

The Magic Shoes

A pantomime by

Jack Burgess

Spotlight Publications

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The Magic Shoes

CAST (in order of appearance)

Widow Twinkle

The Shoemaker

Princess Inflagrante

King Bumbell-the-Good

Count Scrofula-the-Bad, the King's brother

Countess Scrofula-the-Badder

Dunfer Malpractice, Scrofula's henchman

Prince Eric, Scrofula's son

Two dim Guards

Phineas Frog

Prince Lustin-the-Likely

Chairman of the Much Tapping-on-the-Toe Dance Liberation Front

Secretary of the same

Mrs Tibbiwell)

Mrs Doorpost), villagers

Dragon

Chorus of Villagers and Ghoulies

Place - The town of Much Tapping-on-the-Toe, in Olde England

Time - whenever

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1

Scene 1 - Market square

Scene 2 - Throne room

Scene 3 - Palace gateway

Scene 4 - Dungeon

ACT 2

Scene 1 - Enchanted wood

Scene 2 - Throne room

Scene 3 - Café

Scene 4 - Front of tabs

Scene 5 - Palace gateway

Scene 6 - Dungeon

Scene 7 - Market square

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

1. "Who Will Buy?" (Bart - Oliver) (Dancers & Chorus)
2. "Happy Feet" (Dancers)
3. Tap Dance (Princess)
3. "Goodbye" (King & Chorus)
5. "Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better" (Annie Get Your Gun) (Scrofula & Countess)
6. "My Favourite Things" (Sound of Music) (Princess)
7. "Someday My Prince Will Come" (Disney - Snow White) (Princess)
8. Danse Macabre (Saint-Sens) (Ghoulies)

ACT 2

9. "Hernando's Hideaway" (The Pajama Game) (Dancers)
10. "In Dulce Jubilo" (Mike Oldfield) (Shoemaker)
11. "You're The One That I Want" (Grease) (Princess & Lustin, Widow & Shoemaker, Fenella & Eric)
12. "Oom Pah Pah" (Lionel Bart - Oliver) (Chorus)
13. Reprise of No. 11 (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

Widow Twinkle is a traditional panto dame, blousy, extrovert and man-mad. One of the panto's main comic roles. Singing part.

The Shoemaker. A part for a mature man. The Shoemaker is the main driver of the plot. Singing part.

Princess Infragrante is the principal girl. She is a direct and sincere character, and much involved in the action. Singing part.

King Bumbell tends to rush into things. He is a bit gullible, but always likeable. A part for a mature man.

Count Scrofula is the prime mover of the plot like all good baddies. Outrageous and over the top, and a lot of fun to play. Singing part.

Countess Scrofula more or less complements her husband, but is quite a strong character. She joins the Count in a duet.

Dunfer Malpractice is the Count's rather seedy henchman who is not really likeable but is much involved in the action.

Prince Eric is Scrofula's son. He comes over as a bit wet (and sometimes embarrassingly so!), but is always funny.

Phineas Frog is a sensitive soul, but also humorous. Might be described as a frog with attitude.

Lustin is a typical principal boy, and renowned for the size of his thighs, which of course he regularly and resoundingly slaps. Singing part.

ACT 1

Scene 1

Curtains open on the market square of Much Tapping-on-the-Toe

A flower seller enters (through the audience) and begins her cry, unaccompanied. Other market stall holders join in, followed by the full opening chorus. Villagers scurry around busily from stall to stall. Children play

Most stalls are selling something magic: magic beans, magic lamps, magic mushrooms etc.

Song 1

Flower Seller Who will buy my sweet red roses? Two blooms for a penny.

Bean Seller Will you buy any beans today, mistress? Magic beans today, mistress?

Strawberry Seller Ripe strawberries! Ripe!

Lamp Seller Lamps! Lamps for sale! Magic lamps for sale!

All Who will buy this wonderful morning?

Such a sky you never did see!

Who will tie it up with a ribbon and put it in a box for me?

So I can see it at my leisure whenever things go wrong,

And I can keep it as a treasure to last my whole life long.

Who will buy this wonderful feeling?

I'm so high, I swear I can fly!

Me, oh my! I don't want to lose it!

So what am I to do, to keep the sky so blue?

There must be someone who will buy!

Who will buy?

Flower Seller Who will buy my sweet red roses? Two blooms for a penny.

Bean Man Will you buy any beans today, mistress? Magic beans today, mistress? Get your magic beans, 'ere! Beanstalks as high as you like!

Mushroom Man Go even higher with my magic mushrooms! Like really high, man!

Lamp Man Magic lamps! Special offer! A genie in each one guaranteed!

Enter Widow Twinkle. She is the usual large panto dame from Central Casting

She passes along the line of stalls looking at her shopping list and meets two other villagers: Mrs Tibbiwell and Mrs Doorpost

Mrs Tibbiwell Good morning, Widow Twinkle!

Widow Twinkle Good morning, Mrs Tibbiwell! *(She shouts)* Good morning, Mrs Doorpost!

Mrs Tibbiwell I don't know it's magic this, magic that! Why does everything have to be magic these days?

Widow Twinkle Oh, I know! I only came in for some washing-up liquid and can I get an ordinary bottle? No! I have to have one with a bloomin' fairy in it. *(To Bean Man)* Have you got any ordinary beans?

Bean Man No, just these magic ones!

Mrs Doorpost Magic buns? How do they work, then?

Widow Twinkle Magic beans, not buns! What's so magic about them, anyway?

Bean Man Just throw 'em on the garden, go to bed and the next morning you'll have a beanstalk right up to the sky!

Widow Twinkle What's the point of that?

Bean Man Well, you could climb it. Have adventures. Get chased by giants. Find a golden goose, if you're lucky.

Widow Twinkle But you can't just eat them? Have them on toast?

Bean Man Not really.

Mrs Tibbiwell You don't want to get none of those beans!

Widow Twinkle Why not?

Mrs Tibbiwell My Jack had some. He's had trouble ever since. He's up that beanstalk all hours. Can't get him down.

Widow Twinkle I know what you mean. I always have trouble after beans. Wind, you know. I've been windy all morning.

Mrs Doorpost Wednesday? I thought it was Thursday.

Widow Twinkle Yes, it is Thursday!

Mrs Doorpost So am I, dry as a bone. Let's get a drink.

Enter Shoemaker, wheeling a barrow full of dancing shoes

Shoemaker Magic shoes!

Mrs Doorpost Magic booze! I like the sound of that!

Widow Twinkle Shoes! Not booze!

Mrs Tibbiwell What do they do then, these magic shoes?

Shoemaker They make you dance as light as a fairy princess!

Mrs Tibbiwell Really?

Shoemaker Really!

Mrs Tibbiwell Anybody?

Shoemaker Anybody!

Widow Twinkle Anybody?

Shoemaker (*eying Widow Twinkle slightly nervously*) Er yes. Anybody!

Widow Twinkle I've always seen myself dancing as light as a fairy princess. How much?

Shoemaker Fifteen groats!

Widow Twinkle Fifteen groats? They're not worth fifteen groats!

Shoemaker They are. Feel the width!

Widow Twinkle They're not!

Shoemaker (*encouraging the audience*) Oh yes, they are!

Widow Twinkle Oh no, they're not!

Shoemaker Oh yes, they are!

Widow Twinkle Oh no, they're not!

Shoemaker Oh yes, they are!

Widow Twinkle Oh all right then, if you're sure that I'll really dance as lightly as a fairy princess?

Shoemaker (*eying Widow Twinkle up and down very nervously*) Of course I'm sure. Really!

Widow Twinkle Here you are, then. Fifteen groats.

She puts the shoes on. All eyes on her. Immediately, she breaks into a lively Irish jig. The impression is that the shoes are carrying her and she's hanging on for dear life

Everyone gathers round cheering her on. All the villagers want shoes. The Shoemaker quickly sells out

Eventually Widow Twinkle collapses in a heap, exhausted. She is highly impressed, particularly by the money he's raking in

Widow Twinkle Oh! You lovely little man! (*She eyes the money*) You need properly looking after! (*She grasps him to her ample bosom. Shoemaker submerged*)

As each villager puts on the shoes, each starts dancing, until the whole chorus is into a big dance number:

Song 2

During the dance, Shoemaker keeps trying to escape WT's clutches. This is choreographed into the number

Towards the end, Princess Inflagrante enters. She is entranced by the dance, which ends as King Bumbell enters

Much bowing and scraping

Princess Oh father! Did you see the dancing? Wasn't it wonderful?

King Bumbell Yes, my dear. It was quite wonderful.

Princess Oh, how I wish I could dance like that! I would give anything to dance like that!

Widow Twinkle But your Royal Highness can dance like that!

Princess But how?

Widow Twinkle Well, Your Royal Highness, my husband here (*double take from Shoemaker*) - well, *fiancé*, really - is the magic shoemaker. He would love to make you a very special pair of magic dance shoes. Wouldn't you, beloved?

Shoemaker (*totally overwhelmed by events*) Well yes of course, Your Royal Highness!

Princess Oh! Would you really? For me?

Shoemaker Yes of course, for . .

Widow Twinkle ...a small charge, of course!

Princess Of course! How much?

Shoemaker Well -

Widow Twinkle Fifty groats.

Princess Fifty groats! That's such a lot of money. I don't know. Dear father! If I were to be especially good to all the poor people and help even more old people across the road.

King Bumbell Yes, my dear, that reminds me: I've been meaning to talk to you about all these good deeds. I know you mean well, but not every old person wants to cross the road. And certainly not two or three times in succession. Perhaps, you could try being not quite so enthusiastic about being good all the time?

Princess Oh! Right! Well, if I promise to be not quite so good all of the time – but still very good most of the time – would you buy me a pair of these dancing shoes? As an early birthday *and* Christmas present, of course?

King Bumbell Very well, my dear! (*To Shoemaker*) Send the bill to the Palace! Fifty groats, was it?

Shoemaker (*as he places the shoes on the Princess's feet, Cinderella fashion*) Yes, Your Majesty.

Widow Twinkle Plus VAT and fitting charge.

Princess Oh! They feel wonderful! I just want to dance, and dance, and dance.

Song 3

Princess solo dance plus Chorus. King looks on benignly

As the dance ends, there is a great dragon roar from back of auditorium. All look up, point and track the dragon flying, roaring all round the auditorium. Eventually, dragon flies across the backdrop and away. Much confusion, fear and cries of "Look, the dragon!" etc.

King Bumbell stands bravely C

King Bumbell Do not be alarmed, my people! The dragon will not harm you. My council will take immediate measures to protect all my loyal subjects!

Enter Count Scrofula and Dunfer Malpractice. Dunfer is carrying a large wooden sword and a potion bottle

King Bumbell Ah, Scrofula! You see that confounded dragon has returned?

Scrofula Indeed, Sire! We must take the measures we decided upon.

King Bumbell Exactly! As I was saying! Er, remind me. What measures did we decide upon?

Scrofula We decided, Sire, that you should seek out the dragon in his lair in the far north of the kingdom!

King Bumbell Did we? And then what did we decide we would do?

Scrofula Sire, we decided that you would kill the dragon!

King Bumbell Did we? And when *we* decided that the dragon be killed, we meant *me*, did we? We didn't mean *us*? Not *us*, as in "all of us together".

Scrofula Oh no, Sire. Dragons are much too important to be killed by mere subjects. They must always be killed by a real king. A king with courage and the good of his people at heart! Oh! How I wish I were worthy of such a task! But sadly I must remain here to toil on your behalf, looking after our beloved country and, of course, the dear Princess Inflagrante.

King Bumbell Yes, quite. Right. Fine!

Scrofula There's really nothing to fear, Sire.

King Bumbell Oh, I'm not afraid. Not in the least. Not at all.

Scrofula You see, Sire, we have prepared for you the magic dragon-slayer sword for slaying fire-breathing dragons. Dunfer, please.

Dunfer hands Scrofula the sword. Scrofula passes it to King Bumbell, who examines somewhat dubiously

King Bumbell Good! Thank you! This is the magic dragon-slayer sword?

Scrofula That is correct, Sire.

King Bumbell The magic dragon-slayer sword for slaying fire-breathing dragons?

Scrofula Indeed, Sire!

King Bumbell Made of wood.

Scrofula Sire, you are as perceptive as ever! But it is not just any wood, Sire, but dragonwood. Dragonwood is lethal to dragons. The faintest scratch will be fatal! It is the hardest wood known to man!

The King does a thrust and parry and then stabs the floor. As he withdraws the sword, the handle comes off in his hand, leaving the shaft stuck in the floor

Dunfer (aside) It's also a sod to get anything to stick to! I'll try Bostik next time.

King Bumbell Fine! Um... what if the dragon should sneak up behind me and get in first?

Scrofula Sire, have no fear. We have prepared for you a magic potion of Factor 20 dragon repellent. Simply sprinkle it over yourself as you approach the dragon and you will be invincible.

King Bumbell Well, you certainly seem to have thought of everything! I suppose I'd better be off then.

Princess Oh father! Do not depart! I fear so for your safety!

King Bumbell Hush! My Dear! I shall come to no harm. I have my dragonwood sword and my magic dragon potion.

Princess But what if the dragonwood sword and the magic potion should fail? What if the dragon turns out to be a rotten sneaking little cheat and does something really unspeakably unfair. Like pretending he's not horrid after all and invites you for tea and then when you're sitting down and having a nice cup of tea with him and you're off your guard, he suddenly puts ground glass in your tea instead of sugar and you die horribly, gurgling and coughing up blood. Or he puts arsenic in the cucumber sandwiches and you die in agony, all convulsed and...

King Bumbell Yes, yes. I'll bear all this in mind. Now, just don't worry your pretty little head about any of this. I shall be fine. And now I must address my people. *(He strikes a Churchillian stance. Scrofula stands behind and prompts him when he runs out of rhetoric)* Good people of Much Tapping-on-the-Toe! My loyal subjects! I must leave you now to hunt down the fearsome dragon to his lair. There to dispatch him once and for all! *(Applause)* You may rest assured that I shall leave no stone unturned in my quest. I shall hunt high and - low! I shall seek him in the mountains and in the valleys! I shall seek him up hills, and behind the bike sheds. I shall not rest until the fiendish dragon lies safely in bed. What? I mean, dead. Whilst I am away on my quest, I shall leave the care of my kingdom and my dear daughter, Princess Inflagrante, in the safe hands of my trusted brother, Count Scrofula. Obey him, my good subjects, at all times, as you would me. And so, farewell!

Song 4

King exits triumphantly through the audience, cheered by the Chorus

The Magic Shoes

An original and fun-filled script from a new writer featuring dragons, a dancing theme, and a trio of classic villains.

Plot Summary

King Bumbell the Good is persuaded by his brother Count Scrofula the Bad to go dragon-slaying. In his absence Scrofula bans everything including dancing and attempts to marry off Princess Inflagrante to his son Prince Eric. But never fear! - help is at hand in the form of Prince Lustin the Likely and a frog called Phineas.

Join Lustin, Phineas, Widow Twinkle & the Shoemaker as they try to rescue the Princess and defeat the evil Scrofula. And what on earth is the Much Tapping-on-the-Toe Dance Liberation Front?