

NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT

***RAPUNZEL,
THE PANTOMIME***

BY

Bradford & Webster

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Rapunzel, the Pantomime by Toby Bradford & Tina Webster

SCENES

ACT I

- Scene 1 - The Village
- Scene 2 - Outskirts of the Village (tabs scene)
- Scene 3a - The Forest (half stage)
- Scene 3b - Outside the Tower
- Scene 4 - Inside the Tower
- Scene 5a - The Hair Salon (half stage . possibly use black cloth/tabs)
- Scene 5b - On the way to the Palace (short auditorium scene, for clearing up 5a)
- Scene 6 - The Royal Palace
- Scene 7 - Outskirts of the Village (tabs scene)
- Scene 8a - The Forest (half stage)
- Scene 8b - Outside the Tower
- Scene 9 - Inside the Tower
- Scene 10 - The Forest (half stage)

ACT II

- Prologue - (tabs scene)
- Scene 1 - The Village
- Scene 2a - Inside the Tower
- Scene 2b - Inside the Tower
- Scene 3 - The Hair Salon (half stage . possibly use black cloth/tabs)
- Scene 4 - The Royal Palace
- Scene 5 - The Forest (half stage)
- Scene 6 - Inside the Tower
- Scene 7a - The Tower Staircase (half stage . black cloth/tabs)
- Scene 7b - The Tower Staircase UV scene (half stage . black cloth/tabs)
- Scene 8 - Inside the Tower

Songsheet

Walkdown & Finale . The Royal Palace

CAST LIST

- PRINCE FREDERICK (F/M) Principal Boy. Usually played by a female. Gorgeous and charming, but a little arrogant & immature. Wants life to be fun, with no responsibilities . but this does change, when he falls in love. Good singer.
- RAPUNZEL (F) Principal Girl. A beautiful girl, naive, but studious and clever, from years of reading books whilst locked in a tower. Good singer.
- DAME BEATRIX (TRIXIE) BOUFFANT (M) A traditional panto Dame. A poor, but glamorous hairdresser, trying to earn an honest living. Mother of Rapunzel, who was snatched away as a baby. Also, mother of Frankie.
- FRANKIE (M) Valet to the Prince. Hard-working, but good fun, and needs to have a good rapport with the audience.
- WITCH GOTHEL (F) The Baddieq. the evil witch who stole Rapunzel from her mother. Needs to be able to work the audience and encourage the boos and hisses.
- FAIRY FLORA (F) The good fairy õ . she has only just completed her training . this is her first job. Sweet, with a touch of comedy. All of her lines are in rhyme.
- CURLY & BOB (M/F) The £Comedy Duoq Dim-witted henchmen to Witch Gothel. Both are bungling idiots . good comedy talent required.
- KING GEOFFREY (M) Worried that his son is an irresponsible heir to the throne. Assertive, but with some comedy.
- QUEEN GERTRUDE (F) Prince Frederick's mother . she spoils her son & thinks the King is too hard on him. Some comedy required.
- CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD (M) Serious, authoritative character. Fights off Dame's advances. Some comedy required.
- LACIE (F)
MACIE (F)
GRACIE (F) Prince Frederick's Social Secretaries. They follow him around, hanging on to his every word.
Gracie has a crush on Frankie.
- HERALD (M/F)
- CHORUS & DANCERSqROLES Villagers, Palace Courtiers, Papparazzi, Fans, Puppeteers

ACT I
Scene 1 The Village

*There is a hair salon, with a comic name ("Curl Up & Dye" or some similar pun)
 The Villagers are on stage to start*

SONG: Footloose+or Don't Stop Believing+- Villagers

Dame enters from either hair salon or wings

DAME

Ooooh! Hello, everyone! Are you all waiting to have your hair done?

*Villagers look a little horrified at that prospect & start to make excuses & slowly move
 downstage & then exit stage*

Dame notices the audience

DAME

Oh, more customers! My hairdressing reputation is obviously spreading! Well, I am the finest hairdresser in the whole kingdom . head and shoulders+above the rest! Isn't that right? *(looks behind to ask villagers – no-one is there)* Oh, they're gone. Never mind them, I'll introduce myself to you lovely people . I'm Dame Beatrix Bouffant, known to my friends as Trixie. Hairdressing is the highlight+of my day - and having a quick look around, I can see you're all in need of my services - a little TLC to your tresses and some conditioner for your curls oh, maybe not you, sir . I think you're more in need of Mr Sheen than John Frieda! Hair today, gone tomorrow! Anyway, despite this very glamorous facade, I have to admit that I'm feeling very sad today *(sad face)*

AUDIENCE

Aaaaaah!

DAME

I'm much sadder than that

AUDIENCE

Aaaaaaaaahhhhhh!

DAME

That's better! Do you want to know why I'm sad? Today is my daughter's 16th birthday, which should be a very happy occasion, but it's not. For when she was just a tiny baby, she was stolen away in the night, and I haven't seen her since *(takes out an enormous hanky and wails into it)* I used to dream that she would grow up into a beautiful young woman, like her mother *(flutters eyelashes)* and that one day, she would marry the Prince. But now I've been left childless and alone *(wails again)*

Frankie enters

FRANKIE

I thought I heard a whale *(to audience, with a wink)* an easy mistake to make! And what do you mean %childless+? You've got me, Mum . your son, remember?!

DAME

Don't interrupt me . I'm doing the sad, dramatic bit! Yes, I know I've got you, but that's the %root+of the problem, there's no %permanent solution+. and that's the %long and short+of it

FRANKIE

That's not very nice, Mum! And can you **please** stop with the hair-puns?

DAME

You've asking me to %cut the hair+jokes? You've asking me to %snip+it in the bud?

FRANKIE

Mum!!

DAME

Perhaps there should be a %parting+of the ways?

FRANKIE

ENOUGH!!

DAME

But, I'm a hairdresser, puns are what we do, especially when we don't have any customers.

FRANKIE

Then we definitely need to find you some more customers!

DAME

I have some here! *(indicates to audience)* I was just introducing myself to them.

FRANKIE

Would you like to introduce me?

DAME

This is my son, Frankie.

Frankie waves

FRANKIE

Hi, everyone!

DAME

I love him, really. I just wish he'd grown up to marry royalty, so that I could be socialising with the well-to-do, where I belong

FRANKIE

I may not be **married** to royalty, but I do **work** for the Prince (*proudly*) I'm Prince Frederick's valet

DAME

Yes, Frankie Valet! (*sniggers*) He works all four seasons of the year!

FRANKIE

Very funny, Mum . but the kids won't get that one

DAME

What about this one then? My son works for the hair to the throne+

FRANKIE

MUM!!

DAME

Couldn't resist that one . sorry, Frankie. Anyway, where was I? Oh yes, I was telling my lovely new customers here, the sad story about your sister

FRANKIE

It is very, very sad

DAME

But, not only was my darling baby daughter stolen away in the night, a few years later, my husband was stolen away in the night, too . but that wasn't quite so sad.

FRANKIE

He wasn't exactly 'stolen away'+either, was he?

DAME

No.

FRANKIE

Tell them the truth

DAME

He was the royal wig maker and he ended up running off with that bald woman who worked in the palace bakery. If he ever comes back there'll be hell to pay! ..

%coupee#! Get it?

FRANKIE

(*despairingly*) Mum!

DAME

OK, that was the last one, I promise. See you later, girls and boys!

Dame exits

FRANKIE

(shakes head) I do apologise for my mother . she has far too much time on her hands. Unlike me . I am always busy! Looking after Prince Frederick is a 24/7 job. It's not that he **works** hard, but he does like to party hard . but for me, parties mean holding back the paparazzi, then, later, holding back his hair *(mimes vomiting)*. Prince Frederick is OK . although, he is quite, ermm, how can I put it? High maintenance! So, I don't really have much time to myself. I suppose that's why I don't have any friends *(looks sad)* You lot look pretty friendly. Would you be my friends?

AUDIENCE

Yes!

FRANKIE

Would you really? That's great! I've got a great idea . whenever I see you, I'll shout "Hi kids!" and you can shout back "Hi Frankie!" Shall we give it a try? ... I said shall we give it a try? ... Hi kids!

AUDIENCE

Hi Frankie!

FRANKIE

Oh, I'm sure you can do better than that. Let's try it again. Hi kids!

AUDIENCE

Hi Frankie!

FRANKIE

That's great! Thanks! It's wonderful to have some friends at last! But I really must go and find the Prince. He's due for an audience with his parents ... the King and Queen.

Prince Frederick enters, looking a little dishevelled, wearing sunglasses and held up by his three "secretaries".

FRANKIE

Oh, there you are, Your Highness. How are you feeling this morning ... *(checks invisible watch)* er, afternoon?

Prince thinks for a moment. Does the wobbly hand thing .

FRANKIE

We need to get you back to the palace and tidied up. Ladies, I'm afraid the Prince has to leave you now and .

PRINCE

Oh no, they're coming too.

FRANKIE

But .

PRINCE
These are my new secretaries.

FRANKIE
Secretaries?

PRINCE
Well, **social** secretaries, Lacie, Macie and Gracie. My father is always telling me I need to get my life organised so Lacie organises the venue, Macie organises the drinks and Gracie organises the guest list.

FRANKIE
I really don't think that is what he meant.

PRINCE
Oh, don't be a party pooper, or Gracie won't put you on the guest list.

Gracie waves at Frankie. Frankie blushes.

FRANKIE
Oh, er, um, er, yes, I, er ... but we really do have to go.

PRINCE
Oh, valet, you're such a bore

SONG: "Don't Stop Me Now". Prince Frederick

Scene 2 Outskirts of the Village

Fairy Flora enters Stage R – sound fx / lighting fx

FAIRY
Hello, I'm Fairy Flora I'm quite new to these things
Just finished my training . and got my first wings!
Now I've come here to serve the King and the Queen,
The townsfolk and peasants and all in between.
And my very first case is one you may know
It's something that happened a few years ago
A baby so small, little more than a day
In the dark of the night, she was stolen away
So, now it's my task . that this mystery is solved
But my fears are that witchcraft may well be involved

Gothel enters Stage L – pyro? Sound/light fx

GOTHEL
Witchcraft, eh? *(to audience)* Isn't she a clever little know-it-all newby fairy? Oh, I see they've let the rabble in again! What's the matter . was the "Standing Order" [or local pub] closed? What a repugnant gathering of riff-raff!

AUDIENCE

Boooo!

GOTHEL

Boo!? Hoo! Is that the best you can do?

FAIRY

Oh, hello . who are you? Perhaps I could ask
A few simple questions, with regard to my task?

GOTHEL

I'm just a poor old woman, my dear, trying to make my way in the world. I doubt I could help you. I'm so frail, I can hardly help myself. I'm just off to see my lovely granddaughter ... *(to audience)* I think this one may be even more stupid than she looks! And you can pipe down, you miserable minions! Mwahahahahah!

Gothel exits

FAIRY

Ah, just a poor grandmother, out for a stroll
Don't you think she was really quite nice . on the whole?
Oh, you don't? Then, perhaps . if you're all agreed
I will need your help if I am to succeed!
But first, to the palace . I must be on my way
I don't want to be late on my very first day!

Fairy exits

Scene 3a The Forest

Gothel enters

GOTHEL

So, there's a stupid new fairy on the block and she thinks she can solve the mystery of the missing baby? Hah! There is no mystery! I have her! I've had her for 16 years! Locked in a tower with no stairs and no door! Ha ha ha ha ha!

AUDIENCE

Booooo!

GOTHEL

Oh, pipe down! Her name is Rapunzel and she thinks she is my granddaughter. Sixteen years ago, I caught Dame Trixie's fool of a husband stealing plants from my garden . so, as a punishment, I made him promise that he would bring me their newborn baby. I told him it was either that or ... *(thumb neck stroking)*
Whahahahahah!

AUDIENCE

Booooo!

GOTHEL

(mocking) Oh, you scare me, you really do! I am Gothel! I am strong and powerful. You will have to do a lot better than that, you despicable dimwits!

AUDIENCE

Boooo!

GOTHEL

Rapunzel is mine! She is locked in a tower that is almost impossible to find unless you know where it is, so no-one will ever find her! I tell her of all the horrors of the outside world and then she cries beautiful, magical tears. I collect those tears and they keep me young . they are so much better than Oil of Olay. *(looks around audience)* There are a few out there who could benefit, I think . but those precious tears are mine, all mine! Ha ha ha ha ha!

Curly & Bob enter

GOTHEL

Where have you been, you idiots?

Curly & Bob look behind, as though she wouldn't be talking to them

GOTHEL

I mean you two! You imbeciles!

Curly and Bob look at each other. Then grin.

CURLY & BOB

Thanks!

GOTHEL

What?

CURLY

Well, no-one's ever called us imbeciles before, have they, Bob?

BOB

Nope. They sure haven't.

Gothel sighs in despair.

GOTHEL

You don't know what it means, do you?

Curly and Bob look at each other again.

CURLY & BOB

Nope.

CURLY

But it sounds real impressive.

GOTHEL

I despair I really do. I blame the Government . those apprenticeship schemes have become so popular, these two fools were all they had left. Talk about scraping the bottom of the barrel.

CURLY

Oh, I know this one. You need a spoon.

BOB

With a long handle!

CURLY

Yes, with a long handle and you have to .

GOTHEL

Shut up! Right, bring the shopping to the tower.

CURLY

Ah!

GOTHEL

What?

BOB

Well ...

GOTHEL

You didn't get the shopping?

CURLY

Not exactly.

BOB

We tried.

GOTHEL

And?

CURLY

Well, Bob walked into the corner shop

GOTHEL

Yes?

CURLY

That's it . Bob (*mimes smacking head*) walked into the corner shop. Missed the door, completely knocked himself out cold. Completely unconscious he was.

Bob continues to have a glazed expression

GOTHEL
(looking at Bob) I'm surprised you could tell

CURLY
I took him to the doctor. Apparently, he has ~~Tom~~ Tom Jones Syndrome+

GOTHAL
Is that common?

CURLY
Well, it's not unusual

Curly & Bob cower, as Gothel looms over them

GOTHEL
You incompetent Idiots! Get back to town, and get that shopping! NOW!

Gothel points off-stage. Curly & Bob exit in a rush.

GOTHEL
Argggg! I am surrounded by ignorant fools *(to audience)* you lot included!

AUDIENCE
Booooo!

GOTHEL
Oh, be quiet! Now, which way is the tower? Pipe down, you lot . I need to listen for Rapunzel's singing

Far away, Rapunzel is heard singing

GOTHEL
I hear her!

*Gothel walks upstage, towards the singing.
Lights dim down & gobo/fx lighting of forest & trees appear.*

Scene 3b Outside the Tower

Forest cloth is drawn back to reveal the tower in the darkness. Forest gobo/lighting fx continue.

As this is happening, Rapunzel's singing is heard more clearly.

As Gothel approaches the tower, it is lit slightly more.

Gothel looks up to the window of the tower.

GOTHEL
Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your golden hair!

Nothing happens.

GOTHEL

That girl! She'll have her head in a book, off in a world of her own ... Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your golden hair!

*A very long, blond, plaited braid of hair is lowered from the tower window.
Gothel begins to "climb" the braid
After she has climbed a few feet of the tower – full blackout*

Scene 4 Inside the Tower

*Rapunzel is sitting on a stool reading a book while singing to herself (perhaps a wordless version of her upcoming solo) and almost absentmindedly holding on to her long plait which leads to a window.
Gothel climbs in through the window.*

GOTHEL

Rapunzel?

Rapunzel is startled.

RAPUNZEL

Oh, I'm sorry, Grandmother.

*Rapunzel puts down her book and starts gathering up her long plait.
Gothel picks up the book.*

GOTHEL

And what are you reading that is so interesting?

RAPUNZEL

Applied mathematics. It's one of my favourites.

GOTHEL

How thrilling!

RAPUNZEL

I know! It explains so much of how the world works but ...

GOTHEL

Yes?

RAPUNZEL

I would very much like to see that world.

GOTHEL

You **can** see it. From your window.

RAPUNZEL

Oh, but Grandmother, if I could just .

GOTHEL

Rapunzel, you do not want to go out there. Really, you don't. The world is full of bad people, doing terrible things to each other.

Rapunzel goes to her bookcase and takes out books by way of illustration.

RAPUNZEL

But Grandmother, how can the world be so terrible when it can create such beautiful art and such wonderful music.

GOTHEL

Rapunzel, you don't know the world like I do. You should be grateful that I am keeping you safe.

RAPUNZEL

I am grateful, Grandmother ... but, also, I get so lonely and bored here in this tower, all alone.

GOTHEL

Lonely? Bored? You have your books to read, and your singing to occupy yourself. And you have me.

RAPUNZEL

I have read every book at least twice . I know all there is to know about chemistry and physics, maths and biology, art and music. And ... you are so good to me, Grandmother, but if I could just meet some other people and -

Gothel is getting impatient and interrupts.

GOTHEL

You think the world is not so terrible? Why, Rapunzel, just today, I have learned of a tiny baby, little more than a day old, who was stolen away from her mother

RAPUNZEL

Oh no! That's awful! That poor, tiny child (*begins to cry*) Oh, and her mother . she must be heart-broken (*sobs*) she must miss her baby so much!

Gothel collects Rapunzel's tears

RAPUNZEL

Grandmother, why do you collect my tears?

GOTHEL

I collect them to remind me that if you were to leave the safety of this tower, then you would never be happy . and all I want is for you to be happy

RAPUNZEL

I know that you just want what is best for me, but

GOTHEL

Well then, stop day-dreaming about the world outside your tower . you can never leave! I mean, I can't let you leave, because I care about you. I would hate for something evil and bad to happen to you. Now, let down your hair, so that I can climb back down the tower

RAPUNZEL

But you haven't been here long, Grandmother. And now, you are leaving, even though I am feeling so sad

GOTHEL

I've got what I came for ... I mean that's not what I came for . to upset you. But I have to leave, to check on Curly and Bob. I sent them to buy you some nice food but those two couldn't follow a recipe for making ice cubes!

RAPUNZEL

So, you will be returning soon, then?

Gothel guides Rapunzel towards window and she takes out her braid to let down.

GOTHEL

Yes, *(looks at bottle of tears)* I will need to return before long.

Gothel climbs through the window.

SONG: Ever, Ever After+- Rapunzel

Scene 5a The Hair Salon

*There is a hair-dressing type chair and a shelf, or table, on which there are a variety of "hair products". Two mops are easily accessible, on or off stage.
Curly and Bob enter.*

CURLY

Right, let's buy this shopping before we get into any more trouble.

BOB

(looking around) There's not much food in here.

Dame enters

DAME

Hello, can I help you?

BOB

We'd like four apples, a cabbage and a loaf of bread, please.

DAME
I'm sorry, that's not possible

BOB
Have you run out of apples?

DAME
No, nincompoops!

CURLY
You've run out of nincompoops?

DAME
No, clearly not! But, I don't sell apples, or cabbages, or bread . this is a hair salon!

BOB
Ahhh . that explains it . you must think we're a bit stupid.

DAME
I'm thinking there is a village, somewhere, that has been deprived of its idiots.

CURLY
(checking shopping list) We need other stuff, don't we, Bob?

BOB
Yes, lots of other stuff *(checking list, with Curly & nodding)*

DAME
What else is on your list?

Curly and Bob look at the list, studiously, then they look at each other

CURLY & BOB
We don't know . we can't read!

DAME
(takes list) Here, let me see ... it says %shampoo+. I have shampoo

CURLY
Yes, we need shampoo, a lot of shampoo.

DAME
I only sell the best shampoo . it's made by Wella

CURLY
Wella?

DAME
Wella

BOB
Wella?

CURLY & BOB
(sing dramatically) Tell me more, tell me more!

DAME
Very funny! *(Goes to shelf, shows products)* I have this shampoo for greasy hair, this one is for dandruff, and this one is for extra body.

BOB
Do you have any for really long ...

Curly hits Bob

BOB
Ow!

DAME
Really long ow?

CURLY
Do you have any super-size bottles? We need a lot.

DAME
I have a look out the back.

Dame goes off stage.

BOB
I bet she uses the extra body+one.

CURLY
Yeah! Extra extra body.

They giggle.
Dame enters with a bucket. Curly and Bob are still giggling.

DAME
Will a bucket do? ... What's so funny?

BOB
Nothing ... extra extra body.

Bob and Curly giggle some more.
Dame sighs and shakes her head.

DAME
Is there enough shampoo here?

CURLY

No, I think we will need more.

DAME

I'll find a bigger bucket.

*Dame places the small bucket on the floor, then she exits
Curly is looking at the hair products, he picks up a can of "hair mousse"*

CURLY

Look at the picture . I think this one is for curly hair

BOB

Ooh, you've got curly hair, I think you should try it!

Bob takes the "mousse" and squeezes foam onto Curly's head

CURLY

I think you should try this one!

Curly grabs another container and aims it at Bob, squirting it in his face

BOB

Why, you!

Bob chases Curly & squirts foam down his trousers or top. Curly pushes Bob, who steps back, putting his foot into the small bucket – which then gets stuck onto his foot. He chases Curly, with one foot still in the bucket. Bob is just about to squirt foam at Curly, when Dame enters.

DAME

What's all the commotion?

Curly ducks, and Bob squirts Dame with foam.

BOB

Ooops!!

DAME

You idiots! Look at me?! Get this mess cleaned up NOW!

*Dame exits.
Bob takes bucket off his foot and leaves it on stage.
Curly finds the mops.*

CURLY

Look . I've found some mops.

Curly has one mop over his shoulder, he hands the other mop to Bob, then spins around, hitting Bob on the head with the mop. Bob falls to the floor.

Curly does some mopping then stops and turns to check off stage, popping the mop back on his shoulder.

CURLY

Is she coming back? What? Why are you lying down? We're supposed to be cleaning up!

Bob starts to stand. Curly turns back – hitting Bob again with the mop, knocking him back to the floor. Curly doesn't have a clue what he has done. Curly mops a bit more, as Bob tries to stand then slips over. Curly turns to see Bob lying down again.

CURLY

You're not doing much work!

BOB

But .

Bob stands again

CURLY

You come and mop over here. I'll do that bit over there.

BOB

Fine

Curly puts his mop back over his shoulder and watches Bob as he goes to where Curly was, and starts mopping

CURLY

That's more like it

Curly then spins round, but this time Bob ducks

BOB

Ha ha, you missed me.

Curly turns & places the head of his mop on the floor in front of him.

CURLY

What?

BOB

Nothing.

CURLY

OK then.

Curly turns back to check whether Dame is coming. He leaves his mop-head where it was on the floor. Bob comes up behind Curly to pull faces (tongue out, wagging

ear hands). But the mop is between his legs and Curly lifts it up as he sets off across stage. Bob collapses in a heap holding his privates. Curly notices the bucket.

CURLY

I'd better move that bucket . someone could trip over it

Curly looks over at Bob again, who is still on the floor. Curly throws down his mop, in despair

CURLY

Are you just going to sit around doing nothing . or are you going to help me?

Curly helps Bob back to his feet. Dame enters, carrying a larger bucket – she trips over the first bucket, sending the big bucket flying into the air, towards Curly, then Dame slips over. Curly catches the bucket, it sends him slightly off balance

CURLY

Woooooaaaaaa!

..... he nearly throws the contents towards the audience, but manages to steady himself & stand still

CURLY

What a catch!

Curly is looking very pleased with himself. Bob sees Curly's mop.

BOB

I'd better pick up this mop . someone could trip over it.

Bob picks up one end of the mop. Curly steps back, tripping over the mop & ends up sitting on the floor, with the bucket & its contents on his head.

DAME

Why you! You'd pay for this mess or I'd ... Oooooaaaaaarrrrggghh!!!

Dame is truly terrifying but struggles to get up, slipping over in clown style as she tries to.

BOB

Ooooh, let's get out of here!!!

Bob gets Curly up. Curly still has bucket on his head so runs around like a headless chicken bumping into things while Bob tries to steer him. They exit.

Blackout.

Scene 5b On the Way to the Palace

Auditorium (or tabs) scene to allow for clearing up of mess.

Prince, Macie, Lacie and Gracie enter via the auditorium laughing loudly, with Frankie following.

PRINCE

And so I jumped out of the window!

More loud laughing from Prince and Macie, Lacie and Gracie.

FRANKIE

Hi kids!

AUDIENCE

Hi Frankie!

FRANKIE

Cheers! *(to Prince)* Your highness, please, this is not the way to the palace. Your parents will be-

PRINCE

Happy to wait, valet. And delighted to see me when I arrive.

FRANKIE

Yes, your highness, of course, it's just that-

Paparazzi enter.

PRINCE

Oh look! Photographers! *(stagey)* How on earth did they know I'd be here?

Prince has a little giggle with the girls as the Paparazzi rush forward and start snapping, with Frankie trying to hold them back and Prince posing with the girls.

PAPARAZZI

Your highness! Your highness! This way! Prince Frederick! This way!

Screaming Autograph Hunters enter and rush towards Prince.

FRANKIE

Oh no! Not the screaming autograph hunters!

SCREAMING AUTOGRAPH HUNTERS

Eeeeeeeeeeeeeeeh! It's Prince Frederick! Sign this! Sign this photo! Sign my arm! Eeeeh! *(to each other)* Look! Look!

Screaming Autograph Hunters calm down a bit and show each other their signed items. Paparazzi keep clicking.

PRINCE

I simply adore being adored.

FRANKIE

And I simply adore keeping my job, which means doing as I'm told. And your parents told me to make sure you made it to the palace today.

PRINCE

And I truly appreciate everything you do for me, valet. And we will definitely get to the palace. *(to Lacie, Macie and Gracie)* Eventually. *(to everyone)* Anyone for ice cream?

ALL EXCEPT FRANKIE

Yes! Me!

FRANKIE

No!!!

PRINCE

Well, I think it's this way.

Prince points and heads out of auditorium, possibly signing autographs in the audience as he passes, followed by everyone else, including Frankie, who pleads with Prince as they exit.

FRANKIE

Not that way! You're going the wrong way! We're so late already! I am in so much trouble.

They all exit

Scene 6 The Royal Palace

King and Queen on thrones, upstage centre.

DANCE: Traditional Classical eg. ~~%~~Irish Trash Polka+or %Blue Danube+- Courtiers

At the end of the musical number, Herald steps forward.

HERALD

The Fairy Flora.

KING

Ah yes, the new fairy.

QUEEN

I didn't know we were getting a new fairy.

KING

Yes, you did, dear, we talked about it.

QUEEN

Well, I don't remember. When's Freddie getting here?

KING

Soon, I hope. He should have been here hours ago.

Fairy enters. King stands.

KING

Ah Fairy Flora. Delighted to meet you.

FAIRY

The pleasure, your majesty, is all mine, I'm sure.
Especially as I've not been in a palace before.

King moves forward towards Fairy. Queen remains seated.

KING

Well, no need to be nervous, I'm sure you'll do fine. The reason I've asked you here today is I need to have a serious father/son chat with the Prince. It's time he started thinking less about going to parties and more about his royal responsibilities. The problem is he is my son and I love him and it's very hard to be cross with him. And, of course, as far as his mother is concerned, he can do no wrong.

FAIRY

Ah, you want extra backbone, oh King of the Realm
To ensure your son's ready to take up the helm?

KING

Yes, that's the sort of thing. Exactly.

Fairy waves her wand. Sound fx

FAIRY

So, all power to your majesty with this magic spell.
You will be firm, but fair, and so teach him well.

KING

Oh, is that it? I don't feel any different. Has it worked?

FAIRY

Yes, the spell has worked, of that I am sure
Now, you'll teach him to man-up and be more mature.

KING

Marvellous!

Herald steps forward.

HERALD
The Prince Frederick!

KING
Just in time!

*King heads back to throne.
Fairy stands off to side.
Prince enters, still wearing sunglasses, followed by Frankie and the Secretaries.*

FRANKIE
Hi kids!

AUDIENCE
Hi Frankie!

FRANKIE
We made it! Finally!

King stands

KING
What time do you call this?

FRANKIE
Ooops!

PRINCE
Hi Dad, lovely to see you too. Hi Mum.

QUEEN
Hello darling.

KING
Where have you been? You're late. And you look awful.

PRINCE
Awful? Really? Me?

Prince clicks his fingers and Lacie runs forward with mirror. Prince takes off his shades and checks his reflection, playing to the secretaries. Puts shades back on.

PRINCE
Yes, still gorgeous!

KING
Frederick!

QUEEN

Mummy's handsome little soldier!

King comes downstage from throne, with Queen following.

KING

It's just not good enough, Prince Frederick! You are the heir to the throne, but you act like a spoiled child.

QUEEN

Well, I suppose he has been rather spoiled (*pinching his cheek*) but who can resist those chubby little cheeks?

PRINCE

Mother!

KING

It's time for you to grow up, Frederick, and take on some of your royal responsibilities.

PRINCE

Responsibilities? I'm too young, and handsome, for responsibilities

KING

You are a Prince! One day you will be King! It is time for you to find your true self!

PRINCE

Perhaps this is my true self!

KING

If it is, then this kingdom is doomed!

QUEEN

Don't be too harsh on little Freddie, dear .

KING

I have decided! It's time for Prince Frederick to learn some humility. I am going to send you out into the world, with none of the trappings of princehood.

Prince's grin fades.

PRINCE

Er ... when you say %out into the world+what do you mean, exactly?

KING

It's very simple. You will no longer be living at the palace

PRINCE

What?

Secretaries are equally shocked. Each of the King's lines cut the Prince like a knife.

KING
No more fine clothes.

PRINCE
Oh.

KING
No lavish banquets.

PRINCE
Ah.

KING
And no servants.

PRINCE & FRANKIE
No servants?

Prince looks round at Frankie and Secretaries.

KING
No.

PRINCE
You mean ...?

KING
Yes, you will have to learn how to dress yourself

QUEEN
But he's never dressed himself

KING
Well, it's about time he learned!

PRINCE
I would rather just walk around in my underpants!

KING
That is your choice

PRINCE
(to Frankie) Valet . how do you put on underpants?

The girls giggle

FRANKIE
Well, Your Highness .

KING

He is no longer your valet . he will not help you! You are on your own now!

PRINCE

Well, what if I don't want to go?

KING

Then I shall have to banish you.

QUEEN

Don't make him go! He'll be a good boy, won't you, Freddie, darling?

KING

No, it's too late! Go! Now! You are banished from the kingdom. Do not return until you are worthy of the title of Prince!

Everyone is a little shocked. Queen is weeping. Prince plays to audience. Sad puppy dog face. Secretaries run to him. He theatrically holds up his hand to say no. The secretaries fall to the floor in full mourning and one grabs hold of Prince's foot and the second holds on to the first's foot etc until Prince is dragging them across the stage as he tries to leave.

PRINCE

Girls! I am trying to make a dignified exit.

The secretaries let go. One last deep breath and the Prince exits. The secretaries "reach out" for him. Frankie can't believe what he is seeing.

FRANKIE

Oh, for heaven's sake.

Frankie exits after Prince.

FAIRY

Oh dear . that didn't go quite as I planned
I didn't expect the poor Prince to be banned
I think that my spell was a little too strong
I've really not quite got the hang of this wand
But, hopefully, things will all fall into place
I'd better keep an eye on the Prince, just in case!

Blackout

Scene 7 Outskirts of the Village

*Prince is sitting, downstage centre, looking sad
Frankie enters*

FRANKIE
Hi kids!

AUDIENCE
Hi Frankie!

FRANKIE
Thanks, guys! (*sees Prince*) Oh, there you are, Your Highness

PRINCE
Valet . what are you doing here? You know I'm not allowed servants

FRANKIE
I know but I wondered if you needed a friend?

PRINCE
I certainly do, thanks. I don't know what has come over my father; he's never been as strict as that before

FRANKIE
I think he is just trying to do what is best for you

PRINCE
By banishing me?

FRANKIE
Well, that **was** a bit harsh, I'd admit. So, what do you plan to do?

PRINCE
(*stands*) I know! Let's find a ship, and sail off to faraway lands, then return to a hero's welcome!

FRANKIE
Who do you think you are . Dick Whittington? And since when do you know how to sail?

PRINCE
How difficult can it be?

FRANKIE
Well, I can see you're getting this %umility+thing down!

PRINCE
I can't live like this! Look at me! Ragged clothes, no roof over my head, wasting away through lack of food.

FRANKIE
You only left the palace ten minutes ago! Stop being such a drama queen!

PRINCE
How dare you speak to me like that . you're sacked!

FRANKIE
I'm already sacked . remember? I'm not your valet any more

PRINCE
Oh yes, I forgot. This growing up+stuff is pants!

FRANKIE
Well, not a very grown-up way of putting it, but yes, it can be tricky at times

PRINCE
Well, maybe I do need a friend, to help me out then

FRANKIE
Yes, Your Highness

PRINCE
Now that we are friends, you should call me Freddie

FRANKIE
And you should call me Frankie

SONG: Together+(Gypsy) . Prince Frederick & Frankie

*Prince still looks a bit depressed, staring off into the distance.
Frankie is not sure what to do with him.
Dame enters.*

DAME
(to audience) Hello everyone . here I am again! You missed me, didn't you . I can tell! *(she spots Frankie)* Hello, Frankie!

FRANKIE
Hello, Mum.

DAME
Why the long face, son? Are you a little horse?

FRANKIE
Mum, lay off the jokes. I've just lost my job

DAME
You've been sacked? What happened? Oooh, is that the Prince.

FRANKIE
Not anymore. He's been sacked too.

DAME
What? You can't sack a Prince!

FRANKIE
The King has banished him from the kingdom until he has learned responsibility and humility ... oh, and how to put on his underpants

DAME
Looks like he'll be gone for quite some time then. You'd better get yourself down to the Job Centre

FRANKIE
No, Mum, I'm going with him. He really needs a friend.

DAME
Oh, you are a good boy, Frankie. No idea where you get it from.

*Capt. of the Guard enters & sees the Prince.
Frankie sees the Capt of the Guard.*

FRANKIE
Oh no! It's the Captain of the Guard!

CAPT OF GUARD
Your former royal highness, you have been banished from the Kingdom! I have orders to forcibly remove you.

Prince looks up and is lethargic in his depression.

FRANKIE
But ...

CAPT. OF GUARD
No buts!

FRANKIE
Help us, Mum!

DAME
Don't worry, I'll distract him.

FRANKIE
Thanks Mum.

Dame steps forward to block Captain of the Guard. While conversation is going on, Frankie manages to get Prince moving and they exit.

DAME
Well, hello gorgeous.

Captain of the Guard is not sure who she is talking to.

DAME

(tersely) Yes, I'm talking to you.

CAPT OF GUARD

Stand aside, madam, I have to perform an arrest!

DAME

Perform in a vest? Oooh Captain . it'd be like the Dream Boys!

CAPT. OF GUARD

An arrest! Madam, I need you to stand aside! Do you not understand the English language?

DAME

Of course I understand the English language, but, personally, I prefer to use *(wiggles, seductively)* body language!

Capt of Guard gags a little.

CAPT OF GUARD

Madam! Please!

DAME

(seductively) Do you know who I am?

CAPT OF GUARD

Er ... yes. You're the royal hairdresser.

DAME

Oh yes. And I think you're got an appointment ...

Capt of Guard feels his hair.

CAPT OF GUARD

Er, no, I don't think I need .

DAME

An appointment with fate.

CAPT. OF GUARD

Fate?

DAME

Meeting you, here . it is our destiny.

CAPT. OF GUARD

I think not, madam. Now let me through.

Capt of Guard tries to pass Dame but she grabs him and they end up doing a sort of tango (perhaps with brief accompaniment) and Dame spins Capt of Guard into a dip.

DAME

SE-VEN! Oh, come now, you know can't resist me.

Capt of Guard manages to wrestle himself free and backs off as Dame approaches seductively.

CAPT OF GUARD

I think I can.

DAME

Ooooh, baby, love still (*shakes booty*) got it!

CAPT. OF GUARD

Oh, really? So, where are you hiding it?

Dame grabs Capt of Guard by the lapels.

DAME

Say something nice!

CAPT. OF GUARD

Er ... you are like a good wine.

DAME

Ohh, that's better . very romantic! You mean I am rich and fruity?

CAPT. OF GUARD

I mean you are mature and full-bodied.

DAME

Ooh, you are naughty!

CAPT. OF GUARD

Madam, control yourself, please!

DAME

You know you want me!

CAPT. OF GUARD

I know I don't.

Capt is flustered, turns and runs off.

Dame is left breathless.

DAME

He's just a bit shy . give him a bit of time, he'll soon surrender to my womanly charms ... Come back here!

Dame chases after Capt of Guard.

Blackout

Scene 8a The forest

Frankie and Prince enter at a run, with Prince lagging behind.

PRINCE

Frankie! Stop! I can't run any further.

Frankie stops and turns.

FRANKIE

I'm sorry, Your Highness, I didn't fancy the idea of being forcibly removed.

PRINCE

Me neither. And you have to stop calling me Your Highness. I'm not a prince any more. Call me Freddie.

FRANKIE

I'm not sure I can do that, Freddie. Oh, clearly I can. Oh, hold on a sec. *(turns to audience)* Hi kids!

AUDIENCE

Hi Frankie.

FRANKIE

Ace!

PRINCE

Where is this place?

FRANKIE

Er ... I'm not really sure. I've not been this far into the forest before.

PRINCE

And it's been a long time since lunch. I'm starving. Is there no food out here in this wilderness?

Bob and Curly enter carrying food shopping in plastic bags.

BOB

And she said not until you've whitewashed the elephant. *(Bob sees Prince and Frankie)* Oh!

CURLY

Oh!

FRANKIE
Amazing! Do it again with something else!

PRINCE
Er ... is there no incredibly comfy sofa out here in this wilderness?

They wait. Nothing happens.

FRANKIE
Huh! Must have been a fluke the first time.

PRINCE
Oh well.

FRANKIE
What are you two doing out here with all that food?

CURLY
Er ... we've got a feeling that we're not supposed to tell you.

BOB
Don't worry, Curly, the tower's almost impossible to find unless you know where it is. And nobody even knows it exists except you, me and ... ulp! Er ... forget I said anything.

Prince is intrigued.

PRINCE
A tower? What tower is this?

CURLY
Tower? I ... er ... don't know what you're talking about.

PRINCE
A tower that's almost impossible to find. Almost. So how do you two find it?

BOB
Oh, I just -

CURLY
Sshhhhhhhh!

BOB
Oh yeah. You have to be quiet or else you can't hear the singing. And you need to follow the singing to find the tower.

CURLY
No, I meant %Shhhhhhhhhhh, don't tell them about the singing.+

FRANKIE
There's singing?

BOB
Er, no, there is no singing. There's never any singing. Who mentioned singing?

CURLY
Definitely no singing.

They begin to hear singing.

FRANKIE
Freddie, what's that?

PRINCE
Oh, that is without doubt the most beautiful sound I've ever heard.

CURLY
I can't hear anything.

BOB
Course you can, Curly. That's Rapunzel singing. Even I can hear that.

Curly hits Bob over the head.

BOB
Er, no, I can't hear anything either.

PRINCE
Rapunzel. What a beautiful name. I must meet her.

CURLY
Well that's never going to happen ...

FRANKIE
Why not?

BOB
Because she's locked up in a tower with no stairs and no door. Oooops!

PRINCE
I don't believe you. There's no such tower.

CURLY & BOB
Oh yes there is!

PRINCE
Prove it!

CURLY
It's over there!

Curly points upstage and curtains open to reveal tower.

Scene 8b Outside the Tower

FRANKIE
Wow! That's a tall tower.

BOB
Too right. And you should try climbing up there with bags full of shopping.

PRINCE
Hold on. If it's a tower with no stairs and no door, how do you climb up there?

CURLY
Errr, we shouldn't be telling you any of this.

BOB
If anyone asks, we weren't here.

FRANKIE
Who would ask?

CURLY
Well, Rapunzel's grandmother for one. She comes every day, morning and night and climbs up to see her.

PRINCE
But how does she climb up?

CURLY
Please don't ask us.

FRANKIE
Hold on, I've just had a thought. Maybe my friends know how she does it. Boys and girls, do you know how Rapunzel's grandmother climbs up the tower?

Lots of shouting. Difficult to hear.

FRANKIE
Boys and girls, can you put your hands up if you know ... Brilliant ... I'm coming down to you.

Frankie goes into the audience and picks a child.

FRANKIE
Can you tell me how she does it?

Child tells Frankie.

FRANKIE

(to Prince) Apparently, she calls up Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your golden hair+

PRINCE

Really?

FRANKIE

Yep!

Frankie returns to stage.

CURLY

Oh no, we're in trouble now.

BOB

Oooer, what should we do?

FRANKIE

Well, when I'm in trouble, I tend to run and hide.

CURLY

Yes!

BOB

Run!

CURLY

Hide!

Curly and Bob run around wildly for a while before exiting. Prince and Frankie shake their heads.

PRINCE

Well, here goes. What was it again?

FRANKIE

Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your golden hair.

PRINCE

Oh yes. Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your golden hair!

Nothing happens.

PRINCE

Oh.

FRANKIE

Maybe she can hear you. It is a very tall tower. I know! My friends can help. Boys and girls, will you shout it with us, as loudly as you can? ... Can you do that? ... Excellent. OK, after three. One, two, three ...

PRINCE, FRANKIE & AUDIENCE

Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your golden hair!

The golden braid drops down.

FRANKIE

Brilliant! Thanks kids.

Prince starts to climb, then turns to Frankie.

PRINCE

Come on, Frankie.

FRANKIE

Oh, are you sure?

PRINCE

Yes, we go on this adventure together.

*Prince climbs. Frankie prepares to join him.
Blackout.*

Scene 9 Inside the Tower

Rapunzel is sitting reading/singing/holding as per scene 4 as Prince climbs in through window.

Prince sees Rapunzel.

PRINCE

Wow! Amazing hair!

RAPUNZEL

Hello grandmother.

Rapunzel turns, sees Prince, jumps up. She leaves her plait hanging out of the window

RAPUNZEL

You are not grandmother!

PRINCE

Er, no, I am -

RAPUNZEL
What on earth are you?

PRINCE
What am I? Er ... well, until about an hour ago-

RAPUNZEL
Biology!

PRINCE
What?

Rapunzel picks up one of her books and starts flicking through it.

RAPUNZEL
I'm sure I've seen you somewhere before.

PRINCE
Really? Well, I am quite well known on the celebrity party circuit and-

RAPUNZEL
There it is! I knew it! You're a man!

PRINCE
What?

RAPUNZEL
Aren't you?

PRINCE
Er ... yes.

RAPUNZEL
I knew it! But there are some pages ripped out so I'm not sure what you are for.

PRINCE
Well, there's a question for another time but you, you are the most beautiful creature I have ever laid eyes on. And you have amazing hair. I love you. I do. I love you already.

RAPUNZEL
Love?

PRINCE
Yes, very much so.

Rapunzel picks up another book.

RAPUNZEL
I just need to check.

She flicks through a few pages.

RAPUNZEL

Love, love, love, ah, yes, here we are ... love. Oh? *(she looks at Prince)* Really?

PRINCE

Yes, really. Do you think you could love me?

RAPUNZEL

Well, we only just met you.

PRINCE

And we only just met you.

RAPUNZEL

True. Are there more of you out there? More men, I mean?

PRINCE

Well, yes, of course.

RAPUNZEL

Oh, well then, it hardly seems fair to fall in love with the first man I ever meet.

PRINCE

Oh.

RAPUNZEL

Saying that, you are quite handsome, gorgeous, attractive, good-looking, elegant, smart.

PRINCE

Wow! You know a lot of words.

RAPUNZEL

I read a lot of books.

PRINCE

What else do you do?

RAPUNZEL

I sing.

PRINCE

Where do you sing?

RAPUNZEL

Here. I do everything here. I never leave this room. I know nothing about the world outside, only what I read in my books. I see it from my window but my grandmother says it is a terrible place and I'm much better off in here.

PRINCE

Well, your grandmother is wrong. There is an incredible world out there. I know!
Come with me! I am leaving this land to seek adventure, to find my true self. We can
go together.

SONG: The Start of Something New+- Prince Frederick & Rapunzel

*Frankie finally climbs in through the window. (All this time, the hair has been hanging
out of the window)*

FRANKIE

Now that is a very tall tower.

Frankie slumps to the floor exhausted.

RAPUNZEL

Another man!

PRINCE

No, that's Frankie, my va- ... my friend.

RAPUNZEL

Hello Frankie.

FRANKIE

Hi. Nice hair.

RAPUNZEL

Oh, my hair. We really should pull it up. Grandmother says I should never leave it
hanging down. Any ruffians or robbers might climb up it ... You're not ruffians or
robbers are you?

Rapunzel pulls up her hair (helped by the boys) while she talks.

FRANKIE

No. Certainly not.

PRINCE

Far from it. We are adventurers.

FRANKIE

Are we?

PRINCE

Yes!

RAPUNZEL

Well, if you're sure.

PRINCE

I'm more than sure. Oh Rapunzel. I love you. And I do like a happy ending.

Rapunzel looks into the Prince's eyes.

RAPUNZEL

You know, maybe I do-

GOTHEL

(off stage) Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your golden hair!

RAPUNZEL

Oh no! It's grandmother. She'll be angry if she finds out you're here.

PRINCE

She's a grandmother. How scary can she be?

GOTHEL

(off stage) Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your golden hair!

FRANKIE

She sounds pretty scary to me.

RAPUNZEL

Oh, what should I do?

PRINCE

Let down your hair. I want to meet your family.

Rapunzel starts to let down her hair.

RAPUNZEL

No, you must hide. I will tell her first and then you can come out and meet her.

PRINCE

OK, if you're sure. But don't worry. Grandmothers love me. After all, I am a p-

FRANKIE

No Freddie, you're not. Not anymore. Come on, hide.

Prince and Frankie hide. Just in time. Gothel climbs through the window then collects up the hair as she talks.

GOTHEL

You took your time. What were you playing at? Reading those stupid books of yours, no doubt.

RAPUNZEL

No, Grandmother. I was ...

GOTHEL

Oh, look at you. All emotional. Are you still upset about that little baby I told you about this morning?

RAPUNZEL

No, it's not that ...

GOTHEL

Oh dear, then I'd better think of another sad story to tell you ... I mean, I'm glad you got over it so quickly. Wait, what's this? Muddy footprints on the floor? Did you let Curly and Bob up here? They know they're supposed to just tie the shopping to the end of your hair.

RAPUNZEL

No, no, I haven't seen Curly and Bob.

GOTHEL

Then who has been here, Rapunzel? You know the rules!

RAPUNZEL

No-one has **been** here, Grandmother.

GOTHEL

What?! ... *(realisation)* You mean they're still here!!!!!!

*Gothel is getting terrifying. Rapunzel is cowering.
Prince steps out from hiding.*

PRINCE

Yes! I am here.

Frankie comes out of hiding too.

FRANKIE

I am also here, but I wish I wasn't. See, I told you Grandmothers could be scary.

GOTHEL

Well, well, well, what have we here. Rapunzel, you have been a naughty girl. Not one man but two.

FRANKIE

Oh, I'm not a man, I'm just a va- ... a friend.

Gothel flashes a hand at Frankie Darth Vader like and he falls to the floor.

RAPUNZEL

No!

GOTHEL

Fool. Oh, but you like **this** one, don't you?

Gothel closes in on the Prince. Magically forcing him backwards. He struggles to move.

GOTHEL

You know, I really should throw you out of the window so you blind yourself on the thorns below but I can think of an even better punishment for you-

RAPUNZEL

No, Grandmother, please!

Rapunzel is sobbing.

Gothel applauds.

GOTHEL

Oh, bravo Rapunzel, finally we get some proper tears. You've been holding out on me, young lady.

Gothel gets out her tear jar.

GOTHEL

Perhaps I should keep your new young man in a cage and torture him whenever I need you to cry ... and throw the other one out of the window.

RAPUNZEL

I don't ... (sob) ... I don't understand.

GOTHEL

Why do you think I've been keeping you here all these years? For the conversation? Your tears keep me young, my dear.

Prince manages to throw off the spell that has him immobile and he rushes at Gothel.

PRINCE

Leave her alone!

Prince pushes Gothel and she drops her jar.

GOTHEL

My tears! How dare you!

Gothel does the Darth Vader hand thing again and the Prince flies downstage.

Gothel approaches him menacingly.

GOTHEL

Well, I was going to keep you alive, but perhaps that would be more trouble than it's worth. I could just keep reminding Rapunzel of your grisly end.

While this has been going on, Rapunzel has picked up a bed pan and come up behind Gothel. She clouts her over the head and Gothel goes down like a sack of spuds.

RAPUNZEL

Oh no, what have I done. She's looked after me all these years and this is how I repay her.

Prince gets to his feet and takes bedpan from Rapunzel.

PRINCE

She hasn't looked after you. She's locked you up in a tower.

Prince pulls Frankie on to his feet.

PRINCE

Come on, let's get out of here.

They move towards the window.

RAPUNZEL

No. I .. I can't. Grandmother will-

PRINCE

We don't want to stay around to find out what Grandmother will do.

RAPUNZEL

But how do we get down?

PRINCE

Um ... Frankie?

FRANKIE

Well, if we ignore all the technical difficulties and simply arrive at the bottom, no-one will be any the wiser.

PRINCE

Brilliant! I knew I'd think of something. Come on!

Blackout.

Scene 10 The Forest

Prince and Rapunzel run on from St. L hand in hand, with Frankie following. Prince slows and turns to Frankie.

PRINCE

Come on, Frankie.

Frankie slows to a walk. Prince and Rapunzel exit St.R. Frankie breathing heavily. He turns to the audience.

FRANKIE
Hi kids!

AUDIENCE
Hi Frankie.

FRANKIE
Brilliant! Well, that was a bit scary wasn't it? But I've got a feeling this could be the making of our erstwhile Prince. He seems to .

Curly and Bob enter running.

CURLY
Run!

BOB
Keep running!

Curly and Bob exit.

FRANKIE
OK. Now, what was I saying? Oh yes. The Prince seems to .

Prince and Rapunzel re-enter.

PRINCE
Come on, Frankie. You'd miss the Act One finale.

FRANKIE
(*sigh*) I'm a bit tired. Can't we just do it here?

PRINCE
Er, well, I think they're all waiting .

Prince is interrupted by Rapunzel's reaction as a Villager enters upstage.

RAPUNZEL
What's that?

PRINCE
That's a person.

Another villager enters St. R, and two more St. L

RAPUNZEL
What's that?

PRINCE
That's a person too!

RAPUNZEL
And those?

PRINCE
Yes, those too

More villagers enter from each side

RAPUNZEL
Even more people!

PRINCE
Yes, I told you there were a lot of them

RAPUNZEL
But they're all so different! Oh, Freddie, this is just too wonderful!

SONG: *Wouldn't It Be Nice?*+. Prince Frederick, Rapunzel, Frankie, with Chorus of Villagers /Forest Workers

ACT II

Prologue

Fairy enters.

FAIRY

Act Two should start with a nice happy song
 But the Kings gone bananas and its all going wrong
 The Prince has been banished, it couldn't be worse
 And all because I went and messed up the verse
 So, now its my task, to come up with a spell,
 To reinstate the prince and make everything well
 It will not be easy, so there's no use pretending
 But its my job to ensure a nice, happy ending

Frankie enters.

FRANKIE

Hi kids!

AUDIENCE

Hi Frankie!

FRANKIE

Brilliant! Hi Fairy Flora.

FAIRY

Frankie! I thought you were off with Prince Freddie
 A cool hand on the tiller, just keeping things steady.

FRANKIE

You what?

FAIRY

I'd heard that you both had extravagant plans
 Of adventures and travel to faraway lands
 Where sights can be seen and oats can be sown
 Oh please tell me he hasn't gone off on his own.

FRANKIE

Oh right, I see what you mean. Well, we would be off doing that Dick Whittington
 thing but Freddie got a bit distracted by something shiny so we didn't get very far.
 And when I say something, I mean someone. I think, after all this time, he may have
 found himself a girlfriend.

FAIRY

Ooh, I'm not one to gossip or go telling tales
 But come here and give me the juicy details.

Frankie looks round and goes towards Fairy.

FRANKIE

Well ...

Frankie and Fairy exit.

Curly and Bob run/stagger on. They are shattered & collapse against each other.

CURLY

Blimey, I'm tired.

BOB

Me too. I feel like we've been running all day.

CURLY

Hold on, wasn't there something else we should be doing?

BOB

What do you mean?

CURLY

I'm sure there was. Run, yes, but run and ... something.

BOB

Oh yeah. You're right. What was it? Run and ... jump?

CURLY

No. Run and ... skip?

BOB

No. Run and ... fall over?

CURLY

Was it?

They both fall over backwards in ridiculous fashion. Then conversation continues as they clamber to their feet in obvious pain.

CURLY

No, it wasn't that.

BOB

If only there was anyone around who could help us remember ...

Bob and Curly face the audience in obvious fashion.

CURLY

Yeah. Anyone.

BOB
Anyone at all.

A pause. Depending on how audience reacts.

CURLY
Is there anyone out there?

BOB
He said is there anyone out there?!

AUDIENCE
Yes!

BOB
There is! Curly! There's someone there!!

CURLY
Brilliant! Can any of you remember what it is we're supposed to do? Run and ...

AUDIENCE
Hide!

CURLY
Hide! Of course! Run and hide. OK where shall we hide?

They rush around the stage.

BOB
Er, there doesn't seem to be anywhere.

Curly has a brainwave.

CURLY
I know! I can hide behind you!

BOB
Brilliant!

*Curly hides behind Bob.
Bob realises something.*

BOB
But if you're hiding behind me, where am I going to hide?

CURLY
Oh ... er ... er ... I know!

BOB
What?

CURLY
You can hide behind me!

BOB
Brilliant!

*Bob hides behind Curly.
Then Curly feels exposed, so hides behind Bob.
This Bob feels exposed, so hides behind Curly.*

CURLY
Wait! Stop! This can work. I know it. Right ...

Curly has another brainwave. He manhandles Bob to stand side on to audience.

CURLY
You stand there ... and I stand here.

Curly stands with his back up against Bob's back so they are both side on to the stage.

CURLY
Now nobody can see me because I'm behind you, and nobody can see you because you're behind me.

BOB
Wow! It's like we're invisible!

CURLY
Like ninjas!

BOB
Invisible ninjas!

BOB & CURLY
Brilliant!

CURLY
SHHHHHHHHHHHHH! If we keep quiet, no-one will ever know we're here ...

Dame enters. She doesn't see Curly and Bob initially. Curly and Bob are starting to giggle because they think they are invisible.

DAME
Hello boys and girls! Oh, what a day. I feel completely worn ...

Dame notices Curly and Bob. She looks puzzled. Looks to audience. Points at Curly and Bob. Shrugs. Shakes her head.

CURLY

She can't see us. He he he.

BOB

I know. He he he.

DAME

Well, I think it's time for my elevenses. I know, I'll have a cream pie.

Dame goes to side of stage and is handed a cream pie.

DAME

Well, that's a very large cream pie. Perhaps I should share it with someone. Shall I?
Shall I?

In all her shall I-ing, Dame walks too close to Curly and Bob, who trip her up and she ends up covered in pie.

Curly and Bob giggle a lot.

Dame gets to her feet. She's not happy.

DAME

Right you two. Now you're going to pay. You made a mess of my salon and now you've made a mess of me!

BOB

Who's she talking to?

CURLY

Dunno. Can't be us cos we're invisible.

DAME

Invisible!?! Oh no you're not.

CURLY & BOB

(feebly) Oh yes we are ...

DAME

Oh no you're not!

Dame advances on Curly and Bob.

CURLY & BOB

Run away!

Curly and Bob run off, chased by Dame.

Scene 1 The Village

SONG: *"You Can't Stop the Beat" - Villagers*

*Rapunzel and Prince enter, walking hand in hand.
After the song, the Villagers go about their tasks, some Villagers exit stage.
Rapunzel keeps saying hello to people as they pass.*

RAPUNZEL

Oh, Freddie, this has been the best day ever. I can't believe how many people I've met. It must be at least fifteen! ... Hello. Sixteen.

PRINCE

Oh, Rapunzel, there are a lot more people in the world than that.

RAPUNZEL

No! ... Hello, hello. Eighteen.

PRINCE

Yes! There are hundreds, thousands, millions of people out there.

RAPUNZEL

No!!!

PRINCE

Yes!!!

RAPUNZEL

Well, I want to meet them all ... Hello. Nineteen

PRINCE

Er ... that may take quite a while. And first, there are two rather important people you need to meet.

Rapunzel looks round expecting to see the important people.

RAPUNZEL

Who's that?

PRINCE

My parents.

RAPUNZEL

You have parents!?!?!? How exciting!!

PRINCE

Er ... yes. And there's something else.

RAPUNZEL

Yes ...

PRINCE
They are the King and Queen.

RAPUNZEL
Royalty!?

PRINCE
Yes.

RAPUNZEL
Then you must be a ... prince!

PRINCE
Erm ... that's still a bit up in the air. That's why we need to go to see them. I've been a bit of a ... spoiled child. So they sent me out into the world to find myself ... but then I found you.

RAPUNZEL
And I found you oh, isn't it wonderful?

Prince and Rapunzel stand as if to do a song

PRINCE
Yes, it's wonderful

RAPUNZEL
Come on, let's go and meet your parents. The King and Queen! Eek!

PRINCE
Er, don't you want to do a song?

RAPUNZEL
No! I'm too excited! Come on!

Rapunzel grabs Prince's hand & leads him towards wings.

Blackout

Scene 2a Inside the Tower

Gothel is still lying on the floor. She wakes up.

GOTHEL
Ow!

Gothel staggers to her feet.

GOTHEL

Oh, you are going to regret that, young lady. When love ... oh, she's gone. No! I can't be stuck up here in my own tower! *(to audience)* This isn't funny! Oh no it isn't!

AUDIENCE

Oh yes it is!

Etc.

GOTHEL

Oh, shut up, you snivelling bunch of pathetic fools! ... Oh, boo yourself! I'll get out of here, don't you worry about me!

Gothel goes to the window.

GOTHEL

Curly! Bob! Bring me a ladder! A big one! ... Curly! Bob! ... Those idiots! They are worse than useless. When I find them I'm going to build an even taller tower and I'm going to shut them up in there forever . with Piers Morgan . and see how they like that! Actually, no. That's too cruel, even for me.

One last look out of the window.

GOTHEL

Gah! Right, you lot. This next bit, you have to forget you ever saw it and don't tell anyone ...

Gothel pulls out a big old key.

GOTHEL

I told you I would get out of here. This is a key to a secret door that is almost impossible to find unless you know where it is ... So, where is it?

Gothel looks round.

GOTHEL

Aha!

Gothel goes to a point in the wall and tries to insert key.

GOTHEL

Ah, that's not it. Slightly embarrassing. Now where ...? Oh yes!

Gothel goes to secret door and opens it. Before she leaves, she turns to audience.

GOTHEL

Don't worry, I'll be back ... with Rapunzel. And this time, she won't escape!

Gothel exits, leaving the door open.

Blackout.

Scene 2b Inside the Tower

Lights up. Curly and Bob enter through the secret door.

CURLY
Gothel!

BOB
Oh, Gothel!

*Bob shuts the secret door behind them.
They look around a bit more.*

CURLY
Doesn't look like she's here.

BOB
Nope.

CURLY
Well, who would have guessed there was a secret entrance at the bottom of the tower that's almost impossible to find unless you know it's there.

BOB
I know! I wasn't even looking for it. I was just tired from all that running and leant against the secret mechanism.

CURLY
And I'd always believed this was a tower without a door or stairs when, in fact, it had both. Clearly Gothel was being economical with the truth.

BOB
What does that mean?

CURLY
I have no idea. But I think maybe she lied to us. Well, she's clearly not here. Right, let's go.

Curly and Bob look round. They cannot find the secret door.

BOB
How did we get up here?

CURLY
Well, we came up the stairs and, and through a door ... didn't we?

BOB
I don't remember.

CURLY

Oh, I bet it's another one of those things that's almost impossible to find unless you know where it is.

BOB

So, where is it?

CURLY

I don't know.

BOB

Oh!

CURLY

What?

BOB

I ... I have a ... plan.

CURLY

Really?

BOB

Yes ... I think so.

CURLY

How?

BOB

I don't know.

CURLY

So ... what is it?

BOB

What is what?

CURLY

The plan!

BOB

Oh yes, the plan!

CURLY

Well?

BOB

Right! We make a rope ladder.

CURLY
What? How?

BOB
Out of bits of wood from the fire ... and our hair!

Curly looks in the fireplace, pulls out a tiny hair.

CURLY
Genius!

*Bob grabs some wood from the fireplace and takes it to a box/table.
Curly starts pulling out their hair. And then they start work.*

BOB
Ow!

CURLY
Ow!

BOB
Ow!

CURLY
Ow!

BOB
Scalpell!

CURLY
Nope!

BOB
Forceps!

CURLY
Nope not neither!

BOB
Swab!

CURLY
Haaargh, Jim lad!

BOB
Close up for me, nurse!

CURLY
Yes, Doctor!

Bob steps forward to address audience (and distract them while Curly extricates the real rope ladder from a "secret compartment").

BOB

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, you will remember this day ... THIS DAY ... for the rest of your lives because ... YES! This is the day you saw two complete idiots, with hardly a brain cell between them, successfully make a rope ladder from tatty old bits of burnt wood and a few strands of their own hair! To prove that anything ... ANYTHING ... is possible! My friends, I give you the rope ladder!!!

Drum roll. Bob goes back to box/table and takes one end of rope ladder and pulls it out for big reveal.

Bob and Curly step forward holding either end of rope ladder.

CURLY & BOB

Ta - daa!

Massive applause from audience. Oh yes.

BOB

Thank you.

CURLY

Thank you.

Flowers are thrown on stage.

CURLY

We might even get a Nobel prize for this!

BOB

Oh, that's not fair!

CURLY

Why?

BOB

I want a prize with a bell on it.

Curly looks at Bob.

CURLY

Yeah, bells are cool.

BOB

So, what do we do now?

CURLY

Well, we throw the rope ladder over the window ledge and climb down.

BOB
Oh. OK ... You're sure? Just throw it over?

CURLY
Yep! Just throw it over.

Bob looks to audience.

BOB
Well, OK then.

Bob goes to window with rope ladder and throws it out then comes back to centre stage doing that hand slapping thing people do to get the dust off them.

BOB
Job done.

CURLY
Right, let's climb down.

Curly goes to window. Where's the ladder?

CURLY
Where's the ladder?

BOB
I threw it over the ledge, like you said.

CURLY
So where is it?

Bob goes to window ledge. Looks out, then points.

BOB
Down there.

CURLY
What? You threw it over the window ledge without tying it to something first!?

BOB
Well, you never said!

Bob shrugs. Curly clouts Bob then returns to centre stage.

CURLY
Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, normal service is resumed.

BOB
Oh! We got another plan!

Curly sighs.

CURLY
Go on, then.

BOB
Shout for help.

CURLY
Genius!

They go to the window.

BOB
Help!

CURLY
Help!

BOB
Help!

Curly turns to audience.

CURLY
We might be a while.

BOB
Help!

Blackout.

Scene 3 The Hair Salon

Dame enters. She is holding a cocktail.

DAME
Hello boys and girls! I'm still all in a tizzy. I'm so worried about Frankie . unemployed and banished. It's like I've lost another one. First my beautiful little baby girl, then my annoying husband and now my son. So, to cheer myself up, I've taken on three new apprentices. Lacie, Macie and Gracie.

Lacie, Macie and Gracie enter. They potter about the salon.

LACIE
Did you call, Dame Trixie?

DAME

They lost their jobs too, when the Prince was banished. I'm simply trying to help the poor and downtrodden. Well, it's nice to have someone at my beck and call and it means I can put my feet up while they do all the work.

Dame sits back in chair and sips cocktail.

MACIE

Can I get you another cushion, Dame Trixie?

DAME

Aren't they lovely? In fact, they're much more attentive than my husband ever was. Or Frankie.

GRACIE

Oh, are you missing Frankie, Dame Trixie? *(sigh)* I am *(sigh)*. He's lovely.

Dame looks at Gracie, then at audience, then back at Gracie.

DAME

Lovely? Really? Frankie? Grab yourself a cocktail, dear. You'll soon forget about him. It works for me.

GRACIE

I wish he was here. *(sigh)*

Frankie enters.

FRANKIE

Hi kids!

AUDIENCE

Hi Frankie!

FRANKIE

Brilliant! Hi Mum!

Dame is in shock. She looks at Frankie and at Gracie.

DAME

Gracie, quick, wish for a million pounds, wish for a million pounds! Or Daniel Craig!

GRACIE

Er ... hi Frankie!

Frankie blushes.

FRANKIE

Oh, er, um, er, yes, I, er ...

SONG: a short version of Frankie+(Sister Sledge) . Gracie, Lacie & Macie

DAME

What are you doing here? I thought you'd gone off with the Prince. If the Captain of the Guard catches you ...

Dame goes off into a reverie about the Capt of the Guard.

FRANKIE

What mum?

DAME

Oh, I'm sorry, I was just imagining what it would be like to be caught by the Captain of the Guard.

FRANKIE

Terrible, I imagine.

DAME

Yes ... (*pouty*) terrible. Then tied up by the Captain of the Guard.

GRACIE

How awful!

DAME

And then-

FRANKIE

Mum!

DAME

Anyway, I'd thought you'd gone to help the Prince. You've not left him to fend for himself have you?

FRANKIE

No, he's going to go back to the palace.

DAME

Whatever for? He's been banished!

FRANKIE

Well, it seems he's found his true self.

DAME

Already? That was quick.

FRANKIE

And he's found himself a girlfriend.

LACIE & MACIE
A girlfriend?!

Lacie and Macie look a little put out.

FRANKIE
Er ... yes.

DAME
Well!? So, who is she? Is she a princess?

FRANKIE
Um, er, I don't know. He rescued her from a tower.

GRACIE
Oh, how romantic!

FRANKIE
I suppose.

GRACIE
You didn't find yourself a girlfriend did you, Frankie?

FRANKIE
Um er, no, I ... er ...

Prince and Rapunzel enter.

PRINCE
Ah, Frankie, there you are. I think it's time I faced my father.

DAME
Oh, your highness! In my little salon! Oh, but you can't be here! What if the Captain of the Guard comes and ... oh my! How do I look?

FRANKIE
Er ... do you really want me to tell you, mum?

DAME
No, on second thoughts, keep your opinions to yourself. So, this is the girlfriend, is it?

PRINCE
Oh, yes. Everyone, this is Rapunzel. Rapunzel, everyone.

RAPUNZEL
Hello! Hello! Hello! Hello!

DAME
Oh, heavens! Your hair! It's ... it's ... amazing!

PRINCE
I know! Isn't it?

DAME
I think I may need to lie down. I've never seen anything like it. I must, must style it for you!

RAPUNZEL
Well, I normally just plait it into a braid. It takes me about three days. But, if you think-

PRINCE
Perhaps not just right now. We have to meet my parents.

Dame peers at Rapunzel.

DAME
Have we met before? You seem ever so familiar.

RAPUNZEL
I don't think so. Until today, I'd never met anybody . except my grandmother. Who I'm not sure is actually my grandmother after all. But now I've met ... *(quick count up)* twenty-seven people! Already!

DAME
If you say so, dear.

Dame gives a "yep, she's a loon!" look to audience.

PRINCE
And now you're going to meet a whole lot more. Are you coming, Frankie?

FRANKIE
Um ...

PRINCE
I could do with the support ... of a friend.

FRANKIE
Of course. Are you coming, mum? The Captain of the Guard might be there.

DAME
Well! I don't know what you mean! ... Oh, all right then.

Blackout.

Scene 4 The Royal Palace

SONG: Putting On The Ritz+- Courtiers

King marches in and sends everyone scampering. He is followed by the Queen.

QUEEN

Geoffrey! Oh, Geoffrey, please.

KING

What is it now, Gertrude?

QUEEN

I miss my little Freddie. Did you have to send him away?

KING

Gertrude, that boy needs to grow up. If that means giving him a taste of real life-

QUEEN

But banishing him? Was that really necessary?

KING

Only time will tell. And I can very well unbanish him now, can I? I banished him in front of the whole court. What would people think?

QUEEN

Oh, Geoffrey!

Queen turns in tears and is comforted by a lady in waiting and taken to rear corner of stage where she is fussed over by other ladies of the court.

Fairy enters.

KING

(to himself) Well, I can ... *(sees Fairy)* Can I?

FAIRY

Your Majesty, I fear I have made a grave error.
My spell, to give backbone, turned you into a terror.
I am to blame, it did not go as I planned.
If you wish to dismiss me, I will quite understand.

KING

Dismiss you? Yes, well, maybe I should.

FAIRY

Or ... if you let me fix it, I'm sure that I could
One small tweak to the spell will make it all good.

KING

Hmmm. All right. As long as you don't make me even more of a pushover than I was before.

FAIRY

I will try-

She is interrupted in her spelling as Prince enters with Rapunzel, followed by Frankie, Dame and Lacie, Macie and Gracie.

PRINCE

Father!

KING

Frederick! What on earth do you think-?

He is interrupted by Queen rushing forwards.

QUEEN

Oh, Freddie, my darling Freddie, I've been so worried about you.

Queen smothers Prince with kisses. Prince getting very embarrassed.

KING

Gertrude! Don't fuss over the boy so. Leave him be!

Queen backs off.

QUEEN

Sorry, dear. I've just missed you, that's all.

Queen takes the chance to take her hanky and wipe the Prince's face, as if he were a five-year-old.

PRINCE

Mother!

Rapunzel giggles.

KING

Prince Frederick, what are you doing here! As I recall, I banished you. *(crying out)*
Call the Captain of the Guard!

HERALD

Call the Captain of the Guard!

DAME

Ooooooh!

Dame starts to make sure she is looking as beautiful as possible.

PRINCE

As I recall, father, you banished me until I found my true self.

KING

Did I? Yes, perhaps I did.

PRINCE

And I have!

Prince stands heroically. Maybe a thigh-slap & hands on hips.

KING

Have what?

PRINCE

Found my true self!

Another heroic thigh-slap.

KING

Hah! Where? In a nightclub? On the beach at St Tropez?

PRINCE

No father!

KING

No? So where?

PRINCE

Er ... in the forest.

KING

What?

Frankie realises Prince isn't explaining it very well.

FRANKIE

Your majesty, he rescued a maiden from a tower.

PRINCE

Yes, father, I rescued a maiden ... Rapunzel.

Rapunzel steps forward & curtsies

RAPUNZEL

Your Majesties.

PRINCE

And I fell in love.

RAPUNZEL
We fell in love.

PRINCE
(to Rapunzel) We? Really?

RAPUNZEL
Yes.

QUEEN
Oh, how wonderful!

KING
With **one** girl?

QUEEN
Welcome, my dear. Oh my! What beautiful hair you have!

PRINCE
I know, isn't it amazing!

Captain of the Guard enters.

CAPT OF GUARD
Right! Where is he!? ... *(sees Prince)* Aha!

PRINCE
Oh no!

FRANKIE
Mum! Quick!

Dame springs into action and stands in steps between Capt of Guard and Prince.

DAME
Well, hello again, gorgeous.

Look of panic in Capt of Guard's eyes.

CAPT OF GUARD
Ah! No. Not you. Not again!

DAME
Come here and give us a kiss.

Capt of Guard backs away as Dame advances on him.

CAPT OF GUARD
No. No. Noooooooo!

Capt of Guard turns tail and exits the way he came.

DAME

He's definitely warming to my charms.

FRANKIE

Of course he is, mum.

KING

Well, my son! Rescuing a maiden? This is certainly a good start.

PRINCE

A good start, your majesty?

KING

Yes, Frederick, a good start and nothing more. You have been banished for little more than a day. You still need to prove yourself worthy of the title Prince.

PRINCE

Father? No!

KING

Enough! I have made my decision. You shall remain banished until your actions show that you are truly worthy. Unlocking a door and falling for a pretty face with incredible hair is insufficient evidence.

PRINCE

There was no door! I had to-

KING

Silence! Your continued insolence proves that I am right.

QUEEN

Geoffrey!

King indicates Frankie.

KING

You may take your ...

PRINCE

Frankie. My friend.

KING

You may take your Frankie with you.

DAME

Oh!

KING

He may record your deeds and, when you are truly worthy ...

A thunderous noise, lights flash etc. Gothel enters. And she's in a mean mood. Everyone backs away, apart from King.

GOTHEL

Worthy!!! I'd give you worthy!!!

KING

What?! Who ... who are you? Guards!

GOTHEL

Is it worthy to steal my granddaughter!? My youth?! My life?!

KING

I'm sorry! What are you-?

GOTHEL

It's too late for sorry! It's too late for a promise I won't do it again! It's too late for please don't lock me in a tower!

Fairy steps forward.

FAIRY

So, we meet again. Poor old woman you say?
I should have seen through that . but it **was** my first day.
You are wicked and evil, here to do your worst.
Whatever that is, you'd have to get through me first.

GOTHEL

Ah! The little rhyming fairy. Are you planning to strike me down with a couplet or two. Look how I'm quaking! Hah! Once I'm finished here, I shall have gone through the lot of you! *(to audience)* And that includes you lot! Don't you worry, I won't forget!

Capt of Guard enters.

CAPT OF GUARD

Your majesty, you- *(sees Gothel. Is a little frightened)* Ah!

GOTHEL

Well, well, well, it looks like we're all here. This must be the big final scene where all the characters come together to sort out their differences.

FAIRY

Er ... yes, I believe it is true what you say
But isn't that giving the ... *(indicates audience)* er ... game away?

GOTHEL

I'm not here for their pleasure, I'm here for mine! Oh, wait! I've got something for you all.

Gothel fishes in her clothing, pulls out her fist and throws a charm down on the floor. A flash. Everyone freezes, apart from Gothel.

GOTHEL

Well, that was easy. Now to take my prize.

Gothel clicks her fingers and Rapunzel walks, zombie-like to stand by her side.

GOTHEL

(cont) Now, how to deal with this rabble? Oh yes! I have the perfect spell. *(some magical hand waving)* If and when you do awake, you will forget I was ever here ... and you will forget Rapunzel completely! You will forget that you ever met her, you will forget that you ever heard her name. In fact, if anyone ever says that name, you will not even hear it! Ha ha ha ha ha! That should do it! Come, Rapunzel.

Gothel exits with Rapunzel.

Fairy manages to break free of the freeze spell, while the others remain frozen.

FAIRY

I was caught unawares . . . and her magic is strong.
My own power protects me but it's all going wrong.
Now I must use my magic to set my friends free
All back to normal after one, two, three!

Fairy waves wand. Everyone unfreezes.

King continues the conversation with Prince.

KING

... and I mean **truly** worthy, you may return and present your case. I don't expect that to be any time soon.

PRINCE

But father ...

QUEEN

Oh, Geoffrey, please don't send him away again!

KING

And why, pray, have you come back so soon?

PRINCE

Because I ... because ... oh, I don't remember.

FRANKIE

Yes, your highness, of course you do! It was because ... because ... oh, I don't remember either.

FAIRY

Because of Rapunzel, your true-love, fair.
How can you forget? She's the one with the hair.

KING

What did the fairy say? Is she mumbling?

QUEEN

She said something about hair.

DAME

Ooooh, do you want a new %lo+dear? I'll go and get my things.

FAIRY

No! Rapunzel! Rapunzel! That beauteous flower.
Do you not recall? She was saved from the tower.

PRINCE

Saved from the tower! I got that bit.

FRANKIE

Me too!

PRINCE

But who was saved?

FAIRY

Rapunzel!

DAME

Don't be shy, dear. You can tell us.

FAIRY

Rapunzel! Rapunzel!

DAME

Well, fine, don't tell us then. How rude.

Realisation for Fairy. She pleads with audience.

FAIRY

Dark arts are at work here, of that there's no doubt.
Their memory of Rapunzel completely wiped out.
I can still remember, that must be my magic
But if they can't recall, then the end will be tragic.
My friends you must help to set the truth free.
Shout 'Rapunzel' with me after one, two three ...

FAIRY & AUDIENCE

Rapunzel!

KING

I'm really not sure about this fairy, you know. She seems very odd.

FAIRY

Again! One, two, three ...

FAIRY & AUDIENCE

Rapunzel!

DAME

Did you just hear something?

FAIRY

Louder! One, two, three ...

FAIRY

Rapunzel!

FRANKIE

Yes! It sounded like a name.

FAIRY

Keep shouting!

Fairy conducting audience. Other characters are starting to hear something but it's not quite clear.

FAIRY & AUDIENCE

Rapunzel! Rapunzel! Rapunzel! Rapunzel!

Finally Prince steps forward.

PRINCE

Rapunzel! I remember!

FAIRY

Hooray! Give yourselves a round of applause.

Applause.

FRANKIE

I remember too. You rescued her from the tower.

PRINCE

And we fell in love.

FRANKIE

And there was a horrid old crone.

KING
Yes! And she put a spell on us!

FAIRY
And that crone has stolen Rapunzel away.
It is time for a rescue. You must not delay!

PRINCE
Back to the tower! To save Rapunzel!

KING
Now, that's what I call worthy.

FRANKIE
I'm coming too!

KING
And me! I want to see my boy in action.

PRINCE
Come on!

*All begin to exit.
Blackout.*

Scene 5 The Forest

Everyone is on the way to the Tower. Prince & Frankie lead on, followed by other Principals and Villagers. The trick bench is in place centre stage.

FRANKIE
Hi kids!

AUDIENCE
Hi Frankie!

FRANKIE
(gives the thumbs up) Fab!

Some Villagers can continue across the stage & exit, to ensure that the stage is not too crowded

DAME
(Breathing heavily & looking worn out) Ooh, Frankie, how much further is it? I'm worn out

QUEEN
One is a little fatigued!

FRANKIE

It can't be too much further . we're in the deepest darkest depths of the forest now

DAME

Well, I'm not too keen on the deepest darkest depths of the forest, Frankie. I'm a little bit scared!

Dame lifts dress, to show knees knocking.

CAPTAIN

Madam, lower your dress no-one wants to see any further into the deepest darkest depths of the forest!

QUEEN

It is a bit scary!

CAPTAIN

(looking at Dame) It's terrifying!

PRINCE

There's nothing to be scared of . I'm sure I can protect you all from a few rabbits and squirrels!

*An owl hoots. Dame almost jumps into Frankie's arms!
Queen hugs King. King looks quite pleased.*

DAME

Save me, son!

FRANKIE

It's an owl, Mum . no need to be scared.

DAME

Do you think there might be ghosts and goblins?

FRANKIE

There's no such thing, Mum.

DAME

Well, I hope you're right. Phew, I really could do with a rest . it would be nice if the council could have put in a nice bench to sit on

QUEEN

It certainly would.

Frankie points to bench

FRANKIE

Like that one?

DAME

Goodness me! That's a stroke of luck. Can we sit down . . . just for a few minutes?

QUEEN

Just to catch one's breath?

Queen, Lacie and Macie sit down on bench, with Dame sitting down last of all on the end.

PRINCE

But, we have to rescue Rapunzel!

KING

My son is on a mission, to prove he is a worthy heir to the throne!

QUEEN

That's my boy!

DAME

We're right with you, Your Majesty, but we just need a little rest. I'm not as young as I look, you know!

KING

You're quite ancient, then?

DAME

I'm in my prime, Your Majesty! The Captain of the Guard will vouch for that, won't you Captain? Go on, say something nice about me (*flutters eyelashes*)

CAPTAIN

Moonlight becomes you ...

DAME

How romantic!

CAPTAIN

... but total darkness becomes you even better!

DAME

Oh, Captain, I know you are just toying with me!

FRANKIE

Mum, we don't have time for this!

PRINCE

Yes, mother, we need to go! Please.

QUEEN

Oh, of course, dear. Anything for you.

Queen, Macie and Lacie stand, and the bench tips up, depositing Dame on the floor. Legs up in the air etc.

DAME
Waaaaah!

FRANKIE
Mother!

*Prince and Frankie help Dame to her feet.
Queen sits on bench, so she can be sympathetic. Lacie and Macie also sit down again.
Dame is deposited back on the bench by Frankie and Prince.*

QUEEN
Are you all right, dear?

DAME
No! I hurt my ... pride.

FRANKIE
You have an awful lot of pride, mother.

DAME
You did that on purpose!

QUEEN
I? One certainly did not!

PRINCE
Come on, we have to rescue Rapunzel! Now!

Queen gives a sly look to Dame.

QUEEN
Yes, dear. Sorry, dear.

Queen, Macie and Lacie stand again. Dame again ends up on the floor.

DAME
Waaaah!

FRANKIE
Mother!

Frankie and Prince help Dame to feet again.

DAME
That was definitely on purpose!

QUEEN
One couldn't possibly say.

PRINCE
Come on, we have to go!

All start to exit.

Blackout.

Scene 6 Inside the Tower

Curly and Bob are sitting quietly playing rock paper scissors. They have a couple of goes. They continue to play as they talk.

BOB
Curly?

CURLY
Yeah?

BOB
What are we doing?

CURLY
I'm not really sure.

BOB
Oh.

CURLY
I saw some people doing it once and it seemed like a good way to pass the time.

BOB
Oh. OK.

The secret door opens and Gothel climbs through with Rapunzel, who is wearing a blindfold, behind her.

GOTHEL
I could have sworn I left that open.

Gothel carefully closes the secret door behind her. Curly and Bob see her.

CURLY
Gothel!

BOB
Gothel!

CURLY

Are we pleased to see you?!

BOB

There's a first time for everything! ... Ooops!

CURLY

We thought we'd be stuck up here forever.

GOTHEL

Curly! Bob! How did you get up here?

CURLY

Well, it turns out ~~the~~ secret entrance that's almost impossible to find unless you know where it is ~~isn't~~ that impossible to find.

BOB

We found it completely by accident.

GOTHEL

What!?

CURLY

I reckon almost anybody could find it.

BOB

Yeah, I mean we're completely useless and we found it no problem at all.

GOTHEL

Quiet!! This is not good news ... But first things first.

Gothel takes Rapunzel's blindfold off and clicks her fingers impatiently in front of her face.

GOTHEL

Come on. Wake up! Wake up! I haven't got all day.

Rapunzel comes to. She almost collapses as she does so but manages to hold herself up. She sees Gothel.

RAPUNZEL

Grandmother!

GOTHEL

Grandmother? Pah! Are you still keeping that up? I'm no more your grandmother than these two are David Cameron and George Osborne ... though I must admit, there are some similarities.

BOB

Yeah! We were both members of an elite dining club.

CURLY
No we weren't.

BOB
That's right! No we weren't.

RAPUNZEL
What do you want with me?

GOTHEL
What do I want? Oh, Rapunzel, I want to punish you. Come here, dearie.

RAPUNZEL
G-grandmother ...

GOTHEL
You do love your hair, don't you, Rapunzel?

RAPUNZEL
Y-yes ...

GOTHEL
(sing-songy) Oh well. Ne-ver mind.

*Gothel takes a knife and cuts off Rapunzel's hair at the nape of her neck.
Rapunzel staggers back as if dealt a blow.*

RAPUNZEL
Agh!

GOTHEL
Oh dear. What a shame.

RAPUNZEL
Grandmother! No!

GOTHEL
Too late, dearie. And, now it is done, you will never be able to escape from this tower. I'm going to leave you here to wither away. Wither. Away. And then I will find another child to replace you and I will tell her your story and she will cry the tears that will make me young again.

RAPUNZEL
How ... how can you be so cruel?

GOTHEL
Practice, my dear. They say practice makes perfect. Ten thousand hours and you can be an expert at anything . and I have been around for a long, long time. Curly, Bob, throw the hair out of the window!

BOB
Do you want us to tie it to anything first?

GOTHEL
No, I do not!

CURLY
OK.

Curly and Bob throw the hair out of the window.

GOTHEL
And that, my dear, is that.

RAPUNZEL
Oh no.

*Rapunzel sobs.
Gothel gets out jar to collect the tears.*

GOTHEL
Marvellous! Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!

Blackout.

Scene 7a The Tower Staircase

*Black tabs/cloth. No stairs required!
Frankie enters, followed by Dame, King, Queen, Lacie, Macie, Gracie and the Capt
of the Guard.*

FRANKIE
Your highness! Freddie! Oh ... Hi kids!

AUDIENCE
Hi Frankie!

KING
Where is that boy? Frederick!

FRANKIE
He ran ahead with the others. I think we must have taken a wrong turn. But we'll catch him up, I'm sure.

DAME
These stairs and passages are dark and creepy.

QUEEN

Yes, one is almost wishing one hadn't accidentally found that secret entrance at the bottom of the tower.

FRANKIE

Come on. I think it's this way.

Frankie continues towards the wings, followed by the others.

There is a ghostly sound.

Dame jumps into Capt of Guard's arms – he tries to push her off but she holds on tight.

Queen jumps into King's arms.

Lacie and Macie jump into each other's arms.

Gracie jumps into Frankie's arms. They quite enjoy the cuddle.

DAME

Help!

CAPT OF GUARD

(trying to prise her off) Help!

FRANKIE

It's all right. I think it was just the wind.

KING

Sorry, I have told the palace kitchen about serving too many sprouts.

DAME

(finally prised off) Well, I'm not going that way. Let's try this way

As they are heading towards wings, a large spider drops down from the ceiling in front of dame.

DAME

Aaargggghh! Spider!!! It's a great big one.

QUEEN

Oh my! One does not think one has ever seen such a large hairy one.

KING

Are you sure dear?

DAME

Oh, Frankie, I'm frightened!

GRACIE

Me too!

LACIE & MACIE

And me!

FRANKIE

If one spider's all we've got to worry about, we'd be fine. Come on, we need to find the Prince.

DAME

Oooh, first should we sing a little song, to stop ourselves from feeling scared?

FRANKIE

Do we have to?

DAME

Yes . it's in the script

QUEEN

One does like a little singsong.

FRANKIE

Oh, all right then.

DAME

After four! One, two, three, four.

As they sing "Give A Little Whistle", a giant UV puppet spider (manipulated by a person dressed in blacks) enters behind them.

ALL

(Singing) When you get in trouble and you don't know right from wrong, give a little ...

Lacie and Macie turn to see giant spider and scream loudly where the word "whistle" should go.

LACIE & MACIE

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaarrggggggggggghhhh!

Lacie and Macie run off stage.

Giant spider exits sharply.

DAME

What was that?! It's supposed to be give a little **whistle**+not give a little
aaaarrgggghh!+

FRANKIE

I don't know! But I'm scared now!

GRACIE

Where are Lacie and Macie?

DAME

Oooooer! Keep singing! Two, three, four ...

Giant spider comes on again.

ALL

(Singing) Take the straight and narrow path and if you start to slide, give a little ...

King and Queen and Capt of Guard turn to see giant spider and scream loudly where the word "whistle" should go.

KING & QUEEN & CAPT OF GUARD

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaarrrrrrggggghhhhhh!

King and Queen and Capt of Guard run off. Giant spider stays on.

FRANKIE

What was that?

GRACIE

I daren't look round.

DAME

I daren't do anything.

FRANKIE

Is there something there boys and girls?

AUDIENCE

Yes! Behind you!

Giant spider goes to the left, the trio look to the right.

FRANKIE

There's nothing there. Are you sure?

AUDIENCE

Yes! Behind you!

Giant spider goes to the right, the trio look to the left. Nothing there. Dame steps forward.

DAME

There's nothing there! Are you teasing me, boys and girls?

As Dame talks, giant spider creeps up on Frankie and Gracie, who are huddled together centre stage.

DAME

(cont) I won't have it, you know. It's bad enough being in this scary tower, without-

Frankie and Gracie turn to see giant spider. They scream.

FRANKIE & GRACIE

Aaaaaaarrrrrrrrrrrrrrggggggggghhhhh!

Frankie and Gracie run off. Giant spider heads to directly behind Dame.

DAME

Exactly, without aaaarrgggh ... No that's not right. You're being silly now, Frankie.

Dame turns to see Frankie and Gracie gone.

DAME

Frankie?! Oh dear, he's gone! They're all gone! I know. I'll sing again. Singing makes everything all right. Two, three, four ... when you get in trouble and you don't know right from wrong, give a little ...

Dame has crept across stage as she sings with the spider creeping after her. She turns and sees giant spider.

DAME

Aaaargggggghhhhh!

GIANT SPIDER

Eee!!!!

Giant spider runs off. Dame runs off.

Scene 7b UV Scene

Black tabs stay in.

This scene is done in complete darkness, with only UV lighting.

Spiders start the scene. They are joined by ghosts. Although the scene is "scary", it should be quite light-hearted. Choose music that is not too dark!

Choreograph movement/dance for the giant spider & ghost puppets – add anything that your imagination (and costume/props people) can conjure up. The important thing, is to make sure that it is well-choreographed and well-rehearsed.

See Notes for additional information.

Music/song: The Harry Potter Theme+

Scene 8 Inside the Tower

Curly and Bob are tying Rapunzel to her chair.

GOTHEL

Tighter!

Curly and Bob tighten the ropes.

RAPUNZEL

Ow!

CURLY & BOB

Sorry.

GOTHEL

Don't apologise, you idiots! It's supposed to hurt!

CURLY & BOB

Sorry.

GOTHEL

Gah! *(to audience)* And what are you lot gawping at? I told you I would win in the end! And I have! Oh yes I have!

AUDIENCE

Oh no, you haven't!

GOTHEL

Oh yes, I have!

AUDIENCE

Oh no, you haven't!

GOTHEL

Hah! You poor deluded fools! Who's going to save Rapunzel now? You?

Secret door opens and Prince enters and stands heroically.

PRINCE

I am!!!

RAPUNZEL

Freddie!

GOTHEL

You!

PRINCE

Yes! And not just me!

Frankie enters followed by the others.

FRANKIE

Hi kids!

AUDIENCE

Hi Frankie!

GOTHEL
How ... how did you ... remember?

Fairy enters.

FAIRY
Your magic is powerful, without a doubt
But we have our friends to help us out!

Fairy indicates audience.

GOTHEL
Friends! Pah!

PRINCE
Untie that maiden!

CURLY & BOB
OK!

Curly and Bob begin to untie Rapunzel.

GOTHEL
No! Tie her up!

CURLY & BOB
What? Oh, OK.

Rapunzel manages to wriggle free and runs to the Prince.

CURLY & BOB
Oops.

RAPUNZEL
Oh Freddie.

PRINCE
Rapunzel.

RAPUNZEL
No, don't look at me.

PRINCE
What? What is it?

RAPUNZEL
My hair! You loved my amazing hair. How can you love me without it?

PRINCE
Rapunzel, I love **you** - **you**, not your hair.

DAME

It was pretty incredible hair - I was looking forward to trying out a few new styles on it

FRANKIE

Mum! You're not helping!

DAME

Sorry, son.

PRINCE

Rapunzel, I love you, and I will always love you

RAPUNZEL

And I love you, too, Prince Frederick!

King & Queen look proudly at their son.

GOTHEL

Stop! What do you think you are doing? It's not lovey dovey singsong time yet! This is far from over! I beat you once and I can beat you again!

Gothel reaches inside her robes once again.

Frankie races forward to place himself between Gothel and Prince and Rapunzel.

FRANKIE

Look out!

Gothel throws another 'exploding' charm on the floor but, while everyone else braces themselves for the blast, Fairy is prepared and holds her wand up. Nothing happens.

GOTHEL

What!?

Gothel looks at her hand. She tries again, reaching in her robe and throwing a charm on the floor.

Again nothing happens. Gothel looks fearful. She backs away.

GOTHEL

(to Curly & Bob) Do something!

CURLY

What should we do? Would you like us to sweep the floor?

BOB

Make a cup of tea?

GOTHEL

Argghh! You're a pair of half-witted imbeciles!

CURLY & BOB

Thank you!

GOTHEL

That wasn't a compliment! How could I hope to win, having you two idiots working for me?

FAIRY

You thought using evil would help you succeed
But the Beatles were right . love is all you need!

GOTHEL

Love? Pah! An over-rated, useless waste of time!

RAPUNZEL

Love is wonderful, Grandmother ...

GOTHEL

I AM NOT YOUR GRANDMOTHER!!!!

RAPUNZEL

... er, Gothel. But sometimes you really did treat me like your granddaughter. So I think you must have loved me a little.

GOTHEL

No, I ...

RAPUNZEL

.... but you brought me amazing books to read. And my favourite foods to eat. You made sure that I was warm and safe. I remember when I was little and I fell over and grazed my knee, I wouldn't stop crying and you held me until I went to sleep ... You were the only friend that I had, and I loved you very much

By this point, Gothel is starting to cry.

GOTHEL

What? What's happening? My face is leaking!

Rapunzel is as shocked as anyone.

The tears burn Gothel's face, she wipes them away, but they continue to flow.

RAPUNZEL

You're ... you're crying, grandmother.

GOTHEL

Nooooo! I can't! My tears ... they burn! *(she points at Rapunzel)* This is all your fault! Agggghhhhhh!!

Gothel shrivels down to nothing, but her cloak.

Rapunzel runs over to where Gothel once stood

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RAPUNZEL
She's gone!

EVERYONE
Hooray!!

RAPUNZEL
(sadly) But

FAIRY
From a very small child, she was all that you knew
You are bound to feel sad, but believe me, it's true
Gothel was a witch with such villainous power
Now you've saved other girls from being locked in this tower

RAPUNZEL
Yes, Fairy Flora, I know it's for the best

*Rapunzel fetches a soft toy teddy bear that she keeps hidden between her books
Dame looks at the bear, then at Rapunzel*

DAME
That teddy!

RAPUNZEL
I know that it's a little childish to want to cuddle it . but, for so many years, it was all I had when I felt sad.

DAME
That bear is just like the one that was in my baby's cot when she was stolen away, all those years ago. Let me see! *(she looks at the bear)* Look! The ribbon was from my wedding dress!

RAPUNZEL
So, that means ...

DAME
You're my baby!! My long lost baby!!

RAPUNZEL
Mummy!!!!

Dame hugs Rapunzel, tightly.

FRANKIE
And my sister!

Frankie joins the hug.

PRINCE
And my love!

Prince joins the hug.

GRACIE
And my love!

Gracie hugs Frankie.

KING
And our wonderful son!

*King and Queen join the hug.
Dame puts her hand up and waves at the Capt of Guard.*

DAME
Yoo-hoo! Captain of the Guard! Feel free to join in any time you like!

Capt of Guard backs off a little.

DAME
Oh don't be a party pooper! Everybody! Come on in!

*Dame wraps her arms lovingly round Rapunzel and Frankie as everyone on stage joins the huddle, including the Capt of Guard who shrugs and joins in.
Fairy steps forward, eyeing up the mass of bodies.*

FAIRY
So, not quite as expected, if I'm perfectly honest
But, a good, happy ending . just as I had promised!

SONG: Happy Together+. Prince Frederick, Rapunzel & everyone

Song Sheet

Frankie enters

FRANKIE
Hi, kids!

AUDIENCE
Hi, Frankie!

FRANKIE
Brilliant! Well, didn't it all turn out well? Freddie proved that he was a good Prince . and he found my lovely sister, Rapunzel! Now they're getting married! Mum is completely over the moon! Everyone's really happy!

Curly and Bob enter

CURLY

Well, we're not happy

BOB

No, not at all

FRANKIE

But, the old witch Gothel is gone . surely that makes you happy?

CURLY

No, because now we haven't got a job

BOB

Yes, we're unem ... unemp we haven't got a job

FRANKIE

But it must have been awful working for her. She was really mean to you

CURLY & BOB

Yes.

CURLY

And she never paid us.

BOB

All she did was shout at us.

FRANKIE

So, why are you so sad that she's gone . you should be happy!

CURLY & BOB

(look at each other & smile) We're happy!! (do a little dance)

FRANKIE

That's brilliant. And now I have a little job for you . but it's a nice job.

CURLY & BOB

Great!

BOB

What do we have to do?

FRANKIE

Well, we're going to have a little singing competition

BOB

I love singing

CURLY
He's just not very good at it!

BOB
I am! Listen *(takes a deep breath in, ready to sing)* -

FRANKIE
(interrupts) ...but **before** we singõ .
We've just got a few people to say hello to

Happy Birthdays & Hellos

BOB
Can we sing now? Can we? Can we?

FRANKIE
Yes . we can sing now *(indicates for helpers to bring on the song sheet)* We'll need the song boardõ ..

Gracie helps to bring on the song board. Flirty looks between Gracie and Frankie.

GRACIE
Hi Frankie.

FRANKIE
Hi Gracie.

CURLY & BOB
Ooooooh!

FRANKIE
I know. It's brilliant!

GRACIE
See you later, Frankie, I've got to get ready for the party.

Gracie kisses Frankie on the cheek. Frankie grins. Gracie exits.

BOB
Oi! I thought we were singing. Not snogging.

FRANKIE
Yes. Sorry. But first, we should get a few of our friends up here to help us. Put your hands up if you want to come up here and help us with the song.

A few "helpers" are chosen, interviewed and split into two teams – one set to help Curly & Bob and the Stage Left side of the audience, the other to help Frankie and the Stage Right side of the audience

SONG "Give A Little Whistle" or something short and easy

Competition

Verdict

Goody bags to helpers

Once more through song, then exit

Walkdown & Bows

SONG: %Happy+(Pharrell Williams)

Final Bow

Additional Notes

Music Content

The musical numbers in this script are only suggestions. Your choice of music is important; choose songs that are suited to your company and your audience. In general, it is best that songs are well-known and kept fairly short. Up-tempo songs work well, but you will usually need to include at least one slower ballad, or love song. It is likely that most of your audience will be familiar with chart music, rather than musicals.

Whatever you choose, remember that the performance of any copyright music (including those suggestions made in this script) is subject to permission and payment of royalties.

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Ultra-Violet Lit Scene

The spider and ghost puppets will have to be made and painted, and must be as large as your puppeteers can safely manipulate. Use UV reactive fabric, which can be purchased from a specialist supplier, or make up the puppets using white fabric, then paint with good quality UV reactive paint.

The %ghosts+ look better if the head is supported on a stick, then the %body+ fabric is left floating (rather like a sheet over a broom). However, make sure that the stick is painted black, and held above the puppeteer otherwise, the puppeteer's black clothing will be seen against the white %ghost+.

Spiders can be painted in all colours! And add any other creatures that will suit the scene.

All puppeteers must be completely dressed in black, including socks, shoes, gloves and head cover (balaclava-type, completely covering head and face, with holes cut for eyes).

The choreographer or director will need to set a choreographed %story+, which has to be well-rehearsed to be safe and effective . operating in the dark is not easy, so it's better if everyone knows exactly what they are doing!

NB When using UV reactive paint, make sure that there are no gaps in the paintwork (or any paint where it shouldn't be!). If you use white paint as an undercoat, you should only have to use one coat of UV reactive paint. Use a sufficient number of UV lighting tubes. Ensure that all other light sources are switched off (including the musicians' lights). And a UV scene must have a black background!

Trick Bench

This works very well! The bench has three pairs of legs, the pair in the centre and the pair on the right-hand end are solid wooden legs. The pair on the left-hand end are made of sponge, painted to look exactly the same as the real legs.

If no-one is sitting on the bench, the two pairs of solid legs will hold it upright. If someone is sitting on the right-hand side (over the solid legs) and someone sits on the left-hand side, the bench will not tip but as soon as the people on the right-hand side stand . the left side of the bench will tip!

Rapunzel's Hair

Another requirement of the plot! It is easier if there are two plaits . one for Rapunzel, and one that is seen on the %Outside of the Tower+.

The Tower

Obviously, the tower is a very necessary part of this story . but please don't be daunted by the prospect of building it! It will need to be built by a competent carpenter/set builder, and sketches of how it could be built are on the following page. Building this one piece of solid, substantial scenery, will ensure that you have all of the elements required in the script (window, secret door, fireplace, book case etc.). Of course, you may have your own ideas of how to stage these scenes, but we hope that you find the sketches and notes to be helpful.

Regarding the letting down of Rapunzel's plait; we suggest that there is a fake plait that is lowered down out of the %Outside Tower+window (it will probably need to be weighted). Access to this window is via a door, which can be disguised as a bookcase, a picture or a mirror. Also, on the outside of the tower, there are two or three steps built into the %wall+of the tower (as inconspicuously as possible) . to facilitate the %climbing of the hair+.

When the set is opened out, it reveals %inside the Tower+. The window is purposely built off centre, so that the set can be as far upstage as possible. Also, it will make the actors' entry through the window more realistic. The %secret door+has been incorporated into the bookcase. It does not have to be a full-sized door, but, be aware that in the final scene, nearly the whole cast enters via this door, so it shouldn't be too tiny!. The bookcase itself should be able to accommodate some, if not all, real books.

The fireplace is necessary, as it is where Curly and Bob gather the sticks to build their ladder.

Sketch showing suggested plan of Tower building:



