

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! I'dl get my own back. I'dl pinch Simple Simon's pie.
(Pie business. Baron and Simon both exit into shop)
(Enter Wolf – play on discord) (14)
- Wolf Ha, ha! Unseen, I've prowled the village, once more. No one is safe, no home secure.
 As Red Riding Hood from school doth wend her way.
 I'dl work my evil plan without delay.
 I'dl 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. I'dl 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 I'dl 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'd 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.