



Rapunzel

by Bradford and Webster

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Rapunzel, the Pantomime

by Toby Bradford & Tina Webster

SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1 - The Village

Scene 2 - Outskirts of the Village (tabs scene)

Scene 3a - The Forest (half stage)

Scene 3b - Outside the Tower

Scene 4 - Inside the Tower

Scene 5a - The Hair Salon (half stage – possibly use black cloth/tabs)

Scene 5b - On the way to the Palace (short auditorium scene, for clearing up 5a)

Scene 6 - The Royal Palace

Scene 7 - Outskirts of the Village (tabs scene)

Scene 8a - The Forest (half stage)

Scene 8b - Outside the Tower

Scene 9 - Inside the Tower

Scene 10 - The Forest (half stage)

ACT II

Prologue - (tabs scene)

Scene 1 - The Village

Scene 2a - Inside the Tower

Scene 2b - Inside the Tower

Scene 3 - The Hair Salon (half stage – possibly use black cloth/tabs)

Scene 4 - The Royal Palace

Scene 5 - The Forest (half stage)

Scene 6 - Inside the Tower

Scene 7a - The Tower Staircase (half stage – black cloth/tabs)

Scene 7b - The Tower Staircase UV scene (half stage – black cloth/tabs)

Scene 8 - Inside the Tower

Songsheet

Walkdown & Finale – The Royal Palace

CAST LIST

- PRINCE FREDERICK** (F/M) Principal Boy. Usually played by a female. Gorgeous and charming, but a little arrogant & immature. Wants life to be fun, with no responsibilities – but this does change, when he falls in love. Good singer.
- RAPUNZEL** (F) Principal Girl. A beautiful girl, naive, but studious and clever, from years of reading books whilst locked in a tower. Good singer.
- DAME BEATRIX** (TRIXIE)
BOUFFANT (M) A traditional panto Dame. A poor, but glamorous hairdresser, trying to earn an honest living. Mother of Rapunzel, who was snatched away as a baby. Also, mother of Frankie.
- FRANKIE** (M) Valet to the Prince. Hard-working, but good fun, and needs to have a good rapport with the audience.
- WITCH GOTHEL** (F) The ‘Baddie’ – the evil witch who stole Rapunzel from her mother. Needs to be able to work the audience and encourage the boos and hisses.
- FAIRY FLORA** (F) The good fairy ... she has only just completed her training – this is her first job. Sweet, with a touch of comedy. All of her lines are in rhyme.
- CURLY & BOB** (M/F) The ‘Comedy Duo’. Dim-witted henchmen to Witch Gothel. Both are bungling idiots – good comedy talent required.
- KING GEOFFREY** (M) Worried that his son is an irresponsible heir to the throne. Assertive, but with some comedy.
- QUEEN GERTRUDE** (F) Prince Frederick’s mother – she spoils her son & thinks the King is too hard on him. Some comedy required.
- CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD** (M) Serious, authoritative character. Fights off Dame’s advances. Some comedy required.

LACIE (F) Prince Frederick's Social Secretaries. They follow him
MACIE (F) around, hanging on to his every word.
GRACIE (F) Gracie has a crush on Frankie.

HERALD (M/F)

CHORUS & DANCERS' ROLES Villagers, Palace Courtiers, Paparazzi, Fans,
Puppeteers

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ACT I**Scene 1 The Village**

There is a hair salon, with a comic name ("Curl Up & Dye" or some similar pun)

The Villagers are on stage to start

SONG: Opening number- Villagers

Dame enters from either hair salon or wings

DAME

Ooooh! Hello, everyone! Are you all waiting to have your hair done?

Villagers look a little horrified at that prospect & start to make excuses & slowly move downstage & then exit stage

Dame notices the audience

DAME

Oh, more customers! My hairdressing reputation is obviously spreading! Well, I am the finest hairdresser in the whole kingdom – "head and shoulders" above the rest! Isn't that right? (*looks behind to ask villagers – no-one is there*) Oh, they've gone. Never mind them, I'll introduce myself to you lovely people – I'm Dame Beatrix Bouffant, known to my friends as Trixie. Hairdressing is the "highlight" of my day – and having a quick look around, I can see you're all in need of my services – a little TLC to your tresses and some conditioner for your curls oh, maybe not you, sir – I think you're more in need of Mr Sheen than John Frieda! Hair today, gone tomorrow! Anyway, despite this very glamorous facade, I have to admit that I'm feeling very sad today (*sad face*)

AUDIENCE

Aaaaaah!

DAME

I'm much sadder than that

AUDIENCE

Aaaaaaaaahhhhhh!

DAME

That's better! Do you want to know why I'm sad? Today is my daughter's 16th birthday, which should be a very happy occasion, but it's not. For when she was just a tiny baby, she was stolen away in the night, and I haven't seen her since (*takes out an enormous hanky and wails into it*) I used to dream that she would grow up into a beautiful young woman, like her mother (*flutters eyelashes*) and that one day, she would marry the Prince. But now I've been left childless and alone (*wails again*)

Frankie enters

FRANKIE

I thought I heard a whale (*to audience, with a wink*) an easy mistake to make! And what do you mean "childless"? You've got me, Mum – your son, remember?!

DAME

Don't interrupt me – I'm doing the sad, dramatic bit! Yes, I know I've got you, but that's the "root" of the problem, there's no "permanent solution" – and that's the "long and short" of it

FRANKIE

That's not very nice, Mum! And can you **please** stop with the hair-puns?

DAME

You're asking me to "cut the hair" jokes? You're asking me to "snip" it in the bud?

FRANKIE

Mum!!

DAME

Perhaps there should be a "parting" of the ways?

FRANKIE
ENOUGH!!

DAME

But, I'm a hairdresser, puns are what we do, especially when we don't have any customers.

FRANKIE

Then we definitely need to find you some more customers!

DAME

I have some here! (*indicates to audience*) I was just introducing myself to them.

FRANKIE

Would you like to introduce me?

DAME

This is my son, Frankie.

Frankie waves

FRANKIE

Hi, everyone!

DAME

I love him, really. I just wish he'd grown up to marry royalty, so that I could be socialising with the well-to-do, where I belong

FRANKIE

I may not be **married** to royalty, but I do **work** for the Prince (*proudly*) I'm Prince Frederick's valet

DAME

Yes, Frankie Valet! (*sniggers*) He works all four seasons of the year!

FRANKIE

Very funny, Mum – but the kids won't get that one

DAME

What about this one then? My son works for the “hair to the throne”

FRANKIE

MUM!!

DAME

Couldn't resist that one – sorry, Frankie. Anyway, where was I? Oh yes, I was telling my lovely new customers here, the sad story about your sister

FRANKIE

It is very, very sad

DAME

But, not only was my darling baby daughter stolen away in the night, a few years later, my husband was stolen away in the night, too – but that wasn't quite so sad.

FRANKIE

He wasn't exactly “stolen away” either, was he?

DAME

No.

FRANKIE

Tell them the truth

DAME

He was the royal wig maker and he ended up running off with that bald woman who worked in the palace bakery. If he ever comes back there'll be hell to pay! .. “Toupee”! Get it?

FRANKIE

(despairingly) Mum!

DAME

OK, that was the last one, I promise. See you later, girls and boys!

Dame exits

FRANKIE

(shakes head) I do apologise for my mother – she has far too much time on her hands. Unlike me – I am always busy! Looking after Prince Frederick is a 24/7 job. It's not that he **works** hard, but he does like to party hard – but for me, parties mean holding back the paparazzi, then, later, holding back his hair *(mimes vomiting)*. Prince Frederick is OK – although, he is quite, ermm, how can I put it? 'High maintenance'. So, I don't really have much time to myself. I suppose that's why I don't have any friends *(looks sad)* You lot look pretty friendly. Would you be my friends?

AUDIENCE

Yes!

FRANKIE

Would you really? That's great! I've got a great idea – whenever I see you, I'll shout "Hi kids!" and you can shout back "Hi Frankie!" Shall we give it a try? ... I said shall we give it a try? ... Hi kids!

AUDIENCE

Hi Frankie!

FRANKIE

Oh, I'm sure you can do better than that. Let's try it again. Hi kids!

AUDIENCE

Hi Frankie!

FRANKIE

That's great! Thanks! It's wonderful to have some friends at last! But I really must go and find the Prince. He's due for an audience with his parents ... the King and Queen.

Prince Frederick enters, looking a little dishevelled, wearing sunglasses and held up by his three "secretaries".

FRANKIE

Oh, there you are, Your Highness. How are you feeling this morning ...
(*checks invisible watch*) er, afternoon?

Prince thinks for a moment. Does the wobbly hand thing .

FRANKIE

We need to get you back to the palace and tidied up. Ladies, I'm afraid the Prince has to leave you now and –

PRINCE

Oh no, they're coming too.

FRANKIE

But –

PRINCE

These are my new secretaries.

FRANKIE

Secretaries?

PRINCE

Well, **social** secretaries, Lacie, Macie and Gracie. My father is always telling me I need to get my life organised so Lacie organises the venue, Macie organises the drinks and Gracie organises the guest list.

FRANKIE

I really don't think that is what he meant.

PRINCE

Oh, don't be a party pooper, or Gracie won't put you on the guest list.

Gracie waves at Frankie. Frankie blushes.

FRANKIE

Oh, er, um, er, yes, I, er ... but we really do have to go.

PRINCE

Oh, valet, you're such a bore

SONG: – Prince Frederick

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Scene 2 Outskirts of the Village

Fairy Flora enters Stage R – sound fx / lighting fx

FAIRY

Hello, I'm Fairy Flora I'm quite new to these things
Just finished my training – and got my first wings!
Now I've come here to serve the King and the Queen,
The townsfolk and peasants and all in between.
And my very first case is one you may know
It's something that happened a few years ago
A baby so small, little more than a day
In the dark of the night, she was stolen away
So, now it's my task – that this mystery is solved
But my fears are that witchcraft may well be involved

Gothel enters Stage L – pyro? Sound/light fx

GOTHEL

Witchcraft, eh? *(to audience)* Isn't she a clever little know-it-all newby fairy? Oh, I see they've let the rabble in again! What's the matter – was the "Standing Order" *[or local pub]* closed? What a repugnant gathering of riff-raff!

AUDIENCE

Boooo!

GOTHEL

Boo!? Hoo! Is that the best you can do?

FAIRY

Oh, hello – who are you? Perhaps I could ask
A few simple questions, with regard to my task?

GOTHEL

I'm just a poor old woman, my dear, trying to make my way in the world. I doubt I could help you. I'm so frail, I can hardly help myself. I'm just off to see my lovely granddaughter ... *(to audience)* I think this one may be even more stupid than she looks! And you can pipe down, you miserable minions! Mwahahahahah!

Gothel exits

FAIRY

Ah, just a poor grandmother, out for a stroll
Don't you think she was really quite nice – on the whole?
Oh, you don't? Then, perhaps – if you're all agreed
I will need your help if I am to succeed!
But first, to the palace – I must be on my way
I don't want to be late on my very first day!

Fairy exits

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Scene 3a The Forest

Gothel enters

GOTHEL

So, there's a stupid new fairy on the block and she thinks she can solve the mystery of the missing baby? Hah! There is no mystery! I have her! I've had her for 16 years! Locked in a tower with no stairs and no door! Ha ha ha ha ha!

AUDIENCE

Booooo!

GOTHEL

Oh, pipe down! Her name is Rapunzel and she thinks she is my granddaughter. Sixteen years ago, I caught Dame Trixie's fool of a husband stealing plants from my garden – so, as a punishment, I made him promise that he would bring me their newborn baby. I told him it was either that or ... *(thumb neck stroking)* Whahahahahah!

AUDIENCE

Booooo!

GOTHEL

(mocking) Oh, you scare me, you really do! I am Gothel! I am strong and powerful. You will have to do a lot better than that, you despicable dimwits!

AUDIENCE

Boooo!

GOTHEL

Rapunzel is mine! She is locked in a tower that is almost impossible to find unless you know where it is, so no-one will ever find her! I tell her of all the horrors of the outside world and then she cries beautiful, magical tears. I collect those tears and they keep me young – they are so much better than Oil of Olay. *(looks around audience)* There are a few out there who could benefit, I think – but those precious tears are mine, all mine! Ha ha ha ha ha!

Curly & Bob enter

GOTHEL

Where have you been, you idiots?

Curly & Bob look behind, as though she wouldn't be talking to them

GOTHEL

I mean you two! You imbeciles!

Curly and Bob look at each other. Then grin.

CURLY & BOB

Thanks!

GOTHEL

What?

CURLY

Well, no-one's ever called us imbeciles before, have they, Bob?

BOB

Nope. They sure haven't.

Gothel sighs in despair.

GOTHEL

You don't know what it means, do you?

Curly and Bob look at each other again.

CURLY & BOB

Nope.

CURLY

But it sounds real impressive.

GOTHEL

I despair I really do. I blame the Government – those apprenticeship schemes have become so popular, these two fools were all they had left. Talk about scraping the bottom of the barrel.

CURLY

Oh, I know this one. You need a spoon.

BOB

With a long handle!

CURLY

Yes, with a long handle and you have to –

GOTHEL

Shut up! Right, bring the shopping to the tower.

CURLY

Ah!

GOTHEL

What?

BOB

Well ...

GOTHEL

You didn't get the shopping?

CURLY

Not exactly.

BOB

We tried.

GOTHEL

And?

CURLY

Well, Bob walked into the corner shop

GOTHEL

Yes?

CURLY

That's it – Bob (*mimes smacking head*) walked into the corner shop. Missed the door, completely knocked himself out cold. Completely unconscious he was.

Bob continues to have a glazed expression

GOTHEL

(looking at Bob) I'm surprised you could tell

CURLY

I took him to the doctor. Apparently, he has "Tom Jones Syndrome"

GOTHEL

Is that common?

CURLY

Well, it's not unusual

Curly & Bob cower, as Gothel looms over them

GOTHEL

You incompetent Idiots! Get back to town, and get that shopping! NOW!

Gothel points off-stage. Curly & Bob exit in a rush.

GOTHEL

Argggg! I am surrounded by ignorant fools (*to audience*) you lot included!

AUDIENCE

Booooo!

GOTHEL

Oh, be quiet! Now, which way is the tower? Pipe down, you lot – I need to listen for Rapunzel's singing

Far away, Rapunzel is heard singing

GOTHEL

I hear her!

Gothel walks upstage, towards the singing.

Lights dim down & gobo/fx lighting of forest & trees appear.

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Scene 3b Outside the Tower

Forest cloth is drawn back to reveal the tower in the darkness. Forest gobo/lighting fx continue.

As this is happening, Rapunzel's singing is heard more clearly. As Gothel approaches the tower, it is lit slightly more.

Gothel looks up to the window of the tower.

GOTHEL

Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your golden hair!

Nothing happens.

GOTHEL

That girl! She'll have her head in a book, off in a world of her own ...

Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your golden hair!

A very long, blond, plaited braid of hair is lowered from the tower window. Gothel begins to "climb" the braid

After she has climbed a few feet of the tower – full blackout

Scene 4 Inside the Tower

Rapunzel is sitting on a stool reading a book while singing to herself (perhaps a wordless version of her upcoming solo) and almost absentmindedly holding on to her long plait which leads to a window. Gothel climbs in through the window.

GOTHEL

Rapunzel?

Rapunzel is startled.

RAPUNZEL

Oh, I'm sorry, Grandmother.

Rapunzel puts down her book and starts gathering up her long plait. Gothel picks up the book.

GOTHEL

And what are you reading that is so interesting?

RAPUNZEL

Applied mathematics. It's one of my favourites.

GOTHEL

How thrilling!

RAPUNZEL

I know! It explains so much of how the world works but ...

GOTHEL

Yes?

RAPUNZEL

I would very much like to see that world.

GOTHEL

You **can** see it. From your window.

RAPUNZEL

Oh, but Grandmother, if I could just –

GOTHEL

Rapunzel, you do not want to go out there. Really, you don't. The world is full of bad people, doing terrible things to each other.

Rapunzel goes to her bookcase and takes out books by way of illustration.

RAPUNZEL

But Grandmother, how can the world be so terrible when it can create such beautiful art and such wonderful music.

GOTHEL

Rapunzel, you don't know the world like I do. You should be grateful that I am keeping you safe.

RAPUNZEL

I am grateful, Grandmother ... but, also, I get so lonely and bored here in this tower, all alone.

GOTHEL

Lonely? Bored? You have your books to read, and your singing to occupy yourself. And you have me.

RAPUNZEL

I have read every book at least twice – I know all there is to know about chemistry and physics, maths and biology, art and music. And ... you are so good to me, Grandmother, but if I could just meet some other people and –

Gothel is getting impatient and interrupts.

GOTHEL

You think the world is not so terrible? Why, Rapunzel, just today, I have learned of a tiny baby, little more than a day old, who was stolen away from her mother

RAPUNZEL

Oh no! That's awful! That poor, tiny child (*begins to cry*) Oh, and her mother – she must be heart-broken (*sobs*) she must miss her baby so much!

Gothel collects Rapunzel's tears

RAPUNZEL

Grandmother, why do you collect my tears?

GOTHEL

I collect them to remind me that if you were to leave the safety of this tower, then you would never be happy – and all I want is for you to be happy

RAPUNZEL

I know that you just want what is best for me, but

GOTHEL

Well then, stop day-dreaming about the world outside your tower – you can never leave! I mean, I can't let you leave, because I care about you. I would hate for something evil and bad to happen to you. Now, let down your hair, so that I can climb back down the tower

RAPUNZEL

But you haven't been here long, Grandmother. And now, you are leaving, even though I am feeling so sad

GOTHEL

I've got what I came for ... I mean that's not what I came for – to upset you. But I have to leave, to check on Curly and Bob. I sent them to buy you some nice food but those two couldn't follow a recipe for making ice cubes!

RAPUNZEL

So, you will be returning soon, then?

Gothel guides Rapunzel towards window and she takes out her braid to let down.

GOTHEL

Yes, *(looks at bottle of tears)* I will need to return before long.

Gothel climbs through the window.

SONG: - Rapunzel

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Scene 5a The Hair Salon

There is a hair-dressing type chair and a shelf, or table, on which there are a variety of "hair products". Two mops are easily accessible, on or off stage.

Curly and Bob enter.

CURLY

Right, let's buy this shopping before we get into any more trouble.

BOB

(looking around) There's not much food in here.

Dame enters

DAME

Hello, can I help you?

BOB

We'd like four apples, a cabbage and a loaf of bread, please.

DAME

I'm sorry, that's not possible

BOB

Have you run out of apples?

DAME

No, nincompoops!

CURLY

You've run out of nincompoops?

DAME

No, clearly not! But, I don't sell apples, or cabbages, or bread – this is a hair salon!