

THE PRINCE'S QUEST

A Pantomime
by
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The Prince's Quest - Cast List

DAME BATTERSPOON	Traditional pantomime dame. Good-hearted and larger-than-life.
PRINCE ANDREAS	Principal Boy. Traditionally played, usually by a female. Brave young hero. Eventually marries Rosa.
PRINCE DIMITRI	A second Prince. This one is rich, pompous and arrogant. Eventually marries Princess Francesca.
PRINCESS FRANCESCA	Principal Girl. A strong-willed, young, attractive Princess.
ROSA	A second Principal Girl. Dame Batterspoon's kind and pretty daughter. Servant and best friend to Princess Francesca.
LORD ELBIRRET	Traditional panto villain. Evil and nasty. Intent on achieving world domination. That's terrible!
BADD WURSE	The comedy duo. The two dim-witted henchmen to the evil Lord Elbirret.
KING HORATIO	Princess Francesca's father. A little hen-pecked.
QUEEN HORTENSE	Princess Francesca's mother. A bit bossy.
POOR MAN	A scruffy, tired old man, who is eventually revealed to be Prince Andreas's father, the King of Rispalia.
FAIRY ETHEL ARRIVA	Pantomime fairy . but a bit dippy . always arrives late, and gets her spells wrong. Good audience rapport. (Arriva is a local bus company. Either replace it with your local company, or just call her Ethel).
THE SULTAN	One scene only. An Elvis-style character . good comedian
GRANNY HILL MARY-SUE HILL MARY-KATE HILL	A Hill Billy family. All short-sighted. Accent is important. Small roles, but good fun. One scene only, but also do the Song Sheet.
SINGE	A dragon. A non-speaking role, but needs to be able to portray character and actions from beneath the costume.
VILLAGERS 1 & 2	Chorus Villagers. Small, speaking roles.
FOOTMAN	Small speaking role.

Chorus roles:

Waiters & Waitresses, Courtiers, Harem Girls, Hill Billies, Prisoners, Ghosts, Goblins and Villagers.

Many of the roles can be doubled or played by members of the chorus.

Scenes and Staging

Don't be daunted by the large number of scene changes! The staging can, in fact, be fairly simple.

The only full-stage scenes are ~~the~~ ~~Village~~+, ~~the~~ ~~Ballroom~~+(which can double as ~~the~~ ~~Francesca's~~ ~~Bedroom~~), and possibly ~~the~~ ~~Laundry~~+

~~the~~ ~~Kitchen~~+, ~~Outside~~ ~~Elbirret's~~ ~~Castle~~+, ~~the~~ ~~West~~+and ~~the~~ ~~East~~+would be ideal as half stage scenes, if you can accommodate that.

Many of the scenes can be played simply ~~the~~ ~~front~~ of tabs+, if required.

Additional Notes appear at the end of the script.

ACT I

- | | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| Scene 1 | The Village Of Verdentia | Full stage scene. the Old Village +backcloth. |
| Scene 2 | The Kitchen of the Royal Palace | Half-stage, if possible. A table is centre. |
| Scene 3 | The Village Of Verdentia | Full stage scene. As Scene 1. |
| Scene 4 | On the Road to Elbirret's Castle | Front of tabs or front cloth scene. |
| Scene 5 | The Kitchen of the Royal Palace | Half-stage, if possible. As Scene 2. |
| Scene 6 | A Corridor in the Royal Palace | Front of tabs or front cloth scene. |
| Scene 7 | The Palace Ballroom | Full-stage scene. the Ballroom +cloth, if it can be accommodated. Re-use for Scene 9, if possible. |
| Scene 8 | The Palace Dungeons | Front of tabs or front cloth scene. |
| Scene 9 | Princess Francesca's Bedroom | A full stage scene. It is possible to use the setting / cloth as used for Scene 7, if it is suitable. A bed is set centre, add a large bed-canopy can Be added to change the look of this scene, if you are using the same setting as Scene 7. A wardrobe is set upstage left or right. |

ACT II

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Scene 10 | On the Road | Front of tabs or front cloth scene. |
| Scene 11 | The West ~ The Home of the Hill Family | A full stage, or half-stage scene. A white picket fence and a rocking chair set upstage right. |
| Scene 12 | The East ~ A Sultan's Palace | A full stage, or half-stage scene, depending upon what is used for the West +. Two folding book flats, with vivid colours, satins and beads will set the scene. A large satin canopy, held by two |

slaves, and a number of large satin floor cushions will provide a place for the King to sit.

Scene 13 A Dungeon in Elbirret's Castle	Front of tabs or front cloth scene.
Scene 14 Outside Elbirret's Castle	A half-stage scene, if possible. A rock is set upstage on one side of the stage, and a doorway, is set upstage on the other side.
Scene 15 A Corridor in Elbirret's Castle	Front of tabs or front cloth scene.
Scene 16 The Castle Laundry	A full stage or half-stage scene.
Scene 17 The Road back to Verdentia	Front of tabs or front cloth scene.
Scene 18 The Village of Verdentia	Full stage scene. As Scene 1.
Song Sheet	Front of tabs
Finale Wedding Walk-Down and Bows	Full stage. Use village, as Scene 1. Or if you can accommodate it, a sparkle cloth or shimmer curtain will enhance your finale.

ACT I**Scene 1 The Village of Verdentia**

SONG: %!\$ Not How You Start, It's How You Finish+ or a similar upbeat opening number.

After the song, the villagers start to exit the stage.

A poor man, dressed in rags enters. One or two of the villagers notice him, but just shrug and exit the stage.

The poor man, is carrying a bag, he wanders across the stage. He is clearly very tired.

He stops centre stage. He takes out a water bottle and, turning towards the audience, takes a swig. He sighs and carries on, to exit via opposite wings.

Andreas enters.

ANDREAS

Whoa! Well, hello, where did you lot come from? I said HELLO! ò

AUDIENCE

Hello!

ANDREAS

That's better. But isn't it always the way? You don't see a soul for three days and then 143 come along at once. It's like those things, what are they called, they're big and red and shiny, though they can be green, or brown or even yellow sorry? What did you say? Buses? No, never heard of them. This is the 14th century you know. I've got it, I was thinking about dragons, huge big red shiny ones. You can go for ages without seeing any at all and then, all of a sudden, you've got more than you can handle, they're everywhere, landing on the church, flying into the steeple, running around and scaring all the people. But anyway, since I've bumped into you, I was wondering if you could help me. I'm searching for my father. You haven't seen anyone coming along this road, have you? You have? Great. Was he about this tall? Yes? elegant, well dressed with a long red cloak? No? Oh dear. It probably wasn't him then. Thanks very much, anyway. Maybe I'll see you later. I must keep looking.

Andreas exits.

Scene 2 The Kitchen of the Royal Palace

A table is set upstage centre, on it is a mixing bowl and spoon, and various ingredients. Behind the table, hidden from the view of the audience (use a full-length table cloth), is a bucket containing confetti or streamers (it is exactly the same as the bucket that Rosa will use to collect the water).

Rosa is pottering around at back.

Dame enters

DAME

(to herself) Where can that girl have got to?

Dame turns to front of stage and sees audience.

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DAME

Ooooooo, would you look at that? What a lovely audience. Welcome to the Royal Palace kitchen! Hello boys and girls!

AUDIENCE

Hello.

DAME

Aaaaaah, isn't that sweet, you're a bit shy. But then, of course, we haven't been introduced, have we? Me first, then. My name is Dame Batterspoon and I am the palace cook. Now it's your turn. Oh dear, I think there's too many of you to remember all your names, so I'll just call you boys and girls. And do you know what all my friends call me? They call me Spooky. And before you start, that's not Loony or Moony, it's Spooky. Anyway, whenever I see you, I'll shout 'Hello boys and girls+', and you can shout 'Hello Spooky+'. Shall we have a go? Hello boys and girls!

AUDIENCE

Hello Spooky!

DAME

Oh, I'm sure you can do better than that. Hello boys and girls!

AUDIENCE

Hello Spooky!

DAME

Oooooo, yes. It makes me feel all warm inside. Now then, while I've got your attention, you haven't seen my daughter, Rosa, anywhere have you? She's lady in waiting to the Princess Francesca. She's about this tall. Wearing a red dress. You have? What? Behind me? Of course, this is a pantomime after all.

Rosa comes up closer and Dame turns to see her.

DAME

Oh Rosa, there you are. Look lively dear, we have to prepare the food for the Royal Banquet? *(to audience)* Well, they call it a royal banquet but it's only 23 courses.

ROSA

I think 23 courses is more than enough for any banquet. Hadn't you better start moving some of the dishes through to the dining room?

DAME

You're right. If we don't start now, we'll never be finished in time. Waiters!

Waiters & waitresses enter in a line.

SONG: 'Food, Glorious Food' (Waiters & Waitresses)

Waiters exit with dishes.

DAME

Ooooo, I've just remembered, I haven't made the pastry for the vol au vents. Quick Rosa dear, bring me some water better make it a bucketful, I'm catering for large numbers.

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ROSA
Yes mother.

*Rosa exits. Dame is stirring in a large bowl, adding salt etc.
Rosa returns with a bucket.*

DAME
Good girl now, you pour, I'll stir.

Rosa pours water into the bowl - the water must be visible to the audience. Dame continues to stir (very carefully).

DAME
OK, that's enough, thank you.

Rosa puts the bucket down behind the table.

DAME
Don't put it there! I'll end up standing in it and getting soaked. Tell you what, the grass is a bit dry, throw it out of the window onto the garden.

*Dame gestures towards the audience.
Rosa picks up duplicate bucket, containing confetti, from behind the table.*

ROSA
Are you sure you won't need any more water?

DAME
No, this pastry's just right, nothing worse than sticky pastry

Rosa moves forwards.

ROSA
And you're sure you don't need any water for anything else? I'm not fetching any more.

DAME
I definitely don't need any more! Throw it away.

Rosa pulls back bucket, ready to throw "water"

ROSA
Throwing it away!

Rosa throws confetti "water" at audience.

Blackout

Scene 3 The Village of Verdentia

Two goons, Badd and Wurse, enter together.

BADD

Would you look at this, isn't it lovely, very picture-rescue.

WURSE

Yeah, the boss is going to be really pleased we found this place. Hey, Badd, look over there, they've got trees and fields and everything.

BADD

Wow! Hey, Wurse, see this, they've got crystal clear streams and frolicking bunny rabbits and butterflies and ...

WURSE

And we'd soon put a stop to that, right.

BADD

Yeah, we don't want any of that lovely pretty stuff, all that flowers and fairies rubbish. We like mud and slime and trolls and goblins.

WURSE

We just need to redecorate a bit, you know, change the colour scheme. Get rid of these greens and blues and pinks and yellows. Perhaps a bit of black over here, some more black over here and maybe some black over here. What do you think, Badd, would that do it?

BADD

Couldn't be better, Wurse.

WURSE

You know, Badd, I feel so good about it, I can feel a song coming on.

BADD

I know what you mean.

Rhythmical music - perhaps a snippet of Michael Jackson's "I'm Bad" starts as Badd and Wurse begin to circle each other and leer at the audience.

They fail to notice a dark, menacing figure coming up behind them. It is Lord Elbirret, the evil sorcerer.

ELBIRRET

(shouts) What on earth do you think you are doing?

Badd and Wurse jump, the accompaniment screeches to a halt.

BADD

Oh, blimey, it's you boss. I nearly jumped out of my skin.

ELBIRRET

Oh, I scared you did I?

WURSE

Not half, my heart's going 19 to the dozen.

ELBIRRET

You haven't got a heart, Wurse, you're an evil henchman and don't you forget it.

WURSE

Oh, yeah, sorry boss.

ELBIRRET

And stop calling me boss. I demand some respect from my minions.

BADD

We do beg your pardon, my Lord Elbirret. But look what we have found for you, my lord. Isn't it real pretty?

ELBIRRET

Oh, yes. Oh yes! I do like the look of this one. It seems perfect.

WURSE

We aim to please, my lord.

ELBIRRET

(soliloquising) I've been looking for a kingdom to steal, and this one looks a good one ... good for turning bad.

BADD

(Thinks Elbirret is speaking to him) Yes, boss? I mean, my lord?

ELBIRRET

Bad, as in rotten! Where was I? Oh, yes. We have travelled for many years, hounded at every turn by goodness and righteousness, but now I feel we have found a place at last we can call home, a place of our own to devastate and desecrate, to subjugate and suffocate, where the people will pay homage to me and cower when they hear the name of Lord Elbirret!

WURSE

That's terrible.

ELBIRRET

Isn't it though? Right, let's find ourselves some accommodation. There's bound to be an empty scary old castle on a hill top around here somewhere.

Elbirret makes to exit.

BADD

Er, boss.

ELBIRRET

What?

WURSE

He means, excuse me, my lord.

ELBIRRET

Yes, what is it?

BADD

We thought you might like to do a number

ELBIRRET

A number?

WURSE

You know, a song.

BADD

To let everyone know how truly rotten and evil you are.

ELBIRRET

No, I'm not sure I've got time for that. I've got a kingdom to ruin, you know.

WURSE

Yes, we know, my lord, but you've got such a great voice.

ELBIRRET

Really? Do you think so? Oh, all right then. Hit it.

SONG: %Good and Bad+(an original song by Toby Bradford) or similar %Baddies song+

Demon cheerleaders can come on and join in, if you are using dancers.

BADD

Oooh, my lord, that was really coooool!

ELBIRRET

(*smugly*) Yes, it was rather, wasn't it? ò ò but enough of this! We've got work to do!

Elbirret. Badd & Wurse exit

Andreas enters. He stops centre stage and takes out his bottle and notices the audience.

ANDREAS

Oh, hello! Fancy meeting you again. Am I just going around in circles? Oh, but it's nice here isn't it, a beautiful part of the world. Reminds me of home.

It's just a shame that I can't stay for a while, but I've really got to carry on searching for my father. I've been on the road for such a long time, but I'm not going to give up now - look, it's a beautiful day, the sun is shining, the sky is blue - I've got a feeling that today might just be my lucky day

POSSIBLE SONG: %Oh What a Beautiful Morning+

Villagers begin to appear and go about their everyday tasks.

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Andreas walks to front corner of the stage as he finishes song and gazes into the distance. Badd and Wurse enter carrying swag bags and leap about scattering the villagers, stealing their purses and grabbing things and stuffing them into their bags. Badd and Wurse dance about taunting the villagers, who are cowering in fear. Badd and Wurse exit. Villagers recover their composure as Andreas turns and walks back to centre stage. Andreas has seen nothing of the pillaging that has just taken place. The villagers notice him and start talking among themselves. Andreas looks at them and smiles. Two villagers, come forward.

ANDREAS

Good day to you, I wonder ...

VILLAGER 1

Who are you? What do you want?

ANDREAS

I'm looking for ...

VILLAGER 2

Maybe he's one of them.

ALL VILLAGERS

Yes, etc ...

ANDREAS

I'm sorry, I don't know what you mean. I'm just ...

Villagers start to crowd around Andreas.

VILLAGER 1

I don't think we should take any chances. Let's run him out of here, make sure he never comes back.

The other villagers grab Andreas just as Rosa enters.

ROSA

What's all this? What's going on?

VILLAGER 1

We've got one of them, my lady.

ROSA

One of them?

VILLAGER 2

One of those evil henchmen. He was going to rob us.

ANDREAS

Look, all I was trying to do was ...

VILLAGER 1

Shut up, you.

ROSA

He doesn't look much like an evil henchman to me.

The villagers inspect Andreas more closely.

VILLAGER 2

Yes, well, he's a stranger, anyway.

VILLAGER 1

I've certainly never seen him before.

ROSA

A stranger. I don't think that's a very good reason for being mean to him. Let him go.

VILLAGERS

Yes, my lady.

ANDREAS

Thank you.

Fairy Ethel Arriva bursts onto the stage.

FAIRY

Here am I, come to save the day.

She stands heroically.

FAIRY

I saw visions of evil henchmen in my goldfish bowl.

She looks around. The villagers are shaking their heads.

FAIRY

Isn't it too late, am I?

ALL

Yes!

Fairy sees Andreas

FAIRY

Oooh, who's this? Not an evil henchman, is it? Maybe I could

She waggles her wand towards Andreas.

ALL

No!

FAIRY

Oh. Oh dear.

Rosa glowers at Fairy and turns to Andreas.

ROSA

Right then, stranger, are you going to tell us who you are?

ANDREAS

I've been trying to.

He looks round at the villagers, who shrug and look sheepish.

ANDREAS

My name is Andreas, I'm searching for my father, I've been on the road for a long time.

ROSA

Yes, I can see that. You look like you could do with a bath and a good hot meal. Tell you what, you come back to the palace with me and we'll see what we can do for you.

ANDREAS

The palace? Are you a princess?

ROSA

Hah! No, but I do work for a princess. I'm her lady in waiting. My name is Rosa.

FAIRY

Ahem.

ROSA

.... and this is the good fairy Fairy Arriva.

ANDREAS

(to Rosa) Fairy ARRIVA? Like the bus company? Always late, is she?

ROSA

(to Andreas) I'm afraid so.

FAIRY

But you can call me Ethel.

ROSA

She is ... er ... the guardian of our lands.

ANDREAS

Really?

ROSA

(aside to Andreas) Good good fairies are pretty hard to come by these days.

FAIRY

Yes, I am the guardian of this fair land and I will battle against evil wherever I find it.

Fairy comes forward. As she does, everyone else exits shaking their heads.

FAIRY

Unfortunately, I just don't seem to be able to find it. It keeps running away, what am I supposed to do? I get here as fast as I can You know ...

She turns to talk to villagers. The stage is empty.

FAIRY

Oh, why does everybody keep running away? But I won't give up. I'll show them. I'll be the best good fairy anyone has ever seen.

Blackout.

Scene 4 On the Road to Elbirret's Castle

Badd and Wurse enter carrying their sacks.

BADD

Right then, shall we inspect our haul? What have you got?

WURSE

Let's have a look. A couple of purses, half empty, an onion, a chicken and some horse brasses.

BADD

Oh dear, mine's just as bad. Oooer, the boss is not going to be very pleased with us.

WURSE

Yeah, but I thought he said it wasn't so important how much we got as long as we scared the villagers.

BADD

Yes, true, he did say that. But did he really mean it?

WURSE

Oh, now you've got me worried.

BADD

Maybe we should pop into the Westfield Centre (*replace with local shopping centre*) on the way home and pick up a few things - make it look a bit more impressive.

They start to head off. Lord Elbirret appears.

ELBIRRET

And where do you think you're going? Sneaking off when there are dirty deeds to be done?

WURSE

No, we were just off to the Wō

Badd nudges Wurse and butts in.

BADD

We were just coming to tell you that we scared the villagers good and proper, like you said, you know, in your plan.

ELBIRRET

Well, that's good, my little Badd. But there's been a little change of plan.

WURSE

Change of plan, my lord?

ELBIRRET

Isn't that what I said?

WURSE

Yes, my lord. Sorry my lord.

ELBIRRET

King Horatio is refusing to roll over meekly, so we've decided to strike at his soft heart. I want you to kidnap the fair Princess Francesca and bring her back to my castle. Once I have my hands on his darling daughter, I feel the king will do anything I ask.

WURSE

Great plan, your nastiness.

ELBIRRET

Yes, it is rather, isn't it. You'll recognise the princess quite easily. She'll be the pretty one with the expensive hair and the big frock. She'll be in love with some fatuous oaf with shiny buckles on his shoes. Oh, and she'll probably be singing.

BADD & WURSE

Singing?

ELBIRRET

Oh, yes. Princesses are always singing. Haven't you ever watched a Disney film?

BADD

Um, I, er, no. Have you, boss?

ELBIRRET

Oh, er, er no, of course not, don't be ridiculous. Well, don't just stand there, get on with it!

Bad and Wurse exit in hurry.

Elbirret exits opposite side singing "A Whole New World" to himself.

Poor man enters, walks wearily across the stage, then exits.

Scene 5 The Kitchen of the Royal Palace

Rosa enters with Andreas.

ROSA

You make yourself comfortable, Andreas, I'll go and find my mother.

Andreas sits at a table.

ANDREAS

Your mother?

ROSA

Yes, my mother, Dame Batterspoon, she's the palace cook. She'll fix you something to eat. I wouldn't know where to start looking in this kitchen. She's so disorganised.

ANDREAS

Rosa, there's something I think I should tell you.

ROSA

What? Don't tell me, you're really a girl.

ANDREAS

No, of course not, don't be ridiculous. *(stands in manly heroic fashion)* I'm a prince.

Rosa laughs.

ROSA

A prince?

ANDREAS

Really. I am. I know I don't look much but I've been travelling for a long time, searching for my father, the king. I'm the Crown Prince of Rispalia.

Rosa is taken aback.

ROSA

Well, I don't know what to say to your highness. *(to herself)* Just when I was beginning to like you, as well.

Dame Batterspoon enters in a fluster.

DAME

Oh Rosa, my dear Rosa, Have you been into the village again? You shouldn't go out on your own, it's not safe with those evil henchmen around. You don't know who you'll bump into.

ROSA

It's all right mother, I'm fine. In fact, I bumped into ...

Dame notices Andreas.

DAME

Oh dear, Rosa, how many times have I told you about bringing homeless people into the kitchen. We're not a charity, you know. *(to Andreas)* I'll give you farthing if you go away – oh, all right, make it a ha'penny, if you've got one of those Big Shoes magazines. I have terrible trouble finding high heels that fit.

ROSA

Mother! This is Andreas, he's –

DAME

Oh, it's actually got a name, has it?

ROSA

Mother!! Andreas is

DAME

Oh dear, I had always hoped that you'd find yourself a nice rich prince, maybe one of Princess Francesca's cast offs. But what do my wishes count for? All you ever bring home is wastrels and drifters.

ROSA

Mother!!!

DAME

What??!!

ROSA

Mother, I give you the Crown Prince of Rispalia.

DAME

Oh, would you, dear? That'd be lovely.

Andreas bows. Rosa is getting exasperated.

ROSA

Mother!

DAME

He's coming in now, is he?

Dame looks into the wings. Andreas is not exactly sure what to do next.

ROSA

Mother! It's Andreas!

DAME

Yes I know dear, we've already been introduced. He's the smelly one. Now, where's this lovely Rispalia fellow?

ROSA

Mother! Andreas is the Prince.

It takes a moment for the message to get through, then Dame is hit by moment of revelation.

DAME
Aaahh!

She turns to Andreas who has come round from behind table. Dame looks again at his shabby clothes.

DAME
Ooohh! You don't look much like a Prince.

Andreas steps forward.

ANDREAS
Madam, I apologise for my attire but I have been travelling for a long time, searching for my father, the King of Rispalia.

Dame
Oh, my little Rosa found her very own Prince.

ROSA
Mother!

DAME
I've never been so happy.

Princess Francesca enters scowling.

FRANCESCA
I see at least someone is happy.

DAME
Oh, good afternoon, your highness, welcome to my humble kitchen.

ROSA
Is anything the matter Francesca?

FRANCESCA
It's absolute mayhem up there. My father is making such a fuss. It's just another prince, admittedly one of the richest, most handsome princes in the old world but, I mean, princes, sometimes you can have your fill of them.

DAME
Oh, I'm completely forgotten, Prince Dimitri is arriving today, to lay suit to our fair princess. I'll put a few more eggs on. And I must do something with my hair.

Francesca notices Andreas.

FRANCESCA
Well, hello there, who's your dishevelled but rather handsome friend, Rosa?

Andreas bows.

ANDREAS

Your highness, I am õ

Dame steps in front to interrupt. She wants Andreas for Rosa and doesn't want Francesca getting her hands on him.

DAME

Oh, it's just Andreas, Rosa met him in the village.

ROSA

Mother! Francesca, this is Andreas, the Crown Prince of Rispalia.

DAME

Hands off! We saw him first!

FRANCESCA

Your highness.

Francesca looks him over.

FRANCESCA

You're not exactly dressed like a prince

ANDREAS

Your highness, I apologise for my attire but I õ

DAME

Yes, yes, we've heard it all before, skip to the next bit.

Footman enters and coughs.

FOOTMAN

Your Highness, your Royal father, His Majesty King Horatio, requests your presence in the ballroom.

FRANCESCA

(sighs) Yes, yes. I'll be up in a minute. Tell him to keep his wig on.

FOOTMAN

As you wish, your Highness.

Footman exits.

FRANCESCA

You know, I've got a good mind to tell my father that I'm not going to meet his prince. What do I know about him? Obviously that he's rich and handsome.

DAME

Surely that's enough. Who cares what his personality's like once you've got your hands on his wallet.

FRANCESCA

Oh Spooky, you're so old fashioned.

ROSA

Yes mother, you're so 13th century. Francesca wants to marry for love, not just a huge wallet.

FRANCESCA

What about what I want? Why does it always have to be what my father wants? Ooooh!

Francesca starts to storm off then stops and turns.

FRANCESCA

Well, are you coming? I'm not going to meet this Prince Dimitri all on my own.

Francesca exits.

Rosa, Andreas and Dame look at each other. Rosa and Andreas exit.

Scene 6 A Corridor in the Palace

Francesca, Rosa and Andreas enter on one side, King Horatio and Queen Hortense on the other.

KING

Francesca! There you are. What are you all doing hiding down here? Dimitri will be here at any moment!

FRANCESCA

Oh, daddy, don't be such a fusspot!

KING

Well!

QUEEN

Francesca! Your father is not a fusspot!

Francesca realises she has overstepped the mark.

FRANCESCA

Sorry, daddy.

QUEEN

No, he's a worrier, which is a completely different thing entirely.

KING

Thank you dear, I think. Now, can we get up to the ballroom, please?

They all set off.

QUEEN

Stop!

All stop. King turns to Queen.

KING

What is it, now, dear?

Queen indicates Andreas. She is not impressed.

QUEEN

What on earth is that? And why is it following us?

FRANCESCA

Oh, I'm sorry, mummy, this is Andreas, the Crown Prince of Rispalia.

King is interested.

KING

Prince, eh?

Queen looks Andreas up and down.

QUEEN

He doesn't look much like a Prince.

ANDREAS

Your majesty, I apologise

DAME

Travelling ...

ROSA

Searching

FRANCESCA

Father ...

ANDREAS

Etcetera etcetera.

KING

You don't happen to have your bank statements on you, do you?

FRANCESCA

Daddy!

KING

Got this evil sorcerer down the road burning crops and blowing up houses, you see. Costing me a fortune. To tell you the truth, I'm rather relying on Francesca marrying this Dimitri fellow. He's absolutely rolling in it.

FRANCESCA

Daddy!!!

ANDREAS
(*excited*) An evil sorcerer?

KING
(*unsure*) Yes.

ANDREAS
Then fate must have led me here. An evil sorcerer, the Lord Elbirret, tried to take over Rispalia, he held the land to ransom and terrified the people. My father refused to give in to him and, after a terrible struggle, won back control of his kingdom.

ALL
Hurrah!

ANDREAS
But the sorcerer escaped and my father was determined he would not rest until he had rid the world of the fiend once and for all. So he set off to track him down. And now I'm searching too.

KING
Then you must join us in our struggle. But first, you must help us welcome Prince Dimitri, you know, the one with all the cash.

FRANCESCA
Daddy!!!

QUEEN
Yes, dear, that was a little indiscreet. And I'm afraid Andreas can't possibly come looking like that. I'd never be able to live it down. I can't imagine what the Queens Institute would say.

KING
Oh, Hortense, we're in a bit of a hurry. And who really cares what those old dears of the Queens Institute think?

QUEEN
Well I do, for one. A little bit of gossip goes a long way. Look what happened to Queen Guinevere over that young fellow with the lance Rosa, my dear.

ROSA
Yes, your majesty.

QUEEN
Take Prince Andreas and find him something a little more suitable to wear.

KING
Fine. Rosa, Andreas, we'll meet you in the ballroom.

Rosa and Andreas exit the way they entered.

KING
Now, where were we? Oh yes, we were hurrying to meet Prince Dimitri.

Queen stands her ground.

QUEEN

Sometimes I wonder about you, Horatio.

KING

Really, my dear.

QUEEN

All this rushing about. It can't be good for you, and what is it all for?

KING

Oh, Hortense, do you really need to ask after all these years? Everything I do, I do it for you.

A chord is played. King takes a breath and opens his mouth.

QUEEN

Oh no, don't think you're singing that, Horatio.

KING

I was just trying to be romantic, my dear.

QUEEN

Romantic? Surely the King doesn't have time for romance in his hectic Royal schedule?
.....although, when we first met, you were very romantic, Horatio

KING

Yes, I was rather, wasn't I? I remember the first time we met, it was at a ball at your father's palace and, of course, I was looking particularly dashing

QUEEN

..... of course! Then you asked me to dance.

KING

Yes, I asked you to dance

SONG: *Shall We Dance?*+(from *The King & I*)

As the King and Queen dance, the curtains open onto scene 7....

Scene 7 - The Palace Ballroom

.... The music continues from Scene 6. The King and Queen continue to dance. The Palace ballroom is full of courtiers. They all dance until the music ends.

KING

He's not here yet is he?

Fanfare.

FOOTMAN

(announces) The Prince Dimitri

KING

Phew, just in time.

Dimitri enters.

SONG: short version of *Big Spender*+(Dimitri) (Change lyrics to first person%The minute I walked in the joint+etc.)

KING

Oh, Prince Dimitri, we are delighted to meet you.

DIMITRI

I know. And this must be the lovely Princess Francesca.

Dimitri approaches Francesca.

King coughs. Dimitri moves back towards the King.

Rosa, Andreas and Dame enter.

DIMITRI

Well, well, well. And who's your pretty friend.

Dame beams broadly.

FRANCESCA

This is my lady in waiting Rosa

Dame is crestfallen.

FRANCESCA

... and Andreas, the Crown Prince of Rispalia.

DIMITRI

Aha, a bit of competition. I wasn't expecting that. But he's not really in my league. Anyone can see this fellow is not half as handsome as me and he cannot possibly be as rich as me, since I am well known to be the richest prince in the old world. And, may I be so bold as to suggest, my prince, that your clothes are rather more *Primark* than *Brada*+

ROSA

You can't talk to Andreas like that!

DIMITRI

I can talk to him however I want!

DAME

He's right, you know. It's in the rules. Whoever's got the most money can say whatever he likes.

DIMITRI

Hah!

Badd and Wurse burst in, each carrying a club.

BADD
Nobody move!!

WURSE
This is a raid!!!

Badd and wurse jump about growling at the courtiers then face up to the King.

KING
How dare you!

BADD
Do not cross us or you will face the wrath of Lord Elbirret.

WURSE
And he can be really, really nasty when he wants to be.

BADD
Yeah, his wrath isn't something you want to face if you can help it!

KING
What do you want?

BADD
We õ oh, do you know, lwe completely forgotten, what with all this shouting. Wurse, can you remember what we want?

WURSE
Ooooh, now you're asking. You have to remember that lwe only got a brain the size of a walnut, as Lord Elbirret keeps reminding me.

BADD
Hmmm, you know, lwe got a feeling it had something to do with the princess. Now, what was it?

WURSE
Were we õ going to õ give her a present!?

BADD
Em, no that wasn't it.

WURSE
Sing her a little song?

BADD
Nope. But lwe'n sure singing came into it somewhere.

WURSE
Er õ kidnap her?

Badd turns to Wurse.

BADD

Yes, that was it, we're going to kidnap her. Thanks Wurse.

WURSE

That's OK Badd.

BADD

(to King) Right, we're here to kidnap the princess. Hand her over.

KING

Never!

Andreas steps forward.

ANDREAS

You don't frighten us. If you want the princess, you'll have to get past me first.

BADD

That can be arranged.

Badd and Wurse look down at their clubs and snigger.

Dimitri then steps forward in front of Andreas, shoving him sideways.

DIMITRI

No, you'll have to get past me first.

WURSE

That also can be arranged.

Andreas squares up to Dimitri and, as Badd and Wurse watch them, Francesca comes up, taps them on the shoulders, asks to see their clubs, then biffs them over the head with them.

FRANCESCA

Take them away!

ALL

Hooray!!!

The shout brings Dimitri and Andreas to their senses as Badd and Wurse are dragged off unconscious.

Fairy enters in a rush.

FAIRY

Here am I, come to save the day! I saw visions of *(she looks around)* Isn't it too late am I?

ALL

Yes!

FAIRY

Oh dear.

Fairy skulks off.

KING

Well done, Francesca! I think this calls for a celebration!

SONG: ♪ On A Wonderful Day Like Today ♪

Scene 8 The Palace Dungeons

Guard enters with Badd and Wurse who are still struggling. He opens a cell door and shoves them in.

GUARD

In you go! And stay there!

As the guard walks away, Badd and Wurse pull faces at him behind his back. He turns, they stop and look innocent. Guard exits.

WURSE

Now look what you've done, this is all your fault.

BADD

My fault, my fault? It was the boss's idea to kidnap the princess. If it's anybody's fault, it's HIS fault.

WURSE

Ssshhhhhhhh! He might hear you.

BADD

Hear us? How's he going to hear us? We're stuck in a cold, damp dungeon and he's out there, all snug and warm in his dark forbidding castle. ò .. We're never going to get out of here.

Badd slumps down on the floor.

WURSE

Don't say that.

Wurse sits down next to Badd.

BADD

This is it for us. In 200 years time, they're going to find our skeletons slumped against that wall.

WURSE

Don't say that, you're scaring me.

*Spotlight on Badd, he stands and moves to the front of the stage.
Intro music to "Close Every Door".*

WURSE

Badd, what are you doing now? Badd?

*Wurse, still sitting, puts his hands over his ears and shuts his eyes.
Badd sings first line of "Close Every Door".*

BADD
(sings) Close every door to me ò

Elbirret enters in the shadows, very matter of fact.

ELBIRRET
You can put a stop to that right now!

*Music stops, Badd looks around, sees Elbirret, jumps.
Wurse, still with his hands over his ears, opens his eyes to see Badd jump, looks where he is looking, see Elbirret and jumps even higher.*

BADD
Oh, your evilness, you've got to stop doing that.

ELBIRRET
Oh, I do beg your pardon, you snivelling wretch.

WURSE
Your disgracefulness, how so sorry, they got you as well did they? I had no idea. So it's all over?

ELBIRRET
No, you fool, can't you tell, how an apparition, a projected image, evil sorcerer, remember? Got a few tricks up my sleeve!

BADD
Wow, an apparition! Oooh, it's ever such a good one, your horribleness, you'd never tell.

ELBIRRET
Oh, really, thank you. But enough of that toadying. The plan has worked so far.

BADD
Has it? We was captured.

ELBIRRET
I know. The frontal assault was all a ruse to get you inside the palace and get them to drop their guard.

WURSE
Why didn't you tell us?

ELBIRRET
I didn't think you'd have room for it in your tiny, tiny, brains. Now, your cell door is unlocked and you will find the princess's rooms on the third floor of the palace, 14th door on the right. I expect her to be tucked up safely in my castle by daybreak. Well, what are you waiting for?

BADD
Yes, boss, sorry, boss.

WURSE

Whatever you say, your nastinessty.

Badd and Wurse break out of the cell and exit.

ELBIRRET

Give me strength!

Scene 9 Princess Francesca's bedroom

There is a large wardrobe and a bed.

Francesca, Rosa and Dame enter.

DAME

Hello boys and girls!

ALL

Hello Spooky!

FRANCESCA

Oh, I don't know what to wear for this evening's ball. You must help me. I can't think straight. After all that excitement, my heart is beating so fast.

DAME

Oh yes, Prince Dimitri certainly gets my heart racing too.

FRANCESCA

No, I don't mean him. I mean the other thing.

ROSA

Mother, Francesca just saved us from those horrible evil henchmen. Who knows what would have happened if she hadn't made a stand.

DAME

It's quite obvious what would have happened. The gorgeously wealthy Prince Dimitri would have stepped forward and dealt with the situation.

FRANCESCA

Oh, if you think he's so wonderful, Spooky, why don't you marry him.

DAME

If I were only 20 years younger.

ROSA

Don't you mean 40.

DAME

I heard that. So, you don't like your tycoon prince, then?

FRANCESCA

Well, he is handsome enough and he's obviously wealthy enough, though he needs bringing down a peg or two. But, Rosa, your young man seems very nice, if a little earnest.

DAME

Ernest? I thought his name was Andreas. And he's not that little.

ROSA

Don't be silly mother. Anyway, he's not my young man. We've only just met, I know nothing about him.

FRANCESCA

Well, I've only just met Prince Dimitri and I'm expected to marry him just like that.

ROSA

At least you know he's rich.

DAME

I don't understand you two.

ROSA & FRANCESCA

Why?

DAME

Francesca, the most handsome, wealthiest prince you could imagine has come along to ask for your hand - and you're umming and ahhring about him. There aren't many like that around, I can tell you. And Rosa, you've managed to get yourself attached, however tenuously, to a real live prince. Those kind of opportunities don't come round very often. I suppose you're going to tell me it's got something to do with love and all that emotional drivel. Well, let me tell you something, young ladies.

SONG: ~~M~~Marry the Prince+(This is ~~M~~Marry the Mole+from Don Bluth's film, Thumbelina)

FRANCESCA

I've had enough of this, I'm going for a walk. Rosa, my dear, could you pick out a dress for me. You know what I like.

ROSA

Oh, Francesca!

Francesca exits.

ROSA

Oh, mother, now look what you've done.

DAME

All I did was remind her of her duty.

ROSA

Well, perhaps she thinks it's not your place to do so.

DAME

And perhaps, if I don't, no-one else is going to. Her father wouldn't dream of it

ROSA

I don't want to argue about it.

DAME

Who's arguing?

ROSA

Mother, let's just pick out something beautiful for her to wear.

DAME

Oh, all right. You find her a frock, I'll go and sort out a nice bubble bath for her. I've had some water on the fire, it should be lovely and hot by now.

Rosa sings happily to herself "Some Day My Prince Will Come". She opens a large wardrobe and lifts out some dresses which she lays on the bed. As she is leaning over, laying them out neatly, Badd and Wurse enter. They point at Rosa and nod to each other. They begin creeping up behind her.

DAME (off stage)

Rosa, my dear?

ROSA

Yes mother?

Badd and Wurse jump into wardrobe and shut the doors as Dame enters.

DAME

Do you think Francesca would prefer the strawberry scented bath oil, the satsuma or the rhubarb?

ROSA

Um the strawberry.

DAME

Okey dokey.

Dame exits. Rosa picks up a dress and shakes her head.

She goes to wardrobe, opens the doors – Badd and Wurse are clearly standing there, they scrunch their eyes tight shut – she hangs up the dress and turns back to the bed.

As she gets back to the bed it suddenly strikes her that there was something odd. But Badd and Wurse have come out of the wardrobe and are sneaking up on her again.

Rosa turns to look at the wardrobe and Badd and Wurse duck out of the way. Rosa turns back to her bed and shakes her head.

Badd and Wurse are about to grab her.

DAME (off stage)

Rosa?

ROSA
Yes mother?

Badd and Wurse dive under the bed as Dame enters.

DAME
Do you think she would prefer the big blue towels or the fluffy pink ones.

ROSA
I don't know, you decide.

DAME
Wait a moment. What's going on?

ROSA
What do you mean mother?

DAME
You can't pull the wool over my eyes. I heard a little bit of commotion. What's been happening?

ROSA
Well, I've been sorting out the dresses and no-one else has been here.

DAME
Really? Is that true children? Has anything been going on? What did you say? Under the bed. You're saying there's someone under the bed. Rosa! Have you got someone under the bed?

ROSA
I certainly have not. What kind of girl do you think I am?

DAME
Children, are you playing a joke on Dame Batterspoon. There's no-one under the bed oh no there isn't oh no there isn't oh no there right, I'll have a look.

As Dame bends down flamboyantly to look under the bed, Badd and Wurse leap out and grab Rosa. Dame sees no-one under the bed.

DAME
See, I told you there wasn't anybody there. You can't fool old Spooky, you know. Oh, what are you saying? What is it now? You're not going to get me twice.

She turns to see Badd and Wurse dragging Rosa towards the door.

DAME
Oooooooooo! You fiends, unhand that maiden at once! Right, you've asked for it!

Dame runs after them and, as Badd holds Rosa, Dame chases Wurse around the bed several times.

DAME
Come back here! I'll get you! ... you'll wish you'd never been born!

*Wurse stops for breath in front of the open wardrobe.
As Dame leaps at him, he jumps out of the way and she ends up inside the wardrobe. Wurse locks her in.*

WURSE

Right, let's get out of here.

Badd and Wurse exit with Rosa.

DAME (*inside wardrobe*)

Let me out of here you evil, no-good, miserable so-and-sos. Let me out! Hello. Is there anybody there? Hello!

Francesca enters.

FRANCESCA

Well, Rosa, did you pick out something nice for me? Rosa? Rosa, where are you? Spooky? Is this a game?

DAME

I'm in the wardrobe!

FRANCESCA

No, don't tell me, let me guess. Are you under the bed?

DAME

I'm in the wardrobe!

FRANCESCA

I'll get it in a minute. Are you behind the curtains?

DAME

I'm in the wardrobe!

FRANCESCA

I've got it. Are you in the wardrobe?

DAME

I'm in the

Francesca opens the wardrobe.

DAME

..... wardrobe!

FRANCESCA

There's no need to shout. Now then, let me see, where's Rosa? She's always been ever so good at hiding.

DAME

Elbirretos men have escaped, they grabbed Rosa, I chased them round the bed, I almost had them and then they locked me in the wardrobe.

FRANCESCA

You mean she's been kidnapped?

DAME

What did I just say? *(then, to audience)* I thought she was supposed to be the clever one.

Andreas and Dimitri enter.

ANDREAS

Is everything all right? We heard shouting.

DIMITRI

Do not worry, help is at hand.

DAME

Elbirretos men have escaped, they grabbed Rosa, I chased them round the bed, I almost had them ... and then they locked me in the wardrobe.

FRANCESCA

She means Rosa's been kidnapped.

ANDREAS

Those no-good, low-life, evil

DIMITRI

It's settled then, I shall go and rescue her.

ANDREAS

What? Sorry? You? If you MUST be involved, WE shall go and rescue her.

DIMITRI

I suppose you may accompany me, my impecunious little friend, if you think you can keep up.

DAME

Boys, boys, Rosa's been kidnapped my little girl, kidnapped that's what's important.

FRANCESCA

Can you stop thinking about yourselves for one moment.

DIMITRI

Do not worry yourself. I will bring her back safely.

ANDREAS

Will you stop it!

FRANCESCA

Are you going to rescue her or not?

DAME

Oh, my Rosa, I'm never going to see her again.

DIMITRI

Let's face it sonny, you're just not in my league.

ANDREAS

What? WHAT?

DIMITRI

Just look at the facts.

SONG: *Nobody Does It Better+* (Dimitri & Andreas)

A few lines into song, after getting frustrated, Francesca indicates for Dame to wait there, exits. She returns just before end of song with King and Queen.

FRANCESCA

Look at them daddy, how you can expect me to marry that, I don't know.

KING

Gentlemen, this is just not good enough. My daughter's best friend has been kidnapped and all you can do is stand around and squabble and brag, brag and squabble.

QUEEN

You should be ashamed of yourselves If your parents could see you now. If any child of mine behaved like that ...

KING

It's all right, dear, I'm dealing with it.

QUEEN

Are you? Are you, dear?

KING

Yes, dear, I am.

QUEEN

Well, make sure you do.

KING *(to princes)*

Well, have you

QUEEN

... and don't think I won't be mentioning it to your mothers at the Queen's Institute croquet match next week.

KING

Hortense please. Have you no servants you wish to browbeat?

QUEEN

Yes, I think I do.

KING
Well?

QUEEN
Of course, if you will excuse me.

Queen exits.

KING
Well, you two

ANDREAS
I can only apologise, your majesty. I'm afraid Prince Dimitri has an unfortunate effect on me.

DIMITRI
I too am sorry, your majesty, but this upstart needed to be taught a thing or two about natural selection. And everyone selects me, naturally.

FRANCESCA
Stop it, stop it, stop it!

KING
Yes, stop it. Are you going to do something useful?

ANDREAS & DIMITRI
I am going to rescue Rosa.

Princes exits, jostling.

KING
I'll send them on their way, Francesca, my dear.

King exits.

FRANCESCA
I've got a feeling that, if we want Rosa home safely, we are going to have to rescue her ourselves. While they're together, I wouldn't trust those two to blow their noses.

DAME
Ooooooo, dear, your father wouldn't like it, but I'm with you all the way. Though I think you ought to wear something a little more practical.

Francesca and Dame start rummaging around in the wardrobe.

Blackout.

*Lights up. Everyone has gone.
Fairy bursts through the door.*

FAIRY
Here am I! oh.

Blackout.

INTERVAL

ACT II

Scene 10 On The Road

Dimitri and Andreas enter.

DIMITRI

Are you sure you know where you're going? We're not lost already are we?

ANDREAS

You know, nobody's going to like you any less if you just shut up for a while.

DIMITRI

Just making sure they all know who's the best. Well, are we lost or what?

ANDREAS

No. King Horatio said to go to the edge of the village, avoiding the Cockpit (*replace with local well-known 'bottle-neck'*) at all costs, which we did, head south towards the river, which we did, and take the right fork, which we did. And then we just have to keep heading west.

DIMITRI

West. Fine. No, I believe you.

Andreas looks down at the map to check, as Dimitri starts to stride off. Andreas looks up, sees Dimitri is going and strides after him, frowning. They both exit.

Francesca and Dame enter.

DAME

Hello boys and girls!

AUDIENCE

Hello Spoony!

Fairy enters, breathless.

FAIRY

Wait! Wait for me!

Dame and Francesca are not best pleased.

FAIRY

Isn't it too late, am I?

FRANCESCA

Too late? Of course you're too late. Rosa's been kidnapped.

FAIRY

Yes, er, sorry but I mean for the rescue. I'm not too late, am I? I'd like to help.

FRANCESCA

You want to help?

FAIRY

Oh, please, please, please! *(to audience)* You want me to help, don't you children? I'd be ever so good. Please? I'm a real fairy, I really am. I can do magic and everything.

DAME

Do you think we should let her come, boys and girls?

AUDIENCE

Yes!

FRANCESCA

Oh, all right then.

Fairy punches the air (goes over the top like a footballer who's just scored a goal).

FRANCESCA

But no messing about. And no getting in the way.

Fairy tries to look sensible.

FRANCESCA

Come on, we've wasted enough time.

Francesca and Dame exit. Fairy hangs back. Spotlight on Fairy.

FAIRY

She said I could help. She did, didn't she? I know she thinks I'm not very good at magic, that my spells don't work or they go wrong. But I'd show them all that I'm the best good fairy ever Do you think I should use some magic to help rescue Rosa?

ALL

Yes!

FAIRY

Are you sure?

ALL

Yes!

FAIRY

Oh good, I was hoping you would say that. Now then, we're heading west but we've still got quite a long way to go. So, I'd speed us all on our way!

I wish with all my heart and might

For once I get this magic right:

To find poor Rosa is our quest

So take us quickly to the west.

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*Fairy waves her wand. Flashing lights or pyro.
Blackout.*

Scene 11 The West ~ The home of the Hill family.

Enter Mary-Sue, her daughter Mary-Kate and mother Granny. All three clearly have a pair of spectacles sitting on top of their head. They are carrying muskets, Mary-Kate perhaps has a little bow and arrow.

MARY-SUE

Well, that hunting trip was sure as heck annutha complete and utter waste of time. We didn't catch nothing

GRANNY

You can say that again Mary-Sue.

MARY-SUE

Well, I ain't gonna, so there. Dang and blast, I wish you could recall where you put my eye glasses, Granny. I can't even see the critters, never mind hit any of them.

GRANNY

I can't recall where I put my own eyeglasses, so I dunno how I can be expected to know where yours are.

MARY-KATE

Oh, maw?

MARY-SUE

What is it, Mary-Kate?

MARY-KATE

I'm hungry, maw.

GRANNY

Mary-Kate, whining about it ain't never gonna do nobody no good no how. Comon. I'm done tuckered out. Let's sit on the porch and do some whittling.

MARY-KATE

Sure thing, Granny.

The Hills settle down to some whittling. Andreas and Dimitri enter looking a little bemused.

ANDREAS

I'm sure we must be nearly there. I'd just ask these local yokels if it's far.

DIMITRI

Ahem.

Andreas gives him a withering look.

DIMITRI

What? As requested, I shall not be making any barbed comments about you needing to ask for directions every five minutes.

MARY-KATE

Maw, maw, I can see something over there, in the distance. Do you reckon it's bears.

MARY-SUE

I do believe you're right, Mary-Kate. Look, Granny, Mary-Kate's found us some bears.

Granny squints at the princes.

GRANNY

Yup, those are bears all righty, as sure as my name is Mary-Ellen-John-Boy-Billy-Bob-Barbie-Britney-Bathsheba-Katie-Kylie-Curly-Sue-Mary-Mungo-Midge-Macgillycuddy-Hill.

MARY-SUE

Granny, that ain't your name.

GRANNY

Ain't it?

MARY-SUE

Naw, it's **Granny**. Always has been.

GRANNY

Oh, but those are bears, right?

MARY-SUE

Sure are, and looking at the size of them, I reckon they'll last us 'til spring.

MARY-KATE

Do you reckon they've seen us?

MARY-SUE

Naw. They're looking the other way. That's definitely a bear's rear end. Let's sneak up on 'em.

The Hills pick up their weapons and, staring into the distance, tiptoe towards the princes.

The princes, extremely puzzled, look at each other and behind themselves to try to see what the Hills are looking at.

Before too long, and despite the princes trying to get out of the way, the Hills bump gently into the princes.

MARY-KATE

(whisper) What is it, maw?

MARY-SUE

It's the bears.

GRANNY

I reckon we must have longer legs than I thought, we sure covered that ground quickly.

MARY-SUE

Keep quiet, nobody make any sudden movements and don't look them in the eye. We'll take one step back and let them have it.

The Hills take one step backwards.

ANDREAS

Excuse me, my good lady, I hate to interrupt you when you are obviously very busy, but could you help us?

GRANNY

Oh my Lord, talking bears!

MARY-SUE

There's evil work afoot. Run! Run like the wind!

The Hills run round in circles and eventually into each other and end up in a heap.

ANDREAS

I think we'd better help them up.

The princes help them to their feet and give them their glasses.

MARY-SUE

My glasses. I can see. Granny, these two fine gentlemen have found my glasses. Ah must've lost them out in the meadow.

GRANNY

And mine.

MARY-KATE

And mine.

GRANNY

And they've scared off those talking bears.

ANDREAS

I think you'd find

Dimitri nudges him.

DIMITRI

Think nothing of it. We are the Princes Dimitri and Andreas and we are on the trail of a pair of evil henchmen who have kidnapped a fair maiden. They are working for a wicked sorcerer, Lord Elbirret.

MARY-SUE

That's terrible!

DIMITRI
Well, quite.

ANDREAS
Something is not quite right, here. We shouldn't be this far west. I have a suspicion that magic is preventing us from reaching Elbirret's lair.

DIMITRI
Oh yes, I understand, you get us completely lost and you blame magic. Couldn't be your fault, obviously.

ANDREAS
No, I ... oh, maybe I ... I was sure we were heading in the right direction. We must have gone past it. We'll have to head back east. *(Then, to Mary-Sue)* Is there a quick way down the mountain?

MARY-SUE
Sure, head off that-a-way! *(points towards rear of stage)*

GRANNY
But will you not stay for a celebration? You saved us from the talking bears and we can see again. My family and I have a lot to thank you for.

ANDREAS
That is very kind but we must hurry to rescue the lady Rosa.

MARY-SUE
Well, if you're sure. Have a nice trip.

The Hills wave to Andreas and Dimitri as the princes exit at rear.

DANCE: *Bill Billy Rock+* (The Hills, with a chorus Hill-Billies)

As the dance ends, The Hills sit down on porch again to whittle. Francesca, Dame and Fairy enter downstage.

DAME
Hello boys and girls!

AUDIENCE
Hello Spoony!

FRANCESCA *(to the Hills)*
Excuse me, have you ...

GRANNY
They went that-a-way.

FRANCESCA
Oh, thank you.

Francesca looks around, puzzled.

FRANCESCA

I really don't know how we got this far west

Fairy looks very guilty.

FRANCESCA

.... we need to head east or we'll never find Rosa. Come on

Dame and Francesca exit at rear.

Fairy comes forward. (Tabs could close, to give a little extra time to set up Scene 12.)

FAIRY

Oh dear, I didn't do very well there did I? You've sent us much too far west. We need to head east. I know, I'll try again

I have to get it right sooner or later. *(takes a deep breath.)*

I need to make a slight correction

To get us back in the right direction:

Will this work? Soon we will know

To the east we now must go!

Fairy waves her wand. Flashing lights or pyro. Blackout.

Scene 12 The East ~ A Sultan's Palace

Curtains open on an Eastern Palace – two male slaves hold canopy over a cushioned throne-area.

Dimitri and Andreas enter. Andreas is holding an open map and is studying it closely.

DIMITRI

Let me have a look at that map.

ANDREAS

No, I'm looking at the map. You've looked at the map. Now it's my turn.

DIMITRI

But you've had it for ages. It's not fair.

Dimitri stamps his foot. Slave looks up.

Andreas raises his eyebrows at Dimitri and gives him an admonishing look.

DIMITRI

Sorry, was I doing it again? So, where are we on the map?

ANDREAS

I'm not sure that where we are is on this map.

Andreas turns the map round and round.

DIMITRI

For Heaven's sake, can't you read a simple map? Give it here.

Dimitri grabs for the map, Andreas holds on. The map is ripped in two.

DIMITRI
Ooops!

ANDREAS
Oh, well done, that's just marvellous!

DIMITRI
Well, if you hadn't bought such a cheap and shoddy map.

ANDREAS
Well, if you hadn't conveniently left your wallet back at the palaceNo wonder you're so rich!

Dimitri raises his eyebrows at Andreas and repeats the admonishing look.

DIMITRI
I didn't expect to be leaving in such a hurry.

ANDREAS
Talking of which, we'd better get a move on.

Andreas looks at his portion of the map. He points towards the auditorium.

ANDREAS
This way

Andreas starts to exit off the front of the stage. Dimitri points to the wings.

DIMITRI
You know, I'm not so sure

ANDREAS (*Crossly*)
Just come on, will you.

Dimitri follows Andreas. They squabble as they exit.

DIMITRI
What's the matter with you?

ANDREAS
What's the matter with me? You don't know?

DIMITRI
If I knew, would I be asking?

ANDREAS
You really don't know?

DIMITRI
No, I really don't know.

ANDREAS

You really, really don't know?

DIMITRI

No, I really, really don't know.

ANDREAS

You really, really, really don't know etc.

Dimitri and Andreas leave auditorium.

Sultan enters with wives. He gestures for them to sit down. He sits down under canopy. Sultan claps to call on dancers.

DANCE: ~~%~~Arabian Nights+

Dame and Francesca enter. They are in awe of their surroundings.

DAME

So where on earth are we now?

FRANCESCA

Well, we were supposed to be heading east . but I don't think we should be THIS far east

DAME

...do you know, if that fairy was capable of working magic I've got a feeling that she might have something to do with this.

FRANCESCA

(she laughs) Ethel?!?!? No, surely not

SULTAN

(loudly) Who are these strangers?

Dame and Francesca jump.

SLAVE

They certainly don't come much stranger than that!

Slave points to Dame. Other slaves laugh.

DAME

(to Sultan) Good day, your Highnessness

SULTAN

Why are you here?

FRANCESCA

We seem to have got lost, sir we're looking for our friend, Rosa, who was kidnapped by an evil sorcerer. And, to be quite honest, I'm not sure how we ended up here we certainly didn't intend to be here

SULTAN

You don't LIKE my palace?

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DAME

Oooooo yes, yes, your most honourabl-est sir, it's very lovely .. not sure I'd have chosen this particular colour scheme needs some light floral, and a bit of pastel ò .. something to lighten and enhance

FRANCESCA

Spoony!! This is not Changing Rooms! [*House Doctor/DIY SOS etc*].

DAME

Ooops, sorry, got carried away.

SULTAN

I am the great Sultan Elvished, ruler of this fine land. I model myself on a very famous king I am strong assertive, good looking and not a bad singer

(sings) uh huh uhhuh

(talks) So what brings you to my land? Are you from The Ghetto? You may be the Devil in Disguise or perhaps we just have Suspicious Minds?

DAME

We're not here to cause trouble ... as we said before, we're looking for someone Rosa.

SULTAN

Are we not all looking for someone I want someone to Love Me Tender

FRANCESCA *(to Dame)*

Sounds like he's looking for a new Sultana.

DAME

Ooooo, I wonder if he wants a mate.

FRANCESCA

It's no good raising your hopes. In your current situation, you've got no time to get equity.

DAME

Well, I don't give a fig.....

SULTAN

(to courtiers) She is very beautiful, yes?

Courtiers look at Francesca. They all nod in agreement.

SULTAN

Come here, my little Turkish Delight

He gestures towards the cushion next to him.

Francesca shrugs and moves towards Sultan.

SULTAN

No, not you, little slave girl ... the beautiful lady.

Sultan points at Dame. Francesca is not best pleased, courtiers are horrified.

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SULTAN

Come and sit here ò ò but be careful, mind my Blue Suede Flip-flops.

Grinning Dame sits next to Sultan.

SONG: %Chu-Chi Face+(from %Chitty Chitty Bang Bang+) ~ Sultan & Dame

SULTAN

And now we prepare for the wedding.

DAME

Weeding? Ooh, wedding! Oooo, I love a good wedding. All that romance and confetti brings a tear to the eye.

Dame gets a hanky from the front of her dress and blows her nose loudly.

DAME

Who's the lucky twosome, anyone we know?

Slave girls start to fuss around Dame, adjusting her hair, measuring her. Dame is rather irritated by this.

FRANCESCA

I hate to say this but I think the Sultan's the one who's getting married.

DAME

Dirty two-timing heartbreaker just when I was getting to know him.

FRANCESCA

Spoony the bride

DAME

Yes, yes, let me at her, the man-stealing hussy!

FRANCESCA

The bride it's YOU.

DAME

Me? But we've only just met. I ... um I think it's nice to have a bit of courtship and romance before making any commitments.

FRANCESCA

What, you mean all that %emotional drive!+

DAME

What? I never!

SULTAN

Come to me my little coochy-coo. I'm getting All Shook Up.

Sultan tries to hug Dame.

DAME

Get off! Get off! I'm not that kind of girl!

SULTAN

I know I'm nothing but an old Hound Dog, but I Can't Help Falling in Love With You.

DAME

Oooooo, I think I've got a very bad case of pre-wedding nerves let's get out of here!

Dame and Francesca exit.

SULTAN

Hey, baby come backIt's Now Or Never! Don't leave me Crying in the Chapel I'm gonna be really Lonesome Tonight

Fairy rushes in.

FAIRY

Oooooh, I really am a terrible good fairy. I just don't seem to get anything right. Poor Rosa must be thinking that she'll never be rescued and it's all my fault.

SULTAN

(to Fairy) Oh, hellooocome and save a poor Sultan from the Heartbreak Hotel

Fairy looks worried. She shakes her head and starts to back away.

SULTAN

Please ò .. Don't Be Cruel!

FAIRY

I I'm sorryer I'm a bit busy at the moment

Fairy is backing up towards the wings, the Sultan following her

SULTAN

Oh please, I Just Want To Be Your Teddy Bear!

Fairy ducks in front of Sultan, and back onto stage, causing the Sultan to almost fall into the wings. Fairy quickly waves her wand and a teddy bear (dressed exactly the same as the Sultan) is thrown onto the stage, and caught by the Fairy, shocked that spell worked. She places the Teddy Sultan on his cushions, then makes a sharp exit.

Scene 13 A Dungeon In Elbirret's Castle

Curtains open on Rosa sitting in a dungeon. She stands.

ROSA

I don't think much of the accommodation. Even the rats seem to have deserted this damp and dismal hole. Oooh! Apart from that one.

Prisoner 1 and prisoner 2 rush in, followed by others.

PRISONER 1

Rat?! Did you say rat?

PRISONER 2

Catch it! Catch it!

ROSA

Oh, who are you? I thought I was alone here.

PRISONER 1

Where's the rat?

ROSA

It went that way.

Rosa points towards stage left.

PRISONER 2

Oh, it's no good, we've lost it now.

ROSA

Why do you want the rat?

PRISONER 2

Food.

ROSA

Food??! Oh no

PRISONER 1

Fried rat ... boiled rat stewed rat ... rat-atouille ratdonalds ...

Rosa is starting to look ill.

ROSA

You EAT them?????

PRISONER 2

If we didn't, we'd starve.

PRISONER 1

Stanley was a vegetarian and look what happened to him.

Prisoner 1 uncovers a skeleton.

ROSA

(very worried) Oh dear me a prisoner in Lord Elbirret's dungeon. This really is terrible. But I must be positive. Andreas is a decent fellow, I'm sure he will try to rescue me. And that vain stuffed shirt Dimitri reckons he's the bravest man who ever walked the earth, so perhaps he might. All is not lost I'm sure. I will see the light of day again. I will be rescued. They will find me.

PRISONERS

That's what WE thought/No-one's rescued US yet etc

The cell door opens and Andreas and Dimitri seem to burst in. The door closes behind them.

ROSA

But I didn't expect it to be quite so soon! Prince Andreas, Prince Dimitri, I can't believe it! I'm so proud of you. Both of you.

ANDREAS

(looking sheepish) Ah.

DIMITRI

(also sheepish) Well õ

Rosa's grin turns to a look of horror as realisation dawns.

ROSA

No! Don't tell me you've been captured!

ANDREAS

OK. We won't tell you.

DIMITRI

So this is it. The great Prince Dimitri is destined to live out his days in this rat-infested, damp and dismal hole.

ROSA

No, don't talk like that. I'm sure someone will come to rescue us. We must remain positive.

SONG: ~~We've~~ Gotta Get Out Of This Place+or similar

Scene 14 Outside Elbirret's Castle

The back way into Elbirret's castle.

There is a large a rock and a doorway, one in each upstage corner.

Francesca, Fairy and Dame enter via auditorium door.

Francesca strides ahead. Fairy and Dame are not keen.

FRANCESCA

Come on you two.

Fairy and Dame inch their way along the aisle.

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DAME

Hello boys and girls!

ALL

Hello Spoony!

FRANCESCA

Oh, Spoony, what are you afraid of?

DAME

I'm not afraid ... I'm terrified!

FRANCESCA

Of what?

DAME

I don't know, that's what's so frightening!

FRANCESCA

And Ethel, I thought you wanted to help.

FAIRY

Yes, sorry ahem, here am I, come to er save the day.

FRANCESCA

Look, we're here, the back door of Elbirret's castle.

DAME

I've changed my mind. I'm sure the boys will have rescued Rosa by now.

FRANCESCA

Do you really believe that?

DAME

Erm õ

FRANCESCA

Spoonny, we're Rosa's best hope.

FAIRY

But what if there's ghouls and goblins and other scary things?

FRANCESCA

Then you can use your magic. You just have to believe in yourself. And I'm sure the boys and girls will warn us if they see anything scary, won't you boys and girls? õ I said won't you boys and girls? õ There you see. Nothing to worry about.

DAME

Oh, well, that's a relief.

As Dame continues to talk, she steps forward and big scary dragon creeps out from behind rock.

DAME

ō because I was really starting to imagine we'd come across terrible monsters ō

Fairy turns to see dragon, which swipes out at her, and she runs off into the nearest wings.

DAME

ō but now I feel completely reassured that there is absolutely nothing to worry about ō

Francesca turns to see dragon, which takes a swipe at her, and she runs off into opposite wings to Fairy. It comes up right behind Dame with huge big scary claws raised.

DAME

ō so let's get in there and rescue my Rosa.

Dame turns and is face to face with dragon. Dame throws out her hands and screams. Dragon does likewise. Dragon falls in dead faint. Dame turns slowly to face audience with look of total shock on her face. Francesca and Fairy peer out from their respective wings, see danger is over and rush on to the stage.

FAIRY

Oh, Spooky, you were magnificent!

DAME

Was I? Yes, I suppose I was, wasn't I. Thank you. Thank you. I'd also like to thank my ō

FRANCESCA

Save the speeches til later. Let's get inside before anything else shows up.

The three of them go through the door into the castle.

Blackout.

Scene 15 - A Corridor in Elbirret's Castle

The scene is set up with three gauze portrait paintings. Each painting has an actor behind it, dressed in the costume painted in the portrait.

There is also a head on a plinth. This is an actor, his face painted white, his body hidden behind the pillar. (see Additional Notes).

Badd and Wurse enter.

WURSE

Oooh, I don't like this old castle . it's creepy do you think it's haunted?

BADD

Haunted? Of course not! I don't believe in ghosts ...

WURSE

Ghosts? Pah! . they don't frighten me

BADD

Nor me . but keep moving ... go on

Badd and Wurse exit. Change of light makes ghosts appear behind paintings.

GHOST 1

I do not believe in ghosts either, dost thou?

GHOST 2

I? Oh no, most certainly not.

GHOST 3

Nor I!

Headless ghost enters – fumbles around. There is a head on a plinth.

HEAD

Over here! Over here!

GHOST 1

Oh no . he's lost his head again!

GHOST 2

Always losing his head!

GHOST 3

Very remiss!

HEAD

Over here! Over here!

Headless ghost exits. Lights change back.

Elbirret enters carrying his spare cape.

ELBIRRET

Badd! Wurse!

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Badd and Wurse run back onto stage.

BADD & WURSE

Yes, my lord?

ELBIRRET

You have done well, my minions. You are so good at being bad, Badd. And you, Wurse, have done so much better than I expected.

BADD

Thank you, my lord.

WURSE

Oh, your evil majestic nastiness, it is my pleasure to be but a humble dog at your feet.

ELBIRRET

All right, don't overdo it, you're spoiling it for me now.

WURSE

Sorry, my lord.

ELBIRRET

I am retiring to my chambers to meditate. Let me know if King Horatio's goody goody friends try to launch any more rescue attempts.

BADD

Yes, your horribleosity.

Elbirret exits.

WURSE

(mocking Elbirret) Oh, Badd, you are so goooooood at being baaaaaaaad.

BADD

And you, Wurse, have done soooooo much better than I expected.

They laugh.

SONG: ~~%~~Bad Guys+(from Bugsy Malone)

Elbirret enters, still carrying cape. He looks at Badd and Wurse suspiciously.

ELBIRRET

I almost forgot. My spare cape needs cleaning. I spilled some eye of bat on it earlier.

BADD

Certainly, your magnificent malevolence.

Elbirret throws his cape at Badd, and exits.

WURSE

Ooooh, I hate wash day, it makes everything smell so uuuuurrrrrgggghh nice.

BADD

Not any more. We got some new improved Raz. It leaves your clothes smelling like rancid bat droppings.

Badd and Wurse exit. Lights change. Headless ghost enters.

HEAD

Over here! Over here!

Headless ghost finds head and tucks it under his arm.

HEAD

For pity's sake, scratch my nose!

Blackout

Scene 16 The Castle Laundry

There is a tub full of bubbles (on a floor cover) and a basket of clothes. A washing line hangs across the back. Badd and Wurse enter. Badd has got a big key on a string round his neck. He holds the key.

BADD

Better put this in a safe place before we start. The key to the dungeons.

WURSE

The key to the dungeons. Oh, how about there?

Wurse points at a hook with a big sign over it saying "key to the dungeons".

BADD

Perfect. As safe as can be. No-one would think of looking there.

Badd hangs key over hook.

WURSE

Exactly. Do you wanna wash?

BADD

Naah. You wash. I'll hang.

Badd folds his arms and stands in gangsta stylee.

WURSE

What are you doing?

BADD
I'm hanging.

Wurse looks at Badd, looks at audience, shakes his head and then sets to work washing. Wurse picks up a piece of clothing in each hand and repeatedly dips just the end of each in the water.

BADD
What are you doing?

WURSE
Washing.

BADD
That's not how you wash.

WURSE
Oh, and you would know.

BADD
I would actually. I've been watching the washing channel on my TV.

WURSE
The washing channel?

BADD
Yeah, it's on cable. High-quality telly. They've got specialist channels for all sorts of things these days: cooking, washing, football, music, snot.

WURSE
Snot?

BADD
Yeah, the snot channel. It's one of my favourites, cos picking my nose is my number-one hobby. It's kind of a family tradition.

WURSE
(big joke) Yeah, noses run in my family too.

BADD
Oh very funny o just get on with the washing.....

Badd pushes Wurse's face into the suds.

Badd turns away, Wurse resurfaces with foam on his face.

Wurse picks up two handfuls of foam, comes up behind Badd and splats the foam in Badd's face. Wurse turns away laughing.

Badd gets some foam, comes up behind Wurse and puts it down the back of Wurse's trousers, giving it a pat for good measure.

Wurse does the same to Badd but down the front of Badd's trousers.

Badd grabs hold of Wurse and marches him to the tub.

BADD
(to audience) Shall I?

WURSE
No! No!

Badd stands Wurse in front of the tub and pushes him so he sits down in the tub and the foam all shoots up. Badd turns to walk away but slips over. As Badd attempts to stand up, he slips again. After several failed attempts, he sits on the floor.

BADD
I think we've done enough washing for one day.

WURSE
I know I have.

BADD
Come on, let's go and get cleaned up.

Badd and Wurse get up carefully and head off.

BADD
You know, I've got a feeling I've forgotten something.

WURSE
What?

BADD
Well, if I remembered, I wouldn't have forgotten, would I?

They exit.

Dame, Francesca and Fairy enter in a little bit of a rush, slightly out of breath.

DAME
Hello boys and girls!

AUDIENCE
Hello Spooky!

FRANCESCA
Well, that was a lot easier than I thought

Dame gives her an incredulous look.

DAME
Oh, yes, it was a breeze ò

FAIRY
Apart from all the ghouls and goblins chasing us!

FRANCESCA
Well, quite ò

FAIRY

Oh, no, here they come!

The trio start backing towards opposite wings, turning as if ready to sprint off.

DAME

Can you do something to slow them down Ethel?

Goblins burst on to stage, looking mean. Ethel puts her hand over her eyes and waves her wand. The goblins suddenly stop chasing and break into a well-choreographed tap dance.

DANCE: *Tap Your Troubles Away+*

Dame, Francesca and Ethel look at each other in surprise then exit in a hurry. Goblins finish dance with a flourish. They look a bit confused and then one points and they set off in pursuit again.

Dame, Francesca and Ethel enter from another spot. They stop for a breather.

FRANCESCA

Ethel, that was brilliant. How did you do it?

FAIRY

I don't really know ò

DAME

Look out! Here they come again!

Goblins enter in a rush. Ethel waves her wand again. Goblins break into can-can.

Dame, Francesca and Ethel exit in a hurry.

Goblins finish dance. They look even more confused and stagger off after trio.

[Could insert an extra chase/dance section here, this time, the goblins could do a modern routine with fancy lighting etc. Keep these dance pieces fairly short]

Dame, Francesca and Ethel enter from somewhere else again. They are quite out of breath now.

FRANCESCA

As entertaining as this obviously is Ethel, we're no closer to rescuing Rosa. Isn't there anything else you can do?

FAIRY

Um ò I'm not sure. I ò

Fairy is standing closest to wings as dragon enters. Fairy is only one who sees it at first and backs off towards Francesca.

FAIRY

Ooooooh, Princess Francesca ò

Francesca turns to see dragon approaching and also begins to back off.

FRANCESCA

Oooooh, Spooky!

Dame turns to see dragon. Dragon sees Dame and jumps and is about to scarper.

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DAME

(firmly, to Dragon) Wait right there, Fido! We may have a job for you.

Goblins rush on, intent on mayhem.

DAME

(to dragon) Get em, boy!

Dragon goes for the goblins, who scatter in terror and head off into auditorium never to be seen again.

Dame, Francesca and Ethel are delighted.

FRANCESCA

Well done, Fido!

DAME

Now we need to find the dungeons.

FRANCESCA

Fido! Where are the dungeons?

Dragon points.

FAIRY

And a key! We do need a key!

Dragon looks round, sees key on hook and points.

FRANCESCA

Brilliant!

Francesca grabs key and they head off, followed by dragon.

Badd and Wurse enter. Badd is looking puzzled and looking around and also patting himself down as if looking for something in a pocket. Wurse notices this.

WURSE

What are you doing?

BADD

I've got a feeling that something's missing.

WURSE

Missing?

BADD

Yeah, you know, like I've lost something.

WURSE

Lost something?

Wurse sees joke coming as if from a long way away.

WURSE

Hey, Badd, I know what you've lost.

BADD

(interested) What?

WURSE

You've lost your marbles! *(laughs)* He's lost his marbles!

Badd looks hurt and slightly confused.

BADD

No I haven't.

Badd pulls out a small bag.

BADD

Look! I never go anywhere without them.

WURSE

Oooh, let me see. What colours have you got?

Badd starts opening the bag to look inside but then Lord Elbirret enters.

LORD ELBIRRET

Badd, Wurse, I think it is time to give my final demand to good King Horatio.

Badd hurriedly puts away bag of marbles.

BADD

Good idea your nastiness.

Elbirret takes a step and then stops and sniffs the air.

LORD ELBIRRET

Wait a moment, I can smell fairy dust. You two haven't been torturing pixies again without my permission, have you?

WURSE

Us, your horribleosity? No ma'am, er, sir, definitely not.

LORD ELBIRRET

Really? I suppose I'm a little disappointed.

BADD & WURSE

(quietly, like naughty schoolchildren) Sorry.

LORD ELBIRRET

Go and get me they key to the dungeons, I want to say a final farewell to our prisoners.

Badd puts his hand to his chest (ie where the key was) and then reaches out to the hook, then smiles and raises his hands to the sky.

BADD

The key! Of course! It was the key!

WURSE

Oh, of course, the key! What a relief!

LORD ELBIRRET

What about the key?

BADD

(smiling) Well, I had a feeling I'd lost something but couldn't think what it was. Now, I've just realised, it was the key to the dungeon.

LORD ELBIRRET

(shocked) You've lost the key to the dungeon?!?!

BADD

Yes! Isn't it great!?

WURSE

Brilliant!

LORD ELBIRRET

(angry) What!?!??

BADD

Yeah, I hung it on the hook to keep it safe and somebody must have taken it ò *(realisation finally dawns, face falls)* ... to, er ò oops.

WURSE

Ooops.

LORD ELBIRRET

YOU IDIOTS!

Elbirret exits with Badd and Wurse following.

Scene 17 The Road Back to Verdentia

Dame, Francesca, Rosa, Fairy, Dimitri and Andreas enter.

DAME

Hello boys and girls!

ALL

Hello Spooky!

ANDREAS

Hadn't we better keep moving?

DAME

I can't go on, I'm all out of puff.

ROSA

I'm not sure we've got time to rest mother.

DAME

Perhaps we could sing a song to raise our spirits.

ROSA

I thought you were out of breath.

DAME

Well, I am, but they haven't had a song in a while and....

FRANCESCA

Lord Elbirret's bound to be on our trail by now. I think we should get back to the village as fast as we can.

DAME

Oh, go on Francesca, let's have a song. You know you want to.

ROSA, ANDREAS, DIMITRI & FAIRY

Please.

FRANCESCA

I must admit it's been a while. Go on then. What do you want to sing?

DIMITRI

I thought, perhaps, YOU might like to sing, my dear Princess Francesca possibly, oh, I don't know, a love song to me ...

FRANCESCA

I beg your! Oh yes, I know just the thing.

SONG: *What Don't Impress Me Much*+(Shania Twain)

DAME

Ooo, ooo, I've got a good one.

Chord. Dame sings title line of Man, I Feel Like A Woman.

DAME

OK, let's get out of here.

All exit at pace.

Enter Lord Elbirret, Badd and Wurse.

LORD ELBIRRET

Aha, they definitely came this way. There's a clear trail.

Lord Elbirret follows the trail of the dance which leads him round in circles. Perhaps he does a few of the steps and moves.

LORD ELBIRRET

This is odd, it's almost as if they were doing a dance.

BADD

Perhaps they stopped for a song my lord.

LORD ELBIRRET

Don't be an idiot. What kind of fool would stop to have a sing-song when they're being chased by the baddy?

WURSE

It's an idea though my lord.

LORD ELBIRRET

What is?

WURSE

Well, it's been a while since you flexed your tonsils.

BADD

Yeah, you haven't had an opportunity to show off your vocal prowess since act one.

LORD ELBIRRET

Hmmmm? No. Let's get this thing over with.

Elbirret exits, followed by Badd & Wurse. Blackout.

Scene 18 The Village of Verdentia

Villagers milling about. King and Queen enter.

KING

I say, has anyone seen my daughter? She appears to have been out all night with Batterspoon. I didn't get any breakfast, you know.

QUEEN

Is that all you can think about? Your stomach? Anyway, it will do you good to miss a meal once in a while.

KING

Really? I thought I was looking quite trim.

QUEEN

I don't know why you insist on having 23 courses for breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner, supper and your bedtime snack

Enter Francesca, Rosa, Dame, Andreas, Dimitri and Fairy.

QUEEN

Oh, Francesca, we've been so worried. Where have you been?

FRANCESCA

It's a long story mother. All you need to know is that Lord Elbirret is on his way. We must do something. Ethel, we need to use magic to fight magic. You're our only hope.

FAIRY

Ooooh, I'm not sure. I don't think I can.

FRANCESCA

Ethel, you have to!

FAIRY

Oh dear!

ANDREAS

Let me think. What would my father do in this situation?

Everyone looks at Andreas as he thinks. Poor Man enters unnoticed.

POOR MAN

Excuse me. Could you please tell me where I am?

All look at poor man. Andreas does a double take.

ANDREAS

Father? Father, is it really you? I can't believe I've found you after all this time.

Andreas hugs the poor man.

POOR MAN

Andreas, is that you? You're so....you're... but what are you doing here?

ANDREAS

The same as you, father - trying to defeat Lord Elbirret. He's here. And he's on his way. But we need your help. What should we do?

POOR MAN

Ah, Elbirret, at last.

Lord Elbirret enters.

ELBIRRET

Right, you lot. This is where you get yours.

Fairy steps forward.

FAIRY

Not so, um um um fast! You er don't scare m-m-m-m-me, Lord Elbirret.

Fairy brandishes her wand. Elbirret stops. He is amused.

ELBIRRET

Well, wellwell. What do we have ... here? Something that's not ... scared ... of me? I wonder what it could be.

BADD

Looks like a fairy to me, my lord.

ELBIRRET

Yes, it does rather, doesn't it. But it can't be fairy, can it, because all fairies are terrified of me.

Fairy is standing her ground, perhaps shaking a little.

FAIRY

I am the guardian of this fair land and I will do anything in my power to stop you, evil Lord Elbirret.

ELBIRRET

Ooooh, I'm scared. Anything in your power. Ha ha ha ha ha

Fairy waves her wand. Elbirret stops laughing.

Everyone looks round wondering what spell the fairy has cast.

ROSA

Ethel, what did you do?

FAIRY

I õ er õ gave him a slight head cold.

Elbirret sneezes.

ELBIRRET

Achoo!!

Elbirret finds a hanky and dabs his nose. Fairy is surprised.

FAIRY

Oh, look. It worked.

DAME

Ooooooh. I don't think Lord Elbirret is the sort who'd let a snuffle slow him down.

Elbirret puts his hanky away and recovers his evil demeanour.

ELBIRRET

Is that the best you can do? You are, without doubt, the worst fairy I've ever seen. This is going to be easier than I thought.

Elbirret raises his arms. Fairy panics.

FAIRY

Oh dear!

Fairy turns and tries to run but runs straight into Francesca, who takes Fairy by the shoulders.

FRANCESCA

Ethel, you can't give up so easily. There must be something else you can do, surely?

ELBIRRET

Prepare to meet your doom!

Poor Man steps forward

POOR MAN

Wait!!

Elbirret is stunned.

ELBIRRET

No! I don't believe it! Not you again! Every time I think I'm getting somewhere. Hah, but you won't defeat me this time.

POOR MAN

Oh yes we will!

ELBIRRET

Oh no you won't!

POOR MAN

Oh yes we will!

ELBIRRET

Oh no you won't!

POOR MAN

Oh yes we will!

ANDREAS

Father, what do we have to do?

POOR MAN

My son, the one thing Elbirret can't defeat is love. Love will eventually destroy him.

ELBIRRET

No, no, don't tell them that!

ANDREAS

Well, then, father. I love you.

POOR MAN

And I love you, my son.

KING & QUEEN

And we love you, Francesca.

FRANCESCA

And I love you both.

ELBIRRET

Stop it, stop it, I can't stand it!

DAME

I love you Rosa.

ANDREAS

And, Rosa, I love you too.

FAIRY

Ooooh, it's getting to a good bit.

ROSA

Oh, Andreas, and I love you, and you mother.

ELBIRRET

Nooooooooooooooooo!

FRANCESCA

And I love you, Dimitri.

DIMITRI

Yes . I love me too ð . Oh, and I love you too, my princess.

FAIRY

Oo, oo, and I love everybody. It's my job.

SONG: ♪ All You Need Is Love ♪

By the end of the song, Badd and Wurse are joining in and Elbirret is staggering about holding his head. Eventually, at end of song, there is a bang/flash and Elbirret disappears.

EVERYBODY

Hooray!!!!

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Andreas and Rosa walk to the front, hand in hand. Dimitri and Francesca also walk forward together.

ANDREAS

Well, Rosa, my journey is at an end. I have found my father, we have defeated Lord Elbirret and I have also found true love. I was wondering, would you marry me?

ROSA

Yes, yes, of course I will.

DIMITRI

Francesca, I know I've been a bit of an oaf but would you do me the honour of being my bride?

FRANCESCA

My dear Dimitri, yes, you have, but yes, I will.

DIMITRI

Thought you might.

FRANCESCA

Don't push it!

DAME

Oh, a double wedding. What a beautiful, beautiful day.

The Song Sheet

The Hills . Mary-Kate, Mary-Sue and Granny . stop off on the way to the wedding to lead the audience in a rendition of ~~She'll Be Coming Round The Mountain When She Comes+~~ The usual competition of which side of the audience sings loudest. The ~~Hello & Happy Birthday list+~~

Wedding Finale Walk down and Bows

FAIRY

As guardian of this fair land
I left a lot to be desired
Even I began to wonder
Why on earth I had been hired

But now the wondering is over
Our prince has stopped wandering too
He's found his dad, which makes us glad
And he's found a love that's true

But, best of all, we've seen good triumph
Over tyranny and fear.
And, with that thought, we'll leave you
Til same time, same place next year.

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SONG: %Reach+ or %All in this together+or %Without Love+

Additional Notes

Music Content

Your choice of music is important; choose songs that are suited to your company and your audience. In general, it is best that songs are well-known and kept fairly short. Up-tempo songs usually work well. It is likely that most of your audience will be familiar with chart music, rather than musicals.

The song %Good and Bad+is an original song, written especially for this pantmime.

Where dances are included, again, keep them short. If you do not have a dance troupe, replace the number with a song, or omit it all together. The musical numbers are your opportunity to customise the pantomime to suit your company.

Whatever music you choose, remember that the performance of any copyright music (including those suggestions made in this script) is subject to permission and payment of royalties.

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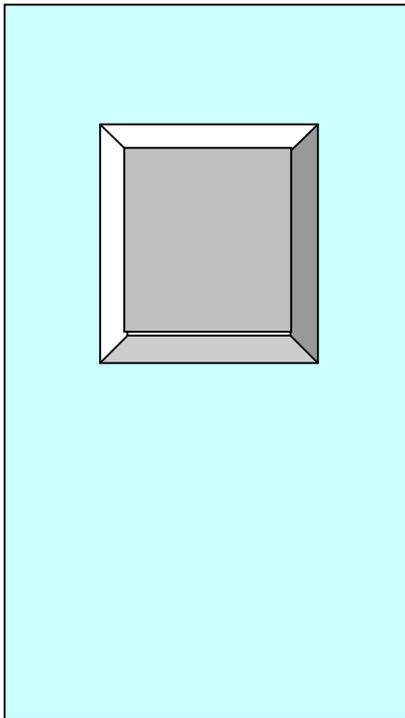
Staging

Some staging hints are included on page 2.

Scene 15 ~ The Ghosts

It is not completely necessary to include this part of the scene, and if you are unable to accommodate it, or cast it, then it could be omitted, and the scene altered to suit. However, if you are able to include it, it can be very effective.

Portraits:-



This consists of a board, made tall enough, and wide enough, to cover the person standing behind it. The person can carry, and hold, the board themselves, using handles fixed to the rear of the board.

A hole is cut in the board (to show the person's head and shoulders only). The hole is covered with theatrical gauze. It is then framed around the outer edge, to look like a picture frame.

At the rear of the %portrait+, on the bottom edge of the hole, a battery operated light is attached, which can be easily operated by the person behind. It needs to light upwards, to light the person's face.

The gauze is painted with a portrait, which matches, as closely as possible, the face and costume of the person who will be behind it.

When lit from the front, the audience will see the painted portrait, but when lit from behind (with the front lights dimmed right down) the audience will see the ghostly figure behind the %portrait+.

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Two or three of these can be made, depending upon space (and cast) available.

Headless Ghost:-

Merely an Elizabethan breeches and tunic+costume, with a ruff at the neck . except, that in this case, the ruff sits on top of the actors head. Big shoulder pads are used to raise the actors actual shoulder height, so that it looks as though his head is missing. Use white, or very pale coloured fabrics, to give the ghostly+look.

Head on Plinth:-

Only the front of the plinth is visible, so it just needs to be a half cylinder, built around a simple wooden frame. There needs to be enough room for the actor to stand inside the plinth, his head sitting+on the top of the plinth, in a hole, shaped to fit. The actor should have his face painted white, and his hair sprayed with white hair spray.