

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 playing 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'd 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'd 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 Durdens 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 Ooooooh! 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 "mooing" 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 Tzu! 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'd 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 ò ò ò

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 master's 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'd 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'd 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 ð ð

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'd 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'd like 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'd like a couple of those melons at the back!
- DAME *[Primping.]* Oh, I think I'd 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'd 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'd have to sell Daisy?

OTHERS Ssh!

DAME I'd 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'd 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, we'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'll 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'd 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'd 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 ð ð ð 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 DURDEN'S 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'd 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.]*

- SQUIRE I say, are you all right?
- DAME *[Very drunk.]* No, I'm half left!
- SQUIRE Pardon?
- DAME Everything's fine. *[SHE staggers around getting wilder and wilder.]* The house is in need of repair, all my produce turned bad so I had nothing to sell, I've lost Daisy, Jack's disappeared, I've got no money to pay the tax. *[SHE picks up the teapot and drinks from the spout.]* . and I'm out of tea!
- SQUIRE The tax is a worry. If you can't pay the Giant will take all your remaining possessions.
- DAME Then let him take them. Let him take the lot. I don't care anymore.
- SQUIRE There, there. Don't upset yourself. I'm sure Jack will turn up with the money.
- DAME Oh I do hope so.
- SQUIRE We've had bad times before and got through them and we'll get through this. Just so long as we all stick together.
- DAME We go back a long way, don't we?
- SQUIRE Remember when we were at school together? I used to carry your books on the way home.
- DAME And my dirty football gear!
- SQUIRE Then we'd stop by your garden gate and I'd have a lick of your liquorice.
- DAME Oh yes, the piece I used to keep up my knicker leg!
- SQUIRE Ah, happy days!
- DUET - DAME & SQUIRE
- [During the number the following dialogue takes place.]*
- SQUIRE You know Daphne . may I call you Daphne?
- DAME Of course Squire.
- SQUIRE And you must call me Egbert.
- DAME Egg cup?
- SQUIRE Egbert. You know I always had a soft spot for you when we were at school, but you were always surrounded by the other boys.
- DAME Yes, I did have my moments.
- SQUIRE And as a young lady you had plenty at twenty! You were flirty at thirty, *[SHE giggles.]* and naughty at forty, *[SHE laughs.]* nifty at fifty, *[HER expression*

changes.] and atō ō

DAME You can stop right there!

[The number continues during which they may drink a little more and end up giggling. At the end of the number SIMON enters.]

SIMON Hello, what are you two up to?

DAME Nothing that concerns you. We're just *resimiming*, er . *remisising*, er - thinking of old times. Come along Squire, let's go and see if we can find my old school yearbook and maybe a piece of liquorice! *[THEY exit. SIMON looks at all the things on the table.]*

SIMON I better clean up in here and start making dinner. *[HE picks up the teapot and sniffs it.]* Cor, I think mum is still having a liquid lunch!

MIRANDA *[Off.]* Jack. Jack are you there?

SIMON *[Opening the door.]* He's not back yet, Miranda. *[SHE enters.]*

MIRANDA I was wondering how he got on at the auction.

SIMON I don't know. Poor old Daisy. I am going to miss her.

MIRANDA We all are. *[HE has put all the things from the table onto a tray. The crockery is balanced very precariously.]* Can I give you a hand?

SIMON *[Rolling up his sleeves and grabbing at the tray.]* No, leave it to me . I can do it. *[The tray is wobbling and the audience calls out. MIRANDA calls also.]* Oh yes, thank you very much! *[HE slowly starts to walk to the exit holding the tray steady.]* You wait here for Jack, I'm sure he won't be much longer. *[HE is now off stage and there is an almighty crash! MIRANDA smiles to herself and sits at the table, HER back to the door. SLIME slowly opens the door unseen by MIRANDA. HE is carrying a sack.]*

SLIME Ah, there she is, all by herself. What a tasty morsel for the Giant. I'll imitate Jack Durden's voice and lure her into my trap. *[HE now mimes with JACK'S voice over.]* Miranda.

MIRANDA *[Beginning to turn round.]* Jack?

SLIME No, don't turn round. I've got a surprise for you!

MIRANDA A surprise for me? I love surprises.

SLIME *[HE moves towards her – the sack ready.]* Oh you're really going to love this one. *[HE brings the sack down over her head and drags her, struggling and calling out, to the door. HE speaks in his own voice.]* My what a feisty little thing you are. Come along, off to the Giants larder with you. *[HE drags her out. SIMON returns.]*

SIMON There we are, all cleared away and only three cups broken this time! *[HE sees MIRANDA is not there.]* Oh, well she might have said goodbye. *[To the audience.]* Do you know where she went? *[Audience tells him.]* What? But

this is terrible! I've got to do something! But I don't know what! Oh where's Jack? Well it's no use. I'll just have to rush off and rescue her myself! Leave it to me. *[HE rolls up his sleeve. Audience calls out. The SQUIRE enters.]*

- SQUIRE Ah Simon, I'm afraid your mother's a little under the weather.
- SIMON Never mind mother. Something terrible has happened. That dreadful Giant's henchman has kidnapped Miranda.
- SQUIRE What?
- SIMON It's true. My friends just told me. He's carried her off in a sack to the Giant's castle in the clouds.
- SQUIRE Oh no, my precious daughter. Come on, we must go and get some help. *[THEY run out as DAME DURDEN enters from the other side.]*
- DAME Oh I do wish someone would stop this room from moving! *[SHE crosses to behind the table, pulls the chair away and then sits where the chair was, landing on the floor. HER two hands appear as she clutches the table top and pulls herself up.]* Oh, all the tea things have been cleared away . and I could just do with another cup!
- [JACK enters with the bag.]*
- JACK Hello mother.
- DAME Jack, you're back . with a sack! Shall I pack? How did you get on at the auction?
- JACK Not very well. Nobody wanted to buy Daisy.
- DAME *[Dramatic.]* Then we're ruined . ruined!
- JACK No. Wait a minute and listen. On the way home I met this man who offered to buy Daisy for five gold pieces!
- DAME *[Suddenly delighted.]* Five gold pieces??
- JACK Yes.
- DAME But that's a fortune! Oh Jack, all our troubles are over. What a clever boy. Let me see.
- JACK Here. *[HE gives her the bag.]*
- DAME Oh this is splendid! Just look at them, all shining away . all glittering and GREEN!!!!
- JACK What??
- DAME *[Taking out the beans.]* Green beans!
- JACK What are you talking about mother?

- DAME They're beans! Look! Oh Jack what have you done? A bag of beans in exchange for Daisy. You've ruined us. We'll be the laughing stock of the neighbourhood.
- JACK But mum, it was gold when he gave it to me.
- DAME Gold! What a foolish boy you are.
- JACK It was gold . it was.
- DAME [*Furious.*] Now you've really spilt the beans!
- JACK Butõ õ õ õ õ
- DAME Silence! [*SHE crosses to the window and throws the beans out.*] Out into the vegetable patch they go where they belong. [*SHE crosses DS.*] Oh Jack, we're finished. You naughty boy, get to bed.
- JACK Mum I'm sorry. I truly am. If only you'd let me explainõ õ
- DAME BED!!
- JACK Yes mum. [*HE exits. The clock strikes a feeble "bong".*]
- DAME And you can shut up as well! [*SHE exits. Lights dim down and the FAIRY enters DR.*]
- FAIRY And now to start *my* magic. The beans that Dame Durden cast out into the vegetable patch are no ordinary beans, but ones that I have special powers over. Old SLIME may think he's won the day, but now it is my turn. He thinks he's the only one who can pull a few tricks. Well, you just watch!

[The lights are now out except a spot on the FAIRY. If it is at all possible the following sequence should be done in UV. If this is not possible, the dancers can perform the tasks as spirits of the earth.

BALLET - TRANSITION TO GARDEN

- 1) The tablecloth dances about and goes off . as does the chairs and the table.
- 2) FAIRY waves her wand and the scene changes to õ õ õ

SCENE 7 DAME DURDENS GARDEN

[There are various garden items that are used in the following sequence. A spade, a watering can and five large cut out beans. The beanstalk will grow centre stage.]

- 3) FAIRY points wand at the spade. It jumps up and crosses C where it digs a hole.
- 4) FAIRY points wand at the beans. They dance about and the spade knocks one by one into the hole.
- 5) The spade pats down the earth.
- 6) FAIRY points wand at the watering can. It moves to the centre and waters

the beans.

7) The watering can and spade go off.

8) The FAIRY crosses to where the beanstalk will grow.

FAIRY Now beans that were bought for a great sum of money, work your magic and bring good fortune to this humble family.

[The beanstalk grows and the FAIRY moves behind it. The BALLET ends and the lights come up for morning. DAME DURDEN enters. SHE is holding her head.]

DAME *[Singing.]* Oh what a terrible morning, Oh what a terrible day. *[SHE sees the beanstalk.]* Good grief! These garden weeds are getting bigger! Wait a minute, that's not a weed! *[SHE goes to it and looks slowly upward.]* Oh myō ō ō *[SHE calls.]* Jack! Jack come quick.

JACK *[Entering.]* What is it mother?

DAME Someone's planted a dirty great beanstalk in my petunia patch!

[SIMON comes running on followed by the SQUIRE.]

SIMON Jack! Mother!

DAME Simon, did you put that there?

SIMON Where did that come from?

JACK That's what we want to know.

SQUIRE Never mind that. What about Miranda?

JACK What's happened? Where is she?

[The FAIRY comes from behind the beanstalk.]

FAIRY I think I can answer all your questions. *[SHE crosses DR.]*

DAME Goodness, it's *(well-known name.)*

FAIRY I am Fairy Green Bean and I am your guardian, Jack.

SIMON Whoever heard of a vegetable for a guardian?

DAME Be quiet, Simon.

FAIRY There has been some evil doings around here. Not only from the Giant, but also from his evil henchman, Slime.

SQUIRE Slime?

FAIRY He was the one who bought Daisy from you and turned the gold into beans.

JACK *[To DAME.]* See. I knew it was gold.

FAIRY And he has kidnapped your daughter, Squire and taken her to Giant Blunderbore's castle.

SQUIRE Oh no! My poor Miranda. I'll never see her again.

JACK Oh yes you will Squire. I meant what I said yesterday. I'm going to fight that Giant.

SIMON But how are you going to get to his castle in the clouds?

[They ALL look at the FAIRY who looks at the beanstalk. They look at the beanstalk and then at each other.]

ALL The beanstalk!

JACK Of course. It's so tall it must reach into the clouds. I'll climb it, rescue Miranda and Daisy and finish off that Giant once and for all.

FAIRY This is a brave and courageous task that you take on. There are many unknown dangers waiting for you. Are you ready?

JACK Yes.

FAIRY Then to help you on your way take this sword . *[A DANCER enters with a sword. FAIRY makes a magic pass over it.]* . it will protect you during your quest. And now Jack, start to climb. Your destiny awaits you.

[JACK moves to the bottom of the beanstalk. The TOWNSPEOPLE start to enter and will join in JACKS song for a finish to Act One.]

SONG . JACK & TOWNSPEOPLE

[Toward the end of the song JACK starts to climb as the curtain falls.]

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOSCENE 1 AT THE TOP OF THE BEANSTALK

[Clouds of all sizes dominate the scene. The top of the beanstalk is visible up stage behind one of them. SLIME stands looking down. HE sees that JACK is climbing up.]

SLIME Curse that cretinous compost heap! She's shown young Durden a way to get to cloud land. But it will do him no good. His cow and his precious Miranda are now in my power and will soon be safely locked away in the Giants castle. He'll never be able to get to them. This land is guarded by the fiercest of creatures. I think I'll arrange a welcoming party for this intrepid young lad. *[HE starts his incantation.]*
From east and west, from south and north
Guardians of this land come forth.

[The stage grows dark as thunder and lightning strike. SLIME laughs and exits as JACK arrives at the top of the beanstalk. DANCERS representing weird creatures enter and try to stop him but he fights them and finally wins.]

JACK That was a close thing. I wonder what else is in store for me up here. *[A low roar is heard off.]* I hope that was just my stomach rumbling! *[Another roar. This time a little louder. JACK runs back towards the beanstalk.]* Oh dear. I don't know whether I can cope with this. No. I must be brave. I've got to rescue Miranda and put an end to that evil Giant Blunderbore. I'd better try and find the road to the castle. I wonder what's along here. *[HE exits the opposite way to SLIME. Voices are heard off.]*

DAME Come along we're nearly there!

SIMON I don't think I can hold on for much longer!

SQUIRE *[Slightly muffled.]* Daphne dear, could you take your foot out of my face!

DAME Just a few more branches. *[HER hands appear as she pulls herself up. The OTHERS follow. THEY are all dressed in various items of climbing gear. ALL of them have a backpack of some sort.]*

SQUIRE At last. I don't know whether it was such a good idea to follow Jack up here.

SIMON But we had to give him some support.

SQUIRE It's my support I'm more worried about. *[HE pulls a large branch of the beanstalk from his trousers.]* Oh, that's better.

DAME I wonder which way Jack went. Do you think we ought to split up and look for him?

SIMON *[Very worried.]* No fear. It's very eerie around here. Do you think we're going to bump into some awful creepy crawly creatures?

DAME Do you know I was once attacked by a giant cockroach? When I reported it to the police they said there was a nasty bug going around!

SQUIRE The sensible thing would be if we all stick together.

DAME Just listen to you. Such big *butch* men! Thank goodness I'm here to look after you.

SIMON Aren't you just a little scared?

DAME When you've had to face adversity like I have, you're ready for anything. Why just meeting up with your father on a Saturday night was bad enough! My goodness, what a sight! He looked like a disaster waiting to happen! No, there's not much around that can scare me! *[A great roar. The DAME throws herself at the SQUIRE, screaming.]* W-w-what was that?

SIMON It sounded like an awfully big monster! Oh I wonder what it's like to be crushed by an awfully big monster?

SQUIRE *[Disentangling himself from the DAME.]* I think I've got a pretty good idea!

SIMON What are we going to do?

DAME Quick, call Maureen 118 212.

SIMON Why?

DAME She's better than the men with moustaches!

SIMON *[To someone in the front row.]* Could I borrow your phone?

SQUIRE Simon, don't be silly. You'll never get a signal up here! We must all stay close together and not wander off.

DAME Why don't we link ourselves with the climbing rope? That way we'll always be together.

SQUIRE Good idea. *[THEY clip the rope to their belts. DAME first followed by the SQUIRE and then SIMON.]*

DAME There we are. All ready?

SIMON No. My end of the rope has slipped.

DAME That's because you used a slip knot!

SIMON *[Adjusting his rope.]* All ready.

DAME Right. Now let's see if we can find Jack. Follow me. *[They all start to move in different directions and pull against each other.]* I said follow me! *[SHE walks one way with the other two following, then turns to go the other way. The SQUIRE follows but SIMON is now between them and walks forward. HE falls over the rope between the other two, pulling them towards HIM.]* Simon, what are you doing? This is not the time to be sitting around. *[THEY help SIMON up.]* I think we should try this way. *[THEY all cross one way.]* Or maybe this way. *[THEY cross the other way.]* No, I think I was right first time. *[SHE turns quickly back followed by the SQUIRE. This causes Simon to whiplash around and he ends up by wrapping the rope around all three of them.]*

SQUIRE This is not working at all. I think we had better forget about the rope.

SIMON So do I. *[THEY take off the rope. There is another loud roar.]*

DAME *[Looking off.]* Whatever that is, it's getting nearer!

SIMON *[Also looking off.]* What shall we do?

SQUIRE Run! *[THEY run to stage right as JACK enters.]*

JACK Hello! *[The OTHERS scream.]* What on earth are you doing here?

DAME Oh Jack, thank goodness we found you.

SIMON We followed you up the beanstalk.

SQUIRE To help you fight! I mean to give you moral support!

JACK You shouldn't have done that. It's very dangerous.

DAME But we couldn't let you come up here alone.

SIMON And we're all fully equipped and armed, aren't we troops?

DAME We certainly are. *[Each one of them takes out from their backpack various items. SQUIRE has a sink plunger, DAME has a frying pan and SIMON has a water pistol.]*

JACK Yes! Well you all look very menacing. I'm sure when we meet the Giant he will be shaking in his shoes!

SQUIRE Do you know where Castle Blunderbore is?

JACK No. I've just been down that path but there's nothing there. I was going to try this way. *[HE points in the opposite direction.]*

DAME Right. Off we go then.

SIMON *[Rolling up his sleeves.]* I'll find the castle. Leave it to me. *[Audience reacts with "think about it, Simon". There is a loud roar.]* You're right. I think I will.

JACK What was that?

DAME I don't know, but I think it's getting nearer!

SQUIRE Hadn't we better hide?

JACK No. We must stand and face it. Anyway, I've got this sword to protect us.

[THEY all stand behind JACK as another roar is heard and then a DRAGON appears.]

SQUIRE A dragon! They breathe fire. We'll all be done to a cinder!

- SIMON *[Shaking with fear he starts to roll up his sleeve.]* L-I-I-leave it to me.
[Audience shout out. SIMON quickly puts his sleeve down.] Yes I think I will!
- SQUIRE What are we going to do?
- JACK I suggest we all back away and don't anger it.
- DAME What a load of scaredy cats! I suppose I shall have to deal with this. *[SHE moves slowly towards the DRAGON and talks to it as though it was a dog.]* Who's a good boy then? Now heel. *[The DRAGON puts its head on to one side and looks at her.]* Come along now, heel. *[The DRAGON moves to one side of her.]* There we are. Now lie down. *[The DRAGON lies down.]* How, would you like your tummy tickled?
- SQUIRE Oh, yes please!
- OTHERS Shhh! *[The DRAGON stands to have his tummy tickled by the DAME.]*
- DAME And now sit. *[The DRAGON sits. SHE turns to the others.]* There, you see, all those years of sending Simon to puppy training classes has paid off! *[The DRAGON lets out a mighty roar and breathes fire at her.]* Help! I'm on fire! *[SHE runs back to the others and they start beating her on the backside. SIMON squirts her with his water pistol.]* All right, all right. I'm out now.
- SQUIRE Anyone got any more bright ideas?
- SIMON I know. *[HE takes out a bag of sweets.]* Here you are. Nice Dragon. How would you like a Jelly Baby? *[The DRAGON immediately sits up and begs.]* Are you going to be a good boy and let us pass? *[The DRAGON nods.]* OK then, here you are. Do you want a little boy or a little girl?
- JACK Simon! Just give him the lot!
- SIMON The lot? But what about my supper?
- JACK You'd soon be his supper if you're not careful.
- SIMON Oh all right. *[SIMON throws the bag up stage and the DRAGON goes after it.]*
- JACK Now's our chance. Come on everybody.
- [THEY all cross the stage and start to exit. The DRAGON is busy eating a Jelly Baby. SIMON looks back and sees the bag and goes to try and retrieve it. The DRAGON sees him and lets out a roar. SIMON dashes off after the others. The lights fade and the scene changes to.....]*

SCENE 2 ON THE WAY TO THE GIANTS CASTLE

[Front cloth. SLIME enters dragging MIRANDA and DAISY who are tethered to a long rope.]

- SLIME Come along you two. The sooner I have you locked up in Castle Blunderblore the better.

- MIRANDA You can't do this. My father is the Squire and he will make you pay dearly. The penalty for kidnap is very severe.
- SLIME *[With mock fear.]* Oh, can you see how I'm shaking in my boots?
- MIRANDA *[Calling out.]* Help! Please, somebody! Help!
- SLIME You can shout all you like. Who do you think can hear you up here? Now be a sensible girl and stop wasting my time. If you behave yourself, the Giant might spare you. You are pretty in a *human* sort of way. And he does like to own pretty things.
- MIRANDA But what about Daisy.
- SLIME By Daisy, if you mean that clapped out old quadruped, she's destined for higher things. The Giants table! *[HE laughs. DAISY stands tapping one of her hooves and then lowers her head in a "charge" position. SLIME continues laughing and DAISY runs at him and buffets him hard.]* Hey stop that, you rag bag of old bones! *[DAISY tosses her head in the air and walks away.]*
- MIRANDA Just you wait. Jack will find a way to rescue us and then you'll regret what you've done.
- SLIME Jack! Oh yes, he tried to play the hero, but I've dealt with him.
- MIRANDA What do you mean?
- SLIME He tried to climb up here to cloudland, but my guards soon sent him crashing back down to earth.
- MIRANDA Oh no! *[SHE takes out a handkerchief and starts to cry.]*
- SLIME You'll not be seeing that headstrong youth again. Now come along, my patience is wearing thin. And stop all that wailing. *[HE drags them off. MIRANDA drops her handkerchief. FAIRY enters R.]*
- FAIRY Hello my dears. I bet you thought I'd forgotten all about the Durden family! Well never fear, I've been watching everything. Unfortunately that's all I can do. My powers have no effect up here, so I can only advise and warn Jack of the dangers that lie ahead. Here he comes now. *[JACK enters R. and crosses C. not noticing her.]* Hello again, Jack.
- JACK *[Turning.]* It's you. I'm so pleased to see you. This sword you gave me has served me well so far, but I'm no nearer finding Miranda or Daisy.
- FAIRY But you will, I'm sure. And now you have your family to help you.
- JACK Well, I don't know that "*help*" is the right word, but it is good to see them.
- FAIRY You are on the right track to find Castle Blunderbore, but there will be many more dangers to face, so always be on your guard.
- JACK I will and thank you.

FAIRY I wish I could do more. But don't despair. I'll never be too far away. *[SHE exits.]*

JACK Now, where have the others got to. I do wish they would keep up. *[HE calls.]* Come on you lot, we've still got a long way to go! *[DAME, SIMON and SQUIRE enter. THEY are all looking worn out.]*

SIMON Any sign of the castle yet?

JACK No, but it can't be much further.

DAME I hope we are on the right road. Or should that be the right cloud? You know I always wondered what it would be like to walk on air. Now I know!

SQUIRE I shall have to rest a while, my feet are killing me.

SIMON It's still very creepy up here. You don't think we're going to run into any more dragons or beasties do you?

SQUIRE Oh don't say that. The thought of *them* is killing me!

JACK What about when we get to the castle and you come face to face with the Giant?

SQUIRE Oh please, the thought of *that* is killing me!

DAME It's like being with the walking dead!!

SIMON Why don't we sing a little song to keep our spirits up?

DAME Oh don't be simple Simon, they only do that sort of thing in pantomimes!

SQUIRE Well I think Simon's right. What shall we sing?

DAME Well I could give you my Nessun Dorma.

SQUIRE I don't want it, thank you very much!

DAME I'll have you know I once sang for Luciano Flabbybotti.

JACK Oh mother!

DAME It's true! Mr Flabbybotti said he'd never heard a voice like it!

SIMON I bet he did! I know - what about . *[HE gives the title of whatever song is chosen.]*

SQUIRE Oh yes, I like that one.

DAME And I'm sure our friends out there will let us know if anything creeps up on us, won't you? *[Audience reacts.]* Thank you.

SONG - DAME, SIMON, JACK & SQUIRE

[During the song various CREATURES from the previous scene try to frighten them. The audience calls out. As each one sings the others fight off the CREATURES. At the end the CREATURES are knocked out and lying on the stage.]

- JACK *[Finding MIRANDAS handkerchief.]* Look.
- SQUIRE That's Miranda's.
- JACK Are you sure?
- SQUIRE Yes. I bought her a set for her birthday. It has her initial embroidered in the corner.
- JACK Then we must be on the right track. Come on. *[HE exits followed by SIMON and the SQUIRE. The CREATURES start to come round and advance on the DAME. SHE sings a long piercing note and they run off with their hands over their ears.]*
- DAME You see. No musical appreciation! *[SHE exits as the lights fade and the scene changes to.....]*

SCENE 3 THE GIANTS KITCHEN

[All the furniture and props are of giant size. A table is centre with a chair to one side. On the table are various items such as a plate, cup, salt and pepper and other things needed in this scene. Also the Golden Hen in her nest. On stage right is a cell with bars and a practical door. There is a large oven up stage with a practical door. Hanging on the back wall are three chefs aprons and three chefs hats. Also various clubs, swords and axes.]

- GIANT *[Off.]* Fee Fi Fo Fum,
I smell the bad breath of a - *[Name of town when you are playing]* - man!
Slime, where are you? Where is my dinner? *[With heavy footsteps HE enters left and moves to the table.]* Slime!!
- SLIME *[Off.]* Coming master. *[HE enters right dragging MIRANDA and DAISY.]* Get in there both of you and show yourself to your new master.
- GIANT What have we here?
- SLIME I thought cow pie might suit my master's palate tonight; and this could be your desert. *[HE points to MIRANDA.]*
- GIANT Mmmm. Quite tasty. Yes I shall look forward to that. What about the extra tax I imposed on that worthless town?
- SLIME All collected master. *[HE gives the GIANT a bag of money.]* Except for the Durden household. They couldn't pay so now forfeit all their belongings, although I don't think there will be much to take your fancy.
- GIANT Durden. That's where I got my Golden Hen from. *[To the hen.]* Where's my golden egg today? *[The hen clucks and the GIANT takes a golden egg from*

the nest.] What a clever bird. Another one for my collection. I shall go down tomorrow and see what else catches my eye.

SLIME Yes master.

MIRANDA How can you be so mean as to throw innocent people out of their homes?

SLIME Silence girl. How dare you speak like that to the mighty Giant Blunderbore?

MIRANDA Mighty? We'd see who's mighty when my father gets here.

GIANT And who is your father?

MIRANDA He's the Squire. So you'd better watch out!

GIANT *[Roaring with laughter.]* The Squire? That feeble old relic.

MIRANDA Don't speak of him like that. He's a good and kind man. Not a wicked creature like you.

SLIME I'm warning you girl, hold your tongue.

GIANT My, my. She is a spirited human! *[Giving SLIME a key from his belt.]* Lock her in the cell and I'll deal with her later.

SLIME Yes, master. *[Pushing MIRANDA to the cell.]* Come on, get in there. *[HE locks the door and hands the key back to the GIANT. HE then ties DAISY to a leg of the table.]* And you can wait there.

GIANT Now get on with making my dinner. I'm starving!

SLIME Very good master. I shall fetch all I need from the larder. *[HE exits.]*

GIANT And in the meantime I shall take the money you've collected to my counting house. I do love looking at all my money. I'm rolling in it you know. It's good for the hips! *[HE exits.]*

MIRANDA Oh Daisy, what are we going to do? We're trapped here. We'd never see anyone again.

SONG . MIRANDA

[At the end of the song, MIRANDA buries her head in her hands crying. HARRIET, a "jolly hockey sticks" type of girl with pigtails and freckles, enters. SHE carries a golden harp.]

HARRIET *[SHE has a slight lisp.]* Hello. Who are you?

MIRANDA *[Turning.]* Harriet? Oh Harriet, it's me, Miranda!

HARRIET Cousin Miranda. *[SHE runs to the cell.]* How on earth did you get here?

MIRANDA We were captured by that evil henchman of the Giant.

HARRIET Slime? Ugh!

MIRANDA He's going to turn us into the Giants dinner.

HARRIET What a piece of bad luck!

MIRANDA But what about you? Blunderbore stole you away years ago. I never thought I'd see you again.

HARRIET. Well, I suppose I was lucky. He heard me singing and playing this harp. He is fascinated by the sound and says it soothes him to sleep. So I've been spared, just so long as my voice keeps pleasing him.

MIRANDA Oh what a mess we're in. There's no one who can help us.

[JACK enters.]

JACK Oh yes there is!

MIRANDA Jack!

JACK Miranda. And Harriet. Thank goodness I got here in time. I was afraid I might arrive too late.

MIRANDA But I heard that awful henchman's guards attacked you.

JACK They did, but this enchanted sword helped me to beat them off.

MIRANDA Oh I'm so glad you're here.

JACK Not only me but also mother, Simon and your father. *[The OTHERS enter.]*

DAME Hello dear. *[Crossing to DAISY.]* And Daisy, my darling Daisy.

SQUIRE Miranda, are you all right? Harriet, I can't tell you what a relief it is to see you again.

HARRIET Hello uncle.

SIMON Harriet! *[HE crosses to her.]*

HARRIET Simon. Oh I'm so pleased you're all here.

DAME *[Seeing the hen.]* Look, there's Jemima our golden hen. We're all back together again.

HARRIET But how did you all climb up from earth?

JACK It's a long story. First I must get you out of here.

MIRANDA You're all in terrible danger. That dreadful Slime will be back any minute. He's going to prepare the Giants dinner and poor Daisy is the main course. *[DAISY begins to tremble again.]*

DAME Over my dead body!

SQUIRE Oh don't say that!

JACK There must be a key to this cell.

HARRIET The Giant keeps it on his belt. You'd never get it.

JACK Where is the Giant now?

MIRANDA I heard him say he was going to his counting house.

JACK Right. That's where I'd start. We might as well get the money back he's stolen from us over the years. Harriet, can you show me where it is?

HARRIET Yes.

DAME Jack, do be careful.

JACK I will. Just watch out for that Slime coming back.

DAME Did you say he was preparing the Giants dinner?

MIRANDA He's gone to get the ingredients.

DAME Right. That gives me an idea. *[To SIMON and SQUIRE.]* Over here you two.

JACK We'd be back as soon as we can. *[JACK and HARRIET exit. DAME, SIMON and SQUIRE cross up to the chef's aprons and hats and put them on. SLIME enters pushing a table full of ingredients for the next part of the scene. The front side of the table is covered so the audience can't see through it.]*

SLIME *[Seeing them.]* Who are you? *[THEY all turn around wearing various disguises.]*

DAME We're the new caterers.

SLIME New caterers? Giant Blunderbore never said anything about hiring new caterers.

SIMON *[In a posh accent.]* Ah well, he fancied a change from the run of the mill meals and decided to bring in some high-class cooks, like what we are!

DAME Oh yes, we've enriched the menus of many a famous eating establishment.

SQUIRE The Ritz. The Savoy.

DAME The Rovers Return!

SIMON We're cordon *blow* you know.

SQUIRE Bleu!

SIMON God bless you!

SLIME It's very odd he never told me about you. But if it means I don't have to be bothered cooking a meal I can go and have a lie down. I'm feeling quite exhausted.

DAME That's right, you go and put your feet up and leave everything to us.

SLIME It's cow pie tonight. And this troublesome wench is desert.

DAME Oh no!

SLIME What?

DAME I mean the Giant especially asked for a ð er *[Looks at SIMON.]* – fruitcake!

SLIME Fruitcake? Good lord, he'd be turning vegetarian next! Oh well get on with it and don't make a mess of the kitchen. *[HE exits.]*

SIMON Daisy, we've got you a reprieve.

DAME Simon, untie her and take her outside. *[To DAISY.]* Daisy, I want you to keep a lookout. If anyone comes, give us a moo!

SIMON Come along, Daisy. *[HE exits with DAISY.]*

DAME Just look at this place. No mod cons at all. Haven't they heard of Ikea up here?

SQUIRE What do we do first?

DAME Get the cookery book. *[The SQUIRE gets a very large book. HE staggers under the weight of it. HE finally drops it on the table and onto the DAMES hand.]* Owwww!

SQUIRE Oh I'm terribly sorry my dear. Shall I rub it better? *[HE does so.]*

DAME Just get a bowl. *[SQUIRE gets a large bowl and again staggers under the weight. This time he drops it on her other hand.]* Owwww!

SQUIRE Oh I'm terribly sorry my dear. Shall I rub it better? *[HE does so.]*

DAME Just get a spoon. *[HE reaches for a large spoon as the DAME bends over to tie her shoelace. HE staggers under the weight of the spoon and hits her on the backside.]* Owwww!

SQUIRE Oh I'm terribly sorry my dear. Shall I ð ð ð ð *[SHE glares at him. SIMON enters.]*

SIMON Daisy is standing guard. How are things going?

DAME Painfully! *[To the SQUIRE.]* Now, you read out the instructions.

SQUIRE Put the flour into a bowl.

DAME *[Picking up a bag of flour.]* I wonder how much? *[SHE looks at the bag and shrugs.]* Oh well, he's a big fella. *[SHE throws the whole bag into the bowl.]* Next?

SQUIRE Add water.

DAME Right. Simon . water. *[SHE puts the flour into the bowl. SIMON looks around for some water. HE finds a watering can.]*

SIMON Here we are. *[HE pours the water into the bowl. Whilst doing this he looks around.]* It's a very big kitchen, isn't it? *[The water is now going down the front of the DAME.]*

DAME Simon! When you have quite finished doing your impression of Niagara Falls!

SIMON Ooops! Sorry! *[HE puts the can away.]*

DAME What next?

SQUIRE Mix the water and flour into a duff!

DAME What do you mean duff? It's dough!

SQUIRE Duff!

DAME Dough. *[Points to book.]* D O U G H! Dough.

SQUIRE Oh! *[Reads.]* When the dough is thick eno.

DAME What do you mean, %bick eno+? Enough . enough. That's enough!

SQUIRE Right. *[Closes book.]*

DAME Oh, give me patience. Here, give it to me. I'd read the instructions . you make the cake. *[THEY change places.]* Take a dozen new-laid eggs.

SIMON I'd get them. *[HE goes to the hen and reaches into the nest. The hen "clucks" as SIMON brings out a box of eggs.]* Not only new laid but packed as well! *[HE crosses to the table, trips and falls smashing the eggs.]*

DAME Oh well, no need to separate them. *[SHE takes the box and throws it into the bowl.]* Now we add some nuts.

SQUIRE Here they are. *[HE picks up a box marked "Nuts & Bolts" and empties them into the bowl.]*

DAME And some dates.

SIMON I've got them. *[HE takes a large calendar off the wall, tears off some pages and throws them into the bowl.]*

DAME And finally something to add a dark colouring.

SQUIRE Ah, the very thing. *[HE picks up a coal scuttle from by the fireplace and empties some coal into the bowl.]*

DAME Now we mix it all together.

SIMON *[Rolling up his sleeves.]* Leave it to me. *[Audience shouts.]*

DAME Yes, think about it. *[To the SQUIRE.]* You do it. *[SQUIRE takes the large spoon and stirs. The mixture goes all over the place.]* Oh look. You're as bad as Simon. I'll do it. I think it would be easier if the bowl were on the floor. It's so large. *[THEY put the bowl on the floor behind the table. SHE takes the spoon and stirs.]* There. All done. *[SHE reaches down and from under the table she takes out some dough. It should be very sticky.]*

SQUIRE Now what?

DAME Now we have to knead it.

SIMON OK. *[HE starts to climb onto the table.]*

DAME What are you doing?

SIMON I'm going to knead the dough.

DAME Not like that! We have to get some air into it. *[They look at each other and all start to blow on the dough.]* That's not working. Let's stretch it out.

[SHE starts to pull the dough about. The SQUIRE helps. HE stands at one end of the table and SHE stands at the other. SIMON stands up stage of the table. The dough gets longer and longer as THEY pull it from one end to the other. The DAME gives it a good pull and the SQUIRE'S face goes into the dough. SIMON laughs at this and the pulling continues. The SQUIRE then gives the dough a good pull and the DAME'S face goes into it. SIMON laughs again. The DAME and the SQUIRE look at each other, walk to either side of SIMON and push his face into the dough. HE coughs and splutters while they hold him down. HE finally comes up, his face covered with dough.]

Well, I think there's enough air in it now! Time to put it in the baking tin. *[The SQUIRE gets a baking tin and the dough is put in it.]* Now we need to sprinkle some sugar on the top. Simon, get it will you.

[SIMON'S face is still covered with dough as he reaches for the sugar. The box next to it is marked 'Gunpowder' and this is what he hands to the DAME. SHE sprinkles it on top of the dough.] And now it's ready for the oven. *[SHE takes the baking tin to the oven and puts it in.]* Just turn on the gas and it should be ready in no time. Now, we had better clean this mess up. *[THEY start to clean up. The SQUIRE picks up the gunpowder box.]*

SQUIRE Where does this gunpowder go?

DAME Gunpowder??

SIMON Oh! I thought it was the sugar!

DAME Simon, you idiot. *[SHE starts to chase him with the spoon. Smoke comes from the oven and then there is a loud bang. The lights blackout and when they come back on all three have black faces. (Black powder can be in the pockets of their aprons). DAISY enters "mooing" and runs to the other side of the kitchen. SLIME enters.]*

SLIME What is going on here?

DAME Oh nothing. Just trying out a new cake mix. You know Sarah Lee - *[Or any well-known chef.]* - has got a lot to answer for!

SLIME I don't think you are chefs.

OTHERS Oh yes we are.

SLIME Oh no you're not.

[Short "yes we are – no you're not" sequence with the help of the audience.]

[SLIME looks closely at them.] I think you're humans come to rescue the girl and the cow.

GIANT *[Off.]* Fee fi fo fum. I smell the blood of an Englishman.

SLIME You see. The Giant has detected you as well.

[The GIANT enters.]

GIANT Slime. What is going on here?

SLIME More humans master. I have caught them for you!

GIANT My, my. What a feast I shall have tonight. Lock them up. *[HE gives SLIME the key.]*

SLIME At once master. *[HE pushes them towards the cell.]* Come on, in you go. *[HE opens the cell and pushes DAME, SIMON and SQUIRE in.]*

GIANT Ah, there's that pretty young thing.

DAME Flatterer! *[SLIME slams the cell door shut and gives the key back to the GIANT.]*

GIANT Slime, you have done good work. I might let you partake in some dinner with me tonight.

SLIME Thank you, master.

GIANT I think we'll have them barbecued! Go and light the coals.

SLIME At once, master. *[Grinning at the OTHERS]* Barbecued humans. Yum yum. *[HE exits.]*

SIMON Mister Giant, I don't think I will be much of a meal for you. I'm just skin and bone.

SQUIRE And I'm getting on in years. I'd be as tough as old leather.

GIANT *[To DAME.]* What about you. Plenty of fat there by the looks of it!

DAME Fat? I'd have you know I'm just well rounded!

SIMON Yes and we know how well she's been around! *[DAME glares at SIMON.]*

- GIANT All together youd be more than enough to satisfy my appetite.
- DAME Oh dear, I wonder where Jackø got to.
- OTHERS Shhhh!!
- GIANT What was that?
- DAME Oh nothing. Just complaining about my back!
- GIANT Well dond. I hate whining women!
- [HARRIET enters.]*
- HARRIET Good day master.
- GIANT Harriet. Have you seen the new arrivals?
- HARRIET I say! So many.
- GIANT Yes. Iqn going to have quite a feast. My stomach is starting to rumble at the thought!
- HARRIET Perhaps you should have a rest, master. Prepare yourself for your meal.
- GIANT Good idea. Sing me something soothing. *[HE sits on the chair.]*
- HARRIET At once, master. Id just tune up! *[SHE plucks some strings and improvises singing a few notes.]* All ready. Here goes!
- SONG . HARRIET
- [The song should be in the form of a lullaby of ballad. During the song the GIANT falls asleep. The DAME gets carried away and starts to join in. The GIANT stirs and the OTHERS “Shhh” her. At the end of the song the GIANT is fast asleep. HARRIET calls in a whisper.]* Jack. *[JACK enters with two large moneybags on a cord around his neck.]* The Giant is asleep. Can you get the key off his belt?
- JACK I think so. *[HE reaches up to get the key and the GIANT stirs again. JACK hides behind the chair. The GIANT settles and JACK tries again. HE gets the key and unlocks the cell.]* Quick, all of you take this gold I got from the Giants counting house and head for the top of the beanstalk. *[THEY start to exit as SLIME enters.]*
- SLIME Master, master, the humans are escaping!
- JACK *[Drawing his sword.]* Quick. *[DAME, SIMON, SQUIRE, MIRANDA and DAISY all exit as JACK starts to advance on SLIME.]*
- SLIME No! Dond hurt me. Master! Help!!
- JACK Why, you pathetic creature. Not so brave now are you? *[Pushing him towards the cell.]* Get in there. *[HE pushes him in and locks the door.]*

- GIANT *[Waking up.]* What's the meaning of all this noise? Can you see I'm trying to sleep? *[Sees JACK.]* Who are you?
- JACK I'm Jack Durden, here to claim what is rightfully mine.
- GIANT Rightfully yours? Why you young fool, I'll grind your bones to make my bread! *[HE starts to advance on JACK.]*
- JACK *[Stabbing him in one foot.]* Take that! *[The GIANT hops about.]* And that! *[HE does the same to the other foot.]* Come on, Harriet. Let's get out of here. *[HE reaches up and gets the Golden Hen from the table.]*
- GIANT You'd never leave cloudland alive. *[JACK and HARRIET exit. The GIANT crosses to the cell and lets SLIME out.]* Take this sword and get after them. *[HE gives SLIME his sword.]*
- SLIME Yes master.
- GIANT If they escape you will forfeit your life. *[SLIME grabs the sword and exits. The GIANT starts to follow still hopping from foot to foot.]* Oooh! Owww!
- [The lights fade and the scene changes to.....]*

SCENE 4 BACK TO THE BEANSTALK

[Front cloth as scene 2. DAME, SIMON, MIRANDA and SQUIRE enter at a run.]

- DAME How much further? We must be near the top of the beanstalk.
- SIMON Are you sure we're going the right way?
- DAME I think so. The trouble is all these clouds look the same to me!
- SQUIRE Wait a minute, where's Daisy?
- SIMON I thought she was following you.
- DAME Oh no, don't tell me she's been caught again by that awful Slime.
- [If more time is required to change the scene, the cast can now go into the audience and ask them if they have seen DAISY. When ready, DAISY "moos" off stage and comes running on followed by JACK and HARRIET. The OTHERS return to the stage.]*
- Oh there you are. How did you manage to get away from the Giant?
- JACK Some nimble footwork and the use of this magic sword.
- SIMON That strange fairy really has been a guardian to you.

JACK Yes. Without her help I don't think we would have got this far.

GIANT *[Off.]* Fee fi fo fum.

SQUIRE I think we could use her help again.

[FAIRY enters.]

FAIRY All right, my dears?

DAME Oh thank goodness!

JACK Dear fairy, we managed to rescue Miranda and Daisy, but I think our freedom might be short lived.

FAIRY Don't worry. The top of the beanstalk is over there. Once you're back down safely on earth my magic powers will be working for you.

SQUIRE Can't you wave a wand or something and get us down there straight away?

FAIRY I'm afraid not. Up here in the Giants domain my powers are useless.

JACK Come on then everyone, down the beanstalk!

DAME Oh Jack, I don't know if I can make it in time. It's an awfully long way.

MIRANDA And what about Daisy? She can't climb down.

SQUIRE But how did you get up here?

MIRANDA I don't really know. That Slime put a sack over my head and the next thing I knew we were here.

FAIRY He would have used powers given to him by the Giant. But we got something hidden away that will save some of you climbing down.

JACK I don't mind the climb.

MIRANDA Jack, I'm coming with you.

HARRIET And Simon, I'm coming with you.

SIMON Will you? Oh Harriet, I'm so glad to see you again. *[HE takes her hand.]*

HARRIET And I'm glad to see you. *[SHE gives him a "friendly" punch on the shoulder. HE grimaces with pain.]*

DAME Oi, loves young dream! May I remind you there's a Giant after us for his dinner!

JACK Come on, follow me.

SQUIRE Good luck, Jack.

DAME See you when we land!

[JACK, SIMON, MIRANDA and HARRIET exit.]

GIANT *[Off.]* Fee fi fo fum, I spy the Dame with the big fat bum!

DAME Ohhh, the cheek! *[Crossing back.]* I'd give him what for ò ..

FAIRY No. They'd be here in a minute.

SQUIRE What do we do?

FAIRY Follow me. I'd show you how to get down.

[DAME, SQUIRE and DAISY exit with the FAIRY right. SLIME enters left.]

SLIME Where are they? Where have they got to? I've got to catch them or else the Giant will take his anger out on me!

[The GIANT enters. NB if it is not possible for the GIANT to enter on the front cloth he can be a voice over to the end of the scene.]

GIANT Have you got them?

SLIME Erō ò ò not yet, master.

GIANT They've escaped haven't they!

SLIME Only temporarily!

GIANT *[Looking off.]* I can see them climbing down that beanstalk. This is all your doing! You and those beans. I thought I could trust you to carry out my work. It seems I have made a mistake.

SLIME But master ò ò

GIANT Your usefulness to me looks as though it may be coming to an end!

SLIME I'd get them back, master.

GIANT You had your chance. I'm banishing you to earth never to return. And now I'd finish Jack Durden off once and for all!

[The GIANT exits.]

SLIME That Jack Durden has been nothing but a thorn in my side. But this time I'd get my revenge. I'd prove to the Giant that he still needs me. Take me to the bottom of the beanstalk!

[The smoke starts to swirl around and the lights fade out. The scene changes to.....

SCENE 5 ON THE WAY HOME (Please see notes on scenery)

[The scene is a balloon containing the DAME, SQUIRE and DAISY (just her head!) It is a square wicker basket with many coloured balloons attached to it. The smoke from the previous scene covers the stage for a while. The FAIRY is in a pin spot stage right.]

FAIRY This wonderful balloon will take you safely back to earth. And the views are amazing at this time of the year! See you down there. *[SHE exits.]*

DAME *[Covering her eyes.]* Oooh, I can't look. I'm sure I'm going to fall out!

SQUIRE Of course you won't. It's perfectly safe. Look, we're already floating down.

DAME *[Uncovers her eyes.]* Ahh! I've gone blind! I can't see anything but white.

SQUIRE That's just the clouds. See, it's clearing already.

DAME If we were meant to fly we'd have feather sprouting out of our arms!

SQUIRE There's nothing to be scared of. Anyway, I'm here. I'll make sure nothing happens to you.

DAME Oh Egbert, you are brave!

[The SQUIRE preens, smiling gallantly. DAISY 'moos'.]

SQUIRE See, even Daisy is enjoying herself.

DAME I suppose we should be grateful the Fairy had this stashed away. It is a wonderful device.

SQUIRE I'm going to get one for myself when we get back.

[They ad lib into a song.]

DUET - DAME AND SQUIRE

[At the end of the song the sound of balloons popping is heard.]

DAME Oh, now what's happening?

SQUIRE We're coming in to land. Hold on!!

[The popping continues as the lights fade and the scene changes to...]

SCENE 6 THE DURDEN GARDEN

[Same as the last scene of act one. SIMON, MIRANDA and HARRIET are already down and JACK has a few steps to go. HARRIET is lying across SIMON. The VILLAGERS are on watching them all return.]

- 2nd MAN Simon, you're back .
- SIMON Yes, she nearly broke it! *[HARRIET gets up.]* Oh dear, that's dented my pride!
- HARRIET Let me help you up. *[SHE does so with manly strength.]*
- MIRANDA Come on Jack, nearly there.
- JACK *[Getting to the bottom.]* And just in time. *[HE points up.]* Look!
- GIANT *[Off.]* Fee fi fo fum.
- [The CHORUS runs on looking up.]*
- 1st MAN It's the Giant.
- 1st WOMAN He's coming down again.
- HARRIET Oh quick, somebody do something.
- SIMON *[Rolling up his sleeves.]* Leave it to me. *[Audience reacts.]*
- JACK I think you had better leave this to me, Simon. *[HE takes his sword and starts to chop the beanstalk.]*

MUSIC

[Music accompanies the chopping and the lights dim. There is a cracking sound.]

- GIANT *[Off.]* Jack Durden, I'm going to get you.
- JACK I think I have the advantage this time, Giant.
[The lights blackout as a loud crack and the sound of the beanstalk crashing down is heard. When the lights come back the beanstalk is down and a large pair of boots is seen sticking out from the wings.]
- ALL Hurrah!
- [The DAME, SQUIRE and DAISY enter.]*
- SQUIRE Jack, you've saved the day.
- DAME Oh my brave, brave boy.
- JACK We've got Harriet and Jemima back; and look at this . all the gold from the Giants counting house. *[Gasps from the CHORUS.]* Your money will be returned to you and you never need pay any land tax again. *[More cheers.]*

There is a lighting effect and smoke stage left as SLIME appears with HIS sword.]

SLIME Jack Durden, you may have beaten Giant Blunderbore, but you still have me to contend with.

JACK With pleasure.

FIGHT

[This is accompanied by music. JACK and SLIME fight. At one point it looks as though JACK is losing. HE falls and SLIME goes to plunge in his sword. Just in the nick of time, SIMON kicks SLIME on the behind to distract him. JACK regains his balance and the fight continues. JACK wins and pins SLIME to the floor with the point of his sword. ALL cheer.]

My advantage I think!

SLIME Curse you Jack Durden.

[FAIRY enters.]

FAIRY Well done Jack. I knew that sword would bring you good fortune.

SLIME You! I might have known you were behind all this.

FAIRY I warned you that down here my power is greater than yours.

DAME But what do we do with him?

FAIRY Well, seeing that he has been spending a lot of time up there . *[Points up.]* . how about a change of scene. We'll send him on a long journey down deep into the centre of the earth amongst all the molten lava, there to be imprisoned for all time.

SLIME No!! No, you can't do this. *[The FAIRY casts a spell. A lighting effect starts and HE disappears.]* No!!

FAIRY That's put paid to him.

JACK Oh Fairy Green Bean, how can I ever thank you?

FAIRY No need. I was only doing my duty.

SQUIRE I can't believe it's all over. No more Giant, no more Slime and no more taxes!!

DAME *[Looking at the beanstalk.]* Well one thing, they'll be plenty of firewood this winter!

HARRIET Jolly good show. Everything has ended happily.

FAIRY Has it Jack?

JACK Not quite. Squire, now that I have proved myself to you by ridding the land of the Giant, may I ask for Miranda's hand in marriage?

SQUIRE Of course, my boy. *[JACK and MIRANDA embrace.]* And while we're on the subject, may I ask for your mothershand in marriage?

JACK Squire, I would be honoured to call you father!

DAME Oh Egbert, this is so sudden!

SQUIRE No it's not, it's about forty years too late!

HARRIET *[To SIMON.]* Well Simon, it looks as though this is the season for marriage proposals!

SIMON Mmm. Harriet?

HARRIET Yes?

SIMON You know ever since we were kids I've always liked you.

HARRIET Yes.

SIMON And when you were stolen away by the Giant I thought I'd never see you again.

HARRIET Yes.

SIMON And I was really, really upset.

HARRIET Yes.

SIMON And when I found you again in the castle, I just couldn't believe it.

HARRIET Yes. *[By now ALL are listening to this and slowly moving in on SIMON and HARRIET.]*

SIMON Well I couldn't bear to lose you again so . . . will you . . . er . . . will you marry me?

HARRIET Yes!

SIMON You will?

HARRIET But Simon are you sure? Do you want to think about it?

SIMON *[With a look at the audience.]* Definitely not!! *[ALL cheer.]*

FAIRY Now that's what I call a happy ending!

COMPANY NUMBER

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

SCENE 7 BEFORE THE WEDDING

[SIMON walks into the scene.]

SIMON Have you enjoyed yourselves? *[Audience reaction.]* I love a happy ending, don't you? And after all our adventures there's going to be a triple wedding. I'm so excited I've written a little song. Would you like to hear it? *[Audience reaction.]* Right, here goes then.

SONG SHEET

[HE sings the song through and then the DAME enters.]

DAME What are you up to?

SIMON I'm teaching my friends a little song wot I wrote!

DAME Oh . would you like me to add my vocalising expertise?

SIMON No, but you can join in if you like!

[The DAME joins him and at the end THEY exit as the lights fade. The scene changes to.....]

SCENE 8 THE WEDDING AT GOODKNIGHT HALL

[The DANCERS perform a dance of celebration. The CHORUS and CHILDREN are on and the bows are taken in the following order.]

CHILDREN

CHORUS

DANCERS

GIANT BLUNDERBORE (The actor could hold the head.)

SLIME

FAIRY GREEN BEAN

DAISY

HARRIET

SIMON

SQUIRE

DAME DURDEN

SQUIRE Three cheers for the honourable Jack Durden and his wife, Miranda.

[ALL cheer as JACK and MIRANDA take their bow.]

MIRANDA Our story now is at an end

JACK The victory has been won.

SQUIRE We've had some thrills along the way

SIMON And had a bit of fun!

HARRIET Who'd have thought our happiness
Would be brought about by beans.

DAME *[Coming out of the rhyming pattern.]* So to grow up big and strong, climb
beanstalks, fight Giants and finally get the girl!

ALL Remember .

FAIRY Always eat your greens!

FINAL NUMBER - COMPANY

[ALL sing the final song and wave 'goodbye' to the audience as the curtain falls.]