# Cinderella

**Harlow Playhouse 2009/10**

**Cinderella – Harlow Playhouse – 2009/10**

**LIST OF SCENES**

**ACT ONE**

PROLOGUE

SCENE 1: THE VILLAGE OF HARLOW ON THE DOWNS

SCENE 2: NEAR THE FOREST

SCENE 3: THE FOREST

SCENE 4: HARDUP HALL

SCENE 5: THE KITCHEN AT HARD-UP HALL

SCENE 6: OUTSIDE HARD-UP HALL (TRANSFORMATION)

**ACT TWO**

PROLOGUE

SCENE 6: THE ROYAL BALLROOM

SCENE 7: NEAR THE FOREST

SCENE 8: THE BOUDOIR AT HARD-UP HALL

SCENE 9: THE KITCHEN AT HARD-UP HALL

SCENE 10: THE SONG SHEET

SCENE 11: THE ROYAL WEDDING

**ACT ONE - PROLOGUE**

**PYRO CUE: DSR**

***Enter Fairy Godmother.***

FAIRY G ***(Coughing through the smoke of the pyro.)***

Oh dear, I don’t think I’ll ever get used to that. It goes right up your nose. Oh sorry, now where was I, oh yes…

Welcome dear children to England of old,

And Harlow on the Downs, where our tale’s to be told.

The tale of Cinderella, so pretty and sweet

And the handsome Prince Charming she’s been waiting to meet

Our story’s got laughter, dancers and singers

Oh, and the Ugly Sisters – they’re a right pair of mingers!

Oh, I can’t do all this in verse. I was rubbish at poetry at Fairy school.. Honestly I never had time for a rhyme – oh, that one just slipped out. Let me just do it this way…. Hello boys and girls!! Oh, how lovely. Allow me to introduce myself. I am Fairy Feathers – Cinderella’s Fairy Godmother, or at least I will be if I can get it all right. You see, I’m just a trainee fairy. I haven’t got my wings yet, I had to hitchhike across the Galaxy to get here… but this is my final test. I have to look after poor Cinderella and do what I can to make sure all her dreams come true. So, will you help me boys and girls? Will you? Oh, that is wonderful. So, let’s get on with the story. Oh I suppose I should practice my rhyming a little more, here goes…

And so if I’ve got to practice my rhyme

I’ll tell you who else is in our pantomime

There’s Dandini and Buttons, oh, and of course, me

I’m Fairy Feathers and as you will see

With a wave of my wand I’ll conjure the scene,

As we meet all our friends in our snowy village scene….

***FAIRY GODMOTHER waves her wand but nothing happens.***

FAIRY: Oh no. ***(To BAND.)*** Sorry boys. You’ll have to stop. I need to have another go. ***(The BAND stops playing and shout encouragement to the FAIRY.)*** Oh, thank you boys. You are kind. I told you I was new to all this. Now come on. If Harry Potter can get this right, so can I.. Let’s try again….

Let’s meet all our friends in our snowy village scene….

***The spell works this time and we bleed through the show-cloth to reveal…***

**MUSIC CUE: PROLOGUE – FAIRY GODMOTHER**

**ACT ONE, SCENE ONE - THE VILLAGE.**

***During the prologue song the Fairy Godmother walks around a frozen village scene and various groups come to life as she waves her magic wand. At the end of the prologue song Fairy Godmother exits.***

**MUSIC CUE: FOOTLOOSE – CINDERELLA and BARON**

***(Dance routine with PROS, SENIORS and JUVENILES).***

CINDERELLA ***(To ENSEMBLE.)*** Hi everyone.

ENSEMBLE Hi Cinderella.

BARON ***(To Audience.)*** Hello boys and girls.

AUDIENCE Hello.

BARON Welcome to the Village of Harlow on the Downs. I’m Baron Hard-Up and this is my lovely daughter Cinderella… You’re looking very happy today Cinders.

CINDERELLA Well Daddy today is a very special day.

BARON You mean there’s no traffic on the A414?

CINDERELLA Oh don’t be silly Daddy! It’s much more special than that.

VILLAGER 1 Why, what’s happening?

CINDERELLA Today’s the day my step-sisters are coming to stay.

BARON Oh yes of course… my two other little darlings.

CINDERELLA It’ll be so wonderful to have some girlie company again at Hard-Up Hall.

BARON I’m sorry Cinderella, I never really got the hang of playing with Barbies did I ***(Aside)*** I thought that’s what you cooked burgers and sausages on!!!

VILLAGERS ***(All laugh)***

CINDERELLA Oh Daddy, Hard-Up Hall wouldn’t be the same without you and Buttons around but it will be lovely to have some female company.

BARON I’m sure it will be Cinders… and to think they’ve spent the last three years at a posh finishing school.

VILLAGER 2 Wow! Where? In Switzerland?

CINDERELLA No, Hoddesdon. Daddy says it’s very good.

BARON Yes, three years in Hoddesdon would finish anyone off!... Anyway I can’t stand around here chatting all day. I’ve got inventions to sell at the market.

I’ll see you all soon! Toodle-pip!

VILLAGERS Goodbye Baron!

***BARON exits.***

CINDERELLA Oh poor Daddy he does work so hard making his wacky inventions… but between you and me I don’t think he’s actually ever sold one.

BARON ***(Off stage)*** Look out… Bandit at three o’clock!!

***BARON enters on a tricycle behind which is a small chest on wheels. On the side of the chest it reads; “Baron Hard-Ups Miracle Inventions.” He is out of control. He is still screaming as he vanishes off right and we hear a long series of crashes, bangs, thumps, barks and sheep baaing! Eventually BARON enters right looking very shaken and covered in bits and pieces of debris.***

CINDERELLA Daddy, are you OK?

BARON Oh dear. My whole life just flashed before my eyes… it was really boring!

CINDERELLA But are you alright?

BARON I’m fine! Who are you again?

CINDERELLA I’m Cinderella, you’re daughter.

BARON That’s nice. Who am I?

CINDERELLA Baron Hard-Up. My dad. Oh dear, I don’t think you’re at all well.

BARON I’m fine, I’m fine. The main thing is I didn’t break my new invention. It’s fantastic this; the double-headed torch. ***(Shows her torch).***

CINDERELLA Oh yes?

BARON Not only can you see where you’re going, you can see where you’ve been. What do you think?

CINDERELLA Can I be honest?

BARON Yes of course Cinders.

CINDERELLA I think it’s a load of pants.

BARON That’s a bit below the belt!... Anyway you can’t keep a Hard-Up down, I’m off to market… if you see Buttons, will you tell him to get the shopping for tonight’s dinner.

CINDERELLA Of course father. Bye!

BARON Bye, bye everyone.

***BARON exits.***

VILLAGERS Goodbye! Etc.

VILLAGER 1 Cinderella, would you like us to help you get Hard-Up Hall ready for your sisters?

CINDERELLA Would you? Would you really?

VILLAGER 2 Of course. We’d be glad to help.

CINDERELLA That’s brilliant! Hey let’s try and find Buttons on the way there. Come on!

VILLAGERS Buttons! Etc.

***CINDERELLA and THE ENSEMBLE exit. BUTTONS enters.***

BUTTONS Hiya gang!... Come on you can be louder than that… I said Hiya gang!... Oh hang on, I haven’t introduced myself… My name is Buttons. What’s me name? Hey, I know – do you want to become my friends, you can all be in my gang. Would you like that? Yea? Fab – it’s five pounds each to join. Just pass your money down the front. I take switch, delta... I’m joking, let’s all just be best friends. OK? Right, every time I come on, I’ll shout “How ya diddlin dudes?” and you all shout back, “How ya diddlin Buttons?” Shall we give it a go? Right, I’ll go off and come back on. Here we go…

***BUTTONS exits and re-enters facing up-stage.***

BUTTONS: How ya diddlin… Eh where have you gone? Oh sorry, facing the wrong way. I’ve never done this before.

***BUTTONS exits and re-enters.***

BUTTONS How ya diddlin dudes?

AUDIENCE How ya diddlin Buttons?!

BUTTON Did you do it? Oh come on it’s panto you’ve gotta be louder than that. Let’s give it another go…

***BUTTONS exits and re-enters.***

BUTTONS How ya diddlin dudes?

AUDIENCE How ya diddlin Buttons?.

BUTTONS Fantastic. Now you’re all in my gang. I suppose I should really get on with some work but I’m not in the mood today. Mind you, I’ve had worse jobs. I used to work in a wood yard but I couldn’t cut it… Then I got a job looking after all the tortoises and terrapins at the zoo, but that was a turtle disaster… Then I got this great job at the local Garden Centre. It was going really well ‘til this bloke came in and said, “I want decking”. So I punched him…. Now, I was supposed to meet Cinderella here... Have you met her yet?... Oh isn’t she just gorgeous. Honestly, I go all neak at the wees when she’s around… I mean week at the knees!... and my little heart goes “Boom-bitty-boom-bitty-boom-bitty-boom-bitty-boom!” It’s amazing! It’s the same when I watch Stephanie on Lazy Town. ***(He sings.)*** “Go, go, go, get up Lazy Town.” I tell you what, will you help me call her? Great, after three everyone shout Cinderella... 1..2..3..

ALL Cinderella!

BUTTONS Come on, you’ll have to be louder than that she’s probably up at Hard-Up Hall by now... ready… 1..2..3..

ALL Cinderella!

***CINDERELLA enters.***

CINDERELLA Hi Buttons.

***BUTTONS hears CINDERELLA and immediately falls to the ground***

BUTTONS ***(soppy)*** Hi Cinderella…

CINDERELLA Oh Buttons you are funny! ***(She helps him up)*** Right, let’s go and get the ingredients for tonight’s meal. It’s really kind of you to do the cooking.

BUTTONS Kind? I had no choice. One of these days I’ll beat you at arm wrestling.

***BARON enters.***

BARON Cinderella, Buttons. They’re coming!

BUTTONS Who are?

BARON My step-daughters. They’ve just got off the train at Harlow Ups station.

BUTTONS: Don’t you mean Harlow Downs?

BARON: You’re always so negative. Why can’t you say something constructive?

BUTTONS: Lego!

CINDERELLA Oh, my step-sisters are here: how exciting.

BARON Yes, I can’t wait. My two lovely little step-daughters – Whitney & Britney. I haven’t seen them in years. Oh, my delicate little angels…

***We hear shouting from off-stage.***

BUTTONS Hey, this must be them now.

**MUSIC CUE: SISTERS MEDLEY. – UGLY SISTERS**

***The UGLY SISTERS enter.***

WHITNEY Oh dear, Britney. I don’t like the look of this dump very much, do you?

BRITNEY I agree Whitney. It’s like a wet Wednesday in Wareside.

WHITNEY ***(To audience)*** And look at that rough lot. Ugly, or what?

BRITNEY Uuugg-eer-lly! Mind you, everyone’s going to be dog rough compared to us!

WHITNEY Aren’t we must be the most gorgeous creatures you’ve ever seen boys and girls?

AUDIENCE No!

BOTH Oh yes we are… etc.

BOTH Oh, shut up.

WHITNEY Yea you lot can talk, look at those three chavs over there.

BRITNEY One more and we’ve got a full set of the Tweenies!

BARON Whitney! Britney!

WHITNEY ‘Ere, he knows our names!

BRITNEY He must have seen our Pole-Dancing video on ‘You-Tube.’

BARON It’s me, Baron Hard-Up. Your Father!

SISTERS Step!

***BARON, CINDERELLA and BUTTONS take a step forward.***

SISTERS No. Step!

***They do again.***

WHITNEY Get away! …We mean you’re our Stepfather!

BARON Oh yes, I see … Do you remember me?

BRITNEY We’ve tried to block as much of this dump out of our minds as possible.

CINDERELLA Welcome back dear Stepsisters! …

***WHITNEY & BRITNEY stare at CINDERELLA*.**

BRITNEY Woof!

WHITNEY If I throw a stick, do you think it’ll go away?

BRITNEY What breed do you think it is?

WHITNEY Looks like a cross between a Sheep-dog and a Poodle.

BRITNEY Oh yes, - a sheep-poo! ***(To CINDERELLA)*** What’s your name then, Rover?

CINDERELLA I’m your sister.

SISTERS Step!

***The three do again.***

WHITNEY Will you stop doing that?

BRITNEY She means you’re our Stepsister.

CINDERELLA Yes, that’s right.

WHITNEY So, you’re little Cinders are you?

CINDERELLA Yes. You must remember me.

BRITNEY Of course we remember you.

WHITNEY Oh yes, we never forget a frock.

BRITNEY You keep wearing it. It’ll come back into fashion one day.

WHITNEY Yes, **(*To AUDIENCE.)*** Looks like some of this lot are waiting for that day too! What’s wrong dear, didn’t they have that top in your size?

BRITNEY Oh, that happens a lot – at Primark!!

BARON Girls, girls. We’re forgetting where we are! Everything’s ready for you up at Hard-Up Hall.

WHITNEY That dump? We’re not going there!

BRITNEY Cold and dark…

WHITNEY Smelly and scary…

BRITNEY Dreary and derelict.

WHITNEY: It’s like the trophy room at Harlow Town Football Club.

BUTTONS ***(Cross)*** Hang on a minute!! I think I’ve heard enough from you two! We’ve done a lot of hard work to get the hall all nice for you both…

WHITNEY Are you thinking what I’m thinking?

BRITNEY I certainly am sis!

BOTH Totty Alert! Totty Alert! Totty Alert!

WHITNEY Come to Whitney.

BUTTONS: I went there once – it stank of fish.

WHITNEY I said Whitney, not Whitby!

BRITNEY Get off, I saw him first.

***The UGLIES crowd round BUTTONS.***

BOTH Well, hello there!

WHITNEY I’m Whitney.

BRITNEY And I’m Britney.

BOTH You must be… Lucky!!

BUTTONS No, no. I’m Buttons.

WHITNEY Buttons, eh?

BRITNEY Mmm, we’ll soon have him undone!!

WHITNEY Oh, Buttons. You look very familiar. I think I’ve met your sister – Velcro.

BRITNEY Never mind her. Don’t listen to that scraggy old trout…Buttons just say the word and you can have a gorgeous babe like me?

BUTTONS Babe? Yea I’ve seen the film… Oink Oink!!

BRITNEY I’ll have you know I’ve got the body of an eighteen year old.

BUTTONS Well, give it back, you’re stretching it!

WHITNEY Ha, nice one Buttons. You stick with me. I’ve got the face of a film star.

BUTTONS That’s true – Shrek!

WHITNEY How very dare you!

BRITNEY Good one Buttons, or may I call you Butt? ***(She grabs his bum.)***

WHITNEY Oh yes, come on big Butt! ***(She grabs his bum.)***

BUTTONS Get off me.

WHITNEY Come on, tell us more. You’re so secretive.

BRITNEY Yes, you’re a real mystery.

WHITNEY Yes, and we’d like to get to the bottom of it!! ***(They grab his bum again.)***

BUTTONS ***(Angry)*** There’s nothing more to tell, apart from the fact that you’re being really rude to me, your Dad, Cinderella and to members of my gang out there. So just lose the tude, stop the strop, replace the face and kiss the diss!

WHITNEY OMG!!

BRITNEY He’s gorgeous when he’s angry!!

BARON Come on girls. Let’s head up to the Hall.

BOTH No!

WHITNEY We’ve told you gramps. We ain’t going to no hall!

BARON Oh, that’s a pity. We’d hired a chocolate fountain especially for your arrival.

BRITNEY Well, don’t just stand there wrinkles! Let’s get up there!

BARON Come on girls. I’ll carry your luggage. Walk this way…

WHITNEY If I could walk that way, I wouldn’t need the talcum powder!

BOTH Bye Buttons. ***(To AUDIENCE.)*** Bye Mingers!!

***BARON, WHITNEY & BRITNEY exit left.***

CINDERELLA Oh, they didn’t even say goodbye to me. I don’t think they like me very much.

BUTTONS Believe me, you’re the lucky one.

CINDERELLA But I’ve been so looking forward to meeting them again.

BUTTONS Don’t you worry Cinders. You don’t need those two as friends. Not when you’ve got me around. You know I’d do anything for you.

CINDERELLA I know Buttons, at least we’ve got each other eh?

**MUSIC CUE: I’D DO ANYTHING – CINDERELLA AND BUTTONS**

**End of Scene.**

**ACT 1, SCENE 2 - NEAR THE FOREST.**

**PYRO CUE: DSR**

**FAIR GODMOTHER enters DSL.**

FAIRY Oh, now I’m on the wrong side. Don’t worry boys and girls. I’ll get it all right soon. I promise. ***(She walks across to stage right)*** Well, now we’ve all met Cinderella. Isn’t she lovely? Oh, I just must get all my magic right and make sure everything turns out perfectly for her. I know Buttons really likes her but I’m afraid, according to my instructions, Cinderella is destined for higher things. A Royal Prince in fact by the name of Charming… How exciting!... Oh wait, look here comes Cinderella now, I’ll just pop off and see you soon boys and girls… Goodbye!

***FAIRY GODMOTHER exits. Cinderella enters carrying a small bundle of firewood.***

CINDERELLA Oh dear, it seems that having my step-sisters back at Hard-Up Hall isn’t going to be as much fun I thought. They complained their bedroom was too cold so they’ve sent me out here to fetch some sticks for the fire… Buttons told them to “cheer up and have a ‘60 minute make over’ on their face!” ***(Laughs)*** Still it shouldn’t take me long to gather enough twigs to get a good fire going.

***The FAIRY GODMOTHER enters disguised as an old lady wearing long cloak and bent over double. CINDERELLA is a little startled to see her but she is the only one fooled by the disguise.***

CINDERELLA Oh!

FAIRY I’m sorry my dear. I didn’t mean to startle you.

CINDERELLA That’s alright.

***The FAIRY GODMOTHER stumbles and is caught by CINDERELLA.***

CINDERELLA Are you okay?

FAIRY Yes, just a little tired. I am trying to find some firewood but there doesn’t seem to be many twigs left at this time of year. As yet, I haven’t found any and I have been looking all morning.

CINDERELLA All morning?

FAIRY Yes.

CINDERELLA Oh but that’s terrible. You must take what little I have here.

FAIRY No, my dear. You keep your bundle. I will carry on looking.

CINDERELLA No. You must take these. You look so tired and cold.

FAIRY It’s true, I am a little weary.

CINDERELLA Then take these now and head back home.

***CINDERELLA gives the bundle of sticks to the Old Lady.***

FAIRY You are such a sweet child. These will help me keep warm, although my heart is already warmed by your kindness.

CINDERELLA Shall I see you safely home?

FAIRY Oh no my dear. It’s not too far. Goodbye Cinderella.

CINDERELLA Good bye… but wait, how do you know my name?

FAIRY Oh don’t worry my dear girl. I know all about you and how unfair your life can be at times.

CINDERELLA Unfair? I don’t understand.

FAIRY Trust me my child. Your kindness will be rewarded sometime very soon.

***The FAIRY waves her arm revealing her wand from beneath her cloak. CINDERELLA freezes. The FAIRY GODMOTHER quickly removes the cloak to reveal her true identity.***

FAIRY Fear not dear children, it’s only me.

Dear Cinderella’s Fairy G!

Her kindness and her giving ways

Will set her free from those tiring days.

No more toiling in Hard-Up Hall

Cinderella will go to the Royal Ball!

Hey, I’m getting better at this rhyming lark. This was just a little test I had to carry out to make sure Cinderella was as kind and generous as we thought she was. What do you think – Has she passed? Yes, I think so too – giving an old lady her firewood she’s got an A star with distinction! I’d best make a move. I’m not sure if my spell will hold Cinderella for much longer. Thanks for your help boys and girls and I’ll see you very soon. Bye for now.

***FAIRY exits waving her wand to awaken CINDERELLA as she goes.***

CINDERELLA Oh, she’s gone. How strange! Well, I suppose I’d better start searching for some more firewood.

**BUTTONS enters.**

BUTTONS How ya diddlin dudes?

AUDIENCE How ya diddlin Buttons?.

CINDERELLA Hi Buttons, how’s thing’s at Hard-Up Hall?

BUTTONS Oh Cinders I just had to get out of their! Your step-sisters are driving me up the wall! They think their so gorgeous… but they are U.G.L.Y. they ain’t got no alibi, they ugly… they ugly!!

CINDERELLA Oh Buttons you mustn’t be so mean.

BUTTONS It’s true though!... Britney’s just like Ugly Betty on a bad hair day… and I don’t know what Whitney’s going to do for a face when that baboon wants its bum back!

CINDERELLA Stop it. Have you organized the food for tonight yet?

BUTTONS Well I laid on a buffet…

CINDERELLA Good.

BUTTONS But it was too uncomfortable so I got off! ***(Laughs)***

CINDERELLA Are there lots of nice things to eat? I like fish fingers…

BUTTONS I never knew fish had fingers!

CINDERELLA Crab sticks

BUTTONS I never knew crabs had sticks.

CINDERELLA Prawn balls

BUTTONS Yes they are nice aren’t they?... But we’re having a special buffet with sandwiches and chicken curry and lots of those little, wrinkly things on sticks!

CINDERELLA Kebabs?

BUTTONS No, Pensioners! ***(Laughs)***

CINDERELLA Oh Buttons are you trying to cheer me up.

BUTTONS Hey that’s what friends are for.

***A hunting horn is heard in the distance.***

CINDERELLA What was that?

BUTTONS Well, either the Royal Hunt is nearby. Or the Baron has just finished eating my chicken curry! Shall we go and have a look?

CINDERELLA I can’t Buttons I must gather some more sticks for the fire or my sisters will

scold me. I’ll see you back at Hard-Up Hall. Bye everyone!

**CINDERELLA exits.**

BUTTONS Bye Cinders… ***(To audience)*** Well gang I’m gonna go and check out the Royal Hunt. I bet it’s packed full of celebrities… Hey you never know, there might even be someone from that musical…er…‘Judith and her Amazing Black and White Raincoat!’… I’ll see ya gang!!

**BUTTONS exits.**

**ACT 1, SCENE 3 - THE FOREST.**

**MUSIC CUE: DON’T STOP ME NOW – PRINCE AND DANDINI**

(***The Royal Hunt. Dance routine with PROS, SENIORS and JUVENILES)***

DANDINI My I say your highness it’s good to see you out of the palace having fun today. You didn’t quite seem yourself last night.

PRINCE Dandini that is because I spent all of last night with a bunch of pathetic, plain and predictable princesses thinking they’re going to be the next Queen of Essexania!

DANDINI Well we’re near the village of Harlow on the Downs. I’m sure they’ll be lots of lovely girls there, just waiting for a handsome prince to come along!

PRINCE Yes, that’s what you said about Cheshunt on the Common, Hunsdon on the Hill and Blemish-on-the-Bottom. That last one was very embarrassing!

DANDINI Yes, that’s true. There’s nothing worse than Blemish-on-the-Bottom!

PRINCE What makes you think that this Harlow on the Downs will be any better?

DANDINI It can’t be any worse. You can chat to any potential princesses while I entertain all their ugly mates... as usual.

PRINCE You want to try being me for a day!

DANDINI Oh yea, breakfast in bed, being waited on hand and foot… it must be awful for you. I’d give it a go.

PRINCE Hang on,

DANDINI What?

PRINCE Dandini, You’re a genius.

DANDINI Am I?

PRINCE Yes what a great idea, I’ll be you and…

DANDINI Let me see if I can work this one out – I’ll be you.

PRINCE Yes. You said you wanted to be Prince.

DANDINI I’ve changed my mind!

PRINCE No, the only thing you’re going to change is your identity. You need a sash!

DANDINI No, I don’t. I went before we left the Palace.

PRINCE Dandini it is this, the Royal sash of many colours that people recognise, not me… Come on, “Your Royal Highness.” Put this on.

***PRINCE CHARMING places the sash over DANDINI’S head.***

DANDINI Wow, am I really the Prince then?

PRINCE Well, for today anyway, until my plan works and I get to meet a girl who is actually interested in me and not my title.

DANDINI Oh do stop moaning Dandini. You haven’t shut up since we left the Palace.

Now clean my boots!

PRINCE Don’t push your luck… your Highness. ***(to Dancers)*** Coutiers! I wish to confide in you a little secret. For the next twenty four hours Dandini is going to be me and I am to be him. No one outside of the palace must know this arrangement.

COURTIERS Yes your Highness.

PRINCE Splendid. Shall we travel into the village of Harlow on the Downs your Majesty?

DANDINI Just a moment Dandini. I can see some ladies in the distance heading this way. Perhaps it will be I that will be enjoying the next twenty four hours the most!

***From off-stage, we hear the UGLY SISTERS.***

BOTH Ooh, Princy! Princy-Wincy! Wait there, we’re coming.

DANDINI Oh no who’s that?

PRINCE Looks like you may have spoken too soon!

***WHITNEY & BRITNEY enter and make for DANDINI.***

WHITNEY Oh, your Royal Majesticals.

BRITNEY Oh, your tremendous Testimonials.

WHITNEY We heard a rumour you were in the forest so we thought we’d come and say wasssuppp!

DANDINI So you are from the village, are you?

BRITNEY We used to be. We’ve been away at a posh finishing school for the last few years learning about, like, how, like to be, like, posh ‘n like, stuff like that. Innit?

DANDINI It sounds delightful… But ladies I really must be on my…

WHITNEY I’m Whitney.

BRITNEY And I’m Britney.

WHITNEY We want to be pop stars and be like dead famous and rich ‘n that.

DANDINI Wow!

BRITNEY Have you seen our pole-dancing video on You-Tube.

DANDINI No, I don’t think I have.

PRINCE Is everything alright your Highness?

***BRITNEY turns on him viciously.***

BRITNEY Just back off servant-boy. Can’t you see we’re chatting to your boss so vamoose and don’t stick your big, fat, ugly nose in where it ain’t wanted.

BOTH Get it?

PRINCE Got it!

BOTH Good!!

PRINCE I’ll leave you to it then.

***PRINCE heads over to the ENSEMBLE with a thumbs up and a smile.***

WHITNEY Come on. This place is getting a bit cramped. Let’s go for a tramp in the woods.

DANDINI I thought I was with two already!

WHITNEY What?

DANDINI Nothing. You know girls, I think I’m fine here!

BRITNEY Come on Princy. Let’s go into the forest and Whitney can show you her party trick..

WHITNEY Oh yes, you get me some twigs and dry leaves and I can start a fire by rubbing my thighs together.

***WHITNEY & BRITNEY drag DANDINI offstage. ENSEMBLE laugh and exit. CINDERELLA enters.***

CINDERELLA Well I’ve found a few more sticks for the fire but I’m sure it’s not enough. I must keep searching.

PRINCE What a charming girl.

CINDERELLA Oh. Who are you?

PRINCE Don’t go.

CINDERELLA But I must.

PRINCE Would you break the spell of this enchanted forest?

CINDERELLA I didn’t know it was enchanted.

PRINCE Nor did I until today… Are you often here in the forest?

CINDERELLA Sometimes… to gather sticks for the fire.

PRINCE Then I shall see you again. I am often here….er…gathering sticks.

CINDERELLA But you are such a fine gentleman, I’m just a servant.

PRINCE I am only a servant too. My name is Dandini, I am valet to His Royal Highness Prince Charming.

CINDERELLA You at live at the palace? How exciting. What’s it like?

**MUSIC CUE: IT MUST BE LOVE – CINDERELLA and PRINCE**

CINDERELLA I must leave now, I have so much work to do.

PRINCE Please stay a little longer.

CINDERELLA No. No, I have stayed too long already.

PRINCE But when will I see you next. I must see you again.

***We hear WHITNEY and BRITNEY offstage***

CINDERELLA I don’t know sir but, like you, I hope it is soon. I must go… I’m sorry.

***CINDERELLA exits.***

PRINCE I don’t even know your name…

***WHITNEY & BRITNEY enter.***

BRITNEY Come on slow coach.

***DANDINI enters looking exhausted and very bedraggled. He has grass and twigs sticking out of his hair and costume.***

WHITNEY Have you never played “Piggy in the Middle” before?

DANDINI Not with real pigs!

BRITNEY What?

PRINCE Your majesty. Can I have a word please?

WHITNEY We told you before kid. Just back off!

***The PRINCE gives WHITNEY a hard stare.***

WHITNEY Don’t give me no evils!

BRITNEY Oh my God! I can’t believe he just did that!

PRINCE I really would like rather an urgent word… your Highness.

DANDINI Certainly Dandini, it would be a pleasure.

WHITNEY Don’t listen to him. We haven’t finished our game yet.

DANDINI Believe me, we have.

BRITNEY Let’s play another.

DANDINI Okay. Hide and Seek. You two go and hide and I’ll come and look for you.

BOTH Oh, how exciting. ***(They both run off.)***

DANDINI Just as soon as I’ve counted to 7 million. Oh thank you sire. If ever a man needed rescuing. I think I’m ready to hand back your Royal sash of many colours now!

PRINCE Later Dandini later.... I’ve met her…

DANDINI Met who?

PRINCE The one… my future queen.

DANDINI You’re joking?

PRINCE I’ve never been more serious in my life. She’s perfect and I know she feels the same for me as I do for her.

DANDINI Brilliant! Who is she?

PRINCE Ah, that’s the problem! She ran away.

DANDINI Wow, she’s really got the hots for you!

PRINCE It wasn’t like that. She told me she was from the village but that is all I know.

DANDINI Okay, we’ll send out search parties, scour every home until we find her, put up posters...

PRINCE Balls!

DANDINI Well, that’s not the word I would have used but…

PRINCE No, Royal Balls, at the Palace. We haven’t had one for years.

DANDINI What a grand idea.

**BUTTONS and BARON enter.**

BUTTONS How ya diddlin dudes?

AUDIENCE How ya diddlin Buttons?.

BUTTONS See Baron, I told you Royalty was in the forest.

DANDINI Oh, isn’t it exciting gentleman?

BARON We don’t know. We haven’t been in this scene.

PRINCE His Majesty the Prince Charming has decided to throw a Royal Ball at the palace with invitations to be sent to every girl in the land.

BUTTONS Oh I love a good party… “Aga doo doo doo push pineapple shake the tree…”

DANDINI And who are you two?

BARON I am the Baron Hardup of Hardup Hall and this is Buttons my odd job man.

DANDINI Oh Baron, I’ve just had the pleasure of meeting your daughters Britney and Whitney.

BARON Ah yes my two pretty little girls.

BUTTONS Pretty little girls! They’re like elephants in tights and they’re so ugly when they suck a lemon the lemon pulls a face.

BARON: We are honoured to be in your presence you Highness.

BUTTONS: Is Cinderella invited to the Ball?

PRINCE: Cinderella. Who is she Baron?

BARON: She is my youngest daughter.

PRINCE: Then we must see that she is invited. Mustn’t we your Majesty.

BUTTONS: She’ll be so pleased. I can’t wait to tell her.

PRINCE: I shall bring the invitations round to Hardup Hall this afternoon.

BARON: Thank you sir.

BUTTONS A Royal Ball how exciting!.... Oh I just love a good boogie don’t you boys and girls?

**MUSIC CUE: BLAME IT ON THE BOOGIE**

**BUTTONS, BARON, PRINCE and DANDINI**

**ACT 1, SCENE 4 - HARDUP HALL**

**PYRO CUE: DSR**

***Enter Fairy Godmother.***

FAIRY G And so my plans are going well

The Prince and Cinders are under my spell

To the royal ball she now must go

Where their love for each other they both will show

So boys and girls that should be enough

But I can’t stop myself with this rhyming stuff

Oh, I don’t believe it, I’m doing it now

I want to stop but I just don’t know how

***(STAGE CREW enters and escorts FAIRY GODMOTHER offstage).***

Oh help now please, I’ve got to hurry

In my dressing room I’ve got chips and a curry

Don’t worry I’ll make sure it all turns out right

Thanks for helping or I’d have stayed there all night!

**FAIRY GODMOTHER and STAGE CREW exit.**

***BARON enters. He is carrying a basin in which is some water and a sponge and an A-Frame ladde).***

BARON Hello, Buttons, Buttons, where are you? We’ve got to get started with this cleaning. Buttons?

***BUTTONS enters through the auditorium. He is eating a Cornetto.***

BUTTONS I’m here boss. Just coming.

***BUTTONS works his way along the front row of the stalls, eventually getting stuck and giving his ice-cream to someone to hold before climbing up on stage.***

BUTTONS How ya diddlin dudes?

AUDIENCE How ya diddlin Buttons?

BUTTONS Sorry about that Baron. I came round the front way. I’ve got a good friend on the Ice-cream counter.

BARON Have you?

BUTTONS Oh yes. Brenda. She sometimes slips me a broken Mivvi.

BARON Oh that’s nice of her.

BUTTONS She’s lovely. Mind you, she’s not as nice as the old bloke who used to work there.

BARON Oh yes?

BUTTONS Yes, poor Fred.

]

BARON Poor Fred?

BUTTONS Yes, they found him there, lying on the floor behind the freezer. He was covered from head to toe in strawberry sauce, hundreds and thousands, chopped nuts…. They say he topped himself! ***(Laughs.)***

BARON Will you stop messing about? We’ve got to get this place tidied up. Just because there’s a Royal Ball tonight doesn’t mean our jobs at Hardup Hall stop.

BUTTONS Very good boss. Hang on, I’m sure I’ve forgotten something.

BARON What do you mean?

BUTTONS I’ve just got the feeling I had something else when I got here. Oh, of course, my cone.

***BUTTONS makes his way back down the steps to where he left his Cornetto with the audience member. He walks straight past them and leans over the orchestra pit.***

BUTTONS Sorry to bother you guys. Have you got my cone?

***Someone hands BUTTONS a plastic cone warning about slippery floors. He takes it, carries it back on stage and places it at the side.***

BUTTONS There we are. No-one will get in our way now.

BARON Good thinking Buttons. Now we need to get rid of all this dust.

BUTTONS What dust?

BARON Look at it. It’s everywhere.

BUTTONS Is it?

BARON Yes, look there’s a load up there and a load down here.

BUTTONS I tell you what… You take the High Load and I’ll take the Low Load

BARON … “And I’ll be in Stansted before you!”

BUTTONS Hang on. I still don’t feel right.

BARON It’s probably that 5 bean chilli you had at lunch.

BUTTONS No, I’m sure I had something else with me…. Hang on, how stupid. My cornet!

***Again BUTTONS heads down towards his Cornetto, walks straight past it and to the orchestra pit.***

BUTTONS Sorry guys. Have you got my cornet?

***BUTTONS is handed a cornet on which he plays a few notes before handing it back into the pit. He then heads back up on stage.***

BUTTONS That’s better.

BARON Come on, help me with this.

***The BARON and BUTTONS start putting the A-frame ladder in position stage- centre. BUTTONS holds the ladder against his leg and looks worried.***

BUTTONS Oh no!!

BARON What’s wrong?

BUTTONS I’ve got a ladder in me tights!

BARON Just get up that ladder will you?

BUTTONS Yes Boss. Hang on a minute.

BARON What now?

BUTTONS I’ve still got that weird feeling.

BARON That you’ve forgotten something?

BUTTONS Yea, I hate that feeling.

BARON Me too. It really annoys me. Whenever it gets to me I shout out loud.

BUTTONS Ice-cream!

BARON What?

BUTTONS You shout, I scream… with frustration when I forget something. Never mind - it’ll come to me!

BARON Right up you go.

***BUTTONS climbs the ladder which is side on to the audience. The Baron puts the basin of water at the foot of the ladder.***

BARON Buttons, you’ve forgotten your sponge!

BUTTONS Silly me. I’m forgetting everything today.

***BUTTONS slides down the side poles of the ladder landing with his DS foot in the basin.***

BUTTONS Oh no, my foot’s all wet.

BARON I’m sorry Buttons. I’ll move the basin.

***He moves it to the other side of the base of the ladder. BUTTONS climbs back up the ladder without his sponge.***

BARON Buttons, You’ve forgotten your sponge again.

BUTTONS I don’t believe it!

***BUTTONS is about to slide down as before but decides to check first.***

BUTTONS Hang on. I’m not making that mistake again.

***BUTTONS checks DS where the basin was before.***

BUTTONS Good - all clear.

***BUTTONS slides down and ends up with his other foot in the water.***

BUTTONS Oh, I don’t believe this. My other foot’s all wet now.

BARON ***(Laughing)*** Oh dear, oh dear!

BUTTONS Oh, you think it’s funny do you?

BARON Well, it is a little, soppy feet!

BUTTONS Well, let’s see how you like it!

***BUTTONS goes off right and fetches a huge water gun.***

BUTTONS This should do the trick.

BARON Buttons.. now.. don’t be silly. Come on, hand it over… let me have it.

BUTTONS Sorry what did you say?

BARON I said let me have it.

BUTTONS Shall I let him have it boys and girls?... I said shall I let him have it?... Ok after 3… 1…2…3

***Baron runs down stage on ‘3’ and Buttons shoots water into the audience over the Baron’s head.***

BARON Buttons look what you’ve done now!

**PRINCE enters.**

PRINCE Ah, there you are. I have the invitations for you all to come to the Royal Ball.

BARON The invitations? Oh, how exciting.

PRINCE Well, there you are Baron. Five invitations for Hard-Up Hall.

BUTTONS Oh don’t he speak nice, he could read the news on the tele.

BARON Thank you very much. We’re all really excited. Especially Cinderella. Can we give you something as a thank you?

PRINCE Well if you’d like to help out, the Royal Ballroom really needs a good clean before the ball.

BARON It would be our pleasure, wouldn’t Buttons.

BUTTONS Really? If you say so Boss.

***DANDINI and the BARON get the ladder and basin and take them offstage.***

BUTTONS ***(To the person with his Cornetto.)*** You can keep that now love. I don’t want it now it’s dribbled all over your fingers. Just take me out for a seven course meal sometime and we’ll call it quits. See you later gang!!

**BUTTONS exits.**

**SCENE 5 – THE KITCHEN AT HARD-UP HALL**

**MUSIC CUE: NINE TO FIVE – CINDERELLA**

**Dance routine with the PROS, SENIORS and JUVENILES.**

***The UGLY SISTERS enter.***

WHITNEY What are you lot up to? Not working that’s for sure! Go on get out of here!

***ENSEMBLE exits.***

BRITNEY Not you Cinder-fella we’re hungry. We want you to prepare us a little snack.

CINDERELLA Well, there’s some fruit in the bowl.

WHITNEY Fruit?

BRITNEY Are you mad?

WHITNEY We don’t do fruit!

BRITNEY The closest she gets to Vitamin C is when she texts someone on Orange!

CINDERELLA Well I’m sure there’ll be food at the Royal Ball. Oh I can’t wait to go. Isn’t it exciting.

WHITNEY ***(Full of vicious intent…)*** Yes, isn’t it.

CINDERELLA That reminds me Daddy gave me your invitations. Would you like them?

BRITNEY Invitations?

WHITNEY For us?

BOTH Give me, give me, give me. ***(CINDERELLA gives them their invitations)***

BRITNEY Oh how fabulous. We’ll get to see the Prince again.

WHITNEY Oh yes, this time I’ll really convince him I’m the one he should marry.

BRITNEY You? Don’t be ridiculous. I’m the future queen of Essexania. He won’t be able to resist me, I’ll wear my IKEA dress.

CINDERELLA Your IKEA dress?

BRITNEY Yes, you only have to walk past and the drawers falloff!!

WHITNEY In that case, I think I might wear my Chelmsford dress.

CINDERELLA Your Chelmsford dress?

WHITNEY Yea, no real quality and stuck up at the front.

CINDERELLA Sounds lovely.

WHITNEY What are you going to wear Cinderella?

CINDERELLA Well, as you can see, I don’t have very much in the way of fancy clothes.

WHITNEY Yes, we noticed.

CINDERELLA But I do have one dress which will be absolutely perfect.

BRITNEY Do you?

CINDERELLA Yes, I’ve been waiting for a special occasion to wear it. You see it belonged to my dear mother.

WHITNEY How touching. Can we see it?

CINDERELL Yes. I’ve been keeping it down here in the kitchen because I like sitting by the fire some nights just looking at it.

BRITNEY You haven’t got Sky Plus, have you?

CINDERELLA It brings back such happy memories of the times my mother wore it.

WITNEY Oh you must get it. We just have to see this, don’t we Britney?

BRITNEY Oh we do.

***CINDERELLA fetches the dress from a cupboard or from just off-stage and brings it back centre-stage. It is on a tailor’s dummy so it can stand by itself centre-stage.***

CINDERELLA Here it is.

WHITNEY Oh that is so beautiful, isn’t it Brit?

BRITNEY Just stunning Whit. You must be careful Cinderella. We don’t want any harm to come to it before the Ball tonight, now do we?

CINDERELLA Oh don’t you worry. I’ve kept this precious thing safe all these years. What could possibly happen to it now?

WHITNEY We’ll see…

CINDERELLA Sorry?

BRITNEY She said “We’ll see it later …at the Ball.”

CINDERELLA At the Ball. Oh I can’t believe it. It’s all so wonderful.

WHITNEY Oh it is, it is. Look, all three of us with invitations. Ooh, can I see your invitation Cinderella?

BRITNEY Oh yes, that’s a good idea.

CINDERELLA What do you think boys and girls? Should I let Whitney see my invitation?

AUDIENCE No.

BRITNEY Don’t listen to that load of losers. Give it to Whitney. She’s not going to damage it or anything, are you dear?

WHITNEY Of course not. What a terrible thought.

CINDERELLA Well, if you promise not to damage it or steal it. Should I boys and girls?

AUDIENCE No!!

WHITNEY Give it over, give it over!

***CINDERELLA tentatively hands over the invitation to WHITNEY.***

BRITNEY There, that wasn’t hard now, was it?

CINDERELLA No, I suppose not.

WHITNEY Oh yes, Cinderella, you were right. They are all exactly the same. Here you are, you can have it back now.

***CINDERELLA takes her invitation.***

WHITNEY You are a silly sometimes. You didn’t think we were going to tear it up or something did you?

CINDERELLA Well, no, not really, it’s just that…

BRITNEY We would never tear it up.

WHITNEY Of course not. Why would we want to tear it up…

BRITNEY When you’re going to do it for us.

CINDEELLA What?

BOTH Tear it up!

CINDERELLA I don’t understand.

BOTH Tear it up.

CINDERELLA You can’t be serious?

WHITNEY Oh we’re serious, you attention-seeking, little brat.

BRITNEY Did you seriously think we were going to let you come along, dressed in that pile of pre-historic rags and ruin our Royal Ball?

WHITNEY You’re even more stupid than you look.

BRITNEY Now, tear it up.

CINDERELLA Oh Whitney, Britney, please, I beg you. Don’t make me.

BOTH TEAR IT UP.

***CINDERELLA slowly starts tearing up the invitation, fighting back the tears.***

WHITNEY Go on, more, more…

BRITNEY That’s right. Into tiny little pieces.

WHITNEY Go on, do it!!

BRITNEY Lovely.

***CINDERELLA stands with all the torn pieces in her out-stretched open hands.***

WHITNEY Good. And do you know what would make the ball even more romantic for Britz and me?

CINDERELLA No.

WHITNEY Why, snow of course.

***WHITNEY slaps the underside of CINDERELLA’S hands and the pieces of invitation float all over like snow.***

BRITNEY Oh, how pretty. You have such an eye for detail Whitney.

WHITNEY It’s true.

CINDERELLA I can’t believe you made me do that. Now I can’t go to the Ball.

WHITNEY No, really????

CINDERELLA Why are you so horrible to me. I don’t mean any harm to you. I just wanted to be friends but you’re determined that’s not going to happen. ***(Cinderella cries.)***

WHITNEY Oh don’t cry Cinderella, you’ll set me off.

BRITNEY Oh me too. Oh I just feel awful now.

CINDERELLA Do you, do you really?

BOTH No!!!

CINDERELLA Oh, you are just too horrid.

***WHITNEY & BRITNEY pretend to cry like CINDERELLA. They are standing one either side of the tailor’s dummy on which is CINDERELLA’S pretty dress.***

WHITNEY Oh no. I’m filling up here.

BRITNEY Me too. I can’t hold back the tears.

WHITNEY We’re just too horrid.

BRITNEY Oh no, give me a hankie Whitney dear.

WHITNEY I’m sorry Britney, I don’t have one.

BRITNEY Oh dear, we’ll just have to use these instead.

***WHITNEY & BRITNEY both tear a sleeve off the dress on the tailor’s dummy and use them to noisily blow their noses before throwing them on the floor.***

WHITNEY Oh that’s much better now.

BRITNEY Yes, I don’t feel sad anymore. Thanks Cinders.

WHITNEY Yea, thanks. You’ve really cheered us up!

***The UGLY SISTERS exit laughing. CINDERELLA finally lets the tears flow as she collapses to her knees collecting a few of the pieces of her torn invitation.***

CINDERELLA Oh my dear Dandini. It would seem we are not destined to meet again after all. Why do they hate me so much? All I want is for us all to get on and be friends…

**MUSIC CUE: SMILE – CINDERELLA**

***At the end of the song CINDERELLA kneels on the floor to pick up the remnants of her invitation. BUTTONS enters right.***

BUTTONS How ya diddlin dudes?

AUDIENCE; How ya diddlin Buttons?

BUTTONS: Cinderella? Cinderella, what’s wrong. What are you doing down there?

CINDERELLA Oh Buttons. It’s terrible… My step-sisters made me tear it up my invitation to the ball.

BUTTONS They did what?

CINDERELLA That’s what all these pieces of paper are.

BUTTONS Those rotten old hags. You just wait; they’ll get what’s coming to them one day. And don’t worry about this. We’ve got all the pieces here. We can put them all back together again.

CINDERELLA Forget it buttons. Even if I did get the invitation sorted, I don’t have anything to wear. Whitney & Britney destroyed the only dress I could possibly have worn. It’s ruined.

BUTTONS Don’t be so sad Cinders. There are too many sad people in the world. People who never smile, who never laugh from one year’s end to the next. ***(Looking out at AUDIENCE.)*** Why they all had to come to the same show I’ll never know. I tell you what, if you’re not going to the ball, then I’m not either. We’ll stay here and have our own special ball.

CINDERELLA Here?

BUTTONS Right here. It’s perfect. Look, here is your gorgeous silk ball gown…

***BUTTONS takes the table cloth and wraps it round CINDERELLA’S shoulders.***

BUTTONS And here’s your gold necklace.

***BUTTONS takes a string of carrots from the table and puts them over CINDERELLA’S neck.***

CINDERELLA Gold necklace?

BUTTONS Yea, it’s 14 carats! And now my gorgeous Princess all we need is some lovely, romantic music to dance to. (***He talks to MD*)** Thank you Maestro…

***The orchestra plays some totally unsuitable music.***

BUTTONS Give it a rest, will you? I’m working like mad up here trying to create this magic.

***The orchestra play some beautiful waltz music.***

BUTTONS That’s more like it. And now, may I have this dance Princess?

CINDERELLA Why certainly sir.

***BUTTONS and CINDERELLA waltz as they talk.***

BUTTONS See, you don’t need any Royal Ballroom. This is just perfect here.

CINDERELLA It’s wonderful Buttons. You’re a good dancer.

BUTTONS I’m not bad, am I. Better than that Phil Tuffnell, he’s rubbish. Oh, it’s

lovely to see you smile again Cinderella. You’re gorgeous when you smile.

CINDERELLA Oh Buttons... you’re so special to me.

BUTTONS I’ve been waiting so long to hold you in my arms like this, Cinders. You know that, however nasty and horrible those stupid step-sisters of yours behave, there’s always someone who loves you.

CINDERELLA Yes, yes, I know that now.

BUTTONS Someone who can’t wait to see you again.

CINDERELLA I feel the same.

BUTTONS A loyal, hardworking man-servant who would do anything for you.

CINDERELLA Yes, I think you’re probably right.

BUTTONS There’s no probably about it. He worships the very ground you walk on.

CINDERELLA And I love him too.

***They stop dancing.***

BUTTONS You do?

CINDERELLA Yes. I’ve never felt this way about anyone before. His rugged good looks…

BUTONS I know.

CINDERELLA His gentle, caring manner.

BUTTONS I know

CINDERELLA His sensitive and yet, manly voice.

BUTTONS ***(BUTTONS struggles with this one.)*** I kno…I know.

CINDERELLA I love him so much.

BUTTONS ***(Getting down on one knee.)*** Oh Cinderella, will you marry me?

CINDERELLA What?

BUTTONS Will you marry me?

CINDERELLA You?

BUTTONS Yes, you’ve just said you love my manly voice and my rugged good looks and all the other stuff I’m far too modest to list.

CINDERELLA Oh Buttons. I wasn’t talking about you.

BUTTONS What?

CINDERELLA Of course you have all those qualities I mentioned… and more, but I could never marry you.

BUTTONS Never?

CINDERELLA Never. You are too important a friend to me. You’re like a brother,

BUTTONS A brother?

CINDERELLA Yes, a wonderful big brother who will love me and protect me and let me beat him at arm wrestling. I couldn’t marry you. I love you, but not in that way.

BUTTONS Oh, I see*….****(He gets up, very down-hearted. With a wobbly bottom lip)***

CINDERELLA Oh dear, silly old Buttons.

BUTTONS Yea… silly old Buttons.

CINDERELLA I was talking about the man I met yesterday, in forest.

BUTTONS Man, what man?

CINDERELLA From the Palace.

BUTTONS You mean the Prince?

CINDERELLA No, his man-servant – Dandini. He was so lovely.

BUTTONS Was he?

CINDERELLA Yes. I really feel he may be the man for me. I was so looking forward to seeing him again at the ball tonight.

BUTTONS Don’t give up Cinderella. We’ll find a way.

CINDERELLA It’s impossible Buttons. Let’s just admit it. There’s no way I can get to the Ball.

BUTTONS No I suppose not… Hey Cinders, even though you don’t love me, will you still kiss me goodnight?

CINDERELLA Of course I will Buttons. ***(She kisses his cheek)***

BUTTONS Oh I’ll never wash that side of my face again…Goodnight Cinders.

**BUTTONS exits.**

CINDERELLA Goodnight Buttons... Dear old Buttons, he tries to cheer me up but I still can’t go to the ball and I don’t suppose I’ll ever see Dandini again.

***CINDERELLA crosses to the opposite side of the kitchen and collapses in a chair.***

**PYRO CUE: DSR**

***Enter Fairy Godmother.***

FAIRY Dear Cinderella, don’t despair

Just let my magic take you there.

Those sisters think they’ve won the day.

But we won’t let them get their way.

CINDERELLA Eh, Excuse me? Who are you?

FAIRY Cinderella, I’m your guiding Fairy

Don’t worry, I’m not that scary.

CINDERELLA I’m pleased to hear it. But I still don’t understand.

FAIRY Oh Cinders, I’m going to tell you straight. I’d only get it all mixed up if I tried to do it in verse. I’m here to make sure you do go to the Royal Ball and meet your handsome hero.

CINDERELLA You are? But how are you going to get me to the ball. Those step sisters of mine have ruined…

FAIRY I know Cinderella. I saw what they did. Oh, they are mean. But don’t you worry. I promise you, by the time I’m finished you are going to be the most popular girl at the ball tonight.

**MUSIC CUE: POPULAR – FAIRY GODMOTHER**

Right Cinderella let’s get started. I’ll need a pumpkin and some mice to make my spell work beautifully. It has to be a big pumpkin. Is there anyone who can help us fetch and carry all the ingredients for my spell?

CINDERELLA Well, I suppose there’s Buttons. But I really don’t want him to know about all this. He’s done everything to try and cheer me up. I think I’ve hurt his feelings once already tonight.

FAIRY Don’t worry my dear. I’ll put him under a magic spell. He’ll help us and he won’t remember a thing about it.

CINDERELLA Are you sure that’s safe Fairy Godmother?

FAIRY Well, it always works for Derren Brown. Here goes. Wish me luck boys and girls…

Oh Buttons come here and don’t take long.

Us girlies need someone big and strong.

In order to help my magic spell

Bring us some mice and a pumpkin as well

***FAIRY makes a magical gesture off stage.***

B***UTTONS enters sleep walking and carrying mice in a cage.***

CINDERELLA Fairy, I think you’ve done it.

BUTTONS ***(In a trance.)*** In a trice, I got your mice.

Gosh I think they’re really nice.

FAIRY Well done Buttons. Now, you are feeling drowsy.

BUTTONS I am feeling drowsy.

FAIRY You are feeling sleepy.

BUTTONS I am feeling sleepy.

FAIRY You are feeling dopey.

BUTTONS You’re not that smart yourself love.

FAIRY Oh dear. I’m not sure if he’s totally in a trance or not. Buttons you are in my power.

***BUTTONS starts singing and pretending to wash himself all over.***

FAIRY What are you doing?

BUTTONS You said I was in your shower.

FAIRY No, in my power.

BUTTONS Oh I see. I am in your power.

CINDERELLA I think you have him Fairy.

FAIRY I think I do. Buttons, I also asked you to get me a pumpkin.

BUTTONS Sorry I forgot.

***BUTTONS sleep walks to the very edge of the stage. He turns back to the FAIRY.***

BUTTONS Sorry, what was it again?

FAIRY A pumpkin. Please Buttons, get it in your head. A Pumpkin. ***(She makes a magical gesture at BUTTONS who stumbles off stage with the force of the spell.)***

FAIRY I hope that has helped to get it into his head.

CINDERELLA Oh, I think it’s certainly done that alright Fairy Godmother.

FAIRY What do you mean?

CINDERELLA Look.

***BUTTONS re-enters, his head transformed into a pumpkin.***

FAIRY Oh no, that’s not what I meant at all.

CINDERELLA Don’t worry Fairy. I’ll go and get a pumpkin from the garden.

FAIRY Oh, thank you Cinders. Take your cloak. It is cold out tonight.

CINDERELLA I will. ***(She grabs her cloak which has been hanging up at the side of the kitchen.)*** Come on Buttons, let’s get a pumpkin from the garden.

***CINDERELLA and BUTTONS exit.***

FAIRY Oh dear, please don’t let it all go wrong now. Oh, hang on I’d better try and change poor Buttons’ head back to normal. ***(She gestures magically towards the wings).*** Fingers crossed, that should do it. Now, what else do I need, oh yes. Lizards to become footmen… to escort Cinderella in her glass coach. Oh, I do hope this isn’t too difficult for me.

***The CINDERS double and BUTTONS re-enter carrying a large pumpkin. His head is back to normal. We hear CINDERS but do not see her face.***

CINDERELLA ***(From off-stage.)*** Thank you Buttons. Will down here do Fairy Godmother?

FAIRY That’s perfect Cinders. Now, Buttons, I need you to get me two lizards.

BUTTONS Lizards? I’ll have to go to Pets Corner.

***BUTTONS sleep walks off stage.***

FAIRY Right, this is important now. Back to the rhyming stuff…

Now Cinders, just one word of warning

To ensure your happiness come morning.

You must leave before the clock strikes twelve

For then you return to your old self.

The glass coach, will a pumpkin be

And the horses will both scamper free…

As mice again, so do take care.

Leave by twelve or else beware.

BUTTONS Here’s the lizards, with long, thin necks.

I think I’ll call them Posh and Becks.

FAIRY Thank you Buttons, you’ve been just great.

But now I fear it’s getting late.

Now off you go and don’t be long

All memories of this night will soon be gone.

***BUTTONS exits left sleep walking possibly making a false exit in front of the pros and having to double back on himself.***

FAIRY: Then we are ready, I’ll cast my spell

Let’s hope it all turns out well.

The Lords of Magic, hear my call

Let Cinderella go to the Ball.

***Into transformation sequence.***

**MUSIC CUE: CAN YOU FEEL THE LOVE TONIGHT**

**END OF ACT ONE.**

**ACT TWO – PROLOGUE.**

***After a brief entr’acte from the band.***

**PYRO CUE: DSR**

**FAIRY GODMOTHER enters.**

FAIRY G How lovely boys, aren’t they grand?

Come on everyone, let’s hear it for the band.

***(FAIRY GODMOTHER leads applause for the band.)***

Well, here we are at the Royal Ball. I think everything’s going alright. No, I’m sure it is. I must be more confident in my abilities, or should I? Oh, never mind. Cinderella is on her way in the most beautiful dress and Prince Charming is just sure to be totally amazed by her charm and elegance, I hope. Anyway, on with the story. I have to go and try and wash this strawberry ice cream out my dress. I’m so clumsy some times.

Sit back now one and all

And enjoy the Prince’s Royal Ball…

***FAIRY GODMOTHER waves her wand and the show cloth flies to reveal the Royal Ball. FAIRY GODMOTHER exits.***

**ACT TWO, SCENE SIX – THE ROYAL BALL**

**MUSIC CUE: MASQUERADE – PRINCE and DANDINI**

**Dance routine with PROS, SENIORS and JUVENILES**

PRINCE Ah, Dandini. What a splendid ball! Listen, I don’t think we need to carry on with swapping roles anymore. I’ll have my royal sash of many colours back now.

DANDINI Yes sire, of course.

PRINCE ***(DANDINI hands over the sash and the PRINCE puts it on.)*** Although I fear our plan hasn’t worked Dandini. The girl from the forest is nowhere to be seen.

DANDINI Don’t worry your Majesty. There are still plenty of people to arrive.

**MUSIC CUE: FANFARE.**

DANDINI What did I tell you, I bet this will be your stunning beauty from the forest.

ANNOUNCER From the village of Harlow on the Downs…

DANDINI Here we are…

ANNOUNCER The Baron Hard-Up.

PRINCE Oh not quite!!

***BARON HARD-UP enters down the grand staircase.***

DANDINI Good evening Baron.

BARON Good evening gentleman.

DANDINI Those are very impressive medals you’re wearing.

BARON Thank you. I got these on the frontier. ***(He turns round to display more medals on the back of his coat.)*** And I got these on the back here. Where’s the beer tent then? I’m gagging for a pint! Gin preferably..

**MUSIC CUE: FANFARE.**

DANDINI Ah, this will be her, I’m sure sire.

PRINCE Let’s hope so.

ANNOUNCER The Hard-Up sisters – Whitney and Britney.

PRINCE Oh no!

***The UGLY SISTERS enter in suitably ridiculous ball gowns and make their way to the foot of the stairs.***

WHITNEY Oh Britz, what about this pad then?

BRITNEY Oh, in’t it posh? Look at that Chandelier.

WHITNEY Oh it’s lovely.

BRITNEY I think I’ve seen them on QVC. Twenty-nine, ninety-nine the pair.

PRINCE Good evening ladies. Thank you for coming to my little party.

WHITNEY Listen face-ache. We told you before. We don’t want the monkey, we want the organ grinder!

PRINCE Ah yes, about that. You see yesterday…

BRITNEY Button it Bell-Boy. Don’t you have shoes to polish somewhere?

DANDINI Perhaps I should try and explain?

WHITNEY There he is. You little monkey. Leaving us in the forest like that.

DANDINI Ah yes.

BRITNEY You naughty little Princy. Am I going to have to put you over my knee and spank your little botty? Again?

PRINCE Again?

DANDINI Never mind that Your Highness. It’s a long story.

WHITNEY We didn’t know what the etiquette was so we brought a couple bottles of White Lightning just in case…***(She realises.)*** Your Highness?

DANDINI What?

BRITNEY You just called numpty knickers here your Highness.

DANDINI Yes, that’s because he is. You see I am in fact Dandini, the Prince’s loyal man-servant.

WHITNEY Oh yes…?

PRINCE And I am in fact, His Royal Highness, the Prince Charming.

BRITNEY Oh! Thank goodness we didn’t say anything embarrassing then. That could have been awful.

PRINCE Numpty-knickers?

WHITNEY ***(Clears throat)*** Oh we were just playing. Surely you’d like to spend a bit of time with two of your most loyal, devoted, intelligent and alluring subjects.

PRINCE Indeed I would.

BRITNEY Oh good.

PRINCE And when they arrive I will do so.

WHITNEY Well I am flabbergasted!... My flabber has never been so Gasted!!

BRITNEY You can talk to the elbow cos you ain’t worth the extension!

WHITNEY Mmmm mmmm

***At the end of this exchange WHITNEY & BRITNEY turn on their heels and walk away. The PRINCE and DANDINI watch them go. When the UGLIES arrive they turn to discover they are still being watched and give the PRINCE the “Whatever” sign.***

**MUSIC CUE: FANFARE.**

ANNOUNCER Mr F.L.Y. Buttons Esquire!

**BUTTONS enters.**

BUTTONS How ya diddlin dudes?

AUDIENCE How ya diddlin Buttons!

BUTTONS Cor this is posh innit gang?... I bet you have to book an appointment just to use the loo ‘ere!... Actually they almost didn’t let me in at front gate… They said “I should be working tonight”, they thought I was a Bouncer… ‘Bouncer’ get it?... No?... They don’t any better love! ***(Laughs)***

**MUSIC CUE: FANFARE.**

ANNOUNCER The Princess Crystal.

***CINDERELLA slowly makes her way down the staircase as the ENSEMBLE bow and curtsy as she passes***

**MUSIC CUE: TIME GOES BY (TICK TOCK INTRO INTO VAMP)**

PRINCE Dandini, that’s her. I’m sure of it.

DANDINI The princess Crystal? But you said she was just a poor villager, dressed in rags and looking for firewood.

PRINCE I am certain it is her. Those eyes, I would recognise them anywhere.

***The PRINCE crosses to CINDERELLA.***

PRINCE Princess Crystal, your Highness*.* ***(He bows.)***

CINDERELLA Good evening.

PRINCE I am truly delighted to welcome you to my Royal Ball.

CINDERELLA Your Royal Ball?

PRINCE Indeed, allow me to introduce myself. I am Prince Charming.

CINDERELLA You are Prince Charming, but I thought…

PRINCE Yes?

CINDERELLA Oh nothing, It is an honour to meet you your highness.

PRINCE And I, you Princess. Forgive me for asking, but have we met before?

CINDERELLA Oh no. I can truthfully say I have never before been introduced to Prince Charming.

PRINCE How strange. It’s just that you remind me so much of someone I met only yesterday while walking in the woods. Well, now that we have met, I insist we spend the rest of the evening together.

CINDERELLA Really?

PRINCE I will not let such beauty slip out of my grasp again.

CINDERELLA You flatter me sir, and if that is your wish… ***(PRINCE takes her by the arm)***

**MUSIC CUE: TIME GOES BY - ALL**

***The PRINCE AND CINDERELLA dance and chat as WHITNEY and BRITNEY watch on fuming.***

WHITNEY Well, this is a total wash out Britney.

BRITNEY I agree. The Prince is spending all his time with that Princess Crystal. Don’t know why. She’s like Jabba the Hut in a wedding dress.

WHITNEY Oh, she is ugly. And I can smell her breath from over here.

BRITNEY I know it’s shocking. It’s singeing my eyebrows!

WHITNEY Well we might not be pulling a Prince tonight but that doesn’t mean we have to go home empty handed…

BRITNEY Yeah, we’ll just have to make do!

***UGLY SISTERS drag BUTTONS onto the dance floor.***

**MUSIC CUE: MAN AFTER MIDNIGHT – UGLY SISTERS**

***Biz with BUTTONS being thrown about. He finally escapes and heads over to BARON.***

**MUSIC CUE: TIME GOES BY (VAMP - REPRISE)**

BARON Ah Buttons!! Having fun?

BUTTONS No.. I’m having a heart attack!... Those two are all over me, and they’ve both got submarine hands… You never know where they’re gonna pop up next!!!

BARON Good, good! Time flies when you’re having fun doesn’t it? Which reminds me Buttons. What time is it?

BUTTONS What time is it?

BARON Yes..

BUTTONS ***(to audience)*** Did he just say what time is it gang?

AUDIENCE Yes!

BUTTONS I’ll tell you what time it is… ***(Aside)*** Zac Efron eat your heart out! IT’S PARTY TIME!!!

**MUSIC CUE: WHAT TIME IS IT – BUTTONS and BARON**

***Short crazy dance routine with BUTTONS, BARON and JUVENILES***

**MUSIC CUE: TIME GOES BY (VAMP - REPRISE)**

PRINCE This is the most magical evening of my life.

CINDERELLA For me too; Your Highness.

PRINCE I wish that time itself would stand still and we could savour this moment

forever.

CINDERELLA Forever is a very long time, Your Highness.

PRINCE Not when I’m with you, Princess Crystal

**MUSIC CUE: TIME AFTER TIME – PRINCE and CINDERELLA**

***At the end of the song the clock starts to strike midnight.***

CINDERELLA Midnight? Oh no, I must go, I must leave now.

PRINCE Leave, I don’t understand.

CINDERELLA Oh, please forgive me your Highness. It has been wonderful but I have to

go.

PRINCE Princess Crystal, have I upset you in any way?...

***The scene becomes more frantic and the TIME GOES BY music builds to a***

***crescendo with each tick of the clock. CINDERELLA is surrounded by the***

***ENSEMBLE and runs off-stage up the staircase as the clock finishes***

***striking midnight. The PRINCE is left confused.***

PRINCE Dandini? Dandini?

DANDINI You called sire?

PRINCE Princess Crystal. She’s gone.

DANDINI Gone?

PRINCE She just ran away.

DANDINI That’s twice she’s done that now. Are you sure she’s the one for you?

PRINCE I’ve never been so certain of anything in my life. Follow her. I can’t lose her.

DANDINI Certainly your highness.

***DANDINI runs up the staircase and exits.***

BRITNEY Oh what’s going on ‘ere?

WHITNEY Is there a drama? What’s happened?

PRINCE Oh, this is all I need.

WHITNEY Where’s Princess Jabba… I mean Crystal.

BRITNEY Oh, she’s gone. She’s run away.

WHITNEY I knew it. Has she dumped you love? Oh she looked like that sort.

BRITNEY Yea, fickle. Only after one thing.

WHITNEY I knew she was trash the moment I saw her.

BRITNEY Come home with us love. We’ll sort you out.

PRINCE No thank you!

WHITNEY Come on, and we’ll get you a kebab on the way back

PRINCE Will you two shut up!!

***DANDINI re-enters at top of staircase.***

DANDINI It’s too late sire. Nobody knows where she’s gone. And there’s no sign of her crystal carriage either. They seem to have vanished into thin air.

PRINCE Vanished?

DANDINI Yes your Majesty. It’s nowhere. I nearly tripped over an old pumpkin when I was looking for it.

PRINCE This can’t be. I can’t have lost her.

DANDINI Just a minute. What’s this?

***DANDINI finds the crystal slipper on the staircase.***

PRINCE Dandini, let me see that?

DANDINI It was just here, half way up the staircase.

PRINCE It is one of her glass slippers Dandini. This is our only clue. But I intend to use it to find my dear Princess Crystal.

DANDINI But how?

PRINCE We will scour every corner of this great land, visit every house across this nation and whosever’s foot fits this crystal slipper will be the one I am searching for. My beautiful stranger. My future Bride.

DANDINI Very good sire.

PRINCE Bring the evening’s festivities to an end Dandini. We start our search at sun-rise. I will not lose her again.

**MUSIC CUE: THIS IS MY MOMENT - PRINCE**

**ACT TWO, SCENE SEVEN – NEAR THE FOREST**

**PYRO CUE: DSR Flash**

***FAIRY GODMOTHER enters.***

FAIRY G Oh no. Just when everything looked to be going perfectly, it all fell apart. I did warn Cinderella about leaving before midnight didn’t I boys and girls?... I thought so, I’m sure I did and yet, all the magic, all the romance, all the hopes for a happy ending seem to have gone.

***CINDERELLA enters in rags and crosses slowly to the FAIRY GODMOTHER. CINDERELLA has her head held low.***

Cinderella?

CINDERELLA Oh, Fairy Godmother. You startled me.

FAIRY G I am sorry my dear.

CINDERELLA No, it is I who should be sorry. You performed all that wonderful magic for me, you got me a beautiful dress, a wonderful glass coach. I had the most amazing night with Prince Charming and I foolishly forgot to do what you told me and leave by midnight. I’m afraid I have spoiled your chance of getting your Fairy Wings.

FAIRY G Oh, that is so like you Cinderella. You just can’t help yourself thinking about other people. I am sorry Cinders. But I promise you now, I am going to do everything in my power to make sure that you will find happiness. If anyone deserves to have their dreams come true it is you. Doesn’t she boys and girls?

CINDERELLA Thank you. Thank you all.

FAIRY G Run home Cinderella and try and get some rest. If I have anything to do with it, tomorrow is going to be an even more exciting day than today.

**MUSIC CUE: RUN CINDERELLA – FAIRY GODMOTHER**

***CINDERELLA exits.***

FAIRY G Right, I’m not giving up here. We’ll make it all perfect for Cinders, won’t we everyone?... Of course we will. And there’s no time to waste. Dreams must be made to come true… At this time of year more than ever, It’s Christmas after all!! Leave it to me… Goodbye!

**FAIRY GODMOTHER exits**

**ACT TWO, SCENE EIGHT – THE BOUDOIR AT HARD-UP HALL**

***UGLY SISTERS enter.***

WHITNEY Oh what a night Britz… The dancing, the laughter, I was the belle of the ball!

BRITNEY Belle of the ball, you lost your clanger years ago!

WHITNEY You can talk!... If I had a face like yours, I’d put it on a wall and throw

a brick at it.

BRITNEY Well if I had a face like yours, I’d put it on a brick and throw a wall at it!

***(The flounce to their dressing tables. WHITNEY files her nails with a giant file while BRITNEY cuts her toe nails with giant scissors).***

WHITNEY Still it would have been an even better night if that ‘Princess Crusty’ hadn’t shown up chucking her ugly old boat race about! ***(Picks up hand mirror***) Mirror, mirror in me ‘and, who’s the fairest in the land? ***(Looks in mirror)*** Arrrr!... Who’s that?

BRITNEY ***(Rushes over)*** Where let me see… ***(Looks in mirror)*** Why that’s me.

WHITNEY Oh thank goodness. I thought it was me! ***(Laughs)***

BRITNEY Oh yea! You just wait til Princey Pants turns up tomorrow. I know I’m gonna be his next Queen.

WHITNEY Your great plates of meat won’t fit that glass slipper

BRITNEY Why not! Stranger things have happened.

WHITNEY Nahhh, there’s more chance of it fitting Cinderella than you.

***There is a pause as the realisation dawns on them. They turn to look at each other.***

BRITNEY You don’t think…

WHITNEY It could be….

BRITNEY It’s possible….

WHITNEY We can’t take the chance…

BRITNEY You mean we’ll have to…get rid of her….

BOTH ***(Sickly Sweet)*** Oh Cinderella!...

WHITNEY Cinders sweetheart, could you pop in for a moment?

CINDERS Yes, sisters. Is everything alright?

BRITNEY You know the Prince is coming here tomorrow sis.

CINDERS Yes Britney, Daddy told me.

WHITNEY Now we know you weren’t at the palace tonight, because you were like the Stevenage Town goalkeeper…

BRITNEY Nowhere near the ball.

WHITNEY But…as the Prince is coming here tomorrow, you can’t meet him dressed in those dirty rags sweety.

BRITNEY Yes, and we feel just awful for our behaviour earlier so we want to make it up to our little sis!... So you can wear our designer gear if you like?

CINDERS You’ll lend me some of your dresses? Oh thank you.

WHITNEY It’s all in the wardrobe, sister dear.

CINDERS Oh I see…

WHITNEY You’ll need to go right inside to find the best dresses.

CINDERS I don’t know, shall I go in boys and girls?

AUDIENCE NO!

BRITNEY Don’t take any notice if them Cinderella, they don’t know their Primani from their George at Asda!

WHITNEY Well, just step inside.

CINDERS Shall I boys and girls?

AUDIENCE NO!

WHITNEY You know you want to…

CINDERS Alright, I do so want to look my best for the Prince tomorrow.

***CINDERELLA steps in and they slam the door shut and lock the door. WHITNEY pops the key down her cleavage. The UGLY SISTERS laugh.***

WHITNEY Well that gets rid of her! OMG! I can’t believe Charming Chops is coming here tomorrow.

BRITNEY I Know! We’d better get some beauty sleep.

WHITNEY Not that I need it. How could you improve on this face?

BRITNEY Put a bag over it.

WHITNEY You can shut yer pie hole you wrinkled old prune! You make Bruce Forsyth look fresh faced.

BRITNEY These aren’t wrinkles, they’re laughter lines.

WHITNEY Nothing’s that funny. Now c’mon help me get undressed will you?

BRITNEY Come on then… This is the bit that man in the third row has been waiting for all night/day!!

WHITNEYCoeee lover boy etc... What’s your name sweetie?... Sorry?... No I heard you

the first time I’m just sorry for you that’s all!

**MUSIC CUE: UNDRESSING BIZ INTO UGLY MEDLEY 2**

**UGLY SISTERS**

BRITNEY Right I’m all ready for bed…Hurry up and turn the light out Whince I’m tired!

WHITNEY Alright. Alright keep your wig on!

***She throws a shoe offstage. SFX Smashing Glass. Lights to darker state.***

BRITNEY Thanks babe! ‘Ere do you think I should a put a mud pack on overnight?

WHITNEY I thought you were already wearing one!

BRITNEY Oy you cheeky mare!... And stop hogging all the covers!

WHITNEY Well stop picking your cheesy toenails then!

BRITTANY I will, if you get your hairy armpit out of my face!

WHITNEY Right that´s it!

***(SFX – HOWL)***

BRITTNEY Shhhhh! What was that?

WHITNEY What? I didn’t hear anything...

BRITTANY Shhhhh!! Listen…

***(They listen for a moment. Then SFX ‘Fart Noise’).***

BRITNEY O! M! G! You are rank!

WHITNEY What? I had curried eggs at the ball!

***(SFX – HOWL)***

WHITNEYI heard it that time!

BRITNEY It sounds like it’s coming from the Hallway.

WHITNEY Let’s go and have a look.

BRITNEY But I’m scared!

WHITNEY I saw a half eaten pork pie out there earlier.

BRITNEY Really!... Let’s go!

**BRITANY and WHITNEY exit.**

**MUSIC CUE: SPOOKY UNDERSCORE**

**(*Hardup Hall Front Cloth is flown in during the blackout).***

**ACT TWO, SCENE EIGHT (A) – INSIDE HARD-UP HALL**

***(GHOST GAG – SET BENCH IN BLACK OUT)***

**BRITANY and WHITNEY enter.**

WHITNEY I tell you whoever it is keeping us up, I´m going to knock their teeth out. I’m absolutely knickered.

BRITNEY Don’t you mean knackered?

WHITNEY No knickered. My breath’s coming in short pants.

BRITNEY I know how you feel sis. I’m all limp and lifeless…

WHITNEY Oh, I feel like something dreadful’s going to happen. I can just feel it.

BRITNEY ‘Ere are you psychic? Maybe you’re a medium!

**BUTTONS enters.**

BUTTONS She looks more like an extra large to me!

***(UGLY SISTERS scream)***

BUTTONS How you diddlin’ dudes!!

AUDIENCE How you diddlin’ Buttons!

BRITNEY Oy face-ache! You scared us half to death!

WHITNEY Yeah! We thought you were a ghost.

BUTTONS A ghost? Well they do say Hardup Hall is haunted.

SISTERS Haunted! Don’t be ridiculous!

BUTTONS It´s true, apparently once a year an ‘orrible ghost comes bashing and crashing through the Halls wailing at the top of his voice…

***(BARON enters singing loudly).***

BARON What time is it? Party time! Barons out scream and shout!...

***(They all scream. BUTTONS jumps into UGLY SISTERS’ arms).***

BRITNEY Ohh, I think I´m gonna faint! Brandy fetch me a Brandy!

WHITNEY We ain´t got any Brandy.

BRITNEY Oh I won´t bother fainting then.

BARON What the blazes is going on here. Running around in the middle of the night?

***(SFX – Howl)***

WHITNEY There it is again!

BARON What´s that?

BUTTONS That’s just an owl.

BRITNEY What sort of owl?

BUTTONS A teet.

WHITNEY A what?

BUTTONS A tee towel. ***(Laughs)***

WHITNEY Shut up! I think there are Ghosties and Ghoulies here.

BARON I’d hate to be caught by the Ghosties.

BUTTONS And I’d hate to be caught by the…..

ALL Don’t!

BRITNEY: ‘Ere I’ve heard that if you sing a song it keeps the ghosties away.

BUTTONS: If you two sing a song, it’ll keep anything away!... I’ll tell you what why don’t we sit on this conveniently placed bench to sing.

***BUTTONS collects the bench which has been pre-set.***

You lot will help us sing, won’t you everyone?!

***The audience shout ‘Yes’***

If you see any ghosties, will you shout out and warn us? I said will you shout out and warn us?

***The audience shout ‘Yes’***

Join in everyone!

***They sit down on the bench, BUTTONS (C) WHITNEY(L) & BRITNEY (R)***

**MUSIC CUE: ‘Ghostbusters’**

ALL: There’s something strange in the neighbourhood

Who you gonna call?

Ghostbusters

***Ghost 1 Enters SL***

Yeah! ***(swinging right arm)***

There’s something weird and it don’t look good

Who you gonna call?

Ghostbusters!

***Ghost 1 exits SL***

Yeah ***(swinging right arm)***

ALL: ***(Rising from the bench)*** What was it? A ghost?

BUTTONS: Did it come on that way? (Yes)

You are sure it wasn’t that way? (No)

So it definitely came on that way? (Yes)

***They all look at each other and realize they are frightened***

ALL: Aargghh!

***They run back to the bench, raising their arms in the air…***

ALL: Well, we’ll have to sing it again then won’t we… whoops! ***(swing right arm and kick right leg)***

ALL: There’s something strange in the neighbourhood

Who you gonna call?

Ghostbusters

***Ghost 2 Enters SR***

Yeah! ***(swinging right arm)***

There’s something weird and it don’t look good

Who you gonna call?

Ghostbusters!

***Ghost 2 exits SR***

Yeah ***(swinging right arm)***

ALL: ***(Rising from the bench)*** What was it? A ghost?

BUTTONS: Did it come on that way? (Yes)

You are sure it wasn’t that way? (No)

So it definitely came on that way? (Yes)

***They all look at each other and realize they are frightened***

ALL: Aargghh!

***They run back to the bench, raising their arms in the air…***

ALL: Well, we’ll have to sing it again then won’t we… whoops! ***(swing right arm and kick right leg)***

ALL: There’s something strange in the neighbourhood

Who you gonna call?

Ghostbusters

***Ghost 2 Enters SR***

Yeah! ***(swinging right arm)***

There’s something weird and it don’t look good

Who you gonna call?

Ghostbusters!

Yeah ***(swinging right arm)***

ALL: ***(Rising from the bench)*** What was it? A ghost?

***Ghost 2 remains on stage behind the bench***

ALL: Let’s have a look. ***(They circle the bench clockwise, Ghost 2 follows and exits SR)*** No, there’s no sign of a ghost!

BUTTONS: Did it come on that way? (Yes)

You are sure it wasn’t that way? (No)

So it definitely came on that way? (Yes)

***They all look at each other and realise they are frightened***

ALL: Aargghh!

***They run back to the bench, raising their arms in the air…***

ALL: Well, we’ll have to sing it again then won’t we… whoops! ***(swing right arm and kick right leg)***

ALL: There’s something strange in the neighbourhood

Who you gonna call?

Ghostbusters

***Ghost 2 Enters SR and takes off BRITNEY***

Yeah! ***(swinging right arm)***

There’s something weird and it don’t look good

Who you gonna call?

Ghostbusters!

Yeah ***(swinging right arm)***

BUTTONS: ***(Rising from the bench)*** Where’s she gone? A ghost got her? The ghost got her!! Aaargh!

BUTTONS: Did it come on that way? (Yes)

You are sure it wasn’t that way? (No)

So it definitely came on that way? (Yes)

***They both look at each other and realize they are frightened***

ALL: Aargghh!

***They run back to the bench, raising their arms in the air…***

ALL: Well, we’ll have to sing it again then won’t we… whoops! ***(swing right arm and kick right leg)***

ALL: There’s something strange in the neighbourhood

Who you gonna call?

Ghostbusters

***Ghost 1 Enters SL and takes off WHITNEY***

Yeah! ***(swinging right arm)***

BOTH: There’s something weird and it don’t look good

Who you gonna call?

Ghostbusters!

Yeah ***(swinging right arm)***

BUTTONS ***(Rising from the bench)*** Where’s Whitney gone? A ghost got her? Aarghh!

Did it come on that way? (Yes)

You are sure it wasn’t that way? (No)

So it definitely came on that way? (Yes)

Aarghh!

***He runs back to sit on bench, raises his arms in the air…***

Well, I’ll have to sing it again then won’t we… whoops! ***(kick right leg)***

There’s something strange in the neighbourhood

Who you gonna call?

Ghostbusters

***Ghost 2 Enters SR***

Yeah! ***(swinging right arm)***

There’s something weird and it don’t look good

Who you gonna call?

Ghostbusters!

Yeah ***(swinging right arm)***

***(Rising from the bench)*** What is it? Toast? A ghost?

***Ghost 2 remains on stage behind the bench***

Let’s have a look.

***BUTTONS and the ghost circle the bench clock wise.***

There’s no sign of a ghost! Oh no there isn’t!! etc

***BUTTONS sits back down on the bench. The ghost sits beside him. The ghost taps him on the shoulder. BUTTONS looks round. They both stare at each other for a second, before the ghost leaps in the air, screaming. The ghost runs off, scared.***

BUTTONS: Charming!!

***BUTTONS exits. Blackout.***

***Stage crew on to strike bench.***

**ACT TWO, SCENE NINE - THE KITCHEN AT HARDUP HALL**

***BARON is discovered on. He is tidying around.***

BARON Hello boys and girls!... Have you heard the news, Prince Charming is searching the Kingdom for a beautiful Princess who he met at the Ball last night. He’s visiting every household in the land to try on a crystal slipper. It sounds painful to me… But whoever it fits, he has sworn to marry!

Now where is that lazy boy Buttons? There´s so much to do!! Buttons!!... Get ‘ere naaah…. Oh sorry, I thought I was in Brentwood High Street!

**BUTTONS enters**.

BUTTONS How ya diddlin dudes!

AUDIENCE How ya diddlin Buttons!

BARON Buttons, are you sure everything is ready for the imminent arrival of our Royal visitor? I don’t want any mess.

BUTTONS: Yes indeed Baron.

BARON: Oh good. I do want to make a good impression. (***We hear a tacky door-bell chime).***

BARON They’re here, they’re here! Don’t panic! Don’t panic! Battle Stations!! ***(he runs around panicking)***

**BUTTONS exits to open the door. UGLY SISTERS enter.**

BRITNEY What’s going on?

WHITNEY Who’s here?

BARON Why the Prince of course, and Dandini. They’ve brought the crystal slipper for you to try on.

BRITNEY Oh, we’re not even dressed yet. Tell him to wait.

WHITNEY Yes, I haven’t plugged in my GHDs yet.

BARON Now don’t be silly girls, I can’t tell the Prince to wait.

WHITNEY You should learn to do as you’re told, you wrinkly old fool!

BARON I’m sorry girls, there’s just no time.

***DANDINI enters with the crystal slipper on a cushion. He is followed by PRINCE CHARMING and BUTTONS.***

DANDINI His Royal Highness, the Prince Charming.

***The BARON, WHITNEY & BRITNEY all bow. As they rise again…***

PRINCE Oh no, it’s not these two is it? We know they’re not the one I’m looking for.

BUTTONS They’re not the ones anybody’s looking for.

WHITNEY Shut it Butt face. Come on Princey. You said everyone could try on the slipper.

PRINCE Yes, I suppose I did.

WHITNEY ***(To the BARON.)*** Oy! grand-dad, make yourself useful. Get me a stool.

***The BARON gets a stool and places it stage left.***

WHITNEY Right, I’m ready.

PRINCE Oh this is so pointless. Come on Dandini, let’s get this farce over with.

***DANDINI crosses and prepares to put the slipper on WHITNEY’S foot.***

WHITNEY Oh hang on. Silly me, I haven’t taken my stocking off yet. Give us a hand, will you Dan?

DANDINI If I must.

***DANDINI pulls the stocking and it stretches all the way across the front of the stage before finally pinging off her foot sending DANDINI falling backwards. This is all done to the strains of “Yo-Heave-Ho.”***

PRINCE Oh for goodness sake.

WHITNEY Come on then. I want to get my foot in the crystal slipper.

BUTTONS You couldn’t get your foot in the Crystal Palace.

***DANDINI tries to put the slipper on her foot.***

DANDINI This is useless. It doesn’t fit.

WHITNEY You’re not pushing hard enough.

DANDINI It doesn’t fit.

PRINCE Right, get the next one done.

BRITNEY Oh, unlucky Whitney dear. Still, I’ll make you my lady in waiting.

***BRITNEY sits on the stool and crosses her legs ready for the slipper. DANDINI puts it on. He pulls back in horror…***

PRINCE What’s wrong Dandini?

BUTTONS He’s probably discovered some new kind of mushroom.

PRINCE Is everything okay?

DANDINI No sire… I’m afraid… it fits.

ALL What?

DANDINI It fits sire… perfectly. There’s no doubt. I don’t know how, but this would appear to be your Princess Crystal.

PRINCE No, no it can’t be.

BRITNEY It is. He’s told you it fits, hasn’t he? Oh my little Princey-poo!

PRINCE Princey-poo?

BRITNEY Oh, I’m so happy. I’ve got some great ideas to redecorate that manky old Ballroom.

PRINCE Oh no!

BARON Hang on a minute…. I thought as much!

***BARON pulls the false leg from under BRITNEY’S dress. BRITNEY can’t think what to do. Eventually, far too late, she screams in agony.***

BRITNEY Ah, my leg, my leg. He’s pulled my leg off.

BUTTONS With acting like that you should be on Hollyoaks!

***BARON pulls the slipper off the false leg and gives it to DANDINI who carefully places it back on the cushion.***

PRINCE Oh, that was a close shave.

BUTTONS Yes, just what those two need.

WHITNEY ***(to BRITNEY)*** You cheating, old moo!

PRINCE Come on Dandini. I knew this would be a waste of time.

BUTTONS Hang on a minute, what about Cinderella?

PRINCE Cinderella?

BUTTONS Yes, she should be allowed to try on the slipper as well. Shouldn’t she gang?...

PRINCE Well, where is she?

BARON Yes, where is she? I haven’t seen her all morning.

BRITNEY Oh, she had to pop out to get some cream for her terrible skin condition. She said not to bother about her.

BUTTONS Skin condition?

WHITNEY Yes. She’s got a very rare affliction called…

BRITNEY …eh, Butter Face.

BUTTONS Butter Face?

WHITNEY Yes, everything’s fine but her face! ***(The UGLIES cackle with laughter.)***

PRINCE Oh, I’ve had enough of this nonsense.

**PYRO CUE: DSR**

***FAIRY GODMOTHER enters.. She freezes everyone with a***

***wave of her wand.***

FAIRY This is it boys and girls. This is our big chance to make sure Cinders finds the happiness she deserves. So stand by. Here goes…

Once more my magic powers you need

We can’t let Whitney and Britney succeed

If true love is to win the day

Here is what you all have to say.

When buttons asks, “Where’s Cinders today?”

You all reply – “They locked her away!”

***The FAIRY GODMOTHER unfreezes everyone with a wave of her wand and exits right.***

BUTTONS Just give me one minute sire. I’m sure we can find her. Hang on I’ll ask me gang. Do you know where Cinderella is boys and girls? She’s where?

***The AUDIENCE tell BUTTONS the story.***

BUTTONS The Ugly Sisters locked her in the wardrobe? Where’s the key? It’s where? Down Whitney’s dress?

PRINCE Dandini.

DANDINI Yes sire?

PRINCE Get the key.

DANDINI No sire.

PRINCE What?

DANDINI Your Highness, I’ve walked across this entire kingdom with you… twice. I’ve organized a Royal Ball and hoovered up after. I’ve been a loyal and trustworthy servant for nearly seven years but there has to be a cut-off point. If you think I’m putting my hand down there, you’ve got another think coming.

PRINCE Yes, good point Dandini. I’m sorry.

BUTTONS It’s okay. Your Highness I have a spare key.

PRINCE Fantastic. Where is it?

BUTTONS Well, I didn’t trust these two… So I hid the key out there. The only problem is, I can’t quite remember where? Listen everybody. Under one of your seats is the spare key. Everyone get up and see if there’s a key taped to the bottom of your seat.

***The AUDIENCE do so and BUTTONS invites the key-holder up on stage. They will hopefully come up and give the key to BUTTONS. They will be given a goody bag as a thank you for their help. BUTTONS exits to release CINDERELLA.***

**CINDERELLA and BUTTONS enter.**

BUTTONS Here she is folks!

ALL Hooray!

***ENSEMBLE enter cheering.***

CINDERELLA Oh thank you Buttons, thank you boys & girls.

BARON Cinderella, did these two really lock you in the wardrobe.

CINDERELLA Yes, father. I’m afraid they did.

WHITNEY Yes, as a joke. We all like a laugh together, don’t we Britney?

BRITNEY Oh we do Whitney. We all like a laugh.

BARON You two are the only joke round here.

BOTH I BEG YOUR PARDON?

BARON Shut up you spoilt, ugly, little brats.

BOTH What?

BARON I said shut up. I have listened to the pair of you for long enough. You are greedy, selfish, ignorant, arrogant, pathetic and UUUGGGLLLYYYYY!!!

BOTH Daddy?

BARON Don’t you Daddy me? Locking my lovely Cinderella in a wardrobe? You’re no daughters of mine. I never want to see you again after today. Now stand there, shut up, don’t move… and try not to look so totally repulsive!!

***DANDINI, BUTTONS and the PRINCE all look at the BARON and then to one another, before…***

BUTTONS

DANDINI} Go Baron, Go Baron Go Baron.

PRINCE

BARON I’m sorry you had to see that little outburst, but now I believe Cinderella has to try on the glass slipper.

***DANDINI fits the slipper on CINDERELLA’S foot.***

BARONIt fits!

ALL Hooray!

DANDINI Indeed it does sire.

PRINCE Cinderella, will you marry me?

CINDERELLA Yes, Your Highness. Nothing would make me happier.

WHITNEY I think I’m going to chuck!

BUTTONS Three cheers for Cinderella and Prince Charming… Hip Hip etc.

PRINCE I am sure you have had your reasons Cinderella, but twice you have run away from me just when I thought I had you forever.

CINDERELLA I am sorry about that sire.

PRINCE It doesn’t matter now, but I am not giving you the chance to do it again. The wedding will be this very day.

ALL Hooray!!

**EVERYONE exits apart from BUTTONS, CINDERELLA and PRINCE.**

CINDERELLA Buttons?

BUTTONS So, your handsome man servant Dandini turned out to be the Prince Charming himself.

CINDERELLA Yes, but I didn’t even find out until I got to the ball. You’ve been such a wonderful friend to me. You’re one in a million. I would like, with the Prince’s permission, for you to come and work at the Palace so you can let me beat you at arm wrestling from time to time.

BUTTONS That’s so kind of you Cinderella and it would be wonderful to live at the Palace but I think I’ll stay here and help good old Baron Hard-up. We’ve got to keep Hard-Up Hall up to scratch you know. But, you will come and visit us from time to time, won’t you?

CINDERELLA You try and stop me. Buttons…

BUTTONS Yes Cinders?

CINDERELLA I do love you…As a brother, that is.

BUTTONS Thanks. And even though I think you’re going to have the best husband in the whole world who’s going to love you and care for you forever, if ever you fancy spending a bit of time with your “big brother” you just come right on over, ‘cos he loves you too… sis. ***(work audience for ahhhhhhhs).***

AUDIENCE Ahhhhhhhh!

**BUTTONS and CINDERELLA hug.**

BUTTONS Oh Stop it you lot!!! ….I’ll see you later gang! Bye!

**BUTTONS exits.**

CINDERELLA Oh Prince Charming, I can’t believe we’re finally going to be husband

and wife!

PRINCE I know, it’s wonderful. I’m going to make you the happiest girl in the world.

**MUSIC CUE: TIME OF MY LIFE – PRINCE and CINDERELLA**

***Dance with PROS.***

**ACT TWO, SCENE TEN - THE SONG SHEET**

**BUTTONS enters.**

BUTTONS How ya diddlin dudes?

AUDIENCE How ya diddlin Buttons?!

BUTTONS I can’t believe my best friend Cinders and Prince Charming are getting married today! I’m so excited!...

***BUTTONS does Birthdays and Parties, then introduces the Song for the Song sheet. He gets children up on stage and interviews them before leading us into the SONG SHEET ROUTINE. Children are given a goody bag and then exit.***

BUTTONS I’ll see you at the wedding dudes!! Bye!

BUTTONS exits.

**ACT TWO, SCENE ELEVEN - THE ROYAL WEDDING**

**MUSIC CUE: FOOTLOOSE (REPRISE) – FULL COMPANY**

***All the cast enter for bows in designated order. Set in rehearsals.***

***After walkdown. The full company bow together once. BUTTONS does the thank yous etc. Finally Inviting applause for the Band… As the applause dies down…***

BARON I’ve gained a Prince as son-in-law. I’ve never felt so good

Although I hoped it would turn out right, I wasn’t sure it would

BRITNEY The sisters have now found a job,

That will keep them out of trouble

WHITNEY We’re Harlow traffic wardens.

So get it shifted at the double!.

FAIRY Cinderella’s dream came true, because we did the things

That any good Fairy should have done… so now I’ve got my wings.

BUTTONS Not only did Cinders get her man and the Uglies get the boot,

I stayed up all night and worked like mad so I could finish my suit!

CINDERELLA: My whole life changed when I met you,

You’ve turned my tears to laughter.

PRINCE: I followed my dream to be with you

And we all lived………………………..

**MUSIC CUE: BLAME IT ON THE BOOGIE – FULL COMPANY**

**THE END.**