



The Magical Tale of Sleeping Beauty

A traditional family pantomime by Brian Luff

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Dame Dora Dipsy - The king's cook
Tom Dipsy - Dora's son
King Ponderous - The king
Queen Dolores - The queen
Princess Jess - Principal girl
Prince Quincy - Principal boy
The Fairy Godmother - A kindly spirit
The Wicked Witch of Dagenham East - An evil old woman
Josie - A maid
Purvis - The king's loyal butler
Ludlow Pinchworthy III - The queen's posh nephew
Roscoe - Ludlow's talking dog
Captain Brampton Hampton - Head of the royal guard
Lieutenant Tennant - Captain Hampton's deputy
Yorkel - A forager from the village

Plus a chorus of townspeople, courtiers, spirits, clocks and party guests.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1

Scene 1 - Grand hall at the royal castle
Scene 2 - The village green
Scene 3 - Grand hall at the royal castle
Scene 4 - A guest bedroom at the castle
Scene 5 - The castle garden

ACT 2

Scene 1 - The castle garden
Scene 2 - The haunted castle library
Scene 3 - Outside the castle
Scene 4 - The princess's bedchamber
Scene 5 - Grand hall at the royal castle

ACT 1

Scene 1

On tabs, enter Fairy Godmother.

Fairy Godmother Welcome to our pantomime,
Where tales are told in song and rhyme,
I'm the Fairy Godmother, as you can see,
You'll be hearing quite a lot from me.
But for every fine *good* fairy's spell,
There is a *wicked* witch as well.
(Aside to audience) It's something of an occupational hazard.

There's a flash and a bang. Enter the Wicked Witch on the opposite side of the stage in a pool of green light.

Fairy Godmother Sigh. And here she is now, right on cue. The Wicked Witch of Dagenham East.

Wicked Witch Aha, ha, ha, ha! I am the Wicked Witch of Dagenham East, the most evil, hateful, nasty, villainous, treacherous and thoroughly unreasonable witch in the whole of the kingdom.

Fairy Godmother Mm. Looks like you've lost a bit of weight since the last time I saw you. Have you been working out? A little Pilates perhaps?

Wicked Witch Silence, Fairy Godmother! Why do you always have to be so *nice*. You make me sick with your goody, goody this and your goody, goody that. I can't stand people who are nice. Like this lot *(indicating audience)*. Are you *nice*, boys and girls?

Audience Yes!!!/No!!!

Wicked Witch Well I loathe you all. Now, be quiet and pay attention!

Fairy Godmother Why exactly are you here, Wicked Witch of Dagenham East?

Wicked Witch I bring news. The king and queen have had... a baby.

Fairy Godmother A baby! But that's wonderful news!

Wicked Witch Uggghhh! Babies are such noisy, smelly, horrid little things. I don't like babies at all.

Fairy Godmother Is there going to be a christening party at the castle?

Wicked Witch Of course. It was announced this morning. Everyone in the kingdom will be invited.

Fairy Godmother Everyone? But *you* weren't invited to the king and queen's wedding were you?

Wicked Witch No.

Fairy Godmother Or their anniversary ball.

Wicked Witch Yes, I know, I know.

Fairy Godmother You were also not invited to the royal regatta, the annual flower show, or the opera festival. Not even when the castle got a visit from Antiques Roadshow.

Wicked Witch What of it? I don't like Fiona Bruce anyway.

Fairy Godmother You weren't even at the boot sale they had in the car park last Sunday.

Wicked Witch Yes, but they wouldn't *dare* not invite me to the christening.

Fairy Godmother Perhaps if you were a bit more pleasant, and a little less horrible, you'd get invited to a few more events at the palace.

Wicked Witch That may be so. But I can assure you of one thing...

Fairy Godmother And what is that, Wicked Witch of Dagenham East?

Wicked Witch If I am *not* invited to the christening, I will make the king and queen, and their precious little princess, regret the day they were born! Aha ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

There is a flash and a bang and the Wicked Witch exits, cackling wildly.

Fairy Godmother Ooh, thank goodness she's gone.

(Waving her wand) "And now our story shall begin,
With fairy magic good and bad,
The queen is now a proud mother,
The king is a devoted dad.

"The baby's name is Princess Jess,
As beautiful as you might guess,
But she'll have to overcome disaster,
To achieve her happy ever after..."

See you later...

Exit Fairy Godmother. Tabs open to reveal the grand hall at the royal castle. The chorus are already on stage and they go into a big opening song and dance routine.

Song 1

At the end of the song, the chorus exit. Enter Dame Dora Dipsy.

Dame Dora Dipsy Hello everyone! Welcome to the royal castle, on this very special day. It's the day of the royal christening! Are you excited boys and girls?

Audience Yes!!!

Dame Dora Dipsy I am Dame Dora Dipsy, pleased to make your acquaintance, I'm sure. I am the king and queen's cook and housekeeper, and ever since the birth of little Princess Jess, I'm the royal nanny as well. Which is more than enough work for any poor woman, I can tell you. I'm rushed off my feet day and night. I have to wash the nappies, clean the floor, make the beds and still find time to rustle up something delicious for the royal couple. They like macaroni, cannelloni, rigatoni, minestrone and pepperoni. That's on weekdays. On Saturdays they like beans, greens, sardines and tangerines, and on Sundays they dine on fillet of sole or casserole with a bread roll. My kitchen's got two Michelin stars, three stars in the AA guide, a thumbs up from Jamie Oliver and Gordon Ramsey's eaten here twice without closing us down. Oooh, he's got a face like a relief map of the Himalayas but he's a *lovely* man, that Gordon Ramsey. He was *very* complimentary of my unique style of cuisine. I even got a snog off him in the walk-in larder. Now, what was I going to say? Oh, yes, I'm a bit forgetful, and sometimes I forget my own name. So, every time you see me, boys and girls, I want you to shout out "Hi-ya Dora!". Will you do that for me?

Audience Yes!!!

Dame Dora Dipsy Hi-ya kids!

Audience Hi-ya Dora!

Ad lib, Dora practices with the audience a couple more times.

Dame Dora Dipsy Now, where's that lazy son of mine? Tom Dipsy, where have you got to, you disobedient boy! You're supposed to be helping me with the food for the christening today!

We hear ballet music. Tom Dipsy prances onto the stage like a ballet dancer. He does a couple of spins and pirouettes.

Tom Hello, mother. Hello boys and girls!

Dame Dora Dipsy What are you doing, Tom?

Tom This *is* Sleeping Beauty?

Dame Dora Dipsy Yes.

Tom Sleeping Beauty is a ballet.

Dame Dora Dipsy No! This isn't Sleeping Beauty the ballet. This is Sleeping Beaut *the pantomime*.

Tom Oh! Well, that's a relief. My feet are killing me.

Dame Dora Dipsy Where have you been, Tom?

Tom I've been hard at work doing my new job.

Dame Dora Dipsy Oh yes, I forgot. (*To audience*) Tom has recently been appointed "Keeper of the Royal Clocks" at the castle. It's a great responsibility.

Tom But there are so many clocks, mother! I have to wind them, clean them, mend them, and make sure they're all showing the right time.

Dame Dora Dipsy Sounds pretty easy to me.

Tom But there are over a *thousand* clocks, mother. Cuckoo clocks, grandfather clocks, alarm clocks, carriage clocks. There's even a sundial in the castle gardens. And last night the clocks went forward, so I had to wind every single one of them forward an hour.

Dame Dora Dipsy You put the clocks forward an hour?

Tom Yes.

Dame Dora Dipsy A *thousand* clocks?

Tom Yes.

Dame Dora Dipsy Oh deary, deary me.

Tom What's the matter?

Dame Dora Dipsy It's autumn time, Tom! In autumn the clocks go *back*, not forward.

Tom They don't.

Dame Dora Dipsy They do!!! Don't you know the saying?

Tom What saying?

Dame Dora Dipsy (*Jumping forward*) "Spring forward"

Tom (*Copying her*) "Spring forward"

Dame Dora Dipsy (*Toppling backwards*) "Fall back."

Tom (*Copying her again*) "Fall back."

Dame Dora Dipsy Yes. "Spring forward, fall back."

She shows him again and he copies her.

Tom So, I'll have to change all the clocks again?

Dame Dora Dipsy Yes!

Tom *A thousand* clocks?

Dame Dora Dipsy Yes!

Tom Let me get this straight. I moved them all one hour forward...

Dame Dora Dipsy Yes...

Tom Now I have to move them all one hour back?

Dame Dora Dipsy No!

Tom No?

Dame Dora Dipsy No! You have to move them *two* hours back.

Tom Two hours back?

Dame Dora Dipsy Yes!

Tom *A thousand* clocks?

Dame Dora Dipsy Yes! Before you can put them back, you've got to put them back.

Tom What?

Dame Dora Dipsy First, you put them back to the time they were before you put them forward.

Tom Right.

Dame Dora Dipsy Then you put them back another hour.

Tom Another hour?

Dame Dora Dipsy Yes.

Tom But I've only just put them back an hour.

Dame Dora Dipsy But then you have to put them back another hour.

Tom Another hour?

Dame Dora Dipsy To the time you *should* have put them back to in the first place.

Tom When I put them forward.

Dame Dora Dipsy Yes.

Tom A *thousand* clocks?

Dame Dora Dipsy Yes.

Tom I'm so confused.

Dame Dora Dipsy If you get confused, just say the thing. (*Jumping forward*) "Spring forward"

Tom (*Copying her*) "Spring forward"

Dame Dora Dipsy (*Toppling backwards*) "Fall back."

Tom (*Copying her again*) "Fall back."

Dame Dora Dipsy That's my boy. But before you do that, you've got to help me with the food for the party. I've been up all night cooking.

Tom Did you cook macaroni?

Dame Dora Dipsy No.

Tom Cannelloni?

Dame Dora Dipsy No.

Tom Rigatoni?

Dame Dora Dipsy No.

Tom Minestrone?

Dame Dora Dipsy No.

Tom Pepperoni?

Dame Dora Dipsy No.

Tom Well, what did you cook?

Dame Dora Dipsy Ravioli with guacamole. It was Gordon's idea.

Tom (*To audience*) It hasn't been the same around here since Gordon Ramsey's visit. It's all she talks about. Gordon this and Gordon that...

Dame Dora Dipsy Don't you diss my Gordon. He'll come back one day and whisk me off my feet.

Tom He'll need a fork lift truck.

Dame Dora Dipsy What?

Tom Nothing.

Dame Dora Dipsy What else have you been up to this morning, Tom?

Tom I've been keeping my ear to the ground, mother.

Dame Dora Dipsy And...

Tom I got a very dirty ear.

Dame Dora Dipsy What else?

Tom Well, I heard through the grapevine...

Dame Dora Dipsy Yes?

Tom That the king and queen have invited everyone in the village to the christening party.

Dame Dora Dipsy How very generous of them. What a lovely couple.

Tom Everyone, that is, except for the Wicked Witch of Dagenham East.

Dame Dora Dipsy Oh dear, she won't like that. There will be consequences.

Tom Consequences?

Dame Dora Dipsy The Wicked Witch of Dagenham East is a *very* powerful witch. The most powerful witch in the world. Who knows what she'll do.

Tom Look out, the party's starting already.

Enter Purvis the butler.

Purvis My lords, ladies and gentlemen and children, welcome to the grand christening party for Princess Jess. Please welcome his royal majesty King Ponderous and her royal majesty Queen Dolores!

The king and queen enter, accompanied by courtiers and a magnificent fanfare.

King Ponderous Welcome one and all on this auspicious day.

Queen Dolores But where is the guest of honour? Nanny, go and fetch Princess Jess!

Dame Dora Dipsy Oops, I completely forgot. Silly me. I'll go and get the pram.

Purvis Now please welcome our honoured guests, the queen's nephew Lord Ludlow Pinchworthy the Third, and commander of the royal guard Captain Brampton Hampton, accompanied by his deputy Lieutenant Tennant.

Enter Captain Brampton Hampton, Lieutenant Tennant and the top-hatted, monocle-wearing Ludlow Pinchworthy III, who is accompanied by his tall, scruffy dog Roscoe. Other townspeople arrive as guests at the same time.

Ludlow I say, this is a spiffing bash.

Roscoe I notice he didn't introduce me.

Ludlow Of course he didn't introduce you. You're a dog.

Roscoe I say we grab as much food as we can, stuff our pockets, then scarper.

Ludlow You have pockets?

Roscoe I was speaking rhetorically.

Captain Hampton Excuse me, but you can't bring that dog in here.

Ludlow Oh, yes I can.

Captain Hampton Oh, no you can't.

Ludlow encourages the audience to side with him.

Ludlow Oh, yes I can.

Captain Hampton Oh, no you can't.

Ludlow Oh, yes I can.

Captain Hampton Oh, no you can't.

Continue, ad lib until...

Ludlow May I ask why I cannot bring my dog in here?

Lieutenant Tennant It's the rules.

Ludlow Whose rules?

Captain Hampton My rules. I am Captain Brampton Hampton, Head of Security, and this is my deputy Lieutenant Tennant.

Ludlow Lieutenant Tennant?

Lieutenant Tennant Lieutenant Tennant.

Captain Hampton We cannot have a fierce, dangerous dog in the presence of the king and queen.

Ludlow Roscoe is not dangerous.

Roscoe *(Saying it like a word, in a squeaky voice)* Woof.

Ludlow See. He wouldn't hurt a fly.

Roscoe *(Squeaky voice)* Woof.

Roscoe produces a fly swat and swipes at Ludlow's arm with it.

Ludlow What are you doing?

Roscoe Hurting a fly.

Captain Hampton (*Whispering to Purvis*) I don't want to alarm the other guests Purvis, but the Wicked Witch of Dagenham East has been sighted in the vicinity of the castle.

Purvis That doesn't surprise me Captain Hampton. I think we all knew that not inviting her to the party was asking for trouble.

Lieutenant Tennant Don't worry, Purvis. We've raised the drawbridge. The only way she's going to get in here is to fly.

Purvis But Lieutenant Tennant, she's a witch. She *can* fly.

Lieutenant Tennant Curses! I never thought of that.

Queen Dolores Where on earth is that nanny with our daughter? The guests are waiting to see her.

King Ponderous Ah, here she comes now. Introduce her, Purvis.

Purvis Very well, sire. My lords, ladies and gentlemen and children, please welcome Dame Dora Dipsy...

Dora enters with a pram. She takes a big bow.

King Ponderous Not the nanny, the princess. Introduce the princess!

Purvis (*Announcing*) The Princess Jess!

We hear the sound of a baby crying.

Dame Dora Dipsy Now, now, little princess. Settle down. We can't have you crying on your big day, can we? Oops, smells like someone needs a new nappy.

Dora takes a little bundle out of the pram at arm's length, and hurriedly hands it to the queen. The baby stops crying.

Queen Dolores Ah, there's my little princess. (*To the king*) Would you like to hold your daughter, dear?

King Ponderous (*Detecting an unpleasant odour*) Maybe later, my love. I detect a royal poo poo.

Enter Josie the maid, who starts handing around snacks.

Josie (*To the queen*) Nibble, your majesty?

Queen Dolores No thank you, Josie. I'm trying to regain my figure.

The queen puts the baby back in its pram.

King Ponderous Mmm, yummy. I'll have a nibble.

Queen Dolores (*Smacking his hand away*) No, you will not dear.

King Ponderous But it's Twiglets. My favourite.

Queen Dolores You are trying to regain your figure as well.

King Ponderous Am I?

Queen Dolores Yes.

King Ponderous Oh dear.

Tom Dipsy sidles over to Josie.

Tom Hello Josie. You're looking very pretty today.

Josie Ssssh. You're not supposed to talk to me while I'm working.

Tom Can we meet later?

Josie (*Flirty*) If you're good.

Purvis At the request of the king and queen there will now be a song to celebrate the christening of the Princess Jess.

All Hooray!

The townspeople and courtiers get into dancing pairs. Ludlow dances with his dog. Dora grabs hold of Mr Purvis.

Dame Dora Dipsy Shall we dance, Mr Purvis?

Dora leads everyone in singing a congratulatory song.

Song 2

At the end of the song, the Wicked Witch enters with a flash and a loud bang, in a creepy pool of green light and smoke.

Tom Uh oh, it's the Wicked Witch of Dagenham East.

Wicked Witch Silence, all of you! And listen very carefully to what I have to say.

The Wicked Witch crosses to the king and queen.

Queen Dolores Can I help you?

Wicked Witch How *dare* you have a party at the castle without inviting me!

Queen Dolores We never invite you to *anything*.

Wicked Witch But *why* not???

King Ponderous Well... because, to be perfectly frank, we don't *like* you.

Purvis You're evil.

Captain Hampton You're hateful.

Lieutenant Tennant You're nasty.

Tom You're villainous.

Roscoe You're treacherous.

Ludlow You're the most thoroughly unreasonable witch in the whole of the kingdom.

Josie You said so yourself.

Dame Dora Dipsy You did! Right at the beginning of the show.

Wicked Witch I have heard enough!

Roscoe We've got more.

Wicked Witch Be quiet you moth eaten mutt!

Roscoe Charming.

The witch looms over the pram and points at the baby. The stage grows darker. There is a flash of lightening and a crash of thunder.

Wicked Witch From this day forth, I shall place a vile curse on the Princess Jess.

All A curse??

Queen Dolores But she's just a little baby!

Wicked Witch When the princess reaches her eighteenth birthday, she will prick her finger... on a splinter.

All A splinter?

Wicked Witch A splinter on a spindle!

Tom A spindle? *(Beat)* What's a spindle?

Dame Dora Dipsy *(Whispering)* It's a device for making thread, using a spinning wheel.

Tom Oh. *(Beat)* What's a spinning wheel?

Dame Dora Dipsy Ssssh.

Wicked Witch A few short hours after she gets the splinter from the spindle, the princess will die!

All Die?

Wicked Witch "With all the powers that I possess,
Your hurtful snub I shan't forgive,
And now your precious Princess Jess
Has only eighteen years to live."

Aha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

With an evil cackle, the witch exits. The lights come back up.

Queen Dolores No!!! Who will help us in this terrible hour?

King Ponderous Surely our daughter cannot be doomed to die as soon as she comes of age?

Tom *(Whispering to his mother)* So, what exactly does a spindle do?

Dame Dora Dipsy Enough about the spindle, Tom.

There is another flash and the Fairy Godmother appears.

Queen Dolores Fairy Godmother, thank goodness you're here. Can you protect our daughter from this dreadful curse?

Fairy Godmother "Though I cannot lift her curse,
This sacred promise I will keep,
The splinter will not kill the princess,
Instead, she'll fall into a deep sleep."

Queen Dolores Oh, thank you Fairy Godmother. You've saved our daughter's life.

King Ponderous But for how long will she sleep?

Fairy Godmother "The princess will rest peacefully,
I shall protect her from all fears,
Much time will pass till she awakes,
The sleep will last a hundred years."

King Ponderous (*To the queen*) I must be hearing things, my dear. I thought she said a hundred years.

All She *did* say a hundred years?

Queen Dolores The princess must *never* know of this.

King Ponderous Never!

Tom But surely, she'll be a very old woman when she wakes up!

Fairy Godmother "When Jess awakes, she'll still be young,
Her slumber will be calm and deep,
The castle clocks will stop their ticking,
Time will *stand still* as she sleeps."

Ta ta for now...

The Fairy Godmother disappears with a silver flash.

Tom Did she say that the castle clocks will stop ticking? A *thousand* clocks? Some poor soul will have to wind them all up again.

King Ponderous Wait! There will be no hundred year sleep for the princess. I have a plan.

All A plan?

King Ponderous I shall remove every single spinning wheel from the kingdom.

Queen Dolores That's an excellent idea!

King Ponderous In fact I shall make it *illegal* to own a spinning wheel. On pain of death.

Roscoe Bit harsh.

Ludlow Spiffing wheeze. If there are no spinning wheels, there will be no spindles.

Purvis And if there are no spindles, there will be no splinters.

Tom *(To the audience)* Five minutes ago I'd never heard of a spindle. Now it's all about spindles.

Dame Dora Dipsy Right, that's all sorted then. Time for pre-dinner cocktails, I think. Follow me into the dining room everyone!

Everyone starts to exit.

Ludlow Hoorah! Drinkies time!

Roscoe I'll have a large gin and tonic, please. With a slice of lime.

Captain Hampton *(To Ludlow)* Does that dog have a licence?

Ludlow Of course.

Lieutenant Tennant Let me see it.

Ludlow hands Tennant a piece of paper.

Lieutenant Tennant This is a heavy goods licence.

Roscoe I like to drive trucks.

Captain Hampton *(To audience)* That is one weird dog.

All exit. Tom hangs back. Josie turns around and beckons to him.

Josie Come on, Tom, we have to go and help serve the drinks.

Tom There's something I wanted to say to you first. While we're on our own.

Josie What's that?

Tom and Josie sing a cheesy love duet together.

Song 3

At the end of the song, curtains close. Enter Fairy Godmother on tabs. She is holding the tiny, bundled form of Princess Jess.

Fairy Godmother "How quickly time it hurtles by,
The years fly faster, like a dream..."

The form of the baby vanishes before our eyes, and the teenage Princess Jess magically appears.

Our enchanted tale must now move on,
The princess has just turned eighteen."

The Fairy Godmother exits. Tabs open to reveal...

Act 1

Scene 2

The village green. There is a fete in progress. A "Test Your Strength" machine stands centre stage, with a stall holder standing next to it. The machine has numbers running from zero at the bottom to twenty at the top, where there is a bell. (The strength indicator arrow can be secretly moved up and down by a crew member standing behind the machine.) There is a big mallet propped up next to the machine.

Enter Dame Dora Dipsy and Purvis with shopping bags.

Dame Dora Dipsy Hi-ya kids!

Audience Hi-ya Dora!

Dame Dora Dipsy Ooh, look, it's a "Test Your Strength" machine. My mother used to have one of these at home. She was an East End boxer, you know.

Purvis So I hear.

Dame Dora Dipsy Three hundred fights, no defeats. Come on Mr Purvis, put down those shopping bags and come and show me what a great big strong man you are.

Purvis Don't you think that would be rather undignified, Dora?

Dame Dora Dipsy Nah! Come on, flex your muscles.

Purvis I haven't got any muscles.

Dame Dora Dipsy *(To stall holder)* He'll have a go. What's the prize?

Stall holder If you ring the bell at the top, you win a Teddy Bear.

Dame Dora Dipsy *(Clapping excitedly)* Oooo, a Teddy Bear! Go on, win me a Teddy Bear, Mr Purvis!

Purvis What do I have to do?

Stall holder Just stand there, and hit that big red button with this.

He hands him the mallet.

Purvis I'll try my best.

Dame Dora Dipsy Hard as you can, Mr Purvis.

Purvis hits the button at the foot of the machine. The strength indicator arrow goes up to five, and the machine makes a disappointing noise like the "wrong answer" effect in Pointless or Family Fortunes.

Dame Dora Dipsy Is that the best you can do?

Purvis Sorry.

Dame Dora Dipsy I'll show you how it's done. It's all in the preparation...

Dora walks back from the machine so that she can take a run up to it. She does all the actions in the following rhyme as she recites it. (This includes wiggling her bottom from side to side.)

Dame Dora Dipsy "Touch your head, touch your knees,
Make your mind crystal clear,
Take a long run, and exercise your rear.

Shoulders spread wide and a big gulp of air,
Take a good swing and you'll win a Teddy Bear."

Dora picks up the mallet and whacks the button. The arrow flies up to twenty at the top of the machine, and the bell rings.

Dame Dora Dipsy Piece of cake.

Stall holder Here you are, madam. You win a Teddy Bear.

Dame Dora Dipsy Oooh, thank you. Hello Teddy.

Stall holder Next!

Dame Dora Dipsy Right, Mr Purvis. Now I'll teach you how to do it. Go and stand over there.

Purvis goes and stands ready to take a long run-up at the machine.

Now, repeat after me.

"Touch your head, touch your knees,
Make your mind crystal clear,
Take a long run, and exercise your rear.
Shoulders spread wide and a big gulp of air,
Take a good swing and you'll win a Teddy Bear."

(To Purvis) Now you say it.

Purvis I feel stupid.

Dame Dora Dipsy Just say it. You need to reach your inner athlete.

Purvis does all the actions in the rhyme as he recites it

Purvis "Touch your head, touch your knees,
Make your mind crystal clear,
Take a long run, and exercise your rear.
Shoulders spread wide and a big gulp of air,
Take a good swing and you'll win a Teddy Bear."

Purvis picks up the mallet and swings it at the button on the machine. The strength indicator creeps up to ten.

Purvis Oh dear.

Stall holder No Teddy Bear for you.

Purvis Aw.

Dame Dora Dipsy That was rubbish, wasn't it boys and girls. Shall I show him how to do it one last time?

Audience Yes!!!

Dame Dora Dipsy Right...

"Touch your head, touch your knees,
Make your mind crystal clear,
Take a long run, and exercise your rear.

Shoulders spread wide and a big gulp of air,
Take a good swing and you'll win a Teddy Bear."

She whacks the button. The arrow again flies up to twenty and the bell rings.

Dame Dora Dipsy Easy-peasy.

Stall holder Well done.

Dame Dora Dipsy Where's my Teddy Bear?

Stall holder You've already got a Teddy Bear.

Dame Dora Dipsy Well, I want another Teddy Bear.

Stall holder Oh, very well.

Dame Dora Dipsy (*Playing with the bears*) Hello Teddy. Say hello to the other Teddy. (*Squeaky voice*) "Hello Teddy."

Stall holder Next!

Purvis Can we go now?

Dame Dora Dipsy (*To Purvis*) Absolutely not, Mr Purvis. It's your turn again. Do you think he can do it boys and girls?

Audience Yes!!!

Dame Dora Dipsy This time we'll say it together. 1,2,3, go.

Purvis and Dora do all the actions together, side by side.

Both "Touch your head, touch your knees,
Make your mind crystal clear,
Take a long run, and exercise your rear.
Shoulders spread wide and a big gulp of air,
Take a good swing and you'll win a Teddy Bear."

Purvis swings the mallet at the machine. The arrow finally flies up to twenty and the bell rings.

Dame Dora Dipsy You *did* it Mr Purvis. Give him a big cheer, boys and girls.

Audience Hooray!

Dame Dora Dipsy You see, you never know what you can do until you try. How do you feel now, Mr Purvis?

Purvis I feel alive! ALIVE!!!

Dame Dora Dipsy Alright, don't get carried away.

Purvis Sorry.

Dame Dora Dipsy (*To stall holder*) Oy you! Aren't you forgetting something?

Stall Holder What?

Dame Dora Dipsy (*Gruffly*) Give him his Teddy Bear.

Stall Holder You've already got *two* Teddy Bears.

Dame Dora Dipsy Well, we want three Teddy Bears.

Stall Holder I've only got one Teddy Bear left.

Dame Dora Dipsy Then we want *all* your Teddy Bears!

Stall Holder That's not fair.

Dame Dora Dipsy Hand it over.

Stall Holder (*Reluctantly*) Here.

Dame Dora Dipsy Thank you, sir.

Purvis We really should get back to the castle.

Dame Dora Dipsy Look Mr Purvis. It's the three bears. (*Squeaky voice*) "Who's been eating my porridge?"

Enter Princess Jess.

Princess Hello Dora, hello Mr Purvis!

Dame Dora Dipsy Hello Princess Jess.

Princess What are you doing?

Dame Dora Dipsy (*Embarrassed*) Oh, er... I... er.. I was just playing with these Teddy Bears.

Princess I'm glad I bumped into you Dora. It's my coming of age party tomorrow and I was hoping you'd be able to bake a birthday cake for me.

Purvis Cook has already started on the cake mix, your highness.

Dame Dora Dipsy I have. It's my special recipe. It's made from chocolate caramel, chocolate toffee, chocolate peanut butter, mint chocolate, and chocolate brownie.

Princess It sounds delicious.

Dame Dora Dipsy Hold on, I haven't finished yet. Chocolate coconut, chocolate cookie crunch, double chocolate, triple chocolate, quadruple chocolate and a Snickers bar.

Princess How heavenly.

Dame Dora Dipsy Ah, that reminds me...

Princess What?

Dame Dora Dipsy I must add some extra chocolate before I put it in the oven.

Princess And don't forget, Dora, *eighteen* candles.

Dame Dora Dipsy Ah! Eighteen candles. I can't believe you've grown up so fast. It seems like only yesterday I was bouncing you up and down on my knee.

Enter Prince Quincy.

Princess Who is *that*? I haven't seen him around here before.

Purvis The king and queen have invited people to your party from all over the kingdom, your highness.

Princess He's very handsome, isn't he?

Dame Dora Dipsy I'm sure I don't know what you mean, Jess.

Prince Quincy Excuse me...

Purvis Can we be of service?

Prince Quincy I am Prince Quincy of Arundel. I wonder, could you direct me to the castle.

Dame Dora Dipsy The castle?

Prince Quincy Yes.

Dame Dora Dipsy Well, you see that huge building up there on the hill.

Prince Quincy Yes.

Dame Dora Dipsy The one with all the tall towers and pointy turrets and battlements.

Prince Quincy Yes.

Dame Dora Dipsy And royal flags fluttering in the breeze.

Prince Quincy Yes.

Dame Dora Dipsy The big castle-ly building.

Prince Quincy Yes.

Dame Dora Dipsy That's the castle.

Prince Quincy Ah! I thought it might be. Thank you.

Dame Dora Dipsy You're very welcome.

Prince Quincy I shall be on my way. But before I go, perhaps you would be kind enough to introduce me to this young lady.

Purvis By all means, your highness. This is Prin...

Dame Dora Dipsy (*Protectively*) This is my daughter, Jess.

Prince Quincy Your daughter?

Dame Dora Dipsy Yes. She works in the kitchens at the castle.

The Princess looks extremely annoyed at this subterfuge.

Prince Quincy It's a pleasure to meet you, Jess. I hope we shall meet again... *very* soon.

Dame Dora Dipsy Come on Mr Purvis, come on Jess, let's get back to the castle. There's baking to be done.

Dora, Princess Jess and Mr Purvis exit. The princess looks back longingly at the prince as Dora drags her away. Prince Quincy walks to centre stage.

Prince Quincy My heart is pounding. I know that we have only just met, but I'm sure that Jess is the most lovely girl I have ever seen.

The prince runs off. Tabs close. Enter Ludlow Pinchworthy III.

Ludlow (*Calling off*) Come on Roscoe, old chap. Walkies!

Roscoe trudges on sulkily.

Roscoe I don't want to go for walkies. We went for walkies yesterday.

Ludlow Yes.

Roscoe And the day before. And the day before that.

Ludlow Of course we did. You're a dog. Dogs go for walkies every day.

Roscoe Why?

Ludlow Because you need exercise.

Roscoe If I need exercise, I go to the gym.

Ludlow Dogs aren't supposed to go to the gym!

Roscoe Rubbish. I *love* to work out at the gym. That's why I'm so... buff. (*He flexes his muscles*)

Ludlow Buff?

Roscoe does some impressive stretching exercises like a professional runner.

Roscoe Like what you see, ladies?

Ludlow That gym membership is costing me a fortune! You're a very expensive pet, Roscoe.

Roscoe I'm not a pet. I'm your best friend.

Ludlow Yes, but you eat me out of house and home, you drink all the beer in the larder, and your medical insurance gets more costly every year.

Roscoe You cannot cancel my private health care.

Ludlow On top of that, you've had your teeth fixed...

Roscoe Worth every penny.

Ludlow You've had a tummy tuck...

Roscoe Yep!

Ludlow And you've had a *nose job*.

Roscoe (*Posing*) My nose was too big.

Ludlow Dogs are supposed to have big noses.

Roscoe Not me.

Ludlow You've even had your buttocks lifted!

Roscoe (*Admiring them*) Best thing I ever did.

Ludlow (*To audience*) I didn't even know dogs *had* buttocks.

Roscoe You learn something every day.

Ludlow Roscoe, it's time you learned to behave like a proper dog. What you need is some obedience training.

Roscoe Obedience training???

Ludlow We'll start with something simple. Go and fetch this stick!

Ludlow throws a stick to the other side of the stage.

Roscoe What for?

Ludlow I want you to bring the stick to me.

Roscoe Why?

Ludlow Because I want the stick.

Roscoe You *want* the stick?

Ludlow Yes.

Roscoe If you want the stick, why did you throw the stick all the way over there?

Ludlow Because I want you to go and get it.

Roscoe *You* go and get it.

Ludlow I don't want to go and get it.

Roscoe In that case, you clearly don't want the stick as much as you claim.

Ludlow Oh?

Roscoe And if you don't *really* want the stick ...

Ludlow Go on...

Roscoe Why should I be bothered to walk all the way over there and get it for you?

Ludlow Because you're my best friend?

Roscoe Look, we clearly have a problem here. You, Ludlow Pinchworthy the Third, are here...

Ludlow Yes.

Roscoe And the stick is over there.

Ludlow Yes.

Roscoe A distance of several feet.

Ludlow Clearly.

Roscoe I am showing no inclination whatsoever to retrieve the stick for you.

Ludlow No.

Roscoe Your arms are not long enough to reach the stick.

Ludlow No.

Roscoe You have no other accomplices who might be willing to go and fetch the stick for you.

Ludlow No.

Roscoe You have no special powers that might allow you to retrieve the stick by magic.

Ludlow No.

Roscoe And the stick itself has no means of moving of its own free will.

Ludlow No.

Roscoe No little legs.

Ludlow No.

Roscoe Or tiny wheels.

Ludlow No.

Roscoe There is a very slim possibility that a bird might swoop down, pick up the stick in its beak, and then drop the stick at your feet.

Ludlow Is there?

Roscoe But this is extremely unlikely to happen.

Ludlow Yes.

Roscoe We could literally wait for years for such an occurrence.

Ludlow Years.

Roscoe Meaning that we appear to have reached something of an *impasse*.

Ludlow Seemingly.

Roscoe *(To audience)* That's French, boys and girls, meaning a situation in which no progress is possible. A deadlock, if you will.

Ludlow Oh, all right, I'll fetch the stick...

Roscoe Good man.

Ludlow Just this once.

Ludlow goes and gets the stick and then returns to where he was standing.

Roscoe What are you going to do now?

Ludlow I'm going to throw the stick again.

He throws it.

Roscoe I thought you wanted the stick?

Ludlow I do want the stick. I want the stick very much.

Roscoe I see.

Ludlow I *love* this stick.

Roscoe Aw.

Ludlow It's the loveliest, prettiest, stickiest stick in the world.

Roscoe And yet, for the second time, you have thrown your beloved stick all the way over there.

Ludlow Yes.

(Beat)

Roscoe OK, I'll go and get the stick for you?

Ludlow Excellent!

Roscoe If you say please.

Ludlow Please.

Roscoe Say "pretty please."

Ludlow I'm not saying pretty please!

Roscoe Then you'll have to get the stick yourself.

Ludlow OK. Pretty please.

Roscoe Say, "pretty please with knobs on."

Ludlow I will not say pretty please with knobs on!

Roscoe Ludlow, you obviously enjoy this whole stick throwing thing.

Ludlow I do. I really do.

Roscoe So, I tell you what I'll do.

Ludlow What?

Roscoe I'll go and fetch the stick...

Ludlow Ah!

Roscoe And then I'll throw the stick for *you* to fetch.

Ludlow You'd do that for me?

Roscoe I'm your best friend, Ludlow.

Ludlow Oh, go on then...

Roscoe goes and picks up the stick, then throws it into the wings on the opposite side of the stage. Ludlow runs off stage chasing it.

Roscoe *(To audience)* Now, *that's* what I call obedience training.

Roscoe follows Ludlow off, grinning at the audience as he goes. Tabs open to reveal...

Act 1

Scene 3

The grand hall at the castle. There is a line of clocks on stage - a cuckoo clock, a grandfather clock, an alarm clock and a carriage clock. The clocks are played by kids.

Enter Tom Dipsy. He performs a song and dance routine with the clocks.

Song 4

Tom Right, it's time to set all the clocks in the castle back to the right time. I love these clocks. They're like my friends. I give them names, you know. This is Gok the Cuckoo Clock.

Gok takes a little bow and waves. The other clocks do the same as their names are introduced.

Tom This is Arthur the Grandfather Clock. This is Buzz the Alarm Clock, and this is Barry the Carriage Clock.

The clocks all run around and then get back into line like well-drilled soldiers.

Tom Now, what was it mother told me I had to do? I've got to put all the clocks back one hour...

He moves the hands on the clocks back a hour.

And then I've got to put them all forward an hour.

He moves the hands on the clocks forward a hour.

Is that right, boys and girls?

Audience No!!! / Yes!!!

Tom Oh dear, I can't remember. Maybe it would help if I recite that little saying. *(With the actions)* "Spring forward, fall back."

The clocks copy him, also with the actions.

Clocks "Spring forward, fall back."

Tom Oh dear, that doesn't help at all. I still can't remember.

Cuckoo Clock "Don't worry Tom, we'll help you back on track..."

Grandfather Clock You put us forward one whole hour, instead of one hour back...

Alarm Clock The fix is very simple, you don't need magic powers...

Carriage Clock All you have to do is put us back two hours!"

Tom Wow! Thanks for your help clocks! *(To audience)* I told you they were my friends.

All clocks *(Together)* Don't mention it, Tom.

Tom moves the hands two hours back on the cuckoo clock.

Tom One down, nine hundred and ninety-nine to go.

Tabs close. Enter the Wicked Witch on tabs, illuminated by an eerie green glow.

Wicked Witch Aha ha ha ha ha!

"So Princess Jess has reached eighteen,
And her young life it gathers pace,
But soon she'll have to face her doom,
My evil curse is still in place.

"The king has banned all spinning wheels,
But that cannot reverse my plans,
I'm very good at woodwork,
So I'll make one with my own fair hands."

He didn't think of that, did he, boys and girls? Aha ha ha ha ha!

Exit the Wicked Witch. Still on tabs, enter Princess Jess & Prince Quincy from opposite sides of the stage.

Princess Why, Prince Quincy, how nice to see you. Are you enjoying your stay at the castle?

Prince Quincy It's very comfortable, Jess, if a little drafty.

Princess Well, it is eight hundred years old. So there's no double glazing I'm afraid.

Prince Quincy I suppose not. Jess, I was hoping I'd bump into you. There's something I wanted to tell you.

Princess That's odd. There's something I wanted to say to you too.

Prince Quincy You go first.

Princess No, you go first.

Prince Quincy Well, I know you're a kitchen maid, and I'm a royal prince, but...

Princess What is it, Prince Quincy?

Prince Quincy I think you're quite the most beautiful girl I've ever seen.

Princess Heavens! What a lovely thing to say.

Prince Quincy I spend my whole life being introduced to spoilt, rich princesses who can have anything they want. I like you because you're just an ordinary girl, with no title, or inheritance or palace. You're just you.

Princess *(To audience)* Oh dear, should I tell him I'm really a princess? What do you think, boys and girls?

Audience Tell him!!! / Don't tell him!!!

Princess *(To audience)* I don't know what to do. If he finds out I'm rich he might not like me anymore.

Prince Quincy Oh, Jess. I'm so glad we met.

Princess So am I.

Prince Quincy Would you like to dance?

Princess Dance? But there's no music.

Prince Quincy No music? But I can hear music every time I see you.

Prince Quincy & Jess sing a love duet.

Song 5

At the end of the song the couple kiss, then run off stage together. Tabs open to reveal...

ACT 1

Scene 4

A guest bedroom at the castle. There's a huge bed with a massive duvet on it. On one side of the stage is a black bin bag full of rubbish, and on the other side is a large pedal bin. There's also a trolley with various cleaning products on it, and four mops propped up against it. Enter Dame Dora Dipsy.

Dame Dora Dipsy Hello kids!

Audience Hi-ya Dora!

Dame Dora Dipsy Are you having a nice time?

Audience Yes!!!

Dame Dora Dipsy I wish I had time to enjoy myself. We've got more guests arriving soon and I've got to dust and clean the castle bedrooms. All two hundred of them. I bet you all keep your bedrooms nice and clean and tidy, don't you boys and girls?

Audience Yes!!! / No!!!

Dame Dora Dipsy Tom! Come and give me a hand, will you?

Enter Tom.

Tom Coming mother!

Dame Dora Dipsy Tom, you can start by putting that big bag of rubbish in the pedal bin over there.

Tom walks over to the pedal bin and steps on the pedal. The lid opens. He crosses to the other side of the stage, picks up the rubbish bag, and carries it across to the bin. He is about to chuck it in when the lid closes.

Tom Oh, darn it!

He puts down the rubbish bag behind him, and steps on the pedal again. The lid opens. He turns around, picks up the bag, and is about to throw it in the bin when the lid slams shut again.

Tom Drat!

Tom repeats the process a couple more times, much more quickly than before, but the bin defeats him every time. By now, Dame Dora is standing watching Tom, her arms folded.

Dame Dora Dipsy Oh, give that to me, you great nitwit!

Dora keeps her foot on the pedal while the lid is open and stuffs the rubbish into the bin.

Dame Dora Dipsy There you go, Einstein. It's not rocket science, is it.

Tom Now what?

Dame Dora Dipsy Go and empty the bin.

Tom starts to pick up the bin.

Dame Dora Dipsy Not now! First we need to change that duvet cover.

Tom Uh oh. I'd better fetch some re-enforcements, then. Josie! Purvis! Come and give us a hand, will you?

Enter Josie and Purvis.

Tom I hate changing duvet covers. I've had some very bad experiences.

Dame Dora Dipsy I'm sure it'll be fine if we all work as a team.

They all take a corner and walk the huge duvet to centre stage.

Dame Dora Dipsy Tom, you reach inside the cover and get hold of one of the far corners of the duvet.

Tom I can't reach it.

Dame Dora Dipsy Well, try harder.

Tom Hold on...

Tom crawls inside the duvet cover. He is now only visible as a bump.

Dame Dora Dipsy Tom? Where are you, Tom?

Tom I'm inside.

Dame Dora Dipsy Can you see the far end of the duvet?

Tom Not yet. It's very dark in here.

Josie Shall I go in after him?

Dame Dora Dipsy Too dangerous, Josie. Purvis, you go in.

Purvis Very well.

Purvis crawls into the duvet cover.

Josie Be careful in there.

Dame Dora Dipsy What can you see, Purvis?

Purvis Not very much.

Dame Dora Dipsy Any sign of Tom?

Purvis Not yet. I'll try crawling a little further.

Josie Have you found him yet?

Purvis No. But there's a housekeeper in here called Mrs. Wilkins.

Dame Dora Dipsy Mrs Wilkins? I thought she left years ago. What else can you see.

Purvis There's a magic lamp.

Dame Dora Dipsy Uh, oh. That's the wrong panto.

Tom Purvis?

Purvis Tom!

Josie He's found him.

Tom Thank heavens! I was beginning to give up hope. I couldn't find my way out.

Purvis Follow me.

We see bumps moving around inside the duvet.

Dame Dora Dipsy Tom? Purvis?

Josie They haven't come out.

Dame Dora Dipsy (*Like a posh WWII pilot*) There's nothing else for it. I'm going in.

Josie No!

Dame Dora Dipsy Don't try and stop me, Josie. You stay here and guard the entrance. If I'm not back in twenty-four hours, raise the alarm.

Josie (*Saluting*) Good luck, Dora.

Dora salutes and disappears inside the duvet. We see a lot more wriggling around under the cover.

Dame Dora Dipsy Is this your arm, Mr Purvis?

Tom No, that's my arm, mother.

Purvis I appear to be holding a leg.

Dame Dora Dipsy That would be my leg, Mr Purvis.

Purvis I'm most terribly sorry, Dora.

Dame Dora Dipsy I'll give you fifteen minutes to let go.

Tom I can see a light, mother!

Dame Dora Dipsy A light!

Purvis Thank god!

Dame Dora Dipsy Crawl towards the light, Tom. We'll follow you.

Tom appears at the duvet's open end. He crawls out into Josie's arms.

Josie Tom! I thought I'd lost you!

Tom It was touch and go, Josie.

Purvis crawls out followed by Dora.

Purvis We made it.

Josie But, *none* of you grabbed hold of the far corners of the duvet.

Tom Oh no! I *knew* I went in there for something.

Dame Dora Dipsy Oh, put the duvet back on the bed. We'll change it next week.

Purvis Good idea.

Dame Dora Dipsy Now, grab those bottles of air freshener and lets get this place smelling lovely and fresh.

They all grab a spray bottle from the cleaning trolley. They begin by spraying the air freshener (water) up into the air, but then Tom suddenly squirts it directly at Josie.

Josie Uggghhhhh! Don't spray it at me. Spray it in the air!

Tom Make me!

Josie Right! Now you're for it!

Josie sprays Tom. Then Tom misses Josie and hits Purvis. Purvis retaliates and Dora gets caught in the crossfire. Soon they're all spraying each other.

All Uggghhhhhh!

After a while Dora raises her arms and screams for hostilities to cease.

Dame Dora Dipsy Stop! All of you! I'm sure we all smell quite fresh enough.

Tom Would you like to smell nice and fresh, boys and girls?

Audience Yes!!! / No!!!

Tom, Dora, Purvis and Josie spray the audience for a while.

Purvis Congratulations boys and girls. Now you're the sweetest smelling audience we've ever had.

Dame Dora Dipsy Grab those mops, everyone. Time to clean the floor.

Dora, Purvis, Josie and Tom sing a song while performing a little dance routine with mops.

Song 6

At the end of the song, tabs close. Captain Hampton and Lieutenant Tennant enter on tabs. Tennant is not wearing any trousers, just a pair of brightly patterned boxer shorts.

Captain Hampton Line up the men, Lieutenant Tennant. I wish to inspect the guard.

Lieutenant Tennant The men aren't here, sir.

Captain Hampton Well, where are they?

Lieutenant Tennant They went to the pub in the village, sir.

Captain Hampton The pub? How long have they been gone?

Lieutenant Tennant About six weeks, sir.

Captain Hampton Six weeks? Then, who is guarding the castle?

Lieutenant Tennant I am, sir.

Captain Hampton But Tennant, what if someone wants to invade the castle?

Lieutenant Tennant They can't sir.

Captain Hampton Can't?

Lieutenant Tennant It's closed, sir.

Captain Hampton Very well. If I cannot inspect the men...

Lieutenant Tennant Sir?

Captain Hampton I shall inspect you.

Lieutenant Tennant Thank you, sir.

Captain Hampton Firstly, I cannot help noticing, Tennant, that you are not wearing any trousers.

Lieutenant Tennant They're at the dry cleaners, sir.

Captain Hampton The dry cleaners???

Lieutenant Tennant I've lost the ticket, sir.

Captain Hampton Tennant, I cannot have a castle guard running around without any trousers on.

Lieutenant Tennant Can't you sir?

Captain Hampton No.

Lieutenant Tennant Why not, sir!

Captain Hampton Discipline! There has to be discipline in a military unit like ours. Where's your helmet?

Lieutenant Tennant I lost it in a card game, sir.

Captain Hampton A card game?

Lieutenant Tennant I bet it on a pair of fours.

Captain Hampton Where's your rifle, man?

Lieutenant Tennant Rifle, sir?

Captain Hampton Your rifle. It's a long gun, (*showing him the length*) about this size.

Lieutenant Tennant Oh, *that* sir.

Captain Hampton Yes, Tennant.

Lieutenant Tennant I swapped it, sir.

Captain Hampton Swapped it?

Lieutenant Tennant I wasn't really using the rifle very much and it was just sat gathering dust in a cupboard. So I swapped it for a PlayStation.

Captain Hampton A PlayStation?

Lieutenant Tennant I use it to play "Call of Duty", sir.

Captain Hampton "Call of Duty"? (*Aside to audience*) How pointedly ironic.

Lieutenant Tennant Thank you, sir.

Captain Hampton Tennant, you are a disgrace to this unit.

Lieutenant Tennant Sir?

Captain Hampton You are confined to barracks with immediate effect.

Lieutenant Tennant Then... who's going to guard the castle, sir?

Captain Hampton Correction. You will go back to guarding the castle with immediate effect.

Lieutenant Tennant Thank you, sir.

Captain Hampton Oh, and Tennant...

Lieutenant Tennant Yes, sir?

Captain Hampton Put some trousers on.

Lieutenant Tennant Yes, sir.

Captain Hampton Left, right, left, right...

Captain Hampton marches Lieutenant Tennant off. Tabs open to reveal...

ACT 1

Scene 5

The castle gardens, set up for an outdoor party. On stage are Princess Jess, Prince Quincy, Ludlow Pinchworthy III, and Roscoe, along with courtiers and a few townspeople. Dora, Tom and Josie are serving everyone drinks.

Purvis My lords, ladies and gentlemen, and children, please welcome their royal majesties King Ponderous and Queen Dolores.

Enter the king and queen.

Queen Dolores What a marvellous idea to hold Princess Jess's birthday party in the castle gardens.

King Ponderous Whose idea was it?

Queen Dolores Why, mine of course. I've given up waiting for *you* to have a good idea.

Enter Captain Brampton Hampton and Lieutenant Tennant.

Captain Hampton Ludlow, you have been warned before about bringing that dog into the royal castle.

Lieutenant Tennant At least use a lead.

Ludlow I'm sorry chaps, but the only way that works is if I wear the lead and Roscoe holds onto it. It's very humiliating.

Prince Quincy (*To Jess*) Ah, what a lovely day for a party! I'm looking forward to meeting the princess. I wonder why she isn't here yet.

Princess Jess Quincy, there really is something I need to tell you.

Prince Quincy What's that?

Princess Jess This is... *my* party.

Prince Quincy *Your* party?

Princess Jess Yes.

Prince Quincy I'm at the wrong party?

Princess Jess No. You're at the right party.

Prince Quincy Are you at the wrong party?

Princess Jess No.

Prince Quincy But, I don't understand. This is the birthday party of Princess Jess. So, if it's *your* birthday party, that can only mean one thing....

Roscoe marches over and confronts Prince Quincy.

Roscoe Oh, for heaven's sake, Quincy, this is painful to watch. Pay attention. This is *not* Dame Dora's daughter as previously stated. She does *not* work as a maid at the castle. If she did she'd be serving drinks.

Prince Quincy Oh.

Roscoe She is a royal princess. She's heir to the throne, and her name is Princess Jess! Say "hello Princess Jess."

Prince Quincy Hello, Princess Jess.

Princess Jess Hello.

Roscoe Now give her a hug and say "I love you."

Roscoe hugs the princess.

Prince Quincy I love you.

Princess Jess I love you too.

Roscoe Hoorah! Now we can all get on with our lives.

Roscoe marches back to Ludlow.

Prince Quincy Will you marry me, Jess?

Dame Dora Dipsy *(To audience)* I'm filling up.

Princess Jess You'll have to ask my father and mother first.

Prince Quincy Well, there's no better time than the present.

Quincy leads Jess over to the king and queen.

Prince Quincy Your royal majesties, I have something very important to say to you.

King Dolores Is it a complaint about the food?

Prince Quincy No!

Queen Dolores Has your room not been serviced properly?

Prince Quincy My room is excellent.

Queen Dolores Good.

Prince Quincy Although I could do with a fresh duvet cover.

Queen Dolores I shall see to it...

Prince Quincy The thing I'm trying to say is...

All Come on, out with it, Quincy!

Prince Quincy I would like to ask for Jess's hand in marriage.

All Aw!

King Dolores Do you love my daughter?

Prince Quincy Very much.

Queen Dolores Does she love you?

Princess Jess Oh, yes!

King Ponderous Then I hope you shall both be very happy.

Queen Dolores I declare that this is now both a eighteenth birthday party and an engagement party for our darling daughter Princess Jess. Let's celebrate!

The whole company sing a celebratory song.

Song 7

At the end of the song, curtain.

Interval.

ACT 2

Scene 1

Enter Wicked Witch on tabs.

Wicked Witch Aha ha ha ha ha ha!

"The interval has been and gone,
But my magic still gets ever strong.
Soon time to make the princess squeal,
I've made my very *own* spinning wheel.

The wood will my dark spell evoke,
The wheel carved out of poisoned oak,
The spindle feels smooth and friendly,
But the tiniest splinter will be quite deadly..."

Aha ha ha ha ha ha!

Open tabs to reveal...

ACT 2

Scene 1

The party is still going on in the castle gardens. Opening song featuring Princess Jess, accompanied by courtiers and townspeople.

Song 8

At the end of the song, everyone exits. Captain Brampton Hampton and Lieutenant Tennant chase Ludlow Pinchworthy III and Roscoe onto the stage.

Captain Hampton Come back here, Pinchworthy! When I get my hands on you, I'll...

Ludlow Whoa there, Captain Hampton! Whatever are you getting so hot under the collar about?

Captain Hampton You owe me money, Ludlow!

Lieutenant Tennant You owe everyone in the castle money.

Ludlow I'm sure it's nothing more than an oversight, chaps. How much do I owe you, Hampton?

Captain Hampton By my reckoning, I lent you the princely sum of...

Ludlow No, no, no, don't say it out loud! A gentleman never divulges what he is owed.

Captain Hampton What?

Roscoe Write it down on a piece of paper.

Tennant hands Hampton a piece of paper. The captain jots down a number and hands the paper back to Ludlow.

Captain Hampton You owe me this much.

Ludlow Ok. Now I'm going to write down, the amount of money I'm able to pay you back.

Ludlow writes something down and hands the paper back to the captain.

Captain Hampton You haven't written anything down.

Ludlow Yes I have.

Roscoe It's invisible ink.

Lieutenant Tennant Invisible ink? Why have you written it in invisible ink?

Roscoe Security.

Captain Hampton But I'm *Head* of Security!

Ludlow You may be Head of Security, tosh, but you don't think I'm going to let you see how much money I've got.

Captain Hampton Well, how do I find out?

Ludlow You tell me the secret password.

Captain Hampton What secret password?

Roscoe The secret password that enables Ludlow to tell you how much he's going to pay.

Lieutenant Tennant What is the secret password?

Roscoe He can't tell you that.

Lieutenant Tennant Why not?

Roscoe It's secret.

Captain Hampton Just hand over the cash, Ludlow.

Ludlow I don't carry cash.

Captain Hampton Because... ?

Ludlow Because I might bump into some unscrupulous characters who try to take my money off me.

Captain Hampton I'm beginning to lose my temper with you, Pinchworthy.

Ludlow Tell you what. I'll send you the password through the post, then you can tell it to me, and I can let you know how much money I'm going to pay you.

Lieutenant Tennant How long will the password take to arrive?

Ludlow To be safe, I'd allow three weeks.

Captain Hampton What?

Roscoe The post is very busy this time of year.

Captain Hampton Then what?

Ludlow Then you have to wait for your four digit PIN.

Lieutenant Tennant Four digit PIN?

Roscoe You can't be too careful.

Ludlow What's your mother's maiden name, by the way?

Captain Hampton Why do you need that?

Ludlow It's one of the security questions we'll have to set up for you.

Roscoe We'll send you a form to fill in.

Ludlow In the meantime, why don't I give you a small down payment. As a sign of good faith. A sort of deposit.

Captain Hampton How much?

Ludlow Oh, I can't tell you that. But I will write it down on a piece of paper.

The captain moves towards Ludlow with his hands in an angry strangle pose.

Captain Hampton Why you slippery, underhand, unprincipled, cheating trickster.

Roscoe You forget to say "deceitful".

Captain Hampton Thank you Roscoe. Deceitful.

Ludlow Well! I have never been so insulted in my life.

Roscoe I think you have, Ludlow.

Ludlow Hampton...

Roscoe *(Aside)* Hundreds of times.

Ludlow Hampton, I shall call my accountants in the morning.

Captain Hampton Your accountants?

Roscoe Then his accountants will telephone your accountants.

Ludlow They'll put something in the diary.

Roscoe Perhaps a breakfast meeting.

Ludlow With posh coffee and croissants.

Roscoe Maybe a chocolate muffin.

Ludlow Then when my people have spoken with your people, we can come to some mutually beneficial financial arrangement.

Captain Hampton I've got a better idea.

Ludlow What's that?

Captain Hampton grabs Ludlow by the collar.

Captain Hampton I'll get the castle guard to break down your front door, drag you out of bed at four in the morning, and throw you into the castle dungeons!

Ludlow Ah.

Captain Hampton How does that sound?

(Beat)

Ludlow Here's that fiver I owe you.

Captain Hampton Thank you.

Ludlow Come, Roscoe, let us attempt to execute a dignified exit.

Roscoe Right behind you, Ludlow.

Ludlow, Roscoe, Captain Hampton and Lieutenant Tennant exit. Enter Dame Dora Dipsy with King Ponderous and Queen Dolores.

Dame Dora Dipsy Hi boys and girls!

Audience Hi-ya Dora!

Dame Dora Dipsy Did you had a good interval?

Audience Yes!!!

Dame Dora Dipsy Did you have lots of sweets?

Audience Yes!!! / No!!!

King Ponderous I wish I'd had lots of sweets.

Queen Dolores You know you're not allowed sweets, dear. It's bad for your waistline

King Ponderous Worst luck.

Queen Dolores But you can't fool me. I know your pockets are stuffed with sweets.

King Ponderous Never!

Queen Dolores The minute my back is turned you're stuffing your face. Come on, turn out your pockets.

King Ponderous Don't want to.

Queen Dolores Come on.

The king reluctantly takes some sweets out of his pockets.

King Ponderous They're not for me, they're for the boys and girls.

Dame Dora Dipsy *(To audience)* A likely story.

Queen Dolores Well, go on then, hand them out.

Dame Dora Dipsy You'd like some sweets, wouldn't you boys and girls?

Audience Yes!!!

King Ponderous Oh well, if I must.

The king and queen and Dora hand out a few sweets to the kids in the audience.

Dame Dora Dipsy That should keep you lot going until at least 2am.

Tom Dipsy & Josie run on.

Tom Mother! We've got some wonderful news for you.

Dame Dora Dipsy You've changed that duvet cover?

Josie No.

Dame Dora Dipsy You've finally set all the clocks to the right time?

Tom & Josie No. We're *engaged!*

Dame Dora Dipsy Engaged???

Dora faints onto the stage with a thud.

Tom Mother?

Josie and Tom help Dora back to her feet.

Dame Dora Dipsy Oh, that's fabulous news, dear! I'm just a bit overwhelmed, that's all. Have you bought Josie an engagement ring?

Tom I have. I spent my entire life's savings on it.

Dora faints onto the stage again.

Tom Mother?

The couple help Dora back to her feet.

Dame Dora Dipsy Ooh, you're making an old woman very happy, I can tell you. Have you booked a honeymoon?

Josie Yes, we have.

Tom We're going to fly to Las Vegas.

Dora faints again.

Tom Not again.

The couple help her up.

Dame Dora Dipsy Don't tell me any more good news. I don't think my heart can take it.

Josie Come on Tom, let's go and do a seating plan for the wedding.

Tom and Josie run off.

Dame Dora Dipsy Oh, my giddy aunt. I wasn't expecting that.

Queen Dolores But that's wonderful news.

King Ponderous You'll be a grandmother before you know it.

Dora faints again.

King Ponderous Oh, dear. Was it something I said?

The queen helps Dora up.

Dame Dora Dipsy I think I need to go and lie down in a darkened room.

Exit Dora.

Queen Dolores Do you remember when we got engaged, dear?

King Ponderous I do. It was the second happiest day of my life.

Queen Dolores The second happiest? What was the first happiest?

King Ponderous Why, our wedding day, of course...

The king & queen sing a humorous little love duet.

Song 9

Curtain after song. On tabs enter Purvis & Tom.

Tom Well, I think the princess's party went off pretty well, didn't it?

Purvis Indeed it did, Tom.

Tom And no sign of that Wicked Witch.

Purvis Yes, I think we were all wondering if she was going to put in an appearance.

Tom Maybe the king's plan to ban all spinning wheels from the kingdom has worked, and the witch's evil spell has been overcome?

Purvis I wouldn't be too sure, Tom. The witch's magic is very powerful.

Tom Maybe we need to conjure up some magic of our own.

Purvis I'm not sure that would be wise.

Tom Mother told me that there's an old book of magic spells in the castle library.

Purvis Tom, you are a very determined lad, but you are no Harry Potter. It's dangerous to mess around with magic spells.

Tom I'll go to the library tonight, to see what I can find.

Purvis But, some say the castle library is haunted.

Tom Well, I'm not scared. You're not scared of a haunted library, are you boys and girls?

Audience Yes!!! / No!!!

Tom Then I'll do it. Wish me luck, boys and girls.

Purvis You'll need it, Tom. You'll need it.

Purvis and Tom exit. Still on tabs the Fairy Godmother enters. Green leaves projected on the curtain tell us we're now in a forest.

Fairy Godmother "The wicked witch approaches fast,
We will soon feel her icy blast.
She's bringing her *own* spinning wheel,
Its vile bewitchment to reveal.

Poor Jess will fall for her cruel rouse,
We'll be glad we're not in her shoes.
But death will not be her release,
For a hundred years she'll sleep in peace."

Prince Quincy enters. He appears lost and confused. He draws his sword.

Prince Quincy Fairy Godmother? Why have you brought me here? What is this place?

Fairy Godmother *(To audience)* "But what of poor Prince Quincy's fate?
He will be dead when Jess awakes.
He'll spend eternity alone,
Unless I turn him into stone."

There is a magical flash and a crash of thunder. The prince freezes like a statue, his sword held aloft.

Fairy Godmother "His statue now stands in the wood,
I've weaved this spell for his own good.
When Jess awakes, like a fresh spring bud,
I'll turn him back to flesh and blood.

And *all* the castle folk shall slumber deep,
When the princess falls into her timeless sleep."

Blackout. Fairy Godmother and Prince Quincy exit. Tabs open to reveal...

ACT 2

Scene 2

The haunted castle library. Cobwebs everywhere. Book shelves line the back wall. There is a rolling ladder propped up at the rear of the stage, to reach the higher shelves. Enter Tom and Dame Dora Dipsy.

Dame Dora Dipsy Hi kids!

Audience Hi-ya Dora!

Tom Thanks for coming to help me, mother.

Dame Dora Dipsy Look Tom, before we start, I just want you to know that that story about the book of spells was told to me by my mother, and her mother told the story to her, and her mother told the story to her, and her mother told the story to her, and her mother told the story to her...

Tom Mother..

Dame Dora Dipsy One more. And her mother told the story to her. That book of spells is just an old wives' tale!

Tom But you *are* an old wife.

Dame Dora Dipsy Do you think this library is really haunted?

Tom Nah, there's no such thing as ghosts.

Dame Dora Dipsy So *you* say.

Tom Right, I'm going to use this ladder and go and look through the books on the top shelf.

Dame Dora Dipsy I'll keep a lookout for ghosts.

Tom goes to the rolling ladder. As he is about to put his foot on the bottom rung, it suddenly rolls from one side of the stage to the other. Tom runs downstage to his mother.

Tom Whooooaaa! Did you see that?

Dame Dora Dipsy See what? I was over here looking out for ghosts.

Tom The ladder moved from there to there.

Dame Dora Dipsy From where to where?

Tom From there to there?

Dame Dora Dipsy Nonsense. Did you see the ladder move, boys and girls?

Audience Yes!!!

While Dora and Tom are talking to the audience downstage, the rolling ladder once again slides all the way from one side of the stage to the other.

Audience It moved again!!! / Behind you!!!

Tom What's that? What happened? Did the ladder move again?

Audience Yes!!!

Tom goes back to the ladder. He is about to climb it when it slides back across the stage again.

Tom Mother!!!

Dame Dora Dipsy What???

Tom You must have seen it that time.

Dame Dora Dipsy I didn't see anything? I was over here...

Tom & Dora (Together) Looking out for ghosts.

Tom Yes , I know. Did you see the ladder move, boys and girls?

Audience Yes!!!

Enter Ludlow and Roscoe.

Ludlow Reporting for duty, Tom.

Roscoe Ooh, I don't like the look of this place.

Tom *(To audience)* Ludlow and Roscoe have volunteered to help me find the book of spells.

Roscoe Volunteered? Whoa, I haven't volunteered for anything. I never volunteer for anything.

Ludlow He's here because he's my best friend, aren't you Roscoe?

Roscoe This library is clearly haunted.

Ludlow Tell us why we're here again, Tom. I'm confused.

Tom We're looking for an ancient book of magic spells.

Roscoe This place is totally creeping me out.

Tom Ludlow you look through the books on the bottom shelf, and Roscoe, you look through the books on the middle shelf.

Ludlow bends down and looks at the bottom shelf. A book from the shelf above slides out and falls on his head.

Ludlow Ouch! Did you see that, Dora?

Dame Dora Dipsy See what?

Ludlow I was attacked by a book.

Dame Dora Dipsy Sorry, Ludlow, I didn't see anything. I was over here *(Tom says it with her)* looking out for ghosts.

Roscoe looks at the books on the second shelf. A book from the shelf above slides out and hits him on the head.

Roscoe Ow!!! Did you see that boys and girls?

Audience Yes!!!

Roscoe They all saw it. That was poltergeist activity, that was. *(To Dora)* Did you see it Dora?

Dame Dora Dipsy Sorry, Ludlow, I was over here *(Tom says it with her)* looking out for ghosts.

Tom, Dora, Ludlow and Roscoe gather at the front of the stage.

Tom Right, boys and girls we need your help. If you see anything you have to tell us right away.

The ladder moves and another book pops off a shelf.

Dame Dora Dipsy What's that? What happened?

Audience Behind you!!!

They all turn around. Nothing happening. They face the audience again. The ladder moves again, two books pops off the shelves, and a white-sheeted, luminous ghost floats across the stage.

Ludlow What's that? What going on?

Audience Behind you!!!

They all turn around to look. Nothing. They face the audience again. The ladder moves back and forth, about 6 books fly off the shelves, and three ghosts float across the stage.

Roscoe What are you shouting about? What can you see?

Audience Behind you!!!

This time they all turn around to look and they see the ghosts. Books are now flying in from the wings and the ladder is going haywire back and forth.

All Ghosts!!!

Tom, Dora, Ludlow and Roscoe dash around the stage shaking their arms in the air and screaming. Suddenly the ghosts exit and the poltergeist activity ceases.

Dame Dora Dipsy Is that it? Have they gone?

Ludlow Woh! That was intense.

Dame Dora Dipsy Has anyone else had a little accident?

All No!

Dame Dora Dipsy Just me then.

Tom picks up one of the books that's flown off the shelves.

Tom Wow! Look at this!

Ludlow What is it?

Tom *(Reading)* This book is called "The Big Book of Magic Spells."

Dame Dora Dipsy So it wasn't just a legend. The book is real.

Roscoe Does it have an index at the back?

Tom Yes.

Dame Dora Dipsy Look up "spinning wheel."

Tom Let's see, "spaghetti, spam, spaniel, sparkplug, Spiderman, spittoon, spleen, spotted dick..." No, there's no "spinning wheel."

Ludlow Look up "spindle"

Tom Spindle. Ah, here it is.

Dame Dora Dipsy What does it say?

Tom It says "a device for making thread, using a spinning wheel."

Roscoe Well, that's not very helpful.

Tom Wait! There's more. It says "may also be used to place a deadly curse on a princess."

Dame Dora Dipsy We already know that.

Tom (*Reading*) See also "splinter."

Dame Dora Dipsy Does it suggest an antidote for the curse?

Tom Yes.

Ludlow What does it say?

Tom It says, "This curse can only be lifted by a fully registered fairy godmother."

Dame Dora Dipsy Is that it?

Tom Yes. Then there's a long list of registered fairy godmothers.

Dame Dora Dipsy Is our fairy godmother on the list?

Tom I can't tell.

Roscoe Why?

Tom I don't know her surname.

Ludlow Perhaps we should warn Princess Jess about the curse.

Dame Dora Dipsy No! It has always been the wish of the king and queen that Jess should *never* know the danger she is in.

Tom Well, it looks like all we can do is keep our fingers crossed and hope that good will triumph over evil.

Dame Dora Dipsy Good always triumphs over evil, doesn't it boys and girls?

Audience Yes!!!

Roscoe Ever the optimists.

Ludlow Come on everyone, I'll buy you dinner.

Dame Dora Dipsy Thanks, Ludlow.

They start to exit.

Ludlow I say, Tom, you couldn't lend me a couple of quid, could you. I'm a bit short until the end of the month.

Tom (*Dragging him off with a sigh*) Come on!

Curtain as Dora, Tom, Ludlow and Roscoe exit. On tabs, there is a crash of thunder and a flash and the Wicked Witch enters, carrying a spinning wheel.

Wicked Witch "And so the time has finally come,
And Jess's life is soon to end.
My foul revenge will be complete,
With evil you can't comprehend..."

The Wicked Witch sings an evil song.

Song 10

Still on tabs. At the end of the song the witch sits down on a stool, places her hands on the spinning wheel and she begins to make thread with it. A deep drone of foreboding music plays during this scene. Enter Princess Jess.

Wicked Witch Hello, my dear.

Princess Hello. I'm sorry, I didn't realise anyone was working in this room. I don't think we've met before.

Wicked Witch I am a poor old woman from the village. I scrape a meager living by spinning wool into thread for the king and queen.

Princess That's strange, they've never mentioned you.

Wicked Witch I keep a low profile.

Princess It looks fascinating. Can I watch you work?

Wicked Witch Of course, my dear.

Princess Is it very complicated?

Wicked Witch Not at all. Would you like to have a try?

Princess I would.

Wicked Witch Just sit on this stool.

Princess What do I do?

Wicked Witch Place your foot on the pedal, and set the wheel spinning.

Princess Oooo, this is fun. What do I do now?

Wicked Witch Now place your hand... on the spindle.

The princess does what the witch says then suddenly screams out in pain. We hear a terrifying stab of discordant music.

Princess Ow!!! I've pricked myself.

Wicked Witch Let me see. Oh, yes, your finger... is bleeding.

Princess It really hurts. What should I do?

Wicked Witch Why don't you go and lie down, and shut your eyes.

The princess runs off, sobbing. The witch lets out a bloodcurdling cackle.

Wicked Witch Aha ha ha ha ha! It is done at last! The Princess is doomed!

Still on tabs, enter the Fairy Godmother.

Fairy Godmother "Not so fast, Wicked Witch of Dagenham East,
My antidote will yet bring the princess peace.
And now you've cast your spell, your power will be forever drained,

You're weak as a newborn deer, you'll *never* be a witch again!"

Wicked Witch No! It can't be true!

Fairy Godmother It is true!

Wicked Witch "My power is growing weaker,
And I can feel the princess's pain..."

Fairy Godmother "Begone Wicked Witch of Dagenham East,
And never darken this place again!!!"

In a flash, the wicked witch disappears.

Fairy Godmother "The princess's sleep has now begun,
Sweet dreams like golden twine are spun.
The castle folk will shed no tears,
For they'll also sleep for a hundred years."

Blackout. Still on tabs, a pale silver light fades up on the statue of Prince Quincy.

Fairy Godmother "When this fair prince opens his eyes,
The castle he won't recognise.
And it will be his graduation
To find Jess in her hibernation.

Then the one way to restore their bliss,
Will be to wake her with a kiss."

Enter the kids dressed as a cuckoo clock, a grandfather clock, an alarm clock and a carriage clock.

Fairy Godmother "Now, we can't wait a century,
We have to get home for our tea,
So, I'll use the magic of the spheres
To spin the clocks forward a hundred years..."

We hear the ticking and chiming of clocks, which slowly speeds up. Meanwhile, the clocks on stage raise their arms in the air and spin around and around. The sound gets louder and louder.

Blackout. Tabs open to reveal...

ACT 2

Scene 4

A hundred years later. Outside the castle. Everywhere is covered in dense undergrowth. Prince Quincy's statue, still holding its sword aloft, is covered with a creeping blackberry plant.

Enter Yorkel, a forager from the village. He stops to look at the statue, then moves towards it, slowly reaching out a hand to pick one of the blackberries growing on it. Prince Quincy comes to life with a start.

Prince Quincy What are you doing?

Yorkel (*Startled*) Oh, good grief, you frightened the bloomin' life out of me.

Prince Quincy Who are you?

Yorkel I'm Yorkel.

Prince Quincy Yorkel?

Yorkel My mother was from York. So she named me Yorkel. I was just foraging for blackberries.

Prince Quincy Blackberries?

Yorkel You're covered in blackberries, sir.

Prince Quincy Am I? I don't even like blackberries.

Yorkel I do. They'll lovely. You can make blackberry jam, or blackberry pie...

Prince Quincy Why am I covered in blackberries?

Yorkel Well, I should imagine it's because you're a statue, sir

Prince Quincy A statue?

Yorkel A statue, yes. And you're south facing. Blackberries like a south facing statue. They need lots of sun, you see.

Prince Quincy How long have I been here?

Yorkel Well, give or take a month or two...

Prince Quincy Yes?

Yorkel I'd say... A hundred years.

Prince Quincy A *hundred* years?

Yorkel The whole castle's been closed up for a century, sir.

Prince Quincy But... that's unbelievable!

Prince Quincy starts to untangle himself from the blackberry bush and climb down from his plinth.

Yorkel What are you doing?

Prince Quincy I am climbing down from this... this...

Yorkel Plinth, sir. It's called a plinth.

Prince Quincy Plinth?

Yorkel Plinth. It's a funny word when you keep saying it, isn't it? Plinth.

Prince Quincy Stop saying plinth.

Yorkel It's got your name carved on it, look. "Prince Quincy".

Prince Quincy That's me. I remember now. I am Prince Quincy and I am betrothed to Princess Jess.

Yorkel Princess Jess, yes sir. Your history is well known around these parts. Are you going to break the spell?

Prince Quincy I don't know. I'll try. Where is the princess?

Yorkel She's asleep, up in the castle.

Prince Quincy She's alive?

Yorkel She sleeps, along with the king and queen and everyone else who lives there. Funny business if you ask me.

Prince Quincy Then I must go and wake the princess. I must wake all of them.

Yorkel Well the very best of luck to you, sir.

Prince Quincy There's no time to lose.

Yorkel Oh, before you go...

Prince Quincy What?

Yorkel Do you mind if I take a few of your blackberries?

Prince Quincy Take all of them!

Yorkel quickly removes the rest of the blackberry growth from the prince.

Yorkel Thank you kindly, sir. Have a nice day.

Prince Quincy To the castle!

Tabs close. Prince Quincy re-enters on tabs. He mimes slowly cutting his way through the castle undergrowth with his sword.

Prince Quincy Heavens, this undergrowth is so dense. I feel like I will never be able to cut my way through it and reach the princess. But I must. I have to do it because Princess Jess is my one true love.

The prince sings a love song.

Song 11

At the end of the song, tabs open to reveal...

ACT 2

Scene 4

The Princess's bedchamber. The entire cast are slumped around the stage, fast asleep.

Prince Quincy I made it. This is Princess Jess's bedchamber, and there she is, sleeping sweetly.

The prince places his hand on the princess's forehead.

Prince Quincy She looks so peaceful, lying there. But how can I wake her? What should I do, boys and girls?

Audience Kiss her!!!!

Prince Quincy What's that? You think I should kiss her?

Audience Yes!!!!

Prince Quincy Very well. I shall kiss Princess Jess on her beautiful ruby red lips.

The prince quickly sprays some breath freshener into his mouth. Then he kisses the princess. She immediately sits up.

Princess Good morning, Quincy. What time is it? I think I may have overslept.

Prince Quincy Overslept?

Princess And I had the strangest dream. I dreamt that I slept for a hundred years.

Prince Quincy It was not a dream Jess. You did sleep for a hundred years.

Princess No wonder I'm so hungry.

The rest of the cast start to wake up, yawning and stretching.

Dame Dora Dipsy (*Yawning*) Wow! That was a fantastic sleep! I feel fresh as a daisy. Oh, hello boys and girls!

Audience Hi-ya Dora.

Dame Dora Dipsy (*To audience*) How long have we all been asleep?

Audience A hundred years!!!

Tom A hundred years? Just as the fairy godmother predicted.

Dame Dora Dipsy (*To audience*) Amazing! And I only had to get up twice to go to the toilet.

The principles gather around Jess's bed.

King Ponderous You pricked your finger on a splinter, Jess.

Queen Dolores A splinter on a spindle.

Princess Oh, yes, I remember now. That awful old woman and her strange spinning wheel.

Queen Dolores That old woman was the Wicked Witch of Dagenham East.

Purvis She cursed you when you were a baby.

King Ponderous Thank you, Prince Quincy, for breaking the spell and finally releasing our daughter from the curse.

Queen Dolores And now we must once again start making plans for the royal wedding.

Tom (*with Josie*) And for our wedding too!

Purvis Dora, there's something I've been meaning to ask you.

Dame Dora Dipsy What's that, Purvis?

Purvis Well, we've been working together for a long time now...

Dame Dora Dipsy Yes...

Purvis And we've slept together now.

Dame Dora Dipsy For a hundred years, yes.

Purvis So, I was wondering if you'd like to marry me.

Dame Dora Dipsy Well, Purvis, I have to admit I was hoping to marry Gordon Ramsey...

Purvis Oh dear.

Dame Dora Dipsy But I tell you what. You can hold my arm during the finale...

Purvis Splendid!

Dame Dora Dipsy And then we'll see what develops at the cast party afterwards.

Roscoe How romantic.

Ludlow Captain Hampton, how did that dreadful old woman get a spinning wheel past castle security?

Captain Hampton I can't imagine, Ludlow. I'll go and check the security cameras.

Lieutenant Tennant Sir, the security cameras are not working.

Captain Hampton Why not?

Lieutenant Tennant I forgot to put a shilling in the electricity meter.

Captain Hampton You dimwit.

The princess starts to get up. Josie goes to her side.

Josie Princess Jess, can I get you anything?

Princess Yes, I'd like a full English breakfast, please.

Ludlow Mmm, so would I?

Dame Dora Dipsy Anyone else for breakfast?

All Yes!!!

The whole company sings a celebration song.

Song 12

At end of the song, tabs close. On tabs, enter Dame Dora Dipsy, Tom and Roscoe.

Tom What's all that commotion going on behind the curtain?

Dame Dora Dipsy Sssh! Don't draw attention to it. They're setting up the stage for the big finale.

Roscoe Oh no! It took *hours* last night.

Dame Dora Dipsy Don't worry, they've been practicing all day.

Tom Yep, they've got it down to about five minutes, now.

Dame Dora Dipsy Which is just enough time to teach a song to the boys and girls.

Tom Would you like us to teach you a song, kids?

Audience Yes!!!

Dame Dora Dipsy Roscoe, go and fetch the words.

Roscoe Fetch this, fetch that. I hate being a dog.

Roscoe reluctantly brings on the words, written on a big board. Dora and Tom teach an audience participation song to the kids while Roscoe holds up the lyrics and points to the lines.

Song 13

After the song, Dame Dora Dipsy & Tom exit. On tabs, enter Fairy Godmother.

Fairy Godmother "Our show is almost over,
The handsome prince has passed his test.
The princess has awakened
And the curse is put to rest.

"The wicked witch has lost her power,
The dame has bagged a man,
And Tom and his girl Josie
Can begin their wedding plan.

"We hope you've had a magical time,
You've laughed and shed a tear.
Now have the safest journey home,
And come and see us again next year!"

Exit Fairy Godmother. Tabs open to reveal...

ACT 2

Scene 5

The grand hall at the royal castle. Walk down and finale.

Song 14

Curtain.