

MOTHER GOOSE

A PANTOMIME BY

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CAST (in order of appearance.)

QUEEN OF GOOSELAND
 PRISCILLA
 GRIZELDA GOLD-DIGGER
 JACK GOOSE
 JILL (The Squire's Niece)
 SQUIRE STONEYHEART
 MOTHER GOOSE
 BILLY GOOSE
 MOUNTAIN BEAST
 PRIME MINISTER OF GOOSELAND

CHORUS OF VILLAGERS, SPIRITS OF THE BLUE GROTTO and PEOPLE OF GOOSELAND

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

SCENE 1 GOOSELAND
 SCENE 2 THE VILLAGE OF GANDERVILLE
 SCENE 3 OUTSIDE MOTHER GOOSE'S NEW HOUSE
 SCENE 4 MOTHER GOOSE'S KITCHEN
 SCENE 5 OUTSIDE MOTHER GOOSE'S NEW HOUSE
 SCENE 6 THE GOLDEN BALLROOM
 SCENE 7 OUTSIDE MOTHER GOOSE'S NEW HOUSE
 SCENE 8 ON THE WAY TO THE MAGIC GROTTO
 SCENE 9 THE MAGIC BLUE GROTTO

ACT TWO

SCENE 1 THE VILLAGE OF GANDERVILLE
 SCENE 2 ON THE WAY TO THE SNOW MOUNTAINS
 SCENE 3 THE SNOW MOUNTAINS
 SCENE 4 THE QUEEN OF GOOSELAND'S THRONEROOM
 SCENE 5 THE WAY HOME
 SCENE 6 THE GOLDEN BALLROOM

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NOTES ON THE PRODUCTION

Scenery for this production can be as elaborate or as simple as your facilities allow. Suggestions for the scene plot are as follows:

Act 1

- Scene 1 A small inset with black tabs to mask.
- Scene 2 A full set with backcloth or cyc. To one side is Mother Goose's cottage and to the other is a pub.
- Scene 3,5&7 A front cloth . or just use running tabs.
- Scene 4 A scene that need not be too big. Either a half way cloth of flats with just the required furniture and props.
- Scene 6 An elaborate ballroom that can double as the final scene of the show.
- Scene 8 BlackTabs if another front cloth is not available.
- Scene 9 This scene can be either a woodland scene or rock pieces. As it is night time, the scene can be backed by black tabs or, if possible a star cloth. Up stage centre should be a rostrum or platform that Mother Goose can stand on. Water effects are expensive and complicated, so if it is impractical to use one, a lighting effect or a silver slash curtain will work just as well.

Act 2

- Scene 1 Repeat the second scene of Act 1.
- Scene 2&5 A second front cloth, gauze or tabs can be used for this scene.
- Scene 3 This scene is purely for a dance routine and is very effective in portraying Jack's search for Gooseland. Ideally it should be a half stage set with snow covered rock wings and a cloud cloth. The wings stay in position for the next scene and the cloth flies out to reveal Gooseland and the Queen's throne. Alternatively, with a little alteration to the script, it can be played on the gauze . although this gives a limited amount of space for the dance sequence.
- Scene 4 Snow covered rock wings and a cyc backing. A large impressive throne dominate up stage centre. One of the rock pieces should have an opening for Grizelda to be imprisoned in, or she can just exit behind with possibly a smoke effect.
- Scene 6 Repeat the Golden Ballroom.

If stage and wing space is at a premium then Mother Goose's car can be a cutout, which she can carry on.

The kitchen scene can be as messy as the director (and actors) choose! It is sometimes advisable to have a floor covering around the table area. The radio explosion can be a sound effect or even a large balloon popping off stage.

The hot ash in the dustbin sequence is effective with a squirt from a smoke gun. Again, this is not necessary.

If a smoke gun or dry ice is available this adds tremendously to the Magic Grotto scene

If you have access to good sound equipment then sound effects such as Mother Goose's car, Priscilla's egg laying scene, the radio sequence and the Mountain Beasts roar add greatly to the show. However, these are not essential apart from the radio voice which is better done by two actors on an off stage microphone.

Finally Priscilla. If a full Goose costume is available and the size of stage allows it, this is the best effect. The simpler way is to have an actor with a goose costume top, wings attached to the arms, white tights and yellow feet, and a head piece with a little bonnet on for Act 1 and a small crown for Act 2. If the costume does not allow for egg laying then a strategic positioning by the Chorus covers this and the eggs can be rolled on from off stage.

The placing of the musical numbers and who sings them is suggested in the script, but it is up to the director to decide what to use. A word of advice: Pantomime audiences . particularly the younger members . like the story to keep moving, so don't make the musical sequences too long, especially the ballads.

I hope you enjoy doing this version of Mother Goose and have a great success with your production.

Stephen Duckham

ACT ONESCENE 1 GOOSELAND

[A light in the centre of the stage picks up PRISCILLA. Above her hangs the Golden Quill. Down stage right the QUEEN OF GOOSELAND enters.]

QUEEN My dear Priscilla. By the power vested in me as Queen of Gooseland and by the command of the Golden Quill, I am entrusting to you a task of the utmost importance. As the one special Golden Goose your magical powers can help people who have fallen on hard times. *[PRISCILLA nods her head.]* There is one such family in the village of Ganderville. Will you leave here and help them? *[PRISCILLA thinks for a moment and then nods.]* I knew I was right to ask this. You are kind and unselfish. There is no time to lose so prepare to leave at once.

[GRIZELDA GOLDDIGGER enters down left.]

GRIZELDA What's this? Sending your precious Golden Goose on a mercy mission?

QUEEN Grizelda Golddigger! You are not welcome here.

GRIZELDA Don't say you would turn your own sister away when she has come for a visit.

QUEEN I can no longer call you sister when you have destroyed all the trust I had in you.

GRIZELDA I can't think what you are talking about.

QUEEN Too many times you have tried to steal Priscilla for your own greedy ends.

GRIZELDA Can you blame me? That goose can create gold . and I love gold! Shining and shimmering all day and night. I would have everything made of gold. My house, my furniture . even the plates I eat off.

QUEEN And what good would it do you?

GRIZELDA When my friends come round they would see the luxury that surrounds me.

QUEEN Friends?

GRIZELDA Yes. I have three thousand five hundred and twenty friends on Facebook. They all adore me.

QUEEN Adore you, or what they could get from you?

GRIZELDA *[Sneering.]* You're just jealous. Just because you are Queen and hold the power of the Golden Quill doesn't mean you can criticise me.

- QUEEN I think deep down you are a very lonely person. *[SHE turns to PRISCILLA.]* Come Priscilla, we must prepare for your journey. Goodbye Grizelda.
- GRIZELDA *[The black tabs close cutting off the QUEEN and PRISCILLA.]* Lonely? I'm not lonely. But I've always wanted that Golden Goose and the power that goes with it. *[SHE produces a golden rope with a noose at one end.]* All I have to do is catch the Goose and then I could usurp my sister and claim the throne and the Golden Quill for myself. Ganderville I think I heard is where the bird is going. Now let me see. One of my minions is the Squire of that village. My power over him is such that I can make him do whatever I want. I'll devise a plan and use him to get the goose; then I shall have everything I ever wanted. *[SHE roars with laughter and exits down left as the QUEEN enters down right.]*
- QUEEN Now Priscilla start your journey and bring some happiness and prosperity to a dear old woman called Mother Goose.
- [PRISCILLA is seen flying across the proscenium arch as the lights fade and the scene changes to.....]*

SCENE 2 THE VILLAGE OF GANDERVILLE

[Stage right is Mother Goose's cottage with a practical door. Stage left is a village pub, also with a practical door and up stage left is an entrance big enough to get a panto car on. A dustbin stands upstage of MOTHER GOOSE'S cottage. It has no bottom to it and, if possible, smoke should be able to rise out of it. The CHORUS OF VILLAGERS is on singing.]

CHORUS NUMBER

[During the number JACK GOOSE enters.]

- JACK Hi everyone.
- ALL Hello Jack.
- 1st. MAN How are you today?
- JACK Well I've fed the chickens, milked the cow, cleaned out the stable and ploughed the lower field. Now I'm ready to enjoy myself for the rest of the day.
- [HE sings the rest of the number with the CHORUS. At the end of the number the 1st GIRL speaks to JACK.]*
- 1st. GIRL Jack, have you heard that the Squire is coming here today and that he intends to put up our rents?

JACK What?

2nd. MAN It's true. I've heard the same thing. He seems to have changed recently.
All he thinks about is money.

2nd. GIRL If we have to pay higher rents, we'll never have enough to live on.

3rd. MAN You know his niece Jill, don't you? What has she got to say about it?

JACK I don't know. She's due to meet me here any minute, so we'll ask her.

3rd. GIRL Here she comes. *[JILL enters.]*

JILL Hello everyone.

ALL Hello Jill.

JACK *[Getting romantic.]* Hello Jill. How are you today?

JILL All the better for being here.

4th. MAN Go on Jack, ask her.

ALL Yes - go on. etc.

JACK All right, all right.

JILL Ask me what?

JACK Well, we've heard that your uncle, the Squire, is coming here today to put
up our rents.

JILL Oh - I'm afraid it's true.

ALL What? But he can't. It's not right. etc.

JILL I've begged and begged him not to do it, but he won't listen to me. I don't
know what the matter is with him lately. He had a visit some days ago
from a very strange man and since then he seems to have changed. He
shouts at everyone and keeps talking about making more money. I just
can't understand it.

SQUIRE *[Off.]* Jill. Is that you?

JACK Look, here he comes. *[The SQUIRE enters.]*

SQUIRE *[Gruffly.]* What are you doing mixing with these peasants?

JILL But uncle, they're my friends.

SQUIRE *[Sneering.]* Friends? You can't be friends with these rag-a-muffins.

- Remember who you are. *[HE looks at JACK.]* Who's that?
- JILL It's Jack. Mother Goose's son.
- SQUIRE Mother Goose eh? She's on my list for a rent increase. *[HE takes out a scroll. It unrolls and one end lands on his foot.]* Ow!
- JACK But you can't put up our rent. We pay enough now. Anymore and we'll go bankrupt.
- SQUIRE *[Shouting and moving towards JACK.]* Good, then I'll throw you and your family out and get in some tenants who can pay.
- JILL Uncle you can't.
- SQUIRE I can and I will.
- ALL But it's just not fair. etc.
- SQUIRE You might as well get used to the idea. You're all going to have your rent doubled. *[Gasps all round. He smiles sweetly.]* Correction. Sorry I seem to have made a mistake. *[Suddenly bellowing again.]* Trebled!
- JACK You can't do that.
- SQUIRE Just try and stop me. Now is not the winter of discounted rents! *[ALL moan.]* Now clear off all of you. I'll be around later for your money. *[CHORUS start to exit. HE speaks to Jill.]* I'm just off to do a spot of peasant shooting!
- MAN Don't you mean *pheasant*?
- SQUIRE *[Face to face with the MAN.]* I know what I mean!
[CHORUS exit.]
- JILL Uncle, what has come over you? You never used to be like this. Ever since that strange woman came to visit you, you've changed.
- SQUIRE Nonsense. I don't know what you're talking about. I have a position to hold and a job to do. And part of that job is collecting the rents. *[HE starts to sound like GRIZELDA.]* I must have more money. Lots and lots of lovely money.
- JILL *[Weeping.]* Oh uncle.
- SQUIRE Don't start all that weeping. Remember how I took you in and gave you a good home after your parents died? I should have thought you would have been with me in this matter instead of siding with this peasant. *[HE exits.]*

- JILL Oh Jack, why is he like this?
- JACK I don't know. But I do know this, one day I shall make my fortune and be able to give you everything that you want. I'll show that uncle of yours that I am worthy of you.
- JILL Jack, I don't care whether you're a prince or a pauper, I love you just as you are.

DUET - JACK & JILL

[At the end of the song there is a loud noise off stage of a car engine, car backfiring and a car horn. MOTHER GOOSE enters in a car. As always, SHE is wearing an outrageous dress and has a bonnet with a mass of feathers around the brim. SHE also has a shopping bag with her.]

- M G Help! Help! I can't stop! *[The car rolls across the stage and is stopped by JACK and JILL. If possible the bonnet should pop open with a bang.]*
- JACK Mother, what's happened?
- M G The brakes broke. *[SHE gets out of the car.]* Ooooooh, my bottom gear will never be the same again. Thank you for stopping me my dears. Oh look - *[SHE adjusts her bust.]* I've had a nasty bump in a built up area!
- JACK Isn't it about time you took your driving test?
- M G I did take it, but I failed for running over a rabbit.
- JILL You can't fail for running over a rabbit.
- M G You can if it's hanging in the butchers window. Now where's that good for nothing brother of yours? *[SHE calls.]* Billy! Billy, where are you? Have you seen him today?
- JACK No mother. He was still in bed when I went down to plough the lower field.
- M G That lazy so and so. I wanted him to help me unload the car.
- JILL We'll do that for you, Mother Goose.
- M G Oh what good children you are. *[JACK and JILL take the parcels from the back of the car into the house stage right. MOTHER GOOSE gets her shopping bag.]* Oh dear, what a day.....*[SHE spots the audience and does a double take.]* Oh hello. You are there. I thought you were just a pigment of my infatuation! Just arrived have you? On a day trip? *[Local coach firm.]* special is it? Well welcome to our little village. As you've probably guessed I'm Mother Goose. I live here with my two sons Back and Jilly - er I mean Jack and Billy! We're very happy but we're very poor. *["Ah!" from audience.]* We're a lot poorer than that! I'm a widow you know. My

dear old husband left me twenty-five years ago. I sent him to the shops for a cabbage and he never came back. *[SHE starts to get tearful.]* It was terrible. *[Then normal voice.]* I had to open a can of peas!! . Mind you I do miss him. He was always full of good advice. It was him who said to me ~~never~~ take a laxative and sleeping pill on the same night! *Reaction with audience.]* Anyway I've just been shopping but I do hate it at this time of the year, don't you girls. There are crowds of people everywhere. All that pushing and shoving. I was in 'Toy Boys R Us' when a big burly man picked me up and shouted 'Where do you put the batteries?' I wouldn't have minded, but the assistant told him! Ooooh! But I do like a bargain. I'll buy anything that's marked down. Last week I came home with an escalator! What do you think of the hat? It's made out of real goose feathers. I picked it up for a *poultry* sum! Anyway, while I was shopping I popped into . *[Local store.]* . and picked up a few sweeties, but I think I overdid it. *[SHE takes out a large bag of sweets from her shopping bag.]* I can't eat all these - I have to watch my figure. Well, nobody else will. Would you like some? *[Audience shouts out.]* All right. I'll get my friends to help me. Boys. Could you give me a hand? *[The CHORUS BOYS enter.]* Thank you boys. How are you today?

1st. BOY Fine Mother Goose. How are you?

M G All the better for seeing you. Ah, but you're all so young. I remember when your fathers used to come and call for me and take me to all those exotic places in town. The 'Pig and Whistle', the 'Butchers Arms'. Yes, there's many a happy night I've spent in the butchersqarms. Playing darts or scrumming down with the local rugger team.

SONG - DAME AND CHORUS BOYS

[At the end of the song MOTHER GOOSE crosses to her house.] Take the car to the garage will you boys? Tell them I want my big end sorting out. I'm going to find that lazy son of mine. Billy.

[The BOYS push the car off UL. MOTHER GOOSE exits into her house. BILLY peeps around the DR entrance.]

BILLY Hi folks. Has she gone? *[HE crosses C.]* Thank goodness for that. She only wants me to do some chores around the house and I've not stopped since I got up about half an hour ago. First I had to have a wash, then I got dressed, and then I had my breakfast. I'm ready for a nap now. That's my problem. I'm always falling asleep and my mum gets really mad with me. I say, do you think you could help me? If you see me dozing off could you wake me up? Just shout out "wake up, Billy". Could you do that? You know what we're going to do now, don't you? That's right, we're going to practice it. I'll pretend to doze off and you shout. *[HE pretends to sleep. Audience shouts.]* Have you done it yet? That'll never wake me. You've got to be much louder. Let's try again. *[Repeat business.]* That's great. Thank you very much.

M G *[Off.]* Billy! Where are you?

BILLY Oh heck, it's my mum. She's after me to do some chores. I'll have to hide - but where?

[HE sees a dustbin up stage of the house and jumps in it. MOTHER GOOSE enters from the house carrying a dustpan.]

M G Where is that boy? You know I felt sure I heard his voice a minute ago. Have you seen him? *[Audience starts to shout. BILLY lifts the lid and "shushes" them. The dustbin has no bottom to enable BILLY to move about. There now follows the "it's behind you" routine.]* He's behind me? Where, over here? *[SHE crosses UR as BILLY in the bin runs UL.]* Oh you mean over here. *[SHE crosses UL as BILLY runs back UR.]* He's not here. *[SHE crosses back DC.]* Oh boys and girls, you're having me on. I must get on. I'm cleaning out the fireplace and I've got to empty these hot ashes in the dustbin. *[SHE crosses to the bin, lifts the lid and tips the contents of the pan in. Smoke starts to rise from the bin.]*

BILLY Help! Help! I'm burning, I'm burning! *[At this moment a CHORUS BOY enters from the pub stage left carrying a tray with a glass and soda siphon on. In one move MOTHER GOOSE takes the siphon and squirts it into the bin, puts the siphon back, picks up the glass and downs the contents in one, replaces the glass and the BOY exits.]* Help! Help! I'm drowning, I'm drowning! *[MOTHER GOOSE takes him by the ear as HE climbs out of the bin.]*

M G I might have guessed it would be you. Where have you been? I've been looking for you all over the place, you lazy good for nothing. I need some help with the housework.

BILLY Don't worry, mum. I'll see to that for you.

M G You mean you'll help your poor old mum?

BILLY No, but I know a man who can.

M G Oh you get worse. Now get in there and start work. I want the windows washed, the garden dug, the floors swept *ō ō ō* . *[SHE continues listing household chores. BILLY falls asleep. Audience shouts out. BILLY wakes.]*

BILLY Thanks a lot.

M G *ō ō* I want you to defrost the dog and de-flea the fridge and when you're done all that I want you to put all the recycling out. *[To the audience.]* We're very green in Ganderville you know.

BILLY Mum, that's an awful lot of work. Don't you think it would be a good idea to get in some hired help?

M G Hired help? Hired help? Do you know how much that would cost? Where

am I going to get the money to pay for hired help? Haven't you heard that the Squire is coming for his rent today and where do you think I'm going to get that from?

BILLY Don't you worry about the Squire. He can't keep coming around here and putting the rents up. *[The SQUIRE enters. BILLY doesn't see him.]* When I see him I'm going to give him a piece of my mind. I'll go up to him and I'll show him a karate chop and I'll say o o *[HE turns and sees the SQUIRE.]* Oh hello Squire pleased to meet you! *[HE dashes off.]*

M G Hello Squire pleased to meet you? What good will that do? *[SHE turns and sees the SQUIRE.]* Oh hello Squire pleased to meet you!

SQUIRE Ah, Mother Goose. I've been looking everywhere for you.

M G *[To audience.]* Oh I think I've clicked.

SQUIRE My dear lady, according to my records . *[HE unrolls his scroll, again dropping it on his foot.]* . ooow! - you owe three years back rent which, in case you haven't heard, has been trebled.

M G Trebled? You must be from *[Local council.]*

SQUIRE Where's the rent?

M G What won the 3.30 at Haydock Park?

SQUIRE I'm not interested in what won the 3.30 at Haydock Park.

M G You should be, your rent was on it.

SQUIRE This is your last warning. If you don't pay up by the end of the day, you and your family will be evicted, ousted, removed, *[HE crosses to the exit.]* transplanted, ejected, thrown out onto the street. *[HE exits. MOTHER GOOSE crosses to the exit.]*

M G Why you o o o o *[The SQUIRE returns.]*

SQUIRE Do I make myself perfectly plain?

M G I'll just pop a few things into a case. *[The SQUIRE exits. SHE crosses dramatically around the stage.]* Oh he's resolute. He'll persecute. We'll be destitute. I'll be pros o o trate with grief! Oh what's to become of us? We'll be ruined . ruined. All together now - RUINED!!! *[SHE exits into the house. The QUEEN enters down right.]*

QUEEN Poor Mother Goose, life has been hard for your, so it's time for some good luck to come your way. That is why I have arranged for Priscilla to come and live here with the Goose family. Come along Priscilla. Come and see your new home. *[PRISCILLA enters upstage and crosses down centre.]* Now pretend to be lost and looking for somewhere to stay. It's

time to meet the Goose family. *[The QUEEN exits. PRISCILLA looks around and then crosses to Mother Goose's door and knocks with her beak.]*

M G *[Off.]* I'm out! *[PRISCILLA knocks again.]* Go away, I'm watching Coronation Street! *[SHE comments on a topical item. PRISCILLA knocks again and stands upstage of the door. MOTHER GOOSE enters.]* There's no one there. I'm sure I heard someone knocking. *[Audience reacts. PRISCILLA crosses down and nudges MOTHER GOOSE.]* Oh, what a big budgie! Whatever are you? *[PRISCILLA whispers.]* A goose? I'd bet you can eat more than three Shredded Wheat! A goose, eh? That's the same as my name. Pleased to meet you. *[BOTH curtsey to each other. Ratchet sound as MOTHER GOOSE rises.]* What's your name? *[PRISCILLA whispers.]* Pollyfilla!! That's a funny name. *PRISCILLA shakes her head.]* Oh, it's not Pollyfilla. Sorry. *[PRISCILLA whispers again.]* Godzilla!! *[PRISCILLA stamps her foot and whispers again.]* Oh, Priscilla. What a pretty name. Tell me, what are you doing here in our village? *[PRISCILLA whispers.]* You're lost? *[PRISCILLA nods.]* Well I must try and find your mummy and daddy. *[PRISCILLA looks down sadly.]* No mummy or daddy? How sad. *[SHE starts to cry.]* And you've got nowhere in the world to stay? *[PRISCILLA shakes her head. MOTHER GOOSE cries even louder. PRISCILLA cries and water shoots from her eyes.]* Oh here, stop crying now and blow your nose. *[SHE takes out a large hanky and puts it to PRISCILLA'S beak. Loud noise. MOTHER GOOSE holds up the hanky – there is a large hole in it.]* What a shame. Nowhere to live. Shall I let her stay with me boys and girls? *[Reaction.]* Well that's settled then. You can stay here and become one of the family. *[PRISCILLA runs around dancing for joy.]* Now I must introduce you to everyone. Jack, Billy. Where are you? *[JACK and BILLY enter followed by JILL and the CHORUS.]* Look boys, I want you to meet my new friend.

BILLY Mother! We'd never get her in the oven!

M G You stupid boy. This is Priscilla. We're not going to eat her. She's going to be one of the family.

JACK Oh mother, whoever heard of a goose for a sister?

M G Well you've got a monkey for a brother.

JILL She is lovely Mother Goose. Where is she from?

M G I don't know, but I bet she's starving. Billy, get that bucket of golden corn and give her something to eat.

BILLY OK. *[HE gets a bucket from UR and feeds PRISCILLA. SHE eats very quickly. ALL move in to watch her. BILLY turns the bucket upside down.]* My word. She must have been hungry. *[HE puts the bucket away. Suddenly PRISCILLA starts quacking and running around the stage.]*

M G What's happening? *[PRISCILLA ends DL and lays a golden egg. JILL*

picks it up.]

- JILL Look everyone, she's laid an egg.
- M G What a clever girl. Isn't a granny.
- BILLY It looks a bit off to me. It's yellow.
- JACK That's not yellow. It's gold.
- ALL Gold! *[PRISCILLA quacks and runs around the stage again ending up DR. SHE lays a larger egg. JACK picks it up.]*
- JACK She's done it again!
- M G Twins!
- JACK This one's even larger. *[PRISCILLA quacks and runs around again, this time ending UL. SHE strains and strains. ALL go with the motion. There is a loud bang (or maroon) and SHE moves away to reveal the biggest egg.]*
- BILLY *[Picking it up and staggering.]* Look at the size of it!
[PRISCILLA walks slightly knock kneed down stage.]
- JACK Mum, you do realise that with these golden eggs our money troubles are over.
- JILL Jack's right. You're rich beyond your wildest dreams.
- BILLY Does that mean we can live happily ever after?
- JACK Yes.
- BILLY Well, that's the end of the story then. *[To the audience.]* We hope you enjoyed yourselves. Ta ta all!
- M G No no, we must celebrate and have a big party. Thanks to Priscilla we shall never want for anything again! Three cheers for Priscilla.
- BILLY May she never be egg bound!
- M G Hip hip .
- ALL Hooray. Etc.

COMPANY NUMBER

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

SCENE 3 OUTSIDE MOTHER GOOSE'S NEW HOUSE

[A front cloth scene. GRIZELDA enters DL carrying the rope.]

- GRIZELDA So, the magic bird has arrived and is now living with Mother Goose. That will work well with my plan. Now I will get my servant, the Squire to carry out the next part. Come here my willing one and do my bidding. *[SHE makes a pass and the SQUIRE enters R. in a trance.]* Listen to what I say and carry out my every wish.
- SQUIRE I hear and obey, oh mistress. *[QUEEN enters DR. GRIZELDA hides the rope.]*
- QUEEN Hold on there. Nothing this pathetic creature can do will help you get to Mother Goose. She is in my protection so long as Priscilla is with her. *[SHE starts to get carried away.]* No matter how much you try, how much you scheme, Mother Goose will never part with Priscilla. Haven't you realised yet that the powers of goodness will always triumph and evil will always be thwarted?
- GRIZELDA Have you quite finished, Dame Judy Dench? With over acting like that you ought to be at the *[Name of a rival theatre or company.]* Now why don't you run along and play with the pixies and elves.
- QUEEN Oh you can sneer all you like, but I've only one thing more to say to you: *[SHE exits.]* Hands off the goose!
- GRIZELDA Thank goodness for that. Now, where were we? *[Turning back to the SQUIRE.]* Ah yes, I was just telling you to carry out my every wish. You must acquire Mother Goose's confidence. Get in her good books; get her to trust you. Only then can I start to put the rest of my plan into action. But look, here she comes. Remember that you answer only to me and must obey my every command. *[SHE makes a pass and exits. The SQUIRE comes out of his trance as MOTHER GOOSE enters R.]*
- SQUIRE Ah, dear lady. How are you today?
- M G None the better for seeing you . and don't think you're getting any more rent out of me. I'm fully paid up and no more in arrears of my arrears.
- SQUIRE Quite so, quite so.
- M G And besides I now own my own *[des res]* What do you think of the place?
- SQUIRE Magnificent. Quite magnificent. I was just admiring it when you came along. It must have cost a fortune.
- M G It did. Mind you I can afford it now. I've got a little nest egg so to speak.

- SQUIRE Oh it must be wonderful to have money. *[MOTHER GOOSE stares at him as he pleads poverty.]* I mean everyone thinks I'm well off because I'm the Squire. But things are so expensive these days. And the taxes! There's land tax, property tax, and capital gains tax, not to mention VAT and PAYE! And I'm still paying off my student loan! Oh it's a hard life.
- M G Well if you're down on your uppers, how would you like to make some easy money?
- SQUIRE Easy money? I should say so.
- M G Are you a betting man?
- SQUIRE I've been known to have a little flutter.
- M G There's no answer to that! Anyway, I'll bet you a fiver that I can prove that you're not here.
- SQUIRE *[Aside.]* The woman's mad. All those eggs must have addled her brain. *[To her.]* Of course I'm here. I just saw myself getting off the number nine bus.
- M G Is it a bet then?
- SQUIRE Certainly. *[THEY both hold money out.]* All right, prove I'm not here.
- M G Well you're not in London, are you?
- SQUIRE No, of course I'm not in London!
- M G And you're not in Paris?
- SQUIRE How observant. No, I'm not in Paris.
- M G And you're not in Vienna?
- SQUIRE I'm definitely not in Vienna.
- M G Well, if you're in none of those places I surmise you must be somewhere else.
- SQUIRE The woman's so brilliant! Yes, I must be somewhere else.
- M G And if you're somewhere else, you can't be here. *[SHE takes his money and exits R.]*
- SQUIRE What? The nerve of it. I'll have to try that on some unsuspecting idiot and get my money back.
- [BILLY enters L.]*
- BILLY Hello Squire. What are you up to?

- SQUIRE *[Looking Heavenward.]* Thank you! Ah Billy, I've just been working out an absolutely marvellous way to make money. Do you want to have a go?
[BILLY has fallen asleep. Audience reacts.]
- BILLY Thank you. *[To SQUIRE.]* Sorry Squire, what were you saying?
- SQUIRE I said I've just been working out an absolutely marvellous way to make money. Do you want to have a go?
- BILLY Oh yes please. I never get enough pocket money off my mother. What do I do?
- SQUIRE Well, I will bet you ten pounds that I can prove you're not here.
[BILLY stares at him. Then looks at himself and all around where he is standing. He then looks at the audience and taps his forehead as though miming "nutcase".]
- BILLY All right Squire, here's my money. Now prove to me that I'm not here.
[THEY both hold money out.]
- SQUIRE Well you're not in Oddington?
- BILLY No, I'm not in Oddington.
- SQUIRE And you're not in Dymchurch?
- BILLY No, I'm not in Dymchurch.
- SQUIRE And you're not in Little Hampton?
- BILLY No, and I've no intentions of going to Little Hampton!
- SQUIRE Well, if you're in none of those places you must be somewhere else.
- BILLY Of course I must.
- SQUIRE And if you're somewhere else, you're not here. *[Takes money.]* Thank you very much. *[HE exits L.]*
- BILLY What a swindle. I've been diddled out of my dosh! I've got to get it back somehow. Ah, look who's coming. *[MOTHER GOOSE enters R.]*
- M G Billy, what are you doing stood standing there? Waiting for a cup of tea?
- BILLY No, I'm waiting for a mug.
- M G Well, you won't find any around here.

BILLY Oh I shouldn't be too sure! How would you like to make me some easy money?

M G What?

BILLY I mean, how would you like to make some easy money?

M G *[Giving the audience a knowing look.]* Oh I don't know. I hardly know what to do with all that love got now.

BILLY That's not fair. I only want the chance to earn a bit more pocket money.

M G Oh go on then. What do I do?

BILLY I will bet you twenty pounds that I can prove that you're not here.

M G *[To the audience.]* You know love got that feeling of déjà vu! *[To BILLY.]* Go on then, prove love not here! *[THEY both hold money out.]*

BILLY Right here goes. Now you're not in erō ò Upper Wallop?

M G No, love not in Upper Wallop!

BILLY And you're not in Lower Wallop?

M G No Billy, love not in Lower Wallop!

BILLY And you're not in Middle Wallop?

M G Love not in any Wallop!

BILLY Well if you're not in any of those places, you must be somewhere else.

M G Of course I must.

BILLY And if you're somewhere else, you're not here.

M G Quite right! *[SHE takes money and starts to exit.]*

BILLY Just a minute. That's my money. Love just won that. You're nicking my notes.

M G Don't be silly. How could I be nicking your notes? Love not here.

[SHE exits followed by BILLY as the lights fade and the scene changes to.....]

SCENE 4 MOTHER GOOSE'S KITCHEN

[There is a table centre with things for the baking scene underneath. A clotheshorse stands to the right with BILLY asleep behind it. Up left is a work unit with a radio on it. Also a goldfish bowl with water and a fish in it – (a piece of carrot will do.) – and a vase of roses. The CHORUS is on as maids and servants doing a number.]

CHORUS NUMBER

[At the end of the number JACK, JILL and PRISCILLA enter.]

JACK Hi everyone. How are you enjoying working for my mother?

1st. GIRL It's great Jack. She's so kind.

2nd. GIRL And we love seeing Priscilla every day.

JILL There you are Priscilla, you've got a fan club. *[PRISCILLA walks around with pride.]*

JACK We've just come to give her her daily feed of golden corn.

1st. MAN We'd do that for you Jack. We've finished tidying up in here.

JACK Thanks very much.

2nd. MAN This way, Priscilla. *[CHORUS and PRISCILLA exit.]*

JILL Oh Jack, I'm so glad that everything has worked out well for your family. Your good fortune has helped the village. You know most of the people who used to work for my uncle have left him to come here.

JACK Oh dear, I bet that made him mad.

JILL I don't know. Some of the time he's all sweetness and light and the other times he seems to walk around in a trance getting very angry. I don't know what to make of him.

JACK Well, just so long as he doesn't try and stop me seeing you.

JILL Nothing will ever do that Jack. *[MOTHER GOOSE enters. SHE wears an apron.]*

M G Hello you two. Have you come to help me with the preparations for tonight's party?

JILL Well I would like to, but I'm afraid I'm a terrible cook.

JACK And I've got very warm hands. No good for baking!

M G Mmm. I wonder where they've been to get so warm! Oh go on with you both. I'd get that lazy brother of yours to give me a hand.

JACK Thanks mum. See you later. *[JACK and JILL exit.]*

M G Billy. Billy, where are you? *[There is a snore from behind the clotheshorse. MOTHER GOOSE moves it to one side to reveal BILLY.]* Look at that. Asleep again! *[Audience reacts. BILLY wakes up.]*

BILLY Thanks very much. Hello mum, I was just seeing if the washing was dry.

M G The washing may be dry, but don't think I'm still wet behind the ears! Now come and help me get the food ready for tonight's party.

BILLY OK. What do I do first?

M G Get me all the ingredients. *[BILLY exits and returns with a small box. During the following MOTHER GOOSE gets the table ready with things from underneath.]*

BILLY I don't know, I've never seen anything like it.

M G What.

BILLY This lot. Eating away ten to the dozen.

M G Who are?

BILLY *[Showing her the box.]* These greedy ants!

M G I said ingredients, not greedy ants. *[SHE clips him around the ears.]* Now I need a little flour.

BILLY A little flower. *[HE gets a rose from the vase and holds it out in front of her.]*

M G That's very sweet of you, but what am I supposed to do with it?

BILLY You said you wanted a little flower.

M G I meant a bag of flour, not a rose.

BILLY It's not a rose, it's a hyacinth!

M G It's a rose.

BILLY It's a hyacinth!

M G Very well clever clogs. Spell hyacinth.

BILLY Erō ō It's a rose!

M G *[Grabbing the rose and hitting him with it.]* Stop wasting time and get me some water. *[MOTHER GOOSE gets flour from under the table and puts it in a mixing bowl. BILLY crosses to the goldfish bowl, takes out the*

carrot fish and brings the bowl to the table.]

- BILLY *[To the "fish".]* Sorry to disturb you.
- M G Now we pour some of the water in. *[SHE takes the goldfish bowl and pours some water, then gives it back to BILLY who puts the "fish" back in and returns it to the work unit.]*
- BILLY *[To "fish".]* Thanks very much!
- M G Now I need some eggs.
- BILLY *[Picking up an egg from the work unit.]* Here you are. *[HE throws it to MOTHER GOOSE.]*
- M G Oh Billy, don't throw it. I was never any good at cricket! *[SHE catches the egg and puts it in the bowl as BILLY throws another one.]* Billy stop it and bring the third one over here.
- BILLY All right mum. *[HE crosses to the table, trips and smashes the egg on the table.]*
- M G Now look what you've done!
- BILLY I'm sorry. I got carried away.
- M G You'd be carried away unconscious if you're not careful.
- BILLY I'm very, very, very, very sorry. I'll clear it up immediately if not sooner. *[HE wipes the egg off the table with one hand and puts all the mess in the other hand.]* Are you cross with me?
- M G Cross? Of course I'm cross. You've made a right mess of my new Ikea kitchen.
- BILLY But look I've cleaned it all up. Would it help if I said I was very sorry?
- M G I don't know about that.
- BILLY Please.
- M G Well õ õ I don't know.
- BILLY Palsy walsy again?
- M G All right. Palsy Walsy.
- BILLY Shake on it! *[THEY shake. MOTHER GOOSE gets egg on her hands.]*
- M G You little terror! Look at what a mess I'm in. Billy Goose I'm going to get you for this! *[SHE starts to chase him around the kitchen.]*

- BILLY Hey, keep away from me. *[HE picks up a blown egg from the unit.]* I've got another egg here. Want to catch?
- M G Don't you dare throw it.
- BILLY They call these 'chucky eggs'.
- M G Why do they call them 'chucky eggs'?
- BILLY Because you can chuck 'em! *[HE throws the egg, which misses MOTHER GOOSE as she ducks and goes into the audience.]* Oh I'm terribly sorry madam, but you should have kept your mouth shut!
- M G Billy, stop all this. We're short now for the recipe. *[To the member of the audience.]* You couldn't cough it up for me, could you? *[THEY cross back to the table.]*
- BILLY What next?
- M G Beat it!
- BILLY If that's what you want. *[HE starts to exit.]*
- M G Where are you going?
- BILLY You told me to beat it!
- M G I didn't mean beat it, you potty party preparer. I meant beat the mixture. Here, use this whisk.
- BILLY Well why didn't you say. *[HE takes the whisk and beats the mixture. It goes all over MOTHER GOOSE'S face.]*
- M G Hey, look what you're doing. *[SHE hits him. HE drops the bowl behind the table and picks up an identical one with dough in it.]*
- BILLY There we are. All done.
- M G Now we have to knead the dough.
- BILLY Do what?
- M G Knead the dough.
- BILLY If you say so. *[HE climbs onto the table and kneels on the dough.]*
- M G What are you doing?
- BILLY I'm kneading the dough!
- M G Not like that. Really, you'd drive me out of my mind.

BILLY Well you won't have far to go, will you?

M G *[Looking at her watch or the clock.]* Oh look at the time. There's a new cooking programme on the radio. Turn it on and see what the recipe is.

[BILLY turns on the radio and FEMALE VOICE is heard.]

RADIO Good morning ladies.

BILLY I'm not a lady!

RADIO I wasn't talking to you.

BILLY What a cheek.

RADIO Today I'm going to give you the recipe for sausage rolls.

M G Oh splendid. Just what I need for tonight's party.

BILLY I don't like sausage rolls.

RADIO If Mother Goose wants sausage rolls, Mother Goose can have sausage rolls.

M G So there, Billy Goose. Now shut it and listen to the recipe.

RADIO You will need a large baking tray, lightly greased.

M G *[Getting a baking tray from under the table.]* Here we are. Now then, grease. *[SHE looks at BILLY.]* Ah, I know. *[SHE grabs his head and rubs his hair on the baking tray.]*

BILLY *[Protesting.]* Owwww!

RADIO Now the next thing you need is two pounds of sausage meat.

M G It's in the larder. I'll get it while you clean up in here. *[SHE exits.]*

RADIO Yes, you clean up in here! This kitchen is a disgrace!

BILLY Cheek! *[HE hits the radio again and there is a whistling sound.]* Oh dear, I've lost the station. *[HE fiddles with the radio until a MALE VOICE comes on.]* There we are.

RADIO Hello. This is Radio Five Live with a beginner's guide to football.

BILLY What? *[MOTHER GOOSE re-enters with the sausage meat in a large ball. NB: You will need a real ball painted to represent sausage meat for the following scene.]*

M G Here's the sausage meat.

RADIO Now follow these instructions.

M G Good grief, what's happened to her voice?

BILLY *[In a panic.]* Must have a cold! *[To the radio.]* What now?

RADIO First we have to warm up. Without a proper warm up you could suffer a severe injury like breaking a leg.

M G How can you break a leg making sausage rolls?

BILLY He's, I mean she's the expert.

M G I suppose you're right. Here goes then. *[THEY both do some physical warm ups.]*

RADIO Now jog around and gently throw it to one another.

BILLY Come on. *[THEY run around throwing the sausage meat.]*

M G This can't be right!

RADIO Now kick it to one another.

M G Kick it? I don't know what Delia Smith would say! *[THEY kick the sausage meat to one another.]* That's enough. Now what?

RADIO Do a few headers.

M G Headers?

BILLY Of course. Now, I'll throw and you head it. *[HE throws the sausage meat and she heads it back. THEY repeat this a few times.]*

M G Oh no more. I'm getting dizzy.

RADIO And the final stage is to dribble.

M G Whattle?

RADIO Put it on the floor between your feet and dribble.

M G This makes no sense, but here goes. *[SHE puts the sausage meat on the floor, kneels down and starts to dribble over it.]*

BILLY Eeeeeer! Not that kind of dribble. This is dribbling. *[HE dribbles the ball of sausage meat around the kitchen like a football.]*

RADIO That's good. Now line up with your target . . . and shoot!

- M G What?
- RADIO Shoot. Shoot! [*MOTHER GOOSE picks up a pistol from under the table and shoots three times. (These could be rim shots.)*]
- M G Well, that's the most ridiculous way of making sausage rolls.
- RADIO Sausage rolls? I was giving you a beginner's lesson in playing football!
- M G What? [*BILLY starts to creep off stage.*] Billy, this is all your doing. [*SHE picks up the rolling pin and starts to chase him.*] Wait till I catch you. [*SHE goes to hit him – HE ducks and her face lands in a pile of cream on the table. SHE chases him again and he backs towards the unit. SHE raises the rolling pin and he quickly moves so it lands on the unit. This is repeated. The third time BILLY ducks and exits and MOTHER GOOSE brings the rolling pin down on the radio which explodes.*]
- The lights Blackout and the scene changes to.....*

SCENE 5 OUTSIDE MOTHER GOOSE'S NEW HOUSE

[Thunder. The GRIZELDA enters DL.]

- GRIZELDA Ha ha! Remember me? Oh shut up you lot. You must admit it was clever getting the Squire to do all my dirty work for me. Mother Goose may be rich now but when I get my hands on that overgrown budgie she will be penniless and homeless.
- [QUEEN enters DR.]*
- QUEEN That's what you think, but your plans will soon come to nothing.
- GRIZELDA Oh dear sister, you have such a high opinion of yourself, but you'll have to go a long way to beat me. Remember at school my magic spells were always more successful than yours.
- QUEEN If, by successful, you mean the time you turned the candles on Professor Singe's birthday cake into a flame thrower and burning down the science lab .
- GRIZELDA *[Laughing with excitement.]* Oh wasn't that a laugh. Old Professor Singe was well and truly singed!
- QUEEN Try anything like that again and you will not get away with it. I give you one last warning, keep out of my domain and away from my Golden Goose. *[SHE exits.]*
- GRIZELDA You know she gets right up my nose. But nothing she says will stop my plotting and scheming . and here comes my willing helper for more instructions.

[The SQUIRE enters.]

- SQUIRE Oh it's you again. You know every time that I talk to you I have the strangest feeling come over me. So if you don't mind I'd be on my way.
[GRIZELDA puts him in a trance.]
- GRIZELDA Not so fast, Squire. I have some more work for you to do. Mother Goose is holding a party at her new house this evening. Here is an invitation for you. *[Gives him an invitation.]* I want you to get close to her. Flatter her; tell her how gorgeous she is.
- SQUIRE *[Coming out of his trance.]* WHAT??
- GRIZELDA *[Making a pass. The SQUIRE goes back into a trance.]* She now has wealth and social position but she will crave beauty. Promise her eternal youth in return for the magic goose.
- SQUIRE But how will I do that? Have you seen her?
- GRIZELDA Tell her you know someone who can make all her dreams come true in exchange for the goose. Her vanity will get the better of her and she is bound to give in. Bring her to the Magic Grotto at midnight and I will do the rest.
- SQUIRE I will do as you ask, O mistress.
- GRIZELDA Make sure you do and don't fail me. The party is about to start. *[SHE makes a pass and the SQUIRE comes out of his trance.]*
- SQUIRE Yes, I'd be on my way.
- GRIZELDA Going to a party are you?
- SQUIRE A party? Oh, yes. *[HE looks strangely at the invitation.]* I'm going to a party! *[HE exits.]*
- GRIZELDA Very soon now I shall fulfil my dearest dream. I'd have the goose and the eggs and nothing will stop me.

[SHE exits, laughing. The lights fade and the scene changes to.....]

SCENE 6 THE GOLDEN BALLROOM

[A lavish scene with golden decorations. The CHORUS represents guests at MOTHER GOOSE'S party.]

DANCE/SONG

[This starts rather sedately and can turn into the latest dance craze or song, which could be fronted by BILLY. At the end of the number, BILLY

takes up a position to introduce people.]

BILLY My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen. Down and outs. Punks and Skinheads! Marks and Spencers. Fish and Chips ò ò

ALL Get on with it!

BILLY We are gathered here on this auspicious occasion in the fabulous West of the West of the West Wing of our new house for a right royal rave in honour of Priscilla, her golden eggs and the staggeringly rich Mother Goose. After dinner, which includes a scrumptious Goose . berry tart, we shall have music by Goose . tav Holst. We will dance the Goosestep and later we shall all sit down to enjoy an episode of our favourite TV show . you've guessed it, *the Eggsfactor*! *[Or another programme.]* Ah, I see we have some celebrated guests arriving. *[The SQUIRE enters.]* Squire Stoneyheart as I live and breathe.

SQUIRE Hello Billy. My my, your family has done well for itself since we last met.

BILLY Yes, we're doing very nicely thank you. Anyway, how did you get in?

SQUIRE *[Showing invitation.]* With my invitation dear boy.

BILLY Invitation? There must be some mix up.

SQUIRE No mix up, I assure you. *[Sees some other guests.]* Ah, how do you do?

BILLY And now I see approaching the lovely Lady Jill accompanied by Sir Jack De Goose!

[JACK and JILL enter.]

JILL Oh Jack what a lovely ballroom.

JACK Yes. Mother's really gone to town this time. *[Takes a glass.]* I'd like to propose a toast.

BILLY You can't. We're out of bread.

JILL Jack, your mum's arriving.

BILLY Her Regal Affluence, Madame Alexis Gertrude De Goose and Priscilla!

LONG FANFARE

[MOTHER GOOSE enters followed by PRISCILLA.]

M G *[In a very posh voice.]* Ah, good Hevening, Sir William De Goose I presume?

BILLY She's round the twist.

- SQUIRE *[Crossing to MOTHER GOOSE.]* I'm honoured to meet you again. Do I call you Gertrude or Madame De Goose?
- M G You can call me anytime.
- SQUIRE Then I shall call you Gertrude.
- M G Better call me Gertie and leave out the rude part.
- SQUIRE Ah dear Gertie, it must be fate that has brought us together like this. Do you believe in fate?
- M G Oh yes, I read my stars every morning. I was born under Taurus the bull you know. We were living in the country at the time!
- SQUIRE Destiny has dictated that we should get to know each other better. Let us wander out on to the balcony to look at the stars and share a Milky Way together.
- M G Here, you can stop all that fancy talk. You'll never get around me.
- SQUIRE *[Aside.]* No, I'll have to take a taxi.
- M G Pardon?

DANCE MUSIC AND DUET

[The music starts and everyone begins to dance.]

- SQUIRE May I have this dance?
- M G I'll be diluted! *[The SQUIRE and MOTHER GOOSE sing a comedy duet. During the song and dance the SQUIRE twists MOTHER GOOSE'S hand.]*
- SQUIRE Oh I'm so sorry dear lady. Let me kiss it better. *[HE kisses her hand. THEY continue dancing. HE then steps on her foot.]* Oh I'm so sorry dear lady. Let me kiss it better. *[HE kneels down. SHE places her foot in front of him, HE goes to kiss it and SHE lifts it. SHE places it again and HE goes to kiss it again. This continues for a few seconds.]* What are you doing, pumping up a tyre? *[HE stands and they continue with the dance. This time they bump backside to backside. MOTHER GOOSE smiles and waits to have it kissed better.]* You've got to be joking! *[THEY finish the song and dance.]*
- SQUIRE Can I get you a drink dear lady? *[HE puts his arm around her.]*
- M G Here, get off. What do you think you are doing? *[SHE pushes him away.]* I can get my own drink thank you very much. Billy. Champange!
- [BILLY gets a tray with a champagne bottle and glass. MOTHER GOOSE*

takes the bottle and drinks from it. ALL watch.]

- JACK Don't drink too much mother. You know what you're like when you've had two babychams and a packet of wine gums.
- M G Nonsense! When I was in my prime I could drink anyone under the table. That's where I met your father.
- BILLY What, in a pub?
- M G No, under the table. Very soon we were joined in a holy hangover. After that he was one long headache. Mind you, it was drink that did for him in the end.
- BILLY What, alcoholic poisoning?
- M G No, he was run over by a Guinness truck. Billy, I'd have another. I fancy a gin and Domestos.
- BILLY That'd send her clean round the bend. *[BILLY takes a glass from a CHORUS member and gives it to MOTHER GOOSE who downs it in one.]*
- M G I think I'd have another.
- JACK Mother, you're making a fool of yourself.
- M G How dare you talk to your mother like that. *[SHE takes another glass from a CHORUS member.]* What's in this one?
- 1st MAN A whiskey and starch!
- M G Oooh! I bet that's a stiff one! *[She drinks it in one.]*
- BILLY Cor! It never touched the sides!
- M G *[Now very intoxicated.]* Now you lot, I'm going to make a speech! *[ALL moan.]* Ladles and jellyspoons! It gives me great pleasure to declare this *haircraft 'anger hopen!* And to see so many *old faces!* *[SHE looks at the SQUIRE.]* I never forget a face, but in your case I'd make an exception! Gimme another drink! *[SHE grabs a glass off the SQUIRE and drinks. HE exits.]* Oh, I don't think I can stand up much longer. *[SHE staggers about. ALL gasp.]* Anyway, as I was *spraying,* it gives me great pleasure
ō ō ō ō
- JACK Mother, you're talking a lot of dribble.
- BILLY Yes and dribbling a lot while you're doing it!
- JACK I'm off!

- M G *[Holding her nose.]* Try changing your socks more often! *[JACK and JILL exit.]* I can do what I like. Now I've got everything there's nothing stopping me. Why, I could even be the next lady Prime Minister! Dame Gertie Juice! I mean loose!
- BILLY It's Goose, you goose!
- M G You watch your lip! I've worked my fingers to the bone for you and what have I got to show for it?
- BILLY Boney fingers! Look at you. All dressed up like a dog's dinner. You're just a silly drunken old bat!
- M G Drunken old bat! Take that! *[SHE goes to hit him but misses and spins out of control. ALL start to exit.]*
- BILLY Look at your face.
- M G I've been told it's like a Greek feature.
- BILLY Yes, the Acropolis! It's all wrinkled like a prune! You might be rich, but you aren't half ugly! *[HE takes out a small mirror.]* Look!
- M G Who's that?
- BILLY *[Looking in the mirror.]* It's me!
- M G Thank goodness, I thought it was me! You know, once upon a time I was all pink and dimples.
- BILLY Now look at you, all drink and pimples!
- M G I'd give you such a clout in a minute!
- BILLY And look around you. All your friends are so embarrassed they've left.
- M G Well then you clear off too. *[SHE chases him off then looks back at PRISCILLA.]*

SAD MUSIC

They've all gone and left me Priscilla. Well I don't care. I don't need them. I've got plenty of money, I can have anything I want. *[SHE starts to cry. PRISCILLA moves down to her.]* But I am lonely. You're the only friend I've got in the whole world. What did Billy say? I'm ugly. I can't help that; I was born with this face! Oh, but wouldn't it be wonderful if I was beautiful? Do you think you could lay me an egg with special magic powers to make me beautiful? *[PRISCILLA shakes her head. The SQUIRE appears to one side of the stage and listens to the following.]* Well then you're not much help to

- me
either! With all those golden eggs I've got all the money I want, but it can't buy me beauty. *[PRISCILLA starts to back away.]* Oh I'm sorry Priscilla, I didn't mean to upset you but I would like to be beautiful. *[The SQUIRE moves towards her.]*
- SQUIRE Unhappy Mother Goose?
- M G Oh it's you. Yes I am unhappy . very unhappy. Everyone thinks I'm ugly. Oh, if only I could be beautiful like *[name of a personality, preferably one not known for her looks.]*
- SQUIRE I may be able to help you there. I know a kindly old lady who has magical powers and specialises in making people beautiful.
- M G I bet he couldn't make me beautiful.
- SQUIRE To this lady nothing could be easier.
- M G Is it . *[Name of local beauty parlour or TV make-over artist.]*
- SQUIRE Better than that. She will make you beautiful beyond compare, but will require payment.
- M G Money's no object. Priscilla can lay me a few more golden eggs and o o o
- SQUIRE It's not quite as simple as that. It is not money that she requires.
- M G Oh?
- SQUIRE She is a collector of rare and wonderful birds. If you give her your goose o o o *[THEY both look at PRISCILLA – then back.]*
- M G Oh I couldn't. She's been so good to us all, hasn't she boys and girls? I can't give her away, can I? *[Business with the audience. PRISCILLA shakes her head.]*
- SQUIRE Come on, come on. There's no time to delay. Do you want to be beautiful, or stay a weather beaten old crone for the rest of your life?
- M G Oh I'm all of a dither! I would like to be beautiful. Priscilla would be taken care of, wouldn't she?
- SQUIRE She would have the best of everything. *[MOTHER GOOSE looks at PRISCILLA then at the SQUIRE trying to make up her mind.]*
- M G Oh . well . in that case o o o o o All right! *[PRISCILLA exits sadly.]* Now what do I have to do?
- [The lights cross fade as THEY walk down stage and the front cloth comes in behind them.]*

SCENE 7 OUTSIDE MOTHER GOOSE'S NEW HOUSE

[The action is continuous.]

- SQUIRE Way out there beyond the twelve-acre wood is a place called the Magic Grotto.
- M G Twelve acre grotto in the magic wood!
- SQUIRE Twelve-acre wood . Magic Grotto! You must go there tonight and meet with the magician. When the midnight hour comesō ò ò
- M G Is that twelve o'clock midnight?
- SQUIRE *[Irritated.]* Of course it's twelve o'clock! When the midnight hour comes you will see an incredible sight. Dazzling waters will appear and in them you must bathe.
- M G In the middle of winter!
- SQUIRE When you reappear your looks will be outstanding. A vision of rare beauty. Once you have attained this beauty you must hand over the goose. Bring her along with you when you meet the woman.
- M G Oh I'll go and get Priscilla and make myself ready. Thank you Squire, you've been very kind. Oh I'm going to be beautiful. Priscilla, come along. Come to mummy. *[SHE exits R. as GRIZELDA enters L. SHE puts the SQUIRE into a trance.]*
- GRIZELDA Splendid, splendid. The old woman has fallen for my trick. Soon the Golden Goose will be mine, all mine. You have done well Squire. Now leave the rest to me. *[Still in a trance, the SQUIRE turns and exits.]*The time draws near to seal Mother Gooses' fate. I'll take the bird from her and leave her to the waters of the grotto. The beauty she will attain will only last a few hours and then she will revert to her usual ugly self. She is such a simple fool; it's almost too easy for someone as great as I am! Ha ha ha!! *[SHE exits L. as the QUEEN enters R.]*
- QUEEN Oh dear, things are not looking good for Mother Goose. She has become so vain and has now betrayed Priscilla. This move she may well regret as Grizelda will stop at nothing to achieve her aim. If only Mother Goose could see the error of her ways; see how wrong she's been. But I'm afraid time is running out. *[SHE exits as the lights fade and the scene changes to.....*

SCENE 8 ON THE WAY TO THE MAGIC GROTTO

[The scene should be played on a gauze. MOTHER GOOSE enters R. followed by PRISCILLA.]

M G Come along Priscilla, we're nearly there. *[PRISCILLA shakes her head and runs R.]* Oh don't be a silly goose. There's nothing to be afraid of. You know what the Squire said. This magician will give you a good home and look after you properly. And you do want me to be beautiful, don't you? *[PRISCILLA shakes her head.]* Of course you do. *[To the audience.]* You think I should let her go to the magician so I can be beautiful, don't you boys and girls? *[Audience reacts. Ad. Lib. between MOTHER GOOSE and AUDIENCE until:]* Oh all right then. If you think I'm doing the wrong thing then we'd better go home. *[THEY start to exit R. as GRIZELDA enters L with the golden rope.]*

GRIZELDA Ah dear lady, you must be Mother Goose. *[SHE makes a magic pass and MOTHER GOOSE goes into a kind of trance.]*

M G Yes, and you must be the woman who can work wonders on my wrinkles.

GRIZELDA *[Looking at PRISCILLA.]* What a magnificent bird.

M G *[Primping.]* Oooh, thank you!

GRIZELDA Now don't you worry about her, she will be well looked after.

M G But I o o o o o

GRIZELDA Come along birdie. *[SHE goes towards PRISCILLA with the rope ready.]*

M G But the Squire said I would attain beauty and then you would take Priscilla.

GRIZELDA *[Frustrated.]* Oh very well. Once in every thousand years the planets are in perfect alignment reflecting the celestial stars light. This causes rejuvenating waters to spring from the rocks of the grotto. After you have bathed in the waters you will emerge with such beauty, no one will believe it is the same you.

M G Oh I can't believe it.

GRIZELDA Just come this way and I'll make all your dreams come true. *[HE leads MOTHER GOOSE off left. PRISCILLA runs around the stage in a panic. The QUEEN enters R.]*

QUEEN It's no good Priscilla. Mother Goose has chosen the path of vanity. She alone must realise her selfish ways. I have no power over her. But never

fear, I am your guardian and I shall make sure Grizelda never gets control of you. You must fly back to Gooseland where you will be safe. Come my friends and help Priscilla prepare for her journey. *[Two CHORUS GIRLS (or children) enter R. with a garland of flowers and put it around PRISCILLA'S neck, then lead her off R. The QUEEN follows. The light bleeds through the gauze and the scene changes to.....]*

SCENE 9 THE MAGIC GROTTO

[Full stage scene with water effect UC. The scene has a mysterious feel to it. Dry ice or smoke covers the ground.]

BALLET

[The dancers as SPIRITS OF THE GROTTO dance evoking a magical atmosphere. Various planets appear on the backcloth. This can be done with lighting. Towards the end of the Ballet GRIZELDA enters DL followed by MOTHER GOOSE. (N.B This is a double.) THEY watch as the Planets move into an alignment at the climax of the dance and the water effect starts.]

GRIZELDA A once in a millennium night has arrived. The mystic movements in the heavens combine with my dark powers to produce the strongest magic ever seen. I feel this great energy now as the moment of transformation draws closer. Mother Goose, enter the waters and upon the count of three your ugliness will vanish to be replaced with everlasting beauty. *[MOTHER GOOSE crosses up stage to in front of the waters.]* One. Two. Three. *[Flash and Blackout. DOUBLE exits and MOTHER GOOSE takes the place. Lights return to reveal the transformed MOTHER GOOSE. The effect is funnier if she represents a famous comic personality. If this is not possible then she should be as glamorous as possible.]*

PRODUCTION NUMBER

[This can be at the directors' discretion. The number should be highly comic and as spectacular as possible. The CHORUS and DANCERS can be used in whatever costume is appropriate. At the end of the number there is a picture finish. PRISCILLA is seen flying across the cyclorama back to Gooseland. The QUEEN enters R. and GRIZELDA L. SHE sees PRISCILLA and shakes her fist at the QUEEN who laughs and stands defiant.]

The Curtain Falls

End of Act One

ACT TWOSCENE 1 THE VILLAGE OF GANDERVILLE

[The scene is the same as Act One Scene 1. MOTHER GOOSE'S cottage now has a 'To Let' sign outside. The CHORUS is on with JACK, JILL and BILLY.]

COMPANY NUMBER

[As the number is finishing, BILLY moves to a bench in front of the Inn and falls asleep on it.]

1st MAN Look at Billy, asleep again! *[Audience and company react. BILLY wakes.]*

BILLY Oh thank you. Is it morning already?

JACK Are you being lazy again, or did you have too much to drink at the party last night?

BILLY Huh! It wasn't me who had too much to drink, it was mum. She was like a distillery on legs. Has anyone seen her?

JACK Not since she made a fool of herself last night.

JILL I'm worried Jack. Do you think she's all right?

BILLY Don't worry about mum, she can look after herself. She disappeared for a whole week once with the *[local teams' name.]* football club. When we eventually found her it took a month to get the smile off her face.

MUSIC

[Loud raunchy music is heard as MOTHER GOOSE enters and crosses the stage. SHE should wear a long coat covering her Act One costume, which she will change into during the following scene. SHE should also

have on a large hat and big sunglasses.]

Good grief! It's *[name of well-known female personality.]*

JACK *[Not recognising her.]* Can we help you madam?

M G *[To the audience.]* It's worked. They haven't recognised me.

[MOTHER GOOSE does hip business like Mae West. BILLY crosses to her and speaks with a slight American accent.]

BILLY Now look here doll, I think you've left your motor running.

M G Cool down big boy, I'm only ticking over.

JILL You know something Jack, she reminds me of your mother.

BILLY Looks like mum? You must be joking.

JACK With all her faults . she wouldn't make an exhibition of herself like that.

M G *[Still with a disguised voice.]* Do I remind you of your mother? Is she pretty?

BILLY What? She's got a face like an old boot.

2nd MAN And she drinks.

M G Does she?

3rd MAN Like a fish.

BILLY Yes! A dog fish.

M G *[Glaring at BILLY.]* Know a lot don't you? I expect you get all your cleverness from your mother.

BILLY Not at all. I'm the clever one of the family. *[The CHORUS burst out laughing and starts to exit. MOTHER GOOSE makes a gesture of wringing BILLY'S neck.]*

JILL Billy you shouldn't talk about your mother like that.

JACK Come on Jill, she's not exactly like - *[name of a glamorous star.]*

BILLY More like - *[an alternative name.]*

M G Seeing as how you lot are so clever, would you like me to let you into a little secret?

BILLY Fire away. I won't tell a soul.

- M G *[To audience.]* He's right there. He won't be capable. *[To the others.]* I know your mother. In fact you could say we're very close.
- JACK Really? Funny she's never mentioned you.
- JILL *[Who has been looking closely at MOTHER GOOSE.]* Just a minute, can't you see Jack; this is your mother. This is Mother Goose!
- M G Don't be ridiculous. I look nothing like her.
- JACK Jill's right. Come on mother, we know it's you.
- M G *[In her normal voice.]* But how could you? I'm beautiful now.
- BILLY You're both wrong. This couldn't be our mother. Our mother is old and wrinkled and ò ò ò *[HE is face to face with MOTHER GOOSE.]*
- M G Yes?
- BILLY ò ò ò and shouts a lot.
- M G *[Shouting.]* Yes?
- BILLY Oh heck! It is mother. What have I been saying? Hello m-m-mummy.
- M G Don't you %hello m-m-mummy m-m-me+B-Billy Goose.
- JACK I'm so glad we've found you.
- JILL But you're different.
- M G Beautiful?
- JACK Well ò ò erm ò ò
- M G What do you mean %well ò ò erm?+I am beautiful.
- BILLY That's your opinion.
- M G Billy, you're asking for it.
- JACK How did it happen, mum?
- M G *[Getting faster and faster as she recounts the story.]* Well I was chatting to the Squire . you know he's quite nice really . well, he arranged it all. I met this wonder woman who got me to bathe in these magic waters. She gave me eternal beauty in exchange for Priscilla.
- BILLY You gave Priscilla away?
- M G Well that was the idea, but when I came out of the waters Priscilla had

vanished. The magician wasn't very pleased and started ranting on about reversing the process. I didn't wait around and high tailed it back here. *[Out of breath.]* The end!

- JILL Do you mean to say you don't know where Priscilla is?
- M G No! *[Stops and realises what she has done.]* Oh dear, I have been foolish, haven't I?
- JACK But mother, we loved you for what you were.
- BILLY Yes, that's right. But now you look like mutton dressed up as lamb.
- M G *[Crossing to BILLY.]* That's it Billy. I shall stop your pocket money. *[SHE grabs him by the collar and bounces him up and down.]* You won't get another penny.
- JACK You won't have any more pennies if you don't get Priscilla back.
- M G *[Letting go of BILLY who falls to the floor.]* Oh! I never realised. What am I going to do? I was just selfish and vain, craving beauty, never realising how lucky I was to have such loving children and friends around me! Now no one likes me. I've lost Priscilla. I've lost everything. Well, there's nothing for it. I might just as well drown myself. *[SHE looks at the Inn.]* in drink! *[SHE crosses to the Inn.]*
- JACK Oh no, not again. Don't do that mum. Things aren't that bad. *[MOTHER GOOSE exits. The OTHERS follow and crowd around the door trying to stop her. The lights change and they freeze. QUEEN enters DR.]*
- QUEEN It seems, Mother Goose, that you have learned your lesson. And not before time, as Grizelda's magic is beginning to wear off. The beauty that you craved will disappear like all the empty promises made by one so evil.
- [There is a strange noise and lighting effect. The SQUIRE and CHORUS enter as the OTHERS unfreeze. THEY all ad lib. "What's happening"? MOTHER GOOSE, now changed back to her former self enters and crosses DC.]*
- M G Oh I don't know what was in that drink, but I feel like a different woman.
- JACK Mother, it's you! You're back with us again.
- M G Is that true? Am I really the same as I was?
- SQUIRE You certainly are.
- M G Oh hello Squire. Now about that sorceress friend of yours. . .
- SQUIRE Magician friend? I don't know what you are talking about.

JILL Yes you do uncle. That strange woman who has been visiting you.

SQUIRE Oh her. Yes, but I can't recall why he came or what he wanted.

QUEEN I think I can help you there. *[ALL turn and see her for the first time. THEY gasp and 'stand back' in amazement. The PRINCIPALS should now be in a line with MOTHER GOOSE next to QUEEN and BILLY at the other end.]*

M G Good heavens, it's *[comical name.]*

QUEEN I am the Queen of Gooseland and Priscilla is a senior member of my court.

M G Then do you know where she is?

QUEEN Indeed I do. That sorceress as you call her is none other than my sister Grizelda. She was banished from my court years ago for trying to steal all the gold that my geese produce. She tricked you Squire and you Mother Goose into doing her bidding just so she could get her hands on Priscilla and the fortune.

M G What? Why that no good, dirty double crosser. Wait till I get my hands on her.

QUEEN I'm afraid she's long gone. While you were in the Magic Grotto I sent Priscilla back to her family home far away from Grizelda's clutches.

M G Her family home. But where is that?

QUEEN Gooseland.

M G *[To JACK.]* Gooseland?

JACK *[To JILL.]* Gooseland?

JILL *[To SQUIRE.]* Gooseland?

SQUIRE *[To BILLY.]* Gooseland?

BILLY *[To one of the CHORUS.]* There's a terrible echo around here!

M G So if you are the Queen, what title does Priscilla have?

QUEEN She is a Princess.

M G Do you mean to say we've had royalty staying in my house? And I never even cleaned the toilet.

JILL But will Priscilla ever want to come back to us?

QUEEN I cannot answer that question. A grave injustice has been done to one of

my subjects and the court of Gooseland will have to decide the outcome.
[SHE exits.]

M G Hang on a minute. Mrs Queen. Come back.

BILLY What does she mean . the court of Gooseland will have to decide?

JILL We will only know that if we travel to Gooseland and find her.

JACK Come on then, what are we waiting for?

M G But where do we start? We don't know where Gooseland is.

BILLY Isn't it the other side of . *[Name of another town.]*

M G Don't be silly. We can't just hop on a number nine bus and hope it takes us there.

JILL *[Pointing up.]* Look, she's flying off.

JACK Wait a minute. What's that floating down?

BILLY Oh I hope it's not a ò ò .

ALL Billy!

[A goose quill drops from above. Jack picks it up.]

JACK It's a goose quill . and it has something written on it. The way to Gooseland is long and perilous for mortals. If you truly wish to see Priscilla again you must prove yourselves and overcome the elements of wind, ice and fire that Grizelda has at her disposal. You must cross the treacherous Snow Mountains. Only then can you reach Gooseland. There you can appeal to the Court of the Golden Quill.

JILL It sounds very dangerous.

M G *[Dramatically.]* Well I must go. It's me who has caused all this trouble. I intend to find Priscilla and ask for her forgiveness. *[No one says anything. MOTHER GOOSE looks around.]* Well don't all rush to help!

JACK Don't worry mother. I'm coming with you.

JILL And me. *[BILLY has fallen asleep. HE snores. Audience reacts. The SQUIRE starts to creep away.]*

BILLY Oh . and me!

M G What about you Squire?

SQUIRE Me? Er, Oh well ò ò ò ò ò

M G Good. That's all of us then.

SONG - COMPANY

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

SCENE 2 ON THE WAY TO THE SNOW MOUNTAINS

[Front cloth. The lighting is dark and mysterious. Thunder rolls and GRIZELDA enters D L. swinging the golden rope.]

GRIZELDA *[To the audience who must surely "boo"!]* Silence! I may not have the goose yet, but I will, you wait and see. I'm formulating a new plan right now and this time I cannot fail.

[QUEEN enters right.]

QUEEN So Grizelda, still around hoping to purloin Priscilla?

GRIZELDA *[Feigning innocence.]* Priscilla? Oh you mean that golden egg-laying goose. No, no I've decided that the allure of gold has lost its thrill for me. No I'm just going to slip away quietly and live a very simple life.

QUEEN Well I'm very pleased to hear that. If I thought you had changed your ways completely I might consider allowing you back in Gooseland.

GRIZELDA How sweet of you, sister dear. But I'm not sure that all the trappings of your court are for me anymore. No, I think I'd just acclimatise to a no frills existence in my exile.

QUEEN Really? And why this change of heart?

GRIZELDA *[With a mock humbling tone.]* I have come to realise that being surrounded by wealth is nothing compared to being surrounded by good friends and family. *[Aside to the audience, SHE clutches her stomach as though she is going to be sick.]*

QUEEN This is a great day for me. Mother Goose has seen the error of her ways and so have you.

GRIZELDA Mother Goose?

QUEEN Yes. Even now the Goose family accompanied by the Squire are on their way to Gooseland to ask Priscilla to return with them.

GRIZELDA Really?

QUEEN Oh I can't tell you how happy all this makes me.

GRIZELDA *[Aside as her old self.] Don't get too excited, dearie!*

SONG - QUEEN AND GRIZELDA

[At the end of the song the QUEEN exits R.]

GRIZELDA So the Goose family and that Squire are on their way to Gooseland. I might have guessed. I must stop them if I'm to have any chance of getting that Golden Goose and claiming the Golden Quill for myself. They must travel through my domain and cross the Snow Mountains. So apart from encountering the elements of wind, ice and fire, I will have another surprise for them. *[SHE starts an incantation.]*
 These puny peasants must be stopped
 To make my plan succeed.
 So Beast of the Mountain hear my plea,
 Your help is what I need.

[Thunder and lightning. The MOUNTAIN BEAST enters.]

Ah, excellent. Just what I need to stop those meddling fools from reaching Gooseland and rescuing the Goose. Now come with me and I'll tell you what I want you to do.

[GRIZELDA and the BEAST exit L. The lights come up to normal as JACK and JILL enter R.]

JILL Is it much further Jack? I'm so tired I don't think I can go on much longer.

JACK It can't be all that far away. We're nearly at the top of the Snow Mountains and the Queen said Gooseland was on the other side.

JILL It's rather eerie isn't it . . . and a little frightening.

JACK Now there's nothing to worry about. Besides, there are five of us, so if we encounter that Grizelda or any of her evil powers, she had better watch out!

JILL Oh Jack, you are brave. I feel so helpless.

JACK *[With mock embarrassment.] Don't be silly.*

[MOTHER GOOSE, BILLY and the SQUIRE enter R.]

M G Ah, there you both are. Any sign of Gooseland yet?

JACK Just over that mountaintop I think.

M G Oh thank goodness.

JACK Jill and me will carry on over there and reconnoitre.

BILLY Wreck a what?

JACK A noitre.

BILLY What's one of them?

JACK *[With a sigh.]* Come on Jill.

M G Yes, we'll just rest here a while and then catch up with you.

[JACK & JILL exit L.]

SQUIRE Oh I don't like it up here on this mountain. It's scarier than meeting *[name of an unsavoury soap character.]* in a dark alley.

BILLY Don't worry Squire, we'll just have to make sure we stick together for safety.

M G What do you mean %safety+?

BILLY I mean in case we meet the Abominable Snowman.

M G You don't mean *[name of another unsavoury character.]*

BILLY No! I mean some awful mountain beast.

M G Not much difference really.

SQUIRE Don't be stupid. Surely there's nothing frightening or gruesome on this mountain.

[There is a terrible roaring sound. BILLY jumps into the SQUIRE'S arms.]

BILLY W . w-what was that?

M G I don't know but it didn't sound very friendly.

SQUIRE Oh dear, what are we going to do?

M G Well to keep our spirits up, why don't we sing a little song?

SQUIRE *[Dropping BILLY.]* Sing a little song? What on earth for?

M G Well it's what we normally do about this time in the pantomime! *[To the audience.]* You'd keep an eye out for us, wouldn't you?

TRIO - MOTHER GOOSE, BILLY and SQUIRE

[During the number the MOUNTAIN BEAST enters and chases the SQUIRE and BILLY off. The BEAST then does a mirror reflection gag with MOTHER GOOSE. The last action is MOTHER GOOSE looking at the audience and shrugging. The BEAST lets out a mighty roar and MOTHER GOOSE looks at it totally unfazed.]

Oh dear, what a nasty cough you've got! Would you like a Fisherman's Friend?

BEAST *[In a very posh 'Oxford' accent.]* I beg your pardon?

M G Can't be too careful in these cold climates.

BEAST Aren't you the least bit frightened of me?

M G Frightened of you? No! You're not the least bit frightening. Compared to my late husband you're a regular Pierce Brosnan! *[Or another male film star.]*

BEAST Oh do you really think so? I always thought I had that rugged sort of a look.

M G Well it was nice meeting you, but I must catch up with my friends. Bye bye.

BEAST Bye bye. *[MOTHER GOOSE exits. The BEAST swaggers around for a few seconds showing off his looks. GRIZELDA enters.]*

GRIZELDA What's going on? Why have you let them all escape?

[The BEAST turns and lets out an almighty roar. GRIZELDA screams and runs off chased by the BEAST. The lights fade out and the scene changes to.....]

SCENE 3 THE SNOW MOUNTAINS

[This is a half stage scene depicting the top of the mountains. The first part of this scene takes the form of a dance/mime. The synopsis is as follows:

DANCE MUSIC

Jack enters and looks around. HE signals to the others who enter. A DANCER representing WIND enters and tries to force them back.]

SQUIRE *[Battling against the wind.]* That's wind. One of Grizelda's elements.

[JACK fights the WIND and finally wins. THEY start to move across the

stage when the music changes and a DANCER representing ICE enters.]

- BILLY Oh now we've got ice. I'm freezing!
- [The ICE DANCER with long ice fingers fights JACK who again finally wins. The last DANCER is FIRE, the most powerful of all.]*
- M G Jack, it's fire. Do be careful. *[Again JACK fights and finally wins.]* Oh well done Jack.
- SQUIRE Yes, well done my boy.
- JACK Right, let's carry on. *[THEY start to cross the stage when THREE CHORUS BOYS as GOOSE GUARDS enter and stop them.]*
- 1st GUARD Halt! You are trespassing on the property of her most Imperial Highness, the Queen of Gooseland.
- M G But that's who we've come to see.
- 2nd GUARD Silence. You are under arrest and will be held until an audience with Her Majesty has been granted.
- M G But we've got an audience. *[Points front.]* We've had them since half past seven!
- 3rd GUARD Silence. You are to be brought before the Prime Minister.
- BILLY Oh, I've always wanted to see inside number ten!
- 1st GUARD Prime Minister of Gooseland . idiot.
- BILLY *[To MOTHER GOOSE.]* He's just called the Prime Minister an idiot.
- M G Well he's got something right!
- 2nd GUARD Follow us.
- JACK We'd better do as they say, mum. *[The TWO GUARDS escort off JACK, JILL, BILLY and the SQUIRE. MOTHER GOOSE gets to the exit then turns to face the THIRD GUARD.]*
- M G I've only got one word to say to you. Sage and onion!
- [The THIRD GUARD holds his spear as though he is going to thrust it towards her backside. SHE yelps and is chased off. The lights fade out and the scene changes to.....]*

SCENE 4 THE QUEEN OF GOOSELANDS THRONE ROOM

[A large impressive throne is up centre. The Golden Quill is on a plinth at the side of it. Up stage left is a rock piece that will open. The GIRLS CHORUS is on as GOOSE DANCERS. THEY are rehearsing a dance watched by the PRIME MINISTER who is also the Choreographer of the Goose Ballet.]

DANCE

P/MINISTER Come on girls, pick your claws up! Let's see some sparkle! *[The dance continues badly.]* Stop, stop! This is for a Royal Command Performance in honour of the return of Princess Priscilla. We are supposed to be doing an excerpt from Goose Lake. This looks more like . *[A GOOSE runs on.]* You're late!

GOOSE Sorry.

P/MINISTER Now once more from the top. *[The dance continues comically. HE stops them again.]* No, no. This is awful. It's a shambles. I shall have to go and lie down in a darkened room! My nerves won't take much more.

[A GOOSE GUARD runs on shouting.]

GUARD Sir, sir.

P/MINISTER *[Frightened out of his wits.]* Ahhh! What is the meaning of this outburst? Can't you see I'm rehearsing?

GUARD Forgive me, sir, but we have found strangers on the boundaries of the kingdom.

P/MINISTER Strangers? What sort of strangers?

GUARD Humans, sir! *[CHORUS chatter.]*

P/MINISTER Why come to me? I am the Pima Choreographer for the Royal Flying Corps de Ballet.

GUARD But sir, you are also the Prime Minister.

P/MINISTER Yes. And also the Chancellor of the Exchequer, home secretary and personal private secretary to Her Majesty! Isn't there anyone else who can take on some of these positions?

GUARD Not with you age .

P/MINISTER What??

GUARD - and experience, sir.

P/MINISTER *[Always open to flattery.]* Mm. I suppose not. Where are these humans now?

- GUARD In the dungeons. They say they want to see Her Majesty.
- P/MINISTER We can't trouble the Queen. Have them brought here at once.
- GUARD Yes sir. *[HE exits.]*
- P/MINISTER Human eh? *[With a look at the dancers.]* I wonder if any of them can dance! It has been a long time since we had humans in Gooseland. I remember they used to be quite a delicacy on the Christmas dinner table until we all became vegetarians! *[To the CHORUS.]* All right take five and go a practice. Your Rond de jambe was a disgrace!
- [The CHORUS exits as the GUARDS bring in the PRISONERS.]*
- M G *[Seeing the CHORUS.]* Oh I didn't know. *[Local dance studio.]* rehearsed here. *[To the PRIME MINISTER.]* Oh hello. Who are you?
- P/MINISTER I am the Prime Minister of Gooseland. Who are you people who dare to trespass on our land?
- JACK We are from Ganderville, sir. This is my family.
- SQUIRE And I'm Squire Stoneyheart. In my exalted position back at Ganderville I am well acquainted in the ways of protocol, so if you and I could have a few words in private, I'm sure this matter could be cleared up. *o o o o o*
- P/MINISTER Silence!
- [THEY all grovel to him.]*
- BILLY He looks a bit hard-boiled to me! I bet he'd make an omelette out of you if he caught you poaching!
- M G *[Hissing at him.]* Billy, be quiet.
- JILL He really is mad with us.
- BILLY He's giving me goose pimples.
- P/MINISTER I said silence. *[THEY all stand.]* I have heard enough of this idle chatter. You will be thrown back into the dungeons until her Majesty decides what to do with you.
- VOICE *[Off.]* Her Imperial Majesty, the Queen of Gooseland.
FANFARE
- [The QUEEN enters followed the GOSLINGS.]*
- QUEEN Thank you Prime Minister, you can leave this to me.
- P/MINISTER *[Bowing.]* Your Majesty.

- QUEEN How are preparations coming along for the Command Performance?
- P/MINISTER Oh excellently your Majesty. The ballet will be an experience one will never forget! *[He rolls his eyes towards the audience.]*
- QUEEN *[To them all.]* So, you have succeeded in finding your way to my court. Who is your spokesman? *[BILLY, JACK, JILL and the SQUIRE all take a step backwards leaving MOTHER GOOSE standing alone.]* I see. *[The QUEEN crosses to her and walks around inspecting her.]* Mother Goose, Priscilla was sent to you on the condition that if you were a kind and loving person to her she would reward you by laying her special golden eggs thereby helping you in a time of need. This I believe she did.
- M G Oh yes your majesticals! She was our saviour.
- QUEEN And what did you do? You betrayed her.
- M G Oh I know your mechanicals!!
- SQUIRE She's been a very foolish old, old old ò ò ò ò
- M G Thank you! I'll handle my own defence! I realised all too late that the beauty I craved was only skin deep. Beauty and wealth isn't everything. The love and kindness that Priscilla gave to me was worth more than all the money in the world.
- QUEEN Have you anything further to say?
- SQUIRE Go on, grovel a bit more.
- M G I don't care if she never lays another egg. We just want her back.
- JILL That's true, your Majesty.
- VOICE *[Off.]* The Princes Priscilla.
- FANFARE
- [PRISCILLA, now wearing a small crown, enters followed by the rest of the court.]*
- M G Oh there she is. My lovely Priscilla. *[SHE sobs.]*
- QUEEN Mother Goose. You stand accused of one of the most serious crimes in this realm. The crime of betrayal. I must warn you that if you are found guilty the sentence is most severe! My court must decide. Prime Minister, as high court judge . *[SHE produces a wig and hands it to HIM.]*
- P/MINISTER *[Aghast.]* Another job??

- QUEEN - convene the court. *[The CHORUS goes into a huddle, and then turn back to face the QUEEN.]* What is your verdict?
- P/MINISTER Guilty. *[The OTHERS gasp.]*
- QUEEN Mother Goose, you have been found guilty of vanity, greed and betrayal. Have you anything to say before I pass sentence on you?
- M G *[Falling to her knees.]* Only that I'm very, very, very, very, very, very sorry! When that awful Grizelda promised me beauty and eternal youth in exchange for Priscilla, all I thought about was my vanity. I realised my mistake all too late, *[SHE knee walks across to the QUEEN.]* but I do love and miss Priscilla very much.
- QUEEN Grizelda. Perhaps I should have warned you about her.
- M G *[Standing and taking the QUEEN'S arm.]* To right, Queenie dear. Oooh a real nasty piece of work she is.
- [PRISCILLA has now called the rest of the court around her in conference. The PRIME MINISTER steps forward to address the QUEEN.]*
- P/MINISTER Your Majesty, although Mother Goose is guilty of her crime, it is clear that she was manipulated by the evil ways of Grizelda.
- M G Oh I was, ever so manipulated!
- P/MINISTER As it wasn't altogether her fault, we feel she should be forgiven and allowed to return to Ganderville.
- QUEEN Mother Goose, having listened to the decision of my court I intend to grant you a pardon. You, your relatives and friends are free to return home and, if she so wishes, Priscilla may go with you.
- ALL Hooray!
- M G Oh thank you your Maj. Priscilla, come to mummy. *[PRISCILLA moves towards MOTHER GOOSE as GRIZELDA enters down left. SHE carries a golden rope with a noose at one end.]*
- GRIZELDA Well isn't this a happy family? *[SHE pushes MOTHER GOOSE out of the way and slips the noose around PRISCILLA'S neck.]*
- QUEEN Grizelda!
- GRIZELDA That's right Priscilla . come to MUMMY! *[There is panic as GRIZELDA pulls PRISCILLA to down left.]* Finally I have the Golden Goose.
- QUEEN But you said you had given up the idea of wanting the Goose and the power.
- GRIZELDA You shouldn't believe everything you hear, sister dear. *[SHE moves*

towards the Golden Quill.] I claim the Goose and the Quill to give me ultimate power!

[SHE grabs the Quill. ALL back off as the lighting changes.]

UNDERScore

JACK Wedd soon see about that. Stand aside your Majesty.

GRIZELDA Dond try anything. This Quill protects me.

QUEEN She is right Jack. Be careful.

[JACK moves towards GRIZELDA but she raises the Quill and with the power contained in it HE is thrown backwards.]

GRIZELDA You foolish boy. Think you can get the better of me? *[To the COMPANY.]*
Unless you serve me as the new Queen of Gooseland you will all perish.

QUEEN Grizelda, you cand do this.

GRIZELDA Just watch me.

[JACK has got to his feet and again tries to get the Quill. GRIZELDA lets go of the rope around PRISCILLA'S neck for a moment as she again causes JACK to be thrown backwards.]

JILL Jack!

[GRIZELDA roars with laughter and moves towards JACK with the Quill poised.]

GRIZELDA It seems you are not prepared to obey me. In that case prepare to die.

[PRISCILLA runs at GRIZELDA and head butts her in the back. GRIZELDA drops the Quill and JACK picks it up.]

You stupid bird, now look what you have done.

JACK Not so powerful now, are you Grizelda? *[HE backs her towards the rock cave entrance.]*

SQUIRE Well done my boy.

M G And well done Priscilla.

JACK *[Giving the Quill back to the QUEEN.]* Your majesty.

QUEEN Thank you Jack. *[To the guards.]* Arrest her.

[GRIZELDA is arrested.]

M G Now what do we do with her?

BILLY Make her watch endless repeats of . *[Some awful TV programme.]* No we can't be that cruel!

QUEEN Even though you are my sister your actions have given me no alternative but to imprison you deep in the Snow Mountains forever!

GRIZELDA You can't get rid of me that easily.

QUEEN Oh no? I told you good would always triumph over evil. Prime Minister, as prison governor .

P/MINISTER What??

QUEEN - please take charge of the prisoner!

[The PRIME MINISTER goes to a rock flat that opens amid smoke and ice and pushes GRIZELDA in. SHE is screaming as it closes.]

M G Well, let's hope that's the last we see of her.

QUEEN Jack, your bravery cannot go unrewarded. I hereby bestow the title of Prince Jack of Gooseland on you. *[ALL cheer as the QUEEN knights JACK with the Golden Quill.]*

JACK A prince! Jill did you hear that. I've got a royal title, so I must be good enough to ask for your hand in marriage.

SQUIRE Of course my boy, glad to have you as part of the family!

M G What about an Easter wedding?

SQUIRE What about an Easter wedding?

M G I thought you'd never ask! *[SHE grabs his arm.]*

SQUIRE What? Hey, just a minute!

JILL Congratulations uncle.

JACK But Mum, who's going to give you away?

[Long snore from BILLY who has fallen asleep.]

ALL Wake up Billy!

COMPANY NUMBER

[At the end of the number the lights fade and the scene changes

to.....

SCENE 5 ON THE WAY HOME

[The same front cloth as Act 2 Scene 2. As the lights come up the SQUIRE enters.]

- SQUIRE *[Calling off stage.]* Oh do hurry up. We're miles behind the others.
- [MOTHER GOOSE enters.]*
- M G I was just thinking how lovely it's going to be.
- SQUIRE How lovely what's going to be?
- M G Me. Gertrude Goose, the Squires wife!
- SQUIRE Well don't count your chickens! It hasn't happened yet!
- M G Oh you know I think we're going to be very happy together. At heart I'm still just a reckless young blood!
- SQUIRE No you're not. You're a bloodless old wreck!
- M G Well with all my money I'm going to have a proper course of beauty treatment. I'm going to have my face lifted.
- SQUIRE When they see what's underneath they'll drop it again! If you really want to keep young and healthy why don't you do what I do?
- M G What's that?
- SQUIRE Every morning I work out at the gym and then have a refreshing sauna.
- M G I went to the sauna the other day. I went into this room . all steam and white tiles . took off all my clothes and lay down. When the steam cleared I was in a fish and chip shop! *[SHE starts to get seductive with the SQUIRE.]* Anyway, what about a little kiss?
- SQUIRE *[Aghast.]* In broad daylight?
- M G Well there are only my friends out there . *[To audience.]* . and you'd cover your eyes, wouldn't you? *[Reaction.]* Come on Squirey dear, just one little kissy wissy! *[SHE puckers up but just then BILLY appears around the pros. HE is asleep and snores. The audience reacts.]*

BILLY *[Waking up.]* Oh hello you two. What are you up to?
SQUIRE Nothing! Nothing at all. *[Seeing HIS chance He dashes off stage.]*
M G *[Glaring at BILLY.]* Well thank you Billy!
BILLY Here, do you know what I've been doing?
M G Keeping everyone awake with your snoring!!
BILLY I've been writing a song about all our adventures. Would you like hear it?
M G Why not?
SQUIRE What?

[Ad lib. Into song sheet.]

SONG SHEET

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

SCENE 6 THE GOLDEN BALLROOM

[There is a celebration dance in progress. As the dance finishes the finale starts.]

FINALE

[The bows happen in the following order.]

DANCERS
 CHORUS
 PRIME MINISTER
 GRIZELDA
 QUEEN OF GOOSELAND *(with BABES in attendance if used.)*
 PRISCILLA
 SQUIRE
 BILLY
 MOTHER GOOSE

M G Three cheers for Sir Jack and Lady Jill. *[ALL cheer as JACK and JILL enter and bow.]*

JACK AND JILL

P/MINISTER And so our tale is at an end

QUEEN Our story has been told.

JILL Everyone has their hearts desire

GRIZELDA Except me! I still want more gold. *[SHE starts to rant out of rhythm.]*
 I want more I tell you! I love it . bright shining gold. I want to be - *[SHE sings]*
 Goldfingerõ ..

ALL Oh shut up!

BILLY We've cracked some jokes and cracked some eggs

JACK And sung a song or two!

SQUIRE So now from all of us up here

M G Goodnight to all of you.

ALL Goodnight!

FINAL CHORUS

[The whole COMPANY wave to the audience as the Curtain falls.]