



Beauty and the Beast

by Bradford and Webster

Licensed by



Panto Scripts

pantoscripts.org.uk

PantoScripts Sample

This script is published by

NODA LTD
 15 The Metro Centre
 Peterborough PE2 7UH
 Telephone: 01733 374790
 Email: info@noda.org.uk
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 PE1 2RZ'

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

PantoScripts Sample

Beauty and the Beast

A traditional stylz, family pantomimz, set in the village of Pétit Pois, in Francez.

Cast List

BELLE	The principal girl. Spirited and strong-charactered.
PRINCE LOUIS	The Principal Boy. Slightly spoiled, but good natured.
THE BEAST	Wears make-up/mask, a strong performance required.
MADAME DOLORES LILLY CHANTILLY TRES JOLIE (DAME DOLLY)	Traditional pantomime Dame. Flirty and fun.
CHARDONNAY	Belle's older sister. Comedy role.
LAMBRINI	Belle's older sister. Comedy role.
JEAN-CLAUDE	Handsome, but vain, self-obsessed & egotistical.
JACQUES	Prince Louis' valet and best friend. Can be played as a second Principal Boy.
THE ROSE FAIRY	Traditional Panto Fairy. Good and kind a French accent, if possible!
COUNTESS CRUELLA	Traditional Panto Baddie. She wants to marry Prince Louis, and will stop at nothing.
PAPA	Belle's Father, Dame Dolly's Husband. Hard-working, down-trodden and kind.
GIGI	The pantomime horse (two people).
MADAME BOTOX	The manager of 'Le Salon' Beauty Parlour (one scene only)
CHELSEA / TIFFANY / SVEN / TARQUIN	Beauty Parlour employees (one scene only)
MADAME TRICOT	Old lady. A bit of a busy-body. Sits at the café, knitting.
PORTRAIT CHARACTER	Speaks from behind a gauze portrait (one scene only)
SUIT OF ARMOUR	Small role, two short lines (two scenes)
JEAN-CLAUDE'S P.A.	Non-speaking role (one scene only)

ROLES FOR CHORUS AND DANCERS:-

Villagers / Courtiers / Beauty Parlour Employees / Snowflakes

A number of "Villagers" have speaking lines.

Scenes and Staging

Don't be daunted by the large number of scene changes! The staging can, in fact, be fairly simple. The only full-stage scenes are "The Village" and "The Castle", and possibly "The Beauty Parlour". "The Castle" scene is used five times, and many of the shorter scenes can be played simply "front of tabs", if required. Additional Notes appear at the end of the script.

ACT I

Scene 1	The Village of Petit Pois, France	Full stage scene. "Village" backcloth. Various market stalls set out, selling fruit and vegetables, bread, cheeses etc.
Scene 2	A Woodland Clearing	Front of tabs or front cloth scene. Add a couple of artificial trees and a tree stump or log
Scene 3	The Beauty Parlour	A half-stage (possibly full-stage?) scene (see Additional Notes for more details)
Scene 4	A Lane in the Village	A front cloth or tabs scene
Scene 5	The Castle of Prince Louis	A full stage scene. This scene is used five times, so it needs to look interesting for the audience! A plinth or pedestal is set up at one of the downstage corners, on which is placed the rose

ACT II

Prologue

Front of tabs

Scene 6	In the Mountains	Cloth or tabs scene. A "snowy mountain" cloth would set the scene, but falling "snow" against a simple background can be very effective, too. (see Additional Notes for more staging details)
Scene 7	The Village of Petit Pois	As for Scene 1. However, if scene changes are difficult, this scene could easily become a front cloth or tabs scene & re-named "A Lane in the Village"
Scene 8	In the Mountains	As for Scene 6
Scene 9	The Castle of Prince Louis	As for scene 5, but there is now a table and two chairs set centre stage. (see Additional Notes for details of UV piece)
Scene 10	A Lane in the Village	A front cloth or tabs scene
Scene 11	The Castle of Prince Louis	As for scene 5, strike table & chairs, add a chaise longue upstage left
Scene 12	A Corridor in the Castle	A front cloth or tabs scene
Scene 13	The Castle of Prince Louis	As for Scene 11
Scene 14	A Corridor in the Castle	As for Scene 12 (front cloth or tabs)
Scene 15	The Castle of Prince Louis	As for Scene 11
Song Sheet		Front of tabs

Wedding Walk-Down and Bows

Full stage. As lavish a finale as desired

ACT I**Scene 1 The Village of Petits Pois, France**

Opening musical number – French-style music (or the theme tune to “allo ‘allo”)
A short mime ballet

Then, dialogue begins in French

VILLAGER 1
 Bonjour, Madame

VILLAGER 2
 Bonjour Monsieur, comment allez-vous?

VILLAGER 1
 Ca va bien, merci.

VILLAGER 3
 Fleurs! Fleurs frais!

VILLAGER 4
 Oignons! Oignons!

VILLAGER 5
 Poissons! Poissons frais! Prix special aujourd'hui!

The scene continues in French, as the Rose Fairy enters – percussion bells as she casts a spell to silence the villagers

FAIRY
 Hello my friends, and here we are
 In France, the Village Petits Pois
 You'll not know me, I don't suppose
 Pleased to meet you! - Fairy Rose
 I have a special job to do
 To try and make some dreams come true
 A wonderful tale as old as time
 Will unfold in our pantomime
 A tale where true love finds a way
 - but it's all in French – is that OK?
 Oh dear – a problem now, I fear
 English there – and French up here
 You may not understand this now
 No matter – I will teach you how
 Repeat this after me – “Bonjour”

AUDIENCE
 Bonjour

FAIRY
 Comment vous appelez-vous, s'il vous plait?

AUDIENCE
(silent?)

FAIRY

Oh no – this isn't going too well
I know! I'll cast a magic spell
Then every word, you'll understand
But you must help – I'll need a hand
Close your eyes, just like me!
Now concentrate – one, two, three!

Fairy waves wand to casts spell

(The following section may need to be altered, depending upon where your home town is situated!)

VILLAGER

(Brummy accent) Me Mam never used to let me mend me bike in the kitchen – so I 'ad to mend it in the garden

FAIRY

What sort of language is this here?
I think that **French** would be more clear!
A little further north, we need
Now concentrate! We will succeed!
Now close your eyes again, like me
I'll weave some magic – one, two, three

Fairy waves wand to cast spell, then opens eyes tentatively

VILLAGER

(Scottish accent) It's a brau brig't moonlit nig't the nig't

VILLAGER

Och aye, Mrs McTavish, it is y' ken

FAIRY

We're too far north – we must move down
You need to think about **your** town
That is where we need to be
Third time lucky – one, two, three!

Fairy waves wand to cast spell ... opens eyes listens hopefully.

(This next section should be tailored to describe your own town)

VILLAGER

It was mayhem at the Cockpit Island again today!

FAIRY

Sounds hopeful!

VILLAGER

Have you seen that ugly concrete block they're building in the market place?

FAIRY

It's certainly ugly – no other town would allow it!

VILLAGER

I took my grandfather to the New City Hospital today – it's huge! By the time we'd reached

Ward six thousand, four hundred and thirty eight, he'd died of old age!

FAIRY

We've done it! Now it will be clear
You'll understand each word you hear
Now quick! before we lose this spell
We have a pantomime tale to tell

Fairy waves wand to cast spell, then exits

Villagers continue with their daily tasks

There is a bang and a flash from inside the café. The window opens, and smoke pours out - a hand wafts the smoke out with a tea-towel

VILLAGERS

What's that?! / What's happening?! / Oh no! (etc)

Dame Dolly runs out of the café, wailing

DAME

Ooooooh! That Jamie Oliver's got a lot to answer for – him and his “Bombe Surprise”! I spent the very last money I had on the ingredients but I think it got a little over-cooked I'm usually a very good cook – but I can't even seem to manage that lately – everything I do seems to go wrong – (*sniffs into a hankie*) - just one disaster after another...

VILLAGER

Don't worry it'll be alright

VILLAGER

Of course it will!

SONG “The Roses of Success”

DAME

Ooh, I feel better now! (*spots audience & moves forward*) Ooh hello! (*aside to wings*) The signposts worked then – we managed to redirect some of the regulars from “The Rose and Crown”! (*replace with local pub*) Well, hello everybody! – (*peers out at the audience*) – oh there **is** someone out there! I thought you'd all gone home! I said hello everybody!

AUDIENCE

Hello!

DAME

How very nice to see you all! Let me introduce myself ... my name is Madame Dolores Lilly Chantilly Tres Jolie, so whenever I come on stage, I'll shout “Hello everyone!” and you can shout “Hello Madame Dolores Lilly Chantilly Tres Jolie” ... let's have a go! ... Hello everyone!

AUDIENCE

Hello

DAME

Hmmm ... I don't think this is going to work, is it? Although I don't really agree with getting over-familiar too soon, I usually allow my friends to call me Dolly Dolly Jolly..... and actually, you all look quite friendly (*peers out at audience*) ...well most of you! So **you** can call me Dolly. So now, when I say hello to you all, you can shout ‘Hello Dolly!’ back to me ... shall we have a try? Hello everyone!

AUDIENCE

Hello Dolly!

DAME

Better than before – but I'm sure you could shout louder than that Hello everyone!

AUDIENCE

Hello Dolly!

DAME

Ooh, much better – I feel as though I'm amongst friends now. Here, have some sweeties!

They're '**Dolly** Mixtures'! (*throws sweets to audience*)

Now perhaps you can help me? I'm looking for my daughters – I don't suppose you've seen them have you?

Chardonnay & Lambrini are heard, off stage, squabbling.

DAME

Oh, sounds like them now

Chardonnay & Lambrini enter, they are arguing

CHARDONNAY

I am the prettiest

LAMBRINI

No, I am the prettiest by far – haven't you looked in a mirror lately?

CHARDONNAY

At least I can look into a mirror **without** it cracking!

CHARDONNAY & LAMBRINI

Oh, hello Mama! (*both suddenly "nice"*)

DAME

Don't you 'hello Mama' me! I've been looking everywhere for you – and where's your sister? (*to audience*) Oh I'm sorry, where are my manners? Let me introduce you to two of my three lovely daughters..... this is Chard'nay ... and this is Lambrini

Chardonnay & Lambrini sing a few lines of "We are the Cheeky Girls"

CHARDONNAY

Well hello boys and

Lambrini pushes through to front

LAMBRINI

BOYS! (*scans audience*) He's nice!

CHARD

No, I fancy that one over there. He's gorgeous ... and he looks rich look, he's wearing a brand new cardy

LAMB

Oooh yes! He's mine, I saw him first!

CHARD

Did not!

LAMB
Did too!

DAME
Now, now girls! *(to audience)* They're really very sweet and innocent you know

CHARD
Yes, I'm sweet

LAMB
... and I'm sweet as well!!

CHARD
You're not sweet – you're ugly!

LAMB
Ugly?! You're the one with a face like a gargoyle

CHARD
Ooooooh! Well you've got a face like a mushroom

LAMB
A mushroom??

CHARD
Yeah – best kept in the dark!

They are just about to hit each other, when Dame steps in to hold them apart

LAMB
Mama, Mama – I'm the pretty one, I'm the pretty one – tell Chard'nay I'm the pretty one!

CHARD
No Mama! I'm the pretty one – it's plainly obvious

LAMB
That you're obviously **plain**

The girls go for each other again

DAME
Oh you two! I'm going to settle this argument once and for all *(she looks at Chard then at Lamb, then at the audience)* Yes I'm the pretty one!

Chard & Lamb fall about laughing ending on the floor, legs in the air, showing some colourful large underwear

DAME
Charming!! Children these days have no respect. Personally, I blame the parents. Come on you two, stop making an exhibition of yourselves. How are you ever going to attract a wealthy husband lying on your back with your legs in the air?

Girls sit up

CHARD

It worked for Camill -

DAME

Chard'nay!! We can't afford to be sued!

You see boys and girls, I'm trying to marry my daughters off to rich husbands, so that they can keep me in the manner to which I'd like to become accustomed. We're very poor you know

AUDIENCE

Aaaah!

DAME

No, we're much poorer than that!

AUDIENCE

Aaaah!

DAME

I run this small café – 'compact and bijou' is an understatement! – do you know, our kitchen is so small – I have to use **condensed** milk! The café's not doing very well these days no one seems to want afternoon tea on my best china – they'd rather eat a McDonald's out of a cardboard box..... I don't know what the world's coming to. At one time, **this** was the place to be my buns were the best in the business ... the best tart in Petits Pois and if you wanted a nice bit of crumpet

SONG "When You're Good to Mamma" (from "Chicago") – Dame Dolly

Anyway, where was I? ... oh, yes – we need more customers I think we need to brighten up the café come along, girls – you can help me. And where IS your sister?

(Chard & Lamb shrug – they're not really bothered about Belle)

(to audience) Have you seen my other daughter, Belle? She's about this tall, and probably got her head in a book as usual – always reading, that girl. Will you let me know if you see her?

AUDIENCE

Yes!

DAME

Come on you two, help me look for Belle

They go to front of stage & peer forward.

Belle walks across the back of the stage, reading a book

Audience shouts (hopefully!)

DAME

Sorry? What did you say? Behind us? *(or react to what is shouted)*

Dame & sisters turn around just as Belle has exited the stage

DAME

Belle's not there!

AUDIENCE

Oh yes she is!

D, C & L

Oh no she isn't

AUD

Oh yes she is!

D,C & L

Oh no she isn't!

Belle walks across in the opposite direction – audience shout – three turn around too late again. Three go to search at back of stage.

Belle walks across front of stage, stops in centre, continuing to read book. Three turn & are surprised to see Belle. They go over to Belle

DAME

Oh, there you are, Belle. Your sisters and I have been worried about you, haven't we?

C & L

No!!

BELLE

Oh hello Mama. I was lost in this story – the girl has just met the most handsome prince ..

C & L

(mocking) The girl has just met the most handsome prince

CHARD

Come back to the **real** world Belle

LAMB

Yes – any handsome princes, and they're OURS!!

DAME

The **real** world is that if we don't get back to work, we'll have no money, we'll all starve – and we'll never have a house like my sister in England, with a swimming pool and room for a pony. Come on girls, back to work!

C & L grudgingly return to the café. Dame goes inside café. C & L sit at another table & do their nails etc.

Madame Tricot enters and waits to be served, the two sisters look up, but do not move. Belle goes to serve her.

BELLE

Good day, Madame

M. TRICOT

Good day, my dear

BELLE

What can I get for you? A coffee perhaps?

M.TRICOT

I'll have a luke-warm coffee and a slice of stale chocolate cake

BELLE

But we can't serve you that!

M.TRICOT

Why not, that's what I got yesterday!

BELLE

Oh I'm sorry Madame

M. TRICOT

It was those lazy sisters of yours they're losing you lots of customers, you know

BELLE

Yes, Madame (*she looks across at her sisters & shakes her head*). I'll get you a nice hot coffee and some fresh chocolate cake – on the house, of course (*Belle goes inside the café*)

*There is a bit of a commotion from some girls at the rear of the stage as Jean-Claude enters – he is very popular with the young ladies – and knows it
C & L realise that Jean-Claude is approaching*

C & L

Jean-Claude!

They jump up quickly, tidying their hair & clothing

CHARD

He's mine!

LAMB

He's mine!

J-C stands by a café table and clicks his fingers. The two sisters run to him – one moves his chair for him to sit down, the other tucks a napkin under his chin. They both flutter and flirt

C & L

Good day Jean-Claude

LAMB

My name's Lambrini – but you can call me Little Lamb

CHARD

My name's Chard'nay – you can call me anytime

The girls are trying to impress J-C, but he is so self-obsessed, he doesn't notice

J-C

Coffee!

C & L

How would you like it, Jean-Claude

J-C

Strong, dark and rich – rather like myself

CHARD

I'll get it, you stay here(*thinks*) No **you** get it – **I'll** stay here

LAMB

Get Belle to get it and we'll both stay here

C & L

BELLE!

Belle comes out of the café – she sees J-C (oh, no!)

J-C spots Belle, he stands, removes his table-napkin and walks forward to stand next to Belle. He is slimy, but he thinks he is sexy

J-C

Ding Dong Belle!

BELLE

(cringing) Jean-Claude how are you today?

J-C

As always, I'm handsome, debonair, positively dashing...

BELLE

.... modest and shy?!

J-C

Belle, my beautiful little pumpkin

BELLE

Pumpkin??!

J-C

Belle, this is your lucky day! Not only do you have my much-esteemed presence at your down-market little café -

BELLE

Down-mark-

J-C

- but you will be attending a special celebration party that I am holding tonight at my larger than average mansion

CHARD

What about me?

LAMB

And me?

VILLAGE GIRLS

What about us Jean-Claude?

J-C

Popularity – sometimes it is a curse. I have always had stunning good looks, a wonderful personality and an incredible array of talents, but since winning 'Pop Idol'....

Village Girls scream & run up to J-C with autograph books

J-C

.... since winning 'Pop Idol' *(swings hip & points at girls to scream)*

Village Girls scream again. One girl is so overcome, she faints.

J-C

I'm more popular than ever. And getting richer by the minute – but it's only money, and I

have far more than I need. I'm lucky you see – I'll never have to spend thousands on plastic surgery – how can one possibly improve on perfection?

VILLAGE GIRLS

Oh, Jean-Claude!

J-C

And which one of you lucky girls wants to come back to my place to wash my hair
(*shakes head back & ruffles hair*) because I'm worth it.

All of the girls (except Belle) rush forward to J-C

J-C

What about you, Belle? You know you want to run your fingers through my hair

BELLE

Jean-Claude, when you wash your hair, it causes such an oil slick, that we have to have 'Friends of the Earth' on standby!

J-C

Oh, Belle – you're such a tease if I wasn't so utterly gorgeous – I might think you meant it!

SONG "I Don't Need Anything but Love" ("Chicago) – Jean-Claude.

Slight parody:- the word "love" is replaced with "me".

Tonight, then, everyone! Be there, or be er ... you know. See you later!

J-C exits. Girls look longingly after him

CHARD

Isn't he charming?

ALL

Charming! (sigh)

LAMB

Ravishing!

ALL

Ravishing! (sigh)

GIRL 1

Fascinating!

ALL

Fascinating! (sigh)

GIRL 2

Captivating!

ALL

Captivating! (sigh)

BELLE

Nauseating!!

ALL

Nauseating (sigh) NAUSEATING??!!

BELLE

Yes, nauseating.

Belle goes into the café

M. TRICOT

Give me some 'Sea-Legs' – at my age, you're grateful for anyone

Girls exit, discussing what they will be wearing tonight. Father enters, he looks down-trodden & weary. He has Gigi with him

LAMB

Papa, Papa, I'm going to a party tonight. Pleeeeeease can I have a new dress?

CHARD

Papa, Papa, I need a new dress – don't waste money on her, she's a lost cause – I must, must, must have a new dress!

PAPA

I'm sorry girls, but you know I don't have any money. I've walked for miles today, looking for work – but I've found nothing. I can't even support my own family ... I'm a failure

C & L

(heartless) Too right!

Dame comes out of café

CHARD

Mama! We've been invited to Jean-Claude's party tonight –

LAMB

- and we need new clothes

CHARD

- and a hair-do

LAMB

- and a manicure

M. TRICOT

(aside) and a face-lift?

C & L

Please, please, please, pleeeeeeeeeeeese!!

PAPA

I'm sorry dear, but I didn't find any work today – so we still don't have any money

DAME

But this is a chance we cannot afford to miss – to get one of our daughters married off to Jean-Claude ...

CHARD

Good looks!

DAME

Lots of money!

LAMB

Great personality!

DAME

Lots of money!

CHARD

Nice body!

DAME

Lots of money!....

We need to raise some cash somehow - so the girls can look their best for the party
(*she looks around for inspiration*)

CHARD

We **could** sell the old nag

LAMB

(*looks at Dame*) Nah! We'd have more luck selling the horse!

Reaction from Dame! Horse is worried

PAPA

We can't sell Gigi – she's part of the family

M. TRICOT

And better looking than most of them

DAME

We probably wouldn't get much for her – she's not as strong as she used to be

LAMB

She'd make a fair few cans of dog food though

Gigi's knees are knocking now

CHARD

Dog food? This is France, remember – she'll make a whole load of steaks and some nice horse-burgers

Gigi collapses/faints at this final suggestion

PAPA

(*runs over to comfort Gigi*) We will NOT be selling Gigi at any price. Come on old girl – up you get. Take no notice of those two ...

Papa helps Gigi to her feet. Sisters are talking to Dame and are side-on to audience, with their backs to Gigi's hind legs.

PAPA

.... they're mean and selfish in fact they deserve pulling down a peg or two

Gigi gives a look to the audience, then kicks out her right back leg – knocking Lamb to the ground, then her left back leg – knocking Chard to the ground. She looks at audience, pleased with herself. Sisters are horrified and screaming in protest, Papa

is laughing quietly to himself

LAMB

You'll pay for this, you old nag!

CHARD

I'll be contacting Pedigree Chum as soon as I get up off this floor!

Papa strokes Gigi – pleased that she has stood up to his mean daughters

DAME

Come along girls – up you get

The girls get up, rubbing their bruised bottoms and scowling at Gigi

DAME

I've made a decision – we're going to have to sell the café we'll sell the café so that the girls can look their best for the party

PAPA

Sell the café? But it's all we have

Sisters have already disappeared into the café, returning with a 'For Sale' sign. Belle follows them out

BELLE

What's going on? Oh hello Papa (*she kisses him*)

CHARD

We're selling the café...

LAMB

So that we can have new clothes for the party

BELLE

You can't do that – it's all we have

DAME

Think of it as an investment – if one of you marries Jean-Claude – we won't need to work any more

BELLE

Well I for one am definitely not marrying him

CHARD

As if **you'd** get a look-in

LAMB

Not with **us** as competition

PAPA

I'm still not sure about selling the café

BELLE

We will **not** sell the café, Papa. I have an idea. I will sell my book collection – that should raise enough money for the party

PAPA

But Belle, you treasure those books. Ever since you were a small child you have scrimped and saved to buy each one

BELLE

Yes Papa, I know. But it is what I want to do. I will visit Monsieur Conteur at the book-sellers – he is always asking me whether I will sell my special books

Belle goes into the café, taking the 'For Sale' sign with her

CHARD

It's about time she sold those stupid books

LAMB

Yeah ... they haven't even got any pictures in

PAPA

You are very lucky to have such a kind sister – you could learn a lot from her

CHARD

Book us in at the beauty parlour Mama

C & L

We're going to a party!

Scene 2 A Woodland Clearing

Prince Louis & Jacques enter. Prince strides ahead, Jacques is struggling under a large, overloaded rucksack

JACQUES

Prince Louis, I know you had a great time in your Gap Year on the Raleigh Challenge – but did you have to insist that we walk all the way home now that you've **finished** at University?

PRINCE

Don't be such a wimp, Jacques!

JACQUES

Unfortunately, I don't get to travel as lightly as you. Can we have a rest? *(they sit down for a rest, Jacques gets out a drink, the Prince takes it ...)* Are you looking forward to getting home again Prince Louis?

PRINCE

Yes. Except that I will now be expected to settle down to my responsibilities - and of course, find myself a wife.

JACQUES

I bet that Countess Cruella is still very interested

PRINCE

She's scary!

Countess Cruella suddenly appears stage left

COUNTESS

Prince Louis! We meet again

JACQUES

(jumps up) Wow!! Now that IS scary!

PRINCE

(jumps up) Countess Cruella where did you come from?

COUNTESS

I heard that you were on your way
For far too long you've tarried
You'll not be straying far from home
Once that we are married

PRINCE

Married?!

JACQUES

Did I miss something? Like - the stag night?!

PRINCE

You missed nothing. I am NOT getting married

COUNTESS

Many, many years ago,
Our parents made a vow
That you and I would one day wed
My Prince, that time is now

PRINCE

That is ridiculous! My parents made no such promise

COUNTESS

A promise made, must be upheld
To break it is unwise

PRINCE

No promises were made to you

COUNTESS

I will not hear these lies!

(she moves back over to stage left and continues to talk to audience. Prince & Jaques mime talking to each other)

Prince Louis, he **will** be mine

Just watch and you will see

The villain of this pantomime

Is here my dears – it's me!

(hopefully a bit of booing & hissing. Countess exits)

Ha ha ha ha ha!

JACQUES

So why didn't you mention it?

PRINCE

Mention what?

JACQUES
The wedding

PRINCE
There IS NO WEDDING!

JACQUES
So what was 'Moaning Myrtle' whining on about?

PRINCE
I've no idea – but she's gone now, thank goodness.

JACQUES
But don't you think it was a bit spooky – the way she just suddenly appeared like that? You're the intelligent one – how do you explain that?

PRINCE
University doesn't teach you stuff like that. I learned how to do lots of other important things.... like drink!

JACQUES
(*holds head*) oooh, don't remind me!

PRINCE
How to dance (*does a few moves*)

JACQUES
So that's what you call it! but did you learn anything that could perhaps justify the expense of your higher education?

PRINCE
I learned that the sun revolves around the earth ... or is it the moon? ... or something...

JACQUES
Oh bravo! Money well spent – student loan, overdraft, tuition fees – worth every penny!

PRINCE
Jacques! I'm only joking! I learned a lot. We had a good time though, didn't we? Still, it's good to be back - I've really missed this old forest – the sights, the sounds, the smells

JACQUES
.... the wild animals ... the wolves the bears ... (*he looks around, nervously*)

PRINCE
Don't be such a scaredy-cat, Jacques! I've spent many a happy hour in this grand old forest

JACQUES
Well, I don't like wild animals, so if you don't mind, we'll get a move on now – before the grand old forest sneaks up on us and bites us on the backside

PRINCE
Jacques, this is a family show – you can't say 'backside'

JACQUES

Can't I?

PRINCE
No

JACQUES
Oh. What about 'bottom'?

PRINCE
What about 'bottom'?

JACQUES
Can I say 'bottom'?

PRINCE
No, no, you can't say 'bottom'

JACQUES
'Bum'?

PRINCE
I beg your pardon?

JACQUES
'Bum', can I say 'bum'?

PRINCE
Oh no, you certainly can't say 'bum'

JACQUES
So bum's out

PRINCE
'Bum' is most definitely out

JACQUES
Aah, so basically, 'backside', 'bottom' and 'bum' – they're all out?

PRINCE
'Backside', 'bottom', 'bum' – all out

JACQUES
Fine! Well I won't be saying any of them, then

PRINCE
Neither will I. I've lost track, where were we?

JACQUES
I know! We were trying to get out of this wild and scary forest, before something wild and scary bites us on the ... er leg

We hear Belle and Dame talking

PRINCE
Someone's coming! Quick, hide behind this tree

JACQUES

May I ask why?

PRINCE

... sounds like girls ... it would be a wheeze to jump out and surprise them

JACQUES

Not much about **maturity** on the syllabus, then?

PRINCE

What? of course not! Come on!

Prince & Jaques hide. Belle and Dame enter

BELLE

I've always loved this part of the forest, Mama, it's so peaceful and quiet

DAME

(very loudly!) Hello everyone!

AUDIENCE

Hello Dolly!

Dame throws sweets

DAME

Yes, peaceful and quiet, I know what you mean. Anyway, we must hurry back to the café! Now that we have the money from selling your books, we can make sure that we all look our best for Jean-Claude's party

BELLE

I know that you mean well, but I wish you wouldn't keep trying to get me married off to that awful Jean-Claude ...

DAME

But he so obviously fancies you ... and he's very rich

BELLE

But he's such an oaf and money isn't everything.

DAME

It'd do for me I've often wondered about trading your father in for a rich toy boy

BELLE

Mama! You know you don't mean that! I want to marry for love someone kind, intelligent, handsome, sensitive ...

J-C enters

J-C

Ah, Belle, talking about me again, I hear!

He leers at Belle in a way that he thinks is attractive but isn't

BELLE

I was NOT talking about YOU

J-C

You cannot fool me, Belle. I know how flattered you must be that I have chosen you from all of the other girls who throw themselves at my feet

BELLE

Eughh! You are disgusting, Jean-Claude

J-C

Aha! Playing hard to get, eh? Of course, you will be begging me to marry you before this day is out

BELLE

I don't think so Come on Mama

DAME

Marry? Belle, don't be too hasty dear. Think of his good points ...

BELLE

(thinks for a second) Can't think of any. I'm off

Belle goes to leave, J-C grabs her arm

BELLE

.... let go of me!

J-C

You know I always get what I want

BELLE

Not this time you don't!

Jacques appears from behind the tree

JACQUES

Let go of her, you big bully!

J-C pushes Jacques to the floor

J-C

Push off small fry – this is a man's world

Prince appears from behind tree

PRINCE

Unhand that maiden at once, you blackguard!

Dame goes to look behind the tree – to see if there are any more men!

J-C

Back off *(looks Prince up and down)* college boy

Before you two so rudely interrupted, my fiancée and I were just having a private chat

BELLE

I am NOT *(she stamps on J-C's foot)* your fiancée

J-C hops around in pain

JACQUES

I think we may have disturbed a lovers' tiff