, no trousers, Clot carries very large ledger. Comic walk on with behinds stuck out. Stop centre stage. Blot is played business like but an idiot. Clot is played 100% gormless with slow penetrating vocal delivery) (11)

Blot I'm Mr Blot.

Clot I'm Mr Clot. We're silly sisters.

Blot Solicitors. Who are we looking for today? *(Clot begins to answer but doesn't get chance)* Alderman Fitzwarren, for what? *(Clot begins to answer again)*. He owes us some money ó *(Clot tries again)* Let's find him. *(Pause)*

Clot There's just one thing.

Blot What?

Clot Don't leave me doing all the talking. *(They do eccentric walk towards shop to four bars of play on music)*

Both *(Pointing)* Fitzwarren! *(Eccentric walk back to centre stage also to 'Cuckoo Waltz')*

Blot See if he's in the ledger.

Clot *(Snaps ledger)* He'll never get in there ó he's too big.

Blot Why don't you grow up, stupid?

Clot I have grown up stupid. *(Enter Fitzwarren who stands between them)*

Fitz Can I help? *(They jump, startled)*

Blot We're looking for Alderman Fitzwarren.

Fitz I'm Alderman Fitzwarren.

Blot Then you owe us some money.

Fitz How much?

Blot A matter of £488.88p.

Fitz What's a little debt between friends.

Blot £488.88p

Fitz What will you settle for?

Clot We'd let you off the 88p.

Fitz Can you wait until my ship comes in?

Blot No.

Fitz Then in that case I'd have to go round to the bank first thing this afternoon, meet me at 2.30 in Threadneedle Street.

Both We'd be there, remember the name ó you'd hear it again. Blot and Clot ó Solicitors.
(*Exit to 'Cuckoo Waltz'*) (12)

(*Enter Dick and Alice holding hands, laughing and strolling, followed by cat*)

Fitz Hello, hello, what have we here? Alice, (*they break*), Who is this young man?

Alice His name's Dick Whittington. He's just come to London and he's looking for a job.

Fitz A job you say, I'm afraid I have enough staff.

Dick I'd work hard sir, and I don't want much pay ó to begin with.

Fitz Sorry my boy. (*Starts to exit into shop*)

Alice Oh daddy.

Dick Tommy my cat, would help as well. He's a good mouser.

Fitz What was that? (*Stopping and turning*)

Dick He's a good mouser.

Fitz Is he? And my shop's overrun with mice. I'd tell you what ó I'd engage the cat at ten pence a week.

Dick B-but what about me?

Fitz Work for your keep if you wish. I can't afford any more.

Dick Thank you sir.

Fitz That's all right. (*Winks at Alice and turns to go*)

Alice (*To Dick*) Isn't he a darling?

Dick (*Cross to Alice*) Alice.

- Fitz Whittington.
- Dick Yes ó sir. (*Breaks away from Alice*)
- Fitz The pavement outside the shop needs sweeping.
- Dick Coming sir. (*Returns to embrace*) Almost immediately.
- Fitz Whittington, do you want the sack?
- Dick No sir, coming right away. (*Clumsily exits, walking into door*).
- Alice (*Laughs*) Come along Tommy, Iðl look after you. (*Cat shows excitement and bounds off after Alice*)
- (*Enter Jack and Dame to play on music, pushing hand cart covered with (13) groceries and signs including pots of jam and enough fruit to cover later business. Sign on cart reads 'Fitzwarren's Mobile Stores'*)
- Audience BONZO!
- Jack Oh, Iðm glad you reminded me. Ið forgotten. (*Goes and pats dog miming feeding him a biscuit*). Good boy. Are you alright? (*Jack pants. Each time he makes appropriate noise for dog – pant, growl, bark*) Heø alright.
- Dame Fool. Now, whoø going to buy some fruit? Apples a pound pears, apples a pound pears. Free samples. Theyøre lovely.
- Jack Ripe bananas, ripe bananas. Free samples, Iðm lovely.
- Dame Theyøre lovely. (*During above Dick enters quietly and stands watching*) Whoø going to buy? Nobody? Right Jack. Weðl shut up shop and have a snooze.
- Dick Just a minute. Youøve made no effort to sell those goods and who gave you permission to give those apples away as free samples?
- Jack Iðl give you a sample of something you donø like in a minute.
- Dame If I werenø a lady. Ið shut your cakehole.
- Jack Who does he think he is?
- Dick Never mind who I am, I work for Mr Fitzwarren. Iøve been sent to keep an eye on you and youðl do as I tell you. Iðm going to report you to Alderman Fitzwarren. Youøre nothing more or less than a couple of shirkers. (*Exit Dick*)
- Dame Itø that new lad, Dick Whittington. I can see heø going to cause some trouble. Iðl tell you another thing. Heø after Alice.
- Jack Alice? My Alice, who only last night let me have a nibble at her lollipop?

Dame Well come on ó letø just show him. Weøll sell this lot up. Apples a pound, pears, apples a pound, pears.

Jack Ripe bananas, Iøm lovely, Iøm lovely.

Dame Donø start that again. (*Enter 1st kiddie*)

1st Kiddie Have you any over-ripe bananas?

Jack Yes

1st Kiddie Serves you right for buying too many. (*Exit 1st kiddie. Enter 2nd kiddie*)

2nd Kiddie Two cartons of Bullø milk. (*Dame and Jack reach to serve her then realise they have been had*)

Dame (*Grimly*) Bullø milk?

2nd Kiddie Yes. Bullø milk.

Jack Where can you buy Bullø milk?

2nd Kiddie Round the corner at Bullø Dairy. (*Exit 2nd kiddie. Enter 3rd kiddie*)

3rd Kiddie Half a dozen purple eggs and be quick about it.

Dame Who ever heard of purple eggs?

3rd Kiddie We used to have a hen that laid them.

Jack Did you?

3rd Kiddie If you waved a purple flag in front of it, it laid a purple egg.

Jack Get away.

3rd Kiddie If you waved a crimson flag in front of it, it laid a crimson egg, and if you waved a black flag in front of it, it laid a black egg.

Jack Whoød have thought it. And is the hen still living?

3rd Kiddie Oh no, one day a Scotsman walked past in a kilt and the poor hen blew up. (*Exit 3rd kiddie*)

Dame You know, Jack, itø time we sold something.

Jack Well thereø someone else coming. (*Enter 4th kiddie*)

4th Kiddie Iøm doing the shopping for three friends of mine, Woody, Willie and Izzy. Will you take a note of their orders.

Jack Certainly.

4th Kiddie Now Woody will take a pound of Raspberry Jam.

Jack Willie.

4th Kiddie No ó Woody. Willie would like a pound of Strawberry Jam.

Jack Woody?

4th Kiddie No, not Woody. I've already told you, Woody wants the Raspberry ó

Jack I'dl give you the raspberry in a minute.

4th Kiddie Listen, Willie is ordering a pound of Strawberry Jam.

Jack Izzy?

4th Kiddie I haven't said anything about Izzy. Izzy will want a pound of Blackberry Jam.

Jack Willie?

4th Kiddie Willie wants the Strawberry. Would Willie every want the Blackberry? I ask you.

Jack I don't know. Would he?

4th Kiddie I know you don't know Woody. You don't know Izzy or Willie.

Jack Why don't you call your friends Smith, Brown and Robinson?

Dame Wouldn't you like some apples instead?

4th Kiddie Yes I'd like twelve please, but I'dl pay you first if you don't mind.

Jack and
Dame Oh no, we don't mind.

4th Kiddie It'dl have to be copper, how much?

Dame 30 pence.

4th Kiddie 30 pence. Here you are. *(Starts counting)* 1, 2, 3, 4, Let's see, what's the date today?

Dame The 12th.

4th Kiddie 13, 14, 15, How old are you?

Dame Er ó 28.

4th Kiddie 29, 30. *(Dame and Jack look puzzled and then realise they've been done)*

Dame *(Knowingly)* I'll count out your apples, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. How many brothers and sisters have you?

4th Kiddie Two.

Dame 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. How old are you?

4th Kiddie Six.

Dame 7, 8, 9, 10. What's your house number?

4th Kiddie Two.

Dame 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. There ó *(Triumphantly)* that'll teach you. Now get your mates. We need help to sell this lot. *(Re-enter all Kiddies as Dame and Jack wheel barrow downstage and tabs close behind them.)*

(Cue for number 'They're Lovely' or similar, Jack, Dame and Kiddies. All exit (14) at end of number during Fade to Blackout)

Scene 2

Tabs

Threadneedle Street

(Lights go up on Fitz. Counting out pound notes into Blot and Clot's hands alternately.)

Fitz There you are. 485, 486, 487, 488. Now you've got your money, what are you going to do with it?

Blot and Clot Spend it.

Fitz I've a better idea. Why don't the two of you have a little bet with me?

Blot and Clot Alright. We're game.

Fitz There's a twenty pound note. Just put your money down. *(They each cover it with a £20 note.)*. Now to win your bet, you've got to answer stewed prunes to every question I ask you.

Blot The answer is stewed prunes.

Clot That's what my grandma says.

Blot We've got to answer stewed prunes.

Fitz Right, are you ready?

Blot and Clot Yes.

Fitz You've lost your bet. *(Scoops up money)* You should have said stewed prunes.

Blot Let's have another try.

Fitz £30 this time. *(Putting money down)*

Blot and Clot £30. *(Covering money)*

Fitz Now are you ready?

Blot and Clot Stewed prunes.

Fitz I didn't catch you that time, did I?

Blot and Clot No.

Fitz You've lost again. *(Scoops up money)*. You should have answered stewed prunes.

Blot It's difficult isn't it?

Fitz Stick to stewed prunes and you'll be alright.

Clot That's what my grandma says.
Blot I've got this now. I'll bet you all my share of the money. (*Puts pile in front of him*)

Clot So will I. (*He does the same*)

Fitz (*Covering it*) Now are you ready?

Blot and Clot Stewed prunes.

Fitz (*To Blot*) You know that trick by now, don't you?

Blot Y ó Stewed prunes.

Fitz (*To Clot*) I nearly caught him that time didn't I?

Clot Y ó Stewed prunes.

Fitz What did your grandma decorate her wedding cake with?

Clot Stewed prunes.

Fitz What can you eat between meals without spoiling your appetite?

Blot and Clot Stewed prunes.

Fitz And what's the only thing that will move the House of Commons?

Blot and Clot Stewed prunes.

Fitz I think you've beaten me this time ó

Clot (*Carried away*) Stewed prunes.

Fitz Let me ask you one final question.

Clot Stewed prunes.

Fitz What would you rather have, the money or stewed prunes?

Clot The money.

Fitz Caught you. I win once again. (*Picks up Clot's money. To Blot*) and which would you rather have? Stewed prunes or the money?

Blot Stewed prunes.

Fitz (*Handing stewed prunes to Blot*) Well, there's a tin of them and I'll take the money. (*Picks up Blot's pile of money. Fitz exits to play off music, part of 'Cuckoo Waltz'*)

(15)

Blot and Clot (*Bemoan their fate by singing parody of number 'Side by Side'*) (16)

Now we ain't got a barrel of money. Maybe we're ragged and crummy
But we'll travel the roads, slimy old toads. Side by side.
Don't know what's coming tomorrow. Maybe we'll just have to borrow
We'll take anyone's cash, then make a dash. Side by Side

Through all kinds of weather. Ready to rake it in
As long as we're together, we'll find somebody to skin.
No you won't find a couple that's keener. Take everyone to the cleaners.
We'll snaffle the lot for we're Blot and Clot. Side by side.

AT END OF NUMBER FADE TO BLACKOUT

OPEN TABS ON SCENE 3 AND LIGHTS UP AS BRIDGE MUSIC FADES (17)

Scene 3

Full set

Fitzwarren's Discount Store and Supermarket

(Tabs open on shop with counter, bins, boxes, display cards, pyramids of goods etc. There is a coat hook on proscenium arch. Alice as shop assistant attending counter)

- Fitz *(Entering)* Good day, good day, good day. Good gracious where have all my customers gone? Is it something I said?
- Alice Never mind daddy, trade will pick up soon you'll see. I'm off to check the stock.
(Exit).
- Fitz Check the stock. There's very little stock to check. It's a good job my ship comes in today. *(Enter Cat quickly, catches mouse)* What on earth?
- Dick *(Entering)* Did you get him Tommy? *(Cat proudly holds up mouse by tail. Dick takes it from him)* There you are sir. The fourth today. *(Throws it off stage at head height. Enter Dame with duplicate mouse stuck in mouth spluttering)*
- Fitz Daphne, put that mouse down. *(Dame says something unintelligible but obviously pungent. Dick takes it from her)*
- Dame I feel faint. *(Enter Jack)*
- Audience BONZO
- Jack *(To dog)* Are you hungry? Here's a biscuit. *(Mimes giving dog a biscuit)* Thanks, kids. *(Pants)*
- Fitz Dick, good work my boy. Tell me, are you happy here?
- Dick Yes sir. It's a wonderful shop. I've a good job, you're a grand boss and I love my work.
- Fitz Well said. I'll give you and Tommy a 50p rise.
- Dick 50 pence. Come on Tommy, let's catch some more mice. *(Both exit quickly)*
- Dame Fitzy.
- Fitz Yes.
- Dame Ask us if we are happy here.
- Fitz Well, are you?
- Dame and
Jack Yes.
- Jack It's a wonderful shop.

Dame You're a grand boss.

Dame and
Jack And we love our work.

Fitz Good.

Dame Why?

Fitz You can work over tonight unpacking deliveries. *(Exit laughing)*

Dame You've got to hand it to young Dick, he's clever.

Jack Yes ó a clever Dick.

Dame *(To Jack giving him a duster.). Here, dust the counter. (Jack takes duster and sweeps everything on counter onto floor with one movement of his arm) You daft thing. (Dame bends down to pick things up but doesn't have time to do so. As she is bending down, enter cat who hits her on backside which knocks her onto all fours. Climbs onto her back – business "Get offö etc öJack, get him offö. (Jack does do. Cat turns and starts sparring with him. They begin fighting and cat is knocking Jack about when Dick enters)*

Dick *(To Jack) What do you mean by ill-treating my cat, you brute, I've a good mind to report you to the police. Come along Tommy. (Exit Dick along with cat who is pretending to be hurt)*

Dame You said he was a clever Dick ó He's more of a smart Alec.

Jack He thinks he's a big shot. We'll have to see about getting him fired.

Dame It'll have to wait. Here's some customers. *(Enter Blot and Clot) Good morning.*

Jack What can we do for you?

Blot He needs a new outfit.

Jack He needs a new body.

Blot Something that will suit him down to the ground.

Jack How about a pair of trousers?

Dame *(Seductively) Would he be interested in what I have on offer?*

Blot No. Just clothes.

Clot All I want is a shirt.

- Dame *(Producing shirt with three large holes)* How about this? Special price. Thirty pence.
- Clot Thirty pence? It's got three holes in it.
- Dame It's only ten pence a hole. That's the wholesale price.
- Blot They're big holes.
- Jack It has big buttons.
- Blot That's cheating an innocent man. I can't find words to express my disgust.
- Dame We can sell you a dictionary.
- Clot I've changed my mind.
- Jack Was it a good swap?
- Clot I'll have a pair of shoes. A left one and a right one.
- Jack There's something normal about him.
- Dame *(Handing Clot one shoe from box)* How about this? That's for a left handed foot. I'm getting as daft as him. *(Clot tries it on right foot)*
- Clot That's not right.
- Jack You want the one that's left. Change it over. *(Hands him second shoe)* That's the right one.
- Clot How can the one that's left be the right one?
- Jack Just cross your legs and put 'em on. *(Clot does so)*
- Clot They're a bit too tight.
- Dame Try them with the tongue out.
- Clot *(Speaks with tongue sticking out)* They're still too tight.
- Blot He'll take them. He doesn't do much walking. *(Clot takes shoes off)* He's got funny feet.
- Jack Well they make me laugh. Do you want me to put them in the box?
- Clot No, I'll do it myself. *(Puts feet in box and lid and walks off. Dame picks up shoes)*
- Dame *(To Jack)* And I thought there was no one as daft as you.
- Blot Now then groceries. I need a side of bacon.

Jack Here you are. One side of bacon. *(Blot takes it and starts to exit)*

Dame Just a ó

Blot How silly of me, it's not bacon I want, it's cheese.

Jack What a silly *(Hesitation of the letter B)* billy you are. Here's some cheese. *(Blot makes to exit)*

Dame Just a ó

Blot Oh dear, I'm not with it today. It's not cheese I want, it's tea.

Jack What an appealing slap-head you are. Here's some tea. I hope you have a large teapot. *(Takes cheese from him and gives him a complete sack of tea, Blot makes to exit)*

Dame Just a minute. You haven't paid us for that tea.

Blot But I gave you the cheese for the tea.

Dame Yes, but you didn't pay us for the cheese.

Blot Well of course not, I gave you the bacon for the cheese.

Dame I know, but you didn't pay for the bacon.

Blot Well I didn't take the bacon, did I?

Dame Oh no, of course not.

Blot Cheerio. *(He exits with sack of tea)*

Dame I think I've been diddled and I didn't feel a thing.

Jack These new anaesthetics are wonderful.

Dame Jack. Did you check the stock like I asked you?

Jack Yes. And I didn't feel a thing.

Dame How are we for China dolls?

Jack We're out of stock.

Dame We weren't yesterday.

Jack We are now, but we've got a lovely line in pot jigsaws. *(They exit)*

- Dick *(Enter – looks at counter)* What a mess. Why can't people finish a job when they start it? *(During this, rolls up sleeve and hangs purse on hook on proscenium arch. Enter Alice)*
- Alice *(In a deep voice)* Whittington.
- Dick Coming sir ó Oh, it's you.
- Alice What are you doing?
- Dick Cleaning up after Daphne and Jack.
- Alice Let me help you. *(Music starts. They each begin picking things up from the floor and suddenly find themselves face to face)* (18)
- Dick Alice ó I think you're a wonderful person.
- Alice Life is wonderful for me now that we've met.
- Dick Oh, I'm so happy. I'm in love with you, and your father is so kind to me. He's a dear old stick, isn't he?
- Alice Dear old stick-in-the-mud you mean.
- Dick Why?
- Alice He's not too keen on my being in love with a shop boy.
- Dick Someday, somehow, I'll prove to him that I'm worthy of his daughter. Once I used to think how grand it would be to be the Lord Mayor of London.
- Alice Make all our dreams come true Dick, for the sake of both of us. *(Cue for number – Duet – Dick and Alice. Exit to music reprise after taking applause on stage. As they exit Jack enters. Jack sees Dick and Alice together)*
- Audience BONZO
- Jack Hello, Bonzo. I'm not very happy.
- Audience Aw!
- Jack It's that Dick Whittington. He's got my Alice.
- Audience Aw!
- Jack She doesn't know I love her, but I do.
- Audience Aw! *(Enter Dame)*
- Jack I'm going to end it all. I'm going to take a long walk on a short pier.

Dame That's the first sensible thing you've said today.

Jack It's no good. I can't live without her.

Dame Ah, ha, do I smell - ?

Jack Yes.

Dame Ye- I haven't finished yet. Do I smell a punctured romance? Who is it Jack? Tell Oprah Winfrey.

Jack It's Alice.

Dame You love her?

Jack Yes.

Dame But she doesn't love you.

Jack I don't know how to ask her.

Dame Oh Jack, where is your heart?

Jack Straight down my throat and first turn on the left.

Dame Next time you see Alice, tell her you love her.

Jack I will. *(Goes to exit and comes back hurriedly)* She's coming.

Dame Go to it. I'm going now. You know why.

Jack I don't.

Dame If you want me, I'll be, you know where.

Jack I don't.

Dame I'm leaving you to 'o you know what.

Jack Yes, I know what 'o but I don't know how. *(Exit Dame)*

Alice *(Entering)* Hello, Jack.

Jack Alice, I love you.

Alice You don't love me Jack. In any case there's only one boy in the world for me. And you know who that is.

Jack Whit Dickington.

Alice Poor Jack. Don't be so disgruntled.

Jack My dis has never been so grunted. Just let him set foot in this room. (*Enter Dick unseen to Jack*) Just let him say one word to me ó (*Sees Dick*)

Dick Well?

Jack (*Quickly*) How do you do. (*with a sickly smile*)

Dick Come on, clear out. You annoy me.

Jack (*Fierce expression*) Where I come from that means a fight.

Dick Come on then. Fight. (*Squaring up*)

Jack (*Sickly smile*) Weære not where I come from. (*and backs away*)

Dick Whatø he been saying to you Alice?

Alice Iøam not sure, but (*laughs*) I think he almost proposed to me.

Dick (*Holding hands with Alice*) I hope I know what your answer would have been. (*Exit Dick and Alice*)

Dame (*Entering*) Well, how did you get on?

Jack I didnøt. Heø with her again. What chance have I got with him about?

Dame Youøve had it. As Shakespeare would say, øBlow you Jack ó heø all rightø.

Jack Listen, heø pinched my girl, heø Fitzwarrenø favourite ó before you know where we are, heøll have us both out of a job.

Dame Youøre right.

Jack I know.

Dame Heøll have to go.

Jack I know ó but weøll never get him the sack ó he doesnøt play fair ó he works too hard.

Dame Letø just sit down and think. (*They do so on the counter. Enter Rat with a (19) leap onto counter. Crash and flash effect. Dame and Jack fall off*)

Rat Ha, ha. (*Stands with arms folded*) Kneel down and pay homage.

Jack Who is it?

Dame Itø my late husband and Iøve spent the insurance money.

Rat I am King Rat. My sworn enemy is Dick Whittington and I am out to break him.

- Jack Well that's funny 'o he's my sworn enemy and I've just been swearing about him. He's taken my Alice away from me.
- Rat That I know full well. You seek revenge? Help me and sweet revenge is yours.
- Dame Tell us what to do.
- Rat Fitzwarren knows that Dick Whittington is a hard worker. The only thing he doesn't know is whether he's honest or not.
- Jack I see, and it's up to us to prove he's not.
- Dame How do we do that?
- Rat On yonder hook (*on proscenium arch*) hangs Dick Whittington's purse. There lies your opportunity to prove his dishonesty.
- Dame I'll tell you what! 'i (*Dame and Jack go into huddle*)
- Rat See how my plan is succeeding, mortal shall destroy mortal. (*Then loudly*) Shiver, ye mortals. How I hate you. (*Dame and Jack give startled jumps. Rat leaps off counter and exits*)
- Jack Now what were you saying?
- Dame Well, if I can get a word in, hey, doesn't that rat smell? Now look, you know that marked coin that Fitzwarren leaves in the till?
- Jack The one he's been trying to catch us with for years?
- Dame Yes, well, we'll empty the till, including that coin and put all the money into Dick Whittington's purse.
- Jack (*Loud*) Oh yes, we'll pinch it, but make everybody think it's him.
- Dame Shut up, you'll have everybody thinking we're dishonest.
- Jack Well, we are.
- Dame Don't argue. (*Hoarse whisper*) Let's see how much money there is in the till. (*They steal round the counter to sound effects. Jack takes money out*) How much money is there? (*Said in mysterious dramatic sing song voice*)
- Jack (*Matter of fact*) Twenty six pence and a trouser button.
- Dame Give it to me. (*Mysteriously, sing-song and dramatically again*)
- Jack (*Imitating her*) Here you are. Where's the purse?
- Dame Over there. (*Same tone as before*)
- Jack Over where? (*Imitating her*)

- Dame Over there. On the hook. (*same tone*)
- Jack (*Crossing*) Which hook, where? (*imitating her again*)
- Dame (*Same tone*) That hook there. Bring the purse to me. (*Jack does so*)
- Jack (*Imitating again*) Put the money in the purse. Look, it's giving me a sore throat is all this. (*Last sentence spoken matter of fact*)
- Dame (*Sing song again*) There we are. (*Puts money in purse*) Hang it up again on the hook (*Jack does so*) Just a minute, have you left my fingerprints? (*Last sentence spoken matter of fact*)
- Jack (*Looking at his hands*) No, they're still on the end of my fingers.
- Dame Good. Then we'll give the alarm. Are you ready? One ó two ó three ó
- Dame and Jack
- (*Ad lib*) Mr Fitzwarren's been robbed. The till's empty, police, thief, etc, etc
- Fitz (*Enter Fitz, Alice, Dick, Cat and Ensemble*) What's all this about?
- Dame The till's empty.
- Jack You've been robbed.
- Fitz (*Crossing to till*) Some thief has stolen the day's takings. Who's responsible for this?
- Dame and Jack
- Dick Whittington.
- Dick Why you --- (*incidental dramatic music*) (20)
- Fitz (*Holds hand up to silence him*) I don't believe that Dick would do a thing like that. Did you take the money, Daphne?
- Dame Certainly not.
- Fitz Did you take the money, Jack?
- Jack No, it was Dick Whittington, as sure as I'm standing in (*local name*) street this very minute.
- Alice Dick, tell them it's not true.
- Dick Of course it's not true. You may search me if you like.
- Dame Never mind searching him. Look in his purse.

Dick *(Feeling shoulder for his purse) My purse ó (Looks round and sees it hung up on the hook, all follow his gaze. Silence. Fitz stalks across, takes purse, empties coins onto his hand. All gasp. Dick takes step forward.)*

Fitz *(Holding up coin) The marked coin. This money is stolen.*

Dick But sir ó

Fitz Silence. You cannot deny it now. I befriended you when you were penniless, I trusted you and this is how you repay me. Get out of my shop and never let me see you again. *(Dick starts forward to explain. Then realises his hopeless position and his shoulders slump. Dick turns to Alice who looks at Fitz) Begone. (Fitz points. Build to picture finish with Dick and Cat leaving shop. Fitz pointing to door. Alice weeping as music swells)* (21)

SLOW TAB CURTAIN AND LIGHTS FADE TO BLACKOUT

Scene 4

Drop Cloth

Inside Fitzwarren's House*Lights up as principals enter*

Fitz *(Enter Fitz followed by Alice)* Now it's no good arguing Alice, the fellow was proved guilty and that's an end of it.

Alice I'dl admit it looked as if Dick was the thief, but believe me daddy, I know him better than you do and he just wouldn't do a thing like that.

Fitz How was it the money was in his purse if he hadn't stolen it?

Alice Someone with a grudge against him could have put the money there to make it look as if he had taken it.

Fitz Such as?

Alice Daphne and Jack. I'm sure they know more about this than they care to admit.

Fitz Well, if it will please you, I'dl question them just once more, but I still think it will be a waste of time.

Alice I'dl find Jack and send him to you.

Fitz Very well. *(Exit Alice)*

Jack *(Off stage)* He wants me again ó do you say? Oh heck. *(Enter Jack)*

Audience BONZO

Jack Thanks kids. Good old Bonzo. *(Strokes dog. Mimes as if bitten)* Naughty!

Fitz Now listen Jack. Are you absolutely sure you've told me everything you know about the money from the till?

Jack On my honour as a Cub Scout, yes.

Fitz Hmm. By the way, how much money was found in the purse?

Jack Twenty six pence. I counted it myself as I took it out of the till. *(Realises mistake)*

Fitz So, it was you after all.

Jack Yes, it was me and Daphne. I had to tell you ó my conscience has been troubling me.

Jack It's the spirit of truth. All you've got to do is take one drink out of this bottle and you're bound to tell the truth.

Dame I don't believe it. Do you mean that if I take one drink out of that bottle I'll be bound to tell the truth?

Jack Yes. Go on. You have a drink and you're bound to tell the truth.

Dame *(Takes drink and spits it out)* Paraffin.

Jack That's the truth. Kiddies, don't try that at home.

SNAP BLACKOUT. TAKE OUT FRONT CLOTH

Scene 5

Full set

Puddle Dock - London Town

(During blackout at end of previous scene – naval noises off through amplification clanging bells, fog horns and voices off shouting deck instructions. Tabs open on and lights up on scene showing welcoming crowd on docks facing ship. Backs to audience. Bows of ship are cut out in front of Thames back-cloth. Rope thrown from offstage on to dockside and gangplank lowered. Dancers as sailors pour off ship and join welcoming crowd for opening number “Fleet’s in” type. Towards end of number enter Captain from ship. He takes salute as number finishes. At end of number Fitzwarren and Alice enter) (23)

Fitz Good day, Captain. It’s certainly good to see you walk down the gangplank.

Capt. Good day to you sir. I must say, I much prefer to walk down the gangplank onto dry land instead of walking the plank at the end of a pirate’s cutlass.

Alice Don’t tell me that pirates delayed you?

Capt. No, to tell you the truth, we ran into such a storm that for three days and nights it was touch and go. *(Builds dramatically)* The only thing for it was to throw the cargo overboard.

Fitz Captain o my cargo o you didn’t.

Capt. *(Huge laugh)* Rest easy my friend, your cargo’s safe and sound. *(To crew)* Now my lucky lads. Go and enjoy yourselves while you’ve a chance, we sail with the tide tomorrow. *(Exit crew and welcoming crowd)*

Fitz You know Captain, it’s time I personally visited my agents overseas. Alice, today is your 21st birthday. Would you care to accompany me on the next voyage as a special treat?

Alice Of course I will. How wonderful, but o

Fitz But what?

Alice I wish Dick Whittington could come too.

Fitz A most unfortunate business, but this way you may forget your heartbreak, and rest assured my dear, if he ever returns I’ll make it up to him, don’t worry.

(Enter Blot and Clot to ‘Cuckoo Waltz’ play on) (24)

Capt Tell me my friend, who are these two smart looking fellows?

Blot and Clot *(Overhear this and spring into the picture)* Blot and Clot. Penniless solicitors. (25)
Yours faithfully, Blot and Clot.

- Capt (To Fitz) By jove, they~~re~~ smart. (To Blot and Clot) I need two mates to make up the crew.
- Clot I didn~~t~~ know the crew wore make-up.
- Capt I want you to join the ship.
- Clot Why? Has it broken in two?
- Blot He wants us to sail the seven seas.
- Clot Not me, I get sick sailing my boats in the bath.
- Blot You~~ll~~ be alright at sea, you~~re~~ from a naval family. Show the world your naval. (Clot lifts up jumper to show bare midriff)
- Blot Fool. We~~ve~~ no money, we~~ve~~ no choice. (To Capt) We~~re~~ game. (They (26) hornpipe off to board ship, continue hornpipe music through following dialogue to Capt's exit with Alice and Fitz)
- Capt We~~ll~~ soon have a full crew when my press gang has gone to work.
- Fitz In that case, I~~ll~~ definitely come with you this trip. May we inspect our cabins?
- Capt Nothing would give me greater pleasure. After you Miss Alice. (Exit Fitz and Alice onto ship) Press Gang complete your task. (Exit Capt. As music plays on (27) Kiddies pulling cannon which they position. Kiddies dressed as midshipmen. They form a double line down stage. Music stops)
- 1st Kiddie Daphne Dumpling. Report for duty.
- All Daphne Dumpling. (Play on music for Dame who is dressed in Wren's (28) uniform. She marches up and down and finishes with salute, clicking heels and banging knees – she 'hurts' herself)
- Dame The name is Daphne Dumpling ó leading Wren retired. I am here ó you are here, to fire a twenty-one gun salute.
- 2nd Kiddie How are you going to fire a twenty-one gun salute when you~~ve~~ only got one gun?
- Dame We fire one gun twenty-one times. Get back in line. (Kiddie moves back) You see, it~~s~~ Alice Fitzwarren~~s~~ twenty-first birthday.
- 2nd Kiddie (Stepping forward) It~~s~~ my birthday as well.
- Dame How old are you?
- 2nd Kiddie Eight.
- Dame And are you looking forward to being nine?
- 2nd Kiddie Yes.

- Dame Well get back in line. A twenty-one gun salute for her twenty-first birthday.
- 3rd Kiddie It's a good job it's not your birthday. We'd be here all day.
- Dame Watch it.
- 4th Kiddie Hey. There's a man coming with a funny face.
- Dame Well tell him you've got one. (*Sees who it is*) Oh, it'll be Idle Jack. Come here. (*Play on Jack. He wears Admiral's outfit in the style of Nelson, coat too large (29) baggy knee breeches. He has black eye-shade and Admiral's cocked hat, which he sometimes wears side-to-side and other times fore and aft*) All I asked you to do was help me fire this cannon. What are you dressed like that for?
- Jack You've heard of Lord Nelson?
- Dame Yes
- Jack I'm his brother ó half Nelson. (*shifts patch to other eye*). I can't see out of this eye. (*Pointing to eye patch*)
- Dame Why not?
- Jack It's got a patch on it. (*Moves patch to other eye*) Ah, that's better.
- Dame You've apparently seen some action at sea?
- Jack Yes. (*Shorten arm in sleeve and holds it across his chest*).
- Dame Where did you get that uniform?
- Jack Army and Navy Stores ó and it never has fit me. (*Moves patch back to other eye*)
- Dame That eye's not as good as that one there, is it?
- Jack Not a patch on it. (*Moves patch under nose*)
- Dame Well, I've decided to make you my right hand man.
- Jack Very good. (*Changes wounded arm to allow himself to shake hands with Dame*)
- Dame Have you brought your matches with you?
- Jack Yes, but you'd never fire that cannon ó it's got bunged up.
- Dame Bunged up! Bunged up! (*She looks into barrel*) You're right, it has gotten bunged up. There's only one way to clear it ó put a charge of gun-powder in.
- Jack Gun-powder in. (*As he takes canister from Kiddie and pours powder in*)

- Dame Match.
- Jack Match! (*Strikes one – nothing happens*) Match! (*Repeat business*) Match! (*Repeat business*)
- Dame They've gone on strike.
- Jack They're just a bit damp. Watch this. (*Strikes one successfully – turns to Kid*) You see, I knew I could do it, etc (*Ad lib until he burns his fingers*) Oww!!!
- Dame Stop messing about. This is going to make a loud bang. (*To Kiddies*) You'd better put your fingers in your ears. There's going to be a bang.
- 2nd Kiddie (*To Audience*) You'd better put your fingers in your ears, there's going to be a bang. It'd be a loud band, so you'dí (*Ad lib – keep going till Dame interrupts*)
- Dame Just a minute. I'm giving the orders. Get back in line.
- Jack But there is going to be a loud bang.
- Dame (*Shouting*) I know. (*Dame and Jack now get all audience to put fingers in their ears*) Ready. One! Two! Three! Fire! (*Jack touches powder hole with match – a large notice or flag reading 'Bang' appears from barrel of cannon. This effect is worked by Jack*).
- 4th Kiddie If you don't fire this cannon soon ó Alice is going to be twenty-two.
- Dame Alright. Jack, go and fetch a cannon ball. (*Orchestra play 1812 overture. (30) While Jack exits and enters staggering with medium size cannon ball. Dame cuts orchestra and points to drummer. Drum roll. All salute. Jack puts cannon ball in. It rolls through and out across stage. One of K.C. picks it up*)
- Kiddies (*Sing to tune of "There's a hole in my bucket"*) There's a hole in your cannon Daphne Dumpling, Daphne Dumpling.
- 2nd Kiddie When are you going to fire that pea-shooter?
- Dame Pea-shooter. You wait and see how this gun performs when it's loaded.
- 2nd Kiddie We all know how you perform when you're loaded. (*Jack picks up powder*)
- Dame Cannon ball in. (*Kiddie puts ball in*) Powder in. (*Jack is chattering to Kiddies*) Powder! (*Jack spills powder on himself – Dame has startled him*)
- Jack I'm all gun-powder.
- 3rd Kiddie My sister says you're dynamite.
- Dame Shut up. Go and get some more powder. (*Jack exits*) There's nowhere near enough powder, but when we've got plenty this is where it goes. Then you take the match ó strike it and apply it to the powder like this. (*Strikes match*) Then it will explode and fire the cannon ball. It's all a question of the science of ballistic missilery. Only

with that small amount of powder in, it'll never go off. (*Throws match casually onto powder. Loud explosion and flash. Kiddies exit quickly in various directions. Dame drops behind gun and emerges through smoke on hands and knees. Her clothing is disarranged. Jack enters carrying cannon ball, same size as last one. His clothes are blackened and in tatters. Kiddies re-enter cautiously*)

Jack Eh, can I make a suggestion?

Dame What?

Jack The next time it's someone's birthday, just hang out the Union Jack.

(Jack flops over cannon.)

FADE TO BLACKOUT

CLOSE TABS OR DROP IN FRONT CLOTH

BRIDGE MUSIC TO NEXT SCENE

(31)

Scene 6A

Tabs or Front Cloth

Highgate Hill

(Incidental music. Enter right Dick and Cat forlorn) (32)

Dick Do come along Tommy. I know why you don't want to leave London. You've had the time of your life catching all those mice for Mr Fitzwarren. *(Cat meows and rubs tummy mournfully)*. Mr Fitzwarren ó huh. He wouldn't even listen to my side of the story ó still I don't suppose we can't blame him really. *(Cat disagrees vehemently)* Well, you must admit, it did look as if I had stolen the money. *(Cat doubtfully agrees)*. No one would listen. I don't think even Alice believed me. And now I don't suppose I shall ever see her again. *(Sees ship in the distance looking out to audience as if in direction they have tramped)*. What a fine ship. Once I used to fancy going to sea. Now all I want to do is go home. *(Starts to exit left. Having taken a few steps)* I'm so tired Tommy ó are you tired too? *(Cat exaggeratedly flops down then rises and rubs tummy)* And hungry too. We've a long way to go yet. We shall just have to tighten our belts. *(Cat suddenly squawks and jumps about in pain)*. What's the matter Tommy? Let me have a look. *(Cat shows him paw)* Dear, dear. You've got a nasty splinter of wood in your paw. Let me pull it out. *(Cat is scared and backs away)*. Come along ó be a brave Tommy. It won't hurt ó much. *(Cat reluctantly offers paw. Dick pulls splinter out (SFX Block) and holds splinter up)*. There it is. *(Cat jumps around crying)*. Tommy, don't be a big baby. Come here, I'll put a bandage on. *(Dick removes ribbon from cat's neck and puts it round cat's paw, while cat snivels)*. There you are. It's all over. Now blow your nose. *(Dick produces handkerchief. Cat gives loud blow. Dick holds handkerchief with large hole in middle)*. Does your paw still hurt? *(Cat gingerly puts paw to the ground)*.

Dick Rest it for a minute. I'll spend our last coppers on a loaf of bread, then we'll be on our way. *(Dick exits left. Cat limps badly across stage, sits down licking paw)*.

(Enter right mates Clot and Blot from ship. Mysterioso music. Clot is carrying large sack) (33)

Blot Jump to it Mr Clot, you know what the captain told us to do.

Clot What?

Blot Kidnap a cat for on board ship ó to help catch the rats.

Clot Kidnap a cat. I'll make a noise like a bottle of milk.

Blot Eh?

Clot Moo.

Blot We'll do this by persuasion. *(They get behind cat and Blot meows. Cat springs up in listening attitude. They pop sack over cat's head.)*

Blot and Clot Gotcha. Ha, ha. *(Ad lib laugh and start to exit right taking cat)* One ship's cat going on board. *(Exit right. Dick enters left. Incidental panic music building)* (34)

- Dick *(Indicating bundle)* Here we are Tommy. It's not much I know but oh Tommy, Tommy, where are you? He must have gone on ahead. Tommy, wait for me Tommy. *(Half panics and runs off left)*
- Rat *(Music continues. Then enter left King Rat running and watching Dick disappear off left)* Ha, ha. *(Then to antagonise audience)* My plans are succeeding. My dreaded enemy the cat will soon be in my merciless clutches. Already he is captive aboard the ship. The ship, whose timbers are rotting, gnawed by my faithful army of rats. The ship, at sea tomorrow, in the hands of an inexperienced crew and with helpless passengers on board. The ship will sink. When the fateful time comes, I shall call thunder, lightning, storm and tempest to my aid. *(Dementedly cries)* Shiver ye mortals. How I hate you. *(Runs off stage left)*.
- Dick *(Incidental music. Then Dick enters left)* Tommy, Tommy, - it's hopeless. I (35) can't understand where he's gone. I've looked everywhere and never seen a sign of him. They say that troubles come singly. How right they are. I feel so alone without the one true friend I have in the whole world. *(Dick sits down left. Opens bundle to eat bread but can't face it. Yawns and miserably settles down to sleep)*.
- Fairy *(Incidental music for Fairy. Enter Fairy right)* Poor Dick. He thinks his life's (36) adventure is at an end and yet it is only beginning. Sleep deeply Dick, so that you may face the morrow with hope renewed. Dream oh dream oh dream oh yet when you wake take heed of your dreams. *(Exit Fairy right)*
- (Start ballet in front of tabs if necessary to cover scene change. When ready open tabs or take out front cloth to reveal Scene 6 B)*

Scene 6B

Full set

Dick Whittington's Dream

(Continue with full ballet. The dream tells the story of Alice threatened by the forces of evil, personified by King Rat and his evil spirits – some Kiddies and dancers. Evil triumphs despite the intervention of the cat and the forces of good. Remainder of Kiddies and dancers. At the end of ballet, lights dim upstage and spotlight on Dick down left still asleep. Dim to B.O. downstage. Bells are heard and lights are restored to awaken Dick. He realises what an awful dream he has had) (37)

Dick What has happened? Alice? *(Confused, looks round)* I must have been dreaming and yet it seemed so real. *(Rises)* Alice is in danger. I know it. I must go back ó back to London ó back to her. *(Sets off right, realises he's forgotten his bundle, returns left and reaches down for it. Straightens up as bells swell and off stage voices are heard to sing as a 'round' unaccompanied.)* (38)

Singers *(offstage)* *(Music available from writers)*

Turn again Whittington

Thou worthy citizen

Lord Mayor of London

Turn again Whittington

Thou worthy citizen

London's Lord Mayor

(Orchestra takes up music as we bring up lights on full stage tableau of Kiddies and dancers continuing to spotlight Dick. Dick pauses, re-acts to show determination and exits right)

HOUSE CURTAIN AND INTERVAL

ACT II

Entracte

Scene 7

Full set

The Main Deck of the Good Ship øHeaving Stomachö

(Set should have bridge with steps up to it and must have simple practical cabin door which slides under bridge. As music starts, house curtains open. Opening naval number, dancers and ensemble (no kiddies). Semaphore business in routine) (39)

Capt. *(At end of number enter Capt and Fitz)* Now then my lucky lads, are all hands on deck?

1st Sailor All but the new recruits, sir.

Capt Call all hands on deck. Alderman Fitzwarren, the owner of the ship, has an important announcement.

1st Sailor All hands on deck.

Voice *(Off)* All hands on deck. *(Play on music. Enter Blot and Clot in naval uniforms. They march on and stand to attention)* (40)

Capt *(To Fitz)* Sir, let me introduce two new mates, on my left ó

Blot At 146 lbs. Mr Blot *(Salutes)* On my left ó

Clot At nine pounds, sixty seven and a half pence. Mr Clot *(Salutes)*

Capt And the third new member of the crew, a very promising lad by the name of ó

Fitz One moment, captain, I know this young lad, his name is Dick Whittington. So youøve signed on young Whittington.

Dick *(Not sure of himself)* Yes sir. I had a dream. My dream told me to return to London. To seek my fortune I enlisted on this ship.

Fitz How strange and how fortunate. Dick, in front of everyone Iød like to make you a public apology. Some time ago I wrongly accused this young man of dishonesty and gave him the sack. I was completely wrong in this accusation. Dick, may I humbly beg your forgiveness? *(Turns and offers his hand, which Dick takes)*.

Dick Why of course sire. I only hope you solved the mystery to your satisfaction.

Fitz The culprits were Jack and Daphne, but all is forgiven. And now I have a surprise for you. Captain, I believe there is one other new member of the crew. May we call him on deck.

Capt Certainly sir, bring on Tommy the shipø's cat.

Dick Tommy. *(Enter cat to hornpipe music which he makes an attempt at performing.)* Tommy my old friend. *(Greeting cat)* (41)

- Fitz Captain, a private word with this young man, if you please.
- Capt Seaman Whittington. *(Dick goes back to attention)* Permission to remain. Rest of crew dismiss. *(All crew including Capt. Clot and Blot exit smartly in drill fashion. Fitz stays on stage)*
- Dick Sir, there is one thing I'd like to ask you.
- Fitz Fire away.
- Dick When shall I see Miss Alice again? *(During this dialogue Alice enters)*
- Fitz *(Aware of Alice and teasing Dick)* This year, next year sometime ó
- Alice Now.
- Dick Alice.
- Alice Dick. *(They embrace)*
- Dick Oh, Alice, I thought I was never going to see you again.
- Fitz Come on Tommy. What I had to say will have to wait. It looks as though these two have plenty to say to each other. Let's take a turn round the deck. *(Exit Fitz and cat)*
- (Duet Dick and Alice cueing in with appropriate phrase from verse or chorus)* (42)
- Dick *(Spoken during number)* Well darling, duty calls and I must obey or I shall be in the captain's bad books.
- Alice If he should clap you in irons I'd visit you four times a day. *(They laugh and finish singing number. Alice exits at end during applause and is waved off by Dick. Jack and Dame enter and remain upstage inside two barrels. They are not seen but they can walk the barrels round. Dick turns and sees barrels)*
- Dick What a place to put two barrels. I'd get Mr Blot to help me move them. *(Turns)* Mr Blot. *(Enter Blot)* Do you think we should move these barrels? *(Turns and points to where barrels were. They have moved across the stage during the above dialogue)*
- Blot What barrels?
- Dick That's funny. *(Turns and sees them)* Somebody must have moved them.
- Blot Well they're still in the way. Come on, we'd get Mr Clot to help us move them. *(They move down stage)*
- Both Mr Clot. *(Clot enters)*
- Blot Give us a hand to move these two barrels. *(Points to where they were last)*

- Clot What barrels? There are no barrels here. *(During above dialogue barrels have moved back across stage. Dick and Blot are mystified)*
- Dick I can't understand this. *(Turns and sees them)* Somebody must have moved them back. *(Dick, Blot and Clot argue ad lib animatedly with their backs to barrels. Barrels move again but stop when the three see them. Look away – barrels move – look – barrels stop – business)*
- Clot These barrels aren't ordinary barrels.
- Dick They're most extraordinary barrels.
- Blot There's someone inside them. Come on, 1 2 3 4 *(They creep round barrels, lift one to reveal Dame in Wren type summer drill costume)*
- Dame Two returns, Liverpool 6 Birkenhead.

(Lift other barrel to reveal Jack in little boy Edwardian sailor suit)
- Jack Don't they give you some small cabins on this ship.
- Audience BONZO
- Jack *(To dog)* Are you alright Bonzo, or are you all at sea?
- Blot Stowaways. Call the Captain. *(Moving to exit)*
- Clot What do you want me to call him?
- Dick Wait a minute. I think I can deal with this.
- Blot Suit yourself, we've important work to do.
- Clot I'm going to climb up to the crow's nest.
- Blot What for?
- Clot To look for some eggs. *(Blot pushes Clot off. They exit)*
- Jack Before you put us on bread and water, there is one thing we'd like to say.
- Dame We're sorry for what happened at the shop.
- Dick Alderman Fitzwarren has told me all about it and everything is forgiven and forgotten.
- Jack That's alright then. Will we get into bother for being stowaways?
- Dame It was just that we didn't like being the only ones left behind.
- Dick I'll try and make it alright with the Captain. Have you brought any luggage with you?

- Jack I haven't.
- Dame I have, just a few things.
- Dick Jack, you get Daphne settled in her cabin.
- Dame Come on Jack, help me with my luggage, there isn't much. *(Exit Dame and Jack)*
- Dick This is the life for me. I should have signed on long ago as a midshipman.
(Naval number with Dick singing verse and being joined for chorus and hornpipe routine by Kiddies as midshipmen. All exit at end of number) (43)
- Dame *(Jack and Dame enter with armful of cases and a parrot in a cage with cloth over it)*
Now Jack, let's get this luggage in the cabin.
- Jack Why did you have to bring this parrot with you? *(Places cage on table or ledge near wings – for props to operate)*
- Dame He's like me, he needed a holiday. Have you been looking after him?
- Jack Course I've been looking after him.
- Dame You haven't 'o he's still covered up.
- Jack He looks best that way.
- Dame *(Dame very slowly takes cover from parrot's cage and speaks in fond sing song manner)* Who's under this cover? Who is it? Who is it? Where is he? Oh, there he is. He's there. Who's my little coochie-coochie. Who's my little lovey-dovey? Give your mother a kiss then. *(Kiss – Jack mimics her during this)*
- Parrot *(In voice like a caged bird)* Give us a kiss. Give us a kiss.
- Dame Oh, listen to that, he wants another kissy wissy. Oh, he loves his mumsy wumsy.
- Jack How daft can you getty wetty.
- Parrot Who's a pretty boy?
- Jack Who's a moth-eaten bundle of feathers?
- Dame All he needs in his cage is a little friend.
- Jack Like a cat.
- Dame *(Suddenly looks in cage)* I asked you to feed him. Have you fed him?
- Jack Course I've fed him.

Parrot He's a liar.

Dame And I asked you to give him some water. Have you given him some water?

Jack Yes, I've given him some water.

Parrot He's a liar. He's a liar.

Dame And I asked you to clean his cage out. Have you cleaned his cage out?

Jack Oh yes, I've cleaned his cage out.

Parrot He's a liar, he's a liar, he's a liar.

Jack Oh, shut up.

Parrot Shut up yourself.

Dame And now we know where we stand. You're one of these people who don't tell the truth.

Jack I do.

Parrot He's a liar.

Jack Shut up. I always tell the truth. You're not going to take any notice of a parrot are you?

Dame This parrot ó yes. This parrot always knows when anyone tells a lie. And it lets everyone else know that a lie has been told. And the bigger the lie the bigger the noise it makes. So you'd better look after it in future.

Jack I've fed that parrot every day.

Parrot He's a liar.

Jack And given it a drink every day.

Parrot (*Louder*) He's a liar, he's a liar.

Jack And I've cleared his cage out every day.

Parrot (*Louder still*) He's a liar, he's a liar, he's a liar.

Dame I told you. The bigger the lie the bigger the noise it makes. Anyway I'm going to change into my bikini and sunbathe.

Jack Well go on. I'm not stopping you.

Dame I'm not getting undressed out here. Believe me, no man has ever seen me without my clothes on. (*Parrot explodes with flash – under cover of which offstage crew*

snatch parrot out of sight – and bang and disappears – handful of feathers thrown up from offstage)

- Jack The bigger the lie, the bigger the noise it makes.
- Fitz *(Blot, Clot and Fitz rush on)* What's happened? I heard an explosion.
- Dame It's my parrot. It fell off its perches.
- Jack I told you, you shouldn't have had it on higher perches *ó* *(hire purchase)*
- Blot Right, over here the lot of you. Line up, line up. Now everybody on this ship, passengers and crew alike must learn to do their duty, and what better way of doing it than to a sea shanty. If you are told to swab the deck *ó* a sea shanty will help you do it. If you are told to pull up the anchor, a sea shanty will help you do it. But remember, it's not all hard work. A sailor always has time to make love to a pretty girl.
- Jack And a sea shanty will help you do it.
- Dame That's enough. *(Music 'Rule Britannia' into ad lib vamp. They collect mops (44) from wings and go downstage. Following is sung to 'What shall we do with a drunken sailor'. Jack comes down last and trips over one mop as they all put them out in unison at a particular point in vamp. Jack is positioned on end of line next to Dame. Lyrics and business as follows. Each line of verse and chorus sung three times followed by 'Early in the morning'. Vamp is played after each chorus)*
- Verse: Who's for a life on the ocean wave lad? *(Posing in mopping position)*
 Chorus: Hoo-ray and up she rises. *(Mops held to side, head up. Jack's is wrong way up)*
- Jack *(Notices this)* I've lost my end *(Ad lib dialogue – 'What's the matter? He's lost his end' – Dame realises and rights this)*
- Verse: Swab the decks with a mop says the captain *ø* *(Dame swabs Jack's outstretched leg)*
 Chorus: Hoo-ray *ó* *(Mops raised horizontally to waist height on 1st 'up', to shoulder height on 2nd 'up' and pushed sideways to catch Jack on head on 3rd 'up')*
- Verse: All work with a will says the captain *ø* *(Miming mopping as before. Jack copies with backside to Dame and continues to mop during 'Hoo-ray' chorus)*
 Chorus: Hoo-ray *ó* *(Mops raised to shoulder height on 1st 'up', to waist height on 2nd 'up' and pushed sideways to catch Jack on backside on 3rd 'up')*
- Verse: Storm blowing up from the Nor, Nor, West, sir *ø* *(Starting from other end to Jack each in turn faces offstage and points to sky with right hand and stand with legs apart. Jack is last on 'Early in the morning')*
 Chorus: Hoo-ray *ó* *(On first 'up' all mops are swung across and forward and Dame's goes between Jack's legs. During vamp at end of chorus all throw mops along to Jack who fails to hold them all but manages to dispose of them into wings).*

Verse: *∓Climb the rigging and take in the main sail∅ (During this Jack returns from wings using mop as crutch a la Long John Silver – he makes appropriate ‘oo ar’ noises during verse)*

Chorus: *∓Hoo-ray∅ (In all choruses from here the word ‘Hoo’ all raise left hand fist clenched and elbow bent and on word ‘up’ swing right arm upwards and outwards. In this chorus – as Dame performs this swing she dislodges Jack’s crutch cum mop and he falls down.)*

Verse: *∓Yo, heave ho, haul in the anchor∅ (All step forward and do pulling in anchor action. Jack is still on floor trying to get up but each time Dame steps over him for anchor business)*

Chorus: *Hoo-ray∅(During chorus, Jack manages to get up to kneeling position)*

Verse: *∓Up came the storm and down came the mainmast∅ (On the word ‘up’ Jack’s head is knocked back. On the word ‘down’ Jack’s head is knocked forward by a push on the back of the head)*

Chorus: *∓Hoo-ray∅ (Jack still on knees clear of the line of four. He sees discarded crutch on deck, grabs it, stands up, swings up, swings it over his shoulder and brings it down on the line but they have stepped backwards. Repeat business but line steps forward. Repeat business again swinging mop back so that mop head is in wings when raised and is snatched off stage. Jack bewildered as to where mop has gone. During vamp Jack returns to position at end of line)*

Verse: *∓Jump and swim for the nearest life boat∅ (Jack caught by breast stroke arm swimming action first time, ducks for other two times. Realises that ‘up’ is coming in chorus and keeps out of line. Pleased with himself)*

Chorus: *∓Hoo-ray∅ó (‘Up’ action not directed to Jack’s side. Jack joins in, switch direction on last line and catch Jack on the ‘up’)*

Verse: *∓Row for the shore or your life is over∅ (Rowing action, Jack not caught – pleased. Watches to see which way action is going in chorus, two go one way, two others in outward direction. Jack joins middle of line and catches out on last ‘up’ when they all change direction)*

Chorus: *∓Hoo-ray∅*

Verse: *∓The storm is over and we∅re becalmed boys∅ (Sung softly, slowly, dramatically by the four, not Jack who is still picking himself up. There is no chorus sung on this occasion)*

Verse: *∓The sun beats down and I want water∅ (Sung by Jack dramatically and getting louder, positioning himself near wings. On last line gets a soaking from bucket of water worked from wings)*

Chorus: *(Briskly) ∓Hoo-ray∅ (Exit with the dripping Jack last off. Incidental music – lights dim – Flash and explosion. Rat enters on upper deck) (45)*

Rat

The poor miserable fools. They sing so gaily of an imaginary storm. What will be their tune when they find themselves caught hopelessly and irretrievably in a storm of my making. A storm from which no one, but no one will escape. I will call on my friends the elements of violence to wreck this ship. Lightning! *(Flash effect)* to illuminate the last miserable moments of these wretched mortals. Thunder! *(Effect)* To strike a chord of terror in each human heart. Storm! To tear apart the timbers of

this puny vessel; and Tempest! To send it to a watery grave. (*Full storm effects*)
Thunder! Lightning! Storm! Tempest! Ha! Ha! Ha! (*Exit in flash, storm effect continues*)

(*Enter all passengers and crew except Dame and Jack. Screaming and lurching left and right as on rolling ship.*)

All (*In panic*) What's happening ó etc. ad lib.

Dick Quiet everyone. Message from the Captain. Our position is bad but not hopeless.

Alice Oh Dick, I'm so frightened.

Dick Don't be afraid my darling. Our Captain is a brave man. He may see us through yet.

1st Sailor The Captain. (*As Captain enters*)

Fitz Captain, you must tell us. What chances have we of weathering this storm?

Capt Very little I'm afraid. I doubt whether I can hold the ship on course, but I'll try, I'll try.

Rat (*Rat enters to flash on upper deck*) He tries in vain. The elements are on my side. The side of evil. Everyone on this accursed ship is fated to die along with my most dreaded enemy the cat. Enjoy these next few minutes for they will be your last. Success is mine. (*Jumps down onto stage and scatters everyone. Turns with back to audience and dominates stage from one side to another as everyone cowers.*) Shiver ye mortals. How I hate you! (*Jumps to another position and makes gesture with arms*) Ha! Ha! Ha! (*Thunder and lightning – main mast groans and if possible falls across stage as is effected. Rat finishes in front of tabs which close on scene leaving him downstage. Dance of triumph by King Rat*)

Fairy (*Fairy enters to incidental music. Rat sees her and gives a cry and covers his eyes in agony*) Little wonder you hide your face King Rat. You are guilty of a most despicable crime ó the attempted destruction of innocent human beings. You claim success, but you claim it too soon.

Rat And you are too late Fairy. What can you do now?

Fairy I can put heart and courage into these mortals. If they show bravery in the face of danger they may yet be saved.

Rat Bah! We shall see! (*Exit*)

Fairy Even now the storm is abating. Turbulent seas are turning calm. Those that have had the will to cling onto life will have survived. Exhausted though they may be, let's see how some of our friends are faring. (*Exit Fairy*)

(*Tabs open to half for next scene. 'A Life on the Ocean Wave' played slowly to muted brass – Wah, wah effect*) (48)

Scene 8

Half set

10 Degrees Longitude. 35 Degrees Latitude

(Curtains open to reveal half to three-quarters stage width. There is a raft with a blue sky-cloth behind and a sea ground-row if possible. The only depth needed is the depth of the raft between tabs and the sky-cloth. Dame and Jack discovered on raft. Raft has fixed packing case with makeshift mast fixed on it. Mast is a brush wrong way up. Pair of stiffened red bloomers make a flag for the mast. Open with green light on raft. Raft rocking but not violently. Dame and Jack looking seedy).

Audience BONZO

Jack Keep an eye on him for me kids. I can't leave this raft, I'll get my feet wet, and I'm not feeling well. Ugh! Oh dear!

Dame Never mind lad. The sun's coming up.

Jack Is that coming up as well?

Dame Well, I told you. You should have done like me. I took four of those Sea Leg tablets.

Jack Sea Legs?

Dame Those in your overcoat pocket

Jack Those weren't sea-legs they were moth balls. *(Bus. Dame being sick).* You must have a weak stomach.

Dame I'm throwing it as far as you did. *(Dame stands up and heaves a sigh).*

Jack I could eat some fish and chips now.

Dame Oh!! *(Sick business again)* I've got some horrible shooting pains in my stomach.

Jack Have you?

Dame Yes, and those that aren't shooting are busy reloading. OHH!! *(Puts foot through raft)* Jack, I've put my foot through this rotten raft.

Jack You can't paddle now.

Dame What if a shark gets my foot? *(Holds leg out)* I'm bleeding. *(Holds leg up to Jack who calmly peels off red sock and gives her a look of disgust)* Thank you very much. I lost my other red sock.

Jack Where?

- Dame In my cabin. I put it in that little cupboard with a circular glass door, and I haven't seen it since. *(Raft suddenly starts to heave violently, rocked by stage crew out of sight).*
- Both What's the matter with it or what have we done or we've hit a rock or it's another storm, ad lib. *(Raft quietens but still rocks a little).*
- Jack That was peculiar.
- Dame Not really. It's probably a sea creature that bumped into the raft, like a dolphin or a whale or a porpoise. It'd be an accident.
- Jack It feels as if it's doing it on porpoise.
- Dame It's alright it'll only be playing. *(Raft starts heaving violently)*
- Jack Just tell your playmates to play somewhere else.
- Dame We're alright it's stopped or and I'm hungry. Are there any emergency rations on this raft?
- Jack We'll have a look. *(Looks in packing case)*
- Dame Anything to eat?
- Jack There's a pork pie, a polony and some pop. *(They sit down and Jack puts the refreshments between them together with a couple of mugs)*
- Dame I'll have the pork pie.
- Jack I was going to have that.
- Dame Hard lines.
- Jack *(Envious)* You see that hole in the top? *(Just as Dame has got the pie to mouth)*
- Dame Yes.
- Jack That's where the butcher puts the gravy in. *(Pie to mouth business)*
- Dame I know. *(Brings up pie to eat again)*
- Jack After he's made the hole with his mucky thumb.
- Dame *(Hands him pie and takes polony).* I'll have the polony. *(Raft rocks slightly, Dame puts down polony. Jack puts down pie between them).*
- Both What was that? *(Etc.)*
- Jack Could it be an octopus?

Dame There's no octopus in these waters. Pour me some pop.

Jack *(Jack does so and pours some for himself. Giving a toast)* Ribena.

Dame *(Responding)* Coca-Cola. *(They quietly sit drinking while an octopus appears behind and rises up. Jack bites pie. Dame bites polony. Put them back down on raft. They drink again. Octopus switches round pie and polony and disappears).*

Dame Get your thieving hands off my polony.

Jack I haven't got your pol--- leave my pork pie alone.

Dame Stop mucking about. *(She switches food back. Drink again).* Rose's Lime Juice.

Jack *(Toasting)* Liquid paraffin. *(Octopus now appears and puts polony in its mouth and disappears again.)*

Dame *(Discovers polony missing)* You've eaten my polony now.

Jack I haven't

Dame You must have. I want half your pork pie.

Jack Well you can want. Come on drink up. *(They drink).* J Two O.

Dame Cadbury's Drinking Chocolate. *(Octopus appears again and 'eats' pork pie – disappears).*

Jack *(Discovers pie missing)* You've eaten my pork pie.

Dame How dare you. I've never touched it.

Jack You did. *(To audience)* Hasn't she eaten my pork pie?

Audience *(Expected to say)* No.

Dame Well you ate my polony. *(To audience)* Didn't she?

Audience *(Expected to say.)* No.

Dame Well if you didn't eat my polony.

Jack And you didn't eat my pork pie.

Both *(To each other)* Who did? *(To audience)* Who did?

Audience *(Expected to say)* An octopus.

Both A what?

Audience An octopus.

Both There's no octopus in these waters.

Audience Oh yes there is.

Both Oh no there isn't. (*Work this ad lib*)

Jack Well look, if it comes back again, shout and tell me.

Dame Have a drink (*Toasting*) Baby Cham.

Jack Buttercup syrup. (*Octopus appears*)

Audience It's there, etc

Dame and
Jack What did you say?

Audience It's behind you. (*Work this ad lib*)

Both Where? (*They start looking, octopus disappears each time. They look at back of raft*)

Jack There's nothing there.

Dame There's no octopus in these waters.

Jack All the same, there's something funny going on. (*Sits*)

Dame Yes, I'm a bit scared. (*Sits*) Move up close to me Jack. (*Octopus reappears, puts arm round Dame*) I didn't say put your arm round me.

Jack I never touched you. (*Dame reaches to remove arm – realises what it is and jumps 'overboard' behind tabs out of sight with a scream. Octopus sits next to Jack and puts arm round him*).

Jack Well don't put your arm round me Daphne. I said don't put your arm round me (*Feeling octopus*) Daphne (*Looks and sees octopus and jumps off raft behind tabs out of sight screaming. Octopus sits contentedly on raft and drinks lemonade*)

FADE TO BLACKOUT
CLOSE TABS OR DROP IN FRONT CLOTH
STRIKE RAFT

Scene 9

Tabs or front cloth

Somewhere on the Shore of Morocco

Dick *(Incidental mood music. Enter Dick, he is exhausted)* Where am I? Where (49) is everyone? *(Looks round)* I remember the ship and the storm ó but what happened to the others ó whereø Alice? *(Calls)* Alice *(Pause, calls)* Hello! *(Pause, panic stricken – heartrending call)* Alice!!! *(Forlorn)* Iø am all alone, but the others must be somewhere, they must ó unless *(he falters then has an idea)* they must have landed on some other part of the shore. I wonø give up hope ó I wonø. Something here inside tells me everything is going to be alright.

Alice *(Alice is heard calling)* Hello ó anyone there? *(Off stage)*

Dick Alice. *(Alice runs on stage)*

Alice Dick *(They embrace)*

Dick Alice, we should thank our lucky stars weøre safe and sound.

Alice I wonder if anyone else has been saved from the ship-wreck.

Dick Thereø more than a chance. We canø have been far off the shore of Morocco.

Alice I do hope daddyø alright and dear Tommy too.

Dick Tommy. Until I met you, I hadnø a friend in the world but Tommy.

Alice How are we going to get back home Dick?

Dick We shanø even think of going home until weøve managed to find the others.

Alice Letø shout and see if we can make anyone hear us.

Both *(Call)* Hello! *(Pause)* Hello!

Fitz *(Offstage)* Hello!

Alice Itø daddy.

Dick Over here sir.

Fitz *(Still off stage)* Coming. *(Enter)*

Alice Oh daddy, how wonderful to see you again. Are you alright? *(General reunion)*

Fitz It takes more than a shipwreck to sink your old father.

Dick But surely sir, weøre not the only three saved from the wreck?

Capt *(Shouting from off stage)* Hello there.

- Dick There's someone else. It's the Captain. (*Enter Capt*)
- Capt Ahoy there my hearties. Am I glad to see you. I thought I was the only one saved from the wreck. (*General reunion*) But do my eyes deceive me, shipmates? (*Looking off stage*) Who's this approaching on the starboard side?
- Fitz It's one of the mates. It's Mr Blot.
- Alice What on earth is he wearing?
- Capt Come on Mr Blot, look alive and show yourself.
- Blot I don't like to. (*Sticking head round curtain*).
- Capt Don't be bashful. Let's be having you. (*Blot enters. They all laugh because he is dressed in nothing but a barrel held up by a pair of braces, the barrel has 'Lamb's Rum' written on it*).
- Blot I thought I was the only one saved from the wreck.
- Dick Why are you wearing that? What's wrong with ordinary clothes?
- Blot Plenty. I've been blown from the Indies to the Andes and now I've got no undies.
- Capt I can't let discipline go to pot just because we've been involved in a shipwreck. Even though you've lost your uniform you're still a sailor. Stand to attention, shoulders back, barrel in.
- Dick Here comes Mr Clot.
- Capt So he does, take a lesson from him. He's lost his uniform but look what a little make do and mend can achieve. Everyone attention. (*Orchestra strikes up 'Land of Hope and Glory'*). *Clot enters dressed in nothing but Union Jack, clasped round his chest and under his armpits and wrapped tightly round legs sarong style. He carries bugle*)
- Clot I thought I was the only one saved from the shipwreck.
- Blot What happened?
- Clot I climbed up the mast to get the flag, and when I looked down the ship had gone ó and so had my trousers.
- Blot I worked hard on board that ship. Why shouldn't I finish up with the flag?
- Clot You're not in the union, Jack.
- Dick With respect, Captain, I'd like permission to go and look for Tommy.
- Alice I'dl come with you. (*Exit Dick and Alice*)

- Fitz I'll go and look for Daphne and Jack. They must be further along the shore. *(He exits)*
- Capt *(Looking through telescope)* Just a minute, I'm getting a signal in semaphore. It's the rest of the crew. No lives have been lost, but the ship went down. Mr Clot, sound the tribute to a gallant ship.
- Clot *(Tries to blow bugle but can't without losing flag)* I can't blow the bugle, I'll lose my Union Jack.
- Blot Give it to me. *(He snatches it and begins to play 'Last Post' dubbed in orchestra. As Last Post is played, Capt salutes)* (51)
- Capt Lower the flag.
- Clot I'm not going to lower the flag.
- Capt Dip your Ensign.
- Clot I'm not dipping my Ensign.
- Capt Alright then. Pay your tribute to a gallant ship. Salute. *(They all salute. Clot loses flag which falls at his feet. He is wearing underpants with skull and crossbones on them. Capt and Blot point and laugh).*

FADE TO BLACKOUT

OPEN ON FULL SET AS MUSIC STARTS

Scene 10

Full set

The Palace of the Emperor of Morocco

(Opening Harem type dance. Girls in eastern costumes dress the stage. Vizier enters at end of dance. He claps his hands and they all exit. Gong sounds. There is a throne on stage) (52)

Vizier Bring on the Egyptian Princess. *(Enter Jack and Fitz carrying Dame in a litter. They are all dressed in eastern harem style. Dame is veiled from eyes down)*

Audience BONZO

Jack Thanks kids. Good dog. He's panting a bit 'cause it's hot in Morocco.

Dame Fool.

Vizier Do my eyes deceive me? Can this be the fair, young Princess from sunny Egypt, sent to delight my master?

Jack No, it's Jordan's cousin from wet and windy West Ham and she doesn't mind who she delights.

Vizier I take your hand, I take your arm, I take your shoulder.

Dame Are you going to stop there? You've left all the best bits.

Vizier *(Pulls off her veil)* Ahhh! *(Screams and replaces it)* I am deceived! Intruders! Guards, guards! *(Exits)*

Jack Why are you dressed to deceive?

Dame It was either this or the naked truth.

Jack I love the truth.

Dame Well, you'll have to put up with being deceived. I'm alright though. I'm wearing my Harvest Festival bra.

Jack Your harvest festival bra?

Dame All is safely gathered in.

Fitz Look you two, there's no time to waste. The others are safe. I'll look for them. You hide. *(Exit Fitz)*

Jack I'm not leaving BONZO here. *(Picks up dog)*

Dame Stupid. It's not a proper dog.

- Jack It is. It will obey my every command. It won't take any notice of you. I'll show you. (*Puts dog down*) Now tell BONZO to do something.
- Dame Idiot. (*Humouring him – to dog*) Come! Come! (*Dog of course does not move*)
- Jack Told you.
- Dame Well, he won't do what you say either.
- Jack He will. Watch. (*Builds this up*). Stay! (*Dog obviously does not move*) There you are.
- Vizier (*Off stage*) Guards, guards. (*Dame and Jack exit taking dog. Enter Vizier with guards*) The birds have flown. Search for them. (*Exit guards. Gong sounds*) (53) The highest of the high, Allah's gift to our grateful people, Saludin Emperor of Morocco. (*Gong sounds, fanfare, Emperor, escort, dancers etc. enter, Vizier bows, Emperor sits on throne*) Your Majesty is not in a good humour.
- Emperor No I am not. All my problems remain unsolved as long as my kingdom is plagued with these accursed rats.
- Vizier Sire, all possible measures have been taken.
- Emperor It is not enough. Wherever I set foot there are rats steadily eating away our food supplies. Only this morning I put down a half pomegranate on the table and the next moment it had been seized and eaten by a rat.
- Vizier We've tried everything.
- Emperor Have you consulted the soothsayer?
- Vizier We even found a rat in the soothsayer's beard.
- Emperor Well, Grand Vizier, unless something is done, you and the other bunglers will all lose their heads. What other news have you?
- Vizier Some news sire, which should put you in a better humour.
- Emperor How so, Grand Vizier?
- Vizier The real Egyptian Princess has arrived.
- Emperor Indeed. The long awaited gift from my eastern cousin. And - ?
- Vizier All you could desire, my lord. Her beauty will astound you, her youthfulness delight you. Surrounded as you are, sire, by beauty, this flower of the mountains will captivate you. And she is yours for the taking.
- Emperor And is there anything else for the taking?
- Vizier She brings with her a cedar wood chest containing gold and precious stones as a small token of your cousin's esteem.

- Emperor Good. Summon her. (*Enter escort with cedar wood chest and litter which now has curtains drawn. Place litter centrally to suitable music, gong etc. Princess alights from litter disclosing herself a little at a time, e.g. put out leg, then an arm etc. She stands motionless facing front.*) Let us feast our eyes on her beauty. (*Two guards move forward. She pushes them back. She drops her veil and then takes off her cloak which she throws at guard. She then takes off bolero and drops it disdainfully at feet of guard. She then performs a dance to highlight her wild beauty and spirit. Finishing prostrate at the Emperors feet.*) (54)
- Emperor She pleases me well, she has spirit. She has beauty. These are treasures. Now let me see the treasures in yonder cedarwood chest. (*Two guards lift lid of chest and out jump two kiddies as rats. General pandemonium and two rats exit*) The rats. They are everywhere, and still nothing is done. Grand Vizier, someone shall pay for this. (*Disturbance off stage. Enter soldier*)
- Soldier Sire, some strangers have been caught in the palace grounds.
- Emperor You know the punishment, Grand Vizier. Off with their heads. (*Still in rage*).
- Vizier Perhaps you should first see the prisoners Sire.
- Emperor Very well then. Bring them before me. (*Word of command from soldier. Soldiers push Dick, Alice, Fitz and Captain*)
- Vizier Humble yourself before the highest Saludin, Emperor of Morocco. (*They all bow*)
- Emperor Your crime is trespass. The penalty is death.
- Dick But Sire, we are strangers and do not know the laws of your land.
- Emperor Enough. It is written. Take them away Grand Vizier.
- Princess Have mercy my lord. Your wisdom is as endless as the sands of time, yet perhaps you do not know what it is to be a stranger in a foreign land. I know this loneliness and have shown my trust in you ó can you not show mercy to these strangers?
- Emperor Trust and mercy are strangers to me, and yet your eloquence Princess, almost convinces me. But no one receives a favour from Saludin without a favour being exacted in return. What have you to give? What can you offer to prove your friendship?
- Dick What can we offer to one who has so much, other than friendship itself.
- Emperor You must do better than that, stranger.
- Princess Think again Sire, search your heart. (*Sudden panic as a group of rats run across stage in amongst soldiers*)
- All The rats, the rats. (*ad lib*)
- Emperor (*Down on knees*) A thousand curses. Allah! Can no one rid me of this plague of rats?

- Dick *(During the silence)* I can.
- Emperor Who said that?
- Dick Give me fifty men to search the shore and I will rid you of the rats.
- Emperor The rats are not on the shore.
- Dick Although I have already searched I believe that somewhere we will find Tommy my cat.
- Vizier *(Emperor does not understand and looks at Vizier)* Your cat, what is that?
- Dick He's a black, four-legged animal about so big and the most faithful friend I have. But, more importantly than that he's a killer of rats.
- Emperor *(After a moment)* I'll give you a chance. Free me of the rats and freedom is yours. Grand Vizier, organise the search.
- Vizier One moment Sire, my eyes surely do not deceive me. Two more strangers are approaching with this strange animal they call a cat. *(Enter Clot and Blot followed by Tommy)*
- Clot We were on the shore feeling all washed up and who should we bump into but Tommy.
- Blot And here he is, so we're all safe and sound.
- Dick *(To Clot and Blot)* For the moment. *(To Emperor)* We're in luck, Sire, this is my cat.
- Emperor Enough of this nonsense. You try to fool me. This animal is not much bigger than one of the many rats which plague my kingdom. The sentence stands.
- Dick Your majesty, give Tommy a chance and the rats will be no more.
- Emperor Yonder animal has no chance against the rats. Let the execution of the infidels proceed.
- Dick No, listen to me, you may be the Emperor, but surely an Emperor should keep his word. You promised to let Tommy have a chance of killing the rats. And you're going to keep your word or I'll know the reason why.
- Emperor *(Hesitates)* Very well, but remember, your lives hinge on his success.
- Guard *(Enter guard)* Your Majesty, the rats are here again. They are overrunning the palace itself. *(Enter Kiddies as rats. Music for entrance of rats, chase and fight)* (55)

Scene 11

Drop Cloth

Back Home Outside the Guildhall

Jack *(Enter Dame to play-on music, also Jack. They are in topical or fashionable (57) outfits with appropriate opening lines)* I say, have you heard? Dick Whittington's been knighted. Sir Richard Whittington and he's going to be made Lord Mayor of London.

Dame I know, I've been asked to appear in the Lord Mayor's Show.

Jack Don't tell me you're pulling the coach.

Dame Ye ó no. I'm going to sing at the banquet.

Jack So am I.

Dame I'm going to sing a new song.

Jack Won't you catch cold?

Dame How do you mean?

Jack Singing a nude song.

Dame A new song. It's a song about rhubarb.

Jack Rhubarb?

Dame Yes, I'm very fond of it you know. I grow a lot of it in my garden. I've won a lot of prizes with it.

Jack What do you put on your rhubarb?

Dame Best horse manure.

Jack I put custard on mine. Nothing I like better but in *(local town)* they don't call it rhubarb, they call it rubub.

Dame Well whatever they call it, let's sing about it. *(Audience chorus song 'Rubub' - (58) see writers)*

(Look for point in singing for – 'This audience sings out of tune. Not to worry, that's how the band plays)

FADE TO BLACKOUT

Scene 12

Full stage

Sir Richard Whittington's Reception*(Finale – Walk down)*

(59)

(Tag Lines)

Dame Many dangers have been faced.

Jack Tempest, storm , King Rat

Alice But boldness and courage aided both ó

Dick Dick Whittington and his cat.

(Final number)

(60)

HOUSE CURTAIN

(Play out)

(61)

Appendix A**DESCRIPTION OF CHARACTERS****IMMORTALS**

Fairy Moonbeam	Traditional fairy, could be in ballet or given a musical number if singer
King Rat	Dastardly wicked in an energetic way, with ability to work the audience

MORTALS

Dick Whittington	Principal Boy (could be male if preferred), pop singer with dancing
Tommy the Cat	One smallish person in skin. Must be played over the top
Alderman Fitzwarren	Benevolent character who works partly with comedy team
Alice Fitzwarren	Principal Girl, pop singer and dancer
Idle Jack	Leading personality comic
Daphne Dumpling	Traditional bossy dame who feeds comic
Bertie Blot)	Supporting comedy duo not villains but very much part of the comedy team
)	
Clarrie Clot)	
Captain	Good humoured straight character support who occasionally Is involved in comedy team
Voice of Parrot	Speaks off-stage in squawking tones
Emperor of Morocco	Dignified harassed pressurised character
Grand Vizier	A minion but powerful in his own right
Princess of Egypt	Seductive eastern dancer with ability to give some lines
Octopus	Mimes in skin
Important Note:	Pop singer means not necessarily a straight singer but certainly someone with an ability to put over a number

Appendix B**“DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT”****Production Notes (Scene by scene in addition to those in script)**

- Scene 1** Sound effects (SFX) for Jack fainting quick drum roll.
For Bonzo business Jack crosses to pat dog each time.
Towns routine involves real pace as different props brought on and taken off.
- Cat should be played on all fours but with hind legs kept as straight as possible. Cat rarely stands on hind legs solely. Exceptions are in milk routine as victorious boxer and on trio's exit. Milk saucer should be tin plate (noisier).
- Blot and Clot need SFX for entrance and walks (coconut blocks) and startled jumps (rim shots).
- Kiddies lines should be cheeky and clear with entrances and exits smart.
- Counting business on pages 16 and 17 should match the coins and apples visually with the counted numbers.
- Scene 3** SFX to cover dusting counter (rimshots)
SFX to cover Cat hitting Dame (big drum)
SFX to cover sparring (drum rolls)
SFX to cover Clot's exit (coconut block)
SFX to cover Rat's entrance and exit (cymbal and scatter crash)
SFX to cover Jack's steps to steal money (coconut block)
Flash box for Rat's entrance should be well downstage of counter for safety.
- Scene 5** Bow of ship ideally depicted on backcloth. Practical gangway leading off completes the illusion of dockside.
- Play-on music for Dame and Jack benefits from over-the-top rhythmic drum rolls.
- Jack shifts eyepatch around face to SFX (rimshot each time)
- Jack's cannon ball is a grey-painted child's football.
- Flash box well downstage of cannon for safety. Audible explosion covered by offstage gunshot.
- Tattered version of Jack's uniform by way of quick change for re-entrance. Emergence of Dame is accomplished by skirt off or disarranged and hat askew.
- Scene 6A** When Blot and Clot kidnap Cat SFX (drum rolls)
- Dick remains on, asleep, throughout ballet in Scene 6B
- Scene 7** Moving barrels should be lightweight frame with internal carrying handles and covered in canvas painted appropriately.

Parrot's voice comes over best if amplified. Flash should be well downstage of cage for safety. Bang can be offstage gunshot.

Page 48 water should be thrown well clear of any stage lighting.

SFX of strong winds helpful to storm effect.

Sliding door upstage, if practicable, is for Rat to emerge from. He then shouts his evil message from bridge steps.

Scene 8 If raft is on rockers, comics can work it with transfer of weight from one side to the other.

Octopus wears green tights and skirt-like head and body. Only 4 legs are worked by occupant's arms and legs. Other 4 are wired to stick out at reasonable angle.

Items eaten by Octopus are palmed and handed to stage crew each exit. No actual liquid is used in this scene. Drinks are mimed.

Scene 10 Litter is like a sedan chair with two long poles horizontally through (for carrying). Framework is curtained with lace.

Cedarwood chest is quite separate from litter. Each needs two carriers.

Rats are kiddies in grey, black or brown tight fitting costumes (no bare feet or hands) and balaclava headpieces of same colour. Rats half run on all fours and half scamper for speed.

Soldiers are dressed eastern pantaloon style with turbans.

At end of cat/rats fight, no bodies left on stage. Chase all rats off. At end of fight with King Rat, his body is dragged off.