

Cinderella

A Play in One Act

By David Barrett

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Dramatis Personae

Baron Stoneybroke (pronounced Stonybrook)
Cinderella
Grizelda and
Esmirelda the ugly sisters
Buttons
Popper Button's Dad
Zip his brother
Velchro his Mum
Fairy Godmother
Prince Smarmy
Pansy the Prince's brother
Maledictus the executioner
Earl of Hitchin
Lord Lucan
Duke of Kudos
M.C. at the ball
Butler
5 Rabbits
Butterflies and other animals dancers
Little Red Riding Hood
Wolf
Gretel
Witch
Dancers at the ball

Production Notes

Suggested Songs:

- SONG 1 *Whistle While You Work*
- SONG 2 *Give a Little Whistle* (When you get in trouble and you don't know what to do!)
- SONG 3 *When You Wish Upon a Star*
- SONG 4 *The Aristocats* (A few lyrics may need changing)
- SONG 5 *Behold The Lord High Executioner*
- SONG 6 *Be Our Guest*
- SONG 7 *There's a Great Big Beautiful Tomorrow*
- SONG 8 *A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes*

All the above songs, with the exception of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Lord High Executioner*, can be found in the book Disney: The Illustrated Treasury of Songs, published by the Hal Leonard Corporation, which can be purchased in all good music shops.

The dance music is flexible and you may use any which is suitable for the performers.

Synopsis of Scenes:

- Scene 1: *The Kitchens at Stoneybroke Castle*
- Scene 2: *The Palace*
- Scene 3: *In the Forest*
- Scene 4: *At the Ball*
- Scene 5: *The Parlour at Stoneybroke Castle*
- Scene 6: *At the Palace*

Scene 1, The Kitchens at Stoneybroke Castle

SONG 1: Chorus of Servants and Cooks
(During the song there is a comic routine with mops. At the end of the song Buttons is slapped in the face by a mop and ends up flat on the floor)

BUTTONS Hey, what did you do that for, Zip, you fool.
ZIP Gee, I'm sorry Buttons, I guess we still need to practise the end of the dance before the opening night.

BUTTONS What do you mean 'before the opening night'? Have you forgotten, This IS the opening night.

ZIP What! You mean *(He gestures coyly towards audience)*
BUTTONS Yes, I do mean *(Mimics gesture)*
(Zip shields his eyes and looks F.O.H.)

ZIP Oh my Lord! *(He runs and hides behind tabs)*
BUTTONS I'm sorry about my kid brother, ladies and gentlemen. He wasn't around when the brains were dished out. I had his share. But, how rude of me, I've not introduced myself: I'm BUTTONS. I live and work here in the castle for Baron Stoneybroke. I'm his exchequer. It's a bit like a retired accountant. You see, I used to check his money for him and now he doesn't have any money I'm his ex-checker. I'm good at Maths, you see. I bet you like Maths at school don't you boys and girls. If I'd been born a nobleman I'd have been a count. A COUNT!
(Counts on his fingers) Never mind! Oh and this is my brother, Zip.

(Pulls Zip out from behind tab, by the ear). My mum and dad, Popper and Velchro work in the kitchens too. *(They step forward and bow)*

POPPER At your service. *(Buttons produces a parcel from the wings)*
VELCHRO Oh Buttons, you've bought me a present, how thoughtful of you.
BUTTONS Well, er...actually it's not for you this time, Mum, it's for..Cinderella. *(To audience)* Just wait till you meet Cinderella boys and girls, she's gorgeous. *(Whispered)* And I'm going to ask her to marry me.

VELCHRO *(Loudly)* To marry YOU!
BUTTONS *(Looking around)* Shhhh! Someone'll hear you.
VELCHRO But Buttons, she'll never agree to marry you. *(Buttons looks shocked)*
ZIP No, you're too poor. *(Ah)* *(Buttons winces at each remark, finally sinking to his knees)*

POPPER And too short. *(Ah!)*
VELCHRO You can't read or write.
ZIP And you crack your knuckles in bed.
(Buttons cracks his knuckles - loud sound effect)

ZIP See what I mean
BUTTONS But I love her *(Ah!)* and I think she loves me too. *(Laughter)*

Boys and girls, if I put this present here will you look after it for me?
 And you'll tell me if anyone tries to take it? Just call BUTTONS!
 Thank you I knew I could rely on you. (*aside*) I can't trust any of this lot.

BUTLER Quickly, back to work everyone, the Baron is coming. Not that we ever get paid for working here. The Baron is too poor, but he won't admit it. We work for nothing, for old time's sake.
Enter Baron

BARON Good day to you all my loyal and trusty servants!

ALL Good Day to you Baron.

BARON My, you have got this place looking spick and span. Buttons, give everyone a rise, they deserve it.

BUTTONS Certainly, thank you, Baron.

VELCHRO What does he mean a rise? He doesn't pay us anything anyway.

BARON I beg your pardon Madam.

POPPER Nothing...nothing, My Lord. She was merely expressing her gratitude.

BARON You're very welcome, Madam, I'm sure. Now what did I come down here for...Oh yes. of course, I was looking for my two lovely daughters, Grizelda and Esmirelda. Has anyone seen them.

ZIP If they had they'd have run the other way.

BUTLER But why do you seek them in the kitchens, Sir? They are household, not servants.

BARON Oh I know that, Butler, but you know how they love their food. I thought they might be on the scrounge again. (*He looks around for them*)

ZIP Do you know, I saw Grizelda eating with her knife the other day.

POPPER Yes and when the Baron told her it was not polite she said she can't eat with her fork because it leaks.

VELCHRO Esmirelda didn't know whether she should stir her tea with her left or right hand.

ZIP I told her to use her spoon.

BUTLER Do you know they always say prayers before dinner upstairs.

VELCHRO Why, don't they trust the cook?

BARON It's no use, I can't find them. If you see them send them to the west tower would you. (*Exits*)

BUTTONS Sure, we'll send them, via Australia. (*Enter Cinderella. Servants carry on with their chores*)
 Cinderella, where on earth have you been? I've been looking all over for you.

CINDERS Oh, I've just been here and there, no place in particular. (*Looks glum*)

ZIP Why, Cinders, what on earth is the matter, I've never seen you looking so unhappy.

CINDERS Can't you guess? I'm dressed in rags by those step-sisters of mine and treated as a servant. I work day and night cleaning the castle and clearing up their mess after them.

ALL Aaah!

CINDERS How will I ever find myself a rich handsome nobleman to marry?

BUTTONS Well, I'm not rich, perhaps I'm not handsome and I'm certainly not noble, but I am a man! *(Kneels at her feet)* Marry me Cinders and all your troubles will be over.

CINDERS Dear Buttons, you're so sweet but I can't marry you. You see, father's marriage contract will only allow me to marry a man of noble blood. Oh, how I wish father had never re-married after mother died.

ZIP Yes, look what he inherited; two of the ugliest creatures you could ever find. Worse than anything in the London Dungeon.

BUTTONS Don't you worry your little head, Cinders, I'll think of something, you'll see.

SONG 2

BUTTONS Come on, Cinders, let's go and put our heads together. I'm sure we can sort this whole thing out. *(loud noises off)* Look out folks; here come the dynamic duo now; a subtle entrance as usual. Quick, let's go. *(They exit. Grizelda and Esmirelda enter from the other side- boos)*

GRIZELDA How about the prince's tall squire. He's very handsome. I wouldn't mind being caught on a dark night by him. *(Cackles of laughter)*

ESMIRELDA Don't be ridiculous, Grizelda, why you're so short, the first time you tried to kiss him you would have to stand on a box. *(All laugh)*

GRIZELDA Hey, who told you you could laugh. No-one laughs at us without permission.

ESMIRELDA And don't you forget it you old windbags. You know the difference between a pantomime audience and a cow with laryngitis, don't you.

GRIZELDA Yes, one boos madly and the other moos badly! *(Shrieks of laughter)*

ESMIRELDA Hey, Grizelda, there's a boy down there still laughing at us. Right there, do you see him.

GRIZELDA What, that really ugly one there on the end of the row.

ESMIRELDA No you idiot that's Mary's mum.

GRIZELDA Really? I never knew she had a beard.

ESMIRELDA No, the one...1..2..3 from the left...Oh, I'll show you. Just a minute. *(She goes F.O.H. and brings up a plant from the audience)*
This is the one Grizzly, isn't he ugly? Really, really ugly.

GRIZELDA Well....yes, but I've seen worse. In fact, I think he's rather sweet. Say, young man, are you busy tonight? There's a good ball on up at Lord Moneypenny's. Would you like to go?

PLANT Not with you, you old bag, not if you were the last person on earth. Now if Cinderella were to ask me..... *(Grizelda wails and weeps)*

ESMIRELDA How dare you insult her, you undernourished bean-sprout. I'll teach you. *(She chases him off stage raining blows with her handbag)*
Take that! And that! *(Enter Buttons, excitedly, followed by Cinders)*

BUTTONS Hey, Zip, you'll never guess what.

It says here, Prince Smarmy...*(Noticing Grizelda)* ishaving....a...
NEW HAIRDO!

GRIZELDA What! Let me see. Give me that you trumped up bell-boy!

CINDERS No, Grizelda! It's not important.

ESMIRELDA *(Entering unseen)*

Then you won't mind us seeing it..... *(She snatches the invitation)*

Others put their heads in their hands as she becomes animated.

All eligible LADIES in the realm are invited to a midsummer ball to be held at the royal palace on midsummer's eve. Formal dress.

YAHOO! *(She skips around, holding up her dress)*

ZIP If she's a lady I'm Ryan Giggs!

BUTTONS The invitation is for all LADIES in the house...and that includes Cinderella, doesn't it, Cinders?

CINDERS Well, yes but...I don't have a dress. How can I go dressed like this. I look like a kitchen maid. It's no use...I might just as well become one of the servants. That's my position in this house. *(She exits weeping loudly)*

BUTTONS Cinders, don't go. We'll find a way for you to go to the ball. *(Follows)*

ESMIRELDA Well, at least she knows her place. And if she goes to the ball the prince won't give us a second glance, so we don't want her at the ball do we boys and girls? *(Reaction)*

GRIZELDA Oh no we don't.....

ESMIRELDA Oh it's no use talking to you lot. You're as bad as these trollops.

Grizelda! We're leaving. We must choose our outfits for the ball.

They exit blowing loud raspberries at the audience. The rest of the cast blow raspberries back and thumb noses.

BUTLER Well that's blown it hasn't it. She'll never win. Not while those two are living under the same roof.

ZIP Buttons will sort things out; he always does. Everything will work out right in the end you'll see.

SONG 3

MALED Well, I do have other hobbies. *(While he is talking he feels the blade on his sword and slowly tightens the Earl's neckerchief, which has become loose)*
I make ropes, sharpen swords and oil the mechanism on the royal guillotines.

SONG 5
And of course I am always on the lookout for spies and those disloyal to the crown.
Enter Buttons

BUTTONS Oi you, you lot of old upper crust toffs! Has any one seen Cinderella? Where's that old toffee-nosed Prince Smarmy or that fairy of a brother of his. *(By now the Earl has his head in his hands)*

MALED Well now, this sounds like treason to me...and we all know what the punishment is. *(Steps towards Buttons)* And who might you be young man?

BUTTONS Oh, 'alio mate! Here are you going to a funeral or something? Look at you all dressed in black and all.

MALED Yes, I do believe I will be....very soon.

BUTTONS Well never mind mate, there'll probably be a slap-up meal afterwards.

LORD L Allow me to introduce you, Buttons, to Maledictus, THE EXECUTIONER! *(Buttons is speechless at first and just points from himself to Maledictus)*

MALED Now, if you'll just come along with me, young man, we'll see to the last-minute arrangements, shall we?

BUTTONS You can't execute me...I've not been tried yet.

MALED On the contrary, young man, you are very trying and you have shown disloyalty to the crown.

BUTTONS Oh I don't mind the crown, you know. It's the twit that wears it I don't like. But can't it wait till Saturday, I've already bought my lottery ticket.

MALED No way, I'm watching Pompey play at home on Saturday. In any case you compound your crime. I must ask you to accompany me to the station!

ALL And anything you say will be taken down as evidence!

BUTTONS KNICKERS!!! *(He runs off F.O.H. with Maledictus in pursuit)*

LORD L Dash it all that's torn it. And I did rather like Buttons...it'll be a pity to see him hang.

DUKE Not so fast, Lucan, old Mally won't catch Buttons so easily.

LORD L But where will he go?

DUKE To the forest without a doubt. Buttons knows the forest like the back of his hand. He'll not be caught there.

EARL But he can't stay in hiding for ever, can he.

DUKE Fear not, gentlemen, I believe it will not be long before that evil executioner's crimes catch up with him. You'll see.

EARL With a little help, from us.

(Enter the Prince, all bow and suck up to him)

LORD L Your highness, how good to see you.

EARL My Lord, how gracious of you to share your company with us.

DUKE My Liege you do look so....so...so smarmy today.

PRINCE Smarmy by name, smarmy by nature, that's me. I cut such a dash in my finery, ladies queue to kiss my hand, they worship the ground where I have trod.

LORD L Trodden, Sire.

PRINCE What?

LORD The past perfect of the verb to tread is trodden, you see.

PRINCE No I don't see.

EARL Your grammar, my Lord.

PRINCE My Grandma? Is she here?

DUKE I believe he refers not to your relations my Lord, but to your syntax.

PRINCE I don't pay tax you fools but for my sins I do have to put up with you imbeciles. Speaking of which where is that half-witted brother of mine. Pansy! PANSY where are you?

PANSY (Off) Coming big bwuther. Here I am. (Enters tripping and falling head over heels)

PRINCE Pansy, Pansy, what is so wrong with you. (All sing to Daisy, Daisy)

ALL Pansy, pansy what is so wrong with you.
You're half crazy, We don't know what to do!

PRINCE (To audience) You see, boys and girls, I'm not getting any younger and I have to find myself a wife. (Ah) I haven't really got girls queuing up, its just a bluff to hide the fact that nobody loves me. (Ah) I'll grow old without finding a princess (Ah) or having an heir to the throne. (By now - much weeping) and it's all because of HIM!!

PANSY Don't you worry Smarmy, I'll help you find a girl. I have been trying but I'll try even harder now, you'll see.

PRINCE Thank you Pansy, but no, I'll find a girl for myself this time. The Midsummer Ball could be my last chance. All the eligible young ladies from my kingdom will be there. Surely I will find my princess this time.

PANSY And she will become my sister-in-law. (They cringe)

LORD L My Liege, don't you think that Pansy looks a little pale and thin; rather pathetic, in fact?
(He looks hard)

PRINCE Only his normal self.

DUKE But, my Lord, he could do with a holiday...at your cousin COUNT Vernacular's castle in Pennsylvania.....COULDN'T HE.....MY

LORD?

(Much winking and nudging)

PRINCE Why, my dear Duke, what on earth is wrong with your eye? Oh, I see. Yes, yes...he certainly could do with the break.

EARL Right away, Sire, by the next coach ...National Express.

(They lead him away protesting)

DUKE And now, Sire, we must get on with the business of preparing the ball.

PRINCE Oh yes, Duke, do let's.

LORD L It will be the finest ball ever to take place in this kingdom.

EARL In any kingdom.

PRINCE Oh, goody, goody, I'm so excited.

EARL And on another matter, My Lord, I have heard it rumoured that your executioner is getting....rather above himself.

PRINCE Really?

EARL In fact, we hear he is preventing suitors asking for your hand in marriage.

PRINCE And how so?

DUKE Well Sire, he is telling great untruths about the royal person.

LORD He says that you support Newcastle United.

PRINCE NEVER!

EARL And that you drink Lucozade.

PRINCE This is outrageous.

DUKE AND that you have a brother who plays with Barbie dolls.

PRINCE Enough. Maledictus shall be dealt with forthwith. My retribution shall be swift and just. Call Maledict.....

EARL Just one moment, My Lord. Maledictus cannot execute himself now can he?

PRINCE Well no, I suppose he can't.

EARL But I have a better plan by far...for a whole new system of justice in the realm. A system that is fair, scrupulous and just. A system which will be the envy of all other...

PRINCE Alright Kudos we get your point. Now tell us the facts.

EARL Duke, the parchment if you please. It's all here, my Lord. A new appointment of a bright young chancellor who will oversee the new order.

PRINCE Thank you Earl. And now...we're going to have a ball.

SONG 6

Scene 3, In the Forest

DANCE of the Animals. (*After the dance the animals exit, except rabbits, who hide*)

Enter Cinderella, crying

- CINDERS Oh woe is me, oh woe, oh woe. Only sixteen and life has been so hard. Why, oh why can't I be like other girls and lead a life of my own? Instead, I have to be a servant to those ugly and wicked stepsisters of mine. *Rabbit 1 comes out of hiding.*
Oh my, what a cute little rabbit. Well, rather a big rabbit actually...
and it doesn't seem afraid of me.
- RAB 1 How could I be afraid of such a beautiful and innocent creature as yourself?
- CINDERS Goodness, a talking rabbit (*aside*) and he's very flattering as well.
- RAB 1 And if I may say so, young lady, the forest is no place for a little girl to be all alone.
- CINDERS I'm NOT little, I'm nearly sixteen you know and I'll soon be married.
- RAB 1 To anyone in particular or am I in with a chance. I **am** witty, handsome and eligible, after all.
- CINDERS Yes, but you're a rabbit. I couldn't marry a rabbit.
- RAB 1 Do you hear that, my fellow canines? She couldn't marry a rabbit.
Other rabbits reveal themselves.
- RAB 2 Don't you mind Bouncer miss, he's only teasing. He does that to every pretty girl he meets.
- CINDERS Then you mean, those nice things he was saying about me.
- RAB 3 That's right miss, all hollow flattery. He's just a charmer.
- RAB 4 He certainly 'rabbits' a lot.
- RAB 5 The thing is, you see, some folk say things without meaning it at all...
- RAB 4 And other folks mean it but never say it.
- RAB 3 What you have to do is to find a man who really loves you, although he might not say so.
- CINDERS Then, how will I know?
- RAB 2 You'll know miss, you'll know.
- RAB 1 Hey you lot, I bet you don't know why rabbits have shiny noses.
- RAB 2 Oh no, Bouncer, not another of your awful jokes.
- CINDERS Do tell me, why do rabbits have shiny noses?
- RAB 1 Because their powder puff is at the other end.
Dead pan reaction. Cinderella does not understand the joke and the others have heard it many times.
What's up, don't you get it. Powder puff...the other end...
Shows his tail.
- RAB 3 Yes, we get it. We've heard it many times before, Bouncer.
- RAB 2 How do rabbits keep their fur looking neat, I bet you don't know that!
- RAB 5 With a hare-brush, of course.

RAB 1 All right then, here's one for the audience. What did the cow say to the bull? Eh? Bet you don't know. Oh yes, the lady there with the long hair tied in ribbons. Oh it's a man, sorry. You have the answer, Sir? What? Just scratching your head. Well don't scratch too hard or all the sawdust will fall out.

RAB 4 Oh do get on with it Bouncer, we haven't got all day.

RAB 1 O.K. then....I just forgot what the joke was...

CINDERS I think it was 'what did the cow say to the bull?'

RAB 1 That's right, and the answer.....'When I fall in love it will be for HEIFER'. Boom boom! *(Silence!)*

CINDERS I'm very sorry Mr Bouncer but I don't really understand your jokes. I've got one I heard earlier though: What's the difference between a cow with laryngitis and a pantomime audience?
Rabbits look at one-another, puzzled, shaking their heads.
One moos badly and the other... No! One eats grass and the other....No!

RABBITS *(Gesture to audience to give punch-line)*
One moos badly and the other boos madly.
Noises off! Executioner approaches.

MALED He must be in here somewhere, he can't have gone far.

RAB 4 Quick, Cinderella, hide here. *They all hide. Enter Maledictus. (Boos)*

MALED Now where is that boy, Buttons, he's for the chop. Button chops, hey, that's a good one. Now who's that booing....*(Peers F.O.H.)*
Who are you and what on earth are you doing in the middle of a forest. What's that? Pantomime? Nonsense, this is real life, you must be dreaming. Let me have a closer look at you....and mind my axe - it's very sharp. *Goes F.O.H. with axe swinging.*
Well boys and girls, will you do something for me. I've got some chocolate buttons here for you for a bribe... I mean a treat. Now if you see Buttons I'd like you to pretend you've never seen me. Is that clear? I'm just going to wait behind that tree for him. I only want a friendly chat with him you see. Nothing at all bad. *(As he goes back onto the stage he notices the present)*
Well now what have we here? Someone's left a present for me, how thoughtful of them. *(Goes to take it)*

ALL BUTTONS!

MALED Oh how nice of you boys and girls to help me by calling Buttons into my little trap. Now, where can I hide?
(As he approaches a tree to hide we see a rabbit scurry out into a different hiding place)
Enter Buttons, running.

BUTTONS Hello, boys and girls. *(Reaction)*
Phew, that was close. I thought for one horrible moment he was going to catch me. You know who I mean don't you? The most ugliest, vilest, nastiest creature that ever walked the earth; Maledictus. You

will tell me if you see him, won't you boys and girls? (*Maledictus peeps out*)
 He acts so tough doesn't he, with his big sharp axe and his black costume. (*Maledictus comes out of hiding*) Well, I'd like to meet him one day without his axe. I'd teach him a lesson he wouldn't forget.
 (*Maledictus puts down his axe*) I've done a bit of boxing you know

I can look after myself...(*starts shadow-boxing - turning around*)
 Aaargh!

MALED Don't stop Buttons, (*Buttons backs away*) I was enjoying your monologue...your LAST monologue.

BUTTONS Just a minute, I can explain everything.....(*Pauses*) No I can't....

MALED Prepare to meet your doom, little man. I am not afraid of you, Maledictus is not afraid of anyone or anything.
 (*A hideous monster steps out from behind a tree*)

MALED Aaaargh! Help! No...no...there's a good little monster. You wouldn't want to eat me. I'm hard as nails..... and cold as ice. No...no.... aaaargh
 (*Exits screaming pursued by monster who pauses only to reveal that he is Bouncer, in disguise. Others come out of hiding*)

RAB 2 Good old Bouncer, he saw him off. I don't suppose Maledictus will return here.

RABBITS Hurray!

BUTTONS Cinderella!

CINDERS Buttons, what on earth are you doing here?

BUTTONS Why, looking for you of course and now I've found you I don't intend to let you go. (*They embrace*)

RABBITS Ah!

RAB 3 I think this is our cue to leave, folks.

RAB 5 So long boys and girls. It's been really nice meeting you.

RAB 4 Bye. And don't forget, little girl, the people who really mean things don't always say it. (*They exit, waving*)

CINDERS (*Echoing the rabbit's words*) They really mean things but don't always say it.

BUTTONS Say, what did he mean back there, 'the people who mean things don't always say it'?

CINDERS Oh, nothing Buttons, nothing important anyway.

BUTTONS Hey, Cinders, it's getting dark! We had better find somewhere to sleep tonight and hope that tomorrow will bring the cure for all our problems.

CINDERS My problem is two ugly sisters and they won't go away will they?

BUTTONS Well no, but they might change, who knows what tomorrow may bring.

SONG 7

After the song they settle down to sleep. Lights dim.

CINDERS Goodnight Buttons, dear kind Buttons, I do love you so.
BUTTONS Really, Cinders? You never said so before.
CINDERS I don't mean in that way. You're just the sweetest, kindest person, I know.
BUTTONS I guess you don't know that many people then. Anyhow, You'll always be special to me Cinders. One day you'll recognise it. *(Pause)*
I said...one day you'll realise how special you are to me... *(Pause)*
Cinders snores.
(Sadly) Goodnight Cinders.

The lights dim. Suddenly there is a FLASH and the Fairy Godmother appears. Lights up again. Cinders and Buttons remain asleep.

FAIRY Hallo children!
ALL Hallo Fairy!
FAIRY Now come on, this is the easy bit. Surely we don't have to rehearse this. I say, 'Hallo children', and you say, 'Hallo Fairy. Got it? Now, let's start again.
Hallo children!
ALL Hallo Fairy!
FAIRY That's better. Now, I bet you thought it was the end of the scene before I came on, didn't you? Far from it. Now I expect you know what the fairy is supposed to do in Cinderella, don't you? Well that's too bad because I'm not going to do tricks with pumpkins and mice; I leave that sort of stuff to Paul Daniels. No, I'm no ordinary fairy - I'm a bit of a rebel really. That's why I was thrown out of Equity. That's a joke! How can Equity stop me popping up out of nowhere in the middle of a play?
I don't know about you but I think this plot needs livening up! A bit of magic always livens plays up and I have just the thing. *(She produces a bottle)* I got this from Oberon last time I played a fairy in Midsummer Night's Dream. Yes, the magic potion. One drop of this and people fall in love with the next person they see! *(She laughs loudly)*
See these two sleeping soundly here. I'll just tap into their dreams and show you how the potion works. Shhh, don't wake them.
Lights dim as she waves her hands in conjuring fashion and crosses to one side. We hear sounds of snoring from Buttons and Little Red Riding Hood enters. The fairy hides.
L R R H Oh my, I am in a pickle. I'm on my way to visit Grandmother who's sick in bed and I seem to have strayed from the path. If only that nice woodcutter were here he would help me. What on earth am I to do.
(She starts to cry. The wolf enters behind her) Perhaps I should just lie down here and go to sleep, I'm sure I will find my way in the morning.
(She turns and sees the wolf)

WOLF Oh my, it's a fox and he doesn't seem too friendly!
 Friendly no, hungry yes. And by the way, I'm a wolf! (*Advancing towards her. She screams*)
 L R R H (*Backing away nervously*) And what sort of things do you like to eat...
 WOLF You know, you've read the book, haven't you?
 L R R H Well, yes, I'm afraid I have.
The fairy emerges and sprinkles some of the potion over the wolf. The wolf falls over, waggles his feet in the air and is then still.
 L R R H Why, Mr Wolf, what on earth is the matter? Is this one of your tricks?
 (*Nervously approaching. Wolf wakes up*)
 WOLF Ah, my darling Little Red Riding Hood, or may I call you Hoody Woody.
 L R R H Why, yes, but what on earth has come over you, Mr Wolf.
 WOLF Oh, do speak some more, my darling, the sound of your voice sends me into highest raptures.
 L R R H Stop it, you soppy old Wolf, you're supposed to be fierce...(*She growls at him*)
 WOLF My darling, don't address me in that tone, it breaks my heart...
 L R R H Oh this is too much. It's ridiculous. Who ever heard of a wolf acting like some love-sick Romeo. I'm not hanging around here...I'm off to find a REAL wolf. (*She exits*)
 WOLF No, Hoody Woody, don't go, please. Wait for me.... Wait for me.
 (*Exits*)
 FAIRY (*Enters*) So far so good, but now for the real test.....a witch.
 Shhhh! I can hear her coming now. (*Conceals herself again*)
 WITCH Come here you wicked little girl or I'll turn you into a toad.
 GRETEL Turn me into a toad if you want, you old witch. I'd still not be as ugly as you.
 (*The witch screams in rage*)
 WITCH How dare you talk to me like that!
 GRETEL Well, what do you expect when you lock my brother up and try to fatten him for your oven. You're just a horrible old crone and I hate you, hate you, hate you! (*Gretel stamps her foot three times as she says this*)
 WITCH Right! Have it your way, but don't say I didn't warn you!
 Hooray Norah Diddle Diddle Dorah...(*Conjuring motions towards Gretel who tries to run away but falls over and freezes with fear*)
 Biddle Boddle Molly Coddle Wham Bam...
 (*The fairy appears behind the witch just in time and sprinkles some potion on the witch*)
 Whim Bam Booly Booly Watcher, Bim Bam Boo, Bim Bam Boo!
 (*This last Boo said as if to a small child in jest*)
 Boo! Boo! Gretel. Come to Granny dear, and I'll read you a story.
 (*Goes to help Gretel to her feet*)

GRETEL You're not my Granny and the only book you've got is that horrid book of spells.

WITCH Come now, dearest Gretel, That's no way to speak to one who shows you kindness. Here let me pick up your things for you.
(As she stoops to pick up the basket Gretel kicks her backside and she sprawls across the stage)

GRETEL There, that's what I think of you, you old RATBAG. I'm going to free my brother. *(Exits)*

WITCH But Gretel, who will look after me, Gretel, Gretel..... *(Runs off)*

FAIRY *(Enters)* Hooray, it works, it works! *(Buttons begins to stir)* Shhh, you noisy old fairy, you'll wake the sleeping beauties. I must go and find Zip and give him this bottle. He'll know what to do with it, I'm sure. Oh, and I must organise a dress for Cinderella so she can go to the ball.
Bye children, see you later.
(Waves her wand and nothing happens. Tries again)
Oh, sorry, I forgot to switch it on. Bye.

FLASH

BLACKOUT

Scene 4, At the Ball

DANCE (Strauss-style waltz)

DUKE *(To his dancing partner)* My Goodness, Madam, you certainly know how to waltz. Oh do look! More guests are arriving.
Enter a crowd of guests who give their invitations to the M.C. who reads:

M.C. My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Lord and Lady Loads-a-Money *(They enter and greet others)*
The Baron Stoneybroke *(pronounced StoneyBROOK)* and the honourable Grizelda and Esmirelda *(Boos)*

LORD L *(Aside)* Well now, this will certainly lower the tone.
EARL My dear Baron, how nice to see you, and how are you?
BARON Very well, thank you, but it's raining cats and dogs outside.
DUKE Really?
BARON Indeed, Esmirelda just stepped in a poodle.
I don't believe you have met my step-daughters Esmirelda and Grizelda.

EARL No I believe not. *(They both step forward, Griz offers her hand to the Duke and steps on his toe)*

DUKE Ouch!
(Esm. does the same to Lucan)

LORD L Aaargh!
EARL I think I can see why they are your **step**-daughters, Baron.
BARON Yes, quite so, Hitchin. Now dears, this is the famous Earl of Hitchin, he fought Napoleon at Waterloo you know.

ESMIRELDA Really, which platform?
LORD L I say seeing your daughters has reminded me of an elephant joke.
(The sisters act affronted)
What did the river say, when the elephant sat on it?

DUKE Go on, you tell us, Lucan.

LORD L Well, I'll be damned! *(Much laughter from nobles)*

DUKE And do you know what time it is when an elephant sits on a fence?
EARL No, what time is it?
DUKE Time to get a new fence. *(More laughter)*

GRIZELDA And which one is the handsome prince? I can't wait to meet him.
LORD L *(Aside)* He can certainly wait to meet you.
ESMIRELDA He ain't here yet, dear. He has to make a grand entrance doesn't he?
GRIZELDA There's a grand entrance here already, we just came through it.
(They cross to L and everyone else goes to R except Lucan)

ESMIRELDA Here, we're in the wrong place, all the people are on that side.

GRIZELDA Well, let's go over that side then. *(As they cross everyone crosses to the other side)*

ESMIRELDA *(sniffs under her armpits)* Here, did you remember your deodorant this morning? Why don't you ask that charming Lord Loads-a-Money for a dance?

GRIZELDA Yea, why not. Oi you, Loads-a-Money, how about a dance?
She does not wait for a reply but roughly pulls him to his feet.

DANCE *Everyone gets knocked out of the way as they dance a Tango. Loads-a-Money is repeatedly trodden on so that, by the end, he cannot walk and is carried off by medics. Enter Buttons*

M.C. Percival Buttons...and

BUTTONS Yo, Guys and Chicks! Don't bother with the introductions man, they all know us, Zip and Buttons. We're the main men tonight, folks.

DUKE Well honestly, what an intrusion! He's got a nerve, coming back here.

EARL You had better get used to Buttons, you'll be seeing a lot more of him soon.

ZIP Where's old Barmy Smarmy, isn't he here yet?

BARON Look boys, I do rather think you had better tone down a little..this is a posh do.

BUTTONS *(Mimicking)* Eoh, we do apologise for our wather loud entwance, but we pwomise to be vewy posh fwom now on. *(Others continue conversations)*

PRINCE *(In disguise as a servant)*Pssst!

BUTTONS Not in the least, I've had nothing to drink yet.

PRINCE No, I mean, psst as in, 'over here it's me'.

BUTTONS Why, do I know you? Well knock me down with a gold crown, if it isn't old Prince Barmy Smarmy. What are you doing dressed like a servant.

PRINCE Shhh! Not so loud. I'm incognito.

ZIP I'm not surprised. So would I be if I tried to get into those trousers.

PRINCE No, you don't understand, I'm trying to be covert.

BUTTONS You want to watch out. You can be arrested for that you know. Besides, this is a family show.

PRINCE I'm trying not to be recognise as the Prince. I want to see the beautiful girls of my kingdom for what they are, not when they are trying to impress a Prince.

BUTTONS Oh well, in that case you should go down to Waitrose on a Friday night. Experience the thrill of jostling for the bargain veg. or the cut-throat elbowing at the checkout.

PRINCE I couldn't possibly go to Waitrose.

ZIP Why on earth not?

PRINCE I'm collecting Tesco's vouchers for schools.

M.C. My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen: The Countess of Beyond
Silence reigns, gasps of amazement at the beauty of the last guest.

BUTTONS Well tickle my nose with a feather, it's Cinders.
PRINCE I beg your pardon!
BUTTONS Oh nothing, I merely said look at the hearth, full of Cinders.
(As Cinderella, enters all part to let her through and several men jostle for the first dance. She ignores them and chooses Buttons)
BUTTONS Cinders, you look gorgeous, like a princess, how on earth did you do it.
CINDERS Oh it was easy, with a little help from a friend, and some magic.
BUTTONS You hardly need any help from me, the Prince will fall in love with you at first sight the way you look tonight, but Zip has a plan. Something to do with an ancient potion for making princes fall in love with ladies.
CINDERS Buttons, that won't really be necessary, you know
BUTTONS Trust us, Cinders, we know what we are doing. Shhh, quiet now, someone's coming.
PRINCE My dear Countess, do please allow me the pleasure of the next dance.
CINDERS Why, of course, but I don't believe we've been introduced yet.
PRINCE I'm sorry, how rude of me, I'm Humboldt, master of the prince's stables. And delighted to make your acquaintance, Countess.
CINDERS Oh I do so love horses. Tell me, Humboldt, do you use thoroughbred Arabians to Sire your Mares or do you favour cross-bred European stock.
PRINCE I b...bbb...bbbb...bbb..bbb. *(Buttons gestures to him with nods and shakes of the head etc.. which the prince copies)*
CINDERS Why, what on earth is the matter, Humboldt? Oh. of course, how silly of me, you don't want to talk shop when you're off duty.
PRINCE Yes, yes that's it, I never talk shop!
(The focus moves to one side to Buttons and Zip)
ZIP Everything's going well, Buttons, but we have to make certain the Prince falls for Cinderella.
BUTTONS I'm not so sure, Zip, I think this potion idea is a little crazy. I mean, whoever drinks this potion falls in love with the next person they see.
ZIP That's right, that's what the fairy said, but it's too late now, Buttons.
BUTTONS What do you mean 'what the fairy said' and why is it too late?
ZIP I slipped the waiter a ten pound note and he let me put the potion in. Look there he is now.
(Enter waiter with drinks)
BUTTONS But, how do you know which glass has the potion in.
ZIP That's easy, I put some in every glass.
BUTTONS Aaargh. Quick, we have to stop him before it's too late!
(The waiter is about to serve the prince, Cinderella, Earl, Duke and Lucan)
Ah drinks, Zip how nice. Here, have a few.
LORD L What on earth?
ZIP Sorry gentlemen, but we're very thirsty.

BUTTONS Phew, just in time.
 ZIP Buttons, there's one glass left. Quick!
(Buttons is just about to take the glass when Grizelda pushes through the crowd)

GRIZELDA Oh how lucky, just one glass of punch left. *(She takes a long drink)*
(Buttons and Zip dive out of the way to avoid being the first ones she sees. Instead, the prince appears)

PRINCE Allow me to relieve you of your glass, Madam.
 GRIZELDA *(Swooning)* My darling, my loved one, the light of my life, how kind of you to offer. Please don't leave me. I cannot bear to be without you for a second.

EARL Madam, do you know whom you are addressing. This is none other than the Crown Prince Smarmy, heir to the kingdom and keeper of the royal purse.

CINDERS Your majesty! *(Curtseys)* I never even guessed!
 ZIP Jeepers!

BUTTONS Hell's Bells, now look what you've done. It's all gone wrong.
 GRIZELDA I don't care who he is toad-face, he's mine now, see.
 DUKE *(Taking her by the arm to lead her off)* Just come with me, madam, and we'll talk about this somewhere quiet.

LORD L And dark and secure.
 ESMIRELDA Get your hands off my sister, Lord High and Mighty. *(Hits out with her handbag and Grizelda joins in)*
 MAYHEM

BUTTONS Quick, let's zip out while we have the chance. *(Buttons and Zip exit)*
 More mayhem. *The clock strikes twelve.*

CINDERS Oh no, the clock. I have to go. Goodnight, sweet Prince.
 PRINCE No, wait! Countess, please don't go. *(He starts to follow her)*
 GRIZELDA *(To the Prince)* Oi, where are you off to Prince Sweetie-pie. You don't go anywhere without me.

PRINCE Countess! *(Following Cinders)*
 GRIZELDA Smarmy! *(Following the prince)*
 ESMIRELDA Grizelda! *(Following)*
 NOBLES Your Highness! *(Following)*
 BARON Girls! *(Following. MUSIC for the chase)*
(Each follows in the chase. Exits are F.O.H.. Eventually the stage is empty save the M.C., who notices one glass slipper)

M.C. Aha, a clue which may lead us to the whereabouts and the identity of the mysterious Countess of Beyond. She surely is a subject of this realm. I must go and tell the prince.

Scene 5, The Parlour at Stoneybroke Castle

(Grizelda is handcuffed hand and foot)

GRIZELDA Here, Esmirelda, help me get out of these things, won't you?

ESMIRELDA Now Grizelda, you know I can't do that.

GRIZELDA Why not?

ESMIRELDA The prince only let you out of jail on the condition that we kept you locked up until the potion wore off, **if** it ever wears off!

GRIZELDA Potion? What nonsense you speak Esmirelda, don't you recognise true love when you see it. The prince is certainly in love with me too. He just isn't ready to go public yet.

ESMIRELDA *(Aside)* And with Grizelda out of the way, it means that I will stand a better chance of marrying the prince.

Enter Cinderella

Here you, Cinderella, why aren't you scrubbing the floor like I told you?

CINDERS Why should I do what you tell me? I'm the Baron's daughter and you two are only stepdaughters. **I'm** the heir to his title and property, and when I inherit....

(Esmirelda slaps her and knocks her to the ground, she sobs)

ESMIRELDA If you don't keep quiet you won't even live that long.

CINDERS Oh, I'm so homesick!

GRIZELDA How can you be? You are at home.

CINDERS Yes, and I'm sick of home! *(She starts scrubbing the floor)*

Why, the jokes are so bad in this pantomime that even the seats are in tiers! *(Pause)*

There are always queues at this theatre....of people trying to get out!

Enter Baron

BARON Ah there you are my lovely daughters...

CINDERS Stepdaughters!

BARON Are we ready for a royal visit.

GRIZELDA You mean....you mean he's coming here.

BARON That's right dear..... *(She faints)* Oh dear, I believe she's fainted.

Well that's too bad because she'll miss the fitting.

CINDERS What do you mean the fitting?

ESMIRELDA Hold your tongue wench!

BARON The prince is searching high and low for the beautiful Countess who was at the ball last night. It appears she left a glass slipper in her hurry to leave and the prince is asking all young ladies in the kingdom to try on the slipper.

ESMIRELDA Hellfire and damnation, foiled at the eleventh hour!

BARON I beg your pardon Ezzie?

ESMIRELDA Oh, nothing, Father, I just said, I hope he finds her within the hour!

BARON But hark! I believe I can hear the royal carriage now. I must go to greet the prince. *(He exits)*

ESMIRELDA *(She struts up and down the stage)*
(Aside) Methinks I have found a loose thread in this tangled web of a plot. All is not yet lost. *(Pause)*
 Cindy, my dearest sister!

CINDERS *(Aside)* What does that old bag want now?

ESMIRELDA Cindy, do be a dear and fetch me another darning needle from the cupboard there.

CINDERS Why should I.

ESMIRELDA Just for your little Ezzie-Wezzie.....please.
(Cinders crosses to the cuboard making a face as she crosses behind Esmirelda and as soon as her back is turned Esmirelda gags her with a kneckscarf and locks her in)
Enter Buttons. Esmirelda stands with her back to the cupboard, looking suspicious.

BUTTONS Cinders, where are you my love? Oh, it's you. Where is Cinderella, have you seen her?

ESMIRELDA No I ain't, and if I did, I'd wring her pretty little kneck.

BUTTONS My, you are jealous of her aren't you. *(Notices Grizelda)*
 Oh, I thought it was quiet. Is she dead?

ESMIRELDA Of course not, just love-sick!

BUTTONS Oh, shame! But I must find Cinders. The prince is entering the castle even as we speak.

ESMIRELDA Then I must hurry before all is lost! *(Exit Esmirelda, R)*
Enter Prince and entourage, L

BARON And there are three more ladies in here who have yet to try on the slipper. Oh, Buttons where are Cinderella and Esmirelda?

BUTTONS Esmirelda just nipped out to catch a cold. As for Cinders; in vain have I searched high and low for her.

BARON Never mind. Try this one first. *(Grizelda is just waking up)*

PRINCE My dear, allow me to slip this glass shoe onto your foot.

GRIZELDA The light of my life....My dearest Prince.... *(She faints again)*
(Hitchin tries the shoe on her but her foot is too big)

PRINCE Well, there it is gentlemen. On to the next castle.

BARON Your Highness, I beg of you, take a drink with us while we try to find the other two girls.

BUTTONS Yes, Sire, please oblige the Baron. *(Aside)* We still have some of the potion left.

EARL It will do no harm, my liege, we have been on the road all day.

PRINCE Very well, but make it snappy. *(Buttons gets the tray and juggles the glasses to his advantage. He is seen taking the potion from his pocket and pouring it into one of the glasses)*
(Enter Esmirelda with a large glass slipper behind her back, similar to the one the Earl is holding only much larger)

BARON Ah, my darling, there you are. Do hurry along and try on this slipper; the prince is waiting.

ESMIRELDA *(Curtseys grotesquely)*
 Certainly Daddy. *(She sits and the slipper is handed to her. A loud knocking sound comes from the cupboard)*

EARL
 My goodness, what was that.
(While the others are distracted, Esmirelda switches the slippers)

ESMIRELDA Nothing at all, just the woodworm.

PRINCE My goodness the slipper fits, then you are the one! You certainly don't look quite the same without your ball gown or make-up.

BUTTONS You want to see her when she gets out of bed in the morning. Yuk!
(Makes a horrible face)

EARL
 Gentlemen, a toast is called for; the prince has found his bride.
 Buttons, the tray. *(Buttons fetches the tray but is clearly trying to remember which one contains the potion. He offers several to the prince, each time changing his mind)*

BUTTONS Yours, I believe, Sire. No, I think this is yours...or perhaps this...

BARON Buttons, you fool just serve the drinks. *(He takes them and passes them out. One drink is left on the tray)*

EARL To the Prince and his new bride.

ALL The prince and his new bride. *(They all slap Esmirelda on the back)*

PRINCE *(He belches loudly)* Oh pardon me.

BUTTONS I guess that's what's known as the royal pardon.

PRINCE And now, Baron call me a coach, if you please.

BARON Certainly Sire, YOU'RE A COACH!

EARL Don't be an idiot, just call him a coach quickly, you fool.

BARON *(Quickly)* You're a coach!

PRINCE Gentlemen, we bid you adieu. *(They exit, including Esmirelda)*

BUTTONS So long, Smarmy, you old fruitcake.

GRIZELDA *(Waking up again)* Esmirelda!

BUTTONS Too late, you old bat, she's gone off to marry the prince.

GRIZELDA Ooooooh! *(She faints again)*

BUTTONS I can't understand why Cinders wasn't here for the shoe fitting!
(Knocking from the cupboard. He goes to take the last glass)
 What on earth is that noise? *(He puts down the glass)*
 Did you hear it boys and girls? *(He goes to look at Grizelda)*
 No, it's not her. *(Crosses to the cupboard and opens it, Cinderella falls out)*
 Cinderella, my love, what wicked creature locked you in there?
 No, don't tell me, I can guess. *(Looks at Grizelda)*
 Quick come and sit here. I'll get you a glass of water. *(Looking at the last glass on the tray)* No, better still..... *(He puts the glass to her lips and she takes a long swig. She burps)*
 Hear that boys and girls, I always knew girls burped louder than boys, didn't you?

CINDERS Buttons, the light of my life. How long that time in the cupboard seemed without you.

BUTTONS Steady now girl, you can't have been in there all that long.
CINDERS Buttons, please don't leave me, I can't bear to be without you for one second.

BUTTONS *(Aside)* That's odd, she sounds like Grizelda at the ball. I suppose the drink must have gone to her head. Wait a minute....the drink. I wonder? *(Picks up the glass and smells it)*
Oh no!....Oh yes!!!!Whoopee...she loves me.
(Meanwhile, Cinders has spotted the present and picked it up)

ALL BUTTONS!
BUTTONS Yes, what? Oh, the present. Well actually, Cinders, it's for you.
CINDERS Oh Buttons, how thoughtful of you. Can I open it now?
BUTTONS Why sure you can, but then you must answer one question.
CINDERS Certainly, Buttons.
BUTTONS Well go on then... open it first.
CINDERS Oh, Buttons it's a special Debenhams Newlywed pack. But why have you bought me this. I do believe you're trying to tell me something.

BUTTONS Well you see, the thing is Cinders that I am not a great one with words and I can't always say what I mean, but I know what I feel.

CINDERS *(Aside)* How strange, wasn't that what the rabbits said back in the forest; that some folks mean it but don't always say it. 'You'll know him when you see him.'

BUTTONS *(Kneeling)* Will you marry me.
CINDERS Oh, Buttons, of course I will. As soon as possible.
BUTTONS Well that's settled, then. Let's make it a double wedding, tomorrow, when old Smarmy marries Esmirelda.

CINDERS *(Unpacking things from the box)*
One bottle of Champagne, a single red rose; oh, Buttons, it's so romantic. Two tickets to see Manchester United at Old Trafford, Buttons you slipped these in didn't you.
(He doesn't answer but looks around, whistling)
A 'do not disturb' sign and a pair of ear-muffs. Buttons, I don't understand the ear muffs.

BUTTONS You will dearest, you will. *(Grizelda wakes up)*
CINDERS Buttons I do love you so. *(Grizelda faints again)*
BUTTONS Yes, Cinderella but in **THAT** way???
CINDERS Yes, Buttons, in **THAT** way!!!

They go to embrace and kiss but there is a blackout first.

Scene 6, At the Palace

DANCE: Irish Style

The Prince and Esmirelda stand on one side and Buttons and Cinderella on the other; all dressed in wedding finery, the ladies with veils.

EARL And now, my dear friends, we have witnessed the joining together of these two couples in matrimony and we have due cause for celebration.

ALL Hurray!

EARL I would, therefore, like to call upon your host, His Royal Highness Prince Smarmy, to make a toast.

ZIP *(Aside)* Last time he made the toast he burnt it!

PRINCE My Lades Lordies and Mentlegen...I mean...gadies and mentlemen..

BUTTONS Sounds like he's had a few too many already.

PRINCE I'm delighted that you were all able to come to my funeral today to celebrate ...with me...*(The Duke has a word in his ear)*

Sorry, I meant to say wedding, my wedding to this dear young lady who is now a princess...*(He gestures towards Cinderella by*

mistake)

DUKE No, my Liege, this one is your princess.

PRINCE What, the ugly one?

DUKE Yes, my Liege.

PRINCE Oh well, beggars can't be choosers.

EARL Just get on with the toast, Sire!

PRINCE A toast...to the princess!

ALL The princess!

BARON And I would like to propose a toast to my lovely daughter Cinderella and her new husband, Buttons.

Enter Maledictus.

MALED Hold the proceedings, you fools. This man cannot lawfully be wed in this kingdom ...for he is A TRAITOR to the crown.

ALL No! This can't be true....(etc.)

MALED He was heard to insult the royal person and his brother Prince Pansy.

DUKE What of it? The Prince and Buttons are old school chums. They were in the same class at *(name of school)*.

MALED But, but why was I not informed I...I...I

PRINCE *(Shouting)* Maledictus, you are the traitor.

MALED No, no, my Lord, not I...surely you don't think.

PRINCE You have been spreading malotious gissip about me and Pansy.

LORD L Malicious gossip, my Lord.

PRINCE Whatever! You shall be taken to the (*shouts*) DEEPEST, DARKEST, SMELLIEST DUNGEON IN THE PALACE. (*Maledictus winces at each word*) and there you shall wot.

MALED B....bbbbbbb, but, but, but....

LORD L Wot, my Lord?

PRINCE Yes, Wot!

DUKE Well? What?

BARON I believe he means rot!

PRINCE Indeed, I said wot, didn't I!

MALED No, no, you can't do this to me.

EARL Take him away. (*He is led off by the Duke and Lucan*)

MALED Curses on you all...I will yet have revenge on you.
All the cast thumb their noses and blow raspberries at him. He cringes and covers his head with his arms as he is led away.
Noises off of Pansy calling the prince.

PANSY Smarmy. Oh Smarmy, where are you?

BUTTONS Oh no it's that Pansy, back from Pennsylvania.
Pansy runs onto the stage, falling head over heels. He gets up slowly, gradually raising his head as he realises he is interrupting a celebration.

PANSY Oh dear, I'm most dreadfully sorry, I seem to be interrupting something.

BUTTONS Again!

BARON You're back early Pansy, we didn't expect you for another year!

PANSY I know but you see, it was too hot in Pennsylvania and I got sunstroke.

PRINCE Well never mind, you can join in my wedding celebrations now you're here.

PANSY Wedding...goodness gracious. (*He turns to look around and knocks over a waiter with a tray of drinks*)

EARL And now, I believe the prince has an important announcement to make.

PRINCE Have I? Oh yes. I am pleased to say that I have approved the Earl's plans for a fairer legal system and I have abolished the death penalty!

ALL Hurray!

PRINCE The system will be administered by a new Chancellor and I am pleased to be able to tell you that I have given the job to Buttons!

ALL Hurray!

EARL However, there is one difficulty as the new job cannot be done by a commoner.

ALL Ohhh!

PRINCE Buttons, step forward and kneel.
(The Earl gives the prince his sword.)
Arise, **Lord Percy** of Buttons.

ALL Hurray for Lord Percy.

BARON And so, finally, I believe the toast should be: to Lord and Lady
Buttons.

(Cinders and Buttons step forward)

ALL To Lord and Lady Buttons.

Hurray, hurray, hurray!

(The guests throw confetti over Cinderella and Buttons)

SONG 8

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