

RED RIDING HOOD

A PANTOMIME BY

STEPHEN DUCKHAM

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RED RIDING HOOD

Roberta Hood	Red Riding Hood
Florence Farquharson	Aunt Flo
Tongue-tied Timmy	Her nephew
Bo Peep	A keeper of sheep
Lionel Lupin	A market gardener
Peter	A Woodcutter
PC Billy	The village policeman
Baroness de Brexit	An evil witch
Dull	(Her servant)
Pinky)
Perky) 3 little pigs (children + chorus)
Porky)
Granny Hood	Small role at the end of the story

Chorus of Villagers and creatures of the Gnarled Forest

In the first scene the head Wizard appears. It is intended he is in a film sequence. If this is impractical the scene can be played in black tabs with a member of the chorus playing the part.

ACT ONE

SCENE 1	A COVEN OF WIZARDS AND WITCHES
SCENE 2	THE VILLAGE OF FERMLEY ON THE FIDDLE
SCENE 3	ON THE NET
SCENE 4	FERMLEY ON THE FIDDLE VILLAGE HALL
SCENE 5	THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE
SCENE 6	THE HOUSES OF THE THREE PIGS

ACT TWO

SCENE 1	ON THE NET AGAIN
SCENE 2	THE VILLAGE OF FERMLEY ON THE FIDDLE
SCENE 3	THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE
SCENE 4	THE GNARLED FOREST
SCENE 5	THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE
SCENE 6	GRANNY HOOD'S COTTAGE
SCENE 7	BACK HOME
SCENE 8	THE VILLAGE OF FERMLEY ON THE FIDDLE

c 2017 Stephen Duckham

A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

When I was asked to write Red Riding Hood I researched the original story, as I do with all my pantomime scripts, to find that both the Grimm Brothers and the Charles Perrault versions are similar and rather short. I decided to start from scratch using the basic idea of the girl visiting her Granny and encountering the wolf, but set the whole story in a village that is going through a bit of a crisis in the shape of a new railway line threatening to disrupt tranquil lives of the people who live there. To flesh out the plot line I decided to include the story of the Three Little Pigs, the common link being the Big Bad Wolf. So as not to make the wolf too scary for the very young members in the audience, I used a magicalpotion idea to transform a quiet, gentle man into an unwilling beast.

In the original production, both the houses of the Three Little Pigs and Granny Hood are in the way of a new railway line (the controversial HS2!) but for companies far removed from that part of the country it can be changed. Please feel free to make it a railway line, by-pass, motorway or even an airport runway if it helps to localise your production.

CHARACTERS

Roberta Hood (Red) A level-headed young lady. Friend to everyone and also the owner of a small rustic guest house. Good singing voice is required.

Florence Farquharson (Aunt Flo) Larger than life panto dame. As she is an ex-performer her character is always theatrical whether it be dramatic or comic. Able to put a number over with theatrical flair.

Tongue-tied Timmy As the name suggests he is always trying to find the words to express his feelings for Bo Peep. With other characters he is fine but with her he needs the audience to help him get the words out. A good rapport with the audience is essential. Nice singing voice an advantage.

Bo Peep An engaging, sweet-natured girl with a soft spot for Timmy. Nice singing voice an advantage.

Lionel Lupin As this character becomes the Wolf he must have two contrasting personalities. Lionel is a meek and mild man but when under the spell of the Baroness he becomes a snarling, growling voiced animal. Should be able to sing.

Peter Handsome, charming with a good physique. A typical panto hero. Needs a good strong singing voice.

PC Billy The good fairy of the pantomime. Unlike the usual immortal, he interacts with the rest of the characters. A likable, easy going chap. Mainly sings with the rest of the company.

Baroness de Brexit The archetypal villainess. A magical creature in human form who will trample over everyone and everything to achieve her ambitions. Strong character able to cope with whatever the audience throws at her. Please note her name is pronounced with a soft ʃ (de Brexee)

Dull Just as the name sounds!
3 Little Pigs Usually played by children
Granny Hood Cameo role for a member of the chorus

The chorus represents Villagers and Creatures of the Gnarled Forest

SCENERY

The sets can be as simple or as lavish as your resources allow. The main scene is the Village with the two buildings either side. Inside the Village Hall can be a half or three-quarter set made with drapes to give the impression of a stage area. The Three Little Pigs houses and the Gnarled Forest can be the same set with the addition of the houses as described in the script. Granny's House is an inset and one front cloth and tabs are used throughout.

MUSIC

The placing of musical numbers and who sings them is suggested in the script, but it is up to the director to decide what to use. A word of advice: Pantomime audiences . particularly the younger members . like to story to keep moving, so don't make the musical sequences too long, especially the ballads. I recommend no number should be more than two and a half minutes.

A duet for Lionel and Timmy is written for this version and may be used if you so wish. It is called *Why Can't We Be Like Other Guys?* and the lyric appears at the end of the script. The sheet music is available from NODA

I hope you enjoy doing this version of *Red Riding Hood* and have a great success with your production.

Stephen Duckham

RED RIDING HOOD

ACT ONE

MUSIC - OVERTURE AND INTRO TO SCENE 1

SCENE 1 A COVEN OF WIZARDS AND WITCHES

[The head Wizard is seen addressing the audience as though they were a board of directors. This could be a film sequence – see notes at the end of the script.]

WIZARD

And so, fellow Wizards and Witches, we come to the last item on today's agenda. The success of one of our illustrious members gaining access to the Houses of Parliament in the recent by-election. By the power of thought transference, all the eligible voters of the - *[He uses the name of the local area.]* - constituency placed an X in our candidate's box! That resulted in a landslide victory! *[Applause.]* We have successfully infiltrated the seat of government and will soon have control of the whole of the country. *[More applause.]* So without further delay I introduce to you the newly elected member - Baroness de Brexit.

[Applause. A cloud of smoke and the Baroness de Brexit appears down left. The Wizard disappears.]

BARONESS

[Oozing charm.] My dear friends. The first thing that needs to be done is to gain the confidence of the people at the top. To that end we have a proposal that will give our party maximum attention. I put before you a new rail link to be known from now on as HS 2 and a bit! *[She reveals as if by magic a map that looks like a drawing out of a children's book that shows a nearby town and a train line to another town with the local place being missed but cutting across part of the village of Fermley on the Fiddle.]* This projected rail link will not only cut the travelling time between *[Name of first town.]* and *[Name of second town.]* down by three and a quarter minutes, but will help all those people who have a problem getting up in the morning to miss the rush hour traffic! *[Applause.]* However, there is a slight problem. Three houses are on the preferred route. They belong to three pigs who are, at the moment, proving very difficult to move. They have been offered a very stylish sty next to the airport runway, *[or a motorway etc.]* but have refused it. But fear not, dear members, I have other ways of achieving a result without throwing any suspicion on us. *[Her voice grows in power.]* No one is going to get the better of the Baroness de Brexit!

[She gives an evil laugh and exits as the light fades on stage left and comes up on stage right. A man dressed in a white shirt and black trousers has his back to the audience. He will be known later as PC Billy. He turns and smiles at the audience.]

PC BILLY

Evening all! What do you make of all that then? That old witch is up to no good. Oh but I better explain who I am. I am Wizard William

Warlock, but you can call me Billy. I belong to a rival coven of wizards and witches who are only concerned with doing good. I've been given the task of keeping an eye on the Baroness ever since we found out about that plan. *[He holds his hand out to the right and a policeman's jacket appears which he puts on. He continues talking during this.]* The village in question is Fermley on the Fiddle, so why don't you come with me and I'll introduce you to a few of the locals. *[Audience reaction.]* I have taken on the disguise of - *[He holds out his hand again and a policeman's helmet appears. He puts it on.]* . you've guessed it - the village bobby, so as to fit in and not raise any suspicion! *[Finishing his 'disguise'.]* There. All ready? Everyone's up early this morning, so here we go.

[The lights come up on -]

SCENE 2 THE VILLAGE OF FERMLEY ON THE FIDDLE

[A bright country village scene with Roberta's Rustic Guest House on stage left and on the right is the Fermley on the Fiddle Village Hall. At first the spot stays on Billy as another light picks up Bo Peep towards stage left.]

MUSIC - OPENING CHORUS

[Note that during the number PC Billy introduces various characters. This can either be done at points during the song or all at once.]

PC BILLY

[He speaks.] Here's Miss Bo Peep. She has a flock of sheep that have a tendency to keep wandering off!

[Timmy enters from the village hall.]

And this is Timmy. *[Timmy notices Bo Peep. He gets very flustered as she waves to him and smiles. He goes to speak but his mouth just hangs open, so he quickly exits the way he came. Bo Peep exits left. The Chorus have now entered and greet each other.]* We call him tongue-tied Timmy because every time he sees Bo he can never find the words to say how much he likes her!

[Peter enters from one side of the stage carrying a bundle of wood and Lionel Lupin enters from the other. Lionel has a box of vegetables. They meet centre stage.]

That's Peter, the woodcutter and odd job man around the village. And that's Lionel Lupin who runs a small market garden. On the edge of Lionel's property live the three little pigs. And here they are now! *[Across the front of the stage walk the three pigs.]* Pinky.

PINKY

[With a nod to PC Billy.] Oink!

PC BILLY

Perky!

PERKY

[With a nod to PC Billy.] Oink!

PC BILLY

And Porky!

[Porky, the largest, is munching on a sandwich as they cross. He nods to PC Billy and burps. All three exit.]

Lionel supplies . *[He points to Roberta's Guest House.]* - Roberta's Rustic Guest House, run by Roberta Hood. But we all know her by her nick-name, Red. And you'll see why as here she comes. *[Red appears at her door. She has a mass of red hair. Lionel gives her the box of vegetables and exits. Peter holds the door for her and they smile at each other. Red goes back inside and Peter exits into the village hall.]*

Well I don't need to tell you that there's more than a little chemistry there! Actually today is rather special as it's Red's birthday. But none of us are letting on because there is a surprise party arranged. More of that later. There is one other person you must meet. She out in her car at the moment, but no doubt you will run into her very soon! That's as long as she doesn't run into you first. Well it seems everyone is up early this morning. *[This is the end of PC Billy's introduction.]*

[At the end of the song all exit except Red and PC Billy.]

And how are you this morning, Red?

RED

Fine thank you constable. Isn't it a lovely day?

PC BILLY

Yes, cleared up nicely after last night's rain.

RED

[Thinking he might say "happy birthday".] The sunshine makes it such a special day.

PC BILLY

Oh I don't know. Just like any other really! *[He gives a quick smile and a wink to the audience.]*

RED

[Deflated.] I suppose it is. And the news about this proposed railway line doesn't help matters. It could badly affect visitors . and my guest house is bound to suffer.

PC BILLY

Well you will have plenty of customers today. *[He indicates the audience.]* Look at this lot just arrived on a day trip!

RED

Oh yes. I'll have to make sure all the rooms are ready. *[To the audience.]* And in about an hour I'll have coffee served in the visitors annex! Through there. *[She points towards to foyer. Bo Peep enters.]* Oh hello Bo.

BO

Hello Red. Constable.

PC BILLY

Morning Miss Peep. Well if you two ladies will excuse me, I better get about my constabulary duty. *[To the audience.]* Enjoy your stay. *[He winks at the audience and exits.]*

BO

Oh dear, I'm in a bit of a panic this morning.

RED

What's the matter?

BO My sheep! I nearly lost them last night. They are very timid and that storm we had really spooked them!

RED Well they should be alright today. The weather forecast says it's going to be glorious. *[Pointedly.]* A really special day!

BO Just like any other really!

RED Oh! *[Timmy enters from the hall.]* Morning Timmy. Lovely day.

TIMMY Just like any other really!

RED *[Slightly deflated.]* That's what Bo said.
[Timmy notices Bo and starts to get flustered.]

BO Hello Timmy.

TIMMY Hellō hell ō .hellō oooh!

BO I hope you are well.

TIMMY Well ō lqnō well ō l

BO *[With a sigh.]* I better get back to my sheep. See you both later. *[She exits.]*

RED Oh Timmy. You really must get over your shyness.

TIMMY I know, Red. It's just that when I see her words seem to jam up in my mouth.

RED No wonder folks call you tongue-tied Timmy.

TIMMY It only happens with Bo. lqn fine with everyone else.

RED In that case, why don't you say hello to our visitors? ldn get on with the breakfasts. *[She exits.]*

TIMMY *[Looking out.]* Hello all. *[Audience reaction.]* I am in a bit of a muddle. As Red says I get tongue tied when I see Bo Peep. I do like her but can never find the words to ask her out. Have any of you got any suggestions of what I can do? *[If there is a reaction he ad libs. He picks someone out in the front row and goes down to them.]* Hello. You look like a nice sensible person! Could you help me? *[Ad lib with person.]* When I get flustered can you shout out Spit it out, Timmy? Could you do that? You don't seem too sure! Maybe all of you could help. Will you? *[Reaction.]* That's great, but it will involve a practice which may come as a surprise to some of you! *[He spots a girl in the front row.]* Excuse me, but do you think you can help me? Will you pretend to be Bo Peep and then ldn get all flustered and everyone can help me. *[He ad libs with the girl. Maybe gets her onto the stage.]* Just say hello Timmy and then ldn get all tongue-tied and all my new friends can help by shouting Spit it out, Timmy *[Timmy ad libs the*

sequence a couple of time with the audience shouting out. At the end he thanks the girl.] Oh that was really kind of you. Just keep helping me like that and I'm sure in a couple of hours I'll be cured!

[A loud noise of screeching tyres and motor horns is heard. Flo can be heard shouting at someone.]

FLO *[Off.]* What do you think you are doing? Didn't you see the arrows?

TIMMY Oh, that's my aunt Flo.

[Flo appears looking slightly dishevelled. She wears an outrageous costume and motor-goggles.]

FLO Doesn't that bus driver know it's a one way street?

TIMMY Yes auntie, but it's one way going the *other* way!

FLO Well that's no good if I want to go this way!! I had to do a quick nine point turn in order to miss the pedestrian crossing! And I bashed into the dashboard. *[Looking down at her bust.]* And it inflated both my airbags!

TIMMY If you're not more careful something terrible might happen!

FLO I'd have you know I've been driving for years and never had an accident. Mind you I have seen plenty in the rear-view mirror!

TIMMY Where have you been so early in the morning?

FLO To pick up a special birthday present for Red.

TIMMY Ssh! You know it's a surprise?

FLO Yes and I'm going to give it to her later at the surprise party.

TIMMY What is it?

FLO It's a surprise! Now aren't you supposed to be decorating the Village Hall ready for the party?

TIMMY Yes I should. I was just chatting to my new friends. *[To the audience.]* See you all later. *[He exits into the hall.]*

FLO See who later? *[Sees the audience.]* Oh hello. Come on say hello to Flo! *[Audience reaction.]* I hope you will have a pleasant stay with us in Fermley on the lovely river Fiddle. Most of the people who live here have been on the fiddle for years! Have you met all the locals? *[Reaction from the audience.]* All happy country folk. It's a bit like *Emmerdale* *[Or another TV soap.]* And you've arrived at a very special time. As I'm sure you've heard it's our dear friend Red's birthday, and we've all arranged a surprise party. And now you're all invited! *[Reaction.]* I'm in charge of the entertainment and will be presenting the cabaret. I am an *artiste*, you know. I used to headline at all the top variety theatres. % Florence Farquharson, a smile, a song

and a dance! And I made all my own costumes . I still do. What do you think of this? *[She shows off her outfit.]* I'm very good with a needle. In fact my first job was a machinist in a knicker factory in Weatherfield. You may have heard of it! *[She may have to mention Coronation Street.]* Oh but there was such goings on there. Scandals, fires, robberies, murders . and that was just in the commercial breaks! Then one day this big, handsome man who ran a theatrical company came in to enquire about costume repairs. One look at the fancy stitch work round my D cups and I was whisked away to better things. Mind you he was a lot older than me. Our wedding night was a strange affair. Before he got into bed my hubby took out his teeth and put them in a drawer. Then he took off his wig and put that in the drawer. Then he took out his false eye and put that in the drawer. Then he unscrewed his left leg and put that in the drawer. I didn't know whether to get into bed or into the drawer! Mind you we had ten glorious years together and then tragically he was taken from me. *[Sympathy from the audience.]* But then I found out . the end could have been avoided. If only he hadn't avoided paying the tax bill, VAT, insurance and all his artists! The company was gone and so was he - to somewhere on the Costa del Sol! The curtain came down on my theatrical career, so I decided to retire. Now I just perform for special occasions. Weddings, funerals and Bah Mitzvahs and I often perform for our servicemen. I entertained the army, the navy, the air force and a couple of cold stream guards . but that's another story! And tonight I am the entertainment for Red's surprise birthday party. It's going to be wonderful.

MUSIC . SONG (FLO)

[Note the Chorus can be used in this number if the director wishes.]

[At the end of the song Lionel enters. He pushes a wheelbarrow with assorted vegetables in. Some of these will be trick ones, so please refer to the notes at the end of the script.]

And here he comes. The man of my dreams!

LIONEL

Hello Flo.

FLO

How are you today?

LIONEL

To tell the truth I've got a bit of a problem. My parsnips are a little limp and my turnips are not as big as they were last year!!

[Flo is wide-eyed at this. She eventually looks at the audience.]

FLO

Now before you start making up your own jokes he is talking about the vegetables he grows! Let's see what you've got today. *[She looks in the wheelbarrow.]* Potatoes, carrots, greens . oh look. *[She holds up some leeks that have water running out of them.]* Leeks!! And here we have some Rocket. *[She holds up a trick pump with plastic end covered to look like rocket. She fires it into the wings.]* Ooh look . *[She holds up a line of runner beans shaped like runners in a race.]* . runner beans! And these are my favourite . *[She hold up a piece of wood with spring onions lying flat. She pulls a release clip and they spring upright.]* . spring onions!! *[She then picks up a bunch of*

shallots.] And that's shallot. [*That's yer lot!*] They all look wonderful, Lionel.

LIONEL They would be if Bo Peep's sheep stopped escaping and causing havoc in my garden.

FLO [*To Lionel.]* I'm sure everything will be fine. Your market garden has always been a profusion of perfect produce!

LIONEL That's very kind of you. And may I say I am looking forward to your show tonight. I have made a special fruit punch for the occasion.

FLO Oooh splendid. I hope it's the same as the one you made for my last birthday. That had quite a kick to it.

LIONEL Probably because of the bottle of gin you *accidentally* knocked into it!

FLO [*With a giggle.]* It was a little clumsy of me, wasn't it? Still we all had a great time! Right. Well it's about time I started getting things done. [*She turns to go as Peter comes out of the Village Hall wearing a tool belt.]* Ah Peter, is everything sorted?

PETER Yes. I've done the repairs to the floor.

FLO Wonderful. Now I can do my tap dance without fear of ending up in the splits!

PETER And I've fixed the broken chairs.

FLO Oh you're so clever with your wood!

LIONEL I wish you could fix the situation with this new railway line. It's due to cut right across the far side of my land.

FLO Where those dear little pigs live.

PETER Surely they can't just turn them out?

LIONEL No, that's one thing they can't do. As long as the houses are standing they are protected.

FLO I should think so. They have been the homes of the pig family since they were basic, dirty, filthy pig stys!!

[Red enters.]

RED Morning all.

FLO Hello dear. How are you today?

RED Very well thank you. Such a special day.

FLO Yes it is. I've got a whole new act for tonight's entertainment.

RED Oh I meantõ ..

FLO I hope you will be there.

RED Yes, of course.

FLO Splendid. *[Crossing to her shop.]* Come on Lionel. Take those round the back to the kitchen and I'll make you a cup of tea. And if you're very lucky I might find you a cream horn to go with it!

[Flo exits into the Hall and Lionel wheels the barrow off up right.]

PETER I was hoping to see you alone.

RED *[Smiling.]* Really?

PETER Yes, I've got something for you. Wait there. *[He crosses to the exit and returns with a bunch of red roses.]* Here.

RED Oh Peter, they're lovely.

PETER Wild roses. I saw them when I was in the forest this morning and the colour reminded me of you.

RED And today of all days . . . you remembered.

PETER Well I only noticed them today.

RED Yes but today is special . . .

PETER Of course it is. Every day is special . . . when I get the chance to be alone with you.

[She goes to say something but he starts to sing.]

MUSIC - DUET (RED AND PETER)

[At the end of the number they exit into the Guest House. Mysterious music is heard and Baroness de Brexit enters down left followed by Dull. He is her assistant and a man of few words. He carries a special solid case.]

BARONESS Come along Dull. Don't dawdle. We have important work to do. *[She looks around.]* Successfully pushing through the plans for the new rail link is vitally important for the country . . . and it won't do me any harm either. I intend to show people that the only person capable of ruling this land is me. Don't you agree?

DULL Er . . . um . . .

BARONESS Yes I thought you would. Now have you arranged accommodation for us?

DULL Um . . . well . . .

BARONESS Come along. There's got to be a six star luxury hotel nearby! What have you found?

PC BILLY Oh not a pleasure trip then?

BARONESS Pleasure is not something I indulge in. Well not your sort of pleasure .
[She crosses away from him and continues in more of an aside.] .
unless it is causing misery, mayhem and mischief! *[Audience reacts.]*

PC BILLY What was that?

BARONESS *[To him.]* Terribly sorry, but I can't stop idly chatting all day. I have to
inspect my room in this . *quaint* – little hotel

PC BILLY Oh you're staying at Red's place.

BARONESS Red?

PC BILLY Roberta. We call her Red because of her . well you'll soon find out.

BARONESS *[Sarcastically.]* Could the day get any better? *[She crosses to the
Guest House.]* Come along Dull, don't dawdle. *[She exits into the
Guest House.]*

PC BILLY She's a barrel of laughs, isn't she?

DULL Not allowed to laugh! *[He exits into the Guest House.]*

PC BILLY So she's arrived and no doubt will soon to be up to no good. But never
fear, PC Billy is here. And I shall be keeping a careful eye on her and
her weird friend!

[Timmy enters from the Village Hall.]

 Is everything going to plan for tonight's entertainment?

TIMMY Sort of. Flo is getting on a bit of a flap because one of her backing
group hasn't turned up. She's trying to sort it out now.

PC BILLY I'm sure it'll be alright on the night!

TIMMY I hope so. You know how seriously Flo is about her performance *[Bo Peep
has entered and Timmy sees her behind PC Billy.]* - performance . performance *[He
looks at the audience for help and they shout out. Timmy spits out the
word.]* Performance! *[To the audience.]* Thank you.

PC BILLY *[Wiping the spit from his face.]* Well I'm really looking forward to it.

[Bo Peep waves at Timmy.]

TIMMY *[Tongue-tied again.]* Mm . me . . . *[Audience sequence.]* - tooooo!
[To them.] Thank you.

PC BILLY *[Noticing Bo Peep.]* Right, well I better be off.

TIMMY *[In a panic.]* Are you sure you can't stay.

PC BILLY Oh you don't want me here. There's a crowd you know.

[He nods to Bo Peep and exits.]

BO Hello again Timmy.

TIMMY I erō lq̄e got to . er ã *[Audience sequence.]* ..go! *[To audience.]*
Thank you.

BO Is everything alright, Timmy?

TIMMY *[With a glazed look in his eyes.]* Yes.

BO I'm looking forward to Flo's performance tonight, aren't you?

TIMMY Yes!

BO I think the whole village will be there.

TIMMY Yes.

BO *[Moving towards him.]* It would be nice if we could sit together.

TIMMY Yesõ ..

BO *[Laughing.]* Do you ever say anything but ~~yes?~~

TIMMY Yes . no . I meanõ ..

BO *[Laughing.]* Don't get so worried, I won't bite!

TIMMY I'm sorry. It's just - wellõ

BO Yes?

TIMMY Iõ I thinkõ I think youq̄eõ õ .

[Lionel enters from the behind the Hall and picks up the dialogue from Timmy.]

LIONEL Your sheep have got out again, Bo! And look - *[He points off stage.]* .
they are nibbling my Brussels sprouts!

BO Oh I'm so sorry Lionel. I'll see to them at once. Goodbye Timmy. Will I
see you tonight?

TIMMY Toõ toõ *[The audience shouts out.]* ...night? *[To audience.]* Thank
you!

BO *[Looking off.]* Oh stop it, you naughty sheep. Especially you, Blackie!!
[She exits quickly.]

LIONEL Still no luck talking to Bo then?

TIMMY Oh Lionel. I always make such a hash of things when I see her.

LIONEL To tell you the truth lad, I'm a bit like that with Flo. I've always had a soft spot for her, but never managed to say so.

TIMMY Well if it's any consolation, I think she feels the same way too!

LIONEL Really? What a pair we are!

[They go into a duet about how difficult it is to talk to girls.]

MUSIC - DUET (TIMMY & LIONEL) *[See notes at the end of the script.]*

[At the end of the song Flo enters.]

FLO Timmy, there you are. There's still a mountain of things to do. I need all my costumes sorting out for tonight's performance.

TIMMY I'm on to it. See you later, Lionel.

[He exits into the Hall.]

FLO I'll never be ready for tonight.

LIONEL Of course you will.

FLO One of my backing group is late arriving. I don't know what I am going to do.

LIONEL I'm sure people from the village will help out.

FLO I'm a professional. I can't take a chance on the Village People! And there will be reporters from very high class entertainment magazines coming. The Stage, the New Musical Express, Waitrose Weekly! *[Or local store magazine.]* Oh it's going to be a disaster darling! I can feel it in my water! *[She starts to panic taking big breaths.]*

LIONEL Now, now, you are getting yourself worked up about nothing. Just take deep breaths. Don't hyperventilate!

[At this point the Baroness enters from the Guest House.]

FLO *[Gasping for breath.]* I could do with an old bag to blow into! *[She turns and comes face to face with the Baroness.]*

BARONESS I beg your pardon?

FLO Oh I'm sorry. I didn't mean you! *[To the audience.]* Mind you, an old bag might not be far from the truth!

BARONESS What was that?

FLO I said a struth what a lot of people we have visiting today!

BARONESS I am the Baroness de Brexit. My card. *[She gives Flo her card.]*

FLO *[Reading it.]* Baroness de Brexit! (*Hard 'T'*)

BARONESS *[Correcting her.]* de Brexit! And I'm here on very important business, not some idling vacation.

FLO Pleased to meet you. I'm Florence Farquharson, entertainer extraordinaire and BYOB!

BARONESS And who is this fine figure of a man?

LIONEL *[Looking around and then realising it is him.]* Who . . . me? Oh I'm Lionel Lupin.

BARONESS *[Stepping between him and Flo.]* Lionel. Such a strong, manly name!

LIONEL *[Embarrassed.]* Oh, really. I don't know about that.

BARONESS Lionel has the word *lion* in it. A king amongst beasts!

LIONEL I'm not too good with animals. Big ones scare me . . . and wolves in particular!

BARONESS *[Slightly aside.]* Wolves eh? Interesting.

FLO *[Getting a word in.]* But he's very good with smaller, delicate creatures. *[She flutters her eyes at Lionel then looks at the Baroness.]* And can recognise a snake in the grass anytime!

BARONESS *[Turning to face Flo.]* Really? You say you are in entertainment?

FLO I am. I shall be performing at this exclusive venue tonight. I'm expecting a large attendance. All my new friends are coming . . . *[To the audience.]* – aren't you? *[Reaction.]*

BARONESS In that case I may come as well. I could do with a good laugh. *[Flo's mouth opens and closes but the Baroness continues.]* And Lionel, will you be there.

LIONEL Indeed. I am providing the fruit punch for the party afterwards.

BARONESS Delightful. Then I shall certainly attend.

FLO *[Gritting her teeth.]* If you must!

BARONESS *[To Lionel.]* Until this evening. *[As she exits into the Guest House.]* À tout à l'heure !

FLO A toot a what?

LIONEL It's French.

FLO I don't care if it's mumbo gibberish . . . she's not insulting my cabaret act and getting away with it.

[Red and Peter enter from the Guest House.]

LIONEL Now don't upset yourself . on today of all days.

RED Is everything alright?

FLO Your new guest has rather a sharp tongue!

PETER She has just passed us with a big grin on her face.

FLO Which I shall wipe off if she tries to ruin tonight.

LIONEL I'm sure that won't happen.

RED She is rather odd. And that chap with her.

PETER Obviously not one of the locals.

FLO We do get a strange lot of visitors from time to time. *[She looks out into the audience.]* Not you lot! You look a pretty normal . well most of you!

[Bo Peep enters with PC Billy who has bits of wool hanging from his uniform.]

BO The sheep are all under control, thanks to the help of PC Billy.

PC BILLY *[Picking off the bits of wool.]* All in the line of duty.

FLO *[To PC Billy.]* Look at you! Get me some knitting needles and I'll run you up a winter vest!

[There is a crash from inside the shop.]

 Timmy!

TIMMY *[Off.]* Nothing to worry about! *[He enters with some costumes over his arm.]* Nothing damaged. *[He holds up a large bra then sees Bo and, embarrassed, starts to mumble.]* Oh . I mean . *[To audience.]* Help! *[They shout.]* Thank you. *[He puts the bra and costumes back in the hall and crosses down to them.]*

FLO We still have a mountain of things to do.

PC BILLY Good job we're all up early then!

MUSIC - REPRISE (PART OF THE OPENING NUMBER)

[At the end the lights fade and the black tabs close.]

SCENE 3 THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE

[A front cloth depicting a lane on the edge of the village with a signpost showing 'Fermley on the Fiddle' one way and 'The Gnarled Forest' the other way. The Baroness is down left and has the magical ipad. She speaks into it and we hear the Wizard in V/O]

BARONESS Hello. Are you there? I'm Skyping you!

WIZARD So I see. What have you to report?

BARONESS All is well. I have looked around the village and selected the unwitting fool who will help me achieve success.

WIZARD Are you sure you have chosen the right one?

BARONESS *[With a sneer in her voice.]* Oh I'm sure!

WIZARD Nothing must go wrong.

BARONESS Don't worry. Tonight I will use the potion. Dull is preparing it as we speak.

WIZARD Make sure he has the correct amount. Too much and the results would be catastrophic!

BARONESS I have given him precise instructions.

WIZARD He's not the sharpest knife in the box.

BARONESS I will check everything myself.

WIZARD Good. Report back when the first stage of the plan is completed.

BARONESS Very well. *[She cancels the call. Dull enters with a small bottle containing a coloured liquid.]* Ah there you are. Is it ready? *[Dull nods.]* And you followed the instructions to the letter? *[He nods again.]* Good. Now to get ready for this celebration where Mr Lupin's fruit punch will have an added ingredient tonight! *[She roars with laughter then looks off stage.]* Look out. Someone is coming.

[The Three Pigs enter left and cross the stage.]

PINKY Good day.

PERKY Good day.

PORKY *[His mouth full again.]* Good day.

BARONESS Good day. Er . tell me. Do you live around here?

PINKY We do.

PERKY On the edge of the forest.

PORKY I have a house of straw.

PERKY I have a house of sticks.

PINKY And I have a house of brick. Good bye.

PERKY Good bye.

PORKY *[Another mouthful.]* Good bye.

[All three exit right.]

BARONESS A house of straw, a house of sticks and one of brick. Right in the way of the new railway line! Well not for much longer. *[She roars with laughter and begins a song about how good it is to be evil. Dull exits as soon as he can get away.]*

MUSIC - SONG (BARONESS)

[At the end of the song the lights blackout.]

SCENE 4 FERMLEY ON THE FIDDLE VILLAGE HALL

[Up stage is an area where the entertainment takes place. A table is set downstage left and on it are glasses. Other seats can be around the set. The scene opens with PC BILLY, who will be acting as the Master of Ceremonies, helping to set the scene.]

PC BILLY *[Looking at the audience.]* Oh hello again. I'm just helping to get everything ready for the show. I'm also keeping an eye on that old witch. She's up to no good, I'm sure of it. *[He moves a few chairs as Timmy enters with one of Flo's costumes on a clothes hanger. He is holding it in front of him.]* Hello Timmy. What have you got there?

TIMMY It's something for the show. Flo's asked me to take it to the changing room.

PC BILLY And very fetching you will look in it, too!

TIMMY *[With a giggle.]* Oh, it's not for me. I would look a right prat in this. *[He does a twirl just as Bo Peep enters. They come face to face and Timmy immediately gets flustered.]*

BO Hello boys. You seem very busy.

TIMMY Oh . I- erō *[Looks at the audience. They react.]* Thank you. *[To Bo.]* I'm just - helping Flo toō .. must dash!

[He rushes off.]

BO Oh dear. I seem to have a very strange effect on Timmy!

PC BILLY He's just very shy. I'm sure he'll grow out of it.

BO I was wondering if Flo needed any help.
[From off stage we hear a long wail from Flo.]

PC BILLY It sounds as though she might!

FLO *[Off.]* I don't believe it! *[She enters.]* I just don't believe it!!

BO Whatever is the matter?

FLO One of my backing group has let me down. She's been offered a job with - *[She names a well-known pop group.]* I mean, fancy going there when she could have a career with Florence Farquharson!

PC BILLY Fancy!

FLO I shall just have to cancel the show.

BO You can't do that.

PC BILLY Everyone is coming. And don't forget Red's surprise birthday party.

FLO Well what do you suggest I do?

PC BILLY *[Getting a brilliant idea.]* Maybe we can get one of our friends out there to help you.

FLO Oh, do you think they would?

BO I'm sure one of them would be only too willing to help out.
[There follows a sequence where a member of the audience is asked to help them. If, by any chance, no one is willing to take part – Lionel enters with his punch and he is persuaded. The dialogue starts with the following.]

LIONEL Here we are. The fruit punch as promised.

FLO Oh Lionel. How wonderful. Pop it on the table.
[If a member of the audience is willing he will be taken off stage before Lionel enters. If not they will now persuade Lionel and he will exit with Flo and Bo as the rest of the company enter. The Baroness and Dull are the last ones on.]

PC BILLY Ah Baroness. Are you enjoying your stay with us?

BARONESS Oh yes. And I think it is going to get a whole lot better!
[Red and Peter are together.]

PETER How are you tonight?

RED *[Trying to be upbeat.]* Oh alright I guess.

PETER Nothing troubling you, is there?

RED Oh no . it's justõ .well I thought today people would remember thatõ .
[Before she can continue Peter cuts in.]

PETER How are you getting on with your new guest? *[He indicates the Baroness.]*

RED Well, she does seem a bit odd. She doesn't have much luggage and that assistant of hers is very strange. He carries that case with him all the time. Never lets it go.

PETER Mm that is strange. Do you know why they are here?

RED Important business she said. But why would a Baroness have important business in our little village?

PETER Probably just an excuse to get away for some peace and quiet!

RED Yes, I'm sure you're right.

MUSIC - FANFARE

[PC Billy now steps forward to address the crowd.]

PC BILLY Good evening all and welcome. Tonight you are in for a treat as Florence Farquharson proudly presents tonight's entertainment.
[Flo enters wearing an outrageous outfit. All applaud.]

FLO Thank you . thank you. I would also like to welcome our musical accompaniment for this evening, the Fernley on the Fiddle Fabulous Fiddlers! Four on Violins, three on cello, two on remand and one on income support! And now please welcome my backing group. Flo's Fabulous Florettes!! *[At this point the backing group enter and a performance takes place.]*

MUSIC - SONG (FLO AND HER FLORETTES)

[At the end of the number the audience member is given a special bow.]

And to remember this special day there will be a photo of your appearance ready for you to collect in the foyer at the end of the show price £10. And if you don't buy it, it'll be on You Tube and Twitter in the morning!

[The person is shown back to their seat.]

And now before the second part of the evening's entertainmentõ ..

BARONESS There's more?

FLO *[With a glare at the Baroness.]* ð there is a very special announcement to make.

[PC Billy moves centre.]

PC BILLY Our dear friend Roberta . or as we know her, Red . is celebrating her birthday today. And she thought we had forgotten all about it! *[Red beams with joy.]* Well we hadn. We just wanted to make this evening very special for you.

FLO Yes dear. And here is a birthday present from us all.

[A box is brought out and presented to Red.]

RED Oh I don know what to say. Whatever is it?

TIMMY Open it and see!

[Red opens the box and takes out a bright red cape and hood.]

RED Oh it beautiful.

FLO It the only one of its kind. To keep you warm when you go to visit your grandmother on the other side of the forest.

RED I don know what to say. Thank you . everyone. I just love it.

FLO It an original! Our own Red Riding Hood!

BARONESS *[Aside to Dull.]* Well I wouldn be seen dead in it!

PETER And I have a special birthday present for you too. *[He takes out a small box and hands it to Red.]*

RED Oh Peter. And I thought you had forgotten.

PETER How could you ever think that?

RED *[Opening the box and taking out a necklace with an ‘R’ attached to it.]* It beautiful. I shall wear it always.

[Red and Peter embrace and he help her put the necklace on.]

BARONESS I think In about to be sick!

DULL *[Loudly.]* Er - not in the punch!

BO *[Overhearing Dull.]* Oh the punch, yes. Lionel has made his special fruit punch for the occasion.

LIONEL Yes. Everyone please help yourselves.

BARONESS Now is the time to stop to this idiotic evening and put my plan into action. Watch me as I use my special powers. *[With a wave of her hand she freezes the action.]* Now, open the box. *[Dull opens the box*

he has been carrying. She takes out a glass bottle with coloured liquid in.] *Id* add this potion to a glass of punch and let it do its work! *[She pours some liquid into a glass of punch, returns the bottle to Dull and then unfreezes the company.]*

PETER *[Holding his glass.]* A birthday toast.

LIONEL Oh I don't have a glass.

BARONESS Here, take this. My assistant is getting one for me. *[She hands the glass with the potion in to Lionel.]*

LIONEL Oh, how kind.

PETER Many happy returns, Red.

[All shout Happy Birthday.]

MUSIC - COMPANY NUMBER

[There is a song celebrating Red's birthday. During the number the Baroness tries to get Lionel to drink the punch containing the potion, but he is dancing as part of the number. Eventually she succeeds then she and Dull exit. Flo grabs Lionel and dances comically with him. During the number Lionel looks a little unsteady on his feet. Everything stops as he staggers.]

LIONEL Oh dear, I think I've overdone it.

FLO Nonsense. I'm ready to go another couple of rounds. *[She calls.]* More punch! Ha . a couple of rounds . more punch!! *[She laughs at her joke.]*

LIONEL I think I better go for a lie down.

PC BILLY Come on, I'd give you a hand.

FLO Do you want me to help? I can do a fireman's lift!

PC BILLY I think we can manage.

[He helps Lionel out.]

FLO Oh these lightweights! Come on then . on with the party.

MUSIC - COMPANY NUMBER (REPRISE)

[The number starts again with everyone dancing. Suddenly it stops and a loud wolf howl is heard off.]

PETER What was that noise?

FLO Oh. Pardon me. *[She belches. The wolf sound is heard again in the distance.]*

RED There it is again.

FLO I'd get an Alka-Seltzer!

[PC Billy comes running back on. He is very out of breath. Flo crosses to him.]

PC Billy, you look absolutely knickered!!

PC BILLY *[Panting.]* Don't you mean knackered?

FLO No, knickered. Your breath is coming in short pants!

PC BILLY You'd never believe what I've just seen.

BO What?

PC BILLY I was just walking back from seeing Lionel home and from behind his house, running down the street was a big wolf!

FLO A wolf? How dreadful! I think I'm going to faint! *[She faints into Peter's arms. Then looks up at him and smiles.]* Oh how big and strong you are. Must be from carrying all that wood! *[Peter quickly passes her over to Timmy who drops her.]* How gallant!! *[She staggers up.]*

RED Where on earth did a wolf come from?

PC BILLY I've no idea, but it was running in the direction of the where the three pigs live!

RED Oh no.

PETER Come on everyone. We must go and make sure they are not in danger.

FLO *[Still staggering.]* Absolutely. Peter, don't forget your chopper!

RESCUE MUSIC

[All rush out as the lights fade.]

SCENE 5 THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE

[The front cloth again. The Baroness is down left.]

BARONESS *[With a roar of laughter.]* Oh how easily I manage to get that foolish man to drink the potion. And in one of his own concoctions too!
[Audience should react.] Oh be quiet. Don't you know that as a member of parliament one is expected to play a few dirty tricks? It's the norm. Ask the party leaders!! *[She looks off right.]* Ah, here he comes now.

[A howl is heard off and now the Wolf (Lionel) enters right.]

Splendid, splendid. My ancestor's formula has worked perfectly.

WOLF *[In a distorted, gruff voice.]* What have you done to me? What was in that drink?

BARONESS Oh merely a heady little mixture of wolf's bane and toad's liver combined with a transmutation potion.

WOLF But why? What have I done to you to treat me this way?

BARONESS *[In a tone as though talking to a small child.]* Nothing, my dear little liony piony! It's just that I wanted someone weak and feeble to dupe into doing what I command. *[Suddenly witch-like again.]* And you fit the bill perfectly!

WOLF *[Shaking with fear.]* W-what is it you want doing?

BARONESS You will go to where those three little pigs live, scare them or gobble them up, or whatever you need to do to get rid of them and then destroy their houses!

WOLF But why?

BARONESS Because my colleagues have great plans to gain more power in the world . . . and that piece of land is the starting point!

WOLF If you want such an awful thing doing, why don't you do it?

BARONESS It must look like an unfortunate turn of events. I mustn't be seen to be involved!

WOLF I can't do it.

BARONESS Oh you can . . . and will. I have the antidote to your present condition and you will only get it once the job is done.

WOLF *[Turning away.]* Ohhhhō . . .

BARONESS Look at me. *[He turns and she starts to cast a spell on him.]* You will now take on the guise of the animal you are most scared of. A strong, fierce beast. A wolf with one purpose in mind. To do what I command.

[Lionel's character starts to change as the spell starts working.]

Now go. Complete your task and leave no trace of the three little pigs! *[With a loud howl, the Wolf runs off left. Baroness laughs.]* Oh this is all going to be so easy. The fools of this little village won't know what has hit them and I will get all the accolades for completing the project. The head wizard will give me more power and I shall take my rightful place in the hierarchy of our coven. *[She laughs again and the audience react.]* Oh do give it a rest. No one can win against me, the mighty Baroness de Brexit! *[She laughs and exits left. PC Billy runs on right.]*

PC BILLY I knew she was up to no good. She pulled a fast one while I wasn't looking. I must do what I can to save the situation, but can't let anyone know or else my cover will be blown!

[Red, Peter, Timmy and Bo come running on from right. Peter carries a wood chopper.]

PC BILLY I'm sure I saw the wolf running this way.

BO Oh I do hope nothing has happened to those dear little pigs. They're so happy in their houses.

PETER Yes, although I do think they should have all built them with bricks. Straw and twigs are no match for a hungry wolf!

RED We must try and frighten that awful creature away before it can do any harm.

TIMMY Maybe we should split up.

PC BILLY Good idea. Red and Peter go by the top path and Timmy and Bo take the lake path.

BO That's a good idea. *[She grabs Timmy's hand.]* Come on Timmy.

TIMMY *[Staring at his hand in hers.]* I . . . er . . . O . . . O - . . . *[Looks at the audience. They react.]* O.K. *[To audience.]* Thank you.

[They all start to move left as the Baroness enters.]

BARONESS *[Friendly and charming.]* Oh hello. Where are you all off to?

RED To track down the wolf that is loose in the village.

BARONESS Wolf?

PC BILLY Yes. Haven't you heard about it?

BARONESS No.

PETER We think it was heading that way. *[He points off left.]*

BARONESS Oh I don't think so. I have been out for my evening stroll and have not seen anyone down this way.

BO Really?

BARONESS But I did catch a glimpse of a strange looking creature going in that direction. *[She points to opposite way.]*

TIMMY It must be the wolf.

PETER And going the longer way round to the pigs houses. Come on, there's no time to lose.

[Red, Peter, Bo and Timmy exit. PC Billy looks at the Baroness and they square up eye to eye.]

RED *[Popping her head back around the pros.]* Come on PC Billy. *[PC Billy turns and exits with Red. The Baroness laughs.]*

BARONESS Gullible fools. So easy to dupe them. Now there's no stopping the wolf getting rid of those pigs and clearing a way for our project to continue. I must let the head wizard know. *[She gets out her magical ipad.]* Hello, Baroness de Brexit reporting in.

WIZARD *[V/O.]* How are things progressing?

BARONESS Perfectly. I have performed the transformation and the plan to get rid of the pigs is in operation as we speak.

WIZARD Splendid. When it is over leave at once. You don't want questions being asked.

BARONESS Very well. *[She clicks the ipad off.]* When all of this is over my name will be known to everyone and I shall be more powerful than ever! *[She laughs again and complains to the audience when they react. Finally she calls off stage.]* Dull, Dull, where are you? *[Dull enters, his mouth full of strawberries.]*

What have you been doing?

DULL Er . um . just eating wild strawberries. Very . um . yummy!

BARONESS Yummy! *[He gives her one.]* I'd give you yummy. *[She automatically starts to eat. Her attitude changes.]* Oh, not bad! *[She then resumes her stern character.]* Come on, we have work to do.

[She pushes him off stage and the lights fade out.]

SCENE 6 THE HOUSES OF THE THREE PIGS

[A wooded area. Up centre is the house of straw belonging to Porky. (See notes at the end of the script) He is with Pinky and Perky.]

PINKY Porky, do stop eating. You don't never fit into your house!

PORKY Isn't it a wonderful house? Built from the finest straw.

PERKY I'm not so sure. I don't think straw is very strong building material!

PORKY It's better than your house. All those ugly looking sticks bound together.

PERKY It isn't ugly! I made it from the finest wood from the forest.

PORKY Well straw looks better.

PERKY No it doesn't.

PINKY You are both wrong. My house is built from bricks and is much better and stronger than straw or sticks. *[All three start to argue when a howl is heard off stage.]* W-what's that?

PERKY It must be porky's stomach!

PORKY It wasn't!

[Another howl.]

PINKY There it is again!

[The Wolf enters left.]

WOLF The three little pigs! What a feast!

PINKY Quick. Into the house. *[The Three Pigs run up to the house of straw and go inside. Lionel moves to the house.]*

WOLF Oh little pigs won't you let me come in?

PIGS Not by the hairs on my chinny chin chin!

WOLF Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down!

[The Wolf starts to blow towards the straw house. Sound and lighting take over and the effect of the house being blown apart is seen. The Three Pigs run and are chased by the Wolf.]

MUSIC UNDERSCORE

[They exit and the house of sticks appears where the straw one was. The Pigs run back on.]

PERKY Quick, into my house. *[They all run into the house of sticks. The Wolf appears and sniffs the air.]*

WOLF Ah ha! Hiding from me again, are you?

PIGS Leave us alone.

WOLF Oh little pigs won't you let me come in?

PIGS Not by the hairs on my chinny chin chin!

WOLF Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down!

[He starts to blow again and the same effect happens.]

MUSIC UNDERSCORE

[The Wolf chases them off stage and the house of bricks appears. The Pigs enter.]

PINKY Into my house as quick as you can. *[They run into the brick house as the Wolf, now slightly out of breath, enters.]*

WOLF Where are you now little Pigs?

PINKY *[Inside.]* Somewhere you can't get us!

WOLF Really? I wouldn't be too sure about that! *[He crosses to the house and knocks on the door.]* Oh little pigs won't you let me come in?

PIGS Not by the hairs on my chinny chin chin!

WOLF Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down!

[He starts to blow but nothing happens. He blows again – still nothing. He gives one final blow and almost collapses.] So, the house of bricks is too strong for me to blow down. Let me see. *[He walks round and sees the chimney.]* Down the chimney I'll go. *[He starts to climb the side of the house when there are voices off stage.]*

RED *[Off.]* Over there. Look.

[Red, Peter and Timmy run on. Peter has his axe. Red is wearing her new coat and hood.]

PETER Oh no you don't Mr Wolf. Come on Timmy.

[The Wolf howls and jumps down. He is stopped making his escape by Peter and Timmy. The Wolf lunges at Timmy who falls. Peter runs at the Wolf with his axe but the Wolf darts around him and grabs Red who screams. He holds Red in front of him as Peter moves toward him again. The Wolf then pushes Red away and makes his escape with Peter chasing him. They exit as Bo, PC Billy and Flo enter. Flo's outfit resembles commando dress.]

PC BILLY Here we are.

FLO We came as quick as we could. I've gone commando!

PC BILLY Red, are you alright?

RED Yes. The Wolf was after the Pigs but Peter has chased him away.

BO *[Who has gone to Timmy and helped him up.]* Timmy, are you alright.

TIMMY Erō yesō I'mō I'mō . *[He looks at the audience. They react.]* ō fine!
[To audience.] Thank you. I do hope Peter will be OK

RED He was very brave trying to stop the Wolf.

FLO Oh he is a big strapping lad. All those muscles rippling away.

TIMMY Have you been reading those magazines from the top shelf again?

FLO *[Crossing to where Peter went off.]* I'm just saying a girl could do worse than to snap up a big, handsome lad like . *[Peter re-enters as Flo turns to come face to face with him.]* – Peter! *[Her face is right in his chest. She almost passes out as she moves away.]*

TIMMY Did you catch him?

PETER No. He ran further into the forest and I lost him.

BO *[Crossing to the house.]* Little Pigs. It's safe to come out now.
[The Pigs look out of the door.]

PINKY Are you sure?
[The Three Pigs come out of the house wearing blankets.]

FLO Oh look! Pigs in blankets!

PERKY The big bad wolf has gone?

FLO Yes my dears. Peter chased him away.

PORKY Oh good. Now we can have supper. All that running has made me quite hungry!

PINKY/PERKY Porky!!
[The rest of the villagers enter to see what is going on.]

FLO Well perhaps now we can finally finish celebrating Red's birthday.
[All cheer as the music starts for the next number.]

MUSIC - SONG (FULL COMPANY)

[Suddenly during the number everything freezes and the music stops as the Baroness and Dull enter down left.]

BARONESS

So, that snivelling wretch of a wolf failed to do what I wanted. Well all is not lost. I know of another way my plan can succeed. That Red Riding Hood's grandmother has a cottage that is right in the path of an alternative route for the new line. I'll arrange to get rid of her and then we can knock it down. *[Straight to the audience.]* Watch this space!!

[She pushes Dull off stage and exits. The company unfreeze and finish the number as Act One comes to an end.]

CURTAIN

ACT TWO

MUSIC . ENTRACTE

SCENE 1 THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE

[The same as Act 1 scene3. The scene opens with the Baroness in a spot down left on her ipad. She is talking to the Wizard.]

BARONESS But it was all going so well.

WIZARD *[V/O.]* You assured me nothing could go wrong.

BARONESS I know, but I wasn't counting on one of those dim-witted villagers having the courage to challenge the wolf.

WIZARD You must find another way of gaining access to the land. It is vital to our plan.

BARONESS I know and I already have an idea of what to do.

WIZARD Don't fail me this time.

BARONESS I won't. This plan is fool proof. *[The Wizard has gone and the Baroness starts pacing, very angry.]* How dare those people make me look a fool? I'll teach them . and that pumped-up Peter, the woodcutter with his super-fit physique, devilishly good looks and bulging muscles. *[She is a little overcome having described Peter.]* Oh pull yourself together. There is work to be done if I am to prove myself to the Wizard. *[She calls.]* Dull. Dull where are you?

[Dull slouches on from stage left.]

DULL You screeched?

BARONESS I have to put my new plan into action, so I want you to keep an eye on all the villagers, especially that pumped-up Peter with his super-fit physique, devilishly good looks and bulging muscles, oh .. *[She tails off again thinking of Peter.]* What are they all doing now?

DULL Back in the village. The party has been going on all night!

BARONESS Party?

DULL For that girl with red hair.

BARONESS Oh her. Well this party will be full of surprises she didn't expect! I suppose she's fluttering her eyes at that pumped-up Peter with his super-fit physique, devilishly good looks and bulging muscles oh .. *[During this Dull has been posing in the manner of how she describes Peter. She looks at him.]* Oh there's no justice in this world!

[The light blackout and they exit left as the scene changes to...]

SCENE 2 THE VILLAGE OF FERMLEY ON THE FIDDLE

[The same as Act 1 scene 2. The morning after Red's birthday. All are there including the Three Pigs. The only person missing is Lionel. Most are the worse for wear following the previous night's party.]

MUSIC . REPRISE (COMPANY)

[They all sing part of the song used at the party but slower. During the number Flo enters still full of life and drinking from a gin bottle. At the end of the number she leans on Peter.]

FLO Oh that was wonderful. I could have danced all night!

TIMMY You did!

FLO Sorry Peter, I'm sweating like a pig. *[She sees the Three Pigs.]* No offence.

PIGS None taken!

RED Thank you all for a wonderful party last night.

BO And a double reason to celebrate as the Three Pigs are safe from that awful wolf.

FLO Yes and all thanks to our gallant woodsman, Peter.

[All cheer.]

PETER It was nothing. Anyone would have done the same.

RED Don't be so modest. Your quick action saved their lives!

FLO Oh I do like a man with a quick action!

BO Timmy was very brave too. *[She slips her arm through his.]*

TIMMY Oh it was ò . Er ò nothing ò um ò *[Looks at the audience. They react.]* Thank you.

RED We should be thankful we have two such brave men in our village.

[All cheer.]

FLO Has anyone seen Lionel this morning?

[General 'no' from the company.]

BO No, not since he left the party last night.

TIMMY He wasn't looking very well at all.

PC BILLY I'd call in on him when doing my rounds.

BO I'd come with you. I need to check on my sheep. *[To Timmy.]* See you later, Timmy.

TIMMY I . er . umõ .

FLO *[To the audience.]* Help him out or wedd be here all night!

[The audience responds. Timmy thanks them and he, Bo and PC Billy exit.]

And for the rest of you there is a lot of clearing up to do from last night, so all hands on deck! *[A few moans but everyone starts to move to the Village Hall. Peter and Red are the last of the crowd.]* Not you two, my dears. You stay out here in the sunshine andõ

RED Yes?

FLO õ .. do I have to spell it out?? *[She exits into the Hall.]*

RED I have to visit Granny Hood today and take her a basket of food.

PETER Would you like me to come with you?

RED No, I'd be fine. I don't want to keep you from your work.

PETER I think we can both take a little time off andõ ..

RED *[With a smile.]* Yes?

PETER õ õ enjoy the sunshine!!

MUSIC . DUET (RED & PETER)

[After the number they exit into the Guest House. Lights dim and the Baroness enters down left followed by Dull.]

BARONESS There go that simpering couple. He helped to ruin my plan and will pay for it in the long run. I might bewitch him and make him my servant.

DULL But I thought Iõ ..

BARONESS *[Cutting him off.]* Oh you can continue on doing my fetching and carrying. *[Slightly seductively.]* I have other plans for him.

DULL Oooh erõ ..

BARONESS Now where is that Wolf? Did you find him?

DULL He's hiding in the forest.

BARONESS Good. I haven't finished with him yet. That cottage, belonging to the grandmother of that girl they call Red Riding Hood, has to go. But first I need to get rid of the grandmother. The Wolf can take care of that. He can gobble her up so there'd be no trace of her. *[Dull squirms with*

horror.] Oh don't stand there looking pathetic. Go and find the wolf and meet me in an hour at the edge of the village. [*Dull exits left, still shuddering.*] What a weak creature! When this is all over I'll get rid of him and get that Peter to work for me.

FLO [*Off stage.*] That's right, keep sweeping. I want everything back as it was. [*She enters backwards from the Hall.*] I'm just seeing to things out here. [*She closes the door and turns to face front taking a drink from a gin bottle as she does.*]

BARONESS Working hard I see.

FLO [*Startled and quickly hiding the bottle.*] Oh just a little tonic for medicinal purposes!

BARONESS Really? I thought you were meant to have that *with* tonic!

FLO I can't think what you are *incinerating*!

BARONESS Oh I think I understand. I have heard that drink can be a comfort for women of your age!

FLO [*Indignantly.*] What do you mean, ~~w~~omen of my age?

BARONESS Well let's face it dear, the only way you'll see 57 again is on a Heinz sauce bottle!

FLO I've never been so insulted.

BARONESS Oh you must have been!

FLO I'll have you know I have gentlemen admirers all over the country.

BARONESS How *do* they find you?

FLO Very easy!

BARONESS I'm not surprised!

FLO Are you trying to make a fool out of me?

BARONESS No, I think Mother Nature has already done a pretty good job!

FLO The sooner you leave our village the better.

BARONESS Don't worry. In the short time I have been here I have been subject to a parochial prehistoric hotel, a cabaret act that gives a whole new meaning to Britain's got talent and a scary wolf on the loose. I shall be glad to get back to civilization!

FLO Not as glad as we'd be to see you go!

[Timmy enters from the Hall and watches Flo and the Baroness as they start throwing insults at each other.]

BARONESS And I won't have to look at any more wrinkled hags!

FLO Ugly cat!

BARONESS Mutton dressed as lamb!

FLO Prune features!

BARONESS Trailer trash!

[Red and Peter enter from the Guest House as Flo launches into an alliterative verbal attack, backing the Baroness towards Peter.]

FLO Ohh, you're nothing but a pathetic, pitiful, puny, pumped-up, pompous, poisonous, patronizing, plebeian, prat!

[The Baroness is so taken aback she falls into Peter's arms.]

TIMMY And the winner by a spit is Florence!

[All cheer as the Baroness regains her posture.]

BARONESS You'd regret that, I promise you.

RED I think you had better leave. Your bill is ready. All you have to do is pack!

BARONESS You've not seen the back of me!

FLO Well if it's anything like the front I don't want to.

[Fuming, the Baroness exits into Guest House. Flo takes another quick drink from the bottle.]

PETER Can you believe that woman?

RED There's something not right. Ever since she arrived I've had a weird feeling about her.

TIMMY I know what you mean. What did she here come for?

RED Who knows?

FLO The sooner she's gone the better. By the way has anyone seen Lionel yet?

TIMMY No. PC Billy was going to check on him.

PETER Here's PC Billy now.

[PC Billy enters running.]

FLO Did you see Lionel?

PC BILLY *[Out of breath.]* No. There was no one at home.

FLO Where could he be?

PC BILLY Red I have some news for you. It's Granny Hood. She's not feeling too well.

RED Oh dear, I must go to her. I promised to take her a basket of food.

PETER I'll go with you.

RED No I'll be fine.

FLO But that awful Wolf might still be about. And you have to go through the Gnarled Forest.

RED I think Peter scared him off last night. Besides he won't be around during daylight.

PETER Well if you are sure.

RED I'll be there and back in no time. *[She exits into Guest House.]*

FLO Well I need to have a lie down. A run in with that old witch has quite done me in! *[She exits into the Hall.]*

PC BILLY Do you think Red will be alright going to Granny Hood's on her own?

PETER I'll keep an eye on her.

[Bo comes running on.]

BO Oh dear, oh dear.

PC BILLY What's the matter.

BO My sheep have gone again. I think it must have been the wolf howling last night that's scared them. What am I going to do?

PC BILLY I'm sorry Bo, but I have to continue my rounds?

PETER And I need to check on Red.

PC BILLY Looks like you're the man for the job, Timmy. *[He and Peter exit. Timmy crosses to Bo.]*

BO Will you help me Timmy?

TIMMY Oh, er well.. y..yõ y.. *[Looks at the audience and gets a response.]*
..yes! *[To the audience.]* Thanks. *[To Bo.]* Yes, of course.

BO Let's start at the edge of the village. That's where they normally run to.

[They cross down stage and the front cloth comes in.]

SCENE 3 THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE

[The front cloth as before. Bo and Timmy continue from the previous scene.]

BO They must be around here somewhere. Oh I do wish they would stop running off. My father used to say a rhyme that they got to know and came running up to him. But my voice doesn't seem loud enough.

TIMMY What was it? Perhaps my friends out there could say it with us and then they are bound to hear it.

BO Oh Timmy, what a good idea. *[She moves towards him, smiling up at him.]* You are so clever to think of something like that.

TIMMY Oh . er- yes wellõ *[Looks at the audience. They respond.]* Thanks. Will you help us look for Bo Peep's sheep? *[Audience respond.]*

BO Thank you so much.

TIMMY What is the rhyme?

BO Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep,
And doesn't know where to find them.
Leave them alone and they will come home,
Wagging their tails behind them!

TIMMY Well that seems simple enough. Can you all say that? Can you?
[Response.] OK let's have a go.

[They both get the audience to say the rhyme.]

Any sign of them?

BO *[Looking out.]* No. They must be far away.

TIMMY Then we will have to do it again and louder! Come on you lot. Help Bo find her sheep.

[The rhyme is said again. At the end there is a sound effect of sheep 'baa'ing.]

BO I can hear them! *[She looks off.]* Look here they come!

[Around the pros arch down right we see a number of sheep's backsides – their tails wagging. She crosses to them.] You naughty sheep, running off like that. *[More baaing.]*

TIMMY Thank you so much for your help.

BO *[To Timmy.]* And thank you so much for being more than a good friend. *[She gives him a kiss on the cheek. He passes out. Bo smiles and starts the song. During the song Timmy revives and joins her.]*

MUSIC - DUET (BO AND TIMMY)

[At the end of the number they exit right with the sheep. Music changes and the Baroness appears down left. She looks around.]

BARONESS There's no one around. Come here.

[Lionel as the Wolf enters.]

WOLF Please change me back. I hate being this awful wolf. You said you had an antidote.

BARONESS If you had done what I asked you in the first place this would have all been over by now and I would be back in a civilized place instead of this antediluvian backwater!

WOLF What else can I do?

BARONESS That Red Riding Hood is on her way to see her poor old granny. You must get there before her and dispose of the old woman. When Red arrives you can take care of her too. Then the cottage will be empty and I can arrange to have it demolished ready for the new line!

WOLF I can't do it, I can't. It's so wicked!

BARONESS Stop snivelling and look at me. *[She starts to cast a spell in him again.]* You will now have the mind of the animal you are most scared of. A strong, fiercesome beast with one purpose in mind. To do what I command. *[The Wolf lets out a howl.]* Now go. And do not fail me this time or you will never see human form again. *[With another howl the Wolf exits left. The Baroness gives another laugh.]* My plan is sure to work this time and then nothing can stop me. The head Wizard will be so pleased with me. Now where is that stupid good for nothing servant of mine. *[She calls.]* Dull. Dull come here at once. *[Dull enters with the case.]* Will you keep up with me?

DULL Sorry ò .lõ .

BARONESS Oh be quiet. I don't have time for all your excuses. I have to go and delay that Red Riding Hood from getting to her granny's house until the wolf has finished his task. I want you to meet me there with all my bags packed and ready to leave as soon as the job is completed.

DULL Bags ò .. rightõ .butõ .

BARONESS No more ðutsq Move *yours* and do as I ask!

[She exits left.]

DULL *[He puts the case down and sits on it. Then starts muttering to himself.]* Nag, nag, nag. All she does is nag! *[PC Billy enters right and hears Dull muttering to himself. He motions to the audience not to give him away and listens.]* Do this, do that! Calls herself a Baroness. She's just a witch with all her potions and spells. Turning that poor man into a wolf. *[PC Billy can't believe what he hears.]* Not right. What harm are those little pigs doing anyway?

PC BILLY *[Exclaiming to himself.]* Oh! *[Dull jumps up. PC Billy smiles at him as though he hasn't heard anything.]* Hello, how are you doing?

DULL *[Nervously.]* Oh . I õ ..

PC BILLY I know, just taking a quick break while your mistress is away. Don't blame you. I would do the same if she kept me running around like that.

DULL Well . I õ .

PC BILLY *[Looking off left.]* Oh I think I see her heading this way now! Don't let her catch you hanging around.

DULL *[In a fluster.]* No . I õ Thanks. *[He quickly exits leaving the case behind.]*

PC BILLY *[Crossing and opening the case.]* Now to find out what she has been up to! *[He takes out a bottle and reads the label.]* Potion to transform a person into a feared animal! Oh no! Lionel. He's the only person missing from the village today. She must have turned him into that Wolf! *[The audience may already be offering their version of the story, to which PC Billy can ad lib with them. He then takes out another bottle and reads.]* The antidote to the transformation. I'm keeping this as I think we are going to need it! *[He puts the bottle in his pocket and quickly closes the case. Dull re-enters and sees PC Billy with the*

case.] Oh there you are. I was just coming to find you. You left this behind. *[He hands Dull the case.]*

DULL *[Quickly taking the case.]* Ermō thanks. *[He exits.]*

PC BILLY Now I know what she's up to I will get the help of the others and stop her little game.

[The music comes in for the scene change as PC Billy runs off right. The lights quickly fade.]

MUSIC . SCENE CHANGE AND INCANTATION.

SCENE 4 THE GNARLED FOREST

[A dark and imposing scene with trees and areas for creatures to appear from. The scene opens with the Baroness down left in a single light.]

BARONESS

Red Riding Hood comes this way and I have to delay her so the Wolf can get to Granny's cottage first. A few creatures conjured up from this eerie place should do the trick. *[She chants.]*

Deep within this forest hides
Weird creatures large and small.
Underneath twisted oak and grassy knoll
Awake and hear my call.
Come forth and when you see a girl
With hair like flame of red,
Delay her journey, halt her step,
Confuse her muddled head.
Taunt and tease and bait and scare
And fill her with dismay.
Then all at once just disappear
And let her on her way.

MUSIC . CREATURES BALLET

[The lighting becomes dark and shadows make the trees look sinister. The Baroness exits as Red enters right carrying a basket of food for Granny. She stops thinking she has heard a sound then, as she continues, a creature appears out of the shadows. This scares her and she turns away only to come face to face with another one. The following sequence takes the form of a contemporary ballet/dance in which Red is taunted by the creatures who delay her progress. During the sequence the necklace Peter gave her is torn from her neck. In the end she falls to the floor. The wolf's howl is heard and the creatures disappear. She looks up as the lighting changes to how it was originally and she collects her basket and runs off. After a moment Peter comes on. He looks around then finds the necklace. In a panic he calls out.]

PETER

Red. Red!

[He starts off in the direction Red went as the lights fade and the scene changes.]

SCENE 5 THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE

[The front cloth again. PC Billy is walking back and forth with a worried look on his face. Bo, Timmy and Flo enter right.]

- TIMMY Here we are.
- FLO What is going on? I was just settling down to watch the Downton Abbey box set! Ooh that Hugh Bonneville could take me below stairs anytime!
- PC BILLY There's no time for that.
- FLO Don't you believe it!
- PC BILLY Listen. Something terrible has happened. We discovered what happened to Lionel. That Baroness is some kind of witch and she turned him into a Wolf with a magic potion.
- FLO Magic potion? I thought that only happened in pantomime! *[Flo and PC Billy look at each other and then at the audience.]*
- BO But that's awful.
- FLO I know dear, but it's in the script!
- TIMMY And it's against the law. *[To PC Billy.]* You will have to arrest her for possessing an illegal substance!!
- FLO Oh my poor Lionel. Whatever are we going to do? *[She staggers a little.]* Oh I think I'm going to have a turn.
- PC BILLY I managed to look in that strange case her servant carries with him. And look what I found. *[He takes out the antidote bottle.]*
- BO What sort of drink is that?
- FLO Does it go well with tonic?
- PC BILLY It's the antidote. We'll have to find Lionel and help him change back.
- FLO Yes we must. I can't walk down the aisle with a wolf on my arm!
- TIMMY Walk down the aisle? I didn't know you and Lionel were getting married.
- FLO Neither does Lionel. But he needs a good woman to take him in hand and bring out his inner character.
- PC BILLY I think that potion has already done that!
- BO How can someone as meek and mild as Lionel turn into a ferocious wolf? Scaring my sheep.

TIMMY
FLO And destroying the pigs houses.
We need to find him.

BO Where do you think he is?

PC BILLY Well I doubt if he would dare come into the village, so the only other
place is in the forest.

FLO And that's where .

ALL FOUR *[Looking at the audience.] - Granny Hood lives!!*

MUSIC . DRAMATIC CHORDS

PC BILLY We better get there as soon as we can.

FLO Where is Peter? We need him.

BO He was looking out for Red. And she's on her way to .

ALL FOUR *[Looking at the audience.] - Granny Hood's cottage!!*

MUSIC . DRAMATIC CHORDS

FLO Oh this is all too much. I need a drink. *[She reaches for the bottle in
PC Billy's hand.]*

ALL No!!!

PC BILLY Nothing must happen to this or we'll never get Lionel back. *[He puts
the bottle in his pocket.]*

FLO Of course. Silly me.

PC BILLY Come on. We need to get to Granny Hood's before anything else
catastrophic happens.

*[They all turn and start bumping into each other and eventually head
for stage left as the lights fade and the scene changes.]*

MUSIC . SCENE CHANGE

SCENE 6 GRANNY HOOD'S COTTAGE

[A simple inset with a bed centre, and a small table beside it. A cupboard is on stage right and a door to outside on stage left. On the table is a pair of rimless glasses and a night cap similar to a mob-cap. Also a tray with glasses and a jug of lemon juice. A pot of trick flowers is also on the table. (See notes.) Hanging on the back of the cupboard door is a dressing gown. Granny Hood is asleep in bed. The music is eerie and the door slowly opens. The Wolf appears and quietly comes in. He looks around and then hears Granny snoring. He crosses to the bed and in doing so knocks into the table. Granny wakes.]

GRANNY Is that you Roberta?

WOLF Yes. *[Then in a higher pitched voice.]* Yes granny.

GRANNY Oh I'm so pleased you've come. Hand me my glasses will you dear? They're on the table.

WOLF *[Not picking them up.]* I can't see any glasses here, granny.

GRANNY Of course they are there. I always put them there. *[By now the Wolf is almost leaning over her. She stares up at him.]*... You're not my Granddaughter. Who are you?

WOLF A big bad wolf come to gobble you up!

MUSIC . QUICK CHASE

[Granny shrieks and pushes him away. He falls backwards and she gets out of the other side of the bed and runs to the cupboard. The Wolf follows her but she has locked herself in.]

Come out, come out. I have to do this. I have been commanded! *[He is tugging at the door.]*

GRANNY *[In the cupboard.]* Go away! My granddaughter will be here soon and then you'll cop it!

WOLF *[To himself.]* Granddaughter. Yes. I have to deal with her too. *[He gets an idea and takes the dressing gown off the cupboard door and puts it on. Crossing to the bed he puts on the mop-cap and glasses and gets into bed pulling the sheet up so just his eyes and ears are showing. We hear Red arriving outside.]*

RED *[Off.]* Granny. It's Roberta.

WOLF *[In the high voice.]* Hello! *[He drops to an old lady voice.]* Hello, my dear. Come in.

[Red enters with the basket.]

RED Hello granny. I've brought you a lovely basket of food from dear Lionel's garden.

[Red moves to the end of the bed putting down the basket. She doesn't look straight at the Wolf to begin with.]

WOLF Ohh, lovely!

RED How are you feeling?

WOLF All the better for seeing you.

RED Your voice seems a little strange. Are you sure you are alright?

WOLF Yes, my dear. Come a little closer so I can see you.

RED *[Moving to the side of the bed and looking at the Wolf.]* Oh granny. I've never noticed before. What big eyes you have.

WOLF All the better to see you with, my dear.

RED And granny, what big ears you have.

WOLF All the better to hear you with.

RED *[Getting close to the wolf's head. The Wolf slowly drops the sheet revealing his mouth and teeth.]* And granny, what big teeth you have.

WOLF All the better to eat you with! *[He starts to get out of the bed.]*

MUSIC . QUICK CHASE

[Red screams and runs to stage right. The Wolf follows her and, menacingly, crosses towards her. She is against the cupboard door when Peter burst in through the door left.]

PETER *[His axe raised.]* Oh no you don't!

[The Wolf turns to see him. At that point Granny pushes the cupboard door open which makes Red bump into the Wolf. He falls and Peter moves toward him ready to finish him off. Now the left door opens and Flo enters followed by Timmy, Bo and PC Billy.]

FLO Peter. Don't!

PETER *[With his axe raised.]* It's that wolf who destroyed the pigs houses!

FLO No, no. It's Lionel!

PETER & RED Lionel?

PC BILLY He's been bewitched by that awful Baroness.

GRANNY He was going to eat me!

PC BILLY Here she comes.

FLO Act casual everyone.
[They all take up casual poses as the left door opens and the Baroness enters followed by Dull.]

BARONESS *[Surprised.]* Oh.

PC BILLY *[With a smile.]* Hello. We just came to visit Granny and Red. But they seem to have disappeared. You haven't seen them, have you?

BARONESS *[Flustered.]* Er, no. We were just taking a walk through the forest and
 er
[She looks at Dull.] um.. Dull here felt a little faint, so we thought we would see if anyone here could
 .. er

FLO Give him a drink of lovely lemon juice?

BARONESS *[Quickly.]* Yes. *[To Dull.]* You'd like that, wouldn't you Dull.

DULL Er
 um .

BARONESS Yes, of course you would.

TIMMY Come over here. I'll get you both a drink.

BARONESS How very kind.

[She and Dull move towards the foot of the bed.]

PC BILLY *[Taking the case from Dull.]* Here, let me help you with that.

DULL *[Not letting go straight away.]* I - er
[But PC Billy has got it from him. Over the next dialogue he manages to open the case and get out the potion without being noticed.]

FLO *[Distracting the Baroness.]* You're very brave walking through the forest with that terrifying wolf on the loose.

BARONESS Yes I heard about it.

[PC Billy and Timmy keep Dull occupied while putting the potion into a glass of lemon juice.]

FLO So many of the villagers were very scared when they heard it. Are you scared of any animals?

BARONESS Oh not really. *[Full of bravado.]* Nothing scares me!

FLO Really? Nothing at all? *[She lowers her voice talking to the Baroness.]*
 Go on . woman to woman. You can tell me.

BARONESS Well . *[She looks to see if the men are listening.]* . there is one creature I absolutely hate.

FLO Yes?

BARONESS A rat!

FLO *[Can't believe her ears!] A rat? [She gives the thumbs up to the boys behind the back of the Baroness.]*

BARONESS Shhh! *[Quietly.]* Awful, grubby little rodents.

FLO Oh I know what you mean. Running around getting into everything. I found one once in amongst my unmentionables!

BARONESS Where abouts?

FLO I can't mention it!!

[Having got the lemon juice prepared Timmy brings a glass to Flo, Baroness and Dull.]

TIMMY Here we are. *[The glass he offers to the Baroness is quite full.]*

BARONESS Oh there's a lot in this one. You have it Dull. You need it more than me! *[She swaps the glass much to the consternation of the others.]*

FLO *[Trying to keep her attention.]* So what does bring you to these parts?

BARONESS Very important and confidential business.

FLO Oh I love anything confidential. I'm always telling my friends everything

[Dull goes to drink the glass with the potion in. Timmy puts a hand on his arm to stop him.]

TIMMY I bet you're pleased to be working for such a high powered lady.

DULL *[With no expression.]* Ecstatic!!

FLO Here's to woman power! *[She clinks her glass against the Baronesses and knocks it so some spills over her outfit.]* Oh how clumsy of me. Here, let me help. *[She takes the glass off the Baroness and passes it back to Timmy. He gives it to PC Billy who puts more of the potion in. Flo takes out a large handkerchief, blows her nose in it and then wipes the front of the Baronesses gown, then puts the handkerchief away. Timmy hands back the glass, now with more potion in, to the Baroness.]* There we are. All cleaned up. *[Clinking glasses with the Baroness.]* Cheers!

ALL Cheers. *[All go to drink but Timmy prevents Dull from drinking again.]*

TIMMY Oh, I think I saw something nasty in your glass. *[He takes the glass from Dull.]*

PC BILLY Here, take mine. *[He gives his glass to Dull and picks up the bowl of flowers.]*

ALL Cheers. *[All now drink.]*

BARONESS Mmm, a most unusual taste of lemon.
FLO Yes, it gives you a new lease of life! *[Timmy pours the juice from the glass that Dull had into the bowl of flowers and they immediately wilt.]*
Or not!

BARONESS *[Starting to stagger.]* Oh lō .

FLO There, you see. It's working already!

[The Baroness continues to stagger about. She looks up and sees Timmy holding the empty potion bottle and screams.]

BARONESS Ahhh! What have you done? *[The left door opens and Lionel appears.]*
You!

FLO Lionel, you're back. *[She rushes to him and pulls his head into her ample bosom!]*

BARONESS *[Screaming.]* Dull, get me the antidote!

TIMMY *[Handing her the empty antidote bottle.]* Here you are.

BARONESS Empty!!

MUSIC UNDERSCORE

[The lights go wild and then black out. The Baroness disappears and when the lights come back a rat is seen running across the stage and out into the forest. (See notes) All cheer.]

TIMMY *[To Dull.]* You better run after your boss!

[Dull runs to the door as Peter appears carrying his axe. Dull screams at the sight of it and runs off.]

PETER Is it something I said?

[Red, Bo and Granny arrive back.]

RED What's happened? Has she gone?

FLO Quicker than a rat up a drainpipe you might say!

BO So is it all over?

FLO Yes, and we've got our Lionel back. *[She goes to grab him again and he ducks. In the case the ipad is giving off a ringing sound. PC Billy picks it up.]*

WIZARD *[V/O]* Hello. Baroness. Are you there?

PC BILLY Sorry, she's just dashing to catch a train. Oh, I think it's been cancelled!! *[All laugh as PC Billy puts down the ipad.]*

RED Thank goodness! Now we can all go home.

MUSIC . REPRISE OF A PREVIOUS NUMBER

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

SCENE 7 BACK HOME

[A curtain or front cloth. PC Billy is on the stage.]

PC BILLY Well finally we have got rid of that dreadful woman. I can report in that it has been a job well done. I quite liked being the village bobby, and the villagers made me very welcome.

[Timmy enters with a newspaper.]

TIMMY Hello constable. You'd never guess what I've just read in the paper.

PC BILLY What's that?

TIMMY *[He reads.]* The recently elected member of parliament Baroness de Brexit has mysteriously disappeared. In other news a strange rat like creature has been seen running around the Houses of Parliament and there's a picture.

[PC Billy freezes Timmy.]

PC BILLY *[To the audience.]* I guess you would all like to see the picture. So I'll keep Timmy on pause and perform a little magic. *[He makes a pass at the newspaper as though taking the picture and projecting it onto a screen. (See notes) The image is of large rat with the grotesque face of the Baroness.]* I'll leave you with Timmy. I think he has some more news for you! Bye.

[The audience react to him as he exits making a pass toward Timmy who unfreezes.]

TIMMY What do you think? *[He sees he is alone.]* Oh he's gone! Well I can please to say the other news is that the projected railway line through part of our village has been scrapped! *[Reaction from audience.]* Peter has proposed to Red and I, with your help, finally plucked up the courage to propose to Bo. And she said *yes!* *[Reaction from audience.]* Thank you boys and girls and mums and dads. You've been brilliant!

[Flo enters.]

FLO And it doesn't stop there!

TIMMY Don't tell me you've finally snagged Lionel?

FLO I most certainly have. I'll never be short of carrots and sprouts again!

TIMMY A triple celebration.

FLO *[Looking at the image on the screen.]* You can get that ugly mug down.

[The image disappears.]

TIMMY I was going to read some more of the story in the paper.

FLO They don't want to hear all that boring political rubbish. They want to hear this. *[She hands him a sheet of paper.]* It's a new song for my cabaret act!

[They ad lib into the song sheet.]

MUSIC - SONG SHEET (FLO AND TIMMY)

[At the end the as the children on stage have gone back to their seats.]

FLO That was wonderful. You can all be my backing group! Well I have to go. There's a triple wedding to organise! See you all soon.

[She exits and Timmy takes the audience through the song sheet one more time. At the end the lights fade and the scene changes.]

SCENE 8 THE VILLAGE OF FERMLEY ON THE FIDDLE

MUSIC - FINALE

[Flags and bunting decorate the village as everyone is celebrating their victory. The bows follow in this order.]

Chorus
Granny
The Three Pigs
Dull
Baroness
PC Billy
Bo & Timmy
Lionel
Flo
Red & Peter

[After the bows the final rhyming couplets.]

PC BILLY The village once again can be
A place of pure tranquillity.

PRODUCTION NOTES

ACT ONE Scene 1

Film sequence: In the original production a short film of an actor playing the Head Wizard was shown at the start of the scene. If it is not possible to achieve this, someone (maybe a chorus member) can play this part and for all the other sequences throughout the production, record the lines for a voice over.

In the original production, much was made of the reference to *HS 2 and a bit!* This was because the proposed HS2 rail link was due to run nearby. This can be changed to a new Motorway, By-pass, Airport runway . in fact anything that would be likely to disrupt the quiet life of a small village.

Trick vegetables (page 6):

The various vegetables mentioned are described in the stage directions and are not difficult to make. The leek can be a plastic bottle with a twist top, turn upside down and covered to represent a leek. For the rocket get a children's stick pump and cover the end to represent rocket leaves. The spring onions can be easily mounted on a piece of wood with a spring device that is released so they stand upright. If you have an imaginative props team I am sure they can easily create all the desired effects.

Timmy & Lionel song (page 12):

There is a specially written song called *Why Can't We Be Like Other Guys?* for this moment in the pantomime if you so wish to use it. A piano vocal copy can be obtained from NODA.

Pigs Houses (Act One Scene 6 page 24):

Both the house of Straw and the house of Sticks need to break apart when the Wolf blows them down. The simplest way to achieve this is to build three panels . front and two sides . for each house made of light material and have three members of the company in blacks hold them together. When the Wolf blows, the three panels can be blown around and carried off stage while the pigs make their escape. The third house of bricks can either be built in the same way or hinged together to free stand. If there is room it can even be on a truck and just slide on up stage. Use an effective lighting sequence for each house blowing down.

Rat (page 45):

In the original production a large rat specially made to fit over a remote controlled car was used and operated from the wings. It ran from one side of the stage to the other. If this is not practical, a toy one pulled by a thin line will be just as effective, Or, if you have children in the cast one could be dressed as a rat and run across. Keep the lighting low during this sequence.

Image from Newspaper (page 46):

If you have the facilities to project an image onto a flown screen this gives the best effect. Otherwise a board with an enlarged picture as described in the script can be pushed on from the wings.

WHY CAN'T WE BE LIKE OTHER GUYS?

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Duckham

LIONEL I see a girl
 And I get tingles down my spine,
 Things are looking fine
 Until I start to speak.

TIMMY I see a girl
 And then my senses all go numb,
 I stand there looking dumb
 And feeling weak!

BOTH Why can't we be like other guys
 Who come right out and say
 How are you today?
 It's a phrase that's easy.
 Why can't we be like other guys
 With confidence galore,
 Instead of being a boring med

LIONEL I meet a girl
 And then my head begins to burn,
 Stomach starts to churn
 With butterflies inside.

TIMMY I meet a girl
 My speech is jumbled up and slurred,
 Can't say a single word
 My tongue is tied!

BOTH Why can't we be like other guys
 Assertive, strong and calm,
 Arm in arm in arm
 To our very core.
 Why can't we be like other guys
 With flair and wild panache
 Instead of being a crashing bore!

LIONEL I want much more.

TIMMY I want a cure!

BOTH We both implore . please end our sobs and sighs.
 Oh Why can't we be like other guys?

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Please note this song may only be performed by permission from NODA and only as part of this version of Red Riding Hood.

