

NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT

*The
Pied Piper
Of Hamelin*

BY
Ron Hall

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O F H A M E L I N

A pantomime in two acts by
Ron Hall

Characters in order of appearance:-

King Rat, the baddie behind Hamelin's problems
The Golden Fairy, the goodie who comes to Hamelin's
rescue
Dolly Doolittle, charlady at the Town Hall
Willie, her son and well-known Hamelin twit
The Mayor of Hamelin, pompous ass
Brunhilda, his daughter, fond of Willie
Fritz, the old toymaker
Kathy, his lovely grand-daughter, our heroine
Karl, Dolly's other son, a handsome and brave soldier
Buttercup, the Doolittle's cow
The Pied Piper, evil stranger to Hamelin
Hans, the lame boy
Grizelda, lady-in-waiting to the Snow Queen
The Snow Queen, beautiful but cold and evil
Chorus of townsfolk and ice demons, ghost and one speaking
Senior Dancers as townsfolk, dolls, ice demons, part
skeletons and guests at wedding
Junior Dancers as rats, mice and village children

Synopsis of Scenes:-

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Estimated length of show:- 2 hours 25 minutes. This allows for
a short overture and 15 minutes interval

Number of principal parts:- Female:- Six

Male:- Six

Either:- Three (Hans, ghost and chorus
These figures assume that Karl is^{member}
played by a girl and that Dolly
Doolittle is played by a man. They
do not include the two men or girls
in the cow skin

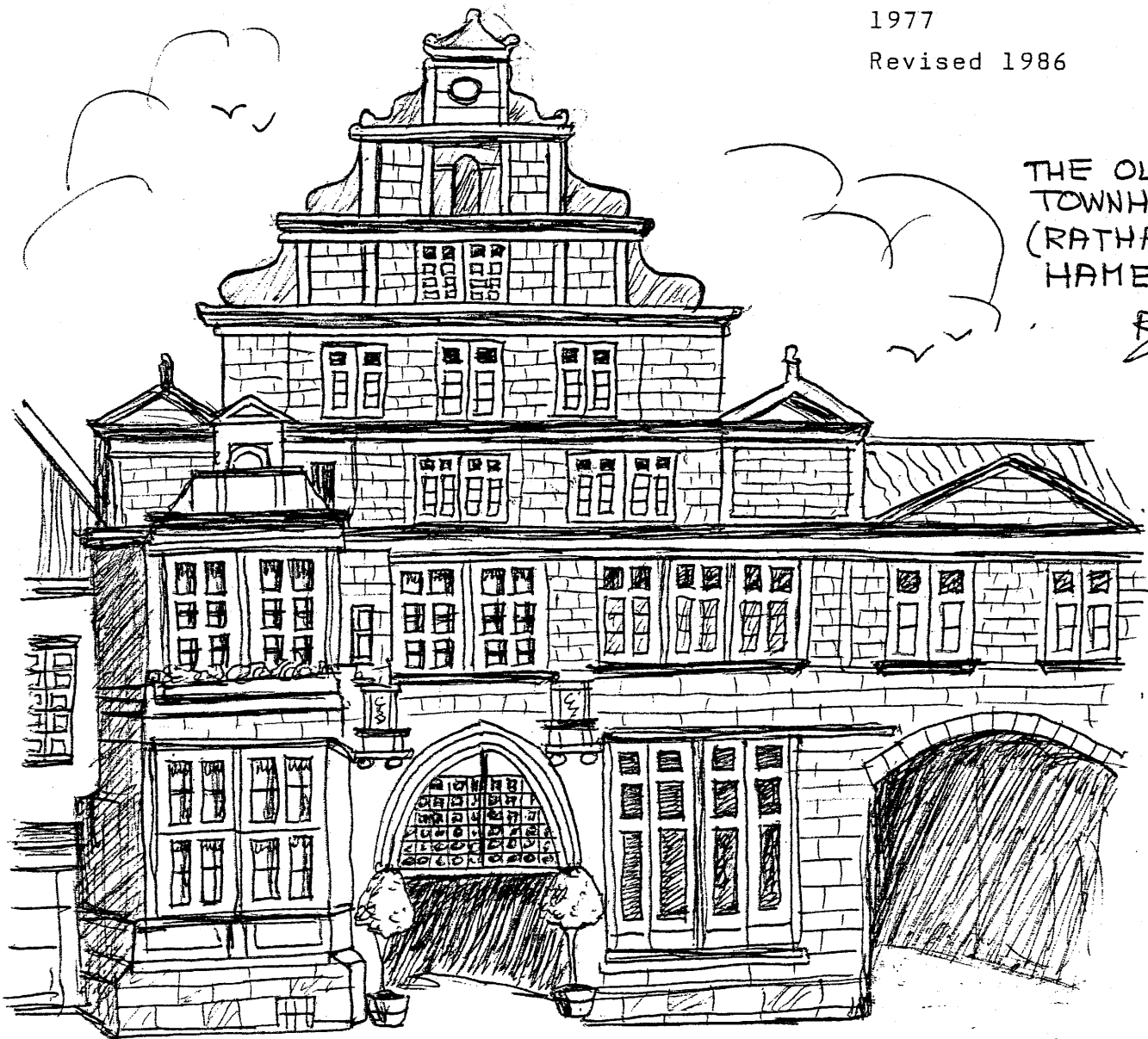
Scene changing:- Alternate scenes have a small number of characters
so that they can be played in front of running tabs
allowing time to change the main sets manually.

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

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1977

Revised 1986



THE OLD
TOWNHALL
(RATHAUS)
HAMELIN.

RH.

T H E P I E D P I P E R
O F H A M E L I N

Act I

Prologue (Optional)

(The house lights dim and green spot comes up on King Rat who enters stage left in front of curtains)

King Rat:- I am called King Rat and rule this Hamelin City.
Over mere mortals I show but little pity
Why should I when they kill my rodents by the score,
But all they kill I will replace with more and more
and MORE.

(Fairy enters in orange spot on stage right)

Fairy:- Don't you be too sure King Rat.
Your reign is soon to end.
For all the people in this town I gladly will befriend.

King Rat:- Who are you young woman, who dares to block my way?

Fairy:- I am the Golden Fairy, take heed of what I say.
Someone will come to Hamelin, the townsfolk to deliver.
And he will drive your rodent friends into the Weser
River.

King Rat:- Most commendable my dear! Who can this person be?
It needs a man who has no fear to make a fool of me.

(Piper's tune is heard)

Fairy:- Listen very carefully and you will hear a tune.
The song the great Pied Piper plays and he will be
here soon.

King Rat:- The great Pied Piper, ha ha ha. Now let me warn you
dear.
For he's the one the citizens of Hamelin ought to fear.
For they will see and (to audience) so will you,
That later bye and bye,
He will turn out to be the one more evil far than I.
Ha ha ha ha ha.

(King Rat and Fairy exit and curtains draw back on
Scene One)

Scene 1 - The Town Square of Hamelin

(This is a typical old fashioned German town square. At the rear of the square can be seen the Town Hall. The chorus are on stage dressed as townsfolk, vendors, etc)

Opening Chorus (Chorus and Senior Dancers)

Suggested numbers:- That's Entertainment (The Band Wagon)
Make 'Em Laugh (The Pirate)
The Good Old Bad Old Days (The Good Old Bad
Old Days)

(Senior Dancers exit at end of number leaving chorus dressing stage. Dolly Doolittle enters. She is carrying a basket of goodies)

Dame:- Well hello there. I'm Dolly Doolittle, that well-known Hamelin beauty. All my friends call me Dolly, yes they do. So as you're all my friends here tonight will you do something for me? Will you? (Audience replies) You don't sound very sure. Will you do something for me? (Audience replies) That's better!

I want you all to call me by my Christian name, Dolly. Will you do that? (Audience replies). You still don't sound very sure. Will you? (Audience replies) Good! Now I'm going to go off and pretend I haven't been on yet. When I come back on and say 'Hello everybody' you say 'Hello Dolly'. Alright, let's try it.

(Dolly exits and immediately returns)

Hello everybody.

Audience:- Hello Dolly.

Dame:- That's not very good, is it? Let's try again.

(She exits and re-enters)

Hello everybody.

Audience:- Hello Dolly.

Dame:- You're improving, but you can still do better than that. We'll try it one more time and I want you to make more noise than - - - (local football team) supporters on a Saturday afternoon, okay?

(She exits and re-enters)

Hello everybody.

Audience:- Hello Dolly.

Dame:- That's better. Now remember every time I come on you shout that.

Oh yes, there's something else I want you to do for me - look after my basket of goodies. Will you do that for me as well? (Audience replies) Smashing! Now I'm going to leave it on stage here. (She places it out of the way on the apron stage or up against the proscenium arch) If anybody tries to pinch it I want you to yell 'Somebody's pinching your humbugs'. Let's try it. After three, 1 - 2 - 3 - -

Audience:- Somebody's pinching your humbugs.

Dame:- Have you all gone home? Let's try again, 1 - 2 - 3 - -

Audience:- Somebody's pinching your humbugs.

Dame:- Good! That should scare off any baddies. I'll tell you a bit about myself. I work over there at the Town Hall. I'm the charlady. I polish up the Mayor's regalia and I wash all the floors. He's a very excitable man is the Mayor. He even flushes when you pull his chain.

Actually I'm looking for a husband - anybody's. Seriously though I think the Mayor's just the sort of person I could be happy with - a man. It's ten years since my first husband died and I do miss him. I'll never forget my Engelbert - I called him Bert for short. I remember our wedding as though it were yesterday. I was all in white and he was white and 'all-in'. I had to carry him over the threshold - he couldn't lift me. For twenty years we were gloriously happy - and then we met. There was nothing I wouldn't do for him and there was nothing he wouldn't do for me. And that's the way we went on - doing nothing for each other.

We had two sons, Karl and Wille. Karl's a real credit to me - he's in the army - he's a captain and he's due home today. I'm so excited! I haven't seen him for ages.

The other one, Willie, is so daft that when he heard the Daily Mirror was going up 3p he bought 365 copies so they would last him for a year.

Still life goes on and I'm still a young woman (preens). I must think of a way to 'ensnavor' the Mayor. I thought of having my face lifted but who would want to pinch it.

(Willie rushes on)

- Willie:- Mother, mother, those mice have been nibbling at my sprouts again.
- Dame:- I told you to keep 'em covered up Willie. Nothing's safe around here with all the rats and mice about. (To audience) This is my second son Willie - he's a lot like his father - thick.
- Willie:- What are we going to do? They're everywhere, aren't they everybody?
- Chorus:- Yes.
- Willie:- Do you know they even nibbled bits off my Action Man. He'll never be able to make a commando attack again.
- Dame:- Never mind Willie! As long as you're alright.
- Willie:- Well I am at present, but if it carries on much longer they'll be nibbling parts of me.
- Dame:- If they do creep up on you let them start on your head. It's your least important asset and there's plenty to go at.
- (The Mayor enters with his daughter Brunhilda)
- Mayor:- Good day to you Mrs.Doolittle.
- Dame:- (Curtsying) And good day to you your workshop.
- Willie:- (Also curtsying) Yes, good day to you your chipshop.
- Mayor:- (To chorus) Well don't stand around here all day, you townspeople. There's work to be done.
- (He shoos them off and they exit grudgingly)
- Brunhilda:- Hello Willie. (She waves)
- Willie:- Help! It's Dracula's daughter.
- Mayor:- What did you say young man?
- Willie:- I said 'How well you support her'.
- Dame:- Your flagship, what a joy it is to see you. You're such a wonderful person I can't get you out of my mind. Do you know, even when I milk the cow I look at the cow's rear and think of you.
- Mayor:- You're too kind madam!
- Dame:- I know, it's one of my little weaknesses.
- Mayor:- What are your other little weaknesses pray?
- Dame:- Take me on the NALGO Town Hall trip and I'll tell you.
- Mayor:- Enough of this idle banter - down to business.
- Dame:- Please! Not here in the Town Square. I'll see you later.
- Mayor:- Take a grip of yourself madam. It's the vermin I wish to speak to you about.

Dame:- Why, is the vermin nibbling your ermine?

Mayor:- Don't be facetious woman.

Dame:- I do like him when he's angry - he's so masculine.

Mayor:- I propose to call a meeting of the Town Council to discuss the problem. Rats and mice are everywhere.

Willie:- You can say that again. They've been nibbling my Action Man.

Mayor:- I don't wish to hear about your Action Man. Stupid boy! Tell me Mrs.Doolittle, is he always like this?

Dame:- Oh no. You should see him when he's on the Mastermind (or Krypton Factor) programme.

Mayor:- You mean he actually enters for the Mastermind contest?

Willie:- Yes, I'm an ornithologist.

Dame:- That's what comes of going to a comprehensive school.

Mayor:- I think your son means that he studies birds.

Dame:- The dirty little devil - at his age. (She cuffs him)

Willie:- No mother. I like sparrows and robins and things.

Mayor:- Tell me, how successful were you on the Mastermind programme?

Willie:- I won.

Mayor:- You won?

Willie:- Yes, they voted me bird-brain of the year.

Mayor:- That I do believe. Come Mrs.Doolittle, we must make plans for a meeting straightaway.
(He begins to exit)

Dame:- Very good your pawnshop, or may I call you Herman?

Mayor:- No madam, you may not.
(He exits)

Dame:- Just when I thought my luck had changed.
(She exits)

Brunhilda:- Are you having trouble with them?

Willie:- Pardon!

Brunhilda:- I said 'Are you having trouble with them?'

Willie:- (Pause) What do you mean?

Brunhilda:- The rats and mice.

Willie:- Oh yes. Are you?

Brunhilda:- Yes, all the time.
(She gets very close to him and he moves away)

Willie:- I've got to go now.

Brunhilda:- Why?

Willie:- I've got to milk our cow Buttercup.

Brunhilda:- Don't rush off so soon.

Willie:- I must go or my mother will be mad.

Brunhilda :- Don't you want to stay and take me in your arms and make mad passionate love to me?

Willie:- (Pause) No.

Brunhilda:- Don't you want to press your burning lips to mine?

Willie:- No.

Brunhilda:- Oh come on Willie, be nice to me.
(King Rat enters, creeps up behind Willie and touches his ear)

Willie:- (Without looking and thinking it is Brunhilda) Ger' off.
(King Rat touches him again)
I said ger' off.
(He turns around and King Rat follows him round so he is not seen. Willie notices Brunhilda standing about six feet away)
Eh, you have long arms.

Brunhilda:- Pardon!

Willie:- How did you manage to tickle my ear when you're standing over there?
(King Rat is behind Willie who is facing Brunhilda. Consequently Brunhilda does not see him)

Brunhilda:- I didn't.

Willie:- Course you did.
(Willie has now walked over to Brunhilda and they are standing side by side. King Rat tickles Willie again)
Ger' off.

Brunhilda:- I didn't do anything.

Willie:- Oh yes you did.

Brunhilda:- Oh no I didn't. (To audience) Did I everybody?

Audience:- (Hopefully) No.

Willie:- Oh yes you did.

Brunhilda:- (Encouraging audience to join in) Oh no I/she didn't.

Willie:- Oh yes she did.

Brunhilda:- (With audience) Oh no I/she didn't.

Willie:- Eh, do you think there's somebody behind us?

Brunhilda:- Let's turn round and see.
(They both turn outwards and do a little circle back to where they started. Neither see King Rat who follows Willie round)

Willie:- (To audience) There's nobody there. is there?

Audience:- Yes.

Brunhilda:- Who is it then?

Audience:- King Rat.

Brunhilda:- Who?

Audience:- King Rat.

Brunhilda:- Don't be silly! There couldn't be a rat, could there Willie? (She starts to laugh)

Willie:- Of course not.

(He starts to laugh. As they laugh King Rat places a paw on each character's shoulder. They turn in and very slowly see King Rat who looks menacingly at them. They run off screaming as King Rat laughs evilly. King Rat then beckons other rats and mice on stage)

Song and Dance (King Rat and Junior Dancers)

Suggested numbers:- Teddy Bears Picnic (With 'Rats and Mice substituted for 'Teddy Bears')
Raggle-taggle Gypsies (With following words)

King Rat:- When the sun goes down and the night is dark,
And shadows fall so softly-o.
You will hear the feet of the mice in the street,
As they gnaw at the woodwork of your windows-o.

There are mice so small, there are rats so tall.
There are mice so fast, there are rats so slow.
You will hear the feet of the mice in the street,
As they gnaw at the woodwork of your windows-o.

They come from the countryside all around,
Summoned to Hamelin at my command.
Soon you will hear that relentless sound,
As my subjects fill up the land.

So you'd best take care, yes you'd best beware,
The rodent army has far to go.
You will hear the feet of the mice in the street,
As they gnaw at the woodwork of your windows-o.

(If desired this can be a dance only with King Rat exiting after Junior Dancers have commenced dancing. At the end of the number King Rat tries to steal the goodies. Audience shouts. Dame rushes on and fights them all off. King Rat exits cursing accompanied by Junior Dancers)

Dame:- Thanks for shouting. That was a near thing. They nearly half-inched my humbugs.

(Fritz, the old toymaker and Kathy, his grand-daughter enter)

Hello Fritz, how are you today?

Fritz:- I'm fine and so is my little grand-daughter, aren't you Kathy?

Kathy:- Yes Grandad.

Fritz:- She's a real treasure is my Kathy. I don't know what I'd do without her.

Dame:- But some day she'll get married and then what will you do?

Fritz:- Be lonely I suppose.

Dame:- There are other available ladies around you know. (She preens)

Fritz:- Yes I know, but Brunhilda's much too young for me.

Dame:- (To audience) I don't why I bother. It's like flogging a dead horse. (To Fritz) Anyway Fritz, you're looking very pleased with yourself.

Fritz:- Yes I've been making toys for the Prince of Brunswick's daughter and he's paid me handsomely.

Dame:- I don't suppose you can make a life-sized doll that looks like Robert Redford (or other male sex symbol) can you?

Fritz:- If I could do things like that I'd be a millionaire by now. Mind you if I could, I don't think Mary Whitehouse would approve.

Dame:- Well it was worth a try. You're looking very pretty today Kathy.

Kathy:- Thank you. It's my twenty first birthday.

Dame:- Happy birthday. What it must be like to be twenty one - still I can wait.

Kathy:- Is it true that your son Karl is coming home today from the army.

Dame:- Yes, he'll be here in a few minutes, that's if - - (local bus service) gets in on time.

Fritz:- Do you think he'll be able to devise a way of getting rid of the rats and mice for us Dame Doolittle?

Dame:- I hope so. I can't stand much more of this. My petticoats have all been perforated and my blouses have all been bitten. Even my nightie was nibbled - and I was in it at the time.

Kathy:- Yes, it's getting so bad that people are afraid to go out at night on their own.

Dame:- Yes I know. I've had to give up my visits to the Darby and Joan Bingo and Wife Swapping Club.
(Noises of cheering can be heard offstage)

Kathy:- What's the noise?

Fritz:- It sounds like cheering.

Dame:- Do you think they've taken 'Crossroads' off television?

Kathy:- (Looking offstage) No Dame Doolittle, it's your son Karl. He's on his way here with the townsfolk.

Dame:- Smashing! Now I need never draw the Social Security again.
(Karl enters with the chorus. He is in soldier's uniform)

Karl:- Hello everybody. How nice to see you all again.
Song (Karl and Chorus)

Suggested numbers:- When you Smile (Shirley Bassey number)
Dear Hearts and Gentle People
Try a little Kindness (Glen Campbell number)
(Chorus join in after solo by Karl. At the end of the number the chorus exit with 'Goodbye Karl', 'See you soon', etc)

Karl:- Hello mother. How good to see you after all this time.

Dame:- My little boy home from the wars! How are you son?

(They hug)

Karl:- I'm fine mother.

Dame:- (Looking at Karl's figure) And how you've grown! You are a big lad and no mistake.

Karl:- It's the army food mother.

Dame:- In that case I'll have to try some.

Karl:- Yes three cooked meals a day and plenty of exercise makes you feel like a new man.

Dame:- I don't need three cooked meals a day and plenty of exercise to make me feel like a new man - I always feel like that.

Karl:- Kathy and Fritz! How marvellous to see you both!

Fritz:- Welcome home Karl.

Karl:- The last time I saw you Kathy you were just a schoolgirl.

Kathy:- I've been left school a long time Karl. I help grandfather in the shop now.

Fritz:- Yes, she's a little wonder is Kathy. Lucky will be the man who gets Kathy for a wife.

Karl :- Lucky indeed Fritz.

Dame:- Oh son we're so worried. Hamelin's infested with rats and mice and we can't get rid of them. Can you help us?

Karl:- I'll try mother but rats and mice aren't really in my line. Now give me a platoon of good strong willing men.

Dame:- My sentiments entirely! But the fellers never seem to come my way these days. Never mind, we're having a meeting in Fritz's toyshop tonight and we'll talk about it then.

Fritz:- (Noticing the basket of goodies) What a lovely basket of sweets! I wonder who they belong to.

(He goes over to basket and of course audience yell as he tries to pick them up)

Dame:- Hey, where you trying to pinch my goodies, you naughty man?

Fritz:- I'm sorry Dame Doolittle, I didn't know they were yours.

Dame:- Yes they are mine. (To audience) Aren't they everybody

Audience:-Yes.

Dame:- There you are you see. (To audience) He's naughty isn't he?

Audience:-Yes.

Dame:- Never mind love, I know you were only looking after my interests. Come and have a cup of tea with me at the Hamelin Hilton. It's expensive, but the people aren't common like what they are round 'ere.

Fritz:- Certainly Dame Doolittle. Your every wish is my command.

Dame:- I'm not so sure at your age. Come on.

(They begin to exit)

Do you know the price of cat food has gone up so much I don't know if I'll be able to afford to feed my little pussy.

(They exit)

Karl:- Oh dear, my mother doesn't seem to improve with keeping.
 Kathy:- She has a heart of gold really.
 Karl:- I'm glad they've gone Kathy.
 Kathy:- Why is that Karl?
 Karl:- So we can be left alone together.
 Kathy:- How do you mean?
 Karl:- Oh Kathy, I've travelled from England to the coast of Africa in the last few years and you're the prettiest girl I've ever seen.
 Kathy:- (Embarrassed) Oh Karl! There must have been hundreds of pretty girls in those foreign lands. I have heard that the girls in - - - (local town or county) are particularly attractive.
 Karl:- So they are, particularly in - - - (local district or village) but none can compare with you.
 Kathy:- You flatter me sir.
 Karl:- Kathy, I know we've only just met again after a long time but I think I'm already falling in love with you.
 Kathy:- (Turning away) But you're a captain in the army and I'm just a shop assistant.
 Karl:- I care nothing for rank. Only say you care a little for me.
 Kathy:- I think I've always loved you ever since we were children together and you were like an elder brother to me.
 Karl:- (Turning her towards him) Do you really mean it Kathy?
 Kathy:- Yes Kathy, of course I do.
 Karl:- Oh Kathy, I am the happiest and the proudest man alive. To think I've travelled all round the world and love was waiting for me here at home.

Duet (Karl and Kathy)

Suggested numbers:- Back in your own Backyard
 I love you Because
 Waltzing in the Clouds
 Any popular romantic ballad

(Tabs draw during song to give additional time for scene changing)

Scene 2 - The Doolittle Farm (Front cloth or tabs)

(Willie enters with long rope which trails offstage. He pulls rope until it is taut and finds that he cannot pull it on stage any further)

Willie:- Come on Brunhilda. You can push better than that.
 Brunhilda:- (Offstage) I can't Willie, I've no puff left.
 Willie:- Come on, come on, you're a strong healthy girl. What's the matter? Didn't you have your All Bran this morning?
 Brunhilda:- (Offstage) Yes. Does that mean I'm your regular girl-friend now?
 Willie:- Stop making the jokes and try pushing harder.
 Brunhilda:- (Offstage) Alright, one last time. 1 - 2 - 3 push.
 (On comes Buttercup, the cow, on end of rope. She is followed by Brunhilda)

Willie:- You see, I told you you could do it. You've more muscle than - - - (well known boxer).

Brunhilda:- (Out of breath) Oh, I'm more out of breath now than I was after I kissed Mick Jagger (or local Romeo).

Willie:- (To audience) Do you like our cow?

Audience:- (Hopefully) Yes.

Willie:- You don't sound very sure. Do you?

Audience:- Yes.

Brunhilda:- Her name is Buttercup, isn't it? (Cow nods) She's a very intelligent cow and as well as giving ordinary milk she gives milk-shakes as well, don't you? (Cow nods again)

Willie:- Yes we play her disco music and she does the shaking. She has three flavours - strawberry, lemon and lime.

Brunhilda:- Which one shall we have today Willie?

Willie:- We'll let the folks out there decide. (To audience) Which flavour would you like her to give folks? It can be strawberry, lemon or lime.

(Audience call out various flavours and they eventually choose the most popular one. We will assume in this case it is strawberry)

Brunhilda:- Alright, we'll have strawberry. Willie, go and fetch a stool.

(Willie exits)

He's a lovely feller is that. He's a sort of cross between Prince Andrew and - - Les Dawson (or other popular comedian)

(Willie returns with glass and milking stool)

Now there will be a demonstration by the master himself.

(Willie puts stool down and cow knocks it over with back legs. Willie sits down without looking and naturally sits on the floor. This happens twice. On the third attempt he sits down successfully and the cow moves away. He 'rides' up to it on the stool. The cow moves away again and again he moves up to it on the stool. The third time he grabs it by the tail to stop it moving)

Willie:- And now one strawberry milkshake.

(He works tail up and down like a pump and places glass under the udder. Man inside has three washing up liquid containers on belt arrangement, each with different coloured milk. As the tail is pumped he squirts the appropriate milk-shake into the glass through the udder)

Brunhilda:- And now Willie will drink it.

(Willie drinks it and they bow and curtsy to the audience amidst music and applause like a magician and his assistant. They exit elaborately taking the cow with them)

(Tabs draw back on Scene 3)

Scene 3 - The Old Toyshop

(This is a typical old fashioned toyshop with dolls, music boxes, kites, toy soldiers and other toys and games, some of which are real and others which are painted on the backcloth. There is a practical table, chair and stool. There is also a bench type seat long enough to seat three.)

As the curtain draws back the Senior Dancers are on stage dressed as various types of dolls in fixed poses. Fritz enters and winds them up one by one. He exits and they dance)

Dance (Senior Dancers)

Suggested numbers:- Puppet on a String
I've got no Strings (Pinocchio)
Any suitable pop song

(At the end of the number they exit in doll-like fashion. Fritz re-enters with Kathy)

Fritz:- Oh dear, there's going to be a council meeting here in a few minutes and not a thing's prepared yet.

Kathy:- Why don't they hold it in the Town Hall grandfather?

Fritz:- Because the Council Chamber is being redecorated. With his usual good taste the Mayor has consulted the Dulux colour chart and decided on two superb colours - emerald green and bright orange with just a touch of purple thrown in for good measure.

Kathy:- Oh yes, delightful! (Meaning just the opposite) Especially for the Council Chamber where the minutes are read and the air's blue.

Fritz:- Now then, there's no time to waste. We must get the table and chairs ready.

Kathy:- I'll get some of the boys to help. (She exits)

Fritz:- I do hope we can find a way of getting rid of the rats and mice. They are a nuisance. They've started nibbling all my little bits and pieces.

(Two chorus men enter and bring the table forward. They bring other furniture up to the table. Kathy enters with notebook and pencil. Dame Doolittle enters)

Dame:- Hello everybody.

Audience:- Hello Dolly.

Dame:- Have you been keeping your eye on my goodies? (She goes over to basket) Yes you have. Well done! Shall I tell you a secret? Shall I? Well I'm wearing my tin drawers tonight. They're the only thing the rats won't chew. It's not only Maggie Thatcher that'll be called the Iron Lady from now on.

(She lifts her skirt and displays her silvered drawers to the audience)

Fritz:- (Looking at Dame's drawers) Nice to see you Dame Doolittle.

Dame:- Ooh! Were you peeping, you naughty man?. (She gives him a playful tap on the shoulder)

Fritz:- You know you liked it, you naughty woman!. (He hits her back a little bit harder)

Dame:- Oh no I didn't. (She hits him again a bit harder still)

Fritz:- Oh yes you did. (He hits her back even harder)

Dame:- Oh no I didn't. (She hits him and he falls on the floor. She helps him up) Ooh I am sorry. I don't know my own strength. It's all those Haliborange tablets (or All Bran) I take you know.

Fritz:- Do you know that if I were twenty years younger I might chase you round the table.

Dame:- Aye and if you were twenty years younger I might let you catch me.

Fritz:- Would you really?

Dame:- Yes you little devil. (She pinches his cheek)

Fritz:- You naughty woman you. (He pinches her cheek as Mayor enters with Brunhilda)

Mayor:- (Cough) What is going on here? I will not have any orgies in Hamelin. This is a respectable town.

Dame:- Don't worry your bookshop, the mind's willing but the flesh is weak.

Mayor:- What Mary Whitehouse would say I dread to think.

Dame:- Never mind about her. Shall we get on with the meeting?

Mayor:- Right if we're all assembled, we'll take our places around the table and start the business in hand.

(They take their places so that the Mayor is sitting in the chair at the head of the table which is placed diagonally to the audience. Dame, Fritz and Brunhilda are sitting on the bench facing the audience. Kathy sits slightly away from the table on the stool taking notes. When they are settled Willie rushes in)

Willie:- Sorry I'm late but the cow's just swallowed a tin of gold paint.

Brunhilda:- How does she feel?

Willie:- Guilty.

Dame:- Never mind about that. Come and sit next to your mother. (He goes over to her) Budge up a bit and make room for my little lad. (They move up and Brunhilda falls on the floor)

Brunhilda:- Eh, that's not fair. (She forces her way back onto the bench and Willie falls off the other end. Willie forces his way back on and Brunhilda falls off again. This time she thinks for a second) Willie, you don't mind if I sit next to you do you?

Willie:- You haven't had onions for tea have you?

Brunhilda:-No.

Willie:- You won't take advantage of me will you?

Brunhilda:- No, not till after the meetings over.

Willie:- Alright then but any moves in my direction and I'll report you for sexual harassment.

Brunhilda:- Good! (She goes to the other end of the bench, sits down and forces Fritz onto the floor)

Mayor:- Enough of this tomfoolery! Willie you can stand.

Willie:- But I - - -

Mayor:- No buts. Do as you're told.

Willie:- Oh alright. (He gets up and stands behind the others. Fritz sits down again)

Mayor:- And now I will call upon Kathy to read out the minutes of the last meeting.
(Kathy rises and reads from the notebook)

Kathy:- The last meeting took place on April 1st in the Council Chamber. Those present were the Mayor, Dame Doolittle, Grandfather and Brunhilda.

Willie:- Wasn't I there?

Dame:- No you stayed in to watch the 'A' Team. Don't you remember?

Willie:- Oh yes. That was the episode where Hannibal Smith got caught by the - - -

Brunhilda:- By the what?

Willie:- By the - - - baddies.

Mayor:- Have you quite finished?

Willie:- Yes, I think so.

Mayor:- Good! Now Kathy will read the agenda for tonight.

Kathy:- There are two items on tonight's agenda, the first is the proposed increase in stagecoach fares by ten gilders and the second is the problem of the rats and mice.

Mayor:- I think we should forget about the increase in stagecoach fares for the moment and concentrate on the rats and mice.

Dame:- Oh I'm so pleased. It's difficult enough making ends meet without the stagecoach fares going up. Do you know it costs me twenty gilders from the centre of town to - - - (well known council estate) on the number - - - (whatever) stagecoach.

Mayor:- Have you quite finished?

Dame:- Mind you, if I take the number - - - (whatever) stagecoach and go round by - - - (local road or neighbourhood) it's only fifteen gilders.

Mayor:- We're waiting to get on with the meeting.

Dame:- And then of course if it's before four o'clock I can use my Senior Citizen's warrant and it's only ten gilders.

Mayor:- Mrs.Doolittle.

Dame:- Yes.

Mayor:- (Loudly) Shut up.

Dame:- Oh you're so masterful when you're roused. (To audience) That's why I do it you know - to bring out the beast in him.

Mayor:- To business. What we want are ideas for getting rid of the rodents that are infesting our fair borough. Any suggestions?

Dame:- Well I could let my pussy loose on the streets of Hamelin.

Willie:- That's no good. The last time you did that it did a whoopsy in the nightwatchman's hat.

Mayor:- Come on now. There must be someone here with a good idea.

Fritz:- How about writing to Esther Rantzen?

Mayor:- What do you expect her to do? Chew 'em with her teeth? Surely we can come up with something better than that?
(Karl enters and bows to the assembly)

Karl:- Excuse my interrupting your worship, but I have just met a man who says he can rid our town of the rats and mice.

Mayor:- Who is this man? Do we know him?

Karl:- No, he appears to be a stranger and he's wearing the most unusual costume.

Dame:- It's not Superman (or well known pop star) is it?

Karl:- No, he is carrying a pipe.

Willie:- Then he must be a plumber.

Mayor:- Stupid boy! Well we've got nothing to lose. Show him in young sir.

Karl:- Very good Mr.Mayor. (He exits)

Brunhilda:- How exciting! Do you think it could be - - - (well known TV or political figure)?
(Karl re-enters followed by the Pied Piper, who is carrying a pipe or recorder)

Karl:- This is the man your worship.
(The Pied Piper bows elaborately)

Mayor:- Obviously a man who appreciates rank. And what is your name pray?

Piper:- I am known as the Pied Piper.

Mayor:- And what can a piper do to get rid of mice?

Piper:- I can charm them with my pipe.

Dame:- You could charm me with your pipe anytime.

Mayor:- You don't expect me to believe that, do you?

Piper:- It's perfectly true.

Mayor:- Suppose it is true, what would you do with the rats and mice once you've charmed them?

Piper:- I would lead them to the river and they would all be drowned.

Mayor:- A likely story! I don't believe a word of it.

Karl:- Well there's no harm in giving him a try.

Mayor:- The idea's preposterous.

Karl:- At least give him a chance.

Mayor:- I'll tell you this. If he can get rid of those creatures I will personally give him one thousand gilders. (He laughs)

Piper:- If you promise to pay me one thousand gilders I will do it.

Mayor:- I promise.(He laughs again)

Piper:- Then it shall be done. Please take away all the furniture and stand well back.

Willie:- We're not expecting an elephant are we?

Brunhilda:- Ssh!

(Fritz, Willie and Kathy move the furniture back out of the way)

Piper:- From icy mountains faraway,
Spirits hear me when I play.
Charm the rodents of this town,
To Weser's waters, there to drown.

(The Piper plays a few notes on his pipe)

Song(Piper)Suggested numbers:- The Pied Piper (Follow me)
The Piper (ABBA number)
Follow Me (Camelot)

(As the Piper plays and sings the rats and mice in the shape of the Junior Dancers enter one by one and follow him around the stage. Chorus gradually enter intrigued and join in as the Piper leads the rats and the mice offstage as the tabs draw)

Scene 4 - The Way to the River (Front cloth or tabs)

(The music continues and the Piper crosses the stage in front of the tabs followed by the charmed rats and mice. Following the rats and mice is Buttercup who is also charmed by the music. Just before she is about to exit after the rats and mice Willie and Brunhilda dash on and grab her. They eventually manage to pull her back to centre stage)

Willie:- By Jove, that was a near thing.

Brunhilda:- She was nearly drown-dead in the river.

Willie:- I've heard of milk being watered down but that's ridiculous.

(They are now either side of the cow who is facing forward)

Brunhilda:- Oh Willie, you are strong and manly.

Willie:- Yes I am, aren't I?

Brunhilda:- Willie, do you feel like naming the day?

Willie:- Do you want me to name the day?

Brunhilda:- Ooh yes please.

Willie:- Alright, it's - - - (whatever day of the week it happens to be).

Brunhilda:- No you daft thing! I meant when are we going to get married?

Willie:- I'm too young to get married. I'm hardly out of my nappies yet.

Brunhilda:- Yes I know you've only been out of your nappies a few months but you are twenty eight.

Willie:- Oh no I couldn't.

Brunhilda:- Oh I'm sure you could - - - with a bit of practice. This thing is bigger than both of us.

Willie:- Are you talking about the cow?

Brunhilda:- No you twit, I'm talking about our love for each other.

(He splutters)

Willie:- I could do with something to drink.

Brunhilda:- I'll get you something.

(She dashes off)

Willie:- I wonder what she'll bring on.

(Brunhilda returns with a glass of lager)

Brunhilda:- Here we are. You 'ave ze thirst. We 'ave ze Hansa.

(She hands drink to Willie)

Willie:- Thanks Brunhilda. It's just what I need. (He drinks)

Brunhilda:- And now you'll be able to make mad passionate love to me.

Willie:- Why do you say that?

Brunhilda:- It wasn't a Hansa lager at all. It was a Heineken.

Willie:- Well what's so special about that?

Brunhilda:- It gets to the parts other beers can't reach.

Willie:- You are awful Brunhilda.

Brunhilda:- I know but I'm lovely with it.

Duet (Willie and Brunhilda)

Suggested numbers:- Under the moon of love
Cinderella Rockerfeller
I wanna be loved by you
Any pop comedy number

(The cow is used for moves during the number. A dance can be incorporated in the song in which the cow does similar steps to Willie and Brunhilda. At the end of the number they exit with the cow as tabs draw back on Scene 5)

Scene 5 - The Town Square

(The same set as Scene 1. It is the next day and the chorus are on stage)

Song (Chorus)

Suggested numbers:- The Sun has got his Hat on (Me and my Girl)
Happy days are here again
I wanna be happy (No No Nanette)
Any lively happy pop number

(The chorus dress the stage as Dame Doolittle enters)

Dame:- Hello everybody.

Audience:- Hello Dolly.

Dame:- I hope you're looking after my goodies. (She goes over to the basket) Ooh yes you are. Aren't you a good audience! Oh what a wonderful day. The sun's shining and all the rats and mice have gone. No more nibbled knickers! I feel like a million dollars. That piper's a marvel, just the sort of feller that could make a girl really happy.

(Hans, the lame boy, enters)

Hans:- Hello Dame Doolittle.

Dame:- Hello Hans and how are you today?

Hans:- I'm fine. The doctor says my leg is getting better and I should be able to walk properly in a few weeks.

Dame:- Oh I am pleased. You'll be able to run as fast as
- - - (well known athlete)

Hans:- Do you think so?

Dame:- Of course. And I'll tell you something else - if you eat up all your greens you'll grow up to be as good-looking as he is too.

Hans:- I can't wait.

Dame:- Neither can I.

(Fritz and Kathy enter)

Fritz:- Isn't it wonderful Dame Doolittle; there's not a rat or a mouse left in Hamelin.

Dame:- You're so right. I've never been so happy since I won first prize in the glamorous charlady contest.

Fritz:- Anyway I can't stay here chatting, I've got some toys to make for the King of France's daughter.

Dame:- My, you are getting patronised by Royalty. I wouldn't be surprised if you didn't receive a call from that lovely Princess Diana.

Fritz:- You never know. My fame seems to be spreading.

Kathy:- May I stay for a while grandfather? It's such a lovely day.

Fritz:- Of course my dear; you enjoy yourself. I'll see you later.

(Fritz exits)

Kathy:- Goodbye grandfather. (To Dame) Oh I'm so happy I feel like singing.

Dame:- Well if that isn't a cue for a song I don't know what is.

Kathy:- Everything in the world is wonderful. The rats and mice have all been drowned in the River Weser and I have the most wonderful boyfriend in the world.

Dame:- Well let's hear you sing then.

Kathy:- Very well, I will.

Song (Kathy and Chorus)

Suggested numbers:- When I need you
Feelings
Something

Dance (Junior Dancers now dressed as children of the townsfolk enter for the number which can be a continuation of the above song or a more up-tempo number)

Suggested numbers:- Portsmouth
Sunshine Cake
This Ole House

(Chorus exit at end of numbers but the Junior Dancers remain)

Dame:- Well done. I used to be a beautiful dancer you know in my younger days. My Black Bottom had to be seen to be believed.

Kathy:- Really?

Dame:- Oh yes, I was the envy of the over sixties formation dancing team.

(The Mayor enters)

Mayor:- Oh what a clever man I am! Aren't I?

Dame:- Oh you are indeed your copshop and what you need is a clever woman to marry you.

Mayor:- You're right of course but where would I find one?

Dame:- Well I don't like to advertise but there's someone you see every day who would love to be your wife.

Mayor:- Do you really think - - - (attractive TV newsreader) fancies me?

Dame:- I give up. I shall go where my qualities are more fully appreciated.

Mayor:- Where's that?

Dame:- The - - - (local Bingo club). Bye for now.

(Dame Doolittle exits)

Kathy:- I think she's very fond of you you know.

Mayor:- That's the trouble - most women are.

Kathy:- Is that so?

Mayor:- Yes, I think it's something to do with my resemblance to Paul Newman (or local character).

(The Pied Piper enters)

Piper:- (Bowing elaborately) Good day your worship.

(Kathy joins Hans and the Junior Dancers)

Mayor:- Oh hello Mr. Piper. I must congratulate you on your performance. There's not a sign of a rat or a mouse anywhere.

Piper:- I'm so pleased you're satisfied.

Mayor:- I am - very. You were the answer to all our problems.

Piper:- I was glad to be of service.

Mayor:- Good! But now that the job's done don't let me detain you.

Piper:- Haven't you forgotten something?

Mayor:- Have I? (He thinks) No, I don't think so.

Piper:- What about my thousand gilders?

Mayor:- A thousand gilders? You don't expect me to give you a thousand gilders do you?

Piper:- That is the sum you promised me if I got rid of the rats and the mice.

Mayor:- Oh that. (He laughs) That was just a joke.

Piper:- It may have been a joke to you but to me it was deadly serious.

Mayor:- (Taking out purse) Oh come now, take twenty gilders for your trouble and be off with you.