



Pantoscripts Perusal

Cinderella

by Long & Rawnsley

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Panto Scripts

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Character Descriptions

1: Cinderella:

(Female) Title role and Principal Girl. Cinderella is the down trodden young daughter of Baron Harduppe. Such a sweet and pretty girl she is treated as a slave by her wicked step-mother and her two step-sisters who make her life a misery at Harduppe Manor.

2: Baron Harduppe:

(Male) Cinderella's father, a rather pompous and full of his own importance type of character. He sees how his second wife treats Cinderella but does little to help. When he is in the company of his wife or her daughters he is reduced to a cringing wreck.....If only he would stick up for his own!

3: Baroness Harduppe:

(Female) The villain of the pantomime. Her evil ways are mostly directed at Cinderella, whilst she sees no wrong in her own two wicked ugly daughters. She twists the Baron around her little finger and often reduces poor Cinderella to tears.

4 & 5: Whitney & Britney Harduppe:

(Both Male) These characters are the dual Dames and "Ugly Sister" roles. The grotesque and utterly unbearable step-sisters of Cinderella. The sisters tease and bully our poor heroine and set their sights on the visiting Prince Charming and his valet Dandini with comic results.

6: Buttons:

(Male) This is the comic lead. Buttons is the page at Harduppe Manor and the only one to stick up for Cinderella. Poor Buttons is also down trodden by the Harduppe family, but with his chirpy ways he helps Cinders to keep smiling and eventually helps her to overcome her misery.

7: Prince Charming:

(Female) Principal Boy. The Prince has travelled the country looking for a suitable bride. Just when he thinks his search has been in vain he stumbles across the village of Stoneybroke and eventually meets the lovely Cinderella.

8: Dandini:

(Female) The Prince's equerry. Ever at the Prince's side Dandini is more of a friend of the Prince than his servant. He helps the Prince woo the fair Cinderella, whilst warding off the advances from the gruesome ugly sisters.

9 & 10: Gawed & Bennet:

(Both Male) Two 'ne'er do wells'. These are the "Brokers Men" type roles. Gawed is the more dominant of the pair and thinks he has the upper hand, but Bennet keeps bringing him down to earth. Their schemes do not go entirely to plan and their punishment is being paired off with the Ugly Sisters.

11: King Charles:

(Male) Prince Charming's father. Keen to marry off his only son he is delighted when the Prince finds a suitable girl, however, his snobbish side shines through when he discovers that Cinderella is a servant girl.

12: Queen Camilla:

(Female) The Prince's mother. She is the ultimate snob, she wants her son to marry into other Royalty. She is not at all impressed with the Harduppe family and has to reluctantly invite them to the Royal ball.

13: Fairy Godmother:

(Female) Cinderella's saviour. A kind comic motherly type character and a little forgetful, she appears on the scene when poor Cinderella is at her lowest. With her magic she ensures Cinderella's happiness and helps good conquer evil.

SCENES**ACT 1**

SCENE 1....."THE VILLAGE"

SCENE 2....."THE ENCHANTED FOREST"

SCENE 3....."HARDUPPE MANOR"

SCENE 4....."THE SUMMER FETE"

SCENE 5....."CINDERELLA'S KITCHEN"

SCENE 6....."OFF TO THE BALL"

INTERVAL

ACT 2

SCENE 1....."THE ROYAL BALL"

SCENE 2....."THE HAUNTED ROOM"

SCENE 3....."HARDUPPE MANOR" (DAY BREAK)

SCENE 4....."SONG SHEET"

SCENE 5....."THE ROYAL WEDDING"

WALK DOWN & FINALE

ACT ONE

OVERTURE.....THEN CURTAIN

ENTER FAIRY GODMOTHER STAGE RIGHT ON TABS...SHE IS CARRYING A BLUE AND BLACK COLOURED ROLLED UMBRELLA WITH A BROWN HANDLE....SHE IS LOOKING AROUND CONFUSED.... SHE CROSSES THE STAGE AND REACHES STAGE LEFT BY THE TIME SHE 'NOTICES' THE AUDIENCE...SHE PROPS UP HER UMBRELLA

FAIRY GODMOTHER:

Oh there you all are, my boss said you'd be here...
She's been let down and needed a stand in.
I've been semi-retired for a couple of years...
So I took it on...It'll help me keep my hand in.

I've been Fairy Bow Bells for Dick Whittington...
And I've helped Mother Goose through the years.
But tonight I'll be playing my favourite role...
I'm Fairy Godmother wherever Cinderella appears.

Now where do I start, because I'm a bit out of touch...
You know things go right out of my head.
If I don't write it down, or leave notes for myself...
I might as well just stay in bed!

(REMEMBERS)...Ah yes, Cinderella's deprived of the nice things in life...
The kind of things that young girls desire.
Pretty dresses and perfume and bows for her hair...
For all the young men to admire.

So, with the limited powers that I'm blessed with...
And limited they are it seems.
With a bit of luck and a following wind...
Cinderella **will** meet the man of her dreams!

EXIT FAIRY GODMOTHER STAGE LEFT **LEAVING** HER BROLLY

TABS OPEN FOR.....

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ACT 1**SCENE 1.... "THE VILLAGE"**

MUSICAL ITEM No 1....A LIVELY OPENING ROUTINE FEATURING DANCERS, SUNBEAMS, CHORUS AND SOME PRINCIPALS INCLUDING BUTTONS.....AFTER ROUTINE ALL STAY ON STAGE MIMING CONVERSATION IN GROUPS WITH CROSSOVERS....BUTTONS COMES FORWARDS...HE IS CARRYING A LONG HANDLED DUST PAN AND BRUSH

BUTTONS: (TO AUDIENCE)...Hello everybody!..welcome to Stoneybroke Village...my name's Buttons...I'm the Page up at Harduppe Manor...Harduppe and Stoneybroke eh?..that just shows you how things are around here!!..poor!!?...it's that bad, the Lord of the Manor sells the "Big Issue" ...and there is **always** a queue down at Kentucky Fried Chicken...yes, they all wait outside to lick peoples fingers as they come out....anyway, enough of that...now my employers Baron and Baroness Harduppe have volunteered **me** to keep Stoneybroke tidy...as though I haven't enough to do!!!...(HE MAKES AS IF TO SWEEP UP LITTER...HE THEN SEES THE FAIRY GODMOTHER'S BROLLY AND APPROACHES IT...THEN STILL TO AUDIENCE)...and what do we have here??..I'll tell you what we've got!..I hope you're ready for this?!...we've got a bonny best big black, blue and brown broolly!!!...(STILL TO AUDIENCE)...what have we got??!!...(AUDIENCE MAKE AN ATTEMPT)...come on, keep up!..you're not paying attention are you?..I'll tell you what...it must be important to some body...I'll hang it up here...(HE HANGS UP THE BROLLY)...the owner is bound to come looking for it no doubt...but in the meantime...if anybody suspicious goes near it I want you all to shout "Buttons, your bonny best big black, blue and brown broolly..." er...hang on a minute...on second thoughts just shout "Buttons!!"...can you do that?..well, can you??!..let's have a practice!...(THEY DO)

VILLAGER: Hey Buttons...you've missed some litter over here!..
(THE CHORUS MISCHIEVOUSLY KICK AROUND SOME LITTER WHILST BUTTONS TRIES TO SWEEP IT UP TO MUCH LAUGHTER)

ENTER PRINCE AND DANDINI FRONT RIGHT UN-NOTICED BY OTHERS

DANDINI: Well...Stoneybroke is certainly a **happy** village your Highness.

PRINCE: Indeed it is Dandini...how is it that we have never visited this area before??

DANDINI: I didn't know the place **existed** sire...it was in a fold on the map...as a matter of fact, we came **quite** by accident! ...I must say sire, that on our **many** travels around the Kingdom in search for a suitable bride for yourself, **this** must be the **only** place left!

ENTER CINDERELLA STAGE LEFT REAR

CINDERS: (CROSS TO VILLAGERS)...Hey you lot!!..stop teasing Buttons...he's my friend!

BUTTONS: Thank you Cinderella, I'm glad somebody is on my side!

BARONESS: (VOICE OFF CALLING)... Cinderella!.. Cinderella!! ...where are you??!..there's work to be done!

AT THE SOUND OF THE BARONESS THE VILLAGERS QUICKLY DISPERSE

BUTTONS: Quick Cinders, it's your wicked Step-Mother the Baroness, leave with the others and she won't see you.

CINDERELLA EXITS WITH THE OTHERS INCLUDING BUTTONS

PRINCE: As you were saying Dandini, Stoneybroke **is** a happy place...but there does seem to be strange goings on!..and **who** was that **beautiful** young girl?

DANDINI: Young girl sire?

PRINCE: Yes, Cinderella...someone called her name and she ran off....she's quite the most prettiest girl I've ever seen.!

DANDINI: Sorry sire, I didn't see her!..but surely we must now get back to the village stables and collect our horses.

PRINCE: Yes I know...**and** it's back to the Palace...the King and Queen will be asking if I've found a bride yet...it's all **very** tiresome!!

DANDINI: Well you must admit sire...you **have** met some very nice girls on this trip.

PRINCE: Yes I know...but they all stand and stare at me...or curtsy and bow...as if I was....

DANDINI: (INTERRUPTING)...As if you were Royalty!..but sire...you **are** Royalty...and there is nothing you can do about that!

PRINCE: (AS IF THINKING)...Maybe there **is** something that I can do about it Dandini...**you** are not Royalty, are you?

DANDINI: Why no sire I am your humble servant...a commoner!

PRINCE: And **there** lies the answer!..you and I Dandini will change identities!

DANDINI: Oh all right...(THEN REALISES)...**what**!!!!...you mean that you will be a humble valet...and **I** a Royal Prince!!

PRINCE: Got in it one old chap!..at least whilst we are away from the Palace...it's simple, I can't understand why I didn't think of it before!

DANDINI: (CONCERNED)...Now just a minute your Highness...I can't be **you**...I can't act like a Prince!

PRINCE: Nonsense!..we grew up together Dandini...you know more about Royal protocol than I do...and stop calling me "Your Royal Highness"...from now on **I** am just plain old **Dandini!**!

DANDINI: Do you really think that **I** could be **you** your Highness...er...I mean...Dandini!

PRINCE: Of course!..you're getting into the role already sire... come, let us return to the Palace...(HE MAKES TO LEAVE FIRST)

DANDINI: (STOPS PRINCE)...Er...just one moment please!..**Royalty** first!..(HE JOKINGLY BRUSHES PAST THE PRINCE...THEN AS HE IS ABOUT TO EXIT HE SEES THE BROLLY)...and what have we here then?..(AUDIENCE REACT)

ENTER BUTTONS TO AUDIENCE RESPONSE

BUTTONS: Good day to you both!..can I be of assistance? ...Buttons is the name...I'm Page to the Harduppe family.

DANDINI: Then you're just the fellow that we are looking for, isn't he Dandini?

PRINCE: Is he...er...your Highness?

BUTTONS: (STUNNED)...Your Hi...h...h...Highness!!!..(THEN TONGUE TIED)...you mean you're Prince **V**armin and his **C**halet?

DANDINI: Actually Prince **C**harming and his **V**alet.

BUTTONS: (TONGUE TIED)...**S**at's what I **t**haid...er...I mean...

DANDINI: (INTERRUPTING)...It's quite all right Buttons...I realise it must make you nervous being in the presence of Royalty...(PUTS ON REGAL AIR)

PRINCE: (ASIDE TO DANDINI)...I say old boy...don't over do it!!

DANDINI: (TO BUTTONS)...You say you work up at Harduppe Manor, my man?..(BUTTONS NODS)...then please extend our apologies to the Baron and Baroness Harduppe, and tell them we are unable to visit them today owing to our schedule over running somewhat...come Dandini, we must collect our horses and return to the Palace!

DANDINI EXITS

BUTTONS: (MAKING SURE THE "PRINCE" HAS LEFT)...A bit much some of these Royals, aren't they?...not a lot of time for 'em myself....what do **you** say Dandini?

PRINCE: What??..er...oh no...me neither...by the way Buttons, didn't I see you earlier with a rather beautiful young girl?..would her name be Cinderella!??

BUTTONS: Ah yes...that's right, my sweet little Cinders.

PRINCE: *Your* sweet little Cinders?..you mean?..

BUTTONS: What?..oh no...she is like my little sister really...she'll be collecting flowers at the edge of the forest...we'll be passing near by... you'll probably see her again.

PRINCE: Oh good!..I *would* very much like to meet her.

DANDINI RE-ENTERS

DANDINI: Come along you two...you servants are all alike...always idling your time away gossiping...Dandini! You have my horse to saddle...and you Buttons have a message to deliver to the Baron and Baroness Harduppe!

PRINCE AND BUTTONS EXIT BOWING DANDINI FOLLOWS THEM AS THE PRINCE AND WITH A REGAL FLOURISH....

ENTER THE BARONESS

BARONESS: (CALLING) Whitney!!..Britney!!..where are you my precious little cherubs??

ENTER BARON HARDUPPE HER MEEK HUSBAND

BARON: No sign of them dear...are they here?

BARONESS: (NASTY)...Does it look as if they're here!!...they will still be at the beauticians...don't forget Prince Charming is paying us a visit...*you* would do well to smarten yourself up...and behave like nobility...don't forget, you're Baron Harduppe...it will be quite obvious to the Prince that I am the Baroness and that *my* daughters are suitable as prospective brides!!

BARON: Oh well in that case, did *my* daughter Cinderella go to the beauticians?

BARONESS: (HORRIFIED)...*What*!!!!??..Cinderella at the beauticians?..they can't work miracles!!..besides, she hasn't finished unblocking the drains yet!

BARON: That doesn't seem fair Agatha...*your* daughters at the beauticians and *my* daughter cleaning the drains!!

BARONESS: Nonsense Alfred!..they are all treated the same!..it is just that Cinderella is so adaptable!!

BARON: (TIMID)...Er...yes dear...what ever you say!

BARONESS: Now come along, let us make ready for the Prince's visit....(SHE SEES BROLLY)...I thought I told Buttons to keep Stoneybroke tidy...so what is that old broly doing there??!

BARON: (SLOWLY TURNS TO LOOK AT THE AUDIENCE)...It needs wrapping round her neck!

BARONESS: What's that you say?

BARON: I said, do you want me to check!

BARONESS: No!, I'll sort it out myself...(SHE APPROACHES THE BROLLY...AUDIENCE SHOUT FOR BUTTONS)

ENTER BUTTONS

BUTTONS: Oh it's you your Baronessness!

BARONESS: I thought I told you to keep Stoneybroke tidy!!..where shall I stick this broly?

BUTTONS SLOWLY LOOKS AT AUDIENCE AND MAKES AS IF TO SPEAK

BARON: (STOPS HIM)...I shouldn't go there if I were you Buttons!!

BUTTONS: Don't worry Baroness, somebody's coming to collect it later.

BARONESS: Good!..see they do!..now come along Alfred

BUTTONS: (AS THEY MAKE TO EXIT)...Oh by the way...I've to give you a message.

BARONESS: (SNAPS)...Well??!!!

BUTTONS: Er....I can't remember it!

BARONESS: Really!..I'm surrounded by idiots!..come along Alfred.

EXIT BARONESS AND BARON...FOLLOWED BY BUTTONS SCRATCHING HIS HEAD AS IF TRYING TO THINK OF MESSAGE

TABS CLOSE

ENTER WHITNEY HARDUPPE

WHITNEY: (CALLING)...Come along Britney!

ENTER BRITNEY

BRITNEY: Coming Whitney dear!

BOTH SISTERS ARE WEARING OUTRAGEOUS COSTUMES

WHITNEY: (REFERRING TO AUDIENCE)...Oh I say Britney, we've got company!

BRITNEY: Ooooh yes...it's a good job we've been to the beauticians...(TO AUDIENCE PREENING)...can you tell?

WHITNEY: Who said no!!?...(PEERING INTO AUDIENCE)...I'll tell you what though Britney...there's some nice young **handsome** men down here....I **love** men in their twenties!

BRITNEY: (LOOKS INTO AUDIENCE PUZZLED)...What?...you mean **born** in the **nineteen** twenties!?

WHITNEY: (LAUGHING)...Ooooh, are we cheeky or what??

MUSICAL ITEM No 2 FEATURING THE UGLY SISTERS WHO ARE JOINED BY THE DANCERS... AFTER ROUTINE DANCERS EXIT

BRITNEY: Oh sister dear...you know why we went to the beauticians, don't you?

WHITNEY: Yes...it was **two** for the price of one!!

BRITNEY: I know that, but I overheard ma-ma telling step-father that Prince Charming may be dropping in for tea!

WHITNEY: Oh yes...our first **brush** with Royalty!

BRITNEY: It'll be the brush **off** for you dear...but **I** will sweep him off his feet, because it's well known that the Prince Charming is searching for a **beautiful** bride!!

WHITNEY: Yes indeed...and when the Prince has **made** his choice... **you** sister dear can be my bridesmaid!...(THEY START TO SQUABBLE)

ENTER BUTTONS ON TABS UNSEEN BY THE UGLY SISTERS

BUTTONS: (TO AUDIENCE AND INDICATES)...That's them... Cinderella's step-sisters Whitney and Britney....Harduppe's answer to French and Saunders!!...oh, and by the way...Britney is the **prettier** one!!!...work that one out if you can!!

BRITNEY: (SEES BUTTONS)...Ah there you are Buttons...have you finished cleaning the windows?

BUTTONS: No...but when I've done 'em they will be up to my usual standard...they'll sparkle...you'll be able to see your face in them...not that **you** two would want to see your face in them!!

WHITNEY: (OFFENDED)...I **beg** your pardon!!...Britney and I have just returned from the beauticians!

BRITNEY: Do we both look like the girl next door!???

BUTTONS: Yes you do actually...(TO AUDIENCE)...We live next door to the **zoo**!!!

WHITNEY: (AS SHE HITS BUTTONS WITH HER HANDBAG)... Watch it mush!!...anyway Buttons, Britney and I haven't time to dally with the likes of you.

BRITNEY: No, we have to hurry home and put on our latest designer labels.

BUTTONS: (ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)...They'll have to be big labels to cover these two!

WHITNEY: In fact **all** our clothes are from the top design houses in Milan.

BRITNEY: Yes, even these day clothes of ours are from the top Italian designer **Driclioni!!**

BUTTONS: Get away with you!..Driclioni!!???

WHITNEY: It's true...look at the label at the back of my collar!

BUTTONS: (LOOKS CLOSELY AT COLLAR)...Driclioni????..it says here "Dry Clean Only"!!!

BRITNEY: Oh what do you know about fashion Buttons!!?

WHITNEY: Philistine!!!

BRITNEY: Isn't that our **German** designer dear?

WHITNEY: Who?

BRITNEY: Phyllis Stein!

WHITNEY: Er...yes, come along dear...Prince Charming will be waiting for me!!

THEY EXIT SQUABBLING

BUTTONS: (TO AUDIENCE)...Ah yes...**that's** what I keep forgetting to tell them...the Prince **won't** be calling...oh well, won't they be disappointed?

BUTTONS EXITS GLEEFULLY

TABS OPEN FOR...

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PantosScripts Perusal

ACT 1**SCENE 2...."THE ENCHANTED FOREST"**

ENTER FAIRY GODMOTHER

FAIRY GODMOTHER:

Oh hello again, I won't keep you long...
I'll try to keep you all up to speed.
It's time for me now to meet Cinderella...
With a view to some help that she'll need.

(LOOKS OFF)..... Look out!..Cinderella's approaching...
She mustn't know what I'm about.
I'll pretend to be an old lady for a moment...
That should come easy with me back ache and gout!!

SHE GLANCES TO WHERE CINDERELLA IS TO ENTER THEN SHE EXITS

ENTER CINDERELLA WITH SUNBEAMS

CINDERS: (TO SUNBEAMS AS THEY EACH HAND HER A FLOWER)...Thank you children...you've picked some lovely flowers for me, you've been a big help...the Baroness wants the Manor to look as colourful as possible for the Prince's visit....you've made me **so** happy.

MUSICAL ITEM No 3....FEATURING CINDERELLA AND THE SUNBEAMS....AFTER ROUTINE...

CINDERS: Off you go now children...and thank you once again for your help.

SUNBEAMS SAY GOOD-BYE TO CINDERELLA AND EXIT

CINDERS: (TALKING TO HERSELF)...I suppose I had better be getting back to Harduppe Manor...at least we've some nice flowers for the Baroness...although she'll say she doesn't like them!..she never likes **anything** I do...oh how I wish that the flowers were for me...a gift from a handsome Prince....(SHE PLAY ACTS AS THOUGH PRETENDING TO TALK TO SOMEONE)....thank you...tell his Highness that the flowers are very nice...but I'm afraid I must decline his offer of dinner this evening, I have a **full** social diary for **many** weeks ahead....

(UNSEEN BY CINDERELLA... **ENTER FAIRY GODMOTHER** AS AN OLD LADY DRESSED IN CLOAK AND HOODCINDERELLA CONTINUES PLAY ACTING))

...and now, if you will excuse me I have to call on my personal dressmaker and pick up several gowns and select one for tonight's ball....(SHE TURNS AND SEES THE FAIRY GODMOTHER....THEN EMBARRASSED)...oh!..I'm terribly sorry...me, talking to myself like that...I don't usually...

FAIRY GM: (INTERRUPTING)...It's all right my dear...I **often** talk to myself.

- CINDERS:** Oh dear...is it the loneliness?
- FAIRY GM:** No...*I'm* the only one who listens...but I'm sure that **you** will listen to me, won't you dear?
- CINDERS:** Yes, of course I will...but what on earth are you doing out here in forest all alone?
- FAIRY GM:** I'm afraid that I'm lost...my eyesight isn't what it was, and I think I took a wrong turning somewhere...could you direct me to the village my dear?
- CINDERS:** Why yes...it's back in that direction, from where you came...*I'm* going to Harduppe Manor myself...I'll walk some of the way with you if you like...(SHE MAKES AS IF TO GO WITH FAIRY GM)
- FAIRY GM:** No no my dear, I'll be all right...you pick some more of those beautiful flowers.
- CINDERS:** They are beautiful, aren't they?
- FAIRY GM:** They are indeed beautiful...and yet, the most beautiful flowers in the world could **never** match your beauty my dear...nothing could have more beauty than the fair **Cinderella**...good-bye my dear, and thank you.

EXIT FAIRY GODMOTHER

CINDERS: (LOOKS TO WHERE THE FAIRY GM EXITS)...Good-bye...(THEN TO HERSELF)...I never even asked her name..... (**ENTER PRINCE AND DANDINI** UNSEEN BY CINDERELLA)...and yet she knew **my** name...how strange...I wonder who...(SHE TURNS AND IS CONFRONTED BY THE PRINCE AND DANDINI...SHE GASPS AND DROPS HER FLOWERS...THE PRINCE PICKS THEM UP FOR HER) ...Oh!!! I'm **so** sorry...you see, there was this old lady, and she had lost her way, and I was just thinking out aloud...I wasn't really talking to myself...you see....

PRINCE: (INTERRUPTING)...Please don't apologise...**we** should be the one's to apologise...for startling you like that!

DANDINI: Yes...we were just taking a short cut through the forest when we heard voices, so we came over to see who it was.

PRINCE: Forgive me for asking...but, isn't your name Cinderella?

CINDERS: Yes it is...first the old lady knew my name...and now **you** sir...how could that be?

PRINCE: Well, I don't know about the old lady, but we saw you earlier, down in the village...then you ran off.

CINDERS: Oh yes, I had to pick flowers for Harduppe Manor...you see, Prince Charming is due to call, although I don't suppose **I'll** get to meet him

DANDINI: You'll meet him all right Cinderella...you see, you have actually **met** him...allow me to introduce myself...**I** am Prince Charming, and this...(PRINCE)...is my valet Dandini.

CINDERS: What!?!?..you mean **you're**...(THEN LOOKS AT THE PRINCE)...and **you're**!?!?...

PRINCE: Yes...I am Dandini...and the Prince has to **go** now...**don't** you your....er...**Highness**?

DANDINI: What?...er...oh yes...I have to go...matters of state and all that...it was nice to meet you Cinderella...(CINDERELLA CURTSIES)...oh!, she's **curtsied** to me...(ASIDE TO PRINCE)...I can get used to this.

DANDINI EXITS

CINDERS: Forgive me if I sound rude...but I'm so glad the Prince has gone...I could **never** engage in conversation with a **real** Prince...I feel much more at ease with the likes of you Dandini...you're a plain **servant** like me.

PRINCE: What?...oh yes...a servant you **may** be...but plain **never**... your beauty will make you a perfect Princess...(REMEMBERING) ...I mean...Prince's valet's...er...girlfriend?

CINDERS: **Me**!?!?..your **girlfriend**!?!?..Why, the way I dress would never allow me to walk out with you sir!

PRINCE: Then you shall have a **thousand** new dresses...(AGAIN REMEMBERING)...well...er...as many dresses as a Prince's valet can afford...oh Cinderella, I just know that fate has sent you for me...don't **you** feel the same?

MUSICAL ITEM No 4...FEATURING CINDERELLA, PRINCE CHARMING AND DANCERS...AFTER DUET THEY ALL EXIT TOGETHER.....

TABS CLOSE

SOUND FX OFF OF STAGECOACH AND HORSES APPROACHING WHICH SLOWS DOWN. THERE IS A THUD OR TWO AND THEN THE STAGECOACH CONTINUES ITS JOURNEY AS THE HORSES GALLOP AWAY

ENTER GAWED AND BENNET TWO WEARY AND DUSTY TRAVELLERS...GAWED IS CARRYING A SUITCASE

BENNET: That Stagecoach driver could have slowed down a bit more when he took that last corner!

GAWED: Never mind...we got thrown off at the right place...according to my A to Z...(HE CHECKS IT)...Stoneybroke is but a stroll down that lane...(HE POINTS OFF)

BENNET: Read that letter again we got from that Baron Harduppe chap, before we go any further.

GAWED: (IRRITATED)...What, again!?.oh if you insist!..(HE TAKES OUT LETTER AND READS)... "Dear Gawed and Bennet...Thank you for responding to my request for the services of Special Investigators...I will explain my reasons to you when we meet...but I insist that you arrive incognito...."

BENNET: Incognito!???.isn't that one of them Fiat cars?..can you get two in a cognito??

GAWED: He means act like somebody else!..don't make it obvious that you're a private detective.

BENNET: Oh I see...anyway, read on.

GAWED: (READS)... "I must say that I was most impressed with your two references..."

BENNET: Two references???

GAWED: Yes, I sent him one from the Head of MI5...and one from the Chief Constable of Greater London.

BENNET: (IMPRESSED)...By heck!! I bet when he got them he was made up!

GAWED: He should have been...cos *I* made 'em up!!

BENNET: What!??

GAWED: Don't worry...I mean, you're hardly going to see the Head of MI5 and the Chief Constable of Greater London round here, are you?

SUDDENLY TWO MEN MAKE A SLOW CROSS OVER BEHIND GAWED AND BENNET...ONE DRESSED IN A MAC AND TRILBY CARRYING A BRIEFCASE WITH THE INITIALS MI5 ON...AND THE OTHER MAN IS DRESSED AS A POLICE OFFICER WITH BROWN LEATHER GLOVES, BATON AND A PEAK CAP WITH CHEQUERED BAND.....BOTH GAWED AND BENNET WATCH THEM AS THEY CROSS OVER....THEY THEN LOOK AT EACH OTHER BEWILDERED

GAWED: No Bennet...before you ask...let's not go there!

BENNET: No I won't...but can I ask, have we everything we need to be detectives??

GAWED: Well Bennet...there's one thing that every private detective needs...(HE OPENS SUITCASE AND TAKES OUT A HUGE PROP MAGNIFYING GLASS, WHICH WHEN HE HOLDS IT UP AS IF LOOKING AROUND THE AUDIENCE, THEY SEE WHAT APPEARS TO BE A LARGE MAGNIFIED EYE...HE MAKES AS IF TO LOOK UP AT BALCONY).... observe Bennet...that man on the third row of the balcony....his watch has stopped!

BENNET: (DOUBTING)...surely it's not **that** powerful...(TAKES GLASS AND LOOKS)...good grief, you're right...I presume you mean the Timex with a seven jewel movement...Swiss made and waterproof??

GAWED: (SNATCHING GLASS)...I think Bennet that you are going a little over the top...but on a serious note, I can tell you that very recently a woman has passed by here during some rather inclement weather...a woman of mature years, and I might add, a little forgetful!

BENNET: (IMPRESSED)...Amazing Gawed!!...where did that come from?

GAWED: I deduced that my friend, after observing that rather well used broly you see over there.

BENNET: Oh yes, being an investigator I shall go and investigate it!!

BENNET APPROACHES THE BROLLY...THE AUDIENCE SHOUT FOR BUTTONS

ENTER BUTTONS

BUTTONS: Now then, who might you two be?

BENNET: Oh we are....

GAWED: (INTERRUPTING)...Leave this to me Mr. Bennet... (THEN TO BUTTONS)...my name is Gawed...and this is my associate Mr. Bennet...(HE OFFERS BUTTONS A BUSINESS CARD)...our card!

BUTTONS: (TAKES CARD AND READS)..."Gawed and Bennet... Primate Defectives"

BENNET: (SHOCKED)...**Eh!!?**

GAWED: (SNATCHES CARD FROM BUTTONS AND READS)...He's right!!..."Primate Defectives"...(TO BENNET)...and you said you'd ordered 5,000 of these!?!?...Sort this printer out will you?..Primate Defective indeed!..they make us sound like **monkeys!!**

BUTTONS: (ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)...I'm saying nothing!

BENNET: Well, now **you** know who **we** are, who are you?

BUTTONS: Well, I'm....

GAWED: (INTERRUPTING AGAIN)...Don't tell me...(HE MAKES AS IF DEEP IN THOUGHT)...your name is Buttons....and you are the Page at Harduppe Manor!!

BENNET: (IMPRESSED)...That was brilliant Mr. Gawed...did you read his mind?

GAWED: No...I read the programme earlier!

BUTTONS: And what would two Primate Defect...er...I mean Private Detectives be wanting in the village of Stoneybroke??

GAWED: That my dear Buttons, is between myself, Mr. Bennet here and your employer Baron Harduppe!

BENNET: (REPEATS)...Baron Harduppe!

GAWED: So Buttons...kindly take us to the Baron without delay.

BENNET: (REPEATS)...Without delay!

GAWED: Yes, thank you Mr. Bennet...I think we can dispense with the echo!..please Buttons, lead the way to Harduppe Manor.

ALL THREE EXIT

ENTER FAIRY GM ON TABS

FAIRY GM:

Oh, hello everybody, so where are we now?..
Oh yes...Cinderella will be in trouble again.
Her Stepmother's now on the warpath...
Don't you think she's an absolute pain!?

Even the Baron's now starting to suspect her...
For to Cinderella he's kind and protective.
He wants to ensure Cinderella's treated fair...
So he's hired two private detectives!

So let's all go now to Harduppe Manor...
And have a look at what might transpire.
The Baron has to make the right choices for Cinders...
Or she'll be out of the frying pan into the fire!!

FAIRY GM EXITS....TABS OPEN FOR....

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ACT 1**SCENE 3...."HARDUPPE MANOR"**

SET:...FULL STAGE....THERE IS A CHEZ LOUNGE SET SLIGHTLY STAGE RIGHT OF CENTRE...AND A TABLE SET STAGE LEFT OF CENTRE

CINDERELLA IS WEARILY DUSTING THE TABLE...SHE COMES FORWARD AS IF TO SHAKE THE DUSTER WHEN SHE SEES THE OLD UMBRELLA...SHE REACHES OUT TO TOUCH IT...THE AUDIENCE SHOUT FOR BUTTONS

ENTER BUTTONS

BUTTONS: Oh!...it's you Cinders...and what might **you** be up to?

CINDERS: It's this old broolly...shall I throw it out to the dustbin?

BUTTONS: Oh no!..don't do that...(PICKS IT UP)...it must belong to someone...you know, there's something about it that **puzzles** me...it somehow has got a **magical** feel about it...(HE WAVES IT AS THOUGH IT IS A WAND)

CINDERS: You're such a **dreamer** Buttons...I'm just **too** tired to be bothered with things like that...I've been up since first light....dusting...sweeping...polishing...washing...ironing...making meals...washing up...cleaning out the grates...making up all the fires...and all on my own!!.. I just **wish** that so called magic broolly of yours could conjure up some **help** for me!

BUTTONS: Yes, so do I Cinders...(HE HOLD UP THE BROLLY AND TALKS TO IT)...come on Buttons' broolly...get poor old Cinderella some help..**please**!!

F/X:...SOUND AND LIGHTS AS IF SOME MAGIC IS WORKING

ENTER A SUNBEAM DRESSED AS BUTTONS

SUNBEAM: (AS A DRILL SERGEANT WOULD)...Buttons brigade...by the left...quick march!!

ENTER ALL THE SUNBEAMS DRESSED AS BUTTONS...THEY COULD BE CARRYING CLEANING IMPLEMENTS, MOPS, ETC.

MUSICAL ITEM No 5....TAP ROUTINE FEATURING SUNBEAMS, CINDERELLA AND BUTTONS....AFTER ROUTINE...

BUTTONS: (TO SUNBEAMS)...OK Buttons brigade...there's **work** to be done!..get to it!...(SUNBEAMS DANCE OFF)...well Cinderella, that's your help sorted out!

CINDERS: (MUCH HAPPIER)...Thanks Buttons...what **would** I do without you?

BUTTONS: Just keep smiling Cinders...(HE MAKES TO EXIT)... that's what I like to see...I'll see you later.

BUTTONS EXITS

CINDERS: 'Bye Buttons!..and thanks again!

ENTER BARONESS

BARONESS: And what are **you** looking so happy about my girl!?. you obviously haven't got enough work to do if you have time to stand about **grinning!!**

CINDERS: I'm sorry Step-Mother...I was just smiling at something Buttons said...

BARONESS: (PUSHES CINDERELLA TO THE GROUND)...That's enough about Buttons...get down into the cellar where you belong, with all those cockroaches and spiders!!

CINDERS: But **why** Step-Mother!??

BARONESS: Because **I** said so!, that's why!..and don't come back up until I call you!

CINDERELLA EXITS IN TEARS

BARONESS: That's sorted stupid Cinderella out....now, where's her Father, that ridiculous husband of mine!?

EXIT BARONESS FRONT STAGE LEFT

ENTER FRONT STAGE RIGHT BARON FOLLOWED BY BUTTONS

BARON: Now, who did you say are here to see me?

BUTTONS: Well, they say they're private **defectives!!**

BARON: I think you mean **detectives!??**

BUTTONS: No, you see **I've** met them!

BARON: Look, show them in...oh, and...er...just keep this to yourself Buttons...(BARON GOES AND SITS AT HIS DESK)

BUTTONS EXITS AND QUICKLY RE-APPEARS

BUTTONS: Oh by the way Baron...the Baroness is looking for you sir!

BARON: She isn't, is she?...(THEN IN DESPAIR)...Gordon Bennet!!!

BUTTONS: Yes, they are here as well....come in gentlemen.

ENTER GAWED AND BENNET

BARON: Ah yes, the detectives...come in gentlemen.

- GAWED:** Pleased to meet you Mr. Baron...(SHAKES HANDS)...my name is Gawed and my associate here is Mr. Bennet.
- BENNET:** Would you like one of our cards?
- GAWED:** (PUSHES HIM BACK)...No he wouldn't!!
- BENNET:** Well what are we going to do with 'em all?
- GAWED:** (IGNORING HIM)...How can we help you Baron Harduppe?
- BARON:** (GLANCING OFF ACROSS EACH OTHER BIZ)...Well...I think that my daughter Cinderella is being treated somewhat cruelly by her step-mother the Baroness, who of course is my second wife.
- BUTTONS:** I **know** she's being treated cruelly...and not just by the Baroness, also by **her** Daughters the Ugly Sisters Whitney and Britney!!
- BARON:** Yes yes Buttons, that's enough...what we need is a professional approach to the matter.
- BENNET:** Why, who are you getting in??
- GAWED:** (CROSS)...He means **us** you fool!!
- BUTTONS:** But Baron, how are you going to explain these two (INDICATES TO GAWED AND BENNET)...to the Baroness?
- BARON:** Oh we'll worry about that when the Prince and Dandini have been and gone!
- BUTTONS:** (AS IF REMEMBERING)...Ahhh!...that's the message I had for the Baroness...the Prince and Dandini **aren't** coming, they've been called back to Arandell!
- BARON:** Oh?...er...and does the Baroness know about this?
- BUTTONS:** Well...er...no...you see, I forgot to tell her.
- BARON:** Well there we are then...there's the answer.
- BUTTONS:** Is it???
- BARON:** Yes...the Baroness has never met Prince Charming or Dandini...so, that is who these two gentlemen will become!
- G & B:** (TOGETHER)...What!?!???
- BENNET:** **We** can't impersonate Royalty, we don't even look Royal!

GAWED: (WARMING TO THE IDEA)...Er...just hang on a minute...I think **I** could carry it off!...as Prince Charming of course!

BENNET: Oh yes...I thought I'd have to be the lackey...anyway, what are we going to wear?

BARON: I know the very thing...(TO BUTTONS)...do we still have that trunk of costumes that we used for the new years party?

BUTTONS: Well yes...but they won't convince the Baroness if they're dressed as Batman and Robin!

BARON: No, there were lots of regal costumes...look, take them away and see what you can come up with!

BARONESS: (VOICE OFF)...Alfred!!...are you in there?

BUTTONS HURRIEDLY USHERS GAWED AND BENNET OFF

ENTER BARONESS

BARONESS: Ah there you are....and what are you look so guilty about!??

BARON: Guilty dear?...**me**, never!

BARONESS: Don't forget the imminent arrival of Prince Charming and Dandini...are you prepared for it?

BARON: Oh yes...**I'm** prepared...(ASIDE)...I'm not sure about her!

BARONESS: Oh Alfred!..won't it be lovely to have young romance in Harduppe Manor again...Whitney and Britney and their two swains!

BARON: And what about Cinderella!??

BARONESS: What?..oh...er...yes...er...Cinderella, her too of course...(ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)...never in a thousand years!!...(TO BARON)...yes, the romance will take **us** back to when I walked into your life!

MUSICAL ITEM No 6...FEATURING BARON AND BARONESS....AFTER DUET...

ENTER BUTTONS

BUTTONS: Begging your pardon Baroness, but there are two rather important gentlemen outside...they said you were expecting them... (BUTTONS GIVES A SECRET THUMBS UP AND WINK TO THE BARON)

BARONESS: Ah yes...(THEN PREENS)...this is the moment that I've longed for...**Royalty** at Harduppe Manor!!...tell me Buttons, do I look like a lady who would be seen at Court?

BUTTONS: Oh yes Madam!..(THE BARONESS PREENS EVEN MORE....THE BUTTONS ASIDE TO AUDIENCE)...I can see her at Court all right...the "Old Bailey" for cruelty to Cinderella!!

BARONESS: Well don't just stand there Buttons!..show the Prince and his valet in....and then go down to the tennis courts and tell Whitney and Britney that I wish to see them!

BUTTONS EXITS AND RETURNS WITH GAWED AND BENNET WHO ARE DRESSED IN SOMETHING A BIT LIKE REGAL WEAR

BUTTONS EXITS THEN RE-APPEARS

BUTTONS: The....er...Prince Charming and Dandini milady!

BARONESS: (TO GAWED)...My dear Prince Charming, how good of you and your equerry to grace Harduppe Manor with your personage... my two **gorgeous** Daughters will be joining us shortly!

GAWED: (ASIDE TO BENNET)...That's a bonus...two gorgeous Daughters eh!?

BARONESS: Please your Highness...(POINTS TO CHEZ LONGUE)...take a seat...let me pour you both a drink...**Sherry** all right?..(THEY BOTH NOD IN AGREEMENT....SHE GOES TO TABLE AND POURS OUT TWO SHERRIES...SHE HANDS THEM TO GAWED AND BENNET)...I think you'll like the sherry...it was bought by my **daughters**...mature...full bodied...and just a little nutty...with a startling after affect that creeps up on you when you least expect it!!

BARON: That's enough of Whitney and Britney!!..what's the **sherry** like!?

ENTER THE UGLY SISTERS...THEY BOUND ON WEARING OUTRAGEOUS TENNIS GEAR AND CARRY ENORMOUS RACKETS

WHITNEY: (STRIKES A TENNIS POSE)...**Love** all!!

BRITNEY: Anyone for tennis!??

BARONESS: (CLAPPING)...Girls girls!..settle down...you're in the presence of Prince Charming and his valet Dandini...(TO GAWED & BENNET)...You'll have to forgive them...it's their unbridled energy and passion just **bursting** to get out!

BENNET: (ASIDE)...Yes!..from where I'm sitting it **definitely** looks as if **something** is bursting to get out!!

BARONESS: I'll just go and organise some food whilst you all get acquainted...I must remind your Highness that my Daughters are **both** single...although they could have married **anyone** they pleased.

BARONESS AND BUTTON EXIT

BARON: (ASIDE)...It's just they didn't *please* anyone!

BENNET STANDS UP AND THE SISTERS SIT EITHER SIDE OF GAWED

WHITNEY: (TO GAWED)...Oh your Highness...we have a confession to make, we knew how difficult it would be for you to choose between us....

GAWED: (INTERRUPTS WITH A GRIMACE)...Yes...you're *definitely* right there!

BRITNEY: We spun a coin...and guess what?...*I* won!..(BENNET STIFLES A LAUGH)

WHITNEY: But at the end of the day your Highness...which *ever* of us you reject can always fall into the arms of *Dandini* here...(BENNET'S STIFLED LAUGH TURNS TO COUGHS AND SPLUTTERS... WHITNEY ROMANTICALLY MAKES UP TO BENNET)...in fact Dandini, what would I have to give you to *kiss* me?

BENNET: (THINKS FOR A SECOND)...*Chloroform*!!!

WHITNEY: Oh!...I *love* a man who makes a joke of things.

GAWED: He *wasn't* joking!

ENTER BARONESS AND BUTTONS...THEY ARE CARRYING A SMALL TRAY OF NIBBLES

BARONESS: Here we are then...(TO GAWED AND BENNET)...I hope that you two have been behaving yourselves.

BRITNEY: Oh yes they have...*unfortunately*!!!

BARONESS: Come along girls...look after your guests...(SISTERS GO TO TABLE FOR FOOD...THEN BARONESS REFERRING TO UGLY SISTERS)...just look at those two your Royal Highness...royalty if ever I saw it!...just look at the way they *carry* themselves.

BARON: Just be thankful that *you* two don't have to carry 'em!

THE SISTERS STAY AT THE TABLE...BUTTONS SERVES SOME FOOD FROM A TRAY

WHITNEY: Eat up everybody...there's plenty for everyone...because I'm on a diet...in fact I'm on *two* diets!

BUTTON: Yes, 'cos she didn't get enough to eat on *one* diet!!

THE BARONESS GOES TO BUTTONS SO THAT THE BARON DOESN'T HEAR

BARONESS: Button it Buttons!...or you'll end up with the spiders and cockroaches with your silly little friend Cinderella!...now *take* those pastries to our guests!

BUTTONS COLLECTS A PLATE OF PASTRIES FROM THE TABLE THEN TAKES THEM BACK TO GAWED AND BENNET