



THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS – THE  
PANTOMIME  
by  
DAN SMITH & CLAIRE HUGHES

Extract

A SMITH SCRIPT

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# The Wind Will Blow IN THE Snow

By  
Dan Smith and Claire Hughes

## **Plot**

The Weasels of the Wild Wood are tired of living in terrible conditions and despise Toad for his wealth. They plot to frame him for a crime he didn't commit in order to take over Toad Hall whilst he serves time in prison. Toad's housekeeper is implicated in the crime but his friends Mole, Ratty, Otty and Badger work to free them both before launching an attack on the Weasels, chasing them out of Toad Hall. To celebrate Toad throws an elaborate Christmas Banquet.

## **Characters**

**Toad –** Toad of Toad Hall. An eccentric, posh, well to do character who is silly but kind hearted. (Male)

**Ratty –** Lives on the river and is a clever, quick witted but relaxed character who has been friends with Toad for many years and takes Mole under his wing. He pretends to be cultured and is very stubborn. (Male/Female)

**Mole –** A nervous and timid character who is keen for adventure but is cautious and unsure. (Male/Female)

**Badger –** A grumpy hermit who enjoys a comfy chair and a cup of tea in his badger hole. (Male/Female)

**Otter –** Audience participation character, cheeky, jack the lad type character. (Male/Female)

**Mary Twinkle –** Mary is the new housekeeper at Toad Hall yet she rarely does any housework. She has been married several times and isn't shy. (Male)

**Weasel One –** Villain. One, as he is known, leads the weasels in a plot to frame Toad and take over Toad Hall. (Male/Female)

**Weasel Two –** One's second in command, Two, is very stupid and makes lots of mistakes but follows One blindly. (Male/Female)

**Kenneth -** He is part of stage crew and brings on various stage props whilst trying to keep the show running with as little mess as possible. Very dry/sarcastic (Male)

**Frogette -** The jailer's daughter, she helps Toad and Mary escape from prison. (Female)

**Animal 1**

**Animal 2**

**Animal 3**

**Policeman 1**

**Policeman 2**

**Weasel**

**Chorus –** Various animals, rabbits, weasels etc.

## **Act 1**

### **Prologue**

- Scene 1 - Mole meets Ratty**
- Scene 2 - Weasels of Wildwood**
- Scene 3 - Toad Hall**
- Scene 4 - Crashing into the Wild Wood**
- Scene 5 - Badgers House**
- Scene 6 - Weasels in Action**
- Scene 7 - Arrested!**

## **Act 2**

- Scene 1 - Otter and Weasels**
- Scene 2 - Toad and Mary in Prison**
- Scene 3 - Plan Number 42**
- Scene 4 - Weasels at Toad Hall**
- Scene 5 - Prison Break**
- Scene 6 - Retaking Toad Hall**
- Scene 7 - Christmas Banquet**

## **SUGGESTED SONG LIST**

### **ACT 1**

- Song 1 - Down by the Lazy River - The Osmond's  
(Mole and Chorus)**
- Song 2 - Sound of the Underground - Girls Aloud  
(Mole, Ratty, Otter and Chorus)**
- Song 3 - Be Prepared - The Lion King  
(Led by One with Two and Chorus)**
- Song 4 - Proud Mary - Tina Turner  
(Led by Mary with Toad, Mole, Ratty, Otter and Chorus)**
- Song 5 - Come Alive - The Greatest Showman  
(Mole, Ratty, Otter, Badger and Chorus)**

### **ACT 2**

- Song 6 - Jailhouse Rock - Elvis Presley  
(Led by Mary with Toad and Chorus)**
- Song 7 - Step into Christmas - Elton John  
(Led by Otter with Mole, Ratty, Badger and Chorus)**
- Song 8 - Get This Party Started - Pink  
(Led by Two with One and Chorus)**
- Song 9 - I'm Still Standing - Elton John  
(Otter with Ratty, Mole and Badger)**
- Song 10 - White Christmas  
(Toad and Chorus)**
- Song 11 - I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday - Wizzard  
(All)**

## ACT 1

### PROLOGUE

*Front of curtains.*

*Kenneth is doing the theatre announcements.*

KEN: Hello. Welcome to 'The Wind in the Willows'. Please make sure your mobile phones are switched off and please be aware there is no photography allowed during the performance. There will be an interval...

*Otter enters through audience entrance*

OTTER: Oi! Ken! Kenneth!

KEN: Otter! We haven't started yet. I'm still doing the announcements! Get backstage!

OTTER: I'm sorry Ken mate, but I need to find that blasted Weasel, have you seen him?

KEN: No! Now get backstage!

*Otter walks through the audience.*

OTTER: *(to audience)* You haven't seen him have you? Weasel? Horrible creepy fella, about this big, right ugly face he's got. Anyone? Anyone seen a Weasel knocking about?

KEN: Do you mind! I haven't finished my bit! They still don't know about the fire exits.

OTTER: I'm sorry Kenneth, you're right carry on.

*Otter gets on stage and stands next to Ken, mocking him as he finishes the announcements.*

KEN: Now finally, the exits are to the left and right, please exit calmly and quickly in the event of a fire. *(Noticing Otter)* Fine! I'm done! Enjoy the show. *(To Otter)* You may have the stage now.

*Ken exits through curtain.*

OTTER: Cheers Ken! Let me know if you see that Weasel won't you! *(To audience)* The wretched git, you wait till I find him, the little thief! Sorry folks, having a little trouble with the wicked Weasels of the Wild Wood. I haven't even introduced myself, I'm Otter. I live down on the river, not too far from my mate Ratty. Came up here to see if I could find that bloomin' Weasel, have none of you seen him?

*Weasel One enters staying behind Otter*

OTTER: Behind me? If he's behind me you need to shout louder than that, i've got too much water in my ears.

*Weasel One goes on and off stage, mocking Otter behind his back*

OTTER: Behind me! Eh, get here you little....!

*Otter drags Weasel One on stage*

ONE: Get off! Get off!

OTTER: Where is it? Where's my stuff?

ONE: Don't know what you're talking about.

OTTER: Don't mess with me Weasel, my scuba gear where is it?

*Weasels Two enters dressed in a snorkel and flippers*

ONE: No idea

OTTER: *(Noticing Two)* You! Get that off now!

TWO: What kind of Otter needs scuba gear!

OTTER: Get it off!

*They chase each other*

OTTER: Give it to me now! I'm fishing this afternoon I need it! What use is it to you?

ONE: You're an Otter! Surely you don't need this lot? We can sell it.

OTTER: Don't you dare!

ONE: Yeah well if your old mate Toad would sort out our living conditions.

TWO: And stop cutting the benefits!

ONE: Yeah, well we wouldn't have to go pinchin' would we? Live in squalor we do, and does he care? Do you care? Not a sausage! But it's all going to change.

OTTER: It ain't my doing! And what do you mean it's all going to change? What are you plotting now?

TWO: Well it starts with...

ONE: Shut up! You idiot! Just know we have a plan Otter, you lot on the river won't be so comfortable come the winter. Ha ha ha!

OTTER: I'll find out what you're up to, you'll be stopped once and for all, you and all your cretins in the wood. (*To audience*) You'll tell me boys and girls won't you? Whatever it is they're up to? Can't have these baddens ruining the show! Look I've got to go, said I'd catch up with Ratty for a pint, I'll see you soon boys and girls. Keep an eye on them won't you? Bye!

*Otter exits*

ONE: (*To audience*) It's a wonderfully awful plan we've got boys and girls.

TWO: (*To audience*) Yeah, proper good! You wait till you hear it, you won't want to be on their side.

ONE: Quiet! I'm the boss. (*To audience*) I'm Weasel One, or just One, if you didn't catch my name. I run things down in Wild Wood. It's about time those river creatures know who's in charge here in the Willows. Not Toad, sat up in his grand hall on the river, or that ridiculous Otter. We're going to bring them down for good! Reclaim the river and reclaim our land! Ha ha ha! And for those who try to stop us, well they'll get what's coming to them! Boo all you like. You'll be joining us before the show is over!

TWO: Yeah!

ONE:           *(to audience)* I'm sure we'll meet again, very soon.

TWO:           I think we're scene 3 aren't we? Or was it for 4? I can't remember.

ONE:           Please shut up!

TWO:           But do we need a costume change?

*One exits.*

TWO:           *(chasing One)* When are we supposed to do our song? Our big number!

*Black out*

### **SCENE 1 - MOLE MEETS RATTY**

*Set underground. Mole and Chorus are on stage spring cleaning.*

#### **SUGGESTED SONG**

#### **Song 1 - Down By the Lazy River - The Osmonds (Mole and Chorus)**

*Animal 1 enters S.L*

ANIMAL 1:   Run! Run!

*Animal 2 enters S.R*

ANIMAL 2:   Evacuate!

*Animal 3 enters S.L.*

ANIMAL 3:   Save yourselves!

MOLE:        What on Earth is going on?

*Chorus run about in panic*

ANIMAL 2:   Get out of here!

MOLE:        But.... what?

ANIMAL 1:   Run Mole, get out of here!

MOLE: It's spring cleaning, what's going on?

ANIMAL 1: It's coming for us all! The smell it's...!

MOLE: Smell? What...? Oh God.

ANIMAL 1: He's FARTED! Go!

MOLE: But who? Oh my word!

ANIMAL 1: *(Pointing out to the audience)* Him! That one there!

MOLE: Urgh! Disgusting my dear fellow!

ANIMAL 2: Quick! Come on!

*The chorus run around in panic then leave the stage, Mole collapses centre stage. It all goes quiet. Underground set lifts to reveal The River. Ratty is asleep in his boat with headphones on. Mole starts to come to. Ken comes on and rolls a blue carpet across the length of the stage.*

MOLE: Who are you? What's that?

KEN: It's a river.

MOLE: It's not a river, it's a carpet.

KEN: No it's not, it's a river.

MOLE: Doesn't look like a river.

KEN: It's blue isn't it.

MOLE: Not all rivers are blue. Have you seen the Sow?

KEN: Seen her? I married her.

MOLE: No not a pig sow, I mean the river Sow. It's brown and dirty.

KEN: Well this is a pantomime so it's got to look how a lovely river would look.

MOLE: But it doesn't look like a river, you don't even get wet when you touch it.

KEN: Touch it and you'll see

*Mole touches the carpet. Ken reaches into his utility belt, pulls out a water pistol then squirts Mole and exits.*

MOLE: Well I never! Oh my! That was extraordinary. *(To audience member)* You know my dear chap you should really see someone about that, I mean really! The smell! *(Looking around)* We must have all made it up onto the river bank. It will be weeks before that smell disappears, and my spring cleaning barely begun! Well never mind, but what to do now? Oh gosh, I have no idea where I am, what to do!

*Ratty stands in his boat*

RATTY: Alright there chap? You lost?

MOLE: No... well yes I am a little lost. I've found myself here on the riverbank with nowhere to go and no bed for the night.

RATTY: That is a pickle.

*Ratty leaves his boat.*

MOLE: Yes it is quite. Oh dear, oh dear, where am I to go? Do you know of any B 'n' B's about the place?

RATTY: Not me mate, I'm rarely off the river. Rat. Well my friends call me Ratty.

MOLE: Mole, how do you do? What are you are listening too?

RATTY: Mozart's 100th symphony, la magnificent, de wonderful and mui... lovely. I'm quite the cultured fellow you see.

MOLE: Could I... I mean if you wouldn't mind... may I listen?

RATTY: *(Looking nervous)* Um... no I don't think so. It's probably not your cup of tea.

MOLE: I should quite like to try.

RATTY: No, no you wouldn't.

MOLE: I would. Come on.

*Mole reaches for the iPod. The two begin a scuffle and the iPod falls. Spice Girls - Stop plays loudly in the theatre. Mole and Ratty stare at one another. Ratty scoops up the iPod.*

RATTY: Why won't this thing shut up! Stop. Stop!

MOLE: *(Dancing)* Right now, thank you very much, I need somebody...

RATTY: Yes very funny. Thank you. Didn't you say you needed somewhere to stay?

MOLE: Yes, yes I do. I have never lived anywhere other than underground, I'm terribly nervous.

RATTY: I have space in my boat if you fancy an adventure on the river.

MOLE: Well now that would be wonderful, I would so much like an adventure.

RATTY: I'm off up to see my good friend Mr Toad as well this afternoon though, you're welcome to come.

MOLE: Why how splendid, I would love to meet the famous Mr Toad. Do you really think I could? What's he like?

RATTY: A nutter. Complete nutter.

*Otter enters*

OTTER: Alright Ratty, talking about old Toady are you? Hello boys and girls, fancy seeing you here! How are you all?

MOLE: You've met before? Did he save that for our scene then? *(Pointing at farting audience member)* That foul smelling...

OTTER: Eh! They're a nice bunch this lot I met them earlier, said they'd help out with those wretched Weasels didn't you? Look you've got to be a little louder than that folks. You're going to help us out aren't you? Aren't you? That's a bit better.

RATTY: Otter, at it again are you? Always with the 'he's behind you' nonsense,

at least you have an audience this time. *(To Mole)* Usually he practices in front of the mirror. Some of the rabbits caught him at it. What's the catch phrase again?

OTTER: *(Embarrassed)* Otty, Otty, Otty.

RATTY: Oi, oi, oi! Ha ha of course! You should try it with this lot.

OTTER: I don't see why not! How about it boys and girls, when I come on stage I'll shoud Otty, Otty, Otty, then you shout, oi, oi, oi. Got it. Let's give it a go.

*Otty runs on and off stage*

OTTER: Otty, Otty, Otty! I think we'll try that again.

*Runs off and on stage again*

OTTER: Otty, Otty, Otty! Brilliant. Gosh that was fun! Much better than the mirror.

RATTY: So you started with the man in the mirror?

MOLE: Were you asking him to change his ways?

RATTY: It didn't matter if he was black or white.

OTTER: Alright, stop the Michael Jackson references now.

RATTY: I'm sorry ladies and gentlemen but there aren't many jokes about mirrors...on reflection. Right, Otter let me introduce you to Mole.

MOLE: How do you do?

RATTY: Found himself in a bit of a jam. The entire underground has had to be evacuated, he's going to stay with my very fine self until he can get back in.

OTTER: Here, what do you say your name was?

MOLE: Mole, or Moley if you'd rather.

OTTER: Moley, Moley, Moley! I know you! You wrote that song! What was it now. *(Begins humming trying to remember the tune.)*

RATTY: Oh yes! I know what you mean Otter. It was... it's on the tip of my tongue!

OTTER: It was that Girls Aloud song!

RATTY: Yes!

MOLE: No, no! I don't know what you are talking about.

RATTY: Oh go on, give us a song!

OTTER: Sound of the underground!

RATTY: That's it! Come on Moley!

MOLE: No you have the wrong man!

*Otter and Ratty begin dancing round trying to sing the song.*

MOLE: Those aren't the words!

RATTY: See it is you isn't it! Show us how it goes!

*Chorus filter on as Moley begins singing*

### **SUGGESTED SONG**

#### **Song 2 - Sound of the Underground - Girls Aloud (Moley, Ratty, Otter and Chorus)**

OTTER: Brilliant! Got any more?

MOLE: Thank you that was good fun. We were much better than those awful girls they gave my song too.

RATTY: We don't have time Otter, we're due at old Toads.

OTTER: Drat! Never mind plenty of time later for a good old sing song. I enjoyed that didn't you boys and girls?

RATTY: He's at it again look!

MOLE: How will we get to Mr Toad's? Is he at Toad Hall?

RATTY: Yes he is, we'll take the boat.

MOLE: It looks rather small.

RATTY: We'll be fine, Otter can swim alongside can't you mate?

OTTER: I'll head off now, got to make a stop on the way. I'll see you there. Bye boys and girls!

*Mole and Ratty get in the boat, Ratty taking the oars.*

MOLE: Umm... how exactly do we?

RATTY: There's supposed to be a blackout. Oi, Ken! The lights!

MOLE: What?

RATTY: Useless. Absolutely useless. They forget every time. Ken! Oh come on, we'll have to do it ourselves.

MOLE: I don't understand?

RATTY: We don't have the budget for a proper boat. On three, (*Ratty stands, making Mole do so as well*) 1, 2 and 3.

*The pair lift the boat and try to take it off stage.*

RATTY: This way my dear Mole. Left.

MOLE: I'm going left!

RATTY: Well right then! To me, to you!

MOLE: To you, to me!

*They exit.*