

NOD& PRESENTS

RED RIDING HOOD

&

THE THREE LITTLE PIGS

THE PANTO!

BY

DAVID CRUMP & PAUL SIMCOX

NODA Pantomimes

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NODA PANTOMIMES is a division of NODA LTD. which is the trading arm of the NATIONAL OPERATIC & DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION (CIO), a registered charity devoted to the encouragement of amateur theatre.

Characters:

Will the Woodcutter (Principal Boy):	He is kind hearted and brave, a typical panto hero, madly in love with Red of course (F/M)
Red Riding Hood (Principal Girl):	A village girl, sweet and innocent. In love with Will (F)
Granny (Dame):	Red Riding Hood's Granny, and a wealthy widow (M)
Mr Wolf (Baddie):	The Big Bad Wolf himself – on the trail of the three little pigs, Granny and Red! (M)
Ursula:	Red's evil stepmother pulling the strings of Mr Wolf (F)
Fin:	Fin the pig farmer, the audience participation character – loveable but a bit dim. In love with Red (M/F)
Bark (Double Act):	The straight man in the double act – a woodcutter's assistant. (M/F)
Trunk (Double Act):	The idiot in the double act – a woodcutter's assistant. (M/F)
Gerald:	Red's father, a nice old chap with a heart of gold. (M)
Jenny:	Shop assistant in the hardware store. (F)
Butcher:	A jolly butcher who tricks Fin into buying the three pigs (M/F)
The Three Little Pigs:	
Rodney:	One of the three little pigs (M/F)
Derek:	One of the three little pigs (M/F)
Albert:	One of the three little pigs (M/F)

Customers, woodcutters, villagers, etc.

3 F, 3 M, 7 M/F

Scenes:**ACT 1:****Scene 1: The Market Square****Scene 2: Somewhere in the forest****Scene 3: The Market Square****Scene 4: A Forest path****Scene 5: The Hardware Shop****ACT 2:****Scene 1: In the forest****Scene 2: A forest path****Scene 3: In the forest****Scene 4: A forest path****Scene 5: Granny's cottage****Scene 6: Outside Granny's cottage****Scene 7: Granny's cottage****Scene 8: Community Song****Walkdown**

A note on scenes: The script is designed to work on a stage with limited or no flying facilities so there is always a front of tabs scene between main stage scenes to allow for scene changes. However, if the theatre enables quicker changes then the front of tabs scenes may be incorporated into full stage scenes. Particularly act 1 scene 4 which should open into a full stage forest scene if possible to do so and still change to the Hardware Store.

Songs:**ACT 1**

- 1. Happy - Company**
- 2. I Just Haven't Met You Yet – Red, Will and Company**
- 3. I'm a Lumberjack – Will, Bark, Trunk and Male Company.**
- 4. Someone Like You (from Jekyll and Hyde) – Red**
- 5. Don't You Want To Be Evil – Ursula & Red**
- 6. Run Rabbit Run – Fin, Bark and Trunk**
- 7. I'm Not That Girl - Jenny**
- 8. Bad Moon Rising – Will and Company**

ACT 2

- 9. I Just Want To Dance With You Tonight– Fin and Company**
- 10. Piggies (Reindeer) are better than people – Fin and Albert**
- 11. Don't You Want To Be Evil Reprise – Ursula & Wolf**
- 12. It's all about the Bass - Dame and Company**
- 13. Nowhere to Run – Albert, Derek and Rodney**
- 14. For Good – Company**
- 15. Community Song**

A note on music: These songs have been suggested as they fit well with the story and the characters, but you can chose alternatives to suit your own production and casts abilities. Minor adjustments to dialogue in order to introduce the song are permissible, but this should be done with great care. As you will see minor tweaks have been made to lyrics in order to suit the story and characters.

ACT 1**Scene 1: The Market Square**

(A bustling market square. Vendors mingle with shoppers, beggars, street entertainers, etc. There is a butcher's stall and a cake stall, but otherwise the other traders are selling from trays and baskets. Red Riding Hood enters, she is wearing a red cape with a hood. She mingles with the crowd. Will enters opposite side but they don't notice each other.)

Will: *(To a villager)* Excuse me, do you know the way to the forest? I'm starting work as a woodcutter today.

Villager 1: Now now, what's your rush? It's our holiday market – enjoy yourself!

(Villager goes into the crowd.)

Will: What a happy lady. I hope everyone's friendly in this village – I want to find a nice girl and settle down.

Villager 2: We're all cheerful round here, we're celebrating the anniversary of the Big Bad Wolf being banished from the kingdom.

All: Hooray!

Will: Certainly sounds like something to celebrate, but I really must try to find my colleagues. *(He exits)*

SONG 1: Happy - Company

It might seem crazy what I'm about to say
Sunshine she's here, you can take a break
I'm a hot air balloon that could go to space
With the air, like I don't care, baby, by the way

Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you know what happiness is to you
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do

Here come bad news talking this and that, yeah,
Well, give me all you got, and don't hold it back, yeah,
Well, I should probably warn you I'll be just fine, yeah,
No offense to you, don't waste your time
Here's why

Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof

Because I'm happy
 Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth
 Because I'm happy
 Clap along if you know what happiness is to you
 Because I'm happy
 Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do

(Happy)
 Bring me down
 Can't nothing
 Bring me down
 My level's too high
 Bring me down
 Can't nothing
 Bring me down
 I said (let me tell you now)
 Bring me down
 Can't nothing
 Bring me down
 My level's too high
 Bring me down
 Can't nothing
 Bring me down
 I said

Because I'm happy
 Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof
 Because I'm happy
 Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth
 Because I'm happy
 Clap along if you know what happiness is to you
 Because I'm happy
 Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do

(After song, Red steps downstage and addresses the audience.)

Red: Hello boys and girls! Fancy seeing you here – do you know who I am?
(Audience shout) That's right, I'm Red Riding Hood, and I'm here in the market to meet my father. He's been away on business. It's been lonely on my own – he keeps telling me find a nice boy but that's easier said than done.

(Fin enters)

Fin: Hello Red!

Red: Hi Fin; I was just telling the boys and girls, there is literally no one who could be boyfriend material in the village.

Fin: Well, there's always...

- Red: I mean, literally no one.
- Fin: If you say so (*crestfallen*). What are you up to?
- Red: Father is coming home today – I’m going to get him a cake.
- Fin: Thank goodness for that – I’m fed up of running around for that grandmother of yours.
- Red: You know she’s needed help while Daddy’s been at the international hardware retailers’ conference in Tipton (*or some other local place*).
- Fin: She’s given me a whole list of jobs here (*he has a piece of paper*), but I’ve only done numbers one, three and five.
- Red: You’re taking this odd job man too literally.
- Fin: I’ve been after a career change but I’m not sure Granny’s slave is it.
- Red: I’m sure you’ll find something. Now I’ve got to get my hands on a cake (*exits*).
- Fin: Lucky old cake. She’s lovely that Red Riding Hood. Not that she’d ever look twice at a boy like me. I’ve been working as a fishmonger and I think the smell puts girls off – it plays haddock with my love life. So I’ve packed that in and now I’m looking for a new porpoise in life. Oh, I should introduce myself, my names Fin. I know when I come on I’ll shout ‘Hey up folks’ and will you shout – Hey up Fin? Then I won’t feel so lonely. Shall we try it? (*He runs off and then back on shouting ‘Hey up folks’ until the audience respond.*) That’s great - talking of fish, here comes the old trout now.
- (*Granny enters on a child’s scooter at top speed. She is dressed like a Mod with a parka coat with a target on it, helmet, goggles, etc. The Scooter has lots of mirrors on it.*)
- Granny: Weee! (*She screeches to a stop nearly running Fin over*). What are you carping on about you pilchard?
- Fin: You look like hell on wheels.
- Granny: No I look like Helen Mirren, her what used to be the Queen. I’ve met the Queen you know.
- Fin: I’ve only ever seen her on stamps.
- Granny: So had I until this one day she came to open the new Waitrose.
- Fin: What’s Waitrose?
- Granny: It’s where you go to see what everything in Tesco will cost in five years time. Anyway I’d only ever seen her on stamps ‘till then too.

- Fin: What did you do?
- Granny: I licked the back of her head. What do you think of my mobility scooter? I'm a mod. I fancied being a rocker, but every time I sat in it I went to sleep.
- Fin: Off your rocker more like. (*Inspecting the scooter*) Did Mods wear aprons?
- Granny: I have to have somewhere to keep my sweeties.
- Fin: Sweets aren't good for you.
- Granny: You're right, in fact I'm on a new diet - I can only eat sunflower oil, olive oil and vegetable oil.
- Fin: Have you lost any weight?
- Granny: No but I don't squeak anymore. It's only the sweets keeping me going.
- Fin: I bet the boys and girls would like some sweets.
- Granny: What boys and girls? (*Noticing the audience*) Ooh look, I see Weatherspoons has chucked out early tonight. Is there anyone not arrived yet? If you're not here put your hand up.
- Fin: If there are any late comers they'll open the doors for them when there's a quiet moment.
- Granny: You should never open the doors after we've started.
- Fin: 'Cause it disturbs the actors?
- Granny: No, because we must never give them the opportunity to leave. (*Looking at audience*) You know I can always tell if it's going to be a good audience the minute I look at them. (*Pauses, sniffs and turns to exit*) Goodnight!
- Fin: Granny!
- Granny: Only joking. (*To audience*) Actually I'm glad you're here because you can help me with a little theory I'm trying to prove.
- Fin: What's that?
- Granny: Whether people look like their pets.
- Fin: Do they?
- Granny: Oh yes (*to the audience*) for instance, now you sir (*picking out a man on the front row*) Do you have a chimpanzee?
- Fin: Granny!

Granny: Only joking, I say that to whoever sits in that seat every time (*pause*). It's just that tonight I got lucky.

Fin: Are you sharing them sweeties or not?

Granny: Here you go then.

(They throw sweets into the audience.)

Granny: What a lovely audience – I think we'll do the whole show tonight, we won't cut a thing. (*Fin is struggling to take a box of Ferrero Roche out of her apron*) Here get off!

Fin: Got 'em.

Granny: Wait wait, don't throw them. Them's me posh chocolates – you know (*posh voice*) "Ambassador you spoil us" – the supercar of chocolates.

Fin: What are they?

Granny: Ferrari Roche.

Fin: They're expensive!

Granny: I won at Mecca last night.

Fin: How did you get back from Saudi Arabia so quickly?

Granny: Bingo I mean. I won the national – a million squidlies and free soup in a basket 'till Easter.

Fin: You're super rich!

Granny: Yes, so this morning I tried to invest it off shore.

Fin: Sounds like you know what you're doing.

Granny: Not really, I fell out of the boat three times. So now I'm just going to spend it. First, I'm going to install a home sauna.

Fin: Do you like saunas?

Granny: I've already tried the public one down the road – got in there, all white tiles and steam. Took all me clothes off and lay on the floor.

Fin: And was it relaxing?

Granny: It was 'till the steam cleared and I realised I was in the chip shop.

Fin: Did it upset the customers?

- Granny: A bit, I probably shouldn't have stayed to finish me saveloy. Anyway, what I don't spend, after I'm gone (*she pauses for dramatic effect – Fin ignores her*) I said after I'm gone...
- Fin: Oh sorry, (*dramatically*) Oh Granny, you've got years yet – you'll live to be seventy.
- Granny: I am seventy.
- Fin: What did I tell you?!
- Granny: I look younger - its Oil of Olay, the preferred oil of Spanish bull fighters. I use it on these laughter lines.
- Fin: Nothing's that funny.
- Granny: Certainly not tonight. Anyway – after I'm gone - the rest will go to my useless son Gerald and my beautiful granddaughter Red Riding Hood.
- Fin: I'm ever so glad you bought her that red cape.
- Granny: Yes, she was going nowhere when she was called Beige Cardigan.
- Fin: I fancied her even then.
- Granny: Young love. You know my late husband, he's not dead just always late. No he is dead, he is, despite his protests when I buried him. Oh yes he was so romantic, whenever he spoke to me he always started his sentence with fair lady.
- Fin: Because he loved you?
- Granny: No. He used to be a bus driver. Now stop messing about. I need you to get some shopping while I get the scooter serviced. I'm having it coated in minestrone.
- Fin: Minestrone?
- Granny: Yes, I'm souping it up (*looking in her apron*). Right here's me shopping list.
- Fin: Right.
- Granny: Now don't tell anyone but this hair is not my own – it's a wig.
- Fin: I'll keep it under my hat.
- Granny: The helmet is playing havoc with it. So get me some more. Three little ones – they'll fit under it better. I've written it at the bottom – I should really have written it on the list.

(Butcher enters, he is carrying a tray of samples.)

- Butcher: Morning Granny, would you like to sample my exotic sausage?
- Granny: Don't start Butcher – I've had a very trying day, the milkman tried, the postman tried. You know I still get a lot of male attention at seventy-two.
- Butcher: You surprise me.
- Granny: Oh yes, and it's convenient because I only live at sixty-eight. Now I've got to go because my next door neighbour's not well.
- Fin: The one at number seventy?
- Granny: The other side.
- (Fin walks around to the other side of Granny)*
- Fin: The one at number seventy?
- Granny: Give me strength – no, old Elsie at sixty-six. She thinks she's a washing line. It's because her husband said he wanted to be in Rotary. I have to get round there.
- Fin: To check she's all right?
- Granny: No to see if my smalls are dry. Now get on with that shopping!
- (She exits.)*
- Butcher: Need anything from me?
- Fin: *(Consulting list)* I want a chicken for Granny.
- Butcher: We don't do part exchange.
- Fin: How much are they?
- Butcher: Three pounds.
- Fin: Did you raise them yourself?
- Butcher: Yes, they were two pound fifty yesterday.
- Fin: I'm partial to a chicken leg.
- Butcher: Everybody is. So, I've started breeding three legged chickens – they can run at fifty miles per hour!
- Fin: What do they taste like?
- Butcher: I don't know I haven't caught one yet. What else is on that list of yours?

Fin: *(Consulting list)* A beefsteak – oh no this is her application for Match.com. I put her on to that, because she was getting confused between the hardware supplier’s website and online dating.

Butcher: Which site had she been trying?

Fin: Screwfix. Now what else is on this list? *(Trying to read it)*. What’s this say? Figs? Rigs?

Butcher: Let me have a look. Oh it’s quite clear, three little pigs.

Fin: Are you sure?

Butcher: Oh yes. And I just happen to have exactly what you’re after. Hold on. *(He exits)*.

Fin: Three little pigs eh? That might have been it. Perhaps she wants a backyard full of manure now she’s rolling in it. I could be a pig farmer –that’s a job with a bit of style, sty-le get it? Oh please yourselves.

Butcher: *(Enters with three pigs on a rope – they are struggling and the Butcher fights to keep them under control – he has a whip and shouts at them as they come on)*. Back! Back I say! Back bacon, back. *(To Fin)* Here you go – they’re prime pork these. Make lovely bacon sandwiches. *(The pigs cover their ears in fright)*

Fin: Well I can see how one could slice and another spread but what does the third one do?

Butcher: I mean on the sandwiches you idiot – you eat them you fool!

Fin: What! I couldn’t eat them, could I boys and girls?

Audience: No!

Butcher: Do what you like with ‘em. I’ll send Granny the bill. *(To audience)* I thought I’d never get rid of them! *(He exits)*

Fin: Crikey, this is a turn up! What do I do with three little pigs I wonder? I can’t eat them. I’ll have to keep them for their milk. *(Pigs look at each other shocked.)* Come on piggies, let’s get you back to Granny’s.

(Blackout)

Scene 2: Somewhere in the forest

(Front of tabs scene – a forest clearing, or just black tabs. The wolf enters d.s.l.)

Wolf: Well well well. A trio of ready-made packed lunches wandering through my forest.

Audience: Boo!

Wolf: I'm going to follow those little piggies and snap them up! And don't you lot get in the way or I'll be after you next!

(Red Riding Hood enters d.s.r)

Red: I heard that you nasty swine.

Wolf: No, the pigs are the swine, I'm the Big Bad Wolf.

Red: You were banished, no-one wants you here.

Wolf: I'm back – and just in time to play piggy in the middle – my middle (*patting his stomach*) – ha!

Red: You leave them poor creatures alone.

Wolf: And what are you going to do about it?

Red: I'll warn Fin, he'll look after them.

Wolf: And who's going to look after you pray tell?

Red: You wouldn't dare hurt me.

Wolf: Perhaps. Eating people causes more trouble than its worth. I was banished for eating people waiting in line to buy dollies.

Red: Yes, the Barbie queue.

Wolf: I learnt my lesson, people are off the menu – but those piggies will do very very nicely – Ha ha ha! (*exit*)

Red: Gosh boys and girls, he's barking! I hope I can warn Fin in time. But first I've got to meet father – he should be here any minute.

(Lights change and Red steps back into the market scene.)

Scene 3: Market Place

(The scene is as before. Bark and Trunk enter pulling a cart full of logs. A small number of chorus remain milling around the stalls, crossing with goods and baskets, etc. There is a rubbish bin stage left.)

Bark: I'm getting too old for this woodcutting lark.

Trunk: I know, we should think about branching out.

Red: Excuse me.

Bark: Why what have you done?

Red: I wonder...

Trunk: Don't do that you'll get lost.

Red: Did you pass the station?

Bark: *(To Trunk)* I thought you were a long time in that toilet.

Red: I'm wondering if my father has arrived on the overnight from Smethwick.

Trunk: You wouldn't want to see it in daylight that's for sure.

Bark: I went on a day return once.

Trunk: I bet that took you back.

Bark: We don't have much knowledge of trains miss. I am a simple woodchopper – and my associate here is giving me a hand.

Red: Are you a woodchopper too?

Trunk: No, he's a woodchopper I am a pilot.

Red: Really? A pilot?

Trunk: Yep, he chops it and I pile it.

Bark: We'd better decide what the new bloke's going to do.

Red: New bloke? I don't suppose he's young and handsome is he?

Bark: That's what it said on his CV.

Red: So he's got a French car?

Trunk: I had my car nicked last night.

Bark: Did you see who did it?

Trunk: No but I got the registration.

(They exit, chorus and Will enter opposite side. Throughout the next song, Will and Red and looking around (Will for the woodcutters, Red for her father) but they do not manage to meet or even make eye contact.)

Red: *(To herself)* Perhaps that new woodchopper's the man I've been waiting for.

Will: *(To Himself)* I wonder if this is where I'll meet my true love.

SONG 2: Just Haven't Met You Yet – Red, Will and Company

Will: I'm not surprised, not everything lasts
I've broken my heart so many times I stopped keeping track
Red: Talk myself in, I talk myself out
I get all worked up then I let myself down

Will: I tried so very hard not to lose it
Red: I came up with a million excuses
Both: I thought, I thought of every possibility

Women: And I know some day that it'll all turn out
You'll make me work so we can work to work it out
Company: And I promise you kid that I'll give so much more than I get
I just haven't met you yet

Will: I might have to wait, I'll never give up
I guess it's half timing and the other half's luck
Red: Wherever you are, whenever it's right
You'll come out of nowhere and into my life

Company: And I know that we can be so amazing
And baby your love is gonna change me
And now I can see every possibility

Somehow I know that it'll all turn out
You'll make me work so we can work to work it out
And promise you kid I'll give so much more than I get
I just haven't met you yet

They say all's fair in love and war
But I won't need to fight it
We'll get it right and we'll be united

Company: And someday I know it'll all turn out
And I'll work to work it out
Promise you kid I'll give more than I get, than I get, than I get, than I
get

Oh you know it'll all turn out

And you'll make me work so we can work to work it out
 And promise you kid to give so much more than I get yeah
 I just haven't met you yet

(After song Bark and Trunk enter and meet Will, Red buys a cake from a stall. Will and Red do not make contact.)

Will: There you are.

Bark: You're late.

Will: Sorry.

Trunk: I'm Mr Trunk, and this 'ere is Mr Bark.

Bark: Let's get going *(Exits in a huff)*.

Will: Is Mr Bark in a mood?

Trunk: You may have rubbed him up the wrong way – come on.

Will: Great, let's get this panto started *(Slaps thigh)*

(Will and Trunk exit. Gerald enters followed by Ursula opp. side carrying luggage.)

Red: Daddy! My Daddy! *(She runs to him)*

Ursula: All right, it's not the Railway Children.

Gerald: Hello my darling! *(To Ursula)* I must introduce you – this is my daughter Red.

Ursula: *(Disdainfully)* How, colourful.

Gerald: Red, this is Ursula, I met her on the trip, and guess what? We got married!

Red: Er. In that case, welcome to the family.

Ursula: Sorry, I don't really do children – or pets. In fact animals of any kind.

Red: Oh, er I bought you a cake.

Gerald: How lovely.

Ursula: Looks fattening darling, I shouldn't eat that if I were you *(She takes it and throws it into the rubbish bin)*. Let's get on – I'm desperate to inspect this retail empire I've heard so much about.

Red: It's just a little shop.

Ursula: What!

Gerald: I may have exaggerated a bit.

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