



PantoScripts Perusal

Cinderella

by Rob Fearn and Leo Appleton

An original story of a poor girl made good!

Licensed by



Panto Scripts

pantoscripts.org.uk

This script is published by

NODA LTD
15 The Metro Centre
Peterborough PE2 7UH
Telephone: 01733 374790
Fax: 01733 237286
Email: info@noda.org.uk
www.noda.org.uk

To whom all enquiries regarding purchase of further scripts and current royalty rates should be addressed.

CONDITIONS

1. A Licence, obtainable only from NODA Ltd, must be acquired for every public or private performance of a NODA script and the appropriate royalty paid : if extra performances are arranged after a Licence has already been issued, it is essential that NODA Ltd be informed immediately and the appropriate royalty paid, whereupon an amended Licence will be issued.
2. The availability of this script does not imply that it is automatically available for private or public performance, and NODA Ltd reserve the right to refuse to issue a Licence to Perform, for whatever reason. Therefore a Licence should always be obtained before any rehearsals start.
3. All NODA scripts are fully protected by copyright acts. Under no circumstances may they be reproduced by photocopying or any other means, either in whole or in part, without the written permission of the publishers
4. The Licence referred to above only relates to live performances of this script. A separate Licence is required for videotaping or sound recording of a NODA script, which will be issued on receipt of the appropriate fee.
5. NODA works must be played in accordance with the script and no alterations, additions or cuts should be made without the prior consent from NODA Ltd. This restriction does not apply to minor changes in dialogue, strictly local or topical gags and, where permitted in the script, musical and dancing numbers.
6. The name of the author shall be stated on all publicity, programmes etc. The programme credits shall state 'Script provided by NODA Ltd, Peterborough PE2 7UH'

NODA LIMITED is the trading arm of the NATIONAL OPERATIC & DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION, a registered charity devoted to the encouragement of amateur theatre.

This script is licensed for amateur theatre by NODA Ltd to whom all enquiries should be made.
www.noda.org.uk E-mail: info@noda.org.uk

Welcome to this great story. Rob and I have many years' experience of treading the boards at an amateur level, so hopefully understand what amateur groups are looking for.

For us, the story is paramount and if we can shoehorn in a few gags and laughs along the way, so much the better.

We have come up with an original slant on the story of Cinderella. This we have done whilst retaining the humour and zest that this story usually provides.

All the original characters are there, with opportunities to style your production as you wish. It can be grand and lavish with a fantastic set full of all the magic tricks you need to create a splendid transformation scene. Equally, it can be performed on a parish hall stage with limited funds and space. This script should suit both and is scalable either way.

Whilst we are fairly free with what you can do with the show, we, as always, would be grateful if you could acknowledge us as the writers in any posters or publications you produce. Thanks.

Whatever you do though, 'make it fun'.

Best of luck

Rob and Leo

PS: If you do perform one of our pantos and let us know when it's on we'd love to try and come and see it. You can message us via our Facebook site, Robleo Productions.

Thanks. L & R.

Other Panto's in the series are:

Ali Baba

Aladdin

Sleeping Beauty

Robin Hood

Dick Whittington

Snow White

A Christmas Carol – the panto

Oliver – the panto

Puss in Boots

Jack and the Beanstalk

Rumplestiltskin

King Arthur

Characters in order of appearance

Fairy Godmother (F)

A female part, should be able to sing and move

Bigonia (M / F)

One of the Ugly Sisters. Traditionally a male part but could be played by a woman. She is supposed to be the elder of the two. Played as a 'Dame' and is required to sing and dance.

Enormia (M / F)

As Bigonia.

Cinderella (F)

She has a bit of spirit and some funny lines. Should be able to sing and dance.

Stepmother (F)

The traditional 'baddy' of the piece.

Buttons (M)

Bright and bouncy. Should be able to sing and build rapport with the audience.

Queen (F)

Should be able to sing or at least put a song across. She is prone to 'spoonerisms'.

King (M)

He is prone to forgetfulness although clearly not ailing.

Lord Chamberlain (M)

Should be quite pompous and comic as well.

Dandini (M) or (F)

Works mainly with the Prince and has a love interest, Lady Rachel. Prone to burst into poetry at a moment's notice.

Prince (M) or (F)

A strong character. Should be able to sing and move.

Princess Ethelreda (M)

Should be males as their looks are slighted. Fun parts for males to play as well as doing something else, perhaps in the chorus.

Princess Ermintrude (M)

As Princess Ethelreda

Princess Ethereal (M)

As Princess Ethelreda

Lady Isabel (F)

Asmall part. Could be combined with chorus

Bouncer 1 - Don (M)

Small comedy male part – could be combined with Chorus

Bouncer 2 - Ron (M)

As Bouncer 1

Lady Jane (F)

As for Lady Isabel

Sally, Betty, Winnie (F)

Small female parts. Could be combination of Ladies Isabel and Jane and Chorus work – but these are three distinct parts

Lady Rachel (F)

A small female role who eventually ends up with Dandini. Is seen in other scenes (Ball, Court) but only speaks in the last scene with Dandini. Should be able to sing and move

Cat (M or F)

Appears in kitchen scenes with Cinderella. Should be able to move 'cat like'.

Baron Hardup (M or F)

This is the foil for Buttons and the source of the main audience involvement and worked well in the local production. He can be anybody even a stagehand as he only ever moves across the stage and off. This character was deliberately left unseen and unspoken as it also provides the reason for Cinders situation.

ACT 1

Scene 1

(Opens on a kitchen scene. Cinders is cleaning up sweeping Possibly singing an opening song. Light is not fully up. Cinders' cat is on stage and generally doing cat things. There is a table with some crockery on it and a number of chairs or a bench. Also a wood basket. There should be some brooms propped up. To the other side of the stage is a little theatre with mouse holes where the mice appear throughout the show. After a short time Fairy Godmother appears on stage at the front).

Godmother *(Cinders can't see her).* Hello boys and girls. Welcome to the beautiful and happy Kingdom of Hedonia. Well I say happy, but not everyone is happy *(turns to look at Cinderella – encourages an aaah from the audience)*. This is Cinderella. She's the one with the brush. She lives in the household of her father, stepmother and her ugly ... I mean her stepsisters. She has lived here since her mother died. Her wicked Stepmother makes her sleep on the kitchen floor and gets her to do all the cleaning, the washing, the ironing, and the cooking. Her father, Baron Hardup, hardly seems to notice. He is rarely seen around the house anymore, devoting more and more time to the fruitless errands of the wicked Stepmother. But, Cinderella does have some very good friends, there is Cat, who is devoted to her, and the mice of course, who often keep her company in the kitchen. Also her friend, the ever faithful Buttons. Then there is me *(turns to walk off stage then stops)* oh sorry I forgot to say, I am Cinderella's Fairy Godmother. *(She waves her wand and the lights brighten to show the whole scene behind she exits).*

(Cinders picks up wood basket and exits. Shouts from off stage from Bigonia and Enormia).

Bigonia Where is Cinderella? That dreadful girl, I need my toe hairs curling.

(Enormia enters).

Enormia Cinderella, come here quickly. I need a hanky I'm going to sneeze. Ahh Choooo! *(Wiping hands on dress)*. Oh too late. *(Laughs to herself)*.

(Cinders enters with basket of wood for fire).

(Enormia enters wearing a letter box around her neck).

Bigonia Oh there you are Cinderella, you are so lazy, have you not done the fire yet?

Cinders *(Rushing around in response to their commands)* Erm...

Enormia Where is my breakfast?

Bigonia Haven't you washed my slimming corset? *(Holds up an enormous corset).*

Enormia *(Engaging Bigonia for a big joke).* Have you unblocked the toilets?

Bigonia Yes, we'll let you wear gloves this time. *(Hands Cinders some rubber gloves).*

Enormia Oh not those gloves Bigonia they are the best pair. She can wear these. *(Hands her gloves that are without fingers).*

Cinders But these gloves have no fingers in them.

Bigonia Yes I know, but it will help you reach round the bend.

Enormia and Bigonia then collapse laughing at themselves into the chairs and put their feet on the table.

(Stepmother enters).

Stepmother *(Kissing the sisters on the cheeks).* How are my beautiful daughters this morning? *(To Cinders dismissively).* Make me a cup of tea Cinderella. *(Shoos cat out of the way).* Ten and a half sugars and make sure the milk is skimmed, I'm looking after my figure. Enormia dear, why are you wearing a letter box around your neck?

Enormia I am expecting a letter but I need to go out later on, so I don't want to miss the postman.

(Stepmother and Bigonia nod their approval. They turn their attention back to Cinders critiquing her cleaning. She is dusting the kitchen. Cat is following her round).

Bigonia *(Pointing to the ceiling).* You've missed a bit Cinderella, I can see a speck of dust over there.

Stepmother Cinderella, we do have standards. If you ever want to be as beautiful and popular as your stepsisters then you do need to make more of an effort.

(To the audience whilst the Ugly Sisters are making work for Cinders).

Don't you think my girls are absolute darlings and that Cinderella is such a *(pause)* plain child. Oh yes, my girls are going up in the world. Ever since I tricked Baron Hardup into marrying me, our prospects have taken a turn for the better and look *(indicating Cinders)*, I inherited a cleaner *(she laughs)*. Keeping Baron Hardup out of the way has been so easy. The fool falls over himself to please me. Yesterday, I sent him for a left handed hammer and a long stand. He was gone for hours! *(To Cinders)* Now, you silly girl, what have you done with my hat?

(Buttons enters unnoticed except by Cat who moves towards him).

Enormia *(Throwing a piece of paper to the floor).* There's some rubbish on the floor as well Cinderella.

Bigonia *(Continuing the tirade, pointing to a corner).* And a cobweb in the corner.

Stepmother Get my hat, Cinderella, I will not tell you again. *(Cat jumps up and gets it and gives it to Cinders).*

Enormia *(Drops a biscuit).* Oh look, I've dropped my biscuit. Clean it up Cinderella, there's a love.

(Cinderella is running around trying to complete all the tasks. She gives Stepmother her hat and Stepmother exits).

Buttons (*Quite irate*). What are you two playing at? Can't you see Cinderella has enough to do without you two lazy oafs making more work for her?

Enormia Well I never! We'll see you later Cinderella - and don't forget the toilets!

(Enormia exits in a huff).

Bigonia (*As she exits to the audience*). Did you see the way that Buttons looked at me? He fancies me, he does!

Buttons I am sorry Cinders, perhaps I shouldn't have said anything, but you shouldn't let them treat you like that. What would your father say? Where is he anyway?

(All the while Cat is wandering round the stage doing 'cat' things).

Cinders He's just popped down to the village to get Stepmothers haemorrhoid cream, for her face.

Buttons Well that explains a lot.

Cinders Don't be like that. He would probably do whatever Stepmother wanted. I actually don't mind the work Buttons, I'm just so grateful they have taken us in and we are warm and well-fed, well maybe not well-fed but, well, fed.

Buttons (*Being stern*). Cinderella, you must stand up for yourself. You must not let them talk to you that way.

(Cinders gets upset and begins to sob then runs off stage. Cat follows Cinders off).

Buttons (*Moves forward to the front of the stage and starts to talk to the audience*). Was I a bit harsh? I didn't mean to upset her. But I get so angry at the way her Stepmother and those wicked stepsisters treat her. I really love Cinders. I want to tell her how I feel, but I don't have the courage. Maybe I could buy her a present to cheer her up? What could I get her? Have you got any ideas? (*Audience are then encouraged to help Buttons*) Yes, well, some of those are very helpful, if a bit odd, especially from you (*points to person in audience*). I'm going to have to go now, but I need your help. I want to speak with Baron Hardup to tell him how awful Cinders is being treated. But he's always busy running around doing goodness knows what! So, when you see him (*Baron Hardup walks on behind Buttons, places a parcel on the table or some other such business*) you'll know him, he is wearing (*at this point a description to fit costume of Baron Hardup*). I want you to shout, 'Buttons the Baron'. (*Audience hopefully will shout. Baron Hardup disappears off stage as Buttons looks round*). We haven't started yet! Right, let's have a practice.

(*Baron Hardup comes back on, audience react, probably "he's behind you"*).

That's great, no you can stop now. No, he's not there. Look this is just a practice. What? Is he really there? (*Baron Hardup disappears once more. Buttons looks off*). Gosh, you're right, I better get after him. Don't forget, if you see him shout!

(*Shouting off stage*). Wait, Baron Hardup!

(*Buttons exits. (Blackout). (End of scene)*).

Scene 2

(The scene opens on the palace court. The entire chorus are on. The King and Queen enter with Lord Chamberlain. At the end of the song the chorus exit).

Queen I do love how the courtiers just burst into song for no apparent reason, it's like being in a musical!

King *(He's a little vague looking off stage).* Mmm, yes, fascinating. *(He looks at the Queen like seeing her for the first time that day).* Ahh, how beautiful you look this fine day.

Queen Yes I do rather.

King *(Ignoring her).* Lovely. where is that son of mine, Raymond?

Queen Richard!

King Yes, that's what I said, Roger

Lord Chamberlain My liege, *(bows).* Your son Richard is out hunting, with his valet! If only he devoted as much time to finding a bride then your kingdom would be secured.

King Yes, well it's good that he lets of a bit of steam I suppose.

Queen Steam!! He is positively boiling over!! Oh, he is cho soosy, so choosy when it comes to girls.

Lord Chamberlain Perhaps we can push him in the right direction. It's not that there aren't Princesses available Your Majesty, indeed I have a list here of some of the most eligible. I am sure that he could lose his heart to one of them.

King Let me see the list. Number one, Ethelreda. Number two, Ermintrude. Number three, Ethereal. Could you not manage the other part of the alphabet? So long as these are the best, then my Lord Chamberlain we must send out invitations to them. Let's hope at least one of them captures his interest, if not his heart eh? eh? Make it so.

Lord Chamberlain Yes, Your Majesty.

(Lord Chamberlain exits and King and Queen move forward to front of tabs).

Queen Well for the sake of the crown, his King and country he needs to make his mind up or we must make up the beer doys, dear boy's, mind for him.

King What or who are you talking about?

Queen Your son Richard and him getting married, remember?

King Ah yes, Rupert, I remember. *(Thought)*. Do you recall where we first met?

Queen Yes. *(Looking far off wistfully)*

King Good, where was it? *(Forgotten again)*

Queen *(Irritably)*. It was at your father's estate. A warm summer breeze was blowing and we were all lancing on the dawn. Such fun! Then I was introduced to you.

King *(Completely not sure at all)*. It's not all been bad though? We have had some fun times, haven't we?

Queen Oh yes.

King Oh thank goodness! *(Still not quite sure but glad she remembers)*. I do remember the day we were married though, Blue skies, lots of pretty girls *(Queen coughs)*, b- b- but of course none prettier than you my love.

Queen Yes, it was a beautiful wedding. I suppose we do complement each other.

King No, no, I complement you, you just correct me.

(Possible song for the King and Queen).

(End of song, Blackout).

Scene 3

(Later on in the Palace Court, full stage. Dandini and the Prince enter together).

Dandini So, have you heard my lord, about your parent's plans to find you a bride?

Prince Oh, my loyal friend, I do not want to marry for convenience, or to secure our wealth. I want to marry for love, but my parents are determined to marry me off at the earliest opportunity to the first pouting princess who walks through the castle gates.

Dandini *(Wistfully)*. Ah, yes my lord love!

Prince *(Questioningly)*. Dandini?

Dandini *(Returning back to reality)* Yes, my lord?

Prince Are you feeling alright?

Dandini Yes, my lord, of course. Why do you ask?

Prince Because when I mentioned love, you went off into a little dream world.

Dandini *(In a daze again)*. Ah yes, my lord love!

Prince You're doing it again.

Dandini Was I? I hadn't noticed.

Prince Dandini, this is just a wild stab in the dark, but have you met someone, who may have turned your thoughts to love?

Dandini (*Enthusiastically*). My lord how did you guess? You are so clever.

(*Dandini goes off into his own world and spouts poetry*).

For there is one, she's my heart's desire.

Her beauty and gentleness are all I require.

She walks like an angel and sings like a Queen.

She has her own teeth, but they could do with a clean.

Prince Have you been writing love poems Dandini?

Dandini Oh, my lord, you are right again. How do you know these things?

Prince I have my ways. Is she is a lady of the court then.

Dandini My lord, of course. (*Off again*).

Oh were it so simple,

I could hold her forever,

In the rain or the sun or the snow,

(*Falteringly knowing that there is no other real rhyme here*).

Or ... in fact in any other ... sorts of er.. er.. weather.

Prince Alright Dandini, enough of the poems . What is stopping you from marrying this girl?

Dandini She is Lady Rachel of the court and I am not permitted to marry her unless I have a title, which as you know, my prince, is not the case.

Prince This is quite a problem, my friend, but sometimes we must let fate take its course.

(Possible song for Prince and Dandini after which they are interrupted by the Lord Chamberlain and Buttons who enter).

Lord Chamberlain *(Big bow)*. Your Highness, I crave your indulgence. The king and queen are rather keen that you take a bride before you are much older. To that end I have invited a number of princesses from our neighbouring kingdoms for your consideration. They are waiting without.

Prince *(Begins to interrupt petulantly)*. Then I shall jolly well wait within. I thought I made it perfectly clear to anyone who would listen, that I will only marry for love!

Lord Chamberlain Sire, that may well be the case. But in order for that to happen two things have to take place. Firstly, you actually have to talk to a person of the female persuasion and secondly you have to let love take its course. So, please Your Highness, give these fair maidens a chance.

Dandini He has a point, my lord. Can it hurt to see what the other kingdoms have to offer? After all, you have not had a great deal of luck with your own.

Prince Very well. If I have to go through with this, I might as well get it over with. *(To the audience)*. I suppose I might be fortunate, who knows. Alright my dear Lord Chamberlain bring in the first victim.

Lord Chamberlain Buttons go and fetch the first vict'... er er princess, *(in a stagewhisper)* but dim the lights.

Buttons Dim the lights? *(Looks of stage at the princesses)* Oh yes, dim the lights! *(The lights go down a bit)*.

(Buttons brings on the first princess. Princess Ethelreda appears very sleepy and tired and on occasions nods off with the odd bouts of snoring).

Lord Chamberlain Your Highness, may I present Princess Ethelreda of Prestonia *(or some other local place with 'onia' on the end)*.

Prince My lady (*catches sight of the Princess who has now turned fully at the audience*). Your er er, er, beauty takes my, er, breath away (to Lord Chamberlain). In fact if you have any oxygen, I need it now!

Princess Ethelreda My Lord you are indeed a flattererrrrr (*She falls asleep*). Zzzzzzzzzz.

(*Lord Chamberlain nudges the Princess*).

Princess Ethelreda (*Wakes up with a start and shouts out as if waking from a dream*). Where's the cream cakes?

Prince Madam! (*Taken aback*). Am I boring you?

Princess Ethel No it's just I am so sleepy. (*Big yawn*).

Button (*To Dandini with his thumbs up*). This is going well!

(*Dandini stares at him incredulous*).

Prince Have you travelled far from your kingdom? Surely you have rested on the way?

Princess Ethelreda No. Generally (*Yawn and stretch*), I need at least 14 hours... (*Trails off and falls asleep again*).

Prince (*In a hushed tone and a look to all on stage*) Sssshhhh. Then let me disturb you no longer.

Lord Chamberlain (*Takes the arm of the Princess and escorts her off*). Come my dear, the cream cakes are this way.

Prince Well, Dandini, what did you make of that?

Dandini It could have been worse Sire, though I am not sure how.

(*Buttons brings in the next princess*).

Lord Chamberlain Your Highness, may I introduce Princess Ermintrude of Fairovia. (*Another local place name with 'ovia' on the end*).

Princess Ermintrude Ah Ah Ah Ah Choooo (*Big sneeze and blow of the nose on a massive hanky*). Thank you for inviting me to your lovely pa, pa, ah ah choooo!! (*Another blow of the nose*).

Prince (*Looking round at others, not quite sure what to make of all this*). My dear, you seem unwell?

Princess Ermintrude No, it is my allergy, I just can't stop sneezing. Ah ah ah choooo! (*Big blow of nose, again*). I have had it since I was a little girl, Your Highness, ah chooo (*Straight into the face of the Prince*).

(*Dandini produces a big hanky for the Prince*).

Prince (*Takes hanky from Dandini to mop his face*). Thank you, I must insist that our physicians see you before you leave.

Princess Ermintrude (*Very spoilt*) Leave! But I've only just arrived.

Prince Nevertheless, leave you must.

(*Buttons takes Princess Ermintrude's arm at a distance and with protestations leads her off as though she might give him something. She sneezes for effect as she goes off*).

Lord Chamberlain (*Indicating off stage*). Well, Your Highness, this is the last we have to offer, but I fear the worst!

Prince Worst! (*To audience*). Good heavens is this possible?

(*A commotion from the wings as Buttons brings in Princess Ethereal who is very grumpy indeed*).

Lord Chamberlain Your Highness, may I introduce Princess Ethereal from the Principality of Martonopia. (*Or another local place with 'opia' on the end*).

Princess Ethereal About time! I have been waiting for ages with nobody for company other than Sleepy and Sneazy.

Prince And of course this would make you Grumpy!

Dandini We only need another four like this lot and we could do a whole new panto.

Buttons You mean another three.

Dandini Why?

Buttons (*Indicating audience*). 'Cause all this lot out there are Dopey! OooOOOOOooooo!!

Prince (*To Princess*). Was your journey to our country pleasant?

Princess Ethereal The carriage uncomfortable, the people were rude and the road was dusty.

Prince I am sorry you found it so. Surely, we have the best roads in all Christendom?

Princess Ethereal As we say in our country, the best road in Hedonia, is the one that leads to Martonopia.

Dandini / Buttons (*To audience*). oooooOOOOooooo!!!

Prince But, my lady, if that was the case why would you make such a journey?

Princess Ethereal My father said I had to marry, I however, only want to marry for love, but I am sorry, I could never marry anyone as plain as you.

(The Princess sweeps off the stage. Lord Chamberlain looks at the others and he goes off after the Princess placating her).

Prince Plain? (*Getting louder*) Plain? She called me plain. (*Clearly annoyed*). Dandini, how would you describe me, quickly!

Dandini (*Quickly*). Handsome, bright, interesting.

Buttons (*As quick*). Dashing, daring, cuddly? Cuddly!! (*To Audience*). Did I really just say that?

(Looks from Prince and Dandini and they then carry on).

Prince The whole thing is impossible. All this for what? Leave me now.
(*Dandini and Buttons exit. The Prince is suddenly inspired*). I don't care
what my mother and father say, I will find the one I love if it takes forever.

(*Possible song for the Prince*).

(*Blackout, tabs in*).

(*End scene*).

PantoScripts Perusal

Scene 4

(Button enters in front of tabs).

Buttons That didn't go very well did it? *(Pause)*. No, not the singing, I meant the princesses. They weren't that bad. Nothing a good shave wouldn't put right. But I guess it's better to marry for love than for money? *(Points at a man)* You definitely married for love *(points at the woman)*, money for you. Hands up who married for love? *(wait for audience to respond)* And who married for money? What no one. When we did this in *(an affluent local part of the country or local area)* they all put their hands up. I will be marrying for love, *(looking forlorn)* if I could only build up the courage to tell Cinders. I've heard that the king and queen summoned the prince after he turned down the three *(stresses)* beautiful princesses. They are not happy he didn't choose one of them.

(The curtains open on the palace court. Chorus are chattering excitedly. A fanfare is heard and then the royal party enter. The Lord Chamberlain addresses the crowd).

Lord Chamberlain Citizens of Hedonia, pray silence for your king and queen.

King Friends, subjects, Hedonians lend me your ears. *(Turns to Queen)*. Who wrote this?

Queen Never mind, just get on with it, this is the pun fart, *(pause)* fun part.

King (*Stutteringly to the crowd and trying to put a positive spin on things*). My dear son Reginald, er, Roger, er, Richard, yes Richard, your prince, our son, (*pointing at Prince*) him, has decided after lengthy discussions with the king and queen, mummy and daddy, me and her (*Queen coughs*), that he is unfortunately not able to take up the kind offers of marriage from the three brides of Frankinste... (*pauses and looks uncomfortable and speaks slower*) brides of frankly disappointing appearance, yes that's it (*looks relieved*). However, after some meaningful discussions, arguments, er, rows, it is hoped that that my son, our son R...r...r... (*looks to Queen*).

Queen (*Queen stage whispers name*). Richard!

King Yes, Richard, your prince, will be able to find himself a bride. (*Coughs*). We the Royal Family, that is our son, my wife and I, king, queen and prince, all together have decided.

Queen (*Pushing him aside*). There will be a royal ball and all the eligible ladies of the kingdom will be invited, in the hope that our son...

King (*Interjects*). Rebecca?

Queen & Buttons Richard

Queen Can find himself a bride.

(*Stunned silence and confusion*)

King (*Proclamation*). A royal ball will be held to find the prince a bride.

Queen (*To King*) That's what I've just said.

King Yes dear. (*Indicates with his head to the Queen*). But I was just telling Malteasers here (*looks at Buttons*). Now, can we get out of here? I need to go to the er..

Queen Have you forgotten again?

King No, I haven't forgotten. I need to go to the er, er. (*Motions with his head to the exit*).

Queen To the where dear?

King To the royal throne.

Queen The what?

King The little Prince's room.

Queen Why would you want to go to Richards's bedroom?

King *(The crowd go silent and look at the King)*. To the toilet woman!

Queen *(Accusingly as they turn to leave)*. Who is this toilet woman you are going to see? *(The King looks exasperated)*.

(The chorus curtsy and bow as the King and Queen leave. They chatter excitedly about how they will dress up, who is eligible and who is not etc.).

Buttons *(To audience)*. That's news isn't it? A royal ball in the hope that the prince will fall in love with one of his subjects.

(Buttons and chorus could sing a song here).

(End song, end scene, close tabs).

(Fairy Godmother enters in front of Tabs).

Fairy Godmother *(Speaking to the audience)*. A prince who wants love, a valet who wants love, Buttons who wants love. And then we have Cinderella, always working with no thoughts of love. Her father, always rushing here and there. In fact, he is everywhere he shouldn't be. Never standing still for a moment to see what is right in front of his face, *(pause)* his poor neglected daughter *(ahh)*. Buttons can see what is happening, but no one is listening to him. So, what can I do to help Cinderella? I must come up with something.

(Fairy Godmother exits) (Blackout).

(End Scene).

Scene 5

(Still in front of tabs, lights come up).

(Baron Hardup has just walked across the stage and exits off the other side carrying a bag. The audience are all shouting for Buttons. Buttons runs on out of breath).

Buttons *(Shouting as he runs on).* I'm coming, I'm coming. What! Have I missed him? Was he here just now? Well, I suppose I need to visit Cinders and see if he's there. He really needs to know how Cinders' stepmother and sisters are treating her, it really is unfair! Anyway what about this ball then? Very exciting. I do love a good ball. *(Goes off into a world of his own).* All the dresses and dancing and beautiful girls and Cinders will be invited, and all the other blokes will be dancing with her. *(Realising that Cinders might get snapped up).* I think I better get round there sharpish!

(Curtains open on Cinderella's Kitchen, laid out as in the opening scene with the addition of a spinning wheel and wool. There is perhaps a song from Cinders).

Cinders *(Talking to the cat who is on stage doing cat stuff).* I think today is going to be very busy. It's twelve o'clock and my sisters are up and about already! *(Big commotion is heard off stage with much shouting).* They are actually running around up there. I wonder if there is some exciting news in the household. I am sure somebody will be down soon to tell me all about it.

(Bigonia and Enormia enter, excited and speaking at the same time).

Bigonia / Enormia I shall wear my blue dress with the pink spots and purple frill / I shall wear that dress too but with my big yellow hat.

Bigonia & Enormia *(Still talking at the same time).* You can't wear it if I am wearing it you very strange person.

Cinders (*Interrupting before it goes much further*). Bigonia, Enormia, you seem very excited this morning. The last time I saw you like this you'd found a squashed Mars Bar under the sofa!

Bigonia Oh yes! I remember that as if it was yesterday.

Enormia It was yesterday and you still have the remains of it round your mouth! (*Enormia starts to wipe off the excess using a hanky and spit as a mother would with a child*). We do have some exciting news. Well, at least it's exciting for us.

Cinders What do you mean? (*Having a joke at their expense*). Have you discovered some new beauty cream (*pause*) that will actually work?

Enormia Ooo! That's very cruel, and most unlike you Cinderella.

Bigonia Yes it is. I've been using that new cream that mother got from town and I am convinced it's working. (*Preening her face in front of Enormia*).

Enormia For all the good it's doing you might as well stick it up your ...

Cinders (*Interjects quickly*). ...Ahh yes, but what of the news? (*Cat stops walking around to look and listen to what they have to say. The mice could peep out of their hidey hole*).

Bigonia Any more laughing from you and we shan't tell you, shall we, Enormia?

Enormia Yes we shall, shan't we?

Bigonia Y'mean, yes we shan't, shall we?

Enormia Does that mean we're telling her or not?

Bigonia Yes, I think we are.

Enormia Good! Carry on.

Bigonia They have announced a ball in honour of the prince, where he will hopefully choose a bride from the eligible females.

Bigonia / Enormia *(Together)* And these are our invites Oooohhh *(swoon!)*! *(Both say the following together at the same time)*. I am sure he will choose me, no he won't, you're not pretty enough, yes I am, no you're not, stop speaking at the same time as me!

Cinders Well, if it's for all the eligible females, have I got an invitation as well?

Bigonia I don't know? *(Hesitantly)*. You might have. But even if you have, what will you wear?

Enormia She could wear one of your old things, I suppose.

Bigonia Well, she couldn't wear one of yours, that's for sure. You do know why you're called Enormia, don't you?

Enormia You do realise Bigonia, you are not named after a flower. You're just big!

(Stepmother enters).

Stepmother Desist with the squabbling! Cinderella will not need a dress. She is a housemaid and will be in the kitchen to prepare our meal before we go and then to ready the house for our return. I also have a number of special tasks she needs to complete before the morning. *(Begins the list)* Trap all the mice in the house *(mice on stage shout "eek" and disappear. Cat goes to investigate)*, spin all that wool *(indicating a spinning wheel and pile of wool)* and lastly the hardest task of all, clean Enormia and Bigonia's bedrooms. So, as you can see, my dear, you will not be going anywhere!

Cinders If the ball is for all the eligible females in the land Stepmother, do I not have an invitation? In which case the prince would want to know I haven't been invited. I should also tell my father. I am sure he would be most upset if he knew I wasn't going.