



Beauty and the Beast

by Peter Denyer

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NODA Presents

**BEAUTY
AND THE
BEAST**

by
Peter Denyer

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PantoScripts Sample

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A NOTE FROM THE WRITER

Though newly popular through its recent reincarnation via Disney, "Beauty and The Beast" has been performed as a pantomime for many years. It is more of a "Fairy Tale" than an adventure story like "Dick Whittington" or "Jack and The Beanstalk". It is unique in that it its heroine, rather than the hero, who sets off on perilous adventures - the hero spends 90% of the show in a hideous, hairy mask! However it is the crucial relationship between Beauty and The Beast which is the dramatic mainspring of the plot. Much comedy can come from the characters of Dame Dora, Fat Franc and Loopy Louis, but it is the developing relationship between the title roles - from fear, to friendship, to love - that enthralls the audience. You will need to add various local references, and there are sure to be new topical references to add to the comedy scenes. Allow the characters who talk directly to the audience to "customise" the exchanges so that the actor can express his or her personality.

Above all else - enjoy it! The good feeling that comes with a happy company really does come over the footlights - if the audience can see you're having fun, so will they.

Good Luck!

PETER DENYER

OTHER TITLES AVAILABLE BY THE SAME AUTHOR FROM NODA

ALADDIN AND HIS WONDERFUL LAMP

CINDERELLA

DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

MOTHER GOOSE

ROBIN HOOD AND THE BABES IN THE WOOD

SINBAD THE SAILOR

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

THE SNOW QUEEN

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

This script, like all Peter Denyer Pantomimes, was originally produced by Kevin Wood with a professional cast. Over the years the structure and dialogue were adapted to suit the requirements of the many star actors who appeared in the show. In 1997, at the invitation of NODA, the scripts were subjected to a cleansing process returning them to something like their original form, removing the quirks demanded by particular actors, and adding stage directions and technical tips, thereby making them more suitable for licensing. During the 1998/99 Season there were over sixty productions by amateur societies. Following their comments and suggestions, the scripts were revised again in 1999, 2000, and once more in 2005/6 - this is the version you have here.

We thought you would be interested to know a little about the background to the piece, and the various actors who have played the roles. So we've trawled through the archives and come up with this potted history. This version of BEAUTY AND THE BEAST was first produced at The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury in 1997. Since then it has been seen at The Grand Opera House, Belfast; The Gaiety Theatre, Dublin and The Watermans Arts Centre, Brentford.

Over that time, amongst the many fine actors that have appeared, were the following notable performers;

Danton	Lewis Collins and Lionel Blair
Countess	Barbara Sturgeon and Anne Hailes
The Beast	Arvid Larsen
Beauty	Daniella Westbrook and Sophie Lawrence
Franc	Dave Lee and Paddy Jenkins
Louis	Paul Hendy
Dora	Richard Cawley and Bella Emberg

ABOUT THE WRITER

PETER DENYER has been writing for the theatre for more than thirty-five years, he has also directed hundreds of plays, musicals, and pantomimes, and in 1986 became the Artistic Director of Kevin Wood Pantomimes. Peter's pantomimes have been hailed as the best in the field, and his scripts cover the full canon of titles. Each Christmas there are countless presentations, making Peter one of the "most produced writers" in the country. But in spite of his success as a writer, it was as an actor that Peter became best known to the general public, with over two hundred television appearances to his credit. He is probably best remembered as the delightfully dopey Dennis in Please Sir! and The Fenn Street Gang, Michael in Agony, Malcolm in Thicker Than Water and Ralph in Dear John. What is not so well known, is that Peter's love and life long connection with the stage began as an amateur with the Erith Playhouse back in the mid-sixties. In producing these scripts for your use, he feels he has gone some way to completing the circle.

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CAST LIST

Principal Roles

Count Danton -

The Countess de Colombe -

The Beast/Prince Henri -

Beauty -

Fat French Franc -

Loopy Louis -

Doctor Panache -

Dame Dora -

Chorus Roles

The Narrator -

Sylvie -

Pierre -

Villagers -

The Beast's Guards -

The Beast's Servants -

Village Children -

LIST OF SCENES

ACT ONE

PROLOGUE:

- SCENE 1: The Gardens of The Chateau des Colombes
- SCENE 2: A Corridor in The Chateau
- SCENE 3: The Gates of The Beast's Castle
- SCENE 4: A Chamber In The Castle
- SCENE 5: The Gates of The Castle
- SCENE 6: The Castle Dungeons
- SCENE 7: A Corridor in The Chateau
- SCENE 8: The Great Hall of The Castle

ACT TWO

- SCENE 9: The Village of St Dansant
- SCENE 10: The Music Room at The Castle
- SCENE 11: The Kitchen at The Castle
- SCENE 12: A Corridor in The Chateau
- SCENE 13: A Chamber in The Castle
- SCENE 14: The Music Room at The Castle
- SCENE 15: The Twelve Heavens

ACT ONE - PROLOGUE

MUSIC CUE 1: OVERTURE (INSTRUMENTAL)

After, the voice of THE NARRATOR is heard over an off-stage microphone.

THE NARRATOR: Once, long ago in a far-off village in France, there lived a beautiful young girl; beautiful, but proud. Many young men, dazzled by her perfection, tried to win her love, including the handsome young Prince Henri. But she scorned them all, saying none was worthy of her. The years passed and her lovely looks began to fade. Now she regretted her actions. No-one would care for her and gradually bitterness took hold of her heart, for she realised, too late, that true beauty is found within. Bitterness turned to hate until she could not bear to see happiness in others; so she hid herself away in a cold, dark cave, learning the black arts of sorcery and witchcraft. She remembered the handsome Prince who had wooed her and her hatred cried out for revenge. Using her magic art she placed a terrible curse on the young Prince turning him into an ugly terrifying Beast. In time the beautiful rose bushes which surrounded his castle would wither and when the last petal fell from the last rose the Prince would die, alone and unloved. Only one thing could save him from his dreadful fate: if a young girl, of her own free will; should declare her love for him then he would once more be a handsome young Prince. But that day could never be, for who could learn to love a Beast?

Bleedthrough gauze or Cloth/Tabs out to reveal...

SCENE ONE

THE GARDENS OF THE CHATEAU DES COLOMBES

MUSIC CUE 2: OPENING NUMBER – CHORUS AND CHILDREN

AT the end, COUNT DANTON enters. The FEMALE CHORUS gather round him.

FEMALE CH: Good morning, Danton!/Isn't it a beautiful day? etc.

FEMALE 1: Can I get you something to eat?

FEMALE 2: Or drink?

FEMALE 3: Or anything?

DANTON: Alright, alright! Stop grabbing me! I know I'm irresistible, but leave me alone! **[As they attempt to kiss him]** Get off!

The COUNTESS enters.

COUNTESS: Danton! Were you kissing those girls?

DANTON: No Mother; they were kissing me. They just won't leave me alone. Do you know, being so popular is terrible!

COUNTESS: And almost inexplicable! Now go home at once and get that lipstick off your collar.

DANTON: Lipstick on my collar...? This is the fault of that fool, Fat Franc!

COUNTESS: Have you been kissing Fat Franc as well?

DANTON: Certainly not! What a ghastly thought! I meant that, as my servant, he should make sure that I am immaculate at all times. Where is the obese idiot?

COUNTESS: The last time I saw Fat Franc, he was heading for the buffet.

DANTON: Oh no! He's probably eaten the table by now!

COUNTESS: Never mind about Franc; I want you to come back to the chateau - your Aunt Isobel wants you to go and have "a little chat" with her.

DANTON: Must I, Mother? She's as deaf as a post!

COUNTESS: Then you'll have to chat loudly, won't you? Come, Danton!

DANTON: Yes, Mother.

THE COUNTESS exits but as DANTON turns to follow her, a girl, SYLVIE, approaches him.

SYLVIE: Count Danton...don't say you're going? You promised you'd show me the shrubbery...

DANTON: Indeed I did, my dear...

The COUNTESS calls from offstage: "Danton...heel!"

DANTON: Yes, Mother!...Later...later, Sylvie...

DANTON exits. A man, PIERRE, approaches SYLVIE.

PIERRE: Why do you chase after that vain creep, Sylvie, when you know you could be mine?

While SYLVIE speaks the other GIRLS gather round her.

SYLVIE: I don't really know, Pierre...it may be something to do with the fact that Count Danton is richer, handsomer and cleverer than you - but mostly because that whoever marries him, will one day become The Countess de Colombes!

GIRLS: Absolutely!

SYLVIE: Let's go to The Chateau and see if we can find Danton!

GIRLS: Yes!!

The GIRLS exit. The MEN and CHILDREN follow them, protesting...

MEN: Where are you going?/How can you like that man?!/Don't go with them!!

MUSIC CUE 2a: FRANC'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)
FRENCH FRANC enters: he backs on, stealthily: he is holding a "doorstep" sandwich.

FRANC: There's no-one here...good - **[FRANC faces front, preparing to eat his sandwich, he suddenly sees The AUDIENCE]** - Aah!! **[Puts the sandwich inside his jerkin]** I didn't see you before! Excuse me, I was just going to have a quick snack...I know they say you shouldn't eat between meals, but if you eat seventeen meals a day, I find it's not a problem. Now my name is Franc, but some people call me Fat Franc...and I've never understood why...? So I'd like to conduct a quick opinion poll. I'm going to say "Hello, everybody!" and I want all the kind, good, intelligent people to say "Hello, Franc! Then I'm going to say "Hello, everybody!" again, and all the horrible, rude, nasty people to say "Hello, Fat Franc!" Ready...? Hello, everybody!...A clear majority! Second helpings...Hello, everybody!...And I thought you were my friends!

FRANC turns away in mock distress - encouraging The AUDIENCE to "Aah!" in sympathy.

I have a terrible life, you know...it's worse than that...it's much worse than that!...I work for that horrible Count Danton...he makes my life hell!...He beats me!...He starves me!...He nicks all my sweets!...That's why I'm so thin! Alright, I know I could do with losing the odd pound - look at me...more chins than a Chinese telephone directory! And I do all the right exercises **[Taps two fingers under his chin]** I've been doing this one **[Taps his chin]** for years **[Taps his chin]** What have I got? The two thinnest fingers in France!!

DANTON and THE CHORUS enter. SYLVIE is clinging to DANTON's arm.

DANTON: Did I ever tell you, Sylvie, of the time I was voted "The Handsomest Man in France?"

SYLVIE: Several times, Count Danton - but do tell me again...

As FRANC tries to exit unnoticed, DR PANACHE enters: they collide.

DR PANACHE: Oh! I'm terribly sorry.

FRANC: My fault, Doctor Panache, my fault entirely!

DANTON abandons SYLVIE and advances towards FRANC.

DANTON: Ah! There you are, you useless lump of lard!

DR PANACHE: I beg your pardon?

DANTON: Not you, Doctor - I was talking to the human dustbin! Where have you been?

FRANC: I was just having a snack.

DANTON: You're always having a snack! Tell me, Doctor, is your charming daughter here?

DR PANACHE: Indeed she is - I left her talking to your mother.

DANTON: Your Beauty is such a pretty girl...and I'm sure she has a soft spot for me...

FRANC: She has - it's called Romney **[Or local reference]** Marsh!

DANTON: You insolent imbecile!

DANTON moves to hit FRANC who ducks behind DR PANACHE. As BEAUTY and THE COUNTESS enter it appears that DANTON is about to hit DR PANACHE.

BEAUTY: Count Danton!

DANTON: **[Suddenly smooth]** Beauty!

BEAUTY: Were you trying to strike my Father?!

DANTON: Of course not, my dear - I was merely trying to hit my servant...Fat...

DANTON slaps FRANC.

FRANC: Ah!!

DANTON: French...

DANTON slaps FRANC.

FRANC: Ooh!!

DANTON: Franc...

DANTON slaps FRANC.

FRANC: Ow!!!

COUNTESS: Stop that at once, Danton! Poor man! **[To FRANC]** Why don't you go back to the buffet, Franc - they're just about to cut the cake!

FRANC: Sounds good to me!

FRANC exits.

DANTON: Mother! What's the use of being an aristocrat if you can't abuse your servants once in a while?

COUNTESS: Danton! We also have our responsibilities!

DANTON: Tell me about them! I've kissed so many "village maidens" I think I need a lip re-tread!

COUNTESS: Danton...behave!! **[To DR PANACHE]** Beauty tells me that you are going away for a few days, Doctor.

DR PANACHE: Indeed, I must travel over the mountains to visit the Duc D'Onalde.

COUNTESS: Well, while you are away, Beauty shall come and stay with us.

DANTON: What a very good idea.

BEAUTY: It's very kind of you, Countess - but you mustn't put yourself to any trouble for me.

COUNTESS: Nonsense, my dear, it's no trouble at all - we do have forty-eight spare rooms in the Chateau.

DANTON: Yes; there's a lovely one next to mine.

COUNTESS: Which she will NOT be staying in. You shall have the room next to mine!

DR PANACHE: It's a most generous offer, Countess; and I would feel happier if Beauty were not alone.

COUNTESS: That's settled then.

BEAUTY: Thankyou, ma'am. **[Curtseys]**

DR PANACHE: Goodbye, my dearest; I'll be back as soon as I can.

BEAUTY: Goodbye, Father...**[Embraces him]**...Don't worry about me, I shall be quite safe at The Chateau.

COUNTESS: Safe journey, Doctor; give my regards to the Duke.

DR PANACHE: I will, ma'am. Goodbye.

DR PANACHE exits.

DANTON: Come, Beauty...**[Offers her his arm]**...I'll take you to The Chateau and show you your room.

BEAUTY: Thankyou, Count Danton.

COUNTESS: That's very kind of you, Danton.

DANTON: You know me, Mother..."generosity" is my middle name!

DANTON and BEAUTY exit. DANTON's voice is heard from offstage.

DANTON: Beauty, my dear - why don't I show you the Shrubbery...?

COUNTESS: Danton!!

The COUNTESS exits.

SYLVIE: I can't think what Danton sees in that girl!

PIERRE: Perhaps it's because Beauty's the prettiest girl in the village...

SYLVIE: So you say!

PIERRE: She's also the only girl who doesn't fall at his feet.

SYLVIE: She's just playing hard to get!

PIERRE: That's not a problem you have, is it, Sylvie?

PIERRE exits.

SYLVIE: What do mean by that remark? Pierre! Come back here!

SYLVIE exits followed by the rest of The CHORUS.

MUSIC CUE 2b: LOUIS' ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)

LOOPY LOUIS enters on a skateboard, or roller blades. He circles the stage, calling "Hi, kids!" to The AUDIENCE, distracts himself and crashes into the proscenium arch.

LOUIS: Ow!! I wish I knew where the brakes are! Hi, kids! My name's Louis - and I've got a very important job - I'm the O.V.I...The Official Village Idiot! The only trouble is you don't get paid for being an idiot...unless you work for Channel 5! So I'm looking for a new job - I want one that combines danger, risk and adventure!...So I applied to be on the check-out of the "Ten items or less" till at Tesco's!...But I didn't get it!...They said I wasn't butch enough! But I don't know what they mean...I've got Kung-Fu skills...

LOUIS nearly ruptures himself doing a Kung-Fu routine.
MUSIC CUE 2c: DORA'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)
DAME DORA is heard calling "Hello? Hello, there?". DAME DORA enters, carrying a basket.

DORA: At last - a sign of life!

LOUIS is totally gobsmacked by DAME DORA's appearance.

DORA: Well, nearly...[Waves her hand in front of LOOPY LOUIS's face]... Hello?...Hello?...[To The AUDIENCE]...The lights are on but there's no-one at home!

LOUIS pulls himself together.

LOUIS: Sorry, Missis - can I help?

DORA: I was told that today was the day of The Village Fete?

LOUIS: It is - this is it?

DORA: This is a Fete...worse than death! Where is everybody?!

LOUIS: I don't know...[Referring to The AUDIENCE]...My mates are all here...

DORA: They're your "mates" are they...I thought it was a big bus-queue! [Looks at The AUDIENCE] Oh, I say! There are some hunks out there, aren't there! All those muscles and moustaches!...The men aren't bad either! [To LOUIS] Now, you've not had the pleasure of me, have you?

LOUIS: Er...no...I'm Louis - round here they call me, Loopy Louis...

DORA: Yes...I can understand that...well I am Dame Dora, Dame Dora Jarre! I work for my master, The Prince, in his castle, over the mountains.

LOUIS: Are you his housekeeper?

DORA: Excuse me! I'm his cook!! Why, I taught Delia everything she knows! I'm celebrated for me celery! Praised for me prawns! And famous for me faggots!

LOUIS: I don't suppose there are any jobs going at the castle?

DORA: As it happens, I am looking for an assistant...can I see your credentials?

LOUIS: Probably...it's this costume! Oh, I see what you mean.

DORA: You can't get the staff these days, can you? I have a funny feeling I'm going to regret this, Louis...but the job's yours!

LOUIS: Great!! How much are the wages?

DORA: How much did you get in your last job?

LOUIS: Nothing.

DORA: I'll double it! **[Offers LOUIS her hand]**

LOUIS: Done! **[Shakes her hand]**

DORA: You have been!

LOUIS: How come we've never met before, Dame Dora?

DORA: Well, I've never done my shopping in your village before, but when I came today I heard about The Village Fete and I thought I'd pop up here and share some of my goodies with the children...

LOUIS: What sort of goodies?

DORA: Oh, I've got loads of things in here...**[Lists the sweets in her basket]**...and I also got a bag of the new crisps.

LOUIS: Ooh! What flavour are they?

DORA: **[Reads from the bag]** They're "Burnt Fat, Cheesy Sock, Tripe and Snails...with Raspberry Yoghurt"!

LOUIS: What do they taste like?

DORA: **[Opens the bag of crisps]** Try one...

DORA offers LOUIS a crisp: he and DORA each take one and eat it. LOUIS is nearly sick.

LOUIS: Errgh! They're disgusting!!

DORA: I think they're lovely!

DORA takes the bag of crisps and eats a handful of them.

DORA: Why don't you try some!

DORA throws the rest of the bag of crisps to The AUDIENCE.

LOUIS: I didn't like the crisps, Dame Dora - but can I have some of your sweets?

DORA: Nobody gets something for nothing from me, Louis...though I might make an exception for that man in the third row...no, if you want to share my goodies - you have to sing the song...

LOUIS: What song's that?

DORA: My song! The "If You Want My Goodies" song. It's ever so easy, I'll teach you!

MUSIC CUE 3: THE GOODIES SONG

DORA: See - it's ever so easy - you only have to remember the last two lines..."Dame Dora, we adore ya! Please throw your goodies here!"

LOUIS: **[Sings]** Dame Dora, we adore ya!
Please throw your goodies here.

DORA: By George, he's got it!...Let's sing the song!

MUSIC CUE 3a: THE GOODIES SONG

DAME DORA and LOOPY LOUIS sing the song again.

DORA: Well done, Louis! Have some goodies!

DAME DORA gives LOOPY LOUIS some goodies.

LOUIS: Thanks, Dame Dora!

DORA: I've still got loads of goodies left...

LOUIS: I bet my mates would like them, wouldn't you? **[Repeats as necessary]**

DORA: They can have everything I've got!...Especially that one in the third row!...As long as they all...

DORA/LOUIS: "Sing the song!!!"

MUSIC CUE 3b: THE GOODIES SONG

DAME DORA, LOOPY LOUIS and The AUDIENCE sing the song again. Blackout: DAME DORA and LOOPY LOUIS exit.

Cloth/Tabs in: Lights up revealing...

SCENE TWO

A CORRIDOR IN THE CHATEAU

Enter FRANC.

FRANC: Hello, boys and girls...you haven't seen Count Danton, have you? Good! My diet's really working you know, in two days I've lost three stone - this arm's quite thin now...

Enter BEAUTY.

BEAUTY: Hello, Franc. He's not here, is he?

FRANC: Who?

BEAUTY: Count Danton.

FRANC: **[Looks round warily]** I hope not! Are you trying to find him?

BEAUTY: I'm trying to avoid him!

FRANC: I know the feeling!

BEAUTY: It was very kind of The Countess to let me stay here, but Danton won't stop pestering me.

FRANC: He gives me a lot of hassle too!

BEAUTY: I know - but I bet he doesn't try and kiss you behind the gazebo!

FRANC: That's not surprising - as far as I know, I haven't got a gazebo.

Enter COUNT DANTON.

DANTON: Ah, Beauty - there you are!

BEAUTY: Count Danton. **[Curtseys]**

DANTON: What are you doing here, Franc? Isn't it time for your lunch-break? After all, you've just finished your breakfast break - and it'll soon be time for your dinner-break!

FRANC: I'm on a diet, sir - I'm trying to lose a few pounds.

DANTON: If you don't make yourself scarce immediately, Franc, I'll help you lose ten pounds of ugly fat in an instant...

FRANC: Really, sir...?

DANTON: Yes...I'll cut your head off! Now, get lost!!

FRANC: I think I feel a quick snack coming on...

FRANC exits.

BEAUTY: If you'll excuse me, Count Danton...

BEAUTY tries to exit: COUNT DANTON stops her.

DANTON: Don't go, my dear - I thought we might have a little game together...

BEAUTY: What sort of game...?

DANTON: Backgammon? Chess? Happy Families? **[He moves behind BEAUTY and puts his arms around her]** Hahaha! You name the game, Beauty - and I'll play it!

BEAUTY breaks away.

BEAUTY: I'm afraid I'm not in the mood for games, Count Danton - my Father is due to return today, and there are storm-clouds over the mountains.

DANTON: **[Embraces her again]** Don't worry, my dear! There will always be a home here for you - even if your stupid, old Father does die in a storm!

BEAUTY breaks away.

BEAUTY: My Father die! How can you say such a thing?

DANTON: You must face facts, Beauty - our parents won't be with us forever! Your Father must be sixty...

The COUNTESS enters, unseen by him, behind COUNT DANTON.

DANTON: ...And my Mother's destroyed her Birth Certificate! But she's past it! She may look OK, but she uses more make-up than Lily Savage! She bulk-buys at Boots! I mean, I already run the estate for her - because I know the poor, old cow can't last much longer!

COUNTESS: **[Edith Evans]** Dan-ton!

DANTON: **[Suddenly sees her: placating]** Mother!

COUNTESS: Go to your room!

DANTON: Why, Mother?

COUNTESS: Because you've left your train-set all over the floor!

DANTON: Sorry, Mother...

DANTON exits.

COUNTESS: I do hope my son wasn't bothering you, Beauty?

BEAUTY: Well....

COUNTESS: Oh, I know I've spoilt him, but you see, he's all I have.

BEAUTY: I know what you mean. I only have my father. I worry about him when he goes away on his own.

COUNTESS: I'm sure he'll be fine, my dear.

BEAUTY: It's just he can be so forgetful. I'm afraid he's getting rather old and absent-minded.

COUNTESS: Ah, but you are young, beauty; someday you will marry.

BEAUTY: I know, but, you see, Danton....

COUNTESS: Oh, good heavens, I don't mean Danton, my dear. He needs someone to crack the whip and keep him in order, not a sweet girl like you. Just you wait, my dear, when the right man comes along, you'll know it. Sometimes you meet the right person in the most unlikely places. Now, I must go and keep an eye on that son of mine; I'll see you at dinner.

The COUNTESS exits

MUSIC CUE 4: BEAUTY'S SOLO

Blackout: Cloth/Tabs out. Lights up revealing...

SCENE THREE

THE GATES OF THE CASTLE

FX1: Wind. Enter LOUIS SR...He is blown across the stage.

LOUIS: Hi, kids! It's a bit windy, isn't it? I'm really enjoying my new job, you know; though it's a bit strange, I mean I've been working here for three days now - and I still haven't met The Prince yet!

LX: Lightning Flash. FX2: Thunder.

LOUIS: I'd better get inside - this storm's getting worse by the minute.

LOUIS exits SL. FX3: Thunder. LX: Lightning Flash. As the sky grows darker DR PANACHE enters SR, struggling against the wind.

DR PANACHE: Thank goodness - some shelter. **[Moves to the gates]** The gates are locked! There must be someone inside...Hello! Hello, there! Help!

LX: Lightning Flash. FX4: Thunder. DAME DORA enters SL wearing a "sou-wester", rainwear, wellingtons - and carrying a large umbrella.

DORA: Don't worry, dear - International Rescue has arrived!

DR PANACHE: I'm delighted to see you, Madam.

DORA: I don't get told that very often. Come on, let's get you inside.

DR PANACHE: But the gates are locked and bolted.

DORA: The Main Gates haven't been opened for years - come, this way!

DAME DORA leads DR PANACHE off SL. The wind subsides.

MUSIC CUE 4a: SCENE CHANGE (INSTRUMENTAL)

Bleedthrough gauze/Cloth/Tabs out revealing...

SCENE FOUR

A CHAMBER IN THE CASTLE

A table, a carver chair and USC a large urn containing a rose-bush with three blooms. DAME DORA and DR PANACHE Enter.

DORA: In you come then, dear...now if you'll let me have that wet cloak I'll have it dried for you. [Calls] Louis!

DR PANACHE: You're very kind, madam.

Enter LOUIS.

LOUIS: Yes, Dame Dora?

LOUIS and DR PANACHE suddenly recognise each other.

LOUIS: } Dr Panache!

DR PANACHE: } Loopy Louis!

DORA: You two know each other?

LOUIS: I should do - he's my doctor!

DORA: He's obviously not a brain surgeon then.

DR PANACHE: What are you doing here, Louis?

LOUIS: I work here. This is my boss, Dame Dora.

DORA: I'm the Castle Cook. Louis, take the Doctor's cloak to the kitchen and hang it by the stove to dry - and bring some brandy, the poor man's half-frozen.

LOUIS: I'm on me way, Dame Dora.

LOUIS exits.

DORA: Now, can I get you something to eat?

DR PANACHE: Please don't trouble yourself, Dame Dora.

DORA: Oh, it's no trouble, Doctor - I can rustle up a meal in minutes!

LOUIS enters with a tray, a bottle of brandy and two glasses.

LOUIS: Here's the brandy, Dame Dora.

DORA: Put it on the table, dear, then pop up and make sure the fire is burning in the Blue Room - The Doctor can sleep there tonight.

LOUIS: Yes, Dame Dora.

LOUIS exits. DAME DORA pours DR PANACHE a large brandy.

DORA: Get that down you - it'll keep the cold out!

DR PANACHE: Thankyou. **[He sips the brandy]**

DORA: And I'll just have a nip to keep you company...

DAME DORA pours herself a very large brandy.

DORA: Cheers!...**[Downs it in one go]**...That's better!

DR PANACHE: Your hospitality is overwhelming, ma'am.

DORA: I know it's what The Prince would wish. For once, years ago, he refused shelter to an old woman...

DR PANACHE: What happened?

DORA: The old woman turned out to be a witch - and she put a curse on him!

DR PANACHE: What kind of curse?

DORA: ...I've said too much already.

LOUIS enters.

LOUIS: Your room's all ready, Doctor.

DR PANACHE: Thankyou, Louis. If you'll excuse me, Dame Dora, I am rather tired.

DORA: Of course, Doctor, Louis will show you to your room; and in the morning I'll cook you a lovely, big, breakfast!

LOUIS: This way, Doctor!

DR PANACHE: Goodnight, ma'am. **[Bows]**

LOUIS and DR PANACHE exit. DAME DORA crosses to the table.

DORA: **[Calls]** Doctor! You haven't finished your brandy! Oh, well - a shame to waste it! **[DORA drinks the brandy]** What a nice man, that Doctor is...a very, very, nice man...I think he's going to get my "Super-De-Luxe" in the morning!

Blackout: DAME DORA exits.

MUSIC CUE 4b: MORNING MUSIC (INSTRUMENTAL)

During the Blackout the remains of a huge breakfast are set on the table. When the lights come up DR PANACHE is seated at the table. Enter LOUIS, wearing a waiter's apron and a cloth over his arm.

LOUIS: Can I get you anything else, Doctor?

DR PANACHE: No thankyou, Louis! That was the best breakfast I've had in years!

LOUIS: Dora will be pleased - she always says "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach!"

DR PANACHE: As a Doctor, I have to tell you, that that is anatomically impossible.

LOUIS: You want to watch Dame Dora, Doctor - she's got her eye on you!

DR PANACHE: **[A little flattered]** Really...?

LOUIS: I know you're knocking on a bit - but she's desperate to get married!

DR PANACHE: What do you mean..."desperate"!?

LOUIS: Well she's the only woman I know who practises saying "I do!"

DR PANACHE: Louis - you're exaggerating!

Enter DAME DORA.

DORA: **[With a variety of emotions and inflections]** I do...I do!!!!...I do...I dooo! **[Sees DR PANACHE's horrified expression]** What's up, Doc? ...Didn't you enjoy your..."Super-De-Luxe Brekkie"?

DR PANACHE: It was delicious, Dame Dora. Now the storm has passed I must be heading home - but first, I must thank The Prince for his hospitality, will you take me to him?

DORA: I don't know about that, Doctor - he rarely meets strangers...he's very shy.

DR PANACHE: I can't leave without expressing my gratitude!

DORA: Well, I'm taking his breakfast up in five minutes - I'll ask him then.

DR PANACHE: Thankyou.

DORA: Come along, Louis - help me clear this table.

LOUIS: Yes, Dame Dora.

DAME DORA and LOUIS clear the table and exit. DR PANACHE wanders around and sees the rose-bush.

DR PANACHE: What a beautiful rose...[Smells it]...and a glorious scent! The Prince is such a generous man, I'm sure he wouldn't mind if I took one bloom home, as a present for Beauty...

DR PANACHE picks a rose.

LX: The Lights start to flicker. FX5: A distant roar, heavy feet running, finally an enormous roar.

MUSIC CUE 4c: BEAST MOTIF (INSTRUMENTAL)

THE BEAST bursts into the room. PYROS. During this DR PANACHE has become increasingly frightened. At the roar, DAME DORA and LOUIS enter...She knows what to expect, he doesn't! When THE BEAST enters LOUIS hides behind DAME DORA.

THE BEAST: You stole my rose!

THE BEAST crosses to DR PANACHE and with one blow knocks him to the ground.

LOUIS: [Whispers to DORA] What's that???

DORA: That's The Prince...

THE BEAST turns and crosses to DAME DORA.

THE BEAST: Did you call me "Prince"?

DORA: Yes, master.

DAME DORA curtsays, causing LOUIS to do the same to maintain his cover.

THE BEAST: How many times must I tell you?! I am not a Prince! Once I was a Prince...but now I am The Beast!!! **[Roars]**