



RED RIDING HOOD....THE PANTO

BY

ARCHIE WILSON

Extract

A SMITH SCRIPT

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Red Riding
Hood...the
Panto!

By

Archie Wilson

Character List:

Fairy Light (Good fairy)

Barry Bloodshot (Dame's batty son)

Red Riding Hood (Principle)

Dame Burgundy Bloodshot (Panto Dame)

Villager One (Speaking villager)

Villager Two (Speaking villager)

Villager three (Speaking villager)

Villager four (Speaking villager)

Chorus/non-speaking villagers

Wendigo Wormwood (Wicked villain)

Prince Chris Crimson (Hero character)

Rodney Rouge (Prince's sidekick)

Thick (Wendigo's soldier, part of comedy duo)

Thicker (Wendigo's soldier, part of comedy duo)

Wolvettes (Wendigo's wolf pack)

Act One

Scene One

(Red Riding Hood's sixteenth birthday party. Front tabs closed at start, backdrop of forest with castle in the distance behind tabs. Village square scene on stage with happy birthday balloons and other birthday paraphernalia. Villagers and chorus onstage behind curtain. Fairy Light enters downstage right to music from Sugar Plum Fairy.)

Fairy Light: Hello everybody! What a happy day! It's Red's birthday today, she's sixteen years old! My goodness me I can remember when she was just a little sparkle in her mother's eye. She's such a good girl you know, always visiting her grandma out in the woods, taking her cakes and flowers. She must be careful though because there are wolves out there who would gobble her up without a thought and for some reason they have been a lot more of them just lately so I've made her a magic hat to keep her safe as a special birthday present. As long as she wears it she will be safe from the big bad wolf! I cannot give it to her myself though or the magic won't work, but I have a plan! Watch.

(Waves her wand to tinkling music and enter stage right Barry Bloodshot looking bewildered.)

Barry: How did I get here?

Fairy Light: I summoned you Barry Bloodshot.

Barry: Oh. Who are you?

Fairy Light: I am Fairy Light, a friend of Little Red Riding Hood and I think it is her birthday today isn't it?

Barry: Yes, it is!

Fairy Light: Have you got a present for her?

Barry: Oh no! I've forgotten!

Fairy Light: Never mind, I have one here you can give her.

(Gives Barry a hat.)

Fairy Light: But you must make sure you give it to her.

Barry: Oh I will, I will. Thank you so much miss.

Fairy Light: You must leave now and get ready for the party, off you go.

Barry: Yes, I must look my best for Red.

(Looks a bit bewildered and exits stage right, Fairy Light turns to audience.)

Fairy Light: Will you make sure he gives the hat to Red?

(Response)

Fairy Light: Great! Must go now byeeeeee.

(Exits stage right. Curtains, Opening song. After the song has finished enter Barry)

Barry: Hi everyone.

Villagers: Hi Barry

(Barry sees the audience.)

Barry: My goodness me who are all these people?

Villager one: They are all Red Riding Hoods friends, come to her birthday party.

Barry: (to audience) Wow! Are you *really* all here for the birthday party?

(Response)

Barry: Shall I tell you a secret?

(Response)

Barry: You must keep it to yourselves though, can you do that?

(Response)

Barry: Are you sure?

(Response)

Barry: Ok then.

(Leans forward, all the villagers lean towards him.)

Barry: Red Riding Hood is my girlfriend.

(Villagers fall about with laughter.)

Barry: What? What?

Villager Two: Your girlfriend?

Villager Three: Since when?

Villager Four: She never told us.

Barry: Well, she's nearly my girlfriend. I just haven't told her yet.

(Villagers laugh again. Villager one indicates the parcel Barry is holding.)

Villager One: What's that you've got Barry?

Barry: This? It's a special secret present for Red.

Villager Two: What is it?

Barry: It's a secret.

Villager Three: I bet it's a box of chocolates!

Barry: No it's not it's a hat.

(laughter from the villagers.)

Barry: Oh heck! Now I've told you. Please don't tell Red, it's a surprise.

Villager Four: Don't worry Barry, we won't tell.

(Enter stage right Little Red Riding Hood)

Red: Hello everybody.

(Response from villagers and Barry, they sing happy birthday to her with Barry encouraging the audience to join in. At end of song Barry takes her to front stage centre.)

Barry: Red, I just wanted to say....

Red: Yes Barry?

Barry: Well, it's just that I....

Red: You what Barry?

Barry: Well, I erm....

(villagers urge him on.)

Barry: I'de just like to say....

(Great shout from offstage right.)

Dame: Has anybody seen my son Barry Bloodshot? He's got lots of chores to do the lazy boy!

Barry: Oh heck! That's me mum! I'm in trouble now.

Villager One: Hide behind us Barry, quickly.

(Barry scuttles behind the villagers who close ranks to hide him. Enter Dame Burgundy Bloodshot stage right.)

Dame: What on earth is all that noise! What is going on out here?

Villager One: We were singing Dame Bloodshot.

Dame: Is that what you call it? Sounds like twenty cats trapped in a dustbin. What are you all doing out here anyway, this early in the morning?

Villager Two: Today is Red Riding Hoods birthday so we thought we'd wish her a happy day.

Dame: So it is. Where is she?

(Red skips to the front.)

Red: Here I am Dame Bloodshot.

Dame: So you are.

(Sweeps Red into her arms and gives her a huge hug.)

Dame: Happy birthday my dear. Are you having a lovely day?

(Red struggles to get free.)

Red: I was.

Dame: That's lovely dear, just lovely. Now, have you seen my naughty son Barry?

Red: No Dame Bloodshot, he's not here.

(Dame turns to villagers.)

Dame: Have any of you seen him?

(Villagers respond in the negative.)

Dame: Well he must be somewhere.

(Prowls the stage looking for him. Villagers move around in front of her keeping Barry hidden until an opportunity arrives and he scoots off stage right from behind villagers.)

Dame: Where is the little devil?

Red: I don't know but I must go now Dame Bloodshot, I've got to get ready to go and see my Grandma in the woods. Bye everybody.

(Red exits stage right followed by all the villagers leaving either side chattering together as they go.)

Dame: (looking after them.) Was it something I said?

(Turns and sees audience for the first time.)

Dame: Oh! Hello, didn't see all of you there. How lovely to see you. Hope you all paid to get in? Are you here for the party?

(Response)

Dame: Well ok but I don't want any of that awful singing do you hear me? I said do you hear me?

(Response)

Dame: Let me introduce myself. I am Dame Burgundy Bloodshot and I own and run Bloodshot's Beautiful Bakery. A high-class establishment specialising in delicious cuddly cakes, bountiful bread and Bloodshot's biggest, bestest biscuits. Unfortunately, there has

been a rise in the price of yeast just lately so my cakes are falling terribly. In fact, nobody is buying my lovely cakes and bread anymore at all.

(Sobs and encourages audience to commiserate.)

Dame: I've been very unlucky in marriage, my first husband fell into a huge vat of granulated coffee poor man, nasty way to go but at least it was instant. And to top it all my poor dear second husband passed away very unexpectedly last year. He was putting some bread in one of our big ovens when he accidentally fell in and I, not knowing he was in there of course, shut the door. Poor man was cooked to a turn. But there's always a silver lining isn't there. We could sell meat pies for several weeks afterwards and the bakery was mine at last. I mean the bakery came to me in the poor man's will of course. But now, because of the yeast we're doughless, poundless, penniless, euroless and useless.

(Sobs and exhorts audience.)

Dame: I'll have to find a way to make some money or we will be sent to the workhouse. Speaking of the workhouse have any of you seen my worthless son Barry?

(Response.)

Dame: You have? Where did he go?

(Response.)

Dame: Right! Wait 'til I catch him, I'll box his ears!

(Exits whichever way the audience indicated. Barry enters the opposite side almost immediately.)

Barry: Has she gone?

(Response)

Barry: Have all the others gone too?

(Response.)

Barry: Oh no! I wanted to give Red her birthday present. Whatever can I do now?

(Asks the audience for suggestions.)

Barry: I know! I'll hide it here and then when she come back I'll pretend to find it and give it to her! Wait a minute though, what is somebody comes along and finds it? Will you help me?

(Response.)

Barry: Great! I'll hide it just here.

(Finds a place to hide the hat.)

Barry: If anybody tries to touch it will you shout Barry Boy as loud as you can? You will? Great. Let's have a try, shall we?

(Exits and then returns and tries to take the hat. Audience response.)

Barry: Did you shout?

(Audience response.)

Barry: I didn't hear that, let's have another go with a much louder shout shall we?

(Goes through the same routine.)

Barry: That was fantastic! Must rush now before my mum catches me, Byeeee.

(Exits stage right. Curtains close)

Act One

Scene two

(Front of curtain. In the woods, few fake trees to simulate woodland and flowers in pots. Stage behind curtain changed to village square scene minus balloons and birthday paraphernalia. Enter stage left Wendigo Wormwood, king of the wolves he glares at the audience.)

Wormwood: What are you all doing here? If you think you're here to see good triumph over evil you've come to the wrong place! My name is Wendigo Wormwood, King of the wolves me and my wolvettes rule here, not some pretty little girl or mamby pamby Prince. I have the power! Just look at my two vicious henchmen! On you come boys.

(Enter stage left Thick and Thicker, dressed as soldiers with toy swords and shields.)

Thick: I'm Thick.

(Indicates Thicker)

Thick: And he's Thicker

Thicker Yep! That's me!

Wendigo: Show them what you've got men!

Thick: Well, I've got this lovely sword, it makes a gorgeous swishing sound when I wave it about.

(Demonstrates making all the appropriate noise.)

Wendigo: Idiot! You show them Thicker.

Thicker: Yes Sir! Look at this lovely shield, it's got a beautiful picture of a lovely little rabbit with big...

Wendigo: Idiot! I meant show them what your worth!

Thick: Ah!

(Fumbles in his pocket and produces a sticky, fluffy sweet.)

Thick: Well I've got a sweet.

(Thicker snatches it away from Thick.)

Thicker: That's mine you stole it from me!

(A brawl between the two ensues broken up by Wendigo.)

Wendigo: Idiots, nincompoops, nitwits!

Thick: Thank you sir.

Wendigo: (To audience.) See what I mean? Be afraid, be very afraid! And that's not all, I have my wolvettes. Come my little pets!

(Enter stage left a pack of wolvettes, as many as you want.)

Wendigo: See? I rule here, nobody else and don't you forget it! And don't you dare boo you horrible lot! Go down into the audience and scare a few of them my children!

(Thick and Thicker lead the wolves into the audience, one either side audience. They start to give out sweets whilst the wolves are snarling and growling. Wendigo carries on talking.)

Wendigo: We've got plenty of treasure because we have robbed the dopey old king's treasury and we can fill our own coffers with his gold, silver and jewels and his crown! My two henchmen have hidden it safe in the woods, haven't you men?

Thick: Yes sir!

Thicker: Yes Sir, safe in the woods.

Wendigo: We'll be off shortly to collect it and bring it back to my den and then we are going to use it to buy huge swords, long spears and bows and arrows from the goblins that live in the woods. Do you know what we are going to do then?

(Audience response)

Wendigo: We are going to attack that stupid little village, capture all the silly little people, cage them up and eat them when we are hungry. Come my boys and girls, let's get the treasure!

(Thick, Thicker and the wolves return to the stage and exit with Wendigo.)

Wendigo: I'll be back!

(All exit stage left. Enter Red stage right looking for flowers to pick for her grandma, she has a basket.)

Red: My Grandma loves flowers, I like to take some to her whenever I go along with some cake. Dame Bloodshot is going to make me some cakes to take. I just wish I had a handsome young man to take me there.

(Song here)

Red: Maybe one day I will meet a handsome Prince! What do you think?

(Audience response. Enter stage right Prince Chris Crimson and his equerry Rodney Rouge both gallop in on hobby horses to the William Tell overture.)

Rodney: Ho there girl! My name is Rodney Rosebud and this is Prince Crimson. On your knees girl.

(Red drops her basket and falls to her knees in a panic.)

Red: Your lordship.

Prince: Oh get up girl, Rodney is a bit hasty at times.

(Gets off his horse and helps Red to her feet.)

Prince: What is your name?

Red: My name is of no consequence to a Prince sir.

Rodney: Your name girl! The Prince demands it.

Red: I am sorry sir to have bothered you but I have to go.

(Makes to leave.)

Prince: Wait girl, your name please?

Red: Please Sire I am just collecting flowers in the wood.

Prince: It's very dangerous out here girl, there are wolves who would gobble you up if they catch you.

Red: The animals are my friend sir, I will be safe with them.

Prince: Come girl, up on my horse I will take you back to your village we are going there anyway.

Red: Thank you but I couldn't possibly, my mum always told me to beware of strangers.

Rodney: Strangers girl! That is the Prince you're....

Red: I must go, sorry.

(Exits stage right in a hurry.)

Rodney: Wait girl wait! Come back here!

Prince: We must get after her Rodney, she's the prettiest girl I've ever seen.

Rodney: My Prince, we have a duty to perform for your father and the kingdom.

Prince: Yes, yes so we have but afterwards.....

Rodney: Yes, afterwards my Prince, come now let's be on our way.

(Exit stage left to William Tell Overture.)

Act One

Scene Three

(Full stage, village square as scene one. Villagers on stage milling around excitedly. Enter stage right Dame Burgundy.)

Dame: What on earth is all that noise about?

Villager One: One of boys playing in the woods says he saw the Prince and that he is coming here.

Dame: Don't be daft! Why on earth would a member of the royal blood come here?

(Prince, Rodney and red enter stage right, Dame doesn't see them.)

Dame: This is just a poor village he'd be an idiot to come here. Anyway, I hear he's an ugly devil no woman would look at twice. Certainly, not a woman as pretty as me, I would want....

Villager Two: Dame, Dame!

Dame: What! Stop pulling my dress child it came from Harvey Knickers.

(She turns and sees Rodney who she thinks is the Prince, she immediately drops into a curtsey.)

Dame: OOOHHHH, your Godship, how lovely to see you, the grapevine was absolutely right when it said you were a handsome man. My goodness me yes, I am dazzled by your outstanding beauty, athleticism, masculinity.

Rodney: Get up you foolish woman, I am not the Prince.

Dame: You're not? Well never mind, you'll do sweetie.

(Grabs Rodney and gives him a big sloppy kiss. He pushes her away wiping his mouth.)

Prince: Ahem, sorry to interrupt Rodney but we have business to perform.

Rodney: Of course, my prince.

Rodney: Ahem. Attention attention.

(All on stage immediately jump to attention and salute.)

Prince: At ease.

(All relax and start chattering loudly.)

Rodney: Attention I said!

(All stand to attention again and salute.)

Rodney: No no, relax.

(All relax again and start chattering.)

Rodney: Be quiet!

(All stop chattering and look at Rodney.)

Rodney: I simply meant to attract your attention.

(All stand to attention again and salute.)

Prince: At ease everybody. Just read it Rodney.

(All relax and Rodney takes a parchment from his jersey.)

Rodney: Ahem...King Crimson the Red is sad to have to tell you that the royal treasury has been broken into and the lots of treasure stolen, including his majesties crown.

(Great gasp from all on stage.)

Rodney: His majesty suspects the culprit is Wendigo Wormwood.

(Another gasp.)

Rodney: The so-called king of the wolves. His majesty has set a reward of 1000 golden sovereigns....

(Another gasp. Rodney is getting annoyed at the interruptions.)

Rodney: For the capture of this wicked person and the return of his treasure. Furthermore, should that person be of the female persuasion Prince Crimson will take her to wife.

(Much bigger gasp.)

Rodney: And the King will bequeath half his kingdom to the loving couple.

Dame: Oh I say!

(Throws herself at the Prince's feet and grabs his hand.)

Dame: My Prince! Oh my Prince I, Dame Burgundy Bloodshot, will find your treasure and claim this beautiful hand.... and all of the rest of you!

(She slobbers kisses all over his hand and starts to work her way up his arm. He shakes her free and wipes his hand on his tunic.)

Prince: Yes, thank you Dame Bloodshot, I wish you all the very best in your endeavour...I think.

Rodney: Might not have been the best idea your father ever had my Prince.

Prince: Nevertheless, the proclamation has been made and I must abide by it.

Rodney: But what of the sweet girl in the woods my Prince?

Prince: Ah yes I wonder...

Rodney: We had better get on my Prince, we have several more villagers to see before nightfall. We could come back for the girl.

Prince: Yes yes of course, come then.

(They turn to go and then the Prince sees Barry's hat.)

Prince: Hello what's this?

(Reaches for it, audience response. Barry rushes onto stage.)

Barry: Who's stealing my hat??

Dame: Barry, Barry it's the Prince!!

Barry: I don't care who it is this is MY hat!

(Rodney draws his sword.)

Rodney: How dare you address the prince in that manner, I should take your head!

Dame: Oh! I wouldn't do that your loveliness, there's nothing in it worth having.

Prince: I didn't intend to steal it young man, I just wondered what it was and what it was doing there.

Barry: Oh. Well, it's a birthday present for my girlfriend.

(All laugh.)

Prince: Ah, well I'd better leave it alone then. Come Rodney, let us away.

(They exit on their hobby horses to the sound of William Tell overture.)

Dame: Did you hear that? Big reward, lots of wonga and the Princes' hand in marriage! Boy, am I going to find that treasure!

Barry: How are you going to do that mum?

Dame: Don't know yet but what I do now is that we will need some money. Any ideas son?

Barry: You could bake cakes, give one to Red for her granny and sell the other.

Dame: Good idea! Come on, let's do it!

Act one

Scene four

(Front of curtain, woodland scene. Enter Wendigo, Thick, Thicker. Change to Dame's Bakery behind curtain.)

Wendigo: Come my brave and fearless soldiers, show me what you learned on the fighting course I sent you on.

Thick: Ok boss. Go and get the cloth Thicker.

Thicker: It's your turn with the cloth!

Thick: No it's not, You did it last time.

Thicker: No I didn't!

Thick: Yes you did!

Thicker: No I...

Wendigo: For goodness sake get on with it boys! We've got a battle to fight!

(Thicker runs off and returns with a large red cloth. He runs to one side of the stage a, Thick bends over at the waist, charges Thicker and the cloth in the manner of a bull all to the sound of the overture to Carmen. This happens several times until Thick doesn't get out of the way quickly enough and Thicker knocks him over and then falls over him. They both end up a heap on the floor.)

Wendigo: What on earth are you doing boys?

Thicker: Showing you what we learnt boss.

Thick: Yeah. What we learned.

Wendigo: But you were supposed to learn how to fight!

Thick: We are boss, this is what they taught us.

Thicker: Yeah, taught us.

Wendigo: Where's the letter they sent?

(Thick produces a crumpled, folded piece of paper and hands it over.)

Wendigo: It says here learning to fight room 44.

Thick: Room 44?

Thicker: Room 44?

Wendigo: Yes, room 44, are you thick?

Thicker: No, I'm Thicker, he's Thick.

Thick: Don't you call me thick!

Thicker: Why not, it's your name isn't it? Anyway, your thicker than I am.

Thick: No I'm not! It's you who's Thicker, I'm Thick.

Thicker: You certainly are.

(They start to brawl.)

Wendigo: Stop, stop you nincompoops!

(Pulls them apart.)

Wendigo: Did you go to room 44?

Thicker: Er....

Thick: Can I see the letter boss?

(Wendigo hands it over, Thick peers at it then turns it over.)

Thick: Ah. The paper was bent boss, we didn't see the other side but we did see *fight*.

(Wendigo snatches the paper back and peers at it.)

Wendigo: So where did you go?

(Thicker and Thick peer at the letter.)

Thicker: We went there boss, where it says fight, just like you said.

Wendigo: That's room 45 idiot! It's How to Bullfight!

Thick: Oh. Well it's still fighting isn't it?

Wendigo: We're not going to fight a herd of bulls you clot!

Thicker: Sounds like a load of bullsh....

Wendigo: That's enough! Come my Wolverettes let's show them what we are made of!

(Wolverettes enter from stage left. Wendigo led song here. After song.)

Wendigo: Ok boys, lead us to the place you hid the treasure!

Thick: Aye aye boss.

(Thick and Thicker take the lead off stage and up the aisle followed by Wendigo and the wolverettes. They snap and snarl at the audience as they go they return to the stage ...this can be played according to available space...to do a circuit once round.)

Wendigo: Where are we going boys?

Thicker: To the hiding place boss.

Thick: Yeah, where we hid the treasure.

Wendigo: But the hermitage is the other way.

(Thick and Thicker stop suddenly and all concertina into each other like dominoes.)

Thick: Hermitage boss?

Wendigo: Yes, I told you to hide the loot in the old hermitage.

Thicker: Oh 'eck

Thick: Oh dear.

Wendigo: What's wrong?

Thick: We thought you said the old cottage boss.

Wendigo: Old cottage? What old cottage?

Thicker: The one deep in the woods boss.

Thick: Yeah, some old lady lives there, it says granny's cottage over the door.

Wendigo: *What!!*

Thicker: Yeah, granny's cottage.

(Wendigo dances about in a rage.)

Wendigo: You nincompoops, you idiots, you dolts, you fools!

Thick: Thanks boss.

Thicker: Yeah, thanks boss.

Wendigo: That's Granny Hood's cottage and its protected by magic! How did you get in?

Thick: We just knocked at the door and asked the lovely old lady if we could hide our loot there and she said yes, of course you can.

Thicker: So we gave her the loot and she said she would hide it for us boss.

Wendigo: No, no, no, no, no! The only way to get in is to be asked in or to know the magic verse! How are we going to get our treasure back now?

Thick: We could just knock on the door and ask for it boss?

Wendigo: Fool, idiot, jackass!

Thick: Thank you boss.

Wendigo: The only other person who knows the secret words is her granddaughter, Red Riding Hood. We must capture her and make her talk! Back to the den wolvettes, you two idiots get down to the village in disguise and find out when Red Riding Hood is going to visit her grandma!

(All exit.)