



Cinderella

by Joshua Clarke and Lewis Clarke

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ACT 1

Prologue

Fairy enters through the front curtains

Fairy: Hello all you girls and boys, so nice of you to join us today!
I'm here to guide you along, in a kind of narrator sort of way;
For I am the Fairy Godmother! I oversee this pantomime.
The only problem is; however, I must talk in rhyme!
Don't worry though, I'm well prepared, test me and I'll pass!
Not so good at dancing though, I always fall on my...face.
Now where was I, oh yes, of course! The reason you're all here,
It's panto time, its soon to start so let me hear you cheer! (*Audience Cheer*)
Well done, madam for doing it on your own –
The rest of you sounded like a herd of cows from Standalone.
Only joking, well done everyone, you all were very near.
So let us try it once again, let me hear you cheer! (*They Cheer again*)
Oh wonderful! But hold on now there's something I forgot.
Oh yes that's right, oh silly me, it's time you heard the plot!
This is a story of enchantment, how love will conquer all.
It has good and evil, song and dance and of course there is a ball!
Our heroine is Cinderella, a girl so kind and sweet.
She needs someone, a prince perhaps to sweep her off her feet!
I'll help her out in every way that a fairy knows best,
But I can only do so much, you must help me with the rest.
So don't forget to scream and shout, and make sure Ella wins!
The stage is set, so here we go. Our pantomime begins!

Fairy waves her wand to open the curtains

Scene 1

Song, Domino – Cinderella, Buttons, Alice and Chorus

Cinderella: Hello boys and girls! My name is Cinderella – but my friends call me Ella - and I live in that house just over there. It's not very convenient living on a stage in the middle of a theatre, but it could be worse, we could live in Arlesey (*Local town*). I used to live there with my father, but he died shortly after marrying my stepmother. It was ever so sad (*Ahhh*). It was sadder than that (*Ahhh*). Yeah, that's about right. So now it's just me, my stepmother and my two stepsisters – which isn't so bad. I mean, they are quite unkind to me. They make me do all the housework and call me ugly and smelly. But I don't care because I've got two wonderful friends to balance it all out. First of all, there's Alice. Oh look, here she comes now!

Alice enters

Alice: Good morning, Ella! Have you seen Buttons?

Cinderella: No, I haven't, but I was just about to tell the boys and girls all about him.

Alice: Ok, well make sure you tell them how dreamy he is.
Cinderella: Alice! You do have strange taste.
Alice: Yes, it hasn't been the same since I had Covid. Come on you, we need to enjoy the last few moments before your awful sisters and stepmother get back from their trip.
Cinderella: Oh, that's right! I forgot to mention boys and girls, they've been away for the last couple of weeks.
Alice: Yeah, and what a relief it's been! Not having to deal with their ninja farts.
Cinderella: Why do you call them ninja farts?
Alice: Because they're silent, but deadly!
Cinderella: You're nuts! Come on, let's go. Bye boys and girls!

Cinderella and Alice exit as Buttons enters

Buttons: Hiya kids! My name is Buttons. That's right – one word, like Madonna, or Greggs. I've had a terrible morning, boys and girls. Everything I touch has come off in my hands. I went to turn the tap on, the top fell off. Went to have a cup of tea and the handle fell off. I haven't been to the toilet all day, boys and girls! Anyway, I work at Hardup Hall with my best friends Cinderella and Alice. Have you met Cinderella boys and girls? **(Yes)** She's beautiful, isn't she? Can I tell you a secret? **(Yes)** I love her! But she doesn't love me back! **(Ah)** It's sadder than that! **(Ah)** Nice ah's, sir! You lot seem fun! Do you want to be my mates? **(Yes!)** Fantastic! Every time I come out here I'll shout 'Hiya Kids!' and you can all shout back, 'Hiya Buttons!' as loud as you can! Can you do that? **(Yes)** Right, here we go! Hiya Kids! **(Hiya Buttons!)** Wow, that was terrible! Come on, let's hear you scream. Hiya Kids! **(Hiya Buttons!)** Getting there, but I can't hear many mums and dads. If you're sat next to a grown up who's not doing it give them a poke and get them to join in. And if they're not doing it, let me know and I'll make them do it on their own. One more time! Hiya Kids! **(Hiya Buttons!)** That was brilliant! So now you know kids, if you ever need your parents to do something, all you have to do is poke them until they do it! Oh, I'm having so much fun with you lot, let's try something else. Right, what I want is to try a Mexican wave all the way across the theatre! Starting on this side, I want you to get out of your seats and wave your arms all around! Here we go! 1, 2, 3, GO! NOOOO! You madam, what's your name? **(Jill)** Jill! I asked you to get up and wave your arms around like crazy, and you just sat there like a sack of potatoes. Now because you didn't do it properly, you're going to have it all by yourself. Nobody else, just Jill! Ready 1, 2, 3, GO! Wow round of applause for Jill everybody!

Alice and Cinderella enter

Cinderella: Hi Buttons!
Buttons: Hi Ella! You look very pretty today. Oh, and Alice, you're here too.
Alice: Charming.
Buttons: No, I'm Buttons. Charming will be along in scene 2. **(To the audience)** Big entrance. Trust me ladies - worth the wait. That is one hunky monkey.
Cinderella: Buttons, we came to warn you. My stepmother will be back any minute.
Buttons: Oh no, not the Baroness! She's so wicked and nasty boys and girls. And when she comes on, you'll need to give her big boo! Can you do that? Right then, show me your boo's! **(Boo)** No madam, I said your *boo's*.
Alice: Go on, do your impression of her Buttons.
Buttons: Nah, I don't really feel like it.
Alice: Oh, go on!
Buttons: No, I can't.
Cinderella: Oh, go on Buttons.

Buttons: Sure Ella, anything you say! (*Baroness enters*)

Baroness evil music cue – Chorus exit in fear

I'm Baroness Hardup and my feet smell like cheese, my breath smells like death and my bottom is as big as a hot air balloon! (Sticks his bottom out into the Baroness who is stood next to him)

Baroness evil music stops

...Hello, Baroness. Did you have a good trip?

Baroness: (**BIG THUNDERCLAP**) Get your bottom off me! You batty, bird-brained, blockhead!

Buttons: You don't have to ask me twice. Go on, boo her! (*Boo*)

Baroness: Oh, please. I've had better booze down the Three Magnets. (*Local pub*)

Cinderella: Hello stepmother, it's lovely to see you again!

Baroness: (*Mimicking*) *It's lovely to see you again.* God, she makes me sick! And you lot (*to the audience*) – what are you doing here? Did you get lost on the way to the Job Centre!? Was it kicking out time at the Four Emblems (*Local pub*)? Now, Stinkerella; my beautiful daughters will be along any moment – so go and run them a bath!

Alice: They sure need one! (*Alice, Cinderella, and Buttons laugh*)

Baroness: What did you say...? Just for that – tonight, Cinderella will be tortured!

Alice: Tortured? How?

Baroness: She'll have to watch the Stevenage Pantomime over and over again. (*Rival panto*)

Cinderella: No, please!

Buttons: You monster.

Baroness: (*To Cinderella*) Now, off you go inside and make my bed.

Alice: She will not!

Baroness: Oh yes she will!

Alice/Buttons: Oh no she won't!

Baroness: Oh yes she will!

Audience: Oh no she won't!

Baroness: Oh yes she will!

Audience: Oh no she won't!

Baroness: Will will will!

Audience: Won't won't won't!

Cinderella: It's alright, boys and girls. I'll make your bed stepmother. In fact, would you like a chocolate covered raisin on your pillow?

Baroness: Finally, some proper service!

Cinderella: Come on Alice! Let's go and get those special chocolate covered raisins.

Alice: Where from?

Cinderella: The floor of the rabbit hutch. Haha! Bye boys and girls!

Alice and Cinderella exit

Baroness: Now Buttons, I want you to go over there and grab my bags.

Buttons: Always getting me to do the heavy lifting Jill! It's because I'm so strong you see. (*Makes several silly muscle poses. FART SOUND*) Sorry!

Baroness: Hurry up you numptee!

Buttons: Alright, keep your knickers on! (*goes off to collect all of the cases*) Blimey! What have you got in here? (*Drags them to the front of the stage and slams the smallest one on top of the others*) I rest my case.

Baroness: Now put them in the house.

Buttons: Well, you couldn't have said that before I dragged them all the way over here when the house is all the way over there. Honestly, I don't know what I do this for. (*Throws the suitcases into the house one by one*) One, two, three. There we go that's the last of them. (*The last of the bags gets thrown back onto stage and hits Buttons*) What?! Get back in there you naughty bag! (*Throws it into the house*) There we go. (*The bag gets thrown back and hits Buttons*) You think you're a wise little bag or something, right here we go! (*Buttons winds up and absolutely launches into the house*) And stay in! (*An identical bag is thrown on from the opposite side of the stage and hits Buttons*) How did that happen? The last bag won't go in the house.

Baroness: What did you call me? I'll get you for that! (*Baroness chases Buttons into the house and there is a loud crash and bang sound effect! Buttons comes back on stage with the bag stuck on his head*)

Buttons: Wow, she is horrible boys and girls! She stuck this bag on my head!

Sisters: Cooee!

Buttons: Speaking of things that could do with a bag on their head.

The ugly stepsisters enter on either side of the stage to squash Buttons in the middle.

Ginger: There you are Buttocks!

Buttons: Oi! It's Buttons!

Hayley: Look sis! A crowd has gathered to welcome us home.

Ginger: Oooh, no doubt they've come to gaze at my beauty!

Buttons: Careful boys and girls, their faces are like an eclipse.

Hayley: Is that because it's rare to see such beauty?

Buttons: No, it's because if you look directly at them, you might go blind!

Ginger: Oi, I'll have you know, I have the face of a saint.

Buttons: Yeah, a Saint Bernard.

Hayley: Buttons, get inside and make sure our beds are turned down.

Ginger: Our baths are drawn.

H & G: And our dinners are on the table.

Buttons: Right, you drawers are down, your beds are on the table and your dinners are in the bath! Got it! (*Buttons exits into the house*)

Hayley: Sis, we haven't introduced ourselves to the paying crowd yet.

Ginger: Alright, let's get a move on then!

Hayley: Hello everyone, my name is Hayley Tosis.

Ginger: And my name is Ginger Vitis!

Hayley: Now we know what you're thinking.

Ginger: And you're right, we are not just sisters.

H & G: We're identical twin sisters!

Hayley: But of course, I'm the pretty one! (*Asks the audience*) Aren't I?

Ginger: No, I am. (*Asks the audience*) Aren't I?

Hayley: You?! You have so many gaps in your teeth, it looks like your tongue is in jail!

Ginger: Well, your face looks like it caught fire, and someone tried to put it out with a fork!

Hayley: Oh, come along now. We've got to be ladylike if we are ever going to meet a man.

Ginger: Oh, you're right. What about a man in the audience?

Hayley: Yes! Boys, could you bring the house lights up, please? (*House lights up*) Oh,

goodness! Turn them off! Turn them off! My eyes, Ginge! My eyes!

Ginger: I've seen better looking crowds down the Jackmans Community Centre. (*Local place*)

Hayley: I know. Boys, whilst you're at it – do that lighting effect! You know, the one that makes us look beautiful! (*Lights out*)

Fanfare from offstage – Lights up.

Buttons, Cinderella, Alice and chorus enter in excitement

Cinderella: Did you hear that, Buttons? It must mean there's a royal announcement.

Buttons: Oh no, what's Prince Andrew done now?

Dan and Dini enter riding imaginary horses

Dan: Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye!

Buttons: Alright, alright. We hear ye!

Dini: Oh, that's good!

Alice: Why are you two pretending to ride a horse?

Dan: Well, normally we ride a pony but he's poorly – he's got a sore throat.

Cinderella: Oh, I'm sorry to hear that.

Dini: Yeah, it's alright. He's just a little horse.

Buttons: Who are you two?

Dan: We are the Princes Valet's.

Dini: We work over there in the Palace. (*Trying to rhyme*)

Dan: I'm Dan, he's Dini.

Dini: He's the one with the teeny we-

Dan: -We need to make a royal announcement. (*Hits Dini with a parchment*)

Dini: Ahem – (*reading*) Toilet roll, tomatoes, sausages, 2 pints of milk – oh.

Dan: Other side!

Dini: Yes – This afternoon, there will be a royal treasure hunt in the royal forest hosted by his Royal Highness – Prince Charming, and his royal father - the King. It will be very royal. Bring your favourite tipple. Hear ye, hear ye. (*Still reading*) Dan and Dini exit stage left – oh no, wait – that's... (*realises*) yes.

Dan: Idiot! (*Snatches parchment back*)

Dini: Giddyup! (*They both ride their imaginary horses*)

Dan and Dini exit

Cinderella: What a strange pair.

Buttons: (*Looking at Hayley's chest*) I don't think they're real to be honest.

Ginger: Hayls! The prince is in the woods!

Hayley: Yes, I can't wait to grab him by the chestnuts!

Ginger: You'll have to get past me, minger!

They scuffle and exit

Cinderella: Oh, I would love to meet the Prince. I wonder what he's like.

Alice: I've got a programme here – would you like to see?
Buttons: Yes, and these can be purchased from the front-of-house team for £2. This production doesn't pay for itself, you know.
Cinderella: You two are silly.
Buttons: Ella – guess what.
Cinderella: What Buttons?
Buttons: I've got a little ditty.
Cinderella: Yes, I know, I've seen it.
Buttons: NO! I mean I've got this *song* that I think perfectly sums up how we're all feeling right now.

SONG – Can't Hurry Love

SNAP BLACKOUT

Scene 2

Front tabs

Fairy enters

Fairy: Hello, me again! I bet you were wondering where I'd gone.
But I'm back, quicker than the fastest cake. The fastest cake? Scone!
Now it's time for me to push the plot in a whole new direction.
It's like the time I intervened to stop Trump winning another election.
Cinderella's a lovely girl, so sweet and truly good.
But she doesn't look very happy, not from where I'm stood.
I'll soon put a stop to that, with a dash of sparkle and a little twirl;
I'll present a handsome man – a prince perhaps, a perfect match for our gorgeous girl.
(*Looks off stage*) Oh, no – It's the Baroness! Now remember what Buttons told you to do.
Shout, hiss and don't forget to boo!

Baroness: Mwahahaha! (*Boo*) Oh, if I was as ugly as you, I'd boo too. So – a royal treasure hunt, with the prince in attendance. He's bound to fancy one of my daughters, (*to audience*) isn't he? (*NO*) Oh yes, he is! (*Oh no he isn't*) Oh yes, he is! (*Oh no he isn't*) Keep that up and I'll poison your ice-creams for the interval! You think that's evil? Ha! Watch this... (*Calling off stage*) Oh, Cinderella!

Cinderella enters

Cinderella: Yes, stepmother?
Baroness: A little birdy told me that you were hoping to go to the royal treasure hunt this afternoon?
Cinderella: Yes, it's true. All my friends will be there, and I would so love to meet the prince! I've finished all my chores for the day – please, stepmother!
Baroness: Ah. Well, in that case, of course, Cinderella!
Cinderella: You mean...? (*excited*)
Baroness: Of course, you can go to the royal treasure hunt.
Cinderella: Really!?
Baroness: Yes! When Tottenham Hotspur win a trophy! HAHAAHAHA!
Cinderella: You monster!

Cinderella exits, crying

Baroness: Oh, *boohoo*! Mark my words – one of my beautiful daughters *will* marry the prince, then I will be Queen; and when I am, I'll string up the Paw Patrol dogs, one-by-one! Don't you just love me!?

Scene 3a

Royal fanfare music cue

The royal treasure hunt in the forest. Dan, Dini and the chorus are gathered.

Dan: Welcome, welcome – one and all; to the royal treasure hunt! The prince will be along any moment, so please talk amongst yourselves.

Dini: Wow! Nice work, Dan. There're loads of girls here. The prince is bound to meet someone!

Dan: Yes, plenty of hot totty!

Dini: You can't say that.

Dan: What? Why not?

Dini: Sexist.

Dan: Oh for goodness sake, you're acting like an old biddy.

Dini: No, no, no!

Dan: What?

Dini: Ageist.

Dan: Don't be such a big, fat party-poooper.

Dini: Nope! Size-ist.

Dan: *(Mimicking)* 'Nope! Size-ist.'

Dini: Impressionist.

Dan: Oh, this isn't going well.

Dini: Pessimist.

Dan: I can't do this anymore.

Dini: Defeatist.

Dan: They loved these jokes at the Gordon Craig.

Dini: Plagiarist.

Dan: This scene went downhill fast.

Dini: Tobogganist.

Larger than life note hit

Dan: Quick, everyone – here he comes! Places!

Dini: Yes, and please ladies - no screaming and no fainting.

Song - Larger than life – Prince, Dan, Dini and chorus

Prince: I may run and hide when you're screaming my name, alright!

Several chorus' scream. One faints

Dini: What did I just say!?

Dan and Dini settle chorus down and song continues

Dan: Good Afternoon, your highness. Nice vocal work at the end there!

Prince: Thank you. Wasn't too much, was it?

Dini: No sire, the ladies love it.

Prince: Guys, I hate all this decorum. I'm only here because my father forced me to attend the hunt. I just... well, I wish I was an ordinary, boring sort of person, really. Someone like you – Dan.

Dan: Cheers.

Prince: And all these constant royal duties mean I only ever meet ladies of the court. I want to meet *normal* people!

Dini: *Normal* people? In *Letchworth*?

Dan: I don't get it sire, why wouldn't you want to marry one of the girls here.

Prince: I don't want to marry someone who faints every time I speak to them.

Dini: I think you're being a bit arrogant there, your maj.

Prince: Oh really? (*Walks over to a girl from the chorus and smiles*) Hi! (*She faints*) See?

Dini: Please, I reckon the same thing would happen if I did it.

Prince: Be my guest!

Dini: (*Dini walks over to the same girl who has composed herself*) Hi! (*She slaps him in the face*)
Alright, fair enough sire!

Royal fanfare - King enters

Dan: Please welcome, his royal highness – the King.

All bow

King: Make way! Make way for me! Cleopatra, coming at ya! (*To audience*) Hello, Baldock! (*Dan whispers in his ear*) Sorry, Letchworth! Yes, I wondered what that smell was. (*Sees prince*) Charming! There you are my boy. Have you found a suitable match yet?

Prince: Oh, Father. What's the point? No one really wants to get to know the real me. All they want is fancy gowns and tediously long balls.

King: That happens to all of us as we get older, I'm afraid.

Prince: All anyone sees is royalty. How do you ever expect me to find true love?

King: Son, one day everything the light touches will be yours.

Dan: (*To dini*) Alright, Mufasa. (*They laugh*)

King: See, we're all connected by what I call, 'The Circle of Life'.

Dini: He doesn't even know he's doing it.

King: Get yourself a bride and you'll have no worries for the rest of your days.

Dan: Ok, sire, I'm going to have to stop you there before we get a copyright strike.

King: Hakuna Matata!

Dan/Dini: Great/he's done it.

King: Now, commence the hunt and be done with it. The Bake Off starts in 20 minutes!

Prince: Fine. (*Addressing the chorus, unenthusiastically*) Welcome to the annual royal treasure hunt. As is tradition, whomsoever finds this golden coin may keep it for themselves. Go fetch! (*Throws the coin off stage*)

Chorus run off stage

King: Excellent. Now I must go and see to the festive decorations. I've just bought the Christmas tree for the Palace.

Dini: Oh nice, will you be putting it up yourself?

King: Don't be crass, Dini! I'll be putting it up in the lounge. Goodbye!

King exits

Prince: Well, it looks like my duty here is done. I'll be off too.

Dan: Come on, stick around, sire! There's plenty of time to meet other women. Look! Here come two now.

Sisters enter

Dini: Blimey. It's Joe Exotic and Carole Baskin.

Hayley: Keep up, Ginge.

Ginger: You're too quick for me, Hayls

Hayley: I know – just call me Usain Bolt.

Ginger: Please. The only time I've seen you bolt is when the all-you-can-eat buffet opens at Dragon King.

Hayley: (*Noticing the others*) Ginge, look! Men!

Ginger: Hubba, hubba, come to mumma!

Dan: Ladies, allow me to introduce you to the prince!

Sisters: The prince! (*They rush to the prince either side*)

Prince: Cheers, Dan.

Ginger: Your majesticals (*Curtsy*)

Hayley: Your Imperial Leather (*Curtsy and farts*)

Dan: How dare you pass wind before his royal highness.

Hayley: I'm sorry, I didn't realise it was his turn.

Dini: When addressing a prince, you must say 'your grace'.

H & G: (*They drop to their knees*) For what we are about to receive, may the lord make us truly thankful.

Prince: (*Looking off stage*) Look over there, there's a cougar!

All: *Where!?*

Prince runs off and exits. Dini jumps into Dan's arms.

Hayley: We've been fooled, Ginge.

Ginger: Should've known. The only 'cougars' you'll see in Letchworth (*wherever the panto is performed*) are down at the Cultivo Lounge. (*Local bar*)

Dan: If you will excuse us, *ladies*.

Hayley: Ginge, if the prince has gone walkabouts, how about these two?

Ginger: Oh yes. Two of us, two of them.

Hayley: You can only pick one, Ginge.

Ginger: (*Ginger goes in between Dan and Dini and, pulls them towards her*) Dan and Dini, put me inbetweeny.

Dini: Run!

Dan and Dini run into the audience, pursued by Hayley and Ginger. They all exit.

During this – scene change – front cloth comes in.

Scene 3b

Cinderella enters carrying firewood

Cinderella: Hello boys and girls! I'm just out collecting firewood for my delightful stepmother. I'd hoped I might bump into the prince, but it seems there's no one out here at all....

Fairy enters and freezes Cinderella

Fairy: Cinderella, Cinderella. A girl so sweet and true.
Now it's time for the romantic bit – (*gesturing to the audience*) everyone say 'woo!' (*Woo*)
Love is coming, that's a fact – as Cinders will soon know.
Yes, I say, it's time to act! Makes a change for this Panto.
I will tamper with time and space, to put Prince Charming here, in this place. (*Prince Charming magically enters*)
Charming wants to meet a girl, who will see beyond the glam and glitz.
So, to ensure that this will unfurl, I will remove his princely bits...
His *hat* and his *sash*, you filthy lot. (*She removes his hat and sash*) Yes, that'll do nicely.
Perhaps take his trousers too? (*Goes to do so*) Maybe not – he just squeezed his bum so tightly.
The scene is set, a beautiful pair – I am a match-making master!
It's Cinders' time - it's only fair - to find her happily ever after.

Both: Oh, wow...hello...sorry...you first...no you...jinx...jinx again! (*Singing*) *Our mental synchronization.*

Prince: Hey, I love Frozen!

Cinderella: So do I!

Prince: Here, (*goes to help her with firewood*) let me help you with that. (*Prince carries some firewood and puts some in his pocket*) What's all this for?

Cinderella: I'm collecting kindling.

Prince: Great! (*Puzzled*) why?

Cinderella: To make a fire, silly! (*Laughing*) I'm sure you've seen people collecting kindling before!

Prince: Ah, no – you see - I don't get out much. See, I'm a Pri-

Cinderella: (*Laughing*) You're a what?

Prince: ...A prat. A total prat! (*Pause*) I'm feeling...something I've never felt before. Then again, it could just be the twigs in my pocket.

Cinderella: I feel the same.

Prince: And the strangest thing about all this is...I don't even know how I got here!

Cinderella: Neither do I. But I'm glad you're here. Things like this never happen to girls like me!

Prince: I hope you don't mind – but I have this awful habit of breaking into song when I'm emotional.

Cinderella: No way, me too!

SONG – 1000 Miles

Song still playing over dialogue

Prince: In all that singing, I got completely carried away and forgot to ask – what is your name?
Cinderella: It's -

Dan and Dini enter

Dan: - Help, sire! Help!

Cinderella exits – Dini jumps into Prince's arms

Dini: We're being chased by those two horrible old men – women – men – I don't even know.
Prince: *(Drops Dini)* You idiots! You scared her off! She was the girl of my dreams!
Dan: Really? All we got were the two nightmares from elm street!
Prince: What am I going to do!? She was so beautiful, and I don't even know her name. *(He has an idea)* I know – I'll hold one of my famous balls!
Dini: Sorry sir?
Prince: We will invite every girl in the kingdom to attend!
Dan: Even those two hideous old bags who were chasing us!?
Prince: It's the only way I can be sure of seeing her again. Come on, let's get back to the palace. I will see that girl again – if it's the last thing I do!

Prince begins reprise of 1000 miles

Dini: What's he doing?
Dan: He sings when he gets emotional.

Dini interrupts and music breaks down

Dini: Sire, we have a lot to do, and we'd do it all a lot quicker if you didn't sing.
Prince: Fair point.

Blackout

Scene 4

Hardup Hall

Song – Buttons, Alice, and chorus

Buttons: Hiya kids! (*Hiya Buttons*) Oh, I hate all this cleaning and tidying stuff. I'm no good at DIY, definitely not a handy man either – you'd be shocked to find out what a bad electrician I am. I've had lots of jobs, but nothing seems to stick. I used to build belts made of watches – but that was a waste of time. Worked for an elevator company – it had its ups and downs. In a barber shop – but I couldn't cut it. Car mechanic – too exhausting. Plumber – too draining. Velcro making – rip off. (*Acknowledging the bad jokes*) I did have a job in Panto – but I think that's behind me.

Alice: Buttons, can I interrupt?

Buttons: I wish you would – for all our sakes.

Alice: I'm worried about Ella. She only popped out for some firewood, and she's been gone ages.

Buttons: I'm sure she'll be back soon, and when she is, I'm gonna tell her!

Alice: Tell her what?

Buttons: OK – well it's a massive secret. But the truth is, I love her!

Alice: I know, Buttons.

Buttons: You know!?

Alice: *Everyone* knows.

Buttons: I thought it was a secret. (*To audience*) Who's been blabbing? It was you, wasn't it Jill.

Alice: Calm down, Buttons.

Buttons: I need to tell her, but I'm terrible around girls.

Alice: OK. (*Reluctant*) I'll help you. First – try showing her your soft side.

Buttons: I did, but I got thrown out of Morrisons for public indecency.

Alice: No – it's more about the way you hold yourself.

Buttons: They threw me out for that, too.

Alice: OK, forget that – try taking her out to dinner and being playful. (*Alice gets closer to Buttons*) Say things like – 'pass me the sauce, saucy'.

Buttons: Oh, OK. Like – 'pass me the chicken, nugget'.

Alice: No, like (*she gets closer*) 'pass me the sugar, sugar'

Buttons: 'Pass me the coffee, mug.'

Alice: No! Last chance, Buttons. Like (*She gets closer again*) 'pass me the sweets, sweetie'

Buttons: (*They are close now*) Pass me the pepper, pig. (*Alice gasps and slaps Buttons*)

Alice and Chorus exit in a huff

Doorbell rings

Buttons: I'll get it then, shall I? (*Buttons opens the door to the Prince and the King*)

Prince and King enter

King: Good day to you, squire.

Buttons: Alright, mate. Who are you?

King: Hello...it's me!

Buttons: Adele?

King: No! The King! And this is my son, Prince Charming.

Prince: Pleasure to meet you. Please ensure everyone in this house receives one of these (*hands him the invites*)

Buttons: What are these?

King: They are invitations. The prince is holding a ball!

Buttons: Tell him to be careful in Morrisons.

King: Now, we must be getting on, Charming. We've got to deliver this lot to the rest of the County by sundown!

Prince: Yes, Father. *(To Buttons)* What's the fastest way to get to Ashwell?

Buttons: Are you travelling by car or foot?

Prince: By car.

Buttons: That's definitely the fastest way.

King: Right, we shall bid you adieu.

Buttons: Bless you.

Prince and King exit

Cinderella enters

Cinderella: Who was that Buttons?

Buttons: Just two blokes in funny hats. One of them had a cold, I think. And – *(realises it's Cinderella)* Ella, you're back!

Cinderella: I am. Oh, Buttons – I think I've found love! *(Holds Buttons hands)*

Buttons: No way! Me too!

Cinderella: Isn't it the most amazing feeling!

Buttons: So amazing, I could burst! So... *(cocky)* what is it that you love so much about this bloke?

Cinderella: He's caring!

Buttons: *(To audience)* I'm caring!

Cinderella: He's kind!

Buttons: *(To audience)* I'm kind!

Cinderella: He's handsome!

Buttons: *(To audience)* I'm kind!

Cinderella: Today is turning out to be so magical!

Buttons: Well, it's about to get even more magicalier, because *(holds up invitations)* this is a –

Alice enters

Alice: Who was that at the door, Buttons? And what's that in your hand?

Buttons: Well, I was just about to say, it's a –

Sisters enter

Hayley: What's going on here.

Ginger: What's that bit of paper, Buttons?

Buttons: If I could just finish; this is a –

Baroness enters – evil music cue

Buttons: - Oh, for goodness' sake!

Baroness: Let me see those, Buttons. *(Buttons hands her all the invites - except one, which he hides behind his back)* His royal highness, Prince Charming cordially invites you to the royal ball. Girls, this is it! This is our chance! *(Sisters high-five)* When the prince sees you in your ball gowns, he won't know what's hit him.

Cinderella: I doubt he's been hit by a double-decker bus before!

Baroness: You think you're funny, girl? I only count 5 invites – that must mean you don't have one!

(Buttons secretly hands Cinders an invite when the Baroness isn't looking)

Cinderella: *(Feigning sadness)* Yep. 'No skivvies allowed'; I'm told.

Baroness: Well, I'm glad our royals have standards. Can't have you getting in the way of my daughters now, can I? Cinderella, Alice, Buttons – I had a jalfrezi last night, and now my toilet needs a good scrubbing. I suspect it'll be a 3-person-job. Off you pop!

Alice: Oh, Wonderful.

Buttons: Jill – trade with me!? *(No)* Brilliant.

Cinderella, Alice and Buttons exit

Baroness: You two need to start getting ready for the ball.

Hayley: But Mumzikins, the ball isn't until tomorrow.

Baroness: Well, let's be honest, you'll need every second you can get. Get on with it! Tomorrow is the day of days!

Baroness exits. Sisters sit a make-up station.

Ginger: Come on then, Hayls. Let's make ourselves look young. *(To audience)* Did you know, Hayley is actually the older twin. She's older than me.

Hayley: It's true. And mummy is older than both of us.

Ginger: It would be weird if our Mum was younger than us.

Hayley: Yeah, I mean, we're not from Jackmans. *(Local rough estate)*

Ginger: Hayls, we couldn't possibly get ready on our own. We're going to need some help.

Hayley: You're right. Bunion!

Buttons enters

Buttons: I'm not answering to that.

Ginger: Looks like you just did. We need help getting ready for the ball!

Hayley: Oi, Buttons! How come you put super glue on one of my darts?

Buttons: You just can't let it go can you.

Ginger: Are you going to help us or not?

Buttons: Yes.

Hayley: Are you sure? You know what happens to people who tell lies, Buttons.

Buttons: Yes, I do, they end up working for the council.

Ginger: Come on, Buttons. We need some powder for our noses to start

Buttons: I don't see any powder around here.

Hayley: Don't worry – we've got the latest Amazon technology at Hardup Hall. That telephone there has a direct line to Boots.

Ginger: And all you have to say is, 'Hello, could you send me up some powder, please?'

Buttons: So, I just have to say, 'Hello, could you send me up some powder, please?' and then I'll get it?

Hayley: Yes, you'll definitely get it.

Buttons: Here I go. *(Goes over to the phone)* 'Hello, could you send me up some powder, please?'
(Big puff of powder comes out and hits Buttons in the face)

Ginger: No! You did it wrong. You've got to say; 'Hello, could you send me up some powder, please?' and get your head out of the way!