



## **Cinderella and the Crystal Slipper**

A Traditional Family Pantomime by Brian Luff

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**Cinderella & the Crystal Slipper**  
A Traditional Family Pantomime by Brian Luff

LIST OF CHARACTERS

Cinderella.....A servant girl  
Prince Charming.....Handsome son of the King & Queen  
Fairy Godmother.....A Fairy Godmother  
Buttons.....Cheery Manservant at Hardup Castle  
Melania Hardup .....Cinderella's Stepmother  
Baron Hardup .....Cinderella's Father  
Britney ..... Cinderella's Ugly Stepsister  
Donatella .....Cinderella's Even Uglier Stepsister  
Dandini.....Prince Charming's Loyal Valet  
Muggsy .....}  
Puggsy.....} Party Planners  
The King ..... Prince Charming's Father  
The Queen .....Prince Charming's Mother

Plus villagers, dancers, singers, and courtiers.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1

Scene 1 .....The Village Green  
Scene 2..... Hardup Castle  
Scene 3..... A Clearing in the Woods  
Scene 4..... Hardup Castle  
Scene 5 .....The Wine Cellar  
Scene 6 .....The Village Fete  
Scene 7..... Hardup Castle  
Scene 8.....You Shall Go To Ball

ACT 2

Scene 1.....The Royal Ball at The Palace  
Scene 2.....A Spooky Bedroom at Hardup Castle  
Scene 3..... Next Morning At Hardup Castle  
Scene 4.....Grande Finale

## ACT I

### Scene 1

*Overture. Enter Fairy Godmother on tabs.*

**Fairy Godmother** Welcome to our pantomime, a place of festive cheer.  
It's time for our story to unfold and *magic* to appear.  
There'll be loads of adventure, as well as lots of laughter  
And if things go well, as I weave my spells, we'll live happily ever after.  
I am a fairy godmother, a role that's unforgiving,  
The hours are long, the pay is poor, but it's better than working for a living.  
Soon you'll meet Cinderella, a poor and wretched girl  
Whose life will be turned up-side-down and end up in a whirl.  
As Cinder's fairy godmother I'll find her the perfect boy,  
She'll go from rags to riches and find happiness and joy!

*She starts to exit in classic fairy style, then suddenly goes flat footed and plods.*

**Fairy Godmother** (*Aside to audience*) It's hard when everything has to rhyme, you know. It takes *ages* to write.

*She exits. Tabs open to reveal the village green. Opening routine featuring dancers, villagers and chorus.*

### Song 1

*At the end of the song, all exit. Enter The Ugly Sisters in spectacular attire, accompanied by a suitably amusing musical theme.*

**Britney** Good evening, peasants!

**Donatella** Bonjour, mon yokels!

**Britney** That's French, that is.

**Donatella** Stand by your beds, the *ladies* have arrived.

**Britney** The weekend starts here, lads!

**Donatella** Party time!

**Britney** Yes, it's time to introduce a bit of well needed *class* into the proceedings.

**Donatella** I am the *very* brassy and classy Donatella Hardup from Hardup Castle, and this is my twin sister.

**Britney** Britney Hardup at your service.

**Donatella** And she's *serviced* plenty, I can assure you.

**Britney** Cheeky mare.

**Donatella** Now, let's see what we have here.

**Britney** (*Looking at audience*) Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear, look at this lot. Ugggh! They're even scruffier than the last audience we had.

**Donatella** Oy, you lot. Don't you know there's a dress code in here?

**Britney** Yes, only beautiful people.

**Donatella** Like us.

**Britney** Only beautiful people in beautiful clothes are allowed, and if your name's not on the door, you're not coming in.

**Donatella** And Britney here will be checking. She used to work as a bouncer.

**Britney** I did, Donatella, I did.

**Donatella** That's after she finished her career as a professional boxer in the East End.

**Britney** Fifty fights, no defeats.

**Donatella** Ugggh! There's a woman down there in the front row, she's so bloomin' plain, I'll bet when she peels onions it's the onions that cry.

*Donatella sneezes into a huge handkerchief.*

**Britney** Bless you.

**Donatella** Thank you.

**Britney** Have you got a cold, Donatella?

**Donatella** No, it's not a cold, it's my allergies again.

**Britney** Oh no, not your allergies again. You're a martyr to your allergies.

**Donatella** I am. I'm allergic to *everything*.

**Britney** She's allergic to everything.

**Donatella** Cheese makes me sneeze.

**Britney** It does. Peas make her wheeze.

**Donatella** I call them wheezy peas.

**Britney** Not cheesy peas, wheezy peas.

**Donatella** If I have a Chinese, it gives me knobbly knees.

**Britney** Oooh, I love a Chinese. But I wouldn't eat a Chinese if it gave me knobbly knees.

**Donatella** You'd be a fool. A fool!

**Britney** Trees give her Dutch Elm Disease.

**Donatella** And that's a tree's disease.

**Britney** Tell them about the meat.

**Donatella** Ooh, I don't dare.

**Britney** Go on, tell them.

**Donatella** Meat makes me bleat. *(She bleats like a sheep)*

**Britney** Meat makes her bleat.

**Donatella** It makes me bleat like a sheep. *(She bleats like a sheep again)*

**Britney** That's very unusual isn't it?

**Donatella** "Medically exotic" my doctor calls it.

**Britney** Tell them about the eggs.

**Donatella** Eggs give me skinny legs.

**Britney** Like a daddy longlegs.

**Donatella** They do.

**Britney** And she can't eat bread.

**Donatella** No! If I eat bread...

**Britney** Tell them.

**Donatella** I have to go into the shed...

**Britney** She does.

**Donatella** And go to bed.

**Britney** So, cheese makes you sneeze.

**Donatella** Yes.

**Britney** Peas make you wheeze.

**Donatella** Yes.

**Britney** A Chinese gives you knobbly knees.

**Donatella** Tick.

**Britney** Trees give you Dutch Elm Disease.

**Donatella** Very painful.

**Britney** Meat makes you bleat.

*(Donatella bleats like a sheep)*

**Britney** Eggs give you skinny legs like a daddy longlegs.

**Donatella** Yes.

**Britney** And if you eat bread you have to go into the shed and go to bed.

**Donatella** I'm a martyr to me allergies.

**Britney** You poor thing. I'd feel terrible if it wasn't for the fact...

**Donatella** What?

**Britney** That I don't like you very much.

**Donatella** Sorry?

**Britney** Can't stand the sight of you, dear.

**Donatella** I don't like you either.

**Britney** Snap.

**Donatella** But then, whoever said sisters have to be the best of friends?

**Britney** No-one. Most of the time we hate each other.

**Donatella** Swords drawn.

**Britney** Handbags at dawn. Shall we go and squabble over a nice cup of tea?

**Donatella** Good idea.

**Britney** *(To audience)* She's not allergic to tea.

**Donatella** I'm not allergic to tea, no. *(Beat)* But tea makes me *wee*.

**Britney & Donatella** *(To audience)* See ya. Wouldn't wanna be ya.

**Donatella** Au revoir, peasants!

*The pair exit to their funny music. Enter Buttons.*

**Buttons** *(To audience)* Hello everybody! My name's Buttons and I'm very pleased to meet you. I see you've already met the Ugly Sisters, Britney and Donatella. Britney's got a face like a flower hasn't she? A cauliflower. And Donatella's got so many lines on her forehead she has to screw her hat on like this. *(He demonstrates while making metallic squeaking noises)*. But let's not talk about that horrible pair. Let's get to know each other. Are you going to be my friends, boys and girls?

**Audience** Yes!

**Buttons** Then I'll start off by telling you that Buttons is *not* my real name. It's just a nickname. I got the nickname "Buttons" because when I was a kid I always forget to do up the top two buttons on my jacket. Tell you what, whenever I come on stage, will you shout out, "Button up, Buttons!" to remind me? Shall we try that, boys and girls? I'll go off and come on again.

*He goes off and then runs back on.*

**Buttons** Hello boys and girls!

**Audience** Button up, Buttons!

*He practices with the audience a couple of times.*

**Buttons** I work for Baron Hardup and his new wife Melania at Hardup Castle. It's a hard life at Hardup Castle. The Baron's not a bad boss but his wife is horrible, which is probably why Britney and Donatella are so bloomin' horrible as well. But there is one nice person at Hardup Castle. The Baron's daughter, Cinderella. I love Cinderella, but I'll probably never pluck up the courage to tell her. Cinderella's always so kind to me. Even through she has by far the hardest time of all at Hardup Castle. Donatella and Britney make her work so hard and they never lift a finger to help. Poor Cinderella.

*Enter Cinderella.*

**Cinderella** Button up Buttons!

**Buttons** Cinders! I was just talking about you.

**Cinderella** What were you saying? Something nice I hope.

**Buttons** I always say nice things about you, Cinders.

**Cinderella** Are you blushing, Buttons?

**Buttons** No.

**Cinderella** I'm only teasing. Your step-mother sent me to fetch you. You'd better come back to the castle with me right now and see what she wants.

*Enter Prince Charming and Dandini, deep in royal gossip.*

**Prince Charming** So I said to Prince Harry...

**Dandini** What did you say?

**Prince Charming** "Harry," I said, "You really don't look *anything* like your father."

**Dandini** What did he say?

**Prince Charming** Well, he looked me square in the face, and he said...

**Dandini** What?

*Prince Charming is suddenly distracted by seeing Cinderella for the first time.*

**Prince Charming** I say, Dandini. Who's that very pretty girl over there?

**Dandini** Prince Harry said *that*?

**Prince Charming** No! He didn't say that. I'm saying it now. Who's is that very pretty girl?

**Dandini** I don't know, Your Highness. I haven't seen her before. But I can find out for you.

*Melania Hardup can be heard calling from off stage.*

**Melania Hardup (Off)** Cinderella! Buttons! Where are you, you lazy pair? There's firewood to be gathered and floors to scrub.

**Buttons** Come on Cinderella, we'd better go. I'll race you to the castle.



*Cinderella and Buttons run off. Dandini and Prince Charming walk downstage. Tabs close behind them.*

**Dandini** It sounded like the lad called her “Cinderella”.

**Prince Charming** Cinderella? What a lovely name.

**Dandini** But she's a servant girl, Your Highness. Your parents the King and Queen would never let you date a girl like that.

**Prince Charming** I know. Sometimes I envy you, Dandini. You can go out with whoever you choose.

**Dandini** True. But I'd rather be a prince like you. Instead of being a servant.

**Prince Charming** So you'd like to be a prince would you?

**Dandini** Your Highness?

**Prince Charming** You know, my friend, I think you may have given me an excellent idea.

**Dandini** Idea?

**Prince Charming** Dandini, you and I are going to *change places*.

**Dandini** What?

**Prince Charming** Switch identities.

**Dandini** But, why would we want to do that?

**Prince Charming** So that I can meet Cinderella, of course.

**Dandini** But...

**Prince Charming** No “buts”, Dandini. While we're away from the palace we shall swap clothes and I'll pretend to be *your* servant. It's agreed.

**Dandini** Very well. But now we need to head back towards the palace, and you need to tell me the end of that story about Prince Harry.

*Dandini and Prince Charming exit. Tabs open to reveal....*

## Scene 2

*Hardup Castle. Enter Baron Hardup and Melania Hardup.*

**Melania Hardup** My dear, it's time that Prince Charming met my delightful daughters Britney and Donatella. I have invited him and his valet Dandini over for dinner.

**Baron Hardup** Splendid! But he must also be introduced to *my* daughter Cinderella.

**Melania Hardup** Cinderella? She's far too busy to meet the prince. She's got to sweep the floors, polish the doors, sweep the rugs, and wash up the mugs. Then she's got to dust the book shelves and the cook's shelves and then empty the hearth and rinse the bath.

**Baron Hardup** That's far too much work for one girl. She hasn't got time to sweep the floors, polish the doors, sweep the rugs, wash up the mugs, dust the book shelves and the cook's shelves and empty the hearth and rinse the bath.

**Melania Hardup** Oh, yes she has.

**Baron Hardup** Oh, no she hasn't!

**Melania Hardup** Oh, yes she has!

**Audience** Oh, no she hasn't!

*Ad lib with audience.*

**Baron Hardup** What are Britney and Donatella doing while all this hard work is going on?

**Melania Hardup** Their diary is absolutely crammed. Mondays at the nail bar, Tuesdays at the hairdressers, Wednesday dress fittings, Thursdays at the tanning salon, Friday afternoon Botox, and Friday evening is their speed dating night.

**Baron Hardup** Speed dating night?

**Melania Hardup** Yes. They go to the one at Crystal Palace Athletics Track. They give the men fifty metres start, then try and catch up with them and get a date.

**Baron Hardup** Mmm. They should have that in the Olympics. What about the weekends?

**Melania Hardup** Well they sleep, of course. All those beauty treatments and speed dating events are completely exhausting.

*Exit Baron Hardup and Melania Hardup. Enter Ugly Sisters.*

**Donatella** *(To Britney)* So Britney, I hear that mother has invited Prince Charming to come to Hardup Castle.

**Britney** Yes, I'm so excited. I've had to change my knickers three times already today.

**Donatella** Of course the Prince will only have eyes for me. I'll win him over with my English Rose beauty.

**Britney** English Rose? More like a great big stinging nettle.

**Donatella** Oooh, you're nasty.

**Britney** You're nastier.

**Donatella** Let's face it...

**Donatella and Britney** *(Together)* We love being nasty!

*The Ugly Sisters perform a nasty duet together.*

## Song 2

*At the end of the song, enter Buttons.*

**Buttons** Hello boys and girls!

**Audience** Button up, Buttons!

**Donatella** Buttons, I've been looking for you all day. Have you finished putting Odour Eaters in all my shoes.

**Buttons** Yes, Miss Donatella.

**Britney** And have you sprinkled talcum powder in my wigs.

**Buttons** Yes, Miss Britney.

**Britney** Including the chest wig?

**Buttons** Yes, Miss Britney.

**Donatella** Good. Now go and fetch a big pair of tweezers, I need you to spend the rest of the afternoon plucking the hairs out of my back.

**Buttons** *(To audience)* Uuugggh! *(To Donatella)* Yes, Miss Donatella.

**Britney** He's cutting by toenails first.

**Donatella** No he isn't.

**Britney** Yes he is!

*The ugly sisters exit, still arguing. Tabs close.*

### Scene 3

*Enter Fairy Godmother on tabs.*

**Fairy Godmother** Our story's under way now, and the prince has seen Cinderella. He's hatched a plan to meet with her, and he seems a decent enough feller. The prince is wearing a disguise, a clever little device. I'll dress as an old woman and give Cinders some advice.

*Fairy Godmother starts to exit.*

**Fairy Godmother** I do love dressing up.

*She exits.*

*Tabs open to reveal a clearing in the forest. Enter Cinderella, singing quietly to herself.*

**Cinderella** What a lovely day. The sky is blue, the grass is green and there feels like there's magic in the air. Even those gnarled old oak trees look splendid today.

**Tree** Oy, who you calling gnarled?

**Cinderella** Pardon me?

*Enter Fairy Godmother*

**Fairy Godmother** Cinderella! Don't you know that you should *never* talk to trees.

**Cinderella** (*To Fairy Godmother*) Oh! You startled me.

**Fairy Godmother** I'm sorry my dear.

**Cinderella** I don't mean to be impolite, but who are you exactly? And how do you know my name?

**Fairy Godmother** Oh, I know everything. But, I think I may have taken a wrong turning somewhere this morning. Which way is it to the village?

**Cinderella** It's that way. Just follow the path.

**Fairy Godmother** I heard you singing to yourself just now and it was lovely. You're a very talented young lady, you know.

**Cinderella** Talented? Why, thank you.

**Fairy Godmother** If you just have a little confidence in yourself you'll go far, my dear.

**Cinderella** Do you really think so?

**Fairy Godmother** Absolutely. Now, I must be going. Good-bye, my dear.

*Exit Fairy Godmother.*

**Cinderella** Good-bye. (*To audience*) Well, that was all very strange. I wonder how that old woman knew my name.

*Enter Prince Charming and Dandini, gossiping as usual. They are dressed as each other.*

**Prince Charming** And so I said to King Charles, "Is it true that you talk to house plants?", and he said...

**Dandini** What did he say?

*Prince Charming spots Cinderella.*

**Prince Charming** (*As Dandini*) What an extraordinary coincidence. Aren't you Cinderella?

**Dandini** King Charles said that?

**Prince Charming** No! I'm saying it now! What an extraordinary coincidence. Aren't you Cinderella?

**Cinderella** Suddenly *everyone* knows my name.

**Prince Charming** My master and I saw you in the village. But you ran away.

**Cinderella** Yes, I had to dash off and do my chores at Hardup Castle.

**Dandini** Allow me to introduce myself. I am Prince Charming.

**Cinderella** Your Highness.

**Dandini** And this is my loyal valet and friend, Dandini.

**Prince Charming** (*Bowing to Cinderella*) At your service.

**Dandini** (*as Prince Charming*) Now, if you'll excuse me I have to go on a royal walkabout in Stoke on Trent and then open a supermarket in Cricklewood Broadway.

**Cinderella** Cricklewood Broadway?

**Dandini** Joey Essex was unavailable.

**Cinderella** Oh dear.

**Dandini** Farewell.

**Cinderella** (*Bowing*) Good bye, Your Highness.

*Dandini exits*

**Prince Charming** (*as Dandini*) I thought he'd never leave.

**Cinderella** Sorry?

**Prince Charming** Well, now we can talk about ordinary things. Things that... um... servants talk about?

**Cinderella** And what exactly do servants talk about?

**Prince Charming** Oh, I don't know. The weather? Wholesome recipes for fish? The latest cleaning products?

**Cinderella** Cleaning products? I don't want to talk about cleaning products?

**Prince Charming** No, of course not. You're far too attractive to talk about... cleaning products.

**Cinderella** You flatter me, Dandini.

**Prince Charming** I have to admit, I do feel a little flutter in my heart when I'm talking to you, Cinderella. Don't you feel it too?

*Music starts.*

**Cinderella** Where's that music coming from?

**Prince Charming** It's a magic forest, Cinderella...

*Cinderella dances with Prince Charming (as Dandini) and they sing a love duet.*

### Song 3

**Prince Charming** Cinderella, you simply must come to the ball at the palace.

**Cinderella** But Dandini...

**Prince Charming** Don't tell me, let me guess. "You have nothing to wear for a ball."

**Cinderella** How did you know I was going to say that?

**Prince Charming** It won't matter what you wear, my love. You'll be the star of the show!

**Cinderella** That would be wonderful.

**Prince Charming** Come on, let's go for a walk and talk to the trees.

*They run off together. Tabs close. Enter Muggsy and Puggsy on tabs, carrying suitcases.*

**Puggsy** We've been walking for miles. I'm exhausted. Why did we have to come all this way?

**Muggsy** The king and queen advertised for the two best party planners in the kingdom to organise their Grand Ball.

**Puggsy** But we haven't organised a ball for twenty years. And that was in a room above a pub in Chiswick.

**Muggsy** What about when we organised that end of series party for Ant and Dec?

**Puggsy** We were FIRED from that job!

**Muggsy** Oh yes.

**Puggsy** Because you kept calling Ant "Dec", and Dec "Ant".

**Muggsy** It was an easy mistake to make. I always thought Ant was "Dec", and Dec was "Ant". How was I supposed to know that Dec was "Dec" and Ant was "Ant". Anyway, you used to call them Dick and Dom.

*Buttons enters.*

**Buttons** *(To audience)* Hello boys and girls!

**Audience** Button up, Buttons!

**Muggsy** Excuse me, lad. Is this the right way to Hardup Castle?

**Buttons** Yes, it's just at the end of this road. I work there, so I can show you. May I ask, why you're going to the castle?

**Muggsy** You certainly may. I am Mr. Lampwick Muggsy, and this my business associate Mr Boregard Puggsy.

**Puggsy** We are party planners. We're staying at Hardup Castle on route to the royal palace, where we have been engaged as official organisers of the Grand Ball.

**Buttons** Grand Ball?

**Puggsy** It's being announced today. It's very hush, hush.

**Buttons** Wow! I wish I had a glamorous and important job like that.

**Muggsy** If you want a job like that, lad, you have to learn how to speak with confidence.

**Buttons** Speak with confidence?

**Puggsy** If you speak with confidence, you can achieve anything.

**Buttons** Really?

**Puggsy** Yes.

**Buttons** Can you teach me?

**Puggsy** Of course. First, you have to warm up your voice.

**Muggsy** We'll teach you a simple warm-up exercise. Repeat after me. " Har! Yar! Bibberty, bobberty, fiddly fish!"

**Buttons** I'm not saying that.

**Puggsy** You want to learn how to speak with confidence, don't you?

**Buttons** Yes.

**Muggsy** "Har! Yar! Bibberty, bobberty, fiddly fish!"

**Buttons** Har! Yar! Bibberty, bobberty, fiddly fish!

**Muggsy** Again.

**Buttons** Har! Yar! Bibberty, bobberty, fiddly fish!

**Puggsy** Faster.

**Buttons** (*Faster*) Har! Yar! Bibberty, bobberty, fiddly fish! Har! Yar! Bibberty, bobberty, fiddly fish!

**Muggsy** Excellent!

**Puggsy** Now that you've warmed up your voice, you have to learn physical co-ordination. This will make you a more confident person.

**Buttons** Physical co-ordination?

**Muggsy** I'll show you. Stand on one leg.

**Buttons** Like this?

**Muggsy** Perfect. Now, hop up and down.

**Buttons** (*Hopping*) Like this?

**Puggsy** Splendid. Now say the line again.

**Buttons** (*Hopping*) Har! Yar! Bibberty, bobberty, fiddly fish!

**Muggsy** Again.

**Buttons** (*Hopping*) Har! Yar! Bibberty, bobberty, fiddly fish! Har! Yar! Bibberty, bobberty, fiddly fish! Har! Yar! Bibberty, bobberty, fiddly fish!

**Puggsy** And relax.

**Buttons** Are you sure I need to do this to get a better job?

**Muggsy** Absolutely. How do you think Rishi Sunak warms up before making a big speech?

**Buttons** I don't know.

**Muggsy & Puggsy** *(Together)* Har! Yar! Bibberty, bobberty, fiddly fish!

**Puggsy** Clive Myrie does it before he reads the 9 O'Clock News.

**Buttons** Does he?

**Muggsy** Oh, yes.

**Muggsy & Puggsy** *(Together)* Har! Yar! Bibberty, bobberty, fiddly fish!

**Muggsy** Ed Sheeran does it before he sings a song. Matt Baker does it before he goes on Countryfile.

**Muggsy, Puggsy & Buttons** *(Together)* Har! Yar! Bibberty, bobberty, fiddly fish!

**Muggsy** *(To audience)* Everyone!

**All** Har! Yar! Bibberty, bobberty, fiddly fish!

*Ad lib with audience.*

**Puggsy** There you go Buttons, now you'll have the confidence to say and do anything you want.

**Muggsy** Promise me, lad, that you will never forget that advice.

**Buttons** I promise, I won't. Thanks guys.

**Puggsy** You're welcome.

**Buttons** Now, follow me and I will show you to Hardup Castle.

*Buttons exits. Muggsy & Puggsy start to follow.*

**Muggsy** *(Aside to audience)* I can't believe we got him to do that.

**Puggsy** And on one leg.

**Muggsy** We're such little tinkers...

*They exit. Tabs open for...*

#### Scene 4

*Hardup Castle. Cinderella is doing housework. Enter Buttons.*

**Buttons** *(Under his breath)* Ha, yar! Bibberty, bobberty, fiddly fish! Har, yar! Bibberty, bobberty, fiddly fish...



*Enter Cinderella.*

**Buttons** Hello Cinders.

**Cinderella** What was that you were saying?

**Buttons** Oh, nothing. Fancy coming for a walk?

**Cinderella** I can't, Buttons. I have so much work to do.

**Buttons** Have you heard about the Grand Ball at the palace?

**Cinderella** Oh, Buttons, I'd love to go to the ball. But I don't think Donatella and Britney will let me. I'll probably be stuck in the kitchen while it's going on.

*Enter Melania Hardup and Baron Hardup.*

**Melania Hardup** What are you doing talking to him, you lazy, good-for-nothing girl? Why aren't you hard at work?

**Cinderella** Sorry, stepmother. I'll get on with it right away.

*Cinderella runs off.*

**Buttons** Baron Hardup, there are two men waiting in the hall to see you. I found them lost in the woods.

**Baron Hardup** Ooh yes, show them in right away.

**Melania Hardup** They're in town to organise the ball at the palace and the king has asked us to put them up here.

*Buttons exits and re-appears immediately with Mr Muggsy and Mr Puggsy.*

**Buttons** Please, come in gentlemen.

**Baron Hardup** Welcome to Hardup Castle!

**Puggsy** *(Under his breath)* I'd rather stay at the Palace.

**Muggsy** *(To Puggsy)* Sssshhhh! *(To the Baron)* Baron Hardup! What a pleasure to meet you. Thank you so much for letting us stay with you.

**Baron Hardup** You are most welcome.

**Muggsy** I'm Mr Muggsy and this is Mr Puggsy.

**Melania Hardup** Muggsy and Puggsy.

**Muggsy** Yes.

**Melania Hardup** You were clearly made for each other.

**Puggsy** We also have a colleague called Mr Huggsy.

**Melania Hardup** What a surprise.

**Puggsy** But he's off sick.

**Baron Hardup** Mr Huggsy has a buggsy?

**Puggsy** Yes.

**Baron Hardup** Oh dear.

**Melania Hardup** So Huggsy has a buggsy but Muggsy and Puggsy are here.

**Muggsy** Yes.

*Enter the Ugly Sisters.*

**Melania Hardup** Gentlemen, may I introduce my daughters Britney and Donatella.

**Britney** Oooh, hello boys!

**Donatella** Look out, Britney, fresh meat in the castle?

**Puggsy & Muggsy** *(Together)* Ladies...

**Melania Hardup** Why don't we leave you young people to get better acquainted. Come, my dear...

**Baron Hardup** Coming, my angel.

*The Baron, Baroness Melania and Buttons start to exit.*

**Baron Hardup** *(Whispers to Muggsy as he passes)* Psssssst.

**Muggsy** *(Whispers)* What?

**Baron Hardup** *(Whispers)* Watch out for Britney. She's got a wicked left hook.

**Muggsy** *(Whispers)* Thanks for the heads up.

*The Baron, Baroness and Buttons exit. Britney, Donatella, Muggsy and Puggsy walk downstage and tabs close behind them.*

**Britney** Oooh, he smells gorgeous, doesn't he Donatella?

**Donatella** Quite exquisite. May I ask, what is that aftershave?

**Muggsy** I'm not wearing any aftershave.

**Britney** Oh?

**Muggsy** But I did put some industrial-strength air freshener under my arms.

**Donatella** That'll be it, then.

**Britney** *(Deep breath)* It really clear the sinuses, doesn't it?

**Donatella** Can I tempt you to a nibble, Mr Muggsy?

**Muggsy** Sorry?

*Donatella produces some Monster Munch.*

**Muggsy** Monster Munch?

**Donatella** Pickled onion flavour.

**Muggsy** How exotic. No, thank you.

**Donatella** Oh go on. Just have one. Let me feed you.

**Muggsy** What?!

*Donatella stuffs some Monster Munch into Muggsy's mouth.*

**Donatella** Come on, Muggsy Wuggsy. It's yummy, wummy Monster Munch. Here comes the train into the tunnel.

**Muggsy** No!

**Britney** I'll feed the other one.

*Britney stuffs Monster Munch into Puggsy's mouth.*

**Puggsy** No!

**Britney** Mmm. Yummy, wummy Pickled Onion Monster Munch.

*They both shove nibbles into Muggsy & Puggsy's mouths. The boys struggle to escape.*

**Muggsy** Mmmpph. Nmmmp. Stop it, ladies! Please! We are perfectly capable of feeding ourselves!

**Puggsy** We really should be going upstairs to unpack. We've had a very long journey.

**Britney** But it's early. Wouldn't you rather go for a nice walk?

*The Ugly Sisters grab the two men firmly.*

**Muggsy** Walk?

**Puggsy** (*Whispers to Muggsy*) Just look straight ahead and try not to make eye contact.

**Muggsy** Where are we going?

**Donatella** Let us go to the meadow and tiptoe through the tulips.

**Puggsy** Tulips?

**Britney** Oooh, you haven't lived until you've tiptoed through the tulips? It's terribly intoxicating.

**Puggsy** I don't know if I want to tiptoe through intoxicating tulips.

**Britney** In that case... let us go and whistle in the thistles.

**Muggsy** Whistle in the thistles?

**Donatella** Or we could have a few laffs in the daffs.

**Puggsy** (*Aside to audience*) That doesn't even rhyme.

**Britney** How about sharing a Mars *bar* in the laven-*dar*.

**Muggsy** A Mars *bar* in the laven-*dar*?

**Donatella** I've got it! We'll go and blow our noses in the roses.

**Britney** How romantic!

**Muggsy** Look, we do not want to tiptoe through the tulips, whistle in the thistles, or have laffs in the daffs.

**Puggsy** (*Aside*) Still doesn't rhyme.

**Muggsy** And we do not want a Mars *bar* in the laven-*dar* or to blow our noses in the roses.

**Donatella** Well, what *do* you want to do?

(*Beat*)

**Puggsy & Muggsy** Run away?

**Britney** I've got it! Why don't Donatella and I give you a tour of the castle wine cellar!

**Puggsy** The wine cellar?

**Donatella** The baron is *very* proud of his wine cellar. He likes all his guests to visit it.

**Muggsy** Wine cellar?

**Puggsy** (*Warming to the idea*) Well, maybe we could just take a very quick look.

**Donatella** You're on!

*Britney and Donatella flounce away, their bottoms wiggling.*

**Britney** Gentlemen, walk this way...

**Muggsy** If I could walk that way I'd be on Strictly Come Dancing.

*Tabs open to reveal...*

## Scene 5

*The Wine Cellar at Hardup Castle. Britney & Donatella escort Muggsy & Puggsy upstage. The scene is set with wine racks and wine barrels. In the centre is a big table covered in bottles, wine glasses and a great big bowl.*

**Britney** Welcome, gentlemen, to the magnificent wine cellar at Hardup Castle.

**Donatella** We have over 10,000 bottles of vintage wines here. Some of them are over 50 years old.

**Britney** But don't worry, chaps, we've got some *new* ones as well.

**Muggsy** Why is there plastic sheeting on the floor?

**Donatella** (*Aside to audience*) Silly boy. He's obviously never been to a pantomime before. Now, we'll just put on these aprons....

*Donatella and Britney put on big plastic aprons as they speak.*

**Britney** Don't forget gentlemen, you can *taste* the wine, but you're not allowed to *swallow* the wine.

**Muggsy** We can't swallow it?

**Britney** No.

**Puggsy** So what do we do?

**Donatella** My sister and I are both experts on wine tasting, so allow us to demonstrate.

*Britney and Donatella pick up two bottles.*

**Britney** You pop it... (*They pull the corks out. SFX pop.*)

**Puggsy** Yes...

**Britney** Pour it... (*They pour very small measures into their wine glasses*)

**Muggsy** I see...

**Britney & Donatella** (*Demonstrating*) Then you sniff it, swill it, slurp it (*very loud slurp*) and spit it out.

*They spit their wine into the bowl.*

**Puggsy** Pop it, pour it, sniff it, swill it, slurp it and spit it out.

**Britney** I think he's got it.

**Puggsy & Muggsy** (*High pitched and excited*) Our turn!

*Britney and Donatella hand Puggsy and Muggsy two bottles of wine.*

**Donatella** Here you are, gentlemen.

**Puggsy** Pop it...

*They both pop their wine corks out. SFX: Pop!*

**Muggsy** Pour it...

*They half fill their glasses.*

**Puggsy** Sniff it...

*They both sniff loudly.*

**Muggsy** Swill it....

*They swill their wine around.*

**Puggsy** And slurp it.

*They both drink their wine down in one.*

**Britney** What are you doing?

**Puggsy** We did what you said.

**Donatella** You didn't spit it out.

**Muggsy** Didn't we?

**Donatella** No.

**Puggsy** Show us again.

*The Ugly Sisters pick up two more bottles. Routine as before.*

**Britney** You pop it, pour it, sniff it, swill it, slurp it and spit it out.

*They spit it out.*

**Puggsy** Pop it, pour it, sniff it, swill it, slurp it and spit it out.

**Britney** He's definitely got it.

**Puggsy & Muggsy** Our turn!

*The Ugly Sisters hand the boys two more bottles.*

**Donatella** Gentlemen...

**Puggsy** Pop it...

**Muggsy** Pour it...

*They fill their glasses to the very top.*

**Puggsy** Sniff it...

**Muggsy** Swill it....

*They spill a lot of wine this time.*

**Puggsy** And slurp it.

*They drink their wine down in one.*

**Britney** What are you doing?

**Puggsy** We did what you said again.

**Donatella** You didn't spit it out!

**Muggsy** We got confused.

**Britney** Confused?

**Donatella** How can you get confused? What part of "spit it out" is it that you don't understand?

**Puggsy** Show us again.

*The sisters pick up two more bottles.*

**Britney** Now, pay attention this time!

**Muggsy** We will.

**Britney & Donatella** (*Demonstrating together*) Pop it. Pour it. Sniff it, swill it, slurp it and spit it out.

*They spit it out.*

**Puggsy & Muggsy** (*Together*) Pop it, pour it, sniff it, swill it, slurp it and spit it out.

**Donatella** They've definitely got it this time.

**Puggsy & Muggsy** Our turn!

*The sisters hand the boys two more bottles.*

**Donatella** Gentlemen...

*Puggsy & Muggsy are beginning to slur their words a little.*

**Puggsy & Muggsy** (*Together*) Pop it. Pour it...

*They fill their glasses to the very top.*

**Puggsy & Muggsy** (*together*) Sssshniff it. Ssssshwill it....

*They spill most of the wine this time.*

**Puggsy & Muggsy** (*Together*) And sssshlurp it.

*They drink their wine down in one.*

**Britney** You did it again!

**Donatella** Stop drinking the wine!

**Muggsy** Sorry! We got confused.

**Puggsy** What are we trying to do again?

**Britney** We will show you ONE LAST TIME!

*The sisters pick up two more bottles.*

**Britney & Donatella** *Together*) Pop it. Pour it. Sniff it. Swill it. Slurp it and spit it out.

*They spit it out.*

**Puggsy & Muggsy** *(Together)* Pop it, pour it, ssshiff it, ssshwill it, ssshurp it and ssshpit it out.

**Donatella** That's it!

**Puggsy** Give usshh two more bottles.

*The sisters hand another couple of bottles to the boys. Wine sloshes everywhere during this run.*

**Britney** Here.

**Puggsy & Muggsy** *(Together)* Pop it, pour it, ssshiff it, ssshwill it, ssshurp it...

**Donatella & Britney** *(Together)* Wait! Don't swallow it!

*Pause.*

**Puggsy** *(Dribbling with mouth full)* Don't swallow it?

**Donatella** Don't swallow it! Spit it out!

*(Puggsy and Muggsy spit their wine all over Britney & Donatella's feet.)*

**Puggsy** Like that?

**Britney** Not over us! Into the bowl!

**Puggsy** Into the bowl? OK, We've got it now. Give usshh two more bottles.

**Donatella** No!!!

*Puggsy grabs two more bottles.*

**Puggsy & Muggsy** *(Together)* Pop it, pour it, ssshiff it, ssshwill it, ssshurp it...

*They spit the wine all over Britney & Donatella's feet again.*

**Puggsy & Muggsy** *(Together)* And spit it out.

**Britney & Donatella** Uggghhh!

**Puggsy & Muggsy** *(Faster)* Pop it, pour it, ssshiff it, ssshwill it, ssshurp it...

*They take two more mouthfuls and spit it over the Ugly Sisters' feet.*



**Puggsy & Muggsy** And spit out. (*Very fast*) Pop it, pour it, sssniff it, ssswill it, ssslurp it

*Two more mouthfuls and they spit it over the sisters again.*

**Puggsy & Muggsy** And spit it out.

**Donatella** Stop that!

**Puggsy** How are we doing? (*Hic*)

**Britney** Gentlemen, I can see that you are particularly fond of that particular wine.

**Puggsy** We are.

**Britney** Allow me to give you some more.

*Britney pours wine from the bottle over Muggsy & Puggsy's heads.*

**Puggsy & Muggsy** Aaagghhhh!

**Britney** There you go!

**Muggsy** Well I think you ladies should try some of this!

*Muggsy & Puggsy throw wine at the Ugly Sisters. A free for all breaks out with everyone throwing wine over everyone.*

**Donatella** Wait!

**Britney** Truce! White flag!

*The wine fight stops.*

**Donatella** I have a suggestion.

**Puggsy** What?

**Donatella** I think we have sampled enough wines for one day, gentlemen.

**Muggsy** I agree.

**Puggsy** So, what do you suggest we do now?

**Britney** We could go out for a drink?

*The band strikes up. Muggsy, Puggsy and the Ugly Sisters walk downstage and the tabs close behind them. The four sing a song together.*

#### **Song 4**

*At the end of the song, tabs open for...*

#### **Scene 6**

*The Village Fete. Early morning. Various stalls are set out on the village green. Enter Prince Charming and Dandini.*

**Dandini** Good morning your Highness. What a lovely day it is today.

**Prince Charming** I wish I could enjoy it with you, Dandini. But I'm so worried.

**Dandini** Let me guess. How are you going to tell the king and queen that you're in love with a servant girl?

**Prince Charming** You read my mind.

**Dandini** Why don't you just tell them that Cinderella's *my* girlfriend. She thinks you're Dandini anyway.

**Prince Charming** It's such a mess. You don't know any Fairy Godmothers by any chance?

**Dandini** Fairy Godmothers? There's no such thing as a Fairy Godmother.

**Prince Charming** Yes there is.

**Dandini** Oh, no there isn't.

**Prince Charming** Oh, yes there is.

**Dandini** Oh, no there isn't.

**Audience** Oh, yes there is.

*Ad lib with audience.*

**Prince Charming** You'll see, Dandini. There *are* Fairy Godmothers and there *is* magic in the world. Everyone here agrees with me. Don't you boys and girls? I *will* find a way to marry Cinderella!

*The Prince exits. Buttons and a few of the villagers enter.*

**Buttons** Hello boys and girls!

**Audience** Button up Buttons!

**Buttons** I'm here to help the villagers set up the stalls for the village fete. It'll be a fun day, but it would be a lot more fun if Cinderella was here. I do miss her when she's not around. Oops, look out, here comes the King and Queen...

*Enter King and Queen.*

**King** Ah, the Village Fete! My favourite day of the year!

**Queen** Yes dear.

**King** I like the Village Fete better than anything. It's better than the BAFTA's...

**Queen** Really dear?

**King** It's better than the Oscar's...

**Queen** Are you sure, dear?

**King** And it's ten times better than the opening night of Big Brother.

**Queen** (*Aside to audience*) Isn't everything? Prince Charming has obviously met a girl. and I'm sure he's planning to introduce us to her today.

**King** Well, let's hope it's someone with a bit of royal blood.

*Enter Muggsy, Puggsy and Ugly Sisters from opposite sides of the stage.*

**Britney** (*Calling out*) Hello boys! How are your hangovers?

**Muggsy** Fine, thank you.

**Donatella** (*To Britney*) Let's see if we can bag some extra invitations for the ball.

*The sisters go and join Muggsy & Puggsy.*

**Puggsy** Good morning, ladies. Do you have your ball gowns yet?

**Donatella** Of course. I'll be wearing my world famous Kylie Minogue outfit.

**Britney** Which is something you *really* don't want to miss. My sister in skin tight, gold, hot pants.

**Donatella** Jealous cow.

**Britney** We were wondering, gentlemen - now that we're bestest of buddies - if you could sneak us a few extra invitations for the ball.

**Donatella** For our closest friends.

**Muggsy** How many close friends do you have?

**Donatella** Ooh, just a couple. There's Belinda and Linda.

**Britney** (*Whispers to Donatella*) Don't forget Lucinda and Melinda.

**Britney** Oh, yes. Lucinda and Melinda. (*Beat*) And Bonnie and Connie. Johnny, Lonnie, Ronnie and Tommy.

**Donatella** You missed one.

**Britney** Lonnie?

**Donatella** You said Lonnie.

**Britney** Oh. Donny?

**Donatella** Donny, lovely Donny.

**Muggsy** Is that all?

**Donatella** Just a couple more. Charlene and Christine. And Colleen, Eileen, Eugene, Francine, Irene, Janine, Jean, Kathleen, Maureen, Maxine, Nadine and Auntie Pauline. Oh, and Keith.

**Muggsy** All done?

**Britney and Donatella** We'll be forever grateful.

**Puggsy** We'll see what we can do.

*Prince and Dandini enter and approach the king and queen.*

**Queen** My darling boy.

**Prince Charming** Mother.

**Queen** Well, where is she?

**Prince Charming** Where is who?

**Queen** Your bride to be? Your fiancé? Come on my boy, I know something's going on. When are we going to meet her?

**Prince Charming** I'm sorry to disappoint you, mother, but I don't have anyone to introduce you to today.

**Queen** Well, there's only one thing for it, then. I will invite every single unmarried girl in the kingdom to the ball.

**King** Every one? How are we going to fit them all in? There must be ten thousand of them.

**Queen** We'll build an extension.

**King** It'll have to be a very large extension, my dear.

**Queen** Then, we'll put up a marquee in the garden.

**King** That won't be big enough!

**Queen** We'll move the ball to Wembley Stadium if we have to. And if Prince Charming can't find a Princess among that lot, I will put him in a monastery.

**Prince Charming** A monastery?

**Britney** Oh great, that's all we need. More competition.

**Donatella** Ten thousand good-looking women crammed into the royal palace? We don't stand a chance!

*Buttons addresses the villagers as the king and queen step forward.*

**Buttons** Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Their Majesties the King and Queen.

**King** My loyal subjects, the Queen and I would just like to say that we hope you all enjoy your day at the village fete.

**Villagers** Hoorah!

**King** *(to Muggsy and Puggsy)* Gentlemen, how go the preparations for the Grand Ball?

**Puggsy** Very well, Your Majesty.

**King** Have you found a master of ceremonies to announce the guests as they come in?

**Muggsy** Of course.

**King** Is it a celebrity? Dermot O'Leary perhaps?

**Muggsy** No.

**King** Jonathan Ross?

**Puggsy** Not exactly, no.

**Muggsy** They were both terribly expensive.

**King** Well who is it?

**Puggsy** Well, we thought we'd ask Buttons to do it.

**Buttons** Me?

*The villagers all cheer.*

**King** Buttons?

**Puggsy** Yes.

**King** Baron Hardup's hapless servant Buttons? A master of ceremonies for a Grand Ball?

**Muggsy** He's *very* popular, Your Majesty.

**Puggsy** And he has tremendous self confidence. We've trained him ourselves.

**Muggsy** Show him, Buttons.

**Buttons** (*Proudly with a flourish, after clearing his throat*) Har! Yar! Bibberty, bobberty, fiddly fish!

**King** What on earth was that?

**Puggsy** Trust us.

**Muggsy** He can do it on one leg as well.

**King** Oh, very well. Buttons it is.

**Buttons** Wow! I'm going to be at the ball!

**King** (*To Muggsy & Puggsy*) But he'd better be good, or it'll be curtains for both of you.

**Muggsy** Oh dear.

**King** (*To Muggsy & Puggsy*) I will throw you both into my deepest, darkest dungeon.

**Puggsy** Yikes.

**King** Where you will be fed nothing but stale bread and lukewarm tap water.

**Muggsy** Oh no...

**King** And for twenty-four hours a day you will be forced to watch "The Only Way Is Essex."

**Muggsy** Not that!

**Puggsy** Anything but that!

*The Ugly Sisters approach Prince Charming and Dandini.*

**Donatella** *(Whisper)* Look, over there! That's Prince Charming and Dandini.

**Britney** *(Whisper)* Are you sure?

**Donatella** *(Whisper)* Yes! I can smell royal blood at twenty paces.

*The Ugly Sisters lunge towards Prince Charming and Dandini.*

**Britney** Oh, there you are Your Highness! You're looking terribly handsome today. Isn't he looking handsome Donatella?

**Donatella** Very handsome. Very, very handsome.

**Britney** Very, very, very handsome.

**Donatella** Very, very, very, very...

**Prince Charming** I'm sorry to interrupt you ladies... but I'm afraid I have absolutely no idea who you are.

**Donatella** *(High pitched notes)* Awkward!

**Britney** *(Whispers to Buttons)* Psssst. Buttons, introduce us to the Prince.

**Buttons** Oh dear, if I must. *(To Prince Charming)* Begging your pardon Your Royal Highness, and Dandini, may I introduce Britney and Donatella, the... *(clears his throat)* gorgeous daughters of Baroness Hardup.

**Prince Charming** What... lovely names. And such *unusual* fashion sense.

**Donatella** Oh yes, we make all our own dresses. I trained under Dolce & Gabbana.

**Britney** She was under them for years.

**Donatella** And on top of them. And we make all our own lingerie.

**Britney** Eat your heart out Ann Summers.

**Prince Charming** How delightful.

**Donatella** We're so looking forward to the Grand Ball. Will you be there, Your Highness?

**Dandini** Of course the Prince will be there. He's one of the royal hosts.

**Britney** Oh, Princey Wincey, you simply *must* let us take you for a quick Mocha Choco Latte at Starbucks.

**Donatella** How about a nice big chocolate muffin?

**Prince Charming** That's very kind of you, ladies, but I'm afraid I have royal duties to attend to.

**Donatella** Perhaps another time.

**Britney** (*To Muggsy & Puggsy*) Oy, you two. Let us promenade around the green.

**Muggsy** I'm sorry?

**Britney** Grab an arm, sunshine.

*The Ugly Sisters grab Muggsy and Puggsy by the arms and yank them away. Enter Cinderella.*

**Buttons** Hello Cinders.

**Cinderella** Button up, Buttons!

**Buttons** Glad to see that your sisters have decided to let you out of the kitchen for a change.

**Cinderella** I'm afraid they didn't let me out. I snuck out while no-one was looking. It's such a lovely day.

**Buttons** It's always a lovely day when you're around, Cinders.

**Cinderella** Is it true you're going to be master of ceremonies at the Grand Ball?

**Buttons** Wow! News travels fast. How did you know about that?

**Cinderella** It's trending on Twitter. Isn't that Dandini over there?

**Buttons** Yes.

**Cinderella** He's so dreamy. I'm sure I'm falling in love with him.

**Buttons** Oh dear.

**Cinderella** What's the matter, Buttons?

**Buttons** I wish you'd fall in love with *me*.

**Cinderella** I *do* love you, Buttons. You're like a brother to me.

**Buttons** I know, Cinders. I suppose I'll just have to settle for that.

*Cinderella kisses Buttons on the forehead and he exits along with the villagers. Cinderella makes as if to leave and bumps into Prince Charming, not entirely by accident.*

**Prince Charming** (*As Dandini*) Cinderella! How lovely to accidentally bump into you.

**Cinderella** Dandini! I wasn't expecting to meet you either. How very "accidental."

**Prince Charming** (*As Dandini*) Isn't that the most marvellous thing about the world, Cinderella. Sometimes when things happen by accident it can make dreams come true.

**Cinderella** Do you really think so?

**Prince Charming** (*As Dandini*) Absolutely.

*The Prince takes Cinderella's hand and they sing a love duet together.*

### Song 5

*Tablature closes after the song. Enter Fairy Godmother on tabs.*

**Fairy Godmother** Soon Cinders' poor rags will be gone,  
And the duckling will turn to a swan.  
Her makeover's my sacred duty,  
She'll soon become a stunning beauty.  
But then it will become alarming,  
When she learns Dandini is Prince Charming.

*Fairy Godmother starts to exit.*

**Fairy Godmother** (*Aside*) Would you believe it, the bloomin' batteries in my magic wand have run out. I'll have to go to WH Smiths and buy some more. I think it takes three double A's.

*She exits. Tablature opens for....*

### Scene 7

*Hardup Castle. Cinderella is on her knees scrubbing the floor.*

**Cinderella** Oh dear, the work here at the castle never seems to end. (*Reads list*) Now, let me see, I've got to sweep the floors, polish the doors, sweep the rugs, and wash up the mugs. Then I've got to dust the book shelves and the cook's shelves and then empty the hearth and rinse the bath. (*Sighs*) Oh well, at least I can work from home. And I do have time to think about Dandini.

*Enter Baroness Melania.*

**Melania Hardup** Cinderella! Daydreaming again, instead of getting on with your duties!

**Cinderella** I'm sorry, stepmother, I've nearly finished.

**Melania Hardup** Well get on with it. It's almost time for you to go and help Britney and Donatella get ready for the ball.

*Enter Buttons waving a piece of paper.*

**Buttons** Hi boys and girls!

**Audience** Button up Buttons!

**Buttons** Cinders! I have fantastic news! Prince Charming has sent you a *personal* invitation to the ball this evening.



**Cinderella** An invitation? For me? But how?

**Melania Hardup** Invitation? What invitation?

**Button** Baroness Melania. I didn't see you there.

**Melania Hardup** Give me that!

*She snatches the invitation from Buttons and reads aloud.*

**Melania Hardup** "Prince Charming requests that you attend the Grand Ball at the Royal Palace..."  
What nonsense! Why would His Royal Highness invite a scruffy girl like Cinderella to the ball?

**Buttons** But Baroness Melania, she simply *has* to go. Cinderella is the most wonderful girl in the kingdom! Please let her have the invitation.

**Melania Hardup** I can assure you, young man that the only ladies who will be going to the palace with me tonight are my daughters, Britney and Donatella.

*Baroness Melania tears up the invitation and throws the bits of torn paper up in the air. The Baroness then exits with an evil laugh. Cinderella begins to cry.*

**Buttons** Please don't cry Cinders.

**Cinderella** For a moment there I really thought I might be able to go to the ball. But then, now that I come to think about it, I have absolutely *nothing* to wear. I can't go to the palace in these tatty old rags.

**Buttons** Cinders, you'd look dazzling if you went to the ball wearing a black, plastic bin liner.

**Cinderella** Oh, Buttons, you are funny. You've really cheered me up. It's so nice to have a friend like you.

*Buttons and Cinderella sing a song together about being friends.*

### Song 6

*At the end of the song...*

**Buttons** Don't worry Cinders, I'm sure you'll go to the palace one day.

**Cinderella** I *wish* that was true.

*Enter Fairy Godmother.*

**Fairy Godmother** Perhaps it is true, Cinderella.

**Cinderella** Who are you?

**Buttons** How did you get in here? You're not one of those door-to-door sales people, I hope.

**Fairy Godmother** No, young man, I am not selling anything. I was just wondering if I could sit down for a moment. I've walked all the way from the village and my feet are killing me.

**Cinderella** Wait a moment, I recognise you now. You're the lady I met in the woods. The one with the kind face.

**Fairy Godmother** Cinderella, I am your Fairy Godmother.

**Buttons** No way!

**Fairy Godmother** Way! And I am going to use my magic powers to make sure that you *do* go to ball.

**Cinderella** But Fairy Godmother, I can't go dressed like this!

**Fairy Godmother** With the greatest respect, Cinderella, clothes are the least of your problem.

**Cinderella** Are they?

**Fairy Godmother** Because you don't even have a carriage to take you to the palace.

**Buttons** Can't we just call an Uber?

**Fairy Godmother** Of course not! You must arrive in style. So you'll need a coach and a driver, and a couple of footmen. Oh, and a nice white horse.

**Buttons** Where are we going to get that lot? Amazon?

**Fairy Godmother** We will use magic, of course. First, I will need a pumpkin.

**Cinderella** We've got some pumpkins in the larder.

**Buttons** What else do we need?

**Fairy Godmother** We will need two lizards.

**Cinderella** Oh, we haven't got any lizards!

**Buttons** Who has lizards?

**Fairy Godmother** Mmm. That's rather inconvenient. Do you have any frogs?

**Cinderella** No! Why would we have frogs?

**Buttons** I think there might be a few wiggly worms in the garden.

**Fairy Godmother** That will have to do. Now, let me see. A mouse?

**Cinderella** There's definitely a mouse living under the sink.

**Fairy Godmother** And a rat?

**Cinderella** Oh, the castle has *hundreds* of rats. They're everywhere.

**Fairy Godmother** Yuk.

**Buttons** So, what are you going to do with that lot?

**Fairy Godmother** I will use my magic wand.

*She waves her wand around in big circles.*

**Fairy Godmother** Hold on, it's not switched on.

*She fiddles with it and switches it on. It glows at the end.*

**Fairy Godmother** (*Aside to audience*) There we are. Lovely. Nice new batteries. (*To Cinderella*) I will use my magic wand to turn the pumpkin into a coach made of gold.

**Buttons** I'd pay to see that.

**Fairy Godmother** The lizards - sorry - the *wiggly worms* will turn into two footmen.

**Cinderella** How wonderful!

**Fairy Godmother** The rat will become your coach driver...

**Buttons** Won't the rat need a driving licence?

**Fairy Godmother** Don't be sarcastic boy, I'm working here.

**Buttons** Sorry.

**Fairy Godmother** The mouse will become the most handsome white horse you have ever seen.

**Cinderella** What about my *dress*?

**Fairy Godmother** Oh, Cinderella, you really are quite obsessed with your appearance. There is nothing quite as unattractive as a vain girl.

**Buttons** But Fairy Godmother, Cinderella *has* to wear something amazing!

**Fairy Godmother** Sigh! The clothes that you're wearing now will magically turn into fine lace.

**Cinderella** Oooh...

**Fairy Godmother** Would you like to be dripping with jewels, or have just one tiny, understated little diamond in your hair?

**Cinderella** Dripping in jewels, please.

**Fairy Godmother** Are you sure? Less is more.

**Cinderella** I'm sure.

**Fairy Godmother** Stockings of finest silk?

**Cinderella** Oh, yes!

**Fairy Godmother** Right. I think that's everything.

**Buttons** What about shoes?

**Fairy Godmother** Well remembered, lad. What type of shoes would you like, Cinderella?

**Cinderella** It's so hard to choose.

**Fairy Godmother** Well hurry up. I haven't got all day.

**Cinderella** Can I be... *awkward*?

**Fairy Godmother** Awkward?

**Cinderella** I've always dreamed of wearing slippers that are fashioned from crystal glass.

**Fairy Godmother** Crystal glass?

**Cinderella** Yes.

**Fairy Godmother** Won't that be terribly uncomfortable?

**Cinderella** Oh please, Fairy Godmother.

**Fairy Godmother** They're your feet, dear. Very well. You shall have crystal slippers. What size are you?

**Cinderella** Two and a half.

**Fairy Godmother** Wow! Small feet!

**Buttons** Small and dainty.

**Fairy Godmother** Ok, done.

**Cinderella** I'm so excited.

*The Fairy Godmother, Buttons and Cinderella walk forward and the tabs close behind them.*

**Fairy Godmother** Oh, there is one condition.

**Cinderella** Condition?

**Fairy Godmother** There's always small print.

**Buttons** What's the condition?

**Fairy Godmother** It's nothing too inconvenient. Just that Cinderella *must* leave the palace before the stroke of midnight.

**Cinderella** Midnight? What happens if I leave *after* midnight?

**Fairy Godmother** My, my, you are a *curious* girl. You'll find all the terms and conditions on my web site. Now, run along both of you, and fetch everything we need.

*Cinderella and Buttons exit.*

**Fairy Godmother** *(To audience)* I don't know, kids today. What can you do with them?

*The Fairy Godmother dances around on her own, and sings a romantic song.*

## Song 6

*The song continues as the tabs open.*

## Scene 8

*On stage stands a golden coach with a driver and two footmen. There is a white horse ready to pull the coach. Villagers and courtiers enter and join in with the song. Escorted by Buttons, Cinderella enters in her brand new dress and sparkling glass crystal slippers. She climbs into the coach and it begins to move off.*

*Curtain.*

## ACT II

### Scene 1

*The ballroom at the Royal Palace. Enter Buttons.*

**Buttons** Hello boys and girls!

**Audience** Button up Buttons!

**Buttons** It's the night of the Grand Ball at the palace! I'm so excited! I'm going to be announcing all the guests as they arrive. Imagine that! Maybe if I do an important job like that, Cinderella will fall in love with me. Oh well, I can always dream.

*Dancers and palace courtiers enter to join Buttons for the opening number of Act II.*

### Song 7

*At the end of the song, enter the King and Queen.*

**Queen** *(To the king)* Now, are you sure everything is ready for the ball?

**King** Absolutely, my dear. I think Mr Muggsy and Mr Puggsy have done a splendid job.

**Queen** Where did you find those two, anyway?

**King** I put an advert in the window of a newsagent's shop.

**Queen** How many replies did you get?

**King** A quarter of a million. But those two were the only applicants who were actually party planners.

**Queen** Well, I think they're a very dodgy pair.

*They notice Muggsy and Puggsy.*

**King** Ah ! Here they are now. Everything all set for the ball, gentlemen?

**Muggsy** Yes, Your Majesty.

**King** Have you plumped the cushions?

**Puggsy** All of them, Your Majesty.

**King** Have you cooked the sausage rolls?

**Muggsy** Mary Berry's own recipe, Your Majesty.

**King** Have you folded the table napkins into the shapes of little animals and birds?

**Puggsy** Swans, geese, rabbits and a dozen frogs, Your Majesty.

**King** Excellent! Have you hung up the little fairy lights?

**Muggsy** Two and a half thousand of them, Your Majesty. Assorted colours.

**King** And is the dance floor nice and smooth and shiny so I can slide on it?

**Puggsy** As smooth as ice, Your Majesty. Torville & Dean are testing it now.

**King** Bravo!

**Queen** Has my son arrived yet?

**Muggsy** Not yet your majesty.

**King** Well I wish he'd hurry up. He's supposed to be greeting the guests with us tonight.

**Muggsy** *(To the queen)* Are you looking forward to the ball, Your Majesty?

**Queen** I'm looking forward to finding someone to marry Prince Charming!

**Puggsy** Naturally, Your Majesty. Someone witty and pretty and....

**Queen** Witty and pretty? I don't care if they look like Danny DeVito, as long as they're stinking rich and they own a huge palace.

*Enter Buttons in grand uniform, muttering nervously under his breath to himself.*

**Buttons** Har, yar bibberty, bobberty, fiddly fish. Har, yar bibberty, bobberty, fiddly fish.

**King** Ah, here comes Buttons. Time for the off, I think!

*Buttons addresses the guests.*

**Buttons** Your Majesties, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Grand Ball at the Royal Palace!

*Applause.*

**Buttons** Please welcome his Royal Highness Prince Charming!

*Prince Charming enters with Dandini.*

**Dandini** *(Whispering to Prince Charming)* Do you mind if I just quickly check something, Your Highness.

**Prince Charming** Of course.

**Dandini** Am I still you, or am I back to being me again?

**Prince Charming** You're back to being you again. I'm me and you're you.

**Dandini** But am I me as you, or am I me as me?

**Prince Charming** You're me as me. I mean, you're you as you.

**Dandini** You as you?

**Prince Charming** No, you as you. Which isn't me, it's you.

**Dandini** So, just to summarise...

**Prince Charming** Ssssh!.

*Prince Charming joins the king and queen.*

**Prince Charming** Mother, father, you wanted to see me?

**King** Yes we did. Now, don't forget, there will be lots of eligible...

**Queen** Rich...

**King** Young women here this evening.

**Queen** Your father and I feel confident that your new princess will be somewhere in this room. All you have to do is find her. She'll probably be the one wearing the most diamonds and sapphires.

**Prince Charming** You make it sound like a celebrity auction, mother. Do my own feelings count for nothing?

**Queen** Well, I can assure you of one thing, my boy, if you don't choose a wife, I will choose one for you.

**Buttons** (*Announcing*) Ladies and gentlemen, the Baron Hardup and Baroness Malania, and their two... (*coughs*)... lovely daughters.

**King** They're late.

**Muggsy** They've been making themselves beautiful for the ball.

**Puggsy** This morning I saw their wigs being delivered on the back of an articulated lorry.

*The Ugly Sisters enter. They are dressed to kill. Prince Charming and Dandini greet them and the Baron and Baroness.*

**Prince Charming** Welcome to the Royal Palace, Baron and Baroness. And of course a very special welcome to your lovely daughters.

**Donatella** Hello, Prince Wincey, we are absolutely *thrilled* to be at the ball!

**Britney** Yes, I think I speak for both myself and my sister when I say that we are quite literally peeing our pants to be here.

**Donatella** Quite literally.

**Prince Charming** But Baroness Melania, isn't one of your family missing?

**Dandini** Surely we delivered another invitation to Hardup Castle!

**Melania Hardup** I can assure your Royal Highness, that all of my party are here.

**Donatella** (*To the Prince*) Are you looking forward to dancing with us, Princey Wincey?

**Prince Charming** Of course. I wouldn't miss it for the world.

**Puggsy** (*To Buttons*) How are you enjoying being the master of ceremonies, Buttons?

**Buttons** It's very exciting. Much more fun than being a servant at the castle. Thank you so much for all your advice and for giving me the chance to do it.

**Muggsy** Well, you know what they say, lad. "If you ain't got confidence, you ain't got nothin'."

*Buttons, Muggsy and Puggsy perform, a very showbizzy song and dance routine.*

### Song 8

*After the routine, the king and queen appear with Prince Charming.*

**King** Come on lad, why aren't you talking to any of these young ladies? You'll never find a wife at this rate. What about that very pretty girl over there?

**Prince Charming** She was in my class at school. She's got terrible bad breath.

**King** Really?

**Prince Charming** Quite unbearable.

**King** Is she rich?

**Prince Charming** Oh, yes.

**King** Well, put on a facemask and go and talk to her.

**Prince Charming** Father, really!

**Queen** What about that girl over there? She's delightful.

**Prince Charming** But mother, she has an *awful* laugh.

**Queen** So, don't tell her any jokes!

**Prince Charming** Mother, please. I *did* send an invitation to a very special girl. But she doesn't seem to have turned up.

**Buttons** Your Majesties... ladies and gentlemen... please welcome our very special guest of honour this evening... the Masked Lady!

*Fanfare. Enter Cinderella. She holds an elegant mask over her eyes. Buttons escorts her into the room.*

**Queen** Guest of honour? What guest of honour?



**Britney** O-M-G, it's Lady Gaga!

**Buttons** (*Aside to Cinders*) Cinderella, you look amazing!

*Prince Charming is clearly very taken with this masked beauty.*

**Prince Charming** Wow! What an entrance!

**Cinderella** (*Whispers*) I'm so nervous, Buttons. I don't know whether I can go through with this.

**Buttons** (*Whispers*) You'll be fine, Cinders. But before you go on, I think there's something you should know....

**Cinderella** (*Whispers*) What?

**Buttons** (*Whispers*) Dandini *isn't* Dandini.

**Cinderella** (*Whispers*) Dandini *isn't* Dandini? Well, who is he then?

**Buttons** (*Whispers*) Dandini is Prince Charming.

**Cinderella** (*Whispers*) Dandini *isn't* Dandini he's Prince Charming?

**Buttons** Yes.

**Cinderella** (*Shouts*) What?

*Everyone turns and looks at Cinderella momentarily. Then they turn back to their conversations.*

**Cinderella** (*To Buttons*) I mean (*whispers*) "What?"

**Buttons** The Prince disguised himself as his servant because he wanted to meet you.

**Cinderella** I can't go through with this, Buttons. I want to go home.

**Buttons** You can't go home. You're the Masked Lady and you're about to be the Belle of the Ball.

**Cinderella** I'm scared.

**Prince Charming** I simply have to know, who is that Masked Lady?

*Cinderella steps into the spotlight and sings like an angel.*

### **Song 9**

*At the end of the song the guests go wild with applause.*

**Donatella** (*Aside to Britney*) Are you sure that isn't Lady Gaga?

**Britney** No. Her feet are way too small.

*Prince Charming runs towards Cinderella and they embrace. Romantic waltz music begins to play.*

**Prince Charming** May I have this dance, mysterious lady?

**Cinderella** You may.

*The Prince and Cinderella dance a great swirling waltz.*

**Cinderella** I'm dancing with a prince. It can't be true. It's all like a wonderful dream.

**Prince Charming** You are so graceful and elegant. Do I dare ask you to take off your mask?

**Cinderella** Perhaps, when we get to know each other a little better, Prince Charming.

**Prince Charming** Very well. But in the meantime, please allow me to show you around the Royal Palace.

**Cinderella** Oh dear, I'd love to but I'm afraid I have to leave before midnight.

**Queen** *(To the King)* It seems our son has made up his mind at last. But I wish we knew who that girl was.

**King** *(To the Queen)* Surely it doesn't matter, dear, as long as he's happy.

**Baron Hardup** *(To the Baroness)* My dear, don't you think that girl in the mask looks a little like Cinderella?

**Melania Hardup** *(To the Baron)* Cinderella? But the girl in the mask is beautiful!

**Baron Hardup** *(To the Baroness)* So is Cinderella. It's such a pity she's not here to meet the prince.

**Melania Hardup** *(To the Baron)* There's something very strange about that girl. Who wears a mask unless they have something to hide?

*Donatella grabs Puggsy and waltzes around with him.*

**Donatella** Oh Mr. Puggsy. You're so strong and dominant. You could turn a girl's head.

**Puggsy** In your case I'd like to grab hold of it and turn it about 360 degrees.

*Prince Charming and Cinderella dance to the front of the stage.*

**Prince Charming** Mysterious lady, you dance sublimely.

**Cinderella** Oh, Prince Charming, I could dance with you all night!

*Enter Fairy Godmother who talks to Buttons.*

**Fairy Godmother** Buttons, the hour fast approaches when Cinderella has to be gone. You must go and warn her.

**Buttons** I'll try my best, Fairy Godmother, but I think she's going to take some shifting.

**Fairy Godmother** Didn't Cinderella read the terms and conditions? Doesn't she know that at the stroke of midnight her lovely clothes will disappear, and she will once again be dressed in rags?

**Buttons** Oh dear. *(To audience)* This is going to get worse before its gets better.

*The Fairy Godmother exits. The clock begins to chime twelve. Cinderella reacts as she hears the clock.*

**Cinderella** On no! It's twelve o'clock already! I have to go!

**Prince Charming** Don't go!

**Cinderella** Thank you for a wonderful evening.

**Prince Charming** But I don't have your phone number!

**Cinderella** Good-bye, Prince Charming.

*Buttons and Cinderella beat a hasty retreat.*

**Prince Charming** Please don't leave! I love you!

*Enter Dandini.*

**Prince Charming** Dandini?

**Dandini** She's gone. She just vanished into the night.

**Prince Charming** No!

**Dandini** But she left this. On the staircase.

*Dandini hands a glass slipper to the prince. The king and queen, Baron and Baroness Hardup and the Ugly Sisters gather around to see what has happened.*

**Prince Charming** A crystal glass slipper. She's left nothing but this.

**Dandini** It's tiny. She must have very small feet.

**Britney** (*Whispers*) Who wears *glass* slippers?

**Donatella** (*Whispers*) Health and Safety nightmare!

**Britney** (*Whispers*) They must have been agony to dance in.

**Dandini** (*To the Ugly Sisters*) Sssssh!

**Prince Charming** The one girl I could have shared my life with has vanished, and all I have left is this crystal slipper. What am I going to do?

**King** Well I should have thought that was fairly obvious, boy.

**Prince Charming** What?

**King** You must *find* that girl!

**Queen** Absolutely! What are you waiting for?

**Prince Charming** You're right! I'll do it!

**Britney** (*Dabbing her eyes*) I'm filling up.

*The Prince holds up the slipper.*

**Prince Charming** I hereby proclaim, "Whoever this crystal slipper fits, shall become my bride." We will search every house in the kingdom until the girl is found!

*Grand music. Tabs close. Enter Dandini and Buttons on tabs.*

**Dandini** Well, now the Prince loves *two* girls. Cinderella and the mysterious Masked Lady. What a muddle.

**Buttons** Oh, I've got a feeling that the muddle will sort itself out fairly soon, Dandini.

**Dandini** Let's hope so.

**Buttons** But that still doesn't help the fact *I'm* in love with Cinderella as well.

**Dandini** I had a feeling that was true. I saw the way you looked at her at the Palace.

**Buttons** Oh well...

**Dandini** I'll tell you what, Buttons. Why don't we sing a song to cheer you up. You'll help us with that, won't you boys and girls?

**Audience** Yes!

**Buttons** And all the grown-ups too?

**Audience** Yes!

**Dandini** Ok, here we go.

*Dandini brings on a big board with lyrics on it and he and Buttons sing a noisy audience participation song.*

## Song 10

*At the end of the song, tabs open on a dark, spooky bedroom at Hardup Castle. A portrait that looks like Baron Hardup hangs in the centre of the back wall. There's a big double bed downstage centre, and a large cupboard upstage right.*

## Scene 2

*Enter Muggsy, Puggsy and Buttons, who is struggling to carry the visitors' suitcases.*

**Muggsy** I don't want to stay at the castle again tonight. I want to stay at the Palace with all the posh people.

**Buttons** Well, I'm sorry but the Palace is full.

**Puggsy** Can't we stay at the Hilton?

**Buttons** Full.

**Muggsy** There's a very nice Airbnb in the village.

**Buttons** Booked.

**Muggsy** Oh dear.

**Puggsy** Why can't we have the nice comfortable room we had last night?

**Buttons** It's still being fumigated.

**Muggsy** Charming.

**Buttons** So you'll have to sleep in this room tonight. The darkest, creepiest room in the castle.

**Puggsy** Is it haunted?

**Buttons** Of *course* it's haunted. It's a panto!

**Muggsy** I want to go home.

**Buttons** Well you can't. You've missed the last bus.

**Puggsy** When's the next bus.

**Buttons** Next Thursday. Now, why don't you both go to bed.

**Muggsy** Good idea.

*Puggsy looks at the portrait on the wall. The eyes are moving.*

**Puggsy** That's weird.

**Muggsy** What?

**Puggsy** I could have sworn the eyes on that portrait are following us around the room.

**Muggsy** Nonsense.

**Puggsy** Alright, I'll show you. Follow me.

*Accompanied by creepy music, Muggsy, Puggsy and Buttons creep across the stage and back again. The eyes on the portrait follow them all the way.*

**Puggsy** See, I told you.

**Buttons** There's no need to be scared of a dusty old painting. The eyes on paintings always follow you around the room.

**Muggsy** Do they?

**Buttons** That is a portrait of Baron Hardup's great, great, great, great, great, great, grandfather.

**Muggsy & Puggsy** *(Together)* Great, great, great, great, great, grandfather?

**Buttons** No. You missed a "great".

**Muggsy & Puggsy** *(Together)* Great, great, great, great, great, *great*, grandfather.

**Buttons** Correct. I like to think of that painting as the old man keeping an eye on the guests.

**Muggsy** Well it's giving me the willies.

**Buttons** You'll just have to put up with it. I will bid you good night, gentlemen. Sleep well.

*Buttons exits. Muggsy gets into bed, fully clothed.*

**Muggsy** I don't want that painting watching me all night. Go and hang your coat over it.

**Puggsy** Righto.

*Puggsy tries to drape his coat over the portrait, but the coat keeps falling down as soon as he has walked away from it. He goes back and tries again three times then gives up.*

**Puggsy** Oh bother! I'll go and hang it up in the cupboard instead.

*Puggsy opens the door on the left side of the cupboard. There's a skeleton inside. He slams the door shut.*

**Puggsy** Uggghhhhh!

**Muggsy** (*Getting up*) What is it now?

**Puggsy** In the c-c-cupboard.

**Muggsy** What's in the cupboard?

**Puggsy** A skelling-ton.

**Muggsy** A what?

**Puggsy** A skelling-ton.

**Muggsy** You mean "skeleton".

**Puggsy** Skelling-ton.

**Muggsy** Skeleton.

**Puggsy** Skelling-ton.

**Muggsy** Skeleton.

**Puggsy** Well I don't care what it's called, it's in there. If you don't believe me, go and look.

*Muggsy opens the door on the left side of the cupboard. It's now empty.*

**Muggsy** There's nothing in there.

**Puggsy** Try the other door.

*Muggsy opens the door on the right of the cupboard. The skeleton is there now. He slams the door shut again.*

**Muggsy** Uggghhhhh! You're right. It's a skeleton!

**Puggsy** Skelling-ton.

**Muggsy** Skeleton.

**Puggsy** Skelling-ton.

**Muggsy** I'm going back to bed.

*The pair both get into bed and pull the covers up as far as their noses.*

**Puggsy** I don't like it here.

**Muggsy** I don't suppose there's a *real* ghost in the castle.

**Puggsy** You don't think there's a *real* ghost here, do you boys and girls?

*A ghost appears upstage behind them and quickly crosses the stage.*

**Audience** Behind you!

**Muggsy** What's that? Did you see a ghost?

*The pair turn around to look. The ghost is gone.*

**Puggsy** There's no ghost. The boys and girls are just trying to scare us. You're just trying to scare us, aren't you kids?

*A ghost appears again upstage.*

**Audience** Behind you!

**Muggsy** Now what? What's all the fuss about? We know there's nothing there.

*They turn around and the ghost has disappeared again. Puggsy takes a camera and a tripod out of one of his bags and begins to set it up.*

**Puggsy** I'll tell you what, I'll set up my camera and if there's a ghost we'll catch it on video.

**Muggsy** Good idea.

*Puggsy finishes setting up the camera behind the bed and he points it at the back wall. Then he gets back into bed.*

**Puggsy** Right, I'm going to sleep. Goodnight.

**Muggsy** Goodnight.

*The ghost appears again. It steals the camera and quickly disappears.*

**Audience** Behind you!

**Puggsy** (*sitting up*) What's that? Did you see something, boys and girls?

**Muggsy** Go and check the camera. If there was a ghost, the camera will have recorded it.

*Puggsy goes to look for the camera. It's not there.*

**Puggsy** The camera's gone.

*Muggsy stays in bed under the covers.*

**Muggsy** Gone? It can't be gone. You're imagining things.

**Puggsy** Did you see who took the camera, boys and girls?

*The audience noisily explain to Puggsy what has happened to the camera.*

**Muggsy** Just go to sleep.

**Puggsy** I'll try.

*Puggsy gets back into bed. The ghost appears one last time and returns the camera.*

**Audience** Behind you!

*Muggsy and Puggsy jump out of bed.*

**Muggsy** What? What is it?

**Puggsy** The camera's back!

**Muggsy** What do you mean, it's back? It never went anywhere in the first place, you great nelly! You imagined the whole thing! There's *no* ghost!

**Puggsy** Well, if there's no ghost, there's only one explanation.

**Muggsy** What?

**Puggsy** The camera must have been taken ...

**Muggsy** By who?

**Puggsy** The skelling-ton.

**Muggsy** Skeleton!!!

**Puggsy** Skelling-ton.

**Muggsy** Skeleton!

**Puggsy** Skelling-ton.

**Muggsy** Skeleton!

**Puggsy** Well, whatever you call it, it's a big scary pile of bones, it's escaped from a graveyard, and it's coming to get us!

**Muggsy** Calm down. I'm sure it can't hurt you.



*At this point the skeleton climbs out of the cupboard and creeps towards them. The audience scream their warnings.*

**Audience** Behind you!

**Muggsy** What's that? What's behind us?

**Puggsy** Oh, they're just trying to scare us again.

*The pair turn around and see the skeleton. It chases them around the bed.*

**Muggsy & Puggsy** Agggghhhhhhh! Skelling-ton!!!

*They run off pursued by the skeleton. Tabs close to the sound of a ghostly laugh. Enter Prince Charming on tabs.*

**Prince Charming** I just can't understand why the Masked Lady ran away. I wonder what was wrong. She seemed so happy. But I *will* find her. Tomorrow I'll take that crystal glass slipper to every house in the Kingdom until I find a girl whose foot fits it. And when I find her, I will marry her.

*Prince Charming sings a love song.*

### **Song 11**

*At the end of the song Prince Charming exits.*

### **Scene 3**

*Tabs open to reveal Hardup Castle. It's the next day. A cockerel crows. We can hear the dawn chorus. Enter Buttons.*

**Buttons** Hello boys and girls!

**Audience** Button up Buttons!

**Buttons** Welcome to the morning after the night before. I didn't sleep very well. I had a strange dream about Cinderella dancing with the prince and then running off and dropping her slipper on the staircase. And then when I woke up, I remembered that it wasn't a dream at all. It was all true. But then, anything can happen in a pantomime.

*The doorbell rings.*

**Buttons** Now, who can that be?

*Buttons runs off stage to open the door and quickly returns with Prince Charming and Dandini who is carrying the glass slipper on a cushion.*

**Buttons** Your Highness.

**Prince Charming** Good morning, Buttons.

*The Baron and Baroness come running in.*

**Baroness Melania** Visitors at this hour? (*She sees that it's the Prince.*) Ah, your Royal Highness.

**Prince Charming** As you know, I am visiting every household in the kingdom...

**Baron Hardup** How's that working out for you?

**Dandini** We have searched high and low and this is the Prince's *final* call.

**Buttons** Already? You were up early!

**Dandini** We have been to every single house, but we are yet to find a foot that the crystal glass slipper fits.

**Melania Hardup** Well, I'm sure my daughters Britney and Donatella will be only too happy to try it on for size.

**Prince Charming** Very well.

**Dandini** (*Whispers to Prince Charming*) Are you sure you want to do this? It can't be either of them. They were both *in the room* while you were dancing with the Masked Lady.

**Prince Charming** (*Whispers to Dandini*) Those are the rules. I have to be fair. Whoever the shoe fits will be my wife.

**Dandini** (*Whisper*) But what if it fits one of the Ugly Sisters?

**Prince Charming** (*Whisper*) It *won't* fit one of the Ugly Sisters. They both have feet the size of Wales.

**Melania Hardup** The *last* call you say? (*Calling out*) Donatella! Britney! Prince Charming is here to see you!

**Donatella & Britney** (*Off stage*) Coming mummy!

*Wearing comical night attire, the Ugly Sisters appear in an instant.*

**Buttons** (*To audience*) That was quick. They must have been listening at the door.

**Donatella** Your Highness, Dandini. How lovely to see you.

**Britney** Oh, how kind of you to return my glass slipper! I must have dropped it at the palace.

**Donatella** *Your* glass slipper? No it isn't you lying old bag! It's *my* glass slipper!

**Melania Hardup** Girls, please! Prince Charming is here so that you can try the slipper on.

**Dandini** Yes, ladies. You must *both* try on the slipper.

**Melania Hardup** Just to be absolutely clear on this, if the slipper fits either Britney or Donatella, you will marry them.

**Prince Charming** Yes.

**Melania Hardup** No catches.

**Prince Charming** No.

**Melania Hardup** No pre-nup.

**Prince Charming** No.

**Donatella** I'll go first. I have such pretty little feet.

*Donatella grabs a stool and sits down. The Prince tries to get the shoe onto her foot.*

**Dandini** It doesn't fit.

**Donatella** Let me take my sock off.

*She removes a long stripy sock and tries again without success.*

**Baroness Melania** Try the other foot!

**Dandini** The other foot? But it's a *left* shoe!

**Donatella** I don't care!

*Groaning with pain, she tries it on the other foot.*

**Prince Charming** I'm sorry Donatella... the slipper definitely does not fit you!

**Dandini** (*Whispers*) Phew!

**Donatella** I *knew* I should have had plastic surgery on my great big feet.

**Britney** (*To Donatella*) You'd need more than plastic surgery to fit that shoe. You'd need to have all your toes cut off.

**Donatella** (*To Britney*) Wash your mouth out with soap.

**Britney** My turn! My turn!

*Britney sits on the stool and tries to fit the slipper on her foot.*

**Britney** (*Grunting and groaning*) Come on, come on, come on, come on! YES!!! It fits! I've done it. I'm a Princess!!!

**Dandini** What?

**Prince Charming** That's impossible. It can't fit. Let me see.

*She reveals the shoe dangling from her big toe.*

**Prince Charming** It doesn't fit.

**Britney** It fits my *big toe*. You didn't say anything about it fitting the *whole foot*!

**Dandini** Nasty moment.

**Prince Charming** Well, it seems that my search has proved fruitless. We will be on our way.

**Dandini** Unless, of course, there are any other eligible ladies in the house.

**Melania Hardup** I'll have a go. Give it here.

**Britney** You're married, mother.

**Melania Hardup** Oh, yes. I forgot.

**Baron Hardup** What about Cinderella?

**Donatella** Cinderella?

**Prince Charming** (*As if in a dream*) Cinderella!

**Baron Hardup** Buttons, fetch Cinderella from the kitchen.

*Buttons exits.*

**Baron Hardup** Surely Cinderella must be eligible to try on the glass slipper.

**Donatella** Oh, no she isn't!

**Baron Hardup** Yes, she is!

**Donatella & Britney** Oh, no she isn't!

**Baron Hardup** Oh, yes she is!

*Ad lib with audience.*

**Britney** But Cinderella is a servant girl!

**Donatella** She as common as muck!

*Enter Buttons with Cinderella.*

**Baron Hardup** Here's my daughter, Your Highness.

*The Prince takes her by the hand.*

**Prince Charming** We've met before, I believe?

**Cinderella** That's true, Your Highness.

**Prince Charming** Cinderella! Or should I say "The Masked Lady"?

**All** Gasp!

**Cinderella** Yes, it's true. I *was* the Masked Lady. But only for one night. I'm sorry for deceiving you, Prince Charming.

**Prince Charming** It doesn't matter. All that matters now is that we spend the rest of our lives together.

*They kiss.*

**All** Aaaaaahhh!

**Dandini** (*Offering her the glass slipper*) Cinderella...

*Cinderella sits on the stool and puts on the slipper.*

**Prince Charming** It's a *perfect* fit! I proclaim that Cinderella will be my bride! With your permission, of course Baron Hardup?

**Baron Hardup** Permission granted.

**Britney** (*Sobbing*) We're ruined! Ruined! How are we *ever* going to get married now?

**Donatella** We'll be a couple of dried up old maids.

**Britney** We need a miracle! A miracle!

*Enter Muggsy and Puggsy*

**Muggsy** Hello everyone!

**Donatella** Ooh, look what just walked in. A miracle.

**Muggsy** We just wanted to say goodbye before we left.

**Puggsy** And thank you for your hospitality.

**Britney** (*To Puggsy*) You! Get over here. You've pulled.

**Puggsy** Oh dear.

**Donatella** (*To Muggsy*) And you! Play your cards right, and I'm all yours.

**Puggsy** (*To Muggsy*) Mr Puggsy, I don't know about you...

**Muggsy** (*To Puggsy*) What?

**Puggsy** (*To Muggsy*) But I think I'd rather get married to a skelling-ton.

*Puggsy runs off. Muggsy runs after him.*

**Muggsy** (*Calling out*) It's skeleton! SKELETON!!!

*The Ugly Sisters run after them.*

**Britney** (*Calling out*) Come back here, boys!

**Donatella** (*Calling out*) We need you to give us foot rubs!

*Ugly Sisters exit. Enter King and Queen.*

**King** (*To Prince Charming*) So, my lad, you *did* manage to track down the mysterious Masked Lady?

**Prince Charming** I did indeed, father. Here she is.

**Queen** Her? But she's dressed in rags!

**Prince Charming** This is Cinderella. *She* was the Masked Lady who won everyone's hearts at the ball! She is going to be my wife.

**King** Congratulations, lad!

**Queen** But she isn't rich!

**Prince Charming** I'm afraid not, mother. But her father is a baron.

**Queen** A baron? Oh well, I suppose minor aristocracy is better than nothing. I give you my blessing, my boy.

**King** In that case, we have a wedding to arrange. We'll need those two party planners again.

**Buttons** I've got a feeling they'll be back at any minute.

**Melania Hardup** If only Britney and Donatella could find happiness as well!

*Enter Britney and Donatella dragging Muggsy and Puggsy behind them.*

**Britney** We *have* found happiness, mummy!

**Buttons** I knew it.

**Donatella** They were in the castle grounds.

**Britney** They'd dug a great big hole and they were trying to bury themselves alive.

**Donatella** But we found them! And now we're all going to live happily ever after, aren't we boys?

**Muggsy** (*To Puggsy*) I don't remember saying that. Do you remember saying that?

**Puggsy** (*To audience*) I need a drink.

**Melania Hardup** I'd better buy a new hat. It looks like we're going to be having *three* weddings!

**All** Hooray

*Fanfare. Tabs close. Enter Fairy Godmother on tabs. Music under.*

**Fairy Godmother** Now it's almost time to go  
And leave our pantomime.  
We hope you've liked our story  
And have had a special time.  
The prince has found his princess,  
After waiting all his life,  
Cinderella's found her prince,  
And will soon become his wife.  
We've learned that daydreams can come true,  
And life's a carousel.  
But gold and riches aren't enough,  
We must have love as well.  
We've laughed, we've cried, we've shouted,  
But the time has come at last  
To open up the curtains  
And say farewell to our cast!

*Music swells. Tabs open for...*

**Scene 4**

*Walk down and Grand Finale with full company.*

**Song 12**

*Curtain*