

CINDER. . . ELLA!

A Pantomime

by Michael Gaunt

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CINDERELLA

A Pantomime by Michael Gaunt

Cast

Prince Charming

Dandini

Cinderella

Fairy Godmother

Baroness Hortencia Hardup

King Have-a-lot. (*Very frail, ear trumpet and walking stick*)

(*The King can be a Queen. Change cast lines to suit and "What what. Hmm hmm", to "Quite, quite. I say".*)

Buttons

Baron Harold Hardup

Halitosis (*Ugly sister*)

Scurvy (*Ugly sister*)

Prodem (*Dumb*)

Pokem (*Dumber*)

Claude. (*Maitre d'hôtel. He has French, or 'refined' accent and is slightly effeminate.*)

Courtiers, servants, mice. (*The stage manager has lines.*)

Act 1 Sc. 1 The Village Green. (*Village cloth*)

(*Enter with a large colourful flash. A Log is set stage left*)

FG Welcome to our Pantomime Cinderella. Now every child knows all good stories begin 'Once upon a time' and so shall I.

Once upon a time, long ago, there lived a very pretty girl called Cinderella, the daughter of a Baron. She was good kind and a very pretty girl but quite a tomboy. Unfortunately she had a wicked stepmother and two ugly step-sisters and they were very unkind to her. They were very extravagant and the Baron soon found himself very much in debt. Cinderella tried so hard to help her father by attending to most of the work in their home, Hardup Hall, but the stepmother and sisters were always bullying her and demanding more and more from her. This is the village where they all live.

I am the Fairy Godmother it is my job to see that everything works out right and we get a happy ending. I shall need all the help I can get so I want you to cheer loudly all the goodies and boo whenever anything nasty happens to Cinderella. So will you help me boys and girls? Well, will you help me?

Aud. Yes.

That's great! And just make sure Mum and Dad to do the same!

I can see we are going to get on well and have a good time. So what happens to them all? Well they..... But why should I **tell** you the story, when I can bring them all to life. It's a brand new day and I think they are about to invite you to join them. Watch and enjoy yourselves, and see how the story unfolds.

A Brand New Day. The Wiz.

(The routine involves the entire cast. They are enjoying themselves.)

Shortened version

Line 1... Fairy talking over music

Line 2... Fairy talking over music

Line 3... Fairy talking over music

Line 4... Fairy talking over music

Can't you feel a brand new day?

Can't you feel a brand new day?

Can't you feel a brand new day?

Can't you feel a brand new day?

Everybody look around

'Cause there's a reason to rejoice you see

Everybody come out

And let's commence to singing joyfully

Everybody look up

And feel the hope that we're longing for

Everybody be glad

Because the sun is shining just for us

Everybody wake up

Into the morning into happiness

Hello world

It's a wonderful place for living now

And thank you world

for today, it's all for free somehow.

Such harmony

We'll show the world that there's still liberty.

It is so good,

for us to live so independently

This day you see,

our hearts are singing joyfully

Can't you feel a brand new day?

Can't you feel a brand new day?

Can't you feel a brand new day?

Can't you feel a brand new day?

Can't you feel a brand new day?

Can't you feel a brand new day?

Can't you feel a brand new day?

Can't you feel a brand new day?

Bar. *(Enter. He trips on an imaginary step in the stage and stamps on it with his foot.)*

Hmm. Very dangerous that could cause an accident if we're not careful.

(Shouts to the Stage Manager.) Excuse me stage manager, *(use his name if you wish)* have you seen this?

SM What?

Bar I just tripped over here. This stage is dangerous.

SM *(Enter. Hard hat, head phones, clip board, anything funny to indicate who he is.)*
What are you going on about? I can assure you there is nothing wrong with **my** stage. My stage crew and I have been setting up this show for a week old man.

Bar Who's the weak old man? I tell you I tripped just there!

SM Oh just get on with it. The audience have paid good money, they don't want to hear you whinging. I'll look at it shortly. *(Exit)*

Bar Oh touchy or what? I can see we are going to have trouble with him! And don't call me shorty! Now where's the missus? You know, '**She who must be obeyed!**' Oh shame, nowhere to be seen! Don't let on I'm here, she'll be onto me like a flash. Life has been so hard since I married her. It was the biggest mistake of my life. It was all fine until she realised that although I had a title I had no money and those daughters! The first time she mentioned them was when they turned up as bridesmaids at the wedding! That's probably where she is, looking around for rich bachelors. She's determined to get her precious girls married. That will be more expense I can't afford.

Hort *(off)* **Harold!** *(She is always loud and fierce!)*

Bar Oh blimey she's found me!

Hort *(Enter)* Did I hear you say something? You're not talking about me, are you?

Bar No dear.

Hort You were!

Bar Was not!

Hort Don't start all that business!

Bar Was not!

Hort **Harold!** Now stop messing about. What are you doing now?
(He is miming her actions to the audience.)

Bar Nothing dear.

Hort Just look at me when I'm talking at you! What do you think you look like? Just look at him. Scruffy, dim, boring, and broke as well. If I'd have known I'd have never married him, You're a spineless jellyfish of a man.

Bar *(Aside.)* It's your daughters that spend all my money.

Hort How dare you! I suppose that little goody two shoes, sweetness, sugary and spicey Cinderella put you up to say that.

Bar Cinderella, works her fingers to the bone looking after those girls.

Hort Just shut up whinging! Where is the lazy good for nothing girl anyway?

Bar Hortencia, you know as well as I do she is a good kind girl. She is, in the kitchen, **again**, preparing our tea.

Hort She had better be! (*Halitosis and Scurvy enter with a lot of noise, arguing as usual. Ad-libbed name calling, pushing and shoving. They wear outlandish riding costumes.*)

Both Hello Mummy.

Hort Here they are, my two little cherubs. Oh you do look so pretty in you smart new riding clothes. (*To audience*) Don't they look pretty boys and girls?

Aud No! (*Baron has encouraged audience to shout no.*)

Both How dare you!

Hal (*To Scurvy.*) It was step daddy who started that. Come on lets sort him out. Hello step daddy. (*Close up to his face and he re-acts to bad breath. Pushes him*)

Scu Hiyi daddy. (*Stamps on his foot. More tugging and pushing.*)

Hort **Harold!** Stop that at once. **Harold!** Will you stop teaching my girls to play rough games. Now come, come girls stop teasing your step daddy.

Bar But I

Hort Come along we are all going home. (*Exit with the girls, fighting and pushing. The Baron trailing unhappily behind them*)

Butt (*Enter.*) I see you're having fun and games again Baron.

Bar You're telling me.

Butt Just tell her who is boss.

Bar She already knows! (*Exit.*)

Butt Hello everyone. Hello? Hello, is there any life out there? This is the audience participation bit. Everybody has to join in. Lose your inhibitions. Are you ready? I said are you ready? Oompah oompa.

Aud Stick it up your jumper.

Butt Oggy, Oggy, Oggy.

Aud. Oy, oy, oy.

Butt That's better, now that's how I want you to be throughout the show. Make as much noise as you like!. That was Baron Hardup, don't you feel sorry for him? He such a nice chap and he's been ever so kind to me. Do you know I was just a poor little orphan when I first met him? Oh it upsets me to think about it.
(Pretends to break down and cry)

Aud Ahh!

Butt *(He indicates he wants more sympathy)* I said it upsets me to think about it.

Aud. Ahhhhhh!

Butt. It's a lot worse than that.

Aud. Ahhhhhh!

Butt That's better. Yes, he took me in, fed me, treated me like one of the family, and even gave me the clothes I wear. That's how I got my name. Can you guess what it is?
(Points to his uniform. Chorus from wings shout. Zippy!) No it's not 'Zippy!'
(Velcro!) No its not! *(Buttons)* That's right, it's Buttons'. *(Chorus enter.)*

Chor. His first name is **Belly!** Hello Buttons, what have you been getting up to?

Butt I've just been introducing myself to all the boy and girls. They are very good, listen. Oompah oompa.

Aud Stick it up your jumper.

Butt Oggy, Oggy, Oggy.

Aud. Oy, oy, oy.

Chor. Don't you think you should smarten yourself up Buttons? Look, your hands are in your pockets again.

Butt Oh yes! Look at me, hands in my pockets, doesn't it look slovenly?

Chor Can you help Buttons please? If you see him with hands in his pockets can you shout **'Hands Out Buttons!'** as loud as you can? I'm sure it would help him.

Butt That's a good idea. Can you do that?

Aud Yes.

Butt Great. We'll just have a little practice. *(Chorus)* Just go down there and make sure they are all shouting. *(Walks around with hands in pocket for audience to shout. Does this a couple of times till they shout loud enough.)* If you do it well you can all have a sweet. Yeah, that's really smashing. *(Chorus do so)* Hey have you seen Cinderella? Well have you? ... She's my girlfriend. *(Goes all sappy.)* Well she's not really my girlfriend but I wish she was. She's a right smasher. *(Lots of lip puckering and facial expressions.)* She's totally different from her step sisters, Halitosis and Scurvy. You've seen them, aren't they a right pair? They're not very bright either, in fact I'd go as far as saying they are dim! Do you know it's taken them 18 months to complete a jigsaw and they are so pleased because it said on the box 3 to 5 years. Well I'd best be on my way. *(Hands into pockets.)*

Aud. **Hands Out Buttons**

Butt Thanks. See you later. *(Exit stage left with Chorus.)*

FG *(Enter stage right disguised as old lady.)*
Shush! I am in disguise. This is where I shall start to practice a little of my magic. Now this is my plan. Prince Charming and his equerry Dandini are visiting the village. They are delivering a proclamation inviting everyone to a Royal Ball, and I think it would be a good idea to get Cinderella and the Prince to meet? Don't you think so?

Aud Yes

Fairy So do I. Then who knows what may happen... I think it is about time you met Cinderella, ah, here she comes now. *(Exit)*

Cind. *(Enter carrying firewood.)* Oh hello everyone, how nice to see you all. I am Cinderella. I have just been collecting firewood with Buttons. Have you seen him?

Aud. Yes.

Cind. Oh good then he won't be far away. Buttons is a real good friend of mine; we have so much fun together, whenever we can get some time away from my sisters. I don't suppose you've met them yet have you?

Aud. Yes.

Cind You have? What did you think of them?

Aud Ugly! *(Whatever they shout)*

Cind. No, don't say that, its not very kind is it? To tell the truth I'm surprised, they are around, they are usually in bed till lunchtime.

Fairy Oh dear, I'll never find enough wood to keep me warm. *(Enter hobbling across the stage to sit on the log, shuffling, coughing, seems in a poor state.)*

Cind Hello madam, are you ill, do you need a rest?

Fairy It's just a little cough my dear. I am busy collecting firewood to keep me warm this cold evening, but I'm not as able as I used to be. I'm tired and there doesn't seem to be much firewood about.

Cind That's probably because I've collected most of it. Here you take it.

Fairy But my dear girl I couldn't possibly take your firewood.

Cind Of course you can, I can soon collect some more. Here you are, I insist.

Fairy Thank you my dear, you are very kind.

Cind. Nonsense, that's what friends are for. Now you just sit here and rest and I shall collect more for you.

Fairy Thank you, I won't forget you my dear. One day I shall reward you.

Cind I don't need a reward just make sure you get that cough better and keep nice and warm by the fire tonight,

Fairy Mark my words closely Cinderella. I shall see you again, and you will be rewarded perhaps sooner than you think.

Cind That's a strange thing to say. Now I won't be long you sit and rest. *(Exit)*

Fairy *(Reverts to normal self.)* That went very well, didn't you think so? Now for the next part of my plan, Here comes the Prince and Dandini, so it's time for me to disappear. *(Exit as Prince and Dandini enter.)*

Prin I must say Dandini, it is so good to get away from the Palace. All that bowing and scraping it gets me down.

Dan *(Large extravagant bow.)* Yes your Royal Highness. But may I say how gracious it is to be allowed to accompany you today. Me, a humble servant, lowly of rank, to be at your side today as your only companion is an absolute privilege!

Prin *(Amused)* OK Dandini! Cut it out, cut it out! You have had your fun. But how I wish I could be like you I could walk about this village and be treated just like anyone else... Just a minute! What a good idea! I could be you, just for today, what do you say? We'll swop places.

Dan No I do not think so Sire, your father would have me sent to the Tower.

Prin Oh father, will never know. Now come along, I insist, change coats with me.

Dan You can't be serious!

Prin Perfectly! I shall be you, and you will be me!

Dan Don't be stupid! Oh beg pardon sire!

Prin Ha. That's perfectly all right. Now come along give me your coat.

Dan But I can't be a Prince. What do I do?

Pr Come, come, Dandini, you know me as well as I know myself. Just pretend to be me. Now off you go wander about a bit and see what reaction you get, and I shall do the same. We'll meet back here by this log. *(Sits)*

Dan Ok, I'll be back soon. *(Exit)*

Cind *(Enter with firewood.)* Hello, I'm back. I've got quite a lot.

Prin *(Turns to see her and is immediately captivated)* Hello Miss.

Cind. Oh sorry. I was expecting you to be someone else, an old lady.

Prin Ah yes, there was someone leaving when we arrived.

Cind We? *(Looking around)*

Prin Prince Charming and I are visiting the village.

Cind The Prince is here in the village? How exciting.

Prin I'm his equerry Dandini. *(Bows)* Have you been collecting firewood for the lady? Are you always so kind?

Cind She is not well and in need of some help and I shall soon collect some more.

Prin Here let me take that. *(Put by the log. Pause)* Are you often here?

Cind Quite often. It's nice to get out for some peace and quiet, to relax and be alone.

Prin. To be alone? I'm sorry. Would you prefer me to leave?

Cin *(Laughing)* No, no, I didn't mean that... but .. well you know. I have never seen you here before.

Prin I may well be spending much more time here in the future, now that we have met.

Cind Oh I *(embarrassed.)*

Prin I'm sorry, did that embarrass you?

Cind Well ...

Prin Perhaps we can meet here again?

Cind Perhaps. *(Thinks she might like that.)* Well I may be here again tomorrow.

Pr Tomorrow it is then. .. Oh no, but I can't, it's the night of the Royal Ball!

Cind A Royal Ball?

Prin Yes. Duty calls, I must be in attendance with the Prince. But that's fine we can meet there, everyone is invited so we'll be able to meet there.

Cind I don't think so; it is unlikely I shall be going.

Prin Why ever not?

Cind Well that really is a long story. Now I really must be going.

Prin Please stay a little longer, I have hardly got to know you.

Cind I think that is probably for the best.

Prin What is your name? Say you'll come to the Ball.

Cind No that would be quite impossible.

Dan *(Enter still acting as the Prince)* Ah, there you are Dandini, Come along man. Where have you been? Am I to deliver this proclamation by myself?

Prin *(Turns to him and Cinders slips away)* Pardon? What's that? *(Turns back)* Oh no, Where is she? *(To the audience.)* Which way did she go? *(Looks into the wings.)*

Dan What is the matter Sir?

Prin Oh Dandini did you have to turn up then?

Dan Sorry your Highness, but I thought we were still pretending to be each other.

Prin No. Yes we are. I'd forgotten. Oh it's not your fault. I meet the most wonderful girl in the world, but then immediately lose her. How shall I meet her again?

Dan Girl sir? The pretty one I passed earlier. What's her name, I'm sure we could trace her.

Prin Her name? But I don't know even know her name! I was just going to invite her to the Ball when you interrupted us. Now she has gone.

Dan Then we must ensure that invitations are given to each and everyone in the kingdom..

Prin What a good idea, then she is bound to come. .Do you think *(Dialogue tails off as they move to side of the stage) (Lots of noise from the Ugly Sisters, in the wings. Action is continuous.)*

Hal Come along you stupid horse it's only a small log.

Scu Get a move on you old nag. Here take that. *(Loud horse neighs.)*

Both Arrrrrrgh! *(Both crash onto the stage. Hobby Horse heads!)*

Scu Oh, I've dented my dignity and pranged my posterior!
(Rubbing her bottom! The following is all said sitting on the floor.)

Hal Ouch! I went bum, bum, on my bum-bum! Ohhh!

Prin This should be fun. We'll watch over here.

Hal You stupid fool! I had **my** horse perfectly under control.

Scu Oh yeah! Then why wouldn't he jump the log. It was your fault the horses collided!

Hal Wasn't!

Scu Was!

Hal Wasn't!

Scu Was!

Hal Shut yer cakehole!

Scu Oh drop dead bad breath!

Hal You're a scaly mackerel!

Scu Red eyed smelly crab meat!
(The Prince and Dandini who have watched with amusement now approach them)

Prin Good afternoon Ladies, I trust neither of you are hurt?

Hal Look a man!

Scu Ooooh!

Hal Get your paws off he's mine. I saw him first! *(Both stand up, but it's a lot of trouble.)*

Prin Is there any way I can assist you Madam.

Hal There certainly is darling! *(She proceeds to climb up him from the floor.)*

Scu *(Pulling Halitosis away.)* Aye up me old duck!

Hal Aye up me old duck! Oh how common can you get. You have to be more refined. Bonjour, me old cock sparrow!

Prin *(Very embarrassed)* Ladies please.

Scu Ladies where?

Hal He means us fool. We had better introduce ourselves. I'm Halitosis the pretty one, *(React to her bad breath.)* and she's Scurvy the ... Well you can see for yourself!

Scu What's **your** name sexy?

Prin I am Prince Charm....ing's er manservant, Dandini.

Scu **A servant! Halitosis he's a servant!** Oh go away you horrible disgusting person.

Hal He touched me. Ohh ... I feel so contaminated, I shall have to wash in Dettol, Jeyes Fluid and Carbollic Soap when I get home.

Scu Imagine a mere common servant try to chat me up. Whatever next? Me what has been on 'I'm a celebrity get me out of here'.

Hal She was one of the ugly bugs! You're right, whatever is the world coming to?

Prin But madam I never did anything of the sort! *(Turns to Dandini who has been standing some distance away.)* Help!

Scu Don't you try and wriggle out of it. (h)Isn't it (h)obvious from (h)our posh (h)accents we (h)are from the (h)aristocracy? *(Hal repeats (h)obvious (h)accents (h)aristocracy)*

Hal *(Seeing Dandini)* Oh look another man! Bags I have first go at him!

Prin But madam, you can't do that! That's Prince Charming! *(Both sisters go more stupid than ever, try to curtsey etc.)*

Scu Oh your Majestical Regality. How honoured (h)I (h)am to meet you mate.

Hal Your Mint Imperial Emporium-istical-ness! *(Dandini reacts to her bad breath.)*

Dan Ladies. *(Bows deeply.)* The pleasure is mine.

Scu *(To audience.)* Well it certainly could be if he plays his cards right!!

Prin *(To audience.)* This will be great fun.

Hal Ohh, I've gone all weak at the knees. (*Knees knock. To audience.*) Did you see him giving me the eye? I think I've cracked it girls. I'll try the sophisticated approach. How (h)are you doing Tosh (*Pushes him playfully and he nearly falls over*)

Scu (*Fluttering eyelids.*) Ohh you really are smashing 'me old sweetheart'.

Prin Ladies, please, you must not speak to his highness in that manner. Say 'Your Grace'.

Both (*Hands clasped.*) For what we are about to receive may the Lord make us truly thankful. Amen!

Hal Just look at these posh clothes! Oh I so like a man in posh clothes.

Scu Funny, I prefer them without! Nudge, nudge, wink, wink. Know what I mean?

Prin Madam. Your private life is of no concern to his highness.

Scu Oh but it could be! (*Wink*) Shall we take a little walk in the woods? But I warn you I only **'walk out'** with experienced men.

Dan But **I'm** not experienced.

Scu Silly! We haven't been for the walk yet!

Dan (*Aside to Prince*) Sir, I beg you get me out of this.

Prin Sire, I'm sorry to drag you away from the company of these charming ladies, (*They are now draped one each side of him*) but I must remind your Highness that we have very important business to attend to at the Palace.

Dan Oh yes, of course, thank you, Dandini. Please excuse me ladies but duty calls, (*Bows deeply*) I must take my leave.

Hal (*Hits the Prince*) Spoilsport! (*To Dandin*) Would you leave a poor defenceless girl alone, here in the wood?

Dan. Pardon?

Hal Were you never a Boy Scout?

Dan Yes I was.

Hal Well then, **I** could be your good deed of the day!

Scu (*Thrust piece of paper into Dandini's hand, cutely.*) They say it's good to talk, **here's my number!**

Dan (To audience.) I've already got **her** number!!

Hal See you later Princeykins. (Blows a kiss)

Dan Not if I see her first! Come 'Dandini' (They exit.)

Scu Drat and botheration. He would have to leave, just as we were getting on so well. Did you notice how he couldn't take his eyes off me? (Preening.)

Hal Yeah. He's obviously never seen anything so ugly. It was me he was interested in.

Scu You? You have a face like the back of a bus!

Hal And you have so many wrinkles you can screw your hat on! I have hidden beauty!

Scu So had the Phantom of the Opera but at least he had the decency to wear a mask!

Hal How dare you! I'll scratch your eyes out.
(They start to fight. Pulling faces, pushing, punching)

The Ugly Sisters sing 'Sisters'.

Sisters. Sisters.
We have never been devoted sisters,
Never had to have a chaperone, no sir!
I just have to keep my eye on her! (Scu. Nastily.)
Caring, sharing,
Could that be my dress that she is wearing? (Hal)
When a sexy gentleman arrived from Rome, (Scu)
I ripped her dress, so she'd stayed home! (Hal)
All kinds of weather, we're stuck together,
The same in the rain and sun
Two different faces, but in tight places
We think and we act as one.
Those who've seen us,
Know that not a thing could come between us
Many folk have tried to split us up, but no one can. (Nobody dare!)
Lord help the mister who comes between me and my sister
And lord help the sister, who comes between me and my man

(Silly dance)

**All kinds of weather, we're stuck together,
The same in the rain and sun
Two different faces, but in tight places
We think and we act as one.
Those who've seen us,
Know that not a thing could come between us
Many folk have tried to split us up, but no one can. (Nobody dare!)
Lord help the mister who comes between me and my sister
And lord help the sister, who comes between me and my man!**

End of scene

Act 1 Sc. 2. The Palace Gardens. (*Garden tabs*)

(*A Fanfare of Trumpets. This is very long! The King enters with Claude and courtiers thinks he's too early, exits, starts to enter again, stops, exits again. Eventually.*)

King **NOW? Has it finished?** (*He is frail, short sighted and hard of hearing. Has a large ear trumpet. Prince & Dandini enter.*) Where's my crown. Hm, Hm. What, what.

Chorus. It is here your majesty. (*Courtier places crown on Kings head. Bring the throne on to stage.*)

King Where is he then? Hm, hm. Where is he? The Prince? He's always late.
Hm, hm. What, what.

Clau (*Wears a white pompadour wig*) He's over there! (*To audience*) He really should have gone to Specsavers.

King (*To the Prince*) Good to see you Dandini. Hm, hm. Ah, there you are my boy,
(*Embraces Dandini*) had a good walk in the woods. Hm, hm. What, what.

Dan Yes your Majesty, and I went with the Prince. (*Brings Prince forward to the King*)

King Eh? What? Oh! Yes, yes. Hmm, hmm. (*Prince bows*) And what else have you been doing today my boy. You **have** been searching for a wife I hope?

Prin I have had a very interesting day. I met some of the local village people and they were most friendly.

King Dandini, do you think it wise to let my son mingle with such common folk.

Prin Now that is a very elitist remark father! Don't be so stuffy.

King Well, what chance has he of meeting a suitable wife there? (*Glares at Dandini*)

Dan Well I know of a Prince William who married a commoner! er... No, not many Sire.

King Now listen to me my boy. Hm. Hm. You must get married, you need someone by your side as you walk through life's rich garden, sharing the fruits of love from the orchard of contentment, smelling the fragrance flowers of bliss.

Prin Hmm, sounds like I'd be better off with a Market Gardener!

King Oh botheration! You never listen to me! You tell him Claude!

Clau Yes sir. Your Highness, the point is, the constitution requires you to marry and have a family, to continue the royal succession.

Prin I will, but in my own time!

Clau If you don't marry soon, you know what the politicians are like, they'll be no referendum. Parliament may just cut off your stipend and none of us would like that to happen to you sir.

King **Indeed so! There'd be no chance of a succession then!** No, no. Hmm hmm. What, what. Well I think this Ball is the best idea I have had so far. All the most beautiful girls will be there. Surely someone will take your fancy.

Prin Father, how many times have I to tell you. This is not a good idea!

King Not a good idea! It's a brilliant idea! **I thought of it!** Hm, hm. What, what.

Prin It's just like being put on show in an online dating agency!

Dan But sir your father is only concerned for your happiness.

Prin His only concern is for the succession. I bet he's even had you on the internet looking at comparison websites like "findaprinceabride.com"!

Clau Sire the event promises to be the social occasion of the year. All the most wealthy and beautiful girls in the kingdom, and beyond, will be there.

Prin I don't want wealth and beauty, all I want to find is a virtuous, kind, considerate and intelligent girl.

Dan You're not asking much then!

Clu Beg your pardon sir, but **this is Chellaston you know!**

Prin Look, I will not marry until I meet someone I can love and who loves me. ... I don't care for this '**beauty parade**' at all!

Dan But don't forget the young lady you met earlier may also come.

Prin Well, I doubt it Dandini! I think I missed my chance there, thank you very much!

King Now then Claude, have you ensured all the ladies in the land are invited tonight? Hm. hm. What, what.

Clau I most certainly have your Majesty. Invitations are being delivered to every household in your kingdom.

King Wonderful, and if all the single ladies attend it's likely he might be attracted to at least one. What a brilliant intelligent idea. You know I'm so clever, sometimes I even amaze myself! Hm hm. What what. Now come along. Claude you can fill me in with all the details preparations and I will be able to tell you what you have done wrong.

Clau Hmm. *(To audience)* We've been there a few times before as well! *(All exit.)*

End of scene. *(As they leave the fade lights to blackout then come back up.)*

Act 1 Sc. 3. Front of tabs. *(Garden tabs.)*

Butt *(Enter with hands in pockets.)* Hi kids.

Aud. 'Hands out Buttons!' Thanks.

So you've met Cinderella then. Didn't I tell you she was a smasher?
I wish she was more than just a good friend. I think she is great!

Prod *(Prodem & Pokem enter.)* Aye up mush.

Butt Aye up mush? We've got a right pair here! Who are you?

Prod *(Importantl, flicking his finger.)* You, give him our card.

Butt *(Reads aloud.)* Prodem and Pokem. Town Bailiffs and 'Primate Defectives'.

Prod Give me that! *(Smacks Pokem around.)* You idiot! **Private Detectives!** Get that card reprinted! 1000 of them he's had printed! We are looking for Harpic Hall.

Butt Don't you mean Hardup Hall?

Poke No, 'cause it'll be '**Harpic Hall**' when we clean it out!

Prod *(Grabs him by the lapels and pulls his face close to his)* Button it stupid! *(To Buttons)*
Now do you know the way?

Butt I have no idea. *(Chorus member enters.)*

Prod Do you know where Hardup Hall is?

Chor Yes ...*(Buttons is waving to keep him quiet)* er ... do you know I don't remember.
(Another chorus member enters and Button whispers to him.)

Poke Well can you help? Do you know Hardup Hall.

Chor Oh yes, but if I was going I wouldn't start from here to begin with.

Prod You wouldn't?

Chor Oh no, I'd start from 'The Rose and Crown'.

Poke Oh you mean the new Lidol! How do we get there then? *(Local topical reference)*

Butt Straight out the door to the bottom of the road.

Prod Right we'll start from there then.

Poke Cheers. *(Leg swing action. Exit through audience. Chatters to them as they go)*

Butt Well they weren't very bright were they? At least we've got rid of them for a little while. I'd better go and warn the Baron that they are on the way.

Clau *(Enter)* Ah, don't go please. You there, fellow me lad, can you help me?

Butt You're not another Bailiff are you?

Clau No! I'm looking for Hardup Hall I have here invitations to the Royal Ball.

But Well I'll take them for you, if you like.

Clau Oh that's jolly good of you old chap. Please take them and arrange for them to be delivered, what a jolly good chappy you are! One for each member of the household. so make sure they all get one personally. Thank you. Most kind. *(Exit)*

Butt I better get back to the Hall, deliver these and warn the Baron about the Bailiffs. *(Hands in pockets)* **Aud. Hand Out Buttons!** Thanks. See you. *(Exit)*

(Pokem and Prodem re-enter from rear of Hall talking to audience on the way.)

Prod What a rotten trick, fancy sending us to the Rose and Crown.

Poke Well the beer was good, and I got a Lottery ticket from the Co-op.

Prod Lottery ticket? But what would you do about all those begging letters if you won?

Poke I'd keep sending them.

Prod How come you say so many foolish things in a day?

Poke I get up early!

Prod Idiot! Just you wait till I get hold of those guys, I'll prod em.

Poke And I'll poke em.

Both That's us. Prodem and Pokem, Bailiffs! No task to small! *(Leg swing action.)*

Prod What's the plan?

Poke I don't know, according to my script you're supposed to be the brainy one.

Prod Fool! Pay attention.

Poke Pay? For this rubbish?

Prod We need to serve the repossession order and collect the furniture.

Poke So we need to take them by surprise.

Prod What do you suggest?

Poke Walk up to the door, knock on it and shout 'I'm the Brown Tealeaf'.

Prod *(Grabs him.)* Town Bailiff! Stupid! Anyway they won't let us just a minute that's just what we'll do. Good idea!

Poke Is it?

Prod We'll bang on the front door but when they open it we won't be there, will we?

Poke No *(Long pause)* Why not?

Prod Because stupid, we'll have nipped round the back and in through the kitchen.

Poke Right!

Prod We'll have all the furniture into the cart before you can say 'Bob's yer Uncle'.

Poke That's a good idea. *(Pause)* But he's not.

Prod What?

Poke Bob's not my Uncle.

Prod No, no, its just a figure of speech, like Before you can say Jack Robinson'.

Poke Oh right. *(Pause)* He's not either.

Prod Not what?

Poke My Uncle! But I've got an Aunt Annie.

Prod Button it stupid! *(Grabs him again.)* You are one step away from an idiot.

Poke Sorry. I'll move closer. *(Takes a large step towards him.)*

Prod Now you know the plan.

Poke Yeah!

Prod Lets go do it. *(Leg swing action. Both exit.)*

End of Scene

(Buttons enters opposite side to them as tabs open.)

Act 1 Sc. 4. Kitchen at Hardup Hall. *(Kitchen cloth) (Mirror set upstage of cloth and sideboard set downstage of cloth. The sideboard is upstage centre. Two holes in the end and top. Cardboard boxes will be brought on during the scene. One box can be set already which should 'look full', of kitchen items popping out of the top. On the top also is a folded tablecloth, a string of carrots, parsnip wine and a colander which are used later in the scene. Various other kitchen items are dotted around the set. A basket of firewood, chairs and stools, and general kitchen props. There is a blunderbuss on the set and a coat hanger stand with a large hooded cloak hanging.)*

Butt *(Enter. Hands in his pockets. Audience Hands Out Buttons!)* Right Thanks. Hey do you know what I had for Christmas? I'll show you *(Fetches a water pistol and proceeds to squirt audience)* I don't care you know! You're not **bothered** about this little water pistol are you? *(Brings on a fireman's hose or a really large water pistol.)*

Have you heard the latest news? Asda have just merged with Ikea? I bought a 'flat pack' chicken the other day and after I put it together the legs fell off.

I'm looking for the Baron he owes me my wages. Have you seen him?

Aud. No!

Butt Here comes Cinders. Shh! I'll surprise her.

Cind *(Enter. With a bucket and mop starts mopping the floor.)* Hello everyone.

Butt *(Buttons creeps behind her and puts hands over her eyes)* If you can guess who this is I'll give you a big kiss.

Cind Er, Michael Buble! *(Or another suitable star currently in the news.)*

Butt That's near enough. *(Stands with puckered lips)*

Cind You are funny Buttons.

Butt Do you think so?

Cind You're just like a brother to me.

Butt Ohh! *(Downcast)*

Cind What's the matter?

Butt Well I thought perhaps I was more than a brother to you.

Cind That's right, you are my best friend.

Bar *(Enter. Trips, fetches a small hammer, bangs the floor, stamps on it, returns hammer)*
Hmm I think that's done it this time. *(To Buttons)* Have you seen this? *(Shouts to the SM.)* Hey you've not sorted this stage out yet! He doesn't seem at all bothered. Just make sure you don't trip on it. Now Buttons have you finished spraying the lawn.

Butt Well yes, but why did you tell me to spray it with Marston's Pedigree?

Bar I'm hoping it'll come up half cut!

Cind They don't get any better father!

Butt I'm glad you're here Baron, I've not been seen my wages for 3 months.

Bar That's neither here nor there!

Butt Neither here nor there, where **are** my wages then?

Bar Ah! Well! ... er ... But have you done any work?

Butt I've been ever so busy Baron. Haven't I Cinders?

Cind Yes. He's hosed out the hen house and washed out the wash house.

Butt And then shined up the sh .. *(pause)* Cinders, they're making their own jokes up down here! I was going to say shined up the shoes, so there!

Cind Father you must pay Buttons his wages!

Butt Never mind Cinders. He can't pay me when he hasn't got any money.

Bar No money? Well I am feeling a little sorry for you so I'll **lend** you a fiver. Keep your eyes open, I don't like opening this. *(Takes out wallet, looks around furtively)*

Butt Why ever not?

Bar You watch! *(Opens wallet)*

Hort *(Enter)* **Harold!**

Bar *(To audience.)* There you are you see, it never fails! Yes dear?

Hort What are you loafing about here for?

Bar Well I was just

Hort Just? Just stopping that common servant from getting on with his chores ...

Butt What chores?

Bar I'll have a double whiskey!

Hort **Harold!** He's a lazy good for nothing, without you holding him up chin wagging.

Bar I was doing no such ...

Hort Don't answer me back. *(To Buttons)* Get on with your work immediately!
Asda arrived with the online deliveries, get them sorted out! Now!

Buttons: *(Hands in pockets. Exits)*

Audience: Hands out Buttons!

Hort Haven't you got work to do as well Cinderella? Your sisters need their breakfast. Honestly Harold, how did you manage to raise such a bone idle daughter? You're lucky I'm here to take her in hand!

Song *Sackcloth and Cinders* .
*You, child, have been spoilt,
I say so all the time,
Of course, I have the punishment,
That best befits the crime.*

*Sack cloth and cinders,
And dustpans and dishes,
Plenty of graft using each,*

*No more running to Daddy,
With daydreams and wishes,
Hard work is the craft that I teach.*

*Your father is dotting,
But I shan't devote any,
Time to emotional irks,*

*Just follow my model,
And don't mollycoddle
Sack cloth and cinders will work.*

Cinderella: But, I...

*I won't stand for simpering, whinging or whimpering,
Law in this house is my word!
You'll observe every letter,
For children are better,
When they can be seen and not heard.*

Hortencia: You will contribute to the running of this household, or you will cease to be a part of it! And as for you Harold...

*To cosset and pamper,
Will hinder and hamper,
The child in whom bad habits lurk,*

*I'll beat out distraction,
With punitive action,
Sack cloth and cinders will work,
Sack cloth and cinders will work.*

Cind *(Shrugs shoulder and exits)* Oh dear, I'm better off out of the way I suppose.

Hort Don't think I'm not watching you lot down there. You're a dozy lot too. Aren't you?

Aud No!

Hort Oh yes you are!

Aud No!

Hort Oh yes you are!

Aud No!

Hort Oh yes you are! What a lot of fools. Chellaston audiences are all the same! Dumb!
(Grabs Baron and yanks him off) Go boil your head. **Harold!** Come on. *(Exit)*
(Younger chorus members enter as mice and hide. Buttons enters with a "full" cardboard box and envelopes in one hand. He puts them on the sideboard but puts the box on top of the envelopes.)

Butt Hi kids. *(Hands in pockets)*. **Aud. Hands Out Buttons!** Thanks.
(He fetches another box and places it over one of the holes on the sideboard top. The mice creep up on him. Usual 'they are behind' you routine until he sees them and explains they are his friends. The Baron enters carrying another box trips on his usual spot, gives box to Buttons to put on the top.)

Bar Blast nearly dropped the groceries then! *(Uses even larger hammer. Shouts to SM)*
Hey you've still not fixed this you know!

SM *(Head round curtain and blows a Raspberry)* Ph!

Bar Can't get the staff you know!

Butt Hello Baron I've been looking for you I have something for you.

Bar Not another 'Final Demand' I hope.

Butt No, no. Over there on the sideboard.

Bar Nothing here only the shopping.

Butt Must have fallen into one of the boxes, let me have a look. *(He starts emptying one of the boxes)* Here take this, and this, and this. I can't see them. Hold this, and this and this. *(The items are getting sillier.)* Here hold these. *(Gives him the envelopes.)*

Bar Hold on, I'm getting overloaded here. What shall I do with all this stuff?

Butt Pop them in that other box over there.

Bar But it's full already.

Butt Nonsense, plenty of room in here, especially if I move things around. Hold this. *(Something large, then another.)* Now give me some of the other things. *(He proceeds to load the box with the stuff the Baron is holding, but of course it is being put through the hole to the chorus members underneath. This needs to be rehearsed with definite ab-libs and references to the items being removed and added.)* Not here either. I'll try the other boxes. *(The items out from underneath the top are getting sillier and larger. Show the audience a solid box bottom! It would be good to get long items like a mop, stepladder, a car jack, sausages, cuddly toy, in fact any suitable props we already own can be used.)*

Bar What are you looking for?

Butt Envelopes with invitations in.

Bar *(Waving them.)* Like these.

Butt Oh you've found them, how clever of you.

Bar These are invitations to the Royal Ball, look. *(Passes one to Buttons)* I can't afford to go so I shall have to get rid of these before they see them.

Butt Too late for that Baron, the Ball is the talk of the village, everyone knows they are all to receive invitations.

Bar More expense. I might have to ask for that fiver back? It'll be no use explaining I'm broke, they never take any notice.

Butt Talking of being broke, there's something else. There are two Bailiffs looking for Hardup Hall. I sent them on a wild goose chase but they will soon be here.

Bar Then we shall have to be prepared, they are not getting their hands on my Chippendales'.

Butt *(To audience.)* Do you know I can't think of a suitable retort at the moment!!

Bar I'll have you know its good quality period furniture.

But. *(To audience.)* We call it period furniture, because we keep it for a period, then they fetch it back! Shall I give this to Cinderella, that way we'll make sure she gets it?

Bar Yes, good idea.

Hort *(Enter) Harold!* Oh look our invitations have arrived. *(Snatch them. Shouts to wings)* Girls, come here my little poppets, look what mummy has for you. *(To Buttons and Baron)* Well go on; get on with your work. *(They exit)*

Hal *(Sisters enter, lots of shoving and pushing.)* Mummy, mummy, what have you got?

Scu It had better be something nice or I'll scream and scream and scream.

Hort Look, look. *(Waves envelope in the air)*

Hal. It's only an envelope!

Scu Only an envelope. *(Screams and stamps her foot)*

Hort Girls, look invitations to the Royal Ball.

Both The Royal Ball!!!

Scu I shall get to meet the Princeykings again, I told you he'd got his eyes on me.

Hal Oh rubbish it's obvious he fell for me, because I'm so much prettier than you.

Hort Girls, my little cherubs, there is no need to fall out, you are both beautiful, you get your looks from me *(aside)* and your legs from your father.

Scu Legs from father?

Hort His legs were that good he ran out on me years ago. The dirty rat!

Hal What happened?

Hort What happened? I'll tell you what happened! I sent him to Kentucky Fried Chicken to fetch our lunch and he never came back. Never came back! Do you know what I did?

Both **Opened a tin of Baked Beans!**

Hort Never came back! So I married the Baron, **for money!** After a suitable time of course!

Scu How long?

Hort About a fortnight.

Scu Mummy I shall want a new dress for the Ball.

Hal And me, and me. We shall have to go to Harrods in London.

Hort Whatever do you want to go all that way for? You can buy hundreds of dresses here.

Hal Did you hear that Scurvy! We can buy hundreds of dresses, come on **we** are on a spending spree.

Hort Hold on I didn't mean that. *(All exit)*

(Buttons enters with his hands in pocket. Audience. Hands Out Buttons!)

Butt Thanks Kids. Shh! I'll surprise Cinderella again.

Cind *(Enter. Cleaning and dusting)* Oh dear I've so much work to do. I only get one job finished when they start shouting for more. *(Buttons taps her shoulder, she turns, he taps other.)* Oh it's you Buttons.

Butt Aren't you pleased to see me?

Cind Of course I am, you're so funny.

Butt I've got a surprise for you.

Cind I like surprises, what is it?

Butt Wouldn't you like to know.

Cind Come on Buttons don't tease.

Butt Look *(An envelope from behind his back and back again.)*

Cind It's an envelope.

Butt You have to say one thing for her she **is** sharp.

Cind *(Tries to get it from him)* Please Buttons, give it to me.

Butt Here you are then.

Cind *(Turning it over and over in her hands)* I wonder who it's from.

Butt Well open it.

Cind But no one ever writes to me, whoever can it be from?

Butt I should open it and find out.

Cind It hasn't got a postmark on it, it must have been hand delivered. Who's it from?

Butt You'll never know, **if you don't open it!**

Cind. (*Opening envelope, and reacting with open eyes.*) It's an invitation to the Royal Ball. How exciting, but its no use. I won't be able to go. Here Buttons throw it away.

Butt Throw it away, (*Does, realises, retrieves it.*) **throw it away**, but its for the Royal Ball.

Cind I know but I have nothing to wear but these old rags, and even if I could afford some material I still wouldn't have time to make anything suitable.

Butt What about Halitosis and Scurvy, haven't they got a cast off' you might be able to modify.

Cind (*Naively*) Do you think they would. I shall have to do my best not to upset them. It's just that they get so angry with each other and I always seem to be around when they start fighting. (*Sisters heard approaching.*)

Butt Well here's your chance. They've had their invitations so they should be in a good mood. (*Exit*)

Scu. (*As they enter.*) What do you mean by that?

Hal I'm a far better dancer than you. The Prince will want to dance with me **all** night.

Scu Poppycock, with the size of your feet he'll be frightened of getting trampled to death.

Hal Cinderella you tell her, go on (*Shoves her*) I'm very light on my feet aren't I. **I said aren't I?**

Scu **Don't you dare side with her**, tell her I'm much better than her. **Tell her!**

Cind Well in my opinion, (*Both turn and glare at her*) there is not much to choose between either of you.

Hal Rubbish I'm better than her. Anyway, when we want an opinion from you we'll tell you what it is! What are you doing here anyway?

Cind I'm cleaning the kitchen like Scurvy asked me to.

Hal But I told you to run my bath.

Cind Yes I'm

Scu She'll finish in here first. (*They are pulling her back and fro*)

Hal She'll run my bath!

Scu She'll clean this room!

Hal She'll run my bath!

Scu She'll clean this room!

Cind Sisters?

Both **What!**

Cind I'm doing my best.

Hal Your best just isn't good enough.

Scu You will have to try harder.

Cind *(To audience)* I wonder if I dare ask now? er Sisters excuse me please.

Both **Now what?**

Cind I haven't got a dress to wear for the Royal Ball and I wondered if you might have any cast off dresses you would be kind enough to let me have?

Scu The Royal Ball? You? Don't make me laugh!

Hal You can't go to the Ball, they don't allow kitchen maids. Hah!

Scu Besides you have to have an invitation, and they wouldn't possibly send you one.

Cind But I have, look.

Hal What? *(Snatches it)*. Oh look Scurvy she has got an invitation. *(Mockingly)*

Scu Must be a mistake they couldn't have invited her.

Cind Please give it me back Halitosis. *(She succeeds in getting hold of one end but Halitosis deliberately tears the end she holds. Card is perforated down the middle.)*

Hal Oh dear dear me. Now look what you've **went** and done.

Scu *(Picks it up)* Never mind Cinders I'll stick it back together again for you. Oh no obviously no chance of that. I might as well throw it away. *(Rips it up small and throws into a bin)*

Cind Oh! *(Rushes off in distress)*

Hal The very idea!

Scu Who does she think she is?

Hal We showed her.

Scu Best in the long run she would have only shown us up.

Aud. Boo!

Both Don't you boo us!

Hal She's horrible isn't she?

Aud No!

Both Oh yes she is!

Aud Oh no she isn't!

Both Oh yes she is!

Aud Oh no she isn't!

Both Oh yes she is!

Aud. Oh no she isn't!

Both Get lost you pathetic lot. *(Pull faces tongue out etc. Both exit)*

Butt *(Enter hands in pockets. Audience. Hands Out Buttons!)* Ta kids. I think I'm getting better, keep it up.

Bar *(Enters running trips, hammer)* Buttons I need your help those Bailiffs are here.

Poke *(Banging off stage)* Mr Hardup we know you are in there.

Bar **Mr** Hardup? *(Shouts)* **I'm Baron!**

Prod *(Still off stage)* I'll take your word for it Sir! We've come for the furniture.

Butt Quick hide we'll catch them unawares. *(Buttons and Baron hide.)*

Poke *(P&P enter.)* Here's our chance no-one is about.

Prod Right let's help ourselves.

Butt *(Enter)* Oh no you don't!

Prod Where's the Baron?.

Butt er .. He went outside to meet you.

Poke But we're in here.

Butt **I** know you're in here. But **he** didn't know you where in here then.

Prod When?

Butt When he went outside to meet you.

Poke But we came in the back door.

Butt Yes and when you came in the back door he went out the front.

Prod Why did he go outside?

Butt He didn't know you were inside till he'd been outside and found you were not there, so he came inside found you were not here and went outside, but by then you had come inside, so he'll probably come inside to see if you are here.

Prod That doesn't make sense!

Butt *(Brandishing Blunderbuss.)* Doesn't it? Perhaps this does though!

Poke Watch out he's got a gun.

Prod Scarper!
(Chase to music. Buttons chases them in and out of the wings and the Baron tries to hit them but always gets Buttons. Eventually Baron hits Pokem but misses Prodem.)

Poke Ouch! *(Wobbly legs)*

Prod Missed! Look you'll not get rid of us that easy.

Butt But I know how we can. Girls come here please, there are two eligible men here who are longing to meet you.

Both *(Enter)* Men! Where? Where?

Hal Well hello big boy. *(To Prodem.)* Come up and see me sometime.

Scu Ohh! I say look at this one. *(Pokem)* Hardly run in. Not many miles on the clock, paintwork hardly scratched. Big end looks OK. *(Peers at his rear)*

Poke Ow-er!

Hal Well this one looks like it needs an MOT and a good service, but nothing a drop of oil and a good rub down with an oily rag won't sort out! Hi-yer sexy?

Scu How a about a spin round the block my young nubile impetuous fool?

Poke Help! Oh blimey!

Prod Come on we are better off out of here. *(Leg swing action. Exit chased by the sisters.)*

Bar Well-done partner, good job. *(Shakes Buttons hand)* Well I'm off for a nice soak in the bath tub, just check outside to make sure the girls have seen off the Bailiffs. *(Exits)*
(Buttons collects his large hooded coat and puts it on to go outside.)

Cind *(Enter. She is still upset.)* Hello Buttons.

Butt Hi Cinders. Whatever is the matter with you?

Cind Oh I'm so miserable.

Butt Miserable but tonight it's the Ball.

Cind I won't be going.

Butt Of course you will and you'll be the belle of the Ball.

Cind If only! No Buttons I have no invitation my sisters ripped it up.

Butt The rotten pair, I ought to *(Rolls up sleeves)* Well I would but

Cind And I so wanted to go.

Butt *(Encourages audience to say Ahh!)* Tell you what we'll have a party here. Look I've got some home-made parsnip wine. Knock your head off this will, and here's a wonderful ballroom dress *(tablecloth)*, a tiara *(colander)* and look *(string of carrots)* an 18 carrot necklace. *(Clears the sideboard top.)*

Cind You are funny Buttons. I know you mean well but I'm still miserable and now the fire is out. *(Pause)* Brr. I'm cold. Are you cold Buttons?

Butt No I've got this nice warm coat to keep me warm.

Cind I wish I had a nice warm coat like that.

Butt Ah ... well if it gets any colder I'll lend you mine.

Cind Would you? You are kind Buttons. *(Shivers again)* Brr, I think it has gone colder.

Butt Oh! Well if it gets **really, really** cold I'll lend it to you then.

Cind Buttons!

Butt Oh here you are. *(Take coat off and wraps it around her. She kisses his cheek.)*

Cind Thank you.

Butt *(Soppy. To audience.)* She kissed me. I'll never wash my face again.

Cind Buttons you are funny, I do love your jokes.

Butt Love? Perhaps this is my chance. Cinders? I've been meaning to ask you something for a long time, but I've never got round to asking you 'cause I thought if I did ask you, you might think I was silly and so I've never asked you, and I wish I had

Cind What is it Buttons?

Butt Well what I wanted to ask you is ... er ...

Cind Oh Buttons you are so good to me. What did you want to ask me?

Butt *(Completely thrown.)* er ..er..er I would like to ask you if you would ... if you would .. would you like a Fruit gum? *(Offers a sweet to her.)* No, what I was really going to ask was ... er..

Cind Yes?

Butt er ...er ... er..... is it a nice sweet?

Cind You are funny Buttons.

Butt Funny eh. Am I funny enough to marry? Oh blimey I said it!!!

Cind Oh Buttons, I'm so sorry but I couldn't.

Butt Oh go on. Just this once!

Cind I like you very much Buttons, but you see I think I'm in love with someone else.

Butt In that case I'll have my coat back! *(Pretends to take coat back)*

Cind Buttons!

Butt I'm only joking. Who is this person?

Cind It's the man I met the other day. I'm so sorry Buttons.

Butt *(He sulks kicks his feet etc.)* In that case I'd better go. I've made a right fool of myself.

Cind No you haven't Buttons. Don't go. Buttons?

Butt No it's better if I leave you alone. *(Exit. Sulky and very miserable. Lots of play on sympathy from the audience.)*

Cind Oh dear poor Buttons, I hope he will be alright. I so wanted to go the Ball. I hoped to be able to dance with the man I met earlier. I wonder which lucky girl will be his dancing partner tonight. Oh, how I wish it could be me.

(Song I'm not that Girl. Wicked.)

(8 Bar introduction.)

Hands touch, eyes meet
Sudden silence, sudden heat
Hearts leap in a giddy whirl
He could be that boy
But I'm not that girl
Don't dream too far
Don't lose sight of who you are
Don't remember that rush of joy
He could be that boy
I'm not that girl
Every so often we long to steal
To the land of what-might-have-been
But that doesn't soften the ache we feel
When reality sets back in

Blithe smile, lithe limb *(Might not do this verse.)*

She who's winsome, she'll win him
Gold hair with a gentle curl
That's the girl he'll choose
And Heaven knows
I'm not that girl

(She falls asleep with cloak around her. Lights dim then back up as FG appears)

FG Cinderella, Cinderella, wake up dear. *(Enter. She is dressed as old woman)*

Cind What's that, who's there.

FG Don't be frightened Cinderella it's only me.

Cind Why it's the old lady I met the other day. Come in and sit down.

FG Thank you my dear. Why are you crying?

Cind Oh I wanted to go to the Ball, but I no longer have an invitation.

FG Nonsense my child, what's that I see in that bin?

Cind It was my invitation but my sisters ripped it up.

FG I think you are mistaken dear. Look in the bin again.

Cind *(Goes to bin and takes out invitation)* But how can that be I know it was destroyed.

FG You must have been mistaken. Well then, so now you shall go to the Ball.

Cind No! I still have nothing to wear it would take a miracle to sort out a suitable dress.

FG A miracle? So be it! *(Blackout, lights flash, she removes cloak to become the Fairy Godmother)*

Cind What has happened?

FG Don't be alarmed Cinderella. I am your Fairy Godmother. I told you your kindness would be rewarded. I am here to grant your wish and send you to the Ball.

Cind How? A Fairy Godmother? There is no such person! I must be dreaming!

FG But dreams can come true Cinderella! Now please go into the garden and find me a pumpkin.

Cind A pumpkin? What does she want that for? *(Cinders pulls the hood up over her head, Exit. Switch to double here, who will bring the pumpkin onto the stage.)* Now I will need some help. I wonder who ... Ah! Button! Please come here. *(Blackout, Pyro flash, lights flash Buttons appears in nightshirt, sucking his thumb and clutching a teddy bear)*

But What happened! **I'm in hell**, my Mother said I would be if I read in bed!

FG Buttons, Cinderella is going to the Ball and we need your help.

But My help?

FG Now Buttons I need some mice.

But Mice? Well as it happens, I do have some, but whatever do you want those for?

FG Wait and watch.

But Now where are my pals, hey come over here this lady has a job for you. *(There is a Quite a lot of ad-libbing with them to pad out the time for Cinders to change. "Loads of cheese for you" etc. When he finds them they pop heads out sideboard.)*

But *(Double returns)* Here Cinders let me help you with that pumpkin. *(He takes it and puts it down by sideboard.)*

FG That will do nicely. Now put it over there. Now watch this. *(Waves hand. Double exits. Blackout, lights flash and Cinders re-enters in a wonderful dress.)*

But Cinderella? Is it really you? You look stunning. I'm impressed lady.

FG Wait! **Now** you will be impressed. *(Waves hand. Blackout. Kitchen backcloth taken out to reveal white wall. Pyro flash, extra special one, then project coach scene. Cinders exits and then is seen in the coach as it starts to leave.)*

FG Now off to the Ball..
(Blackout again. The Pumpkin Coach is seen travelling through a vortex, changing to as it fly's to Palace.)
Cinderella, listen, a word of warning. You must leave the Ball before the last stroke of midnight, because at midnight all this will return to as it was. *(Music and projection as coach departs.)*

End of first Act

INTERVAL

During the interval the stage manager appears on forestage with a bag of tools, goes through the middle of the curtains. Hammering and sawing is heard. He comes back out through the curtains.

SM *(Speaks to no-one in particular.)* There that should do it! Perhaps he'll stop whinging now!

When then curtains next open there can be seen a large White Cross of Gaffer Tape stuck to floor where the Baron keeps tripping.

(We did not do this at Chellaston because of tight scene change at interval.)_

