

NODA PANTOMIMES

Present

Rapunzel

the pantomime

by Katie Skeffington

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Since being cursed by the wicked witch Gothel as a young child, Princess Rapunzel is unable to laugh or feel happiness. Her Father, the King, employs jesters, wizards and even a dancing horse to try to make her laugh again, but to no avail. When Rapunzel falls deeply in love with Tom, a local boy with no money, their only hope of being allowed to marry is if Tom can make Rapunzel laugh. However, it soon becomes clear that this is the least of their worries as Gothel puts into action her plan to destroy the whole Kingdom. Can Tom rescue the kidnapped Rapunzel from her tower? Can they thwart Gothel's evil plan to destroy everything they know? And is there a way to break the curse and make Rapunzel laugh?

This pantomime is loosely based around two of the Grimm Brother's Fairy Tales; 'Rapunzel', and the lesser known story 'The Golden Goose', in which a King offers his daughter's hand in marriage to the first person who can make her laugh.

CAST

Several parts are small/cameo roles and can be doubled. Total cast size (including chorus) is between 20-30 depending on doubling.

RAPUNZEL	The princess, with beautiful long golden hair, but also with a lot of bravery and determination.
TOM	Principal boy. Fearless and very much in love. Must be agile.
TABITHA TOPKNOT	Royal Hairdresser. Should flaunt a series of ridiculous wigs. Sometimes gets her words muddled up.
WIZARD BLIX	A magician, appears only at the start and the end of the panto.
KAZAM	Son of Wizard Blix, friendly and brave, but hopeless at magic. It is effective if he wears a similar outfit to Blix
KING RICHARD	The King
QUEEN MABEL	His wife
GOTHEL	An evil witch
SNIVEL	A rather weak, grubby man, who works as a locksmith
PLAIN	} Two futuristic figures who work for Gothel. Plain wears an outfit which is one colour and is desperate to find love. Simple wears a patterned or multicoloured outfit and is rather dim.
SIMPLE	
CALYPSO	A dancing horse
DR QUEASY	A doctor
MIRANDA	A beautiful but evil mermaid
READY	} Comic trio. The King's Handymen. Perhaps wear dungarees with the first letter of their names
STEADY	
GO	
CRUZ THE CRAB	Considers himself to be very good looking
HEIDI THE HERALD	Plays the bugle
KOKO	A cheeky monkey

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JACK (IN THE BOX)	Works best if he's quite small
YOUNG RAPUNZEL	A chorus member. Should have a shorter but recognisable version of Rapunzel's hair
YOUNG KAZAM	A chorus member. Should wear same outfit as Kazam
SHEEP	A brief appearance by a cute sheep
FUZZY and BUBBLES	Two non-speaking cobras. Could also be bears/crocodiles etc – any scary animal which could be kept in a pit.

THE INVITED DIGNITARIES:

THE DUKE OF CHESTER	Smartly dressed and posh
PRINCE SCHMUCK of Germany	Stereotypically German
PRINCE CARLOS MELENDEZ of Spain	Very flamboyant
SENATOR DOUGHNUT of USA	Stereotypically American

THE FOREST GOBLINS:

LORD TYSON	Chieftain of the goblins. A small but tricky part.
BAXIN	Head Goblin
GREEBLES	A rather rotund goblin, who is always thinking about food
GREXIL and BERETTA	Two female Goblins, terrible gossips
LIZLE, THIANA and ZELDA	Three more Goblins

Chorus as JESTERS, SEA CREATURES and RABBITS

Act 1

Scene 1 – Outside in Chortleton (Full stage)

A cheerful, prosperous outdoors village scene. A large red button hanging on the proscenium is labelled 'Do Not Press this Button'.

NUMBER - Humorous and cheerful, over-the-top opening dance by Kazam and the chorus as Jesters.

- KAZAM** Hello boys and girls, welcome to Chortleton – the funniest town in England! Every day here is fun, but you've picked an especially great day to visit!
- JESTER 1** It's so exciting!
- JESTER 2** We're having a party tonight!
- KAZAM** Yes, it's Princess Rapunzel's eighteenth birthday, and her parents, the King and Queen are having a massive party, and we're all invited!
- JESTERS** **(Excited chatter)** Hurray/ so exciting/ can't wait etc.
- JESTER 3** And that's not the only exciting thing happening today!
- JESTER 4** No, the King is going to make a royal announcement! And... **(he is interrupted by a banging and clattering noise, which gets slowly louder)**
- JESTER 5** What's that noise?
- JESTER 6** It sounds like the end of the world!
- JESTER 7** Quick, get inside, there's a room in my house where you can be completely safe in an apocalypse!
- JESTER 1** Which room?
- JESTER 7** The living room! **(The Jesters make for the wings DSR and USR, but Kazam stops them)**
- KAZAM** Wait everyone, this isn't the end of the world! **(Enter Calypso USL. The banging and clattering can still be heard)** Calypso! Is it you making all that noise?
- CALYPSO** **(Shaking her head)** Neigh! **(She whispers in Kazam's ear)**
- KAZAM** Calypso says there's a stranger coming this way with lots of luggage! **(To Calypso)** Well then, aren't you going to give him a hand? **(Calypso gallops off)**

USL. Sound effect; hooves galloping into the distance. Then both the hooves and the banging and clattering steadily get louder again as though getting closer)

- TOM** (Off) Whoa! Steady girl! **(Tom is pushed onto the stage USL by Calypso's head, ending up on his hands and knees. Calypso doesn't enter fully on stage. Tom wears a large rucksack over one shoulder which is strung with possessions; pots and pans, gardening tools and random pieces of metal)**
- KAZAM** Welcome to Chortleton!
- TOM** **(Standing up without his rucksack and brushing himself down)** Hi, I'm Tom!
- JESTER 2** Are you lost?
- TOM** Well, a bit... I'm wondering the country trying to find some work. I can do cooking, cleaning, gardening, anything really!
- JESTER 3** Have you ever worked as a Jester?
- TOM** A Jester? No, I'm hopeless at making people laugh! **(Everyone looks disappointed, and shake their heads)** Why? **(He looks around)** Are you all Jesters? Why would one town need so many Jesters?
- JESTER 4** This is quite an unusual town...
- KAZAM** Yes, this is the town where the Royal family live - King Richard, Queen Mabel and their daughter, Princess Rapunzel. The King employs a lot of Jesters because he wants it to be the funniest town in England! **(During this, Tom picks up his rucksack, and Kazam helps him on with it. As a result, Tom has his back turned as Rapunzel enters USR)**
- JESTER 1** Hey, Rapunzel, when is a piece of wood like a King?
- RAPUNZEL** I don't know
- JESTER 1** When it's a ruler!
- RAPUNZEL** That is soo not funny! **(She walks up to Tom and Kazam)** Have we got a visitor? **(Tom turns and romantic music helps to indicate that Tom and Rapunzel fall in love the second their gazes meet)**
- KAZAM** Rapunzel, this is Tom. And Tom, this is Princess Rapunzel. **(Tom and Rapunzel continue to gaze into each other's eyes, as though they haven't heard Kazam at all)** Well, I'll leave you two to it... **(he wanders backstage to join the Jesters)**

- RAPUNZEL** (Softly) Hi, I'm Rapunzel
- TOM** You're beautiful... **(he snaps out of it)** Did I say that out loud? **(The Jesters laugh)**
- JESTER 5** He was lost in her eyes!
- JESTER 6** I wouldn't worry Rapunzel, he got lost on the way here too!
- RAPUNZEL** Don't mind them, it's their job to make jokes all the time, to try to make me laugh
- TOM** I don't understand, why is everyone trying to make you laugh?
- RAPUNZEL** I'll explain...it happened when I was just a small child...

Lights dim or a little smoke and music enhance the illusion that a memory is being recalled. Exit Jesters and Kazam using various exits. One of the Jesters places a box with a large key centre stage before leaving. In the following dialogue, Tom and Rapunzel stand to one side, while the 'past' is acted out behind them.

- RAPUNZEL** I was once out walking round the village by myself **(enter Young Rapunzel USR, skipping. She acts out the following story)** I had been told never to venture into the dark forest as evil magic was there, but one day I accidentally slipped inside
- TOM** Accidentally? How did you accidentally walk into the forest?
- RAPUNZEL** Well alright... I accidentally-on-purpose entered the forest, it looked so pretty, but I soon realised I was hopelessly lost. I had been walking for hours when I suddenly saw a beautiful box, just lying in the leaves. I knelt down to look closer, **(Young Rapunzel does so, and reaches out, and takes the key, in clear view of the audience)** but suddenly, out of nowhere, the evil witch Gothel appeared and cast a curse on me **(enter Gothel DSL, who gestures towards Young Rapunzel. Smoke and sound effects as Young Rapunzel collapses, and Gothel collects the box and exits DSL, laughing. She doesn't notice that Young Rapunzel still has the key)** It was several days before my parents finally found me **(enter Queen USR, who kneels at Young Rapunzel's side, gestures offstage, the King enters USR, they scoop up Young Rapunzel, exit USR and the lighting returns to normal)**
- RAPUNZEL** They took me home and nursed me back to health. However, one effect of the curse never wore off – I could no longer feel happiness, and I was unable to laugh. My Father tried everything he could think of to make me laugh – he

hired every Jester in the country, and when that didn't work he hired clowns, a dancing horse and even a magician called Wizard Blix, who he paid to try to break the curse. 9 years later and none of it has worked, although they all keep trying!

TOM Did you say a dancing horse?

RAPUNZEL Yes, haven't you seen her dance yet? She's so sweet **(calling offstage)** Calypso! Oh, I think she's a bit shy. **(To audience)** You'd like to see her dance, wouldn't you?

AUDIENCE Yes!

RAPUNZEL Let's all shout then, after three... one, two, three...

ALL Calypso!

RAPUNZEL Did you say something? She wouldn't have heard that, come on shout louder. One, two, three...

ALL Calypso!

Enter Calypso USL, who performs a short but energetic dance. Kazam and a few Jesters drift back on stage from USR and clap along. At the end Tom laughs and claps and Calypso goes to nuzzle up to him.

RAPUNZEL You see – you laughed!

TOM I've never seen a dancing horse before!

RAPUNZEL Oh, I wish I could laugh, just once – it's so annoying!

JESTER 3 Hey Rapunzel, what's Calypso's favourite way to exercise?

RAPUNZEL Dancing?

JESTER 3 No, it's playing stable tennis! **(Tom laughs, Rapunzel doesn't)** Oh well... come on Calypso **(he leads the horse off, all Jesters exit using various exits)**

RAPUNZEL You see, that's what really annoys me... I can't have a proper conversation round here without someone cracking a joke every thirty seconds. Even my parents do it. My only real friend in the whole town is Kazam.

TOM **(To Kazam)** Are you a Jester too?

RAPUNZEL No, he's a magician

KAZAM Not a very good one though! I'm the son of Wizard Blix, who was employed by Rapunzel's father, the King, to try to find a magic spell that would break the curse and allow Rapunzel to laugh again. So he brought me to live here, nine years ago.

TOM Is he still trying?

KAZAM No, I'll tell you what happened...

Again, a lighting change or smoke indicates the past is being acting out.

He spent many hours working with powerful magic (**Wizard Blix enters USL, holding two flasks**) One day, he thought he had cracked it (**Blix pours one flask into the other and there is a bang or a chemical reaction**) But his spell went horribly wrong, and instead of making the laughter potion he thought he was working on, he created two evil creatures. (**Dramatic music, enter Plain (USR) and Simple (USL). Plain cracks Blix over the head with a club, he collapses, and they pull him offstage USL. As they exit, Young Kazam enters USR and calls after them**)

Y KAZAM Father! (**He runs off stage after them USL**)

KAZAM But I couldn't catch them, and I never saw my Father again. That was eight years ago!

TOM Do you know where they took him?

KAZAM They dragged him into the forest, the same one where Gothel lives. The King ordered a search party, but they never found him.

TOM How terrible!

Enter Calypso USR, who runs straight across the stage and exits USL, pursued by Tabitha, who has a large pair of scissors in her hand.

TABITHA Calypso, come back!

TOM Who on earth was that?

KAZAM Oh that was Tabitha, probably best if we keep out the way, unless you fancy a haircut that is?

TOM Well I don't have any money at all so I certainly can't afford a haircut!

RAPUNZEL Come on then, we'll show you around! (**Tom, Rapunzel and Kazam exit DSR**)

Enter Calypso USL who makes to run across stage again, but Tabitha enters USR, causing Calypso to stop suddenly.

- TABITHA** Haha, tricked you! Now come on Calypso, you just need a little trim to smarten you up. What do you think?
- CALYPSO** Neigh! **(Calypso exits USL)**
- TABITHA** Well really! **(She notices the audience)** Oooh, hello everyone! My name's Tabitha! What's yours? **(The audience shout out names)** Hello Sam, Emily, Charlotte, Mike, gosh, that's a lot to remember! And you know, my memory's not as good as it once was, if it gets any worse I'll be able to plan my own surprise party! I think I'll just call you boys and girls, if that's OK?
- Yes, well, as I was saying, my name's Tabitha Topknot, and I'm the Royal Hairdresser. I'm the best hairdresser in Chortleton! Well, actually I'm the only hairdresser in Chortleton, this town just wouldn't survive without me. Just the other day, King Richard said to me, 'Tabitha, you're a real pillock of the community'! Wasn't that lovely!
- I live just up the road. I've got a nice little place... and also some cod and haddock, in my pond. I did have a boyfriend, but he's gone now **(she encourages aahs from the audience)** I don't really know what happened. I asked him what he wanted for his birthday, and he said 'nothing would make me happier than a bottle of whisky'... so I got him nothing! I haven't seen him since! Never mind, that's milk spilt under the bridge now, as they say.
- (Enter Kazam USR)** Oh, hello Kazam. What are you up to?
- KAZAM** Well I was with Rapunzel and Tom, but they're so loved up I felt in the way so I slipped off
- TABITHA** Oh yes, it's no fun playing raspberry
- KAZAM** You mean gooseberry?
- TABITHA** Do I?
- KAZAM** Never mind. Tabitha, your hands are filthy!
- TABITHA** Yes, well, no-body's been in for a shampoo yet today...
- KAZAM** Look, I really need some help with something, do you think this lot **(indicates audience)** would help me?

- TABITHA** Ooh, the boys and girls? I don't know, let's have a better look at them **(house lights come up and they survey the audience critically)** Hmm, well, I suppose if you're desperate
- KAZAM** I think I'll give them a go
- TABITHA** OK, but I wouldn't ask them to do anything complicated... **(house lights down)**
- KAZAM** Let's see... **(to audience)** Hello everyone!
- AUDIENCE** Hello!
- KAZAM** **(To Tabitha)** Did you hear something?
- TABITHA** I think a gentleman in row three might have whispered something, try again
- KAZAM** I said, hello everyone!
- AUDIENCE** Hello!
- KAZAM** That's better! I say, will you help me with something?
- AUDIENCE** Yes!
- KAZAM** Great! You see this big red button which says 'Do not press'? What do you think it does? **(He ad-libs with the audience)** Well any of you could be right, the problem is nobody knows! My father, Wizard Blix enchanted it, but he never told anyone what it's for. It pops up all over the place! The thing is, my Father's magic didn't always go to plan... well you've heard what happened to him. So I've always thought it's probably best if no-one presses that button, it could be very dangerous! But it's hard to watch it all the time, so that's where I was thinking you could help? Every time someone goes to press the button, can you all call out 'Don't press the button!' Then I'll hear you and I can stop them! Can you do that?
- AUDIENCE** Yes!
- KAZAM** Great, let's give it a try! Let's pretend I'm someone else, here I come... oh, what an interesting button! I'll just press it and see what it does **(he approaches the button)**
- AUDIENE** Don't press the button!

KAZAM That's not bad, but if I'm a long way away I might not be able to hear you... I tell you what, I'll go away, Tabitha will pretend to press the button and you have to shout loud enough that I hear you. OK? **(He exits DSL)**

TABITHA Oh, look at this nice red button. I wonder what it does? **(She reaches out an arm)**

AUDIENCE Don't press the button!

KAZAM **(Entering)** Fantastic, I heard that from down the (local pub). You're definitely the best audience we've had tonight! Now don't forget! **(Romantic music is heard)**

TABITHA **(Looking off stage right)** Here come Romeo and Juliet

KAZAM Oh, let' scarper! **(To audience)** See you later! **(Kazam and Tabitha exit USL)**

Enter Tom and Rapunzel USR, holding hands and deep in conversation. They wander downstage. Romantic music ends abruptly as Ready, Steady and Go enter USL. Steady carries a stepladder. Ready wears a hard hat and sturdy boots.

RAPUNZEL Oh hello boys! **(They all turn round to face her, the ladder swings round and hits Ready, he collapses on the floor)**

STEADY Oh hi! **(He drops the stepladder just as Ready gets, up, it lands on his toe)**

READY Ow!

TOM **(Going up to Ready)** Are you OK?

READY Oh don't worry, it happens all the time! I don't think we've met?

TOM No, I'm new here, my name's Tom

READY **(Shaking his hand)** Nice to meet you! I'm Ready

TOM Ready? Ready for what?

READY No, my name's Ready

STEADY And I'm Steady

GO Go

TOM **(Pointing to each in turn)** Ready, Steady and Go?

STEADY That's us – come on we'd better get back to work, we're decorating for Rapunzel's birthday **(Tom returns to Rapunzel's side)**

RAPUNZEL They're my Father's handymen, of course he hired the most comedic handymen he could find...

Ready is setting up the ladder USR. Go leaves USL and comes back with a bunch of balloons.

GO Ready Ready?

READY Ready! **(He takes the balloons/banner and starts to climb the ladder. Steady holds on to the bottom of the ladder, which wobbles a little)** Steady Steady!

STEADY Sorry! **(Ready attaches the balloons/banner. Enter Dr Queasy and two Jesters USL. The Handymen clear the ladder offstage USR)**

JESTER 6 Doctor, doctor, I think I'm a bell!

DR QUEASY Well take these pills, if they don't work give me a ring! **(He hands over a bottle)**

JESTER 7 Doctor, did you get that scan of my head back?

DR QUEASY Oh yes, I did

JESTER 7 What did it show?

DR QUEASY Absolutely nothing!

RAPUNZEL **(Walking up to him with Tom)** This is Dr Queasy, my Father's Physician

TOM Let me guess, your Father hired the most comedic doctor he could find?

RAPUNZEL That's right! **(Enter Jesters 2-6, 8 and 10)**

JESTER 1 Would you like a crisp? **(She offers Tom a Pringle packet)**

TOM Thanks! **(He takes off the lid and something jumps out, Tom jumps back in surprise and everyone else laughs)**

RAPUNZEL And that's Flic – she owns the joke shop!

DR QUEASY Hey, what does that button do? **(He reaches out)**

AUDIENCE Don't press the button! **(Enter Kazam and Tabitha DSR)**

KAZAM Oi, hands off! **(To audience)** Thanks everyone! **(To Jesters)** Isn't nearly time for the King's speech?

JESTER 2 He's going to decree a new law

- TOM** You all seem very excited about it!
- JESTER 3** Well, there are only four laws in Chortleton, so it is an unusual occasion
- TOM** Only four laws? I'm guessing that one of them is that you all have to be constantly trying to make Rapunzel laugh?
- JESTER 4** Yes, that's law number two.
- JESTER 7** Law number three: each Jester must crack at least ten jokes a day
- JESTER 6** Law number four: no jokes regarding the King's name
- TOM** King Richard?
- JESTER 5** His friends call him Dick for short...
- TOM** OK... so that leaves law number one?
- TABITHA** The oldest law in the Kingdom... no one is allowed to have, in their possession, **(dramatic pause)** a banana
- TOM** A banana? Why on earth not?
- JESTER 3** Good question, we...

He is interrupted by the sound of a fanfare, off. Enter Herald USL, carrying a bugle. She walks to DSC and plays some unpleasant noises on the bugle. She looks at her instrument in annoyance, hits it or shakes it then puts it to her lips again and the proper fanfare is heard.

HERALD Their Royal Highnesses, King Richard and Queen Mabel

Enter King and Queen USL. Everyone bows.

- KING** Good afternoon. Now as you know, I have a very important announcement to make. I have decided to make a new law. The fifth law of Chortleton, as of today, is this. Any man who can make my beautiful daughter, Princess Rapunzel laugh, is automatically granted my permission to ask for her hand in marriage! What do you think my darling?
- RAPUNZEL** Well I guess it's OK, as long as I don't have to say yes!
- KING** Of course not, but I am hoping that the announcement will encourage more people to come to Chortleton from far afield and entertain you.
- QUEEN** And the plan is already working!

- KING** Yes, indeed. Tonight we're having a party at Merriment Manor to celebrate Rapunzel's birthday. As you know, you have all been invited.
- ALL** Hurray/yey etc.
- KING** But I have also sent out some additional, very special invitations to Princes and men of status from across the world. I have made them aware of the new law, and with such an incentive I am sure they will all turn up.
- RAPUNZEL** **(Slightly downcast)** Great
- QUEEN** Look more excited Rapunzel, today is probably the day you will meet your future husband!
- RAPUNZEL** **(Gazing at Tom)** Yes Mother, perhaps you're right
- KING** There's just one last invitation to deliver, where's Go gone?
- GO** Here your Majesty
- KING** You better take this straight away, there's not much time before the party **(he hands Go an envelope)**
- QUEEN** Indeed, there is so much preparation we must do still! Go on everybody, back to work! **(All exit using various exits, apart from King, Queen, Rapunzel and Tom, who looks rather lost)**
- QUEEN** **(To Rapunzel)** Now, you better come with me Rapunzel, you know your dress fitting is this afternoon, and then Tabitha is coming to do your hair.
- RAPUNZEL** You go Mother, I'll follow in a minute. **(Enter Jester 6 USR crossing the stage, carrying a box or something for the party)**
- QUEEN** Jester! Can you call me a taxi?
- JESTER 6** You're a taxi! **(Everyone looks hopefully at Rapunzel, who just shrugs. King, Queen and Jester 6 exit together USL as Jester 4 enters USL, carrying a chair)**
- JESTER 4** Hey, Rapunzel, how do you make a hot dog stand?
- TOM** How?
- JESTER 4** You take its chair away!
- RAPUNZEL** Oh, go on with you, I've heard all your jokes before

Jester 4 starts towards USR, as Go runs across the back of the stage, USL to USR carrying the invitation.

RAPUNZEL (Seeing Go) Go!

Jester 4, thinking this is aimed at him, speeds up.

RAPUNZEL (Moving towards USR) Stop!

Jester 4 stops abruptly, and they collide

RAPUNZEL No, not you! **(She dashes off USR and comes back with Go following her. Jester 4 exits DSR)** Go, are you delivering the last invitation?

GO I sure am, to Squire Sippy of Sapperton, or was it Squire Saggy of Sopperton?

RAPUNZEL Don't worry, you needn't go at all Go! **(She takes the invitation and hands it to Tom)** Tom, you are officially invited to my birthday party tonight! Please say you'll come?

TOM Oh, I'd love to! But won't your Father know I wasn't really invited?

RAPUNZEL It doesn't matter! All you have to do is make me laugh as soon as you arrive, and then he'll be so happy he'll forget to be angry!

GO What if this Squire Saggy-Sippy turns out to be a real catch?

TOM There's a much bigger problem than that with the plan

GO What?

TOM What if I can't make Rapunzel laugh?

RAPUNZEL You have to think of a way! I'll see you later, I have to meet my mother Mabel at Merriment Manor. **(Rapunzel and Go both exit USR. Tom gazes after her. Enter Kazam DSL)**

KAZAM Did Rapunzel go?

TOM Yes, she had to meet her mother Mabel at Merriment Manor... how did she say that? Oh Kazam, I think I'm in love!

KAZAM You only think? I know you're in love!

TOM It wasn't that obvious was it?

KAZAM It was more obvious than the reason oranges are called oranges... Cheer up Tom, the fifth law is really good news for you

- TOM** It is?
- KAZAM** Of course! Before today you could never have hoped to get King Richard to allow you to marry his daughter unless you were a Prince or a Lord or something. But now, all you have to do is make her laugh!
- TOM** Of course! You're right! But how can I make her laugh? I'm hopeless at thinking of good jokes.
- KAZAM** Go on, tell me your funniest joke
- TOM** Umm... why didn't the skeleton cross the road?
- KAZAM** I don't know, why didn't the skeleton cross the road?
- TOM** Because he had no guts!
- KAZAM** Hmm, well maybe you should stay away from jokes. There are other funny things you could do
- TOM** Like what?
- KAZAM** We can give you some ideas... **(Enter all Jesters and handymen)**

NUMBER – In which Kazam, the Handymen and the Jesters demonstrate, perhaps over circus music, ways by which Tom could try to make Rapunzel laugh.

Curtain

Scene 2 - In the forest (FOT)

Sinister music. Enter Gothel FOT left.

- GOTHEL** Oh boo yourselves, see if I care! So you've seen what those idiots are up to in Chortleton then. They're spending all their time and energy on trying to reverse the little curse I placed on Rapunzel many years ago, little do they know that they've got a much bigger problem coming. Hahaha! **(Enter Plain and Simple FOT left)** You've got the box?
- SIMPLE** Yes, here it is **(he hands her the magic box)**
- GOTHEL** **(Addressing the box)** My little beauty, you're going to make me so rich and powerful, and make so many other people so miserable, hahaha! The time is right, all my preparations are in place, now we just need to open this box
- SNIVEL** **(Offstage)** Achoo!

GOTHEL What was that? Is he here already? **(Plain exits FOT left, and enters dragging Snivel by the arm. Snivel is filthy, with greasy hair and tattered clothing. Plain lets go and wipes his hand down his front)**

PLAIN Is this who we're meeting?

SNIVEL Snivel, at your service **(He holds out a hand to Plain).**

PLAIN **(Not taking his hand)** My name's Plain

SIMPLE Simple

GOTHEL You got my message then. And you're a locksmith?

SNIVEL Yes M'aam.

GOTHEL Can you help me break into this box?

SNIVEL Shouldn't be too hard

SIMPLE Oh it's not easy

PLAIN No we've already tried everything. Shall I show him? **(Gothel places the box on the floor, Plain brings his club down on the top of the box with an almighty crash)**

BOX **(Sound effect - in a deep, booming voice)** I only open if you have the key!

SNIVEL **(Taking a step back)** It talks! What dark magic is this?

SIMPLE It grants magic wishes

GOTHEL Shut up. **(To Snivel)** You agreed to help

SNIVEL Payment first **(he crosses to stand next to Gothel).**

GOTHEL Very well. We agreed seventy pounds?

SNIVEL Agreed! **(He holds out his hand and she counts coins into it)**

GOTHEL One, two, three.... how many years have you been a locksmith?

SNIVEL Seven

GOTHEL Eight, nine, ten... do you have any family?

SNIVEL No children, but I have two brothers and 15 cousins!

GOTHEL How many?

- SNIVEL** Fifteen!
- GOTHEL** Sixteen, seventeen, eighteen... and how old are you?
- SNIVEL** Twenty six
- GOTHEL** Twenty seven, twenty eight, twenty nine... and is anyone else in your family a locksmith?
- SNIVEL** Yes, my Father's been a locksmith since 1967
- GOTHEL** Since 19 what?
- SNIVEL** Sixty seven!
- GOTHEL** Sixty eight, sixty nine, seventy. There you are!
- SNIVEL** Thank you! **(He pockets the money)**
- GOTHEL** Right, let's get down to work **(Snivel selects a key and places it in the lock)**
- BOX** That is the wrong key!
- PLAIN** Ooh, it's never said that before!
- GOTHEL** Try another! **(Snivel places a different key in the lock)**
- BOX** I only open with the correct key; that is the wrong key
- GOTHEL** Turn it harder! **(Snivel tries)**
- BOX** For heaven's sake, aren't you listening? You need to get the correct key, from the girl. **(Gothel seizes the box)**
- GOTHEL** From the girl? Which girl? Speak to me! **(She shakes the box, then has a sudden realisation)** Of course! Rapunzel!
- SIMPLE** Rapunzel?
- GOTHEL** When I found this box, nine years ago, there was a young girl called Rapunzel with it, she must have already stolen the key. Curses! I knew I should have killed her. I'll just have to kill her now... but only after she's given me the key!
- SNIVEL** **(Making for the exit- foyer)** Well I'm glad to have been of assistance, I'll be off now then...
- GOTHEL** Not so fast! Your work here is not done

SNIVEL But we've worked out what needs to be done to get into the box
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- GOTHEL** I need you to go to Chortleton and find out what's going on, and then help us work out a plan to kidnap Rapunzel
- SNIVEL** What? Why me?
- GOTHEL** Because they'll recognise me, and because these two are hopeless
- SNIVEL** I'm sure they're not that bad
- GOTHEL** They are. If his **(points at Simple)** IQ was any lower I'd have to water him. And he **(points at Plain)** has a one track mind – he's always thinking about girls! You're going to have to help me.
- SNIVEL** Oh no, I didn't agree to do anything other than open the box! I'm just a locksmith, I'm not getting involved in kidnap and murder!
- GOTHEL** Too late my friend, you're already involved! Do you know how these two came to work for me?
- SNIVEL** No
- GOTHEL** They wandered into the forest with an old magician who had accidentally conjured them into existence. Do you want to know what we did with the old man?
- SNIVEL** I suspect you're going to tell me anyway
- GOTHEL** Tell him, boys.

Simple moves to whisper in Snivel's right ear, he winces

Plain whispers in Snivel's left ear, he crosses his legs

Simple whispers again in Snivel's right ear, he bends his knees in imaginary pain

- SNIVEL** OK, OK, I'll help you!
- GOTHEL** Good, you're one of us now, and if you value your organs you won't forget it.
- SNIVEL** But why do you need a magic wish granting box anyway, you're a witch, you can do your own magic surely?
- GOTHEL** Don't call me Shirley. I need a powerful magic spell, more powerful than I or any other magician could perform alone. I want to become Queen!
- SNIVEL** But I thought Princess Rapunzel would be the next queen, with whoever she picks as a groom

- PLAIN** So romantic!
- GOTHEL** It's not romantic, it's sickening. And it's not going to happen! My great grandmother and King Richard's great grandmother were sisters! Can't you see what that means?
- SNIVEL** Er... no?
- GOTHEL** If I can get a truly powerful magic spell to rewrite the whole of history so that King Richard never existed, then I will become Queen and ruler of this Empire! That's my plan, and you three have no choice but to help me. Hahaha! **(Gothel indicates they should laugh too, Plain and Simple do but Snivel doesn't)** Oh come on Snivel, you'll enjoy yourself once you've got started!

NUMBER – Baddie song e.g. Evil Like Me

Scene 3- Tabitha's Hairdressing Salon (Full stage)

The name of the salon is painted on the wall – e.g. 'Blood, Sweat and Shears' or a similar pun. The walls could also feature posters of Tabitha or some of the Jesters with their hair done in ludicrous styles. A chair sits centre stage, facing the audience with a small table next to it. There is a mirror on a flat DSL, underneath the mirror is a second small table sitting on which is a radio and some hair brushes etc. DSR, a freestanding 'hairdryer' backs into the wing so it can be accessed by a stagehand. As the curtains open, Tabitha is looking at herself in the mirror.

- TABITHA** Oh dear, it's the party tonight and I'm in such a mess!
- STEADY** **(Entering USR with Ready and Go, they are carrying the ladder, a lightbulb and a toolbox between them)** We've come to change your light bulb Tabitha **(they set up the ladder, set the toolbox on top and Steady climbs up, pretending to change a bulb in the flies)**
- TABITHA** Goodness! How many men does it take to change a light bulb?
- READY** I don't know, how many men does it take to change a light bulb?
- TABITHA** Well three apparently
- READY** Oh, I'm sorry, I thought it was a joke. There must be a punch line to that...how many men does it take to change a light bulb...

- JESTER** (A female jester – entering DSL) Only one, but you have to nag him for a fortnight first! **(They all laugh)** Queen Mabel says can one of you give her a hand?
- STEADY** Here you are **(he takes a plastic hand from the toolbox and passes it to her)**
- JESTER** I'm not sure that's quite what she meant! **(Steady drops a light bulb on Ready's head)**
- READY** Ouch!
- GO** Steady Steady!
- STEADY** **(Coming back down the ladder)** Sorry!
- READY** I'll go help the Queen, it might be safer **(he exits DSL with Jester 5)**
- TABITHA** **(Back looking at herself in the mirror)** I'm never going to find a handsome young prince tonight looking like this!
- GO** Tabitha, you know it's Rapunzel who's supposed to be finding a handsome young prince at the party, not you!
- TABITHA** Yes, but she's only going to pick one handsome prince isn't she! So that means there will be spares! And maybe one is looking for a more manure girl, I mean a more mature girl. Oh I'm so excited, I must look my best! **(looking in the mirror)** At least you can still see my egg-timer figure!
- STEADY** **(Also peering in the mirror, from behind her)** Well yes, but all your sand has gone to the bottom!
- TABITHA** Cheeky! And I've already decided what to wear, I've got some lovely dresses; every time I'm down in the dumps I buy a new dress
- GO** I wondered where you get them from!
- TABITHA** Well really, I've never been so insulated in all my life! For that, you two can help me sort out my hair do, ready for tonight
- STEADY** Oh no, I really don't think that's a good idea, besides we've got heaps of work to do
- TABITHA** Don't worry, it won't take long. I tell you what, we'll listen to Grungy Greg's Beauty show on the radio, they give out excellent tips **(she turns on the radio, which plays music at low volume)**

- TABITHA** I'll just slip into my robe, whilst you two get that ladder out the way **(she exits USL. Steady picks up one end of the ladder, Go picks up the other. They start towards the wing USL, Steady in the lead, but then Steady spots the red button and abruptly drops his end of the ladder, causing Go to stumble)**
- GO** Steady Steady!
- STEADY** **(Peering at the button)** Hey, what do you think this does?
- GO** **(Joining him)** I've no idea, let's find out **(he reaches out)**
- AUDIENCE** Don't press the button!
- KAZAM** **(Entering USR)** Whoa Go! Don't press that, it might cause an explosion, or summon up a giant man eating millipede – it could do anything!
- STEADY** I wouldn't mind if it caused an explosion, if it gets us out of this hairdressing lark **(Steady and Go pick up the ladder and exit USL, leaving Kazam alone)**
- KAZAM** Thanks boys and girls!
- RADIO** And on our next programme, Grungy Greg presents 'How to look party perfect'. Hello, Greg, welcome to the show, show, show..
- KAZAM** Oh dear, it's got stuck, hang on **(he whacks it with a hairbrush, and the loop stops)**
- RADIO** Thank you!
- KAZAM** Pleasure. **(To the audience)** Shall I play a trick on Tabitha and the boys? What do you think?
- AUDIENCE** Yes!
- KAZAM** Oh go on then, you persuaded me, but if I get in trouble I'll say it was your fault! I'll just change the station... **(he fiddles with the radio)**
- RADIO** Next up, bicycle maintenance for beginners.
- KAZAM** That should do it! **(Kazam waves to the audience, and exits USR)**
- Tabitha enters USL with Steady and Go, Tabitha is dressed in a fluffy dressing gown**
- RADIO** Let us begin.
- TABITHA** Ooh, it's started, come on, pay attention! **(she sits in the chair, centre stage)**

RADIO Good afternoon, Gentlemen.

TABITHA I'm not a gentleman!

RADIO I wasn't talking to you!

TABITHA All right, don't get your aerial in a twist!

RADIO Step one, check for rust, especially around the joints. **(Go lifts up the end of Tabitha's skirt and peers at her knees)**

TABITHA There's no rust down there, thank you very much!

RADIO Step two, if you have a spare tyre...

STEADY **(Poking Tabitha's middle)** Yes, we do...

RADIO It might be a good idea to take it along

STEADY Well I can't see what else you'd do with it!

RADIO Step three – are you ready?

GO No, he's gone to do a job for the Queen

RADIO Who has?

GO Ready

RADIO Okay... Step three, make sure your saddle is nicely polished **(Steady and Go bend down behind Tabitha, who leaps up)**

TABITHA No, no!

RADIO **(Annoyed)** You really ought to polish your saddle, you know,

TABITHA My saddle is quite polished enough thank you very much! Only this morning I...

RADIO OK enough information, let's move on.

TABITHA Thank goodness for that! **(She sits down again)**

RADIO Next, check your gears are working

STEADY **(Pulling Steady forwards and talking to him in a stage whisper)** Isn't her spare tyre huge!

TABITHA **(Kicking him up the backside)** I heard that!

- STEADY** (To the radio) Ears are working fine
- RADIO** Great!
- TABITHA** (To Steady and Go) I think it's coming on to hairstyles now
- RADIO** You probably need to apply a little oil (**Steady and Go look at each other, shrug, Go picks up an oil can and pours some thick liquid over Tabitha**) and then wipe down with an old cloth (**Steady produces a filthy rag from his pocket and rubs the oil into Tabitha's hair**)
- RADIO** (Irritably) Have you done that yet?
- STEADY** Can't you see, we're doing it now!
- RADIO** Of course I can't see, you idiot, I'm a radio! Finally, check if you need to add any new spokes (**Go draws out a screwdriver and places it in Tabitha's hair, decoratively**) or if your tyres need inflating (**Steady pokes Tabitha in the midriff again and shakes his head**)
- STEADY** No, seems fine.
- RADIO** Now you are ready!
- GO** No, he's still not here
- RADIO** Just remember, you can polish the outside all day long, but it's what's inside that really counts. If your inner tube is perished, you might need to perform more serious maintenance
- STEADY** Hmm, maybe you need professional help Tabitha...
- TABITHA** Cheeky! (**She angrily turns off the radio**) My inner tube is not perished! (**To Steady**) Now, what about you?
- STEADY** What about me?
- TABITHA** Don't you want to get a new hairdo for the party tonight?
- STEADY** Oh no, thanks very much but I really like my hair as it is!
- GO** That's not what you were saying the other week
- STEADY** Yeah, well, I used to not like it, but then it grew on me...
- TABITHA** Come on, I'll even do it for free, as you've been so helpful! Do have a seat (**she indicates the chair, and Steady sits down, tentatively**) and get ready

- STEADY** **(Leaping to his feet)** Yes! Excellent idea! **(He runs offstage DSL)**
- TABITHA** Well really, where's he gone? **(Steady enters again DSL, dragging Ready by the arm)**
- STEADY** Here he is! Now Ready, to say sorry for earlier, for hurting your head, I'm going to give you my free haircut! Here, have a seat!
- READY** Oh, OK, thanks! **(He sits down)**
- TABITHA** What kind of hair do would you like?
- READY** Oh just a quick trim will be great, thanks!
- TABITHA** A quick trim?! Come on, I'm offering to do any kind of haircut you like, for free and you just want a quick trim! Oh no, we're not having that. I'll do you something really special. Now first of all, we need to make it a little damp **(she hands a spray bottle to Go, who sprays it at Ready's head, meanwhile, Steady exits and comes back with a super soaker, which he uses to drench Ready)**
- TABITHA** Steady Steady!
- STEADY** **(Still drenching Ready, who is starting to splutter)** Just thought I'd speed things up a bit, we've work to do you know
- TABITHA** That's enough, point it away **(Steady points it away, briefly into the audience)**
- TABITHA** Now, we need a bit of mousse
- GO** I'll get that! **(He exits USR, and comes backs with Calypso, who is wearing moose antlers)**
- TABITHA** No, no, no! Really, you two will drive me out of my mind.
- STEADY** Well at least you won't have far to go!
- TABITHA** Calypso darling, are you sure you wouldn't like a little makeover before tonight? **(She picks up the scissors)**
- CALYPSO** **(Shaking her head)** Neigh!
- TABITHA** I think your mane would be lovely in pink **(Calypso turns and runs off USR, whipping Ready across the face with her tail)**

- TABITHA** **(Handing a can of whipped cream to Go)** This is the mousse. Now put some in this bowl **(she holds out a shallow bowl or deep plate, Go squirts some in)** add some dye **(Steady pours in some red food colouring from a bottle marked 'Ketchup')**, now beat it **(she hands Go a whisk, he starts to exit)** Where are you going Go?
- GO** You said to beat it!
- TABITHA** No! I meant beat the mixture, with the whisk!
- GO** Oh right **(He returns to the plate and hits it with the whisk, sending mess straight into Ready's face)**
- READY** Oi!
- GO** Oh I'm sorry Ready, I really am!
- READY** Why do these things always happen to me?
- GO** Oh don't be mad at me, please Ready, you're my friend! You are my friend aren't you? **(As he says, this Go transfers a large dollop of mixture onto his own hand)**
- READY** **(Softening)** Yes, OK, I'm your friend
- GO** Will you shake hands? **(He offers his messy hand)**
- READY** OK **(they shake hands)** Oh you rotten... **(he stands up and chases Go round the room trying to smear paste on each other, Ready slipping on the wet floor. Tabitha puts the bowl down on the chair)**
- TABITHA** Stop that at once! Sit down Ready, I'll do the next bit for you **(Ready returns and sits, in the bowl, he jumps up again with a howl)** Oh yes, thanks I need that **(she picks it up)**. Sit down again.

Ready carefully checks there is nothing on the chair, as he turns around Steady grabs the bowl from Tabitha and places it on the chair.

As Ready slowly starts to sit down, Tabitha reaches behind Steady and pushes the chair away, to behind Steady.

Ready goes to sit down and lands on the floor. As he falls his arm swings out, knocking Steady into the chair.

At the last second, Tabitha snatches away the bowl of paste. The sequence ends with Steady sitting smugly in the chair, and Ready scowling on the floor.