

# **Cinderella**

**A pantomime**

**by Dave Buchanan**

**Spotlight Publications**

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# **Cinderella**

CAST (in order of appearance)

**Dandini**, the Prince's equerry

**Begonia**)

**Petunia**) the Ugly Sisters

**Baron Hardup**

**Lady Hardup**

**Buttons**

**Cinderella**, the Baron's daughter

**Sandee**)

**Andi**) the Handymen

**Prince Charming**

**Fairy Fozzle**

**Mia & Lida**, native girls

**A Gorilla**

**Chorus of servants, native girls and ballroom guests**

Scenes - the village square of Dodderington, Hardup Hall, a South Seas island, and the Castle Royale

Time - long ago

## **SYNOPSIS OF SCENES**

### **ACT 1**

Scene 1 - The village square of Dodderington

Scene 2 - Front of curtain

Scene 3 - The living room of Hardup Hall

Scene 4 - A woodland

Scene 5 - The living room of Hardup Hall

Scene 6 - The sisters' *boudoir*

Scene 7 - A South Seas island

### **ACT 2**

Scene 1 - On the road to the Castle

Scene 2 - The Ballroom at Castle Royale

Scene 3 - A corridor in Hardup Hall

Scene 4 - The living room of Hardup Hall

Scene 5 - Front of curtain

Scene 6 - Hardup Hall

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT 1

1. "Reach (For The Stars)" (S Club 7) (Dancers & Chorus)
2. "Sisters" (Begonia & Petunia)
3. "Where Is Love?" (Oliver - Lionel Bart) (Cinderella)
4. Aerobics Dance (Ugly Sisters & Dancers)
5. "I Want To Break Free" (Queen) (Prince)
6. "Tomorrow" ("Annie") (Cinderella)
7. "Barbie Girl" (Aqua) (Buttons & Cinderella)
8. "Blue Suede Shoes" (Elvis Presley) (Buttons)
9. "Yellow Bird" (Chorus & Dancers)
10. "King of the Swingers" (Jungle Book) (Gorilla & Chorus)
11. "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" (Junior Dancers)

### ACT 2

12. "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" (Baron, Lady Hardup & Sisters)
13. Waltz (Ballroom Guests)
14. "Rapping" (Words - D. Buchanan) (Sisters)
15. "Fame" (Chorus & Dancers)
16. "Supercallifragilistic expialidocious" (Mary Poppins) (Fozzie)
17. "(Love Lifts Us) Up Where We Belong" (Joe Cocker & Jennifer Warnes) (Prince & Cinderella)
18. Community Song: "Me And My Shadow" (Begonia & Petunia)
19. "Jingle Bells", "Winter Wonderland", (Company)

N.B. This list of songs is only the author's recommendation. All songs are at the discretion of the Musical Director.

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## **A NOTE ON THE PRINCIPALS**

**The Ugly Sisters.** Begonia is the more assertive of the two, and bosses her sister. Petunia is more gormless, but can hold her own extremely well. Normally the sisters go hammer and tongs at each other, but in a crisis they close ranks and are very supportive. Much involved in the action, and have songs to sing.

**Prince Charming** is a traditional principal boy, can be played by a boy or a girl. Singing part.

**Dandini** is a lively and humorous character, can be played by a man straight or by a woman as a second Principal Boy.

**Baron Hardup.** A part for a mature man. He is one of the main comic parts of the panto, a hen-pecked husband who gets his own back. Sings in a quartet.

**Lady Hardup.** A very strong part for a mature woman. A shrew who initially dominates her husband, Lady Hardup has a good relationship with her daughters. The part requires a good comic touch and is not unsympathetic. Also sings in the quartet.

**Buttons.** The ideal counterpart to anyone else, Buttons is a strong comic role and is onstage for most of the time. Singing part.

**Cinderella.** Not a faint-hearted heroine by any means, Cinderella is a strong central character with a lot of spirit. Is much involved and has songs to sing.

**Fairy Foozle** is a streetwise character who is always getting things wrong. But she in no way resembles the traditional Fairy Godmother! Singing part.

**Sandee & Andi.** The typical comedy duo, the Handymen are involved in standard comic routines, and can be played by either men or women.

**Mia & Lida.** Native girls from Honolulu who appear only in Act 1 Scene 7

## PROLOGUE

*Front of curtain (or tabs) is set a table with the crystal slippers displayed. This may be set for display before the audience come in. Just before the show is ready to start, a junior member of the cast comes and removes the slippers. Two other juniors then remove the table and bow before exiting*

## ACT 1

### Scene 1

*The village of Dodderington. A typical village square, with backdrop of shops, etc.*

*The Chorus of villagers is onstage for the first number*

### Song 1

*The Chorus exits*

*Dandini appears R with a bell and a scroll*

**Dandini** Hello, everybody. My name is Dandini and I am the Prince's equerry. Funny word, isn't it? Equerry. Sounds as if it has something to do with horses. Well actually, all it means is I'm a kind of gopher - go for this, go for that! This is the village of Dodderington, and just over there is the Prince's pad - the Castle Royale - you can see it from (*local supermarket*)'s car park! Anyway, the Prince is lonely (*he elicits an "Ah!" from the audience*). So he and I had this cunning plan.... Look, why don't you sit back and watch?

*He rings the bell, and the villagers assemble*

Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!

**Villagers** Oh no!

**Dandini** Listen, I've got some good news for you lot!

**Villager 1** Well get on with it then!

**Dandini** All right I will then. (*He clears his throat, and holds up the scroll*) "To all of whom it may concern -".

**Villager 2** Just get to the gist!

**Villager 1** Aye, just the gist!

**Dandini** Okay Okay! Impatient lot! Right, let me see. "His Royal Highness, Prince Charming -"

*There are Oohs and Ahs from the mainly female crowd*

**Dandini** "- Lord of Dodderington, Twitterington, and Much Mincing-in-the-Marsh, has decreed that there will be a ball at Castle Royale - "

**Villagers** Ooh!

**Dandini** "on the 20th (*or whatever*) of December, to which all local girls are invited." What do you think of that then?

*Everyone is very impressed and they start discussing it animatedly*

*At this point, enter R Begonia and Petunia, the Ugly Sisters*

**Begonia** Look, Petunia, over there! A proclamation!

**Petunia** Oh goody, I do like proclatations!

**Begonia** Stand aside, you plebs! Make way for ladies of quality!

*There are loud jeers*

**Villager 1** That's a laugh! Your mother peeled prawns (*or whatever*) at (*local factory*)!

*Laughs*

**Begonia** What a bloomin' cheek!

**Petunia** And it's a bloomin' lie, anyway!

**Villagers** Oh no it isn't!

**Petunia** Yes it is! It was (*another local factory*) she worked at! Na-na na-na-na!

*Laughs*

**Begonia** Such crude remarks don't deserve a reply, Petunia. We'll totally disregard them.

**Petunia** And we won't take any notice either, sis!

**Begonia** In any case, origins don't matter.

**Petunia** Oh I like oranges, Beggy. Especially Jaffas.

**Begonia** Origins, you twit! That means where we came from!

**Petunia** All right, keep your bloomers on!

**Begonia** What matters is what we are now. And we are certainly superior to you lot!

**Villagers** Rubbish! Rhubarb! *Etc.*

**Villager 2** The only thing you two have got more of is fat!

*Laughs*

**Begonia** Beasts! (*To Dandini*) Oy! You with the big thingy!

**Dandini** Who me?

**Begonia** Yes. Be so good as to carry on with the proclamation.

**Dandini** But I've finished!

**Begonia** What?

**Dandini** That's right. Finito, kaput, end of story. And now I'm away home to watch "Friends". It's my favourite TV programme.

**Petunia** I like the Teletubbies.

**Villager 1** She looks like a Teletubby!

*Laughs*

**Begonia** But listen, I insist.

**Dandini** Insist all you like, Madam, but I'm off. Unless -

**Begonia** Unless?

**Dandini** - you were to cross my palm with silver.

**Begonia** Petty, give him 5p.

**Petunia** I've only got a fifty.

**Dandini** (*grabbing it*) That'll do! Now I'll give you a *resumé*.

**Petunia** (*to Begonia*) Is he being cheeky? (*To Dandini*) Are you being cheeky, sunshine?

**Dandini** I was merely asking Madam, if you would like a summary. Or would you like a wintery, boom boom?

**Begonia** We are not amused.

**Dandini** In a nutshell -

**Petunia** Oh goody, I like nuts as well as oranges -

**Begonia** Petty -

**Petunia** Especially these cashier nuts -

**Begonia** Cashew!

**Petunia** What?

**Begonia** Cashew!  
**Petunia** Oh bless you! You know, I'm quite partial to pekingese nuts, as well -  
**Begonia** Will you shut your cakehole!  
**Petunia** Sorry I spoke!  
**Dandini** Prince Charming is having a ball at the Castle, to which all eligible females are invited.  
**Petunia** Ooh fancy!  
**Villager 1** He did say eligible females.  
**Begonia** So?  
**Villager 2** That lets you two out!  
**Begonia** Saucy so-and-so!  
**Petunia** Well I am certainly illegible!  
**Begonia** Silly cow! That means you can't read!  
**Villager 1** Aye, she can't read or write!  
**Begonia** Right, Petty, we are goin to forget we're ladies and knock the living daylights out of these two!  
**Petunia** Oh goody, a scrap!  
**Dandini** Can I hold your jackets, ladies?  
**Begonia** Get him too, sis!

*The sisters converge on Dandini, but he ducks and they barge into each other and fall heavily, amidst laughter*

**Petunia** Boo-hoo! I landed right on me beam end, sis! Me posterity's paralysed and me follicle's fractured!  
**Begonia** Never mind them, Petty. We've still got each other.

*The crowd drifts away. The curtains close behind them as the sisters sing*

## Scene 2

*Front of curtain. Begonia and Petunia sing:*

## Song 2

*The sisters exit L as Baron Hardup enters R*

**Baron** Hello, everyone! I'm Baron Hardup and as you can guess from my name, I've always been a bit short of cash. As a result of a few business ventures. For example, I invested all my money in a sea-going ship. Seemed a good idea at the time, and I liked its name - "Titanic". That went down well! Then I lost my wife. Gosh, this is a sad story, isn't it? Then I made the biggest mistake of my life. I had the chance to invest in an obscure female pop group (or current pop idol) but I didn't like their name - Spice Girls. And I was told they had no talent. Who said that? "They still don't!" That's unkind. Oh yes it is. *Etc.* Then I was forced to marry for money. That was my next big mistake. My second wife turned out to be a real dragon.

*A raucous female voice is heard offstage L*

**Lady Hardup** Horace! Horace, where are you?

**Baron** Oh Lord!

*He dithers, then hides behind the curtain. Enter Lady Hardup, L*

**Lady Hardup** Horace! Come out wherever you are! I want you! You can't hide from me. *(To audience)* You haven't seen the Baron, have you? *("No!")* You can easily recognise him. He's a spineless jellyfish of a man. Are you sure you haven't seen him? *("Yes!")* You're not kidding me, are you? *("No!")* I think you are. Oh yes you are! *("Oh no we're not!")* I'll find him anyway.

*She goes off R, still shouting. The Baron peeps out*

**Baron** That was a close shave! Listen, kids, would you like to be my early warning system? When you see the old battle-axe coming, I want you to shout, "Look out, Baron!"

*Buttons appears R*

Got that? Are you sure? Tell you what. Buttons, you pretend to be Lady Hardup.

**Buttons** Right-o, Your Worship. Here I come.

*The Baron stands C, and they do their routine. Buttons pretends to be the Baroness, and the kids go, "Look out, Baron!"*

*The second time, Lady Hardup appears*

**Baron** Now remember, kids, if you see the old bat coming, you let me know quick.

*The audience by this time should be going frantic*

**Lady Hardup** So I'm an old bat, am I?

**Baron** (*spluttering*) Certainly not, my little chickadee. I was talking about somebody quite different, wasn't I, kids?

*The audience shouts ("Yes!")*

**Baron** There you are, my angel. Buttons will confirm it too, won't you Buttons old chap?

**Buttons** Of course, Your Honour.

**Lady Hardup** Huh! Who wants the opinion of a menial?

**Buttons** Who's she calling a meanie?

**Lady Hardup** You idiot. Leave us. Alone. Get it?

**Buttons** Yes, Your Starship. I'll go and get one from (*local bank manager*).

**Lady Hardup** Get what, you moron?

**Buttons** A loan. What you said.

**Lady Hardup** Get out!

**Buttons** But -

**Lady Hardup** Get!!

*Buttons exits R*

Horace, he'll have to go.

**Baron** Who?

**Lady Hardup** Why Buttons, of course.

**Baron** But he has gone!

**Lady Hardup** No, no. I mean Buttons can no longer remain a servant at Hardup Hall.

**Baron** I quite agree.

**Lady Hardup** You do?

**Baron** Yes, he should be promoted. At least to Major-Domo, whatever that means.

**Lady Hardup** I meant he should be dismissed.

**Baron** Dismissed? You can't do that!

**Lady Hardup** I can and I will.

**Baron** But Buttons is indispensable. Not only that, I can't do without him! I mean, who would bring me my breakfast in bed? Who would put my crown on? Who would stir my tea? No, no, no. I'll say that again. No, no, no. You've gone too far this time, Henrietta. This is a sad state of affairs. A pretty kettle of fish. A situation up with which I will not put. In short, I will not dismiss Buttons!

**Lady Hardup** (*menacingly*) And if I say you will?

**Baron** - I'll go and do it right away!

**Lady Hardup** Good. Give him twenty four hours notice. And no pay.

*The Baron shrugs his shoulders and slinks off R*

What a wimp! *(She exits L)*

*Buttons reappears UR*

**Buttons** Hi, boys and girls. Hello, is there any life out there? Listen, you'll have to do much better than that. This is the audi-ence participation bit. Come on, stood up! Everybody, stood up! No, missus, no exceptions. I don't care if you've got bunions, or Arthritis, or even the screaming abdabs! This is the daft bit, where everybody loses their inhibitions and looks very foolish into the bargain!

*He goes into the audience and makes sure that everybody is standing up*

I want everybody to turn to the person on their right and shake hands. Go on, do it! *(This confuses everybody)* Now, are we all ready? I said, are we all ready? Oompah oompah - *(Stick it up your jumpah!)* Do you feel better now? Relaxed? Then I shall begin. When I appear, I want you all to shout out at the top of your voices, "Hi-ya, Buttons!" Shall we practise? Hi-ya, kids!

*Practice ad-lib*

*Then he goes over to L of the proscenium arch where there is a large mock-up of a bell push with a notice underneath saying "Do not push this button"*

Listen, kids, will you help me? *(Yes!)* If you see anyone go to push the button, I want you to tell me right away. Will you do that? *(Yes!)* Now remember, if you see anyone trying to push, shout for Buttons.

Did you see the Baron? Poor man. What a woman that Baroness is. Godzilla with a frock on! You should see her daughters, they're worse! Oh you've seen them, have you? Begonia and Petunia, the Gruesome Twosome. The refugees from the Chamber of Horrors. You know, once they went to Madame Tussaud's and they were told by the attendant to keep moving - they were stocktaking! And I'm not joking! I'm not!

And do you know, the three of them make life miserable for poor Cinderella. Have you met her yet? No? Well, you will. Oh, she's lovely! *(He sighs)* And *(shyly)* I'm in love with her. Honest. I'm smitten. But she doesn't know it. Unrequited love.

*He encourages the audience to say, "Ah!"*

One of these days, though, I'm going to go right up to Cinderella and tell her -

*He goes down on his knee just as Cinderella appears L*

And I'll say to her, "Cinderella -"

**Cinderella** What are you going to say to me, Buttons?

**Buttons** Cinderella, I -

**Cinderella** Yes?

**Buttons** Cinderella, I've something very important to tell you.

**Cinderella** I'm all ears, Buttons.

**Buttons** It's -

**Cinderella** Yes?

**Buttons** It's - your stepmother.

**Cinderella** What about her?

**Buttons** She wants to see you.

**Cinderella** Is that all?

**Buttons** I suppose it can wait.

**Cinderella** It certainly can. Bye, Buttons.

*She begins to exit R*

**Buttons** Bye, Cinders. Oh Cinders!

**Cinderella** (*coming back*) Yes?

**Buttons** Cinders, would you like a little bet with me?

**Cinderella** What sort of bet, Buttons?

**Buttons** Well, I bet you fifty pence I can kiss you on the lips without touching you.

**Cinderella** Oh Buttons, that's silly. How can you do that?

**Buttons** You bet me the fifty pence and I'll show you how it's done.

**Cinderella** Kiss me on the lips without touching me?

**Buttons** Yes. Go on then, bet.

**Cinderella** All right then, I bet.

**Buttons** Close your eyes.

*She closes her eyes and he kisses her full on the lips, then falls flat on his back*

**Cinderella** But you did touch me, Buttons.

**Buttons** (*getting up*) Yes, I know. You win. Here's your fifty pence, but boy, was it worth it!

*She chases him off*

## **Cinderella**

The most loved of all pantos, and the plot line almost sacrosanct. This version concentrates on comic set pieces, especially those involving the Ugly Sisters. Outstanding are a vintage car scene and a classic ballroom scene involving several musical styles and hilarious dialogue. There is some knockabout comedy with the Handymen, and a colourful scene set in the South Seas, which occurs when Fairy Foozle loses her bearings.

### **Plot Summary**

Cinderella lives at Hardup Hall with her father, Baron Hardup, but has rather a hard time at the hands of stepmother Lady Hardup and stepsisters Begonia and Petunia. The latter are determined that Cinderella shall not go to Prince Charming's Grand Ball, but the Baron and his staff, Buttons, are equally determined that she *shall*. And of course she does, with the help of Fairy Godmum Foozle.