



The Little Mermaid

by Ron Hall

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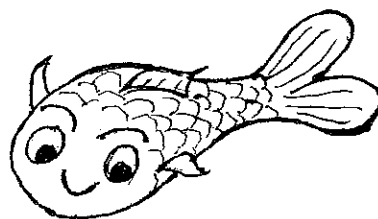
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THE



LITTLE

MERMAID



A New

Pantomime

by

Ron Hall

Based on the Story by Hans Andersen

Junior Dancers as court attendants, possibly pages,
seahorses or other fish and Mrs. Mopps

Synopsis of scenes:-

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Estimated length of show:- Act I - 1 hour 17 minutes
Act II - 1 hour

Number of principal parts:- Female - six
Male - six

These figures assume that Queen Hypochondria is played by a man and Prince Stefan is played by a woman. The child with four lines on page twenty nine is not counted as she is one of the Junior Dancers.

Scene changing - This pantomime can be played with a minimum of two sets and running tabs though any additional scenery such as a cut-out castle for the finale would obviously help to glamorise the production.

Use of music:- It should be noted that songs and other music are only suggested and do NOT form part of the script. Arrangements should be made with the Performing Rights Society for performance.

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THE LITTLE MERMAID

ACT I

Scene 1 - The Gardens of Elsinore Castle, Denmark

(This should be the deepest of the sets and should consist of gardens with ivied castle walls on each side of the stage. Upstage there is a low wall forming the harbour side. There are steps up to the wall top and the wall itself should be wide and strong enough to walk and sit upon. About two feet behind the wall is a 'sea' ground row about 3'6" high and behind that should be a backcloth depicting sea, coastline and sky. A sketch with dimensions is shown at the rear of the script. The Chorus and Senior Dancers are on stage and are celebrating the coming of age of Prince Stefan.)

Opening Chorus (Chorus and Senior Dancers)

Suggested numbers:- Congratulations

It's a lovely day today (Call me Madam)

If they could see me now (Sweet Charity)

(At the end of the number the Senior Dancers exit and the Lord Chamberlain enters. He is carrying a long staff which he knocks three times on the stage.)

Lord Ch:- Pray silence for her Imperial Majesty Queen Hypochondria of Denmark, Keeper of the Royal Purse, President of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Double Glazing Salesmen, Patron of - - - (Operatic Society name) and agent for - - - (Building Society name).

(There is a fanfare and the Queen enters importantly. She has a very long train which is carried at intervals by the Junior Dancers dressed as attendants. At the rear is Heidi.)

Queen:- (To Junior Dancers) Thank you my darlings. As my train appears to have come to a halt you can go and prepare for your first number.

(Heidi and the children unfasten the train, the children curtsy and exit with it.)

Queen:- Lovely aren't they? I used to look like that ten years ago.

(The Chorus cough meaningfully)

Oh all right, fifteen years ago.

(The Chorus cough again)

Oh all right, twenty years ago. I am not admitting to more than that. Who do you think I am, Joan Collins?

(The Chorus mumble in disbelief)

(To Audience) You believe I'm only twenty nine don't you?

(The Chorus shake their heads behind her back)

Don't you?

Chorus and hopefully audience:- No.

(The Queen wheezes and puts her hand up to her forehead)

Queen:- (Between coughs and wheezes) Now look what you've done. You've upset me and I'm so fragile.

(She starts to draw in her breath and gasp as though she is about to sneeze)

Queen:- Quick Heidi, bring on my medicines. I'm going to have an attack.

(Heidi exits quickly)

Oh, it's my palpitations! I think I'm going to faint.

(She half swoons into the Chamberlain's arms. He drops his staff and they almost collapse)

Everything's going dark! It's not night time is it?

(Heidi re-enters quickly with trolley absolutely crammed with medicines of all kinds and all colours apart from black)

Heidi:- Here are your medicines your Majesty. Which one do you want?

Queen:- (Pointing) The big pink pills.

(Heidi starts to open the bottle)

No, no, the purple liquid.

(Heidi replaces the top on the pills and picks up the purple liquid)

No, no, the white tablets.

(Heidi replaces the liquid and picks up the white tablets)

Quick, quick, I'm going, I'm going.

(The Chamberlain collapses and the Queen finishes up sitting on the stage. Heidi dashes over with the tablets, takes off lid and pours two or three into Queen's hand. The Queen puts them in her mouth and makes vulgar sucking noises)

Oh, that's better. I'm always like this when I get upset. Help me up Cedric, there's a dear.

(The Chamberlain helps the Queen up)

Right Heidi, take 'em away for the time being but make sure they're handy. I don't want to be caught unaware.

Heidi:- Very good your Majesty. I'll make sure you're not caught in your underwear.

(Heidi replaces the tablets back on the trolley which she then wheels off)

Queen:- (Looking after Heidi) You can't get the staff these days you know. Now where was I? Oh yes, I'm not a well woman.

(The Chorus make disbelieving noises)

I'm rarely without pain.

(More noises from Chorus)

(To Chorus) It's all right for you lot. You're all fit and well while I'm a martyr to my bodily functions.

(There is the sound of a telephone ringing from the Queen's bosom)

What was that? (She looks to the left) Is somebody making rude noises?

(The Chorus shake their heads and look blank as the ringing continues)

Queen:- There it goes again. (She looks to the right) Has somebody had a pacemaker fitted?

(The Chorus shake their heads again)

Wait a minute! Wait a tiny minute! It's coming from me. Could it be my heart? (She places her hand on her heart) Oh! Oh! I'm having an attack.

Lord Ch:- It sounds like a telephone to me your Majesty.

Queen:- Telephone? Telephone? Who's got a telephone? (She looks amongst the Chorus)

Lord Ch:- I think it's yours your Majesty.

Queen:- Mine? Oh yes, I'd forgotten I'd secreted my mobile phone in my living bra.

(She fishes into her bra and brings out mobile phone, pulls out the aerial and places it to her ear)

Hello, Lady of the Castle speaking. How may I help you? (Short silence) What do you mean you can't find your crown? It's in the hat box on the top of the wardrobe. (Short silence) Yes, next to the aspidistra. (Putting down aerial and replacing phone in bra) Sorry about that folks. It was my husband the King. He's hopeless unless I do everything for him.

Well as you've no doubt guessed I'm Queen Hypochondria of Denmark and that was my husband King Marmaduke. Today we're celebrating the coming of age of our son Stefan, our only child and heir to the Danish throne. We're going to toast his health and then he's taking the royal yacht for a short cruise round the Baltic before he returns for his formal investiture as Prince of Jutland. We're not going with him because of affairs of state and besides I get seasick.

(There is another fanfare and King Marmaduke enters in a lather with his crown askew)

Lord Ch:- His Majesty King Marmaduke of Denmark, Knight of the Garter, Lord of the Suspender Belt, Baron of the Boxer Shorts and Swedish lessons given by appointment.

(While the Chamberlain speaks the Queen smartens the King up and straightens his crown)

King:- I'm not too late am I?

Queen:- Oh Duky, you're hopeless! Look at you. You look as though you've been dressed by Oxfam.

King:- I have.

Queen:- Don't tell everybody. They'll think we're short of cash.

King:- We are, aren't we?

Queen:- Only because we spent the money on bringing our son up properly.

King:- Well, I didn't want to send him to any old school.

Queen:- No, the one you chose was approved.

King:- It certainly was.

(There is a third fanfare)

Lord Ch:- His Royal Highness Prince Stefan, heir to the Danish throne.
(Prince Stefan enters looking extremely smart and every inch the principal boy)

Stefan:- Good day everyone.

Chorus:- Good day your Highness.

Stefan:- It's wonderful to see everyone looking so happy.

Queen:- Oh son, you're a real credit too me and Duky.

Stefan:- Thank you mother. I feel great.

Song (Stefan and Chorus)

Suggested numbers:- Drinking Song (The Student Prince)
Have a drink on me
Bachelor boy

(During the number servants hand out tankards to all on stage)

Queen:- A toast to my son Stefan on his twenty first birthday.

Queen, King, Chamberlain and Chorus:- To Prince Stefan.

(They all drink)

Stefan:- Thank you all for your kind wishes. And now I must take my leave of you. The royal yacht is about to set sail. (He hands his tankard to nearby Chorus member)

King:- Have a good trip my boy.

(Stefan is about to exit when Baldrick rushes on. He has a suitcase under each arm and travelling bags in each hand. He also carries a plastic bag with very little in it)

Baldrick:-Your Highness, your Highness, I've brought your luggage. You must have something warm to wear if we're going into the Baltic. (He dumps luggage down on stage)

Stefan:- My goodness Baldrick, anyone would think I was going away for a month.

Baldrick:-It's all right, they're not all yours.

Stefan:- Thank heaven for that.

Baldrick:- (Lifting plastic bag) No, this plastic bag belongs to me.

Queen:- I instructed Baldrick to pack your winter woolies. You don't want to be cold round the polar regions.

Baldrick:-No, it gets very cold round the polar regions.

Queen:- You may catch pneumonia (She pronounces it as its spelt) and die. Then I would be sonless and there would be nobody to sit on the throne after Duky pops his clogs. (She sobs)

King:- Here Hypochondria, use my hankie.

(The King hands the Queen a very large gaudy hankie on which she blows her nose to orchestral accompaniment)

Queen:- (Handing hankie back but still sobbing) Thank you Duky. I feel better for that.

Stefan:- All right mother, to make you happy I'll take the luggage. Carry the cases to the yacht Baldrick. I'll join you shortly.

Baldrick:-Very good your Highness.

(There is business as the Queen helps to load Baldrick up with the luggage and he eventually exits)

Queen:- You are a good lad Stefan. I knew it was worth sending you to - - - - (local posh school) for your education.

Stefan:- And now I really must go or we'll miss the tide.

King:- What's the weather forecast like?

Stefan:- There could be a storm later but we'll be well out to sea by then.

Queen:- A storm! A storm! Oh my palpitations! (She touches her heart and staggers)

Stefan:- (Holding onto Queen) Don't worry, we'll be fine.

Queen:- I do hope so.

Stefan:- The royal yacht is almost unsinkable.

Queen:- They said that about the Titanic and look what happened.

Stefan:- (Hugging Queen) Be brave. I'll be back in no time.

Queen:- Yes, remember its your investiture next week.

Stefan:- I'll remember.

Queen:- Goodbye son. Look after yourself.

Stefan:- (Shaking hands with the King) Goodbye father. Goodbye everyone. Thank you all for your good wishes.

All:- Goodbye Stefan, goodbye your Highness, safe journey, etc.

(Stefan waves as he exits and everyone waves as they watch him go)

Queen:- (Crying again) My baby's gone! What am I going to do?

King:- (Passing her the hankie again) Here, have my hankie again.

Queen:- (After blowing her nose) It's no good. Emotion is getting the better of me. I feel faint again. Oh!

(The Queen collapses into the Chamberlain's arms again after staggering about the stage)

King:- (Calling off) Heidi, bring on the medication.

(Heidi enters wheeling the medicine trolley)

Heidi:- You called?

King:- (Offhandedly) Give the Queen her fix.

Heidi:- (Holding up bottle) The pink pills?

Queen:- No.

Heidi:- (Holding up bottle) The purple liquid?

Queen:- No.

Heidi:- (Holding up bottle) The white tablets?

Queen:- No.

Heidi:- (Holding up bottle) The green capsules?

Queen:- (Holding out hand) Yes, the green capsules.

Heidi:- (Going over to Queen and tipping two capsules into her hand) Here we are your Majesty.

- Queen:- (Swallowing capsules) Oh, oh, I can feel my youthful energies returning. (Staggering back to her feet) In my condition I need medication all the time.
- Heidi:- Would you like me to leave the trolley here your Majesty?
- Queen:- What a good idea! And we could get all the folks out there to look after it for us.
- Heidi:- (Wheeling trolley to side of stage) I'll put it over here out of the way.
- Queen:- Will it be safe there do you think?
- Heidi:- It will be if everybody yells if somebody tries to pinch your medicines. (To Audience) Can you do that?
- Audience:-Yes.
- Heidi:- You don't sound very sure. Can you do that?
- Audience:-Yes.
- Heidi:- That's better. I thought you'd all gone home. Now my name's Heidi so all you've got to do if you see anyone else but the Queen taking those pills is call out 'Heidi Hi'. Let's give it a try. After three, 1 - 2 - 3.
- Chorus and Audience:- Heidi Hi.
- Heidi:- What a feeble effort! I'll never hear you unless you shout louder than that. Let's try it again. 1 - 2 - 3.
- Chorus and Audience:- Heidi Hi.
- Heidi:- That's better but I still wouldn't be able to hear you if I was dusting in one of the castle turrets. Let's try it one more time, 1 - 2 - 3.
- Chorus and Audience:- Heidi Hi.
- Heidi:- Marvellous! Now don't forget to shout that out if someone tries to pinch Hypochondria's pills.
- Queen:- (To Heidi) Have you quite finished?
- Heidi:- I think so.
- Queen:- Thank heavens for that. (To Audience) I dunno! You give 'em a small part and before you know where you are they're the star of the show. (To Heidi) This isn't 'Opportunity Knocks' you know. (Looking round at Chorus) And I don't know why you lot are still here. The celebration's over and there are urgent matters of state to attend to. I don't want other nations to think we're slap happy when it comes to protocol. Shoo, be off with you. And if you can't find any documents to read you can start the spring cleaning. There are parts of this castle that haven't had a lick of paint since the Vikings were around.
- (The Chorus exit grudgingly along with the Chamberlain and Heidi)
- King:- Come along Hypochondria, it's time for our daily audience with the peasants.
- Queen:- (Pointing to Audience) You can't call this audience peasants.
- King:- I didn't mean those people I meant our subjects.
- Queen:- You go along Duky. I just want to sit here for a while and watch Stefan's ship leave the bay.

(The Queen goes upstage and sits on the low wall)

King:- Very well. If you get too weepy you know where your medication is.

Queen:- Yes dear.

(The King exits and the Queen looks out to sea)

Queen:- Oh Stefan, come back safe to your dear old mum.

(A cut-out sailing ship slowly moves across the 'sea' behind the ground row to suitable nautical musical accompaniment)

Queen:- There he goes across the bounding main without a care in the world.

(The sky slowly darkens)

Queen:- The sky's getting darker. The weather forecast's wrong. It said the storm wouldn't come till later.

(There is a flash of lightning)

Queen:- Oh no! Lightning! I'll never trust that - - - (TV weather forecaster) again.

(The mobile phone rings in the Queen's bosom. It is followed by thunder)

Queen:- Was that thunder or was it my mobile phone? (The phone continues ringing) It's the phone. Oh where is it? (Fumbling about in her bosom she eventually fishes out the phone) Hello, hello, who is it? (Pause) Stefan, what are you doing ringing me up? You've only just left the harbour. (Pause) The ship's sprung a leak? (Pause) And it's started to sink. Oh no!

(The Queen looks out to sea and sees ship slowly tip and sink beneath the waves)

Queen:- My son's drowning. What are we going to do? (Loudly) Help, help, bring the lifeboat quick.

(The King, Heidi, Chamberlain and some of the Chorus enter quickly)

King:- What's the matter? What's happened?

Queen:- The royal yacht's capsized and Stefan can't swim.

Heidi:- (Dashing to trolley) Do you want your pills?

Queen:- No. No time for pills. Is the lifeboat on its way?

Lord Ch:- Yes, it'll be here in a minute. The crew are always standing by.

Queen:- Bring my life jacket. I'm going with them.

(The Chamberlain exits)

King:- But it'll be dangerous.

Queen:- I don't care. My boy needs rescuing. (Overacting) I can't let him descend to Davy Jones's locker.

(The Chamberlain returns with life jacket and sou'wester)

Lord Ch:- Here you are your Majesty.

(The Chamberlain helps the Queen on with the life jacket as she puts on the sou'wester)

Queen:- Quick! There's no time to be lost.

(A truck carrying a lifeboat cut-out is pulled on directly behind the wall. There are two Chorus members on board. They are also wearing life jackets and sou'westers)

King:- Here comes the lifeboat now.

Queen:- And not a minute too soon! (Climbing steps onto wall) Let me aboard. (Being helped aboard by the crew) Well, don't just stand there, let's get going. My son's life depends upon it. (As the boat moves) Goodbye Duky, look after the kingdom while I'm away and don't spend too much time sitting on the throne.

(The Queen waves as the boat moves out of sight)

King:- (Waving) Take care Hypochondria. Come back safe.

(Everyone apart from the King slowly exits as the sky begins to lighten and a small cut-out lifeboat 'sails' across behind the ground row. The orchestra plays a few bars of a nautical tune to add atmosphere)

King:- (Still waving) I just hope she can manage without her pills.

(The cut-out lifeboat exits)

King:- Well I suppose I'd better go and sit on the throne though I've no heart for it.

(The King exits. The music continues more loudly as the heads of Marina and Stefan appear above the ground row. It is as though she is life-saving him, They exit and immediately re-appear behind the wall. Only their top halves can be seen. The music subsides as Marina manoeuvres Stefan partly onto the wall. He is semi-conscious. She remains partly hidden by the wall. The music fades)

Stefan:- (In a daze) Where am I? What's happened?

Marina:- Your ship sank in the storm, but do not worry, you are safe now.

Stefan:- Who are you?

Marina:- My name is - - - - unimportant.

Stefan:- You saved my life.

Marina:- I helped you swim ashore.

Stefan:- But I can't swim.

Marina:- Anything is possible when your life depends upon it.

Stefan:- I think you are the most beautiful creature I have ever seen.

Marina:- And I think you are - - delirious.

Duet (Stefan and Marina)

Suggested numbers:- A whole new world (Aladdin)
When will I see you again?
Portrait of my love

(This number should be kept short because of unavoidable lack of movement)

Stefan:- You will let me see you again, won't you?

Marina:- I don't think it would be wise.

Stefan:- I don't mind if you're poor. I have enough money for both of us.

Marina:- It's not that.

Stefan:- I know I'm a prince but I'm sure my parents would approve of you. You're lovely.

Marina:- It's not that either.

Stefan:- (Getting up slowly) Then what is it? Oh my head! (He holds his head, staggers and sits on wall with his feet forward)

Marina:- You need rest. You hit your head as you fell from the boat.

Stefan:- (Faintly) You saw me fall?

Marina:- No more questions! Just rest - rest - rest.

(Marina's voice soothes Stefan to sleep as he lays his head down on the wall)

Marina:- Oh Prince Stefan, you are indeed a handsome man and I could so easily fall in love with you, but there are some things which can never be. (She swings her tail over the wall so that the audience can see it for the first time) A prince can never marry a mermaid. It's impossible!

Reprise (Marina)

This should be no more than a few lines of the song used for the duet on page 8.

Marina:- So farewell handsome prince. Think of me sometimes when you look out to sea. And now I must return to my father King Neptune. (She swings her tail back over the wall and there is a splashing sound as she appears to drop back into the water. She blows him a kiss as she exits possibly on a low truck. As she exits the duet music continues)

(As Stefan lies asleep on the wall the Chamberlain enters as though about to cross and then suddenly notices the Prince)

Lord Ch:- Your Highness, your Highness. (Dashing across to Prince) Are you all right?

Stefan:- (Coming round) What's happened? (Sitting up) Where did the girl go?

Lord Ch:- What girl? I saw no girl.

Stefan:- But she was here by my side on the wall. You must have seen her.

Lord Ch:- When I came into the castle gardens you were completely alone.

Stefan:- But she was definitely here.

Lord Ch:- You must have been dreaming.

Stefan:- Dreaming? Oh I hope not. She was the most beautiful creature I have ever seen.

Lord Ch:- Did you hit your head when you left the ship?

Stefan:- Yes, yes, I think I did.

Lord Ch:- Then that explains it. It's concussion.

Stefan:- If that's concussion someone should hit me on the head more often.

Lord Ch:- You need rest. You must be exhausted after that long swim.

Stefan:- But I can't swim.

Lord Ch:- I'll call your father. He'll be pleased to know you're safe.
(Walking to wings) Your Majesty, your Majesty, the Prince is alive.

(The Lord Chamberlain exits)

Stefan:- Could it really be a dream? Surely not! And yet I don't even know her name or anything about her. How did she manage to save me from the sinking ship? She must be a strong swimmer.

(The King rushes on followed by the Lord Chamberlain)

King:- Stefan my boy, thank heavens you're safe. (Hugging Stefan)
How are you feeling?

Lord Ch:- I think he's a little concussed your Majesty. He imagines he was with a beautiful girl.

King:- (To Stefan) Well you could have done worse. You could have been with your mother.

Stefan:- Where is my mother?

King:- She's gone looking for you in the lifeboat.

Stefan:- I hope she's all right.

King:- Oh yes, the storm's cleared. She'll be back before you can say Hans Christian Andersen. Come my boy, let's arrange some food for you and then you can rest.

(The King places an arm around Stefan and they exit)

Lord Ch:- It's been a funny old day so far.

(The Lord Chamberlain exits as the sound of someone blowing bubbles is heard. Baldrick pops his head up from behind the wall)

Baldrick:-Made it! I've got back to the castle in one piece. (Heaving himself up onto the wall. I'm so glad I took swimming lessons when I was at school. Oh I'm absolutely knacker - exhausted. (Crawling across the stage towards the trolley) I need something to pick me up and make me glow with health again. (Noticing trolley) Ah, there's some medicine. Let's see what there is. (He gets up and picks up a bottle)

Audience:-Heidi Hi.

(Heidi dashes on, rolling her sleeves up as she approaches Baldrick)

Heidi:- Who's nicking the royal medicine? (Raising her fists) Put 'em up. Put 'em up. Put 'em up.

Baldrick:-Calm down Heidi. It's only me.

Heidi:- What are you doing here Baldrick? You should be dead.

Baldrick:-Dead?

Heidi:- Yes, drown-dead.

Baldrick:-I swam ashore and I'm all-in. That's why I wanted a pick-me-up.

Heidi:- (Taking bottle from Baldrick and placing it back on trolley)
Well, it'll do you no good that stuff. Do you suffer from arthritis, pneumonia, oldmonia, incontinence, outcontinence, constipation, dehydration, dropsy or piles?

Baldrick:-No.

Heidi:- Then these pills are not for you.

Baldrick:-What do I need then?

Heidi:- You need a good woman.

Baldrick:-Do I?

Heidi:- Of course you do.

Baldrick:-But where would I find one of those?

Heidi:- How about me?

Baldrick:-You mean you'd help me find one?

Heidi:- No you fool, I am one.

Baldrick:-Are you?

Heidi:- Of course I am. (Holding heart) Don't you feel a deep burning sensation here?

Baldrick:-Yes.

Heidi:- And do you know what it is?

Baldrick:-Yes.

Heidi:- What?

Baldrick:-Indigestion. I knew I shouldn't have had those kippers for breakfast.

Heidi:- Indigestion? Where you born stupid?

Baldrick:-No, I had to work really hard at it.

Heidi:- I need a man just like you.

Baldrick:-I'll introduce you to my identical twin brother.

Heidi:- (Pressing herself against him) I don't want your twin. I want you.

Baldrick:-I don't know what to say.

Heidi:- Say 'I love you with a rapturous heart'.

Baldrick:-I love you with a raspberry tart.

Heidi:- You're an absolute idiot.

Baldrick:-You're an absolute idiot.

Heidi:- No, I didn't want you to say that.

Baldrick:-I don't think I'm your type.

Heidi:- Of course you're my type. You're a man, aren't you?

Baldrick:-I think so. I'll just go and check.

(Baldrick starts to exit but Heidi pulls him back)

Heidi:- Don't go lover boy.

(Heidi pulls Baldrick to her as the King and the Lord Chamberlain dash on followed by the Chorus. There is much noise and 'busy' music played by the orchestra)

Baldrick:- (Pulling away from Heidi) What's happened? Has somebody won the National Lottery?

Lord Ch:- The lifeboat's returning with the Queen on board.

King:- And I hardly had time to sit on the throne.

(The lifeboat enters with the Queen and crew on board. They are still wearing their life jackets and sou'westers and the Queen looks decidedly green. There is a short burst of nautical music to accompany the entrance)

Heidi:- Ooh I'd better see to my royal duties.

(She pushes Baldrick to one side and dashes to help the Queen off the boat)

Queen:- (Looking very sorry for herself) Ooh, I'll never do that again. The boat went up and the boat went down. The boat went up and the boat went down. The boat went up and the boat went down. (As she says this she goes up and down as though reliving the experience)

King:- Stop, stop! You're making me feel sick.

Queen:- Heidi, bring me a cocktail of the pink pills, the white tablets and the green capsules before I expire.

(Heidi dashes to the trolley, gets the various pills and brings them back to the Queen)

Queen:- And there's no sign of Stefan. My only son's sunk without trace.

(The Queen starts to cry and the King holds out the large hankie which she takes and blows her nose)

Queen:- It's a good job I'm not too old to have another child.

(There are disbelieving coughs from all on stage)

Queen:- It's true. It's true! I'm on H.R.T.

(Heidi gives the Queen the various pills which she chews with her face all screwed up)

King:- You've no need to worry about having another child, Stefan is safe.

Queen:- (With mouth full) What?

King:- He's already back at the castle. Come and greet your mother Stefan.

(Stefan enters, goes to the Queen and they hug)

Queen:- Oh son, I'm so pleased to see you. I thought you were a goner.

Stefan:- So did I for a while but I was saved by a beautiful girl.

King:- Take no notice of him. He's suffering from a bang on the head.

Queen:- It was probably a vision of me he remembers from when he was a child.

Stefan:- Whether she was real or imaginary she seems to have disappeared from my life, but I'll never forget her.

King:- Cheer up my boy.

Queen:- This demands another celebration. My son's home safe and sound, it's still his birthday and what's more the royal yacht was insured with the Norwich.

(Everyone cheers as the Junior Dancers enter still dressed as attendants)

Song and Dance (Principals, Chorus and Junior Dancers)

Suggested numbers:- If I were a bell (Guys and Dolls)
 I'm a brass band (Sweet Charity)
 Once-a-year-day (The Pajama Game)
 Any reasonably up-tempo popular song

(The running tabs draw at the end of the number as a picture is formed)

Scene 2 - A Corridor in the Castle (Front cloth or tabs)

(The Archduke Boris enters. He is wearing dark colours and has a similarity to Count Dracula. He laughs evilly at the audience)

Boris:- You've not met me yet, have you? Then let me introduce myself. I'm the Archduke Boris, the King's cousin. I live in a very small castle many miles from here with my daughter, the Lady Ingrid. We've just arrived at Elsinore to take part in Prince Stefan's investiture ceremony. The Prince hasn't seen my daughter since she was a child but I'm sure when they meet now he'll be dazzled by her great beauty. I'll call her so you can all see for yourselves.
 (Calling off) Ingrid my dear, come and meet your adoring public.

(Ingrid enters. She is extremely frightening and sinister with long straight black hair and ashen make-up. She is carrying a small phial of poison beneath her outer cloak. The phial is black)

Ingrid:- (Evilly) You called father?

Boris:- Yes my dear. (To audience) Well, what do you think? Would she not make a fit bride for young Stefan. She has a kind of radiant charm that few men can resist.

Ingrid:- I would make him the perfect wife and heaven help anyone who tries to stand in my way.

Boris:- Well said my dear! I've always liked this castle. It's a lot bigger than our own sweet little home and when you become princess we'll need much more room.

Ingrid:- My apartments must be extensive.

Boris:- Therefore we will have to make sure that some of the present occupants make an unexpected exit, won't we my precious?

Ingrid:- Very unexpected! (Taking out phial from beneath her cloak) I have here a little concoction which I brewed this morning. It contains wing of bat, eye of toad, leg of newt and a few other secret ingredients I cannot divulge in case Delia Smith (or other well known chef) happens to be in the audience. One drop of this and it's curtains for anyone who drinks it.

Boris:- And we know who we want to drink it, don't we?

Ingrid:- But of course! First of all there's the King and then there's the Queen. They're the two most important ones but if anyone else gets in our way they could come to a sticky end as well.

Boris:- Then you will become Queen and I'll move into Elsinore to give you a helping hand to rule the kingdom for I'm sure that young Stefan doesn't have much of a clue.

Ingrid:- And if he doesn't play the game I can always brew some more of my special potion.

Boris:- Yes, they had all better take care or one morning they may wake up - - - dead.

Ingrid:- Yes indeed! They don't call me Denmark's answer to Lucretia Borgia for nothing.

(They both laugh evilly. Boris suddenly stops)

Boris:- I think someone is coming. Quickly let us go and make further plans in our own apartments where we can't be overheard.

(They hiss at the audience before they exit laughing evilly. Baldrick enters. He is wearing an apron and carrying a pair of boots and a duster which he uses for polishing the boots)

Baldrick:-Oh dear! I'm fed up of being sexually harassed. Everywhere I go that Heidi is waiting for me. There was a big dance last night to celebrate the Prince's safe return and she cornered me in the ladies' excuse-me. I'll have to take a pill to steady my nerves. (He goes to trolley and picks up a bottle)

Audience:-Heidi Hi.

(Heidi dashes on with her fists raised)

Heidi:- All right, who's nicking the Queen's medicine?

(Baldrick quickly puts the bottle back on the trolley and tries to hide his face behind the boots. His legs are trembling)

Heidi:- Come on, show your face or I'll be forced to send for the Castle Guard.

(Baldrick slowly lowers the boots to reveal a sickly smile on his face. Heidi softens her attitude when she sees who it is)

Heidi:- Oh it's you, Denmark's answer to Sylvester Stallone (or other macho film star).

Baldrick:- (Weakly) Hello Heidi.

Heidi:- What is this strange spell you cast over me?

Baldrick:-It's probably my aftershave.

Heidi:- What's it called?

Baldrick:-It's the latest masculine fragrance from Yves Saint Laurent (He pronounces it as it is written). It's called 'Evening in - - - - (Local area or street).

Heidi:- It arouses wild passions in me.

Baldrick:- (Trying to exit) I have to take these boots back to the royal bedchamber.

Heidi:- (Pulling him back) Surely the King can wait for a few more minutes.

Baldrick:-They're not the King's. They belong to the Queen.

Heidi:- (Looking at the boots) But they're a size twelve.

Baldrick:-I shall say nothing.

Queen:- (Loudly offstage) Baldrick, is my footwear clean yet?

Baldrick:- (Again trying to exit) Just coming your Majesty.

Heidi:- (Again pulling him back) Let her wait a bit. She's always giving orders.

Baldrick:-But she's the Queen.

Heidi:- And I'm a woman.

Queen:- (Offstage louder) Baldrick, where are you?

Baldrick:-I'll be there in a minute your Majesty.

Heidi:- Live dangerously for a change.

Baldrick:-I do live dangerously.

Heidi:- How?

Baldrick:-Well - - - well - - -

Heidi:- Yes?

Baldrick:-Well last year I didn't pay my Council tax until the very last day.

Heidi:- You mad reckless fool!

(Heidi sweeps Baldrick into a wild embrace as the Queen enters)

Queen:- What's going on here behind my back in front of my face?

(Heidi lets go of Baldrick who falls on the floor)

Queen:- It's disgusting! You're not on Channel Four now you know.

Heidi:- It was only a bit of harmless fun.

Queen:- Harmless fun? It looked like a scene from - - - - (latest sexy movie)

Baldrick:- (Picking himself up and holding out boots) Your boots are ready your Majesty.

Queen:- I'm surprised the polish didn't blister with the heat from your amorous advances.

Baldrick:- (Pointing to Heidi who looks as though butter would not melt in her mouth) But she was the one who made the amorous advances.

Queen:- What? Sweet little Heidi! I don't believe it! She had a convent education.

Baldrick:-Well that must have been where she got into the habit. (He laughs feebly at his own little joke)

Queen:- That is not funny. Now apologise to the young lady for your behaviour.

Baldrick:-Apologise? I'd sooner listen to a Des O'Connor record.

Queen:- Very well! (Calling off) Bring on the record player.

Baldrick:-No! No! I didn't mean it! I'm sorry!

Queen:- That's better! Now kiss and make up.

Baldrick:-Do I have to?

Queen:- If you don't I'll cut off your extras.

Baldrick:-That sounds excruciating.

Queen:- It certainly could be.

Baldrick:- Oh very well! (He screws up his face and with his eyes closed he kisses Heidi)

Queen:- Good! Now we're all friends again, aren't we?

Heidi and Baldrick:- Yes. (Heidi says it gleefully whilst Baldrick says it with a pained expression)

Song (Queen, Heidi and Baldrick)

Suggested numbers:- Friendship (Anything goes)
 Save your kisses for me
 A spoonful of sugar (Mary Poppins)
 How could you believe me when I said I loved you

(They all exit at the end of the number as the tabs draw back on Scene 3)

Scene 3 - The Court of King Neptune Underwater

(This cloth depicts coral and underwater plants against a pale turquoise background. In front of this cloth there are rocks and lobster pots on which mermaids sit. Taking pride of place is a shell throne on which sits King Neptune holding a trident. It is suggested that he wears a long robe covering his legs so that a tail is not required. He is reading a fishing magazine. The Junior Dancers are on stage dressed as seahorses or other sea creatures)

Song and Dance (Mermaids and Junior Dancers)

Suggested numbers:- Octopus's garden
 Under the sea (Disney's Little Mermaid)
 The bottom of the beautiful briny sea

(At the end of the number the Junior Dancers drift off)

Neptune:- I'm bored! Hasn't anyone got any exciting stories to tell me about tidal waves or whirlpools or sunken treasure?

Oceana (One of the mermaids):- No your Majesty. Apart from one small shipwreck very little seems to have happened recently.

Neptune:- Never mind! In another two or three months it'll be winter and then there'll be lots of rough seas and life will be fun again.

Oceana:- Yes. I suppose the summer time can be pretty dreary.

Neptune:- Dreary? It's worse than an episode of - - - - (boring 'soap' or other TV programme)

Oceana:- Can I get you anything to eat? Perhaps a seaweed sandwich or a turtle egg omelette?

Neptune:- No, I'm not hungry. What's happened to my daughter Marina? I haven't seen her for two days.

Oceana:- I believe she's been up to the surface your Majesty.

Neptune:- Oh not again! What is this fascination she has with the world above the waves? Surely she has everything she needs down here.

Oceana:- I think she envies the land people their freedom of movement.

Neptune:- But she has all the freedom of the oceans. Just take a look at any atlas. There's a lot more sea than land. What more could she want?

(There is the sound of a fanfare on a conch shell or similar)

Neptune:- That could be her now. I hope she can explain her movements.

(The fanfare is sounded again as Marina enters. She is seated in a shell-like structure on wheels or castors. Her tail is hanging over the side of the vehicle which is pulled by the Junior Dancers still dressed as seahorses or similar)

Neptune:- Ah, there you are Marina. And where have you been pray? You realise, of course, that you missed the annual seahorse trials not to mention the 'Search for a Starfish' competition hosted by Den Cod.

(The Junior Dancers manouevre the shell into suitable position and sit on the rocks, etc with the mermaids)

Marina:- I'm sorry father but I was delayed because I helped a human when his ship sprung a leak and sank.

Neptune:- A human? I might have known! Are you not happy down here with your own kind?

Marina:- Yes - most of the time, but, like you I get bored.

Neptune:- (Lying through his teeth) Bored? I never get bored, do I Oceana?

Oceana:- Not often your Majesty.

Neptune:- What do you mean 'not often'? I never get bored at all.

Oceana:- Of course not your Majesty.

Neptune:- That's better.

Marina:- Life seems so exciting on dry land.

Neptune:- Well you'll just have to accept your life here under the sea for there's no way you can ever exist away from it.

Ocean:- (Excitedly) Who was the human you helped Marina?

Marina:- He was Stefan, the Crown Prince of Denmark.

(All the mermaids gasp)

Oceana:- Was he young and handsome?

Marina:- Oh yes. He was wonderful. (She sighs)

Oceana:- You wouldn't be just a teensy weensy bit in love with him would you?

Marina:- (Embarrassed) Of course not, (she sighs again) though I have to admit he was rather nice.

Oceana:- I can see the stars in your eyes.

Neptune:- Stop this nonsense at once. You can never marry a human. It's unheard of!

Marina:- I know but I can still dream.

Neptune:- When you marry it will be to one of the sons of King Triton. They're a nice set of boys, well brought up with ever such nice manners, which is more than can be said for a lot of the people on dry land these days.

Marina:- But they're so ordinary.

Neptune:- Not when you get to know them. Now no more arguments. I'm going to take my afternoon nap so please do whatever it is you have to do but do it quietly.