



The Little Mermaid

by Colin Barrow

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THE SCRIPT

Although not up there with one of the most popular titles, this script still delivers a traditional family pantomime. However, when looking for something different, this might be what you're looking for. Costuming isn't complicated and easily achieved (*see character description notes*). Because of the, 'Disney' named characters for this Hans Christian Anderson's fairy tale, this script has its own character names to avoid copyright issues. This also applies to the songs and music numbers. The script is written with minimal scenes and can be performed at virtually any venue, performing space size and budget. Some small roles can be doubled up by actors who also play certain main cast characters if wished. It has fun throughout with a good story line loosely based on the original by Hans Christian Anderson.

SYNOPSIS

Pearl, The Little Mermaid, has heard beautiful singing coming from the surface of the sea. She is intrigued to who's voice it is. But she can't find out until tomorrow, her eighteenth birthday! As it's forbidden for Mermaids to go to the surface until they have reached that age. But Pearl, suddenly overwhelmed by the singing and curiosity, sneaks to the surface the day before she is eighteen! Pearl meets Davey Jones, the owner of the singing voice and they fall in love. In her eyes, he is her Prince. And so she becomes desperate to be one of the, 'up-abovers', Pearl bargains her beautiful singing voice with Grotacoda in exchange for land legs. Grotacoda gets the beautiful singing voice, but Pearl does not get her land legs. Soon, Davey is sent to the sea bed dying by Grotacoda, where the Mer King wins the day by killing the villainous Sea-Witch. With one kiss from Pearl, Davey comes to life and they live happy ever after. Of course, from the start to the end, shenanigans, mayhem, slapstick and comedy are delivered as you'd expect from the comedy characters.

APPROXIMATE RUNNING TIME:- Two hours (*not including the interval*)

USEFUL INFORMATION

Casting:- The casting can be quite flexible to suit your available performers. Although some are best played by male, it would be quite possible for them to be played by a female if your performer availability dictate to do so

Chorus:- This script can be used with or without a chorus. Where there are chorus speaking lines and you have no chorus, these can be delivered by performers or adult/child members.

General staging:- The scenery and lighting can be as simple and easy as you wish, especially if tight budget and logistics have a strong influence with your production. This also applies to costuming and properties, and yet still providing a brilliant pantomime. Of course, if budget and logistics dictate otherwise, the skies are the limit!

Scenes:- The script is written to use three full stage scenes and two front cloth scenes. These are not set in stone and re-name some scenes if you wish to run more cloths. Likewise, if you are running with limitations. The full stage scenes could use the same back drop of a nondescript mottled effect. And dress each scene where needed to suit its title. The front cloth scenes could be done front of curtain or again in front a nondescript mottled effect.

Set dressing:- Dressing for the scenes is entirely up to you and the stage space available. It will also depend on what type of back drops you are using too. Especially for those working with no chorus and have more stage space available.

Misc:- Additional jokes can be slotted in where or if you feel they are required to your choosing.

MUSIC AND DANCE

Song/dance numbers:- The script is written to allow the *maximum time of one minute to one and a half minutes* for each song or dance routine. In each case choosing and ending to give a natural finish. These can be shorter but watch if too many run longer as this could alter the pantomime's whole running time.

Not all character song slots required to be executed. They are there as ideal spots if you wish to use them. This helps those cast who do not feel comfortable to sing to opt out. Additional songs can be added to your own discretion if you feel the need to do so.

You do not need to use all the slots allocated for chorus song/dance numbers, especially if your chorus numbers are very low. Select, the slots most suitable to your chorus.

If you are working without a chorus and not using the song/dance slots allocated. You can add an extra cast member song or two or lengthen the other cast songs allocated slightly to make up the time.

The script does supply some song suggestions, but they do not need to be used. All other song/dance numbers are to your own choice. This allows the cast who are involved to select something that's comfortable for them and perhaps a little more modern. It also prevents the repetition of music from recent past productions you have staged.

Song/dance not with time restrictions:- The opening number, Principle boy and girl duet, the community song and finale song can take their own natural time length as they are important numbers. By keeping to these parameters, the production will run at a good pace; and be fresh and entertaining to your audience.

DISCLAIMER:- The performing licence of this script does NOT include permissions, licences or royalties of ANY music/songs used with the staging of this script.

For **ALL** music and song selected to stage this script, any royalties, licenses or permission has to be obtained by **YOU** the group, club or company according to the music performing rights laws. **These include ALL parody suggestion given with-in the script.**

*(The majority of premises are registered and you **must** contact to make sure the music/song selections used comply with the licence held by the premises. Do this prior or at the start of rehearsal to avoid complications near or on the production dates.)*

CHARACTERS

1 male, 7 female, 4 either

Grandma - Dame
Billy - Comic (*squid type character*)
Barney - Comic (*barnacle type character*)
Cyril - Comic (*clown fish*)
Pearl - Principal girl (*The Little Mermaid*)
Davey - Principal boy
Mer King - The Mermaids father
Grotaconda - A Sea Witch (*Villain*)
Anemone - A Mermaid (*sister to Pearl*)
Coral - A Mermaid (*sister to Pearl*)
Angel - A Mermaid (*sister to Pearl*)
Sea Spray - A Mermaid (*sister to Pearl*)

SMALL CHARACTER ROLES

1 male, 1 female, 1 either

All three of these characters can double up by actors to also play certain main cast characters too if wished

Henry - A sea side day tripper (*act one, scene one only*)
Matilda - A sea side day tripper (*act one, scene one only*)
Black Beards Ghost - A ghost (*act two only*)

Chorus - (*if you have one*) **And/or adult/child members wishing to participate**

The four Mermaids, Angel, Anemone, Coral and Sea-Spray: can be in some or all chorus numbers as their characters, or change costume to that of the chorus where possible. They can also deliver chorus dialogue lines if you are working with no chorus.

CHARACTER GUIDELINES

These are general ideas; the amount of costume changes and styles are entirely of your own discretion

Grandma - Dame, acted by male or female. Her costume for upper body can be to your own ideas and typically dame like. Her lower body, would work best with long stretchy or tube-like skirts in outrageous and gaudy colours. A fish tail attached or cut at the base of the skirt is optional. Head wear is to your own discretion.

Billy - Comic (*squid type character*) acted by male or female. Costume has some resemblance to a squid. So, tentacles attached would give this effect as would a pointed but rounded type of hat/head wear. The costume can be any colour or colours. The face make-up works well with large round circles around the eyes to make Billy more googly eyed. A dark beak type of nose and red rose bud lips.

Barney - Comic (*barnacle type character*) acted by male or female. Costume to reflect his character would work by having a squat cone shaped hat. The main costume would be an upper thigh length hooped cone shaped outfit with arm holes. It can be elasticated at the neck with the hoop at the hem. With an all-in-one lycra body type suit underneath. The colours can be multi or singular. The face make-up can be similar to that of Billy but the eyes less large with big eye brows and nose larger and squatter.

Cyril - Comic (*clown fish*) acted by male or female. As a clown fish, costume can be very clown like with a fish influence of fins, etc. The face is made-up like a clown.

Pearl - Principal girl (*The Little Mermaid*) acted by a female. A long-haired wig would suit well, with upper body costuming to your own ideas. From the waist down, the skirt needs to be more fish tail like. This being a full-length skirt that's tube-like and/or the use of elasticated fabric. Elasticated fabric would help with walking and move with the actor. An attached fish tail or cut in the way of the fish tail at its base would give the right illusion. For the skirt use a glittery or scaly/scallop print fabric. The colour choices are your own discretion.

Davey - Principal boy and acted by a female. Can be costumed to your own ideas according to how you see Davey having read the script.

Mer King - The Mermaids father. Costumed in a regal way with some undersea influences. His appearance is akin to Neptune. He has a staff/trident throughout.

Grotaconda - A Sea Witch (*Villain*) Played by a female, but could be a male acting as a female. Costume to your own ideas, but try and move away from the 'octopus' image. The inclusion of straggling sea weed, etc, would suit her character. Has a staff/trident throughout.

Anemone - A Mermaid (*sister to Pearl*) acted by a female. A long-haired wig would suit well, with upper body costuming to your own ideas. From the waist down, the skirt needs to be more fish tail like. This being a full-length skirt that's tube-like and/or the use of elasticated fabric. Elasticated fabric would help with walking and move with the actor. An attached fish tail or cut in the way of the fish tail at its base would give the right illusion. For the skirt use a glittery or scaly/scallop print fabric. The colour choices are your own discretion.

Coral - A Mermaid (*sister to Pearl*) acted by a female. A long-haired wig would suit well, with upper body costuming to your own ideas. From the waist down, the skirt needs to be more fish tail like. This being a full-length skirt that's tube-like and/or the use of elasticated fabric. Elasticated fabric would help with walking and move with the actor. An attached fish tail or cut in the way of the fish tail at its base would give the right illusion. For the skirt use a glittery or scaly/scallop print fabric. The colour choices are your own discretion.

Angel - A Mermaid (*sister to Pearl*) acted by a female. A long-haired wig would suit well, with upper body costuming to your own ideas. From the waist down, the skirt needs to be more fish tail like. This being a full-length skirt that's tube-like and/or the use of elasticated fabric. Elasticated fabric would help with walking and move with the actor. An attached fish tail or cut in the way of the fish tail at its base would give the right illusion. For the skirt use a glittery or scaly/scallop print fabric. The colour choices are your own discretion.

Sea Spray - A Mermaid (*sister to Pearl*) acted by a female. A long-haired wig would suit well, with upper body costuming to your own ideas. From the waist down, the skirt needs to be more fish tail like. This being a full-length skirt that's tube-like and/or the use of elasticated fabric. Elasticated fabric would help with walking and move with the actor. An attached fish tail or cut in the way of the fish tail at its base would give the right illusion. For the skirt use a glittery or scaly/scallop print fabric. The colour choices are your own discretion.

Henry - A sea side day tripper (*act one, scene one only*) Costumed in panto style but portraying a typical Englishman at the seaside in the nineteen fifties (knotted hanky on the head, long shorts, long sock, sandals, rolled up shirt sleeves, etc, etc.)

Matilda - A sea side day tripper (*act one, scene one only*) Costumed in panto style but portraying a typical English lady at the seaside in the nineteen fifties, (brimmed straw hat, floral print dress, sandals, even sunglasses from the era, etc, etc.)

Black Beards Ghost - A ghost (*act two only*) non speaking and can be played by male or female. In general, think of Black Beard costumed in white or pale colours including a white beard.

Chorus - (*if you have one*) **And/or adult/child members wishing to participate** - All can be costumed to your own ideas to suit the scenes they appear in.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

Scene one.... The Sea Shore (*full scene*)

Scene two.... Under The Sea (*front cloth*)

Scene three.... Deep Down On The Sea bed (*full stage*)

Scene four.... On Board The Drama Queen (*front cloth*)

Scene five.... Deep Down On The Sea bed (*full stage*)

ACT TWO

Scene one.... Grotacunda's Lair (*full stage*)

Scene two.... On Board The Drama Queen (*front cloth*)

Scene three.... Grotacunda's Lair (*full stage*)

Scene four.... Under The Sea (*front cloth*)

Scene five.... Deep Down On The Sea bed (*full stage*)

THE LITTLE MERMAID

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

THE SEA SHORE (full stage)

The scene opens with cast and/or chorus song/dance opening number. If the cast are used, they exit after the number. If the cast is used for the opening number, Henry and Matilda are set upstage so they can exit first and ready to re-enter. All chorus/participating adults/children remain on stage.

For this scene all characters are in summer costume as land people

Opening number:-

Henry and Matilda enter as two typical English nineteen fifties day trippers to the seaside.

Henry: Well, Matilda. We've made it again this year. Our favourite beach; Weston-on-the-Nooky.

Matilda: I know, Henry dear. Have you had a winkle yet?

Henry: Not yet, dear, I'm not ready for one.

Matilda: After last year finding my winkle was a cockle, I'm just going stick with an ice cream.

Henry: Ninety-nine?

Matilda: I don't want to be greedy, four will be plenty.

Henry: What do you think about going on a pedalo?

Matilda: *(a little scolding)* Don't be so disgusting! You'll use the toilet like everyone else!

Henry: I mean, have a try on one of those little pedal boat things.

Matilda: Oh, I don't think so. I haven't got over that water skiing incident from a couple of years back when the rope snapped and I shot off into the sand dunes.

Henry: *(with slight reflection)* I wonder whatever happened to that courting couple?

Matilda: After happening upon them and skidding over his bare skin, I expect it stopped any further alfresco romances!

- Henry:** *(looking at audience as if they were the sea)* Have you ever wondered what's under the sea?
- Matilda:** No, and I'm not putting on flippers and a snorkel to find out!
- Henry:** What I mean is, you hear about Mermaids and creatures of the deep. I wonder if they are just folklore or if they do really exist.
- Matilda:** I've never thought about it. *(To those on stage)* Have you any ideas on the subject of Mermaids and funny things down below?
- 1st:** I did hear of a leg end.
- Matilda:** I got two leg ends; they're called feet!
- 2nd:** It wasn't a leg end - it was a legend!
- 3rd :** I did hear a story about some milk and cheese.
- All:** But that was - legend-dairy!
- 4th:** There was a story about a Mermaid called Pearl.
- Matilda:** I thought she was called Aerial?
- 5th:** She was. But after picking up some odd T.V channels and many repeats she changed it to Pearl!
- Henry:** And what is this story?
- All:** She is the fifth daughter of the Mer King.
- 1st:** And on her eighteenth birthday she is allowed to the surface of the sea.
- 2nd:** But only on and after the day of her eighteenth birthday. Not before.
- 3rd:** Pearl has a wonderful sweet singing voice
- 4th:** That everyone loves.
- 5th:** And one day she meets her Prince.
- 1st:** And they fall in love.
- All:** Aaah!
- 2nd:** But to live her life with him, Pearl believes she needs land legs.

3rd: And for that, she has to pay a price.

4th: Her lovely sweet charming voice.

5th: And it's the Sea Witch that wants her voice!

Matilda: And there's me thinking it only goes on up here on dry land.
Sounds like it's just as bad in the sea?

All: Oh, it is. It is.

Henry: But does, 'The Little Mermaid' live happy ever after?

All: We have to tell the story from start to finish to find that out.

1st: Sounds like a plan.

Henry: Lets go now and start the story.

2nd: Don't you want to go for a swim first?

Matilda: Oh, no dear. I found in recent years the sea pollution makes me shrink!

Henry: What the wife means is that it's not her body that shrinks - it's the swim wear. She emerges resembling a ruptured air bed bound together with tight string.

All laugh except Matilda

Matilda: I'm glad you all think it's funny. Just remember, she who laughs last is normally the joke! (*Quickly realising what she's said*) I mean, she who laughs last find things not so funny as those who laugh first because they don't know what they are really laughing about. And when they stop laughing after laughing first, they can't remember what they were laughing about because she who didn't laugh wasn't laughing and then they feel silly because I was too intelligent to laugh last in the first place!

Henry: What are you on about?

Matilda: I haven't the slightest idea. But it was in the script so I learnt it.

Henry: It's probably an entertainment thing.

Matilda: It's a try and tie my tongue in a knot thing. And if the paying public knew how many times I strained my tongue in rehearsals trying to say what I said back there but can't remember a word what I said and unable to repeat it now. They'd realise what we artists have to put up with learning lines for the joys of their entertainment whilst

our artists mouths cease up. Because script writers find it funny to write such garbage trying to get my tongue and knickers tied in a knot at the same time!

Henry: Sounds painful?

Matilda: More so if I sit down because the knots in my knickers makes it uncomfortable and can cause some chaffing if I wriggle!

Henry: Was that in the script?

Matilda: No. Just speaking from experience!

Henry: Then I suggest we do something before you get more experiences to speak about!

Matilda: Like what?

4th: Let's have a candy floss and tell the story of, The Little Mermaid.

All: Oh yes. Let's tell the story of, The Little Mermaid.

5th : Are you both on holiday?

Matilda: Just an annual day trip.

M & H: We call it our, 'Once a year day'.

Song:- *Suggestion - **Once a year day** from the musical 'The Pajama Game'*

Black-out

ACT ONE
SCENE TWO
UNDER THE SEA (front cloth)

Grandma enters. For this scene she wears a hat, gloves, easily removable shoes/flippers, a long open fronted gown coat, a wraparound easily removable skirt, etc. for the scene closing song

Grandma: Mer-men, Mer-women, Mermaids, cockles, winkles, crabs and prawns may I have your attention please? It's the moment you have all been waiting for. (*With grandeur*) It is me, Grandma! (*Looks off stage and speaks to no one*) Did you hear that? I thought you said this was the good lot? They're worse than the last lot! (*Puts hand to ear*) What's that - Warm them up? I'm thinking it would be easier to go to a seafood nightclub and try to pull a mussel! (*Mouth words to off stage then turns to the*

audience) It appears it's fallen to my fishtail that I am to begin your once-in-a-lifetime journey. *(Looks off)* It's beginning to sound like a trailer for the adventures of a Dover sole out here! *(As if listening to someone off stage)* If you ask me, it would be easier to make an Octopus laugh, as he's got ten-tickles! *(As if listening to no one off stage)* Oh, you weren't asking, just telling me to get on with it! *(Mouths to no one off stage then turns to the audience)* Well, here goes - *(Jovial)* Hello everyone, it's me, Grandma! And I live down here under the waves. Now, I know I look young for my age but that's because I've avoided going online as I hear you're likely to get hooked! And I never borrow money with all that worry from a loan shark! Now, down here in the deep, well, in the shallow end before it gets too deep. Because in the deep lives the nasty Sea Witch that's stinky called Grotacoda. Her best friend is a stinky Ray; and they Mullet over all sorts of schemes. But here in the not so deep and nice part we are all friends. And the nicest of all is Pearl, she is a Mermaid with the bestest singing voice you've ever heard. That's after me of course, I have the bestest singing voice of everyone. I'll give you a listen.

Song:- *Whatever song you choose, make it one that is easy to sing and more funny if sung very off key. Which is what Grandma does.*

Grandma:*(pleased)* There! I bet you've never heard anything like that before?

Off stage: And we never want to hear it again!

Grandma: *(to off stage)* I'll have you know my voice is completely trained! *(To audience)* Then we both escaped from the fish bowl and returned to the wild open seas and my voice found a style of its own.

Off stage: So we've just heard!

Grandma: *(looks off)* Look, I'm working my fingers to the bone out here. And what have I got to show for it? Boney fish fingers! Now if you don't mind, I shall continue. *(To audience)* Now, as I said ages ago, I'm Grandma and house keeper for the Mer King. He's Pearl's father and since Mrs Mer King got hooked up by a trawler and found herself tinned; I'm planning to be the next Mer Queen. But so far, the King is being a little resistant - and I can't think why?

Billy and Barney enter. For this scene they both have hats, gloves, open fronted gown coats, waist coats, etc. For the scene closing song

B & B: We can. He's seen you with a warning label.

Grandma: That was the label in my knickers. It stated they were small, mediums at large to fit all sizes!

B & B: With lots of X's before the large!

Grandma: *(to audience)* Don't you just love it when you're not bottom of the silly pile for once? Meet -

Barney and Billy display themselves in turn as they are introduced

Grandma: Billy the squid!

Billy: I'm inkcredible and you won't find my quid marks in your underpants!

Grandma: Barney barnacle

Barney: I'm unstickable and you wouldn't want to find me in any underpants!

Grandma: So, what's the news?

Billy: A load of tortoises fell onto a lot of terrapins and became a turtle disaster!

Barney: And scientists have discovered that small waves crashing onto a small beach is called microwaves!

Grandma: Not that sort of news you twits. What about the Little Mermaid, Pearl?

Billy: Last we heard she was on her shell phone

Barney: Yes, her algae-bra was the wrong size

Billy: By all accounts the B shell size is too small.

Barney: And she now wants seashells!

Grandma: *(exasperated)* Look! If I needed something to laugh at I'd look in the mirror! *(Concerned)* Is she safe from the horrible, horrible, Sea Witch, Grotaconda?

B & B: Oh, yes. And you can see for yourself as here she comes.

Pearl enters with a car hub cap

Pearl: Hello, everyone. Have I missed anything?

Grandma: Nothing for you to worry about, Pearl.

Pearl: Oh, that's good. Only I hear there is so much rubbish about these days.

Grandma: We've already said most of that.

Pearl: I mean the pollution!

All: (*except pearl*) It's the sea cucumbers. They give us terrible wind!

Pearl: Not that sort of pollution. (*Holds out the hub cap*) This sort of pollution!

All aghast with surprise

All: Wow, what is it?

Pearl: It's my belief it's a gussupeter.

Grandma: No wonder Peter got rid of his gusset if it's made of hard plastic.

Pearl: Not Peter's gusset. A gussupeter!

Grandma: (*as if she knows what Pearl means*) Oh, yes, I can see it is now. (*Has a puzzled look*)

Billy: What's it for? Saving lives?

Barney: Don't be stupid, can't you see its for going around things.

Billy: Going round what things?

Barney: Well - round things that are round. It would be no use on square things or something that's straight now, would it?

Billy: (*brightly*) Oh, yes, I see what you mean. (*With some sorrow*) When I was born, I wish they gave me brains like yours, Barney.

Grandma: They did, and you use them often! (*To audience*) You've heard of the generation gap, haven't you? Well, if you ever want to find that gap, it's between the ear holes of these two!

B & B: Oh, Grandma, that's not nice, is it?

Grandma and Pearl encourages the audience to join in

G & P: Oh, yes it is

B & B: Oh, no it isn't!

Repeat routine and finish after a few times

Grandma: (*stopping the routine*) Please refresh our memories of what the object is, Pearl.

Pearl: In my opinion it's a gussupeter that came off a huzzleclump from one of those land people. And you know what that means?

All: *(at a loss)* No!

Pearl: With this gussupeter I can see into the future!

B & B: *(looks at the hub cap)* All we can see is dirt!

Grandma: Go on, I'm gullible. What do you see in the future?

Pearl: *(looking at the hub cap)* On my eighteenth birthday I shall be allowed to go to the sea's surface. And when I am there, I shall meet the most handsome Prince there is. And we will fall in love and get married.

Barney: All sounds very fishy to me.

Billy: And nobody would believe this Prince of yours when he announces to the people he is in love with a Mermaid!

Pearl: But they will believe him. Because I will lose my tail and grow legs.

All: Oh, Pearl, you can't lose your tail.

Pearl: If I am to be a Princess, I must. It's a small price to pay. And now I must go and see Father. *(Exits)*

Billy: Fancy our Pearl wanting be a hooooman.

Barney: Ooooph. Very bad habits them hooooman's have got.

Grandma: Don't I know it. I saw the full Monty once and I didn't know what to look at first! Do you know, the only thing they had left to wear was their hat!

Song:- *Suggestion - **You can leave your hat on** by Tom Jones. During the song they can slowly do a mini striptease or as much that is feasible and acceptable*

Black-out

ACT ONE

SCENE THREE

DEEP DOWN ON THE SEA BED *(full stage)*

The stage is dressed with general clutter placed about from human habitation that has been collected by Pearl.

The scene can open with a chorus number if wished to include Pearl's four sister mermaids, Angel, Coral, Sea-Spray and Anemone

After the routine all remain on stage or the scene open with all on stage

Angel: Look at all this stuff Pearl has collected from the sea?

Coral: It's all what them hooooman's don't want anymore.

S-Spray: Speaking for myself. I can't say I want it either!

Anemone: Pearl has an obsession to tidy everything up.

All: And it all ends up here!

Angel: I'd sooner it ended up somewhere else.

Coral: I suppose you've heard what her next idea is?

All: No!

Coral: She wants to be one them hoomans. She wants to be one of them up-abovers. Got her heart set on becoming a Princess.

S-Spray: Sounds to me that she needs to see Doctor Cod and have her John Dory looked at!

Anemone: I wouldn't advise that. Last time I saw Doctor Cod he suggested I had a de-scaling and applied some kelp for Scallop syndrome.

All: What's wrong with that?

Anemone: I only went to see him about my wrinkle! (*Touches her eye lid*) I got a bit of sand under the lid!

Cyril the clown fish enters

Cyril: (*jovial*) Hello girls! Here I am, the one you've been waiting for.

All: Waiting for what, Cyril?

Cyril: (*parades*) Why ask? You can see for yourself surely?

All: See what, Cyril?

Cyril: A super-duper dapper flapper rapper of a fishy wishy that attracts the girls that look so dishy.

All: Since when?

Cyril: Since I won first prize at the prized prawn contest!

All: How did you win that?

Cyril: By default on two points. Number one; I was the only contestant. And number two; my irresistible sexy body with all the moves that mesmerised the judges.

All: What moves?

Cyril: As you're so keen to be wowed by a delectable little mover that's got all the moves of a groover. I'll show you.

Song:- *Suggestion - **Do you Think I'm Sexy** by Rod Stewart. Cyril struts his stuff and incorporates rhythmic comic dance moves. All on stage join in with refined synchronised choreographed dance moves*

All: We've never seen anything like that before!

Cyril: That's what the judges said.

Coral: What is your real reason for being here, Cyril?

Cyril: Well, Coral, my lovely little Mermaid. In my pocket I got a pound and I had an idea that I should try and double it to make it two pounds.

S-Spray: What do you want two pounds for?

Cyril: It's like this, Sea Spray. With one pound I can buy one pounds worth of sweets and be skint. But with two pounds I can buy one pounds worth of sweets and still have a pound left.

Angel: Lets us help you do that, Cyril?

Cyril: *(plays up to Angel with seduction)* Oh, you are an angel, Angel! And if you fancy, I'm happy to meet you after to prove as an Angel you're not such an angel after all!

Angel: *(with pleasant falseness)* Oh, Cyril, you sweet talking clown fish with a roguish twinkle in your eye. *(Quite stern and aggressive)* But - scraping the bottom of the barrel is one thing; going through the bottom and ending up with you is another kettle of fish altogether. So, I won't be meeting you after and that's final!

Cyril: *(recoils)* All right love, don't rattle your scales. A polite, 'no' would have sufficed! *(To audience)* No wonder's she can't get a Mer-man and has been left on the rock gathering barnacles!

Anemone: Come on then, Cyril. Get your pound out and lets see if we can double it?

Cyril: *(removing a pound)* How are you going to double my pound to two, Anemone?

Anemone: We'll play a game. If we guess the number you're thinking about, you give us the one pound.

Coral: And if we get the number wrong, we give you a pound. So, then you'll have two pounds.

Cyril: *(keen)* Right then. What do I have to do?

S-Spray: *(takes the pound)* First, I'll hold this for safe keeping.

Angel: Now, think of a number between one and twenty?

Cyril: *(thinks)* Right, Got one.

Coral: Is it odd or even?

Cyril: Even.

Anemone: Is it between one and three?

Cyril: No.

S-Spray: Is it between three and five?

Cyril: No.

Coral: Is it between five and seven?

Cyril: Yes!

All: The number you thought of is six?

Cyril: Correct!

All: Thank you. Bye bye, Cyril.

All exit except Cyril

Cyril: *(to audience)* Have you ever had that feeling when you know you've been diddled but can't work out how? I wouldn't mind if the diddle was a pleasure, but I never felt a thing! *(Sighs)*

King enters

King: There you are, Cyril.

Cyril: *(bows)* Your Highness.

King: How are you?

Cyril: One pound poorer than I was a few minutes ago.

King: How so?

Cyril: Your four eldest daughters performed a trick on my intelligence.

King: The rascals. I suppose they feel it's better to toy with an idiot than to toy with someone educated.

Cyril: Who says I'm an idiot?

King: I understood it was common knowledge.

Cyril: Common I maybe, knowledgeable I am not!

King: You said it.

Cyril: I know, because it's true, your Highness. *(Reflecting)* But now I come to think about it, I may have said the common and knowledge the wrong way around.

King: Take it from me, Cyril. You got it perfectly correct.

Cyril: That's a relief. I can't have me downgrading myself to a lower level than I am already. *(Brightly)* So, your Highness, what can I do for you?

King: I'm looking for my youngest daughter, Pearl. Do you know of her whereabouts?

Cyril: I've only had a sneaky peaky when she's been having a bath of her whereabouts! And from what I saw, everything was definitely thereabout!

King: The fact is, Cyril, I'm troubled. Tomorrow Pearl turns eighteen and it will be her first journey to the surface of the sea. I fear very much that she has her mind set on finding a hooman Prince. And it can't be; a Mermaid with a fishy tail and a hooman Prince with leggy legs. It's just not compatible

Cyril: *(to audience)* If I was a quicker thinker, I'm sure there's a joke there somewhere! *(To King)* You need to give her time, taste adventure and find her own flippers!

King: Maybe you're right. Maybe I'm worrying over nothing.

Cyril: Exactly! You only have to look at the crabs; they don't worry that they can only scuttle sideways and can't go forwards! *(Exits)*

sideways like a crab singing, 'Oh I do like to be beside the seaside')

Pearl enters

Pearl: Hello, Father. I've decided, I want a party for my eighteenth birthday tomorrow.

King: It's not the sort of thing we Mer people do. It's a hooooman thing.

Pearl: Which is why I want one. After all, Cinderella went to the ball and had a good time, so I want an underwater beach party.

King: I wonder what Grandma has to say about it?

Grandma enters with Barney and Billy

Grandma: Whatever I've done, it wasn't me. And if it wasn't me, then I've done nothing!

Pearl: I want a eighteenth birthday party like the hoooomans have. And Father wanted your advice?

Grandma: My advice would be for your father to marry me so I became a Mer Queen! But he's not keen, says I'm not educated enough with my grades because I couldn't even reach sea level!

King: *(to audience)* It was the best excuse I could find at very short notice! *(To Grandma)* The fact is, Grandma. What do you think about one of these parties?

Grandma: It could be fun.

B & B: And you don't know if a good thing is a bad thing until you had a go at it!

King: I fear it may bring me sore misgivings.

Grandma: It's the sand. It gets everywhere! But Doctor Cod has some ointment and if that don't work, he's quite good at operations as a sturgeon!

Billy: We'll need a cake, if it's going to be a party.

Barney: What sort of cake?

Grandma: I could make a fishcake?

Pearl: I couldn't eat cake made out of our friends.

Grandma: I'll do a vegetarian version with this, that and seaweed.

All: Bleugh! The last time we saw seaweed, it made the sand wet!

Grandma: I'll ask Tommy the turtle for an alternative, he's always happy to stick his neck out for me!

Pearl: Then it is done. Tomorrow I will have a party just like the hoooomans. Then after all the revelry, I will go to the sea surface for my first glimpse of the up-abovers world.

Angel, Coral, Sea Spray and Anemone enters with any chorus

Angel: What's this?

Pearl: I will go to the sea surface after my party tomorrow.

A,C,S, A: *(with jollity)* A party! Ooh, we've never been to a party. All that singing, music and dancing!

Song:- *Choose a good up-beat number that include some good choreographed moves throughout*

Pearl: I'm so happy. And when I do get to the sea surface, I might find more hooziwhatsits, thingamybobs and whatsigummys to add to my ever-growing collection.

All exits except Pearl

All: *(on exiting except Pearl)* You leave it up there, we got enough rubbish down here already! You should tend more to your looks and beauty!

Pearl: There's so much more to life than good looks and beauty. I want adventure, opportunity, excitement and electricity. Very little ever happens around here and it's boring. The only thing that does happen is when a hooman drops his dangler in the water and we hang a welly boot on the end!

Cyril enters

Cyril: Life might seem better above the water, Pearl. But those who live up there have problems too! They got
(something in the news or topical at the moment)

Pearl: Oh, Cyril. I don't know what that is, but I'd risk it just to be able to see the world with a Prince who would be my husband. Because at the moment I feel like a lonely little Mermaid.

Cyril: You can't be lonely, I'm here and your bestest friend.

- Pearl:** Oh, Cyril. I know you're my bestest friend as I'm your bestest friend. But up there, everything is so shiny and bright and wonderful.
- Cyril:** Life is not always better the other side of the kelp, Pearl. *(Indicates the stuff around the stage)* And you have all this stuff you've collected. *(Picks up the hub cap)* Look at this thing? I don't know what it is, but I bet it's the only one in the whole wide world and you own it.
- Pearl:** *(holds onto one side of the hub cap)* It's a gussupeter that I think came off a huzzleclump!
- Cyril:** *(holding onto his side of the hub cap)* Then it is our gussupeter from the huzzleclump. Our bond of friendship. *(Looks)* What's that in the middle?
- Pearl:** It means, 'I will meet my Prince when I go to the surface'.
- Cyril:** *(surprised)* Really! I thought it meant *(car make)*. But whatever it means, this gussupeter is our bond of friendship
- Song:-** *Holding onto the hub cap they both sing a short duet about friendship*
- Cyril:** Shall we go and have a nice cup of clamomile tea?
- Pearl:** That will be lovely, Cyril.
- They both exit. As they exit off stage right, Grotacoda enters stage left*
- Grota:** Well, well, well. All those lovely dear Mer people and their fishy friends are happily living thinking I am far away. Well, I have news for them, I am not! For I, Grotacoda the most feared Sea-witch have come from the deeps into the shallows to upset their happy little lives. I have come to scratch my evil itch. I've been watching on, just like you, and guess what? Your tragic friend Pearl has led me to the most brilliant and cunning of plans. Poor Pearl wants to be up there with the hoomans and will do anything, and I mean anything, to find her Prince and be his wife. And I will help her - because all I want in return, is her beautiful singing voice. *(With elation)* I have always wanted to sing beautifully *(sags)* and not be lumbered with the droning wail that I have. Listen, I shall let you hear for yourself.
- Song:-** *Select a typical villains song that can be sung quite badly*
- Grota:** There, you see. I got a singing voice like a whining food mixer on a cookery show. But, with my trident and a spell there after, I could bring the most handsome man to the area. A man that will sweep

Pearl off her fish tail. And in return for this, *(with harshness)* I shall take her beautiful singing voice! *(Goes into a spell)*
Oceans, rivers, ponds and seas
I call upon you, winds and breeze.
Send this way a handsome man,
with all the attributes he has to hand.
Poor little Pearl to give her heart
and allow my brilliant plan to start! *(Exits left with a cackling laughter)*

The sound of the Davey is heard singing off stage. Pearl enters looking up listening. The singing fades out

Pearl: Did you hear that? That sound of singing. It was the most beautiful sound that I have ever heard. I must find out who it belongs to. *(With caution)* But wait, it might be a nasty, gnarled, one legged, one-eyed old pirate. *(Brighter)* On the other hand, it just might be a handsome sailor Prince! I wonder if he has come to find me? I wonder if he has become lost at sea? Either way - I smell adventure - or is that last night curry! *(Sniffs)* Well, it doesn't matter, because tomorrow after my party I will go to the surface and find out who that wonderful voice belongs too! *(Exits right)*

Billy enters humming or singing tra la la, tra la la (or similar). Then Barney enters

Barney: Hey up, Billy. What you doing?

Billy: I'm waiting for someone.

Barney: Who are you waiting for?

Billy: I'm not telling you or you, you might think I'm daft.

Barney: It's all right, Billy, you can tell me, as I know you're daft already!

Billy: Oh, all right then. *(Proudly)* I'm waiting for the fortune teller to come.

Barney: Why? Didn't the bank give you a statement?

Billy: Not that sort of fortune you twit! Anyway, I know what my bank statement is. 'Cause next to all the numbers is the letters O/D

Barney: What does O/D mean?

Billy: Oh, dear, I think!

Barney: So, what will this fortune teller do, Billy?