

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

Abbreviation

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 see you know what.

Jack Yes, I know what see 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 didnø. 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 doesnø 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! í í (*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.