

NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT...

SLEEPING

BEAUTY

BY

MARK LLEWELLIN

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SLEEPING BEAUTY

By Mark Llewelin

Characters:

Fairy Lilac
King Colin
Billy Whizz
Queen Carol
Princess Beauty
Nurse Nancy
Fairy Midnight
Prince William
Coachman

Chorus: Courtiers/servants, Fairies, Spiders, Bats, Animals.

Scenes:

Act One:

1. Fairyland
2. Castle corridor
3. Castle Ballroom
4. Midnight's Lair.
5. Beauty's Bed Chamber

Act Two:

1. Woodland Dell
2. Beauty's Bed Chamber
3. Midnight's Lair
4. Castle Ballroom
5. On a Road to Town
6. Wedding

SLEEPING BEAUTY
BY MARK LLEWELLIN

ACT ONE:

SCENE ONE: FAIRYLAND

The curtain goes out and reveals the full stage lit in soft colours ó pinks and purples.
The chorus, dressed in fairy costumes, are already in place on stage.

CHORUS AS FAIRIES PERFORM:

NUMBER The Fairies

FAIRY LILAC ENTERS. SHE GATHERS THEM AROUND HER AND ADDRESSES THEM.

FAIRY LILAC: Today is a very special day indeed. For today King Colin and Queen Carol are to be blessed with the birth of their first child. A baby so beautiful and so special that she shall be known throughout the kingdom as Princess Beauty.

FAIRIES DIVIDE SO THAT A STORK CARRYING A BABY IN A BLANKET FROM ITS BILL CAN ENTER.

FAIRY LILAC: Stork, are you ready for your royal flight?

STORK NODS.

FAIRY LILAC: Take care of her, for she is extra precious. Good luck!

STORK EXITS TO AIRCRAFT NOISE.

NUMBER The Fairies REPRISE

SCENE 2: CASTLE CORRIDOR

KING COLIN ENTERS PACING, EYES DOWN. BILLY ENTERS FROM THE OTHER SIDE AND PACES, EYES DOWN. THEY BUMP INTO EACH OTHER.

BILLY: No news yet sire?

KING: No news yet Billy.

BILLY: None at all sire?

KING: None at all Billy.

KING STANDS ON BILLY'S RIGHT FOOT.

BILLY: You haven't heard a word then? No?

KING: How many more times? If my wife had given birth to a baby, they would have come and told me.

BILLY: Right-ho!

KING: Exactly.

BILLY: Right-ho!

KING LOOKS CONFUSED, BILLY POINTS TO FOOT, KING LOOKS DOWN. BILLY KEEPS POINTING. MORE DRAMATICALLY. KING LEANS LOWER TO LOOK. BILLY FOLLOWS. THEY BANG HEADS.

KING: You nincompoop. Why do you keep saying right-ho?

BILLY: Because you're stood on my right toe.

KING: Well, why didn't you say so?

MOVES AWAY.

BILLY: Pardon me for asking!

AIRCRAFT NOISE OVERHEAD. THEY LOOK UP AND FOLLOW THE NOISE.

KING: Good Lord, what was that?

BILLY: It looked like a big bird to me.

KING: What sort of a bird? A stork? Do you think it could have been a stork? Hey? A flaming great stork?

ON EACH -STORK HE HITS HIM.

BILLY: No, I don't.

KING: It wasn't a stork?

BILLY: Will you stop saying stork.

KING: Why?

BILLY: It's driving me stork raving mad, that's why.

KING: Perhaps it was a bird flying south for the winter.

BILLY: Flying south? Why do they fly south?

KING: Think how long it would take if they walked. (ASIDE) They don't get any better I'm afraid.

TRUMPET FANFARE OFF.

BILLY: Was that you?

KING: I'm sorry; I think it might have been me. WAFTS HAND BEHIND HIS BACK. Gooseberry fool for supper.

ENTER PAGE.

PAGE: Sire, may I call you by a very special word?

KING: Not in front of him, if you don't mind Rupert.

PAGE: No sire, not *that* word.

KING: Well, what word? Spit it out!

PAGE: Daddy!

THE KING IS EXCITED.

KING: Daddy! Daddy!

PAGE: Yes sire, daddy. Congratulations!

KING: This is a night I shall always remember!

THE KING PULLS THE PAGE & BILLY TO HIM 6 MATES!

NUMBER. King, Billy and Page.

SCENE 3: THE BALL ROOM**SERVANTS RUSH ABOUT DECORATING THE HALL.****ENTER BILLY.**

BILLY: Hiya kids! Now you all know who I am, don't you? **SHOUTS FROM KIDS** I'm Billy Whizz, the jester here at the King's castle. Do you know what a jester does kids? A jester makes people laugh! And there are no refunds! Yes, my job is to make people laugh. If I tell you a joke, would you laugh for me? **REACTION** Okay, here goes ' what do you call a donkey with three legs? A wonkey! Here's another ' What did one eye say to the other eye? Between you and me there's something that smells. Now, I want you to practise laughing ' and with jokes like this you'll need a lot of practising. We all do. So, when I come on, I want you to shout out ' Give us a joke Billy! ' Can you do that? Let's give it a go. I'll go off and '

HE EXITS THEN ENTERS.

THEY SHOUT. That was great, but can you do it louder? Can you? Shall we see?

HE EXITS AND ENTERS.

THEY SHOUT. That was fantastic. Will you do that every time I come on? Great. Hey, I'd better give you a joke then, hadn't I? Here goes ' Why do gorillas have big nostrils? Because they have big fingers. To do this ' **PICKS NOSE** ' You don't do that, do you?

NURSE (OFF): Billy!

BILLY: Ooh, that's Nurse Nancy; she works here at the castle too.

NURSE: (OFF) Where are you Billy?

BILLY: I'd better pretend to be working.

ENTER NURSE.

NURSE: Oh, there you are! I've been looking everywhere for you, where have you been?

BILLY: Working.

NURSE: Has he boys and girls? **REACTION** Thank you. I thought you'd be lazing around; you really are bone 'n' hide!

BILLY: Bone ó hidle?

NURSE: Yes, you really are the hidle-ist jester I have h-ever met.

ON EVERY H WORD, SHE POKES HIM.

BILLY: Hi see!

HE POKES HER BACK.

You want to know what Iøve been doing? I came out here into the ballroom, I said hiya to the kids, I went off again, I came back on again, I went back off again and I came back on again and then ó

DURING THIS HE HAS RETRACED HIS STEPS.

NURSE: And what did you do then Billy?

BILLY: I picked my nose ó like this!

HIS FINGER IS STUCK IN HIS NOSTRIL.

NURSE: Really! Thank you, weøve seen enough of that. Heø a dirty boy, isnøt he boys and girls! Now, take your finger out of your nose!

BILLY: I canøt! (COULD -CORPSEøHERE) Itø stuck!

NURSE: Stuck?

BILLY: Yes! Can you give me a tug?

NURSE: Really Billy!

NURSE TUGS ON HAND, BILLY FALLS OVER. NURSE FALLS OVER. NURSE UP.

NURSE: Get off the floor, youøre showing us all up now.

BILLY TAKES FINGER OUT OF NOSE TO PUSH HIMSELF UP. REALISES WHAT HEøS DONE AND PUSHES IT BACK IN.

NURSE: I think youøre taking me for a ride.

BILLY: Iøm not!

NURSE: Oh, yes you are!

BILLY: Oh, no I'm not!

REPEAT.

NURSE: Here do you want a sweet?

TAKES SWEET FROM APRON. BILLY TAKES IT WITH THE -NOSEøHAND.

NURSE: Now, boys and girls, I want you to remember what a naughty boy Billy has been.

BEHIND HER, BILLY WIPES THE OFFENDING HAND ON HER SKIRTS.

Oh yes he is do a naughty, naughty boy! Listen, you're got work to do. The King is waiting for you in the West Wing.

BILLY: The King is in the wing, with something do

NURSE: Yes. Now, get hopping!

BILLY EXITS - HOPPING.

NURSE: What am I going to do with him? At the orphanage they said he was a good purchase do a bargain. Hello boys and girls! Now, my name is Nurse Nancy and I work here at the castle. Well, I say my name is Nurse Nancy do that's just the shortened version do it's actually Nurse Nancy Nora Noreen Noodle Knicker Elastic! Can you say that with me boys and girls? LEADS THEM IN A SING-SONG VERSION. My mum came up with that name do on her n night! I tell you what, you call me Nurse Nancy, everyone does. Did you know that we had a little baby at the castle? Yes we did, Sleeping Beauty is her name and today is her christening! Doesn't time go fast when you're having fun. Fairies are coming from far and wide do I can see some from here do they're coming to bring gifts for the little baby! Aah! Do you want to stay for the christening too? Well, I'd have to write all your names down then, won't I? TAKES OUT PAD AND PEN. HOUSE LIGHTS UP. Right, after three I want you to call your names out - one, two, three! SHOUTS AS SHE WRITES. Good, I think I got all that do was it Jane at the back or James? Well, we're going to have a lovely time. Ooh, I forgot to give Billy all his sweets do and I don't eat sweets, I have to watch my figure! I'm on a diet you know, well actually, I'm on two diets do there wasn't enough food on the one. You don't want these sweets, do you? You do? Alright then - THROWS SWEETS OUT. Well, it'd soon be time for the celebrations. Oh yes, here come some of the guests now! I'd better go and get ready. See you later!

EXITS AS CHORUS ON AS GUESTS/SERVANTS.

NUMBER. Servants

ENTER FAIRY LILAC AND THE FAIRIES.
TRUMPET FANFARE.

BILLY ENTERS.

BILLY: Thanks kids! Howø this one ó Why are there no aspirins in the jungle? Because the parrots eat æem all! HE TURNS TO THE CHORUS Honoured guests, pray silence for King Colin and Queen Carol and their enchanting baby, the Sleeping Beauty!

ENTER QUEEN AND KING WITH CRIB.

FAIRY LILAC: Oh, what wondrous child is this?
May I, dear King, have the first kiss?

KING: Oh, you certainly can!

HE PLACES THE CRIB DOWN & GOES TO KISS HER.

FAIRY LILAC: I didnø mean you your majesty, I meant ó kiss the baby!

QUEEN: Exactly Colin. You can keep your lips to yourself!

SHE PULLS HIM BACK.

KING: Of course dear wife ó oh dragon of the pearls.

BILLY: ASIDE: We can see whoø wearing the trousers in his house!

KING: Thank you!

BILLY: ASIDE: He didnø know what it was like to sleep in a single bed æil he married her. No wonder itø taken so long to have the first child, eh?

KING: Thatø enough!

QUEEN: Come Colin, letø can-can on the terrace!

BILLY: Ah yes, her majesty shall lead the dancing! She can-can.

NUMBER The Company

THE NUMBER FINISHES WITH EVERYONE DANCING OFF. TWO SERVANTS TAKE THE CRIB OFF.
BILLY IS LEFT ON STAGE. TRUMPETS. ENTER NURSE NANCY.

- NURSE: I'm here, I'm here! Where is everyone? Don't say I've gone and missed it!
- BILLY: No, they've gone outside for a little dance before the main event.
- NURSE: Ah, it takes me back to my dancing days. My husband and I used to love to trip the light fantastic. The Gay Gordons ó
- BILLY: Your husband?
- NURSE: No, but you're not far wrong. No, that was his favourite dance. Mine was the Black Bottom!
- BILLY: Your husband, what happened to him?
- NURSE: Oh, I've had 3 husbands. Yes, the first one died eating some cauliflower soup. The second one went the same way ó eating the cauliflower soup.
- BILLY: And the same with the third?
- NURSE: No, he got hit over the head with a mallet. He wouldn't eat the soup. Anyway, less about that ó what happens next?
- BILLY: They're all out there giving it a bit of this ó DANCES FRANTICALLY TO BURST OF MUSIC ó and a little bit of this ó SAME ó and they might even give it a little bit of that ó SAME.
- NURSE: You mean they're not well?
- BILLY: No, they're having a great time out there and then in a few minutes they'll all come in here and they'll all crowd around here and they'll cut the lovely christening cake! The lovely christening cake what you've made!
- NURSE: He's right ó they'll all come in and they'll all crowd round and they'll all ó what I've made! I haven't made it! I haven't made the cake!
- BILLY: LEADS AUDIENCE IN CHANT: She hasn't made the cake!
- NURSE: What am I going to do?
- BILLY: We'll have to make a cake ó right here!

BILLY WHEELS ON LONG TABLE ON TOP OF WHICH IS A LARGE BOWL. OTHER PROPS ARE AS STATED. DAME GETS APRONS WHICH THEY PUT ON. IT MAY ALSO BE BETTER TO LAY OUT A PLASTIC SHEET

UNDER THE TABLE.

NURSE: Now, where is my recipe book?

BILLY HOLDS UP BOOK WITH "OK OK" ON IT.

No, not my OK magazine - my recipe book is that just says OK, OK.

BILLY: Oh!

OPENS BOOK WIDE TO REVEAL "COOK BOOK"

NURSE: Now let's see a recipe for a christening cake. First we need a little flour.

BILLY: A little flower! HOLDS UP FLOWER.

NURSE: You idiot! Flour with an O and a U and an R.

BILLY: O-U-R!

NURSE: Oh you are so are you?

NURSE HOLDS UP FLOUR BAG. THROWS IT INTO THE AIR TO CREATE CLOUD OF FLOUR.

NURSE: Currants!

BILLY: We haven't got any currants!

NURSE: Well go and get some.

BILLY OFF.

NURSE: Water, water, water!

FINDS SODA SIPHON. BILLY ENTERS WITH CURRANTS.

BILLY: Currants!

NURSE TAKES THEM, EATS ONE AND PUTS THE REST IN THE BOWL.

NURSE: Lovely! Where did you find these currants?

BILLY: In the bottom of my rabbit's cage!

NURSE SPITS OUT INTO BOWL.

NURSE: They're still warm. Water, water, water!

BILLY SPRAYS WATER AT HER.

NURSE: Not at me, in the bowl!

BILLY SPRAYS WATER IN THE BOWL.

BILLY: What next? Do you knead the dough?

NURSE: Of course I do, I wouldn't be doing this if I didn't need it!

BILLY: Knead the dough! I'm going in!

HE KNEADS THE DOUGH.

NURSE: Did you wash your hands first?

BILLY: No. This is a great way of cleaning out under your nails!

NURSE: Did he just say what I think he just said, boys and girls? Uuh!

BILLY TAKES HANDS OUT. WIPES THEM ON DAME.

BILLY: We need more water!

NURSE: More water!

TRIES TO SPRAY ó NOTHING.

NURSE: There is no more water. Have you got any?

BILLY: No, but I know a man who has ó Nemo!

NURSE: Nemo?

BILLY PRODUCES LARGE GOLDFISH BOWL WITH PLASTIC FISH IN IT.

BILLY: My pal Nemo ó he's a big film star, aren't you son?

POURS MOST OF WATER INTO BOWL.

BILLY: It's alright ó since he hit the big time he only drinks champagne now!

NURSE: Right, rush this creation down to the kitchens and put it on gas mark 4.

BILLY RUSHES OFF WITH BOWL.

NURSE: Now I must get tidied up before the guests come back from their dancing! WHISTLES.

PAGES ON TO REMOVE TABLE/SHEET ETC. CHILDREN (AS FAIRIES/SERVANTS) ON.

CHILD: Oh Nurse Nancy!

NURSE: Oh hello children, what have you been up to?

CHILD: We've been dancing in the gardens.

CHILD: We did the okey-cokey, why don't you join us?

NURSE: Oh no, it's the old trouble again ó I will be putting it in when I should be taking it out!

CHILD: Well, will you sing for us then?

NURSE: Oh, alright!

THE CHILDREN GATHER AROUND HER.

NUMBER Nurse Nancy and Children

NURSE: Oh dear, I can hear the christening party making their way up the lawns ó marvellous these new digital hearing aids. Oh, I've gone all digital now, have you? But you don't half get through some batteries, don't you? TO LADY IN AUDIENCE: I said ó you don't half get through some batteries. Do you love? Batteries? Get through some ó oh I know, shocking price. But you've got to stay positive!

ENTER KING, QUEEN, FAIRY LILAC & CHORUS (THE CRIB IS BROUGHT BACK). THE QUEEN CARRIES HER BABY.

KING: What a marvellous day! We've had more fun than the happy hour at (*local pub*).

QUEEN: On with it Colin! He does bumble about so.

KING: Yes dear, it is time for the ceremony to begin. I call upon all Godmothers to take their places!

MUSIC AS FAIRY LILAC LINES UP HER BROOD. THE CRIB IS PLACED AT THE FRONT AND THE QUEEN PROUDLY PLACES THE BABY IN IT.

NURSE: Don't they look lovely; I remember what a beautiful baba I was. Mind you, I've not changed ó I still have the skin of a baby.

QUEEN: Yes, a baby elephant!

NURSE: She got out of the wrong side of somebody's bed this morning!
ASIDE And I'd tell you something for nothing ó it wasn't his.

QUEEN: Let's get on with it!

KING: Let us have the first Fairy Godmother!

MUSIC OVER WHICH THE FAIRIES TAKE TURNS BLESSING THE CRIB.

FAIRY1: To the Princess Beauty I bring my prize,
May the girl always have shining eyes.

FAIRY2: To bless the beautiful little mite,
May she always sleep well at night.

FAIRY 3: Ah, look at her dear so soft of face,
I bring her charm, poise and grace.

FAIRY4: I grant her free from trouble and strife,
And hope that she lives a long, fruitful life!

NUMBER Orchestral.

KING: Now, Fairy Lilac ó you get to wish last!

FAIRY LILAC: Thank you your majesty ó for I wish the Princess Beauty ó

THUNDER, LIGHTENING AND ENTER FAIRY MIDNIGHT.

QUEEN: What is the meaning of this?

FAIRY MIDNIGHT: You dare to ask me what goes on here? Why was I excluded from this party? Was I not good enough for your majesty?

QUEEN: Oh course not. We invited you, I am sure of it.

KING: Yes, we invited Fairies Lilac, Turquoise, Scarlet, Pink and Yellow ó

FAIRY MIDNIGHT: Yes, yes, and what of me? Fairy Midnight?

QUEEN: You were on the invitation list, I am sure of it!

FAIRY MIDNIGHT: No invitation came my way.

QUEEN: Well, you are here now ó please Fairy Midnight, pass your blessings onto our child.

- FAIRY MIDNIGHT: Oh, I'd bless her alright. You'd not forget me again!
- FAIRY LILAC: Can't we all be friends?
- FAIRY MIDNIGHT: Friends? Why would I want to be friends with you, you simpering little Miss Goody-two-shoes? I curse you and your precious baby! GOES TO CRIB
 Oh Princess Beauty, who shall rule these lands,
 One day soon you will cut your hands ó
 For I curse you once and for all,
 This kingdom will break up and fall.
 On your eighteenth birthday I will be back,
 And when the night is dark, oh so black,
 I shall make you prick your finger on a wheel,
 But the wound shall stay open, it will not heal.
 And you will sleep for one hundred years,
 Are you listening ó prick back your ears!
CACKLING, SHE EXITS.
- QUEEN: Fairy Lilac, do something! You have to un-do the spell!
- FAIRY LILAC: Well, I haven't yet given Beauty my wishes.
- KING: That's it! Use your wishes to break the spell!
- FAIRY LILAC: I can't. Wicked magic is too strong for just one fairy to break. I can reduce the curse though ó here goes!
SHE WAVES HER WAND.
 Love is the only thing that can break such a curse,
 So Beauty, here's what I can do ó where's nurse?
- NURSE: Here I am!
- FAIRY LILAC: Nurse, you must watch Beauty day and night,
 Fairy Midnight'd try to kill Beauty, that's right.
 But, you must guard against her cutting her hand,
 If she does, we'd need a prince from another land.
 Only the love of a young prince sent from afar, the best,
 Has any chance of waking Beauty - from her rest.
- NURSE: Now let me get this right ó on her eighteenth birthday, this little mite is going to prick her finger on a spinning wheel and fall asleep for a hundred years.
- QUEEN: Unless, unless ó
- NURSE: Alright, keep your knickers on! Unless ó a handsome prince comes from another land and kisses her ó

FAIRY LILAC: SLIGHTLY SHARP: That's what I said.

NURSE: They're all at it now. This handsome prince - is he absolutely gorgeous? I mean, is he the hunkiest kind of hunk you could ever wish for? I mean to say, is he built like a brick wall made of lovely bricks? Is he or is he a hunky toy boy kind of a prince? I mean, I could swap with her!

FAIRY LILAC: She's got it!

NURSE: I wish I did! Ooh, why can't it be me he has to kiss?

KING: Well, it's not! It's our lovely little girl. Oh, I am wan.

NURSE: I know or I said it the first day I met you or he's definitely one. We'd have to have all the spinning wheels destroyed!

QUEEN: Our troubles begin in 18 years Colin!

NURSE: That's right cocker or you see, you've got to live life to the full until then. Keep yer pecker up at all times. ASIDE Thank you! You've got to walk tall, be chipper and or don't worry man!

NUMBER The Company

AT THE END OF THE NUMBER A CHORUS MEMBER BRINGS ON A TABLE ON WHICH THE CAKE WILL GO.

ENTER BILLY WITH BIG CAKE.

BILLY: Nurse Nancy - Oh, hiya kids! Here you are or doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm a doorbell. Well, says the doctor, if it doesn't clear up by the weekend, give me a ring.

NURSE: I'd give you a ring alright. Ooh, is this the lovely christening cake what we baked only 3 pages of script ago?

BILLY: It certainly is!

QUEEN: That is my cake!

NURSE: We baked it or it's ours.

BILLY: Yes, it's our gift to Sleeping B or

NURSE: Don't use the S word.

BILLY: Did I miss something, what's happened?

NURSE: Well, she ó that purple one ó she was just going to make her wish when this big gloomy one - she came rushing in and ó

BILLY: Fairy Midnight?

NURSE: That's the one. She came in all of a fluster saying she hadn't been invited and he ó his worshipfulness ó he says oh yes you have but no! She'd hadn't gone and got it!

BILLY: HANDS CAKE TO NURSE But I sent the invitations out myself ó I put them in my pocket and took them to the post office and I emptied all the invitations out of my pockets and into the post box ó like this! TAKES INVITE FROM POCKET.

KING: If you posted them all, what's that?

BILLY MIMES FEAR.

NURSE: I think we've guessed!

KING TAKES INVITE FROM BILLY.

KING: (READS) To Fairy Midnight.

QUEEN: Let him have it Nurse Nancy!

NURSE: TO AUDIENCE: Shall I? Shall I let him have it kids?
REACTION Alright then!

SHE PUSHES BILLY'S FACE INTO THE CAKE. HE LIFTS HIS HEAD UP, COVERED IN CREAM. HOLDS POSE. BLACK OUT.

SCENE 4: MIDNIGHT LAIR:

THUNDER, LIGHTNING, SMOKE. FAIRY MIDNIGHT APPEARS.

FAIRY MIDNIGHT: Oh stop shouting so ó the three who scream loudest are gonna get it! Well, 18 years have come and gone ó I know, I know, that was very quick ó but it's pantomime! Yes, Sleeping Beauty is 18 today. Don't believe me? Watch this!

THE MIRROR IS LIT. THROUGH IT WE SEE A GIRL, SLEEPING BEAUTY.

FAIRY MIDNIGHT: That's her ó turned out alright, didn't she? Considering those fools who are bringing her up. Well, 18 years I said, 18 years ó and she'll be dead!

THE MIRROR GOES OUT.

TO CHILDREN: Oh shut it! Now, let me get my spinning wheel out!

LAUGHS.

SHE UNCOVERS A SPINNING WHEEL.

Yes, there it is boys and girls ó and you see that lovely sharp needle? That's the one Sleeping Beauty will catch her finger on and - yes, you guessed it, she'll fall asleep for years and years and years! LAUGHS.

NUMBER Fairy Midnight

DURING THE NUMBER, A COUPLE OF BATS COME ON TO REMOVE THE MIRROR AND THE SPINNING WHEEL.

SCENE 5: BED CHAMBER

IT IS NIGHT & SLEEPING BEAUTY IS ASLEEP & THERE ARE PRESENTS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BED. A BIG ALARM CLOCK GOES OFF.

SLEEPING BEAUTY: Six o'clock! Time to get up & now, let's see.

SHE CLIMBS FROM THE BED AND TURNS A LIGHT ON.

Lots of lovely presents!

SHE GOES TO UNWRAP ONE. THE DOOR BURSTS OPEN & IT'S NURSE NANCY.

NURSE: What are you thinking of? Up at this time in the morning! And don't even think of opening those! Back to bed with you!

SLEEPING BEAUTY: Nursey & it is my birthday you know! Just one?

NURSE: Certainly not! NURSE SITS ON BED.

SLEEPING BEAUTY: POINTING TO GIFT: What about this little one & it's chocolates, I know it is.

NURSE: Chocolates? And would you & would you share them with me?

SLEEPING BEAUTY: Of course I would.

NURSE: Well, go on then & one can't do any harm, can it?

SLEEPING BEAUTY OPENS IT AND TAKES THE LID OFF THE CHOCOLATES.

NURSE: I shouldn't, I'm dieting but & what fat can there be in one little choco wocky? You don't get a figure like mine without punishing yourself you know.

SHE PICKS A HUGE ONE AND EATS IT. SLEEPING BEAUTY HAS ONE, LEAVING THE BOX ON THE BED NEXT TO NURSE.

SLEEPING BEAUTY: Nursey, now that I've opened one, it doesn't seem too bad to open another.

NURSE: Another? Well, who's that little one from?

POINTS TO A PARCEL.

SLEEPING BEAUTY: My cousin & Prince Harold of (*local place*). I know what it is.

NURSE: Do you?

SLEEPING BEAUTY: Yes, it's a calendar with naked footballers on it.

NURSE: In there? 12 big ó hunky ó hairy ó gorgeous - footballers with nothing on? All nudey like? Not a stitch on? As naked as the days they were born?

SLEEPING BEAUTY: Yes.

NURSE: Get it opened girl!

NURSE SNATCHES IT OUT OF HER HANDS, RIPPING PAPER OFF. SHE OPENS THE CALENDAR.

NURSE: Ooh, this is disgusting ó a girl of 18 can't be hanging this on her walls. No, I'm going to have confiscate this and keep it until you're 21. TO AUDIENCE: What? All you teachers out there ó you know how it works! TO BEAUTY: Now, back to bed with you!

COCKEREL CROW OFF.

SLEEPING BEAUTY: But it's Dawn ó I can get up now!

NURSE: Well alright ó I heard the cock - go and get washed!

SLEEPING BEAUTY OFF. NURSE NANCY TUCKS INTO CHOCOLATES.

NURSE: TO AUDIENCE: What? I'm on a very good diet ó it's a whiskey diet. I've lost 3 days already. No, well, I was depressed ó I asked the doctor how I could lose 3 pounds of ugly fat and he offered to have my head removed! GOES TO FRONT: How many batteries do you go through every week love? Really!

COCKEREL CROW OFF.

NURSE: TO WINDOW Alright, keep it down! We're up already!

SHE EATS MORE CHOCOLATES. SLEEPING BEAUTY BACK ON.

NURSE: SPEAKING WITH MOUTH FULL: Well, I haven't said it yet ó but happy birthday sweetheart!

SLEEPING BEAUTY: Thank you Nurse. Can I have a birthday kiss?

NURSE NANCY SHAKES HEAD BECAUSE SHE CAN HARDLY SPEAK. SHE LUNGES FORWARD BUT SLEEPING BEAUTY PECKS HER ON THE CHEEK AND MOVES AWAY.

Can I have another chocolate now?

NURSE: A chocolate? LOOKS AT BOX BEHIND HER BACK ó EMPTY. No, you can't ó save them for later.

SLEEPING BEAUTY: You're right Nurse, mummy said that if I eat too many chocolates I'll get fat and pimply and no one will want me!

NURSE: Yes, well your mother might have a point! The cow! Now, you open some more presents while I go and get some proper clothes on ó we have a party to organise you know!

NURSE NANCY EXITS. SLEEPING BEAUTY OPENS A LARGE BOX. INSIDE IS A SPINNING WHEEL.

SLEEPING BEAUTY: What's this? READS TAG -From a well wisher! And there's a ball of wool. PUTS WOOL ON WHEEL.

KING, QUEEN, COLIN, NURSE ENTER.

SLEEPING BEAUTY: Look everyone, a spinning wheel!

KING COLIN: No, don't!

BEAUTY RECOILS.

NURSE: It's too late!

SLEEPING BEAUTY: I've cut my finger on this needle!

ALL: Oh no!

SMOKE. FAIRY MIDNIGHT APPEARS.

FAIRY MIDNIGHT: Oh yes! LAUGHS And now, you will sleep dear Beauty!

QUEEN: What about us? There's no point in living while my daughter sleeps.

FAIRY MIDNIGHT: I tell you what ó I'll put the whole castle to sleep ó how's that?

NURSE: Ooh, I don't know ó I've got an appointment to see the doctor on Thursday, I've waited months í

FAIRY MIDNIGHT: All or nothing!

QUEEN: All!

NURSE: But ó

QUEEN: Silence! If my daughter is to go under the spell then so shall we all.

NURSE: Oh blimey, under the spell is it? But Billy's gone out shopping!

FAIRY MIDNIGHT: I won't tell you again!

THE KING AND QUEEN SIT ON A CHAIR OR ON TOP OF THE GIFTS.
SLEEPING BEAUTY AND THE NURSE CLIMB INTO BED.

FAIRY MIDNIGHT: Very well! Then prepare to sleep! CASTS HER SPELL:
Come spirits of the night ó spiders, bats and owls! Come
sandman and cast your sleeping spells ó for it will take a Prince
to wake these idiots up again! LIGHTNING, THE LIGHTS
DIM, EVERYONE FREEZES. Come spiders, cast your webs!

CHORUS ON AS SPIDERS WHO CAST COBWEBS EVERYWHERE.

FAIRY MIDNIGHT: With the castle in slumber, I shall rule! LAUGHS.

CURTAIN.

ACT TWO:**SCENE 1: WOODLAND DELL:**

Can be played on an open stage or in front of a cloth. There should be mounds of greenery for the animals to hide behind.

IT IS SUNSET & THE ANIMALS BEGIN APPEARING. IT IS SNOWING.
MUSIC BEGINS TO WHICH THE ANIMALS DANCE.

NUMBER Orchestral

THE ANIMALS VANISH BACK INTO THE UNDERGROWTH OR OFF.

PRINCE WILLIAM & THE COACHMAN ENTER. THEY CARRY LANTERNS.

PRINCE: Our bad luck Norris, that the wheel should come off the coach in the snow like this.

COACHMAN: Well sir, these things happen.

PRINCE: I'm not sure this road leads anywhere.

COACHMAN: We have to find help your royal highness and I'm sure there used to be a castle over the hill there. My father spoke of it ó haunted or something it was. All the people abandoned it.

PRINCE: Haunted?

COACHMAN: That's what they did say sir. King Colin and Queen Carol ó the Cockerel dynasty. They say that a spell was cast by a vicious witch and all the people who lived in the castle fell asleep.

IT IS GETTING DARKER.

PRINCE: What was the name of this castle?

COACHMAN: Cluckingham Palace. There was a young girl sire who pricked her finger on a spinning wheel and ó

PRINCE: A young girl?

COACHMAN: That's right. Come on sir, let's see what we can find.

THEY MARCH OFF. ANIMALS ON FOR REPRISE.

REPRISE. Orchestral.

SCENE 2: THE BED CHAMBER:

THE SAME SCENE AS BEFORE EXCEPT THAT EVERYONE IS ASLEEP AND COVERED IN COB WEBS. THROUGH THE WINDOW IT IS DARK.

PRINCE (OFF): These vines are covering the walls Norris.

COACHMAN (OFF): Well, let me lift you up sire and see if you can scale the walls ó look, there's a window up there. You're younger and fitter than I ó

PRINCE (OFF): If you think it's worth it.

COACHMAN (OFF): There sir!

WE HEAR THEM CLIMBING OUTSIDE. SUDDENLY THE PRINCE APPEARS AT THE WINDOW.

PRINCE (OFF): I can't see a lot ó full of cob webs.

COACHMAN (OFF): Push the window sir.

HE DOES SO & IT SWINGS OPEN. HE CLIMBS IN & IS CARRYING A LANTERN. HE LOOKS AROUND THEN GOES TO THE WINDOW.

PRINCE: Come on Norris, that's it ó you can do it.

HE LEANS OUT & HAULS HIM IN. HE HAS A LANTERN TOO.

COACHMAN: I think it might be true, that old yarn ó look.

HE HOLDS THE LANTERN NEAR THE KING & QUEEN. THE LIGHTING BRIGHTENS A LITTLE.

PRINCE: And here look ó

AT THE BED.

If only we knew what to do.

COACHMAN: Well, my father said that the spell could only be broken if a Prince were to kiss the Sleeping Beauty ó on the lips.

PRINCE: A Prince? Then perhaps fate has brought us here.

COACHMAN: Would you sir ó would you kiss her? On the lips?

PRINCE: Try stopping me.

THE PRINCE HANDS THE COACHMAN HIS LANTERN & LEANS OVER THE BED. HE BENDS DOWN AND KISSES WHAT IS IN FACT THE NURSE. SHE SITS BOLT UPRIGHT.

COACHMAN: It worked.

NURSE: Blimey! Am I still dreaming? Are you Mr March ó the footballer with Bristol City? And who's he? I hope he's the left back from Oldham.

COACHMAN: Oldham? How do you get to Oldham?

NURSE: One in each hand. Hey hey, me boat's come in girls!

PRINCE: ASIDE I think I kissed the wrong one Norris.

NURSE: Would you like me to give you a rub down and a suck on me oranges?

PRINCE: How do you put her back under?

KING & QUEEN BEGIN TO MOVE. THE LIGHTING COMES UP.

QUEEN: Colin, what is the meaning of this ó

KING: We're awake! You must be ó

PRINCE: Prince William sire.

THE KING & QUEEN STAND.

KING: And I shall be indebted to you forever young man. Forever.

QUEEN: But Beauty ó she's still asleep.

NURSE: Don't bother wishing me a good morning or a howsyerfather. I missed my doctor's appointment with all this tarradiddle.

NURSE OUT OF BED.

QUEEN: Put a sock in it Nurse! Prince William ó would you please do me the honour of waking my daughter.

THE PRINCE GOES OVER & KISSES BEAUTY. NOTHING. HE TRIES AGAIN. THERE IS A LIGHTING EFFECT. SHE SITS UP.

KING: This is the happiest day of my life.

KNOCK AT DOOR.

NURSE: Who can that be?

QUEEN: Well open the door and find out.

NURSE: If it's that midnight one again she can get knotted. Or them Jehovah's lot or them Tupperware ones.

QUEEN: Open it!

NURSE: I'm going right off her, are you?

NURSE OPENS DOOR. BILLY IN CARRYING A PARCEL BUT WITH HIS LEFT ARM UP AS IF KNOCKING ON A DOOR.

BILLY: Hiya kids ó oh well, how about this? What has 300 legs and 7 teeth? The front row! Well, happy 18th birthday Princess Beauty.

ALL: 18th?

BILLY: Yes, I had to run down the shops first thing and collect these.

NURSE: Run down the shops first ó hey! He doesn't know.

KING: We've been asleep for 100 years.

BILLY: 100 years??

PRINCE: Yes, I am Prince William, I've broken you from your slumbers.

COACHMAN: Legend has it that Fairy Midnight cast a spell ó

BILLY: I was just coming back from the village and there was this big flash of lightning and ó

NURSE: What were you doing?

BILLY: Banging on the front door. Hey! That's what happened to me arm.

KING: Well, we're all awake now and you know what?

QUEEN: What?

KING: I think we should have a party!

CHEERS.