

Jack & Jill & The Beanstalk

A pantomime by

Craig Hewlett

Spotlight Publications

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CAST in order of appearance

The Fairy Liquid - Female

Our storyteller. An old worn out fairy with a heart of gold and a penchant for speaking in rhyme. She uses her magic to ensure that the story has a beginning, middle and end. Must be likeable and able to relate to an audience. Has a cameo song snippet so needs confident voice.

Dame Dolly Mixtures - Male

A sharp and witty Dame. Lovable and ingenious. The victim of the Squire and although she lives in poverty she keeps up hers and everyone else's spirits. Must be able to play an audience and sing

Jack Mixtures - Female

Principal boy and hero. Known locally for his expertise in laziness, undergoes a change of character through the story 'from zero to hero'. Needs to be a good singer/dancer.

Gemima Joie de Vivre- Female

Jill's not so little sister. A Vicky Pollard type. This character could be played as a youth Dame if desired. Desperately in love with Richard . Good character role. Must sing and dance.

Richard Mixtures- Male

'Clever Richard' – is Jack's very intelligent brother and love interest for Gill. Good character part. 'Plum in mouth' speaking style. Slightly supercilious but likeable. Needs to sing and dance.

Jill Joie de Vivre - Female

Not named as one but this is the 'Princess' role. Say no more. Bags of character needed for a good sassy part. Needs a good singing voice and dancing ability.

Sticky Bunn - Male

Servant to the Squire. A likeable rogue who'd like to be nice not nasty. His lines imply he is little and needs to be small in stature for the character to work. May be played by a non-singer

Sir Nicholas Nicholas, the Squire - Male

Villain. A moustache twirling, 'tie the girl to the train tracks' type. One of nature's rotters. He is out to rule his particular part of the world and has his eye on Jill. May be played by a non-singer.

Daisy the Camel – male or female

Feature part for two chorus members who want a bit more action. The actors would be able to participate in other scenes as chorus. Must be physically fit to perform the necessary business.

Horace the Hornseller – male or female

Small character part for a chorus member. Is involved in a comedy business scene with the Dame, Jack and Daisy.

Robin Ublind and Conrad Fidence-Tryckster – male or female (*may be called Robin and Connie*)

Career criminals, they are a couple of opportunists who blunder through the story. They are essential to the plotline of the 'magic' beans. Good characterization needed. Both actors need to sing and dance.

Guy Ant – male but may be played by a female

A new resident in the Land of the Giant. His name leads him reluctantly into the story and he decides to stick with Jack when the chips are down. Another small part where the actor may be part of the chorus in Act One. May be doubled with the Hornseller.

Principal Chorus Members

**Buzz, Fizz, Jump, Skipper, Hoppy, Primo, Filo and Whizza,
Health and Safety Police and a Postman.**

The Giant's Mini-me and Sir Nicholas's Mini-me. (All have lines. There is also some principal chorus singing)

Chorus

**The villagers of Poverty
Skeletons in the land of the Giants**

Voice of the Giant and voice of the Hen – may be recorded prior to the show.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1

Prologue - The arbour of the Fairy Liquid

Scene 1 - Outside the Dame's cottage

Scene 2 - A crossroads, front of tabs

Scene 3 - Dolly's Diner, inside the cottage

ACT 2

Prologue - The arbour of the Fairy Liquid

Scene 1 - Outside the Dame's cottage

Scene 2 - The top of the beanstalk, FOT

Scene 3 - The house of Guy Ant

Scene 4 - The top of the beanstalk

Scene 5 - Outside the Dame's cottage

Scene 6 - A dungeon, then the Squire's residence

Scene 7 - The arbour of the Fairy Liquid

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

1. “*Feel Alright*” - Supergrass - Revised words (Chorus)
2. “*Those Canaan Days*” – Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat - (Jack, Dame and Chorus)
3. “*Whistle In The Choir*” – The Fratellis – Revised words (Jack and Jill)
4. “*Daisy*” – Community Song (Dame, Jack, Jill and Chorus)
5. “*We’re Your Friends*” – The Jungle Book (Conrad, Robin and Jack)
6. “*It’s A Fine Life*” - Oliver - Chorus
7. “*Feed Me*” – Little Shop of Horrors - (Dolly and Chorus)
8. “*Shine*” - Take That - Jack, Jill & Chorus

ACT 2

9. “*Step In Time*” - Mary Poppins – Revised words (Principals and Chorus)
10. “*I Luv U*” - The Ordinary Boys – (Gemima and Richard)
11. “*Whistle A Happy Tune*” - The King and I – (Jack, Gemima and Richard)
12. “*Thriller*” - Michael Jackson – (Skeletons)
13. “*Friendship*” - Anything Goes – (Dame, Jill, Richard, Gemima and Chorus)
14. “*Wind Beneath My Wings*” – Revised words (Jill)
15. “*Don’t Stop Me*” – Queen. – (Principals and Chorus)
16. “*Walkin’ On Sunshine*” - Katrina and the Waves - (Whole Cast)
For Emma Joie de Vivre and ace choreographer

This pantomime was first performed by the Dursley Operatic and Dramatic Society at the Lister Hall, Dursley, during January of 2008 with the following cast:

The Fairy Liquid	Julia Whitman
Dame Dolly Mixtures	Stuart Whitman
Jack Mixtures	Hannah Pritchard
Richard Mixtures	Charlie Marshall
Gemima Joie De Vivre	Pippa Robinson
Jill Joie De Vivre	Kate McLarnon
Sticky Bunn	Maxine Coleman
Sir Nicholas Nicholas	Alan Marshall
Daisy the Camel	Emma Waye & Bekah Mills
Horace the Hornseller	David Hill
Conrad Confidence-Tryckster	David Hamilton
Robin Ublind	Darren Kitchin
Guy Ant	Alan Stansfield
Giant Mini Me	Tyler Harding
Sir Nicholas Mini Me	Huw Prince

My thanks to my good friend and Musical Director Dave Shears for his arrangements of the music of the songs used in this pantomime. If you should require Dave’s musical arrangements, please contact Spotlight.
Craig Hewlett

ACT 1

Prologue

The arbour of the Fairy Liquid. This is set stage right. There is a storyteller's chair and a large book of Fairy Tales is on a small table.

The Fairy Liquid enters to a tinkling music and with a flourish of her magic wand. She indicates the young dancers to take a bow. She goes to stage right. A dim but comforting lighting (designed to bring the audience in) descends.

Fairy Welcome, welcome one and all,
To our pantomime at (*venue*) Hall,
Ah! There's my chair, you won't mind if I sit?
You're very kind, I'm getting on a bit,
I'm six hundred and five, no really it's true,
I know I don't look it, who was that said 'You do'?
I'm in my prime as fairies go,
At least that's what my mum says, so
Let me introduce myself, I come here once a year,
I'm the Fairy Liquid, (*picking out a person in the audience*) Yes, Fairy Liquid, dear.
Now the real reason that I'm here is to tell you all a story,
One with a happy ending where a hero basks in glory,
Something different and exotic? Does a camel fit the bill?
A giant maybe, a hero Jack who saves a Princess Jill,
I think we're getting somewhere now, so let me take a look,
And see what I can find hidden here deep within my book.
You must forgive me it's been a while, I may be a little rusty,
My wand is past its sell by date and look my book's all dusty,
Ah! Here it is, the tale I seek at last it's story time
Jack and Jill and the Beanstalk as told in pantomime.

She waves her wand and backs off the stage as the curtains open. Ideally the arbour will be set offstage to the right or to the left depending on the Director's preference so that the fairy may pop up as and when required with minimum disruption to the storyline or scene changes

Scene 1

Outside the Dame's cottage, in the village of Poverty near (place of performance). The tabs open to a full rosy daylight

The Chorus enters brightly, laughing and shouting to one another.

Song 1

('Feel Alright' Supergrass – revised words)

We are young, we run green,
Keep our teeth, nice and clean,
See our friends, see the sights, feel alright,
We wake up, we go out, we dress up,
Have a laugh, see our friends,
See the sights, feel alright,

Are we like you?
We can't be sure,
But you look, like the sort,
We would like in our world.
So we are young, we get by,
We go mad, we got time,
Dance around, if we like,
Cause we're alright.

Dance break – two verse lengths

Are we like you?
We can't be sure,
But you look, like the sort,
We would like in our world.

Ain't got cash, cause we're poor,
Got our health, who needs more?
A good time, pantomime,
And we're alright.

At the end of the song the villagers gather in chatting groups

Buzz (*out of breath*) Whose idea was that jolly little ditty?

Fizz Oh don't be so miserable. This is a pantomime, you know.

Buzz So?

Jump (*waving a bit of paper*) Read your contract, mate. It specifies that the villagers will open the show with a bouncy happy song to 'get the audience fired up and ready for the rest of the show'.

Buzz Yeah but couldn't they have chosen something a bit more sedate? I'm pooped.

Fizz The Director goes to the gym – he thinks we should all keep fit.

Buzz I'm only a teenager – I prefer having a lie in.

Jump Well why'd you audition then?

Buzz I saw people queuing up – I thought there was a sale on.

Skipper (*singing she approaches the trio*) 'We are young, we run green'.

Buzz What's all that about as well? 'We run green'.

Skipper This pantomime is environmentally friendly. The scenery's made out of recycled cardboard. The lights are made from re-cycled glass.

Jump The audience has been re-cycled as well.

Fizz How d' you know?

Skipper (*pointing at a member of the audience*) Well I definitely saw him here last year.

Jump Our costume's have definitely been re-cycled too I'm wearing the trousers you wore last year only my bum's much smaller. Ha ha ha.

Skipper You pig! You know I'm sensitive about my bum! I hate you!

She storms offstage

Buzz What's your next trick? You gonna kick the scenery over?

Jump I didn't mean to upset her. I'll go and apologize.

He exits after girl

Primo I think that pantomime is educational.

Hoppy Really?

Primo Yep. It'll drive people back to reading books.

Hoppy Ah well, back to whatever plot there is.

The Chorus all shake their heads and assume their pantomime characters changing their accents to the local one

I don't know how we manage to keep so cheerful really, do you? Not with Nasty Sir Nicholas Nicholas putting everyone's rent up sky high.

Primo I know. He's horrible, isn't he? He makes Hannibal Lecter look like a vegetarian.

Hoppy Hey listen. I can hear Dolly coming. It's time for us to 'mill around gaily'.

The Dame enters from inside her cottage with a basket of washing. She's singing 'I Feel Pretty' very badly

Dame 'I feel pretty, oh so pretty,
I feel pretty and witty and gay.'

She sees the audience

And for your information that's 'gay' as in light-hearted and carefree. Just like a tramp's vest - I'm full of life. Mind you, I don't know why I'm so happy with all my worries.. still, I'll tell you about that later. Hello there. (*Audience*) Please yourselves, I'll talk to myself then. I said 'Hello there' (*Audience*) Oh you're alive then, thank goodness for that, I was just about to give (*local funeral director*) a ring and tell him I'd got some business for him. I expect you're all a bit shy 'cos we haven't been introduced have we? Well my name's Dolly. Dolly Mixtures, but you can call me Sweetie. I'll tell you what, now that we've been introduced let's give your tongues and tonsils a test. Not the way you're thinking, you naughty boy! I'm spoken for. I know, I'll go back inside my cottage, come back out and I'll shout out 'Hello everybody' and you shout back 'Hello Sweetie'. Will you do that for me? You will? Right, let's try it, shall we?

She exits into the cottage and rushes back out

Hello, everybody! (*Audience*) Well that wasn't bad, I suppose, but I think we can turn the volume up a bit more. Let's try it again.

She exits into the cottage and rushes back out

Hello everybody! (*Audience*) Oh yes. That's much better. Definitely the loudest audience this week so I want you all to turn left in your seat and pat each other on the back saying 'Well done, we're the best audience this week.' (*Audience*) Ha ha. Did you see that man on the end? He was patting nobody. Oh dear me. That's very sad really. Hold on a minute.

She runs down to the man

Here you are, you can pat me. Another satisfied customer.

She returns to the stage

Now where was I? Oh yes I was about to hang out me washing.

Jack (*offstage*) Mother?

Dame Oooh, that's our Jack.

Jack enters. He is a very pretty young man

Jack Ah there you are, mum. Who are you talking to?

Dame No one that you'd know. Well I suppose there may be one or two out there actually but.....

Jack What's for tea, mum? I'm starving

Dame What's for tea? I knew it. You only ever put in an appearance when you're hungry. I suppose you've spent the day sleeping as usual.

Jack Far from it.

Dame You've been in one of Farmer (*local farmer*)'s haystacks.

Jack I have not!

Dame Either the stuffing's coming out of your head or that's straw in your hair.

Jack Ah! I've been looking for that. (*He puts the end of the straw into his mouth*) If you must know I've been very busy all day 'thinking'.

Dame Oh yes? And what did you think about?

Jack Not much really.

Dame I thought so. You've been asleep. Why you have to lie to your poor old mother when I have enough troubles already I really don't know.

Jack Troubles? What troubles?

Dame You must have seen the red letters, Jack. The final demands.

Jack Is that like 'last orders'?

Dame Bills, Jack. Bills (*She flaps a handful of papers at him*) The trouble is these are big enough to be Williams.

Jack No, I hadn't noticed them

Dame Why am I not surprised? The only way to get you to read anything is to write it on the inside of your eyelids

Jack Why doesn't William pay them then?

Dame What? (*To audience*) Oh bless him. You have to feel sorry for him really don't you? His father was the same. The wheel was turning but the hamster was definitely dead, if you know what I mean?

Jack Eh?

Dame Have you ever wondered why I keep patching your jacket? Why it is that I don't simply buy you a new one?

Jack 'Cause the village shop's closed down? (*The Chorus react in angry agreement*)

Dame Nope. Good guess though. Try again

Jack 'Cause we live in (*name of local town*) and there's only one bus a week? (*Chorus react again*)

Dame No. Although, that is true of course, go on have another go.

Jack Oh I don't know. Hold on! Hold on a minute! You can stop that right there, Mother.

Dame Stop what?

Jack Stop it! I know what you're up to. You're trying to make me think, aren't you?

Dame You are the weakest link. Goodbye.

Jack Oh come on, why is it then?

Dame It's because we've no money, Jack, that's why. We're skint, flat broke, washed up, and on the very bones of our..

Jack Mother!

Dame Bottoms. I was going to say bottoms. We're poor, Jack!

Jack I didn't realise we were poor?

Dame Well I'm afraid we are. Things are so bad, if I saw a church mouse go past the house I'd mug him.

Jack POOR!

Dame Yes and I must say I feel better now I've admitted it! 'A problem shared is a problem halved', they say, and they're right. Oh it feels good to get things off your chest and I should know, (*she fluffs up her chests*) you should see me after the show.

Jack Why?

Dame You know, when I take off me things..

Jack No! I mean why are we poor?

Dame I told you it's the bills. (*Assuming a Hunchback of Notre Dame pose*) 'The bills. The bills. They made me deaf, you know.'

Jack What?

Dame It's my Quasimodo?

Jack Have you been to the doctor?

Dame Quasimodo, stupid! You know? The Hunchback of Notre Dame.

Jack As opposed to Dollymodo the hunch-front of (*name of local town*).

Dame Very witty, I've trained you well. Anyway I don't know why we're poor, Jack. It's the government, probably. All those taxes of theirs.

Jack It's hard to get one of those in (*name of local town*) too.

The Chorus reacts angrily again

Dame What? Oh give me strength! Taxes! Taxes! You buffoon. Not *(she whistles)* Oy! Taxi!

Chorus & Jack Oh ...

Dame Look Jack, we've got to think of something fast. That horrible Squire of *(local)* will be along for his rent money soon and when he finds out that we haven't got it, he'll throw us out on the streets and then I'll die of exposure and then they'll take me to the mortuary and strip me of my dignity.. Ooh the shame of it all, my mother will be turning in her gravy.

Jack The mortician's in for a quite a shock as well!

Dame Oh Jack! What are we going to do? I can't take anymore really I can't. Boo hoo! *(She sobs loudly and blows her nose on Jack's costume)*

Jack Please don't cry, mum? This is a pantomime we're in, you know. I'm sure we'll end up living happy ever after.

Dame Not only stupid but trusting.

Song 2

Well, as amusing a little interlude as that was, it hasn't really helped us with our money worries, has it?

Richard enters at a run followed by Gemima and Jill

Dame Hey up! Here comes your brother!

Gemima Come back, my luvver! Oooh! Why d' you always tease me by running away? You know you loves me, you're just shy.

Richard I am not shy and I don't love you so please leave me alone!

Gemima He's playing hard to get. Oh Richard! Richie! Little Richie! Dick! Dickie! It don't matter how many times I say your name I never get tired of it!

Richard For the last time! It's not Ritchie, Little Ritchie, Dick, Dickie, Duckie, Lovey, dovey, luvver, Scootchie, poochey, peachey, pusskin or any of those other ridiculous names you call me. It is Richard!

Gemima Oh that's easy for you to say. It doesn't matter how mean you are to me I shall still love you. Treat 'em mean an' keep 'em keen. That's what he's doin' to me Jill. He's being mean! Boo hoo!

Richard Now steady on there.. er Gemima! I don't think you should cry, you know.

Gemima Ooh Ritchie! You're so gentle and caring and so yummy – scrummy - yummy, I could eat you all up.

Richard Eat me all up?

Gemima Ooh Dick! Wot with you being just a teenager an all that acne, that makes you a spotted Dick an' I loves my puddin's, Come 'ere!

She grabs him around his arms and body - pinning him

Richard Stop! Unhand me at once! I am not to be pawed at in this way. It's against the law!

Gemima There is no law that can stop the power of love!

Richard Mum! Jack! Don't just stand there. Help me!

Jack Now come on, Gemima, put him down now! Leave him, leave! Drop! Drop him!

Gemima releases Richard who crumbles into a heap

Gemima Oh Jack! How strong and masterful you are. I'd never really noticed you before but...

Jill Gemima! That's enough! You're embarrassing our family with your behaviour. Don't worry, Jack, her bite's worse than her bark.

Jack Thanks Jill. Eh?

Jill How's your crown anyway? Is it alright? You took a real tumble coming down that hill yesterday. Did you get your water in the end, Dame Dolly?

Dame Ooh yes! It always tastes nicer out of a pail

Jill It was fun up there. We should go again?

Gemima We could all go. You and Jack and me and Rich Tea.

Richard It's Richard! And I am not going anywhere with you!

Gemima Waah! You see? I've tried everything. All me womanly wiles and he won't go out with me. I only want to go out on a date.

Richard A date? You want to go out on a date with me?

Gemima YES! Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes! You heard him, didn't you? He asked me out.

Richard What? I couldn't...

Gemima ...control your feelings any longer and so begged me for a date...

Richard ...I said nothing...

Gemima ...would stand in the way of our happiness. Oh Ricky Tikky Tavey. You won't be sorry; it'll be a date you'll always remember.

Dame Or one you'll never forget! I'd give in now if I were you.

Richard Give in? Never! Now look Gemima...

Gemima Yes, Dicky?

Jack & Jill & The Beanstalk

Jack's adventures up the beanstalk in the land of Guy Ant. Plus a host of colourful characters including wicked Squire Sir Nicholas, two con men Robin and Conrad.

Plot Summary

Jack's mum Dame Dolly Mixtures can't pay the rent so they sell off the family pet Daisy the camel. Two con men sell Jack some magic beans, and when he plants these, he is transported to the land of the Giant, where he fights the said giant and nicks his golden goose. Meanwhile evil Squire Sir Nicholas has kidnapped Jill, but all ends happily - of course!

Musical arrangements of the songs used in this pantomime are available on request.

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