

NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT...

JACK AND THE
BEANSTALK

A Pantomime by

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JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

CAST (in order of appearance.)

SLIME	The Giant's Henchman
FAIRY GREEN BEAN	
SIMON	Jack's brother
SQUIRE GOODKNIGHT	
JACK DURDEN	
DAME DURDEN	His mother
DAISY	The Durden's Cow
MIRANDA	The Squire's daughter
GIANT BLUNDERBORE	
HARRIET	The Squire's niece

Chorus of Townspeople and Creatures in Cloudland.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

SCENE 1 ABOVE THE CLOUDS
 SCENE 2 THE TOWN CENTRE
 SCENE 3 ON THE WAY TO MARKET
 SCENE 4 THE MARKET FAIR
 SCENE 5 ON THE WAY HOME
 SCENE 6 DAME DURDENS COTTAGE
 SCENE 7 DAME DURDENS GARDEN

ACT TWO

SCENE 1 AT THE TOP OF THE BEANSTALK
 SCENE 2 ON THE WAY TO THE GIANTS CASTLE
 SCENE 3 THE GIANTS KITCHEN
 SCENE 4 BACK TO THE BEANSTALK
 SCENE 5 ON THE WAY HOME (Optional)
 SCENE 6 DAME DURDENS GARDEN
 SCENE 7 BEFORE THE WEDDING
 SCENE 8 THE WEDDING AT GOODKNIGHT HALL

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PRODUCTION NOTES

SCENERY

Scenery for this production can be as simple or elaborate as your theatre demands.

If space and flying is available then the most effective way of staging is with two front cloths and possibly a gauze or running tabs. The other scenes are played on full stages. The running order would be as follows:

Act 1 Scene 1 could be the gauze or tabs with a bleed through into scene 2. This is a full set and can double as scene 4 with the addition of a couple of market stalls and some bunting. Scenes 3 and 5 would be one of the front cloths. Dame Durdens Kitchen can be an inset – or possibly two trucks if it is practicable - which is flown or trucked during the transformation to the Garden. This should be a full set with the Beanstalk prominent up stage centre.

Act 2 Scene 1 should be a full set with cloud pieces and a sky or cyc backing. The top of the beanstalk shows behind one of the cloud pieces.

The 2nd front cloth is used for Scenes 2 and 4. Scene 7 is a repeat of the first front cloth or tabs.

Scene 3, The Giants Kitchen, can be a cloth or flats with a cage piece on one side of the stage. It should be fairly sparse with the large table and chair dominating the scene.

The final scene of the act is the traditional walk down.

NB. Scene 5 is played on black tabs with a wicker basket and balloons attached. If you have the facilities to create dry ice or smoke it will add to the scene. If it proves too difficult this scene can be cut with no effect on the running of the show.

For the theatres with limited space a running tab can be used for all front cloth scenes with small additions (e.g. Signs saying: *To the market* or *To the Giant's Castle* etc.) If the Town Centre backcloth is suitably painted it can be used for all the main stage scenes in Act One. Dame Durden's Cottage on one side and another building opposite for scenes 2 and 4 and trees for scene 7.

Act 2 scene 1 would require a sky cloth with cloud pieces. Scene 3 can be flats or another cloth and a cell on one side. The traditional walk down at the end can be a new scene or repeat the Town Centre.

CHARACTERS

The characters are what you would expect to find in pantomime with either a man or woman playing Jack. Comedy is very important and Simon and the Squire should make the most or all the scenes with Dame Durden who, as always, should be larger than life and always played by a man. Harriet is a nice cameo female role and although written as a "*jolly hockey sticks*" kind of girl, could easily be change to suit the actress paying her.

The immortals are different to the usual fairy and demon and much should be made of their characteristics. The biggest actor you can find should play the Giant. More than likely he will require built up boots and these should be obtained early in rehearsals so as to give him the maximum time to get used to walking in them. For front cloth scenes the character can be just a voice over.

The placing of the 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 the ballads.

I hope you enjoy doing this version of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and have great success with your production.

Stephen Duckham

c 2013

ACT ONESCENE 1 BETWEEN EARTH AND SKY

[This scene can be a front cloth or black tabs. The GIANT BLUNDERBORE is discovered sitting at a table. This scene can also be played with just the GIANT'S voice over.]

GIANT Fee fi foe fum
I want food to fill my tum!

[More thunder and lightning.]

Slime? Where are you? Come here you snivelling wretch.

[SLIME, the Giant's Henchman enters DL.]

SLIME Here I am master. What can I do for you?

GIANT You can get me something to eat! I've not had a good meal in ages. My stomach is groaning for food. Listen.

[Sound effect of a rumbling stomach.]

SLIME Oh, that doesn't sound good, master. Shall I get you some Rennies, or a gallon of Gaviscon?

GIANT *[Shouting.]* I don't want something to settle my stomach, I want something to fill it.

SLIME *[Grovelling.]* Yes master.

GIANT It's the first of May today.

SLIME It is indeed master.

GIANT And you know what that means?

SLIME Yes, tomorrow will be the second of May!

GIANT Oh you idiot. The taxes are due from the village below. Go down to earth and start collecting. And while you are down there find me a tasty morsel – or it will be you who will be satisfying my hunger.

SLIME Yes master. At once master. *[The GIANT exits or the voice fades.]* Oh, I hate going down to earth. It's no easy job finding food for the Giant. *[Looks out at the audience.]* Wait a minute. There looks a larder full out there. Maybe a few of you would satisfy my master's hunger. *[Reaction.]* But on second thoughts you look a particularly puny bunch. Not very appetising. Quite a pale, scrawny lot you are. No, you wouldn't even make a decent light snack for the Giant. I shall have to find someone more substantial, so you're safe – for the time being! *[Audience reaction. FAIRY GREENBEAN enters R. SHE has a Somerset accent and is more of a farmer's wife than the traditional fairy.]*

FAIRY And what do you think you're up to?

- SLIME Good heavens, it's Lisa Dingle! *[Or another TV character of the same type.]*
- FAIRY Don't you be cheeky. I'm Fairy Green Bean and I heard what you just said.
- SLIME Oh, and what was that?
- FAIRY Looking for someone to fill Giant Blunderbore's table. Well you can keep away from the village. He's stolen more than his fair share of things from those poor people.
- SLIME *[HE gives an evil laugh.]* My master has a liking for pretty things as well as plenty of food. Remember when he took a girl with a lyrical singing voice to soothe him to sleep. Also a hen that lays golden eggs which used to belong to the widow Durden. She looks after the milk farm and I've heard tell that her son, Jack Durden, is a strapping young lad. Maybe he will suit the Giants palate.
- FAIRY I'll not let anything happen to him.
- SLIME Oh? Got a soft spot for him, have you?
- FAIRY Don't talk rubbish. Ever since that evil Giant caused so much grief for his family by stealing their golden hen, I have been appointed, by the fairy office of rural affairs, to watch over them and especially Jack. He has helped his mother to run the dairy and they are just about making a living.
- SLIME *[Aside.]* That means he must be well fed. Just the kind of person I'm looking for.
- FAIRY If you think I'm going to let anything happen to those good folk, you've got another think coming.
- SLIME When my master the Giant wants something he takes it and nothing you do will stand in his way.
- FAIRY The likes of him or you don't frighten me. I am here to protect those good folk, and protect them I will. So just be warned.
- SLIME Don't threaten me, you mouldy looking marrow.
- FAIRY Oh rant and rave all you like, but just remember I'll always be there watching your every move. *[SHE exits.]*
- SLIME Curse that interfering old busybody.
- GIANT *[Voice over.]* Slime, get me my dinner!!
- SLIME At once, master. I'll go without further delay. *[HE stands still and calls out.]* Ground floor, the village green! *[Smoke or dry ice swirls around him and with a lighting effect he disappears.]*

SCENE 2 THE VILLAGE GREEN

[A typical village scene. There are buildings R & L one of which is DAME DURDEN'S DAIRY. It has a practical door. The CHORUS is on celebrating May Day.]

OPENING CHORUS

[At the end of the number there is a tremendous crash from off stage.]

- MAN What's that noise?
- WOMAN It's coming from Dame Durden's cottage. *[Another crash and moans are heard. SIMON staggers out of the cottage with a string of bunting wrapped round him from head to toe.]*
- 2nd. MAN Who is it?
- 2nd. WOMAN Let's have a look. *[Someone holds the end of the bunting and pulls so SIMON spins from one side of the stage to the other. The bunting needs to be kept unrolled for use later.]*
- ALL Simon!
- SIMON Oooooh! Oh dear, where am I? *[HE staggers to the centre. EVERYONE else stands still.]* Why are you all spinning around? Oh do stand still. You're making me feel quite ill. *[HE is still staggering. Two of the TOWNSPEOPLE hold on to him.]* Oh that's better.
- 3rd. MAN What have you been doing?
- SIMON The Squire asked me to find all the decorations we used for last year's May Day fair celebrations. Well they were stored in our loft, so I quickly climbed up to get them but on the way down I missed my footing on the ladder. The next thing I knew I was rolling down the stairs bound up in bunting.
- 3rd. WOMAN No wonder they call you *simple* Simon!
- SIMON Who does?
- ALL We all do!
- SIMON Oh, but
- MAN You're always in such a rush to do things you end up by getting yourself into scrapes.
- WOMAN Like the time you went to work at the chocolate factory mixing the chocolate.
- MAN You got so carried away you fell in.
- SIMON Yes, but I did come up smelling of *roses!* *[ALL groan.]* Oh I know. It's just that I get over enthusiastic.
- 2nd. MAN We've noticed. You just roll up your sleeves and rush into things without

thinking.

2nd. WOMAN It's all very commendable, but it does get you into trouble.

SIMON I know. What I need is someone to warn me. But who? *[HE notices the audience.]* Oh hello! How long have you been sitting there? *[Reaction.]* Are you likely to be around for a bit longer? *[Reaction.]* I say, would you mind helping me out? *[Reaction.]* Whenever you see me roll my sleeves up ready to rush into something, will you call out "*think about it, Simon*"? Will you? And then I might not get into so many scrapes. Right, one of my friends here will pretend something needs doing and when you see me roll up my sleeves, you call out "*think about it, Simon*". *[HE exits.]*

MAN Look! I think that haystack's on fire! *[SIMON rushes on.]*

SIMON Leave it to me! *[HE rolls up his sleeves. Audience shout, but he runs off. After a second HE returns carrying a bucket.]* Did you shout? *[Reaction.]* Well I didn't hear you. You'll have to shout much louder. I could have thrown this bucket of water all over someone just like this. *[HE throws bucket towards audience. It is full of confetti.]* Let's try again. *[HE exits.]*

WOMAN Look! That mad bull's escaping from the field! *[SIMON runs on.]*

SIMON Leave it to me. *[HE rolls up his sleeves. Audience shouts.]* Oh that's much better. With your help I'm sure I won't get into too much trouble! *[HE is now standing by the person holding the end of the bunting. The SQUIRE is heard calling off.]*

SQUIRE Simon! Simon where are you?

SIMON Here I am, Squire. *[SQUIRE GOODKNIGHT enters and bumps into SIMON who is sent spinning and rolls himself back up in the bunting.]*

SQUIRE Now where has he got to?

SIMON *[Hardly able to speak with the bunting wrapped around his face.]* I'm here!

SQUIRE Where? *[The TOWNSPERSON at the other end of the bunting pulls it and sends SIMON spinning again. SIMON falls into the arms of the SQUIRE.]*

SIMON Here!!

SQUIRE What are you playing at?

SIMON I'm sorry, Squire.

SQUIRE I told you to find the bunting, not wear it. Is that all there is? We'll have to find some more to decorate the town square.

SIMON *[Rolling up his sleeves.]* Leave it to me. *[Audience shouts out.]* Oh thank you.

2nd. MAN We'll sort it out for you Squire.

SQUIRE Yes, I think you'd better. Now while you're all here can I remind you that it's the first of May and you know what that means?

- 3rd. MAN Yes, it's a holiday. *[ALL react happily.]*
- SQUIRE It's also the day the Giant's tax is due. *[ALL moan.]* I know, I know. But there's nothing we can do. If we don't pay it he will come down here and cause havoc for us all.
- SIMON Remember last time we didn't pay? He stole our prize hen, the one that laid the golden eggs.
- SQUIRE And my dear niece Harriet who sang and played the harp so beautifully. He picked her up in that huge hand of his and she was never seen again.
- SIMON I know. I do miss Harriet. I had quite a soft spot for her.
- 3rd. WOMAN Oh dear, what are we going to do?
- [JACK enters.]*
- JACK Fight him, of course.
- ALL Jack. It's Jack Durden. Hello Jack, etc.
- SQUIRE Fight him? Who's going to do that?
- SIMON *[Rolling up his sleeves.]* Leave it to me! *[Audience shouts.]* Oh yes, thank you very much.
- JACK If we don't fight him he will take whatever he wants, just like last time. We have to show him he can't walk all over us.
- SIMON That's just what he can do. With feet the size of - *[Name of local football club.]* - football ground!
- SQUIRE And how do you propose to fight him? Go up to him and say "excuse me Mr Giant but would you mind lying down so I bang you on the bonce with my big stick"? *[ALL laugh.]*
- JACK You won't be laughing when he starts taking all your possessions.
- SQUIRE But we've tried to stop him in the past and it's always ended in disaster.
- JACK That's why I'm more determined than ever to put a stop to him.
- MAN What do you suggest we do?
- JACK Well... *[ALL look at him expectantly.]* I don't know – *[ALL sigh.]* - but we must do something.
- SQUIRE Well when you've decided let me know! In the meantime I've got to organise the collecting of the tax. *[HE exits.]*
- JACK One thing is certain, we can't stand around and wait for the Giant to arrive.
- 2nd. MAN Jack's right. We don't want to live in fear for the rest of our lives.

3rd. MAN I agree.

JACK So are you all with me on this?

ALL Yes!

SIMON *[Behind JACK.]* I'm right behind you!

SONG AND CHORUS - JACK, SIMON & TOWNSPEOPLE

[End of number ALL exit. A noise of "mooring" is heard off and DAISY the cow runs on pulling a child's cart. In it sits DAME DURDEN. SHE carries a crate containing various bottles of milk and cream.]

DAME Whoa, Daisy, whoa!! *[DAISY comes to an abrupt stop and the DAME falls out of the cart.]* Oh now look what you've done. You've battered me butter, crushed me clotted cream and damaged me dairy delight. *[Adjusts her bust.]* And look at this. *[SHE holds up an empty milk bottle.]* It's evaporated! *[SHE holds up a small bottle.]* And this is condensed! *[SHE stands up and sees the audience.]* Oh hello. Have you popped in for a pint of semi-skimmed? *[Audience reaction.]* No? But you should always drink plenty of milk. Makes you grow up big and strong, just like me. *[SHE holds up various bottles in the milk crate.]* I've got full fat, half fat, fat free and - *[Points to her ample bosom.]* - not so fat free! But I've not introduced myself. I'm Dame Daphne Durden and I run the town's lactic establishment. That's posh for milk farm. And this is Daisy our principal supplier. In fact she's our only supplier. Say hello to everyone, Daisy. *[DAISY curtseys.]* You know I've been in this business ever since I met my husband Jethroe. He owned the local dairy and he taught me everything I know about the finer points of pulling a pint. *[DAISY crosses her legs.]* Mind you, he was more likely to be pulling a pint down at - *[Name of local pub.]* He came into my life like a ray of sunshine - and went through my bank account like a flash of lightning. Swept me off my feet he did with his strong arms and rippling muscles. Oh but he was a handsome brute. His father was a boxer. His mother was a right Shih Tzul! But we did have a lovely wedding. I was a vision in taffeta and tiaras! When I walked down the aisle there were gasps of amazement. My mother was crying, my father was crying, the vicar was crying. Even the cake was in tiers! For our honeymoon he took me on a P & O cruise. Pubs and Off-licences! Anyway, I can't stand around talking all day; I've got to find those two sons of mine? They were supposed to help me with this morning's deliveries. Jack! Simon! Have you seen them Daisy? *[DAISY shakes her head. DAME speaks to the audience. JACK and SIMON have entered up stage.]* Have you? *[JACK and SIMON creep down stage as the audience shout out to the DAME. They all move about the stage in a line: DAME, DAISY, JACK and SIMON. Finally SIMON hides under DAISY and SHE squats on him. JACK stands at the rear of DAISY.]* There you are! What are you doing down there?

SIMON We're just pumping Daisy up. She looks a bit deflated! Go ahead Jack. *[JACK gets hold of DAISY'S tail and uses it like a hand pump. DAISY jerkily stands up. SIMON stands.]*

DAME I want you two to give me a hand with the milk deliveries.

JACK Mum, you have remembered what today is?

- DAME Of course I have. It's the first of May and we're all going to have a wonderful day at the fair.
- SIMON It's also the day the Giant's tax is due.
- DAME Oooh, I'd forgotten about that.
- JACK We'll just have to sell plenty of produce at the fair.
- DAME But we need that money to live on. If we have to pay more in tax we'll have nothing left. Oh we'll be thrown out of our home, condemned to a life in the gutter!
- JACK Mum.....
- DAME *[SHE starts to get very dramatic.]* Begging for scraps to fill our aching stomachs!
- SIMON Mum.....
- DAME Alone and friendless. Wandering the land; our bare feet cut and bruised on the stony road of life in the wilderness!
- JACK/SIMON MUM!!!!
- DAME *[Suddenly normal.]* Will you be quiet? This is my last chance to get an Olivier award!
- SIMON Well one thing's for sure, it won't be for acting. *[DAISY starts laughing silently to herself on one side of the stage.]*
- DAME *[To SIMON.]* You cheeky thing, you. *[To DAISY.]* And what do you think you're laughing at? Ever heard of a Big Mac?? *[DAISY abruptly stops laughing and starts to tremble.]* Anyway, enough of this. We'd better get ready for the fair. See if we can raise a bit more cash. *[DAME and SIMON lead DAISY off as MIRANDA, the Squire's daughter enters.]*
- MIRANDA Jack, I was hoping to see you.
- JACK Miranda, you're looking very pretty today.
- MIRANDA Thank you.
- [DAME DURDEN returns.]*
- DAME Jack, don't dawdle, there's work to be done. *[SHE sees MIRANDA.]* Oh hello Miranda, dear. How are you?
- MIRANDA Fine, thank you Dame Durden. Although I wish I could say the same for father. He's very worried about how everyone can pay the Giant's tax.
- DAME I know how he feels. None of us can really afford it.
- JACK Don't worry. I'm going to think of a plan to defeat the Giant once and for all.

- MIRANDA *[Gazing at JACK.]* Oh Jack, you are brave.
- JACK *[Gazing back at her.]* Not really.
- DAME I think this is my cue to leave! *[SHE exits.]*
- JACK I've spoken to the rest of the townspeople and they agree with me. We have to stand up to the Giant and fight him.
- MIRANDA But how? I've heard tell he's enormous and can crush a person with the wave of his hand.
- JACK That's as maybe, but we have to try. We have to fight for our rights.
- MIRANDA And what if something was to happen to you? I'd never see you again.
- JACK Hey, don't think you're going to get rid of me that easily. Nothing will ever come between us. Since we were children at school together, I've always known that you were the only one for me.

DUET - JACK & MIRANDA

[At the end of the number THEY exit. The stage darkens and the lighting effect to bring on SLIME starts. He enters DL.]

- SLIME Well here I am in this pathetic little village. Now to find a meal for the Giant. *[HE looks off in the direction JACK and MIRANDA went.]* Mmm, they look a likely couple. Main course and desert.
- [FAIRY enters.]*
- FAIRY Just hold on a moment.
- SLIME Oh no, it's Tina Turnip!
- FAIRY I told you before, Jack Durden is under my watchful eye and I'll not let anything happen to him.
- SLIME There are plenty more pickings around. My master won't starve.
- FAIRY No, but the folk around here will if they have to pay the exorbitant tax. There'll be nothing left to live on.
- SLIME So they will be turned out of their homes and the Giant will take whatever he wants to add to his already impressive collection.
- FAIRY We'll see about that. I'm going to do everything I can to disrupt your plans.
- SLIME Haven't you got it through that ragbag of a brain of yours? My master is all powerful. What he wants, he gets, and no one can stop him. *[With a laugh, HE exits.]*
- FAIRY He can boast of the Giants power all he likes, but I've got a few tricks up my sleeve. Daisy, the Durden's cow, is about to be milked, so I'll make sure her yield is a good one this time. Then there will be plenty for them to sell at the

May Day fair. *[SHE exits. SIMON enters with DAISY. HE carries a bucket. DAME follows with the milking stool.]*

DAME *[Putting the stool down near the rear of DAISY.]* There we are. You get on with the milking, Simon and I'll go and get the bottles. You be a good girl for mummy, won't you Daisy? *[DAISY nods her head and the DAME exits.]*

SIMON Right. Let's get started. *[DAISY'S rear end sits on the stool and the front sits on its lap.]* Oh, very funny. This is no time to be sitting around. Now come on. *[DAISY stands.]* That's more like it. *[HE sits and starts to milk her. Nothing happens.]* What's the matter Daisy? Have you turned your taps on? *[DAISY nods.]* I'd better take a look. *[HE lies down under DAISY and starts to work her udder. A squirt of milk hits him in the face. DAISY runs down to the other side of the stage.]* Oh very clever. Now will you stop messing about? I want a full bucket. *[HE crosses puts the bucket under her. SHE moves a few steps. HE places the bucket again and SHE moves. This continues across the stage getting faster and faster until the last time when SIMON falls flat on his face. The DAME enters with a crate of bottles that she puts down by the exit.]*

DAME Simon, what are you doing?

SIMON About ten miles to the litre!

DAME *[Picking up the bucket.]* This is no good. We'll have nothing to sell at the fair. *[The FAIRY enters and makes a magic pass at DAISY who is now standing by the crate of bottles. Lighting effects during which the crate of bottles is swapped for one full of milk.]* Look! Daisy what a clever girl you are. All filled and gold topped!

[The SQUIRE enters carrying a large piece of paper. The TOWNSPEOPLE, JACK and MIRANDA follow HIM.]

SQUIRE Look everyone.

MIRANDA What is it, father?

SQUIRE The Giants final demand. If we don't pay the extra tax by this evening he'll wreak havoc on our land.

DAME Then we better get the fair started.

SQUIRE There's so much still to do. The stalls, the tents, the tombola.....

SIMON *[Rolling up his sleeves.]* Leave it to me! *[Audience shouts.]* Oh, thank you.

MIRANDA We can all help.

JACK Yes and let's put all thoughts of the Giant out of our minds. Today is May Day and we've all got plenty of celebrating to do.

[ALL cheer.]

COMPANY NUMBER

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

SCENE 3 ON THE WAY TO THE MARKET

[A front cloth scene. SLIME enters DL.]

- SLIME So the May day fair is getting underway. I'm sure I shall find something there to take back for the masters' dinner! Mind you, he is particular. Mustn't be too scrawny, but on the other hand he doesn't like a lot of fat! I must get the right one or he could end up eating me! *[FAIRY enters DR.]*
- FAIRY That's the first intelligent thing I've heard you say.
- SLIME I do wish you'd stop creeping up on me. Haven't you got a compost heap to go and lie in?
- FAIRY You know, you and the Giant would be much better people if you were like me – vegetarian.
- SLIME Urgh! No thank you.
- FAIRY All that red meat. It does something to your brain.
- SLIME I'll do something to your brain if I catch you meddling in my affairs.
- FAIRY Just remember, keep away from the Durden family. *[Snarling, SLIME exits.]* Good riddance! Well I'm off to the fair. I can't wait to have a go on *(name of a ride)*. *[SHE exits as SIMON enters from stage left. He is calling to DAISY off stage.]*
- SIMON All right, Daisy, you can have a rest and a quick graze in that field, but then we have to get to the market. *[The SQUIRE enters from stage right.]* Hello Squire.
- SQUIRE Hello Simon, who are you talking to?
- SIMON Our Daisy. She's just over there having her lunch.
- SQUIRE Ah yes. She's a great asset to the Durden family.
- SIMON I'll say. I don't know what we'd do without her.
- SQUIRE I remember when your late father bought her as a calf. I was only a lad myself. *[The Dame enters from stage right. The OTHERS don't see her.]* She's a grand old lady; I've always had a soft spot for her. *[The DAME thinks he is talking about her and primps a little.]*
- SIMON Have you really?
- SQUIRE Oh yes. I used to see her on my way home from school and stand and admire her for hours. Her head slightly stooped and those big ears twitching in the breeze. *[The DAME thinks this is an odd thing to say but still primps.]* I remember when she was young she'd like to roll in the grass with her legs in the air. Sometimes she'd let me tickle her tummy – and other times she'd just stand under a tree flicking the flies off. *[At this the DAME'S mouth drops open.]*

SIMON She still does that sometimes.

SQUIRE I think my favourite memory was when she ate. Those great big teeth grinding away, mouthful after mouthful and making that low rumbling sound.

DAME *[In a low voice.]* Ooooooh!

SQUIRE That's it.

DAME When you two have finish reminiscing. *[THEY spin round to see the DAME standing there.]*

SIMON Hello mum. We were just talking about.....

DAME I heard!

SQUIRE You must admit that everything I said was true.

DAME Oh I must, must I?

SQUIRE Yes and I know the whole town feels the same.

DAME What??

SIMON It's true Mum, people have said the same thing to me.

SQUIRE Surely you know what a prize specimen you've got there.

DAME *[Looking down at her bust.]* Where?

SIMON & SQUIRE *[Pointing off stage.]* Over there.

DAME Daisy?

SIMON Of course Daisy. Who did you think we were talking about?

DAME *[Casually.]* I've no idea!

SQUIRE Anyway, it's time to get the fair started. *[HE crosses to stage right.]*

DAME *[To SIMON.]* What about the cow?

SQUIRE *[Not hearing her.]* Allow me to escort you! *[DAME DURDEN doesn't know how to take this.]*

SIMON I'll bring Daisy. *[SQUIRE and DAME exit. CHILDREN of the town enter.]*

1st. CHILD Hello Simon. You seem in a good mood.

SIMON Of course I'm in a good mood. It's May Day and we're all going to the market fair.

2nd. CHILD I want to go on the round-a-bout.

- 3rd. CHILD I want to go on the dodgems.
- 4th. CHILD And I want to go on the Big Dipper!
- SIMON Well it sounds as if we're all going to have a lot of fun.

SONG - SIMON & CHILDREN

[During the song the scene changes to.....]

SCENE 4 THE MAY DAY FAIR

[The same as scene 2. Bunting hangs from the buildings and a sign saying "MAY DAY MARKET FAIR". There are stalls full of goods to sell at the market. The one stage left belonging to DAME DURDEN.]

CHORUS NUMBER (Continuation of SIMON'S song with JACK, MIRANDA & CHORUS

[At the end of the number the CHORUS mill around looking at the stalls. JACK & MIRANDA are hand in hand over on stage right. SLIME enters DL. HE is thinly disguised.]

- SLIME *[Aside.]* So, everyone is here and having a good time. I shall soon put a stop to that. I have disguised myself so that I may move freely around and see what money is being made. The Giant's tax is due at the end of the day and I want to be sure everyone has enough to pay it. Also, I'm still on the lookout for a meal for my master. *[HE notices JACK & MIRANDA as they cross L and exit.]* Ah, there go the lovebirds and no sign of that mange ridden Fairy to watch over them. This may be just the chance I want. *[HE exits after JACK & MIRANDA. SIMON enters right and calls.]*
- SIMON Come on Daisy, or we'll never get started. *[DAISY staggers on.]* I know you're exhausted after all that milking, but mother says she would like you to squeeze a few more pints in case we sell out. *[DAISY looks aghast and starts to back off.]* Now don't be like that. If we don't make enough money to pay the rent, we could all end up on the Giant's table. *[DAISY stops and thinks and then runs across the stage and starts pushing SIMON towards the stall.]* All right! All right! Don't do that you silly cow!
- [DAME DURDEN enters left.]*
- DAME I beg your pardon?
- SIMON Not you, mum. I was talking to Daisy.
- DAME She's not a silly cow, are you Daisy? She's a beautiful bovine and she's done very well today. I just hope there are plenty of people who want to stock up on their dairy produce. If we don't sell enough I don't know where the money will come from to pay the tax.
- SIMON Don't worry, mum. If the worst comes to the worst I'll sell my Telly Tubbies annual! *[Or similar.]*

- DAME You're a good boy, Simon. You're weird, but you're a good boy! *[SHE crosses to the stall. The SQUIRE enters.]*
- SQUIRE Ah good. Everyone is here so we can start. *[With an official air HE takes out his speech.]* Five pounds of potatoes, two onions, a pound of carrots.....oh dear, that's the shopping list. *[HE changes the paper.]* It gives me great pleasure and always has over many years -
- GIRLS Squire! Really!
- SQUIRE *[Flustered.]* - to stand here before you in my capacity as Squire of the county. Although this year has a cloud hanging over the proceedings in the shape of the exorbitant tax levied on us by the Giant, we must not be downhearted. We are here to enjoy ourselves as best we can. The May Day Market Fair has been a tradition here for many generations. Your fathers and your fathers' fathers have stood on this spot –
- ALL Oh get on with it!
- SQUIRE *[Flustered.]* - er, I declare this annual May Day fair open.
- ALL Hurrah!
- DAME Now, is everything ready?
- SIMON I think so.
- DAME Where is Jack? He said he was going to help me with the stall.
- SQUIRE And where is Miranda? She should have been here to hear my speech.
- SIMON Why? She heard it last year and the year before that and the year before.....
- SQUIRE All right, all right! *[HE exits.]*
- DAME Oh no! I've forgotten the eggs. All freshly laid this morning. I left them on the kitchen table.
- SIMON *[Rolling up his sleeves.]* Leave it to me. *[HE starts to rush out as the audience shouts.]* Oh! Thank you very much.
- DAME Just take it steady. I want them whole, not scrambled!
- SIMON O.K mum. *[HE walks off slowly. JACK & MIRANDA enter gazing into each other's eyes.]*
- DAME Here they are. Jack, come and give me a hand on the stall.
- JACK *[Dreamily.]* Yes mum. *[To MIRANDA.]* I'd better go. You won't be far away?
- MIRANDA I'll be right over there watching you.
- JACK I won't be long.
- DAME Oh my goodness. It's like watching "Desperate Housewives"! *[Or another TV*

programme. MIRANDA exits DR. JACK goes to the stall. SIMON comes running back on carrying a basket of eggs. This is a trick basket with all the eggs stuck down.]

- SIMON Got them, mum. *[HE trips and the basket goes up in the air. Members of the CHORUS knock it about like a ball until it finally disappears behind the stall and is rescued by JACK. HE now holds an identical basket containing blown eggs.]*
- JACK Here.
- DAME *[Taking the basket.]* Simon! You've broken the eggs.
- SIMON No I haven't. They're fine. *[HE takes one out and throws it to the DAME.]* Look!
- DAME Oh. Be careful. You could've broken them – *[To the audience.]* – couldn't he boys and girls? *[Audience reacts.]*
- SIMON There's nothing wrong with them. *[HE takes another egg and throws it into the audience.]* Here, have a look! *[HE takes another egg and throws it.]* Here's another one!
- DAME Stop that. You're giving away all the profits! *[DAME, JACK and SIMON take up their positions behind the stall.]* Now remember, we have to sell as much as we can to pay the tax. *[SHE starts calling to the crowd.]* Fresh dairy produce here for sale.
- 1st. MAN I'll have a pint of milk.
- DAME Very good. Serve the gentleman, Simon.
- 1st. WOMAN A pound of cheese for me.
- DAME Very good. Serve the lady, Jack.
- 2nd. MAN And I'll have a couple of those melons at the back!
- DAME *[Primping.]* Oh, I think I'll serve that gentleman myself!
- [The CROWD continues to buy from the stall. SLIME enters DL and sees them.]*
- SLIME *[Aside.]* What's going on here? It looks as though the old Dame is doing good business. That means she should have enough money to pay the tax. *[An idea dawns and HE grins to himself.]* I shall have to put a stop to that and get one over on that clapped out old cabbage of a Fairy. I'll cast a spell and turn all her produce stale. *[HE does so and stands down stage watching the proceedings.]*
- 1st. MAN Here, what's going on? This milk is sour.
- 1st. WOMAN And this cheese smells awful
- 2nd. WOMAN This butter is rancid.

3rd. WOMAN These eggs are off!

2nd. MAN And you know what you can do with these melons!

DAME What cheek! *[ALL complain. THEY start returning their goods and getting their money back.]* I can't understand it. Everything was fresh this morning. How can it all be stale?

SLIME Round one to me I think. *[HE exits. The CHORUS starts to drift off as the SQUIRE enters and crosses to the DAMES stall. DAISY wanders DR.]*

SQUIRE Well Dame Durden, how is the sale going.

DAME It's going nowhere! All the food's gone bad. We haven't sold a thing.

SQUIRE What? But what about the tax?

DAME There's no money to pay it.

JACK But that means the Giant will take all our possessions.

SIMON We'll have nothing left.

DAME Oh we're ruined, ruined.

SQUIRE Have you nothing left you can sell?

DAME Nothing.

[MIRANDA enters DR and sees DAISY.]

MIRANDA Hello Daisy. *[DAISY "moos". The OTHERS looks across at her.]*

DAME Daisy!

JACK Mother, we couldn't.

DAME No, we couldn't.

SIMON But there's no other way.

SQUIRE *[Loudly.]* You mean you'll have to sell Daisy?

OTHERS Ssh!

DAME I'll have to break it to her gently and then Jack, you must take her to this afternoons' cattle auction.

JACK All right, mum.

DAME All of you carry on to the fair. I'll catch up with you later.

JACK *[Sadly.]* OK Come along Miranda. *[ALL exit except DAME and DAISY. DAME sits on a stool by her stall.]*

DAME Daisy, come over here a minute. *[DAISY trots over to HER.]*

SAD MUSIC

Daisy, I've got something very important to say to you. You know we all love you very much. *[DAISY nods her head and rubs it against the DAME.]* Oh dear, this is going to be very difficult. You see we have to pay a lot more in tax to that wicked Giant and we don't have the money. In fact we don't have anything left except – you! Daisy, I'm afraid the only way we're going to raise enough money is to sell you! *[DAISY stands back in amazement.]* Oh, we don't want to. It breaks my heart to even think about it. But we don't know what else to do. *[DAISY turns away with her head bowed.]* Oh Daisy, please say you understand and that you forgive us. *[A pause and then DAISY slowly nods her head.]* Oh thank you, Daisy. It'll only be for a short time. Things are bound to get better and then we'll buy you back. I promise. Now come and give mummy a big kiss. *[SHE stands as DAISY turns to her. THEY embrace.]* And whatever happens - whatever tough times we go through remember this – we'll never forget you. *[JACK and MIRANDA enter.]* Get a good price for her, Jack. She's a prize cow you know. Don't let her go for next to nothing.

JACK All right mother, I'll do my best. Ready Daisy? *[DAISY slowly nods her head and JACK starts to lead her off.]*

DAME Goodbye Daisy. *[SHE bursts into tears. MIRANDA crosses and comforts her as the lights fade and the scene changes to...]*

SCENE 5 ON THE WAY HOME

[Front cloth as scene 3. The FAIRY enters DR.]

FAIRY Oh I'm so mad with myself. Do you know that evil Slime pulled a fast one on me and ruined Dame Durden's produce. I was enjoying myself so much on the dodgems I didn't see what he was up to. Well that's the last time it will happen. From now on I'll be watching his every move. I'd be failing in my capacity as guardian to the Durden household if I didn't. *[SLIME enters DL.]*

SLIME And fail you will. I told you you'd never get the better of me. I won round one and I'm about to win round two.

FAIRY What are you talking about?

SLIME Young Durden has to sell the family pet in order to raise the money for the tax. Soon they will be penniless and thrown out into the street and then the Giant will confiscate their land. *[HE roars with laughter.]*

FAIRY *[Aside.]* So poor old Daisy has to be sold. But never fear I'll devise a plan to change the fortunes of Jack and his family and then Daisy can be reunited with them again. *[SHE exits.]*

SLIME Go on, back to your cabbage patch you battered old beetroot! What she doesn't know is that Jack has been unable to sell the cow thanks to a bit of trickery by yours truly. Here he comes now. Time to put the next part of my plan into action. *[HE pulls the hood of his cloak up and hides DL. JACK enters DR followed by DAISY.]*

- JACK Oh dear, I can't understand it at all. Every time I thought I'd got a buyer for you they suddenly seemed to change their minds. Exactly the same pattern, over and over again. I've never known anything like it. I suppose there's nothing left to do but go back home and break the news to mother. *[DAISY seems pleased about this and nods her head.]* What she's going to say I dread to think. *[THEY start to walk L as SLIME reappears.]*
- SLIME Good day young man. I couldn't help overhearing what you were just saying. Is it true that you wish to sell this - *fine* animal?
- JACK Why yes.
- SLIME Then today must be your lucky day, as I just happen to be looking for such a creature.
- JACK You are?
- SLIME Yes and I think she will fit the bill perfectly.
- JACK Daisy, did you hear that? This nice man wants to buy you. *[DAISY seems very unsure. SHE starts to back away.]* Now don't be silly. I'm sure he'll give you a good home and look after you.
- SLIME Of course I will. She'll have plenty to eat and a warm place to stay. *[Aside.]* The Giants oven!
- JACK In that case I'd be happy to sell Daisy to you, as long as the price is right.
- SLIME Of course. For such a handsome beast how would three gold pieces suit you?
- JACK *[Astounded at the amount.]* Three gold pieces!
- SLIME Not enough? All right then, four!
- JACK *[Dumbstruck.]* Four??
- SLIME All right five, and that is my final offer.
- JACK Done! *[HE turns to DAISY.]* Five gold pieces Daisy. I knew you would bring us luck. *[DAISY shakes her head.]* Oh don't worry. With this money we'll be able to pay the tax and build the business up. And then I'll be able to buy you back. *[HE hands the rope over to SLIME.]*
- SLIME Come on Daisy. Come to daddy!
- JACK *[Taking the bag from SLIME,]* Look at all that gold. Mother is going to be so pleased with me. Goodbye Daisy. Remember we'll never forget you. *[HE kisses the bag and exits.]*
- SLIME *[Laughing.]* Oh what a simple fool. That gold has a spell on it and before that idiot of a boy gets home every piece will have turned into a bean! He's sold his precious cow for five worthless beans! Come on you bony old creature, it's cow pie on the Giants menu tonight. And for desert I think I'll take with me that pretty young girl Jack Durden is so keen on. I'm sure to please my master with a banquet like that. *[HE laughs loudly and drags DAISY off DL.]*

FAIRY enters R.]

FAIRY Why that no good, conniving But what he doesn't know is that when Jack's gold turns into beans I can begin to work my magic. This could be just the start of a change in fortune for Jack and his family. Old Slime can gloat all he wants at the moment, but we'll soon see who has the last laugh. *[SHE exits as the lights fade and the scene changes to.....]*

SCENE 6 DAME DURDENS COTTAGE

[There is a table and chair C. On the table are various items including a teapot and some cups. Also a large tea caddy inside of which is a bottle of gin. Other items of crockery are on a tray – (stuck down for a scene with SIMON later.) On one of the walls is a clock with only one hand pointing to half past the hour. DAME DURDEN is making herself a cup of tea.]

DAME Dear me, Jack should be home by now. Look at the time. Half past – *[SHE looks hard at the clock.]* – I really must get a little hand for the clock! Anyway, it's very very late. I'm just making myself a cup of tea. I always think tea is very soothing when a person is worried about something. *[SHE opens the tea caddy and takes out a bottle of gin and pours a small amount into the teapot.]* And goodness knows I'm very worried! *[SHE pours a lot more gin in the teapot then replaces the bottle in the tea caddy.]* I do hope Jack got a good price for Daisy. *[During the next part she pours herself a cup, drinks and starts to get tipsy.]* It upset me so much to see her go. She's been with us for years. Just like one of the family she was. Every morning I'd go into her barn, say "hello" to her and she'd "moo" hello back. And every evening I say "goodnight" and she'd "moo" goodnight back. We'd even sing little songs together. We were very *moosical!* Oh Daisy, Daisy can you ever forgive me for what I had to do. *[By now she is feeling quite tragic. SHE picks up the teapot and drinks from the spout.]* Oh what's to become of us? What's to become of us? *[SHE sobs – big sobs! – sitting at the table with her head in her hands. The SQUIRE is heard at the door.]*

SQUIRE Dame Durden? Are you there?

DAME Oh it's the Squire come for the tax. *[SHE calls.]* I'll be right with you. *[She tries to straighten herself up, staggers to the door and opens it.]* Good evening Squire. Won't you come in?

SQUIRE *[Entering.]* Thank you. Ah, just having a cup of tea I see.

DAME *[Moving to the table.]* Yes, would you like a cup?

SQUIRE That would be most kind. *[Crossing to the other side of the table.]* Nothing like a nice cup of tea to freshen you up after a long day.

DAME This will freshen you up all right! *[SHE pours him a cup.]*

SQUIRE Thank you. *[HE sips.]* Mmm. Interesting flavour. Earl Grey?

DAME No, Daphne Durden. How do you do? *[SHE shakes his hand and falls into his arms.]*

END OF SAMPLE SCRIPT