



Sleeping Beauty

by Stephen Duckham

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PantoScripts Sample

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PantoScripts Sample

SLEEPING BEAUTY

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

FAIRY QUEEN
 LORD CHAMBERLAIN
 FAIRY MOONBEAM
 FAIRY SUNLIGHT
 FAIRY STARDUST
 CARABOSSE
 KING SEPTIMUS THE SEVENTEENTH
 QUEEN SYBIL THE SIXTH
 PRINCESS AURORA
 BARNEY – The Court Jester
 NANNY NORA
 BORIS)
 ANDY) THREE ROYAL SUITORS
 LIONEL)
 PRINCE MICHAEL
 BEAST OF THE FOREST

CHORUS: MEMBERS OF THE COURT

DANCERS: MEMBERS OF THE COURT / SPIRITS OF THE ENCHANTED FOREST

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

SCENE 1 THE ROYAL CHAPEL
 SCENE 2 THE ROYAL THRONE ROOM – 18 YEARS LATER
 SCENE 3 THE PALACE GATES
 SCENE 4 THE ROYAL THRONE ROOM
 SCENE 5 CARABOSSE'S LAIR
 SCENE 6 THE ROYAL THRONE ROOM

ACT TWO

SCENE 1 THE ENCHANTED FOREST – 100 YEARS LATER
 SCENE 2 THE ROYAL THRONE ROOM
 SCENE 3 THE PALACE GATES
 SCENE 4 THE PALACE BALLROOM
 SCENE 5 THE PETRIFIED FOREST
 SCENE 6 CARABOSSE'S COTTAGE
 SCENE 7 THE PALACE GATES
 SCENE 8 THE PALACE BALLROOM

Notes on the production

Although there are a number of scene changes, the production need not be too complicated. For instance the Chapel, Throne Room and Ballroom in the Palace can all be the same scene with just the furniture being changed. Carabosses' Lair, the Palace Gates and Petrified Forest scenes can be played on tabs with a little set dressing and Carabosses' cottage can be flats with a sliding or revolving door on stage right.

The scene to end Act One, which shows the growing of the Enchanted Forest, can be easily staged a number of ways. The easiest is to fly in entwined branches, (possibly camouflage netting with painted rope and leaves attached), or pull them across on a tab track to cut off the main Throne Room scene. If either of these is impractical, the dancers could be dressed in green costumes representing trees and branches and carry extended pieces which they attach to various parts of the set or false pros. This scene starts Act Two and the procedure is reversed as Prince Michael cuts through the forest to reveal the Throne Room.

Of course if your company is able to mount a more extravagant production, the Chapel, Throne Room and Ballroom can all be different settings. Act One Scene 4 can take place in another part of the Palace or even in a Garden Scene.

A permanent false pros is used throughout the production and is designed to look like castle turrets. On the down stage right pros is a large button for *Barney's special surprise*. Set in the turret down stage left is the RAVEN that appears at various times during the production. This can be a puppet operated by a stagehand or perhaps set behind a gauze window and lit only when required. It doesn't have to be a Raven. Carabosse refers to it as 'her pet' so it could be a dragon or some sort of mythical creature.

The 'Talent Contest' sequence in Act 1 Scene 4 can quite easily be adapted to whatever popular TV programme is on at the time.

All the characters are what you would expect to find in Pantomime with a number of small cameo roles. Prince Michael can be played by a boy or a girl, but Nanny Nora should be a typical Panto Dame. The character of Carabosse has often posed the question as to whether it should be played by a man or woman. In my version she is a banished royal fairy and therefore is played by a female. This, of course, gives another part to an actress and one with dramatic content usually found in male roles.

The placing of musical numbers and who sings them is suggested in the script, but it is up to the director to decide what to use. A word of advice: Pantomime audiences – particularly the younger members – like the story to keep moving, so don't make the musical sequences too long, especially ballads.

I hope you enjoy doing this version of 'Sleeping Beauty' and have a great success with your production.

Stephen Duckham

c 2009

ACT ONE
SCENE 1 THE ROYAL CHAPEL

MUSIC - UNDERSCORE

[The scene opens with the stage in darkness except for a spot DR where the FAIRY QUEEN is standing. SHE is looking at the darkness in the centre of the stage and wipes away a tear. SHE then turns and sees the audience.]

F.Q. Oh hello! I didn't notice you there! You'll have to forgive me but I'm quite overcome with emotion. Christenings always have this effect on me, especially Royal ones. *[SHE looks back at the darkness.]* Doesn't it all look lovely? *[Back to the audience.]* What's that? You can't see anything? Oh silly me, whatever am I thinking of. *[SHE makes a magic pass and the lights come up on the scene. In the centre is a beautifully decorated crib containing the baby PRINCESS AURORA. Standing either side is the KING and QUEEN. Also there is the LORD CHAMBERLAIN and the rest of the COURT. They are all looking at the crib.]* You see King Septimus the Seventeenth and Queen Sybil the Sixth have been blessed with a beautiful daughter and she has been christened Aurora.

KING *[Reaching into the crib and tickling the infant.]* Cuchi cool!

[The QUEEN pulls him away and indicates he should be quiet.]

F.Q. Everything is perfect down to the last detail. And to complete the ceremony my three most senior Royal Fairies and I are about to bestow our magical gifts on the tiny babe.

L/CHAMBER. *[HE beats his staff of office on the stage.]* First to approach the Royal Princess is Fairy Moonbeam. *[FAIRY MOONBEAM enters and crosses to the crib.]*

FAIRY MOON From Royal babe to fair Princess,
I give the gift of happiness.

L/CHAMBER. Second to approach is Fairy Sunlight. *[FAIRY SUNLIGHT enters and crosses to the crib.]*

FAIRY SUN To keep your heart so good and true,
I give the gift of love to you.

L/CHAMBER. Third is Fairy Stardust. *[FAIRY STARDUST enters and crosses to the crib.]*

FAIRY STAR With starlight dancing in your hair,
I give the gift of beauty fair.

L/CHAMBER. And lastly our most illustrious guest and guardian to us all, the Fairy Queen.

[The FAIRY QUEEN approaches the crib.]

F.Q Your majesties, your daughter will grow up into a happy, loving and beautiful Princess, so my gift on this special occasion is –

[There is a crash of thunder and the lights dim. The RAVEN appears in a turret down left and squawks loudly. CARABOSSE is heard off stage, her voice echoing around the palace.]

CARABOSSE Special occasion? If this is such a special occasion, why wasn't I invited?

[The whole COURT looks around wondering where the voice is coming from.]

F.Q Carabosse!

[CARABOSSE enters Down Left amid smoke and in a green light. ALL shrink back in fear.]

CARABOSSE Yes, that's right. It's me, Calabosse.

F.Q You shouldn't be here.

CARABOSSE And why not? Am I not also a Royal Fairy?

F.Q You relinquished that title years ago when you started using your powers for your own evil ends and not for the well being of the court.

CARABOSSE How dare you dictate to me how I use my powers. *[Suddenly charming.]* But I'll not hold it against you today of all days. I'm sure it was an oversight on your part, your Majesties, that I wasn't invited. And as you've all been so generous with your gifts, I too wish to add my blessing to the infant Princess.

QUEEN There's no need. Really.....

CARABOSSE *[Sharply.]* But I insist!

KING Oh all right. Thank you for your attendance!

CARABOSSE Don't thank me too soon. *[Turning angry again.]* You haven't heard what gift I am about to bestow on your precious daughter! *[ALL show much concern at what is about to happen.]* Listen well all of you. The Princess shall indeed grow in grace and beauty, beloved by all who know her. But before the sun sets on her eighteenth birthday she shall prick her finger on the spindle of a spinning wheel and die!

QUEEN Oh no!

KING I order you to be banished from the Palace forever!

CARABOSSE Threaten me all you like, but I am Carabosse, the invincible. Remember, before sun sets on her eighteenth birthday! *[With a great cackle of laughter SHE exits down left. The RAVEN cries out and disappears.]*

QUEEN Oh Septimus, what are we going to do?

F.Q Don't despair your Majesty. I still have my gift to give.

KING Then you can undo this awful curse?

F.Q Oh no. Carabosses' powers are much too great. *[SHE crosses to the crib.]* But I promise I will watch over you and protect you as best I can from any danger that may rear its ugly head. This is my gift to the fair Princess. *[The FAIRY QUEEN moves back down right as the lights dim on the christening scene.]* King Septimus, fearful for his daughter's life, ordered that every spinning wheel in the land be destroyed.

[The COURT dissolves and almost in silhouette we see people crossing upstage from right to left with cut out spinning wheels. After this the lights fade out except for the spot on the FAIRY QUEEN.] So now the years roll by and the babe grows into a happy child. *[A spot comes up centre stage and a LITTLE GIRL of about six stands in the light playing with a doll.]* And then into a studious young girl. *[Into the spot comes a GIRL of about thirteen reading a book.]* And finally a beautiful Princess. *[PRINCESS AURORA comes into the spot.]* Today is her eighteenth birthday. *[The spot on AURORA fades.]* The whole court is preparing for a great celebration. So that's where we will join them. *[SHE waves her wand and exits as the lights come up on -]*

SCENE 2 THE ROYAL THRONE ROOM

[Two large thrones dominate the upstage area. The whole COURT is preparing for the birthday celebrations.]

MUSIC - OPENING CHORUS [CHORUS]

[At the end of the number BARNEY, the Court Jester, enters with four balloons coloured red, yellow, green and blue.]

BARNEY Hello everyone.

ALL Hello Barney.

BARNEY I've been blowing up balloons for the party. Oh I'm quite out of breath!

MAN They're very nice, but you know we've got an awful lot of red ones. *[HE bursts the red balloon and exits.]*

GIRL And I've always disliked yellow. *[SHE bursts the yellow balloon and exits.]*

2nd MAN And green is supposed to be unlucky! *[HE bursts the green one and exits.]*

2nd GIRL And nobody wants to be blue at a party! *[SHE bursts the blue one and exits. By now the entire CHORUS is off.]*

BARNEY *[To the audience.]* Oh look, they've taken my breath away!
[Sympathetic "Ahh" from the audience.] Never mind. I'm not going to be depressed. We're going to have a party for Princess Aurora and I'll let you into a little secret. I've got a special surprise for her as a birthday treat. It happens when you push this button. But no one must push it yet. *[HE reaches off stage and gets a sign that reads 'DO NOT PUSH' which HE hangs on the button.]* There, that should do the trick. But just to make sure no one ignores the sign I need someone to keep watch. *[Looks at the audience.]* I know – you're all my friends aren't you? *[Audience reaction.]* Well could you watch and let me know if anyone tries to push it? *[Audience reaction.]* Oh thank you. Just shout out 'Barney, the button' and I'll come running. Shall we have a practice? *[Audience reaction.]* OK, pretend I'm someone else and shout out when I reach for the button. *[HE crosses back to the centre of the stage and then turns to creep up on the button. The audience calls out.]* Oh, you've got to be a lot louder than that. Let's try again. *[HE repeats the process.]* That's much better. Now I know the surprise for the princess will be safe.

[The LORD CHAMBERLAIN enters.]

L/CHAMBER *[Announcing.]* Her Royal Highness, Princess Aurora.

MUSIC - FANFARE

[The CHORUS enters and bows as AURORA enters.]

AURORA Hello everyone.

ALL Happy birthday, your Highness.

AURORA Thank you all for making everything so perfect. I know today is going to be a very special day.

MUSIC - SONG (AURORA & COMPANY)

[Towards the end of the number a large birthday cake is wheeled on and out pops NANNY NORA.]

NANNY Surprise! Happy birthday.

AURORA Nanny, how wonderful. *[NANNY gets out of the cake. SHE is wearing a dress just like the cake. Some of the CHORUS wheel the cake off. BARNEY also exits.]*

NANNY I had to do something to make this day special for you!

AURORA You don't have to do anything special – you are special. For as long as I can remember you've always been there for me.

NANNY *[Getting tearful.]* Oh dear, I'm feeling all of a doo dah! *[SHE pulls out a large handkerchief, sobs into it and then wrings it out.]* Now come along all of you, take Her Highness into the nursery where there is a mountain of presents to be unwrapped!

- AURORA Presents?
- NANNY Of course. *[The rest of the CHORUS exit with AURORA.]* Well now let's have a look at who we've got here. *[SHE peers out into the audience.]* Oh what a motley crowd! I hope you're all ready to have a good time at Princess Aurora's party. Are you? *[Audience responds.]* You don't sound very enthusiastic! Are you all ready to have a good time? *[Audience responds – hopefully louder.]* Oooh, that's better. I'm Nanny Nora and I'm very pleased to meet you. *[SHE curtseys and a ratchet sound is heard.]* Oh dear! That's my whale bone corset! I think the whale's still in it! Anyway I'm glad you're in a mood to enjoy yourselves because I like a good do! It's been a long time since I had a good night out. Even when my husband was alive I could never drag him away from the TV. He'd sit there day after day staring at it with a bottle of Newcastle Brown and a packet of cheese and onion crisps! I don't know why I married him! I could have had eight husbands you know! Oh yes, the vicar told me. It's in the marriage service. Four better and four worse! *[SHE starts to get tearful.]* Then eventually he was taken from me! You know he had one motto in life: "It's better to give than to receive". The trouble was he received and got fifteen years! So I'm on the look out for someone to share the twilight of my years with! You know between you and me I think that Barney fancies me! I do! Every time I smile at him his face sort of twists and he gets all hot and bothered! It's the first sign of passion welling up in a man! I'm sure he wants to make a commitment. He always telling me I should be committed. *[SHE sees the button.]* Hello what's this? Oh I wonder what'll happen if I push it? *[SHE goes to push the button. The audience shouts out and BARNEY runs on.]*
- BARNEY *[To audience.]* Thank you. *[To NANNY.]* Here, leave that alone.
- NANNY Oh Barney, you made me jump. *[NANNY crosses to him.]* Hello handsome! How about you and me hanging out at *[Name of local nightclub]* later? I hear – *[Name of a female pop singer.]* – is singing.
- BARNEY You've got to be joking. All that flouncing around with a hairy chest and deep voice.
- NANNY She's not that bad.
- BARNEY I'm talking about you! *[HE exits.]*
- NANNY Ohh, couldn't you just eat him?
- [The LORD CHAMBERLAIN enters and crosses close to NANNY.]*
- L/CHAMBER *[Announcing.]* Their Majesties, King Septimus the seventeenth and Queen Sybil the sixth. *[HE announces with such force that NANNY gets spittle in her face.]*
- NANNY I think he's sprung a leak!
- [The CHORUS enters and bows as the QUEEN enters with the KING trailing behind. THEY cross down stage.]*

QUEEN Septimus, come along. Don't dawdle!

KING Yes dear.

QUEEN Have all the invitations gone out for tonight's party?

KING Yes dear.

QUEEN Has the catering been taken care of?

KING Yes dear.

QUEEN Everything must be perfect for our darling daughter's birthday.

KING Yes dear.

QUEEN We don't want anything to go wrong, do we?

KING Yes dear – I mean no dear!

[PRINCESS AURORA enters.]

AURORA Hello mummy, hello daddy.

QUEEN Happy birthday my dear.

AURORA Thank you.

KING How's my little girl today?

AURORA I feel fine. But I'm not your little girl any more, father. I'm eighteen.

QUEEN Oh, I can hardly believe it. It seems like only yesterday when I held you in my arms for the first time. Everyone said you looked just like me!

KING But you were healthy enough, so we didn't worry! *[The QUEEN gives him a look.]*

AURORA Oh mummy, I'm so happy today. Everyone has been so kind.

QUEEN Nothing is too good for my precious Aurora. And to make this day complete, your father has some special news for you.

KING I have?

QUEEN Yes you have!

KING What's that?

QUEEN You know. *[SHE goes into an elaborate mime describing a marriage service.]*

KING Could you repeat that? *[The QUEEN mimes again this time humming the Wedding March.]* You know I really think you should get out more!

QUEEN Oh for goodness sake. Tell her about the wedding!

AURORA Wedding?

KING *[Stumbling over his words.]* Well you see, your mother and I thought that as you are now of age you might think about - you know, if you would like to - with some chap or other – if you were willing – and he was willing of course! Well, it might be a good idea to – you know – *[HE mimes diving.]* – take the plunge!

QUEEN *[Taking charge of the situation.]* What your father is *trying* to say is we think you ought to get married. It would be in the best interests of the Kingdom.

NANNY What about her interests?

KING Nanny, I think you can leave the affairs of State to us!

NANNY Yes, and a right state you'll get them in!

QUEEN Really Nanny, you take far too many liberties with His Majesty.

KING Who's been talking?

NANNY Oh I'm sorry your Maj, but I just can't bare to think of my little precious being married off to the first Prince that passes by.

QUEEN Neither can we. That is why we've arranged for some prospective candidates to be at the party tonight, so they can be properly vetted.

NANNY Ooooh, I'll vet 'em! When I've finished with them they'll be inspected, vaccinated and completely newt... – new men!

AURORA But I would like to have a say in who I'm going to spend the rest of my life with.

KING Of course my dear. No one is going to make you marry someone you don't like.

NANNY I think I should give them the once over! After eighteen years of looking after Her Royal Highness I think I know what sort of man would 'light her fire!' as they say!

KING Who says?

AURORA Oh yes, let Nanny interview them. Please mummy.

QUEEN Oh very well. But whoever is chosen must get Royal approval.

AURORA Of course.

QUEEN Well that's settled then. *[SHE sees the button and crosses towards it.]* I don't remember seeing that button. What's it for I wonder? *[SHE goes to press it and the audience calls out. BARNEY runs on.]*

BARNEY *[To audience.]* Thanks very much. *[To QUEEN.]* Now, now your Maj. Leave that alone.

QUEEN What are you talking about?

BARNEY *[Aside, quietly to the QUEEN.]* It's a little surprise – for later.

QUEEN Oh I see. Talking of little surprises – *[To the KING.]* Come along Septimus it's time to inspect the rest of the palace.

KING Yes dear. *[QUEEN exits. KING speaks to AURORA.]* I'll see you later my sweet, have a lovely day.

AURORA Thank you daddy.

QUEEN *[Off.]* Septimus, I'm leaving.

KING I wish she would!

QUEEN *[Popping her head around the pros.]* What was that?

KING Coming my dear. *[THEY both exit.]*

NANNY *[To AURORA.]* Don't you worry my precious; I'll make sure the right man comes along for you. Who knows, the right man might come along for me too!

AURORA Oh nanny, what would I do without you? *[SHE gives her a kiss on the cheek.]*

NANNY Oh now stop that or else you'll have me going off again! *[SHE looks around.]* Well I don't see many decorations up for this festive day. Who's in charge of brightening the place up?

MAN Barney was looking after that.

NANNY Barney, light of my life. *[SHE puckers up to him.]*

BARNEY Gerroff!

NANNY Well what about the rest of the decorations?

BARNEY I was going to put up some balloons, but this lot had other ideas!

NANNY Get that box of decorations and let's get this party going.

[BARNEY gets a big box from off stage and the CHORUS help him and NANNY decorate the scene throughout the next number.]

MUSIC - COMPANY NUMBER (BARNEY, AURORA, NANNY & CHORUS)

[At the end of the number the lights fade and the scene changes to
 *]*

SCENE 3 THE PALACE GATES

[A front cloth. CARABOSSE enters down left in a spot. The RAVEN is in the turret.]

CARABOSSE So, eighteen years have passed since the King and Queen insulted me by not inviting me to the christening of their wretched daughter. Now I see there is to be another Royal occasion to which I've been left off the guest list. So I shall have to make sure my prophesy comes true, even though King Septimus has banned all spinning wheels from the Kingdom.

[The FAIRY QUEEN enters down right in a spot.]

F.Q Oh Carabosse, why don't you let bygones be bygones and leave the court in peace?

CARABOSSE No one treats me the way they did and gets away with it. My vengeance shall be swift and sure.

F.Q Just remember that we, the Royal fairies, have Auroras interests at heart and we will never let you harm her.

CARABOSSE Oh it's all you and the court and Aurora! No one is ever sympathetic to what I want.

F.Q I told you before, it's your own fault. If you had not chosen to deal in the darker side of magic this would never have happened. You should obey the rules.

CARABOSSE Rules! And who made the rules? You!

F.Q For the good of everyone.

CARABOSSE For the good of yourself you mean. Well it's about time I got a look in!

F.Q Oh Carabosse, I feel sorry for you.

CARABOSSE I don't want your pity. Now just leave me alone. *[FAIRY QUEEN exits.]* As I cannot be seen anywhere inside the Palace my faithful pet shall be my eyes and ears. Go my friend and inform me of everything that is going on. *[RAVEN lets out a cry of understanding and disappears. CARABOSSE sees the button.]* Oh, I wonder what happens if I push this. *[SHE starts to move towards it. Audience reacts and BARNEY runs on from stage right. CARABOSSE pulls her cloak over HER face so as not to be recognised.]*

BARNEY Now, now old woman, leave that alone.

CARABOSSE Sorry young man, I just stumbled towards it. I meant no harm!

BARNEY Oh, that's alright then.

CARABOSSE *[Aside.]* I must get back to my lair and plan the downfall of the Royal Palace and everyone in it. *[SHE exits.]*

BARNEY *[HE looks off.]* Oh look out, here she comes. The Palaces' answer to -
[Name of well know personality. NANNY enters.]

NANNY Ah, there you are my little dream topping!

BARNEY What are you talking about?

NANNY Oh come on Barney, you know you can't resist me.

BARNEY What gave you that idea?

NANNY I can attract any man!

BARNEY You can't even attract flies!

NANNY Now don't be awful or I won't let you come out with me tonight.

BARNEY Where are you going?

NANNY To the dogs!

BARNEY Oh yes? Which trap are you in?

NANNY Come on Barney, you know you want to spend the rest of your life with me!

BARNEY I do?

NANNY You see, I knew it! *[SHE grabs him and tries to kiss him.]*

BARNEY *[Pushing her off.]* Oh, stop it. Stop it! Can't you be good for fifteen minutes?

NANNY With a bit of luck I'm good for the next fifteen years!

[PRINCE MICHAEL enters down right.]

MICHAEL Good day to you both.

NANNY *[Fluttering her eyes.]* Oh I say, and who might you be looking for?

MICHAEL I have heard there is a lady of rare beauty here at the Palace. I was hoping I might meet her.

NANNY Look no further, your dreams have all come true – your ship has come in – your lottery numbers have come up at last! Here I am handsome!

MICHAEL Er – I was under the impression that it was a *young* lady.

NANNY Well I'm only just pushing thirty!

BARNEY Pushing? More like dragging!

MICHAEL Permit me introduce myself. I am Prince Michael of Murania and I have come to seek the hand of Princess Aurora in marriage and thereby form an alliance between our two countries.

NANNY Oh how romantic! Barney and me are going to form an alliance between our two bank accounts!

BARNEY Why don't you go and get ready to meet the candidates and I'll take Prince Michael to meet their Majesties.

NANNY Oh yes, I've got lots to do. Their majesties are auditioning suitors for Aurora's hand. It's very exciting. I've got to give them the thrice over.

BARNEY Don't you mean the once over?

NANNY I know what I mean! *[Flexing her hands, SHE exits.]*

MICHAEL Who was that?

BARNEY Nora, Princess Auroras Nanny - and I'm Barney, court entertainer and general everything else!

MICHAEL I'm very pleased to meet you.

BARNEY Likewise.

MICHAEL Tell me are there many other candidates invited here tonight?

BARNEY I wouldn't know. Everything has been organised in such a rush we don't know where we are!

MICHAEL I've heard the Princess is woman of rare beauty.

BARNEY Oh she is that. And a wonderfully warm personality, a dazzling smile, an infectious giggle and a stunning figure! Oh she could make the duller man happy. I know she does me!

MICHAEL But isn't Nanny Nora your intended?

BARNEY That's right – shatter my dream!

MICHAEL Oh sorry.

BARNEY No, it's all right. The Princess must marry a suitable Prince as decreed by their Majesties. And, between you and me, you could stand a pretty good chance!

MICHAEL Well thank you very much Barney. I hope you're right.

[The LORD CHAMBERLAIN enters.]

BARNEY Oh Lord Chamberlain, this is Prince Michael another contender for the hand of the Princess.

L/CHAMBER Oh your Highness, I'm afraid you are too late. All the suitors have already been presented to their Majesties.

[At this point there is a light change and the FAIRY QUEEN enters and freezes the scene.]

F.Q. Now I really shouldn't do this, but the happiness of the Princess Aurora is very important to me. Prince Michael is a fine young man and I would be shirking in my duties as guardian to the Princess if I didn't at least allow them to meet! *[SHE waves her wand over the scene and exits. The others unfreeze.]*

BARNEY Go on Lord Chamberlain. Can't you slip another one in?

L/CHAMBER Oh I don't know. It's very irregular. If you would care to wait here I'll see what I can do. *[HE exits.]*

BARNEY I'll see you later. Good luck.

MICHAEL Thank you. *[BARNEY exits.]* What did Barney say? A warm personality, a dazzling smile and an infectious giggle. Oh Aurora you don't know how I've longed for someone like you to come into my life.

MUSIC – SONG (MICHAEL)

[At the end of the number HE exits as the lights fade and the scene changes to

SCENE 4 THE ROYAL THRONE ROOM *(See Production notes.)*

[The scene is as before but the thrones have been replaced with a long table and three chairs. Set on the table are three buzzers and on the front are three lights that when lit show an X.]

L/CHAMBER *[Like a TV announcer.]* And now, the moment you've all been waiting for. We are proud to present the ever popular – How Do You Solve a Problem like The Palace Strictly Has Talent Idol, Not Just Any Prince Will Do! Please welcome tonight's judges King Septimus the Seventeenth, Queen Sybil the Sixth, and their lovely daughter, whose fate is to be determined tonight, Princess Aurora. *[Fanfare. The KING, QUEEN, and AURORA enter SR and walk to behind their table with 3 buttons USR. The CHORUS all move USL to form a crowd/audience on stage, watching the show]* And here are your co-host –Barney Ant and Nanny Dec! *[Or another pair of TV hosts.]*

[BARNEY and NANNY enter SL, crossing to centre stage.]

NANNY Oh, Thank you all for that warm hand on my entrance! *[BARNEY looks at her.]*

BARNEY *[Hurrying on.]* Yes, well, ...hello everyone. And what a great show we've got lined up for you tonight. So without further delay let's meet

the contestants who aim to prove once and for all that the palace strictly has got talent.....ermm, idol. Indeed!

NANNY Our first contestant is Prince Boris.

[BORIS enters SL, carrying a trombone. HE has a strong German accent, wears lederhosen, a monocle and has a long Bavarian moustache. NANNY is looking at BARNEY as BORIS crosses and the trombone hits her on the backside.]

NANNY Oh, three pints please!

[BORIS turns to the KING and QUEEN and bows.]

BORIS *[Standing and clicking his heels.]* I am Boris and I am coming from Bavaria!

AURORA *[Sarcastically.]* Great. Nice lederhosen.

QUEEN Ah, Prince Boris. We're delighted you could make it.

BORIS *[Crossing up to her.]* Jar! Of course you are my little apple strudel!

KING I say, steady on old chap!

BARNEY And what do you do in Bavaria, Boris?

BORIS I am Prince! But when I'm not doing official duties I like to slap my thighs and blow my horn. Oom par, oom par!

BARNEY Stick it up your jumper.

NANNY And what is your act?

BORIS I shall play a traditional Bavarian lullaby on my trusty flugelhorn.

NANNY And what an impressive instrument it is! Off you go then.

[NANNY and BARNEY step back to allow BORIS to perform. HE does so emitting a cacophonous dirge as he stomps around the stage – CHORUS respond with horror- Judges QUEEN and AURORA press their Xs almost immediately but the KING seems to be quite enjoying it, so then AURORA reaches over and presses his button for him]

BARNEY *[BARNEY and NANNY step forward again]* Well that was certainly unusual. Thank you very much for that Prince Boris.

[BORIS walks USL and joins the crowd.]

NANNY Our next contestant is Prince Lionel.

[LIONEL enters SL. HE has a very British accent and carries an umbrella, which is up, and wears a bowler hat. HE crosses to centre stage and bows at the judges.]

BARNEY Welcome Prince Lionel, where are you from?

LIONEL I'm from Londinium, old bean, Jolly nice to meet you! Oh I say, it's finally stopped raining! *[Puts umbrella down.]* Been an absolutely beastly journey.

QUEEN I'm sure you'll find our weather quite perfect all year round.

LIONEL Splendid. Perhaps we can have a game of croquet and a spot of tea on the lawn, what?

QUEEN What?

KING What?

AURORA Whatever!

LIONEL Could really go for a spot of Earl Grey. I'm absolutely parched!

BARNEY Nice to meet you, Lionel. Tell us about yourself.

LIONEL There's not much to tell really. I get up in the morning and have a spot of tea, read the papers and have another cuppa. Then it's lunch, washed down with a cup of tea, followed by an afternoon at the races. Then it's home for dinner and—

BARNEY A cup of tea?

LIONEL Got it in one old boy. However did you guess?

BARNEY Well you see I have second sight! I'm a medium you know!

NANNY Yeah. It says so in the back of his underpants!

BARNEY Dare I ask what you are going to do for us tonight?

LIONEL Well if that's all right with you I'd like to sing a little aria.

NANNY A what?

LIONEL An aria.

NANNY *[Looking at BARNEY.]* Can't wait. *[To LIONEL.]* Aria away then.

[LIONEL performs. He sings very badly (The nursery rhyme 'I'm a little teapot' could be used) and all the buzzers go off. NANNY and BARNEY come forward again.]

NANNY Yes, thank you Prince Lionel, that'll do. *[LIONEL sulks back to the corner USL]* And next we have our third contestant, Prince Andy.

[ANDY enters SL. HE wears and Australian hat complete with corks and joins NANNY and BARNEY CS]

BARNEY Thanks for joining us. And where have come from today?

ANDY G'day to you! I'm Prince Andy of the Antipodes.

KING Er - g'day! And welcome to the court.

ANDY *[To the KING.]* Nice to be here me old cobber! I say, is that little cracker the misses?

KING Erm, yes, This is my wife, Queen Sybil.

ANDY Stewth! A right cracking Sheila she is too you! I'll tell you what, Princess, if this is what you'll end up looking like once you've thickened out a bit you'll do me just fine!

QUEEN/
AURORA *[Horried.]* Really!

BARNEY Tell me, Andy, are you a celebrity where you come from?

ANDY I'm very well known in the Antipodes

NANNY The where?

BARNEY He says he's very big down under! *[NANNY nearly faints. BARNEY ignores her.]* And what are you going to do for us tonight?

ANDY Tonight Barney, me old mucker, I'm going to recite some poetry I've written.

[NANNY and BARNEY step back to allow ANDY to perform.]

QUEEN Marvellous. Some real culture at last!

ANDY Young Bruce, one day, said to his mum
I fancy some curry and rum!
After plate number two
He ran off to the loo
With a terrible pain in his.... *[All judges buzz their buzzers cutting off his last word.]* Tum! I was gonna say tum! *[ANDY looks surprised and joins BORIS and LIONEL.]*

QUEEN *[Shaking her head.]* Oh!! Lord Chamberlain, this audience is at an end!

KING Well frankly, I think I speak for us all when I say its going to be very hard to choose a winner. *[Mumbles of agreement.]*

BARNEY But choose one you must. *[KING and QUEEN confer. ARORA ignores them.]*

KING After much deliberation the winner is.....

[The FAIRY QUEEN enters and freezes the scene.]

F.Q I see I shall have to take charge of this situation before a grave mistake is made. *[SHE unfreezes the scene as MICHAEL enters.]*

BARNEY Oh, a last minute contestant. Your Majesties, Prince Michael of Murania.

MICHAEL *[Staring at AURORA.]* No music, no poem, no song can describe her beauty.

[King presses his buzzer. Queen hits him]

KING *[Apologetically]* Sorry, ...I thought he'd finished.

MICHAEL But if you permit me, I would like to try.

SONG - MICHAEL

[HE starts the song. Part way through the song NANNY dabs her eyes and speaks.]

NANNY Well, I think we've got a winner!

QUEEN Oh, I'm quite overcome! I need a G and T!

KING Make mine a double. *[THEY exit with the LORD CHAMBERLAIN. The FAIRY QUEEN smiles and exits.]*

AURORA Oh Nanny! *[AURORA and MICHAEL stare at each other.]*

NANNY Happy dear?

AURORA Ecstatic!

MICHAEL I was told of your beauty, but all I've heard does not do you justice.

AURORA *[Turning away with a smile.]* Sir, you embarrass me.

MICHAEL Forgive me, my only wish is to be with you for the rest of your life – if you'll let me.

[NANNY indicates to the others that the couple should be left alone. ALL exit leaving MICHAEL and AURORA to sing the duet. At the end of the number the lights fade and the scene changes to...]

SCENE 5 CARABOSSES LAIR

[An area down stage left with a table containing bottles of potions, a bowl for mixing magic spells and a large book of spells. To one side is a spinning wheel covered with a large cloth. When the scene opens the RAVEN appears in the turret. It squawks loudly. CARABOSSE is heard off.]

CARABOSSE Coming my precious. *[CARABOSSE enters.]* You have news of what is happening at the Palace? *[RAVEN squawks, flapping its wings.]* I see! Suitors for the hand of that wretched Princess! Little do they know that whoever the lucky Prince is he'll never get to see his bride alive. She will be dead before the sunsets tonight and my prophecy shall be fulfilled. *[RAVEN squawks.]* Yes, I know the King had all the spinning wheels destroyed - but not this one. *[Pulls the cover off the spinning wheel.]* See how shiny and new it is. I've been keeping it safely hidden for eighteen years ready to spin its yarn and bring about the downfall of the Palace. *[RAVEN squawks.]* All that remains is for me to add the poison to the gleaming needle so when the Princess spins she will prick her finger and die. *[SHE laughs loudly.]* She has never seen a spinning wheel, so will not know what it is. And now to prepare the potion. *[SHE goes behind the table and opens the book of spells.]* Now let me see. Which one shall I use? *[Turns the pages.]* Ah yes. Here we are. The sleeping death. Nothing can wake her from an eternal sleep. She'll lay there forever more as a reminder to all of how I was wronged by the King and Queen. *[The RAVEN squawks. SHE starts to put the various ingredients into the mixing bowl.]*

MUSIC - INCANTATION

A pinch of deadly nightshade
The gnawing teeth of rats.
An ounce or two of dock weed
And add the wings of bats.
A scorpions sting, a viper fang
Of Dragons eyes I'll add two!
Now mix with claw of wolfhound
Into a poisonous brew!

[SHE picks up an object that resembles a claw and mixes the ingredients in the bowl.]

Perfect! Just the thing to send someone into a slumber from which they will never wake! *[SHE crosses with the bowl to the wheel and using the claw smears the needle with the potion.]* There. All done. *[To the RAVEN.]* I'll disguise myself as one of the villagers and say I've brought a present for Her Highness from her loyal subjects! She'll be so fascinated by it she'll have to try it and then one prick of her finger and - *[Through clenched teeth.]* - goodbye sweet Aurora! *[SHE covers the spinning wheel and prepares to leave.]* Come my precious pet, to the Palace without delay! *[SHE exits with the spinning wheel and the RAVEN disappears as the lights fade and the scene changes to*

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SCENE 6 THE ROYAL THRONE ROOM

[As Scene 2. All the COURT is on stage plus NANNY and the three PRINCES. The LORD CHAMBERLAIN bangs his staff of office for silence.]

L/CHAMBER Their Majesties King Septimus the Seventeenth and Queen Sybil the Sixth.

MUSIC - FANFARE

[ALL bow and curtsy as the KING and QUEEN enter and cross to the thrones.]

QUEEN A decision has been made as to who has won the hand of our fair daughter Aurora. *[The three PRINCES step forward.]* Septimus.

KING *[Rising.]* Yes my love. *[To ALL.]* I have great pleasure in – who was he again?

[AURORA enters.]

AURORA Father. The man to whom I have given my heart is here. *[MICHAEL enters and AURORA takes his hand. A buzz around the court.]*

QUEEN Before we finally give our consent, I think we should know a little more about you.

MICHAEL My land is far from here, but we are a prosperous nation rich in silver and diamond mines.

KING Things are looking better already.

QUEEN Shh! *[To MICHAEL.]* What of your pedigree?

KING Mine's a pint!

QUEEN Be quiet!

MICHAEL My father has ruled over a peaceful land for the last thirty years. I, as his only son, will succeed him.

KING Capital!

MICHAEL Your Majesties, I came here because I had heard the stories people tell of your daughter and how kind, gentle and beautiful she is. Now I have met her I know those stories don't do her justice. I fell in love with her the moment our eyes met and I know there can be no one else in the world for me.

QUEEN Well –

AURORA Oh please say you'll give us your blessing. *[The KING and QUEEN look at each other, then at the other PRINCES and smile.]*

- QUEEN I think it would be an excellent match. *[A big cheer goes up except from the three PRINCES who cross to one side of the stage.]*
- BORIS This is an outrage. No one is ever snubbing our noble family like this. We have ways of making our displeasure known.
- LIONEL I think it's a bit of a rum go, coming all this way and going home empty handed. It's just not cricket. Heaven knows what mummy will say.
- ANDY All this effort Home and Away. Well I don't give a four X for this carry on! I don't know what the Neighbours'll make of it! *[ALL THREE exit.]*
- NANNY *[Crossing to AURORA.]* Congratulations my precious. I know you'll both be very happy.
- AURORA Thank you Nanny.
- KING Well now that's all settled why don't we get on with the party? *[Crossing to the button.]* Is this when they keep the drinks? *[HE goes to push the button. BARNEY runs on.]*
- BARNEY Naughty, naughty Kingy!
- KING I only wanted a small G & T!
- L/CHAMBER Your Majesties. My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen. In honour of this special occasion supper is being served in the Emerald Room. *[ALL exit except KING and QUEEN.]*
- KING All very satisfactory, isn't it my dear?
- QUEEN Yes. Oh all this talk of weddings reminds me of our big day.
- KING I say, steady on old girl!
- QUEEN Oh I know I'm no longer the youngest pea in the pod.
- KING *[Aside.]* More like an old string bean!
- QUEEN What?
- KING Ah but Sybil, you know that
- [HE goes straight into the song.]*
- DUET – KING AND QUEEN
- [At the end of the number they exit as NANNY and BARNEY enter.]*
- NANNY *[Wiping away a tear.]* Oh Barney, isn't it romantic? My little Princess is going to be married to that handsome Prince Michael. You know I feel as though I could walk down the aisle again.
- BARNEY Well it will be pretty lonely all by yourself.