

Dick Whittington

A pantomime by

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Spotlight Publications

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REVISED VERSION 2 2004
Published by Spotlight Publications

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ISBN 1 904930 10 7

Dick Whittington

CAST (in order of appearance)

Dolly Doolittle, the Dame & cook

Alderman Fitzwarren

Percy Partridge, a wimp

Alice Fitzwarren, Fitzwarren's daughter

Dick Whittington, the hero

Tommy, his cat

Walter Winkle, Dolly's assistant

King Rat

Fairy Snow

Joshua Bilge, Captain of the Saucy Sal

The Mate

Maisie & Daisy, two little girls

Princess Taffeta of Morocco

Selima)

Cremona), ladies of the harem

Chorus of Revellers, Londoners, Rats, Sailors and Ladies of the Harem. Plus, a Sea-Monster and two Pages.

Place - London & Morocco

Time - mediaeval England, 14th/15th century

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1

Scene 1 - A London square

Scene 2 - An alleyway

Scene 3 - Fitzwarren's grocery store

Scene 4 - The haunted bedroom

ACT 2

Scene 1 - The deck of the Saucy Sal

Scene 2 - The shores of Morocco

Scene 3 - The Sultan's palace

Scene 4 - A London street

Scene 5 - Fitzwarren's grocery store

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

1. "Knees Up Mother Brown" (Dancers & Chorus)
2. "The Sun'll Come Out Tomorrow" ("Annie") (Dick)
3. "I'm 'Enery the Eighth I Am" (Wally & Chorus)
4. "Any Old Iron" (Chorus & Dancers)
5. Dance of the Marionettes (Rats)
6. "Climb Every Mountain" ("Sound of Music") (Fairy Snow)
7. "Getting To Know You" ("The King and I") (Dick & Alice)
8. Hornpipe (Captain & Mate)
9. "Thriller" (M. Jackson) (Dancers)

ACT 2

10. "He Played His Ukulele As the Ship Went Down" (Sailors)
11. Sea Chanty: "The Drunken Sailor" (Sailors)
12. "I Do Like To Be Beside the Seaside" (Dolly)
13. Arabic Dance (Dancers)
14. Belly Dance (Princess & Dolly)
15. "I Will Always Love You" (Whitney Houston) (Alice)
16. "Maybe It's Because I'm A Londoner" (Fitzwarren)
17. "I Could Have Danced All Night" (My Fair Lady) (Percy)
18. "Hello Dolly" (Dolly)
19. Reprise of No 16: (Ensemble)

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

Dolly Doolittle is the traditional panto Dame, larger than life and extrovert. The main comic part of the show, it requires an actor with energy and the ability to communicate with the audience. Singing part.

Alderman Fitzwarren. A good character part, for which a mature man is needed. The north country accent is recommended.

Percy Partridge is a fop and a dandy, and more likely to be called a wimp today. The actor who takes him on must “ponce” convincingly. Not unsympathetic. Has a song to sing.

Alice is a traditional Principal Girl with a lot of spirit. Singing part.

Dick. A traditional Principal Boy, but not wishy washy in any sense. Has a good sense of humour, and must have a good *rapport* with Tommy the Cat. Singing part.

Tommy. The part gives a lot of scope for an athletic dancer, though it is non-speaking.

Wally. The Simple Simon role needs to be done by a considerable actor, and form a double act with the Dame. Has a song to sing.

King Rat is a thoroughly nasty baddy, and the actor must expect no sympathy! The reward is a part that is outrageously OTT.

Fairy Snow. A good character part for a lady of any years. Singing part.

Captain Bilge. A Cap’n Birdseye type, a crucial comic part for a mature man.

The Mate. A small but important role, offsetting the Captain.

Princess Taffeta. The part combines glamour and humour.

ACT 1

Scene 1

A London square, with various shopfronts

It is New Year, at the stroke of midnight

The Chorus are revellers, assembled to celebrate the New Year. They have balloons, streamers, funny hats etc., and are in a festive mood

As the curtain opens, the peals of Big Ben are heard, and the revellers are counting up to twelve

Revellers - eight - nine - ten - eleven - twelve!

There is a loud cheer. Everyone hugs one other, and they begin to dance around in circles. Then they form one large circle

Should old acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintance be forgot,
And days of old lang syne.
For old lang syne, my dear,
For old lang syne;
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
For old lang syne.

Another cheer, followed by "Hip hip hooray!", and more hugging

Enter Dolly Doolittle, R

Dolly (*hugging one or two*) Hello, everybody! Oh isn't it exciting!

I'm totally exhilarified! I'm overcome with emulsion! I'm so excited I could crush a grape! Or wrestle Buzz Lightyear! Did you have a nice Xmas?

Revellers Yes!

Dolly So did I. Do you know what I asked Santa for? Something antique - a Chippendale! But (*with a sob*) I didn't get one! Boo-hoo! (*She suddenly smiles*) Just joking, folks. But just think. Another year. I'll be 29 this year.

Reveller 1 More like 49!

Laughs

Dolly Who said that? I'll knock his block off!

Reveller 2 Don't take offence, Ma. Let's split the difference. 39.

Dolly All right. And I'm *Miss* Doolittle to you lot. The cheeky monkey. I'll have you know that my teeth and my hair are all my own.

Reveller 1 That's right. She paid good money for them!

Laughs

Dolly I shall treat that remark with the contempt it deserts. And if he makes another remark, I'll smash his face! Now then. Seeing we're celebrating, how about a knees-up?

Revellers Yes!

Song 1

After song, Dolly collapses in a heap

Dolly Ooh, I've fractured me fenella! And dented me dorsals! Is there a physicist in the house? If there's not a physicist, I'll have a fizzy orange instead!

Reveller 2 I'll get one for you, Ma.

Dolly Just make it a double gin, will you, there's a good lad? I'm not fussy about the fizzy.

Reveller 1 You've got a double chin already, Ma!

Laughs

Dolly By heck, I'll have your guts for garters, lad. *(She gets up, then stumbles)* Ooh, me palpitations!

Reveller 2 We'd better take you home, Ma. It's Alka-Seltzer for you.

Dolly Are you suggesting I'm intoxicated? Ooh me head.

Reveller 2 Come on, Ma.

One or two help her off, R

The others gradually drift off to the strains of "Knees Up Mother Brown"

Enter UL Alderman Fitzwarren, a wealthy London merchant, and Percy Partridge, a young dandy who is slightly effeminate and has trouble with the letter R

Fitzwarren *(north country accent)* Aye, lad, things is in a bad state.

Percy Oh I entirely agwee, Sir.

Fitzwarren Economy's in a mess. A right damn mess.

Percy Couldn't have put it more - how shall I say? - succinctly, Sir.

Fitzwarren Suck it yourself! You've a right funny of talking, lad. Look at t' price of cloth. Damn disgrace.

Percy I quite agwee. Same with cod pieces. Fwightful.

Fitzwarren Cod? Cod's cheap. It's about the only thing that is. I've never had a worse year. I blame the Common Market. It's them Frogs. Never liked them.

Percy Twy them cassewoled with garlic sauce, Sir.

Fitzwarren I don't mean them frogs, I mean Frenchies, lad. *Sprechen Sie Deutsch*, and all that.

Percy But look, it is the New Year, Sir. One should be full of hope. And expectancy.

Fitzwarren What do you think I am, pregnant?

Enter Alice Fitzwarren, DR

Percy Oh, it's Miss Alice. Hello, Miss Alice!

Alice Hello, Mr Partridge.

Percy Oh Miss Alice, lovely day, isn't it, what?

Alice Hadn't you noticed, Mr Partridge? It's night. And blooming cold.

Percy So it is. But never mind. I mean, it never wains but it pours - don't you think? *(This is greeted by a stony silence)* Er, please call me by my first name. After all, we have been acquainted for three months.

Alice Oh very well - Percival.

Fitzwarren Look, can't stand around here gossipin'. Time to go. Are you coming, lass?

Alice Yes, Dad.

Percy Oh please stay for a while, Miss Alice.

Alice Whatever for?

Percy We could - perambulate!

Fitzwarren Not with my daughter, you're not! I'm havin' none of that hanky-panky.

Alice *(aside)* Dad, I can handle myself - and him.

Fitzwarren Very well. Goodbye then. *(He exits R)*

Alice And I'll say goodbye to you, Percy.

Percy But - but -

Alice No buts. I'll see you sometime.

Percy Soon?

Alice Who knows? Bye.

Alice exits R

Percy shrugs his shoulders and goes off L

Some revellers pass from R to L, singing a few bars of "Knees Up Mother Brown"

Enter UR Dick Whittington. He has a bundle on a stick over his shoulder

Dick Hello, everybody. *(No response)* I said, hello, everybody! *(A better response)* Hello, boys and girls! Hello, mums and dads! That's better. My name's Dick. Dick Whittington. And I've got a cat somewhere, called Tommy. But he's a bit shy. Could you help me call for him? *("Yes!")* Tell you what. I'll whistle, and I want you to shout out "Rock on, Tommy!" Okay? Right, here we go.

He whistles, and eventually gets a loud response (ad-lib)

Enter UR Tommy the cat, bowing and acknowledging the applause

Music: "The Pink Panther" theme

Tommy performs a brief dance routine

Did I say shy? *(To audience)* Well, ladies and gentlemen, this is my cat, Tommy.

Tommy bows elaborately

He is an incredible show-off.

Tommy is still bowing

He's a very good ratter.

Tommy shows aggression

He has a very unusual way of dealing with rats.

Tommy shadow-boxes

He uses his head sometimes.

Tommy head-butts

He has other talents, too. He dances.

Tommy pirouettes

He does a very good impression of Michael Jackson.

Tommy does it

And he tells jokes. *(To Tommy)* Have you got any now?

Tommy nods, rushes offstage and returns with a bowler hat. Then he whispers in Dick's ear

What are you now? Don't know.

Tommy whispers

Tombola!

Tommy rushes off again

Confidentially, he tells very bad jokes.

Tommy returns with a comb and whispers

What are you now?

Tommy whispers

Catacomb!

Tommy whispers

What do you call identical twin cats?

Tommy whispers

Tom-Tom!

Tommy whispers

If Prince Harry came onstage, what would you have?

Tommy whispers

Tom, Dick and Harry!

Tommy goes off and returns with a machine-rifle

What's that for?

Tommy whispers

An alternative method of dealing with rats!

Tommy whispers

(To audience) Can you guess what it's called? That's right - a tommy-gun!

Tommy whispers

Let me do the jokes.

Tommy whispers

This is your impression of James Cagney. *(Tommy does it)* You dirty rat!

Enter UL some revellers

Reveller 1 Ere, look wot the tide's brought in!

Reveller 2 Yeh, a right scruff!

Dick Excuse me, Sir.

Reveller 1 Oo, 'ark at 'im. Sir! *(He laughs)*

Dick Pardon me, Sir, I'm not a scruff. My clothes may be a bit dishevelled -

Reveller 2 Dishevelled, cor luvaduck! Don't he talk funny!

Dick I've been travelling for two days. From the West Country.

Reveller 1 A country bumpkin! Wot you come 'ere for, son?

Dick To make my fortune. They say the streets of London are paved with gold.

The revellers burst out laughing

Reveller 2 I've 'eard it all now!

Reveller 1 Paved with gold!

They exit DR, laughing

Dick sits down dejectedly, DC

Tommy miaows plaintively

Dick Well, Tommy, what do we do now? No food, nowhere to stay. Depressing, isn't it?

Tommy makes a "cut-throat" gesture

Cut my throat? Thank you very much. Anyway, I can't stand the sight of blood.

Tommy whispers

Do what they always do in pantos? Sing a song? Good idea.

Song 2

After song, Dick and Tommy exit DL

Blackout. It is the next morning

Enter UR Walter Winkle, with a camera

Wally Allo, boys and girls. I'll say that three times, and I bet you can't repeat it. Allo allo allo! *(He ad-libs with the audience)* My name is Walter Winkle. Wally for short. Who said that? I am *not* a wally! *("Oh yes you are!" etc.)* Do you like my camera? It's the latest thing from Japan. It's called a Yashie Flashie. I've always like photography. When I was a kid, I had lots of fun with a Brownie! She was called Monica. We used to go into the dark room to see what developed!

I'm looking for Dame Doolittle. Have you seen her? She's got a dream face. Well, more like a nightmare, really! What a chatterbox! She's the only person I know with suntan on her tongue! I'm going to take a picture of her. It's a high-speed camera, and I've always wanted a picture of her with her trap shut!

The Chorus enters

'Ere, did I ever tell you about my uncle 'Enry? *("No")* He had a most nerve-shattering experience. He got married!

Dick Whittington

A fresh version of the classic adventure story with the added ingredients of comedy and spectacle.

The plot follows fairly traditional lines: the adventures in London and Morocco of Dick and Tommy the cat, where the latter makes the former's fortunes. And all this despite the efforts of a delightfully fiendish King Rat.

Plot Summary

Dick Whittington comes to London with his cat Tommy to seek his fortune. He is employed by Alderman Fitzwarren, and falls in love with the Alderman's daughter Alice. Dick is given the chance of organising a trading expedition to Morocco, but is prevented from doing so by the evil schemes of King Rat. However he manages to join the expedition and with the help of Fairy Snow, Tommy, and cook Dolly Doolittle he makes good and returns in triumph to London and Alice.

ISBN 1 904930 10 7