



# Princess and the Pea

by Colin Barrow

Licensed by



*Panto Scripts*

[pantoscripts.org.uk](http://pantoscripts.org.uk)

This script is published by

NODA LTD  
 15 The Metro Centre  
 Peterborough PE2 7UH  
 Telephone: 01733 374790  
 Fax: 01733 237286  
 Email: [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)  
[www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk)

To whom all enquiries regarding purchase of further scripts and current royalty rates should be addressed.

#### CONDITIONS

1. A Licence, obtainable only from NODA Ltd, must be acquired for every public or private performance of a NODA script and the appropriate royalty paid : if extra performances are arranged after a Licence has already been issued, it is essential that NODA Ltd be informed immediately and the appropriate royalty paid, whereupon an amended Licence will be issued.
2. The availability of this script does not imply that it is automatically available for private or public performance, and NODA Ltd reserve the right to refuse to issue a Licence to Perform, for whatever reason. Therefore a Licence should always be obtained before any rehearsals start.
3. All NODA scripts are fully protected by copyright acts. Under no circumstances may they be reproduced by photocopying or any other means, either in whole or in part, without the written permission of the publishers
4. The Licence referred to above only relates to live performances of this script. A separate Licence is required for videotaping or sound recording of a NODA script, which will be issued on receipt of the appropriate fee.
5. NODA works must be played in accordance with the script and no alterations, additions or cuts should be made without the prior consent from NODA Ltd. This restriction does not apply to minor changes in dialogue, strictly local or topical gags and, where permitted in the script, musical and dancing numbers.
6. The name of the author shall be stated on all publicity, programmes etc. The programme credits shall state 'Script provided by NODA Ltd, Peterborough PE2 7UH'

NODA LIMITED is the trading arm of the NATIONAL OPERATIC & DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION, a registered charity devoted to the encouragement of amateur theatre.

This script is licensed for amateur theatre by NODA Ltd to whom all enquiries should be made.

[www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk) E-mail: [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)

# THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA!

A full length pantomime  
By  
Colin Barrow

## **THE SCRIPT**

This is not your common title for a pantomime, but it delivers all the fun, qualities and magic that is expected of pantomime. With a cast of ten principals and easy to produce with the scenery required, makes this script easy for all whether on a tight budget or finances a plenty. All in all, whenever it is performed, this pantomime always goes down very well with the audience who never go home disappointed.

## **SYNOPSIS**

The King and Queen of Tendrils Tickle are becoming concerned that their son, Prince Mangetout, must marry before he is twenty-five and time is running out! By tradition the crown must go to the next married male relative of the King, who is Lord Fusarium Wilt, the Kings cousin, and the villain. So now at this eleventh hour, the prince sets a challenge. 'Any Princess who will endure an uncomfortable nights sleep with a pea under the mattress; and in the morning present the said pea to him will be his bride within the month!' Princesses come and go until Princess Flowerday arrives, does the challenge, and wins. But Lord Fusarium Wilt captures and takes her to the dungeons until after the Prince is twenty five years old. The replacement for the Princess is, Lady Mildew, the Lord's wife, and hopes that no one notices. But they do, a search commences, and all is resolved. The Fairy casts her magic and gives both Lord Fusarium Wilt and Lady Mildew their comeuppances. Then finally, she turns the pea held by the Princess into a large glittering Emerald ring for her to wear for always.

**RUNNING TIME:** Two hours approximately in two acts. ***(Not including the interval)***

## CHARACTERS

Fairy Petit Pois  
King  
Queen  
Prince Mange-tout (*principal boy*)  
Petunia (*dame*)  
Mushy (*one of a comedy duo*)  
Marrowfat (*one of a comedy duo*)  
Lord Fusarium Wilt (*villain*)  
Lady Mildew (*villains wife*)  
Princess Flowerday (*principal girl*)

## CAMEO CHARACTERS

A cat or dog (*optional to use*)  
Ghosts (*one scene only*)

A chorus if you have one

## 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.)*

## **CHARACTER GUIDELINES**

The type and the amount of costume changes are entirely at your own discretion. In general, the character names give rise to their types of costumes.

**FAIRY PETIT POIS:** A Fairy. Female, but could be acted as a female by a male if preferred. The costume should be pretty and very fairy tale like.

**KING:** Father to the Prince and best acted by a male. Very regal and rich looking.

**QUEEN:** Mother to the Prince and best acted by a female. Has a bit of a fun side to her character and maybe not as intelligent as she should be. Very regal and rich looking.

**PRINCE MANGE-TOUT:** Principal boy and played by a female. Finely dressed with a look of wealth about him.

**PETUNIA:** Dame. Can be played by male or female. Funny, outrageous and over the top as any dame would be. The costuming to suit the character or scenes throughout.

**MUSHY:** A comic. Can be played by male or female. The costuming could be identical to that of Marrowfat throughout.

**MARROWFAT:** A comic. Can be played by male or female. The costuming could be identical to that of Mushy throughout.

**LORD FUSARIUM WILT:** Cousin to the King and the villain and best played by a male. Also, husband of Lady Mildew. Although a Lord, his costuming would be in the style of one but shows a lack of wealth.

**LADY MILDEW:** Wife of Lord Fusarium Wilt and best played by a female, although the part could be played just as equally by a male. Not quite what you'd expect as a Lord's wife and quite amusing and eccentric. The costuming throughout fits her name 'Mildew' and being on the slightly tatty and posh tramp style. Many of her appearances on stage are in what she calls 'disguise'.

**PRINCESS FLOWERDAY:** Principal girl and played by a female. Costumed prettily and if possible, with an emphasis of flower fabrics and/or flowers in her hair.

## **OPTIONAL AND CAMEO CHARACTERS**

**A CAT OR DOG:** (*a pet of Petunia*) If you wish to include one. Choose a name of your own. Enters and exits with Petunia throughout and can interact to the audience by waving.

**GHOSTS:** The number is of your choice depending how many you wish to include in the chase. If you have no chorus, these can be made up from backstage crew or the doubling up of other actors that's not on stage at that time.

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

## **SYNOPSIS OF SCENES**

### **ACT ONE**

**Scene one** - Tendrils Tickle Town square (*full stage*)

**Scene two** - The Flower Garden (*front cloth*)

**Scene three** - Inside The Castle (*full stage*)

**Scene four** - Under The Trees (*front cloth*)

**Scene five** - Inside The Castle (*full stage*)

**Scene six** - The Flower Garden (*front cloth*)

**Scene seven** - Inside The Castle (*full stage*)

### **ACT TWO**

**Scene one** - The Castle Dungeons (*full stage*)

**Scene two** - Under The Trees (*front cloth*)

**Scene three** - The Castle Dungeons (*full stage*)

**Scene four** - The Flower Garden (*front cloth*)

**Scene five** - Tendrils Tickle Town Square (*full stage*)



## THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

TEBDRILS TICKLE TOWN SQUARE (full stage)

**Song:-**     *Opening number*

The scene opens with cast and/or chorus to sing/dance opening number. If the cast is used, they exit after the number. Set Fairy up stage so she can exit first if the cast is used for the opening number. All chorus/townspeople remain on stage.

*Fairy Petit Pois enters right.*

**Fairy:**     Welcome to Tendrils Tickle. Where happy people live and proud to have the King and Queen living at the castle. The King and Queen have ruled for many years, but now it's time to hand over the crown to their son and heir, Prince Mange-tout.  
(*Sighs*) If only it was that simple. You see, for centuries it has been the rule that any Prince must marry before he can become King. Not only marry, but to do so before his twenty fifth birthday. And if that doesn't happen, the crown is passed to the nearest married relative to the King.  
That person is not a very nice at all, it's the Kings cousin, Lord Fusarium Wilt! And believe me, he will make anything wilt! That's not to mention his wife, Lady Mildew!  
But we'll see. Miracles do happen and true love can be found. And you never know that miracle might just happen before your very eyes! (*Exits right*)

*The Queen enters left. All on stage bow or curtsy.*

**1<sup>st</sup>:**        Good day, your Majesty.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:**        Is there any news of the Prince's ...

**All:**        Nuptials?

**Queen:**    (*startled*) The Prince's what?

**3<sup>rd</sup> :**        His hymeneals!

**Queen:**    I wasn't aware he had such ailments?

**4<sup>th</sup>:**        What we want to know is; has the Prince pulled his flipping finger out and found someone to be his wife?

**Queen:** *(taken aback)* Well really! I can assure you that the Prince has all of his fingers out. And you might be surprised to know, so are his two thumbs. However, in answer to your question, to date, he has not found such a person.

**5<sup>th</sup> :** Perhaps he should try a bit of speed dating down at the, 'Lettuce, Turnip and Pea!'

**Queen:** I've heard all about speed dating and it's not all it's cracked up to be.

**1<sup>st</sup>:** How so, your Majesty?

**Queen:** You have your first date at table six, an affair at table nine and divorced by the time you get to table twelve!

*All laugh Prince and King enter and all curtsy or bow on their entry.*

**Prince:** Good morning, Mother.

**Queen:** Good morning my son. And it would be a much better morning if you were to find a wife. I'm beginning to wonder if perhaps you have a problem we should know about!

**Prince:** I have no problem other than you keeping on at me to find a wife.

**King:** We can't run the risk of my cousin becoming King. It's imperative you get a move on a find your Princess sooner rather than later.

**Prince:** I have standards, Father. I can't just marry anyone.

**King:** I quite understand all that son. But there comes a time when like me, you just can't be fussy anymore.

*All laugh quietly.*

**Queen:** *(reacting)* You make me sound like a item of on-line shopping. What you wanted was out of stock, so you made do with a replacement!

**King:** *(to audience)* I must admit that it surprised me that a basic essential was almost as good as a branded item!

**Queen:** *(with fury)* Almost as good!

**King:** *(quickly)* And I've not regretted it for a single moment, dear. *(To audience)* An hour or two from time to time, yes. But for a single moment, no!

**Queen:** *(harshly)* If I thought for one minute that you...

**King:** (*cutting in and calming her*) Of course, my dear, you were the obvious choice. And you've grown on me year on year since we first met.

**Queen:** (*calmer*) That's more like it.

**King:** I'd say about the same speed of growth as that bunion on my foot that throbs something terrible!

**Queen:** (swelling up) Well, really. (*Turns to exit*) I haven't come here to be insulted; you know!

**All:** Where do you normally go to then?

**Queen:** Just wait 'till you get home, husband dear. (*Also does repeated signals to all of 'I'm watching you' with her fingers and exits*)

**King:** I can see that's going to be a tricky situation that will take a swift bit of ducking and diving. (*To Prince*) Now look my boy. You've turned down many suitable Princesses to date because they didn't come up to scratch.

**Prince:** That's because I didn't tell them where my itch was, Father.

**King:** I can't help about that. The fact is, if you don't marry by the time you're twenty five, I will have to pass the Kingdom to my cousin.

**All:** We don't want Lord Fusarium Wilt as our King.

**King:** So, you need to knuckle down and sort this marriage business out for all our sakes. (*Begins to exit*)

**Prince:** Where are you going, Father?

**King:** (*stops and turns*) To do a spot of training for the next Olympics!

**Prince:** In which event are you training for?

**King:** Dodging crockery that's been thrown at me by the wife! (*Exits*)

**Prince:** It's not easy to find the person you want to spend the rest of your life with.

**Song:-**     ***A love song***

**2<sup>nd</sup> :**     What are you going to do, Prince Mange-tout?

**Prince:**     I am going to set a challenge. If a Princess succeeds with this challenge, I shall marry her with-in the month.

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** What have you in mind?

**Prince:** Many years ago, a Prince chose a Princess to be his bride by placing a pea under her mattress. After having such a terrible night's sleep of discomfort, because of that one tiny pea, in the morning she found it and presented it to him. That's when he knew that she was the Princess that he should marry.

**4<sup>th</sup>:** That's an old fairy tale.

**5<sup>th</sup>:** And you can't choose a wife based on an old fairy tale.

**Prince:** That's my offer, take it or leave it.

**All:** We'll take it! *(Begins to exit left and right)*

**Prince:** I shall inform Mother and Father for them to grant permission of my challenge to find my Princess of perfection. *(Exits)*

*Petunia enters. She can either just walk on, or enter in a way of your choosing. If it is wished, she could have a cat or dog as a pet that enters each time she does. If you include the animal part, then a little introduction and get the cat/dog to wave to the audience and the audience to wave back as participation on each entry.*

**Petunia:** Oh, I say. Did you hear that? The Prince is going to find his Princess by giving her a bad night's sleep with a pea! I can't see that working myself. I wake all through the night needing a pee and no Prince ever offers his hand in marriage to me! My name's Petunia, Tendrils Tickle answer to ..... *(glamorous female celebrity)*. Of course, if she was stood here right next to me, you'd see I out do her looks on any day. *(Posing)* Not everyone can look like this and get away with it! *(Introduce animal and do business if one is included)* I'm the cook at the Castle and could quite easily be the next T.V celebrity chef. Only yesterday I heard the Queen say that my food was "cordon bleugh" and the King said it should be "cordoned off!" Now, as you're my friends we shall have a secret code between us to say hello. Do you think we can do that? *(Audience response and business)* Now, when I say, 'wibble wobble', 'wibble wobble'. You say, 'Jelly on the plate!' Do you think we can do that? *(Do business)* Right, where are those two helpers of mine? *(Calls out)* Mushy! Marrowfat!

*Mushy and Marrowfat enter in unison, one tight behind the other to a piece of comical music. As they enter and in unison they do a short dance routine to the music. From now on through the panto where possible, they do this unison entry, but without the music/dance. Once dialogue starts they always part. Both exit in the same unison way if wished and if it's workable to do so*

**Petunia:** You've heard, 'like two peas in a pod?' This is two twits. You get one and the other comes free!

**Marrow:** Marrowfat is the name and I'm free as the wind.

**Mushy:** Mushy is the name and I wish I was free from my wind.

**Petunia:** *(waving her hand near her nose)* We all wish that! Now, Marrowfat, have you finished ironing the curtains?

**Marrow:** I have, but it was very difficult as I kept falling out of the window!

**Petunia:** Mushy, have you cleaned out the vacuum cleaner?

**Mushy:** I have and now I'm a vacuum cleaner! *(With his arm, he places the shoulder close to his mouth whilst wiggling his arm like a tube making slurping sucking noises)*

**Petunia:** *(to audience)* He'll be saying in a minute that's he's been gathering the dirt on you lot for years.

**Mushy:** I have and some of it's quite unrepeatable.

**Petunia:** As long as its clean enough to be healthy and dirty enough to be happy, I'd say that was about right!

**Marrow:** Are you lonely, Petunia?

**Petunia:** *(snivels)* Oh, terribly. All my life things have gone wrong for me.

**Mushy:** Like what?

**Petunia:** When I was young, my rocking horse died. Then all the gold fell off my goldfish and became worthless. Then I stepped in the cats whoopsie and got it all between my toes.

**M & M:** Bleugh!!!!

**Petunia:** But it did cure my athlete's foot! The worst bit of all is being lonely. *(Sobs)*

**M & M:** Ahhhh!

**Petunia:** It's much worse than that!

*M & M encourages audience to say "ahhhhh!"*

**Petunia:** You see, I'm just a lonely little petunia in a onion patch!

**Song:-** ***A suggestion - They sing the song of the same. Petunia sings the verse and all sings the chorus.***

**Petunia:** Oh, I feel much better now. Right, let's get back indoors so I can look in the mirror and see if I am as beautiful as ever.

**Marrow:** But you keep saying every-time you look in the mirror, you can't see yourself because an ugly woman is already taking up all the space.

**Petunia:** On reflection she's not that scary.

**Mushy:** But a very good selfie of yourself!

*Petunia chases the two off with any ad-lib. Fusarium Wilt enters left*

**Wilt:** So here you all are! I heard there was a gathering of goody goodies wishing the Prince to find his Princess and live happy ever after. But not if I have anything to do with it. For I am Lord Fusarium Wilt, and I can make anything droop and become useless! Soon I shall be King and all will wilt and droop before me as I will be their Majestic leader. *(Laughs menacingly)* Oh, yes they will! *(Audience reaction and do business accordingly)* Now, have any of you seen my wife, Lady Mildew? *(Possible audience reaction)* But if you do see the wife you will let me know won't you?

*Business with audience as Mildew enters left and creeps up behind Wilt holding a branch of a bush in front of her face. Mildew moves the branch to show face as Wilt does business with, 'she's behind you routine'. As Wilt turns to look, Mildew stands back holding the branch in front as if hiding. At a designated time, Mildew forgets to cover face and Wilt sees her.*

**Wilt:** What are you doing?

**Mildew:** I am in disguise. I am like Mrs. Scarlet Pimpernel. They seek her here, they seek her there, that elusive Mrs. Scarlet Bush Pimpernel! And so, nobody knows who I am.

**Wilt:** *(aloud)* I know who you are! You are my wife!

**Mildew:** Sssh. *(Sidles up to Wilt)* Don't you realise, 'walls have ears!' *(And steps away)*

**Wilt:** *(sidles up to Mildew)* And did you know that ceilings get plastered? *(Steps away)*

**Mildew:** Only if they've been on the booze the night before. *(With keenness)* I'm going to hide, then reappear and you won't know who I am. *(Hides behind the branch)*

**Wilt:** *(calls)* Come out, come out, whoever you are?

**Mildew:** *(emerging and takes a stand as if holding a gun like James Bond)*  
I'm double O Heck and Licensed to kill.

**Wilt:** You're certainly double O Heck and very little else, my dear. Now listen, the Prince is such a ditherer, he'll probably never find a bride in time to sleep on his pea.

**Mildew:** Does he wet the bed then?

**F-Wilt:** No he doesn't. This pea is a little green one.

**Mildew:** Oh, I had a little green one once and thought I was going off. But the doctor gave me Auntie Bio Tech for it and now I'm perfectly fine.

**Wilt:** That's debatable! Now, as I was saying, if we get any news that he has found a Princess that has slept on his pea all through the night. We'll swoop in and keep her out of the way until after his twenty fifth birthday.

**Mildew:** Lock her up?

**Wilt:** If necessary; and then the Kingdom will be mine.

**Mildew:** *(happily)* Oh, yes, The Kingdom will be ours.

**Wilt:** No, the Kingdom will be mine.

**Mildew:** But you said that we'll share everything.

**Wilt:** That arrangement is with the wife.

**Mildew:** But I am your wife!

**Wilt:** Not at the moment as you're disguised as double O twit and licensed to be as daft as a brush. *(Begins to exit left)*

**Mildew:** *(following)* Do you think handsome men will swoon with desire when they see me, now that I have double O status?

**Wilt:** *(stops and turn to Mildew)* Just as I do when you're in a very dark room and can't see a thing, my dear. They'll find you totally irresistible. *(Exits)*

**Mildew:** *(following proudly)* Wow! I always knew I had what it takes! *(Exits)*

*Petunia, Mushy and Marrowfat enter right.*

**Petunia:** Wibble wobble! Wibble wobble!

*Audience reaction*

**Mushy:** They're a right horrible pair.

**Marrow:** And not very nice either!

**Petunia:** If only I had the magic power to get rid of them.

**Mushy:** We got magic powers, Petunia.

**Petunia:** I never knew that?

**Marrow:** We don't tell everyone about our talents.

**Petunia:** What sort of thing do you do then?

**Mushy:** This is very popular for someone with no intelligence.

**Petunia:** Well, that's me without a doubt. Even on my school report it clearly said, "someone has to be bottom of the class and we're so lucky to have Petunia to fill that space." (*Proudly*) And do you know, not one person took my place until after I left school.

**Marrow:** To make the magic spell work, you must do and say exactly what we do?

**Petunia:** I can do that.

**Mushy:** To start with, (*demonstrates*) you hold your arms straight down and shake your hands to the floor and say loudly 'Oh-woa.'

*The three of them does this together*

**Marrow:** (*demonstrating*) Then you hold your arms out straight in front of you and shake your hands and say loudly 'Ta-foo.'

*The three of them does this*

**Mushy:** (*demonstrating*) Now, wave your arms above your head and say loudly, 'Iye-am.'

*The three of them does this*

**Marrow:** Now, to make sure you got it, we'll do each one together again. Ready?

*The three of them do each action and wording in a slowly paced speed.*

**M & M:** Perfect.

**Petunia:** So, when do the magic happen?



**Mushy:** That happens when you do all three together...

**Marrow:** *(cutting in quickly)* As fast as you can several times.

**Petunia:** *(business like)* Right, stand back. You never know what might happen if there's a bang and a puff of smoke!

*Mushy and Marrowfat stand back laughing together as Petunia stands front centre stage. Petunia does the actions and words four or five times at speed before she realises what she is saying "Oh what a fool I am!"*

**Petunia:** *(realising)* Hey, I'll brain you two for that!

*Petunia begins to chase them around the stage as, King, Queen, Prince and chorus enter. Petunia, Mushy and Marrowfat stops on seeing them and bows/curtsies together knocking each other and Petunia falls over.*

**King:** What are you doing down there, Petunia?

**Petunia:** *(getting up)* Getting up again!

**Queen:** Have you heard the news?

**Mushy:** Is it that thieves leaving no clues, has stolen the police station toilet and the police got nothing to go on?

**All:** No!

**Marrow:** Is it that, Doctor Who has been struck off the medical register for exterminating a Dalek?

**All:** No!

**Petunia:** News has got out about my new Ferrari dress? *(With seduction)* It's fast on the straights and hugs all the corners!

**All:** No!

**Prince:** The news is that the King and Queen has agreed that I shall marry the Princess that can fulfil my challenge before my twenty fifth birthday.

**P, M & M:** Oh, that news. You're looking for a Princess to sleep on your pea that's under a mattress for a whole uncomfortable night.

**Prince:** Exactly. And when she awakes in the morning, she will slip her hand under the mattress and find the pea to show that she has completed the challenge. What do you think?

**P, M & M:** *(to audience)* It might be easier to push a pea up a mountain with your nose!

**Prince:** So, I want the challenge to be known throughout the Kingdom and for any candidates to come forward. And whoever she shall be, will be your new Queen and I shall be your King!

**All:** Hooray!

**Song:-**

**Black-out**

ACT ONE

SCENE TWO

THE FLOWER GARDEN (front cloth)

*Fairy enters stage right.*

**Fairy:** So, there we have it. No need for on-line dating, dating app's, speed dating or advertisements. All you need is a bit of modern science with the 'garden pea-under-the-mattress' method! Two Princesses have already tried and failed the challenge. No that that surprises me. After-all, if the pea-under-the-mattress was that successful, why haven't everybody been doing it. But if it works, I wonder if we ladies placing a vegetable under a mattress would find our true love? A runner bean to marry a man that's an athlete! A leek to marry a man that's a plumber! A cucumber to marry a man that - *(thinking)* now what would he have to offer to satisfy a woman? *(Realising)* Of course, he'd be cool as a cucumber and very trendy. Sometimes I wish I was trendy, you know, very out there - a fashion icon!

**Song:-** *A song about style, fashion, etc. Something up-beat that has some comedy dance routine included would be ideal.*

**Fairy:** I need a lie down after that! I'm proper puffed out. I think the last time I felt this puffed was when I was chased through the apple orchard by a bumble bee. And if he caught up with me, the bumble bee might have had the buzz, but it would be me that would have got the sting! *(Exits right)*

*Princess Flowerday enters stage right. She has a flyer/small leaflet.*

**Princess:** What a pretty garden. I wonder who it belongs to? Maybe it belongs to that castle over there. I wonder who lives there? Oh dear, all I seem to do is ask questions to myself. When the only question I need to ask, is where and when shall I find a Prince to marry and be happy ever after. *(Produces the flyer/leaflet)* And here it says that a Prince is looking for his Princess. All interested must go to the castle and she who completes the challenge will be his bride. It all sounds rather peculiar to me, but, if you don't try, you won't know. *(Looking off)* I wonder if that is Tendrils Tickle castle?

*Mildew enters stage left.*

**Mildew:** Can I help you?

**Princess:** I don't know. Who are you?

**Mildew:** I'm Lady Mildew and often in disguise.

**Princess:** Are you in disguise now?

**Mildew:** Oh, yes.

**Princess:** What as?

**Mildew:** I am disguised as myself.

**Princess:** I would never have guessed if you hadn't told me! But I wonder if you can help me?

**Mildew:** That depends on what you want.

**Princess:** *(indicates the flyer/leaflet)* I'm looking for Tendrils Tickle Castle. On this, it asks for any unmarried Princesses to take a challenge and the winner will be the wife of the Prince.

**Mildew:** So, you're a Princess are you?

**Princess:** Princess Flowerday.

**Mildew:** Well, my dear. You have come to Tendrils Tickle and that is the Castle you need to check into, to do the challenge.

**Princess:** *(with relief)* I am pleased about that. I don't suppose you happen to know what the challenge is, do you?

**Mildew:** I understand it's like one of those scientific sleeping tests. Although, there are no professors of medicine, doctors or scientists.

**Princess:** And what am I supposed to do?

**Mildew:** Sleep on it. And if you sleep through the night that will be of great discomfort and find the special sphere when you awake, the Prince will marry you.

**Princess:** Sounds simple enough.

**Mildew:** And, if by chance you do win the challenge, you won't marry the Prince anyway because of Fusarium Wilt.

**Princess:** Is that a disease?

**Mildew:** Let's just say as a husband, he's bit of a flop!

**Princess:** In that case, maybe I should keep walking and find another Prince.

**Mildew:** I think you'd be very wise, my dear. Very wise indeed. *(Exits left)*

**Princess:** On the other hand, nothing ventured, nothing gained. I will check into the Castle, and I will accept the challenge. *(Begins to exit right)* And if I do succeed, then just like the flu, where some folks suffer from it and some folks don't. I might not suffer from the Fusi whatnots Wilt! *(Exits)*

### **Black-out**

#### **ACT ONE SCENE THREE INSIDE THE CASTLE (full stage)**

*The scene can open with a chorus dance if wished. After the routine all remain on stage*

*If it is wished, up-stage centre, the King and Queen's throne can be set*

*King and Queen enter. All bow/curtsey*

**King:** What a to do all this is. All I seem to be doing is putting a pea under mattresses and having hoards of Princesses wanting to sleep till morning. And so far, not one of them has made it through the night before getting the screaming ad-dabs and leaving with an uncomfortable huff!

**Queen:** I'm beginning to believe we shall not find a Princess in time. But if we fail, it can never be said that we didn't do our best.

**King:** Then we have failed. There can't be many more left in the Kingdom.

**Queen:** And I fear, those that are left, will be right down to the nitty gritty.

**King:** Those I could accept. Its the ones we find after we have scraped through the bottom of the barrel.

**Queen:** You mean the ones that will either make you laugh or cry?

**King:** That's the ones.

**Fairy:** *(enters stage right and curtsies)* Your Royal Highnesses, I have news of three Princesses who has just participated in the challenge.

**All:** Three Princesses?

**Fairy:** Loosely speaking that is.

**K & Q:** How loose?

**Fairy:** Well - you've heard of the thin edge of the wedge?

**All:** Yes!

**Fairy:** These are the reject ones before you get to that thin edge! And here they are!

*Fairy moves to the side of stage right. King and Queen can sit on their thrones (if they are set on stage) or to stand centre up stage or to side of stage left. Chorus stand to make sure there's ample performing space.*

*Music - Petunia, Mushy and Marrowfat dressed as comical Princesses enter and do a dance routine. Make it up-beat, lively and very funny*

**Petunia:** Wibble wobble! Wibble wobble!

*Audience reaction as the King and Queen comes up to the three.*

**K & Q:** Have all three of you had a go at the challenge?

**P, M, & M:** Oh, yes.

**King:** *(looks at Petunia)* I'd say a pea was a waste of time with this one. If she slept on a brick, she wouldn't know it with all this upholstery. *(Asking Petunia)* And may I ask, did you have a good night's sleep?

**Petunia:** It wasn't what I'm used to and didn't sleep at all. And I need fifteen hours sleep to keep my looks. Because I've had a face lift you know?

**King:** You wasted your money, dear. It looks to me that the lift broke down.

**Petunia:** Only because my Oil of Ugly hasn't yet soaked in and the water cream has a drought.

**King:** And you found the bed wasn't comfy to sleep in?

**Petunia:** I wasn't in it long enough to find out. You see, last night I had a vindaloo curry. And the vindaloo went right through, so I spent the night in the loo. I expect you've heard about the burning ring of fire?

**King:** I have.

**Petunia:** Well, mine is a blazing inferno that's needs extinguishing!

**King:** Being hot stuff wasn't part of the challenge.

**Petunia:** (*seductively*) That's only an added flair I have to liven up being a low maintenance bird.

**King:** That's in need of a complete renovation. You have failed! Next!

*Petunia exits mumbling and making faces at the King*

**Queen:** (*to Mushy*) Did you sleep well, my dear?

**Mushy:** Not at all well. I even took a ruler to bed.

**Queen:** For what purpose?

**Mushy:** To measure how long I slept! I even tried to sleep with my head under the pillow.

**Queen:** And what happened?

**Mushy:** The tooth fairy came and took my false teeth out!

**Queen:** I understand you had the bed with the memory foam mattress?

**Mushy:** I did. And the stories it remembered shocked me so much that it made my mind boggle all night. So, I suggest you have a delete button installed and erase it's memory!

**Queen:** Did you also find there was a lump in the bed?

**Mushy:** I did.

**Queen:** And did you know what it was?

**Mushy:** It was me!

**Queen:** I can safely say that you have failed, my dear.

**Mushy:** *(exiting)* Oh, well. At least I can now attend my mattress making class. That will give me something to fall back on!

**King:** Now my dear. How was your night?

**Marrow:** Not brilliant and the challenge would have been better done on a mattress between March and May.

**King:** Oh; and for why?

**Marrow:** That's when it's most springy!

**King:** *(laughs)* And with those good looks you have a sense of humour too. *(As if in Marrowfat's ear)* I say, when the Queen is not about, what would it take to steal a kiss from you?

**Marrow:** Anaesthetic!

**Queen:** *(pushing the King out of the way)* Let me deal with this. *(To Marrowfat)* We want to know if you had a full night sleep albeit uncomfortable?

**Marrow:** I was fine until two o'clock this morning when I woke and felt something digging in my back.

**Queen:** And what was it?

**Marrow:** It was a chopstick I lost in the bed after having a Chinese takeaway as a night-time snack.

**Queen:** And did you return to sleep after?

**Marrow:** Not a bit. I tried doing the alphabet backwards, then I remembered I can't do it forwards either! I tried counting sheep, but it was only Mary and her little lamb. Then I tried counting boats *(moves up and down)* and got seasick going up and down like this.

**Queen:** Whatever made you do that?

**Marrow:** I was on the waterbed.

**Queen:** Failed!

**Marrow:** *(exiting)* If it was filled with wine and got a tap attached, I'd win without a problem. I'd get so drunk I wouldn't wake up for days!

**K & Q:** That's it then. *(About to exit)* The challenge is over.

**Fairy:** Wait, your Majesties. I have great news that there is a Princess who is so fair and approaches at this moment. *(Indicates left)* And here she is.

*Princess enters stage left.*

**Princess:** Hello, I'm Princess Flowerday and have come to take up the challenge. Am I too late?

**King:** You're not too late at all. We're still looking for the winner.

**Princess:** That's good news.

**Queen:** But it is still morning. You will have a long wait until tonight to do the challenge.

**Princess:** That's okay. I can amuse myself until then. But tell me, what sort of bed shall I sleep in?

**King:** I don't understand the question.

**Princess:** You're a King so you must sleep in a King size. And you're a Queen and must sleep in a Queen size. I guess the Prince must sleep in a Prince's bed, so where am I to sleep?

**Queen:** The bed for a Princess is in the pink room.

**Princess:** That's sounds lovely. But one thing puzzles me.

**All:** Yes?

**Princess:** I understand that I must survive and sleep though an uncomfortable night. Then when I awake, I must find something. But how can I find the something if I don't know what it is?

**Fairy:** You leave that to me, my dear. My fairy powers will guide you and you shall have nothing to worry about.

**All:** Hooray!

**Song:-**

**Black-out**

ACT ONE  
SCENE FOUR  
UNDER THE TREES (front cloth)



*Wilt and Mildew enter stage left. Mildew enters with a large ugly nose attached by elastic and out of the end is something springy and coiled that resembles a cork screw (a spiralled pipe cleaner is a great option)*

**Wilt:** *(looking at Mildew's nose)* What on earth?

**Mildew:** *(pulls the nose away from face)* It is I, your wife. I am disguised under an assumed nose! *(Letting go the nose so it slaps back into near position)* Oww!

**Wilt:** *(looking)* Why is there a corkscrew out of the end of it?

**Mildew:** I have a nose for wine!

**Wilt:** You ought to see a Doctor.

**Mildew:** I have. I said to him, " something is wrong with me Doc, my nose runs and my feet smell!" And do you know what he said?

**Wilt:** You're upside down!

**Mildew:** *(quickly after Wilt)* I'm upside down! *(Realising)* Hey, I was supposed to say that! Anyway, did you know one of my eyes spoke secretly to the other about a problem?

**Wilt:** No. What did it say?

**Mildew:** Between you and me something smells!

**Wilt:** *(serious)* That's enough you silly woman! I have important business to attend to. Now, what's the current situation of finding a Princess to sleep all night on a pea?

**Mildew:** The last three has failed. But they weren't proper Princesses. More like factory dolly rejects.

**Wilt:** Ah; Cindy and Barbie dolls gone wrong eh!

**Mildew:** Very wrong.

**Wilt:** No matter. The good thing is, that there can't be any-more Princesses left!

**Mildew:** There is one, but I think I have persuaded her to keep going.

**Wilt:** And what if your persuasion didn't work?

**Mildew:** Then she'll be at the Castle waiting for tonight to have a slumbering uncomfortable beddie by-lows and wake as a limp as a wilted daisy tomorrow morning.

**Wilt:** *(with some rage)* You nincompoop, woman!

**Mildew:** *(puzzled)* What's a nincompoop?

**Wilt:** It's a poop without an income!

**Mildew:** *(brightly)* Coo! I'll put that on my C.V.

**Wilt:** In that blank space under qualifications!

**Mildew:** That's right. I was going to put, 'scientist as I got an ology. But I can't remember what the ology it is that I have?'

**Wilt:** Daftology! *(Firmly)* Now, why didn't you bring this Princess to me?

**Mildew:** Well - it was like this. I didn't think of it!

**Wilt:** You're not supposed to think, you're supposed to do as I ask!

**Mildew:** If you paid me money for the work I do, maybe I would do so.

**Wilt:** But you don't do any work!

**Mildew:** Don't I? Coo, I wonder how that has happened then?

**Wilt:** I'll show you. *(Get an easel and board from the stage left wings and something to write with)* Now, how many days in a year?

**Mildew:** Three hundred and sixty-five.

**Wilt:** To show that I'm fair, let's assume it's a leap year and it's three hundred and sixty-six days. *(Writes 366 on the board)* And how many hours a day do you work?

**Mildew:** *(counting on fingers)* Eight hours.

**Wilt:** So, there's twenty fours a day, you only work eight of them and that's a third of a day. So that means you work a third of the year. And a third of three hundred and sixty-six is one hundred and twenty two *(writes 122 on the board)* Now, you don't work Saturday or Sundays?

**Mildew:** No.

**Wilt:** So, fifty two weekends in a year, is two days a week. Fifty-two multiplied by two is one hundred and four *(Can write this as a sum if wished)* Take one hundred and four away from one hundred and twenty two equals, eighteen. *(Writes eighteen on the board)* And how many bank holidays do I let you take?