

"MOTHER GOOSE"

Written by

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Character Descriptions

- 1: **Mother Goose:** (Female) Dame. This is the title role. She is a very poor widow woman who leads a meagre existence along with her son Bobby and daughter Bonnie. Mother Goose always tries to look on the bright side of life, and one day when things are really bad, a stray Goose walks in the door and changes her life for ever!
- 2: **Bobby Goose:** (Male) Comic lead. Mother Goose's hapless son. Bobby is a loveable fool, he tries to help but usually ends up hindering. His life changes when his mother employs an au-pair, will this be the long awaited love of his life?
- 3: **Bonnie Goose:** (Female) Principal Girl. Mother Goose's young pretty daughter who is the apple of her mother's eye. She becomes romantically involved with the Principal Boy and shares in the good fortunes that is coming to Mother Goose.
- 4: **Peter:** (Female) Principal Boy. As in all our pantomimes this role should be portrayed by a woman. Peter helps the Goose family through the bad times, and when the family become wealthy he protects them from those who would relieve them from their money.
- 5: **Gretchen van Driver:** (Female) She is the traditional foil for the comic lead. Gretchen is from Holland and is employed by Mother Goose as an au-pair girl. She speaks with a pseudo Dutch accent throughout and wears traditional dress of Holland, including clogs, a little hat and those turned up pig tails.
- 6: **Lady Bloodstone:** (Female) Mother Goose's landlady who takes great pleasure in hounding the Goose family for rent. She should be played as an overbearing snob who thinks herself as local aristocracy.
- 7 & 8: **Mr. Snatchit & Mr. Scarper:** (Both Male) These parts are the traditional pantomime "Brokers Men" As usual one of them (Mr. Snatchit) is the more dominant of the two. They should be played by a couple of guys who can play comedy off each other. They are important roles and crucial to the comedy angle of the pantomime.
- 9: **Baron Bankroll:** (Male) A local land owner. This man has more money than sense and is romantically pursued by Lady Bloodstone. He is a well meaning bumbling character. This player could also double as "King of Gooseland".
- 10: **Priscilla the Goose:** (Boy or Girl) This is an important and demanding role. It requires a very out-going boy or girl who can dance and react to the dialogue and situations. They must also be able to cope with a cumbersome costume. The Goose communicates by means of a 'Kazoo' which makes a 'Decoy Duck' sound.
- 11: **The Fairy Queen:** (Female) A typical immortal pantomime fairy who as the narrator speaks in rhyme throughout. She tries her best to steer Mother Goose from the temptation put before her by a very formidable opponent.

Continued.....

Character Descriptions (CONT/D)

- 12:** **The Demon King:** (Male) The baddie of all baddies. This cloaked fiend tries to tempt Mother Goose into selling Priscilla the Goose. Through his rhymes he puts fear into everyone who happens to cross his path.

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CHARACTERS

MOTHER GOOSE.....DAME

BOBBY GOOSE.....HER SON

BONNIE GOOSE.....HER DAUGHTER (PRINCIPAL GIRL)

PETER.....BONNIE'S SWEETHEART (PRINCIPAL BOY)

GRETCHEN VAN DRIVER.....GIRL FROM HOLLAND

LADY BLOODSTONE.....LOCAL LANDOWNER

MR. SNATCHIT }
 }.....BROKER'S MEN
 MR. SCARPER }

BARON BANKROLL.....AN ARISTOCRAT

PRISCILLA.....THE GOOSE

THE FAIRY QUEEN

THE DEMON KING

ALSO FEATURING

DANCERS

SUNBEAMS

CHORUS

"MOTHER GOOSE"

SCENES

ACT ONE

Scene 1....."Outside Mother Goose's Cottage"

Scene 2....."Mother Goose's Kitchen"

Scene 3....."Wish You Were Here"

Scene 4....."Open House at Goose Towers"

INTERVAL

ACT TWO

Scene 1....."The Demon's Temple Of Treasures"

Scene 2....."A Day At The Races"

Scene 3....."The Enchanted Well"

Scene 4....."Bobby's Day Dream"

Scene 5....."The Palace Of The King Of Gooseland"

Scene 6....."The Ballroom At Goose Towers"

WALK DOWN

FINALE

"MOTHER GOOSE"

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OVERTURE

CURTAIN

ACT 1...SCENE 1..."OUTSIDE MOTHER GOOSE'S COTTAGE"

SET:....CLOTH TO SUIT....COTTAGE FRONT WITH PRACTICAL DOOR AND WINDOWS

♪...MUSICAL ITEM No 1....STRAIGHT INTO LIVELY OPENING ROUTINE FEATURING DANCERS AS VILLAGERS, SUNBEAMS AS VILLAGE CHILDREN AND MOTHER GOOSE.....AFTER ROUTINE...

MOTHER GOOSE: (TO THOSE ON STAGE)...Right you lot...off you go...get from under my feet...I've got work to do!...and I'm expecting a visitor...(THEY START TO DRIFT OFF).....go on!..off to work with you...you've all that fruit to pick on the Baron's estate.

1ST VILLAGER: Yes, but we don't get paid until all the fruit is picked, Mother Goose.

2ND VILLAGER: You couldn't lend us a few coppers until next week could you?

MOTHER GOOSE: Get off with you!...(THEY DO.....THEN TO AUDIENCE)....fancy asking a poor widow woman for money!..I must be the poorest person in the village me.....and there's always somebody after your money isn't there?....they came round this morning collecting....mind you, it was a good cause....they were collecting for a new swimming pool for the village, so I made a contribution...yes, I gave them a bucket of water!...do you know, it's getting so desperate at our house now that we're going to have to give up our one and only luxury....food!.....all we've got is a few sticks of furniture and our pet Goose Priscilla....oh, and she's lovely and cuddly!.....**cont/d**

MOTHER GOOSE: (CONT/D)...Yes, she's so lovely, I could eat her... mind you, if things don't pick up I might have to!!...still, what good is money...just so long as you can smile, and you've got your health, you've a lot to be contented about.....anyway, I must get on...I'll probably see you all later

MOTHER GOOSE EXITS INTO COTTAGE

ENTER PRISCILLA THE GOOSE....SHE MAKES AS IF EATING AND PECKING AROUND AND GENERALLY DOING GOOSEY THINGS

F/X:....FLASH:....ENTER DEMON KING

DEMON KING:

I'm known to you all as the Demon King,
And described by most as demented.
But I'm here to dispel Mother Goose's claim,
That her, and her like are contented.

For how can someone with so little means,
Be tolerant and happy with their lot?
They say they are poor but contented,
But I aim to prove they are not!!

So you people out there I ask the question,
Because I know I'm not dealing with fools.
If you're so contented with your ways of life,
Then why do the lottery and pools?

ENTER FAIRY QUEEN TO SUITABLE SOUND F/X...DEMON STAYS ON FOR CROSS DIALOGUE

FAIRY QUEEN:

I see you've met the Demon King.
Now it's my turn...I'm the Fairy Queen.
We represent both good and evil,
With no common ground between.

He says that most are discontented,
And I must confess that the man is fool.
There are a few with avarice and greed,
But they're the exception rather than the rule.

DEMON KING:

You're a foolish immortal with your head in the clouds,
 And you'll soon put that head in a noose.
 I challenge you now to prove me wrong,
 With the mortal that's called Mother Goose.

FAIRY QUEEN:

I accept your challenge, in Mother Goose I have faith,
 For wealth and fortune she never begs.
 The Goose over there I make enchanted,
 And from now on she will lay golden eggs.

DEMON KING:

To make Mother Goose rich, will be a fatal mistake,
 Because from the straight and narrow she'll stray.
 Just supposing I'm right, then what would you do?

FAIRY QUEEN: With the Goose?..I would take it away!

FAIRY EXITS

DEMON KING:

Let the story continue, but I'll tell you all now,
 The good Fairy's trust is misplaced.
 For mortals and gold spells disaster!
 And Mother Goose will end up disgraced!

DEMON KING EXITS WITH AN EVIL LAUGH.....GOOSE STAYS ON

ENTER BOBBY GOOSE AS A "ONE MAN BAND" i.e. WITH CYMBALS
 ON KNEES...DRUM ON HIS BACK...WASHBOARD WITH CLAXON
 HORN AND HE IS PLAYING A KAZOO. HE CIRCLES THE STAGE A
 FEW TIMES PLAYING...FINISHING UP CENTRE STAGE

BOBBY: (TO AUDIENCE)...What do you think?..come on!. be honest!

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Rubbish!!

BOBBY: There's no need to be that honest!..I'm only trying to earn a few bob
 for my Mother....I only charge 10p for each street that I play in....a chap this

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morning gave me a pound!...he said can you go and play ten streets away!....(STILL TO AUDIENCE)...right....has anybody got a request?

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Yes!...get off!!

BOBBY: Charming!...that's no way to speak to a fellow exponent of the treble clef...(HE ADJUSTS HIS TROUSERS)...I'm already having trouble with my semi crotchet!...so all I've got to say to you Mr. Musical Director is.....

The music I play I'm the selector,
And that's what all this stuff's round my neck's for.
If my music's some use, then my name's Booby Goose,
If it's not then I'm the Musical Director!!...boom boom

(THEN TO GOOSE)...you like my playing don't you Priscilla?..(GOOSE SHAKES HEAD)...watch your step my feathered friend....I'm short of a couple of drum sticks!!

ENTER MOTHER GOOSE AND GRETCHEN

MOTHER GOOSE: What's all this racket about?..oh it's you Bobby... how much did you make?...did you clear our debts?

BOBBY: No...the only thing that I cleared was the village square!

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh, not again....anyway...(REFERRING TO GRETCHEN)...this here is the new girl from Holland....they call her Gretchen Van Driver....Gretchen, this is my Son, Bobby....he's a "one man band".

GRETCHEN: (SPEAKS WITH A DUTCH ACCENT THROUGH OUT)...Mine goodness Bobby Goose....it is pleased that I am to meet a man made of band!

BOBBY: (CORRECTING HER)...No!..I'm a "one man band"!

MOTHER GOOSE: I think Gretchen was nearer the mark!

BOBBY: Will you excuse me Gretchen...I'll just go and slip out of something uncomfortable!

BOBBY EXITS INTO COTTAGE

GRETCHEN: (INDICATING TO PRISCILLA)...Mine word...that is the biggest seagull that mine eyes have ever clapped eyes on!

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MOTHER GOOSE: Seagull?...oh no...that's Priscilla our pet Goose...she lays eggs for our breakfast...oh yes...she is very precious... besides, what would I be without her.....I would be Mother Nobody!

GRETCHEN: Oh no Gooses Mother....you cannot be a nobody.... because, down in the village they say that you are a busybody!

MOTHER GOOSE: What!?...they must have got me mixed up with somebody else.

ENTER BOBBY....DURING HIS ABSENCE HE HAS BEEN FITTED WITH A SPECIAL JACKET FOR "FERRET DOWN THE TROUSERS GAG" ...i.e....A FALSE ARM WITH HAND CASUALLY IN JACKET POCKET LEAVING HIS REAL ARM FREE TO ACT AS FERRET...WHEN HE ENTERS HE IS CARRYING "DUMMY" FERRET IN HIS REAL HAND

BOBBY: (WHILST GRETCHEN IS PREOCCUPIED LOOKING AROUND)...Hey Mother...I've brought Freddie my pet ferret to show Gretchen.

MOTHER GOOSE: (ANNOYED)...You've what?!...are you trying to frighten her away...get rid of it...you're always trying to show off!

BOBBY: What am I going to do with it?

MOTHER GOOSE: I don't know....just don't let the poor girl see it.... blooming vermin!

GRETCHEN APPROACHES THEM AND BOBBY STUFFS THE "FERRET" DOWN HIS TROUSERS.....USING HIS UNSEEN HAND BOBBY GIVES THE EFFECT IN HIS TROUSERS OF FERRET WRIGGLING...BOBBY SQUEALS AND SHUFFLES UNCOMFORTABLY MUCH TO GRETCHEN'S AMAZEMENT....AFTER "FERRET" BIZ BOBBY RUNS OFF AND EXITS

GRETCHEN: What is wrong mit Bobby?

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh don't worry he's having one of his turns...he'll be all right shortly.

BOBBY RE-ENTERS CHANGED FROM HIS SPECIAL COSTUME

MOTHER GOOSE: Ah Bobby....you show Gretchen around the place...
(TO PRISCILLA)....and you come with me Priscilla...I'll tell you what...we'll
strike a deal...I'll lay the table, if you'll lay the breakfast!.. (GOOSE NODS)

MOTHER GOOSE AND PRISCILLA EXIT INTO COTTAGE

BOBBY: Well Gretchen...there's not really much to see around here...what's it
like where you come from?

GRETCHEN: Vell...ve have vHITE vindmills....vith vide vatervays...oh, it is
the most vonderful place in the world

BOBBY: Oh yes...vhereabouts...I mean whereabouts is this place?

GRETCHEN: Vhy, Holland of course...oh yes, ve are very comfortable mine
Grandmutter and me...oh. and my little pet mouse...ve all live together in a
vindmill!

BOBBY: Oh...you've got a pet mouse have you?

GRETCHEN: Oh yes...and I am very much attached to it...have you got a pet
Bobby Goose?

BOBBY: Yes I have, and it is very much attached to me...(ASIDE)...at least it
was a moment ago!!

ENTER MOTHER GOOSE WIPING HER HANDS ON HER PINNY

MOTHER GOOSE: Well that's got the breakfast going on....it should be
ready for dinner time!

GRETCHEN: Ah, this is good...for as you say in your country...I am going to
eat a horse and cart!

MOTHER GOOSE: So you're hungry are you Gretchen?

GRETCHEN: Yah...(SNIFFS THE AIR)...I must be saying that the bacon...it
smells very good...vhat kind of bacon it it?

MOTHER GOOSE: Lean Back.

GRETCHEN: (LOOK PUZZLED)...Oh very vell...(SHE LEANS BACKWARDS)...what kind of bacon is it?

MOTHER GOOSE: (LAUGHS)...No...when I said lean back...I didn't mean lean....oh never mind.

BOBBY: Anyway...what's all this about a windmill and a mouse?

MOTHER GOOSE: A windmill with a mouse in??..I don't like the sound of that!

GRETCHEN: Oh, it is vonderful...listen, I vill about it tell you all.

♪....MUSICAL ITEM No 2....FEATURING GRETCHEN, BOBBY, MOTHER GOOSE AND PRISCILLA....THEY ARE JOINED BY THE SUNBEAMS AS LITTLE "GRETCHENS".....AFTER ROUTINE MOTHER GOOSE AND PRISCILLA COME FORWARD AND TABS CLOSE BEHIND THEM

ENTER BONNIE AND PETER....THEY ARE HAND IN HAND AND CHATTING HAPPILY

MOTHER GOOSE: (SEES THEM AND THEN TO PRISCILLA).... Look at these two Priscilla...at least somebody in our family seems happy.

BONNIE: Hello Mother...have your ears been burning?..we've just been talking about you...tell her about your dream Peter.

MOTHER GOOSE: Eeeee, have you been dreaming about me?

PETER: Well Mother Goose...I'm not sure it was a dream...it was so vivid....this Fairy Queen was standing in front of me...clear as day...and she told me that you Mother Goose...would become very wealthy!

MOTHER GOOSE: Don't tell me...it was Mystic Meg!

PETER: (IGNORES REMARK)...This Fairy Queen said that you would become very rich today!!!

MOTHER GOOSE: (NOT TAKING IT SERIOUSLY)...Well, she'll have to get her skates on....half the day has gone already!

BONNIE: Don't make light of it Mother...Peter is so convinced...and come to that, so am I!

MOTHER GOOSE: I'm sorry Bonnie love...it's just that I can't understand why this Fairy woman didn't appear in one of my dreams.... you know...sort of cutting out the middle man.

PETER: Well...it seems that I've been chosen as the mortal to protect you...and to keep you from harm.

BONNIE: After all Mother...Peter will eventually become your Son-in-Law so he's the obvious one to protect you!..just think of the alternative....our Bobby!!

MOTHER GOOSE: Yes...I see what you mean...oh Peter lad...if only your dream could come true...it would solve a few problems around here I can tell you.

PRISCILLA START TO BEHAVE STRANGELY

MOTHER GOOSE: Hey...I think there's an egg on its way...come on Priscilla...let's have you on that nest box
MOTHER GOOSE AND PRISCILLA EXIT

BONNIE: Poor Mother...if anybody deserves some good luck, it's her.

PETER: Yes, you're right Bonnie...yet she never seems to be dissatisfied or complain...so let us hope that my dream does come true.

♪...MUSICAL ITEM No 3....DUET FEATURING BONNIE AND PETER....AFTER DUET....

THEY EXIT.....TABS OPEN FOR...

=====

ACT 1...SCENE 2..."MOTHER GOOSE'S KITCHEN"

SET:...CLOTH TO SUIT...KITCHEN FURNITURE AND A NEST BOX FOR PRISCILLA TO REAR FOR EVENTUAL EGG LAYING ROUTINE.....FLAT WITH WINDOW AND PRACTICAL DOOR....PRISCILLA IS SITTING ON THE NEST BOX....MOTHER GOOSE IS SETTING THE TABLE

SQUAWK FROM PRISCILLA

MOTHER GOOSE: Come on Priscilla...do your stuff...I need an egg for the Yorkshire pudding batter...come on...we've usually had half a dozen by now....what's the matter with you?...(SHE GOES TO PRISCILLA AND STROKES HER)

BOBBY ENTERS BY BURSTING INTO KITCHEN THROUGH DOOR....HE SHUTS THE DOOR BEHIND HIM IN A PANIC...THEN STANDS WITH HIS BACK TO THE DOOR PANTING

MOTHER GOOSE: What on earth's up with you now!?

BOBBY: It's Lady Bloodstone!...she's heading this way...she'll be coming for the rent!

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh leave her to me!...I'll sort her out, like I always do!

BOBBY: She's got two henchmen with her this time...and they look as though they mean business!

F/X:....BANGING ON DOOR...MOTHER GOOSE BECKONS TO BOBBY TO KEEP QUIET

LADY BLOODSTONE: (OFF)...Open up Mother Goose!..we know you are in there....(**F/X**....LOUDER BANGING ON DOOR)

MOTHER GOOSE: (AFTER A SHORT PAUSE...SHE WHISPERS TO BOBBY)...I think they've gone....I'll just check....(SHE STOOPS BELOW WINDOW AND THEN RISES...AS DOES LADY BLOODSTONE.....THEN FALSELY PLEASED)....Oh hello Lady Bloodstone....I was just saying to our Bobby...do you know, I'm sure there's somebody at the door.

ENTER LADY BLOODSTONE WITH MR. SNATCHITT AND MR SCARPER

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh good...you've brought some friends with you...aren't you going to introduce me?

LADY BLOODSTONE: (STERN)...This isn't a social visit Mother Goose....this is Mr. Snatchitt and Mr. Scarper from the Bailiff's office!

SNATCHITT: We're here Madam...in our official capacity.

SCARPER: (ALWAYS REPEATS LAST WORDS)...Official capacity.

SNATCHITT: As representatives of our employer, Baron Bankroll!

SCARPER: Baron Bankroll!

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh yes?...and how is the old b..... er how is the Baron?

LADY BLOODSTONE: (FORGETTING HERSELF)...Oh, he's not too bad you know....he keeps getting the occasional twinge...I think it is the damp weather...(REALISES)...just a minute Mother Goose!..we are not here to talk about the pleasantries of life...the Baron is extremely concerned about his lack of funds!

MOTHER GOOSE: I know how he feels!

SNATCHITT: And that's where we come in Mother Goose!...

SCARPER: Mother Goose.

SNATCHITT: We are here to take, in goods, what's owing to the Baron.....(POINTS TO TABLE)...we should get something on this table.

BOBBY: Yes, it'll be my tea with a bit of luck!

LADY BLOODSTONE: Enough of this nonsense!..Take some notes would you Snatchitt?..(SNATCHITT TAKES OUT NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL...AND OF COURSE, SO DOES SCARPER...LADY BLOODSTONE NOTICES)...yes well....I suppose we should have it in duplicate. (SHE LOOKS AROUND....right...we will start with the table and four chairs...by the way Mother Goose, do you have a sitting room?

MOTHER GOOSE: We won't have if you take those four chairs!

LADY BLOODSTONE: (IGNORES HER AND CONTINUES AS SHE DICTATES TO SNATCHITT AND SCARPER WHAT TO WRITE DOWN)...Goose on nest box, 1 of.....oven, 1 of....that seems to be it down here...what about upstairs?

MOTHER GOOSE: Four bedrooms....four cupboards....four beds.

BOBBY: Four posters!

LADY BLOODSTONE: What?..the beds are four posters!?

BOBBY: No...I've got four posters in my bedroom...Madonna...Scary Spice....Britney Spears....and Catherine Zeta-Jones!

LADY BLOODSTONE: Mother Goose, has your Son got anything upstairs?

MOTHER GOOSE: No!..he's like his Father...he didn't have anything upstairs either!

SNATCHITT: Have you anything else of value that we can add to our list?...

SCARPER: To our list.

MOTHER GOOSE: Well...in the parlour there is a Stradivarius, and a Picasso!

LADY BLOODSTONE: (ASTONISHED)...What!?!..they must be worth a fortune?

MOTHER GOOSE: No, they're not...we've had them valued...apparently, Stradivarius couldn't paint!...and Picasso made lousy violins!...but I suppose the chez-longue might be worth something?

LADY BLOODSTONE: Ah good...now let us have a re-cap...table and four chairs...Goose on nest box...oven....four beds....four cupboards and a chez-longue.

SCARPER: (WRITING AWKWARDLY)...How do you spell that?

LADY BLOODSTONE: What?..chez-longue?

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