

**"THE PIED PIPER"**  
( OF HAMELIN )

ADAPTED FOR PANTOMIME

Written by

PETER LONG & KEITH RAWNSLEY



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**LIST OF CHARACTERS**

KARL (PIED PIPER)í ..A VISITOR TO HAMELIN & PRINCIPAL BOY  
 MAYOR STRUDEL.....THE MAYOR OF HAMELIN  
 HEIDI STRUDELí ..THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER & PRINCIPAL GIRL  
 HANS STRUDEL }  
 }.....THE MAYOR'S YOUNGER CHILDREN  
 MARTA STRUDEL }

GIRDA BERGER.....OWNER OF THE INN & DAME  
 GRETCHEN BERGER.....DAME'S DAUGHTER  
 HEINZ.....THE HAPLESS CHEF AT THE INN  
 HERMAN FESTER.....THE "SO CALLED" RAT CATCHER  
 BORIS.....HERMAN'S ASSISTANT  
 COUNTESS BADDANVILE OF BRUNSWICK  
 THE STORY WRITER

DANCERS

SUNBEAMS

CHORUS

## *Character Descriptions*

**1: Karl:** (Female) Karl is the Pied Piper and is the principal boy role. He is a street musician visiting the town of Hamelin. A young dashing principal boy, he not only charms the daughter of the local Mayor but with his haunting pipe charms the rat population out of town.

**2: Heidi Strudel:** (Female) This is the principal girl role, she is the Mayor's pretty daughter who catches the eye of Karl early in the story. Heidi is delighted to find romance at last but is worried when her father disapproves.

**3: Mayor Strudel:** (Male) Mayor of Hamelin. He is a bumbling know-all sort of character. He is widowed and lives with his daughter Heidi and his 2 younger children. The Mayor's biggest problem is the growing rat population in Hamelin.

**4 & 5: Hans & Marta Strudel:** (Boy & Girl) The Mayor's younger children. Ideally 8 to 10 year olds, they lead their father a merry dance with their squabbling with each other and their older sister.

**6: Girda Berger:** (Male) This is the Dame role. Girda is the inn keeper of the local hostelry 'The Rat and Drainpipe' which she runs with the help of her daughter. Girda is down at the heel but ever the optimist.

**7: Gretchen Berger:** (Female) Gretchen is the slightly 'dotty' daughter of Girda. She is very much 'put upon' and longs for the lifestyle of her friend Heidi. When her mother employs a new chef Gretchen can at last see the possibility of romance.

**8: Heinz:** (Male) This is the comic lead. Heinz is the newly appointed young chef at 'The Rat and Drainpipe'. His culinary skills immediately leave a lot to be desired, but his daft and naïve ways soon attract the daughter of his boss.

**9 & 10: Herman Fester and Boris:** (Both Male) These are the two 'Brokers Men' roles. Herman is the local rat catcher and Boris is his assistant. The plague of rats in Hamelin is proof of how useless the pair are at their jobs. Herman is more dominant than the downtrodden Boris.

**11: Countess Baddanvile:** (Female) She is the 'baddie' of the piece. As her name implies the Countess is a nasty piece of work who from her 'lair' at Baddanvile Castle plots the downfall of the town of Hamelin. She recruits Herman and Boris to help her with her nasty work.

**12: The Story Writer:** (Male) This character is on stage throughout the pantomime whilst there is action on stage. The Story Writer is seated at his tall writing desk situated front stage right in front of the house tabs. During the show he walks on stage and speaks to the audience as if creating the story as it is enacted.

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## SCENES

### ACT 1

SCENE 1:....."THE MARKET SQUARE IN HAMELIN"

SCENE 2:....."INSIDE THE KITCHEN OF THE "RAT & DRAINPIPE"

SCENE 3:....."THE MAYOR'S CHAMBER"

SCENE 4:....."BADDANVILE CASTLE"

SCENE 5:....."THE MARKET SQUARE IN HAMELIN"

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### ACT 2

SCENE 1:....."THE MARKET SQUARE IN HAMELIN"

SCENE 2:....."THE BADDANVILE CASTLE DUNGEON"

SCENE 3:....."THE SCHOOLROOM OF THE DESERTED VILLAGE"

SCENE 4:....."BADDANVILE CASTLE"

SCENE 5:....."THE MARKET SQUARE IN HAMELIN"

SCENE 6:....."HAMELIN'S CIVIC HALL"

WALK DOWN  
&  
FINALE

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## OVERTURE

## CURTAIN

### ACT 1...SCENE 1..."THE MARKET SQUARE IN HAMELIN"

SET:...A GERMAN TOWNSHIP WITH CLOTH DEPICTING A MEDIEVAL PERIOD WITH PERHAPS A CASTLE IN THE BACKGROUND....FLATS DEPICTING BUILDINGS ETC...WITH ONE TO STAGE LEFT BEING AN INN WITH A SIGN THAT READS "THE RAT & DRAINPIPE" AND A PRACTICAL DOOR

THERE IS A SMALL PERMANENT SET STAGE RIGHT IN FRONT OF HOUSE TABS...THIS IS THE STORY WRITER'S STUDY AND COMPRISES A TALL WRITING DESK AND STOOL WITH A "BOOKCASE" BEHIND....THE STORY WRITER WILL BE SITTING AT HIS DESK WITH QUILL IN HAND...THIS SET WILL BE LIT WHEN THE STORY WRITER FEATURES

♪...MUSICAL ITEM No 1....STRAIGHT INTO COMPANY NUMBER....AFTER ROUTINE ALL STAY ON STAGE AS IF BUYING AND SELLING THEIR WARES...THEY MIME THEIR CONVERSATION

LIGHT STORY WRITER WHO IS SITTING AT HIS DESK

### STORY WRITER:

Welcome all to Hamelin town...  
As you see it's a happy place.  
But as the story unfolds as I write it...  
It will take on a much gloomier face.

As I create the story, you'll see it enacted...  
A tale that I'm sure you will relish.  
As we meet the characters both good and bad...  
This story of truth I'll embellish.



Every story I write has a villain...  
Countess Baddanvile in this is the one.

ENTER THE COUNTESS INTO THE MARKET SQUARE AND THE  
TOWNS PEOPLE LOOK THREATENED AND WARY OF HER AS SHE  
MINGLES WITH THEM ALL

The people of Hamelin now shun her demands...  
It's their right when all's said and done!

As the Countess of Brunswick she lords o'er them all...  
And wants their taxes for the Brunswick coffers.  
But the people around here have dug in their heels...  
And refuse to make any such offers.

I think it's time to change the mood...  
In a way that I've yet to determine.  
What awful event can I bring to this town?..  
I know!!..I'll over-run it with vermin!!

LIGHTS DOWN ON STORY WRITER BUT WE STILL SEE HIM IN THE  
GLOOM AS IF WRITING THE STORY WE ARE SEEING ENACTED

**VILLAGER 1:**...(SCREAMS LOUDLY AND SHOUTS)...There's a rat!!

**VILLAGER 2:** (ALSO TERRIFIED)...There's *two* rats over here!!!

A PANIC ENSUES WHEREBY THE WOMEN ARE SCREAMING AND  
THE MEN ARE FEIGNING BRAVERY BUT ALL SCURRY OFF LEAVING  
HERMAN AND BORIS AND THE COUNTESS WHO LAUGHS AND RUBS  
HER HAND IN GLEE

**COUNTESS:** Rats!..what an excellent idea of mine...a *plague* of rats!  
...this will teach the Mayor and the townsfolk of Hamelin to pay their taxes!

**BORIS:** I thought the townsfolk *did* pay their taxes Countess?

**COUNTESS:** (SNAPPING BACK)...Not to *me* they don't!..they would rather  
pay some council run by the Mayor!...*I* own all the land around here....*I* want  
their money.

**HERMAN**: Quite right Countess Baddanville....don't worry...we'll continue with the infestation!!

**COUNTESS**: See that you do!..I want you both to collect the rotting rubbish from the outlying areas and dump it in the streets of Hamelin...that will encourage the rodent population to visit this fair town!

EXIT COUNTESS WITH AN EVIL LAUGH

**HERMAN**: (CHECKS TO SEE IF THE COUNTESS IS OUT OF EARSHOT...THEN TO BORIS)...Our *trained* rats have even fooled Countess Baddanville, she thinks they're from the sewers...come on now Boris, get them all back in their cages...(BORIS LOOKS PUZZLED)... come on Boris!...be quick about it!

**BORIS**: They're *not* our rats Mr. Fester...our rats are grey....the ones out here were big *black* ones...they must be wild sewer rats!

**HERMAN**: What!?!..*real* rats...(HE SHUDDERS)...Boris, we don't do *real* rats!...send for the rat catcher!

**BORIS**: Rightio Mr. Fester...(THEN REALISES)...but *you* are the rat catcher!!

**HERMAN**: Eh?..oh yes, so I am...but we only catch *our* rats...you know how it works Boris....we infest a house using our rats, then get paid for catching them...then we move on to another house and catch them again... that way everybody is happy....especially us!..now look Boris, I've promised the Countess a plague of rats...now how many have we got?

**BORIS**: (AS IF COUNTING ON HIS FINGERS)...Er...Three!

**HERMAN**: (DISBELIEF)....*Three*!!!!?...is that it?

**BORIS**: Well no...actually there's only two!..you see one is a Guinea Pig!...(HERMAN REACTS)...it's all right Mr. Fester, I stuck a long tail on it...nobody will know!

**HERMAN**: (IN DESPAIR)...Two rats and a Guinea Pig which has a shoe lace sellotaped to its backside....hardly a *plague* is it Boris?...can't we get some more....quick like?

**BORIS:** Oh no....the man at the pet shop says he has a couple of Hamsters and a Gerbil and can we make use of them?

**HERMAN:** *Pet shop!!!*

**BORIS:** Yes and I've got to have 'em back by tea time...they're only on loan!

**HERMAN:** Look...we're going to have to encourage these wild sewer rats....it's the only way...in the meantime, where's *our* little menagerie?

**BORIS:** I saw them go through a hole into the inn Mr. Fester...(HE POINTS)...just over there.

**HERMAN:** Come on then...we'd better get in there and catch 'em.

**BORIS:** What about Girda the owner?

**HERMAN:** Oh she's out for her morning constitutional ramble in the foothills with some of the children....come on.

THEY EXIT INTO THE "RAT & DRAINPIPE"

ENTER GIRDA AND SUNBEAMS TO THE FOLLOWING MUSICAL ITEM

....**MUSICAL ITEM No 2**....FEATURING GIRDA AND SUNBEAMS AS THEY ENTER.....AFTER ROUTINE....

**GIRDA:** (TO SUNBEAMS)...Right you lot...off you go!..don't be late for school.....

EXIT SUNBEAMS WITH RATHER GLUM FACES

**GIRDA:** (CONT/D)...Oh well...I'd better see if Gretchen has finished cleaning the bedrooms...then I'll help her with the meals....

SUDDENLY HERMAN SNEAKS OUT OF THE "RAT & DRAINPIPE"  
TIP TOEING AND UNSEEN BY GIRDA

**GIRDA:** (CONT/D AND TO AUDIENCE)...There's what?...someone behind me?...("OH NO...OH YES" BIZ HERE.....THEN GIRDA SEES HERMAN).....oh it's you Fester...what may I ask are you doing on my premises?

**HERMAN:** It's the rat problem Girda...I've just been checking if you've got any.

**GIRDA:** Ooooh yes!...I've seen all sorts of creatures in there...there was one with black beady eyes...stubby whiskers...discoloured teeth and a flea ridden coat....(NOW BORIS SNEAKILY TIP TOES OUT OF THE INN)....and here he is now!!..how are you Boris?

**BORIS:** (POSSIBLE RAT DOWN TROUSER GAG HERE)....Oh hello Frau Berger....er...I was just....

**GIRDA:** (INTERRUPTING)...Just checking for rats...yes I know...well you two are going to have to do something quick!..they're frightening away my paying guests!...I had that chap that writes the "Good Food Guides"....don't they call him *Ronay* or something?

**HERMAN:** *Egon?*

**GIRDA:** *Gone?*!..he never took his coat off!..*and* he didn't pay his bill!

ENTER GRETCHEN FROM INN IN A PANIC

**GRETCHEN:** Mother, Mother...there are rats in the laundry....and they're chewing your bloomers!!

**HERMAN:** Just calm down Gretchen...(SHE DOES)...now...can you remember what colour they were?

**GRETCHEN:** (MISUNDERSTANDING)...Er...they were red spotted ones with lace around the edge!

**BORIS:** (ASIDE TO HERMAN)...It's all right Mr. Fester...they're not ours....*our* rats are grey!

**HERMAN:** Shut up!..she's talking about the bloomers you fool!

**GIRDA:** Hey!..hang on a minute...do you mind not discussing my... (MIS-PRONOUNCES)...*lingerie* in public!

**HERMAN**: Will you excuse Boris and me ladies...we are very busy at the moment...come along Boris.

**GRETCHEN**: (TO HERMAN AND BORIS AS THEY MAKE TO EXIT)...What about our rats?

**HERMAN**: Yes, yes...all in due course my dear.

HERMAN AND BORIS EXIT

**GRETCHEN**: What are we going to do Mother?..as if we haven't enough problems, now the inn is teeming with rats...*and* we're both behind with our work!

**GIRDA**: Oh yes...I forgot to tell you....you know that advert I put in the "Hamelin Observer"?

**GRETCHEN**: What...the one for a qualified chef?

**GIRDA**: Yes...well we've had an application...he passed out at catering college last week....anyway, he's coming for an interview later today...so I've just got time to go and make myself presentable!

**GRETCHEN**: (CHEEKILY)...I thought you said he was coming *today*!

**GIRDA**: Yer cheeky young madam!!...I'll see you later...I'll see if I can get back into the inn for them rats!!

EXIT GIRDA INTO INN AS IF KICKING BACK THE RATS

ENTER HEIDI (PRINCIPAL GIRL)

**GRETCHEN**: Oh hello Heidi....how are you coping with the rats?

**HEIDI**: Yes Gretchen, aren't they awful?!..Father is trying to come up with an answer to the problem...he's meeting with the Councillors today.

**GRETCHEN**: Poor man!..who'd be the Mayor of Hamelin at a time like this?

**HEIDI:** Exactly!...anyway, I'm glad you're on your own...(SHE PRODUCES A LETTER WITH A BROKEN SEAL)...Look what I got this morning.

**GRETCHEN:** Who is it from?

**HEIDI:** Well...do you remember me telling you about that boy I met at music school in Vienna?..you know, his name is Karl!

**GRETCHEN:** (EXCITED)...Yes...yes!

**HEIDI:** Well, the letter is from him....*and* he's coming to visit me....I'm to expect him at any time...oh please say he can have lodgings at the inn.

**GRETCHEN:** Of course he can...(ASIDE)...so long as he doesn't mind rats!

**HEIDI:** What?

**GRETCHEN:** Oh nothing...does your Father know about Karl?

**HEIDI:** No...and I think it's best left that way...at least for the time being.

ENTER MAYOR STRUDEL WITH HANS AND MARTA HIS YOUNGER CHILDREN

**MAYOR:** Ah...there you are Heidi...we wondered where you'd got to...we couldn't keep up with you.

**HEIDI:** Er...yes I...er...I needed to speak to Gretchen...she was getting me some silks for my tapestry...(NUDGES GRETCHEN)...weren't you Gretchen?

**GRETCHEN:** Was I??...(REALISES)...oh yes, I was...but they...er...they didn't have the colour you needed!

**MARTA:** Are you still coming to the park with us Heidi?

**HANS:** We don't need our big Sister with us Marta...*I* can push you on the swings.

**HEIDI:** Yes you can Hans...but don't push Marta too high...and *don't* push Father into the lake again!

**MARTA:** Come on then Hans...I'll race you to the park.

**MAYOR:** (AS HANS & MARTA SCURRY OFF)...Don't go too far on your own...remember there are rats all over the place!

EXIT HANS AND MARTA WHO ALMOST BUMP INTO KARL AS HE ENTERS

**MAYOR:** (TO KARL)...Sorry about that young sir...just children's high spirits....you seem to be a new face in our fair town of Hamelin....well our *usually* fair town!

**KARL:** Oh you mean the rats!..yes it looks as if you have a problem... anyway, I've just been given directions to the hostelry here...I hope to stay for a while.

**MAYOR:** (SHAKES HANDS WITH KARL)...I'm Mayor Strudel, and I bid you welcome.

MAYOR AND KARL GO INTO MIMED CONVERSATION WHILE THE DIALOGUE NOW SWITCHES TO HEIDI AND GRETCHEN

**HEIDI:** (EXCITED)...Oh Gretchen!..it's *him*!

**GRETCHEN:** Who?

**HEIDI:** It's Karl, *and* he's talking to Father!..I hope he doesn't tell him that he's come to see me!...(SHE TURNS HER BACK TO THEM)...what's happening now Gretchen?..(GRETCHEN IS GAZING STARRY EYED)...*Gretchen!*

**GRETCHEN:** What?..oh...er...nothing...they're just talking....oh, but Karl is rather handsome!

GRETCHEN AND HEIDI GO INTO MIMED CONVERSATION WHILE THE DIALOGUE SWITCHES BACK TO MAYOR AND KARL

**MAYOR:** Oh, so you are a street musician?..Well, you're very welcome here because Hamelin does need cheering up at the moment!

**KARL:** I would love to play my pipe for the townsfolk....but would I need a permit?

**MAYOR:** No problem young sir...come to my chambers tomorrow and my Councillors and I will soon sort that out....and now you must excuse me, I must catch up with my young children...I'm afraid Hamelin isn't the safe place it was, what with these confounded rats!!...(HE MAKES TO LEAVE)...Oh, by the way, the tavern owner's daughter is the girl over there with (DESCRIBES GRETCHEN'S CLOTHES)...her name is Gretchen....and now I must go.

EXIT MAYOR

KARL APPROACHES GRETCHEN AS HEIDI TURNS AWAY

**KARL:** Gretchen?...(GRETCHEN GOES TOWARDS KARL LOOKING ALL STARRY EYED)...I understand your mother owns the tavern here, my name is Karl...there should be a room reserved for me.

**GRETCHEN:** It is!..er...I mean is it?..oh yes Mr. Karl...I'll...er...go and check if the room is ready.

**KARL:** Before you go...do you know where I can find Heidi Strudel?

**HEIDI:** (TURNS)...Just over here!!

KARL GOES TO HEIDI

GRETCHEN EXITS INTO TAVERN BUT NOT BEFORE BUMPING INTO SOMETHING AS SHE GAZES STARRY EYED AT KARL

**KARL:** My dearest Heidi!..how lovely to see you again...and just as pretty as I remember.

**HEIDI:** I hope you realise you were just talking to my Father!

**KARL:** Oh yes...I remembered you telling me that he was the Mayor...but I thought it better to get him on my side before telling him the *real* reason for my visit!..I said I was a street musician

**HEIDI:** Why?

**KARL:** Well, that's what I've been doing on my journey to Hamelin...it gives me a chance to practise my music *and* make some money at the same time...some people can be quite generous.



**HEIDI:** A street musician eh...what a good idea...now I can see you whenever I want....(GRETCHEN ENTERS FROM TAVERN STILL STARRY EYED)...ah Gretchen...*is* there a room ready for Karl?

**GRETCHEN:** A room?...er...oh yes...Mother has given him a room overlooking the river Weser...(PRONOUNCED VAZER)...I'll just take your bag Mr. Karl...(SHE PICKS UP KARL'S LUGGAGE AND AS SHE MAKES TO EXIT SHE AGAIN BUMPS INTO SOMETHING)

EXIT GRETCHEN INTO TAVERN

**HEIDI:** (LAUGHS)...Well Karl...you've certainly won Gretchen's heart!

**KARL:** Yes, but I've come here to win *your* heart dear Heidi...just as you won mine in Vienna!

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No 3**...FEATURING KARL AND HEIDI AND THE DANCERS...AFTER ROUTINE TABS CLOSE

ENTER HEINZ ON TABS....HE IS LOOKING AT A NEWSPAPER "THE HAMELIN OBSERVER"....IN THE OTHER HAND HE IS CARRYING A BATTERED SUITCASE WITH KITCHEN UTENSILS ATTACHED TO THE OUTSIDE...HE IS WEARING A *VERY TALL* DROLL CHEF'S HAT...HE LOOKS AROUND AS IF LOST

LIGHT THE STORY WRITER

**STORY WRITER:**

Now here's someone you'll learn to love...  
As my story I continue to write.  
He's wanting a job at Girda's hotel...  
And if he gets it he'll be frying tonight!

He wants to be Chef at the "Rat & Drainpipe"...  
And with Girda there'll be a meeting of minds.  
It's my quill that will decide the fate of this youth...  
This hapless young man they call Heinz!

FADE LIGHTS DOWN ON STORY WRITER AS HE CONTINUES TO SCRIBBLE

**HEINZ:** (LOOKING AT NEWSPAPER)... "The Rat & Drainpipe"??  
 ...(HE PEERS INTO WINGS AND POINTS)...there it is!..the very  
 place!....(TO HIMSELF)...now then Heinz...(ADJUSTS HIS HAT AND  
 CHECKS HIMSELF UP AND DOWN)...you'll get through this  
 interview....what did Mother tell me?..(AS HE QUOTES HIS MOTHER'S  
 ADVICE HE ADOPTS EACH POSE AND HOLDS ALL PREVIOUS  
 ONES).....she said..."Shoulder to the wheel"...."Chin up"..."Chest out"..."Best  
 foot forward"..."Eyes wide open"..."Head held high"..."Keep a straight  
 face"....and "Put your back into it"....(HE ENDS UP IN TWISTED  
 GROTESQUE POSE)...but most importantly, she said "Look natural"!!..(HE  
 EXITS HOBBLING WITH HOLDING ALL THE POSES AND WITH A  
 SILLY EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE)

ENTER COUNTESS ON TABS QUICKLY FOLLOWED BY HERMAN  
 FESTER

**COUNTESS:** Right Fester.....what news of the infestation?

**HERMAN:** You mean the *creation* of the infestation?

**COUNTESS:** Well I need *information* on the creation of the infestation!

**HERMAN:** Well...any information in *relation* to the creation of the infestation  
 should be a sensation!!

**COUNTESS:** Look!..any sensation of information in relation to the creation of  
 the infestation will need quantification and *notification*!!

**HERMAN:** Indeed!..it's my estimation that the sensation in relation to the  
 creation of the infestation will need quantification for a generation with  
 ratification and no cessation but *determination*!!!!

**COUNTESS:** (LOSING PATIENCE)...Fester!!!..just tell me...how many rats  
 are there in Hamelin!?

**HERMAN:** Thousands!!

**COUNTESS:** And what about that load of rubbish you were going to dump?

**HERMAN:** Oh I decided not to dump him...in fact, here *is* Boris now

ENTER BORIS...HE IS SLOWLY EMPTYING A SMALL DUSTBIN ONTO THE FLOOR AS HE ENTERS

**COUNTESS:** That's no good!..what we need to attract the rats is a pile of stinking...putrid...rotting...maggot ridden food!!

**BORIS:** Oh....I know where there's *plenty* of stinking...putrid...maggot ridden food!...they're serving it at the "Rat & Drainpipe"...it's today's *special!!!*

**COUNTESS:** (IGNORING HIM)...Now hear this you two...I want rats...more rats, and *still* more rats!!..the people of Hamelin will be begging to pay their taxes when I've finished with them!..now get to it!

EXIT COUNTESS WITH AN EVIL LAUGH

**BORIS:** She scares me Mr. Fester...in fact I think she would scare everybody...that is except my *Brother!*

**HERMAN:** Your Brother?..I didn't know you had a Brother.

**BORIS:** Oh yes...my Brother *Sylvest!*

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No 4**....FEATURING HERMAN AND BORIS  
.....AFTER ROUTINE THEY EXIT

LIGHT THE STORY WRITER

**STORY WRITER:**

You've seen the Countess yet again...  
A really nasty piece of work.  
Herman and Boris are frightened of her...  
And her orders to them they won't shirk!

But enough of them for the moment...  
And back to the tavern we'll go.  
Girda's putting Heinz through his paces...  
What will happen from now...(THINKS)...yes I know!

FADE LIGHTS DOWN ON STORY WRITER AS HE CONTINUES TO SCRIBBLE.....**TABS OPEN FOR...**

=====

**ACT 1....SCENE 2...."INSIDE THE "RAT & DRAINPIPE"**

SET:....A CLOTH DEPICTING A MEDIEVAL KITCHEN WITH PROPS TO SUIT...GIRDA AND HEINZ ARE STANDING BEHIND A LONG KITCHEN WORK TABLE WITH CLOTH TO FLOOR TO CONCEAL SPECIAL F/X

GIRDA AND HEINZ ARE COMING TO THE END OF THE INTERVIEW.... GIRDA AS SHE SPEAKS GESTICULATES WITH A SOUP LADLE

**GIRDA:** Right...just one more question Herr....?

**HEINZ:** Oh please...call me Heinz.

**GIRDA:** (PUTTING ON POSH VOICE)...*Hi ham honoured Herr Heinz!*..but during your training, so to speak, did you work at any *hestablishments* of repute?

**HEINZ:** Oh yes...in fact the last restaurant I worked at was associated with *Royalty!*

**GIRDA:** (IMPRESSED)...My word!..*hi ham himpressed!*..a restaurant with *Royal* connections?

**HEINZ:** Yes..."Burger King"!...(HE ACTS OUT AS HE TELLS HER).....I used to get the big burgers...you know, they call 'em *whoppers*...then I'd trim them to size with a meat cleaver....then pour relish over them....but before I got used to the job, sometimes the whole lot slipped from my hand and onto the floor!!

**GIRDA:** Oh I see...in other words, you were a Whopper Chopper Topper Dropper!!

**HEINZ:** Yes, but then I got used to it, and actually got quite *good* at it.

**GIRDA:** Oh...so you became a *Proper* Whopper Chopper Topper Dropper!?...anyway, according to your letter you passed out at college only last week.

**HEINZ:** Yes...I passed out all right...but when they got me a glass of water I soon came round...I think it was the excitement of the occasion!

**GIRDA:** Oh you mean getting your certificate?

**HEINZ:** Oh no!...it was my *first* day....no, I tell a lie...it was my *second* day...the first day I was in bed with food poisoning!!

**GIRDA:** (NOW LOOKING WORRIED)...Very reassuring!...now I must stress. at this *h*establishment we are very keen on hygiene!

SUDDENLY A MOCK RAT SCURRIES ACROSS THE LENGTH OF THE WORK TABLE....GIRDA TRIES TO HIT IT WITH THE SOUP LADLE BUT MISSES

**HEINZ:** (DOES DOUBLE TAKE)...What was that!?

**GIRDA:** (NONCHALANT)...What was what?

**HEINZ:** (INSISTENT)...Something ran across the table!!

**GIRDA:** Oh no it didn't!

GIRDA & HEINZ INTO "OH YES OH NO" BIZ WITH AUDIENCE

**HEINZ:** I'm telling you...I *definitely* saw something!

**GIRDA:** Oh...er...it was er....probably the kitchen's lucky mascot... (ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)...it was only lucky 'cos I missed it!

SUDDENLY A MOCK RAT RUNS UP THE WALL

**HEINZ:** (CATCHES A GLIMPSE OF IT)...I suppose that was *another* mascot??...the place is infested with mascots!!

NOW A RAT SHAPED LUMP MOVES ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE WORK TABLE *UNDER* THE TABLE CLOTH....THE "LUMP" STOPS IN FRONT OF GIRDA WHO SLOWLY RAISES HER SOUP LADLE IN READINESS TO HIT IT

**GIRDA:** (ASIDE)...They're working under cover now!

THE "LUMP" HAS STOPPED IN FRONT OF GIRDA BUT JUST AS GIRDA IS POISED TO 'SMACK IT ONE' IT SHOOTS OFF UNDER THE TABLE AND DISAPPEARS

**HEINZ:** I think you've got a mascot problem!...Girda, you're overrun with *rats*!!

**GIRDA:** I prefer to think of 'em as king size mice!...(ANOTHER MOCK RAT RUNS UP THE WALL)...all right then, *rats*....I don't suppose you could do anything with them, could you?

**HEINZ:** What!, me?..I'm a Chef!..although I suppose...(SARCASTIC)  
...I could knock up a *vermincelli*!!...or a *ratortooi*!!

**GIRDA:** (MISSES THE JOKE)...No no...I don't want you to cook 'em  
...can't you think of anything to get rid of 'em?

**HEINZ:** We could put some of my food down.

**GIRDA:** What?..in the traps?

**HEINZ:** No, just on the floor...it's bound to poison them!...(GIRDA LOOKS WORRIED)....I'm only joking!!...look Mrs. Berger, have I got the job, because I'm *desperate*!

**GIRDA:** Yes, you've got the job!...(TO AUDIENCE)....he's not the only one who's desperate!!

ENTER GRETCHEN THROUGH DOOR...SHE CLOSES IT AS IF TO STOP THE RATS GETTING THROUGH

**GRETCHEN:** Mother!..there are rats everywhere!..what are we going to do?

**GIRDA:** I don't know!..there's a council meeting today...let's hope they come up with something!...anyway, forget the rats for a minute...let me introduce our new chef Heinz....(THEN TO HEINZ)...Heinz, this is my daughter Gretchen.

**HEINZ:** (LOOKING LOVELORN)...Pleased to greet you Metchen!.....er...I mean pleased to meet you Gretchen.

**GRETCHEN:** (ALSO LOOKS LOVELORN)...Likewise Heinz...I've never met a proper chef before!

**GIRDA:** (TO AUDIENCE)...She *still* hasn't!!

**GRETCHEN:** (TO HEINZ)...Have you ever met Jamie Oliver?..you know him, the "Naked Chef".

**HEINZ:** (TRYING TO LOOK IMPORTANT)...Do *I* know the "Naked Chef"!?...it was me that pinched his clothes!...mind you, he always puts his apron on when he's *frying*!!

**GIRDA:** Right you two...I'll leave you to sort out tomorrow's menu whilst I go and sort out the first item on *any* recipe, because we haven't got one!

**GRETCHEN:** Why, what *haven't* we got that is first on any recipe?

**GIRDA:** A clean dish!!..I'll see you both later...

EXIT GIRDA THROUGH DOOR AS IF FIGHTING BACK RATS IN DOORWAY

**GRETCHEN:** Right Heinz....what are you planning to titillate our taste buds with for tomorrow's breakfast?

**HEINZ:** (AS IF BEING CREATIVE)...Write this down will you Gretchen?..(GRETCHEN MAKES AS IF TO WRITE WITH QUILL AND PAPER)...For tomorrow's breakfast we will have, kidney shaped pulses, tossed in a Mediterranean style sauce...served on a bed of whole wheat based composite which has been slightly seared....it's my *personal* creation!

**GRETCHEN:** (IMPRESSED)...Ooooh Heinz...it sounds delicious!.. what do you call it?

**HEINZ:** "Heinz beans on toast"!...(GRETCHEN LOOKS NON-PLUSSED AT AUDIENCE)...and then for lunch I will prepare....diced Bovine, in a flaky envelope of natural organic produce, lightly covered in a sauce derived from the residue of the natural Bovine juices and served with deep fried short columns of a North American tuber!

**GRETCHEN:** (LOOKING AT WHAT SHE HAS WRITTEN)...Don't tell me....steak pie...chips...and gravy?!

**HEINZ:** You've got it!

**GRETCHEN:** Oh well...I suppose to follow your lead....for pudding we could have....er...a decreasing coil of a suet based preparation...delicately lined with a preserve of the kitchen garden fruits...over which is drizzled a hot sauce of a vanilla based essence...lightly blended with the top of the contents of the Farmer's churn which has been vigorously whisked!

THEY BOTH LOOK AT EACH OTHER THEN SPEAK TOGETHER

**GRETCHEN/HEINZ:** (TOGETHER)...Jam roly-poly and custard!!!

**HEINZ:** I'll tell you what Gretchen...me and you are on the same wavelength....I think we're going to get on like a house on fire!

**GRETCHEN:** Well, a chip pan on fire at least!!...(THEY LAUGH)

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No 5**...FEATURING GRETCHEN AND HEINZ  
DUET....AFTER DUET...

**GRETCHEN:** Tell you what Heinz...let's go and have a look in the larder before we start thinking of menus

**HEINZ:** Good idea Gretchen...lead the way.

EXIT GRETCHEN AND HEINZ THROUGH DOOR

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No 6**...DANCE ROUTINE IN KITCHEN  
FEATURING SUNBEAMS AS VERMIN....AFTER ROUTINE...**TABS  
CLOSE**

ENTER HANS AND MARTA ON TABS...THEY ARE PLAYFULLY  
THROWING A BALL TO EACH OTHER UNTIL HANS DECIDES TO KEEP  
THE BALL....THEY START TO SQUABBLE NOISILY

ENTER HEIDI LOOKING CROSS

**HEIDI:** Hey you two!!..what's going on!!?..I told you to play *quietly*!!

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...you both know that Father has got an emergency council meeting and he is not to be disturbed!

**MARTA:** It's Hans....he won't throw the ball to me!

**HANS:** Girls are useless at catching anyway!...(THERE IS SOME "THEY'RE NOT"... "THEY ARE" REPEATING BANTER BETWEEN HANS AND MARTA)

**HEIDI:** Stop it you two!!

ENTER KARL WEARING HIS "PIED" OUTFIT...HE HAS HIS MUSICAL PIPE WITH HIM AND SOME ROLLED SHEET MUSIC

**KARL:** Is this a family argument, or can anybody join in!?

**HEIDI:** (A CHANGE OF MOOD)...Oh Karl...forgive my brother and sister...they're just being difficult as usual...(TO KIDS)...look you two, go and play in the front garden.

**MARTA:** We want to stay here now, and listen to you talk to Karl.

**HANS:** (BEING DIFFICULT)...Is he your *boyfriend* Heidi!!?

**HEIDI:** (EMBARRASSED)...No he isn't!!!

**KARL:** (TEASING)...Oh!..I'm sorry to hear that...I thought that you and I were getting along fine.

**HEIDI:** Well we are...it's just that...(POINTS TO CHILDREN)...little pigs have big ears!

**HANS:** Did you *hear* that Marta!?...our big sister called us little pigs!

**MARTA:** (INDIGNANT)...Umph!!...come on Hans...we'll go somewhere where we won't be insulted...(TO HEIDI)...and we will leave you with your *boyfriend*!!

EXIT HANS AND MARTA

KARL AND HEIDI HOLD HANDS AND GO INTO A MIMED CONVERSATION

LIGHT STORY WRITER

**STORY WRITER:** (AS IF GATHERING HIS THOUGHTS)

It's obvious now in Hamelin Town...  
That the rats have become a real threat.  
Now I'll give Karl the answer to this...  
So the Township will owe him a debt.

The music he makes will be the answer...  
That's my intent...or am I rambling!  
No...his music will lead the rats to their doom...  
And he'll be known forever as the Pied Piper of Hamelin.

LIGHTS DOWN ON STORY WRITER AS HE CONTINUES TO SCRIBBLE AWAY

THE ATTENTION SWITCHES BACK TO KARL AND HEIDI

**HEIDI:** So it's Father you've come to see?

**KARL:** Well yes...but...I did hope that I would see you as well.

**HEIDI:** Well Karl...I must say that you look very smart in your multi-coloured suit!

**KARL:** Oh I'm glad you like it...you see, because of the many colours it's called a "*Pied*" costume....I hope your Father will be impressed!

**HEIDI:** I'm sure that he will be....look, I think his meeting will be finished by now...I'll go in and see...I'll come back for you in a few minutes.

EXIT HEIDI

**KARL:** (AS SHE EXITS)...All right, but don't be long...(THEN TO HIMSELF)...I'm so glad I came to Hamelin, my feeling for Heidi are stronger than ever...I hope I can help her family and friends through this rat problem!

♪....**MUSICAL ITEM No7**....SOLO FEATURING KARL...WHO IS JOINED BY THE DANCERS.....AFTER SOLO....

ENTER HEIDI WHO BECKONS KARL AS IF TO FOLLOW HER INTO THE HOUSE.....**TABS OPEN FOR.....**

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**ACT 1...SCENE 3...THE MAYOR'S CHAMBERS"**

SET:....CLOTH DEPICTING PANELLED ROOM...THERE IS A TABLE TO CENTRE WITH 3 OR 4 COUNCILLORS SITTING AROUND IT WITH THE MAYOR PRESIDING OVER THE MEETING...ONE "ELDERLY" COUNCILLOR IS OBVIOUSLY ASLEEP....**NOTE:** THE TABLE HAS A COVER TO THE FLOOR, AGAIN TO CONCEAL EVENTUAL SPECIAL F/X....THERE ARE HOLES IN THE TABLE AND CLOTH FOR GLOVE PUPPET RATS WHICH WILL APPEAR UNDER COVERED PLATTERS LATER IN THE SCENE....THE HOLES AT THIS STAGE ARE COVERED WITH "COUNCIL PAPERS" ETC....THERE IS ALSO A QUILL PEN AND INK POT ON THE TABLE

**MAYOR:** (AS IF WINDING UP THE BUSINESS)...And that Councillors concludes the business for this morning....lunch will be served shortly.

ENTER HEIDI FOLLOWED BY KARL

**HEIDI:** Excuse me Father...the musician Karl is here to see you.

**MAYOR:** What's that my dear?...oh yes...if you will forgive us Councillors, perhaps you would like to freshen up for lunch.(TO COUNCILLOR No 1 AND REFERRING TO SLEEPING COUNCILLOR)...take him with you and freshen *him* up!!

**COUNCILLOR No1:** (SHAKING THE SLEEPY ONE)...Come along Herr Krinkalnocker...time for lunch!

**SLEEPY COUNCILLOR:** (AS HE IS BEING HELPED TO HIS FEET)...Hear hear!..I'll second that motion!..(AS HE GETS TO HIS FEET HE REACHES INTO HIS POCKET AND DOESN'T REALISE THAT HE HAS PULLED OUT A MOCK RAT AS HE MOPS HIS BROW WITH IT....THE RAT SCURRIES (IS PULLED) OFF....THEN AS HE IS BEING HELPED OUT BY HIS COLLEAGUES)...they say there are *rats* in Hamelin you know.....poppycock!!

EXIT ALL THE COUNCILLORS

**MAYOR:** (TO KARL)...Now then my fine piper...no doubt you are here for your street performer's permit...well, I have it here...(PRODUCES DOCUMENT FROM POCKET AND HANDS IT TO KARL)...I wish you good luck with your music, because if Hamelin ever needed cheering up it's now...the whole town is depressed because of this rat problem!

**KARL:** I promise you Mayor Strudel, my trusty pipe and my music...(HE PUTS MUSIC ON TABLE)...will brighten the darkest of times.

**HEIDI:** Oh I'm so glad you're here Karl.

**MAYOR:** Karl???..Do you two know each other?

**HEIDI:** Yes...I have to confess Father that we did meet at the music school in Vienna....*and* we fell in love!

**KARL & MAYOR:** (TOGETHER...KARL PLEASED...MAYOR SHOCKED)...Fell in love??!!

ENTER GIRDA PUSHING A SERVING TROLLEY WHICH HAS ON IT SILVER PLATTERS COVERED WITH DOMED LIDS...SHE IS FOLLOWED BY GRETCHEN AND HEINZ....GIRDA AND GRETCHEN ARE DRESSED IN "POSH CAFE" TYPE OUTFITS AND HEINZ IS DRESSED AS A CHEF WITH HIS COMICAL TALL CHEF'S HAT

**GIRDA:** Luncheon is served!....we serve *Girda's All Round Better A'la Cart Gourmet Experience!*

**HEINZ:** In short we serve garbage!!

**MAYOR:** (NOT REALLY LISTENING)...What?...oh yes...just wait a moment would you Girda...(TO KARL AND HEIDI)...this falling in love business...I think that we three have some talking to do!

**HEIDI:** But Father we....

**MAYOR:** (INTERRUPTING)...But Father nothing Heidi!..I hardly know this young man...*or* his background!...Let's go into my study now and discuss this like sensible adults.

EXIT MAYOR, KARL AND HEIDI

**GIRDA**: (TO HEINZ AND GRETCHEN)...Right you two...let us set out the luncheon...remember, presentation is very important!..Heinz, you put the soup over here...(GIRDA INDICATES WHERE THE SOUP TUREEN MUST GO FOR GAG)...Gretchen, you put the roast and veg here...(AGAIN INDICATES WHERE FOR GAG)...and I'll put the cheese and biscuits here...(PLACES FOR GAG)

**HEINZ**: Please check the soup would you Girda?

**GIRDA**: (TAKES LID OFF SOUP TUREEN)...I'll just check if it's hot enough....(SHE DIPS HER ELBOW INTO BOWL)

**GRETCHEN**: Mother!!..isn't that a little un-hygenic!?

**GIRDA**: (LOOKS AT HER ELBOW)...No...not really...it doesn't seem to have affected my elbow at all!!

SUDDENLY A RAT...(GLOVE PUPPET)...APPEARS ABOVE THE RIM OF THE SOUP TUREEN AND TRAVELS AROUND THE EDGE....GIRDA LOOKS AT IT AND THEN AT HEINZ AND GRETCHEN)

**GIRDA**: What's that rat doing in the Council's soup!?

**HEINZ**: (WATCHING 'RAT' IN SOUP)...I think you'll find that *that* is called the breast stroke!

**GRETCHEN**: (GRIMACING)...The Mayor can't eat soup with a *rat* in it.!!

**GIRDA**: I *know* that Gretchen!...I'm well aware he's a *vegetarian*!.. (SHE PUTS LID BACK ON THE TUREEN QUICKLY)...Heinz, have a look and see what the fowl looks like!

HEINZ LIFTS THE DOMED LID OFF THE PLATTER AND WE SEE THE CARCASS OF A TURKEY AND A FAT RAT...(A GLOVE PUPPET)...WITH A BIB AROUND ITS NECK AND A KNIFE AND FORK ATTACHED TO ITS PAWS...IT GIVES A LOUD 'BURP'

**HEINZ**: Well, the fowl looks...er...*foul*!!!...(HE PUTS THE LID BACK ON QUICKLY)

**GIRDA**: And so to the end of the meal....there is nothing like cheese and biscuits!!...(SHE LIFTS DOMED LID TO SHOW A FEW CRUMBS)... and what we have is nothing *like* cheese and biscuits!!...it's more like *crumbs* of cheese and biscuits!!

**GRETCHEN**: Mother!..there's nothing for the Councillors to eat!..what are we going to do?

**GIRDA**: There's only one thing for it!..I'll have to go to the fish shop!

**HEINZ**: (AS IF OFFENDED BUT VERY OVER DRAMATIC)...  
*Takeaway*?!!!..I've just spent five years of my life studying and sweating in hot kitchens...with some of Europe's top Chefs, and preparing exotic menu's for the Crowned Heads of Europe....I can't eat *fish and chips*!!!

**GIRDA**: Well, what *are* you going to eat then?

**HEINZ**: (HE CHANGES FROM THE DRAMATIC TO MATTER OF FACT)...Get me a battered sausage...oh, and a buttered teacake!

**GIRDA**: Right...that's fish and chips seven times....and a battered sausage and a teacake....I'll see you in a while

EXIT GIRDA BUT NOT BEFORE SHE BUMPS INTO, AND IS SPUN AROUND BY HANS AND MARTA AS THEY ENTER

**GRETCHEN**: (TO HANS AND MARTA)...Hey!..what are you two up to??

**MARTA**: We can't play out because it's raining!..*and* we're bored!

**HANS**: Can we play in here?

**HEINZ**: Well, so long as you don't touch anything....me and Gretchen have to take these things back to the tavern...(THEY CAREFULLY REMOVE ITEMS FROM THE TABLE BACK ON TO THE TROLLEY REMEMBERING TO COVER THE 'HOLES' IN THE TABLE TOP WITH PAPERS ETC)

**GRETCHEN**: (AS SHE EXITS WITH HEINZ AND TROLLEY)... Don't forget!...don't *touch* anything!

EXIT GRETCHEN AND HEINZ PUSHING OFF TROLLEY  
HANS IMMEDIATELY STARTS TO LOOK AT THE PAPERS ON THE TABLE AND PICKS THINGS UP

**MARTA:** Hans!..we haven't to touch anything!

**HANS:** Don't worry...nobody will know!..hey look Marta...there's all sorts of papers here...*and* there's some sheet music!..they must belong to Karl!

**MARTA:** Oh, let's play at being important!...I'll be a Councillor and you can be the Mayor!

**HANS:** Right!..(PICKS UP QUILL PEN FROM INK POT)...I decree that all the children of Hamelin will have free sweets for the rest of their lives!!

**MARTA:** Here here!!..don't forget to *sign* the document Mr. Mayor!

**HANS:** Of course not Councillor Marta....(HE DIPS QUILL INTO INK POT AND TRIES TO WRITE)...it doesn't seem to be working!

HANS SHAKES THE QUILL VIGOROUSLY OVER THE SHEETS OF MUSIC

**MARTA:** Oh no!..you've splattered all the music with ink!..look, give it here...let me try and get it off...(SHE RUBS THE MUSIC WITH HER HAND)

**HANS:** You've made it worse now...all the spots are joined up....what are we going to tell Mr. Karl?

ENTER KARL TO THE SURPRISE OF HANS AND MARTA

**KARL:** (HAVING OVERHEARD)...And what *are* we you going to tell me?

**HANS:** Er...er...(AS IF THINKING)...we were going to tell you that Girda has gone for some fish and chips!

**KARL:** Oh?..is that all?

**MARTA:** (CHANGING SUBJECT)...Oh we love your colourful outfit Mr. Karl....don't we Hans?

**KARL:** Well, this is my 'Pied' outfit. and 'pied' means multi coloured... which makes me the "Pied Piper"!..listen, I'll tell you about it.

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No 8**...FEATURING KARL, HANS AND MARTA WHO ARE JOINED BY THE SUNBEAMS....AFTER ROUTINE....

**KARL:** (TO HANS AND MARTA)...Right you two....don't let the Mayor... (REFERRING TO THE SUNBEAMS)...catch your friends in his chambers.

**MARTA:** (TO SUNBEAMS)...Quick you lot...make yourselves scarce!..we'll see you later!

EXIT SUNBEAMS

**KARL:** Now...what did I come in here for?...oh yes!..my music...(HE PICKS UP HIS SMUDGED MUSIC)...what on earth has happened here?...I can't play this!...it has changed the music completely!!

**HANS:** It was me that did it Mr. Karl!..I'm very sorry...can't you play it at all?

**KARL:** Well I'll try....this is what it will sound like!...(HE MAKES AS IF TO PLAY HIS PIPE)

HE "PLAYS" A HAUNTING YET SIMPLE TUNE...SUDDENLY FROM VARIOUS POINTS MOCK RATS APPEAR AS IF ATTRACTED BY THE MUSIC

**MARTA:** I think that is a lovely tune Mr. Karl....and the rats have come out of hiding to listen!

**KARL:** Indeed they have...let's see if they will follow me into the street!

THE PIPER CONTINUES HIS TUNE AND THE MOCK RATS WITH SUITABLE *SOUND F/X* ARE ATTRACTED TO IT AND MAKE AS IF TO FOLLOW HIM AS HE EXITS

TABS CLOSE

LIGHT STORY WRITER

**STORY WRITER:**

The scourge of Hamelin are now on the run...  
And this movement of rats will persist.  
But that seems too simple, what else can I do?..  
(THINKS)...I'll give my story a twist!



Countess Baddanville will not be too pleased...  
 When she hears what's gone on here today.  
 She was using this plague to threaten the town...  
 So the people their taxes they'd pay.

Herman and Boris to the Countess will run...  
 And their story will surely amaze her.  
 When she hears that the Piper has lured all the rats...  
 And drowned them in the deep river Weser!

LIGHTS DOWN ON THE STORY WRITER AS HE MAKES TO WRITE ON

THE PIED PIPER ENTERS STAGE LEFT ON TABS HE IS MIMING  
 PLAYING THE ENCHANTED TUNE AND WITH SOUND AND LIGHTING  
 F/X A MULTITUDE OF RATS FOLLOW HIM AS HE CROSSES THE  
 STAGE AND EXITS STAGE RIGHT

ENTER HERMAN AND BORIS STAGE LEFT ON TABS

**HERMAN**: (POINTING OFF STAGE RIGHT)...Did you see that Boris?...all  
 the rats have followed that piper chap!...and look *now* what's happening!...  
 they're all jumping into the river Weser and drowning!!

**BORIS**: Hey Mr. Fester...shall I go and get them *tame* rats to take their place?

**HERMAN**: (SARCASTIC)...You mean *both* of 'em?...oh, and of course the  
 Guinea Pig!...I don't think that will help Boris.

**BORIS**: No, you're probably right...in any case, if Fluffy.....

**HERMAN**: (INTERRUPTING)...*Fluffy*??!?

**BORIS**: Yes, our Guinea Pig!...if *he* went into the river Weser the sellotape on  
 his tail would lose its sticky and come off....that would give the game away.

**HERMAN**: (LOOKS AT BORIS WITH DISGUST)...Thankyou Boris for that  
*useless* piece of information.....look, our biggest problem is telling the Countess  
 what's happened!..you know what *she's* like!..come on Boris, *you* can tell her!

**BORIS**: (AS THEY MAKE TO EXIT)...All right then...(THEN REALISES)...  
 yer what!?!?

HERMAN AND BORIS EXIT....**TABS OPEN FOR.....**

=====

**ACT 1...SCENE 4..."BADDANVILE CASTLE"**

SET:...CLOTH DEPICTING THE INTERIOR OF A EUROPEAN 17TH CENTURY CASTLE.....IT MAY INCLUDE A BARONIAL FIREPLACE WITH 'COATS OF ARMS' AND POSSIBLY A WINDING STAIRCASE... ALSO A SIDE TABLE ON WHICH IS A PEWTER GOBLET AND JUG OF WINE WHICH CAN BE SET AFTER ROUTINE

**♪...MUSICAL ITEM No 9...FEATURING THE COUNTESS AND DANCERS IN A DRAMATIC MUSICAL ROUTINE....AFTER ROUTINE THE DANCERS EXIT**

ENTER HERMAN AND BORIS NERVOUSLY

**COUNTESS:** Ah...my dynamic duo!..what news of the infestation?

**HERMAN:** You mean the *restoration* of the infestation!

**BORIS:** We've sweat *perspiration* over the restoration of the infestation!!

**COUNTESS:** (WEARY)...Oh please...let's not go down *that* road again!...just tell me, how many rats there are now in Hamelin...just give me a round figure!

**BORIS:** A round figure eh?...you mean how many rats are there *now*?  
...at this minute...in Hamelin?

**COUNTESS:** Yes, to all three questions.....now give me a round figure.

**HERMAN:** None!!..and that's the *roundest* figure you could get!

**COUNTESS:** (ASTONISHED)...*None!!!???*..what's happened?

**BORIS:** It was the Pied Piper...he charmed the rats with his music... they followed him to the river Weser...and they've all drowned!!

**COUNTESS:** Have they indeed?..I have news of this meddling piper!..

I hear he is the sweetheart of Heidi, the daughter of that tiresome Mayor Strudel.....so gentlemen, it is time to implement my plan '**B**'.

**BORIS**: Good!...(TO HERMAN PUZZLED)...er..what's plan 'B'?

**HERMAN**: Come on!..buck up Boris...plan 'B' you know...(THEN LOOKS AT COUNTESS PUZZLED)...what *is* plan 'B'?

**COUNTESS**: I want you to bring to me this wretched girl Heidi, the daughter of the Mayor...with her locked in my dungeon I will have lots of bargaining power!

**HERMAN**: You don't mean *kidnap*!!?

**COUNTESS**: That's exactly what I mean.

**HERMAN**: (BEING POSITIVE)...There is no way in this world that *I*, Herman Fester would stoop so low as to kidnap a maiden from a town that we share and love, to bring her here to be held captive in this castle...no way!..never!..end of story!

**COUNTESS**: Who ever brings me the girl will get a thousand schillings!

**BORIS**: I'll do it!!..what time do you want me to bring her over?

**HERMAN**: (INTERRUPTING)...Just a minute Boris...(DRAGS HIM TO ONE SIDE)...let's have a little meeting!..Boris, we're a team you and me, and every team has a captain....and the captain makes the decisions...*me*!

**BORIS**: But you said there was no way you would do it!

**HERMAN**: Er...oh no...er...that was just a ploy to get more money...just watch me work Boris...she'll be putty in my hands...(TO COUNTESS) ...very well Countess, we'll do it...but the price is *1200* schillings.

**COUNTESS**: You *will* do it, and you will do it for 800 schillings!..I will not be trifled with!

**BORIS**: (TO HERMAN)...800!??..you've just lost us 200 schillings...(DISGUSTED)...putty in your hands eh?

**HERMAN:** (FLUSTERED TO BORIS)...Well, you'd only have to pay more tax...stick with me old lad...(THEN TO COUNTESS)...very well your Countessness, we'll bring her here this afternoon.

**COUNTESS:** Good!..and make sure that everyone knows that the girl is in my dungeon!..especially that confounded Pied Piper...well?..what are you waiting for??!

**BORIS:** The money.

**COUNTESS:** You will not get a single coin until that girl is incarcerated in my dungeon!

**HERMAN:** Come on Boris...let's be about our incarceration business.

**COUNTESS:** (AS THEY MAKE TO LEAVE)...Oh, and by the way...on your way out, my jailer should be waiting to see me...tell him to come in.

**HERMAN:** Very well your Countessness...come along Boris.

**BORIS:** (TO HERMAN)...Hey...what does incarceration mean?

**HERMAN:** If you don't know the meaning of incarceration Boris, you should be locked up!

EXIT HERMAN AND BORIS

**COUNTESS:** (TO HERSELF)...I'll show this meddling piper...when I have the girl Heidi, there will be a ransom to pay...not just money!.. something *far* more important to the townsfolk of Hamelin...their *children*!!...(SHE LAUGHS)...if this Pied Piper loves Heidi, he will do *anything* to get her back! Including charming the children to follow him to the river Weser where they will suffer the same fate as the rats!!...(EVIL LAUGH)

ENTER JAILER

**JAILER:** (GRUFF VOICE)...You wanted to see me Countess?

**COUNTESS:** Prepare the deepest dungeon for a special guest...a young lady, who will be staying with us until I get my way!

EXIT COUNTESS AND JAILER IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS

TABS CLOSE.....LIGHT THE STORY WRITER

**STORY WRITER:**

As I have written, the rats have gone...  
And for the time being all is well.  
The townsfolk of Hamelin can celebrate...  
But there's trouble ahead truth to tell.

Now Heidi will enjoy the rodents demise...  
Not knowing the fate to befall her.  
Her Brother and Sister will share in the fun...  
But will Heidi be there when they call her?

So it's back to Hamelin to share their delight...  
Because they think their troubles have ended.  
Now they're happy again and they'll celebrate...  
And at this point that's what I intended.

FADE STORY WRITER WHO CONTINUES TO WRITE

ENTER GIRDA AND GRETCHEN ON TABS

**GIRDA:** Hey Gretchen...that Pied Piper is something else isn't he?...getting rid of all those rats?

**GRETCHEN:** Yes, our bookings have improved in the hotel.

**GIRDA:** I know...we've got a "Saga" tour coming today...you know...holidays for the *helderly!*...(LOOKS DOWN INTO AUDIENCE)...hey Gretchen...(ASIDE)...don't look now, but I think they are already here...look down there!..first two rows.

**GRETCHEN:** (AS IF SNEAKING A LOOK)...Oh yes...I think you're right...do they look happy?

**GIRDA:** (ALSO SNEAKS A LOOK)...Well, if their faces are anything to go by I think they've had a wet first week!..anyway, forget about them...Hamelin is going to celebrate, and we are going to have a picnic...I've told Heinz to put a banquet on!

**GRETCHEN:** (LOOKS INTO WINGS)...I've a funny feeling Mother that Heinz didn't hear you right when you said put a *banquet* on...'cos here he comes now.

ENTER HEINZ WITH A BLANKET AROUND HIS SHOULDERS

**GIRDA:** Heinz!..I told you to put a *banquet* on, not a *blanket* on!

**HEINZ:** What?..(REALISES)...oh this?...oh no...this is for you to sit on at the picnic...you see, I *have* put a banquet on...it's all set out in the Civic Gardens...three courses...and if I say so my self, the puddings are wonderful!

**GRETCHEN:** Oooh good!..are there any trifles?

**HEINZ:** Yes, I've made some small trifles...and I've sprinkled them with that topping stuff...er...(THINKING)

**GIRDA:** Hundreds and Thousands??

**HEINZ:** You what!?!..I didn't know you wanted so many trifles!..I've only made six!

**GIRDA:** Oh forget it...what's for main course?

**HEINZ:** I'm glad you asked that...for as we speak, there is a full side of venison turning on the spit!

**GRETCHEN:** Venison?...isn't that Deer?

**HEINZ:** (MISUNDERSTANDING)...Well yes, it can be a bit expensive...but you see Gretchen, it is a very rare meat...just tell me, when did you last see a venison roaming about?...by the way, I've got a full range of starters...you can have prawn cocktail...pate...melon...

**GIRDA:** (INTERRUPTING)...Avocado??

**HEINZ:** Of course you can...as many Cado's as you like!

**GRETCHEN:** Look, come on you two...let's get over to the market square...they're going to be starting without us!!

THEY MAKE A HURRIED EXIT

TABS OPEN FOR...

=====

**ACT 1....SCENE 5...."THE MARKET SQUARE"**

SET:...AS PREVIOUS.....THE MAYOR IS STANDING UPSTAGE CENTRE AND ABOUT TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT...ON HIS RIGHT IS KARL ON HIS LEFT IS HEIDI...IN FRONT OF THEM ARE THE SUNBEAMS, DANCERS AND CHORUS...ALSO HANS AND MARTA...HERMAN AND BORIS ARE BEHAVING RATHER SUSPICIOUSLY WHEN THEY SEE HEIDI

**MAYOR:** (ANNOUNCING)...People of Hamelin...Thanks to Karl here, our Pied Piper, the town is now free of rats....(ALL CHEER)

**KARL:** (MODEST)...Thankyou Mayor Strudel...but I did have some help when Hans and Marta unwittingly changed my music and created the enchanted tune!

**MARTA:** (CHEEKILY)...Does that mean that we get more pocket money Father?

**MAYOR:** (OFF GUARD)...What?...oh...er...we'll see...anyway...to mark this happy occasion, Heinz, the Chef from the "Rat and Drainpipe" has prepared a feast, to be served shortly in the Civic Gardens...so please, everybody enjoy yourselves and have a wonderful day!

**♪....MUSICAL ITEM No10....ACT I FINALE...FULL COMPANY NUMBER FEATURING ALL ON STAGE...WHO ARE JOINED BY GIRDA, GRETCHEN HEINZ AND THE STORY WRITER....AFTER ROUTINE HOUSE TABS CLOSE**

~~~~~

**INTERVAL**

~~~~~

LIGHT STORY WRITER BEFORE HOUSE TABS OPEN

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**STORY WRITER:**

(THINKING ALOUD)...Now, where was I in this story of mine?...oh yes...

Happiness still abounds in old Hamelin Town...  
And everyone's up on cloud nine.  
But their joy turns to sorrow as my story unfolds...  
When they learn Heidi's life's on the line.

For the moment let's all enjoy what we see...  
But be ready for their troubles and woe.  
Now I need time to give my story some thought...  
As now back to Hamelin we go.

LIGHTS DOWN ON STORY WRITER

HOUSE TABS OPEN FOR....

**ACT 2....SCENE 1...."THE MARKET SQUARE IN HAMELIN"**

SET:...AS PREVIOUS

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No 11**...A HAPPY BOUNCY SONG AND DANCE ROUTINE FEATURING FULL COMPANY LESS COUNTLESS...HERMAN AND BORIS ARE STILL ACTING SUSPICIOUSLY WHEN THE ROUTINE TAKES THEM ANYWHERE NEAR HEIDI...TOWARDS THE END OF THE ROUTINE HERMAN AND BORIS BUSTLE A DISTRESSED HEIDI OFF STAGE UN-NOTICED BY THE REST OF THE COMPANY....AFTER ROUTINE...

**MAYOR:** Well everyone...I'm sure you'll agree we're having a splendid time, and don't forget there's a free funfair in the park for the children... (**SOME OF THE SUNBEAMS EXIT**)...there's boating on the river for the energetic *cruisers*...(REST OF SUNBEAMS AND SOME DANCERS EXIT)...the band is playing marches for the lovers of *Souza's*...and deck chairs in the shade for the relaxers and *snoozers*... (**MORE DANCERS EXIT**)

**GIRDA:** (INTERRUPTING)...And the "Rat & Drainpipe" is open for all of the *boozers*!!...(THE CHORUS EXIT HAPPILY INTO THE INN AND THE



**BAND MAKES AS IF TO JOIN THEM....THEN TO BAND)...not you lot!!..we've only got sixteen barrels...(BAND SETTLE DISAPPOINTED)**

**GRETCHEN:** (TO HEINZ)...It doesn't sound as if *we're* going to get much of a day off Heinz...(THEN TO GIRDA)...what fun will *I* have today Mother?

**GIRDA:** Helping me count the takings!..and it's double pay for *you* Heinz!

GIRDA EXITS INTO THE INN

**HEINZ:** (NON-PLUSSED)...Double pay?..that's brilliant, what's two times nothing!!?..come on Gretchen, let's make a start

**GRETCHEN:** (AS THEY MAKE TO EXIT)...The first job is to get the steins and wines into lines Heinz...hey!..I'm a poet and didn't know it!

EXIT GRETCHEN AND HEINZ INTO INN

**MAYOR:** (TURNS TO KARL)...Well Karl, and what are your plans for this afternoon?

**KARL:** Well I thought I might take Heidi...(REALISES SHE IS MISSING...THEN WORRIED)...Where is Heidi?...Hans...Marta...have you seen your sister?

**HANS:** She was here a short while ago!

**MARTA:** I saw her leave with Mr. Fester and Boris...and she didn't look very happy!

ENTER COUNTESS

**COUNTESS:** No!..she *isn't* very happy, but *I* am!

**MAYOR:** (CONCERNED)...Why?..what have you done with her?

**COUNTESS:** Nothing....*yet*!!..it all depends on whether you, Mr. Mayor, can persuade the people of Hamelin to pay their taxes to me!

**MAYOR:** Never!..Hamelin will not be blackmailed!

**COUNTESS:** Oh I think they will!..especially when I have discussed my plans with this...(INDICATES TO KARL)...Pied Piper here!

**KARL:** (ANGRY)...Where is she!?

**COUNTESS:** Well, at this moment she is languishing in my deepest dungeon...but don't worry, she is not alone!...you see, the rats in the castle couldn't hear you playing that silly pipe of yours and will no doubt be keeping your precious Heidi company.

**KARL:** Look, tell me what these plans are of yours...I'll do anything!

**COUNTESS:** I do not bargain in the streets piper...be at Baddanville Castle when the sun goes down...alone!!..and then I will make my intentions clear!!

EXIT COUNTESS WITH AN EVIL LAUGH

**MARTA:** (APPEARING DISTRESSED)...Oh Father...does this mean Heidi will never come home again!?

**MAYOR:** Don't worry my dear...I'm sure Heidi will return to us soon.

**MARTA:** (NOW UNCONCERNED)...Well, until she does....can I have her big bedroom?

**HANS:** (STARTING TO SQUABBLE)...I'm a boy...*I* want the big bedroom!!

**MAYOR:** (CROSS)...Be quiet you thoughtless children!! And get back to the house!

EXIT HANS AND MARTA STILL SQUABBLING

**KARL:** Leave this to me Mayor Strudel...I'll do whatever it takes to get Heidi back with us.

**MAYOR:** I'm sure you will...but just as a back up...I'll call out the Hamelin Home Guard!

THEY EXIT IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS

TABS CLOSE

ENTER HERMAN AND BORIS ON TABS LOOKING REMORSEFUL

**HERMAN**: Nay Boris...what have you done!?

**BORIS**: How do you mean what have *I* done?!..*You* told the Countess that you'd capture Heidi for money!

**HERMAN**: I know...but you didn't talk me out of it, did you?..don't forget...we have to *live* in Hamelin!..now nobody will talk to us.

**BORIS**: Well, they didn't talk to us before!

**HERMAN**: Yes...but now they won't talk to us and *mean* it!!..look, I think we ought to go to the Mayor and tell him the truth and put things right with him....we could even join their Home Guard...the Countess won't know!

**BORIS**: That's it Mr. Fester...we can *act* as double agents.

**HERMAN**: There are a lot of people out there...(INDICATES TO AUDIENCE)...that won't agree with that.

**BORIS**: What, that we are double agents?

**HERMAN**: No...that *we* can *act*!!...come on.

EXIT HERMAN AND BORIS

LIGHT STORY WRITER

**STORY WRITER**:

Herman and Boris have now seen the light...  
And they know their actions weren't right.  
They'll join Hamelin's Home Guard along with the rest...  
Then together they'll fight the good fight.

Soon Hamelin's Home Guard will be on parade...  
You may get the impression they're barmy.  
It's difficult to write about the Pied Piper of Hamelin...  
When my mind sees a scene from Dad's Army!

LIGHTS DOWN ON STORY WRITER

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ENTER MAYOR ON TABS WEARING A MILITARY STYLE PEAKED CAP AND CARRYING AN OFFICERS BATON...HE MARCHES ON...ABOUT TURNS TO FACE THE AUDIENCE

**MAYOR:** Hamelin's Home Guard...by the left!...wait for it!!...by the left quick march!!

ENTER MARCHING BADLY OUT OF TIME AND WEARING A BIZARRE MIXTURE OF UNIFORMS AND WEAPONS GIRDA, GRETCHEN, HEINZ, HERMAN AND BORIS

**MAYOR:** Halt!..dress from the left....(THEY SHUFFLE ABOUT INTO SOME KIND OF FORMATION)...now some of you will have noticed... (INDICATING TO HERMAN AND BORIS)...that we have two new recruits in our ranks who have yet to enrol...so if you will just bear with me....(HE STEPS FORWARD TO TALK TO HERMAN AND BORIS)...if you look along the ranks, you will observe the very cream of Hamelin's fighting force...hand picked for their fearless combat qualities, so, could you answer these simple questions.....are you fearless?

**HERMAN & BORIS:** (TOGETHER)...No!

**MAYOR:** Can you fight?

**HERMAN & BORIS:** (TOGETHER)...No!

**MAYOR:** Can you take orders?

**HERMAN & BORIS:** (TOGETHER)...No!

**MAYOR:** Now finally, would you put the lives of other before your own?

**HERMAN & BORIS:** (TOGETHER)...*Definitely* no!!

**MAYOR:** Excellent!..just the men we're looking for!..sign here!..(HE PASSES THEM A SHEET OF PAPER AND THEY MAKE AS IF TO SIGN IT....THEN TO ALL)...now, as your leader and someone with experience in the field of conflict....because don't forget I was in the "Battle of the *Bulge*"

**GIRDA:** (LOOKING AT MAYOR'S PAUNCH)...I see you lost!

**MAYOR:** (PULLING IN HIS STOMACH)...Quiet in the ranks!!...  
 ...Hamelin Home Guard....atten.....shun!!...(HEINZ IS LATE)...left  
 turn!...(HEINZ IS LATE AGAIN)...by the left....quick march!!

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No 12**...."LIBERTY BELL"...INTO  
 CHOREOGRAPHED SILLY MARCHING ROUTINE....AFTER ROUTINE  
 ALL MARCH OFF AS MAYOR TAKES THE SALUTE

TABS OPEN FOR.....

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**ACT 2....SCENE 2...."BADDANVILE CASTLE DUNGEONS"**

SET:....CLOTH DEPICTING A MEDIEVAL CELL WITH WINDOW WITH  
 BARS....POSSIBLE SHAFT OF LIGHT EFFECT THROUGH  
 WINDOW...CHAINS ETC ON WALL....THERE IS A SMALL BED AND  
 TABLE WHICH HAS AN ENAMEL BOWL ON...HEIDI IS SEATED ON A  
 SMALL CHAIR BY THE TABLE

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No 13**...FEATURING A SAD HEIDI...AFTER  
 SOLO THERE IS A RATTLING OF KEYS AS IF DOOR BEING OPENED

ENTER JAILER THROUGH DOOR

**JAILER:** You've got a visitor!

ENTER KARL....WHO EMBRACES HEIDI....JAILER STANDS GUARD.

**KARL:** (TO HEIDI)...Don't worry my dearest...I'll soon get you out of here.

**HEIDI:** Be careful Karl...the Countess is ruthless...don't let her win!!

ENTER COUNTESS WHO SEPARATES THE COUPLE

**COUNTESS:** (TO HEIDI)...You are quite right my dear...I *am* ruthless!  
 ...and believe me, I *will* win!!

**KARL:** Look, cut out the big talk Countess...just tell me what I have to do to get Heidi out of here!

**COUNTESS:** Very well....some would say, Pied Piper, that you did a magnificent job of ridding Hamelin of its plague of rats....in truth *my* plague of rats!

**KARL:** And?

**COUNTESS:** And now you must rid Hamelin of something else!

**KARL:** What?

**COUNTESS:** The children!!

**KARL & HEIDI:** (TOGETHER)...The *children*!!!!

**COUNTESS:** Indeed!..every child and young person in Hamelin must suffer the same fate as the rats!..only then will I release the girl!!

**HEIDI:** You can't do this Karl!..not the children!..they are Hamelin's future.

**KARL:** Don't worry Heidi...(ASIDE)...please trust me....(THEN TO COUNTESS)...very well Countess...I will do as you bid!..the children will be gone before dawn.

**COUNTESS:** Excellent!..oh, and don't forget that I also want a signed statement from Mayor Strudel that all taxes paid by the citizens of Hamelin will now come to me!!

**HEIDI:** Countess Baddanville, please don't make Karl do this...take all the money, but please, *not* the children!!

**COUNTESS:** Perhaps in future, you and yours will realise it is not wise to trifle with the Countess of Brunswick, and to treat me with the respect deserving of an aristocrat...(TO KARL)...come piper...I'm sure you have preparations to make.

ENTER HERMAN AND BORIS....BOTH ARE CARRYING TRAYS ...ONE WITH FOOD AND THE OTHER WITH DRINK

**COUNTESS:** What's this!?

**HERMAN**: Food for the prisoner!

**COUNTESS**: Very well....come along piper.

EXIT COUNTESS AND KARL WHO GIVES HEIDI A REASSURING  
GLANCE AS HE LEAVES....THE JAILER CLOSES THE CELL DOOR AND  
STANDS GUARD

**HERMAN**: (STERNLY SO THE GUARD DOESN'T SUSPECT)....Here's  
your food girl!..it's stew and dumplings!..and think yourself lucky...all the other  
prisoners get a pizza!!

**BORIS**: (PUZZLED)...Why do they get pizza?

**HERMAN**: 'Cos it's the only food that slides under the doors!!..not "Deep  
Pan"...just "Thin and Crispy"!!

**BORIS**: Oh I see...(ASIDE TO HERMAN)...hey, Mr. Fester...we need to talk  
to Heidi...how do we get rid of...(POINTS TO JAILER)...him?

**HERMAN**: (ASIDE)...Leave it to me...(THEN TO ALL)...it's weird isn't  
it?..you know...the four of us cooped up in a confined space...I can't think of a  
situation like it.

THERE IS AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE PA SYSTEM .....  
PREFERABLY IN A 'GEORDIE' ACCENT

**ANNOUNCEMENT**: (GEORDIE ACCENT)...Hello cell mates...this is Big  
Brother...would the jailer please go to the Diary Room!

THE JAILER IMMEDIATELY RESPONDS AND EXITS

**HERMAN**: (GOES TO HEIDI WHO COWERS FRIGHTENED)...  
Right young lady.

**BORIS**: Don't be frightened Heidi...we're on your side now!

**HERMAN**: That's right...me and Boris here, are double agents...we're working  
for your father.

**HEIDI**: But the children?!

**BORIS**: Oh don't worry about the children...they'll be all right!

**HERMAN**: Yes *we* knew what the Countess had planned and forewarned Karl...he's going to take the children to a place of safety up in the hills beyond the river.

**BORIS**: It's a deserted village!...I know it well...*I* lived there for *years*.

**HERMAN**: (ASIDE)...That's probably why it's deserted...(THEN TO HEIDI)...look, don't worry, everything is going to fine!

ENTER JAILER ANNOYED

**JAILER**: (TO HERMAN AND BORIS)...Hey you two!...*out*!!

**HERMAN**: We're going!..and I didn't even know we'd been nominated!!

EXIT HERMAN AND BORIS

TABS CLOSE

LIGHT THE STORY WRITER

**STORY WRITER**:

The Countess believes she's now in control...  
That most wretched and venomous viper.  
She watches the children march away to their fate...  
As they follow the enchanted Pied Piper.

But *we* know it's not the end for the children...  
To think of them doomed makes one quiver!  
They follow the piper just like the rats...  
But not into...but *over* the river!

I'll create them a haven just up in the hills...  
They are now on their way as I write.  
There's just one more problem as they make their way there...  
It turns to a wet stormy night!

LIGHTS DOWN ON STORY WRITER

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ENTER PIED PIPER ON 2nd TABS PLAYING HIS ENCHANTED TUNE...THE CHILDREN SKIP ALONG BEHIND...

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No14**....FEATURING KARL AND THE SUNBEAMS....AFTER ROUTINE....SUDDENLY THERE IS **LIGHTING F/X...FLASH OF LIGHTNING FOLLOWED BY SOUND F/X CLAP OF THUNDER.....THE STAGE DARKENS**

**KARL:** (TO CHILDREN)...Quick children...we must hurry...we're not far from the deserted village, where we can shelter for the night!

MORE F/X OF THUNDER AND LIGHTNING...POSSIBLE STROBE HERE WHERE SUNBEAMS CAN EXIT AND RE-ENTER TO GIVE THE EFFECT OF MANY CHILDREN.....KILL STROBE AFTER KARL AND THE CHILDREN HAVE ALL LEFT

ENTER DANCERS ON 2nd TABS THE STAGE STILL HAS F/X OF LIGHTNING.....

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No 15**....DANCE ROUTINE FEATURING THE DANCERS DURING THE STORM SCENE....AFTER ROUTINE.... DANCERS EXIT

TABS OPEN FOR....

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### **ACT 2..SCENE 3.."THE DESERTED VILLAGE SCHOOLROOM"**

SET:....CLOTH DEPICTING AN OLD FASHIONED SCHOOL CLASSROOM...ON THE SET IS A LARGE BLACKBOARD ON AN EASEL...A TALL TEACHERS DESK AND STOOL...SEVERAL BENCHES TO ACCOMMODATE THE 'CHILDREN'...AND A PRACTICAL DOOR TO ONE SIDE

***\*THIS SKETCH NEEDS TO BE DONE SLICK/AT SPEED\****

ENTER HEINZ AND GRETCHEN FOLLOWED BY THE CHILDREN

...THEY ARE ALL LOOKING AROUND PUZZLED

**HEINZ:** Well, I thought at least the kids would get out of lessons for a few days.

**GRETCHEN:** I know...this is Mother's idea...she says that there's a highly qualified teacher coming today to keep up the children's education!

**HEINZ:** Hey!...let's have some fun!..I'll put this rubbish bin over the door so that when this highly qualified teacher comes in, the rubbish will tip over them!

HEINZ QUICKLY PLACES THE WASTE BIN OVER THE DOOR ON A SPECIAL BRACKET...THE CHILDREN ARE CAUSING A COMMOTION

ENTER GIRDA IN FULL TEACHERS GARB, GOWN AND MORTAR BOARD ETC.....THE WASTE BIN OVER DOOR STAYS PUT

**GIRDA:** (GOES TO DESK)...Right you 'orrible lot!..it's time to be *heducated*.

**GRETCHEN:** Hey!..just a minute Mother...I thought you said there was a *qualified* teacher coming?!

**GIRDA:** That's me...Professor Berger...graduate of Hamelin's (OR LOCAL SCHOOL)..Apprehensive school!.. reading "Woman's Own", and the "Beano"...not to mention a B.A.!

**HEINZ:** What's a B.A.?

**GIRDA:** (SNAPS BACK)...I said not to *mention* a B.A.!!

**HEINZ:** Sorry I'm sure...Look Mrs. Berger...when you came into the classroom we all missed your grand entrance so to speak...you wouldn't like to go out and come back in again would you?

**GIRDA:** (TO CLASS)...Would you like me to go out and come in again?

HEINZ IS BEHIND GIRDA MIMING TO THEM TO SAY YES AND REMINDING THEM THAT THE BIN WILL TIP OVER HER

**GIRDA:** (CONT/D)...Very well then...(THEN TO AUDIENCE)...do you lot want me to go out and come back in again??

AGAIN HEINZ AND GRETCHEN ARE BEHIND GIRDA ENCOURAGING THE AUDIENCE...EVENTUALLY GIRDA GOES OUT AND BACK IN WITHOUT THE RUBBISH BIN MOVING

**GIRDA**: (BLISSFULLY UNAWARE)...Good morning children...just bear with me a moment while I prepare my notes.

THE CLASS ARE ALL WATCHING HEINZ AS HE OPENS THE DOOR AND STILL THE RUBBISH BIN STAYS PUT...HE SHRUGS HIS SHOULDERS AND KICKS THE DOOR CLOSED AND THE RUBBISH TOPPLES ALL OVER HIM...CHILDREN ALL LAUGH

**GIRDA**: Quiet you lot!!...right we'll start with a geography question.... where is Mississippi?

**HEINZ**: At home with *Mr.* Hippy if she's any sense!..come on Gretchen, let's leave 'em to it!..(THEY MAKE AS IF TO LEAVE)

**GIRDA**: Just a minute you two...get sat down...you two are more in need of *h*education than anybody....(THEY SIT)...right, I'll call the register... when I call out your name, if you are here, say "Here miss"...if you are *not* here, say "Not here miss" ....right...John Smith?

**CHILD 1**: Here miss!

**GIRDA**: Samuel Smith?

**CHILD 2**: Here Miss!

**GIRDA**: Glen Fiddich?

**CHILD 3**: Here Miss!

**GIRDA**: Jack Daniels?

**CHILD 4**: Here Miss!

**GIRDA**: Joshua Tetley....(CHECKS REGISTER CLOSELY)...*Joshua Tetley*!?!?!...(CLOSES REGISTER)...well that's enough of that!..it sounds more

like my *stock* list for the "Rat and Drain Pipe"!...right, another geography question...who can tell me anything about Damascus?

**GRETCHEN**: (HAND UP)...It kills all household germs!!

THE CHILDREN LAUGH AND THOSE ON HEINZ'S BENCH STAND UP TIPPING HIM ONTO THE FLOOR...THIS CAN HAPPEN SEVERAL TIME THROUGHOUT THE SKETCH

**GIRDA**: Get up Heinz and brighten yourself up...you look half asleep.

**HEINZ**: I'm tired...I've been working *very* hard!

**GIRDA**: You don't work at all!

**HEINZ**: Oh yes I do!...(INTO "OH YES/OH NO" BIZ)

**GIRDA**: (TO HEINZ)...Look, come here to the blackboard and I will prove that you don't do *any* work at all!...(HEINZ JOINS GIRDA AT THE BLACKBOARD)...now, tell me, how many days are there in a year?

**HEINZ**: Three hundred and sixty five.

**GIRDA**: Correct...(SHE WRITES THE NUMBER ON THE BLACKBOARD)...now, how many hours a day do you work?

**HEINZ**: Er...eight hours.

**GIRDA**: Eight hours...that's a third of day.

**HEINZ**: Yes, that's right.

**GIRDA**: So...three hundred and sixty five divided by three is...(WORKS IT OUT ON BLACKBOARD)...one hundred and twenty one point six... we'll knock off the point six for the time spent in the toilet during working hours...so that makes it one hundred and twenty one days.

**HEINZ**: There you are then...I work one hundred and twenty one days a year!

**GIRDA**: Oh no you don't!..you don't work Saturdays and Sundays, do you?

**HEINZ:** Er...no...of course not!

**GIRDA:** And how many Saturdays and Sundays are there in a year?

**HEINZ:** There are fifty two Saturdays and fifty two Sundays.

**GIRDA:** That's one hundred and four days...take that away from one hundred and twenty one...(WORKS IT OUT ON BOARD)...that leaves seventeen days!

**HEINZ:** Well...at least that's *seventeen* days a year that I work!

**GIRDA:** I don't think it is!...tell me, do you have a holiday?

**HEINZ:** Oh yes...I always have a fortnight in Bridlington (*or similar resort*)!

**GIRDA:** Two weeks eh?...that's fourteen days...fourteen from seventeen ....(WORKS IT OUT ON BOARD)...leaves three!

**HEINZ:** Well, all right then....I do *three* days work a year!

**GIRDA:** Do you work Christmas day?

**HEINZ:** Of course not!

**GIRDA:** Do you work Boxing day?

**HEINZ:** Er....no!

**GIRDA:** And do you work Easter Monday?

**HEINZ:** No I don't!

**GIRDA:** There you are then...(COMPLETES THE CALCULATION ON THE BLACKBOARD)...three from three equals *nothing*!!...I told you, you don't do any work at all!!

**HEINZ:** (GOES AND SITS DOWN LOOKING BAFFLED AND SCRATCHING HIS HEAD)...A proper little Carol Vorderman aren't we!!?

HEINZ SITS DOWN AS OTHERS STAND AND HE FALLS ON FLOOR AGAIN...SUDDENLY A SPIDER DESCENDS OVER HEINZ'S HEAD...SOME "OH YES/OH NO" BIZ HERE

**GIRDA**: Right...does anybody know a poem?

**HEINZ**: (HAND UP)...Me miss...please miss!

**GIRDA**: Go on then, let's hear it.

**HEINZ**: I've got a little bunny.  
And its nose is rather runny  
But please don't think it's funny

**GRETCHEN**: (FINISHING THE POEM)...'Cos it's snot!!

**GIRDA**: Gretchen!..come out at once!

GRETCHEN AND OTHERS STAND HEINZ FALLS ON FLOOR...  
THEN A SPIDER DESCENDS RIGHT ONTO HEINZ

**HEINZ**: Aaaagh!!...(SPIDER QUICKLY DISAPPEARS)...that spider bit me!

**GIRDA**: Oh what next?...look, go and put something on it...there will be a first aid box somewhere.

EXIT HEINZ

**GIRDA**: (CONT/D)...As if a spider bite will affect him...(THEN TO GRETCHEN)...now then Miss Clever Clogs, I've a good mind to give you detention!

**GRETCHEN**: *Me*, detention?...*I* am the brainiest person in this class... (SOME "OH YES/OH NO BIZ" HERE)...I could have been on "Mastermind".

**GIRDA**: Oh yes?...and why weren't you?

**GRETCHEN**: I spelt the address wrong on the envelope!

**GIRDA**: I'll find out if you were good enough for "Mastermind"...(TO CHILDREN)...bring on the chair.

TWO CHILDREN BRING ON THE "MASTERMIND" CHAIR... GRETCHEN SITS...PLAY "MASTERMIND" THEME...LIGHTS DOWN...SPOT GRETCHEN IN CHAIR AND GIRDA AT DESK... FADE MUSIC

**GIRDA**: What's your name please?

**GRETCHEN**: Gretchen Berger.

**GIRDA**: Occupation?

**GRETCHEN**: Supermarket Customer Goods Conveyance Operator.

**GIRDA**: Oh, you collect empty trolleys at Morrisons....and your chosen subject?

**GRETCHEN**: How to get money without working!

**GIRDA**: Oh you'll be good at that!...right, you have two minutes starting from now...when a footballer kicks the ball to another member of his team, what is that manoeuvre called?

**GRETCHEN**: Er...pass.

**GIRDA**: Correct!..what do they call a Deer with no eyes?

**GRETCHEN**: No idea!

**GIRDA**: Correct!..where is the most common place for a mouth ulcer?

**GRETCHEN**: (THINKING)...Oh...er...that's on the tip of my tongue!

**GIRDA**: Correct!..now then, who was born in a stable and had thousands of followers?

**GRETCHEN**: Red Rum.

**GIRDA**: Correct!..what do you call a *one* eyed Dinosaur?

**GRETCHEN**: D'yathinkesaurus?

**GIRDA**: Correct!...and what do you call a one eyed Dinosaur's *dog*?

**GRETCHEN**: D'yathinkesaurus Rex!?

**GIRDA**: Correct!..if it takes a man and a half...a year and a half...to build a wall and a half...with a brick and a half...how long would it take a Chinese accountant with a wooden leg and ginger hair to walk from Birmingham to Portsmouth with a jar of marmalade on his head!?

**GRETCHEN**: Er...four pounds twenty seven?!

**GIRDA**: Correct!..which Super Hero...(SOUND F/X...BLEEPER SOUNDS)....I've started, so I'll finish...which Super Hero has recently been breaking cinema box office records spinning his webs?

**GRETCHEN**: Er...(TO AUDIENCE)...can *you* help me?..who is it?..(KIDS IN AUDIENCE HOPEFULLY WILL RESPOND)...it's no good you all shouting at different times!..all shout the name of the Super Hero after three...one...two...three!!

**AUDIENCE**: Spiderman!!!

LIGHTS UP

ENTER HEINZ DRESSED AS SPIDERMAN

**HEINZ**: Somebody called?!

HEINZ THEN RUNS ABOUT DOING WHATEVER SPIDERMAN DOES UNTIL HE ENDS UP AT THE DESK WITH GIRDA

**GIRDA**: Ooh...I wouldn't want you coming up the plug hole in my bath!

**HEINZ**: I've come to save you!!

**GIRDA**: (REALISES)...Just a minute!..you're not Spiderman, it's *you* Heinz!..(TO CLASS)...it's not a Super Hero....it's a *Stupid* Hero!!

HEINZ WALKS AWAY DEJECTED...ALL THE CLASS GIVE HIM AN AAAAGH!



**GIRDA**: (CONT/D)...Just because a spider bit him...(LAUGHS)...he couldn't spin a web to save his life!

**HEINZ**: Oh yes I can!...(SOME "OH YES/OH NO" BIZ HERE)...so... you want me to spin a web eh?

HEINZ MAKES AS IF TO SPIN A WEB OVER GIRDA...POSSIBLE BLACKOUT/STROBE TO COVER **SPECIAL F/X**...LIGHTS UP... AND WE SEE GIRDA PINNED TO THE WALL BY A LARGE 'SPIDERS WEB'

**HEINZ**: (CONT/D...AND TO CLASS)...Right kids....I think it's time to go and play outside...what do you think?!

**GIRDA**: (FROM BEHIND WEB)...All right!..I'm sorry...please let me go!..I'll do *anything*!!

**HEINZ**: I'll let you go on one condition!

**GIRDA**: Name it!

**HEINZ**: Close the school and give all the children a holiday!

**GIRDA**: A *holiday*!!

**HEINZ**: That's right...a vacation!...(HE WRITES IT ON THE BLACKBOARD)

**GIRDA**: All right...all right...get me out of here...(HEINZ AND GRETCHEN RELEASE HER)...I'll tell you what, I could do with a vacation myself!!

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No16**....FEATURING ALL INVOLVED IN THE SCHOOLROOM TO:- "V.A.C.A.T.I.O.N"....AFTER ROUTINE...

TABS CLOSE

ENTER MAYOR ON TABS LOOKING CONCERNED...HE PACES UP AND DOWN AND CHECKS HIS WATCH

ENTER KARL ON TABS

**KARL**: There you are Mayor Strudel...your housekeeper said I would find you here.

**MAYOR**: Ah Karl...good to see you...how are the children?

**KARL**: We've got them all safely tucked away and out of sight in a schoolroom up in the deserted village.

**MAYOR**: Ah good...and the Countess, she thinks they've all perished?

**KARL**: Yes she does...and that's how it has got to stay for the time being...at least 'til Heidi is safe!..are Hans and Marta still here?

HANS AND MARTA ENTER EXCITEDLY...THEY ARE WEARING NIGHT SHIRTS AND CAPS

**HANS**: Yes we are!

**MAYOR**: What are you two doing out of your rooms?..I told you to keep out of sight!

**MARTA**: We're fed up of hiding...when can we go out?

**HANS**: Yes, and when will we see our friends again?

**KARL**: (RE-ASSURING)...Look you two...you stayed in Hamelin as part of my plan...a very *important* part as well!

**MARTA**: Did you hear that Hans?..*we* are important!

**HANS**: Yes, but I'm more important than you!

**MARTA**: No you're not!

**HANS**: Yes I am.....(THEY SQUABBLE AGAIN)

**MAYOR**: Children!..children!..you're both as important as each other... now go and get dressed, because you're going with Karl to Baddanville Castle and you must do exactly as he says.

**HANS**: Hey Marta...isn't it exciting...come on, I'll look after you!

**MARTA:** (INDIGNANT)...I don't need looking after, because *I'm* important...so I'll look after you!

HANS AND MARTA EXIT STILL SQUABBLING

**MAYOR:** Sometimes those two drive me to despair...anyway, come Karl, we will wait for them in my study and talk some more.

KARL AND MAYOR EXIT

TABS OPEN FOR...

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**ACT 2...SCENE 4..."BADDANVILE CASTLE"**

SET:...AS PREVIOUS...THE COUNTESS IS SEATED AT THE TABLE THUMBING THROUGH A LARGE LEDGER AND OCCASIONALLY WRITING IN IT

LIGHT THE STORY WRITER

**STORY WRITER:**

Let's look in on the Countess once more...  
Is she changing now as time lapses?  
She's deprived the people of the children they loved...  
And the money that they paid in their taxes.

Is she happy now she thinks it's all gone her way?  
It's all over and looks like she's won.  
Or are there pangs of guilt and doubt in her mind?  
As she realises just what she's done.

Karl is the one who can make her relent...  
And see the error of her treacherous ways.  
With the help of the young ones he'll soon melt her heart...  
As my story enters a different phase!

LIGHTS DOWN ON STORY WRITER

**COUNTESS:** (TO HERSELF)...What *am* I turning into?..looking at my accounts here, I just don't *need* any more money...why do I need the tax money from the people of Hamelin?..and why oh why did I order the children to their doom!!?

ENTER KARL UNANNOUNCED

**KARL:** Having second thoughts Countess?

**COUNTESS:** (REGAINS HER COMPOSURE)...What?!..certainly not!..I've got exactly what I wanted!!....(THEN HER SOFTER SIDE)...but...er....mmm...the children...you....er...didn't take me seriously when I asked you to get rid of them...did you?

**KARL:** Of course I did...I carried out your orders to the letter...and that's why I'm here...I've come to collect Heidi.

**COUNTESS:** Oh of course...the Jailer's bringing her up now.....er.....so the children...er...are gone are they?

**KARL:** Yes...why this sudden concern?

JAILER ENTERS WITH HEIDI...HE PUSHES HEIDI FORWARD AND THEN EXITS...KARL EMBRACES HER

**COUNTESS:** (TO KARL)...Well...you've got what you wanted...now leave me alone!

**KARL:** Why? So you can fret and worry over what you've done to the children.

**COUNTESS:** I said *go*!!..don't make me feel any worse than I already do!..please...just get out of here!

**HEIDI:** Karl...did you bring the surprise for the Countess?

**KARL:** Oh yes....(GIVES HEIDI A KNOWING WINK)...I almost forgot....(HE CALLS)....Hans!..Marta!

HANS AND MARTA ENTER...THEY ARE HOLDING HANDS AND MAKING AN EFFORT TO LOOK CUTE

**COUNTESS:** (LOOKS AT CHILDREN PUZZLED YET PLEASANTLY SURPRISED)...Are these children from Hamelin?

**KARL:** (TO CHILDREN)...Go on you two...go and say hello to the Countess.

THE CHILDREN APPROACH THE COUNTESS HESITANTLY....  
AT THE SAME TIME KARL BECKONS TO HEIDI THAT THEY SHOULD QUIETLY SLIP AWAY AND LEAVE HANS AND MARTA TO WORK ON THE COUNTESS

**COUNTESS:** Come closer children.

**MARTA:** (AS THEY HESITANTLY APPROACH THE COUNTESS ....AND THEN TO HANS)...She doesn't look very nasty!

**HANS:** No she doesn't...we've got Aunts that look nastier than her.

**COUNTESS:** I *have* been a nasty person in my time and never had any friends...and *now* I know why...because I've *been* so nasty...perhaps I can make amends to you two...what are your names?

**MARTA:** My name is Marta.

**HANS:** And my name is Hans.

**COUNTESS:** Well Hans and Marta...how I wish I could turn back the clock and bring back your playmates...in fact, I'd do *anything*!

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No17**...FEATURING THE COUNTESS, HANS AND MARTA WHO BECKONS ON THE SUNBEAMS WHO WERE THOUGHT TO BE THE DOOMED CHILDREN...AS THEY ENTER DURING SONG THE COUNTESS REACTS WITH PLEASURE ON SEEING THEM....AFTER SONG....

TABS CLOSE

ENTER HERMAN AND BORIS ON TABS...THEY ARE DRESSED SIMILAR TO LAUREL AND HARDY. BORIS'S COSTUME WILL BE A

SIZE TOO SMALL AND HERMAN'S A SIZE TOO BIG TO EXAGGERATE  
A FORTHCOMING GAG

**HERMAN:** I'll tell you what Boris...it's time we resurrected our rat catching company.

**BORIS:** How can we?..there's no rats!

**HERMAN:** There will be when you go and borrow *them* from the pet shop, oh, and of course that Guinea Pig...all it needs is to put one of them rats through Winnie Brown's letter box and we'll be back in business in no time!!

**BORIS:** Hey!..will we have time for rat catching?..I thought we were going to enter that "Pop Star" thing.

**HERMAN:** Oh aye...I'd forgotten about that...I'll tell you what...while there's nobody about we'll have a practice!..are you ready?..after three... one, two three!

THEY START TO SING A DUET UN-ACCOMPANIED AND CARRY ON  
UNAFFECTED BY WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN AROUND THEM

ENTER GRETCHEN, GIRDA AND HEINZ...GRETCHEN HAS DROPPED  
SOME MONEY SO GIRDA AND HEINZ ARE HELPING HER LOOK FOR  
IT

**GRETCHEN:** (AS THEY NEAR THE SINGING HERMAN AND  
BORIS)...I'm sure it was somewhere here where I lost my money...it was two  
pound coins!

**GIRDA:** Two pound coins eh?..it's worth looking for.

**HEINZ:** And you say it's around here somewhere?

ALL THREE SEARCH THE AREA AROUND THE SINGING DUO

**GIRDA:** Well, I can't see any money...hey!..(SHE TAKES GRETCHEN AND  
HEINZ TO ONE SIDE)...you don't think them those two have found it, do  
you?...they seem to be happy about something!

**GRETCHEN:** .Well, come on...let's check 'em out!

WHILE HERMAN AND BORIS CONTINUE SINGING THE THREESOME START TO SEARCH THEM...THEY TAKE OFF THEIR HATS, COATS AND SEARCH THE POCKETS, THEY ALSO CHECK THEIR TROUSER POCKETS ETC...WHEN THEY REPLACE THE GARMENTS THEY MIX THEM UP AND PUT BIG ONTO SMALL ETC LEAVING THE SINGERS LOOKING RIDICULOUS BUT THEY CONTINUE SINGING

**HEINZ:** Well there's no sign of anything here...could they have rolled over here...(HE GOES TOWARD STEPS STAGE RIGHT...THEN TO DRUMMER/PLANT)...*you* haven't seen any money have you?.. (DRUMMER/PLANT SAYS NO)

**GIRDA:** I think he looks a bit guilty Heinz...search him!

**GRETCHEN:** (ASIDE)...He's a bit of a hunk...(THEN ALOUD)....Just a minute!..it's *my* money!...(RUBBING HANDS)...*I'll* search him!!

GRETCHEN ASSISTED BY THE OTHER TWO FRISK THE DRUMMER/PLANT AND PRODUCE ALL MANNER OF ITEMS INCLUDING A LARGE BRA AND CORSETS ETC...HERMAN AND BORIS SING ON

**HEINZ:** Well they must have rolled over here...(THEN GOES TO FRONT ROWS OF AUDIENCE....THEN TO LIGHTING DIRECTOR) ...can we have the house lights up please!?

THE THREE OF THEM INVOLVE THE FRONT ROWS OF THE AUDIENCE BY GETTING THEM TO STAND WHILST THEY SEARCH UNDER SEATS AND BY DOING SO CAUSE AS MUCH MAYHEM AS POSSIBLE....THEN EVENTUALLY...

**GIRDA:** Well there's no sign of any pound coins down here.

THEY RETURN TO STAGE STILL LOOKING AROUND

**GRETCHEN:** Ah well....I suppose I could have lost them somewhere else...come on you two.

EXIT GIRDA GRETCHEN AND HEINZ AS THEY CROSS BEHIND THE STILL SINGING DUO

THEN THE SONG COMES TO AN END...THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER...BOTH LIFT ONE OF THEIR FEET...LOOK DOWN AND BOTH PICK UP A POUND COIN EACH...GIVE AN EXAGGERATED WINK TO THE AUDIENCE AND EXIT LOOKING PLEASED WITH THEMSELVES

TABS OPEN FOR....

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**ACT 2....SCENE 5...."THE MARKET SQUARE IN HAMELIN"**

SET:....AS PREVIOUS...ON STAGE ARE CHORUS AS TOWNSFOLK ALONG WITH SUNBEAMS AND DANCERS AS IF FAMILIES... THEY *MIME* HAPPY CONVERSATION AS IF GREETING EACH OTHER

LIGHT THE STORY WRITER

**STORY WRITER:**

As I approach the end of my story...  
And happiness returns to this town.  
This community will be forever in folklore...  
As a place of fame and renown.

Our personalities will soon start to gather...  
So I'll make *sure* this day's sunny and fair.  
An unexpected guest will probably join them...  
As they welcome his Worship the Mayor.

LIGHTS DOWN ON STORY WRITER AS HE SCRIBBLES ON

ENTER THE MAYOR WITH HANS AND MARTA

**MAYOR:** (TO HIS CHILDREN)...There...didn't I tell you Hans and Marta?..All your friends have returned...(HANS AND MARTA RUN TO GREET AND JOIN THEIR CHUMS)

**VILLAGER:** (GOING TO MAYOR)...Oh thank you Mayor Strudel, for looking after the children!



**MAYOR:** No no!..it's not me you have to thank....

ENTER KARL AND HEIDI ARM IN ARM

**MAYOR:** (CONT/D)...This is the young man you should be thanking for our happy ending.

**KARL:** Thank you Lord Mayor...but what we did was a team effort... Hans and Marta gave me the means of ridding the town of rats, then everyone else helped with the final plan.

**MAYOR:** Oh yes...and now there seems to be a gentle calm descending over our township...yes, peace and quiet.

ENTER HEINZ IN A PANIC...HE IS BEING CHASED BY AN IRATE GIRDA WHO IS WIELDING A FRYING PAN, AND WHO IN TURN IS BEING CHASED BY GRETCHEN

**GIRDA:** (BREAKING THE PEACE AND QUIET)...Come back here Heinz!!..I'll show you who's boss in my kitchen!!

**GRETCHEN:** (SLIGHTLY EMBARRASSED)...*Mother!!*..stop showing us up!..people are looking at us!

THEY RUN AROUND THE STAGE AND AS THEY PASS THE MAYOR THEY SLOW DOWN AND GIVE A POLITE "HELLO" THEN CONTINUE THE CHASE

**MAYOR:** (STOPS THE CHASING TRIO)...Whoa there you three!!.. this is a happy town, there's no time for squabbling...what's the problem?

**GRETCHEN:** Well...Heinz has criticised the way Mother times her Yorkshire Puddings.

**MAYOR:** How *does* she time them?

**HEINZ:** Well...when the *smoke* alarm goes off she knows they're done!!

GIRDA THREATENS HEINZ AGAIN WITH FRYING PAN

**GIRDA**: And another thing!, my stewpot has a hole burnt in the bottom... (TO HEINZ)...I told *you* to notice when the stew started to boil over!

**HEINZ**: I did notice when the stew started to boil over...it was a week last Wednesday!!!

ENTER HERMAN AND BORIS

**HERMAN**: (TO BORIS ENTHUSIASTIC)...Well, did you get them?.. those rats from the pet shop?

**BORIS**: Oh no...they've sold 'em...but I've got first refusal on a dozen of a new line they're doing.

**HERMAN**: A dozen eh?..that sounds promising...what are they?

**BORIS**: Tortoises!

**HERMAN**: *Tortoises*!!!...(SARCASTIC)...they'll definitely give us the run around, won't they?...I can see it now, over my shop door ... "Herman Fester...Tortoise Catcher"!!

**HEIDI**: Welcome Mr. Fester, and you too Boris...and thank you for your part in the events of the last few days.

**MAYOR**: Yes...and now I think our gathering is now complete.

**KARL**: With your permission Mayor Strudel, I think there is one more person who we should welcome here today...someone who has seen the error of her ways, and would now like to be welcomed into our community...please welcome the Countess of Brunswick.

ENTER THE COUNTESS TO A MIXED RECEPTION

**COUNTESS**: Thank you people of Hamelin for your understanding and forgiveness, for I admit that I have in the past been a very wicked woman ....it takes a *special* kind of people to find it in their hearts to forgive a person such as me!!

ALL ON STAGE GIVE A CHEER AND THEY ALL MINGLE AND ***MIME*** CONVERSATION

## LIGHT STORY WRITER

**STORY WRITER:**

My inkwell now has almost dried up...  
 But there's still some loose ends to tie.  
 I've got to decide who ends up with who...  
 And that will come clear bye and bye.

I've written this story and feel part of their lives...  
 And from troubles they now seem to be free.  
 I've made them so happy because things have gone right...  
 Now this next song *again* includes me!!

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No 18**...FEATURING FULL COMPANY  
 INCLUDING THE STORY WRITER....AFTER ROUTINE...**TABS CLOSE**

ENTER GIRDA AND HEINZ ON TABSÍ . HEINZ IS LOOKING  
 AGITATED

**GIRDA:** What's the matter with you now?

**HEINZ:** I've just bumped into the producerí . He said "When are we going to do it then?"

**GIRDA:** When are we going to do *what*?

**HEINZ:** That's exactly what *I* said!

**GIRDA:** Look, forget what *you* saidí what did *he* say?

**HEINZ:** He said we've missed a song out!

**GIRDA:** *Missed* a song out?.. we've still got the finale to do!

**HEINZ:** I know, but there's another song to be sung *before* the finaleí  
 What I want to know is, who's going to sing it?

**GIRDA:** Well, who do we know?

FROM LOOKING AT EACH OTHER FACE ON THEY SLOWLY TURN TO THE AUDIENCE

**GIRDA:** (TO AUDIENCE)í Heyí what about you lot?... will you help us to sing it?

**HEINZ:** (TO AUDIENCE AFTER A POSITIVE RESPONSE)í I just *knew* you would help us outí . Anyway, we've just locked the doors so you'll have to!

INTO SONG SHEET ROUTINE WHERE THE AUDIENCE ARE ASKED TO COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER i.e. STALLS V CIRCLEí LEFT V RIGHTí BOYS V GIRLS ETCí . ENDING IN A FULL AUDIENCE SING-ALONG

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No19**...."SONG SHEET" ...ON TABS... FEATURING GIRDA AND HEINZ WITH AUDIENCE...AFTER SONG SHEET....EXIT GIRDA AND HEINZ

LIGHT STORY WRITER

**STORY WRITER:**

It's finally time to put my pen down...  
As on Hamelin the sun will now set.  
There's a moral in there for all to take heed...  
That it's best to forgive and forget.

My friends are now waiting to greet you once more...  
Your applause you will give them I'm gambling.  
We wish you farewell from all of our cast...  
And our Panto the "Pied Piper of Hamelin".

LIGHTS DOWN ON STORY WRITERí í .TABS OPEN FOR

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**ACT 2....SCENE 6...."HAMELIN'S CIVIC HALL"**

CLOTH AND SET: SUITABLE FOR A CIVIC HALL.....THEN....

♪...**MUSICAL ITEM No. 20**....FOR....

**WALK DOWN  
AND  
GRAND FINALE**

**FINAL CURTAIN**

**"The Pied Piper"**

Written By

**Peter Long & Keith Rawnsley**

Song suggestions for musical items:

- 1) Dancing in the street
- 2) The happy wanderer
- 3) You make me feel so young
- 4) My Brother Sylvest
- 5) Hey good looking
- 6) Theme from -The man with the Golden armø
- 7) No matter what
- 8) Iøn the Pied Piper

- 9) I am what I am
- 10) Oh what an atmosphere
- 11) Rock around the clock
- 12) Liberty Belle (Monty Python theme)
- 13) On my own
- 14) I am the Pied Piper (Reprise)
- 15) Grease Lightning
- 16) Vacation
- 17) I'll do anything
- 18) Pocket full of dreams
- 19) The laughing Policeman (Song sheet)
- 20) Don't stop moving/One moment in time (walk down Finale)