



Mother Goose

by Ron Hall

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M O T H E R G O O S E

(A pantomime in two acts by Ron Hall)

Characters in order of appearance :-

Mother Goose, a widow lady and tenant farmer - Dame
Idle Jack, her son and village idiot
Jill, her lovely daughter - Principal Girl
Colin, Jill's boyfriend - Principal Boy
Fairy Queen, a comedy character of more mature years
Danny, one of the Squire's bailiffs
Fanny, the other bailiff
Squire Dastardly, the Village Squire, wicked and mean
Priscilla, the magic goose
Demon King, a real baddie, even worse than the Squire
Kitty, the goosegirl, a comedy partner to Jack
Various ghosts, etc for Act II, Scene 1
Cyclops, two men suitably dressed for Act II, Scene 3
Chorus of farm yokels, villagers and guests
Senior dancers as farm girls, cabaret dancers, skeletons, bats or
demons and guests at wedding
Junior dancers as geese, elves and pixies and village children

Synopsis of scenes :-

Act I

Scene 1 - Mother Goose's Farmyard
2 - A road near the farm (front cloth or tabs)
3 - The Farmyard Parlour
4 - The Farmyard Barn (front cloth or tabs)
5 - The Pool of Eternal Youth
6 - A road near the farm (front cloth or tabs)
7 - Mother Goose's Farmyard

Act II

Scene 1 - Inside the Manor House
2 - The Road to the Demon King's Palace (front cloth or tabs)
3 - The Demon King's Palace
4 - The Music Room (front cloth or tabs)
5 - Gooseland

Note :- Alternate scenes do not require elaborate movement and can be played in front of tabs allowing sufficient time for main sets to be changed normally.

Estimated length of show allowing for songs, dances and 15 minute interval :- 2 hours 30 minutes

On the assumption that the Dame is played by a man and the part of Colin by a girl then the number of principals required is as follows :-

Female :- Five

Male :- Five

Either :- One (Priscilla)

These figures do not include ghosts and cyclops

At the end of the script is a property and furnishings list

It should be noted that the suggested songs do not form part of the script and arrangements should be made with the Performing Rights Society for performance.

M O T H E R G O O S E

ACT I

Scene 1 - Mother Goose's Farmyard

(This is a full stage set with the outside of the farm on stage right and barns, haystacks, trees and fields on backcloth and wings. The chorus are on stage dressed as farm yokels and villagers)

Opening Chorus (Chorus and senior dancers)

Suggested numbers:- How you gonna keep 'em down on the farm?

A bushel and a peck (Guys and Dolls)

In the country (Cliff Richard number)

Out of town

Run rabbit run

(The sung number is followed by a dance. At the end of the dance the dancers exit, the chorus decorate the stage and Mother Goose enters. She is carrying five letters)

M. Goose:- The post's arrived everybody. Here we are, there's one for you Clara, one for you Charlie and one for your Betty. (She hands out letters to members of chorus) Now let me see there are two for me. Isn't that nice? Let's see who they're from. (She begins to open letters and notices audience) Hello, I didn't see you out there. Let me introduce myself, I'm Mother Goose, the boss of this desirable residence (she looks around), alright it may not be - - - (local stately home) but it's better than one of those cardboard houses up - - - (new local housing estate). I live here with my son and daughter in rustic bliss. Now what do these letters say? (She takes letter from envelope) Ooh it's from my Auntie Nellie in - - - (local big town) (She reads) Dear Raquel, that's me, I'm writing this letter slowly cos' I know you can't read fast. I've just had all my teeth taken out and a new gas cooker installed. Little Arthur has started at his new school today. I was a bit worried about it at first but father says it must be alright cos' it's approved. Little Mary sat on the bacon slicer and got a little behind in her work, but the doctor says she'll be alright once she's had the skin graft. I must close now as the old man is wanting his tea. The wind is coming from the sewage works and there is a terrible smell from your loving Auntie Nellie. Sheer poetry, isn't it? I'll read it again later. (She tucks it down the front of her dress).

Now what does this other letter say? (She opens it and reads) Dear Mother Goose, it has been brought to my notice that you are four weeks behind with the rent on the farm. As it is most unlikely that you will be paying up in the near future I will be sending my bailiffs, Danny and Fanny, to evict you. All your furniture will be confiscated and you will be thrown out lock, stock and barrel. Expect my bailiffs any time in the next ten minutes, signed Squire Dastardly. (She tucks second letter into front of dress)

Oh my stars! What's to be done? I haven't even a penny to scratch my - - - elbow with. (She starts to cry)

(Idle Jack, her son enters. He is carrying wage packet)

Jack:- I be 'ere with the A.I.B.

M. Goose:- But you haven't got any 'ay, I mean hay.

Jack:- No not 'ay, the A.I.B.

M. Goose:- The A.I.B., what's that?

Jack:- Agricultural Incentive Bonus.

M. Goose:- Agricultural Incentive Bonus. Thank heaven, we're saved. How much is it

Jack:- (Opening out wage packet and taking out information strip and some coins, he reads) Agricultural Incentive Bonus £150.

M. Goose:- Ooh lovely!

Jack:- (Reading) National Insurance contribution £45, Income tax £55, superannuation £25, Union dues £10, other deductions £14.75.

M. Goose:- How much does that leave?

Jack:- (Holding out coins) 25p.

M. Goose:- 25p, that won't even get us into - - - (local town) on the bus.

Jack:- Why do you want money? We're happy as we are, aren't we?

M. Goose:- It's not me that wants the money, it's the Squire. He owns the farm and if we don't pay the rent we'll all be thrown out into the cold cold snow.

Jack:- But it's the middle of summer.

M. Goose:- Never mind about that, let's think of a way to raise money before the bailiffs arrive.

Jack:- I could sell my stamp collection.

M. Goose:- What, the ones you got from those packets of cornflakes in - - - (local supermarket), you must be joking.

Jack:- I could grow a beanstalk and steal jewels from the giant.

M. Goose:- Wrong pantomime.

Jack:- Sorry.

M. Goose:- We shall be thrown out into the streets.

Jack:- Aw!

M. Goose:- We shall have nowhere to lay our heads.

Jack:- Aw! (To audience) Aw!

M. Goose:- We shall have to beg from door to door.

Jack:- (Gesturing to audience and with chorus joining in) Aw!

M. Goose:- We shall have to sleep beneath the stars.

Jack:- (Gesturing to audience) Aw!

M. Goose:- (Hitting him) Will you stop that? We must get on with the plot.
(Jill enters)

Jill:- Hello mother, what a wonderful day, isn't it?

Jack and M. Goose:- (Almost in tears) Aw!
(Chorus begin to exit)

Jill:- What on earth's the matter? You look as though you've had some terrible news. What is it?

M. Goose:- Here read this. (She takes letter from dress but it is wrong letter)

Jill:- (Reading) Dear Raquel, I'm writing this letter slowly 'cos I know you can't read fast - - -

M. Goose:- Sorry, wrong letter. (She takes other letter out and exchanges with Jill)

Jill:- (After reading letter) Oh no, is there nothing we can do?

M. Goose:- Not unless you've got the odd hundred quid you don't want.

Jill:- If I had I'd give it to you, you know that.

M. Goose:- What about that handsome boyfriend of yours? Do you think he'll be able to help us?

Jill:- Well I don't think he's got much money, but I'll ask him. He's due to call at any moment.

M.Goose:- You are a good girl to your dear old mum, which is more than can be said for some (looking at Jack).

Jack:- I will be a good girl in future, I promise.

M.Goose:- You are a twit Jack. Why you don't even know what sex you are.

Jack:- No but it's fun finding out.

M.Goose:- Come with me my lad, we've got some searching to do. I want you to help me look in all my drawers.

Jack:- Do you think I ought?

M.Goose:- For money, you fool. Come on, you'll never make the 'A' Team (or other well known TV adventure series) with a brain like yours. See you later folks.
(Mother Goose and Jack exit)

Jill:- This is a worry and no mistake. There must be answers somewhere but what? I do hope Colin can think of a solution. He may only be a village lad but he's so wise and intelligent and I love him so much.
Song (Jill)
Suggested numbers:- When I dream
You needed me
Something good (Sound of Music)
I feel pretty (West Side Story)
A modern romantic ballad
(Colin enters)

Colin:- Jill, how pretty you look.

Jill:- Hello Colin.

Colin:- You look worried. What is it?

Jill:- Mother's just received a letter from the Squire saying that because we're behind with the rent on the farm he's going to throw us out.

Colin:- Oh no, how much do you owe?

Jill:- I think it's about a hundred pounds.

Colin:- A hundred pounds is an awful lot of money and I wish I had it to give you, but alas I'm only a poor boy.

Jill:- Yes I know Colin.

Colin:- If I can help in any other way I will, you know that.

Jill:- Yes I'm sure you will.
(Mother Goose enters)

M.Goose:- Oh dear, there's nothing in the house but bills.
(Jack enters)

Jack:- Oh dear, there's nothing in the house but bills.

M.Goose:- I've just said that you wally.

Colin:- You'll be very welcome at our house Mother Goose, you know that.

M.Goose:- That's very kind of you Colin, but we're not through yet. I'll discomboobarise those bailiffs when they arrive.

Jill:- Please be careful mother, they're only carrying out orders.

M.Goose:- It's that Squire Dastardly, the mean old b-b-blackguard. Why he's got more money than Liz Taylor (or local person), the old skinflint.

Colin:- Unfortunately he's got the law on his side and we're powerless to fight him.

M.Goose:- There's only one answer.

Jack:- What's that?

M.Goose:- When I was a child I was given the words of a magic spell by a fairy.

Jack:- A fairy! (He starts to laugh) There aren't such things.

M.Goose:- Not for you perhaps, you disbeliever, but I know they exist.

Jack:- (Laughing uproariously) A fairy! A fairy! (He continues laughing)

M.Goose:- I will read you out the magic spell which I have secreted about my person for the last - - - 21 years. (She takes paper from knicker leg and reads)

When your back's against the wall,
And you're heading for a fall,
Do not worry or despair,
Call for me and I'll be there.
Say these words and I'll appear.
Don't you fret for I'll be near.
Crock of gold and rainbow's end,
Call for me your lifelong friend.

(There is a drum roll, a flash and a puff of smoke and the Fairy Queen enters)

Fairy Q:- You rang?

M.Goose:- By jove, it worked, it worked.

Jack:- Are you a fairy?

Fairy Q:- I have been called worse.

M.Goose:- Oh Mrs.Fairy can you help us, we're in grave need?

Fairy Q:- A little Andrex perhaps?

M.Goose:- No you don't understand, we're going to be evicted from our farm.

Fairy Q:- It's not the wicked squire routine again is it?

M.Goose:- Yes I'm afraid it is.

Fairy Q:- Fear not my dear, I know his sort.
All his plans will come to nought. }rhyme

Jack:- I don't believe you exist, you're something out of the Wizard of Oz.

Fairy Q:- No-one tells me I'm not here,
Here take this and henceforth fear. }rhyme

(She waves her wand and Jack freezes)

M.Goose:- Hey what have you done to my son? He's been turned to stone.

Fairy Q:- Just a trick I learned at school,
That should teach the silly fool. }rhyme

M.Goose:- But I need him to tend the farm.

Fairy Q:- (To rhyme with Mother Goose) Do not fear there is no harm.
(Waving wand) Izzy wizzy fork and knife,
Jack will now come back to life. }rhyme

(Jack unfreezes himself)

There we are, what did I tell you?

Jack:- Where am I? What happened?

M. Goose:- That'll teach you. Fairies exist. (To audience) Don't they everybody?
(Audience responds)

Fairy Q:- Now we've got that over, what can I do for you?

M. Goose:- Well we need about a hundred pounds to pay the Squire. How are you fixed?

Fairy Q:- I will arrange for a friend of mine to visit you in a few minutes and she will give you all the help you need. So don't despair, all is not lost.

Jack:- She? It's not Bo Derek (or Selena Scott) is it?

Fairy Q:- No but it's a lady who will snuggle up to you and keep you warm in the winter.

Jack:- Ooh, I can't wait.

Jill:- But what if we need you again?

Fairy Q:- Don't worry your pretty little head about that. I'll be on hand to see to your every need. Tata, I'm off.

(There is a flash and the Fairy Queen exits)

Jack:- That's all very well but where do we go from here?

Colin:- I think we should wait and see who the Fairy Queen sends to us.

Jill:- I agree with Colin. Let's put our trust in the Fairy Queen.

M. Goose:- Come on, let's go and have a cup of tea while we're waiting.

(Mother Goose, Jack, Colin and Jill exit. There is a general melee and the chorus enter with the bailiffs Danny and Fanny)

Song (Danny, Fanny and Chorus)

Suggested numbers:- Easy Street (Annie)

We are the bailiffs (Tune:- Anything you can do from 'Annie get your gun')

We are the bailiffs

Danny:- We are the bailiffs who work for the Squire,
We are the folk who will do what he says.

Fanny:- We will make.

Danny:- We will take.

Fanny:- We will deal.

Danny:- We will steal.

Both:- Yes we will, yes we will, yes we will.

Fanny:- If there's a man who will not pay his rental,
If there's a man who does not have the cash,

Danny:- We will tell.

Fanny:- We will sell.

Danny:- We will grab.

Fanny:- We will stab.

Both:- Yes we will, yes we will, yes we will.

We will take your money and your jars of honey,
We will take your cottage and your mess of pottage.
We will take your chest of drawers,
And your divan, all that we can.

Danny:- When we are done you will run to the workhouse,
When we are done you will be on the street.

Fanny:- We will make.

Danny:- We will take.

Fanny:- We will deal.

Danny:- We will steal.

Both:- Yes we will, yes we will, yes we will.

Danny, Fanny and Chorus:- We/They are the people who work for - - -
- - - - yes we/they will, yes we/they will.

(Mother Goose, Jack, Jill and Colin enter)

M. Goose:- What's all the noise about? You've disturbed me in the middle of my cuppa.

Danny:- My name's Danny Dirtydeed and I'm a bailiff.

Fanny:- My name's Fanny Filthyface and I'm another bailiff.

(Squire Dastardly enters)

Squire:- And I'm Squire Dastardly and I'm the Village Squire. (He rubs his hands and laughs evilly) And you will all address me as Sir Jasper. (He grabs hold of Mother Goose).

M. Goose:- Oh Sir Jasper do not touch me. I think I've heard that somewhere before. Have mercy on a poor old woman who wants nothing more out of life than a peaceful existence and the occasional gin and tonic.

Squire:- Do you have the hundred pounds you owe me?

M. Goose:- No but I can pay in instalments.

Squire:- Instalments?

M. Goose:- Yes two quid now and the rest in ten years time.

Squire:- No, a hundred pounds now or you're out on your ear.

Colin:- Please Sir Jasper, have a little pity, the lady's a widow.

Squire:- Looking at her I'm not surprised. She's enough to drive any man to his grave.

Jack:- Don't you talk about my mother like that. She may not be pretty on the surface but she's a lovely woman underneath.

Squire:- Well I'm certainly not waiting for her to undress. (To bailiffs) Bring out the furniture and we will hold an auction here in the farmyard.

(The bailiffs exit to the farm)

Jill:- Please Sir Jasper, won't you give us just a few more days? I'm sure we'll be able to raise the money when we sell our corn.

Squire:- I might consider it for a kiss. (He tries to embrace her)

Colin:- (Pulling Squire away) Leave Jill alone. She could never kiss a man as ugly as you.

Squire:- How dare you. I'd have you know I'm a trend setter.

M. Goose:- You look more like an Irish setter.

Squire:- That does it. The full hundred pounds or out you all go.

(The bailiffs return carrying moth-eaten old armchair)

Ah here comes the furniture now. Now what am I bid for this wonderful specimen with a soft bottom and curved arms?

M. Goose:- Are you talking about me or the chair?

Squire:- The chair madam, the chair.

Chorus Member:- I'll bid 10p.

Chorus Member:- I'll bid 15p

Chorus Member:- I'll bid 20p

Squire:- Sold to the lady over there for twenty pence. (Bailiffs take chair to buyer and exit to farm again)

M. Goose:- Twenty pence, twenty pence, it's worth more than that. It's a genuine antique.

Squire:- So are you madam but I wouldn't give more than twopence for you. Bring out the next lot.

(Bailiffs carry out a table with drawers)

What am I bid for this interesting piece with spindly legs and detachable drawers?

M. Goose:- I hope you're not talking about me this time.

Squire:- Certainly not madam, your legs and drawers are no concern of mine.

Chorus Member:- I'll bid 10p.

Chorus Member:- I'll bid 20p.

Chorus Member:- I'll bid 30p.

Squire:- Any increase on 30p? (There is silence) Sold to the gentleman over there. (Bailiffs carry table over to buyer and then exit to the farm)

Jack:- You can't let that table go for 30p. I use it for doing my jigsaws on.

Squire:- Yes and I can see where you've got a piece missing.

(The bailiffs come back empty handed)

Where's the next item of furniture?

Danny:- It's the grandfather clock, but it's too heavy to carry.

Squire:- I don't know, you're nothing but a couple of weaklings. Very well, we'll just have to see it inside. Come on everybody.

(The Squire leads the way into the farm)

M. Goose:- (Following him) Hey you can't take my grandfather clock. I rely on that to tell the time.

Fanny:- (Following her) But it doesn't go.

Jack:- No, but it's right at least twice a day. (He follows)

(The chorus begin to exit to the farm. Some carry off the table and chair)

Colin:- Come along Jill, we'd better go along to make sure there's fair play. That squire's as crooked as a corkscrew.

(Colin and Jill exit hand in hand)

Danny:- Hey, wait for me, I don't want to miss the chance to bid for the video recorder.

(Danny exits and by this time the stage is empty. The junior dancers enter dressed as geese in a line from behind a rear flat and make their way to the front of the stage)

Dance (Junior dancers)

Suggested numbers:- The Clog Dance (La Fille Mal Gardee)

Narcissus

Many a new day (Oklahoma)

(At the end of the number Priscilla enters and the dancing geese bow to her and then exit. Mother Goose enters in tears)

M.Goose:- Oh dear, I can't stand it any longer, that's my brass bedstead gone for 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ p and that paid for by Barclaycard. It's more than a mother can take.

Priscilla:- Honk honk.

M.Goose:- What was that? I thought I heard a noise.

Priscilla:- Honk honk.

M.Goose:- There it goes again. I must be going round the twist.

(Priscilla goes over to Mother Goose and rubs herself against her)

Priscilla:- Honk honk.

M.Goose:- Why it's a goose. I say you're a size. Have you escaped from - - -
(Local or well known poultry farm)?

Priscilla:- Honk honk.

(Jack enters almost in tears)

Jack:- I don't know - no money and no furniture and nothing to eat. What are we going to do? (He sees Priscilla) By jove, our luck's changed. We can put that goose in the deep freeze and it'll last all winter.

Priscilla:- (Very frightened) Honk honk honk honk honk honk.

M.Goose:- (To Jack) You great wally, look what you've done, you've upset her.

Jack:- Is she a friend of yours?

M.Goose:- Not yet but I think she's going to be. (To goose) What's your name? (Goose 'whispers' to Mother Goose) Priscilla? That's nice name, almost as nice as Raquel. Let me introduce you to my son. Jack this is Priscilla and any more talk of the deep freeze and I'll give you a thick ear.

(Priscilla starts to go over to Jack but is frightened)

Go on Priscilla, he won't bite.

(She goes over and rubs herself against Jack)

Jack:- (Coyly) Aw!

M.Goose:- I've got it.

Jack:- Well I hope it's not infectious.

M.Goose:- No, I mean I know why Priscilla's here.

Jack:- Do you?

M.Goose:- Yes, she's been sent by the Fairy Queen to help us out of our predicament. That's right, isn't it Priscilla?

(Goose nods)

There we are, what did I tell you?

Jack:- But how can a goose help us? She's not going to make a hundred quid for us is she?

Priscilla:- Honk honk. (She walks over to side flat and beckons for them to follow her)

M.Goose:- I wonder what she wants.

(They follow her. She snuggles down as though on her nest. Small golden egg can then be pushed under her from wings)

Priscilla:- Honk honk honk honk honk-k-k-k-k.

(She stand up to reveal golden egg)

M.Goose:- Hey look, it's a golden egg. (She picks it up)

Jack:- A golden egg!

M.Goose:- Ooh thank you Priscilla and (looking up) thank you Mrs.Fairy. It must be worth at least a hundred pounds.

Jack:- Yes we can pay the village squire and get the farm back.

M.Goose:- (Walking over to farm flat) I say, Sir Jasper, are you there?
(She hides egg behind her back)

Jack:- I can't wait to see his face.
(Squire enters. He is angry at having been disturbed)

Squire:- Well what do you want? Can't you see I'm busy selling off your bits and pieces?

M.Goose:- Then you can stop immediately because I am now able to pay you the rent.

Squire:- Don't try to bamboozle me madam, I know you're broke.

M.Goose:- I was, until five minutes ago. Now I have the wherewithal to send you packing.
(Jill and Colin enter followed by Danny and Fanny and gradually the chorus over the next few lines)

Squire:- Then put your money where your mouth is.

M.Goose:- (Bringing out egg from behind her back) There we are. What do you think of that?

Squire:- It's a golden egg. Where did you get that from? (Everyone gasps)

M.Goose:- Never you mind. Will you take it in lieu of the rent?

Danny:- (Secretly to Squire) It must be worth at least a thousand quid.

Squire:- Yes - - - yes I'll take it.
(Meanwhile Priscilla has settled down on the nest again)

M.Goose:- Here you are then. (She gives him the egg) You can keep the change. And now - - - get out.

Priscilla:- Honk honk honk honk honk-k-k-k.
(She rises to reveal a larger egg)

Jack:- (Rushing over and picking it up) Look Priscilla's laid another egg and it's bigger than the first.

M.Goose:- So she has. Why we'll be rich. Goodbye Sir Jasper and don't forget to take your friends with you.

Squire:- You've won this time Mother Goose, but I'll be back to take my revenge just you wait and see.
(Squire exits with Danny and Fanny laughing evilly)

M.Goose:- Good riddance to bad rubbish eh? (Taking egg from Jack) I wonder how much this would fetch at Sotherby's.

Jill:- The Fairy Queen was right. She said someone would help us.

M.Goose:- We'll be able to afford new furniture and we'll have the whole place redecorated. Oh it's going to be spend spend spend from now on.

Colin:- Don't forget to put something away for a rainy day.

M.Goose:- There aren't going to be any more rainy days thanks to Priscilla. Come here my precious, let mummy give you a great big kiss.
(Priscilla waddles over and Mother Goose kisses her)

We're rich, rich, rich I tell you. All our worries are over.

Song (Mother Goose and all on stage)

Suggested numbers:- Money money (Cabaret)
Gonna build a mountain (Stop the World)
Old fashioned millionaire (Eartha Kitt number)

(During the number Priscilla lays an even bigger egg to everyone's delight)

Scene 2 - A Road near the Farm (Front cloth or tabs)

(The Demon King enters in a flash and laughs evilly)

Demon K:- I am the Demon King and make my entrance here.
I work my evil deeds and make you quake with fear.
My plans for Mother Goose have all been made in vain.
That beastly fairy queen has interfered again.
She always pokes her nose in things she does not like.
But soon I'll say to her 'Get lost' and 'On your bike'.

Yes I am the baddie in this little show. Oh I know you think the Squire's evil but I'm ten times worse. I'm the one you're all going to boo and hiss. I enjoy being booed and hissed, it's like applause to me. So I'll tell you what I'll do - I'll go off and come on again so you can try out your booing and hissing. (He exits and returns. He gestures evilly to audience who hopefully boo and hiss) That's no good. I've known more hissing from leaking bagpipes. We'll try again. (He exits and returns again to booing and hissing). If you don't boo and hiss better than that I'll turn you all into members of the cabinet (or well known pop group). We'll try it one more time. (He exits and comes on again to boos and hisses) That's more like it. I love to be hated

(Fairy Queen enters. She is wearing bleeper)

Fairy Q:- Oh no, not the booing and hissing business again is it? Don't you demon kings have any originality at all?

Demon K:- Ah there you are you old faggot, I want a word with you.

Fairy Q:- Yes.

Demon K:- You've been interfering in my little schemes again haven't you?

Fairy Q:- I make no bones about it - I certainly have. What do you mean by persuading the Village Squire through his subconsciousness to turn Mother Goose out of her farm. It's scandalous.

Demon K:- She was undermining my powers, always going round the village doing good and helping old people in distress. It shouldn't be allowed. Why can't she be mean and evil like I am?

Fairy Q:- You really are a nasty piece of work, aren't you?

Demon K:- Yes. Shall I tell you some of the things I do to upset people?

Fairy Q:- You might as well. I can see you were going to anyway.

Demon K:- You know when you've finished washing up and empty the bowl of water.

Fairy Q:- Yes.

Demon K:- Who is it that makes sure there's always one teaspoon left in the bowl? Me.

Fairy Q:- I thought it might be.

Demon K:- When you're half way through a tube of toothpaste and you start to roll it up from the bottom.

Fairy Q:- Yes.

Demon K:- Who is it that makes sure it leaks in the middle and oozes toothpaste all over your hands? Me.

Fairy Q:- Who else?

Demon K:- Who is it that makes sure you've only got a five pound note when you get onto a 'pay as you enter' bus? Me.

Fairy Q:- All that goes without saying but you're not going to get away with it this time. I've sent Priscilla, the goose that lays the golden eggs from Gooseland and she will make sure that Mother Goose gets all the happiness she deserves.

Demon K:- We shall see.

Fairy Q:- Yes we shall indeed. (There is a call on her bleeper) But I can't stand about there all day, I've just had a call on my bleeper. That poor Cinderella wants to go to the ball and I can't let her down. Bye for now.

(Fairy Queen exits in a flash)

Demon K:- The interfering old busybody but she won't win this time. I have other plans. (Looking offstage) Ah here comes Sir Jasper with his two bailiffs, just the threesome I want to see.

(He is handed cloak from wings which he dons)

Now to assume my disguise. We don't want the fools to suspect who I am.

(Squire, Danny and Fanny enter)

Squire:- You're hopeless. the pair of you, letting a thing like that happen.

Danny:- We couldn't help it. How were we to know that goose was going to turn up

Fanny:- We did what you told us to do.

Squire:- If you'd had any brains you would have captured that goose so that we could have the golden eggs.

(They suddenly see the Demon King)

Who are you?

Demon K:- My card. (He produces card which he hands to Squire who reads it)

Squire:- Mr.D.King. Widows evicted and geese acquired. Why, you're just the chap we want.

Demon K:- Yes I thought I might be. I know your problem and I have a plan.

Squire:- A plan?

Demon K:- Yes, not only will we be able to steal the goose that lays the golden eggs but we'll get rid of Mother Goose into the bargain.

Squire:- Wonderful! Come back to the Manor House and tell us all about it.

Song (Demon King, Squire, Danny and Fanny)

(Reprise of song sung by Danny and Fanny in Scene 1 with following words)

Demon K:- Soon we will capture the goose called Priscilla.

Squire:- Soon we will throw them all out of the farm.

All:- We will make, we will take.

We will deal, we will steal.

Yes we will, yes we will, yes we will.

Danny:- We are the bailiffs who work for the Squire.

Fanny:- We are the folks who will do what he says.

All:- We will tell, we will sell,

We will grab, we will stab,

Yes we will, yes we will, yes we will.

All:- We will take your villa and that goose Priscilla.
We will take your carriage and destroy your marriage.
We will take your golden eggs,
And your settee, just wait and see.

When we are done you will run to the workhouse.
When we are done you will be on the street.
We will make, we will take,
We will deal, we will steal.
Yes we will, yes we will, yes we will.

(They all exit in high glee)

Scene 3 - The Farmyard Parlour

(This is an old world parlour that has been given the treatment. It has lots of expensive but tasteless things decorating it. The chorus are on stage)

Song (Chorus) Suggested numbers:- Well did ya evah? (High Society)
Stately Homes of England (The Operette)
That great come-and-get-it-day (Finian's
Rainbow)

(Mother Goose enters in extravagant dress looking like nothing on earth)

M. Goose:- Good evening my friends and you are all my friends aren't you?

Chorus:- Yes, of course, naturally, etc.

M. Goose:- What do you think of my new creation? Lovely isn't it? I knew you'd like it. I didn't get this from the Oxfam shop you know. No, this is from that rather smart boutique - - - (local dress shop). In this dress people have compared me with Marti Webb or was it Rita Webb, I can't remember.

(Jack enters. He is dressed in a sailor suit with short trousers)

Jack:- Are you sure I look alright in this thing? I feel a right Charlie.

M. Goose:- Ah my little Jack Tar. And how are you my merry matelot?

Jack:- Awful. People keep coming up to me and saying 'Hello sailor'.

M. Goose:- Well you take no notice of them my cherub. I think you look very nice.

Jack:- I don't think I like being rich. I'd much sooner be muckraking in the farmyard.

M. Goose:- Don't use words like that. Why can't you say you've been shovelling the manure?

Jack:- Manure? You must be joking. It took you ten years to get me to say muck.

M. Goose:- Are you ready for the cabaret?

Jack:- Cabaret? Have you been spending money on dancing girls?

M. Goose:- Yes. I know you like a little titilation so I scoured the countryside from as far afield as - - - (local village or district) to bring a little pleasure to your life.

Jack:- But what about the cost?

M. Goose:- You don't have to worry about that. With Priscilla laying three golden eggs a day we can afford to live in the height of luxury. Bring on the dancing girls.

Dance (Senior dancers possibly with chorus singing)

Suggseted numbers:- If they could see me now (Sweet Charity)
Steam Heat (The Pyjama Game) Can Can (Can Can)

(Dancers and chorus exit. Jack tries to follow the dancers off but Mother Goose collars him)

M. Goose:- Down boy or I'll send you for a cold shower again.

Jack:- You're always spoiling my fun. I never meet any nice young slender and curvaceous girls.

M. Goose:- Now we have money you can marry into the aristocracy. I'd like to see you settled down with a nice girl like that Princess Diana. I don't want you going out with every Tom, Dick or Harry.

Jack:- But I don't want to go out with Tom, Dick or Harry, I want to go out with a girl.

M. Goose:- There must be a duchess or countess we can attract now that we're rich.

Jack:- But I don't want to marry a duchess or a countess, all I want is a dolly bird with a slim waist and a big pair of - - - blue eyes.

(Kitty enters. She is a very plump girl with big owl type glasses. Padding can be used to make her look enormous. She carries newspaper)

Kitty:- Excuse me.

Jack:- Yes certainly, it's just along the corridor.

Kitty:- But I've come about the job.

Jack:- Sorry we don't want any hot air balloons today.

Kitty:- You don't understand, it's this advert in - - - (local paper)

(She opens paper to show advert and goes to Mother Goose)

You are Mother Goose, aren't you?

M. Goose:- I am, Mother Goose, the richest lady in - - - (local town)

Kitty:- It says here (reading) that you are looking for a goosegirl.

Jack:- Are you a goosegirl?

Kitty:- Yes. My name's Kitty and I've been looking after dumb creatures since I was a little girl. Would you like me to look after you? (She puts her arm round his shoulder)

Jack:- Ger' off. I don't believe you were ever a little girl.

Kitty:- (Starting to cry) I hope you'll let me have the job as I've got to look after my sick grandfather and there's no food in the house.

(Jack sobs too)

The roof leaks and we've no money to get it repaired.

(Jack sobs more violently)

This is the only frock I have and I can't afford a new one.

(Jack is now wailing with grief)

M. Goose:- I don't know why you're crying, you've got more than one frock. (To Kitty) We can't have this can we? I'll tell you what we'll do. We'll take you on a week's trial, how about that?

Kitty:- Thank you Mother Goose. I'll work hard, I promise.

M. Goose:- Now let me introduce you to Priscilla. (Calling off) Oh Priscilla, are you there darling?

(There is a honking offstage and Priscilla waddles on)

Here she is. Come to mummy.

(She goes across to Mother Goose and rubs her head against her)

Aw! Now then Priscilla I'd like you to meet Kitty, who is going to look after you.

(Priscilla goes all shy and hides her head in Mother Goose's petticoats)

M. Goose:- (To Kitty) You must excuse her, she's very shy.

Kitty:- (To Priscilla) You don't have to be shy with me Priscilla, I'll look after you well, I promise. (She goes over to her and strokes her. Priscilla gradually turns round and becomes friendly with Kitty)

M. Goose:- She likes you. You look hungry. Would you like a bite to eat?

Jack:- Hungry? She looks as though she's been stuffing herself with cream buns non-stop for the last month.

M. Goose:- Nonsense. You've got a big frame to fill, haven't you my dear?

Kitty:- (To Jack) Come through to the kitchen with me and we can have a nibble.

Jack:- I've told you, ger' off. (He moves her arm away)

Kitty:- Alright if you feel like that. Come along Priscilla, let's get to know each other.

M. Goose:- Jack, you will go through to the kitchen this moment and prepare Kitty something nutritious like beans on toast.

Jack:- Must I?

M. Goose:- (Grabbing his ear) Yes you must.

Jack:- Oh alright. After you Kitty.
(Priscilla and Kitty exit. Kitty is giggling)
The things I do for England.
(Jack exits)

M. Goose:- You know having a goose that lays golden eggs is better than winning Littlewoods. All I need now is for Paul Newman to walk in through that door and make mad passionate love to me.
(Squire enters followed by the Demon King)
Oh well, you can't win 'em all.

Squire:- Ah Mother Goose, how nice to see you. It was kind of you to invite me to your party.

M. Goose:- Well you know me. I'm not one to bear malice.

Squire:- Of course not. May I introduce a friend of mine - Mr. King.

M. Goose:- Hello, welcome to my humble abode. I love your fancy dress.

Demon K:- Enchanted. (He kisses her hand all the way up to her elbow)

M. Goose:- Pray unhand me sir. The meat course comes later.

Demon K:- I can see you have all the makings of a truly beautiful woman. Ah if only - - -

M. Goose:- Yes.

Demon K:- Oh never mind.

M. Goose:- Go on, do finish what you were going to say.

Demon K:- Well you see, in my job I get to know a lot about women. My card.
(He produces card which he hands to Mother Goose. She reads)

M. Goose:- Mr. D. King. Ladies beauty consultant. Warts removed, eyebrows plucked, faces lifted and youthful looks restored. Oh Mr. King, tell me honestly do I need improvement?

Demon K:- (Examining her up and down) Alas even the most perfect rose begins to fade after a while.

M. Goose:- Really, I do hope my petals aren't going to drop off yet.

Squire:- Of course not Mother Goose. All you need is some rejuvenation.

M.Goose:- But I rub on Oil of Ulay every night.

Demon K:- You must have been a truly beautiful woman when you were younger.

M.Goose:- Oh I was. My late husband used to compare me to a spring day.

Squire:- (Aside) Yes all wet and windy.

M.Goose:- Pardon.

Squire:- Nothing, I've just been looking at the barometer.

M.Goose:- Butterflies would mistake me for a flower.

Squire:- (Aside) Yes, a cauliflower.

M.Goose:- What was that?

Squire:- I said - what magic power.

Demon K:- A rare beauty indeed. It's such a pity that those days are over.

M.Goose:- But surely with all my money there must be a remedy.

Demon K:- Now let me think. Mm, you could bathe in goat's milk for the next twenty years.

M.Goose:- That's no good, I want to be beautiful now.

Demon K:- Well there's the operation. (Mother Goose is taken aback)

We shrink your skin to get rid of all the wrinkles.

M.Goose:- That sounds extremely painful.

Demon K:- It is but if you want to be beautiful again you must expect to put up with a little discomfort.

M.Goose:- There must be another way. How does that Estee Lauder do it? She never looks more than thirty when she's on the telly.

Squire:- (To Demon King) Should we tell her about the - - - (whispered)?

Demon K:- No I don't think so, it could be dangerous for a woman of her years.

M.Goose:- What's this you're talking about? Have you got the answer?

Squire:- Are you sure you want to know?

M.Goose:- Go on, sock it to me baby.

Demon K:- Well, in the middle of the enchanted wood is the pool of eternal youth. If you bathe in its waters you will become a maid of twenty one again.

M.Goose:- Twenty one eh? Well what are we waiting for, let's go.

Squire:- There are certain conditions however.

M.Goose:- Do I have to show my pension book to get in?

Demon K:- No but you must go alone.

M.Goose:- Alone, through that spooky wood? Can't I take anybody with me at all?

Squire:- The rules say that no human being will be allowed to accompany the visitor.

Demon K:- But there is nothing to say that you shouldn't take an animal for company.

M.Goose:- An animal? Does that mean I'll be able to take Priscilla with me?

Squire:- (Innocently) Who's Priscilla?

M.Goose:- She's my goose.

Demon K:- I don't see why not. In fact I think it's a devilish good idea, ha ha.

(The Demon King winks at the Squire)

M. Goose:- We'll set off right away. Is it far?

Squire:- Only a couple of miles down the road. We'll accompany you as far as the entrance gate but we dare go no further. It is a full moon tonight so you'll be able to see your way.

M. Goose:- (Calling offstage) Priscilla, are you there my precious?

Demon K:- You'll be back in a couple of hours and then you'll be able to surprise your family with your girlish looks.

M. Goose:- Ooh yes. Won't it be fun?

(Priscilla enters)

Come along darling, we're going walkies.

Squire:- Let's leave by the side door so we don't disturb the celebrations.

Demon K:- Yes come along this way.

(He beckons them towards the side of the stage. As they are about to exit Jill and Colin enter)

Jill:- Mother, where are you going?

M. Goose:- Oh I'm just - - - nipping down the road to - - - (local pub) to get another crate of milk stout, we've none left.

Colin:- I'll go for you Mother Goose, you stay and enjoy yourself.

M. Goose:- No, it's alright - - - the Squire will carry it for me.

Jill:- Be careful, there are some strange characters about.

Squire:- Don't worry, we'll be with her.

Jill:- That's what I'm afraid of.

Colin:- (Whispering to Mother Goose) I don't trust that squire. I think he's out to trick you.

M. Goose:- Nonsense! As a matter of fact he's doing me a favour.

Jill:- Why are you taking Priscilla with you?

M. Goose:- Just for bit of exercise and for the company. It's alright for you two you have each other, but I've got nobody.

Colin:- We'll come with you if you like.

M. Goose:- No you musn't do that. You must stay and look after our guests.

Squire:- Come along Mother Goose, the hour grows late.

M. Goose:- Coming.

(Squire and Demon King exit)

Jill:- Please be careful.

M. Goose:- I might be a little later than expected, but when I get back you're in for big surprise. Come on Priscilla, let's be off. Tata you two.

(Mother Goose and Priscilla exit)

Colin:- (Shouting after her) Do look after yourself.

Jill:- Oh Colin, I don't like it. I'm sure that squire's up to no good.

Colin:- If she's not back in half an hour we'll go looking for her.

Jill:- That's a good idea.

Colin:- It just goes to prove that money doesn't necessarily bring happiness.

Jill:- No, I think we have more worries now than we had when we were poor.

Colin:- Your family's new-found wealth has placed me in a very difficult position
Jill.

Jill:- How do you mean?

Colin:- Well people are saying that I'm only going out with you because of your money.

Jill:- I know that's not true.

Colin:- If only there was some way of proving it to them.

Jill:- Let's forget other people. I know you love me for the right reasons and that's all that matters.

Duet (Jill and Colin)

Suggested numbers:- I love you because
If ever I would leave you (Camelot)
Fold your wings (Glamorous Night)
Bewitched (Pal Joey)
Modern romantic ballad

(Tabs can be drawn during the course of song to allow more time for scene changing)

(Jill and Colin exit at end of number)

Scene 4 - The Farmyard Barn (Front cloth or tabs)

(Kitty enters in tears followed by Jack)

Jack:- What's the matter? If you don't stop crying I'll have to get the mop out.

Kitty:- I can't find Priscilla anywhere. Somebody must have stolen her.

Jack:- Stolen her? Don't be silly, my mother's just taken her out for a walk. They've just gone off down the road together.

Kitty:- Oh that's a relief. What would she have said if I'd lost the goose on the first day?

Jack:- She certainly wouldn't have been very pleased. I reckon she needs Securicor to look after that goose, the money it's worth.

Kitty:- Anyway you've eased my conscience and I needn't worry any more. Oh Jack you are good to me.

(She throws her arms around him)

Jack:- Ger' off, I bruise easily. (He breaks away)

Kitty:- Don't throw me off like an old welly. Can't you see we were meant for each other?

Jack:- I think you'd be better off with Humpty Dumpty.

Kitty:- You're not suggesting I'm a little overweight are you?

Jack:- A little? Why you make Cyril Smith look like a seven stone weakling.

Kitty:- I can't help it if I've got a big appetite.

Jack:- I know a way you can loose thirty pounds of ugly fat.

Kitty:- How do I do that?

Jack:- Cut your head off. (He wanders away from her roaring with laughter)

Kitty:- (Bursting into tears again) Oh dear nobody loves me and I've got so much to give.

Jack:- (Feeling ashamed of his joke) I'm sorry, I didn't mean to be unkind. Here use my hankie.

(Jack gives Kitty his hankie and she blows her nose to suitable orchestral accompaniment)

Now dry those tears.