

**NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT**

***SLEEPING BEAUTY***

BY  
Leonard H. Caddy

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### PRODUCTION NOTES

This script overcomes the usual weakness in "Sleeping Beauty" of the Prince never meeting the Princess until the last scene, by starting the story with the Prince's arrival and all hearing and seeing the legend as it is told to him by the old Wizard. In this way the principal cast are met sooner and a better balanced show ensues. The script contains all the elements and situations that make up Traditional Pantomime, but is based firmly on the well known Fairy Story.

The Principal Boy is played by a Girl and the Dame by a Man; Ghosts, Fairies and magic are taken for granted, no matter how outrageous or unlikely the character or situation everything is played with sincerity, pace and good natured enthusiasm; Pantomime is the one theatrical form where everybody knows from the beginning that 'right' will win in the end.

The running time is between 2-2½ hours depending on the number and length of the musical items included and how much the various comedy business is developed. Cut and adjust to suit your own company. The music list supplied should serve as a useful guide, but make as much use as possible of other background music to enhance the atmosphere; and full use of sound effects, especially in the comedy business.

Make the costumes bright and elaborate and those of the Comedy Characters as exaggerated as circumstances allow.

The scenery, again, should be as enterprising as possible, but this will depend on the facilities available - for example the three Palace scenes could be set in different parts of the Palace, i.e. Throne Room, Terrace, Hall - or they could well be the same one set. A story-book appearance should be aimed at rather than convincing reality. If the 'gauze' front cloth effect can be obtained, do use it as it will greatly add to the over-all impression.

Children always add to Pantomime and could well be used as indicated as animals, Fairies, etc. etc. but are not essential to the plot.

I hope these notes will be of assistance and that the script will lead to great enjoyment and fun for everyone on both sides of the footlights. Good luck.

L.H.C.



CAST

PRINCE FLORIZAL: Principal Boy.  
RUPERT DILETTANT: The debonair Valet and comedy companion to the Prince.  
QUEEN MARIA: Dame. The robust mother of the Prince.  
BUBBLE & SQUEAK: The Prince's servants of rather dubious intellect.  
PRINCESS 'BEAUTY': Principal Girl.  
KING WIMPLE: Her father, a Monarch of indefinite nature.  
QUEEN GRANDILLA: Her strong willed mother, in no way indefinite.  
NURSE CECILIA  
BEAUCHAMP-SMYTHE: Her very 'Public School' nursemaid and confidante.  
MOP & BRUSHUP: The Palace comedy Maids, argumentative and anything but Public School.  
WIZARD WOMBOSA: A benign and not very efficient Palace Wizard. Principal character and link-man.  
HERALD: A small and not very respectful part.  
FAIRY QUEEN: Traditional Pantomime Fairy.  
FAIRY NIGHTSHADE: The Fairy who has turned to evil.  
MOTHER BLACKHEART: The Queen Witch.  
SIR LIONEL: A very shaggy and self-willed Pantomime Horse.

(Plus speaking lines for FLOWER FAIRIES, COURTIERS, MINIONS etc.)

CHORUS OF COMPANIONS to the PRINCE, COURTIERS to the PRINCESS, ATTENDANTS to the FAIRY QUEEN and MINIONS to the WITCH.

JUVENILES (optional) as Fairies, Elfs, Animals etc.

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SCENES

ACT 1        SCENE 1. A CLEARING IN A FOREST FAR FAR AWAY.  
             SCENE 2. On the edge of the MAGIC THORN WOOD (front-cloth).  
             SCENE 3. THE SECRET PALACE.  
             SCENE 4. The Bewitched Thorn Wood again.  
             SCENE 5. THE PALACE (Sixteen years later).

INTERVAL

ACT 2.        SCENE 6. THE PALACE (Birthday of the Princess).  
             SCENE 7. The Thorn Wood.  
             SCENE 8. THE HEART OF THE FOREST OF EVIL BEING.  
             SCENE 9. At the Thorn Wood meanwhile.  
             SCENE 10. THE PALACE WEDDINGS.

THE MAGICAL LEGEND OF THE SLEEPING BEAUTY - MUSICAL ITEMS

- No. 1 Opening Chorus. Prince Florizal, Rupert, Chorus.  
\*No. 2 Fairy Scene. Fairy Queen & Fairies (Juveniles)  
No. 1a Reprise No. 1  
\*No. 3 Animal Dance. Juveniles  
No. 4 Comedy March. Prince Florizal, Rupert, Bubble & Squeak.  
Incidental Music Entry of Court  
No. 5 Lullaby. Company  
Incidental Music Fairies present gifts.  
No. 5a Reprise No. 5 Queen Grandilla.  
No. 6 Solo Prince Florizal  
No. 7 Song & Dance Princess & Chorus.  
Incidental music Entry of Court.  
Incidental music Entry of Princess.  
No. 8 Concerted. King Wimple, Queen Grandilla & Chorus.  
\*No. 9 Duet. Wizard Wombosa and Princess.  
No. 10 Duet. Prince Florizal & Princess.  
No. 10a Reprise of No. 10  
No. 11 Finale Chorus. Company  
INTERVAL  
No. 12 Opening Chorus. Company.  
No. 13 Comedy Duet. Mop & Brushup.  
No. 14 Solo Princess.  
No. 15 Comedy Trio. Queen Maria, Bubble & Squeak.  
No. 16 Spooky Dance. Chorus  
No. 17 Concerted. Mother Blackheart, Fairy Nightshade, Chorus.  
No. 18 Comedy Duet. Queen Maria & Wizard Wombosa.  
No. 19 Concerted. Company.  
No. 20 Comedy Sextet. Rupert, Nurse, Bubble, Squeak, Hop & Brushup.  
Incidental Music Ceremonial Exit.  
No. 21 Community Song. Queen Maria, Wizard Wombosa & Audience.  
No. 22 Finale Walkdown. Full Company.

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N.B. \* denotes optional item.



THE MAGICAL LEGEND OF THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

ACT 1.

Scene 1.      A CLEARING IN A FOREST FAR FAR AWAY

(Wood Wings and Backcloth)

(The Curtain rises - the stage is dimly lit and empty except for WIZARD WOMBOSA)

WIZARD W.      There is Magic everywhere. Good Magic and Bad Magic. This very spot used to be the heart of all that is good. But now, see - nothing, all is empty. With Evil lurking all around, it is here on the edge of reality that I must spend my time.

(PRINCE FLORIZEL enters upstage unobtrusively and watches the old man).

And jolly lonely it gets too sometimes. But I can't leave; I must stay here 'till I have broken the spell that holds my dear Princess. And I will break it. Someday - someday.

PRINCE F.      Of course you will old man, cheer up.

WIZARD W.      (surprised and confused). What was that? Somebody spoke. Who.What? How - um. Oh, gracious me. Who are - what are - um - How - how do you do? Please forgive me.

PRINCE F.      Not at all - forgive me for startling you so.

WIZARD W.      Silly of me. But I don't meet many people you see. Not any more.

PRINCE F.      Who are you, and what are you doing in so remote a place?

WIZARD W.      (with proud dignity). I am the Wizard Wombosa, young man. Royal Wizard to the Court of...well - a Royal Wizard.

PRINCE F.      A Wizard? A real Wizard? Do some magic - now. I didn't know Wizards still existed.

WIZARD W.      You make me sound like a Dinosaur.

PRINCE F.      PLEASE. Just for fun.

WIZARD W.      It's a long time since I did any - (PRINCE encourages him). Well, why not. Let me see now - I have it! See that branch over there? I'll make it burst into bloom. (Makes to cast spell). Pink Blooms. He he. (more preparation). Big pink blooms. - One, two, - I haven't done this sort of thing for so long. One, two three!

(All this attention has been focussed on a false branch on one of the down-stage wood wings. There is a 'flash' and rather than bursting into bloom the bough falls heavily to the floor with a disappointing thud).

Oh dear, it must be longer than I thought. Still, it fell off didn't it. Pity it didn't burst into bloom.

PRINCE F. Never mind, I am sure you were a very good wizard when you were younger.

WIZARD W. But I'm not old now - I'm only three hundred and thirty four and a half. No age for a wizard. (PRINCE has moved on towards wings). Young Sir! Be careful, here we are on the edge of the real world - around and beyond there is evil and danger and - the unknown. For a hundred years there has been no laughter or life in this part of the world. No one passes this way any more.

(RUPERT DILETTANT enters behind him - sees the Prince and crosses to him).

RUPERT. Ah! There you are your Highness.

(WIZARD WOMBOSA jumps with surprise).  
I've been looking for you everywhere.

WIZARD W. Oh, my spells and whiskers! No one at all for 79 years and now two people in the same day.

RUPERT. Not just two people old chap. This is Prince Florizal who is on a hunting expedition - and where the Prince goes! We all go!

(There is a cheer off stage; the lights build; the music starts and WIZARD WOMBOSA exits in alarm as the CHORUS enter from other side).

NO. 1. CHORUS - PRINCE FLORIZAL - RUPERT

(A typical bright, cheerful opening Chorus number).

PRINCE F. Friends! Allow me to present a real Wizard to you. This is Wizard....Where has he got to?

RUPERT. Oh, he went off when he saw all of us coming.

PRINCE F. What a pity - I wanted to present him to Mother. (pause). By the way - where is Mother?

(General concern. 'Where is she' - 'I haven't seen her for a long time' etc. etc...)

CHORUS G. Perhaps she's lost.

RUPERT. We can but hope.

PRINCE F. She will be furious if she is left behind. We had better go and find her.

(There are shouts off).

CHORUS G. Listen.

RUPERT. Sounds like someone in agony.

PRINCE F. Yes, and I know who.

(The shouts are getting nearer).

PRINCE F. Here they come.  
(BUBBLE AND SQUEAK rush on crying for protection. They are calmed down enough to tell their story).

BUBBLE. It's the Queen. She was thrown off her horse.

SQUEAK. She fell off!

BUBBLE. And landed head first in a thorn bush.

SQUEAK. And got stuck.

BUBBLE. Well, I took one leg.

SQUEAK. And I took the other.

BUBBLE. And we pulled.

PRINCE F. Well?

SQUEAK. We pulled in different directions.

RUPERT. Oooooo.

BUBBLE. That's not all. As we pulled - (To Squeak) what did you say?

SQUEAK. I only siad 'Let's make a wish'.  
(QUEEN MARIA storms in and sweeps to centre)

QUEEN M. (In a voice of thunder) WHERE ARE THEY!!  
(BUBBLE & SQUEAK hide)

RUPERT. (pointedly changing subject) Ladies and Gentlemen pay your respects to the - ever popular - Queen Mother, Her ROYAL HIGHNESS, Queen Maria.  
(Cued by frantic gestures from Rupert, everyone bows over-elaborately).

QUEEN M. Oh how niece. They haven't done that for a long time.  
(She performs an elaborate and deep curtsy but leaps up with a hideous yell)

PRINCE F. What's happened now?

QUEEN M. I forgot I had spurs on. I have suffered so much - I ache in every royal part. I don't know whether I am on my feet or my throne. I must have walked for miles - I must have a sit down. No, come to think of it, that would be even more painful than standing up.

PRINCE F. But what has happened to your horse?

QUEEN M. Nothing's happened to him; it's all happened to me! That's the trouble.

PRINCE F. Which way did he go?

QUEEN M. I don't know. I wasn't in any position to notice.  
(She turns round. She has hoof marks right up the back of her riding habit).

RUPERT. Allow me madam. (Starts to brush marks off-she screams with pain).

QUEEN M. Don't you dare! I've had enough trouble with those other two....misfits (A literative local reference). Now, where are they, WHERE ARE THEY?

B. & S. We've gone home.

QUEEN M. Who said that?

B. & S. Someone else.

QUEEN M. (With knowing nod) Oh, no it wasn't!

B. & S. (Stepping forward) Oh, yes it was!!

SQUEAK. Oh dear, we've made a boo-boo.

QUEEN M. And now I'm going to make mincemeat.

PRINCE F. Mother, please.

QUEEN M. Well, it's not good enough for a dignified lady like wot I am. You bring me out on the Hunt. We have travelled so far that goodness only knows where we have got to. And who do I have to attend me? This groom of doom.

BUBBLE. Groom of Doom!! Fervent Servant!!

QUEEN M. Fervent Servant?! Wackey Lackey!!!

PRINCE F. Tell us all what happened.

QUEEN M. (Calming down) I had just elegantly dismounted.

SQUEAK. She fell off...(BUBBLE stops him from saying more)

QUEEN M. And was admiring a delightful posy of dandelions like this. (She demonstrates; at this moment SIR LIONEL, the Queen's shaggy old horse, enters. He sees the familiar back-view and sizes up to charge).

RUPERT. I wouldn't do that if I were you, your Majesty.

QUEEN M. (Straightening up) There is a lot of things that you wouldn't be able to do if you were me. So don't interrupt. As I was saying. I was just ponging the herbiage like this. (bends down again) When one of these two....  
(SIR LIONEL charges, butts the prominent feature, and retires as she falls flat. Everyone sees what happens except Bubble and Squeak).  
(getting up) There, they've done it again!

BUBBLE. But we didn't.

SQUEAK. It must have been two other people.

QUEEN M. I only have to turn my back and.....  
(SIR LIONEL repeats the action)

(Into 'Horse business'. The rest of the Company watch as BUBBLE & SQUEAK and QUEEN MARIA try to find Sir Lionel but he keeps right behind them, only moves when they do, keeps in step with them as they walk round etc. He is discovered and caught. ad lib. dialogue as necessary).

QUEEN M. (To Sir Lionel) I am sure other Royalty don't have this trouble with their horses.

RUPERT. The trouble is that the shaggy old thing isn't properly trained.

BUBBLE. DON'T talk about Her Majesty like that.

RUPERT. I meant the horse.

BUBBLE. He is properly tained.

SQUEAK. We'll show you.  
(A very small hurdle is brought on for Sir Lionel to jump. He walks round it, knocks it over, stops dead and refuses, and despite all encouragement completely fails to co-operate. The sequence ends with Sir L. knocking down those concerned, bowing to audience, skipping daintily off. End of Horse Business).

PRINCE F. Let him go Mother, There is somebody I want you to meet.

QUEEN M. Where is he?

PRINCE. I don't know.

QUEEN M. That makes things more difficult.

PRINCE. Listen everyone. A little while ago I met a dear old man who spoke of magic and a beautiful Princess - he cannot be far away, see if you can find him. (CHORUS start to exit) (To Queen Maria) I heard him say that he had to stay in this wood until he had freed a Princess from some terrible spell. I must know more. You'll look too, won't you Mother?

QUEEN M. What your father would say if he were still alive I don't know. Telling your mother to go looking through the bushes in the forest for a man! Come to think of it - that's how I met your father. Come on Thud and Blunder. (Exit with Bubble & Squeak).

PRINCE F. We will go this way. It looks as if this hunting trip may turn out to be exciting after all, Rupert. Come along. (Exit Prince And Rupert).  
(The stage is empty. After a moment WIZARD W. creeps on, carrying a box obviously very precious to him. He signals to the audience to be quiet, has a good look round to make sure no-one is about then comes forward to speak to them).

WIZARD. Hello. Ah yes, I know you are all out there. You see I am a wizard and I know everything. Well, perhaps not quite everything. Shhh. I thought somebody was coming. No, it's alright. I need your help. In this box there is magic - it has taken me a hundred years to make this magic and now that all these people have suddenly turned up I am afraid that something might happen to it. You may not know, but the trouble with real magic like this is that it keeps trying to come to life and then it might get out and get lost; and that would be terrible. So I want you to look after it for me. You will, won't you? Perhaps they didn't hear me, I'll ask again.

You will look after the secret box for me, won't you? - Ah, I knew you would - I'll put it here - (see production note). (Puts box in downstage corner of stage) Now, if anything happens to that box you must let me know. Oh, I'm Wizard Wombosa. How d'you do? If you shout Wom-BO-sa, Wom-BO-sa, I expect I shall hear. (The Box glows) (They shout) Yes, I thought I might.

(He suddenly realises that they are shouting because of the box. He casts a spell and the box stops. He thanks the audience but as soon as his back is turned the Box glows again. He realises and questions it again. etc. ad lib as necessary).

Pon my word, you are jolly good at shouting aren't you?

(PRINCE FLORIZAL and RUPERT enter)

PRINCE F. There he is - he has been here all the time. Who were you talking to.

WIZARD. I wasn't talking to anyone (with a shrug and wink to the audience) I mean, who is there to talk to?  
(The rest of the Company are returning)

May I ask young man, who you are, and why all these people have suddenly appeared in this sad and lonely realm: where laughter has not broken the silence for a hundred years?

RUPERT. This is His Royal Highness, Prince Florizal, actually. And we are all members of the Royal Court who are out on the Royal Hunt.

PRINCE F. But we have ridden so far that no-one knows where we are. We must be right on the edge of the Kingdom.

WIZARD. In truth you are on the edge of reality.

QUEEN M. And I'm Queen Maria, the Prince's Mother. If anyone is interested. - Oh, nobody is interested.

PRINCE F. The edge of reality?

(PRINCE FLORIZAL, RUPERT, QUEEN MARIA, BUBBLE, SQUEAK and CHORUS re-grouped either side downstage, as the WIZARD begins his story).

WIZARD W. This very glade was once a wondrous place. Here was all enchantment.

PRINCE F. You speak of enchantment and magic. You say you were a court wizard and that you must save a Princess. What did happen here all those years ago?

WIZARD W. I will save the Princess - I must.

PRINCE F. (Gently) Tell us.

WIZARD W. It all started in this very glade. In those days this was a happy Kingdom, there were Fairies to protect that happiness, and this is where they met. Beyond is the Evil Wood where Mother Blackheart lives. But the Fairies kept her wicked powers at bay.

One day the Fairy Queen called all the other Fairies to a meeting.

(As he speaks FAIRY QUEEN and the other FAIRIES enter behind him. Music quietly in background. They act out in dumb show what he is saying). They all paid their respects to their Queen. They knew she must have something important to say to them. She had; a new Princess had just been born up at the Palace and they would all be going to the christening to give the baby their special gifts. They were delighted but suddenly....

(With an evil laugh FAIRY NIGHTSHADE sweeps in. Wizard Wombosa is standing to one side apparently continuing the story).

F. QUEEN. Fairy Nightshade! What is the meaning of this? Where have you been??!

F. NIGHTS. (With a lack of respect that shocks the other Fairies) Where have I been??! I'll tell you where I've been. I have been to find out why we are forbidden to go near the Blackheart Forest. (The mere mention of the name frightens the other Fairies) It was dark and frightening - but such powers there are within.

F. QUEEN. Did you see the Mother Blackheart?

F. NIGHTS. I did. She says there is much that she can teach me.

F. QUEEN. She is all that is Evil and bad, you must forget everything she said and never see her again. Now be gone and never....

F. NIGHTS. But the christening your Majesty - we have all been invited to the christening.

F. QUEEN. There is no place for anyone who has met Mother Blackheart at the christening of a new Princess. Be gone, you are expelled from our company until you have mended your ways.

F. NIGHTS. (pauses, goes to exit then turns) Be warned, uninvited guests turn up some times - even at Royal Christenings.

(FAIRY NIGHTSHADE exits)

F. QUEEN. We must not let this unfortunate incident spoil the happiness that we shall bring to the new Princess. Come we must make our preparations.

NO. 2 OPTIONAL MUSICAL ITEM - Fairy Queen and Fairies

(Exit FAIRY QUEEN and other FAIRIES)

WIZARD W. The Fairy Queen led her fairies away, but the wayward Fairy Nightshade was not with them. (pause)

PRINCE F. When did all this happen?

WIZARD W. One hundred and sixteen years ago. And they have never met on this spot since.

- RUPERT. What happened at the christening?
- PRINCE F. And what happened to the Palace? Is it still in existence? I've never heard of one, have you?
- WIZARD W. So many questions. Yes the Palace does still exist. It lies yonder - surrounded by an enormous thornbush. See if you can get through to it. That should keep you busy for a while - he, he, he.
- PRINCE. Come along Rupert, We are going in search of a Palace and a Princess that nobody has seen for over a hundred years - what do you think of that? (Exit WIZARD WOMBOSA).
- RUPERT. I think she will be the oldest Princess I have ever met.

No.1a. REPRISE NO. 1 PRINCE and Company

(Exit ALL, except QUEEN MARIA who dozed off toward the end of Wizard Wombosa's story and only now wakes up).

- QUEEN M. Oh, ooo, Ah, I must have dozed off. Hello, where is everybody? Hey! You cannot go away and leave me on my own. They can because they have but the shouldn't. I was having such a lovely dream too. I dreamed I was playing Rugby for England. OOOO, those set scrums. (She catches sight of the Wizard's Box. As she watches it, it begins to glow. This startles her - as do the shouts of the audience because she cannot work out where they are coming from).

(WIZARD WOMBOSA runs on, quietens the box, thanks the audience then sees Queen Maria).

Who are you talking to?

- WIZARD W. Nobody - um, nobody at all.
- QUEEN M. You're a funny fellow aren't you?
- WIZARD W. I could say the same - but I won't. (Scurries off)
- QUEEN M. What a cheek. Here I am, the Queen Mother - and what happens? They bring me miles away from anywhere, tell me a Fairy Story and then go and leave me alone in the woods.
- (BUBBLE & SQUEAK enter)
- Ah, you have returned to escort me, have you?
- BUBBLE. No madam. We came back because he (Squeak) cannot find his Jelly Babies.
- QUEEN M. (furious) I'll give him Jelly Babies.
- SQUEAK. Oh, thank you very much Madam. (Enter RUPERT)
- QUEEN M. A gentleman at last. You have come to escort me back to the party?
- RUPERT. 'Fraid not. No, just realised that I have come out without my wallet. Anyone lend me £10. (To Squeak) How about you?
- SQUEAK. No. I've only got £8 on me.



RUPERT. What a pity; never mind lend me the eight and you can owe me two. (A rather dubious SQUEAK hands over the money). Thanks a lot. Must rush. Don't forget you owe me £2.

SQUEAK. Yes but you owe me -

RUPERT. Owe you eight, that's right. (He is gone).

QUEEN M. Is nobody going to take any notice of me?!

(BUBBLE & SQUEAK, still trying to work out their finances, exit after Rupert).

BUBBLE. Yes, but if he wanted ten and you only had eight....  
(Exit)

QUEEN M. I was right. Nobody is going to take any notice of me.  
(SIR LIONEL enters. Sees the Queen, sizes up to charge but she sees him and he changes it to a courtly bow).  
Ah, someone respects me after all.  
(She holds his mane and they skip sweetly out together).

CURTAIN TO SCENE 1

SCENE 2      ON THE EDGE OF THE MAGIC THORNWOOD  
(Front Cloth depicting thick foliage)  
NO. 3 OPTIONAL MUSIC ITEM (e.g. Juveniles as Animals)  
(The Wizard's box glows. Enter WIZARD WOMBOSA, he calms the box and thanks the audience)

WIZARD W. It's just as well that you are here. Can't think what is making it so busy tonight. You know, I think something in here is affecting that magic.  
(RUPERT enters)

RUPERT. There are you. Where has everybody else got to?

WIZARD W. I have no idea.

RUPERT. You were talking to someone when I came on.

WIZARD W. No I wasn't.

RUPERT. Yes you were.

WIZARD W. (Encouraging the audience to join in) Oh, no I wasn't!

RUPERT. Must have been mistaken then.  
(BUBBLE & SQUEAK enter) (WIZARD WOMBOSA exits)

BUBBLE. There he is (to Rupert)

SQUEAK. I've got a complaint.

RUPERT. So, none of us are perfect.

BUBBLE. It's about that money.

RUPERT. It's quite straightforward. I wanted ten, but you didn't have ten you only had eight so you lent me eight and now you owe me two.

SQUEAK. But I don't want to lend you any at all.

RUPERT. Very well. Here's your eight back (Hands back money)  
Now give me the two you owe me. (Two are handed back).  
Now we are square.

SQUEAK. That's better. We are not as dim as we look.

BUBBLE. You speak for yourself.  
(SIR LIONEL enters followed by QUEEN MARIA holding on to his rein. They cross the stage).

RUPERT. Where are you going?

QUEEN M. (Without stopping) We are going for a walk. (They exit)  
(PRINCE F. enters, unseen by Rupert)

RUPERT. Now listen you chaps. Come along - smartly now. As the Prince is not here, I'm in charge of you.

BUBBLE. Where is the Prince? (nudges Squeak)

SQUEAK. I've no idea. (They laugh together)

RUPERT. Do stop being such awful asses. It's time we had some discipline around here. Stand up straight there.  
(Rupert is moving characteristically around during this, Bubble & Squeak attempt to comply but are in fits of laughter as his every move is copied by Prince Florizal directly behind him. Even when he turns round the Prince manages to keep in step and stay out of sight).

RUPERT. Come along - pull yourselves together.

BUBBLE. (Between laughs) I'm not falling to bits!

RUPERT. Like this. Left, right, left, right, turn turn and left right. (He performs a complicated little marching routine with the Prince perfectly in step. Music OR Drum accompaniment starts and into:-  
NO. 4 MARCHING ROUTINE. PRINCE FLORIZAL, RUPERT  
BUBBLE AND SQUEAK  
(A short precise item - of whimsical military drill)

PRINCE F. This is all very well, but it doesn't help us find a way to that Palace. There is something very mysterious about this thorn bush. Not only does it completely surround the Palace but as soon as you cut any of it down it grows up again. Nobody could ever get through.  
(There is a noise off)

RUPERT. It sounds as if someone is having a good try.  
(SIR LIONEL enters still pulling QUEEN MARIA)

PRINCE F. Mother - where are you going?

B. & S. 'We're going for a walk'.

QUEEN M. No we are not! We are coming back.

RUPERT. It's a funny time to take a horse for a walk anyway.

QUEEN M. I'm not taking him! He's taking me. Whoooo.  
(SIR LIONEL increases speed and she is pulled off stage. BUBBLE & SQUEAK and RUPERT rush to her aid and after a certain amount of trouble from the horse, they have returned, the Queen has regained her dignity and all is well).  
(WIZARD W. enters unseen from other side)

PRINCE F. We are never going to be able to cut our way through to the Palace, there is some magical power protecting it. We must find that old Wizard, he seems to know about magic. Where is he? Has anyone seen him?

WIZARD W. (From just behind him) I am here.

PRINCE F. You knew we would not be able to cut through to the Palace, didn't you? (He nods) What is the mystery of this beautiful Princess and the hidden Palace? What did happen at her christening all those years ago? Why can't we....

WIZARD W. I can see I shall have to tell you the rest of the story.

RUPERT. How is it that you know so much about it anyway old chap, eh?

WIZARD W. You will learn that too young man. I can remember it well, I can see it as if it were yesterday - the Palace, the beautiful Palace that I knew so well. All the pomp and splendour of a royal occasion.....  
(As he speaks the TABS open or the CLOTH flies away).  
(OR if gauze is used lights build up behind and gauze is flown at convenient point later).

SCENE 3      THE SECRET PALACE

(Full-Stage Palace set of columns, drapes etc.  
Two thrones are raised U.C.)

ENTRY OF THE COURT

(With great ceremony the CHORUS enter as Lords and Ladies, Attendants, Footmen, Herald's etc. etc. (as best suits the company). They form up and bow as KING WIMPLE and QUEEN GRANDILLA enter and are enthroned).

Fanfare.

HERALD. His Majesty King Wimple of Beautavia!  
(KING W. claps enthusiastically)  
That's you, Sire.

KING W.        So it is. Silly me (Rises but slips on top step)Whoops.

QUEEN G.        Now, now Wimplekins my sweet. Don't get carried away.  
HERALD.        (aside) I wish he would.

KING W.        (To Queen) Very well my precious flower. Thank you.

QUEEN G.        Not at all Poppet.

HERALD.        What a lot of rubbish.

KING W.        (To Herald) Now, Now, you mustn't talk to Mrs. Queen  
like that.

QUEEN G.        Pay him no heed, Twinkletops.....

HERALD.        Twinkletops!!?

QUEEN G.        ....Address the assembled nobility.

KING W.        Who?

HERALD.        This lot.

KING W.        Of course. Now listen you lot. I mean - boys and  
girls - I mean Ladies and Gentlemen. Oh dear, I  
don't know wheter I am coming or going.

HERALD.        I know which I wish it was.

KING W.        (To Queen) You know, my dear, he will have to go!

QUEEN G.        Not now, Dimples. This is a happy day.

KING W.        So it is, Our dear little daughter's christening.

                 (FANFARE)  
Ah, here she comes now.  
                 (With more noise than befits the occasion, MOP &  
                 Brushup enter, the Palace Maids. They wheel in  
                 an elaborate cradle).

MOP.            (to the guests) Shhhhhh.

BRUSHUP.        (to Mop) Shhhhhh.

QUEEN G.        Thank you ladies

M. & B.        (To Queen) Shhhhhh

KING W.        I think they have sprung a leak dear.

QUEEN G.        (To King) Shhhhhhhh.

KING W.        Do what?

ALL            (To King) Shhhhhhhh.

HERALD        Hello, it's starting to rain.  
                 (QUEEN G. goes to baby just as NURSE CECILIA  
                 BEAUCHAMP-SMYTHE sweeps in)

NURSE. Now, now, now. What are we doing? We mustn't do that, must we?

QUEEN G. Mustn't we?

NURSE. My word no.

MOP. Hoooo, who does she think she is?

BRUSHUP. Just because she is English.

QUEEN G. All the best nursemaids are English. And our little Princess must have the best.

KING W. The best.

NURSE. Me.

HERALD. Pray silence for His Majesty!!! (addressing the company)

ALL. SHHHHHH!

HERALD. Shush for Mush.

KING W. Ladies and Gentlemen, may I present to you your new Princess. Her Royal Highness the Princess Rosemary of Beautavia. (All the ladies sigh. Herald starts to cheer but is immediately quietened).

NURSE. (To Herald) Foreigner

QUEEN G. What a little beauty she is.

KING W. A little sleeping beauty. (All the ladies sigh)

HERALD. The Court will now pay it's respects to the New Princess.

No. 5. THE PALACE LULLABY (Full Company)

To a suitable melody the CHORUS present their gifts to the cradle. Mop & Brushup move the Cradle into position. The Queen and King take their places, the Herald stands by and Nurse is very much in evidence as the company file past).

KING W. Is that the last of the guests?

HERALD. Yes your Majesty.  
(There is a change of lighting and/or trill from orchestra etc. to indicate change of atmosphere)  
(Enter FAIRY QUEEN)

F. QUEEN. Not quite the last your Majesty. No christening of a Princess of Beautavia would be complete without the Fairies bestowing their special gifts.  
(Enter FAIRIES)

F. DAF'L Fairy Daffodil  
F. MAR'D and Marigold  
With gifts beyond compare,

- F. ROSE. Fairy Rose attends the Princess,  
So peacefully sleeping there.
- F. VIOLET. Fairy Violet brings a gift as well,
- F. B'BELL. And Fairy Bluebell too;
- F. QUEEN. We come with gifts beyond all price,  
to last her whole life through.

(FAIRIES PRESENT THEIR GIFTS. To a quiet musical accompaniment. Poss. reprise No. 5 by Chorus).  
The Fairies approach cradle to bestow their gifts.  
The music builds up until Fairy NIGHTSHADE speaks,  
when it stops dead).

- F. DAR'L. I bring the gifts of Grace and Charm,  
For all the world to see.
- F. MAR'D. The gift of happiness is mine,  
I give it willingly.
- F. ROSE. Now Fairy Rose bestows the gift,  
Of beauty true and pure.
- F. VIO'T. And kindness I give to her,  
To share for ever more.
- F. BLUE'L. I bring the greatest gift - of Love!  
Without it life is dead.
- F. QUEEN. These are the gifts.....

(FAIRY NIGHTSHADE SWEEPS IN)

- F. NIGHT. No Stop!! There's more.  
Much more that must be said!
- (Astonishment and fear seize the company.  
Only Fairy Queen remains calm)
- F. QUEEN. How dare you intervene in this way? Begone! There  
is no place for you at the christening.
- F. NIGHTS. Oh, I shall go; have no fear. But after I have  
given 'dear' little Princess my present.
- F. QUEEN. I will not allow it.
- F. NIGHT. You cannot stop it. I have the power of Mother  
Blackheart to give me strength.

(The Fairies cower at the mention of this  
evil name)

(To King and Queen) You thought to exclude me from  
the christening did you? I will give your dear  
little daughter a present that neither you nor she  
will be able to forget).

- F. QUEEN. No - stop
- F. NIGHT. Never!
- KING W. Where is my Wizard, fetch the Wizard. He will be able  
to stop her.
- F. NIGHT. Silence.  
Before this child pass sixteen years,  
Prepare yourself for grief and tears,  
All is well until one day,  
Upon a spindle she will play,  
She'll prick her finger! Then what is more!

She'll sleep and sleep for evermore!  
Ha, ha, ha, ha!  
'Tis done.

F. QUEEN. It shall not be!

F. NIGHT. You cannot stop me.

F. QUEEN. No but I can also make decree  
This sleep shall not for ever be.  
But only for as long - 'til he,  
Who loves her true and steadfastly,  
With kiss of love shall set her free!  
(To Fairy Nightshade) Be gone. (Exit FAIRY NIGHTSHADE)  
Come Fairies we must hence away. (Exit FAIRIES)  
(To King and Queen) This sleeping child within our  
care,  
Will grow up good, and kind and fair.  
But of that curse you must beware,  
'Till she is sixteen take great care. (EXIT)

KING W. (Rushing about giving orders to various people) See  
the Fairies safely out of the Palace. And you find  
that Wizard of mine, he must be about somewhere. And  
you don't just stand there, see that every Spinning  
wheel in the Palace is destroyed completely - and every  
Spindle. And you send a proclamation through the entire  
Kingdom, every spinning wheel, no matter how old....  
(There had been a general exit during this. KING  
WIMPLE now exits with rest of the company leaving only  
QUEEN GRANDILLA and the cradle on stage.

NO. 5A. Reprise Lullaby. QUEEN GRANDILLA

(Lights fade, curtains close and we are back in:-)

SCENE 4. THE BEWITCHED THORNWOOD AGAIN

(WIZARD WOMBOSA, QUEEN MARIA, PRINCE FLORIZAL, RUPERT  
BUBBLE AND SQUEAK. All seem to be talking at the same  
time)

BUBBLE. Did you see all those fairies?

SQUEAK. And those two Maids eh? Weren't they great?

RUPERT. I thought the English Nurse Maid was really rather  
super.

PRINCE F. If only that Wizard had not been absent, things might  
have been different.

WIZARD. Quiet, quiet!

QUEEN M. Did you notice that tatty dress that Queen was wearing?  
Well really! I don't want to boast but....

WIZARD. Quiet - Please!

QUEEN M. But, obviously their Marks and Sparks is not up to ours.  
Not our class you know.....(A sign from WIZARD WOMBOSA  
and she stops suddenly) What's happened?

WIZARD W. I do not understand. Did you actually see the Fairies?  
and the maids? (BUBBLE & SQUEAK nod) And the Nurse?

RUPERT. Absolutely super old chap.

WIZARD W. And the Queen?

QUEEN M. Well, such as she was. Looked more like the Queen of ....(local reference) if you ask me.

PRINCE F. And the Palace and the people - everything. (Wizard W. is silent) What's the matter.

WIZARD W. But I only told you the story, you can't have seen it.

PRINCE F. But we did - it was as if it were all happening, here - now.

WIZARD W. No no. (He exits in great concern).

QUEEN M. What's the matter with him? Where's he going? The sales have not started yet have they? (The Wizard's box glows) Funny chap; and where's that horse of mine? He's never here when you want him. And what's that noise? (Children shouting 'Wombosa') Where is it coming from? Can you hear it? etc. etc. (ad. lib as necessary. Those on stage try to work out where the noise is coming from - and to speak over it. They do not see Wombosa or the Box).

(WIZARD WOMBOSA enters. Sees the box, calms it, mimes his thanks to the audience, signals to them to be quiet and creeps off).

QUEEN M. ....I CAN'T GO ON WITH ALL THIS NOISE!!!! (It is silent) All this - oh, well I managed to quieten that, didn't I. What was it, a white tornado?

PRINCE F. I don't know. There's more mystery and magic in this wood than I knew existed. Let's see where that Wizard has got to.

(EXIT PRINCE F. and QUEEN M. the others are about to follow).

RUPERT. I say, just a moment. Before you go. You couldn't lend me that ten pounds could you?

SQUEAK. Oh no, you don't catch me twice. I'm not stupid.

BUBBLE. (Standing beside him) You must think he is the next thing to a complete idiot.

RUPERT. Yes. (BUBBLE whispers to SQUEAK) Well?

SQUEAK. (After more whispers) All right. So long as you give a pound for lending it to you.

RUPERT. Charging interest. Oh, very well then. (BUBBLE & SQUEAK chuckling with confidence) You are going to lend me ten pounds.



SQUEAK. Yes. There's eight - we'll have to owe you the other two. (The money changes hands but is immediately taken back) We lent you the money. We didn't say how long we would lend it for! You owe us a pound! (They giggle with delight as Rupert grudgingly pays them a pound).

RUPERT. But don't forget you only lent me eight pounds you still owe me two. (Takes two of the notes back and exits)

BUBBLE. You're STUPID!

SQUEAK. Not

BUBBLE. You're thick, dull and square!

SQUEAK. Like an encyclopaedia.

BUBBLE. Like an en...NO! It could have been Sir Laurence Olivier, it could have been Sir Ralph Richardson - it could have been....(local or popular reference) but no; who do I get? You!

SQUEAK. I may not be much - but I'm all I've got.

BUBBLE. (wazing dramatic) Oh that such a talent as mine should be destined to traverse the boards with so wanting a Thespian!

SQUEAK. I hope you know what you are talking about.

BUBBLE. (As he continues SQUEAK looks round and realises with pleasure that there is no one else about) Other great names did not have to suffer so. Bernhardt, Beerbohm- Bambi. In the annals of the Art there can never have been such frustration.

SQUEAK. I say, there is nobody about.

BUBBLE. (Now in full voice) I don't care if every seat in the house is empty -

SQUEAK. It will be if you go on like that. (Before Bubble can launch forth again) Look, there is only the two of us here. (Bubble begins to calm down) Been like that for some time now.

BUBBLE. (Realisation of their opportunity beginning to dawn). Has it really? (Squeak grins and nods) No one about?

SQUEAK. Not a soul

BUBBLE. Shall we?

SQUEAK. Why not.

BUBBLE. It's our golden opportunity.

SQUEAK. (After a quick look round to see no-one is in the wings) Let's.

BUBBLE. Have you got the music?

SQUEAK. I'm never without it.

(He takes out a sheet of music and gives it to M.D. After another quick look round they take their positions and indicate for the accompaniment to start. This proves to be a very full-bodied Operatic introduction which builds in power and intensity until that moment that the voice should enter - but PRINCE F. sweeps on and everything stops with such suddenness that they fall over each other with frustrated effort).

PRINCE F. What are you doing still here? Get along with you and see if you can help the others find the Wizard. Hurry up now.

(BUBBLE & SQUEAK attempt to comply but manage to cause confusion by getting in each others way, and bumping into each other etc. but they finally get sorted out, the music is collected, they have bowed and they EXIT)

PRINCE F. Why can no-one break through this Thornwood. Why is there such a sense of Magic in the air? And why do I know that I must stay until I find the truth? Love is very close...(or cue line into:-)

NO. 6. SOLO PRINCE FLORIZAL

(After number there is a noise off. RUPERT enters in some alarm)

What is going on? Rupert where are the others?

RUPERT. I do beg your pardon your Highness. We were all looking through the forest further on, it gets really quite nasty along there. And well, it's the Queen Mother your Highness, it's awful. She has...(He has crossed back to the entrance and meets QUEEN MARIA coming on. She is closely followed by a 'bear' (or other beast or frightening thing). (He lets out a yell and backs away in terror).

QUEEN M. What's the matter? I can't be as ugly as all that.

RUPERT. (Trying to keep as faraway from her as possible)  
No, no! Keep away, don't come near me!

QUEEN M. (Trying to catch up with him - the 'bear' always keeping just behind her) Stop messing about. Is it something I've said? (But Rupert will have nothing to do with her. She crosses to Prince Florizal). You'll tell me won't you son?

(PRINCE F. looks up, sees the 'bear', screams, runs. It's time that boy's voice broke. Come on, tell me what's going on.

(She tries to approach the others but they flee in fear. She looks behind her, but fails to see anything. BUBBLE enters, but when approached he too runs away; as with SQUEAK when he enters). (The M.D. could be involved in the same way). (OPTIONAL EXTRA BUSINESS. Queen Maria eventually sees the 'bear' and promptly faints. Water is called for to revive her, after several mishaps it is brought but by that time 'bear' frightened the others away and he is left to revive the Queen himself. She comes to and runs!)(Bear is left alone on stage) (Wizard's Box glows, the

shouting scares 'bear' who exits. WIZARD hurries on, calms the Box and thanks the audience).

WIZARD W. It's just as well you are here. Do you know that magic has laid in that box as quiet as anything for as long as length itself, and now tonight (today) - I wonder if any has slipped out without us seeing. It could do - wait a minute, they said that as I told the story they could see everyone. (To audience) You have been here all the time could you see it too? Could you really? That's what it must have been then. Oh, my lucky wands, that's all right. For a moment I thought that wicked Fairy Nightshade might be up to her tricks again. In that case there is no harm in telling them the rest of the story - then you can see it too can't you? Shh, here they are all again, pretend you're not here.

(Enter PRINCE FLORIZAL with RUPERT followed by QUEEN MARIA & BUBBLE & SQUEAK)

RUPERT. There he is your Highness.

PRINCE F. He was talking to himself again.

RUPERT. Poor old chap, sign of age when people start talking to themselves.

QUEEN M. I know how he feels, half the time nobody listens to anything I say....(She is ignored by the others)

PRINCE F. We must get him to tell us the rest of the story of the beautiful Princess.

QUEEN M. ....I might just as well not be here....

RUPERT. But that might be a bit awkward, he can be a stubborn old codger.

QUEEN M. ....Even though I am the Queen, it makes not the slightest..

BUBBLE. Why don't you just tell him to tell you, you are the Prince.

QUEEN M. ..I could stand on my head and sing God Save the Queen..  
SQUEAK. And he is a Wizard, no better, just let me wallop him one.

QUEEN M. ...they wouldn't take any notice. I could take all my clothes off and pretend I'm a streaky rasher....

PRINCE F. I think persuasion would be better. (He and the others become aware of the Queen chattering away to herself) Mother.

QUEEN M. ....if I ran in the altogether through....Park shouting 'I love.....'local character.

PRINCE F. Mother.

QUEEN M. Would anyone take any notice?

RUPERT. I bet he would.  
QUEEN M. ....Of course they wouldn't...  
PRINCE F. Mother!  
QUEEN M. ....They would just stand there...(she has realised the situation) with their mouths open saying...  
  
PRINCE F. Mother.  
  
QUEEN M. Don't just stand there saying 'Mother' like that; you know what they say about people who talk to themselves. What's the matter anyway?  
  
PRINCE F. We want the old Wizard to tell us the rest of the story.  
  
QUEEN M. Well, why don't you just ask him. (Sweeps across to Wizard Wombosa who has waited with patient amusement during the preceeding dialogue). Excuse me, good sir, but will you tell us the rest of the story?  
  
WIZARD W. Of course I will Madam.  
  
QUEEN M. Thank you. (Crosses back and starts muttering away in the same tone as before). I don't know what the world is coming to, if you want a thing done - do it yourself. But do they ask me? No. I might just as well not be here.  
  
PRINCE F. Mother!  
  
QUEEN M. ....I might just as well.....  
  
ALL. MOTHER!!  
  
PRINCE F. (To Wizard Wombosa) Thank you sir. (They sit in D.S. corners).  
  
WIZARD W. Now then, after the terrible scene at the christening things were never the same again at the Palace. The King and Queen each blamed each other for the trouble. All the spinning wheels were destroyed. And my dear little Princess was never allowed out of the Palace grounds.  
  
RUPERT. Your little Princess. (He is quietened by others).  
  
WIZARD W. But she grew into such a lovely child, she never knew what had happened; she was always so happy and full of fun.....

(Curtains, cloth or gauze opens as before into:-)

SCENE 5. THE SECRET PALACE (Sixteen years later)

(Could be same set as before without thrones, OR variation of Palace Garden or Terrace etc.)

No. 7 MUSICAL ITEM PRINCESS (CHORUS OPTIONAL)

(A bright happy number depicting the Princess enjoying herself (with her friends). Song and dance item)

(At the end of number NURSE CECILIA bustles on. PRINCESS hides from her)

- NURSE. Now, now, now. Where are we? Are we being naughty again? (PRINCESS pops out and sings 'Ye-es' but disappears before Nurse can see her).  
I - know - where - you - are - re.
- PRINCESS. (Coming up behind her) Oh - no - you - don-n't.
- NURSE. Really Your Highness, we should be behaving more like a Princess, and less like a little girl.
- PRINCESS. We behave very much like a Princess sometimes. Don't look so cross, Cissy, I know you don't mean it, you never do; that's why, of all the people in the Palace, I love you the best.
- NURSE. That's all very well but the King and Queen are waiting for you.
- PRINCESS. (Suddenly serious) And you would do anything to help me wouldn't you?
- NURSE. You know I would Your Highness. Now, get along with you. And please do not call me 'Cissy'. Not in public.
- PRINCESS. (Bright again). But I've always called you Cissy, ever since I was a little girl. I can hardly say Nurse Cecilia Beauchamp-Smythe every time, can I. (They start to Exit). I mean; by the time I had said 'Good Morning Nurse Cecilia Beauchamp-Smythe' it would almost be time to say 'Goodnight Nurse Cecilia Beauchamp-Smythe.... (Exit PRINCESS, NURSE (CHORUS)).  
(As soon as they have gone PRINCE FLORIZAL and RUPERT come to centre stage).
- PRINCE F. Did you see her. Wasn't she beautiful?
- RUPERT. Yes, and such a lovely name. Cecilia Beauchamp.....
- PRINCE F. I mean the Princess, she was so lovely and so alive, not like those dull girls that I have been presented to.
- WIZARD W. (Earnestly). Come back - come away. You mustn't be here. It's only a picture. It's not real.
- PRINCE F. (As he and Rupert return to their places). She was more real to me than any girl I have ever met before.
- WIZARD W. This all happened a long time ago. Hurry, here come the King and Queen.
- QUEEN M. I bet she still looks a mess.
- WIZARD W. Be quiet woman. (They all settle down again). (Resumes telling the story). Then the King and Queen and all the Court arrived to hear a very special announcement.