



PantoScripts Perusal

Beauty and the Beast

by Vickie Burns

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SYNOPSIS

This script allows for the set and costumes to be lavish or simpler if performed by a smaller group on a tighter budget. I had always worried about the difficulties of casting young, dashing males as a beast, so this script has a twist to allow for older actors to play key parts in the tale.

Beauty and the Beast is not one of the stories originally associated with traditional pantomime, but it does translate well because of its clear structure of Good versus Evil.

This Pantomime was winner of the Wharfedale Festival of Theatre, Pantomime section in 2010. It was hugely enjoyable to perform as it ticks all the boxes for story, fun, laughter, music and that all important slapstick.

Cast List - In order of appearance

- FAIRY GRACE** Female – She acts as the story teller. Opposite to the 'baddie'. She keeps the story going and is pivotal in the rescue of the villagers from the castle. Singing required.
- EVIL ELECTRA** Female – She really is a nasty piece of work. Not necessarily a witch, perhaps more 'royal' – but certainly evil. She is responsible for the imprisonment of the Beast. Singing required.
- MANUEL** Male – Comedy part. He is a Spanish waiter who works for Big Sam. He lives with Dame Ella, and to earn extra money also helps her in her bakery. He is totally in love with Cecile. Singing and comedy timing are essential.
- CECILE** Female – A sexy French waitress who works for Big Sam. Keen on Manuel. Singing essential.
- BIG SAM** Male - Belle and Kelle's father. Idea based on 'Swedish Chef'. He is a jolly fellow who owns the Bistro. Does not necessarily have to be a singer.
- BELLE** Female – Principal girl. A young, beautiful and gracious daughter of Big Sam. She is gentle and kind hearted, even able to 'fall' for the Beast. Singing essential.
- KELLE** Female - Belle's sister. Complete contrast in any way you can! An element of freedom in the role but she should be spoilt, demanding and lack all of the qualities Belle possesses. Does not necessarily have to be a singer.
- DAME ELLA** Male – A traditional Pantomime dame. She is a cook, who owns her own bakery and cake shop. She needs comedy timing to be able to carry off the breakfast routine in Scene Three. Should be able to carry a tune.
- FREDERICK** Male or Female - Valet to Prince Jasper. A loyal servant who supports the Prince through his adventures. No solo, but is part of the chorus singing.
- PRINCE JASPER** Female - Non-identical twin of Julius/Beast. A traditional principal boy whose life has been destroyed by Evil Electra. Finding courage, he sets off to fight for the freedom of the people he loves. Singing essential.
- BEAST** Male - Non-identical twin of Jasper. Only in Act Two and not seen in human form until the final scene.
- STAN DUPP** Male or female – One half of the comedy duo and employee of Evil Electra. Jailer, rent collector. Required to sing
- BEN DOWN** Male or female - The other half of the duo and also an employee of Evil Electra. Also jailer and rent collector. Required to sing.
- WISE OWL** Child part – Singer and dancer. A part which can introduce a chorus member to the ranks of principal.

ACT ONE**PROLOGUE The Story So Far**

In front of the curtains. Fairy Grace enters and stands in a spot, stage right.

Fairy Grace Children and parents, to each, one and all.
 Welcome tonight to this performance hall
 Our pantomime for you is full of laughter and song
 So sit back and relax as the story moves along

My name is Fairy Grace and a tale I must relate
 So please switch off your mobile phones so you can concentrate
 The story that I bring to you, at first may seem quite tragic
 But as the evening slips along, you'll see it is quite magic.

(Enter Evil Electra through the curtains, moving to stage left, lighting her up as the spot dims on Fairy Grace.)

Evil Electra Magic!?! (**Sneers**) There's only one kind of magic you'll see
 The most evil kind – produced all by me
 Tonight you'll watch a story unfold
 about a Prince who thought himself bold

I cannot allow anyone in this place
 to believe they are bolder than me, Fairy Grace
 Those who are foolish enough to fall prey
 to my evil spells, yes they'll rue the day
 they ever thought they were better than me
 Sit back in your seats, watch the story, you'll see

(The light dims on Electra and lights on Grace.)

Fairy Grace Evil Electra is right with her story
 It is her intent to receive all the glory
 In her quest to rule the whole of our land
 She cruelly killed, by her wicked hand
 the King and the Queen, who did gracefully rule.
 She spared both their Princes, but why, when she's cruel?
 One Prince was so timid, she cast him aside
 She saw him no threat, he ran far to hide
 The other Prince bolder, had an arrogant streak
 So using her magic turned him into a freak.

(Lights swap between Grace and Electra.)

Evil Electra Not only a freak, that spell was the least
 I then turned him into the ugliest Beast
 He's had time to consider his arrogant way
 He'll remain as a Beast for the rest of his day

In the confines of my castle he'll continue to roam
 After all this has now long been his home
 As one final act, his memory will wane
 No longer a Prince, who once was so vain.

(Lights swap between Electra and Grace)

Fairy Grace

If any of you have seen Panto before
You'll know the kind of thing that's in store
My task through the show to ensure good conquers evil
I will succeed, but it'll be an upheaval

Just like my name I am full of good Grace
gentle in manner, kind heart and fair face
I'll protect one and all with the help of white roses
By the end of the night, you'll see them in posies

(Lights swap between Grace and Electra)

Evil Electra

Those who believe they know this conclusion
Prepare yourself for a little confusion
My task will be to inflict loathing and sorrow
Those who are hopeful, they'll see no tomorrow

I am forever evil, it's my complete essence
It has been the case since my adolescence
I will ensure that I make no error
I'll give a performance that will fill you with terror.

SONG

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SCENE ONE

The Village Square

The scene is a typical European square or piazza. There are tables and chairs set outside Big Sam's (SL) and opposite is Dame Ella's Sweet Emporium. There is a white rose bush and the back of the stage must allow for a new business venture later. Two chorus enter.

Chorus One Have you finished cleaning ready for Big Sam's return?

Chorus Two I've almost done. Inside is spick and span. I'm just finishing off out here.

(Enter Manuel and Cecile from Big Sam's, SL.)

Manuel Hello boys and girls. My name is Manuel and I am a waiter at Big Sam's. I am from Barcelona and I must admit I am getting home sick. I write to my family and tell them I save up to go home to visit. Manuel will return to Barcelona.

Cecile (**Rushing to Manuel's side**) Oh Manuel, please do not go. What would I do without you to talk to?

Manuel I shall work hard Cecile and then you and I shall go to Barcelona together. Now, come, we need to open the Bistro. Señor Big Sam must see that we work hard.

SONG

The Chorus enter during the song. At the end of the song, Manuel and Cecile work at the tables. Big Sam enters SR. He is carrying a newspaper.

Big Sam Oh thank you everyone. What a welcome (**Laughs jovially**). And welcome is what you all are. This is my Bistro. There was a gap in the market. (**Laughs**) Here it is – Great Big Sam's Bistro.

(Belle and Kelle enter SL, out of the Bistro.)

Belle Hello Daddy.

Kelle Hello Daddy.

Big Sam My girls. How have you been? It's lovely to see you.

Belle And you too Daddy. I have missed you.

Kelle Have you brought me back a present?

Big Sam I might have something for you.

Kelle You've bought me a hat!

Big Sam No!

Kelle You've bought me a bag!

Big Sam No!

Kelle You've bought me a car!

Belle Kelle, that's just being greedy. And besides which, cars haven't been invented yet!

Big Sam No, no, no. I haven't actually bought you anything.

Kelle But you said you had something for me.

Belle Presents aren't everything.

Kelle Speak for yourself.

Big Sam Please girls. Don't bicker. It's actually news I've got for you. Here, look at the paper.

Belle **(Taking the paper from him and reads)** Local restaurateur, Big Sam.

Big Sam **(Proudly)** That's me! Big Sam! Aged 33!

Kelle Well that's a lie! There were so many candles on your birthday cake last year it nearly set off the smoke alarm!

Belle **(Carries on reading)** Local restaurateur, Big Sam has had a win on the Euro Millions! Oh Daddy, I'm so happy for you!

Kelle So am I. Now you can buy me all the presents I've ever wanted.

Big Sam Isn't it exciting? I've never won anything on the lottery before. I'm going straight down to the Post Office to collect my winnings.

(Big Sam exits SL. Manuel and Cecile can be seen serving at the tables.)

Belle **(To Kelle)** It is wonderful news isn't it?

Kelle I'll say. Once I'm rich, I'll be irresistible **(glancing back towards Manuel)**. And in particular to him!

Belle Do still fancy Manuel? You know he's only got eyes for Cecile.

Kelle With all the hours he works at Dad's and then helping Dame Ella prepare all her cakes and pies on an evening, he must have a massive wad of money in the bank.

Belle There's more to life than money. What about a man with a gentle heart, or a quick wit?

Kelle You can't squeeze a gentle heart and you can't grab hold of a quick wit. Belle, it's all about the money!

(Kelle moves back towards Big Sam's and Belle follows.)

Belle Hello Manuel, hello Cecile.

Cecile Ah, bonjour Mademoiselle Belle.

Manuel Ojo Señorita Belle.

Kelle We were just talking about you!

Cecile Let's 'ope eet waz somsing nice for a change.

Belle Come on Kelle, we've still got our chores to do.

(Belle and Kelle enter Big Sam's. Dame Ella enters SR from her shop, sweeping the front.)

Dame Ella Ooo – Manuel! Those cakes you made this morning have risen a treat.

Manuel Thank you Dame Ella. I was particularly light fingered today!

Dame Ella You can say that again! **(To audience)** Two dozen chocolate buns were heading for my shop today. After Manuel had finished, I ended up with a baker's dozen. Still, he's a good boy.

(Dame Ella moves forward to address the audience.)

Dame Ella He works so hard. All day, slaving away at Big Sam's and then here with me. I let him off his rent, because he does so much here for me. I shouldn't though. I'm really struggling to make ends meet. I'd borrow money from a pessimist if I could find one. They don't expect it back.

Anyway, hello! Boys and girls. Mums and Dads. My name is Dame Ella.

(She is wearing a piece of fur around her neck.)

Do you like my outfit? Well it is a little cold outside. That's why I'm wearing this bit of fur around my neck. **(Pulls a face)** Oh – excuse me – I'm going to sneeze. Ah... ah... TISHOOO!

(The piece of fur around her neck is attached to a nylon strung and the fur is pulled off stage.)

Oh well, fur's fur! I'll still be nice and warm. Look, I'm wearing thermal bloomers! I bought these from [*insert name of local shop*]. It's amazing what they've got in the back of their shop! And, I've got a silk bra **(to someone in the audience)** and no, I shan't be showing you that! I am famous for two things – my cakes and my dumplings **(hitches up her bust)**! Don't you think I've got a lovely figure? 36 – 24 – 36. Why are you laughing? I didn't tell you I measured myself in inches! Not a bad figure for a girl of 28 is it?

Would you like to see some of my dumplings? **(To a specific audience member)** Please Sir! There are children present. Please keep your comments to yourself.

(Addressing the whole audience) Would you like to see my dumplings?

Audience Yes!

Dame Ella I thought you might!

(Dame Ella feels in her pockets.)

Dame Ella Ooh, what's here? Oh no, I forgot to put the dumplings in my apron. Look, I've only got sweets. Will sweets do instead?

Audience Yes!

Dame Ella Are you sure? I can't hear you

Audience Yes!

(Dame Ella throws sweets to the front row.)

Dame Ella Well that's the front row taken care of.

(I would advise checking with the theatre before embarking on the following.)

Dame Ella Now the back! **(Sees a racket waved from the wings)** Ooo – what a good idea! Anyone from Health and Safety here? No? Good!

(Dame Ella carefully bats the sweets out to the back.)

Dame Ella Fifteen love! Thirty love! Forty love! Game, set and match to Dame Ella! Anyway, I can't stand about here all day talking to you lot. I've got buns in the oven!

(Dame Ella goes back into her shop. Enter Prince Jasper and Frederick.)

Frederick Sir, I wish you wouldn't always look so sad.

Jasper And I wish you wouldn't always call me Sir. How many times do I have to tell you? That part of my life is well and truly over.

- Frederick** Such a tragic situation.
- Jasper** There's no use dwelling on it Frederick. The day Evil Electra killed my parents was the day I realised I had to truly grow up and take charge. Julius was always the stronger of us, but too hot headed – to his own cost.
- Frederick** What actually happened that day, Sir? (**Quickly realising**) I mean, I mean ... I don't know what I mean.
- Jasper** Just call me Jasper.
- Frederick** It just doesn't feel right.
- Jasper** Well, you'd better get used to it. I don't ever see it changing?
- Frederick** Well? What happened?
- Jasper** It was just as it always was. Julius, unable to keep his mouth shut, just kept arguing about how unjust everything was. No-one should ever be able to overturn the rightful heirs to a country. He just wouldn't stop. I tried to reason with him – he wasn't always so hot-headed, but she just brought out all the very worst in him.
- Frederick** What happened then?
- Jasper** There was no way Electra would allow him to demonstrate such a temper. There was a flash of light and suddenly Julius was on his knees. Something had happened.
- Frederick** What?
- Jasper** That was the worst part of it. (**Sadly**) I couldn't look. I saw nothing, but heard an almighty roar. The door flew open behind me and I never saw Julius again.
- Frederick** What on earth had she done to him?
- Jasper** As I said, I never saw. She only said one thing to me before she let me go. I had to look after the white roses if I were to ever know that Julius was safe. I don't really know what she meant, but the only white roses I know of are here.
- (He moves to SL. There is a trellis of white roses in full bloom.)
- Frederick** Well there certainly doesn't look as though there is anything wrong with those. They really are beautiful. Perhaps you really ought to consider how best to take care of them. You never know what Electra truly meant.
- Jasper** You're right. I do keep them well fed and watered, but what if someone should pick them?
- Frederick** Well why don't we ask the boys and girls?
- Jasper** Ask them what?
- Frederick** To help. If they see anyone trying to pick any of the roses, they can shout out and stop them.
- (Frederick turns to audience.)
- Frederick** Will you help us? (**Addressing the audience**) If you see anyone picking one of these roses, will you tell us?
- Audience** Yes.
- Frederick** Well, I say that's not very convincing is it? You either want to help the Prince or not.

Jasper (Exasperated) I've told you not to call me that!

Frederick But they need to realise how important this is. How important you are. Now please, (to audience) if you see anyone at all touching that rose bush, I want you to shout I want you to shout

(Frederick looks at Jasper and shrugs his shoulders.)

Frederick What should I ask them to shout?

Jasper Well what are boys and girls used to shouting?

Frederick Oh, I don't think we should go down that line. I've heard what boys and girls shout these days and I really don't like it!

Jasper Well, what do Mums and Dads shout?

Frederick Ah, I know just what Mums and Dads would shout! They would shout something like 'Don't pick your nose!'

Jasper Really?

Frederick Absolutely! Let's just change it to 'Don't pick the rose!'

Jasper That's brilliant! Should we practice?

Frederick

Jasper) (Encouraging the audience) DON'T PICK THE ROSE!

Jasper Every time you see someone who is trying to pick one of those white roses, you need to shout out. Will you do that?

Audience Yes!

Jasper Louder! I want to know that you really will help us. (Shouts) Will you help us?

Audience Yes!

Jasper Then let's hear it! (Shouts louder) DON'T PICK THE ROSE!

Audience DON'T PICK THE ROSE!

Frederick Oh I say, that's fabulous. (To Jasper) That must cheer you up!

Jasper It certainly does. I'm still not quite sure how it will help, but I certainly feel more confident about it.

(They begin to exit CSL.)

Frederick I have a feeling that things will certainly look up now, Sir.

Jasper What have I told you about that, Frederick? Don't call me Sir. Please just refer to me as Jasper.

Frederick I'm sorry, Sir. It's just that I keep forgetting, Sir.

(As they exit, Stan and Ben enter from the back SR. As they walk down to CS, Dame Ella comes out of her shop.)

Stan Good morning Dame Ella. We've come to collect your rent.

Dame Ella Rent? But you were only here last month.

Ben Yeh! And you didn't pay then either did you?

Dame Ella Well now then, it's not my fault. I was a little short. I don't have a solution, but I do admire the problem.

Stan Let's hope you've had a growing spurt in the last few weeks. **(Holds hand out)** Rent!

Ben You owe Evil Electra £500.

Dame Ella Yes, and I'm quite willing to pay.

Stan Good.

Dame Ella But I haven't actually got any money of my own.

Ben Well whose money have you got?

Stan We don't care whose money it is as long as you pay!

Dame Ella Very well then. Have you any money with you?

Ben I've got £100.

Stan And I've got £10

Dame Ella Well lend me that money for a while.

Ben When do we get it back?

Dame Ella On my honour, if you are not happy with the transaction, I'll return it immediately if not sooner.

Stan **(Looks at Ben)** That sounds good enough for me.

Ben **(Looks at Stan)** And me.

They both hand over the cash to Dame Ella.

Dame Ella Now, will you kindly accept £110 on account of my debt to her most Evilness, the Evil Electra?

Stan You can't pay with that! It's our money.

Dame Ella You said it didn't matter whose money I paid with.

Ben It doesn't. So long as it isn't ours.

Dame Ella In that case, as you're not satisfied with the transaction, I will return your cash as promised.

Stan Quite right too.

Dame Ella I'll just count it out to make sure it's all there. Who will accept it?

Ben I will. **(Holds hand out)**

Dame Ella Very well. Now then, one, two three, how many years have you been in this job?

Ben Seven.

Dame Ella Eight, nine, ten, have you any family?

Ben No, but my parents had twenty children.

Dame Ella How many?

Ben Twenty.

Dame Ella Twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three, how old are you?

Ben Thirty-one.

(Dame Ella looks at the audience and raises an eyebrow.)

Dame Ella Thirty-two, thirty-three, thirty-four.

Ben My father's ninety!

Dame Ella (**Looks knowingly at the audience**) Ninety-one, ninety-two, ninety-three.

Stan That's nothing, my Grand Mother lived until she was a hundred and five!

Dame Ella One hundred and six, one hundred and seven, eight, nine, ten. There you are. That's all your money back and there's no harm done.

Ben Thank you very much. You're a real lady.

Stan It's been nice doing business with you. Goodbye.

Dame Ella Goodbye!

(She tucks the money into her bra and enters her shop. Stan and Ben go across to sit in Big Sam's. Manuel and Cecile enter from Big Sam's SL. He is clearly 'down'.)

Cecile What iz ze matter Manuel. Come on, spill ze beans.

Manuel No no! No spill beans. Manuel just cleaned up.

Cecile Aren't you well?

Manuel Oh Cecile, I have a terrible headache. Señor Big Sam, he shout very loud at me. He said 'Manuel, didn't I tell you to notice when the soup boiled over'?

Cecile And didn't you notice?

Manuel Sl, I notice. It was half past three!

Cecile You 'ave ze headache because of ze 'ours you work. It cannot be good for you.

Manuel But we go to Barcelona! I need money to get us there.

Cecile If you are not well, you need to go to ze doctor.

Manuel I go see doctor. He gave me full medical check up. They x-rayed my head. I ask doctor if it showed anything. He said 'absolutely nothing'.

Cecile I am sorry. Iz zere anysing else ze matter?

Manuel The doctor, he told me to go jogging. He said that jogging every day would add ten years to my life.

Cecile Zat iz good news.

Manuel No, it is not. I went jogging yesterday and now I feel ten years older.

(Dame Ella comes out of her shop to shake a cloth.)

Cecile We must get on with some work. Come on.

(She enters Big Sam's. Manuel sighs and watches her.)

Manuel She is lovely.

Dame Ella Are you day dreaming again, Manuel?

Manuel I think Cecile is the girl for me. I fed up of going to dance after dance and not find the right girl for Manuel.

Dame Ella So your dancing days are over?

Manuel Si, the last dance I went to I met a beautiful girl. We got on very well.

Dame Ella What happened?

Manuel She took me to one side.

Dame Ella Yes! Then what did she do?

Manuel She left me there! No, Manuel say goodbye to all other girls. Cecile is the only one for me.

(Dame Ella goes back into her shop.)

SONG

(At the end of the song, Manuel goes into Big Sam's. Enter three chorus.)

Chorus One I'm starving!

Chorus Two So am I. I didn't have any breakfast this morning.

Chorus Three Well, why don't we get something to eat?

Chorus Two Sounds good to me. Look in Dame Ella's window. I say, those cakes look really nice.

Chorus Three But cakes aren't particularly healthy for breakfast.

Chorus One I agree. We really shouldn't eat cake for breakfast. Why don't we go to Big Sam's and have a proper breakfast?

Chorus Two Look (**Holding out money**) I can afford to pay. I've just got my first week's wages from my paper round for [Insert name of local shop].

Chorus Three Come on then, let's go order.

(They go to sit at a table in Big Sam's Bistro. Cecile enters. Stan and Ben are still reading the menu.)

Cecile Can I 'elp you?

Chorus Two Yes please. We'd like to order some breakfast.

Cecile Ov course. What would you like. We can offer full English.

Chorus One Ooh, that sounds good. (**To Cecile**) How much is that?

Cecile Eet ees cheap at 'alf the price. Today, eet ees only Five Euros.

Chorus Two (**Quietly to the other two**) I think that's out of my price range.

Chorus Three What else do you have on the menu?

Cecile We 'ave a continental breakfast.

Chorus One Oh, that sounds good. How much is that?

Cecile Zat ees sree an a 'alf Euros.

Chorus Two (**Again to the other two**) That's still a bit expensive.

Chorus One What is the cheapest thing you have on the menu?

Cecile (**Sighing**) 'Ow much 'ave you got to spend?

Chorus Two I've only got one Euro. I'm sorry, I don't earn much.

Cecile I know you. You work for [*Insert name of local employer*] to pay you more. I 'ave toast and jam. Eet ees 'ome-made an very delicious. (**Looks around**) for you – one euro!

Chorus Three That sounds lovely! Thank you Miss!

(Cecile moves away, passing Stan and Ben.)

Stan Excuse me, Miss.

Cecile Oui? 'ow may I help you?

Stan I'd like to order.

Cecile Certainly, Sir. What can I get you?

Stan I'd like a quicky, please.

Cecile (**Outraged**) 'ow dare you.

(Cecile slaps Stan across the face and goes back into Big Sam's.)

Ben What's wrong with her?

Stan I don't know.

(Big Sam enters from SR.)

Big Sam Hello everyone. Welcome to Great Big Sam's Bistro! (**Moves across to the chorus**) I have just been to the Post Office to collect my lottery winnings!

Chorus One How much did you win?

Chorus Two Did you get the jackpot?

Big Sam I got four numbers. Twenty Seven Euros! (**Laughs jovially and looks around**) But don't tell my daughters. One of them will be particularly upset. Now then, what can we interest you in today?

Chorus Three It's alright, we've ordered toast thank you.

Big Sam (**Almost overwhelmed**) Toast! At this rate with my Bistro and lottery winnings, I'll be able to retire when I'm Eighty! (**Laughs**).

(Big Sam moves over to Stan and Ben.)

Big Sam Hi you guys. Welcome to Big Sam's Bistro. Everything ok?

Stan Well I'd quite like to order, if that's alright.

Big Sam (**Clicking fingers**) Of course my friend. Cecile, please take this order.

(Cecile enters, sees and reluctantly approaches Stan. Big Sam moves away.)

Cecile Bonjour, Sir. What can I get for you?

Stan (**Referring to the menu**) Mademoiselle, I would like a quicky!

(Cecile, once again takes offence, slaps his face and storms off inside. Manuel appears from the Bistro carrying three trays.)

Manuel Here we are. Order for toast.

Chorus One Over here!

(Big Sam moves from chorus up to Manuel and looks at the trays.)

Big Sam No, no, no. Manuel – there is too much jam (**pointing**) on those trays.

Manuel Que?

Big Sam I said, there is too much jam, on those trays.

Manuel (**Realising**) Oh no, Señor Sam. (**Nods**) Uno, dos, tres!

Big Sam What?

Manuel It is not – on, doze, trays.

Big Sam What?

Manuel It is not – on, doze, trays. It is Uno, dos, tres (**nodding at each tray as he says it**). (**Repeats**) Uno, dos, tres!

Big Sam Oh for goodness sake, Manuel. I'll never be able to make a profit at this rate. You should only put one pack of jam on each tray.

(Big Sam takes some packs of jam off each tray and Manuel goes to serve them to the chorus. Dame Ella enters from her shop.)

Dame Ella Cooeee! Sam! (**Waving**)

Big Sam Ah, Dame Ella, how nice to see you. Would you like to join me for a drink?

Dame Ella Lovely! Not too early for a glass of wine, is it?

Big Sam It's never too early. (**Showing her to a seat**) Here, take the weight off your feet. (**Shouts**) Manuel! Manuel!

Manuel runs on.

Manuel Si, Señor Big Sam.

Big Sam Ah Manuel, would you fetch the list of wines please.

Manuel Si Señor!

(Manuel just stands there.)

Big Sam The list of wines!

Manuel Si!

(Still stands there, motionless.)

Big Sam The list of wines. **(Pause)** Vino!

Manuel Ah, si.

(Manuel begins to exit and Big Sam grabs him.)

Big Sam No, no! The list!

(Big Sam point to the next table where there is obviously a wine list.)

Big Sam There – that list!

(Big Sam keeps pointing as Manuel looks all around, except at the list. He is very confused.)

Big Sam **(Very agitated and still pointing)** There! Look. There!

(Eventually Big Sam picks up the list and gives it to Manuel.)

Big Sam Look, the list!

Manuel **(Takes the list from Big Sam)** Si Señor. **(Gives it back to Big Sam)** The list!

(As Big Sam gestures with the list, Manuel runs off.)

Big Sam There we are Dame Ella. Take a look at our selection of fine wines.

(Cecile enters again.)

Stan Excuse me Miss, can we order?

Cecile Oui! As long as you are no longer rude.

Stan But I don't mean to be. **(Shows her the menu)** I only want this. **(Points)** A quicky!

Cecile **(With a look to the audience)** I sink you will find zat is pronounced Quiche, Sir!

Stan Sorry.

Ben What is this, Miss? **(Points at the menu)** Prune Cacktoil.

Cecile Zat is Prawn Cocktail.

Ben Ooh nice. I like Prawn Cocktail. And Crib Basque?

Cecile Crib Basque –eet ees fish soup.

Ben I'll have the Prune Cacktoil! **(Looks back at his menu)** Now – Perk carousel. Is that pork?

Cecile Oui! Pork casserole.

Ben That sounds nice. Does it come with a smile?

Cecile Eet comes wiz ze cabbage or ze green beans.

Ben Oh, a smile's extra then is it?

Cecile You'll get one eet you eat all your cabbage!

(She takes the menu off him and goes back inside. Jasper and Frederick enter USL and move DCS.)

Jasper (To Big Sam) Excuse me Sir, Is Belle at home?

(At the very same time Belle and Kelle enter from Big Sam's. Belle goes to greet Jasper and an unwilling Frederick is accosted by Kelle.)

Kelle (Drags him) Come on, you can buy me a coffee. Although I can really afford my own. My father has just won the Euro Millions!

Frederick Oh, lucky me!

Belle Hello Jasper. How are you?

Jasper I'm fine. You?

Belle All the better for seeing you! Kelle has been driving me mad!

Jasper You shouldn't be so hard on her. It must be lovely to have your sister around.

Belle Believe me. I think it would be lovely to be an only child. She can be so much trouble.

Jasper (Quietly, away from Belle) So was Julius, but I still miss him.

Belle You sometimes seem so distant Jasper. As though your thoughts are far away. I sometimes feel like that.

Jasper And what do you do?

Belle Don't laugh, but I go out of the village towards the castle and speak to the wise old owl. She's always full of good advice.

Jasper Do you know Belle, that's just what I love about you the most, it's the little stories you tell to try to cheer me up.

Belle It's not a story. I do talk to the wise old owl – honest!

Jasper You do make me so happy Belle. Happier than I think you realise.

SONG

SCENE TWO

At the edge of the Village

In front of the curtains. The rose trellis must be visible. Enter Fairy Grace through the curtains and stands SR.

Fairy Grace It is just as I predicted, I can only offer you the reassurance that these people are strong and brave. They will fight to make sure that evil is always overcome. Before that happens, you need to understand a little more....

(Fairy Grace stands well out of the way SR for the following action. Kelle and Big Sam enter.)

Kelle But you said you'd won the lottery.

Big Sam I did win the lottery!

Kelle Twenty Seven Euros! That's it!

Big Sam They don't pay out much for four numbers these days, you know.

Kelle But Twenty Seven Euros. That'll hardly buy me anything.

Big Sam Presents aren't everything my dear. Why can't you be more like Belle?

Kelle Huh! (**Mimicking**) Oh Daddy, I don't want any presents. I'm quite happy with fresh air and beautiful flowers.

Big Sam (**Shaking his head**) I sometimes wonder how on earth I could have such different daughters.

Kelle It wouldn't do for us all to be the same. I'm going back home. (**To her father**) Twenty Seven Euros! Won't even keep me in face cream.

(Kelle exits back through the curtains.)

Big Sam (**Sadly**) No dear. What am I going to do with that girl? She'll be on my hands for ever – I can't see me finding a suitor for her. Now Belle, she is a completely different story. I think that young man she is friendly with has a bit of a soft spot for her.

(He looks SL and sees the roses.)

Big Sam What beautiful flowers. White roses have always been one of Belle's favourites.

(He moves to pick one.)

Audience DON'T PICK THE ROSE!

Big Sam Don't worry – I only want one. (**He picks one of the roses**)

(Evil Electra enters through the curtains and Big Sam jumps in shock.)

Evil Electra You are a thief. How dare you steal my roses? Somebody was meant to be taking care of them. (**She looks around for Jasper.**)

Big Sam I had no idea they were yours.

Evil Electra What excuse do you have for stealing my roses?

Big Sam I didn't realise these flowers belonged to anyone. I do apologise.

Evil Electra (**Sneers**) Your apology will not save your life. I shall kill you for this.

Big Sam (**Knees knocking**) Kill me? Surely not for picking one flower.

Evil Electra Then give me one good reason why I should spare you?

Big Sam I was only picking one rose for Belle.

Evil Electra Belle? Who is this Belle?

Big Sam She is my youngest child – as lovely as this flower herself. She loves all beautiful things because she is as kind and gentle as she is pretty.

Evil Electra You seem to have a great love for this Belle.

Big Sam **(Pleading)** Please don't take the life of this girl's father.

Evil Electra I will spare your life on one condition.

Big Sam And that is?

Evil Electra You must bring to my castle, within the next 24 hours, the first creature you see after we part.

Big Sam **(Turning to audience. He contemplates.)** The first creature I see. Well, I'm just on my way out for a walk in the countryside. I'm bound to bump into some sheep in the fields. In fact I'm sure I'll see a sheep before any other creature. The farmer wouldn't miss one sheep! **(Looking back to Evil Electra now happy.)** I agree.

(Big Sam leaves the stage, quite happy and quietly chuckling to himself.)

Big Sam Here sheeepy sheeepy! Come to Daddy **(To audience)** You're lucky she doesn't mean you when she says the next creature I see. **(A jolly laugh as he exits through the audience).**

(Fairy Grace is lit as Evil Electra moves to her usual SL position.)

Fairy Grace I don't know why you have to be so wicked Electra. The world would be such a nicer place if everyone were kind to each other.

Evil Electra Nicer place? This is a wonderful place as it is.

Fairy Grace Maybe for you. Particularly in a castle which isn't really yours.

Evil Electra Now now Fairy Grace. Anyone would think you were jealous. People respect me for my power.

Fairy Grace Your power is used to kill and maim.

Evil Electra A mere side issue. The audience show in their kind reactions how popular I actually am.

(The audience hopefully hiss and boo!)

Evil Electra You see how they respond to me. Just to show you ... I've decided to make you my new project.

Fairy Grace You really don't have to do that.

Evil Electra Oh, it would be my pleasure.

SONG

(At the end of the song, the spots dim on Fairy Grace and Evil Electra so they are barely visible. Big Sam enters back through the audience. As he gets on the stage, Belle appears through the curtains and taps him on the shoulder.)

Belle Daddy?

Big Sam **(He turns to look at her immediately)** No! Please **(Looking at Evil Electra)** No!

Evil Electra **(Laughs evilly)**

Blackout

PantoScripts Perusal

SCENE THREE

Dame Ella's Kitchen

As the scene starts, Dame Ella and Manuel are sat at the kitchen table. They are eating cereal. The radio is situated in the background. This dialogue is useful to use names and locations of specific audience members.

Radio Announcer

And good morning listeners. Welcome to Radio [Insert name of location]. The news this morning includes a new report just in. Mrs Smith from Main Street recently visited Paris and fell off a bridge. We have been told she went 'in Seine!' It has also been reported that Mr Jones has been for a sauna in a room full of white tiles and steam. He lay down in the middle of the floor, stark naked and when the steam cleared, he found he was in [Insert name of local fish shop].

Now we have a request for some music from Mrs White.

(This is an excellent mime routine and can be something newly choreographed or a take on a more well-known piece.)

MUSIC

Dame Ella Come on Manuel, there's just time to bake a batch of cakes before you go to work. Right, let's start with a little flour.

Manuel Si, a little flower.

(Manuel runs to fetch a rose. The audience will hopefully shout – DON'T PICK THE ROSE!)

Manuel (To audience) Oh – be quiet! (He gives Dame Ella a rose)

Dame Ella What's that?

Manuel A little flower.

Dame Ella No that kind of flower – what sort is it anyway?

Manuel It is a chrysanthemum.

Dame Ella No it's not, it's a rose.

Manuel No no, it's a chrysanthemum.

Dame Ella It's a rose.

Manuel It's a chrysanthemum.

Dame Ella Alright then. Spell Chrysanthemum.

Manuel Que?

Dame Ella Spell Chrysanthemum.

Manuel Okay. Is a rose.

Dame Ella Stop messing around Manuel. Now I need some currants. Oh dear. I forgot to buy some. I'm sure I haven't got any.

Manuel Si, si Dame Ella. I get you currants. You wait.

(He exits and returns with some currants in his hands.)

Manuel Here. Lovely currants. (He tips them into the mixing bowl)

Dame Ella Well that's good. I didn't think I had any. **(Puts some of them into her mouth)** I love currants. Where did you find them?

Manuel I find a secret store behind the rabbits. **(Does a rabbits ears impression).**

Dame Ella **(Spitting out the currants)** You silly little man. I haven't had a shock like that since I stood on a piece of my fruit cake and a current ran up my leg.

(Knock at the door. A chorus enters holding two cakes.)

Chorus Dame Ella?

Dame Ella Yes dear, what can I do for you?

Chorus My mum says, can you decorate these for my birthday party this afternoon?

Dame Ella Of course my dear. Come and put them down on the table. What time is your party?

Chorus Four o'clock.

Dame Ella Then come back at three and I'll have them ready for you.

Chorus Thank you. **(Exits)**

Manuel What lovely cakes!

Dame Ella Would you like to help me decorate them?

Manuel Si Dame Ella. We must make them into the most fabulous cakes for the birthday party.

Dame Ella Fetch the cream from the fridge.

(Manuel fetches two cans of cream from the fridge.)

Manuel Here is cream.

Dame Ella Now I shall decorate the first one and if you watch what I'm doing you will be able to decorate the second one. Ok?

Manuel Ok!

(Dame Ella now changes her accent to one which is not dissimilar to Jamie Oliver.)

Dame Ella Right, first grab your bit of cake. I've got a right pukka one here. Grab 'old of the old squirry cream. You can buy this at any local store. Dead cheap.

Manuel Si, any local store.

Dame Ella Give it a good old shake.

Manuel Si, shaky shaky shaky.

Dame Ella Now then what you have to do is grab the old cake stand and as you turn it, give the squirry cream a bit of a squeeze. How you doing Manuel?

Manuel Si. I turn and I squeeze.

Dame Ella Keep going me old mate **(sticks her finger in the cream and licks it)**. Cor blimey – just have a taste of that!

(Manuel, copying Dame Ella, puts his finger in the cream but instead of licking his own finger, offers it to Dame Ella – misses and pokes her in the eye.)

Manuel (Jumps aside) Oh I am so sorry Dame Ella.

Dame Ella Just what do you think you are doing?

Manuel I do just as you say, but I miss your mouth.

Dame Ella You stupid man. You were meant to lick your own finger.

Manuel Que?

(Dame Ella demonstrates by sticking her own finger in Manuel's cake and putting it in her mouth.)

Manuel Ah! I see. (Puts finger in his cake and offers it to Dame Ella)

Dame Ella No, no, no.

She picks up a cake and threatens to throw it at him. As she does, Manuel ducks.

Dame Ella Stand still.

Manuel No!

(Dame Ella threatens again.)

Dame Ella Stand still.

Manuel No!

(They begin a bit of cat and mouse – aiming and ducking which they take out into the audience. As soon as they do, the curtains close.)

Dame Ella Come here!

Manuel No!

(They finally exit through the audience.)

Pantoscripts Perusal

SCENE FOUR **In the Village**

In front of the curtains until the scene has changed from the kitchen. Kelle enters through the audience carrying shopping bags, as Jasper enters SR and walks across to look at the roses.

Kelle Huh! Twenty Seven Euros. Have you seen this little lot (**shaking her bags**). I need a lot more than Twenty Seven Euros to pay for this.

(She sees Jasper and walks over to him.)

Kelle You're that boy who keeps calling for my sister.

Jasper I'm sorry?

Kelle You. Don't you keep calling round to go walking with my sister?

Jasper If you mean Belle, then yes, I do.

Kelle Why are you always so miserable? Every time I see you, you look – well just sad.

Jasper No reason.

Kelle And you're always messing around with those roses.

Jasper I like roses. I want to take care of them. Look, they're wilting. They mustn't die. I mustn't let them die.

Kelle (**Confused, she moves SL to talk to the audience**) I don't know what my sister sees in him.

Jasper It wouldn't do for us all to be the same.

Kelle Certainly not!

(He exits as Cecile enters through the curtains, passing her on the way.)

Cecile Bonjour Sir!

Jasper What? Oh – hello!

(Cecile goes over to Kelle. SL.)

Cecile What iz ze matter wiz 'im?

Kelle I don't know what Belle sees in him. I've always found him to be miserable.

Cecile But zey look like an 'andsome couple, do zey not?

Kelle Talking of handsome, have you seen Manuel today?

Cecile Oh zat boy. 'E works so 'ard zat when we do go out together, 'e just can't be bozpered. Last night we arranged to go dancing and 'e's so tired 'e turns up to take me out in his work outfit. 'E 'ad soup stains all over 'is shirt. Sometimes all he cares about ees 'is work and making enough money to go back to Barcelona.

(The stage should now be a full set. Manuel is sat at one of the tables – head down, fast asleep.)

Kelle I don't know why you complain about him. I think he's absolutely adorable.

(Kelle picks up her bags to go inside Big Sam's. She passes the sleepy Manuel.)

Kelle Hello Manuel.

Manuel (He sleepily raises his head from the table) Que? (And then goes back to sleep.)

Cecile Manuel! Look at you!

SONG

(At the end of the song, Big Sam enters from his Bistro. He is distraught.)

Big Sam (Wailing) Oooooohhhhhh! Booooo Hoooo!

(On hearing him, Kelle enters from the Bistro, Dame Ella enters from her shop, Jasper and Frederick along with the chorus enter from various places. They are all confused.)

Cecile What is the matter? Here, come and sit down.

Big Sam It's Belle.

Kelle What's matter with her? She isn't in her room.

Big Sam Booooooo Hoooooo!

Kelle Oh for goodness sake father. Stop crying and tell us what has happened.

Big Sam It was Evil Electra.

Jasper (Suddenly coming forward) What's that you say?

Big Sam Evil Electra has taken Belle. She caught me picking one of the white roses. To spare my life she said I had to take Belle to the castle. Belle insisted that I do as she said.

Jasper Oh no. This is my fault. She told me I had to look after those roses. She trusted me.

Kelle Who?

Jasper Evil Electra.

Cecile You know her?

Jasper Yes, unfortunately I do.

(Everyone is silent and looks directly at Jasper. He looks around at everyone stood there. Frederick steps forward.)

Frederick Sir, are you sure you know what you are doing?

Jasper Yes Frederick. I'm sure. This can't continue. She now has two people who are dear to me.

Big Sam Two people?

Jasper Yes. Not only has she taken Belle but she also has my twin brother. She killed our parents. My brother Julius is a little hot headed and tried to argue with her.

Cecile What happened?

Jasper To be honest, I don't really know. She released me with an instruction to look after the white roses and I never actually saw what happened to Julius.

(Jasper suddenly appears stronger.)

Jasper So, who will help me?