

Coppelia

A Musical Play in One Act

By David Barrett

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The musical score of this show and a CD of backing tracks and dance music is available on the website.

Dramatis Personae

Dr Coppelius

2 Dwarves:

Grabbit

Grumble

4 Villagers:

Horst

Brunhilda

Mechtild

Jurgen

Girls:

Swanilda

Gretchen

Mitzi

Heidi

Helga

Stanzi

Frau Doppler (Franz's mother)

Coppelia (the doll)

Boys:

Franz

Hans

Fritz

Carl

Peter

Herr Blumenstrauss, The Mayor

Prologue

The tour guide is leading the way up the mountain path. The mother is not carrying anything. All the luggage is being carried by Dad and the children.

- TOUR GUIDE Just a little further now Madam, and we'll be at the hotel.
- BOY Mummy, why do we have to walk.
- MOTHER Stop asking silly questions. They don't have buses where we're going. It's an undeveloped area of the alps. You know that.
- FATHER I hope there's an English pub at least! One that serves Guinness.
- TOUR GUIDE Afraid not, Sir. But Oberhausen is the pride of the alps, every traveller's dream, you couldn't wish.....
- MOTHER Oh, alright! Cut the sales talk. Oh hurry up you three- you do lag behind so. We haven't got all day, you know.
- GIRL Why is this path so steep, Daddy?
- BOY Because it goes up the mountain, you idiot.
- FATHER I'm starving. I do hope they've got a fish and chip shop.
- TOUR GUIDE Afraid not, Sir.
- GIRL Mum did you pack my playstation 2?
- MOTHER Of course I didn't you daft child. This is an adventure holiday in a ski resort- not in an amusement arcade.
- GIRL Well, I hope you remembered to pack our skis then.
- MOTHER But, surely we can hire them, can't we?
- TOUR GUIDE There wouldn't be much point, Madam. It's summer and there's no snow on the mountain.
- GIRL This gets worse by the minute!
- FATHER I don't mind that as long as they've got Sky Digital in every room.
- TOUR GUIDE Not in any room at all, I'm afraid, Sir. But you'll love Oberhausen. You see – it's a medieval village and it's sort of caught in a time warp. They know nothing of the twenty-first century there. You'll see.
- MOTHER I'm not so sure that Oberhausen is our kind of town after all.
Hurry up you three. Stop lagging behind ...

Scene 1 The Village Square, Evening (and view through Dr Coppelius's Window)

MUSIC *The villagers are going about their business and some are standing around, talking. It is growing dark and a light is showing in the window of Dr Coppelius's house. Music plays softly.*

Curious *villagers stop their chat and look into the doctor's house with a mixture of curiosity and fear.*

JURGEN Come and look, Brunhilda, it's that strange man, Dr Coppelius, and his two dwarf servants.

BRUNHILDA Don't look, Jurgen, they will cast a spell on you!

JURGEN Surely you don't believe those rumours, Brunhilda. He's just a harmless old man, even if he is a little eccentric.

HORST Eccentric! Have you seen him there night after night mixing potions? Many believe him to be practising some sort of sorcery.

MECHTILD You don't mean witchcraft?

HORST Exactly! And that infernal banging noise; all day and half the night! It never stops.

Sounds of banging from the doctor's workshop.

Lights on stage dim and light from the doctor's window brightens. We see the doctor and the two dwarves mixing chemicals.

DOCTOR Grabbit! Do hurry up with that sodium! I'm nearly ready to do the final mix.

No response from Grabbit.

(Shouting) Grabbit!

Grabbit is startled.

GRABBIT I'll get the sodium, shall I, master?

GRUMBLE Just do as the doctor says, Grabbit, you fool! The sooner this is finished, the sooner we can get home to bed.

DOCTOR You lazy creature, Grumble. You will do anything to avoid work. You should consider it a privilege to assist me in my work.

GRUMBLE Bah, privilege - my big toe!

DOCTOR What was that, Grumble? What did you say?

GRUMBLE Oh it's nothing, doctor. I merely agreed that it is a privilege. *(Scowls at audience. The lights on stage are brought up slightly for the song [preferably blue].)*

SONG 1 Hocus Pocus Fiddlesticks

After the song the villagers drift off while the music finishes and the lights dim. Move swiftly into scene 2

Scene 2

The Village Square, Next Morning

The square at Oberhausen is very busy with the hustle and bustle of shoppers at the market. Many street-sellers are offering their wares. A mischievous group of small children are stealing fruit.

SONG 2 Oberhausen, You're My Kind of Town

Enter Swanilda carrying her wedding dress.

MITZI Oh Swanilda, you have the dress! It's so beautiful.

SWANILDA Why, thank you, Mitzi. Mother made it herself to my pattern; it took her three weeks.

HEIDI Swanilda, you are so lucky to be marrying Franz. He is so dashing and handsome. Do you think the rest of us will ever be married?

HELGA You could be married tomorrow if you accepted Horst's hand. You know he's been mad about you since you were eleven years old.

Horst is pushed forward.

HEIDI But I don't want to marry Horst, he is just a peasant! I want to marry a rich nobleman with a title.

STANZI Horst has a title, doesn't he?

SWANILDA Yes, but I don't think 'blacksmiths apprentice' is the sort of title Heidi has in mind!

Girls and villagers all giggle at this. Horst looks hurt.

Enter Frau Doppler.

STANZI Look out girls, here comes that old bat, Frau Doppler, Franz's mother.

FRAU Oh, there you are Swanilda! I've been looking all over the town for you, mein Liebchen.

HELGA *(Aside)* And if Swanilda's got any sense she's been hiding from **you**.

SWANILDA *(In a sugary voice reserved for future mother-in-laws)*

Hello, Frau Doppler. How **nice** to see you!

FRAU I've sorted all the arrangements for the wedding - and I've got your dress with me. Franz will just love you in this dress.

She holds up a most revolting dress which is clearly far too big. All the villagers begin to crowd around. Gretchen snatches the dress and holds it up in front of Swanilda. All laugh.

SWANILDA Why, that's very kind of you, Frau Doppler.

FRAU Call me MUMMY, darling.

SWANILDA But you see, Frau ...er Mummy, all the wedding arrangements have been made already and mother has made me this most beautiful dress.
Shows dress

FRAU Oh. I see. So .. you don't like the dress I've made.
Swanilda takes the dress from Gretchen.

SWANILDA Well no, it's beautiful; but it's a little too large.

MECHTILD It will make a lovely bedspread, Frau Doppler!
Frau looks angry and grabs Mechtild as if to hit her.

GRETCHEN *(Taking Swanilda to one side)* Look Swanilda, you must not let yourself be bullied by this woman. Stand up to her and tell her what you think.

SWANILDA Oh, alright Gretchen. If you say so.
(To Frau) I don't really think the dress is for me. *(Frau looks indignant)* But you would look gorgeous in it yourself on my wedding day. Wouldn't she, Gretchen?

GRETCHEN *(Trying not to laugh)* Why yes, Swanilda, she would look as pretty as a picture. *(Sniggers from the crowd)*
Frau takes the dress and holds it up in front of herself, looking pleased.

FRAU Why, Swanilda, that's very kind of you to say so.

Suddenly there are gasps of surprise from the crowd as the doors of the doctor's balcony open and he brings the most beautiful girl out. She sits on a chair and reads a book.

BRUNHILDA My goodness, what a beautiful girl! Who on earth is she?

JURGEN She's gorgeous! Surely she can't be the doctor's daughter.

HORST Or perhaps his wife?

MECHTILD Such a lovely girl as that would never marry a grumpy old man like the doctor.

HEIDI I'll tell you one thing. If she's living in this village, she'll be number one on the list for a rich and noble husband.

HELGA And where does that leave us?

HORST Girls, you must not be jealous of her beauty. We should make friends with her and find out who she is. I say, young lady! Won't you come down and meet the girls from the village. They would like to be friends with you.

Everyone watches for a reaction. Coppelia sits absolutely still.

GRETCHEN Well, I must say, Horst, you have a real way with the ladies!
(All laugh)

MITZI Look, Swanilda, here comes your gorgeous Franz with his friends.
All look. Enter Franz and the boys in high spirits.

FRANZ Good day to you ladies. Good day, mother. Ah, my beautiful bride.
What brings you here?

SWANILDA Oh, I just came to show the girls my wedding dress.

GRETCHEN *(Trying to change the subject. Coughs - ahem!)*
Now Franz, have you met the new girl in the village yet? She is staying
with Dr Coppelius. See her on the balcony there!
*Franz and the other boys turn to look and Franz is astonished by
Coppelia. Everyone freezes apart from Franz. There is a lighting
change to highlight just Franz and the balcony. Coppelia is
immobile.*

Soft music plays.

FRANZ My goodness. Such beauty, such grace, such charm, such...such...
I am lost for words to describe such a beautiful creature. In her
presence, time stands still. I am only conscious of **her**, to the exclusion
of all others.
My princess, do me the honour of acknowledging my presence. Grant
me just one smile.

Coppelia gives a stiff wave of one hand.

If all the world could be captured in a gesture, this must surely be it.
But I don't even know your name - whisper it to me. *Silence!*

(FRANZ) You're a friend of Dr Coppelius - so I shall call you - Coppelia.
Come to me, Coppelia. I must meet you face to face.....or perhaps I
will come to you - tonight when all is quiet. Wait for me Coppelia.
Wait for me....

*The lighting changes back to normal. Everyone unfreezes and, for a
while, Franz is very still, staring at Coppelia and muttering to
himself.*

The music stops.

SWANILDA *(Very loudly)* FRANZ! FRANZ! Why do you stare so? Is it the girl?

FRANZ *(Without taking his eyes off Coppelia)*
Oh Swanilda, have you ever seen such beauty? How can any man not
stare at her. She is the prettiest girl in the whole world.

HANS Steady on old boy! What about Swanilda?

SWANILDA Yes, what about me? Have you forgotten we are engaged to be married? Are you going to run off with the first pretty girl you see?

FRITZ *(Shaking Franz by the shoulders)*
Come on, Franz, snap out of it.

SWANILDA Well Franz? You haven't answered my question? FRANZ?
No reaction!
Well, I'm not staying here to be insulted like this. How could you do this to me? *(starts sobbing and is about to exit when)*
Enter the Mayor.

MAYOR Good day to you citizens of Oberhausen, and well met.

MECHTILD *(Aside)* Did he say **good** day?

MAYOR Do not be down-hearted. *(Swanilda sobs again)* Remember, life is like a game of chess! Plan your moves carefully and the game will be yours. Now, your jolly Mayor is here with a proposition of personal financial gain which will be of profit to several beneficiaries - should they decide to make a long-term personal investment.

KARL Has he been reading the Financial Times again?

PETER Perhaps he has bought us all a lottery ticket!

MAYOR To pre-empt any speculation I shall clarify the situation. I, Herr Blumenstrauss, your generous Mayor, have decided that I will mark the occasion of the presentation of a new bell for the church, in three days' time, by an extra-ordinary donation.

FRAU Speak plainly, Mayor. We can't understand your jargon.

MAYOR As you wish, Frau Daimler.

FRAU Doppler, you idiot.

MAYOR In short, our new church bell has been cast and will be delivered in three days. To mark that auspicious occasion, I will present one bag of gold to every couple who, on that day, do become married.
He looks around seeking approval. Some of the boys and girls applaud. Swanilda wails loudly and exits dramatically, slapping Franz in the face and pushing others out of her way.

FRANZ Swanilda, wait...please wait. I can explain everything. *(Exits after her)*

FRAU Franz, come back here, you ungrateful brat. I'll do more than slap your face when I get hold of you! *(Exits after him)*

MAYOR Well, there we are then! What a happy village we are.... *Blackout*

Scene 3 The Doppler House, Soon Afterwards

- FRAU *(Pacing up and down the room)* Just wait until that boy gets home; I shall have something to say to him.
- HERR D So shall I. I shall say, ‘Guten Tag, Franz!’
- FRAU *(Aside)* I think I can see where the boy gets his lack of intellect from.
- HERR D Why, thank you dear. You don’t often give me compliments, these days.
- FRAU That was not a compliment, you fool... Oh, never mind that now. Why can’t I just have a **normal** male in my house?
- HERR D Because it’s Sunday, dear. There’s no post today.
- FRAU If you can’t say something sensible, just say nothing.
- HERR D *Scratches his head and thinks deeply.*
But if I say nothing, I’ll be speaking and then I won’t be saying nothing.
- FRAU Just SHUT UP! You’re just like your father. He was a useless lump! He spent eighty percent of every day horizontal with a bier stein in each hand.
- HERR D How dare you insult my father. He spent the best years of his life ensuring that the streets were safe for people like you and me.
- FRAU Oh really? I never knew your father was a policeman.
- HERR D He wasn’t – he was a roadsweeper!
Frau Doppler swipes at him with her rolling pin.
- FRAU I just don’t know what the problem is with young people these days. They are never satisfied with what they’ve got; they always want more: the latest digital cuckoo clock, Nike skis, whatever next.
- HERR D Well, just be thankful that mobile phones haven’t been invented yet!
She ignores his comment.
- FRAU I reckon that eighty percent of young people are not satisfied unless they have the latest **designer** gear.
- HERR D The problem with statistics is that ninety-five percent of people don’t believe them!
- FRAU The next thing will be ‘Mum, can we go to Florida for our holiday next year. All my friends are. I’d love to go to Disneyland!’
Enter Franz
- FRANZ Hi Mum, Dad! I thought I’d take Swanilda to Florida for our honeymoon, she’d love to go to Disneyland. Will you lend us the money?

FRAU Look sunshine, you'd better get real or there will be no honeymoon.

FRANZ What on earth do you mean, mother, Swanilda is in love with me.

FRAU WAS in love with you, you mean. That was before you started mooning over the new girl in the village. *She goes to hit Franz.*

HERR D You can get arrested for mooning in public, you know.

FRAU Shut up, Adolf! I meant staring! Anyway, I thought I told you to be quiet, didn't I?

HERR D Well, not exactly, dear. You told me to say nothing. Now I think that's impossible because if you ...
Frau Doppler silences him with a blow to the head.

FRAU Now, where was I? Oh yes. *(She hits Franz over the head)*

FRANZ Ow! What was that for, mother?

FRAU That was for the bag of gold that you won't get if you don't marry Swanilda in three days time.

FRANZ But mother, it's too soon - I need time to think. What about Coppelia?
She hits him again.

FRAU That's what I think of Coppelia. You just listen to me boy. You **will** marry Swanilda or you will never set foot in this house again. Do you hear?

FRANZ But, but, but, but....

FRAU Stop that...you sound like a chicken.
Life is not a game, Franz. It is deadly serious. And to live you need money. Now as you don't have a job, you have to get money another way. And this is it: you get married in three days. Just as the mayor says, life is like a game of chess...and you either win...**or you lose!**
She hits Franz again and he falls to the floor, dazed.
Come on, Adolf! We're leaving. *She stares at him.*
Herr D is too slow to react as he is still working out how to say nothing. She loses her temper with him, pulls him violently out of his chair, raining blows to his head as she pushes him off-stage.

FRANZ *(Dazed)* A game of chess, she said. Life is like a game of chess!
He falls back, in a dream.

SONG 3 The Game of Life

Blackout

Scene 4 The Village Square, The Same Evening

It is becoming dark but the village square is full of villagers dancing. Franz and the boys are all present but there is no sign of Swanilda or the four girls.

SONG 4 &

DANCE Oberhausen's Pride

JURGEN My goodness, what an energetic dance!

BRUNHILDA You can't beat a good old slapping Bavarian dance for raising the spirits and getting the blood flowing in your veins.

FRANZ Hey, has anyone seen Swanilda? I simply can't find her and I've searched high and low for her.

PETER She's not been seen since this morning when she stomped off like that.

KARL She and those friends of hers are hiding away somewhere, no doubt.

FRITZ Hey, look everyone! Here comes that strange Dr Coppelius and those two creatures of his.

All turn to look as the doctor comes out of his house with the dwarves and locks the front door with a large key. He scowls at the villagers. Looking at Grabbit who is scowling at everyone.

Hey, Doctor! Whats wrong with your elf?

DOCTOR Nothing! I feel very fit. Why?

KARL I think he means your **elf** not your **health**!

GRABBIT What are you all staring at? And I'm not an elf. Have you never seen a dwarf before?

The boys crowd around Coppelius, Grabbit and Grumble.

HANS *(Mocking)* We wondered whether you would like to join in our dancing. You look as if you need cheering up.

DOCTOR Dancing is for simple folks of limited intellect. We occupy ourselves with the pursuit of higher intellectual stimulation.

GRUMBLE That's right! Dancing is for folks with limited...limited...what the doctor just said. *(All laugh at this)*

DOCTOR Come on, my faithful servants; we must be about our business. *They attempt to exit but the boys block their way.*

KARL Won't you have just one dance? It's a lot of fun.

PETER Yes come on - do join in.

DANCE *Peter, Karl and Hans each grab one of them and attempt a furious*

Bavarian dance, during which Dr Coppelius drops his key, unnoticed on the floor. There is much laughter at this from the crowd.

- Eventually *the three break away and hurry off in disgust.*
- DOCTOR Don't think you've heard the last of me, you horrible boys. I'll get even with you - you'll see! *(They exit)*
- FRITZ You fools, you don't know what you're dealing with. Are you not afraid of his witchcraft and sorcery?
- HORST Besides, you had an unfair advantage. There were three of you and only two of them.
- PETER What do you mean two? There were three.
- HORST *(Slowly and deliberately)* One..... and two halves... makes two. *(All laugh at this, then mime conversation)*
- FRANZ *(Secretly, so that the others don't hear)* Here Fritz, I need your help.
- FRITZ Certainly, Franz. Why, what is it?
- FRANZ I have to get a ladder to climb up to that balcony while the doctor is away. I must speak with Coppelia.
- FRITZ But Franz, I don't think you should. What about Swanilda?
- FRANZ She'll understand, Fritz. I know she will. *(Begins to exit)*. Come on, Fritz! Will you help me or not?
- FRITZ Oh, I suppose so, but I don't like it, Franz. *(They exit)*
Enter Swanilda and the others, deep in conversation..
- HEIDI But you can't just turn your back on him. All he did was to stare at the girl.
- SWANILDA Yes, but did you see the way he looked at her? As if he were in love with her.
- STANZI You have to give him another chance. You simply must.
- MITZI Just think of the bag of gold you'll be missing - and all because of your **pride!**
- SWANILDA Oh, alright then. *(Calls)* Franz! Franz! Where is he? he's not with the other boys.
- JURGEN He was here just now. He must have crept off.
- GRETCHEN *Spotting the key on the ground and picking it up.*
Hey, look at this key; it's enormous!
- HORST I've seen that key before; it opens Doctor Coppelius's front door. He must have dropped it when the boys were dancing with him.
(He tries to take it from Gretchen)
- MITZI The boys were what?
- HORST Oh never mind, just give me the key.

GRETCHEN No, you shan't have it! I found it - I shall keep it!
The girls pass the key from one to the other to prevent Horst from grabbing it.

HELGA Why don't we just go into the doctor's house and look around? That would be fun.

SWANILDA Perhaps the girl will be there. We could talk to her and find out who she is.

HORST Oh very well, but you must be quick. He may return soon. And bring the key straight back and I shall return it to him.
The girls go off giggling and muttering excitedly to try the key in the lock.

SWANILDA It works! The door is unlocked.

HELGA Well what are we waiting for? Let's go inside.
SFX of door creaking open.
Atmospheric music.

BLACKOUT

Scene 5 Dr Coppelius's Workshop, Immediately Afterwards

The lighting is dim and midnight blue. The girls enter cautiously, fearful of what they may find in the workshop.

- SWANILDA Wow! The whole place is full of toys - absolutely full of toys.
- HEIDI *(Picking up a small doll)* Look! This one's clockwork.
- MITZI So's this one.
- STANZI And this; they're all clockwork.
- HELGA Well, who would have thought it! The old man is a toymaker!
This is fantastic!
- SWANILDA But some of these toys are so life-like, you would have thought they were real people.
- HELGA What I don't understand is how such a miserable old man could make such beautiful things.
- MITZI And why keep them under lock and key. You'd think he would want to share such a talent with the world.
- STANZI Just think how delighted the children of Oberhausen would be to receive such gifts at Christmas-time.
- GRETCHEN I think we should go now. We've seen enough and we shouldn't even be trespassing here in the first place. Suppose Dr Coppelius were to return and discover us.
- HEIDI Gretchen is right girls. Why, the man is so strange, he might even put a curse or a spell on us!
- SWANILDA You foolish girls! Do you really still think the old man is a wizard. Why, he's just a harmless old toy maker. Besides, we can't leave, we haven't found the girl yet.
- HEIDI Who knows, perhaps she's being kept prisoner here by the doctor!
- HELGA Let's just wind up some of the toys before we go. I'm just dying to see how they work.
- GRETCHEN No, Helga, you musn't!
- HELGA Mustn't I?
She starts to wind up the toys.
Come on girls, don't just stand there gawping! Help me.
First Mitzi and then the others join in with the winding. The girls gasp with delight as the toys begin a little dance. Eventually, all the girls join in the dance.

SONG 5 The Pizzicato Polka.
& DANCE

During the dance the toys run out of clockwork one at a time until only the girls are left dancing. Carefully, they replace the toys exactly as they found them. Two of the dolls, however, are in the wrong place. Meanwhile, Swanilda is exploring the balcony.

SWANILDA Well would you believe it? It's incredible!

MITZI What is it Swanilda? What have you found there?

SWANILDA It's the girl! But she's not a girl. She's a DOLL. A wind-up doll.

HEIDI Where? Let us see. *(They crowd around and begin to laugh)*

HELGA But it's wonderful. Even close up she looks so real.

GRETCHEN Poor Franz - he was really deceived, and besotted ...by a doll.
(Laughter)

STANZI Well it just serves him right. It'll teach him a lesson - to be more faithful to Swanilda.

SWANILDA Well now, that just gives me an idea. I've thought of a wonderful trick to play.

MITZI Do tell us, Swanilda, please do.

SWANILDA All in good time, Mitzi.

HEIDI Let's wind her up.

The doll! Do let's wind her up.

She goes to the doll and winds her. The girls step back half expectant, half fearful as Coppelia slowly comes to life and begins to dance. Her dance is very wooden and some of the girls giggle as her steps falter.

DANCE Clockwork Ballet

After the dance Coppelia collapses in a heap and is dragged back to her place by Heidi. Helga glances out of the window and notices, to her horror, the doctor returning.

HELGA Oh no! Oh horror! It's Dr Coppelius and his servants.

SWANILDA Quick girls, down the staircase before he sees you. You only just have time. *(They exit. Gretchen is last to leave. Swanilda delays.)*

GRETCHEN Come, Swanilda you will be discovered.

SWANILDA It's alright, Gretchen. I'll follow you. I just want to check that everything is as we found it. Go! *(Exit Gretchen)*

Swanilda looks down the stairs to check the girls have gone and then finds a place to hide in the shadows next to Coppelia.

Enter the doctor and the dwarves.

- DOCTOR I cannot understand it. It is a mystery. I know I locked the door and took the key with me into the square. I would never have left it in the door.
- GRUMBLE Well you must be mistaken, master. We found the key in the door only a few moments ago when we returned.
The doctor grabs Grumble by the scruff of the neck.
- DOCTOR Dr Coppelius is never mistaken, Grumble...and don't you ever forget it.
- GRABBIT Here, there's something odd over here master. Some of these toys have moved. *(He inspects them, carefully)* I'd swear these two have swapped places.
- GRUMBLE Aaahr! This place is haunted. I'm getting out of here.
He tries to exit but the doctor catches the neck of his jacket and holds him back.
- DOCTOR Not so fast you chicken-livered fraction of a person.
- GRABBIT Perhaps the toys are actually coming to life at last.
- DOCTOR You could be right, Grabbit. And if that's the case, then my years of research will be over. My experiments with life forces will be brought to their logical conclusion at last.
- GRUMBLE Then will you stop making us taste your disgusting chemical cocktails? They always make me feel sick!
- GRABBIT Stop grumbling, Grumble.
- GRUMBLE Why should I? That's why I'm called Grumble isn't it?
- DOCTOR All we need now is a human being to complete our experiments. A live human being whose life-force we can **steal** in order to give life ... to a **toy**.
- GRUMBLE But..but...surely, master, the human being will die!
- DOCTOR I'm afraid so, Grumble, but small sacrifices have to be made in the advancement of science.
- GRABBIT But where on earth will we find a human who will give up their life? No sane person is just going to volunteer, are they!

(We hear Franz's voice off-stage)

FRANZ Yoo-hoo, Coppelia!

Enter Franz and Fritz FOH carrying a ladder which they place in

front of the stage. Franz climbs up and Fritz exits FOH.

- FRANZ Coppelia, it's me, Franz! I'm here, like I promised!
- DOCTOR Excellent! We have our volunteer. Now conceal yourselves, quickly.
Franz climbs in the window and looks around.
- FRANZ Wow, it's a toy factory! Well I never...the crafty old doctor, Coppelius. Now where on earth can the girl be. Coppelia! Coppelia!
Franz searches the dark corners of the room and does not notice the two dwarves stalking him. Suddenly, they pounce.
- FRANZ Aaah, I'm being attacked. Unhand me, you rogues.
- GRABBIT We have him, master. Come out now.
- DOCTOR Aha, so the young Franz has an evening job as a burglar, does he? Well now you're in my power.
- FRANZ No, you don't understand. I'm not a burglar I, I, I ...
- GRUMBLE Shut up when you're being spoken to, you dog!
- FRANZ First I'm a burglar, now I'm a dog.....
- GRUMBLE Silence, you fool!
- GRABBIT If you're not a burglar, then why did you just climb into this window from the top of a ladder? You just happened to be going for a stroll and took your ladder with you did you?
- FRANZ ahhh, I, I, I....
- GRABBIT Answer my question, you little pip-squeak!
- FRANZ Well, he just told me to shut up! Didn't he?
- DOCTOR You may explain, young man.
- FRANZ I just wanted to see Coppelia. You see, I think I'm in love with her.
- DOCTOR And who is Coppelia.
- FRANZ You should know. She was reading a book on your balcony this morning.
- DOCTOR Ah, now I understand.
The dwarves begin to laugh as they realise Franz's mistake.
- GRUMBLE You're in love with Coppelia, but she's nothing but a d...
The doctor puts his hand over Grumble's mouth to silence him.
- DOCTOR She's a beautiful girl, Grumble. And now, young man, if you wish to see her, please sit in this chair.
The dwarves push Franz roughly into the chair and tie him up with rope.
- FRANZ Hey, what are you doing? Stop it! Untie me at once.
- DOCTOR All in good time, young man. Grabbit, the potions.

He produces several evil-looking liquids in glass jars and proceeds to mix them. Grumble, the doll if you please. he brings Swanilda on, believing her to be Coppelia.

FRANZ Oh my! This cannot be so. Why, she's just a doll!

GRUMBLE But not for long. Not once we've stolen your life force.

FRANZ What do you mean my 'life force'?

DOCTOR Never mind, just drink this. It will do you good.

They force him to drink the liquid and he slumps forward.

Now let us see what happens.

They step back in fear and anticipation.

SFX and LFX of thunder and lightning. The doll slowly comes to life.

Grabbit, the music box. Make her dance; that is the real test. No doll can dance like a human.

Coppelia (really Swanilda in disguise) begins to dance a beautiful solo with grace and poise.

DANCE Coppelia's Solo Dance

DOCTOR Ah, success. She has really come to life.

He falls to his knees and weeps tears of joy. At the end of the dance Swanilda reveals herself and floors the two dwarves with one blow to each.

DOCTOR No, no this can't be true. You're not my doll. Who the devil are you?

The doctor, horrified, tries to escape but is restrained with an arm behind his back, police-style.

SWANILDA I, am Swanilda, and you'd better not forget it. And now, you twisted old man, you can restore my fiance. If he has come to any harm it will be the gallows for you.

DOCTOR No, please Miss, no, I can make it up to you.

SWANILDA Bring him round! *(He does not move)* I said **bring him round!**

The doctor fetches another potion and touches it to Franz's lips. He wakes up.

FRANZ *(Looking straight at Swanilda)* Coppelia, my darling!

SWANILDA Don't you ever give up, Romeo. *(She shakes him)*

FRANZ SWANILDA, my love.

SWANILDA That's better. Perhaps you do know what's good for you after all.

SWANILDA *(To the doctor)* And as for you - you can either spend the rest of your days rotting in a dungeon ... or this whole episode can be our little

secret.

DOCTOR Oh, thank you, Miss, thank you.

The dwarves come round and slowly pick themselves up.

SWANILDA And as you will have no further need of these toys... you can give them to the children of Oberhausen as a gift. But not this one.

She throws the lifeless Coppelia at the doctor who clutches her and weeps.

DOCTOR Yes, Miss, anything you say. Just don't hurt me again.

SWANILDA Come, Franz, we have a wedding to prepare for. *(They exit)*

BLACKOUT

Scene 6 The Square, Next Morning

All the villagers are present in the square to celebrate the weddings of four village couples. The doctor and his creatures are lurking in the background. Frau Doppler is clearly in charge of the dancing and is directing the proceedings.

DANCE Waltz

After the dance the bells ring out to wild cheers from the crowd.

MAYOR My dear friends, we are gathered here today to celebrate the marriage of four lovely couples from the village of Oberhausen. *(More cheers)* As is the custom when a new bell is cast, I, on behalf of the borough, am pleased to reward each couple with a bag of gold. *(Wild applause)* Would the couples please step forward.

Each couple in turn steps forward and the groom is handed his bag of just receive before their gold, Frau Doppler leans forward and takes the gold Franz knows what has happened.

FRAU I'll take that, as Franz's representative, thank you very much!

FRANZ Mother!

The boys are standing near Frau Doppler and Hans grabs the gold from her. It is thrown to and fro before finally being thrown to Franz. More Cheers.

SWANILDA Ladies and Gentlemen, in honour of this special day, I believe Doctor Coppelius has a presentation of his own to make. *(She looks at the doctor)*

DOCTOR I do?

He is pushed roughly forward by Horst and Jurgen.

HORST Yes, indeed you do.

DOCTOR Oh, very well. *(Clears his throat)* Ahem!

I would like to present to each child in the village a toy made by my own hand. Grabbit, Grumble - the toys!

As the dwarves begin handing out the toys there are gasps of astonishment from the villagers and cries of delight from the children.

MAYOR Well, Doctor, this is certainly a pleasant surprise and a fitting gesture to

the young people of Oberhausen.

GRETCHEN Excuse me, Herr Mayor, may I speak.

MAYOR Certainly, young Gretchen, be my guest.

GRETCHEN I believe Dr Coppelius has been treated rather badly by the village lately. He has been falsely accused of witchcraft and his presence in the village has been unwelcome.

ALL Hear, hear!

GRETCHEN I believe it is time we made amends and I propose that we give a bag of gold to the doctor in recognition of his generosity to the children.

MAYOR Well I'm not so sure - this is most irregular, you know.

HORST Come on Mayor! You represent the people and it's what the people want, isn't it folks.

All shout their approval.

MAYOR Oh, very well then. Would Doctor Coppelius please come forward to collect his bag of gold.

Dr Coppelius steps forward looking rather bemused and bewildered. After being given the gold by the mayor, he looks as if he wishes to speak.

SWANILDA Mr Mayor, I believe Dr Coppelius wishes to address us.

DOCTOR I, I ...I would just like to say how happy it makes me after living in Oberhausen for sixty years

His speech becomes very slow and his movements jumpy and stilted. finally to be accepted as a member of

His words trail off. His upper body flops down like a toy which has run

Grabbit rushes forward with a huge key and begins to wind him up. The villagers are dumbstruck.

FRAU But, but if Dr Coppelius is a clockwork toy himself, then someone must have made him. Who could it have been?

All look towards the two dwarves.

GRABBIT Yes, that's right, Frau Doppler, it was us. We made him ourselves.

GRUMBLE And very successful he was too. You were all deceived. You thought he was a real person.

FRAU We certainly did! And I suppose a puppet would have no need for a bag of gold - so perhaps you two should have it.

She takes the bag of gold out of the doctor's hand and gives it to Grumble. Just then, Grabbit finishes winding and the doctor comes to life.

- GRUMBLE Yippee! I suppose I won't be able to grumble anymore, will I.
They both support the doctor and begin to shuffle off.
- FRANZ You'll just have to change your name to Happy.
The dwarves exit with the doctor.
- MAYOR Villagers of Oberhausen, it only remains for me to say: this is a strange world in which we live; things are seldom what they seem. Enjoy today while you have the chance; you never know what tomorrow may bring. 'Good luck to you all in the game of life'.
Three cheers for the happy couples: Hip, hip etc.
- SONG 6 Reflections in the Water

BLACKOUT