



# The Old Woman Who Lives In A Shoe

by Dave Crump

2018

Licensed by



*Panto Scripts*

[pantoscripts.org.uk](http://pantoscripts.org.uk)

NODA Presents

# **The Old Woman Who Lived in The Shoe**

## **The Panto!**

**BY DAVID CRUMP**

There was an old woman,  
Who lived in a shoe;  
She had so many children,  
She didn't know what to do.  
She gave them some broth,  
Without any bread;  
She whipped them all soundly,  
And sent them to bed

© NODA 2018

PantoScripts Sample

## **Noda Pantomimes**

**All enquiries regarding purchase of further scripts, and current royalty rates should be addressed to:**

**15 The Metro Centre  
Peterborough  
PE2 7UH  
Tel: 01733 374790  
[E-mail-info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)  
[Website-www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk)**

### **CONDITIONS**

1. A Licence, obtainable only from NODA PANTOMIMES, must be acquired for every public or private performance of this script and the appropriate royalty paid. If extra performances are arranged after a Licence has already been issued, it is essential that the publishers be informed immediately and the appropriate additional royalty paid, whence an amended Licence will be issued.
2. The existence of this script does not imply that it is automatically available for private or public performance. The publishers reserve the right to refuse to grant a Licence to Perform for whatever reason. Therefore a Licence should always be obtained before any rehearsals start.
3. The Publishers confirm that the availability of a Licence to Perform this script will not be affected by simultaneous professional or amateur productions of the same text.
4. The granting of a Licence to Perform does not confer rights of exclusivity to the Licensee in any form whatsoever.
5. All Peter Denyer Pantomimes are fully protected by the copyright acts. Under no circumstances must they be reproduced by photocopying or any other means, either in whole or in part.
6. The Licence to Perform referred to above only relates to live performances of this script. A separate Licence is required for video-taping or sound recording which will be issued on receipt of the appropriate fee.
7. The name of the author shall be clearly stated on all publicity material and programmes in the style of "ALADDIN by PETER DENYER". The programme credit shall state "Script provided by NODA PANTOMIMES".
8. This pantomime is intended to be performed as per the published script without alteration, addition or cuts. However artistic licence is granted to the performer for reasons of local or topical humour, or individual character. Whilst granting this concession, we hope that every effort will be made to preserve the spirit of the original.

NODA PANTOMIMES is a division of NODA LTD. which is the trading arm of the NATIONAL OPERATIC & DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION (CIO), a registered charity devoted to the encouragement of amateur theatre.

PantoScripts Sample

## Synopsis of Scenes

### ACT 1

- Scene 1: The Village Fete
- Scene 2: Near Farmer Furrow's Farm
- Scene 3: Outside Boot Cottage
- Scene 4: Near Farmer Furrow's Farm
- Scene 5: A Room at Boot Cottage

### ACT 2

- Scene 1: Prologue
- Scene 2: The Cobblers Shop
- Scene 3: Near Farmer Furrow's Farm
- Scene 4: The Bakery
- Scene 5: Near Farmer Furrow's Farm
- Scene 6: Outside Boot Cottage
- Scene 7: Community Song

A note on scenes: The script is designed to work on a stage with limited or no flying facilities so there is always a front of tabs scene between main stage scenes to allow for scene changes. However, if the theatre enables quicker changes then the front of tabs scenes may be incorporated into full stage scenes.

## Musical Numbers

### ACT 1

Song 1: Walking on Sunshine - Chorus

Song 2: Everybody's got somebody but me (Hunter Hayes) – George

Song 3: I can hear the bells (Hairspray) – Alice

Song 4: My Brother – Eton, Roughly and Tipton

Song 5: Thinking out loud (Ed Sheeran) – Alice and George

Song 6: These boots were made for walking - Nanny

Song 7: My House (Matilda) – Nanny and Kids Chorus

### ACT 2

Song 8: Busy doing nothing – Sam and Mr Minute

Song 9: When I grow up (Matilda) – Kids Chorus

Song 10 Hushabye Mountain - Alice

Song 11 Friendship – Sam and Alice

Song 12 Easy Street – Baron, Burt and Barney

Song 13 Man wanted – Nanny

Song 14 Flash Bang Wallop – Chorus

Song 15 Community Song – Farmer Furrow Had a Farm

A note on music: These songs have been suggested as they fit well with the story and the characters, but you can choose alternatives to suit your own production and cast's abilities. Minor adjustments to dialogue in order to introduce the song are permissible, but this should be done with great care. Minor tweaks might be made to lyrics in order to suit the story and characters.

## Characters

**Nanny Rose Trellis** – The Old Woman herself, the Dame who runs the village orphanage at Boot Cottage

**Baron Bootblack** – The Baddie. The Village Squire intent on flattening the village to make room for his new farm – or is he?

**George Bootblack** – Principal Boy. The nephew of Baron Bootblack who falls in love with Alice. He is a New Zealander so needs an Ozzie accent.

**Alice Trellis** – Principal Girl. Eldest daughter of Nanny Rose.

**Arthur Minute** – The Cobbler. He is a ‘Geppetto’ type character, a heart of gold but a bit absent minded. He has trouble pronouncing his ‘s’ as he has a lisp

**Shiny Sam** – A travelling shoe shine boy, he is the main audience participation character and has a heart of gold.

**Burt and Barney Buckle** - the comedy double act – They are the father and son village idiots & local builders. Barney is the stupider of the two but both are pretty daft. They both wear dungarees and bowler hats. This has also been played as father and daughter in some productions – Burt and Betty Buckle.

**The Genie of the Boot** – Good Spirit protecting the children and Nanny from the Baron. He or she is a bit of a drama queen.

**Farmer Furrow** – The tenant farmer on the Baron’s Estate. He is responsible for providing the wheat for the bread and needs more land. He is a jolly, likeable soul who doesn’t realise the Baron has an evil plan. His is a strong comedy part as he is a consistent comic link between scenes and should be played with a west country accent.

**Mrs Bun the Baker** – The Baker is pompous and full of her own self importance as chairwoman of the shopkeepers guild. Her bakery is doing very well and needs to expand, she needs more wheat so supports the expansion of the farm. Could be changed to a man if this suits your cast, with minor amendments from ‘she’ to ‘he’ in the script.

**Miss Take The Schoolteacher** - She is a likeable character but is at her wits end with the children.

**Eton** – A boy of about eight, he is a geeky brainy child, who is at the “why?” stage.

**Roughley** – The tearaway. A boy of about seven who is clearly the trouble maker.

**Tipton Cut** – A girl of about three. She is very cute but knows how to wrap people round her little finger. Depending on the location of your panto her name should be changed to some other backstreet location – Tipton Cut being a Black Country canal basin!

*The Children Should be Played by Adults*



**ACT 1****Scene 1: The Village Fete**

*(The scene is the square in the Village of Cuddleton. There is a central podium and a banner saying 'Cuddleton Village Fete', bunting, etc. There is a large ribbon across the podium.)*

**SONG 1: Walking on Sunshine - Chorus**

*(At the end of the song Mrs Bun enters, she steps onto the Podium, there are cheers from the crowd. She wears a chain of office around her neck.)*

Mrs Bun: Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen. As chairman of the Shopkeepers' Guild, it is my pleasure to declare the Cuddleton village fete open!

*(The Crowd cheer as he cuts the ribbon.)*

Mrs Bun: There'll be Morris Dancing later, but first there's free cider tasting in the beer tent *(The crowd exit at a gallop!)* Does that appeal to anyone? *(noticing they're gone)* Oh, 'ere wait for me!! *(He exits)*

*(Sam enters, he is carrying a shoe shine box and has polish on his face.)*

Sam: Shoe shine! Shine your shoes, come on roll up. Where is everybody? *(Noticing the audience)* Oh thank goodness you're here – I thought I'd turned up on the wrong night! Hello boys and girls. There is a fete here today isn't there? *(Audience shout yes!)* I said, is there a fete here today? *(Audience shout yes louder)* Great, I'm on the lookout for customers, I shine shoes you see. Oh I should introduce myself – I'm Sam, Shiny Sam to my friends, not that I've got many friends. To be honest I haven't got any friends. I'm an orphan you see *(Audience Ahh,)* It's sadder than that *(Audience Ahh louder)*, and I wander from village to village trying to make a living shining shoes – Shiny Sam the Shoe Shine Boy that's me. I know, will you be my friends? *(Audience shout yes!)* I said will you be my friends? *(Audience shout yes louder)* That's brilliant, I know when I come on will you shout 'Shiny Sam the shoe shine boy!' and then I'll know I'm not on my own. Shall we try it? Right then *(He runs off and back on again)* Hello folks! *(Audience shout)* Oh dear, that wasn't very good was it? Let's try again *(He does this as many times as necessary to warm up the audience)*. Now take your right hand hold it high, now wipe the spit of the back of the head in front of you. Perhaps, we'll just stick to 'Hello Sam' Can you remember that? Brilliant, thanks boys and girls, it's lovely to have some new friends. Well I won't do much business standing here chatting to you lot, see you later!

*(Sam exits. Chorus enter looking miserable. Farmer Furrow and Mrs Bun enter downstage.)*

Mrs Bun: Sorry the cider ran out folks but there's tea and coffee in the vicarage garden.

*(Chorus voice their obvious disapproval)*

Villager 1: If you will let Rose Trellis into a beer tent what do you expect!

Mrs Bun: I didn't know she'd turn up, *(To Farmer Furrow)* I don't know how she's got the nerve to show her face around here.

*(Nanny enters, she carries a shopping basket and a bottle of cider.)*

Nanny: Morning all!

Furrow: I don't know how she's got the nerve to show that face anywhere.

Villagers: Get out of it! You should be ashamed of yourself!

Nanny: What's up with you lot?

Villager 2: You've just single handedly drained the free cider tent.

Nanny: There was something about it I really liked.

Villager 2: What?

Nanny: The word 'free'.

*(Chorus exit moaning about her.)*

Mrs Bun: That's not why you're unpopular. It's this business with the Baron.

Nanny: Never mind that old swindler. Now Bunny I need to pick up my bread order for the kiddies.

Mrs Bun: Sorry Nanny but I'm not prepared to supply you any more until you come to your senses.

Nanny: What! But what'll I feed all the children?

Mrs Bun: That's your problem.

Nanny: Come on, we've been friends a long time. I seem to remember you and me being more than friends once upon a time Farmer Furrow.

Furrow: Ar, well you're going back now Nanny, I only had a small holding in them days.

Nanny: It never bothered me.

Mrs Bun: Listen, the Baron's agreed to buy every house in the village there's only two people who are being stubborn, you and the cobbler.

- Furrow: You're standing in the way of progress Nanny.
- Nanny: It's not progress to knock down the village just so you can expand your farm.
- Furrow: It's not just me, Mrs Bun is expanding an' all.
- Nanny: Yes well she wants to lay off her pies.
- Mrs Bun: Demand for bread is going through the roof, my scones are selling like hot cakes, I need more wheat.
- Furrow: And I need more land to grow it on. This way we can turn this valley into wheat fields.
- Nanny: I've lived here all my life, I'm not moving out of my little place.
- Mrs Bun: Look, everyone's living in houses that are falling down. You're living in a old boot for goodness sake.
- Furrow: Then there's the lady who lives in a hat.
- Mrs Bun: The binman, he lives in a skip
- Furrow: That fella what lives in a jockstrap.
- Nanny: He's a very unsavoury sort.
- Mrs Bun: It'll be lovely to have new houses, I need a larger building for the bakery.
- Nanny: Rubbish, what better place for a bakery than in a cottage loaf? Come on how about that bread?
- Mrs Bun: Not until you change your mind.
- Nanny: What about a roll? (*suggestively to Farmer Furrow*) You always used to like a roll Farmer Furrow.
- Furrow: Gerrof!
- Mrs Bun: My decision is final.
- Furrow: Do as you're told or there'll be trouble.
- Nanny: (*To audience*) Oh he's so masterful.

*(Mrs Bun and Farmer Furrow exit. Sam enters. Nanny blows her nose loudly and starts to cry.)*

Sam: Hello folks! (*Audience react*) Are you all right?

- Nanny: Not really, I've had a very up and down sort of morning.
- Sam: How do you mean?
- Nanny: It started with trampolining before breakfast, then I got to the fete early and I struck lucky straight away.
- Sam: On the tombola?
- Nanny: No, I met this chap on the Waltzers. Moustache, scar, broken nose - I'd managed to disguise all those with make up - so I went over and chatted him up. He was gorgeous, just like you.
- Sam: Thanks very much, you're not bad yourself.
- Nanny: Flatterer. I was beautiful once, briefly from the back. Now when I lie in the garden the cat tries to bury me.
- Sam: You were saying, about this fella you met at the fair?
- Nanny: Oh yes, well he took me back to his place, you should have seen it, there were cuddly toys everywhere, turned out he was a real softy. I said to him, have I been the most exciting woman you've ever loved?
- Sam: And what did he say?
- Nanny: He said I could have any prize from the bottom shelf.
- Sam: Oh.
- Nanny: So I've been drowning my sorrows in the beer tent. Now it seems like the whole village is against me.
- Sam: Why would you think that?
- Nanny: Baron Bootblack, he's the squire round here, he wants to redevelop the whole village, replace all our houses with new ones up the hill.
- Sam: That sounds nice.
- Nanny: A couple of us won't sell. Anyway, I don't know why I'm telling you all this, who are you?
- Sam: I'm Shiny Sam the Shoeshine boy.
- Nanny: Shiny Sam, the shoe shine boy? That's not easy to say with nocturnal teeth.
- Sam: Nocturnal teeth?

- Nanny: Yes, they come out at night. I'm Rose Trellis, but you can call me Nanny.
- Sam: Don't you like the name Rose?
- Nanny: Bit of a thorny subject, everyone calls me Nanny cause of all my children.
- Sam: How many have you got?
- Nanny: I've just had another baby, that makes twenty five. I decided I wanted to know a child starting with twenty five letters of the alphabet.
- Sam: How come you didn't want to know a child starting with all twenty six?
- Nanny: I don't know Y. I'm officially the oldest mother in the country.
- Sam: That's amazing.
- Nanny: Not really, once you've had your fourth it's like shelling peas. I've got so many I don't know what to do. I've taken in all sorts of waifs and strays, so my place has become the village orphanage.
- Sam: I'm an orphan myself.
- Nanny: Don't look at me, I can't take anymore. I'm in the middle of doing the place up. That's another reason I won't sell to the Baron.
- Sam: It must be costing him a fortune to buy all the houses.
- Nanny: It's a buyers market, haven't you heard there's a regression? And I have to spend a fortune on essentials like nappies, baby milk, rusks, ferrero roche, gin.
- Sam: I know how you feel, I'm constantly hard up.
- Nanny: Really? I'll make a note of that.
- Sam: I can't remember the last time I could afford chocolate.
- Nanny: It's the credit crunchie. Look I've got a basketfull here I've been saving up for the kiddies. Some of them are only just past their sell by date. Would you like some?
- Sam: Yes please, and could my friends have some too?
- Nanny: Oh, hello! I didn't see you sitting in the dark eavesdropping you nosey parkers.
- Sam: Would you like some sweeties? (*Audience – Yes!*)

Nanny: I don't know, they look fat enough already to me. Are you sure you want some? (*Audience – yes!*). Put your hands up and shout 'I want some sweets'. (*They do*). Oh no, that's not very good, lets sing it. Come on (*sings*) 'I want some sweets' (*They do*). Still not right. There's something wrong here – lets just try the left hand side of the audience – come on shout 'I want some sweets' (*They do*). No still not right, how about just the first ten rows – that's it 'I want some sweets' (*they shout*) – No, no still something wrong – lets try just this second row here – go on. (*they shout – she points out one man*) It's you mate. What's your name? (*Let's assume it's Keith*) I can see we're going to have trouble with you Keith – now pay attention, because I'll be asking questions later.

Sam: Come on Nanny. (*They throw sweets*).

(*They throw out the sweets to the audience.*)

Sam: It's very generous of you to share your sweets with us.

Nanny: That's me all over. A big sweetie.

Sam: What can I do in return?

Nanny: You can do me a favour, will you drop my daughter's shoes into the cobblers? (*Gets shoes from her basket*) They're a bit smelly, but it's all right because they've been in with the sweets. I'm running late, the kiddies will be finishing school soon so I must get back.

Sam: Will do, where does he live?

Nanny: In a surgical truss on the High Street. You can't miss it, it's holding up the two buildings either side of it.

Sam: I'm sure I'll find it. And I'll get a tin of new shoe polish from him while I'm at it.

Nanny: You'll be lucky, it's in very short supply you know.

Sam: Is it?

Nanny: Oh yes, we're experts on polish round here. You know Baron Bootblack I was telling you about him earlier?

Sam: Yes.

Nanny: Good, I'm glad you're following the plot. He made his money mining polish.

Sam: I didn't know shoe polish was mined.

Nanny: Where did you think it came from?

- Sam:           Wilkinsons (*or other well known shop*).
- Nanny:        Yes, but it has to be dug out of the ground first, it's a very rare commodity these days. It's a real problem for me, what with living in a shoe.
- Sam:           You live in a shoe?
- Nanny:        Yes, that's why the cobbler's on my side. He's renovating the place for me, there's not many cobblers who could handle a shoe repair on that scale?
- Sam:           How big is it?
- Nanny:        Size 134. I got it at a giant boot sale, it's my pride and joy and I'm not letting the Baron knock it down.
- Sam:           I'm on your side.
- Nanny:        You're the only one. I don't know what I'm going to give the kiddiewinks for their tea, the baker's just cancelled my bread order.
- Sam:           What about something simple, like a broth?
- Nanny:        Broth, where do I buy that from?
- Sam:           If you buy sweets in a sweet shop, cakes in a cake shop and fish in a fishmongers, you must buy broth in a ....
- Nanny:        Perhaps I'll make my own.
- Sam:           Don't worry, I'll help you save your shoe - I'm sure my new friends will help too – won't you? (*Audience – Yes!*)

*(Chorus enter gradually.)*

Nanny:        (*To Audience*) Oh you are lovely. If you meet me at the stage door after, I'll show you my appreciation – especially you Keith (*pointing to the man on the front row*). Now Sam get a wriggle on, he stops cobbling early on fete days.

Sam:           Will do. Bye folks!

*Sam exits.*

Nanny:        What a nice lad. Oh look here come the Morris dancers. (*Morris dancers dance on*) Morning Morris, Morris, Morris, Morris (*to audience*) isn't it funny how they're all called Morris....Bye folks!

*(She exits. Mrs Bun and Farmer Furrow enter. Mrs Bun steps on the podium.)*

Mrs Bun: Now you will all know that this is an exciting year, with plans for the new village well underway. And it's all thanks to one man, so let's put our hands together for the one and only, I mean one and only Baron Bootblack!

Chorus: Hooray!!

*(They freeze. There is a sinister chord – the Baron has entered at the back of the crowd and steps onto the Podium. Lights change and he is in a green spotlight.)*

Baron: Ha Ha Ha! What idiots! The entire village thinks I'm a hero if only they knew! You see, I'm no hero, I'm a villain, yes that's right. I'm a bad 'un.

*(He steps downstage left still in green light.)*

Baron: Who were you expecting, the tooth fairy? I'm Baron Bootblack, I have black hair, a black outfit, a black beard and a black heart.

*(There is a puff of smoke. Genie enters into spotlight stage right.)*

Genie: And black teeth.

Baron: And black tee.... What! Who are you?

Genie: I am the Genie of the Boot.

Baron: The what?

Genie: The Genie of the Boot. I am a magical spirit who hides away inside Nanny's shoe.

Baron: What? That scruffy old shoe is so crowded with 'kiddies' *(he grimaces as he says this)* you couldn't hide Kate Moss *(or other thin celebrity)* sideways in there.

Genie: I am in her soul.

Baron: Oh very funny.

Genie: *(Sings)* 'I'm a soul man'

Baron: Give me strength.

Genie: Nanny is a wonderful woman, she has the heart of a lion.

Baron: Yes, a man eating lion. She's a trouble maker.

Genie: Without her, twenty five little children would be homeless.



Baron: That would be a bonus, I could give them all jobs down my shoe polish mines, unpaid work but rewarding, for me!

Genie: You really are a nasty piece of work aren't you?

Baron: I try, I try. Pretty soon your old boot will be mine. I'm going to own all the houses and then I'm going to flatten them.

Genie: Oh yes, your plan to build a new village. I know all about it.

Baron: Oh you do, do you?

Genie: Whatever you're up to, me and my friends here will stop you. They've already offered to help Shiny Sam the shoe shine boy save the orphanage.

Baron: Slimy Spam the shlo..*(gets tounge twisted)* Who?

Genie: You will help us wont you boys and girls?

Audience: Yes!

Baron: Be quiet. You pathetice excuse for an audience.

Genie: I shan't detain you any longer, I suggest you get back to enjoying the fete.

Baron: Enjoying myself? With that lot? It's a fete worse than death.

Genie: Keep a look out for me boys and girls, bye!

Baron: Now, back to business, where was I? Oh yes, I was conning the villagers out of their homes. Ha ha, Oh boo all you like, then sit back, relax and watch a master villain at work.

*(He steps up to the podium. Lights change and chorus unfreeze and continue their applause as before.)*

Baron; Thank you, thank you for that warm welcome. I am here to announce that I've just appointed the men who will be building your new houses.

Villagers: Hooray! Who are they? When will they be built?

Baron: They are the well known local family firm of Buckle and Son.

Villagers: Oh no! You're joking?

Mrs Bun: Really Baron, are you sure? They're not exactly.....

Baron: I believe in supporting local tradesmen and here they are now.

*(Burt and Barney enter, Barney has wellies on with L and R (the wrong way around), he has a black eye. Barney stands on one leg.)*

Villager: *(To Barney)* Are you Burt Buckle?

Barney: No this is Burt Buckle, he's my dad.

Burt: That's right, I'm Burt and he's Barney, he thinks I'm his dad.

Villager: I've been trying to get hold of you for days, I asked you if I could have a skip outside my house on Monday.

Burt: I'm not stopping you.

*(Chorus start to exit in disgust. Baron moves downstage to them.)*

Burt: I tell you Barney, with this big job for the Baron, we're going places.

Villager: The sooner the better *(exits)*

Barney: What places are we going Dad? Will it be like a holiday?

Burt: We've already been on holiday son.

Barney: Where did we go dad?

Burt: I don't know, your mother bought the tickets.

Baron: Buckle you're late. I told you to be here at eight thirty.

Burt: Hang about. *(He extends the tape measure on his belt)* thirty eight, that's the trouble, we're two inches too soon.

Baron: You're a bit of a nut aren't you Buckle.

Burt: Yes, that's why me and the lad work together so well, I'm a nut and he's a spanner.

Baron: *(noticing Barney's black eye)* Why has he got a black eye?

Burt: Last night's audience were throwing vegetables.

Baron: What hit you?

Barney: A tin of carrots.

Baron: I see. Now listen, my nephew is due to arrive any minute, he's flown over from New Zealand, he's a Polish engineer.

Burt: I thought you said he was from New Zealand

Baron: Polish, not Polish (*as in the country*). If you see him send him over to Bootblack Hall.

Burt: Right you are, we'll carry his luggage.

Baron: Why?

Barney: If he's flown over from New Zealand his arms'll be tired.

Baron: I give up. (*Baron exits.*)

Burt: So now you've met the Baron. It's not easy meeting men of power and influence is it?

Barney: No, but I thought he handled it very well.

(*Builders exit opposite side. Sam enters.*)

Sam: Hello folks! (*Audience – Hello Sam!*) I've dropped off Nanny's shoes at the cobblers, and I've bought his last tin of shoe polish. Mind you I haven't been able to find a single customer.

(*George enters.*)

Sam: Hang on, hang on....my luck might be about to change.

George: (*In a New Zealand accent*) G'day mate, is this Cuddleton?

Sam: It certainly is, home of Shiny Sam's Shoe Shine, the finest.....

(*Sam kneels down and goes to polish his shoes.*)

George: No thanks. You can always see your face in my shoes. I'm in the trade you see.

Sam: What you're a shoe shiner too?

George: Strewth no. I mean I'm in polish. I'm a polish engineer.

Sam: That's funny you sound Australian.

George: Polish not....Oh never mind, I get it a lot. And I'm not Australian, I'm a Kiwi. Most of the worlds reserves of polish are down under.

Sam: *(Trying to seem intelligent)* Yes so I understand, underground and that.

George: I mean in the Antipedes.

Sam: Of course you do. Well I can't stand around talking shop with a fellow polish professional, I've work to do.

*(Sam exits, chorus enter – all loved up couples holding hands or arm in arm.)*

George: What a funny bloke. G'day boys and girls. I'm George, it's great being back in England, I haven't been here since I was a nipper. I hear you have some lovely British girls and all my friends are married or have girlfriends so I'm on the lookout for the future Mrs George Bootblack. I know it's wrong to look for a wife, I should really be looking for a single woman. Perhaps finally I'll meet Miss Right!

## **SONG 2 – Everybody's Got Somebody But Me - George**

### **Scene 2: Near Farmer Furrows Farm.**

*(Front of tabs scene - There is a gate and Farmer Furrow is leaning on it as Burt and Barney enter op side.)*

Furrow: If it isn't Burt and little Barny Buckle, I remember you when you were a boy sprout. I don't see as much of you as I used to.

Barney: That's 'cause I wear long trousers now.

Burt: The Baron's got us doing odd jobs for him.

Furrow: You're both odd so that should be all right.

Burt: 'Ere, you still got that pig with the wooden leg?

Furrow: That's a very interesting tale.

Barney: Pigs have got very interesting tails, all curly they are.

Furrow: One night we was all in bed asleep when the farmhouse caught fire. We'd have all been gonners if it weren't for that pig.

Burt: What did it do?

Furrow: It jumped out of its pen, knocked the front door down and woke us all up.

Barney: Blimey!

- Burt: So why has he got a wooden leg?
- Furrow: Not long after he rescued us from the fire, we had a terrible storm, I had to get all my animals to safety, like Noah I was.
- Barney: Dad, when Noah was on the ark, what did he eat?
- Burt: Fish.
- Barney: How did he catch them?
- Furrow: By fishing over the side.
- Barney: He can't have had many.
- Burt: Why not?
- Barney: He only had two worms.
- Furrow: So anyway, with all the rain, I got stranded in the flood. I'd 'ave had it if it weren't for my pig. It heard my cries and went and fetched help. Yep saved my life twice that pig did.
- Barney: You still haven't said why it's got a wooden leg.
- Furrow: When you've got a pig that good you don't eat it all at once. *(Farmer Furrow exits)*
- Barney: I'm not used to being on a farm Dad, all the new sights and sounds.
- Burt: And smells.
- Barney: You're right. 'Ere Dad, is that a cow pat? *(pointing at the ground in front of them)*
- Burt: It looks like a cow pat.
- Barney: *(Kneeling down)* It smells like a cow pat.
- Burt: *(Picking some up)* It certainly feels like a cow pat *(Passing some to Barney)*.
- Barney; *(Licking his fingers)* It tastes like a cow pat.
- Burt: Mind you don't step in it. Come on.

*(They exit. Sam enters, Mr Minute enters opposite side.)*

Sam: Hello folks! (*Audience hello Sam*). Look, it's the cobbler from the village.

Mr Minute: Oh it's you again, twice in one day, I've finished those shoes, I was just taking them up to Nanny Rose's.

Sam: Do you know her?

Mr Minute: Everyone knows her. I had a little fling with her a few years ago, she was beautiful then, all pink and dimples.

Sam: She's a bit different now.

Mr Minute: Yes, now she's all drink and pimples. 'Ere you wouldn't come with me would you?

Sam: With pleasure I'd like to see this famous place.

Mr Minute: Good, I don't like going without a chaperone, she's liable to jump on a man if he's on his own.

Sam: It's not right at her age. How old is she?

Mr Minute: Let's just say she's approaching middle age for the third time. How was that polish I sold you?

Sam: I haven't used any yet, no customers. I know, I could cheer up Nanny by offering to clean her giant shoe for her.

Mr Minute: Oh she'd love that. You're a super lad, what's your name sonny?

Sam: Shiny Sam the Shoe Shine Boy.

Mr Minute: Shiny, sham, the ssss. Oh dear. Arthur Minute. Pleased to meet you.

Sam: We've already met. I bought in those shoes for Nanny remember?

Mr Minute: Oh yes, so you did. Mind's going. You know the doctor's given me some tablets for memory.

Sam: Do they work?

Mr Minute: Do what work?

Sam: The memory tablets.

Mr Minute: I don't know, I can't think where I've put them.

Sam: I'll help you find them if you like.

Mr Minute: You're a good lad. You know I've been looking for someone to help out in the shop, do you fancy a job?

Sam: I don't know much about shoe repairs.

Mr Minute: It's simple really, for instance what do you think cow hide is chiefly used for?

Sam: Holding the cows together?

Mr Minute: We'll work on it, come on.

*(They exit, Alice enters she is not wearing any shoes.)*

Alice: *(Sings)* Oh what a beautiful morning, oh what a beautiful day, I've got a beautiful feeling....

*(George enters opposite side.)*

George: *(Sings)* Everything's going my way!

Alice: Oh! You startled me.

George: Sorry, it's just you have a lovely singing voice.

Alice: Thank you, and you have a lovely...er hat.

George: *(Holding out his hand)* George.

Alice: That's a funny name for a hat.

George: No I mean I'm George.

Alice: Oh, I'm Alice.

George: G'day Alice.

Alice: I haven't seen you in the village before.

George: Just arrived, I'm headed for Bootblack Hall.

Alice: Why would you want to go there? Baron Bootblack's a right nasty piece of work.

George: He's my uncle.

Alice: Oh sorry. You don't sound like you're a local.

George: My parents moved to New Zealand years ago, I haven't been to the village since I was a boy.

Alice: Whereabouts in New Zealand are you from?

George: Walla Walla.

Alice: I heard you the first time.

George: Why aren't you wearing any shoes?

Alice: I've only got one pair and they're at the menders. We don't have a lot of money you see.

George: Sorry to hear that.

Alice: All our money goes on food for my brothers and sisters, we used to spend a fortune on bread, now we're having to make do with Mom's gold soup.

George: Gold soup?

Alice: Yes, she makes it with twenty four carrots.

George: I hope it tastes better than it sounds, thanks for the directions. (*He starts to exit*) What a lovely Shelia!

(*George exits.*)

Alice: (*Shouting after him*) It's Alice! Gosh, he's lovely.

**SONG 3 – I can hear the bells - Alice**



### Scene 3: Outside Boot Cottage

*(A full stage set – outside Boot Cottage. There is a section of white picket fence downstage, and upstage there is a large boot with a practical door in it. The door has two door knockers on it. The boot is as large as possible. There is a pram just behind the fence s.r. There is a wishing well in the garden set u.s.l. Nanny enters.)*

Nanny: Hello boys and girls, still here? You must be gluttons for punishment.

*(Miss Take enters from the door in the shoe, looking decidedly frazzled.)*

Nanny: Oh ‘eck, ‘ere she is, Miss Take the schoolteacher. I’ve got so many kids she comes and does the lessons here now. *(To Miss Take)* Morning!

Miss Take: Nanny, thank heaven you’re back. You really must do something about these children of yours. They’re running amuck.

*(Kids all come running out of the house and into the garden, they are fighting, playing cowboys and indians, whooping, etc. Roughly is holding a watermelon.)*

Nanny: *(politely)* Children! *(no response)* Children! *(no response)*  
*(aggressively)* Kids!! *(no response)*

*(She blows a whistle – they all stop instantly.)*

Nanny: Line up you horrors.

*(They all line up.)*

Nanny: How are they all getting on with their lessons?

Miss Take: *(Walking along the front row)* This one *(pointing to Eton)* is a charming little boy, very bright.

Miss Take: This one *(pointing to Roughly)* on the other hand, well if he was any more stupid, he’d have to be watered twice a week.

Nanny: I gave him an apple for you yesterday, and I wanted to make sure you got it ‘cause they don’t grow on trees you know.

Miss Take: Oh yes, and I gave him a little kiss to say thankyou. Today he bought me this watermelon.

Nanny: Dirty little devil. All right you lot come on, back inside, playtimes over. Left right, left right, left right.

*(The kids all march off into the house.)*