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DICK WHITTINGTON

This pantomime script was originally written in 2001 and has had several productions. Now in 2017, it has been updated to keep abreast of the times. This tried and trusted script brings a traditional pantomime with modern influences. It has flexibility which allows it to be easily performed on the small or the large professional stage. It contains the usual pantomime expectations with additional added surprises which makes it fun for an audience of all ages. It's packed full of good visual humour and timeless jokes which makes this a good family pantomime.

Approximate running time:- Two hours *[not including the interval]*

Characters

The script is written so that ***Alderman Fitzwarren and the King*** could be played by the same performer by doubling up. In Act two, there are two characters who have small speaking parts. This gives the script fourteen named characters in total consisting of:-

Male 4 Female 3 Either 7

DICK: (female) Principle boy.

ALICE: (female) Principle girl.

IDLE JACK: Solo comedy part. Best played by male.

SARAH: Dame, can be played by male or female.

CAPTAIN: One of a duo. (*partner Bosun*) Can be male or female.

BOSUN: One of a duo. (*partner Captain*) Can be male or female.

PRINCESS LULU: A comedy part. Best played by a male, but can be a female. Played dame like with a touch of finesse. If played by a male the more masculine he is the funnier it will be..

ALDERMAN FITZWARREN: Best played by a male, but could be female if that is your only option and portrayed as a male.

KING RAT: Best played by a male, but can be just as easily QUEEN RAT, if that fits your membership. The villain.

FAIRY: Glittery and glamorous. Female part. Would also work if played by a male if that suits your membership better.

FELIX: The Cat. Non speaking, but can meow where it's felt required . Can be played by male or female.

KING BUZZBUTTOCK: [For act two only] Could be played by female and change to QUEEN. If the part is changed to QUEEN, there will be required a few scripted word changes from, he to she, father to mother, etc.

MUSTAFA WEE: [For act two only] Male or female. Moroccan attendant.

MUSTAFA WIND: [For act two only] Male or female. Moroccan attendant.

Chorus.

The script caters for a chorus of any age group. However, if you working with **no** chorus, the performers playing Mustafa Wee and Mustafa Wind or other members can speak those lines designated for chorus.

Music and dance

The script is written to allow the *maximum time* of **one minute to one and a half minutes** for each song or dance routine. Choosing the music/song ending at a good natural finish. These can be shorter if wished, but watch if any run longer as this could alter the running time of the pantomime. Keeping the dance and song numbers short keeps the pantomime going swiftly and not dragging. The opening number, principle boy and girl duet, the fight, community song and the finale number can have their own dictated running time as these are crucial numbers to the pantomime. Not all allocated songs/dance slots included in the script needs to be done, some can be omitted if wished. The song and music choices are your own, however, the script does give some suggestions if you wish to use them.

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Scenes

The pantomime is written with a minimum of scene names/cloths. Which is a key factor for those with limited funds or inability to run multiple scenes.

A licence for this script is required for the production it's being used for

For the front cloth of "Somewhere," this can be a universal one that can be used all the way through. Depending on the design you may wish to rename the scene. Alternatively you can run a second or third front cloth by renaming the scene to suit the cloth used.

Fitzwarren's shop could be done, if wished, with the "The city of London" scene by using market stall/barrows. Likewise, Fitzwarren's shop background could be a coloured nondescript cloth and this can be used for

the ship scene. The use of properties and set dressing will strengthen both the scenes being portrayed.

If you are able or want to run **extra** full scene cloths, then replace some of "The City of London" and renaming the scene to suit the cloth used.

Synopsis of scenes

Act 1

Scene one.....The city of London
 Scene two.....Somewhere
 Scene three..... The city of London
 Scene four..... Somewhere
 Scene five..... Fitzwarren's shop
 Scene six..... Somewhere
 Scene seven..... On board (ship)

Act 2

Scene one..... Morocco
 Scene two..... Somewhere
 Scene three..... Morocco
 Scene four..... Somewhere
 Scene fiveThe City of London

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Script Sale

Act 1
Scene one

The City of London

Full stage

[The scene opens with chorus and/or cast singing/dancing to a song/music of your choice. If the cast are on stage for the opening number, Idle Jack should be up stage or just in the wings to exit first, ready for re-entry front of stage. After the song/dance, chorus remain on stage and characters exit left and right quickly.]

JACK: **[enters stage right with a plant in a pot.]** Good morning! Good morning! Good morning! And what a fine morning it is too.

ALL: Good morning Idle Jack. And what are you doing with a plant?

JACK: This is my "Love" plant. A gypsy gave it to me and said it will bring the girl of my dreams. I have to put it somewhere safe. **[Looks about.]** I know. **[Moves towards the right proscenium arch.]** I'll place it here. **[Placing the plant front of curtain by the arch. It will stay there until required in Act two scene three.]** No one must touch it except the one who will marry me. **[To audience.]** Will you help me? **[Business.]** If anyone goes to touch my plant, will you shout 'Idle Jack!' **[Do business with audience. Chorus can also join in.]** That's great. I know it will be in safe hands now. **[Looking around.]** Has anyone seen Alice?

1st : No. Why?

JACK: **[shyly coy]** She's the light of my life, the lantern of my affections.

2nd: She's not interested in you Idle Jack!

JACK: She might be.

3rd: What have you got to offer Alice?

JACK: **[showing some physique moves during line delivery]** I am strong. I am fit. I am young. I am agile. **[Pointing to stomach.]** And under here is a eight pack!

4th: **[points to his stomach]** But that's just a fat lump, Idle Jack!

[All laugh.]

JACK: That's it. You all laugh, but I can tell you under this shirt is the body beautiful. A body that's just too sexy for this shirt.

[Song suggestion:- I'm too sexy for my shirt, by 'Right said Fred'. The chorus dance as Idle Jack sings and gyrates to the music and song. Felix also comes on stage and join in with Idle Jack when it's appropriate to do so.]

ALL: Idle Jack, you are funny.

[Sarah shouts from off stage.]

SARAH: Idle Jack. Where are you?

JACK: **[standing around mid stage shouts off to opposite side Sarah is to enter.]** Not here!

[Sarah enters the stage on a scooter or similar with some parcels on the handle bars. She collides with Idle Jack and falls off the scooter. All those on stage laugh.]

SARAH: You great lummoX. What on earth were you doing running into me like that? **[Getting up.]**

JACK: **[getting up]** You ran into me. Now I've hurt myself and won't be able to work!

SARAH: You don't do much work anyway.

JACK: But it takes all my time to do it.

SARAH: **[hitting him]** You buffoon. Just get out of here and take that moth eaten old cat with you.

[Chorus gather up any scattered parcels and exit. Idle Jack rides the scooter off chasing Felix.]

SARAH: Goodness knows what old Fitzwarren will say about his failed delivery of parcels. Next time I ride a contraption like that, I'll pack a parachute in me handbag! **[Addressing the audience.]** Well, here I am. Sarah Smelling is the name and I'm large as life and twice as ugly. Do you know men just can't leave me alone? It must be my fatal beauty. I know it's fatal as one gorgeous hunk of a man took one look at me and nearly died. Others attach themselves to road signs with their trembling bodies to steady their legs, of course they may also be drunk! It's my irresistible charm you see. I give off oomph you know, it's like designer perfume with a hint of desperation. **[Looking off.]** Hello, who's this stranger?

[Dick enters with a bundle on a stick.]

DICK: Hello. Can you help me?

SARAH: **[fluffing her bosom]** I'll do my best. Whatever you want, it's yours!

DICK: You misunderstand me. I am looking for work and have travelled far. I want to make my fortune and I'm told London is the place to be.

SARAH: Many have tried to become rich here and most have failed young man.

DICK: Is there somewhere I can stay?

SARAH: There's nothing of luxury in this district.

DICK: I don't require luxury. Just a place to lay my head.

SARAH: Suppose you can sleep at Fitzwarren's.

DICK: Is it a five star establishment?

SARAH: It can be as many stars as you want. There's a great big hole in the roof!
[Encouraging Dick to exit with her stage right.] Why don't you come with me and let's see what we can do.

DICK: **[following]** You are most kind. Thank you.

SARAH: Don't get your hopes up too high, it will be just a thin mattress on the floor somewhere. **[Exits.]**

DICK: **[following Sarah off stage]** All I need is somewhere dry and sheltered.

[Captain and Bosun enter stage left.]

CAPT: Here we are, Bosun. Happy to be home again.

BOSUN: I wouldn't say we were happy, Captain!

CAPT: **[indicates audience]** Are You telling me, that with at all these wonderful people assembled, you're not happy?

BOSUN: Being happy ain't all it's cracked up to be. Most times it's not so good as you first thought it was.

CAPT: Now that's true. I thought I was going to be happily married once. Then as soon as the photos were taken, things went rapidly downhill.

BOSUN: In what way?

CAPT: She turned ugly over night. And I've never known a woman who had so many headaches! So we divorced and I've almost lived happy ever.

[Alderman Fitzwarren enters front stage right.]

FITZ: So you're back on dry land again I see. **[Rubbing his hands together.]**
I trust it's been a most eventful voyage?

CAPT: It was certainly eventful, Alderman Fitzwarren. **[Moving past Fitz to down stage right.]**

BOSUN: **[moves away to front stage left]** On the other hand, maybe it wasn't eventful.

FITZ: You have brought back a rich cargo, haven't you?

CAPT: **[moving towards Fitz]** Oh, yes of course. And it's rich.

- BOSUN:** Well, I wouldn't say very rich. Perhaps fairly rich.
- CAPT:** That's right Bosun, a fairly rich cargo.
- BOSUN:** *[moving towards Fitz]* Then again, not exactly fairly rich. Let's just say it wasn't bad.
- CAPT:** *[moving across to Bosun]* You're right Bosun. It isn't bad.
- BOSUN:** I'd say it was all right.
- FITZ:** *[moving away to stage right]* I shall be more than satisfied as long as you've made me a fortune.
- CAPT:** We've made a fortune.
- BOSUN:** *[moves away to stage left]* Maybe not a fortune, perhaps a lot of money.
- FITZ:** A lot of money is a good thing.
- CAPT:** *[moves to Bosun]* By rights you can't call it a lot of money.
- BOSUN:** And it would be misleading to say we're better than fairly well off.
- FITZ:** I can live with fairly well off.
- CAPT:** Best not to put too much stress on that. Let's just say we're all right!
- FITZ:** *[moves back to stage centre; exasperated]* I'm confused. Rich, not rich! Fortune, no fortune! Lots of money, no money! Well off. Not well off! And you say we might be all right!
- CAPT:** *[moving towards Fitz]* The fact is that we came across some Pirates and your ship was captured.
- BOSUN:** *[moves toward Captain]* There's a silver lining, Sir.
- FITZ:** *[excitable and annoyed]* Silver lining be jiggered. You lose my ship, my cargo and you talk about silver linings.
- BOSUN:** There was a break in the clouds then.
- CAPT:** Whilst them Pirates were nicking your ship, we boarded theirs and sailed it away before they knew about it.
- FITZ:** *[exasperated]* Wonderful, an empty pirate ship.
- [Felix enters stage right, skulking around ending front stage left.]*
- C and B:** *[proudly smiling]* No, Sir. It's full of loot.
- FITZ:** You blithering idiots. Why didn't you say so in the first place?

CAPT: We thought you were talking about your ship. Not the one we took!

BOSUN: That's right. Nothing about the one we captured.

FITZ: If you two had brains you'd be dangerous.

CAPT: And that's not all.

BOSUN: Locked away in that Pirate ship we found a Princess.

FITZ: A Princess? What Princess?

CAPT: The Princess Lulu.

BOSUN: She was taken by the Pirates.

FITZ: Is she pretty?

CAPT: Has a charm all of her own.

FITZ: Has she a nice body?

BOSUN: So many curves you wouldn't know where to stop!

FITZ: Sounds just the type of lady I wish in my life.

CAPT: And she has money.

FITZ: *[joyously]* I can't wait to meet her.

BOSUN: Have a look for yourself, for here she comes now.

FITZ: I do hope it will be love at first sight!

[Princess Lulu enters.]

LULU: You are Alderman Fitzwarren! *[Kisses Fitz on both cheeks.]* I am the Princess Lulu and want a return to my homeland.

FITZ: *[warily stepping back]* And where is your homeland?

LULU: Morocco. *[Flaunting at Fitz.]* The land of hot and voluptuous women. To me you want union?

FITZ: I don't think so.

LULU: I not your cup of tea?

FITZ: I have an eye for someone a little younger!

LULU: Lots of tune play on old fiddle. *[Grabs and holds Fitz in a ballroom pose]* You like the quick quick slow or the Samba Tango that's very hot!

[There is a thirty to forty five second burst of music as they dance with a comedy element. Captain and Bosun also partner and join in.]

FITZ: ***[breaking away]*** You are quite intense?

LULU: In Morocco we do lot's in tents.

FITZ: Yes, well, I think for now you can stay with these two. And see if we can find you passage back to Morocco.

[Felix enters, meows and goes near the stage left front entrance.]

LULU: Ah, the Captain and the Boyzone.

CAPT: ***[linking arms with Lulu and moving toward front stage left exit]***
Come with me, Princess. ***[Kicking his foot at Felix.]*** Follow me, Bosun.
Out the way you mangy old flea bag.

[Felix hisses and spits whilst moving away upstage and circles back down to front stage right.]

BOSUN: Oi! I'm not a bag and I haven't fleas. ***[Scratching.]*** Well not many.

[Captain and Lulu exit.]

FITZ: Why are you scratching, Bosun?

BOSUN: 'Cause I'm the only one that knows where it itches!

[Bosun exits right. Alice enters stage left and comes down to front stage centre.]

FITZ: ***[exasperated]*** I'm next to an idiot!

ALICE: That's rather a harsh thing to say about yourself, Father.

FITZ: ***[turns and moves to Alice]*** Oh, Alice, my Daughter. I am at my wits end with the ships crew.

ALICE: Do not fret, Father. We might have just discovered a new recruit to sail your ship safely.

FITZ: Who?

ALICE: Some young chap that Sarah found wandering the streets. He states that he's been a ships captain and looking for work.

FITZ: And where is this fellow now?

ALICE: ***[looking off]*** Here he comes now.

[Dick enters.]

FITZ: What is your name and where have you come from young man?

[Sarah enters.]

DICK: **[removing his hat he bows]** Dick Whittington, sir. I have walked all the way from.....**[place name.]**

SARAH: That's a long way for Dick to come, isn't it Mr Fitzwarren?

FITZ: It certainly is.

[Felix meows and moves beside Dick.]

DICK: And on my way there was a tomb stone. Some bloke called Miles, lived in London, and he was one hundred and eleven years old!

ALICE: **[correcting Dick]** I believe it was a milestone saying you were one hundred and eleven miles away from London.

DICK: Of course, what a fool I am. And now I am here, in London. **[See Felix.]** Hello, looks like I've found a new friend. **[Smoothing Felix.]** What's his name?

SARAH: Cooking Fat!

ALL: Cooking Fat?

SARAH: That's the nearest I can get without it being offensive!

DICK: In that case, I'll call him Felix and will give him a home.

SARAH: He should be locked up in a cats home.

[Felix begins to move towards the plant.]

DICK: But he seems such a nice cat.

[Felix goes to touch the plant. Audience reaction. Idle Jack, Captain, Bosun. Lulu and chorus enter.]

JACK: **[shooing Felix]** Go on, go away. I saw what you done to mother's geraniums last summer. I don't want you killing off my love plant!

[Felix moves away and meows.]

SARAH: **[goes to chase Felix]** It was him that killed my plants was it? I'll have you strung out on a violin!

[Felix nestles beside Dick.]

DICK: Don't be like that. He's a nice cat, and now he's my cat. **[To Alice.]** What do you think, Alice?

ALICE: I think we are very lucky to have you here, Dick Whittington.

SARAH: Here we go, same old story. Boy meets girl and I'm left on the shelf again.

JACK: Never mind mum. You will always have friends.

[Song of your choice reflecting friendship.]

Black-out

Act 1
Scene two

Somewhere

Front cloth

[The stage is dimly lit with a menacing atmosphere. Thunder is heard with flashes of lightening. King Rat enters stage left. After his entrance the stage lights come up to an acceptable menacing level. The thunder and lightning stops.]

RAT: **[menacing]** These humans scared of thunder,
see how they run.
Frightened of lightening, it gives me such fun.
This weak insipid race, covers this planet and it's space.
Cowards all and they hide their faces,

'cause we rats accommodate their places.
My legions of rats untold,
face these humans for they are not bold.
The time is right, to rise, attack and kill,
For there nothing to stop me, or will.

[Fairy enters stage right to a short jingle]

FAIRY: Stop! King Rat this warning heed.
Or with my wand, I'll do the deed.

RAT: Pah! A slight discomfort that's all you are.
A stupid fairy, with a stupid star.

FAIRY: The powers I have is somewhat great,
You'll cower back down that sewer we hate.
Join your minions and take them far
for I will force you with my guiding star!

RAT: Delusional, that's what you are,
and for your star, I'll insert it, far!

FAIRY: Ooh. I say, that's not fair,

it's pain will make me rather stare.
The points are sharp do you know
I'll get beads of sweat on my angelic brow.

RAT: Enough of this banter, I've not the time.
It's time to rid you, from this pantomime.

FAIRY: Stop King Rat, stop I say,
the time has come for us to play.
Not human, nor fairy will your challenge be,
a cat of power shall kill you and set the world free.

RAT: You lie! You Lie!

FAIRY: Then stand aside and see.

[Felix enters stage right and meows with vengeance.]

RAT: **[shrinks away slightly]** Eeek. A cat!
A dreaded cat. Fancy that.
[with strength] Fear not my dear, Fairy,
for a cat such as that,
is no match for I, The King Rat!

[Felix stalks toward King Rat. King Rat retreating hesitantly then suddenly exits off stage left.]

FAIRY: **[addressing the audience]** And so my friends, I will win,
I'll give Felix here, the power with-in.

[Felix should be near the plant now and about to touch it. Audience reaction. Idle Jack enters right.]

JACK: **[to audience]** Thank you. **[To Felix.]** Go away. I've enough troubles
without you adding to them.

[Felix meows and moves to stage left.]

FAIRY: What's wrong my Idle friend?

JACK: There's a new kid on the block, tricky Dickey. And he got eyes for my
Alice, the girl of my dreams and the one I love. **[Hangs his head with
sadness.]** It's all so sad. **[Business with audience.]**

FAIRY: Don't be sad, Idle Jack.
Love will come, be sure of that.

JACK: I have found love and if I could get rid of that Dick, she would only have
eyes for me again.

FAIRY: Dick Whittington and his cat,
[points to Felix] has a job to be done.
So in the meantime, don't be so glum.

JACK: I could do the job instead!

FAIRY: You've not worked for years,
the thought of it, brings you tears.
Second fiddle to a one man band you couldn't play.
You must smarten up, you'd look better that way!

JACK: Why?

FAIRY: For you to get a job.

JACK: Why?

FAIRY: With a job you could save money.

JACK: Why?

FAIRY: A pension plan you can pay into.

JACK: Why?

FAIRY: To retire from work!

JACK: But I don't work now!

FAIRY: *[pushing]* To Fitzwarren's shop you must go,
and help your mother run the show.

JACK: *[stopping]* Why?

FAIRY: *[annoyed and forceful]* Because I said so, that's why!
Now go, before I poke you in the eye.
Take Felix, and feed him well,
his strength will be needed, I foretell!

[Felix meows as Idle Jack and Felix begins to exit.]

JACK: Why?

FAIRY: *[exasperated]* Because if not, I know I'm sure.
[with some action] My wand will go, where none been before!

[Idle Jack pulls a painful face and exits with Felix.]

FAIRY: Who'd be a fairy? Come to that, who'd love a fairy?

[Song suggestion:- No one loves a fairy when they're forty. As a modern twist, it works well if the tempo is turned up a little which lends to good choreographed moves to be included.]

Black-out