

# **"RED RIDING HOOD"**

*Written by*

*PETER LONG & KEITH RAWNSLEY*

*(Updated for 2014/15 by Peter Long)*



This script is published by

NODA LTD  
 15 The Metro Centre  
 Peterborough PE2 7UH  
 Telephone: 01733 374790  
 Fax: 01733 237286  
 Email: [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)  
[www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk)

To whom all enquiries regarding purchase of further scripts and current royalty rates should be addressed.

### CONDITIONS

1. A Licence, obtainable only from NODA Ltd, must be acquired for every public or private performance of a NODA script and the appropriate royalty paid : if extra performances are arranged after a Licence has already been issued, it is essential that NODA Ltd be informed immediately and the appropriate royalty paid, whereupon an amended Licence will be issued.
2. The availability of this script does not imply that it is automatically available for private or public performance, and NODA Ltd reserve the right to refuse to issue a Licence to Perform, for whatever reason. Therefore a Licence should always be obtained before any rehearsals start.
3. All NODA scripts are fully protected by copyright acts. Under no circumstances may they be reproduced by photocopying or any other means, either in whole or in part, without the written permission of the publishers
4. The Licence referred to above only relates to live performances of this script. A separate Licence is required for videotaping or sound recording of a NODA script, which will be issued on receipt of the appropriate fee.
5. NODA works must be played in accordance with the script and no alterations, additions or cuts should be made without the prior consent from NODA Ltd. This restriction does not apply to minor changes in dialogue, strictly local or topical gags and, where permitted in the script, musical and dancing numbers.
6. The name of the author shall be stated on all publicity, programmes etc. The programme credits shall state "Script provided by NODA Ltd, Peterborough PE2 7UH"

NODA LIMITED is the trading arm of the NATIONAL OPERATIC & DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION, a registered charity devoted to the encouragement of amateur theatre.

This script is licensed for amateur theatre by NODA Ltd to whom all enquiries should be made. [www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk) E-mail: [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)



# "RED RIDING HOOD"

## CHARACTERS

RED RIDING HOOD.....PRINCIPAL GIRL

PETER THE WOOD CUTTER.....PRINCIPAL BOY

GRANNY KNOTT.....DAME

PATCHES.....ORPHANAGE ODD JOB MAN

PINNY.....ORPHANAGE CLEANER

SQUIRE BULLYMORE.....CRUEL ORPHANAGE BENEFACTOR

MISS TOOK.....THE ORPHANAGE GAMES TEACHER

REDDY  
and  
WILLIN }.....THE SQUIRE'S HAPLESS HENCHMEN

THE KIND FAIRY

THE WICKED WOLF

## ALSO FEATURING

DANCERS

SUNBEAMS

CHORUS

## Character Descriptions

**1: Peter the Woodcutter:** (Female) Principal Boy. Since leaving the local orphanage Peter has scraped a living as a woodsman near to the village of Birchwood. He had to leave behind the love of his life, the girl known as Red Riding Hood who still resides at the orphanage.

**2: Red Riding Hood:** (Female) Principal Girl. A young sweet girl left on the orphanage doorstep as an infant wrapped in a red riding hood, hence the unusual name. She is virtually imprisoned in the orphanage by the cruel benefactor Squire Bullymore.

**3: Granny Knott:** (Male) This is the Dame character. Granny is a widow from a neighbouring town and having been bequeathed a cottage and some money from a previous employer she visits Birchwood Orphanage in a hope to adopt a girl to be the grand daughter she never had.

**4: Patches:** (Male) Comic lead. Patches is the loveable yet slightly gormless orphanage odd job man. He has been at the orphanage since he was a baby, again having been abandoned wrapped in a patchwork quilt. He has resigned himself to a lifetime as a subordinate under the Squire's tyranny.

**5: Pinny:** (Female) Pinny is a foil for Patches, she is the orphanage cleaner and lifelong companion of Patches. Pinny was also abandoned as an infant on the orphanage doorstep wrapped in a .yes, you've guessed it. A pinny! Like Patches she is a loveable comical character.

**6: Squire Bullymore:** (Male) One of the villains of the pantomime and the cruel benefactor of Birchwood orphanage. Knowing that Peter is waiting for Red Riding Hood to be set free he deliberately keeps her from him and will not allow anyone access to the girl. In truth the Squire is a somewhat pathetic character and a figure of fun to most.

**7: Miss Took:** (Female) She is the games mistress at the orphanage. This is a %olly Hockey Sticks+type of character, the sort often portrayed by the late Joyce Genfell. Miss Took at first has romantic intensions toward the Squire, but these gradually wane when she sees the extent of his cruelty.

**8 & 9: Reddy and Willin:** (Both Male) These roles are the %Brokers Men+type parts. Reddy and Willin are the orphan catchers employed by the Squire to keep the orphans from escaping, in reality they are a right couple of cowards who strut about in combat gear but when faced with the slightest retaliation cower away.

**Continued** ò ò ò

**10: The Fairy of the Forest:** (Female) The immortal who looks over our heroine and all her friends. The Fairy is the story teller and through her rhymes relates the story to the audience. The Squire is not the only adversary of the Fairy for it is the Wicked Wolf that causes big problems.

**11: The Wicked Wolf:** (Male) More like a werewolf in that the Wolf takes on a human guise, the face of a wolf, hairy hands and yet wears a dapper suit and spats. Working as the Squire's accomplice he intends to eat our heroine ò .pure evil!!

In addition to the above characters there are several cameo roles that could be played by chorus members as they only have a few lines. There is also an appearance of %Delilah+ a pantomime horse (one scene only)

# "RED RIDING HOOD"

## SCENES

### ACT ONE

Scene 1....."The Village Outside the Orphanage"

Scene 2....."Squire Bullymore's Study"

Scene 3....."The Orphanage Garden"

Scene 4....."The Orphanage Sick Bay"

Scene 5....."Down by the River"

### ACT TWO

Scene 1....."The Orphanage Garden later that Day"

Scene 2....."Camping Out"

Scene 3....."A Forest Path"

Scene 4....."Inside Granny Knott's Cottage"

Scene 5....."The Orphanage Garden"

Scene 6....."Birchwood Manor"

### Song Sheet

### Walk Down

### Finale



OVERTURE.....HOUSE CURTAINS OPEN ON TABS

F/X....SOUND OF HOWLING WOLF....AND THE WE SEE A PROJECTED FULL MOON  
ONTO THE PROSCENIUM ARCH  
ENTER FAIRY

**FAIRY:**

The sound you heard was not of man.  
But a beast that howls at the moon.  
A fearsome Wolf that prowls the woods.  
And you'll meet it very soon.

The folks around here are so afraid.  
They stay indoors when the sun goes down.  
And I've been sent before it's too late.  
To save the people of the town.

The Orphanage here plays an important part.  
In the telling of this story.  
It's the nasty Squire who owns the place.  
And he thinks he's Judge and Jury.

And living in the Orphanage is our heroine  
A girl that is pure and good.  
Found on a step abandoned.  
Wrapped only in a red riding hood.

FAIRY EXITS F/X....ANOTHER FIENDISH HOWL

ENTER WOLF

**WOLF:**

(TO AUDIENCE'S REACTION)  
Be quiet you fools with that hostile noise.  
Or I'll eat you all for dinner.  
The Fairy's powers are weak you'll see.  
And I will be the winner.

FAIRY ENTERS

**FAIRY:**

So you're the Cur that brings distress.  
To the people I now call friend.  
Your unchallenged reign of terror.  
Will soon be at an end.

Be off for now you wicked Wolf.  
And try to do your worst.  
For your days are shortly numbered

And your bubble soon will burst.

WOLF EXITS SNARLING

**FAIRY:**

Here we've had pantomime for many a year.  
Entertaining old and young as they should.  
And now stepping out from the fairy tale..  
Please welcome "Red Riding Hood".

FAIRY BECKONS TO TABS AS SHE EXITSō ..TABS OPEN FOR.....

**ACT 1....SCENE 1...."THE VILLAGE OUTSIDE THE ORPHANAGE"**

**SET:**....FULL STAGE WITH CLOTH TO SUIT....THERE IS A FLAT WITH PRACTICAL DOOR ON STAGE PLACED TO GIVE MAXIMUM AUDIENCE VIEW....THIS FLAT IS TO GIVE EFFECT OF ORPHANAGE MAIN DOOR.....IT IS PLAY TIME AT THE ORPHANAGE.....ON STAGE ARE SUNBEAMS AND DANCERS AS ORPHANS,AND CHORUS AS VILLAGERS INCLUDING PRINCIPAL GIRL (RED RIDING HOOD)....ALSO ON STAGE ARE PATCHES AND PINNY

♪ **MUSICAL ITEM No.1**...STRAIGHT INTO LIVELY/HAPPY SONG AND DANCE

AFTER OPENING ROUTINE....**F/X:** SCHOOL BELL RINGS PROMPTING OOOH'S AND AAAH'S FROM THE CHILDREN AS THEY GLOOMILY EXIT THROUGH DOOR BACK INTO SCHOOLō THE VILLAGERS DISPERSE RED RIDING HOOD HESITATES OUTSIDE THE DOOR AS IF LOOKING FOR SOMEONEō ONE OF THE CHILDREN COMES OUT TO LOOK FOR HERō

**GIRL:** (FROM DOORWAY) Red Riding Hoodō come in!... don't let the Squire see you out here on your own!

**RED RIDING HOOD:** I was hoping to see Peter the Woodcutterō Oh I wish the Squire would let me see himō I miss him so much!

**GIRL:** Oh please come inō If the Squire sees you you'd never see Peter againō

RED RIDING HOOD RELUCTANTLY GOES INTO ORPHANAGE  
**ENTER GRANNY KNOTT** STUMBLING FORWARD AND LOOKING BACK INTO WINGS.....SHE KNOCKS CLOUDS OF DUST FROM HER CLOTHING

**GRANNY KNOTT:**

(SARCASTICALLY BACK INTO WINGS)...Thank you coach driver for a smooth, trouble free journey...(TO AUDIENCE)....I don't think!!...(A BATTERED SUITCASE IS THROWN AT HER FROM THE WINGS...GRANNY LOOKS AT SUITCASE...THEN TOAUDIENCE)  
I bet that's bent me hair straighteners!... the problem is if I don't go by bus or coach I have to walk 'cos I haven't got a car... It's really scary when I visit a Safari Park!!ō ..mind you, I've put one over on the coach company, I bought a return ticket and I'm not going back with 'em...that'd show 'em.....do you know, on our way we had a comfort stop....you know girls, where we have to queue and the men don't!, .....anyway, while we were there

the coach driver got bitten by a wolf ð it's true!!... it tried to eat his leg!...I told him to put something on it...he said, there's no need the wolf seemed to enjoy it as it was!!.

**GRANNY SITS AND RESTS ON HER SUITCASE**  
**RED RIDING HOOD AGAIN ENTERS FROM ORPHANAGE**

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

(SEES GRANNY)...Hello...I hope you're not waiting for the stage coach, because it's gone!... and there isn't another for three days.

**GRANNY:**

Thank goodness for that!, I've just got off it...it's nice to sit on something that isn't moving!.....my name's Granny Knott...you might be able to help me, I'm looking for Birchwood Orphanage.

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

Birchwood Orphanage?...well Granny Knott look no further...you're sitting right outside it.

**GRANNY:**

(LOOKS ROUND)...Oh?, this is the place is it?...well thank you young lady....but who am I thanking?.

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

Oh nobody in particular, I live here at the orphanage.

**GRANNY TAKES RED RIDING HOOD'S HAND**

**GRANNY:**

Well whoever you are it's nice to meet you ð (GRIMACES)..Oh, that stage coach!.... (RUBS TUMMY) talk about being all shook up! it's a good job that I got off when I did goodness knows where I'd have ended up ð probably abroad somewhere!...

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

(CONCERNED)..Oh are you intercontinental?

**GRANNY:**

(MIS-UNDERSTANDING) ð What?... oh no ð just a bit sickly!

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

(PUZZLED) Oh I see.. er well Granny Knott, what could you possibly want with Birchwood Orphanage?.

**GRANNY:**

Well I'm not an orphan if that's what you're thinking....you see, I'm all on my own...(SHE BECKONS AUDIENCE FOR SYMPATHY)....I'm wanting a companion....really I'm looking for the Granddaughter I never had and I've heard that some girls are due to leave the Orphanage, and I'd like to give one of them a good home.

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

On your own you say?...are you sure you can afford to do that?.

**GRANNY:**

I can afford a lot of things young lady...you see, up to a year ago I worked up at the big house, and when his Lordship passed on he left me a cottage and all the money I'll ever need!...All I'm short of is family, and I hope I'll find a suitable girl here. (GRANNY NOTICES THAT RED RIDING HOOD SEEMS ON EDGE) ð is everything alright lovey you seem a bit worriedð

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

I amð Squire Bullymore the Orphanage benefactor doesn't like me and if he catches me out here I'll be in big trouble ð he won't let me see Peter the woodcutter my one and only true love and I miss him so much!

**GRANNY:**

(SHE PRODUCES A LARGE HANKY FROM UNDER HER SKIRT AND BLOWS HER NOSE LOUDLY....THEN TEARFULLY)....What a lovely story....I've never been so upset since.....(USE A TOPICAL EXAMPLE TO SUIT)

**FX WOLF HOWL**

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

Oh no that's the Wolf!... I must go in!.. please don't tell anyone you've seen me!...(SHE HURRIES INTO ORPHANAGE)

ENTER PETER HE IS CARRYING AN AXE

**PETER:**

Good morning Madamð can I help you?... Peter's the nameð did you hear the wolf?

**GRANNY:**

What?... Oh that's what it wasð (REALISING)ð Are you Peter the Wood cutter?

**PETER:**

Yes I amð how did you know?

**GRANNY:**

Well you've called Peter and you've got an axeð doesn't take Miss Marple to work that out!

... no you see there was this young lady and she told me not to tell anyone that I had seen her but she wanted to see her own true love... and that's you I believe.

**PETER:**

(TAKES HER HAND)...Red Riding Hood!!!

**GRANNY:**

er no it's Granny Knott actually!

**PETER:**

No... I mean the girl you mentioned, Red Riding Hood we grew up together in the orphanage and she was supposed to leave this place last year, but just because I wouldn't toe the line when I was in there, that cruel Squire Bullymore won't let her go....he knows I'm waiting and hope to marry her someday....look...(HE PRODUCES A NOTE FROM HIS POCKET).. here's a note I hoped to smuggle in today, in the logs.....could you see she gets it.....normally Patches or Pinny, two good friends of mine who work in there

take my messages, but I think the Squire's getting suspicious and I'd hate them to lose their jobs....(GRANNY TAKES THE NOTE)...please see that she gets it, anyway lqñ off to hunt the Wolf.

**GRANNY:**

The wolf!!...(SHUDDERS)...oooh, what would you want to be chasing that thing for?.

**PETER:**

Well the one who slays the wolf will become Lord Mayor of Birchwood, and that is my ambition!....(PETER MAKES TO EXIT)... don't forget to give Red Riding Hood the note.. (HE EXITS)

**GRANNY:**

Red Riding Hood?... Patches?...Pinny?... by there's some funny names in Birchwood ... (SHE PICKS UP HER SUITCASE WHICH FALLS OPEN, SPILLING OUT DROLL UNDERWEAR.....SHE HOLD UP A LARGE PAIR OF BLOOMERS WHICH HAS "STAR TREK" SEWN ON...SHE SHAKES DUST OFF THEM).....That dust gets everywhere.... (THEN TO A LADY IN THE AUDIENCE)....have you got a pair like these Mrs?...these are my "Star Trek" bloomers....you see they go where no man has gone before!!.

GRANNY STOOPS TO RE-PACK HER CASE, AS SHE IS DOING SO, ENTER A SUNBEAM AS AN ORPHAN WHO IS RUNNING THEN LEAPFROGS OVER THE STOOPING GRANNY AND THEN EXITS RUNNING.....GRANNY STANDS AND LOOKS AROUND PUZZLED, SHRUGS HER SHOULDERS AND RE-ASSUMES CROUCHED POSITION.....THE LEAPFROG BUSINESS IS REPEATED TWICE MORE BY THE ORPHAN CATCHERS REDDY AND WILLIN WHO ARE CHASING THE ORPHAN.....GRANNY COMPLETES THE PACKING OF HER SUITCASE, AND AS SHE IS ABOUT TO STAND UPRIGHT THE ORPHAN RE-ENTERS AND KNOCKS GRANNY DOWN..... REDDY AND WILLIN RUNNING CLOSELY BEHIND SKID TO A HALT, GRAB THE ORPHAN AND BUSTLE HER INTO THE ORPHANAGE.

**GRANNY:**

(COMPOSING HERSELF)....What's going on!?...we'll see about this!!.

GRANNY MARCHES UP TO THE ORPHANAGE DOOR AND PULLS THE BELL HANDLE.....**FIX**:...FRACTURED CHIME OF "BIG BEN".....SHE LOOKS PUZZLED, AND NOBODY OPENS THE DOOR, SHE PULLS BELL HANDLE AGAIN.....**FIX**:...SHIPS FOGHORN.....GRANNY LOOKS PUZZLED AGAIN

PATCHES APPEARS FROM DOORWAY

**PATCHES:**

Now then Mrs.... what can I do for you? you're not from one of them energy suppliers are you?

**GRANNY:**

Energy Supplier?...No but you look as if you could do with some....anyway, who are you?

**PATCHES:**

I'm Patches, who are you?.

**GRANNY:**

My name's Knott.

**PATCHES:**

Not what?.

**GRANNY:**

(IMPATIENT)...No, not Knott Watt!

**PATCHES:**

Well it's whatō not?.

**GRANNY:**

No....not Watt Knott.....Knott!!....my name's not Watt, it's Knott, nit wit!

**PATCHES:**

Well If it's not Nitwit.....your name's what?.

**GRANNY:**

Look, let's start again....my name is Granny.

**PATCHES:**

Oh, right....I see, it's Granny....but Granny what!?

**GRANNY:**

Don't start all that again....look, I've come to see Squire Bullymore....I'm hoping he might see me today?.

**PATCHES:**

Look, you'd better come in and I'll see if he's free.

BEFORE GRANNY CAN ENTER THE WOLF APPEARS UNSEEN BY GRANNY....  
PATCHES OF COURSE SEES THE WOLF AND SLAMS THE DOOR IN GRANNY'S  
FACE

**GRANNY:**

(STILL WITH BACK TO AUDIENCE...RUBBING HER NOSE).....I thought he said "come in".....(THEN MAKES AS IF CALLING THROUGH LETTER BOX).....hey Patches!...aren't you going to let me in to wait?!.

THE WOLF HOWLS BEHIND HER WHICH SOUNDS LIKE "WHO"

**GRANNY:**

(THINKING IT IS PATCHES REPLY) What do you mean who?....Me you fool!.

THE WOLF THEN GIVES A PROLONGED HOWL WHICH SOUNDS LIKE "WHO-WOO-WOO-WOO-WOO"

**GRANNY:**

(STILL THINKS IT IS PATCHES AND RESPONDS THROUGH LETTER BOX)....Mee-yee-yee-yee-yee.

THE FAIRY ENTERS QUIETLY AND UNSEEN BY GRANNY, SHE WAVES HER WAND AT THE WOLF WHO SKULKS OFF GESTURING TO THE AUDIENCE

WOLF EXITSō FAIRY EXITS

**GRANNY:**

(TURNS TO AUDIENCE)....What were you lot shouting about?.....wolf?!.....what wolf?.....I can't see any wolf?!

**PATCHES:**

(AS HE SLOWLY OPENS DOOR AND PEEPS OUT NERVOUSLY)....Has the wolf gone?!

**GRANNY:**

There's no wolf out here....I think you're suffering from illuminations!!.....can I come in or what?!

**PATCHES:**

What?....oh yes....the Squire says he'll see you in his study... please come in....(PATCHES HAS A NERVOUS LOOK AROUND BEFORE HE CLOSSES THE DOOR)

ENTER PETER CARRYING A POSY OF FLOWERS

**PETER:**

(TO HIMSELF).....Oh no....Granny Knott's gone into the orphanage already, so I've missed her....I was hoping that she could have given these flowers to Red Riding Hood.

WE HEAR APPROACHING VOICES....PETER IS UNSURE WHAT TO DO WITH THE FLOWERS....HURRIEDLY HE HIDES THEM BEHIND HIS BACK.

ENTER DANCERS DRESSED AS WOODMEN...THEY ARE CARRYING AXES, SAWS AND WITH A BARROW OF LOGS...THEY ARE ACTING WITH GOOD HUMOUR TOWARDS EACH OTHER

**PETER:**

Oh, hello lads....have you er...finished for the day?.

**1st WOODMAN:**

Yes we have Peter....and we'd have finished sooner with you to help us.

**2nd WOODMAN:**

Yes.....where did you get to?.

**3rd WOODMAN:**

(AS HE WALKS BEHIND PETER...TAKING FLOWERS FROM HIM....THEN TEASING)....Ahhh, look what we have here lads.....I wonder who these could be for?.

THEY THROW THE FLOWERS AROUND TO EACH OTHER

**PETER:**

(ENJOYING THE JOKE)....Come on now lads...you know very well who they're for!, Red Riding Hood of course...the only girl for me!.

♫ **MUSICAL ITEM No 2**...INTO MUSICAL ITEM FEATURING PETER AND THE DANCERS.....AFTER ROUTINE **TABS CLOSE** ON THEM.....THEN STAGE BLACKOUT.....**F/X**.....SIRENS AND ALARM BELL....THE SPOTLIGHT RAKES THE THEATRE AS IF SECURITY SEARCHLIGHT....

**ALL THE ABOVE F/X** ARE COVERED WITH ♫ TO THE "JAMES BOND" THEME.....ALL F/X AND MUSIC STOP....SPOTLIGHTS PICK OUT THE ENTRANCE OF REDDY AND WILLIN EACH ENTER FROM OPPOSITE SIDES.....THEY ARE DRESSED IN COMBAT GEAR AND SINISTER BLACK SKI HOODS....STAGE LIGHTS UP AND WE SEE WILLIN'S MASK IS MISALIGNED WITH HIS EYES AND EARS AND HE IS BLINDLY GROPING HIS WAY AROUND THE STAGE

**REDDY:**

(TO AUDIENCE)...Don't be alarmed ladies and gentlemen, that was merely an Orphanage security alert....we are testing our new system!....nothing!...and I mean nothing or no one will get out of Birchwood orphanage tonight or any other night.....(UNSEEN BY REDDY A GROUP OF ORPHANS CASUALLY WALK BEHIND HIM TOWARD A SIGN WHICH READS "DISCO TONIGHT AT THE VILLAGE HALL" AND EXIT....REDDY RESPONDS TO AUDIENCE REACTION)... What??... What!??...(HE LOOKS ROUND AND SEES NOTHING)....anyway, as I was saying before you rudely interrupted me...myself and my colleague Mr. Willin over there who isn't as daft as he looks!...to be truthful, he's actually dafter than he looks!!.. õ ..(TO WILLIN)...Hey!...come over here...(WILLIN STILL HAS HIS SKI HOOD MISALIGNED AND CANNOT SEE...HE GROPE HIS WAY TOWARDS REDDY..... AND DURING THIS ANOTHER GROUP OF ORPHANS MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE DISCO AND EXIT.....REDDY TO AUDIENCE REACTION ....What!??....who's going where?... (GLANCES ROUND AND SEES NOTHING)...anyway, where was I?... oh yes....(TO WILLIN).....look here Willin, those holes in your hood are supposed to line up with your eyes, mouth and ears!

**WILLIN:**

Pardon!?

**REDDY:**

Come here...(ADJUSTING WILLIN'S HOOD)...there you are!.

**WILLIN:**

Yes, that's a lot better.

**REDDY:**

Now you can see what you're doing.

**WILLIN:**

Yes....er...what are we doing?!

SOME MORE ORPHANS PASS BEHIND THEM UNSEEN

**REDDY:**

We are going to test our latest communication equipmentõ (HE PRODUCES TWO TIN CANS THAT ARE JOINED BY A PIECE OF STRINGõ HE HANDS ONE OF THE TIN CANS TO WILLINõ WHO PUTS IT TO HIS EAR AND REDDY PULLS THE STRING



TAUGHT AND ALMOST PULLS WILLIN OFF HIS FEET)ō Come in Willin! Are you receiving me? Over!

**WILLIN:**

You bloominqwell nearly pulled me over!!... Over!

**REDDY:**

Youāe supposed to say Roger!

**WILLIN:**

O/Kō you bloominqwell nearly pulled me over Roger!... look, Iān only six feet away from you Roger why do we have to speak through (REFERS TO TIN CANS) these things? And how come youāe suddenly called Rogerō Roger?

**REDDY:**

Do you know Willin youāe a dinosaur when it comes to the latest technology!... this equipment is cutting edge!!

**WILLIN:**

(LOOKS AT HIS TIN CAN) Well my bitā definitely cutting edge! Itā like a razor is this tin canō what did you open it with ā a screwdriver?!

**REDDY:**

(TO WILLIN)....Look, forget the intercom your obviously not ready for advanced technologyō and take that hood off...(HE DOESō REDDY GRIMACES)... on second thoughts, put it back on again!!.....I'll tell you what though...Squire Bullymore is going to be impressed with our security arrangements.

**WILLIN:**

(SARCASTIC) Yes I bet he wont be able to contain himself!!.. look Iān parched I fancy a cup of teaō what about you Roger?

**REDDY:**

A cup of tea!!!?...We've to patrol the grounds all night lad!... we're fearless fighting machines me and you....we haven't got time for cups of tea!... and stop calling me Roger.....(F/X OFF.... PROLONGED WOLF HOWL.... THEN REDDY COWARDLY) ....well?...on second thoughts a cup of tea might be a good ideaō a fighting force needs sustenance come on...we'll get the kettle on!.....(AS THEY EXIT)....do we still have some of them gypsy creams left, they're me favourites.....(F/X OFF...ANOTHER WOLF HOWL)

REDDY AND WILLIN EXIT RUNNING.

**FAIRY ENTERS**

**FAIRY:**

It's time to go into the Orphanage now.  
And meet this awful Squire.  
He in turn will meet Granny Knott.  
Who about an orphan will enquire.  
She'll make her choice from the girls in there.

But the Squire won't think her choice good.  
He'd like her to take a girl that he'd name.  
But she'll select Red Riding Hood.

FAIRY EXITS

TABS OPEN FOR.....

**ACT 2....SCENE 2...."THE SQUIRE'S STUDY"**

**SET:**.....SUITABLE CLOTH DEPICTING PANELLED STUDY.... DESK WITH CHAIR AND A VISITORS CHAIR, ALSO USUAL STUDY TRAPPINGS .....PINNY, THE ORPHANAGE CLEANER IS BUSY TIDYING UP AND FLICKING A DUSTER AROUND

ENTER PATCHES WITH GRANNY KNOTT

**PATCHES:**

Well here we are Granny Knott...(SEES PINNY)...oh, by the way, this here is my assistant...she known as Pinny.

**GRANNY:**

(AS SHE GREETES PINNY) Pinny??.... a funny name indeed....but who am I to talk with a name like Granny Knott.

**PINNY:**

Take Granny's coat Patches

PATCHES TAKES HER COAT, CAREFULLY ARRANGES IT ON A HANGER, THEN GETS A CLOTHES BRUSH AND CAREFULLY GROOMS HER COAT, HE RUNS HIS THUMB AND FORE-FINGER DOWN SIDE CREASES TO GIVE CRISP EFFECT.... GRANNY AND PINNY LOOK ON APPROVINGLY.....AFTER ALL THIS CAREFUL ATTENTION HE CASUALLY THROWS COAT WITH HANGER INTO CORNER.... GRANNY AND PINNY SLOWLY TURN TO AUDIENCE AND GRIMACE)

**GRANNY:**

Actually I'm glad I've got you both together, because I've got this here note...(PRODUCES NOTE AND GIVES IT TO PINNY)....a young man called Peter that I met outside has sent it, it's for the girl in here called Red Riding Hood!

ENTER RED RIDING HOOD

**RED RIDING HOOD**

Oh Granny Knott a note from Peter?... please let me see itõ I've been worried because I haven't heard from him for daysõ

**PINNY:**

Yes and especially with him chasing that Wolf!

**PATCHES:**

(ALARMED)...Hey!...look out, I think there's somebody coming.... Red Riding Hood go quick it might be the Squire.. (RED RIDING HOOD QUICKLY EXITS) Pinny, hide the note!

PINNY LOOKS ABOUT PANIC STRICKEN WONDERING WHERE TO PUT THE NOTE...AS REDDY AND WILLING ENTER IN DESPERATION THRUSTS THE NOTE INTO PATCHES HAND AND HE IN TURN QUICKLY STUFFS IT INTO HIS MOUTH

**REDDY:**

Ah, there you are Patches, where's Red Riding Hood?.

PATCHES STILL WITH NOTE IN MOUTH MUMBLES AN INDISCERNIBLE REPLY

**WILLIN:**

(TO GRANNY KNOTT)...What did he say?.

**GRANNY:**

He said....(SHE COPIES PATCHES MUMBLED REPLY)

**WILLIN:**

(TO REDDY)...She says that he says....(THE COPIES MUMBLED REPLY)

**PINNY:**

If you're looking for Red Riding Hood, she with the tutor Miss Took.

ENTER SQUIRE BULLYMORE DRESSED WITH HACKING JACKET WITH CRAVAT AND RIDING JODHPURS....HE CARRIES A RIDING CROP WHICH HE OCCASIONALLY SLAPS AGAINST HIS RIDING BOOTS.....HE WEARS A MONOCLE AND HAS AN OFFICIOUS MANNER

**SQUIRE:**

(IN A VERY SNOOTY AND HORSY MANNER)...Morning chaps!....just been for a gallop over the moors....I've jumped every hedgerow and stonewall in the County!.....it would have been a damned sight easier if I'd had a horse to ride what?....(GIVES A SNORTY LAUGH.....THEN TO WILLIN)...just my little joke Willin!.

**WILLIN:**

(GIVES A WEAK LAUGH)...Oh yes, very good Squire!, a little joke you say?!.....(ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)...very little!!.

**SQUIRE:**

(INDICATING TO GRANNY)...Who's this old mare then... is it the new skivvy we're looking for?

**GRANNY:**

(OFFENDED)...Skivvy indeed....I'll have you know that I'm Granny Knott, a woman of quite some substance!.

**PATCHES:**

(LOOKING AT HER REAR END)...Well you are from where I'm looking!.

**GRANNY:**

I am the lady who's here to choose one of your orphan girls to come and live with me, and of course the Orphanage will benefit with a bob or two.....money's no problem to me!.

**SQUIRE:**

(GAINING INTEREST)...Ah, Granny Knott....(THEN FLATTERING)...it's just that I didn't expect someone as young and beautiful as you....(GRANNY PREENS)...a real

thoroughbred what! (LOOKING HER UP AND DOWN)....I reckon you're about 17 hands ...not often I'm wrong!.

**GRANNY:**

17 hands?....well whatever I am, you can keep your two hands off me!.

**SQUIRE:**

Ah!...a filly with a sense of humour, that's what I like!... (BECOMES SERIOUS) ....but I warn you Granny Knott, don't be mis-led by my jovial demeanour!, I run a 'tight ship' here.....(HITS THE DESK HARD WITH HIS RIDING CROP.....ALL THE OTHER FIVE ON STAGE LITERALLY JUMP IN THE AIR).....and these two..... (INDICATING TO REDDY AND WILLIN)....gentlemen, are who keep this ship tight!.

**GRANNY:**

(ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)....You try saying that when you've had a few!.

**SQUIRE:**

(ASIDE TO GRANNY) Yesõ Reddy and Willinõ just a pity they~~are~~ not able!

**REDDY:**

(FEELING IMPORTANT)....Oh yes....security is our by-word...am I right Mr. Willin?.... in fact we have a motto here at Birchwood Orphanage... (QUOTING)... "Let there be no doubt".....

**WILLIN:..**

(COMPLETES QUOTE)...."No one gets out!"

**SQUIRE:**

Where's Miss Took's class?.

**REDDY:**

They gone out!

**WILLING:**

To Morrisons! (OR SIMILAR)....they should be back by now.

**SQUIRE:**

Mmmm, very secure....Reddy, go and tell Miss Took that we wish to see her.....(REDDY EXITS IN A HURRY.....THEN TO WILLIN)....and you Willin, go and check something!.

**WILLIN:**

What?.

**SQUIRE:**

(IMPATIENT)....I don't know....there must be some barbed wire missing somewhere..... (WILLIN EXITS LOOKING PUZZLED)....Pinny, get Granny Knott a....er...

**PINNY:**

A sherry sir?.

**SQUIRE:**

No girl!....get her a chair.

**GRANNY:**

If it's a toss up between a sherry and a chair....I'll take the sherry!.

**SQUIRE:**

You shall have both Granny Knott....Pinny, get the lady a chair...(SHE DOES)....Patches, pour the lady a sherry....(PATCHES GOES TO DECANTER ON TRAY, FILLS A GLASS AND BRINGS THE GLASS AND DECANTER ON THE TRAY AND OFFERS IT TO GRANNY WHO PICKS UP THE DECANTER A TAKES A LARGE SWIG DRAINING THE DECANTER THEN SITS DOWN)

**PATCHES:**

(TO SQUIRE)....It's a good job we got her a chair!!.

**GRANNY:**

I only drink sherry for medicinal purposes....I've had flu twice recently....I had it last year, and three weeks later...guess what?.

**SQUIRE:**

Same again?.

**GRANNY:**

I don't mind if I do!.....(SHE DRINKS DOWN THE GLASS OF SHERRY)

**SQUIRE:**

Right Granny Knott, to business.....this week is half term here at Birchwood....but before the teaching staff left for their vacation a selection of six girls was made for you to choose from....I feel sure you will find one of them suitable.

ENTER MISS TOOK THE GAMES TEACHER....SHE IS A TWITTERING "JOYCE GRENFELL" TYPE CHARACTER....SHE IS DRESSED IN HOCKEY GEAR AND CARRYING A HOCKEY STICK

**MISS TOOK:**

What ho everybody...sorry I'm late....just been showing the girls from the lower third the rudiments of hockey.

**SQUIRE:**

Ah Miss Took, there you are....this is Granny Knott the lady I told you about.

**MISS TOOK:**

(AFTER A TANGLE WITH THE HOCKEY STICK SHE SHAKES GRANNY'S HAND VERY FIRMLY)...Oh yes...pleased to meet you Granny....you've come to select one of the girls....just hope it's not my best shooter...(SHE SWINGS THE HOCKEY STICK AND HITS GRANNY ON THE LEG WHO HOPS ABOUT)

**SQUIRE:**

Are the six selected girls ready Miss Took?.

**GRANNY:**

(STILL RUBBING LEG)...Yes I'd better pick one whilst I'm still in one piece!.

**MISS TOOK:**

Oh yes...before you meet the girls Granny, Red Riding Hood along with some of the younger ones has prepared some entertainment for you...( SHE BLOWS HER WHISTLE)

ENTER RED RIDING HOOD AND THE SUNBEAMS

♫ **MUSICAL ITEM No 3**...INTO MUSICAL ITEM FEATURING RED RIDING HOOD AND SUNBEAMS..... AFTER ROUTINE SUNBEAMS EXIT

**MISS TOOK:**

(TO PINNY)...I say Pinners old girl....be a sport and go with the little ones to make sure they get changed properly. (PINNY EXITS WITH THE GIRLS)

**SQUIRE:**

(TO PATCHES & RED RIDING HOOD)....And you Patches and (FLPPANTLY) and you Red Riding er what ever your name is, bring in the selected girls.

**PATCHES:**

What?...oh yes, very good Squire!

PATCHES AND RED RIDING HOOD EXIT

**SQUIRE:**

Whilst we're waiting Granny Knott, this er....sum of money that's come your way....you are making it work for you I trust?...no good in a tin box under the bed.....you must invest, invest and further invest, don't sit on it!

**GRANNY:**

In vest you say?.....oh no, I don't keep it in me vest....actually it's sewn into me knickers.... (SQUIRE & MISS TOOK REACT AT THE THOUGHT)....so in a way I am sitting on it!

ENTER 6 DANCERS AS THE CHOSEN ORPHANS...THEY STAND IN LINE

ENTER PATCHES.....HE IS FOLLOWED BY RED RIDING HOOD CARRYING A BASKET FILLED WITH GARMENTS

**MISS TOOK:**

Come along girls, stand up straight....Granny Knott may want to ask you some questions.

**SQUIRE:**

These girls Granny were left on the Orphanage doorstep as infants.....and tradition has it that at this establishment, when a child has no name, it is given the name of what ever it is wrapped in when found!

**MISS TOOK:**

Righto girls....on my whistle step forward and speak your name clearly and precisely!.... (BLAST OF WHISTLE)

**1st ORPHAN:**

(STEPS FORWARD)....Ruby Velvet Cloak.

RED RIDING HOOD TAKES A RUBY VELVET CLOAK FROM BASKET AND PUTS IT ON THE GIRL.....THIS IS REPEATED WITH THE APPROPRIATE GARMENT AFTER EACH WHISTLE FROM MISS TOOK

**2nd ORPHAN:**

(STEPS FORWARD)....Pearl Feather Boa.

**3rd ORPHAN:**

(STEPS FORWARD)....Rose Lace Shawl.

**4th ORPHAN:**

(STEPS FORWARD)....Violet Tulle Veil.

**5th ORPHAN:**

(STEPS FORWARD)....Candy Cotton Cape.

**6th ORPHAN:**

(STEPS FORWARD)....Scarlet Silk Scarf.

**SQUIRE:**

(IMPATIENTLY)...Right Granny Knott, I'm a very busy man...I must press you for your choice.

**GRANNY:**

Oh don't worry your Squireness!....I've made my choice all right!.

**SQUIRE:**

Well??!!

**GRANNY:**

Red Riding Hood!

ALL ON STAGE GASP....THEN THE SIX OTHER ORPHANS ARE PLEASED FOR RED RIDING HOOD AND GATHER ROUND HER AND HUG HER

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

Oh thank you Granny!!

**SQUIRE:**

(STERNLY)...Be quiet girl!!...speak when you're spoken to!.

**GRANNY:**

I was spoking to her when I speaked....(THEN AGAIN TO RED RIDING HOOD)....never mind him my dear, I think you look lovely!.

**PATCHES:**

And so do I....and so does Peter the woodcutter!.

**SQUIRE:**

(ANGRY) Be quiet Patches... Red Riding Hood will not leave Birchwood Orphanage....Never ever!!....my mind will not be changed....it wouldn't make any difference no matter what you offer!.

**GRANNY:**

I'll pay for a new sports hall!.

**MISS TOOK:**

Oh Squire.....wouldn't that be super-duper spiffing!.

**SQUIRE:**

I said no Miss Took!

**GRANNY:**

What about also a new stable block filled with thoroughbred horses?.

**SQUIRE:**

I've told you Granny that there is nothing on earth that would change my mind to let Red Riding Hood leave this establishment.

**GRANNY:**

(PERSISTENT)...New stables...Arabian horses...and a new tack room?.

**SQUIRE:**

All right....all right!....I give in, take the girl!!. (RED RIDING HOOD EMBRACES GRANNY)

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

Oh Granny, thank you....I thought I'd never leave this place....I've felt like a prisoner.

**GRANNY:**

Well that's all behind you now lovey...you'll have your own little room all lovely and cosy....and we'll welcome Peter whenever he chooses to call.

**SQUIRE:**

(TO HIMSELF AND ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)...That's what they think, my friend the Wolf will soon put paid to their cosy little plans!....(THEN TO GRANNY)...come along Granny my dear, I want to discuss the new stables.....oh and by the way, you'll have to stay with us for a while because the stagecoach doesn't pass through Birchwood for a few days .(THEN TO PATCHES)..oh and Patches...make up a room for Granny.

**PATCHES:**

Do you mean the one with the four-poster bed....Tiger skin rug, and balcony?.

**SQUIRE:**

(PUZZLED)....We haven't got a room like that!

**PATCHES:**

I know....but you told me to make one up!!.

**MISS TOOK:**

(AS SHE EXITS WITH SQUIRE AND GRANNY)....I say, I will still get my new sports hall won't I??.

EXIT SQUIRE, GRANNY AND MISS TOOK

ENTER PINNY EXCITEDLY

**PINNY:**

Oh Red Riding Hood, is it true what I've heard?...it's you that's been chosen by Granny?.



**RED RIDING HOOD:**

Yes it's true Pinny....aren't I lucky?.

♫ **MUSICAL ITEM...No. 4...**INTO MUSICAL ITEM FEATURING PRINCIPALLY RED RIDING HOOD ACCOMPANIED BY PINNY, PATCHES, AND SUNBEAMS.....AFTER ROUTINE TABS CLOSE

**ENTER FAIRY ON TABS**

**FAIRY:** Don't be mis-led, and don't be deceived.  
By this happy turn of events.  
For our story has only just started.  
And we've a Squire who seldom relents.

If this wicked fellow has his way.  
Which I know he surely will.  
He means to see his friend the Wolf.  
With one instruction.....Kill!!.

But the Wolf doesn't need encouraging.  
for he does intend to eat her.  
Yet the man who'll help you've already met.  
It's the woodcutter known as Peter.

Don't be dismayed at the meeting you'll see.  
Even though they're up to no good.  
For I will be watching over this girl.  
That we all know as Red Riding Hood.

EXIT FAIRY

**ENTER SQUIRE BULLYMORE....HE WALKS TO CENTRE STAGE...**  
**HE CHECKS HIS POCKET WATCH IMPATIENTLY WHILST PACING UP AND DOWN**  
**ENTER WOLF....IT REACTS TO AUDIENCE...THEN JOINS SQUIRE CENTRE STAGE**

**SQUIRE:**

Ah, there you are my evil friend...though I must say you are very late!.... (WOLF GROWLS AND SNARLS THREATENINGLY.....SQUIRE COWARDLY CHECKS HIS WATCH)....well, not too late, it's probably my watch that's wrong!.....anyway, the reason for this meeting is I have a special job for you, in fact an urgent job....(WOLF SNARLS WITH INTEREST).... there is a girl leaving the Orphanage shortly, the one called Red Riding Hood, so I want you to forget any other terrorising you have to do, and concentrate on this girl....I think you'll enjoy her for your supper!!...(WOLF DROOLS AND LICKS HIS LIPS)...you'll find her even more tasty when I tell you that her boyfriend is the only person bold enough to hunt you....(WOLF GROWLS AND SNARLS ANGRILY)...yes, Peter the woodcutter!....to make things easy for you I have arranged for Red Riding Hood to use my private garden, you'll easily recognise the girl, for she will be wearing that ridiculous red riding hood....I'll leave you now.....don't let me down.....I'm counting on you  
SQUIRE EXITS

**WOLF:** He thinks he's doing me a favour.  
But I don't care who I hurt.  
In fact I'll have Red Riding Hood for main course.(PEERS OUT TO AUDIENCE)

And a juicy Cub for dessert.

But that's tomorrow and I'm hungry now.  
So what shall I have is the question.  
Perhaps one of the band, but then again.  
They'd give me indigestion!  
I need something wholesome for my supper tonight.  
And I will need somebody of size.  
Perhaps one of the ladies committee with a portion of chips.  
In other words a "Whopper" with fries!.

Hark, I hear two people approaching.  
It could be my supper, indeed a happy sight.

**ENTER REDDY AND WILLIN BACKWARDS FROM OPPOSITE SIDES...THEY ARE BOTH UNAWARE OF THE WOLF**

**WOLF:** But now that I've seen the menu.  
I've lost my appetite!.

THE WOLF STANDS CENTRE STAGE WATCHING THE HAPLESS PAIR WHO ARE SLOWLY APPROACHING BACKWARDS...THEY HAVE NOW ADOPTED A MARTIAL ART POSES

**REDDY:**  
Come on children....you can't hide from us...we've got night vision!.....what have we got Willin?.

**WILLIN:**  
Night vision!.

**REDDY:**  
And don't forget, we have the keenest hearing...we have hearing like sonar.... what's our hearing like Willin?.

**WILLIN:**  
Pardon!?...oh, er, yes, we've got hearing like sonar!.

**REDDY:**  
And there's nothing on earth that can match our sense of smell!.....what do we smell like Willin?.

**WILLIN:**  
We smell like nothing on earth!.

STILL MOVING BACKWARDS THEY NOW BOTH BUMP INTO THE WOLF

**REDDY:**  
(WITHOUT LOOKING ROUND)...I have just bumped into you Willin.....who have I bumped into?.

**WILLIN:**  
(LOOKING OVER HIS SHOULDER)...You've just bumped into the Wolf!!.

**REDDY:**

(NOT REALISING)...I've just bumped into the Wolf.....(REALISES)...Eh!!!!....

HE LOOKS AROUND AND BOTH REDDY AND WILLIN SCREAM AND RUN OFF....  
LEAVING THE BEWILDERED WOLF

♫ **MUSICAL ITEM No.5**...INTO MUSICAL INTO MUSICAL ITEM FEATURING THE WOLF  
WHO IS JOINED BY THE DANCERS AS HIS WOLF PACK.....AFTER ROUTINE THEY  
EXIT

TABS OPEN FOR.....

**ACT 1....SCENE 3...."THE ORPHANAGE GARDEN"**

**SET:**....A WALLED GARDEN...CLOTH TO SUIT WITH FLATS.... AND WITH TRAPPING  
FOR AN ORNAMENTAL GARDEN

RED RIDING HOOD IS SITTING ON A GARDEN BENCH...SHE IS WRITING A LIST AND  
THINKING TO HERSELF BETWEEN WRITING ITEMS

ENTER WOLF STEALTHILY FROM UP STAGE...IT APPROACHES RED RIDING HOOD  
SLOWLY FROM BEHIND THREATENINGLY...  
DURING AUDIENCE REACTION RED RIDING HOOD IS STILL UNAWARE OF THE  
WOLFS PRESENCE....JUST AS IT IS ABOUT TO POUNCE, WE HEAR PINNY'S  
APPROACHING VOICE

**PINNY:**

(VOICE OFF CALLING)...Red Riding Hood!....are you in the garden!?

THE WOLF STOPS IN HIS TRACKS AND QUICKLY RUNS BACK TO HIS HIDING  
PLACE

ENTER PINNY CARRYING A BASKET OF WASHING

**PINNY:**

Ah, there you are....(SHE PUTS DOWN THE BASKET OF WASHING)

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

Hello Pinny...I'm just making a list of my things I want to give to people before I  
leave....Granny says I'm starting off with everything new when I go and live with her.

**PINNY:**

(HOPEFUL)...Ooooh....I don't suppose you've anything in mind for a poor Orphanage  
helper have you?.

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

(TEASING)...Er...no nothing!.

**PINNY:**

(DISAPPOINTED)...Ah well...never mind.

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

Don't be silly Pinny....you are the top of the list .....you shall have my work basket.

**PINNY:**

Oh lovely... (SARCASTICALLY)...just what I wanted....(WOLF'S HEAD APPEARS TO CHECK THE SITUATION...THEN DISAPPEARS)....anyway, what are you doing out here in the Squire's private garden?.

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

Yes, it is unusual but I'm out here at the Squire's invitation....I can't think why?.

WOLF'S HEAD APPEARS AGAIN...THEN DISAPPEARS

**PINNY:**

Anyway, I'm glad you're on your own, because Patches has got a surprise for you.

ENTER PATCHES STRUGGLING TO PUSH A WOBBLY WHEELBARROW WHICH HAS A COVER OF ARTIFICIAL GRASS....HE COMES TO A FALTERING STOP BY THE GIRLS

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

I hope this isn't my surprise Patches, a barrow load of grass!.

**PATCHES:**

(BREATHLESS)...Don't always believe what you see young lady.

PATCHES LOOKS ABOUT TO CHECK IF ALL IS CLEAR...HE THEN LIFTS GRASS COVER FROM WHEELBARROW AND OUT GETS PETER WHO EMBRACES RED RIDING HOOD

**PINNY:**

Oh isn't that romantic Patches...what about you embracing me?!!

**PATCHES:**

(ENTHUSIASTIC AND EXAGGERATED WIPING OF LIPS AND RUBBING OF HANDS)....Ready when you are my beloved Pinny.... (HE STEPS TOWARDS PINNY BUT TRIPS AND FALLS INTO WASHING BASKET)....what the 'ecks in here?.AS HE GETS UP FROM WASHING BASKET HE LIFTS OUT OF BASKET AND HOLDS UP A DROLL PAIR OF OLD FASHIONED CORSETS

**PINNY:**

(CONCERNED)...Put them down Patches, those belong to Miss Took....they are er.....(EMBARRASSED)....foundation garments!.

**PATCHES:**

(CHEEKILY)...Foundation garments you say....Blimey!!...(TO AUDIENCE)...she must have bigger foundations than this here (PANTO VENUE)....(HE LOOKS AT CORSETS)....do you know, I bet I could play these things.

PATCHES HOLD CORSETS AS IF THEY WERE A PIANO-ACCORDION AND STARTS TO SERENADE PINNY BY SINGING "I LOVE PARIS" AS HE MIMES AN ACCORDION WITH CORSETS

ENTER MISS TOOK UNSEEN BY PATCHES WHO CONTINUES TO SING.....PINNY IS FRANTICALLY INDICATING TO PATCHES THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG BUT PATCHES UNDETERRED SINGS ON..... THEN STOPS

**PATCHES:**

(MISUNDERSTANDING PINNY'S SIGNS)...What's up Pinny?, do you want another chorus?.

PATCHES RESUMES SINGING, BUT STOPS ABRUPTLY WHEN HE GLANCES OVER HIS SHOULDER AND SEES MISS TOOK

**MISS TOOK:**

Patches!, you scallywag!....what on earth are you doing handling those....er.... unmentionables!.

**PATCHES:**

Oh!....er these, well...er...it's a poor drying day so I thought I'd wave æm about a bitõ simulate the wind so to speak...we don't want you putting them on wet, you'll catch your death of cold!.

**MISS TOOK:**

I say Patchers old boy...you don't think that I would wear unders like that...no they belong to Mrs. Plumpton the Orphanage cook...apparently they fit her like a glove!.

**PATCHES:**

(LOOKING IN BASKET)...Oh well, these must be her bloomers then...(HE REACHES INTO BASKET AN HOLD UP A LARGE FIVE LEGGED PAIR OF BLOOMERS)...cos these will definitely fit her like a glove!.

ENTER SQUIRE UNSEEN BY PATCHES WHO IS STILL HOLDING UP THE BLOOMERS

**SQUIRE:**

(STERNLY)...Take those knickers down!!.

**MISS TOOK:**

(ALL UN-NECESSARY)...Oh I say Squireõ how forward of you!!?

**SQUIRE:**

I don't mean you Miss Took....kindly leave us!.

EXIT MISS TOOK GIDDILY.....PATCHES AND PINNY HUDDLE NERVOUSLY ON THE GARDEN BENCH

**SQUIRE:**

(CONT/D TO PETER)...And what may I ask are you doing here?!

**PETER:**

I don't want any last minute hitches.....I am here to ensure the safety of Red Riding Hood before she leaves with Granny Knott.

**SQUIRE:**

Are you indeed...we'll see about that...(HE CALLS OFF)...Reddy!...Willin!..... come here immediately!. (ENTER REDDY AND WILLIN)....Throw the fool out!...  
(MISUNDERSTANDING THEY APPROACH PATCHES)....not him!...he's not a fool!.

**PATCHES:**

Thank you Squire.

**SQUIRE:**

No!...you're an idiot!....(THEN INDICATES TO PETER)...that's the fool I mean....go on, throw him out!!.

**REDDY:**

(NOW RELUCTANT APPROACHES PETER THEN STOPS TO THINK)....Oh, I've just remembered Willin, it's not my turn for throwing out today....don't you remember?, I threw that four year old boy out who was raiding the orchard yesterday!.

**WILLIN:**

Well I'd throw him out with pleasure...er....(THINKING OF AN EXCUSE)...but...er....I've just got something in my eye!.

**PETER:**

(PUSHING REDDY AND WILLIN ASIDE TO SPEAK TO THE SQUIRE)...Never mind the threats, it will take more than those two to throw me out....to save you any embarrassment I'll leave on my own accord, but remember this Squire, I'll be back!!.....(THEN TO RED RIDING HOOD)...don't worry my dearest, I'll see you very soon. (EXIT PETER)

**WILLIN:**

(NOW BRAVE)...Something in my eye or not, it's a good job he's gone...(FLEXES HIS MUSCLES)...'cos I was getting me mad up...I'd have spifflicated him.

**REDDY:**

(NOW ALSO BRAVE)...I know what you mean...I was ready to pounce!.

**PETER RE-ENTERS UNEXPECTEDLY**

**PETER:**

And I'll tell you something else...(REDDY AND WILLIN) REACT STARTLED AND COWER BEHIND PATCHES AND PINNY)...if Red Riding Hood is harmed in any way, those responsible will answer to me!.....(HE EXITS)

**SQUIRE:**

(TO REDDY AND WILLIN)...You useless pair!...be off with you!.....(THEY SKULK OFF AND EXIT.....THEN TO RED RIDING HOOD).....and you Miss, don't forget that you are still my responsibility!...let's have you inside before that so called suitor comes back...(RED RIDING HOOD EXITS HURRIEDLY.....THE SQUIRE TURNS TO PATCHES AND PINNY WHO ARE NOW SITTING DAYDREAMING ON THE GARDEN BENCH)...and you two can stir yourselves...you're sitting there like two garden gnomes...can't you find something to do?...

SQUIRE EXITS

**PATCHES:**

Do thisō do thatō Iđ tell yer what Pinny I think it's time for us to chjill out!

PATCHES AND PINNY COME FORWARD AS TABS CLOSE

♫ MUSICAL ITEM No. 6...INTO PATCHES AND PINNY DUET

TABS OPEN FOR....

**ACT 1.....SCENE 4...."THE ORPHANAGE SICK BAY"**

SET:.....PLAIN CLOTH....TWO BEDS...SCREENS...A NURSES STATION....AND OTHER WARD TRAPPINGS.....A SIGN OVER THE BED READS "BIRCHWOOD ORPHANAGE SICK BAY"..... REDDY AND WILLIN ARE IN THE SICK BAY BEDS AS PATIENTS...NEXT TO MR WILLIN'S BED IS A BOWL PILED HIGH WITH BUNCHES OF GRAPES AND NEXT TO MR REDDY'S BED IS A DISH OF PEANUTS

**WILLIN:**

(HOLDING DISH OF PEANUTS OUT TO REDDY) Would you like a peanut?...

**REDDY:**

(TAKING A FEW) Oh thanks!... I thought that you didn't like peanuts.. (MAKES AS IF MUNCHING PEANUTS)

**WILLIN:**

I don't in fact I'm allergic to 'em

**REDDY:**

You're allergic to 'em?... how come you've got a dish full at the side of your bed then?

**WILLIN:**

I just like to lick the chocolate off 'em!...(REDDY REALISES WHAT HE'S EATING AND GRIMACES)ō anyway, what's wrong with you?.

**REDDY:**

(EASES HIMSELF UP AND SHUFFLES PAINFULLY)...Well, it's a bit delicate really....it's a difficult subject to discussō

**WILLIN:**

Go on, you can tell me!.

**REDDY:**

(RELUCTANTLY)...Er...well...er... it begins with "H".

**WILLIN:**

(GUESSING)...Er... Headache!?.

**REDDY:**

No.. No (THINKING)....look it's like thisō if Mr. and Mrs. Royds had a daughter and they called her Emma....that's what I've got!.

**WILLIN:**

This script is licensed for amateur theatre by NODA Ltd to whom all enquiries should be made. [www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk) E-mail: [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)

What!?...you've got a daughter called Emma?...by gum, you've kept that quiet!

**REDDY:**

No no!

**WILLIN:**

Well, I'm puzzled....I'll tell you what...(HE HOLDS UP A BUNCH OF GRAPES FROM HIS BOWL)...have a bunch of grapes 'cos I've got piles!...anyway, whatever you've got it must be a right pain in the ....

**REDDY:**

(QUICKLY INTERRUPTS)....Yes, you've finally got it!! . Anyway why are you here?

**WILLIN:**

Doctor says I've got Hypo something or other..

**REDDY:**

What's Hyperthermia?

**WILLIN:**

Oh no it sounds more serious than that!

**REDDY:**

Hypertention?

**WILLIN:**

(SHAKES HEAD) No (THINKS) Hypochondria!... that's it!

**REDDY:**

(REFERING TO HIS HOSPITAL GOWN) I hate wearing these things do you?

**WILLIN:**

Tell me about it!... by the way is mine fastened at the back? (HE GETS OFF THE BED AND BENDS DOWN WHILST FACING THE AUDIENCE)

**REDDY:**

(TAKEN ABACK) No it isn't! now I know why they call this place I.C.U (I SEE YOU)

ENTER GRANNY KNOTT WEARING AN EXAGGERATED MATRONS OUTFIT...SHE IS FOLLOWED BY PINNY DRESSED AS A NURSE....THEN PATCHES WHO IS DRESSED IN SURGEONS' "SCRUBS" i.e. GOWN, HAT, MASK, GLOVES, AND SHORT WELLIES ETC.

**GRANNY:**

(CHECKING CHARTS AT BOTTOM OF BEDS)...Good morning patients....how are we this morning?.

**REDDY:**

Hey!, just a minute...what are you three playing at?...where are the proper medics?!

**PINNY:**

It's half term....we are the locums'

**REDDY:**

I don't care what your names are....you're not treating us!



**GRANNY:**

Don't worry I am a First Aider!...and...(REFERRING TO PINNY AND PATCHES)...she's a Second Aider, and him over there is a Third Aider!.....right Patches, bring in the syringe for Mr. Reddy's injection...(REDDY LOOKS HORRIFIED WHEN HE SEES PATCHES RE-ENTER CARRYING A HUGE SYRINGE WHICH HE HANDS TO GRANNY....SHE HOLDS IT UP AND PRIMES IT WHICH SQUIRTS THE AUDIENCE....THEN TO AUDIENCE)..... whoops!., sorry ladies and gentlemen.....(THEN PICKING OUT A LADY IN THE AUDIENCE)... don't worry Mrs.....it's only sulphuric acid!.

**REDDY:**

Hey!, you're not sticking that in my arm!

**PATCHES:**

No we aren't....if you turn on your side we'll be able to stick it in your.....

REDDY LOOKS HORRIFIED, YELPS AT THE THOUGHT, JUMPS OUT OF BED AND RUNS OFF

**GRANNY:**

(TO AUDIENCE)....I was only going to stick it in his leg, where did you lot think I was going to stick it!??....don't answer that!.

**WILLIN:**

(SHAKING WITH FEAR)...I don't need an injection do I?.

**GRANNY:**

Oh no...we're just going to take your temperature...Nurse Pinny, the thermometer if you please.

PINNY EXITS AND RETURNS WITH A GIGANTIC THERMOMETER

**WILLIN:**

(LOOKS AGHAST)...That won't fit in my mouth!.

**GRANNY:**

I know, that's why we're going to put it.....(MR. WILLIN SHRIEKS, JUMPS OUT OF BED AND RUNS OFF KNOCKING PATCHES OVER AS HE EXITS).....under your arm!..... ..(REFERRING TO REDDY AND WILLIN)....well, that's them two cured!!...there's no waiting lists here you know....two empty beds already!.

**PINNY:**

(WHO IS HELPING PATCHES TO HIS FEET)...Granny!...will you give me a hand with Patches?!

**GRANNY:**

Why, what's up?.

**PATCHES:**

I think I've broken my leg Granny!.

**GRANNY:**

(HANDS HIM A CRUTCH)...Here, support yourself with this!...we'll X ray it...(TO PINNY)...screen Nurse!...(PINNY SCREAMS)...I said screen....look, bring in the X ray machine.

PINNY EXITS AND THEN ENTERS PUSHING ON A "SCREEN" WHICH IS NECK HIGH TO PATCHES....THE SCREEN IS FITTED WITH TWO DOORS ON THE FRONT WHICH OPEN OUTWARDS

**GRANNY:**

Right Patches, stand behind the machine and rest your chin on the top.....(PATCHES HOBLES WITH CRUTCH PAINFULLY BEHIND THE "MACHINE")....right, switch on Pinny.

PINNY PRESSES A FEW BUTTONS...GRANNY OPENS THE DOORS IN FRONT OF THE "MACHINE" TO REVEAL A MOCK SCREEN WITH A PICTURE OF A PAINTED SKELETON FROM THE NECK DOWN SUPPORTED BY A CRUTCH.....THE SKELETON HAS PAINTED ON A PAIR OF 'Y' FRONTS....AMONGST THE RIBS IS PAINTED A SKELETON OF A WHOLE FISH WITH HEAD AND TAIL STILL INTACT

**GRANNY:**

(LOOKING CLOSELY AT SKELETON)...Well, looking at this and using all my medical experience it proves to me conclusively one thing!.

**PATCHES:**

(CONCERNED)...What!!?.

**GRANNY:**

You had fish for your tea!.

**PATCHES:**

I know that, but is my leg broken?.

**GRANNY:**

(LOOKING AGAIN AT SKELETON LEG WHICH SHOWS A BREAK)...Oh yes, there's a definite fracture.

**PATCHES:**

Fibula?!.

**GRANNY:**

It's true I tell you...I don't tell fibs...Oh, I see what you mean...yes, well I've seen all that I need to see!...(SHE CLOSES DOORS ON X RAY SCREEN)....and whilst you're there I think that we should check for mobility in both legs.....(WHILST PATCHES IS BEHIND X RAY SCREEN:- INTO OVER LIFTING OF LEGS GAG USING FALSE LEGS PREVIOUSLY SET AND FIXED BEHIND SCREEN....GRANNY LIFTS THE FALSE LEG FROM BEHIND THE SCREEN AT HER SIDE UNTIL THE FOOT IS SHOULDER HIGH).....how does that feel?.

**PATCHES:**

Well, I'll tell you one thing...it just goes to prove that if your leg is lifted above a certain height it'll make your eyes water!!

**GRANNY:**

Oh you're tougher than that....let's go through the pain barrier....(SHE LIFTS HIS FALSE LEG UNTIL IT IS VERTICAL AND PATCHES SQUEALS IN PAIN)....right Pinny...lift his other leg!...(PATCHES GRABS TOP OF SCREEN AS CRUTCH FALLS FROM BEHIND SCREEN

**PINNY:**

(AS SHE LIFTS LEG AT HER SIDE)....Hey Granny...shall I make a wish?.

BOTH LEGS ARE NOW VERTICAL WITH THE FEET BEHIND PATCH'S HEAD.....THEY THEN LOWER BOTH FALSE LEGS UNTIL OUT OF SIGHT BEHIND SCREEN....THEY HELP PATCHES FROM BEHIND SCREEN AND ONTO ONE OF THE BEDS

**GRANNY:**

Right, let's set this broken ankle!....Nurse Pinny, the Plaster of Paris if you please.

PINNY EXITS AND RETURNS WITH A BOWL OF WHITE 'GUNGE'

INTO SLAPSTICK ROUTINE WITH PLASTER OF PARIS...IT ENDS WITH PATCHES IN A PRE-CAST WELLINGTON BOOT TYPE PLASTER CAST WHICH HAS BEEN PUT ON UNSEEN BY AUDIENCE DURING THE SLAPSTICK CONFUSION.....AFTER SLAPSTICK

**GRANNY:**

Right, now that you're sorted....me and Pinny are going.

**PATCHES:**

O/K, but I'd better stop here for a while, I need bed rest...(AS GRANNY AND PINNY EXIT)....but where are you going?.

**PINNY:**

To the picnic, down by the river.

**GRANNY:**

Yes it's a pity you'll miss it....the Squire's paying for everyone!.

GRANNY AND PINNY EXIT

**PATCHES:**

What?, eh?....just a minute....wait for me!...(HE CLIMBS OFF BED AND HOBBLER HASTILY AFTER THEM)

TABS CLOSEõ ENTER WOLF ON TABS

**WOLF:**

The girl's been lucky as you have seen.  
But things will change quite soon.  
She won't always be accompanied.  
Then she'll be dancing to my tune.

And this so called Fairy of the forest.  
Whoever she may be.  
She'll need more than wands and magic dust.  
To be a match for me

ENTER FAIRY

**FAIRY:**

So you're still here my evil foe.  
Still scheming and planning attacks.  
Peter's the one who will raise the blade.  
But I'll give power to his axe.

**WOLF:** This Peter you speak of is no threat to me.  
I've met his sort before.  
He's doing this to impress the girl.  
But he'll be a coward to the core.

**FAIRY:** If you insist on ignoring my warnings.  
And alone you still play with fire.

**WOLF:** I'm not alone, I have a friend.

**FAIRY:** Oh yes, that stupid Squire!.

**FAIRY:** Back to your lair now, leave the people alone.  
For your threats you'll never deliver.  
And today is a day set aside for some fun.  
As they all spend a day down by the river.

FAIRY AND WOLF EXIT

### **ACT 1....SCENE 5...."DOWN BY THE RIVER"**

**SET:....FULL STAGE WITH COLOURFUL "REGATTA" TYPE CLOTH...THE CAST ARE DRESSED TO SUIT THE OCCASION.....THIS WILL BE AN ALL MUSICAL SCENE DURING WHICH THE WOLFS HEAD KEEPS APPEARING FROM DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE SET AND UNSEEN BY THE CAST.....AS THE TABS OPEN WE GO STRAIGHT INTO...**

**♪ Musical Item No 7...FULL COMPANY NUMBER....AFTER WHICH THE CAST MIX AND MINGLE ON STAGE PERFORMING EITHER SOLO'S OR DUETS AS A MEDLEY OF RELEVANT NUMBERS.....TO CLOSE THE SCENE THEY PICK UP THE ORIGINAL FULL COMPANY NUMBER THAT OPENED THIS SCENE AS AN ACT 1 FINALE**

## **INTERVAL**

### **ACT 2....SCENE 1...."THE ORPHANAGE GARDEN" (Later that Day)**

**SET:....AS PREVIOUS ORPHANAGE GARDEN**

**♪ MUSICAL ITEM No 8...STRAIGHT INTO SONG AND DANCE ROUTINE FEATURING RED RIDING HOOD AND PETER WITH DANCERS WHO ARE DRESSED AS BOYS AND GIRLS.....AFTER ROUTINE THE DANCERS EXIT**

**RED RIDING HOOD:**  
What a lovely afternoon we've had Peter.

**PETER:**

Yes, and didn't we have a laugh when Granny Knott accidentally knocked the Squire into the river!.

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

Especially when Patches had to give him the kiss of life!.

**PETER:**

Oh yes, I meant to ask.....did he recover from his ordeal?.

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

(IMPISH)...Who?...the Squire or Patches?.....(NOW SERIOUS)....oh just think Peter, soon I will have my independence, and we will be able to meet when ever we choose.

**PETER:**

Yes that little lady Granny Knott is one in a million....and as soon as I've put paid to that Wolf and have become Mayor of Birchwood, I will be in a position to ask Granny for your hand in marriage.

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

(AS THEY EXIT)...Oh Peter, everything is so rosy now....nothing could dampen the way I feel.

**PETER:**

No, the only thing that's damp around here in the Squire!.

RED RIDING HOOD AND PETER EXIT LAUGHING

ENTER THE SQUIRE WITH RIVER MOSS AND WEEDS IN HIS HAIR AND THE APPEARANCE OF BEING WET....HE STOPS CENTRE STAGE

**SQUIRE:**

(TO AUDIENCE)....I'll get my own back on that Granny Knott for knocking me into the river.....making me the laughing stock of Birchwood..... (HE STARTS TO WRIGGLE UNCOMFORTABLY... THEN REACHES INTO HIS TROUSERS AND PULLS OUT A PROP FISH AND FOR EFFECT MAKES IT WRIGGLE.....HE THEN THROWS PROP FISH TO PIANIST).....here, go practice your scales...(GIVES SNORTY HORSY LAUGH)

ENTER WOLF

**SQUIRE:**

(TO WOLF)....What happened to you?....where did you get to?...I don't think you're even trying!....(WOLF GROWLS THREATENINGLY)....well....er....you might have been trying a bit....(WOLF SNARLS)....well...(NERVOUS COUGH)...er...you've probably tried very hard....anyway, I've another job for you....as well as the girl, I want you to take care of that interfering old Granny Knott....I'll leave it up to you....I'll have to go and get changed before I catch my death of cold

SQUIRE EXITS....FOLLOWED BY THE WOLF WHO GIVE A HOWL AT THE POINT OF EXIT  
 ENTER GRANNY

**GRANNY:**

(REFERRING TO WOLF'S HOWL)...Good gracious, whatever was that?...I think Patches must have hit his thumb with the hammer again!....(SHE SITS ON GARDEN BENCH...AND THEN TO AUDIENCE)....Eeeee what do you think?, I'm in bother again!...I knocked the

Squire into the river.....yes, I'm in it up to my neck...(LAUGHS)...well, the Squire was.....Ooooo, and he was ever so annoyed....I can't think why, because when he was shouting and waving from the river I didn't ignore him, I shouted and waved back!.....Patches asked what the Squire was doing in the river....I said I think they call it drowning!...(SHE LAUGHS.....THE SUNBEAMS DRIFT ON LOOKING WORRIED)....hey!...what's up with you lot....you look frightened to death!.

**FIRST SUNBEAM:**

We are Granny...we're losing Red Riding Hood, and she used to look after us

**SECOND SUNBEAM:**

Yes, and we're afraid what might happen to us when she isn't here!.

**THIRD SUNBEAM:**

Do you ever feel afraid Granny.

**GRANNY:**

Oh yes, sometimes I'm afraid, but I try not to show it...I've a little trick

♪ **MUSICAL ITEM No 9**...INTO GRANNY AND SUNBEAMS SONG AND DANCE ROUTINE

AFTER ROUTINE...**F/X: OFF**....WOLF HOWL...CHILDREN LOOK AFRAID....THEN HOLD UP THEIR HEADS AND WANDER OFF LOOKING UNSURE BUT WHISTLING AS IF TRYING TO CONVINCING THEMSELVES

**GRANNY:**

(WAVING AT SUNBEAMS AS THEY EXIT)...There they go bless 'em...they're still not sure about this whistling business!...they'll be all right....there's nothing to be frightened of around here.....(ENTER WOLF UNSEEN BY GRANNY.....THEN OH YES/OH NO BIZ.....THEN GRANNY LOOKING INTO WINGS)...ah, here they come my new Granddaughter and her sweetheart....(THE WOLF SKULKS OFF STILL UNSEEN BY GRANNY)

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

(AS SHE ENTERS)....Hi Granny....what are you doing out here on your own?.

**PETER:**

Didn't you hear the Wolf howling?.

**GRANNY:**

Wolf howling?...no!....that'll have been Patches singing in the bath.

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

Impossible!.

**GRANNY:**

Why?.

**PETER:**

He rarely has a bath!.

**GRANNY:**

Aye, you've got a point there....it isn't February the 29th is it? .....(TO AUDIENCE)....come on think about it....February 29th!.....oh please yourself.

**PETER:**

Well tonight's a full moon, which makes it an ideal time to hunt the Wolf!.

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

Oh please be careful Peter.....and please don't go alone.

**PETER:**

Don't worry Red Riding Hood, I can look after myself...(THEY EMBRACE AND PETER EXITS)

**GRANNY:**

(COMFORTING RED RIDING HOOD).....Cheer up lovey...nothing is going to happen to him, 'cause he won't be on his own!.....I Field Marshall Knott have assembled, nay, mustered...(TO AUDIENCE).....when I say mustered, I'm talking hot stuff!.....(THEN TO RED RIDING HOOD).....I have mustered a crack!.....and when I say crack I hope you've heard me right, it ends in A.C.K. and not P.....a crack division of troops, the Birchwood Panza's.....we are all under the command of Drill Sergeant Took...(TO AUDIENCE)....you've all heard of the "Dirty Dozen"....well prepare yourselves for the "Absolutely Filthy Half Dozen"!

GRANNY EXITS WITH A PUZZLED RED RIDING HOOD

TABS CLOSE TO END SCENE.....ENTER FAIRY ON TABS

**♪ MUSICAL ITEM No10....FAIRY SOLO**

FAIRY: Our story has now reached a point.  
Where I must take a hand.  
And watch over the darkened forest.  
And our intrepid little band.

The wolf is on his home ground.  
An unfair advantage to be sure.  
So to even up the odds, I'll help.  
As I've always done before.

So when you see our friends quite soon.  
In the forest of the night.  
I'll do my best to keep them safe.  
Till dawns first early light.

FAIRY EXITS

ENTER WOLF ON TABS

**WOLF :** It seems I'm to be hunted.  
But I won't run to ground.  
And if it's confrontation that they want.  
A foe in me they've found.

Here in the forest I am King.  
They'll find out soon enough.  
For I'll hunt them the stupid fools.  
Take heed I do not bluff.

They have a Fairy who will help them.  
 But friends I do not lack.  
 For always there behind me.  
 Is my trusty savage pack.

WOLF EXITS WITH A HOWL.....TABS OPEN FOR....

### **ACT 1...SCENE 2...."CAMPING OUT"**

**SET:**....HALF STAGE WITH CLOTH DEPICTING A FOREST CLEARING AT NIGHT.....A MOCK CAMP FIRE WITH COOKING POT ON GLOWS CENTRE STAGE...ALSO A MOCK TREE LOG TOWARDS FRONT OF SET...TO REAR OF SET IS WHAT APPEARS TO BE A RIDGE TENT WITH SPECIAL LIGHTING BEHIND IT TO BE USED LATER IN THIS SCENE FOR SILHOUETTE/SHADOW GAG

♪ **MUSICAL ITEM No11**...SUNBEAMS AS FOREST CREATURES OF THE NIGHT

♪ **MUSICAL ITEM No12**...MISS TOOK DRESSED IN DROLL GIRL GUIDE OUTFIT MARCHES ON TO MILITARY MUSIC SHE STOPS AND MARCHES ON THE SPOT....THEN ENTER IN LINE THE MARCHING PATCHES, PINNY, GRANNY, REDDY AND WILLIN, ALL DRESSED IN "OVER THE TOP" SAFARI SUITS WITH PITH HELMETS AND CARRYING EQUIPMENT ON THEIR BACKS.....THEY MARCH AROUND THE STAGE.....AFTER ROUTINE

**MISS TOOK:**

Right troops!....attentshun!!....fall out!!

PATCHES AND PINNY START TO SQUABBLE

**MISS TOOK:**

(TO PATCHES AND PINNY)...Hey!....you two, what's all this shouting about?.

**PATCHES:**

It's your fault....you told us to fall out.....so we are falling out.

**MISS TOOK:**

Right Granny, that's our last patrol of the night....let the troops rest up for awhile....I'm going to reccy the area and plan tomorrow's campaign!....don't worry, back before reveille....and break out the bed rolls

EXIT MISS TOOK MARCHING OFF SINGING THE PATROL SONG

**GRANNY:**

(TO THE REST)...All right you lot...you heard Miss Took...get your bed roll out.

**WILLIN:**

(GOES TO COOKING POT)...Why, is this soup ready?.

**GRANNY:**

I said get your bed rolls out....not bread rolls!.



PATCHES QUIETLY EXITS UNSEEN BY THE OTHERS

**PINNY:**

Well, aren't we going to eat then?.....I thought an army marched on its stomach.

**REDDY:**

(POINTS TO WILLIN)....You could get two armies to march on his stomach!!.

**GRANNY:**

By the way, where's Patches?.

**PINNY:**

Oh, he's getting us some transport or something?.

ENTER PATCHES LEADING A PANTOMIME HORSE

**PATCHES:**

Come on Samson...I told you it wasn't far.

THEY ALL LOOK AT SAMSON WITH DISBELIEF

**GRANNY:**

I don't believe this...we've been carrying all this gear and you've had a pack horse following us!.

**PATCHES:**

Oh no, it hasn't been well, so we can't put owt on it!.

**REDDY:**

Well I wouldn't put my shirt on it, that's for certain!.

**WILLIN:**

Did you say it's called Samson?.

**PATCHES:**

That's him, Samson!.

GRANNY, PINNY, REDDY AND WILLIN ALL LOOK BENEATH THE HORSE TO CHECK AT THE NAUGHTY BITS END.....THE HORSE SHUFFLES ROUND AND PRESSES REAR LEGS TOGETHER TO AVOID THEIR CHEEKY INSPECTION

**PINNY:**

(AFTER INSPECTION)....Sorry Patches....but you haven't got a Samson there.

**PATCHES:**

How d'ya mean?.

**GRANNY:**

It's not a Samson....it's a Delilah!!.

**PATCHES:**

(CHECKING UNDER HORSE)...Delilah?...why?...why?...why Delilah?.....(♫ BAND PLAY RELEVANT RESPONSE TO TOM JONES'S "DELILAH").....my?...my?...my Delilah.....(♫ BAND REPEAT RESPONSE)

**GRANNY:**

Anyway, don't worry it can have a rest, 'cause that was our last expedition of the night....I think we'll try and get some shut eye...who's taking first watch?.

**REDDY:**

Well let's see....there's five of us.....(SCREECHES AND YELPS HEARD OFF.....ENTER MISS TOOK WEARING SHREDDED COSTUME)....correction, six of us!.

**WILLIN:**

(GOES TO MISS TOOK)...Miss Took...you're back quick...were you attacked by the Wolf?! ....you look as if you've been in the wars!.

**MISS TOOK:**

No!....but I've been in the gorse!....silly me, fell into a blinkin' bush...prickly things them gorse....(MAKES AS IF PULLING THORNS FROM HER REAR END.....THEN SEES DELILAH)...still, I'm in better shape than the old mare.

**GRANNY:**

(OFFENDED)...I beg your pardon!....there's nothing wrong with me!.

**MISS TOOK:**

No not you...(INDICATING TO HORSE)...I meant the nag over there.

**PATCHES:**

Oh this is Delilah.

**GRANNY:**

Hark at him...."This is Delilah"....he thought it was Samson ten minutes since.....anyway, we were just trying to decide who's going to take first watch.

**MISS TOOK:**

We'll draw straws....(SHE MAKES AS IF TO PICK UP SOME LENGTHS OF STRAWS WHEN IN FACT SHE HAS PREPARED THESE DURING HER LATEST EXIT)....longest straw takes first watch...that's Took's Law....right, you first Pinny...(SHE OFFERS PINNY THE ENDS OF THE STRAWS IN HER HAND AND PINNY PULLS OUT A FAIRLY SHORT STRAW)..... your turn now Mr. Reddy...(AGAIN MR. REDDY DRAWS A SHORT ONE ã now you Mr. Willin..... (A SLIGHTLY LONGER STRAW THIS TIME WHICH PLEASES MR. REDDY)..... Granny..... (GRANNY DRAWS AN EVEN LONGER ONE WHICH PLEASES MR. WILLIN).....come along now Patches, only two left....you know what they say, "Who Dares Wins".....(PATCHES MAKES AS IF TO CHOOSE A STRAW BUT UNSURE CHANGES HIS MIND SEVERAL TIMES)

**PATCHES:**

(STILL UNDECIDED)...Er...no....I think you should choose next Miss Took!.

**MISS TOOK:**

Oh I say, how Gallant....Ladies first and all that, what?...(MISS TOOK PULLS FROM HER HAND THE LONGEST STRAW SO FAR AND LOOKS DEJECTED)

**PATCHES:**

(RELIEVED)....Never mind Miss Took....you can't win them all....(HE MAKES TO WALK AWAY)

**MISS TOOK:**

Er, just a minute Patches...(SHE OFFERS FINAL STRAW).....your straw I think....just a formality old boy!.

**PATCHES:**

Oh of course...(HE TAKES THE END OF THE FINAL STRAW AND CASUALLY PULLS IT....AND PULLS IT.....AND PULLS IT.....AND PULLS IT TO REVEAL THE LONGEST STRAW THAT CAN BE HIDDEN UP MISS TOOK'S SLEEVE)

**MISS TOOK:**

Yes, as you say Patches, you can't win them all.

**PATCHES:**

(DEJECTED)....Oh well, I suppose somebody has to go first.

**GRANNY:**

Yes, you'll do a four hour shift....it's now two in the morning....so you'll take us through to six o'clock.

**PATCHES:**

Fair enough...what time are we going home then?.

**ALL THE OTHERS:**

Six o'clock!!!

**GRANNY:**

Well, I don't know about you lot, but I'm getting ready for bed

GRANNY GOES INTO TENT....THE OTHERS INCLUDING THE HORSE SIT AROUND THE CAMP FIRE AS IF WARMING THEIR HANDS (AND HOOVES!)

ENTER SQUIRE TO REAR OF SET SEEN BY THE HORSE BUT UNSEEN BY THE OTHERS...THE SQUIRE IS CARRYING A BUSH IN FRONT OF HIM IN A VAIN ATTEMPT AT CAMOUFLAGE....EACH TIME THE "BUSH" MOVES THE HORSE REACTS....OH YES OH NO BIZ FROM AUDIENCE

**PATCHES:**

Come on Delilah let's tether you up for the night....oh look I'll tie you to this bush here.....(HORSE SHAKES HEAD AND ITS KNEES KNOCKING)....I never noticed it before....(TO AUDIENCE)....it must be one of them fast growing varieties.

**REDDY:**

Is there any need to tie your horse up....(HORSE SHAKES HEAD)

**WILLIN:**

Well it doesn't look as if it has got the strength to wander off....(HORSE SHAKES HEAD)

**PATCHES:**

I'll tell you all something....Delilah would never get lost in this forest...no, it knows this area like the back of its hoof!!....it's a bit like me...we know every tree and bush and we know exactly where they are.

DURING PATCHES BOASTING THE SQUIRE WITH HIS BUSH HAS MOVED YET AGAIN UNSEEN BY ALL EXCEPT THE HORSE WHO REACTS.....PATCHES IS THEN PUZZLED WHEN HE TURNS AND TRIES TO TETHER THE HORSE AND THE BUSH ISN'T WHERE IT WAS BEFORE

**PATCHES:**

(CONT/D)....Well I thought I knew where every bush was....(SEES BUSH)... oh there it is....come on Delilah....(HE TIES UP A VERY NERVOUS DELILAH...BOTH SETS OF KNEES KNOCKING AND HEAD SHAKING)

**WILLIN:**

(DRAMATIC)...Quiet everybody!.

**PINNY:**

(STAGE WHISPER)....What's wrong Mr. Willin?.

WHILE WILLIN HAS THEIR ATTENTION THE BUSH EXITS DRAGGING A RELUCTANT DELILAH

**WILLIN:**

My trained ears tell me that a twig has just snapped 300 yards away, and whatever is approaching....be it man or beast...(HE POINTS)....it is coming from that direction!

**REDDY:**

Yes !....whatever Willing heard is still approaching....and it's definitely from over there!...(HE POINTS)

ENTER PETER FROM A DIFFERENT DIRECTION

**PETER:**

What are you lot doing here?.

ALL SPIN ROUND AGAIN STARTLED

**PINNY:**

Oh Peter, you frightened us!.

**MISS TOOK:**

Yes!...thought is was the blinkin' Wolf creeping up on us.

**PETER:**

It can't be far away....I've just followed its tracks to the edge of this clearing over here.

**PATCHES:**

(CASUAL) ....Oh it's been over there has it?...(THEN REALISES AND PANICS)....don't panic everybody!...don't panic the Wolf's over here....we're all doomed!!.

**PETER:**

Calm down, it's not here now.....where has Granny gone?.

**REDDY:**

She said she was getting ready for bed.

INTO COMIC SILHOUETTE/SHADOW STRIPTEASE GAG....AFTER ROUTINE GRANNY COMES OUT OF TENT IN DROLL VOLUMINOUS NIGHT-GOWN AND CURLERS

**PINNY:**

Well I think if we all stick close to Granny looking like that we'll be safe.....the Wolf won't come anywhere near us!!.

**GRANNY:**

Yer cheeky madam!!.

**PETER:**

I've no time to chat....there is a few hours left for hunting....I think I'm familiar with this part of the forest?.

**MISS TOOK:**

Take the horse, it'll save the jolly old shoe leather.

**PETER:**

(LOOKING AROUND)....What horse?.

**PATCHES:**

My horse....my Delilah...(♫ BAND'S RESPONSE...THEN PATCHES TO BAND)....we've done that gag, so behave....(LOOKING AROUND)....but where is Delilah?....I tied her to a bush!.

**MISS TOOK:**

Don't worry Patches old thing, because you were quick to point out that Delilah knows the forest like the back of its hoof!.

**PETER:**

Anyway, I'm going hunting, and I'll keep an eye out for this Delilah of yours (PETER EXITS)

**PATCHES:**

Oh right, thanks Peter....(THEN TO OTHERS)...come on you lot, let's all sit around the camp fire and have a sing song.

**MISS TOOK:**

(AS THEY SIT IN LINE ON THE LOG)....Spiffing idea!... just like being back in the Girl Guides....I'll start.....(TO THE TUNE OF "10 GREEN BOTTLES" SHE STARTS TO SING)...."Six brave hunters sitting over here, six brave hunters sitting over here, and if one brave hunter should think the Wolf is near, there'd be 5 brave"...(SHE INTERRUPTS HERSELF...THEN TO OTHER FIVE)....you know that one don't you....(THEY ALL AGREE) ...right then, here we go....all together....(THEY START TO SING)

INTO "SIX BRAVE HUNTERS" ROUTINE....DURING THE FIRST VERSE THE WOLF QUIETLY ENTERS AND SITS NEXT TO MR WILLIN UNSEEN TO THE SIX....AFTER EACH VERSE THE WOLF IS SEEN ONLY BY THE PERSON NEXT TO IT....IN TURN AND AFTER EACH VERSE THE PERSON NEXT TO THE WOLF SEES IT AND FEINTS BACKWARDS OFF THE LOG IN FEAR AND CREEPS OFF UNSEEN BY THE OTHERS.....THE NUMBER

REDUCES AS IN THE SONG, UNTIL GRANNY WHO IS NOW ONE BRAVE HUNTER IS SINGING ON HER OWN

....SHE SUDDENLY REALISES THAT SHE IS SINGING ALONE, SHE TURNS, STARES INTO THE FACE OF THE WOLF.....THE WOLF SCREAMS AND RUNS OFF.....GRANNY SHRUGS HER SHOULDERS.....

STAGE BLACK OUT....TABS CLOSE TO END SCENEö .

### **ACT 2....SCENE 3...."A FOREST PATH"**

STARTING ON TABS

FAIRY ENTERS

**FAIRY:** Several days have gone by since the moon was full.  
And our reluctant heroes' went home.  
And poor Granny Knott caught a chill in the woods.  
And is back in her cottage alone.

So that fiendish Wolf is still on the prowl.  
It seems that it won't be denied.  
Peter has done all that he can.  
So my powers must now be applied

Red Riding Hood will soon be confronted.  
By the beast that we've all grown to hate.  
And she'll be alone when this meeting occurs.  
Then you'll wonder, will help be too late.

Will our pantomime follow the story.  
That I'm sure most people will know.  
Who's to know, time will tell, hold your breath, wait and see.  
As back to the forest we go.

FAIRY EXITS AS TABS OPEN FOR CLOTH DEPICTING A FOREST PATH WOLF ENTERS

**WOLF:** According to my most reliable sources.  
This is the place I must be.  
For Red Riding Hood will be passing here shortly.  
Unprotected and alone as you'll see.

She's on her way to visit Granny.  
With some shopping, yes food for their tea.  
She'll meet another old lady.  
And that other old lady will be me.

You'll wonder after our encounter.  
Why I let her go on her way all alone.  
The reason for that is quite simple.  
I intend to kill two birds with one stone.

WOLF EXITS WITH HOWL

ENTER PETER AND RED RIDING HOOD HOLDING HANDS...RED RIDING HOOD IS CARRYING A SHOPPING BASKET WITH PROVISIONS IN

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

Listen Peter...it's silly walking me all the way to Granny's cottage, I'm sure you've lots of things to do, and we're nearly there anyway.

**PETER:**

Well, if you're sure that you will be all right, as you say it's not far and the Wolf hasn't been seen for days. take care though and soon we'll be able to spend our precious time together.

♪ **MUSICAL ITEM No13**...RED RIDING HOOD AND PETER DUET

AFTER DUET PETER EXITS WITH A WAVE....RED RIDING HOOD PICKS UP HER BASKET AND MAKES TO CONTINUE HER JOURNEY  
ENTER WOLF IN LONG BLACK CLOAK AND HOOD

**WOLF:**

(FEIGNING OLD LADY'S VOICE)...Good day my dear. what is a young and pretty girl like you doing in the forest all alone?.

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

I'm on my way to see Granny, she's poorly you know....I'm just taking her a few thing to cheer her up, because as soon as she is better I'm going to live with her.

**WOLF:**

What a kind young thing you are, nobody brings me nice things.

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

You poor old lady, here...(SHE OFFERS SOME FOOD)...please take some, there's plenty

**WOLF:**

Thank you, but no,....Granny will need all that if she is to be well again....by the way, where does Granny live?.

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

Oh er...I don't know whether I should tell a stranger....(TO AUDIENCE)....should I tell her where Granny lives?... (YES NO BIZ).....well, all right then. I don't see any harm telling an old lady....you take the left fork at the old Oak tree....then over the bridge....through Dingle Dell....and the cottage stands in the clearing by the stream.

**WOLF:**

That's nice to know...I'll probably pop in one day and eat her!.

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

And What?!!!

**WOLF:**

Erō Meet her my dear!...I'm sure we will have a lot in common.

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

Oh yes of course....but you must excuse me, Granny will be worried...(AS SHE EXITS)....  
cheerio...be careful, there's a vicious wolf around here

RED RIDING HOOD EXITS

**WOLF:**

(CASTING OFF HIS CLOAK AND HOOD)

Vicious she said, how unkind of the girl.  
For that insult she'll certainly pay.  
For I'll be there when she gets to Granny's.  
I know of a much quicker way.

WOLF EXITS TO END SCENE

**ACT 2....SCENE 4...."GRANNY KNOTT'S COTTAGE"**

TABS OPEN FOR SET....INSIDE GRANNY KNOTT'S COTTAGE WHICH WILL INCLUDE  
A PRACTICAL DOOR AND WINDOW WITH CURTAINS CLOSED PLUS USUAL  
TRAPPINGS....A LARGE BED IS CENTRE STAGE....AND A LARGE WARDROBE TO  
THE SIDE

♪ **MUSICAL ITEM No 14**...ENTER DANCERS AND SUNBEAMS DRESSED AS CATS  
AND MICE...INTO DANCE ROUTINE.....AFTER ROUTINE THEY EXIT ENTER GRANNY  
IN VOLUMINOUS NIGHT ATTIRE AND WEARING NIGHT-CAP AND CARRYING A  
VERY LARGE BOTTLE OF MEDICINE ALSO A LARGE WOODEN SPOON

**GRANNY:**

(COUGHING....THEN TO AUDIENCE)....Just look at the size of this bottle of medicine...  
(HOLD UP BOTTLE)....they do go over the top at Lloyd's Chemists....(LOOKS AT LABEL)  
....it says here "To be taken 34 times daily"....(THEN LOOKS MORE CLOSELY)....oh!, I  
beg your pardon, it says "3 to 4 times daily!"....I thought I was getting better quick!  
...(CHECKS LABEL AGAIN)...silly me, I forgot to shake the bottle... (SHE JUMPS ABOUT  
VIGOROUSLY)....there!, that should have shook it up all right!.....and do you know  
what?....the Doctor told me to swallow this medicine after a hot bath.....well I'll be honest  
with you, after I've swallowed a bath full of hot water I don't seem to have much room left  
for the medicine!! Anyway, I hate going to the Doctors, don't you ladies?....(AS IF  
CONFIDENTIAL).....you've always got to put clean on, just in case!, haven't you?.....  
Anyway the Doctor examined me and he said "Well Granny I don't seem to be able to  
locate the problemō you know it may be to do with the intake of excessive alcohol!+..  
I said oh fair enoughō I'd come back when your soberō I said "Listen Doctor.....be honest  
with me.....this illness of mine, do you think it will be rare?"he said "No, I'll put your mind at  
rest.... it won't be a rare disease. ... I'm sure that thousands will die of it every week!!".....I  
thought, thanks very much that's made me feel a lot better.....I don't think!.

**F/X:** LOUD KNOCK ON DOOR

**GRANNY:**

Oh heck!....that'll be Red Riding Hood....and I'm supposed to be in bed poorly.  
SHE RUNS ABOUT IN A PANIC....THERE IS AN AUDIBLE CLANG AS IF KICKING A  
CHAMBER POT AS SHE GETS INTO BED.....SHE SETTLES DOWN.....THEN TAKES OFF  
HER GLASSES AND FEIGNS A SORROWFUL POSE....THEN IN A WEAK POORLY VOICE  
SHE ANSWERS THE KNOCK ON THE DOOR

**GRANNY:**

This script is licensed for amateur theatre by NODA Ltd to whom all enquiries should be  
made. [www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk) E-mail: [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)



(WEAK POORLY VOICE)...Come in.

DOOR OPENS....ENTER WOLF WEARING RED RIDING HOOD OUTFIT

**WOLF:**

(ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)...Master of disguise that's me!

**GRANNY:**

(PEERING WITHOUT HER GLASSES)...Is that you Red Riding Hood?.

**WOLF:**

(IN GIRLISH VOICE)...Yes!.

**GRANNY:**

Your voice sounds different, have you got a cold or something?.

**WOLF:**

Yes.

**GRANNY:**

Is that all you can say, yes?

**WOLF:**

Yes.

**GRANNY:**

Can I borrow a fiver?.

**WOLF:**

No!.

**GRANNY:**

Come over here and let me have a look at you....(WOLF GOES OVER TO BED....GRANNY PEERS AT HIM)...my word Red Riding Hood, you do look poorly....you don't look yourself today...(PEERS EVEN CLOSER)...in fact you look a bit like...er.....a wolf....(REALISES THEN PANICS).....a wolf!!!.SHE LEAPS OUT OF BED CHASED BY THE WOLF WHO LEAPS OVER THE BED IN PURSUIT.... A COMIC CHASE FOLLOWS IN CIRCLES WHERE GRANNY AND WOLF REPEATEDLY JUMP ONTO, AND OVER THE BED....EVENTUALLY THE WOLF STOPS FRONT AND CENTRE STAGE, WHILST GRANNY CONTINUES RUNNING IN CIRCLES AND KEEPS PASSING THE STATIONARY WOLF

**WOLF:**

(TO AUDIENCE AS GRANNY HURRIES PAST HIM)... I always did like fast food!.

THE NEXT TIME GRANNY PASSES THE WOLF HE GRABS HER AND THEY STRUGGLE

**F/X:** KNOCK ON DOOR

**WOLF:**

(STARTLED)...That will be Red Riding Hood....a far more tastier morsel than you....I'll save you for afters....into the cupboard with you...(AS HE BUNDLES GRANNY INTO THE CUPBOARD HE TAKES OFF HIS DISGUISE AND TAKES GRANNY'S NIGHT-CAP AS HE

LOCKS THE CUPBOARD DOOR HE THROWS HIS RED RIDING HOOD DISGUISE IN WITH GRANNY.....HE THEN PUTS ON GRANNY'S NIGHT-CAP ...GETS INTO BED PUTS ON GRANNY'S SPECTACLES AND PULLS THE SHEETS UP UNDER HIS CHIN.....THEN TO AUDIENCE)....be quiet you fools, my first course has arrived!.

F/X: SECOND KNOCK AT DOOR

**WOLF**:

(IMITATING GRANNY)....Come in, the door isn't locked... (THEN TO AUDIENCE)....yet another imitation.... John Culshaw eat your heart out!.

ENTER RED RIDING HOOD

**RED RIDING HOOD**:

It's only me Granny....how are you feeling today?.

**WOLF**:

Hungry!.

**RED RIDING HOOD**:

Oh that's a good sign, you must be getting better... it's lucky I brought you some nice things to eat....(SHE APPROACHES GRANNY WITH BASKET)....look, Pinny has baked you an apple pie... (SHE LOOKS PUZZLED AT GRANNY)...but Granny, what big ears you've got!

**WOLF**:

All the better to hear you with my dear.

**RED RIDING HOOD**:

Yes, but what big eyes you have!.

**WOLF**:

All the better to see you with my dear.

**RED RIDING HOOD**:

And Granny, what big teeth you have.

**WOLF**:

Yes!.....all the better to eat you with!!.

RED RIDING HOOD SCREAMS....WOLF JUMPS OUT OF BED AND GRABS HER....AS THEY STRUGGLE THE DOOR BURSTS OPEN AND ENTER PETER ARMED WITH HIS AXE

♫ **MUSICAL ITEM No 15**....INTO CHOREOGRAPHED FIGHT ROUTINE WITH SUITABLE MUSIC....(POSSIBLE STROBE LIGHTING EFFECT)..... TOWARDS THE END OF THE FIGHT ROUTINE THE WOLF FLEES FROM THE COTTAGE CHASED BY PETER

**F/X OFF**: PIERCING HOWL OF WOLF

PETER ENTERS TRIUMPHANT...RED RIDING HOOD RUSHES TO EMBRACE HIM

**PETER**:

You have no more to fear from that Wolf....my trusty axe has done its work!....now as decreed I will become the next Lord Mayor of Birchwood.

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

(OVERJOYED)...I can't believe it!...the Wolf is finally dead....(ENTER PINNY).....oh my dear Pinny, the Wolf is dead!!.

**PINNY:**

Oh that's wonderful news....I can't wait to tell Patches....I think he was getting some help because he dashed into a telephone box!.

**SOUND F/X:** RUN TRACK OF "SUPERMAN THEME" ....THEN VOLUME DOWN SLIGHTLY FOR DIALOGUE

**PETER:**

(LOOKING AROUND)...What's happening?!

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

I think there's something outside!.

PINNY GOES TO THE WINDOW AND OPENS THE CURTAINS AND WE SEE PATCHES AS SUPERMAN IN A FLYING POSE AS IF HOVERING OUTSIDE THE WINDOW....SOMEBODY OUT OF SIGHT IS FLAPPING HIS CAPE TO GIVE WIND EFFECT....PATCHES GRINS AND GIVES A THUMBS UP SIGN

**PINNY:**

(TO PATCHES)....The Wolf is dead, you can come in now.

PATCHES SIGNALS O/K AND MAKES AS IF TO DO A SWOOP INTO A 'U' TURN....AS HE DOES THE STAGE HAND FLAPPING HIS CAPE PASSES THE WINDOW AND NODS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO THE AUDIENCE

**ENTER PATCHES THROUGH DOOR**

**PATCHES:**

You say the Wolf's dead?....and after I've crept up to Krypton for some kryptonite then crept back and you've cracked it!!.....(FEELING SORRY FOR HIMSELF)....I just wanted to be a super hero..... (ENCOURAGES OOO'S AND AAAH'S FROM AUDIENCE.....THEN TO AUDIENCE)...oh I want to be more super than that!.

**PINNY:**

Come here you daft thing....you'll always be my super hero!.

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

Hey!...aren't we forgetting somebody?....where's Granny?!

**PETER:**

Of course!...Granny was here alone with the Wolf, so you all know what that means!!.

**PINNY:**

(TEARFULLY)...Oh no!....you don't mean....she...er....has ended her days as...er....(GULPS)  
....er...Grannyburger!!.  
PATCHES FAINTS

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

(SORROWFUL)...Oh Granny, if only we could hear your sweet kind voice again.

GRANNY BURSTS THROUGH SIDE OF CUPBOARD...(POSSIBLY THIN PLYWOOD FOR EFFECT)

**GRANNY:**

(RELIEVED)...By gum, it was hot in there!.

RED RIDING HOOD, PETER AND PINNY STRIDE OVER PATCHES IN TURN AND GO TO GRANNY WITH HUGS AND EMBRACES

**PETER:**

This calls for a celebration!.

**GRANNY:**

(INDICATING TO PATCHES ON FLOOR)...He looks as if he has been celebrating...(THEN TO RED RIDING HOOD)...I'll tell you what love, you and me will go and get my home made parsnip wine...I keep it in the scullery where it's nice and cool...(TO PETER)...while we're doing that, you and Pinny put...(POINTS TO PATCHES)...Patchyman on the bed...he's making the place look untidy!.

RED RIDING HOOD AND GRANNY EXIT.....PETER AND PINNY STRUGGLE TO PUT PATCHES ON THE BED....THEY THEN THROW A SHEET OVER HIM

ENTER SQUIRE AND MISS TOOK

**SQUIRE:**

(FALSELY SYMPATHETIC)...Oh my dear Peter...I know we've had our differences in the past, but let me offer you my condolences....I realise you will miss Red Riding Hood and Granny terribly!.

**MISS TOOK:**

Golly Gosh!...will that awful Wolf stop at nothing?!

**PETER:**

Wolf?...who said anything about a Wolf?!

**MISS TOOK:**

The Squire!...he told me the Wolf had eaten both Red Riding Hood and Granny!!.

**PETER:**

My dear Squire...it's as though you've come here knowing something terrible has happened....(ACCUSINGLY)....it wasn't something you had arranged to happen was it?.

**SQUIRE:**

How dare you insinuate that I would stoop to such a dastardly plot!.....I didn't even know the Wolf was coming here to eat Red Riding Hood and Granny Knott!.

**MISS TOOK:**

I say Squire old bean...it strikes me that you have behaved like a cad and a rotter.

**SQUIRE:**

Be quiet you silly woman or I will arrange for the Wolf to eat you as an hors d'oeuvre before it devours that interfering woodcutter there.

**PINNY:**

If you mean Peter, that's a laugh....because this young man..(INDICATES TO PETER)...is the next Mayor of Birchwood!.

**SQUIRE:**

Don't be silly girl...there is only one person fit to become the Mayor...(PREENING)...and that's me.....and in any case, one would have to slay the Wolf to earn such an honour.

**PETER:**

Squire Bullymore....your accomplice the Wolf is dead!...and no thanks to you Red Riding Hood and Granny are safe and well....and I shall see to it personally that your part in this plot will become common knowledge!!.

**SQUIRE:**

Enough of your threats...I'm not finished yet....come along Miss Took.

**MISS TOOK:**

What do you mean "Come Along"...you're a baddy...I am staying with the Goodies!

THE SQUIRE EXITS ANGRILY

**PINNY:**

My word!...what a day it's been....I'm ready for a celebration...I wonder what's happened to the parsnip wine?

**PETER:**

Oh yes....I think we had better go and see what's keeping those two.

**MISS TOOK:**

Oooh, parsnip wine!...yummy yum, count me in...I'm partial to a little sniffer.....lead me to it!.

THEY EXIT AS IF TO THE SCULLERY

ENTER REDDY AND WILLIN STEALTHILY THROUGH COTTAGE DOOR

**REDDY:**

Nobody seems to be about.

**WILLIN:**

No, all seems quiet.

PATCHES STILL UNDER SHEET ON BED MOANS AS HE STARTS TO COME ROUND

**REDDY:**

(TO WILLIN)...What did you say?.

**WILLIN:**

I didn't say anything, I thought it was you!.

PATCHES MOANS AGAIN

**REDDY & WILLIN:**

(TOGETHER AND TO EACH OTHER)...What? ....(STILL SPEAKING TOGETHER)...  
I didn't say anything.

PATCHES STILL COVERED BY A SHEET SITS UP ON THE BED GIVING A GHOSTLY  
APPEARANCE.....REDDY AND WILLIN SHRIEK AND RUN OUT TERRIFIED

**PATCHES:**

(REMOVING SHEET)...Where is everybody?.

SUNBEAMS AND DANCERS DRIFT NERVOUSLY ON AS ORPHANS

**1st DANCER:**

(SEES PATCHES)...Well at least Patches is safe.

**2nd DANCER:**

What's happened Patches, and where is everyone?.

**PATCHES:**

You tell me!....but what are you lot doing here?.

ENTER GRANNY, RED RIDING HOOD, PETER, PINNY AND MISS TOOK

**GRANNY:**

(TO CHILDREN)...Yes, what are you doing here?.

**1st SUNBEAM:**

Well there's no one in charge back at the Orphanage.... the gates were wide open!.

**2nd SUNBEAM:**

We were worried....we thought the Wolf might have eaten you all!.

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

My dear friends, how nice of you to worry over us....but there is no need to worry anymore,  
you see the Wolf is no more... we can all be happy again.....(THE CHILDREN ALL CHEER)

♪ **MUSICAL ITEM No 16**....ALL ON STAGE GO IN TO A COMPANY SONG AND DANCE  
ROUTINE.....AFTER ROUTINE.....

TABS CLOSE TO END SCENE ð ENTER REDDY AND WILLIN ON TABS

**REDDY:**

Do you know Willing?, I've a funny feeling that you and me will be out of a job!

**WILLIN:**

Yes and I for one am glad....the Orphans will be able to go out and come in when they like, it'll  
be just like a holiday camp for 'em.

♪ **MUSICAL ITEM No 17**....REDDY AND WILLING GO INTO A COMIC DUET.... AFTER  
ROUTINE THEY EXIT  
ENTER FAIRY STILL ON TABS

**FAIRY:** My foe the evil Wolf has gone.  
 He's finally met his end.  
 So contentment, love and happiness.  
 From now will be the trend.

And the other nasty characters.  
 Who wished harm upon those such as we.  
 I refer to that Squire Bullymore.  
 Who'll have an opposite role as you'll see.

Mr. Reddy and his friend Mr. Willin.  
 Blindly did everything that they were told.  
 Though not really very cruel men.  
 Only when in the Squire's hold.

For that very simple reason.  
 My judgement on them I'll reserve.  
 So for quite a short time only.  
 The children they will serve

In the scene that will shortly follow.  
 You'll see that the mood is good.  
 As a party is being given in the Orphanage garden.  
 For Peter and Red Riding Hood.

EXIT FAIRY WHO BECKONS AS TABS OPEN FOR.....

## **ACT 2....SCENE 5...."THE ORPHANAGE GARDEN"**

**SET:**...AS PREVIOUS BUT WITH ADDITIONAL STAGE DRESSING AS THOUGH FOR A PARTY

DANCERS AND SUNBEAMS DRESSED AS BOYS AND GIRLS AND VILLAGERS ARE ON STAGE CHATTING EXCITEDLY

ENTER TOWN CRYER

### **TOWN CRYER:**

(RINGING HAND BELL)....Oh yez!...oh yez!....oh yez!....Now hear this good people of Birchwood.....it has been decreed this day that the new Mayor will take office as laid down by the rules of the Aldermen of this Parish.....now please welcome his Worship the new Lord Mayor of Birchwood!.

**ENTER PETER** DRESSED IN FULL MAYORAL REGALIA TO THE CHEERS OF ALL ON STAGE

### **PETER:**

Thank you dear friends...let me introduce you to the official Mayor's party....first of all please welcome the future Lady Mayoress Red Riding Hood....(COMPANY CHEER)....next the lady who's short stay with us has brought us all much happiness, and for which I bestow her the freedom of the town, please welcome our dear friend Granny Knott ....(COMPANY CHEER)  
 AS GRANNY ENTERS, PETER HANDS HER A HUGE GOLDEN KEY

**GRANNY:**

(HOLDING UP KEY)...Oooo!...the freedom of the town you say?...(THEN TO AUDIENCE)...  
.eeee, I wonder if this'll fit the cellar door at the "Pig and Trumpet"!?

**PETER:**

I don't think we'll ever change you Granny....though I don't think we would want to!....and  
there is someone else who will never change...please welcome the new Squire of Birchwood,  
Squire Patches and his future wife Miss Pinny....(COMPANY CHEER AS THEY ENTER)

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

(TO PATCHES AND PINNY)...You two kept that quiet.....wife to be eh?.....(THEN TO  
PETER)....but what's happened to Miss Took, she has always been loyal.

**PETER:**

I haven't forgotten her....(ANNOUNCING).....so now we have the new Governess and Head  
Teacher of the newly titled "Birchwood Academy for Young Students"....please greet Miss  
Penelope Took!....(ALL CHEER)

ENTER MISS TOOK DRESSED IN HER FAMILIAR "HOCKEY" GEAR BUT NOW SPORTING  
A TASSELLED "MORTAR BOARD" WITH "GOWN"

**MISS TOOK:**

(SHE STANDS NEXT TO PATCHES AND PINNY ....THEN TO PATCHES).....Yes Patches,  
I'm now known as Professor Penelope Took.....but you can call me Penny, but you will get  
very little change out of me!....(GIVE A GIDDY LAUGH)

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

(PUZZLED TO PETER)....If you have made Patches the Squire, what became of Squire  
Bullymore?.....and what about Reddy and Willin?.

**PATCHES:**

(TO PETER)....Allow me to answer that your Worship.... (HE SNAPS HIS FINGERS AND  
CALLS)....servants!!.

...ENTER SQUIRE BULLYMORE DRESSED AS A BUTLER FOLLOWED BY REDDY AND  
WILLING DRESSED AS FOOTMEN

**SQUIRE:**

(TO PATCHES HUMBLY)....You called Squire Patches?.

**PINNY:**

Yes he did, will you bring refreshments for our guests...(SQUIRE EXITS TO RETURN LATER  
WITH REFRESHMENTS.....PINNY THEN TO REDDY AND WILLIN)....and you  
two!....lemonade for the children!...(THEY EXIT TO RETURN LATER WITH LEMONADE)

**PATCHES:**

(TO REDDY AND WILLING AS THEY EXIT)....Yes, and I don't want to see a child with an  
empty glass for the rest of the day....so keep on your toes!.

**PETER:**



This seems an ideal moment to make one more announcement!....(HE PUTS HIS ARM AROUND RED RIDING HOOD)....today has been an exciting day for us all....but now let us look forward to tomorrow..... (COMPANY LOOK PUZZLED AND ASK EACH OTHER WHY)...as you all know Red Riding Hood has consented to be my wife, and tomorrow will be our wedding day!...(COMPANY CHEER)

**VILLAGER:**

What a pity sir, for tomorrow is a working day, and we would all love to come and wish you both good luck.

**SUNBEAM:**

Yes, and it's lessons as usual for all us children!...and we would love to come and throw confetti...(TO THE OTHER CHILDREN)...wouldn't we?!...(CHILDREN SHOUT YES)

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

In that case you will all come to the wedding, and when I say all I include Mr. Reddy and Mr. Willin, and yes, even ex Squire Bullymore!!

**PETER:**

(TO RED RIDING HOOD)...In that case my dearest I will make my first proclamation....I decree that tomorrow will be a holiday and for ever after!.....(COMPANY CHEER)

**GRANNY:**

Come on everyone, let's celebrate!!

♫ **MUSICAL ITEM No 18**....INTO FULL COMPANY NUMBER SONG AND DANCE ROUTINE.....AFTER ROUTINE TABS CLOSE TO END SCENE

ENTER GRANNY KNOTT AND PATCHES ON TABSō . PATCHES IS LOOKING AGITATED

**GRANNY:**

What's the matter with you now?

**PATCHES:**

I've just bumped into the producerō he said %When are you going to do it then?+

**GRANNY:**

When are we going to do what?

**PATCHES:**

That's exactly what I said!

**GRANNY:**

Look, forget what you saidō . What did he say?

**PATCHES:**

He said that we've missed a song out!

**GRANNY:**

Missed a song out?....we've still got the finale to do.

**PATCHES:**

I know, but there's another song to be sung before the finaleō

what I want to know is who's going to sing it?

**GRANNY:**

Well, who do we know?

FROM LOOKING AT EACH OTHER FACE ON THEY SLOWLY TURN TO THE AUDIENCE

**GRANNY:**

(TO AUDIENCE)õ Heyõ what about you lot?...will you help us to sing it?

**PATCHES:**

(TO AUDIENCE AFTER A POSITIVE RESPONSE)õ I just knew you would help us outõ .  
Anyway. We've locked the doors so you'll have to!

INTO SONG SHEET ROUTINE WHERE THE AUDIENCE ARE ASKED TO COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER i.e. STALLS V CIRCLEõ LEFT V RIGHTõ BOYS V GIRLS ETCõ ENDING WITH A FULL AUDIENCE SING-ALONG

♫ **MUSICAL ITEM No 19**....SONG SHEET ON TABS FEATURING GRANNY KNOTT, PATCHES AND THE AUDIENCEõ .. AFTER ROUTINE GRANNY AND PATCHES EXIT

ENTER FAIRY ON TABS

**FAIRY:**

We'll all soon go to the village hall.  
To see Peter and his beautiful bride.  
All their grateful friends are with them.  
With a future full of hope and pride.

But now it's time to say goodnight.  
To you my loyal friends.  
We hope we've entertained you.  
For on your support our show depends.

In future years you will all recall.  
As memories back to you flood.  
That you had a seat right here in this hall.  
To see the pantomime "Red Riding Hood".

SHE BECKONS CENTRE STAGE WITH WAND AS TABS OPEN FOR

**ACT 2....SCENE 6...."BIRCHWOOD MANOR"**

♫.... **MUSICAL ITEM No 20**.... FORõ .

**WALK DOWN**

**FAIRY:**

It's time for the cast to say goodbye

**MISS TOOK:**

This script is licensed for amateur theatre by NODA Ltd to whom all enquiries should be made. [www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk) E-mail: [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)

Cheerio and Ta Ta for nowō

**PINNY:**

We hope youōe enjoyed it, we certainly have

**SQUIRE:**

Now itō time for our very last bow

**REDDY:**

Weōe not really Baddiesō weōe Goodies at heartō

**WILLING:**

And we hope youō forgive any sin,

**WOLF:**

Well Iōn not sorry for the things that Iōe done!

Will the Baddie ever win!?

**GRANNY:**

And now itō time to turn the last pageō

**PATCHES:**

And see through the tears and the laughter,

**PETER:**

That good beats evil, as it surely should

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

And we all live happy ever after.

**GRAND FINALE**

**FINAL CURTAIN**