

RED RIDING HOOD

By

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CASTImmortals

Fairy Silverleaf

King Wolf

Mortals

Red Riding Hood (Talented Youngster)

Jill (Principal Girl)

Grannie Hood (Their Grandmother)

Simple Simon (Not so simple)

Prince Valiant (Colin) (Principal Boy)

Humphrey Fforbes Ffortescue De Broke

Hubert Montmerency Cecil Maximillian De Broke

Baron De Broke (Their father and not very proud of it)

Zara (Queen of the Gypsies)

Ensemble of Singing Men
Singing Girls

Dancing Girls

Children

SCENES

<u>Prologue</u>		Tabs or Front Cloth
Scene 1	The Village of Merrivale	Full set
Scene 2	Meadow Sweet Lane	Tabs or Front Cloth
Scene 3	Grannie Hoodø's Shop	Full set
Scene 4	The Baronø's Picture Gallery	Tabs or Front Cloth
Scene 5	The Autumn Ball	Full set
Scene 6	Outside the Hall	Tabs or Front Cloth
Scene 7	Fairyland	Full set

INTERVAL

Scene 8	The Gypsy Encampment	Full set
Scene 9	A Glade in the Wood	Tabs or Front Cloth
Scene 10	Grannie Hoodø's Shop	Full set
Scene 11	The Darkest Depths of the Wood	Tabs or Front Cloth
Scene 12	Grannie Hoodø's Cottage	Full set
Scene 13	Outside the Cottage	Tabs or Front Cloth
Scene 14	Prince Valiantø's Palace	Full set

		Music Cues (Number)
<u>Overture</u>		(1)
<u>Prologue</u>		Tabs or Front cloth
	<i>(After overture enter Fairy right to fairy music)</i>	(2)
Fairy	<p>A greeting to you, everyone Pantomime is with us as of yore With all the treasures that it has in store And with this magic wand I'll lift the veil That screens an old familiar fairy tale. For you shall meet our heroine today And share in her adventures on life's way Until, her journey done, her perils past She wins her way to happiness at last 'Tis just an old world story I'll recall But old, old stories are the best of all. We'll venture to the cottage in the wood And then, as evil vainly strikes with good Unfold the legend of Red Riding Hood.</p> <p><i>(Discord) (Flash – enter Wolf left)</i></p>	(3)
Wolf	<p>Ha! Ha! I am King Wolf, half man, half beast King Wolf ó whom mortals dread Mankind hath set a price upon my head Human victims I am seeking On puny mortals, vengeance reeking.</p>	
Fairy	<p>Beware, King Wolf, beware. At all your threats I smile You cruel monster how can you be so vile.</p>	
Wolf	<p>I'll watch and wait, I'll plot and plan Red Riding Hood I'll lure. In spite of all your fairy powers, my victim I'll secure.</p>	
Fairy	<p>'Tis useless evil wolf to thwart my will.</p>	
Wolf	<p>The maid Red Riding Hood, I've sworn to kill.</p>	
Fairy	<p>You're doomed to fail ó begone King Wolf.</p> <p><i>(Fairy waves wand – Flash at centre. Wolf cowers, howls and exits)</i></p>	

Fairy We'll venture to the village near the wood
 And then, as evil vainly strikes with good
 Unfold the legend of Red Riding Hood.

(Exit Fairy)

FADE TO BLACKOUT
LIGHTS UP AND OPEN ON VILLAGE AS MUSIC NO. 4 STARTS

Scene 1

Full set

Village of Merrivale

(A shop door leads into cottage shop. Opening chorus, full ensemble and children. (4)
– Bright number. At end of number school bell rings off stage)

1st Girl There's the bell for school *(all children groan)*

2nd Girl It's no good moaning like that. You mustn't be late.

3rd Girl Don't go without your satchels.

1st Child Where are they?

1st Girl All in a heap as usual.

2nd Child Let's sort them out.

(Satchels are brought from tree-stump up stage and handed out to reprise (5)
of music. Music stops at end of business)

2nd Girl Has everybody washed their hands and faces, cleaned their teeth and brushed their hair?

Children Yes.

3rd Girl Then you're ready for school?

Child But we can't go to school without Red Riding Hood.

2nd Child Let's give her a shout. One, two, three.

All children *(Shout)* Red Riding Hood.

(Play-on Red Riding Hood (RH). She enters) (6)

RH Good morning everyone.

All Good morning Red Riding Hood.

RH What a lovely morning. Why do we have to go to school on a sunny day like this?

1st Girl To learn to read.

2nd Girl To learn to write.

3rd Girl To learn to spell.

RH But we know how to spell ó don't we children?

Children Yes.

1st Girl Come on, stand in line. *(They get into line but then two pairs change places)*

1st Girl It doesn't matter where you stand in line.

RH But that's where you're wrong. Look.

(They all turn satchels round – there is a letter on each one which spells - (7) DOWN WITH SKOOL – line splits into three groups to leave space between words. Play off children and RH)

2nd Girl If it's time for school to start it's time for Grannie Hood to open the shop.

3rd Girl She never opens the shop on time.

4th Girl What about Simple Simon?

3rd Girl He never opens the shop at all.

1st Girl As usual it will be left to Jill.

Jill *(Shop door opens. Jill appears)* Did someone call my name?

All Hello, Jill. *(Play on Jill)* (8)

2nd Girl Grannie Hood seems to depend on you to open the shop.

Jill It's my job. I'm glad to help her. She's been good to Red Riding Hood and me. After all we live at the shop and we're glad to run it for her.

3rd Girl Do you know what day it is? It's the first day of spring.

1st Girl Now that winter is over, do you think we've seen the last of the wolf?

Jill Surely that monster will terrorise us no more. Let's not even think of him on a lovely day like today.

(Number, Jill and ensemble. 'Spring, Spring, Spring' type) (9)

Jill Listen everybody. Has anyone seen Simple Simon? *(Crash heard off stage)*

All That sounds like Simple Simon. *(Sing song)* Simon ó where are you?

Simon *(Off stage)* I'm here. *(Play on Simple Simon, who enters carrying a road lamp)* (10) Look what some fool left in the road. I didn't fall over it though. I fell in the hole instead.

1st Girl What's that hole doing there?

- Simon That hole has come from a place where they've more holes in the road than anywhere else. It's come all the way from (*local town*)
- 2nd Girl It's only a small hole.
- Simon They're all smaller this year. They're cutting down on everything at (*Met District*)
- Jill Simon, I sent you out selling pies. Did you sell them?
- Simon I'm glad you asked me that question. You see, I met a Pie-man. A real Pie-man. With some pies ó with some right lovely pies ó with some right, right, lovely pies ó (*Build ad lib*) and he was selling these pies for a penny each.
- Jill Did you sell yours?
- Simon I'm coming to that. I couldn't buy one of his penny pies.
- Jill Why not?
- Simon I'd only got two pence with me.
- Jill Simon, you're so simple. He's have given you a penny change.
- Simon I didn't want a penny change, I wanted a pie. You can't eat a penny change.
- Jill He could have given you two pies instead.
- Simon I only wanted one pie.
- Jill But you had a tray-full of pies of your own. You were supposed to be selling not buying.
- Simon His were better than ours.
- Jill How do you know?
- Simon I made ours. Our pies had no meat in them, they were pies full of holes.
- Jill And where are they now?
- Simon Out there. I tripped up and now there's a hole full of pies. But I did buy one of his. And it's lovely ó I'm going to eat it later. In the meantime I'll put it on this shelf to cool. (*Puts it on shelf by pros arch*) nobody has to touch that pie. (*Turns away*)
- 3rd Girl Let's have a look at it.
- Simon (*Turns back*) I said nobody has to touch it. I'm going to have a lot of bother here. I need somebody to guard my pie. I can't trust you lot, so I'm going to ask all the boys and girls to shout -Simonø if anybody goes near and touches my pie. (*Work business several times with chorus using kids in audience as his official 'Pie-Guard' – all members of S.S.P.G. – Simple Simon Pie Guard – for which badges are*

distributed front of house pre-show) I'd bet everybody wishes they had a pie like I have. Don't you wish you had a pie like I have? *(To chorus at left. Repeat to chorus at right and to audience)* Well I've got bad news for you. Before long nobody in this village will be able to afford to buy a pie.

4th Girl Why is that Simon?

Simon Because Baron de Broke who owns this village is coming to collect the rents and he's going to double them each week from now on. So lock your doors, draw your blinds, pretend he's not there and we'll beat him yet.

5th girl Come on everyone. Let's spread the news. *(Ensemble exit. Play off for ensemble)* (11)

Jill I'm going to tell Grannie Hood. *(She exits into shop)*

Simon Fancy that about the rents ó doubling. I'm going to Northern Ireland. There's no Dublin there. *(He follows Jill off into shop.)*

(Play on for Baron and two sons, to brisk Post-Horn Gallop style of music. (12)
They have skirted horses with false riding boot legs on top and using rigid reins to horses head. They perform routine to horses slightly out of control. Head tossing and moving sideways)

Baron Humphrey. *(Baron always has a twitch to head and shoulders)*

Humphrey Yes, Papa. *(He always lisps)*

Baron Hubert.

Hubert Yes, father. *(He always stammers)*

Baron Take these animals away and feed them. *(They drop horses. Sons take them off)*
This gives me an opportunity to introduce myself, the name is Baron Farquharson *(pronounced FARKERSON)* Fitzwilliam de Vere de Vere De Broke, Squire of this village and here to collect the rents, assisted, with the emphasis on the ass by my two sons, Humphrey and Hubert. *(They re-enter).* Come here.

Humphrey Yes, papa.

Hubert Yes, father.

Baron You will assist me in collecting the rents. Now I always find it useful in addressing my tenants, to say -do you know who I am?ø

Hubert Why, don't you know?

Baron You're like an encyclopaedia ó thick, dull and square. Let's say you're the rent collector and I'm the tenant. What do you say?

Hubert -Do you know who you are?ø

- Baron (*Correcting him*) 'Do you know who I am?'
- Hubert Yes. You're my daddy, give us a kiss.
- Baron Tell them your name.
- Hubert Hubert Montmerency Maximillian Tuesday De Broke. Why was I given Tuesday for a name?
- Baron When you were born your mother took one look at you then one look at me and said 'Let's call it a day' You're a complete fool.
- Humphrey I am not a complete fool.
- Baron No you're not, you've got something missing.
- Humphrey I'll be the tent collector and you be the pennant.
- Baron The rent collector and the tenant. What do you have to say?
- Humphrey Do I know who you are?
- Baron (*Correcting him*) Do you know who I am?
- Humphrey Yes. You're my daddy, give us a kiss.
- Baron Tell them your name.
- Humphrey Humphrey Fforbes Ffortescue Dammitt De Broke. Dad, why was I christened Dammitt?
- Baron The vicar accidentally dropped you in the font. Let's get this clear, this week we're doubling the rents.
- Hubert Last week you doubled the rents. Where's all the money going?
- Baron It should go to the Prince who rules this land. But just lately we've been using it for spending money. Unfortunately we've been found out.
- Humphrey By the police?
- Baron No.
- Hubert By the Prince?
- Baron No. By the wolf.
- Both The Wolf? (*Hug each other in terror*)

- Baron King Wolf that terrorises our village. All the extra money goes to the wolf, otherwise the wolf will go for us. Pay up, and we stay clear of his hungry jaws.
- Hubert My jaws feel hungry.
- Humphrey Oh look, there's a pie over there.
(Sons work pie bus. between audience and Simon. At end Simon exits)
- Baron And now to work. *(To Humphrey)* You work from east to west. *(To Hubert)* And you work from north to south.
- Both Right. *(They cross to exit)*
- Humphrey East is east and west is west. I think King Wolf's a flipping pest. *(He exits)*
- Hubert North is north and south is south, I don't want to finish in King Wolf's mouth. *(He shudders and exits – as he bangs head on pros. Arch)*
- Baron And I'll collect the rent from Grannie Hood. *(He knocks on door)* Grannie Hood, Grannie Hood, are you there?
- Grannie *(Shop door opens – she enters backwards on hands and knees scrubbing floor. Play on 8 bars)* Whoever it is, I'm out. (13)
- Baron Can't you see who it is?
- Grannie My eyes are in my front side not my backside.
- Baron How lovely to see you with the bloom of youth in your cheeks.
- Grannie *(Feels backside and does take – straightens and stands up wringing out cloth)*
Whoever you are you gorgeous man, there was a time when I not only had the bloom of youth in my cheeks, I had the cheeks of youth in my bloomers ó well, well, well. If it isn't Baron Farquerharson *(pronounced FARKWURHARSON)* Fitzwilliam de Vere de Vere de Broke I think.
- Baron Grannie Hood, you've known me a long time.
- Grannie With a name like that it just seems like a long time.
- Baron Let's get to the point, I've come calling-----
- Grannie Come calling? Oh Baron, I didn't know you cared. All these years you've known me and you've never as fondled by scrubbing brush and squeezed out my floor cloth, here, hold that. *(Hangs bucket on his outstretched arm)* You have a kind face ó well a kind of a face.
- Baron You're not so bad yourself ó you have a face that's all pink and dimples.
- Grannie And you have one that's all drink and pimples.

- Baron I represent that remark. (*Putting bucket back on her arm*) Don't you realise I want a woman who's full of fire, who'll set me all aflame and make me tingle.
- Grannie You don't want a woman. You want a bottle of Deep Heat. In any case, I've just joined the Y.M.C.A.
- Baron But that's for men.
- Grannie So am I. (*Puts bucket back on his arm*)
Baron Tchah! (*Gives her bucket back*)
- Grannie Just a minute while I empty this bucket. (*Empties bucket over audience – concertina of cellophane to give this impression*)
- Baron Grannie Hood. I want my rent.
- Grannie (*Puts bucket down and calls*) Simon! (*Enter Simon*) The Baron wants his rent.
- Simon Well I haven't got it.
- Baron I must have my money.
- Grannie We haven't got anybody's money ó not even our own.
- Baron You've promised me my money for a week back.
- Simon We didn't know you had a weak back. Shall I handle this? Have I the honour of addressing Baron Farquerharson (*extended pronunciation*) Fitzwilliam de Vere de Vere de Broke (*ad lib several times then seems to finish but continues as they react*)
- Grannie Come on.
- Simon I'm playing for time.
- Baron You needn't bother. Whatever you do I'm going to raise the rent.
- Grannie Thank goodness 'cause we can't.
- Baron You don't seem to realise, I'm a public figure.
- Simon You look more like a public convenience.
- Baron And I have a complaint.
- Simon We're not all in the best of health.
- Grannie Look, I'll pay you the rent when I get back from Abyssinia.
- Baron Abyssinia?
- Both Abyssinia! (*I'll be seeing you*) (*They exit into shop*)

- Baron Bah! Iðl get my own back. Iðl pinch Simple Simon's pie.
(Pie business. Baron and Simon both exit into shop)
(Enter Wolf – play on discord) (14)
- Wolf Ha, ha! Unseen, Iðve prowled the village, once more. No one is safe, no home secure.
As Red Riding Hood from school doth wend her way.
Iðl work my evil plan without delay.
Iðl seek the shadows quiet and still
As she passes challenge her and kill.
Ha! Ha! *(He hides upstage) (Enter RH and several children to -Boys and Girls Come out to Play')* (15)
- RH Bye, bye everyone. See you tomorrow.
- 1st Child Aren't you coming out to play?
- RH Not today. I have to help Grannie Hood in the shop.
- 2nd Child Come on everyone. Iðl race you to the village green. *(All children exit running)*
- RH I'm late already. I must hurry inside.
- Wolf *(Still half hidden)* Not so fast my pretty. Stay awhile and talk.
- RH What was that? Talk with whom?
- Wolf *(Wolf jumps out)* With me, King Wolf. At last I have you in my power. *(She screams. He lunges for her. She dodges him shouting 'HELP')*
- Colin *(Off stage)* Who's there?
- Wolf Curses. Beware Red Riding Hood. My time will come. *(Discord play off) (16)*
Enter Colin)
- Colin *(Quick look off in direction Wolf has gone. To RH)* Are you alright? I heard a cry.
- RH Thank goodness you were here. Now I don't feel afraid.
- Colin What was the trouble?
- RH You may have heard of King Wolf. I'm sure it was he who confronted me.
- Colin Iðl see you safely home. Where do you live?
- RH In yonder house kind sir. But forgive me, I don't know you. Are you a stranger to the village?

Colin That's right.

RH Are you seeking work?

Colin Not really ó although I could be. Can you help me find work?

RH This is my Grannie's shop. We look after it for her. Maybe we can find you some work.

Colin You're very kind young lady. May I know your name?

RH Red Riding Hood. And your name sir?

Colin Err ó (*Thinking rapidly*) Call me Colin, and see if you can find work for a humble woodcutter.

RH Don't go away. (*She trips off into shop*)

Colin What a stroke of luck ó and what a perfect situation. No one will realise this humble woodcutter is really a Prince ó the ruling Prince of this Kingdom. I was right to visit the village, the tales I hear of the Wolf appear to be true. Anyone who terrorises the village shall answer to me, Prince Valiant. Whilst masquerading as a woodcutter I intend to find out whether the Baron is playing me false. The Baron has failed to pay me the modest revenues he owes to my household. Yet I have no doubt he will have collected his rents and diverted the money to his own use. We shall see. (*Sees pie*) Hello, what have we here. A jolly fine looking pie. (*Work pie business with Simon*)

Simon Are you the fellow that's looking for a job?

Colin I am.

Simon I'd be glad of a bit of help. I don't mind going to work, I don't mind coming back from work, it's the bit in between I don't like. You'd better have a word with Grannie Hood, it's her shop.

Grannie (*From off stage*) Simon.

Simon She's here.

Grannie (*Enters*) Simon. There's a black cat in the shop.

Simon Don't worry, they're lucky.

Grannie This one is. It's eating your sandwiches.

Simon It's not my day. I think I'd go in the kitchen and put my head in the gas oven.

Grannie Whatever for?

Simon To see if the meat's done. (*Grannie takes a swipe at him and he exits*)

- Colin At your service ma'am.
- Grannie And what can I do for you?
- Colin Could you find me a job? I'm a ó (*hesitation*) ó a woodcutter.
- Grannie I've no work for a woodcutter.
- Colin Can you find me any sort of work?
- Grannie We have no jobs.
- Colin I'd work very hard.
- Grannie Sorry, nothing doing.
- Colin I'd work for very little.
- Grannie We all do that. I just can't find you a job.
- Colin. Sorry you can't help but it's been wonderful talking to a beautiful, intelligent, ravishing woman of the world, such as yourself.
- Grannie You can start today, ten pence an hour. You'd better meet our Jill, she runs the shop for me. (*Calls for Jill*) Are you there, our Jill?
- Jill (*Off stage*) Coming Grannie. (*She enters*) Oh, I thought you were alone.
- Grannie Jill, this young man thinks I'm wonderful and I don't blame him. Could I introduce you ó
- Colin (*Addressing Jill*) My name is Colin, at your service, Mistress Jill.
- Grannie Meet my granddaughter ó
- Jill A pleasure to meet you, good Colin.
- Grannie You two must get to know each ó
- Colin The pleasure's all mine.
- Grannie I'm wasting my breath. It's quicker than Internet dating. (*To them*) See you later. (*To audience*) Talk to yourself. (*She exits into shop*)
- Jill Will you be staying long in the village?
- Colin Longer than I intended now that I've met you.
- Jill A pretty compliment, but we may not meet again.

- Colin We certainly shall. Your grandmother's given me a job in the shop.
- Jill Then we shall see much more of each other.
- Colin We certainly shall, if my new boss allows.
- Jill I suppose that's me and I have no objections.
(Cue for duet. Colin and Jill) (17)
- Jill Oh, Colin, I'm so glad I met you. I can't thank you enough for looking after Red Riding Hood.
- Colin I shall stay and protect you all. No wolf shall terrorise my village ó *(realises mistake)* ó our village. Now the wolf has Colin the woodcutter to reckon with.
- Jill It was a lucky day when you came along.
- Colin I'm looking forward to meeting your friends.
- Jill Why not meet them now? *(Calls)* Hello, everyone. Come and meet Colin, our new Jack-of-all-trades.
(Enter Ensemble without children to a play on) (18)
- All *(Ad lib as they enter excitedly)* Who's the handsome stranger? So this is Colin. He's come to work for Grannie Hood.
- Colin Glad to meet you everyone.
- All Glad to meet you Colin!
(Cue for number. Colin, Jill and Ensemble about 'Meeting Friends') (19)

FADE TO BLACKOUT

CLOSE TABS OR DROP FRONT CLOTH

Scene 2

Tabs or front cloth

Meadow Sweet Lane

(Open up and lights up as music starts. Enter RH with children. They run on to introduction of number. RH speaks over music) (20)

RH Whenever I can help in the shop I try to do so. One of the ways I can help is by delivering groceries.

Children And one of the ways we can help is by helping you.

RH I don't mind being kept busy on a lovely day like this. *(They all go into number proper. 'Sunshine' type possibly involving baskets. All exit at end of number)*

(Enter Baron and Humphrey and Hubert)

Baron And furthermore, your ignorance is unparalleled and your initiative non-existent.

Sons Flattery will get you nowhere.

Baron I made my biggest mistake when you were born. I should have kept the other four and drowned you two. I've asked you once, I've asked you twice, I shall not ask you a second time. Didn't I receive a message from King Wolf this morning?

Humphrey Not as far as I know.

Hubert Not as far as I know.

Baron That's not very far. Didn't a carrier pigeon deliver a message?

Humphrey Yes, it dropped one right in my eye.

Baron Where's the pigeon now?

Hubert What do you think we had for dinner?

Baron Wasn't there a piece of paper round its leg?

Humphrey Yes, I used it to wipe my eye.

Baron What did it say on the piece of paper?

Humphrey Now, wash your hands.

Baron Was there a message?

Hubert There was a mess.

Baron What was the message from the wolf?

Hubert Meet me in Honeypot Row at seven o'clock.

Baron And where are we now?

Humphrey Meadow Sweet Lane.

Baron And what time is it?

Hubert Four o'clock. That means we've time to kill.

Humphrey It's the wolf that'll kill if we're not on time. I wonder if he's an Irish wolf.

Baron How can you tell if it's an Irish wolf?

Humphrey He sits down to gnaw a bone and when he gets up he finds he only has three legs.

Baron Listen, (*exasperatedly*) help me to deal with the wolf, and I'll double your pocket money.

Hubert We don't get any pocket money.

Baron In that case I'll treble it.

Sons Done!

Baron Done! (*They shake hands*)

Sons We like a job we can get our teeth into.

Wolf (*Enter to discord. The three jump, startled*) Ha! Ha! You'd better like this (21) job or I shall get my teeth into you. My teeth are strong and white and sharp.

Hubert He uses Colgate.

Wolf Arrrrr! (*Snarls*) And now I'll tell you what I want.

Baron You already take all the money we collect. What more do you want?

Wolf I want Red Riding Hood.

All three Red Riding Hood!!

Wolf Lure her to the Hall, and I'll be there to claim Red Riding Hood for my own.

Baron I don't like it.

Wolf I brook no argument. It shall be thus. King Wolf has spoken. Ha! Ha! Ha! (22) (*Discord. He exits*)

Hubert I don't know, what's so funny?

Humphrey King Wolf has spoken. (*soppy imitation*)

Baron Listen, we're in a jam. We must stick together.

Hubert Should be easy if we're in a jam.

Baron How are we going to lure Red Riding Hood to the Hall?
(*Going down gradually to crouched position*)

Sons (*Following him down on either side of him*) We don't know.

Baron (*Suddenly stands up arms wide*) Aahh!

Sons (*Startled*) Don't do that.

Baron What date is it today?

Hubert Thirty seventh October.

Baron The time of year for the Autumn Ball. I shall see that Grannie Hood's family get special invitations, especially Red Riding Hood. And we'll make it a masked ball.

Humphrey Why?

Baron If we're seen talking to the wolf, no one will know it's us. Red Riding Hood will be at the ball, the wolf will be at the ball, and once the wolf has Red Riding Hood, he won't worry about us any more.

Hubert Oh, look, there's Simple Simon's pie up there. (*Pie business Hubert and Simple Simon asking audience which one of the three was the culprit and sending him off – with remark linked to any Block booking present e.g. 'get off back to Skipton. Simon exits*)

Baron I think he's gone. I fancy a piece of that pie. (*Repeat business with Baron, Simon and audience. Baron sent off. Exit Simon*)

Humphrey They've all gone. Now's my chance. (*Repeat pie business but Humphrey hears Simon coming on so gives pie to Musical Director. Simon sends Humphrey off. Asks MD) -what are you doing with my pie?*

M.D. Looking after it for you.

Simon Thank you for looking after my pie. Do you know what sort of pie it is?

M.D. No we don't.

Simon Well I'll tell you. It's a way up pie.

M.D. I've never heard of a way-up pie.

Simon There's a song about it. You've heard of Over the Rainbow?

M.D. Of course.

Simon Well play it. (*Orch. Play*) (*Sings*) Somewhere over the rainbow, way up pie- (23)

(Play off further 8 bars while Simon places pie on shelf and says -)

Thanks kids.

FADE TO BLACKOUT

Scene 3

Full set

Grannie Hood's Shop

(Lights and open up on ensemble. Opening number about the joys of shopping e.g. 'I'll (24) fill your market basket'. Several supermarket trolleys contain tiny children. Exit at the of number. As part of set there is a food display cabinet)

- Simon *(Enter Grannie Hood and Simon as chorus exit. Simon to audience)* There's nobody been at my pie has there?
- Grannie Get those trolleys off. I don't know why we have to have them. There's no need for us to compete with Sainsburys.
- Simon Don't you like supermarkets?
- Grannie A supermarket's the only place ever invented where you have to queue to get out. Now remember it's our busy day ó and before the shop fills up again let me get one thing straight with you.
- Simon I'm all ears.
- Grannie I've noticed that. Yesterday afternoon I caught you arguing with a customer. Now remember, the customer is always right. Have you got that?
- Simon The customer is always right.
- Grannie Anyway, what was the customer saying?
- Simon That you were an idiot and the customer's always right. Eh, this bacon's bad.
- Grannie It can't be ó it was only cured last week.
- Simon Well, it's had a relapse since then.
- Grannie Put it on special offer.
- Simon What will you take off for cash?
- Grannie Everything except my ear-rings. *(laughs)* Don't get me in a good mood, I'm dangerous. Eh, while I remember, tomorrow's your day off isn't it?
- Simon Yes.
- Grannie But I want you to paint the shop.
- Simon Wouldn't it be quicker to take a photograph?
- Grannie Why don't you grow up, stupid.

- Simon I did grow up stupid. (*Grannie produces car tyre which has been leaning against food cabinet*) What are you doing with that tyre, all worn out and tatty?
- Grannie The tyres not worn out and tatty.
- Simon I meant you.
- Grannie It's new stock. We're opening a car accessories department. That's a special tyre, it's a remote controlled, satellite navigation, digital tyre.
- Simon You don't say.
- Grannie I just did but I couldn't say it again. If someone has an old tyre, they ring up and we send them this new one. It goes all the way by itself ó satellite navigation, you see.
- Simon By itself?
- Grannie Yes.
- Simon On its own?
- Grannie Yes.
- Simon Ecky pecky. Show me.
- Grannie Right. With my remote control I'll make it go all the way round town and come back here.
- Simon This I have to see.
- Grannie Right. (*Produces hand control, she gives instructions and pushes tyre off – stage left*) Circular trip alpha beta, gamma delta. Go, go, go. (*Looking at remote control screen*) It's going down the corridor, out of the door, up (*name of local*) Road, turning up (*local*) Street, left at the top past the Town Hall Square, on to the (*local landmark*) round the Parish Church and up (*local*) Street. Turning at the traffic lights, down (*name of street*) past Morrisons and Sainsburys down (*name of*) Road, through (*name of place*) coming through the outside door, along the corridor and here it is ó (*Tyre rolls on stage from right*) (*All this said very rapidly*)
- Simon Eh, that's clever. Have you any more of these tyres?
- Grannie Yes, there's one there. (*Nodding off left*)
- Simon Can I try it?
- Grannie Of course.
- Simon (*Goes to wings with tyre already used and holds it off stage left*) Will you take this tyre and give me that other one. (*He immediately brings same tyre back – which had distinguishing marks on it and is obviously the same*) Oh, no it isn't.
- Audience Oh, yes it is.
- Simon Oh, no it isn't.

- Audience Oh, yes it is.
- Simon It isn't. It looks the same 'cos it was made in the same factory. (*Sticks out tongue to audience*)
- Grannie Get on with it. Here's the control. (*Gives him it*)
- Simon Right. (*Speaks into control*) Eena meena, macker acker, air eye domino, allerbacker, juryackerrom pom push. (*He pushes tyre off left*) It's wented on it's way. (*Commentates*) Along the corridor, across the park. It's stopped.
- Grannie What for?
- Simon It's thinking which way to go. It's off again. (*They both jump*) Up (*name of*) Road, (*named*) Parade, turn right up (*named*) Street and into Woolworth's.
- Grannie What's it gone into Woolworth's for?
- Simon A bar of chocolate. It's off again. (*Both jump*) Out of Woolworth's and into the Co-op. It fancies a tub of ice-cream. Now along (*named*) Street and into (*name of*) Fisheries.
- Grannie What for?
- Simon Fish and Chips. It's going down (*name of*) Street, into McDonalds for some chicken nuggets.
- Grannie Is it happy now?
- Simon Yes, but the chicken's not very pleased.
- Grannie That tyre's going to have indigestion. It'll be full of wind.
- Simon It will save blowing it up. (*Both jump*) It's coming down (*name of*) Road, into the corridor and here it is (*pause*) now. (*Very large tractor inner tube – a tyre would be too heavy – is rolled on from the wings right*)
- Grannie Why is it that size?
- Simon I've just told you, it's eaten a bar of chocolate, ice-cream, fish and chips and chicken nuggets. You'd be that size.
- Grannie (*Shop bell rings*) Get rid of it. (*Simon does so*) We've some customers. (*Enter 1st child*)
- 1st Child A mouse trap and be quick, I've a bus to catch.
- Simon We don't well 'em that big. You'll have to manage with a small one. (*Puts one on counter*)

1st Child I want a jar of coffee for my mother.

Simon Sorry we don't do swaps.

Grannie *(Putting coffee on counter)* Take no notice of him love.

1st Child And I want a bottle of invisible ink,

Grannie Certainly, what colour?

1st Child Well I don't want it black do I?

Grannie Then you'dl just have to manage with it green. *(Putting bottle on counter)*

1st Child How can green ink be invisible?

Grannie Write on green paper.

1st Child How much do packets of envelopes run to?

Grannie They don't, they're stationery.

1st Child That's all I think.

Grannie Good.

1st Child Oh, no.

Grannie and Simon Oh, heck.

1st Child I want some waterproof sweets.

Grannie Waterproof sweets ó what are those?

1st Child Haven't you heard of MacIntosh's toffees?

Grannie How much, Simon? *(Putting goods in shopping bag)*

Simon *(Using till calculator)* Three pounds and three pence.

1st Child Have you change for a twenty pound note?

Simon Have you got the odd three pence?

1st Child I haven't even got the twenty pound note. *(Exits – running with shopping bag. Enter 2nd Child)*

Simon *(Picking up jar of jam as Grannie is clearing things away)* This jam's made in Yorkshire.

- Grannie Is it?
- Simon Yes, at Selby.
- Grannie Really, who makes it?
- Simon Somebody called Julie. Selby Julie
- Grannie Selby Julie? Let me have a look ó sell by July.
- 2nd Child *(Loud)* Shop!
- Simon Shirrup.
- Grannie Iøve told you before.
- 2nd Child Three oranges at 10 pence each. *(Grannie repeats each phrase and gets goods out as Simon works calculator)*. 1 packet of cornflakes at 62p, 2 jars of marmalade at 42p each, 2 packets of digestive biscuits at 33p each and a box of tea bags at 95p.
- Grannie Simon, how much does that come to?
- Simon 15 two, 15 four, 15 six and one for his nob - £5.25 pence.
- Grannie Will you take them or shall we deliver them?
- 2nd Child Oh, I donøt actually want to buy them, I just wanted to check my homework. *(Child runs off)*
- (Enter three children together. 3rd child asks for 10 pennyworth of humbugs. They are on the top shelf, Grannie sends Simon to get them. Difficult business reaching from steps. After child has humbugs and has paid, Simon takes bottle of sweets and puts back on top shelf. Repeat business with 4th child served. Simon – wise – doesn't take humbugs back. Asks 5th child if she wants 10 pennyworth of humbugs. Child says 'No'. Simon puts humbugs back on top shelf and comes down. Asks 5th child what she does want. Child answers – 5 pennyworth. All three children run off laughing. Enter three more children.)*
- Grannie What do you want?
- Child Two pounds of sausages.
- Grannie Right.
- Child My mother says will you send them round?
- Simon Well we havenøt got any square ones.
- Child Will you deliver them?

- Simon Don't worry love they'll make their own way there. Sausages, by the left quick march. (*Sausages are fastened with string to make a procession and are pulled off counter and across stage. Orch. Play "When the Saints Go Marching In" (25) Grannie followed by 3 children and Simon following sausages clapping and singing "When the Sausages come Marching in" – across stage and exit. Enter Colin*)
- Colin That's another job done. If I'd known what happiness there was to be found living the life of a handyman, I'd have given up being a prince a long time ago. Let's see if there is anyone about. (*Bangs shop bell, enter Jill*)
- Jill Colin, it's you. And to think I rushed out wondering whether it might be our most important customer.
- Colin Do you mean to tell me I'm not important to you?
- Jill You're very important. Now I can't imagine living life without you.
- Colin My darling, we've known each other such a brief time and yet ó (*Cue for romantic duet*) (26)
- Jill Red Riding Hood's a little late. She should be here by now. I do hope she's met no trouble whilst she's been delivering groceries.
- Colin You mean the wolf? Don't worry I'll look after you all.
- Grannie (*Entering*) Hello, Colin. Look you two, I'm getting worried about Red Riding Hood. She should be back by now.
- Colin I'm sure everything will be alright.
- RH (*Call from off stage*) Grannie, I'm back.
- Grannie She's here, thank goodness. (*Enter RH*)
- RH Grannie, wonderful news. I've just seen the Baron.
- Grannie That's not wonderful news. What kept you?
- RH He insisted on giving me three invitations to the Autumn Ball.
- Jill How marvellous.
- RH He's invited Jill, myself and you Grannie.
- Grannie I wonder why? I don't trust that man.
- Colin Let them go, Grannie Hood. They'll have a marvellous time. I only wish I could escort them to the ball.
- Grannie You can do. I shall feel easier in my mind. You can use my ticket.

Jill But what about you?

Grannie I'm not daft. I don't need a ticket. Simon and me are doing the washing up.

RH How exciting ó this will be the first time I've been to a ball.

Grannie We've no time to waste. Come on. Let's go and see if we've got anything in stock that we can make into a ballgown for you. *(Exit Grannie and RH)*

Jill It's even more exciting. This year it's a masked ball.

Colin Wonderful. Then no one will recognise me as a humble woodcutter. For all they know I might be a Prince ó your Prince. *(Reprise – Duet Colin and Jill)* (27)

FADE TO BLACKOUT

TABS CLOSE OR DROP FRONT CLOTH

Scene 4

Tabs or front cloth

The Baron's Picture Gallery

(Lights and open up on music. Enter Baron, Hubert and Humphrey singing "Tonight's the night we're going to have some fun". Sons are dressed in nightshirts with night cap. They wear horror masks)

Baron Just a minute, just a minute. *(Music stops)* What's going on? *(Hubert and Humphrey continue singing)* What's going on here. Why are you two wearing those horrible masks?

Hubert You told us that tonight was going to be a masked ball.

Humphrey So we've both got masks.

Baron Take them off and let me see your faces. *(They do so)* Perhaps it would be an improvement if you put them back on again. *(they do so – upside down)* Oh, get rid of 'em. *(They do so. All start singing again to orch.)* Just a minute. Just a minute. *(Music stops)* I've only just noticed. Why are you both wearing nightshirts? (28)

Hubert You told us to wear our evening dress.

Baron Not that kind of evening dress. You should wear white tie and tails.

Humphrey I haven't got a white tie.

Hubert And I haven't got a tail.

Humphrey Why must we go in white tie and tails?

Baron Because I tell you. Remember I'm the boss, and you're nothing.

Humphrey He's the boss over nothing.

Baron Tonight, you'll see the bright lights.

Hubert He's going to take us to the electricity showroom

Baron I'm not going to take you anywhere dressed like that. Just look at you. Even your shoes are on different feet. You let me down and just when my plans are falling into shape. At the ball tonight everyone will be there, but most important of all, Red Riding Hood will be there. That should please our friend the wolf.

Humphrey But what do we have to do tonight?

Baron Act normal if possible. Join in the dancing. Dance till your shoes fall off.

Hubert So long as my white tie and tails don't fall off.

Baron Can you do a gavotte?

Humphrey A ga ó what?

Baron A gavotte. Have you seen a foxtrot?

Hubert No, but Iøve seen one rummaging in a wheelie-bin.

Baron Let me see you waltz.

Sons We canø waltz.

Baron All you have to do is count to three.

Hubert Give us a chance. Make it a two-step. (*Orch. Play Victor Sylvester music.* (30)
Both dance across stage and finish with bump into pros. Arch)

Baron Youøre hopeless. Come back here. Tell me which dance you prefer.

Humphrey I know which dance a duck prefers.

Baron Which?

Humphrey A Quack-step. Boom boom.

Baron Oh no, weøre not back to riddles again.

Hubert Iøve got one. Why is the Autumn Ball like a graveyard?

Baron I donø know, why is the Autumn Ball like a graveyard?

Hubert People are dying to get in. Boom boom.

Humphrey Iøve got a good one. Where do people go dancing in California?

Baron I donø know.

Humphrey San FranDisco.

Hubert Iøve got a riddle. What is it that men do standing up, ladies do sitting down and dogs do on three legs.

Baron Itø a riddle alright. Ask us again.

Hubert What is it-----three legs (*Repeat riddle*)

Baron I give in. What do they do?

Hubert Shake hands. (*They launch into reprise of 'Tonight's the night' short routine* (31)
and exit)

(Enter King Wolf to discord in green spotlight) (32)

Wolf At last Iøve contrived to work my wicked way.

Red Riding Hood she will be mine, this is the fateful day
Maiden so fair and so young, now walks into the trap Iøve sprung.
The mortals now assemble at the Baron's Masquerade
Blissful and unaware of the wicked plans Iøve laid.
For I am King Wolf, whom mortals dread.
Mankind was right to set a price upon my head.

(Discord and exit) (33)

FADE TO BLACKOUT

OPEN TABS OR RAISE FRONT CLOTH

Scene 5

Full set

The Autumn Ball

(Lights up as music starts. Production note: Masks are not worn throughout, mainly in the set formal pieces. Opening number. Gavotte – most of ensemble, Jill, Colin and RH dance, others admiringly standing and watching along with Major Domo) (34)

MjD Honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen ó your host for this eveningø masquerade ó Baron de Broke *(Enter Baron)*

Baron Welcome one and all to the festivities and may I offer a special welcome to Mistress Jill and the dainty Miss Red Riding Hood. *(They curtsey)* ó not forgetting their handsome escort. *(Colin bows) (To Jill)* By the way my dear, I fail to recognise your escort. May I know his identity?

Jill Baron, is this not a masked ball? The identity of our escort should remain a secret.

Baron Of course, of course my dear. Hoist by my own petard ó if only I knew what it meant I might be able to do something about it. We take a break from ÷Strictly Come Dancingø and move on to the next item on our programme. Refreshments. Please make your way to the dining hall.

(Play off all except Baron to reprise of opening music) (Enter brothers dancing to same music. They are dressed in outsize suit. One wears coat and the other trousers. They each fit from head to toe) (35)

Baron Just a minute, what are you two dressed like that for?

Humphrey You told us to get a new suit, so weøve got one.

Baron Fool, you should have got one each. You should have got trousers to wear with that jacket and he should have got a jacket to wear with those trousers.

Humphrey We couldnø wear a jacket that size with trousers that size.

Hubert Whatø wrong with it? It was made to measure.

Baron Who for, someone on stilts?

Hubert No, no, Iød tell you what happened. That t-t-tailor said how long d-d-do you w-w-want your t-t-trousers. Now I donø know whether youøve noticed but sometimes when Iøm under pressure I stammer. So he rolled out his t-t-tape measure and said t-t-tell me when to st-st-s-s-s-st-st-stop. Now th-thatø how they came to be the-the-that long.

Baron Well if I was you, Iød take that suit back to the shop and exchange it for a pair of jeans.

Humphrey A pair of jeansø what?

- Baron Iøve no more time to waste on you.
- Sons Then go and waste it on someone else.
- Baron Have you seen any trace of the wolf?
- Humphrey No, heø got very clean habits.
- Baron Iøve heard him in the distance, but Iøve not seen him yet. Keep a look out for him. Search the house. Take a wing each.
- Hubert Are we having turkey for supper?
- Baron You search the east wing. You search the west wing. (*Sons move off together*) Oi, I asked you to search different wings. Why are you staying together?
- Humphrey Iøve got to have him with me. Iøm not wandering round without my trousers. (*Exit sons chased by Baron. Enter Grannie and Simon*)
- Simon (*After Grannie works Pie bus.*) Hey, isnø it posh here.
- Grannie It must have cost a fortune.
- Simon Iøm going to have a place like this when Iøm a millionaire.
- Grannie How are you going to do that?
- Simon Iøm going to enter that quiz. -Who Wants to be a Millionaire?ø
- Grannie What are you going to use for brains?
- Simon Iødl manage. You think that because Iøm daft, Iøm an idiot. Well Iøm not, Iøm just stupid. They donø call me Simple Simon for nothing.
- Grannie Well, weødl find out if youøre a suitable candidate. Imagine Iøm Chris Tarrant.
- Simon Takes a bit of imagining.
- Grannie How do you mean?
- Simon He hasnø got a moustache.
- Grannie Oh shut up and sit here. (*Puts chair centre stage for him to sit on and picks up clipboard from it*). Now to begin with thereø you and nine others and itøø -fastest finger firstø (*Simon sticks up one finger*) Donø do that! Wait for the question.
- Simon Just a minute. I havenø met the others. How do you do. (*Bus. talking to invisible people on either side of him*)
- Grannie Sit down and shut up. Ready ø -fastest finger firstø (*Simon sticks up finger*) Wait for the question. Taking the numbers 4, 2, 3 and 1 which is the lowest?

- Simon Er
- Grannie You're out. The others have all finished.
- Simon That's not fair. *(To audience)* It's not fair is it? *(Grannie encourages 'Oh, yes it is')* it's not fair.
- Grannie Where was your finger?
- Simon Stuck in my pocket.
- Grannie *(Shouted)* You should have pulled your finger out.
- Simon Don't use language like that to me. *(Imitating Grannie)* You should have pulled your finger out. My school teacher Miss Berrington never spoke to me like that.
- Grannie Didn't she?
- Simon No, Miss Berrington was gentle and kind.
- Grannie Was she?
- Simon Miss Berrington plays the pi-arno and the flute.
- Grannie Who wants to play the piano and the flute?
- Simon Miss Berrington.
- Grannie It's got nothing to do with pianos and flutes. It's a quiz. I'll give you a go and wave you through. *(Gestures and Simon hesitantly crosses. Grannie waves as he does so and Simon is almost goosed)* First question for £100. *(Girl enters opposite side to Simon. She has choice of answers on board)* Study the board. *(Simon crosses. Grannie waves him across. Goosing business. Then Simon ogles girl)* What was William the Conqueror's first name? Was it A. Darren. B. Lee. C. William or D. Ashley.
(Then Grannie notices Simon is not looking at board but at the girl. Shouts) Study the board. What was William the Conqueror's first name?
- Simon That's hard. I'm no good at history. *(Hesitates, points to names, moves downstage, puts hand behind ear to encourage audience to shout the answer)* William!
- Grannie You have just won £100. *(Girl exits with board and 2nd Girl enters with board opposite side. Simon crosses and avoids being goosed)* Now for £200. *(Simon ogles new girl)* What animal won the Greyhound Derby? Was it A. a fox. B. a dog. C. an elephant or D. a kangaroo? *(Shouts)* Study the board.
- Simon You're picking all the things I don't know. I only know about girls.
- Grannie Don't forget you can have some help. You can have three life-lines. 50-50. Ask the audience or Phone a friend

- Simon I'd have 50-50. (*Two of the names are taken away by girl*)
- Grannie What animal won the Greyhound Derby? Was it a B. dog or C. elephant?
- Simon They're hard are these questions. (*Going to front of stage with hand to ear. Audience tell him*) A dog!
- Grannie Correct. (*2nd Girl exits. 1st Girl re-enters*) Now for £500. What time of the day is News at Ten? Is it at 10 o'clock, Midnight, 7 o'clock or 3 o'clock?
- Simon Er
- Grannie Why don't you phone a friend?
- Simon I haven't got a phone.
- Grannie I'm surprised you have a friend. Try someone from the audience.
- Simon What a good idea. (*Goes into audience*) Will someone be my friend? (*Picks on member of audience, preferably a kiddie, for the answer*) Ten. (*Simon starts on to stage again*)
- Grannie Are you sure? (*Simon returns to audience. Nods and returns to stage*) Do you want to change your mind?
- Simon (*Quickly crossing to Grannie annoyed*) Look, you're just confusing me. I'm not playing.
- Grannie (*Exasperated*) Oh come on. Any fool knows its ten.
- Simon All right, ten.
- Grannie Correct. That makes you a fool. (*Simon walks across slowly and does Eric Morecambe double slap on Grannie. Backs away and turns to notice girl with board has gone*)
- Simon Where's that girl gone? I was just getting on all right with her. (*2nd Girl re-enters*) Oh, t'other ones just come back.
- Grannie Answer this question for £1000 and you get to keep the money. If Liverpool beat Chelsea 3 ó 0, which team lost. Was it A. Ipswich, B. Arsenal, C. Sunderland or D. Chelsea?
- Simon I don't know. I'm a (*name of unsuccessful local team*) supporter.
- Grannie Well, you've got one lifeline left.
- Simon We need all the lifelines we can get.
- Grannie Ask the audience.

- Simon I will. Hands up those who think it was Ipswich. Hands up Arsenal, Hands up Sunderland. Hands up Chelsea.
- Grannie What is your answer.
- Simon Chelsea.
- Grannie Sure?
- Simon Yes.
- Grannie Final answer?
- Simon Yes. Chelsea.
- Grannie Well you're wrong because the referee abandoned the game because of fog.
- Simon That was a trick question. I'll never be a millionaire now.
- Grannie Well we were only pretending anyway. Money's not everything. After all, who wants to be a millionaire anyway?
- Simon I do. *(Cue for number Grannie and Simon 'Who wants to be a Millionaire' or similar about money. Exit at end of number)* (36)
- MjD *(Entering)* Honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen would you please take your partners for a Minuet. *(Enter Colin, Jill, RH and ensemble for Minuet)* (37)
During number, Baron and Sons enter to watch. At end of number applause. Reprise last few bars for some of chorus to exit. Colin, Jill and RH remain talking. Baron and Sons cannot hear them.)
- RH It was so kind of you Colin, to escort us to the ball. I am enjoying myself.
- Jill That goes for me too.
- Colin My pleasure ladies. It's been a wonderful evening. The Baron seems quite friendly, he must have decided to let bygones be bygones.
- MjD There will be a short interlude. The Baron invites you to take a stroll in his garden. *(Remaining ensemble begin to drift off. Reprise Minuet for exit)* (38)
- Colin What could be better on a glorious summer evening. Ladies at your service. *(Holds out an arm for both to take. In doing so RH drops her purse. They exit. All now off stage except Baron and Sons. Wolf noise heard off stage)*
- Humphrey Pardon.
- Hubert I didn't say anything. *(Wolf howls again)*
- Baron What was that?

Humphrey It wasn't me.

Baron It wasn't me.

Hubert It wasn't me.

Baron Then who was it?

Wolf *(Enter Wolf to discord) 'Tis I. (All three are started) Have you kept your bargain. Is Red Riding Hood here?* (39)

Baron Yes, she's here.

Humphrey Oh, look she's dropped her purse.

Hubert I wonder if there's anything in it? *(Brothers go for purse)*

Wolf Leave it. Soon she will discover the purse is missing. She will return to seek it and find, not the purse, but me.

Hubert *(To Humphrey) I'd rather have the purse.*

Wolf Silence. Behold she approaches. Begone!

Baron But just a minute.

Wolf Now. *(Baron and Sons exasperated 'Ohhh! as they exit, Wolf retires upstage) My moment of triumph is near. (Enter RH)*

RH I must have dropped my purse. What a foolish thing to do. Ah, there it is.

Wolf And here am I. You shall be mine, dainty damsel. *(RH screams. Wolf lunges for her. She dodges him and runs off screaming).*

Colin *(Off stage) What's happened. Red Riding Hood where are you?*

Wolf Curses. Foiled again. I am discovered. I'll take cover and await a further chance. Ha! Ha! Ha! *(He exits) (Enter Colin, Jill, Grannie, Simon and ensemble)*

Colin Red Riding Hood's purse. But where is Red Riding Hood?

Grannie I knew it. There's something going on. And where's the Baron? I never did trust that man.

Colin Forget the Baron. Our real enemy is King Wolf. While that monster is at large, no one is safe. I shall find Red Riding Hood and destroy the wolf. To this mission I dedicate my life.

(Finale. Build number to climax) (40)

FADE TO BLACKOUT

TABS CLOSE OR FRONT CLOTH DROPS

Scene 6

Tabs or Front cloth

Outside the Hall

(Music from previous scene softens. Enter RH. As she speaks music fades) (41)

RH No sign of the wolf. I've given him the slip. But here I am some distance from the Hall and I'm all alone.

Fairy *(Fairy music. Enter Fairy)* Not so Red Riding Hood, for I am here Powers of magic protect you while I'm near. (42)

RH Good Fairy will you help? I am in great danger.

Fairy I know full well King Wolf presents a threat.
To which there was no answer till we met.
This simple brooch I now imbue with all my magic power
Take it, wear it, it shall protect you each and every hour.

RH Good Fairy. How can I thank you? I'll wear it on my cape. *(Fairy fastens it on)* I always wear my cape and so I shall always wear my brooch.

Wolf *(Enter Wolf. Discord)* So, we meet again so soon, Red Riding Hood. This time you shall not escape me. *(RH has her back to him)* (43)

Fairy We shall see King Wolf.

(Wolf advances. RH turns and shows the brooch. Wolf sees it and staggers back)

Wolf Ahh! The dreaded brooch. So near to snatching my prize but yet I am powerless.

Fairy Red Riding Hood, with my protection, knows no fear.
Away then wicked Wolf, there's nothing for you here.

Wolf I'll go, but I'm not beaten yet. I'll plot, I'll plan, I'll scheme.
And in the end I'll win and realise my dream. Ha! Ha! Ha!
(He exits to discord) (44)

RH Good Fairy, he still frightens me.

Fairy Empty words my child, have faith in me. Come, take my hand.
For one magic moment you shall see the wonders of Fairyland.
(She escorts Red Riding Hood through the tabs into the next scene as music begins) (45)

TABS OPEN OR FRONT CLOTH TAKEN OUT

Scene 7

Full set

Fairyland

(Fairy and Red Riding Hood walk into scene which is a tableaux of Ensemble and Children in Fairyland. Upstage is a double throne for RH and Fairy to sit)

(Ballet. RH and Fairy could join this if dancers. Finish with tableaux) (46)

FADE TO BLACKOUT

HOUSE CURTAIN CLOSES

INTERVAL

Entracte (47)

Scene 8 Full set

The Gypsy Encampment

(House curtain opens as lights go up. Opening number, Ensemble, Gypsy Czardas and Romantic Zigeuner solo sung by Gypsy Queen and back to Czardas – dancing and Singing – possibly Gypsy fiddler on stage – use Kalman’s music) (48)

Zara Romanies all, tonight we celebrate the coming of the harvest moon. Autumn is the season of peace and plenty, laughter and thanksgiving.

All Hooray.

Zara And yet I remain troubled.

1st Gypsy Why should this be, O Zara, Queen of the Gypsies?

Zara Did you not see last night the face of the moon was clouded? A shadow falls over the land. My gypsy powers tell me, the dreaded wolf is on the prowl once more. Even now I see a movement in the trees ó someone approaches. *(Calls off)* What seek you stranger in our gypsy encampment? Approach! *(Enter Colin)* What is your name, stranger?

Colin Colin. I earn my living as a woodcutter.

Zara If you are but a woodcutter, where are the tools of your trade? Your manner and bearing suggest a nobler background.

Colin You will oblige me by accepting me as I am. Today my task is to track down the wicked wolf.

Zara I knew it. The face of the moon always speaks the truth to a gypsy.

Colin The Wolf appears to menace the whole countryside.

Zara As we well know. Is that not so? *(To other gypsies)*

All Aye.

Colin In particular he pursues one village maiden, Red Riding Hood, by name.

Zara We gypsies have nothing but contempt for this monster and support you in your quest. Is the maiden in any danger now?

Colin Last night she escaped with her life. Her journey home held mortal terror for the poor girl.

Zara Journey home ó from where?

- Colin The Baron's Hall. Somehow the wolf seems to know exactly where to find Red Riding Hood.
- Zara I begin to understand. More than once the woods have formed a meeting place for the wolf and those in league with him. Even plots and plans have been hatched by moonlight. The wolf's information comes from the Baron himself.
- Colin I suspected as much.
- Zara Keep a close watch on the Baron, sooner or later he will lead you to the wolf.
- Colin This day I may not have found the wolf, but I forged new friendships.
- Zara Woodcutter, or whoever you are, you will always be welcome at the Gypsy encampment.
- All Aye! (*Number – Colin, Gypsy Queen and Ensemble. Exit at end of number*) (49)
- (*Play on music for Grannie 'TV sports music'. She enters and jogs round stage saying 'Up, two, three four' and blowing referee's whistle. She is wearing green shiny leotard and a mini frilly skirt with Olympic motif on it. Stops centre stage having tripped*) (50)
- Grannie What do you mean, Ha! Ha! Ha!?! Look at those calf muscles. (*To Audience*) What do you mean, you've seen better legs on sparrows. (*Flexes arm*) Watch this (*Grannie pulls tennis ball round from back of arm to represent muscle*) We're in the peak of physical condition, me and Jane Fonda. (*Does knee bend 'back goes' business*) Look at that figure o' like Rosemary Conley. Who said I'm more like Brian Conley? Now, where's Simon? He should be following on. Don't tell me I've lost him again. (*Blows whistle left and then right*) No sign of him. Where is he? Why doesn't he blow his whistle?
- Simon (*From back of hall*) I've lost me pea. (*Coming through audience Simon wears shorts and running vest and compass on piece of string round his neck. This is so long it hangs down to his knees*) Has anybody seen a pea anywhere? (*ad lib*) Pardon? There's a lady hear says she's seen me pea.
- Grannie I beg your pardon.
- Simon Didn't you say, missus, that you'd seen me pea? (*or mi pea – not my pea*)
- Grannie I do apologise madam, he should have gone behind a bush. Now come on, you're supposed to be training. (*Energetic movements*) Up, two, three, four.
- Simon Up, two, three, four. (*Shouts enthusiastically but ambles up on to the stage*)
- Grannie You're supposed to be running not just shouting. I'm trying to make you into another Linford Christie.
- Simon We're very much alike, me and Linford Christie.

Grannie How do you mean?

Simon We're both past it now.

Grannie You're supposed to be in training. How many metres have you run?

Simon 5000.

Grannie Today?

Simon Oh no, this month.

Grannie Let's see if you are properly dressed. Running shoes, shirt, shorts. Just a minute. What's this dangling down at the front?

Simon Pardon?

Grannie What have you got there dangling down at the front?

Simon It's my compass.

Grannie What's it say?

Simon N. NNE, NE, ENE, E. *(said like child learning alphabet – ner, ner ner eh etc.)*

Grannie Eh!

Simon Yes.

Grannie Shut up and get rid of it. *(Simon puts compass down front of shorts – it hangs out at bottom)* Where's it pointing now?

Simon Up my trousers.

Grannie Look, put it out of sight. *(Simon moves it round)* This is your programme for today. *(Simon has turned sideways – compass can be seen hanging out of shorts at back)* Will you get rid of that compass. *(Grannie yanks it upwards)*

Simon Ouch!

Grannie Now today, I've entered you for a sponsored hunt.

Simon What's that?

Grannie You've heard of sponsored walks. You've heard of sponsored swims. Well, this is a sponsored hunt.

Simon What are we hunting?

Grannie Guess.

Simon I don't know.

Grannie Well what do people usually hunt?

Simon A slipper or a thimble.

Grannie Outdoors?

Simon I don't know.

Grannie What do you chase after, outdoors?

Simon Last bus home when I've missed it.

Grannie What do you chase in the woods?

Simon Girls.

Grannie Girls have two legs.

Simon I've noticed.

Grannie What you're hunting has four legs.

Simon Two girls.

Grannie No, no, no, no, no. You're hunting the wolf.

Simon The Wolf? (*shock horror*)

Grannie You're taking part in a sponsored wolf hunt.

Simon Me?

Grannie You.

Simon Who's sponsoring me?

Grannie I am.

Simon It's a bit dangerous isn't it?

Grannie Not for the sponsor.

Simon How many are taking part?

Grannie Not so many.

Simon How many?

Grannie Very few.

Simon How few?

Grannie Less than three.

Simon Two?

Grannie You're getting close.

Simon Just me. I don't stand much chance of finding him on my own.

Grannie you stand a better chance than anybody else.

Simon I think I must be daft.

Grannie There's a lot of people agree with you. There's your card. (*Gives it to him*)

Simon Merrivale sponsored wolf hunt. What's all this?

Grannie Tells you there. For sighting wolf tracks, £1 fixed. For sighting wolf itself, £2 fixed. For hearing wolf growl, £3 fixed.

Simon It's fixed alright. The only one who's in a fix is me.

Grannie And now we come to the big money. If you're lucky enough to meet him face to face and touch him. I have to pay £10.

Simon But where's the money go to?

Grannie It goes to pay your funeral expenses.

Simon But this is ridiculous. When am I going to get near enough to the wolf to hear him growl? (*Growl over P.A.*) Did you say something?

Grannie No. (*Growl over P.A.*)

Simon I thought I heard a growl.

Grannie You're hearing things. I'm not paying you £3 'cos your imagination's playing you tricks. Let's sit down and look at the map and work out where the wolf might be. (*They sit. They discuss this. Enter Wolf. Touching business each in turn*) (51) (*Ask audience – What's going on. There's no wolf here. He's over there - business. Wolf sits on centre of bench unseen by them. They sit either side of him. Wolf puts arm round Grannie. She thinks it is Simon. – Give up 'o business. Finally sees wolf and runs off. Wolf taps Simon on shoulder, Simon ignores him but finally sees him and runs off, shouting after Grannie – Where's my £10 'o Wolf chases him off.*)

Wolf Once more King Wolf puts fear into the heart of mortal man
 Let those who dare to hunt me, catch me if they can
 I'll cheat and frustrate them by fair means or foul
 They see nought but my shadow, hear nought but my howl.

(Wolf howls, laughs, howls and exits)

Colin *(Off stage)* This way. Follow me. *(Enter Colin, Zara and Ensemble)* There he goes, over the rim of the hill. No chance to catch him now. But my time will come.

Zara And yet I warn you. Beware! The cunning of the wolf has been more than a match for many a man.

Colin But now, I must return to the village. Each moment I spend in the wood is another moment away from Red Riding Hood and Jill. My foe in the wood is King Wolf. My enemy in the village is the Baron.

Zara Draw strength from your friendship with the gypsies and take refreshment before you start for home. I give you a toast ó the villagers of Merrivale and the gypsies of the wood.

(Number. Solo Colin – about friendship with Ensemble backing) (53)

FADE TO BLACKOUT

CLOSE TABS OR DROP IN FRONT CLOTH

Scene 9

Drop clocloth

A Glade in the Wood*(Lights down stage)*

Fairy *(Entering)* Red Riding Hood is lucky to have a Prince among her friends. (54)
 And yet as woodcutter he'll be hero before this story ends
 Till evil is defeated, the villains plot their wicked way.
 In this wood, they meet again, this very day. *(Exit Fairy)* (55)

*(Orchestra play 'Trees' Enter Humphrey and Hubert separately during (56)
 intro. They are dressed as trees. Body as a trunk, arms as branches. Enter Baron
 who stands between them and sings the ballad 'Trees'. Each time the word 'Tree' is
 sung he indicates a tree but finds it has moved to another position. At the end of
 number or before -)*

Baron Just a minute ó there's somebody in those trees. *(He knocks on tree)* Knock, knock,
 who's there?

Humphrey Waiter

Baron Waiter who?

Humphrey Wait a minute and I'll tell you.

Baron Knock, knock, who's there?

Hubert Nicholas.

Baron Nicholas who?

Hubert Nickerless girls shouldn't climb trees.

Baron Knock, knock, who's there?

Humphrey Alison.

Baron Alison who?

Humphrey I listen to Radio One in the morning.

Baron Knock, knock, who's there?

Hubert Ammonia.

Baron Ammonia who?

Hubert *(Sings)* Ammonia poor little sparrow.

Baron Knock, knock, who's there?

Humphrey Ivor.

Baron I know this one.

Humphrey Alright then, Ivor who?

Baron I've a sore hand with knocking on this tree. I know who it is. It's those two wooden headed sons of mine. They've disguised themselves as trees. *(To Hubert)* What kind of tree are you?

Hubert I'm a tree that knows all about the olden days.

Baron What kind of tree is that?

Hubert A history. *(histree)*

Humphrey You'd never guess what kind of tree I am.

Baron Why not?

Humphrey I'm a mystery. *(misstree)*

Hubert I stand on guard outside Buckingham Palace.

Baron Why?

Hubert I'm a sentry. *(sentree)*

Humphrey I open at eight and close at five.

Baron What are you?

Humphrey A factory. *(factree)*

Hubert Little dogs use me when they want to spend a penny.

Baron Why?

Hubert I'm a lavatory. *(lavatree)*

Baron *(Telephone rings. Baron takes phone out from behind trunk of one of the costumes)*
You don't say *(repeated ad lib)* Goodbye.

Humphrey Who was that?

Baron He didn't say. *(Laughs)* No, it was the wolf, he'll meet us here in two minutes.

Hubert We're trees. We won't be frightened when we hear the wolf howl.

Baron Why not?

FADE TO BLACKOUT

OPEN TABS OR TAKE OUT CLOTH

Scene 10

Full set

Grannie Hood's Shop

(Opening number. Children singing about sweets, with suitable props. "Good Ship Lollipop" type. All exit at end of number. Enter Grannie who sees pie) (60)

Grannie I'd bet Simon's forgotten all about that pie. I think I'd have a slice. *(Audience shout. Enter Simon. Work business)*

Simon Grannie Hood. You ought to be ashamed of yourself trying to pinch my pie. Now as a reward, boys and girls, for shouting out, I'm going to ask Uncle *(name of front of house manager)* and Uncle *(name of musical director)* to send up on stage five boys and girls who shouted the loudest. *(Five children are sent up from audience)*

Grannie And they can all have some free sweets from my shop.

Simon What's your name? Where do you come from and how old are you? *(Sort out for likeliest to 'do' paper bags)* What's your favourite sweets? *(Don't ask 5th one)*

Grannie Excuse me, you haven't asked this young lady/gentleman what his/her favourite sweets are.

Simon I'm sorry, what's your favourite sweets? *(Child answers)* We haven't got any of those.

Grannie You might have to have liquorice allsorts. *(To Child)* You what? She/he says she/he doesn't like liquorice allsorts.

Simon I can see we're going to have trouble with this one. Now, before we give you your sweets, and seeing you are up on the stage, we think you should entertain the ladies and gentlemen. Now what can you do? *(Play ad lib by asking each for a party piece or specialist talent).*

Grannie No I'd tell you what we'd do. We'd have a children's orchestra. It just so happens I've got some musical instruments in my shop. *(She fetches bag)*

Simon Is there a violin in there?

Grannie No. Why?

Simon I practised the violin for ten years, you know.

Grannie Well, why can't you play it?

Simon I was nine years before I found out I wasn't supposed to blow it. *(To No. 5 child)* Did you think that was funny? *(According to response 'No' or 'Yes' answer 'No you wouldn't or -very good, we're making progress)*

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- Grannie Now I'm going to give out the instruments. *(She gives out a toy trumpet, Tommy Talker Kazoo, small gong, two note cuckoo blower, a raspberry and a number of paper bags. Last item is for No. 5. They should be threaded on a string).*
- Simon Right, now we'll have a practice, one by one. *(Each one practices. To No. 5) Play that. How do you mean, what is it? It's a paper bag. Grannie Hood, she/he doesn't know how to play a paper bag. Show her/him.*
- Grannie Come here. *(Grannie demonstrates to No. 5 blowing up bag and bursting it. No. 5 tries to do it. If unsuccessful Grannie will help, until successful. They now practise in sequence)*
- Simon To make sure we play in the right order we'll give you a number. *(Number (61) them 1 to 5. No 5 has the bags) Right, now this time I'm going to sing and you play your instrument when I call out your number. (Simon sings possibly 'Hoop-diddly-aye dorolly-ay – contact writers – or any song with a line which lends itself to 5 distinct notes at the end of the line so that the five children can each make a noise with their instrument when Simon calls out their numbers – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. The idea is that most of them get the noise in but No. 5 either misses or is late bursting the bag even with assistance of Grannie)*
That wasn't very good was it? Let's do it again. *(Repeat) Not bad, we'll do it properly this time. (Sings and calls numbers).*
- Grannie Just a minute. I've got an objection here. You're not calling out number 5 properly.
- Simon I'm sorry. *(Sings – calls 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 -)*
- Grannie Just a minute we've missed it. Take it slower. *(Simon sings again 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) We've still missed it.*
- Simon You'll just have to do the best you can. *(Sings, during which a bang from No. 5)*
- Grannie We got it in.
- Simon Yes, but in the wrong place.
- Grannie We'll blow one up then we're ready. *(Does so for No. 5)*
(Launch further into number until confusion reigns)
- Simon Something wrong. It's this number 3. He's Oo-cucking when he should be cuckooing. *(Sings again. Try and make No. 4 late. - 'The raspberries are a little late this year'ó Sings number through more than once speeding up and slowing down the calling out and generally making it impossible for No. 5 to perform. During last time ad lib banging of bags).* That was very good. Now here's your sweets. Do you like Mars Bars? *(Yes) Well here's a Milky Way. (Ad lib with others) Haven't they done well? (Nos. 1 – 4 leave stage)*
- Grannie Just a minute. What about this one? *(No. 5)*

- Simon Well I haven't got any sweets left.
- Grannie Aw! *(Lead audience)*
- Simon Tell you what, she/he can have my pie. *(Gives it to her/him)*
- Grannie She/he says she/he doesn't want it. It's made of wood. Don't tell that lot out there. *(Referring to audience)* Eh, Simon, I've just remembered, I've got another box of sweets at the back of the shop. So you can have your pie back. *(Simon takes pie and deposits off stage)*
- Grannie *(Giving No. 5 sweets)* Now there's some Smarties and some fruit gums, and some Maltesers ó what are you doing? You're dropping them. Oh, put 'em back in the box and have the lot. *(Applause for No. 5 as she/he leaves the stage).*
- Grannie Now I've got to go home Simon, to my little cottage in the woods. I've got to tidy up ready for Red Riding Hood. She always comes to see me this particular day every week. And she brings me a basket of fruit from the shop.
- Simon Well it saves you carrying them yourself. Must be terrible when you're getting old ó and weak ó and decrepit ó and bad on your legs.
- Grannie Yes, yes alright.
- Simon - and asthmatic ó and rheumatic.
- Grannie Shut up.
- Simon I'm glad I'm not getting old like you.
- Grannie You will someday.
- Simon I suppose so. I'll tell you what Grannie Hood. Will you love me when I get old?
- Grannie Of course I will.
- Simon Well, let me get hold then. *(Attempts to embrace her)*
- Grannie Will you give up and let me get off. Now remember, I've asked you to tidy up the shop. Get on with it. *(Simon and Grannie exchange different farewell phrases until Grannie explodes)* Will you let me get off. *(She exits. Simon tidies shop)*
- (Enter Colin and Jill, hand in hand to romantic music. Simon stops work to look at them. Play intro to duet. Just as Colin starts to sing he notices Simon).* (62)
- Colin Simon, haven't you got anything to do?
- Simon I'm tidying up.
- Colin Well tidy up somewhere else.

- Simon Oh heck, just when shop life was getting interesting. *(Simon exits. Colin and Jill duet)*
- Colin These moments I have alone with you are very precious my dear.
- Jill I love you very much Colin, and yet I understand why you must spend so much time away from me.
- Colin The safety of Red Riding Hood depends on me. The time will come when we shall all lead a normal life, you, Red Riding Hood and all the people in my village.
- Jill Colin, your village?
- Colin Well ó er ó it feels like my village, Iøve been made to feel so much at home.
- Jill And yet our home is far from safe while the wolf is still at large.
- Colin His days are numbered.
- Jill You speak with such authority. I sometimes find it difficult to believe youøve spent your life as a woodcutter. Was your life very different?
- Colin Very different my dear and someday soon you shall hear the full story. Trust me.
- Jill Oh Colin. *(They go to embrace. Enter Simon)*
- Simon Iøm back but Iøm not looking.
- Jill Simon, is that you again?
- Simon Thereø nobody else wears a daft cap like this. Listen, I wouldnø have come, but theyøve been and gone and come. So as soon as they went I came.
- Colin What on earth are you talking about?
- Simon I donø know. Yes I do. I was standing outside in the passage when the Baronø two sons handed me a message. There it is, itø for you. *(Gives it to Colin)*.
- Colin *(Looking at letter)* From the Baron. Is this some trickery? *(Opens it and reads)* He wants me to meet him in the grounds of the Hall. He says he has information about the whereabouts of the wolfø lair.
- Jill Can we believe him?
- Colin Weøve nothing to lose. Each piece of information may be the one that leads us to the wolf.
- Simon Youød better go then.
- Jill And Iøm coming with you. I want to make myself useful.

Colin Come on then, we must waste no time. (*Colin and Jill exit*)

Simon I'll try again to tidy up this shop. Every time I start to tidy up, somebody comes in and says 'Hello Simon' (*Enter RH wearing cloak with protective brooch prominent*)

RH Hello, Simon.

Simon What did I tell you? Hello, Little Red Hooding Ride.

RH Simon, don't call me that, you know it annoys me.

Simon How do you think I feel when people call me Simple Simon?

RH Don't you like Simple Simon for a name?

Simon No, I'd rather be called Simple Jack.

RH Simon, help me pack my basket of groceries. It's time I went to see Grannie Hood.

Simon I'll take them for you if you like.

RH No, Grannie Hood always expects me to go.

Simon You don't think I can be relied on do you? Everybody thinks that because I'm daft, I'm stupid ó and I'm not, I'm just simple.

RH But I like you. You're my very best friend.

Simon Your, very, very best friend?

RH My very, very, very best friend. After all, who was it that licked my ice-cream all the way home so that it wouldn't run down and give me sticky fingers?

Simon Me.

RH And who drank my cocoa the other night to stop it going cold?

Simon Me.

RH And while I'm away at Grannie Hood's this evening, who's going to do my homework for me?

Simon Me ó no I'm not. I know very little about Histograms and Mathe-mathe- sums. But I know this much, you're very precious to Grannie Hood, and you're very precious to all of us in the shop. So look after yourself, come straight home and I'll be waiting for you when you get back.

RH You're full of good advice Simon. Have you any more for me?

Simon (Over intro -) Yes I have ó (*Duet Simon and RH. 'Wrap Yourself in Cotton Wool' type. Three quarters of the way through number, dialogue over music*) (63)
Now think on, look after yourself.

RH I always do. Don't fuss. I'll run all the way. Bye, bye, Simon.

Simon Bye, bye Red Riding Hood. (*RH exits. Simon finishes singing last 8 bars of number*) Do you know what I'm going to do now? I'm going to tidy the shop. But as soon as I start, somebody will come in and say 'Hello, Simon'

Colin (*Off stage*) Hello, Simon!

Simon What did I tell you. (*Enter Colin and Jill*) Did you find him?

Colin The Baron. He was nowhere to be seen.

Simon Well what's he playing at?

Jill He's playing a game I don't understand.

Colin I think I understand. It was a ruse to get us out of the way. But why?

Simon I don't know why. There's been nobody here except me and Red Riding Hood.

Jill Where is she now?

Simon Where do you think? She's gone to see her Grannie.

Colin Of course, what a fool I was. It was to get us out of the way. If I'd been here I'd never have let Red Riding Hood set off through the wood on her own. We must make all haste for the cottage.

Jill Do you think they plan some mischief?

Colin I'm sure of it.

Simon But it's my fault, I should never have let her go.

Colin Don't worry. You were not to know that trouble was brewing again. With the wolf on the prowl we've no time to lose. Come on! (*Exit Colin and Jill*)

Simon I didn't know. How could I know. (*Plaintive reprise of duet of Simon and RH, sung by Simon alone who breaks down on last few bars*) (64)

FADE TO BLACKOUT

CLOSE TABS OR DROP IN FRONT CLOTH

Scene 11

Tabs or Front cloth

The Darkest Depth of the Wood*(Enter Wolf to intro music)*

(65)

Wolf I near the summit of my evil ambition, Red Riding Hood shall be mine within the hour. Celebrate with me, all ye wolves of the wood, in this my greatest moment of triumph.

(Music brings dancers on as wolves in flickering red and yellow flame light with howls throughout the dance and with growls of triumph from King Wolf. Running exit for dancers at end of number as King Wolf takes up triumphant pose).

The course of evil runs smoothly. Even now Red Riding Hood enters the wood on her way to the cottage. As she reaches her destination she'll meet up with something she never bargained for ó King Wolf.

Fairy *(Enter Fairy)* Be not so sure wicked wolf. Red Riding Hood is under my protection. (66)

Wolf What can you hope to achieve, puny fairy, against the might of King Wolf?

Fairy A triumph for good over evil. As long as Red Riding Hood wears the magic brooch I gave her, you can do her no harm.

Wolf We shall see. I'll outwit you yet and have my way.

Fairy As long as virtue is rewarded in the world, that shall never be. *(Exit Fairy)* (67)

Wolf I'll waste no time. *(Calling on dancers)* Wolves of the wood hear me! *(Reprise of opening number starts. Enter dancers)* The forces of evil gather Together. Prepare to greet me when I return in triumph. (68)

(Wolf exits to howl. Dancers finish reprise, furioso tempo)

FADE TO BLACKOUT

OPEN TABS OR TAKE OUT FRONT CLOTH

Scene 12

Full set

Grannie Hood's Cottage

(Box set. There is a bed and a screen on stage and a practical door with an old fashioned 'sneck'. Practical window up stage if possible. Rocking chair also on stage. Grannie is discovered sitting in rocking chair knitting. Music to open scene.) (69)

Grannie Oh dear, oh dear. It doesn't look as though Red Riding Hood is coming to visit me now. That means I've been all day on my own and now I'm going to be all night on my own. I might just as well go to bed and get some sleep. I am now about to disrobe. Never in the field of human conflict have so many articles of clothing been removed in so many ways in such a short time.

Orchestra Aw. Get them off. *(Orchestra play 'The Stripper')* (70)

(Grannie undressing routine to music. Removes several jackets then several blouses, as each blouse comes off, twirl it round and throw into wings in time to music. Bumps and grinds way across to wings. Stands by flat and unfastens skirt, giving end for off-stage hand to hold. Unwrap skirt by turning round in time to music and moving across to opposite side of stage. Skirt starts as skirt and develops into a long line of miscellaneous washing. When washing unwrapped to full length, Grannie grabs middle of line – walks across stage trailing it and then throws it off. She then takes off several pairs of bloomers. Possibly have one pair with 'L' plate on and one pair with black hands on seat. Takes key from down bosom and unlocks padlock on corsets. Takes them off and plays them like an accordion. Grannie walks behind screen on one side and immediately emerges from other side dressed in night gown and mop cap. End of number)

Grannie *(Takes applause)* Ewan MacGregor and Leonardo DiCaprio don't look like coming. I might as well just go to bed. I'll say my prayers first. *(Kneels)* Skinny or stout. In rags or well dressed. Send me a man, and I'll do the rest. *(She gets into bed and turns light down).*

Wolf *(The wolf is seen passing the upstage window. He emerges down stage to one side of box set)* At last my hour has come
My vengeful vow I'll keep
Grannie Hood I'll kill
And in her bed I'll wait as though asleep. *(Wolf knocks on door)*

Grannie Who's there?

Wolf *(In assumed voice)* 'Tis I. Red Riding Hood.

Grannie Come in. Pull the bobbin and the latch will fly up. *(Wolf enters and walks towards bed)* You are late my child. Come and give your Grannie a kiss.

Wolf The kiss of King Wolf. The last you will ever have.

Grannie *(Springing from bed)* King Wolf!

- Wolf *(Rushing at her)* Yes, King Wolf. I will first devour you and then Red Riding Hood.
- Grannie Spare me. I may not be much but I am all I've got. *(Wolf chases Grannie and she escapes through the door and off without passing across the window. Grannie loses night-cap in chase)*
- Wolf The old woman has escaped me, but I'll don her night-cap, climb into her bed and when Red Riding Hood comes I'll trick her into thinking I am her Grannie. *(Enter RH passing window upstage. RH knocks at door. Wolf assumes voice of Grannie)* Who's there?
- RH 'Tis I. Red Riding Hood.
- Wolf Come in. Pull the bobbin and the latch will fly up.
- RH *(Red Riding Hood enters in cloak with protective brooch still prominent)* Here I am at last Grannie and I am so tired. It was pitch dark in the wood and I got lost.
- Wolf Never mind my child. Put down your basket. Unfasten your cloak and come and give your old Grannie a kiss.
- RH Yes, Grannie. *(Puts down basket and crosses to bed without taking off cloak. Wolf turns slightly away.)* Kiss me Grannie.
- Wolf Take off your cloak my child.
- RH What big ears you've got Grannie.
- Wolf The better to hear you with my dear. Have you taken off your cloak?
- RH I am just doing so. *(Takes off cloak. Wolf half turns to look at her)* Oh what fierce eyes you have Grannie.
- Wolf The better to see you with my dear.
- RH And what a large nose you have Grannie.
- Wolf The better to smell you with my dear.
- RH And oh, what sharp teeth you've got Grannie.
- Wolf The better to eat you with my dear. *(RH screams and jumps back. Wolf (73) springs from bed taking off night-cap. Chase music. RH runs round room away from wolf. Wolf chases her. During this, Colin is seen crossing window upstage and hammers on door. Wolf seizes RH who breaks away)*
- RH Help, help.
- Wolf At last you are mine. No one can help you now. *(Colin flings door open. He carries an axe. He rushes in between RH and King Wolf).*

Colin You lie King Wolf. I am here to rescue Red Riding Hood and put an end to your foul career. *(Wolf and Colin grapple. Wolf attempts to take axe. They battle through door, and finish seen through window upstage as Colin kills wolf with mighty blow from axe. If this arrangement is not practicable, wolf is killed on stage to fall behind bed. Enter Jill and ensemble)*

Ensemble What's happened? *(Ad lib)*

Jill Oh, Colin. You're safe and sound.

Colin Of course, did you ever doubt it?

Jill And Red Riding Hood? *(sees her)* Oh, there you are. *(They embrace)*

Colin You need fear no more. The wolf is dead.

All Hoorah!

Colin Yonder lies his body. Spread the news throughout the neighbourhood. *(Exit several ensemble)*

Jill *(Looks and then buries head in Colin's chest)* Oh, how terrible. My brave Colin.

RH But where is Grannie Hood?

Jill She's safe enough. Until we stopped her and took care of her, she seemed to be going for the 400 metre sprint.

Ensemble Ha! Ha!

Colin So, we're all safe. *(Knock on door. Enter Baron, Hubert and Humphrey)*

Baron Congratulations my boy, we've just heard the wolf has been killed. Let me shake you by the hand.

Colin You can keep your handshake. It's no thanks to you that right has triumphed over wrong.

Hubert And it's no thanks to us either.

Humphrey We're sorry for what we did.

Hubert But we did what he told us. *(Referring to Baron)*

Baron And I'm afraid I did what the wolf told me. The wolf knew I was holding on to the village rents which I should have handed over to Prince Valiant.

Colin Now you have confessed, Prince Valiant shall pardon you.

Baron How can you know this?

Colin I am Prince Valiant.

All Hoorah!

Jill Colin, my hero. I knew you were no ordinary woodcutter.

Colin That is so, but as a woodcutter I have learnt how hard the life of a villager is. I forgo all these rents for evermore and instruct you, as Baron, to hand back to the villagers the monies of mine that you hold, and for good measure to double the sum out of your own pocket.

All Hoorah!

Colin And now my only remaining duty is to issue an invitation to the whole village to the wedding of Prince Valiant and his lady ó my lady, Jill.

All Hoorah!

RH What marvellous news. Where will the wedding be? ó in some grand cathedral?

Colin By no means. The wedding will be here, in the village church. Where else would a woodcutter get married?

(Reprise of suitable bright number)

(74)

FADE TO BLACKOUT

TABS CLOSE OR FRONT CLOTH DROPS IN

Scene 13

Tabs or Drop cloth

Outside the Cottage

- Grannie *(Enter Grannie and Simon. Play on)* Well, it's lovely to be back (75)
outside my own cottage.
- Simon And it's lovely for me to be with you.
- Grannie I'm glad they've cleared that wolf away. I'd much rather have a sheepskin rug on
my bed.
- Simon I saw him being carried out.
- Grannie I know. And what did you say?
- Simon I said "Oh, what a big rabbit!" Isn't it lovely though, being invited to the wedding of
your Jill and Prince Valium.
- Grannie Valiant. Just think, he's invited the village as a whole. You don't often think of a
village as a whole, do you?
- Simon I do. I think it's a tatty hole.
- Grannie You're always moaning. The other day you were complaining you were hard up.
- Simon I am. I've been meaning to ask you for a long time. I want a rise.
- Grannie Why should I give you a rise? You don't work hard enough.
- Simon I do.
- Grannie You don't. Listen, there are 365 days in the year. You work 8 hours a day, that's a
third of a day, and a third of 365 is 122 to the nearest. The shop's closed on Sunday.
So that's 52 days you don't work, that leaves 70. I give you 14 days holiday a year,
that leaves 56. You get 4 Bank Holidays, that leaves 52 days. We close on Saturday
and there are 52 Saturdays in a year. So that proves you don't work at all. Why
should I give you a rise?
- Simon I've known you all these years. You've always called me Simon but I've never
called you anything but Grannie Hood. Now that it's got to twenty to ten I'd like to
call you by your first name.
- Grannie It's a secret.
- Simon We'd like to share your secret wouldn't we? *(Audience 'YES')*
We won't tell anybody will we? *('NO')*
- Grannie Right, then I'll tell you. My first name is Fanny.
- Simon Have you got another name?

Grannie Yes, I have as a matter of fact. It's Ann. Fanny Ann.

Simon Fanny Annie.

Grannie Not Fanny Annie. Fanny Ann.

Simon Grannie Fanny Annie.

Grannie Will you shut up. Let's sing.

(Cue for audience chorus song)

(76)

FADE TO BLACKOUT

TABS OPEN OR TAKE OUT FRONT CLOTH

Scene 14

Full set

Prince Valiant's Palace*(Finale walkdown for ensemble and principals)*

(77)

(Cut music)

Colin If we've brought a little laughter
 If we've driven cares away.
 We'll live happy ever after
 As the fairy stories say.

Simon As homeward now you wander

Grannie Though luck be ill or good

RH May happy memories linger
 Around Red Riding Hood

(Reprise finale number for company bow)

HOUSE CURTAIN CLOSES

(Play-out audience)

(78)

Appendix A**DESCRIPTION OF CHARACTERS****IMMORTALS**

Fairy Silverleaf	Could be a singer or participate in ballet. Must be able to deliver rhyming couplets with clarity and confidence
King Wolf	A scary baddy ranting and raving to bring reaction from audience

MORTALS

Red Riding Hood	Talented youngster with acting ability and some singing and dancing talent
Jill	Principal girl, a typical wholesome likeable girl. Some singing and dancing ability
Grannie Hood	Traditional panto dame <u>not</u> overplaying age. Works with comic and feeds him
Simple Simon	A lovable and gormless village lad. Leading personality comic
Prince Valiant	Principal boy, pop singer and dancer. Masquerades as woodcutter but acts the royal role when the plot demands
Humphrey) Hubert)	Comic supporting roles. Stupid and useless sons of the Baron
Baron de Broke	Hapless comedy character under the influence and control of King Wolf. Works in threesome with Hubert and Humphrey
Zara	Singer. A woman of the wild with her own open air subjects. Benevolent
Important Note:	Pop singer means not necessarily a straight singer but certainly someone with an ability to put over a number

Appendix B**“RED RIDING HOOD”****Production Notes (Scene by scene in addition to those in script)**

- Prologue** Wolf enters in smoke covered by flash a safe distance downstage left.
- Flash at downstage centre must be clear of both Fairy and Wolf but it appears to scare Wolf away.
- Scene 1** Baron's sons hug each other SFX (rimshot)
- Whenever pie is threatened ad lib lines for culprit revealing intentions and Simon admonishing culprit.
- Hubert bangs head on proscenium arch SFX (rimshot).
- Knock on door SFX (coconut block)
- Grannie does not rise until cue õbloomersö
- Each time bucket changes hands SFX (rimshot). Recipient does not immediately notice bucket which is then passed back.
- Simon's ad lib involves repeating Baron's names over and over in variable order.
- Grannie takes swipe at Simon SFX (siren whistle)
- Baron and sons jump startled SFX (rimshot)
- Baron õAahh!ö SFX (rimshot)
- Scene 3** Tyre is duplicated for ease of working.
- Humbug business is worked with ad lib lines to suit the action.
- Scene 4** Baron's bump into proscenium arch SFX (bass drum)
- Scene 5** One son wears trousers from ankle to shoulder, other son wears jacket from shoulder to ground. Do not use suiting. Any lightweight length of material will adapt as long as essentials are highlighted e.g. turn-ups, flies, pockets and very short braces for trousers. Ribboned lapels, flap pockets and large buttons for jacket.
- Names on girl's board for 50/50 are removable (hooked on)
- Wolf howl benefits from amplification echo.
- Wolf startles Baron and sons SFX (scatter crash)
- Scene 8** TV sports music theme could be pre-recorded.

When Dolly's back goes SFX (ratchet)

Grannie yanks Simon's compass upwards SFX (rimshot)

Wolf growl and howl benefit from amplification.

Business with Simon, Dolly and Wolf is classic 'He's behind you' involving movements left and right and audience participation.

Scene 9 On cue from Baron 'disguised themselves as trees' small sliding aperture reveals Hubert's face.

On cue from Hubert 'A history' similar aperture reveals Humphrey's face.

On exit at end of number, Baron clearly sends 2 sons off with the message to Colin

Scene 10 For song business, five children are pre-selected by Front of House and escorted from seats to stage and back again.

Number 5 kiddie selected to do paper bag in children's orchestra business is the most important. Smallest could be best. Grannie has 'instruments' in shopping bag. According to availability and suitability one could remain unused. Paper bags, however, are essential.

Simon attempts to embrace Grannie. His clumsy attempts are covered by SFX (rimshot, block, cowbell, bass drum in quick succession)

Farewell phrases can be in any language or dialect e.g. Bye-bye, au revoir, ta ta, arriverderci, see you later alligator, after a while crocodile etc.

Simon wears large cap or one too small or anything eccentric.

Scene 12 Grannie has dresser hidden behind screen throughout scene. This is to assist change into nightgown (open to step into and velcroed) and night cap. Must be quick and slickly done because it is the visual punchline for the routine.

Dummy switch at bed for Grannie to appear to turn down lights other than pool of light from bed lamp.

Practical window enables audience to see who is approaching door with 'sneckö.

Fight to the death covered by SFX (drum rolls only 'others have comic connotations)

If Wolf has been killed outside, Colin re-enters on cue 'What happened?'

Scene 13 The hour of the clock mentioned by Simon will depend on finishing time of show.