



Cinderella

by Dave Crump

2019

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Characters

Cinderella	A charming principal girl but with some gumption, she is not the sickly sweet character of many pantos. (F)
Prince Charming	The traditional principal boy, a hero with a warm heart and a dashing figure. (F)
Dandini	In this version Dandini is a baddie giving a more sinister foil to the Fairy Godmother. He is vain, self centred and pompous. (M/F)
Brigadier Hardup	A bumbling ex-military explorer, he should be played by an older man. He is henpecked by Lady Hardup and is constantly torn between his love for Cinders and his fear of his wife and stepdaughters. (M)
Lady Hardup:	A battleaxe of the highest order. She is vicious and mean and really has no redeeming features at all. She should be haughty and proud. (F)
Portia:	One of the two ugly sisters, she is ugly (obviously) but also stupid and has a cruel streak. She hates Cinderella but then she hates her other sister too. (M)
Chardonay	Portia's other half. Chardonay is just as vicious and spiteful as her sister and takes every opportunity to belittle Cinders. (M).
Buttons	The most famous audience participation character of them all. Buttons is in love with Cinders but never gets the girl. The audience feel sympathetic to him for this unrequited love but Buttons himself is quite a cocky character when it comes to the other sisters. (M/F)
Fairy Godmother	A warm friendly mother figure to Cinderella who of course saves the day. She should be capable of charming the audience but has a twinkle in her eye when it comes to dealing with Dandini. (F)
The Brokers Men	The classic Pantomime comedy double act, traditional in Cinderella but missing from many versions. They help give some contrast to the Ugly sister who might otherwise steal every good line for themselves. (M)
Mr Wonga	The straight man, he is stupid but considers himself intelligent compared to his partner.
Mr Sponduliks	A hypochondriac, if his brains were dynamite he wouldn't have enough to blow his hat off.

SONGS:

ACT 1

Song 1 – It's a Lovely Day Today – Chorus
 Song 2 – Blue Skies – Buttons and Hardup
 Song 3 – This is the moment – Dandini
 Song 4 – Money Money Money – Portia, Chardonay and Lady H
 Song 5 – S'Wonderful – Prince and Cinders
 Song 6 – A Baddies Song is hard to find – Dandini, Wonga and Spondulicks
 Song 7 – Dancing Queen - Chorus

ACT 2

Song 8 – Sing a Smiling Song - Palace Servants Chorus
 Song 9 – Mister Cellophane – Buttons
 Song 10 – You've Got and Friend in me – Buttons and Cinders
 Song 11 – Tonight's the Night
 Song 12 – I'm not that girl – Cinders
 Song 13 – Stepsisters Lament – Portia and Chardonay
 Song 14 – You Can't Stop the Beat - Chorus
 Song 15 – Community Song
 Song 16 - Finale

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1

Prologue
 Scene 1 – The village
 Scene 2 – A path in the forest
 Scene 3 – The kitchen at Hardup Hall
 Scene 4 – The Royal hunt
 Scene 5 – The village

ACT 2

Prologue
 Scene 1 – The Palace
 Scene 2 – A path in the forest
 Scene 3 – The kitchen at Hardup Hall
 Scene 4 – A path in the forest
 Scene 5 – The Ball at the Palace
 Scene 6 – A path in the forest
 Scene 7 – The Kitchen at Hardup Hall
 Scene 8 – The Community Songsheet
 Scene 9 – The Palace - Finale

ACT 1

Prologue –

(Fairy Godmother enters into spotlight d.s.r.)

Fairy: Hello boys and girls. Is this Sutton Coldfield? I said is this Sutton Coldfield? Oh of course, I can smell the money from here. You do look posh. All in your best frocks – and the ladies look lovely too. Do you know who I am? You do? That's right I'm the Fairy Godmother - smarty pants, oh that's terrible isn't it – when you drop Smarties down your pants – they get all covered in fluff – has that happened to you moms and dads? Oh yes, look that blokes trying to find his now. Anyway, I'd better tell you why I'm here. Now have you all heard the story of Cinderella? You have? Oh well in that case we can pack up early and open the bar. Only joking, well you'll know that Cinderella is a lovely young girl who I'm here to help. Yes I'm her fairy godmother and I'm here to keep an eye on her.

Dandini: And I'm keeping an eye on her too.

Fairy: Who are you?

Dandini: You can call me Dandini.

Fairy: What does everyone else call you?

Dandini: Dandini.

Fairy: I see. Go on.

Dandini: I'm the baddie of this little story.

Fairy: Well I'm glad we cleared that up, now I must be off.

Dandini: Wait! I haven't told you why I'm a baddie yet. I haven't made them boo or hiss.

Fairy: Oh I don't think they'll boo and hiss. This is Sutton Coldfield, they're very refined. They might shout 'poor show' or 'what a bounder', but never boo and hiss.

Dandini: We'll see. Listen you snivelling lot. I'm Dandini, Prince Charming's personal servant, but not everything is as it appears. You see unbeknownst to him.

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Fairy: Unbeknownst. Good word. Write that down – I'll use that in conversation.

Dandini: Will you stop interrupting!

Fairy: Sorry.

Dandini: I'm also...

Fairy: Won't happen again.

Dandini: I'm also his younger half brother...

Fairy: Which half?

Dandini: *(Through gritted teeth)* ...and I'm about to claim the throne for myself – and there's nothing you or this pathetic lot can do to stop me! Ha ha ha!. *(Audience boo and hiss)*. See I told you they could do it.

Fairy: I'm ashamed of them. So you're his secret half brother?

Dandini: It's very complicated, my dad the King and my mom were cousins, that's why I look so much alike, and now he's dead so either Princey or me has to be the new King.

Fairy: But if he's older it goes to him doesn't it?

Dandini: Not quite. You see there's a little known law here in Panto-land that says that no-one can claim the throne until they are married. So all I have to do is make sure that I get married before him and the throne is mine.

Fairy: All right, try your chat up lines on me, go on I'll be the woman you pretend to be the man.

Dandini: Never mind me – the main thing is to keep the Prince away from any eligible ladies. And I'm warning you Fairy, stay out of my way – got it? *(Exit)*

Fairy: What about that boys and girls – we'll have to keep an eye on him won't we? Now what was I saying. Ah yes, I'm here to help Cinderella, and it sounds to me like maybe we should help her meet a Prince? Will you help me?

Audience: Yes!

Fairy: Brilliant, now don't forget to shout and cheer, and as someone once said, if you're too posh for that you can rattle your jewellery. See you later!!

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Scene 1: The Village

(The scene is a village market square. The townsfolk are going about their business. Buttons is in the crowd getting some shopping.)

SONG 1: It's a Lovely Day Today - Chorus

(Town crier steps forwards, he is wearing a large floral coat along with the traditional tricorn hat, etc.)

Town Crier: Oh Yeh! Oh Yeh!

Man 1: What now you silly old fool?

Town Crier: *(Bursting in to tears)* Oh that's not nice is it?

Man 2: Well you do go on.

Town Crier: *(Sobs)* But you're all supposed to listen to me.

Women: How can we take you seriously dressed like that? You look like you're wearing a pair of caravan curtains.

Town Crier: *(Sobs)* Everybody's horrible to me.

Buttons: What's up with him?

Woman: He's the town cryer.

Buttons: *(To Crier)* There there, who's upset you?

Town Crier: That woman said I looked like a pair of curtains.

Buttons: Come on, pull yourself together. You've got important news.

Town Crier: How do you know?

Buttons: Call it feminine intuition.

Town Crier: But you're a man.

Buttons: Then it's even more remarkable. Get on with it.

Town Crier: Right *(blows his nose loudly)*. Oh Yeh! To raise money for charity the lord mayor has had his head shaved.

Buttons: I've heard of council cuts but that's ridiculous.

Town Crier: He's had his hair shaved into stripes.

Buttons: You call that news?

Town Crier: Just the headlines.

Buttons: You're beginning to get on my nerves.

Town Crier: *(Sobs)* Not you as well.

Buttons: I think you're taking this town crying too literally. Give it here *(takes the scroll)* Hear ye! The Prince has returned from the wars to find a wife and claim the throne.

All: Hooray!

Buttons: And he'll be here any minute, make ready the town for his arrival!

All: *(Ad lib)* Ah! He's coming, quick tidy up, get your best frock on. *(All exit).*

Buttons: *(To Town Crier)* How did I do?

Town Crier: Really well *(sobs)* you'll put me out of a job *(exits).*

Buttons: *(To audience)* Honestly! Some people are never happy. Oh hello – I didn't notice you lot there lurking about in the dark. Can you guess who I am? You can? Well look at my jacket – see all them buttons? That's right my names Velcro. Only kidding – I'm Buttons, but you knew that didn't you? Of course you did, I can see you're intelligent just by the way you're all facing in the right direction. Velcro – I mean, that's just a rip off. That was fun being town crier, but actually I've already got a job – that's why I wear this uniform. I'm footman at Hardup Hall. I'm the most important servant there, in fact I'm the only servant there so it can be a bit lonely. I know will you keep me company? You will? Oh great. I tell you what when I come on will you shout – hello Buttons? You will? Brilliant – lets try it. *(he runs off, then on again)* Hello boys and girls!

Audience: Hello Buttons!

Buttons: Blimey that wasn't very good – you made more noise unwrapping your sweets when you came in. Have you all got sweets? No? Oh

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well I've got some here – would you like some? You would? All right then, here you go *(he throws out some sweets)*. Right that's your lot, now where were we. Oh yes, we were practicing shouting 'Hello Buttons' - let's have another go *(runs off and back on)* Hello boys and girls!

Audience: Hello Buttons!

Buttons: *(As if he's got a mouthful of sweets)* Hello Buttons! I think we'll try again when you've finished your sweets. It's lovely to have some new friends. I've only got one you see. Her name is Ella and she lives at the Hall too. Her mother passed away and her father went off exploring to try and find his fortune so there's just her left to look after now. I wonder where she is? She was supposed to meet me here after her netball practice.

(Cinderella enters looking fed up).

Cinders: Hello Buttons.

Buttons: Hello Ella, whatever's the matter?

Cinders: I've got thrown out of the netball team.

Buttons: What happened?

Cinders: I kept running away from the ball.

Buttons: Oh dear.

Cinders: Never mind, we'd better get back, we've got to get the Hall tidy - daddy is due back from his travels today.

Buttons: It's about time, I mean he's been gone six months and you haven't heard a peep from him till his letter this morning. Did he say if he'd had any luck?

Cinders: He said we'd never have to worry about money again.

Buttons: Thank goodness, I mean since your mother died we haven't had two pennies to rub together.

Cinders: Yes it was a shame she didn't tell anyone where she kept the housekeeping.

Buttons: I mean it's been terrible, having to get rid of all the servants.

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Cinders: But you stayed Buttons.

Buttons: I only stayed because I like you so much. I couldn't watch you doing the washing and cooking and cleaning all by yourself.

Cinders: Oh Buttons, what would I do without you?

Buttons: You'd have to put the bins out as well.

Cinders: Well, our troubles are over. Now Daddy's back we'll be all right.

Buttons: Did he say where he'd been?

Cinders: He bought a round the world ticket.

Buttons: One way?

Cinders: He set off for South Africa.

Buttons: Ooh, perhaps he's found a diamond mine.

Cinders: But ended up in South America.

Buttons: No sense of direction that bloke. My dad was the same – he walked around the world.

Cinders: What happened to him?

Buttons: He drowned.

Cinders: Daddy won't let me down – he said he wouldn't come back until he'd found his fortune. I'll see you back at the Hall. *(Exits)*.

Buttons: I wish I could be so confident. Brigadier Hardup was never very reliable. You know I really like Ella, and I reckon she likes me too – maybe I should look on the bright side too.

(As he goes to exit a herald enters and blows a fanfare right in his face – Buttons reacts, staggering around with his hands over his ears.)

Herald: His highness Prince Charming approaches! *(Exits)*

Button: Blimey I've gone completely deaf, and I never thought I'd hear myself say that.

(Dandini enters).

Buttons: *(Bowing low)* Your highness.

Dandini: Get up you idiot. I'm not his highness.

Buttons: Of course not, not in that outfit. Who's your tailor?

Dandini: Why?

Buttons: That was my second question

Dandini: I am the Prince's special advisor.

Buttons: What's special about you?

Dandini: I do everything for the Prince, I pick his horses, I pick his clothes, I pick his...

Buttons: Nose *(Buttons pulls face to audience).*

Dandini: I pick his nose...bah! I am also his food taster, bed warmer, letter opener...

Buttons: So everything he does you have to do first?

Dandini: Quite so.

Buttons: I hear he's looking for a wife, if he meets a nice girl do you...?

Dandini: No.

Buttons: Bad luck.

Dandini: Talking of which, who was that I saw you talking to?

Buttons: That's Ella, Brigadier Hardup's daughter. She's the most beautiful girl in the kingdom.

Dandini: Is she now? And where does she live?

Buttons: Hardup Hall of course – eh and don't get any ideas, I'm there to look after her.

Dandini: Quite so – lucky she left when she did. *(To audience)* Wouldn't want the Prince to get a look at that beauty! *(To Buttons)* Now, the Prince is back from the wars in France.

Buttons: Eurostar?

Dandini: Well I've been in a few amateur productions but I'm no Jude Law. Now, can you get the villagers ready?

Buttons: But they've all gone.

Dandini: Where?

Buttons: To get ready.

Dandini: Well get them back you imbecile!

Buttons: Keep your hair on! *(Exits)*.

Dandini: *(To audience)* So Ella is the prettiest girl in the kingdom eh? Well then she shall be my bride.

(Prince enters)

Prince: I say subjects, here I am – prepare to be impressed.

Dandini: There's no one here sire.

Prince: Well that's dashed bad luck, I spent all that time on my hair for nothing.

Dandini: Do you use Brylcreem.

Prince: It's not that good. What am I supposed to do now? I was hoping to get the measure of the young ladies of the kingdom?

Dandini: I fear you're going to need a large tape sire.

Prince: I always think you can tell a lot about a people from what they're like.

(Mobile phone rings)

Dandini: *(Answering phone)* One moment sire. *(Talking on phone)* Dandini here. Right away.

Prince: Why has your mobile got little bars over the window display?

Dandini: It's a cell phone. That was one of my assistants from the palace sire they're expecting us for dinner.

Prince: I'd have thought we'd be a bit chewy – ha!

Dandini: Very drole. Now we must be going.

Prince: Very well Dandini – you're right as usual, it's so helpful having a faithful servant like you to look after me.

Dandini: Yes sire. *(Exits)*

(Buttons and townsfolk enter and gather excitedly expecting the Prince to arrive at any minute.)

Buttons: Hello folks!

Audience: Hello Buttons!

All: Where's the Prince, you said he'd be here *(Ad lib)*

Buttons: I'm telling you he'll be here. I've just spoken to his lackey.

(Herald enters and blows fanfare, all bow low. Brigadier Hardup enters. He is dressed as an explorer, complete with pith helmet, rucksack with assorted camping equipment hanging off it, etc.)

Hardup: What ho!

All: *(Ad lib)* Eh? Who's this? That's not the Prince.

Buttons: Brigadier! We thought you were the Prince.

Hardup: *(Saluting)* At ease Buttons, well here I am – home at last.

Buttons: So where have you been?

Hardup: I've been all over the world - Walsall, Kingstanding, Rugeley –

All: Rugeley! *(Gasp)*

Buttons: But I thought you were going to South Africa?

Hardup: Ah yes, went there first. Got caught up in the wars with the old tribes. Messy business.

Buttons: Blimey everybody's coming back from the wars today – there'll be no-one fighting.

(Chorus drift off)

Hardup: There isn't - we won.

Buttons: Oh that's all right then. Where were you fighting?

Hardup: Zulu territory.

Buttons: Ooh, Zulu territory eh? The toilets at the zoo can be shocking, I'm sure they let the animals in there.

Hardup: No the Transval.

Buttons: I knew one of them once, he started calling himself Val.

Hardup: Africa. Where the girls wear grass skirts and the men spend all their time saving up for lawnmowers.

Buttons: It must have bought back painful memories of your last safari sir.

Hardup: Yes, you'll remember I lost Ella's mother, the first Lady Hardup on that trip *(sniffs)*. Have you ever seen a man eating lion Buttons?

Buttons: No sir, I saw a woman eating kangaroo once. Hopping mad she was.

Hardup: I don't mean a man eating a lion you idiot. I mean a wild beast. I'll never forget it. All I could do was watch as the lion closed in on Lady Hardup.

Buttons: What steps did you take?

Hardup: Very long ones. I managed to climb a tree.

Buttons: You must have felt so helpless?

Hardup: She shouted to me – Shoot! Shoot! But I couldn't.

Buttons: Why?

Hardup: No film in the camera. And then it was all over.

Buttons: Did you get down from the tree?

Hardup: Don't be stupid man, you get down from a goose. You get wood from a tree.

Buttons: Sad memories.

Hardup: Yes so then I headed for South America. Fascinating place, in some regions the hand of man has never set foot - Oh yes it's very dangerous country you know, my native guide was eaten by a bear.

Buttons: Grizzely?

Hardup: What do you think? Mind you I killed the beast with my bear hands.

Buttons: Bear hands, good one. How did you do it?

Hardup: It was looking the other way so I pushed it over a cliff.

Buttons: Well you've certainly come across some strange creatures.

Hardup: And then I found the rarest and most dangerous of them all.

Buttons: What's that?

Hardup: A woman with money. So I married her – from now on son we're on the up.

Buttons: Well I'm feeling lucky in love myself as it happens.

SONG 2: Blue Skies – Brigadier and Buttons

Hardup: Oh and here she comes now!

(Enter Lady Hardup – there is a chord from the orchestra, a clap of thunder and lightning. Buttons recoils in horror).

Buttons: Looks like it's clouding over.

Hardup: *(To pit)* All right, don't make a meal of it.

Lady H: So this is it, is it?

Hardup: What?

Lady H: It.

Buttons: Congratulations on your marriage Lady Hardup.

Lady H: It was a love match pure and simple. I was pure and he was simple. Where is this blessed house of yours Henry?

Hardup: Hardup Hall is just up the hill my little lambkin.

Lady H: Well I hope you don't expect my girls to carry their suitcases any further.

Buttons: Girls?

Hardup: My new step daughters, they're bringing up the rear.

(Chardonay enters).

Chardonay: Morning all! Switch your pacemakers to stun, I'm here. *(Shouts off stage)* Come on Portia move your backside.

Lady H: Such delicate creatures.

Chardonay: Now don't laugh when my sister comes on, she's not exactly a looker.

Hardup: She's not kidding.

Chardonay: In fact she joined a nudist colony but they'd only let her in on condition she wore the fig leaf over her face.

(Portia enters carrying the luggage)

Portia: I heard that *(hits Chardonay with her handbag)*. My sister jests of course, she's a bosom pal of mine. She gives me inspiration.

Chardonay: They don't know what inspiration means love.

Portia: It's a posh word for sweat.

Chardonay: Well you'd know all about that, you are carrying a little weight dear.

Portia: How dare you – you'd love a body like mine.

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Chardonay: I would but I can't grow the chest hair.

Portia: I've been watching my weight.

Buttons: I think everyone has.

Portia: I'm on a special diet – I can only eat things with the word special in them. Special K, special fried rice, toffee profiteroles special offer.

Buttons: And are you two single?

Chardonay: Yes, how did you guess?

Buttons: You're really ugly.

Portia: How dare you! *(To Audience)* I'm lovely aren't I sproglettes?

Chardonay: No I'm the pretty one aren't I?

Portia/
Chardonay: *(To Audience)* Bah! What do you know?

Hardup: *(Hurriedly)* This is Buttons my footman.

Lady H: *(Looking down her nose at him)* Is he qualified to be a footman?

Hardup: Oh yes, he has all his own feet.

Portia: I'm Portia.

Chardonay: And I'm Chardonay.

Lady H: Named after the things I love most – fast cars and fine wine. I did have another daughter - Money.

Buttons: What happened to her?

Lady H: I sold her. Now let's get to this blinkin' hall.

Hardup: Buttons, will see to your bags.

Buttons: I don't think I can deal with both of them.

Lady H: Just come along you scruffy little urchin and prepare the Hall for our arrival. *(Portia, Chardonay and Lady H exit. Buttons and Hardup follow with suitcases).*

Buttons: Brigadier, is it true that in Africa a man doesn't know his wife until he marries her?

Hardup: It's true in most countries son

(Exit)

Scene 2 – A path in the Forest

(Forest Tabs. Prince and Dandini enter.)

Prince: Are you sure we're not lost Dandini?

Dandini: The Palace is ahead sire, I'm following the bats as they fly their usual route up the road to their home in the palace attic sire.

Prince: Impressive.

Dandini: I call it bat nav.

Prince: It will take a while to get to know the kingdom again. And for my subjects to get to know me. I hope they like me.

Dandini: Well that's the trouble with being rich and famous, you can never really be sure who your friends are. You can't be too careful.

Prince: How do you mean?

Dandini: Well, how can you be sure that they don't just like you because you're rich?

Prince: So what you're saying is I'll never really know if someone likes me or not.

Dandini: Exactly.

Prince: But what if I find a nice girl – how will I know if she really likes me for me, or because I'm a Prince?

Dandini: It is a problem sire, I'd just avoid finding a girl if I were you, they're not easy to get on with.

Prince: I know, my last girlfriend was like that. Remember her? The one who was cross eyed?

Dandini: Yes, why did you break up?

Prince: I kept thinking she was seeing someone else. I'm not lucky with women and yet I so want to find a girl.

Dandini: Well you know how I love the latest technology - have you thought about using the computer?

Prince: I think I'd prefer a girl.

Dandini: I mean internet dating?

Prince: Tried that, signed up for 'kiss the frog dot com', wrote a lovely profile.

Dandini: And?

Prince: No one reddit. It's hopeless, and yet I have to get married - if I want to be King.

Dandini: Oh you know about that do you? Look your highness, marriage isn't all it's cracked up to be. Yes you can spend your evenings sat in your home, curled up on the sofa watching all your wife's favourite television programmes, but is that what you really want?

Prince: Yes.

Dandini: Fine. Then leave it to me I'll find you someone.

Prince: But if what you say is true, they probably won't really love me.

Dandini: I've got an idea. What about if you made me King instead? Then you'd have no problem.

Prince: Nice try, but no *(pause – he's thinking)*. Wait a minute, you might have something there.

Dandini: I have but I've got some cream for it, it's clearing up nicely.

Prince: Here's the idea - we could swap places for a little while.

Dandini: How do you mean?

Prince: Well I've been away ages so no one knows what I look like right?

Dandini: I suppose not.

Prince: So, you be me and I'll be you, just until I find a nice girl. That way she won't like me just because I'm a Prince – she'll think I'm a nobody like you.

Dandini: Thanks.

Prince: Here, take my royal sash. *(He places his sash over Dandini's head).*

Dandini: I think it rather suits me.

Prince: Don't get too used to it. It's only temporary.

Dandini: *(Aside)* That's what you think.

Prince: Right let's practice. You be a Prince and I'll be the servant.

Dandini: Right, get up to that palace and make my dinner...Dandini.

Prince: Oh yes *(to audience)* he's very good isn't he?

Dandini: And don't forget to clean my boots, I think I'll go hunting tomorrow.

Prince: Perfect, totally believable – you could have royal blood you're so realistic.

Dandini: How very astute.

Prince: I like the idea of a hunt too, that would be a good way to meet the eligible ladies of the kingdom.

Dandini: I don't think that's a good idea.

Prince: Of course it is, it's brilliant, ha! I'm so happy, I could dance *(Does a little jig)* why don't you have a dance with me?

Dandini: I don't think I will sire, I'm a little stiff from Badminton.

Prince: I don't care where you're from, you can still join in.

Dandini: There's no time sire, I have a hunt to organise.

Prince: No no, I'll get it organised – your highness *(bows low)*. You parade around a bit, doing nothing and looking regal.

Dandini: Yes sire.

Prince: I'll go on ahead to the Palace – tell them I'm Dandini and that I've come to get everything ready for your arrival. You come a bit later – make a right royal entrance.