

FAIRY 1

Prologue:

(Frontcloth gauze. Pyro. Fairy appears stage right and strikes a pose.)

Fairy: My name is Fairy Kindheart; it's lovely to be here

If you're pleased to see me, then let me hear you cheer! (Gets response)

I'm a trainee fairy godmother, but not doing very well (Gets ah)

So I've been given one last chance, and I have to wear this L.

(Turns to show L plate on back)

Fairy: In fact, between you and me, I'm a rubbish fairy! (Gets sympathy from audience) I'm worse than that! Take my last job. I mean, how Snow White ended up married to all seven dwarfs, I'll never know. And I admit I told Jack to cut down the beanstalk, but it wasn't my fault it fell on the palace and killed the princess, was it? So you see, I'm not a bad fairy, just a very unlucky one. So, this job is my last chance; if I mess this up, they're going to take my wand away.

(Fairy shows wand, then waves it.)

(SFX: Music sting as lights come up on scene behind gauze, or cloth lifts to show village scene in silhouette, revealing Dancers - as Villagers - in tableau.)

Fairy: I've been sent to this village to find a young girl called Cinderella and make sure she falls in love with a handsome Prince. Aahh! Sounds easy, doesn't it? Except I don't even know what she looks like. Still, it's only a small village, so finding her should be a doddle. What could possibly go wrong? (Crosses fingers) Right then, back to fairy godmother mode. (Strikes pose)

Fairy: I'll mingle with the townsfolk here, to find out what I can

About this girl I'm here to help, before I make my plan

But now it's time to start our show; so welcome one and all

To this, our magic fairy tale; we're going to have a ball!

(Fairy waves wand again SFX: Magic Sting. Gauze lifts to reveal...)

Act one

Scene one: Village street near Hardup Hall

(Fairy joins Villagers, who welcome her under Music intro.)

Song 1

Fairy: (To Dancers) So, which way's the party?!

(Dancers beckon to her to follow them off stage right as Music fades on track. As they do so, we hear Buttons from off stage right.)

FAIRY 2

Buttons: (From off) Make way! Make way! Handsome man with large present coming through!

(Buttons Enters, carrying a large gift-wrapped box in front of him, obscuring his view, and Dancers, including Fairy, get out of his way as he passes them.)

Buttons: (Dodging in and out) Excuse me; pardon me, thank you...

(As he makes his way further on stage, Dancers and Fairy exit past him. Buttons heads to the front of the stage and seems about to step off, when he suddenly stops, lowers the box and looks out.)

Buttons: (Looking down at the drop) Woo! I'm sure that hole wasn't there yesterday! (To audience) Hey, were you lot going to let me fall off the stage just now? You rotten lot! (Puts box down) Allow me to introduce myself. I know, I'm going to see if you can guess my name. I'll give you a clue. I'm named after what I've got all down the front of my jacket. Who said, dribble?! Cheek! (Gets answer) That's right; my name is Buttons, and I work for Baron Hardup, here at Hardup Hall. So, now you know my name, whenever I shout out, Hiya kids! I want you all to shout back Hiya Buttons!. Will you do that for me? Shall we give it a try?

(Tries it)

Prince: I don't know how I came up with it.

Dandini: How YOU came up with it!?

Prince: I must be cleverer than I look. Well, there's no time to lose. We need some invites, right away, so... to Clinton's Cards!

Dandini: To Clinton's Cards! (To audience) We would like to point out that other Greeting Card outlets are also available, and could be mentioned at this point for a modest fee! (Exits)

(An Old Woman in cloak and hood enters from other side, hobbling along with a walking stick.)

Old Woman: Oh, my poor, old, aching bones.

(She sits on a tree stump and removes her hood. It is the Fairy.)

Fairy: It's me! You didn't recognise me, did you? (Gets reaction from audience) Oh no, you didn't! Oh no, you didn't! Did you? Oh. (Sulks) So, as well as being a rubbish fairy, I'm rubbish at disguises too. Well, never mind; Cinderella doesn't know what I look like, and it's her I need to convince! (Looks off) Here she comes now. (shhs audience, then puts hood back up)

(Cinderella enters with her basket and addresses audience, without seeing Old Woman.)

Cinderella: I'm so late. My stepmother will be furious. I don't know what strange, unseen force made me go that way through the woods. (Old Woman gestures it was her to audience) But whatever it was, if I hadn't, I would never have met that gorgeous man. Oh my! (Fans herself) Now I must get home without any more hold-ups. (Crosses the stage)

Fairy: (As Old Woman, as Cinderella passes without noticing her) Oh dearie, dearie me.

Cinderella: (Stopping) That sounded like a poor, old woman in desperate need of help. (Looks round, sees Old Woman and approaches) Hello.

Fairy: (As Old Woman) I'm a poor, old woman in desperate need of help.

Cinderella: (To audience) I was right. (To Old Woman) What's the matter, poor old woman in desperate need of help?

Fairy: I was trying to get to the shops before they shut, but my weary, old legs ache too much.

FAIRY 3

Cinderella: You poor, dear thing. What were you hoping to buy?

Fairy: Just some fire lighters, so I can make a fire to keep me warm these cold, winter nights.

Cinderella: Well, as luck would have it, I've just bought some fire lighters for my stepmother. (Gets them out of basket) I suppose I could let you have these.

Fairy: That's very kind of you, dearie. (Looking into her tiny purse) **How much are they?**

Cinderella: Um, (Looks at label) £58.99.

Fairy: (Nearly having heart attack) **£58.99?! For fire lighters?**

Cinderella: They're from Harrods. My stepmother always insists on the best.

Fairy: They're only a quid in Poundland. I don't have that much money, I'm afraid.

Cinderella: Please. Put your money away, old woman. (Hands Fairy the fire lighters) Your need is greater than mine.

Fairy: But, won't you get into trouble, my dear child?

Cinderella: Probably. But I'm already in trouble for being late home, so a bit more trouble won't really make much difference.

Fairy: You're very kind. And believe me, your kindness will be rewarded.

Cinderella: I've already said, I don't want your money.

Fairy: There are far greater rewards than money, my dear. (Stands and puts her hand on Cinderella's shoulder) **There's true happiness. And true love.**

Cinderella: (In reverie) You're right. A girl doesn't need money to be happy. All she needs is to fall in love with the man of her dreams and have him love her in return.

Fairy: I'm not sure Germaine Greer would concur, but you're right; a good man can bring far more happiness than a rich one. **Though both would be nice!**

(SFX: Eerie magical, as she backs away and edges toward offstage)

Fairy: And both is what you shall have, before very long. **You mark my words... Cinderella!** (Exits silently)

Cinderella: (Still deep in thought) Oh, how I wish I could believe you, old woman. (Realising) But how do you know my name? (Turns but she's gone) Old woman? Old woman? How strange. Well, whoever she was, I wish what she said was true, and that I'll soon find the man of my dreams.