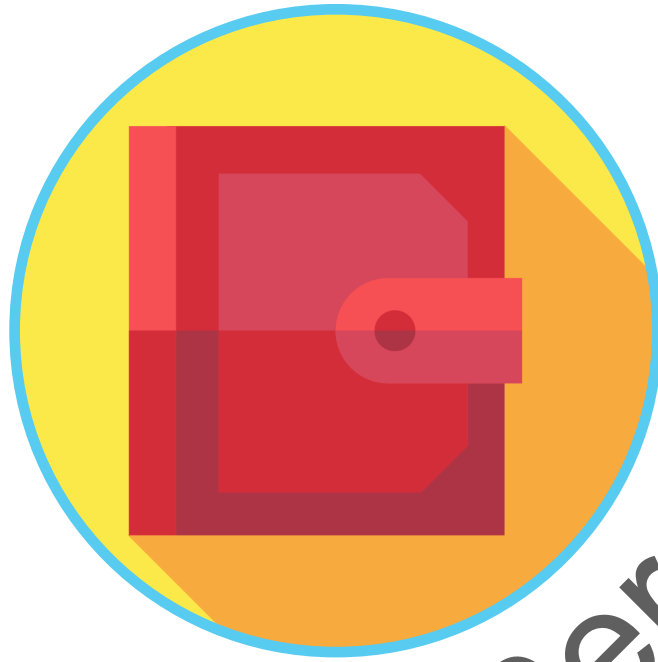




# Old Mother Hubbard

(The Lady Who Lived in a Shoe)

by Simon Arnold

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### Main Characters (13 Main)

|                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Old Mother Hubbard (M):</b>                               | The dame with a heart of gold who wants the best for her children. A keen baker with a saucy sense of fun.                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Wee Willy Winky (M/F with some modifications) :</b>       | Helps out where he can with the kids. Chats a lot with the audience but is just a schoolboy at heart                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Wrack (M/F):</b>                                          | The Baron's bailiff, nominally in charge part of one of the idiots who try to be hard but end up being a couple of softies. Lots of gags and jokes between the 2 of them.                                                     |
| <b>Ruin (M/F):</b>                                           | The Baron's bailiff, who thinks he should be in charge part of one of the idiots who try to be hard but end up being a couple of softies. Lots of gags and jokes between the 2 of them.                                       |
| <b>The Baron Von Brie (M/F):</b>                             | Upper class, pure evil. Just out for himself, he looks down on everyone and will use anyone to get what he wants.                                                                                                             |
| <b>The Fairy Berry (Mary) (F/M with some modifications):</b> | There are 2 sides to this fairy. There is her sweet fairy persona typical of many pantos and then there is the diva behind the fairy, an embittered actor who never quite made it but believes they are a cut above the rest. |
| <b>Little Miss Muffet (Melody) (F):</b>                      | The niece of The Baron but sweet and lovely she has just inherited her parent's estate and is happy for her uncle to manage it for her. She is just interested in Little Boy Blue but she has a date with a spider.           |
| <b>Little Boy Blue (F):</b>                                  | Bit of a jack the lad, got the sack from his last job because he fell asleep. Left his mum and the village to find his Aunt Mother Hubbard and a new job. Falls for Little Miss Muffat.                                       |
| <b>Farmer Giles (M):</b>                                     | The farmer who owes the Baron rent and is always at the doctors. Lots of gags.                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Jack (M):</b>                                             | Cheeky school-boy, one of Old Mother Hubbard's orphans, sister of Jill. Lots of jokes and fetching of water.                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Jill (F):</b>                                             | Just as cheeky as her brother Jack, one of Old Mother Hubbard's orphans. Helps Mother where she can but is often getting into mischievous naughtiness with her brother.                                                       |
| <b>Little Bo Peep (M/F):</b>                                 | Appears in the final scene, they are Danny Dyer and Phil Mitchell all rolled into a Nursery (Cockney) rhyming slang.                                                                                                          |
| <b>Mr Kipling (M or F with some tweaks):</b>                 | Comes on at the end and saves the day! Small role.                                                                                                                                                                            |

**Smaller Characters (Chorus)** could be played by children or childish Adults. Number can be reduced with lines merged. Or even extended with a bit of thought for other character names.

Mary Quite Contrary  
Jack Horner  
Polly Kettle  
Marjory Daw  
Pat the Cow

**Act 1 (55 minutes)**

**Scene 1:**            **The village Square** (full set)  
**Scene 2:**            **On the Road** (front cloth)  
**Scene 3:**            **Mother Hubbard's Kitchen** (full set)

**Act 2 (65 minutes including a sweet interval)**

**Scene 1:**            **The School Classroom** (full set)  
**Scene 2:** **On the Road** (front cloth)  
**Scene 3:**            **The Highway to Hill** (full set)  
**Scene 4:**            **Dark and Deadly woods** (full or half set)  
**Scene 5:** **If I was not in Pantomime** (front cloth/tabs)  
**Scene 6:**            **The Village Fair** (full set)  
**Song Sheet** (front cloth)  
**Finale** (full set)

## Act 1

### Scene 1 The village Square

*A Christmas tree should be set the whole-time downstage right. If possible, a branch from a tree to be placed under one of the chairs at the end of the front row.*

*Full set. **Music Cue 1:** Cast walk around hunched over, grumpy, sad. Bump into each other, angry. Fairy at the front disguised by an old cloak, miserable. Mother Hubbard goes up to her and gives her a coin. The fairy gives her the fairy doll. Mother Hubbard thanks her and turns away and goes off. The fairy pulls back her cloak and does a **Music Cue 2. Music Cue 3:** During the song, if possible presents should be placed next to the Christmas tree, perhaps as part of the dance, maybe passed to each other along a line to the tree. If not they will need to be brought on by Willy when he makes his entrance.*

**FARMER GILES:** *(After song finishes.)* Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen. As you know I am Farmer Giles, Chairman of the Farmers' Union, it is my pleasure to declare the Lower Bottom Christmas fair will open next week! There'll be a band for more dancing, free mulled wine tasting in the beer tent and lots of stalls with fruit and veg for sale. It's important to eat healthily! I pick fresh vegetables everyday, I feed them to my pigs and they convert it into bacon for my sandwiches. We just need some volunteers to help set everything up...*(The crowd exit at a gallop! everyone disappears except Little Miss Muffet.)* Typical!

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Oh Farmer Giles, I promise I will help you set up for the fair. I might even be able to get my Uncle the Baron to help.

**FARMER GILES:** Oh Little Miss Muffet, you're very sweet my dear but we both know that your uncle the Baron would sooner kiss me on the bottom than help set up the fair.

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Oh he's not that bad, I know he has a kind heart deep down below that hard exterior. I once saw him give a huge donation to a stranger just so he could sit on a small seat in a large house in London. And please call me Melody, I am still not used to the "Little Miss" title.

**FARMER GILES:** OK Melody, you're a lovely lass, so much nicer than your uncle. I must be off now, those cows won't impregnate themselves. Ta-ra!

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** *(Talking to herself)* Oh I do wish my uncle wasn't so awful to everyone. I try everyday to stick up for him but it gets harder and harder. My friend Willy says he is evil and that he is driving everyone into poverty. Willy says that all Mother Hubbard's cupboards are almost bare and she can't even afford to give the dog a bone, let alone all her orphaned children a meal. And then last week, poor Pickles, the dog disappeared and nobody has seen him since. It's so sad, everyone helped look for him! Even my uncle!

**WILLY:** *(WILLY enters carrying a small step ladder and places it by the tree.)* Hi Melody!

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Oh hiya! Sorry I can't stop, I am just off to the shops for some bread rolls, uncle says he found a fresh joint of meat the other day and wants to try a new recipe for Korean hot dogs. Bye!

**WILLY:**

*(Disappointed)* Oh bye then. *(Big sigh and then large yawn, mid yawn notice the audience for the first time.)* Oh crikey! Hello you lot, I didn't hear you come in! I better introduce myself, I am Wee Willy Winky and I've been running through the town, up stairs and down stairs wearing this night-gown, tapping on windows, shouting through letter boxes just to make sure all the children were in bed. I was at it until well past 10 o'clock and I am now very tired. So maybe you can help me? Can you help me? Good thanks, every time I come on and I yawn, I want you to shout "Wake up Willy". Can you do that? Let's have a little practice shall we. *(Do it twice. Lots of opportunities to banter with the audience.)*

Well it's wonderful to see so many of you here today. So many people that were here last year have come back! And you're all in the same seats! Lovely! Hello Rose! How's your nose? Hello Clair! How's your hair? Hello Annie! *Pause* How's your year been?

What an attractive front row, we have today! Wow! There are one or two exceptions. What's your name sir? **Bob** (this is a place-holder name. Use the gentlemen's real name). Well it's nice to meet you anyway **Bob**. I think we should all have a little cheer for Bob being so brave coming out looking like that. I do recognize **Bob**, he was on episode 2 of Channel 4's Embarrassing Bodies. Let's give him a cheer 1, 2, 3, Cheer. *(Do it again.)* You're so good at this, let's have a little competition. I am going to divide you into 3 Groups. Group A here on the left, Group B here on the right and Group C is **Bob**. Group A! *(Cheer)* Group B! *(Cheer)* Group C! *(Cheer)*. Round of applause for **Bob**, his evening has only just got started.

*(Big yawn remind audience if need be.)* Thank you. You are so good at that I am going to ask another favour of you. *(If the presents are not on already, do the following line and go off and get the presents and put them under the tree)* Hang on a mo, just talk amongst yourselves. Ladies and gentleman, boys and girls these are the presents for all the orphans to be opened on Christmas day. But. You know what people are like fiddling with presents before the big day. Do you enjoy a good fiddle **Bob**? Some people even like to open them early. I know! Shocking. So I need you lot to help me keep an eye on them. Whenever anyone goes near them I want you to shout "Hands off", I expect **Bob** hears that a lot. Shall we have a little practice? So that's two things to remember! "wake up Willy" and "Hands off" Time for a practice *(Pretend to creep up to the presents and await shout. Do a big yawn. Pretend to creep up to the presents and await shout)* Now some of you got confused and combined the 2 together. "Hands of Willy" which is something quite different.

**MOTHER  
HUBBARD:**

*(MOTHER HUBBARD Enters).* Ah! There's my little Willy! Thank you for organising the children's bed time last night. *(Notices the presents and goes up to them. Audience reacts. If not Willy reminds them.)* Oh you have trained them well! That gentlemen was very enthusiastic! But I was just going to put this fairy on top of the tree. *(Uses step ladder).*

**WILLY:**

Yes that's **Bob**. I am off now to see if can get some sleep *(Yawns Audience reacts Willy exits.)*

**MOTHER  
HUBBARD:**

Hello everyone! I know what you're thinking "who is that gorgeous, sexy, Kate Moss but only a thinner lookalike." And why can't I stop undressing her with my eyes. Stop looking at my up aboves and my down belows. Stop it! Stop it. No really stop it because it's pervy, especially you **bob**. As you probably know, if you've read the program, I live in a shoe and I've got so many children I don't know what to do! But I love children, no really I do - it says so in the script. I can't have any of my own so I opened an orphanage for all those unfortunates that don't have a loving mum like me or a weird, slightly creepy, uncle like **bob**. I was raised as an only child, which really annoyed my sister.

We grew up on a farm with lots of cows, I do love cows but you shouldn't pamper them because you'll end up with spoiled milk. Cows have got 3 stomachs! I wish I had 3

stomachs, I would have 1 for breakfast, 1 for lunch and 1 for chocolate. I love Chocolate! Sadly my days of eating chocolate are at an end because I can't afford it anymore. Times are hard. (audience aahhhh). Harder than that (audience aahhhh). Now this is going to come as something of a big shock (**Music Cue 4: loud bang**), told you ha ha I love that gag. There's a woman over here had an accident. Going to need a mop, oh no we are going to need a shovel Clean up in row 2. As I say times are hard and I have spent some money on the tree and the decorations and then I gave my last coin to an old lady who was sat in the street crying because she couldn't afford any food and hadn't eaten for days. She gave me that fairy in return and promised it would bring me luck. I just wish that fairy was real and could help me now!

**Music Cue 5: Magical FAIRY noise** MOTHER HUBBARD freezes

**FAIRY:**  
*sweet voice*

**Music Cue 6:** Good evening one and all  
Stuck so long on top this tree  
It's time I answered this important call  
To help Mother Hubbard with her plea.

*Change out of  
fairy mode into  
diva mode.*

Good grief, 20 years at RADA, a 9 week run at the Globe and a cameo appearance with Dame Judy and it's come to this. A second-rate script, written by a third rate actor in a theatre just outside Slough. Still, let's try and remain professional. I've been told that Andrew Lloyd's people are here looking for the next Evita. There'll be no need to cry for me after I get that part! Right Deep breath, think about the money, here goes.

**FAIRY:**  
*sweet voice*

**Music Cue 7:** She is kind, loving and caring  
And deserves some help this year  
I'll aid her with her cost of living  
And relieve her of her fear.

**FAIRY:**  
*Diva voice*

Right that's me back to the dressing room for a rub down by Sven and a well deserved G&T.

**MOTHER  
HUBBARD:**

(*Un-freeze*). goodness me I came over all peculiar now all I can smell is old ham which reminds me, I better go and see if I can find something for dinner, the children will be on their way home from school by now.

**JACK HORNER, MARY QUITE CONTRARY, MARJORY DAW and POLLY KETTLE** all run on from Stage Left.  
*They need to be boisterous and full of beans and banter.*

**MARY QUITE** Oi! Oi! Little Jack Horner, why were you sat in the corner?

**CONTRARY:**

**JACK HORNER:** I was eating my Christmas cake! I stuck in my thumb.

**MARJORY** You look like a plumb!

**DAW:**

**JACK HORNER:** Talking to you's a big mistake!

**ALL:** Laugh

**POLLY KETTLE:** Mary, Mary Quite Contrary, how does your garden grow?

**MARY QUITE** Photosynthesis of course. Derrrr!

**CONTRARY:**

**ALL:** Laugh

**POLLY KETTLE:** Marjory Daw, Do you know why that M&M was at school today?

**MARJORY** Yeah I think he wanted to become a smartie.

**DAW:**

**ALL:** *laugh. Groan. Shut up.*

**MARY QUITE** Is anyone else thirsty?

**CONTRARY:**

**JACK HORNER:** Yeah, come on Polly put the kettle on!

**ALL:** Polly put the kettle on, Polly put the kettle on, we'll all have tea!

*All 4 walk off stage right singing. We're going home, We're going home, Our boot is our home! JACK walks on stage left as they are walking off.*

**JACK:** Come on Jill! Hurry up! (*JILL runs on.*)

**JILL:** Wow!!! Look at all those presents! (*Head towards them audience shouts Hand off. Hopefully.*)

**WILLY:** (*Races on and clocks the 2 of them*) Oi you 2! They are not to be opened until Christmas day! You know the rules. *Thanks the audience.* I'm so tired! (*Audience Wake up Willy*) I have got my eye on you 2! So watch it. Jack what did you learn in school today?

**JACK:** Not enough, I've got to go back tomorrow. And I've got detention!

**WILLY:** What have you done now?

**JACK:** Swearing!

**WILLY:** Oh Jack that's terrible! Who did you learn such naughty words from?

**JACK:** Mother Hubbard.

**WILLY:** Oh no! And do you know what the words mean?

**JACK:** Yeah..... it means she hasn't had chocolate for over a week!

**WILLY:** (*sigh*) Well Jill, I hope you had a better day at school. What's those books you're reading?

**JILL:** This one is my physics book, it's about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.

**WILLY:** (*sigh*). What about the other one?

**JILL:** It's a story called "My life of crime" by Robin Banks.

**WILLY:** Bleedin' kids! Stay away from the presents! And remember, I will be teaching you tomorrow! (*Walk off takes step ladder with him.*)

**JACK:** How did your exam go?

**JILL:** Well at the start of it, the invigilator said, "You have exactly 2 hours. I will not accept any papers after this time has elapsed."

**JACK:** Right, and did you finish in time?

**JILL:** Well, it got to the two hours and the invigilator called out, "Time's up" but I hadn't quite finished my essay, so I kept going and by the time I had finished he had collected up all the papers and stacked them on his desk.

**JACK:** Uh-oh, what did you do?

**JILL:** I got up and walked over to his desk to hand him my paper, but he refused to accept it.

**JACK:** No way!!

**JILL:** Way! So, I raised myself up and said "Do you have any idea who I am?" and he says "No" I said "Great," and slipped the paper into the middle of the stack and ran off!

*Jack and Jill High Five.*

**BARON:** *(Enters and shouts.)* You Two! I want a word with you! Come back!! You're wanted for crimes against comedy! Ah good the presents have arrived! *(Walk towards them.)*

*Kids run off.*

**BARON** *(Goes near presents audience shouts. The next bit is do the following — Have a go at the audience. Get them worked up.)*

**BARON:** Don't you dare boo me! Don't you know who I am? I am the Baron Von Brie, the big cheese around here. I am so important I've got a doorman to open my advent calendar for me. What a manky lot we have in here tonight. *(Looking at an audience member)* – Horizontal stripes, you don't care do you? *(Pick someone)*, What's your name, do you know? "**Bill**" and where are you from **Bill**? *(Audience Answer)* Sorry? *(Audience Answer)* No I heard you the first time, I'm just sorry. Yes it's an old gag but what do you expect for 10 pounds. Are you working class Bill? You look working class with your soiled jeans and white trainers. You know you're working class when your TV is bigger than your bookcase.

Now let's move the plot along shall we. I own all the land around here and everyone living here pays me rent. I have the power of life and death over each and everyone of them! It's a dog-eat-dog world out there and I use as many dirty tricks as I can to rinse them of their hard-earned cash. Mwwwwahahahaha. This is the bit where you boo! Peasants! I put up the rent when I feel like it and I have a special magic spell to fill their homes with black mould and then charge them a fortune to clear it out!! Political commentary for what is worth! Mwwwwahahahahahaha. However, there is one irritation. One boil on my beautifully waxed buttock. Old Mother Hubbard's shoe and her school for hopeless orphans. The pesky woman owns the property; she bought it after she sold her London bakery and it means I can't touch her or charge her rent!! But fear not, you plebs! Because I just need to come up with a plan to force her to sell me the house for a pittance and leave her and her snot filled little orphans homeless. Mwwwwahahahahah! I can then build a multistorey carpark to hold my collection of stolen cars – a crime on so many levels!

Now to put my plan into action I need my 2 idiot Bailiffs Wrack and Ruin. *(Shouts off stage)* Wrack! Ruin!!

**WRACK & RUIN:** *(Enter WRACK & RUIN.)* Hello your Bossyness! Oooohhh presents. *(The audience should react. If they don't then the Baron will need to step in.)*

**BARON:** Leave them!!! You don't have time for that!

**RUIN:** My Lordship! I've just seen a nice flock of cows!

**BARON:** Herd of Cows!

**RUIN:** Of Course I have! They go Moo!!!

**BARON:** You utter fool! Wrack, have you collected the rent from the 3 new houses?

**WRACK:** Not yet sire, it's the first job on the list. I have all the details.

**BARON:** Good. Ruin, make sure you assist Wrack in this matter.

**RUIN:** Why are they in charge?

**BARON:** Because as you have just proved, if brains were dynamite, you couldn't blow your nose!

**RUIN:** But sir someone said I had the wit and intellect of a cow.

**BARON:** An absurd suggestion. Unless it was a particularly stupid Cow. Speaking of which, Wrack, how is operation Evict Mother Hubbard going?

**WRACK:** Slowly, I'm afraid. I've made sure all her bills have gone up, the cost of coal has doubled, and the cost of food has increased but she still won't sell.

**BARON:** That's not good enough! Do I have to do everything myself? Just get on with collecting the rent. *(Exits stage)*

**WRACK:** Right Ruin, you heard the Baron, we need to collect the rent from the 3 new houses.

Mr Who lives in the first house.  
Mr What lives in the second house.  
And Mr I don't know lives in the third house.  
Are you paying attention?

**RUIN:** Of course *(who hasn't been paying attention)*

**WRACK:** Who is in the first house  
What's in the second house  
And I don't know is in the third house

**RUIN:** But I need to know the names of the men in the 3 houses

**WRACK:** I just told you  
Who is in the first house  
What is in the second house  
And I don't know is in the third house

**RUIN:** Don't you remember their names?

**WRACK:** Yes

**RUIN:** Who is in the first house?

**WRACK:** Yes

**RUIN:** What?

**WRACK:** No, he is in the second house

**RUIN:** Who is in the second house

**WRACK:** Who is in the first house  
What is in the second house

**RUIN:** I don't know

**WRACK:** He's in the third house

**RUIN:** Who is in the third house

**WRACK:** Who is in the first house  
I don't know who is in the third house

**RUIN:** Well, if you don't know who then I don't know who

**WRACK:** I do know who and he is in the first house.

**RUIN:** Let's start again, tell me the name of the man in the first house

**WRACK:** Who

**RUIN:** The man in the first house

**WRACK:** Who

**RUIN:** The man in the first house

**WRACK:** Who is in the first house

**RUIN:** DON'T ASK ME!

**WRACK:** I am not asking you I am telling you that's his name

**RUIN:** Who's name

**WRACK:** Yes

**RUIN:** The tenant

**WRACK:** Who

**RUIN:** The man in the first house

**WRACK:** Who

**RUIN:** The man in the first house

**WRACK:** Who  
**RUIN:** THE MAN IN THE FIRST HOUSE  
**WRACK:** Who is in the first house  
**RUIN:** That's what I am trying to find out. Is there a man in the first house?  
**WRACK:** Yes  
**RUIN:** What is his name  
**WRACK:** No What is the name of the man in the second house  
**RUIN:** I am not asking you who is the second house

**WRACK:** Who is in the first house  
**RUIN:** I don't know!  
**WRACK:** He's in the 3rd house, we are not even talking about him  
**RUIN:** How did you get to the third house  
**WRACK:** You said his name  
**RUIN:** What  
**WRACK:** Not what, I don't know  
**RUIN:** Well if you don't know then I don't know who  
**WRACK:** I do know who and who is in the first house  
**RUIN:** Who is in the first house  
**WRACK:** At last! And in the second house  
**RUIN:** What?  
**WRACK:** Correct! Third house  
**RUIN:** I don't know!  
**WRACK:** Thank goodness for that! Let's go!

*(WRACK and RUIN Exit)*

*Enter LITTLE BOY BLUE looking around as if he is trying to see if he is in the right place. Spots the presents and walks towards them. Hopefully the audience reacts. The BARON enters and spots him.*

**BARON:** A Ha!! Caught you! You vile pleb! You were going to steal my presents weren't you! Who the devil are you? You peasant!  
**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** Rude!! I wasn't going to steal the presents; I was just Curious. If you must know I am Little Boy Blue from Little Scratchin.  
**BARON:** *(Looking slightly nervous.)* Oh really? I have heard of someone who lives there. Little Bo Peep, she had the biggest flock of sheep in the county.

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** *(LBB looks cagey at the mention of LBP and says quickly)* - Oh I don't think I've met her.  
**BLUE:** *(Keen to change the subject)* I don't suppose I could trouble you for a coin? I've not eaten for 2 days, in return you can have a blow on my horn...if you want? **(LITTLE BOY BLUE shows the BARON his horn).**  
**BARON:** A Coin!!! You cheeky Rapsallion! I've worked hard for my money and I am certainly not going to give it to you! And I have no desire to blow on your tiny instrument!! Now get out of the way before I have you flogged!  
**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** You're right sir, I am sorry for being in your way and causing distress. I can see now that you are a man of true standing and clearly very important. The clothes you wear are lovely and demonstrate that you are a gent of some distinction. *(Bows deeply, looks at the audience grins and winks).*  
**BARON:** *(Responding to the flattery.)* Right, well yes. Yes, you are correct I am a very important person in this town.

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** Yes, yes I can see that now. You are very handsome as well sir but I am just wondering, I think there is something that would make you even more good looking and raise your status even higher!

**BARON:** Laughs, I don't think that is possible!!

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** A hat sir! *(Presents the BARON the hat he has been holding.)*

**BARON:** *(Scornfully.)* I have plenty of hats. *(Good day! Goes to walk away.)*

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** Not like this one sir! This is a magic hat!

**BARON:** Don't be ridiculous! That's not a magic hat.

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** Oh yes it is!

**BARON:** Oh no it isn't!

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** *(To the audience.)* I know we've only just met but help me out?! *(To the BARON, encouraging the audience.)* Oh yes it is!

**BARON:** Oh no it isn't!

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** *(Still encouraging the audience.)* Oh yes it is!

**BARON:** OK! Prove it!

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** *(To the audience.)* Thanks! *(To the BARON.)* This hat blocks out all sound! Imagine not having to be bothered by the likes of me asking you for money, or those annoying birds in the trees or family members bothering with in-consequentials.

**BARON:** *(Interested now.)* Or dogs barking.

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** *(Slightly surprised.)* Um. Yes, exactly.

**BARON:** So how does it work?

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** Well, this is the clever part. *(As if telling a secret.)* You put it on your head.

**BARON:** I don't believe you! Sounds like utter rubbish! *(Goes to leave.)*

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** Fair enough, if you're too scared to try it.

**BARON:** I am afraid of nothing! Give it here!

**LITTLE BOY BLUE** passes the hat to the Baron who puts it on his head.

During the following dialogue. Whilst the **BARON** puts it on his head **LITTLE BOY BLUE** needs to be talking, as soon as it is on his head then **LITTLE BOY BLUE** lips continue to move as if talking but no sound comes out. When the **BARON** lifts the hat off then **LITTLE BOY BLUE** can be heard again. The timing is important. Whenever the hat is on the head **LITTLE BOY BLUE** must make no sound but look like they are still talking. As soon as the hat is raised then the voice should be heard. The following is a guide to the script being used.

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** You can hear me talking right now but as soon as you put it on your head, you will notice that **(on)** everything has gone silent and you wont be able to hear a thing. **(off)** But when you take it off again you will be able to hear **(on)** me and I could be talking away saying all sorts **(off)** until you put it back on **(on)** your head **(off)** off **(on)** on **(off)** off **(on)** on **(off)**

**BARON:** I say that's very good! **(on)**

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** *(Pretend to speak, gesticulate, point etc during which –)*

**BARON:** What?.....Pardon?.... What did he say? *Looking round at audience backstage etc*

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** *(Shouting loudly like you are trying to be heard).* **(off)** I was saying that...*(pause. Back to normal volume.)* You need to take that hat off so that you can hear me.

**BARON:** *(With the hat off).* Yes that's very good. OK ...How much?

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** 10 Guineas!

**BARON:** You must be joking! That's a lot of money for a hat!

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** Well it is a magic hat!

**BARON:** I want further proof it works. Blow your horn whilst I have the hat on and if I still can't hear it I will give you 5 guineas.

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** 9

**BARON:** 7

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** 6

**BARON:** 8

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** Done!

**BARON:** Now prove it works with your horn.

**Music Cue 8:** The next bit will require timing and some coordination with sound. **LITTLE BOY BLUE** will blow the horn and every time the hat is on the music is cut. When the hat is off the music will be playing.

**BARON:** Excellent! Here's your 8 guineas. Now I must be away. (*Walks across to the stage and just before he goes off...*) What a fool! 8 guineas for this hat I will be able to sell it for twice that to the local MP! Ill make a fortune. Mmmwwwwhahahaha! (*Goes off.*)

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** Ha ha! There really is one born every minute! Oh well. (*Pause look around*) I am sure this is the place. Mum said that Auntie Hubbard had moved here to Lower Bottom from London, but they've not spoken since Uncle's funeral and that was years ago!

**Music Cue 9:**

**LITTLE BOY BLUE** freezes.

**FAIRY:** It's the Right place, the right time  
**NICE** For Our lovers now to meet  
So Hear all the Bells chime  
As our Hearts skip a beat

**FAIRY:** The director has just told me my song has been cut! It's an outrage. The last time I was  
**DIVA** treated this badly was on the set of The Crown and I was asked to be Prince Philip's body double in the shower scene. Lloyd Webber's people are here tonight to hear me sing so it's time to take direct action!

*Goes to leave and then remembers...* **Music Cue 10.** Fairy walks off. **LITTLE BOY BLUE** unfreezes.

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** (*Enter little miss Muffet looking for the dog.*) Oh hello, sorry I was looking for my dog Pickles. Have you seen him?

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** No sorry, I saw a cat this morning, he was running out of the butchers being chased by an angry man, but I think his name was Cooking Fat.

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** That's a strange name for a cat.

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** Well, that's what it sounded like. How long has your dog been missing?

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** A whole week now.

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** Oh dear, that's a shame, let's hope he is safe and hasn't been eaten by a wild beast. Perhaps I can help you look for him. (*Slaps forehead.*) Forgive me! Where are my manners?!? Please allow me to introduce myself, I am Little Boy Blue from Little Scratchin and I've spent the last 2 days walking here so I can find work.

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Wow that is a long walk! I am Little Miss Muffet, but everybody calls me Melody. Why did you need to come here for work, has there been an economic downturn in Little Scratchin?

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** Um no, it's a little embarrassing, I was working through the night trying to make enough money to um (*thinking on his feet*) buy my mother a special birthday present but I fell asleep under a haystack. I was looking after the sheep and it was a disaster they were scattered in the meadow and the cows were in the corn. Nobody woke me up! When I did eventually wake up, I couldn't blow my horn because I had left it at home. I now keep it with me always; I've always got the horn.

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Yes, I can see that. But why have you walked all the way here?

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** The sheep belonged to Lil Bo Peep who was very angry that they had been...lost. So, she told me to go and find them, which is what I am trying to do. I have tracked them down to somewhere in this area.

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Can't your father help you?

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** Sadly not. Drink took my father when I was very young.

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Oh no! I am so sorry was he...an alcoholic?

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** No. He got run over by a Guinness Truck. But look, that's enough about me, tell me about you.

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** I live with my Uncle because I lost my parents a few years back and my uncle took me in. I've just come of age so I am now Little Miss Muffet and I can now inherit my parent's vast estate but I don't really know what to do. My Uncle said he would take care of everything for me; I just need to sign a parchment to hand over control.

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** Gosh, and I thought I had a full and interesting back story! I am so sorry about your parents, it sounds like a big decision you have to make. I guess it depends a lot on your uncle. Maybe I will get to meet him?

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Yes that would be good, although I must warn you. He is not very popular, he can be...difficult.

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** I am sure we will get on well! I can't believe we have only just met and we already know each other so well. I feel quite strange, like I haven't felt before. I just want to sing!

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** I know! I feel the same way! It's so strange! I love to sing, that's why everyone calls me Melody!

**Music Cue 11:**

*The FAIRY can come on halfway through the song and try to steal the lime light. She is 'auditioning' for Lloyd Webber's people as her song has been cut. Some gentle shoving can occur. Make it as funny as you like with her trying to steal the song and the other 2 trying to sing it in character whilst she is getting in the way. After the song. FAIRY goes off.*

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** Wow! You are an amazing singer. Almost as good as me!

*Both laugh and LITTLE MISS MUFFET playfully slaps LITTLE BOY BLUE.*

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** Now shall we carry on looking for Pickles?

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** Oh yes thank you!! And I will introduce to some of the lovely villagers!

**LITTLE BOY BLUE:** Oh that would be great! Tell me do you know a Mrs Hubbard?

**LITTLE MISS MUFFET:** *Laughs.* Old Mother Hubbard?!?! Of course I do! Everyone knows her! Come on let's go, I'll introduce you!

*Both walk off. Black out. Lights up*

PantoScripts Perusal

## Scene 2 On the Road

Can be set on a front cloth. **WRECK** and **RUIN** enter stage they are looking for **FARMER GILES'** rent

**RUIN:** So, is it my turn to be in charge now?

**WRECK:** What?

**RUIN:** He lives at house number 2!

**WRACK:** Don't start that again, I am still in charge because I have all the knowledge and skills.

**RUIN:** Ill have you know that I have lots of useful skills!

**WRACK:** Oh yeah? Such as what?

**RUIN:** If you Name any chart hit and I can tell you what volume of Now? That's what I Call Music it appeared on.

**WRACK:** What do you mean?

**RUIN:** What do you mean - Justin Bieber. Now, that's what I call music. Volume 92. Go on do another one.

**WRACK:** No

**RUIN:** Megan trainer Now 94.

**WRACK:** Alright,

**RUIN:** Supergrass, now 31.

**WRACK:** Stop

**RUIN:** Erasure and Sam Brown, Now 14. Also Spice Girls, Now 39 and Jamelia, now 59.

**WRACK:** Very Impressive. (*RUIN nods smugly full of himself*) But Can it help you collect more Rent?

**RUIN:** Rent: Pet Shop Boys Now 10

**WRACK:** (*Holds a finger to stop RUIN.*) There's Farmer Giles, (*walks over to him*) we have come for the rent

**FARMER GILES:** (*Enters with PAT THE COW.*) You boys should feel ashamed bullying old men for money, you know Money's too tight to mention.

**WRACK:** (*To RUIN*) Don't!

**RUIN:** (*Whisper to the audience*) Simply Red Now 5

**FARMER GILES:** Don't you boys know that I am not a well man?

**WRACK:** (*WRACK looks at RUIN expectantly. Pause.*) Ha! You didn't know that one!

**RUIN:** Eh? What do you mean? Oh you're thinking of Wellerman, the sea shanty by Nathan Evans Now 108 but Farmer Giles didn't say that did you Farmer Giles?

**FARMER GILES:** (*Looking confused.*) You boys are soft in the head, I was going to explain that I have just been to the doctors about my condition.

**WRACK & RUIN:** What condition?

**FARMER GILES:** I thought I had a lettuce stuck up my bottom, but he told me it's only the tip of the iceberg.

**RUIN:** You must have got a *(over emphasise)* sinking feeling *(pause for audience to laugh)*

**WRACK:** I told you that joke was too subtle for this audience.

**FARMER GILES:** Mind you, I did have some good news from the Doctor, he did a prostate exam and gave me the thumbs up.

**WRACK:** I think this script has reached a new low

**RUIN:** Yes we've certainly hit the bottom.

**FARMER GILES:** Why don't you take my cow in lieu of my rent?

**WRACK:** That cow is not worth a month's rent

**FARMER GILES:** Yes she is! She likes to Mooove it

*Music Cue 12: PAT THE COW dance.*

**WRACK:** That was Udderly ridiculous!

**RUIN:** Now that's what I call Muuuussic 27

**WRACK:** You're really milking this!  
OK Farmer Giles we will let you off this month's rent

**FARMER GILES:** Ah boys that is very kind of you!

**WRACK:** *(To RUIN.)* Let's go.

**RUIN:** *(Grins, snaps his fingers)* Let's go. Calvin Harris featuring NEO, now 82.

**WRACK:** Whatever.

**RUIN:** Oasis, now 30.

**WRACK:** Shut up.

**RUIN:** Black Eyed Peas, now 57.

**WRACK:** Don't Speak

**RUIN:** By No doubt. Now that's what I call music volume 36

**WRACK:** *(Head in hands)* You are driving me crazy!

**RUIN:** Crazy by Seal. Now 19

**WRACK:** Alright. Alright! I accept defeat you are now in charge! *(Walks off)*

**RUIN:** About damn time  
*(Goes to Walk off stage and stops. With a cocky smile.)*  
Lizzo: Now 112

**FARMER GILES:** *(Walks back on stage.)* I do worry about my health ladies and gentleman, I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my granddad. Not yelling and screaming, like the passengers on his bus.

**BARON** enters holding his new hat, looking pleased with himself

**BARON:** Ah there's that boring idiot Farmer. Time to put my hat to good use. *(Puts hat on and walks up to FARMER GILES.)* Good to see you Giles, how's your health? *(The BARON is*

*not expecting to hear anything so starts listening to FARMER GILES next line with a smile which will turn to surprise, disappointment and finally anger.)*

**FARMER GILES:** Ah good day to you Baron, thank you so much for asking. I went to the Doctors last week because I swallowed my watch. He gave me some pills to help pass the time. I also asked him for something for my horrible chesty cough (*coughs dramatically*) but he prescribed me a laxative instead of some cough syrup!

**BARON:** (*Angrily*) Do you know what this means?

**FARMER GILES:** Yes it means I am now too scared cough!

**BARON:** (*Very angry.*) No you fool! It means this hat doesn't work and that little sssshharlaton has conned me out of 8 guineas. Now get out of my site before I have you arrested for aggravated boredom with intent to cause mental harm!

*FARMER GILES leaves*

**BARON:** I will have my revenge on that...boy! I must find out who he is and make sure he is dealt with. This dog will have his day.

*Music Cue 13: Sound of horn off stage*

**BARON:** Wait a minute that's him, I think I will hide and then ambush him. (*Runs into the audience, either left or right. Underneath the seat at each end there will be a small branch. Get the audience member to grab the branch and stand up and then hide behind them.*) Sssshhhh and keep still I don't want that criminal to see me just yet.

*Enter LITTLE BOY BLUE and LITTLE MISS MUFFET.*

**LITTLE MISS** Still no sign of Pickles. I am so worried about him!

**MUFFET:**

**LITTLE BOY** Don't worry I Am sure he will turn up eventually safe and sound. It's starting to get late.  
**BLUE:** Wont your Uncle be worried.

**LITTLE MISS** No not at all now that I am older and have been made Little Miss. He is so kind to me, he said once I sign the parchment to hand over control of my estate that there would be champagne for the rest of my life no matter how long.  
**MUFFET:**

**LITTLE BOY** Bollinger?

**BLUE:**

**LITTLE MISS** No it's true. At least that's what he said.

**MUFFET:**

**LITTLE BOY** Your uncle sounds interesting....Maybe we should talk about whether it's a good idea to give him control.  
**BLUE:**

**LITTLE MISS** Perhaps you're right. Maybe you, Mother Hubbard and I should have chat about it tonight. We could maybe have a sleep over at her house. There is school in the morning which is always fun, we can have a sleep over! Please say your stay!  
**MUFFET:**

**LITTLE BOY** Ha Ha! Of course I will stay! I am just happy to be with you! (*Both go off*)

**BLUE:**

**BARON:** (*To audience member that he has been hiding behind.*) Alright, you can sit down now. Don't build your part up! Curse him!! Curse him and his magic horn!!! He is going to ruin everything. I think it's time for him to be removed from this particular show. My niece must sign that parchment and once she has then it will be her turn to leave for good. Boo all you like it wont change anything! Once I have her estate I can pay off the large debt I owe to a rather dangerous shepherd. I think it's time for Wrack and Ruin to go back to school and learn just what he is up too. Perhaps they can also find out how close Hubbard is to selling up!! Mwwwahahahahahaha. Shut it riff raff.

**BARON** *leaves the stage.*

*Black out*

PantoScripts Perusal

### Scene 3 Mother Hubbard's Kitchen

*Curtain up as the Lights come up **Music Cue 14:***

*Full Set. A standard kitchen scene with a table set in the middle of the stage. Various cooking bits spread everywhere. An old bucket (pale) set to one side. A cupboard can be set on stage or it can be off Stage.*

**MOTHER HUBBARD:** Hello everyone, welcome to my kitchen! This is where the magic happens! I do like baking! Especially with chocolate. It all starts innocently, mixing chocolate and Rice Krispies, but before you know it you're adding raisins and marshmallows – it's a rocky road. I started baking with my late husband in in London, Drury Lane. I called him the Muffin man. He was also a very good baker. (*Ask audience member*), Do you know the muffin man? You Do know the Muffin man. (*Hold up picture of Paul Hollywood.*)

**Music Cue 15:**

**MOTHER HUBBARD:** Nothing like a good muffin to put a spring in your step. Together we built a lovely bakery, very successful with lots of customers but then it all started to go wrong. Firstly a new baker moved in around the corner, his name was Greg and he stole a lot of our customers with his cheap sausage rolls and pasties. Then my poor husband was injured in a freak baking accident and eventually died of a soggy bottom. But that is all in the past now, I moved to the country and started my orphanage because I really love children (*Fixed grimace/grin*). I bake bread everyday for the children (*JACK and JILL enter and approach presents*) but now that the money is running and I am running out of ingredients! All because of that evil Baron Von Briel!

*(Audience reaction to Kids entering **MOTHER HUBBARD** encourage this if it doesn't happen.)*

Oh hello Children! How was school?

**JACK:** Boring!!

**JILL:** It wasn't that boring we learnt today that your thumb is also called your Pollax! True Fact!

**JACK:** Huh. Sounds like Bol... (**MOTHER HUBBARD** interrupts him quickly)

**MOTHER HUBBARD:** Jack!! No!!! What did you do Jack?

**JACK:** We played a guessing game

**MOTHER HUBBARD:** I thought you had a maths test today?

**JACK:** That's what I said, a guessing game.

**MOTHER HUBBARD:** But I gave you my old calculator to help you

**JACK:** (*Hold up calculator.*) Yes but the x key is missing!

**MOTHER HUBBARD:** I know, Times are hard! (*look at audience*).

**JILL:** Mother, you know I applied to join the origami after school club

**MOTHER** Yessss  
**HUBBARD:**  
**JILL:** Well they sent me a rejection letter and I don't know what to make of it.

**MOTHER** Right you 2! That's enough! Now are you going to help me make today's bread  
**HUBBARD:**  
**JACK & JILL:** If we have too.  
**MOTHER** Good. Let's get prepared. First we will need 2 eggs.  
**HUBBARD:**  
**JILL:** *(Gets the eggs)* These are the last 2.

**MOTHER** Oh dear, I will have to go to the market tomorrow to buy some more. Now we need to  
**HUBBARD:** separate them.  
**JILL:** *(Moves the 2 eggs apart.)* There you go.  
**MOTHER** You get worst. *Takes the eggs puts them in the bowl.* Now Jack we need some flour.  
**HUBBARD:** *(JACK goes off and enters straight away with a flower and puts it on the table. They all look at each other in embarrassed silence for a moment before MOTHER HUBBARD points of stage. JACK goes off again. Whilst JACK goes to get some flour.)*

**JILL:** How's your diet going Mother?  
**MOTHER** Terrible! I had 2 eggs for breakfast  
**HUBBARD:**  
**JILL:** Poached?  
**MOTHER** No. Cadburys  
**HUBBARD:**

**JACK enters with a bag of flour in one hand, keeps rising it up above his head. In the other hand he has an old book.**

**JILL:** Is that bag of flour very light?  
**JACK:** No it's self raising.  
**MOTHER** Give it here. *(Takes the flour and puts it in the bowl.)* Now we just need to beat it. Ooh  
**HUBBARD:** shall we have a little Michael Jackson? *Optional Music Cue 16: Beat it plays and small person/child comes on and does the moon dance across the stage and off. After they go off MOTHER HUBBARD takes some ready made dough out of the bowl.)* **JILL** come and knead the dough.

**JILL:** Ok. *(goes up to the table and starts to kneel on the dough.)*  
**MOTHER** I give up! Let's get this in the oven and then get washed up. Jack, put that old book down  
**HUBBARD:** and go and fetch some water, use that pale over there. Jill give him a hand and see if you can find some others to help with the washing up whilst the bread heats up.

**JACK:** **Music Cue 17:** OK Mother but that was the last bag of flour in the cupboard, I looked everywhere for some more and I could have sworn the cupboard was bare but as I was leaving I heard a noise behind me and suddenly this old book was there. Strange!

**MOTHER HUBBARD** picks up the book and freezes **Music Cue 18:** as we hear the **FAIRY** intro sound effect

**FAIRY:** The heat is on for ole Mother Hubbard  
*sweet voice* The last bag's gone  
Nothing in the cupboard  
Inside her head,  
The pressure's high  
To keep her kids fed  
just to stay alive

**FAIRY:**  
*Diva voice* Goodness me, talk about trying too hard. It's not exactly Shakespeare is it? I said the very same thing to Maggie Smith on the set of Harry Potter, I played 3<sup>rd</sup> broomstick on the left, I said "it's not exactly high drama is it?" and do you know what she said? It's something that I will never forget "It pays for my monthly bikini wax. Take the money where you can love, especially when you get to our age. And she was right, so here I am. Right now where was I? ah yes. (*Clears throat*)

**FAIRY:**  
*sweet voice* The heat is on, on the street  
she feels the dread  
with every heart beat  
And the beat's so loud, deep inside  
The pressure's high, just to stay alive  
'Cause the heat is on

**FAIRY:**  
*Diva voice* This does sound very familiar, I am sure it was an advert or a film or something. Anyway let's move this "plot" along shall we, Sven has promised me something very special when I get back to my dressing room.

**FAIRY:**  
*sweet voice* Ole Mother Hubbard I release you from the freezing spell *Music Cue 19:*

**MOTHER  
HUBBARD:** Flipping heck! Who are you!?!?

**FAIRY:** I am the fairy from the top of the Christmas tree, Fairy Berry, the old lady you helped was me and now I am here to help you with your troubles.

**MOTHER  
HUBBARD:** Wow I don't know what to say!

**FAIRY:**  
*Diva voice* You should try looking at your script more often then darling.

**FAIRY:**  
*sweet voice* The book Jack found was a gift from me, it contains lots of amazing recipes for cakes, buns and doughnuts. Like you I enjoy a good muffin, and this recipe book contains the best recipes ever created! You can't buy it from Waterstones either it's unique! These baking recipes are from the best Nadiya Hussain, Delia Smith and the person who started it all Fanny Craddock!

**MOTHER  
HUBBARD:** That's so great! I've always wanted to make doughnuts like Fanny's! Thank you so much Fairy Berry!

**FAIRY:**  
*sweet voice* Ha ha, just call me by my Christmas name Mary.

**MOTHER  
HUBBARD:** Oh thank you Fairy Berry, sorry I mean Mary. I could make all these delicious items and sell them at the Christmas market next week to pay off all my debts and then I wont have to sell the house or the school. But wait. No! I haven't got any money to buy the ingredients! Oh no what am I going to do?

**FAIRY:**  
*Diva voice* Go online and claim universal credit, like the rest of us.

**FAIRY:**  
*sweet voice*

There is a Wishing well at the top of the tall hill just outside of the village. At the bottom of the well there is an entrance to the fairy kingdom, if you lower this magic bucket down to the bottom I will make sure that my fairy helpers fill it with everything you require to make all of the delicious baked goods you need.

**MOTHER  
HUBBARD:**

Goodness me! that's amazing, thank you so much. I better start getting ready to bake. But if this doesn't work out and these cakes aren't good enough to sell then I will have to sell up to the Baron and all the children will be made homeless! The heat is certainly on now. **Music Cue 20:**

*Everyone comes on stage for the number. **LITTLE BOY BLUE** comes on and can pretend to play the sax solo bits or trumpet bits if there are any in your song choice. Black out Curtain for end of Act1.*

**I N T E R V A L**

PantoScripts Perusal

## Act 2

### Scene 1 The School Classroom

*The scene opens to a classroom. It could be the kitchen scene with some classroom stuff added. Black board, times tables on the walls. Benches and a lectern can be added after the forthcoming song unless there is room to sing and dance amongst them. Four kids are hanging around the classroom - **JACK HORNER, MARY QUITE CONTRARY, MARJORY DOORS** and **POLLY KETTLE**- as the curtain opens*

*The **FAIRY** appears on the front of stage right over looking the front flat front apron on a hidden ladder. She needs to be up high for the scripted jokes to work. **Music Cue 1:** the lights come up. If you have a spot it can be looking around as if to find the fairy*

**FAIRY:** Oooohh Up here!! Oi Lighting, out of the bar, you've got a job to do!  
*Diva voice*

**FAIRY:** You join us again this next day  
*Sweet voice* Welcome back one and all  
The School bell rings no more time to play  
The children answer the call.

Good grief, to think I stepped away from my G&T for this. I said as much to Meryl Streep in Mama Mia, I played third sun bather to the left on the beach scenes. You can just make out my hat if you look carefully. I mean look at me. Up a ladder doing my own stunts! And as for this costume, (*Grabs detachable halo and waves it at the audience.*) It makes Primark look expensive! (*Accidentally drops halo.*) Oh for goodness sake! (*Shouts at 4 kids in class.*) Psssst! Pssst (*Kids look round at her, slightly confused.*)

**FAIRY:** Halo! *Pause*  
*Diva voice* Halo! *Pause*  
Halo!

**KIDS:** (*Look at each other confused, tentatively*) Hello.

**FAIRY:** (*More stressed and emphatic.*) Halo!  
*Diva voice*

**KIDS:** (*Look at each other again wave*), Hello

**FAIRY:** (*Pointing to the dropped halo.*) Halo!!!  
*Diva voice*

*Slowly walk towards the halo and look down at it.*

**FAIRY:** HALO!!!  
*Diva voice*

**KIDS:** Hello! (*Then realise and 1 of them picks up the halo and lifts it up to try and pass it to the fairly but it remains out of reach.*)

**FAIRY:** Higher!  
*Diva voice*

**KIDS:** Hiya!