

NODA Pantomimes Presents

FRANKENSTEIN

THE PANTO

BY DAVID SWAN

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Frankenstein the Panto

It's a hard life for little orphan Heidi in Pumpernickel's Tavern. The greedy innkeeper and his bossy wife treat her like a slave. And that's not all ... up in his castle, gormless Count Dracula and his gummy grandmother are planning a dinner party, with Heidi as the main course!

Luckily, she's got the audience and other friends to help: her faithful dog Kodak, her best friend Frankie Stein and the handsome Prince Ludwig. The Forces of Evil never stand a chance ... especially when Professor Crackpot transforms Frankie into a Superhero!

The only real *horrors* are a party of rowdy schoolgirls under the supervision of Miss Nelly, famed pedagogue and pantomime dame. They're studying how to create havoc ... and they're all fast-learners!

Other titles by David Swan

Aladdin

Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves

Pinocchio

The Sleeping Beauty

*For Pamela and Dennis Quinn
and
In memory of Paul Stephenson,
who would have laughed*

Suggestions for Musical Numbers

Most of the suggestions listed here will be familiar to audiences and are therefore more likely to be enjoyed. Authorization to use any copyright songs and music must be obtained from: **The Performing Rights Society Ltd., 29-33 Berners Street, London W1P 4AA.**

Song A	"Hello, Hello There!" (<i>Bells Are Ringing</i> - Jule Styne)
Song B	"Master Of The House" (<i>Les Misérables</i> - Boublil & Schonberg)
Song C	"Give A Little Whistle" (<i>Pinocchio</i> - Walt Disney)
Song D	"Once A Year Day" (<i>The Pyjama Game</i> - Adler & Ross)
Song E	The School Anthem (<i>The Liberty Bell</i> - Sousa)
Song F	"The Sun'll Come Out Tomorrow" (<i>Annie</i> - Strouse & Charnin)
Dance A	Junior Ballet (" <i>Alfred Hitchcock Presents</i> " theme - available on " <i>Television's Greatest Hits, Vol.1</i> ", TVT 1100, HMV - Tower London)
Song G	"Look What Happened To Mabel" (<i>Mac and Mabel</i> - Jerry Herman)
Song H	"Ghostbusters" (<i>Ray Parker Jnr.</i>)
Song I	The School Anthem (<i>Reprise</i>)
Song J	"It's A Hard Knock Life" (<i>Annie</i> - Strouse & Charnin)
Song K	"Suddenly, Seymour" (<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i> - Ashman & Menken)
Song L	"The Loco-Motion" (<i>G. Goffin & C.King</i>)
Song M	Songsheet
Song N	"Once A Year Day" (<i>Reprise</i>)
Song O	"I Don't Need Anything But You" (<i>Annie</i> - Strouse & Charnin)

CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

Herr Pumpernickel	<i>an innkeeper</i>	(M)
Frau Pumpernickel	<i>his wife</i>	(F)
Frankie	<i>their servant</i>	(M)
Heidi	<i>an orphan (principal girl)</i>	(F)
Kodak	<i>her dog</i>	(M/F)
Buckles	<i>the prince's valet</i>	(M/F)
Prince Ludwig	<i>of Bavaria (principal boy)</i>	(F)
Professor Crackpot	<i>a crazy inventor</i>	(M)
Miss Nelly	<i>a headmistress (dame)</i>	(M)
Bridget Bloggs	<i>a schoolgirl</i>	(F)
Mabel Crumb	<i>a schoolgirl</i>	(F)
Agnes Swipe	<i>a schoolgirl</i>	(F)
Constance Swot	<i>a schoolgirl</i>	(F)
Ethel Ready	<i>a schoolgirl</i>	(F)
Count Dracula	<i>a vampire</i>	(M)
Granula	<i>his grandmother</i>	(F)

Chorus and Dancers: Citizens of Bavaria, schoolgirls, bats and ghosts.

16 Principals: 5 male, 9 female and 2 male/female.

Some doubling up possible: Herr & Frau Pumpernickel with Dracula and Granula.

ACT I

Scene 1	Pumpernickel's Taverna, Bavaria	<i>(full set)</i>
Scene 2	Outside Pumpernickel's Taverna	<i>(front of tabs)</i>
Scene 3	The Haunted Bedroom	<i>(half set)</i>
Scene 4	A Hallway in Pumpernickel's Taverna	<i>(front of tabs)</i>
Scene 5	Professor Crackpot's Laboratory	<i>(full set)</i>

ACT II

Scene 1	Dracula's Castle	<i>(full set)</i>
Scene 2	Song Sheet	<i>(front of tabs)</i>
Finale		

Note: The scenes are designed to blend into one another: full set, front of tabs, full set, etc. They offer the opportunity for elaborate and imaginative staging but are equally suitable for a small-scale production.

Description of Characters

Herr Pumpernickel is extremely oily and obsequious. He panders to anyone with money and willingly squeezes pennies from the poor. Though harsh on Heidi, he is not a 'heavy' villain and should be played humourously.

Frau Pumpernickel his prodigal wife, is very generous ... with herself. She has an unquenchable thirst for vulgar finery and thinks that her coarse manners are the height of etiquette. They are a well-matched, selfish, couple.

Frankie should be a believably real person. He is kind-hearted, humourous and naturally likeable ... the audience must regard him as their friend. He takes neither his role as the cheeky servant nor the dumb monster seriously.

Heidi is exploited by the Pumpernickels because she is a helpless orphan. Despite this, she is not a pathetic character ... she is humorous, hard working, forthright and uncomplaining.

Kodak is a challenging, non-speaking part. The performer should incorporate as many 'doggy' mannerisms as possible into his performance: sniffing, licking, scratching, etc.

Buckles is practical, down to earth and doesn't suffer fools gladly. He is older and wiser than Ludwig and often has to bail him out of awkward situations.

Prince Ludwig attempts to be very grand but is too inexperienced to be convincingly regal. He is shy, tends to be forgetful and obviously relies heavily on Buckles.

Professor Crackpot a 'nutty', absent-minded professor. He should speak with a phoney, but intelligible, German accent. His dishevelled clothes and unkept hair are proof that **great minds have little time for personal appearance!**

Miss Nelly is brazen, effervescent and quick-witted. She is totally unshockable as far as her girls are concerned ... we should get the impression that their behaviour is the result of her careful training.

Bridget Bloggs is a dumb-blonde and "gold-digger", well trained in the art of trapping her man. She should look 'sexy' in her uniform and believe that she is the focus of all male attention.

Mabel Crumb is a lazy loafer. She couldn't care less and this should be reflected in her slovenly appearance and sloppy mannerisms.

Agnes Swipe is a hyperactive "super-brat". She is a fast-moving, quick-tempered bully with a well developed criminal mind.

Constance Swot is teacher's pet. She appears to be meek and well-behaved but is, in fact, the 'brains' of the gang.

Ethel Ready is a hypochondriac and a moaner. She would love to be the centre of attention but never is. The others constantly push her around.

Count Dracula is basically an upper-class twit. He has impeccable manners and should speak with a very posh, "Sloane Ranger" accent. A failure as a vampire, he would have expired eons ago had it not been for his granny.

Granula looks decrepit but appearances are deceptive: she can leap quickly into action when required. She is more vicious than Dracula and has brains enough for two.

NOTE: None of the schoolgirls have to be played by juveniles.

Act One

Scene 1

Pumpernickel's Taverna - Bavaria

(Full-stage ... see Appendix A. There are stairs U.L. to the first floor of the tavern and beneath this a swing-door with a sign saying "Kitchen". The main door is U.C. and above this is a changeable sign which, at the moment, reads "Pumpernickel's Taverna". There is a window with sky beyond U.R. and another door with a sign saying "LAB". There is a Bar R. which also functions as a Reception Desk later in the scene. On the Bar is a sign saying "Happy Hour" and a bell. Tables and chairs are scattered around the rest of the stage.)

The decor of the opening set is "German" and should be bright and cheerful. A mirror hangs on the wall near the Kitchen Door. There are signs everywhere: "Credit? No! Nein! Non! Nee!", "No Nose Blowing On Tablecloths - The Management", "Rooms to Let" "Cash Only", "Menu - Today's Special - Snail Quiche - Sweet and Sour Kraut - Best Wurst"

The Chorus and Dancers are dressed in German peasant costumes. Throughout the opening production number: HERR PUMPERNICKEL pulls steins of beer behind the bar; HEIDI takes trays of beer to the customers; FRAU PUMPERNICKEL and FRANKIE come in and out of kitchen, serving food; KODAK, the dog, scrounges titbits.

SONG A

Principals and Chorus

ALL sing one verse and chorus of the song. The music continues with a short dance - a hands and thigh-slapping 'folk-dance' routine. ALL sing a final, rousing chorus and the song ends. Exit DANCERS. FRANKIE and HEIDI move D.C. and bow. The CHORUS continues eating and drinking unobtrusively. KODAK lies down beneath a table. HERR and FRAU PUMPERNICKEL pick up broom, a mop and a bucket (containing streamers). They move to FRANKIE and HEIDI)

Herr Pump *(handing bucket and mop to FRANKIE)* Alright, you two, that's enough of that ... get back to work.

Frau Pump *(handing broom to HEIDI)* Yes ... I want this place sparkling from top to bottom.

Herr Pump Scrub that floor ...

Frau Pump ... and dust those chairs ...

Herr Pump ... polish that door ...

Frau Pump ... and sweep those stairs ...

Herr Pump ... tote that barge ...

Frau Pump ... and lift that bale ...

Both *(singing)* "Get a little drunk and you land in jail ... (*"Ole Man River"* - Showboat)

(They laugh. HERR PUMPERNICKEL returns to the bar, replaces the "Happy Hour" sign with one saying "Reception", and counts money with the aid of a giant calculator. FRAU PUMPERNICKEL exits to kitchen)

Frankie *(curtseying)* Yes sir and madam!

Heidi Oh Frankie, I'm so tired.

Frankie Cheer up, Heidi, we'll soon be finished - you sweep the stairs and I'll mop the floor.

Herr Pump (*shouting*) And be quick about it!

Frankie

&

Yes, Herr Pumpernickel! (*HEIDI scurries upstairs*)

Heidi

Frankie (*D.L.*) Rotten old codger! (*starts to mop the floor and notices the audience*) Oh, hello there - I didn't see you! Have you come to see the show?

Audience Yes!

Frankie That's nice. (*to someone in front row*) Here ... don't chuck your rubbish on the floor. You're not in *local town* now you know! (*to whole audience*) No. This is Bavaria. We like everything kept spotlessly clean here. Even our pigeons have to fly upside down! (*swings mop over shoulder*) Welcome to Pumpernickel's Taverna! (*pointing at HERR PUMPERNICKEL*) That's the landlord of this establishment ... Herr Pumpernickel's the name. (*secretively*) Do you want to know something? (*D.C.*) Well, don't say I told you but (*loud whisper*) he's the meanest, tight-fisted old skinflint in the whole of Bavaria! He'd do anything to make more money. He'd even sell his own grandmother ... oh, no ... he already sold her! He's so stingy he won't even buy a pair of shoes - he just paints his feet black and laces up his toes! (*FRAU PUMPERNICKEL enters from the kitchen with tray and goes to tables*) That's Frau Pumpernickel, his wife. They make a good pair, those two ... he makes the money and she spends it. The only thing she ever put aside for a rainy day was a pair of wellies and a Beecham's Powder!! (*FRAU PUMPERNICKEL exits to kitchen and HERR PUMPERNICKEL moves behind FRANKIE, carrying the calculator and stuffing money into his pocket*) Her favourite book's a cheque book: once she starts one, she can't put it down till it's finished! (*He swings the mop and clouts HERR PUMPERNICKEL in the face ... a drum-beat*) Ooo-er!

Herr Pump What do you think you're doing?

Frankie Just mopping your brow. (*to audience*) He's got ears in the back of his head, that one!

Herr Pump Who are you talking to?

Frankie I was just telling the boys and girls how *kind-hearted* you are.

Herr Pump Boys and girls? (*peering at audience*) Oh yes! There's lots of them - goody, goody gumboils! (*gleefully counting the audience*) Let's see now, that's 300 people (*using calculator*) at £2 a ticket - that's £600! Ha ha! I'm stinking rich!

Frankie No ... you're just *stinking*!

Herr Pump How dare you!

Frankie What I mean is ... there might be 300 people out there, but they haven't all *paid* for their tickets.

Herr Pump Haven't paid???

Frankie There's a big party of *orphans* here tonight.

Herr Pump Orphans??

Frankie (*Soulful music. He tearfully wipes his face with the cloth*) And it's Christmas time. And they haven't got any mummies and daddies to buy them tickets. Ahhh! (*Music stops*)

Herr Pump They haven't got any mummies and daddies? So what??

Frankie (*chirpily*) So we let them in *free*!

Herr Pump *(turning his back on FRANKIE and raging)* Free! Free! I'm going to come down there and chuck you all out!
(Enter FRAU PUMPERNICKEL from kitchen with a large hat. She looks in the mirror and puts it on)

Frankie *(encouraging audience)* Boooo!

Audience Boooo!

Herr Pump And as for the rest of you ... all those who've paid for their tickets can stay and enjoy the show. And if you don't ... too bad, 'coz I'm not going to give your money back!

Audience Boo!

Herr Pump *(muttering)* Orphans! It's disgusting ... nothing but a lot of good-for-nothing leeches ...
(FRANKIE mimes throwing the bucket of water over HERR PUMPERNICKEL)

Frankie *(to audience)* Shall I give it to him?

Audience Yes.

Frankie Right, here goes. *(FRAU PUMPERNICKEL comes D.S. behind FRANKIE)*

Herr Pump *(continuing over)* blood-suckers ... parasites ... you must think I'm made of money ...

Frankie *(raising bucket)* One! Two! Th...

Frau Pump What do you think you're doing?

Frankie *(lowering bucket, startled)* Nothing, Frau Bumperknickers.

Frau Pump *(hitting him)* "Pumpernickel"! Get back to work! *(FRANKIE kneels D.L. and washes the floor)* Hello, my sweetiekins! *(kisses HERR PUMPERNICKEL)*

Herr Pump Hello my sugar-lamb!

Frau Pump Why was everyone booing you, my darling?

Herr Pump It's "Be Kind To Orphans" week ... and they think I'm being unkind!

Frau Pump *(to audience)* Oh but that's *not* true ... we *are* kind to orphans.

Frankie *(encouraging audience)* Oh no you're not!

Herr Pump
 & Oh yes we are! *(repeat twice)*

Frau Pump

Frau Pump Quiet! Stop it! We *are* kind, and I can prove it! *(calling upstairs, harshly)* Heidi!

Heidi *(at top of stairs, with broom)* Yes, Frau Pumpernickel!

Frau Pump Come down here at once! *(HEIDI comes downstairs)* At the double. *(HEIDI hurries)* Hup-one-two-three! Hup-one-two-three!

Frankie *(to audience)* Let's say "hello" to Heidi, everybody. *(waving to Heidi)* Heidi, hi!

All Ho-di-ho!

Frau Pump About time too. What took you so long?

Heidi I'm sorry, Frau Pumpernickel ... I sprained my ankle.

Herr Pump That's a lame excuse! *(laughs)*

Frau Pump Now, Heidi, I want you to tell all the boys and girls about your mummy and daddy!

Heidi *(sadly)* But I haven't got a mummy and daddy!

Frankie Ahhhh!

- Frau Pump** *(to audience)* What did I tell you? *(indicating HEIDI)* An orphan! *(to HEIDI)* Now tell them how kind we are to you.
- Heidi** *(doubtfully)* You're very kind to me!
- Frau Pump** Do it properly!
- Heidi** *(curtseying)* You're very kind to me, sir and madam!
- Frau Pump** That's better. *(to audience)* Now I hope you're satisfied! *(to HEIDI)* Alright Heidi, you may go and clear the tables.
- Heidi** *(curtseying)* Thank you, Frau Bumperknickers. *(she collects plates from the tables)*
- Frau Pump** Watch it! *(to HERR PUMPERNICKEL)* How much money have we made today, my treasure?
- Herr Pump** *(pulling out banknotes and handkerchief)* Eight hundred and fifty six pounds thirty three pence ... and a snotty handkerchief.
- Frau Pump** And a snotty handkerchief?
- Herr Pump** Yes, someone dropped it. I thought we could give it to Heidi for her Christmas Present.
- Frau Pump** Oh, you're so thoughtful. You're the kindest, cleverest, bestest landlord in the whole of Bavaria.
- Herr Pump** I try. I try.

SONG B

Principals & Chorus

(During the song, FRANKIE moves up to the main door and changes the tavern sign to read "Nickelpumper's". The song ends. Exit CHORUS. Exit HEIDI to kitchen followed by KODAK. FRANKIE mops the floor once more)

- Frau Pump** Oh, I'm so excited ... Prince Ludwig is coming to town today! I must go and buy a new hat! *(she snatches the bank-notes from him)*
- Herr Pump** *(trying to retrieve them)* Hat's are too expensive ... I can't afford it.
- Frau Pump** Of course you can afford it ... you're my husband.
- Herr Pump** Yes, and I've been paying for it ever since!
- Frau Pump** Bye for now. *(exits through Main Door)*
- Herr Pump** *(chasing after her)* Give me back my money! It's not fair! Come back ... *(exit)*
- Frankie** *(standing and picking up bucket)* Serves him right, the old skinflint! Well, that's the floor finished! *(moving towards the Reception Desk)* I'd better go and clean the cellars now ... here, wait a minute ... I haven't introduced myself yet, have I? *(sets down bucket)* My name is "Frankie". Hello boys and girls!
- Audience** *(feebly)* Hello Frankie!
- Frankie** You don't seem very sure of my name. I said "My name's 'Frankie'". Hello boys and girls!
- Audience** HELLO FRANKIE!
- Frankie** That's great! Mind you, I only let my friends call me 'Frankie'. Everyone else has to use my full-name: Frank N. Stein! *(short pause)* No, no, no ... not *that* Frankenstein! I don't look like a big, ugly, green monster with bolts through my neck, do I? Who said "yes"! No, my name's Frank N. Stein - the "N" stands for my middle name. I come from a world-famous family. There's my father, Roger ... he can play "The Sound of Music" on his teeth with a hammer ... you must

have heard of him: "Roger and hammer Stein". Oh, they get worse! Then there's my brother - he is the *one* brain in the family ... Ein Stein. And my stupid sister, Phyllis Stein. And last but by no means least, you all know my great, great, great grandfather ... he lived to one hundred and twenty six and was over seven feet tall ... Old Lang Stein! Well, I'd better get on with my work. *(looking into bucket)* Oh, this water's filthy ... I'd better chuck it out. *(Lifts bucket and prepares to throw at audience)* Are you ready to duck? One! Two! Two and a half! *(lowers bucket)* Oh no, I'd better not ... there's a little girl hiding under the seat down here! *(lifting bucket)* It's alright I was just pretending. I'm not going to soak you. *(moving suddenly to another section of audience)* I'm going to soak this lot instead! *(He throws the contents of the bucket at the audience ... the streamers flood out)* Ha ha! That fooled you! See you later. *(exits)*
(BUCKLES enters through Main Door)

- Buckles** Make way, make way for his Royal Highness: Prince Ludwig of Bavaria.
(Enter PRINCE LUDWIG through the Main Door to C. and immediately reads a speech from the scroll he is carrying)
- Ludwig** Loyal Subjects, Citizens of Bavaria, lend me your ears ... *(BUCKLES coughs, politely trying to interrupt)* ... I come to bear bad tidings not give good ones ... *(BUCKLES coughs louder)* ... the evil in the night is after us ...
- Buckles** M'lord?
- Ludwig** ... and the good ... what is it?
- Buckles** There isn't anyone here, M'lord!
- Ludwig** There isn't? *(raises a monocle to his eye and looks around)* Drat! *(strides nervously up and down, followed by BUCKLES)* Where is everybody? This is a matter of life and death! *(stops suddenly and BUCKLES bumps into him)* Ouch! Well don't just stand there, find someone!
- Buckles** Yes, sir. *(he crosses to the Reception Desk)* Your Highness, there's a bell over here.
- Ludwig** Well why don't you ring it?
(BUCKLES rings the bell. Enter HEIDI from the kitchen, drying her hands on a towel)
- Heidi** Hello. Can I help you, sir?
- Buckles** We must see the master of the house immediately ... it's a matter of life and death!
- Heidi** Oh dear. There's no-one here but me. Everyone's gone to welcome Prince Ludwig.
- Buckles** But Prince Ludwig is *here*!
- Heidi** *(looking around)* Where?
- Ludwig** I am Prince Ludwig.
- Heidi** Oh, I'm terribly sorry your majesty ... I didn't recognise you. *(curtseys and stays down)*
- Ludwig** It's alright, you don't have to curtsey. Let me help you up.
(He gives her his hand and she rises. Romantic music. They gaze at each other and are instantly smitten)
- Heidi** Thank you, sir.

Ludwig Call me "Ludwig".

Heidi Oh I couldn't do that, sir.

Ludwig Why not?

Heidi You're a prince and I'm only a servant girl.

Ludwig *(using monocle, dreamily)* What's your name?

Heidi Heidi, sir.

Ludwig *(breaking away)* Well, Heidisir, a pretty girl like you shouldn't be left unguarded.

Heidi Why not?

Ludwig *(significantly)* You are in grave danger!

Heidi *(alarmed)* What sort of danger?

Buckles Vampires!

Heidi Vampires???

Ludwig You must be protected.

Heidi Oh, don't worry about me ... I've got a great, big dog to protect me.

Ludwig A dog?

Heidi He's my best friend. You'll like him. I'll call him for you. *(She whistles. Nothing happens)* Oh dear ... I'm sorry about this ... he's a bit deaf, you see. Would you help me whistle for him?

Ludwig Certainly. *(All three whistle. Nothing happens)*

Heidi No. He still can't hear us.

Ludwig *(indicating audience)* Perhaps all the boys and girls will help us?

Heidi What a good idea. *(to audience)* Can any of you whistle? You can? Oh good. I'll count to three and we'll all whistle together. One. Two. Three. *(ALL whistle. Nothing happens)*

Buckles *(to audience)* That's not loud enough!

Ludwig *(to audience)* You'll have to do better than that!

Heidi *(to audience)* Let's try again. Take a really deep breath this time and whistle as loud as you can.

(ALL take a deep breath and whistle. KODAK bounds in from the kitchen and down to the others, wagging his tail)

Heidi *(to audience)* Thank you, everybody. *(to KODAK)* Say "thank you" to the boys and girls. *(KODAK barks at the audience)*

Ludwig What's his name?

Heidi I call him Kodak ... that's because he's always snapping at people!

Ludwig *(stepping back)* Oh!

Heidi Don't worry. He wouldn't hurt a friend. *(raising voice and speaking deliberately)* Kodak, say hello to Prince Ludwig. *(KODAK barks)* You see ... he likes you.

Ludwig Good. *(to KODAK, offering hand)* Paw. *(no reaction)*

Heidi You'll have to speak up a bit.

Ludwig Oh, yes. *(shouting)* PAW! *(KODAK offers paw and he shakes it)* How do you do.

Buckles He won't be much good as a guard dog!

Heidi Why not?

Buckles He can't hear you whistling for him.

Ludwig That's true!

Heidi Oh dear, what are we going to do?

Buckles I know. (*indicating audience*) Why not ask your friends to help?

Heidi That's a good idea. (*to audience*) If you ever hear me shouting for help, will you all whistle for Kodak as loud as you can? Will you?

Audience Yes.

Ludwig Let's have a little practice. (*to BUCKLES*) You pretend to grab her ... (*to audience*) and when you hear Heidi shout for help, whistle for Kodak. O.K.? Off we go! (*BUCKLES pulls an ugly face and grabs HEIDI*)

Heidi Help! Help!
(*The audience whistles. KODAK growls, chases BUCKLES around the stage and bites his bottom*)

Heidi Here boy! (*KODAK comes to her side. BUCKLES rubs his bottom*)

Ludwig (*to audience*) Well done! Now don't forget ... if you ever hear Heidi calling for help, you have to whistle as loud as you can.

SONG C

Heidi, Ludwig & Buckles

(*The song ends. Enter HERR PUMPERNICKEL through the Main Door, closely followed by FRAU PUMPERNICKEL in a garish new hat. They come D.S., bickering*)

Herr Pump You're not going to spend another penny, and that's final!

Frau Pump But darling, I need a new dress to match my hat.

Herr Pump You've got a face to match the hat, isn't that enough.
(*FRAU PUMPERNICKEL screams and points at LUDWIG*)

Herr Pump What is it?

Frau Pump (*ecstatically*) Prince Ludwig! He's my idol!

Ludwig (*bowing deeply*) At your service, maam.
(*FRAU PUMPERNICKEL immediately starts rummaging in her bag and pulls out a photograph*)

Herr Pump A prince in my humble establishment! (*grovelling on his knees*) Oh your majesty, your highness, your worshipness, your holiness ... how can I ever repay you for your gracious patronage!
(*He seizes PRINCE LUDWIG's hand and kisses it fervently. FRAU PUMPERNICKEL seizes his other hand and thrusts a photograph into it*)

Frau Pump Look at this, your worship.

Ludwig What's this?

Frau Pump It's your portrait. I carry it with me everywhere. (*handing him a pen*) Please autograph it for me!
(*LUDWIG disengages his hand from HERR PUMPERNICKEL, who is still slobbering over it*)

Ludwig I shall need something to rest on.

Herr Pump (*offering his back*) Please rest on me, your magnificence, I shall always be most humbly grateful!
(*LUDWIG rests on HERR PUMPERNICKEL's back and signs*)

Frau Pump (*peeping over his shoulder*) Put "love from".

Ludwig Oh, very well. (*handing photo back*) There we are!

Frau Pump (*reading*) "Love from Prince Ludwig" ... oooo! (*she dashes to Main Door, shouting*) Greta! Marlene! Helga! He's here! Come quick!
 (*Enter CHORUS through Main Door. FRAU PUMPERNICKEL shows off her autographed portrait to them*)

Buckles Your highness, I think it's time to tell everyone the *bad news*.

Ludwig Oh yes, of course. (*gets out 'speech'*) I shall need a chair to stand on.

Buckles Landlord ... a chair for his majesty.

Herr Pump Certainly. (*bawling*) Frankie!

Frankie (*entering*) Hello, boys and girls.

Audience Hello, Frankie.

Herr Pump Don't stand there chatting. A *chair* for Prince Ludwig.

Frankie Oh yes ... (*loudly*) Hip Hip.

All Hooray!

SONG D

Principals and Chorus

(*At the end of the number, BUCKLES gets a chair and places it centre and LUDWIG stands on it*)

Buckles Silence please. (*bellowing*) Quiet! Give the man a chance!

Ludwig (*clears throat and reads*) "Loyal Subjects, Citizens of Bavaria, lend me your ears."

Herr Pump Why does he want to borrow our ears?

Buckles Shshsh!

Ludwig I come to bear bad tidings not give good ones!
 The evil in the night is after us
 And goodness will vanish with the sun!

Frankie Get to the point!

Buckles What his highness is trying to say is ...

Ludwig There's been terrible trouble at my chateau.

Herr Pump What is it?

Ludwig Well, it's a sort of castle with turrets and a drawbridge and ...

Herr Pump No ... what's the trouble?

Ludwig Count Dracula is back!

All Dracula!

(*A sinister fanfare. ALL gasp in horror and clutch their throats. PRINCE LUDWIG climbs down and BUCKLES removes the chair*)

Ludwig He arrived last night with his hideous grandmother.

Herr Pump Dracula's bad enough ...

Frau Pump But Granula's even worse.

Frankie Yes, she's a pain in the neck! (*laughs*)

Ludwig (*dramatically*) They have no power while the sun is shining, but when it's dark ... beware!