Scene I

Curtains open on set one. Sidney and Sally are performing chorus roles: digging, raking etc. The scene is moderately lit. Sally and Sidney continue their activities, ignoring the audience for an extended period. They break the silence to talk to each other.

Sidney: Psst… (Trying to attract Sally’s attention) Psst… Sally!

Sally: Yes Sidney?

Sidney: What are you up to?

Sally: (Sally looks at what she is doing then sarcastically looks at Sidney.) Waiting for a bus... What does it look like I’m doing? Farming like stuff to fill in time so this lot (pointing at the audience) have something to watch until the real action starts.

Sidney: Boring though isn’t it?

Sally: I suppose, but it pays the bills - and puts coal on the fire.

Sidney: (Sidney shrugs his shoulders but nods in agreement - before sighing) I just wish there was a bit more to it. I wouldn’t mind giving some of that “hero” stuff a go. (Sidney mimics marital arts with his rake before hitting himself on the head) Ouch.

Sally: (Sally snatches the rake from Sidney) Careful you idiot - before you hurt yourself. Honestly! I promised our mother that I would take care of you before she passed on. What kind of a big sister would I be if I let you run off and get your head broken? (To the audience) assuming he didn’t do it to himself.

Sidney: (Acting out his fantasy.) Oh but sis. Haven’t you ever thought of riding a noble steed, facing fearsome foes, rescuing a beautiful princess before marrying her - and living happily ever after?

Sally: (Pause) Funny enough no.

Sidney: You know what I mean.

Sally: (She looks her brother up and down.) You’re really not running right. You know that don’t you? Please just do your work until the show starts.

They continue their work for a short period.

Sidney: Sally?

Sally: (Sally rolls her eyes and looks up.) Oh for the love of… Yes Sidney?
Sidney: When do you think the shows going to start - we’ve been at this a while. I think we might be losing the crowd; I’m sure that one was snoring. (Indicating the audience)

Sally: (To the audience.) Please forgive him, he gets very excited during panto season - and then becomes delusional. It’s a sickness really. I’ve sought help. Honest. (To Sidney.) Funny enough Sidney being the lowly chorus members that we are I don’t have a script. In fact I don’t even know what show we’re in this year. I’m sure something will happen soon.

Sidney: I suppose. (Shrugging his shoulders)

They continue working when a scream gets louder, as one of the chorus members runs from stage left to right. Sidney and Sally continue to work as the scream diminishes to silence. The same thing then occurs with the chorus member running from stage right to left.

Sidney: Now come on sis that was weird.

Sally: What do you want from me?

Sidney: I think we should find out what’s going on.

Sally: Fine! (The same chorus member, again with a crescendo scream runs from stage left - before being grabbed firmly by Sally. The chorus member continues to scream until slapped by Sally.) Okay. What on earth is going on?

Man 1: Have you not heard?

Sally: (Rolling her eyes.) Well obviously not.

Man 1: Someone has kidnapped all the pantomime princesses.

Sally: Well there is nothing unusual about that. (She turns to Sidney.) There you see! One of the panto heroes will rescue them and all will be well. I’m going back to my minimum wage job thank you.

Man 1: You don’t understand. All the princesses have been taken and there is no one to rescue them. All of the panto heroes are under some kind of a spell. Just look at what they did to prince charming. (Prince charming wanders on the stage effeminately chasing a butterfly, followed by other members of the chorus.)

Sidney: (He shudders.) But who is doing this?

Man 1: No one knows. We have people in the panto library but no one has even heard of this story before - let alone who is behind it.
Sally: Well sounds like fun (being sarcastic and dismissive) it’s been lovely speaking to you (leading Man 1 off stage left), but my brother and I have got work to do. So good luck with all that and see you soon. (Waving into the wing) Bye bye now.

Sally goes back to her work. Sidney stares at her whilst she works. The two of them subtly make their way onto the front tabs and the curtains begin to close.

Sidney: What’s happening? (In reference to the curtains closing)

Sally: I think the scene is ending. (Dismissively) Riveting show this I tell you. (To the audience)

Sidney: So what do you think, sis?

Sally: What do I think about what?

Sidney: About what is happening?

Sally: To be honest I try not to think and with your brain, I’d definitely suggest you do the same.

Sidney: But seriously sis. We could do it. We could save the day!

Sally: Have you lost your mind Sidney? Are you seriously suggesting that we go on some heroic mission to save the princesses and save the mysterious world that is panto; armed with nothing but farming tools and our wits. (Pause) Half of them at least! (To the audience in reference to Sydney)

Sidney: I am sis. Just think about it, we could be heroes.

Sally: You have gone mad. You’ve finally cracked. It is what comes from being in the sun all day.

Light introduction to song begin. Play first 10 bars of “We’re The Chorus” with no vocals.

Sidney: What's that? (In reference to the music)

Sally: It sounds like we’re about to burst into song.

Sidney: Oh come on sis. It’s what I’ve always dreamed of - since we were little. You have always told me to follow my heart.

Sally: Well stick with a “SatNav” from now on and follow it away from danger.

Sidney: Please sis. I can’t do it without you.
Sally: No!

*Sidney breaks straight into song. This is directed at the audience and his sister Sally.*

**SONG**

**We’re the chorus**

Sidney: We are a funny pair. You’ll not find us anywhere. We’re the chorus, with a task before us, and we’ll do it__________ looking good.

Sally: See here my little bro; you’re no prince charming or he-r-o. You’re the chorus, and this task before us, you’ll never do it__________ looking good (spoken) – *Or any other way for that matter.*

Sidney: Imagine now and for all time, be remembered not for jokes and mime. Be the chorus, a little less them more us, and we’ll do it__________ looking good.

*Musical pause*

Sally: *(Spoken) – Let me think.*

Sidney: Come on sis let’s save the day, stand together come what may. Be the chorus, nothing left to bore us, and we’ll do it__________ feeling good.

Sally: What if there’s fighting?

Sidney: I’ll do my part.

Sally: Please be careful.

Sidney: Cross my heart.

Sally: Fine__________

Sidney: Be the chorus__________

Sally: I hope that they don’t floor us.

Together: Let’s do it__________ looking good.

At conclusion of song Sally and Sidney remain still in their end of song “Jazz hands” pose.

Sidney: *(suddenly standing erect) Well. We should get going. (Sidney begins to run off stage)*
Sally:  
(Calling Sidney back) Sidney, where are we going?

Sidney:  
To save the day of course.

Sally:  
Perhaps we should discuss some kind of plan.

Sidney:  
Okay sis. (Sidney folds his arms and stares into space. Clearly expecting Sally to make the plan)

Sally rolls her eyes.

Sally:  
Right. We know that whoever is behind this is using magic. We know this because of the state of prince charming (Prince charming again dances across the front tabs - followed by members of the chorus) and who knows about magic?

Sidney:  
(Sidney raises his hand as if in a classroom) Oh! I know!

Sally:  
(Ignoring Sidney and pondering to herself.) Yes. Wizards... Witches... sorcerers... warlocks... But all of them will be busy! Its pantomime season after all...

Sidney:  
I know! I know! (Shouting)

Sally:  
(Annoyed.) What Sidney. What do you know?

Sidney:  
(Pulling a sulky face at the audience.)

Sally:  
I'm sorry Sidney. What is it that you know? (Feeling bad)

Sidney:  
Well. I know where we can find a fairy god mother. Her name is Francesca - or Franc for short. She won't be busy as she's on sort of a sabbatical.

Sally:  
Sabbatical?

Sidney:  
I met her doing karaoke down at the Inn. She's... Well she's... But she's... Maybe you should just come see for yourself. (Sidney begins to exit stage) Come on you lot. We're taking you with us. (To audience)

Sally:  
(Sally rolls her eyes and looks at the audience) What have I got myself into?

Sidney and Sally exit stage left

End of scene.

Scene II
Curtains open on Set two - with the dame propped up by the bar. Blues music is playing in the background and the dame is very intoxicated. The bar is staffed and filled by members of the chorus.

Franc: I’ll tell you when I’ve had enough. Ha ha ha, I’ve always wanted to say that. (Franc notices the audience.) Oh, hello there. What are you lot all doing here, you must be lost. My name is Francesca, but you can call me Franc. I’m a fairy godmother. I’m sure you’ve all heard of my epic adventures haven’t you? (Audience response) I know… I know (Nearly in tears) I never get used in the panto. It’s because of my… well… my extra-curricular activities. I long for that day that my services will be needed and someone will give me a chance. Hello there. (To a male member of the audience at random) Maybe you could give me a chance or two? Buy a girl a drink. Oh it’s useless. No one will ever believe in me. I tried to turn a pumpkin into a carriage for a princess once. I thought how hard can it be? I made sure I told her she had to be out of the carriage by midnight… or was it eleven… (Pause) Oh I can still hear the screams. Then there was the time the barman asked me to conjure him some running shoes for the Marathon. They only teach you to make footwear out of glass in Fairy Godmother school. (To the barman) Did they get all the glass out?

Barman: (Limps over to Franc to fill her glass.) Just about Franc - I’ll be fine.

Franc: It’s not fair. I try and try, but nothing I do is right. Sadly the problem runs too deep. (Music builds) I’ll have a vodka martini bar keep - with a lemon twist. (To barman - who obliges. Franc sips from the glass.) Ooh, that’s smooth.

(Straight into song, sung by Franc.)

Members of the chorus dance during the number. The song is sung to the audience.

SONG

Smooth Martini Blues

Franc: Smooth dry martini, in a glass with crushed ice. Bourbon on the rocks dear (Spoken – Right here) wouldn’t it be nice. Got them vodka shaken lemon twist smooth_____ martini blues.

Like sugar on lips, it gives a wobble to my hips. I sit down in a bar room, propped up by my stool. I don’t plan on leaving (Spoken – No sir) I am nobody’s fool.

Got them vodka shaken lemon twist smooth_____ martini blues.

I wake up every morning, unable to even fly. My wand ain’t worked for ages, makes me want to cry.

Paying for those vodka shaken lemon twist smooth_____ martini blues.
Franc begins to sob on the bar and music fades to light background blues. Enter Sally and Sidney.

Sally: What on earth have you been doing coming to a place like this?

Sidney: What? They do good Karaoke.

Sally: Fine! Let’s find this Francesca and get out of here before we catch something. You there… (To a chorus member in the bar) Have you seen a fairy godmother in here - goes by the name of Franc? (The chorus member points to Franc at the bar. Sally nods in thanks. She then glances around looking for Sidney. He is sitting at a table writing karaoke requests.) What on earth are you doing?

Sidney: Well - If we’re going to be a while, I thought I’d put a couple of requests in.

Sally shakes her head and pulls Sidney to his feet.

Sally: Right! That Franc character is over there! Let’s go and talk to her.

Sidney: Fine!

Sally and Sidney make their way to Franc at the bar.

Sidney: Hi Franc. It’s Sidney. Do you remember me?

Franc: Do I owe you money?

Sidney: No.

Franc: Stole a husband?

Sidney: No.

Franc: Done any magic that went awry, causing you to want to seek revenge?

Sidney: No.

Franc: Then sit down Teddy and buy your friend a drink.

Sidney: Actually, it’s Sidney.

Franc: And who said it wasn’t? Now about that drink handsome.

Sally rolls her eyes in frustration.

Sally: Now see here Franc! The Panto is in danger. Someone has been kidnapping the princesses and has cast a spell on all the heroes. For some reason that escapes me, my brother and I have decided to
attempt to save the day. Being as there are issues of magic at work, we need an expert in the field to help us. Obviously failing an expert, you’ll have to do. Are you following me?

Franc: I got Panto in danger; Princesses; spell on heroes; you and Teddy…

Sidney: Sidney…

Franc: Yeah and him; want to save the day and need help with the magic stuff. Feisty isn’t she? (To the audience)

Sally: Close enough. So, what do you say to you having some coffee and getting going?

Franc: Alas I am unable to help. I feel it would be better and safer for all involved, if I stay here and continue with my daily activities.

Sidney: Come on Franc…

Sally: Forget it Sidney, She’s not going to help us. She can’t even help herself. Let’s go.

Franc: Thanks for coming. How about one for the road?

Music builds once again and straight into song – sung by Sally Sidney and Franc.

**SONG**

**Smooth Martini Blues - Reprise**

Sally: You should be ashamed now, look at what you are. Unwilling to even help us, even though we’ve come this fa-r. Got those

Franc, Sally and Sidney: vodka shaken lemon twist smooth_______ martini blues.

Sidney: (Spoken – That sounds like fun, let me try) Panto needs you, will you answer her call? Come with us and fight now, stand up proud and tall. Shake those

Franc, Sally and Sidney: vodka shaken lemon twist smooth_______ martini blues_______

Sally and Sidney sing their two parts again in unison.

Franc, Sally and Sidney: Vodka Shaken lemon twist smooth_______ martini blues_______

Franc: My goodness you’re right! Thank you my friends! This is the chance I’ve been waiting for. What is your name my dear?

Sally: Sally.
Franc: Well thank you Sally and you to Teddy. Let us go and save the day.

Sidney: Actually it’s… Never mind. (Giving up on the correction)

Franc exits at speed followed by Sidney.

Sally: (To the audience) I have a really bad feeling about this.

Sally exits.

OPTIONAL: Chorus sings the last line of the song.

Curtains close. End of scene.

Scene III

On front tabs enter Ruby, Tom, Dick and Harry with kidnapped princess 1. Tom and Dick have an arm each as they drag princess 1. Ruby is to the front.

Princess 1: Help me, help, help...

Tom: Please princess can you be quiet for a bit? You’ve been screaming for miles now!

Dick: Yeah and my head is beginning to hurt.

Harry: Besides there is no one to save you - so what’s the point?

Princess 1: Maybe they will save me? (To audience)


Tom: Especially at the price of those tickets.

Dick: Besides - Why are they even here? I thought this was supposed to be the end of Panto?

Harry: Beats me. (Trio looks to Ruby) Err, Ruby Ma’am?

Ruby: Yes (Rolling her eyes impatiently)

Harry: The boys and I were just wondering; what are that lot doing here?

Ruby: (Ruby looks at the audience a little confused) Oh. Hi there; the boys do make a good point; I’m not sure why you would be here. I bet you’re not sure why you’re here. Well no point in being rude - I’m Ruby and these are Guardsman to my father. This is Tom, Dick and Harry. It’s nice to meet you, but as you can see we’re a little busy - what with the whole kidnapping thing. So I’m very sorry but you’ll have to excuse us.
Princess 1: Please let me go? I won’t tell anyone!

Ruby: I’m truly sorry princess but we’ve got our orders and my Dad… well. He’s a little insane and doesn’t really tolerate failure.

Tom, Dick and Harry: Tell us about it.

Princess 1: I don’t understand. Who is your father and how is he doing all this?

Ruby: My father is a wizard but what he lacks in infamy, he more than makes up for in evil badness.

Princess 1: But I don’t understand why?

Ruby: I’m not sure I do, but he’ll be here soon and he’ll be able to answer any questions you might have.

Harry: Depending on his mood. He doesn’t really like questions.

Tom: Or people.

Dick: Especially children; he hates children.

Curtain opens on set 3 to reveal Barry cackling. Ruby, Tom, Dick and Harry kneel in his presence.

Barry: You have done well! That is nearly all the princesses of the Panto safely under lock and key. There is no one left to stop me - ha ha ha...

Princess 1: Sorry - if I might interrupt? (The guards wince) Who are you?

Tom: (To audience) Now she’s done it.

Barry: (Enraged) Who am I! I am only the greatest wizard to ever grace the world. But I am never included in any of the Panto tales. So now there will be no more Panto. Take her to the dungeon with the rest of those soon to be extinct - pitiful, Panto, princesses. Ooh… I like that – pitiful, Panto, princesses. Now be gone.

Harry: See now. You’ve got him in a terrible temper.

Princess cries as she is taken off by the guards. Tom, Dick, Harry and Princes 1 exit

Ruby: Father I have to confess… Why are we doing all this?

Barry: Why daughter? I’ll tell you why. I am the greatest most powerful wizard of all time but I am never in any of the stories - ever. No; it’s something about my name; it doesn’t make for a good villain. Barry… it apparently
doesn’t strike fear into the hearts of men. But we will see. Yes we will see. *(Notices the audience)* What are you all doing here? *(Angrily)* You should not be here! *(Audience participation. “Oh no you shouldn’t.”)* Enough I grow tired! Panto will soon be no more and then you will have no reason to be here ever again - ha ha ha.

Ruby: Sorry father me again. So we’re doing all this because you’re not used in any of the Panto tales? I mean is that it? It seems a little heavy handed.

Barry: Heavy handed? No my daughter, it’s not quite heavy enough. I will rid the world of pantomime forever. I will show them all that Barry can do. *(Raising his arms in the air and then pausing. He looks at Ruby.)* Ruby my dear, the more I talk to you the more I feel you’re not on board with my plan. *(Growing angry)*

Ruby: *(She grows afraid)* No no father it’s not that, it’s just…

Barry: Just what?

Ruby: *(Trying to make something up.)* I’m just concerned that someone would try and stop you.

Barry: *(Laughing.)* There is no one to stop me my dear. All the heroes of the Panto have been spelled with some of my most potent magic. There is no one left. *(Notices the children in the audience)* I hate children - so little and useless. Once the Panto is gone, I’m coming for you next. *(Audience participation)* Maybe you’d like to spend your days as a slug. *(Pointing a finger to cast a spell)*

Ruby: Father! *(Distracting him)*

Barry: What now Ruby? You’re beginning to concern me. *(Music builds)* I barely tolerated you during that whole child phase. Thank goodness for boarding schools is all I can say. Now since becoming a grown up and being allowed to assist me in my plan, I don’t feel you’re quite with me.

*(Straight into song sung by Barry)*