

NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT

HUMPTY DUMPTY

BY

Ron Hall

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H U M P T Y D U M P T Y

A Pantomime in Two Acts by Ron Hall

Characters in order of appearance:-

Simple Simon, our funny man
Bo-Peep, our funny lady
Tommy Tucker, our principal boy
Lord Chamberlain, a very old and tired man
Old King Cole, Monarch of Nursery Rhyme Land
Queen Ribena, his wife and our dame
The Princess Crystal, their daughter and our principal girl
Baron Bluebeard of Bohemia, our arch baddie
Frank N.Stein, the Baron's homemade henchman
Ovaltina, the Egg Fairy, principal goodie
Clara the Cow, two people in a skin
Humpty Dumpty, the magic being that comes out of the egg
Freezella, the Spirit of Ice and Snow, another baddie
Mrs.Cordial, Queen Ribena's mother, proprietress of the
Sunshine Holiday Camp
Chorus as Nursery Rhyme characters, some with bit parts
Senior Dancers as the King's men 'on horseback'; lords and
ladies at the Palace, moonbeams, bathers in
old fashioned costumes, bats, ghouls and zombies,
frost sprites and guests at wedding
Junior Dancers as Nursery Rhyme children, children of the Old
Woman who lives in a Shoe, and Ice Demons
Apart from the above the services of a small placid dog are
required for a period of about five minutes

Synopsis of Scenes:-

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Estimated length of show:- First Act-1 hour 15 minutes
 Second Act-1 hour

Number of Principal Parts:- Female - Six
 Male - Six
 Either - One (Humpty Dumpty)
 Skin - Two (Clara the Cow)

These figures assume that Tommy Tucker is played by a girl
 and Queen Ribena by a man.

Scene changing:- In most cases alternate scenes have a small number
 of characters so that they can be played in front
 of running tabs allowing time to change the main
 sets manually. The exception is Act I, Scene 5,
 where the tabs draw about four minutes before the
 end of the scene.

Use of Music:- It should be noted that the songs, dances and music
 generally are only suggested and do not form part
 of the script. Arrangements should be made with
 the Performing Rights Society for their performance.

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H U M P T Y D U M P T Y

Act I

Scene 1 - The Gateway to Nursery Rhyme Land

(This is a typical old fashioned town gate with walls on either side. On the top of the wall is a large egg whilst behind the wall can be seen tops of houses and the Royal Palace. The Chorus and the Junior Dancers are on stage. They are all dressed as nursery rhyme characters)

Opening Chorus (Chorus and Junior Dancers)

Suggested numbers:- Get happy!

Ain't we got fun

I got the sun in the morning (Annie get your
gun)

(As the Chorus sing the children perform a dance routine. The Junior Dancers exit at the end of the number but the Chorus remain. Simple Simon enters. He is carrying a very large teddy bear)

Simon:- (To audience) Hello everybody. I said 'Hello everybody'.
(Audience hopefully replies) That's better! Welcome to Nursery Rhyme Land. This is the entrance and all the people who live here are characters from nursery rhymes as you can see. I'm Simple Simon and this is my teddy bear Sebastian. Say hello to Sebastian everybody.

Chorus:- Hello Sebastian.

(Simon waves Sebastian's arm at the audience)

Simon:- (To audience) I mean you lot as well you know. Now come on after three. One, two, three - - -

Chorus and Audience:- Hello Sebastian.

(Simon waves Sebastian's arm again)

Simon:- Oh come on! You can do better than that. Have you all got laryngitis? One, two three - - -

Chorus and Audience:- Hello Sebastian.

Simon:- Wonderful! Because you all shouted so loud you can have the job of looking after Sebastian for me. (He walks to proscenium arch) My house is so small I haven't got room to keep him at home.

Chorus:- Aw!

Simon:- It is! It's so small I've got to sleep standing up and I've got to climb in the kitchen sink if I want a bath.

Chorus:- Aw!

Simon:- So I'm going to leave him here. (He puts bear down by the proscenium arch nicely out of the way of everyone) And I want you to warn me if anybody tries to steal him. Will you do that?

Chorus and Audience:- Yes.

Simon:- Have you all gone to sleep? Will you do that?

Chorus and Audience:- Yes.

Simon:- Good! All you've got to do is call out my name, Simple Simon. Let's give it a whirl. I'll get this chap here to pretend he's a baddie. (He brings one of the chorus forward) I'm going off and he's going to try and steal

Sebastian. Remember all you've got to do is yell 'Simple Simon'. Let's try it.

(Simon exits and Chorus Member tries to steal the teddy bear)

Chorus and Audience:- Simple Simon.

(Simon re-enters and Chorus Member retreats)

Simon:- (Disappointed at the response) Is there anybody there? One knock for 'No' and two knocks for 'Yes'. Let's try it again.

(Simple Simon exits and Chorus Member tries to steal bear again)

Chorus and Audience:- Simple Simon.

(Simon re-enters and Chorus Member retreats again)

Simon:- If you don't do better than that I'll set - - - (Prime Minister or local MP) onto you. Now let's do it for real this time.

(Simon exits and Chorus Member picks up bear yet again)

Chorus and Audience:- Simple Simon.

(Simon races on and grabs bear from Chorus Member)

Simon:- That's more like it. Now why couldn't you have yelled like that before? (He places bear back by proscenium arch) Remember if any nasty piece of work comes along and tries to nick Sebastian you yell for me. (He looks around) What a beautiful day! On a day like this nothing could possibly go wrong.

(Bo-Peep enters. She is carrying crook and pulling toy sheep on wheels)

Bo-Peep:- (Inanely and rather dewy-eyed) Hello Simon.

Simon:- (Looking at Bo-Peep and then at audience) I think I spoke too soon.

Bo-Peep:- I've lost them again.

Simon:- Well you should use stronger elastic.

Bo-Peep:- (Grinning inanely and sidling up to Simon) Ooh, you are awful! (She laughs in a silly voice and taps him with her crook. Simon pushes crook away) You've got hold of the wrong end of the stick.

Simon:- You can keep your stick. I don't want to hold either end of it.

Bo-Peep:- That's not a stick. It's a crook.

Simon:- You mean like the bloke who pinched my humbugs last week?

Bo-Peep:- No! No wonder they call you Simple Simon! Can I go out and come in again please?

Simon:- Why not just go out and forget the second bit?

Bo-Peep:- Ooh, you are funny! (She laughs, exits and returns immediately) Hello Simon. I've lost them again.

Simon:- Well you should use stronger elastic.

Bo-Peep:- No, don't say that. That's where we went wrong before.

Simon:- All right! What have you lost?

Bo-Peep:- My sheep.

Simon:- What's that behind you?

Bo-Peep:- That's Mary's little lamb. I'm looking after it while she's at school.

Simon:- Well you know what they say - 'Leave them alone and they'll come home (gesturing to audience and Chorus to join in) wagging their tails behind them.

Bo-Peep:- That's the silliest thing I've ever heard. They can hardly wag their tails in front of them can they?

Simon:- I suppose not. Well this won't do. I'm off to the fair. I've heard there's going to be a pieman there.

(Simon starts to walk off)

Bo-Peep:- But what about the palace ball?

Simon:- You'll have to find somebody else to throw it to you I'm off.

Bo-Peep:- (Dashing after him and pulling him back with crook) I don't mean a football you twit. I mean the big dance the King and Queen are throwing tonight for the eighteenth birthday of the Princess Crystal.

Simon:- I haven't got an invitation.

Bo-Peep:- It's all right, I've got two. (She pulls two invitation cards from the top of her dress)

Simon:- (Looking down the front of her dress) Have you got anything else tucked away down there? I could just fancy a chocolate orange.

Bo-Peep:- Don't change the subject. Are you coming or not?

Simon:- Not.

Bo-Peep:- If you don't come I'll go with Georgie Porgie.

Simon:- See if I care!

Bo-Peep:- You'll miss all the music.

Simon:- See if I care!

Bo-Peep:- You'll miss all the dancing.

Simon:- See if I care!

Bo-Peep:- You'll miss all the cakes and jellies.

Simon:- I'll come.

Bo-Peep:- I knew that would make you change your mind. See you at seven and don't forget to change your socks.

Simon:- I'd have you know I change my socks regularly.

Bo-Peep:- I know but once a month isn't regular enough. I must go and look for my sheep. See you later. Bye.

(Bo-Peep exits taking the crook and the sheep with her)

Simon:- Thank heavens she's gone. She's got as much sex appeal as - - - (soap star such as Mavis in Coronation Street)

(Tommy Tucker enters in true principal boy style)

Tommy:- Hello everybody.

Chorus:- Hello Tommy.

Tommy:- And what a wonderful day it is to be sure!

Simon:- It is now Bo-Beep's gone.

Tommy:- Oh, come now Simon, Bo-Peep's a beautiful girl.

Simon:- Then why don't you take her to the Palace Ball tonight?

Tommy:- Because there's only one girl in the whole wide world for me and if you listen I'll tell you all about her.

Song (Tommy and Chorus)

Suggested numbers:- My kind of girl
The most beautiful girl in the world
That's my weakness now
And I love her

(The Chorus gradually exit at end of number as though they are going about their daily business)

Simon:- That's all very well but I still don't know who you're talking about.

Tommy:- If I tell you promise you'll keep it a secret.

Simon:- (Crossing heart) Cross my heart.

Tommy:- (Looking around to make sure no-one else is within earshot) It's the Princess Crystal.

Simon:- (In a loud voice) The Princess Crystal?

Tommy:- Ssh! All the town will hear you.

Simon:- But you're just a commoner. Old King Cole will never let her marry you.

Tommy:- Ah but I have a plan. When the King's in a good mood tonight at the Ball I shall ask for her hand.

Simon:- And get the rest of her in instalments when you can afford it?

Tommy:- No you idiot! I'll ask for her hand in marriage.

Simon:- Sooner you than me! Old King Cole may be a merry old soul but even he'll lose his temper when he hears your request.

Tommy:- We'll see about that.

Simon:- You've got as much chance of marrying the Princess Crystal as that egg up there has of falling off the wall.
(Simon points to egg on wall)

Tommy:- That egg's been up there over a thousand years.

Simon:- Exactly and it'll take Old King Cole that length of time to say 'Yes'.

Tommy:- Don't you believe in miracles?

Simon:- Not when a royal princess is involved. The King and Queen have invited all the aristocracy within a hundred miles to the ball tonight. There's the Duke of - - - (local town) and the Count of - - - (another local town or village) not to mention the Baron Bluebeard of Bohemia.

Tomm :- (In a loud voice) The Baron Bluebeard of Bohemia?

Simon:- Ssh! I told you not to mention him.

Tommy:- Is he powerful and rich?

Simon:- Powerful and rich? He makes Paul McCartney look as though he's on a government training scheme.

Tommy:- Really?

Simon:- And he's ever so gruesome.

Tommy:- Gruesome?

Simon:- Yes and nasty with it. He never had much of a reputation until he started performing dirty deeds.

Tommy:- What happened then?

Simon:- It gruesome (grew some).

Tommy:- But I can't let him marry the Princess Crystal.

Simon:- I don't see how you're going to stop him. He's due here in a few minutes and the King and Queen will be providing a welcoming party.

Tommy:- Oh no! There must be a way to foil his plans.

Simon:- Unless you can afford to pay the mortgage on a nice detached castle with all mod cons I think you've had your chips.

(A fanfare is heard)

Listen, there's the fanfare for the King's horses and the King's men. I'm off. I can't stand crowds. See you later folks. Don't forget to look after Sebastian for me.

(Simon waves to the audience and exits. The Chorus start to enter cautiously)

Tommy:- Oh dear! What can I do? I know. I'll mix in with the people and find out what this Baron Bluebeard is like. And who knows I might even get a glimpse of the Princess Crystal.

(Tommy joins the Chorus as the Senior Dancers enter through the gate 'on horseback'. See back of script for details on how to achieve this)

Dance (Senior Dancers)

Suggested numbers:- The King's Horses and the King's Men
The Soldiers of the Queen
Around the Marble Arch

(At the end of the dance the Dancers line up each side of the gateway. The Lord Chamberlain staggers on through the gateway. He is obviously having trouble with his lumbago)

Chamb:- (After a good cough) His Royal Majesty King Cole of Nursery Rhyme Land and his wife the very lovely Queen Ribena.

(There is another fanfare. The Chorus bow and curtsy as the King and Queen enter. They are beautifully overdressed)

King:- Good day my people.

Queen:- Good day my people.

King:- We are gathered here today.

Queen:- We are gathered here today.

King:- To join this man and this woman in - - -

(The Queen nudges him with her elbow)

Sorry, wrong speech. We are gathered here today.

Queen:- We are gathered here today.

King:- To welcome Baron Bluebeard of Bohemia to our humble kingdom.

Queen:- To welcome Baron Bluebeard of Bohemia to our humble kingdom.

King:- Wait a minute! Wait a minute! Why do you keep repeating everything I say?

Queen:- Because my Aunt Fanny's in the audience tonight and she's a wee bit deaf. She's on the third row. (She goes to the front of the stage) Hello Auntie Fanny. (She waves) Are you enjoying the show? What did you say? Your rheumatics are playing you up again? I know how you feel. I had a twinge this morning. It's the damp weather you know. (Pause) What's that? You swear by Sloane's liniment? Do you? No wonder you're sitting on your own.

King:- Have you quite finished?

Queen:- (To King) I'll be with you in a minute love. (To audience) It's all right for him. He was brought up to be a king, a bit like Prince Charles and he knows all about architecture as well, but I'm from sturdier stock. My mother runs the holiday camp at Little Frolicking-on-Sea and years ago the King came down for a nibble of the local rock, met me in the ladies' excuse-me and now I'm Queen Ribena of Nursery Rhyme Land. Life's funny that way.

King:- (To Queen) I'm waiting.

Queen:- I know you are love and I won't keep you much longer. (To audience) Now where was I? Oh yes, as I was saying, I'm Queen Ribena and I'm married to Old King Cole over there, Nat to his friends. (Stage whisper) He's not as merry as he used to be but I put it down to all that smoking and fiddling. But we do have a lovely daughter. She takes after me you know. I'll call her. (She goes to gateway) Crystal, are you there my precious?
(There is another fanfare)

Chamb:- The Princess Crystal of Nursery Rhyme Land.

(Princess Crystal enters through gateway as the Chorus bow and curtsy)

Crystal:- You called mother?

Queen:- Here she is, the birthday girl herself. Isn't she beautiful? She takes after me you know. (She puts her head next to Crystal's) You can see the family likeness can't you? People have said we're more like sisters than mother and daughter.

King:- Are you two ready to receive our guest? (He is now angry)

Queen:- Yes Nat, we're ready. I was just filling in the time with a little bit of family history while we're waiting for what's-his-name.

(Whilst this is going on Tommy waves to Crystal who secretly waves back)

King:- You mean Baron Bluebeard of Bohemia.

Queen:- Baron Bluebeard! What an awful name! Do you think we're wise inviting him to Crystal's birthday ball?

King:- Of course! He's the richest man this side of - - -
(nearest large city)

Queen:- Even so I should hate my little girl to marry the wrong man.

Crystal:- So would I. (She glances at Tommy despairingly)

King:- Nonsense! He's a perfect gent by all accounts. He has shares in - - - (local firm) and even sponsors his own football team, Tombstone Wanderers.

Queen:- I'd still like to see his credentials - among other things.

Crystal:- I'm not bothered about riches or a title. When I marry I want it to be for love.

King:- You've been watching too many episodes of - - - (well known soap).
(There is a rather eerie fanfare in a minor key)

Chamb:- Sire, I can see the Baron Bluebeard approaching now.

King:- Good! Let's hear some cheering from you townspeople.
(The Chorus begin to cheer as Baron Bluebeard and Frank N.Stein enter to rather grim music. Frank is carrying suitcases bearing labels such as 'Zombie Tours' and 'Transylvania welcomes full blooded tourists'. As the Chorus see them the cheering fades away into silence. Crystal hides behind the Queen)

Chamb:- (Announcing their arrival) Baron Bluebeard and - and - and manservant.
(The King steps forward to greet them)

King:- Welcome to our humble kingdom Baron Bluebeard. It's a real pleasure to have you here.
(The King offers to shake the Baron's hand but The Baron ignores the gesture and rubs his hands together greasily)

Baron:- Yes, it must be.

King:- May I introduce my wife, Queen Ribena.

Queen:- (Extending her hand for him to kiss) Charmed I'm sure.

Baron:- (Ignoring her hand) Yes, you must be.

King:- And my daughter, the Princess Crystal. Come along my dear. There's no need to be frightened.
(The King takes Crystal's hand and brings her forward)

Crystal:- (Curtsying) Your servant sir.

Baron:- (Taking her hand and lifting her back to the standing position) That's what I like to hear.
(Crystal breaks away from the Baron who tries to hold on to her)

King:- You must be weary after your journey.

Baron:- I am. I prefer to travel by night.

King:- Is this your - - - manservant here?

Baron:- Yes, this is Frank N.Stein. He sees to my every need. He cannot speak but I employ him because he's a blood relation.
(Frank makes grunting noises and points to egg on wall)

King:- Ah, I see he's looking at our egg.

Baron:- It seems a strange place to keep an egg.

King:- Thereby hangs a tale.

Queen:- That's silly! Whoever heard of an egg with a tail?

King:- You must excuse the wife. She's just washed her brains and she can't do a thing with them. That egg was placed on the wall a thousand years ago by Ovaltina, the Egg Fairy.

Queen:- It was an egg-ceptionally good deed! (To audience) Did you get that? Egg-ceptionally good deed? I just threw that one in.

King:- You should have thrown it out.

Queen:- Cheeky! The Egg Fairy made the people of Nursery Rhyme Land a promise.

Baron:- And what was that?

Queen:- That as long as the egg remains on the wall the Land and everyone in it will be safe and free from harm.

Baron:- But what happens if the egg falls? (He glances at Frank meaningfully)

Queen:- The Kingdom falls as well, the temperature drops and it becomes eternal winter.

Baron:- Oh, what a shame! (He smiles evilly)

Queen:- Don't worry. It's not going to happen, is it?

Baron:- Of course not.
(The Baron nods to Frank who nods back)

King:- Come Baron, we have prepared a room for you in the Royal Palace and a light snack will be served before the Birthday Ball. You'll love it here.

Baron:- I'm sure I will.
(The Baron moves to Crystal and rubs his hand across her cheek. She moves away. Tommy looks annoyed)

King:- (Laughing it off) There'll be plenty of time for romance at the ball. Pray walk this way Baron.
(King exits through gateway. Queen smiles at Baron and offers her arm which he takes grudgingly. Frank follows with the suitcases. The Chamberlain hobbles off after them followed by the Dancers and the Chorus to a reprise of the music used for the dance. Crystal and Tommy remain)

Tommy:- Oh Crystal! Thank heavens we're alone at last.
(He takes her hand)

Crystal:- Oh Tommy, I'm afraid. Baron Bluebeard seems to like me and I think he may ask my father for my hand in marriage tonight at the ball.

Tommy:- Not if I get my request in first.

Crystal:- How do you mean?

Tommy:- I intend to ask your father for permission to marry you before he does.

Crystal:- But suppose my father refuses?

Tommy:- I'll make sure he's in a good mood before I ask him.

Crystal:- I don't think it'll work. Baron Bluebeard is fabulously rich and my parents are determined I shall marry someone with a title and a fortune.

Tommy:- And I've no money or title to offer you.

Crystal:- I know that Tommy but it doesn't matter to me.

Tommy:- No-one can offer you more love than I can.

Crystal:- And I feel the same way about you.

Tommy:- There must be someone who can help us.

Crystal:- What about the Egg Fairy? She promised to look after the people of Nursery Rhyme Land a thousand years ago.

Tommy:- But how do we contact her?

Crystal:- My father taught me a magic rhyme when I was a child. Now how did it go? (She thinks for a moment) I remember.

Fairy of Egglan, friend to us all.
Listen we beg you and come to our call.

(The stage lighting begins to dim)

Tommy:- It's growing dark. What's happening?

Crystal:- I think the fairy must know that she's being summoned.

Tommy:- Let's say the rhyme together and she may appear.

Crystal:- All right and we'll wish as we say it.

Tommy):- Fairy of Egglan, friend to us all.
Crystal):- Listen we beg you and come to our call.

(The egg starts to glow either internally or by the use of a follow spot. There is some electronic buzzing and then the sound of tinkling bells as Ovaltina, the Egg Fairy appears. She is carrying a wand that exudes soap bubbles. This is simply a large version of the metal wires with loops in the end that children buy. It should have been dipped in a solution of glycerine, baby bath and water just prior to the Fairy's entrance)

Fairy:- I'm Ovaltina. Do not be afraid. Everything will be well for I come to your aid.

Tommy:- Oh Ovaltina, can you help us please?

Fairy:- What seems to be the problem my children?

Crystal:- The Baron Bluebeard has just arrived in Nursery Rhyme Land to attend my Birthday Ball tonight.

Tommy:- And I know he will ask for Crystal's hand in marriage.

Fairy:- Do I take it from that remark that you have other plans?

Tommy:- I wish to marry Crystal myself.

Fairy:- (To Crystal) And what have you to say my dear?

Crystal:- I want to marry Tommy but I know my father. He will expect me to marry the Baron because of his wealth and title.

Fairy:- Then we must do something about it.

Tommy:- But what can we do?

Fairy:- I have a few tricks up my sleeve. Don't worry. The Baron

will not have all his own way. Leave everything to me.

Crystal:-Thank you. Does that mean Tommy and I will be free to marry?

Fairy:- Not necessarily. Tommy will have to prove he is worthy of you.

Tommy:- I will. I promise.

Fairy:- We shall see. The way ahead will not be easy. I see pain and hardship for everyone in Nursery Rhyme Land, but if you are brave there will be a happy ending for all.

Tommy:- I'll do my best.

Fairy:- I'm sure you will. Now I must return to Eggland. Remember what I have told you and have faith. Farewell.

Crystal:-Farewell and thank you.

Tommy:- Goodbye Oualtina.

(The Egg Fairy exits, the egg stops glowing and the stage lighting brightens)

Crystal:-Oh Tommy, we will win through in the end. I know it.

Tommy:- Our love is strong enough to overcome all evil. I love you so and I know one day we'll be married.

Duet (Tommy and Crystal)

Suggested numbers:- All I ask of you (Phantom of the Opera)
Love changes everything (Aspects of love)
You are love (Showboat)
Any modern romantic ballad

(As they sing they move forward allowing the running tabs to draw behind them)

Scene 2 - A Street in Nursery Rhyme Land (Front cloth or tabs)

(Baron Bluebeard enters followed by Frank N.Stein who is now without his luggage)

Baron:- Aha! So far so good! I must look my most devastating at the ball tonight so that when I ask the King for the hand of the Princess Crystal he'll be bound to say yes. And then I can take her back to my castle in Bohemia as my bride. Ha ha ha.

(Frank smiles and nods)

But before we leave this miserable country there's something I want you to do for me. Let me feel your muscles to see if they're up to it.

(Frank lifts up his arm and the Baron feels his muscles)

Oh yes! You'll be more than adequate.

(Frank lowers his arm)

Do you remember seeing that egg on the wall?

(Frank nods)

And do you know what I want you to do with it?

(Frank shakes his head)

I knew I should have given you a larger brain but I only had a goldfish handy. I want you to push the egg off the wall. Can you do that?

(Frank nods vigorously)

Good!

(Frank moves towards exit)

But you musn't do it until the King has agreed to let me marry his daughter. You understand?

(Frank nods again)

When the egg breaks the kingdom will fall and it will become eternal winter. Everyone will have to leave because it will be too cold for them to survive. Then I'll return and take over. Do you like the idea?

(Frank nods yet again)

Come, let us prepare for the evening's entertainment. I must wear my most expensive costume and jewellery to impress the King and Queen.

(They are about to exit when the Baron sees the teddy bear by the proscenium arch. He goes over to it)

What's this strange animal? I must have it for my private zoo.

(The Baron picks up the bear)

Audience:- Simple Simon.

(Simple Simon rushes on with his fists raised)

Simon:- Where is he? Let me at him.

(Simon sees the Baron and starts to back down. The Baron grabs Simon by the front of his costume)

Baron:- (Angrily) Were you looking for me?

Simon:- (Mildly) Oh, er - - yes. I think you've got my teddy bear, Sebastian,

Baron:- Oh it's your bear is it?

Simon:- (In a falsetto) Yes.

Baron:- Then you'd better take it. I should hate to come between a little boy and his toys.

(He lets go of Simon's costume and then thrusts the bear in Simon's stomach making him gasp. Baron exits laughing evilly followed by Frank. Simon coughs and splutters as he holds onto teddy bear)

Simon:- What an awful man! And his mate's even worse.

(He puts bear back by proscenium arch)

(To audience) I think he deserves booing and hissing, don't you? What's your booing and hissing like? Any good? Let's give it a whirl. I'm going to count to three and then I want you all to let rip. Okay? One, two, three.

(Audience boo and hiss)

It sounds as though somebody's let the air out of a bicycle tyre. You can do better than that. Let's try again. One, two, three.

The audience boo and hiss)

You're improving but you're still a bit light on the boos. Let's try it one more time. One, two, three.

(The audience boo and hiss)

Perfect! Now remember to do that every time Baron Blue-beard comes on.

(Mooing is heard offstage)

What's that noise? If it's somebody booing they're a bit late.

(The mooing is heard again)

That's not booing - it's mooing. I know, it's Clara the Cow that jumped over the Moon.

(Clara enters led by Bo-Peep now without her crook and sheep)

Isn't she lovely? She's got the biggest brown eyes I've ever seen.

Bo-Peep:- Thank you Simple Simon.

Simon:- Not you - the cow.

Bo-Peep:- Oh dear, just when I thought you fancied me.

Simon:- Fancy you? I'd sooner go out with Mother Hubbard. At least we could make cupboard love.

Bo-Peep:- You'll be glad of my help one day.

Simon:- I doubt it. Anyway what are you doing with a cow? You're supposed to be a shepherdess.

Bo-Peep:- Clara's going to help me find my sheep, aren't you darling?

(Clara moos and nods her head)

Simon:- Wouldn't you be better off with a collie?

Bo-Peep:- No, I'm not looking for vegetables. I'm looking for sheep.

Simon:- You're as daft as I am.

Bo-Peep:- (Taking his arm) Does that mean we've got something in common?

Simon:- (Shaking her off) Ger off! You're sex mad.

Bo-Peep:- I'm only mad because I'm not getting any. Sock it to me baby.

(She chases Simon around the cow)

Simon:- My mother says I'm too young to go out with a young woman.

Bo-Peep:- I don't mind. We can stay indoors if you want.

(She grabs for him and he dives under the cow and out the other side. She pursues him across the stage)

Simon:- I wonder if Tom Cruise (or other heartthrob) has this trouble. (He is now backed up against the proscenium arch)

Bo-Peep:- (Sandwiching him between the proscenium arch and herself) I'm burning with passion.

Simon:- I'll go and get a fire extinguisher.

(He tries to break away but she pulls him back)

Bo-Peep:- Say something warm and sweet to me.

Simon:- Treacle pudding.

Bo-Peep:- (Leaving Simon and returning to Clara) You're hopeless!

It's a good job I've got Clara to keep me company.
You're my friend, aren't you Clara?

(Clara moos and nods)

And all I wanted was a bit of love and affection.
(She starts to cry on Clara's back)

Simon:- Don't cry all over Clara. You'll water the milk.

Bo-Peep:- What do you expect me to do when I've been thwarted?

Simon:- When you've been what?

Bo-Peep:- Thwarted.

Simon:- (Moving to her) Oh here you are. Dry your tears.
(He gets out very large hankie which already has a hole in the middle but this cannot be seen because the hankie is folded)

Bo-Peep:- Ta. (She dries her tears then blows her nose with accompaniment from band. She then opens hankie to show hole)

Simon:- (Taking hankie back) Oh well, it'll do as duster I suppose. (He puts it away)

Bo-Peep:- Will you come and help me look for my sheep?

Simon:- All right. Come on Clara. (He brings Clara centre stage)

Bo-Peep:- I'll treat you to a piece of pie if we find them.

Simon:- Terrific! That pieman wouldn't let me taste his ware and and I'm starving.

Bo-Peep:- The mean old thing! I'll let you have a nibble any time.

Song and Dance (Simon, Bo-Peep and Clara)

Suggested numbers:- A spoonful of sugar (Mary Poppins)
A bushel and a peck (Guys and Dolls)
Talk to the animals (Dr. Doolittle)
I can't give you anything but love

(They all exit as tabs draw back on Scene 3)

Scene 3-The Ballroom of the Palace

(Upstage centre are two thrones and on either side are murals depicting nursery rhymes. As the scene opens the Chorus are on stage standing in groups and carrying glasses. The Senior Dancers are also on stage dressed as lords and ladies and are performing a set dance)

Song and Dance (Chorus and Senior Dancers)

Suggested numbers:- Ascot Gavotte
Tritsch Tratsch Polka
The Blue Danube (With words set out below)

Chorus:- We're here at the ball. It's free drinks for all.
With jellies and cake, we've all helped to bake.
The best in the land, are looking so grand.
To honour the lovely princess, at this rather smart address.
She is just eighteen, fair as any queen,
Truly charming and disarming.
Who will be the man, that will win her hand?
We don't know, but oh, we hope he's not someone low.
There's magic in the air. We can feel it everywhere,

There's a feeling of romance.
It is seen in each step ev'ry time that we dance.
We're here at the ball - - -
- - - At this rather smart address.

(The Lord Chamberlain enters)

Chamb:- (Announcing) Queen Ribena of Nursery Rhyme Land.

(The Queen enters. She is even more grandly overdressed. The Chorus and Dancers bow and curtsy. The Dancers then exit)

Queen:- What a wonderful turnout! I haven't been to such a posh do since the King had four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie.

Chamb:- Is there anything I can get your Majesty?

Queen:- How about 'lost'?

Chamb:- Your Majesty wants me to go?

Queen:- Yes. I want you to go and help the King. He's having trouble with his medals. He has so many of them he's having a job to find a place to stick them all.

Chamb:- I will run like the wind to do your Majesty's bidding.
(He staggers off coughing and spluttering)

Queen:- Poor old soul! He'll have to go! (She looks around)
Now let's have a look at you lot. I want to make sure everything's shipshape before the Baron enters.

(She goes around the Chorus inspecting them all)

I hope you've got rid of that spider Miss Muffet.

Chorus Member:- Yes your Majesty.

Queen:- Good! And Mary Mary, I hope you're not going to be contrary again. I don't want any aggro on the Princess's birthday.

Chorus Member:- No your Majesty.

Queen:- Ah Little Boy Blue! Did you bring your horn?

Chorus Member:- No your Majesty.

Queen:- That's a pity! We could have had a little jazz later. Never mind! We'll have to make do with this lot down here. (She points to band) Won't we lads?

(There are murmurs from the band)

Well, everything seems to be in order. (She sees the teddy bear) Wait a minute! What's that cuddly toy doing there cluttering up the place? This isn't a TV quiz programme.

(She goes over to the proscenium and picks up the bear)

Chorus and Audience:- Simple Simon.

(Simon rushes on followed by Bo-Peep)

Simon:- Let me at 'em. I'll tear 'em to bits. (He has not seen the Queen)

Queen:- (Holding bear) What's all the noise? Why this unseemly entrance Simple Simon?

Simon:- (Curtsying) Sorry your Majesty. I didn't know it was you.

Queen:- Of course it's me. Who did you think it was, - - - (film star or glamorous local lady)?

Simon:- Pardon me for interrupting but you've just nicked my teddy bear, Sebastian.

Queen:- Oh, it's yours is it? Then you'd better take it away. It's making the place look untidy. (She throws the bear to him)

Bo-Peep:- But there's no room for him at home.

Chorus:- Aw!

Bo-Peep:- (Tearful) And if he can't stay here he'll have to go to the orphanage.

Chorus:- Aw!

Bo-Peep:- 'Cos he hasn't got a mummy or a daddy.

Chorus and Audience:- Aw!

(By this time the Queen has got out her hankie and is sobbing into it)

Queen:- Oh very well (sob) he can stay here for tonight and we'll find some (sob) foster parents for him tomorrow.

Simon:- Thank you your Majesty. (He puts bear back by proscenium arch) There you are Sebastian. You'll be comfy there. Thank you your Majesty.

(He curtsies again and exits with Bo-Peep. There is another fanfare and the Chamberlain returns)

Chamb:- (Announcing) His Majesty Old King Cole of Nursery Rhyme Land.

(There is yet another fanfare as the King enters grandly. He has a long bar extending possibly two feet beyond his chest on which are hung numerous medals. Everyone bows and curtsies)

Queen:- Ah, there you are Nat. I thought you were never coming. Let's go and sit down. My legs are killing me.

(They approach the thrones)

You're always late. I don't know why I bother.

King:- (Sitting down) Neither do I. I'll tell you something. I could manage a smoke after all that getting ready.

Queen:- (Sitting down) It won't do you any good. Smoking's bad for your health.

King:- So are you but I'm still married to you.

Queen:- (Indignantly) Well really!

King:- (Calling) Bring on my pipe.

Voices Off:- Bring on the King's pipe (twice).

(Chorus member brings on a long pipe which he gives to the King after bowing)

King:- Bring on my bowl.

Voices Off:- Bring on the King's bowl (twice).

(Chorus member brings on a bowl with tobacco in it which he gives to the King after bowing)

King:- And bring on my fiddlers three.

Voices Off:- Bring on the fiddlers three (twice).

(Nothing happens)

King:- I said 'Bring on my fiddlers three'.

Voices Off:- He said 'Bring on his fiddlers three' (twice).

(Still nothing happens)

King:- What the devil's happened to my fiddlers three?

Chamb:- They are playing a gig at 'Ye - - -' (Local pub, club or disco).

King:- Where?

Chamb:- 'Ye - - -'. I understand they pay union rates and provide a free supper.

King:- Well, we can't compete with that. Remember this is a budget show. Who else have we got to entertain us?

Chamb:- We have the children of the Old Woman who lives in Shoe.

King:- And what the blazes can they do?

Chamb:- They can dance for you.

King:- Then you'd better send them in.

Chamb:- Very good your Majesty. (Calling) Send in the children of the Old Woman who lives in a Shoe.

Voices Off:- Send in the children of the Old Woman who lives in a Shoe (twice)

(The Junior Dancers enter. They are dressed as boys and girls)

Dance (Junior Dancers)

Suggested numbers:- Sunshine cake
Top of the world
The Birdie Song
An up-tempo pop number

(At the end of the number they curtsy and bow to the King and Queen and then exit. Everyone on stage applauds. There is another fanfare)

Chamb:- (Announcing) Her Royal Highness Princess Crystal.

(Crystal enters to to some stately music such as 'The Processional' from 'The Sound of Music') whilst a birthday cake is pushed on from the opposite side on a trolley. There are eighteen candles all lit. Everyone sings 'Happy birthday to you''')

Queen:- Blow out the candles love and make a wish.

(Crystal blows out all the candles)

Crystal:- I wish that I could marry the man of my choice.

King:- And so you shall dear - - - within reason. Now come and stand by me and we can start the ball.

(Crystal stands by the throne as the cake is wheeled off)

(Rising) Before the dancing starts it is customary for me to grant three requests to the people over whom I govern. Speak now good citizens if you are in need of anything.

Chorus Member:- (Coming forward and bowing) Your Majesty, my name

is Hickory Dickory Dock. A mouse ran up my clock and now it no longer works. May I have a new one?

King:- Of course. See the Royal clockmaker in the morning and he will make you the best clock money can buy.

Chorus Member:- Thank you your Majesty. (He bows and returns to rest)

King:- And the next.

2nd Chorus Member:- (Coming forward and curtsying) My name is Polly Flinders and I sat among the cinders and burnt my clothes. May I have a new dress?

King:- Of course my dear. See the Royal dressmaker in the morning and he will make you the best dress money can buy.

2nd Chorus Member:- Thank you your Majesty. (She curtsies and returns to Chorus)

King:- And the last.

(Tommy enters and bows to the King)

Tommy:- I have a request your Majesty.

King:- You're Tommy Tucker aren't you?

Tommy:- That's right your Majesty.

King:- Don't tell me you wish to sing for your supper again?

Tommy:- No your Majesty. It's something much more important.

King:- Well, ask away lad. And if it's within my power I will grant it.

Tommy:- I request - - -

King:- Go on. We haven't got all night.

Tommy:- I request - - - the hand of your daughter, the Princess Crystal in marriage.

(Everyone gasps with amazement)

King:- (Annoyed) What?

Tommy:- I know I'm only a commoner but I love her dearly and I will make her a good husband.

King:- Never in a thousand years! When Crystal marries it will be to a man with money and title.

Crystal:- But father you said I could marry the man of my choice.

King:- Within reason but this request is unreasonable.

Queen:- I had no title and money when you married me.

King:- Yes - - - and look where it's got me. My decision is final. Go and find a girl of your own station.

Queen:- You can't expect him to go and look for a girl on - - - (local railway station). He might pick up a lady of ill dispute.

King:- That's enough! I do not wish to hear another word. The audience is finished.

Queen:- (Going over and looking at audience) Yes, they do look as though they're past their 'sell by' date.

(Tommy is deflated and dejectedly walks back amongst the Chorus)

King:- As it is the Princess's birthday she will start the dancing.

(The King leads Crystal forward and centre stage)

King:- And who will be the first to dance with the Princess Crystal?

(Tommy comes forward but before he can speak Baron Bluebeard enters from opposite side of stage and approaches the King)

Baron:- (Greasily) May I have the first dance with your daughter your Majesty?

(There should now be booing and hissing from the audience)

King:- But of course Baron. She's all yours.

(The King presents Crystal to the Baron)

Baron:- Come my dear. Don't be afraid. We'll make a lovely couple.

(The Baron takes Crystal's hand and she is reluctantly drawn to him as the music starts.)

Dance (Crystal and Baron)

Suggested number:- Short reprise of the number which opens the scene

(The Princess and the Baron start to dance as King sits on the throne and Tommy rejoins the Chorus. After a few bars the Baron pulls her closer to him and starts to become familiar. She pulls away but he forces her back and tries to kiss her. She tries to break away again but again he pulls her back. Tommy rushes to her aid and pushes the Baron away from Crystal. Music stops)

Tommy:- How dare you treat the Princess Crystal in that manner?

Baron:- And who the devil are you?

Tommy:- I am Tommy Tucker and love the Princess dearly.

Baron:- Ha ha ha ha. You're not fit to clean her shoes. Out of my way!

(He pushes Tommy aside)

King:- (Rising) Stop this brawling at once. I will not have such disgusting behaviour at the palace.

Queen:- Yes, where do you think you are, - - - (local rough pub or club)?

Baron:- (Taking the Princess's arm) You will dance with me. No-one refuses the Baron Bluebeard.

Crystal:- (Breaking away) Well let me be the first one to break with tradition. (She moves to Tommy)

Baron:- You'll learn my lady. I'm not one to be trifled with.

King:- (Moving to Baron) And neither am I Baron Bluebeard. I suggest you go and pack your bags and return to Bohemia immediately.

Queen:- Hear! Hear!

Baron:- I'm going, but you've not heard the last of me. I'll get my revenge. Just you wait!

King:- Don't threaten me. We're a happy people in Nursery Rhyme Land and we intend to remain so.