

DICK WHITTINGTON

A PANTOMIME BY

STEPHEN DUCKHAM

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DICK WHITTINGTON

CAST

RATFACE . KING OF THE RATS
 FAIRY BOW-BELLS
 ALDERMAN FITZWARREN
 IDLE JACK
 DICK WHITTINGTON
 TOMMY THE CAT
 ALICE FITZWARREN (Fitzwarren's daughter)
 SARAH SUET
 CAPTAIN COD
 SKATE THE MATE
 THE SULTAN OF MOROCCO WAZIR

CHORUS OF LONDONERS, SAILORS AND LADIES OF THE SULTANS HAREM.
 CHILDRENS CHORUS OF RATS

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

SCENE 1 THE SEWERS OF LONDON
 SCENE 2 WAPPING DOCKS
 SCENE 3 BEHIND FITZWARREN'S STORE
 SCENE 4 FITZWARREN'S STORE
 SCENE 5 BEHIND FITZWARREN'S STORE
 SCENE 6 HIGHGATE HILL (Dick's Dream)

ACT TWO

SCENE 1 WAPPING DOCKS
 SCENE 2 THE CARGO HOLD OF THE SAUCY SUE
 SCENE 3 ON DECK
 SCENE 4 DOWN BELOW
 SCENE 5 THE SHORES OF MOROCCO
 SCENE 6 THE SULTAN'S PALACE
 SCENE 7 BACK HOME
 SCENE 8 THE MANSION HOUSE

Notes on the production of DICK WHITTINGTON

The scenery can be as elaborate or as simple as your company can manage. The locations cover a number of areas, so I have given details of how to achieve the best results.

ACT 1

- SCENE 1 Black front tabs.
 SCENE 2 Use a low rostrum across the back of the stage to give the effect of a quay. Fitzwarrens Store is a set of flats with a practical door to stage left and another shop or building is stage right. The scene can be backed by the cyclorama.
 SCENE 3 & 5 Front Cloth
 SCENE 4 Cloth or curtain with a counter end on to the audience showing the safe. Shelves and display stands can be added as the space allows.
 SCENE 6 Again the low rostrum can be used with tree wings either side of the stage. A backcloth showing London in the distance or a cyclorama can be used.

ACT 2

- SCENE 1 The same as Act 1 Scene 2
 SCENE 2 Black tabs can be used or a front cloth.
 SCENE 3 The rostrum is covered with a ground row depicting the side of the ship. If possible a mast that can break into two pieces is to one side of the stage and a ships wheel on the other. Flats on either side show exterior parts of the ship and the cyclorama backs the scene.
 SCENE 4 2nd set of black tabs for U.V. scene
 SCENE 5 Front cloth.
 SCENE 6 A typical Eastern Palace. The rostrum can be left at the back and distant palm trees can be seen. The cyclorama can be used to back this scene.
 SCENE 7 Repeat Act 1 Scene 3 front cloth.
 SCENE 8 Backcloth depicting the Mansion House with flats right and left showing heraldic banners with grand designs.

CHARACTERS

All fairly straightforward pantomime characters. The FAIRY and RATFACE both have East End accents. A boy or girl can play DICK. SARAH should be the typical panto Dame with outrageous costumes and as many changes as the wardrobe can manage! COD and SKATE need to be contrasting characters with SKATE being the slightly dim witted one. The WAZIR can be a man or woman and a more topical name can be introduced if the director so wishes.

The placing of musical numbers and who sings them is suggested in the script, but it is up to the director to decide what to use. A word of advice: Pantomime audiences . particularly the younger members . like the story to keep moving, so don't make the musical sequences too long, especially ballads.

I hope you enjoy doing this version of Dick Whittington and have great success with your production.

Stephen Duckham

ACT ONE
SCENE 1 THE SEWERS OF LONDON

[After the Overture, the music becomes minor key and rather sinister. In the distance the sound of dripping of water can be heard. The light picks out RATFACE, King of the rats. Around his neck is a medallion showing the self-imposed importance of his position. He is nibbling on some rotting fruit. Suddenly he sees the audience.]

RAT *[Harshly.]* What are you doing down here? This is my home and you're trespassing. No one is supposed to be down here except rats. And I'm Ratface, King of the rats! I don't like humans and I especially don't like children. Nasty, noisy creatures. And you don't like rats, do you? No! You think we're diseased; likely to give everyone the plague. That's why we have to hide away down here and eat your left over food. Well I'm going to show you a thing or two. I'm going to make you stuck up people of London realise you can't treat us rats this way. My army is growing every day and very soon we'll rise up and take over the whole town. I hear they're looking for a new Lord Mayor. I think I would fill that position admirably. I can just see myself in the Mansion House giving out the orders while you grovel at my feet for a change. *[HE looks off.]* Ah, here come my faithful rattlings with some fresh supplies. *[Children enter as Rats. They carry scraps of food.]* Well done! What a lot you've got. *[Looking closely at some food.]* Ah, I see you've been raiding Alderman Fitzwarren's stores again. Good. I hate that man. Always setting traps and putting down poison. One of these days I'm going to teach him a thing or two, you just see if I don't.

[FAIRY BOW-BELLS enters right. SHE is a very 'with it' FAIRY, not at all like the usual ones and possibly with an 'East End' accent.]

FAIRY Oh yes! And what sort of things are you going to teach him?

RAT Oh no. Fairy Bow-Bells! Eavesdropping as usual. What brings you down here? Slumming it aren't you?

FAIRY Too right I am and I've broken a fingernail. *[SHE takes out a file and starts to work on the finger.]*

RAT Get back to swinging in your bell tower where you belong.

FAIRY And when I'm in my tower I can see all of London. I can also see what you and your rabble of an army are up to.

RAT I don't know what you're talking about.

FAIRY Stealing food and striking fear in the hearts of the good people of this town.

RAT Good people? For years I've had to fight to survive. Watching out for traps; hiring food tasters to make sure nothing is poisoned. *[The other rats look at him, then at the food and throw down anything they are eating.]*

- FAIRY You're no one to blame but yourselves. Living like this in all this filth. Ugh! One of these days you'll start a plague.
- RAT Yes, a plague on all your houses then the mighty rat population will take its rightful place in the world - *[All the rats agree.]*. and we'll show that pompous Alderman Fitzwarren he can't treat us like vermin any more.
- FAIRY Not if I've got anything to do with it, you won't. I am guardian to all the people born within the sound of bow bells and I'll make sure they won't come to any harm.
- RAT Oh yes? You and whose army? *[ALL the rats laugh.]*
- FAIRY You may laugh all you like, but I have someone in mind who will be my champion and fight to preserve the good name of London Town.
- RAT Oh I've heard enough of this codswallop! Come on lads, let's go and see what other rich pickings we can find. And you . . . if I catch you down here again I'll set all the rats in London onto you, nibbling and gnawing until you're just a pile of fairy dust. *[To the audience.]* And you can clear out as well. *[To boos from the audience, HE exits left, followed by the rats.]*
- FAIRY Don't let him bother you. I've got someone who will be a perfect adversary for him and his gang. On the road to London is a young man . . . and a right gorgeous hunk he is as well - who is in search of his fortune. Well, fame and fortune he will find, but before then many adventures lie in his way. *[SHE looks off stage.]* Ah, I see he is approaching the outskirts of the town. I must get back to my tower and keep a watchful eye on all that he does. His first stop will be the docks at Wapping. Ooh I must go and do something with my hair. I'll see you later on.

[SHE exits right and the lights come up on

SCENE 2 WAPPING DOCKS

[On the left side of the stage is the exterior to Alderman Fitzwarren's store. On the right side is another building and across the back is the quayside with a set of stone steps down to stage level. A low wall backs the quayside and on it is a lifebelt with line attached. Up stage of Fitzwarren's store is an old dustbin. As the scene opens the CHORUS as citizens of London is on.]

CHORUS NUMBER

[At the end of the number, ALDERMAN FITZWARREN enters from his store. HE carries a sign that reads "Assistant Required".]

- F/WARREN Good morning everyone.
- ALL Good morning Alderman Fitzwarren.

- F/WARREN It's a fine morning.
- 1st MAN It is that, sir.
- F/WARREN I shall be opening the store in a moment and then you can all come in and buy lots of things from me!
- 1st GIRL Have you got anything new, or the same old things you've been selling for years?
- F/WARREN The same old things?? *[In a posh voice.]* I'd have you know this is a high-class *hestablishment* with only the finest quality goods. We're a cut above - *[Local clothes store name.]* - you know.
- 2nd GIRL Yes, and so are your prices.
- F/WARREN If you want the best I'm afraid you have to pay for it. But ladies, my ship, the Saucy Sue, is docking today with all sorts of fabulous new things from the Orient. Laces, silks and colourful fabrics to make into the *chicest* of gowns. Also delicious spices full of aromatic flavours to enhance your culinary concoctions.
- 2nd MAN Anything new in the men's department?
- F/WARREN Oh yes, I've ordered a new line in gentlemen's underwear made by Tupperware. They're not particularly comfortable, but they do keep what you've got fresh!
- 3rd MAN Sounds just what I need.
- F/WARREN So I've heard. And look . *[HE holds up the sign.]* . to cope with the expected extra demand I'm advertising for a new assistant. *[HE sticks the sign on the shop window.]* And I hope whoever I get is more reliable than the one I've already got. Has anyone seen that Idle Jack anywhere? *[ALL shake their heads and so "No".]* Well give him a shout will you. He's got to be around here somewhere. *[ALL call "Idle Jack". FITZWARREN speaks to the audience.]* Will you help us? *[ALL encourage the audience to call "Idle Jack". They look off left.]* He's not down there. Let's try over here. *[ALL cross to look off right and call again. JACK enters left and mimes "Ssh" to the audience. HE crosses to the group.]* He's not down there either. What about up here? *[HE points up right and they all cross and call again.]*
- JACK *[Standing behind FITZWARREN and tapping him on the shoulder.]*
Who are you looking for?
- F/WARREN That good for nothing lazy layabout, Idle Jack. You haven't seen him, have you Jack? *[HE realises who he is talking to.]* Jack!! Why you *õ õ* What are you messing about at? The shop should have been open ten minutes ago.
- JACK Ah well you see I've got a very good excuse for being late.
- F/WARREN I don't want to hear your excuses. I'm fed up with listening to your excuses. *[Bearing down on him as he accentuates his words spitting*

in JACK'S face.] You're perpetually late, you're permanently lazy, you purport to be a person from whom people may purchase a plethora of possessions to make me a profit, but all you do is potter around procrastinating!

- JACK They can't touch you for it, can they?
- F/WARREN My ship is due to dock any minute. If that shop isn't open and doing a roaring trade by the time I get back, I'll be advertising two vacancies. *[HE crosses up stage and exits.]*
- JACK I think he's a bit upset.
- 1st GIRL Where have you been Jack?
- JACK Well you see, I was watching this Animal Rescue programme on the television and there was this furry little rabbit that was in need of a good home. I've always wanted a rabbit so I ran down to the animal centre this morning to see him. Well, I looked into his big round eyes
ō ō
- 1st MAN And he looked into your big round eyes.
- JACK And then I looked at his cute little nose ō ō
- 2nd GIRL And he looked at your cute little nose.
- JACK And then I looked at his big floppy ears ō ō
- 2nd MAN And he looked at your ō ō ō ō ō
- JACK All right, all right! Anyway, I knew he was destined to live with me, so I've adopted him. Would you like to see him?
- ALL Oh yes.
- JACK Just a minute. *[HE exits left and returns with a box that looks like a small rabbit hutch. On the top of the hutch is an opening and a light.]* Here he is. I'll just put the hutch down over here. *[HE crosses down right and puts the hutch on a special stand. There must be an electric lead that JACK can plug into so the light can be operated from off stage. HE opens the up stage end of the hutch and gets the rabbit out. It is a glove puppet, so JACK folds his arms to operate it.]* There.
- 3rd GIRL *[Stroking the rabbit.]* Oh Jack. So cute.
- JACK *[Misunderstanding.]* Thank you very much. You're not so bad yourself.
- 3rd MAN *[Also stroking the rabbit.]* Ow! He's bitten me.
- JACK Oh that means he's hungry! They told me at the animal centre that he needs feeding an awful lot. But he's very intelligent. Whenever he's hungry he presses a button in his hutch and that light flashes. Then I know it's time for a feed.

- 1st MAN Really?
- JACK Yes. Look, I'll show you. *[HE puts the rabbit back in the hutch. The light flashes and JACK takes out a lettuce leaf and puts it through the opening on the top.]* There.
- 1st GIRL That's amazing. But what happens if he's hungry and you're not around to feed him?
- JACK Oh I never thought of that. I need someone to watch the hutch and call me if the light flashes. *[Looking at the audience.]* Now I wonder who could do that. *[To people in the audience.]* Could you do it sir? Or you madam? Or what about you at the back? I know. I've just had a marvellous idea. Why don't you all do it? *[Audience reaction.]* Every time you see the light flash just call out . %Jack, feed the rabbit!+and I'll come running. Would you do that? *[Audience reacts.]* Great! Thank you very much. *[HE starts to exit.]*
- 2nd MAN Jack, I think you've forgotten something.
- JACK What?
- 3rd MAN They ought to have a practice.
- JACK A practice? You don't need a practice do you? You had one last year . and the year before that.
- 2nd GIRL It might be worth it. Just to be on the safe side.
- JACK Oh all right then. Just to be on the safe side. *[To the audience.]* Remember when you see the light flash call out %Jack, feed the rabbit+. *[HE exits. The light flashes. Audience calls. HE enters.]* Well that wasn't bad, but if I'm a long way away I won't hear you and the poor thing will starve. Let's have another go. *[HE exits. Light flashes. JACK enters with a lettuce leaf and feeds the rabbit.]* That was much better.
- 3rd GIRL You've always loved animals, haven't you Jack?
- JACK Yes. I talk to them and you know, sometimes I think they understand me.
- SONG . JACK AND CHORUS
- [At the end of the song Jack crosses towards the shop.]*
- JACK I'd better open the shop before Alderman Fitzwarren gets back. See you all.
- ALL Bye Jack. *[JACK exits into the shop. DICK WHITTINGTON enters up left with his stick and bundle over his shoulder. HE looks around and crosses down stage.]*
- DICK London! At last! I've been walking for days from my home in Gloucestershire and now I'm finally here. I've heard the streets are

paved with gold and so I've come to make my fortune. *[To one of the CHORUS MEN.]* Excuse me sir, but where can I find the streets that are paved with gold?

- MAN I don't know, but when you've found them let me know. *[HE laughs and exits with some other member of the chorus.]*
- DICK *[To one of the GIRLS.]* Miss, could you tell me where the streets of gold are?
- GIRL Streets of gold? Here in London? Who's been telling you tall stories like that?
- DICK It's what I heard back home in Gloucestershire.
- GIRL If they're all as simple as you are, I think I'd give that part of the country a miss. *[The rest laugh and all exit.]*
- DICK Oh dear. I have been a fool. I was so determined to make my fortune I believed everything people told me. Now here I am - alone and friendless in this big city without even enough money to buy a decent meal. *[There is a noise from the dustbin and the lid flies off.]* What on earth is going on? *[TOMMY the cat appears behind the bin and puts his head in searching for some food.]* Hello there. Are you hungry too? *[TOMMY looks at him and nods.]* And what sort of delicacy are you hoping to find in there? *[TOMMY meows "Rats".]* Hats? I don't think they'd be very tasty! *[TOMMY meows "Rats" again.]* Oh rats! Well rather you than me. *[TOMMY can't find any rats and crosses down to DICK.]* No luck, hey? *[TOMMY rubs against DICK'S legs.]* I say, you are a friendly fellow. In fact you're the first friendly face I've seen since arriving here. My names Dick . Dick Whittington. Now let me guess what yours is. *[HE thinks.]* Tiddles? *[TOMMY looks at him slightly disgusted.]* No? How about Sylvester? *[TOMMY rolls about laughing.]* You don't think much of that either? I know. Montmorency! *[TOMMY folds his arms and taps his foot in disgust.]* Oh I give up. *[TOMMY attracts his attention and starts to mime as in charades. First he taps the top of his head.]* Name. Yes? *[Now TOMMY holds up one paw.]* One word. *[TOMMY indicated his ear.]* Sounds like? *[TOMMY now thinks then walks around like a woman.]* Girl? Woman? *[TOMMY nods and then mimes holding and rocking a baby.]* Woman with a baby? Mommy? *[TOMMY nods vigorously and indicates his ear again.]* Sounds like mommy? Donny? Ronnie? *[TOMMY is shaking his head.]* Connie? *[TOMMY shoots him a look.]* Sorry! I know. Tommy? *[TOMMY nods happily.]* Well I'm very pleased to meet you, Tommy. *[HE and TOMMY shake hands.]* At least I've found a friend. Now all I need is a job. *[TOMMY has seen the vacancy notice and draws DICK'S attention to it.]* I say, what a stroke of luck. *[HE reads the notice.]* Assistant Required. Must be of good character. Honest, trustworthy and not afraid of hard work. Well, I think I fit the bill, don't you Tommy? *[TOMMY nods his head.]* I wonder who I have to see about the job. *[HE looks at the sign above the shop.]* Alderman Fitzwarren. Oh well, here goes. *[TOMMY stays down right as DICK crosses to the door. HE is just about to open it when it opens and ALICE FITZWARREN enters.]* Oh!

- ALICE Hello. Can I help you?
- DICK *[Struck by how pretty she is HE becomes tongue tied.]* I . er . I . no thank you. *[HE dashes down right where TOMMY stops him and pushes him back towards ALICE.]* Well that is . I was wondering about the vacancy for an assistant.
- ALICE Oh, you'll have to speak to my father about that. He'll be here shortly.
- DICK You're the Alderman's daughter?
- ALICE Yes. My name is Alice Fitzwarren. And you are?
- DICK *[Very smitten.]* Yes I am. Very much.
- ALICE What?
- DICK *[Snapping out of it.]* Er, I'm Dick. Dick Whittington newly arrived from Gloucestershire.
- ALICE Gloucestershire? That's a very long way.
- DICK I came here ready to make my fortune thinking the streets were paved with gold. But they are cobblestones, just like back home.
- ALICE So that's why you're looking for a job?
- DICK Yes. I've not a penny to my name and nowhere to stay. *[TOMMY nudges DICK.]* Oh and nowhere for my cat either.
- ALICE Oh you've got a cat. Hello there, aren't you a handsome creature? *[TOMMY preens.]* What's your name?
- DICK He's called Tommy.
- ALICE Well I'm very pleased to meet you both.
- DICK And we're very pleased to meet you. *[THEY are staring at each other. TOMMY nudges DICK who comes out of his 'trance'.]* Now all we need is a place to stay.
- ALICE Oh that's not a problem. Accommodation goes with the job.
- DICK But I haven't got it yet.
- ALICE I'm sure I'll be able to persuade father to take you on. You look trustworthy and you're not afraid of hard work, are you?
- DICK Oh no.
- ALICE Then just leave it to me.
- DICK Things are really starting to look up. I've got a new pet, a new friend and hopefully somewhere to live and work. Coming to London may not have been such a bad idea after all.

DUET - DICK AND ALICE

[After the number they exit into Fitzwarren's store followed by TOMMY. There is a lot of noise off stage. Whistles and cheering as the CHORUS rush on stage to watch the arrival of the 'Saucy Sue'. FITZWARREN hurries on from up stage.]

F/WARREN She's here. My ship has finally arrived. *[The 'Saucy Sue' pulls into the dock. The figurehead on the front of the ship is so designed that SARAH (the cook) has her head showing but the rest of her body hidden. She looks like Britannia. The CHORUS cheer as the ship pulls in.]* Wait until you see the wonderful things that will be on display in my store.

SARAH Help someone! Get me down from here.

1st MAN It's Sarah, your cook Alderman Fitzwarren.

F/WARREN Sarah! What on earth are you doing up there?

SARAH A scene from Titanic! What does it look like? *[SHE is helped down onto the stage. HER outfit consists of a top, a hooped skirt with just the frame and a pair of multicoloured bloomers. SHE is in a very agitated state staggering about.]* Oh just a minute I'm trying to find my land legs. *[SHE stands still and feels down to her legs.]* One. Two. At least they're still there. *[HER legs buckle and SHE starts to stagger again. TWO MEN hold her up.]* Oh thank you boys. *[SHE looks at them.]* Oh, are you available all day? I think I may take some time to recover. *[The MEN let go of her quickly.]* Please yourselves!

F/WARREN But what has happened to you?

SARAH Oh it was terrible, terrible. I can't bring myself to tell you. *[ALL mutter "All right then" etc. and start to exit.]* But if you insist. You know I've been away visiting my sister in Penzance.

F/WARREN Yes.

SARAH Well the Saucy Sue got put in there to take on water, so I thought I'd hitch a ride back and take in some sea air. No sooner had we set sail than pirates attacked us. The notorious Pirates of Penzance!! They robbed us of everything.

F/WARREN Everything? Do you mean to say that all my cargo is gone?

SARAH Every last crate. They stole the lot.

F/WARREN Oh no! I'm ruined!

SARAH You're ruined? What about me?

F/WARREN What about you?

SARAH There I was, a defenceless young woman. *[Someone sniggers.]* I left alone with all those rough, cigarette smoking, rum drinking men. I fled

to my cabin with four of them after me. I locked myself in, ignoring them as they were beating on the door. In the end I had to relent and let them out! They took their fill of everything on board, tied me up there like some sort of plaything and left me to face the elements.

F/WARREN How did you get back here to port?

SARAH Well as luck would have it I remembered my survival training in the sea scouts. I knew all that dib, dib, dibbing would come in handy one day! I ripped off my skirt and used it as a sail. There was a good wind and I managed to navigate around the coastline and back home. *[ALL cheer.]* Oh, you're too kind!

F/WARREN What happened to the crew?

SARAH I expect they're having tea with King Neptune by now. They were all made to walk the plank!

F/WARREN This is terrible. All my new stock gone.

SARAH Well look on the bright side. At least you've come back, safe if not altogether sound, so you've still got someone to cook your meals.

F/WARREN If you've nothing to sell I won't have the money to buy food for you to cook! Oh we're all going to be paupers; thrown out onto the streets. *[ALICE enters followed by DICK.]*

ALICE Father, you've got some good news. You've found an assistant to help in the shop.

F/WARREN What shop? There isn't going to be any shop.

ALICE I don't understand.

SARAH It's true, Alice dear. Pirates have stolen all your father's new stock! I was lucky to escape with my life and a packet of liquorice allsorts I keep up my knicker leg.

ALICE But this is terrible.

DICK *[Stepping forward.]* Alice, I think I may have an idea.

F/WARREN Who's this?

DICK I am Dick Whittington, sir. I am newly arrived in London and would like to apply for the post of assistant in your emporium.

F/WARREN Didn't you just hear what I said? There isn't going to be an emporium to be an assistant in.

DICK If I may make a suggestion, sir.

F/WARREN I suggest you seek another place of employment.

ALICE Oh father, please listen to him.

- DICK Sir, Alice has been showing me around your shop and I notice you have a tremendous amount of stock.
- F/WARREN Old stock . yes.
- DICK Well why don't you have a grand sale and get rid of as much as you can?
- F/WARREN Sale? You mean reduce the prices?
- DICK Yes.
- F/WARREN But nobody around here does that.
- DICK Exactly. So you would have people flocking to your shop because of the lower prices. They would buy all your goods and then you would have the capital to buy new stock.
- F/WARREN Oh, it sounds a crazy idea. It'll never catch on!
- ALICE I think it's a splendid idea.
- SARAH So do I. People love a bargain you know.
- F/WARREN *[Looking from one to another.]* Well . I don't know. Still, I don't suppose we've got anything to lose. All right, I'll do it. *[To the CHORUS.]* Listen everyone. I have an important announcement to make. Starting today everything at Fitzwarren's superstore will have a ten percent
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- DICK *[Aside to FITZWARREN.]* Fifteen.
- F/WARREN *[Shooting him a look.]* ō ō fifteen percent reduction. *[Reaction from the CHORUS.]* Tell all your friends there will be bargains galore. Best goods at the best prices, all available at Fitzwarren's. *[The CHORUS exit talking excitedly.]* Well Master Whittington, your idea had better pay off or else your time here will be short lived.
- ALICE Does that mean he's got the job.
- F/WARREN Well I shall have to have someone to serve the hoards of people we're expecting.
- ALICE Oh Dick, that's wonderful. Thank you, father. *[SHE kisses FITZWARREN'S cheek.]*
- SARAH *[To DICK.]* I don't think we've been properly introduced. I'm Sarah Suet. Gourmet extraordinaire to our dear Alderman here.
- DICK I'm very pleased to meet you.
- SARAH You look as though you could do with a good meal.
- DICK I've been on the road for days with a very small ration of food.

- SARAH Then how about a nice dumpling stew. There's nothing like my dumplings to give a man an appetite, is there Alderman?
- F/WARREN *[Looking at her ample bosom.]* Er õ õ quite!
- DICK Well that's very kind of you. *[To FITZWARREN.]* Where shall I be staying, sir? Alice said there was accommodation with the job.
- F/WARREN Yes. It's not very palatial I'm afraid. There is a place behind the counter you can use as a bed. Not very comfortable though.
- DICK After sleeping in hedgerows and ditches for the past few weeks it'd be like staying at the finest hotel. *[TOMMY comes bounding on ending up by DICK.]* Tommy, there you are. Meet our new employer, Alderman Fitzwarren. *[TOMMY rubs up against FITZWARREN.]*
- F/WARREN What on earth õ õ get away from me, you mangy moggie! Does this flea-bitten creature belong to you?
- DICK Yes sir, Tommy is my cat.
- F/WARREN Well I'm sorry, but there is no place for him in my establishment. What will the customers think?
- DICK But sir, in your cellar you have grain and wheat, don't you?
- F/WARREN Yes.
- DICK And I bet you are plagued by rats nibbling away at your stock.
- F/WARREN Yes indeed. For years I've put traps and poison down, but it doesn't seem to do any good. They are getting smarter by the day.
- DICK Meet Tom, the world's greatest rat catcher. There's not a rat or mouse safe when he's around. *[TOMMY shows off his prowess in front of SARAH and FITZWARREN as DICK relates the following.]* He is a trained hunter. His powers of stealth are second to none and when he is on the scent nothing can stop him catching his quarry. Just watch the way he pounces on his prey and tears it apart in his bare claws.
- SARAH Oh I'm feeling quite faint!
- ALICE Don't you think Tommy would be a great asset to us father?
- F/WARREN I don't know. Is he any good?
- [A percussive sound is heard and a rat is seen running across the front of the stage. (It is pulled across on thin line.) TOMMY bounds after it and chases it off stage. He returns with it in his teeth and deposits it in the dustbin. ALL cheer.]*
- DICK Well done Tommy.
- F/WARREN Well I suppose it's worth a try. All right my feline friend, you're on a week's trial, but I'd better see a decline in the rat population pretty

soon. *[TOMMY “purrs” and rubs up against FITZWARREN.]* Yes, all right, all right. Now come along everyone, we’ve got a lot of work to do. Where’s Jack? Shirking his duties as usual no doubt.

[The light on the hutch starts to flash and the audience reacts. JACK comes running on with some lettuce and feeds the rabbit.]

- JACK Thank you very much.
- F/WARREN Jack, what are you doing?
- JACK Just feeding my rabbit.
- F/WARREN Rabbits. Cats! Anyone would think I was running a zoo! *[HE exits into the store.]*
- SARAH I’d better make a start on that meal I promised you and change into another dress. I’m beginning to feel a gale blowing round the trossocks! *[SHE also exits into the store.]*
- ALICE Jack, I’d like you to meet our new assistant Dick Whittington.
- DICK Pleased to meet you, Jack.
- JACK Likewise, I’m sure.
- ALICE And this is Tommy.
- JACK Hello puss. I hope you don’t chase rabbits? *[TOMMY shakes his head.]* That’s good, ‘cos I’m very fond of my rabbit, even if he is eating me out of house and home. *[The light flashes. Audience reacts.]* Oh dear, I think he wants desert! *[HE takes out a carrot and puts it in the hutch. FITZWARREN appears at the door.]*
- F/WARREN If you lot don’t mind I would like to get this sale started sometime today.
- [ALL say “coming” etc. and exit into the store. The lights dim and RAT enters down left.]*
- RAT What’s this I see, Fitzwarren taking on another assistant? And a cat! I expect you think that will put paid to all my plans. Well nothing of the kind. My army of rats grows bigger every day and no amount of cats can stop me taking over London and becoming the new Lord Mayor! Oh what a great day that will be. All the people having to do what I want them to do. Taking orders from me. Oh what a turn-a-bout. King Rat the greatest creature alive. *[FAIRY enters.]*
- FAIRY What a lot of hot air. You should do well in politics!
- RAT You can sneer all you like, but remember I have my army backing me. What have you got? Just a few old bells ringing out what little cheer they can.
- FAIRY That’s what you think. How do you know there isn’t someone ready to take you on? Someone who will keep this city of ours free from the

- likes of you. Someone destined to be the rightful Lord Mayor of London not once but three times?
- RAT Who is this impostor?
- FAIRY Wouldn't you like to know? One thing you can be sure of, he isn't far away.
- RAT Then I shall tear him limb from limb. Nobody can get the better of me.
- FAIRY Just watch your back King Rat and remember - deeds are always stronger than words! *[SHE exits.]*
- RAT She's bluffing. Trying to weaken my resolve. *[HE thinks for a moment.]* On the other hand, if she has got someone as an ally who could prove to be a minor irritation I'd better watch out. And I bet it is someone connected with old Fitzwarren. As an Alderman he has a say in who the next Mayor will be. I shall have to be extra vigilant if I'm to stay one step ahead of that meddling Fairy Bow-Bells! *[HE exits. There is a commotion off stage CAPTAIN COD is heard shouting.]*
- COD Be careful. You're going to hit the dock. Hard to starboard, hard to starboard. Trim the main sail. Batten down the hatches! Ohhhh, shiver me timbers!! *[There is a loud crash and splintering of wood.]* Man overboard! *[CAPTAIN COD is seen pulling himself over the dockside up centre. HE shouts down to someone.]* You idiot! Here, grab hold of this. *[HE throws a lifebelt over the dock and holds onto the end of the line.]* Put it around you and I'd pull you up. *[HE backs down stage pulling the line.]* Strewth! You're heavy. *[HE puts the line over his shoulder and turns to face down stage. SKATE THE MATE enters up right on the dock. He has a mouthful of water. HE crosses down to the side of COD.]* Are you nearly there? *[SKATE nods his head. COD does a double take and turns to look up stage. A shark's head appears with the life belt in its jaws. COD yelps and lets go of the line. The shark disappears and COD falls over.]* What are you playing at? *[SKATE shrugs. COD stands.]* Don't just stand there you gormless streak. Spit it out. *[And SKATE does, right in COD'S face.]* Ooh, I'd have you hanging from the yardarm for this.
- SKATE We haven't got a yardarm.
- COD And thanks to your inadequacies in the steering department, we haven't got a boat.
- SKATE It's not my fault. I told you we needed a rudder.
- COD When I took you on you told me you had years of sailing experience.
- SKATE I have.
- COD What on?
- SKATE The boating lake! *[Shouts.]* Come in number five!
- COD Now thanks to you we're a Captain and Mate with no boat.

SKATE Someone is bound to want a crew. What about that boat. *[Points to the Saucy Sue.]* Maybe they're in need of some extra hands.

COD Doesn't seem to be anyone on board. *[They move up stage. The light on the hutch flashes. Audience reacts. JACK runs on and feeds the rabbit.]*

JACK *[To audience.]* Thank you very much.

COD Ahoy there!

JACK *[Giving COD a strange look.]* Of course I'm a boy.

COD *[Turning back to JACK.]* No, ahoy. It's an old nautical term for hailing another vessel.

JACK Oh, I see. Ahoy.

COD Now then me hearty, are you a seafaring man?

JACK Oh no, I get queasy just taking a bath.

COD Then you won't know who the owner is of this fine ship.

JACK Oh yes, it's my boss, Alderman Fitzwarren.

SKATE Alderman? Is he important then?

JACK I'd say. This is his shop.

COD And would you know if he is in need of a couple of experienced hands for his next voyage?

JACK He's in need of an entire crew.

SKATE Why, what happened to the last lot?

JACK They were attacked by pirates and all made to walk the plank.

SKATE Pirates? That's it. I'm off back to the boating lake. *[HE turns to go but COD grabs him by the scruff of the neck and drags him back.]*

COD Oh pirates are not a worry, not to an old sea captain of my standing.

JACK Are you a captain?

COD Captain Cod at your service. And this is Skate, the mate.

SKATE Soon to be the late mate!

COD *[Aside to SKATE.]* Be quiet. This is our chance to be masters of our own ship and sail the world. *[To JACK.]* My good man, is Alderman Fitzwarren at home?

JACK Yes, he's preparing for a big sale.

COD Is that the fore sail or aft sail?

JACK Eh?

COD Or is it his main sail?

JACK Of course it's his main sail. It's the first one he's ever had!

COD You mean he's preparing for a maiden voyage?

JACK Well Sarah the cook is giving him a hand!

COD Ah, he has the catering arrangements all organised. Very important.

JACK *[Not understanding.]* I'd tell him you would like to see him. *[HE exits into the store.]*

COD Oh this is splendid.

SKATE What's splendid? Being captured by pirates and made to walk the plank? No thank you.

COD All we need is one voyage to foreign parts. The mystic east or North Africa and we could make a fortune.

SKATE You mean we could be rich?

COD Of course. Haven't you heard the stories? Those places are full of fabulous treasures. Gold, silver and jewels!

SKATE I don't believe it.

COD It's true. Why do you think so many ships set sail for those parts of the world?

SKATE Yes, but do they ever get back? *[FITZWARREN enters followed by SARAH, DICK and ALICE.]*

F/WARREN Captain Cod?

COD At your service sir and this is Skate the mate.

SKATE How do.

F/WARREN I understand you are experienced in the art of navigation.

SKATE No, we want a job on board ship. *[COD claps his hand over SKATE'S mouth.]*

COD I have been an old salt on the high seas for many years sir.

F/WARREN Really? And what about your friend there?

COD Oh I've taught him everything he knows sir. He's a dab hand at swabbing the decks and splicing the main brace.

- F/WARREN Well it so happens that I am looking for a crew to man my ship the Saucy Sue.
- COD Then look no further sir; we've your man . er . men!
- F/WARREN I shall want to set sail in the next few days, so you'd better start work and make everything ready.
- COD Very good sir. *[HE turns to SKATE with the thumbs up sign.]*
- F/WARREN *[To ALICE.]* Well today hasn't turned out so bad after all, Alice.
- ALICE No father.
- F/WARREN I've got a new crew, a new assistant . *[TOMMY runs on holding two rats by the tails.]* a master rat catcher. And if all goes well a sale that will put my business back on track. *[To DICK.]* I hope your idea is a success, my boy.
- DICK Isn't it time to get things going.
- SARAH Yes, everything is marked up so all we need now are customers.
- DICK Leave that to me. I've thought of a new way of advertising. *[HE calls.]* Jack, we're ready for you. *[JACK enters wearing a sandwich board advertising FITZWARREN'S sale.]*
- JACK I feel a right rana wearing this.
- F/WARREN Jack. *[The light flashes.]*
- ALL Feed the rabbit!

NUMBER - FULL COMPANY

[The CHORUS enters and joins in the number. At the end the lights fade and the scene changes to

SCENE 3 BEHIND FITZWARREN'S STORE

[A front cloth. RAT enters down left.]

- RAT The arrival of this Dick Whittington has upset my plans somewhat. His feline friend is proving a great annoyance attacking my army. I must get rid of them both, but how? Fitzwarren seems to have taken a liking to the boy so I must find some way of making him lose favour. But I shall need an accomplice. Someone who is gullible, easily manipulated and not too bright. *[Off stage we hear CAPTAIN COD speaking.]*

COD Oh a life on the ocean waves. What a glorious feeling to be at sea again.

RAT The Captain and mate. Perfect. I'll use some of my special hypnotic powers to get them to do my bidding. *[COD enters DR calling.]*

COD Come on Skate, get your skates on. *[SKATE enters.]*

SKATE I still don't think it's a good idea taking this job with Fitzwarren. If those stories about pirates are true we might never see land again. We'll be hung from the yardarm, skewered in the gizzards with a cutlass and made to walk the plank.

COD I've told you there's nothing to worry about. When you get that sea air in your lungs you'll forget all your troubles. It's a grand life aboard ship.

RAT I couldn't agree more. *[THEY turn to see him.]*

SKATE Ahhh, who are you?

RAT Allow me to introduce myself. I'm Ratface, King of the rats.

COD Well you keep away from us. We've got some very big traps in the store you know.

SKATE Yes. *[Aside.]* Have you seen the size of Sarah the cook's mouth!

RAT I couldn't help overhearing what you said about the call of the sea. Nothing like the salty breeze blowing in your face.

SKATE And a force eight gale blowing up your Y fronts!

COD *[Hitting him.]* Shut up! *[To RAT.]* You're a sailor yourself then?

RAT You've got to be joking! Er, I mean, yes of course. You know what they say about rats and ships.

SKATE Yes, they usually desert a sinking one.

RAT All highly exaggerated I assure you. *[HE takes the medallion from around his neck and starts to swing it in front of COD and SKATE hypnotising them.]* There's nothing better than the rolling motion of the ship as it ploughs through the billowing waves. Up and down, side to side. On and on tossing and turning. *[By now HE thinks they are hypnotised. COD is but SKATE only pretends to be. During the next sequence when RAT looks away, SKATE is animated, looking around and miming to the audience. When RAT looks at them SKATE looks as though HE'S in a trance.]* Good, they're now hypnotised and I can instruct them to do what ever I want. *[To them.]* Now listen very carefully. *[Looks away.]* You think you're going to be masters of Fitzwarren's ship, *[Looks back.]* but there is someone else who will usurp your position. Dick Whittington, the new assistant is already making his mark and will be elevated to a higher position very soon.

[Looks away.] You must stop him if you want to keep control of the ship. *[Looks back.]* Do you understand me?

COD *[Still in a trance.]* Yes. But what should we do?

SKATE *[Pretending to be in a trance.]* Oh tell us do, what should we do?

RAT Well now, let's see. The store is doing very well today. The sale is generating a lot of customers and they're all spending a lot of money. Fitzwarren will put the takings in the safe ready to go to the bank in the morning. If they were to find their way into Dick Whittington's bundle, the Alderman might think he had engineered the sale for his own benefit.

COD But I don't think Dick would ever steal anything.

RAT No, but if the money were found in his belongings, it would *look* as though he had.

SKATE You mean if someone else put it in there?

RAT Now you're getting it. *[HE looks at SKATE who goes back into a trance.]*

COD But who? *[THEY look at RAT. RAT looks straight at them. THEY look over their shoulders and then back at RAT who is still looking straight at them. THEY point to themselves.]* You mean . . . us? *[RAT smiles and nods slowly. COD and SKATE seem to come out of their trance.]* Oh we couldn't. That would be dishonest. *[RAT makes a pass and they both go back into a trance.]*

RAT You have your orders. Tonight when everyone is asleep you must carry them out. Now go. *[HE makes a pass and they exit right.]* That's one problem out of the way. With Whittington gone his cat will go too. Then I shall be free to raid Fitzwarren's stores, put him and all the other traders out of business and claim the title of Lord Mayor. *[HE laughs loudly and exits left. The light flashes and the audience calls out. JACK enters right and feeds the rabbit.]*

JACK Thank you very much. Oh do you know we've rushed off our feet. The sale is going better than expected. Alderman Fitzwarren should make a great deal of money. Not that I shall see much of it. He doesn't exactly pay top rates and I've never got enough money left at the end of the week! *[A shout is heard off.]* Hello, what's going on? *[SARAH enters right with a large frying pan. SHE is chasing a rat.]*

SARAH Get out of here, you piece of vermin. *[SHE bangs the pan down onto the floor.]* Missed! *[SHE kneels down and bangs the pan down again.]* Keep still while I clobber you on the bonce! *[SHE knee walks across the stage banging down the pan. When SHE is almost off stage left SHE falls flat on her face with the pan in the wings. TOMMY enters right with a prop rat that he is twirling around by the tail.]* Typical! I do all the chasing and he ends up with the prize. *[SHE stands leaving the pan off stage.]* Get that dirty thing away from me! *[TOMMY exits left.]* Now Jack what are you doing stood around here.

JACK Oh Sarah, I was just bemoaning to myself about the low wages I get for all the hard work I do.

SARAH Hard work? When did you last put in a full day?

JACK Well there was .

SARAH Yes?

JACK - and then there was .

SARAH Yes?

JACK - but I'm here most of the time!

SARAH Doing very little. They don't call you Idle Jack for nothing.

JACK You couldn't lend me some money 'til pay-day, could you?

SARAH Lend you some money? Who do you think I am [*Name of local important person*]?

JACK But I've got to buy a birthday present.

SARAH Who for?

JACK You!

SARAH [*Smiling.*] Oh well, in that case . here you are. [*SHE takes out fifteen pounds in three five pound notes and gives them to him.*] Here's fifteen pounds.

JACK Thanks. [*HE starts to exit.*]

SARAH Oh just a minute. That leaves me with no money.

JACK Well I could lend you a fiver.

SARAH I suppose it's better than nothing. [*HE gives her a five pound note.*]

JACK That's still ten pounds I owe you and a fiver you owe me.

SARAH Er . yes.

JACK So if I give you the ten pounds . [*HE gives her two five pound notes.*] – and you give me the five. [*HE takes back a five pound note.*] Now we're all square.

SARAH All square? That can't be right.

JACK Of course it is. Look at it this way. I'll be you and you be me. [*THEY change places and JACK takes the three five pound notes.*] Right. Ask me for a loan.

SARAH Could you loan me fifteen pounds.

- JACK Of course I can. No problem. *[HE gives her the three five pound notes.]*
- SARAH How kind. *[SHE turns to go.]*
- JACK Just a minute. That leaves me with no money.
- SARAH Well I could lend you a fiver. *[Gives him five pounds.]*
- JACK I suppose it's better than nothing.
- SARAH That's still ten pounds I owe you and a fiver you owe me.
- JACK So if you give me the ten pounds . *[SHE gives him two five pound notes.]* – and I give you the five. *[HE gives her the five pound note.]* Now we're all square. *[HE grins at the audience.]*
- SARAH No, that can't be right!
- JACK Of course it is. You can't see it because you're on the wrong side. Change places and start again. *[They change places and SARAH takes the three five pound notes.]* Now, could I please borrow fifteen pounds?
- SARAH Of course. No problem. *[SHE gives him the money.]* There you are. Now that's fifteen pounds you owe me.
- JACK Right.
- SARAH Are you quite sure about that?
- JACK Absolutely. *[Holding up the money.]* I owe you fifteen pounds.
- SARAH That's very kind of you. *[SHE takes the money and with a big wink at the audience, exits.]*
- JACK Hey, just a minute. There's something not quite right here. *[HE exits as the lights fade and the scene changes to*

SCENE 4 INSIDE FITZWARREN'S STORE

[A busy store. There is a counter up right which is a corner unit turning down stage. On the down stage end is a safe facing the audience. Behind that part of the counter is a bed area for DICK and TOMMY. DICK'S stick and bundle is propped up against the right wall. A gas wall lamp is on the right wall. There are shelves behind the counter on the back wall. Up stage left is a dummy and next to it is a screen . The rest of the set can be made up of other shelves if required.]

CHORUS NUMBER

[The CHORUS is on doing a number. FITZWARREN, DICK and ALICE are selling as fast as they can.]

- F/WARREN Now where has Jack got to?
- ALICE He went to get some extra stock from the cellar. *[There is a lot of yelling and shouting and JACK runs on with a pile of boxes. Some rats are chasing HIM.]*
- JACK Help! Some rotten rodents are raiding us! *[The customers scream in horror and run to one side of the stage. JACK stumbles and falls into FITZWARREN. The others rescue the boxes.]*
- F/WARREN Jack do be careful.
- JACK It's those rats!
- DICK Tommy! Quick, it's lunchtime. *[TOMMY runs on and chases the rats away.]*
- F/WARREN *[To the customers.]* Emergency over ladies and gentlemen. Don't let that minor interruption stop you taking advantage of all the wonderful offers we have. *[The customers move back into the scene. FITZWARREN speaks aside to JACK.]* Get this mess cleaned up at once. I want these gowns putting on those dummies. *[During the next part of the scene JACK takes out a lovely evening gown from one of the boxes and starts to put it on a dummy. HE then moves behind the screen to put one on himself. TOMMY returns patting his stomach.]*
- DICK You're certainly earning your keep, Tommy. *[TOMMY rubs up against DICK.]* Oh you big softy.
- ALICE He's been a great addition to the workforce. *[TOMMY rubs up against her.]*
- F/WARREN Yes. I'm glad you came along when you did. The infestation that infested us has all but gone. *[TOMMY rubs up against him almost knocking him over.]* Yes, all right, all right!
- DICK Steady on Tommy. How would you like a saucer of milk? *[TOMMY bounds over to him.]* Come on then. *[HE exits with TOMMY.]*
- F/WARREN Alice, there are still a lot of customers but no one seems to be buying anything.
- ALICE All the good brands went first. *[SARAH enters.]*
- SARAH Do you know I've been dashing around like a blue . ah there you are! How's the sale going?
- F/WARREN Well all the good stock has gone, but I'm stuck with a lot of items that nobody seems to want.
- SARAH Leave it to me. I know how to shift the stuff.
- F/WARREN Well if you're sure. I could do with a rest. I'm quite worn out.
- ALICE Go and have a sit down father. We'll manage.

- F/WARREN Thank you my dear, I think I will. I'd have a nice cup of tea. *[HE exits. During the following a very pompous woman is trying to get served but others keep pushing in front of her. SHE gets more and more annoyed as the scene continues. SHE wears a hat with what looks like a lot of vegetables on. Velcro should attach these, as some need to be removed quickly later in the scene.]*
- SARAH Now who's next?
- WOMAN I'm looking for a bargain.
- SARAH Then you've come to the right place. How about this? *[SHE picks up an aerosol can.]* A great buy at ten pounds.
- WOMAN What is it?
- SARAH It's a spray for keeping tigers away.
- WOMAN But there are no tigers on these parts.
- SARAH That's right. Effective, isn't it? *[SHE gives the woman the spray and grabs her money. The WOMAN exits.]* Next!
- MAN *[In a light voice.]* I want to buy a tent.
- SARAH To camp?
- MAN *[Very butch.]* I want to buy a tent.
- SARAH *[Pointing off stage.]* Over there is our outdoor department! *[The MAN exits.]* Next!
- 2nd MAN I'm looking for boots.
- SARAH It's across the road next to Tesco's! *[2nd MAN exits.]* Next!
- POMPOUS WOMAN That's me. I've been waiting for a very long time! Really the service in here is not what it used to be.
- SARAH *[Trying to get a word in.]* But õ õ
- P/WOMAN Having to mix with the hoi polloi. It's not good enough, it really isn't!
- SARAH I õ õ õ
- P/WOMAN And you my good woman, you seem to think I'm invisible! Just remember you're here to serve!
- SARAH *[Ready for a fight.]* Why you old õ õ õ
- ALICE I'd deal with this lady Sarah. *[SARAH moves away still fuming.]* I'm sorry if you've been inconvenienced madam. How can we help you?

- P/WOMAN I'm going to a very important dinner at the Mansion House and I want to be seen in something long, cool and flowing.
- SARAH *[Aside.]* Try the river Thames!
- P/WOMAN Well I never! I've not come here to be insulted!
- SARAH Where do you normally go? *[The WOMAN is about to round on SARAH but ALICE intercepts.]*
- ALICE An evening gown I think you said. We have a very select range over here. *[THEY move to the dummy.]* How about this one?
- P/WOMAN Well yes, I must say that is rather me. Would you have it in my size?
- SARAH No, but it does come with this handy little booklet. *[SHE picks up a booklet.]*
- P/WOMAN What is that?
- SARAH How to lose two stone in one week! *[The WOMAN turns to SARAH again, but ALICE ploughs on. By now all the other customers have left.]*
- ALICE I know what would suit you perfectly. A new line just in from Paris. *[SHE moves the screen to reveal JACK wearing the dress and a wig. HE stands with his back to the audience posing like a dummy.]* What does madam think of that?
- P/WOMAN Oh yes. Very nice. Does it have a good line? Does it move well?
- ALICE Perhaps madam would like to see it modelled.
- P/WOMAN Oh yes please. *[ALICE goes to remove the dress but JACK turns around and starts to model the dress with outrageous poses and walks.]* Oh yes, I can see myself in it. What do you call it?
- JACK *[In a deep voice - taking off the wig.]* Fitzwarren's fancy frock for the fuller figure! *[At this point the light on the hutch flashes and the audience reacts.]* Oh, just a minute! *[HE looks around for something to feed the rabbit, sees the food on the WOMAN'S hat and grabs some of it putting it in the hutch.]*
- P/WOMAN Really this is too much. I shall take my custom elsewhere. I thought this establishment was of a high-class nature! I was obviously misinformed. I shall never set foot in here again. *[SHE exits.]*
- SARAH You know the last time I saw a mouth like that it was on a platter with an apple in it!
- ALICE Well that's the last of the customers. Time to close for the day. *[SHE crosses to the door and turns the sign to "closed". FITZWARREN enters followed by DICK and TOMMY.]*
- F/WARREN All done?

- ALICE Yes father. I'm just closing up.
- F/WARREN Well I must congratulate you all on a splendid day's work. *[HE sees JACK.]* I hope you have paid for that Jack if you intend to wear it!
- JACK *[Slightly embarrassed.]* Not really my colour! *[HE removes the dress.]*
- F/WARREN *[Crossing to the counter.]* Now I must put the day's takings in the safe until I can get to the bank tomorrow. *[HE takes out a bag and puts the money in it.]*
- ALICE Dick, I'd get you some bedding. I hope you will be all right sleeping in the shop.
- DICK Compared to some of the places I've slept in over the past few weeks, this will seem like a five star hotel! Anyway I've got my good friend Tommy to keep me company. *[TOMMY rubs up against DICK.]*
- ALICE I won't be a moment. *[SHE exits.]*
- F/WARREN Now I'd just put this away. *[HE moves to the safe, opens the door and puts the money bag inside. HE shuts the door and locks the safe taking out the key.]* There. All locked up and secure till morning. Put the key somewhere safe, will you Jack? *[HE gives the key to JACK.]*
- JACK Of course Alderman Fitzwarren. *[HE takes the key.]*
- F/WARREN Now I think we all deserve an early night.
- SARAH Yes, I'm ready to crawl into bed with Mills and Boon! *[SHE exits.]*
- F/WARREN Goodnight all. *[HE exits as ALICE returns with some bedding. TOMMY moves up stage, cleaning his paws.]*
- ALICE Goodnight father. *[SHE crosses to DICK.]* Here you are Dick. I'd help you make up the bed. *[SHE unfolds a sheet. DICK takes one side and they gaze at each other as they slowly make up the bed. THEY forget JACK is still there.]*
- JACK *[Looking around for somewhere to hide the key.]* Now where can I put this for safekeeping? Ha, I know. *[HE crosses to the hutch and opens it.]* Hello there. Look after this for me will you? *[HE puts the key inside and closes the lid. HE then crosses left.]* I'd be off then. Goodnight Dick, goodnight Alice. *[There is no response so JACK moves to face where he was standing and answers himself.]* Goodnight Jack, thank you for being such a great help today! *[HE moves back.]* Don't mention it old bean. Glad to have been of service. *[HE moves again.]* See you in the morning. *[HE moves back.]* Not if I see you first! *[HE laughs at his own joke. By now DICK, ALICE and TOMMY are looking at him.]* Er, night all. *[HE exits quickly.]*
- ALICE I suppose I should be getting to bed as well it's been a long day.
- DICK And an eventful one. But the best thing was meeting you.

ALICE It must be fate you coming along when you did. You've helped to revive father's fortunes. We will always be grateful for that. *[TOMMY nudges her.]* Yes and you too Tommy. Where would we be without you, our champion rat catcher? *[TOMMY breathes on his knuckles and rubs them on his chest.]*

DICK I think fortune has smiled on us all today. *[THEY stand gazing at each other. TOMMY yawns.]*

ALICE Well, goodnight Dick.

DICK Goodnight Alice. *[SHE crosses to the exit.]*

ALICE *[Turning to look at him.]* Sleep tight.

DICK You too. *[SHE exits. TOMMY gives a big yawn.]* Alice.

ALICE *[Coming back.]* Yes Dick?

DICK Goodnight!

ALICE Goodnight. *[TOMMY rolls his eyes and gives the biggest yawn.]*

DICK Goodnight. *[ALICE exits.]* Well come on Tommy, don't stand around. Time for bed! *[TOMMY looks at him in disgust and crosses up to the bed area. DICK turns down the wall lamp and the lights fade down to moonlight. HE then crosses to the bed.]* It's not much, but it's better than that ditch I slept in last night. *[DICK lies on the bed and pulls the blanket over him. TOMMY lies next to him and pulls the blanket so it comes off DICK. DICK pulls it back. This continues until they both have a part of the blanket.]* Night Tommy. *[TOMMY "meows". In the shadows down left RAT appears.]*

RAT Sleep tight Master Whittington because in the morning your fate will be sealed. I can't get too near to that pesky cat or he might smell a rat so to speak! So my new recruits will carry out my plan. Come along you two. *[HE makes a pass and COD and SKATE enter right in a trance.]* You know what you have to do.

COD Yes.

RAT Then don't fail me. *[HE exits. COD and SKATE come out of their trance.]*

SKATE I don't like this. What if we get caught?

COD We must make sure we're not. Now come on. The sooner we do it the sooner we can get out of here. *[HE crosses to the safe and tries to open the door.]* The safe's locked.

SKATE Where's the key?

COD I don't know.

SKATE Without the key we can't get into the safe, so we may as well go home.

COD Right! *[THEY start to cross right. RAT enters.]*

RAT Have you done it already?

SKATE There's no key.

COD So we can't open the safe.

SKATE Bye!

RAT Not so fast. That Idle Jack put it in the rabbit hutch for safekeeping, only the idiot didn't know I was watching him. You'll find it in there.

SKATE I'm not putting my hand in there. That rabbit might bite!

COD Don't be daft. They're vegetarians.

RAT Now get on with it and don't make any noise. *[HE exits. SKATE, with his eyes closed, very gingerly opens the hutch and feels around for the key.]*

SKATE I've got it. *[HE pulls out a carrot.]* Here you are!

COD *[Taking it.]* And what am I supposed to do with that?

SKATE *[Opening his eyes and looking at the carrot.]* Make a rabbit stew?

COD You're useless. Let me do it. *[HE puts the carrot back and gets the key.]* Now keep very quiet. *[THEY creep towards the safe.]* It's too dark. I can't see the lock.

SKATE *[Pointing to a candle on the counter.]* Shall I light this candle?

COD Good idea. *[SKATE lights the candle and holds it by COD.]* Ah, now I can see. *[HE is just about to open the safe door when SARAH is heard off stage.]*

SARAH Where have I left that book? *[SHE enters wearing a nightgown and curlers in her hair. COD and SKATE freeze again up stage in the pose of a dummy.]* Ah here it is. *[SHE finds the book on the counter, picks it up and crosses back left. SHE stops and looks at COD and SKATE.]* Look at these Paris fashions Alderman Fitzwarren ordered. You wouldn't catch me wearing such frightful creations! And look at these dummies! They look like . *[SHE mentions the names of two famous people.]* Not at all what we should have in the shop. I'd have to suggest we change them for something less ugly. *[SHE points to COD.]* Look at the mouth on that one! *[Points to SKATE.]* And what about the hooter on this one? *[SHE wiggles SKATE'S nose about. HE looks as though he's going to sneeze.]* Ah well, back to my reading. *[SHE crosses left. SKATE can't hold it any longer and sneezes blowing out the candle.]* Bless you. *[SHE goes to exit – does a double take- shrugs and exits.]*

- COD That was a close one. Trust you to almost give the game away.
- SKATE It wasn't my fault. She was scratching my sniffer!
- COD Never mind. Let's finish the job and get out of here. *[HE gets the money out of the safe and locks the door.]* Put this back where you found it. *[HE gives the key to SKATE who puts it back in the hutch. COD slowly crosses to DICKS bundle and starts to put the moneybag in it. DICK stirs. COD finishes the job and they both move away.]* It's done, now let's scarp. *[RAT enters.]*
- RAT Have you finished the job?
- COD We have and now we're off. *[THEY exit.]*
- RAT Those fools. I can get them to do anything I want. Nobody can resist the great Ratface! *[FAIRY enters right.]*
- FAIRY That's where you are wrong clever clogs. Despite all your tricks you'll never change the course of Dick Whittington's fate.
- RAT But I already have and there's nothing you can do about it. Any moment now your bells will be ringing in the dawn and victory will be mine. *[HE exits.]*
- FAIRY He may think he's won but I still have a few tricks up my sleeve! Life for Dick will have a few more ups and downs before he finds his true destiny. But Ratface was right about one thing. Dawn is about to break and I've got to ring it in. Then I must prepare for the next part of Dick's adventures. *[SHE exits. Dawn breaks as we hear the peel of bells from Bow. The light comes up and DICK and TOMMY wake from their sleep.]*
- DICK Good morning Tommy. Did you sleep well? *[TOMMY shakes his head and rubs his rear.]* Mm, the floor was a little hard I must admit. But we shouldn't complain, at least we were warm and dry. *[TOMMY nods. The light flashes on the hutch and the audience calls out. JACK comes running on rubbing his eyes.]*
- JACK Thank you. He's ready for a feed very early this morning. *[HE feeds the rabbit. FITZWARREN enters.]*
- F/WARREN Good morning, and what a beautiful morning it is. I've decided that as the sale went so well yesterday I'm going to keep it going for another day. Then I shall have more than enough money to buy all my new stock from the east. And it's all thanks to you my boy. *[ALICE and SARAH enter.]*
- ALICE Morning father.
- SARAH Morning Alderman.
- F/WARREN Good morning both. Now I must get to the bank with yesterday's takings. Jack, where's the key to the safe?

JACK *[Getting the key.]* Right here, sir.

F/WARREN *[Taking the key and opening the safe.]* I hope today's business is as good as yesterday's. *[HE feels around for the moneybag and his expression changes.]* That's odd! There's nothing in here! Oh no! We've been robbed!

ALL What?

F/WARREN The safe is empty! Alice, Sarah. Have you been in the safe?

ALICE No father.

SARAH Certainly not.

F/WARREN Jack. You had access to the key.

JACK But I've been fast asleep all night.

F/WARREN Yes, I can believe that. *[COD and SKATE enter.]*

COD Good morning all. How are things this fine morning?

F/WARREN Not very fine at all. I've been robbed.

SKATE No!

ALICE It can't be anyone here.

COD Any strangers been around? People new to the area? *[ALL look towards DICK.]*

DICK What are you looking at me for? I wouldn't steal any money.

ALICE No of course he wouldn't.

SKATE No. But just for elimination purposes it might be as well to check his belongings.

DICK *[Giving his stick and bundle to FITZWARREN.]* You may do so gladly, but all you will find is a change of shirt and a half-eaten apple.

F/WARREN *[Finding the moneybag.]* And yesterday's takings!

DICK What?

ALICE It can't be.

F/WARREN How do you explain this Whittington?

DICK I didn't take it. I've been framed.

JACK He was here when I hid the key.

SARAH And he did sleep near the safe all night.

- DICK But I didn't take it. You've got to believe me.
- ALICE *[At DICK'S side.]* Father, you can't believe Dick would do such a thing after all the help he's been to you.
- F/WARREN Well that's true.
- COD Whose idea was the sale?
- DICK Well . mine ò ò ò
- SKATE And who said it would make a lot of money?
- DICK I did, but ò ò
- COD And who arrived here without a penny looking to make his fortune?
- DICK This is ridiculous. Everyone, you've got to believe me.
- F/WARREN I'm sorry Master Whittington, but the evidence is clear. You had motive and ample opportunity. I must ask you to leave this shop at once before I'm forced to call the authorities!
- ALICE Father there must be another explanation.
- F/WARREN I don't want to hear another word on the matter.
- SAD MUSIC
- [From now to the end of the scene music underscores the dialogue.]*
- DICK Come along, Tommy. It's clear we're not wanted here any more. *[HE picks up his bundle and turns to FITZWARREN.]* I know how things look sir, but I swear I am innocent and one day I will prove it. *[FITZWARREN turns away. DICK and TOMMY cross to the door.]*
- ALICE I believe you Dick.
- DICK Thank you Alice. Goodbye. *[HE and TOMMY exit.]*
- SARAH *[With a handkerchief to her eyes.]* And he seemed such a nice boy! *[RAT appears down left and starts to laugh. Other RATS start to enter and run about the stage. SARAH sees them and screams.]* Ahhh!! Rats! They're everywhere!
- F/WARREN Oh no! We're over-run with the things! *[Pandemonium breaks out as the music builds and RAT stands there laughing loudly. The lights fade to blackout.]*

SCENE 5 BEHIND FITZWARREN'S STORE

[As the light come up the FAIRY enters down right.]

FAIRY Things don't look too good for Dick and Tommy and Ratface is celebrating what he thinks is a victory. But that may be a little premature. I've not given up on our hero. His destiny has already been written and it's only a matter of time before he can take his rightful place in history. Dick must learn to trust his instincts to fulfil his ambitions. The path to fame and fortune is not an easy one, but with patience and perseverance he will get there in the end. *[SHE exits as DICK and TOMMY enter left.]*

DICK I can't believe what just happened, Tommy. Who could have framed me like that? I haven't made any enemies that I know of. I wanted to work hard and make something of myself. Now it looks as though I shall have to go back to Gloucestershire. How foolish I was to tell people back there that I was going to London to make my fortune and how they will laugh when I return empty handed. *[TOMMY nudges DICK.]* Well not quite empty handed! At least I've got you. You know I'm innocent of the crime I've been accused of. *[TOMMY nods.]* If only you were able to tell them. Alice is the only one who believed me. Am I ever going to see her again?

SONG . DICK

DICK Come on then Tommy. Time to be on our way. It's a long walk I'm afraid. *[THEY exit right. The light on the hutch flashes. Audience reacts and JACK runs on left.]*

JACK Thank you very much. *[HE feeds the rabbit.]* It's a pity you're vegetarian! Now Dick's gone taking Tommy with him we're over-run with rats again. Everywhere we turn there they are nibbling away at the goods. Alderman Fitzwarren will be bankrupt for sure if it goes on much longer. *[COD and SKATE enter left.]*

COD What ho there, me hearty.

JACK Pardon?

COD Another seafaring term. Now then me lad, are you ready for a long ocean voyage?

JACK Oh no. I told you I'm not a very good sailor. Besides I couldn't leave my pet rabbit.

SKATE Oh yes, the rabbit. I thought it was going to bite me.

JACK Bite you? When?

SKATE Last night when I put my hand in . *[COD slaps him and he falls.]*

JACK Put your hand in? Why did you do that?

COD Just to stroke it. That's all. He's fond of small furry animals, aren't you?

SKATE *[Standing.]* Yes. Very fond.

JACK Did you feed him anything?

SKATE) *[Together.]* Yes!
 COD) No!

SKATE) *[Together.]* No!
 COD) Yes!

COD He already had a carrot in there.

JACK Oh yes, he's very partial to carrots.

SKATE I think he was a bit uncomfortable sitting on that key ò ò ò *[COD slaps him again and he falls.]*

JACK Key?

COD Pea. He said pea. There were some peas in there.

JACK No there weren't. He doesn't like peas. Only carrots and lettuce.

SKATE *[Getting up.]* No - peas! They were cold like a key! *[JACK stares at him. HIS voice starts to falter.]* P-Probably f-frozen!!

JACK *[Working it out.]* You got the key to the safe!

COD No!!

JACK You put yesterday's takings into Dick's bundle to frame him!

SKATE We didn't mean to!

COD Shut up!

JACK I knew Dick wasn't a thief. Wait till Alderman Fitzwarren hears about this. *[HE crosses to stage left and calls.]* Alderman Fitzwarren. Alice.

COD Oh don't say anything. We'll lose our jobs.

JACK What about Dick's job? *[FITZWARREN and ALICE enter left.]*

F/WARREN What's going on? Jack, are you idling about again?

JACK Far from it boss! I've discovered the truth behind the missing money!

ALICE What?

JACK These two were behind the whole thing. *[COD and SKATE drop to their knees.]*

- COD *[Knee walking towards FITZWARREN.]* Oh please forgive us! We didn't mean to do it!
- SKATE Don't make us walk the plank!!
- F/WARREN I don't understand. What does all this mean?
- COD *[As they both stand.]* All right. We'll come clean. We did put the money in Dick's bundle last night. But we were made to do it.
- ALICE Who by?
- SKATE Some big ugly brute called Ratface.
- COD He said he was king of the rats. He hypnotised us and made us do the dirty deed.
- SKATE He said we should get rid of Dick Whittington because he was after our jobs.
- F/WARREN Nonsense! Dick was destined for better things than crewing a ship. This Ratface made you do it you say?
- COD Yes.
- F/WARREN I've heard stories about a king of the rats, but I never thought them true.
- SKATE Oh they're true all right. I wouldn't be surprised if he wants to take over the whole city.
- F/WARREN Never.
- ALICE But father, what about Dick?
- F/WARREN Dear me, yes. I've done him a great injustice. Accusing him of something he didn't do. I must find him and make amends.
- JACK Who knows where he is by now?
- F/WARREN We must send out search parties.
- ALICE *[In tears.]* It'd be too late. I expect he's gone back home to Gloucestershire. Oh father, how could this have happened? I knew Dick could never do anything dishonest. *[SHE runs off right in tears.]*
- F/WARREN *[Calling after her.]* Alice, I'll do everything in my power to get him back, I promise. *[SARAH is heard shouting off.]*
- SARAH Get away from me you nasty creature! *[SHE enters left holding her skirt over her head.]* Oh won't someone protect me from these awful rats? *[SHE bumps into SKATE and then into COD feeling their muscles.]* Ohhh! No sooner wished for than it happens! *[SHE pulls the skirt off her head and looks at the two men. HER face drops.]* Oh it's only you two!

- COD *[With his arm around her.]* We'll protect you, my lovely.
- SARAH *[Removing his arm.]* You're not tying me in sailor's knots thank you very much! Alderman what are we going to do about these rats? Ever since Tommy left with Dick we've been over-run.
- F/WARREN Don't worry it's all in hand. There's been a terrible mistake.
- SARAH Mistake? What mistake?
- JACK *[Explaining fast.]* Well you see, Dick didn't take the money. It was the rabbit! I mean the rabbit had the key and those two took it. Well the rabbit didn't actually have the key it was there just for safe keeping, only it wasn't very safe. They got the key and put it into Dick's bundle. Not the key, the money! Then they put the key back with the rabbit so it would be found the next day. Not the rabbit, the money. They were hypnotised by the rat so they would put it in the bundle . the money not the rat . so as to make it look as though Dick had taken it. The money, not the bundle!
- SARAH Does anyone know what this idiot is talking about?
- F/WARREN It's quite simple. These two framed Dick.
- SARAH *[Moving away from COD and SKATE.]* I knew they were cut-throats, not real sailors.
- COD But we were duped.
- SKATE We didn't mean to do anything bad.
- F/WARREN Well the main thing is now we know what happened we must set about putting matters right.
- SARAH Right.
- F/WARREN We must find Dick and tell him how sorry we are.
- COD Yes, really sorry.
- SKATE Really, really sorry!
- JACK Let him know he's still one of the family.
- SARAH But above all show that we're his friends. There's nothing like true friends who always stick together.

NUMBER . FITZWARREN, JACK, SARAH, COD & SKATE

[At the end of the number the lights fade out and the scene changes to -]

SCENE 6 HIGHGATE HILL

[The scene is in two parts. The first is Dick's arrival at Highgate Hill and the second is his dream of the future. On stage is a milepost saying 'London 5 miles'. The rest of the stage is fairly sparse with a backcloth depicting London in the distance. DICK enters carrying his stick and crosses to the milepost.]

DICK Come on Tommy, we can rest a while here. *[TOMMY enters.]* Five miles we've covered and there's a lot more before we get to my home. *[TOMMY flops down.]* Would you like something to eat? *[TOMMY nods.]* Not many rats to catch around here! *[HE opens his bundle and takes out a piece of bread which he breaks in half and gives one to TOMMY.]* We can only have a very small piece. This has got to last for a good few days. Little did I think when I passed this milepost the other day that I would be seeing it again so soon. I can't believe what happened. I thought my luck had changed. Meeting you, getting a job and being with the most beautiful girl in the world. Alice. Oh Tommy, do you think I'll ever see her again? *[TOMMY shakes his head then realises and nods furiously.]* I know you're only trying to cheer me up, but I am going to miss her. Oh well, I suppose we ought to be on our way. *[TOMMY looks at him and holds up his paws and licks them.]* What's the matter, are your paws sore from all the walking? Well it'll be dark soon so maybe we ought to stop here for the night. *[TOMMY nods enthusiastically.]* Sleeping out here makes you realise how inviting the floor at Fitzwarren's was! *[THEY both settle down to sleep.]* After a good night's sleep we'll be ready to face the open road tomorrow. You know I used to dream of so many things; streets paved with gold, making something of my life. But they were just dreams. *[Slowly going to sleep.]* Just dreams. *[The lights are fading and the FAIRY enters down right.]*

FAIRY They may be just dreams for now Dick, but in time they will become a reality. *[To the audience.]* Tonight will be a special night here on Highgate Hill when fate takes a hand and changes the fortunes of young Richard Whittington. His dream will be so real and so powerful that he will not be able to resist returning to London and facing his destiny. Ooh it's going to be like winning the Lottery and Blind Date on the same day!

[SHE exits as the lights change and the music starts for the next sequence.]

DICK'S DREAM

[The Ballet of Dick's Dream now takes place. It depicts the Lord Mayors procession in all its splendour. DICK rises from his sleeping position and crosses down stage to watch in wonderment. All the regalia connected with the Lord Mayor are seen. The Lord Mayors crimson cloak, the three cornered hat and the grand chain of office. They are all paraded before him and he is finally dressed in them with great ceremony. The ballet then continues with dancers carrying silver bells as though they were ringing out over London. (During this DICK exits and changes out of the Lord Mayors costume .HE then retakes his sleeping position. A double is dressed as Lord Mayor for the final

part of the ballet.) The final part of the ballet is a cut out of the Lord Mayors coach crossing up stage from left to right with the Mayor waving to the crowd who are waving back. The bells peel as the scene fades. Off stage voices are heard singing or chanting.]

VOICES Turn again Richard Whittington
Lord Mayor of London.
Turn again Richard Whittington
Lord Mayor of London.

[The lights come up for dawn and TOMMY wakes up. HE hears the bells ringing in the distance and wakes DICK.]

DICK Morning already? You know Tommy; I had the strangest dream. There was a big parade and people waving and cheering and me all dressed up and riding in a coach! *[TOMMY is pulling at DICK to make him listen to the bells.]* What's the matter? It's only the Bells of Bow you can hear. *[TOMMY cups his paw to his ear showing DICK he should listen.]* Yes I'm listening, but it's only a ringing sound *ō ō ō* no wait a minute . I think they're saying something. *[TOMMY nods vigorously.]* Turn again Richard Whittington, Lord Mayor of London+. But what does it mean? Surely a poor boy like me couldn't end up as Lord Mayor? *[TOMMY nods again.]* Do you really think I should go back? All right, I will. I'll try once more to find fame and fortune. *[HE picks up his stick and bundle.]* Come on Tommy, back to London.

[The voices are heard again during which DICK and TOMMY move up stage. They pose in silhouette looking out on London. DICK with his stick over his shoulder and TOMMY by his side.]

VOICES Turn again Richard Whittington
Lord Mayor of London.
Turn again Richard Whittington
Lord Mayor of London Town.
Ah!

[The music swells as the curtain falls.]

End of Act One

ACT TWOSCENE 1 WAPPING DOCKS

[The scene is the same as Act One Scene 2. The CHORUS is on singing the opening number. The men as sailors are loading cargo onto the 'Saucy Sue'. COD and SKATE are helping. A gangplank leads from the dock to the ship.]

OPENING NUMBER

[At the end of the number the light on the hutch flashes. Audience shouts and JACK runs on from the shop. During the next sequence the CHORUS exit.]

- JACK Thank you very much. *[HE feeds the rabbit.]* It's a very busy day today. We're getting ready to sail and there's so much to be done. With Dick gone I'm having to do twice as much work!
- MAN How do you do twice as much of nothing?
- JACK Oh very funny. I'd have you know I've been up since before dawn. Did you hear all those bells ringing? What a row! Must have been for something very important. *[FITZWARREN enters.]*
- F/WARREN Morning everyone. Is everything loaded and ready for sailing?
- JACK The last crates have just gone aboard.
- F/WARREN Good. Although I don't feel much like leaving. All that business with young Whittington has quite upset me. I do wish we could find him so I could put everything right. I don't suppose there has been any news?
- JACK No. There's been no sign of him. He's probably half way back to Gloucestershire by now.
- F/WARREN Oh dear, I do feel bad about the whole thing.
- JACK Not half as bad as Alice. She's not stopped crying since he left. She was very fond of him you know.
- F/WARREN I know. *[COD and SKATE cross down stage.]*
- COD Everything ready for your inspection Alderman Fitzwarren.
- F/WARREN Oh, right. I'd just go aboard. *[HE crosses up to the ship and exits.]*
- SKATE Do you think he has forgiven us for what we did?
- JACK He might have done, but I haven't. All this extra work.
- COD It wasn't our fault me hearty.
- SKATE No, it was that stinking old Ratface. If I ever see him again I'd . I'd
ō ō ō
- COD You'd what?

- SKATE I'd pull out all his whiskers!
- COD Well at least after we set sail we can forget all about rotten rodents.
[FITZWARREN appears on deck.]
- F/WARREN Come up here you lot. I want you to help me make sure everything is ready for our journey.
- OTHERS Coming sir. Coming Alderman Fitzwarren. Etc. *[ALL THREE cross up to the ship and exit with FITZWARREN. RATFACE appears down left.]*
- RAT So they think by sailing away they can escape me and my army. Well I've got news for them. An old sailing ship is just the place for us to live in. We will do very nicely snug and warm in the hold, nibbling away at all the food stored down there. Come along my brave fellows and get on board while there is no one about. *[The RATS enter and run up to the ship.]* Find a place to hide until the ship is underway. We don't want anyone to discover us just yet. *[The RATS exit onto the ship.]* Splendid! I've got rid of Whittington and that troublesome cat of his and I'd make sure Fitzwarren and his crew never returns to these shores. Then nothing can stop me in my quest to take over the town and in time the whole country! *[HE exits. FAIRY enters down right.]*
- FAIRY Ratface is so busy with his devious plans he doesn't know that my Bells of Bow have called Dick back to London. Here is where his destiny lies and no one, not even that repulsive rodent can change that. He will soon be arriving with his faithful Tommy and then his adventures can really start. Ooh I'm so excited I think I'd paint my toenails! *[SHE exits as SARAH enters from the store. SHE carries a large bag from which she will produce a number of items.]*
- SARAH Well strain me mainstays, here we are ready for a voyage of adventure on the high seas. And if we meet any pirates this time I shall be prepared! Look at this. *[SHE takes out a tennis racket and demonstrates moves.]* Anyone who tries to tie me to the mizzen mast will get a sharp forehand, a quick backhand, a smash to the right, a lob to the left and an ace straight in the kisser! *[SHE has almost tied herself in knots.]* I used to be a tennis pro you know. The times I've been caught on the centre with *[Name of famous tennis player]*! I mean on the centre court! But as I said, I'm all ready. I've got my sea sick pills. If the sea has a bit of a swell I take these. *[SHE takes out a box marked "Swell".]* And if it's rough I take these. *[SHE takes out a larger box marked "Rough".]* And if it's very rough I just throw my dinner overboard to save time! But if the sun is shining and the sea is calm I shall just sit and relax on deck and indulge myself. Do you like to indulge yourselves girls? I do. In fact I think I'm going to indulge myself right now with these. *[SHE gets out some wrapped chocolates such as Quality Street.]* Well, they can't touch you for it! How about it? Do you want to join me in a little bit of indulgence? *[The audience reacts.]* Oh the men do as well! *[SARAH throws sweets out. SHE uses the tennis racket to get to the back row. At the end of the sequence ALICE enters. SHE is in low spirits.]* Hello Alice dear, how are you feeling today?
- ALICE Not in very high spirits I'm afraid Sarah.

- SARAH *[Offering her a sweet.]* Here dear, indulge yourself. We have and it's done us a power of good!
- ALICE No thank you.
- SARAH You're missing young master Whittington aren't you? *[ALICE nods her head.]* Oh cheer up, I'm sure we'll find him soon and then your father can explain the mistake and everything will be all right.
- ALICE I wish it were that simple. He could be anywhere by now. He'll never want to come back to London and I'll never see him again. *[SHE weeps.]*
- SARAH Oh there, there. What you want is a break. A trip on your father's ship will ease the pain. I've spent a lot of time aboard ship you know. My late husband was a captain. Mind you he was a bit of a lad. Had a girl in every port. But I found him out and gave him a piece of my mind! *'Well dance on your grave+', I said. 'Good+', he said. 'I'm going to be buried at sea!'* *[SARAH laughs at her joke, but ALICE only manages a half smile.]*
- ALICE Oh I know you're trying to cheer me up Sarah. But the only thing that would make me feel better is if I saw Dick again.
- SARAH Why don't I go and pop the kettle on so we can have a nice cup of tea before we sail. *[ALICE manages a nod and SARAH exits.]*
- ALICE Oh Dick, where are you?
- REPRISE - DUET FROM ACT ONE
- [ALICE starts to sing. At a suitable place DICK enters up stage and picks up the last part of the song. ALICE slowly realises he is there and runs to him.]*
- ALICE Dick, I thought I'd never see you again. *[TOMMY comes running on and goes to ALICE.]* Tommy!
- DICK I had to come back, Alice. My destiny is here in London and I must stay even if people do think I'm a thief.
- ALICE But Dick, we know you didn't take the money.
- DICK What do you mean?
- ALICE You were framed. The Captain and Mate told us everything.
- DICK What have they got to do with it?
- ALICE Some awful creature called Ratface, King of the rats duped them into stealing the money and putting it in your belongings.
- DICK King Rat? *[TOMMY shadow boxes around the stage as though fighting the rat.]*

ALICE It's all to do with trying to ruin father's business.

DICK Well I'm back now and with Tommy on the look out just let this Ratface try anything like that again. *[TOMMY has now moved up to the gangplank still boxing as FITZWARREN enters. TOMMY almost knocks him out.]*

F/WARREN What the . Tommy? *[Sees DICK and moves down stage.]* . and Dick my boy. I'm afraid I've done you a great disservice.

DICK Don't worry sir, Alice has told me everything.

F/WARREN I can't apologise enough. Whatever can I do to make amends?

DICK Well I would like my old job back.

F/WARREN Oh I'm afraid I can't do that.

ALICE What?

F/WARREN You're going to be far too busy being my second in command.

ALICE Dick, you've been promoted. *[JACK enters and hears Alice.]*

JACK Promoted? Who's been promoted?

ALICE Dick has.

JACK Dick! You've come back!

F/WARREN Yes, and he's promoted to my second in command.

JACK But that's not fair. What about me?

F/WARREN Oh you've been promoted as well.

JACK *[Delighted.]* I have?

F/WARREN Yes. You can have Dick's old job!

JACK Great! I've got a promotion! *[Thinks.]* Wait a minute, there's something not quite right here. *[COD appears on the ship.]*

COD Everything's ready to set sail Mr Fitzwarren.

F/WARREN Splendid. *[The CHORUS starts to enter. The MEN make ready to leave.]* Quickly everyone. Get aboard. *[SKATE comes running on with a board over his shoulder.]*

SKATE Here we are. *[HE turns around and people have to duck.]* Where do you want it? *[HE turns again and whacks JACK who falls.]* Oh, sorry.

JACK Mind what you're doing.

- SKATE *[HE turns again and whacks FITZWARREN who falls.]* Oh sorry.
- F/WARREN You idiot!
- SKATE *[Putting the board on the stage.]* Here, let me help you up.
- F/WARREN *[Rising.]* Never mind. And get rid of that thing. *[SKATE is standing astride the board. Two SAILORS pick it up with him sitting on it.]*
- SKATE *[In a high voice.]* Hey, steady on. You're making my eyes water!
[THEY carry him off.]
- F/WARREN Now come along, or we'll miss the tide. *[ALL start to move up to the ship.]*
- COD *[Shouting orders.]* Ready to hoist the main sail. Trim the spinnaker. Stand by to cast off. Prepare to weigh anchor. *[SARAH comes running on dressed in an outrageous sailor's outfit. SHE is carrying a large weighing scale.]*
- SARAH I'm all ready to do that!
- F/WARREN Not that sort of weighing!
- SARAH *[To the girls.]* I'll never get used to the language of the sea! *[A wolf whistle from one of the boys. SARAH preens.]* But I'm a fast learner!
[The PRINCIPALS and MALE CHORUS are now boarding. The GIRLS wave them off.]

ENSEMBLE NUMBER

[As the number comes to an end the ship starts to depart and the lights fade to blackout.]

SCENE 2 BELOW DECKS

[A front cloth scene. Some sacks of cargo are stage left. As the lights come up we see the RATS scurrying about nibbling at the cargo. RATFACE enters left.]

- RAT Eat away my faithful band of rattlings. You'll need every ounce of strength when we overthrow that pompous old windbag Fitzwarren. When the time is right we will take this ship and all its cargo and make those humans walk the plank. Oh what a glorious day it will be. *[The rats all nod in agreement. FAIRY enters.]*
- FAIRY I don't think you should count on such an easy victory.
- RAT What are you doing here? A bit off course from Bow Bells aren't you? This isn't a Saga holiday cruise you know.
- FAIRY Oh very funny. My wings are just aching with laughter. I am here to follow and protect Dick Whittington.

RAT Dick Whittington? But he's long gone.

FAIRY If you weren't so busy plotting and pillaging, you would have heard that he's back.

RAT What?

FAIRY Those two who you got to do your dirty work have explained everything and Dick has been cleared of all crimes.

RAT I'll make sure they suffer for betraying me. Nobody can get the better of King Rat.

FAIRY We shall see. *[SHE turns to go and then stops.]* Oh by the way, did I mention that Tommy the cat is back also? *[The RATS stop eating and look frightened.]* Enjoy your meal. It could be your last. *[SHE exits. The RATS scurry off.]*

RAT Where are you going? Don't be such weaklings. One mouldy moggie is no match for us. *[The sound of TOMMY meowing is heard. RATFACE looks around warily.]* Time to regroup lads! *[HE exits. DICK enters right.]*

DICK Tommy! Tommy where are you? Have any of you seen Tommy? *[Audience reacts.]* He could be anywhere on the ship. Tommy. *[JACK enters.]*

JACK Did you call me?

DICK No. I was calling Tommy. You haven't seen him have you?

JACK Not since we came on board. Shall I help you call?

DICK Yes please. *[THEY both call. FITZWARREN enters.]*

F/WARREN Did you call me?

DICK No. We were calling Tommy. You haven't seen him have you?

F/WARREN Not since we came on board. Shall I help you call?

DICK/JACK Yes please. *[THEY all call. SARAH enters.]*

SARAH Did you call me?

DICK No.

JACK We were calling Tommy.

F/WARREN You haven't seen him have you?

SARAH Not since we came on board. Shall I help you call?

DICK/ JACK/ F/WARREN Yes please.

- DICK It's a very large ship. Maybe he can't hear us.
- JACK I know. All my friends out there have been great in letting me know when my rabbit needed feeding. Maybe they would help us call.
- SARAH *[To audience.]* Would you? Would you help us call for Tommy?
[Audience reacts.]
- DICK Oh thank you so much. Here we go then. *[ALL call and get audience to help. TOMMY enters in the auditorium and waves to everyone.]*
- F/WARREN There he is. Tommy come up here. *[TOMMY shakes his head and hides in one of the rows. The OTHERS go down into the auditorium and try to find him amongst the rows. At a point when everyone seems lost, TOMMY appears on stage waving at them.]*
- SARAH Look, there he is. *[They ALL cross back onto the stage.]*
- DICK What's the matter with you. Are you playing games because you have no rats to chase? *[TOMMY nods.]*
- SARAH Thank goodness there aren't any on board. Horrible things. They give me the collywobbles! And there's nothing worse than when your colly is wobbling! I ought to know, I'm beset with afflictions!
- DICK Come on Tommy, let's see if I can find you a nice saucer of milk instead. *[DICK and TOMMY exit right as COD and SKATE enter left.]*
- COD Come along everyone. It's time for lifeboat drill.
- F/WARREN What?
- SARAH Lifeboat drill? What's the point in drilling a lifeboat? It's let in the water.
- COD I don't mean that sort of drill. It's very important to know the right procedure in case of emergency.
- JACK What? Do you mean if we're shipwrecked?
- COD Exactly. Now everyone onto the main deck. *[The front cloth rises and we are in –*

SCENE 3 THE MAIN DECK OF THE SAUCY SUE

- [We are mid-ships on the Saucy Sue. The side of the ship can be the same as used in scene 1 with the gangplank entrance closed. The wings are rigging and the bottom of the sail is seen from the flies. If at all possible this should fall in the shipwreck sequence. Again, if possible, the left side of the stage should have a raised part and a ship's wheel – but this is not essential to the scene. Up stage somewhere are a couple of buckets and five mops.]*
- COD Now, everyone fall in. *[The OTHERS run up to the side of the ship as if to jump in the sea.]* Now what are you doing?

JACK You said fall in.

COD I didn't mean fall into the sea. I meant line up here.

SARAH Well why didn't you say so. *[They ALL line up centre stage. SKATE far right, FITZWARREN next to him, then SARAH and JACK. COD stays down left.]*

COD Everybody close up. *[SARAH pulls her skirt over her head.]* No, not that way.

SARAH Oh you mean this way. *[SHE turns her back and pulls her skirt up behind.]*

COD Not like that. I mean close ranks. *[They ALL move together.]* Now from the far end, number. *[THEY pair up and start dancing.]* What are you doing now?

F/WARREN You said Rumba!

COD Number! I said number! You all have to have a number so as to make sure everyone is accounted for.

JACK Of course we're all accounted for. We're all on board this ship.

COD I know. But if we have to abandon ship we need to know everyone is safe. Now Skate you start.

SKATE One.

F/WARREN Two.

SARAH Three.

JACK Four.

COD And again.

JACK One.

SARAH Two.

F/WARREN Three.

COD Just a minute. Skate, I thought you were one?

SKATE It's just a rumour!

COD Now the next thing is to know your assembly points.

JACK Oh that's easy. *[HE points to various parts of his body.]* My head's assembled here, my arms here and my legs here.

SARAH That's right. I know a song about that! *[SHE starts to sing "My hip bone's connected to my thigh bone". The OTHERS join in.]*

- COD Stop it. Stop it. I mean the assembly points if we have an emergency. Now Skate and myself will be on the bridge so we will assemble here. Alderman Fitzwarren where will you be most of the time?
- F/WARREN In my cabin.
- COD Then your assembly point will be on the fore deck.
- F/WARREN Four deck? I thought we only had two.
- COD No, no. Fore deck. *[Pointing.]* Over there!
- F/WARREN Oh the pointy end.
- COD *[Rolling his eyes.]* If you like. Jack, you'd be with the crew so you assemble here and Sarah where will you be?
- SARAH In the kitchen.
- COD No, it's a mess.
- SARAH Then you'd better clean it up.
- COD Oh what's the use! The last thing is to be prepared in case of an attack. *[ALL start to tremble.]* We must be ready to repel boarders.
- JACK Charge them a hundred quid for bed and breakfast, that'd repel any boarder!
- COD Not that sort of boarder. We could encounter pirates!
- SARAH Oh no not again!
- COD We have a good crew so we'd be all right if we follow military procedure.
- SKATE Oh Captain Cod, I don't think I'd be any good against pirates.
- COD Nonsense. When I've finished with you Mr Skate you'd be a regular sea-dog. What do you say to that?
- SKATE Woof!
- F/WARREN What a strange little man.
- COD All the weaponry is locked up below, so we'd practice with those mops. *[ALL get mops.]* Right. Ready for the first command. *[HE barks an order.]* Shoulder arms. *[They ALL lean on each other's shoulders with their arms. SKATE leans on COD.]* No, no. Not like that. *[HE moves and SKATE falls.]* Like this. *[HE shoulders his mop.]*
- OTHERS *[Getting it.]* Oh. *[THEY "shoulder arms". SARAH puts hers on her right shoulder.]*
- COD No Sarah. Put it here. *[HE pats his left shoulder.]*

- SARAH Sorry. *[SHE puts her mop on CODS left shoulder.]*
- COD No. Put it where he's got it. *[HE points to SKATE so SHE puts it on SKATES shoulder. COD grabs her mop and puts it on her left shoulder shouting at her.]* Put it there.
- SARAH *[Taking mop away.]* Say please.
- COD *[Incredulously.]* Please??
- SARAH *[Slapping his cheek.]* Anything for you handsome! *[SHE shoulder the mop correctly.]*
- COD Now, present arms. *[They ALL throw down the mops and hold their arms out front.]* Oh give me strength! *[Barks out another order.]* Crew. Atten-shun!! *[They ALL pick up the mops and put them correctly on their shoulders and line up in proper military fashion.]* By the left, quick . *[They ALL start to move.]* Wait for it, wait for it! Quick march. *[DICK and ALICE enter and watch. COD starts an American style chant to which the others respond after each line.]*
 Here on board we are prepared, (Here on board we are prepared,)
 Of the pirates we're not scared. (Of the pirates we're not scared.)
 Dick and Alice are holding hands, (Dick and Alice are holding hands,)
 Cod and Skate are just good friends! (Cod and Skate are just good friends!)
 Hello! (Hello!)
 Hello .
- ALL Sailor! *[During the above THEY march around the stage and finish with a march across the front of the stage and a salute to the audience, JACK and SARAH bringing up the rear. Before her exit SARAH does an impromptu tap dance before being yanked off by JACK.]*
- DICK Well how are you enjoying the voyage so far, Alice?
- ALICE Better than I expected to. All because you're here.
- DICK Well I can promise you I'm going to be around for a long time. Nothing and nobody will ever come between us again. *[TOMMY bounds on and ends between them.]*
- ALICE I think you spoke too soon.
- DICK Hello Tommy. Have you been exploring the ship? *[TOMMY nods. HE sniffs the air and looks around suspiciously.]* What's the matter? Don't tell me you can smell rats! *[TOMMY nods.]* You must be mistaken. There can't be any rats on this ship. Not this far out to sea. *[TOMMY nods again.]*
- ALICE Rats are known to be on these old sailing ships Dick. You don't think that awful Ratface is here do you?

- DICK If he is Tommy will rout him out, won't you boy? *[TOMMY nods and shadow boxes.]* There, you see. No need to worry. We've got our own bodyguard. *[SARAH enters. A few SAILORS accompany her.]*
- SARAH Hello you two. Are you enjoying the trip?
- ALICE Yes thank you Sarah.
- DICK It's certainly an adventure. I've never even seen the sea before I left Gloucester.
- SARAH Oh I'm a seasoned sailor you know.
- ALICE Really?
- SARAH Yes. I know all the nautical terms, don't I boys?
- SAILORS Yes. You sure do. Etc.
- SARAH Reef the topsail. Drop the rigging. Ankles away! Lash me to the mast! All hands below! *[The SAILORS rush to her trying to hold her. SHE giggles with the attention.]* Here, hang on! We haven't spliced the mainbrace yet. *[The SAILORS move back.]* Been everywhere with the best of them. P & O, Brittany Ferries, The Sally Line, Saga Holidays! Oh yes I've got my sea legs. What do you think? *[SHE shows off her legs. A few wolf whistles. Ad-lib. with the audience.]*
- DICK We're going for a stroll around the deck, so we'll leave you with your admirers. *[DICK, ALICE and TOMMY exit.]*
- SAILOR Come on Sarah, how about we go for a stroll as well?
- SARAH A stroll with you? It'd be more like a nautical role!
- 2nd SAILOR Come down to the quarterdeck with me and I'll show you how to grease the anchor chain!
- SARAH I beg your pardon?
- 3rd SAILOR How do you fancy a look at my spinnaker?
- SARAH Oh you do have a way with words.
- NUMBER - SARAH AND SAILORS
- [At the end of the number SKATE enters right.]*
- SARAH Ah Mr Skate, I need to know about meal times. Who do I ask?
- SKATE The Captain. He's forward.
- SARAH Well I'm a bit of a game bird myself! Bye boys! *[SHE exits, as do the SAILORS. SKATE starts to cross left as RAT appears.]*
- RAT So, we meet again.

- SKATE Oh no, not you.
- RAT Thought you'd escaped me did you? You let me down last time. Gave the game away! Well this time you'd do everything I say.
- SKATE I'm not listening. *[HE covers his ears.]*
- RAT *[Holding up his medallion.]* Look over here.
- SKATE No! You're not going to tranquillise me!
- RAT My power is too great. You cannot resist me.
- SKATE *[Slowly turning, but trying to resist.]* I can, I can.
- RAT *[Swinging the medallion in front of SKATE.]* Look at the medallion. See how it shines.
- SKATE *[Becoming hypnotised.]* Yes!
- RAT You are now under my control.
- SKATE Yes!
- RAT Now repeat after me. You will do as I say.
- SKATE You will do as I say!
- RAT No. You will do as I say!
- SKATE *[Suddenly normal.]* Sorry! *[Hypnotised.]* I will do as you say.
- RAT Go to the lifeboats and make big holes in them. Scupper them all except one. That will be for me and my men.
- SKATE But if we have to abandon ship there'd be no way of saving ourselves!
- RAT Exactly! Now go and do my bidding. *[SKATE, still in a trance exits left.]* I shall call on my friend Poseidon, the king of the ocean, to create a storm and tidal wave that will destroy this ship and everyone on it! *[HE crosses up to the side of the ship.]*

STORM MUSIC

[From now to the end of the scene music underscores.]

Oh mighty ruler of the seas, come to my aid and bring the force of all your great oceans crashing down on this puny vessel. Send it and all who cling helplessly to its wreckage to the bottom of the sea. *[The stage darkens and the sound of wind is heard in the distance.]* Let the thunderclouds appear and send forks of lightning to tear through the sails and rip through the timbers. *[The noise of the storm gets louder and voices are heard off stage.]*

F/WARREN There's a storm brewing, everyone take cover. *[HE enters followed by SARAH, JACK, DICK, ALICE, TOMMY, COD, and the SAILORS. They are all being thrown about the ship.]*

COD Batten down the hatches.

SKATE Man the lifeboats!

SARAH Women and cooks first!

RAT Let's see you escape this dilemma Fitzwarren.

DICK King Rat I presume? We meet at last.

RAT And for the last time.

DICK Tommy, I think your dinner has arrived.

RAT You'd not catch me. Come along my brave army. Time to put an end to these humans! *[The lightning flashes and thunder roars. The other Rats run on and up to KING RAT. The OTHERS are helpless as the storm continues. A SAILOR runs on.]*

SAILOR Captain, all the lifeboats have been sabotaged!

F/WARREN What are we going to do?

COD Make sure you cling on to some wreckage. *[Someone grabs hold of SARAH.]*

SARAH Get off!

RAT You'd never make it, I shall see to that. I have the most powerful ally out here on the high seas. *[Behind the upstage side of the ship a trident appears followed by the upper part of POSEIDON. (This can be an actor or a dummy operated by stage staff.) HE raises his trident and there are more crashes of thunder and flashes of lightning. The main mast and sail crash down to the stage. The Rats start to climb over the side of the ship.]*

DICK How very brave King Rat. Leaving a sinking ship?

RAT I'm afraid so. There are more important things waiting for me back in London. *[HE leaps over the side.]*

JACK Dick, look! A tidal wave! *[The noise and effects reach a climax.]*

COD Abandon ship! Abandon ship!

[The lights quickly fade out as the music continues.]

SCENE 4 DOWN BELOW

[The scene is at the bottom of the sea and ideally should be done in UV lighting. Fish are seen swimming around and there is a large chest

to one side with "Davy Jones" written on the front. One by one the PRINCIPALS are seen swimming by. A shark can chase SARAH. TOMMY could encounter a dogfish. FITZWARREN or JACK a swordfish. As JACK swims across the light on the hutch flashes and he has to feed the rabbit. The scene can be as elaborate as possible. After the PRINCIPALS cross, there can be a musical number done by the various creatures of the sea. At the end of the number the lights black out and the scene changes to

SCENE 5 THE SHORES OF MOROCCO

[A front cloth scene with possibly a palm tree to one side. FAIRY enters right. SHE is wearing sunglasses.]

- FAIRY Well that was quite a storm, but all is not lost. Ratface and his mob were so busy eating their way through the provisions, they failed to realise how close to the Moroccan shore they were when the storm started. After a short swim our hero and his friends have reached the beach and are safe. They should be along any minute only to find more adventures waiting for them. Ooh I say the heat here in North Africa does nothing for your lip-gloss! *[SHE exits. DICK and ALICE enter left.]*
- DICK Oh, we're the only ones saved from the wreck!
- ALICE I was sure Tommy was keeping up with us, but I lost sight of father and the others.
- DICK We'd better try and find out where we are. Let's see what's over there. *[THEY exit right. COD enters left.]*
- COD Oh, I'm the only one saved from the wreck! *[HE looks back off left.]* No! Wait a minute, is that another figure I can see, or is it a mirage? *[SKATE enters staggering about.]* It's a mirage!! Skate, Skate! Speak to me! *[HE shakes SKATE who has a mouth full of water which he spurts into CODS face.]*
- SKATE Macarooned! Macarooned!
- COD Marooned, you idiot! Well, at least you're all right. I can't understand why the lifeboats sank as well. They were fine when I inspected them before we left port.
- SKATE Maybe the big holes in them had something to do with it.
- COD Big holes? How did you know they had big holes in them?
- SKATE When I smashed the hammer through them ò ò . Oh no!
- COD You sabotaged our only means of survival?
- SKATE It was that Ratface. He sanitised me again!

- COD You fool!
- SKATE Oh dear. I've just realised o o
- COD/SKATE We're the only ones saved from the wreck!! *[THEY exit right. FITZWARREN and JACK enter left.]*
- F/WARREN Oh, we're the only ones saved from the wreck! We've swam through 15 miles of shark infested water. I can't think why we weren't eaten.
- JACK I know why. I kept shouting %*Name of local football team.*] for the Cup. I knew they'd never swallow that!
- F/WARREN How am I ever going to get through this?
- JACK Don't worry boss, you've still got me!
- F/WARREN *[Looks at JACK, then front.]* How am I ever going to get through this?? I can't believe I'd never see Alice again. And the rest of them . brave souls lost at sea! How did it come to this? The only ones saved from the wreck! *[THEY exit right. TOMMY enters left. HE dramatically crosses centre and meows "I'm the only one saved from the wreck"! HE then exits right as SARAH enters left. SHE has seaweed and other debris all over her.]*
- SARAH Oh I'm a wreck and there's no one to save me! I wonder where I am. It looks a bit like Costa Packet! And look at my new Dior sailor suit. Completely ruined! Now Mr Fitzwarren will never give me a refund. Oh what am I saying? I'd never see him again. Nor Jack or Alice or Dick. *[SHE starts wailing.]* Oh what's to become of me? I'm just a poor defenceless old woman. Lost out here with no one to turn to. Nothing to the right of me. Nothing to the left of me. *[SHE looks out into the audience.]* Nothing as far as the eye can see except a lot of waving palms. *[SHE looks again.]* Waving palms? *[SHE starts to get excited and waves to the back of the auditorium.]* Waving palms! It's me, I'm here! *[From the back of the auditorium the OTHERS come running and calling "Hello!" They all come up onto the stage.]* I'm saved! I'm saved!
- DICK We're all saved!
- ALICE Thank goodness.
- F/WARREN But where are we?
- JACK I don't know. There aren't any road signs.
- COD There aren't any roads.
- SKATE Just sand, sand - *[HE wriggles about and adjusts the inside leg of his trousers.]* . and more sand!
- SARAH There must be some other people living here.
- JACK Yes, but will they be friendly? I've heard strange stories about the people who live in places like this.

- COD What sort of strange stories?
- JACK Well, they have very unsavoury eating habits.
- SKATE Do you mean c-c-c-cannibals?
- ALICE Cannibals? Oh Dick, I am frightened.
- DICK Stop scaring us all. There must be some friendly people around. I'm going to do a recce of the area. You all wait here.
- ALICE I'm coming with you Dick.
- DICK Very well. We won't be long. Come on Tommy. *[HE, TOMMY and ALICE exit.]*
- F/WARREN The rest of us must stick together. We don't want to be separated again.
- SARAH And we must keep watch in case anything or anyone creeps up on us.
- JACK I tell you who's good at keeping watch.
- COD Who?
- JACK *[Pointing at the audience.]* That lot out there.
- SKATE Really?
- JACK You'd let us know if anything creeps up on us would you? *[Audience reacts.]*
- SARAH Oh come on! You didn't think you were going to sit there for the whole performance and not have to do this, did you?
- JACK You know what to do! If anything comes along just shout out.
- F/WARREN What happens now?
- OTHERS We sing a song!
- NUMBER . SARAH, JACK, F/WARREN, COD & SKATE
- [During the number two of the SULTANS GUARDS enter and carry off COD & SKATE then return for FITZWARREN & JACK. They return a second time and stand either side of SARAH.]*
- SARAH Well, if it isn't . *[Well known duo.]*
- 1st GUARD You come with us.
- SARAH Isn't he cuddly? It makes you want to pick him up and hook him onto your key ring!
- 2nd GUARD We have special place to take you.

- SARAH You know, this doesn't seem such a bad place after all! Where are we going? The Ritz, the Savoy? Burger King?
- 1st GUARD To the Sultan of Morocco.
- SARAH Sultan! Oh I've always wanted to meet royalty.
- 2nd GUARD You go into his harem!
- SARAH Oh no! I shall be a ruined woman and not yet thirty! *[The GUARDS look at her in disbelief.]* All right, thirty-five! *[THEY drag HER off.]* Help! Help!

[The lights fade and the scene changes to

SCENE 6 THE SULTAN'S PALACE

[A lavish room. The SULTAN is sitting on a pile of cushions eating grapes. The WAZIR, carrying a whip, stands to one side. HANDMAIDENS are performing an eastern type dance.]

HANDMAIDENS DANCE

[At the end of the dance the HANDMAIDEN fall to the floor in obeisance to the SULTAN.]

- SULTAN *[Who is rather bored by the dance.]* Yes, very nice, or though I would prefer it if you learned a new routine! How about something by . *[HE names a current dance pop group.]* At least it would liven the place up a bit. It does get rather dull sitting around all day eating grapes! *[HE claps his hands and the HANDMAIDENS get up and bow as they exit.]* Anything new on the agenda for today?
- WAZIR As a matter of fact O Light of the East, your guards have arrested strangers who were caught trespassing on your private beach.
- SULTAN Really? What kind of strangers?
- WAZIR Strange strangers!! Very pale with unusual clothing. Would you care to look upon them, or shall we dispose of them in the usual way?
- SULTAN What is the penalty for trespassing?
- WAZIR To be lowered slowly into a vat of boiling oil.
- SULTAN Oh such a lingering death! I will see them first. If they are as strange as you say it might amuse me. *[HE yawns. The WAZIR cracks the whip.]*
- WAZIR Bring in the prisoners. *[The other GUARDS enter pushing FITZWARREN, JACK, COD and SKATE ahead of them.]* Make a proper greeting to his Greatness.

JACK Hello mate!

SULTAN Don't call me mate! Just kneel.

JACK Hello Neil!

WAZIR Grovel on the floor like the swine that you are.

F/WARREN Swine? I'd have you know I'm Alderman Fitzwarren and I hold a very important position.

WAZIR Your position is on your fat belly. Down! *[HE cracks the whip and they all drop to the floor. The GUARDS exit.]*

SULTAN What do you mean by trespassing on my private beach?

COD We didn't know it was yours, your highness.

SKATE We were shipwrecked and it was the first piece of dry land we came to.

WAZIR A likely story. You have come to rob us of our wealth and treasures. And for that you shall be boiled in oil.

F/WARREN No! Really, we come in peace. We don't want to rob you. I am a trader and I was hoping to buy fine silks and spices to take back to my country.

SULTAN And where is that?

F/WARREN England.

WAZIR England? I have heard it is full of barbarians.

COD No, just the people who come from . *[Name of county where this show is playing.]* The rest of us are perfectly civilised.

WAZIR I still say you are here to rob us.

F/WARREN No. I have money to pay for anything we buy.

SULTAN I have no need for money. I have more riches than I know what to do with.

JACK There must be something you want.

SULTAN Well my harem could do with livening up a bit.

COD *[Gulping.]* Oh heck!

JACK Start boiling the oil.

F/WARREN *[In a panic.]* I'm afraid we have no women with us.

SKATE What about Alice and Sarah? *[The others "Shh" him.]*

SULTAN What's that? There are more of you?

JACK No, no. They were lost at sea. *[A GUARD enters.]*

GUARD Oh exalted one. More prisoners have been captured.

WAZIR Lost at sea, eh? More lies. *[To the GUARD.]* How many this time?

GUARD A man, a women and a creature covered with fur!

SULTAN Bring them here at once. *[The GUARD bows and exits.]*

F/WARREN They must have caught the others.

JACK Now we'll never be rescued.

WAZIR Silence! *[Cracks whip. The OTHERS all cry out "Ohhh" in quick succession.]* Only speak when spoken to in the presence of his Sereneship. *[The GUARD enters pushing on DICK, ALICE and TOMMY.]*

F/WARREN Alice, Dick! Thank goodness you're safe.

ALICE Oh father!

WAZIR Silence! *[Cracks whip. OTHERS do "Ohhh" again.]* On your knees. *[DICK and ALICE kneel. TOMMY moves towards the SULTAN.]*

SULTAN What is that creature?

DICK That's my cat, Tommy.

SULTAN Cat? What is a cat?

DICK He's a family pet. Don't you have cats in Morocco, your highness?

SULTAN No! I've never seen such a ferocious creature.

ALICE Tommy's not ferocious. He's very friendly. *[TOMMY is by the SULTAN and puts his head down to be stroked.]*

SULTAN *[Cowering back.]* What is he doing now?

DICK He just wants you to stroke his head. It's a sort of greeting. *[The SULTAN tentatively puts his hand out and strokes TOMMY'S head.]*

SULTAN *[Giggling.]* Oh! It tickles!

ALICE It's just his soft fur.

SULTAN I think I like cats. I will spare him, *[TOMMY sits next to the SULTAN.]* but what shall I do with the rest of you?

COD Oh spare us too, your Mountainship!

THE OTHERS Oh yes, spare us. Please spare us!

SULTAN I will think about it. *[HE claps his hands and the WAZIR indicates they move up stage and wait.]* Wazir, what else do I have to attend to?

WAZIR You may want to choose which of your wives will dine with you tonight, O Passionate one!

SULTAN Ah yes, let them be summoned.

WAZIR *[Cracking whip.]* Send for the royal wives. *[The call is echoed off stage. Music starts.]*

MUSIC FOR PROCESSION

[The DANCING GIRLS enters and parade in front of the SULTAN. They are veiled and bringing up the rear is SARAH – heavily veiled! SHE wears a slave girl costume with tassels attached to pointed boobs. SHE also has a long blonde wig on. The SULTAN shakes his head to each one until SARAH is in front of him.]

SULTAN I don't remember her. When did I marry the plump one?

SARAH Plump? I'd have you know I'm just nicely rounded!

FIZWARREN *[Aside to the others.]* It's Sarah!

SULTAN *[To one of the GUARDS.]* Bring me my hooker! *[A hooker is brought to the SULTAN who starts to smoke it.]*

SARAH Here, what sort of a place is this? I'm a respectable girl!

SULTAN You are not one of my wives. What are you doing here?

SARAH I'm sexy Sarah the sultry siren from Southend!

SULTAN Turn around and let me look at you. *[SARAH does a twirl.]* Not bad. I think I'd keep her!

SARAH Hey, not so fast! I'm not just any girl whose head can be turned by words full of eastern promise!

SULTAN *[To the WAZIR.]* I like her! She's not like the others. She has spirit.

SARAH Not a drop has touched my lips!

SULTAN Come over here my little sugarplum! *[SARAH crosses to him.]* How would you like to be my sultana?

SARAH Sugar plum? Sultana? Are you some sort of fruitcake?

SULTAN I'd like to smother you in custard, sponge fingers and sherry.

SARAH No, I won't be trifled with!

SULTAN You have lovely hair. Spun gold?

SARAH Yes. Every night I give myself a hundred strokes of the brush. Fifty aside, so vital!

SULTAN Would you like tea in my chamber?

SARAH Don't tell me you haven't any cups!

SULTAN You are driving me wild in that costume. I love those tassels.

SARAH Just call be titillating Tessie the Tottenham twirler! *[To a percussive sound SHE twirls the tassels.]*

SULTAN Oh you are driving me wild with delight. You can have anything you want. Just name it.

SARAH Oh your Royal Jockstrap. All I want is freedom for my friends.

WAZIR Freedom? This is a trap Highness. She is with them!

SULTAN Is this true? *[To the others.]* Is this young maiden with you?

JACK Young maiden? He needs to visit Specsavers!

F/WARREN Be quiet, Jack. *[To the SULTAN.]* Your Sultanship, this is Sarah, my cook!

SULTAN Cook?

SARAH Yes! I've been certified by Delia Smith! *[Playing up to the SULTAN.]* I bet I could get your taste buds tingling with my dumpling delight!

SULTAN What about an English dish I've heard of called Bangers and Mash?

SARAH Nothing simpler! You give me your bangers and I'll mash 'em!!

SULTAN In that case I shall show mercy. You are all free. *[ALL rejoice.]* All this talk of food has made me feel hungry. It must be time for lunch. Won't you all join me?

OTHERS Oh how kind. I'm famished. Etc.

DICK Your highness, would it be possible to have a saucer of milk for my cat?

SULTAN A saucer? My dear fellow, he can have a bath full! I bathe in it you know. Good for the complexion.

DICK Go on Tommy. *[TOMMY bounds off.]*

SULTAN *[To the WAZIR.]* Food for my guests.

WAZIR *[Bowing.]* At once Highness. *[HE cracks whip. The HANDMAIDENS enter carrying large covered platters of food.]*

- SULTAN Splendid, splendid. Let's see what today's speciality is. *[The HANDMAIDENS uncover the platters to find the food half-eaten and mouldy. ALL gasp.]*
- WAZIR What is the meaning of this? How dare you put food like this before our illustrious Sultan? *[Before the HANDMAIDENS can answer, RAT appears down left.]*
- RAT Thank you for that little snack your highness. *[The HANDMAIDENS scream and run up stage.]*
- WAZIR Guards! *[The GUARDS run on, but cower at the sight of RAT.]*
- SULTAN Who are you?
- DICK It's Ratface!
- RAT King of the Rats if you don't mind. It was fun watching you all in the sea after the ship went down. My army of rats and myself found it very amusing watching all of you splashing about as we sailed off in our lifeboat!
- ALICE You left us to perish, you evil fiend!
- RAT But you didn't, more's the pity. Now I find you here with this pompous ass!
- SULTAN Guards arrest this creature. *[GUARDS move towards RAT, but he raises up his claws and then says:]*
- RAT Boo! *[The GUARDS cower back. RAT roars with laughter and then calls.]* Come my brave army. Let's put an end to these humans once and for all! *[The RATS run on amid screams and shouts from the rest of the COMPANY.]*
- DICK Come on Tommy, there's work to be done. *[TOMMY enters wiping his whiskers.]*
- RAT *[In horror.]* The cat!! *[HE exits quickly down left.]*

CHASE MUSIC

[The music starts as TOMMY dashes about disposing of the rats. The OTHERS help until all the RATS are gone. TOMMY chases the last off and returns with one in his teeth. HE takes it and proudly presents it to the SULTAN. The whole of this sequence could be accompanied by strobe lighting.]

- SULTAN Ugh!! Take the filthy thing away. *[TOMMY throws it off stage.]* Oh thank you, thank you for ridding my lovely palace of all those awful creatures.

[The positions on stage are such that a GUARD and ALICE are near the down left area with SARAH to the right of them. DICK is down

right. RAT re-enters down left grabbing a scimitar off the GUARD and holding ALICE.]

RAT Not quite all! Now out of my way or the girl gets it! *[HE starts to cross the stage still holding ALICE.]*

SARAH *[As RAT passes her.]* Oi! Ugly mush! There's something behind you! *[SHE stamps on his tail. HE screams and lets go of ALICE who runs away. DICK grabs a scimitar off a GUARD and starts to fight RAT.]*

FIGHT MUSIC

[During the fight RAT looks as though he is winning. The OTHERS shout to encourage DICK and get the audience to help. DICK finally wins standing over RAT. ALL cheer.]

RAT You may think you've won Whittington, but I shall get back to London and regroup the rest of my army of rats. My day is not over yet! *[FAIRY enters down right.]*

FAIRY I think it is King Rat.

SULTAN Who is this? Someone else from the shipwreck?

JACK It looks like . *[Well known female personality.]*

FAIRY I am Fairy Bow Bells and guardian to the good people of London. Dick, you and Tommy have helped bring down this loathsome creature. You have fulfilled a large part of your destiny, but now you must all return to London where an even greater triumph awaits you.

SARAH *[Pointing to RAT.]* And what about him?

SULTAN Wazir. Is that vat of oil still boiling?

WAZIR It is indeed O ingenious one. *[To the GUARDS.]* Take him away. *[The GUARDS drag RAT off.]*

FAIRY When the rats of London hear that King Rat is not returning to lead them, they will disband and live their lives in the sewers for years to come.

F/WARREN Thank goodness for that. Now we really should think about getting home.

SULTAN The royal Moroccan fleet is at your disposal. You may take as many ships as you like and I will fill them with all the silks and spices you want.

F/WARREN Thank you your highness. I hope this will be the start of a long and fruitful trade between our two countries.

COD Why don't you come back with us and visit our famous capital.

- SKATE Yes, you'd just be in time to see the inauguration of the new Lord Mayor.
- SULTAN I should like that very much.
- F/WARREN The new Lord Mayor! With all the excitement I'd forgotten about that. When we left we still hadn't found a suitable candidate.
- FAIRY You'd need someone good .
- ALL Yes.
- FAIRY - and honest .
- ALL Yes.
- FAIRY - and upstanding .
- ALL Yes.
- FAIRY - and brave.
- ALL Yes.
- FAIRY A shining example of a true Englishman.
- F/WARREN But who?
- FAIRY *[To the audience.] Why don't you tell them! [The audience shout out "Dick Whittington".]*
- F/WARREN Dick! Of course! The ideal person.
- JACK What do you say, Dick?
- DICK Only if Alice will agree to be my Lady Mayoress.
- ALICE With all my heart *[ALL cheer.]*
- FAIRY Ooh I shall have to nip into Harvey Nicholls - *[Or local store.]* – and get a new outfit! But first I finally get to do a bit of rhyming.
Then quickly back to London without delay,
For all to celebrate a special day.

COMPANY NUMBER

[At the end of the number, the lights fade out and the scene changes to

SCENE 7 BACK HOME

[Front cloth scene. The light on the hutch flashes, the audience calls and JACK runs on.]

JACK Thank you very much. *[HE feeds the rabbit.]* You've been very kind looking after my pet rabbit. And you know since we all arrived back in London we've been so busy. All the preparations are underway for Dick and Alice's wedding and the inauguration of the new Lord Mayor. Well I thought we ought to commemorate the occasion, so I've written a little song. Would you like to hear it? *[Audience responds and as JACK starts to sing SARAH enters. They go into patter and into:]*

SONG SHEET

[At the end of the sequence they wave to the audience and exit as the lights fade and the scene changes to

SCENE 8 THE MANSION HOUSE

FINALE

[The COMPANY take their bows.]

CHORUS
RATS
FAIRY
RATFACE
WAZIR
SULTAN
TOMMY
COD & SKATE
ALDERMAN FITZWARREN
IDLE JACK
SARAH

SARAH Three cheers for the new Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of London.

[ALL cheer. DICK and ALICE take their call.]

RAT I've given up the evil life as every plan just fails,

FAIRY That's good to know, so now I'm off to the January sales!

COD We've all come home quite safe and sound .

SKATE - and here intend to stay!

F/WARREN To welcome London's new Lord Mayor on this auspicious day.

JACK And thanks to you my rabbit's fine and growing rather fat!

ALICE So all that's left to say is goodbye .

DICK - from Dick Whittington and his Cat!

TOMMY Meow!!

FINAL CHORUS

[ALL wave goodbye and sing the final chorus. The curtain falls.]

End of Act Two