



# Cinderella

by Barry Bentley

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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)

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## **THIS VERSION**

First performed: Christmas 2018. Updated in 2021

### **Musical Numbers**

The songs within this script were chosen for the 2018 production so please merely treat them as suggestions. As ever with panto, I'd encourage you to choose your own balance of songs to suit the vocal strengths and ability of your cast.

### **Principal Boy**

The two playing Prince & Dandini need to be male actors in this version. Should your company desire to pay homage to the traditional 'principal boy' approach, this script won't work.

### **Innuendo**

As with all Barry Bentley panto scripts, the humour rides very close to the edge in terms of innuendo, however, **you** know your audience so if you feel anything ventures 'too far', feel free to tame the script down if you think it's absolutely necessary. But remember, if what's being said can be equally as innocent as it can be naughty then you're on safe ground... but please try to be brave!

### **Non-Binary Audience**

Barry Bentley pantomimes strive for all inclusivity and collectively address the audience without referring to gender. IE> "kids" "children" "everyone" ...etc. Never "boys and girls"

# PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS

## **CINDERELLA (F)**

*The beautiful protagonist to the story. An innocent and alluring dreamer.*

## **PRINCE CHARMING (M)**

*The man of Cinderella's dreams. Highly sophisticated, a hopeless romantic and a little dim at times*

## **BUTTONS (M)**

*The loveable, energetic comic. Cinderella is his world, he wants her to be happy and believes he's the best person to do that*

## **THE FAIRY GODMOTHER (F)**

*The most magical fairy of them all, very glamorous and poised with a feisty soul waiting underneath!*

## **BARONESS GRISELDA HARDUP (F)**

*Cinderella's evil Stepmother. Mother of Covid & Corona. The most cunning villainess*

## **COVID (M)**

*One half of the ugly stepsisters. The terrible twosome!*

## **CORONA (M)**

*The other half! The butch one of the two*

## **DANDINI (M)**

*Prince Charming's Aide-de-CAMP!*

## **BARON HARDUP (M) (non singing role)**

*Cinderella's Father. Useless, forgetful but ultimately adorable. A doormat to the Baroness.*

## **MUFFIN (M/F) (non singing role)**

*The Baroness' pussycat*

## **GHOST (M/F) (non singing / non speaking role)**

*The one that's behind you*

## **TWO GUARDS (M/F) (non singing / non speaking role)**

*Work for the Prince*

# SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

## ACT ONE

SCENE ONE / PROLOGUE: SHOW CLOTH

SCENE TWO: VILLAGE SQUARE

SCENE THREE: CORRIDOR AT HARDUP HALL

SCENE FOUR: THE FROZEN FOREST

SCENE FIVE: KITCHEN AT HARDUP HALL

SCENE SIX: BACK IN THE FROZEN FOREST EN ROUTE TO THE BALL!

## ACT TWO

SCENE ONE: THE GRAND, OPULENT, SPECTACULAR BALL!

SCENE TWO: THE HAUNTED FOREST

SCENE THREE: BACK IN THE KITCHEN THE FOLLOWING MORNING

SCENE FOUR: SONG SHEET

SCENE FIVE: FINALE / PALACE BALLROOM

# MUSICAL NUMBERS

*These numbers were used in the 2018 production, you can of course choose new songs to suit your cast*

## ACT ONE

OVERTURE (Something short and energetic)

PROLOGUE / ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN .....FAIRY GODMOTHER  
(from 'Mary Poppins' the musical)

THERE'S NOTHING HOLDING ME BACK.....BUTTONS & DANCERS  
(Made famous by Shawn Mendes)

HERE COME THE GIRLS.....COVID & CORONA  
(Made famous by The Sugababes)

DON'T STOP THINKING ABOUT TOMORROW .....CINDERELLA & ENSEMBLE  
(Nina Nesbitt cover – originally made famous by Fleetwood Mac)

ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN (REPRISE) .....FAIRY GODMOTHER  
(from 'Mary Poppins' the musical)

SLEIGH RIDE / JINGLE BELLS .....DANCERS & ENSEMBLE  
(Kay Thompson's Jingle Bells/Sleigh Ride arrangement ala The Rockettes)

JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.....PRINCE CHARMING  
(Made famous by Bruno Mars)

I'D DO ANYTHING.....BUTTONS & CINDERELLA  
(From 'Oliver!' the musical)

MEDLEY:

DON'T STOP ME NOW.....FAIRY & CINDERELLA  
(Postmodern Jukebox originally made famous by Queen)

WHEN YOU BELIEVE.....FAIRY, CINDERELLA, DANCERS & ENSEMBLE  
(from 'Prince Of Egypt' originally made famous by Whitney Huston & Mariah Carey)

## ACT TWO

ENTR'ACTE

VOGUE (*TO TRACK*) .....DANCERS  
(Madonna)

I'M NOT WEARING UNDERWEAR TODAY.....BUTTONS  
(From 'Avenue Q' the musical)

RIVER DEEP MOUNTAIN HIGH.....CINDERELLA, PRINCE, DANCERS  
(Glee version originally made famous by Tina Turner)

RUPAUL MEGAMIX.....COVID, CORONA, DANDIDI, BARONESS, DANCERS  
*A) SISSY THAT WALK B) KITTY GIRL C) JEALOUS OF MY BOOGIE D) CALL ME MOTHER  
E) GLAMAZON F) MAIN EVENT*

GHOSTBUSTERS.....BUTTONS, BARONESS, BARON & MUFFIN  
AMAZING.....CINDERELLA & BUTTONS

(From 'Muriel's Wedding' the musical)

TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS.....BARON, FAIRY & DANDINI

*or*

(Traditional)

FINALE: ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN (REPRISE II)

(From 'Mary Poppins' the Musical)

ENCORE: ONE LAST TIME

(Made famous by Ariana Grande)

# ACT ONE

## SCENE ONE | SHOW CLOTH

### MUSIC CUE: OVERTURE/PROLOGUE 'ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN'

THE OVERTURE SEGUES INTO 'ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN'...

FAIRY:

ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN  
IF YOU LET IT  
LIFE IS OUT THERE WAITING  
SO GO AND GET IT  
BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS  
OPEN DIFFERENT DOORS  
YOU MAY FIND A YOU THERE  
THAT YOU NEVER KNEW WAS YOURS

ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN  
RAISE THE CURTAIN  
THINGS YOU THOUGHT IMPOSSIBLE  
WILL SOON SEEM CERTAIN

STRETCH YOUR MIND BEYOND FANTASTIC  
DREAMS ARE MADE OF STRONG ELASTIC  
TAKE SOME SOUND ADVICE  
AND DON'T FORGET IT  
ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN IF YOU LET IT

MUSIC CONTINUES TO UNDERSCORE THE FOLLOWING:

FAIRY:

Feast your eyes one and all!  
Whenever there is bother,  
I'll arrive with one wave of a wand because...  
I am the Fairy Godmother!

I'm here to save Cinderella from her two nasty sisters.  
They don't treat her like they oughta'  
They're so mean to her and what's worse  
They're [*largely unpopular football team for your area*] supporters!

Poor Cinderella needs my help,  
She's scared out of her wits!  
But having to speak in rhyme like this (MUSIC OUT)  
Is getting on my...nerves!

**FX CUE: LIGHTENING FLASH / THUNDER CRASH.****MUSIC CUE: EVIL STING**

BARONESS and MUFFIN THE CAT Enter DSL.

The BARONESS gives an evil cackle!

BARONESS: *(Noticing the audience)* Oh look Muffin, The people of *[local area]* have all come to see a ghastly pantomime about my stupid, useless and pathetic Stepdaughter, Cinderella! Urgh, it's a hideous name isn't it? I told the committee that we should've called this show "Baroness Griselda Hardup" – that's me! But they said it didn't have a good ring!

MUFFIN: I think your ring is beautiful, Baroness!

BARONESS: Thank you my furry little Muffin *(she tickles MUFFIN's chin)*  
My marvellous moggie. Pussy cat, pussy cat, where have you been?

MUFFIN: I've been to buy some paracetamol. I'm not FELINE very well! I've got a HADDOCK! *(Holds up a fish)* Here, what do you call a cat at the chemist?

BARONESS: I don't know?!

MUFFIN: Puss in Boots!

BARONESS: *(Losing her temper)* Shut up you tiresome tabby!  
Listen, I want you to take to the streets and keep your cat's eyes on that horrible, ugly, revolting stepdaughter of mine.

MUFFIN: Cinderella?

BARONESS: *(shudders at her name)* Urgh! Don't say her name! The very sound of it makes me feel sick!  
I want to know every movement that horrible little wretch makes. I want to make sure she never has any fun whatsoever!  
Don't disappoint me.

MUFFIN: But...

BARONESS: Just go!

**FX CUE: LIGHTENING FLASH / THUNDER CRASH.**

MUFFIN RUNS OFF IN FEAR. THE BARONESS EXITS LAUGHING.

**MUSIC CUE: MAGICAL UNDERSCORING RETURNS**

FAIRY: Oh good gracious! Things are far worse than I thought,  
Not only do I have two sisters to overcome but a wicked Baroness and her pussy too!  
Cinderella needs me now, more than ever!

There's only one-way to stop our story becoming tragic,  
What we need is a sprinkling of Fairy magic!  
So close your eyes and make a wish, the time is now at hand,  
To go where all your dreams come true,



**MUSIC CUE: FAIRY EXIT**

FAIRY EXITS WITH A WAVE OF HER WAND FOR...

**SCENE TWO | VILLAGE SQUARE!**

CLOTH OUT REVEALING THE VILLAGE SQUARE BURSTING WITH COLOUR, FULL OF HAPPY PEOPLE WITH BUTTONS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE.

**MUSIC CUE: THERE'S NOTHING HOLDING ME BACK**

BUTTONS: I WANNA FOLLOW WHERE SHE GOES  
I THINK ABOUT HER AND SHE KNOWS IT  
I WANNA LET HER TAKE CONTROL  
'CAUSE EVERYTIME THAT SHE GETS CLOSER  
SHE PULLS ME IN ENOUGH TO KEEP ME GUESSING (MMMM)  
AND MAYBE I SHOULD STOP AND START CONFESSING  
CONFESSING, YEAH

OH, I'VE BEEN SHAKING  
I LOVE IT WHEN YOU GO CRAZY  
YOU TAKE ALL MY INHIBITIONS  
BABY, THERE'S NOTHING HOLDING ME BACK  
YOU TAKE ME PLACES THAT TEAR UP MY REPUTATION  
MANIPULATE MY DECISIONS  
BABY, THERE'S NOTHING HOLDING ME BACK

THERE'S NOTHING HOLDING ME BACK

THERE'S NOTHING HOLDING ME BACK

SHE SAYS THAT SHE'S NEVER AFRAID  
JUST PICTURE EVERYBODY NAKED\*!\*  
SHE REALLY DOESN'T LIKE TO WAIT  
NOT REALLY INTO HESITATION  
PULLS ME IN ENOUGH TO KEEP ME GUESSING (WOAHA)  
AND MAYBE I SHOULD STOP AND START CONFESSING  
CONFESSING, YEAH

OH, I'VE BEEN SHAKING  
I LOVE IT WHEN YOU GO CRAZY  
YOU TAKE ALL MY INHIBITIONS  
BABY, THERE'S NOTHING HOLDING ME BACK  
YOU TAKE ME PLACES THAT TEAR UP MY REPUTATION  
MANIPULATE MY DECISIONS  
BABY, THERE'S NOTHING HOLDING ME BACK

THERE'S NOTHING HOLDING ME BACK

'CAUSE IF WE LOST OUR MINDS  
AND WE TOOK IT WAY TOO FAR

I KNOW WE'D BE ALRIGHT  
I KNOW WE WOULD BE ALRIGHT  
IF YOU WERE BY MY SIDE  
AND WE STUMBLED IN THE DARK  
I KNOW WE'D BE ALRIGHT  
I KNOW WE WOULD BE ALRIGHT

'CAUSE IF WE LOST OUR MINDS  
AND WE TOOK IT WAY TOO FAR  
I KNOW WE'D BE ALRIGHT  
I KNOW WE WOULD BE ALRIGHT  
IF YOU WERE BY MY SIDE  
AND WE STUMBLED IN THE DARK  
I KNOW WE'D BE ALRIGHT  
WE WOULD BE ALRIGHT

OH, I'VE BEEN SHAKING  
I LOVE IT WHEN YOU GO CRAZY  
YOU TAKE ALL MY INHIBITIONS  
BABY, THERE'S NOTHING HOLDING ME BACK

YOU TAKE ME PLACES THAT TEAR UP MY REPUTATION  
MANIPULATE MY DECISIONS  
BABY, THERE'S NOTHING HOLDING ME BACK

OH WOAH-OH

THERE'S NOTHING HOLDING ME BACK

I FEEL SO FREE WHEN YOU'RE WITH ME, BABY  
BABY, THERE'S NOTHING HOLDING ME BACK

THE VILLAGERS GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS. BUTTONS ADDRESSES THE AUDIENCE.

Hiya gang! If you haven't guessed already, I'm Buttons and I'm called Buttons because of all of these shiny buttons on my top! They wanted to call me Velcro but it was £3.99 a strip! £3.99?! What a 'rip off'! Whenever I come out here I'm going to shout "Hiya Gang!" and you have to shout back "Hiya Buttons!" at the top of your voices, Let's have a go.

HE WALKS IN A CIRCLE AND NOTICES THE AUDIENCE AGAIN.

Hiya Gang! (*listens for a reply*) You'll have to shout a lot louder than that I'm deaf in one eye! ...Hiya gang!! (*louder reply*) ...Hiya Mums!! (*reply*) Hiya Dads!! (*reply*)

HE MIMICS THE DADS REPLY

Right, every time I shout "OK" you shout "Alright"  
Ok? (AUDIENCE "Alright") Alright? (AUDIENCE "Ok") Alright?  
(AUDIENCE "OK") Ok? (AUDIENCE "Alright")  
Aaaaaalrighhhht? (AUDIENCE "OOOOKAAAAY")  
Ooooohkaaaaayyy? (AUDIENCE "AAAAALRIGHHHHTT")  
Ok-Alright-Alright-Ok? (AUDIENCE MUDDLED REPLY)

You're all great! I've never had this many friends before ....and you think I'm kiddin'! I have to be serious now, ok? (AUDIENCE REPLY "ALRIGHT") *(he laughs)* I mean it, it's the serious bit now alright? (AUDIENCE REPLY "Ok") I've only got myself to blame! I live at Hardup Hall on the edge of the village with all of the Hardup's - we're very poor you see...(AUDIENCE: AWW) We're poorer than THAT! (AUDIENCE: BIGGER AWW! *he gives them the thumbs up*) And I've got a confession to make – it's a secret but I can tell you lot can't I?? ...I'm in love! I want to marry Cinderella. She's like, absolutely F.A.F! You know, I thought they called it Hardup Hall because we're all skint! *(gestures a cheeky "No!")* But to cool me down I work at the Baron's Ice Cream Parlour as well as working at Hardup Hall. I did have another job too, working at the clock factory, but I got sacked... after all the hours I put in! But it's ok...I soon found another job working at a chicken dating agency... it's not easy making hens meet! That joke was a bit fowl wasn't it! ...You've got another two hours of this!

BARON(OFF): *(calling)* Buttons! Buttons!

BUTTONS: It's Baron Hardup, Boys and Girls! *(aside)* Let's see if he's remembered his lines, he's never done it right once yet!

BARON HARDUP ENTERS.

BARON: Buttons! There you are!

BUTTONS: *(gesturing the audience proudly)* This is my gang!

BARON: *(awkwardly to the audience)* Oh, Hello! *(back to business)* I've been looking everywhere for you.

BUTTONS: *(aside)* So far so good! ...I came to the village to get a present for Cinderella! But don't worry! I got a little something for you too!

BARON: A present? For me?

BUTTONS: A present for you!

BUTTONS REACHES OFF AND PRODUCES AN ADVENT CALENDAR. MUFFIN ENTERS AND WATCHES ON.

BARON: Oh Buttons! I love presents! What is it?

BUTTONS: It's a *[rundown local area]* Advent Calendar!

BARON: Oooh! How do you know it's a *[rundown local area]* Advent Calendar?

BUTTONS: All the windows are boarded up!

BARON: *(tosses calendar off stage)* You are silly! Not only are you silly, you're slacking!

BUTTONS: I'm not slacking!

BARON: You are slacking! You should be manning my Ice Cream Parlour now! How has business been today?

BUTTONS: Well... a guy came in this morning covered in crumbly chocolate

BARON: Covered in crumbly chocolate!?

BUTTONS: Yeah, he was a bit of a Flake! *(laughs)* Ooh, but one lady came in and left a load of sweet behind *(he gets a basket full of sweets)* look at all these, Baron!

BARON: Oh, goodies! Thank you!

BUTTONS: No! They're not for you! *(Buttons looks at the audience with a cheeky grin)* Who wants some sweet!?!??

**MUSIC CUE: SWEET THROWING**

BUTTONS AND BARON THROW SWEETS OUT TO THE AUDIENCE

BUTTONS: There we go! ...All gone! *(prompting BARON)* "You shouldn't have left the Parlour unattended, Buttons"

BARON: Oh! You shouldn't leave the Parlour unattended, Buttons! I promised my father on his deathbed that I'd keep it running for him.

BUTTONS: *(to audience)* Poor Baron, everyone! His Dad died working at the Nescafé Factory. He fell in a vat of coffee.

BARON: Tragic...

BUTTONS: But at least it was instant!

**SFX CUE: THUNDER**

BUTTONS: Oh no! Here comes the Baroness!

BARON: Make sure you're on your best behaviour, Buttons...

BUTTONS: I always am!

**MUSIC CUE: STEPMOTHER ENTRANCE**

THE BARONESS ENTERS IN ALL HER EVIL GLORY. MUFFIN JOINS HER.

BARONESS: There you are, Buttocks!

BUTTONS: That's cheeky!

BARONESS: Silence!

BUTTONS: Baroness Griselda, can I just say how much I love your stomach!

BARON: What?

BUTTONS: Sorry, just a gut reaction!

BARONESS: Is there a name for what's wrong with you?

BUTTONS: I don't know, Baroness but last night I had a dream I was a Hobbit!

BARON: A Hobbit?!

BUTTONS: Yes, I was Tolkien in my sleep!

BARONESS: How do you think of so many stupid things in one day?

BUTTONS: I get up very early!

BARONESS: Clearly! This morning I asked you to take the car for a service... well?

BUTTONS: I couldn't fit it in the church!

BARONESS: That car is getting to be just like you... it's hopeless!

BUTTONS: Hopeless!

BARONESS: Yes - it's useless!

BUTTONS: Useless!

BARONESS: And it's polluting the environment with toxic fumes!

BUTTONS: And it's pollu... hang on a minute! I don't pollute the environment with toxic fumes!

BARONESS: Oh yes you do!

BUTTONS: Oh no I don't!

BARONESS: You're forgetting we share a dressing room!

BUTTONS: *(sheepishly to the audience)* She's got a point!

BARONESS: Enough! There are scores of chores to be done.

BUTTONS: What chores?

BARONESS: A large gin and tonic please! *(she finds this hilarious)*

BUTTONS: Oooh the Baroness made a funny! I'll let you have that one!

BARONESS: *(back to being stern)* Both of you return to Hardup Hall at once!

**MUSIC CUE: BARONESS EXIT**

BARONESS AND MUFFIN EXIT.

BARON: Oh dear...

BUTTONS: And that's her in a good mood! *(To the Baron)* What you saw in her I'll never know....

BARON: We met in Tesco.

BUTTONS: Really?

BARON: Yes! It was only when I got home I realised I had a bag for life...

BARON: *(quieter, to Buttons – out of character)* Have we missed a bit?

BUTTONS: Shhh - we got away with it

BUTTONS WAITS FOR THE BARONS LINE...

*(prompting, quieter)* "We'd better get back, Buttons."

BARON: Oh... We'd better get back, Buttons

BUTTONS: Come on Baron! To the Buttons Mobile!

BOTH: Bye everybody!

THEY EXIT.

**MUSIC CUE: COMIC PLAY OFF & ROYAL SEGUE**

THE PRINCE AND DANDINI ENTER.

PRINCE: Oh! You don't understand! I just want to meet some delicious, delectable, dashing, dateable damsels, Dandini!

DANDINI: Don't we all, your highness!

PRINCE: What's the matter with me? I'm sensitive...

DANDINI: Yes!

PRINCE: Well mannered...

DANDINI: Of course!

PRINCE: Charming...

DANDINI: You've certainly got a full package your majesty!

PRINCE: And I'm not quite over the hill yet!

DANDINI: No, but far enough up to have a good view of the top! (winks)

PRINCE: It seems very strange being back in the kingdom. It doesn't seem like five minutes since I left to pursue Imperial Studies.

DANDINI: It's a pleasure to have you back, sire! And may I say, *[local private school]* have done a marvelous job.

PRINCE: Ten years out of the Kingdom is a long time, Dandini. But now the time has come to find me a Bride. However, all the girls I ever meet are only interested in me because I'm a Prince. I just want to meet a nice girl! A girl who loves me for me! A nice, ordinary girl!

DANDINI: An ordinary girl?

PRINCE: Yes!

DANDINI: This IS [town] your majesty, an ordinary girl would be pushing it a bit! (VERY PLOSIVE) Perhaps a passel of potential perfect Princesses will be parading at the Frozen Forest Festival this afternoon?

PRINCE: Oh, Dandini, I doubt I'll ever meet the girl that's right for me.

DANDINI: Don't say that, Sire! There's plenty of fish in the sea! You just need a big rod!

PRINCE: So I've heard... Being a Prince isn't all it's cracked up to be.

DANDINI: Oh yes, it must be dreadful! Mountains of money... Servants attending to your every whim! How awful! I'd swap with you any day!

**MUSIC CUE: TING!**

PRINCE: What did you say, Dandini?

DANDINI: I said... I'd swap with you any day!

PRINCE: You're a genius, Dandini! We shall swap places!

THEY SWITCH POSITIONS

DANDINI: (*confused*) You've lost me, sire...

PRINCE: The reason I can't meet any nice, ordinary girls is because I'm a Royal but for just one day you will be me and I will be you. That way I'll be able to meet the perfect girl who will love me for me and not just my title.

DANDINI: I like the sound of this!

PRINCE: All we need to do is change your identity. You'll need a sash!

DANDINI: I went before we left the Palace...

PRINCE: No, Dandini, a Royal sash!

THE PRINCE REMOVES HIS SASH AND PUTS IT ON DANDINI.

DANDINI: It fits! And it matches my eyes! Oh! Thank you, your highness!

PRINCE: Ah ah ah!

DANDINI: I mean, thank you artist formerly known as Prince Charming!

PRINCE: That's it! Now all I need to do is meet the girl of my dreams at the Frozen Forest Festival. (*he goes to exit*) After you, 'your majesty'... and who knows, the girl of my dreams could be just around the corner!

PRINCE AND DANDINI EXIT.

**MUSIC CUE: HERE COME THE GIRLS**

SISTERS:               HERE COME THE GIRLS!  
 (GIRLS! GIRLS! GIRLS, GIRLS!!)  
 X4

COVID:                 SLIPPIN' ON MY LITTLE BLACK DRESS  
 5 INCHES I'M BOUND TO IMPRESS  
 TURN IT UP, I'M A LITTLE TEMPTRESS  
 WOAH – OOOH, OOOH

CORONA:             STEP ASIDE I GOT A STARRING ROLE  
 CAMERA, ACTION, HERE WE GO  
 TONIGHT WE RULE THE WORLD  
 BEWARE COS HERE COME THE GIRLS

SISTERS:             HERE COME THE GIRLS!  
 (GIRLS! GIRLS! GIRLS, GIRLS!!)  
 X4

SISTERS:             Aren't we adorable!!  
*(audience reaction)* Shove off!

COVID:               Well, here we are, Sis!

CORONA:             *(To the audience)* Are you sure you're ready for this!?  
*(To COVID)* ... Yes, here we are and do you know, I'm feeling very  
 unhappy! I had some very sad news today, Sis

COVID:               Oh, come on then – let's hear it!

CORONA:             Well, you remember my ex, don't you?

COVID:               You've got an ex!?! Don't make me laugh!

CORONA:             You remember... Gavin!

COVID:               Oh yes, is that the one who used to call you that funny name...what  
 was it??

CORONA:             Drambuie

COVID:               That's right! ...Isn't that some kind of fancy licker? *(liquor)*

CORONA:             That's me!!

COVID:               Well come on, what's the sad news?

CORONA:             Gavin died yesterday!

COVID:               Oh no! Not Gavin!

CORONA:             Yes! He overdosed on heartburn tablets



COVID: Heartburn tablets! Oh, Poor Gav!

CORONA: I know – I can't believe Gaviscon (*Gav is gone*)

COVID: I know what'll cheer you up

CORONA: What?

COVID: I smell men!

THEIR HEADS TURN TOWARDS THE AUDIENCE.

CORONA: Look at them... Looks like they've recommissioned the Jeremy Kyle show!

COVID: Ooh they're a lovely lot in tonight!

THE SISTERS IN TURN POINT TO THREE MEN IN THE AUDIENCE.

CORONA: (TO MAN#1) You're handsome! I'll remember you

COVID: (TO MAN#2) You're cute! Don't go anywhere I might be back for you

BOTH: (NOTICE MAN#3 TOGETHER) ...Good evening!!! Aren't we adorable!?! Oh yes we are! (BUSINESS)

COVID: Shut up! It's far too early in the show for all that rubbish! Oh – how rude, we haven't even introduced ourselves yet. My name is Covid and this is my sister...

CORONA: Corona!

COVID: But don't let out names put you off.

CORONA: We're easier to catch!

COVID: And as you can see we are...

BOTH: Identical twins!

CORONA: You can tell us apart though. You see, unlike her, I have the face of a saint...

COVID: A Saint Bernard!

CORONA: You can talk!

COVID: I'm aging like wine...

CORONA: You're aging like milk!

COVID: How dare you! I haven't come here to be insulted!

CORONA: Oh! Where do you usually go?

COVID: We never get on!

CORONA: We never get off either!

COVID: We're gagging for some men!

CORONA: Oh you're not wrong! I'm so lonely!

PAUSE FOR AUDIENCE "AWW"

COVID: She's lonelier than that! Look at her!

PAUSE FOR BIGGER "AWW"!

She doesn't have much luck with men at all, tell them what your first boyfriend died of...

CORONA: He died, falling down a wishing well ...I didn't know they worked!  
And anyway, what about you! You've not had much luck either!

COVID: Well no, my first boyfriend died eating poisoned mushrooms!

CORONA: Wait a minute, I thought your second boyfriend died eating poisoned mushrooms!?

COVID: He did as well, yes! – then my third boyfriend died of a fractured skull!

CORONA: Really?

COVID: Yeah...

BOTH: He wouldn't eat the mushrooms!

THEY BOTH LAUGH

CORONA: I don't think I can take it anymore! I need a fella!!

COVID: Let's take a proper look out there! (*gestures towards the audience*)

CORONA: Get those house lights up, uncle / auntie [*name of sound operator*]!

COVID: Oh, Plenty of DILFS in!

CORONA: I'm going to get one! (*hitches up skirt*) Look out lads! Hot stuff coming at-cha!

CORONA MAKES HER WAY INTO THE AUDIENCE.

COVID: Wait for me!

COVID FOLLOWS.

**MUSIC CUE: JAWS THEME**

CORONA: (TO A WOMAN) Look COVID, isn't she wearing a lovely outfit! Sold the caravan but kept the curtains!

COVID: Look at him! It's one of the Mitchell's from Eastenders!

CORONA: Yeah, SHARON!

COVID: (POINTING) Phwoaar! That one's mine!

SHE CROSSES TO A YOUNG MAN

Stand up, Love! I won't bite ...hard!! What's your name and where do you come from?

AUDIENCE MAN STARTS TO REPLY BUT SHE CUTS HIM OFF INSTANTLY.

Oh sit down! I'm 'barking up the wrong tree' there!

CROSSES TO A MAN & A WOMAN

CORONA: I've got one!

SHE SITS ON HIS LAP

Ooh! I think you were built for speed more than comfort! What's your name?

AUDIENCE MAN REPLIES.

So, **NAME OF MAN**, Do you like my jewellery? I'll let you in on a secret...even my knickers are encrusted!  
(*Gesturing to the woman*) This your wife?? Wanna make it a thruple?

COVID SHOVES CORONA OFF THE MAN. CORONA RETURNS TO THE STAGE.

COVID: My turn now! Right, **NAME OF MAN**...let's have a selfie! (TAKES SELFIE)  
Where are you from? (PLACE) Oh, **NAME OF MAN** if your left leg is Easter and your right leg is Christmas, can I visit you between the holidays?

CORONA: (CALLING FOR HER SISTER) Come on! We haven't the time for this.

COVID MAKES HER WAY BACK ONTO THE STAGE

COVID: I'll never forget you **NAME OF MAN**! Buy a new hat Corona, dear. I can hear wedding bells!

HOUSE LIGHTS DOWN

CORONA: Give over! You'll NEVER get a man dressed like that!

COVID: Why would I want a man dressed like this?!

THEY BICKER.

**MUSIC CUE: STEPMOTHER ENTRANCE**

BARONESS ENTERS.

BARONESS: Girls! Girls! Control yourselves!

SISTERS: Sorry, Mummy!

BARONESS: There are many more important matters to attend to.

COVID: Corona's eyebrows?  
CORONA: Rude!  
BARONESS: I've got a little surprise for you two. *(calls off)* Muffin!

**MUSIC CUE: MUFFIN STING**

MUFFIN ENTERS.

COVID: Eee! Hello!  
MUFFIN: Hello 'LADIES'!?  
BARONESS: This is our new evil little sidekick; goes by the name of...Muffin!  
CORONA: I love a Muffin!  
COVID: We can see that!  
MUFFIN: Hey, why do cows have hooves?  
...because they lactose  
BARONESS: Now listen you feral fleabag! Have you been keeping your cat's eyes on Cinderella for us like I ordered?  
MUFFIN: Of course! Anything for you!  
COVID: Well then, Muffin, tell us - where is that horrible little sister of ours?  
CORONA: Yes, she's supposed to be the star of this poxy show and we haven't even seen her yet!  
MUFFIN: She's been daydreaming! If she's managed to do all the housework I'll eat my tail! She's been singing and twirling around as though she were a Princess.  
CORONA: How dare she! Who does she think she is?  
COVID: Cinderella, a Princess! NEVER! She's far too ugly!  
CORONA: And like, totally stupid! Hashtag bimbo!  
BARONESS: Thank you, Muffin! I knew we could rely on you!

MUFFIN BOWS & EXITS.

COVID: Right! We need to have a little word with our pathetic excuse for a stepsister!  
ALL: Agreed! ...CINDERELLLAAAA!!

**MUSIC CUE: CINDERELLA'S ENTRANCE (a dream is a wish your heart makes)**

CINDERELLA ENTERS.

CINDERELLA: You called for me, Stepmother?

SISTERS: Ahem!

CINDERELLA: *(Politely dips)* Sisters!

SISTERS MOVE IN CLOSER TO CINDERELLA

COVID: Urgh, what's that revolting perfume you're wearing, Cinderella!?

CINDERELLA: *(sweetly)* It's called 'Come To Me'

CORONA: Well it doesn't smell like 'Come To Me'

BARONESS: Cinderella, have you completed the chores I asked you to do?

CINDERELLA: Yes, Stepmother.

BARONESS: All of them?

CINDERELLA: Every last one.

BARONESS: You've wiped the windows?

CINDERELLA: Yes.

COVID: Polished the pictures?

CINDERELLA: Of course.

CORONA: Dusted the doorknobs?

CINDERELLA: I've done everything.

BARONESS: You've done 'everything' have you?

COVID: We've heard otherwise!

THE MOOD BECOMES DARKER AND THE LIGHTS DIM.

**MUSIC CUE: EVIL UNDERSCORE (POUNDING HEARTBEAT)**

BARONESS: You've been daydreaming again haven't you?

CINDERELLA: No, Stepmother.

SISTERS: Oh yes she has!

AUDIANCE REPLIES WITH BUSINESS

CORONA: Stop that! This is the serious bit now!

ENSEMBLE of VILLAGERS gradually enter and notice what's happening

BARONESS: You've been twirling around the house as though you're on 'Strictly'. Well, maybe you'd like to see how strict I can be...

CINDERELLA: Why are you all so mean to me?

COVID: Mean? MEAN? What do you mean, mean?! I want you to get back into the house and scrub our crusty ensuite toilet with your own toothbrush!

CINDERELLA: But I've already done it...

BARONESS: Do it again!

CORONA: And again!

COVID: And again!

BARONESS: Then once you've finished all of your chores you can chillax, get out of those tawdry rags and slip into something more comfortable. How about...

ALL: ...a COMA! *(They laugh)*

SISTERS: *(to the audience)* Aren't we adorable!  
Whatevs!

**MUSIC CUE: EVIL EXIT**

BARONESS AND SISTERS EXIT LAUGHING.

VILLAGER 1: *(to Cinderella)* How do you put up with them?

VILLAGER 2: They're so wicked!

CINDERELLA: Sometimes they're not so bad

VILLAGER 2: I couldn't cope with all their demands

CINDERELLA: I know it won't be like this forever

**MUSIC CUE: DON'T STOP THINKING ABOUT TOMORROW**

CINDERELLA: IF YOU WAKE UP AND DON'T WANNA SMILE  
IF IT TAKES JUST A LITTLE WHILE  
OPEN YOUR EYES AND LOOK AT THE DAY  
YOU'LL SEE THINGS IN A DIFFERENT WAY

DON'T STOP THINKIN' ABOUT TOMORROW  
DON'T STOP, IT'LL SOON BE HERE  
IT'LL BE BETTER THAN BEFORE  
YESTERDAY'S GONE, YESTERDAY'S GONE

WHY NOT THINK ABOUT TIMES TO COME?  
AND NOT ABOUT THINGS THAT THEY'VE DONE?  
IF YOUR LIFE WAS BAD TO YOU  
JUST THINK WHAT TOMORROW'LL DO

CINDERELLA & ENSEMBLE: DON'T STOP THINKIN' ABOUT TOMORROW  
DON'T STOP, IT'LL SOON BE HERE  
IT'LL BE BETTER THAN BEFORE

YESTERDAY'S GONE, YESTERDAY'S GONE

ENSEMBLE: DON'T STOP X 3

ENSEMBLE SOLO: ALL I WANT IS TO SEE YOU SMILE  
IF IT TAKES JUST A LITTLE WHILE

CINDERELLA: I KNOW YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT IT'S TRUE  
THEY'LL NEVER MEAN ANY HARM TO YOU

CINDERELLA & ENSEMBLE: DON'T STOP THINKIN' ABOUT TOMORROW  
DON'T STOP, IT'LL SOON BE HERE  
IT'LL BE BETTER THAN BEFORE  
YESTERDAY'S GONE, YESTERDAY'S GONE

DON'T STOP THINKIN' ABOUT TOMORROW  
DON'T STOP, IT'LL SOON BE HERE  
IT'LL BE BETTER THAN BEFORE  
YESTERDAY'S GONE, YESTERDAY'S GONE

**MUSIC CUE: DON'T STOP...PLAYOFF**

SCENE THREE | HARDUP HALL  
CORRIDOR / DS CLOTH

**MUSIC CUE: BUTTONS ENTRANCE**

BUTTONS ENTERS WITH A BIG PRESENT BOX.

BUTTONS: Hiya Gang! (*Reply*)  
I'm so glad you're all here. You know who else is glad you're here?  
All the burglars in [*town*]! Just kidding!  
Now then gang, to show Cinderella I really REALLY love her,  
I've got her this very special present. Nobody is allowed to peek  
inside; will you look after it for me? I said "Will you look after it for  
me!!!?" (*reply*) Nice one! I'm going to leave it over here but if  
anyone goes near it you lot all have to shout "BUTTONS!" as loud as  
you can. Let's have a practice. I'm going to go over here and be  
someone horrible – pretend I'm Matt Hancock... Here we go!

**MUSIC CUE: TIP TOE**

BUTTONS APPROACHES THE BOX IN MIME FASHION

Did you do it? I don't think any of the big kids did! We'll try that again and if I see  
any of you not joining in I'll set Covid and Corona onto you! (he laughs) Here we  
go!

**MUSIC CUE: TIP TOE**

Much better! Now don't forget will you?! (*reply*) Nice one!  
See you later!

**MUSIC CUE: COMIC EXIT**

BUTTONS EXITS AND CINDERELLA ENTERS.

CINDERELLA: Buttons! Oh Buttons! Now where has he got to?! Oh! What's this? A present for me?  
It's not even my Birthday!

**MUSIC CUE: TIP TOE**

CINDERELLA GOES TOWARDS THE PRESENT - AUDIENCE SHOUT.

BUTTONS ENTERS.

BUTTONS: Stop right there! Back away from the box!

CINDERELLA: There you are, Buttons! I need your help, I've got a problem...

SISTERS(OFF): CINDERELLA!!

BUTTONS: Sounds like you've got two problems!

CINDERELLA: You'd better not wind them up, you know what they're like!

BUTTONS: Yeh, the hairy bikers!

COVID AND CORONA ENTER.

CORONA: Aha! There you are, Girl!

COVID: Did the doctor ring back with our test results?

BUTTONS: *(just remembering)* oh, yes he did! There's good news and bad news...the good news is you've both only got twenty four hours left to live

*SISTERS GASP*

CINDERELLA: What's the bad news?

BUTTONS: I should've told them yesterday

SISTERS: *(calling off)* DADDY!!

BARON ENTERS.

BARON: Yes, girls?

COVID: We need to speak to you about our boudoir!

BUTTONS: Your boud-what?

SISTERS: Boudoir!!

CORONA: It's Italian for 'bedroom'

COVID: Yeah, it's posh!

BARON: What's the matter with it?

COVID: It's dirty!

CORONA: It's filthy!



COVID: 'Stinkerella' is an incompetent cleaner. She was supposed to pull down our blinds...

CORONA: Mop around the table legs...

COVID: ...then open and dust our chest of drawers.

BUTTONS: Cinderella, you were supposed to open their legs, pull down their drawers and mop around their chests!

COVID: We asked you for a sixty-minute makeover! Our plaster is cracking!

BUTTONS: You can say that again!

CORONA: Shut it, Butt-face! We are beautiful! Look at all our beauty spots!

BUTTONS: Those are blackheads!

SISTERS: Rude!

**MUSIC CUE: FAIRY ENTRANCE**

THERE IS A FLASH STAGE RIGHT. EVERYONE FREEZES AS THE FAIRY GODMOTHER ENTERS.

FAIRY: Looks like I got here just in time!  
Can't have them spoil our Pantomime!  
I'm going to need all the help I can get. I wonder if Buttons could help me? Well, there's only one way to find out!

Without his help, my chances are slim,  
I'll make myself visible ...but only to him!

SHE MOVES BETWEEN BUTTONS AND THE SISTERS AND WAVES HER WAND.

**MUSIC CUE: MAGIC STING**

ALL UNFREEZE.

BUTTONS: (*seeing the fairy*) Eee! You scared the sh...life out of me! Who are you?

COVID: I'm Covid, you moron! Even you're not that stupid...

BUTTONS: Not you! Her! (*points to the fairy*)

CORONA: Me?

BUTTONS: The Fairy!

COVID: How dare you! I'm not a Fairy!

CORONA: (*Actors own voice*) That's not what I heard!

FAIRY: I've been sent here to look after Cinderella!

BUTTONS: Cinderella!

COVID: No! I'm, Covid – She's Cinderella! (*points to Cinderella*)

CINDERELLA: What is it, Buttons?

BUTTONS: (*still looking at FAIRY, in COVID's direction*) You are so beautiful!

COVID: At last he's talking sense!

CORONA: No, he was talking to me! I'd put money on it!

FAIRY: This is getting silly now!  
I'll put a stop to interruptions (*she waves her wand*)

**MUSIC CUE: MAGIC STING (a)**

EVERYONE BUT BUTTONS FREEZES IN A COMIC FASHION.

FAIRY: There, that's better!

BUTTONS: Wow! How did you do that? You've made everyone go stiff!

FAIRY: (*Looks smug for a moment, only just avoids corpsing...*)  
Listen, Buttons. Cinderella needs our help...

BUTTONS: She certainly will if she has to stand in that pose much longer!

FAIRY: She's being treated very unkind by her horrible sisters and the wicked Baroness but if we work together we can help her!

BUTTONS: What do I need to do?

FAIRY: Just keep an eye on her for me and make sure she's happy; like a best friend should!  
Can you do that for me, Buttons?

BUTTONS: I'll try, I promise.

FAIRY: Don't forget, Buttons – I'm counting on you

AS THE FAIRY EXITS SHE WAVES HER WAND

**MUSIC CUE: MAGIC STING (b)**

EVERYONE UNFREEZES.

BUTTONS: (*not realising she's gone, counting his buttons*) 1-2-3-4

BARON: What are you doing now, Buttons?

BUTTONS: I'm counting on me ... 5-6-7-8

COVID & CORONA: MY BOOTSCOOTIN' BABY  
IS DRIVING ME C-RAZY  
(*they laugh*)

BARON: That boy has gone crunchy nuts!

CORONA: Oh! Look at the time, we'll be late for the Frozen Forest Festival!

COVID: Quick, Corona - let's go and make ourselves even more beautiful!

THEY MOVE TO EXIT.

BUTTONS: Well! If beauty is skin deep those two are inside out!

THE MOOD BECOMES DARKER AS THE SISTERS RETURN.

**MUSIC CUE: EVIL UNDERSCORE (POUNDING HEARTBEAT)**

COVID: What did you say, Buttons?!

BUTTONS: Nothing!

CORONA: Nothing ey? You'll want to be VERY careful about what you say to us!

COVID: Yes! You remember what happened last time?

BUTTONS RUBS THE BACK OF HIS HEAD.

CORONA: And the time before that?

BUTTONS RUBS HIS CROTCH.

CORONA: That's right, Buttons. Be sure it doesn't happen again!

COVID: Come along, Corona! I need a hand with my bikini line!

CORONA: I'm on my way!

CINDERELLA PICKS UP A SET OF HEDGE TRIMMERS AND HANDS THEM TO CORONA WHO FOLLOWS COVID OFFSTAGE.

BARON: You got off lightly there, Buttons!

BUTTONS: You know what? Those two remind me of the sea...they're rough and they make me feel sick!

BARON: Oh Buttons, where did it all go wrong?

BUTTONS: I suppose you could start with this script...  
You're not doing too bad with this scene though, *[actors name playing Baron]*, I mean, Baron!

THE BARON SLAPS BUTTON'S ARM

BARON: Do you know... I've worked and worked all of my life and what have I got to show for it? Nothing! I feel like an Archaeologist, my career's in ruins! Not even a single customer at the Ice Cream Parlour... everything is falling to pieces!

BUTTONS: Hundreds and thousands?

BARON: Oh Cinders! We're poor!

CINDERELLA: Poor!

BUTTONS: Penniless!

BARON: Penniless!

BUTTONS: We haven't even got a pot to p... ass around!

BARON: We've got no choice but to shut down...

BUTTONS: You're right! Show's over gang. Get your coats and get out! See you all next year...Alexa, lights off!

THE LIGHTS POWER DOWN. THEY BOTH EXIT.

**SFX CUE: POWER DOWN**

SHOW CLOTH IN

THE FAIRY ENTERS WITH A TORCH.

FAIRY: Oh no! This is no way to end the show!  
We need a happy ending!  
A little Fairy spell,  
From a wand as magic as mine,  
Will help me to help the Hardups,  
And save the Pantomime!

**MUSIC CUE: MAGIC STING**

**SFX CUE: POWER UP!**

**MUSIC CUE: ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN (REPRISE)**

LIGHTS COME UP ON THE FAIRY IN FRONT OF THE SHOW GAUZE.

FAIRY: That's better! Now my magic will only work if Cinderella is kind and generous. I must test her to prove that she has nothing but goodness in her heart. A disguise! She'll never know it's me, just wait and see!

TAKE SOME SOUND ADVISE AND DON'T FORGET IT ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN, IF YOU LET IT

#### **SCENE FOUR | THE FROZEN FOREST FESTIVAL**

SHOW GAUZE OUT REVEALING THE FROZEN FOREST! THERE IS A BURST OF FESTIVE MUSIC AND A FLURRY OF SNOW. FESTIVAL ATMOSPHERE.

**MUSIC CUE: CHRISTMAS REINDEER MEDLEY**

THE DANCERS PERFORM A ROUTINE IN WINTER FINEST.

ALL: RING OUT THE BELLS THOSE CHRISTMAS BELLS  
RING OUT THE BELLS THOSE CHRISTMAS BELLS

COME ON, WE'RE GOING FOR A SLEIGH RIDE  
CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE AGAIN

COME ON, WE'RE GOING FOR A SLEIGH RIDE  
TO SPREAD GOOD CHEER AGAIN

FROM THE TOP OF THE CHIMNEY  
TO THE TOP OF THE HALL  
DASH AWAY, DASH AWAY, DASH AWAY ALL

JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS  
JINGLE ALL THE WAY  
OH, WHAT FUN IT IS TO RIDE  
IN A ONE-HORSE OPEN SLEIGH

JINGLE BELLS  
JINGLE BELLS

OH, WHAT FUN IT IS TO RIDE  
IN A ONE-HORSE OPEN SLEIGH

OLD SAINT NICK IS GONNA TAKE TO FLIGHT  
THE MOON IS SHING BRIGHT  
RING OUT THE BELLS

OLD SAINT NICK IS RIDING THROUGH THE SKY  
YOU SHOULD SEE HIS REINDEER FLY

ALL: RING THE BELLS TO HEAR THOSE PRETTY BELLS CHIME

JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS  
JINGLE ALL THE WAY  
OH, WHAT FUN IT IS TO RIDE  
IN A ONE-HORSE OPEN SLEIGH

JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS  
JINGLE ALL THE WAY

RING OUT THE BELLS THOSE CHRISTMAS BELLS

DANCERS EXIT. DANDINI AND PRINCE ENTER

DANDINI: Here we are your Majesty! The Frozen Forest Festival!

PRINCE: Dandini! You must remember not to call me 'Your Majesty'! You'll give the game away, you're the Prince for today, remember?

DANDINI: Oh of course, Dandini! (*winks*)

SISTERS(OFF): Yoohoo! Hello, boys!

DANDINI: I don't like the sound of this! I'm off!

PRINCE: Oh no you're not. You're going nowhere! You're the Prince now!

**MUSIC CUE: SISTERS ENTRANCE**

SISTERS ENTER WITH A PICNIC BASKET CONTAINING JAM TARTS.

COVID: Ooh! At last! A couple of willing young men! All my Christmases are coming at once!

CORONA: What are you two hunks doing out here in the Frozen Forest?

PRINCE: We were looking for a...

SISTERS: ...Couple of tarts?

DANDINI: I beg your pardon!?

SISTERS HOLD UP A JAM TART EACH

PRINCE: Exactly!

PRINCE NUDGES DANDINI.

CORONA: I told you, Covid. Men around here are like buses.

COVID: You wait for ages then two come at once?

CORONA: You're right - they're usually big, dirty and never come on time!

DANDINI: Allow me to introduce myself... I am Prince Charming...

COVID: (*Grand curtsy*) Ooh! Your Majesticals!

CORONA: (*bows presenting his crotch*) Ooh! Your testi...monials!

PRINCE: ...and I am Dandini, servant to the Prince.

THEY FORCEFULLY HAND HIM THE BASKETS.

SISTERS: Whatever!

COVID: Back off servant boy!

CORONA: Yeah! Don't stick your nose in where it isn't wanted you basket case!

PRINCE: Of course! (*smugly*) Charming, they're all yours!

PRINCE EXITS. DANDINI'S FACE DROPS.

CORONA: Alone at last!

COVID: You're so gorgeous, You make me feel like a prawn cocktail

CORONA: And that's just for starters.

COVID: You've officially caught us

CORONA: We need to isolate together for seven days

COVID: We've been to the [*local shopping precinct*] - you've not seen nothing like those crowds! They were pushing and shoving and shoving and pushing!

CORONA: Shoving and pushing and pushing and shoving!