

# **Dick Whittington**

**A pantomime written by**

**Ron Nicol**

**Spotlight Publications**

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# **Dick Whittington**

CAST (in order of appearance)

**The Cat**

**Fairy Nuff**

**Imperia - Queen Rat**

**Dick Whittington**

**Alice Fitzwarren**

**Alderman Fitzwarren**, her father

**Sarah**, his housekeeper and cook

**Jackie**, his servant

**Fester**, a shifty ne'er-do-well

**Mildew**, a layabout

**Fungus**, another layabout

**Captain Coracle**, an old sea dog

**The Mate**

**Ann Kerr**

**Sue Wester**

**Carragheen Weed**

**The Sultan**

**The Sultana**

**The Overseer**

**Chief Rat**

**First Citizen, Second Citizen, Third Citizen**

**First Guard, Second Guard**

**Citizens, Courtiers, Attendants, Slaves**

**Lots and lots and lots of Rats**

23 speaking roles plus extras. Possible doubling if required - Fitzwarren and the Sultan; Alice and the Sultana; First, Second and Third Citizens (Act 1) and Ann Kerr, Sue Wester and C Weed (Act 2)

Place - London, on board ship, Morocco

Time - mediaeval

## **SYNOPSIS OF SCENES**

### **ACT 1**

Prologue - The road to London

Scene 1 - A square outside Fitzwarren's shop

Scene 2 - A London street

Scene 3 - Fitzwarren's emporium

Scene 4 - A London street

Scene 5 - Fitzwarren's emporium

### **ACT 2**

Scene 1 - London docks

Scene 2 - On board "The Saucy Cuttlefish"

Scene 3 - A beach

Scene 4 - The Sultan's throne room

Scene 5 - The Sultan's palace

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

Spots for inserting musical numbers have been indicated and suggestions for songs follow.

Song 1 - Dick solo, '*Once in a Lifetime*' - Bricusse & Newley  
'*Climb Every Mountain*' - Rogers & Hammerstein  
'*The Impossible Dream*' - Darion & Lee

Song 2 - Chorus Number, '*A Wonderful Day Like Today*' - Bricusse & Newley

Song 3 - Alice solo, '*For All We Know*' - Karlin, Wilson & James  
'*Bewitched*' - Rogers & Hart  
'*I Talk to the Trees*' - Lerner & Loewe  
'*Top of the World*' - Carpenter & Bettis

Song 4 - Dick solo, '*Yesterday*' - Lennon & McCartney  
'*Who can I Turn To (When Nobody Needs Me)*' - Bricusse & Newley

Song 5 - Dick or Dick/Alice, *reprise of Song 4*  
'*I Won't Last a day Without You*' - Nichols & Williams  
'*So In Love*' - Cole Porter

Song 6 - Alice/Dick duet, '*If Ever I Would Leave You*' - Lerner & Loewe  
'*Stranger in Paradise*' - Wright & Forrest  
'*Top of the World*' - Carpenter & Bettis  
'*(Everything I Do) I Do It For You*' - Bryan Adams

Song 7 - Captain & Crew, '*A Life on the Ocean Wave*' - Sargent  
'*In the Navy*' - Morali, Belolo & Willis  
'*We're Riding Along on the Crest of a Wave*' - Ralph Reader

Song 8 - Sarah/Jackie duet, '*Together, Wherever We Go*' - Bette Midler

Song 9 - Chorus Number, '*Consider Yourself*' - Lionel Bart  
'*Everything's Coming Up Roses*' - Bette Midler

Song 10 - Sultan/Sultana duet, '*When I'm Sixty-four*' - Lennon & McCartney

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## ACT 1

### *Prologue*

*The road to London*

*Front cloth or part stage scene. A signpost pointing to London. The Cat enters, looks at the audience, mews in disgust, stretches, yawns, and begins to wash. Music plays and Fairy Nuff enters DSR into a pink spot*

**Fairy Nuff** Here Puss, come here.

*The Cat goes to Fairy Nuff and allows itself to be stroked*

**Cat** Meeow.

**Fairy Nuff** Now, my felicitous feline, I've some work for you. Soon a young man will come this way. His name's Whittington, Richard Whittington, and he's on his way to London.

*The Cat looks up at the signpost*

**Cat** Meeow.

**Fairy Nuff** Stay by him no matter what happens, and help him whenever you can. You'll be rewarded when the time comes.

**Cat** Meeowk?

**Fairy Nuff** Yes! As much milk as you can drink. I'll be watching you, for you're to play an important part in my plans. But wait, here comes Whittington. It's time I was gone!

*She exits DR and the lighting returns to normal. The Cat looks at the audience, shrugs, and goes aside as Dick Whittington enters, carrying a pack*

**Dick** I've been tramping the road for miles - I'm worn out. Still, it can't be far to London now. I'll rest for a while.

*He sits. The Cat sits near him*

**Dick** Hello there, cat. What're you up to?

**Cat** (*moving nearer*) Meeow.

**Dick** I see, you're alone and want company. I'm on my own too. Why don't we stick together?

**Cat** (*rolling onto its back*) Meeow!

**Dick** (*tickling the Cat*) You'd like that, would you?

**Cat** Meeeeow!

*The Cat sits up and Dick scratches behind its ear. The Cat purrs loudly*

**Dick** Right then, that's settled. Are you hungry?

**Cat** Meeow!

**Dick** (*opening his pack*) I don't have much, but you're welcome to share what I have.

*He takes bread and cheese out of his pack, and offers a piece to the Cat*

**Cat** Meeugh!

**Dick** I'm afraid I don't have anything else. What do you want?

**Cat** (*eagerly*) Me-owk?

**Dick** Milk? I don't have any. Maybe we'll find some in London. Back home they said the streets in London are paved with gold - so I'm on my way to make my dreams come true.

### Song 1

Come on Puss - to London and fortune!

*They exit*

*A roll of thunder and a green spot comes up DSL as Queen Rat Imperia enters*

**Imperia** I hate that Whittington, as I hate all fools and dreamers! So upright and goody-goody! Ugh! Thinks he'll make his fortune, does he? I'll see he doesn't, for I've a plan to ruin him. Fester! Come!

*Fester enters. He's cowed by Imperia, but tries to carry everything off with a swagger*

**Fester** *(insolently)* I'm here.

**Imperia** Down on your knees! Crawl you creature! Crawl and grovel before Imperia! *(Fester drops to his knees)* Much as I despise you, I must use you. You can come and go among the humans as you please. There's a boy - a snivelling brat called Whittington. Follow him - but don't let him see you. Watch what he does and bring back word to me.

**Fester** I'll do as you say.

*He exits*

*Fairy music and pink lighting DSR as Fairy Nuff enters*

**Fairy Nuff** A word of warning, Imperia. Your evil ways I know about - my purpose is to foil you in your wicked schemes.

**Imperia** Fine words - but empty ones! What can you do to stop me doing as I please?

**Fairy Nuff** At least leave Whittington alone. What has he done to anger you?

**Imperia** I care nothing for him, but because he interests you, I'll do him all the harm I can.

**Fairy Nuff** I'll watch over him and keep him safe.

**Imperia** Fairy, your magic's no match against the power of evil. I've no fear of you, nor of anything human. I'll use my rats to overcome the world - and no-one will stop me!

*She exits L, laughing evilly. The green spot fades*

**Fairy Nuff** She's right, I can't bring her power to an end, nor can any human being overcome her. But I've a power she thinks not of - a power not in human form. Imperia knows not what she ought to fear. Watch and wait, for I'll make all things clear.

*She exits R and the pink spot fades, and into ...*

## Scene 1

*London, a square outside Alderman Fitzwarren's shop*

*Full stage, open set. Lighting comes up as Citizens, Street Traders and Children enter*

## Song 2

*At the close, Sarah enters*

**Sarah** Where is she? Where is she? I'll wring her neck when I find her! Have you seen her?

**1st Citizen** Who are you looking for, Sarah?

**Sarah** Who do you think I'm looking for? Who am I *always* looking for?

**Citizens** Jackie!

**Sarah** Right first time! Of all the idle good-for-nothing rascallions I've ever met, she's the idlest good-for-nothingest rascallion of the lot!

**2nd Citizen** We haven't seen her.

**Sarah** Neither have I! And I should've done. She should've been back *ages* ago! When I find her I'll marmalise her - I'll mangulate her - I'll spifflicate her!

**3rd Citizen** We'll tell her if we see her.

**Sarah** You do that! If I get my hands on her she won't be able to sit down for a week. But I can wait - and the longer I wait the angrier I'll get, and the angrier I get the worse it'll be for her, and the worse it is for her the less she'll like it, and the less she likes it the more I'll like it, and the more I like it the less she'll like it, and - what was I saying?

**1st Citizen** You said you'd be angry if you had to wait...

**2nd Citizen** And you'd get angrier and angrier...

**3rd Citizen** And the worse it'll be for Jackie...

**Sarah** Jackie! Oh! Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaagh!

*She rushes off screaming as the Citizens laugh*

*Jackie enters on a scooter*

**Jackie** Hi, everybody!

**Citizens** Hi Jack!

**Jackie** What a beautiful day. Isn't it a beautiful day?

**1st Citizen** You won't think so in a minute.

**Jackie** Why? What's happening in a minute?

**1st Citizen** Sarah's been looking for you ...

**2nd Citizen** She didn't look too pleased ...

**Jackie** What did she want?

**Citizens** You!

**1st Citizen** She's going to marmalise ...

**2nd Citizen** ... and mangulate ...

**3rd Citizen** ... and spifflicate ...

**Citizens** You!

**Jackie** I don't care.

**Citizens** Oh yes you do.

**Jackie** Oh no I don't.

**Citizens** Oh yes you do.

**Jackie** I'm not afraid of her.

**Citizens** Oh yes you are.

**3rd Citizen** Here she comes!

**Jackie** Aaaaaaaaaaaaah!

*Jackie drops to her knees and covers her head. Everybody scatters and exits*

*Jackie looks up cautiously, still on her knees*

Is she there? Is anybody there? Can you see anybody? You can't? Thank goodness for that. (*Gets up*) Now don't go thinking I'm afraid, cos I'm not. I'm very curra - very currageranium - curragerarious - very brave. I was a great disappointment to my mother, so I was. A peculiar woman, my mother. Very particular with her food. She hadn't any teeth, but she used to say she had very willing gums. When I was born she said my ears were so big she didn't know if I was going to walk or fly. Anyway, she christened me Jacqueline. Nobody calls me Jacqueline though. It's usually Jackie. Or Jack. Sarah just calls me "Hey you!" Anyway, now you know all about me, we can be friends. We *are* going to be friends, aren't we? I've got lots of friends. Everybody likes me cos I'm so beautiful an' sweet and

charming and loveable - and so modest as well. Look, I'm going to leave my scooter here. Would you look after it for me? If anybody tries to steal it will you shout "Hi Jack!" as loud as you can? Then I'll come and catch 'em. Thanks. I'll be right back.

*She exits*

*Mildew and Fungus, two layabouts, enter. Mildew is very dainty and feminine while Fungus is very much a tomboy but a bit slow on the uptake*

**Mildew** Oh Fungus, I'm so hungry. When are we going to eat?

**Fungus** We don't have any money, Mildew. Hey, look - a scooter! We can sell it. Get some money. There's nobody about. Let's grab it, Mild.

*They approach Jackie's scooter. As the audience shout (we hope) they exit*

*Jackie enters*

**Jackie** What is it? Somebody tried to steal my scooter? Are you sure? There's nobody here. You're supposed to call me if somebody tries to take my scooter. See you in a minute.

*She exits. Mildew and Fungus enter*

**Fungus** Let's try again, Dewie.

*As Jackie enters. Mildew and Fungus run off*

**Jackie** Now look, I know you're trying your best, but only call me if there's somebody here. What d'you mean, there was? Where are they? *(Ad lib with audience)* Well, let's try it one more time. *(She exits. Mildew and Fungus enter. Jackie enters)* Got you! Put 'em up! I'll teach you to steal my scooter! C'm'ere! *(She chases Mildew and Fungus, who escape)* Cowards! They've gone. *(To audience)* Well done, keep up the good work. Remember, if anybody tries to take my scooter - call me.

## **Dick Whittington**

A sparkling new version of the classic tale by Ron Nicol.

### **Plot Summary**

Dick Whittington arrives in London seeking his fortune and accompanied by his faithful Cat. He is employed by Alderman Fitzwarren and falls in love with his daughter Alice, but falls foul of the Queen Rat Imperia. He is wrongfully accused of theft and leaves Fitzwarren's house in disgrace. Nothing daunted he joins an expedition to the Barbary Coast, where, with the Cat's help, he finds fame, fortune and of course Alice Fitzwarren's hand.