

NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT

SNOW QUEEN

BY

Ron Hall

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T H E S N O W Q U E E N

A pantomime in two acts by Ron Hall

Characters in order of appearance:-

Mad Otto, the town idiot, a large comedy part
Dame Fanny Frankfurter, Otto's mother, another large comedy part
Gerda, Dame's daughter and Principal Girl
Kay, a young boy possibly between nine and twelve
Peter, Kay's elder brother and Principal Boy
The Snow Queen, a wicked enchantress
Jack Frost, a young boy (or girl), the Snow Queen's assistant
The Sun Queen, the Snow Queen's marginally less evil sister
The Mayor of Cloppenburg, small part, two scenes
Boris, the Robber Chief, two scenes only
Roberta, Boris's daughter, comedy part, only in Second Act
The Abominable Snowman, non-speaking part, only one scene
Chorus as townspeople, robbers and spirits of the snow
Senior Dancers as skaters or snowmen, reindeer, gypsy girls, flowers, ice maidens and guests at the reception
Junior Dancers as schoolchildren, snowflakes and children of the townspeople

Synopsis of Scenes:-

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Estimated length of show:- Act I 1 hour 15 minutes
Act II 1 hour

Number of principal parts:- Female 5
Male 4
Children 2 (2M or 1F and 1M)
Either 1 (Abominable
Snowman)

These figures assume that the Dame is played by a man and Peter is played by a woman.

Scene changing:- This pantomime can be played with a minimum of five main sets and a three flat inset (The Cottage near the North Pole). Alternate scenes have a small number of characters and can be played against running tabs allowing time to change the main sets manually. A silver slash curtain would, however, benefit the 'Entrance to the Snow Queen's Palace' scenes.

Use of music:- It should be noted that songs are only suggested and do not form part of the script. Arrangements should be made with the Performing Rights Society for performance.

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PLEASE NOTE

Musical numbers within the script are suggestions only. You are welcome to change the choice of songs and are reminded that since the script was first published it may be that some pieces are now out of print.

THE SNOW QUEENACT IScene 1 - The Old Town of Cloppenburg in Northern Germany

(This is a typical picturesque narrow street with half timbered houses. There is snow on the roofs and the window ledges. The Chorus are on stage dressed in typical German costumes with hats and muffs.)

Opening Chorus and Dance (Chorus and Senior Dancers)

Suggested numbers:- Winter Wonderland
Frosty the Snowman
Marshmallow World

(After one chorus the Senior Dancers enter dressed as skaters or snowmen and perform in front of the Chorus. At the end of the number the Senior Dancers exit and Mad Otto enters. He is carrying a bucket of 'snowballs' made of cottonwool wrapped around a more solid centre so they cannot hurt anyone when thrown.)

Otto:- Hello everybody.

Chorus:- Hello Otto.

Otto:- Hey it's been snowing. I love the winter, don't you?

Chorus:- No.

Otto:- Why not? It's lovely. Guess what I've got in my bucket.

Chorus:- Milk?

Otto:- No.

Chorus:- Water?

Otto:- No, something that's much more fun. (He takes one snowball out of the bucket) Snowballs! I made them myself. If I throw them out into the audience I bet you can't throw them back and hit me. (Studying the audience) That lady on the third row looks as though she's fallen asleep. Shall we wake her up?

Chorus:- Yes.

Otto:- Right, here we go then. (He throws one into the audience) And that chap there looks as though he needs waking up. (He throws another) The band looks a bit bored with life. (He throws one into the orchestra pit. This should be immediately thrown back at Otto, who then starts throwing the rest. This will start a snowball fight with Otto dodging to avoid the snowballs being thrown back. After a short while he should have all the snowballs back on stage and be putting them back into his bucket. As he does so the Dame enters from the house.)

Dame:- What on earth is going on out here? I thought -
- - (latest pop group) had arrived.

Otto:- No, I've just been having a fight with the audience.

Dame:- But they've only just paid to get in. Do you want them to demand their money back?

Otto:- No. Do you think they will?

Dame:- Quite possibly if standards don't improve. No wonder they call you mad Otto. (To audience) I'm sorry about this ladies and gentlemen. This lad hasn't been brung up proper like what I have. Anyway, enough of this idle banter. Let me introduce myself. I'm Fanny Frankfurter, but as you look such a nice audience tonight you can call me Fanny. Each time I come on I want you to do something for me. When I say 'Hello folks' I want you to say 'Hello Fanny'. Have you got that?

Audience:- (Hopefully) Yes

Dame:- You don't sound very sure. Have you got that?

Audience:- (Hopefully) Yes.

Dame:- You still don't sound very sure. I think we need a bit of practice. I'm going to go off and come back on straightaway and yell 'Hello Folks' and I expect you to say 'Hello Fanny'. Here we go then. (Dame exits and returns immediately) Hello folks.

Audience and Chorus:- Hello Fanny.

Dame:- You can do better than that. Let's try again. (Dame exits and returns immediately) Hello folks.

Audience and Chorus:- Hello Fanny.

Dame:- That's better but it's still not good enough. Let's try it one more time and really lift the roof this time. (Dame exits and returns) Hello folks.

Audience and Chorus:- Hello Fanny.

Dame:- That's wonderful! Now don't forget to do that each time I come on. Now let's get on with the plot. I live in that rundown - - sorry, charming period cottage over there (she points) with my lovely grand-daughter Gerda and my idiot - - I mean my intellectually challenged grandson Otto who you see before you in all his glory.

(Otto grins inanely)

We live a sweet and simple life. Gerda's sweet and Otto's simple. As this panto takes place in Germany in the olden days we don't use euros, we're still using marks but we're so poor I haven't got a mark on me. (She preens) I put that down to that new anti-wrinkle cream. And as for Otto, he hasn't got a pfennig to scratch his nose with. Still I get by as best I can on my state pension.

Chorus:- Aw!

Gerda:- (Offstage) Are you there Grandma?

Dame:- Ah that sounds like my lovely grand-daughter now. (To Gerda) Yes, I'm out here my precious, out in the cold, cold snow.

Chorus:- Aw!

Dame:- Oh come on. It's colder than that. (She urges audience)

Chorus and Audience:- (Hopefully louder) Aw!

(Gerda enters. She is carrying a shawl.)

Gerda:- I've brought your shawl Grandma. You'll catch your death of cold. It's freezing out here.

(Gerda places the shawl around the Dame's shoulders)

Dame:- Thank you Gerda. You are a kind thoughtful girl, (looking at Otto) which is more than can be said for your brother.

Otto:- I'll be a kind thoughtful girl in future, I promise.

Dame:- (To audience) What can you do with him? He doesn't even know what sex he is now.

Gerda:- You'll always be my big brother, won't you Otto?

Otto:- (Smiling) Yeah! And you'll always be my little sister.

Dame:- (To audience) Well now you know how we're all related it's time we all went inside and got warmed up by the stove. (She blows on her hands and starts moving towards the house.) Come along you two. You can join me in a nice cup of tea.

Otto:- (Following Dame) Will there be room for three of us in there?

Dame:- (Grabbing Otto by the scruff of the neck) Come on, it's too cold for jokes.

Gerda:- I'll join you in a little while.

Otto:- I bet she's waiting for her boyfriend Peter.

Dame:- And what if she is? That's no concern of yours. See you later folks.

(The Dame and Otto wave as they exit)

Gerda:- (To audience) Otto's right. I am waiting for my boyfriend. He's a soldier and he's due home on leave today. I haven't seen him for ages and I miss him so much.

(There is the sound of a bell ringing.)

That sounds like the school leaving bell. I'll watch the children play while I wait.

Song and Dance (Gerda, Chorus and Junior Dancers)

Suggested numbers:- Teacher' pet
An apple for the teacher
Teach me tonight
Any modern children's song

(The Junior Dancers dressed as schoolchildren enter during the intro. After the dance they join various members of the Chorus as though parents. The Junior Dancers and the Chorus then slowly exit. Kay runs on. He is carrying a red rose behind his back)

Kay:- Hello Gerda.

Gerda:- Hello Kay. Are you waiting for your brother as well?

Kay:- Yes. Peter said he'd be home today from the army and I ran all the way from school.

Gerda:- Then why are you later than the other children?

Kay:- 'Cos I went home to get you this. (He produces the flower from behind his back.)

Gerda:- That's beautiful Kay.

Kay:- (Giving rose to Gerda) It's the very last rose from the bush on my balcony. I protected it from the winter frosts so you could have it.

Gerda:- (Smelling rose) It has a lovely smell. I'll place it in water as soon as I get home.

Kay:- Peter's a very lucky man to have a girlfriend like you.

Gerda:- Nonsense! I'm just an ordinary girl.

Kay:- I hope I meet someone like you when I grow up.

Gerda:- That's one of the nicest things anyone's ever said to me.

Kay:- It's true! I think you're the prettiest girl I've ever seen.

Gerda:- (Grinning) Less of the compliments young man. You'll turn my head.

(There is the sound of horses and a carriage stopping offstage)

Kay:- (Pointing) Look the stagecoach is stopping over there.

Gerda:- (looking offstage) Yes and Peter's getting out.

(Kay and Gerda run towards the exit as Peter enters. He is in uniform.)

Peter:- Hello you two. (He takes their hands.) My two favourite people waiting for me! (They walk back centre.) What more could a man ask?

Kay:- How's life in the army Peter? Have you fought any good battles lately?

Peter:- Very boring, little brother, not an enemy in sight.

Gerda:- You're looking very well Peter.

Peter:- But not as well as you Gerda. You seem to get prettier each time I see you. Where did the rose come from? Do I have a rival?

Gerda:- (Smiling) Yes, I suppose you do in a way.

Peter:- Who is it? I'll challenge him to a duel.

Kay:- It's me. I gave Gerda the rose.

Peter:- You did? Why you young whippersnapper!

Gerda:- I can tell you're brothers. You both know how to treat a young lady.

(Snow starts to fall, possibly projected.)

Kay:- Oh Peter, it has started to snow. I'll go and get my sledge.

(Kay moves towards exit and Peter turns towards him.)

Peter:- Be careful Kay. It'll soon be dark and if there's a blizzard you could lose your way.

Kay:- I'll not go far I promise.

Peter:- Stay in the town where you can see the lights from the windows.

Kay:- Don't worry, I'll be all right. See you later. Goodbye Gerda.

Gerda:- Goodbye Kay. Take care of yourself.

Kay:- Bye.

(Kay waves and exits.)

Peter:- (Taking Gerda's other hand) I've missed you so much Gerda.

Gerda:- And I've missed you Peter. I wrote you a letter every day.

Peter:- And very glad I was to receive them but it's not the same as being with you.

Gerda:- How much leave do you have?

Peter:- A whole week before I have to return to my regiment.

Gerda:- That's wonderful!

Peter:- Yes, we'll have a great time together.

Duet (Peter and Gerda)

Suggested numbers:- Can you feel the love tonight? (Lion King)
Stepping out with my baby
All that jazz (Chicago)
A modern romantic ballad

(Otto enters from the house)

Otto:- Hello Peter. You look smart.

Peter:- Hello Otto. You look - - - unusual.

Otto:- Thank you. (He grimaces.) Do you think I'd make a good soldier?

Peter:- Are you fit?

Otto:- (Feeling his muscles) Yes.

Peter:- Can you use a rifle?

Otto:- Yes.

Peter:- Can you add two and two together?

Otto:- (Counting on his fingers and giving up) I knew there would be one difficult question to answer.

Peter:- Never mind! You're happy as you are, aren't you?

Otto:- Yes, I suppose so, but I get bored. I want some excitement in my life.

Gerda:- Did Grandma send you out Otto?

Otto:- Oh yes, I forgot. She says your tea's getting cold and she's poured a cup for Peter.

Peter:- Then we'd better not keep her waiting. Thanks Otto, you're a good friend.

(Peter and Gerda walk hand in hand past Otto towards the Dame's house)

Otto:- Thanks. You're not so bad yourself.

(Peter and Gerda exit and Otto is about to follow them when Kay enters pulling a small sledge.)

Kay:- Hello Otto. I've brought my sledge so I can play in the snow. Would you like to join in the fun?

Otto:- Ooh, yes please. (Suddenly thinking) Oh no, I can't at the moment. Grandma wants me to peel the potatoes for tonight's meal. She'll box my ears if I don't go back in straightaway.

Kay:- That's a shame!

Otto:- I'll come out again when I've done my chores. You won't go away will you?

Kay:- No I won't. I'll just play in the street here until you come out again.

Otto:- Great! See you later.

(Otto exits to the house. Kay pulls his sledge to one side of the stage as the sound of sleigh bells and wind is heard. Kay stops at one side of the stage as a magnificent silver sleigh is pulled on by Senior Dancers dressed as reindeers. On the sleigh is the Snow Queen dressed in white with a long silver voluminous cloak. The sleigh does one circuit of the stage and stops centrally. The sounds of the bells and the wind stop along with the sleigh.)

Snow Qu:- Hello little boy.

Kay:- (Rather frightened) Hello.

Snow Qu:- What's your name?

Kay:- Kay.

Snow Qu:- And how old are you Kay?

Kay:- Ten.

Snow Qu:- Ten years old! What a wonderful age to be! I was never ten years old. I was always as I am now. (Getting out of sleigh) Would you like to come for a ride in my sleigh?

Kay:- No - - - no thank you. I've been taught never to speak to strangers.

Snow Qu:- Very wise, but I'm not a stranger.

Kay:- (Stepping back) Then who are you?

Snow Qu:- I am the Snow Queen.

Kay:- The Snow Queen?

Snow Qu:- Yes. Who do you think arranges for the snow to fall and the rivers to freeze in winter?

Kay:- You?

Snow Qu:- Correct. I can ride on the storm clouds and make the winds howl. (Reaching for Kay) Come, don't be frightened. You'll enjoy a ride in my sleigh.

Kay:- (More frightened) That's very kind of you but my friend Otto is coming out to play with me soon.

Snow Qu:- Forget your friend Otto. He's boring. Take my hand and I'll give you a far more exciting time.

Kay:- (Backing away) No, I'd rather not if you don't mind.

Snow Qu:- But I do mind. (Taking Kay's hand) Come now little one. Don't be shy.

Kay:- I feel strange.

Snow Qu:- And a little cold perhaps?

Kay:- Yes, ever so cold - - - and sleepy.

Snow Qu:- (Pulling Kay towards sleigh) Then let me warm you beneath my cloak.

Kay:- (As though drugged) Yes - - - yes. Warm me beneath your cloak.

(The Snow Queen pulls Kay into the sleigh).

Snow Qu:- Sit down beside me and we'll drive into the night where the Northern Lights glitter in the ebony sky.

(The Snow Queen wraps her cloak around Kay as they sit in the sleigh. Kay is beginning to fall asleep.)

Snow Qu:- Then let's away to my ice palace without delay. Come my beauties, take us home.

(The sounds of the bells and the wind start again as the sleigh does a lap of the stage before exiting. Just before the sleigh exits Otto enters from the house.)

Otto:- I've finished my work Kay. I can - - - (noticing sleigh as it disappears). Hey, what was that? (He goes chasing after it but is too late.) It looked like a white sledge. (Looking around) Kay, are you there? (He waits for answer but none comes.) That is odd. His little sledge is here but there's no sign of him. (To Audience) Do you know what's happened to Kay?

Audience:- (Hopefully) Yes.

Otto:- Who was that in the big white sledge?

Audience:- (Hopefully) The Snow Queen.

Otto:- Who?

Audience:- (Hopefully) The Snow Queen.

Otto:- The Snow Queen? Has she taken Kay with her?

Audience:- (Hopefully) Yes.

Otto:- Where are they going?

(There will probably be various answers from the Audience including 'Her ice palace')

Otto:- Her ice palace? Oh no! He'll freeze to death. (Calling out) Help, help. Somebody come quick. I don't know what to do.

(Peter, Gerda and the Dame enter from the house and gradually the Chorus enter curiously from various parts of the stage.)

Dame:- Hello folks.

Audience:-Hello Fanny.

Dame:- You can do better than that. Hello folks.

Audience:-Hello Fanny.

Dame:- That's more like it. Now what's all the noise about? What's been going on?

Otto:- I c-c-c-can't t-t-t-tell you.

Dame:- Oh pull yourself together for goodness sake.

Otto:- It's K-K-K-Kay.

Dame:- What about K-K-K-Kay?

Otto:- He's g-g-g-gone.

Dame:- He's g-g-g- (slapping her own face) gone? You've got me at it now. Where has he gone?

Otto:- The S-S-S-Snow Queen's p-p-p-palace.

Peter:- The Snow Queen's palace? But where's that?

Otto:- I don't know.

Peter:- (Looking around the stage) Does anyone know where the Snow Queen's palace is?

Chorus:- (Shaking their heads) No.

Dame:- Good grief! What are we going to do?

Peter:- There must be some way of finding out where it is.

Dame:- I have a book of Hans Andersen fairy stories in the house. It might help.

Gerda:- I'll go and get it.

(Gerda exits to the house)

Peter:- There's no time to delay. We must rescue Kay before he falls under the Snow Queen's power.

Otto:- I said my life was boring but I don't somehow think it's going to be from now on.

(Gerda re-enters quickly with a story book.)

Gerda:- Here we are. Here's the book.

Dame:- (Taking book) Let's see. (Opening book near the back) The index must be here somewhere. Here we are under 'Q'. (Reading) Queen - Snow - the evil sorceress who brings the cold winter weather. Her home is an ice palace in the frozen north.

Peter:- Is that all it says? Doesn't it give a more precise address?

Dame:- I'm afraid not. Oh, wait a minute. It does say she has a sister - the Sun Queen.

Otto:- The Sun Queen? She won't be around at this time of year.

- Dame:- You never know. We still get the odd sunny day even in winter. Let's see what the book says about her. (Reading) Queen - Sun - the not quite so evil sister of the Snow Queen.
- Peter:- No address?
- Dame:- Let's have a look. (Reading) Usually resides in the tropics during the summer months.
- Otto:- That's no good. It's winter.
- Dame:- I know that you dimbo. Wait a minute, there's a bit more. (Reading) She also has a house and garden in Northern Germany. She resides there from November to March. It is always summer in this garden which lies near the village of Kleiner Finkelstein.
- Gerda:- A magic garden where it's always summer. It sounds wonderful!
- Dame:- Don't be too sure. There are probably snakes in the grass if she's the sister of the Snow Queen.
- Peter:- Does anyone know where the village of Kleiner Finkelstein is?
- Otto:- Yes, it's next to Grosser Finkelstein.
- Peter:- And where's that?
- Otto:- I can't remember.
- (There are groans of disappointment from all on stage.)
- Dame:- Ah, but I can. It's where your late grandfather was born.
- Peter:- Then it can't be far away, can it?
- Dame:- It'll take about three hours to get there.
- Otto:- Right! What are we waiting for? Let's get going. (Otto starts to move but Peter pulls him back.)
- Peter:- It's no use going tonight. It's almost dark and with the snow falling we could lose our way.
- Dame:- Yes, it's a very narrow winding road. We'll set off in the morning at first light.
- Peter:- Good idea! We should be there by midday and then we'll find out from the Sun Queen where her sister lives.
- Dame:- We must devise a plan. Even though she's not quite so wicked as her sister she could still be a wily customer.
- Gerda:- Oh Peter, I'm so frightened. I do hope Kay's all right.
- Peter:- Don't worry Gerda. Have faith. We'll save him from that wicked Snow Queen. Just wait and see.
- Song (Peter, Principals and Chorus)
- Suggested numbers:- Song of the Mounties (Rose Marie)
I'm on my way (Paint your Wagon)
Button up you overcoat
- (The running tabs draw as a picture is formed.)

Scene 2 - Entrance to the Snow Queen's Palace

(This should be a front cloth or running tabs possibly with a silver slash curtain. There is the sound of wind and sleigh bells again as the white sleigh is pulled on by the Senior Dancer 'reindeers'. The Snow Queen is still sitting on the sleigh with her cloak wrapped around Kay. The sleigh stops centre stage. The Snow Queen opens her cloak to reveal Kay who appears to be in a deep sleep.)

Snow Qu:- Are you tired little man or is the cold eating into your bones and numbing your senses? We have travelled hundreds of miles through the winter skies to reach my home here at the North Pole.
(Calling) Jack Frost, your mistress has returned. Come and assist me.

(The Snow Queen claps loudly and Jack Frost rushes on. He is dressed all in silver.)

Jack:- How wonderful to see you back safe and sound your Majesty and with a new friend I see.

Snow Qu:- This boy shall be the son I have always wanted.

Jack:- But who is he? Where did he come from?

Snow Qu:- It makes no matter. The less you know of him the better. In three days under my spell he will have forgotten completely about his home and family and then I shall bring him up as my own son - the Snow Prince.

Jack:- But I was hoping for that honour myself one day your Majesty. Have I not served you well for many years?

Snow Qu:- Exactly! And that's all you are - a servant. Remember that.

Jack:- (Somewhat deflated) Yes your Majesty.

Snow Qu:- Now assist me with the boy. He is to sleep at the foot of my bed. (Shaking Kay) Wake up boy. We have arrived at your new home.

(Kay begins to stir.)

Kay:- (Sleepily) Where am I? What is this place?

Snow Qu:- This is my palace at the North Pole. The walls are formed of ice and the driven snow and the windows and doors are the cutting winds. There are a hundred halls illuminated by the Northern Lights.

(The Snow Queen helps to move Kay so that Jack Frost can support him as he is only partly awake.)

Kay:- But I want to go home.

Snow Qu:- This your home now and soon you will realise what a fortunate boy you are to live in such a fine palace.

Kay:- (Resting on Jack Frost) I'm so tired.

Jack:- Of course you are. I'll take you to a place where you can sleep.

Snow Qu:- (Getting out of sleigh) Yes boy, go and rest and soon you will forget all the worries of the outside world.

Jack:- (Supporting Kay and gradually moving to exit) Yes, you will want for nothing in your new life. You will be a prince.

Kay:- A prince?

Snow Qu:- Yes and not just any common or garden prince - the Snow Prince. Care for him well Jack Frost for if any harm befalls him you will have to answer to me.

Jack:- Yes your Majesty.

Snow Qu:- And when you have placed the boy at the foot of my bed bring me my crystal ball.

Jack:- Yes your Majesty, at once.

(Jack Frost exits with Kay as Snow Queen goes to 'reindeer'.)

Snow Qu:- Well done my brave reindeer. Now be off with you to the royal stables.

(The 'reindeer' exit with sleigh to the sound of bells and wind.)

Snow Qu:- At last I have a son of my own. He is well rid of his dreary family. They could never give him what I can give him. We will ride together on the storm and summon up blizzards to frighten those stupid travellers on the country roads. We'll freeze the rivers and disrupt the traffic in the towns. It will be such fun!

(The Snow Queen cackles with triumph as Jack Frost returns with the crystal ball in his hands.)

Jack:- The boy is sleeping soundly at the foot of your bed your Majesty.

Snow Qu:- Good! Now to look into my crystal ball. (Taking ball from Jack and addressing it)

Crystal ball I need to see,
If this boy's kin know aught of me.

(The ball starts to glow as she gazes into it. This can be done by the Snow Queen pressing a hidden switch.)

Snow Qu:- I see a soldier talking to a young girl, a stupid looking young man and an old crone. The stupid young man is telling the soldier that I abducted the boy. Curses! I thought no-one had seen me. The old crone is looking in a book and she has found the address of my sister, the Sun Queen. They are making plans to visit her. I must contact her immediately. (To Jack) Take the crystal ball and bring me the icephone.

Jack:- Yes your Majesty.

(Jack takes the crystal ball and exits.)

Snow Qu:- I must have words with her at once. This could be serious. If that soldier discovers my address I may be forced to take drastic action.

(Jack returns with either an old fashioned white phone with wire extending into wings or a mobile type.)

Jack:- The icephone your Majesty.

(The Snow Queen goes to Jack so she is near wings and grabs the icephone from him.)

Snow Qu:- Go and watch over our young visitor. If he wakes I do not want him leaving the palace.

Jack:- Very good, you Majesty.

(Jack Frost exits. The Snow Queen, now very much at one side of the stage, dials as the main stage lighting dims leaving a follow spot on her. The Sun Queen enters from the opposite side in the semi-darkness. She is carrying an old fashioned golden phone. She remains close to wings. As her phone rings a second follow spot lights her up.)

Sun Qu:- Hello. This is the Sun Queen here. Who has the audacity to ring me at this late hour?

Snow Qu:- I have the audacity you miserable old crone.

Sun Qu:- Oh it's you you cold hearted old slapper. I've not heard from you for ages. You must want something.

Snow Qu:- Now is that any way to speak to your loving sister?

Sun Qu:- And you can cut out all the blarney. I'm in Germany not Ireland.

Snow Qu:- Exactly! And that's just what I want to speak to you about.

Sun Qu:- But I always come to Germany at this time of year. It makes a pleasant change from the tropics and all those hot sandy beaches. And besides those steel bands drive you mad after a while.

Snow Qu:- And how does your garden grow?

Sun Qu:- It's as beautiful as ever. But you haven't rung long distance just to enquire about my hardy perennials. What are you after?

Snow Qu:- Well, I have a slight problem.

Sun Qu:- I thought so. (Sighing) Go on.

Snow Qu:- Some people will be visiting you tomorrow.

Sun Qu:- But I rarely see mortals. You know that.

Snow Qu:- These mortals are crafty. They'll probably promise you all sorts of things if you give them my address.

Sun Qu:- Now why should anyone in their right mind want your address? You're miles away from civilisation and there's nothing there but ice and snow. (Shuddering) It makes me shudder just to think about it.

Snow Qu:- Tonight I brought back a human boy to be my Snow Prince.

Sun Qu:- I think I can guess the rest. The boy's family are just a teensy-weensy bit upset by your actions and want him back.

Snow Qu:- Correct! But if you don't tell them where I live they'll never find the place.

Sun Qu:- And what's in it for me?

Snow Qu:- Oh sister, do you have to be so mercenary?

Sun Qu:- In a word - yes.

Snow Qu:- Very well. I know you've been looking for a young girl to be a servant, someone to cook your meals, clean your house and look after you garden.

Sun Qu:- Yes, but I never meet anyone suitable.

Snow Qu:- One of tomorrow's visitors will be a pretty young girl ideal for the job. I'm sure with a little persuasion on your part you could soon train her to be a wonderful servant.

Sun Qu:- You're not lying to me are you dear sister?

Snow Qu:- Would I lie to you my sweet?

Sun Qu:- In another word - yes.

Snow Qu:- All right, if there's not a young girl among the humans you can give them my address. I can't say fairer than that, can I?

Sun Qu:- Very well, it's a deal. I won't tell them your address as long as I get the girl.

Snow Qu:- It's a pleasure doing business with you dear sister.

Duet (Snow Queen and Sun Queen)

Suggested number:- Snow or sun (Tune:- Daisy Bell)

Snow Qu:- I'm so evil, I'll turn your blood to ice.

Sun Qu:- Next to her most people say I'm quite nice.

Snow Qu:- My palace is like a freezer.

Sun Qu:- No-one would dare displease her.

Both:- So snow or sun we'll both have fun,
And the humans will pay the price.

Sun Qu:- What a housemaid that little girl will be.

Snow Qu:- What a Snow Prince and he'll belong to me.

Sun Qu:- She 'll clean and she'll cook forever.

Snow Qu:- And he'll escape me never.

Both:- So snow or sun we'll both have fun,
For those children will not go free.

Snow Qu:- So dear sister, it's time to say goodbye.

Sun Qu:- Farewell sister. My how the time does fly.

Snow Qu:- I'll call you tomorrow night dear.

Sun Qu:- It's sure to turn out right dear.

Both:- So snow or sun we'll both have fun,
As the seasons go racing by.
So snow or sun we'll both have fun,
As the seasons go racing by.

(There is a blackout. Both Queens exit with phones as the tabs draw back on Scene 3)

Scene 3 - The Sun Queen's Garden

(This a typical cottage garden with flowers in full bloom and a backing of trees. Part of the Snow Queen's cottage can be seen at one side. The Senior Dancers, dressed as flowers, are on stage.)

Dance (Senior Dancers)

Suggested numbers:- The flower garden of my heart (Pal Joey)
 Tiptoe through the tulips
 Flowers in the rain
 Rose garden (I beg your pardon)

(At the end of the number the girls pose around the stage as though they are flowers growing in the garden. Peter enters slowly and looks around cautiously.)

Peter:- (Calling to the others in a stage whisper) It's all right, you can come in. There's nobody here.

(Dame, Otto and Gerda enter on tiptoe. The Dame is wearing a long scarf.)

Dame:- (In stage whisper) Hello folks.

Audience:-Hello Fanny.

Dame:- By jove it's warm in here.

Peter:- Yes who would have thought that we trudged through the snow to get here.

Dame:- Give me a hand with this scarf Otto.

(Otto takes end of scarf and pulls as he walks away causing the Dame to spin round as the scarf unravels. She almost falls over and has to hang onto Peter for support.)

Otto:- There we are.

Dame:- There's no need to go like the clappers. I've come over all dizzy.

Otto:- But we've got to be quick. Somebody might catch us.

Peter:- Otto's right. We must find the Sun Queen quickly so we have time to get home before dark.

Gerda:- Yes, it's taken us over three hours to get here.

Peter:- Gerda and I will go and search the cottage while you two look round the garden. We'll see you back here in ten minutes.

Otto:- (Throwing scarf onto stage and dashing to Peter) Don't leave me, I'm frightened!

Peter:- Don't worry, you'll be fine. What could possibly harm you in a lovely garden like this? Come on Gerda.

(Peter takes Gerda's hand and moves towards cottage.)

Gerda:- See you later.

(Peter and Gerda exit to cottage.)

Otto:- Oh dear, what are we going to do?

Dame:- We're going to search the garden like Peter told us to do. Now you start over there and I'll start over here.

(Otto goes downstage right whilst Dame goes downstage left. They start moving upstage and towards each other with their backs to the audience looking in the 'shrubberies'. As Otto approaches a 'flower', the dancer places her leaf (arm) on Otto's shoulder. He freezes.)

Otto:- (Partly turning away from Dame) Is that you Grandma?

Dame:- (Partly turned away from Otto) Is that me what?

Otto:- Is that your hand I can feel on my shoulder?

Dame:- Of course it isn't. I'm over here.

Otto:- Then what is it?

(Otto slowly turns forward as dancer takes arm away and returns it to original position.)

Otto:- That's funny. There's nothing there.

Dame:- (Turning and looking at Otto) Of course there isn't. They're only flowers. Now get back to your searching. You're wasting time.

Otto:- All right. I am a silly billy, aren't I?

Dame:- No comment!

(They both turn their backs to the audience and continue searching. As Otto reaches another 'flower' the same thing happens.)

Otto:- Aagh! Grandma, it's happened again.

Dame:- Oh Otto, don't be such a cry-baby.

Otto:- (Partly turning away from Dame) But I can feel something on my shoulder.

Dame:- (Partly turned away from Otto) I don't know. Let's have a look at you.

(As Dame turns forward and moves to Otto, the dancer's arm moves back to original position.)

Dame:- Why there's nothing there. You're imagining things.

Otto:- But there was something honest!

Dame:- A likely story. I think you're pulling my leg. Now let's get on with the job. Peter and Gerda will be back soon.

(The Dame returns to her former position and they both start searching again. This time the Dame approaches a 'flower' and the dancer places her hand on the Dame's shoulder. She freezes and slowly turns as hand is removed.)

Dame:- You're making me as scared as you are. This is silly.

(The Dame turns to searching again and the action is repeated. Again she freezes and then slowly turns as hand is removed. She puts her hand to her brow.)

Dame:- I'm beginning to hallucinate. I shouldn't have had those pork scratchings before I went to bed last night.

Otto:- Oh, come on Grandma. Get on with it.

(They both start searching again and this time they both receive a hand on the shoulder at the same time. They both freeze for a moment and then scream in unison. They turn to see all the other dancers waving their arms about. They run to centre stage, bang into each other and fall over as the dancers follow them. The dancers chase them twice around the stage and they all exit, the Dame and Otto still screaming. Peter and Gerda enter hand in hand from the cottage. They are oblivious to what has been going on.)

Peter:- I can't understand it. The place seems to be deserted. There's no sign of the Sun Queen anywhere.

Gerda:- I wonder what's happened to Grandma and Otto. They were here a few minutes ago.

Peter:- They're probably searching other parts of the garden.

Gerda:- I hope they're all right.

Peter:- Don't worry. I'm sure they'll be fine.

(The Sun Queen enters and secretly hisses at the audience. She is in the guise of an old lady with bonnet shawl and walking stick.)

Sun Qu:- Hello my dears. Can I help you?

Gerda:- Hello old lady. Who are you?

Sun Qu:- I am the Sun Queen' - - - s housekeeper.

Peter:- Is the Sun Queen at home?

Sun Qu:- Er - - no - - not at the moment. She'll be back later. Let me get you some lemonade. You look thirsty.

Gerda:- That would be very nice. Let me give you a hand.

Sun Qu:- That's very kind of you. Come this way my dear.

(Gerda and the Sun Queen move towards the cottage.)

Peter:- (To the Sun Queen) Do you know if the Sun Queen has an address book. We're anxious to find the address of her sister.

Sun Qu:- Oh I wouldn't know about that. She keeps her desk locked, but I'm sure she will help you when she returns.

(The Sun Queen exits to the cottage followed by Gerda.)

Peter:- (To Audience) She seems a nice sweet old lady. Do you think I ought to trust her?

Audience:- (Hopefully) No.

Peter:- Why not? She seems harmless enough.

(There should now be various replies from the audience.)

Peter:- I can't hear you. What did you say?

(There should now be more replies from the audience. The Sun Queen re-enters followed by Gerda who is carrying two unbreakable glasses of lemonade.)

Sun Qu:- Here we are! Your friend has brought you a glass of refreshing lemonade. It's my own recipe and contains all manner of delicious ingredients.

(Gerda gives Peter one glass and keeps the other herself.)

Sun Qu:- Now drink up both of you. It will do you good.

(Peter and Gerda are about to take a sip when the Dame and Otto rush on.)

Dame:- (Hastily) Hello folks.

Audience:-Hello Fanny.

Dame:- Stop! Don't drink it! The place is enchanted.

Otto:- Yes, we've been attacked by some flowers.

Sun Qu:- What nonsense! Whoever heard of flowers attacking people?

Peter:- Surely you've been dreaming Otto.

Dame:- No, it's true. We had to run for our lives.

Sun Qu:- They're both mad. They're not used to such bright sunshine. It's given them sunstroke.

Peter:- (Smelling a rat) In that case old lady, as it's so warm, perhaps you would like some lemonade yourself.

Sun Qu:- That's very kind of you, but I'm not thirsty.

Peter:- (Approaching her and holding glass up) Oh come on, just one little sip.

Sun Qu:- (Backing away) No, really I couldn't. It will give me indigestion.

Peter:- I insist.

Dame:- (Approaching Sun Queen) Yes, we all insist, don't we everybody?

Peter, Gerda and Otto:- Yes.

Sun Qu:- Very well, just to please you.

(The Sun Queen takes the glass from Peter and pretends to sip from it.)

Sun Qu:- There we are, I've taken a sip. It's delicious.

Dame:- (Peering closely at Sun Queen) But your lips are still dry old lady.

Peter:- So they are. She must have difficulty drinking.
(Approaching the Sun Queen) Let us help you.

Sun Qu:- (Deliberately dropping glass) Oh dear, I've dropped the glass. How careless of me.

Gerda:- Don't worry old lady. You can have mine.

(Gerda approaches the Sun Queen holding out her glass.)

Sun Qu:- (Backing away and becoming angry) No, I don't want it, I tell you. Stay away from me.

Peter:- Don't be such a spoilsport. (Taking Sun Queen's arm) Grab her other arm Otto.

Otto:- (Grabbing Sun Queen's arm) My pleasure!

Sun Qu:- (Becoming really nasty) Unhand me at once. You'll suffer for this. I'll tell my sister.

Peter:- Ah, so you are the Sun Queen. I suspected it all along. Gerda, give the lady her drink.

Sun Qu:- Don't you dare touch me.

Gerda:- Hold her mouth open Grandma while I pour it in.

Dame:- (Getting hold of Sun Queen's mouth) Open wide for Grannie. It's time to take your medicine.

Sun Qu:- No, no, stop.

(The Sun Queen continues to scream as best she can as the 'lemonade' is poured into her mouth.)

Gerda:- There we are. Did you enjoy that?

Sun Qu:- I'll get my own back. You wait and see. You'll wish you'd never been born, all of you. My revenge will - - be - - ter - - ri - - ble.

(The Sun Queen's speech becomes slurred and eventually she collapses into the arms of Peter and Otto.)

Otto:- That lemonade must have been strong.

Dame:- It must have been drugged.

Peter:- Let's drag her into the cottage and leave her to sleep it off in a chair.

Gerda:- Good idea! And I'll look for her address book.

(Peter and Otto drag the Sun Queen offstage whilst Gerda follows still holding the glass.)

Dame:- And I suppose it's left to me to clean up as usual. (Picking up the other glass and throwing it into the wings) There we are, that's the house-keeping done for today. Well, what a naughty lady that Sun Queen turned out to be. She's almost as wicked as that - - - (Well known evil soap character) in - - - (name of soap). You never know who to trust these days. It must be murder at ten Downing Street.

(Peter and Otto re-enter minus Sun Queen. They are wiping their hands.)

Peter:- I don't think she'll wake up for a while.

Otto:- She's snoring more than you do Grandma.

Dame:- How dare you! I never snore. I'm far too ladylike.

Otto:- Then why does the cat sleep with its paws over its ears?

Dame:- That's because it can't afford ear muffs to keep itself warm. Now let's change the subject or you're likely to finish up with boxed ears.

(Gerda re-enters minus glass but with small note book.)

Dame:- Ah, here comes my intelligent grandchild. What have you got there my dear?

Gerda:- I think it's the Sun Queen's address book. I found it in her desk.

Peter:- So it wasn't locked away after all.

Dame:- What does it say under 'S'?