

NODA Pantomimes Presents

RED RIDING HOOD

BY

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RED RIDING HOOD

CAST

RED RIDING HOOD
GRANNY HOOD, HER GRAN
MARY HOOD, HER SISTER, A SHEPHERDESS
TOM FOOLERY, THEIR POTTY PLOUGHMAN
OLD TRAFFORD, AN ANCIENT SHEPHERD
JASON GREENWOOD, THE FORESTER FROM LONDON
NICKY NUTZ } TWO OUT OF WORK FARMHANDS
BOBBY BOLTZ }
FIONA THE FOREST FAIRY
THE WICKED WOLF
COUNT DRACULA
LARRY, MARY'S LITTLE LAMB
NOBBY, RED'S FAVOURITE SHEEP
HETTY THE HEN
THE THREE VOLUPTUOUS VAMPIRES
MR HOOD, RED'S DAD
MRS HOOD, RED'S MUM

ADULT CHORUS OF - VILLAGERS, FOREST FAIRIES AND
TROLLS,
IMPRISONED VILLAGERS

THE SMALLER PARTS. - IN THE ABOVE CAST LIST, THE
SMALLER PARTS CAN EASILY BE PLAYED BY MEMBERS OF
THE CHORUS

JUVENILE CHORUS OF - VILLAGERS, THEN SOME ARE
FARM ANIMALS, THEN FOREST FURIES AND TROLLS,
THEN VAMPIRES AND BATS.
TWO OF THEM WILL PROBABLY BE THE LAMB AND THE
SHEEP.

COSTUMES

IF REQUIRED, THERE ARE NO COSTUME CHANGES FOR THE **PRINCIPALS** (EXCEPT, OF COURSE, FOR THE DAME).

IF REQUIRED, THERE ARE NO REAL COSTUME CHANGES FOR MOST OF THE ADULT CHORUS WHO WEAR VILLAGE COSTUMES, THEN CAN PUT "PONCHOS" OVER THEIR VILLAGER COSTUMES AS FOREST WEIRDOS AND TROLLS AT THE "WOLF'S LAIR" SCENE.

AS DRACULA'S SLAVE PRISONERS, ALL THAT IS NEEDED IS BLACK DOMINO MASKS WHICH THEY REMOVE AT THE MOMENT WHEN DRACULA "DISINTEGRATES" AND HIS EVIL POWER HAS GONE.

RED RIDING HOOD

SCENES

- 1 THE VILLAGE OF DOUBLE GLAZING ON THE SPREE
- 2 A LANE NEAR THE VILLAGE
- 3 THE HOOD FAMILY'S FARM
- 4 IN EMMERDALE FOREST
- 5 [a] THE WOLF'S LAIR
[b] THE MYSTERIOUS ROCK

INTERVAL

- 6 THE VILLAGE FETE
- 7 THE PATH THROUGH THE FOREST
- 8 IN GRANNY'S COTTAGE
- 9 DEEPER INTO THE FOREST
- 10 AT CASTLE DRACULA
- 11 SAFELY BACK HOME
- 12 THE WEDDING OF JASON AND RED RIDING HOOD

ECONOMIES

SCENES 1, 3, 6 and 12 can all be the same as long as they are "dressed" for such occasions as the village fete.

SCENES 2, 4, 7, 9 and 11 can all be the same if they are played against TABS, or these five scenes can easily be played in front of the same FOREST FRONTCLOTH.

The story is entirely set in or near the forest, so a PERMANENT SET of trees for the wings and trees for the backcloth with cut-outs, etc. may be a useful suggestion.

Please see detailed scenery notes at the end of the script.

SUGGESTED MUSICAL NUMBERS

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | OH THAT MOUNTAIN GREENERY | OLD TRAFFORD,
MARY HOOD AND
VILLAGERS |
| 2 | HOW YOU GONNA KEEP 'EM DOWN
ON THE FARM? | NUTZ, BOLTZ AND
VILLAGERS |
| 3 | NEIGHBOURS | GRANNY AND
VILLAGERS |
| 4 | IT'S NOT WHERE YOU START IT'S
WHERE YOU FINISH or WE ARE THE
CHAMPIONS or WE'VE GOT TO GO
THROUGH IT TOGETHER | JASON, RED, TOM
AND VILLAGERS |
| 5 | STANDING ON THE CORNER,
WATCHING ALL THE GIRLS GO
BY (from "The Most Happy Fella") | NUTZ AND BOLTZ
AND TWO VILLAGE
GIRLS AND
GRANNY. |
| 6 | HOE DOWN "THE COWBOY AND
THE FARMER MUST BE
FRIENDS" (from "Oklahoma") or any
country n' western hoe down song | VILLAGERS, RED,
JASON, MARY AND
OLD TRAFFORD |
| 7 | KNOWING ME KNOWING YOU or
GETTING TO KNOW YOU or TALK
TO THE ANIMALS | RED, JASON AND
FARM ANIMALS |
| 8 | SHORT REPRISE, 16 BARS, OF SONG 4 | JASON AND
VILLAGERS, ETC. |
| 9 | Roundelay, parody of "HERE WE GO
ROUND THE MULBERRY BUSH" being
"THIS IS THE WAY TO FIGHT THE
WOLF" | GRANNY, RED,
JASON, TOM AND
OLD TRAFFORD |
| 10 | HERE WE GO LUPE DE LUPE (Frankie
Vaughan's Song) or FIRE DANCE or
Greig's "HALL OF THE MOUNTAIN
KING | FOREST FURIES
AND TROLLS,
MAYBE WITH THE
WOLF |
| 11 | Short Reprise "WE ARE THE
CHAMPIONS" or "BEYOND THE BLUE
HORIZON" | FAIRY, RED,
JASON, FOREST
TROLLS AND
FURIES |

- INTERVAL -

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 12 | OOMPAH-PAH (from "Oliver") or parody on "THE ARCHERS" theme music | OLD TRAFFORD AND VILLAGERS |
| 13 | TO HELL WITH BURGUNDY (parody, song from "The Vagabond King") | JASON AND THE VILLAGERS |
| 14 | EDELWEISS | RED AND AUDIENCE |
| 15 | MEN OF GARLIC (parody of "MEN OF HARLECH", traditional) | JASON, RED, GRANNY AND A FEW VILLAGERS |
| 16 | THRILLER (Michael Jackson) or BAD (Michael Jackson) or WE WILL ROCK YOU (Queen) or PLEASE RELEASE ME, LET ME GO or JAILHOUSE ROCK | VAMPIRES AND SKELETONS |
| 17 | THE SUN HAS GOT HIS HAT ON or IT'S A HAP HAP HAPPY DAY | ALL EXCEPT THE WOLF AND DRACULA |
| 18 | WHO'S AFRAID OF THE BIG BAD WOLF(The Songsheet) | GRANNY, TOM AND THE AUDIENCE |
| 19 | Finale any of the up tempo songs maybe "HOW YOU KEEP 'EM DOWN ON THE FARM with its good tempo. | ALL |

DESCRIPTION OF CHARACTERS

All the cast are country people living in a village. If you wish to stress this angle, you may like them to have your local accent, "English "Mummerset" or Scots, Welsh, Irish, North Country, Liverpool, etc. etc. - see what you think. If - say, it's a Scots accent, then you may like Jason Greenwood to have come from Edinburgh, not London.

RED RIDING HOOD Her appearance and costume are traditional. Friendly, intelligent, plenty of guts and fun and she's caring, and an organiser.

GRANNY HOOD Her Granny and the sprightly, energetic panto dame and very strong willed - she even fancies Dracula!

MARY HOOD Her clumsy, jolly, gauche sister. Any age, so either younger or older sister and as awkward as you like and she can't pronounce her "R's". She's a gawky shepherdess, very much a "character" part, wearing a smock and she stumps about in green wellies.

TOM FOOLERY Nearly the Idle Jack/Simple Simon part as the "cheeky young man" or played older, almost in the Baron or comedy king style of character.

OLD TRAFFORD He's a very frisky, energetic and comical old boy and if played as a seventy-year old, could be played by a female, her voice easily adapted to the nimble, elderly eccentric style. **OR** he is a forty-year old eccentric, in the style of Amos in "Emmerdale Farm". It's a fun part as he should be played in the over-the-top "panto village character" style, waving a shepherd's crook, almost "Wurzelgummidge".

JASON GREENWOOD is not a countryman/villager. His costume is elegant and severe, he's clearly very efficient and enthusiastic, a born leader, his brisk no-nonsense character is important to the plot, he's a London civil servant, but a pantomime period version of this, of course.

NICKY NUTZ He tries to be intelligent but he's a rustic, out-of-work farmhand.

BOBBY BOLTZ He doesn't even try to be intelligent. He's a gormless, loveable, potty, out-of-work farmhand.

FIONA THE FOREST FAIRY A rustic or local accent if you wish. Enthusiastic and energetic, anxious to help the villagers, about forty so not a "pretty dancer fairy" and quite indignant if the audience don't cheer her onwards! In other words, a comedy fairy, even though she's important to the plot.

THE WICKED WOLF Wicked, of course, but extremely conceited, and an animal version of a period dandy. If played young, he's an arrogant Regency Rake. If played older, he's an animal version of the Prince Regent. He has one interest and that is food - meat, and sometimes human, never vegetable. He wears dandified brown or black/grey coloured clothes, but of course has claws and big wolf's ears and brown wicked face and no animal mask but some balaclava style of headgear. His coat is probably Early Victorian/Regency style, as this helps his conceited dandy style. **NO MASK**, as his face must be clearly seen.

COUNT DRACULA. He's been portrayed in children's comics for years now, where he is very Over-the-top. A panto's style is much like that of a children's comic or children's TV.

He has the "famous" widow's-peak style of hair, and the Victorian Dracula clothes and swirling cloak. He can either be in the older "Bella Lugosi" 1930 movie style, or the younger Christopher Lee style. As you know from films, sometimes he's about thirty-five and attractive, almost charming in a smooth way. He's in a panto so enjoys himself and his panto villainy - he is "comically sinister".

LARRY THE LAMB, NOBBY THE SHEEP and HETTY THE HEN are straight-forward, their names giving their character, and probably played by females, or juveniles.

Same with the three voluptuous **VAMPIRES** who can be any age as long as they're blowsy and comically voluptuous, clawing the air with their long black finger nails.

NOTE: As mentioned, Old Trafford could be played by a female. And Nutz and Boltz could be female farm hands - as long as they are extravert and daft! Or one of them only is female - see what you think.

ACT ONE

SCENE 1

THE VILLAGE OF DOUBLE GLAZING ON THE SPREE

A straightforward Pantomime Village.

PROLOGUE

After the Overture, comedy/sinister music and **CURTAIN UP**.

The Big Bad Wolf is on stage in a green spotlight, swaggering around with great confidence at stage left, an animal version of a Regency Rake and greatly conceited.

WOLF *[Throwing back his head, comedy howl]*
OOOOOOOAAAW! *[To audience, conceitedly]* I
always let out a magnificent wolf howl, and that
was a really good one, wasn't it?

AUDIENCE NO!

WOLF Oh shut yer traps. But I'd better introduce
myself. I'm the Big Bad Wolf - and another thing.
I'm **not** a wally, so don't let me hear any of you
calling me **Wally** the Wolf or there'll be Big
Trouble - oh yes there will!

AUDIENCE Oh no there won't.

WOLF *[Again to audience]* My word! We've started this
already! Let's try again. Oh yes there will!

AUDIENCE Oh no there won't!

WOLF Oh yes there will!

AUDIENCE Oh no there won't!

WOLF

Oh no there will **won't**. [*The audience is confused*]
Hah! Gotcha! And now I'll tell you what the Big
Trouble is going to be. I kidnap everybody that
gets in my way, and then I eat them. [*recites*]

WOLF

Oh yummy yummy yummy
Human beings in my tummy!

I've just moved here from [*local place*] because the
boys and girls are such a scraggy lot over there in
[*local place*]. Hardly any flesh on them at all!
Whereas **here** - here in [*local place that the*
pantomime is at] I can see that both the Mums
and the Dads are nice for eating [*gazing at the*
audience]. Oh you'll look **LOVELY** with custard!
[*more swaggering about as he loudly chats*]. And for
starters, I do like soppo little girl and soppo little
boy soup [*great conceit now*] and nobody in the
world can stop me kidnapping kids for soup!
NOBODY can stop me! Ha ha ha -

*FLASH! at the footlights area, a few bars of fairy
music as the Forest Fairy enters in her green foresty
costume, waving her foresty wand and smiling, radiant.*

FAIRY

[*to audience*] Hello Villagers! [*recites*]
Well here I am, flying like a bird
And luckily his plans I overheard!
[*to him*]
Nobody can stop you? But they **can**!
I'll look after every girl and man!

WOLF

Rubbish! [*She ignores this and continues:*]

FAIRY

In this wicked world you must be **wary**
And I'm Fiona the Forest Fairy!

She waves her wand, then stops.

FAIRY

[*To audience*] Oh dear, oh dear! This is a
pantomime! I'm the Goody, he's the Baddy, so
you **must** help me more than that. When I say
the words "Forest Fairy" you have to cheer! Once
again! [*Same wand gesture and same inflections as*
before] And I'm **Fiona, THE FOREST FAIRY!**

AUDIENCE Hooray!

FAIRY Brilliant!

The Wolf has been sneering.

WOLF Oh you may have some power in that there wood
[*points to offstage*]
But what I'm after is Red Riding Hood
Whenever I see her I think "YAHOO"
She'll make me a lovely Irish Stew!"

FAIRY [*To audience, horrified*] To think he sometimes
eats people alive!

WOLF Yes, I put 'em in the oven at Mark Five.

FAIRY Oh he's committed every sin! [*waving her wand*]
But always, **always**, GOOD WILL WIN!

*She has waved her wand, hoping to conduct the
audience, but they don't respond, so again she's
disappointed.*

Oh come on all you lovely people gathered here
I've raised my wand, so **you** must raise a cheer!

*She repeats her line, and her wand waving,
magnificently:*

But always, **ALWAYS**, Good will win!

AUDIENCE Hooray!

FAIRY Lovely! Thanks [*To audience*] You've obeyed the
Fairy Rules!

She exits right.

WOLF [*Sarcastic*] **Lovely? Thanks?** [*To audience*]
You're just a lot of fools! [*Laughing evilly as he
exits*] Ha ha ha ha!

He exits left.

As they are both exiting, music intro starts, and from each side the Villagers run on with the frisky and energetic Old Trafford the shepherd, and all are singing:

SONG 1: "OH THAT MOUNTAIN
GREENERY
WHERE GOD PAINTS THE
SCENERY"

They sing the song through and then the music reprises a second chorus but the Villagers don't sing now due to the following dialogue which is "over" the music:

1st VILLAGE GIRL [*Pointing to offstage*] Look! Red Riding Hood!

ALL Red Riding Hood! Red Riding Hood!

Red enters wearing her bright red cloak with its famous hood over her head for this first appearance.

RED [*Waves to the audience, laughing*] Yes, I'm Red Riding Hood but it's such a long name that everyone calls me Red for short! [*To Villagers*] Don't they?

VILLAGERS [*Including Old Trafford*] Yes Red!

RED [*Sees him*] Oh hullo Uncle! [*points to him and tells the audience*] He's my dear old Uncle and he's a brilliant shepherd, aren't you?

OLD TRAFFORD [*To audience, Mummerset or local accent, jauntily waving his crook up in the air*] Aye! I'm a shepherd, and my name's Old Trafford! [*The Villagers laugh and wave to him, he waves back with his crook, he still addresses the audience*] I lives in White Horse Lane! [*Villagers laugh some more*]

RED [*Laughing to audience*] And I'm called Red Riding Hood because my Granny gives me exactly the same present every Christmas! It's always yet **another** red riding hood!

All on stage laugh while she twirls round and shows it off to them -some of the Villagers whistle, and applaud her.

It's a nice one this year, isn't it?

VILLAGERS

Yes!
Smashing!
Suits you!

RED

[*Still to audience*] It keeps me dry when I'm with Uncle, guarding his sheep from the Wicked Wolf - [*to Villagers*] And he is wicked, isn't he?

VILLAGERS

[*Waving clenched right hand fists in the air*] Down with the Wolf! Down with the Wolf!

RED

And while we're guarding the sheep, we can see the gorgeous mountain greenery! [*she sings*]

Old Trafford waves his crook above his head, he and Red and the Villagers sing - some of the Villagers dance, it being still song number one.

SHORT PRODUCTION NUMBER

"OH THAT MOUNTAIN GREENERY WHERE GOD PAINTS THE SCENERY"

After song and routine have ended, Mary Hood gawokily stumps in wearing her green wellies, shouting "Larry! Larry! Behave yerself! Now you stop that!" and she's with her lamb who is frisky, jumping about and running down to stage front, waving his paw at the audience, jumping to and fro.

RED

[*Laughing to audience*] And here we have my crazy sister Mary!

MARY

HULLO RED! [*To the others*] Hullo Villagers! [*they wave to her then she addresses the audience*] Hullo muck spreaders! [*waves to audience, then sees her lamb*] Lawwy the lamb, stop it! You're vewy naughty! [*Points to the cavorting lamb, addresses Villagers*] Look at him me dears! [*to*

audience] He looks like Zebedee in Magic Roundabout! [*to Lamb*] Hey you! Jumpin' around like that'll give you indijaggers!

All gather round her.

LARRY LAMB [*shakes head vehemently*] Baaa!

MARY Yes it will! [*Feels in her smock pocket*] I better give you a Wennies!

LARRY [*Shakes head, registers "I don't like Rennies"*] Baa baa baa baaas.

MARY Well, you're going to have one.

LARRY [*Still shakes head*] Baaa!

MARY Come on, open yer cake hole! [*lamb opens mouth, she makes out she's put the Rennies in*] You chew that while I tells all those nice villagers out there [*nods to audience*] about you an' me. [*To audience*] Yes, I'm the Mawwy that's got a little lamb! There's a nice little poem about me an' it goes like this! [*recites*]

"Mawwy had a little lamb
Its legs were sort of bent
And everywhere that Mary goes
The lamb was sure to went!"

Well dang me, that's not right! Anybody know the right words? [*Still to audience*] If you know it, maybe you can help me! [*recites*] "Mawwy had a little lamb, its - its -

The audience and the Villagers callout:

**VILLAGERS
AND AUDIENCE** "FLEECE WAS WHITE AS SNOW
AND EVERYWHERE THAT MARY WENT
THE LAMB WAS SURE TO GO

MARY [*Thumbs up sign to audience*] Thank you, all you loverley yokels! And here's another poem!

[Recites, points to audience as this is a moral warning]

"NEVER STAY AWAY FROM YOUR FARM
IN CASE THE ANIMALS COME TO HARM"

Now that poem's by Kipling. He also makes
exceedingly good cakes!

All laugh.

A village girl runs in, very scared, holding an envelope.

1st VILLAGER

Red! Where are you Red?

RED

I'm here - but what's wrong?

1st VILLAGER

Dad has to stay at the farm, but he wants me to
give you this!

*Red takes envelope, opens it, quickly looks at the letter,
and is shattered.*

RED

Listen everybody! [*reads out*] "Dear Red, I've
asked my daughter to bring you this as soon as
possible. Last night the Wolf came to my farm
and he's killed some hens and some geese and
some lambs."

VILLAGERS

[*Reacting in dismay, turning to each other*] What'll
we do? We need help! Hens and geese! [*etc*]

LARRY

[*At the same time, violent big shivers of fright*] Baaa!
Baaaa!

MARY

[*Pats his head*] It's alright Lawwy, I'll look after
you.

RED

[*Reading out*] "So please come and help me, Bill
Summerhill." [*To all*] Of course we'll help him,
won't we?

All react, clenched fists in the air, Larry doing the same gesture with his paw, Old Trafford waves his crook like a cudgel.

VILLAGERS Course we will! That lovely farm! *[etc]*

RED *[Suddenly mysterious]* Hold it - you know something? *[To audience]* I was once told by my Gran that in times of trouble like this, there's a Forest Fairy watching over us. *[anguished]* If only there was!

MARY A Fowest Faiwy? There baint such things!

OLD TRAFFORD *[To Villagers]* Anyone ever seen a Fairy?

VILLAGERS *[Shake heads]* No - never -

OLD TRAFFORD *[To audience]* Any of you ever seen a forest fairy?

AUDIENCE Yes!

RED You **have**!

AUDIENCE Yes!

RED *[Encouraged by the audience reaction, she turns to the Villagers]* That's good news so we must get organised! Let's talk it over! Come with me!

VILLAGERS *[Chanting and punching the air with clenched fist]*
Down with the Wolf! Down with the Wolf!
Down with the Wolf!

Red is beckoning and the Villagers, Mary, Larry the Lamb, Old Trafford and Red exit.

As they are exiting downstage, loud, corny music plays ("How ya gonna keep 'em down on the farm") as Nicky Nutz and Bobby Boltz enter as either stupid English rustics or American style hobo/tramps/farmhands.

Nutz (the fairly intelligent one) strides downstage, gazing round. He carries a rolled up newspaper. Boltz, after a vacant stare round, stands at centre stage with a vacuous but friendly grin, like a stupid statue.

NUTZ

[Holding newspaper to audience] This is about the tenth village we've been to, trying to get work. [Holds up paper] And I've read through the jobs section of the [local newspaper's name] and there's nothing. Of course my partner's not much help, just look at him! He looks like a dopey scarecrow!

Boltz suddenly breaks out in a very loud unaccompanied rock song plus crazy disco dance of (say) any rock Presley song.

BOLTZ

[Very loud, with big jerky movements] "You ain't nuthin' but a hounddog!" [or whatever, ending with a loud "YEAH!"]

On "yeah" he holds up his five fingers to his nose, aimed at Nutz.

NUTZ

[Hits him with rolled newspaper] Don't you be so cheeky.

BOLTZ

[Defiant] Why not? You're just an out of work farm hand like me! But where you aren't like me is your face. You're oogly, oogly, oogly. Oooooo, you really are oooooo.

NUTZ

[Hits him again with newspaper] Watch your tongue.

BOLTZ

[Trying to, going cross eyed] I can't, me nose is in the way.

NUTZ

[To audience] See what I mean? He's a great big tremendous twerp - oh yes he is!

AUDIENCE

[Conducted by Boltz] Oh no he isn't!

NUTZ Oh yes he is!

AUDIENCE Oh no he isn't!

NUTZ Oh yes he is - oh but **look**, he's going to **speak!!!**

BOLTZ Yes I am. [*To audience*] My lords, ladies and iced lollipops, you don't know who we are, so let us introfloose ourselves. One, two, three, **AND**

Both stand side by side and recite together:

BOTH Everyone says
We're a couple of dolts
I'm Nicky Nutz
And I'm Bobby Boltz.
WOW!

On the word WOW, both do a crazy 1920 Charleston style kick. Boltz continues to dance about in some crazy way, arms waving everywhere.

NUTZ I'm getting worried about you! You're a fatuous feather brained fool! We've **got** to get a job so you must be more intelligent! Here's a quick intelligence test. Hold your hands out.

He mimes collecting some coins from his pocket and putting a coin into each of Boltz's hands.

NUTZ You've now got ten p in your left hand and ten p in your right hand, so how much money have you got?

BOLTZ [*Triumphantly*] Thirty p!

NUTZ [*Hits him again*] Can't you do **anything** right? How can it be thirty p?

BOLTZ I've got another ten p in my pocket.

NUTZ *[Threateningly]* Are you trying to play games with me?

BOLTZ Oh I hope so! Oh I love games! *[to audience]*
D'you know the one where there are three of us in a room, one goes outside, and the other two have to guess who it is? Oh it's brilliant -

NUTZ *[Hits him again, percussion noise each time he hits Boltz]* I'll try another intelligence test. And even you can get this one right. I'll say it slowly so that you'll understand. "How many legs has a three legged stool got?"

BOLTZ *[Hopefully]* Two?

NUTZ No, more than that.

BOLTZ Four?

NUTZ No. A number you haven't mentioned yet.

BOLTZ One?

NUTZ No, three, you neurotic nitwit. *[Fed up]* You'll drive me to drink!

BOLTZ I will if you'll get me a car.

NUTZ I mean **drink**, a **drink** at the bar of the village pub!

BOLTZ *[Suddenly holds up one leg as though it's been hit, pulling a face of agony]* Oooooo - aaaah!

NUTZ And stop pulling silly faces. What's that face for?

BOLTZ I walked into a bar and hurt myself.

NUTZ How can you walk into a bar and hurt yourself?

BOLTZ It was an iron bar.

NUTZ Isn't there anything you can say that might get us work? Were you by any luck born in a village like this one? Where were you born?

BOLTZ Birmingham. [*Use a stupid sounding local place*]

NUTZ What part?

BOLTZ All of me.

NUTZ But why were you born in Birmingham?

BOLTZ I wanted to be near my mother.

NUTZ [*Hits him, cries out desperately*] You nit picking nincompoop! I knew you'd cause me trouble right from the time when we were on that farm last year!

BOLTZ Oh yes! [*To audience*] Me and the other farmhands went on that package holiday to Paris. [*Waves his arms about*] Yippeee! Oooooo -la - la!

NUTZ [*Gloomily*] That's the one.

BOLTZ [*Shrugs shoulders, does ridiculous caricature of a Frenchman*] Ello! Ello! Oui oui - non non- ou est le plume de ma tante, bonjour madame! [*Emotionally, Maurice Chevalier style*] Parreee, crazeee Pareee! Where only the river is Seine!

NUTZ [*Fed up*] Oh for crying out loud! When you all came back home I remember saying something to the farmer -

BOLTZ What **did** you say to the farmer!

NUTZ I told him the truth. I said [*he sings*]
 SONG 2: "HOW YOU GONNA KEEP 'EM
 DOWN ON THE FARM AFTER THEY'VE
 SEEN PAREE"

Soon after he starts to sing, the Villagers enter from each side, also singing.

PRODUCTION NUMBER

*Maybe as follows: First chorus is sung. Second chorus is danced by some of the Villagers, the others watching and clapping in time. For the third chorus a couple of the Girls **dance the can-can** to this up tempo music, or [say] sixteen bars of the Offenbach can-can music. It ends with an applause getting TABLEAU and after the applause all exit downstage.*

*As they go, loud up tempo music and Tom Foolery enters upstage. He's another yokel so wares "pantomime rustic" clothes or **better**, baseball cap, jeans, trainers and T-shirt or tracksuit - whatever echoes the kids in the audience's choice of clothers.*

He comes down stage with arms spread out in a great big emotional greeting.

TOM

[Emotionally, noisily, with arm outstretched] My name is Tom, I'm Red Riding Hood's brother and I work on the farm with her, so HI KIDS!!!!!!

AUDIENCE

[Feebly] Hi Tom!

TOM

[Disgusted] Good grief, I'm ashamed, I really am. Let's pretend that didn't happen and we'll do it something lovely this time.

He rushes up to the very back of the stage and again strides down with an emotional embrace gesture, identical to his first effort.

TOM

My name is Tom, so Hi Kids!

AUDIENCE

Hi Tom!

TOM

That time was **wicked!** Now all you have to do is wave back like this [he does the victory punch wave, as in football etc], so her we go.

Yet again he rushes upstage, getting a bit exhausted now, strides down as before and does the "triumphantly clenched fist" footballer wave.

TOM

[*Panting heavily now*] Yes, well, my name is Tom, so Hi Kids! [*Pant, pant*]

AUDIENCE

[*Doing the wave with him*] Hi Tom!

TOM

Oh that was great! A real tonic!! [*To an imaginary person in audience*] I said **Tonic**, not **Sonic!** [*To rest of audience*] He thinks I'm Sonic the Hedgehog! [*laughs*] And what do hedgehogs like to eat? [*Triumphantly*] Prickled onions! No, I shouldn't have said that, 'cos you're a very smart audience - the smartest audience we've had tonight. Talking of being smart, hope you like my trainers! [*Holds up one foot to show off shoe*] Cost me over a hundred pounds - and the other one cost me almost as much! But look at the tongues - really big and floppy-woppy. Before these I wore wellies - I must tell you what happened to those wellies [*As though a recital*]: Once upon a time I had some wellies. But one welly was smelly so I gave it Aunt Nellie who's got a big belly and she put the welly in a jelly and sold it to the Delly that was owned by Mr Kelly and **that's** what happened to my smelly well - I thank you. [*Bows to the applause*] Oh you **are** a friendly lot! And that reminds me, just to be friendly I've bought a Nutmeg Tree for Red Riding Hood's Granny. You haven't met her yet but she's a great old girl and it's her birthday next week. [*Points to corner*] The Nutmeg Tree is over there - [*big reaction*] I put it down there and it's **gone!** Someone must have nicked it! It was beautiful, I'll tell you what it was like. It's only small but it's

bright yellow and in a bright red pot, so if you see it can you -

One of the Girl Villagers has entered, creeping slowly on tiptoe across upstage, holding up what is obviously the yellow tree in the red pot, and hoping he hasn't seen her. She puts her finger to her mouth hoping to hush the audience that way, but the audience will have been calling out by now.

AUDIENCE

Behind you! The tree! The girl over there! [etc]

TOM

[Trying to hear] What? The bee? What bee? The tree? Oh, the tree! [Sees the Girl] Hey, you! What you doing with my Truly Tremendous Tree?

GIRL

Sorry!

TOM

I should think so too! That's a Nut Meg!

GIRL

My name's not Meg.

TOM

Nut Meg tree you daft woman! It cost me a lot of money, that tree did!

GIRL

[Now by his side, handing it to him] I'm sorry Tom. I shouldn't have pinched it.

TOM

I don't mind you pinching me in fact I'd like it, but not my Truly Tremendous Tree! [relents] Give us a kiss and I'll forget all about it.

Closes his eyes, she kisses him.

TOM

[When she's kissed him] Oh Rupture! Give us another and I'll buy you a Knickerbocker Glory at Macdonalds.

GIRL

Lovely!

TOM We'll divide it in half - you can have my Bockers and I'll have your Knickers -

GIRL [*Furious*] Oh! How dare you! [*Slaps his face*]

She exits with her nose in the air, livid.

TOM OW! That hurt! Never mind, I'd better put the tree in a safe place. [*Looks at corner and goes to it*] I'll place the plant in a plover place. There. It'll be safe there. [*Realises*] No it won't, if I'm not careful another Villager will nick it! [*Moving to centre stage now*] Here! I've just had an infiltration! A really great idea that's never been done in a pantomime before! YOU can look after it for me. If you see anyone trying to take it will you call out "TREE"!?

AUDIENCE Yes!

TOM Oh that's great, because you'll warn me when -

A Villager creeps on, wanting to take it.

AUDIENCE TREE!

TOM When someone takes a fancy to it and goes up to it and -

AUDIENCE TREE!

He suddenly sees the Villager and rushes across threateningly so the Villager takes fright.

TOM You heard what my friends called out! They called out "TREE" because it's very valuable, it's my Truly Tremendous Tree! So get lost!

The Villager exits.

[*To audience*] Thanks! That was terrific! With you and me and the Villagers - helping each other