



Red Riding Hood

by Long & Rawnsley

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PantoScripts Sample

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

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PantoScripts Sample

"Red Riding Hood"

CHARACTERS

RED RIDING HOOD.....PRINCIPAL GIRL

PETER THE WOOD CUTTER.....PRINCIPAL BOY

GRANNY KNOTT.....DAME

PATCHES.....ORPHANAGE ODD JOB MAN

PINNY.....ORPHANAGE CLEANER

SQUIRE BULLYMORE.....CRUEL ORPHANAGE BENEFACTOR

MISS TOOK.....THE ORPHANAGE GAMES TEACHER

REDDY
and
WILLIN }.....THE SQUIRE'S HAPLESS HENCHMEN

THE KIND FAIRY

THE WICKED WOLF

ALSO FEATURING

DANCERS

SUNBEAMS

CHORUS

Character Descriptions

1: Peter the Woodcutter: (Female) Principal Boy. Since leaving the local orphanage Peter has scraped a living as a woodsman near to the village of Birchwood. He had to leave behind the love of his life, the girl known as Red Riding Hood who still resides at the orphanage.

2: Red Riding Hood: (Female) Principal Girl. A young sweet girl left on the orphanage doorstep as an infant wrapped in a red riding hood, hence the unusual name. She is virtually imprisoned in the orphanage by the cruel benefactor Squire Bullymore.

3: Granny Knott: (Male) This is the Dame character. Granny is a widow from a neighbouring town and having been bequeathed a cottage and some money from a previous employer she visits Birchwood Orphanage in a hope to adopt a girl to be the grand daughter she never had.

4: Patches: (Male) Comic lead. Patches is the loveable yet slightly gormless orphanage odd job man. He has been at the orphanage since he was a baby, again having been abandoned wrapped in a patchwork quilt. He has resigned himself to a lifetime as a subordinate under the Squire's tyranny.

5: Pinny: (Female) Pinny is a foil for Patches, she is the orphanage cleaner and lifelong companion of Patches. Pinny was also abandoned as an infant on the orphanage doorstep wrapped in....yes, you've guessed it.... A pinny! Like Patches she is a loveable comical character.

6: Squire Bullymore: (Male) One of the villains of the pantomime and the cruel benefactor of Birchwood orphanage. Knowing that Peter is waiting for Red Riding Hood to be set free he deliberately keeps her from him and will not allow anyone access to the girl. In truth the Squire is a somewhat pathetic character and a figure of fun to most.

7: Miss Took: (Female) She is the games mistress at the orphanage. This is a "Jolly Hockey Sticks" type of character, the sort often portrayed by the late Joyce Genfell. Miss Took at first has romantic intensions toward the Squire, but these gradually wane when she sees the extent of his cruelty.

8 & 9: Reddy and Willin: (Both Male) These roles are the "Brokers Men" type parts. Reddy and Willin are the orphan catchers employed by the Squire to keep the orphans from escaping, in reality they are a right couple of cowards who strut about in combat gear but when faced with the slightest retaliation cower away.

Continued.....

10: The Fairy of the Forest: (Female) The immortal who looks over our heroine and all her friends. The Fairy is the story teller and through her rhymes relates the story to the audience. The Squire is not the only adversary of the Fairy for it is the Wicked Wolf that causes big problems.

11: The Wicked Wolf: (Male) More like a werewolf in that the Wolf takes on a human guise, the face of a wolf, hairy hands and yet wears a dapper suit and spats. Working as the Squire's accomplice he intends to eat our heroine....pure evil!!

In addition to the above characters there are several cameo roles that could be played by chorus members as they only have a few lines. There is also an appearance of "Delilah" a pantomime horse (one scene only)

"RED RIDING HOOD"

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SCENES

ACT ONE

- Scene 1....."The Village Outside the Orphanage"
- Scene 2....."Squire Bullymore's Study"
- Scene 3....."The Orphanage Garden"
- Scene 4....."The Orphanage Sick Bay"
- Scene 5....."Down by the River"

ACT TWO

- Scene 1....."The Orphanage Garden later that Day"
- Scene 2....."Camping Out"
- Scene 3....."A Forest Path"
- Scene 4....."Inside Granny Knott's Cottage"
- Scene 5....."The Orphanage Garden"
- Scene 6....."Birchwood Manor"

Song Sheet

Walk Down

Finale

OVERTURE.....HOUSE CURTAINS OPEN ON TABS

F/X....SOUND OF HOWLING WOLF....AND THE WE SEE A PROJECTED FULL MOON
ONTO THE PROSCENIUM ARCH
ENTER FAIRY

FAIRY:

The sound you heard was not of man.
But a beast that howls at the moon.
A fearsome Wolf that prowls the woods.
And you'll meet it very soon.

The folks around here are so afraid.
They stay indoors when the sun goes down.
And I've been sent before it's too late.
To save the people of the town.

The Orphanage here plays an important part.
In the telling of this story.
It's the nasty Squire who owns the place.
And he thinks he's Judge and Jury.

And living in the Orphanage is our heroine
A girl that is pure and good.
Found on a step abandoned.
Wrapped only in a red riding hood.

FAIRY EXITS F/X....ANOTHER FIENDISH HOWL

ENTER WOLF

WOLF:

(TO AUDIENCE'S REACTION)

Be quiet you fools with that hostile noise.
Or I'll eat you all for dinner.
The Fairy's powers are weak you'll see.
And I will be the winner.

FAIRY ENTERS

FAIRY:

So you're the Cur that brings distress.
To the people I now call friend.
Your unchallenged reign of terror.
Will soon be at an end.

Be off for now you wicked Wolf.
And try to do your worst.
For your days are shortly numbered
And your bubble soon will burst.

WOLF EXITS SNARLING

FAIRY:

Here we've had pantomime for many a year.
Entertaining old and young as they should.
And now stepping out from the fairy tale..
Please welcome "Red Riding Hood".

FAIRY BECKONS TO TABS AS SHE EXITS.....TABS OPEN FOR.....

ACT 1....SCENE 1...."THE VILLAGE OUTSIDE THE ORPHANAGE"

SET:....FULL STAGE WITH CLOTH TO SUIT....THERE IS A FLAT WITH PRACTICAL DOOR ON STAGE PLACED TO GIVE MAXIMUM AUDIENCE VIEW....THIS FLAT IS TO GIVE EFFECT OF ORPHANAGE MAIN DOOR.....IT IS PLAY TIME AT THE ORPHANAGE.....ON STAGE ARE SUNBEAMS AND DANCERS AS ORPHANS,AND CHORUS AS VILLAGERS INCLUDING PRINCIPAL GIRL (RED RIDING HOOD)....ALSO ON STAGE ARE PATCHES AND PINNY

♫ **MUSICAL ITEM No.1**...STRAIGHT INTO LIVELY/HAPPY SONG AND DANCE

AFTER OPENING ROUTINE....**F/X:** SCHOOL BELL RINGS PROMPTING OOOH'S AND AAAH'S FROM THE CHILDREN AS THEY GLOOMILY EXIT THROUGH DOOR BACK INTO SCHOOL... THE VILLAGERS DISPERSE RED RIDING HOOD HESITATES OUTSIDE THE DOOR AS IF LOOKING FOR SOMEONE... ONE OF THE CHILDREN COMES OUT TO LOOK FOR HER...

GIRL: (FROM DOORWAY) Red Riding Hood... come in!... don't let the Squire see you out here on your own!

RED RIDING HOOD: I was hoping to see Peter the Woodcutter... Oh I wish the Squire would let me see him... I miss him so much!

GIRL: Oh please come in... If the Squire sees you you'll never see Peter again...

RED RIDING HOOD RELUCTANTLY GOES INTO ORPHANAGE
ENTER GRANNY KNOTT STUMBLING FORWARD AND LOOKING BACK INTO WINGS.....SHE KNOCKS CLOUDS OF DUST FROM HER CLOTHING

GRANNY KNOTT:

(SARCASTICALLY BACK INTO WINGS)...Thank you coach driver for a smooth, trouble free journey...(TO AUDIENCE)....I don't think!!...(A BATTERED SUITCASE IS THROWN AT HER FROM THE WINGS...GRANNY LOOKS AT SUITCASE...THEN TOAUDIENCE)
I bet that's bent me hair straighteners!... the problem is if I don't go by bus or coach I have to walk 'cos I haven't got a car... It's really scary when I visit a Safari Park!!mind you, I've put one over on the coach company, I bought a return ticket and I'm not going back with 'em...that'll show 'em.....do you know, on our way we had a comfort stop....you know girls, where we have to queue and the men don't!,anyway, while we were there the coach driver got bitten by a wolf... it's true!!... it tried to eat his leg!....I told him to put something on it...he said, there's no need the wolf seemed to enjoy it as it was!!.

GRANNY SITS AND RESTS ON HER SUITCASE
RED RIDING HOOD AGAIN ENTERS FROM ORPHANAGE

RED RIDING HOOD:

(SEES GRANNY)...Hello...I hope you're not waiting for the stage coach, because it's gone!... and there isn't another for three days.

GRANNY:

Thank goodness for that!, I've just got off it...it's nice to sit on something that isn't moving!.....my name's Granny Knott...you might be able to help me, I'm looking for Birchwood Orphanage.

RED RIDING HOOD:

Birchwood Orphanage?...well Granny Knott look no further...you're sitting right outside it.

GRANNY:

(LOOKS ROUND)...Oh?, this is the place is it?...well thank you young lady....but who am I thanking?.

RED RIDING HOOD:

Oh nobody in particular, I live here at the orphanage.

GRANNY TAKES RED RIDING HOOD'S HAND

GRANNY:

Well whoever you are it's nice to meet you... (GRIMACES)..Oh, that stage coach!.... (RUBS TUMMY) talk about being all shook up! it's a good job that I got off when I did goodness knows where I'd have ended up... probably abroad somewhere!...

RED RIDING HOOD:

(CONCERNED)..Oh are you intercontinental?

GRANNY:

(MIS-UNDERSTANDING)... What?... oh no... just a bit sickly!

RED RIDING HOOD:

(PUZZLED) Oh I see.. er well Granny Knott, what could you possibly want with Birchwood Orphanage?.

GRANNY:

Well I'm not an orphan if that's what you're thinking....you see, I'm all on my own...(SHE BECKONS AUDIENCE FOR SYMPATHY)....I'm wanting a companion....really I'm looking for the Granddaughter I never had and I've heard that some girls are due to leave the Orphanage, and I'd like to give one of them a good home.

RED RIDING HOOD:

On your own you say?...are you sure you can afford to do that?.

GRANNY:

I can afford a lot of things young lady...you see, up to a year ago I worked up at the big house, and when his Lordship passed on he left me a cottage and all the money I'll ever need!....All I'm short of is family, and I hope I'll find a suitable girl here. (GRANNY NOTICES THAT RED RIDING HOOD SEEMS ON EDGE) ... is everything alright lovey you seem a bit worried...

RED RIDING HOOD:

I am... Squire Bullymore the Orphanage benefactor doesn't like me and if he catches me out here I'll be in big trouble ... he won't let me see Peter the woodcutter my one and only true love and I miss him so much!

GRANNY:

(SHE PRODUCES A LARGE HANKY FROM UNDER HER SKIRT AND BLOWS HER NOSE LOUDLY....THEN TEARFULLY)....What a lovely story....I've never been so upset since.....(USE A TOPICAL EXAMPLE TO SUIT)

FX WOLF HOWL

RED RIDING HOOD:

Oh no that's the Wolf!... I must go in!.. please don't tell anyone you've seen me!..(SHE HURRIES INTO ORPHANAGE)

ENTER PETER HE IS CARRYING AN AXE

PETER:

Good morning Madam... can I help you?... Peter's the name... did you hear the wolf?

GRANNY:

What?... Oh that's what it was... (REALISING)... Are you Peter the Wood cutter?

PETER:

Yes I am... how did you know?

GRANNY:

Well you're called Peter and you've got an axe... doesn't take Miss Marple to work that out! ... no you see there was this young lady and she told me not to tell anyone that I had seen her but she wanted to see her own true love... and that's you I believe.

PETER:

(TAKES HER HAND)...Red Riding Hood!!!

GRANNY:

er no it's Granny Knott actually!

PETER:

No... I mean the girl you mentioned, Red Riding Hood we grew up together in the orphanage and she was supposed to leave this place last year, but just because I wouldn't toe the line when I was in there, that cruel Squire Bullymore won't let her go....he knows I'm waiting and hope to marry her someday....look...(HE PRODUCES A NOTE FROM HIS POCKET).. here's a note I hoped to smuggle in today, in the logs.....could you see she gets it.....normally Patches or Pinny, two good friends of mine who work in there take my messages, but I think the Squire's getting suspicious and I'd hate them to lose their jobs....(GRANNY TAKES THE NOTE)...please see that she gets it, anyway I'm off to hunt the Wolf.

GRANNY:

The wolf!!...(SHUDDERS)...oooh, what would you want to be chasing that thing for?.

PETER:

Well the one who slays the wolf will become Lord Mayor of Birchwood, and that is my ambition!....(PETER MAKES TO EXIT)... don't forget to give Red Riding Hood the note.. (HE EXITS)

GRANNY:

Red Riding Hood?... Patches?...Pinny?... by there's some funny names in Birchwood ... (SHE PICKS UP HER SUITCASE WHICH FALLS OPEN, SPILLING OUT DROLL UNDERWEAR.....SHE HOLD UP A LARGE PAIR OF BLOOMERS WHICH HAS "STAR TREK" SEWN ON...SHE SHAKES DUST OFF THEM).....That dust gets everywhere.... (THEN TO A LADY IN THE AUDIENCE)....have you got a pair like these Mrs?...these are my "Star Trek" bloomers....you see they go where no man has gone before!!.

GRANNY STOOPS TO RE-PACK HER CASE, AS SHE IS DOING SO, ENTER A SUNBEAM AS AN ORPHAN WHO IS RUNNING THEN LEAPFROGS OVER THE STOOPING GRANNY AND THEN EXITS RUNNING.....GRANNY STANDS AND LOOKS AROUND PUZZLED, SHRUGS HER SHOULDERS AND RE-ASSUMES CROUCHED POSITION.....THE LEAPFROG BUSINESS IS REPEATED TWICE MORE BY THE ORPHAN CATCHERS REDDY AND WILLIN WHO ARE CHASING THE ORPHAN.....GRANNY COMPLETES THE PACKING OF HER SUITCASE, AND AS SHE IS ABOUT TO STAND UPRIGHT THE ORPHAN RE-ENTERS AND KNOCKS GRANNY DOWN..... REDDY AND WILLIN RUNNING CLOSELY BEHIND SKID TO A HALT, GRAB THE ORPHAN AND BUSTLE HER INTO THE ORPHANAGE.

GRANNY:

(COMPOSING HERSELF)....What's going on!?...we'll see about this!!.

GRANNY MARCHES UP TO THE ORPHANAGE DOOR AND PULLS THE BELL HANDLE.....**F/X:**...FRACTURED CHIME OF "BIG BEN".....SHE LOOKS PUZZLED, AND NOBODY OPENS THE DOOR, SHE PULLS BELL HANDLE AGAIN.....**F/X:**...SHIPS FOGHORN.....GRANNY LOOKS PUZZLED AGAIN

PATCHES APPEARS FROM DOORWAY

PATCHES:

Now then Mrs.... what can I do for you? you're not from one of them energy suppliers are you?

GRANNY:

Energy Supplier?...No but you look as if you could do with some....anyway, who are you?

PATCHES:

I'm Patches, who are you?.

GRANNY:

My name's Knott.

PATCHES:

Not what?.

GRANNY:

(IMPATIENT)...No, not Knott Watt!

PATCHES:

Well it's what... not?.

GRANNY:

No.....not Watt Knott.....Knott!!.....my name's not Watt, it's Knott, nit wit!

PATCHES:

Well If it's not Nitwit.....your name's what?.

GRANNY:

Look, let's start again....my name is Granny.

PATCHES:

Oh, right....I see, it's Granny....but Granny what!?

GRANNY:

Don't start all that again....look, I've come to see Squire Bullymore....I'm hoping he might see me today?.

PATCHES:

Look, you'd better come in and I'll see if he's free.

BEFORE GRANNY CAN ENTER THE WOLF APPEARS UNSEEN BY GRANNY....
PATCHES OF COURSE SEES THE WOLF AND SLAMS THE DOOR IN GRANNY'S
FACE

GRANNY:

(STILL WITH BACK TO AUDIENCE...RUBBING HER NOSE).....I thought he said "come in".....(THEN MAKES AS IF CALLING THROUGH LETTER BOX).....hey Patches!...aren't you going to let me in to wait?!.
THE WOLF HOWLS BEHIND HER WHICH SOUNDS LIKE "WHO"

GRANNY:

(THINKING IT IS PATCHES REPLY) What do you mean who?....Me you fool!.

THE WOLF THEN GIVES A PROLONGED HOWL WHICH SOUNDS LIKE "WHO-WOO-WOO-WOO-WOO"

GRANNY:

(STILL THINKS IT IS PATCHES AND RESPONDS THROUGH LETTER BOX)....Mee-yee-yee-yee-yee.

THE FAIRY ENTERS QUIETLY AND UNSEEN BY GRANNY, SHE WAVES HER WAND AT THE WOLF WHO SKULKS OFF GESTURING TO THE AUDIENCE

WOLF EXITS...FAIRY EXITS

GRANNY:

(TURNS TO AUDIENCE)....What were you lot shouting about?.....wolf?!.....what wolf?.....I can't see any wolf?!.

PATCHES:

(AS HE SLOWLY OPENS DOOR AND PEEPS OUT NERVOUSLY)....Has the wolf gone?!.

GRANNY:

There's no wolf out here....I think you're suffering from illuminations!!.....can I come in or what?!

PATCHES:

What?....oh yes....the Squire says he'll see you in his study... please come in....(PATCHES HAS A NERVOUS LOOK AROUND BEFORE HE CLOSES THE DOOR)

ENTER PETER CARRYING A POSY OF FLOWERS

PETER:

(TO HIMSELF).....Oh no....Granny Knott's gone into the orphanage already, so I've missed her....I was hoping that she could have given these flowers to Red Riding Hood.

WE HEAR APPROACHING VOICES....PETER IS UNSURE WHAT TO DO WITH THE FLOWERS....HURRIEDLY HE HIDES THEM BEHIND HIS BACK.

ENTER DANCERS DRESSED AS WOODMEN...THEY ARE CARRYING AXES, SAWS AND WITH A BARROW OF LOGS...THEY ARE ACTING WITH GOOD HUMOUR TOWARDS EACH OTHER

PETER:

Oh, hello lads....have you er...finished for the day?.

1st WOODMAN:

Yes we have Peter....and we'd have finished sooner with you to help us.

2nd WOODMAN:

Yes....where did you get to?.

3rd WOODMAN:

(AS HE WALKS BEHIND PETER...TAKING FLOWERS FROM HIM....THEN TEASING)....Ahhh, look what we have here lads.....I wonder who these could be for?.

THEY THROW THE FLOWERS AROUND TO EACH OTHER

PETER:

(ENJOYING THE JOKE).....Come on now lads...you know very well who they're for!, Red Riding Hood of course...the only girl for me!.

♫ **MUSICAL ITEM No 2**...INTO MUSICAL ITEM FEATURING PETER AND THE DANCERS.....AFTER ROUTINE **TABS CLOSE** ON THEM.....THEN STAGE BLACKOUT.....**F/X**.....SIRENS AND ALARM BELL....THE SPOTLIGHT RAKES THE THEATRE AS IF SECURITY SEARCHLIGHT....

ALL THE ABOVE F/X ARE COVERED WITH ♫ TO THE "JAMES BOND" THEME.....ALL F/X AND MUSIC STOP....SPOTLIGHTS PICK OUT THE ENTRANCE OF REDDY AND WILLIN EACH ENTER FROM OPPOSITE SIDES.....THEY ARE DRESSED IN COMBAT GEAR AND SINISTER BLACK SKI HOODS....STAGE LIGHTS UP AND WE SEE WILLIN'S MASK IS MISALIGNED WITH HIS EYES AND EARS AND HE IS BLINDLY GROPPING HIS WAY AROUND THE STAGE

REDDY:

(TO AUDIENCE)...Don't be alarmed ladies and gentlemen, that was merely an Orphanage security alert....we are testing our new system!....nothing!...and I mean nothing or no one will get out of Birchwood orphanage tonight or any other night.....(UNSEEN BY REDDY A GROUP OF ORPHANS CASUALLY WALK BEHIND HIM TOWARD A SIGN WHICH READS "DISCO TONIGHT AT THE VILLAGE HALL" AND EXIT....REDDY RESPONDS TO AUDIENCE REACTION)... What??... What!??...(HE LOOKS ROUND AND SEES NOTHING)....anyway, as I was saying before you rudely interrupted me...myself and my colleague Mr. Willin over there who isn't as daft as he looks!...to be truthful, he's actually dafter than he looks!!... ..(TO WILLIN)...Hey!...come over here...(WILLIN STILL HAS HIS SKI HOOD MISALIGNED AND CANNOT SEE...HE GROPE HIS WAY TOWARDS REDDY..... AND DURING THIS ANOTHER GROUP OF ORPHANS MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE DISCO AND EXIT.....REDDY TO AUDIENCE REACTIONWhat!??....who's going where?... (GLANCES ROUND AND SEES NOTHING)...anyway, where was I?... oh yes....((TO WILLIN).....look here Willin, those holes in your hood are supposed to line up with your eyes, mouth and ears!

WILLIN:

Pardon!?

REDDY:

Come here...(ADJUSTING WILLIN'S HOOD)...there you are!

WILLIN:

Yes, that's a lot better.

REDDY:

Now you can see what you're doing.

WILLIN:

Yes....er...what are we doing?!

SOME MORE ORPHANS PASS BEHIND THEM UNSEEN

REDDY:

We are going to test our latest communication equipment... (HE PRODUCES TWO TIN CANS THAT ARE JOINED BY A PIECE OF STRING... HE HANDS ONE OF THE TIN CANS TO WILLIN... WHO PUTS IT TO HIS EAR AND REDDY PULLS THE STRING TAUGHT AND ALMOST PULLS WILLIN OFF HIS FEET)... Come in Willin! Are you receiving me? Over!

WILLIN:

You bloomin' well nearly pulled me over!!... Over!

REDDY:

You're supposed to say Roger!

WILLIN:

O/K... you bloomin' well nearly pulled me over Roger!... look, I'm only six feet away from you Roger why do we have to speak through (REFERS TO TIN CANS) these things? And how come you're suddenly called Roger... Roger?

REDDY:

Do you know Willin you're a dinosaur when it comes to the latest technology!... this equipment is cutting edge!!

WILLIN:

(LOOKS AT HIS TIN CAN) Well my bit's definitely cutting edge! It's like a razor is this tin can... what did you open it with ... a screwdriver?!

REDDY:

(TO WILLIN)....Look, forget the intercom your obviously not ready for advanced technology... and take that hood off...(HE DOES... REDDY GRIMACES)... on second thoughts, put it back on again!!.....I'll tell you what though...Squire Bullymore is going to be impressed with our security arrangements.

WILLIN:

(SARCASTIC) Yes I bet he wont be able to contain himself!!.. look I'm parched I fancy a cup of tea... what about you Roger?

REDDY:

A cup of tea!!!?...We've to patrol the grounds all night lad!... we're fearless fighting machines me and you....we haven't got time for cups of tea!... and stop calling me Roger.....(F/X OFF.... PROLONGED WOLF HOWL.... THEN REDDY COWARDLY)well?...on second thoughts a cup of tea might be a good idea... a fighting force needs sustenance come on...we'll get the kettle on!.....(AS THEY EXIT)....do we still have some of them gypsy creams left, they're me favourites.....(F/X OFF...ANOTHER WOLF HOWL)

REDDY AND WILLIN EXIT RUNNING.

FAIRY ENTERS

FAIRY:

It's time to go into the Orphanage now.
And meet this awful Squire.
He in turn will meet Granny Knott.
Who about an orphan will enquire.
She'll make her choice from the girls in there.
But the Squire won't think her choice good.
He'd like her to take a girl that he'd name.
But she'll select Red Riding Hood.

FAIRY EXITS

TABS OPEN FOR.....

ACT 2....SCENE 2...."THE SQUIRE'S STUDY"

SET:.....SUITABLE CLOTH DEPICTING PANELLED STUDY.... DESK WITH CHAIR AND A VISITORS CHAIR, ALSO USUAL STUDY TRAPPINGSPINNY, THE ORPHANAGE CLEANER IS BUSY TIDYING UP AND FLICKING A DUSTER AROUND

ENTER PATCHES WITH GRANNY KNOTT

PATCHES:

Well here we are Granny Knott....(SEES PINNY)...oh, by the way, this here is my assistant...she known as Pinny.

GRANNY:

(AS SHE GREETES PINNY) Pinny??.... a funny name indeed....but who am I to talk with a name like Granny Knott.

PINNY:

Take Granny's coat Patches

PATCHES TAKES HER COAT, CAREFULLY ARRANGES IT ON A HANGER, THEN GETS A CLOTHES BRUSH AND CAREFULLY GROOMS HER COAT, HE RUNS HIS THUMB AND FORE-FINGER DOWN SIDE CREASES TO GIVE CRISP EFFECT.... GRANNY AND PINNY LOOK ON APPROVINGLY.....AFTER ALL THIS CAREFUL ATTENTION HE CASUALLY THROWS COAT WITH HANGER INTO CORNER.... GRANNY AND PINNY SLOWLY TURN TO AUDIENCE AND GRIMACE)

GRANNY:

Actually I'm glad I've got you both together, because I've got this here note...(PRODUCES NOTE AND GIVES IT TO PINNY)....a young man called Peter that I met outside has sent it, it's for the girl in here called Red Riding Hood!.

ENTER RED RIDING HOOD

RED RIDING HOOD

Oh Granny Knott a note from Peter?... please let me see it... I've been worried because I haven't heard from him for days...

PINNY:

Yes and especially with him chasing that Wolf!

PATCHES:

(ALARMED)...Hey!...look out, I think there's somebody coming.... Red Riding Hood go quick it might be the Squire.. (RED RIDING HOOD QUICKLY EXITS) Pinny, hide the note!.

PINNY LOOKS ABOUT PANIC STRICKEN WONDERING WHERE TO PUT THE NOTE....AS REDDY AND WILLIN ENTER IN DESPERATION THRUSTS THE NOTE INTO PATCHES HAND AND HE IN TURN QUICKLY STUFFS IT INTO HIS MOUTH

REDDY:

Ah, there you are Patches, where's Red Riding Hood?.

PATCHES STILL WITH NOTE IN MOUTH MUMBLES AN INDISCERNIBLE REPLY

WILLIN:

(TO GRANNY KNOTT)...What did he say?.

GRANNY:

He said....(SHE COPIES PATCHES MUMBLED REPLY)

WILLIN:

(TO REDDY)....She says that he says....(THE COPIES MUMBLED REPLY)

PINNY:

If you're looking for Red Riding Hood, she with the tutor Miss Took.

ENTER SQUIRE BULLYMORE DRESSED WITH HACKING JACKET WITH CRAVAT AND RIDING JODHPURS....HE CARRIES A RIDING CROP WHICH HE OCCASIONALLY SLAPS AGAINST HIS RIDING BOOTS.....HE WEARS A MONOCLE AND HAS AN OFFICIOUS MANNER

SQUIRE:

(IN A VERY SNOOTY AND HORSY MANNER)...Morning chaps!....just been for a gallop over the moors.....I've jumped every hedgerow and stonewall in the County!.....it would have been a damned sight easier if I'd had a horse to ride what?....(GIVES A SNORTY LAUGH.....THEN TO WILLIN)...just my little joke Willin!.

WILLIN:

(GIVES A WEAK LAUGH)...Oh yes, very good Squire!, a little joke you say?!....(ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)...very little!.

SQUIRE:

(INDICATING TO GRANNY)....Who's this old mare then... is it the new skivvy we're looking for?

GRANNY:

(OFFENDED)...Skivvy indeed....I'll have you know that I'm Granny Knott, a woman of quite some substance!.

PATCHES:

(LOOKING AT HER REAR END)...Well you are from where I'm looking!.

GRANNY:

I am the lady who's here to choose one of your orphan girls to come and live with me, and of course the Orphanage will benefit with a bob or two.....money's no problem to me!.

SQUIRE:

(GAINING INTEREST)....Ah, Granny Knott....(THEN FLATTERING)....it's just that I didn't expect someone as young and beautiful as you....(GRANNY PREENS)....a real thoroughbred what! (LOOKING HER UP AND DOWN)....I reckon you're about 17 hands ...not often I'm wrong!.

GRANNY:

17 hands?....well whatever I am, you can keep your two hands off me!.

SQUIRE:

Ah!...a filly with a sense of humour, that's what I like!... (BECOMES SERIOUS)but I warn you Granny Knott, don't be mis-led by my jovial demeanour!, I run a 'tight ship' here.....(HITS THE DESK HARD WITH HIS RIDING CROP.....ALL THE OTHER FIVE ON STAGE LITERALLY JUMP IN THE AIR).....and these two..... (INDICATING TO REDDY AND WILLIN)....gentlemen, are who keep this ship tight!.

GRANNY:

(ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)....You try saying that when you've had a few!.

SQUIRE:

(ASIDE TO GRANNY) Yes... Reddy and Willin... just a pity they're not able!

REDDY:

(FEELING IMPORTANT)....Oh yes....security is our by-word...am I right Mr. Willin?.... in fact we have a motto here at Birchwood Orphanage... (QUOTING)... "Let there be no doubt".....

WILLIN:

(COMPLETES QUOTE)...."No one gets out!"

SQUIRE:

Where's Miss Tooks class?.

REDDY:

They gone out!

WILLING:

To Morrisons! (OR SIMILAR)....they should be back by now.

SQUIRE:

Mmmm, very secure....Reddy, go and tell Miss Took that we wish to see her.....(REDDY EXITS IN A HURRY.....THEN TO WILLIN)....and you Willin, go and check something!.

WILLIN:

What?.

SQUIRE:

(IMPATIENT)....I don't know....there must be some barbed wire missing somewhere.....
(WILLIN EXITS LOOKING PUZZLED)....Pinny, get Granny Knott a....er...

PINNY:

A sherry sir?.

SQUIRE:

No girl!....get her a chair.

GRANNY:

If it's a toss up between a sherry and a chair....I'll take the sherry!.

SQUIRE:

You shall have both Granny Knott....Pinny, get the lady a chair...(SHE DOES)....Patches, pour the lady a sherry....(PATCHES GOES TO DECANTER ON TRAY, FILLS A GLASS AND BRINGS THE GLASS AND DECANTER ON THE TRAY AND OFFERS IT TO GRANNY WHO PICKS UP THE DECANTER A TAKES A LARGE SWIG DRAINING THE DECANTER THEN SITS DOWN)

PATCHES:

(TO SQUIRE)....It's a good job we got her a chair!!.

GRANNY:

I only drink sherry for medicinal purposes....I've had flu twice recently....I had it last year, and three weeks later...guess what?.

SQUIRE:

Same again?.

GRANNY:

I don't mind if I do!.....(SHE DRINKS DOWN THE GLASS OF SHERRY)

SQUIRE:

Right Granny Knott, to business.....this week is half term here at Birchwood....but before the teaching staff left for their vacation a selection of six girls was made for you to choose from....I feel sure you will find one of them suitable.

ENTER MISS TOOK THE GAMES TEACHER....SHE IS A TWITTERING "JOYCE GRENFELL" TYPE CHARACTER....SHE IS DRESSED IN HOCKEY GEAR AND CARRYING A HOCKEY STICK

MISS TOOK:

What ho everybody...sorry I'm late....just been showing the girls from the lower third the rudiments of hockey.

SQUIRE:

Ah Miss Took, there you are....this is Granny Knott the lady I told you about.

MISS TOOK:

(AFTER A TANGLE WITH THE HOCKEY STICK SHE SHAKES GRANNY'S HAND VERY FIRMLY)...Oh yes...pleased to meet you Granny....you've come to select one of the girls....just hope it's not my best shooter...(SHE SWINGS THE HOCKEY STICK AND HITS GRANNY ON THE LEG WHO HOPS ABOUT)

SQUIRE:

Are the six selected girls ready Miss Took?.

GRANNY:

(STILL RUBBING LEG)...Yes I'd better pick one whilst I'm still in one piece!.

MISS TOOK:

Oh yes...before you meet the girls Granny, Red Riding Hood along with some of the younger ones has prepared some entertainment for you...(SHE BLOWS HER WHISTLE)

ENTER RED RIDING HOOD AND THE SUNBEAMS

♫ **MUSICAL ITEM No 3**...INTO MUSICAL ITEM FEATURING RED RIDING HOOD AND SUNBEAMS..... AFTER ROUTINE SUNBEAMS EXIT

MISS TOOK:

(TO PINNY)...I say Pinner's old girl....be a sport and go with the little ones to make sure they get changed properly. (PINNY EXITS WITH THE GIRLS)

SQUIRE:

(TO PATCHES & RED RIDING HOOD)....And you Patches and (FLPPANTLY) and you Red Riding er what ever your name is, bring in the selected girls.

PATCHES:

What?...oh yes, very good Squire!.

PATCHES AND RED RIDING HOOD EXIT

SQUIRE:

Whilst we're waiting Granny Knott, this er....sum of money that's come your way....you are making it work for you I trust?...no good in a tin box under the bed.....you must invest, invest and further invest, don't sit on it!

GRANNY:

In vest you say?.....oh no, I don't keep it in me vest....actually it's sewn into me knickers....
(SQUIRE & MISS TOOK REACT AT THE THOUGHT).....so in a way I am sitting on it!.

ENTER 6 DANCERS AS THE CHOSEN ORPHANS....THEY STAND IN LINE

ENTER PATCHES.....HE IS FOLLOWED BY RED RIDING HOOD CARRYING A BASKET FILLED WITH GARMENTS

MISS TOOK:

Come along girls, stand up straight....Granny Knott may want to ask you some questions.

SQUIRE:

These girls Granny were left on the Orphanage doorstep as infants....and tradition has it that at this establishment, when a child has no name, it is given the name of what ever it is wrapped in when found!.

MISS TOOK:

Righto girls....on my whistle step forward and speak your name clearly and precisely!....
(BLAST OF WHISTLE)

1st ORPHAN:

(STEPS FORWARD)....Ruby Velvet Cloak.

RED RIDING HOOD TAKES A RUBY VELVET CLOAK FROM BASKET AND PUTS IT ON THE GIRL.....THIS IS REPEATED WITH THE APPROPRIATE GARMENT AFTER EACH WHISTLE FROM MISS TOOK

2nd ORPHAN:

(STEPS FORWARD)....Pearl Feather Boa.

3rd ORPHAN:

(STEPS FORWARD)....Rose Lace Shawl.

4th ORPHAN:

(STEPS FORWARD)....Violet Tulle Veil.

5th ORPHAN:

(STEPS FORWARD)....Candy Cotton Cape.

6th ORPHAN:

(STEPS FORWARD)....Scarlet Silk Scarf.

SQUIRE:

(IMPATIENTLY)...Right Granny Knott, I'm a very busy man...I must press you for your choice.

GRANNY:

Oh don't worry your Squireness!....I've made my choice all right!.

SQUIRE:

Well??!!

GRANNY:

Red Riding Hood!

ALL ON STAGE GASP....THEN THE SIX OTHER ORPHANS ARE PLEASED FOR RED RIDING HOOD AND GATHER ROUND HER AND HUG HER

RED RIDING HOOD:

Oh thank you Granny!!

SQUIRE:

(STERNLY)...Be quiet girl!!...speak when you're spoken to!.

GRANNY:

I was spoking to her when I speaked....(THEN AGAIN TO RED RIDING HOOD)....never mind him my dear, I think you look lovely!.

PATCHES:

And so do I....and so does Peter the woodcutter!.

SQUIRE:

(ANGRY) Be quiet Patches... Red Riding Hood will not leave Birchwood Orphanage....Never ever!!....my mind will not be changed....it wouldn't make any difference no matter what you offer!.

GRANNY:

I'll pay for a new sports hall!.

MISS TOOK:

Oh Squire.....wouldn't that be super-duper spiffing!.

SQUIRE:

I said no Miss Took!.

GRANNY:

What about also a new stable block filled with thoroughbred horses?.

SQUIRE:

I've told you Granny that there is nothing on earth that would change my mind to let Red Riding Hood leave this establishment.

GRANNY:

(PERSISTENT)...New stables...Arabian horses...and a new tack room?.

SQUIRE:

All right....all right!....I give in, take the girl!! (RED RIDING HOOD EMBRACES GRANNY)

RED RIDING HOOD:

Oh Granny, thank you....I thought I'd never leave this place....I've felt like a prisoner.

GRANNY:

Well that's all behind you now lovey...you'll have your own little room all lovely and cosy....and we'll welcome Peter whenever he chooses to call.

SQUIRE:

(TO HIMSELF AND ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)...That's what they think, my friend the Wolf will soon put paid to their cosy little plans!....(THEN TO GRANNY)...come along Granny my dear, I want to discuss the new stables.....oh and by the way, you'll have to stay with us for a while because the stagecoach doesn't pass through Birchwood for a few days .(THEN TO PATCHES)..oh and Patches...make up a room for Granny.

PATCHES:

Do you mean the one with the four-poster bed....Tiger skin rug, and balcony?.

SQUIRE:

(PUZZLED)....We haven't got a room like that!.

PATCHES:

I know....but you told me to make one up!!.

MISS TOOK:

(AS SHE EXITS WITH SQUIRE AND GRANNY).....I say, I will still get my new sports hall won't I??.

EXIT SQUIRE, GRANNY AND MISS TOOK

ENTER PINNY EXCITEDLY

PINNY:

Oh Red Riding Hood, is it true what I've heard?...it's you that's been chosen by Granny?.

RED RIDING HOOD:

Yes it's true Pinny....aren't I lucky?.

♫ **MUSICAL ITEM...No. 4**...INTO MUSICAL ITEM FEATURING PRINCIPALLY RED RIDING HOOD ACCOMPANIED BY PINNY, PATCHES, AND SUNBEAMS.....AFTER ROUTINE TABS CLOSE

ENTER FAIRY ON TABS

FAIRY:

Don't be mis-led, and don't be deceived.
By this happy turn of events.
For our story has only just started.
And we've a Squire who seldom relents.

If this wicked fellow has his way.
Which I know he surely will.
He means to see his friend the Wolf.
With one instruction.....Kill!!!.

But the Wolf doesn't need encouraging.
for he does intend to eat her.
Yet the man who'll help you've already met.
It's the woodcutter known as Peter.

Don't be dismayed at the meeting you'll see.
Even though they're up to no good.
For I will be watching over this girl.

That we all know as Red Riding Hood.

EXIT FAIRY

ENTER SQUIRE BULLYMORE....HE WALKS TO CENTRE STAGE...
HE CHECKS HIS POCKET WATCH IMPATIENTLY WHILST PACING UP AND DOWN
ENTER WOLF....IT REACTS TO AUDIENCE...THEN JOINS SQUIRE CENTRE STAGE

SQUIRE:

Ah, there you are my evil friend...though I must say you are very late!.... (WOLF GROWLS AND SNARLS THREATENINGLY.....SQUIRE COWARDLY CHECKS HIS WATCH)....well, not too late, it's probably my watch that's wrong!.....anyway, the reason for this meeting is I have a special job for you, in fact an urgent job....(WOLF SNARLS WITH INTEREST).... there is a girl leaving the Orphanage shortly, the one called Red Riding Hood, so I want you to forget any other terrorising you have to do, and concentrate on this girl....I think you'll enjoy her for your supper!....(WOLF DROOLS AND LICKS HIS LIPS)...you'll find her even more tasty when I tell you that her boyfriend is the only person bold enough to hunt you....(WOLF GROWLS AND SNARLS ANGRILY)...yes, Peter the woodcutter!....to make things easy for you I have arranged for Red Riding Hood to use my private garden, you'll easily recognise the girl, for she will be wearing that ridiculous red riding hood....I'll leave you now.....don't let me down.....I'm counting on you
SQUIRE EXITS

WOLF:

He thinks he's doing me a favour.
But I don't care who I hurt.
In fact I'll have Red Riding Hood for main course.(PEERS OUT TO AUDIENCE)
And a juicy Cub for dessert.

But that's tomorrow and I'm hungry now.
So what shall I have is the question.
Perhaps one of the band, but then again.
They'd give me indigestion!
I need something wholesome for my supper tonight.
And I will need somebody of size.
Perhaps one of the ladies committee with a portion of chips.
In other words a "Whopper" with fries!.

Hark, I hear two people approaching.
It could be my supper, indeed a happy sight.

ENTER REDDY AND WILLIN BACKWARDS FROM OPPOSITE SIDES...THEY ARE BOTH UNAWARE OF THE WOLF

WOLF:

But now that I've seen the menu.
I've lost my appetite!.

THE WOLF STANDS CENTRE STAGE WATCHING THE HAPLESS PAIR WHO ARE SLOWLY APPROACHING BACKWARDS...THEY HAVE NOW ADOPTED A MARTIAL ART POSES

REDDY:

Come on children....you can't hide from us...we've got night vision!.....what have we got Willin?.