

DICK WHITTINGTON.

A Pantomime by M H Gaunt

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CAST

(In order of appearance.)

Spirit of the Bells

King Rat *(Could be Queen Rat)*

Dick Whittington

Tommy *(the Cat)*

Captain Haddock

Bilge the Mate

Alice Fitzwarren

Alderman Fitzwarren

Dolly Trump

Idle Jack *(Could be Lazy Jane)*

Black Barnacle

Saucy Sal *(Female Moll.)*

She *(Who must be obeyed!)*

Chorus as Guards, Londoners, and a Gorilla

Act 1 Scene 1 Front Cloth

(Bow Bells are ringing, Oranges and Lemons)

Spirit

(Enters) Hello Boys and Girls, I am the Spirit of Bow Bells and I'm here to tell you of a wonderful story about a boy called Dick Whittington. Dick was an orphan, his parents had died when he was very young, and so he lived with a family in a village in Gloucestershire but they were not very kind to him. He was very unhappy. Life was hard, and after a number of poor summers when the crops failed, there was not enough food to go round. The villagers were often heard to complain, "What are we going to do, no harvest again this year? It is so unfair when the streets of London are paved with gold." Dick knew then exactly what he must do. He tied all his possessions into a little bundle and set off on the road to London to find a job and make his fortune. And that is where we shall ...

Rat

(Flash, Green Light) Ha, ha, ha. That's stupid, what a load of tosh and drivel! The streets of London paved with gold? Huh.... **RUBBISH!** Yes, **RUBBISH**, that's what's on the streets of London. Lots and lots of lovely rubbish, and its all mine! King RAT! I've brought a plague of rats on the City of London. The City belongs to me and my furry friends. Ha, ha, ha. I rule here. We are in the houses, and the streets, and live and work in the sewers.

Spirit.

Well from the smell of you I think you must take your work home with you! Go on. Be off with you. You are not welcome here, is he boys and girls?

Aud

No! *(Boo's)*

Spirit

Be off, so that I can continue my story.

Rat

Don't you threaten me! I am King Rat, Chief Rodent, Supreme Leader of all the rats in London and superior to all of you cretins. *(Addressing audience)* I rule here! Anyway who is this Country Yokel you are babbling on about. Point him out so I can bite his leg. Ha, ha, ha.

Spirit

Country boy he may be, but be advised Rat, one day he will be Lord Mayor of London.

Rat

Lord Mayor of London! Bah. We have already had one comical, bumbling bumpkin, as Lord Mayor! We don't want another Boris! Over my dead body! He will have to overcome me and my lovely rats first!

Spirit

And so he shall!

Rat

What? Is that a challenge! Oh I do love challenges, especially when they are so easy to win. Ha, ha, ha. From now on Spirit, it's war between us, and be warned I will win! Whittington shall die! *(Exits)* Ha, ha, ha. Be warned Spirit! Ha, ha.

Spirit

Oh dear what a nasty piece of work, and now I've made an enemy for Dick. I shall have to try and protect him somehow. Now, how can I do that? Hmm, now what don't rats like boys and girls. *(Audience reaction)* Cats? Oh yes. And I know just the one. Now where is he? Puss, puss, where are you. Here he is look. *(Puss enters and runs to her making a fuss)* Yes you are beautiful and I've got a very important job for you. *(Cat is pleased)* I want you to make friends with Dick Whittington he's coming to London and will be in need of some help. *(Cat responds, happy etc)* How will you know him? Oh you'll soon find him, in fact I think he is on his way now. As I was saying, Dick had packed his belongings in a little bundle and was walking to London to make his fortune, but he was soon to find things would not be that easy.

(End of Scene.)

ACT 1: SCENE 2: The Docks

(On stage - People going about their business.)

Dick

Here I am at last, I think this is London. Well one thing certain the streets are not paved with gold. In fact I go as far as saying it's rather a grimy old place. And everybody's too busy to bother about a poor country boy like me. There's no jobs about and no one seems to want any help.

Tom

(Enters.) Meow. Meow.

Dick

Hello Puss, what's the matter? *(Cat rubs against his leg)* Want to be friends do you? Hungry are you? *(Cat shakes head, but Dick does not notice)* So am I. I'm afraid I don't have any food for myself let alone you. *(Cat runs off to wings)* Oh dear now he's gone, I thought I'd made one friend at least in London. *(Cat runs back on with a rat)* You're back. What's this, a rat for me? That's very kind of you pussy but I don't much care for eating rats. What's your name I wonder? I shall have to give him a name boys and girls? Shall I call him Tiddles? *(Cat is most upset. Meow, meow. Shaking head.)* No I don't think he likes that. How about Felix? No? Mouser? *(Cat quite likes that. Meow? Makes a 'maybe' with his hand, but then shakes head)* No? I know I'll call you Tom. *(Cat is pleased. Meow, meow. Gives a 'thumbs up'.)* You like that do you? Good. Well Tom you may know your way around here, but I don't. Excuse me? *(Bilge and Captain Haddock are walking across stage with kitbag's on their shoulders.)* Am I in London yet?

Bilge

Hello Mate. These are the Docks and just up there is the City. This here's Lambeth.

Dick

Lambeth? Never heard of it. Is that a part of London?

Capt

'course it is! You want to know more about it. Hey you lot, this chap wants to know where we live. Just listen to this.

SONG (Lambeth Walk)

(Captain speaks the verse then all chorus singing. - Lambeth Walk)

Lambeth you've never seen, the skies ain't blue the grass ain't green
It hasn't got the Mayfair touch, but that don't matter very much
We play the Lambeth way, not so posh but a bit more gay
And when we have a bit of fun - Oh Boy!

Any time you're Lambeth way, any evening any day
You'll find us all, doin' the Lambeth Walk.
Every little Lambeth gal, with her little Lambeth pal
You'll find 'em all, doing the Lambeth Walk.

Everything free and easy, do as you darn well pleasey
Why don't you make your way there, go there, stay there
Once you get down Lambeth way, every evening every day
You'll find yourself, doin' the Lambeth Walk.

(This will be repeated - including "Oi" after the words Lambeth Walk.)

Bilge

You looking for work? We are busy recruiting sailors and Captain Haddock can always use extra hands on his Ship.

Dick

Well, I've just seen an advert for a Shop Assistant, but go to sea and be a sailor?
Hm, I suppose that would be quite an adventure..

Capt

We sail soon on the 'Lady Alice', the Ship's owner is Alderman Fitzwarren.
(Pauses, takes his cap off) To whom we raise our hat!

Bilge

So are you going to join us?

Dick

I will certainly consider it, thank you, but I'll try for the Shop Assistant job first.

Capt

As you wish, best of luck.

Dick

Well, they all seem friendly enough Tom. Perhaps I misjudged them. Here we go then I'll apply right away. *(He starts towards the shop as Alice enters from the door)* What a pretty girl Tom. Don't you think so?

Tom

Meow. *(Thumbs up)*

Alice

Oh hello. You're a new face around here.

Dick

I'm Dick Whittington. I was wondering if the Shop Assistant position has been filled?

Alice.

I'm Alice Fitzwarren. No I don't think father has found anyone suitable yet.

Dick

Do you think he might consider me?

Alice

I don't see why not. I'll tell him you are here. *(Exits to Shop)*

Dick

What a stroke of luck Tom, a chance of a job, and a beautiful girl to work with, our luck may be changing.

Fitz

(Rushes out of Shop with a broom chasing a rat) Get out of here you filthy rodent! *(String cross stage. Tom goes after it to wings)* Oops! Sorry young fellow. Blasted rats, they're all over the place. My daughter tells me you want to apply for the job?

Dick

That's right Sir. I'm Dick Whittington. Honest, trustworthy and not afraid of a good day's hard work. I have a good reference here from my former employer. *(Shows letter)*

Fitz

I'm Alderman Fitzwarren.

Capt & Bilge

(Passing by pause, lift cap.) To whom we raise our hat!

Fitz

(Reads Letter) Yes, this seems perfectly in order, very impressive. The Shop is a general store selling all sort of goods. Doing pretty well at the moment, no serious

competitors, just some chap called Harrods over in Knightsbridge. So when can you start?

Dick

Right now Sir! I'll just collect my cat.

Fitz

Oh, but I never agreed to any cat.

Dick

But he's as good as gold and a wonderful mouser. *(Just at that minute Tom returns with rat, and lays it at Fitzwarren's feet)* See what I mean. He'll soon get rid of all the rats in the Shop.

Tom

Meow.

Fitz

Mmm, if he can catch rats, perhaps you are right! Very well Dick, you and your cat shall be employed here. You shall have the attic room, it's a bit small but I think you'll be able to swing a cat in it! *(To audience.)* Just a little joke there! Oh please yourselves! I'm sure you can make yourself comfortable. Now come along and I'll introduce you to the rest of the staff. Dolly is in charge, she looks after me, don't know what I do without her.

(Exits. Lights down and back up)

Dolly

(Enters) Hello everybody, it's me Dolly Trump. *(Cups hand to ear)* Sorry, what's that? No dear, no relation whatsoever, well **I sincerely hope!** I'm not rude and I'm certainly not coloured orange! *(Pause. To the wings)* I say, they have asked am I related to Donald! I thought you said they were a nice audience! And another thing it's like a morgue out here. *(To audience.)* Look, lets start again, I'll go off and when I come back I want you to shout, "**Aye up me duck!**" Will you do that? Good. That will liven us up a bit! Here I go. I'm coming back. I'm nearly there. Hello everybody?

Aud

Aye up me duck!

Dolly

Oh, that was ever so good. Say, do you think I'm sexy. What do you mean no! *(Pick one in audience)* Oh blow you. Now I'm looking for a man. No, no dear, don't panic. Did you hear what the Alderman just said, "He doesn't know what he'd do without me"! I'm sure he has a soft spot for me, I just wish he'd show it a bit. Still, I've had my share of men and marriages. Did you know there are three rings of marriage? Engagement ring, wedding ring and the final one, **suffering!** Anyway, here's a little reminder, of our agreement. *(Nips into the wings, pops head round curtain)* Hello everybody?

Aud.

Aye up me duck!

Dolly

Great! Just keep that up! Now I'm looking for my assistant Jack. There is so much work that needs to be done, and he goes missing, again. I've done all the deliveries and cleaned the shop ready for opening, in fact I do everything he's so idle, so I call him, Idle Jack 'cause he's so lazy. Have you seen him?

Aud

No

Dolly

Well, if we shout he always turns up like a bad penny. After three all shout, Idle Jack". One, two, three. Idle Jack!

Jack

(Enters from audience, giving away sweets from a basket.) Here I am Dolly. Hello kids, who wants a sweet?

Dolly.

I hope you are not giving away all of the shop sweets.

Jack

Oh no. The Props ladies got these from Aldi! Oh I'm so tired.

Dolly

This boy is always tired! He's so lazy he even sticks his nose out of the window so the wind can blow it.

Jack

You can joke, but I think I'm ill.

Dolly

You are not ill.

Jack

Well, when I went to see the Doctor he told me I'm hypochondriac. Sound serious, and I've no idea where I could have caught it from!

Dolly

I've got a cure for that, **it's called work!** So come along take that basket back into the shop.

Jack

Oh can't you take it? I'm so tired.

Dolly

Just take it off! **Please!** (*Jack takes basket to wings and returns*) Oh he is so lazy.
(*To Jack*) You are L. A. Z. Y. lazy

Jack

I'm not lazy.

Dolly

Then why is it whenever I walk into the Shop I find you're not working?

Jack

Well, I'm a bit deaf so I don't hear you coming!

Dolly

Now you know what Alderman Fitzwarren said.

Jack

(*Mimes taking hat off*) To whom we raise our hat! (*Pause*) Just a minute! This lot never did it Dolly! I say you lot, (*to audience*) Alderman Fitzwarren is such a respected figure around here we all doff our hats whenever his name is mentioned. So would you mind joining in with us please? Doff your cap like this and say, to whom we raise our hat!

Dolly

If you don't have a hat, just mime it. Little practice. Alderman Fitzwarren.
(*Audience. To whom we raise our hat! Thumbs up*) Anyway he said if things don't improve we might have to part company.

Jack

Oh I do hope it doesn't come to that. It wouldn't be the same working around here without you Dolly.

Dolly

Not me, you idiot. You! He might sack you.

Jack

Oh but he wouldn't do that.

Dolly

Oh but he would.

Jack

Oh but he wouldn't.

Dolly

Oh but he would.

Jack

I hope he doesn't sack me, I've no training or education, and I'll never get another job. I'm no good at anything. I know I could work for Derby City Council. (*Or appropriate topical reference.*)

Dolly

You? Work for the Council? Well yes, I suppose you could, you're next to an idiot.

Jack

Oh. (*Large exaggerated step to the side*)

Dolly

That was not funny.

Jack

They thought it was. (*Points to audience*)

Dolly

How is it you manage to do so many stupid things in one day?

Jack

I get up early.

Dolly

Look stop acting stupid.

Jack

I'm not acting!

Dolly

They (*Points to audience*) have probably noticed that already. And another thing, the number of tea breaks you take!

Jack

Yeah I know, and I always have to make one for you at the same time.

Dolly

I must have my cup of tea. It keeps me going.

Jack

(*Crosses legs*) I know what you mean!

(Song. Dolly and Jack) (I like a nice cup of tea.)

I like a nice cup of tea in the morning
Just to start the day you see

And at half past eleven, then my idea of heaven
Is a nice cup of tea
I like a nice cup of tea with my dinner
And a nice cup of tea with my tea
And when it's time for bed, there's something to be said
For a nice cup of tea. *(Curtains close during song.)*

Jack

Of course another word for tea is Char.

Dolly

Or as Craig Revel Harwood would say, Cha, Cha, Cha. Darlings.
(Minces over to Jack doing outrageous Latin American cha cha steps, singing "Tea for Two")

Picture me upon your knee, tea for two and two for tea
Me for you and you for me alone
It would be smashing, if we did some mashing
PG or Typhoo, 'cause your brew is my brew
I like it hot and, I'd really go for you, dear. *(Aud.)*

Jack

(To audience) Take no notice of her dear, she's man mad!

(Repeat Song)

I like a nice cup of tea in the morning
Just to start the day you see
And at half past eleven, then my idea of heaven
Is a nice cup of tea
I like a nice cup of tea with my dinner
And a nice cup of tea, with my tea
And when it's getting late, almost anything will wait
For a nice cup, Oh! Those little perforations!
For a nice cup of tea!

Jack

And of course there's an awful lot of coffee in Brazil!

Dolly

Oh don't start that, come on you! Get the kettle on! *(Both exit.)*
(End of scene)

Act 1 Scene 3. - Front Cloth

Spirit

(Enters. Stage lights dim.) So Dick has found a new job, some new friends and is settling down in his little room. He is looking forward to his new life in London. Tom soon got to work and cleared the rats from the shop. But what else lies in store? What nasty tricks will that evil King Rat think of I wonder? *(Exits)*

Rat

(Enters. Green spot light etc.) Ha. Ha. Ha. So Whittington is *(sneeringly)* settling down in his little room with his cat is he? I shall soon put a stop to all his happiness. But there is still the problem with that horrible moggy! That cat is being nasty to all my little ratty friends. I can't have that can I? *(Aud. Yes)* Oh no I can't etc. Oh shut up! I shall have to put a stop to it. I need a cunning plan. Now what can I come up with? Hmm! I know I'll get him thrown out of the shop for stealing. *(Pause)* But he's so honest, I won't be able to compel him to do that, despite my phenomenal powers. So, what I shall need to do is plant some incriminating evidence against him. Ha. Ha. Ha. Now, I'm sure I can find a couple of ruffians to do the dirty work for me. I'll wait over here and spy my chance, there's bound to be some idiots come along who I can control with my magic. Ha. Ha. Ha. *(Exits)*

(End of scene)

Act 1 Scene 4 – The Docks

(Enter Black Barnacle and Saucy Sal.)

Barn.

Check on my clove-hitches and rattle my reef knots it's eight bells already. *(Looks at watch. Loud 8 bells)* Lets go and wet our whistle in the 'Mermaid' over there.

Sal

Good idea. *(Parrot sitting on Barnacle's shoulder. "Yo, Ho, Ho, and a bottle of rum! 15 men on a dead man's chest!")* That's right Polly.... he's talking our language. *(Parrot. "Pieces of eight, pieces of eight.")* What's that? Yes you're right. Hey fish face, we don't have any money.

Barn

We'll you can flirt and flash your eyes at the Barman, perhaps show a bit of leg! *(Long pause. Looks at her long and hard, she is not a pretty picture.)* Hmm, looking at the state of you, perhaps that's not a very good idea!

Sal

Hey watch it you! You can go off people you know!

Barn

Belt up my Bulwarks and bounce my bowline, I know what we can do. We'll put it on the '**Slate**', **and** because we are sailing on the 'Lady Alice' tomorrow we will get away without paying.

Sal

The Landlord will never agree to that.

Barn

Just leave it all to me. Come along. *(Goes into the Pub)* Ah Landlord, 2 measures of your finest Rum, and just put it on my account my good fellow. *(Both enter into Pub.) (Pause.) (Loud noise from inside the Pub, "You must be joking!" Both are thrown out. "And don't come back!")*

Sal

Arrgh! Well you were a complete waste of time in there.

Barn

I was? Did you see the size of that Landlord? And he was carrying a full beer barrel under each arm!

Rat

(Enters. Green spot. Rest of stage to semi darkness. Claps his hand together and they freeze.) Ha, ha, ha. Now isn't this fortunate? That pair is just what I need. A couple of gormless idiots, who are down on their luck. I'll soon get Whittington and his pesky cat thrown out of London, and then my rats can continue to thrive. Ha, ha, ha. Watch carefully and I'll you show how to control feeble minds. *(Clicks his fingers)* **You pair come here!**

Barn

(Lights back up) Begger 'me bones it's Sergei the Meerkat!

Rat

Sergei the Meerkat! **How dare you!** You cannot '**Compare Me**' to a Meerkat! I am King Rat.

Sal

Who? Postman Pat?

Rat

King Rat! I'm the most feared creature in London Town. Everybody is terrified of me. Ha, ha.

Sal

Oweer! (*Jumps into Barnacle's arms and hugs him*)

Barn

Now look what you've done.

Rat

What the matter with her?

Barn

Your shouting has made her nervous. And she always wants a hug when she's nervous! Calm down dear its only a commercial!

Rat

(*To audience.*) Well as you can see, these two are definitely idiots so I'm halfway there already. Now I want you to look closely into my eyes.

Sal

Not likely you are trying to hypnotise us. Isn't he?

Barn

Yearh! Well it won't work on us mush! We are much too smart for that!

Rat

(*Snaps fingers and they are both **immediately** in a trance*) Quiet fool! Listen to me.

Barn

(*Monotone voice*) Yeah, pay attention Sal or we'll be here all night.

Rat

Concentrate! You are going into a deep sleep (*Both adopt a glazed look*). Now can you hear me? (*Both shake heads 'No'*) Huh, they are obviously not in a deep enough trance. (*Waving hands at them*) Sleep. Sleep. You are now in a deep trance. (*Snores*). That's better. Now you will repeat everything I say.

B & S

We will repeat everything you say. (*Very Monotone. Like a Darlek*)

Rat

You are in now in my complete control.

B & S

We are now in your complete control.

Rat

Listen to me very carefully. Whittington and his cat are a pain in the, ar (*pause*) armpit. His cat is killing all the beautiful rats in Alderman Fitzwarren's shop.

B & S

(*Come out off trance, take caps off*) To whom we raise our hat! (*Rat snaps fingers and they are back into the trance*)

Rat

Stop that now! Not good is it? (*They nod head vigorously*) What? (*Shake heads*) I don't like Whittington do I? (*Shake heads*) We'd be better off without him; he's too nice isn't he? (*They nod slowly*) You would like to help me get rid of him wouldn't you? (*They shake theft head vigorously.*) Lets try again. You have no money so would you like some? (*They nod head vigorously*) There's plenty in the shop safe, and its all yours for the taking. Then you will help me to get rid of Whittington. Won't you? (*They nod*) Now repeat after me. Break into the Shop.

B & S

Break into the Shop.

Rat

and then...

B & S

and then...

Rat

Steal the money from the safe.

B & S.

Steal the money from the safe.

Rat

Is that clear?

B & S

Is that clear?

Rat

No, no! Don't repeat that!

B & S

No, no! Don't repeat that!

Rat

Bah fiddle-sticks. Ha, h, ha. Now we should see some fun. Whittington and his cat will be in real trouble. That cat is a menace. My lovely rats will be able to thrive. And you lot down there, *(Audience)* don't think about trying to help him, for there's lots of nasty things I can do if my temper is aroused! Ha, ha, ha. You pair, remember what you have to do, awaken now! *(Claps hands and exits)*

Barn

Oh I came over all queer.

Sal

Zzzzzz.

Barn

What's wrong with her? Wake up stupid! That's a silly thing to say, because she always wakes up stupid. Hey wake up stupid!

Sal

(Still like a Darlek) Hey wake up stupid! *(Bilge shakes her)* What! What! Oweer. I've just had a funny dream.

Barn

So have I, and it was a real nightmare! But I did have a good idea. To get us out of our current situation, **i.e. skint**, we will steal some money.

Sal

Do you know I've had the same thought? We'll break into Fitzwarren's shop. *(Goes into semi trace and Darlek voice again)* There's plenty of money in the shop safe, and its all yours for the taking.

Barn

(Clicks fingers and she is back to normal.) That's right! But we can't do it whilst it's daylight, we just need to wait till nightfall when its dark! ***(Snap Blackout!)***

Sal

Blimey that was quick!

Barn

Come on, let's get on with it. (Both exit. Lights back up.)
(End of scene)

ACT 1 Scene 5 - Front Cloth

Alice

(Enters from the wing. Dick enters from opposite side) Hello Dick. Are you settling in to your room? I'm afraid it's not very big?

Dick

Yes I am, thank you Miss Fitzwarren, and the room is ample for Tom and me.

Alice

Please call me Alice. Tom is doing a fine job getting rid of the rats.

Dick

Yes he is, and I'm a very lucky fellow getting a job in your father's shop, because it means that I shall be able to get to know you better.

Alice

Yes, I suppose you will. But why have you come to London?

Dick

There's no work in my village, and I'd heard it said that the streets of London were paved with gold, so I just had to come.

Alice

(Laughs) But that's just a myth. Life here is just as hard as anywhere else

Dick

(Laughs) Yes I do know that! I hope to find work, and eventually make my fortune.

Alice

Well I'm sure you will be happy here. Father is a good man, and works very hard to provide for us, but running a business in London is not easy. Well, I must be on my way. Bye. *(Exits)*

Dick

What a wonderful girl, and so beautiful. For the first time I'm happy here in London.

Song. *(Woke up this morning feeling fine?)*
(End of Scene)

ACT 1 Scene 6 Fitzwarren's Shop

(Semi darkness. Barnacle & Sal Enter. Spooky music. They are dressed as Burglars with eye masks, a Bag marked Swag, and another marked Burglars Tools. Barnacle carries a book titled 'How to be a Cat Burglar')

Barn

Right, now have we got everything?

Sal

What should I have?

Barn

I'll look in this book. 'How to be a Cat Burglar'.

Sal

That's no good, who wants to steal a cat?

Barn

Shut up clown. *(Reading from book)* Now it says in here, the first rule of Burglary is to make little noise.

Sal

Right. Hello, hello!

Barn

(Shouts) No! Make as little noise as possible!

Sal

(Claps hand over Barn's mouth) Shush! Someone will hear you.

Barn

Get off, get off. Now the next thing is to pull your stocking over your head.

Sal

Here you are. *(Barn puts his on his head, turns to face Sal who is frightened)*
Arhhh! Oh it's you, thank goodness.

Barn

Come on, put yours on.

Sal

Ok. *(Turns back to audience and puts tights on her head with a spare leg hanging down in front of her face)*

Barn

Ha, ha. What's that suppose to be?

Sal

Well, I only wear 'Tights' so I had to make do.

Barn

Now, come on and remember be as quite as a mouse. *(He immediately trips and makes a loud noise)*

Sal

Shush! Remember no noise.

Barn

Look there's the safe, have a look around and see if you can find the key.

Sal

I'll try this cupboard. *(As she opens the door stuff falls onto her)*

Barn

Shh! Remember no noise. I'll try the skeleton keys. *(tries)* Useless. We'll have to chisel it open.

Sal

Hammer and chisel coming up.

Barn

Now, I'll hold the chisel and when I nod my head you hit it.

Sal

Eh?

Barn

I said when I nod my head you hit it. *(Barnacle nods.)*

Sal

OK, you're the Boss. *(Does so)*

Barn

(Hopping about) Ouch what did you do that for?

Sal

You said when I nod my head you hit it.

Barn

I meant the chisel you blithering idiot. Oh this is no good we'll never get it open.

Sal

Hold on, try this. *(Gives him a hair grip)*

Barn

A hair grip? That won't work stupid!

Sal

(Fiddles with the lock and it does the job) Look, here's a bag of money....

Rat

(Enters. Green Spot. Lights dim) You pair! *(Claps hands and they are immediately in a trance again.)* Oh well done you've got the safe open! Now take the money out of the bag and hide it in Whittington's bundle.

Barn

Hide the money! *(They do so in a trance like state)*

Sal

In Whittington's bundle!

Rat

Ha, ha, ha. That should sort Whittington out. Ha, ha, ha. (*Snaps fingers. Exits.*)

Barn

(*Looks in bag and safe.*) That's funny, no money, I could have sworn there was a bag of money.

Sal

I came over all peculiar again. Listen someone is coming. Quickly or we'll be caught, sling your hook. (*Run around in a panic, meet centre stage, jump into air waving arms. Exit*)

Dick

(*Enters with Tom.*) What a lovely morning Tom, don't you feel glad to be alive? Here am I, with a fine new job, new friends and not only that there's the lovely Alice to work with. Now come along, see if you can find any more of those horrible rats while I get the Shop ready for opening. (*Tom exits and keeps returning with rats, which he piles, centre stage*)

Jack.

(*Enters*) Morning. Oh I'm so tired. You're up early.

Dick

Morning Jack, no it's you that's late.

Jack

That's because I slept over.

Dick

You mean you over slept.

Jack

No, I slept over my brother's place. (*Noise off stage*) Oh dear that sounds like Dolly, I expect she'll want us to start work.

Dick

Well that's what we're here for. I said I would start the stocktaking in the Store Room. Have you seen my cat?

Jack

Is it a tom? (*Slang for 'at home'*)

Dick

No I definitely brought him with me! *(Dick exits as Dolly enters)* Morning Dolly.

Dolly

Hello everybody.

Aud.

Aye up me duck!

Dolly

What a lovely day, just right for stopping in bed, especially when you **don't** have a headache! Now come along Jack, stop slouching about, get the doors open we've customers waiting.

Jack

If I have to. *(Exits)*

Dolly

Give me a hand behind the Counter. There ought to be a joke there but I can't think of one! *(Tom plays tricks on Dolly and Jack, with the sausages, which he keeps sliding off the counter! Customers enter shop. Tom tries to get milk from a jug. Ends up dipping his tail in and licking it off. Customers enter and they serve them from props on the Counter. Money changes hands as they purchase items.)*

Cus 1

Excuse me, can I be served please? I must warn you I've got jelly and custard in my ears.

Dolly

What do you want me to do about it?

Cus 1

Pardon?

Sarh

I said what should I do?

Cus 1

You'll have to speak up because I'm a trifle deaf!

Cus 2

What have you got in this tin?

Jack

It's bean soup.

Cus 2

I don't care what it's been, what is it now?

Dolly

Yes? What can I do to help?

Cus 3

Half a pound of peanuts please

Dolly

Sorry, we've no nuts the flipping rats have pinched all the peanuts.

Jack

And chewed my Bon-Bon's!

Cust 3

I bet that made your eyes water!

Cus 4

Have you got Naan bread?

Jack

No, Nana doesn't shop here!

Cust 4

Excuse me, what have you got in stockings?

Jack

Just my legs! Oh I see, here you are madam.

Cust 5

Excuse me but do you sell French food?

Dolly

Wee wee; Mademoiselle.

Cust 5

Avez-vous des cuissess grenouilles.

Dolly

You what?

Cust 5

Can you speak French?

Dolly

Wee, wee. Baguette, Patisserie, Emmanuel Macron, Arsene Wenger.

Cust 5

I asked you for Frogs legs.

Dolly

Hey Jack, do you have frogs legs?

Jack

Yes.

Dolly

Hop off and fetch some for this customer!

Cust 3

Can I have a portion of snails please.

Jack

Frogs legs for you Madam.

Dolly

And a portion of snails for you. We are a bit low on snails so I've added a few black garden slugs at no extra cost.

Cust

I say, this coffee looks like mud.

Dolly

Well it was only ground this morning! *(Customer's leave.)*

Jack

Well that was quite a hectic morning, I'm so tired!

Dolly

Well you did do quite well, so as a treat you can have this pie.

Jack

Oh thanks, Dolly.

Dolly

Hold on, you have to earn it first. You have to hold it on this plate in front of you, for a count of 30, whilst I hang two heavy weights from your arms.

Jack

You are joking! I know all about custard pies in pantomime, you will splat it in my face.

Dolly

I promise you I will not touch it! You can hold it yourself and I will just hang these on your arms like this. *(Loops string over arms with hanging weights)* See, no problem. I won't touch the pie, promise. *(To audience. Come on count with me . 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,)* You feeling okay?

Jack

Yes, but my arms are beginning to ache now.

Dolly

Arm aching? Oh, I can soon solve that! *(She cuts the string so the weights drop to the floor and Jack's hands released of the tension pushes the pie into his own face.)*

Jack

I knew there'd be a catch. **"That was rotten"!**

Dolly

Here's Alderman Fitzwarren. Hello Fritzzy. (*Flashes eyes.*)

All

(*Pauses*) To whom we raise our hat!

Fitz

(*Enters as Dick and Tom return. Tom with another rat*) Another rat. Well done Tom, and you have done a good job with the stocktaking in the store Dick.

Dick

Yes, it's quite tidy now sir, we've had a busy morning.

Jack

That's right, so have we, the till's full, look at all the money.

Fitz

Good, good, put it in the safe.

Jack

OK. (*Sees the forced safe.*) It's Gorn!

Dolly

What's Gorn?

Alice

(*Entering*) All the money from the safe?

Fitz

No, no, the safe, look I've been robbed.

Alice.

Who could have done such a thing?

Fitz

Where's the money, where's the money? Has anyone seen anybody suspicious?

All

No!

Alice.

Who has been in the shop today?

Jack.

No-one special. Cut throat Jake. Dick Turpin. Ronnie Briggs. (*Find suitable references.*)

Dolly.

No, no. It wouldn't be any of them.

Jack

And Donald Trump. (*Or someone appropriate.*)

Dolly

Now him I don't trust!

Alice

Perhaps the money is still here.

Fitz

We'll have to search everybody.

Dolly.

I'm over here Fitzy. Bags I'm first. (*He searches her*) Oh I say, Oh I say, ohhhhh.

Fitz

You're in the clear

Dolly

Excuse me you missed a bit!

Fitz

(*Searches Jack and Dick*) No you two are OK. Oh dear oh dear whoever's taken it? (*He is next to Dick's bundle, which he picks up off a stool to sit down*) This bundle is very heavy, what have you got in here I wonder? (*Finds the cash.*) **Whittington!** I trusted you, this is a fine way to repay me! Jack, send for the Bow Street Runners straight away.

Alice

No, please don't father, we must be making a mistake. Dick is not a thief, I'll stake my life on it.

Dick

Thank you Alice.

Fitz.

Young man, my daughter seems to think you are innocent, but this evidence points to you.

Alice

Please, father?

Fitz

Very well Alice, I shall not send for the Police, but you will have to go Whittington. Leave, and never darken my door no more!

Dick

But sir, I swear...

Fitz

Go! Now! While you can.

Dick

I'm sorry Alice?

Alice

I'm sorry too Dick, but I've done all I can. It will be better if you leave.

Dick

Very well, but I never touched the money.

Alice

I believe you, and I'm sure things will be cleared up, but go now before he changes his mind and sends for the Bobbies.

All

(Turn together and point) Dick Whittington, you're fired! *(Alan Sugar 'The Apprentice' music.)*

(Blackout. End of Scene)

ACT 1 Scene 7. A few days later.

(A Milestone; Highgate Hill London 5 mile)

Spirit

(Enters) All of Dick's dreams had been shattered. He tried for other jobs but word about being caught with stolen money soon spread. No-one trusted him and everybody shunned him. He had nowhere to live and eventually he decided he would be better off returning to his village. Feeling very sad and depressed he began the long walk home to Gloucestershire turning his back on London, Alice, and Alderman Fitzwarren *(Stage Crew shout and wave hats from wings.)* **To whom we raise our hat!** *(Exits)*

Dick

(Enters) I wonder where I am? Highgate Hill. London 5 Miles! Is that all I've travelled? It seems more like 50. London's down there it looks so peaceful lying beside the Thames. Fancy, just as I thought things were beginning to look up and I'd made some friends all that unpleasantness should happen. Even Tom's deserted me now.

Tom.

(Enters limping) Meow, meow.

Dick

Tom! So you're still my friend. You're limping what's the matter. Come here I won't hurt you. *(Takes splinter out of his paw)* There you are that should be better. Oh dear I'm so tired I must have a little rest. I'll sit down by this milestone and close my eyes for a while. *(Dick sleeps. Spirit of the Bells and a couple of small dancers appear in UV light. Bow bells are ringing and they are singing. Turn again Whittington Lord Mayor of London. Tune is "Oranges and Lemons". Exit.)*

Dick

Tom. Wake up Tom, I've just had a wonderful dream.

Tom

Meow.

Dick

I dreamt that there were angel's and Bow Bells were ringing and they seem to be saying, "Turn again Whittington, Lord Mayor of London". Oh Tom do you think I could be Lord Mayor. *(Pause)* No of course not. It was only a dream. *(Bells start again)*. But just a minute, the Bells are ringing, and listen to what they are saying. *(Chorus singing with the Bells!)*

*Turn again Whittington, thou worthy citizen,
Turn again Whittington, Lord Mayor of London.
Turn again Whittington, thou worthy citizen,
Turn again Whittington, thrice Mayor of London.*

Tom

Meow, meow, meow, meow. (*Holding paw to ear, point back to London etc.*)

Dick

Yes Tom you are right, the Bells **are** telling me to go back. This must be some sort of omen. I shall return to London, find myself another job, work hard and who knows one day I may be Lord Mayor. Watch out Lambeth, here I come.
(*Tabs open on all cast as the song starts. Dick and Tom join them.*)

ACT 1 Scene 8 London Docks

(*Reprise Lambeth Walk*)

Dick

I'll go back down Lambeth way, everything will be OK
Let's march along, doing the Lambeth Walk. (Tom) Meow!
Listen what those Bow Bells say,
I will be Lord Mayor one day
In my parade, we'll do the Lambeth Walk. (Tom) Meow!

All

Everything's free and easy do as you darn well pleasey
Why don't you make your way there, go there stay there
Once you get down Lambeth way, every evening, every day
You'll find yourself, doing' the Lambeth Walk. Oi!

Any time you're Lambeth way, any evening any day
You'll find us all, doing' the Lambeth Walk. Oi!
Every little Lambeth gal, with her little Lambeth pal
You'll find them all, doing the Lambeth Walk. Oi!
Everything free and easy, do as you darn well pleasey
Why don't you make your way there, go there, stay there
Once you get down Lambeth way, every evening, every day
You'll find yourself doing' the Lambeth Walk. Oi!!! (*Curtain.*)

Interval

Act 2 Scene 1 On board the 'Lady Alice'

(*Ship deck.*) Bilge

(*Shouting*)

All aboard, all aboard, the Lady Alice. Join our Crew sailing the seven seas. Grasp your chance to see the world. Sail the sea under the night stars. Come along and join us.

Capt

Well we've got our Crew Bilge, a happy band, we'll search for adventure together.

(Song. Suggestion. Reach. S Club 7)

(Opening number with cast and chorus.)

(Cast exit at end leaving Captain and Bilge on stage.)

Capt

So we be ready me old hearty. Shiver me timbers and splay me sea boots.
Rig the Mains'al. We sail with the tide me old Bucko.

Bilge

Pardon, I don't understand what you are saying!

Capt

Oh! Bail out me bilges. It doesn't matter.

Bilge

No I don't suppose it does. *(Aside)* He only talks rubbish anyway.

Capt.

Well the cargo's loaded and the Ship is all spruced up and ready to sail.
Whilst in the Dock I had the barnacles scraped off the bottom.

Bilge

Oh! I bet that was painful! I had that complaint too, but my Doctor gave me something to clear it up!

Capt

All aboard, all aboard.

Bilge

(Blows his whistle) We've another new recruit Captain.

Capt.

Good, good. Bring him aboard.

Bilge

Aye, aye Captain. *(Dick. enters)* This is Dick Whittington.

Capt.

Oh yes, we met the other day. Whitt Dickinson is it?

Dick

Er. No Sir, Dick Whittington.

Capt

So you've decided to join my Crew.

Dick

Yes please Captain, I can't find work here in London so I'll try a life at sea.

Capt.

Well, you're welcome, we are a very happy ship, aren't we Bilge?

Bilge

Well er. *(Not so sure)* We've have had a few ups and down!

Capt

You do on a ship at sea! *(Indicates waves with his hand.)*

Dick

Can I bring my cat along with me, he's a very good mouser?

Capt.

Certainly, he can help keep the rats down.

Bilge

Avast ye then matey, I'll show you where to bunk. *(Both Exit)*

Friz

(Enters with Alice. Chorus carry on about 4 pieces of luggage.)

Here she is Alice, my new Ship the 'Lady Alice'. I named her after you my dear. She is loaded with goods to trade with all those far off exciting and exotic lands.

She shall travel the World and bring back:

Port from Portugal,

Pans from Panama,

Coffee from Columbia

We'll get Eggs from the Easter Islands,

Crackers from Christmas Island,
and from the Virgin Islands I'll get
er, Perhaps we'll drop in the Canary Islands and buy some Budgies.

Capt.

Welcome aboard Alderman Fitzwarren, (*Pauses, take his cap off.*) **To whom we raise our hat!** Welcome, Miss Alice.

Fitz

There you are Captain Haddock. Are preparations going to plan?

Capt..

That they be Sir.

Fitz

Good, good. I have decided my daughter and I will accompany you.

Alice

I trust you will take good care of us.

Capt..

That we will. (*To Fitz*) But are you sure about Miss Alice joining us? Life is very hard on board Ship.

Fitz

Have you tried arguing with a woman? She's very determined and I hope she'll come back a little happier. She's done nothing but mope since I sacked Whittington. Now Captain when do you sail?

Capt.

Depends on the wind Sir.

Fitz

Have you tried Rennies?

Capt..

Oh very good Sir, very good. Wind for the sails, Sir.

Fitz

Yes of course.

Bilge

(*Enters and blows his whistle*) There's a Nor' Wester blowing Captain it will make the sea a bit choppy. So better batten down your Breakfast!

Capt.

Thank you Bilge. All hands on deck, all hands on deck. Rig the Mains'al. We sail in ten minutes. All ashore that's going ashore. Send the Alderman's luggage to the '**Premier Class**' cabins Bilge. *(Exits)*

Bilge

Aye, aye Sir. *(Capt, Fitz and Alice Exit.)* Sailors. I want this luggage moving quickly. *(Bilge exits after he summons Barnacle and Sal)*

B & S

Aye, Aye Mr Bilge! *(A number of pieces of luggage are marked 'Not needed on board'. Sal looks at them, and then throws them overboard.)*

Sal

I'd best just throw this over the side! *(Loud splash)*

Barn

Why did you do that?

Sal

It says '**Not needed on board**'!

Barn

Oh yes, so it does. *(Throw rest overboard. Splashes. Exit with rest of luggage.)*

Capt.

(Enters with Bilge.) Now, where's that motley crew? All hands on deck, all hands on deck. *(Bilge blows his whistle, Jack, Dolly, Barnacle, Sal enter, all go onto their knees and hands on the floor.)*

Dolly

Hello everybody.

Aud

Aye up me duck!

Capt.

See what I mean about motley!

Bilge

Crew reporting for duty Captain.

Capt.

What are you all doing down there?

Jack

'

You said all hands on deck.

Capt.

Give me strength. You scurvy dogs; we've work to do. Get on with it Bilge. *(Exits)*

Bilge

And what can you do Dolly?

Jack

She can cook!

Bilge

Good, she'll be useful in the Galley.

Dolly

Play your cards right and I could be useful in all sorts of places.

Jack

She's got the biggest dumplings in London.

Dolly

Get off. There's some bigger than mine! Have you seen Dolly Parton? *(Or similar.)*

Capt.

(Off stage) Weigh the anchor. Hoist the Mizzen Mr Mate.

Bilge

Aye, aye, Captain. Weigh the Anchor. Hoist the Mizzen. Off you go lads!

Jack

(Shouts) Anchor weighs about a Tonne, Captain!

All

Hoist The Mizzen! *(Run to front of stage, pull on imaginary ropes.)*

Cant

Cast off For'ard Bilge.

Bilge

(Blows his whistle) Cast off for'ard. Aye, aye Captain. Off you go lads.

All

Cast off for'ard. Aye, aye Mr Bilge.

(They all rush to The Bow. Dolly goes opposite way to the rest of Crew each time.)

Capt.

(Off) Cast off the Stern. Bilge.

Bilge

(Blows his whistle) Aye, aye Captain. Cast off the Stern. Off you go lads.

All

Cast off the Stern. *(They all rush to Stern.)* Aye, aye Mr Bilge.

Capt.

(Off) Rig the Mains'al Bilge.

Bilge

(Blows his whistle) Aye, aye Captain. Rig the Mains'al. Off you go lads.

All

Rig the Mains'al. Aye, aye Mr Bilge. *(They all rush towards Bow again)*

Capt.

(Off) Wheel's with you Mr Mate. *(A Parrot sits on the wheel)*

Bilge

Aye, aye Captain. You pair, secure the Sheets to the Bulwarks.

B & S

Aye, aye, Mr Mate. *(Exit)*

Bilge

Dolly, why were you going the opposite way to the rest of the Crew!

Dolly

Well, I'm not sure which is back end of the ship and which is the 'pointy bit'!

Bilge

Bow woman, Bow.

Dolly

Oh sorry. *(Bows)*

Bilge

Not bow to me, the 'pointy bit' is the Bow! *(Points to both in turn.)* Bow, Stern.

