



Dick Whittington

by Vicky Burns

Pantoscripts Perusal

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SYNOPSIS

Fun and traditional. This is an ideal production for a small stage, yet can easily be transformed into a large production. There are strong characters within, yet still plenty of opportunities to bring in new and less experienced cast members, helping to build them into the 'stars' of the future. Parts include:

In order of appearance

Fairy Bowbells	Female – The traditional 'Dick Whittington goodie' who acts as a narrator of the show. She is completely in charge and embraces her contact with the audience. She has no fear of the Rats. Singing essential.
Dick Whittington	Female – Principal Boy. Arrives from Yorkshire in search of wealth and happiness. As the title role, this character should completely own the story and the stage. Confident and should have an excellent rapport with Tommy, the cat. Strong singer required.
Tommy	Child – Either male or female. Needs to mime and be able to portray a wide range of emotions.
Fitzwarren	Male – Alice's father and owner of the store. Used to being in charge, but is evermore becoming the victim of Queen Ratifa and her evil plans to gain control. Is quite well to do, but obviously losing his money quickly.
Billy Dough	Male – (Cockney!) Comedy role. Son of Dame Dilly and works for Alderman Fitzwarren, although can be a little lazy. Must have a good rapport with the audience. Singing role.
Alice Fitzwarren	Female – Principal Girl. Daughter of Alderman Fitzwarren. A confident young lady who falls for the charms of Dick Whittington. A strong singer required.
Queen Ratifa	Female – Baddie of the show. Intent on becoming the most powerful in London and will stop at nothing to achieve this. Works with her 'Rat Pack'. Singing essential.
Vermina	Female – part of Queen Ratifa's 'Rat Pack'. Vile and submissive towards the Queen. Will do anything to please her mistress. Singing part.
Ratman	Male – Also part of Queen Ratifa's 'Rat Pack'. Equally vile and submissive towards the Queen and will also do anything to please his mistress. Singing part.
Captain Cockle	Male – Comedy duo. Obviously the one in charge. Characterisation needed. Must be able to sing. Timing is absolutely essential.
Burley Bosun	Male – Comedy duo. Stooge to Captain Cockle. Open to characterisation, however, is not necessarily interested in the female characters of the group! Must be able to sing. Timing is absolutely essential.
Dame Dilly Dough	Male – Larger than life and should have excellent rapport with the audience. Works for Alderman Fitzwarren and mother of Billy Dough. A singing and comedy role. Timing is essential.
Sailor	A small walk on part in Act Two. This is ideal for one of the younger chorus members and will allow them to develop their stage skills. Timing and singing essential.

ACT ONE

PROLOGUE

In front of the curtains. We hear the sound of Bow bells. Fairy Bowbells enters through the curtains and moves to stand SR.

Fairy Bowbells Do you hear that sound? It is the sound of Bow bells. They are calling the hero of our Pantomime to old London Town. Who is the hero, I hear you ask?

She puts her hand behind her ear and listens. When there is no response, she tuts and shakes her head.

Fairy Bowbells You need to do much better than that. The audience has to join in – that is if you are to enjoy the full Pantomime experience. I shall try again – only once though mind you! I am a very busy Fairy. **(She repeats)** Who is the hero, I hear you ask? **(Places her hand behind her ear again)**

Audience Who is the hero?

Fairy Bowbells That is a much better effort. I can now continue. The hero of this tale is a lad called Whittington. Dick Whittington. He is a poor Yorkshire boy who heads to London to seek his fame and fortune. He has been told the streets are paved with gold.

Dick enters through the audience, carrying a knapsack. He joins Fairy Bowbells on stage. Fairy Bowbells announces his arrival.

Fairy Bowbells **(Pointing to Dick)** Here he comes now.

Dick walks towards the stage speaking to the audience as he approaches.

Dick I am a poor Yorkshire boy who heads to London to seek his fame and fortune. I have been told that the streets are paved with gold.

Dick finishes centre stage.

Fairy Bowbells That is right Dick, you are within sight of your dream of riches.

Dick Are the streets really paved with gold?

Fairy Bowbells Only to those who become heroes.

Dick Me? A hero? Oh no I'm not!

Fairy Bowbells **(Encouraging the audience)** Oh yes you are!

Dick **(Shyly)** Oh no I'm not!

Fairy Bowbells **(With the audience)** Oh yes you are!

Dick But I can't be. I haven't done anything to make me a hero.

Fairy Bowbells Maybe not yet. But now you're in London, your adventure can begin.

Dick I must say, it all sounds exciting!

SONG

Fairy Bowbells I shall help you become the hero of this Pantomime, Dick. You deserve to find wealth and happiness. Follow the path chosen for you and all you've ever dreamed of will become yours.

Dick I have dreams about my future. It's what made me set out for London.

Fairy Bowbells Keep dreaming Dick – they'll lead you on your true path. However, I feel I can help you further.

Dick What do you mean?

Fairy Bowbells As you make your way through London, you will encounter those who will help you, and those who will not. I shall gift you a friend.

Dick That would be wonderful. I've felt so lonely since I left Yorkshire.

Fairy Bowbells waves her wand, the stage blackens briefly and Tommy comes through the curtains. The lights come back up.

Fairy Bowbells This, young Dick, will be your companion.

Dick A cat?

Tommy looks disgruntled at the comment. He looks away from Dick.

Dick **(Realising)** I'm sorry, I didn't mean to be rude. It's that I didn't expect my new friend to be a cat.

Tommy looks pensively towards Dick and then cooly to the floor.

Dick You will be my friend, won't you?

Tommy glances at Dick, then once again at the floor. Again at Dick and then nods his head and moves in to 'nuzzle' Dick.

Dick Well if we're to be friends, then we had best introduce ourselves. **(Offering to shake hands)** My name is Dick. What's your name?

Tommy shrugs.

Dick Don't you have a name?

Tommy shakes his head.

Dick Well that will never do. I shall call you Thomas!

Tommy, obviously unhappy, hisses and spits.

Dick **(Laughing to the audience)** Obviously you don't like that name!

Tommy whispers to Dick.

Dick Ah! But I can call you Tommy. Well hello Tommy – it's a pleasure to meet you.

They shake hands. Fairy Bowbells moves centre stage to join them.

Fairy Bowbells And so Dick, with your new companion, you can now begin your adventures in London. To become a hero and find your just rewards will take a little time. May I suggest you start by finding a job?

Dick I must find work, for at the moment I am penniless. **(To Tommy)** Unless you have ... **(Tommy immediately shakes his head vigorously)** I guess that's a 'no' then!

Fairy Bowbells Now come on Dick, you must move along. Tommy here will keep you strong.

She signals for them both to leave through the curtains. They exit.

Fairy Bowbells His journey as our hero, won't be calm.
There is a chance he'll come to harm.
It won't be long before you'll see –
Our villain who you will agree –
Is so so so disgustingly vile.
She makes all Londoners run for a mile.

But let's not worry about her yet.
There's a chance, us all, she won't upset.
Now now, come on, don't look so down
As we follow Dick to London town.

Fairy music and she exits through the curtains.

SCENE ONE: Outside Fitzwarren's Shop

Full stage. Typical London with flats that can equally represent the Docks. All Chorus, Billy and Alderman Fitzwarren are on stage.

SONG

Fitzwarren Good morning everyone. What a beautiful day it is.

Chorus Good morning, Alderman Fitzwarren

Fitzwarren Have you brought me some fresh flowers for the shop young lady?

Rose Seller Only the very finest for you Alderman. I've brought you beautiful red roses.

Fitzwarren Well as it's near Valentine's Day, I'll be able to double the price. And what about you young lady? Have you brought me fresh milk?

Milkmaid Only the freshest milk. Straight from Farmer [insert local name]'s farm.

Fitzwarren That's what I like to hear.

Strawberry Seller I have lovely fresh strawberries, Alderman.

Knife Grinder And all your knives are as sharp as can be.

Fitzwarren Excellent service everyone. Bring it all into the shop.

Fitzwarren turns towards the shop, SR, but it's closed.

Fitzwarren What's this? The shop is closed! Where on earth is Billy?

Billy moves down from US.

Billy 'Ere I am Fitzy!

Fitzwarren Don't Fitzy me, you cheeky young man.

Billy Sorry – keep your Fred on.

Fitzwarren My 'Fred on'? You're not making sense.

Billy Fred Astaire! Hair!! **(To audience)** Come on – keep up!

Fitzwarren You are late again.

Billy I'm sorry Alderman. It's just that me little brother Willy swallowed me alarm clock and I 'ad to get him to the hospital last night.

Fitzwarren Swallowed your alarm clock?

Billy Swallowed it 'ole. That's why I'm late.

Fitzwarren Does it bother him?

Billy Bother 'im? No! But it bothers me. Every time I go to wind it up, 'e bites me finger!

He starts to laugh at his own joke. All the way through this, the chorus begin to exit. USL, USR and SL.

All except Rose Seller, Milkmaid, Strawberry Seller and Knife Grinder.

Fitzwarren Oh for goodness sake, get the shop open. And where's that good for nothing mother of yours?

Billy She'll be along shortly. She's just finishing this morning's baking for the shop.

Billy enters shop, SR. The four sellers move DS.

Rose Seller Alderman! I think it's a disgrace.

Fitzwarren What's a disgrace?

Milkmaid So do I. The town is overrun with rats. They're everywhere. I even found one in my bath this morning.

Fitzwarren What was it doing there?

Milkmaid The breast stroke, I think?

Fitzwarren You could cook a 'rat-atouille' with them!

Knife Grinder Don't be ridiculous. We've heard about your plans to become Lord Mayor of London – and if I were you, I'd form some serious plan of action. That is of course if you don't want Alderman [*insert name of local councillor*] to beat you to the job.

Fitzwarren Alderman [*insert name*]? S/He has no plans on how to deal with the rats, unlike me! I discussed my plans with Alice only yesterday.

Alice enters from the shop, SR.

Alice Did I hear my name mentioned?

Strawberry Seller Your father was telling us about his supposed plans to rid us of these rats.

Alice (**Turning to her father**) What plans are those Father?

Fitzwarren (**Encouraging her to join his scheme**) You remember Alice. My plans!

Alice (**Realising**) Oh yes, of course Father – those plans! Excellent plans if I may say so too!

Strawberry Seller Well I wish you'd say what they are.

Fitzwarren But that would be telling.

Alice Yes, that would be telling!

Knife Grinder Your plans had better be good – that’s all we can say, or you’ll have no chance of being Lord Mayor. Let’s go and find out what Alderman [*insert name*] plans are. I suspect they may be a little grander than yours.

The sellers exit – SL.

Alice Was I meant to understand any of that Father?

Fitzwarren I was trying to stall people about my intended plan to rid the town of rats.

Alice You mean you’ve finally come up with a plan?

Fitzwarren No my dear. That’s the problem. And if I don’t think of something quickly then not only will I have no chance of becoming Lord Mayor, but we shall have no stock left in the shop. They’re eating us out of house, home and shop!

Alice Don’t worry father, I’m sure you’ll think of something soon. Let’s go inside and have a nice cup of tea. It’ll help you think of something.

They exit into the shop – SR. The stage darkens and sinister music is heard. Queen Ratifa, Ratman and Vermina enter from USL. Queen Ratifa is laughing evilly.

Ratifa That foolish Alderman thinks he is clever enough to hatch a plan to rid the town of me!

Vermina How dare he, Your Majesty. He is a weak and foolish man.

Ratifa He knows no better than to mess with my own evil plans.

Ratman Have you decided what you are going to do?

Ratifa Do? **(Shouting)** Do?! I Queen Ratifa shall do nothing. It is you, my faithful servants who shall be doing!

Ratman I apologise, Your Majesty. Have you decided how best we can serve you?

Ratifa As a matter of fact, I have. Vermina – have you managed to destroy the Alderman’s stock?

Vermina Very nearly, Your Majesty. The rattlings have gnawed their way through most of it.

Ratifa But it’s taking too much time.

Ratman You must be patient.

Ratifa I will not be told to be patient. I need results now.

Ratman Then we need to speed up the Alderman’s demise.

Vermina And how can we do that?

Ratifa **(Sinister)** Poison!

Vermina)
Ratman) Poison?

Ratifa My very own rat poison!

Ratman And where do we place this – poison?

Ratifa Where it will do the most damage.

She hands over a small vial.

Ratifa Enter the Alderman's shop and pour this into his freshest milk.

She laughs evilly, joined by Ratman and Vermina. They are goading the audience.

Audience Boo!

Ratman Go ahead – boo all you like. It's a dastardly plan.

Vermina The very best, Your Majesty.

Ratifa **(Smugly)** I know! Fitzwarren will drink the milk for his breakfast – and then ...

She mimes choking by putting her hand round her neck. Ratman and Vermina do the same.

Vermina And with luck – the same fate for his pretty little daughter!

Ratifa In you go – do not fall me.

Ratman Do not worry. By the end of this very day, Fitzwarren will be no more. Come Vermina.

Ratman and Vermina exit SR into the store.

Ratifa **(To audience)** Soon Fitzwarren will be no more. I shall take his Alderman's chain and then the way will be clear for me to become Lord Mayor of London. My filthy rattlings will be able to live in the dirt and grime they so like. The stench will be immense! **(She laughs evilly)**

Fairy Bowbells enters from USR and moves FSR.

Fairy Bowbells Just wait a minute, you evil rat. I think you'll find that your plans have a flaw.

Ratifa You would say that. I think you're jealous of my brilliance. A plot to beat all plots.

Fairy Bowbells But you forget that I appeared first. I've already appointed a hero who will foil your plan.

Ratifa **(Looking around)** I see no-one near to foil my plan.

Fairy Bowbells Just bide your time, he'll be here soon.

Ratifa And by that time the Alderman will be poisoned and I shall have claimed his chain! **(Moving to exit DSL)** You're too late Fairy Bowbells! Ha ha ha!

Queen Ratifa exits again, challenging the audience.

Fairy Bowbells **(Moving to FCS)** Oh dear. I didn't consider she'd go as far as poisoning people. It looks as though it's not enough to make Dick and Tommy our heroes. I need more help. Now let me see.

She starts to cast a spell.

Fairy Bowbells Alderman Fitzwarren is not well
Which is why I need to cast this spell.
I need to come up with a notion
Which will nullify that nasty potion.
But who can help, you do exclaim?
I know, I'll go and find the Dame!

Fairy exits SL. Captain Cockle and Burley Bosun enter USL.

Bosun Here we are Captain Cockle. Alderman Fitzwarren's store.

Captain Aharr!

Captain nudges Bosun and sends him flying.

Captain Belay there. Splice the mainbrace. Shiver me timbers, yer scurvy dogs.
Aharr!

Bosun Why do you say that?

Captain Because it's what all experienced sailors say.

Bosun But I don't say that.

Captain That's because you're not an experienced sailor.

Bosun But I am! I'm a Boatswain.

Captain **(Spitting)** You pathetic pirate. It's not boatswain. It's 'Bosun'. A real pirate always drops his 'w's!

Bosun reacts as though Captain is spitting in his face.

Captain Well now we've established you are a Bosun – what is your first name?

Bosun It's Burley. Burley Bosun!

Captain **(Confused)** Is that because you think you are butch, strong and all muscle?

Bosun No – it's because that's where I'm from. Burley in Wharfedale.

Captain I might have expected a foolish answer like that.

Bosun I'm as clever as you are.

Captain That's what you think. I'll test you then. Suppose you were in the Pacific Ocean and facing north. What would be on your right-hand?

Bosun Oh, that's easy. My thumb and four fingers.

Captain **(Ignoring him)** Then suddenly a terrible storm blows up. The waves are a hundred feet high. What do you do?

Bosun I'd throw out an anchor, Captain. **(He runs to SR and pretends to throw out an anchor)**

Captain Then another storm blows up from another direction. The waves are now two hundred feet high. What do you do now?

Bosun now runs SL, throws another imaginary anchor.

Bosun I'd throw out another anchor Captain.

Captain **(Continuing to over dramatise)** And now an even worse storm brews. The waves are five hundred feet high. What do you do now?

Bosun **(Running to the back of the stage)** I'd throw out another anchor.

Captain Wait a minute. Where are you getting all these anchors from?

Bosun Same place, you're getting all these storms from. Anyway, what are we doing here?

Captain We are here to see Alderman Fitzwarren. He be enquiring about a crew for his ship. Seems he needs to re-stock his shop.

Alice comes out of the shop and places a bucket of red roses by the door.

Captain **(Nudging Bosun)** Look at that beauty. She be a right looker. Ask her if she wants to shiver ye timbers!

Bosun Oh I could never do that. She's not my type.

Captain That be nonsense. Ye need to show her what a true sailor is made of.

Bosun I'd rather not, Captain.

Alice re-enters the shop as the song starts.

SONG

At the end of the song, Alice comes back out of the shop to place another bucket of flowers. She feels unwell and leans against the shop, wiping her brow. Captain and Bosun run to catch her as she falls. They 'fan' her as Dick and Tommy enter from SL.

Dick **(Shouting)** Here! What do you think you two are doing? Leave her alone.

Tommy runs over to 'tackle' the pair.

Bosun (To Tommy) Leave me alone. I've done nothing wrong.

Tommy chases the Captain and Bosun off USR.

Captain (Exiting) Quick! We'll see Fitzwarren later.

Tommy walks back down stage with a 'done and dusted' clap of his hands as Dick goes to help Alice.

Dick Are you alright, Miss?

Alice Yes, thank you. I just came over a bit funny. I actually think they were trying to help me.

Dick Well if you don't mind me saying, I didn't like the look of them at all. However, they have given me an excuse to help such a pretty girl. Tell me – what is your name?

Alice It's Alice. Alice Fitzwarren. My father owns this store.

Dick Do you know if he has any vacancies? I've just arrived from Yorkshire and I am in need of work.

Alice You'd have to ask him yourself. But you must excuse me – I'm on my way to run an errand. I'm sorry I can't talk longer. I wish you luck and good fortune in London.

Alice exits CSL but as she does, she deliberately drops her purse. Tommy sees it and picks it up.

Dick (To audience) I can't believe my luck. She must be the reason I've been drawn to this part of London. I think I've fallen in love.

Tommy nudges Dick to draw his attention to the purse.

Dick What's the matter Tommy?

Tommy indicates that it has been dropped by Alice.

Dick What. You mean this is Alice's purse.

Tommy nods.

Dick Then I must return it at once. I shall speak to her father in the shop.

Dick knocks on the door of Fitzwarren's store. Billy answers.

Billy 'An what can I do for you? The shop ain't open yet.

Dick I found a purse, and I believe it belongs to a young lady called Alice Fitzwarren.

Billy 'Ere – you're a bit honest for round these parts. What you after?

Dick Me? Nothing. Well actually I am after a job. I don't know if there's anything going here?

Billy Oh, **yer** after an Uncle Bob?

Dick Uncle Bob?

Billy Corn on the cob!

Dick Corn on the cob?

Billy Job!

Billy Actually, I don't feel well this morning. I feel a bit Moby Dick.

Dick Don't you mean Tom and Dick! **(A knowing look to the audience – feeling smug at the attempt)**

Billy Don't you start getting cheeky.

Fitzwarren comes out of the shop.

Fitzwarren What's going on here?

Billy This geezer has found young Alice's purse, Sir.

Fitzwarren I am most grateful young man. Can I offer you a reward?

Dick Oh no Sir. I do not wish for money.

Billy **(To audience)** Listen to 'im. 'E don't want money!

Dick Well actually, I do want money, but I want to work for it.

Billy **(To audience)** 'E wants to work for it?

Dick Even my cat would work for you Sir.

Fitzwarren Can he catch rats?

Dick **(Looking at Tommy for approval – and gets it)** Of course he can.

Fitzwarren Then I shall hire you on a trial basis, starting now. I think I've eaten something which hasn't agreed with me. Get into that shop and start work.

Dick Thank you, Sir. We won't let you down. Come on Tommy.

Dick and Tommy enter the shop.

Fitzwarren Where is that good for nothing mother of yours? She should have been here half an hour ago.

Billy She'll be 'ere soon, Sir. Just putting her slap on as I left.

Fitzwarren That could take hours.

Enter Dame Dilly – USR.

Dilly 'Ere cheeky. I heard that! You can't rush when dealing with such natural beauty as mine!

(To audience) Well hello, hello, hello – pleased to meet you, I'm Mrs Dough. Although to my friends I'm known as Dame Dilly. And I'm sure we'll become friends very quickly. Do you like my nice pink dress? It's my favourite colour.

Fitzwarren Why are you so late this morning, Dame Dilly?

Dilly I was right on time with my baking. Buns in the oven. I have to admit my baps are even looking fine today! And never fear children, I even remembered – sweeties!

Billy That'll cheer everyone up, Mum. Everyone's feeling a bit Sue Lawley **(nursing his stomach)** Poorly!

Dilly Oh that'll never do. Sweeties should cheer everyone up! **(She throws one sweet to each side of the audience)** There you go.

Billy Mum! Stop being so Sean Bean.

Dilly I'm not being mean. **(Points out to the audience)** But that lot out there are so miserable they don't deserve any more sweets.

Fitzwarren **(Moving SR of Dame – still appears poorly)** You're being a bit tight.

Dilly Call it deflation!

Billy I know what'll get this lot going. A competition. I like a competition. 'Ere boss, you can take that side **(SR)** and I'll take this side **(SL)**.

Dilly And I'll be the judge! The loudest side wins sweets!

Billy We'll sing it through once – then all you have to do is sing as loud as you can.

Dilly You'd better tell 'em the words! Are you ready?

Billy, Dilly and Fitzwarren sing through the song.

SONG – Song sheet style

Fitzwarren Right – my side first. Now come on – sing as loud as you can. That's if you want sweets!

Fitzwarren leads the audience SR in the song. Some of the chorus enter USR and join in their side. They clap and cheer as the side does well.

Dilly Oh I say. That was very good.

Billy I bet my side can do better.

Billy leads the audience SL in the song. More chorus enter USL and join in his side. They also clap and cheer as the side does well.

Dilly Well I really don't know what to do now. You all did so well.

Dame Dilly decides a winner and throws out sweets to the winning side – perhaps being generous and giving some to the losers, too! Alice enters from SL.

Alice Daddy – I don't feel well at all.

Fitzwarren Now you come to mention it – I don't feel too good myself.

Billy Me neither!

They are all clutching their stomachs, wiping their brows.

Dilly **(Suddenly)** That's it!

Fitzwarren That's what?

Dilly That's why I was late! Just as I was finishing my baking, a rather lovely lady came by and asked me to make up a special potion. She said that people would suffer if I didn't follow the recipe to the letter and bring it immediately to the shop.

Fitzwarren Well give it here. I'll drink anything to make this pain go away.

SONG

The remaining chorus enter to join in the song. At the end, the curtains close.

SCENE TWO: A London Street

In front of the curtains. Queen Ratifa, Ratman and Vermina enter through the fire curtains.

Ratifa I cannot believe my plan – my beautiful rat poison – has been foiled. And by a pathetic, putrid fairy at that.

Vermina A most excellent plot too, Your Majesty. What shall we do now?

Ratifa Your rattlings will need to keep gnawing away at Fitzwarren's stock.

Ratman I don't know if you've heard, but Fitzwarren has hired a new boy and his cat this very morning.

Ratifa And what of it? Why should that concern me?

Ratman If this cat is any good, then he may be the undoing of your plan to dispose of the Alderman's stock.

Ratifa Have you not trained your rats?

Vermina **(Nudging Ratman)** Of course we have trained them. To the very highest standards.

Ratifa Then a cat should be no trouble for them.

Vermina If you say so.

Ratifa It is what you say that counts. Do you doubt the ability of your rattlings?

Ratman Not so much doubt, it's just that we wouldn't want anything else to go wrong.

Ratifa Very well. You shall need to visit the store again. Make it seem that this new lad and his cat are no more than common thieves.

Ratman And how do we do that?

Ratifa I have seen the Alderman's safe in the shop. The stupid man hides the key in his cash box. When no-one is looking, take the key and empty the safe.

Vermina But what if we can't find his cash box?

Ratifa Very well. I shall visit the shop first. I will find his cash box and leave it on the counter for you to find.

Vermina Oh excellent, Your Majesty. That will make it easy to break into his safe. What shall we do with the money? **(Eagerly)** Keep it?

Ratifa Not this time. Our time for wealth comes later in the show. Place the money upon the boy. Then make your escape.

Ratman Excellent plan!

Ratifa I know **(She laughs)** There really is no-one badder than me!

The audience boos her as the three of them encourage it.

SONG

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SCENE THREE: Inside Fitzwarren's Store

In front of the curtains. There is a sign which has appeared SL through the reds which says the store will be open in 5 minutes. Some of the cast enter through the audience. They end up on stage, forming a queue, behind the sign. Ratman and Vermina stand SL. Queen Ratifa and two children stand SR. Captain, Bosun and a final child stand CS. They queue patiently – music to 'HOT STUFF'. At the end – they all walk off stage, through the curtains. They open to reveal Dame Dilly behind the counter.

Dilly There you all are! I've just been thinking about our little singalong, earlier. It would make a super call-out. So, this is what I want you to do. Every time I come on stage, I want you to shout 'Nice one Dilly!' Shall we have a practice?

Dilly walks into the wings, then re-enters.

Audience Nice one Dilly!

Dilly Oh I say, that'll never do. Let's try it again – but this time – louder!

She walks off stage again and then re-enters.

Audience Nice one Dilly!

Dilly Much better! As you already know, My name is Dame Dilly. My sister, Sarah, was a cook for Alderman Fitzwarren – that was until she got a better offer from [*insert name of another local group*]. Then off she went. So, I took her job. **(To a man in the audience)** Do I have a husband? Ooh, you're a bit forward! What's your name?

Man Bill.

Dilly I'm sorry?

Man Bill!

Dilly No – I heard you – I'm just sorry! I was married, but unfortunately he fell into a huge vat of granulated coffee. It was a terrible way to go but at least it was instant. Actually, I've been married four times. Four better, four worse, four richer and four poorer.

Enter Billy from CSR.

Billy Why are you late this morning mother? The Alderman had a right Brad Pitt when you didn't show.

Dilly As well as the baking, then having to make that compound – how was it by the way?

Billy Worked a treat. I feel much better. That ache in me Matthew Kelly has gone now.

Dilly Well after that, the postman came and I'd got a letter from my opticians.

Billy What did it say?

Dilly It was really bad news. **(Dilly starts to weep into a hanky).**

Billy **(Comforting her)** There, there Mum. It can't be all that bad.

Dilly It was! The optician told me I was colour blind.

Billy Colour blind?

Dilly Yes **(Sobs)** It came as a real bolt out of the orange, I can tell you!

The doorbell rings and in walks Queen Ratifa from US. Billy is behind the counter which is CSR.

Ratifa I'm glad to see you're not busy. I haven't time to spare.

Billy Good morning Madam. We are 'ere to offer you our very best service.

Ratifa How is your bacon this morning?

Billy Mine was 'orrible now I come to think of it. Fatty! **(Looking at Queen Ratifa)**

Ratifa I beg your pardon.

Billy Me bacon. Very fatty.

Ratifa Well I want mine lean.

Billy Which way?! **(He leans to one side)**

Ratifa Forget the bacon. What about sausages?

Dilly Leave this one to me Billy. You go sort out those shelves.

Billy moves SL and busies himself.

Now then Madam. Sausages you say. Well we only have the very best. Stored carefully in our cellar. Let me get them.

Dilly mimes going down stairs behind the counter to the sound effect of footsteps. Then walking back up, bringing with her, thin sausages. Queen Ratifa looks behind the counter and finds the cash box which she places on the counter.

Ratifa What on earth do you call those things? They are far too thin. I want a thicker sausage.

Dilly If you say so. I think I'll take the escalator.

Dilly slides down behind the counter to the sound of a glissando.

Ratifa Are they pork, vegetarian, beef sausages or what?

Dilly What?

Ratifa I mean how do you sell them?

Dilly slides back up to a rising glissando with a chain of thicker sausages.

Dilly To be perfectly honest, I have no idea at all.

Ratifa I mean how much are they?

Dilly Oh! They are three pound a yard.

Ratifa I'll take a metre.

Dilly puts the sausages in a bag and hands them over.

Ratifa How much do I owe you for the sausages?

Billy **(Moving across to Queen Ratifa)** That'll be three pound, sixty two.

Ratifa Do you want the sixty two?

Billy Er, yes – otherwise, they'd be three pounds.

Ratifa Good day.

Queen Ratifa exits USL. Billy and Dilly are both laughing.

Billy Well I 'ope they brighten up her day!

The door bell goes and Child One enters. Dilly goes to serve.

Dilly Now then dear, what can I get you?

Child One I'd like some sweets please.

Dilly You'd like some sweets? What kind of sweets would you like?

Child One I don't know. Can you tell me what kind of sweets you've got?

Dilly **(To audience)** Bless. S/He wants to know what kind of sweets I've got. Well, I've got

Jelly Tots
 Pear Drops
 Haribo and
 Lollipops.
 Sherbert Pips
 Cherry Lips
 Love Hearts and
 Double Dips.
 Candy Mice
 Coconut Ice
 Bon Bons and
 Sugar Mice.

Drumsticks
Dolly Mix
Jelly Beans and
Pick n Mix.

The child goes up to the shop door and calls out.

Child One They've got loads of sweets in this shop!

A second child enters the shop.

Child One Go on. Ask her what she's got.

Child Two What sweets have you got?

Dilly **(This time faster!)** Jelly Tots
Pear Drops
Haribo and
Lollipops.
Sherbert Pips
Cherry Lips
Love Hearts and
Double Dips.
Candy Mice
Coconut Ice
Bon Bons and
Sugar Mice.
Drumsticks
Dolly Mix
Jelly Beans and
Pick n Mix.

Child Two **(Speaking to Child One)** But I want a Curly Whirly.

Child One **(To Dame)** S/He wants a Curly Whirly.

Dilly Well I haven't got a Curly Whirly. Here, take a lolly each and be on your way like good little children.

The children exit USR.

Billy Kids these days. Want it all! Never satisfied wiv' what they've got.

Enter Child Three. And speaks to Dilly. S/He points to a shelf full of toys – high up CSL.

Child Three I'd like one of those Elsa dolls, please.

Dilly **(Looking up)** Oh you would, would you? Billy, fetch me the step ladders.

Billy **(Bringing them over)** 'Ere they are mother, one pair of step ladders.

Dilly Thank you Billy. **(To the Child)** An Elsa doll you said?

Child Three Yes please.

Dilly climbs the ladders to retrieve the doll.

Dilly **(Hands over the doll)** One Elsa doll. You can take the steps back now Billy. That'll be sixpence. Now off you go.

The Child pays and exits. Child Four enters as Billy takes the step ladders back.

Child Four Hello – could I have that fish up there?

Dilly You want that fish? Up there?

Child Four Yes please!

Dilly Would you like an aquarium?

Child Four I don't mind what star sign it is!

Dilly You cheeky little monkey, you. Billy – bring the step ladders.

Billy I wish you'd make your mind up!

Billy fetches the ladders.

Dilly **(Climbing)** Going up! Coming back down!

Child Four I don't want that one. I want the other one.

Dilly Oh for goodness sake. Why didn't you say?

She climbs the ladders again to get a second fish.

Dilly There you go. That'll be sixpence.

The child pays and exits. Child Five enters.

Dilly Now. Before we start. Do you want an Elsa doll?

Child Five No!

Dilly Do you want a fish?

Child Five No!

Dilly Good. Billy – you can take the ladders back.

Billy You sure this time? Too an' fro. Back an' forth. Makes a man dizzy.

Billy takes the ladders back.

Dilly Now, what can I get you?

Child Five I'd like one of those action figures up there.

Dilly I'll give you some action, right on your behind. Come here you!

Dilly chases Child Five around the stage and then off through the shop door, USR.

Dilly I've had enough. I'm going for a lie down. You two can look after the shop.

Dilly exits CSR.

Billy I could do with a bit of a lie down meself. It's ten o'clock and still no sign of Dick.

Dilly The Alderman put 'im to work clearing out the store room.

Billy Well 'e needs to be in 'ere. I don't see why we should be running the shop when 'e's about.

Billy **(Calling off stage)** 'Ere Dick. You're wanted in the shop.

Enter Dick and Tommy. Dick puts his knapsack on the counter.

Dick What do you want us to do?

Billy Well you can tidy and serve in the shop for a start. I've just got to run an errand.

Billy exits out of the shop USR.

Dick Well Tommy, it looks as though it's just you and me.

Alice enters CSR.

Alice Hello Dick. I'm glad you managed to find a job.

Dick It's all thanks to you.

Alice How do you mean?

Dick If you hadn't dropped your purse, then I couldn't have found it and returned it to your father. I think I impressed him by not wanting a reward. How can I ever repay you?

Alice You really don't need to.

Dick One day I will. **(He takes Alice's hand).**

Alice It's really nice having you around.

Dick One day Alice, I shall make my fortune. I'll become rich and maybe even be successful enough to become Lord Mayor.

Alice Lord Mayor? What grand plans you have, Dick.

Dick I feel it's my destiny. One day I want to be the richest and most respected man in town. And when I am, Alice, I shall ask for your hand in marriage.

SONG

During the song, Tommy sits on the counter, obviously enjoying the song.

Alice I can't see how my father could object – especially if you're going to be so rich. I'd better leave you to your work.

Dick Shall I see you later?

Alice exits CSR. Enter Ratman and Vermina USL.

Ratman Good day to you, young Sir.

Dick Good day. What can I get for you?

Ratman walks to SL and Dick follows as Vermina creeps to the cash box to remove the key to the safe. Tommy sees her and goes to try to get Dick's attention. Dick ignores Tommy.

Dick Not now Tommy. Can't you see I'm dealing with a customer?

Ratman Which one of these toys would you recommend as a birthday present?

Dick They are all of the highest quality. I can recommend them all.

Ratman I think that one **(pointing up)** on the very top shelf.

Dick Tommy – bring me the step ladders will you?

Tommy does so, but is still trying to watch what Vermina is doing. Having got the key, she goes to the safe, takes a bag of gold and places it into Dick's knapsack. She then puts the key back.

Vermina **(Having done the deed)** I don't think any of those are suitable. I've heard there's a much better shop down the road.

Ratman You're right. The quality just isn't up to scratch. **(To Dick)** We shan't waste any more of your time.

They exit USR. Tommy is still trying to mime out what has happened – but Dick is having none of it.

Dick **(Putting the ladders back)** I don't know what the matter is Tommy, but you are behaving very strangely.

Captain and Bosun enter the shop USL.

Captain Belay there, splice the mainbrace and shiver me timbers, yer scurvy dogs. Aharr! **(Nudges Bosun)**

Bosun I wish you wouldn't keep nudging me like that Captain. It's starting to hurt a bit now.

Captain Time yer toughened up, Bosun.

Dick Good morning gentlemen **(Going to greet them)** What can I do for you this fine morning?