

CINDERELLA

A Pantomime in Two Acts

By

RICHARD HILLS

EXTRACT

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CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

DANDINI

MOTHER GOODHEART

BUTTONS

CINDERELLA

BARON HARDUP

ESMERALDA

ALEXIS

PRINCE CHARMING

LORD EASTWOOD

LADY EASTWOOD

DOBBIN

VOICE OF OGRE

CHORUS AND DANCERS

ACT 1 SCENE 1. The village of Muddle-com-mare.

ACT 1 SCENE 2. On the way to the Royal Forest.

ACT 1 SCENE 3. The Royal Forest.

ACT 1 SCENE 4. On the way to Hardup Hall.

ACT 1 SCENE 5. The Sister's Boudoir.

ACT 1 SCENE 6. The Baronial Kitchen.

ACT 1 SCENE 7. Fantasia.

ACT 2 SCENE 1. Ballroom in the Royal Palace.

ACT 2 SCENE 2. The haunted wood.

ACT 2 SCENE 3. Not far from Hard-up-Hall
ACT 2 SCENE 4. The Sister's Boudoir.
ACT 2 SCENE 5. Not far from Hardup Hall
ACT 2 SCENE 6. The Royal Wedding.

ACT ONE SCENE ONE

A typical village square. DL is the entrance to Hardup Hall. DR there is a baker's shop with a small bench in front of it. All the villagers are on stage singing and dancing as the curtains open.

MUSIC No 1

The song is "Hey Neighbour, how's the world with you?" At the end of the song there is general merriment, broken by the entrance of DANDINI UR.

DANDINI: Hullo, everyone! Is this the village of Muddle-cum-mare?

1st GIRL: It is, sir.

2nd GIRL: You are a stranger here. We have never seen you before.

DANDINI: I have never been here before. My name is Dandini! I am Valet to Prince Charming.

CHORUS: Prince Charming?

DANDINI: That is right! The Prince has sent me with this letter for Baron Hardup. Do you know where he lives?

2nd GIRL: That is his house over there. *(She points to DL.)*

3rd GIRL: But he isn't at home.

1st GIRL: He's gone to the bank to get a loan.

DANDINI: What am I to do? The Prince said I was to see he got this letter.

3rd GIRL: I'm sure he will be back soon.

DANDINI: I haven't time to wait. I must meet the Prince for the hunt.

1st GIRL: I'll give it to him for you.

DANDINI: Thank you! Make sure he gets it.

1st GIRL: I will.

(DANDINI gives the letter to her and then exits UR.)

1st GIRL: I wonder what is in it?

2nd GIRL: Perhaps the Prince is coming to see him.

(An old lady enters UL. She is wearing a cloak.)

GOODHEART: Can you tell me where this is?

2nd GIRL: It's the village of Muddle-cum-mare.

GOODHEART: Could you spare a copper for a poor old soul?

3rd GIRL: We haven't any money. We spent it all on sweets.

1st GIRL: You will have to ask the Baron.

1st MAN: No good asking him. He's broke!

2nd GIRL: Come on, everyone! We've got work to do.

(The CHORUS exit, leaving the old lady on stage.)

GOODHEART: Dear me! No one wants to help an old lady. I'm tired. I must sit down and rest. *(She moves to the bench and sits.)* Once I was young and beautiful. Everyone liked me until I had a spell cast upon me. The only way I can loose it is if someone helps me. But no one likes old people anymore. I'll just have a little sleep. *(She goes to sleep huddled in her cloak on the bench.)*

(BUTTONS comes in on a scooter, honking the horn. He stops centre stage.)

BUTTONS: Hello, everyone! Do you like my scooter?

AUDIENCE: Yes!

BUTTONS: It's not really mine. I borrowed it from the boy next door. You see, Father Christmas didn't leave me anything. He's probably never heard of anyone called Buttons. That is my name, Buttons! I got it because of all these buttons on my suit.

(A BOY enters UR.)

BOY: Hey, Buttons! Can I have my scooter back?

BUTTONS: Here it is.

(He gives the scooter back and the BOY exits with it.)

BUTTONS: *(He comes DC.)* They won't let me join their gang. I haven't got any friends, only Cinders. I know! Will you be my friend? Will you?

AUDIENCE: Yes!

BUTTONS: Good! It's nice to have friends. Will you look after my hat for me? (*He hangs his hat on a hook DL.*)

AUDIENCE: Yes!

BUTTONS: Don't let anyone take it. You will let me know if anyone tries to take it, won't you?

AUDIENCE: Yes!

BUTTONS: Let's try it. I'll creep on and try to take it. You shout Buttons.

(He exits and then creeps back on.)

AUDIENCE: Buttons!

BUTTONS: I didn't hear anything. You must shout louder. I might be in the cellar.

(He exits again and then creeps on again.)

AUDIENCE: Button!

(The noise makes the old lady wake up.)

GOODHEART: What was that? Where did all the noise come from?

BUTTONS: Oh, dear! You have woken the old lady up. Keep it like that and I'll hear you anywhere.

GOODHEART: What time is it?

BUTTONS: Half past dinner time.

GOODHEART: Wake me up in time for tea. (*She falls asleep.*)

BUTTONS: I say, girls and boys! Have you seen Cinderella?

AUDIENCE: No!

BUTTONS: Nor have I. I'm supposed to be helping her. I'm a shift worker. Any time anyone mentions work, I shift. See you later! (*He exits into Hardup Hall.*)

(CINDERELLA enters UR. She is carrying a bundle of wood and she comes DC.)

CINDERELLA: I wonder where Buttons is, he is never around when there is work to be done. Buttons! Buttons, where are you?

GOODHEART: (*Waking up.*) What was that? Is it tea time?

CINDERELLA: What a dear old lady. I'm sorry if I woke you up.

GOODHEART: Time to go. I must get some wood for my fire.

CINDERELLA: Don't worry, old lady. You can have mine.

GOODHEART: What about you?

CINDERELLA: I can get some more. I'll get Buttons to help me. That's if I can find him.

GOODHEART: Thank you, my dear. (*She takes the bundle of wood.*) You are a good girl. Some day you may need help too. (*She exits DR.*)

CINDERELLA: Poor old lady. I wonder where she lives. No riches for her, only the simple life.

MUSIC No 2

(The music plays and she sings "Give me the simple life", at the end of the song, BUTTONS comes out of Hardup Hall.)

BUTTONS: Hello, Cinders! I have been looking everywhere for you.

CINDERELLA: I have been collecting wood for the fire.

BUTTONS: Where is it?

CINDERELLA: I gave it to a poor old lady.

BUTTONS: Oh, Cinders! You are always giving things away.

CINDERELLA: She needed it more than me.

BUTTONS: You are so wonderful, Cinders! I love you.

CINDERELLA: Oh, Buttons! Do you love me enough to help me collect some more wood?

BUTTONS: I thought there would be a catch in it.

(BARON HARDUP is heard off stage.)

BARON: Oh, dear! Oh, dear! Oh, dear! *(He enters UR.)* What am I going to do?

(He is followed by the CHORUS who group around him.)

CINDERELLA: What is the trouble, father?

BARON: I went all the way to the bank and found my account bare. In fact the manager closed it. Now I've no money at all.

CINDERELLA: I thought you went for a loan?

BARON: So did I. He said I wasn't worth it. I offered him Hardup Hall.

BUTTONS: What did he say?

BARON: He said it would cost more to knock it down than it was worth.

CINDERELLA: What did he say it was worth?

BARON: He said it belonged to the Prince so it wasn't mine to give.

1st GIRL: That reminds me. A man called Dandini came and gave me this letter from the Prince.

BARON: A letter to you from the Prince?

1st GIRL: It's for you!

BARON: For me! *(He takes the letter.)* Perhaps he's inviting me to tea. Read it, Buttons. I left my glasses indoors.

BUTTONS: *(Taking the letter and opening it.)* Dear Baron Hardup. I wish to inform you that it is now six months since you last paid your rent. If you have not paid me by the end of the week, I shall be left with no choice but to send the Bailiffs round.

BARON: Charming indeed! Now what am I going to do?

BUTTONS: Does that mean that I'm not going to get my last six months wages?

BARON: More than that, you will never get paid again!

BUTTONS: Boo-hoo! And I've got no pocket money left. *(He takes out his handkerchief and cries.)*

CINDERELLA: Never mind, Buttons! We will look after you.

BUTTONS: Oh, Cinders! You are so good.

BARON: Oh dear, I've just thought!

BUTTONS: Did it hurt?

BARON: My two step-daughters are coming home from finishing school today. They will be disappointed if they have no home to come home to.

BUTTONS: It will do them good. I'll help you throw them out.

CINDERELLA: We can't do that, Buttons. They would have nowhere to go.

(Singing is heard off stage R. ESMERALDA and ALEXIS enter UR, hidden behind a pile of parcels that they are carrying. They are singing "Here we are again". They trip and the parcels fall all over the stage.)

ALEXIS: Oh, what a lovely trip.

ESERALDA: Pick them up, Cinders, and take them in the house.

(CINDERELLA starts to pick up the parcels.)

ESMERALDA: Let me lend you a foot. *(She gives CINDERELLA a shove with her foot, sending her sprawling.)* Still grovelling, I see. At least you know your place.

(BUTTONS helps CINDERELLA. They open the door of Hardup Hall and they both stagger off with the parcels.)

BARON: I hope you have not been spending money?

ALEXIS: Loads of it! We stopped in London on our way home.

ESMERALDA: We've put it on your account.

BARON: The bank has closed my account.

ESMERALDA: We've opened new ones. Credit cards in your name.

ALEXIS: Barclays! Visa! Access and National Giro!

BARON: Oh, no! What am I going to do?

ALEXIS: Esmeralda can help you out. She swallowed a fifty pence piece yesterday.

BARON: How is she?

ALEXIS: No change.

1st BOY: When are you going back to school?

ALEXIS: We've finished at the finishing school.

ESMERALDA: We're going to the improved school next.

ALEXIS: They said we were too old for school.

ESMERALDA: There were eighteen candles on my birthday cake.

ALEXIS: There was on my slice.

ESMERALDA: Ooh! How dare you! I'll have you know I have hair that is beautiful!

ALEXIS: Then why do you hide it under a wig?

ESMERALDA: I have teeth that sparkle like stars.

ALEXIS: Yes, they come out at night.

ESMERALDA: And a lovely face.

ALEXIS: Like the back end of a bus.

ESMERALDA: That is too much! I'll give you such a bashing!

ALEXIS: You've got to catch me first you old battle axe!

ESMERALDA: Just wait till I catch you!

(ESMERALDA chases ALEXIS all around the CHORUS and they run for their lives.)

CHORUS: Come on! Let's get out of here! *(And they make a hurried exit with ESMERALDA and ALEXIS following them.)*

BARON: Girls! Girls! That is no way to behave! *(He looks at the AUDIENCE.)* What have I done to inherit such a couple? I'll sell them to the highest bidder. *(He speaks to the AUDIENCE.)* Did I hear fifty pounds for the two? Ten pounds... a fiver... fifty pence? You can have them for nothing!

(CINDERELLA comes out of Hardup Hall.)

BARON: *(Turning to her.)* Oh, Cinders! What am I going to do? I can't even give them away.

CINDERELLA: Send them to an improved school.

BARON: That would cost money and I haven't any. The only asset I have dear Cinders is you. I do love you, my dear.

CINDERELLA: And I love you.

(ALEXIS enters.)

ALEXIS: Cinders! Where have you put our parcels?

CINDERELLA: In your room.

ALEXIS: Come and help me unpack.

(ALEXIS exits into Hardup Hall and CINDERELLA follows her off.)

BARON: Poor Cinders! If only I could make life better for her. *(He sees BUTTON'S hat.)* This must be Button's hat. *(He goes to get it)*

AUDIENCE: Button's!

BARON: *(Jumping back in surprise.)* Oh, whoever called Buttons?

(BUTTONS enters from the house.)

BUTTONS: Hallo, girls and boys! Thank you for looking after my hat.

BARON: What girls and boys?

BUTTONS: All those out there. *(He points at the AUDIENCE.)*

BARON: There isn't any.

BUTTONS: Oh, yes there is!

BARON: Oh, no there isn't!

BUTTONS: All those little white blobs.

BARON: I wondered what they were. Hands up all the little girls! *(The girls raise their hands.)* Hands up all the little boys! *(The boys raise their hands.)* There are a couple who haven't decided which they are. Nice to meet you all, see you again soon.

(The BARON is about to enter Hardup Hall but rushes off UR as ESMERALDA and ALEXIS enter from the house.)

ESMERALDA: Daddy! We want you! He's gone, the silly old crow.

ALEXIS: You always do frighten men away. It must be the looks you give them.

ESMERALDA: It's my smile that does it. *(She smiles at the AUDIENCE. Then she sees BUTTONS.)* Buttons! You get in there and help Cinders clean the fireplace! It hasn't been scrubbed for months.

BUTTONS: *(Crossing to the door. He turns and looks at her.)* You silly old Moo!

ALEXIS: What did you say?

BUTTONS: I said I will too. *(He exits.)*

ESMERALDA: I feel a song coming on.

ALEXIS: Where?

ESMERALDA: Here! *(She puts her hand on her chest.)*

ALEXIS: I'll soon put a stop to that. *(She takes out a large pin and gives her behind a jab. There is a loud pop.)*

ESMERALDA: Oh! That has let the wind out of my sails.