

MOTHER GOOSE

© PETER DENYER 2000

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15 the Metro Centre
Peterborough
PE2 7UH
Tel: 01733 374790
Fax: 01733 237286
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NEW MUSICAL PACKAGES - an innovation!

We now have available two musical packages prepared by our musical director to aid your rehearsals and/or compliment your performances. These will revolutionise your productions!

Package 1 This package is intended for rehearsals. It contains a CD with piano recordings of the suggested songs in the script, arranged and formatted with the right number of verses, dance breaks etc. We also include the sheet music of the same arrangements with lyrics and lead lines. This means that you can have musical accompaniment whenever you want it - without the need of a pianist. The CD can also be used by the choreographer, director and technicians to plan their routines, moves and cues in advance, and the actors to work on their songs in their own time. [We have also included some examples of the full orchestral backing tracks available in Package 2 - to show you the full potential of the system.] **Cost: £30** [+VAT]

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A NOTE FROM THE MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Package 1 is principally used as a tool for rehearsals, though it also gives you the songs in a format that you will want to use in performance. Your Musical Director will use the sheet music to arrange the other band parts for his musicians, at the same time adding all the incidental music. Please note that this package contains only the songs listed in bold type on pages 58/59; not the alternate choices nor the incidental music, overture, entracte etc.

Package 2 is more complex, and contains all the music you need to do the full production as detailed in the script, including the incidentals, play-ons, scene changes, walkdown etc and to a quality suitable for performance. You can use this recording to augment whatever band line up you choose, though interestingly this package means that you don't actually need to have any 'live' musicians at all! Though in our experience the ideal combination is to retain at least the Musical Director on piano and the drummer, who then play along with the pre-recorded tracks making a sound like a full orchestra. The recordings in Package 2 include drums, but these can be left off if requested. A click can also be added if required.*

If you decide that your production requires some specific music not included in the above (ie. a full arrangement of a different song, a written out bass guitar part etc), contact me via Sylvia Sims at Show Souvenirs Ltd (01304 361919) and I will tailor the package accordingly. Please note that I need at least four weeks notice, and that this service is subject to an additional charge. Finally, remember that all the music you use (unless entirely original and written by you) is subject to copyright regulations. This means you have to inform PRS (the Performing Rights Society) giving them titles, approximate length, and composer/lyricist, thus ensuring that these people or their estate gets the royalties due to them.

*A click is a metronome sound fed to the musician's headphones when playing along with a track, so that they can keep perfect time. Especially handy for drummers!

PETER GOLDING
Musical Director

A NOTE FROM THE WRITER

"Mother Goose" is an unusual pantomime as it the only one where the leading character is the Dame. Even more unusually, for a "heroine", Mother Goose is shown to be a less than perfect person, tempted by The Demon of Discontent, she sacrifices her best friend, Priscilla the Goose, in search of beauty. Of course she does see the error of her ways, repents her decision and is forgiven when she realises that true beauty lies within. In some versions of the story Mother Goose has two sons but I decided to only have the character of Billy, who has a mainly comic role but plays a heroic part in the defeat of The Demon of Discontent. The plot is dramatically strong and, unlike some other subjects, continues right through to the end. I always try to see my pantomimes through the eyes of a seven year old who is seeing a stage show for the first time - a child who doesn't know that Priscilla will eventually be rescued - so "telling the story" is the most important thing.

Before I sat down to write this version, the script had been used in several different professional productions, and while the basic construction has always remained the same, different scenery, songs, and the various talents of each cast has made each show unique. You will need to add various local references, and there are sure to be new topical references to add to the comedy scenes. Allow the characters who talk directly to the audience to "customise" the exchanges so that the actor can express his or her personality.

Above all else - enjoy it! The good feeling that happens with a happy company really does come over the footlights - if the audience can see you're having fun, so will they.

Good Luck.

PETER DENYER

OTHER TITLES AVAILABLE BY THE SAME AUTHOR FROM NODA

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

This script, like all Peter Denyer Pantomimes, was originally produced by Kevin Wood with a professional cast. Over the years the structure and dialogue were adapted to suit the requirements of the many star actors who appeared in the show. In 1997, at the invitation of NODA, the scripts were subjected to a cleansing process returning them to something like their original form, removing the quirks demanded by particular actors, and adding stage directions and technical tips, thereby making them more suitable for licensing. During the 1998/99 Season there were over sixty productions by amateur societies. Following their comments and suggestions, the scripts were revised again in 1999, in 2000, and once more in 2005/6 - this is the version you have here.

We thought you would be interested to know a little about the background to the piece, and the various actors who have played the roles. So we've trawled through the archives and come up with this potted history. This version of MOTHER GOOSE was first produced at The Gordon Craig Theatre Stevenage in 1991. Since then it has been seen at The Theatre Royal Brighton: The Wyvern Theatre Swindon: The Grand Theatre Wolverhampton and The Orchard Theatre Dartford.

Over that time, amongst the many fine actors that have appeared, were the following notable performers;

Mother Goose	John Inman, Roy Barraclough, Gordon Kaye, Paul Laidlaw and Eric Potts
The Demon	Alfred Marks, Shane Connor and Knight Mantell
Billy	Jonathon Wilkes, Mark Curry, Melanie Stace and Adam Woodyatt
Squire	Donald Hewlett and Tommy Mundon
Jill	Gaby Roslin, Lucy Benjamin, Jo-Anne Sale and Pollyann Turner.

ABOUT THE WRITER

PETER DENYER has been writing for the theatre for more than thirty-five years, he has also directed hundreds of plays, musicals, and pantomimes, and in 1986 became the Artistic Director of Kevin Wood Pantomimes. Peter's pantomimes have been hailed as the best in the field, and his scripts cover the full canon of titles. Each Christmas there are countless presentations, making Peter one of the "most produced writers" in the country. But in spite of his success as a writer, it was as an actor that Peter became best known to the general public, with over two hundred television appearances to his credit. He is probably best remembered as the delightfully dopey Dennis in Please Sir! and The Fenn Street Gang, Michael in Agony, Malcolm in Thicker Than Water and Ralph in Dear John. What is not so well known, is that Peter's love and life long connection with the stage began as an amateur with the Erith Playhouse back in the mid-sixties. In producing these scripts for your use, he feels he has gone some way to completing the circle.

CAST LIST

Principal Roles

Mother Goose -
The Demon of Discontent -
Fairy Goosedown -
Billy Goose -
Squire Goodheart -
Jill Goodheart -
Priscilla the Goose -
King Gander -

Chorus Roles

The Puppet Man -
A Ghost -
Villagers -
Servants -
Ghouls -
Goose-guards -
Geese-girls -
Goslings -

LIST OF SCENES

ACT ONE

PROLOGUE:

- SCENE 1: The Village of Little Hassle
- SCENE 2: A Lane Near the Village
- SCENE 3: Mother Goose's Cottage
- SCENE 4: A Lane Near the Village
- SCENE 5: The Gardens of Goose Hall
- SCENE 6: Mother Goose's Boudoir
- SCENE 7: On the Way to The Magic Pool
- SCENE 8: The Magic Pool

ACT TWO

- SCENE 9: The Village Fete
- SCENE 10: The Forest of Desolation
- SCENE 11: The Wicked Wood
- SCENE 12: On The Way to Gooseland
- SCENE 13: King Gander's Palace
- SCENE 14: A Lane Near the Village
- SCENE 15: The Wedding at Goose Hall

ACT ONE - PROLOGUE

MUSIC CUE 1: OVERTURE (INSTRUMENTAL)

MUSIC CUE 1a: DEMON'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)

Flash: The DEMON OF DISCONTENT enters DL.

DEMON: From Hell I come!! Through flame and fire!
And with me...all the Fates conspire!

FX 1: THUNDER.

DEMON: [To The AUDIENCE] Oh dear...I've made some little ones cry...
I just can't help it...I'm that kind of guy!!
I dare you to look upon my face...[Leers]
Errgh!...How I loathe the human race!!
I hate your happiness, your simple pleasures!
Pride! Envy! Greed! - These are my treasures!
You can jeer and whistle...boo me all day!
The Powers of Darkness will always hold sway!!

MUSIC CUE 1b: FAIRY ENTRACNE (INSTRUMENTAL)

Flash: FAIRY GOOSEDOWN enters DR.

FAIRY: Don't worry, children!! The Good Fairy's here -
My name is Goosedown! Well, give me a cheer...!!

DEMON: You dare disturb me in my lair?!

FAIRY: I wasn't speaking to you - so there! [Thumbs her nose]
Though that monster makes a lot of noise,
Don't let him frighten you, girls and boys!
My "Gooseland" magic is strong, you see...
I'm warning you, Demon...don't mess with me!!

FAIRY GOOSEDOWN waves her wand: Flash at The DEMON of DISCONTENT's feet: FAIRY GOOSEDOWN exits DR.

DEMON: Curse you, Goosedown!! Hell's teeth - I hate her!
Her powers in Gooseland may well be greater!
But in "The Land of Discontent"...I reign supreme!!
Don't mock me, morons! I have a dream
To hurt Mother Goose! - (She's always so good...!
If I met her, I'd smash her! - I really would!!)
She lives...in the village of Little Hassle...where
They think they've no problems...Mother Goose, beware!
For on you - my Evil and Spite, I'll vent!
Because I'm...The Demon of Discontent!!!

MUSIC CUE 1c: DEMON'S EXIT (INSTRUMENTAL)

**Blackout: The DEMON of DISCONTENT exits DL. Cloth/Tabs in.
Lights up revealing...**

SCENE ONE

THE VILLAGE OF LITTLE HASSLE

MUSIC CUE 2: OPENING NUMBER – JILL, CHORUS AND CHILDREN

At the end of the song The SQUIRE enters.

SQUIRE: Morning all!!

VILLAGERS: Morning, Squire Goodheart!!

SQUIRE: What a beautiful day it is today!...

VILLAGERS: You're right there/Yes sir/Indeed it is!

SQUIRE: As you all know, the First of May is always a day for fun and frolics...

VILLAGERS: So it is!/ Hooray!/ Always has been, Squire!

SQUIRE: ...and it is also - Rent Day!! **[Produces rent-book]**

The VILLAGERS and CHILDREN exit, muttering darkly...

SQUIRE: So..if you'd like to step up here and pay off your...Wait...wait! I haven't finished...you all owe me money!

JILL: Now look what you've done, Father...you've upset them!

SQUIRE: What do you mean, I've upset them? I was only asking them to settle their debts!

JILL: Exactly! Hassling them for their rent money!

SQUIRE: They'll have to pay up soon...I can't afford it! I'm the only landlord I know who's losing money!

JILL: Don't worry, Father - I'm sure my boyfriend can sort something out...

SQUIRE: Your boyfriend?

JILL: Yes...**[Goes weak at the knees]**...Billy!

SQUIRE: Do you mean that idiot, Billy Goose?!...His Mother owes more than the rest of the village put together!!

JILL: He may be poor, but he isn't an idiot! Billy is much more sensible than you think...

FX 2: A POWERFUL MOTORBIKE.

Enter BILLY riding a tricycle/scooter/skateboard?

BILLY: Hi, Jill!...

JILL: Hi, Billy! **[They embrace]**

BILLY: **[To The AUDIENCE]** Hi, Kids!...Hi, Jill!

JILL: Hi, Billy! **[They embrace]**

BILLY: **[To The AUDIENCE]** Hi, Kids!

SQUIRE: I hate to interrupt this happy scene...!

BILLY: Oh, Hi, Squire!

SQUIRE: Hi, Billy!...He's got me doing it now! Listen, young man - I want your mother!

BILLY: She will be pleased!

SQUIRE: I mean...I want her to pay the rent!

BILLY: Well, as it happens, Squire - Mum's taken her geese to market to sell them; when she gets back, she'll be able to pay off all our debts.

JILL: She's not going to sell Priscilla?!

BILLY: Of course not! Mum would never sell Priscilla! But all the other geese have gone.

SQUIRE: My dear boy! I can't tell you how happy this news makes me!...When will she be back?

BILLY: Any minute now; look, why don't you go home? As soon as Mum gets back I'll send her along to see you.

SQUIRE: What a good idea...come along, Jill!

BILLY: Oh don't take Jill with you - I've got something I want to show her...

SQUIRE: Which is precisely why she's coming home with me!!

JILL: That's not fair, Father!

SQUIRE: When Mother Goose has brought the rent money - then you can come back and see Billy...

JILL: Oh, alright!...See you later, Billy...**[Blows kisses]**

BILLY: See you, Jill...**[Blows kisses]**

The SQUIRE and JILL exit.

BILLY: Isn't she great?...My Jill makes Britney Spears look like Vanessa Feltz!! Still, at least you lot haven't gone home...Hi, Kids!!...Hey, would you like to see my surprise?...Would you?...Right!...This may come as a shock to you - but I've gone green...I've bought a plant...

From behind a wing flat BILLY produces the pot containing "The Magic Plant". [See PROPS LIST].

BILLY: Mind you it's not just any old plant - this is a magic plant. They told me if I watered it - it would grow...shall we try it?...Shall we?...Right! Glug! Glug! Glug!...

BILLY takes a watering-can and waters The Magic Plant which "grows".

BILLY: See, I told you!...Shall we try it again?...Ready? **[Pours water on the plant]** Glug! Glug! Glug!...You'll have to be louder than that! Glug! Glug! Glug!...**[The Plant grows]**...Ooh! Look - there's a pod on it...a pod, full of sweets!...Does anyone out there like sweets...? I said, "Is there anyone out there who likes sweets...?"

BILLY throws sweets to The AUDIENCE.

BILLY: I'm a bit worried about leaving my Magic Plant here...if anyone tries to touch it, will you warn me...? Will you shout, "Billy!!"...Let's have a practise ...right, I'm a stranger...I'm going over to the plant...**[The AUDIENCE shout "Billy!!"]**...Great! You were really good!...Don't forget, if anyone goes near it...

As BILLY moves away from the plant, The VILLAGERS enter: two of them move towards the Magic Plant. The AUDIENCE shout "Billy!"

BILLY: Hey! What are you up to?

1st VILLAGER: We were just looking at this plant...what is it, Billy?

BILLY: It's my magic plant - shall I show you how it works?

1st VILLAGER: Yes, please.

BILLY waters The Magic Plant and throws sweets to The AUDIENCE.

BILLY: It's brilliant, isn't it?

2nd VILLAGER: Amazing! Has your Mum seen it yet?

BILLY: Not yet, she's been at the market all morning.

MUSIC CUE 2a: DAME'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)
PRISCILLA is heard, quacking furiously: Enter MOTHER GOOSE in a cart pulled by PRISCILLA. The VILLAGERS cheer, as they help her down, MOTHER GOOSE greets them.

MOTHER GOOSE: Hello, my dears!...Are you well?...Lovely day, isn't it?!...[Etc]

BILLY: Hi, Mum!...How did it go?

MOTHER GOOSE: Ooh! It was ever so busy at the market, Billy...all those big, butch farmers!! I was squashed on one side...and squeezed on the other side ...I'm going again tomorrow!

BILLY: Did you manage to sell the geese?

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh yes, dear...all gone!

PRISCILLA quacks.

MOTHER GOOSE: Apart from Priscilla, of course! I couldn't sell my little, feathered friend, could I?

PRISCILLA rubs herself against MOTHER GOOSE.

BILLY: So now we'll be able to pay off all our debts...?

MOTHER GOOSE: We-ell...

BILLY: Then perhaps the Squire will let me marry Jill...

MOTHER GOOSE: I wouldn't bank on it, dear - now, why don't you take Priscilla home for me...? She's had a very busy day...

BILLY: O.K., Mum! Bye, kids!...

BILLY and PRISCILLA exit.

MOTHER GOOSE: [To The VILLAGERS] Why don't you go and help him? I baked a big batch of buns this morning - there's one for each of you!

The VILLAGERS cheer and exit.

MOTHER GOOSE: Bye!! You must forgive me for not speaking to you earlier...all that crowd! Now, as the clever ones among you will have guessed, my name is Mother Goose! But as we've never been introduced, you'll have to tell me what your names are...Pardon?...I didn't quite catch that...Right, that's Darren and Karen and Sharon and Harry and Barry and Larry...I think I can remember all those ó just don't change seats! Well - Hello everybody!! Now, I live here, in the village of Little Hassle with my son Billy - you've met him, haven't you?...That's it - the one you're always shouting at!...Well - he is in love with Jill!... You haven't met Jill yet,

have you?...What?...You have met her? Oh, no you haven't!... **[Repeats as necessary]**...I'm wasting my time, I really am...I bet you didn't know that Jill's the Squire's daughter?... Alright, clever clogs!...What you don't know is that the Squire will never let Jill marry my Billy...**[MOTHER GOOSE encourages The AUDIENCE to reply "Aah"]**... 'cos we're ever so poor...**[Aah]**...we're poorer than that!...**[Aah]**...You see I'm a single parent family...**[Aah]**...I haven't seen my husband for twenty three years...**[Aah]**...I was getting the dinner ready one day, I sent him out for a cauliflower...and he never came back...**[Aah]**...It was terrible!...I had to open a tin of peas! Oh, he was very unreliable, my Frederick - but I'll never forget him...

Enter The SQUIRE, carrying the rent-book.

SQUIRE: Ah, Mother Goose! I'd heard you were back...

MOTHER GOOSE: Hello, Squire! I was hoping to see you - I've been to market today...

SQUIRE: ...And you've sold your geese?

MOTHER GOOSE: Indeed I have!

SQUIRE: ...And you're going to pay your rent?!

MOTHER GOOSE: Indeed I am! You can have everything I've got!...

MOTHER GOOSE takes her purse out of her bloomers.

SQUIRE: I think I'll settle for the rent!!

MOTHER GOOSE: Excuse me! I was only rummaging for my reticule!

SQUIRE: How many geese did you sell?

MOTHER GOOSE encourages The AUDIENCE to join in the calculations.

MOTHER GOOSE: Well...how many arms have you got?

SQUIRE: Er...two?

MOTHER GOOSE: Right...add your arms to your legs...

SQUIRE: Er...er...two and two...are four?

MOTHER GOOSE: There's no fooling you! Right...times your fingers...

SQUIRE: Er...er...four times ten is...er...forty?

MOTHER GOOSE: No!...I didn't say thumbs, did I?

SQUIRE: What?..

MOTHER GOOSE: You've only got eight fingers...and eight fours are...exactly!

SQUIRE: Yes...of course...thirty-two...

MOTHER GOOSE: Plus your knees...plus your toes...divided by your ears...minus your chin...and minus your nose?...Well?

SQUIRE: Er...er...don't tell me...er...five and three quarters!

MOTHER GOOSE: Five and three...! You'll never pass your GCSE, will you! **[To The AUDIENCE]** The answer is...?...Exactly...twenty!

SQUIRE: You sold twenty geese!?! That's wonderful - how much did you make?

MOTHER GOOSE: Fifteen pence.

SQUIRE: Fifteen pence!!! Is that all!?

MOTHER GOOSE: Well I had to make sure they went to a good home, didn't I?...And I sold them to ever such a nice lady; she promised to look after them, care for them, never mention the word "Paxo"...

SQUIRE: Fifteen pence!

MOTHER GOOSE: And it's all yours!!! **[Gives him money]**

SQUIRE: Thankyou...**[Writes in the rent-book]**...Actually - this brings your rent up to date...

MOTHER GOOSE: Really?

SQUIRE: Well up to a date...you don't owe me a penny...

MOTHER GOOSE: Wonderful!

SQUIRE: ...Before September the third...1939!!

MOTHER GOOSE: The day war broke out!...Oh well, every little helps! Now, why don't you come back to my cottage - and I'll make you a nice cup of tea.

SQUIRE: I'm afraid I've got more rent-money to collect - fifteen pee doesn't go very far these days, you know! But I will escort you home, Mother Goose.

MOTHER GOOSE: That's very kind of you, Squirey...**[To The AUDIENCE]**...See you all later, dears.

SQUIRE: You can't be too careful, you know...there's some very strange people around...

The SQUIRE and MOTHER GOOSE exit.

MUSIC CUE 2b: DEMON'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)

Flash: Enter The DEMON of DISCONTENT. As he speaks...Cloth/Tabs in.

DEMON: I hope he wasn't speaking of me...
'Cos I'm so lovely!..Don't you agree?
He's too soft, that Squire: he'll never get his rent
...He needs help - from the Demon of Discontent!!
I want him to give Mother Goose hell!
So I'll need to put him under my spell...
First I'll adopt a cunning disguise...

The DEMON is handed a hat from the wings: he puts it on...

DEMON: Then I'll use my powers to hypnotise...

Lights up revealing...

SCENE TWO

A LANE NEAR THE VILLAGE

Enter The SQUIRE, engrossed in his rent-book.

DEMON: Aha!!

SQUIRE: Ah!!...You did give me a shock!

DEMON: I'm so sorry...allow me to introduce myself - I'm from L.A...

SQUIRE: Really? You don't sound American...

DEMON: You misunderstand me...I am talking of L.A. - the Landlords Association; we hear you've been having trouble collecting your rent from a woman called...Mother Goose?

SQUIRE: It's true she has got a lot behind.

DEMON: You can say that again! Then what you have got to do is toughen up, Squire! Go round there and demand the rent from her - and if the old bag won't pay up...then throw her out!

SQUIRE: Oh I couldn't do that...she's been a friend of mine for years..

DEMON: **[Aside]** Why is everyone in this village so flaming good!?

SQUIRE: She'll pay me when she can, I'm sure of it...**[Starts to exit]**

DEMON: No, Sir - wait; I'm sure I can persuade you to change your mind...

SQUIRE: I'm sorry, but I really don't think -

DEMON: I want you to look into my eyes...deep into my eyes...deeper...deeper...
Hahaha!

The DEMON puts The SQUIRE into a trance, he "freezes".

DEMON No matter how hard the Squire might try
He just can't resist my Evil Eye!
I can prove this man is now my slave...
For like a dog, he'll start to behave!!

The DEMON gestures: The SQUIRE drops to his knees and barks.

DEMON: I told you my hypnotic powers would astound...

The SQUIRE growls and "bites" The DEMON's leg.

DEMON: Get down! Get down!! Now - stop being a hound!...

The SQUIRE stands up.

DEMON: And listen to me, Squire...you're being sent
To Mother Goose - to collect her rent...

SQUIRE: í I collect her rent...

DEMON: And if she fails to pay her receipts -
You'll have her thrown out on the streets?

SQUIRE: I will have her thrown out on the streets...

DEMON: Just go to her cottage, knock on her door
Find Mother Goose - and give her what for!!
Show her no mercy!...Don't let her plead!
I've no time for losers - if you don't succeed
You'll find I'm not always this charming and kind
- I can turn quite vicious!...

The DEMON tweaks The SQUIRE's ear.

DEMON:Just bear that in mind!

The DEMON exits: The SQUIRE staggers.

SQUIRE: Ooh...Ooh, dear...I feel a bit dizzy...

Enter JILL.

JILL: Are you alright, Father?

SQUIRE: Of course I'm alright! But what are you doing here!

JILL: I was looking for you, Father...you said you'd be back in a minute, and that was hours -

SQUIRE: Don't lie to me! You were on your way to see that Billy boy, weren't you...?

JILL: No, I wasn't! I was look -

SQUIRE: Well, your Billy Goose had better look out! Unless his mother pays the rent - they'll both be out on the streets!

JILL: Out on the streets...? What's the matter with you?

SQUIRE: What do you mean!?!

JILL: Throwing people out? That's not like you.

SQUIRE: Exactly! I've been far too soft in the past! Well, from now on...it's no more Mister Nice Guy!

The SQUIRE exits.

JILL: What's happened to Father...? I hope he's alright. Oh, what a peculiar plant?

JILL moves towards The Magic Plant: The AUDIENCE calls "Billy!." Enter BILLY. The CHORUS follow during the following dialogue.

BILLY: Hi, Kids!...Hi, Jill!

JILL: Hi, Billy!

JILL purses her lips: BILLY kisses her perfunctorily and goes to his plant...

JILL: Was that it?!

BILLY: Sorry - I've got to water my plant...you just watch...Glug! Glug! Glug!

BILLY waters The Magic Plant and throws sweets to The AUDIENCE.

JILL: That's brilliant! But listen, Billy - I think you'd better go home; my Father's just said that if your Mum won't pay the rent...he's going to throw her out!

BILLY: I'd like to see him try! She's twice as tough as he is!!

JILL: I know - but he's in a really strange mood...

BILLY: Don't worry so much, Jill! They'll sort it out somehow, and then we can get married. You know you're the only girl for me.

MUSIC CUE 3: SONG FOR BILLY, JILL AND CHORUS
At the end of the song: Blackout. Cloth/Tabs out: Lights up revealing...

SCENE THREE

MOTHER GOOSE'S COTTAGE

A table and two chairs are SL. PRISCILLA's nest is DR.
MOTHER GOOSE is heard calling "Priscilla!"...when she enters her dress is tucked up in her bloomers, she is wearing fisherman's waders, a sou'wester - and clutching a bundle of pondweed.

MOTHER GOOSE: Priscilla! Oh, you're back again! How nice! I'm sorry I was out when you called, I've been getting Priscilla's tea...it's her favourite - pondweed! **[Puts pondweed in PRISCILLA's bowl]** I expect you'd guessed that anyway, I mean you wouldn't wear these things for pleasure, would you?...Well some people might, but I'm a respectable woman! **[Takes waders off]** I suppose I do look a bit of a sight... there's no need to agree with me! When you're as poor as I am it's not easy to look good! If only I had some designer clothes; you know, something by Calvin Klein...or Armani...or Millets - I could look lovely, couldn't I...I thought you were my friends!...I mean, I know I'm not pretty...but I'm not ugly, am I?...Exactly!...Not pretty, not ugly...just pretty ugly! Still, looks aren't everything, are they? There are other things in life...I mean, I've got this lovely cottage - mind you, it belongs to the Squire really...and I've got my son, Billy... though he wants to leave home and marry Jill...and I've got my health...**[Coughs lengthily]**...well, I did have!...I haven't got much, have I...?

Enter PRISCILLA.

MOTHER GOOSE: No money...no real home...no real friends -

PRISCILLA rubs up against MOTHER GOOSE.

MOTHER GOOSE: Priscilla!! My dear! How could I ever forget you! The bestest friend in all the world!!! Where have you been?

PRISCILLA walks round, flapping her wings.

MOTHER GOOSE: She's a funny goose - loves "swanning" around!

PRISCILLA "quacks".

MOTHER GOOSE: Sorry! Now you come and sit on your nest; make yourself comfy... that's it...I've got your tea...

PRISCILLA settles on the nest and starts to eat her pondweed.

MOTHER GOOSE: You like that, don't you?

PRISCILLA "quacks" in agreement.

MOTHER GOOSE: Ah!...Bless her! **[Sees The Magic Plant]** Good Heavens!...What's that?...It's the wrong year for beanstalks...

MOTHER GOOSE approaches The Magic Plant: The AUDIENCE calls "Billy!". Enter BILLY.

BILLY: Thanks, kids! Were you messing with my plant, Mum?

MOTHER GOOSE: I was just wondering what it was, dear...

BILLY: It's my magic plant - I'll show you. Glug! Glug! Glug!

BILLY waters The Magic Plant and throws sweets to The AUDIENCE.

MOTHER GOOSE: Isn't that clever? Where did you get it?

BILLY: I bought it with the egg-money...

MOTHER GOOSE: You were supposed to get the shopping with that! We'll have nothing to eat - the larder's empty!

PRISCILLA "quacks".

MOTHER GOOSE: What is it, dear?

PRISCILLA waves a piece of pondweed.

MOTHER GOOSE: That's kind of you, Priscilla - but I'm not very partial to pondweed! Never mind, Billy and I can have a nice cup of tea...

BILLY: O.K., Mum...**[Starts to exit]**

MOTHER GOOSE: Where are you going?

BILLY: I'll be back in time for the tea!

MOTHER GOOSE: You can stay and help: you never do anything round the house - I don't expect you know how to make a pot of tea!

BILLY: Course I do!

MOTHER GOOSE: Well you can start, by laying the table...

BILLY: Oh no, I think Priscilla should do that...

MOTHER GOOSE: What do you mean...?

BILLY: Well...she's good at laying eggs - she could try laying a table!

PRISCILLA "quacks".

MOTHER GOOSE: Ignore him, dear...Don't be silly, Billy - here is the tablecloth - go and put it on while I get the stove going.

BILLY: O.K., Mum...**[Puts the tablecloth round his shoulders, and poses]** ...I don't think it suits me...

MOTHER GOOSE: What? Put it on the table! You daft 'apporth! Now, get the teapot; to make a good pot of tea you need to warm the pot.

BILLY: What?

MOTHER GOOSE: Warm the pot!

BILLY: **[Whispers to the teapot]** Be...careful...the...water's...very...hot!

MOTHER GOOSE: What are you doing now?

BILLY: You said "warn the pot"!

MOTHER GOOSE: Warm it! Not warn it! Bring it over here...

BILLY takes the teapot to MOTHER GOOSE who pours water into it from the kettle.

MOTHER GOOSE: Now, get the tea...

BILLY: Where is it?

MOTHER GOOSE: In the tin, on the dresser...

BILLY: This one?

MOTHER GOOSE: What does it say on the label?

BILLY: "Tea"...

MOTHER GOOSE: No - that's got sugar in...you want the one marked "Rice"...

BILLY: And she calls me silly! How many teabags, Mum?

MOTHER GOOSE: One for you, one for me, and one for the pot.

BILLY: Right!...**[Throws the first teabag at MOTHER GOOSE, the second over his shoulder, and the third into the teapot]**...One for you, one for me, and one for the pot...it's good this!...One for you, one for me, and one for the pot!...One for you, one for me, and one for the pot...

MOTHER GOOSE: Stop messing about!...Now, sweep those teabags up!...I'll rinse them through later...

FX 2: KETTLE WHISTLING

MOTHER GOOSE: ...I think the kettle's boiled - now pour the water into the pot.

BILLY: O.K., Mum...**[Moves towards the kettle]**

MOTHER GOOSE: No, no, no! Take the pot to the kettle not the kettle to the pot!

BILLY: Oh - the pot to the kettle not the kettle to the pot!

MOTHER GOOSE: Yes, the pot to the kettle not the kettle to the pot!

As BILLY and MOTHER GOOSE repeat this it develops into an "Irish Jig" until...

MOTHER GOOSE: Stop it, Billy! You'll make me as daft as you are! Just fill the teapot and bring it over here; I'm exhausted! I need a nice, quiet, sit-down -

MOTHER GOOSE sits down, the door bursts open: Enter the SQUIRE.

SQUIRE: **[As a Melodrama Villain]** Ah-ha!!

MOTHER GOOSE: **[Jumps up]** Ooh!...Squire you did give me a turn...

SQUIRE: You should be so lucky! Now, where's me rent, woman?

MOTHER GOOSE: But I gave you every penny I had -

SQUIRE: And it wasn't enough!! So, pay up in full - or get out of here!! Ahahaha!!

MOTHER GOOSE: What's got into the Squire - he's gone all macho?

BILLY: Jill did warn me he was in a funny mood...

MOTHER GOOSE: He's not making me laugh.

SQUIRE: I warn you, woman - if I don't get my money, you'll find yourself living in a cardboard box!

MOTHER GOOSE: But this is my home!...I know I owe a little rent - but you can't throw me out! Please, please - be merciful! I'm an old woman, a poor old woman; I've nothing in this world - nothing! Except for my goose, Billy...and my son, Priscilla!

BILLY: Pardon...?

MOTHER GOOSE: For pity's sake, don't throw me out...**[Kneels]**...I'll find the money somehow, I swear!...The quality of mercy is not sprained!...Oh sir, I beg you...I beseech you...I implore you - spare me!!! **[Collapses sobbing]**

BILLY: **[To The AUDIENCE]** I think Mum's after an Oscar...!

SQUIRE: It's no good playing for sympathy, you stupid woman! You've got ten seconds to come up with the cash - or out you go!

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh, Billy...whatever shall we do?

MUSIC CUE 3a: FAIRY ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)
Flash: Enter FAIRY GOOSEDOWN. She is only visible to PRISCILLA. MOTHER GOOSE, BILLY and The SQUIRE are "frozen" in a dramatic tableau.

FAIRY: Priscilla! From Gooseland - a message for you!

PRISCILLA "quacks".

FAIRY: Because Mother Goose is so good and true
We give you the power to make her rich -
Your eggs will be golden! A talent which
Sets you apart from all other geese!
(You see...we Fairies have our uses!)

MUSIC CUE 3b: FAIRY EXIT (INSTRUMENTAL)
FAIRY GOOSEDOWN exits: PRISCILLA is agitated: MOTHER GOOSE, BILLY and The SQUIRE "de-frost".

MOTHER GOOSE: Now....what was I saying...?

BILLY: I don't know...what happened?

PRISCILLA "quacks" wildly.

MOTHER GOOSE: Goodness me! I think Priscilla's going to lay an egg...that's odd - it's not her usual time...

SQUIRE: I'm waiting for my money!

MOTHER GOOSE: Well you'll have to wait a bit longer - I've got to supervise the delivery ...come on, Priscilla; gently does it..that's the way...good girl!

PRISCILLA lays 1st golden egg.

MOTHER GOOSE: You clever old thing!...Gracious! I think this is the biggest egg you've ever laid!

BILLY: Hang on, Mum...forget the size - that's no ordinary egg...it looks like it's made of gold!

SQUIRE: Gold! Let me see! **[Takes the egg]**

MOTHER GOOSE: Why would Priscilla lay a golden egg?

SQUIRE: He's right! This egg is solid gold!

PRISCILLA "quacks".

MOTHER GOOSE: Another egg!?!

BILLY: Another golden one?

PRISCILLA nods.

BILLY: Go for it, girl!...that's it...nearly there...

MOTHER GOOSE: Don't strain yourself - will you, dear?

PRISCILLA lays 2nd golden egg.

BILLY: She's done it again!! Good old Priscilla!!

SQUIRE: Look at the size of that!!

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh, well done, Priscilla! Now I'll be able to pay the rent!!

SQUIRE: Indeed you will! These eggs must be worth a fortune!

MOTHER GOOSE: You've never done this before, Priscilla...what's happened to you?

PRISCILLA "quacks".

SQUIRE: I think she's going to lay another!

MOTHER GOOSE: You mustn't overdo it, dear! **[Calls offstage]** Gas and Air! Gas and Air!

BILLY: Ssh, Mum - if she wants to lay...let her! Come on, Prissy...you can do it!...Brace yourself...

PRISCILLA lays 3rd golden egg.

MOTHER GOOSE: It's gi-normous!! Priscilla, I never knew you had it in you...

BILLY: She hasn't anymore! You won't have to bother about the rent ever again, Mum - with all this gold you'll be able to build yourself a mansion!

MOTHER GOOSE: And buy myself some new frocks! Now, that egg will cover all the rent I owe you, won't it, Squire?

SQUIRE: Easily, Mother Goose, easily...by the way I'm sorry if I was a little heavy-handed just now - I don't know what came over me...

MOTHER GOOSE: That's all forgotten, Squire! From now on I think we're all going to have an eggs-tremely good time! And we're all friends now, aren't we?

MUSIC CUE 4: SONG FOR MOTHER GOOSE, BILLY, SQUIRE AND JILL

Blackout: Cloth/Tabs in. Lights up revealing...

SCENE FOUR

A LANE NEAR THE VILLAGE

MUSIC CUE 4a: DEMON'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)

FX 3: THUNDER. Flash: The DEMON of DISCONTENT enters DL - laughing.

DEMON: You don't think I'm beaten...? You stupid crowd!
Outsmarting the Demon?...It isn't allowed!
That Fairy may think she used her magic
To help Mother Goose - it's sad...it's tragic!
For money has never brought happiness...
Greed is a sin that's prone to excess!
In rich apparel, Mother Goose, you'll find
Her clothes may be new...but her face is lined!
Through "vanity", I'll sow the seed of "pride" -
(My evil powers will not be denied!)
That "oh-so-good" image I'll soon disgrace -
When people all speak of her ugly face
She'll want to be pretty: and, in the end,
I'll make her sacrifice - her own best friend!
Yes! Priscilla the Goose will soon be mine!
I'll tease and torment her - I'm such a swine!!

The DEMON, laughing, starts to exit, and sees The Magic Plant.

DEMON: Wait a minute...what's this weird-looking weed...?

As The DEMON moves towards The Magic Plant: The AUDIENCE calls "BILLY"

.DEMON: You can't frighten me - I don't give tuppence
For stupid kids!...You'll get your comeuppance!!

MUSIC CUE 4b: DEMON'S EXIT (INSTRUMENTAL)

The DEMON of DISCONTENT exits: Enter BILLY.

BILLY: Thanks, kids! Was someone after my plant...? Who was it...I don't like the sound of him!

BILLY waters The Magic Plant and throws sweets to The AUDIENCE.

BILLY: Priscilla's still laying golden eggs, you know - Mum and I are mega-rich...we don't live in our old cottage any more, Mum's bought this huge house and called it "Goose Hall"; and she's hired nearly all the villagers as servants! I still can't really believe it - it's like living in a dream...

As BILLY speaks...Cloth/Tabs out revealing...

SCENE FIVE

THE GARDEN OF GOOSE HALL

MUSIC CUE 5: SONG FOR MOTHER GOOSE AND CHORUS
The CHORUS and CHILDREN are now richly dressed as
MOTHER GOOSE's SERVANTS.

MOTHER GOOSE: Well, my dears - what about my new mansion, eh...? Isn't it magnificent!?

CHORUS/CHILD: Yes, Mother Goose!

MOTHER GOOSE: And I trust you like the new clothes I bought for you...?

CHORUS/CHILD: Yes, Mother Goose!

MOTHER GOOSE: And my own dress is quite lovely, don't you think?

CHORUS/CHILD: Yes, Mother Goose!

MOTHER GOOSE: In fact - I look really beautiful - don't I?

CHORUS/CHILD: No, Mother Goose!!

MOTHER GOOSE: What?! You cheeky monkeys! How dare you! I'll smack your legs! After all I've done for you!!

MOTHER GOOSE chases off The CHORUS and CHILDREN.

MOTHER GOOSE: I don't know...kids today! You give 'em the earth and they're never grateful!...Still, I'm glad you've popped round to see me; I mean you've got taste...you've got style...I mean some of you come from **[Posh Local Place name]** You think I look beautiful, don't you...? Well don't take a vote on it!...You rotten lot!

PRISCILLA enters, unseen by MOTHER GOOSE.

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh, what a wicked waste! - The wealthiest woman in the world...and I look like the back of a bus! Nobody thinks I'm beautiful...

PRISCILLA rubs against MOTHER GOOSE.

MOTHER GOOSE: Except you, Priscilla!...Now be careful, dear! This dress cost a lot of money, you know!...I hope you've been laying some more golden eggs?

PRISCILLA nods.

MOTHER GOOSE: Good!...How many?

PRISCILLA stamps three times.

MOTHER GOOSE: One...one...one! A hundred and eleven?! You silly goose! You'll wear yourself out!!

PRISCILLA shakes her head.

MOTHER GOOSE: What?...Not a hundred and eleven? How many then?

PRISCILLA stamps three times.

MOTHER GOOSE: One...two...three? Oh...three! I see!! Well it's still a lot...I think you'd better go back to your nest and park your parson's nose...don't you?

PRISCILLA nods and exits. As she does so two MAIDS come out of Goose Hall.

MOTHER GOOSE: Funny thing egg-laying....it's one of the few professions where sitting down on the job actually helps! **[To The MAIDS]** Hey! You two! Have you seen my boy, Billy?

1st MAID: No, Mother Goose.

2nd MAID: Shall we go and look for him?

MOTHER GOOSE: Don't waste your energy...just go and play with that plant!

BOTH MAIDS: What?

MOTHER GOOSE: Try it...

The MAIDS move towards The Magic Plant: The AUDIENCE call "Billy!"...Enter BILLY. The MAIDS exit.

BILLY: Hi, kids!...Glug! Glug! Glug!

BILLY waters The Magic Plant and throws sweets to The AUDIENCE.

MOTHER GOOSE: When you've finished trying to curry favour...tell me - how do I look in my new outfit?

BILLY: Mum - you look awful...I mean...awfully nice!

MOTHER GOOSE: That wasn't very convincing, son.

Enter JILL and The SQUIRE.

JILL: Hi, Billy!

BILLY: Hi, Jill! **[They embrace]**

SQUIRE: They're at it again!

MOTHER GOOSE: My dear Squire!

SQUIRE: My dear Mother Goose!

MOTHER GOOSE: How nice to see you!

SQUIRE: How nice to see you!

MOTHER GOOSE: And looking - so lovely!

SQUIRE: And looking - like rain again?

MOTHER GOOSE: And he calls himself a gentleman!...Jill, my dear - how pretty you look!

JILL: Thankyou, Mother Goose...**[Long pause]**

MOTHER GOOSE: And what do you think of my new image...?

JILL: Er...er...it's a beautiful dress, Mother Goose..

MOTHER GOOSE: Is that all?

BILLY: When I look at you in that dress, Mum - I think of the old saying...

MOTHER GOOSE: What...the face that launched a thousand ships...?

BILLY: No...the face that lunched on a thousand chips!

MOTHER GOOSE: What?...Oh, how could you say that, Billy...you're my own flesh and bleed...**[Sobs]**

MOTHER GOOSE goes to The SQUIRE who comforts her.

JILL: **[Whispers]** What a horrible thing to say, Billy!

BILLY: **[Whispers]** Oh come on, Jill! I love my Mum - but she does look like the back of a bus!

SQUIRE: There, there, Mother Goose - Billy was only joking...

JILL kicks BILLY.

BILLY: Ow!!...'Course I was, Mum...

SQUIRE: Now I wanted a chat about the Village Fete - I was hoping you'd let us hold it here in the grounds of Goose Hall...

MOTHER GOOSE: What...and have all the riff-raff rampaging through me rockery?! I should cocoa!

JILL: Oh please, Mother Goose - your garden's so beautiful...

MOTHER GOOSE: Unlike it's owner! Oh...alright then, why not!

BILLY: } It'll be great, Mum - you'll enjoy it!

JILL: } It's very kind of you, Mother Goose...**[Kisses her]**

SQUIRE: Very generous...now why don't you two run along - so that Mother Goose and I can...have a little chat?

JILL: Sounds good to me!

BILLY: O.K.! Come on, Jill - I'll show you the shrubbery...

BILLY and JILL exit.

SQUIRE: We've...er...known each other a long time, Mother Goose...

MOTHER GOOSE: We certainly have, Squire...

SQUIRE: And there's...er...something I've always wanted to say to you...

MOTHER GOOSE: Is there?...Ooh!...And what is that?

SQUIRE: It wasn't possible before - but now that you're...er...so rich...

MOTHER GOOSE: Yes...?

SQUIRE: Er...can I be frank?

MOTHER GOOSE: You can be whoever you like - just get to the point!

SQUIRE: Well...why don't you have a face-lift?

MOTHER GOOSE: Pardon!?!

SQUIRE: I mean you've got a lovely personality...but let's be honest - you do look like the back of a bus!

MOTHER GOOSE exits - weeping.

SQUIRE: Mother Goose...? Women! I'll never understand 'em - they're so sensitive!

The SQUIRE exits.

MUSIC CUE 5a: FAIRY ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)

Flash: FAIRY GOOSEDOWN enters DR.

FAIRY: Poor Mother Goose! They've made her weep -
Don't they realise "Beauty is only skin deep"?
I fear this is one of the Demon's schemes -
That villain knows that Mother Goose now dreams
Only of becoming a beauty...
Well, it's clear what is my duty...
To protect Priscilla, the Golden Goose
From any ill-treatment or misuse
I'm sure my magic will win the day...
If not...I'll 'phone the RSPCA!

MUSIC CUE 5b: FAIRY EXIT (INSTRUMENTAL)

**Blackout: FAIRY GOOSEDOWN exits. Cloth/Tabs in:
Lights up revealing...**

SCENE SIX

MOTHER GOOSE'S BOUDOIR

A large Mirror is visible. Enter MOTHER GOOSE - singing the second line of "Only a bird in a gilded cage"...

MOTHER GOOSE: You may think that I'm happy and free from care...I'm not - though I seem to be...[**Speaks**]...Oh, why am I so ugly? I know I shouldn't feel sorry for myself, but The Squire's right - I do look like the back of a bus! I've tried all sorts of make-up, you know...blusher...lipstick... Polyfilla! Nothing worked...I mean, look at me - I've got more chins than the Chinese phone book! And I do all the exercises...I've been doing this one for years...[**Taps two fingers under her chin: shows them to The AUDIENCE**]...I've got the thinnest fingers in the village! I don't know about a face-lift - I need a forklift! There are some days when I'm scared to look in that mirror...

MUSIC CUE 5c: MIRROR MOTIF (INSTRUMENTAL)

The DEMON of DISCONTENT, wearing a different hat, appears in the Mirror.

MOTHER GOOSE: It's true! I shudder to see my face first thing...what? [**Sees The DEMON**] Aagh!! Who are you?

DEMON: I'm the Miracle Man!

MOTHER GOOSE: What are you doing in my looking glass?

DEMON: I've come to offer you..."The chance of a lifetime!"

MOTHER GOOSE: Is it something to do with The Readers' Digest?

DEMON: No...the fact is...I can guarantee to make any woman beautiful...

MOTHER GOOSE: Even me?

DEMON: Even you! All you need to do is bathe in the waters of my Magic Pool - mind you, it doesn't come cheap...

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh, money's no object - I've got roomfuls of gold!

DEMON: I don't want your gold, dear lady...just your goose!

MOTHER GOOSE: Priscilla..? Oh, I couldn't part with her - I've had her since she was a gosling, you see...

DEMON: I thought you wanted to be beautiful?

MOTHER GOOSE: I do! More than anything!

DEMON: Then let me have Priscilla!...I'll look after her, I promise...

MOTHER GOOSE: Well, if you promise to be good to her...I suppose...

DEMON: Splendid! I'll come and collect her...

The DEMON of DISCONTENT disappears in the Mirror.

MOTHER GOOSE: No...wait! Ooh, a chance to look lovely...I can't miss this; though I'm not so sure about letting him have Priscilla...**[To The AUDIENCE]**... Should I let the Miracle Man take her?...Should I?...Are you sure?... Yes, I think you're right...

FX 4: "AVON CALLING" DOORBELL
Enter The DEMON of DISCONTENT.

DEMON: Evil calling!

MOTHER GOOSE: Ah - Mr Miracle Man...I'm afraid you've had a wasted journey - I've changed my mind...I can't let you have my Priscilla after all.

DEMON: What a shame...and I'd brought you a map, showing the way to the Magic Pool...

MOTHER GOOSE: Really...?

The DEMON of DISCONTENT gives MOTHER GOOSE a map.

DEMON: Yes...here it is...and that's our slogan:
"If you want a gorgeous gob...
The Magic Pool is just the job!"

MOTHER GOOSE: How charming...I love poetry...

DEMON: Just think - one quick dip...and you'll have men falling at your feet!

MOTHER GOOSE: I can't believe it!

DEMON: You don't have to take my word for it - I can show you what you'll look like after our treatment...

**MUSIC CUE 5d: MIRROR MOTIF (INSTRUMENTAL)
A BEAUTIFUL GIRL appears in the Mirror.**

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh!!...Would I really look as lovely as that?

DEMON: You have my word on it...

The BEAUTIFUL GIRL disappears.

MOTHER GOOSE: Look, could you just wait here a moment - I need to have a quiet word with someone...

DEMON: Of course...

MOTHER GOOSE: Priscilla!...Priscilla! Come here, dear!

Enter PRISCILLA. MOTHER GOOSE takes her to one side.

MOTHER GOOSE: Ah, there you are...we've been friends a long time, haven't we, Priscilla?...**[PRISCILLA nods]**...and you've been good to me, I know that...**[PRISCILLA nods]**...but now I think it's time for us to part...**[PRISCILLA "quacks"]**...Now, now - calm down...I've met a very nice man, who'll really look after you; so I'm going to kiss you goodbye...and then I want you to be a good girl and go off with your new master...

PRISCILLA moves slowly towards The DEMON of DISCONTENT.

MOTHER GOOSE: Off you go now...go on...do as I tell you...

DEMON: Ah! She's so "bootiful"...

The DEMON of DISCONTENT tries to seize PRISCILLA who escapes.

MOTHER GOOSE: Wait! I'm sorry - I just can't do it! Priscilla's my best friend!!

DEMON: It's your decision...if you really want to look like this...for the rest of your life!

**MUSIC CUE 5e: MIRROR MOTIF (INSTRUMENTAL)
"MISS PIGGY" or an ugly old hag appears in the mirror.**

MOTHER GOOSE: Do I really look like that?!

DEMON: ...On a good day!

MOTHER GOOSE: I'm even uglier than I thought!

MISS PIGGY/HAG disappears.

MOTHER GOOSE: Give me the map.

DEMON: A very wise choice...the pool is in that direction...**[Points SR]**

PRISCILLA "quacks".

MOTHER GOOSE: I'm sorry, dear, truly sorry...but I do so want to be beautiful...

MOTHER GOOSE exits SR.

DEMON: Come! I'm taking you to "The Demon's Lair"
For Priscilla, my dear - that is where
You'll spend your life beneath my spell -
Your every moment...a living hell!

PRISCILLA pecks The DEMON of DISCONTENT.

DEMON: You'll regret that peck, you brainless bird!
I'll make you suffer - you have my word!

**The DEMON of DISCONTENT stamps on PRISCILLA's foot who
"quacks" and exits SL, hopping in pain.**

DEMON: You cretinous crowd! I warned you I'd win -
Your "Good" Mother Goose was tempted to sin!
Vanity's a vice - very hard to fight...
Most people choose what is wrong - not what's right
Look at me, dumbos! Don't be overawed...
We Demons are stars! So...start to applaud!!!

**MUSIC CUE 5f: DEMON'S EXIT (INSTRUMENTAL)
The DEMON of DISCONTENT exits SL, laughing: Blackout.
MUSIC: Cloth/Tabs in. Lights up revealing...**

SCENE SEVEN

ON THE WAY TO THE MAGIC POOL

**The DEMON of DISCONTENT enters SL: pulling PRISCILLA
with a rope lead.**

DEMON: Get a move on, you feathered freak!
Unless you want a belt in the beak...?
Oh it's so wonderful, being the winner...
And soon - a nice roast goose for dinner!!

**MUSIC CUE 5g: FAIRY ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)
Flash: Enter FAIRY GOOSEDOWN SR.**

FAIRY: I'm back again! And a good job I am!!
You've got yourselves in a frightful jam!
That Demon has a twisted mind!
But I'm far stronger, as he will find...

DEMON: Those boastful words you'll soon repent -
For I rule the Land of Discontent!

FAIRY: But you're not yet within the Wicked Wood...
So you beware...of the power of Good!
Now, by my magic, I'll set her loose!...

FAIRY GOOSEDOWN waves her wand: Flash SL at The DEMON of DISCONTENT's feet, he drops PRISCILLA's lead.

FAIRY: Go on Priscilla..! Step on the juice!!
PRISCILLA Exits SR.

DEMON: Bring back that bird! She belongs to me!!

FAIRY: Not any more - now she's flying free...
She's gone to Gooseland - gone to be happy...

DEMON: What!?!?

FAIRY:Oh come on, Demon....don't wet your nappy!

FAIRY GOOSEDOWN exits SR.

DEMON: [To The AUDIENCE] Don't think you've heard the last of this...
No matter how you boo and hiss!!
No...I've got too much going for me...
Now admit it - don't you just adore me?

**MUSIC CUE 5h: DEMON'S EXIT (INSTRUMENTAL)
The DEMON of DISCONTENT exits SL: Enter MOTHER GOOSE SR.**

MOTHER GOOSE: It can't be much further, surely?...Ooh! You've made it, too! Quite a trek, wasn't it? Have you seen the Magic Pool yet?...Neither have I!...
But I'm so excited - a few minutes time...and I'll be beautiful! Beautiful for ever!!...I can hardly wait to plunge in...mind you, I don't want to ruin my frock, do I?...Excuse me...

**MUSIC CUE 5i: MOTHER GOOSE'S STRIP
At the end of the strip-tease routine...Blackout. MOTHER GOOSE Exits: Cloth/Tabs out. Lights up revealing...**

SCENE EIGHT

THE POOL OF BEAUTY

MUSIC CUE 6: TRANSFORMATION

The CHORUS and CHILDREN dance and then assume a tableau. MOTHER GOOSE enters and is led to The Magic Pool, she disappears from view - to change into her glamorous gown. The CHORUS and CHILDREN begin to sing. At the conclusion of the song MOTHER GOOSE enters and is revealed in all her glory.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE NINE

THE VILLAGE FETE

MUSIC CUE 7: ENTR'ACTE (INSTRUMENTAL)

In the Garden of Goose Hall: there are various small tents and stalls including a Punch and Judy booth. The CHORUS, CHILDREN and JILL are dancing.

MUSIC CUE 8: SONG FOR JILL AND CHORUS

The SQUIRE and The PUPPET-MAN are watching the dancing: The SQUIRE becomes involved and manages to get in everybody's way.

SQUIRE: Well done, everyone - that was simply splendid! Now, the next item on the agenda is the Punch and Judy show - which is due to start in five minutes time...

The CHORUS and CHILDREN cheer, then split into small groups, visiting the stalls and chatting to each other. Enter BILLY.

BILLY: Hi, Kids!...Hi, Jill!

JILL: Hi, Billy! [They embrace] Where have you been? I've been waiting for ages?

BILLY: It was Mum - she wouldn't let me come out until I'd tidied my bedroom!

JILL: What? Surely she knew about the Fete?

BILLY: Oh, she knew alright! She's been moaning about it all morning!

SQUIRE: Moaning about the Village Fete?

BILLY: She said, and I quote..."It's just an excuse for those skiving villagers to get a day off!"

JILL: That doesn't sound like your mother..?

BILLY: I don't know - since she came back from the Magic Pool, she's changed...

SQUIRE: She certainly has - she looks a thousand dollars!

JILL: You mean a million dollars, Father!

BILLY: No - he's right...not even the Magic Pool's that good!...No, I mean, she may look better, but she's become really bad-tempered...

The PUPPET-MAN bangs a small drum.

PUPPET-MAN: The Punch and Judy show will start in one minute!!

The CHORUS and CHILDREN cheer and gather round the booth.

BILLY: ...Today - she's in a really foul mood....

Enter MOTHER GOOSE, dressed for show-jumping, in vast jodhpurs, a riding-hat and carrying a riding-crop.

MOTHER GOOSE: Right!...That's it!...Stop all this merry-making! I want some hush!!

BILLY: See what I mean?

MOTHER GOOSE: Silence!!...Right! I want you lot back to work! My mansion's in a right mess...it needs polishing from top to bottom!

The CHORUS and CHILDREN groan.

JILL: I thought you'd given your staff the day off?

MOTHER GOOSE: I had...but now I've changed my mind...Go on, be off with you!... Get moving!!

The CHORUS and CHILDREN exit.

BILLY: Why are you in such a bad mood?

MOTHER GOOSE: Because I've had a bad day!! I just came last in the show-jumping - I had six fences down! Why didn't anyone tell me you had to have a horse!

SQUIRE: But you can't just stop the Village Fete! It's a tradition -

MOTHER GOOSE: When I want your opinion, I'll ask for it, fish-face!

SQUIRE: Well, really!

MOTHER GOOSE: You may be the Squire...but I am not only the most beautiful woman in Little Hassle, I am also the richest...and don't you forget it!

SQUIRE: I certainly won't...come along, you two!

The SQUIRE, BILLY and JILL exit.

PUPPET-MAN: [To MOTHER GOOSE] Oi! I was just going to start my show!

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh what a shame!...Let me do it for you...[MR PUNCH voice]í That's the way to do it!... That's the way to do it!

MOTHER GOOSE belabours the PUPPET-MAN with her riding-crop and chases him off.

MOTHER GOOSE: Blooming buskers!...**[To The AUDIENCE]**...Oh, I see you're still here! I hope you've paid for those seats...? And I also hope you've noticed how luscious I'm looking?...That trip to the Magic Pool was certainly worth it, wasn't it?...I was right to give Priscilla away, wasn't I...Oh, yes I was!...Oh, yes I was!...Oh, no I wasn't!...You're right...I admit it...I should have listened to you...I should never have let her go...I've been miserable ever since...and made everyone else miserable too! No-one likes me anymore...I haven't got a friend in the world...

MOTHER GOOSE, sobbing, wanders towards The Magic Plant ...The AUDIENCE call "Billy!": Enter BILLY and JILL.

BILLY: Thanks, kids!

JILL: What's the matter, Mother Goose?

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh, Jill!...**[Sobs]**...

BILLY: She touched my plant - that's what the matter! Right! Glug! Glug! Glug!

BILLY waters The Magic Plant and throws sweets to The AUDIENCE. JILL comforts MOTHER GOOSE.

JILL: Never mind the sweets, Billy! Your Mum's really upset...

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh, Jill - nobody loves me!

JILL: That's not true - I love you...well, I used to.

MOTHER GOOSE: **[Sobs]** Waah!

JILL: But you have been a bit...difficult, lately.

MOTHER GOOSE: Everyone in the village hates me, don't they, Billy?

BILLY: Of course not! In fact, they've got a new nickname for you.

MOTHER GOOSE: How sweet...

BILLY: Yeah...they all call you "Bogey".

MOTHER GOOSE: Why "Bogey"?

BILLY: 'Cos you get up everyone's nose!!

MOTHER GOOSE: **[Sobs]** Waah!! Waah!!!

JILL: Nice one, Billy! We've got to do something!!

BILLY: Don't look at me, Jill...

MUSIC CUE 8a: FAIRY ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)
Flash: Enter FAIRY GOOSEDOWN. MOTHER GOOSE, BILLY and JILL are "frozen".

FAIRY: I don't know whether I should do this really...
Human beings aren't supposed to see me...
So, should I help them...? Well, for your sake -
I'll wave my wand...and they'll all awake!

FAIRY GOOSEDOWN waves her wand: MOTHER GOOSE, BILLY and JILL "de-frost" and see her.

FAIRY: Don't worry! Please - don't be afraid!
I'm Goosedown! I've come to your aid!

BILLY: Who is she...?

JILL: She looks like a Fairy...?

MOTHER GOOSE: If you have come to help us, Miss - tell me where I can find the Miracle Man...I want to get my Priscilla back...I miss her!

FAIRY: Now this may come as a nasty surprise...
But the Miracle Man - was a Demon in disguise!

MOTHER GOOSE: I gave my Priscilla to a Demon?! It's worse than I thought...my poor baby!

FAIRY: Please...don't get yourself in a state
I saved her from that fearful fate.

MOTHER GOOSE: Then where is she?

FAIRY: Well...she's in Gooseland now, my dear -
And that is a long way, I fear!
I'd like to help you, if only I could ó
But your journey lies through the Wicked Wood
Where The Demon rules, and evil sprites lurk!
(And my "Fairy magic" just doesn't work!!)

MOTHER GOOSE: That doesn't matter! Just tell me the way to Gooseland, and I'll deal with the Demon myself! All I care about - is getting Priscilla back!

FAIRY: Well, Mother Goose - you've changed your tune?
I thought your pride had made you immune
To caring for others...but instead
You're letting your heart rule your head!

MOTHER GOOSE: It always used to - in the days when I was happy...Please tell me, Fairy - which way do I go?

FAIRY: If you're sure? Then all you do, is head East -
But be careful, that Demon's a dangerous beast!

MOTHER GOOSE: I don't care about the danger! I'm going to find Priscilla - come what
may!!

MOTHER GOOSE exits heroically.

BILLY: They don't make women like that any more...it's not surprising really, is
it?

FAIRY: It's none of my business, but I have to say...
That I think she'll need help along the way!

FAIRY GOOSEDOWN exits.

JILL: She's right, Billy! We can't let your mother go all that way on her own...

BILLY: You're right!...And it's very brave of you to volunteer, Jill - I'll make you
some sandwiches to take with you...

JILL: What? Aren't you coming with us?

BILLY: Of course I am! It was just a joke!

JILL: Just!...Come on, we'd better get going.

BILLY: See you later, kids...bye!!

**Blackout: JILL and BILLY exit. Cloth/Tabs in: Lights up
revealing...**

SCENE TEN

THE FOREST OF DESOLATION

MUSIC CUE 8b: DEMON ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)

Flash: The DEMON of DISCONTENT enters DL.

DEMON: So..!! Going to Gooseland? - The stupid berks!
Don't they realise my satanic works
Hold sway within the "Wicked Wood"?
I think it's time they understood
The perils of crossing a Demon like me!
I'll take them prisoner...eventually
But first I'll have a little sport
For I've just had an evil thought...
I know what'll terrify them most...
A spook...A phantom...An unholy ghost!!!

The DEMON of DISCONTENT exits DL. FX 5: WAILS AND SPOOKY SOUNDS: MOTHER GOOSE, BILLY and JILL enter DR.

MOTHER GOOSE: Come on, everybody; this way...there's nothing to be scared of -

FX 6: LOUD WAIL. ALL scream.

MOTHER GOOSE: Ooh! I went all unnecessary then!

JILL: I'm sure we've been this way before...I think we're lost!

MOTHER GOOSE: Well we'll have to get unlost!! We've got to find Priscilla!

BILLY: Can't we rest for a minute - I'm knickered!

JILL: You mean knock-

BILLY: No I don't...I mean knickered - me breath's coming in short pants!

FX 7: GROANS

JILL: Listen to that awful groaning...

MOTHER GOOSE: After a joke like that I'm not surprised! But it is a very spooky place...Look, let's sit down here for a minute and I'll think of something to cheer us all up...

MOTHER GOOSE, JILL and BILLY sit on a convenient log/bench. MOTHER GOOSE is CENTRE, JILL is SL and BILLY SR.

JILL: What sort of something?

MOTHER GOOSE: I've got an idea. I've heard that if you sing a song it will keep the ghosties and ghoulies away.

BILLY: If you sing a song it will keep everyone away! My friends will help us. If you see any ghosties or any of those other things will you shout and warn us? I said will you shout and warn us? Ok, here we go.

**MUSIC CUE 9: GHOST SONG
During the song, a GHOST enters SR and exits SL**

MOTHER GOOSE: **(Rising from the bench)** What was it?

AUDIENCE: A ghost

ALL: A what?

ALL: A ghost?

AUDIENCE: Yes!

ALL: Was it?

AUDIENCE: Yes!

ALL: Well, we'll have to sing it again then won't we ó woops!

MUSIC CUE 9a: GHOST SONG

During the song, the GHOST enters SR and stays behind the bench

MOTHER GOOSE: Where is it? Behind us! come on we'll have a look.

(circle the bench clock wise, GHOST exits SR)

There's no sign of him, what was it?

AUDIENCE: A ghost!

ALL: A what?

AUDIENCE: A ghost

ALL: A ghost?

AUDIENCE: Yes!

ALL: Was it?

AUDIENCE: Yes!

ALL: Well, we'll have to sing it again then won't we ó woops!

MUSIC CUE 9b: GHOST SONG

GHOST enters SL and scares JILL off

MOTHER GOOSE: Sing up Jill. **(realising she has gone)** Where's she gone? A ghost took her?

ALL: A what?

AUDIENCE: A ghost

ALL: A ghost?

AUDIENCE: Yes!

ALL: Was it?

AUDIENCE: Yes!

ALL: Well, we'll have to sing it again then won't we ó woops!

MUSIC CUE 9c: GHOST SONG

GHOST enters SR and scares BILLY off

MOTHER GOOSE: Sing up Billy! **[realising she has gone]** Where's he gone? A ghost took him?

MOTHER GOOSE: A what?

AUDIENCE: A ghost

MOTHER GOOSE: A ghost?

AUDIENCE: Yes!

MOTHER GOOSE: Was it?

AUDIENCE: Yes!

MOTHER GOOSE: Well, I'd have to sing it again then won't I o woops!

MUSIC CUE 9d: GHOST SONG

GHOST enters SR. GHOST comes round, sits next to MOTHER GOOSE. He stops, they turn and face each other.

MOTHER GOOSE: Hello there!

The GHOST screams and exits SR screaming.

MOTHER GOOSE: Charming!

JILL and BILLY Enter SR.

JILL: Are you alright, Mother Goose?

MOTHER GOOSE: Yes thankyou, dear...

BILLY: What happened to the ghost?

MOTHER GOOSE: I think he had a train to catch!

BILLY: While he was chasing me I saw some lights through the trees - perhaps it's Gooseland?

MOTHER GOOSE: I do hope so...I can hardly wait to see my Priscilla again! Which way, son?

BILLY: Follow me, Mum...I'm not afraid!!

MOTHER GOOSE: Who does he think he is? The hero?

JILL: Well...he's certainly...my hero!!

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh please!

MUSIC CUE 9e: SCENE CHANGE (INSTRUMENTAL)

MOTHER GOOSE exits. Blackout: Cloth/Tabs out. Lights up revealing...

SCENE ELEVEN

THE WICKED WOOD

MUSIC CUE 10: SONG FOR DEMON AND GHOULS.

At the end of the song The GHOULS gather round The DEMON of DISCONTENT.

DEMON: Some fiends, some ghouls...a goblin or two -
The Demon's disco is quite a "do"!!
But better beware!! For strangers draw near!
Hide yourselves - quickly! Come on, disappear!!

The GHOULS hide among the trees.

DEMON: Unlike Priscilla, humans can't "wing it!"...
Yes...my trap's been set - now watch me spring it!

The DEMON of DISCONTENT exits: Enter MOTHER GOOSE, BILLY and JILL.

MOTHER GOOSE: Are you sure this is the right way? It doesn't look like Gooseland to me...it's more like [Local place name].

BILLY: It does seem as if we're going round in circles...

JILL: And it's getting creepier and creepier...!

MOTHER GOOSE: Never mind, Jill - at least it can't get any worse...

**MUSIC CUE 10a: DEMON'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)
Flash: Enter The DEMON of DISCONTENT and The GHOULS, who seize JILL and BILLY.**

DEMON: Is that what you think? Mother Goose, you're a fool!
I haven't even started...I love being cruel!

The DEMON of DISCONTENT "tweaks" MOTHER GOOSE's nose.

MOTHER GOOSE: Ow!

BILLY: Leave her alone!...You big coward!

DEMON: What!??

BILLY: I've had just about enough of you! You talk tough...let's see how brave you really are!

BILLY throws The GHOULS who are holding him off, moves towards a wing flat, and mimes ripping a branch from a tree: FX 8: BRANCH SNAPPING: BILLY produces a perfect quarter-staff.

DEMON: Oh, very macho! What a display!
He's a lumberjack and he's O.K.!!

BILLY: Cone on - fight like a man!!

DEMON: But I'm not a mortal - I'm a Demon, you see...
And you don't stand a chance against me...!

BILLY: We'll see about that!...

**MUSIC CUE 10b: FIGHT MUSIC (INSTRUMENTAL)
Quarterstaff fight between BILLY and The DEMON of DISCONTENT, BILLY using his "branch" and The DEMON of DISCONTENT his staff. Eventually BILLY disarms him: The GHOULS Exit, wailing in terror: BILLY is behind The DEMON of DISCONTENT, with his quarterstaff held to his neck, threatening to strangle him.**

M GOOSE: } Well done, son!
JILL: } You were brilliant, Billy!

BILLY: Right, bug-eyes - which way to Gooseland?

DEMON: Find it yourself!

BILLY nearly chokes him.

DEMON Aargh!...Alright...that way!...That way!! [Points right]

MOTHER GOOSE: Right!...Come on you lot...

BILLY: Wait!...We've got a bit of a problem - the Demon! We can't just leave him here?

JILL: What are we going to do with him?

BILLY: I know what I'd like to do with him...

MOTHER GOOSE: Billy! Behave yourself! We can't kill him - that would make us as wicked as he is...

JILL: We could tie him to a tree...

BILLY: Good idea, Jill!...How much rope have you got on you?

JILL: What?...oh, sorry.

DEMON: If you want the answer, Billy...just look into my eyes...

BILLY: What?

DEMON: Look into my eyes...

JILL: Be careful, Billy - he's trying to hypnotise you!

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh yeah?...Well, two can play at that game!

MOTHER GOOSE takes a small mirror from her handbag and holds it between BILLY and The DEMON of DISCONTENT.

DEMON: Look deeper...deeper...dee...per...

The DEMON of DISCONTENT goes into a trance.

BILLY: Thanks, Mum - what did you do...?

MOTHER GOOSE: I used my mirror to turn the 'fluence back on the Demon...he's hypnotised himself!

JILL: Are you sure...?

MOTHER GOOSE: Watch...I'll snap my fingers and count to three...
You'll wake up believing - you're a tree!!

BILLY: A tree?!

JILL: Ssh! Don't disturb her!

MOTHER GOOSE: One...two...three!

FX 9: WEIRD SOUND. The DEMON of DISCONTENT stands like a tree.

BILLY: } You've done it, Mum!

JILL: } I can't believe it...!

BILLY: Are you sure it's safe to leave him?

MOTHER GOOSE: Well look at him - he's rooted to the spot...Mind you, I don't know how long that trance'll last, so let's get a move on!!

MOTHER GOOSE exits.

JILL: We're right behind you...

JILL starts to exit: BILLY laughs.

JILL: What's the matter, Billy?

BILLY: I was just thinking, now he's a tree...I bet the Demon hopes there aren't any dogs in this forest!

JILL: Billy!!

**Blackout: BILLY and JILL exit. Cloth/Tabs in.
MUSIC CUE 10c: FAIRY ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)
Flash: Enter FAIRY GOOSEDOWN:**

FAIRY: Haven't our heroes done well today?
Let's give them a cheer:...Hip...Hip...
They've nearly reached their destination,
So I'm going to make a revelation,
And show you Priscilla in her new vocation -
Teaching the goslings some syncopation...

FAIRY GOOSEDOWN exits. Lights up revealing...

SCENE TWELVE

ON THE WAY TO GOOSELAND

**MUSIC CUE 10d: GOSLING DANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)
At the end of the dance PRISCILLA and the CHILDREN bow...
then turn upstage as the Cloth/Tabs fly out revealing...**

SCENE THIRTEEN

KING GANDER'S PALACE

KING GANDER is seated on his throne, surrounded by the GEESE-GIRLS and GOOSE-GUARDS, they applaud.

KING GANDER: Charming! Simply charming...you have taught them well, Priscilla.

PRISCILLA curtsays...then shakes her head.

KING GANDER: Are you not pleased with your pupils?

PRISCILLA sadly nods her head.

KING GANDER: You're not happy, are you?

PRISCILLA shakes her head.

KING GANDER: You miss all your friends back in Little Hassle, don't you?

PRISCILLA nods her head.

KING GANDER: Well...we may have some visitors soon...and they'll cheer you up, I'm sure...

PRISCILLA gives a puzzled "quack". Enter A GOOSE-GUARD.

GOOSE-GUARD: Your majesty! Strangers!! Strangers!!!

The GOOSE-GUARDS, GEESE-GIRLS and GOSLINGS "hiss" angrily.

KING GANDER: Be calm...be calm! You silly geese! These are the guests that Fairy Goosedown spoke of!

Two GOOSE-GUARDS enter: they usher in BILLY and JILL.

JILL: Let me go!

BILLY: Alright...Alright! Cool it!!

KING GANDER: Don't worry, please...we were expecting you - this is a peaceful place. It is Gooseland; and I...am King Gander.

PRISCILLA "quacks" delightedly.

BILLY: Hi, Prissy!!

JILL: Your country is very beautiful, your majesty - I'm so glad we've come to Gooseland...

BILLY: **[To The AUDIENCE]** I think I'd rather be in Pizzaland, myself!

KING GANDER: I was told to expect three guests, Billy...where is your mother...?

BILLY: I'm sorry, King Gander; but the minute we got to Gooseland...

JILL: ...And she saw all the geese in the fields...

BILLY: ...Mum ran off, shouting "Priscilla!"

JILL: ...And we haven't seen her since!

PRISCILLA "quacks" agitatedly: MOTHER GOOSE is heard calling "Priscilla! Priscilla!!" Enter MOTHER GOOSE.

MOTHER GOOSE: Priscilla!!!

MOTHER GOOSE suddenly realises she is in KING GANDER's Court.

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh my goodness!!

KING GANDER: Ah...Mother Goose; we have been waiting for you.

MOTHER GOOSE: Really, your kingship? **[Curtseys]** How kind...

KING GANDER: Indeed...**[Suddenly stern]**...Your trial can now begin!

KING GANDER gestures: The GOOSE-GUARDS seize MOTHER GOOSE, JILL and BILLY.

MOTHER G: } My trial? What do you mean?

BILLY: } Hey! What's going on?

JILL:) Billy, do something!

KING GANDER: Silence! Mother Goose - you are charged with abandoning your best friend...

The GEESE "hiss".

KING GANDER: Thinking only of yourself, you sold Priscilla to The Demon of Discontent...

The GEESE "hiss".

KING GANDER: You didn't care what fate befell her...

MOTHER GOOSE: I was wrong, I admit it...it was just that I wanted so much to be beautiful - that nothing else seemed to matter!

KING GANDER: Your vanity was more important than your best friend?

The GEESE "hiss".

MOTHER GOOSE: It was a wicked thing to do; I realise that now - and I'm truly sorry! Now, please...please, your majesty...**[Kneels]**...can I have my Priscilla back?

KING GANDER: Your Priscilla?! Since she was rescued and brought here, Priscilla has become a Citizen of Gooseland; and she has the right to live where she chooses!

MOTHER GOOSE: I see...yes, you're right..**[Rises and moves away downstage]**..There I go, thinking of myself again...Gooseland is so beautiful, of course Priscilla will choose to stay here...why should she want to come back with me? Especially after the way I betrayed her! I just hope she'll be happy here...and that, one day, she'll be able to forgive a stupid, vain, old woman...**[Sobs]**...

PRISCILLA approaches...and puts her wing round MOTHER GOOSE.

KING GANDER: I think she has already forgiven you...

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh, Priscilla...I don't deserve you, I really don't.

PRISCILLA rubs against MOTHER GOOSE.

KING GANDER: Priscilla - do you wish to go home with Mother Goose?

PRISCILLA nods her head and "quacks".

KING GANDER: Then the trial is over - Mother Goose, you are free to go!

The HUMANS cheer: The GEESE "quack" excitedly.

MOTHER GOOSE: This is the happiest day of my life!!

**MUSIC CUE 10e: DEMON'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)
Flash: The DEMON of DISCONTENT enters SL. General Uproar.**

DEMON: You celebrate too soon!...Just listen to me -
I didn't appreciate being made a tree!
You laughed at me then...well, I hate mirth!
I'll blast you all from the face of the earth!!

**The DEMON of DISCONTENT raises his staff: KING GANDER
laughs...**

BILLY: He's not joking you know, he means it!

KING GANDER: I'm sorry...forgive my merriment
You see, the Demon of Discontent
Has let his pride overrule his brain,
For this is Gooseland - and in my domain
The Power of Good will always come first!
So, come on then, Demon...do your worst!

The DEMON of DISCONTENT tries vainly to cast a spell.

DEMON: What? What's happening...?

KING GANDER: Now by my magic you'll be beguiled.....

DEMON: No...no, please...stop!

**FX 10: STRANGE SOUND. LX: Lights fade down leaving The
DEMON of DISCONTENT in a green spot.**

KING GANDER: As weak...and helpless...as a little child!

The DEMON of DISCONTENT screams. LX: Returns to normal.

DEMON: **[Speaks in a child's voice]**...La-da-di-da-dah!...La-da-di-da-dah! ...
[Skips around]...Will you come and play with me, Jill?

JILL: I'd rather go and play with the traffic!!

DEMON: Waah! Will you be my friend, Billy?
BILLY: I've only got one thing to say to you, Demon...
DEMON: What's that?
BILLY: Eat my shorts!

The DEMON of DISCONTENT cries and runs to MOTHER GOOSE.

DEMON: They're being nasty to me! Tell them off...
MOTHER GOOSE: Oh shut up! You big cry-baby! **[Clips his ear]**
DEMON: Waah! I want my mummy! I want my mummy!

The DEMON of DISCONTENT exits crying.

KING GANDER: Now there is a lesson for us all...
Pride always goes before a fall!
MOTHER GOOSE: What a day! I've got Priscilla back - and now you've dealt with the dastardly demon!
KING GANDER: He'll never trouble anyone again...a suitable cause for a celebration!

BILLY: You've been very good to us, King Gander; but we really ought to be getting home now...
KING GANDER: So soon?

JILL: Billy and I are supposed to be getting married tomorrow!
KING GANDER: Your wedding? How wonderful! The good wishes of Gooseland go with you! Now we should all celebrate.

MUSIC CUE 11: TRIUMPHANT NUMBER
Blackout: Cloth/Tabs in. Lights up revealing...

SCENE FOURTEEN

A LANE NEAR THE VILLAGE

Enter The SQUIRE.

SQUIRE: Ji-ill!...Billy!! Oh dear; I'm getting really worried - they've all been gone for such a long time...Billy!...**[Coughs]**...and I'm giving myself a sore

throat! What was it Jill said?... "Don't waste your breath...?"...Of course, I remember!

The SQUIRE goes towards The Magic Plant: The AUDIENCE call "Billy!": Enter BILLY.

BILLY: Thanks, kids!

SQUIRE: Billy - is it really you?

BILLY: I think so...there's no-one else here...

SQUIRE: But where are others?

BILLY: They're just coming, I ran on ahead when the kids called for me... excuse me a minute...Glug! Glug! Glug!

BILLY waters The Magic Plant and throws sweets to The AUDIENCE. Enter JILL, MOTHER GOOSE and PRISCILLA.

JILL: Father! **[They embrace]**

SQUIRE: Jill...welcome home, my dear! Welcome home, everybody!...I see you found Priscilla, Mother Goose?

MOTHER GOOSE: I wouldn't have come home without her...and...er, Squire...I want to apologise for my bad behaviour recently; I've been a real pain in the you-know-where!

SQUIRE: ...Neck?

MOTHER GOOSE: Absolutely!

SQUIRE: That's all forgotten, Mother Goose - I'm glad you're back to your old self again. Now we really must hurry!

MOTHER GOOSE: Hurry?

SQUIRE: Jill and Billy's wedding is supposed to start in an hour's time!!

JILL: An hour?!?...I'll never be ready in an hour!!

SQUIRE: Well the sooner you start - the sooner you'll be finished - come along...

JILL: Bye, Billy!

BILLY: Bye, Jill! **[They embrace]**

MOTHER GOOSE: Do they ever stop...?

SQUIRE: She'll need a lip replacement! Come along!

JILL: Bye!!

The SQUIRE, JILL and PRISCILLA exit.

MOTHER GOOSE: Well, we're not rushing off; are we, son?... 'Cos that would mean ignoring our friends, wouldn't it?

BILLY: Exactly, mother!....Hi!, Kids....!

MOTHER GOOSE: They've stuck with us a long time, haven't you?... Through thick and thin!... And we'd like to thank all of you for your help.

PRISCILLA enters and taps MOTHER GOOSE on the shoulder.

MOTHER GOOSE: What is it, dear?...

PRISCILLA waves the note that is in her beak. MOTHER GOOSE takes and reads it.

MOTHER GOOSE: Look at this, Billy - it's the names of some of your friends...

Here MOTHER GOOSE can read out the names of any families, groups or parties in The AUDIENCE. If you are told of anyone with a Birthday to celebrate then ask the audience to join you in singing HAPPY BIRTHDAY. Finally...

BILLY: Do you know, Mum - I reckon there are some really good singers out there,

MOTHER GOOSE: What makes you think that, son?

BILLY: It's just a feeling I've got. I bet they'd like to sing a song with us... wouldn't you?

MOTHER GOOSE: What shall we sing then?

BILLY: Easy-peasy! I've got the words written down!

BILLY holds out a small sheet of paper.

[To The AUDIENCE] Can you all read that?... Well, don't worry, I've got another set...

The SONGSHEET is either flown in, or is carried on by two members of The ENSEMBLE.

MUSIC CUE 12: SONGSHEET

MOTHER GOOSE and BILLY sing the song through several times with The AUDIENCE. At the end of The SONGSHEET: Blackout. BILLY and MOTHER GOOSE exit. The SONGSHEET is flown out or carried off. Cloth/Tabs out. Lights up revealing...

SCENE FIFTEEN - THE WALKDOWN

THE WEDDING AT GOOSE HALL

MUSIC CUE 12a: WALKDOWN (INSTRUMENTAL)

The CHILDREN are set on stage before the curtain/front cloth opens. They bow and then gesture with their on-stage arms, thereby heralding the entrances of the rest of the cast. Each actor enters from alternate Up Stage entrances, briskly making their way Down Stage Centre and with a flourish bow to the audience. The arm gesture made by the on-stage company should be choreographed so that the arms all go up together, and sweep down-stage at the same time and at the same speed as the actor. When the actor bows the arms should drop. As each actor is completing their bow, the next actor should be starting to enter, so that he is in view just as the first actor is coming up out of his bow. After their bow, the actor should step backwards and to one side to make way for the entering actor, joining in the gesturing for their fellows, and taking up a position which will allow the formation of the final line-up to happen without anyone having to cross each other.

The Cast should enter in the following order, from alternate sides,

CHORUS

KING GANDER

FAIRY GOOSEDOWN

SQUIRE GOODHEART

THE DEMON OF DISCONTENT

PRISCILLA

MOTHER GOOSE

MOTHER GOOSE: Three Cheers for Billy and Jill. Hip Hip!! etc

MUSIC CUE 12b: WEDDING MARCH (INSTRUMENTAL)

BILLY and JILL

After BILLY and JILL have taken their bows, the principal actors should form a line across the stage, the Chorus should do the same behind them, possibly on a higher level, and the children should move to the highest level, so that the full company are visible. The down stage line should feature the actors who came down last in the middle, and preferably be alternate male/female. The full company (taking their lead from the tallest actor down stage centre) should bow together twice (or more or less depending on audience reaction). As the applause subsides...

KING GANDER: The Demon's magic powers have been taken away

FAIRY: Yes - he's no longer wicked - I'm happy to say

SQUIRE: So, now he's a good boy...will you be his mates?

[The AUDIENCE will say "No!]

DEMON: There's got to be someone that everyone hates!

MOTHER GOOSE: Thanks to you lot - I got my best friend back
And I know that Priscilla wants to say...

PRISCILLA:Quack!!

JILL: But before you go home, we'll ask for one final cheer

BILLY: As we wish you all - A Very Happy New Year!

MUSIC CUE 13: FINALE

There should be one final bow.

MUSIC CUE 13a: PLAYOUT (INSTRUMENTAL)

The cast wave as the final curtain descends.

THE END

SUGGESTED SONGS AND UNDERSCORING

The choice of music for the show is entirely up to you*, but to help we've made some suggestions. The numbers correspond with the Music Cues in the script. The songs in bold are the ones we've tried and tested the most, and which we think work best. It is these songs plus lyrics that are included in the Music Packages (see page 5). An alternate song is sometimes suggested should you not wish to use our choice. The entire score, including all the instrumental music, is available in Music Package 2.

*Not strictly true! The Disney catalogue and the songs of Abba are not able to be performed.

ACT ONE

Cue	Song/Music (Composers)	Performer(s)
1	Overture	Instrumental
1a	Demonø's Entrance	Instrumental
1b	Fairy Entrance	Instrumental
1c	Demonø's Exit	Instrumental
2	"Rhythm of the Night" (Warren) <i>(alt. "Brand New Day" (Vandross))</i>	Jill/Chorus/Children
2a	Mother Goose's Entrance	Instrumental
2b	Demonø's Entrance	Instrumental
3	"You're The One That I Want" (Farrer) <i>(alt. "With You On My Arm" (Herman) – more traditional)</i>	Billy/Jill/Chorus
3a	Fairy Entrance	Instrumental
3b	Fairy Exit	Instrumental
4	"Together" (Styne/Sondheim)	Billy/Jill/Squire/Mother
5	"Money" (Kander/Ebb) <i>(alt. "We're In The Money")</i>	Mother Goose/Chorus
5a	Fairy Entrance	Instrumental
5b	Fairy Exit	Instrumental
5c	Mirror Motif	Instrumental
5d	Mirror Motif	Instrumental
5e	Mirror Motif	Instrumental
5f	Demonø's Exit	Instrumental
5g	Fairy Entrance	Instrumental
5h	Demonø's Exit	Instrumental
5i	Strip	Instrumental
6	"One" (Hamlisch/Kleban) <i>(alt. Beautiful Girls (Sondheim))</i>	Chorus

ACT TWO

7	Entr'acte	Instrumental
8	"Who Will Buy" (Bart)	Jill/Chorus

8a	Fairy Entrance	Instrumental
8b	Demonø Entrance	Instrumental
9	"Ghostbusters" (Parker)	Billy/Jill/Mother
9a	"Ghostbusters"	Billy/Jill/Mother
9b	"Ghostbusters"	Billy/Jill/Mother
9c	"Ghostbusters"	Billy/Mother
9d	"Ghostbusters"	Mother
10	"Trouble" (Leiber/Stoller)	Demon
10a	Demonø Entrance	Instrumental
10b	Fight Music	Instrumental
10c	Fairy Entrance	Instrumental
10d	Gosling Dance	Instrumental
10e	Demonø Entrance	Instrumental
11	"Reach" (Dennis/Todd)	All on stage
12	"Amarillo" (Sedaka/Greenfield)	Billy/Mother Goose
12a	Walkdown	Instrumental
12b	Wedding March	Instrumental
13	"Reach" (Reprise)	Full Company
13a	Playout	Instrumental

Please note that all the music you use in your production (unless it is entirely original, and written by you) is subject to copyright regulations. This means you have to inform PRS (the Performing Rights Society) what music you are using, the approximate length, and the composer/lyricist, thus ensuring that these people or their estates gets the royalties due.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS AND CASTING TIPS

The Demon of Discontent: You need a big actor to play this role to its full potential - not necessarily big physically, although that can help, but big in terms of performance. Also it helps with the verse if the actor thinks "Shakespearean"! The character is Evil but also devious and plausible, after all he manages to convince Mother Goose to sell Priscilla! It is a useful convention that merely by wearing a different hat he becomes unrecognisable. The actor playing The Demon needs experience at handling an audience, good timing, and an imposing presence. This is a very taxing role, so the actor must be strong, particularly vocally. Why not cast an actor more used to "straight roles" in dramas, he'll manage the verse better and enjoy the freedom of pantomime? [If he is not a strong singer, then tailor his number with The Ghouls accordingly]

Mother Goose: This is the best and most complex "Dame" role of all, and needs to be played by an actor who has experience in wearing frocks. It is obvious that she must be as plain as possible, and if the actor is not overweight then you may need to think about some padding! Even though her frocks should be glamorous after she has visited the Magic Pool she should always look like mutton dressed as lamb. Apart from needing a talent for comedy the actor also needs to be able to play pathos; and after selling Priscilla will have to accept becoming, albeit temporarily, unpopular with the audience.

Billy Goose: The actor playing Billy must have charm, singing ability, good comedy timing and lots of energy, not only to carry the role off but also to drive the show along. He has more comic scenes to play than most "heroes" but he is brave enough to fight, and defeat, The Demon and we need to see why Jill loves him. The "Magic Plant" running gag, with the sweets being given to the audience, will ensure his popularity!

Jill Goodheart: This is a far better role than the usual Principal Girl, and should be played "for real" by as good an actress/singer as possible. The relationship with Billy must be caring and warm, though she gives as good as she gets. She has a sense of adventure, is not afraid to set off after Priscilla, and if she comes over a bit heroic that's probably better than pretty and simpering.

Fairy Goosedown: We like to see this role played by an older woman, rather than a pretty young thing. The "goose" side of her character means she can be played more quirkily than most Fairies and the actress should make the most of her comic opportunities. Knowing that the Demon has tempted her to sell Priscilla, Fairy Goosedown always retains some sympathy for Mother Goose.

Priscilla the Goose: Never under-estimate the importance of this role. Although Priscilla does not speak she is vital to the plot and her forgiveness of Mother Goose is a crucial moment in the story. Usually played by a woman it can be played by a man - but whoever does it will need to be physically agile and strong; working in any kind of animal costume can be hot and uncomfortable - but the reception you will get at the walkdown will make it all worthwhile! It will also help if the performer has dance skills as Priscilla appears in several musical numbers.

Squire Goodheart: The qualities required of the actor playing the Squire are warmth, generosity to the other performers and a certain weight to hold the dramatic scenes together. Yet he also needs a twinkle in his eye which explains why everybody has a fondness for him. Essentially a gentle man, the change in his character after The Demon has hypnotised him should be dramatic!

King Gander: Not a large part, but important! He must be able to dominate the scene in the Palace as he shows Mother Goose the error of her ways. If you need to find more parts for women then this role would adapt very easily to "The Goose Queen". Either male or female, the performance should be big, and bold. The actor shouldn't be afraid of adopting an outrageous accent. The only time I have known this role not to work was when the actor tried to be too subtle. Enough said?

COSTUME DESCRIPTION

This pantomime, like many of the other traditional pantomimes, has its origins in nineteenth century fairy-tale books, and I like to keep to this period in terms of the costume design. The costumes for the main characters look bright and jolly in checked or striped fabrics, in a rather idealised "country" style, a bit like Kate Greenaway illustrations, with the men in cutaway coats and waistcoats, with breeches and buckle shoes, and the women in slightly high-waisted, short-sleeved dresses with pinafores. The fresh, English country look of these costumes are very attractive and contrast well with the darkness of the evil Demon.

Mother Goose: This Dame is unusual in pantomimes, being the central character of the story, and thus needing more than just the usual assortment of changes of costume. It's important that she looks very dowdy and poor at the beginning of the show - it's also funny if her country life-style is emphasised by her costume. I usually give her a brightly coloured striped cotton dress with patches on, with a big apron, a mob-cap with a few grey curls, striped stockings and big chelsea boots and maybe a pair of fingerless mittens. She could change into a big pair of wellington boots, a big macintosh and souwester when she goes out to fetch food for Priscilla. For the Goose Hall scene, when Mother Goose gets rich, she could change into a similar shaped dress, but made of a posher fabric, such as satin or moire. The main transformation for Mother Goose, however, comes when she enters the Magic Pool and is changed onto a glamorous lady. The difficulty here for the costume designer is to make her look glamorous but at the same time rather ludicrous, so that we quite understand how everyone prefers her as her old "real" self. You could give her a little girl costume, rather like "Baby Jane" in the film - a curly blond wig, a frilly dress with a sash, and girly shoes. Or alternatively, she could transform into a slinky, sexy woman with a tighter fitting lame dress and perhaps a feathered turban. Either way, the speed of the transformation will dictate to some extent what you can do in the way of a costume change - you will probably have to use velcro for the fastening, and because of the quick change, a turban headdress with dangly earrings attached is quite a good idea.

The Demon of Discontent: The Baddy of the pantomime should look really devilish, and you could give him a costume in black velvet, maybe a tunic with a high collar with dagged sleeves, black velvet leggings into knee-high black boots. He could have a Dracula-type wig with two small horns attached, or even a full black hood with the horns on, and of course a swirling black cloak looks very dramatic. The period style of the other characters doesn't apply to the Demon, and in fact, it works better if he looks quite other-worldly, even medieval, compared to the innocent fresh village people. You'll need to give him an assortment of hats as "disguises" - don't be concerned that these don't really hide his identity, as this is all part of the joke! The "Miracle Man", for example, could wear a traditional pointed wizard's hat.

Fairy Goosedown: This Fairy has a special affinity with Priscilla the Goose, and it looks good if her costume reflects this, rather than being just another fairy costume. If the actress

is young and attractive, you could give her a costume based on a tu-tu shape which incorporates some white feathers (which can be ostrich) in the skirt and maybe round the neck-line - marabou trim would work well for this. Her headdress could similarly have some white feathers in it, and even her wand. For a more mature actress, you could make a longer, mid-calf length dress also trimmed with white feathers, perhaps round the waist or the hem.

Jill Goodheart: Like her namesake in "Jack and the Beanstalk", Jill should look like the epitome of a fresh young village girl, though her costume should reveal that she is a class above the poverty-stricken Goose family! She is, after all, the Squire's daughter. I usually give her a full-skirted sprigged cotton chintz dress with a laced up bodice over a puff-sleeved white blouse with a ribboned hairband.

Squire Goodheart: As his name implies, the Squire should look like a pillar of the village society, middle class and dependable - but as it's panto, his costume can be exaggerated, and funny. I like to put him in a brightly checked plus-fours suit, with a Norfolk jacket, a deer-stalker hat, jazzy long socks and brogue shoes. Alternatively, if you want to give him more of a period look, he could have a cutaway coat, waistcoat, and breeches and buttoned gaiters, all in jolly colours, of course.

Billy Goose: Billy's costume should reflect his innocence, naivety and poverty without detracting from his appeal as the romantic hero - quite a tall order! A waistcoat over a full-sleeved shirt, high-waisted breeches with a false fall-fly and buttons at the knee, white stockings and buckle shoes, with an assortment of brightly coloured patches would be the kind of thing.

Priscilla The Goose: The goose needs to look as realistic as possible, bearing in mind that someone will be inside the costume, and because she is a very real character, who must engage the audience's sympathy, she should look sweet. There is a real skill in making an animal costume such as this - it really needs to be built up using a wire frame with fabric and preferably real white feathers applied on top. The actor inside could have yellow stockings and "goose" feet on, and on the head you could put a small bonnet. Ideally there should be some animation, such as blinking eyes or a beak that opens. If you feel all this is beyond the capabilities of your costume department, you may prefer to consider hiring the goose costume, particularly as she is such an important character!

King Gander: The King of Gooseland should look both kingly and rather goose-like. I usually give him a white satin cutaway coat, a white brocade waistcoat, white satin knee-breeches over white tights, and buckle shoes, and on top, a white feathered cape. On his head he could have a hood of white goose feathers, fastening under the chin, with a golden crown on the top.

CHORUS:

Villagers: For the opening scenes in the village, the Chorus need to look as bright and colourful as possible. Children can have an assortment of smock dresses with pinafores, with flowered headdresses, or knee-breeches, waistcoats and shirts, and peaked caps. The bigger girls could have skirts and blouses with velvet bodices and waist aprons, again with flowered headdresses, and any bigger boys could wear a larger version of the small boys, maybe with short jackets in addition.

Servants: The servants at Goose Hall should look quite grand, and maybe with costumes made in satins or silks (unlike the cottons of the village costumes). You could give them

footmens' costumes of cutaway coats, long waistcoats (these can be just fronts, tied behind at the waist, which saves time and fabric!), knee-breeches over white tights, and buckle shoes, and you could add white footmens' wigs. The two Maids could wear striped cotton dresses with aprons, and small, lacy mob-caps, white stockings and buckle shoes.

The Village Fete: You can either keep your Villagers in their basic costumes, or if budgets allow, you can dress them in Morris dancing costumes - more folksy, with ribbons and bells, and flower-trimmed hats.

The Puppet Man: He needs to look a bit of a showman - maybe a cutaway frock-coat in a very bright fabric, with a contrasting long waistcoat and breeches - rather theatrical!

Ghouls: These can be as simple or as elaborate as your time or budgets allow! They can look very effective in black leotards and tights, with a horror mask over the face, or you could go to town with a full costume in fur or patchwork, with wild wigs in garish colours, and again horror masks on top. If the lighting is atmospheric enough, (i.e. dark!), the audience will not see much detail in these costumes, so I would suggest you don't waste too much time on fine detail. One very simple effect is to paint skeleton bones onto black all-in-ones and use skull masks: with UV lighting this can look particularly effective.

Geese-girls: These are the members of the King's court in Gooseland, and it looks good if they have something of the goose about them! I usually dress them all in white, either long white dresses or more simply in white all-in-ones with a shoulder cape of white feathers, and a headdress of white feathers.

Goose-Guards: As with the girls, the guards at the King's court need to look a little goose-like. They could have appliqued tabards over white shirts and white tights, with white boots if budgets allow. You could use goose motifs for the applique, such as eggs or simple goose shapes, and if you wish, the sleeves of the shirts could be very full and frilled with ruched net to look a bit like white feathered wings. On their heads, they could have helmets of white goose feathers, or "hussar" type hats with white, ostrich feather plumes.

Goslings: The children in Gooseland should ideally be dressed in white too, maybe in simple costumes of white all-in-ones with white net skirts on the top, and small white feather headdresses.

A General Point About The Finale: The finale, or walkdown as some people call it, is a traditional feature of pantomime, and should be included if budgets will stretch that far. Sometimes the finale forms an essential part of the plot - for example, the wedding of the hero and heroine. However, more often than not it is seen as an opportunity to show off another set of costumes, which exceed in glamour, inventiveness and splendour those which have gone before! If budgets are tight, you may decide to do without a full-scale change of costume, preferring to make additions to the actor's working costumes. You will find that a very acceptable end to the show can be provided by giving the principal characters a glitzy cloak, or a smart hat to take their bow in. If you choose to do a full-scale finale, the usual way is to give each character a more splendid version of their main costume, often following a general colour theme - all in red and gold, or blue and silver, for example.

SCENERY AND PROP SUGGESTIONS

This section is intended to serve as a guide for the Stage Manager, Producer, and Designer. Please don't treat our recommendations as either essential or exhaustive, they are intended as a starting point. It is far better that you make the production your own, and unique to yourselves. So just because we've said you need a certain prop, or that some scenes should be in front cloths while others should be full stage, don't assume that that has to be. Only you know your capabilities in terms of facilities, budgets and staffing - so stick to what you know you can achieve. Although there seem to be a lot of scenes it would be perfectly feasible to use a basic "Woodland" set for scenes 1, 5, 8, and 11, adding different cut-out flats as required. The pantomime will work however you set it, and on whatever scale you and your fellows are comfortable at. So don't be fazed by the following...

PROLOGUE

The Prologue should be played down-stage of a title-cloth if one is available. Failing that any frontcloth or gauze, or even the tabs. If none of these are available use lighting to concentrate attention at the front of the stage. As pantomime tradition dictates, the Fairy operates DSR (Down-Stage-Right), with The Demon DSL. We like The Demon to carry a staff, which he later employs in his fight with Billy. A wooden curtain pole about 5' tall with a joke-shop rubber skull attached to the top looks good. (If you've a good prop-maker available a small battery and a bulb can make the skull's eyes light up!)

Props: FAIRY's Wand

DEMON's staff

SC 1: THE VILLAGE OF LITTLE HASSLE

This is the first main setting. A basic woodland set with a backcloth and cutcloths is ideal. You can then use profiled wing flats as various cottages - one of which should belong to Mother Goose. The goose-cart is not essential but does make a great first entrance for the Dame if possible. Billy's Magic Plant is simple to make: a large flower pot or urn, the stem a length of rope with green, fabric leaves attached at intervals; the pods are green, fabric bags. If the pot is set in front of a downstage wing flat the plant grows by means of fishing line tied to the top of the "stem" and pulled up by someone behind the flat.

Props: BILLY's Magic Plant (And sweets)
Watering can

MOTHER GOOSE's cart
SQUIRE's rent-book

SC 2, SC 4, SC 7, SC 14 & possibly SC 10: A LANE NEAR THE VILLAGE

If you have a suitable front cloth use it for all these scenes, (it wouldn't matter if it was a forest cloth), otherwise use tabs. Cut out shapes - bushes, a stile, a gate etc will help make the various locations look different.

SC 3: MOTHER GOOSE'S COTTAGE

You don't need the full stage for this scene, which needs to look like a poor woman's home. Basically all you need is a table, two chairs, and a stove. A dresser, or shelves to stand the small props, are nice but not essential. Priscilla's nest can be made either from a large dog basket or a small child's inflatable paddling pool, suitably covered with twigs or straw.

Props: Table and Two Chairs

PRISCILLA's nest and bowl

Props: Wares for the stalls
PUPPET MAN's drum

Punch and Judy puppets (Optional)
MOTHER GOOSE's riding crop

SC 10: THE FOREST OF DESOLATION

This is ideally a "Scary Forest" front cloth but, once again, you could use the same backing as scene 2. Good additions would be a pair of cut out twisted tree-trunks with distorted faces painted on them.

Props: Log/Bench

SC 11: THE WICKED WOOD

If you do not have a full-stage "Scary Forest" set then use your basic woodland set with the addition of more twisted tree-trunk flats. Another good effect, to add to the demonic feel, would be a large bonfire, with an electrical "flame-flicker". This is a scene where lighting effects can be crucial: use lots of red and purple to make the wood look "wicked"; let the fact that it is "The Demon's Disco" influence you!

Props: BILLY's quarterstaff

MOTHER GOOSE's handbag and mirror

SC 12: ON THE WAY TO GOOSELAND

As this scene is only an opportunity for Fairy Goosedown to speak, and Priscilla and the Goslings to dance, it is probably best played in front of tabs which can be flown out to reveal...

SC 13: KING GANDER'S PALACE

As big and glitzy set as you can afford! Could be easily done with a few sets of colourful tabs and swags, possibly with some "Goose Court" type cut outs. Upstage should be a rostrum with King Gander's throne with a suitable backing flat.

SC 14: A LANE NEAR THE VILLAGE

As Scene 2 with the addition of a songsheet.

SCENE 15: THE WEDDING AT GOOSE HALL

A Pantomime Walkdown - and as such can be whatever you can run to. You certainly want to use your rostras to run along the back of the stage, with some treads set in front for the actors to "come down". Thereafter decorate the stage to look as glittery as possible. By changing the name of the scene to "The Wedding of Billy and Jill" it can easily be played in the same set as Scene 13.

SOUND EFFECTS and LIGHTING

In the script we have indicated where sound effects would be beneficial by using the common abbreviation FX, and then describing what the effect should sound like. You'll find most of what you need on the BBC sound effect discs, though some of the stranger sounds will be amalgamations of several effects. If you get really stuck give us a call.

Suggestions as to what the lighting should be like, are contained within the script, but only every so often. Basically we've left this area to you to decide how you want it to look. There is usually a lighting designer or technician who has strong views on what can be achieved, so follow their advice. If however you do find that you are on your own, just remember the golden rule that all comedy must be lit brightly, and songs have more moody states than dialogue. Finally, always end a song with either a black-out, or a full-up.

Mother Goose - Sound Effects:

1. Thunder
2. Motorbike
3. Kettle Whistle
4. Thunder
5. ðAvon Callingö Doorbell
6. Wails and Spooky Sounds
7. Loud Wails
8. Groans
9. Branch Snapping
10. Weird Sound
11. Strange Sound

PANTOMIME MERCHANDISE

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From children's items costing little more than a few pence, to printed Tee-Shirts and quality souvenirs, we are pleased to send details of our complete range of products both general in appeal and specific to your production.

Some items are available on a 25% Sale or Return basis, and all at very low minimum orders.

Here is a small selection from our vast catalogue:

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Laser Wands	Cutlass & Eye Patch
Laser Tiaras	Foam Boo Hands
Cow Half Face Masks	Squaw Headdress
Cutie Cow Keyring	Pirate Flags
White Mice	Fabric Pirate Hat
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Crystal Slipper Keyrings	Union Jack Flags
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